

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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FAMILY PROFILE

Jack and Dagmar White

Lewis M. ("Jack") White, our treasurer since the organization of the Rucker Family Society, is a native of Bedford County, Virginia, the son of John Lewis White and Vixella Rucker White (see RFSN, vol. 2, no. 2. His ancestors in both the White and Rucker lines settled in Bedford County before 1800 and they are related to many of the earliest settlers of Bedford and Amherst Counties. Jack has two brothers, Philip Ashby and Barry Rucker, and three sisters, Barbara Jeanne, Polly Pendleton, and Cary Ellen.

While a sophomore at Hampden-Sydney College, Jack decided to transfer to Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington and pre-

pare for a career in the Foreign Service. In his senior year at Georgetown he was drafted into the army and spent over three years in the army, most of the time in India and China. After graduating from Georgetown in 1946, he worked as a commercial agent with the U.S. Department

of Commerce in New York. In 1950 he went to study French in Paris and there he took the written examination for Foreign Service officer at the American Embassy. After passing the exam, Jack had to return to Washington to pass the oral examination. He was commissioned as a vice consul and third secretary in 1951 and, after training at the Foreign Service Institute, was sent to the American Embassy in Bogota, Colombia.

In Bogota Jack met his future wife Dagmar Hasal who was teaching voice at the National Conservatory of Music in Bogota and pursuing a successful career as a concert artist. Dagmar had studied at Charles University and the National Conservatory of Music in Prague before coming to the United States with her family as political



Jack and Dagmar White

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refugees from communism in 1948. During the Second World War, her father, Army General Antonin Hasal, had escaped from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939 to join the Czechoslovak forces fighting abroad. He was Military Adviser to Czechoslovak President Eduard Benes in London. Later he became Commander of the Liberated Territories and Minister of Transportation in the government of liberated Czechoslovakia. After her father's escape, Dagmar, her mother, and her brother were interned by the Gestapo until the end of the war.

After the Communist putsch in 1948 the family came to the United States and settled in Washington. Dagmar was able to complete her college education, graduating from the University of Kansas and the Juilliard School of Music, and getting a master's degree in music education from Columbia University.

Jack was chief of the consular section in Bogota and after three years he was sent to the U.S. consulate in New Caledonia where he served as principal officer of the consulate. After two years in New Caledonia the Department of State sent him to Harvard University for training in economics. After obtaining a master's degree in economics from Harvard he was always assigned to economic work in the Department of State and the American Embassies in Santo Domingo, Managua, and Rabat, where he was counselor for

economic affairs. Before retiring he served five years with the Bureau of African Affairs, where he was in charge of promoting U.S. trade and investment in Africa.

Dagmar kept up her musical career in the years she and Jack were in the Foreign Service. She continued giving concerts, was a soloist with national symphonies, sang with local opera companies, and on radio and television. She conducted choral groups and church choirs, and taught at national conservatories. After returning to the United States in 1973, she continued with her singing career and in 1975 became the founder and director of a light opera company. She produced and directed one or two operas a year for the last twenty-five years, singing leading roles in many of them. She has a private voice studio and is on the faculty of the Northern Virginia Community College. She has also served for many years as vice president of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences and is active in organizing conferences, chairing panels, and giving lectures.

Jack has been active in retirement. He has edited and co-authored a three volume series entitled *On All Fronts: Czechoslovaks in World War II*, distributed by Columbia University Press. As president of the Wilsonian Club he has given speeches in recent years on Tomas Masaryk and Czechoslovak independence at the Czech Embassy, the Woodrow Wilson House, and the Masaryk Club in Boston. He has collaborated on a book about his old family home in Cifax, Virginia, and the community of Cifax, which has been named by the Virginia Landmarks Commission as a Rural Historic District. He is active on several committees of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired organization.

Jack and Dagmar have two children, Alexandra Louise, born in New Caledonia and Thomas Hasal born in Washington, D.C. Alexandra works for Boeing Aircraft in Seattle as computer specialist. She and her husband Earl Bartell have one son Curtis Rucker (9). Thomas is a vice president of a large construction company (the Clarke Group)

and lives with his wife Suzy in Vienna, Virginia. They have two sons, Andrew Tylor (9) and Michael Thomas (7). Since the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia in 1989 Jack and Dagmar have visited Dagmar's former country on a number of occasions. One of them was for the unveiling of a plaque in honor of Dagmar's father. In 1992 Dagmar received a doctorate from her old alma mater Charles University. Alexandra and Thomas had never visited the Czech Republic until 1998 when the whole family was invited by President Havel for a ceremony at the Prague Castle in which Dagmar's father was given posthumously the country's highest medal, The Order of the White Lion. Following the ceremony, President Havel hosted a reception for the family and their guests in the Prague Castle.

(Note: Jack is the treasurer for the Rucker Family Society. See his article, "The Order of the White Lion," in RFSN, Vol. 7, No. 3, p.21. Jack's line: Lelia⁸ Vixella Rucker, Waller⁷ Jonathan, James⁶ Monroe, Jonathan⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.)

BRUNETTA RUCKER

~ NEW INFORMATION ~

Brunetta⁶ Rucker (Peter⁵, Moses⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹), in Sudie Rucker Wood's book p.144, was said to have married 1st 1832, W. P. Toler, 2nd _____ Burks.

The Amherst Co., VA, Marriage records showed that Brunetta Rucker married 16 Apr 1832, to William P. Toler. There is no evidence that she ever married a Burks.

Her father's Will, dated 22 Nov 1859 (W. B. 15, p.323, Amherst Co., VA) listed her as daughter Brunetta J. Toler. The 1870 Amherst Co., VA census listed William B. Toler with wife Brunetta. They would have been married almost 40 years.

Many thanks to Alice T. Gray of Maryland for bringing this to our attention.

A RAINES/RUCKER FAMILY REUNION

There are many Rucker family reunions every year and July 15, 2000 will be a get-together of the Raines Family at the Roaring River Park in Lacombe, Oregon. The family descends from Charles⁶ Lagrande/Legrand Raines (Elizabeth⁵ J. Rucker, Ephraim⁴, Tomagen³, Ephraim², Peter¹) and (Augustine³ Rucker, James², Peter¹). Charles Raines (4 Aug 1860-21 May 1942) married 15 Aug 1883, Ella Harris (26 Feb 1866-5 Dec 1941).

Charles and Ella Raines came to Oregon from Metz, MO in 1889. They decided to come to this state after hearing glowing reports of the area from Raines's brother-in-law, Jimmy Rucker, who lived in the Crabtree area.

"The couple and their three children traveled west on an immigrant train where each family was allotted so much space on a train car for themselves and their belongings. When they reached the Oregon Short Line, all possessions had to be transferred to another car to travel the length of the narrow gauge railroad, and again at the end of the line, reload to another car."

It was a grueling trip, but they eventually settled on a farm where he became one of the first farmers in the area to raise strawberries as a major crop. Seven more sons were born to the couple during the early years in Oregon. When grown, All the men went into logging and construction work.

The information above is from a newspaper article in the *Lebanon Express*, 26 Jun 1966, "At Raines Family Reunion."

Their ten children produced many descendants, so I'm sure, they will have many attend their reunion. Phyllis G. Shelton of Tangent, OR sent me a copy of the newsletter she sends to the family. If you are a descendant and are not in touch, write to her at 31919 N. Lake Creek Dr. #41, Tangent, OR 97389-9787.

OBITUARIES

ANNA DURRER WATSON



Anna Durrer Watson

Anna Durrer Watson died Friday May 12, 2000 at her home in Ruckersville, VA. She was born October 29, 1904, a daughter of John S. and Mary Deane Durrer.

She is survived by a foster daughter, Virginia H. Durrer who was married to Anna's brother Ellis L.

Durrer of Ruckersville. Also surviving are a sister Agnes D. Kirstein and her husband Lee Kirsten of Lynchburg. Anna was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Marcus L. Watson, a brother, John S. Durrer Jr. and sisters, Corrinne D. Norvelle, Ruby D. Douglass and Elizabeth D. Tucker.

Anna was a graduated of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and holds a bachelor of science degree in education. She was a retired school teacher and principal in Greene and Albemarle counties, having worked in the field for 45 years.

She was a lifelong member of the Ruckersville Baptist Church, teaching the Adult Women's Sunday School class for many years. Anna enjoyed flowers and was a member of several local garden clubs and was a nationally certified judge.

Ann was active in numerous civic and genealogical organizations and was a member and past chairman of the Greene County School Board and the Greene County Democratic Committee.

She and her husband are buried at Ruckersville Community Cemetery.

Anna planned and hosted the first National Rucker Reunion held in Ruckersville, VA in 1988. She became an honorary board member of the Rucker

Family Society in 1990 and suggested the name. She was also instrumental in having a Historical Marker to the Ruckers placed on Route 29 in Ruckersville. Many of our group attended the dedication ceremony after the Reunion in Bedford in 1990. She was always gracious to all her family and always welcomed visitors.

Her Family Profile was in Vol. 1, No.32, p.1-2, issue of the Rucker Family Society Newsletter. Anna's line of descent: John⁸ Sinclair Durrer, Sarah⁷ F. Rucker, Allen⁶, Blyfield⁵, Joel⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹.

The obituary was submitted by Joyce Pittman of Ruckersville, VA. She suggested that people write a note to Anna's foster daughter and brother, Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Durrer, P.O. Box 26, Ruckersville, VA 22968.

* * * * *

JAMES A. GARNER

James Albert Garner of Aberdeen, MD, died April 30, 2000 at home. He was 72. His line of descent is from James⁷ R. Garner Jr., Ruhamaha⁶ Ann Maxwell, Margaret⁵ Ann Rucker, Joshua⁴ Carter Rucker, Joshua³, William², Peter¹.

Mr. Garner was born in Unionville, Iowa to the late James R. and Zella Hopkins Garner. He retired in 1988 as a test pilot/ logistics with civil service at Aberdeen Proving Ground and also was retired from the United States Army with more than 20 years of service. He served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Mr. Garner was a member of Meals on Wheels in Aberdeen; Habitat for Humanity and FISH, both of Aberdeen; Grace United Methodist Church of Aberdeen, where he served as chairman of missions, chairman Council on Ministries and Church Council. He enjoyed stamp collecting, traveling, genealogy, beekeeping, collecting Griswolds and was a history buff.

Mr. Garner is survived by his wife of 43 years, Ruth P. Payne Garner; a son, James M. Garner of Aberdeen; a daughter, Dr. Juli Garner Horton of Nashville, Tenn.; three grandchildren; a sister, Betty Jones of Drakesville, Iowa; and a sister-in-law, Gloria Garner of Bloomfield, Iowa. He was predeceased by a brother, Alfred Garner.

Interment was in Drakesville Cemetery in Drakesville, Iowa. Pallbearers were military personnel from the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The obit of Jim Garner, in the Harford County *Aegis*, 3 May 2000, was submitted by Thomas R Trafton of Fallston, MD.

* * * * *

JERRY L. EDWARDS

Jerry L. Edwards, aged 56, of Grand Rapids, Michigan died after a short illness, May 13, 2000.

Jerry was a real estate appraiser for Blandford Appraisal Company, in Grand Rapids. One of his main interests was attending basketball games of his nephew, Bryan Edwards, who plays basketball at Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids. Jerry and his mother, Doris Edwards, attended all the home games together and also a couple of away games. He had an appreciation of fine music and, in earlier years, played the Trombone.

Jerry is survived by his parents, James and Doris Edwards of Grand Rapids; his children, Robert and Brenda Edwards of Jenison, Scott and Kelly Edwards of Dorr, Michael Edwards of Wyoming, and Bradley and Nicole Edwards of Wyoming; his grandchildren, Tanar, Ashton, Blake, Brooke, Heather, and Brody; his brothers and sister, Daniel and Pamela Edwards of Grand Haven, Karen and Bruce Cernak of IN, and James and Susan Edwards of Jenison; several nieces and nephews; and one grand niece.

Jerry's funeral services were held Tuesday, May 16 with burial at Rest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Rapids.

Jerry's line of descent: Mary⁸ "Doris" Wright, Joseph⁷ F. Jr., Louisa⁶ A. Ham, William⁵, John⁴, Mildred³ Rucker, John², Peter¹ (Wood, p.166). His obit appeared in *The Grand Rapids Press*, May 14, 2000, submitted by his mother, Doris Edwards, Rucker Family Society Board Member and Registrar.

*Post Script: Jim Edwards died this week. If you would like to send Doris a note for her double loss, write to her at Mrs. James E. Edwards, 2017 43rd St. SE U2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508. Her e-mail address is <dedwards025@home.com>.

* * * * *

BAYARD CHAPPELEAR RUCKER

Bayard Chappelear Rucker died May 23, 2000 at the age of 93, after a lengthy illness. His wife, Dorothy Collins Rucker predeceased him in April of 1995.

Bayard (pronounced Bi'ard) was born May 13, 1907, and raised in Berkeley, California. He attended Berkeley schools and the University of California in Davis. He played on the football team in college. He began his career in his father's grocery store which he ran from 1940-1973. Then he worked with the Farm Labor Dept. of the State of California.

Bayard and his wife lived in Berkeley until 1990 when they moved to Rossmoor. He was a member of the Hillside Club of Berkeley. He was an accomplished amateur photographer. He had a great love of the sea and took many trips abroad by ship.

Bayard was the son of Ozeita or Ozetia Staniford and Benjamin⁷ Chappelear Rucker (William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹) and (Wm. B.'s wife Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). His obit appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Jeanniealogy

Many times one finds information in a most unusual way. I can say this happened when I found Bayard Chappellear Rucker's obituary.

It began on a Monday morning when I was notified that our Tuesday speaker for the Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia canceled. After trying most of the day to find another speaker, it was decided that three of our group would speak for 15 minutes each. I was chosen as one of those speakers.

My subject (what else) was the Rucker family. I talked about the early beginning of the family. Two days later, a member called me up and wanted to know if I knew Bayard C. Rucker. "Know him, he was my mother's first cousin,." I replied! This friend was looking at the San Francisco Examiner on the Internet and told me about finding Bayard's obituary. If I hadn't given my "Rucker" talk, he would never have thought of me when he saw the obit and I would never have known when Bayard died.

Bayard was the only first cousin that my mother never met. I never met him either, but I talked to him, one time when I was in San Francisco. He told me the story of his father going to California in the gold rush. I had always thought he had mined for gold, but found out that he ran a grocery and supply cart in the golden hills of California.

His father was Benjamin⁷ Chappellear Rucker, found on page 53 of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. When in California, he lived in San Francisco and traveled in the hills supplying the miners. He married and had a son, Claude W. Rucker. His wife died shortly thereafter and Benjamin couldn't raise his son alone. His parents went to California and brought Claude back to Fauquier Co., VA. When grown, he went to live with his aunt, Sudie Rucker Wood and worked at

T. W. Wood & Sons, the family business.

Benjamin remarried and had two additional children. He never saw Claude again. Claude became mentally ill and spent the remainder of his days in Central State Hospital in Virginia.

After the earthquake of 1906, Benjamin and his family moved to Berkeley. They wanted to get away from earthquake prone San Francisco. In Berkeley, Benjamin ran a grocery store, which was later taken over by son Bayard.

In thanks for his mother raising his son, Benjamin purchased a gold nugget and sent it to his mother to have it made into a wedding ring. Having been married during the War Between the States, she had never had a wedding ring. I have inherited this ring which makes this story special to me.

Neither Bayard nor his sister had any children, so there are no descendants of this family.

Sudie Rucker Wood said his name was Bayard Ambrose Rucker, but his obit gave his name as Bayard Chappellear Rucker. I would assume the latter is correct.

* * * * *

QUERY: Mary Ann Rucker Watts (Isaac⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹): I am planning to attend the reunion in Williamsburg this October. My ancestor is Mary Ann Rucker who was married to Robert White Watts. See article, "Ancestor Quest," in Vol. 9, No. 4, p.31-33.

Is there anyone who has any information on them and/or is interested in finding the location of the old Isaac Rucker homestead, on the road near Mt. Horeb Methodist Church, 14 miles west of Amherst Co., VA. This land was inherited by Mary Ann Rucker Watts and eventually lost.

Please write to me or see me at the reunion.
Lawrence Watts Jr., 509 Forest Hill Circle
Greenville, NC 27858 <Lwattsjr@aol.com>

DR. RUCKER REVISITED

by Christopher D. Rucker M.D.

The facts of William P. Rucker's Civil War life are more interesting than the legendary half-truths previously related (RFSN, Vol. 11, No. 1, p. 8, March 2000). Suitable for a Hollywood script, his exploits brought statewide attention and assumed national significance, bringing him opprobrium in the Southern press.

According to a Union general's account, on July 23, 1861, Rucker stabbed and killed a "Brutal" Confederate quartermaster who insulted and clubbed him when Rucker refused to take the Rebel oath of allegiance. Acquitted of felonious stabbing on August 19, Rucker was free to guide Federal forces May 17-19, 1862 during which a Cowpasture River bridge was burned, severing Covington's sole rail connection to the rest of Virginia. His military status at the time of his capture by Confederate forces on July 25 is unclear, but General Loring referred to him as the "notorious spy and bridge burner."

Facing charges of murder (despite his previous acquittal), treason and horse theft, Rucker was imprisoned in Richmond's "Castle Thunder" after a failed Union attempt to recapture him. A round of retaliatory hostage taking ensued, and the case developed national significance as the Union and Confederate governments stubbornly refused to exchange captured military surgeons while Rucker languished in prison for over a year. The political stalemate was resolved when Dr. Rucker escaped from jail in September, 1863 and made his way back to Union lines in West Virginia. He subsequently served as a major in the U.S. Army and waged legal war against his former neighbors in southwest Virginia.

Interested readers may contact Chris Rucker for a more complete history of Dr. Rucker's wartime escapades. Dr. Rucker's line of descent is through Clifton⁶ H., Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹. Please send a self-addressed, legal-sized envelope with 55¢ postage to Christopher D. Rucker, M.D., 8511 Valley Falls Road, Boiling Springs, SC 29316.



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 - <LWhite6663@aol.com>

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MY ELUSIVE ANCESTOR

Submitted by Heidi Boothe

(From the Internet)

I went searching for an ancestor. I cannot find him still.
He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.
He married where a courthouse burned. He mended all his fences.
He avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame.
And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.
His parents came from Europe. They should be upon some list
of passengers to U.S.A., but somehow they got missed.

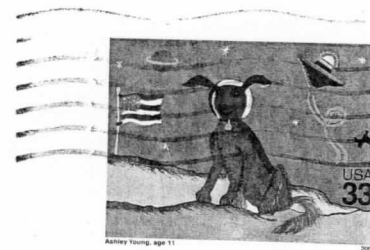
And no one else in this world is searching for this man.
So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.
I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed;
but the weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.

He died before the county clerks decided to keep records.
No Family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.
To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans,
Just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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