

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 19, NO. 3 & 4, SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

Rucker Family Society Reunion

Charlottesville,
Virginia
see pages 13-15



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In Memoriam



Rebecca Nan "Becky" Dawson Fox, Treasurer of the Rucker Family Society, passed away Monday, April 21, 2008, at the Kansas City Hospice House, near Kansas City, Missouri, after a courageous battle with cancer. Becky was born August 28, 1940 in Lynchburg, Virginia, the daughter of Owen Barksdale Dawson and Josephine Thompson Dawson, of Madison Heights, Virginia.

In 1964, she married John Ivan Fox. They lived in Lee's Summit, Missouri where Becky helped

(Continued on next page)

The Rucker Family Reunion

June 12-15, 2008
by Mary Ann Laurence

Members of the Rucker Family Society gathered June 12-15, 2008 in Charlottesville, Virginia for the 2008 Reunion. The Charlottesville area is charming and rich in history. For those who arrived early, it was a time to visit the historic downtown pedestrian mall for dining and shopping.

On Thursday morning, June 12, after receiving our packets of Reunion registration materials, we greeted old friends and new attendees before setting out to the University of Virginia Clemons Library for a research orientation by Librarian Ms. Jean Cooper and a tour of the University Library. We had the opportunity to delve into some individual family research and to tour the University Rotunda. The University system is vast and I was in awe of the resources available to us.

The evening was spent at a

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Please don't forget to visit
www.theruckerfamilysociety.org

raise five children, including Rebecca Josephine, Susan Marie, Patricia Ann, Barbara Jane and James Alan Fox. Becky's grandchildren include: Sarah Katherine and Hannah Josephine Weaver, daughters of Becky Jo and Mark Weaver; Stephanie M. Eick, daughter of Susan M. and Stephen Eick; John, Stephen and Laura Bracht, children of Patricia and Roger Bracht; and Stacey and Tracey Fox, daughters of James and Gloria Fox. Becky even has four great-grandchildren: Isaiah, Josiah and Moriah Morris, children of Stacey Fox Morris; and Ivan Barlow, son of Tracey Fox Barlow.

Becky worked many years at General Electric in their accounting department, and then worked successfully in the banking industry.

Becky was born the granddaughter of a landowner in Amherst Co., Virginia, which helped foster a great love for family, history and family history. She served as the treasurer of the Independence Pioneers Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, and the Rucker Family Society.

In addition Becky is survived by her brothers, Thomas ("Buddy") Dawson and Harry Dawson, her niece, Stephanie Burkholder and nephew, Owen Dawson.

Becky organized the 2002 Rucker Family Society Reunion held in

Kansas City and endeared herself to all. After the 2006 reunion in Salt Lake City, she, Jeannie Brydon and Merita Taylor spent a week at Park City, relaxing and sightseeing, as the photo below shows (it is not known at this time if Franz the Bear has Rucker roots or not).



Becky Fox, Jeannie Brydon and Franz in Park City
Becky¹⁰ Fox's lineage is: Owen⁹
B. Dawson, Henry⁸ A., Francis⁷
McD., Samuel⁶ R., Nelson⁵ C.,
Lucy⁴ Rucker, Benjamin³, John²,
Peter¹.

***Lora "Mary" McIntyre
Hobson***, age 87, died July 4,
2008. She was the wife of James
Samuel Hobson. She was born
May 14, 1921 in Anderson, South
Carolina, the daughter of the late
Duncan Marshall McIntyre and
Sara Rucker. Mary was a graduate
of Anderson College and Tri
County Technical College. She
taught pre-school at Central
Presbyterian Church. She was a
member of First Presbyterian
Church, the D.A.R. Hudson Berry

Chapter, American Legion Auxiliary Post # 14, Girl Scouts of America, Daughters of the Confederacy, Colonial Dames, the Anderson County Woman's Club and Anderson County Historical Society. She was a volunteer at the Anderson County Museum and member of the Electric City Garden Club.

Mary is survived by her husband, James Samuel Hobson; their five children, James S. Hobson, Jr. and his wife, Linda F. of Athens, Alabama; Sarah Elizabeth H. Winberly and her husband, Samuel W. of Anderson, South Carolina; Marshall Sharpe Hobson and his wife, Margaret L. of Aiken, South Carolina; Mary Lee H. McIntosh and her husband, W. Scott of Lowell, North Carolina; and Juanita Ann H. Colman and her husband, Donovan P., of Anderson, South Carolina; ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Elizabeth McIntyre Jennings of Atlanta. She was preceded in death by a brother, Duncan Marshall McIntyre, Jr.

She was buried in Old Silver Brook Cemetery.

Mary's Lineage is: Lora Mary⁹ McIntyre, Sarah⁸ N. Rucker, James⁷ H., Elbert⁶ M., Joseph⁵, John⁴, Cornelius³, Thomas², Peter¹. Obituary submitted by her husband, James S. Hobson.



ARLINGTON — William "Bill" Junius Rucker, 86, passed away suddenly Saturday, May 10, 2008, at his home of the last 53 years.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE: 11 a.m. Wednesday in Moore Memorial Gardens. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Arlington Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the United Way of Tarrant County.

Bill was born May 31, 1921, in Sparkman, Ark., the youngest child of Will and Clara Robert Rucker. He married Jean Porterfield, July 18, 1942. He served in U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was head of the fire/rescue squadron for 3-25 bombers in Bizerte, P-38 fighters in Tunisia and service aircraft in Vanturia, Africa. He was a mechanic at The Red River Army Depot until moving to Arlington in 1954 to be the

88th hired hourly employee to work at General Motors. He was a utility repairman on the final line until his retirement in 1983. Much of what Bill did in the 30 years at GM was to ship reliable cars off the assembly line. He was a member of University Baptist Church. The term handyman was made to describe Bill. There was not anything he could not build nor repair. Repairing old cars, modernizing barns, building fences, and making furniture all fell under his list of accomplishments. He was always willing to lend a helping hand without asking for anything in return. The kinship from everyone toward Bill was a reflection of his love of people, kids and animals.

His equally loving wife of 50 years, Jean, preceded him in death in 1995.

SURVIVORS: Daughter, Vicki King and husband, Richard, of Arlington.

Bill's lineage is: William⁵ J.

Rucker, Wil⁴, John³ Franklin, James² Pascal, Isaac¹ Cornelius.

William "Bill" Junius Rucker's preceding obituary is from the Star-Telegram, Fort Worth, TX, submitted by Margaret Burns Mollick - mmspirit@mac.com

* * *

The Rucker Family Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

Welcome Reception in the lovely home of Ramsey and Emily Richardson, our Reunion hosts. Our carpools arrived and we were invited in to partake of the delicious food, drinks and fellowship. The southern table was complete with Virginia ham, crab dip, and yummy Orange Blossom mini-cupcakes, just to name a few choices that received raves. Many snapshots were made as we got to know each other better. Ramsey and Emily were gracious reception hosts who also gave many hours in planning, organizing and arranging our Reunion activities.



Mary Ann Laurence

On Friday, the group formed carpools making our first stop at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's beloved mountain-top home. The tour gave us information about his varied interests and activities. He designed Monticello to have no central stairway, using small stairways at the far ends of the home thus using space in an unusual way for the time period. We left Monticello and made the next stop down the road at Ashlawn-Highland, the home of James Monroe, our fifth President. The architect for the original structure was Thomas Jefferson. Over the years, Monroe had added cellars and a second floor, as well as increased his land holdings. Monroe and family lived there for 24 years before having to sell the property to pay for debt.

After the tours and visiting the gift shops, a southern style lunch was served at the historic Michie Tavern. Back at the hotel, the Board of Directors met before we all gathered for an evening Meet and Greet hosted by Jeannie Brydon. We laughed, reminisced, and looked over family history information that Jeannie and others had brought. The University McCormick Observatory was open for tour and telescope during the evening.

We carpooled again on Saturday for the drive to Montpelier, home of James and Dolly Madison. This eloquent

mansion is in the state of being restored to the way it was when James Madison lived there. Thomas Jefferson was his close friend and it was Jefferson who designed the front entrance and the serrated roofs of Montpelier. The restoration project was successful in locating original doors, windows and even scraps of wallpaper. We were able to see the construction of the house as its original builders saw it two centuries ago. We traveled on to Ruckersville to have lunch at the Blue Ridge Cafe, where we again experienced a bountiful meal. Ruckersville offered us more photo opportunities of one of the areas of our early ancestors. Joyce Pittman arranged for a tour of the Ruckersville Baptist Church that was originally organized by John Rucker (2) to start the St. Thomas Parish and known as the Orange Church. It was relocated and was formerly used by three denominations. After a tour of the Church, Joyce invited our group to the church area where she had setup an exhibit of Rucker family history and former reunion information. We enjoyed refreshments while we looked over her well-organized historical collection.

Ruckersville is filled with antique shops and several of our group continued on to the stores where they enjoyed the search and discovery of must-have items. The day concluded with Jeannie Brydon hosting an

evening of sharing stories and history served up with an abundance of great snacks and beverages in the hospitality suite.

Sunday morning we all gathered for the meeting of the Rucker Family Society and buffet luncheon. Chris Rucker, President, conducted the meeting and recognized several distinguished members in attendance. Mike Rucker served as auctioneer for the lively bidding for the auction of the articles contributed by members for the benefit of the Rucker Family Society. We owe Mike a big thanks for his diplomatic service. Following the luncheon, our speaker was Ted Delaney, Archivist and Curator, of Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery. He gave us information concerning the soon-to-be available online indexed account books of Lynchburg's Diuguid Funeral Home. Many of us are eager to use the index for our Rucker research in Amherst County.

The 2008 Reunion was a resounding success. We came to honor our ancestor Peter Rucker who came to this land seeking freedom and liberty before 1704. We honor his descendants for the liberties and freedom we enjoy today. The Reunion brought many together to find their shared heritage. Personally, I was pleased to meet another Rucker descendant from one of the four Rucker brothers who all

married Reade sisters and went to Tennessee. I look forward to exploring the history of these ancestors together. I met several people who came from great distances who were attending the Reunion for the first time, and they expressed how much they had enjoyed it. It was exciting to be in the homes of our founding fathers who were neighbors and friends of our Rucker ancestors.

I want to express my appreciation to all who gave so much of their time, energy and resources into making it happen. See you in Nashville in 2010! God bless you. God bless America.

Mary Ann's lineage is: Mary Ann⁹ (Smith) Laurence, William⁸ A. Smith, James⁷ Rucker Smith, Lucy⁶ Rucker, James⁵ Jr., James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹.

* * *

The Rucker Family Society Minutes Annual Meeting Sunday, June 15, 2008

The Annual Meeting of The Rucker Family Society was convened in the Presidential Room of the Holiday Inn – Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia on June 15, 2008 at 12:05 P.M. prior to the Society Reunion Luncheon. President Christopher Rucker presided.

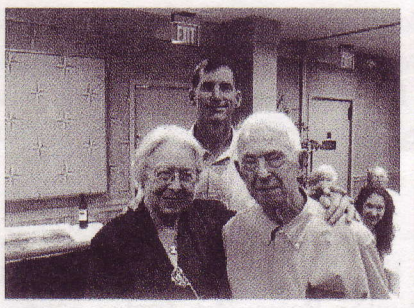
The President announced that the 2008 Reunion of The Rucker Family Society was dedicated by

the Officers and the Board Members to the memory of Rebecca (Becky) Dawson Fox, who had served as Treasurer, Board Member, 2002 Reunion Chairperson and was a tireless advocate for the Society. He stated that Becky enriched the Rucker Family lives as she strengthened our family bonds.



The President thanked Michael P. (Mike) Rucker for conducting the Annual Rucker Auction prior to the Annual Meeting. The auction raised \$677 to benefit the Society.

The Rucker Awards: Traveled the Furthest: Robert and Carol Gravette from San Jose, California - Youngest: John Ross - Oldest: Queen: Doris Rucker Wasden; King: Eric Erickson



States represented: Virginia, 13; California, 9; Utah, 3; Texas, 3; Mississippi, 3; South Carolina, 2; Ohio, 2; Iowa, 2; Kansas, 2; and Illinois, 1.

Rucker Lines represented: John, 14; William, 9; and Thomas, 3.

Attendee with the most lines: Michael P. Rucker

Jeannie Brydon, Society Vice President, stated that everywhere she goes in the United States she finds Ruckers or Rucker descendants. Last summer while researching the descendants of William Rucker of Amelia Co., VA, providence led to the finding of two long-lost 2nd cousins and a mini-reunion of their families at this event. They were the largest family group at the meeting. Jeannie said, "this is what makes genealogy worthwhile!"

The formal meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.; followed by the Luncheon.

Following the Annual Meeting Luncheon, Ted Delaney, Curator and Archivist of the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia, spoke on the history of the Cemetery. He also spoke on the Rucker burials during the 19th century by undertaker W. D. Diuguid, the second oldest such establishment in the United States. He indicated that later this year such information on burial by W. E. Diuguid will be on the internet. It was a very interesting presentation and evoked many questions from the Rucker family in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank E. Bazler, Secretary

* * *

2008 Reunion of the Rucker Family Society Holiday Inn Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia



Rucker Family Society Members in Attendance - Sunday, June 15, 2008

Standing Rows (left to right) - Mike Rucker-Newsletter Reporter, Loren Rucker, Christopher Rucker, Chris Rucker-President (tallest in back row), Alfred Rucker, David Detamore (mostly covered), Bob Gavette, Katherine Detamore, Carol Gavette, Alberta Rucker, Roger Settlemire, Eric Erickson, Ruth Pillow, Beverly Erickson, Nell Cordick, John Scarpino, Delbert Taylor, Fred Rucker-Board Member, Frank Bazler-Board Member, Larry Black

Seated Rows (left to right) - Alice Rucker-Treasurer and Board Member, Jeannie Brydon-Editor and Board Member, Susan Kallenbach Scribner, Kay Wray, Marita Taylor, Gracie Detamore, Bonnie Rucker, John Ross Rucker (in front of Bonnie), Patsy Rucker Boles, Pat Taylor, Doris R. Wasden, Mary Ann Laurence-Board Member, Robyn Black Caldwell, Carol Rucker, Virginia Bazler

Seated on Floor (left to right) - Jeannie Rucker, John Rucker, Jesse

Query of the Quarter

Late last month, Michael Percy wrote asking if anyone knew the source of the name Rucker Gap, which is a topological feature in Alleghany County, Virginia, near to where Alleghany Co. joins Bath and Greenbrier Counties. He states that Rucker Gap is only a few miles from Anthony Creek, Greenbrier Co., which is where his 3rd great-grandfather Gideon Rucker lived in the late 1700s. He further states that there were a number of Ruckers in Greenbrier Co. around 1800. Gideon's lineage is: Gideon⁴, Ephraim³, James², Peter¹. James² died in Greenbrier Co.

* * *

Questions

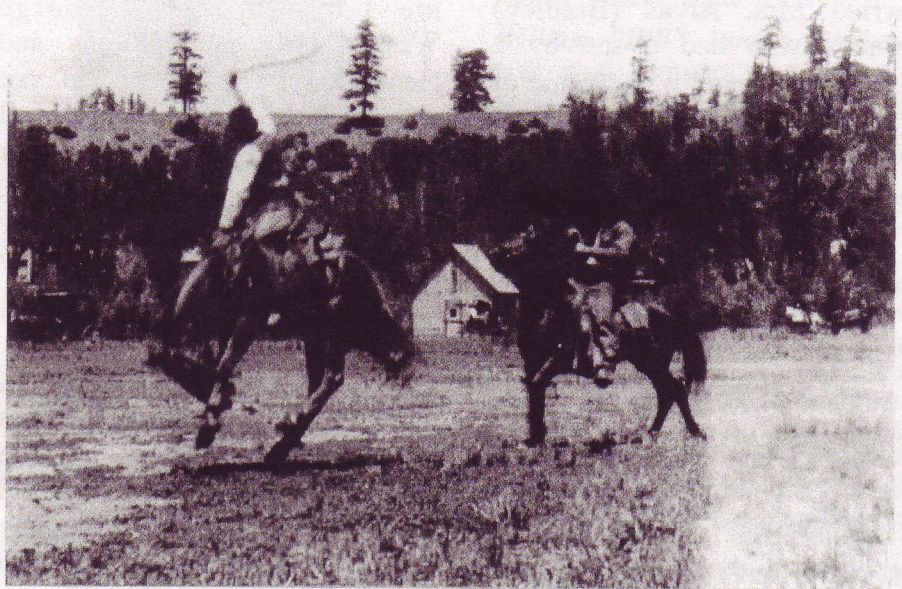
Carol Rucker, a new member of the Rucker Family Society who lives near Philadelphia, wonders of anyone has additional information on her Rucker heritage. She is African American whose family comes from Amherst County, Virginia. Carol's lineage is: Carol⁵ Rucker, Joseph⁴ Leslie, George³ Olivia, Oliver², Phillip¹.

* * *

Elbert Rucker A Short Story

by Alice Rucker
Sylmar, CA ©2009

In a small mining community called Lone Mountain, near Silver City, Grant Co., New Mexico was the location Elbert⁷ Morton Rucker (Richard⁶ Morton, Julius⁵, Abner⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) was born in 1879.¹ The family ran



Post card photo of Elbert Rucker on Bucking Horse at Rodco,
with his bother Sam behind herding
(photo collection of Alice Rucker)

a stage coach stop, ranched, and farmed, and the community had built a fort for everyone to flock to when Indians raided the settlement.² People had to take the law into their own hands in this area to get along and the Ruckers of this time and place were no exception.

Horses and mining were a source of income to this wild west family of Ruckers. When the mines stopped doing well near Silver City, the family relocated to Kingman, Mohave Co., Arizona and started up again – in ranching, and in mining.³ Elbert had reached marrying age and hitched up with Cora Imus in 1901.⁴ The new Mr. and Mrs. Rucker moved with his family to Dolores Co., Colorado to a place called Disappointment Valley and while there, Cora bore a child and both died.

After times passed, Elbert began to “call” upon the neighbor’s

daughter Nellie Louise Westcott. Elbert asked Nellie’s father for permission to marry Nellie and the father said, “No!” Soon after that, Nellie and Elbert eloped, but that night - Elbert took more than Nellie. He stole horses from several of the neighbors and lit out! He herded the horses to a place in the mountains that those left with the empty corrals would forever call “Rucker Draw.”⁵

Nellie and Elbert were married in Durango, La Plata Co., Colorado in June of 1907.⁶ Descendants say that in 1911 Elbert won a championship Rough Riding Medal in South West Colorado or New Mexico.⁷ Elbert and Nellie obtained a 160 acre homestead in Northern New Mexico where the winters are quite harsh.⁸ Nellie lost several babies until a daughter, Emily Ona was born and lived. By 1928 Nellie died,⁹ so Elbert struck out for Kingman, Arizona where he occupied

himself as highway construction worker and rancher.¹⁰ By 1934 he married Mrs. Alyas (Bradley) Horner¹¹ who had a son by a previous marriage by the name of Steve Gariepy. Alyas died in 1954 and Elbert in 1965.¹²

Sources - ¹Bible record - photocopy in possession of compiler - ²Family lore - ³U. S. Census (Population) records - ⁴Marriage records, Mohave County, Arizona - ⁵Wilma Crisp Bankston, *Where Eagles Winter*, 2nd Ed., Mesa Verde Press, Cortez, Colorado, 1988 - ⁶Marriage records, La Plata Co., Colorado - ⁷Interview between Johnny Sweeney (grandson of Elbert) and compiler - ⁸Land records (BLM) - ⁹Regina Cemetery headstone, Sandoval Co., NM - ¹⁰Obit, Mohave Co., AZ - ¹¹Las Vegas, Clark Co., Nevada marriage records - ¹²Tombstones, Mountain View Cemetery, Kingman, Mohave Co., AZ

* * *

Dr. William Parks Rucker

Patriot or Traitor?

by Michael P. Rucker

"You are a God damned traitor," the big Confederate quartermaster yelled and swung his club at the civilian Union spy Dr. William Parks Rucker. The doctor dodged and dealt the man a fatal stab to the gut. As the man fell mortally wounded at his feet Rucker pulled his revolver and held off the twenty-two other men in the lynch mob until the magistrate arrived and arrested Rucker - simultaneously saving him from the mob.

Rucker had been ordered to declare his allegiance to the Confederacy. Each time he had refused. He was hauled before a military tribunal. Upon again being asked to pledge support to

the Confederacy Rucker replied, "Fortunately or unfortunately for me I was born of George Washington's grandparents and Henry Clay's parents, and not withstanding the biblical assurance that no self-murderer shall enter the kingdom of heaven, I would stick a dagger through my own heart before I would fire one ball through the flag of my country."

The crowd erupted with shouts of "hang him," "Lincolnite," "shoot him," "abolitionist," and much more, to which the undaunted doctor shouted, "Yes, you may call me an abolitionist and a Lincolnite, because I cling to my flag and government of my fathers, but I would rather be a highway robber and a midnight assassin, than a hell fired Breckenridge locofoco [sic] secessionist! And as for your shoot and hang: I defy, I dare, any two of your cowardly pack of curs to undertake it!"

Rucker went straight from the courthouse to the Covington, Virginia post office to mail a reply to Postmaster General Montgomery Blair in Washington D.C. who had requested that Rucker become the Covington postmaster. The existing pro-Confederate postmaster refused to accept his letter. After angry words with the postmaster Rucker sat down on the porch of the post office. That is where the mob of twenty-three armed men confronted Rucker and where he stabbed the leader to death. He was held in bond of sixteen-thousand dollars - a considerable sum. During his resulting trial he conducted his own defense,

claiming that he acted in self-defense, and was acquitted in late August 1861.

Was the individual a traitor or a patriot? The answer to this age old question depends upon whose side one is (or was) on. William⁷ Parks Rucker (Clifton⁶, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹) is possibly the most controversial descendent of Peter Rucker. He was also descended from George Washington's brother and claimed to be a descendent of Henry Clay's parents. He was a slave holder who became a fierce Union partisan. He married a distant cousin, Margaret Ann Scott; their mutual great grandfather was Captain William Parks, a noted Revolutionary War officer who was killed in action. His paternal great great grandfather was Revolutionary War Colonel Ambrose Rucker. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia November 9, 1831, he held college degrees in Law, Medicine and Theology.

He became a wealthy and respected medical doctor in Covington. In addition to his medical practice he operated a pharmacy and a tavern - and, he owned the most slaves (reportedly ninety-four) of anyone in the area. His inn, known as Steele Tavern, was the stage stop and a haven for travelers. He leased the tavern to a pro-Southerner named Charlton Shirkey. Shirkey wondered why strangers often asked for Dr. Rucker and why Rucker insisted that his meetings with them be private and not disturbed. When it became clear that his landlord was a spy for the Union Shirkey denounced Rucker resulting in the military tribunal and slaying of



William Parks Rucker and his wife, Margaret Scott Rucker, at their Lewisburg, West Virginia home with their four sons and their wives, and five of their grandchildren

Confederate quartermaster. Despite the fact that he was in constant danger of assignation he remained in Covington attending to his businesses until in early 1862. He then went beyond his responsibilities as a spy and proposed to his contact, Colonel George Crook of the 36th Ohio Infantry at his headquarters in Summersville, West Virginia a bold plan. He urged that the Cow Pasture River Bridge on the Virginia Central Railroad eight miles east of Clifton Forge, be destroyed as it was of great strategic value to the rebels. General Crook authorized Rucker to write directly to President Lincoln with that suggestion. Lincoln promptly corresponded with Crook's superior, John C. Fremont, Commanding General of the

Union Army Department in Wheeling. Lincoln ordered that Rucker be "employed in any possible position" and for Rucker to lead a raid to destroy the bridge. With great reluctance he agreed to join the Union Army as a captain.

In anticipation of Rucker's service Fremont dispatched four-thousand infantrymen and three-hundred cavalry in preparation for a raid to destroy the bridge. Rucker, was ordered by Colonel Crook to take all three-hundred of the cavalry to attack the bridge by travelling twenty miles via a mountain path to the bridge. Rucker told him that the path was impassible by horsemen and requested that he take only fifty hand-picked cavalry men and

that he would proceed directly to the bridge via the turnpike. Crook objected but finally let Rucker go with seventy-five men as he waited for news of the impending raid.

In pouring rain Rucker led his small force to the Jackson River where the rising water had made it necessary to swim across in the swift current, but Rucker's blood was up and he ordered the horsemen to make the dangerous crossing. Within a mile of the bridge an advance scout returned to report that a considerable Rebel force guarded the bridge and that a strong resistance was to be anticipated. When they were within a quarter-mile of the bridge Rucker ordered a charge with as much shouting and noise as possible to deceive the rebels into believing that Crook's entire force was upon them. The Confederates fled in panic and, without a shot being fired; by ten o'clock on May 19, 1862 the bridge was in flames. After igniting the bridge Rucker and his seventy-five raiders returned to report their success to Colonel Crook.

This is just the first installment in the exploits of William Parks Rucker, a Union officer as well as doctor, lawyer, agriculturist and land speculator.

To be continued in the next issue of the Rucker Family Society Newsletter . . .

