

Scott, Ralph Henderson ^[1]

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12 Dec. 1903–2 Apr. 1989

Ralph Henderson Scott, dairyman, political leader, and legislator, was born near [Haw River](#) ^[2] in [Alamance County](#) ^[3], the son of Robert Walter and Elizabeth Jessie Hughes Scott. His brother, [William Kerr Scott](#) ^[4], 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](#) ^[5], he owned and was president of Melville Dairy, Inc., a milk distributor in [Burlington](#) ^[6].



Student Publication
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A [Democrat](#) ^[8], 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](#) ^[9] 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](#) ^[10] and in questions concerning the creation of a medical school at [East Carolina University](#) ^[11] in [Greenville](#) ^[12]. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by [Elon College](#) ^[13] and received the [North Carolina Award in 1981](#) ^[14].

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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