



the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

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March 2001

PHOTO OF THE 1911 RUCKER FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of Ephraim Isaac Rucker
of Brunswick, Missouri

Submitted by Sally Innes Tomson,
Federal Way, Washington
See names on next page

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1911 Rucker Family Photo

Top Row: Casper* Rucker (1887-1948); Vernon* S. Rucker (1889-1976); Kathleen Rucker, dau of Tom; Lovick* Rae ("Babe") Rucker (1891-1918); and Louis Merrill (husband of John Early Rucker) (*Three sons of Lovick P. Rucker)

2nd Row: Nell Rucker Grossman (1880-1972), dau of John E. Rucker, & Baby; Sue Guillet Rucker (1860-1928), wife of Tom Rucker; Bettie Rucker, widow of Charles Madison Rucker; Lovick V. Bernard Rucker, son of Bettie; Harriette Rucker (1889-1962), dau of Edward W.; Fannie Bernard; Mary Rucker

3rd Row: Edward Walter Rucker (1851-1929) with baby Charles Edward Innes (1910-1993); Molly Guillet Rucker (1857-1940); Thomas ("Tom") Morris Rucker (1855-1922); Lovick Rucker (1859-1936) & wife Blanche Smutz Rucker (1863-1934); George Washington Rucker (1841-1924)

Bottom Row: Blanche Rucker Innes (1884-1955); Nell Grossman's son; Margaret Rucker (1900-1983), dau of Tom; Nell Grossman's son; John Early Rucker Merrill (female) (1885-1977) & baby (Note: Nell Grossman had six children by the time of this photo. Three are pictured)

The Editor thought this wonderful family photo should be placed on page one. These people lived one hundred years ago. Imagine the life they lived and the changes they have seen.

Descendants of Ephraim⁵ Isaac Rucker (Edward⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹) and his two wives. (Note: Ephraim's lineage is not proved, but suggested by Sudie Rucker Wood, in *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.266). Sally Innes Tomson said his name was Ephraim Isaac Rucker and he had twelve children. Sudie Rucker Wood said his name was Ephraim Rucker and had six children.

Issue of Ephraim Isaac Rucker

Ephraim's first wife may have been named _____ Bowman and she died young:

1. Robert William Rucker, b. ca 1840, in Ohio. No further record.
 2. George Washington Rucker, b. 3 Mar 1841, OH; m. Eliza Garside.
 3. Sarah Ann Rucker, b. ca 1843, MO; m. 1 Jun 1877, John Koler.
- Issue of Ephraim Rucker and Mary S. Bowman:
4. Eliza Amelia Rucker, b. 10 Jan 1846, MO; m. William P. Baker.
 5. Jinnetta Rucker, b. 18 Dec 1848 (*should this be 1847?*), d. 26 Dec 1848.
 6. William Caples Rucker, b. 1 May 1849, d. 21 Jul 1855, Brunswick, MO.
 7. Edward Walter Rucker, b. 8 Nov 1851; m. Mary ("Mollie") Thomas Guillet.
 8. John Early Rucker, b. 16 Nov 1853; m. Flora M. Bennet.
 9. Thomas ("Tom") Morris Rucker, b. 30 Sep 1855; m. Susan ("Sue") Parker Guillet, sister of Mollie.
 10. Charles Madison Rucker, b. 29 Jun 1857; m. Bettie Bernard.
 11. Lovick Pierce Rucker, b. 12 Jun 1859; m. Blanche Smutz
 12. Ephraim Griffus Rucker, b. 30 May 1862, d. 21 Jun 1865.

EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF LAWRENCE CO., OHIO

by Reverend James Gilruth

Written 1872

Submitted by Michael Pearcy

The following letter, was written by Reverend James Gilruth, over 80 years old at the time, and who had been in the Methodist ministry for over 50 years. It was furnished by General W. H. Kelly, to whom it was written. It treats the early settlers in the lower part of the country and the upper end of Scioto [in Lawrence Co., Ohio] where many Ruckers lived. Many thanks to Michael Pearcy <mpearcy@oracle.com> who submitted it in November 1999.

Only excerpts will be included here, but the original can be accessed on the Internet at:
<http://searches.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/iftch2?u1/data/oh+index+230861698177+F>

"July 18, 1872. In my last, having pursued the history of who settled in this or that place, I now propose to give you a summary of some of the manners and customs that prevailed among us.

"Our settlements were made near the close of a long and bloody Indian war, in which many of those early settlers had personally participated; also, the revolutionary struggle was to the most a thing as of yesterday. The past scenes of danger were fresh in their minds which, in a scattered population, now depend on each other for aid, tended to awaken and perpetuate in their minds a feeling of friendship, that produced a warm-hearted hospitality to each other, and to the stranger. I was 16 years old before I ever saw or heard tell of a family among us, who sat down to eat, and did not invite the strangers present to partake with them; and older than that before I knew of a traveler being refused a night's lodging; so far from it, that as far as I knew, it was the universal practice, that if any one stepped in soon after meal time, to ask him if he had been at

breakfast or dinner, as the case might be; and if any one called near night and it seemed disposed to go farther, to invite him to stay all night.

"We commonly had our Christmas and New Year's dinners, made by those who were able, who invited all that were near to partake. At these dinners, and in our social family visits, the conversation mostly consisted in relating the events of the past wars, anecdotes of the chase, and personal experience, so that we became extensively posted in what each other knew. Of political questions, we knew and cared but little. Our common living, as well as our social feasts, consisted mostly of venison, bear meat, fish and wild fowl; the various preparations from corn, potatoes, pumpkins and other vegetables, with milk and butter; sassafras, spice-wood, dittany tea, etc., or corn coffee well sweetened with sugar of our own manufacture.

"Our common dress for the men and boys consisted of buckskin or Lindsey pants, vest, and hunting shirt, buckskin moccasins, with flax or tol linen shirt. A few families, however never adopted the hunting shirt and moccasins, but wore coats and shoes. The women almost universally for their every day dress, wore Lindsey, or cotton gowns striped or dyed to suit fancy; all of home manufacture and tailoring.

"The employment of the men consisted in clearing land, raising crops, hunting, fishing, and doing all things necessary to provide for their families and domestic stock; and that of the women, consisted in spinning, weaving, knitting, tailoring, and doing all other things, in or out-doors, necessary for the interest or comfort of the family.

"The amusements of the men and boys were, shooting at mark, running foot races, hopping, jumping, wrestling, pitching quoits, pitching at rail, or shoulder stone, throwing an axe, playing ball, swimming etc. That of the women consisted mostly in social visits. In those days, horse racing, frolicking parties, card playing, and the different forms of gambling had not obtained any foothold among us.

"The raising of our houses and the rolling of our logs were done by the combined efforts of the neighbors, which neighbors extended for many miles all around, even to ten and fifteen. This mutual aid, although a severe tax on the time necessary for individual business, was absolutely necessary; for no individual, however strong, could raise houses and roll logs alone; and none were able to hire the doing of these things. This mutual aiding of each other however had these additional benefits: that it enlarged our acquaintance with each other and the country; created and cemented friendship. It was also extended to things not of absolute necessity, such as husking of corn, quilting bed-quilts, spinning, etc. In all such cases, more or less of the women assisted the good wife with her cookery.

"For meat, nearly all depend on the wild game of the woods, and the fish of the rivers, of which there was great abundance; and but for them it is difficult to see how the first settlements could have been sustained. Thus, men were made hunters and fishers from necessity; who had little or no relish for these occupations, and abandoned them as soon as their circumstances would permit. For bread, for years they were dependent on the hominy block, or hand-mill.

"Our manner of traveling, when the journey was long, if by water, the canoe was the general means of conveyance; in which we carried our provisions and bedding, such as a bear-skin and blanket. If it rained and we had not reached a house, a large leaning tree was sot [sic], but if the weather was

fair, any good shade that would keep the dew was selected, where we kindled a fire and slept for the night. If by land, we traveled either on foot or on horseback. If on foot, the traveler took a blanket and what provision he thought proper, and passed on without roads, up one stream and down another; for there were no roads in the country except deer paths and buffalo trails; as for bridges there were none in existence. When he came to a stream that made it necessary, he built a raft of such logs as he could put together and ferried it; but if the water was warm and he could swim, he laid his clothes on a suitable log and swam, shoving or towing the log with his clothes. When night came on, he struck fire and slept under a tree, serenaded by the howling of the wolves and the hooting of owls. If he traveled on horseback, he took some provision for himself and a 'little baiting for the horse,' and threaded his way as best he could, without a track on the ground, or a blaze on a tree to guide. When night came, he hobbled and bled the horse, and turned him out to feed on the grass and pea-vines; kindled a fire and ate his grub and lay down to enjoy what rest the mosquitoes and gnats would permit, till morning. In whatever mode we traveled, the rifle, tomahawk and butcher knife were our constant companions.

"With the exception of funerals, religious meetings, and courts of justice, the use of liquor was almost universal. . .

"The banks of the Ohio River at the time of the first settlement of that country, were covered with heavy timber down to the water's edge, and were of a grade that a man on horseback could ride up or down them, on the rounding side, almost anywhere. The stream, with its heavily timbered banks, presented a continued display of beauty, in the summer, excelled by few rivers, on the earth. Of the difference of the manners and customs of the times of which I write, and of the appearance of the Ohio River from that of the present, your own observations will satisfy you."

PRAYER**Given by****AMBROSE S. RUCKER JR.****AT THE 1990 RUCKER****FAMILY REUNION**

Lynchburg, VA— June 16, 1990

*Our father, we give thanks for your love,
your watchful care and protection of the Rucker
Family — during the 300 years we're been in
America.*

*We thank you for this fellowship we enjoy
today — for endowing us with bright minds and
healthy bodies, and we pray we may pass these
strong genes on down to future generations who
will honor your name.*

*Bless now this food to our good. Nourish
our hearts also with true friendship — our souls
with thy truth — and grant that we may ever
bear witness: To the power of your guiding
light. Amen.*

* * * * *

JOSEPH³ RUCKER?

Joan A. McNair has suggested that Joseph³ Rucker (William², Peter¹) did not exist. She pointed out that the only documentation for Joseph was a deed for purchase of 150 acres of land, see Wood, p.250. Now look on p. 240, the same deed is listed for Joshua³ Rucker (William², Peter¹). Joan said she found no records for Joseph Rucker in the Amelia County, Virginia Tithe Lists, Census Records or Deed Indexes. Was this a copying error on Wood's part? What do you think?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

2001 RFS Dues are now due
See form on page nine

The James River Batteau Festival

June 15-23, 2001

Objectives: "A folk life festival that seeks to combine many different disciplines and community interests into one cultural event."

The Batteau Festival is important to us as Anthony and James Rucker (sons of John²) invented the batteau, a flat bottomed boat for hauling tobacco. They are honored every year by the Amherst County batteau named the "Anthony Rucker" and crewed by some Rucker descendants.

June 15, 2001, Friday evening at Lynchburg, Virginia, 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Festival Begins with Flotilla, dinner and music.

June 16, Saturday morning 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Breakfast, Music and Historic Presentations. 10:00 Boats begin their week's journey East along the James River towards Richmond, Virginia.

June 23, Saturday, late afternoon. Festival ends at Maiden's Landing, near Richmond.

For more information and photos, see web site:
<http://www.batteau.org>.

For an article on the Rucker Batteau see:
<http://www.batteau.org/Rucker%20battoe.html>

REMINDER ~ JUNE 2004 RUCKER REUNION

In June 2004, we are planning a Rucker Reunion to coincide with the James River Batteau festival in the Lynchburg, Virginia area. So if you can't make it this year, plan to join the Rucker family and the batteaux in June of 2004.

IN MEMORIAM

HENRY COWLES RUCKER III

Henry Cowles Rucker III died January 29, 2001 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. He was age 62. He was born 29 Aug 1938, in Salisbury, NC. In recent years he was a resident of Matamoras, Mexico.

Henry received a Ph.D. In Education from Mississippi State University, a Masters Degree from the University of Mississippi and a Baccalaureate Degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He received a scholarship to attend the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. He also studied at the University of Capetown, South Africa. He taught at various schools and universities.

Henry was a very unusual person. He reminded me of "Wrong-Way Corrigan." He always went where he wasn't supposed to be such as Cuba, and from time to time, appeared on tv in the evening news. He also traveled to many places including Africa and Latin America. He just returned from an extended study trip to Southeast Asia. This travel was in support of a book in progress on the economics of undeveloped countries. While there he contracted a very unusual E coli bacterium which could not be treated. He died of complications from pneumonia.

Henry is survived by his mother, Katherine Rucker of Cedar Key, FL, his two brothers, Bill and wife Nickie of Cedar Key, and Mike and his wife Harriet of Peoria, IL. He is also survived by his former wife, Nancy Reid Torontali of Boca Raton, FL and two daughters, Heidi Rucker Heard of Lighthouse Point, FL and Emily Rucker Jancuro of Parkland, FL.

Henry had four lines of Rucker descent. His grandparents, featured in *RFSN*, Vol. 8, No. 2 & 3, Summer, 1997, p.11-15, were Dr. Henry Cowles Rucker and Lillian Eliza Rucker. Their lines were as follows:

Henry⁷ Cowles Rucker (Benjamin⁶ L., Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.110) and (Sarah⁷ Frances Parks, Paulina⁶ Davies, Elizabeth⁵ McDaniel, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood), p.416, 446.

Lillian⁷ Eliza Rucker (William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.56) and (William⁶ A., Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹), Wood, p.88.

Henry's obituary was in *The Beacon*, newspaper of Cedar Key, FL, 1 Feb 2001, and *The Gainesville Sun*, 31 Jan 2001.

* * * * *

NOVEL H. RUCKER

Novel Hamilton Rucker, age 76 died November 29, 2000. She was born May 23, 1924 to Marvin and Irene Hamilton in Waldo, AR. She worked as a sales clerk until 1990.

She is survived by daughters Glenna Rucker of Richardson, Texas and Jan Roseberry of Athens, Tennessee; sons Randy Rucker of Palo Alto, California and Robert Rucker of Nashville, Tennessee; a brother, Maurice Hamilton; and her ex-husband, Glen Rucker of Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Submitted by Norma Reynolds Allen of Richardson, Texas. The article appeared in the Richardson Morning News, December 3, 2000.

ANITA RUCKER COTTRELL

Anita Rucker Cottrell died January 15, 2001 in Richmond, Virginia. She was born November 20, 1903 in Bedford, Virginia, a daughter of Juanita and O. C. Rucker, Sr. Anita's line of descent: O.C.⁷, Ambrose⁶, Anthony⁵, Ambrose⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

A 1925 graduate of The College of William and Mary, she married Leonard Cottrell, II of Richmond, Virginia. His academic and professional career took them to the University of Chicago, Cornell University, the Sage Foundation, and the University of North Carolina.

Anita and her family enjoyed sailing and summering in Maine. She especially enjoyed reading and letter writing, even keeping in regular touch with family and friends by employing a corresponding secretary when she was no longer able to write her own letters.

Her father, an attorney in Bedford, Virginia, was an unsuccessful candidate for governor on the Prohibition ticket when Anita was a child. During that same period, Anita's older sister Margaret was a student at Randolph Macon Women's College. One of Margaret's classmates was the daughter of missionaries in China, so the classmate frequently spent holidays with the Rucker family in Bedford. The classmate was Pearl Sydenstricker (Buck).

Anita was predeceased by her seven siblings: Ambrose (who was killed by enemy fire while serving with the Canadian army in 1915), Margaret, O.C. Jr., Anna, Warren, Ney, and Brenda.

She is survived by a son, Leonard Cottrell, III and his wife, Anne, of Berkley, California and a

daughter, Susan Woolson and her husband, Monty, of Tucson, Arizona, and three grandchildren.

Submitted by her nephew, Warren P. Rucker, Ruckersville, VA. Anita's obit must have appeared in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, but was missed by the Editor as she was out of town.

* * * * *

McDANIEL RUCKER III And GLORIA JEANNE RUCKER

McDaniel Rucker III and his wife, Gloria Jeanne Rucker, of Manakin-Sabot, located near Richmond, Virginia, both died in February. They were buried in Greenwood Memorial Gardens. McDaniel Rucker III was the son of McDaniel⁷ Rucker Jr. (John⁶ R. "McDaniel" Rucker, Anthony⁵ T. B., Absalom⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹).

Gloria Jeanne Rucker died February 4, 2001 (from the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 5 Feb 2001). McDaniel Rucker III died February 23, 2001 (from the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 26 Feb 2001).

McDaniel, who was previously married, is survived by two sons, McDaniel Rucker IV of Midlothian, VA and Robin Randolph Rucker of Manakin-Sabot; and his granddaughter, Meghan D. Rucker. McDaniel is also survived by his sister, Nancy Lee Rucker of Richmond, VA.

Gloria Jeanne is survived by McDaniel's and her son, Robin Randolph Rucker; and her sister, Jacqueline Wright of Englewood, CO.

HORTON BLACKWELL RUCKER

Horton B. Rucker, 75, Civil War historian, park volunteer at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park's living history program, died March 3, 2001.

Mr. Rucker was the battlefield's first VIP, Volunteer in Park, donating 16 hours a week for 20 years. He established the living history gun crew, researched and narrated the firing demonstration and, using his engineering background, advised the National Park Service on setting standards for storing black powder in the context of dealing with historic weapons, said battlefield historian Willie Ray Johnson of Kennesaw. Horton insisted on researching original documents for accuracy in every detail.

From his extensive library, Mr. Rucker donated his 130-volume "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion" to the national battlefield. "It was quite a gift for us," said Mr. Johnson. Having the 1976 reprinted volumes allowed the park to preserve its original copies, published from 1874 to 1900.

License was taken with historical accuracy at Civil War-related events across the country during the Civil War centennial. When Mr. Rucker started volunteering at the park in the early 1970s, he set high standards that are respected throughout the Park Service, said Mr. Johnson.

"People knew that we knew our stuff," said Mr. Johnson. "Rucker simply went back and looked at the way things were originally done. He brought us into focus."

A forensic engineer who graduated from Georgia Tech, Mr. Rucker was a walking textbook on the Civil War, said his daughter Susan Fuller of Kennesaw. His grandfather had been a doctor in the war, and that sparked his interest, she said.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Rucker, dressed in a

Confederate uniform, visited Kennesaw Mountain to walk the battlefields and recapture what the soldiers felt. Other visitors mentioned to park rangers how much they enjoyed talking with the Confederate soldier. Puzzled rangers knew no employees were portraying a soldier. They tracked him down and were so impressed with his knowledge they began turning to him for information on the Civil War, she said. "He was an absolutely marvelous storyteller," said Mr. Johnson. "He was mesmerizing with the flow of the thing."

Mr. Rucker's profession was re-creating accidents to determine what happened in wrecks, fires, explosions, "all little disaster things," said his wife, Frances Kenady ("Doty") Rucker.

The memorial service for Horton Blackwell Rucker was held at First Baptist Church of Chattahoochee. He died of a ruptured stomach aneurysm March 3 at his Atlanta residence. The body was cremated.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Robert Rucker of Winchester, MA.; two daughters, Susan Fuller of Kennesaw, GA, and Cathie Griffin of Cartersville, GA; and six grandchildren.

Horton B. Rucker's obituary appeared in *the Atlanta Journal-Constitution* newspaper March 10, 2001. He was the youngest son of Lillie Belle Blackwell and John⁸ Weston Rucker (John⁷ Weston, Andrew⁶ Jackson, Wiley⁵, George⁴ Jr., George³, Thomas², Peter¹). Submitted by his niece, Betty Rucker Mock, of Doctors Inlet, Florida.

* * * * *

Cecil Frank Rucker

Cecil Frank Rucker, age 89, died October 30, 2000 in Roanoke, Virginia. He was the son of George Anthony Rucker. Submitted by Dr. Christopher D. Rucker of Boiling Springs, SC.

EDITOR'S NOTE

It was nice to see that there were no obituaries in the last issue of the newsletter. However my first letter of the new millennium was from Mike Rucker notifying me of the death of his brother.

The photo submitted by Sally I. Tomson was so unique that I placed it on the front page. Please send us your family photos for inclusion in future newsletters. For the Photo Corner we need good copies of photographs or the original. Care will be taken with them and they will be returned to you if requested. My address is on page two.

Please submit articles for publication in the newsletter. We would like to have a Family Profile or research article written by you!

@

2002 RUCKER REUNION

"The Rucker's Western Migration"
Kansas City, Missouri

Many thanks to Becky Fox, Chuck Berry and Karl Rice for volunteering to plan the next reunion.

It has been decided to hold it in October of 2002 at Kansas City and Independence with emphasis on the 1800's, wagon trains and the migration westward. We will stay at the Adams Mark or the Holiday Inn.

If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact:

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WILLIAM² RUCKER

LIVED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

NEW DISCOVERY (submitted by Joan A. McNair, Newport Beach, CA): William² Rucker was the only child of Peter¹ Rucker, Immigrant that we know lived outside of the state of Virginia.

The following Deed of Gift from William Rucker to heirs of Sarah Wingo was recorded at the Spartanburg County Court House, South Carolina, 1794, Deed Book C, p.289. This shows that William left Amelia County, Virginia and went to South Carolina by 1794.

This Indenture made this Fifteenth day of September and in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred, Ninety four —

Witnesseth that I William Rucker of the

burgh [sic] do hereby give & Bequeath unto the heirs of the Body of my said Daughter Sarah Wingo, deceased—one Negroe Woman by the name of Milly & all the Increase of her body to wit: Sam, Bin, Nan, Charles, Beck, Lewis, Reuben, Edy & Moses. These at present in the possession of John Wingo Senior in the State of Virginia and County of Amelia Which Negroes if William Rucker never intended to Dispose of in any other way but to my said Daughter & to the heirs of her Body forever. Wherefore I the said William Rucker do hereby authorize & Empower Sherwood Fowler to Demand the said Negroes above mentioned and to act in the behalf of the heirs of my said Daughter Deceased —

William Rucker

Signed Sealed & Delivered

in the presence of