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IN THE WORLD THAT GIVES A DARN FOR

Y, KANSAS THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1954

R. B. Scruggs Dies

Had Been a Resident of Graham
County 76 Years

R. B. Scruggs, 93, passed away Tuesday afternoon, March 23, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ola Wilson, at Nicodemus. Mr. Scruggs had been a hospital patient last fall and was cared for at the Wilson home since his return. He had been in poor health for some time.

Funeral services will be held Sun. March 28, 2:00 p. m., at the First Baptist Church, Nicodemus, with interment in Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Mr. Scruggs came with the Second Colony of Negroes from Kentucky, arriving in Graham county on March 22, 1878. He knew fully the rigors and hardships of pioneer life on the plains. There was no work to be had here, so he worked for farmers near Stockton and Ellsworth for four years. He received 50c a day for his labors and sent the money to his mother at Nicodemus. Later he worked on the railroad 14 years in Kansas and Colorado as a section hand and foreman. He was in Hays when it was still a small town, and he helped to build the first round-house at Ellis.

During these years he saved as he could, sold his first homestead and bought a place of his own at Nicodemus. He returned here and became a farmer for the rest of his life.

Mr. Scruggs managed the Emancipation Celebration at Nicodemus and at "Scruggs Grove" not far away, for 53 years. The event has become a yearly celebration for past and present residents of the community, some of them coming many miles each year to the celebration at 'Demus.

Surviving Mr. Scruggs are his wife, Ollie; two daughters, Mrs. Alva DePrad of Denver, Colorado; and Mrs. Ola Wilson, Nicodemus; four grandchildren, five great grandchildren; one brother, Jerry Scruggs of Nicodemus; and one sister, Mrs. Lutie Lingham, Boulder, Colorado, other relatives and a host of friends.