

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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ENGINEER STEVEN L. RUCKER 1965-2003 A MEMORIAL

Engineer Steven L. Rucker died Wednesday, October 29, 2003 while defending a home in the devastating Southern California wildfires in San Diego County, California.

Thirty-eight years old, Steve was an eleven-year veteran of Novato Fire District. He began his career with the District as a Firefighter/Paramedic in 1992. Steve previously worked as a paramedic with American Medical Response in Concord, California. Rucker was promoted to Engineer in 2003 and served as an Acting Captain. He is survived by his wife and two children.

His story, written by his brother, Bob Rucker appears on Page 25.

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E. Rucker Agee Map Collector

By Michael P. Rucker

Investment banker, historian, collector, author, soldier, Boy Scout leader, philanthropist; these are just a few of the terms to describe Edmund "Rucker" Agee. But he is best remembered as the donor of a priceless collection of maps and atlases to the Birmingham Public Library. The Rucker Agee Collection is one of the finest map collections in the world. This Birmingham native, who always preferred to be called by his middle name, was a partner and for 66 years a principal in a prominent investment firm. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama on October 22, 1897.



Photo of Rucker Agee
Submitted by his daughter, Louise Agee Wrinkle

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Rucker Agee's lifetime passion was collecting maps. This avocation began as a child when his mother gave him a globe to better study his geography lessons. He was an avid scholar and his interest in collecting began with seashells. He then moved on to stamps. He always believed that a collection should have focus and from the early 1930's he concentrated his map collecting to those that described areas of pre-colonial North America which later became the southeastern section of the United States. He was a respected historian of the region and occasionally gave lectures on various aspects of regional history using the maps as a focal point. The southeastern United States was the most fiercely contested region of the Western Hemisphere and he would demonstrate, step-by-step through the maps, the progression of sovereignty of the land from the initial American Indian nations, to the Spanish Conquistadors, the French crown, the English and finally the United States of America.

World War I interrupted Rucker's college education during which time he served in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Lieutenant. After returning from service and graduating in 1919 from the University of Alabama he joined the Birmingham investment firm of Ward, Stern & Co., that became Ward, Stern, Agee & Leach in 1937 and Stern, Agee & Leach, Inc. in 1964. He served as president of the firm.

After nearly forty years of collecting rare and significant maps, he determined that it would be best to donate the collection to an organization that would respect and preserve them. Several important libraries in the Northeast appealed to him to place them in their care. According to Yvonne Crumpler of the Birmingham Public Library, "Rucker told me that the folks at these Northeastern libraries said the people of Alabama would never appreciate the significance of the collection. He said that attitude was what convinced him to donate them here." It appears that he made a good decision. His initial gift in 1964 of 600 rare maps and atlases now totals 3,675 maps, 700 atlases and 2,533 related volumes as a result of others following his generous example. His gift included funds for application toward the cost of cataloging the collection. This fund, the Rucker Agee Endowment, enables the library to preserve and protect the collection as well as to continue growing through occasional acquisitions.

The earliest map in the collection is dated 1540. One of the oldest maps of the New World, it is a woodblock print made by Sebastian Munster (1489-1552) for the King of Spain to indicate his land claims in the New World. Showing the two American continents as a single landmass and usage of the name America make this map a major contribution to cartographic history. The map shows the New World discoveries to be located between India and Africa where mariners and explorers of the day thought these landmasses to be located. This 1540 map and the 11 volumes "Blaen Atlas Major" published in Amsterdam in 1662 are among the most significant artifacts in the collection. Willen Janzoon Blaen served as both the cartographer and the engraver. This Royal Edition Atlas was the property of the Earl of Shaftsbury and was purchased by Agee at Sotheby's in London in 1963.

The earliest references in the Rucker Agee Collection are from a group of atlases by Ptolemy of Greece drawn in the 2nd Century A.D. Ptolemy's maps survived the Dark Ages to be

reproduced during the Renaissance. Several of the Ptolemy reprints are included in the collection. Several ancient Chinese maps may also be found.

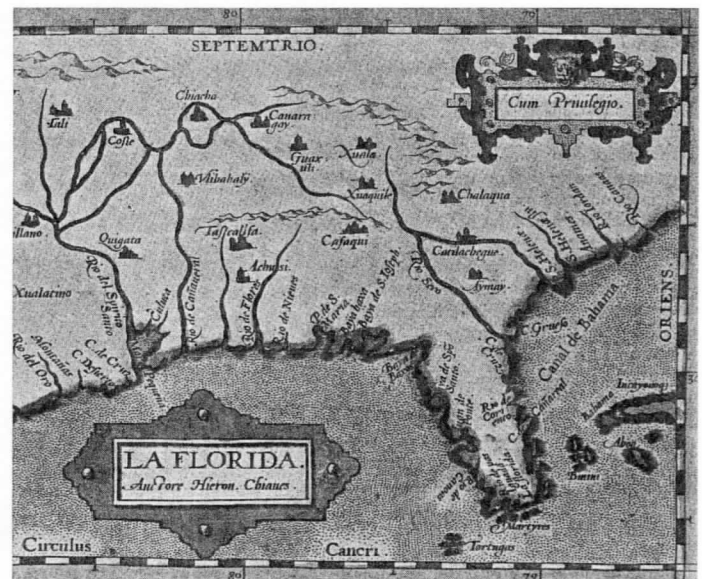
The Rucker Agee Collection contains more than maps. Also included are atlases, scholarly books, and essays on early map making and cartographers, as well as a bibliography section to aid in locating specific material in the collection. Scholars from North America and around the world access the artifacts in the collection on a regular basis. One focus of the collection illustrates the history of map-making and demonstrates the progress of increasing accuracy of the maps over the years.

Collecting priceless early maps became a passion for Rucker Agee. He focused his collecting on maps depicting the area that eventually became the south-eastern United States.

One section of the collection of special interest contains maps of the War Between the States. Rucker's grandfather, Colonel¹ Edmund Winchester Rucker may well have used some of these maps during his illustrious service as an officer of the Confederate army. There is also a section containing treasure maps. These show where early explorers and adventurers are thought to have lost vast treasures. (The library does not guarantee success in locating such treasures.)

In many of the very old maps the cartography is recognized today as quite inaccurate, but the

quality of the artwork is something no one would dispute. From a graphic art point of view alone the maps are a wonderland of rare, magnificent material. Some are highlighted with gold and silver. The inaccuracies of the early maps are largely due to their being drawn in Europe by cartographers who relied on fragmentary information supplied by explorers and soldiers who returned and reported their observations and recollections. Therefore, it is surprising that these early maps are as accurate as they turned out to be. According to librarian Crumpler, "It is interesting to see the evolution of the improving accuracy of the maps of the same areas over the years." She says that such improvement in accuracy was a slow process primarily due to the use of "mother maps." These were maps thought at the time to be accurate and therefore copied over and over with only slight changes as explorers returned to Europe with better information. She says that even the inaccuracies in these maps were important in that they stimulated interest by other Europeans to search for the purported riches of the New World.



The mother map of greatest interest in the collection is "La Florida" drawn about 1584 by Geronimo de Chaves, royal cartographer to Philipp II, King of Spain. It shows the Atlantic coastline from the Florida Keys to the present state of South

¹ Footnote by Louise Rucker Agee Wrinkle: Commonly referred to as General Rucker, Colonel Edmund Winchester Rucker was wearing the star of Brigade General when captured by Union forces. It is believed that he received a battlefield commission at the time of the Battle of Nashville where he was wounded and subsequently captured.

from the Florida Keys to the present state of South Carolina and refers to Indian towns and landmarks as far inland as Central Tennessee applying the names commonly found on 16th century Spanish maps. Chaves based his map on another mother map, the undated and unsigned so-called deSoto Map that defines the extensive explorations of Fernando deSoto from 1539-1543.

Librarian Crumpler remembers that after his collection was opened at the Birmingham Public Library, Rucker Agee would occasionally come to reference the artifacts in the collection. "He would always be immaculately dressed in suit and tie. He would always ask very politely if he might see the collection, as if he were just someone off the street. He was always such a gentleman."

In 1982 he donated his extensive collection of books on Alabama history and the War Between the States to his alma mater, the University of Alabama, accompanied by a significant endowment. He wrote a number of articles and monographs on Alabama history and the Civil War, some of which focus on the military history of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Agee's grandfather, Col. Edmund W. Rucker, commanded a brigade under Forrest. Agee's book, *Twenty Alabama Books*, published in 1975 is a valuable research resource.

He provided leadership to many industrial and civic organizations. Too many to list here, he was on many boards and committees for businesses, banking and investment firms. He participated in drafting the first municipal bond code for the State of Alabama.

His civic involvements were numerous and included: President of the Birmingham Boy Scouts Council and recipient of the BSA Silver Beaver Award. He was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the U.S. Secretary of War for service in renegotiating contracts of Birmingham Ordnance District during World War II. In 1947 he was a founding member and president of the Alabama

Historical Society that developed a statewide program for highway signage of historical sites. He also held leadership positions in the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, the Children's Hospital of Birmingham, the National Recovery Administration (NRA), the Birmingham Development Board, the Alabama Museum of Natural History and the Alabama Civil War Centennial Commission. In 1975 he was elected to the Alabama Academy of Honor.

In 1927 he married Margaret Dixon Minge of Talladega, Alabama. They had two daughters, Katherine Minge, recently deceased, who was married to Arthur B. Durkee; and Louise Rucker who is married to John N. Wrinkle. The Rucker and Agee families have been members of St. Mary's on the Highlands Episcopal Church, in Birmingham since its founding in 1887. Rucker Agee died November 1, 1985 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Birmingham.

The University of Alabama has made many of the Agee maps available on the worldwide web. The maps may be accessed on line at <http://www.alabamamaps.ua.edu> — Search on "Agee Maps," for about 127 items from which to select.

Rucker family lineage of Rucker Agee:

Parents: Walter Claybrook Agee and Louise⁷ Winchester Rucker (Gen. Edmund⁶ Winchester, Dr. Edmund⁵, Thomas⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹).

Editor's Note: Last spring I planned a research trip to Alabama. Ron Payne, a former resident, suggested I go to the Birmingham Library which was named after a Rucker. It turned out that the map room was named after Rucker Agee! The library was a gold mine of information about the Ruckers in the area. Yvonne Crumpler, librarian, showed me the family files as well as the Rucker Agee Map Room. It was very impressive.

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Rucker Agee Home

by Jean B. Robinson

To be continued in the next newsletter

Steve Rucker, con't from p.21

A TRIBUTE TO STEVEN LISS RUCKER

October 11, 1965 – October 29, 2003

By Robert L. Rucker (brother of Steve)
Of Alameda Co., CA

Steve Rucker was destined to become a firefighter. My earliest recollections of his desire date back to when he was a toddler. We grew up in Sunnymead, California, which was served by a volunteer fire department. Every time the whistle sounded to call the firefighters, Steven could be found looking over the back fence to catch a glimpse of the trucks as they headed out on their calls.

In 1971 a new TV program called "Emergency!" captured his heart with its stories of firefighting heroes. Each day that the show was scheduled to be on, Steve would run into our parents' room in the morning yelling "Emergency, Emergency." We all gathered round the television during the evening so that he could follow the adventures of his heroes, Johnny and Roy, firefighter paramedics.

Our family relocated to Fremont, California in 1975 and Steve became active in the Boy Scouts and ultimately earned the rank of Eagle Scout. When Steve was old enough, he also participated with the local fire explorer's post until he was hired by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) as a seasonal fire fighter in 1985.

That year, Steve experienced his first major wildland fire on the Lexington fire. This fire grew to more than 15,000 acres and Steve and his crew escaped a close call by taking shelter in their engine when their position was overrun by flames.



Fire Fighter, Steve Rucker

In between the fire seasons, he studied fire science at Chabot College in Hayward, California and earned a Paramedic Certification from Western Institute in Daly City, California. In 1988, he started working as a paramedic with Regional Ambulance (now A.M.R.) while applying at various fire departments to realize his dream job of firefighting.

While working for Regional, he was stationed in West Richmond, California with a unit known as the "knife and gun club." The unit served an inner city area that resulted in him honing his paramedic skills on a constant flow of gunshot wounds, stabbings and drug overdoses. He served under trying conditions that included rendering aid to victims while under gunfire to successfully resuscitating a 4-pound premature baby that was not breathing upon delivery.

Steve met his wife Cathy while working with Regional. Cathy was a student at U.C. at Berkeley and was majoring in chemistry. She later worked

with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as a forensic chemist. They were married in Oakland, California on August 17, 1991.

Steve finally got his break in 1992 when he was hired as a firefighter paramedic with the Novato Fire Protection District. His dedication to pursuing his dream included enduring painful reconstructive surgery of his mouth and throat to cure his snoring and investing \$8,000 in eye surgery so that he could pass the Novato Fire physical exam. Since he had achieved his goal, he ordered a personalized license plate for his car that read "FIRERUC."

Steve loved working in Novato where the nature of the calls changed to a wide variety of medical assistance, structure and wildland fires. The position in Novato also opened up opportunities for community service. Steve headed the annual Novato Fire Toy Drive for underprivileged children. He enjoyed participating in various fire safety programs and continued to support the Boy Scouts. He also coordinated the Christmas and Easter parties for the Novato Fire families.

One of Steve's defining characteristics was genuine compassion for those he served. It was not uncommon for him to follow-up and visit people he had treated. Just before Steve's son was born, he had a call where he was unable to resuscitate a young drowning victim named Evan. Steve gave his own son the middle name Evan in honor of the young child he could not save.

No one was surprised that Steve volunteered to travel 400 miles south to fight the Southern California wildfires this year (2003). He was part of that special breed of individuals that would head toward danger when logic would tell you to do otherwise. The events of September 11th forever cast the image of what a noble profession firefighting is. The Southern California wildfires were no different with more than 15,000 men and women heading toward an unprecedented inferno in an effort to save property and lives.

Novato's Engine 6162 crew was among the thousands of firefighters fighting the 280,000-acre Cedar fire. At approximately 12:30 P.M. on October 29, 2003 flames overran Novato's Engine 6162 crew when the winds suddenly shifted. Steve Rucker was killed and the other three members of his team were injured, including his Captain, Doug McDonald who was critically burned. Ironically, Steve lost his life very near the spot where eleven firefighters were killed when fighting the 60,000-acre Inaja fire in 1956.

A memorial service was held on November 12 with California Governor Grey Davis and Governor-Elect Arnold Schwarzenegger among the notable attendees. An estimated 2,400 firefighters came from as far as New York and Taiwan for the service and 418 fire trucks arrived from throughout California. Mourners slowly filed past Engine 6162 that still bore signs of the intense heat of the fire that overran their position.

Governor Gray Davis poignantly memorialized Steve noting: "He was not ordered to go to San Diego. He volunteered to do so. He put himself in harm's way to protect people he had never met. He faced the worst fire San Diego had even seen, and he did not back down. Rucker did his job with courage, honor and compassion. He was the best our nation has to offer. He was a genuine American hero."

Steve leaves behind his wife, Catherine ("Cathy") Carlson Rucker; two children, Kerstin 7, and Wesley Evan 2; and his parents, Patricia and Darrell Rucker.

Lineage of Steven¹⁰ ("Steve") Liss Rucker (Darrell⁹ L., Robert⁸ L., John⁷ R., William⁶ T., Wilton⁵ Milton⁵ S., Jeremiah⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹) and (Jeremiah⁴ Rucker's wife Henrietta⁵ Stanley, Susannah⁴ Smith, Margaret³ Rucker, John², Peter¹). Jeremiah is found on p. 179 of *Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy*.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Bob Rucker for

sending Steve's obit from the Alameda *Times Star* Newspaper and writing this fine memorial to him. Thanks also to Alice Rucker of Sylmar, CA and Mary Estes of Thousand Oaks, CA for sending newspaper articles about the fire and Steve's heroism.

Mike Rucker (our roving reporter) sent a copy of his *Terry the Tractor* books to the children of Steve Rucker. Mike is also offering his books for sale in this newsletter, with profits going to the Steve Rucker Memorial Fund (see enclosed flyer). Those who wish to contribute to the Steven Rucker Memorial Fund may send donations: Bank of Marin, 1450 Grant Avenue, Novato, CA 94945.

If anyone would like to visit the website to see a fine memorial and give condolences to the family, see: <http://www.novatofire.org/>.

John and Ruth Rucker Celebrate 90th Birthdays

Submitted by daughter, Mary Rucker Estes

John Willson Rucker and Ruth Cunningham Rucker celebrated their 90th birthdays with parties held in the Meadows Senior Village in Nashville, Tennessee where they reside. John's birthday July 2 was celebrated July 6, 2003 with family and friends gathered for lunch at the Club House. All of their six children and many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren came from Delaware to California. John⁸ W. (John⁷ E., Benjamin⁶, Joseph⁵ B., James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹) entertained all by answering prepared and impromptu questions which gave information about family history and John's remembrances of his early life. Questions ranged from cows to cars, discipline to dating. The afternoon ended with everyone being better informed about their own heritage and with John still ready to add more. Ruth added to the remembrances, and assisted in

giving a picture of "life with John."

Ruth's birthday was November 7. The family gathered Sunday, November 9, 2003 again at the Club House for lunch. The Rucker family welcomed Ruth's Cunningham niece and nephews along with cousins from the Rucker side that had not been able to be with them in July. John and Ruth had chosen a number of songs that were meaningful to them in their early dating years that were led by their son, Tom Rucker. This group has many beautiful voices that made the singing a delightful experience. John and Ruth were asked to sing, "When I Grow Too Old to Dream," which they did without the help of a printed song sheet. Someone suggested the words should be sung, "When I Grow Too Old to Sing," but that would not be true for them. Grandson Caleb Rucker played beautifully a portion of "The New World Symphony" on the guitar. Several familiar hymns were sung ending the afternoon with "It Is Well With My Soul."

Editor's note: John and Ruth were married September 29, 1934 at the bride's home near McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee. They have six children (Mary, John, Ed, Evelyn, Tom, and Dan), seventeen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren (as of 2001). They will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary this year. We wish them the very best!

P.S. John Rucker was one of the coordinators of the 1998 Rucker Reunion in Nashville.

* * *

Ron Payne is willing to help anyone find a Rucker in the 1880 census. This is a wonderful service to us. Please note that he has changed his email address to <huntron@speedfactory.net>.

"Bill Rucker"

Written by Cindi¹⁰ B. Meyer

(Loralein⁹ "Lee" Crooke, Lilly⁸ W. Seaman, S. Rose⁷ Rucker, Richard⁶ Morton, Julius⁵, Abner⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹)

My husband and I have been traveling the world for the past six years without a home base. Imagine my surprise, when we finally bought a piece of property to build upon and two doors down was a Rucker neighbor who turned out to be a ninth or tenth cousin (Editor's note: actually sixth cousins, twice removed). Wouldn't you know, we would have to go all the way back to immigrant Peter to have a common ancestor! This family group can be found on page 260 of *Sudie Rucker Wood's* 1932 edition of the *Rucker Family History*. It is not in the scope of this article to prove or disprove lineage of Jasper Newton Rucker, someone out there probably knows better than I, since it is not my lineage. But, if *Sudie Rucker Wood's* hypothesis is correct, William⁸ Rucker's line would be Nathaniel⁷ J. Rucker, Jasper⁶ Newton, James⁵, Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹. Any corrections would be appreciated.

William ("Bill") Rucker was born January 12, 1938 in Tacoma, Washington to parents Nathaniel Rucker and Gertrude Pilling. He was the last child of Gertrude's, because she died in a whooping cough epidemic in that same year. Little William had five older siblings (David, Larry, Virginia, Natalie and Shirley) that his father had to worry about, so William was sent to live with Nathaniel's nephew, Frank Louis Rucker and his wife Leora Brewer who had a daughter named Shirley.

Bill was married twice and has four children. His first wife, Donna Dixon was mother to Michael Alan b. 1962, Lynda Lee b. 1963 and Daniel Roy b. 1971. His lovely wife of 30 years, Neva "Jean" Riegle is the mother of David William b. 1974. Bill attended school in Bellingham, WA, was in the National Guard for nine years. He now enjoys

golfing, pheasant hunting with his black labs, and doting on his grandchildren. He worked in the insurance industry for almost forty years. He and his wife Jean are getting ready to embark on a nine-month adventure of traveling the states by RV. Go Billy!

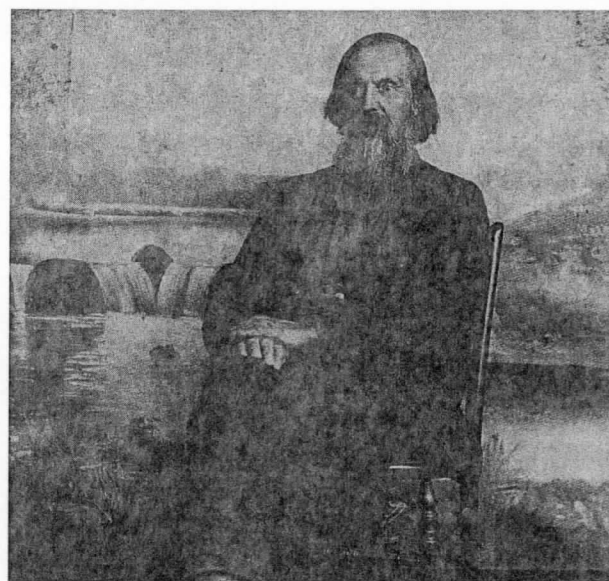
New Discovery: The Jasper Newton Rucker Family Bible! Here are some birthdates from the family bible that is in Bill's possession. It adds to the information found on page 260 of Sudie's book. Most important: there is a hand written note that this family came to Washington state in 1871 (maybe from Ohio or Iowa?), and went on to Canada in 1897. In the 1880 census, they lived in Semiahmoo, Whatcom Co., Washington State. Whatcom County is in the northwest corner of the state and on the border of Canada.

His children as written in the hand of Jasper Newton Rucker in the Bible:

1. Dwight Rucker b. June 21, 1880 married Agnes Graham Bigger on March 29, 1906 [they had seven children and their first born Frank Louis is who raised Bill Rucker].
2. Isa Baker was born on May 29, 1882 and died 1957.
3. Eva Day Rucker b. Nov 26, 1884, died 1930.
4. Edna Varisilla Rucker b. June 5, 1886, d. 1972.
5. Minnie Rucker b. Feb 6, 1890.
6. Alice Mabel Rucker b. Feb 25, 1892 [omitted from Wood's manuscript].
7. Nathaniel J Rucker b. Nov 13, 1895.
8. Harold John Rucker b. Nov 3, 1898.

In the same Bible was James Rucker (see Wood, p.259), born Jan 18, 1818, Margaret Rucker born Feb 8 1817, their issue:

1. Maria Rucker b. Feb 15 1839.
2. Paissilla [sic] Rucker b. April 22, 1841.
3. Jacob Rucker b. Jan 25 1843 [not in Wood's book].
4. Mary Rucker b. April 28, 1844.
5. Hariett [sic] Rucker b. Dec 10, 1846.
6. Susan Rucker b. Nov 2, 1849.
7. Jasper Rucker b. Aug 19, 1851.



James⁵ Rucker
born January 18, 1818

Bill has family photos including one of James Rucker, father of Jasper Newton Rucker taken in Blaine, WA. Also one of Margaret Baker Rucker, wife of James, holding her granddaughter Eva. Jasper Newton Rucker appears on the right of the duo of men. And an elderly photo of Jasper's wife, Elizabeth Maria Cain who was born in Sioux Falls, Iowa in 1857. Jasper and Elizabeth (Lizzie) were married in 1879, looks like Sept 17th, but I can't be sure. There is a super photo of Nathaniel Rucker in a kilt (!) and a darling photo of Gertrude Pilling harvesting potatoes.

Bill is also in possession of some copies of marriage and death records about his ancestors. He has Jasper Newton Rucker's death certificate and Nathaniel Rucker's and Gertrude Pilling's marriage certificate which adds information to the family records.

Editor's note: Look around, you may have a Rucker cousin living near you. Driving a car with license plate "Rucker 1," I frequently have cousins speak to me.

It's great fun meeting new cousins. Thanks to Cindi for writing about her find.

African-American Corner Slave Schedules

From Ancestry Weekly Digest, 21 June 2003
(<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>):

From "Finding Your African-American Ancestors," by David T. Thackery:
Available from The Shops @ Ancestry.com at:
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=1644&key=P2166>

"African Americans were enumerated as all other U.S. residents from 1870 (the first census year following the Civil War and emancipation) onward. Prior to 1870, however, the situation was far different. Although free African Americans were enumerated by name in 1850 and 1860, slaves were consigned to special, far less informative schedules in which they were listed anonymously under the names of their owners. The only personal information provided was usually that of age, gender and racial identity (either black or mulatto). As in the free schedules, there was a column in which certain physical or mental infirmities could be noted. In some instances the census takers noted an occupation, usually carpenter or blacksmith, in this column. Slaves aged 100 years or more were given special treatment; their names were noted, and sometimes a short biographical sketch was included. In at least one instance, that of 1860 Hampshire County, Virginia, the names of all the slaves were included on the schedules, but this happy exception may be the only instance when the instructions were not followed."

Ancestry.com has images of slave schedules from the 1850 and 1860 censuses available to subscribers to the U.S. Census Records Collection. They can currently be browsed by county at the following. (Browse down to the county level to access the slave schedules.)

1850 U.S. Federal Census:
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/redir.asp?sourceid=1644&targetid=4519>

1860 U.S. Federal Census:
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/redir.asp?sourceid=1644&targetid=4598>

Questions and Answers

Rucker Businesses: From Chuck Berry <cfberry@jps.net>: I have no information on the businesses Christopher Rucker solicited, but Joseph⁷ E. Rucker (Joseph⁶ E., William⁵ T., William⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹) started the Rucker Realty Company in 1874 in San Jose, California. It was operated by four generations of Ruckers. Joseph E.'s son, Joseph H., headed the Realty business after his father died, and owned the Rucker Mansion, see newsletter article in Vol. 13. No. 2, p.11-13, June 2002.

John Rucker, Dispatch Bearer: Where did John Rucker die? John was the son of John Rucker, grandson of Peter. Sudie Rucker Wood on p.15 said he was born circa 1720 and died about 1780. Wood cites several books that mention Rucker's service: *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* said that John Rucker was a dispatch bearer so he probably died in that state. Chris Rucker suggests he died at the Battle of King's Mountain or Guilford Courthouse. Hardesty's *Historical and Genealogical Encyclopaedia of Amherst County [VA]* said John died in service.

Has anyone done any research on John's Rev. service or willing to do so? Query from Flo Trawick email <kitten896@compuserve.com> or phone 1-434-386-5566. Please notify the Editor.

Franklin "Otto" Rucker: Obituary from the Bakersfield, CA newspaper (Sept. 15, 1998) submitted by Alice Rucker and Cindi Meyers who were researching in Bakersfield, CA. Otto died September 11, 1998 at the age of 92. His claim to fame was as a horseman, winning numerous rodeos, racing events and horse shows. He also raised and trained hunting hounds and Quarter horses.

Otto was born March 31, 1906 near the town of Miles, Oklahoma, then Indian Territory. He graduated from high school in 1929 in Fargo, OK. He was the Postmaster there for a couple of years.

Otto professionally boxed during the late 1920s and 1930s, losing only one bout in his boxing career. During WWII he moved to Southern California and worked at McDonald -Douglas for seven years. He lived and worked for 28 years as Loading Dock foreman with the Union Ice Company in Watson, CA. Then he moved to Bakersfield, Kern Co., CA where he lived until he died.

The obituary said he was married, but didn't mention her name or any children. Does anyone know who Otto's identity? There are not many people who can top his lifetime pursuits.

2004 Rucker Reunion and Batteau Festival

Our reunion will be held the 3rd weekend in June, the 18, 19 and 20 in Lynchburg, VA along with the Batteau Festival. Mark that weekend on your calendars and look for more information in the next newsletter.

Nell Cordick and Ruth Pillow are our coordinators. For more information see the Rucker web site: <http://www.mindspring.com/~jogt/surnames/ruckerfs.htm>

For the James River Batteau Festival web site, see <http://www.batteau.org/>

Research Nurse, Steve Rucker First Ebola Vaccine Volunteer

By Michael P. Rucker

"I've had better lunches," quipped Steve Rucker. Rucker, a Research Nurse/Study Coordinator at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), skipped lunch to become the first human volunteer to be injected with a trial vaccine aimed at curbing one of the most deadly diseases in the world.

Ebola is rampant in parts of Africa and results in a painful, gory bleeding death in up to 90% of its victims. The NIH had advertised for twenty-seven volunteers to receive the experimental vaccine, but the response rate was almost zero—until Steve stepped forward and became a pioneer in the high-tech effort to beat Ebola. There is currently no effective treatment for this highly contagious disease.

"People freak out about Ebola," said Margaret McCluskey, director of nursing at the NIH Vaccine Research Center. No wonder, when one considers the nature and mortality rate of the disease. However, the new vaccine has proven safe in monkey trials and Rucker feels he is not in any danger. Rucker said he "got religion" about the importance of vaccines while living in medicine-deprived areas of South America. "It sounds funny to say I'm excited about an Ebola vaccine, but this is really an exciting trial," he said after the injection. "It's so rare in research that you get to help with something that's so promising. And the pharmaceutical industry would never do this. There's no profit in this."

Steve has an extensive background in clinical research and is no stranger to trials of new vaccines. He coordinated trials of a therapeutic cancer vaccine for the National Cancer Institute prior to joining NIH. His primary experience, however, has been with studies of a variety of drugs that are now standard treatment for HIV/AIDS.

The vaccine spray-blasted into Rucker's arm — no needle necessary — is a new type of trial medication called a "DNA Vaccine" that holds promise for controlling other diseases such as AIDS, influenza, malaria and hepatitis. The dose fired several trillion bits of DNA into the cells of Rucker's arm. When asked on the National Public Radio program *All Things Considered* whether he was apprehensive about the injection he replied, "I did have a little anxiety as I thought about it, but I lived abroad enough to know that not everyone has the same access to good medical care that we have." This is one dedicated research scientist.

All I can add about Steve is: this guy has guts!

ANOTHER LEGEND OF PETER RUCKER'S ARRIVAL IN AMERICA

Jane Decker of Simpsonville, SC inherited the papers of Cornelia Dillard. She recently sent me a copy of these papers. What is so fascinating about the letters and notes is they were written in the 1920s before either Whitley's or Wood's Rucker books were printed. Some of the information in Sudie Rucker Wood's book has come from these papers. [Jane, I am thrilled to have them and appreciate your sharing them with me.]

One of the letters from Marie Keeble Rucker of Canton, Miss was actually addressed to Mrs. George S. DuBois of Paducah, KY and copied for Ms. Dillard. It has another story of Peter Rucker's arrival and the history of Marie's family. Unfortunately there is no date. The story goes like this:

"The Rising Sun"

"My great [great] grandfather on the paternal side was a Frenchman, Peter Rucker. When France and England were at war, France

sent out the war ship "The Rising Sun" which was taken by the British. The men on board the Rising Sun made their way for shore by Jumping over board, 'Peter Rucker' was one that reached the shore of the United States with great damage to the body from the effect of the salt water."

Written by John Wyatt Rucker (James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹). This was his grandfather's grandfather which is pretty close kin. Anyone willing to check the records for "The Rising Sun?" Marie Keeble was his wife.

ANOTHER LEGEND: The Rucker ancestor came to Virginia "from Alsace, France, in the time of Captain John Smith. The ship in which he came was wrecked, and he swam ashore with a bottle of French brandy."

From a publication, submitted by Martha R. Zimmerman, Harvey, IL. The date's off by 100 years, but brandy may be better than the barrel of rum of other stories. Naaaaa!

IN MEMORIAM

Mary "Doris" Edwards's obituary appeared in the *Grand Rapids Press*, February 18, 2003, submitted by her daughter, Karen Cernak. Doris died February 16, 2003 at home in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her husband James E. Edwards and her son Jerry I. Edwards. Her children that survive her are Daniel Edwards and wife Pamela of Grand Haven, MI, Karen and her husband Bruce Cernak of Mishawaka, Indiana, James Edwards and his wife Susan of Jenison, MI, ten grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and her brother Franklin Wright of NC. She was buried at Rest Lawn Memorial Park.

Doris was one of the "Big Four"* of the Rucker family genealogists. She gathered family group sheets of the Ruckers and placed them at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA. She was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Rucker Family Society.

Doris⁸ Wright's lineage: (Joseph⁷ F. Jr., Louisa⁶ A. Ham, William⁵, John⁴, Mildred³ Rucker, John², Peter¹).

*Note: The Big Four of the early days of the Rucker Family Society were Alice Allen of Austin, TX, Mary Snyder of Jeffersonville, IN, Doris Edwards of Grand Rapids, MI and Jeannie Robinson of Richmond, VA.

* * *

Courtney Rucker died November 8, 2003 at home in Richmond, VA. Her obituary appeared in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* on November 10, 2003.

She was the daughter of Dr. Douglas⁸ Pendleton Rucker (Dr. Marvin⁷ Pierce, Dr. Edwin⁶ Timothy, Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹) and Margaret Field Williams Rucker. She is survived by her brother, Douglas P. Rucker Jr. and his wife, Marian; her brother, M. Pierce Rucker and his wife, Leslie; her niece, Meredith Rucker Hunter and her husband Christian and her sister-in-law, Louise M. Rucker.

Courtney graduated from Sweet Briar College in Amherst Co., Virginia after a year of study at The American Institute in Aix-en-Provence. She began her teaching career in Paris and established foreign language departments in several French business schools. She met and married her husband in Paris, France, later separating. Courtney lived in Paris for many years before moving to Charleston, SC where she worked in the hospitality and securities industries. After retirement, she moved back to Richmond and pursued her hobby of painting.

Courtney was an active member of Unity Church of Richmond where she served as Chaplain. She is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

* * *

Corine Rucker Williams expired on February 2, 2003 in Northridge, California. She observed her 85th birthday on January 6, 2003. She and her husband, Francis E. Williams were married 54 years. Corine was a sixty year member of The American Dietetics Association, a past president of the California Dietetics Association and was one of the first five consultant Dieticians in the nation. Her last ten years of practice included work as a professor at the Los Angeles City College along with classes taught at Pepperdine and Los Angeles State University. The California State Dietetics Association is currently gathering funds for a Corine Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund under the leadership of Linda Dahl, currently the C.D.A. Foundation President. She was proud of her Rucker heritage and enjoyed being a member of The Rucker Family Society. Submitted by her husband, Francis E. Williams.

* * *

Death Notices

from Anne Rucker Loyd

Waynesboro, Virginia

<AnneRucker@planetcomm.net>

We have lost several Rucker cousins in recent years, that I may or may not have told you about. I will list them, and you can let me know if you need further information.

Charlotte Landon Rucker Leckie, 16 Apr 1996

Emily Harris Rucker Smith, 17 Jan 1997

Robert Russell Dixon, Jr., ... June 1999

William Henry Oglesby, 5 Dec 2002

Margaret Louise Rucker Foster, 29 Apr 2002

Mary Walker "Mame" Rucker Barley, 10 Feb 2003

Also, husbands/wives of Ruckers:

Catherine Dandridge Rucker Lester: Benjamin Hulen Lester, 7 Oct 1997

Joshua Eldon Rucker: Bess S. Thompson Rucker, 4 May 1998

Charlotte Landon Rucker Leckie: Cabell Thornton Leckie, 13 Feb 2000

Postscript From Allen Rucker

Re: the Allen Rucker article by Mike Rucker
(RFSN, Vol. 14, No. 1, March 2003, p.1)

Mike, your piece on "Hard Luck" Nap Rucker was terrific. One more correction in my own family history. You wrote that my father, Dr. Ralph Weller Rucker, "lived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and died in his 50's." He was born in Norman, Oklahoma, did live in Bartlesville, but died in his mid-30's from a freak falling accident in 1948, leaving my mother, Laura Rucker, to raise four young children on her own.

Also: the third updated edition of "The Sopranos: A Family History" will be released on Sept 2nd, 2003. All Rucker descended mob lovers should own it, don't you think?

Bob Easter, Realtor and Author,

has written a couple of helpful books to use when buying or selling a home. They are: *The 14 Home Selling Secrets* at \$14.95 and *Home Buying Power* for \$12.95 or \$19.95 for both. [His first book, *The Numbers Game* (about the newspaper business), is no longer in print.] When buying both books, Bob will also enclose three special reports: 10 Tips Items to Fix Before you Sell, 10 Tips before you buy and 7 Home Improvement Rip-offs to Avoid.

Bob's lineage is through Ann⁵ ("Nancy") Rucker (Joseph⁴, Cornelius³, Thomas², Peter¹), b. ca 1784,

who married ca 1805, Champion Easter.

Bob is a real estate broker in the Austin, TX and is a leading advocate for protecting consumer rights. If you are interested in his books, contact Bob at <beaster1@austin.rr.com> or 1-800-848-5593. To see copies of his books, check out his web site at www.easterhome.com.

GENEALOGICAL TREASURES — A COMMENTARY

by Dean DeBolt <ddebolt@mail.uwf.edu>

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RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Genealogy News,
Vol. 2, No. 38, 22 September 1999. RootsWeb:
<<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>

What do you plan to do with your genealogy papers?

I applaud those folks who are considerate enough to do what I'm doing — and that is preserve records. But I also wince when I think about what will happen to the bits of materials that good-hearted genealogists have saved. If you get no response from a RootsWeb list, do you keep it? Sell it? Toss it?

What I urge folks to do is donate these items to an archives or historical society — first making sure that the archives or historical society fully catalogs such items. A key point is whether their materials are cataloged into OCLC or RLIN. These are national online card catalogs that make it possible to find out where information is. I know quite a few historical societies that do good work but no one outside of their building knows what they have. But when an organization catalogs on a national online card catalog or database, thousands can discover family papers and research records throughout the country.



Addison Family Photo

From left: David Fonville III and Townshend, sister; Dave Addison Sr., father; Lee and Chad Lesley; bride and groom; Marion Addison, mother; and David Addison Jr., brother.

A Family Wedding

The marriage of Miss Marion Lee Addison to Mr. Chadwick Parker Lesley, both of Atlanta, GA, took place August 23, 2003 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. Lee, as the bride is called, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Dunham Addison of Richmond. Chad is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Lesley of Atlanta.

The reception was held at the home of the bride's parents and the weather was perfect. (After three months of rainy weather, it was a miracle!) The ambiance under the tent with fabulous music from a band from Atlanta playing all the favorites, the delicious food (shrimp, lambchops, beef tenderloin, crabcakes and assorted other delicacies), the lovely decorations from the arbor over the front door to the beautiful floral arrangements made the evening special.

The bride wore the beautiful Brussel lace wedding gown first worn by her great-grandmother (over 100 years ago), and then by her grandmother, mother, aunts, sister and many others (including yours truly—the Editor).

Lee is a graduate of Mary Baldwin College and is co-founder of Turq Jewelry and Design in Atlanta. The groom graduated from the University of Georgia and is a commercial land broker in Atlanta. They will live in Atlanta.

Post note: Lee¹⁰ Addison is the great granddaughter of Sudie Rucker Wood. Her Lineage: Marion⁹ Lee Wood, Garland⁸ A., Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A., William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Editor's Note

Much has happened since our last newsletter (June 2003). Hurricane Isabel blew through Richmond like Sherman through Georgia. It left us without electricity for eight days, telephone for five more, cable for a month, with a devastation of debris. I am still waiting for repairs to my garage, tool house and roof of the house. Sorry about the delay of the newsletter, but Hurricane Isabel (Sept, 17, 2003) was like WWII.

This issue is filled with Ruckers in the news. The first happened on October 30, 2003 on the Today Show. It was announced that during the California wildfires, a fireman had been killed. His name was STEVE RUCKER, see p.25.

Another Steve Rucker (see p.31) was in the news shortly thereafter for receiving the first Ebola vaccine. Thanks to Ellen Wagner of Highland, MD for sending a newspaper article about the event.

Once again, I was awakened to a Rucker relative in the news. January 3, 2004 — Steve Irwin, "Crocodile Hunter" was parading his one-month-old son (who is a Rucker) in front of a snapping croc. He said he did the same thing with his five-year-old daughter, but this one was captured on Australian television and shown to the world. Irwin, who said he was sorry, feels he needs to teach his children crocodile savvy because of living in a reptile park.

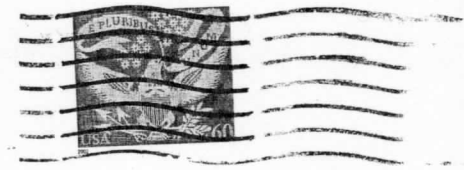
From time to time, cousins send me copies of books they have written. Hollis M. Jones of Stafford, Arizona, has submitted a family album of photos collected by his grandmother, Gracie⁸ Tennessee Rucker Jones (Nathaniel⁷ M. Rucker, Silas⁶ N., Mordecai⁵, James⁴, Mordecai³, William², Peter¹). Gracie (1888-1981) compiled seven albums of family pictures. After Gracie died, it was decided to compile an album for all to share. Hollis has included family group sheets and newly collected photos as well. You can see one of these remarkable pictures in RFSN Vol. 14, No. 1, p.6.

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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