

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

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George "Nap" Rucker, "Hard Luck Ace"

By Michael P. Rucker

"If my life depended on winning one baseball game, that man right there would pitch for me." The baseball great in question? George "Nap" Rucker. The speaker? John J. McGraw, the highly regarded former manager of the New York Giants and a Baseball Hall of Famer.

McGraw made that statement in the mid-1930's long after Nap had retired from baseball in 1916, but there was no doubt of his sincerity. In 1911 during his term as manager of the New York Giants, McGraw had tried to buy Nap from the hapless Brooklyn Superbas¹ for the princely sum of \$7,000 during Rucker's heyday. Despite the fact that the loss-plagued Brooklyn team paid him less than half that amount, Nap was bound by his contract and continued to slave away in magnificent form for the cellar dwellers of the National League. He was the "Hard Luck Ace" of the National League.

Nap Rucker was truly a great baseball player. He was nominated to the Hall of Fame, and he might have made it if only McGraw had succeeded in securing his services or, perhaps, if he had been hired in 1907 by a different team than Brooklyn.

So much for speculation, the records of Nap's prowess speak for themselves. Here's his history: George Rucker was born in Crabapple, Georgia September 30, 1884. His early years are not difficult to speculate upon: he was a farm boy who had chores to perform; he attended the local school and, of course, played baseball at every

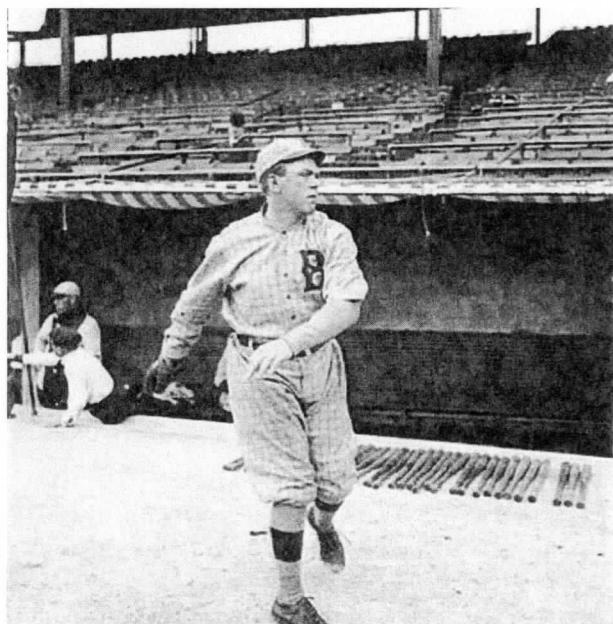


Photo of "Nap" Rucker

From the *Chicago Daily News*, Negative Collection
Submitted by Carl Bunch of Florence, Kentucky

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opportunity. The quality of his playing came to the attention of the semi-pro Marietta, Georgia team about 1901. After his chores were done one summer's day, George rode a rickety bicycle 22 miles to Marietta for his first semi-professional game and pitched Marietta to a 15-1 victory over rival Cartersville. He was paid \$7.50 and was, no doubt, justifiably proud of both the win — and the windfall.

He made his professional debut in 1905 at age 19 with Atlanta Crackers of the Southern League. In his first professional game, the minor league Atlanta team was losing 5-1 after four innings. Rucker relieved the losing pitcher and pitched shutout ball for the rest of the game, with no help from his teammates in the terms of RBIs. It was a harbinger of his entire baseball career: toiling away for a hopeless cause.

After pitching a few games for Atlanta, George Rucker hired on with the South Atlantic Conference team in Augusta. Another rookie who played for Augusta at that time was Ty Cobb and the two became roommates. Cobb's temper is legendary, but according to Nap's grandniece, Eleanor Drake, her uncle had a "slow burning" temper of his own and describes his as being "somewhat rough cut." She reports "Uncle Nap went out to the ball field on his own time to pitch to Cobb, to give Ty the feel of betting against a left-handed pitcher." She comments, "I think they went a few rounds, from time to time."

An example of Cobb's temperament is the following excerpt from his biography, "Whatever the reason, Cobb was a skinny bundle of snarling rage whenever he stepped on a baseball field. He fought with opponents, who came to fear his sharpened spikes, which he brandished like a weapon every time he slid. Just as often, he fought with his own teammates, umpires, or even fans in the stands. One time, when a roommate in the minors, Nap Rucker, took a bath ahead of him, Cobb got furious. "Oh," said Rucker, "Did you want to be first today?" Snapped Cobb, "I've got to be first all the time . . . in everything."

Despite Cobb's ferocious, often unreasonable temper, Nap Rucker became one of the few people known to have established a close lasting relationship with the high stung super star. Friends to the end, Nap Rucker was one of the few former ball players asked to be a pallbearer at Cobb's funeral.

Eleanor also says that Nap's favorite pitch was the spitball, which he developed to a science. (I would have hated to have been his catcher.) "He was grieved when the spitball was outlawed," she continues, "but he made up for the loss by taking the knuckleball, which had never gotten extensive use, and developing it to the point that it could be used very effectively and with superb control."

George Rucker won 13 games during his first abbreviated season for the Augusta team, including 4 shutouts and 1 no-hitter. Cobb was hired by Detroit for the 1906 season. Rucker stayed on with Augusta to dominate the Sally League with 27 wins. There was no doubt that Rucker would follow the great Cobb into the majors; the lucky team was a matter of speculation. Most were betting that he would join Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics. But, it was Charles Ebbets of Brooklyn, who signed the lefty with the corkscrew curveball.

Magnificent pitching alone does not win ball games. He lost his first three games 3-2, 2-0 and

4-2. After pitching relief for a few games, he finally won his first major league game: a 1-0 squeaker against the Chicago Cubs. He was to have 37 more shutouts in his career, of which 11 were by that slim score. That first year alone, he pitched 4 shutouts, finishing the season with a record of 15-13 — and an impressive ERA of 2.06 for 275 innings of hard work.

It was during his first game against John McGraw's Giants that the savvy manager began to develop his respect for George Rucker. The Dodgers held a slim lead over New York in the ninth. The Giants loaded the bases against Rucker. The Giants dugout went wild, shouting insults against the beleaguered rookie. They told him to go back to Georgia that he was just a kid a trying to play with the big boys, etc. According to Eleanor Drake, "Nap's slow burning anger apparently helped him focus; he tightened up and finished the game without giving up another hit." McGraw reportedly berated his defeated players in the locker room with the warning, "The next time we play Brooklyn, if Rucker's pitching, I better not hear a sound from the *&%#@! bench."

The next two years, 1908 and 1909, Rucker was second in the league in strikeouts with 199 and 201, respectively, and fifth in 1910. In 1910 he was the workhorse of the league with 27 complete games in 39 starts and with 320 innings pitched. While Rucker was great, the Dodgers Superbas were terrible, finishing seventh, sixth and sixth those years, losing a total of 289 games.

By 1911 George had acquired a nickname. Sportswriter Grantland Rice, in typical sports hyperbole, lauding the portsider's commanding performance and appearance on the mound, crowned him "Napoleon" Rucker, and the nickname "Nap" immediately and permanently stuck. 1911 was a banner year for Rucker — and a miserable one for the Dodgers. Dodgers: seventh place in the league; Rucker: best player in the league according to several polls. He won 22 games and lost 18 — with a team that couldn't find home plate.

During 1913 the Dodgers maintained their losing ways and contributed to Nap's record of 18-21. However, his ERA of 2.21 (third in the league) tells the real story. (Why couldn't those Dodgers cross home plate?)

By 1913 Nap knew his days were numbered. As happens with many major league hurlers, (especially in those days before good sports medicine) he developed tendonitis in his pitching arm shoulder. But he made it through the season as the Dodger's full time starter. His record was 14-13 with an ERA of 2.87. Furthermore, he suffered his saddest game loss that year. The Dodger's beautiful new home, Ebbets Field, was opened. The fans expected to see a stellar performance by the team's star player. And a stellar performance he provided, but the final score was Philadelphia 1 – Brooklyn 0. Again, no help from the dugout!

He could no longer perform as the Dodger's first line pitcher, but despite the pain in his shoulder, he continued to post winning seasons: 1914 (7-6) and 1915 (9-4).

Nap spent a large part of the 1916 season at home in Roswell resting his worn out shoulder. He played in only nine games that year, winning two, losing one and holding a remarkable ERA of 1.69 for 27 innings, mostly in relief. By now, the Dodgers had acquired some talented young players. And, to nearly everyone's surprise, they won the National League pennant that year!

Nap received a telegram to return to duty with the Dodgers when it was apparent that the pennant was cinched. His name would help draw crowds. The series turned out to be a dual between Babe Ruth, the young superstar of the Boston Red Sox, and the Dodger's bright new pitcher, Sherrod Smith, another Georgian.

Nap sat on the bench the entire series, until the final two innings of the last game. With Boston in the lead 6-4, Nap was called in to work his magic. And, despite excruciating pain, the Georgia ace

performed superbly. He struck out three and allowed one hit, finishing the last game of his career in a heartbreaking effort reminiscent of his first game with the Dodgers.

So, just how good was Nap Rucker? He pitched in 336 major league games of which he started 272, won 134 games and lost 134, pitched 38 shutouts and his 16 strikeouts in one game was a NL record that would stand for 25 years. His career ERA was 2.42. All that with a team that went from 1903 to 1915 without a winning season. Would he have been honored in Cooperstown if he had been with a winning team? Would his career have lasted longer with better sports medicine therapy? Again, we can only speculate.

But the story of Nap Rucker does not end with his retirement as a player. He became a scout for the St. Louis Cardinals. Among his prizes were Dizzy Dean, Paul Dean, Al Lopez and Paul Richards. He maintained close contact with those in the sport for the remainder of his life.

He was more than just a baseball player, however, and led a fulfilling life on several other fronts. He married Edith Wing Wood and in 1915 moved the family into "Primrose Cottage," built in 1839 for the daughter of Roswell King, the town's founder.

In January 1935 the popular figure became involved in local politics and was elected Mayor of Roswell. During his term in office he oversaw the construction of the Roswell Water Works and served as water commissioner several years. The system was so well regarded that Georgia Tech used to send their civil engineers-in-training out to Nap's water works for some hand-on experience.

When World War II began Nap accompanied his brother-in-law, engineer Eugene Wood, to Panama to assist in building two runways and housing for military personnel there. During his time off he explored the Panamanian jungle and discovered a fossilized footprint which is now displayed in the Smithsonian Institution with reference to him as finder.

He died December 19, 1970 at the age of 86, having lived the dream of many American boys of his era and today: to play in the major leagues, nay, to be a star in the majors . . . and even to pitch in the World Series.

Perhaps most important, in the words of Atlanta Journal sportswriter Ralph McGill, "To know Nap Rucker is to like him. He is sincere, honest and unaffected." What a guy!

Family Information ²:

George⁶ "Nap" Rucker (lineage: John⁵, Simeon⁴ B., George³, Thomas², Peter¹) son of John⁵ Rucker and Sarah Catherine Hembree;

Born: 30 September 1884: Crabapple, Georgia;

Died: 19 December 1970: Alpharetta, Georgia;

Married: Edith Wood, B: 4 April 1887

Nap and Edith had one daughter, Anne and two grandchildren, Edith and William Quay.

Endnote:

¹ The team name was changed to the "Dodgers" a few years later. Legend has it that the name derived from the players having to "dodge" the streetcars around their old Washington Stadium.

² Family info from James B. Rucker, Roswell, GA, Suzanne T. Coker, Atlanta, GA and Sim Crisler, Crabapple, GA

References:

- *Days Gone By* (book about Roswell, GA), by Caroline Dillman, chapt. 22, p.78
- *Oldtime Baseball News*, Vol. 4, Is. 5, p. 30 (Date?) "Nap Rucker, The Artful Dodger," article by Jerry Grillo
- *Old Atlanta Magazine*, (Date?) "Napoleon Rucker: He pitched in the majors 50 years before the Braves came to Atlanta," by Eleanor Drake
- *RFSN*, Vol.2, No. 3, (Aug. 1991), p. 5 article about "Nap" Rucker, by Charles D. Robinson
- *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 13, 1935 and March 20, 1938
- *The Atlanta Journal*, June 15, 1965
- *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Dec. 20, 1970 (Obituary)
- *The Atlanta Sun*, May 10, 1966

-Web sites:

- www.pudbim.net/baseballlibrary/ballplayers/R/RuckerNap.stm
- www.thebaseballpage.com/present/fp/nl/la.htm
- www.baseball-almanac.com/players.php?p=ruckena01



Cost of Registration at 2002 Reunion - \$15.00
 Cost of the Luncheon Banquet - \$20.00
 Catching **Mike Rucker** in this position - Priceless

Note: At the evening reception, this was the only "seat" available and it was caught on film!

QUERY from **Theresa Rucker**: I am married to John Rucker who is descended from Charles Rucker who is descended from John Marion Rucker who is descended from Guy Rucker — all of the Alabama area. Their roots do extend to Virginia originally. We are interested in gaining some information about the family history and hope to be able to join everyone for the next "Rucker family Reunion." Any information you might have will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me at <Cayenneb4t@msn.com> or 2258 Evans Creek Terrace, Reno, Nevada 89509.

QUERY from **Myrtle Carroll**: My grandfather was James⁶ Rucker (Elisha⁵, Moses⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹), b. 20 May 1844, Shelby Co. KY, d. 26 Apr 1912; m. (first) 1 Dec 1863, Shelby Co., KY, to Jarvis "Ann" Beckley. I would like to know Ann's parents' names as well as her siblings. If anyone has information on the Beckley family, please contact Myrtle Carroll, at 812 W. Linebaugh Ave, Apt. 111B, Tampa, FL 33612-7867, phone 1-813-932-0496.

QUERY from **Jeannie Robinson**: Does anyone know Thomas⁷ Saunders Rucker (Edward⁶ P., Anthony⁵ T. B., Absalom⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) and his only son, Richmond Rucker of Winston-Salem, NC? Thomas was big in tobacco. They are found on p.161-162 of Studie Rucker Wood's book.

QUERY from **Muriel Bryant**: I was in one of the area cemeteries the other day, and found the following graves. Any idea who they are? My email — <seekers@marshallnet.com>.

Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, Iowa B7 row 11
 Rucker, Blanche M. 1912-1975
 Rucker, Hollis C. 1911-1973 Iowa- WWII

"Rookers" of North Carolina

Interesting note from Ron Payne: Once, when I was in the NC state archives, I requested some information on a Rucker. An elderly woman standing nearby came over and "corrected" my pronunciation of the name. She said it is pronounced "Rooker" by North Carolinians. I explained that it was pronounced "Rucker" by Virginians, and after all, that was where the North Carolina Rookers came from. There are many Rookers in North Carolina, are they related?

2003 Batteau Festival

The 2003 James River Batteau Festival will be held June 14th through June 21th. Check out their web site: www.batteau.org. Mike Rucker, our leading article contributor will crew for one of the batteaux this year for the first time (wearing his hand-made Colonial costume). The Amherst Co. batteau is *The Anthony Rucker*, whose captain, Ralph Smith, is married to a Rucker descendant. He reported in the Richmond Times Dispatch (June 11, 2003) that the flood swollen James River will be excellent for this year's navigation.

Note: Our **2004 Rucker Reunion** will be held in Lynchburg at the time of the Batteau Festival. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Raines Reunion

Saturday, July 19, 2003

All descendants, relatives and cousins of the Raines/Rucker family are invited to attend the annual reunion held at the Roaring River Park in Lacombe, Oregon. The family descends from Charles⁶ Lagrande/Legrand Raines (Elizabeth⁵ J. Rucker, Ephraim⁴, Tomagen³, Ephraim², Peter¹) and (Augustine³ Rucker, James², Peter¹). Charles Raines (1860-1942) married 15 Aug 1883, to Ella Harris (1866-1941). The family had ten children so there are many descendants today. Please contact Phyllis G. Shelton, 31919 N. Lake Creek Dr. #41; Tangent, OR 97389-9787; phone: 541-967-2465.

Coffey Cousins' Convention

Spring, 2003

Review from Bennie (Coffey) Loftin
A Colby Rucker descendant

We had a great time at our Coffey Cousins' Convention at the Boone Tavern Hotel in Berea, KY. We had a record-breaking attendance of 113

people. There are a lot of Rucker-Coffey descendants in the area. I think it would be a good place for a Rucker reunion also. The people that have the Great Saltpetre Cave did a special opening and tour of it for us. We also did the free Berea College campus and crafts tours. Some did an early morning shopping trip to the old and well-known Bybee Pottery. Berea is considered the arts and crafts center of the nation.

Rucker Owned Businesses

From Christopher D. Rucker

I have found information from assorted Rucker firms and would like to know if anyone knows about the following:

I have two 1929 catalogs from the firm *Entz & Rucker*, a Los Angeles business, purveyors of hardware, tools and fishing tackle. (Automobile spades, 65¢; hatchets, \$1.16; steel tackle box for \$1.70 — Who needs Wal-Mart?)

Another business, *Rucker Radio Wholesalers*, established 1935, with stores in Arlington, VA, Washington, D.C. and Silver Springs, MD. It is featured on an old postcard, "Distributors of Nationally Known Lines."

Another color postcard, sent in 1915, is titled "Water Front from Rucker Hill, Everett, Washington." The sender says the climate is comfortable, warm in the day and very cool at night. (Editor's note: see Wood, p.269 — and RFSN, Vol. 4, No. 3, Sep 1993.)

An undated postcard of the "Rucker Quarries, Greenfield, Ohio" shows the expected scene, complete with steam locomotive.

Please contact me or the Editor with information:
From Christopher D. Rucker, MD, 329 Farm Lake Road, Boiling Springs, SC 29316

ADDENDA to Vol. 14, No. 1

March 2003 Newsletter

Note from Allen Rucker, subject of the lead article in the last newsletter: To Michael P. Rucker: I just got your Rucker Newsletter article in the mail and thought it was splendid. You got all the facts straight and injected your own brand of humor which got a few laughs from both my wife and me. One minor point—the line of descent at the end has one mistake—i.e., Dr. Ralph Weller Rucker was a doctor not a minister. He lived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and died in his 50's.

Line of descent: Clinton⁹ "Allen" Rucker, Dr. Ralph⁸ Weller Rucker, William⁷ Newton Rucker, Dr. William⁶ Leeper Rucker, Lemuel⁵ Rucker, Ambrose⁴ Rucker, Lemuel³ Rucker James² Rucker, Peter¹ Rucker. (Family information from Allen's brother, Dr. Ralph⁹ Weller Rucker II.)

*** Postscript to the Article on Allen Rucker

(from the last newsletter): Newspaper item from the *Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise*, April 11, 2001, Front page: "[Allen] Rucker Puts B'ville in Sopranos' Spotlight" by David Austin. Allen Rucker spent his youth in Bartlesville. In the third season of the *Sopranos* he introduced a character who hailed from Bartlesville, OK: Caitlin Rucker — "an uptight Oklahoman who is neurotic, pushy and perturbed by the Big Apple." As luck would have it, she was the college roommate of Meadow Soprano, the daughter of mob boss, Tony Soprano. Caitlin wore a Bartlesville sweat-shirt in her opening appearance, putting Bartlesville on the map. Submitted by Yevonne Gunter of Bartlesville, OK.

*** Note from Hollis Jones:

Correction to the labeling of the photo in the "Jeannie-alogy" article: I received my copy of the newsletter and the caption didn't match the photo. The caption went with the lady (Alice) and her children. The one in the news letter should

read "Alice Minerva Rucker and family, Hot Springs, Arkansas circa 1920." I am very sorry for the mix up. They were the wife and children of Nathaniel⁷ Mordecai Rucker (Silas⁶ N. Rucker, Mordecai⁵ Rucker, James⁴ Rucker, Mordecai³ Rucker, William² Rucker, Peter¹ Rucker).

*** "Source of the Name Rucker"

from Claude⁹ "Lee" Rucker III (Claude⁸ Lee Jr., Claude⁷ Lee, James⁶ A. Rucker, Anthony⁵ T. B. Rucker, Absalom⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) <ruckercl@bellsouth.net>:

The March 2003 edition of the family newsletter caught my eye, in the piece by Robert D. Rucker of Alameda, regarding the source of the family name. I have an interest in the origin of the name, too. In addition to the Rucker place names he cited in Germany, there is a Ruckersdorf about 20 to 30 miles east of Nuremburg, which I visited briefly several years ago on a family trip. Also, in my travels as an airline pilot a few years ago I met a Canadian Rucker whose parents were German immigrants, and his belief was that the name's origin was associated with forest woodcutters/harvesters. Each time I have gone to a German city served by my airline I have looked for the name in phone books, and the greatest number of listings I have found have been in Berlin and Munich.

I would consider it the coup de grace of family research to find definitive information on Peter Rucker's origin and life in Europe. My father did extensive research on the family before he died in 1999. His obituary was in the newsletter thereafter.

Ruckers in the 1880 Federal Census From Ron Payne

The Family History center of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints produced the 1880 Federal census on compact disks. I have extracted data from those disks in an effort to identify all those who MAY be descendants of Peter Rucker, the immigrant. I, therefore, excluded all enumerated Ruckers who were foreign born, or whose fathers were foreign born.

I also included surnames which were similar to Rucker, and may be misspellings or spelling variations. Those additional surnames are: Rookard, Rooker, Ruckard, Ruckart, Ruckel, Ruker, Rukers, Rukert, and Rutker.

I will do census look-ups for the surnames contained in this data for anyone who would like the information. I prefer the request be made by e-mail to <huntron@bellsouth.net>, but will also accept requests by mail. There will be no charge for this effort. (please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for all mail requests). Please write to Ron Payne at 748 Misty Wood Drive NW, Marietta, GA 30064

When requesting data on an individual, please provide as much information as possible such as approximate date of birth, wife's name, name of children, and where they lived. A request for data on "John Rucker" without further information will not be considered. There are more than 180 John Ruckers listed in that census; there are nearly 200 Mary Ruckers listed. Please help me to locate the correct data and I will help you.

* * *

Note from Ron Payne: I was SHOCKED when I found in the Appanoose County, Iowa, census data that James R. Rucker, born in Kentucky, 1824, had a son, born in Iowa, 1865, who was named **Ulysses S. Rucker**.

The books are balanced: **Stonewall J.[ackson - surely] Rucker** was born in Tennessee in 1863 (don't know who his father was). A black man, he was listed in Sangamon County, Illinois census.

IN MEMORIAM

The following two obituaries were submitted by Julia (Rucker) Beadles of Park City, Kansas.

Harold F. Carey, age 67, formerly of Mulvane died March 14, 2003 at Yuma Medical Center, Yuma, Arizona. He was born in Arnett, Oklahoma on January 25, 1936 to Sam and Daisy Rucker Carey. He was a machinist at Boeing for 32 years retiring in 1991. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Mulvane, the Mulvane Masonic Lodge and was also a U. S. Army veteran. He was preceded in death by a sister,

He is survived by his wife, Connie; sons, Bradley of Derby, Kansas, Brent of Rootstown, Ohio; daughter Melody Hogoboom of El Dorado, Kansas; sister Jean Rhodes of Guthrie, Oklahoma; Millie Thomas of Mission Viejo, California; and seven grandchildren. There was a memorial service at First Baptist Church. From *The Wichita Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas (21 Mar 2003).

Note from Julia Beadles: Daisy is apparently a sister to my grandfather, Gus Long Rucker. My Dad is Glen L. Rucker.

* * *

Roxanna "Roxie" [Rucker] McWilliams, age 81, retired USD 259 elementary teacher for over 40 years, died Sunday, January 19, 2003. The service was held at First Baptist Church at Haysville with interment at Municipal Cemetery in Alva, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Gerald "Mac" McWilliams in 1974, brothers, Reuben and Victor Rucker and sister, Mary Vee Klein.

Survivors are daughters and sons-in-law, Cherie and Bill Duprez of Wichita, Leigh Ann and Larry Welch of Haysville, Jan and Tony Flores of Boerne, Texas; sister and brother-in-law, Lelia and

Carl Thomas of Wichita; grandchildren, Tina Giffin, Tara Nussbaum, Shawna Harper, Mac Welch, Kim Ledingham, Avery Flores; and ten great-grandchildren. (From *The Wichita Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, 21 Jan 2003).

Note from Julia Beadles: Roxanna is a daughter of Dolphus Rucker, I believe, another brother of grandpa Gus L. Rucker.

Julia said that the remaining two sisters of my grandfather passed away during the past two years: Mattie Rucker Wilhite, late September 2001 and Mary Rucker Dunnell, April 2002.

* * * * *

Jess Willard Rucker, of Malvern, Arkansas, born Dec. 10, 1916 died May 17, 2003, husband of Juanita Tomlin Rucker. His lineage: William Columbus Rucker, Isaac Cornelius Rucker, James Pascal Rucker, Franklin William Rucker (unknown ancestor who came to Arkansas from Tennessee). Information from his sister Irene Lawson of Hot Springs, AR (the Editor visited her in 1992).

The Editor met Willard's son, Ron Rucker at Pensacola, Florida while visiting there in May. Ron was stationed at the Naval Base and he recognized the plate on her car "*Rucker 1*." His grandparents were William C. Rucker and Annie Cheatham.

* * * * *

The following three obituaries of her two sisters and one nephew were submitted by Myrtle K. Carroll of Tampa Florida. Myrtle's parents were Saint Clair⁷ Rucker (James⁶, Elisha⁵, Moses⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹) and Hattie Mae Morgan of Moreland, KY.

Leola Rucker Pugh, age 91, died January 26, 2003 in Cookeville, Tennessee and was buried in Hermitage Memorial Gardens at Hermitage,

Tennessee. Leola had a career in nursing and when she retired in 1976, she was the supervising nurse of orthopedics and neurology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She received her nursing degree from Madison College and was employed for several years as supervising nurse of surgery at Rutherford County Hospital in Murfreesboro.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Herbert Samuel Pugh, her daughter and son-in-law, Hatty Pugh and Gray Gill of Cookeville, a daughter-in-law, Nancy Inman Pugh of Ashland City; three sisters, Martha Clabaugh of Fairfield, Iowa, Dortha Rucker of Hendersonville and Myrtle Carroll of Tampa, Florida; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson. She was preceded in death by her son, Samuel Rucker Pugh; a brother, James Rucker; and two sisters, Marveline Bartlett and Amelia Rucker.

* * *

Samuel⁹ Rucker Pugh, son of Leola (above) was born October 11, 1940, at Murfreesboro, TN and died Nov. 19, 2002, at Ashland City, TN. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Evelyn Pugh and three children: Rhonda Fulcher, Brian Pugh, and Nicole Pugh; and seven grandchildren. He was buried at Hermitage Memorial Gardens at Hermitage, TN.

* * *

Dortha G. Rucker, born October 1, 1915 at Moreland, KY, died April 22, 2003 at Outlook Pointe, Hendersonville, TN. She was the daughter of Saint Clair Rucker and Hattie Mae Morgan and sister of Leola (above). She was unmarried and living Nashville, TN in 1998. Dortha was a registered nurse, having worked as a Surgical Nursing Supervisor in California, New York and at the Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville where she retired. She was buried in the family plot in Moreland, Kentucky.

Jeannie ~alogy

Tip for the Day: Remember to look in all books for information on your family. Here is one from a newly printed book I found at a recent seminar.

From *Confederate Cemeteries*, Vol. 2, by Mark Hughes, 2003: **J. R. Rucker**, Capt. of Co. B, 48th Mississippi, killed in action, March 10, 1865, buried at Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg, VA. Does anyone know the identity of J. R. Rucker?

From the Richmond, Virginia *Times Dispatch*, Sept. 18, 1918, **Eugene C. Rucker**, of Amelia Co., VA, was killed in France in World War I. See Wood, p.242 Lineage: Eugene⁶ C. Rucker, John⁵ H., Pleasant⁴, Joshua³, William², Peter¹.

Our March speaker at the GRIVA (local genealogical organization) meeting said something that struck me as extremely important: ***Trust nothing until you prove it yourself!*** It is very helpful when proof is sent when submitting family material.

Robert Rucker of Alameda, California just sent in his family group sheets plus census records for each family. One beneficial thing he did was to send a copy of the original record plus a type-written copy. That was wonderful because if the transcript didn't seem accurate, I had a copy of the original with which to compare it.

When Moving: Please remember to let me know when you move. If it's been more than a month, they won't let me know the new address nor will they forward the material. I sure hate losing anyone because of a change of address.

Moved — Forwarding Order Expired:

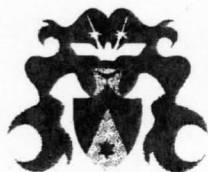
#575 Dorothy H. Waldman, 7921 S. E. Villa Circle, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

#80 Harry C. Vaiden, 628 Milledge Road B-4, Augusta, GA 30904

#34 Doris Edwards, 2017 43rd ST. SE U2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Final Note: Does anyone know the whereabouts of Frances and Beth Evans of Atlanta, GA?

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

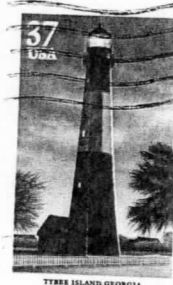


Jean B. Robinson, Editor
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