

# the Rücker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 17

Number 2

June 2006

## A Note from the President

Since the last newsletter, there has been continued activity with our DNA project. We now have tests pending for three Germans, one Frenchman, one Englishman, and one Argentine man with the surname Rucker or Rücker. Offers of free DNA testing have been posted on French and German genealogy message boards, funded by the generous contributions of our Rucker Family Society members. Please consider sending a donation to our DNA testing fund, so that we can continue to attract European Ruckers to our study. Each of these tests cost about \$200, and is paid out of a separate fund solely for DNA testing, not the Society's general treasury. Our treasurer Becky Fox's address is on the top of p. 13. Visit Alice Rucker's web site to see the early results for our test project, and revisit often to see us add new test subjects:

http://worldfamilies.net/surnames/r/rucker

We will learn more about the use of DNA testing in genealogy when we convene in Salt Lake City for October's Rucker Family Society reunion. I hope that everyone has made plans to attend. Remember that the next reunion will not be for another two years, in Charlottesville, Virginia. This year's event is our first foray to the West, and we hope to see a heavy turnout from that area. I am looking forward to visiting Salt Lake City, and touring the beautiful mountain scenery. Come join the fun and scholarship, as we make new friends and further the goals of our Society.

Chris Rucker

### Editor's Note

The reunion is almost here. Are you getting excited? There is an extra reunion form enclosed with this newsletter. We hope you will attend and learn more about finding our European ancestors.

Remember to notify us of a change of address. Many times newsletters are returned to us with no forwarding address. We don't want to lose a single member due to a move.

## From Chuck Berry

On the next page is an article about another Rucker Realty firm. Chuck Berry of Scotts Valley, CA, wrote: "I loved and read with much interest the 'Rucker Realty' article by Mike Rucker in the last newsletter. It reminded me of the Rucker Realty company started in San Jose, California. I've enclosed an article about the firm published in "A Century of Service — San Jose's 100 Year Old Business Firms," 1977, Edited by Dick Barrett.

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Rucker Realty Co.

The Rucker Realty Co. of 1020 S. Winchester Blvd. grew out of sturdy pioneer roots and had an early example of business acumen which may have predicted its durability.

When William E. Rucker set out from Missouri for San Jose in 1852 he brought along 200 cows. Traveling by Sublette's cut-off north of Salt Lake City, he arrived with most of his herd. He had paid \$10 a head for his stock in Missouri, and sold them here for from \$150 to \$200 each, financing the purchase of 160 acres of land near Santa Clara.

He had a good hand in his eldest son, Joseph E. Rucker, who was 21 years old at the time. But Joseph E. wanted to be his own man. He farmed here for a while, then on the Pajaro River, finally returning to San Jose. He quit tilling the soil himself in 1874, although in 1888 he had 250 acres of land which he worked on shares. In '74 he bought 10 acres in Willow Glen and that same year opened a real estate office at 8 N. 1st St. Like his father, he was a man of distinction, an 1888 account saying, "He has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since he was 18 years old, and was the first unmarried man to unite with the church in the Santa Clara Valley."

Joseph E. married in 1855 and fathered seven children. His firm was first known as the Rucker Company, then Rucker & Page, and later J. E. Rucker & Son, when Joseph H. Rucker joined his father in business. After J. E. died the name became J. H. Rucker & Co.

J. H. looked at the valley with the eye of a booster. He believed in advertising and service, offering "lots on easy installments" and "carriages to show property at all times."

The business grew and moved to Second and Santa Clara for many years, with a branch on Post street in San Francisco.

The Rucker firm developed the Hanchett Park residential area of 76 acres, with 358 homesites bounded by The Alameda, Race street, Park



De Witt Laddie Rucker and Frank Archer, general manager of Rucker Realty Company, standing in front of fire bell placed in service by the San Jose City Council in 1891. Bell is located at San Carlos and Market Streets. Joseph Rucker's brother, S.N. Rucker, was mayor of San Jose in 1891.

avenue and Hester avenue in 1906. "Rapid transit" via the electric railroad was promised, along with building restrictions that would preserve the character of the neighborhood.

Dewitt C. Rucker, son of Joseph H., entered the firm when he reached manhood and showed leadership qualities as one of the founders of the San Jose Real Estate Board and its president in 1916. He was a City Councilman in 1941.

His son, DeWitt Laddie Rucker, joined the business in 1946 after serving in the Marines. He also spent two years as an actor and adviser in war films, then, on his father's urging, joined a Los Angeles real estate firm, where he received his broker's license. He became operator of the business with John Cromie on his father's death in 1973. He is active in the Lions Club and the San Jose Police Activities League.

The present office, with 4000 square feet was occupied in 1976.

## Questions and Answers

From Vol. 16, No. 4, Dec., 2005: Response to Rucker Towns and Villages: From Keith Rucker Haygood

I have just read "Rucker Towns and Villages" in the Newsletter and am disturbed that the graves of John and Joseph have been lost. When I visited Ruckersville, GA in the late 50's, the Elbert Marion Rucker (there have been many) who was an adult and the son of Earl Rucker and a mother whose maiden name was Venable told me of John:

"He's buried out there in mama's pasture if you want to see the marker." I followed his directions over the hill and by the big oak and found the grave and marker as my car sank to its floorboard in Georgia red mud. I walked a long way back to his house and Elbert rescued me with his large farm tractor. Elbert then showed me where "Old Rich Joe" and his wife (nee Stalnaker) were buried at Van's Creek Baptist Church. I remember being very surprised to find Ruckers in a Baptist Cemetery. Cedar Hall was still standing in those days and as late as the reunion near Atlanta a cousin occupied and was attempting to restore it. She has since died and I heard that the house had burned.

I visited Elbert many times over the next 25 years. My sometimes faulty memory does not remember the new lake covering any of these things.

It was only later than that first visit that I learned that my line was not John but rather William (son of Peter), William, Barden, Burton B, Joseph J, Joanna Jane, and finally Keith Rucker Haygood. There are perhaps more descendants of William in Georgia than of John.

My interest in the DNA project continues. You may remember my urging my 1st cousin Seabie to participate since he is of the male line. I note that he and Chris are perfect matches even after the

The Rucker Family Society Newsletter is published quarterly — Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

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many generations. My 1st impression is that the Rucker men were more careful whom they married than they were with their own conduct. This is based upon the Rucker cousins proving to be true cousins while some others seem to match as well.

P.S. Chris and I hope to go grave hunting within the next year. I don't know for sure what the lake has covered at Ruckersville where John and Joseph are buried, but I do know we can go to the grave and Colonial Dames marker of my ancestor Revolutionary War vet. William.

\* \* \*

### Amos Rucker From Chris Rucker

Thanks for your article in the RFS newsletter re: Amos Rucker. As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I remembered seeing as article about him, and did a quick "Google" search on the web. Allow me to give a brief summary.

Amos Rucker was born a slave in Elbert Co., GA, and was a member of the Joseph Rucker household (see the article in the newsletter about Rucker Towns and Villages, Vol. 16, No. 4, p. 36). Joseph, Georgia's first millionaire, had a son, Alexander Randolph Rucker (Alexander<sup>6</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Cornelius<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), who enlisted

in Cobb's Legion, Company A, "The Lamar Infantry" as a private, later promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Amos was the slave who accompanied "Sandy" to war, and became a much-loved member of the unit. He was responsible for calling the roll in camp, and evidently had an excellent memory, for after the war he moved to Atlanta and joined the W.H.T. Walker Camp, Confederate Veterans, at whose meetings he would always call the roll from memory. He was so beloved that the Camp members bought his burial plot and gravestone, the latter which has disappeared from Southview Cemetery in Atlanta.

He was buried in a gray uniform, wrapped in a Confederate flag, and the funeral, was, indeed, attended and officiated by a who's who of Atlanta society. My sources list his death date as August 10, or May 1905, which does not jibe with the Confederate Veteran account you cited in your article. I have to believe that the account of Amos' premature death is apocryphal.

There is no record of Joseph Rucker being a colonel during the Civil War. Such titles were loosely used after the War, but he may have earned it as a member of the prewar militia.

#### sources:

http://www.hernandoheritagemuseum.com/index confcolors.htm

http://www.dixieoutfitters.com/heritage/blc7.shtml onlineathens.com/stories.020406

http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm

\* \* \* \* \*

## Errata – Wood's book

From Robert Rucker of Mission Hills, California

Bob Rucker, who recently acquired one of Sudie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Family Genealogy*, has gone, page by page, to find mistakes. He wrote: "Attached is a list of errata. Most are typographical errors. A lot of towns and counties are

misspelled. I worked in the transportation field for over 25 years and am familiar with many of these names."

Editor's note: *The Rucker Family Genealogy* was originally proofread by Sudie's daughters, Lil and Jean Wood (my mother). They were both young and not really interested which accounts for many of the mistakes.

Many thanks to Bob for his endeavor in making these corrections.

Page 1 tithes not tythes on 500 acres of land.

Page 2 A negro boy named Yorkshire not yerkshire (from Peter Rucker's Will)

Page 3 Ann not ann Cook

Page 19 Berkeley, not Berkley, Calif.

Page 20 went to Puerto not Porto Rico,

Page 25 Kaskaskia not Kaskasia, Ill. shown twice

Page 28 Grace B. Walters not waters

Page 36 Harriet 6 not Henriet 6 Mckinley

Page 38 of Jessamine not Jassamine Co., Ky.

Page 48 Manila not Manilla

Page 53 of Berkeley not Berkley, Calif. Professor not professor of Latin at Berkeley not Berkly

Page 55 of Oakley not Oakly,

Page 58 died in Muskogee not Miskogee, Okla.

Page 77 Possession of his grandaughter not grandaughterfi

Page 82 of De Funiak not De Funkia Springs, Fla. shown twice

Page 86 Keytesville not Keysville, Mo. Huntersville not Huntesville, W. Virginia Marlinton not Marleston, W. Va.

Page 87 Lecompton not Le Compton, Kansas

Page 98 Virden not Vorden, Ill.

Page 106 granddau not gdanddau of Henry Christian

Page 119 Lindsey 6 Powell not Pork m. Mary Tarver not Travis James Mumford not Munford Spight

Page 121 at Urbana not Urbanna, Ill.

Counseille not Comiselle. shown three times

Page 122 Jonathan Rucker, m. 3 Aug. 1807, Davidson Co., Tn., Polly S. Reece not Reed (from Early Middle Tennessee marriages by Byron & Barbara Sistler, 1988)

Page 123 San Marcos not Marco, Texas

Page 124 James J. Neill not Neoll

Page 127 in Marengo not Magengo Co., Ala. Gen. James Winchester, of Revolutionary War (?)

Page 128 of Puerto not Porto Rico

Page 130 Aaron 5 Vail not Vain Brown Fayette 5 not Fayett Burris

Page 134 and James Tinsley not Tinsly

Page 141 Defoe not De Foe shown twice Rebecca not Rebeca7 Jane Foree Clark not Clarke Co., Ky.,

Page 153 Plattsburgh not Plattsburg, N.Y. Salem not Salin, Oregon

Page 156 paid taxes not paidtaxes David Tinsley not Tinsly, Sr.

Page 160 allotted not alloted

Page 162 testament not testment

Page 163 resided not reside at Rocky Point.

Page 164 Frances 6 not Frences 6 Jane Mildred Anne Boswell not MildredAnne-Boswell

Page 165 Beulah not Buelah Booker

Page 181 Carter not Carters Co., Ky.

Page 182 Albemarle Co., not Vo., Va. Saline not Salino, Mo.

Page 185 Codicil not Codecil:

Page 197 Wilkes not Wilks Co., Ga.

Page 199 16 Oct. not oct.

Page 204 Died seisined not seised of. [Ed's note: this is probably the way it was spelled in the records]

Page 205 Humphreys not Humphrey Co., Tenn. shown twice

Page 209 Sarah Tinsley not Tinsly John Tinsley not Tinsly shown twice Joseph and not andd Aggie

Page 211 Wilkes not Wilks Co.

Page 229 Feliciana not Feleciona Parish, La.

Page 230 \$3,057.45 not \$3,057,45

Page 234 Kansas City not Kansas, Mo. Warrensburg not Warrenburg

Page 240 Crab Tree Forks not Crab tree Forks

Page 242 adjoining Pleasant's not Pleasan's

Page 249 moved to McMinn not McMinns

Page 255 Greenbrier, not Greenbrief, Co.,

Page 257 Lemuel not Lemual Rucker mouth not mout of Raccon Branch

Page 258 Center not Centre Point, Iowa

Page 259 Marshalltown not Marshaltown, Iowa Spencer not Spences, Iowa. Center not Central Point, Iowa Blaine Washington, delete Iowa

Page 260 Council Bluffs not Bluff

Page 261 Belle Plaine not Belle Plains, Iowa Transvaal not Transval, South Africa

Page 265 around delete "the" South America

Page 266 of Miami, Fla. Delete "Miami, Florida"

Page 267 Carter not Carters County, Kentucky m. Margaret Eleason not Elaeson

Page 268 Lawrence not Laurence County, Ohio

Page 269 Fredericktown not Frederickstown, Ohio

McMinn not McMinn's Co., Tenn., 1841

Page 270 McMinn not McMinn's Co. shown three times

Page 272 McMinn not McMinn's Co., Tenn.

Page 278 Saline not Salina, Mo.

Page 280 Saline not Salino Co., Mo. shown twice

Page 281 3. Mrs. Viola7 Fox, Fountaintown not Mountaintown, Indiana

Page 282 Nancy not Uancy Conner Kissimmee not Kissimme, Fla. Tolono not Tolona, Ill.

Page 289 Jessamine not Jessimine

Page 290 Saline not Salino, Mo. Rolla not Rolls, Mo. El Paso not Pasa, Texas

Page 294 bought the 100 acres of land not inad of Page 309 (D.B. 2, p. 133, Rappahannock not

Rappahonnock Co.)

Page 324 Charles Christian of Goochland not Goocrland

Page 325 (Louisa not Louiso Co., D B A., p. 289)

Page 326 Murray not Murry State College, Murray not Murry, Ky.

Page 329 Clark not Clarke Co., Ky. shown twice

Page 356 Poolesville not Poolsville, Md.

Page 357 Dranesville not Drainsville, Va.

Page 361 Santo not San Domingo

Page 363 Centerville not Centreville, Ohio

Page 380 Monongah not Monongaha, West Virginia

Page 392 2nd Matilda not Maotilda Baker

Page 401 Montebello not Monte Bello

Page 412 Wynne not Wynn, Ark.

Page 422 Salisbury not Salisburg, N.C.

Page 424 Cynthia not Cynethia H. Burford

Page 427 married 11th not 11TH Feb. 1837 Jane MacDaniel not Macdaniel

Page 428 Sarah R. Meyers not Meyars

Page 448 Manassas not Manassass

Page 452 2nd Va. Reg. Cavalry C.S.A. not S.C.A.

Page 454 21st Reg. of Va. Cavalry not Vavalry

Page 456 Christopher not Christipher Hutchins Wilkes not Wilks Co., North Carolina Wills.

Page 458 To Benjamin Parks not Park his part valued

Page 467 Gallia not Gallio Co., Ohio

Page 472 she is already not adready married a marriage not marmiage agreement

Page 483 1. Elgin8 Horsley Clarkston, b. Nov. 22, 1924 not 1824

Page 484 8. and not anr 9.

Page 488 4. Mary 7 B. Shields not Shieds

Page 498 1. James 4 Douglas not Dougles

Page 503 (Angus3 not Augus3, Eph2, Peter1)

Page 505 Signed: Paschal not Paschol Early

Page 506 Cyrena not Cyena A. Whitehead

Page 508 1. Frances4 Jane London (Sep. 23, 1811-Apr. 26, 1862 not 1802) See p.415 for correct date

Page 516 Loughborough not Longhboro, Eng.

Page 517 Peterborough not Peterboro, Eng.

Page 521 Halifax not Malifax Co.

Page 524 Grainger not Granger Co., Tenn.

Page 525 Callaway not Calloway Co., shown twice

Page 527 \$200 their undivided not individed interest

Page 534 Waynesville not Yaynesville, Ohio

Page 537 3. Sally5 Anne (Apr. 30, 1824-Mch. 15, 1824). Possibly Mch.-Apr.? (Can't die before birth.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## In Memoriam

Henry Latham Rucker Jr., age 88, died May 29, 2006, in Aiken, SC where he lived most of his adult live. He was born in Bedford, Virginia, on March 17, 1918, to the late Henry Latham Rucker Sr. and Frances Blanche Saunders. He has two Rucker lines: Henry<sup>9</sup> Latham Rucker Jr. (Henry<sup>8</sup> L., Samuel<sup>7</sup> B., William<sup>6</sup> G., Garland<sup>5</sup>, Ambrose<sup>4</sup> Jr., Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and (and Samuel<sup>7</sup> B.'s wife, Mary<sup>6</sup> K. Richeson, James<sup>5</sup> S., Amelia<sup>4</sup> Rucker, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>).

He was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute Class of 1940. He served in the U.S. Army for two years. He moved to Aiken, SC in 1951 with the Savannah River Plant where he worked as an engineer in the Power Dept. He retired from the DuPont Co. in 1980 with 37 years of service.

Henry was a member of the First Christian Church, American Legion Post No. 26 and the Shade Tree Antique Car Club of Augusta. His love of history was represented in the time he spent as a docent at the Aiken County Historical Museum. His many hobbies and interests included a love of music, football, coin collecting and chair caning.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dorothy Vail Rucker; daughters, Nancy Rucker Goslen and husband Andrew, of Aiken, SC, Elizabeth Rucker Bierbaum and husband Clark, of Charlotte, NC; and his brother, Robert Saunders Rucker Sr. and wife Margie of Bedford, VA. He was buried at the Greenwood Cemetery in Bedford, VA.

From the Lynchburg *News & Notes*, May 30, 2006, submitted by Anne Rucker Loyd of Waynesboro, VA.

\* \* \*

Edith Marie Rucker Dill was born April 19, 1916, in Harrison Co., Missouri, and died December 13, 2005, in Bethany, MO. She was married 1<sup>st</sup> in 1935, Bethany, MO to Edwin Albert

Myers, a widower with four small children and then divorced. Edith married 2<sup>nd</sup> September 15, 1951, in New Hampton, MO to Victor Leslie Dill Victor died October 18, 1984, in Harrison Co., MO.

Edith had two children by her first husband and five by her second husband. She had fifteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Edith and Victor lived on a farm northeast of Martinsville from 1956 until they moved to a big house in Martinsville, MO. Edith later moved to an apartment in Bethany and then to the Crestview Home in Bethany. Edith attended Martinsville United Methodist Church. She was buried beside her husband, Victor, at Sharon Cemetery, Mt. Moriah, MO.

Lineage: Edith<sup>8</sup> Marie Rucker Dill was one of thirteen children of John<sup>7</sup> Silas Rucker (James<sup>6</sup> F., Lemuel<sup>5</sup>, Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Carrie Lucindia Booher. Her obituary was submitted by her daughter Colleen M. Hiatt of Bethany, MO. (No date or name of newspaper.)

\* \* \* \* \*

# Who were the Parents of Ephraim Rucker?

Many people are working on this line. Here is what we know about him:

Ephraim<sup>4</sup> Rucker (\_\_\_\_\_\_3, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. ca 1770; m. Elizabeth<sup>4</sup> ("Betsy") Booton (Tomagen<sup>3</sup> Rucker, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. ca 1770. He was a school teacher

We think he was the grandson of James Rucker of the area that is today Madison Co., VA. A letter from a descendant, probably Lydia Jane Rucker, now in the possession of Martha Jane Johnson, submitted by Alice Rucker, 2002: "My Grand Father, Ephram [sic] [came] from Va. to Ohio from in or near Richmond . . . [My] Father name Ambros [sic] Booten Rucker Born 1806 Brother Lemuel, Julias [sic] and John, Elizabeth who married John Snyder, Anna who married James Benson."

Letter from Shirley Pifferini, Eureka, CA, March 24, 2004: "Ambrose Booton Rucker, born 20 Sep 1806, of Elizabeth Booton and Ephraim Rucker, was a Methodist Minister. He came from Ohio, where he married Margaret Atkinson, daughter of Margaret Holmes Atkinson and Isaac Atkinson, who was born in Greene Co., PA....

"Ambrose and Margaret moved to Lee Territory, Iowa where their last child was born. Because of a settlement across the river in Illinois, he and his family started for California on March 30, 1853. The family has Lydia Jane's diary in which she wrote every day until the family arrived somewhere near Monterey on the Salinas Plains. Lydia Jane stopped writing her daily line or two or three just  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months before they reached their destination.

"Note: Ambrose B. Rucker was elected Justice of the Peace in 1856 of Alisal, a townhip of Salinas. He died before his term was up.

"P.S. We are still trying to trace Ephraim Rucker, thought to descend from James.

## Can anyone help us identify the parents of this Ephraim Rucker?"

Other Ephraim Ruckers:

- 1. Ephraim<sup>2</sup> Rucker (son of Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. ca 1718, Essex Co., VA, d. Dec 1797, Madison Co., VA; married 25 Mar 1738 (no source), Margaret Vawter. (Proof of parentage: Peter Rucker's Will.)
- 2. Ephraim<sup>3</sup> Rucker (James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), born ca 1753, Culpeper Co., VA; married 2 June 1775, to Elizabeth Randall (marriage bond, Orange Co., VA). (Parentage proved only by assocation with James Rucker.)

3. Ephraim<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Tomagen<sup>3</sup>, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and (Augustine<sup>3</sup> Rucker, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. ca 1778, Culpeper (now Madison) Co., VA, d. before 8 May 1858; married 4 Jan 1816, Rosamond Grant Wright, in Madison Co., VA. (Proof of parentage: Will of Augustine Rucker, 1804, recorded Will Book 3, p.97, 23 Feb 1815, Madison Co., VA, mentions son, Ephraim Rucker.)

4. Ephraim<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Ephraim<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. ca 1788. Unproved. Nothing more known.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Benjamin Rucker, of Culpeper [Co., VA]

Query from Sudie Rucker Wood's book, p.298: Who was this Benjamin Rucker?

Benjamin Rucker, of Culpeper [Co., VA] served in the Revolution, under Captain Sale of the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Reg., 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Stubelfield's Orderly Book, Archer's Rd., Va.)

War 22, p.2, March 9, 1776 — Cash to

Benjamin Rucker.

War 22, p.92 — "The following sum sent by Capt. Richard Taylor to Capt. James Taylor of Orange," to pay the ----- Benjamin Rucker, deceased, Stephen Ham and others.

Stephen Ham was married to the daughter of John Rucker and they lived in Amherst Co., VA along with John Rucker's son Benjamin. Benjamin Rucker, born ca 1733, would have been in his forties at the time of the Revolution, so a little old to serve. Did Benjamin have a son named Benjamin who was killed in the War? Would records at the National Archives give more information?

Would someone be willing to do further research on this Benjamin Rucker?

\* \* \* \* \*

**Note from Mike Rucker:** Please bring an item for the auction that will take place at the reunion. Anything is acceptable, but a Rucker related or historical item would be nice. All proceeds will go toward the DNA project.





IISA 30

First Class Mail

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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