

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 18, NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 2007

Five Generations of The Family Of

Saint Clair Rucker

see page 29



James Marcus Rucker V

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Henry Cowles Rucker, Jr.

A Wildlife Manager and
Principal Ahead of his Time

By Michael P. Rucker

It may seem a stretch to change from a career in wildlife management to that of a school teacher and principal but that is what Henry Cowles Rucker, Jr. did and with great success.

Called "Cowles" by family and friends, he was among those at Virginia Tech in 1934 to receive a Masters Degree in Wildlife Management; the first such degree offered anywhere. He served as manager of National Wildlife Refuges in Mississippi and South Carolina and then as Assistant Chief of the West Virginia Fish and Game Division. From there he moved into a teaching position: Vocational Agriculture at Stafford County (Virginia) High School. He was then promoted to principal of Marriott School in St. Stephens Church,

Virginia, a rural school that included grades first through high school.

At Marriott School he was appalled with the low level of reading skills among the students. He decided to do something about it. The following is an excerpt from a front page *Richmond Times Dispatch* in 1959:

"Principal Solves Problem:
Teaches Kids to Read"

Continued on page 23



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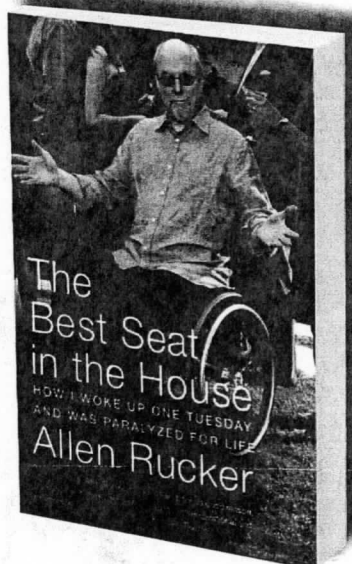
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**"Reading his no-holds-
barred account of life
before and after paralysis
reminds you that *The Best
Seat in the House* can be
whichever one you've got."**

—*Parade*



**"Hardly sentimental...[a]
savvy contribution...
ahead of the curve."**

—*New York Times*

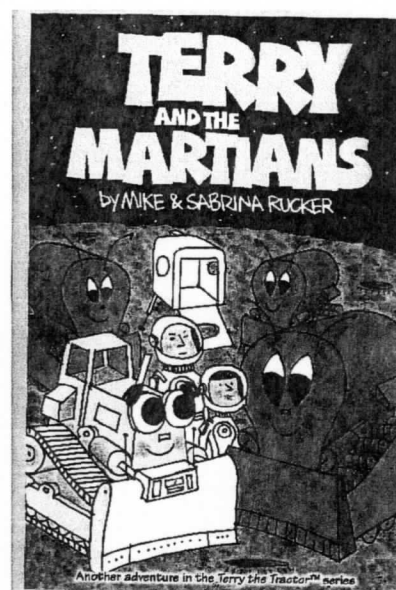
**"Allen Rucker describes
his new life with honesty,
accessibility, and
impudence...very funny."**

—*National Public Radio*

www.AllenRucker.com

HARPER

New "Terry" Book



**Mike Rucker has done it again:
Another Terry the Tractor book
for kids -- the fifteenth in this
popular series. But, this time he
had some help from his seven-
year old granddaughter, Sabrina
Rucker.**

The idea for Terry and the
Martians came from Sabrina.
"It's really wacky, you'll love it,"
said Sabrina.

You can view all the Terry books
at TerrytheTractor.com and
order them via PayPal or get
them directly from the author by
contacting Mike Rucker at 1003
W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL,
61614, phone 309-692-0621 or
email him at mikruc@aol.com.

Henry Cowles Rucker Jr.

Continued from page 21

A King and Queen county principal tossed out convention and caution this year when he tackled his school's biggest problem: reading. Reading is the number one job of any school, believes Henry Rucker -- if a student can't read it's useless to try to teach him anything else.

Rucker came to Marriott two years ago. Parents and teachers were complaining that the pupils couldn't read. Youngsters told Rucker that as far as they were concerned there had never been a book worth reading.

Since Rucker's reading program began in September, many of those same students are reading a book a week. The average reading level of children in the third through sixth grade has jumped one and a half years since May.

No Gimmicks

The system has no gimmicks, no visual aids or expensive equipment. It's based on a simple adage: practice makes perfect.

Before launching the program, Rucker tested each child for reading skills and general ability. The test bore out the charges of parents and teachers. Classes were anywhere from a month to a year behind the national average in reading.

The principal decided that pupils who couldn't read on their proper level should go back to classes where they could patch up their faulty fundamentals. Six graders were put back as far as the second grade for an hour a day.

This is a step that causes many an educator to throw up their hands in horror. "You'll warp their self-esteem, thwart their growth," they charge.

"Bosh," says Rucker. When he finished a sales talk to each elementary grade there wasn't a youngster who failed to raise his hand when asked: "Do you want to go back to your reading level and start again?"

Rucker drew a diagram for them explaining that a reading weakness -- what he calls "a little rotten spot" -- sometimes develops in the first grade. "You might get by with it then, but it will grow bigger and bigger each year as reading gets tougher. Finally, you can't keep up with your work at all. You fail, drop out of school, have trouble getting a good job," he told them. The children were sold.

Rucker confronted the Parent Teacher Association with his figures on reading. He said that it could be corrected -- with their help. Some 30 parents

volunteered to donate one hour a week to helping out. They go to school to supervise reading practice while staff teachers work intensely with small groups of pupils.

The article went on in some depth concerning the reading program and its successes.

During his earlier career Cowles was known to say that, "Wildlife management is a great job, but it will keep your family in near poverty" -- so he changed to teaching; a similarly low paying occupation.

He was ahead of his time in many of his philosophies. -- from reading to managing wildlife habitat. During the mid-1940s he began to advocate and practice controlled burning of the undergrowth in the national wildlife refuges he managed to restore the natural ecology and eliminate invasive non-native plants such as honeysuckle and kudzu. His superiors and peers alike looked askance at this practice that is now fully accepted -- but Smoky the Bear and his, "Only you can prevent forest fires" prevailed at the time."

While at Virginia Tech Cowles met and married the secretary to the Agriculture Department, Phoebe Katherine Price. They

had three sons: Henry C. III, Michael Price and William Ambrose.

Cowles retired in 1973 to Cedar Key, Florida, near a national wildlife refuge and with good fishing nearby – his favorite pastime. No one else in Cedar Key could raise a decent vegetable garden in the sandy soil, but Cowles with his knowledge of agriculture used the plentiful sea weed that washed up on the beaches to grow so many vegetables that he was constantly having to give large quantities to friends and neighbors. While there he became a founding member of the Cedar Key Historical Society and in establishing a museum.

He also helped Cedar Key restore two of its lost resources; cedar trees and osprey. Although named after the cedar trees that once blanketed the area, the evergreens were all but gone when Cowles moved there. He obtained cedar tree seedlings from State of Florida nurseries and asked the students in the Cedar Key school if they would like to restore this heritage by planting them. They enthusiastically agreed and now many more cedars grow in the area. He also was an advocate for placing poles on which the osprey, or fish hawks, could

build a nest and raise their young, thereby helping to replenish another nearly lost resource.

Cowles was also known as a humorist who could always come up with an appropriate remark for any occasion; a really memorable character. He died February 5, 1982 and is buried in the Cedar Key cemetery near the wildlife and good fishing that he loved.

Cowles had four lines back to Peter Rucker: Henry⁸ Cowles Rucker, Jr., Dr. Henry⁷ C., Benjamin⁶ L., Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹. Henry⁹ Cowles Rucker, Jr., Dr. Henry⁸ C., Sally⁷ F. Parks (married Benjamin⁶ Lindsay Rucker), Paulina⁶ D., Elizabeth⁵ Rucker McDaniel, Lucy⁴ Rucker Dawson, Benjamin³ Rucker, John², Peter¹.

Henry⁸ Cowles Rucker, Jr., Lillian⁷ E. (married Dr. Henry⁸ Cowles Rucker), William⁶ A., William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Henry⁸ Cowles Rucker, Jr., Lillian⁷ Eliza, William⁶ Ambrose, Mary⁵ Ann Dawson (married William⁵ Ballinger Rucker), Ambrose⁴, Reuben³, Ambrose², Peter¹.

Editor's note: Mike fails to note it in this article that Henry Cowles Rucker, Jr. was his father.

Questions and Answers

Ahmed Rucker

Research by Alice Rucker of Sylmar, CA

On my recent trip to Salt Lake City, I got a copy of Ahmed's father's will on microfilm from Scott Co., Illinois.

One interesting thing in Ahmed's will is the mention of six volumes of his hand written "memoirs." He wanted copies made for all his children after he died. In Sudie Rucker Wood's book, p.23, there is a very interesting excerpt. It said that his "memoirs" were in the possession of Dr. William Colby Rucker in New Orleans.

There Are
Six Volumes of Ahmed Rucker's
Hand Written "Memoirs"

I would very much like to read Ahmed's "Memoirs" because he was only a 5th generation Rucker and I believe he may have written about his early life and ancestors. I have some ideas of repositories to check with who may have inherited this kind of manuscript.

If anyone has a copy or knows where one is, please contact Alice at aliruc@ca.it.com or the Editor.

"Grannee" Rucker



The last newsletter had a photo of "Grannee" Rucker, mother of Laura Emma Chambers.

While working on the material of Ahmed Rucker with Alice Rucker, I discovered the identity of this rugged individual.

She was Amanda Ann Rucker, daughter of Joseph Calvin Rucker, granddaughter of Ransom Rucker of Anderson Co., TX. Ransom Rucker's identity is not known. Amanda and husband, Benjamin Franklin Chambers, had nine children, one of whom was Laurie E. Chambers.

Amanda Rucker was born 24 Sep 1847, Anderson Co., TX, d. 19 May 1902, same place. She was married 28 Aug 1862. She was buried at the Ransom Rucker Cemetery, about seven miles south of Palestine, Texas, near the Rucker homestead.

Information is from Vic Castens, 1998 and Thelma Chambers

Cravy of Bullard TX, 1983 (granddau of Grannee). Also Wayne Wolf of Grapeland, TX.

If you are a descendant of this line and are interested in this photo, please contact the Editor.

* * * * *

Query of the Quarter

A Rucker Pony Express Rider?

Who was this William Rucker? A web site says he was "possibly a Choctaw and a Pony Express rider."

The web site* in question concerns Lou T. Buford, who reportedly married William Rucker in 1874. William's birth year is listed as 1829 and his death was in 1889. Lou's birth date is given as January 6, 1861 in Camden, Oachita County, Arkansas. They apparently had two children: James Albert Rucker, b. 1878, d. 1959; and Rosa Jane Rucker, b. 1880, d. 1943. Rosa Jane is listed as marrying Frank Henry White, b. 1877, d. 1933.

The Pony Express was active only during 1860 and 61, so if William Rucker was a rider he would have been about 31, which is within the realm of possibility. Send any information to Mike Rucker,

1003 W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614-2828 or to mikruc@aol.com.

* The web site is <http://lynnv21.tripod.com>

* * * * *

Corrections and Additions to Vol. 18, No. 2

Editor's Note: I had so much trouble putting together the last newsletter, that many mistakes were made. Hopefully this one will be better.



Robert Malcolm Rucker New Orleans Painter

Robert's picture was omitted from the last newsletter. See Vol. 18, No. 2, p.11, 13 for his story.

Page 19 -- The photo of Chris Rucker in the last newsletter was with the speaker on DNA, Leah Wark, and not his wife, Jeannie Rucker. Sorry about the mistake. The photo of Chris and Jeannie in this issue is much better (on p.30).

Page 17-18, Who was William H. Rucker?

I left out a few details that made the article unclear. Here is additional information.

William H. Rucker's uncles were James, Wilton and Marcus. In the article, I called them his siblings.

William⁸ Henry Rucker, born 23 Dec 1884, was the son of John⁷ William Rucker, grandson of Jeremiah⁶ Thomas Rucker (whose wife was Martha in the 1900 census). James R. was his uncle.

Jeremiah⁶ Thomas Rucker was the grandson of Jeremiah⁴ Rucker (John³, Thomas², Peter¹) who m. Henrietta Stanley.

Jeremiah Thomas Rucker and Martha Shellnut's children were:

1. James⁷ Robert Rucker, b. 7 Nov 1849.
2. Margaret⁷ A., b. ca 1853.
3. John⁷ William, b. ca 1855, d. 20 Jan 1898, Borque Co., TX (son was William⁶ Henry).
4. Thomas⁷ Edgar, b. Dec 1859.
5. Elizabeth⁷, b. ca 1863.
6. Wilton⁷ Wirt, b. Aug 1866.
7. Marcus⁷ Overton, b. ca 1868.

Source: W. O. Rucker, Jr., Big Spring, TX, 1979 (from Alice Allen) and Patrick T. Rucker, Washington D.C., 2000.

History of Cannon Co., Tennessee

Answer to Query of the Quarter from the last newsletter:

Who was the Rucker family of The Rucker Mason Farm in Cannon County, Tennessee that has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, 2007.

Answer From

Mary Anne Laurence
Johnann5@aol.com

I read with interest about the Rucker Mason farm in Cannon County, TN. This is in the area where Dr. William A. Smith and Lucy Rucker Smith made their home (my great-grandparents). I found information in the *History of Cannon County, Tennessee* by Robert L. Mason, 1984.

There are several pages in this book about the Rucker brothers and their holdings in the area. The book describes the area as Rucker's Knob on the Cannon-Rutherford Co., TN line. This land was first purchased by Gideon Rucker in 1798. Gideon

was one of the four sons of Benjamin Rucker (John, Peter).

In 1817, Gideon sold this land to his younger brother, Bennett who took up residence there. The home was said to be built between 1802 and 1804.

The house and part of the original 640 acres remained in the family until current time. Today the place is the home of Robert L. and Ruth Hare Mason who have restored it.

Many thanks to Mary Rucker Estes of Thousand Oaks, CA, who also submitted information.

* * * * *

In Memoriam

Charles Allen Tanner, Jr., age 95, died Saturday, March 17, 2007 at Westminster-Canterbury in Lynchburg, VA. He was a graduate of the University of Virginia (1935) with a degree in Science and Chemistry. He worked for American Cyanamid in the Pigments Division for 19 years, living in Piny River and Camden, NJ. While there, he obtained many patents for the company. He was also employed by the Gidden Company for 21 years as director of Research and

Development in the titanium dioxide plant in Baltimore.

He was predeceased in death by his wife, Princess Cross Tanner and brothers William Whately Tanner and John Alexander Tanner. He is survived by a sister, Victoria Tanner Harris of Lynchburg, sons Charles A. Tanner III and wife Elizabeth of Madison Heights, and William Asher Tanner and wife Anita of Severna Park, MD, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lineage: Charles⁸ Allen Tanner, Jr., Charles⁷ A., Victoria⁶ Hayth, Elizabeth⁵ Carter Rucker, Reuben⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹. Submitted by Marita Taylor of Amherst Co., VA.

Carolyn Adair Rucker Parker, age 70, died May 29, 2007 in Lynchburg, VA. She was the wife of Jasper Leroy ("Lee") Parker. She was born July 31, 1936 in Lynchburg, the daughter of the late St. Bernard and Ruth May Rucker. Carolyn was owner and operator of James River Antiques of Lynchburg for over 13 years. She was a 55-year member of Beulah Baptist Church, and a choir member. She

loved animals and all wildlife. She is survived by her husband; her son, David Leroy Parker and wife Jennifer of Harrisonburg; daughter, Jane P. Wright and husband Chris of Forest, VA; a sister, Joanna R. Ehrenhart and husband, Terry of New Berlin, IL; and four grandchildren. She was buried in Fort Hill Memorial Park in Lynchburg.

Lineage: Carolyn⁸ Adair Rucker, St. Bernard⁷, Nathan⁶ J., Nathaniel⁵ W., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹. Submitted by Marita Taylor, Amherst Co., VA.

Helen Wingfield Rucker, age 95, of Bedford Co., VA, died August 9, 2007. Helen was born April 30, 1912 in Roanoke, VA and raised in Moneta and Bedford. Helen took secretarial courses at Bedford High School and worked as a legal secretary until marriage. She was a member of the Bedford Baptist Church for nearly 70 years, a charter member of the Otterburn Garden Club and an avid bridge player. Her son, William B. Rucker ran the 1992 Rucker Reunion in Bedford Co.

Helen was the daughter of the late Charles Ernest Wingfield and Coral Brunett Wingfield Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Ambrose Alexander Rucker, one brother, Ray A. Wingfield Sr. and one sister, Bland Wingfield Lazenby. She is survived by her children, Alexander C. Rucker and wife, Deanie of Free Union, William B. and wife, Johanna, of Fairfax, VA, Barbara L. Rucker of Bedford, VA and Michael W. Rucker and wife, Susan, of Midlothian, VA, brother M. Pride Wingfield and wife, Becky of Bedford, VA; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lineage of Helen's husband: Ambrose⁸ Alexander Rucker, Dr. Joseph⁷ A., Moses⁶ P., Anthony⁵, Ambrose⁴ Jr., Ambrose³, John², Peter¹. Submitted by Marita Taylor, and Anne Rucker Loyd of Waynesboro, VA.

Many thanks to Marita Taylor for sending these obituaries. They have much information about the families and are a good source for birth and death dates. I hope others will send me Rucker obituaries as well.

When sending obituaries, please remember to include the date and name of the newspaper.

Pendleton Powell

Carmody Bowen, age 66, died February 24, 2007 at her home in Coupeville, Whidbey Island, Washington. Born September 19, 1940, in Richmond, Virginia, she was the daughter of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and Josephine Pierce Rucker of Richmond. Penny, as she was called, grew up in Richmond, graduated from Sweetbrier College and received a master of Arts in teaching from Harvard University. After living in London and Brussels with her former husband, she returned to Richmond, where she taught at the Montessori School. She later worked for the Richmond bureau of The Washington Post.

In 1992, Penny moved to the Pacific Northwest where she married Robert "Bob" Neal Bowen. They traveled extensively with Museums/USA; Worldwide Educational Expeditions, founded by her husband. She enrolled in Washington State University's Master of Gardener program and became president of Washington State University's Beach Watcher program where

she helped monitor the environmental health of Whidbey Island.

She is survived by her husband, a daughter, Lycia Carmody Fired of San Francisco; a son, Nathaniel Chase Carmody of Falls Church, VA; two sisters, Josephine Powell Smith of Houston, TX and Molly Powell Sumner of Salt Lake City; a brother Lewis F. Powell III of Richmond; and six grandchildren.

Lineage: Pendleton⁸ P.owell, Josephine⁷ P. Rucker, Dr. Edwin⁶ T., Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.
From the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, March 1, 2007.

2008

Rucker Reunion

June 12-15, 2008
Charlottesville, VA

Ramsey Richardson,
Chairman
wramseyrichardson@
peoplepc.com

Mark your calendars and
plan to come

Plans are incomplete, but we
plan to visit Monticello,
home of Thomas Jefferson,
Amherst Co., VA and possibly
Ruckersville, VA.

President's Letter

Continued from Page 30

nine years as a resident while pursuing two degrees from "The University," there are places that I still have not visited. I am looking forward to returning, and seeing things with a new eye.

I know that you will join me in wishing a speedy recovery from illness to Becky Fox, who has served as our Treasurer, and who hosted our reunion in Kansas City. Becky has requested time off from her duties as Treasurer as she convalesces, and the Board has elected as interim Treasurer, Alice Rucker, our Registrar. She will serve in both capacities until such time as a permanent Treasurer can be elected. We hope that a permanent Treasurer can be elected at the time of our Board meeting at the June reunion. We are grateful to Alice for assuming the duties of both positions, particularly since we also rely on her to administrate the Rucker surname DNA study. I am always grateful to those who step forward to help with the details of running our Society, and would like to see more members become involved.

Note: My new email address
christopherrucker@msn.com

Photo Page --
 Family of Saint Clair Rucker
 A Page from the Scrapbook of
 Myrtle Rucker Carroll
 of Portland, TN

Here are five generations
 of Myrtle's family from
 Saint⁷ Clair Rucker, b.

1875, Defoe, KY, upper
 right with son

James⁸ Marcus Rucker I
 clockwise

James⁹ Marcus ~~III~~ ^{II}

James¹⁰ Marcus ~~IV~~ ^{III}

James¹¹ Marcus ~~II~~ ^{IV}

James¹² Marcus V

Note: Myrtle's
 grandfather was James
 Marcus Rucker I

Saint⁷ Clair Rucker's
 lineage:

6. James⁶

5. Elisha⁵

4. Moses⁴

3. Isaac³

2. John²

1. Peter¹

Now that's a family to
 proud of. Thanks for
 sharing.

James Marcus I



Saint Clair Rucker (Dad)



*as per
 James*

James Marcus II



James Marcus III



James Marcus IV





Letter from the President

Even though this is the Fall newsletter, and as it is coming out in 2008, I want to wish you a Happy New Year! I hope that the coming year will bring you blessings, good health, and that elusive piece to your family tree puzzle.

Don't forget that our RFS reunion is happening in June, 2008, in Charlottesville, Virginia. If you have not attended a previous reunion, please make plans for this one. The legacy of Thomas Jefferson is palpable in this historic area, and his Monticello and University of Virginia are but two of the highlights for visitors. Even after spending

Continued on Page 28

Jeannie and Christopher Rucker At a Confederate Ball

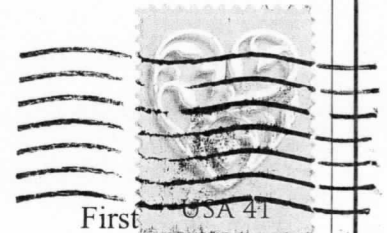
RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



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