

the Rucker Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

Number 2

August 1990

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am honored that the Ruckers present at the reunion in Amherst County in June elected me to be president of the Rucker Society which was formed to coordinate family communications and future reunions. It was a pleasure working with the committee in planning the reunion and we were rewarded by the enthusiastic attendance of 184 "cousins" and guests from 18 states. We thank all who have written to us for your kind expressions of enjoyment and interest.

The earlier newsletter suggested that a marker be placed at the family cemetery of James Alexander Rucker (1839-1920). At the reunion some of his direct descendants expressed appreciation for this interest and contributions; however, since this cemetery is not early or unique for broad family sponsorship, they suggested that a marker will be placed by the descendants of James Alexander Rucker and that the contributions received for the proposed marker should be used for another memorial project of broader family interest (e.g. repair of the damaged markers of the Ambrose Rucker cemetery at Graham Cove) or returned to the contributors. Any contributor who wishes a refund under these circumstances, please send a note to Ed & Marita Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 228A, Madison Heights, VA 24572. Any contributions remaining will be transferred to the Society treasurer for use in an appropriate future memorial project.

A reprinting of Sudie Rucker Wood's THE RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY was discussed at the reunion. As a follow-up we have learned that 1) reprinting with hard cover like the original would cost about \$45 plus postage and handling with a minimum of 500 copies, and 2) reprinting with plastic laminated soft cover can be done with a selling price of \$16, including taxes, packing and postage, for a minimum of 100 copies. These will be 5½" x 8½", slightly smaller than the original but the print area will be 100% of original with narrower margins. A sample copy of this style book appears satisfactory. For those who want a more durable hard cover, a bookbinder here can do so for about \$30. Any request for hard cover must be received before the books are printed so that we can coordinate with the printer for these copies to be taken unbound to the hard cover bookbinder. A firm interest with pre-publication payment of \$16 (plus \$30 if hard cover is preferred) for at least 100 copies is needed before we can proceed on this. If enough interest fails to develop, all payments will be refunded. These books would make fine gifts.

Membership dues for the new Rucker Society are \$5 per year for an individual or family at a single address for the newsletter. Four issues per year are planned. Charter memberships received at the reunion or in response to this newsletter will cover the period thru December 31, 1991.

This issue of the newsletter is being sent to 471 addressees on the mailing list which was compiled from many sources for the reunion. We invite you to send names and addresses of others who may be interested and copies will be sent to them. Future issues will be sent to all who become members of the Rucker Society.

A few small size T-shirts (Rucker Reunion 1990 with a batteau picture) are available from Marita Taylor for \$6.

We are looking forward to meeting many more of you at the next reunion in Essex County, Virginia in 1992. Lou joins me in sending best regards to all, especially the many Ruckers we have met at the three reunions which we have been privileged to attend.

Rod Mason

RUCKER SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1990

THE 1990 RUCKER REUNION WAS HELD IN AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA, JUNE 16 AND 17, 1990. A MEETING WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1990, AT BARBARA'S RESTAURANT, MADISON HEIGHTS, AND IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO CREATE A RUCKER SOCIETY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING THE FAMILY TOGETHER, COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER, AND PLANNING FUTURE REUNIONS. ROD MASON PRESIDED.

THE LIST OF NOMINEES, MAILED IN THE VOL. 1, ISSUE 1, RUCKER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, WERE READ BY JEAN B. ROBINSON. SOME DECLINED TO SERVE AND OTHERS VOLUNTEERED IN THEIR PLACE. IT WAS DECIDED TO ELECT ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING SO THAT ALL WOULD BE PRESENT FOR THE FIRST BOARD MEETING.

MOTION: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE RUCKER SOCIETY:

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

J. ROD MASON - PRESIDENT
ROLAND PITTMAN - VICE PRESIDENT
LEWIS M. WHITE - TREASURER
CHARLES D. ROBINSON - SECRETARY
JEAN B. ROBINSON - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ALICE R. ALLEN
DORIS W. EDWARDS
JEANNE FALLON
A. MCDANIEL RUCKER
MARY R. SNYDER
EDWARD W. TAYLOR
ANNA D. WATSON

ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE INTRODUCED AND THANKED FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN PLANNING THE REUNION. ROLAND PITTMAN TOOK THE ROLL CALL OF DESCENDANTS. ABOUT 200 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT FOR LUNCH.

AFTER LUNCH, A GROUP PICTURE WAS TAKEN AND THE AFTERNOON TOUR OF RUCKER CEMETERIES AND HOMES WAS BEGUN. MACK AND ISABELLE RUCKER ENTERTAINED FAMILY MEMBERS THAT EVENING AT THE RADISSON HOTEL IN LYNCHBURG.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 1990

THE MEETING OF THE RUCKER SOCIETY MEMBERS WAS RECONVENED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 17, AT BARBARA'S RESTAURANT, IN AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA, FOLLOWING THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ROD MASON PRESIDED.

CHARLES ROBINSON SUMMARIZED THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DIRECTORS, PARTICULARLY THE ANNUAL DUES OF \$5.00, THE FIRST PAYMENT COVERING THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1991. THIS WAS APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP.

A ROLL CALL OF DESCENDANTS OF THE CHILDREN OF PETER RUCKER WAS TAKEN BY ROLAND PITTMAN AND THE FOLLOWING RESULTS WERE RECORDED:

PETER	0	WILLIAM	2
JOHN	23	MARY	0
THOMAS	11	JAMES	1
ELIZABETH	0	EPHRAIM	1
MARGARET	1	ANN	0

TOTAL: 39. (NOTE: MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE PRESENT ON SATURDAY WERE NOT PRESENT ON SUNDAY, AND SOME CAME IN LATER, SO THIS IS NOT A TRUE ACCOUNT OF ATTENDEES. ABOUT 100 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT FOR LUNCH.)

JEAN B. ROBINSON GAVE A SHORT TALK ON THE RUCKERS OF AMHERST COUNTY AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED. AFTER LUNCH, A TOUR WAS TAKEN OF SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE, FORMERLY PART OF THE ORIGINAL JOHN RUCKER LAND GRANT.

AT 4:30, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, IN RUCKERSVILLE, VIRGINIA, THE DEDICATION WAS HELD FOR THE NEWLY ERECTED HISTORIC MARKER COMMEMORATING RUCKERSVILLE AND ITS FOUNDER, JOHN RUCKER. ANNA WATSON HOSTED A LOVELY RECEPTION AFTERWARDS AT HER HOME, "MARKANNA."

Charles D. Robinson
CHARLES D. ROBINSON
SECRETARY

FAMILY PROFILE
EDWARD WALTER RUCKER IV

Ed's line of descent from Peter Rucker:

Peter¹ Rucker
)
 James² Rucker
)
 Lemuel³ Rucker
)
 Edward⁴ Rucker - of Monroe Co., Ohio @1815
)
 Ephraim⁵ Rucker - went to Missouri @1841
)
 Edward⁶ Walter Rucker - of Fayette, Mo.
)
 Edward⁷ Walter Rucker Jr. - of Fayette, Mo.
)
 Edward⁸ Walter Rucker III - of New York
)
 Edward⁹ Walter Rucker IV - of Virginia



In the spring of 1984, Chuck and I attended casino night, a party to raise money for the Virginia Museum Theater. At the door we were greeted by a tall handsome man who introduced himself as "Ed Rucker." Both of us were surprised and delighted to meet a "cousin" and became immediate friends.

Ed was new to Richmond and knew nothing of his Rucker ancestors in Virginia. I told him about the local Rucker cousins and then he understood why he kept getting the wrong mail and laundry. Another Ed Rucker lived a few blocks away.

I told Ed about the Rucker Reunion coming up in Amherst County, and he not only came, but he has attended every Rucker Reunion since, including the dedication of the historic marker in Ruckersville.

Luckily, Ed was named for his great-grandfather, Edward W. Rucker, which made it possible to locate his line in the Rucker Family Genealogy, by Sudie Rucker Wood. See page 266: Edmond W. Rucker of Fayette, Mo.

The only bit of information Ed could supply, at short notice, was the obituary of his grandfather, Edward Walter Rucker Jr., who died 23 March 1945 in Fayette, Missouri. This matched the dates and place in Wood's book.

Ed was born in Oneonta, New York, and grew up there and in Cooperstown. He attended Hanover College and Butler University and received a degree in English Literature. He also is a Certified Public Librarian.

The picture of Ed, printed above, appeared in a 1986 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts publication. Ed lived in Richmond from 1981 to 1988 and worked in administration at The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Rucker now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he works for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Ed was a participant in the Leadership Charlottesville program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He is on the Board of Directors of the Second Street Gallery and is a member of the Albemarle County Historical Society.

Ed's sister, Elisa Rucker Scott lives in Noblesville, Indiana.

Thank you Ed, and Kay Cutler, for your support to the Rucker family and its reunions. Ed can be recognized in reunion pictures as he is the tallest Rucker in the group.

JEANNIE-LOGY

THE LAW OF RELATIVITY: "The relatives that you love the most live far away; the ones that you like the least, live around the corner."

I heard this on the "Jeffersons" a long time ago and loved it. This and the desire to meet new cousins has led to the success of our Rucker Reunions. People attended from all over the United States. Some flew in but many drove, researching and sightseeing along the way. Here are a few excerpts from letters received after the reunion.

From JACK WHITE of Vienna, Va.: "I enjoy the reunions as it is the only time we get to see our first cousins from California."

From ELLEN WAGNER of Highland, Maryland.: "Just a note to tell you what a fantastic job you and all the committee did on the reunion. It was a wonderful experience!" (Ellen and husband Bob own the land surrounding the Ambrose Rucker Cemetery in Amherst County. Thanks for letting us visit!)

From LUCILLE CHESSMORE of Fort Worth, Texas: "It was estimated that about 200 persons were there, but there was not an accurate count because some came just for Saturday and some had not pre-registered. We met some very interesting persons and got some good information, I think. We did research as we traveled to Virginia and as we returned home."

From MARIANNA FORINGER of Los Angeles, Ca.: "A belated note to thank you for all of your effort on behalf of all of the Ruckers who were fortunate enough to come to the Reunion.

Although we don't know yet if we got any definite leads to additional information about our branch of the family, we thoroughly enjoyed being there and finding out what a great bunch of people we are related to. And, we are getting really generous response to the inquiries we sent to people whose names we got there...even though none has been able to tie-in to our line so far.

Everything about the convention was so well-planned that it made our visit most enjoyable, albeit, so short."

From MARY M. JOHNSON, of Madison Heights, Va.: "First I want to tell you how much I enjoyed meeting all those Ruckers and the reunion in general. I had not known what a big clan it was.

"Carolyn (Billups) and I spent a large part of Tuesday morning combing the Meade Cemetery (Amherst Co.) for the moved (Ogden) stones. (After consulting the cemetery keeper, a few days later, they were found) in the Randolph Arthur lot. The following is what we found:

"Donald S. Arthur	b. 11 Mar. 1919	d. 13 Mar. 1952
"Mildred J. Arthur	b. 8 Oct. 1877	d. 19 Mar. 1943
"Jennie S. Ogden	b. 11 Oct. 1848	d. 21 Mar. 1832
"Albert J. Ogden	b. 11 Apr. 1850	d. 14 Sep. 1931."

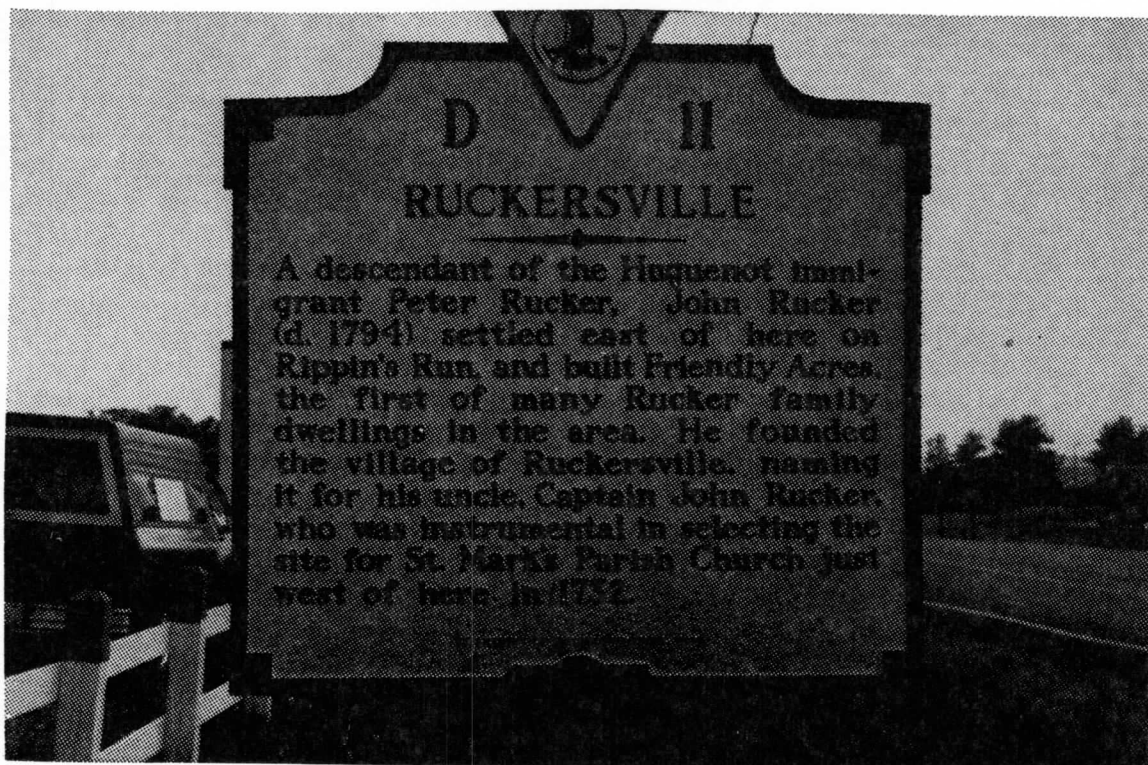
"AMHERST COUNTY TOUR OF CEMETERIES & CHURCHES RELATING TO THE RUCKER FAMILY." The above information was given in response to a request made in my booklet written for the 1990 Rucker Reunion. My thanks to Mary and Carolyn for finding this information. For those who have a copy of the tour guide, please add this additional information on p. 14. If you would like to receive a copy of this booklet, please send your name and address and \$5.00 to the Editor.

GROUP PHOTO OF RUCKERS AT THE REUNION



GROUP PHOTO AVAILABLE FROM HANNON M. BURFORD, 22 KENWOOD DRIVE, HAMPTON, VA 23666. 70¢ FOR A 4" X 6" AND \$1.10 FOR A 5" X 7", POSTAGE INCLUDED. PICTURE WILL BE BETTER CROPPED AND IN COLOR. PLEASE ORDER BY SEPTEMBER 30TH. ALLOW 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

PICTURE OF THE RUCKERSVILLE MARKER



THE MARKER AT RUCKERSVILLE WAS DEDICATED JUNE 17, 1990. THANKS TO KAY TOMLIN FOR THE PICTURE AND THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE MARKER FROM THE CHARLOTTESVILLE NEWSPAPER. THE ARTICLE WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER. THE MARKER IS THE RESULT OF A LIFETIME DREAM OF ANNA WATSON OF RUCKERSVILLE. ANNA WILL BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy, page 297, has references to unknown Ruckers. Through research I have been able to identify a couple.

1. ANGUS RUCKER, m. Mary Susanna Graves. This is the second marriage for Angus, son of Ephraim, on page 275. Proof: A letter from Angus Rucker to his nephew, Thomas W. Graves, in file #38-435, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

2. Marriages of Culpeper County, Va., by Knorr, lists ROBERT RUCKER, married 9 Oct. 1806, Sallie Gaines, daughter of Richard Gaines. This has been confused on p.297 as well as on p.502. Proof: Will of Richard Gaines, Dated 4 Feb. 1807, probated 6 Feb. 1807, Culpeper County, Va. (There is no Richard Rucker nor Sallie Graves, possibly a copying error.)

Can anyone identify this ROBERT RUCKER? Edythe Whitley incorrectly said he was the son of John (Thomas, Peter). But we know this could not be true as we have John Rucker's Will listing his eleven children, including the just discovered Willis Rucker. (Write to the Editor for a copy of The Chancery Suit, Rucker v. Barton, listing the heirs of John and Mary Rucker.)

QUERIES: Help is needed in proving the descendants of JAMES² RUCKER. James left no Will and his issue, determined by Wood, are on p.252.

1. WYATT RUCKER, p.266. Communication from a descendant of Wyatt's daughter Susannah Rucker, who married 1808, Greenup County, Ky, to George Washington Willis, son of Henry: "Desire to know ancestry of Henry Willis and more information on Wyatt Rucker." From Garnette Schneider, 102 2nd St. N. E. Gen. Del., Redcliff, Alberta T0J 2P0 Canada.

2. James had two grandsons named ELZAPHAN. From which sons of James do they descend? Carolyn J. Moats, Rt. 1, Box 326, Moatsville, W. Va., 26405, needs help tracing her line back through Elzaphan and Fanny Rucker.

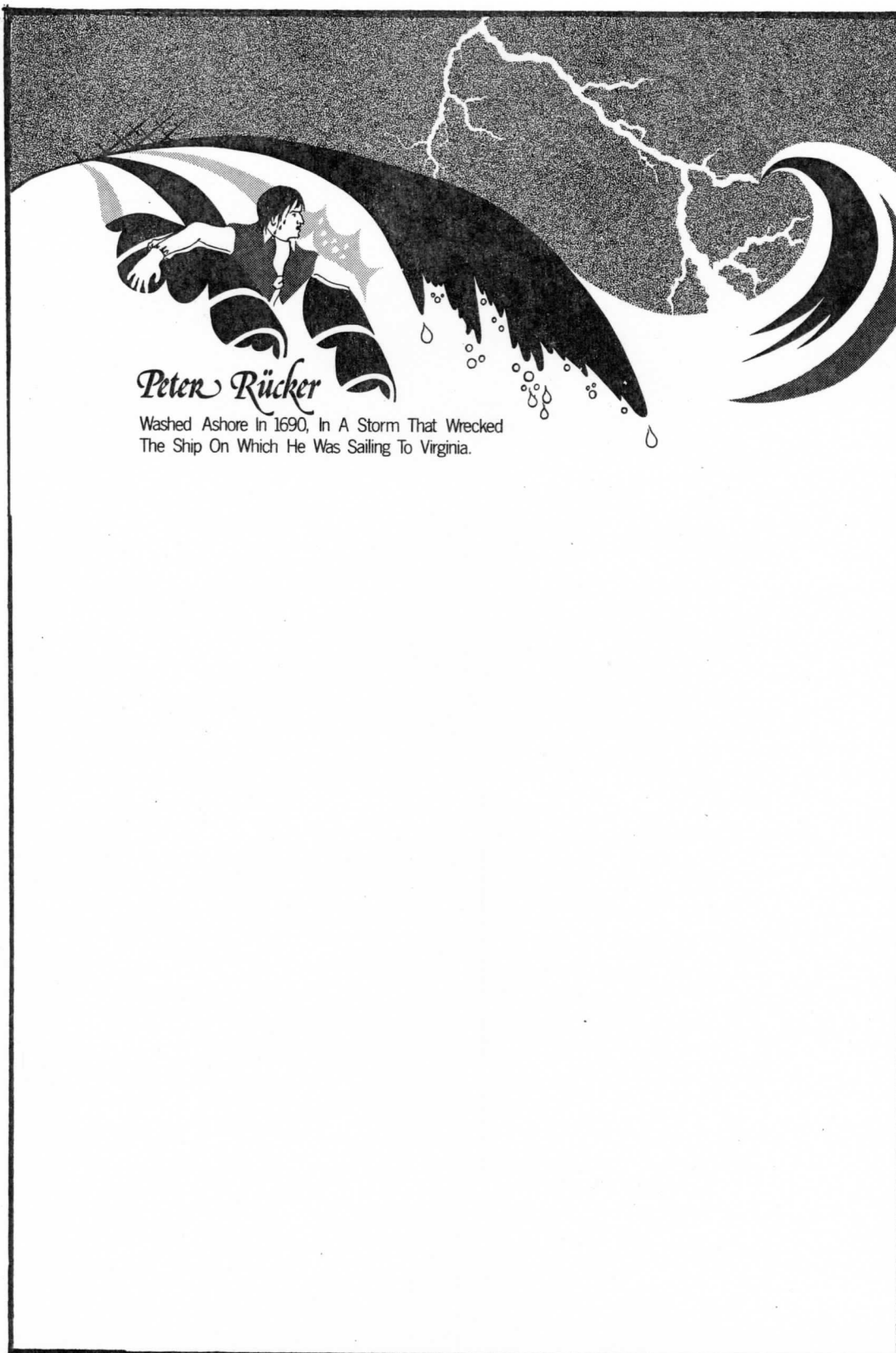
1st ELZAPHAN married MARY DEATLY, 4 Aug. 1808, Greenup County, Ky. He lived in Carter Co., Ky., in 1850, 70 years old. He lived with his son Elzaphan Jr. (1850 Census Record.). Elzaphan died 14 June 1855 (tombstone, Russell Creek Cemetery, Carter County, Ky.). This Elzaphan may be the son of Elzaphan, son of James, but we have no exact proof.

2nd ELZAPHAN married FANNY DONALDSON 15 Aug. 1810 (Fanny's Pension Papers). He died 27 July 1814 in Hampton, Va. in the War of 1812. Fanny continues to live in Greenbrier County, where she receives a pension for husband's service. (Mary Deatly Rucker did not receive a pension for her husband's service as Washington Pension Bureau said: "We are already paying pension of Elzaphan Rucker to his widow, Fanny Donaldson, and there could only have been one man in the world by this strange name.") Fanny died in 1868 (Elzaphan's File 27702, U. S. Archives). Who is this Elzaphan's father? (Eva Davidson's Rucker Kinsmen leaves us very confused on this line.)

Please send your questions and answers to the Editor to be printed in future newsletters. There may be someone out there who can help!

THE WIVES OF PETER¹ AND JOHN² RUCKER: If anyone would like to have a copy of my research paper on proof of the maiden names of Peter's and John's wives, please send the Editor a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope.

THE RUCKER RUCKUS, family newsletter. For those who have asked how to get it: Contact Mary R. Snyder, 1516 Elliott Drive, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130.



Peter Rucker

Washed Ashore In 1690, In A Storm That Wrecked
The Ship On Which He Was Sailing To Virginia.

PETER RUCKER NOTEPADS

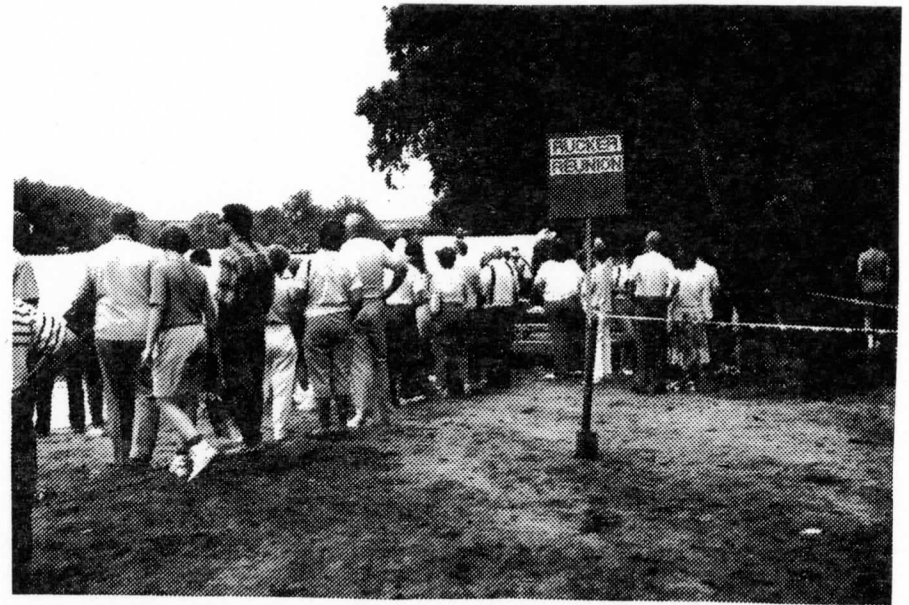
DESIGNED BY EDWARD J. WILLIS III

Cost \$5.00, includes postage

(Blue print on cream paper. Napkins will be offered later. Send order
to Editor: Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.)



BATTEAUX AT LYNCHBURG, JUNE 16, 1990



RUCKERS GATHERING FOR THE BATTEAU RACE

RUCKERS AT LUNCH, MADISON HEIGHTS, VA



RUCKERS BURIED AMONG FOUNDERS AT SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Thanks for all the letters and kind comments about the first edition of "The Rucker Society Newsletter." We plan to continue the newsletter but will need articles, suggestions for Family Profile, and Queries from you. Your contributions and comments will be appreciated.

This issue was printed from my typewriter, but I hope to soon be printing from a computer. Thanks to many of you for your suggestions on buying one, especially Beth Evans, Lucille Chessmore, and my stepson, Jim Robinson, who not only helped me buy it, but also set it up and showed me how to use it. I purchased a 386X Packard Bell with hard disk drive (2 RAM of memory) which uses both 5½ and 3½ 2S/HD disks.

The expense of printing and mailing 470+ newsletters is great. This will be out last free mailing. From now on, only members of The Rucker Society will receive the newsletter. Please fill out the form below and mail it today. Make sure your name and address is correct on the back before mailing it. If you know of anyone who has not received a newsletter, let us know and one will be sent.

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

AN INVITATION

You are invited to become a member of The Rucker Society. Membership entitles you to receive the Newsletter and notices of future Rucker Reunions. The fee of \$5.00, paid now, entitles you to membership through 1991. Fill out this form and mail it with your check to:

The Rucker Society
% Mr. Lewis M. White, treasurer
9751 Firth Court
Vienna, Virginia 22181.

Please sign me up for membership in the Rucker Society \$ 5.00

Enclosed is a check for \$16.00 for a paperback copy of
Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy.
(I understand my money will be refunded if the
book is not printed.)

Please have my Rucker book bound for an additional \$30.

Here is my donation for the Cemetery Repair Fund.
This money will be used to repair broken tomb-
stone markers in Rucker Cemeteries in Amherst
County and for maintenance of these graveyards.

Total enclosed

5.00
\$10.00

If your name and address is not correct on the other side, please change to:

ATTENTION: RUCKER KIN

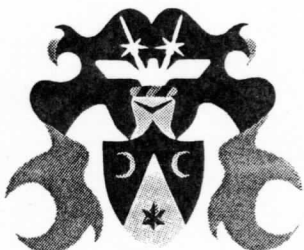
Please send your RUCKER line as soon as possible to:--

Mrs. Doris Edwards
2017 43rd S.E. #U-2
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

You will benefit Three-Fold:--

- (1) DORIS EDWARDS, in 1985, began placing RUCKER Family Group Sheets in the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA. She will place your records there to benefit researchers.
- (2) JEAN B. ROBINSON plans to update "THE RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY" written in 1932, by her grandmother, Sudie Rucker Wood. Your records will be included.
- (3) MARY RUCKER SNYDER, Editor of "'RUCKER RUCKUS'", will be able to include your RUCKER line in the publication of this Newsletter.

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO RECORD ALL DESCENDANTS OF PETER¹ RUCKER, IMMIGRANT.



THE RUCKER SOCIETY

Jean B. Robinson, Editor
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MRS ALICE RUCKER
13331 GRIDLEY STREET
SYLMAR, CA 91342

