



the Rucker Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

Number 1

May 1990

RUCKER REUNION - 1990

The second national "Rucker Reunion" will be held June 16th and 17th in Amherst, Virginia. The Reunion Committee has been working diligently to create a fun and memorable event for all our Rucker Cousins. To date we have received about 50 reservations. We are expecting many more and hope this newsletter will jog people into action. A reservation form has been included at the end of the letter for all who have not mailed theirs in. We encourage you to do so promptly so that the committee can make plans.

REGISTRATION:

Friday: 5:00--7:00 p.m. - Howard Johnson, Madison Heights

Saturday: 9:00--11:00 a.m. - Radisson Inn, Lynchburg

12:00 o'clock on - Barbara's Restaurant, Green Tree Inn,
at Routes 29 & 675, Amherst County

Sunday: 10:00 o'clock on - Barbara's Restaurant

SCHEDULE: Tentative plans are as follows:

Friday, June 15th:

5 to 7 p.m. - Informal social hour at room of Jeannie and Chuck Robinson at Howard Johnson's. BYOL; setups, soft drinks, and light snacks provided.

Dinner on your own.

Saturday, June 16th:

9:00--11:00 a.m. - Registration at Radisson Inn, Lynchburg

9 to 12 noon, Lynchburg Festival, at River front. Visit and ride the Tobacco Batteaux, better known to us as the Rucker Batteaux. Talk to Joe Ayres, our speaker at the 1988 Reunion, and founder of the Batteau Race. All the batteau crew will be in costume and you will think you have stepped back in time. NOTE: Our forebears, Anthony and Benjamin Rucker, invented the batteau. Register before you come, so everyone will recognize you as a Rucker. Wear your Rucker T-shirt or buy a batteau T-shirt at the Festival.

10:00 - 12:00 - For those who don't want to go the the Lynchburg Festival, you have a number of choices. The Amherst Historical Library and Museum will be open. Research can be done at the library in Amherst or Jones Library in Lynchburg. Or you can go straight to Barbara's Restaurant where coffee and pastries will be served. The main crowd will not come until about 12:30 or 1:00 c'clock, after the batteaux are launched.

12 noon - James River Batteau Race will begin. Cheer for your favorite boat. Will you cheer for "The Albemarle" that was at Ruckersville for the '88 Reunion? Or will you back the "The Anthony Rucker" of Amherst County. Joe Ayers's boat is the "Minnie Lee." I, of course, will be rooting for the "Richmond Rockett." Which ever way you decide, it will be an exciting and fun-filled morning.

- 1:00 - Social time and picture taking.
- 1:30 - Lunch will be served buffet style.
- 2:30 - Meeting of the Rucker Society, election of officers, and reports of the various committees. A little history will be given, a few short talks, and there will be time here or Sunday morning for comments from the floor.
- 3:30 - Tour of Rucker homes and cemeteries and Mt. Tabor church.
- 6:30 - BYOL social hour at the room of the Robinsons, Howard Johnson Motor Hotel.
- 8:00- DUTCH TREAT DINNER at "Repast of St. Paul's," Church Street, Lynchburg. Cost will be about \$15, including tax and tip. This will be for 30 people, so we need to know immediately if you want to join us. Otherwise, it's dinner on your own.
- *** Or - Wear jeans and visit the batteaux at their first stop at Stapleton. See all the batteaux, if you didn't see them in the morning; visit with the crew - in their 18th Century costumes; enjoy a barbeque dinner at the camp site; and join in with the after dinner singing of old time songs and banjo playing. If you really want to experience 18th Century life, bring a sleeping bag and sleep over.

SUNDAY, June 17th

- 9:00--11:00 - Coffee and Pastries served at Barbara's Restaurant.
- 10:00 - Meeting of Board Members
- 11:00 - Rucker Society Meeting; talks continue.
- 12:00 - Buffet Lunch will be served. Many will have to leave early, but for those who can stay there will be an afternoon tour. We will visit the corn-crib at Sweet Briar College, made of logs from Rucker's Church. (See Sudie Wood's book, p.70) Jan Osinger, farm manager, will be there to show us around. Sweet Briar College is worth a visit, it is a beautifully kept place, with lovely views that remind one of what it was like when the Ruckers lived nearby. Visit the cemetery (relatives are buried there), the Fletcher mansion house, the restored railroad station, and Sweet Briar museum. The Sweet Briar dairy and indoor riding ring are a must. Whatever you do, don't miss the corn crib and Mr. Osinger.

A Special Invitation has been extended to all Rucker relatives and spouses:

When: SUNDAY, JUNE 17th, 4:30 p.m.

Where: Ruckersville Baptist Church, Ruckersville, Virginia, 30 miles north of Charlottesville on Route 29, ½ block east on Rt. 33.

What: Dedication service for the historical marker for John Rucker, son of Thomas, founder of Ruckersville. Not only is it the first historical marker dedicated to a Rucker, it is the first historical marker to be placed in Greene County.

After the service, all will then walk the short distant to the corner of Routes 29 and 33 for the unveiling of the marker.

Note: The marker was paid half by the Rucker Family (donations at the '88 reunion) and half by the Greene County Historical Society.

A reception will follow at "Markanna," home of Anna Watson, who has invited us all to attend. If you haven't experienced Ruckersville's hospitality, you're in for a real treat.

Send in your reservation immediately, if you haven't done so already, and experience this exciting event. Our cousins in Amherst are terrific and have planned a really great reunion. Come and greet your cousins from all over the United States and England. Yes, someone's coming from England to the reunion! We especially would like to hear from more Virginia cousins.

FAMILY PROFILE

Mary Snyder wrote that many of you do not know when Sudie Rucker Wood, author of The Rucker Family Genealogy died. Here is a picture of her and her daughter, Lillian Lee Wood, used on a Christmas card circa 1954. Lil, the last remaining child of the Woods, died suddenly last summer, sitting in a chair, having never been sick. Sudie and Lil were good friends and lived together until Sudie died. They lived a grand and glorious life.

"Richmond News
Leader, 23 June

1957: d. 22 June

Mrs. Wood's Services Set For Monday

Funeral services for Mrs. Sudie Rucker Wood will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the All Saints Episcopal Church, with burial in Hollywood Cemetery. The family has requested that flowers be omitted.

Mrs. Wood, 84, widow of William P. Wood, died last night at her home, 2702 Monument ave.

She had been active in city affairs for a number of years. She was a member of the board of directors of Sheltering Arms Hospital and a member of All Saints Episcopal Church and the King's Daughters.

She was pioneer of women's golf in Virginia, historian of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities for many years, and had compiled the Rucker family genealogy.

For many years her husband was senior partner of T. W. Wood and Sons, a Richmond seed and fertilizer firm. She was born at "Ridgeville," near Delaplane, in Fauquier county.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Roger L. Mann, Miss Lillian Lee Wood and Mrs. Robert Brydon III, all of Richmond; a son, Garland A. Wood, who resigned recently as Richmond city planner; a sister, Mrs. H. C. Rucker of Mattoax; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Greetings from Mother and Lil

Funeral set for Miss Wood, golf champion

A funeral for Miss Lillian Lee Wood, the women's state amateur golf champion in 1938 and a local artist, will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1214 Wilmer Ave. Burial will be in Hollywood Cemetery.

Miss Wood died Saturday at her home, 1600 Westbrook Ave. She was 82.



Miss Wood

A Richmond native, she began playing golf when she was 10 at the encouragement of her father, the late William Price Wood, former president of the Virginia State Golf Association.

She participated in her first tournament at age 14 and became the state's amateur women's champion at 32.

In 1928, she graduated from Sweetbriar College with a bachelor's degree in English.

Miss Wood then studied art at the Art Students League in New York and with Theresa Pollock at the former Richmond Professional Institute, now part of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Her art has been shown at the Richmond Public Library in 1979 and at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Miss Wood was a member of the Virginia State Golf Association and the Country Club of Virginia.

She also was a member of the Woman's Club and of the Moral Re-Armament movement.

She was a member of Emmanuel Church.

There are no immediate survivors.

The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to the Westminster-Canterbury Fellowship Fund or Emmanuel Church.

Richmond News Leader

August 14, 1989:

d. August 13

"A person who boasts of his ancestry is like a potato; the best part is under ground."

My grandfather, G. MacLaren Brydon, Historographer of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, told this to me as he was beginning me on my study of genealogy, way back in 1960. Maybe that's why I like cemeteries so much, they're full of my potatoes - er - ancestors.

To find a new ancestor is very exciting, but to prove your line of descent from Peter Rucker is the ultimate of joys. I recently helped Lou Mason prove her line. I kept teasing her husband Rod, who is doing much of the work for our '90 reunion, that he couldn't come to the reunion as he wasn't in The Book (The Rucker Family Genealogy). We were in Amherst May 7-9th to finalize the plans, so when we were at the court house, I looked and found in the Amherst Marriage Register 2, p.103:

JAMES A. RUCKER, age 27, single, farmer, born and lived in Amherst, son of WILLIS & TABITHA RUCKER, married, 6 December 1866,
SALLIE GRANT, age 21, single, born and lived in Amherst, daughter of James & Elizabeth Grant. (Married by J. Powell Garland.)

Add to your Rucker book, page 135: Willis⁵ Rucker, Issue (by 2nd Mar.),

5. James⁶ A(lexander) Rucker, married Sallie Grant, 6 December 1866.

(He is the grandfather of Hannon Rucker and great-grandfather of Lou Mason. Welcome to the family, Lou and Rod!)

Hannon Rucker, a descendant of John² Rucker, whose family has resided in the county ever since about 1750, led us to his grandfather's burial place at the foot of Tobacco Row Mountains and the headwaters of Harris Creek. There are many stone markers but no tombstones.

I would like to propose, at the Reunion, that our next project be to have a marker placed at the site in memory of James A. Rucker. As Hannon descends from Isaac³ Rucker, this may be Isaac's land and graveyard. The land today is owned by Tom and Sylvia Woody, a young couple who are building their home very near the old graveyard. The Woodys are very hospitable and would welcome visitors.

The Historical Marker to be placed at Ruckersville on June 17th was begun with donations made at the '88 reunion. Let's carry on this tradition begun by Anna Watson.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the first edition of "The Rucker Society Newsletter." The RSN will not be in competition with the "Rucker Ruckus" but will complement it. We solicit your contributions and comments for "The Rucker Society Newsletter." It will contain a family profile and family news such as birth and marriage announcements and obituaries. We will have a question and answer section and my own "Jeannie-ology." The handsome letterhead was executed by my son, Edward J. Willis III. Send your articles and queries to me:

RSN EDITOR: Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

RUCKER SOCIETY

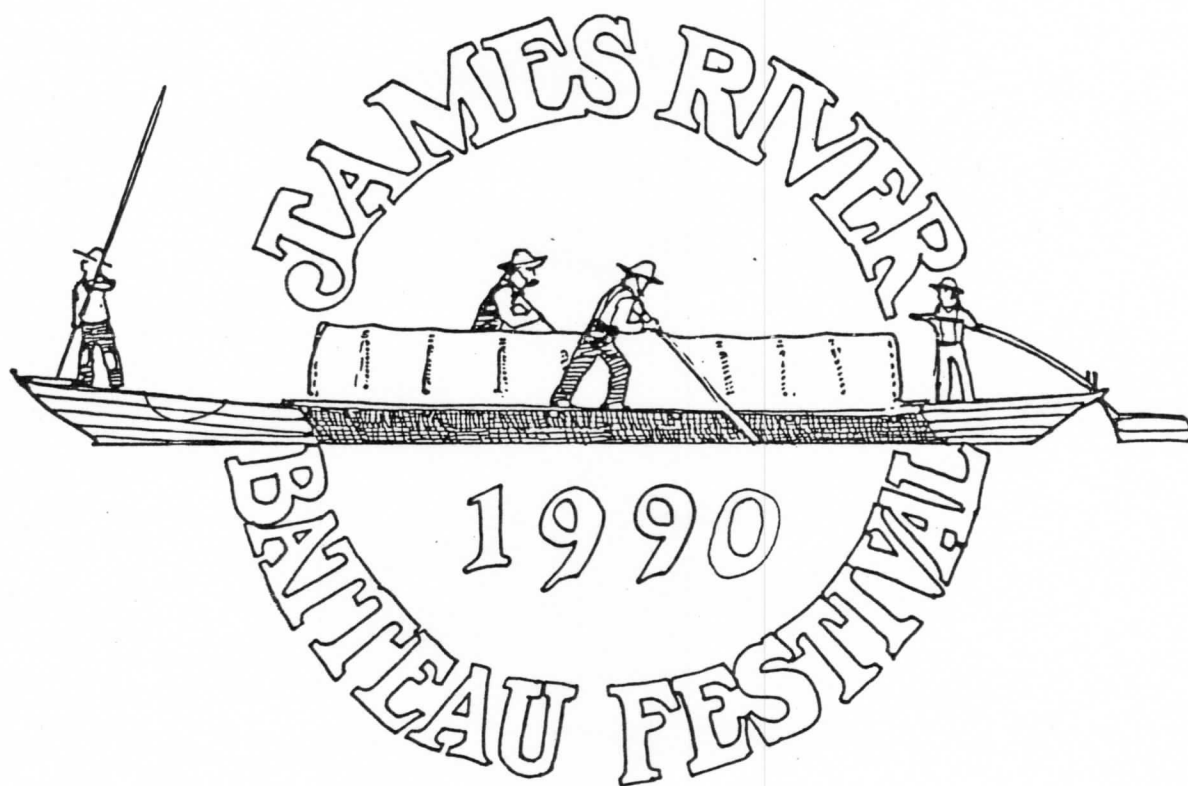
SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS to be voted on June 16th, Amherst Co. :

President: J. Rod Mason, Bethesda, MD
Vice President: Roland Pittman, Ruckersville, VA
Secretary: Frances Evans, Atlanta, GA
Treasurer: E. W. Taylor, Madison Heights, VA
Newsletter Editor: Jeannie Robinson (Mrs. Charles D.), Richmond, VA
Board Members:

Alice Allen (Mrs. Howard C.), Austin, TX, researching Ruckers of Texas
Doris Edwards (Mrs. James E.), Grand Rapids, MI, compiling all Rucker
descendants
Douglas P. Rucker Jr, Richmond, VA
Michael P. Rucker, Peoria, IL
Mary Snyder (Mrs. Robert), Jeffersonville, IN, editor of the "Rucker
Ruckus"
Anna Watson (Mrs. Markus), Ruckersville, VA
Lewis M. (Jack) White, Vienna, VA, researching Ruckers of Bedford Co.

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Election will be by a majority of persons present at the meeting.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE 1990 REUNION:

Ed & Marita Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 228A, Madison Heights, Va 24572, 384-3105

Hannon & Mae Rucker, Rt. 1, Box 164, Monroe, VA 24574, (804) 384-1509

Chuck & Jean Robinson, 304 Charmian Rd, Richmond, VA 23226, (804) 358-3185

Rod & Lou Mason, 5015 Battery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 654-4818

Hannon & Beth Burford, 22 Kenwood Dr, Hampton, VA 23666, (804) 838-1714
(H. R. is the namesake of his uncle, Hannon, and brother of Lou Mason)

Rodney & Anne Taylor, P. O. Box 464, Amherst, VA 24521, (804) 946-7696
(Rodney is son of Ed & Marita, Anne writes for the Amherst paper.)

Ralph & Faye Smith, 26 Bridlepath La, Monroe, VA 24574, (804) 929-5628
(Ralph is making the badges and T-shirts for the Rucker Reunion. He is captain of "The Anthony Rucker," Faye is the daughter of Ed & Marita.)

Clip and mail

Please fill in and return promptly. Cost for one day is \$14.00, two days \$25.50. This includes two lunches, coffee and doughnuts, and the use of Barbara's. Makes checks payable to RUCKER REUNION 1990. Mail to:

Ed Taylor, Route 1, Box 228A, Madison Heights, VA 24572.

_____	Yes I plan to come	number _____	at \$2.50 each	\$ _____
	Saturday lunch	number _____	at \$11.50 each	_____
	Sunday lunch	number _____	at \$11.50 each	_____
			total	\$ _____

— Yes, I want a T-shirt:
\$6.00 each: small medium Large Total \$

Yes, I want to make a donation to the James A. Rucker marker \$

No, I cannot attend, but here is my donation for the marker \$

Yes, I would like to receive the RUCKER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

— Yes, please include _____ at the dutch treat dinner saturday night.
(Limited to 30 people, cost about \$15.00, pay at restaurant)

Name(s) for badges _____

Address _____

phone _____

Which of Peter Rucker's sons do you descend from, if known