

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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Number 2

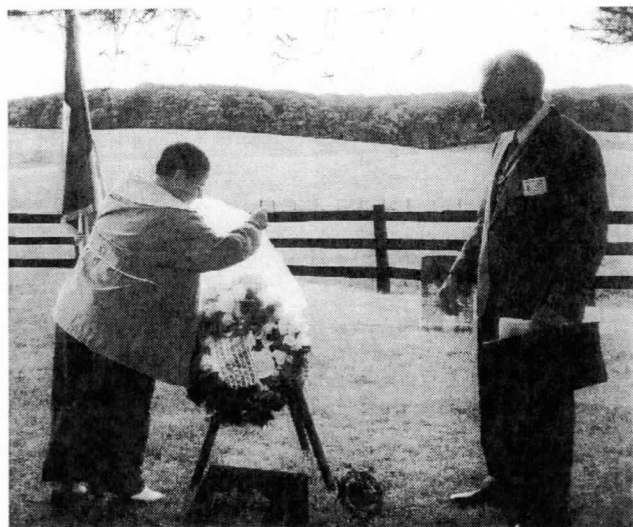
June 2001

CEREMONY HONORING CAPT. ANGUS RUCKER

On May 19th, 2001 at Wolfstown, Virginia in Madison County, the Culpeper Minute Men SAR Chapter conducted a grave marking ceremony for Captain Angus Rucker. The ceremony was conducted by SAR Chapter President Mike Lyman. Supporting the ceremony were a four man American Legion firing party, a Boy Scout bugler, three Boy Scout color guards, and a Scout Master playing the bagpipes.

Attending, besides SAR chapter members and their wives, were a direct descendant and her husband, Charlotte and Ray Beaulieu, from Alexandria, VA; another Rucker family member, Ed and Marita

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Charlotte Beaulieu unveiling the wreath with Mike Lyman

TWO OUTSTANDING RUCKERS— FATHER AND SON

by Vance Rucker

Allen⁷ Willis Rucker (Allen⁶ T., Isaac⁵ M., Reuben⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹), born 23 July 1897 in Bristol, Virginia, was destined to become one of the nation's first modern economists and management consultants. He was the oldest child of Allen Tweedy Rucker and Mary Frances Plunkett, who had moved to Bristol soon after their marriage in 1894 in Appomattox, VA to open Rucker Coal Company.

Allen was raised with six brothers and sisters in Bristol, graduating from high school in 1916 and enlisting in the U. S. Army in 1917. He soon gained recognition by being selected to enter Officers Candidate School, graduating as a second lieutenant. He served for the duration of World

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War I in the 117th U. S. Infantry, 30th Division, A. E. F., and was discharged in April of 1919.

While in service, he met Elise Murtaugh of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. They were married in 1921 and lived in Bristol for several years, where he worked for Southern Railway Co. While in Bristol, Allen Willis Rucker Jr. was born on the 20th of August 1924. He was to be their only child, and was also destined to play an important role for his country.

~PART I~

ALLEN WILLIS RUCKER SR.

Allen Rucker was one of the country's
first management consultants

Allen Rucker moved his family to Lexington, Massachusetts in 1926, securing a position in a large printing company. He had started taking correspondence courses in Bristol and continued taking these in Massachusetts. While working with the printing company, he developed a rudimentary plan for improving businesses by increasing

productivity and efficiency. He and his supervisor, Richard Eddy, began selling this service to business in the Boston Area. They would study a business on a fee basis and recommend what could be done to improve the business to make more profits. When the printing company they worked for pressured them to sell more printing services as a part of their recommendations, they refused to interject this in their recommendations. As a result, they resigned to form their own company.

Richard Eddy and Allen Rucker opened The Eddy-Rucker Company in Cambridge, MA in September of 1929, just as the Depression was beginning. In spite of the Depression, they continued to sell their services successfully. Using statistics issued by the Federal Government, Rucker developed and perfected a plan that served as a formula for paying workers based on productivity, increasing their pay as their productivity increased. He analyzed client companies, developing recommendations to increase productivity, efficiency and profits.

Allen began selling the services of The Eddy-Rucker Company by making speeches to business and civic groups, and the business began to grow quickly. He bought Eddy's share of the firm in the mid 1930's and brought in a boyhood friend from Bristol, Fred Nickels, to open an advertising agency as a part of the company, renaming the firm "The Eddy-Rucker- Nickels Company."

Allen had begun writing books about his economic theories, the first, *Assuring Operating Profits* being published in 1928. This book was followed by *Private Initiative Versus Planned Economy* (1934), *Labor's Road to Plenty* (1937) and *Scientific Price Management* (1940). With the publishing of *Labor's Road to Plenty*, his plan of analyzing business and increasing productivity, sharing these increases with employees, was named "The Rucker Share of Production Plan," later commonly called "The Rucker Plan."

Rucker's recommendations to businesses were basically anti-union since they stressed management working with employees to improve productivity and, by so doing, to increase pay for workers and profits for management. *Labor's Road to Plenty*, which became his most widely-read and influential book, has as its sub-title "The return to the American system of productivity," the implication being that a third party, a labor union, was not necessary in the relationship between management and employees. At the same time, the company must be completely open and fair in sharing productivity increases with its employees. Allen's development of his productivity concept became the basis of the "value-added concept," now used in Europe and proposed in the U.S. as the basis for government taxation of business.

During the 1930's, "The Rucker Share of Production Plan" was installed in businesses in many parts of the U.S., and The Eddy-Rucker-Nickels Company became increasingly known for its success in helping business and its workers. Using "The Rucker Plan" to increase efficiency and profits and to measure productivity, companies had a direct measurement that could be used as the basis to increase pay that had been severely reduced during the early years of the Depression. The advertising arm of the company was also successful from the beginning. Rucker said a good part of its success was that it never accepted any political advertising without being paid up front. The company prospered.

After World War II, Allen expanded The Eddy-Rucker-Nickels Company into Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany and other European countries. His method was to find capable people of the nation he was entering, give them training and set up a business wholly owned by his company.

Also after World War II, Allen developed a third arm of the business, the "Tool Owner's Union"

(TOU), which had as its cornerstone the premise that tool owners, i.e. company owners/management, needed to organize as a major force so as to have a more powerful voice to tool users, i.e. the AFL, CIO and other unions. He hired as its president the co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, Congressman Fred Hartley. The TOU drew immediate response and became a force directed against the growing power of labor unions. After several years of growth and growing influence, the TOU was sued by the U.S. Department of Labor. The Courts ruled that the TOU was not legal; rather than wage an expensive fight for years through the Courts, Allen closed the TOU.

The Eddy-Rucker-Nickels Company, under the leadership of Allen Rucker and his successors, continued to grow throughout most of the rest of the 1900's, finally closing in 1992.

Allen became ill in 1962 and died 4 December 1963, leaving a company that continued to prosper until it closed. He had become a person who developed and used economic theory as well as one of the country's first management consultants. He had built a very successful business that sold its services to many companies in the United States, Canada and Europe.

Allen's wife, Elise, became a true character who never failed to let everyone know who she was. They lived in Lexington, MA in a beautiful home, but she decided she wanted to live on Beacon Hill, the prominent historic area in downtown Boston that was being restored. They bought a five-story attached row house, and completely restored it as it had been except with modern conveniences. They installed an elevator and furnished it with her antique furniture, rugs and other fine articles. Elise possessed one of the largest Chinese jade collections in the U.S. She was very difficult to live with and in her old age, she became a bitter and increasingly isolated person, finally dying in 1992.

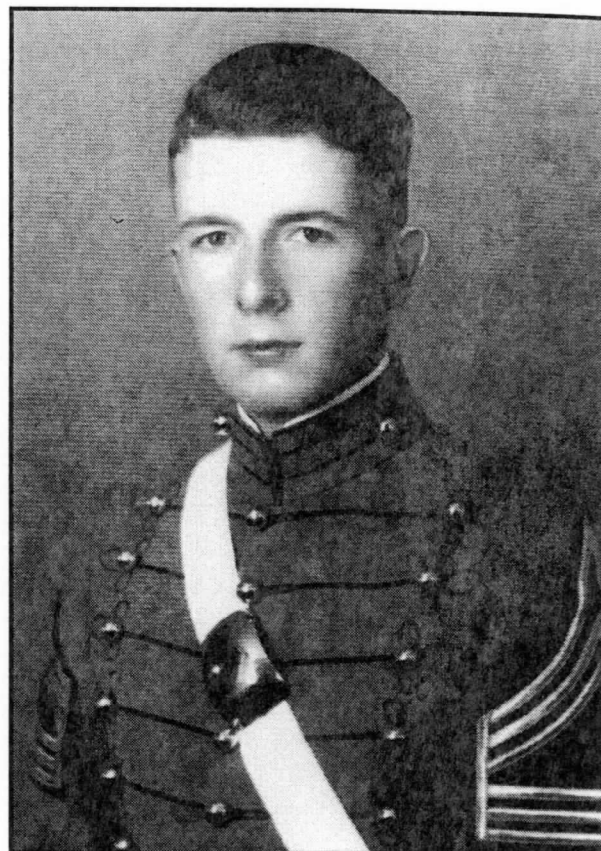
~PART II~ ALLEN WILLIS RUCKER JR.

Allen Willis Rucker Jr. was destined to play an important role for his country.

Allen Willis Rucker, Jr. moved with his parents to Lexington, MA as a young boy. In 1938, he was enrolled in the 8th grade at Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, PA. He went to Valley Forge for the five remaining years of his secondary education, becoming an outstanding cadet, and graduated in June of 1943. He enrolled at Harvard University, but enlisted in the U.S. Army, entering service after he graduated from high school.

While at Valley Forge, Allen Jr. was an average student but excelled in debate, sports and music, winning several awards in these areas. He planned to continue his education at Harvard and Harvard Business School, joining his father in The Eddy-Rucker-Nickels Company. Because of the war, he entered the Army and was inducted 27 May 1943 in Philadelphia, PA before his graduation. He reported for active duty 28 June 1943 at Fort Devens, MA and was made a corporal. Allen Jr. was selected to go to Officers Candidate School and was sent to Fort Benning, GA. He decided he should go overseas instead. He resigned OCS and was sent to Florida and Texas for training in armored infantry.

Allen Jr. was sent to France in 1944 from Scotland. He fought in the front lines from the beginning, going from France into Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. He was wounded during the Battle of Bastogne (the "Bulge"), but returned to active duty in two months. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant and assigned to the 50th Armored Infantry Battalion, 6th Armored Division, 3rd Army. Allen Jr. received the Combat Infantryman Badge and Purple Heart, and was then awarded the Bronze Star Medal in December 1944 for heroism in battle.



Allen Willis Rucker, Jr.
at Valley Forge Military Academy

He entered Germany in February 1945, being the leader of a group of armored half-track vehicles. On 7 April 1945, his unit was assigned to repulse a counterattack by German armored units on the town of Wachstedt. Allen led his men to attack, clearing the town of the enemy, and then pursued the German forces as they retreated, he being in the lead armored half-track. A German self-propelled cannon was fired directly at his vehicle, with the shell exploding in the vehicle, killing his driver and Allen Jr. He was buried at Margraten Cemetery in Holland, only 20 years old, having been killed a month before Germany surrendered. His body was re-interred at Arlington National Cemetery in 1949.

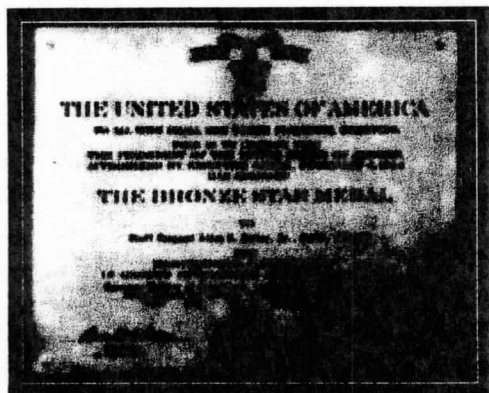
For gallantry in action, Allen Jr. was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal. The award reads in part: "Armed only with a sub-machine gun, Staff Sergeant Rucker fearlessly charged an

enemy machine gun position, after first getting his squad under cover. He then led his men in clearing the town and in the pursuit of enemy infantry and self-propelled guns through a woods beyond... His personal courage and conspicuous gallantry, at the cost of his own life, was an inspiration to his men."

In honor of his son, Allen Rucker gave a building, Rucker Hall, to Valley Forge Military Academy. Allen Jr.'s portrait and his military awards and medals are located in this building. He also gave a stained glass window in the Academy Chapel, the window being dedicated to Allen Jr. Each window in this beautiful chapel has a historic theme, with Allen Jr.'s appropriately being the ride of Paul Revere.

In Holland at the Margraten Cemetery, it became the custom of the local girls to "adopt" a grave of a soldier. Allen Jr.'s grave was picked by Gertrude de Faber, also 20 years old. "Gerry" placed flowers on his grave every two weeks, riding her bicycle from where she lived, 18 miles away. In 1947, Gerry came to the U.S. at the invitation of Allen and Elise Rucker, and spent three months with them, seeing a lot of the U.S., and getting to know her foster parents.

Allen Rucker and Allen Rucker Jr. are both at Arlington National Cemetery, in graves side by side. Both men were credits to their country and to the Rucker family.



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CAPT. ANGUS RUCKER HONORED



In front of Capt. Angus Rucker's tombstone:
From left, Ray and Charlotte Beaulieu,
Joyce Gentry, Mike Lyman and Jeannie Robinson

Taylor from Amherst Co., VA; the President of the Rucker Family Society, Jeannie Robinson and her husband, Chuck Robinson; the property owner, Joyce Gentry; a member of the Montpelier NSDAR Chapter and a member of the Madison County Historical Society. Total attending including supporters were 24 people.

Several participated in the ceremony by presenting their research about Captain Rucker. The SAR grave marker and an SAR Chapter wreath were unveiled. A 13 Star American flag was presented by SAR Chapter President Mike Lyman to Charlotte Beaulieu, a direct descendant of Captain Angus Rucker. Despite the rain, it was successful in giving recognition and honor to this great Revolutionary War soldier.

The photo on p.16 shows part of the flat gravestone of Captain Rucker, The SAR Chapter grave marker and a monument erected by the Montpelier Chapter, NSDAR, October 31 1976.

At the 1976 ceremony, there were many Ruckers in attendance and Mary Lee Tucker, a descendant of Capt. Angus Rucker spoke about the Rucker

family. Mrs. Anna Rucker Watson of Ruckersville, VA hosted a reception afterwards.

Captain Angus³ Rucker (Ephraim², Peter¹) was born ca 1753 (age 83 in 1836), in Culpeper County, Virginia, and died 21 Sep 1836 in the 84th year of his age (tombstone). Angus married 1st Jane Allen by whom he had six children. He married 2nd 24 Aug 1806, Madison Co., VA (mar. records), to Mary Susanna Graves, b. 2 Aug 1758. (Sudie Rucker Wood, *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.275-278.)

Angus volunteered for Revolutionary service as a private in 1775, from Culpeper County 24 June, 1777. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Captain John Nicholas's Company under Col. George Gibson. On the 3rd day of July, 1777, he was made Captain of the same regiment, serving until 1780. In 1781 he was appointed Superintendent of a hospital in Chesterfield County, Virginia and served until the surrender (Pension Department, Washington, DC).

Note: Angus Rucker's descendants are eligible to join the *Society of the Cincinnati* by the "Law of 1854," whereby all officers of the Revolution were made eligible to belong to the society. He and his brother, Elliot Rucker are the only Ruckers eligible for that distinguished society which only has one descendant per ancestor as a member.



Capt. Angus Rucker's gravestone

MY FEELINGS EXACTLY

By Mel Oshens

(From a West Virginia Genealogy Site)

Contributed by Carol Geaslen

They think that I should cook and clean,
and be a model wife.
I tell them it's more interesting
to study Grandpa's life.

They simply do not understand why
I hate to go to bed.
I'd rather do two hundred years
of research work instead.

Why waste the time we have on earth
just snoring and asleep?
When we can learn of ancestors
that sailed upon the deep?

We have Priests, Rabbis, lawmen, soldiers,
more than just a few.
And yes, there's many scoundrels,
and a bootlegger or two.

How can a person find this life
an awful drudge or bore?
When we can live the lives of
all those folks who came before?

A hundred years from now of course,
no one will ever know,
Whether I did laundry, but they'll see
our Tree and glow...

'Cause their dear old granny left for them,
for all posterity,
Not clean hankies and the like,
but a finished family tree!

My home may be untidy,
'cause I've better things to do...
I'm checking all the records
to provide us with a clue.

Old great granny's pulling roots and
branches out with glee,
Her clothes ain't hanging out to dry,
she's hung up on the Tree!!!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BERTHA ("Birdie") RUCKER

From Dolores ("LoLo") Westrich
<westrich@jps.net>

I am seeking information about my grandmother, who—regrettably—was not one to discuss her family background in any way. Her features were those of a Native American so younger family members have always supposed that she had some Indian blood in her background and that, as was customary in years past, she was ashamed of this and didn't want to discuss it.

At any rate, all I know about my grandmother's youth is that her maiden name was Rucker, sometimes spelled Rooker; that she had a brother who became a mining engineer, but whose given name I do not know; and one sister Mary, who was reputedly extraordinarily beautiful. Bertha always claimed that red hair ran in her family. I seem to have the memory of someone telling me that her father was a small man with red hair.

My grandmother's name was Bertha, but she was often called "Birdie." She was probably born in the 1870's. Birdie was dark haired, dark eyed, and had a swarthy complexion and features that resembled those of a Native American (especially in her senior years when, according to my brother, her face matched that on an old Indian head penny). She was a very interesting person, a liberated woman if there ever was one, highly brilliant, daring and adventuresome.

Bertha studied optometry in Chicago, Illinois. She became, in fact, the first lady optometrist in the United States, in which role she traveled much in the western states, especially, Wyoming, fitting glasses to cowboys, and other motley characters. She literally feared nothing.

As a young woman or teenager, Bertha lived in Arkansas. Her first child (my father), however, was born in Kentucky, and, for this reason (assuming she went to be with relatives at this time), I have always suspected that she may have been born in Kentucky. My uncle (my father's brother), told me that she spent her youth in New Orleans.

For the last twenty years of her life she lived most of the time in Illinois, practicing her profession in several different little towns in the southern part of the state. During at least twenty years of her professional life she was using the surname of her last husband, a certain Mr. Harmon—about whom I know nothing whatever except that their marriage was probably of short duration and that no children were born of that union. Her two sons, my father and my uncle, were born of an earlier and likewise short-lived union (common law, I suspect) with a much older and very wealthy cotton plantation owner in Arkansas.

If I recall rightly, Bertha died in the 1950's. When she passed away she was under the care of my uncle who lived in West Frankfort, Illinois, and who had placed her in a nursing home nearby—probably in the neighboring town of Marion, Illinois.

I am hoping that some other member of the Rucker Family Society can help me trace the heritage of this interesting Rucker who was my grandmother.

P.S. I have just recently begun my genealogical safari.

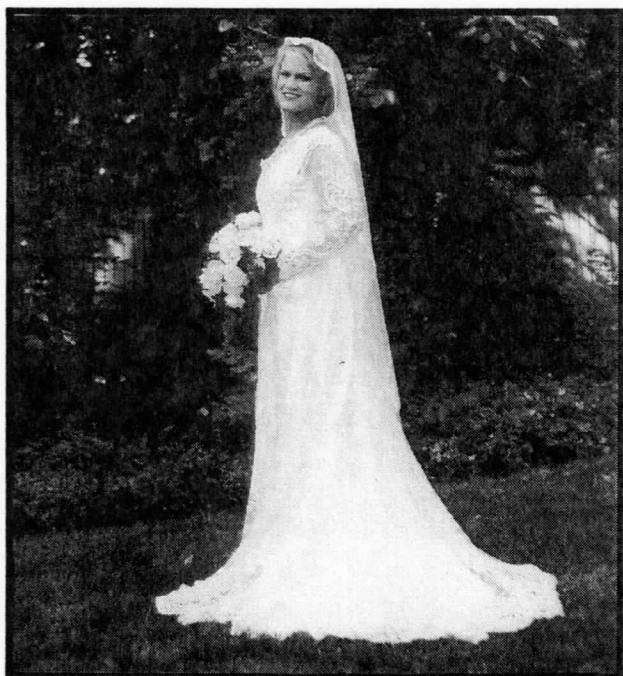
EDITOR'S NOTE: Birdie was probably of Irish descent. Her father had red hair and it is noted that older Irish women had complexions and features that resembled those of Native Americans.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

May 19, 2001 was the date of the marriage of Miss Elizabeth "Townshend" Addison to Alton "David" Fonville III. Townshend is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Dunham Addison. The bride's Rucker lineage is through her mother Marion Lee Wood Addison (Garland⁸ Ambrose Wood, Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹) and (Wm. B.'s wife Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹).

The wedding took place at St. Stephen's Church, Richmond, Virginia with a reception held afterwards at the home of the bride's parents. It was a lovely evening with perfect weather, delicious food and lovely music for dancing.

Townshend graduated from the University of Georgia and is a resource manager of IXL in Atlanta. David is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, VA. He is a senior copywriter for MCSi in Atlanta where they will live.



Townshend Addison Fonville
Wearing the antique Brussels lace wedding gown worn by her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

Jeannie ~ alogy

Another Legend of Peter Rucker, Immigrant

In the Biography of Rev. James Rucker, from the 1882 *History of DeWitt Co, Illinois*, submitted by Cindi Bonney Meyer, is another legend of Peter Rucker's arrival. It is dated 1882, long before Sudie Rucker Wood and Edythe Whitley wrote their genealogies:

"Tradition says that a person named Rucker came from Alsace, France, to America, contemporaneous with John Smith, was shipwrecked off Cape Hatteras, and swam ashore, a distance of seven miles, carrying with him a bottle of French brandy; that he settled in Amherst county, Virginia, and from him sprang the honored family of Rucker, now scattered throughout much of the Union."

We know Peter Rucker arrived in 1700 with French Huguenots (there is a record of a shipwreck at Jamestown in 1700). Could our immigrant ancestor have come from Alsace-Lorraine or did he come from Germany, hooking up with Huguenots on the way?

Most Huguenots came to Virginia by way of Britain. There are records of these Huguenots in the Court of Canterbury and the Old Records Office on Chancery Lane. Is anyone willing to search these records and report back to us?

As far as we know, there is no record of Peter Rucker in Britain. The ship may have stopped there, but he probably came straight to America. Did he bring a bottle of brandy or did he float ashore on a barrel of rum? Legends of Peter Rucker's arrival abound, and they make great reading.

Alice J. Rucker and Dr. W. L. Suggett

Submitted by Cindi B. Meyer

In the Clay County, Illinois History listed under the city of Flora, was this entry on Dr. W. L. Suggett. Many thanks to Cindi Meyer, who is researching on her travels of America.

"He was married in Louisville, Kentucky June 4, 1872 to Miss Alice J Rucker, of Spencer County, Kentucky where she was born July 4, 1855. She is the daughter of Dr. George W. and Julia Bennett Rucker.

"They have two interesting children, viz: Orril L. Suggett born May 13, 1873 and Virgil O. Suggett, born December 17, 1878. The older son, though but ten years old, is a complete master of the science of telegraphy, and has charge of the Baltimore & Ohio Company's office at Flora. He is probably the youngest operator in the State, if indeed there is another in any State so young, who assumes the entire duties of an office."

President's Note:

It is time to renew your membership for 2001 if you have not already done so. We appreciate your support and hope you will send in your dues very soon. The first number on your mailing label is the year through which you have paid, the second number is your membership number. If it says 00, this will be your last newsletter.

The Rucker board meeting this year will be held September 30, 2001 at Kansas City, MO. Material has been sent out to board members and reunion committee. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. My address is on p.12.

The Family Profile on Allen W. Rucker Sr. and Jr. is appropriate for this issue because of their military service. June 6, 2001 was the dedication of the marker in Bedford, Virginia to commemorate D-Day. The marker was placed in Bedford because of the many soldiers from Bedford killed there. There were no Ruckers from Bedford who died there, but the memorial was designed by a Rucker descendant.

Jeannie



Please make your membership check payable to The Rucker Society and send to OUR TREASURER:

Mrs. Leslie B. Cabral, Treasurer

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Greenacres, FL 33463

E-mail <LeslieCab@aol.com>

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Who was Richard E. Rucker?

Cecillia L. (Cox) Ostermeyer submitted the photo at right of herself and husband John David Ostermeyer dressed in pioneer costume. Cecillia is the daughter of Opal (Corum) Cox daughter of Maude Alin (Rucker) Corum, daughter of William Henry Rucker, son of Richard Thomas Rucker, son of Richard Edwin Rucker, born 1829 in Hart County, Kentucky.

Richard E.'s father has eluded his ancestors for about 40 years. The only thing known is that his mother's name was Martha (from the 1850 census). Richard served in the Civil War. He was a farmer in Green Co., KY. He was married 1st to Harriet Thomas McCorkle and had nine children. His 2nd wife was Susan Burd Whitman Amos by whom he had two children.

If anyone can identify Richard Edwin Rucker's ancestors, please let me or the editor know. From Cecillia L. Ostermeyer, submitted via the internet. <ostrmyr@greenhills.net>



Cecillia L. (Cox) and John David Ostermeyer
In Pioneer Costume



THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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