

# the Rücker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 16

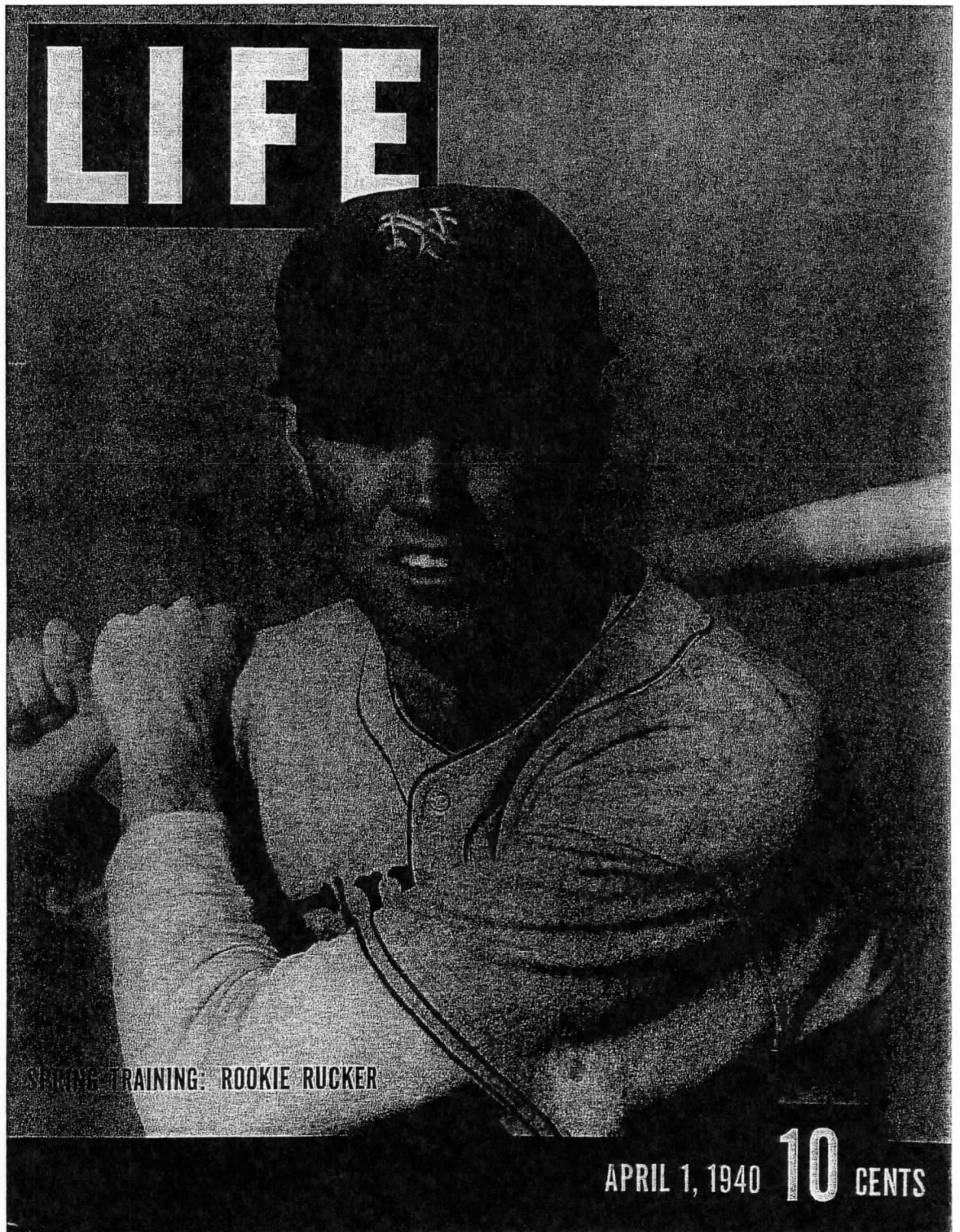
Number 1 & 2

Mar-June 2005

# LIFE

Johnnie  
Rucker—  
Baseball  
Rookie

On the  
cover of  
Life  
Magazine  
1940



SPRING TRAINING: ROOKIE RUCKER

APRIL 1, 1940 **10** CENTS

# Johnny Rucker

## The Crabapple Comet

### By Michael P. (Mike) Rucker

It is quite an honor to have one's photo on the cover of Life Magazine. That privilege fell to John ("Johnny") Joel Rucker of Crabapple, Georgia in the April 1940 issue. The pictorial issue contained 21 photos of Johnny.

He  
was  
Good  
- and  
really  
Fast

There were 224 rookies inducted into major leagues that year and I was impressed that Johnny was newsworthy enough to merit that level of recognition. After reading the Life article, I jumped to the conclusion that there were three reasons for the editor's selection of Johnny for their feature article.

First, he was the nephew of formidable Brooklyn Dodgers' pitcher George ("Napoleon" or "Nap") Rucker\* who was declared "the greatest lefty in the National League" (until Sandy Kofax in the 1950s). Second, Johnny was good looking and highly photogenic in bib overalls with his shotgun, with Mutt & Jeff his hunting dogs, and Bob, the ancient family mule. And finally, he hailed from the backwoods Georgia town of Crabapple, ("a whoop and holler from Alpharetta")<sup>1</sup>, overall I figured, just a real personal interest character.

\* See article on Nap Rucker in Rucker Family Society Newsletter, June 2003, Vol. 14, No. 2

But my assumption proved incorrect. Johnny was, indeed, a star from the very beginning. I checked his statistics and the more I read about Johnny, the more impressed I became. As a starting point: the kid was fast; variously referred to in the media as the Crabapple Comet, the Crabapple Cannonball, the Crabapple Antelope, and even, the Crabtree Crusher. He was fast in the outfield and the fast

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around the bases. While playing for Macon in the Sally league (Southern Atlantic League) he was pitted in a 100-yard dash against another noted speedster in the same league, Stan Benjamin of the Chattanooga Lookouts. Rucker beat his rival by two long strides before a disappointed Chattanooga crowd.<sup>2</sup>

An article kidding Johnny about his speed appeared in the Atlantic Constitution, April 2, 1944: "Rucker made good recently on that old baseball gag about the player who was so fast that he would run alongside rabbits to see if they are fat enough to eat. Rucker while training with the New York Giants, near Lakewood, N.J. flushed a cottontail. He ran down the bunny in four inches of snow and had it prepared for dinner. Before Rucker could get around to boasting about his speed, however, the cook revealed that the rabbit had only three legs."<sup>3</sup> I'll bet he took some ribbing for that.

But he was fast; "Milton Stock, Macon manager . . . said Rucker was the fastest man he had ever seen in the minor leagues. . . . Johnny's speed has been widely heralded by his ability to circle the bases in 13 seconds. In his ten weeks with the Sally League, Rucker has stolen 17 bases, despite

the fact that he is a marked man on the base path."<sup>4</sup>

There were lots of other references in his speed in the media. Here are some examples:

"... Rucker is probably the fastest in baseball."<sup>5</sup>

"John Rucker, fleet-footed, Cracker center fielder, exerted every bit of his blinding speed..."<sup>6</sup>

"... He plays comparatively [close] in and is sudden death on short flies. But he can get away in a flash for those over his head."<sup>7</sup>

"The Crabapple Comet, generally regarded as the fastest man in baseball..."<sup>8</sup>

"... nothing short of a new world's wonder is Johnny Rucker, the slender athletic lad who quit [graduated from] the Georgia campus for a fling in professional baseball."<sup>9</sup>

Vernon "Catfish" Smith, coach for the University of Georgia, stated "John and Alf [Anderson] were the fastest men that I ever had on my baseball teams at Georgia. ... Both know that they are fast and will take advantage of the slightest opportunity on the base paths. Neither lacks the necessary essentials for hitting the dirt at top speed."<sup>10</sup>

During the 1945 season, United Press sportswriter Carl Lundquist wrote, "Always one of the fastest men in the majors, he roved his outfield post more effectively and, as lead-off man, touched off more rallies than any other Giant player."<sup>11</sup>

He could run and he could hit. During the 1939 season with the Macon Peaches he batted .325, then moved to the Atlanta Crackers where for a period John batted .354. During the first part of the 1940 season with the Crackers he hit .300. He was promoted to the New York Giants where he hit .296 during for the remaining 86 games of the 1940 season. In 1941, his first full season with the

New York Giants, he hit .288, the best of all the regular players on the team. He was 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighed 172 pounds. He hit left and fielded right.

### In the Majors

Johnny was a popular and spectacular player noted for slamming into the outfield wall to make outstanding catches.

Unfortunately, this exacerbated a congenital spinal anomaly in his neck. Johnny began to suffer severe pain for this in 1941, his first full year in the majors. Despite the painful vertebrae, he led the league in times-at-bat in 1941 with 622. His 1941 record was extraordinary: fourth in the National League in both hits (179) and RBI's (95). The 1941 statistics also record that Johnny was third in doubles (38) and sixth in triples (9).<sup>12</sup>

His batting average of .288 for that first full major league season was excellent, and his goal for 1942 was to break .300, but that was not to be. It was no secret that he would have to quit baseball unless he found a remedy for his neck problem. He had to literally hang himself in a gallows-like contraption daily to pull the neck vertebrae apart.<sup>13</sup>

At the end of the 1941 season he underwent an operation to fuse the sixth and seventh neck vertebra. During his recovery process during the 1942 season Johnny played for the Jersey City, New Jersey Giants farm team. The 1971 best-selling novel *The Summer of '42* by Herman Raucher mentions Johnny as playing for the Giants that summer. Obviously, Raucher did not do his research well since Johnny was not on the Giants' roster that summer.<sup>14</sup>

He returned to play for the Giants in the years 1943 through 1946. His batting performance never quite returned to the level of his earlier promise and his speed was not often mentioned in the newspapers after his operation. But his batting record was still impressive.



## Johnnie Rucker's Batting Performance:

1940	1941	1943	1944	1945	1946
.296	.288	.273	.244	.273	.264 <sup>15</sup>

He played in 705 games for the Giants and was at bat 2,617 times achieving 711 hits for a major league lifetime batting average of .272. He drove in 354 runs and stole 35 bases. Although no longer stellar in his final baseball years, he was still a formidable competitor. In 1944, he was at bat 587 times, the eighth highest in the league. He was off to a good start in 1945 hitting .333 in his first 21 games including a 13 game streak. That year he hit 11 triples, third highest in the league.

After the 1946 season Johnny was presented with the surprising news that he had been traded to the Cleveland Indians. Then, disappointingly, during spring training he was told that he was to report instead to the Seattle Rainiers. The years of daring catches high on the outfield wall had taken their toll and he could no longer play to major league standards. Late in the 1947 season, he was again traded, this time to the Sacramento Solons. For the summer of 1948 he was shuttled to the Portland Beavers, where the family was able to reside for three years. He was dismissed from the Beavers after the 1950 season and returned to the Atlanta Crackers where his professional baseball had begun. Atlanta welcomed the local boy back for his two final seasons of professional baseball.

### On The Personal Side

Johnny's athletic prowess was first proven during his days at the University of Georgia where he

was team captain. After graduation he was signed by the Atlanta Crackers on his twenty-first birthday, January 15, 1938. His famous Uncle Nap drove down from Alpharetta for the signing ceremony. Johnny was farmed to the Macon Peaches for the 1938 season and moved to the Atlanta Crackers during the 1939 season where his extraordinary talent came to the attention of the

major league scouts. The New York Giants signed him for the 1940 season with an extraordinary bonus of \$45,000, the highest that had ever been paid for a Sally League rookie: \$30,000 cash plus the swap of two players valued at \$15,000 for the pair.<sup>16</sup>

When World War II was declared, Johnny promptly appeared at the Navy recruiting office. After initially being accepted, he received word of his 4F disqualification status because of his neck problem. He then applied to the Army, but was rejected there as well. John's father was on the draft board for that part of the state and some folks ignorant of the true situation implied that his father had pulled strings to keep Johnny out of the military. That bothered both father and son a lot. It particularly hurt when some people would say things like, "Well, if you can wear a baseball uniform, why can't you wear a military uniform?"

Almost every young boy, at some time, wishes to become a major league baseball player. John David, the son of Johnny's sister Dorcas, was no exception. Young John was Johnny's only nephew. He remembers that as a young boy his Uncle John spent lots of time with him, "... hunting, fishing, playing baseball in which my interest was extremely intense - either because I idolized John, or because baseball runs in the Rucker blood."

John David was concerned, however, that his close relationship with his famous uncle would end when his Uncle John got married. "I must have been eight or ten years old when, after a year with the Giants, he called us and told us he was getting married. I was devastated. I knew that would end our close relationship - a wife! A wife that was a Yankee! When they came to my grandfather Nap's house in Crabapple, I stayed behind a pillar on the porch so I could see her, but she couldn't see me. She was very pretty - and friendly looking." Uncle John's new wife, Alma Eunice Pancost [Noanie], won young John over during that first visit when "she let Uncle John and me go hunting several



times.”<sup>17</sup>

Noanie was the lovely daughter of E. Elsworth Pancost, treasurer of the New York Central Railway System. She spent her childhood in Cleveland where her father often took her to see the Cleveland Indians play. John hit it off with Noanie's parents from the beginning. The fact that the Georgia boy was the first rookie to receive a \$45,000 signing bonus didn't hurt either – especially when the average major league salary was \$7,000. Noanie stated, “As Treasurer of the New York Central my dad made \$10,000 a year, and that was considered an excellent salary.”

When John retired from professional baseball in 1952, he accepted a job offer to become a sales representative for Riverside Manufacturing Company in Moultrie, Georgia, a major manufacturer of industrial uniforms. He was assigned the northeastern sales territory because he had so many contacts in the north from his baseball career. His territory was no small bit of real estate; it stretched from Chicago to Maine and south to Virginia, keeping him on the road most of the time. Noanie had experienced enough family relocations and chose to stay put and raise the girls in the friendly South Georgia town of Moultrie. John's outgoing personality made him a natural for the job and he was eventually promoted to vice president of national accounts for the company.

John and Noanie moved to “Red Pebble Farm” with a large house in the country near Moultrie with lots of land and a pond where he loved to fish in the evenings after work. He also found time to instruct Elizabeth and Johanna, his daughters, how to pitch and to run the bases, and to coach the local Pony League (high school) team. John was active in the local Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon.

At age 62 John began to experience memory loss and a diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's disease forced him to retire early. Within several years he had a total loss of memory and spent his final days

at the Presbyterian Home in Quitman, Georgia where he died at age 68. A man as personable and popular as John Joel Rucker deserved a significant funeral – and John had two in his honor. The first was a memorial service at the Presbyterian Church in Moultrie for local friends. The second was in his hometown of Crabapple where he was laid to rest in the Rucker family cemetery in nearby Crabapple close to his parents and beloved uncle Nap.

Noanie stayed in Moultrie until 1997 when she moved to Ashville, North Carolina to live with her daughter Elizabeth until her death January 26, 2003.

### The Johnny Rucker Legacy

Although John and Noanie had no sons, their two daughters had five sons to carry on the Rucker family baseball tradition. [Interestingly, three of the five are left-handed like their great-uncle Nap.] Johanna Pancost Rucker now lives in Tallahassee, Florida, and Elizabeth Carol Rucker resides in Asheville, North Carolina. Elizabeth's two sons, Joby and Douglas, and Johanna's three sons, Ian, David and Daniel, have all been influenced by their legendary grandfather and great-uncle playing baseball from tee ball through high school, and several played on college teams.

Baseball runs in the blood of this athletic family but they have learned not to take it too seriously. Johanna expresses this with a story about herself at age five when her father was playing his final year with the Atlanta Crackers. In the second half of the ninth inning her father was up at bat during a tense game. The bases were loaded with two outs and the Crackers were behind by two runs. [Remember “Casey at the Bat?”] The hometown fans held their collective breath as Johnny addressed the ball – and struck out. The dejected crowd was leaving the stadium as an equally dejected Johnny Rucker was walking back to the dugout. Five-year-old Johanna, from her seat

above the dugout, called out, "Hey Daddy! Want some popcorn?" The crowd roared and even Johnny was forced to laugh.<sup>18</sup>

## Genealogy

John Joel Rucker, born 15 January 1917, Crabapple, Georgia, died 7 August 1985; m. 30 September

1941 at Dobbs Ferry, New York to Alma Eunice (Noanie) Pancost, born 22 February 1918, Cleveland, Ohio; died 26 January 2003. They were married at the Zion Protestant Episcopal Church in Dobbs Ferry.

Lineage: John<sup>7</sup> ("Johnny") Joel Rucker (Joel<sup>6</sup> Jackson Rucker, John<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Simeon<sup>4</sup> Bluford Rucker, George<sup>3</sup> Rucker, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

## Endnotes:

1. John Martin, *Atlanta Journal*, 1940
2. George Short, Chattanooga newspaper, 1939 or 1940
3. Jack Troy, *The Atlanta Constitution*, April 2, 1944
4. \*Irvin McBrayer, *The Atlanta Georgian*, 1940
5. Roy White, *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 1, 1939
6. \*Photo caption, *The Atlanta Georgian*, 1940
7. \*Guy Butler, *The Atlanta Journal*, 1939
8. \**Ibid*, 1939
9. \**Ibid*, 1940
10. Irvin McBrayer, *Atlanta Georgian*, January 30, 1939
11. \*Carl Lundquist, United Press sportswriter
12. Old Tyme Baseball News, Vol. 4, Issue 5, 1992
13. \*Carl Lundquist, United Press sportswriter 1945
14. Old Tyme Baseball News, Vol. 4, Issue 5, 1992
15. Statistics from: <http://www.baseball-almanac.com>
16. Jack Troy, *The Atlanta Constitution*, August 24, 1939
17. John David, Roswell, Georgia (nephew of John Rucker)
18. All personal family information is from Johanna Rucker, Tallahassee, Florida (daughter of John Rucker)

\*These are clipped articles for which the date was not included

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Editor's note: Mike Rucker was kind enough to send me a copy of the 1940 Life Magazine issue that has Johnny's photo on the cover (see page 1).

Note: Mike Rucker's article on Nap Rucker (Johnny's uncle) was in the RFSN, Vol. 14, No. 2, June 2003.

Mike is interested in ideas for future articles. Please contact him at <mikruc@aol.com>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## "Sholto"

And the

MERIWETHER - RUCKER CONNECTION

By Anne (Rucker) Glover-Loyd

Here is additional information on the Boonsboro County Club visited by the Rucker Reunion on Thursday for a buffet lunch. [Anne, attending the 2004 reunion, was the luncheon speaker.] The club is located in Bedford County, Virginia just west of Lynchburg.

The Meriwether ancestral home was originally known as "Sholto" (it was misspelled in the article on the reunion).

Francis Thornton Meriwether (1768-1814) was born at "Cloverfields" in Albemarle County, VA. He had inherited land in Bedford County, which bordered the lands of Nicholas Davies. He may have been living there in 1793, when he met and married Catharine Elizabeth "Eliza" Davies (1772-1827) of "Pebbleton," the Davies home in Holcomb Rock, Bedford County, Virginia. Catharine was the granddaughter of Nicholas.

## "Sholto"

Meriwether  
/  
Rucker  
Home  
in Bedford  
County,  
Virginia



On Sept. 18, 1802, Catharine's father, Henry Landon Davies and his second wife, Lucy Whiting (Clayton) Davies (who was also Catharine's aunt), deeded 1,028 acres of land to his son-in-law Francis Meriwether for "love and affection, in consequence of his intermarriage with his daughter Catharine. (Deed Book 11, p.974, Bedford County, Va.) Francis and Catharine ordered brick, hardware and slate from England, which arrived in 1796, to build their home. They named it "Sholto" after a Castle in Francis' Douglas lineage. They had 10 children, but only three have living descendants, Dr. Francis Thornton Meriwether, Jr., William Nicholas Meriwether, and James Addison Meriwether.

Francis died in 1814, and "Sholto" was left to his wife, Catharine. She received 400 acres and the 'mansion' house. The balance of 1,997 acres was divided among his children. (Will Book 5, p.91, Bedford Co., Va.)

Catharine died in 1827, leaving her estate to her

three sons, Francis, Jr., William Nicholas and James Addison, with Francis, Jr. inheriting "Sholto."

In 1826, Francis, Jr. married his first cousin, Margaret Douglas Meriwether of "Cloverfields." After his mother Catharine died in 1827, Francis, Jr. and Margaret returned to "Sholto." They had three children, Henry Landon Meriwether (1827-1839), Charles James Meriwether (1831-1887), and Mary Walker Meriwether (1833-1863), who married the gr-grandson of Thomas Jefferson, Major T. J. Randolph, Jr. Mary inherited "Cloverfields," and Charles inherited "Sholto."

In 1854, Charles married his first cousin, Ellen Douglas Meriwether (1835-1908) of "Merrywood" (near Poplar Forest), formerly of "Sholto," daughter of James Addison Meriwether and Elizabeth Whiting Davies. They were married in 1854 at "Merrywood," and then returned to "Sholto" to live, where they had eight children. "Sholto" was not torn down in 1880, as previously



years old at the time, remembered the brick being fired.

Charles and Ellen had a daughter and a granddaughter who married two Rucker brothers, sons of Capt. Joshua Tinsley Rucker and Lucy Ellen Harris of Holcomb Rock. My grandmother, Catherine Bernice Meriwether, married William Harris Rucker. They were married at "Sholto" in 1898, and lived there for about 2-3 years, until one of the old Davies homes on the estate was restored (now Fairway Oaks). My father, John Addison Rucker, born Nov. 17, 1899, was the first Rucker born there.

The oldest daughter of Charles and Ellen, Margaret Douglas Meriwether (named for her grandmother), married Eldon G. Dawson at "Sholto" in 1880. They had a daughter, Katherine "Kate" P. Dawson, who married John Tinsley Rucker in 1905, brother of William Harris Rucker.

Charles died in 1887, and Ellen in 1908. In 1910, "Sholto," ordered by a decree to be sold at public auction, was purchased by sons William Douglas Meriwether, Dr. James Addison Meriwether, and sons-in-law, William Harris Rucker and John Tinsley Rucker. "Sholto" and three hundred acres were then conveyed to John Tinsley Rucker.

John and Kate had four children born at "Sholto" (three are living):

Virginia "Jennie" Randolph Rucker (1912- )  
Dorothy Louise Rucker (1915-1915)  
Dr. John "Jack" Tinsley Rucker, Jr. (1916- )  
Catherine "Katie" Dandridge (Rucker) Lester (1920- )

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 1923, John and Kate sold "Sholto," known as the "Meriwether Dower Tract," containing 300 acres to "Boonesboro Corp.," now the Boonsboro Country Club.

I don't remember visiting "Sholto" as a child, other than riding around there with my grandparents, but the Meriwether family has always

been welcome. There is soon to be a "Meriwether Room" there, and I have donated several family items. I was told that sometime in the future they would like to use the Meriwether and Douglas Coats-of-Arms on their letterhead.

And, I am pushing for a *Meriwether-Rucker* Historical marker at the entrance.

Anne's lineage is through her father: John<sup>8</sup> A. Rucker (William<sup>7</sup> H., Joshua<sup>6</sup> Tinsley, Joshua<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). Her e-mail is <AnneRucker@MeriwetherSociety.org>.

Note: From *The History of Bedford Co., VA, 1754-1954*, by Lula Jeter Parker, 1954 by the *Bedford Democrat*, p.27: The town of Boonsboro was named for Daniel Boone, who visited his friend Richard Callaway in this vicinity before their adventurous trip to Kentucky.

Reference: "Sholto" [sic] in the *Bedford [VA] Democrat*, May 1937.

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## Note from Scarlett Rucker-Mirrkir, of Duncanville, Texas:

### Rucker Origins:

"Rucker is a variation of the English occupational name Rock, for the man who spun wool or made distaffs, from the Middle English term rok = distaff, from Old Norse Rokr. Other variations include Rocker and Rooker. The name Rock is generally a place name for the man who lived by a notable boulder or outcrop, from Middle English rocc = rock, or a place name for the man who lived at a settlement by that name, Rocke, and Rocks are variations of the place name."

Source: *Surnames; What's In A Name*.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Richard ("Dick") Hubbard Collins, age 87, died on Dec. 1, 2004 in the Fairbanks Pioneers' Home where he lived for the past three years. Dick was born in 1917 and grew up in Tulsa, Okla. He enjoyed adventuring with his brother David and they went on a 1937 trip into northern Canada. This sparked his desire to see Alaska.

During World War II, Dick reached Alaska by serving as a levelman during construction of the Alaska Highway. After the war, he became employed with the Federal Aviation Administration working at Flight Service stations in various parts of Alaska including Lake Minchumina where he made his home. Spending over 60 years in Alaska, he became a skilled pilot and ham radio operator enabling him to assist in many rescue operations from downed aircraft to disasters, including the 1964 Anchorage earthquake and the 1967 Fairbanks flood.

In 1957, Dick married Florence Rucker and they raised three children, Ray, and twins, Miki and Julie. They built a two-story log home at Lake Minchumina where they lived until 1997. Dick installed innovative water, heat and electrical systems, including solar power, a solar water heater and a homemade freezer.

Dick and Florence had many adventures in the Bush and flying, boating and driving around Alaska. In later years they traveled widely, driving through the United States and Canada as well as traveling to other continents.

When Dick was 80, he and Florence moved to Fairbanks to live in the log house they built during the 1970s when the children went to high school. He is survived by his wife, Florence; his brother, David; three children; and grandson, Richard Collins.

Obituary submitted by Mike Rucker from the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, 4 Dec 2004. Mike reminded readers to refer to the article about Florence Collins in the March 1993, RFSN, Vol. 4, No. 1, p.1. Florence<sup>8</sup>'s lineage (Benjamin<sup>7</sup> "Parks" Rucker, Benjamin<sup>6</sup> L., Benjamin<sup>5</sup> J., Isaac<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

\* \* \* \* \*

Rex Carl Bennett was born May 1, 1930, near Republic, Missouri to Carl Herman and Juanita Pauline (Wade) Bennett and died January 19, 2005, in an auto accident near Ozark, Missouri. Rex graduated from Republic High School and attended Southwest Missouri State University. He retired in 1992 after 33 years service with Kraft Foods. He married Doris Imogene True, June 1, 1952 in Republic, Missouri and they had two children. He was a member of South Street Christian Church and was a member of Republic Lodge No. 570, A.F. & A.M., for more than 50 years.

He was predeceased by his parents; his son, Philip Carl Bennett; and two brothers, Donald and Paul Bennett. Survivors include his wife, Imogene Bennett; one daughter, Cynthia Anne and her husband Larry A. Scott, La Porte, Texas; two grandchildren, Christopher Bennett Scott and Jessica Lynn Scott, La Porte, Texas; one sister, Helen Selph, Springfield; two nephews, Michael Selph and Patrick Selph, Springfield; one niece, Susan Habermehl, Springfield; and one aunt, Hilda Wade, Springfield. Funeral services were held on January 24, 2005, in GormanScharpf Brentwood Chapel. He was buried at Wade Chapel Cemetery near Republic, Missouri.

Submitted by his wife, Imogene Bennett <Imogene.Bennett@att.net> from the *News Leader* of Springfield, MO, Jan 23, 2005. The obit is online at <http://www.ozarksnow.com>. Imogene said the doctors think he had a pulmonary embolism, died quickly, then the accident followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Roy P. Rucker**, 86, of Ontario, Oregon passed away February 3, 2005. Roy was born on December 13, 1918 in Parma to Rolo and Emma Plager Rucker. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1941 to 1946. While in the service, he was stationed in Great Bend, Kansas where he met Helen Elizabeth Eitel. They were married in Bison, Kansas on October 29, 1944. They moved to Idaho in 1946, where they resided in Apple Valley and farmed. Roy also worked for Amalgamated Sugar. They moved to Caldwell in 1978, where he worked for J. R. Simplot Co. until his retirement in 1984. Finally they moved to Ontario in 1989 and he resided there until his death. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, watching Mariner baseball and BSU football. He also enjoyed his grandchildren and watching them participate in sports. He was a member of the Ontario First Baptist Church and the Ontario Senior Center. He was buried at the Parma Cemetery.

He is survived by a son, Gary and Mary Rucker of Payette; a daughter, Sandy and Calving Hata of Ontario; four grandchildren, Darby Rucker and Travis, Nicole and Kali Hata; and a brother, Ray Rucker of Nampa. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Helen and two sisters. From <http://www.Idahostatesman.com>, submitted by Veryln Shovan on Rucker Forum, Feb. 7, 2005

\* \* \* \* \*

**Landon Nelson Dalton**, age 69, died March 29, 2005. He was born Nov. 12, 1935 and was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Maude. Surviving are his wife, Elma (Carpenter) Dalton, children with spouses: Sheila and Warren Hilton, Gary and Jo-Etta Dalton, Brandy Robinson, Mark and Lisa Dalton, and Eric and Christine Dalton; a brother William Ray of Morristown, and a sister Barbara Livesay of White Pine.

His Grandchildren are Anthony Guinn of Texas, Nelson and Cory Dalton, Danielle and Samantha Dalton, Andrew and Trey Robinson, all of Bean Station. He was buried at Hamblen Memorial Gardens, Stubblefield FH of Morristown.

Lineage: Landon<sup>10</sup> Nelson Dalton (James<sup>9</sup> Walter Dalton, John<sup>8</sup> Nelson Dalton, Colby<sup>7</sup> Timothy Dalton, Delphia<sup>6</sup> Coffey, Margaret<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Colby<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

Submitted by Archie Dalton from an article in the *Grainger County, Tennessee News*.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Alfred Ashton "Pug" Adkins III** died Saturday, April 9, 2005 in Richmond, Va. He is survived by his wife, Polly White Adkins, his daughter, Cary Pendleton and her husband, Steven Macon Guza; his daughter, Amy Spotswood and her husband, Randolph Lee Bradshaw; his grandsons, William Spotswood Guza and Robert Ashton Augustine; and his granddaughters, Carter Pendleton Augustine and Ashton McDaniel Guza.

Pug was a graduate of St. Christopher's School in Richmond and Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, VA, where he was president of the student body and captain of the baseball team. After graduation, he served in the Coast Guard and then began his career with State Planters Bank where he advanced to senior vice-president. He left in 1966 to form Adkins and Co., a management consulting firm specializing in the development of private clubs. He had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed people. They attended St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Goochland Co., Virginia where a memorial service was held.

Lineage of Polly<sup>9</sup> Pendleton White Adkins's (Lelia<sup>8</sup> Vixella Rucker, Waller<sup>7</sup> J., James<sup>6</sup> M., Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

\* \* \* \* \*



**Pauline Marie (Allen) McFarlin**, age 74, of Rochester, Minnesota, died April 5, 2005. She was born February 28 1931 on a farm near Spring Valley, MN, the daughter of Clarinda Rucker and Glenn W. Allen. On April 4, 1950 she married Richard McFarlin in Pocomoke, MD. Her husband Richard was a retired Marigold Dairy employee, he died in 1992. Pauline was a homemaker and a member of the Singles Club and enjoyed dancing. She is survived by one daughter, Joan and husband Dan Garmers of Rochester; five sons, Douglas and wife Jan McFarlin of Pewaukee, WI; Steven McFarlin of Rochester; David and wife Cindy McFarlin of Mantorville; Martin and wife Sandy McFarlin of Racine and Timothy and wife Laureen McFarlin of Tomah, WI; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and siblings as mentioned in the obituary of her mother (see below). She was buried in Grandview Memorial Gardens in Rochester, MN.

Submitted by her son David W. McFarlin from *Post-Bulletin*, 6 Apr 2005. Her lineage: Pauline<sup>9</sup> Marie Allen (Mildred<sup>8</sup> Clarinda Rucker, Dowell<sup>7</sup> William, Denarbus<sup>6</sup> B., William<sup>5</sup> M., Tavenar<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Mildred Clarinda (Rucker) Allen** of Grand Meadow, Minnesota, age 97, died June 28, 2004. She was born Mildred Clarinda Rucker on February 14, 1907 in Chatfield, MN, the daughter of Dowell William Rucker and Nellie Susan Briscoe. On March 31, 1928 she married Glenn W. Allen in Preston, MN. They farmed in the Chatfield area for 30 years. After moving to Rochester in 1945 they worked in hotel management for many years. She enjoyed keeping house and baking. Her husband died in 1975. Survivors are son Glenn "Gary" Allen of Rochester, MN; Pauline and husband Richard McFarlin of Rochester, MN; Marjorie and husband Larry Brehmer of Aloha, OR; LaVonne (Woodrow) Arkeketa of Austin, TX and Barbara

Bryant of Crystal, MN; 22 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; and 27 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers and seven sisters. She was buried at Grandview Memorial Gardens in Rochester, MN.

Submitted by her grandson David W. McFarlin from *Post-Bulletin*, 30 June 2004. Her lineage: Mildred<sup>8</sup> Clarinda Rucker (Dowell<sup>7</sup> William, Denarbus<sup>6</sup> B., William<sup>5</sup> M., Tavenar<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Helen (Pettit) Harrell** (Mary<sup>7</sup> Elvina Rucker, Richard<sup>6</sup> Morton Rucker, Julius<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Abner<sup>4</sup> Rucker, Anthony<sup>3</sup> Rucker, John<sup>2</sup> Rucker, Peter<sup>1</sup> Rucker) passed away May 15, 2005 in Poulsbo, Washington. She was 100 years and 8 months. She lived at home to the end and loved ones were nearby. There was a very nice memorial service for her at the church across the street from her home. Lots of her friends and family attended. Submitted by Helen's daughter, Janice Lund, of Poulsbo, Washington.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Ruth Page Watts Davis**, 94, died Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at Fairmont Crossing Nursing Home, in Amherst Co., Virginia. She was the wife of the late James Bigby Davis. Born December 11, 1910, in Amherst County, she was a daughter of the late Albert Dudley and Emma Rucker Watts and has three lines of Rucker descent (see below). She was a member of the former El Bethel United Methodist Church.

Ruth was a graduate of Pleasant View High School in 1929 and Farmville State Teachers College, in 1933. She taught for several years in the Amherst County Public School System. She joined the State Police in December 1942, as a charter member of the emergency corps, which proved so efficient, that department heads decided

the emergency corps had proven its worth and gave the corps a permanent status.

She and her husband founded, owned, and operated the Davis Insurance Agency until her retirement. She was preceded in death by her twin sister, Margaret Watts Myers and sister, Mary Watts Davis; three brothers, Claude G. Watts, Charles M. Watts and John A Watts. She was buried at the Amherst Cemetery.

Lineage: Ruth<sup>8</sup> Page Watts (Emily<sup>7</sup> Willis Rucker, Isaac<sup>6</sup> W., Alexander<sup>5</sup> M., Richard<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and (Isaac<sup>6</sup> W.'s wife Susan<sup>7</sup> Millner, Mildred<sup>6</sup> Rucker, Joshua<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and (Richard<sup>4</sup>'s wife Margaret<sup>4</sup> Marr, Sarah<sup>3</sup> Rucker, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) — three lines of descent. Obituary submitted by her niece, Bettie Myers Worley.

## *Four Rucker Sisters*

Corrections and Additions to RFSN, Vol. 15, No. 3 & 4: Page 23, from Mary Salisbury of Independence, Missouri, sent corrections to the minutes: Those who stood up for two ancestors were also me and my daughter, Roxane Taylor. We stood up but we were missed in the minutes of the Members Meeting. We are also from Missouri.

Our lineage: Roxane<sup>9</sup> Salisbury (my daughter), Mary<sup>8</sup> Beth Hendren (me), Laura<sup>7</sup> "Frances" Rucker, James<sup>6</sup> B., LeGrand<sup>5</sup>, Ephraim<sup>4</sup>, Tomagen<sup>3</sup> Rucker, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup> and Tomagen's husband: Augustine<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

Photo from Mary Salisbury. She and her three sisters got together for a photo for the newsletter.



Pictured above are four sisters who are members of the Rucker Family Society. L. to R. Jean Fanning, Kansas city, Mo., Sue Barton and Mary Salisbury, Independence, Mo., Marjorie Kietlinski, Mosinee, Wisconsin. Marjorie does storytelling about the Rucker Family under the name of Lou Rucker and has performed at several social gatherings in her hometown.

## Query

### Who was James W. Rucker?

Sheila Miles Munden (whose husband David is a Rucker descendant) wants to know who James W. Rucker, husband of Elizabeth Rucker, was? And after weeks of research, I do not know.

From Wood, p.104: Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Rucker (Ambrose<sup>4</sup> Jr., Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. 10 May 1800, Bedford Co., VA. m. 24 Apr 1820<sup>1</sup>, Bedford Co., VA to James W. Rucker, b. ca 1797<sup>2</sup>. They were married in Bedford County, Virginia.

The reference to Andrew Rucker, on page 104, was actually Andrew Rusher (see Wood, p.40) and was not his father.

Wood, p.104 said they moved to Tennessee. Census records showed them to in Virginia in 1840 and in Texas in 1850. Shelia said there is evidence that they were in Tennessee as his son was married there.

I have checked deeds, wills, and tax records in Bedford and can find no clue to his identity.

The 1850 Rusk Co., Texas Census (submitted by Alice Rucker Allen of Austin, TX) has the following. (We think this is the same James and Elizabeth Rucker.) James W. Rucker, age 53, b. VA, farmer, \$1000; Elizabeth 48; Jonathan 25; James 23; Whitfield 19; Nelson 11; Mary 23; Susan 8.

Any ideas?

---

<sup>1</sup>Marriage Bond, Bedford Co., VA, Ambrose Rucker, surety. *Bedford Co., VA Marriage Bonds, 1781S-1782R*, copy on Microfilm Reel 192 at Library of Virginia (2005). It showed his name as James W. Rucker.

<sup>2</sup>The 1850 Rusk Co., TX census showed James W. to be 53 years old and the 1860 census to be 63.

## Missing John and James

There are a number of Johns and Jameses that are missing from Sudie Rucker Wood's *The Rucker Family Genealogy*.

Page 179, James and John, children of John<sup>3</sup> Rucker (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Burton are omitted. They are actually the John and James, children of Joseph<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Cornelius<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Agnes Tinsley, listed on page 209. Joseph Rucker had two children: Azmon<sup>5</sup> Rucker (proved) and Ann<sup>5</sup> ("Nancy") Rucker (unproved). Source of James and John being children of John Rucker and Mary Burton: *Chancery Suits, Orange Co., VA, 1831-1845*, ed. by Ruth and Sam Sapraccio, "Rucker v Burton," p.119-121.

Page 205-206, John Rucker Jr. and Hannah Phillips had sons John and James that are left out.

Page 210, James and John, children of John Rucker and Betsy Tinsley are also missing.

If you can help identify any of the Johns and Jameses, please get in touch with me.

Jeannie Brydon <jeannieb@access4less.net>

\* \* \* \* \*

## Another unknown James Rucker

of Madison Co., KY  
from

Jody McKenney Thomson

<jody.gen@direcway.com>

I found Jeremiah, John and James Rucker on Livingston County [KY] tax lists as early as 1809. Jeremiah had about 920 acres, James had about 620 acres and John had about 1400 acres - also slaves.



Note from Jeannie: Jeremiah was the son of John Rucker and Mary Burton.

**James Rucker** of Madison Co., KY, died before 18 May 1838\*. He married 4 Feb 1802, Madison Co., KY to Livinia Hill, (Marriage bond, consent of her father, David Hill).

Jody said James's father was John Rucker of Orange Co., Virginia according to Madison Co., KY deed info: John Rucker was named as father of James Rucker in Madison Co., KY deed book Q.

23 Oct 1823, James Rucker of Madison Co., KY, sells for \$1500, to Elisha Kerby of Madison Co., KY, all my right, title and interest \_\_\_\_\_, and to my father John Rucker, deceased's Estate of County of Orange, State of Virginia . . . (Deed Book Q, p.52-54, 1823-1825; film N 81016 0183291, Madison Co., KY).

Note from Jeannie: I can't find any John Rucker of Orange Co., VA that had son James except for John Rucker who married Mary Burton. We have already identified his son James as moving to Elbert Co., Georgia (see Missing John and James).

James Rucker's estate in Estill County, Kentucky was equally divided between his SEVEN living heirs. \*18 May 1838, after James's death, Cinderella (Rucker) Gray and her husband Leven or Levin Gray inherited 1/7th of his estate which included property on Station Camp Creek and which she and her husband sold to Charles Rice. Land in Estill Co., KY.

We think the following were James's children (found in Madison Co., KY records):

1. **James<sup>3</sup> Rucker**, b. ca 1807; m. 4 Jan 1827, Nancy Harlow, Madison Co., KY, marriage bond, 1 Jan 1827.
2. **Frances<sup>3</sup> ("Fannie") Rucker**, b. ca 1807; m. 18 Sep 1822, Madison Co., KY to Charles Rice.
3. **Nancy<sup>3</sup> Rucker**; m. 29 Jan 1834, John Huntsman, bondsman, Moses Todd, Madison

Co., KY, marriage records.

4. **John<sup>3</sup> Rucker**, b. 1 Jun 1811; m. 2 Feb 1834, Madison Co., KY, to Arthusa Jane Todd.
5. **Cinderella<sup>3</sup> Rucker**, b. ca 1816 (1850 census); m. 1<sup>st</sup> 21 Sep 1836, Leven Gray, (bondsman, John Rucker [guardian of bride], Madison Co., KY, marriage bond, 19 Sep 1836); m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reginal Butt, before 1850 census in Jackson Co., MO; m. 3<sup>rd</sup> ca 1860, Jesse Smith.
6. **Cynthia<sup>3</sup> Rucker**; m. 27 Mar 1838, Madison Co., KY to Robert Johnson.
7. **Unknown<sup>3</sup> Rucker** (Will said seven).

Edythe Whitley in her book, p.101-102 lists John Rucker, who m. Arthusa Jane Todd, as the son of Stepleton, and grandson of Moses. Stepleton was married in 1838 so could not have been the father of John who m. in 1834. But who was he? And who was Cinderella Rucker? That's too interesting a name to remain unidentified.

Any help will be appreciated.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Errata

Corrections to Sudie Rucker Wood's  
*Rucker Family Genealogy*, 1932  
by Jeannie Brydon

Note: I am sure there are corrections and additions to be made on every page. Here are some of the ones that I have found. I have tried to document each one. Some data is from the family.

Page 1 — (bottom) French Huguenots were exempt from taxes for four years (not fourteen) showing Peter<sup>1</sup> Rucker arrived in 1700, not 1690. There was evidence of a shipwreck at Jamestown in 1700. (Source: R. A. Brock, *Documents, chiefly unpublished, relating to the Huguenot Emigration to Virginia* . . . compiled for the Virginia Historical Society in 1962.)

Page 2 — Will of Peter<sup>1</sup> Rucker, dated 18 Jan 1743/1744 (not June), probated 23 Feb 1743/1744 (Will Book 1, p. 299, Orange Co., VA). The slash indicates old style calendar and new style calendar, meaning back then it would be 1743, but today it would be 1744.

Page 4 — John<sup>2</sup> Rucker moved to Orange County, Virginia (the area he lived did not become Madison) and died there in 1742/1743 (date of Will, p.8-9). His wife, Susanna, was not the daughter of Frederick and Sarah Coghill as their daughter, Susanna Coghill, married John Miller. We do not know Susanna's maiden name (it was not Phillips as Whitley wrote in her book). More information about Susanna was printed in RFSN, Vol. 3, No. 1, p.6.)

Page 10 — Peter<sup>3</sup> Rucker (John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) lived in Orange Co., VA (not the area that became Greene). (For more on this family see Alice Rucker Allen's, *Rucker Heritage*, 1993.)

Page 10 & 14 — Reuben Rucker (not Rueben).

Page 20 — Correct issue and birth dates:  
Issue of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Rucker and 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Edna King Harris (m. 23 Feb 1824):

1. Rachel<sup>7</sup> Ann Rucker, b. 21 Oct 1828; m. 25 Aug 1842, Needham C. Nichols.
2. Mary<sup>7</sup> Katherine Rucker, b. 8 Aug 1830, d. 10 Jan 1857; m. 1 Jan 1852, W. T. Scott.
3. Sarah<sup>7</sup> E. Rucker, b. 25 Dec 1831; m. 5 Dec 1850, John W. Marshall.
4. Eliza<sup>7</sup> Jane Rucker, died in infancy. (Birth dates of Eliza Jane and George were not recorded.)
5. George<sup>7</sup> W. Rucker, died in infancy.
6. Emily<sup>7</sup> Wilson Rucker, b. 28 Feb 1838; m. 6 Sep 1855, Stephen H. Doom.

Issue of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Rucker and 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Mrs. Frances W. Wayman:

7. Isaac<sup>7</sup> Pearce Rucker, b. 7 Nov 1852.
8. Laura<sup>7</sup> Gray Rucker, b. 20 Nov 1856.

(Source: Papers of Joshua Rucker, updated by James Polk Willard, 3 Apr 1915. These papers are

at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, *Southern Historical Collection*, Slaughter Genealogy #2952, These papers were submitted by Betty Jackan, Raleigh, NC, 1996.)

Page 23 — The 8<sup>th</sup> child of John<sup>4</sup> Rucker (John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Sarah Plunkett was Joshua Rucker. He did not have the middle name Plunkett as did his older brother, James Plunkett Rucker. From census and court records, he is listed as John Rucker (or John Jr.) While his brother is listed as James P. Rucker.

Page 23 — Ahmed<sup>5</sup> Rucker m. 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, Nellie Rucker on 26 Feb 1798 (not November). The Marriage Bond is in Woodford Co., KY.

Page 26 — (bottom) Hamilton<sup>7</sup> Presley Rucker (not Presby).

Page 35 — Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Asbury Rucker married Melinda<sup>5</sup> Rucker (not Matilda), see p.57. They lived in Wilson Co., TN (not Nelson Co.).

Page 40 — James<sup>5</sup> Rucker (George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was omitted from Wood's book. After research, I think he never married. He was never listed in the census records, probably living with his mother. His deeds do not show a wife.

Page 49 — Daniel<sup>6</sup> H. Rucker's middle name was Hilton. His tombstone in Buena Vista, VA, said he died 1909, not 1908. (Note: his grandson, Mack Rucker, was active in the Rucker Family Society in its early days.)

Page 50 — Children of Laura<sup>7</sup> Rucker and Joseph Cunningham (bottom of page) had the name Cunningham, not Rucker.

More Corrections will be in the next issue. If you know of any others, please send them to me along with proof.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rucker Towns and Villages

by Ernest Carroll Rucker

<ecrms601@aol.com>

I have done some research on the proposed article for the newsletter and would like to share early results with you. Have found:

Ft. Rucker, AL (that was really hard)  
Ruckers Grove, Washington Co., AR  
Rucker, Santa Clara Co., CA (Alice Rucker is helping on this one)  
Ruckersville, Elbert Co., GA  
Ruckerville, Clark Co., KY  
Rucker, Bates Co., MO  
Rucker, Boone Co., MO  
Rucks (maybe), Coahoma Co., MS  
Ruckersville, Tippiah Co., MS  
Rucker Court, Anderson Co., SC  
Ruckers Crossroads, Chester Co., SC  
Rucker, Rutherford Co., TN  
Rucker, Comanche Co., TX  
Ruckersville, Greene Co., VA  
Ruckman (maybe), Hampshire Co., WV  
Camp Rucker, AZ (really interesting story)  
Rucker Heights, WA  
Rucker Park, Harlem, NYC, NY  
Rucker Lake, AZ

19 places

I will continue to search historical records and will also start to develop the story of each place that has a link to our family. I estimate about 6 months until a ready-for-publication article. I also plan to give sources for the information where possible.

### Notes from Jeannie Brydon:

Note: Ernest C. Rucker has been working on an article about places named after Ruckers. I haven't heard from him in awhile so maybe putting his early results in the newsletter will spur him to action.

I have visited Ruckersville in Elbert Co., GA. Just drove right through — missed it completely as nothing is left (not even a sign). Is there any interest in having a highway marker placed there?

### Additional comments from Charles Berry <cfberry@jps.net>

This is for the article you are preparing of towns across America bearing the name of Rucker.

There is no longer an active town of Rucker, CA, although the Rucker School is still active and used, the town is shown on Santa Clara County maps and it is marked by a Rucker Avenue. It is on highway 101 between Morgan Hill and Gilroy, California.

The town was formed when the Dunne Ranch, last of the great Spanish land grants, was subdivided starting in 1893. On June 8, 1888 Catherine Dunne's daughter, Mary P., married Joseph H. Rucker (Joseph H.7, Joseph E.6, William T.5, William4, John3, Thomas2, Peter1) who was involved in his father's real estate business. William T. and Joseph E. had come to California in 1852. The Dunne Ranch was put on the market in 6, 10, 20 and 40 acre parcels at \$25 to \$125 per acre. The resulting Rucker Town had 100 farms of from 5 to 75 acres within the city limits.

The Santa Cruz Fruit Company dryer, the Rowley Thomas Merchantile store (including the Post Office), a blacksmith shop, etc. were also there. In 1894 the Rucker School District was established to educate children living in the Rucker area.

Joseph H. Rucker's "Rucker Mansion" was described in the Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Volume 13, Number 2, dated June 2002, and the current owner, Mrs. Ardith Meyer, was at the 2002 Rucker Family Reunion in Missouri and the 2004 reunion in Amherst Co., VA.



## Letter from Chris Rucker, President

One of my goals is to increase the opportunities for communication between our members, to facilitate research into our common origins. Our reunions were the first tool to get Rucker researchers together, and have continued to be enjoyable opportunities for the exchange of information. The newsletter is our second forum, and the only one shared by every member of the Rucker Family Society. We have added a powerful membership database (see the previous newsletter for Registrar Alice Rucker's explanation) which was designed to help members find others with common ancestors and research interests.

Our two newest tools are available to members who have embraced the world of computers. I have mentioned our photo web site before, where we post pictures of our ancestors and exchange information. This a fun site to explore: **[www.msnusers.com/AncestralRuckerPhotos](http://www.msnusers.com/AncestralRuckerPhotos)**. You do not need to join the web site to view the photos posted by others, but if you have photos of your own to post, you must join. There is no fee, and you will not get spam or any undesired solicitations from the site or elsewhere. Please visit, and join; we would like to see more pictures of our Rucker ancestors.

The newest online tool is the entirely reworked Rucker Family Society web site: **[www.theruckerfamilyociety.org](http://www.theruckerfamilyociety.org)**. All the content is new, and everything is current and constantly updated. The site will continue to grow as members make suggestions and offer submissions. Presently, the site lists contact information for the Society officers, and has information on Society benefits and how to join. Reunion information is posted, both past and future. Early Rucker history is covered, factual and legendary. You can find copies of early

Rucker wills, and advice on restoring old gravestones and cemeteries. There is a gallery of old postcards and art with a Rucker connection, and you can even listen to music which tells of a trip down the James River on a Rucker batteau. Mark this site as one of your computer "Favorites" and be sure to visit often to see the new additions.

If you are not computer literate, waste no time in attending a class at your local community college, or get one of your children or grandchildren to help you with the computer at your public library. No Rucker genealogist's toolkit is complete without our photo site and Society web site.

### HELP NEEDED

**Our former website created by Jo Thiessen has been lost:**

<http://www.mindspring.com/~jogt/surnames/ruckerfs.htm>

We have lost everything but the title page. If you submitted an article, would you please resubmit it to Chris Rucker.

### Titles of the Lost Articles:

Diary of Dr. James McHenry Rucker, 1847  
Wills of Peter Rucker and John Rucker  
The Rucker Family Society's Preservation  
and Memorial Fund

Anthony Rucker Will  
Tomagen Rucker Line  
A Rucker Cemetery in Tennessee  
Angus Rucker Grave Marking Ceremony  
Ed Rucker Line  
Wm Rucker Line

If you would like to send another article that would be of interest to the membership, please send it to Chris Rucker at:  
<[sparklecitychris@aol.com](mailto:sparklecitychris@aol.com)>

## A Note from the Registrar

Alice J. Rucker  
<upstairs@att.net>

We've been having a great time with our new data base software. Many of you have renewed for the 2005 year, and some have either forgotten or perhaps have decided not to renew this time. A good number of the renewals came in with their single name links backwards to Peter Rucker - that was great! That was just what we had hoped for. Now when a member wants to know if anyone else is researching the same lines, we can tell them in a flash.

At the time of this writing, there are ninety members who have not renewed from the 2004 year. There are two hundred sixty one currently paid members of 2005 or later. So as you can see, we have not retained quite a few members. Some of those were gift memberships to libraries, or individuals. So if you know of any members who have not yet renewed, please encourage them to continue their support of the Rucker Family Society.

Alice Rucker, Registrar

Total membership as of July 2005

2001 41 unpaid  
2002 13 unpaid  
2003 39 unpaid  
2004 65 unpaid  
2005 178 paid  
2006 or later 131 paid

So we have a current paid membership of 309. Please help us reach out to new cousins and enlarge our membership.

\* \* \* \* \*

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Jeannie Brydon

Please note that I have changed back to my maiden name: Jean ("Jeannie") Wood Brydon.

Many people have asked for my corrections to Sudie Rucker Wood's book, so I am beginning in this issue. If you have any comments or additions, please let me know.

Are you moving: It is very helpful if you let us know when you change your address.

Please send us articles and information that you would like to see printed in the newsletter.

If I've missed anything that anyone has sent, let me know or send me a reminder. My address and email are on page 2.

## Query

### Who was this Reuben Rucker?

From Ione Thompson  
<myownione@msn.com>

One of the mysteries of the Rucker family is Reuben Rucker, b. 15 Sep 1781, possibly in Greenbriar Co., [W]VA, d. 27 Dec 1846, Grassy Fork twp, Jackson Co., IN.

Reuben married 26 Oct 1802, Jefferson Co., KY, Elizabeth Tuel/Tuell, b. 11 Sep 1784, d. 27 Oct 1842, Jackson Co., IN. She was the daughter of Mary and John Tuell.

Marriage bond of Reuben Rucker and Elizabeth Tuel [sic] was recorded in Jefferson Co., KY, submitted by Dorothy Rucker Cain.

Their birth and death dates are from tombstones at Pioneer Cemetery, Jackson Co., IN.

## 2006 Rucker Reunion Salt Lake City, Utah

Dates: Thursday October 5, 2006  
to Sunday, October 8, 2006

There will a speaker about researching at the LDS Library, we will have trips to local sites and family get-togethers.

Reservations should be made on your own at the Plaza Hotel, adjoining Temple Square. Call 1-800-366-3684 to reserve a room.

More information will be forthcoming. Plan to come early for research.

Chairpersons:  
Carol and Fred W. Rucker  
<crRuc4@aol.com>  
Doris Rucker Wasden  
<lepieve@netzero.com>

## 2005-2006 RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY DUES

Give a membership to a relative.

Please make your 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 and/ or 2006

\_\_\_ \$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 give 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## "To Ruckerize"

### Interesting Note from Mike Rucker

I came across this during my research on Gen. Edmund Winchester Rucker in Middle Tennessee. I was not able to identity this Rucker. Can you?

From *Tennessee the Volunteer State, 1769-1923*, by John T. Moore and Austin P. Foster, 1923, Vol. 1, p. 408:

"Tennessee was not represented in the convention which nominated Van Buren at Baltimore in 1835. But the vote of the state in the absence of a delegation was cast by a man named Rucker, which fact gave rise to the political expression "to Ruckerize."

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



Jean W. Brydon, Editor  
304 Charmian Road  
Richmond, VA 23226

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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2006