

S U M M E R E D I T I O N

# *the* RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

VOL. 20, NO. 2, JUNE 2009

## Rucker Reunion

October 2010

Nashville, Tennessee

see page 10



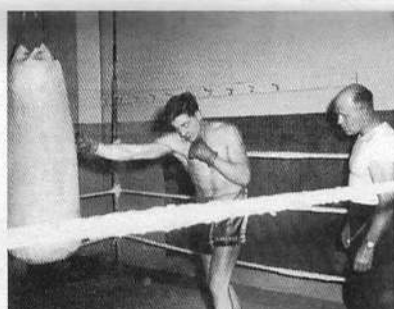
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## Rocky Rucker

by Bobbi Jo Rucker

I'm sure when most people read or hear the name Rocky they probably think of Sylvester Stallone and his Rocky Balboa character, but I would like to tell you about another Rocky. This Rocky is who I say is the *Real* Rocky from the 1950s.



Rocky Rucker is my dad, a wonderful father, faithful husband, hard worker and veteran. His given name is Robert H. Rucker, though most people called him Bob. Bob was the third and last child born to Josephine Hart and William Rucker in Champaign County, Ohio on July 26, 1930. His two siblings are William "Bill"

(Continued on page 3)

## Joseph Rucker Lamar Supreme Court Justice

by Bill Smith

Joseph Rucker Lamar (October 15, 1857 – January 2, 1916) was an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court who served from 1911 until his death in 1916. He was a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin of former Supreme Court associate justice Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar II, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, second President of the Republic of Texas.

Born in Ruckersville, Elbert County, Georgia, Lamar was the son and oldest of three children of James Sanford Lamar (1829-1908), a minister or evangelist of the Bethany Church, and Mary Rucker (1833-1864). While growing up in Augusta, Lamar and his brother Philip were next door neighbors to Tommy Wilson, who would later grow up to become (Thomas) Woodrow Wilson, 28<sup>th</sup> President. Joseph Lamar attended schools in Georgia and Maryland before

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attending the University of Georgia, and then graduating from Bethany College, West Virginia, in 1877. The following year, he completed law school at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and began practicing law in Augusta, Georgia. On January 30, 1879 he married Clarinda Huntington Pendleton (1856-1943), the daughter of Dr. William K. Pendleton, the president of Bethany College. Joseph and his wife had three children; Philip Lamar (1880-1938), William Pendleton Lamar (1882-1958), and Mary Lamar (1885-1885).

From 1886 to 1889, Lamar served in the Georgia House of Representatives, and then was appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1893 as a commissioner to prepare a code of laws for the state. Two years later, that code was adopted by the Georgia's General Assembly.

On January 1, 1901, Lamar was appointed to fill an unexpired term in the Supreme Court of Georgia, then was re-elected in 1903. He wrote more than 200 opinions before resigning in 1905 to again practice law, defending railroads and many other large corporations.

At the time of his appointment to the United States Supreme Court by Republican President Taft, Lamar was only one of three justices ever nominated by a President of the opposite party. His impeccable reputation was

one reason Lamar, together with Frederick W. Lehmann, was selected in 1914 to represent the United States at the ABC Powers Conference (Argentina, Brazil and Chile were enlisted to peacefully avoid an out and out war between the United States and the civil war-ridden Mexico) convened to avert a war over the Veracruz Incident. This incident involved the seven month occupation by the United States of the Mexican port city of Veracruz after a trivial incident at another Mexican port city of Tampico.



In 1915, Lamar wrote two short individual opinions in the famed Leo Frank case. The Leo Frank case was one of the most notorious and highly publicized cases in the legal history of Georgia. Frank was a Jewish man in Atlanta who managed a factory owned by the Nation Pencil Company. He was placed on trial and convicted of raping and murdering a thirteen-year-old girl who worked at the factory. Before



the lynching of Frank two years later, the case became known throughout the nation. The degree of anti-Semitism involved in Frank's conviction and subsequent lynching is difficult to assess, but it was enough of a factor to have inspired Jews, and others, throughout the country to protest the conviction of an innocent man. Lamar declined to grant a petition for habeas corpus brought by Frank to challenge the fairness of his trial, but subsequently Lamar granted a writ of error allowing Frank to bring his claims before the court. The full Court went on to reject Frank's claim in *Frank v. Mangum*. Lamar voted with the majority and did not choose to write a separate opinion.

The work on the special commission, coupled with his court duties, may have led to Lamar's paralytic stroke in September 1915. Legislation was proposed to allow Lamar to retire from the court with full pay, but his death four months later made the issue moot. Lamar is buried in Summerville Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia.

Lamar's professional papers, including correspondence concerning his years as a Justice, are archived at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, and available for research.

Joseph<sup>7</sup> Rucker Lamar's lineage is: Mary<sup>6</sup> Rucker, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Cornelius<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

## Rocky Rucker

(Continued from page 1)

Rucker, who married Lola Mae Davis, and Mary Louise Rucker, who married Carl Verro.

Bob grew up in Springfield and Ironton, Ohio, and moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, when he was about 18. Soon after that he got a job at General Electric and it is there that he learned about the possibility of boxing training. He decided to give it a try and never looked back. General Electric even sponsored him while he boxed in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bob was successful enough that he won the Golden Gloves light heavyweight title in 1950, which allowed him to advance to the national tournament in Chicago.

In August 1951 Bob entered the Army and eventually served in the Military Police at Fort Hood, Texas. While at Fort Hood Bob became involved with boxing again, and that was there that he was given the nickname Rocky. He was strong like a rock and beat both amateur and professional boxers. Bob was talented enough that he was approached if he wanted to become a professional boxer. While Bob truly was passionate about boxing, he sensed that was not the career for him.

After his boxing and army days were over he settled down and married Dorothy, and they had four children - Robin, Chris,

Kelly and Laura. Bob's married second, Sharon Braddock, they had a daughter, Bobbi Jo Rucker, also known as BJ. Bob also has stepchildren named Gary, Duane and Linda Nierman, and lots of grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Bob has always enjoyed nature, wildlife, camping, fishing, swimming, diving and pets. In 1996 Bob, at age 66, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. In the years since then he has become weaker and begun suffering more from the Parkinson's tremors, though his mind and spirit have remained alert and strong. Since late last year, Bob's health has experienced some significant setbacks, but as recently as March of this year, he was released to return to his home.

I take great pride in the Rucker name, and when I got married 17 years ago my husband Rick took Rucker name as *his* last name. As anyone can see, Rocky

Rucker just cannot give up, his will is too strong for that. Rocky Rucker means the world to me and he would love cards or notes of encouragement. Because of the Parkinson's disease my dad can no longer read and write, but we will read the cards or notes to him. Rocky's address is - Rocky Rucker, 5176 S Meridian Rd, Columbia City, IN 46725. Bobbi Jo's email address is BJ\_Bobbi\_Jo\_Rucker@live.com.

Bobbi<sup>9</sup> Jo Rucker's lineage: Robert<sup>8</sup> H. Rucker, William<sup>7</sup> E., Elias<sup>6</sup>, Lemuel<sup>5</sup>, Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

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### In Memoriam

**Betty Lawson Rucker**, 89, died April 4 of congestive heart failure at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville. She lived in Arlington most of her life before moving to Spotsylvania a few years ago. She was the wife of the late Robert Parks Rucker

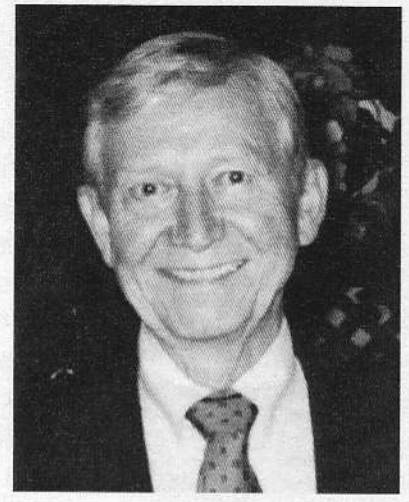
Mrs. Rucker was born Bessie Barclay Lawson in Washington and was known as "Betty." She graduated from Eastern High School and the old National Art School. She was active in many community activities including as president of the women's division of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and as president of the women's auxiliary of the Arlington

Optimist Club. She was a member of Westover Baptist Church in Arlington for more than 50 years.

Her husband of 55 years, Robert Parks Rucker, died in 1998. Survivors include three children, Robert P. Rucker Jr. of Fredericksburg, Nancy R. McGee of Charlottesville, Margaret R. Osborne of Sterling and two brothers, John Lawson of Gloucester and Donald of Springfield, six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Betty's husband Robert Parks Rucker has three lines to Peter Rucker: (1) George<sup>8</sup> Amna Rucker, Parks<sup>7</sup> M., Daniel<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>5</sup> B., George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>; (2) Daniel<sup>6</sup> Rucker's wife: Mariamna<sup>7</sup> Rucker, James<sup>6</sup> M. Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>; (3) Wm.<sup>5</sup> B. wife: Mary<sup>6</sup> Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

**Philip Ashby White**, 85, of Vero Beach, Florida died February 26, 2009. He was born on June 14, 1923 in Chase City, Virginia, the son of John Lewis White and Vixella Rucker White, of Cifax, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Garvin White; their children and grandchildren Philip Ashby White, Jr. and his wife Paige Hardy White and their children Olivia Lane White and Philip Ashby White III of Mendham, New Jersey, daughter Laura



White Crouse and her husband John Leist Crouse and their children John Leist Crouse VII, Philip David Crouse, Edward Galvin Crouse, William Mobley Crouse of Sarasota, Florida, and a step daughter, Carol Dean Spratlin Davis and her children Cantey Pace Davis Jr. and Laura Wynne Davis of Atlanta, Georgia. His surviving siblings are Lewis Marian (Jack) White, Jeanne Kenny, Polly Adkins, and Cary Baber, who all live in Virginia.

Mr. White graduated from New London Academy, Forest, Virginia, and entered the Virginia Military Institute. He left VMI to serve as a 1st Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew 32 missions, as a navigator, in the 15th Air Force with the 485th Group in Italy. He was the recipient of the Air Medal with the Five Oak Leaf Clusters. After the war, Mr. White entered the University of Virginia and graduated from the McIntire School of Commerce in 1948. After graduation, he



moved to Atlanta and became the regional manager for the Deering Milliken Company before forming his own firm, Philip White Associates. He was honored as the President of the Atlanta Textile Club in 1968. Mr. White, an avid golfer, was a member of Riomar Country Club, the Riomar Bay Yacht Club, John's Island Club and the Moorings in Vero Beach. In Atlanta, he was a member of the Piedmont Driving Club and Peachtree Golf Club. He was also a member of the Jamestown Society, the Pointsett Club in Greenville, South Carolina and the Travellers in Paris.

Philip<sup>9</sup> A. White's lineage is: Lelia Vixella<sup>8</sup> Rucker, Waller<sup>7</sup> J., James<sup>6</sup> M., Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>

\* \* \*

### President's Letter

I hope that you agree with me that our Newsletter has never looked better! Our contributors continue to provide us with interesting, informative and entertaining articles. Our editors are doing a great job of putting everything together in an attractive, readable format. I believe that our newsletter is the most valuable benefit of membership in the Rucker Family Society, and its regular publication will remain a high priority for our Board of Directors. However, our success comes at a price. Our last issue

cost \$875.27 for printing and postage, or \$2.57 for each newsletter. Four newsletters per year will cost \$10.28, and postage costs are due to rise again, soon. Our problem is that yearly dues to our Society are only \$10, which will not cover the cost of publishing the newsletter. When we consider that the Society has other administrative costs, in addition to the newsletter, we see that our expenses exceed our income. The Board has considered several options. The first is to publish the newsletter on a less frequent basis, but I think that this is an example of "cutting off one's nose to spite his face." The newsletter is simply too valuable to sacrifice in frequency or quality. The second is to send the newsletter by email. Those who would like a paper copy could print one on their home computer. Unfortunately, not all of our members have computers, and not all of us with computers keep our registrar informed of changes in our E mail addresses. It would be unwieldy and labor-intensive to send a hard copy to some of our members, and an electronic copy to others. Our third option is to raise our yearly dues to cover our present and expected costs. The Board has decided upon this option, and hopes that our members agree that the continued good fiscal health of the Society is paramount, if we are to continue to serve the desires of the membership. The new dues amount will be established by the

Board by the time of the next renewal. Please support your Rucker Family Society by renewing your membership, and don't forget that we have an online presence at [www.theRuckerFamilySociety.com](http://www.theRuckerFamilySociety.com) and [www.ruckerphotos.multiply.com](http://www.ruckerphotos.multiply.com).

\* \* \*

### Dr. William Parks Rucker

#### Patriot or Traitor?

Part Three of Four  
by Michael P. Rucker

Following his escape from the Danville jail Dr. Rucker, dressed as a Confederate officer, drove to his town of birth, Lynchburg, where he was secured in the third floor apartment of a friend. After several days of rest and recuperation, he was provided a fine horse and saddle, as well as false identification papers and orders stating that he was searching for Confederate deserters. As his steed carried him away at a gallop he later told friends that during that evening, "I felt I could conquer the earth. Alexander the Great and his Bucephalus was no braver than I on that night going over Garden Mountain." He reached Botetourt County where other friends hid him during the following day. Then he proceeded on to Allegheny County where near Callaghan's Inn, a stage coach stop five miles west of Covington, he found refuge with another friend. However, a woman

reported his presence to the local authorities. His host advised Rucker of this and together they concocted a scheme for his escape.

Realizing that it would be futile to try to escape by horseback they decided that he should leave the horse and some of his personal effects behind to make it appear that he had fled in haste. Then Rucker made his way by foot into the mountains while his friend went into Covington to report his "hiding place" and to volunteer to lead a company of armed men to capture him. When the soldiers arrived they surrounded the building. Rucker's conspirator shouted, "There he goes!" and the soldiers fired blindly in the dark. A medical doctor at the scene filed a written report stating that he had found blood on Dr. Rucker's trail and, therefore, that he must have been mortally wounded. This precipitated rumors of his death and newspaper articles to that effect.

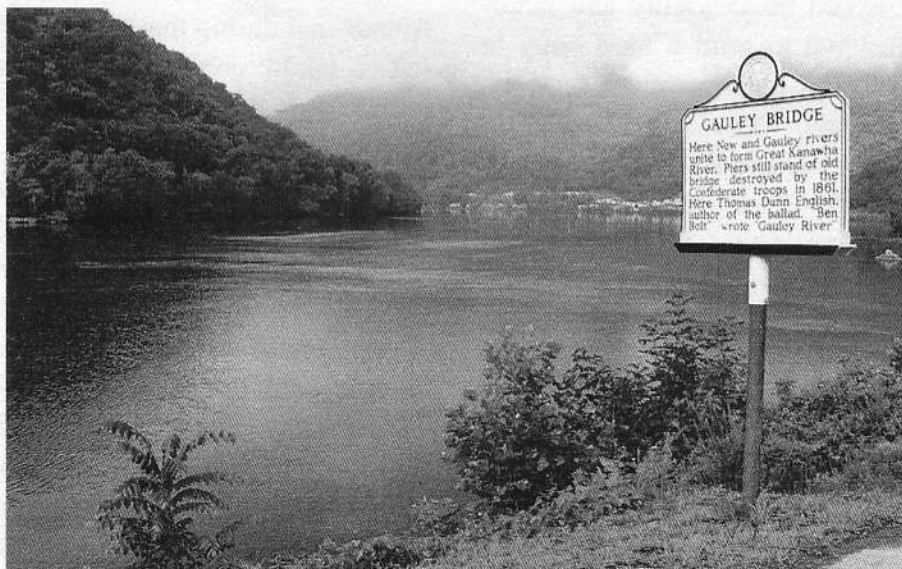
The evening of the second day he made his way by foot to the home of a friend in Greenbrier County. From there he was led to a camp of Union men and Rebel deserters on the Greenbrier River in Pocahontas County. There he rested for three days and nights. Then he and a friend started out again by foot on a grueling three-day hike towards Summersville only to learn that there were no longer any Union troops in the area. So the doctor and his friend headed directly to Rucker's plantation near Summersville. Rucker's wife and sons were not there, having been taken for safety by the Union forces to safety in Marietta, Ohio.

There at his plantation, although totally exhausted, Rucker was able to rest only one full day before another friend brought news that a rebel contingent was on its way to arrest him. Again on the run, he and his plantation

manager, who was Confederate sympathizer but a close friend, headed by horseback to Gauley Bridge twenty-eight miles away, where a Union force was encamped. Knowing that Confederate horsemen were in close pursuit, he raced them to Gauley Bridge and reached the safety of the Union camp on November 7, 1863, twenty days after his escape for the Danville jail. He was completely disabled from injuries and exhaustion but, at last, out of danger behind Union lines.

Upon learning of Rucker's return Brigadier General Eliamkin Scammon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio telegraphed from Charleston that he must be brought there immediately. Feather mattresses were provided in a wagon for his comfort during the rough forty mile trip. After recuperating a few days in Charleston, Captain Rucker was taken by escort to Parkersburg where telegrams from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton awaited commanding him to immediately come to Washington. Despite the orders, he first hurried to Marietta, Ohio to see his wife and children from whom he had been absent for nearly seventeen months.

After just a few hours with his family he was rushed by special carriage to Washington with a military escort. He met with President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton, General-in-Chief Henry Halleck and their top aides. In





particular they needed his detailed knowledge of much of the geography of Virginia to correct errors in the official Union Army maps as well as information about Confederate prisons and jails, of which the doctor now had intimate knowledge, as well.

Rucker then rejoined his former commander, Crook, who was now a brigadier general. Rucker was promoted to major in the West Virginia 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was given charge of the West Virginia State Scouts and referred to as the Chief of Secret Service for the Union Army in that region. He often personally led missions and was known as an intrepid raider and scout.

On May 9, 1864 during the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain near Dublin, Virginia, Rucker again proved to be a superb bridge burner. General Crook's forces were unable to dislodge the enemy in order to reach and torch their objective: the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Bridge over the New River. Major Rucker presented a bold plan to General Crook. He proposed to lead 100 volunteers carrying cloths soaked with camphene and burn the bridge in broad daylight within view of the defending Confederates. Meanwhile, as the intrepid volunteers made for the bridge, the remaining Union infantry were instructed to yell loudly and fire over the heads of their bridge burning comrades to make it appear that the soldiers rushing to the bridge were

escaping prisoners. Amazingly, the plan worked. The confused Confederates held their fire until they saw the bridge aflame. The loss of the rail line from Virginia to Tennessee and points further south was a major blow to the Confederates.

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

\* \* \*

### Jeannie-alogy Advice of the Quarter

*Always* look at the original document and don't take someone else's research as true.

While working on corrections to Sudie Rucker Wood's book, *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, I came across an interesting anachronism: Two Rucker men married the same woman!

On page 126 at bottom, it says a Thomas<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) married in Amherst Co., Virginia Hannah Phillips, daughter of Conyers Phillips, in 1787.

Then on the top of p.205, it says John<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) married 1799 in Amherst, Hannah Phillips, daughter of Zachariah; Wit. Thomas Phillips and Conyers Phillips.

Were there two girls named Hannah, one daughter of Conyers and one daughter of Zachariah?

I have the book, *Marriage Bonds and other Marriage Records of Amherst Co., Virginia, 1763-1800*, compiled by William Montgomery Sweeny, 1937, which said Thomas Rucker married Hannah Phillips, daughter of Conyers, date 3 Mar 1797. This couldn't be our Thomas, above, as he married 3 Jan 1793 to Sallie Read of Bedford Co., Virginia. She was his wife when he died (Source: Will of Thomas Rucker, "to my wife Sally . . ." Will Book 12, p. 309, Rutherford Co., Tennessee, dated 2 Nov 1839, proved 10 Mar 1843). This was the only marriage record of a Rucker to a Phillips in Amherst!

Was this book wrong?

So down to the Library of Virginia I went to look up the original! The original marriage bond has "John Rucker (with Thomas written over it) married Hannah Phillips, daughter of Zachariah." Marriage dated 3 Jan 1797. Wit. Thomas Phillips, John Cann, and Conyers Phillips. Aha! Both Wood and Sweeny had the wrong information. The bride was the daughter to Zachariah Phillips, not Conyers. But, which Rucker was the groom, Thomas or John?

After much study and thought, I concluded that Hannah married John, son of Thomas as Wood said on p.205. The confusion was the marriage bond that had Thomas written above the name John. I don't think his name was

"John Thomas," as a descendant thinks, but he was John, son of Thomas. We'll probably never know why the record was written as it was with both names.

John Rucker's sister, Elizabeth Rucker, had married the previous month, 26 Feb 1797 to Zachariah Phillips, Hannah's brother. Both couples lived in Amherst Co., Virginia after their marriage.

30 May 1831, John and Hannah Rucker's children, as listed in Wood, p.206, were listed in D. B. 10, p. 523, Madison Co., Virginia. The children were all living in Tennessee and had hired a lawyer to collect part of their grandfather, Thomas Rucker's estate.

\* \* \*

**Corrections to Sudie Rucker Wood's book, *The Rucker Family Genealogy***, continued from Vol. 17, no. 3 & 4.

Page 66 - Sudie R. Wood suggested Col. Ambrose<sup>3</sup> Rucker (John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was born ca. 1725, but the Editor feels he was born ca. 1730 due to his order of birth and the estimated birth date of the other children.

Page 66 - In most of Sudie's work she places the marriage data in the first paragraph. But not with Col. Ambrose Rucker. She doesn't mention his marriages until six pages later at the bottom of p.72. And the first marriage is

cited as only legend. Proof of the 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to Mary Tinsley is through her father's Will (W. B. 2, page 188, Amherst Co., VA). The Editor is wondering if Ambrose was only married once as no evidence is found of a first marriage.

Page 66 - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. It said Ambrose Rucker's land lay East of the Tobacco Row Mountains, south of Bear's Mountain, . . . the Deed, listed on page 71, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Said "William Cabell, Jr. surveyed for Ambrose Rucker 350 acres on branch of Harris Creek on South side of Bear Mountain, 2 Feb 1765 (Survey Book, 1761-1803, Plat Book, p. 24, Amherst Co., VA).

This had been driving me crazy for years - looking for Ambrose's land at Bear's Mountain. I just couldn't find it. Finally I went to the courthouse and looked up the original deed. Much to my amazement, I found Sudie had copied the wrong plat! What it should say is "**William Cabell Jr. surveyed for Ambrose Rucker 90 acres on the south branch of Harris Creek on Grayam Cove.**" At last! Col. Ambrose Rucker's land was at Grayam Cove where the cemetery is that The Rucker Family Reunion visited in 2004.

Page 72 — Near bottom: "To Margaret Burford . . ." She was Margaret McDaniel, married [1<sup>st</sup>] Rucker, [2<sup>nd</sup>] Burford (sub. by Anne Rucker Loyd, 2005).

Page 73 — "Mary Tinsley, wife of Ambrose<sup>3</sup> Rucker, died 1818." Mary Tinsley died 26 July 1806, not 1818. From the *Lynchburg Star*: 31 July 1806, "Mary Rucker died on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month in the 68<sup>th</sup> year of her age, the consort of Col. Ambrose Rucker . . ." (From records in the card file at Virginia Historical Society, found by the Editor).

Page 73— Winifred Plunkett and her legacy are omitted from Col. Ambrose Rucker's Will. Between Reuben Rucker and Peggy McDaniel, it should say: *I have given and now do confirm unto the heirs of Winifred Plunkett (dec'd) one hundred pounds, and my executors are to pay them in property seventy pounds more, to them and their heirs forever.*

Page 75 - First paragraph: Two children are omitted the list of children from Wood's transcription of the Will: Frankey Lee and Matilda Marr. The complete sentence should be:

[My estate is] *to be equally divided among my Children and Grand Children, Viz: the Children of Reuben Rucker one share, the Children of Winifred Plunkett one Share, the Children of Margaret McDaniel one Share, Molly Burford one Share, Frankey Lee one share, Ambrose Rucker one share, Isaac Rucker one share, Sophia Jennings one share, Caroline Hansford one share, Betsey Marr one share, Matilda Marr one share, Sally Marr one share, Charlotte Rucker, one share, Benjamin Rucker one share and their heirs forever.*



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# Don't Forget!

## Rucker Family Society Reunion

### Nashville, Tennessee

# October 2010

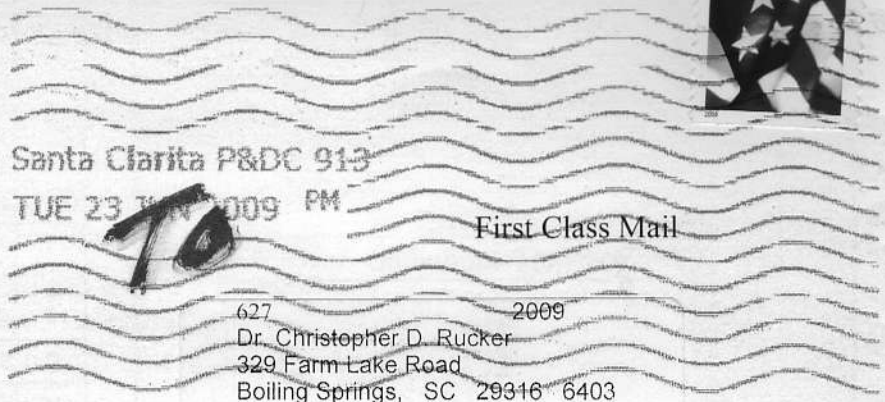


The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



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TUE 23 JUN 2009 PM

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