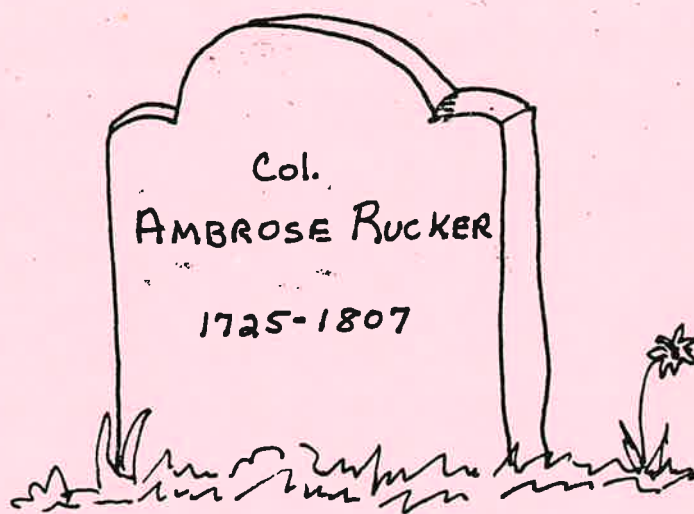


AMHERST COUNTY

TOUR OF CEMETERIES + CHURCHES

Relating to the RUCKER Family



for the 1990 Rucker Reunion

By
Jean B. Robinson

AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA
TOUR OF
CEMETERIES and CHURCHUES
Relating to the RUCKER Family

June 16-17, 1990

RUCKER REUNION

by

JEAN BRYDON ROBINSON
304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226

INTRODUCTION

In preparing for the 1990 Rucker Reunion, Ruckers and friends have been cleaning cemeteries in Amherst County. In doing so other cemeteries have been brought to mind and are being readied for the bi-annual Rucker Reunion 16 June 1990. Graveyards have been listed to correspond with the order in which you would reach them on a driving tour of Amherst County, beginning either at Lynchburg or Amherst. The page number listed behind each heading refers to its location in Mary Boxley's Gravestone Inscriptions of Amherst County, VA. The page number at the end of each grave refers to its location in Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy. There are probably many more cemeteries with Rucker graves, and I have only touched lightly on auxiliary lines, so forgive any admissions.

Please feel free to send me any additions or corrections to the tour. I'm sure there are many more places associated with the Ruckers and their cousins in Amherst County.

After writing the "Tour of Amherst County," I have found a few additional bits of information relating to the Rucker family:

1. William Burford sold 1 3/4 acres of land and "use of water on my adjoining land, where the meeting house known as NEW HOPE is erected" for the use by the Methodist Church (D. B. L, p.221, 15 April 1808, Amherst). The church of New Hope is no longer standing, but the cemetery remains. Trustees of the church were Spencer Norvell, Stephen Ham, Lewis Dawson, Pleasant Dawson, Samuel Burk, Micajah Clark, Ambrose Rucker, Nelson C. Dawson, and James Petit. The sale price was \$15.
2. Elijah Fletcher sold two acres for a Methodist Church, located on the road from Crawford's Gap to the Court House for \$1.00. Trustees were Edwin S. Rucker, Nathan D. Rucker, Jonathan H. Watts, and Pitt Woodroof (brothers and in-laws of Ambrose Rucker; D. B. Z, p.329, 17 Feb. 1845). This was near the original location of Ambrose Rucker's land.
3. Nathan D. Rucker sold one acre "for a Methodist Church...may use the Spring across the field about 100 yards in a northerly direction." The church was "to be regulated by the 1840 discipline." Trustees were Edwin S. Rucker, Sylvester L. Burford, William Gilbert, Joel Bethel, Johnathan R. McDaniel. Sale price was \$1.00 (D. B. Z, p.448, 20 Oct. 1845, Amherst).
4. On the 1864 map of Amherst County, Jonathan Rucker is shown as living near the ferry at Bethel. More research will have to be done here.

Plan to visit during the 1990 Rucker Reunion and many times in the future. Many of the graveyards were not visited and many were not able to be located. I need your help in completing and correcting the information in this booklet.

Please enjoy your tour of cemeteries, churches, and homes of Ruckers of Amherst County.

SHELTON-ELLIS-WATTS CEMETERY (p.162): from Rt. 29, turn west on Route 675, Winesap Road, cemetery is 3.5 miles on the left:

MARY JANE RUCKER, b. 14 Oct. 1843, d. 1 Oct. 1924, wife of
 JOSEPH B. WATTS, b. 3 Jan. 1844, d. 3 July 1931. (Parents of Margaret
 Myers's. Wood, p.111, 414.)
 ELMIRA WATTS (Wood, p.112?)
 ILLIA N. WATTS, b. 12 July 1871, d. 21 Sept 1902.
 JAMES C. WATTS, b. 6 Dec. 1871, d. 27 June 1905.
 MARY A(NN) WATTS, b. 15 June 1811, d. 27 Dec. 1889 (Wood, p.112?).
 MARY C. WATTS, wife of N. C. Watts.
 MARY F. WATTS
 MARTHA V. WATTS.
 WILLIAM R. WATTS, 1874-1936.

ELON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY (p.30-33): Continue on Rt. 675, turn left at Rt. 652, to Elon. Church is on the right at Elon. Ambrose & Elizabeth Rucker attended church here (Wood, p.80). After the Revolutionary War, the Church of England fell out of favor with the new Americans. Even though the Ruckers had staunchly supported the Anglican (Episcopal) church in Colonial times, now many became baptist or methodist.

EDNA WATTS TAYLOR, b. 20 Aug. 1887, d. 27 Mar. 1950 (Wood, p.111).
 ROBERT WOODROOF TAYLOR, b. 28 Sept 1882, d. 23 Jan. 1963.
 (Edna and Robert are parents of Edward W. Taylor
 of Madison Hts.)
 ROBERT LEWIS TAYLOR, b. 30 July 1920, d. 22 Jan. 1923,
 son of Robert and Edna Taylor.
 MARK EDWARD TAYLOR, b. 28 Jan. 1958, d. 10 Mar. 1958,
 son of Edward W. & Marita L. Taylor.
 ROBERT B. RUCKER, b. 15 Oct. 1869, d. 31 Mar. 1949.
 MINNIE B. RUCKER, b. 9 Mar. 1873, d. 3 Apr. 1944.
 ELSIE I. RUCKER, b. 10 Jan. 1907, d. 25 Feb. 1924.
 MARY FRANCES WATTS, b. 6 June 1884, c. 30 Nov. 1951 (Wood, p.111)

ELON BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY (p.28-30):

SALLIE A. RUCKER, born in Louisa Co., 10 Aug. 1821, d.10 Feb.1910.

AMBROSE RUCKER CEMETERY (p.159): Continue west on Rt. 130 turn right on Rt. 653, two miles to Graham Creek Orchard on the right. This cemetery was visited by Sudie Rucker Wood and the names are listed on page 80 of her book. Ed Taylor, Rod Mason, and friends cleaned the area enclosed by stone walls and have found all the stones as listed in Wood's book. Some were broken and were put back together by the workers. It would be nice to have Ambrose and Elizabeth Rucker's stones repaired. They, originally were standing on marble pillars and over the years, fell and were broken. Most of the pieces were found.

There was a movement in 1948 to create a perpetual care fund to maintain the Ambrose Rucker Cemetery. David Hugh Dillard, (a Rucker, sister of Queena Stoval), resided at the corner of Rt. 130 and Rt. 653, (beautifully cared for by one of Jerry Falwell's men and, I understand, now for sale), was planning to have his farm manager care for the cemetery. Sudie Rucker Wood was very interested in this plan and contributed to the fund set up by Myrtle (Mitzi) Keyes Baldock. Mitzi moved away in 1950, and, after Mr. Dillard died, the cemetery was became overgrown again.

This winter, the graveyard was once again cleaned up by the local "super cemetery cleaning crew," and, I hope, will be maintained. It is the best Rucker Cemetery in Amherst.

The cemetery is now on land, owned by Ellen (Rucker descendant) and Robert Wagner, called the Graham Creek Orchard.

There is one very old stone found here. It is homemade on a small piece of granite. If anyone knows who this is, please let me know.

1751
S. T. D. c
d. 18 Nov. 1811

The two raised, but now broken, tablets are:

AMBROSE RUCKER, d. 23rd Feb. 1839, in 62nd year of age.
(Wood, p.79-80)

ELIZABETH RUCKER, d. 5th June 1854, in 78th year of age.
(daughter of William Parks, p.79, p.439)

The other stones are:

KATE P. RUCKER, b. June 15th, 1839, d. Nov. 17, 1859 (?).

EDWIN S. RUCKER, b. 8 April 1803, d. 6 May 1859 (p.81).

HILTON G. RUCKER, b. 29 March 1837, d. 1 Aug. 1860 (.83).

LUCY JANE RUCKER, b. 3 April 1813, d. 28 Oct. ~~1866~~ (p.82). 1852

EMILY J. RUCKER, b. 21 Jan. 1821, d. 1 Oct. 1866 (p.83).

William B. WOODROOF, b. 8 May 1839, d. 9 Sept. 1849 (p.89).

VOLENTINE RUCKER (Wood, p.82) is buried here, but there is no stone. ³[Please note correct spelling of Volentine.]

AMBROSE ³RUCKER may be buried here, too, I think.

Ambrose ³Rucker's will, probated 3 Dec. 1807, said: "It is to be observed that I reserve half an acre of land for a graveyard, where the graveyard is now fixed, to belong to my family forever." If you examine the stone wall of the graveyard carefully, ⁵you will note the entrance faces away from the Graham Cove, home of Ambrose Rucker. Situated across the creek, it appears to belong to another home, long gone. It seems logical that Ambrose Rucker would preferred the Rucker graveyard being that close.



Ambrose ⁵
Rucker

Elizabeth
Parks
Rucker

Graveyard at
Graham Cove

GRAHAM COVE, the house, was inherited by Ambrose⁵ Rucker's grandson, VOLENTINE⁷ RUCKER (Wood spelled it incorrectly, p.82-83). Mitzi Baldock wrote "Vol," as he was called, lived at Graham Cove. He married Arianna West, "a real tyrant," and when he died, she sold Graham Cove out of the family. Graham Cove, a family home for five generations, originally belonged to George McDaniel and his wife Margaret Goff.² [Wood, p.80, said this was part of the original 5850 acre patent of John² Rucker, but I think it was the McDaniel home.]

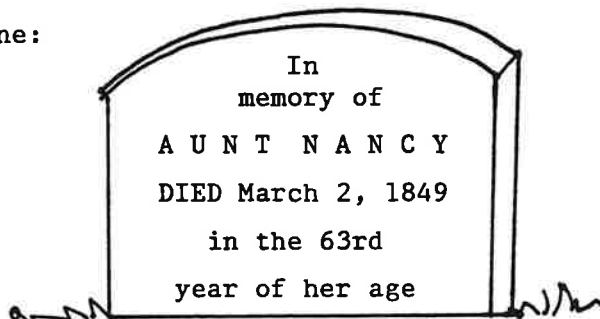
Sudie Rucker Wood, on p.80, wrote: Ambrose⁵ "lived in Graham cove on the South branch of Harris Creek, on land adjoining his grandfather, Col. Ambrose Rucker." Ambrose⁵'s father died when he was five years old. At age fourteen when his mother remarried, Ambrose went to live with his grandfather, George McDaniel. George McDaniel patented land in this cove which adjoined Duncan Graham.]

The home is now owned by the William Hildebrandts. They are very interested in the place and have kept beautiful care of it. Their yard contains some of the original Rucker apple trees.

Up the road, a short distance on the left, is the modern home of Hannan and Mae Rucker. They live on original Rucker orchard land and have a sweeping view of the rolling hills leading down to Lynchburg. Stop in, they welcome visitors. (Note: Hannon is the one that stood up at the 1988 Rucker Reunion and invited everyone to Amherst in 1990. Thank you, Hannon!)

GRAYHAM COVE SLAVE CEMETERY (p.159): Behind the house at Graham Cove, drive down the road, park and walk through the field to the left, up to a knoll in a cow pasture. Here is the "slave cemetery" with 20-30 graves marked by stone markers. (Was this possibly the McDaniel Cemetery? Were the McDaniels buried in the Rucker graveyard at Graham Cove?)

There is one tombstone:



NATHAN D. RUCKER CEMETERY: West on Rt. 130, past Tobacco Row Mountains, to the home of R. B. Leary Jr., near Agricola. The old house burned and has been rebuilt in modern times. In the rear of the house are the old stone steps leading to old Rt. 130. When you go down those steps, it's like walking back in time. We forget how primitive roads looked and this road with the early stone steps really takes you back.

As you face the front of the house, the graveyard is to the left, through a field and on the left at the edge of the woods. It is small, surrounded by a handsome Iron fence. Cleaned up by our "super cemetery cleaning crew," there suddenly appeared a fence that we didn't know was there, having been covered by years of honeysuckle growth.

Some people were hoping this was the graveyard of Anthony³ Rucker (See Amherst New Era Progress, Dec. 1989). Four stones are clearly visible (after being reset by Ed Taylor and Rod Mason). A few other stone markers are in the enclosure, but not engraved. Outside of the fence, under large cedar trees, is evidence of other graves, but no markers, probably slave graves:

NATHAN D. RUCKER, b. 3 March 1805, d. 18 Oct. 1889 (Wood, p.84)

(Son of Ambrose Rucker and Elizabeth Parks.)

MARY (Woodroof) RUCKER, b. 30 March 1805, d. 16 August 1858. (Nathan's wife, daughter of David Woodroof and Judith McDaniel).

JUDITH ANN RUCKER, d. 18 March 1846, aged 15 years.

Our Little ALFRED, aged 7 years.



Nathan Rucker
Graveyard,
Agricola, VA

"Super
Cemetery
Cleaning
Crew"



MARTIN PARKS CEMETERY (p.151): Located further down Route 130, past Agricola, turn right on Rt. 618, follow road into Cloudcroft, and park at Lot #16. Graveyard is on top of knoll. To see old house, once owned by D. H. Rucker, continue on road, turn left at Saddleback Road to Lot #21. Path leads to house, once lived in by Lou Mason and her brother Hannon Burford, now in ruins. A fine tobacco barn stands nearby. (Makes one wonder why the barn was built sturdier than the house?)

Originally owned by Martin Parks, the home later belonged to Daniel Hilton Rucker. He had thirteen children while living there; three died young and are probably buried in the graveyard. His wife died and she, too, may be buried there. ("Mack" Rucker, grandson of Daniel and Marianna Rucker, told me there is a marker to both parents at Green Hill Cemetery in Buena Vista. He doesn't know whether she died after the move or whether her body was later moved to Buena Vista.)

In 1890, D. H. Rucker moved to Buena Vista, and his son, Parks McDaniel Rucker, kept possession of the house. (Wood, p.50, 445). The house was owned by Joe Watts in the 1920s when Sudie Wood visited. (Was this the Joe Watts who married Mary Jane Rucker? See Watts Cemetery above.)

Martin Parks was the brother of Elizabeth, wife of Ambrose Rucker:

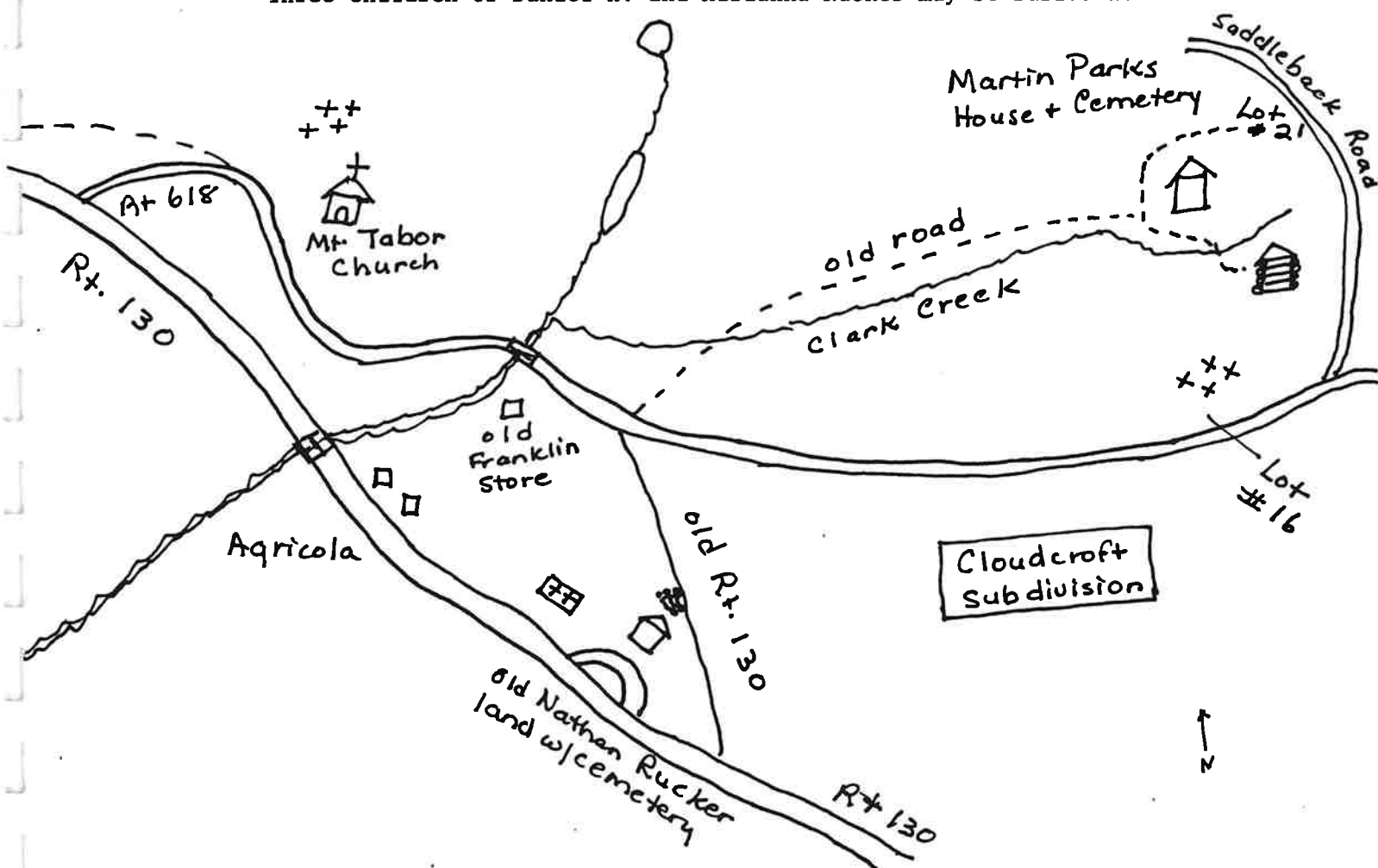
MARTIN PARKS, b. 16 Nov. 1768, d. 16 Mar. 1840.

NANCY, wife of MARTIN PARKS, b. 17 Aug. 1781, d. 21 Feb. 1858

NANCY MARGARET PARKS, b. 7 June 1821, d. 27 May 1859.

LUCY A., wife of R. P. JONES, b. 16 Jan. 1816, d. 20 Oct. 1845

Three children of Daniel H. and Marianna Rucker may be buried here.



MT. TABOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (P.38): Driving back to Rt. 618, note where old Rt. 130 comes in from the Nathan Rucker home. There is a lovely picnic site at the lake. On the left is the old Franklin's Store. When Rt. 130 was moved to its present site, the store was moved, too, and the old store was converted into a home. A little further is the lovely old brick church, Mt. Tabor. There are no Rucker graves in the cemetery, but the church with its handmade bricks, is most interesting.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (p.51): From Rt. 130, turn right on Rt. 635, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the church on the left, at Pedlar Mills. This was the old Pedlar Church mentioned in early histories of the county. The records of the church date from 1791, but we know it was there earlier. The building has been replaced three times, from its log beginnings, to a wooden church, to today's present brick building. Six stained glass windows were installed in 1892 and the portico added in 1926.

During the early 1800s, Pedlar Mills was located on one of the early North-South trading paths. It had been an old Indian trail, later called the Lynchburg-Buffalo Springs Turnpike. It was an active community of 600 people and contained three large flour mills, a blacksmith shop, a distillery, and a saddle and harness shop. There was a school, the Episcopal Church and five shops. There are 60 or more graves located at the rear of the church in an iron fence. (From an article by George T. Pleasants, in the "Amherst New Era," 1963.) There are no Rucker burials in the graveyard.

PLEASANT VIEW CEMETERY (p.160): Located one mile north of the village of Pleasant View on route 653. The cemetery is behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mays. Behind the graveyard is 100 or more sunken graves, probably slave graves. There are only three marked stones:

WILLIAM BALLENGER RUCKER, b. 2 Dec. 1791, d. 18 Dec. 1861 (p.48).

MARY ANN DAWSON RUCKER, b. 11 Jan. 1809, d. 11 Mar. 1863(p.88).

MARY WILLIE SMITH (their granddaughter, died young, Wood, p.52.

She was the dau. of Susan Rucker and Dr. Henry Smith of Bath Co.)

EL BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Allwood, VA: On Route 635, half way between Pleasant View and Dodd's Ford on Route 60. Margaret Myers wrote to me, 11-23-83: "My granddaddy, Isaac, was buried at Allwood, VA, behind El Bethel Chrch". She died the next year and was buried in the same cemetery.)

ISAAC W. RUCKER, b. 12 Dec. 1836, d. 4 Mar. 1921. (p.151).

SUSAN ELIZABETH RUCKER, b. 19 Feb. 1844, d. 27 Feb. 1931.

GODFREY DOUGLAS RUCKER, b. 23 Dec. 1899, d. 22 Nov. 1976

RUTH CRIST RUCKER, b. 28 Dec. 1908, d. -----.

ELLEN RUCKER, no dates.

WILLIAM RUCKER, no dates.

MARGARET (WATTS) MYERS, b. 11 Dec. 1910, c. 27 Apr. 1984, wife of:

JOHN CARRINGTON MYERS, b. 8 May 1905, d. -----.

MT. HOREB CHURCH CEMETERY: Located on Route 60 to the west. It is near where Isaac⁴ Rucker (Ambrose³) and his wife, Mary Wingfield, were buried. (See page 104-106, Wood.)

Drive back to Amherst Court House. At Route 29, turn left, drive north to Rt. 151. Turn left and on the right you will see the old GLEBE of St. Anne's Parish. Ambrose Rucker purchased the Glebe from the Vestry for \$3000 (D. B. E, p.211, 6 Mar. 1780, 254 a.) and turned around and sold it the same day for \$4000 (D. B. E, p.218, 6 mar. 1780, 254 a). The Glebe was the home built for the parson to live in while he was servicing Amherst Pa., which was all the area of todays Amherst and Nelson Counties. The house was grand, supported by taxes. After the Revolution, the church of England disbanded and the home was sold.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH: Further up Rt. 151 at Clifford. St. Mark's was the continuation of Maple Run Church. The church has no connection with the Ruckers, but it was one of the early churches of Amherst. They claim to be the oldest church in the county, but the Ruckers think St. Matthews (Rucker's) was the first church. It is a lovely old brick church, very similar in style to St. Luke's at Pedlar Mills and Mt. Hebron at Agricola.

AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC CEMETERY: Located on Route 29, one mile north of Amherst Court House. The earliest burials were in church yards are on private property. The first recorded proposal for the creation of a public cemetery is recorded in the "Vestry Book for Lexington Parish, Amherst County, 1779-1880." On April 5, 1876, the vestry passed the following resolution: "Resolve that there be no further interments in the yard of Ascension (Episcopal) Church and that public notice is given of the resolution." [When Ascension was added onto a few years ago, the graves-stones were bulldozed to the back left corner. Mr. Pedlar, their minister, discovered this when he found a stone sticking out of the ground.] Five years later the Amherst County Public Cemetery became a realization. The deed and a drawing of the plot can be found in Deed Book NN, pages 178-180, Amherst County. (See drawing and explanation on p.226, Gravestone Inscriptions of Amherst County.)

Ruckers buried there are (Letter in parenthesis is location):

BENJAMIN J. RUCKER (C), b. 3 Dec. 1809, d. 27 Apr. 1889.

ELIZA J. RUCKER (C), b. 21 July 1814, d. 1 Jan. 1884, wife of Benjamin J. Rucker

CLARA G. RUCKER (C), b. 4 May 1849, d. 19 Sept. 1914.

HATTIE DUFF RUCKER (B-C), b. 1880, d. 1952.

I. HENRY RUCKER (C), B. 6 July 1840, d. 1 Aug. 1906, C.S.A.

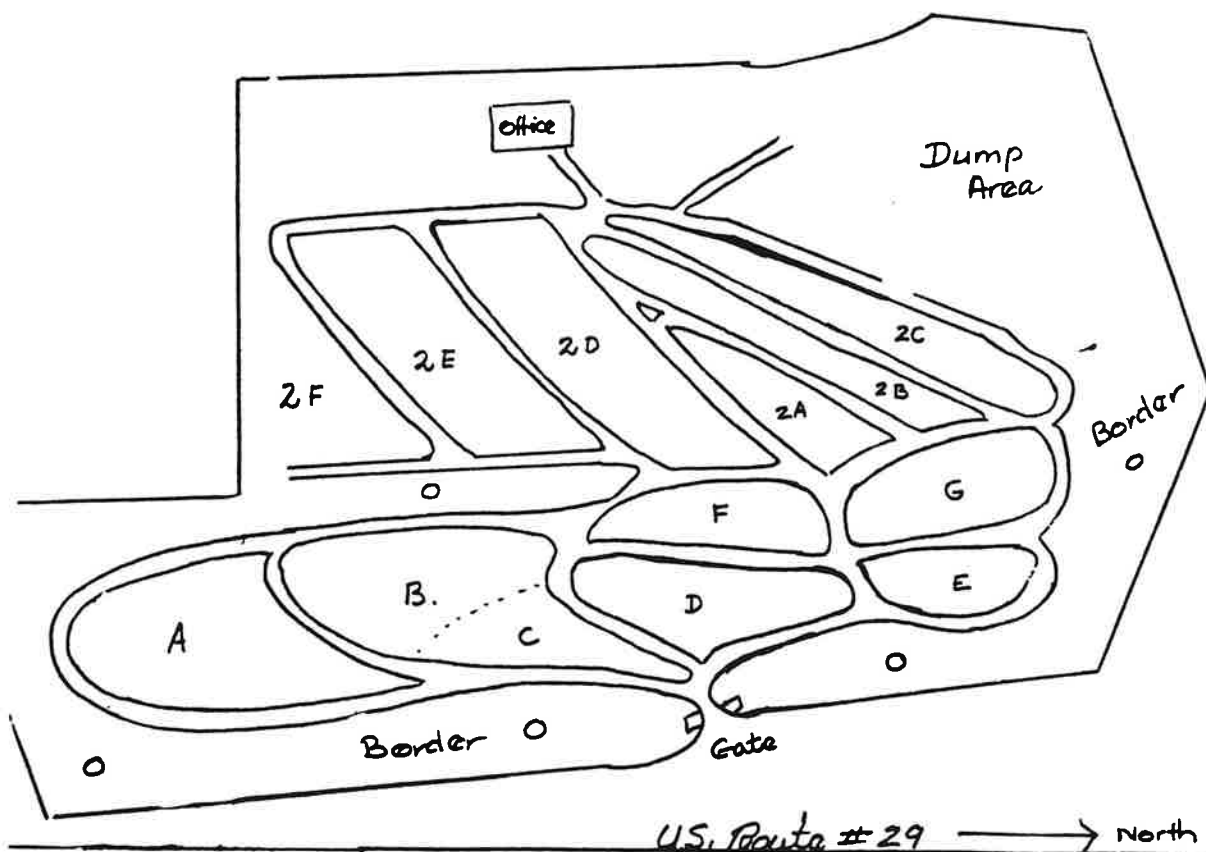


Diagram of Amherst County Public Cemetery



ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The sketch, by Kate Scott, from "Histsorical Sketch of Ascension Episcopal Church," shows how Ascension looked when it was first built at the Court House.

Ascension is located south of the city of Amherst on Rt.739. It is on the old stage route to Lynchburg. This is the church which evolved from St. Matthews, sometimes known as Rucker's or Harris Creek Church. The church has been modernized and you can not tell it once looked very similar to St. Mark's and St. Luke's.

SMYRNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY (p.48-50): From Amherst, go south on old Rt. 29, turn right on Kenmore Road (Rt. 643), drive 7 miles past Crawford's Store to Smyrna on left:

FLORENCE POWELL RUCKER, b. 12 May 1869, d. 16 Apr. 1958.
 FRANK JAMES RUCKER, b. 12 Jan. 1895, d. 4 Dec. 1915.
 GEORGE MACK RUCKER, b. 27 Nov. 1896, d. 20 May 1966.
 HERMAN W. RUCKER, b. 8 May 1899, d. 17 Jan. 1983.
 JOHN THOMAS RUCKER, b. 19 Nov. 1903, d. 25 July 1963.
 J. W. RUCKER, b. 1 Sept. 1867, d. 20 Aug. 1947.
 MINNIE FRANKLIN RUCKER, b. 28 Oct. 1902, d. 21 June 1981.
 WILLIAM MADISON RUCKER, b. 12 June 1876, d. 7 Sept. 1930.

JAMES A. RUCKER CEMETERY: Continue west on Rt. 643, to Hicks store (Billy Rucker lives on the right), turn left onto 638 to the home of Tom and Sylvia Woodys. James A. Rucker is the son of Willia A. Rucker and Tabatha Arnold (Wood, p.135). Behind the newly built house, in the woods, at the foot of Tobacco Row Mountains and the headwaters of Harris Creek, is a graveyard with many stone markers. No tombstones. Hannon Rucker, grandson of James A. Rucker, said his grandparents are buried here:

JAMES ALEXANDER RUCKER.

SALLIE GRANT, daughter of James & Elizabeth Grant.

(married 6 Dec. 1866, Amherst Marriage Register 2. p.103).

WHITE HALL (p.181): Back track to the intersection of old Rt. 29 and 643. Make a sharp right onto Sunset Drive (Rt. 663), and drive a short distance to the gates of "White Hall," once owned by William McDaniel (1774-1857). William was the son of John McDaniel and his wife Margaret Rucker, daughter of Ambrose³ Rucker and Mary Tinsley. William's daughter, Jane (1816-1871), and her husband, Henry West Quarles (1795-1869) built "White Hall" and "West Dale" and raised eleven children. The house is no longer standing, but the overgrown cemetery is still there. [There is an old house on the property, but I could not find the McDaniel graveyard. Cemetery Cleaning Crew, where are you?]

*** Note: I have just discovered that this was part of the original patent of John Rucker senior and the home of John Rucker junior. In turn, it was left to John jr.'s son, Isaac. Isaac, who had relocated to Kentucky, sold the 318 acre tract to William and Margaret McDaniel, his 1st cousin. (D. B. I, p.293, 28 Sept. 1801, Amherst Co.) ***

Daughter, Ann Daingerfield Quarles (1837-1916), married Lt. Henry James Dobbs, C.S.A. (1841-1915), and their two children, last of the family to live here, are buried in the graveyard. Said to be buried here are:

NEIL DOBBS and her brother,

JOSEPH HENRY DOBBS. (Information from an article in the Amherst New Era Progress, the the Quarles-Dobbs Bible record.)

Possibly buried here:

JOHN³ RUCKER and his wife
 ELEANOR WARREN RUCKER.

HIGGINBOTHAM CEMETERY AT "POPLAR GROVE" (p.124): Return to Rt. 29 (as 663 is a dirt road and hard to travel). It was the old stage route to Lynchburg, before 29 was built. Some of these old back roads have beautiful views and are worth the trouble. Remember this was the main road back in the seventeen hundreds and remains very much as it was, thanks to Rt. 29 being created. Drive south to the entrance of Sweet Briar College, turn, opposite to the College entrance, left at #624 and go 1/4 mile to Rt. 661, another old road, turn left again when you reach the end of the hard surface road, you will see the gates to "Poplar Grove" to the right. Now owned by Zinnser Family, it was one the Higginbotham Academy. This is a lovely old brick home with many outbuildings. When I visited, no one was around, and I could not find the graveyard. I drove past the house, past the barns, down to a small lake. Many roads are being built throughout the property as the timber is being cut. Markers at "Popular Grove:"

JAMES HIGGINBOTHAM, 15 Feb. 1812-11 Sept. 1874.

ANN ELIZABETH LONDON, b. 31 Oct. 1815, d. 24 Feb. 1877, wife of James.

CHESTER J. HIGGINBOTHAM, 7 June 1924.

FLORENCE HIGGINBOTHAM, 28 Sept 1903,

LIZZIE HIGGINBOTHAM, b. 3 Nov. 1836, d. 29 Dec. 1899, M. RUCKER's wife died at "Popular Grove." (dau. of James and Ann Higginbotham).

MARCELLUS PARKS RUCKER, b. 26 July 1834 Amherst County, drowned 26 April 1862, Robinson River. Body not recovered. Husband of Lizzie Higginbotham, Co. E, 2nd Calvary. (Son of Nathan⁶ Dawson Rucker and Mary Woodroof, Wood, p.84; p.85 has story of drowning.)

ROUND TOP AT SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE (p.166-167): South on #29, ^{right} left on Rt. 663, Sunset Drive, 1½ miles to the back entrance of Sweet Briar College. Enter through the gates, turn left and drive to the top of a knoll. This beautiful site, that looks down over Sweet Briar College, was once the property of David Woodwoof and Judith McDaniel. Judith was the daughter of John McDaniel and Margaret Rucker, granddaughter of Col. Ambrose Rucker. (Wood, p.114, p.410, p.414).

Elijah Fletcher, builder of the Sweet Briar mansion, "picked out his final resting place on the round top of Woodroof's mound. ...His grave is on the summit of what is known as Monument Hill which had formerly belonged to the Woodroof family and was used as their burial ground." The area is enclosed by a sturdy stone wall and is graced by ornamental trees and shrubs "just as he specified." (The Letters of Elijah Fletcher, Von Briesen, p.203)

The tall elegant monument in the center was erected "In Grateful Remembrance of Indiana Fletcher Williams, founder of Sweet Briar Institute," and "In Loving Remembrance of Daisy the only child of I. F. and J. H. Williams."

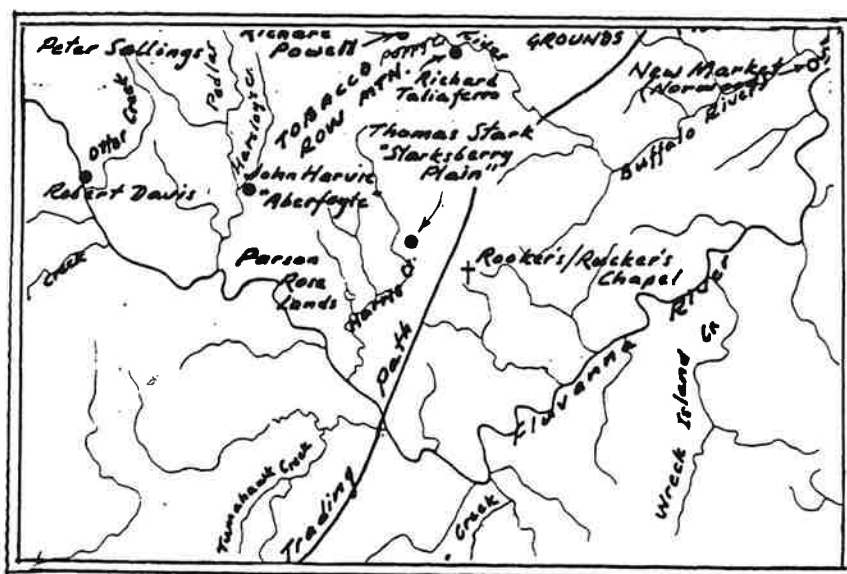
DAVID WOODROOF JR. died 14 Nov. 1814, aged 52 years.

JUDITH (McDANIEL) HASKILL died 3 June 1844, aged 58 years, married 1st David Woodroof, 2nd Samuel Haskill.

ANN (Nancy) BASS, 1804-12 April 1875, widow of Thomas Bass, wife of Henry Ogden of Bedford County, VA. (Wood, p.496).

(Please note: Wood, p.414, states that Nancy married Thomas Bass on the 18th of May 1820. She was the daughter of David Woodroof and Judith McDaniel.)

THOMAS H. BASS died 15 March 1889, aged 52 (son of Nancy?).



From The
Diary of Robert Rose
Edited by
Ralph E. Fall

"The first Episcopal Church, called Rucker's Church, built in Amherst County was built by Ambrose Rucker of logs. In the last few years this old log church was pulled down and taken to Sweet Briar College using the logs to build a corn crib." (Wood, p.70.) I know you will want to visit Sweet Briar College and see the corn crib. (See tour map of Sweet Briar.)

Anthony Rucker in his Will, 1821, set aside one acre surrounding this church, sometimes known as Harris Creek Church, for "Devine Worship." (Will Book 6, p.210, recorded 17 Feb. 1821: "To son, Absolom (sic) Rucker, 100 acres on the road, 1 acre of land to be reserved where the church now stands for a place of devine worship.")

[Note: I believe that Anthony and possibly some of his brothers and family are buried at this cemetery. Ambrose was buried on his own land, near Graham Cove, where he set aside one half acre for a cemetery. The problem is that no one seems to know where the site is today. I looked and searched with no luck. Some say the cemetery was destroyed when Rt. 29 was widened, but I think they are confusing it with the Ogden Cemetery.]

ALBERT OGDEN CEMETERY: It was located in Faulconerville, but was moved when the highway was widened in 1968. See Chancery File #1914, Amherst, dated 26 April 1968: State Highway Commissioner vs. heirs of Albert Ogden. Due to construction on Rt. 29, "It is necessary to remove and relocate a cemetery situate on property owned by William H. Ramsey... The said 0.02 acre being reserved as the Ogden Family Cemetery by the Will of Albert J. Ogden, deceased... Will Book 27, p.565, Amherst. The property was conveyed to Albert J. Ogden by Jesse E. Adams and wife by Deed dated 12 April 1883 and of record in Deed Book 00 at page 232."

The named defendants in the suit were: Randolph Scott Arthur; Rose Bell Woodyard; and William Russell Arthur. In 1968, they were the only known next of kin to the persons interred in the cemetery.

The interred were moved to Mead Memorial Cemetery located on Wright Shop Road in Madison Heights. No dates were given and Mead Cemetery is not listed in Boxley's book. Maybe someone will visit and write down their dates. Tombstones as listed in the Chancery Suit:

DONALD S. ARTHUR	b. 11 Mar. 1919	d. 13 Mar. 1952
(Mildred) MINNIE J. ARTHUR	b. 8 Oct 1877	d. 19 Mar. 1943
JENNIE OGDEN	b. 11 Oct 1848	d. 21 Mar 1932
ALBERT OGDEN.	b. 11 Apr. 1850	d. 14 Sept 1931

(By
Mary
Johnson)

[Wood, p.162: Mary Agnes Rucker, daughter of Anthony⁴, married Benjamin Ogden, 15 Oct. 1807. See Ogden Family, p.491. This could not be original Rucker land as Albert Ogden purchased it from Jesse Adams 1883.]

OGDEN FAMILY GRAVEYARD: Located one mile south of Falconerville, on Route 29. The house burned, and the owners are living in the barn. The graveyard is beyond the house in a grove of trees. (These are not listed in Boxley's Gravestones): *Russell Falls lives there.*

JAMES M. OGDEN, b. 30 Oct. 1816, d. 20 Nov. 1890

Our Mother, MARY A. OGDEN, b. 20 May 1821, d. 20 Oct. 1893

LAFAYETTE W. OGDEN, b. 1 Dec. 1856, d. 18 Nov. 1896

An Obelisk: Erected by A. J. & J. E. Ogden, in loving memory of our children:

1. MAMIE G. OGDEN, b. 28 Dec. 1886, d. 2 Mar. 1910

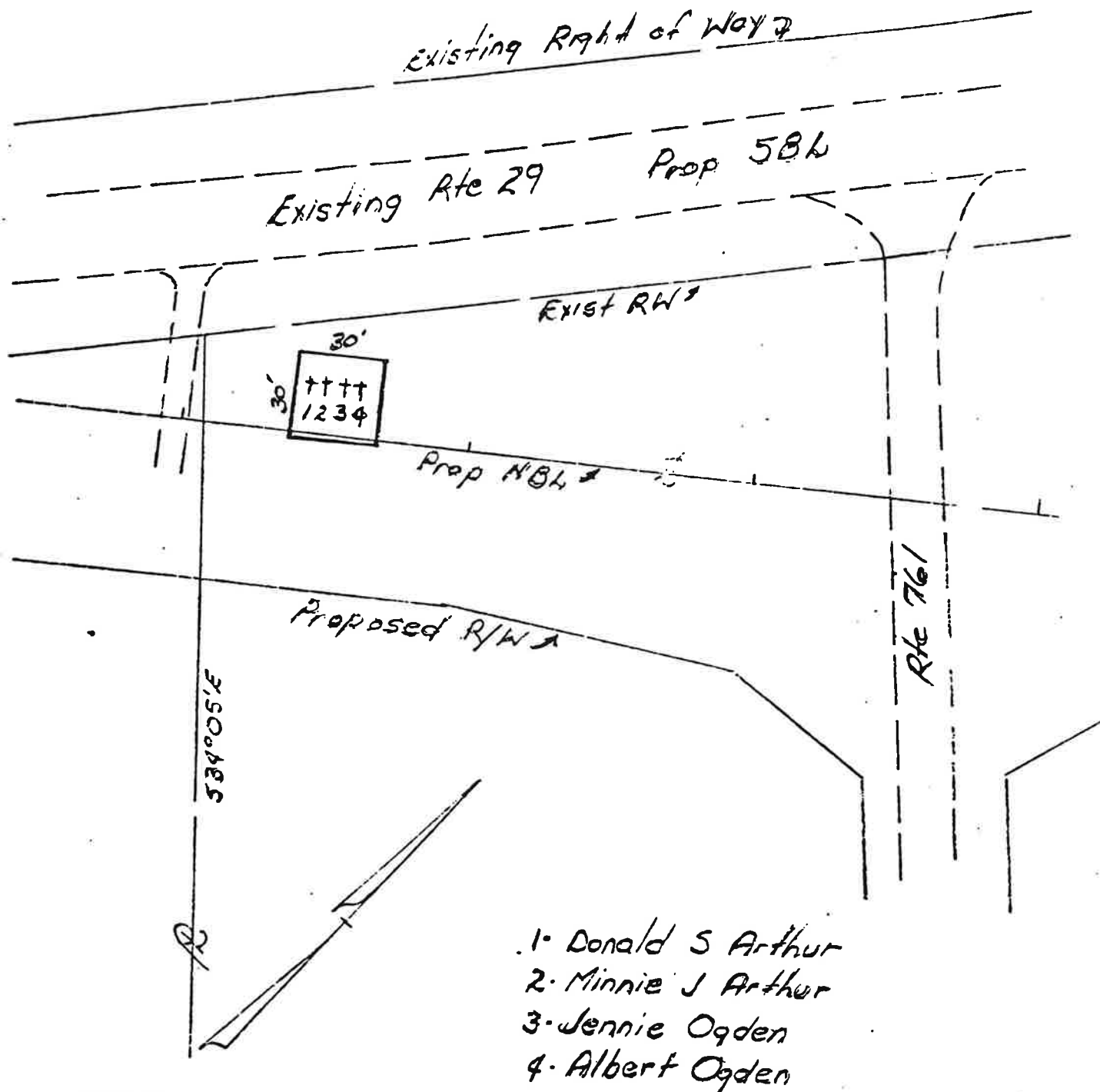
2. SIDNEY A. OGDEN, b. 1881, d. 2 Aug. 1916

3. FLORENCE V. OGDEN, b. 6 Dec. 1873, d. 30 Nov. 1899.

[It's interesting that Albert and Jennie Ogden buried their children in their parent graveyard, then started a new one for themselves.]

Sketch of Existing Ogden Cemetery

"EXHIBIT C"



HEIRS OF DONALD S. ARTHUR, MINNIE J. ARTHUR, JENNIE OGDEN and
ALBERT OGDEN:

1. Randolph Scott Arthur
2. Rose Bell Woodyard
3. William Russell Arthur

STEPHEN HAM CEMETERY: Continue south on Route 29 though Monroe to Prices Store. Turn left on Rt. 677 to the intersection at Wright's Shop. Turn left on Rt. 622, drive to Galt's Mill on Stoval Creek, near the James River. Turn left and you find the Turner home. This home was adjoining the Ham home which burned leaving no trace today.

Mildred ³ Rucker (John², Peter¹) married Stephen Ham, who had patented land on Stoval Creek (Wood, p.166). They had 12 children, two of whom married Turners, their neighbors:

Lucy Ham, b. ca. 1773, m. 25 Nov. 1795, James Turner.

Sally Ham, b. ca. 1780, m. 29 Nov. 1802, Richard Turner.

Between the Turner land and the former Ham land is what was known as "Graveyard Hill." Here Stephen Ham and his wife, Mildred Rucker (daughter of John²), are buried. No stones survive to mark the place today. Up the road, a little further, is the Brightwell Mill, still in operation today. It is run by an "old timer" who is knowledgeable about the area. [This information was given to me by Morris Hamm of Onalaska Texas, a direct descendant of Stephen Ham. He will be at the Rucker Reunion to tell us more. The Hamms spell their name with a double "m" today.]

Today the Turner home is owned by a Turner descendant: Mr. and Mrs. Edgar James Turner Perrow. They own Galts Mill and the land where the Batteaux will spend their first night at Stapleton. I haven't mentioned yet the James River Batteau Festival which will be happening simultaneously with the Rucker Reunion. Anthony and Benjamin Rucker were the inventors of the first Batteau and are honored at each Festival. The boats launch at Lynchburg on Saturday, June 16th, and take eight days to reach Richmond. The first stop is at Stapleton.

MEAD MEMORIAL CEMETERY: Retrace steps to Rt. 677, turn left on Rt. 622, Wright's Shop Road. Cemetery is about one half mile, on the left. Buried here are the Ogdens, whose graves were moved here in 1968. See Albert J. Rucker Cemetery for their names.

Continue on Rt. 622, back to Rt. 29 at Martin's Store. Turn left and drive back to Lynchburg, or right to Amherst Court House. You have now completed your tour of RUCKER'S LAND in Amherst County.

