

# the Rucker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

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Sept and Dec 2004

### THE RUCKER FAMILY REUNION

June 17-20, 2004

By Nell Cordick

*Sholto*

The Rucker Family Society Reunion was held in Amherst County, Virginia on June 17-20, 2004. One hundred and twenty people attended from twenty-one states.

On Thursday morning, June 17, the group traveled to Bedford, VA to tour the D-day Memorial. Byron Dickson, a Rucker descendant, was the architect who created the D-day Memorial honoring WWII veterans. He conducted a personal tour for the group, pointing out the significance of many of the features throughout the memorial. Laurie Giudice and Robert Rucker who are Rucker descendants and volunteer guides with the D-day Memorial assisted with the tour. The group then traveled to Boonsboro Country Club outside

of Lynchburg, VA for a buffet lunch. Anne Rucker Loyd spoke on the history of Boonsboro. This home, called "*Sholto*," was once owned by her grandfather. She told the group stories of her remembrances of visiting the property as a child.

The group then traveled to the Old City Cemetery (1806) in Lynchburg where Jane White coordinated a wonderful tour of the four museums there. Re enactments by tour guides included the Pest House Medical Museum which highlighted Civil War pestilence, medicinal herbs, and treatments by the country doctor. Several from our group agreed to be "patients." The Ruckers also received a guided tour of the Railroad Station House and a talk on Victorian Era mourning protocol.

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Trip Leaders: Nell Cordick and Ruth Pillow

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Sandusky House was the final stop of the tour for the group. Located in Lynchburg, Virginia, it was used as a temporary headquarters of the Union army under the direction of General David Hunter in June 1864.

That night, Mr. Dick Wills invited the group to have dinner at his newly restored home in Elon, VA. The home was formerly owned by a Burford family member. This was a surprise invitation and the group enjoyed touring the home and sharing the wonderful food and fellowship.

On Friday, the group visited town of Amherst including the Amherst County Historical Society and Museum. Many in the group enjoyed the museum exhibits as well as the library where individual family research was conducted. Amherst Cemetery was the next stop for the group. Lunch was served at Winton Country Club, where Patrick Henry's mother lived and is buried. Ruth McBride spoke on the connection between Ambrose Rucker, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, along with the history of Winton.

Chris Rucker introduced the Rucker Family Society Photo Website. He welcomes everyone to share memorabilia and photos via this site:

<http://www.msnusers.com/AncestralRuckerPhotos>  
(see more about this on p.32).

Following lunch, the group took a tour of Sweet Briar House which currently is the home for the President of Sweet Briar College. The home was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and is included in the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. After a short break on Friday afternoon, the group reconvened in the Elston Conference Center at Sweet Briar College for a series of speakers. Ralph Smith, son-in-law of Edward and Marita Taylor, spoke on the batteau. He serves as Captain of the *Anthony B. Rucker* batteau this year. Ralph dressed in period costume and delighted the group with his vast knowledge of the batteau. Mark Magruder, professor of dance at Sweet Briar College, spoke on colonial dance. The group enjoyed hearing about the rules and protocol surrounding this popular activity. Jeannie Rucker captivated the group with her presentation of Civil War era clothing. Jeannie dressed a model with numerous layers as a woman would have dressed during the Civil War time period. The ladies in the group were thankful that styles have changed dramatically in the last 150 years. Jeannie was dressed in period costume as well. Bobby Stovall and Tricia Bastin presented a slide show and talk on the famous artist, Queena Stovall (a Rucker descendent). Queena's home was in the Elon area of Amherst County, and many of her paintings depicted the way of life on a farm in Central Virginia during her lifetime. Bobby Stovall also was able to give personal stories about his mother's life and activities. The evening concluded with a reception in the Elston Room of Sweet Briar College, where everyone had a chance to enjoy a variety of refreshments and visit with one another.

Saturday morning began with the group departing from Sweet Briar College by bus. The first stop was to view the highway markers, on Route 29 in Faulconerville, denoting Rucker historical sites in the surrounding area. The highlight of the day was

the James River Batteau Festival on the waterfront of the James River in Lynchburg. Everyone enjoyed a box lunch as they watched the send off of the batteaux from the shores of Lynchburg en route to their final destination of Richmond a week later. Of particular significance was the *Anthony B. Rucker* batteau which was captained by Ralph Smith. Mike Rucker (see p.24) crewed on the *Rose of Nelson*. Lynchburg and the James River Batteau Festival were featured in a recent issue of *Southern Living Magazine*.

The afternoon continued with a stop at the Samuel B. Rucker homesite which sits on the Amherst County side of the James River overlooking downtown Lynchburg. The group then stopped by the *Wigwam*, the former home of Queena Stovall. The views and scenery were magnificent. The group visited Graham Cove, the site of the Ambrose Rucker cemetery. Special thanks go to Chris Rucker who has spent numerous hours in the cleanup and restoration of this cemetery. After a very brief rest, the group reconvened. En route to dinner the group made a quick stop at *Rosehill*, former home of Amelia Rucker's son, Col. William<sup>5</sup> Anthony Richeson (Amelia<sup>4</sup> Rucker, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). Dinner Saturday evening was a pig roast and fried catfish buffet at Buffalo

River Recreation, which is owned by a Rucker descendent. The group was treated to an interesting talk on our Civil War Rucker ancestors by Chris Rucker. Chris and Jeannie Rucker dressed in the period costume. Chris asked several family members to portray their Rucker ancestors.

On Sunday, the biennial meeting of The Rucker Family Society took place. Special highlights included a presentation of a beautiful Waterford crystal vase to Jeannie Robinson for her long standing support and dedication of the Rucker Family Society. Russell McBride, son of Ruth McBride, did a fantastic job with the auction to benefit the Rucker Family Society. Many interesting artifacts were brought to the auction, including the beautiful graphics created for the reunion by Ursula Bryant, granddaughter of Edward and Marita Taylor. Fred Rucker generated a great anticipation and invited everyone to the next reunion in Salt Lake City in 2006. During lunch, the group was treated to a talk on the early Ruckers by Michael John Neill, Rucker descendent, college professor and genealogist,.

Ruth Pillow, my sister, and I would like to extend much appreciation to everyone who made this reunion a success.



Loren &  
Alice  
😊

# The Rucker Family Society Minutes of the Members' Meeting

June 20, 2004

The 2004 Rucker Reunion Members' Meeting was held at the Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center at Sweet Briar College, Amherst County, Virginia on Sunday, June 20, 2004. Jeannie Robinson, President, presided and Karen Duncan, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

The previous evening, Saturday, June 19, 2004, during the barbeque dinner at Buffalo River Recreation, a short meeting was held and Jeannie Robinson made a few member citations. Alice and Howard Allen of Austin, TX were the longest married at 58 years. The oldest person present was Amherst native Mary Rucker, widow of Warner, at age 88. The youngest person was the 6-year-old grandson of Joe and Elizabeth Sites of Fairfax, VA. The person with the most children (6) and grandchildren (22) was Betty Ott of Macon, GA. Ed Taylor of Amherst Co. was congratulated for the longest service to the Rucker family. He was the first person Jeannie met when beginning her search for Ruckers in the area. Ed organized the first reunion in 1984, has served on the board since its inception and, with his wife, Marita, has attended every Rucker reunion. Jeannie then introduced our guest speaker for the evening.

Chris Rucker was dressed as his great-grandfather, William Ambrose Rucker, in a dashing Civil War uniform. His wife Jeannie Rucker was beautifully dressed in period costume as his fiancé, Annie Chappleear. Chris, with volunteers from the audience, told about all the young Rucker men from Amherst County who served in the War Between the States.

On Sunday, the meeting opened with the four children present, Kellie & Laura Duncan of Manchester, MD, and Sarah & Katherine Neill of Rio, IL, leading us in Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Directors present were introduced; Margaret Beesley, Doris Cain, Karen Duncan, Becky Fox, Joyce Pittman, Jeannie Robinson, Chris Rucker, Marjorie Sutherland and Ed Taylor. Not present were Leslie Cabral, Sim Crisler, Roland Pittman, and Karl Rice. Newly elected board members, Alice J. Rucker of Sylmar, CA and Fred Rucker of Bountiful, UT were introduced. It was announced that board members Doris Edwards has died and Charles Robinson has resigned.

Newly elected officers:

Chris Rucker, President  
Jeannie Robinson, Vice President  
Karen Duncan, Secretary  
Becky Fox, Treasurer  
Alice Rucker, Registrar

The minutes were dispensed with and Becky Fox gave the treasurer's report. As no projects were reported, ideas for new projects were requested.

Fred Rucker gave a short homily and prayers.

Chris Rucker took a roll call of states represented at the reunion. Eighteen states were represented with eight from the furthest away state, California. Twenty-six people were attending their first reunion. (Please note that some people had left early so they were not shown in this counting.)

A roll call of people from their home states:

California 8	Iowa 2	South Carolina 2
Delaware 2	Kansas 1	Tennessee 2
Georgia 2	Maryland 4	Texas 2
Idaho 2	Missouri 7	Utah 3
Illinois 4	Mississippi 4	Virginia 14
Indiana 3	Ohio 2	West Virginia 3

A roll call of the children of the Immigrant Peter Rucker and their descendants were as follows:

John 25	William 0
Peter 0	Mary 0
Thomas 11	James 10
Elizabeth 0	Ephraim 7
Margaret 0	Ann 0



Jeannie recalled how Ambrose Rucker of Kansas City MO, at our early reunions, prided himself on being the only person to stand for two ancestors. This year we had five descendants of both James and Ephraim Rucker: Karen Duncan from Missouri, her son and twin granddaughters from Maryland and her mother, Sue Barton from Missouri, represented four generations.

Jeannie spoke on John Rucker's patent of land in Amherst, which incorporates the land on which Sweet Briar stands (and the reunion headquarters) extending to Faulconerville where the two Rucker highway markers stand. She noted that Rucker descendants are buried in the cemetery on the Sweet Briar College grounds.

Cousins who have written books on the Rucker family were recognized, as well as the newly printed Dewberry book. Ron Payne, who was not present, was thanked for the many books he has written on Rucker research, especially a copy of all the Ruckers listed in the 1880 census. He sent copies of some of his books to be sold at the reunion with proceeds going to the memorial fund. Jim Rucker of Campbell Co., VA presented his notebook of Rucker cemetery records that people have sent him over the years. Jim requested additional material for the notebook. Jeannie said that eventually she would donate her books to the Amherst Co. Museum and Historical Society.

Previous reunion locations:

1988- the first national Rucker Family Reunion was held in Ruckersville, VA  
1990- Amherst Co., VA  
1992- Fredericksburg, VA  
1994- Bedford Co., VA  
1996- Crabapple, GA  
1998- Nashville, TN  
2000- Williamsburg, VA  
2002- Kansas City, MO  
2004- Amherst Co., VA

Jeannie read a list of people who have died since the last reunion. She said Rod Mason was our first

president and served for four years, Roland Pittman was next also for four years and Jeannie has been president for six years.

The 2006 reunion will be held in October in Salt Lake City. Fred Rucker, his wife, Carol and Fred's sister, Doris Wasden told about their plans for the reunion. It will be centered around research at the LDS Library with side trips to Park City, an early mining town, the copper mines and Temple Square. The 2008 reunion will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Jeannie then handed over the gavel to newly elected president, Chris Rucker. Chris thanked Nell Cordick and Ruth Pillow for organizing and running this most successful 2004 reunion. Chris then thanked Jeannie Robinson for her years of service as organizer and president and presented her with a lovely vase of Waterford Crystal.

Russell McBride, a Rucker descendant and professional auctioneer, auctioned 20 items donated by members. Becky Fox tabulated the sale and reported a profit of \$529.

Chris then introduced our speaker Michael John Neill, professor, Rucker descendant, and nationally known writer and speaker on genealogy. He spoke on John Rucker's serving of the punch at an election. This story is related on page 7-8 in Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy and Michael brought additional details and humor to the story. My favorite part was where someone stood on the Judge's desk and "danced among the papers."

After a fine lunch buffet, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Brydon Robinson, Secretary

Addendum July 15, 2004: Karen Duncan resigned as Secretary and after a call to Board members, it was decided to appoint Jeannie Robinson as secretary until the Board meets again in Salt Lake City in 2006.



**Mike Rucker, Batteauman**

During the Rucker Reunion in June 2004, Mike Rucker [g.g.g. grandson of batteau inventor Benjamin Rucker] cast off aboard the batteau *Rose of Nelson* on the week long trip from Lynchburg to Maiden's Landing just west of Richmond. During the previous year's James River Batteau Festival, Mike had started down the river aboard the *Rose* only to have to cut his trip short because of his wife's sudden illness. His 2003 experience was recorded in *The Rucker Family Society Newsletter*, March 2003, Vol. 15, No. 1.

\* \* \* \* \*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Jo Caula Gregg Thiessen**, born Jan. 19, 1931 in Covington KY, daughter of Joseph and Mildred Payne Gregg, died July 18, 2004. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Jacob I. Thiessen, Georgetown, KY, a daughter, Heather Thiessen of Corydon, IN, and a son, Jacob Gregg (Andrea) Thiessen of Washington, D.C. Other survivors include an uncle, Thomas M. Payne of Opelousas, LA and cousins, Zola Jean Collins, Corinth, KY and Mary L. Ravenscroft, Kansas City, MO. Two brothers, Boyce Gregg and Burns

M. Gregg, preceded her in death.

Jo spent her childhood and youth in North Little Rock, and graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1948. She later graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois and LA County/USC School of Medical Technology, and received an MBA from the University of Southern California. She was a retired Medical Technologist, Director of Laboratories, and laboratory and systems consultant. After retiring to the Georgetown area in 1994, she was active in numerous nonprofit community organizations in Scott County, KY, holding offices, serving on Boards and establishing and maintaining web sites for these groups and others across the nation. She was active in the Kentucky State DAR Society and Georgetown's Big Spring Chapter. She participated in the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, and served as member and two-term president on the Board of the Georgetown/Scott County Museum, president and secretary of the Scott County Genealogical Society, and Board member of the Scott County Arts Consortium. She was a charter member of the KYGenWeb group, developing Scott County's site in April 1996.

After cremation, Jo will be buried at Raven Creek Cemetery, Harrison Co., Kentucky.

Submitted by daughter, Heather Thiessen. Minor variations of this obituary were published in the following publications: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*; *Pasadena [CA] Star News*; and the *Lexington [KY] Herald-Leader*.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Ira Martin Rucker**, 82, aviator, passed away June 17, 2004. Ira was born at home in Wichita in 1921 and lived in Kansas his entire life. He bought his first airplane, a Stearman, in 1946, following his discharge from the Navy. He and his late brother, Bill, formed Rucker Brothers Flying

Service, an aerial applicator business based in Burdett, Kansas. He kept active in the aviation field long after his retirement. His expertise and attention to detail were widely recognized throughout the aviation industry. He rebuilt two World War II Stearmans, and has recently completed rebuilding a Piper J 3 Cub. His greatest pleasure consisted of flying his vintage aircraft in air shows throughout the U.S., often accompanied by his friends, Wesley "Red" Kimble and John Murphy. He spent his days at Clearwater Air working on his airplanes and vintage automobiles along with help from his many associates. He was active in the Kansas Aviation Museum, a member of the Quiet Birdmen and the First Christian Church of Clearwater. He is survived by his three sons, Steven and wife PJ of Clearwater, Richard and wife Teresa of Eureka, Todd and wife Peggy of Eagle Colorado; seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. His wife Dorothy preceded him in death in 1991. Also surviving him are his sisters, Mildred Kallenbach of Valley Center, Beverly McAllister of Wichita, Patsy Boles of Liberal. Ira's enthusiasm for life will be greatly missed by all.

Submitted by Beverly Rucker McAllister. Ira's obituary was published in the *Wichita Eagle*, Sunday, June 20, 2004

Lineage: Ira<sup>8</sup> Martin Rucker (Ira<sup>7</sup> M. Sr., John<sup>6</sup> Lafayette, William<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mordecai<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

Note from Jeannie Robinson: Beverly and her sister Mildred and their husbands were at the Rucker Family Reunion in Amherst Co., VA when they received the news that their brother had died. It must have been a terrible experience for them, but they held their heads up and continued at the Reunion until they could get a flight home. We send the family our love and prayers.

See article on page 27 and photo on p.28.

**Charles Wayne Bellamy**, was born August 17, 1920 in Blackfoot, ID, and died August 7, 2003 in San Marcos, California, after a long bout with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ivalou Bellamy; a son, Dr. Charles L. Bellamy and daughter-in-law, Rose Bellamy of Sacramento CA; a daughter, Gayle Saltz and a son-in-law, Joel Saltz of Vista CA; and two grandchildren, Tara Diane and Cameron Saltz.

Mr. Bellamy graduated from USC with a degree in chemical engineering after serving in World War II. He was employed by North American Aviation, which later became Rockwell International. He was part of the team that put the first man on the moon. After retiring, his greatest interest was writing, and he later published a book on business technology. He loved traveling with his wife and friends, going to the theater and playing golf.

Funeral services were held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at San Marcos, CA.

Charles Wayne Bellamy's obit was submitted by his wife, Ivalou Bellamy. They met in college in Idaho and have lived in California since 1941.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Edythe Layne Lenchert**, age 79, passed away on August 23, 2004. Edythe was born in Cullen, VA, and came to the Washington area in 1946, living at McLean, Virginia. She graduated from James Madison University and did graduate work at Virginia Tech. She was a home economics teacher in Northern Virginia schools and continued to work as a substitute teacher until her death. She was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Vienna, VA, and was a Sunday school teacher and a Girl Scout leader. She was a member of the National Education Association and several teaching organizations, including the Potomac Home Economists.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Zygmund Lenchert; two children, Linda Gwynne of Ashburn and Zygmund Lenchert Jr. of McLean; two sisters and three grandchildren. Her obituary was submitted by her husband Zygmund Lenchert, 1332 Sunnyside Lane, McLean, VA 22102-1526.

\* \* \* \* \*

**John Frank Rucker**, age 92 of Rutledge, TN, died October 17, 2004. His wife was Lenora Bull Rucker and his parents were James and Jessie Rucker. His sister was Hazel Rucker. He is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Rucker and son, Dr. John M. Rucker. He was buried at Richland Cemetery in Grainger Co., TN.

John<sup>9</sup> Frank Rucker (James<sup>8</sup> O., John<sup>7</sup> F., Nelson<sup>6</sup> J., John<sup>5</sup>, Colby<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). The obit from the Grainger County, Tennessee newspaper, October 2004, was submitted by Archie Dalton <adalton478@hotmail.com>.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Elizabeth Shearer**, widow of Ross Sterling Shearer, Sr. (who died in 1997) passed away quietly on October 28, 2004, after a lengthy 7½ years at a nearby nursing home. The December 1995 issue (Vol. 6, Num. 4) of the Rucker Family Society Newsletter featured a profile of her.

Elizabeth was a former volunteer history interpreter with Arlington House and did much to preserve the integrity of the historic mansion in Arlington, VA. For 30 years she conducted tours and performed other duties at the former home of Robert E. Lee. One of the things she fought was the taking of land around the mansion to make additional space for Arlington National Cemetery. She said, "The memorial should not be reduced and be made less appealing, less natural, less historic by removing even a part of the remaining woodland area it has occupied since before the Civil War."

Elizabeth grew up in the Clarendon section of Arlington and earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University in 1932. After college, she began her life of volunteerism to her community and her church. For 75 years she served at First Baptist Church of Clarendon. She also helped start church congregations throughout Northern Virginia. She spent eight years on the Baptist Foreign Mission board and was president of the Mount Vernon Baptist Association, a partnership of most Baptist churches in Northern Virginia.

After World War II, she joined Arlington's Citizens' Committee for School Improvement which supported reform of public schools in Arlington.

She is survived by two sons Rees Shearer of Emory, VA and Ross Shearer, Jr. of Vienna, VA and three grandchildren. Her obituary, submitted by son Ross <rshearer@erols.com>, was in the *Washington [DC] Post*, Nov. 3, 2004.

Elizabeth had three lines of Rucker descent: Elizabeth<sup>8</sup> Ann Rees (Ella<sup>7</sup> Blanche Rucker, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>5</sup> B., George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and (Wm.<sup>5</sup> B.'s wife Mary<sup>6</sup> Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and (Daniel<sup>6</sup>'s wife, Mariamna<sup>7</sup> Rucker, James<sup>6</sup> Monroe, Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), see Wood, p.46, 52, & 81.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Nan M. Clarkson** passed away on March 17, 2004. John S. Clarkson of Shipman VA, Nan's nephew, provided this news to Alice Rucker. No obituary was included, but he said "she died after a long and trying illness. Her self reliance and fortitude are an inspiration to us. Nan gave us many gifts, none as precious as her love of history and her family heritage. We all miss her greatly but are grateful that her struggle is over."



## News and Notes

### If Walls Could Talk Episode from RFSN, Vol. 15, No. 2, June 2004

From Cindi Youngblut, Director, Osage Public Library <osagepl@osage.net>

I just received your latest Rucker family newsletter and was glancing at it. I noticed you had a question about someone who saw some Ruckers featured on a show called "If Walls Could Talk." (That is the correct title, not "If These Walls Could Talk.") At any rate, I went to the HGTV website (www.hgtv.com) and used the "episode finder." I brought up the name of the show and typed Rucker in as the episode topic of the show, since I didn't know the date.

What came up was the following information: The episode was number WCT-1013. It was called "Portrait of English Life." Two other homes were featured as well, but regarding the Rucker house it said: "Then, as memories of the past come out of the woodwork of a 1904 Four Square home, Cathy and Larry Mong recollect days gone by with the Rucker family." It aired September 10, 2004. If you use Yahoo's "People Search" you can look up Larry Mong. There are two listed — but the one you want is in Wichita, KS (316) 267-8228.

To answer your question on who was Randal Rucker: On "People Search," There are TWO Randal Ruckers (though there were a total of 36 listed—some with different spellings of Randal, some listed as Randy, etc.). One lives in Jamaica, New York and his phone number is (718) 526-7126. The other lives in Bozeman, Montana and his number is (406) 586-1798. If you have never used "People Search," you should give it a try! It's all free, and for example, you could just type in Rucker and find every single Rucker in the United States . . . or, you can narrow it down as you wish. Good luck with your search.

### If Walls Could Talk Episode from RFSN, Vol. 15, No. 2, June 2004

From Beverly Rucker McAllister  
<maxbev@cox.net>

There may have been more than one Rucker home shown on "If Walls Could Talk," but on June 27, and repeated September 10, HGTV showed a great program on the home of the Ira Martin Rucker family from 1929 to 1938 which is located at 943 S. Topeka, Wichita, Kansas. A great couple, Larry and Kathy Mong, owns it now and they were happy to make the acquaintance of our family members and even let us have a family reunion there. They found a note our Mother had written to our Brother Jr. (Ira) telling him he and our other Brother, Bill could have a piece of cake and also a postcard written to my Sister Mildred by another relative.

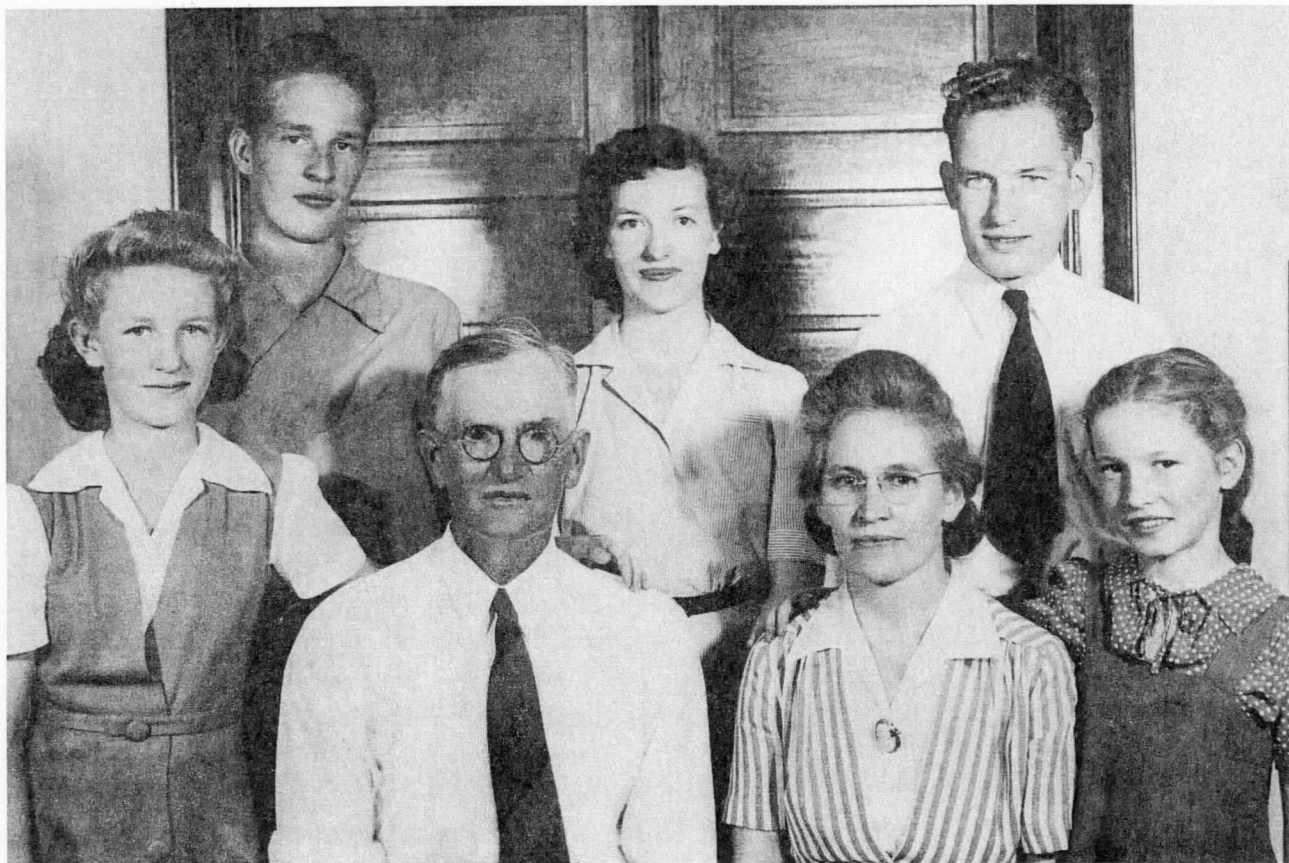
Our Brother Ira was killed in a car wreck June 17, 2004. I would be happy to answer any question you might have. We are in the William line: father, Ira<sup>7</sup> Martin Rucker Sr. (John<sup>6</sup> Lafayette, William<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mordecai<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

Note from Jeannie Robinson: Beverly and her sister Mildred and their husbands were at the Rucker Family Reunion in Amherst Co., Virginia when they received the news that their brother had died.

Beverly also mentions that her brothers used to watch airplanes from the roof of the 3-story house. Both became pilots with a crop dusting business in western Kansas.

Beverly enclosed a wonderful family photo of the Ira Martin Rucker family taken August 1943. See next page.

Beverly, thank you for sharing the photo (next page) and the story of your childhood home.



### Ira Martin Rucker Family Photo

submitted by Beverly Rucker McAllister

Top from left: Ira Martin Jr., age 21, Mildred, age 23, Billy, age 19

Bottom from left: Beverly Jeanne, age 12; Father, Ira Martin Rucker Sr. (1884-1946);  
Mother, Lattie (Bridges) (1897-1989); Patsy Ann, age 10

### African-American News

**Greetings!** From Mrs. Scarlett Rucker-Misikir  
<rucker\_misikir\_scarlett@hotmail.com>.

The *We Are The Rucker Family* Webpage has moved! Please hook up and visit us at  
<http://wearetheruckerfamily.freesevers.com/>  
Scarlett

*Editor's note:* Scarlett, chairperson of the African-American Ruckers, hosts her family website. She formerly sent out a family newsletter, but now puts it on-line for everyone to see. She descends from Minor<sup>5</sup> Rucker (Joel<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) of Randolph Co., Missouri.

### Preserving a Rucker Cemetery

From Donald R Rucker  
10<sup>th</sup> in line of descent from Peter

In the RFSN, Vol. 15, No. 2, p. 13, was printed the tombstones listed in the Rucker Family Cemetery in Denton Co., TX, submitted by Jody Huck of Arlington, Texas.

The Rucker cemetery, just outside of Denton, Texas, is in the middle of a large housing complex and the developers are trying to save it. The area was once the Rucker farm. John<sup>6</sup> Sherman Rucker (Thornton<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was born and married Mary Bridgewater Harlow in Missouri. The Heathcreek Baptist Church, which

some may remember, was visited at the 2002 Rucker Reunion. The church was first organized by his father, Rev. Thornton Rucker. This is where John S. and his eleven brothers and sisters were raised. I have been in touch with Chuck Berry who is a descendant of William T., uncle of John S.

John S. moved to Texas and began farming. They first moved to the east side of Denton Co., but because of the Indian uprising they had to move closer to Denton. They were a part on the Sand Town Settlement.

At the present time the descendants of William H., son of John S., are trying to get all the information we can about the family in order to apply for a historical marker.

If you have any information at all or are interested in this project, please contact me:

Donald R Rucker, 1517 Fairmont CT., Clovis, New Mexico 88101. My phone number is 505-763-5343 and my email is <dandjrucker@cox.net>

\* \* \* \* \*

## Re: Copying Information from Books Rather Than the Original Source

Alice Rucker of Sylmar, CA responds to Carla Leighton's article on the book of *Kentucky Marriages* (Vol. 15, No. 2, p.13): It is best to go to the original source for final documentation. By the time the record reaches a book it is already thrice removed from the original event. A compiler, such as G. Glenn Clift, gets the information and retypes it for the book. So be cautious and use books as an aid. Original records are usually available. Write to the public library where the marriage took place. They will often send a copy from the microfilm of the newspaper for little or no cost. Note the name of the newspaper, date of publication and page number. Then you can order an official application, license and certificate from the county courthouse.

Another response from Alice Rucker to Carla Leighton: Leva Ware (Hudson) George was the granddaughter of James Hudson and Susan Margaret Rucker. Leva was a schoolteacher and active genealogist in Woodford Co., KY. She documented her ancestry. Leva, or "Leevie," as it was pronounced in Woodford Co., applied for membership in the DAR. Hudson is found as the correct spelling, not Hutson.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rucker Mansion For Sale

San Jose, California

Ardith Meyer is open to receiving proposals for purchasing the Joseph H. Rucker Mansion in San Jose, California. She would like nothing better than to sell this lovely City Landmark property to a Rucker family member or a preservationist who would honor the heritage of the house and family. Originally it was a 1890s single family, Victorian style home, owned by Joseph<sup>6</sup> H. Rucker (Joseph<sup>6</sup> E., William<sup>5</sup> T., William<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). In 1932 it was converted to eight separate apartments. There is a charming 1,400 sq. ft. carriage house, garage, four carports and rear parking for three more cars.

For more information, please call Ardith Meyer at (408) 294-4799 or (408) 297-3880 or write directly to her at 418 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Apt. 9, San Jose, CA 95112. She promises that all inquiries will be kept confidential.

*Editor's Note:* Even though Ardie is not a Rucker family member, she feels a closeness to us and attended the 2002 and 2004 family reunions. She would very much like for her home to be restored back to its original shape and would especially like for a Rucker family member to own it again. The home was featured in RFSN, Vol. 13, No. 2, June 2002. If you are interested and don't have a copy, let me know and I'll send you one. See top of page 20 for Jeannie's address and email.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

John Willson Rucker and Ruth Cunningham Rucker celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary September 25, 2004. They were married September 29, 1934 at the bride's parent's home in McMinnville, TN. Their children, Mary Carol Estes, John Willson Rucker Jr., Ed Rucker, Evelyn McFarland, Tom Rucker, and Dan Rucker, with their spouses, children and grandchildren, gathered at the Meadows Club House in Bellevue. Joining them were their foster children, nieces, nephews, and friends. From *The Tennessean*, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004, submitted by their daughter, Mary Rucker Estes of Thousand Oaks, CA.

Lineage: John<sup>8</sup> Willson Rucker (John<sup>7</sup> Edmondson, Benjamin<sup>6</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup> Burrus, James<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). Editor's note: See RFSN, Vol. 14, No. 3 & 4, p.27-28, for their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party celebrations.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

John A. and Enid Harris Ostertag celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 12, 2003. They had a large party at the Brookdale Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, Missouri.

John, born 95 years ago, was born in Atchison, KS. Enid, also 95, was born in Corning, KS. They were married August 12, 1933, at the English Lutheran Manse in Atchison. He was employed by Dilgert's Confectionery. Later they moved to Sabetha, KS where he became an agent for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1937.

They have five children: John B., Lynn, Robert, Kent and Anne E.; 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Article from the Saint Joseph, MO newspaper, submitted by Enid H. Ostertag

## One Hundred Years Old

Helen (Harrell) Pettit turned one hundred years old on August 30, 2004. Her parents were Mary Elvina "Ella" Rucker (Richard<sup>6</sup> M., Julius<sup>5</sup>, Abner<sup>4</sup>, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and John Breckenridge "Breck" Harrell. Her husband was Leonard C. Pettit. Helen lives in Poulsbo, Washington, near her daughters, Janice and Barbara, and their families. Helen's sister Ramona also lived to be 100 before she died in 1994.

Congratulations to Helen and we look forward to her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday next year. Contributed by Alice Rucker, of Sylmar, CA

### Goff/Gough Gathering

22-25 September 2005  
Williamsburg, Virginia

If interested contact Al Goff  
<2goff@ntelos.net>

\* \* \* \* \*

### Rest Lawn Memorial Park Roosevelt Co., NM from Ron Payne

The cemetery is located about two miles south of Portales, New Mexico, on Hwy 206. Ron found this while searching on-line for a relative. Does anyone know who they are?

Double Stone:

John P. Rucker/ 27 Jul 1889/ 8 Mar 1964

Maggie E. Rucker/ 26 Oct 1892/ 1 Mar 1969



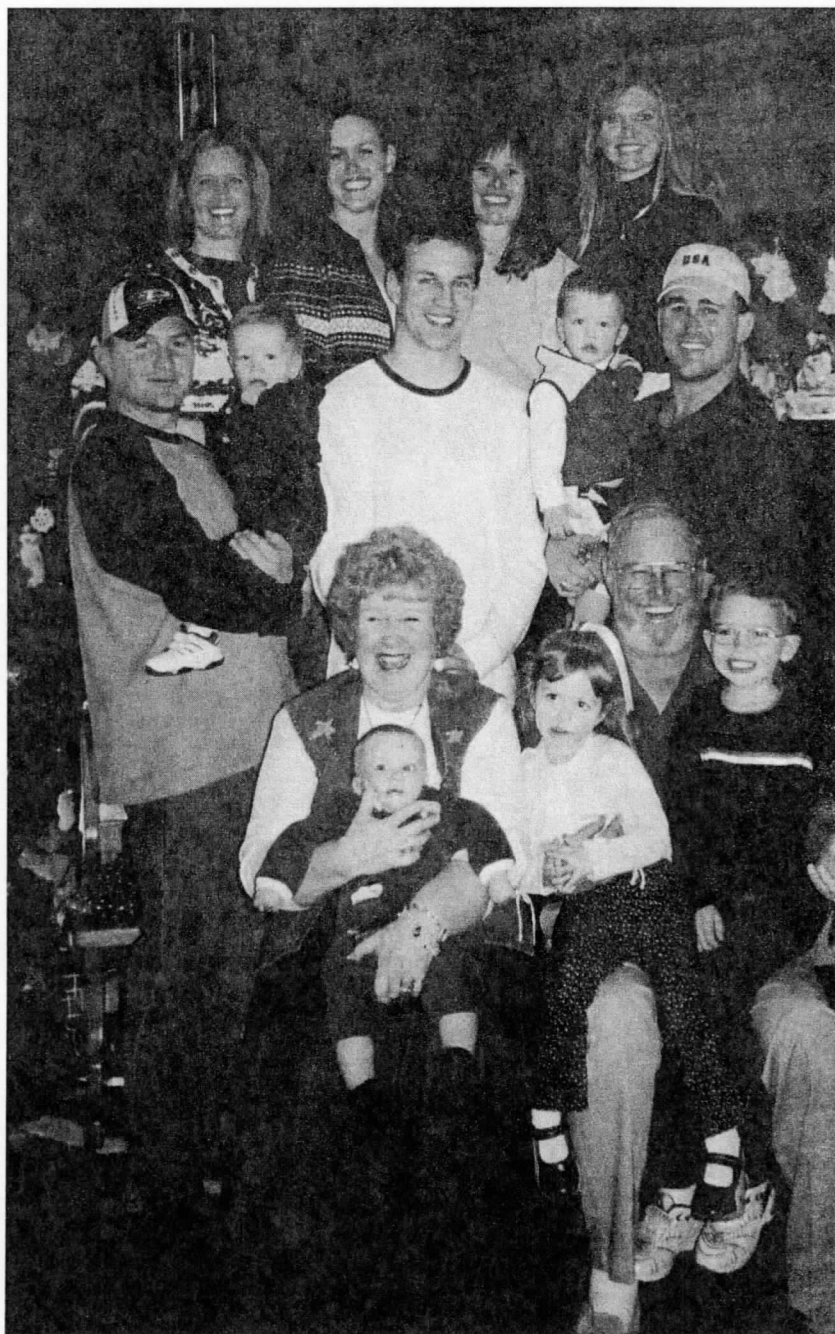
## Photo Corner

### Family Photo of Ralph and Sherry Rucker

Here is the Christmas picture of "our whole crew" that we plan to use this year, 2004. Our line of descent is through my father: Dr. Ralph<sup>8</sup> Weller Rucker, 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>.

This branch of the clan lives and works in the Tulsa and Dallas areas, with Ralph and Sherry running a fair-sized cattle operation outside of Haskell, Oklahoma. Ralph managed a Neonatal ICU and Pediatric Pulmonary Service in Orange county, California for many years before returning to this lovely and satisfying life in the country. We love the hills, the open fields and pastures, lots of big-boy toys, and Rucker Reunions. Major activities around here include two big round-ups a year, plenty of haying chores, a retail commercial packaged beef operation and a lot of grandbaby duties. Ralph III, Jen and their two beautiful boys live in Oak Point, Texas where he is Operations Manager for Hillwood Construction. Bill, Wendy and their four (a new one this year — Broderick) live right down the road, with Bill being the general manager of a large local winery. Robyn teaches the sharpest 5<sup>th</sup> graders in North Texas, and is getting excited in searching out Rucker kinsmen in her area. Rebecca is in the second year of an Emergency Medicine residency at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where she lives with new hubby Brian Arant.

We are so proud of our kids and their accomplishments (education, occupations and spouses), pleased beyond words at their babies and proximity, and glad that another Rucker generations is set to take the helm.



Top row — Wendy (William's wife), Rebecca<sup>10</sup> Arant, Robyn<sup>10</sup>, Jennifer (Ralph's wife)

Middle row — William<sup>10</sup> holding Jackson<sup>11</sup>, Brian Arant, Ralph III<sup>10</sup> holding Ralph IV<sup>11</sup>

Bottom row — Sherry holding Trent<sup>11</sup> and Ralph<sup>9</sup> II holding Callie<sup>11</sup> and William<sup>11</sup> II

Not in photo — Broderick Newton Rucker, Bill and Wendy's new baby, born April 23, 2004.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am no expert on Rucker family history, nor am I a practicing genealogist. We have numerous members who are eminently better historians; more experienced researchers, skilled writers, and are otherwise more qualified to speak on "matters Rucker." My thrust as President will be to strengthen the administrative aspects of our Society, to make it more useful to the members, and to make the members more accessible to one another. I will devote my efforts to organizational issues, and hopefully make it easier for the Rucker historians to "do their thing." Over the next several issues of the newsletter, I will use this space to address my goals, and to let you know what the officers and the Board members are doing to make the RFS stronger, more relevant, and more responsive to our members. We are fortunate that the Board has elected a very strong slate of energetic, visionary officers, and I am confident that you will benefit from their efforts.

My goals as President include increasing membership, increasing communication, and improving our research resources. Allow me to discuss the first, and I will delay the others to future issues. At present, the RFS has 389 members. Our registrar, Alice Rucker, is working very hard to contact those who have let their memberships lapse; sometimes, a gentle reminder is all that is needed. Why are numbers important? Most of us joined the Society because we are interested in our family history, and were looking for answers to genealogical questions. Who has the answers? Other Ruckers, of course. It is likely that someone has already done the research, which will answer our questions; all you need is to find the Rucker cousin who has done the work. The more members we have, the more access we have to research results. If we can increase our membership, we can all learn more.

The other concern for membership is to ensure the future of the RFS. Look around at one of our reunions, and you will see very few young people.

We have to make an effort to bring our children and grandchildren into the Society. Try to involve them in your family's history: tell them stories, let them help with the photo albums, introduce them to the Rucker photo website, and bring them to reunions. If each of us brings just one family member into the Society, we will double our membership!

Here is an idea I would like each member to consider. Use a gift-giving occasion to introduce family members to the Society. For only ten dollars you can give a birthday gift membership to your kids, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Don't send them a boring check this year; send them the chance to learn about their family history. Once they are members, a good number are going to keep renewing their memberships, and our Society will be the stronger for it. Look for the gift certificate on the photo sharing website, <http://www.msusers.com/AncestralRuckerPhotos>.

As an added incentive, the member who brings in the most new members by the end of each year will receive special recognition in the newsletter, and a gift sponsored by the Society.

By this time next year, I challenge you to help us double our membership.

Chris Rucker  
<[sparklecitychris@aol.com](mailto:sparklecitychris@aol.com)>  
President, Rucker Family Society

\* \* \* \* \*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS—OFFICERS:

Chris Rucker, President	< <a href="mailto:sparklecitychris@aol.com">sparklecitychris@aol.com</a> >
Jeannie Robinson, V. Pres./ Sec.	< <a href="mailto:jeannieb@access4less.net">jeannieb@access4less.net</a> >
Becky Fox, Treasurer	< <a href="mailto:johnifox@aol.com">johnifox@aol.com</a> >
Alice Rucker, Registrar	< <a href="mailto:upstairs@att.net">upstairs@att.net</a> >

### RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY and PHOTO WEB SITES:

<http://www.theruckerfamilysociety.org>  
<http://www.msusers.com/AncestralRuckerPhotos>

## A Note from the Registrar

Alice Rucker <upstairs@att.net>

At the 2004 Reunion, the board voted to create a position called "Registrar" and, since then, I have been helping out in that capacity. I am caretaker of the membership roster of information and assist with the preparation of the dues renewal form. I also write welcome notes to new members.

We are excited about our new data base software. In addition to the normal fields like name, address, and telephone, etc., we have expanded to include space for a couple of interesting things we think will be helpful to our members. We wanted to have an area where we could list a member's pedigree back to Peter Rucker (if known) using just the first, middle, and last name of each Rucker parent, grandparent, etc. That way, when someone asks who else is related to a particular line, it will be just a click on the keyboard to bring up common ancestors and connect researchers.

Another new feature is that we have created an area to catalog the special interests of our members such as: Revolutionary War; War of 1812; Civil War; W. W. I; W. W. II; Period

Clothing; Photography; Huguenots; African-American; Scrap-booking; Lecturing; Writing; Editing; researching; and/or DNA Testing. So, for example, if you want to find out who in the Rucker Family Society is a specialist dealing with the Civil War, then all we have to do is to ask the data base and we can match up folks who have common interests.

The success and joy of being able to match up with others who have common interests will depend on our members submitting information. Recently you should have received your dues renewal form, and there is ample space for you to provide us with your special information.

We are aware that over the years, many of you may have submitted your complete family history and filled out family history to Jeannie Robinson, and that has been a wonderful thing. However, we are asking even if you have already done that, please take a few extra moments to help out your registrar by jotting down your Rucker parent, and grandparents (as far back as is known) on your dues renewal form so we can quickly update the membership data base. (Don't list spouses or children or dates — just your direct Rucker line/s.)

## 2005 RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY DUES

As Alice Rucker, our Registrar, has mailed out membership renewals, this is a back up.

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

**Rebecca D. Fox. 3915 SW Hidden Cove Circle, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64082-4634**

☐ \$10.00 Dues for Membership for 2005

☐ \$5.00 Institutional Dues (Give the newsletter to a local library)

Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Donations for the Preservation and Memorial Fund

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

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

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

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

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

## Editor's note:

From Jeannie Brydon Robinson

Once again I am late with the newsletter. I had hoped that Theresa "Terri" Harlow-Sillanpaa would take over as editor, but we found our computers would not communicate with each other. We thought it best that I do the editing. I appreciate her trying to help. Until I get a new computer, things will be difficult as I don't have email on this "antique" computer.

Our 2004 reunion was wonderful— please read the article by Nell Cordick, on p.19, and plan to join us in 2006 in Salt Lake City. The reunions get better and better, yet each one is unique in its own right.

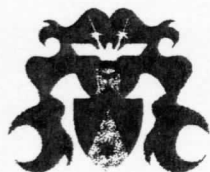
Alice Rucker, our new Registrar has sent out dues notices. She has done a terrific job in organizing our labels and corresponding with people who are not up-to-date in their membership. We really appreciate the work she is doing for us.

We look forward to having Chris Rucker as our new president. His idea to increase membership is a great one. I hope you will cooperate by giving some of your family members a membership. Your children may not be interested now, but one day they will. He is working on our website and he will write more about this in the next newsletter. See page 32 for website addresses.

Michael John Neill our Rucker cousin and keynote speaker at the 2004 reunion has invited us to visit his website [www.rootsweb.org](http://www.rootsweb.org) for articles on genealogy as well as information on the Ruckers.

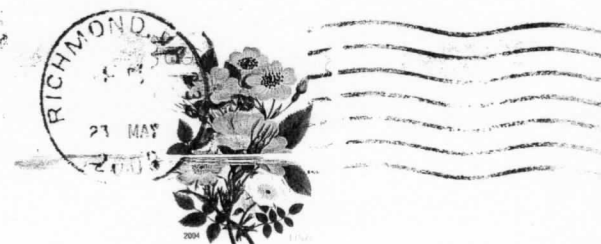
There are two inserts, one from Mike Rucker on his new "Terry the Tractor" book with order form. The other is from Jim Rucker who is collecting data on Rucker cemeteries. He presented me with a copy of what he has collected at the reunion and asks that others send him family cemetery data.

## THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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Richmond, VA 23226

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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2006

