

## **Scott, Ralph Henderson** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Scott, Ralph Henderson**

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**12 Dec. 1903–2 Apr. 1989**

Ralph Henderson Scott, dairyman, political leader, and legislator, was born near [Haw River](#) <sup>[2]</sup> in [Alamance County](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, the son of Robert Walter and Elizabeth Jessie Hughes Scott. His brother, [William Kerr Scott](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, and his nephew, Robert S. Scott, were governors of North Carolina during the years 1949–53 and 1969–73, respectively. A 1924 graduate of [North Carolina State College](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, he owned and was president of Melville Dairy, Inc., a milk distributor in [Burlington](#) <sup>[6]</sup>.



Student Publication  
Authority, North Carolina  
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on Internet Archive. <sup>[7]</sup>

A [Democrat](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, Scott served consecutive terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives between 1951 and 1956 and between 1961 and 1980; serving one term in the senate, he was president pro tem in 1963. He was a member of such committees as Agriculture, Propositions and Grievances, Rules, Higher Education, Finance, Education, and Appropriations. At various times he held a seat on the Advisory Budget Commission and on the North Carolina Department of Human Resources' Council on Developmental Disabilities. In the [General Assembly](#) <sup>[9]</sup> in 1953, Scott introduced the bill that created the State Milk Commission and he was vocal in his opposition to the Speaker Ban bill. He was a member of or served in advisory and official capacities numerous organizations, among which were those concerned with education, citizens with disabilities, agriculture, senior citizens, and health care.

As a relative of two governors, Scott worked effectively between the legislative and executive branches during their incumbency. He played significant behind-the-scenes roles in the resolution of a strike by food workers at the [University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill](#) <sup>[10]</sup> and in questions concerning the creation of a medical school at [East Carolina University](#) <sup>[11]</sup> in [Greenville](#) <sup>[12]</sup>. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by [Elon College](#) <sup>[13]</sup> and received the [North Carolina Award](#) in 1981 <sup>[14]</sup>.

Scott married Hazeleene Tate of Alamance County in 1925, and they were the parents of a daughter, Marian, and two sons, Ralph H., Jr., and William Clevenger. Scott was a Presbyterian and an active member of the Hawfields Church.

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#### Additional Resources:

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[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

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