

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

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THE BLUE SASH

SUDIE S. RUCKER—A TRUE STORY

by Jean B. Robinson

The year was about 1880 and it was time for the annual sale of the autumn harvest. Sudie S. Rucker was about nine years old and she always looked forward to her father William A. Rucker's annual trip to Washington, D.C. to sell the harvested crops. He came home with enough money to pay off the general store that had supplied them all year. He would also bring home supplies that couldn't be purchased at the local store such as bolts of materials for clothes. The most exciting thing was the special gifts he purchased for everyone. It was almost as exciting as Christmas.



Continued on page 34

THE PORTRAITS OF WILLIAM T. AND VERENDA S. RUCKER

By Chuck Berry
Of Scotts Valley, California

The portraits of my great-grandparents, William T. and Verenda S. Rucker, have been given to a museum for all to view. However they are now in storage and I would like to have that changed.

The Rucker portraits hung for many years in the Pioneer Room of Sutter's Fort, at Sacramento, CA. Then it was decided to turn the Fort into a living museum, and everything post-dating the Sutter period was put into permanent storage. There was no Campbell Museum when the portraits were given. They were subsequently "transferred" to the West Sacramento Warehouse where they are seldom, if ever, seen by the public.

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Membership
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My 1st Cousin Lorraine (Pannell) Vail of Bakersfield, CA, sent in our lineage from Peter Rucker: Lorraine's mother, Harriet and and my mother, Mary were the children of John Wilson Clark and Margaret⁶ E. Rucker. Their parents were Verenda Stigler Taylor and William⁵ Taliaferro Rucker (William⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹).

William was born in Orange Co., VA and moved to Monroe Co., MO. William and Verenda were married March 30, 1831, in Howard Co., MO. The 1840 census shows them in Saline Co. and the 1850 in Cooper Co., MO. In 1852, they moved to California.

An account of their travels was described in "Memoirs of Travel," by Newton G. Finley:

The first week of April, 1852, the families mentioned below started from my Father's home in Saline Co., MO, for San Jose, CA. Traveling by wagon train, they arrived in Santa Clara, CA, October 1, 1852. The families were listed as Campbell, Finley, Lovell, and Rucker totaling 44 in number including teamsters and cooks.

Benjamin Campbell married William T. and Verenda S. Rucker's 2nd child, Mary Elizabeth



Verenda S. Rucker



William T. Rucker

Rucker who was my grandmother's sister, and led all of them overland in 1852 from their home in Missouri to his ranch in what became Campbell, California. William T. and Verenda S. Rucker spent the remainder of their lives in that area and not in Sacramento.

William and Verenda had twelve children. In 1938, our Mothers (Harriet and Mary) gave Sutters Fort in Sacramento, CA portraits of their Grandparents William T. and Verenda S. Rucker which use to hang in my parent's bedroom. They donated the portraits so that they could be enjoyed by the general public. Since Harriet and Mary are dead and Sutters Fort now keeps the portraits in a warehouse not open to the general public, I am attempting to get them transferred to the Campbell Museum where they will be seen by the general public, as the W. T. Ruckers' daughter Mary was married to Ben Campbell for whom the town was named.

We went through the usual red tape, and found they were reluctant to let the portraits go. However, we ONLY WANTED THEM VIEWED CONTINUOUSLY BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC, and in a place that they lived. That place is The Campbell, California Museum.

* * *

Follow up from Chuck Berry:

I just got word that the State of California will have the portraits cleaned at their expense before being transferred to the Campbell, CA Museum. They have so notified Bob Pedretti, Curator of the Campbell Museum! I'm thrilled!

Thanks so much for sharing with us and your readers, our victory and joy in once again seeing the portraits of our great grandparents displayed for all to see!

* * *

AMBROSE L. RUCKER ADDENDUM

As a follow up to the article in Vol. 10, No. 1, Ann Dooley of Millbrae, CA, submitted the following document: This document lists all the heirs of William and Sarah McClure and proves their children as listed in Vol. 10, No. 1. It is from Bedford Co., VA, Deed and Will Book A, Superior Court, 1810-1863:

Know all men by these presents that we William A. Hardy and Joseph S. Hardy and heirs are firmly bound unto (here it lists all the heirs of William and Sarah McClure including the following heirs of Ambrose L. Rucker and Elizabeth McClure): *William G. Rucker, Augustus Barbonna [sic] and Mary Ann Elizabeth wife, Legrand Rucker, Clifton Rucker, John Q. Rucker and Sarah Frances Rucker children and heirs of Elizabeth Rucker dec'd.* . . (The last three named children were under the age of twenty-one.) It was dated 8 May 1858.

Jerry Proctor, descendant, submitted the 1870 Arkansas census that showed two of Ambrose L. and Elizabeth Rucker's children living together:

1870 Woodruff Co., AR, census, p.488, Freeman township:

Legrand F. Rucker, age 37, farmer, \$12,000/1500, b. MO; Mary P., age 28, Keeping house, b. VA; John I., age 11, at school, b. MO; Charles L., age 6, b. MO; Edward T., age 2, b. MO; William G. Rucker, age 43, without occupation, b. VA; Thomas Hindman, age 25 (black), farm laborer, b. AR; Joseph Hayhurst, age 24, farm laborer, b. OH.

LeGrand seems to be doing well after the Civil War with valuable land holdings. He even has two servants living with and helping him on the farm. However, brother William seems to be down on his luck.

Continued from p.31

Sudie grew up in the difficult times after the War Between The States. She was born December 18, 1871, just six years after the war had ended. Her family lived at Pleasant View in Amherst Co., Virginia, for a few years before moving to Fauquier Co., Virginia.

She waited anxiously for her father's return and to see what he had brought. Sudie was an attractive child and was as smart or smarter than most of her nine siblings. All of the children were sent to school to prepare for their future occupations. Her desire was to become a school teacher and she devoted much of her time to her studies. Of course she learned the work of the women and had her daily chores. A farm was a busy place and every child had to do his or her share. There were a few servants to help, but most had left after the war.

Her father, of Amherst Co., VA, had joined the Confederate Army at the beginning of the War. He was a sergeant in the 2nd Virginia Cavalry, Company E, and was sent immediately to Fairfax County. William was in both battles of Manassas and in the Valley Campaign under Stonewall Jackson. It was sometime while he was in northern Virginia that he met his wife.

Annie Chappellear was the daughter of a prominent farmer in Fauquier County. Family legend said that family and friends were gathered for William and Annie's wedding at the family home, "Woodside." The minister was beginning the ceremony when a loud cry was heard, "the Yankees are coming." A Yankee regiment traveling past the home was concerned at the gathering of carriages and decided to investigate. William, in his grey uniform, was quickly smuggled out the back door and the wedding was postponed until a later time.

On November 28, 1862, the wedding took place and William took his bride to his family home in Amherst County. The children began arriving a year later and Sudie was the seventh of ten children.

William became depressed after the war and was having a hard time functioning. His father-in-law, Benjamin Chappellear, came to his rescue. Benjamin purchased the adjoining farm to his and moved William, Annie, and the children to Fauquier county where he could help them get on their feet.

"Ridgeville," near Delaplane, was a handsome home, and as the name suggests was on the top of a ridge overlooking the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

Things got better and the farm began to flourish with the help of the Rucker's five sons. One baby boy died before the age of one year. Times were hard and deaths were a part of everyday life.

Finally the time arrived when Sudie received her gift. She carefully removed the paper and ribbon, saving them for a future use. She slowly opened the box. There was a beautiful blue sash! Sudie was thrilled with her wonderful present and couldn't wait until Sunday when she would wear it to church. Sudie wore her older sister's hand-me-down white dress and the blue sash made it special. Everyone marveled at how beautiful the child looked in her blue sash.

Sudie grew up, attended Luray Female Institute in Luray, VA, became a school teacher, later marrying William P. Wood of Richmond, VA. In 1932, she published *The Rucker Family Genealogy*.

Sudie was my grandmother and I had heard my mother tell this story many times. Imagine my delight when going through my mother's papers, I found a small photo of Sudie in her beautiful sash. The photo was slightly damaged, but with the help of a restorer, I have a wonderful photograph of a little girl with her special gift.

Note: The Society welcomes stories about your ancestors. Please submit stories and articles to the Editor.

FORT RUCKER, ARIZONA

By Frank V. Rucker
of Pearce, AZ

In the spring, my brother John B. Rucker and I visited Camp Rucker. The old fort can be reached from Pearce, Arizona by going south on Hwy 191 about 18 miles to the Rucker Canyon turnoff, then proceeding east about 21 miles on a dirt road to within a quarter mile of the Camp Rucker campground. At a fork in the road just west of the campground, go south 0.6 miles. On the left is a locked gate with a small sign that requests we "protect our heritage."

Going through the walk-through gate and proceeding about 150 yards east, you come upon the ruins of the old fort. The old officer's quarters and the bakery buildings are still intact and the ruins of a few other buildings are visible. There are five metal plaques at points along the trails that tell the following story of Lt. John A. Rucker:

Camp Supply became known as Camp Rucker as a result of a tragic incident that took place after the camp was established. On July 11, 1878, a flash flood occurred in White River Canyon (now Rucker Canyon). Lts. John A. "Tony" Rucker and Austen Henely, with their Indian Scouts, had been camped along the river below Camp Supply. As they started to ride toward the camp they were caught in a rainstorm and took refuge at a nearby tavern. The rain continued and the stream rose, thus endangering army supplies on the opposite bank. Both officers rode their horses across the river to save the supplies. On one foray, Henely's horse stumbled and Henely was swept away by the stream. Rucker followed in an attempt to save his friend and fellow officer.

Telegram, Camp Supply, Arizona Territory:

Lt. Rucker was drowned about 7 o'clock yesterday afternoon in a desperately heroic but fruitless effort to rescue Lt. Henely from death. Body recovered mile and half away after 3 hours indefatigable search by all skilled and

determined. Treatment through the night was applied. Henely's body just recovered. I send the remains of both into Bowie at once. I refrain from breaking the sad news to General Rucker, sending it to you. Not knowing Henely's people cannot notify them.

H. F. Winchester
Lt. Commander

On October 1, 1878, tribute was paid to Lt. Rucker through this order:

As a mark of respect to the late Lt. J. A. Rucker, 6th Cavalry, who gave his life in a brave last heroic effort to save that of his brother officer and Commander, Lt. Austen Henely, 6th Cavalry in the 11th day of July last, as well as to perpetuate a vivid recollection of his brilliant career as a young and gallant soldier, the name of the present camp, where at he lost his life, will, with the approval of the Department Commander, be changed to and hereafter known as Camp J. A. Rucker.

Other plaques along the trail reveal that both Rucker and Henely had attended the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, although only Henely graduated from there. Both men had been commissioned as 2nd Lts. In 1872, and Henely was promoted to 1st Lt. in 1876. The two young men were often described as popular, energetic, and brave. They were buried at Ft. Bowie. When that fort closed in 1894, their bodies were moved to Presidio, San Francisco, CA. Rucker's body was later reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery.

I find no mention of John A. "Tony" Rucker in Sudie Rucker Wood's book. From the above story, I assume General Rucker was his father, but I find no reference to him either. Was Gen. Rucker possibly Gen. Daniel Henry Rucker, see next page. Did he descend from Peter Rucker and what was his line of descent?

QUERY OF THE QUARTER

By Michael P. Rucker

WHO WAS GENERAL DANIEL HENRY RUCKER?

I found Daniel Henry Rucker in *The Historical Register of the United States Army*, by R. B. Heitman, 1890, p.563. Daniel had a military career spanning nearly forty-five years and reached the rank of brigadier general in the Quartermaster Corps.

The army records indicate that this individual was born in New Jersey and enlisted in Michigan.

Here is a summary of his military record:

Entered the Army 13 Oct 1837 as 2nd Lieutenant (Dragoons)

1st Lieutenant 8 Oct 1844

Captain 7 Feb 1847

Transferred to Captain (Assistant Quartermaster) 23 Aug 1849

Major (Quartermaster) 3 Aug 1861

Colonel (Additional Aide-de-Camp) 28 Sep 1861

Brigadier General of Volunteers 23 May 1863

Colonel (Assistant Quartermaster General) 28 Jul 1866

Honorably mustered out of Volunteer Service 1 Sep 1866

Brigadier General Quartermaster Corps 13 Feb 1882

Retired 23 Feb 1882

HONORS:

(Mexican War) Brevetted Major 23 Feb 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Battle of Buena Vista.

(Civil War) Brevetted Brigadier General 5 Jul 1864 for diligent and faithful service during the war
Brevetted Major General U. S. Army and U. S. Volunteers 13 Mar 1865 for faithful and meritorious service during the war.

Daniel Henry Rucker was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His tombstone indicates his birth and death dates as 28 Apr 1812 - 6 Jun 1916 — a life span of 104 years.

He was not covered in *Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy*. Seeing that he was originally from New Jersey, he was probably not a descendant of Peter Rucker.

Can anyone tell us more about General Rucker? Was he the father of Lt. John A. ("Tony") Rucker, see article on page 35.

In Heitman's Register, there were three other Ruckers listed, all born and enlisted from Michigan. They were:

1. Francis Dring Rucker (service 1879-1888)
 2. John Anthony Rucker (service 1870-1878)
 3. William Alexander Rucker (service 1862-1865)
- Were they sons of Daniel Henry Rucker?

Please respond to Mike Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614;
or Jean Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226. <ruckerfs@erols.com>

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN CHARLES DUANE PANNHOFF, age 46, died Tuesday 7 Dec 1999, at his home in Mason City, Iowa. John was born 13 Sep 1953. He is survived by his wife, Carole Thomas Pannhoff, son Erik K. D. Pannhoff, and step-son, Scott B. Carpenter. He is also survived by two sisters Rozella Wilder and Julia (Roger) Barber, and one brother, Mitchell Pannhoff. His father was Dean D. Pannhoff and his mother was Beulah M. Odom (Rozella⁷ Merle Rucker, James⁶ M., William⁵, James⁴, Mordecai³, William², Peter¹). His obit was listed in the *Mason City Globe Gazette*, 11 Dec 1999. He will be buried at Mt. Vernon township cemetery in the spring. Submitted by his mother Carole Pannhoff, of Mason City, Iowa.

OPAL AND CECIL LEON COX 50th Wedding Anniversary 25 November 1949



Opal and Cecil L. Cox celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday October 2 1999. It was held a little early to accommodate family and friends attending from

out of state. They originally were married at the home of the bride's uncle, Thomas Rucker who at the time lived in Odessa, MO. A cousin, Cecil Rucker, was the only relative who attended the wedding and the anniversary celebration.

The Cox's youngest son, Clifton Cox of Coloma, officiated at the renewal of the vows. Stanley Corum, brother of the bride escorted her down the aisle. The couple's children, in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren participated in the ceremony and afterwards at the reception. These included son, Howard Cox, of Coloma, Sandra Cox and Kimberly Cox, daughters-in-law, daughter, Cecillia and David Ostermeyer. Grandsons Emmet Cox, and Russell Pierce, granddaughters Holly Angle, Angela and Jennifer Cox, and Joyce Hoey; great-grand-daughter Samantha Angle.

Opal⁶ Anges Corum was one of eight children of Elmer Lee Corum and Maude⁵ Alin Rucker (William⁴ H., Richard³ T., Richard² E., Martha¹ W.). Opal's great-great grandfather, Richard Edwin Rucker was listed in the 1850 Taylor Co., KY, census. He was born 15 Mar 1829, in Green Co., KY, and married Harriet Thomas McCorkle. Richard's mother was named Martha and that is the only thing we know about his ancestors. If anyone can identify Richard's father, and his ancestors, please let us know. (Article from *The Carrollton Democrat*, 9 Nov 1999.)

THOMAS RUCKER 99th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On 21 August, a birthday party was given in honor of James Thomas Rucker for his 99th birthday. Thomas was born on 18 Aug 1900 in Hart Co., KY. Thomas Rucker is pictured with six generation of his family who helped him celebrate. He lives at the Carrollton Nursing Care Center. (Article from *The Carrollton Democrat*, submitted by Opal Cox of Bogard, MO.)



IN MEMORIAM

DOSHA R. DOLL, 85, died 25 Sep 1998 at Lake of the Ozarks General Hospital, Osage Beach, MO. She was born 24 Mar 1913 in Celt, MO, the daughter of Rose E. and Lena D. Bollinger Rucker. She was married 27 Feb 1931 to John Doll, who died 9 Aug 1993. Dosha was a midwife and delivered many babies in the area. She was an avid gardener and lifelong member of the Celt Baptist Church. She is survived by one daughter, Frances Bledsloe of Camdenton; one brother James Clyde Rucker of Hutchinson, KS; one sister, Sophia Rucker of Buffalo, MO; two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She was buried at Laughlin Cemetery, Camdenton. (Obit from the *News Tribune*, Jefferson City, MO, 27 Sep 1998, submitted by Bonnie Coffey, editor of *Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse*.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WILLIAM AND MARY RUCKER

A note was received from Mary Snyder responding to the article in the last newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 3, p.29, on William and Mary Rucker. She said the 9th child, Thomas was the same as James Thomas Rucker in *Rucker Ruckus*, Vol. 3, Is. 4, p.115-116. There is a copy of his marriage bond and certificate. He was married April 6, 1887, to Margaret R. Lewis, in Huntington, Cabell Co., WV.

The article went on to say William Rucker's wife was Mary Ann Lentz. Also William had a brother Charles Rucker who fought with the Union Army during the War Between the States. Charles continued with the Army after the War and married a Cherokee Indian woman in Oklahoma. They had 13 children, two living to adult-hood. Due to his affiliation with the Union Army, William Rucker's descendants would not have anything to do with Charles after the war.

The information came from Bobbie Rucker, descendant, of Louisville, KY.

WHO WAS LEVICA RUCKER?

A note from Cindi Meyer, made while in Garrard Co, KY. "I just liked this much information for such an early marriage date!"

Marriage of Vincent Foster and Levica Rucker on June 1, 1819; return on June 2, 1819
bondsman, Francis Henson
consent, William Barnett

Signed, Cindi Meyer
<cbmeyer1@attglobal.net>

Check out her new webpage update, travel itinerary and diary at
<www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/6222/index.html>

QUERY: I am writing this letter for two reasons. First, we have a George Anthony Ruckers and his daughter Mary Jane who married Martin Baker Harris in Roanoke Co. Va. on Nov. 23, 1865. We know very little about George A. and his wife Martha Ann Susan Harris. My second reason for this letter is that the Martin Baker Harris is my husband g-g-grandfather. Any information on this family would be appreciated.

Jan Gray, 3107 Rita Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62703 <gjgrayinc@aol.com>

Note to Pat Jones: If you want me to help you find the parents of William Henry Rucker, born 1820, Orange Co., VA, please send me the name of his wife (where and when did he marry) and the names and birthdates of his children.

Jeannie Robinson (see address on p.32)

Note to Opal Cox: Sorry there are no *Rucker Family Genealogy*, books by Sudie Rucker Wood, available at this time.

PUT A STAMP ON IT

One thing we often fail to do is write down where the materials that we gather in research were located. Most libraries have a stamp with the name of the library and the town it is in. They will gladly stamp your copies for you or let you use the stamp. This saves on guessing later where you did the research.

Blanche McKay, Jacksonville, FL
December 11, 1999

From Ancestry Weekly Digest

<www.Ancestry_Weekly_Digest@anclist001.ancestry.com>

WAS GIDEON RUCKER THE SON OF EPHRAIM RUCKER (JAMES, PETER)?

Notes from Michael Pearcy

Up to now Gideon Rucker's parents were unknown. What we do know is that he was of the James² Rucker (Peter¹) family as he lived in Greenbrier Co., WV. Gideon married Lydia⁵ Underwood (Mary⁴ Smith, Margaret³ Rucker, John², Peter¹), 13 Dec 1804, in Madison Co., VA.

My ongoing assumption has been that James W. Rucker, son of Gideon Rucker, moved to Ohio with his grandfather's family after Gideon died in 1814. Because all of the Rucker's in Monroe Co. apparently descend from these two, the candidates are Lemuel and Ephraim, both sons of James².

Lemuel's descendants are rather well documented, Ephraim's are poorly documented. I have examined census records for 1820 and 1830 and have

found no evidence that there was an extra male member of any of Lemuel's son's households.

I show Lemuel marrying Anna Booten around 1783, with their first child, Julia, born on Oct. 9, 1784. Ephraim Rucker married Elizabeth on June 2, 1775 in Orange Co., VA.

Gideon Rucker's marriage certificate was dated December 13, 1803. Attached was a note certifying that his bride, Lydia Underwood, was 21 years old. Can I assume that Gideon had to be at least 21 to enter into marriage or to sign the certificate? If he was at least 21, then he would have been born no later than 1782, prior to Lemuel's wedding. Also, Gideon was paying taxes in Greenbrier Co. in 1797, which also supports a birth date earlier than 1783.

Based on this information, I think Gideon's father was Ephraim. I know this is speculative, but I also think it is very plausible. Comments requested.

THE YEAR 2000 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 2000 _____

___ \$14.00 Dues for Membership for 2000 and 2001 _____

___ 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 _____

THE NEW MILLENNIUM AND THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETER RUCKER ARRIVAL IN AMERICA

Letter from the President

Please mark your calendars for October 13-15, 2000. Our Rucker Reunion will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia and we will visit Jamestown Island, site of Peter Rucker's arrival in America. This will be the 300th Anniversary of his arrival and I hope you will attend this exciting conference.



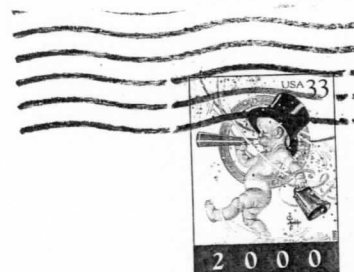
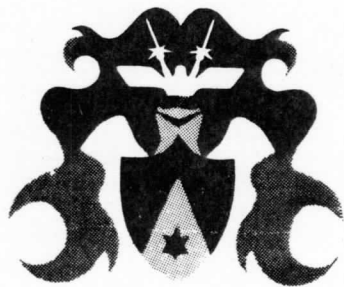
You may want to make your room reservations early as the hotel is holding only a limited number of rooms. Contact the Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, P. O. Box 3050, Williamsburg, VA 23185, 1-800-333-333. Please mention the name "Rucker" when you make your reservation to get our special rate of \$100 per room, plus tax. We will offer rooms, later, at a nearby motel for \$50 per night.

Rendition of Peter Rucker's arrival by Edward J. Willis III

People have requested information on the update of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. Progress is coming along very slowly. I am working as diligently as I can, but there are just too many interruptions. It should be a couple more years before it's ready for the printer. Please be patient.

As we enter this exciting time of the year 2000, we wish you the best for a Happy New Millennium.

Jeannie



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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