



# the Rucker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

Number 3

September 2001

### ***A SKETCH OF MY WAR EXPERIENCES***

***By William Ambrose  
Rucker<sup>2</sup>***

Written in 1920, at the age of 80  
at the request of his granddaughter, Jean Wood<sup>3</sup>

*At Amherst Court House, Virginia,  
Company E was organized, April 1, 1861, and  
mustered into service in the Va. Forces on April  
17<sup>4</sup>. We were encamped near Lynchburg a few  
days, from there we were sent to Fairfax Court-  
House to do patrol picket duty. (Con't on next page)*



### **IN MEMORIAM**

James Roderick Mason or "Rod" as he was affectionately known had reached his coveted age of 80 when he passed away August 29, 2001.

Rod was one of the earliest supporters of the Rucker Family Society (RFS). He on the reunion committee in 1990 and mailed out the notice of the meeting in Amherst County when the RFS was officially organized. He was unanimously elected its first president and served from 1990 until 1994. He remained a member of the board until his death.

Rod was born in Roanoke, VA June 16, 1921 and raised in Hagerstown, MD. He was a chemical engineering graduate of John Hopkins University and began his career during World War II at Oak Ridge, TN where he worked on development of the atomic bomb. (Continued on p.24)

#### Table of Contents

W. A. Rucker's War Experiences. . . . .	p.21-23
In Memoriam. . . . .	p.21,24-26
Five James M. Ruckers . . . . .	p.23
Jeannie-alogy . . . . .	p.25-26
Another James M. Rucker . . . . .	p.26
Queries from the Internet . . . . .	p.26-27
60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary . . . . .	p.28
Vance Rucker, Mini-profile . . . . .	p.28
New Rucker Book . . . . .	p.29
President's Note . . . . .	p.29
Photo Corner . . . . .	p.30

*The Rucker Family Society Newsletter*  
is published quarterly--Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

**Editor & President:**

Jean B. Robinson  
304 Charmian Road  
Richmond, VA 23226  
1-804-358-3185  
<ruckerfs@erols.com>

**Annual Membership**

\$7.00 individual  
\$5.00 institutional

Copyright 2001. All Rights reserved

*How well I remember my first view of the enemy, their forces were moving on a parallel road to us, about a quarter of a miles from us, their bands were playing, it was a beautiful military sight.*

*At Centerville, the enemy came up to one of our outposts, there was skirmish, a few shots exchanged, and the enemy retreated. Our boys were rewarded with some trophies, the Union Army officers frequently took their women friends with them in the rear of the army, this was not permitted in the Southern Army. Walter Fuquay, one of my comrades, returned with a hoop-skirt, remarking, "The bird has flown."*

*From April the 17, 1862, the most important battle that I was in, was the Battle of Bull Run, near Manassas, Va.*

*May 24, 1862, I was detailed to go to Gordonsville, with some prisoners of war who were being sent to Richmond to be imprisoned.*

*On my return, I joined our cavalry in an engagement with the enemy in an orchard near Cedarville, in the Valley of Va. It was in this engagement that the handsome Captain John Fletcher<sup>s</sup> and his brother Clinton Fletcher, both from Upperville, Va. were killed at the same time. At this time our great Stonewall Jackson had all the Union forces retreating.*

*We spent a night at Martinsburg, and it was there one night, that I assisted our wonderful woman spy, Belle Boyd, to mount her horse. She*

*rode off into the darkness, carrying [sic] our dispatches, my admiration for her, has not been lessened, with the passing of years, for I know her to have been as brave, as she was beautiful, and a great help to the Southern Cause.*

*The next day our regiment went to the Old Stone Church, two miles [west] of Harper's Ferry, where we did out post picket duty. I remember I was ordered to take possession of a cherry tree, out in a wheat field, overlooking the breast works of the enemy. We had a cannon at the old church, in full view of the enemy. One of the enemy was very daring, and would mount the breast works, and wave and jeer at our cannoneer. After this was done over and over again, our cannoneer got the proper range, and the brave young enemy's life was lost. On our return thro' Winchester, General Bank's Army had retreated, leaving their Sutler's outfit. You can well imagine how the Confederates immediately took possession of everything. The dress goods was sent back home as gifts to the widows, mothers and sisters of the boys. I think it was the next day that we were encamped in an old orchard, and were asleep, when our lovable and gallant Col. Mumford, came in person and awakened the command. We started for Strasburg on the double quick. It was a dark and cloudy night, our brigade was in charge of Col. Richard Dulaney of Upperville, Va. who was badly wounded in the arm, by the cavalry charge of the enemy in this engagement. The Union forces were driven back. We rested until the following evening, when the enemy again appeared near New Market. They were again halted, and our*

*c o m m a n d  
moved on to  
Harrisonburg,  
where we rested  
a day. General  
Jackson kept*

*the three Union Armies on the run. He outwitted them every time. We then went to Cross Keys where we met the Union Armies. It was there I remember a Union officer who was making a charge, sword in hand. His men failed to follow*

William A. Rucker's account  
of his war adventures during  
The War Between The States

him, he was forced to surrender, his first words were "Take me to Tom Jackson." They had been college mates at West Point. It was James Jones, of my company of cavalry, that took him to General Jackson.

General Jackson, ordered Col. Mumford promoted General, at General Ashby's death.

About this time, our wagon trains were on the road toward Staunton, I was well mounted, so was detailed to go and have them turned back to Port Republic, some time before midnight. I overtook them, and delivered my message. On my return next morning, I reported to General Jackson and found him on the bridge, in full view of the combat, in the valley just east of South River, for a few minutes, I looked on the scene, but I was protected from the enemy's bullets. It was a wonderful sight to see the enemy in full retreat, by this act, proclaiming "Stonewall" Jackson, "Invincible."

This practically ended the Valley Campaign. Shortly all were on the march to join "Mars Bob Lee." With "Stonewall" leading his men, [we] felt that their Heavenly Father had caused a pure and noble Christian to marshall [sic] one of the bravest armies ever marshalled [sic] on earth.

I am nearly eight-one years of age, I have written this sketch for my granddaughter, Jean Wood, from memory.



Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry.

#### End Notes:

1. William A. Rucker joined the army at the beginning of the War Between the States and was sent at once to Fairfax. He was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Company E, under Col. Radford, later under Col. Thomas E. Mumford. The original officers were Edgar Whitehead as captain; Thomas Whitehead and Valentine Rucker, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants, and William Ambrose Rucker, sergeant of Company E. William A. Rucker was in both battles of Manassas and in the Valley Campaign under Stonewall Jackson.

2. William<sup>6</sup> Ambrose Rucker has two lines of Rucker ancestry. 1<sup>st</sup> William<sup>5</sup> B., George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup> and

2<sup>nd</sup> Wm. B.'s wife Mary<sup>6</sup> Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup> (See Wood, p.52-53).

3. W. A. Rucker's granddaughter who requested the story was Jean Wood, the mother of Jean B. Robinson, current president of the Rucker Family Society. W.A. Rucker's daughter was Sudie Rucker Wood, the author of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*.

4. W. A. Rucker was born 20 Aug 1840 in Amherst Co., VA and was 21 years of age at enlistment.

5. The Fletcher brothers were cousins of W.A. Rucker's wife, see Wood, p.386-388. John Fletcher died 23 May 1862, leading a cavalry charge at Bucktown Station; and Clinton Fletcher died 25 Apr 1863 at Green Gap near Mooresfield.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Five James M. Ruckers

While researching for proof that her son's ancestor, James Marion Rucker served in the Civil War, Carole L. Pannhoff found five men who served in the Confederacy with the name, James M. The James M. Rucker that Carole is searching was born in McMinn Co., TN. His cousin James Wheeler headed the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, Tennessee.

James M. Rucker—Arkansas 12<sup>th</sup> Inf., Co. E, Pvt.  
James M. Rucker—Georgia 27<sup>th</sup> Inf., Co. G., Pvt.  
James M. Rucker—Mississippi 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Res., Co. F.

James M. Rucker—Tennessee 31<sup>st</sup> Inf. Co. K., Pvt  
James M. Rucker—Texas 24<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Co. E., Sgt.

Can anyone identify these men? Carole would like proof that James M. Rucker of Macon Co., Illinois served in the Confederacy. Her son wants to join the Blue and Gray. Write to Carole L. Pannhoff, 223 29<sup>th</sup> S.W., Mason City, Iowa 50401-6627.

Note: In Ron Payne's "A Listing of Ruckers Who Served in the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America," some of the men were listed by initials as J. M. Rucker.

## IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 21

Rod Mason transferred to the headquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission, now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1959. He retired from there in 1976 as deputy director of the division of state license relations.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Louise Burford Mason, two daughters from his first marriage, Karen Siders of Phoenix and Wendy Manzi of Grasonville, MD, a brother and three grandchildren. Rod and Lou lived for many years in Bethesda, MD moving two years ago to a retirement community at Greenspring Village in Springfield, VA.

Rod was a member of the Bethesda Kiwanis Club, Fourth Presbyterian Church and the advisory board of the Village Church, a nondenominational church at Greenspring. He also belonged to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and square dance groups that included the Mid Atlantic Challenge Association and Washington Area Square Dancers Association.

Rod and Lou were the subjects of the "Family Profile" of the RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 4, Nov 1991. Lou<sup>9</sup> Burford Mason has three lines: Maggie<sup>8</sup> Russell Rucker, Robert<sup>7</sup> B., James<sup>6</sup> A., Willis<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>; Maggie's husband William<sup>8</sup> Nelson Burford, James<sup>7</sup> R., James<sup>6</sup> N., Ambrose<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Mary<sup>4</sup> Rucker, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>; and Robert B.'s wife, Minnie<sup>8</sup> V. Burford, George<sup>7</sup> T., Tinsley<sup>6</sup> D., Daniel<sup>5</sup> L., Mary<sup>4</sup> Rucker, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Talmadge Ray Rucker**, age 70, died May 22, 1998 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was born May 29, 1927 to Rather Tydell Rucker and Sallie Carter Taylor. He is listed on page 128 of Alice Rucker Allen's *Rucker Heritage*. His lineage

is: Rather<sup>9</sup> T., Samuel<sup>8</sup> T., John<sup>7</sup> H. C., Thomas<sup>6</sup> W., Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

On Rucker's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1944, after graduating from Madisonville High School, he enlisted in ROTC. In 1987 after 43 years of active and inactive service, he retired with the rank of Colonel. His professional career of being an electrical engineer placed him in Tennessee and Indiana. After retirement, he and his wife Joyce returned to her home state of Tennessee.

Rucker was greatly interested in children's literacy and did volunteer work in the schools of Sparta. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Gallagher Rucker of Sparta; daughter Kathy Walczak and husband Tom of Belleville, IL; granddaughters Kristi Hassinger and husband Andy of Indianapolis, IN; and Dusty Walczak of Evansville, IL; two sisters Maedell Rucker Reid and husband Buster of Madisonville, TX; and Ann McAnally and husband Monroe of Jacksonville, TX. Rucker was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Madge; his mother and father and brother, Marvin T. Rucker.

Military services were conducted on Memorial Day, May 25, 1998. His obit in the newspaper (probably the Sparta, TN paper) said "Rucker was truly a patriot of his country." He was buried in Highland Cemetery, Sparta, TN. Submitted by his sister, Maedell Rucker Reid of Madisonville, TX. (The Editor sends her apologies for not printing his obituary in 1998 when she sent it.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Thelma Swayne**, age 97 died September 3, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband Herman J. Swayne and son H. J. Swayne Jr. She is survived by son Milton R. Swayne of Houston; and daughters Shirley Irene Taylor of Conroe, TX, and Beverly J. Teel of New Waverly, TX and 15 grandchildren and many great and great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother J. B. Gantenbein and sisters Florence Bain of Houston and Dolly Boultt of Monroe, LA.



Thelma Gantenbein, born and resided in Houston, Texas, was the daughter of John William Gantenbein and Katie<sup>8</sup> Belle Williams (Margaret<sup>7</sup> G. Rusk, Mary<sup>6</sup> C. Rucker, Lewis<sup>5</sup> Dawson, John<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>, Wood, p.38). Her Obituary was submitted by Janelle G. Kister, Houston, TX.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sharon Leigh Johnson Trent**, age 50 died June 2, 2001 at Lynchburg, Virginia. She resided in Madison Heights in Amherst County. Sharon was born June 6, 1950 to Mary Massie Millner Johnson and the late Carrol Arnold Johnson. She was a graduate of Amherst County High School and was retired from C.V.T.C. She was the wife of Raymond A. Trent.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Raymond Allen Trent and mother, Mary M. Johnson; one daughter and son-in-law, Tanya R. and William Angell; two grandsons, Montana Dakota Ray and Jakob Hunter Angell; and one brother and sister-in-law, Keith Wayne and Alice K. Johnson.

Sharon attended the 1990 Rucker Reunion in Amherst Co., VA and took the group photo. She descends from Capt. Jesse Richeson who married 1<sup>st</sup> Amelia<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>, Wood, p.165) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Catharine ("Kitty") Sledd. Sharon may be a descendant of his second wife.

She was buried at Briarwood Cemetery in Amherst Co., VA. Obit from *The News and Advance*, Lynchburg, VA, June 5, 2001, was submitted by her mother Mary M. Johnson.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Howard Murell "Red" Rucker**, 70, died June 25, 2001 at Augusta Medical Center in Fishersville, Virginia. He was born Aug. 6, 1930, in Lynchburg, a son of Eva Mae and Houston M. Rucker. (William<sup>7</sup> M., James<sup>6</sup> A., Willis<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>,

Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

He was a Marine veteran and retired from Hemmingway Transport. He was employed as a night watchman. "Red" was a baseball player who trained with the Red Sox, and was a catcher for the Waynesboro Generals. He also participated in the Grottoes league and was an avid gardener.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Matthews Rucker of Waynesboro; a daughter, Nancy Via and her husband Larry of Waynesboro; and two granddaughters, Ashley Nicole Gentry and Emily Brooke Via. Also four sisters, Bernice Pearson, Nellie Schminkie, Irene Russell, and Lois Bagby, all of Lynchburg. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Lena Rucker. He was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg.

Obit from the *News Virginian*, Waynesboro, VA, June 27, 2001, submitted by Anne Rucker Glover of Waynesboro, VA; and from *The News and Advance*, Lynchburg, VA submitted by Mary M. Johnson of Madison Heights, VA.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JEANETTE ALODY

Sudie Rucker Wood, p.104 said Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Rucker (Ambrose<sup>4</sup> Jr., Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) married 24 Apr 1820 in Bedford Co., VA to James W. Rucker and moved to Tennessee. She does not identify James W. Rucker. She does say that the will of Andrew Rucker names a son James. The editor cannot find any Andrew Rucker and she thinks James W. Rucker was the son of George<sup>4</sup> Rucker (John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), see Wood, p.40. Sudie lists James as a son of George, but gives no further information. Query: Was James W. Rucker who married Elizabeth Rucker, the son of George?

Both James W. Rucker and Elizabeth Rucker lived in Bedford Co., Virginia and were third cousins. Elizabeth lived in the northern part of the county

and James lived in the southern part.

The Editor heard from Marianna Foringer, Los Angeles, CA, in 1989 and 1997. She descends from John Rucker, son of James Rucker of Texas. John, her ancestor, married in Tennessee and moved to Texas. Sudie Rucker Wood said James had moved to Tennessee, but the Editor can find no census records there for him.

The 1850 Rusk Co., Texas Census records (submitted by Alice Rucker Allen of Austin, TX) has the following:

James W. Rucker, age 53, b. VA, farmer, \$1000; Elizabeth 48; Jonathan 25; James 23; Whitfield 19; Nelson 11; Mary 23; Susan 8.

Also listed in 1850 Rusk Co., TX were:

George C. Rucker, age 30, b. VA

Robert D. Rucker, age 21, b. VA; Mary Jane, age 18, b. TN.

Clues reveal James Rucker, son of George had a brother Jonathan and a sister Susan. There is no Whitfield or Nelson in either side of the family. Was this the same family? By chance, was Mary, age 23 in the 1850 census, the wife of Jonathan or James? If anyone has any information on James W. Rucker please notify the Editor.

## **Another James M. Rucker**

The following was submitted by Ruth McBride, Amherst Co., VA, 2001. Obituaries from the Augusta County Genealogical Society [The date 1 Jan 1944 was written in ink]:

*"Marine from Bath Is Reported Dead"*  
Washington, Dec. 31—(AP)—

*One Virginian was listed as dead and another wounded today by the Navy department which announced 157 casualties of the United States Naval forces.*

*In the announcement—which covers the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—20 men*

*were reported dead, 133 wounded and four missing. None of these casualties had been previously released.*

*Pvt. James M. Rucker, Marine Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Rucker, of Millboro Springs, Bath County, was listed as dead.*

*The wounded man was Pvt. John L. Sealock, Marine Corps Reserve, son of Mrs. Bessie Sealock, 302 South Kent Street, Winchester.*

*The casualties announced today bring the total reported to next of kin since Dec. 7, 1941 to 33,300.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Queries from the Internet**

### **William H. Rucker born 1827 in Indiana**

William H. Rucker, b. 27 Oct 1827 in Indiana, d. 19 Sep 1904 married 1<sup>st</sup> 25 Apr 1850, Nancy Ellen Chefs b. 4 Apr 1835, d. 25 Apr 1855.

1. One daughter, Nancy Deliah [sic] Rucker, b. 25 Nov 1851, d. 25 Aug 1852.

William married 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 Jul 1854, Nancy A. Osburn, b. 19 Jul 1834, d. 27 May 1892, daughter of Stephen Osburn and Charlotte Shintaffer. They had five children:

1. Hannah Leora Rucker, b. 7 Sep 1855, d. 21 Oct 1855.

2. Joshua Stephen Rucker, b. 30 Apr 1857, d. 16 Sep 1860.

3. Phillip S. Rucker, b. 3 Apr 1860, d. 24 Mar 1909.

4. Simms R. Rucker, b. 15 Aug 1862, d. 23 Nov 1870.

5. Charlotte "Lottie" Nancy, b. 4 Jul 1865, d. 19 Mar 1923.

Son, Phillip S. Rucker was reportedly the 1<sup>st</sup> Territorial Governor of Indian Territory, and was said to have weighed over 300 lbs. Have not been able to confirm either of these. Daughter,

Charlotte "Lottie" married Charles Homer Norris had three children.

Did Phillip Rucker marry, and if so, who? Were there any children? Any information would be appreciated. From Marilyn Harvey, 14 Jul 2001 <mjharvey@swbell.net>. Plus the Editor would like to know William's lineage.

## **James Rucker of Estill County, KY**

Leven Gray m. Cinderella Rucker on 24 Sep 1836 in Madison County, Kentucky. Cinderella was the daughter of James Rucker of Estill Co., KY.

After James's death, she inherited 1/7th of his estate which included property on Station Camp Creek and which she and her husband sold to Charles Rice.

Can anyone tell me about this RUCKER family?  
From Jody McKenney Thomson, 13 July 2001.  
<jodythompson@compuserve.com>

The Editor found no Rucker entries in Madison Co., KY in the 1850 census and she did a page by page search. Cinderella is such an unusual name. The marriage records, Madison Co., KY said Cinderella's guardian was John Rucker. Was this John Rucker, b. 1 Jun 1811; m. 2 Feb 1834, Madison Co., KY, to Arthusa Jane Todd and found in Edythe Whitley's book on p.102. (Correction: John born in 1811 could not have been the son of Stepleton Rucker born eleven years earlier, ca 1800 and married 15 Dec 1838 as related in Whitley's book, p.101-102.)

## **George<sup>4</sup> Allen Rucker**

George<sup>4</sup> Allen Rucker (Angus<sup>3</sup>, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. ca 1798, Madison Co., VA; m. 7 Jul 1821, Anna Marie Hunton. Sudie Rucker Wood, in *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.283, said her name was Anna Marie Vawter, but the Editor thinks

Mrs. Wood was mistaking this couple for George Rucker and Marie Vawter, son of Elliott, on p.286. The marriage records of Madison Co., VA showed George A. Rucker married to Ann M. Hunton, 7 Jul 1821.

George and Anne Rucker sold their land in Madison Co., VA in 1839. They were listed in the 1830 and 1840 census records with 5 sons and 2 daughters. Wood listed one child, Anne Maria Rucker who actually was the daughter of Elliott Rucker. What happened to George Allen Rucker, his wife and children?

In June of 2001 there was a query on the internet from Gina Watchous of Tulsa, OK, <planetgina@aol.com>. She was searching for the parents of Angus A. Rucker. She sent the following tombstones inscriptions from Arrow Rock cemetery in Saline County, Missouri:

George A. Rucker/ b.1798 VA d.1 Oct 1844

Wife: Anne M./ b.1800 VA d.1844

George A. Rucker (Jr.)/ b.1827 VA d.18 Aug 1856

Angus A. Rucker/ b.1820 VA d. 1865

Angus's wife: Leah White Fry/ b.1828 VA d. 30 Jul 1871 Saline Co. MO.

Gina suggested that George A. Rucker was probably the father of George Jr. and Angus A. This certainly fits with the Virginia records. And George probably would name a son after his father, Angus Rucker.

Was Angus's middle name Allen, like his father? Gina said Angus A. Rucker married 18 May 1848 at Howard county, Missouri to Leah White Fry and had the following children:

1. Freemont<sup>6</sup> Rucker, b. ca 1849 Howard Co., MO, d. before 1860 census.
2. Claire<sup>6</sup> Bell Rucker, b. ca 1851 Howard Co. MO, d. 1941 Saline Co., MO; m. 1<sup>st</sup> 1871 Saline Co., MO to John Henry McDaniel; m. 2<sup>nd</sup> ca 1883 to William June Cabell.

These children were confirmed by the 1850 and 1860 Missouri census records.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

The 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Howard and Alice Rucker Allen was held Saturday June 30, 2001 at the University of Texas Alumni Center, in Austin, Texas. They were married June 30, 1941 in Abilene.

Their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was written up in the RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 3, Aug 1991, p.1-3 along with a "Family Profile."

Alice has been a board member of the RFS and has been a great help to many people trying to locate their Rucker ancestors. She has published a book on her Rucker family entitled *Rucker Heritage*.

Alice and Howard have four children and nine grandchildren. We wish them many more years of happiness.



Seated in the photo are Howard and Alice Allen  
Standing are their four children: Donald Allen, Wanza A. Grantin, Barbara A. Bend, and Mary Jane A. Phleps



### VANCE RUCKER

#### A Mini-Profile

Vance Rucker, author of the article on Allen Willis Rucker Sr. and Jr. in the June newsletter (RFSN, Vol. 12, No. 2), is the nephew of Allen Sr. William Kirkpatrick "Vance" Rucker, Jr. was born and raised in Bristol VA. His lineage is through his father William<sup>7</sup> K. V. Rucker Sr., Allen<sup>6</sup> T., Isaac<sup>5</sup> M., Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

Vance was a cum laude graduate of Washington & Lee University with a degree in economics. He was a graduate of The Executive Program of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Business Administration. He worked for Burlington Industries for 22 years, serving as director of purchasing. He became vice president and general manager of Krupp International, Inc., opening their office in Charlotte, NC. He then became president of Scragg North America, Inc., also in Charlotte. He served in the U. S. Army.

He is married to Betty S. Rucker and they have two sons, W. Kirk Rucker III and John S. Rucker; and three grandchildren, Lia M. Rucker, Jenifer R. Poteat and her husband David, and Jonathan V. Rucker and his wife, Amy. They also have two great-granddaughters, Sarah Lambert and Samantha Poteat. Vance and Betty live in Greensboro, NC and have a vacation home in Clarksville, Virginia at Merifield.



A New Rucker Book  
***Our Rucker & Balser Heritage***

The Ancestors & Descendants  
of Josiah B. Rucker & Joshua Balser

A new Rucker book has been compiled by A. Jewel Rucker. Jewel has written about many of her ancestors, but mainly about her Rucker and Balser families. She has included many documents, maps, FGS and family photos to enhance her work. Each generation has been well documented.

Jewel's lineage is through her father: Lenville<sup>9</sup> Rucker, Hewey<sup>8</sup>, Frederick<sup>7</sup> W., Josiah<sup>6</sup> B., Samuel<sup>5</sup>, Joel<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. Joel<sup>4</sup> Rucker appears in Sudie Rucker Wood's book, p.230 in Kanawha County in what became West Virginia, but nothing else is said about him. Through the help of a letter from Milton Rucker, the following children were discovered:

Issue by Joel<sup>4</sup> Rucker and his wife, Amy Young:

1. Fielding<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. ca 1794; m. 1<sup>st</sup> ca 1820, Margaret Price; m. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1829, Abigail Newhouse.
2. John<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. ca 1798; m. Aug 1818, Elizabeth Price.
3. Samuel<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. ca 1802; m. 1<sup>st</sup> Dianah \_\_\_\_\_; m. 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 Dec 1830, Christiana Strickland.
4. Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. ca 1806; m. 1<sup>st</sup> 17 Apr 1827, Christeny Strickland; m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1831, Elizabeth Cobb; m. 3<sup>rd</sup> 8 Apr 1854, Nancy Cobb. Unproven, but a possible child:
5. Sarah<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. ca 1799-1801; m. 13 Jul 1825, Edmund Newhouse, b. 16 Dec 1798, son of Henry Newhouse and Elizabeth Claypole. They moved to Marion Co., IN about 1835 (D. B. U-V, p.125-126, Kanawha Co., [W]VA).

Jewel is also editing a family newsletter, called: *Over the Mountain, Across the Creek & Up the Holler*. The cost of the book is \$40.00 and the cost of the newsletter is \$12.00 a year.

Write to A. Jewel Rucker  
P.O. Box 21, Pond Gap WV 25160  
e-mail <JRucker@wvutec.edu>

## President's Note

The Rucker Family Society board meeting to be held September 30, 2001 at Kansas City, MO was canceled as a quorum was not established. The October 2002 meeting will be our first reunion across the Mississippi River. Please plan to attend, and we especially look forward to seeing our western cousins. Becky Fox, our reunion chairman is doing an excellent job in making plans for next year. We will let you know the exact date as soon as possible.

The September 11, 2001 tragedy has affected us all. The horror of witnessing innocent Americans being killed by terrorists will be remembered for the rest of our lives. On that fateful Tuesday morning, I was actually in northern Virginia (near the Pentagon) with my grandson. It was his fourth grade class trip to Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. We immediately returned home without incident, but it was truly a traumatic day.

We are so very sorry about the loss of Rod Mason our first president and current vice-president. We will miss his enthusiasm and eager leadership. In his place, I have appointed Becky Fox to serve until we have an election at our reunion next October.

As a lead article, I felt it would be a good time to print the story of my great-grandfather's Civil War experiences written in his own words. It was written when he was eighty years old so I am sure some of the details are sketchy. W. A. Rucker loved going to the annual Confederate reunions held in Richmond. He attended as a delegate from his division and loved to sing "If you want to have a good time, Join the Cavalry." He was proud to have served with his "beloved chieftain, Robert E. Lee." The photo on page 21 shows him wearing his Confederate army medal. A picture of him at an earlier age is in the frontispiece of Sudie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Family Genealogy*.

Please submit articles or suggestions for the Family Profile to the Editor. When submitting photos for the Photo Corner, please send the original or a good copy (that the Editor can keep). Your original photo will be handled with care and returned as soon as possible. Scanned and xeroxed photographs do not reproduce well enough to be used in the newsletter.

## PHOTO CORNER

### JASON BLAKE AND CATHERINE (RUCKER) BLAKE

#### PHOTO TAKEN CIRCA 1880

Jason Blake, born 3 Sep 1821, died 29 Dec 1898 married 6 May 1841, Monroe County, Ohio to Catherine<sup>5</sup> Rucker (John<sup>4</sup> J., Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), born 9 Aug 1820, died 20 Jan 1884. They were born in Monroe Co., Ohio and lived on the headwaters of Sunfish & Wills Creek, near Summerfield, Ohio. They moved to Benton Co., Iowa, in March of 1852. The Blakes filed on government land 29 Dec 1853 in the area of Belle Plaine, Iowa where they lived and are buried. They had four known children: Ephraim, John, Elizabeth and Daniel. The photo, at right, descended in the family of Elizabeth to her daughter, Julia (Greenlee) Bellamy and grandson, Charles W. Bellamy. It was submitted by Charles W. Bellamy of Carlsbad, CA. He found the photo among his mother's papers and suggests it is the only surviving photo of Catherine and Jason Blake.



## THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



Jean B. Robinson, Editor  
304 Charmian Road  
Richmond, VA 23226

*San Marcos*  
*(760) 471-6665*

First Class Mail

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

03 176  
Mrs. Alice J. Rucker  
13331 Gridley St.  
Sylmar CA 91342-4529

