



the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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Rucker Family Reunion Kansas City, Missouri October 18-20, 2002 By Becky Fox

With almost two years of planning for the first Midwest Rucker Family Reunion and few reservations concern took over that maybe no one would come. Fears were put to rest when in August the reservations started poring in. From Coast to Coast and seventeen states 65 Rucker cousins came to renew old friendships and meet new cousins. Among them were 17 first time attendees and the entire Clay family from Texas, Colorado and Nebraska.

There was a great deal of interest in making a pre-reunion trip to central Missouri and the town's and cemeteries of Rucker ancestors. Thanks to Karl and Cecy Rice of Moberly, Mo., our guides led an eight-car caravan to some of the most beautiful old river towns and lovely old cemeteries I have ever seen. Our first stop was to the Heath Creek Church and cemetery established by the Rev. Thornton Rucker in the 1850's. California cousins, Chuck Berry and sister Jean Vallandigham, stood for the first time by the gravestones of their ancestors. How we all wished that we could be so lucky in finding the burial places of our ancestors.

During this outing we stopped at the town of Rucker, now gone but for a couple of houses and a highway sign. Of course we all piled out of our cars for a photo by the Rucker sign.



Family at the Missouri town of "Rucker"

With free time on Friday many of our cousins chose to do research at the Independence genealogical library or visit the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. Others chose to shop at the Country Club Plaza the first shopping center in the U.S. built in 1924. The day ended with a reception and also time spent in the hospitality room.

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We started our Saturday Bus Tour bright and early with a look at the Swales on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails, indentations made by the wagon trains, people and cattle on their trek west. Next we visited the Steamboat Arabia Museum which houses the 200-ton collection of a 1852 River Boat *Arabia*, which sank in the Missouri River and was discovered a few years ago. This is truly a time capsule of the goods vital to life in the 1850's.

A box lunch was served at the Three Trails Museum in Independence as we watched a film on the Westward Migration. Following a tour of the museum we boarded our bus for a tour of Independence where the three trails all started. Some of the highlights of this tour were the Harry Truman home and Library, the Town square with the Statue of Truman, the Bingham Waggoner



The Banquet on Sunday

Home and the Vaile Mansion.

Following our tour and a brief rest period we gathered for a Saturday evening reception and more time together in the hospitality suite.

We all gathered on Sunday morning for a meeting and banquet. Reunion guest Ardith Meyer was introduced. She owns the Rucker mansion in San Jose, California. Chuck Berry described his family's migration to California in the 1850's. Chuck introduced our speaker David Jackson who works for the National Frontier Trails Center. David spoke about his book entitled, *Direct Your Letters from San Jose: The California Gold Rush Letters and Diary of James and David Lee Campbell, 1849-1852*. The book includes information on the Campbell and Rucker families who emigrated to California from Missouri.

My thank you goes to my daughter Barbara Rosner of Colorado who did the lovely art work for our posters and directories. Also, to Bob and Dalina Stevens co-chairman for all of their work and assistance. My daughter Becky and husband Mark Weaver for their computer help and to granddaughters Hannah and Katie Weaver the youngest Rucker descendants present.

It was a wonderful reunion and everyone seemed to have a great time. We are looking forward to meeting again at our next reunion in Amherst County, Virginia in 2004.



From left: David Jackson (speaker), Becky Fox, Jeannie & Chuck Robinson, Chris & Jeannie Rucker

WESTWARD THE RUCKER

September 17, 2002

Trip to Central Missouri

By Karl Rice

A cold blustery morning found 24 pioneers gathering their eight wagons for the trip west. Karl and Cecy Rice, Moberly, MO were the Scouts and had a mapped out a route that would take the train through the Missouri Rucker counties of Boone, Audrain, Randolph, Chariton, Howard and Saline. Each driver received an itinerary, so if they got separated from the train they could find their way. Wagon masters, Jeannie Robinson and Chuck came from Virginia. And Trail Boss Chuck Berry, Marion Phillips, Chuck Berry's sister Jean Ellen Vollandigham and her Gordon came back from California to recreate the westward migration of their Rucker ancestors.

One of the first stops would be the town of Rucker, but first we took a look at the Mt. Pisgah Church and Cemetery near Sturgeon, MO in Audrain County where the stones of Major John Fleming Rucker, b 19 Sept 1838, Amherst Co, VA and some of his family are located. John was a son of John Dabney Rucker and Lucy J. Tinsley Rucker. He was a lawyer and businessman. As a major in the Confederate forces he participated in many Civil War battles.

Next stop was "Rucker," where with two houses in view, Gordon Vollandigham came up with one of the best lines of the reunion. "Where is downtown located?" We were in it! No one knows for sure why it was called Rucker, but the Boone County Historical Society thinks it may have been named for the Rucker Family of Sturgeon, MO. There are two houses left there and one of those is an old store building. Train members had fun taking pictures of each other in front of the Rucker city limits sign.

Our next location was to be Higbee, MO in Randolph County. James E. Rucker, 1839-1918,

his wife and many of his children are buried in the city cemetery there, but time prevented a stop. James E. was the seventh child of Minor Rucker and Harriet Head. Harriet's sister was Martha Head who married General Sterling Price, former governor of Missouri and a noted Confederate General. A hungry bunch of pioneers doesn't have lot of time for sightseeing, so we pushed on toward Roanoke in Randolph County, a town named by Minor Rucker's brother-in-law, James Head. Roanoke is named for Roanoke, VA and in a county named for Virginia Senator John Randolph.

At the Roanoke Cemetery we had fun with some of the descendants of LeGrand Rucker that were on the train. Sue Barton, Mary Salisbury, Judy Hendren McKinney, Jean Fanning, Marla Seybold, Roxanna Taylor and Karen Duncan all had their pictures taken around their great and great-great grandfather Robert Breckenridge Rucker's tombstone. David Duncan and "Okie" his dog may have gotten into the picture too. We came within four miles of the old cemetery where LeGrand is buried, but not wanting to risk a good dose of poison ivy, we passed it by. Just ask David about the ivy. We were headed north toward Huntsville for lunch. Part of the route was along the old plank road, built in the 1800's abandoned after it



Desc. of LeGrand Rucker posing in the Graveyard

from split oak timbers. It was a toll road, but was became too hard to maintain and railroads and gravel roads took its place.

A lunch of 'good ol' country fixins' was served at the C & R Country Café where Carl Rucker is head chef. He is a 1st cousin of Scarlett Rucker-Misikir of Texas. They are descendants of Minor Rucker and she is the editor of the 'We Are The Ruckers' E-mail Newsletter. We passed Minor Rucker's salt lick on our way to Keytesville. The salt lick was instrumental in the settlement of the area, due to the abundance of game that helped settlers survive their first years here. In the late 1800's the salt lick became a resort known as Randolph Springs. There were two hotels, mineral baths and a railroad stop.

Near the salt lick is the Shepard Buffalo Ranch. Since buffalo were prevalent in the area when the Ruckers first came to Missouri, we took a short detour to see some live buffalo. We took a few pictures and bought a few souvenirs at the gift shop at the ranch.

Keytesville was home to many Ruckers, including Ambrose Rucker who attended the first national Rucker Society Meeting and Reunion in 1988. Dorothy Cain and her sister, Mary Beesley, attempted to see and record every Rucker in every cemetery that we visited. Keytesville Cemetery really had them on the run. We hit the trail again headed for Arrow Rock. On the way we went 'Across The Wide Missouri' at Glasgow. Many of the Rucker pioneers of this area came down the Ohio River by steamboat to the Mississippi River, then up the Mississippi to St Louis, then up the Missouri River to the river port at Glasgow. There are references to many of these Rucker's on both sides of the river. Lewis and Clark camped on the island near here on their way north in 1804.

Ruth Pillow who had Ed and Marita Taylor in her wagon told us about Angus Rucker and the many spellings of his name at the Arrow Rock Cemetery. On the stone at Arrow Rock it appears

to be Argus and in another place it is spelled a third way. But Angus it is. Arrow Rock was the final stop for the day. Arrow Rock is a very historic town on the Missouri River and it is a State of Missouri historic site. It was near here that Chuck Berry and Jean Ellen Vallandigham's ancestors set out on the Oregon Trail headed for California in 1852. After seeing the cemetery, we arrived at 4:03 p.m. at the Arrow Rock Visitor Center and Museum, which closes at 4 p.m. We hammered on the door until an employee saw our sad noses pressed to the glass and opened up for us.

Camp that night was arranged for us by Becky Fox, Reunion Boss. No oxen and horses to feed, just Duncan's dog. No downpours to survive, no cholera to doctor and no babies to deliver. Just the Hilton Hotel in Independence complete with heated rooms, showers, nice beds and even big breakfasts. America, what a country! Thanks to our Rucker pioneers and so many others like them that made this trip so special.

The Rucker Family Society Minutes of the Members' Meeting October 20, 2002

The 2002 Rucker Reunion Members' Meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, Missouri on Sunday October 20, 2002. Jeannie Robinson, President presided and Chuck Robinson, Secretary recorded the minutes. 64 persons had registered for the reunion. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and prayers by Fred Rucker.

Directors present were introduced—Leslie Cabral, Doris Cain, Becky Fox, Chuck Robinson, Jeannie Robinson, Chris Rucker, Marjorie Sutherland and Ed Taylor. Not present were Sim Crisler, Doris Edwards, Joyce Pittman, Roland Pittman and Jack White. Newly elected board

members, Margaret Beesley, Karen Duncan and Karl Rice were introduced. Ron Payne's resignation was announced and he was thanked for his years of service.

Jeannie Robinson, President announced that this was our first reunion west of the Mississippi River. Missouri was the state of western migrations. Descendants of all sons of Peter Rucker moved to Missouri, some to settle and others to use it as a stopping place on their move west. We don't know about the daughters, but are sure some moved here as well.

Chris Rucker, Vice-President, asked how many were attending their first reunion and fifteen so indicated. As to the oldest attendee, Ed Taylor and Nina Clay tied. The youngest attendees were Becky Fox's two grandchildren. He then called the roll of Peter Rucker, the Immigrant's descendants according to his children. Descendants were present as follows:

John	22	William	2
Peter	0	Mary	0
Thomas	6	James	13
Elizabeth	0	Ephraim	5
Margaret	0	Ann	0

Chris Rucker then asked how many states were represented, and seventeen states were present as follows:

California	5	Nebraska	5
Colorado	2	Oklahoma	2
Florida	2	South Carolina	2
Georgia	2	Tennessee	2
Illinois	1	Texas	8
Indiana	1	Utah	2
Iowa	2	Virginia	8
Kansas	4	West Virginia	3
Missouri	10		

The members were advised that the Board recommended a dues increase to \$10.00 annually effective January 1, 2003 and it was approved. Members were advised to send in their dues before the end of the year to take advantage of the lower

rate.

Several authors were introduced and their books described:

Alice R. Allen — *Rucker Heritage*, a book including the first four generations of Ruckers and Alice's line from Grandson, Peter Rucker (not covered in Wood's book)

Mike Rucker — *Terry the Tractor* books, a series of ten books for children

Ron Payne — Research books: *Ruckers of Tennessee*, *Ruckers of Missouri*, and just off the presses, *Ruckers of Georgia*

Jewel Rucker — *Our Rucker & Balser Heritage*, the descendants of Josiah B. Rucker and Joshua Balser of West Virginia



Board Members:

Back Row: Becky Fox, Ed Taylor, Ron Payne, Karl Rice, and Chris Rucker; Middle: Marjorie Sutherland, Margaret Beesley, and Doris Cain; Front: Karen Duncan, Jeannie Robinson, Chuck Robinson, and Lebral Cabral

Several books and posters were submitted to be auctioned to benefit projects of the society. Mike Rucker was the auctioneer. They brought as follows:

1. Sudie Rucker Wood's *The Rucker Family Genealogy* (an Oscar Rucker reprint), donated by Mike Rucker \$85
2. Allen Rucker's book on the TV show, *Sopranos*, donated by Mike Rucker \$55
3. Eva Davidson's autographed book *Rucker Kinsmen* (proceeds to be divided between us and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Carmel, California who donated it) \$250
4. Two Posters designed for the 2002 Rucker Reunion by Becky Fox's daughter \$75

Note: Mike Rucker donated a number of his *Terry the Tractor* books to be sold to society members. Proceeds are to be for society projects such as the Col. Ambrose Rucker Marker.

The Members expressed their appreciation to Becky Fox, Chairman of the reunion for a superb job—the hospitality room, the Friday and Saturday evening receptions, the Saturday morning excursion and the Sunday morning meeting and banquet.

Ruth Pillow, Chairman of the 2004 Rucker Reunion described some of the activities being considered. It will be held in Amherst County, Virginia on June 18-20, 2004 concurrent with the James River Batteau Festival. In addition to a visit to the batteau festival, a side trip is planned to *Poplar Forest*, summer home of Thomas Jefferson in Bedford County, Virginia.

The 2006 Reunion will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah in the fall. Fred Rucker, our Mormon cousin, will be the chairman.

Ardith Myers, owner of the Rucker mansion in San Jose, California, spoke about problems in the neighborhood. She had brought magazine, newspaper articles and pictures of the house to share. An article about the house, by Chuck Berry,

was in RFSN Vol. 13, No. 2, June 2002.

Karl Rice told us a little about the Thursday trip to mid Missouri. We toured cemeteries and villages of the early Ruckers who moved to Missouri. The first stop was to the former town of "Rucker." The only thing remaining was the sign.

Chuck Berry then described his family's migration from Missouri to California in the 1850s. His family plans to follow that route on their return to California. Chuck Berry then introduced our speaker, David W. Jackson, who works for the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, Missouri.

David Jackson spoke about his book entitled, *Direct Your Letters to San Jose: The California Gold Rush Letters and Diary of James and David Lee Campbell, 1849-1852*. It included information on the Campbell and Rucker families and their emigration to California.

Jeannie Robinson then read a prayer composed by our deceased cousin, Ambrose Rucker of Kansas City, followed by the names of members who had died since the last meeting. The reunion was then dedicated to the memory of John Fox, recently deceased husband of our chairman, Becky Fox. The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles D. Robinson,

Secretary

THE TRIP HOME

By Charles⁸ F. Berry

(Mary⁷ E. Clark, Margaret⁶ E. Rucker, William⁵
T., William⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹)

October 28, 2002

We returned from the 2002 Rucker Family Reunion in Independence, Missouri to home in California by the same route our Rucker ancestors took in 1852. In our car was my sister, Jean Ellen Vollandigham, her husband, Gordon, Marion Phillips and me. We had attended the 2002 Rucker Family Reunion so wonderfully planned and hosted by Rebecca "Becky" Dawson Fox of Lee's Summit, a suburb of Kansas City, MO.

As background for our trip, Benjamin "Ben" Campbell married Mary Rucker on Christmas Day, 1851. She was the second of the ten children of William⁵ Taliaferro Rucker and Verenda S. (Taylor) Rucker. Ben had come back to Missouri to bring his two sisters and their families to California. He ended up leading not only his two sisters' families (the Lovells and Finleys) and new bride to California, but also an Uncle, Robert Campbell and family, and his Rucker in-laws and their family. William T. Rucker brought along 200 cows as well as many household items. They left Missouri for California the first week of April 1852 with eight wagons and two carriages.

Ben had first gone to California from Missouri with his father and family in 1846. They joined a 250 wagon train at Independence, Missouri, but spit into two sections north-east of Salt Lake over a dispute of which trail to take. Fortunately, the Campbells took the more known way while the other group became the Donner-Reed Party. We followed the 1852 wagon train primarily, but the trails taken by both the 1852 and 1846 trains were essentially the same.

On the Thursday, October 17, 2002 the day before the reunion, twenty-four of us in eight automobiles toured central Missouri on a great tour planned



Photo of Jean Vollandigham and Chuck Berry
at Heath Creek Cemetery
Behind their g-g grandparents' stone

by Karl Rice of Moberly, Missouri. On the tour we saw Heath Church and Cemetery, built by my great, great uncle, the Reverend Thornton Rucker. He was brother of my great grandfather, William T. Rucker. Buried there was Thornton, his father (my great, great grandfather) William, and both parents of Verenda Taylor. We were met there by Mary Watson of Blackwater, MO, a descendent of Thornton Rucker, who helped us in our quest.

After the day's tour, we drove to Nelson where the wagon train started, and then drove through Arrow Rock, Marshall, and Lexington to Independence on our way back from the tour. This is the route our ancestors took to start their journey to California.

After the reunion traveling by car, we followed as closely as possible, the 1852 wagon train trail of our ancestors. I tried to avoid dirt and gravel roads, but we encountered a few. Besides Missouri, we went through Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada and California as the wagon train had. The weather held for us, although we got some snow and winds in Wyoming.

Among the things we saw were Fort Kearny, the Platte River (and South and North Forks after the split), Fort McPherson, O'Fallons Bluff, Ash Hollow, Jail and Courthouse Rock, Chimney

Rock, Scotts Bluff, Marshall and Robidoux Passes, Fort Laramie, Register Cliff, Guernsey and the wagon ruts, Independence Rock, Devil's Gate, Split Rock, South Pass (where my sister was presented a bonnet from our first cousin, Lorraine Vail), Fort Bridger, Soda Springs, Fort Hall, Massacre Rocks, Register Rock, Goose Creek (where our ancestors left the Oregon Trail for California), the Humboldt River, Carlin Canyon (where our Campbell ancestors were to meet the Donner-Reed Party in the 1846 wagon train trip), Humboldt Sink, Humboldt Bar (where the 1846 train went by the Truckee Route and the 1852 train went by the Carson Route), Carson Sink, Carson River, Fort Churchill, Ragtown (Fallon), Hope Valley, Carson Pass, Red Lake, Caples Lake, Emigrant Valley, West Pass, Hang Town (Placerville), Shingle Springs, Stockton, Mission San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley.

The Platte River was especially meaningful to us, because our grandmother, Margaret Rucker, was there conceived. Verenda, her mother, not only walked from Missouri to California after coming to Missouri from Virginia, but also came to California with eight kids (Mary had married and James died young), 200 cows and was five months pregnant! That's strength, determination and dedication! They arrived in Santa Clara County on October 1, 1852, and Margaret was born February 3, 1853.

I was reminded of what our first cousin, Lorraine Vail, said after she climbed West Pass a few years ago: "I'll bet you think my great grandmother (Verenda Rucker) is proud of me. Well, what she is really saying is: 'William, I hate to tell you this, but one of our descendants is an IDIOT. She just climbed West Pass and didn't have to!' That makes three of us great grandchildren idiots, for we have followed their wagon trail—and didn't have to."

The trip gave us a greater perspective of what our ancestors had done. We kept our eyes on the terrain to the sides of the roads, and tried to

imagine what it was like to move wagons and walk over such lands. There were prairies, but none were "flat." We realized that every fifteen minutes of driving was a good day's journey for them.

We saw areas where they made no forward progress, having to cross rivers, stabilize wagons with ropes and trees as they descended or encountered rough terrain, and even disassembled wagons to elevate or descend the parts and contents.

They arrived at their California destination on October 1, 1852, nearly six months after leaving Missouri. It took us five days with sightseeing. We will never forget what they did, nor the duplicate trip we took that caused us to fully realize WHAT they did.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TIDBIT

Contributed by Carol Troop
<ctroop@mindspring.com>

Rutherford County, Tennessee Court, 1808:

"Thomas Rucker received a \$600 judgment against Col. Edward Bradford for false imprisonment. The case grew out of some supposed misdemeanor on the part of Rucker at a militia drill, in which he incurred the displeasure of Bradford, who ordered Rucker's neck placed between two rails of a fence and he was kept there to await the pleasure of the Colonel. On his release he brought suit against Bradford for false imprisonment with the above judgment. Soon after both became members of the Baptist Church, and as brothers the debt was forgiven." From Goodspeed, p 820.

This was probably Thomas⁴ Rucker (Benjamin³, John², Peter¹) who moved from Amherst Co., VA to Rutherford Co. before 1800 (Wood, p.126).

From the Rucker Forum:

From *Chicago Daily Democrat* - August 25, 1860
- Advertisement: RUCKER & PAGE

Henry L. Rucker.....Joel S. Page
Attorneys and Counselors have associated themselves in business. May be found at room No. 5, Larmon Block, opposite south-east corner Public Square.

Can anyone identify Henry L. Rucker?

* * * * *

RUCKERS OF SANTA FE NEW MEXICO

From Alice Rucker

The following list is from records at the Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe, New Mexico:

Terrell W. Rucker, 1912-1913 House, NM
Wade H. Rucker, 1908-1913, Plain, NM
Wade H. Rucker, 1909-1913, Murdock, NM
William M. Rucker, 1933-1936, Ancho, NM
Levi C. Rucker, 1909 - 1911, Tucumcari, NM
Asa C. Rucker, 1915-1920, Gallegos, NM
Samuel E. Rucker, 1905-1912, Albert, NM
Samuel E. Rucker, 1908 - 1915, Amistad, NM
Lucy S. Rucker, 1906-1914, Mora Vista, NM
Samuel E. Rucker, 1917-1919, Amistad, NM
Viola Rucker, 1914-1914, Deming, NM
Bessie Rucker, 1916-1919, no city listed, NM
Robert E. Rucker, 1911-1912 (city unclear,) NM

If anyone is interested in homestead information on any of the above listed people, please contact Alice Rucker at <upstairs@att.net>.

* * * * *

If anyone wants to contact any of these people and does not have email, please notify the Editor.

Query: Who was George Rucker?

George Rucker was born abt 1843 possibly in the Virginia/West Virginia area died 1927; married Sarah Jones born abt. 1841 died 1926. I only know that they had one daughter Zona Myrtle Rucker born July 4, 1890 in Blue Creek, WV and died June 22, 1961 in Ronceverte, WV. Zona married Frank Wilmer Young. Reply to Stephanie Partner at email — <sjpartner@earthlink.net>.

Note: Ronceverte is in Greenbrier Co., WV just south of Lewisburg.

* * * * *

African-American Corner

From Joyce Rucker <rucker34@aol.com>: I am looking for the African-American family of Charlie Rucker who lived in Greenwood, Mississippi and **Mound Bayou, Mississippi from 1850-1889. By 1900, the wife and children of Charlie Rucker migrated to Dudley Lake Township, Jefferson County, Arkansas. I am the great-great-granddaughter of Charlie Rucker.

Facts from the 1880 Census — Beat 4, LeFore County, Mississippi:

Charlie Rucker (Born 1850)
Lucrecia Perkins Rucker, wife (1856-1924)

Children:

1. Lula Rucker Foster (born 1869)
2. Elisabeth Rucker Leach (born 1872)
3. Abraham Rucker (1874-1947)
4. George Washington Rucker (born 1875)
5. Virginia Rucker (born 1878)

**Mound Bayou, Mississippi is a National Park Service Historic Site and was featured on the PBS special "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow." Mound Bayou was one of the first all-black incorporated towns in the U.S. Established in 1887.

IN MEMORIAM

Marion Goyer Fugitt Wood died December 5, 2002 in Richmond, Virginia at the age of 89. She was born June 6, 1913 in Atlanta, Georgia where she was raised with three sisters and one brother. She was the daughter of Carroll Townshend Fugitt and Marion Lee Forsdick. Marion graduated from the University of Georgia and Louisiana State University where she received a Master's Degree in Physical Education. She taught at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, SC and Greenbrier College.

She was married to Garland Ambrose Wood, youngest son of Sudie Rucker Wood and William Price Wood. Garland was serving in the army during WWII and met Marion while on leave and traveling home to Richmond by train. Marion was on the same train with her college charges returning from a sports event. Garland fell in love with the beautiful young lady he spied across the aisle, but knew he couldn't just "pick her up." So he picked up one of the other teachers and had her introduce Marion to him. Needless to say, Garland got off the train in Rock Hill and never made it to Richmond. They were married a few months later, June 27, 1942 in Atlanta, GA.

Marion and Garland had six children: Marion Lee Wood Addison, Garland "Gar" Ambrose Wood Jr., Thomas "Ward" Wood, Bettie Dade Wood, Carol Townshend Wood and Sudie Rucker Wood. She is also survived by five grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

They lived in Richmond and for a few years at Virginia Beach. They also had a farm in Amelia Co., VA where they raised dairy cows and spent their summers. Marion was an active member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and many organizations. She loved her family, entertaining, gardening and bridge. She was buried beside her husband at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Garland's lineage: 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. (Source: Wood, p.55, and the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 6 Dec 2002.)

* * * * *

Ruth Ophelia Rucker Hickok, age 79 died November 13, 2002. She was born July 10, 1923 in Abilene, Texas to J. H. Rucker and Mary Fuller. She attended McMurry College (now University) in Abilene where she graduated with a B.A. Degree in Math and B.S. in Science. She was the senior Class President and was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. She was a member of Alpha Chi, a national scholastic society. She taught science at North Junior High School (now Franklin Middle School) in Abilene.

She married Herbert N. Hickok on June 27, 1947. They lived in the northeast for awhile while her husband was in training with the General Electric Company. They have lived in Houston, TX since 1952.

Ruth enjoyed participating in many family and community activities, and was an active member of Spring Branch Community Church. She loved gardening, cooking, sewing, entertaining and traveling.

She is survived by Herb, her husband of fifty-five years, and three daughters, Nancy Littrell, Linda Richardson and Susan Douglas. Also four sisters, three brothers, and eleven grandchildren. She was buried at Memorial Oaks Cemetery.

Ruth's obit was submitted by her sister, Alice Rucker Allen. Her lineage: Joseph⁷ H. Sr., Joseph⁶ M., Reuben⁵, Reuben⁴, Peter³, John², Peter¹. (Source: Allen's *Rucker Heritage* page 295, and the *Houston Chronicle*, 17 Nov 2002.)



50th Anniversary Photo — 1998

Our photo is from the 50th Anniversary of James ("Jim") Madison McDaniel II and Estelle Jane Sloan McDaniel. They were married August 28, 1948 and live in Memphis, Tennessee. Estelle⁸ J. Sloan is the daughter of Estelle Lockhart Gray and William⁷ Ambrose Sloan (Marcus⁶ E., Susannah⁵ S. Marr, John⁴, Sarah³ Rucker, John², Peter¹) and (John⁴'s wife— Sarah⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹).

Note: the Editor visited Estelle and Jim this summer and they gave her this picture to use in the newsletter. The youngest granddaughter, Lorelei McDaniel had not been born at that time so her photo is separate. Even though Estelle is retired, she is still working on fashion illustrations. Jim is a former business forms designer.

Back row, from left: Vicki and Johnny, Jim and Estelle McDaniel, Estelle Luann with husband, Jon Watson, behind, Dani and Jimmy McDaniel, holding James IV.

Front row, from left: Duane McDaniel, Bonnie Watson, Larkin & Darrah McDaniel

Insert: Lorelei McDaniel

Issue of Estelle and James M. McDaniel II:

1. Johnny and Vicki McDaniel with daughter, Lorelei Estelle McDaniel, born after 1998.
2. Jimmy III and Dani McDaniel have three children: Darah, Larkin and James IV.
3. Estelle Luann and Jon Watson with one child, Bonnie Estelle Watson.
4. Duane Sloan McDaniel, the youngest, is not married.

President's Letter

The 2002 Rucker Reunion was fabulous—our first time meeting west of the Mississippi. We didn't get quite as many attendees as when we meet in the East, because there are so many more of us in the East. You can read all about it in this issue of the newsletter. Becky Fox did a superb job of heading it up and we appreciate all she did to make it a wonderful weekend in Kansas City.

Wouldn't Ambrose Rucker of Kansas City have loved the 2002 Rucker Reunion! He was one of our must loyal attendees and came to every reunion until he died (d. 25 Mar 1993, Kansas City, MO, see RFSN, Vol.4, No.3). He would have especially been pleased that we visited the place of his nativity and burial place of his parents. Ambrose composed beautiful prayers to be read at our meetings and was always full of family stories.

The board decided to increase the dues to \$10.00 which is not unreasonable due to the rising costs in printing and mailing. They did say if you get your money in by the end of the year, you can renew for \$7.00. Since the newsletter will probably not reach you until January, I have extended the date to the end of January. So please send in your dues as soon as possible and take advantage of the reduced rates.

Remember to notify us of your change of address as it now costs \$.70 to return a newsletter to me if you have moved, plus the 37¢ or 60¢ (if a double issue) it costs to remail the newsletter.

~ Jeannie ~

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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First Class Mail

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