

# the Rucker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

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### Clinton Allen Rucker

By Michael P. Rucker

I had heard of the Sopranos HBO program, but not being a great opera fan, I never had the interest to tune in. Then, one Sunday I found myself wasting another perfectly good afternoon at Barnes & Noble sipping Starbucks' over priced café latte and perusing books I didn't have time to read when I spotted the name "Allen Rucker" as the author of a book called *The Sopranos — A Family History*.

Before I could stop myself, I had purchased the book and carried it to the Starbucks corner and began to read it. Why? Because, well because Jeannie is always on my case to write articles about interesting family members for this newsletter. From the cover blurb, this Allen Rucker seemed like kind of a character, so I thought, "Here's an off beat Rucker to write about."

To my relief, the book wasn't about opera after all but concerned a TV Mafia family. Well, even though I had never seen an episode of the program, I soon found myself deep into the book. When I came back to my original thought pattern, I decided to contact Allen Rucker and see if he would hold still for a newsletter story. To my surprise, after blind telephone calls to several guys named "A. Rucker" in the Los Angeles area, I was found myself on the phone with Allen. He sounded as interesting in real life as on the dust cover.

When I asked him how I should begin my research for an article he advised me to search the web. The simple process of typing "Allen Rucker" into Yahoo produced 65,300 hits (try it). Well okay, about 61,285 are web sites flogging his books and

some are spurious, but wow!

I figured that with this many folks trying to make a buck selling his latest book, *The Soprano's Cookbook*, it might even have made the New York Times Best Seller List. Yep, the Cookbook, hit the List immediately upon its release in September 2002 and has remained there ever since. More precisely, it has been a "publishing phenomenon." It was number one for five weeks and in the top five for thirteen weeks. It has never been lower than number nine since its first day of release.

So, who is this Allen Rucker, and where did he come from? Well, here comes the boring part: he was born in Wichita Falls, Texas on September 26, 1945. His father, Dr. Ralph Weller Rucker, was a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He was an ear, eye, nose and throat specialist at Shepherd Field at Wichita Falls. After World War II, Ralph returned to Bartlesville, Oklahoma where he had established his medical practice before the war.

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Allen attended the public schools in Bartlesville and played offensive tackle on the College High School football team, but according to Allen, "I sat on the bench most if the time." He initially started college at the University of Oklahoma, but transferred to Washington University in St. Louis where he received a BA in English. Serious about a career in writing, he went on to obtain two MAs, one in American Culture from the University of Michigan, the other in Communication from Stanford. During his time at Stanford he met David Chase, the future creator of the Sopranos' series.

Back to the interesting part: let's jump ahead to 1999. Just as the Sopranos was off to a terrific opening season on HBO, David Chase saw a TNT documentary written by Allen entitled *Family Values, the Mob & the Movies*. Impressed with Allen's writing style as well as his research into the Mafia, he asked Allen to author a book on The Sopranos. The result was best selling *The Sopranos — a Family History*, which was on the New York Times Best Seller List for three weeks following its release in 2000. It also made the Best Seller List in England. The Family History has been recently updated to keep it timely with the series and Allen is currently working on the third edition.

The History was just the ticket to excite the fans of the series called by the New York Times, "The best television drama ever made . . . richly textured comic realism of a complexity and truthfulness that

has never before been seen." Perhaps the operative word in that quote is "comic." Everything I have seen of Allen's writing has a significant undertone of satire or comic relief. A great touch when writing about people who shoot one another as a way of life.

Let's get back to the cookbook. Think about it: an Italian cookbook with great recipes, sure, but with gritty, streetwise commentary by Soprano's characters including a chapter entitled, "If I couldn't eat, I'd f\*\*\*ing die." (Try that, Betty Crocker!) Great food on one page, brass knuckles on the next.

But, I simplify. The Cookbook is more than just 100 easy-to-follow recipes for traditional Southern Italian meals and desserts by world renowned Italian chef and food expert Michele Scicolone. (No, Allen didn't create the recipes.) It is sort of a history of Neapolitan cuisine along with personal insights by the Soprano family members all accompanied by beautiful color photographs of the food and the Family.

Here is an example of what to expect: this from Tony Soprano, the "waste management executive" himself, "Most people soak a bagful of discount charcoal briquettes with lighter fluid and cook a pork chop until it's shoe leather and think they're Wolfgang Puck." Then, he goes on to describe how to do it properly — the Family way. Get this book. The recipes are good and easy to follow and your guests will delight in finding it on your kitchen counter.

The Sopranos is in its fourth blockbuster season. During my research on the show I found that one of the characters is named Caitlin Rucker, a neurotic with apparent psychotic tendencies who hails from Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Caitlin is the roommate of Meadow Soprano at Columbia University. (Who says colleges don't try to match compatible roommates?) Caitlin achieved the distinction of being highly irritating to everyone, family members and viewers alike. Caitlin has been absent, thus far, during the current season. When asked about her Allen responded, "I haven't heard

anything about her. I'm a bit worried about her. She might pop up again. She lives in my heart." I sure hope Caitlin has not been "snuffed out."

If it wasn't for the undercurrent of humor, the Sopranos would be as dead as — well as dead as anyone who crosses Tony Soprano. You have to take all this with a grain of salt (or, maybe a pound or more of salt). And, Allen Rucker is just the right author to inject that brand of humor into the two Soprano books.

Not surprising his first two books were satires. *The History of White People in America*, released in 1985, was a take off on a TV special of the same name in which Allen had a hand. The show won the 1985 Ace Award for Cable Excellence and the 1985 WGA Award for Variety Writing. The successful, tongue-in-cheek, book was followed the next year by a sequel, *A Paler Shade of White*. Both were coauthored with comedian Martin Mull. These books are both out of print, but you can easily find them on the Internet. But, if you are expecting an insightful historical compilation, or even a bit of against-the-grain revision-ism, think again. If you like a Jean Kerr-style of wry humor that hits uncomfortably close to home, you will enjoy these slightly offbeat tomes.

I like this quote from *A Paler Shade of White*, "It is a popular misconception that white people are not thinking about anything when they stare off into space. Given the myriad opportunities for blank staring that crop up every day in an average white person's life, the need for thinking about something becomes essential. The technical definition of 'brain dead' is too amorphous to run the risk of not having at least a thought or two." The cover blurb states, "Beneath its bland exterior lies the bizarre, ludicrous cheese-filled soul of white America." Well, okay.

Allen describes himself as a writer and TV journalist. He is on the faculty of the University of Southern California, College of Cinema-TV. He co-founded the experimental video group TVTV and has written numerous award-winning TV specials and documentaries including the recent

The Mob and the Movies. He also writes regular installments to the Sopranos' website at [www.hbo.com/sopranos](http://www.hbo.com/sopranos).

Allen is wheel chair bound, paralyzed from the waist down by Transverse Myelitis since 1996. While a significant setback, he has not allowed his affliction to interfere with a highly successful writing career. Concerning his involvement with the Sopranos, he comments, "What a lucky thing for me to bump into these characters."

Allen is married to an artist, Ann Marie Sandberg, of Chicago, the daughter of Swedish immigrants Helge Sandberg and Agda Johansson. They have two children, Blaine, age 27 and Max, 14.

Here is Allen's line of descent: Clinton<sup>9</sup> "Allen" Rucker, Dr. Ralph<sup>8</sup> Weller Rucker, Rev. William<sup>7</sup> Newton Rucker, Dr. William<sup>6</sup> Leeper Rucker, Lemuel<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Ambrose<sup>4</sup> Rucker Lemuel<sup>3</sup> Rucker James<sup>2</sup> Rucker, Peter<sup>1</sup> Rucker.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Rucker Chapel

From Charles<sup>8</sup> F. Berry  
(Mary<sup>7</sup> E. Clark, Margaret<sup>6</sup> E. Rucker,  
William<sup>5</sup> T., William<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>)

Here is the article I promised you about draping the altar of the Rucker Chapel in Santa Clara, CA. It was written by my first cousin, Lorraine<sup>8</sup> Vail. Her Rucker lineage is the same as mine, except her mother was Harriet<sup>7</sup> Clark (instead of Mary<sup>7</sup> Clark). The Margaret Rucker in the story married John W. Clark, and they had two children — our mother's, Harriet<sup>7</sup> and Mary<sup>7</sup>. I was very young when Margaret died, but I knew even then that we must not mention Abraham Lincoln in front of my grandmother, Margaret, although I didn't know why. Lorraine was a little older, so she learned the reason first hand.

The "family chapel" in the story was known as the Rucker Chapel, and regular services were held there. On an 1860 plot map of Santa Clara, it is

shown as "M Church S" meaning "Methodist Church South." Three buildings are cited which I believe are the house, the chapel and the stables.

After the altar draping told in the story, the chapel was moved closer to the Campbell ranch of William T. Rucker's son-in-law, Ben Campbell. That ranch became today's town of Campbell, CA.

Here's Lorraine's story:

William T. Rucker and his wife, Verenda Taylor Rucker, were Virginians. The fact that they had emigrated with their families to Missouri when they were both in their teens, and that they had married there, and that most of their children had been born there, and that they had gone to California by wagon train in 1852 and lived long prosperous lives there — had nothing to do with it. They were Virginians. Their children and grandchildren grew up accepting that in some mystical way they were Tidewater Virginians — and must never forget it.

When Civil War ripped the country into North and South, California went with the North. Although Union supporters outnumbered Confederate sympathizers by large numbers, there were in the state "hot spots" like in Los Angeles and Santa Clara County where Southern supporters openly cheered the victories in the South. Most California families had come from the East, and (North or South) had members of their families fighting in the war. But outbreaks of violence were rare, and usually verbal. At last, the war ended, and it seemed that neighbors could settled down to a quiet life again. Then the telegram from Washington — President Lincoln had been assassinated. The news opened old wounds and W.T. and his family found themselves in the center of old angers and new grief.

W.T. had built a large house for his big family and a family chapel. It was between these two buildings that a group of men assembled and called the Rucker family to come out of their home.

The speaker for the group, informed W.T. that they had brought black crepe for him to drape the altar of his chapel to mourn the death of the President.

W.T. said he could not do that. He did not mourn the man's death, and to drape his altar would be to mock God.

The group did not seem surprised. The speaker said, that would be W.T.'s choice, because if the altar was not draped they would burn his house and chapel to the ground. They had come prepared to do just that.

W.T. looked at all he had built. The face of his wife holding the hands of their two youngest children. He could see the fear in the children's faces, and the quiet courage in the face of his wife as she waited for his decision.

Finally he extended his hand to his youngest daughter. "Margaret, come here." He could see how she was trembling, but she came to stand before him. He put his hand lightly on her head, and said, "Take the crepe from this man and drape it over the altar." Then with his hand still resting on her head he said to the assembled men, "My little daughter knows nothing of politics, only love and obedience. She does not mock God."

Margaret, my grandmother, in recalling this day, told me that her two greatest fears were that the men would hurt her father, and that her shaking legs would not carry her all the way to the altar.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Who Were Benjamin and Anna Rucker?

From Penny Harris Evenson

Benjamin Franklin Rucker, born 10 April 1855 in Norvow Ill., married Anna Stacia Meyers 2 April 1873 in Jacinto, Colusa County, CA, died 3 March 1912 in Chico, CA. Anna Stacia Meyers was born 2 April 1855 in Paris, Monroe County, MO. She died 30 March 1944 in Chico, CA. They are both buried here in Chico in a large family plot.

According to his obituary, he came to California

when he was three years old and settled in Glenn County. His father was Benjamin Franklin Rucker and mother was Sarah George.

Issue (all born in Colusa Co., CA):

1. Mary Francis Rucker, born 15 Sep 1874, married William A. Elliott 21 Apr 1889.
2. H. D. Rucker, born 24 Aug 1875.
3. William Franklin Rucker, born 2 Feb 1877, died 19 Feb 1958 in Chico, CA.
4. Malinda Ellen Rucker, born Oct 1878, married Robert M Foster, 31 Mar 1895.
5. Annie Laura Rucker, born 29 Sep 1880, died 27 Sep 1890 of diphtheria.
6. Bertha Luella Rucker, born 2 Nov 1883, died 19 Apr 1932.
7. George Arthur Rucker, born 29 Dec 1885, married Ida M. Stambelton, 12 Mar 1906.
8. Ivy Dell Rucker, born 29 Dec 1887, died 22 Sep 1890.
9. Benjamin Allen Rucker, born 18 Jan 1890, died 29 Apr 1971.
10. Eva May Rucker born 13 May 1892, married John Samuel Bennett, 8 Jun 1911.
11. Leta Leona Rucker, 28 Feb 1894, married Leon Hicks 22 April 1911, died 13 Feb 1986.
12. Myrtle Irene Rucker (my grandmother) born 24 Mar 1897, married Eldon F. Harris, 13 Sep 1913, died May 16, 1988.
13. Leslie Marion Rucker born 19 Dec 1902, died 19 May 1948.

Does anyone know who they are? Please contact Penny Evenson at 1242 Oleander Ave, Chico, CA 95926-3335 or at <DaisyMae45@aol.com> .

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## Source of the Name Rucker

From Robert "Bob" D. Rucker  
Of Alameda, CA

This is from a plaque owned by Bob Rucker. Its source is Merriam Webster's Geographical Dictionary. The German surname Rucker is believed by etymologists to be of two origins. In the first place, the surname Rucker is of toponymic

origin. Toponymic names are those surnames which derive their origin from a place name near which the original bearer lived or held land. In this instance, the surname Rucker is derived from the place name Ruckersdorf in Schlesien and Ruckersburg in Fulda. In the second place, the surname Rucker is of patronymic origin. Patronymic names are those surnames which derive their origins from the first name of the father of the initial bearer. Here, the surname Rucker is a variant of the surname Ruckert, derived from the personal name Rudiger, composed of the elements "hrod" meaning "glory" and "ger" meaning "spear," which was a very popular personal name.

References to this surname or to a variant includes a record of one Friedrich Ruckert who was a Poet born in Scheinfurt, Bavaria, who writes Rucker, during 1788 to 1866. One Ruot Geresberg Ruckers from Fulda was mentioned in 980, and one Rutchares was recorded in 1160. Rucker Kirchdorf from Frankfurt was mentioned in records of 1387. Betz Rucker from Scheinfurt was recorded in 1388, as well as one Reschke Rucker from Glatz in 1343. One named Rucker became Rudger from Aargau. One named die Ruggerin from Esslingen in 1346 became die Rudigerin in 1348. Konr der Rucker, a lay assessor from Schmiden was mentioned in records of 1347.

There is currently a Ruckersdorf, Austria, which is a suburb of Vienna. Dorf means village in German. Silesia or German Schlesien is a historical region in East Central Europe, lying mostly in SW Poland with minor sections in the Czech Republic and Germany. It was passed on to Austrian Hapsburgs in 1526. All of Silesia except extreme SSE was ceded to Prussia by Austria in 1742. Fulda is a city, E Hesse, central Germany, on Fulda river 87 km NE of Frankfurt.

Editor's note: We have wondered for many years, the origins of Peter Rucker. Many have tried, but none have succeeded. Researchers learn early on that to do research on families in Germany, one must know the location. If anyone is willing to research for Peter Rucker in any of the places mentioned above, you have our full support.

## Jeannie ~ alogy

I first heard from Hollis Jones about a year ago. He wrote again about a month ago. He was researching his ancestors in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which, I might add, he has never visited. He said his grandparents were Henry Cleveland Jones and Gracie T. Rucker. They had lived in Hot Springs where most of their children were born. They then moved to Ft. Towson, Oklahoma where the other boys were born. When Cleveland became ill with a heart problem, they were advised to go to Phoenix, Arizona. They made it as far as Crosbyton, Texas where Henry died. For lack of a better place to go Gracie and the boys stayed there until the boys grew up and moved away. Hollis, today, lives in Safford, Arizona.

Then a week or so later, in January, I heard from June Moore of England. She was looking for her half-sister Ann's and half-brother Jim's Ruckers ancestors. June said their father's name was **Selvin Robert Rucker** and they knew nothing of his fam-



Family of Nathaniel<sup>7</sup> M. and Alice M. Rucker

ily. "Selvin, born February 2, 1913, was a private in the army, based in Bushy Park Hampton Court, Middlesex [England], during World War Two. He met my Mother and they had two children, Ann Rucker and James ("Jim") John Rucker. I guess he went A.W.O.L. to be with the woman he loved, as he was picked up by the M.Ps That was the last he was heard of. Selvin, it is thought, came from either Hot Springs or Little Rock. His Wife had passed away but he had a Son called Timothy/Tim, who would be in his sixties now. The grandfather's name was James Rucker."

I was busy getting ready for our annual ski trip to Vail, Colorado and didn't have time to look for June's sibling's ancestors. Then I thought of Hollis whose ancestors were also from Hot Springs and put them in touch with each other.

Low and behold they were second cousins. It was like a miracle! I just wish all my correspondents were so successful in finding their relatives.

Hollis's lineage through his father is: Elgie<sup>9</sup> ("Casey") Marvin Jones, Gracie<sup>8</sup> T. Rucker, Nathaniel<sup>7</sup> M., Silas<sup>6</sup> N., Mordecai<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mordecai<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. Hollis's grandmother and Ann's and Jim's grandfather were brother and sister! Seven's lineage is through his father: James<sup>8</sup> ("Jim") B. Rucker, Nathaniel<sup>7</sup> M., Silas<sup>6</sup> N., Mordecai<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mordecai<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

Hollis sent the enclosed photo: "The family picture is all one family of Ruckers. The mother, Alice Minerva Magby Rucker, is with most of her children. The older girl is Gracie Tennessee Rucker, my grandmother. Since she was born in 1888 and doesn't look to be even 10 yet I figure the picture was taken in the 1890's. Incidentally the baby, named Jim, is the father of Selvin Rucker the person June Moore was looking for.

"As it turns out, June Moore's half -brother and sister are my cousins!"

## “Where is Lucretia?”

Wife of Allen<sup>5</sup> Rucker  
 (Paschal<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>)  
 From Janice Peterson  
 <janicep@w-idaho.net>

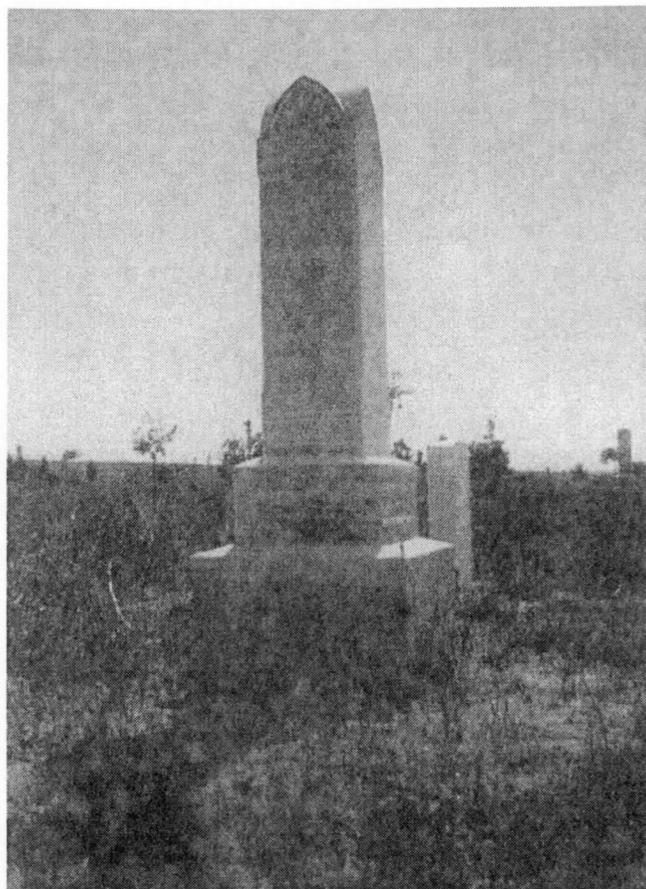
I am going nuts wondering where this woman is buried! I have a picture of Lucretia's tombstone set out in a field somewhere. The tombstone, probably out west (no trees), seems to be the largest one in the cemetery. It is a handsome stone, in perfect condition and looks to be of the 1890-1900 vintage.

Her death date, October 5, 1897, comes from a note written on a page of the Bordeaux Methodist Church minutes. I am really assuming that it is Lucretia because the minutes seem to be an attendance record and her name is right with her son, Paschal's and his wife's names.

She only had two sons that lived, Vincent and Paschal. Vincent is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Chadron, NE; Paschal is buried here in Parma, Idaho with his wife. Vincent's wife is also buried here in Parma, Idaho. Vincent died in South Dakota in 1899 and was brought to Chadron where other family members lived and died.

I have, what I assume, is the complete list of Rucker's that are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery and Lucretia is not among them. Her tombstone is not some small thing; it looks to be about 5 ft high! Allen Rucker's stone was also a tall one, but time and weather have taken their toll on it and the picture of it now is quite mossed and discolored and tilted in the ground. A Rucker cousin has taken a recent picture and sent it on to me ----- but no Lucretia!

Note: I was so glad to see the picture of the tombstone for Lemuel Rucker in the last issue of the Rucker newsletter (or the issue before last [Actually Vol. 13, No.3]). Another piece of the puzzle.



**Lucretia's Tombstone  
 Do You Know Where It Is?**

Lucretia (Blake) Rucker, wife of Allen Rucker was born about 1815 in Maine to the family of Daniel Blake. She died October 5, 1897 (if the minutes of the Bordeaux ME Church are referring to her — *departed this life on October 5, 1897*). This church was in Chadron, Dawes County, Nebraska where her two sons were pastoring.

Allen Rucker was born 1814 in Greenbrier County, Virginia and died in 1882 in Missouri. He is buried at the Huggins(ville) Cemetery in Gentry County, Missouri (I have pictures of his tombstone before it was set on site). They had land in Gentry Co. and lived there quite a while. I don't think Chadron, NE is very far from here, but as yet, no one has said anything about her tombstone being beside his.

Maybe someone has seen this tombstone somewhere in their cemetery wanderings! If so, please let us know.

## Michael John Neill A Rucker of Note

Michael John Neill has researched his ancestry for more than twenty years, including occasionally working on his Rucker connection. He began his study of genealogy when he was in his teens and is now in his early 30s.

Michael is a fifth generation Illinois native and was born and raised in Hancock County, Illinois where most of his family began settling in the 1850s. His Rucker connection left Amherst County, Virginia, for the Fleming County, Kentucky, area in the late 1700s. His line eventually migrated to Indiana and finally arrived in Illinois in the 1860s. Michael has a master's degree in mathematics from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois, and has taught in the mathematics department at Carl Sandburg College since 1992. He and his family (including the cats, dogs, and rabbits) currently live in rural Knox County, Illinois.

Michael is on the staff of the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America, a week-long seminar held annually in Springfield, Illinois. He also writes a weekly genealogy column for the *Ancestry Daily News*, where at times he discusses his Rucker connections including a one-time piece on John Rucker's election shenanigans in the 1740s. Michael also writes a column for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' *FORUM*, typically on computer related issues. He travels nationwide giving genealogical lectures and workshops and has also led research trips to the Allen County Public Library. It is a common occurrence to meet another Rucker descendant! He maintains a website at [www.rootdig.com](http://www.rootdig.com).

His Rucker lineage: Michael<sup>11</sup> John Neill, Keith<sup>10</sup> Irving Neill, Cecil<sup>9</sup> R. Neill, Frances<sup>8</sup> I. Rampley, Nancy<sup>7</sup> J. Newman, Rebecca<sup>6</sup> Tinsley, Enoch<sup>5</sup> Tinsley, Susanna<sup>4</sup> Rucker, Isaac<sup>3</sup> Rucker, John<sup>2</sup> Rucker, Peter<sup>1</sup> Rucker.

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Nancy Chappelle Baird** died November 3, 2002 at Harrisonburg, Virginia. She was the daughter of George Warren Chappelle (see Wood, p.360) and Nannie Coles Binford and lived most of her life in Fauquier Co., VA. She was born Nov. 25, 1918 at Harrisonburg, VA, attended V.P.I. (now Virginia Tech) studying Architectural Engineering, but problems with her eyesight caused her to leave the program. She received a B.S. in Mathematics and Education from Madison College (now James Madison University). She worked at the Norfolk Naval Yard during WWII. Her job was to analyze the stability and seaworthiness of old cargo ships being converted into aircraft carriers. Later, she was a digital computer programmer for the U.S. Army, long before the days of personal computers.

In her spare time she was a historian and genealogist and wrote *The Chappelle Family Genealogy* in 1963. She was also well known for her knowledge of Fauquier Co., VA. For the last few years, she and her husband, Alvin V. Baird Jr., lived in a retirement community in Harrisonburg. She is survived by her husband and a sister, Georgina Milliken of Gloucester, VA. Nancy was buried at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Delaplane, VA.

Nancy wasn't a Rucker descendant, but her father was a first cousin of Studie Rucker Wood. Nancy was very helpful to me when I was first getting started and supported the Rucker Family Society by being a member. One story: I visited Nancy and she took me to see the old William Ambrose Rucker home in Fauquier Co., VA, uninhabited and in decay. The road was mucky, so we walked through the fields. We came to a barbed wire fence and I thought "how are we going to get over that!" When much to my amazement, Nancy lay on the ground and rolled under. Being 20 years younger, I had to do the same, but with much trepidation.

Her obituary appeared in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 8 Nov 2002 and *The Fauquier Citizen*, 7 Nov 2002, submitted by Becky Fox.

**Opal "Ruth" Johnson**, age 88 of Mason City, Iowa, died January 17, 2003 at the I.O.O.F. Home in Mason City, Iowa, where she lived. She was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Ruth was born August 20, 1914 in Crocker, Missouri and was the daughter of Martin Luther Rucker and Hannah Lavona Teeple. She spent most of her life in the Mason City area where she graduated from Plymouth High School. Ruth was married to J. Raymond "Dick" Johnson on January 5, 1934 in Mason City. Ruth and her husband lived on a farm and enjoyed all the aspects of farm life. Her favorite hobby was dancing.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter Jeanyce Rathmann; two sisters, Velma Hammond and Carma Muth; three brothers, Wilbur, Elbert and Wayne Rucker. She is survived by two granddaughters, Kay Rathmann of Mason City, and Lea Baker and husband Christopher of Mason City; two great-granddaughters, Brittany and Sydney Baker; one sister, Dorothy Thompson and husband Richard of Rockwell; and son-in-law, Wayne Rathmann of Mason City.

Her obituary from the *Globe Gazette* was submitted by Carole L. Pannhoff of Mason City, Iowa. Note: Ruth was mentioned in Edythe Whitley's book, p.172. Ruth's lineage is through her father, Martin<sup>7</sup> Luther Rucker, James<sup>6</sup> M., William<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mordecai<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

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**Lena M. (Rucker) McCoy**, age 91, of St. Joseph, Missouri, formerly of Elwood, Kansas, died November 28, 2002. Lena was born October 31, 1911 in Eagleville, MO to John Silas Rucker and Carrie Lucindia Booher. She was one of 13 children and lived most of her life in Elwood. Lena married George Nolan McCoy in 1933. He preceded her in death in 1958. She was also preceded by her parents, two grandsons, a granddaughter and seven brothers and sisters.

Survivors include three sons, George McCoy Sr., of Elwood, KS; Rex McCoy of Boise, ID; and Roger McCoy of Wathena, KS; seven Daughters, Mary Tumelson, Amy Foster, Grace Morey, Betty King and Virginia Foster, all of St. Joseph, MO; Rose Lea Asbury of Sheridan, WY; and Ruth Flanagan of Helena, MO; 19 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Truman Rucker of Eagleville, MO; and Edwin Rucker of Arizona; and three sisters, Velma Cos and Edith Dill, both of Bethany, MO; and Charlene Johnson of Charles City, Iowa.

Lena Rucker's line of descent: John<sup>7</sup> S., James<sup>6</sup> F., Lemuel<sup>5</sup>, Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. She was buried at Bellemont Cemetery in Wathena, Kansas (newspaper article submitted by Enid H. Ostertag of St. Joseph, MO).

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**Catherine Jean Duesbury**, maiden name Phillips, died in Denver, Colorado, November 16, 2001, age 77. Jean was the daughter of Ethel<sup>7</sup> Rucker (Thomas<sup>6</sup> F., Louis<sup>5</sup> Booton, Lemuel<sup>4</sup> Booton, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Luther Martin Phillips of Santa Cruz Co., CA.

Jean was the granddaughter of Thomas Franklin Rucker who was born in Monroe Co., Ohio in 1850 and moved to Kansas where he died in 1936. He was the son of Lewis Booton Rucker who was born in Culpeper Co., VA in 1828 and died in Kansas in 1907. Submitted by Enid H. Ostertag of St. Joseph, MO.

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Note: Many thanks to all who submit obituaries and articles for the newsletter. When sending obituaries, please send a copy along with the name of the newspaper and the date it was issued. This information is needed for future reference and source of the information. Also enclose as much information as you can and the Rucker family lineage.

### Editor's Notes

Note: If anyone does not have email and wants to contact any of our correspondents, please notify the Editor (data on page 2).

Three newsletters have been returned. Does anyone know them—have an obit for cousin Dorothy or the new address for cousins Wilda Jean and Barbara? The Post Office is getting picky about forwarding mail, so please let us know when you are moving. We would hate to lose you.

#575 Dorothy H. Waldman is deceased. Her address was 7921 E. Villa Circle, Hobe Sound, FL 33455.

#644 Wilda Jean Rucker Plumb, 230 Enrico Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635—forwarding order expired.

#209 Barbara Baturka, 793 Mt. Moro Road, Villanova, PA 19085—forwarding order expired.

It's great to have Mike Rucker writing articles for us again. He retired on January 1, 2003 and is looking for ideas for articles. If you have one, please contact him at <mikruck@aol.com> or 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614. He is planning articles on Edmund Winchester Rucker, and Johnny and Nap Rucker the baseball players. Please let him know if you have any information.

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### Emily (Cox) Rucker Photo Found

Alice Rucker has recently come across a tintype photo of Emily (Cox) Rucker, wife of Richard Morton Rucker (Julius<sup>5</sup>, Abner<sup>4</sup>, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). In the photo, Emily is seated in a wooden chair and is nicely dressed and has dark hair. Emily looks about 25 years old or so. The tintype has been restored and reproductions are available for sale. If interested, please contact Alice Rucker, 13331 Gridley Street, Sylmar, CA 91342, <upstairs@att.net> or call at (818) 365-7027.

### THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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First Class Mail

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