

The Rucker Surname Y-DNA Project

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This Bulletin is located at: The Rucker Family Society Website
www.theruckerfamilysociety.org

or
scan the "Ruckersaurus" Quick
sponse (QR) Code and it will take you
to the website



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

by Alice Rucker, Project Administrator

Over the years so many of you have made financial contributions to our Rucker Surname Y-DNA project and we want you to know how grateful we are for your continued generosity. When a Rucker Y-DNA match in Europe has been discovered, the original fund will be used to hire a certified researcher whose specialty is in European records. We maintain high hopes this will happen. Peter's Y-DNA pattern indicates Celtic roots, but specific geographic locations are yet to be determined.

While we await a European match, there has been a growing need to financially assist new test takers who are unable to pay the full cost. Immigrant Peter Rucker had five living sons: John, Thomas, William, James and Ephraim. The Y-DNA test results indicate which son of Peter the tester is most likely aligned with.

Since the last reunion in Virginia, we have received more than \$2,000 in donations and have put it toward financial aid for new testers. Special thanks go to donors Mike Rucker, William J. Rucker, and Judy Yox. Donations like these will ultimately help solve the mystery of where Peter Rucker came from.

To assist testing funding go to: <https://www.familytreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx#:~:text=If%20you%20would%20like%20to,by%20Mail>

On that page you must choose "R" and scroll till you find Rucker. Or you could send a personal check payable to The Rucker Family Society, 13331 Gridley St., Sylmar, CA 91342

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DNA CORNER

by Alice Rucker

A QUESTION OFTEN ASKED

"If I take a Y-DNA test, can it tell me who my father is?" The short answer is "no" unless your father has also taken a Y-DNA test. The answer would come in the form of numbers found on the DNA Helix, but not your father's name. Y-DNA remains relatively unchanged from father to son.

That said, if you are a member of a Y-DNA surname group and take a test, the results will classify you according to the matches of other test takers and if that other person has authorized publication of his contact information, you may reach out to him and ask who he is, and what his paper trail is.

Paper trails and genetics must work together to prove a paper trail to an ancestor. If you match with someone who has done a paper trail, it is possible the two of you could work together to figure out your connection. This is a very cool thing when one is only curious about their ancestry and has never worked on a paper trail.

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RESEARCH CORNER

by Phyllis Rucker

THE DNA AND RESEARCH JOURNEY OF TODD RUCKER

This is a story of both research and DNA – but eventually it will continue as only a research story. For a few years, I have been working on a theory that William Augusta Rucker (b. 1822 d. 1911) was the son of "Bob" Rucker who could be one of the first sons of Lemuel Rucker (b. 1765 d. 1849). Lineage: William Augusta⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹. Lemuel is also the 3rd Great Grandfather of my husband Thomas Alvin Rucker III (Tom).

I was aware that there was a Find-A-Grave record for William as I have studied it in the past. But on this day, I really studied it. I saw that Todd Rucker was the manager of this record and seemed to know quite a bit about William and his line. I became curious. What more did he know and how did he know it? I decided to reach out to him in early 2023 with the hope that he would write back and help me.

Todd wrote back immediately and had a LOT of information. He shared a Death Certificate for William. It listed "Bob" as William's father with an unknown mother. The name "Bob" looked like something was initially erased and the word "Bob" was written in its place. It seemed odd. Todd

had a very detailed paper trail that he forwarded to me and encouraged me to reach out to Inez Warf (the researcher) in Kentucky for more information on his line.

I contacted Inez and she was a wealth of information. She had a well-documented paper trail. She shared right away that she did not believe that "Bob" existed as she could find nothing for him but the mention of him on William's Death Certificate. We were both perplexed. Inez was not just a good researcher; she descends from William Augusta's brother Richard Edwin.

I went back to Todd and discussed the next steps to determine which line of Peter he may descend. Todd shared a family photo with me. In the photo beside Todd, were his father John Thomas (Johnny) and his uncle Joseph Allen (Joe). When I saw the photo, I was so excited as the family had a resemblance to Tom's Rucker line. I really believed that William Augusta could descend from the James² line. The only way to confirm this was to have Todd take a very detailed test on Family Tree DNA called the Big Y-700. That test would confirm whether his male line descended from Peter and may also identify which son of Peter he descended.



L to R: Todd's father Johnny, Todd and his uncle Joe

Shortly after Christmas, Todd took the Big Y-700. We anxiously awaited the results. When the results came back, we were both in for a surprise. Todd was not related to any Rucker's on his male side. What that meant was that there was a breakage in his male line driven by a variety of factors including adoption, a non-paternal event, etc. Charles Rucker, our late Rucker Project Co-Administrator and DNA expert analyzed the results and said that the breakage in the line occurred in the late 1700s or early 1800s. This meant that we had more work to do to determine what happened.

Finding out what happened and where the break in the Rucker name occurred would be no small task. There is a dearth of records in the late 1700s, early 1800s. It would take a lot of digging and I knew the records may not exist.

What kept nagging at me was the fact that Todd was not a Rucker on his male line, but he, his father, uncle and all resembled Ruckers.

Fast forward two months later, I had an epiphany! Todd was not a Rucker on the male line, but what if he was related to a female Rucker in the late 1700s – early 1800s? The only way to find that out would be to take an autosomal DNA (atDNA) test. Due to recombination of DNA, I would want to test the oldest relatives of Todd's family in the hope that they would have enough DNA to match other Ruckers that are related to Peter, our immigrant. I was hoping that one or all of them would match my husband, Tom.

Todd had two relatives both born in the 1930s that were willing to take the Ancestry DNA autosomal (atDNA) test – his father Johnny and his Uncle Joe. Todd also took the test. When the atDNA results came back, Todd was not related to my husband Tom. However, both his Uncle Joe and father Johnny shared a statistically significant amount of atDNA with Tom on Tom's paternal side. It was not surprising that Todd did not match Tom. Due to the recombination of DNA, he was not passed a significant amount of atDNA from his father Johnny. Thank goodness Joe and Johnny were tested. That meant that there was a common ancestor that Tom, Joe and Johnny shared.

Based on the estimated birth year of "Bob," (1790ish) and the fact that Joe and Johnny share atDNA with Tom, I had a theory that the female could be Polly. I knew that Lemuel Rucker married his cousin Polly Rucker in 1792. It is possible that Polly's first birth (name unknown) was from another marriage before her marriage to Lemuel. It is also possible that "Bob" was her son prior to her marriage to Lemuel and that "Bob's" birth year was prior to 1792. That would make sense that there was no male Rucker Y-DNA but there was other DNA in common with Joe, Johnny and Tom. Of course, this is just one possibility, there could be many other possibilities.

More research needed to be done to solve the mystery. Please continue the journey with me as we search for how Joe, Johnny, Todd and Tom are related in the next edition of the Quarterly Bulletin!

Shortly and sadly after this article was written, Todd's uncle Joe Allen Rucker passed away. His obituary follows.

In Memoriam Joe Allen Rucker

February 15, 1933 — October 2, 2024

Source:

<https://www.parrottramsey.com/obituaries/joe-rucker>

Joe Rucker of Campbellsville, son of the late Thurman Rucker and

Ina Coontz Rucker, was born February 15, 1933, in Taylor County. He died at 9:11 A.M., Wednesday, October 2, 2024, in Campbellsville. Age: 91

He professed faith in Christ and was a member of St. Mark Methodist Church.

Joe served his country honorably in the United States Army's 11th Airborne Division in Germany and later served two years in the Kentucky National Guard.

He was a farmer and a retired employee of Kroger after thirty-seven years of service.

He united in marriage to Lesta McKee February 6, 1959. Besides his wife, Lesta Rucker of Campbellsville, Joe is survived by one son and one daughter: Richard Rucker and Diane Pierce of Campbellsville; two grandchildren: Jessica Hosier and husband, Keehn of Prospect and Andrew Pierce of Campbellsville; two great-grandchildren: Evan Hosier and William Hosier; two brothers and one sister: Raymond Rucker of Campbellsville, Johnnie Rucker of North Carolina and Carolyn St. Clair and husband, Roger of Indiana; several nieces and nephews and many other relatives and friends.

Joe was also preceded in death by a brother, Bobby Rucker and three sisters-in-law: Shirley

Rucker, Arletia Rucker and Willanna Rucker.

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INQUIRIES FROM AFRICAN AMERICANS

by Alice Rucker

It has been a common inquiry by African Americans with or without the surname Rucker who think they may be descended from a slave. To date, any African Americans who have tested their Y chromosome have not had the same "Peter Pattern." It is entirely possible that there were other Caucasian males working on plantations owned by Ruckers. Not all slaves were African American.

One researcher reports that in the will of Anthony³ (John² , Peter, Immigrant), he wrote ...it is my Will and desire that my mulatto man James Gilbert should be free but finding there would be some difficulty for it to be so & for him to remain here I therefore request my Executors to lay off three acres of Land for said James Gilbert at any corner of my Land and let him settle on it that they may think proper; he is to have it during his natural life on good behavior; then to return to my Estate I wish said James Gilbert to enjoy the benefit of his labor but always to be under the control and directions of my Executor and trustees." The entire will and

lengthy probate can be found on the Rucker Family Society website under "Wills." So, what does Anthony's Will indicate? Most likely, Anthony had a child with a female slave and Anthony wanted to provide for that child. If a descendant of James Gilbert were a Y chromosome tested at Family Tree DNA and matched Rucker, Family Tree DNA would refer that participant to the Rucker Surname Project immediately. It is hoped that that will happen someday.

For those seeking a paper trail to a plantation, we suggest researching their ancestry as far back as possible, hopefully about four to five or more generations. We are happy to look at and try to help those researchers who have done their homework but are stuck.

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LATEST Y-DNA PARTICIPANT

We anxiously await the Big Y-DNA results for our 101st participant, Donald Rucker from New Mexico! Donald is taking the Big Y-DNA test to substantiate his paper trail. Donald believes his lineage to be: Donald¹⁰, William⁹; John⁸; William⁷; John⁶; Rev. Robert⁵ Thornton Rucker; William⁴; John³; Thomas²; Peter-Immigrant.

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QUESTION CORNER

Effective with this Bulletin, we are introducing a question corner. This issue's question is: "I have taken the Big Y-DNA test. My wife is interested in testing her countries of origin. What test would you recommend for her?"

We recommend that she take an autosomal (atDNA) test. It is not appropriate for her to take a Y-DNA test as she is female. That leaves her with only one option and that is the atDNA test. There are many different places to test (Ancestry, MyHeritage, Family Tree DNA etc.). If she only wants to know her origins, any of the atDNA companies would work. However, if she wants to also find as many relatives as possible, we recommend testing at one or more of the companies that have the largest base of testers.

If you have a question that you would like to submit, feel free to email either Alice or Phyllis. Their email addresses are on the first page of the Bulletin.

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NIGEL RUCKER IN ENGLAND – COULD HE BE A DESCENDANT OF OUR PETER?

by Phyllis Rucker



Photo credit: Photo on the Facebook Page for the Crabapple Ruckers

Recently I was poking around in Facebook and discovered a Page for the Roswell/Crabapple Ruckers of Georgia. I requested to join the group and graciously was accepted. I really enjoyed reading all the posts and was especially intrigued by a post and photo of Nigel Rucker from England posing with a "Rucker Family Crabapple, GA." hat.

I was curious about this Rucker group and about Nigel. I reached out to the administrator of the Facebook page and learned that the Crabapple Ruckers are descendants of our immigrant Peter Rucker's son Thomas. I was

told that Nigel was from Windermere, Cumbria England and he and his daughter had found their Rucker Facebook site and ordered a hat that he saw from one of their reunions. When he got the hat, he sent the group a pic of himself holding the hat.

I was very excited to see that a Rucker from Europe was reaching out to Ruckers in the USA. Our Rucker DNA project has always hoped to find a European male Rucker to test in the hope that he would match the DNA pattern for Peter Rucker. That would mean that we would have possibly found our European connection and a European family tree that went above Peter!

I contacted Nigel and explained that we would like to test him to see if he had the Peter pattern, he agreed to take a Y-DNA test. When the test results came back, it turned out that his DNA did not match our Peter pattern.

We were a bit disappointed but will continue to seek out a European male Rucker to test. The story doesn't end here.

At Christmastime, Nigel sent me a nice Christmas card with an enclosed coaster. The coaster advertises Dirty Rucker Beer. Dirty Rucker is a special 3.9% alcohol beer that is only produced for one month per year for the Six Nations Rugby Tournament.



Below are several photos of coasters he emailed me from past Six Nations Rugby Tournaments.



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OPEN FOR DONATIONS

by Alice Rucker

Our Y-DNA project is ready for and can always make use of new donations. Our current focus is to help those who otherwise would not be able to completely afford to take the Big Y-DNA test. That is the test that delves much deeper into your genetics, and it is what has helped us to begin to understand small variants among male descendants that allow science to group the five sons of Peter Rucker, Immigrant. If you are reading this and not a biological Rucker, or you are female, don't be shy to help our project with kind and generous donations.

To contribute, go to: <https://www.familytreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx#:~:text=If%20you%20would%20like%20to,by%20Mail>

On that page you must choose "R" and scroll till you find Rucker. Or you could send a personal check payable to Rucker Family Society, 13331 Gridley St., Sylmar, CA 91342

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NEWS FLASH!

**OUR 2026 RUCKER FAMILY
SOCIETY REUNION WILL BE HELD
IN INDEPENDENCE, MO!!!
THE DATES AND SCHEDULE WILL
BE ANNOUNCED IN THE
UPCOMING MONTHS. IF YOU
LIVE IN THE AREA OR KNOW OF
RUCKERS THAT LIVE CLOSE TO
KANSAS CITY, SPREAD THE
WORD!**

* * * *

DNA, RESEARCH & REFERENCE SITES

Take a photo or scan QR Code to
direct you to these helpful sites:

Family Tree DNA



ISOGG





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First Class Mail

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED