

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

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FAMILY PROFILE CINDI AND KEITH MEYER

by Cindi Meyer

My gypsy blood runs deep and I am well in touch with the souls of those Rucker ancestors of mine that roamed the West.

I am a second generation Californian, my mother AND father both being born in CA. I was raised on stories of travel, my mother's father being in the business of oil production, she lived in exotic locales such as on the Amazon River in Brazil visiting Machu Pichu and Egypt during her high school years. I yearned to travel and see these places for myself. After completing my AA degree in a community college, I had saved enough money as a waitress to go to France for a year of school. I didn't know a soul, didn't go with anyone, and didn't speak the language. The first 3 months were tough as the family I lived with didn't speak English, so communication was difficult. But by Christmas time, I was able to speak French and by the time I left I was dreaming in French and had traveled to twelve European countries from Greece to Denmark and really didn't want to come home. It was after my return

that I met and fell in love with my husband of 17 years, Keith Meyer.

We struggled putting him through School for Chiropractic and our first home was a mobile home. Moving into our second house after a year, we dreamed of a big Victorian house on a couple of acres, raising horses and dogs within a couple miles of Keith's Chiropractic Practice. That dream took about 10 years to realize.

We spent 7 great years in a huge house, throwing BIG parties, enjoying trail riding out our backyard on horseback on 1500 acres of wilderness in Southern California. Luckily we both came to the realization at the same time, that the material objects were demanding all of our free time.

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*Keith and Cindi with a new foal
at home in California*

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Editor:

Terry Detamore O'Reilly
34 Schiverea Ave
Freehold, NJ 07728
<MrsTReilly@aol.com>

President:

Jean B. Robinson
304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226
<ruckerfs@erols.com>

Membership

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\$5.00 institutional

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Between the practice, caring for up to 8 horses, 3 dogs, and 3 acres, we were not able to get away and travel as we wanted. And we had decided we wanted to relocate to a place that had more trees than people. That is definitely NOT Southern California. So an idea to simply sell the house and business and relocate, became a plan to travel the USA in a motor home and look for property before settling. But we knew when we found that perfect 30 acres we were looking for, we would have a mortgage and not be able to travel as much again. So Keith suggested going to Europe first, before traveling the North American Continent and I suggested Round the World airline tickets good for a year! We have not regretted one minute of selling everything we owned in California--house, business, horses, etc.--and going on the adventure of a lifetime!

As for my gypsy blood, it has well taken over. It has been two years since we decided this was something we wanted to do. The first year we spent circling the globe, 34 countries in a year, traveling by airplane, boat, camper-van, and much of it on foot! We rented a 500 year old villa in Tuscany and stayed a month. We shipped a camper-van from California to Greece and put

over 22,000 miles on it all over Europe. Through genealogy, we met many new family members and saw my 500 year old ancestral home in Schleswig, Germany. We had some dangerous times also, such as a 9 p.m. curfew with machine guns in Kenya and missing the bomb in Omagh, Ireland by 2 weeks! Some of our favorite places included New Zealand, South Africa, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and just about all of Europe. Our least favorite were Kenya and Israel and there is a long list of reasons but the main one was "the people."

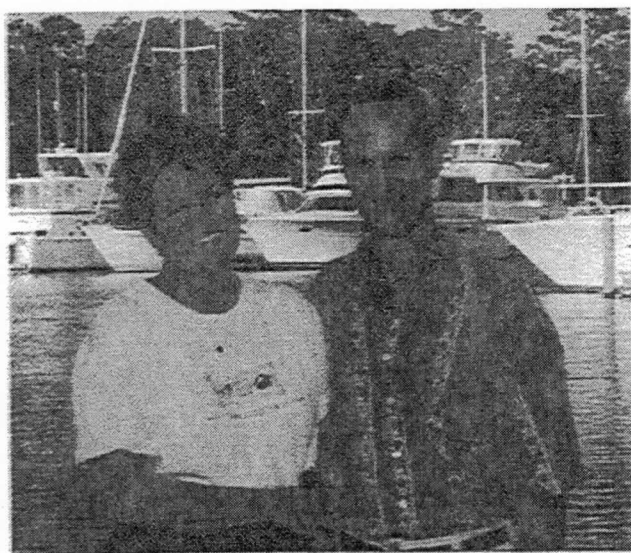
We are now well into part B of "Keith and Cindi's Excellent Adventure" and we are not going to quit any time soon, God Willing. We spent the summer of 1999 in the Maritimes--New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island--and Quebec. While there we helped out with a Habitat for Humanity Build providing 10 houses in 5 days. What a great feeling giving 40 children homes that didn't have one previously.

Keith has taken woodcarving classes and I have my laptop and my genealogy database. He carves while I research.

We have met incredible people, and surprisingly, many, like us under 50 years old, are doing the same thing we are. We feel so fortunate to be taking our retirement in the middle of our lives.



Keith and Cindi in Athens, Greece



*Cindi and Keith Meyer
At Hilton Head, SC, Sept., 1999*

We are presently working our way down to Florida where we will stay from October to January. We were safe during hurricane "Floyd" and actually had a timeshare in Hilton Head the week after the hurricane blew through. After wintering in Florida, we will spend a few months visiting our California family again and then it's "North to Alaska" for the Summer of 2000.

I would love to hear from any other Julius Rucker descendants, we are really trying to find out where and when he died. My email address is <cbmeyer1@ibm.net>.

Please visit my webpage to view the other 5900 individuals in my database and keep abreast of my travels. Any help, corrections or additions to the webpage are also very welcome.

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/6222

My parents are Donald D. Bonney and Lorelein "Lee" Crooke. My mother, Lee is the daughter of Harry Crooke and Lily⁸ Wanda Seaman (Sarah⁷ Rose Rucker, Richard⁶ M., Julius⁵, Abner⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹).

See notes on Julius on p.28.

My great grandmother, Rose Rucker, was born July 17, 1877 in Coleman Co, Texas, one of 11 children born to Richard Morton and Emily Jane

Cox Rucker. Her brothers were "real cowboys" of the "real wild west" and there are many stories in our family of "bronc bustin, cattle drives, and roamin" the states of TX, CA, NM, CO, and AZ searching for better pasture lands.

In fact one family legend has Emily Jane Cox Rucker and her daughters out on the prairie in a sod house and meeting Geronimo and his Indian party. The story that has been handed down says that she was left at the house with her daughters as the men went out hunting. Geronimo and about five Indian scouts approached on ponies wanting food for the men and water for the horses. Emily and the girls had poisoned the flour in case things went bad. However, they eventually made biscuits for Geronimo and his men using the untainted flour, 'cuz she seemed to think he was very nice and polite. But, according to legend, she thought he had a high, squeaky voice. I don't know if it's true, but I do know this family was in the same area as Geronimo and his band.



Cindi with her camel driver in Egypt



Traveling through Europe in a camper-van



Roy and Mary Rucker (seated in the chairs, middle, front)

With 65 of their 70 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Each of the family groups are in matching t-shirts

The family meets once a year and spends 3 great days together.

Roy Rucker's line is from Simeon⁸ Herbert Rucker, Aaron⁷ DeWitt, Samuel⁶, William⁵, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹. Simeon moved to Arizona in 1912.

The names of Roy and Mary Rucker's children and their spouses are:

1. Shirley¹⁰ Lynne Rucker and Mike Klein.
Two children
2. Charles¹⁰ Roy Rucker and Vickie Sue Hansen.
Four children
3. Karen¹⁰ Lee Rucker and Raymond M. T. van der Werf.
Three children
4. Barbara¹⁰ Ann Rucker and Richard Don Tarwater.
Five children
5. Bruce¹⁰ Leonard Rucker and Marcy Huffman.
Five children
6. Richard¹⁰ Jay Rucker and Deborah Warner.
Five children

Congratulations to a very fine family!

Note to Roy and Mary: let me know the names of your great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

THEODORE F. HARTUNG SR., was born July 29, 1922, in Seattle, WA, and died June 4, 1999. He was the son of Christine and Otto Hartung.

Ted married Evalyn Wren-Williams in Seattle, WA on March 10, 1945. They had been married 54 years when he died. They had four children, one of whom, a daughter lived only five days.



Ev and Ted Hartung
50th Wedding Anniversary

Their daughter, Yvonne Hamilton made them the family quilt with pictures from their babyhood to current photos. It also included wishes from many family members and friends. It is beautiful in shades of blue and white. What a cherished keepsake!

Ted retired as a Supervisor for Boeing in 1973 after 30 years of employment. Ted was an avid and accomplished golfer, winning numerous trophies and medals. He twice won the senior Olympics golf tournament in Yuma, AZ. He was also interested in genealogy.

Ted is survived by his wife, Ev, daughter Marigene and her husband Mike Cole, daughter Yvonne and her husband Tom Hamilton, son Theodore Jr; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; brother Bill Hartung, half-brother, Orville Hartung and half-sister Kay Heim.

Ev Hartung is the daughter of Evalena Lititea (Hendren) and David⁸ Clarence Wren, alias Daniel Charles Williams (Robert⁷ L., David⁶ A., Esther⁵ A. Lloyd, Tabitha⁴ Rucker, Thomas³, Thomas², Peter¹).

* * * * *

OLLIE DENNIS MADDOX, husband of Frances Jean Dillehay (Dorothy Wiggins, Fannie Rucker, Joseph A. Rucker, Joseph B. Rucker, Elzy, Joel, John, Thomas, Peter) died on August 9, 1998 at Metropolis, Illinois. Ollie was born June 23, 1926 in Ohio County, Kentucky. He is survived by his wife and one child, Brett Lynn Maddox. Contributed by Ollie's sister-in-law, Maxine Dillehay Hammar, Palmyra, VA.

* * * * *

QUERY from the Rucker Web Page: I am searching for information about Stuart Rucker or George Rucker (not sure of his name) from Lynchburg, VA who might have traveled to Washington DC in the early 1900's and lived with or married a woman with the last name, Dyson. She was my great grandmother. They had one male child by the name of Ellsworth. The other details are unclear but I hope this is enough to go on.

Please contact me, Crystal Rucker
202-488-5145 phone
<crucker@hq.nasa.gov> e-mail

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ABSLOM RUCKER AND ELIZABETH SNYDER: Who were they? From *Shenandoah Co., VA, Marriages, 1772-1850*, by John Vogt and T. Wm. Kethley Jr., 1984: Absalom Rucker married 18 Dec 1807, Elizabeth Snyder, d/o Peter Snyder.

Also Elizabeth Rucker married 19 Jun 1837, William Penninger, born 1 Apr 1815, bondsman, Henry Penninger.

Please contact Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226 <ruckerfs@erols.com>

* * * * *

THADDEUS RUCKER was married to Amanda Susan McMillan on 6/20/1862 in Fillmore County, MN. I do not know where Thaddeus was born nor his dob. Amanda was born on 12/28/1843 but I do not know where. Their son, Milton Haswell Rucker, was born on 1/18/1870 in Jackson, MN. or Jackson County, MN (I am not sure which). Milton married Anna Stevens on 8/24/1895 at Prairie Du Chien, WI. Their son, Lloyd Thaddeus Rucker, was born on 1/26/1897 in Osage, IA. and Lloyd's son, Leland Eugene Rucker was born on 7/21/1918 in Osage, IA. He is my father.

I can not get any farther back than Thaddeus Rucker. If anyone knows anything about this line of Rucker's in Northeastern Iowa and Southeastern Minnesota, I would certainly appreciate any information that you might have and would want to share.

Posted by Carl Rucker <is01324@wsii.com> on Wed, 01 Sep 1999 on the Rucker Query Page <http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/ruc/Rucker>

JOSHUA CARTER RUCKER

Jim Garner has placed a marker to his ancestor, Joshua Carter Rucker, a fourth generation Rucker, son of Joshua, William, Peter (Wood, p.240-241). He "was the last born child of Joshua Rucker of Amelia Co., VA. He married first in Cumberland Co., VA then moved to Eastern Kentucky. After having several children, they migrated to Springfield, IL. His wife died en route and he remarried in Springfield. He and his second family then moved to Ogle Co., IL where his second wife died and then he moved the family to Southern Iowa.

"Joshua Carter Rucker died in Iowa in 1878 and was buried in Orleans Cemetery with a marker of softstone. It has done well, con-



Tombstone of Joshua Carter Rucker

sidering it's 120 years old, but it was broken and unreadable. I assumed the task of remarking the grave. All plans for the new horizontal bronze marker were approved by the Orleans trustees and the erection of the marker has been completed as shown in the enclosed photo. It was decided to retain the old marker by adding it to the new marker. All information is the same, except we added his place of birth.

"Funds were solicited from those whom I had previous correspondence, resulted in \$175.00 (\$50 Kansas, \$115 Iowa, \$10 Washington). Total cost of the marker was \$500.00 (\$200 bronze and \$300 mounting).

"This letter is forwarded for two reasons. One is to add to the wide list of markers and signs which the Rucker Society has and is continuing to add to our genealogical efforts. The other is to ask for assistance from the membership if they would be so kind as to make a contribution.

"I am a member of the Rucker Family Society and have attended the last four reunions. On my first attendance, at Fredericksburg in 1992, I became the first descendant of William to attend."

Write to:
James A. Garner
627 Robbie Ct.
Aberdeen, MD 21001

* * *

Note from Jeannie Robinson:
I visited Orleans Cemetery, Aug 1999, and here are the Ruckers buried there:

ORLEANS CEMETERY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IOWA

Located in Washington twp, sec. 2, proceed north of Moulton on Highway 202. Go to stoplight, turn east on Highway 2. Cemetery is on the south side of Highway. Note: < indicates they are buried on one stone.

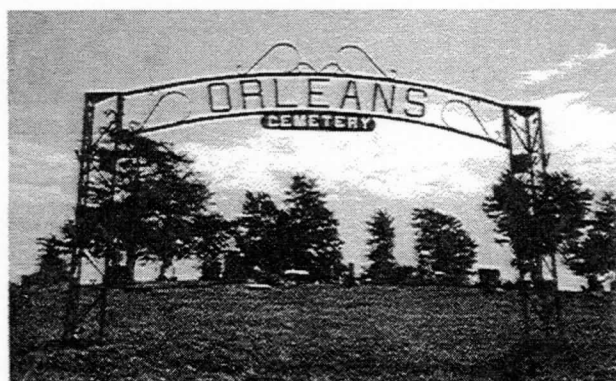
J. C. Rucker/ died Dec 2, 1878/
88y 5m 11d [Joshua Carter]
Milton Rucker/ Sep 14, 1816 - Dec
29, 1896
Margaret A. Rucker/ Aug 5, 1819 -
Feb 21, 1904

<T. C. Rucker/ Dec 10, 1853 - Apr
19, 1934
<Laura A. Rucker/ Mar 30, 1851 -
Oct 1, 1936
<Lillie B. Rucker/ Dec 3, 1875 -
Apr 17, 1914 (their daughter)

Albert F. Rucker/ 23 Dec 1876/ 3y
7m/ s/o T. C. & L. A. Rucker

<Clarence C. Rucker/ 1887-1976
[s/o Thomas C. Rucker]
<Georgia A. Rucker/ 1890-1980

Alonzo P. Rucker/ died Apr 24,
1859/ s/o M. & M. A. Rucker



JULIUS RUCKER, b. ca 1805 in Woodford Co., KY, Cindi Meyer's ancestor (see p.21) left home and was not heard from again. He was not listed in Wood's book. Julius's estate in Kentucky was divided in 1864 among his nieces and nephews and he was considered dead. Census records show him to be in Illinois in 1840, Missouri in 1850 and California in 1860. He was listed in Coleman, Texas, in the 1880 census.

Issue:

1. Richard⁶ Morton Rucker, b. 18 Oct 1839; m. Emily Jane Cox.
2. Mary⁶ Agnes Rucker, b. 10 Mar 1841, IL; m. James Wayland.
3. Sarah⁶ Ann Rucker, b. ca 1844, IL; m. William A. Imus, ca 1859.
4. Thomas⁶ K. Rucker, b. ca 1848, MO, family notes-'crippled, died young.'
5. Benjamin⁶ Franklin ("Frank") Rucker, b. ca 1849, MO; unm.

* * * * *

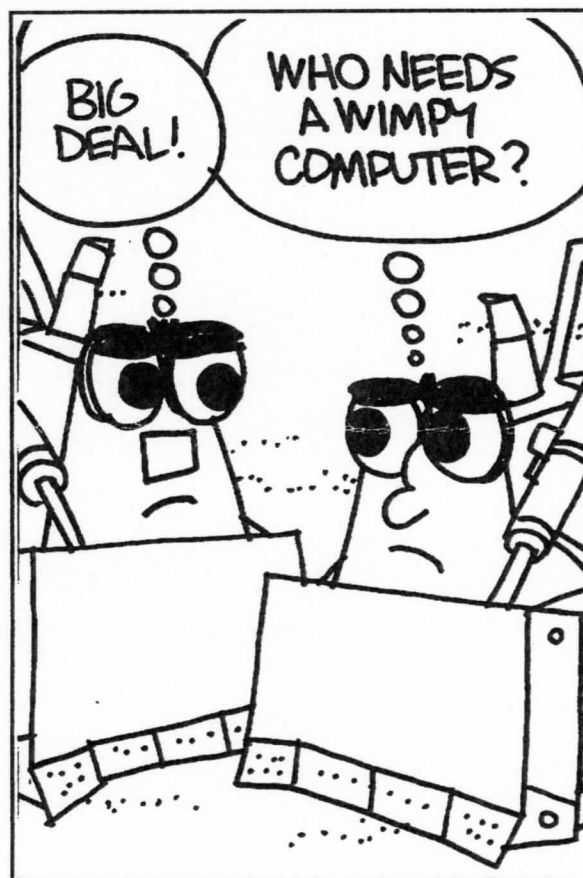
CORRECTIONS

Our apologies to Christopher Rucker for the mistakes in his article in the last newsletter. Please make the following corrections to "All Present and Accounted" in Vol. 10, No. 2, June 1999 newsletter:

1. Marcellus Parks Rucker enlisted May 23, not 21.
2. Isaac Henry and brother Paul Rucker were 6th, not 7th generation; their father was Benjamin Jennings Rucker.
3. Valentine Rucker enlisted May 23, not 29; he was appointed lieutenant July 1, 1861, not 1862.
4. William Ambrose Rucker furnished a substitute August 1, not August 12.

TERRY AND THE HIGH-TECH DOZING SYSTEM

Mike Rucker has just come out with his 7th in a series of "Terry the Tractor" books. It is about learning skills that will get you further in life. Terry learns that with the new tech equipment he is able to do more than the old bulldozers who must do rough work in a rock quarry.



The old Bulldozers have a hard lesson to learn

These are delightful little books that will appeal to all ages, but are geared toward the 5 to 10 age group.

If you would like to order this or one of the previous Terry books, send \$3.95 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling for each copy. Make checks out to "Mike Rucker" and send to him at 1003 W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614-2828 or call 309-675-5976

WILLIAM AND MARY RUCKER

Of Shenandoah County, Virginia

William Rucker, b. ca 1809, d. 1892 (cemetery records); m. Mary A. _____, b. ca 1819, d. 1898 (cemetery records). They were listed in Shenandoah Co., VA, in the census records. William's occupation in the 1870 census, was listed as "cooper." William and Mary were buried at Bethel Lutheran Church Cemetery. The census records give the names of their children.

1850 Shenandoah Co., VA, census, 58th Dist, p.10:
William Rucker, age 36; Mary 28; Mary F. 10; Samuel 8; Elizabeth 4; Amanda 2; John T. 4/12.

1860 Shenandoah Co., VA, census, Lantz Mill Dist, p.765:
William Rucker, age 51, cooper, /\$40; Mary 39; Samuel 18; Barbara 15; Elizabeth 14; Amanda 13, in school; Rebecca 9; Virginia 5; Thomas 3; Susan 1.

1870 Shenandoah Co., VA, census, Madison twp, p.765:
William Rucker, age 59, cooper, /\$100; Mary A. 50, housekeeper; Amanda 27; Virginia 15; Thomas 13; Susan [Victoria] 10; Victoria S. 5; Charles 6/12, b. Dec [were the last two grand-children?].

Issue (all were probably born in Shenandoah Co., VA):

1. Mary F. Rucker, b. ca 1840.
2. Samuel B. Rucker, b. 27 Mar 1842.
3. Barbara Rucker, b. ca 1845.
4. Elizabeth ("Bettie") Rucker, b. ca 1846.
5. Amanda Rucker, b. ca 1848.
6. John T. Rucker, b. ca 1850.
7. Rebecca Rucker, b. ca 1851.
8. Virginia Rucker, b. ca 1855.

9. Thomas Rucker, b. ca 1857.
10. Victoria Susan Rucker, b. 16 Mar 1859, d. 30 Dec 1920 (cemetery records)

(Source: Census records; *Marriages of Shenandoah Co., VA, 1850-1882*, by Duane L. Borden & Jeanette C. Ritenour, 1987; *Tombstone Inscriptions of Woodstock and Fort Valley, Shenandoah Co., VA*, by Duane L. Borden, 1983.)

While visiting the area in September 1999, I could not find any deeds or estate records for William and Mary Rucker. They must have rented their home, so there is no clue as to where they came from or even if William was descended from Peter Rucker.

At the cemetery, I could not find their tombstones. There were some old stones that were worn beyond readability. Some were even written in German.

Samuel Rucker was the only son for whom there is marriage and cemetery records. Did the others die young or move west?

Samuel B. Rucker, b. 27 Mar 1842, d. 15 Dec 1902; m. 18 Jan 1866, Shenandoah Co., VA, to Mary A. Walker, b. 22 Aug 1830, d. 22 Jan 1903. In their marriage records it said Mary was a widow. They had four daughters, two of whom were unmarried and living in the 1920 Shenandoah Co. Census.

If you have any idea who these people were, please let Jeannie Robinson know. (Phone 804-358-3185; address at end of newsletter.)

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The board had a delightful weekend at Williamsburg, Oct 2, 1999. We met Saturday morning and discussed the Rucker Reunion to be held October 13-15, 2000 at Fort Mcgruder Inn. A tour group in the area, called Destination Williamsburg will plan a tour of Jamestown Island which will include lunch and a tour of the newly excavated area. They will also bring a speaker to our morning meeting. On Sunday we will have our regular meeting followed by a brunch. We will also have our usual Friday and Saturday evening get-togethers in the hospitality room provided by the Inn. If you would like, come early or stay later and tour Williamsburg on your own. On Friday, the hospitality room will be open for genealogy discussions.

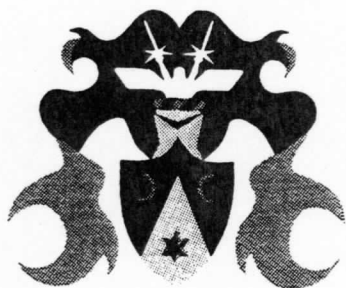


*Board of Directors of the Rucker Family Society
At Williamsburg, VA, Oct. 1999*

A couple of years ago we requested donations for a marker to Joseph Rucker and Ruckersville, Georgia. The family opted to place that marker themselves. If you donated to that marker and would now like the money to go to another project, please let us know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion next year.

Jeannie



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

EDITOR

Terry Detamore O'Reilly
34 Schiverea Ave
Freehold, NJ 07728

PRESIDENT

Jean B. Robinson
304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

01 176

Mrs. Alice J. Rucker
13331 Gridley St.
Sylmar, CA 91342-4529