

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11

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September 2000

THOSE RESTLESS RUCKERS

by Alice J. Rucker

Westward migration has been the key phrase attached to the pedigree of Loren⁹ Delmar Rucker (Harold⁸ Rucker, Thomas⁷ Loren Rucker, Richard⁶ Morton Rucker, Julius⁵ Rucker, Abner⁴ Rucker, Anthony³ Rucker, John² Rucker, Peter¹ Rucker, Immigrant). Much has been written about the first three generations, Peter, John and Anthony, but not much about Abner and his progeny.

Anthony was awarded bounty land for his service in the Revolutionary war, but never moved from his home to the new area. Instead, he allowed his son, Abner to go to Kentucky and make use of the land. Abner married Nancy Morton in 1793. Nancy was a daughter of Jeremiah Morton, an important settler in Mortonsville, Woodford Co.,

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Family Profile

LOREN AND ALICE RUCKER

by Alice J. Rucker

Loren Delmar Rucker (see his family history, 'Those Restless Ruckers') was born in 1947 in the suburbs of Los Angeles County, California. His childhood was filled with new experiences of traveling to different cities, school, and constantly meeting new friends. He has continued in his father's love of sport fishing in Baja and goes there whenever time permits.

con't - See Family Profile on page 22



Loren and Alice Rucker

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Kentucky. Mortonsville once was a thriving city but later became somewhat neglected when trains became the preferred mode of travel. Abner and Nancy had seven children: Betsy, Agatha, Anthony, Jeremiah, Jefferson, Julius, and Jonathan Morton Rucker. Nancy died about 1810 and Abner served in the War of 1812. Some of the children were placed in the guardianship of their grandfather, Jeremiah Morton.

When Abner returned from serving in the war, he married a second woman with the name of Nancy--Mrs. Nancy Miller in Jessamine County, Kentucky (Oct. 12, 1818). Abner and she had two daughters, Rebecca and Sarah. Abner and his second wife, Nancy stayed in the Lexington, Fayette County area of Kentucky. He did not own any property of note, and the only estate he left was his right to his father, Anthony's estate. In Abner's Will, he leaves this second wife, Nancy "\$1.00 for her unkindness" to him. Nancy took matters into her own hands and through the lawyers and the equity courts dealing with Anthony's estate -- Mrs. Nancy Miller Rucker succeeded in obtaining more than her one dollar. Nancy died about 1860.

Julius Rucker, a son of Abner and first wife, Nancy, had been living with and working for his grandparents while his father Abner was away at war. One might imagine how Julius must have felt

after his mother died, his father went away to war and, upon his return, married a woman who must have really given those around her a pain? (why else would Abner have left her only \$1.00 for her unkindness?) Julius probably just wanted to "get the heck out of Dodge" and get on with his life. Some researchers believe that there is a certain "Rucker Restlessness" that begins with the generation of Julius.

Some researchers have indicated Julius may have gone to live with his Aunt Elizabeth, widow of Armistead Rucker, in St. Louis, Missouri. But we do know that by 1837, Julius married Sarah Louisa Kirkpatrick in Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois. In all, there were five children from that union: Richard Morton Rucker, Mary Agnes Rucker, Sarah Ann Rucker, Thomas K. Rucker, and Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Rucker. The family lived in several places such as Brown County, Illinois, and Clark County, Missouri. Julius's root family must have lost touch with him because when Julius' father, Abner died in 1839, Julius's share of the estate (after more than 20 years) eventually got divided up between his nieces and nephews. No one knew where Julius had gone. In those days--if you crossed the Mississippi--most were never heard from again and we suppose this is the case with Julius.

However, by 1853, Julius and Sarah and all five children loaded up their buggy and drove to California just on the border of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties at the Pajaro river. This maturing family was renting farming land (part of an old Spanish Land Grant known as Rancho San Cayetano) and supplementing their income by cutting lumber and working with cattle. Daughter, Mary Agnes married James Wayland. Sarah Ann married William Imus (a family who claims lineage to Don Imus--20th Century "Shock Jock" Disc Jockey--talk radio). It is believed that "Frank" and Thomas didn't marry. But first born Richard Morton Rucker certainly did!

Family tradition has it that Richard Morton Rucker, while on a cattle drive to Texas, became

acquainted with the Cox family who had a very young daughter. He cast his eye on Miss Emily Jane Cox and told her father, Samuel that he would be back one day to marry her. And that he did, in 1871. The newlyweds lived in Texas for a while and there are records showing that Richard was a Justice of the Peace, and a County Commissioner in Coleman County, 1876-1878. While in Texas, three children were born: Frederick Irvin, Mary Elvina, and Theodore Samuel.

Maybe it was because of that "Rucker Restlessness" or the call of Silver mining, or wild cattle to be rounded up—but the Ruckers left Texas and moved out to Grant County, New Mexico. Richard bought silver mines and land on /near the Gila River. Times were hard and the area was pretty wild. Many folks had to take the law into their own hands just to survive. Eight more children would bless this marriage while they lived in the Grant County New Mexico area: Sara Rosanna "Rosie," Elbert Morton, Laura Etta, Daisy Dean, Andrew Grover, Thomas Loren, Oscar Owen, and Franklin Merritt.

Family letters indicate they had a desire to get back out to California. By 1896, the Ruckers were living in Buena Park, Orange County, California for a short few years. It is thought that they may have had two places at one time: Buena Park, but also Hackberry, Mojave County, Arizona. It seems that the Imus family (from Monterey County, California) had relocated their cattle business from Monterey County, down to Mojave County, Arizona. The grazing laws in California and high taxes forced many to leave or go broke during the mid-late 1800's. We are reminded that a sister of Richard Morton Rucker had married into the Imus family, so they seem to have kept in touch and had places near one another in Mojave County, Arizona.

Other family letters indicate that in the early 1900's Richard Morton Rucker took up residence in the Disappointment Valley, Southwestern Colorado. They kept the place in Hackberry,

Mojave County, Arizona, and the ranch up in Colorado. The grassland was better for grazing at certain times of the year. Richard died in Southwestern Colorado (family letter) and no grave has been located.

Widow Emily Cox Rucker and her boys (girls had pretty much married by then) moved down to Durango, Colorado, then on to the northwestern four corners area of New Mexico. One researcher mentions that the Rucker boys were some of the best cowboys in the area. Richard and Emily's son, Thomas "Loren" Rucker, homesteaded land in the four corners area of New Mexico, and in 1916, at the age of 29, married an old family friend's daughter, Nina Ella Carter, who was just 13 years old!

Although Loren had a homestead, there weren't many creature comforts yet. Nina said all they had to eat the first few weeks of married life was a box of prunes, milk from the cow, and the rabbits Loren would shoot. Their first bed was blankets on the floor. They raised crops and cattle, and had six children: Claude Loren, Edgar Roy, Everett George, Ida Rose, Harold Robert, and Paul Milton. By the early 1930's everyone suffered somewhat by the Great Depression. Loren and Nina had moved to the Kingman, Arizona area and later became divorced. Loren never remarried, and died in Hungry Horse, Montana in 1957. Nina remarried Eugene Clarence "Frank" Franklin, a barber. Nina was a fine homemaker, and never outgrew a love for fishing and hunting. She died in 1993 in Tucson, Arizona after having lived most of her later life in Safford, Arizona.

Loren and Nina's son, Harold joined the Army before he was of legal age and a few days before his 18th birthday, he was discharged from the Army. He then enlisted in the Marines and fought valiantly in World War II. Although he lived through the War, he was cited for the Navy Cross, received the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, seven Purple Hearts, and various other decorations. He married Kathryn Lorraine McCaskill in Prescott, Arizona. During their marriage, they had three

children: Loren Delmar Rucker, Kathryn Emile Rucker, and Mark Stephen Rucker. They lived in many, many places such Mexico, Montana, Hawaii, and several locations in California. Harold's work after the military was Ceramic Tile Contracting. Harold and Lorraine divorced in 1965. After a short and annulled marriage to a lady named Alice, Harold met Elizabeth Gillan while on a sailing trip. They were married in 1968 in Queensland, Australia, where Harold lived the rest of his life, dying there in 1993.

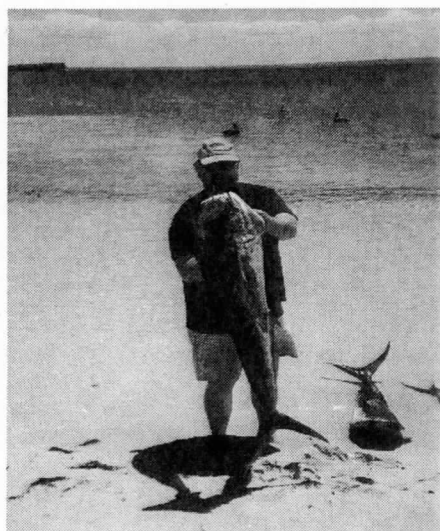


Harold Rucker, Baja, CA/Mexico - early 1960s

Someday, someone will discover the actual city of origin of Peter Rucker, Immigrant. But until then, it is interesting to keep track of the constant westward migration of this line of Ruckers that begins in Virginia and goes all the way to the west coast and even as far as Australia.

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Loren
Rucker in
Baja, CA/
Mexico
1997



Family Profile, con't from p.18

Loren married 1st Margaret Ann Johnstone in 1969 and they have one son, Daniel Loren Rucker, born in 1972. Daniel graduated from West Point Military Academy with the class of 1994 and now works as Vice President of Logistics for an antibacterial company in Utah. He has done extensive traveling in his professional life.

Loren and Margaret divorced in 1978 and the next year, Loren married his high school sweetheart, Alice (Geist) Mallinen. Alice, who had two children by a previous marriage, is a free lance organist and teacher of children's music.

Loren continues to have a very successful ceramic tile partnership (for 25 years) in the Los Angeles area. His work is mostly commercial/industrial as opposed to residential. The company averages fifty employees. He and his partner, Frank Kupuis have won many prestigious awards in ceramic tile in the Southern California area. Loren has earned the title of *Ceramic Tile consultant* and serves as a distinguished member to several boards of directors. One of the most photographed locations in all of Los Angeles, is the fountain at the entrance to Universal Studios. Although it was not an extremely complicated or award winning tile project for the company,— it is fun to see it in so many advertisements.

Loren and Alice love to travel and have gone to places such as England, Austria, Spain, Mexico, and many, many places in the United States. They go on "genealogy" trips. In short, that means Loren fishes, while Alice hunts down records in courthouse! Through genealogy, Loren became introduced to a cousin he had not known—Cindi Bonney Meyer (see Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 3, Sept. 1999) a descendant of Sarah Rosanna Rucker (mentioned above).

Note from the Editor: Alice has contributed many Rucker items discovered on her genealogy trips. She has been working on all Ruckers who moved to California in the 1800s. If you would like to correspond with her, write Alice J. Rucker, 13331

Gridley St., Sylmar CA 91342 or e-mail her at <upstairs@worldnet.att.net>.

IN MEMORIAM

Darby Trimble Coker Jr. died June 16, 2000 at the age of 54. He was married to Suzanne⁸ Elise Thornton (Margaret⁷ Lee Rucker, Joel⁶ J., John⁵, Simeon⁴ B., George³, Thomas², Peter¹).

Darby was born March 21, 1946 in Atlanta, son of Darby Trimble Coker Sr. and Harriet Athalia "Faye" Chappell. He attended Georgia Military Academy (now Woodward Academy), Georgia Institute of Technology, receiving his MBA degree from Georgia State University.

He began his career with IBM and was sent to Boca Raton, FL and later to the headquarters in New York where he was director of advertising. In 1988, he moved back to Atlanta and became owner and president of Metaphor, Inc., an Atlanta advertising and marketing firm. He recently became the chief marketing officer for Omega Networks, Inc., a company that produces and distributes elite Olympic sports competition over the Web. He served on the committee for the Olympic Games held in Atlanta four years ago.

His hobby was collecting artifacts from different cultures. He enjoyed painting with watercolors, playing the guitar and banjo and building intricate model ships. He was working on a novel set during the Civil War, based on the experiences of an ancestor.

He is survived by his wife Suzanne Thornton Coker; his son, Edward Andrew "Ned" Coker of Atlanta; and a brother Stanley C. Coker of Atlanta. He was buried at the Rucker Family Cemetery in Crabapple, GA.

Article from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 19 June 2000, submitted by Suzanne T. Coker, 30 Glen Oaks Drive, NW, Atlanta, Ga 30327-4714.

James ("Jim") Eldred Edwards, aged 81, of Grand Rapids, passed away Thursday, August 3, 2000. He was born February 18, 1919, at Cordova, Richmond Co., NC, son of James Austin Edwards and Mary Kathleen Whitlock. He was married 23 July 1942 to Mary⁸ "Doris" Wright (Joseph⁷ F. Jr., Louisa⁶ A. Ham, William⁵, John⁴, Mildred³ Rucker, John², Peter¹).

Jim was a World War II veteran, serving in the Navy from 1940-1946. He obtained the rank of Chief Petty Officer—Aviation Machinist Mate.

Jim was employed in the Credit Department at Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. (Mich Con.) and was a salesman in Men's Clothing in Roger's Department Store, one of the finest men's store in Western Michigan.

His main interest was following the happenings of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was very much loved by all of his family.

A longtime member of Wealthy Park Baptist Church, in Grand Rapids, MI, Jim taught Sunday School classes in the Primary Department for several years.

Jim was preceded in death by his son, Jerry; brother, Gary Edwards; and sister, Mattie Irene Bowden. He is survived by his wife, Mary Doris Edwards; his children, son Daniel Edwards and wife Pamela Edwards of Grand Haven, daughter Karen and husband Bruce Cernak of IN, James Edwards and wife Susan Edwards of Jenison; ten grandchildren; seven great grandchildren. Also he is survived by his sisters and brothers, Nellie Spittle, Horace and Gladys Edwards, Lonnie Bowden, Lois and Maurice Ott, Jeanette and Pete Page, Remus and Elsa Edwards, Larry and Anita Edwards; and many nieces and nephews. Interment was at RestLawn Memorial Park.

Obituary from *The Grand Rapids, MI, Press*, submitted by his widow, Doris W. Edwards, 2017 43rd St. SE, U-2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 or e-mail <dedwards025@home.com>.

William Eldon "Buck" Tinsley

was born May 22, 1911 in Bowie, Texas and died June 26, 2000. He was the oldest child of Emma Clark and Orbie⁸ Edwin Tinsley (William⁷, Alanson⁶, William⁵, Ransom⁴, Thomas³, Margaret² Rucker, Peter¹). He died June 16, 2000. He married Dorothy Mae Parker January 27, 1934 in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Buck served four years in World War II. He was in the North African Campaign after which he was assigned to duty in General MacArthur's headquarters in the Occupation of Japan. He attained the rank of Lieutenant colonel.

He spent his entire business career in the municipal bond business specializing in the origination of self-liquidating public facilities. He also served on the Governor's Water Resources Committee and helped develop the Water Development Board. This organization helped in the financing of most of the larger water supply facilities in Texas. He served on that committee for 19 years eventually becoming chairman.

Buck was a genealogist and wrote the family history, *Tinsley*, in 1986. He was a member of a number of organizations including the Sons of the American Revolution, the Magna Carta Barons, and the Jamestowne Society. He also enjoyed fishing and world travel.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Tinsley; one brother Clifford G. Tinsley of Wichita Falls, TX; a sister Jean Anne Lewis of Houston; two grandsons, James M. Tinsley Jr. of Dallas and McLeen Trainor of San Marcos.

He was buried at Cook-Walden/Memorial Hill Cemetery. Obituary, from the *Austin American-Statesman*, was submitted by Alice Rucker Allen of Austin, TX.

* * * * *

If anyone knows the identity of the next three, please notify the Editor.

June Arlene Moore died July 9, 2000 at age 62 of cancer. She was born June 26, 1938 in Puyallup, WA. Her maiden name was Rucker. She was a graduate of the Sacred Heart nursing school in Eugene. She became a registered nurse and worked for Portland hospitals before moving to Redmond. She worked for the Central Oregon District Hospital for the last 15 years.

She is survived by her brothers, Jerry Rucker and Ray Rucker. Disposition was by cremation.

From the *Portland Oregonian*, July 17, 2000, submitted by Alice J. Rucker, Sylmar, CA.

* * * * *

Mrs. Willa Matthews Rucker, age 98, died Marcy 26, 2000 in Richmond, VA. She was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Willa was born February 20, 1902 in Clinton NC. She was the daughter of Milton Robinson Matthews and Sarah Catherine Merritt.

Willa was married for 51 years to William Maxwell Rucker who died in 1994. She is survived by her step-son Eugene R. Rucker of Lilburn, GA, a sister and a brother. She was employed in accounting with the U.S. Federal Reserve, for over 50 years, first in Richmond, then in Charlotte, NC.

From the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, March 28, 2000.

* * * * *

Gracie Spinner Rucker of Goode, VA, died September 8, 2000 in Bedford Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of Charlie E. Rucker. Born November 8, 1932, she left one daughter, Clara R. Rucker.

Submitted by Anne R. Glover of Waynesboro, VA. From an article in the *Lynchburg, Virginia News and Advance*.

Violet Laurene (Dexter) Hill was born 18 April 1920 at home, on the Family Prune Farm near Yamhill, Oregon. She passed away Monday, 31 July 2000 in Beaverton, OR. Burial was at Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

She was the daughter of William Burton and Sedalia⁷ Rucker Dexter (Thomas⁶ Levi, Ambrose⁵ L., Ambrose⁴ Jr., Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). At about four years of age the family relocated, by horse and wagon to Umatilla, OR. Violet attended public school there.

On 19 February 1938, at Prosser, Washington, she married Daniel ("Dan") Carl Eugene Hill, son of William George and Emma Louise (Brokamp) Hill of Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. Dan died in 1994,

Violet & Dan's first home was at Camp Stanfield at Stanfield, OR, where Dan was stationed in the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp). After his discharge, they moved to Meadow Camp, where Violet operated a Texaco Service Station & six cabins, while Dan worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1942, they moved to Irrigon, OR. Dan was at the Umatilla Army Ordnance Depot, packing & shipping ammunition during World War II. In 1947 Dan went to work for Pendleton Grain Growers and Violet worked for the Irrigon Schools as a cook.

After about twenty-nine years in Irrigon, they moved to Umatilla where Violet worked part time as a cook at the Umatilla Hospital.

In 1972 Dan was injured when he fell at work and he was granted disability. In 1976 they relocated to Gresham, OR, where Dan could receive better Medical Care.

Her hobbies over the years included: genealogy, ceramics, Indian artifacts, Indian beading, Indian and pine needle basketry, antiques, oil painting, water colors, knitting, crocheting, stamp collecting, needlepoint, quilting and traveling. She also has a large collection of teddy bears.

Violet has written & published several Family History Books, including *My Rucker Family Genealogy* in 1994. She Co-Authored a book with Violet Hornsby (Able): "Once there was a CCC," about company 569, Camp Stanfield.

Violet Hill is survived by daughters: Carla Virginia Leighton and her husband Donald Orville Leighton, of Seaside, Clatsop Co., OR; Vetamae Sedallia Koch and her husband David John Koch Sr., of OR City, Clackamas Co., OR; Vila Rae Cook and husband Marcus Roscoe Cook of Portland, Multnomah Co., OR; and Theresa Wyoma Bunten and husband, Leroy John Bunten Sumpter, Baker Co. & Hermiston, Umatilla Co., OR. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and a brother, Robert Rucker Dexter, of Torrance, CA.

Submitted by her daughter, Carla V. Leighton, P. O. Box 737, Seaside, OR 97138. Her e-mail address is <ighton@pacifier.com>.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Someone asked me the other day, how do you do genealogy. My answer was "start with yourself and work backwards."

So, why am I starting with Peter Rucker and working forward? That is the difficult way and I couldn't do it without your help. Too many Ruckers have just disappeared—as Julius Rucker did in the lead article—"Those Restless Ruckers." He knew where he was, but his family, back in Kentucky did not and his estate was divided among his nieces and nephews. So until I hear from a descendant, I can't trace their lineage.

Of course, many Ruckers cannot be found. People are constantly asking me to help them find their Rucker ancestors. Sometimes I can and other times I haven't a clue. On the next page are some recent examples.

From Barry Jernigan, Murfreesboro, TN <changeling79@aol.com>: Betty Jean Schmid was adopted. She was the daughter of Dall ("Red") Thompson and META RUCKER, born 21 Feb 1933, in Kendall Co., TX. She was raised by Meta's sister Johnnie Jo Rucker who married John ("Smitty") Schmid of Nueces Co., TX, later of Vallejo, Solano Co., CA. Meta and Johnnie Jo were daughters of Sheriff John Rucker from somewhere in Texas. Red Thompson was a ranch hand on John Rucker's cotton farm and was chased off the place when Meta became pregnant. The baby was given to Johnnie Jo to raise. Betty Jean died October 24, 1996 in Modesto, Stanislaus Co., CA. Her daughter, Alice Sampley Jernigan is searching for Betty Jean's lineage. If you have any clues on who Sheriff John Rucker, possibly of Burnet, or Fannin Co., Texas, might be, please notify Barry Jernigan or the Editor.

* * * * *

It is so difficult when one doesn't know one's ancestry. The hardest would be to trace an African-American ancestor:

My name is John Brockenberry, <usbrocks@gateway.net> and I am researching my Rucker ancestry. As an African-American, I find the search somewhat difficult. However, I have traced my lineage back to my great-great grandfather, WILLIAM ARMSTEAD RUCKER. He was born in 1846. Sources tell me that he was from Campbell County, VA but this has not been documented. I have found a great many Ruckers in the 1810 and 1850 census records. Without saying, some must have owned slaves, especially if they were mostly tobacco farmers. I noticed some of the same names repeating in my family and it seems that they must have come from the slave owners. I'm hoping that you would be able to direct me to researchers and or family members who may have records, family wills or other documents to aid me in my search.

My great grandfather William Armstead Rucker Jr. moved to Bedford Co., VA to a little

place called Forest. I think in those days (early 1900's) it might have been called Forest Depot. This is where my family calls "home." Any help would be appreciated.

* * * * *

Another unknown Rucker ancestor:

From Wanda Cole: Seeking the parents of P. G. RUCKER who was born ca 1868 in Bloomer, Sebastian Co., Arkansas. He married Susan Spurgeon who was born about 1872 in Bloomer, AR. They had at least one child who was named Nellie Blake Rucker, born in Bloomer, AR on 20 Dec 1894.

The closest census listing for a Rucker in that part of Arkansas that I have been able to find is Sandy Rucker, who is listed in the 1870 Franklin Co, Ark., p. 26, Middle twp.

* * * * *

And here's one the Editor could answer:

Walker Fry Rucker is from Greensboro, NC, as was his father, Pierce Christie Rucker, who came to Greensboro from Columbia SC. He was the son of (Samual?) Houston Rucker, who served with Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern VA for the whole time, then moved to Columbia after the War. We know that Houston Rucker came from either Amherst or Greene County, VA, but we don't know the connection to Peter Rucker. Houston Rucker was born in the 1840-45 era, married Nannie Bond, and both of them are buried in Columbia.

Answer: Houston Rucker was found in the 1850 Campbell Co., VA, in Lynchburg, age 13, living with his parents: John Rucker and Elizabeth and three siblings. John is found in Wood's book, p.158. His lineage: Houston⁶ Rucker, John⁵, Armistead⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹.

We look forward to receiving the rest of Walker Fry Rucker's genealogy.

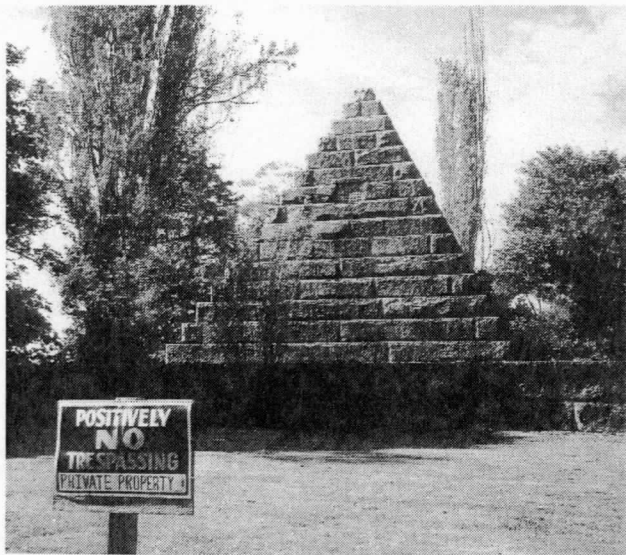
EVERETT, WASHINGTON

This summer, Chuck and I drove west. One of the places we visited was Everett, WA. We had always wanted to see the beautiful mansion every since the article appeared in Vol. 4, No. 3, p.21.

The Rucker mansion overlooks Puget Sound and the city of Everett. We stopped by one afternoon and I recognized the house immediately from the photos taken by Rod and Lou Mason on their visit in 1992.

We were greeted warmly by Bob Kerr, the owner and restorer of the mansion. He gave us the grand tour from the botanical gardens in the basement to the attic ballroom. He and his wife have done a beautiful job in restoring the house and we were very pleased to see it.

Afterwards we went to visit the pyramid shaped mausoleum at Evergreen Cemetery. I was surprised to see signs surrounding it to "Keep Off!" I snuck past the signs to get a close up photo and wondered why the signs were there.



Rucker Mausoleum

At home, I received the following article, June, 2000 from Alice J. Rucker and then I understood. I hope people heed the warnings and no one else is injured on the Rucker tomb.

Woman hurt in fall from Rucker tomb

..... A 40 year old woman climbed the Rucker tomb at Evergreen Cemetery and fell. She was the second one to fall and be injured this year. The fire chief said that there are usually parties taking place at the cemetery. The tomb, made of granite, is pyramid-shaped and nearly 40 feet tall. Built like a layered wedding cake, the tomb is considered easy to climb, but difficult to descend, because the ledges are narrow

TERRY THE TRACTOR



Terry the Tractor in his newest adventure, by Mike Rucker, is off the presses. "Terry and the South Pole Breakdown" is a cute story about how tractors were brought to Antarctica to replace the sled dogs. The sled dogs were very unhappy to lose their jobs. Of course when Terry gets into trouble, the sled dogs race to his rescue.

Books in the Terry the Tractor series by Mike Rucker are geared to the 8 to 10 year olds, but will be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Terry the Tractor
 Terry and the Bully
 Terry the Athlete
 Terry and the Super Powerful Fuel
 Terry and the Elephant
 Terry and the Ecological Disaster
 Terry and the High-Tech Laser Guided, Satellite Transmitted, Dozing System
 Terry and the South Pole Breakdown

To order any of the Terry the Tractor books, send a check for \$4.95 (includes postage) for each title to: Mike Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614-2828.

2000 RUCKER REUNION WILLIAMSBURG, VA

The Rucker Reunion began Friday afternoon, October 13, 2000 in Williamsburg, VA. The hospitality Room was open in the early afternoon for people interested in getting together to chat or discuss genealogy information. The Board meeting took place from 3 to 5. There were two resignations: Bill Rucker and Ruth McBride. We are sorry to see them resign and they were thanked for their years of service to the society.

At 5 p.m. the clan gathered at the hospitality room for greetings, food and drink. About half the attendees were at their first reunion. At least ten people had attended every reunion from the 1st one in Ruckersville, Virginia in 1988.

Saturday morning began with a meeting of the Rucker Family Society with a roll call and announcements. The speaker told us about life in early times, especially in the time that Peter Rucker arrived in Jamestown in 1700. This was our 300th anniversary of Peter's arrival in America. After a light lunch we went by bus to Jamestown where they are excavating the original fort and preparing for the 400th anniversary of the first English settlement in America. We should not forget that the Indians and Spanish were here before the English. One thing we learned from our speaker was that the Indians were called "Redman" because they rubbed the hulk of the walnut on their skin to protect themselves from the mosquito. It took the white man almost 100 years to realize they must move inland to escape the

diseases brought by the mosquito. Williamsburg was then founded in 1698. However, Jamestown continued to be the port of arrival.

That night we gathered again in the hospitality room where a delicious supper of bar-be-que, bratwurst sausages, cole slaw and baked beans was served. It was fun relaxing and talking informally to our newly found friends and cousins.

Sunday morning was a short board meeting where Leslie Cabral was elected a new board member. It was followed by the meeting of the Rucker Family Society. One of the most eventful events of the meeting was the auction of a Sudie Rucker Wood book contributed by Mike Rucker from Peoria, IL. After a few comments from cousins about their families' trek west, we had another wonderful speaker. This time it was about medicine of the colonial period. It was scary to learn that they operated without benefit of novocain or sterilization. However, they did use many herbs and spices and we all made a sac of spices to use as a headache remedy.

A colonial style lunch was served in the middle of Fort Magruder, the Civil War fort in which the hotel was built. It was a beautiful day, about 80 degrees and we were surrounded by the elegant changing, fall colored leaves.

Many thanks for all the lovely thank you notes. Please join us in 2002 when we will meet again in the state of Missouri. It hasn't been decided just where we will convene, but if you have any suggestions or are willing to help, please contact the President.



Family
Groups
Gathered at
Jamestown
Island



OBJECTIVES OF THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

As Suggested by Gerald B. Rucker

The Rucker Family Society was formed in 1990 with the first newsletter distributed in May of that year. Membership in the Rucker Family Society includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and notices of biennial Rucker Reunions. National reunions have been held every other year since the first one held in 1988, in Ruckersville, VA, instigated by Anna Watson. Membership dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year, January 1st.

The objectives of the Rucker Family Society are:

1. To share information about the Rucker family and its ancestors, descendants and connections throughout the United States. The Society is nation-wide in purpose and objectives and is open to everyone who wants to know more about the family and/or wishes to share family information with others.

2. To collect data (family group sheets and computer disks) on all Rucker families, especially descendants of Peter Rucker, immigrant to Virginia in 1700.

3. To encourage members who wish to independently research the origins of the Rucker Family in Europe.

4. To encourage people to write their family histories and stories and to preserve their family papers and photographs.

5. To encourage families to restore and perpetuate family cemeteries.

6. To commemorate important Rucker sites and/or to memorialize family members who have made significant achievements in the past by the placement of highway markers or plaques to their honor.



RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2000-2002

Jeannie Robinson - President
Rod Mason - Vice President
Leslie Cabral - Treasurer
Chuck Robinson - Secretary
Doris Edwards - Registrar
Roland Pittman - Ex-officio
Ron Payne - Projects
Dorothy Cain
Sim Crisler
Becky Fox
Jack White
Joyce Pittman
Chris Rucker
Margie Sutherland
Ed Taylor

Note: Leslie Burford Cabral has taken over as treasurer from Jack White. Mail any future dues to her at 5601 S. 37th Ct., Greenacres, FL 33463. Many thanks to Jack White for the excellent job he has done for the past ten years.

Photo Below Board Members at the 2000 Reunion

Front row, left to right: Marjorie Sutherland, Becky Fox, Doris Edwards, Ruth McBride, Joyce Pittman, Jeannie Robinson, Leslie Cabral, and Rod Mason

Back row: Ed Taylor, Jack White, Sim Crisler, Chris Rucker, and Chuck Robinson



PHOTO CORNER

Chris Rucker, a board member, has suggested that we have a "Photo Corner" in each newsletter. He encourages people to send in copies of their family pictures to include in future newsletters..

The photo at left, of Alice and Loren Rucker is a wonderful picture to begin this column. Even though it is not an old family photo, it is a good example of a fun picture that can be submitted.

If an original photo is submitted, every care will be taken with it and it will be returned as soon as possible. If you can, please have a copy made and send the copy to the Editor.

Please identify everyone in the picture, if possible. This will be a fun way to share our family pictures. Thanks to Chris for the suggestion.

Alice and Loren Rucker in Western Costume

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



Jean B. Robinson, Editor
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First Class Mail

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED