



# the Rucker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

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### Memories of My Dad Luther Cecil "Gill" Gillespie

by Muriel Gillespie Bryant

My father overcame a childhood without the advantage and guidance of a father to become an outstanding father himself. In honor of the man that I believe was the best father a girl could ever hope for, I would like to share a few stories with you so that you may also know something of the man I love.

It is the opinion of experts that each child grows up differently in a family. One's position due to birth order greatly dictates that person's experiences and relationships with the other members of that family. I know this to be true in our family. My older siblings were born into a family where our father was gone a great deal of the time due to his Naval career, and my mother was busy either working or tending to children.

Raising a total of ten children, takes a lot of time and energy, not to mention those human moments she stole for herself to think about the son that she had to give up for adoption. She also missed her own mother who died very young. She had to figure out how to handle a blended family fairly.

Being a Naval family, we moved often. I attended ten different schools in my 13 years of schooling. I was born at Mare Island Naval Base, Vallejo, CA. We lived in Napa until I was about 18 months at which time we moved to Pearl City, Hawaii. That's where the picture shown here was taken.

Even though I was born while my dad was still in the Navy, he retired within a few years and before my real memories started kicking in. I felt very honored and blessed to have had the close relationship with him that I did. He then worked



Muriel and Gill Gillespie with daughter Muriel at Hawaii, 1959

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for the Army Corp. of Engineers as a Hydro-electric Power Plant Operator until his death. I was 29 years old when he died, and I felt as though someone had literally pulled the net out from under my high-wire act. Sixteen years later I still I miss him as much as I did the day I got that call. Some of these stories, I know he also shared with my siblings, but some I know he only talked about to me. This somewhat upset my mom because he would not even open up to her about them and I wish now that I had paid more attention to the details.

My father was Luther Cecil Gillespie, called "Gill." He was born Jan. 12, 1917, at Plains, NM, and died Jan. 28, 1986, at Heber Springs, AR. [Editor's note: Gill and his first wife, Devonia Snyder Wheaton had three children, one dying at a few days old along with his mother. Gill was married again to Muriel Anna Marie Braun, who had first been married to Victor Baillif and had three children, plus one given up for adoption. Together they had five more children making a combined family of ten.]

Gill was the son of William ("Bill") Garrison Gillespie (b. 26 Apr 1890, Milton Co., GA, d. 10 Feb 1962, Clovis, NM) and Frances Wilbirth Brooks (b. 7 Dec 1900, d. Feb 1987, Choctaw Co., MS). Bill's Rucker lineage is through his mother: Dora<sup>6</sup> Isabell Rucker, William<sup>5</sup> Derrell/

Deryl Rucker, Simeon<sup>4</sup> Bluford Rucker, George<sup>3</sup> Rucker, Thomas<sup>2</sup> Rucker, and Peter<sup>1</sup> Rucker, immigrant (Wood, p.191).

## **MY FAMILY IS FROM THOSE CRABAPPLE, GEORGIA RUCKERS**

I am not sure how the family ended up in New Mexico. I do know that Aunt Jessie (Grandpa Bill's sister) married Doc Lancaster and they lived in Clovis throughout their married life. [Note from the Editor: All the Gillespie siblings moved to Clovis, NM except the oldest daughter Lola who married William "Will" H. Brooks and moved to Choctaw Co., MS.]

My grandfather Bill was rather a wanderer, but considered the New Mexico/Texas area his home. He did live in Mississippi at one point because that is where he met and married my grandmother, Frances, but they then moved to New Mexico. My dad, oldest of Bill & Frances' sons, as well as his three brothers, William, Nolte and Henry, were all born in New Mexico. A fifth son died shortly after birth. It was about this time that my grandmother took the boys and returned to Mississippi.

My grandparents never saw each other after that. My dad told me the following story so often that I feel able to quote him — "We [Dad, his mom, & brothers] lived in one of Uncle Will's shacks, but we were expected to stay on our side of the road. As kids, we were not allowed to bother Uncle Will who, we were told, had 'no time' for the 'mischievous children.' One winter soon after we moved back to Mississippi, a big box arrived from my dad. It was packed full of boots, coveralls, and shirts. I was excited as we were all barefooted and wearing threadbare britches. My mom packed that box back up and sent it back to my dad and told him she and her sons needed nothing from him. I decided right then and there that my pride would never come before the needs of my children."

Growing up dirt poor gave my dad a perspective uncommon for his generation and location of raising. It never made sense to him that as poor as they were, they were still considered “better” than black (‘colored’ then) people who were much better off. My father told me repeatedly, “Never judge a person by how much money they have or what color their skin is. The heart and character is all that matters.” This is a lesson that is firmly implanted in me, and has been passed along to my children. My dad loved to tell jokes. “Laughter is what mattered, and we all needed not to take ourselves too seriously or believe in superiority because of what we happened to be born into.”

I never knew my grandfather, but remember seeing him once when I was small. I was always told that he was of questionable character and even when my dad went to see him, he did so without any of us. My grandmother and I had our differences—too many and too long to go into—but by her death we were very close and I was the only person she would recognize. She once told me that I was the only one who inherited her “spunk”—still don’t know if that was a good thing!!!

(Not proud of this, but since I’m ‘opening the closet’—I told her once—please remember that this was the early 70’s—that if my sisters, brothers, and I were not good enough for her, she could get f——, and I stormed out, swearing never to return. She always had pictures of my two male cousins in her home and despite my parents sending many pictures of us, you would not have known we existed—until I said that. Next visit, my senior picture held the prominent spot on the TV

1937

Photo  
of Gill  
and his  
younger  
brother,  
Henry



and the pictures of my siblings were scattered throughout the house.)

My dad left home at 17 and went to south Texas with a cousin, “Slim” Malone. Dad always joked that he and Slim spent many a night sleeping on a canal bank with “nothing but a thin Mexican girl between them.” Dad later joined the Navy and served 20 years, retiring as a “Gold” Chief (no longer exists—now would be a Master Chief—and is the highest enlisted rank).

He expressed sorrow over the death of his first wife and son, and said “if only I had been there instead out at sea somewhere.” He said that having to turn the care of his two daughters over to their maternal grandmother was very difficult for him. In his grief and state of mind, he was also grateful that she was able to help.

### **GILL SERVED ON THE USS NEVADA AT PEARL HARBOR**

Dad was on the USS Nevada at Pearl Harbor and after a few whiskeys he would tell me about having a bomb come down one of the smoke stacks into the engine room and seeing three of his men blown up. He fortunately was not injured seriously, but the memories of seeing them die never left him. He shared his memories with me of the horrors of war, and tears for those lost flowed freely from him. He loved life in the Navy. It suited his spirit of exploration and adventure. He also had plenty of stories about getting in trouble with the “Old Man” (Admiral or Chief Ship’s Officer) for fraternizing with his men or covering for them. Once, when I asked him why he gave it up, he got very serious and told me, “My kids were growing up without me, I had already missed too much with the older ones and wasn’t going to make the same mistake with you younger ones.” It touched that place in him that grew up without his

father, and he did not want that for his kids.

My dad taught me how to drive on the snowy and icy winter roads of Branson, Missouri, telling me if I could handle that he would never have to worry about me driving. He taught me to change a tire and change the oil, just so I knew how. He took me to get my license at 16, and then took me out for breakfast afterwards.

When my first husband Tom asked my dad for his blessing, he never gave it, and all the way down the aisle, Dad kept telling me that I didn't have to do this, that we could turn around and leave and he would take care of everything. Two years later after Thom, my son, was born, Dad simply said "if you two can do work this good, guess I'll give you my blessing." He told me later, that I could not do better in the child department, but could in the husband department. That Tom wasn't a bad man, just not smart enough to offer me a true partnership in life. Dad was frantic during the birth of Thom because he was born at the same hospital where Dad's first wife and son had died.

[Editor's note: Muriel and Tom Knotwell were divorced and she married Lonnie Pfrommer and they had a son, Denver Arthur Pfrommer. Muriel is now married to Richard Bryant and they live in La Grand, Iowa.]

"Questionable Character," "Prideful," "Mean Spirited," "Stubborn"—whatever they were, they gave me the most wonderful dad in the world. All any of us know is what we saw, and that is often so very different from what is in the heart. So when you ask for a story about my family, I'll say: "They produced three men, my dad, my uncle William and my uncle Nolte (my uncle Henry died young). They gave all they had to their families and tried to abide by God's laws, above all, the one that requires loving others."

Note: this article was edited by Jeannie Robinson. If you would like to correspond with Muriel, her e-mail address is <seekers@marshallnet.com>.

## Gillespie family notes

from D. L. Lancaster at <dllandrjl@prodigy.net>.

My grandmother, Dora I. Rucker, married Joseph Lumpkin Gillespie, in Dec. 1880 at or near Alpharetta, GA where my mother, Jessie V. was born. This family relocated to Ackerman, MS about 1895. I do not know exactly how or why that move was made. They relocated to Delta Co., Texas about 1900 where Joseph L. was a sharecropper and day laborer on road construction. We assume he was chasing work.

Joseph L. died in 1910 in Delta Co., TX. Dora, through court action, obtained legal custody of the minor children. About 1915 Dora moved to Quay County, New Mexico where she homesteaded 360 acres in the northern part of the county. She was severely diabetic but continued working the farm, mostly alone, until her death in 1922. She and her daughter Myrtle are buried at the Plains, NM.

My parents, Jessie V. Gillespie and William M. Lancaster married May 31, 1906. They had a small piece of property at Clem, Delta Co., TX where William practiced medicine. Some time prior to 1909 William was diagnosed with tuberculosis which it assumed he contracted while in medical school. At that time the treatment of choice was a high dry climate for the patient.

William ("Doc") and Jessie ("Ma") and another family (neighbor) migrated to New Mexico. They leased a railroad freight car to transport their livestock and machinery. The men rode in the boxcar and the ladies and children rode in a passenger car. The train took them as far as Bovina, TX. From this rail head they traveled by horse drawn wagon almost one hundred miles to Plains, Quay Co., New Mexico.

William and Jessie homesteaded on 360 acres about two miles north of Plains on the rim of the escarpment. They lived in a "half dugout" which was about 12' X 14'. The claim was proved up in 1913. Jessie kept the home site while Doc traveled by horseback to practice medicine and to serve the many homesteaders over a wide area.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### WHAT HAPPENED TO BENJAMIN RUCKER?

Answer to Query of the Quarter  
in the last newsletter

What happened to **Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Rucker**, the son of Col. Ambrose<sup>3</sup> Rucker (John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Tinsley found in Studie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.113. Benjamin was born in Amherst Co., Virginia, ca 1782 and married there 22 Nov 1803 to Sallie Harris (marriage bond, Amherst Co., VA, Wit: Ambrose Rucker and William Lee Harris). [Note: Wood, p.113 said Benjamin married in 1813, but the Amherst Co. Marriage Records show 1803.] There were no further records for Benjamin and Sallie in Amherst County.

Marie Thurmon-Vann (from the Rucker Family Forum) submitted the following query: In the 1830 census in Haywood Co., TN, there was a Benjamin age 50-60 wife 40-50; also a Berry Rucker age 30-40. Marie asked: Who was Benjamin and was Berry his son?

With help from Ron Payne and the Tennessee census records I found the following:

In the 1840 Haywood Co., TN census, Benjamin was living next door to Ambrose, indicating they were father and son:

Benj. Rucker males 1 (20-30) 1 (50-60) females 1 (50-60);

Ambrose Rucker males 1 (30-40) females 2 (-5) 1 (5-10) 1 (20-30)

Note: there was also an Ira H. Rucker.

1850 Haywood Co., TN, p.17A, Dist. 8:  
Rucker, R., age 66 (male), Farming, b. VA; Sarah, age 67, b. VA; Sol? 29, b. VA; Virginia 24, b. VA; M. S. S., 2 (male), b. TN; Charles, 2/12, b. TN. [Was this Benjamin? The age is right and his

wife Sallie is a nickname for Sarah. Did Benjamin and his family move to Haywood Co., TN along with the Marr family—see below.]

1860 Dyer Co, TN, p.187:

S. H. Rucker (m), age 40; V. (f) 30; N. S. (m) 11; E. (f) 10; Ann 6; A. (f) 4; M. V. (f) 3; Moris 1; Sarah 79. [This looks like Sol, above and Sarah was possibly the widow of Benjamin.]

1850 Haywood Co., TN, p.36A, Dist. 12:

Rucker, Ambrose, age 42, Farming, b. VA; Jane 37, b. VA; John 14, b. TN; Matilda 12; Winney 10; Benjamin 7; Charles 5; Adeline 2; Willis T. Burks 22, b. TN.

1860 Haywood Co., TN, p.168:

Rucker, Anibrase [sic], age 53; Jane 47; Winniford 19; Charles 15; Adaline 12; Caroline 9.

### THIS AMBROSE RUCKER

Who was he?

The name Ambrose is a great clue to connect him with his Amherst Co., VA relatives. Ambrose Rucker married double cousin, Jane<sup>5</sup> Marr, daughter of John<sup>4</sup> Marr (Sarah<sup>3</sup> Rucker, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) Wood, p.166 and Sarah<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), Wood, p.116. [The date and place of Ambrose's marriage to Jane Marr is unknown.] Roger Mitchell Settlemire on the Rucker Forum in 1999 said John and Sarah Marr moved to Haywood Co., TN about the 1830s. Many of the Marrs and Ruckers intermarried. Did Benjamin go with them to Tennessee and Ambrose meet his future wife on the trip? Families moved together and judging by the 1850 census, Ambrose Rucker had a 14 year old child indicating they married in the early to mid 1830s.

In examining the four sons of Col. Ambrose Ruckers of Amherst Co., VA, each of the three known had a son named Ambrose: Reuben, Ambrose Jr., and Isaac Rucker. Wood, p.113 has very little information about Benjamin. I believe he was the Benjamin that went to Haywood Co. and

also had a son named Ambrose.

Note: Sudie Rucker Wood, p.113 said Benjamin served in the War of 1812, but I have not researched these records. (The Land tax records of 1785, mentioned in Wood, p.113, belong to his Uncle Benjamin, p.116.) Benjamin was in the 1810 Amherst Co., VA census: males 1 (under 10) 1 (26-45) and females 1 (-10) 1 (10-16) 1 (26-45). Benjamin was not listed in the 1820 census of Virginia or Tennessee.

Who was Berry Rucker? Was Berry actually a nickname for Benjamin and possibly his son?

Suggested children of Benjamin Rucker:

1. Benjamin ("Benny") Rucker Jr.
2. Ambrose Rucker
3. Sol Rucker

What do you think?

\* \* \* \* \*

## JAMES MADISON RUCKER

While working on Benjamin and Ambrose Rucker, I heard from a new Rucker cousin—Charles Madison Rucker IV. He has just moved to Richmond, VA and wants to know his ancestry. Goodspeed's has a biography of the first Charles M. Rucker. It said his father was James M. Rucker, born January 18, 1814 in Virginia and whose family moved to Haywood Co., TN. He later moved to Lauderdale Co., TN (an adjoining county).

If James M. Rucker lived in Haywood Co., TN, was he another son of Benjamin Rucker? Or was it just a coincidence that both lived there?

1850 Lauderdale Co., TN census, p.526:  
James M. Rucker, age 35, b. VA; Julia 25, b. OH;  
Sarah 1 (Was she named for her grandmother Sarah Harris Rucker?)

## Burial records from Durango, Colorado Hist. Museum

From Cindi Meyer

I am including all the information listed, but more could be obtained possibly from the local mortuary noted by the H, vol # and page #.

Alexander M. Rucker, b. 11 Feb 1855, d. 18 Mar 1936, buried in Greenmount cem. H/9A/425

Edith H. Rucker, b. 15 Dec 1894, d. 29 Nov 1991, cremated H/36/175

Milton Lee Rucker, b. 28 Apr 1913, d. 11 Jun 1993, cremated H/37/271

Robert Rucker, buried at Bayfield Cemetery, no dates

Cindi and her husband Keith Meyer are moving in April to spend four months in South America. If you want to read about their travels, see website: <http://www.xanga.com/home.asp?user=Cindi>

\* \* \* \* \*

## IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Anna Fullerton Rucker, loving wife, mother and grandmother, lost her courageous battle with cancer on Friday, February 1, 2002. She was 47. A memorial service was held at Guilford Park Presbyterian Church, of which she was a devoted member.

Born in Charlotte, Margaret graduated from Grimsley High School in 1972. After she married and her children were born, she attended the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Greensboro part-time while raising her children. She graduated cum laude from UNC-G in 1990, with a degree in Business Administration. Margaret worked as secretary/treasurer for John Rucker, Inc. After her children left home, she became assistant director-registration/insurance of the entire state for the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA).



Photo of Margaret and Samantha, her grandchild  
Taken May 13, 2001 at Sam's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday

In January of 2001, the NCYSA established the Scott-Rucker Award, in honor of Mrs. Joyce Scott and Mrs. Margaret Rucker, with both ladies sharing the first year's award.

Margaret loved her family and friends, as well as Christmas, painting Santa's, playing with her granddaughter, Samantha, and catching speckled trout at Ocean Isle Beach.

Surviving are her husband of 28 years, John S. Rucker; daughter, Jenifer R. Poteat and her husband, David, of Hillsborough NC; son, Jonathan V. Rucker and his wife, Amy, of Greenville NC; and her beloved granddaughter, Samantha W. Poteat. She is also survived by her mother, Mrs. Martha W. Fullerton; brother, Jack E. Fullerton; and her mother- and father-in-law, Betty and Vance Rucker, all of Greensboro. Her father, Jackson E. Fullerton, predeceased her. Article submitted by Vance Rucker.

Andrew<sup>9</sup> "Morris" Hamm (David<sup>8</sup> R., David<sup>7</sup> R., James<sup>6</sup> R., Russell<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mildred<sup>3</sup> Rucker, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was born 13 Oct 1913, in Lamar Co., TX and died 9 Jan 2002. He was married 28 May 1935 to Althea Lasiter Poston, who died 27 Dec 1995, Onalaska, TX. Morris and his wife attended the 1990 Rucker Reunion held in Amherst Co., VA and took some of us to the location of the original Hamm home site in Amherst. Submitted by Elizabeth Hogue.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thomas<sup>10</sup> ("Tom") Walling Bradfield was born October 12, 1921, Austin, Texas and died December 28, 2001 also in Austin. He married October 15, 1949 to Mary Ann Latham from Colorado City, TX. Tom graduated from Austin High School and the University of Texas in 1943 with a degree in business. He entered the Naval Air Corp. and became a pilot in 1945. After the war, he entered the family real estate business, Walling, Bradfield and Brush, where his family was instrumental in developing much of early Austin. Tom and his father helped develop many subdivisions around Austin. He was a hunter and sports fisherman as well as enjoying golf and tennis. He doted on being a grandfather to eight grandchildren.

Tom was the son of Neil Walling and William<sup>9</sup> "Landon" Bradfield (Carrie<sup>8</sup> Lawrence, Rachel<sup>7</sup> Jackson, Andrew<sup>6</sup> Jr., Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Rucker, James<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). His great-grandfather, Andrew Jackson Jr. was adopted by President Andrew Jackson of the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee and his wife, Rachel Donelson. Rachel was the sister of Severn Donelson, husband of Elizabeth Rucker.

Tom is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law: Becky Bradfield and Robert Harris Heiser Jr.; Lindy Bradfield and Joseph Shields Stockdale Jr.; Jennifer Bradfield and Thomas Elkin McGaughy Jr. He was also survived by a sister, Betty Ann

Bradfield Cummins. His Obituaries from the *Austin American Statesman*, 30 Dec 2001, p.B1, "Developer Changed Face of Austin," and 31 Dec 2001, p.B4, "Thomas Walling Bradfield," were submitted by Alice Rucker Allen, of Austin, TX. His lineage was submitted by a cousin, Marjorie Ann Sutherland of Clintwood, VA.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Milton Mathis Rucker**, age 80 died January 23, 2002 at Abilene, Texas. He was born October 22, 1921 in Abilene to Fred Rucker and Jessie Mathis. He served in the U. S. Navy during WWII and worked for Haliburton Corporation, retiring after 23 years. He married Valeta Ferguson Weaver on April 30, 1988. Milton's line is through: Fred<sup>7</sup> A. Rucker, Joseph<sup>6</sup> M., Reuben<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. See *Rucker Heritage*, by Alice Rucker Allen, 1993, p.304.

He is survived by his wife Valeta Rucker of Clyde, TX; his former wife, Billie Stegall of Midland, TX; two sons Robin Rucker of Lubbock, TX and Chris Rucker of Midland; three daughters Beverly Ellis of Pocatello, Idaho, Nancy Mims and Carol Woolf, both of Georgetown; a stepson, Edward Weaver of Burbank, CA; a stepdaughter Cheryl Weaver of Anadarko, OK. Also a brother, Glen Rucker of Elmdale; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son David Rucker; a step-son Richard Weaver; and a grandson. Obit submitted by Marnette Click of Abilene, TX.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Zoah<sup>8</sup> Louise Rucker** (Stephen<sup>7</sup> F., Enoch<sup>6</sup> A., Wiley<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup> Jr., George<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was born 6 May 1911 in Arkansas and died 15 Jan 2001 in Houston, Texas. She was married 1<sup>st</sup> 16 Jan 1933 to George William Schiller at Houston, TX and married 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 Sep 1962, Houston, TX to Virgil Jerden. Zoah had no children. Submitted by her niece, Yevonne Gunter, Bartlesville, OK.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN RUCKERS

For years I have been researching my ancestry—trying to find the genealogical connections that make me who I am. And, today, after doing some cursory online surfing, I found the Rucker Family Society. I am rather excited about having found it, but also ambivalent and afraid as well.

I am a descendant of slaves owned by the Rucker family, specifically I have been able to trace my (paternal) side to Col. Edmund W. Rucker, of Rutherford County, Tennessee, who was identified as the last owner of my people preceding and during the Civil War. I have traced the (white) Ruckers all the way back to the 1600s, before they even entered America. This has satisfied partially my need to know where my surname came from, as, of course, it is descended from slavery. I have even located a distant white cousin, who willingly shared information with me and acknowledged the ugly segment of history that ties us together.

Many people in my family have the same first names as many of the white Ruckers; the Methodist tradition is even still present. I am looking for information specifically pertaining to The Rucker Plantation in Rutherford County near Murfreesboro and the slaves on it. I understand that my request might come as a shock to you. For many, it is taboo to discuss the history that irrevocably links many African Americans and white Americans. However, to dismiss the connection, in my opinion, would be living in ignorance and denial.

If any of you have information that could help me or can lead me to other sources, I would greatly appreciate it.

Keisha D. Rucker  
3511 Gondola Drive, Antioch, TN 37013  
E-mail <divapoet@yahoo.com>



# Jeannie-alogy

Every now and then, I come across something in Sudie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Family Genealogy* that she could not identify. One such commentary is found on page 206: "Will of James<sup>6</sup> P. Rucker, 1875, mentions brother S. B. Rucker, brother J. H. Rucker, mother Elizabeth (Wilson Co., Tenn.)." This obviously did not belong with the people on this page. But who was it? Thanks to Ron Payne's research book on the Ruckers of Tennessee, I found him.

Looking through Ron's book, I found that most of the entries in Wilson Co., TN were for Benjamin Asbury Rucker. I looked him up in Wood, p.35-36. and found he had a son James Price, Sterling Brown (S.B.), and Jonathan Harrison (J.B.). And their mother was named Elizabeth. Yes, it fit.

Sudie Wood had information on only two of the

children of B. A. Rucker. Through Ron Payne's book, we find much more material on these folks. With 16 children, Benjamin Asbury died before they all reached adulthood. Their older brother, Benjamin Lewis Rucker was given guardianship of Jonathan H., David, Sarah Ann and Harriet M. (who had died). It goes on to say that Laurum, (Learner or Latimer) B. Rucker was of age. (Dated 24 Jul 1865, Wilson Co., TN from *Guardian Settlements, 1863-1875*, p.35—from Ron Payne's "Ruckers of Tennessee," p.149.)

Ron is in the process of writing a new book about research in Georgia. If you have anything that would interest him, please contact him. His e-mail address is <pone@hiwaay.net>.

In the meantime, if you are doing research in Tennessee or Missouri, it would be helpful to order Ron's books. To obtain a copy, please send \$20.00, for each, post paid to:

Ron Payne, 79 Payne Road,  
Falkville, Alabama 35622-6236



## 2002 RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY DUES

Please check your mailing label to see if your dues are due. The first number is your membership number and the second is the year through which you are paid. If it says "01," it is time to send in your dues.

Please make your membership check payable to The Rucker Society and send to the Treasurer:

Mrs. Leslie B. Cabral, Treasurer

5601 South 37<sup>th</sup> Court

Greenacres, FL 33463-2332

E-mail <LeslieCab@aol.com>

- \$7.00 Dues for Membership for 2002 \_\_\_\_\_
- \$14.00 Dues for Membership for 2002 and 2003 \_\_\_\_\_
- \$5.00 Institutional Dues (Give the newsletter to a local library) \_\_\_\_\_
- Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Donations for the Preservation and Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number \_\_\_\_\_  I am a new member (please give Rucker line of descent)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name(s) exactly as you would like it to appear on your mailing label

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2002 Rucker Reunion Kansas City, Missouri Oct 18-20, 2002

Becky Fox, chairman of the 2002 Rucker Reunion has announced that we will stay at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Kansas City. Dalina and Bob Stevens, her co-chairmen and Becky are planning a delightful weekend beginning with hospitality get-together on Friday night.

On Saturday they are planning a tour of the Steam Boat *Arabia* Museum and the Nat'l Frontier Trails Museum where we will see a short film and have a box lunch. We will return to the hotel by 3:00 o'clock to give everyone a chance to rest before the evening social hour. On Sunday we will have our Members meeting and lunch. Our speaker will be David Jackson. He has worked at the Nat'l Frontier Trails Center for seven years and also the Jackson Co. Historical Society. He wrote the book

about the Campbell Family. The Campbells are the family that intermarried with the Ruckers and moved with them to California (more information will be in the next newsletter). He will gear his talk to the Rucker-Campbell Family.

On Thursday before the reunion, Chuck Berry and Karl and Cecy Rice are planning a day long bus trip to Saline County, Moberly and other sites in central Missouri where the Ruckers lived.

It will be an eventful reunion and we hope to see many of our mid-western cousins who previously haven't been able to come east for reunions. Mark your calendars and we'll see you in October.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send in your ideas for family profile articles and photos for the newsletter. For the photo corner we need good copies or the original. Good care will be taken with them and they will be returned if requested. My address is on page 2. ~Have a Happy Spring Time~



### THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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First Class Mail

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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