

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

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March 1999

JEANNIE-ALOGY

WHO WAS TAVENAR RUCKER OF GREENBRIER CO., WV?

Pauline McFarlin wrote me recently and wanted to know the father of her ancestor Tavenar Rucker of Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia. She said she didn't have much response to her query in a previous issue of the Rucker newsletter. She did confirm the spelling of his name as Tavenar as opposed to the many other spellings that have been used: Tavener, Tavenor, Tavernor, Taverner, Tavenner, Tavanor, Tabnor, and Tavner.

In Sudie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.247, it said "Tavener" Rucker (William, William, Peter) went to Greenbrier Co., W. Va. He paid a personal tax from 1796 until 1816. This was actually two mistakes as this "Tavner" moved from Amelia Co., VA, to Elbert Co., GA, and never went to Greenbrier at all. The other mistake is that Tavenar began paying taxes in Greenbrier County in 1802, not 1796.

On p.243, Sudie listed the tax records for William Rucker. It said in the 1789 personal tax records of Culpeper Co., VA, "William Rucker paid on Taverner [sic] and Benjamin." The author looked up the records at the Library of Virginia and it indeed does say that. William paid on

Tavener in 1789, and an unnamed son in 1790, 1791 and 1792. Benjamin paid for himself in 1790 and 1792. Also in the same 1789 tax records, William Rucker, son to Thomas paid, indicating that the William that paid on Tavener and Benjamin was the son of William. But how could this be?

The first problem is there were two Tavenar Ruckers, one who lived in Georgia and one who lived in Greenbrier Co., (W)VA. The second problem is the two William Ruckers, one was the son of William, and the other the son of Thomas, both grandsons of Peter Rucker, immigrant. Both Williams were approximately the same age and lived in the same area of Culpeper/ Madison Co., VA. How can we tell them apart in the records? We can understand how easy it was to confuse them so that even the tax collectors had trouble identifying them.

The law said every white male at the age of 16 had to pay a tax and this was usually done by the parent unless the child was living on his own. If William (son of William) paid on son "Taverner" in the 1789 tax records, logic tells us the son would have been over the age of 16. Tavner Rucker of Georgia was

born January 12, 1787 (family Bible record), making him two years old in 1789. How can this be? Even if he was born in 1777 as Sudie guessed, he would have been only 12. And who was Benjamin? William's Will listed no son named Benjamin.

Tavenar Rucker began paying his own tax in Culpeper beginning 1794, then the county name changed to Madison. He paid in Madison until 1800 when his name disappears. A "Tavenar" Rucker began paying tax in Greenbrier County in 1802. This leads us to believe that the Tavenar of Culpeper/ Madison was the same one that moved to Greenbrier County.

This has been very confusing to us. The only answer is the William Rucker that paid taxes on Tavenar and Benjamin was the son of Thomas, not William.

The Tavner Rucker family Bible, found at the Franklin, TN, library, spelled the Georgian's name "Tavner." The 1850 Franklin Co., GA, census said he was 64 years old which matches the 1787 birth date given in the Bible. Tavner and Elizabeth Wade married about 1820, not 1798 as Sudie said on p.247. The family Bible, doesn't give their date of marriage, but does give the birth dates of their children, beginning August 21, 1822.

We have to distinguish between the two William Ruckers: William Long Nose and William Jaw Bones. Sudie on p.243 and p.229 does a good job of this. I think William, son of William, was called Junior because he was the son of William. Possibly he was considered younger because his children were much younger.

1. William³ (Thomas², Peter¹) was called Senior, "Jaw Bones" or J. Bones.

2. William³ (William², Peter¹) was called Junior, "Long Nose" or L. Nose.

Now we can identify their most distinguishing feature, let's look at their children as listed in their Wills.

William's (son of William²) dated 5 Aug 1833, listed: Barden, Tavenar [sic], William, Frances Jones, and heirs of Elizabeth Childs and Lemuel Rucker.

William's (son of Thomas²) dated 20 May 1818, listed: Joel, Benjamin, Jarvis, Fannie, Eleanor, Sally Warren and Nancy Carter.

As the author continued to examine the tax records of Culpeper and Madison, she discovered that William (son of Thomas²) J. Bones was listed near Benjamin, Tavenar, Joel, and eventually Jarvis. William (son of William²) L. Nose was listed alone. This was a great clue.

Note that both Williams were married to an Elizabeth. William (son of Thomas²) was married to Elizabeth Smith. He died in Madison county, VA. William (son of William²) L. Nose moved to Georgia. His wife was Elizabeth Alexander, daughter of James Alexander and mentioned as such in his will. William's first child, Barden was born in 1785 and he was never mentioned in the Virginia tax records. William Long Nose disappears from the records in 1804, so probably moved away at that time. William's children were not listed in the tax records of Culpeper county because they were not old enough. Remember, it was

not like getting a driver's license today, no one rushed down to pay on their son when he came of age. They only did so when forced to do it.

Query: Who was the father of Tavenar Rucker of Greenbrier county? The author thinks it was William (son of Thomas)!!!! Consider the following: 1. William Rucker paid a tax on Tavenar and Benjamin and we know William (son of Thomas) had a son named Benjamin; 2. Tavenar died in 1816 the year his estate paid his taxes in Greenbrier County (was that why he was not mentioned in his father's will); and 3. Tavenar had one son, named "William" after his grandfather.

The only other question that still looms on the horizon is why did Tavenar move to the area of Greenbrier County where his uncle James Rucker lived? William (son of Thomas) had a son Joel that moved to Bath county and a daughter that married a Rucker cousin in Greenbrier County. So there were relatives in the area.

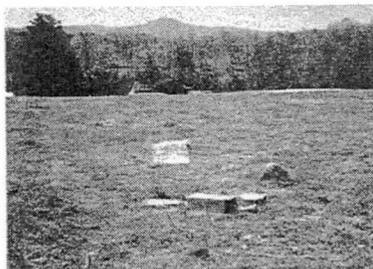
SPRING CLEANING IN AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By Christopher D. Rucker, M.D.

The Rucker graveyard on Graham Creek has been spruced-up, again. A visit last summer found it almost impenetrable, particularly for those sensitive to poison ivy. Over the course of several weekends this winter and spring, brush was removed, vines cleared, and stumps shortened to permit entry and inspection of the nine stones described by Sudie Rucker Wood (p.80). The author suggests interested readers visit soon, before summer growth returns;

carry a bottle of weed killer, and treat anything green.

One new stone in the cemetery honors the Confederated service of Ambrose⁷ Clark Rucker (Edwin⁶ Sorrell, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). "Long Ambrose" died April 20, 1891, and his obituary said he "was laid away in the family cemetery." Several other members of his family probably are buried there in unmarked graves. His stone was placed to the left of that of his first wife, Philadelphia Catherine Clark (listed as Kate P. Rucker). Wood's claim of his service in Co. E of the 2nd Virginia Calvary may have been wrong: the author's research suggests that he took exemption from duty based on his positions as a slave owner and mail contractor.



The William⁵ Ballenger Rucker George⁴, John³, John²) and Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker

(Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John²) cemetery in Pleasant View has also been restored. The photo above is before restoration and the one below is after.



The cemetery is located on the property of the Mays Family, who graciously assisted with the project. The stones were repaired and reset, and a fence built to exclude the curious cattle. The sunken graves described by Wood (p.49) are no longer so evident, but some can be seen after a highlighting snowfall, or when Spring daffodils mark the few remaining fieldstones.

Just one hill to the southwest, the Confederate gravestone of Godfrey Toler Rucker (Alexander, Marr, Richard, Isaac John) was unexpectedly discovered, and uncovered from a particularly impassible blackberry thicket. An old iron fence has been propped up, and there appear to be other graves, some marked by fieldstones. Don't miss the very old log home further up the hill. No dates are on Godfrey's stone but he died between his will dated December 8, 1888 and its probate December 16, 1889. Please contact the author with any specifics.

Those who enjoy stumbling through woods and pastures searching for graves and homesteads know that it is often difficult to find them again, sometimes years later. The author suggests using a Global Positioning System unit, now moderately priced. Unlike street names and property owners. latitude and longitude never change. (Godfrey can be found on the U.S.G.S. "Tobacco Row Mtn." map at 37°37.62 N, 79°14.42 W).

Further Reading:

Boxley, Mary Frances, compiler Gravestone Inscriptions in Amherst County, VA, 1985 (1999 edition [\$30+ \$1.13 VA sales tax] may be ordered from Amherst County Museum, P. O. Box 741, Amherst, VA 24521 804-946-9068).

Rucker, Christopher D., "Biographical Sketches of Thirteen Ruckers of Nineteenth Century Amherst County, VA," unpublished 1998.

The author welcomes comments and corrections.

Christopher D. Rucker, M.D.
2252 Berkely Ave., S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24015
540-981-0769

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOUND IN ROBINSON, CRAWFORD CO., IL

Notes from Cindi Meyer, who is touring the USA (submitted by Alice Rucker of Sylmar, CA):

"I saw an interesting little thing today in the library in Robinson, Crawford Co, Illinois. They had a shadow box hanging on the wall and inside was an old postcard of the beautiful school that used to occupy the same location that the library now does. And framed with the postcard is a wooden board, probably written on by a naughty school kid, and who do you think's name! JOHN RUCKER is written in black crayon, 1878 or 1884 or something like that. It was so cute! I would have liked to just carry it off."

For more information on Cindi's trip see her web site: www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/6222

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IDENTIFYING UNKNOWN RUCKER BURIALS

From RFSN, Vol. 9, No. 4, p.34
Submitted by A.D. Toten
of Fort Worth, Texas

Buried in Providence Cemetery-
Northwest Corner:

Frank Rucker, 1826/1887 (Franklin
William Rucker), My great-Grand
Father.

Mary Lane Rucker, 1827/1886 (Mary
Amanda Lane-Rucker) My Great-
Grand Mother.

D.F. Rucker, Son of S. J. William
Joseph [Jasper] Rucker and R.J.
[Rhoda Jane Allen-Rucker] Rucker.
'Jasper' was my Grandfather John
Martin Rucker's oldest brother.
Jasper was born 29 Feb 1852 in
Arkansas; Died 4 June 1901;
married Rhoda Jane 11 Oct 1874.
She was born 1 Jan 1859 in Van
Zandt Co. TX., and died 3 Nov
1910. Both are buried in
Providence cemetery. They are
also listed on the titled report.

Horace M. Rucker, Mary Ophelia
Rucker, Leonard J. Rucker, and
Infant Son are all children of my
maternal Grand-parents, John
Martin Rucker and Ara Virginia
Peters-Rucker. J.M. (John Martin)
was born 6 Feb 1861 in Van Zandt
Co. TX.; He died 7 Dec 1938 at
Decatur, Texas. Ara Virginia
Rucker was born 13 Sept 1865 in
Smith Co., TX. and died 4 Jan
1944, also Decatur, Texas. Both
are buried in the Oaklawn
Cemetery at Decatur, Texas. They
were married 2 June 1882 and the
unnamed infant was born and died
after Horace Milam, and before
Lorena Rucker, who was born 24
Aug 1893, in Wise Co., TX.

My Grand-Father, John Martin

Rucker told my mother, Izetta
Rucker-Toten that they moved from
Van Zandt Co. to Wise Co., TX,
because the water was so bad in
Van Zandt it killed the first
four children before they were
old enough to fend for them-
selves.

Mrs. N. C. Rucker, 14 July 1855/6
- Sept 1937 was (Nancy Carralin
Andrews-Rucker) wife of James
Franklin Rucker, an older brother
of Frank W. Rucker.

Calvin Rucker, 18 Dec 1882-23
July 1884, was Nancy Carralin
Andrew's, and James Franklin
Rucker's son.

Iva Delena Rucker-Allen, 2 Sept
1880-19 Sept 1952, was a daughter
of James Franklin and Nancy
Carralin Rucker. She married
Virgil Allen on 26 Sept 1897.
Their Son married Charlotta
Berneatha Tuttle-Allen, an
esteemed author, and member of
the Rucker Family Society.

A.D. Toten
816 Northwood Road
Fort Worth, TX 76107-1068

ELIZA RUCKER AND WILLIAM PARKER

I am looking for any information
on Eliza Rucker, who married
William Parker, possibly in 1812
in Rutherford Co. TN. She was
also called "Bettie". I do not
know her date of birth or place
of birth. William Parker may have
been born in NC about 1790.

They had sons Peyton Parker b.
1820 in TN; John B. Parker b.
1822 in Rutherford Co., TN;
Ransom Parker, birth date or

place unknown; George Parker b. 1831 in Coles Co., IL. There may have been other children, but these are the only ones that I know about.

Eliza "Bettie" Rucker Parker may have died in Illinois. I am not sure, but her husband, moved to Houston Co., TX around July 1837 and may be in Anderson Co., TX.

Would appreciate any information on a Eliza/Elizabeth or "Bettie" Rucker, seeking parents or siblings, or any information on Ruckers who may have married into a Parker Family.

Shirley Pierce, 3000 N. Glade,
Bethany, OK. 73008
<shirlann@worldnet.att.net>

SAMUEL RUCKER

Searching for descendants of SAMUEL RUCKER. Samuel was born abt 1832-33 in Greenbrier Co., [W]VA, son of Frances Rucker. He appeared in the 1850 census in Allegheny and Greenbrier Counties. In 1860 he appeared as a laborer in Allegheny Co. for a farmer. In late 1859 or early 1860 Samuel Rucker married Barbara Stonestreet.

Issue (4) of Samuel Rucker and Barbara Stonestreet:

1. George S. T. Rucker b. abt. 1859-1860, Bath Co., VA
2. John W. P. Rucker b. 17 Sep 1862, in Bath Co., VA
3. Frances Sarah E. H. Rucker, b. 14 March 1865, Allegheny Co., VA
4. William L. S. Rucker, b. 3 June 1868, Barbour Co. WV

Soon after William was born

Barbara Rucker died and her death is documented in Barbour Co., WV.

Samuel Rucker remarried March 9, 1869, to Mary M. Stonestreet, Barbara's sister.

Issue of Samuel Rucker and Mary M. Stonestreet:

5. Gideon Rucker b. abt. 1870
6. Mary A. E. Rucker b. abt 1874
7. James E. Rucker b. abt 1876
8. Pocahontas "Ollie" Rucker b. abt 1877
9. Jarret Elza Rucker b. 12 July 1879

Both Mary M. and Samuel died sometime in the 1880's, according to family legend, but records have not been found. I'm a descendant of William L. S. Rucker and am looking to contact any other descendants of this Rucker family. Please contact me so we can work together on this line.

Cara Plumb Miller, 230 Enrico Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635,
Phone: 520-459-2840
E-mail: <grider@c2i2.com>

SAMUEL AND DIANNAH RUCKER OF WEST VIRGINIA

I'm researching my Rucker family tree and have reached an ancestor that I cannot find anything on. His name was Samuel Rucker. His wife's name was Diannah.

I know of only one child, my great-grandfather Josiah B. Rucker born in Pocahontas County abt 1823. Josiah ends up in the 1850 Kanawha County, [W]VA Census as married to Mary J. and with one son Sylvester born ca 1849.

Would appreciate any information

if anyone has a connection to a Samuel and Diannah Rucker.

Jewel Rucker, P.O. Box 21,
Pond Gap, WV 25160
<ajruck@wvit.wvnet.edu>

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT

Descendants of Margaret⁷ Rucker (James⁶ L., Basil⁵, James⁴, Ephraim³, James², Peter¹), & Levi Francis Arthur Jr will hold a reunion on August 6-7-8, 1999. It will be held at the Pennyryle State Park, located near Dawson Springs, KY. All are welcome to attend. Please contact William ("Bill") Byron Arthur Jr., 72 E. Broadway, Madisonville, KY 42431 (270) 821-0507 <WBarthur@aol.com>

\$\$\$ \$300.00 REWARD \$\$\$

For anyone who can locate and document the parents of Robert White Watts, who married Mary⁵ Ann Rucker (Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹) in 1835. See Sudie Rucker Wood's book p.112-113. Reply to Lawrence A. Watts Jr., 509 Forest Hill Circle, Greenville, NC 27858 e-mail <lwattsjr@aol.com>

**PRESIDENT'S NOTE
FROM JEANNIE ROBINSON**

Our new editor, Terry Detamore O'Reilly has been sick, so I am mailing out the newsletter. She did most of the work and I hope she is well soon.

Please send information for the newsletter either to me or to Terry O'Reilly, 63 Old Mill Road, Old Bridge, NJ 08857 or e-mail her at <MrsTReilly@aol.com>

The Board Meeting of the Rucker Family Society will be held Oct 1-3, 1999, at Williamsburg, VA. If you would like to serve on the reunion committee, please let me know.

Jean Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226 or call (804) 358-3185.

RUCKERS OF PADUCAH, KY

My father was Harold James Rucker, born December 8, 1921 in Paducah, Kentucky. His father was Morton Valdean Rucker, born May 15, 1878 in Princeton, Kentucky. I know nothing of any brothers or sisters my grandfather may have had or much on his father whose name was Thomas Morton Rucker. Any help you could give me would be wonderful.

Dean Rucker, PO Box 50291,
Midland, TX 79710
e-mail <Deanrucker@aol.com>

Answer from Jean B. Robinson:
your records can be found in the 1880 and 1900 KY census records:

Thomas⁷ Morton Rucker
(William⁶ M., John⁵, James⁴, John³,
John², Peter¹) and (Rachel⁵
Rucker, John⁴, John³, John²,
Peter¹), b. Aug 1849; m. ca 1875,
Dora B. Lady (maiden name from
Rucker Ruckus, Vol. 7, Is. 2,
p.266b), b. Aug 1854, KY.

Issue:

1. Morton⁸ Valdene Rucker, b. May 1877.
2. Thomas⁸ P. Rucker, b. ca 1879.
3. Alice⁸ Grace Rucker, b. Sep 1881.
4. Lillie⁸ T. Rucker, b. Mar 1884.

(Source: Census records.)

OBITUARY

Claude Lee Rucker Jr., age 75, died Monday, May 17, 1999 at his home in Fernandina Beach, FL. Claude attended NC State University in Raleigh, NC and graduated from Stetson University in Deland, FL. He served in the US Navy during WWII in the Pacific Theater. He retired in 1985 as Superintendent of Computer and Process Control for Container Corporation of America.

Claude was a founder of the Fernandina Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce and was a co-founder of the Fernandina Beach Toastmasters Club. He was interested in history and family genealogy.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Shriley Antoinette Reed Rucker; two sons Reed G. Rucker of Hopkinton, MA and C. Lee Rucker III of Lawrenceville, GA; and five daughters, Sharon R. Hudson of Detroit, MI, Melanie S. Rucker of Tallahassee, FL, Dawn S. Rucker of Pittsburgh, PA, Lorena S. Rucker and Suellen M. Smith, both of Fernandina Beach; and 14 grand children.

Interment with Military Honors was held at Bosque-Bello cemetery.

Claude and his brother, James ("Jim") M. Rucker of Gladys, VA, attended the 1996 Rucker Reunion in Roswell, GA.

Claude was the son of Claude⁷ Lee Rucker (James⁶ Anthony Rucker, Anthony⁵ Thomas Burgess Rucker, Absolom⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) and Mildred Lee Riddle.

Submitted by his brother, James B. Rucker, Gladys, VA.

50th ANNIVERSARY DOYLE AND DOROTHY BLOOMER



The children and grand-children of Doyle and Dorothy Jean House Bloomer hosted a 50th Anniversary party on June 5, 1999 at the Church of Christ at Hinton, OK.



The Doyles were married on June 4, 1949 at the home of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Green House. The couple first made their home in Elk City, OK, and later lived in Pampa and Stinnett, Texas.

Doyle became a preacher and served at many churches in Texas and Oklahoma. He is now retired and they are living in Hinton.

They have three children and six grandchildren. Doyle has three lines of Rucker descent: (His father, Marcus⁹ Bloomer, William⁸ C., Nancy⁷ E. Hayes, Colbert⁶, Sarah⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹); (Mary⁶ [Nancy] Payne, Nancy⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹); and (Samantha⁸ Watson, Sarah⁷ Hayes, Colbert⁶, Sarah⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹).

INFORMATION

To subscribe to the Rucker message center, send a message to:
<RUCKER-L-request@rootsweb.com> Place SUBSCRIBE in the subject heading.
To take your name off the mailing list, place UNSUBSCRIBE in its place.
When sending messages to the list delete the "request" portion and use
this address: <RUCKER-L@rootsweb.com>

Send updated family information to Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road,
Richmond, VA 23226-1705. <ruckerfs@erols.com>

Send FGS to Doris W. Edwards, 2017 43rd St. SE, U-2, Grand Rapids, MI
49508. She is placing copies of family groups sheets at the Virginia
Historical Society in Richmond, VA. <dedwards@triton.net>

Send your family data on computer discs, GED COM format (PAF or Family
Tree Maker program) to Ruth McBride, 9104 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg,
VA. Ruth has a new e-mail address: <ashmont@earthlink.net>

Send cemetery information (name, location, owner, condition, and
tombstone listings) to James M. Rucker, 11068 Brookneal Hwy, Gladys, VA
24554-2041. (Please note Jim's new address.)

1999 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED.
THE FIRST NUMBER IS THE YEAR THROUGH WHICH YOU HAVE PAID, THE SECOND
NUMBER IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.

Please make check for membership, payable to The Rucker Society and
mail to: Mr. Lewis M. White, Treasurer
9751 Firth Court
Vienna, VA 22181
E-mail - LewisWhite@compuserve.com

- ___ \$7.00 Dues for Membership for 1999 _____
- ___ \$14.00 Dues for Membership for 1999 and 2000 _____
- ___ Donations for the Preservation and Memorial Fund _____

Name(s): _____
Please print your name(s) exactly as you would like it to appear on your
mailing label

Address: _____
_____ zip + 4 _____

Line of Descent:

HELPFUL WEB SITES: To make sure that everyone has the latest and greatest overall genealogical helpful sites, submitted by Jo Thiessen:

Rootsweb's new pages with various search engines:
<http://resources.rootsweb.com/surnames/>

A MUST for links housed other places but connected to the Rootsweb functions—such as surname pages connected to mail lists but not housed at a Rootsweb server: <http://seeker.rootsweb.com/links/index.html>

Remember that there is a GenConnect board for posting and answering queries, but you can also get to it via the other Rootsweb addresses:
<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/ruc/Rucker>

Commercial group with all kinds of bulletin boards and mail lists:
<http://www.genforum.com/>

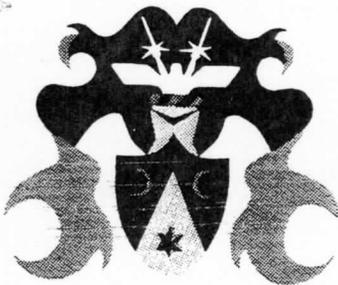
The LDS site recently opened to the public: <http://www.FamilySearch.org/>

Don't forget to check out the website of The Rucker Family Society. You might be interested to know that we have an average of 275 hits per month at the site: <http://www.mindspring.com/~jogt/surnames/ruckerfs.htm>

Doris Edwards's web page for The Peter Rucker, Immigrant, Home Page:
<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/e/d/w/Mary-D-Edwards/index.html>

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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