KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

VOL. 20, NO. 4, DECEMBER 2009



President's Letter

The 2010 Rucker Family Society Reunion Planning Committee spent an October weekend in Nashville, TN, making plans for the reunion. Please reserve the weekend of October 14 to 17. 2010 to join us in Music City, USA! Our host motel is the Holiday Inn Opryland/Airport. Details of the reunion will appear on our RFS web site: www.theruckerfamilysociety.org as they are finalized. At this point, it is time to schedule your time in Nashville. Most of the attendees arrive on Thursday, October 14, and leave after the banquet and meeting on Sunday, October 17. The Holiday Inn is reserving a block of guest rooms for those dates, so those who reserve the rooms earliest will have the best chance of staying at the host motel and receiving the benefits which have been contracted for by the RFS. Use this web address to make your room reservations at the Holiday Inn: http://events.ichitelsgroup.com/ dprd-7xhnwr/bnaop/website/. F o r those without a computer or access to the Web, reservations can be made by telephone: 1-800-Holiday (1-800-465-4329)

Be sure to reserve your rooms as a member of the RFS Reunion, so that you receive the special pricing on the breakfast buffet. The Planning Committee is dedicated to organizing another memorable Rucker Reunion, so don't miss out on the fun, and make your plans early to join us in Nashville.

Renewal notices will be going out, soon, so please remit your annual dues promptly. As I explained in a previous news-letter, the Board has voted to increase our annual dues to \$15, to cover the rising costs of newsletters. The Board under-stands that the newsletter is the one service enjoyed by all members, and is determined to continue that service in the face of rising costs.

One more suggestion: please let the Newsletter Editor know when you have a change of address. The P.O. charges 50 cents for every notice about a change. This issue, there were five changes. The \$2.50 charge isn't that much, but the many trips to the P.O. to pick up the notices adds to the aggravation.

Chris

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Vol. 20, No. 4, December 2009

The Rucker Family Society Newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and

March, June, September, and December

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2010 RFS Dues Due! Only \$15 Alice Rucker, Registrar

Your 2010 Rucker Family Society dues are now due and by the time you are reading this newsletter you should have received your dues renewal notice.

Please be sure to make any updates or corrections on your form and send it in right away. Don't overlook listing your e-mail address if you have one. Also, please provide your single name lineage per generation back to Peter Rucker. As the recipient of dues communications, if you could please not write "you already have it" or "look it up yourself!", it would be appreciated. Though we may have your single name lineage to Peter on file, it helps us match you up with other researchers who may be working on your line too, and it also helps us help those who join the DNA project and are looking for assistance with their paper trails.

We are an entirely volunteer organization, and much time and money is spent on producing and mailing out the renewal form. Every year there are those who lag behind by not paying their dues and sometimes a second or third notice has to get sent before the dues are received. So do your part this year to send in dues without being "nagged" by the registrar!

At the end of the 2008 dues year our membership declined by about 8%. That means that the remaining 92% had to pick up the financial burden of running the organization and producing and mailing out the newsletters, the primary use for RFS dues. So that is the reason our dues have had a slight increase. Ruckers tend to be strong, intelligent, and generous folks – so let's have lots of dues rolling in soon!

Rucker Surname yDNA Project Update Alice Rucker, Co-Administrator

We began the Rucker Surname yDNA Project in October of 2005 and we presently have forty seven men in our project and they have been classified into six groupings. The largest group is lovingly referred to as the "Peter Pattern" and those are the gents who can trace their yDNA to Peter Rucker, Immigrant, 1704. Although scientifically all in this group can confirm they are descendants, four lack paper trails to demonstrate their exact path back to Peter. However, with a little research, they should be able to get a better handle on their ancestry.

There are a few instances weher some participants do not carry the Rucker surname but have been brought into our project because they have a yDNA match that fits one of our groups. Another group is of three Germans who match each other, but not the "Peter Pattern." One of our newest groups is of three Englishmen whose DNA matches perfectly the There are nine in a group where none match each other, or the "Peter Pattern." It is entirely possible that in time, they may find matches in other groupings. All males interested in Rucker yDNA have been welcomed to join our project, and you can view the groupings and lineage charts at this web site:

http://www.worldfamilies.net/ surnames/rucker/

Are we any closer to knowing the origin of Peter Rucker, Immigrant, 1704? No, and this is why: we need more European participants and it is difficult to elicit participation from them. If a European participant were to undertake his own search for a long-lost cousin in America and came across our yDNA project, he might consider joining, but if we make the initial contact, we are normally met with a negative reponse. There appears to be an intrinsic mistrust on their end to give up their DNA for a project they have little interest in. Finding European Ruckers and convincing them to participate in our project has been our biggest hurdle.

To increase internet awareness about our project, we have placed information on Face

Book, and we will continue to advertise in other areas we feel European Ruckers would be drawn to. You may be asking yourself "What can I do to help?" The easiest thing is to make financial contributions to the project. That will help with costs to solicit European participants, and to pay for their test kits. Many of you have already donated, and every dollar has been and will be very much appreciated. Continue to mention our project to any Rucker males, and lastly - if any of you travel to Europe, be on the look-out for Rucker surnames wherever you go.

Is it realistic to think we will find genetic cousins in Europe or wherever Peter came from? Yes, absolutely! It will just take more time, and more participants. So keep the faith – it will happen – it will just take time.

* * * * *

RFS Newsletters Past Issues Available Online by Bill Smith

This issue marks my sixth issue as the RFS newsletter's assistant editor. Alice Rucker, the RFS's Treasurer and Registrar, is a friend of many years and asked if I had the time and interest to help out in the formatting of the RFS's newsletter. I answered in the affirmative and have been assisting Jeannie Brydon, the newsletter's creator and inspiration since the issue of May 1990. Not being a Rucker, I found I was at a disadvantage not knowing what had been written in earlier edition. Eventually I compiled an index of past issues and this index has been appearing in recent issues of the newsletter, and will continue until it "catches up" with the online version.

I am pleased to announce that the RFS has posted online in portable document format (pdf) every edition of the newsletter, from Volume 1, Number 1 (part of which is shown below) until two years prior to the current issue. The newsletter is a valuable enticement to encourage individuals researching their Rucker ancestry to join the Rucker Family Society. Therefore the Board reached a consensus that the website should not post all the issues, though a description of the contents of every issue is posted.

Pictured below are the first pages of Vol. 1, No. 1 from May 1990, featuring the 1990 Rucker Reunion in Amherst, Virginia; Vol. 9, Nos. 2 & 3 from Summer 1998, profiling Jeannie B. Robinson, aka Jeannie Brydon, the newsletter's editor; and Vol. 19, Nos. 1 & 2 from March/June 2008, with the lead story about Eugene Chester Rucker, a casualty of World War I. Vol. 1, No. 1 though Vol. 18., No. 2 are all available in pdf format at the RFS website.

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Google books

Researcher Beware by Bill Smith

I have been fascinated by the possibilities of Google books for some time, and recently took the time to investigate them as sources for my own genealogical research. As with so many online and print sources, researchers must constantly evaluate the quality and reliability of the information. Again like so much in life, if it seems to good to be true, it probably is.

To begin with, just exactly what are Google books? They are, as a matter of fact, not just one thing, but a combination of several. I'll describe a "typical" search and demonstrate. First, the researcher needs to go to the website, books.google.com. In the search field at the top of the page, I typed Ambrose Rucker. With as many Ambrose Ruckers in the descendants of Peter Rucker, the immigrant, I figure something should show up in the search. The first "hit" is a reference to a book familiar to Rucker researchers, Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy. However, when I click on the reference, I don't see the complete book, as I had hoped, but I see three short teaser snippets that indicate there are references to Ambrose Rucker in the book,

but that I'll have to use a copy in a library or buy a copy. The copy available on Amazon is \$249.99.

The next two hits are similar. books that are either not available in complete form, books that must be purchased or books that must be found in a library. The fourth hit is from a Lineage Book of the Daughters of the American Revolution and shows the lineage of Mrs. Kate Rucker Penn to Ambrose Rucker, her Revolutionary War ancestor. The information presented is brief, not annotated. but possibly useful to a person in the beginning stages of genealogical research on Ambrose Rucker. This book is complete in its online version and can be downloaded in a pdf format.

The sixth hit is a reference to Alice Rucker Allen's 1993 *Rucker Heritage* in snippet format. Though I have learned that this is a well written and mostly reliable compendium of Rucker family history, the snippets included don't really give me that impression.

The following hit is a repeat of the DAR Lineage Book with Kate Rucker Penn's lineage. The next refers to a book with snippets that actually looks like there may be valuable information about Ambrose Rucker. This reference concerns Nell Jones' 1985 *William Oliver Womack and Wirt Adams Love:*

Their Ancestors and Descendants. The snippets included this time show that there is detailed genealogical information about Ambrose Rucker. I discover the book is not available to be purchased and so I check to see if a copy is available at a nearby library. Since I live in the Los Angeles area, and I am accustomed to driving distances that other city dwellers may not be, even I am saddened to see that the closest library of the four libraries listed as housing a copy of the book is 1,100 miles away in Stephensville, Texas. You are now beginning to see that all that appears in Google books is easily useful information. I don't want to leave you thinking this is not a valuable resource, because I think it truly is of value, but it may not always be apparent.

In my own family research, I have downloaded books that I found at libraries in Los Angeles or Salt Lake City. I should add that there may be a regional prejudice in that all of the books that I was pleased to find have to do with my New England ancestors instead of my Virginia ancestors. This may just be a function of the number of books written about New England families that are out of copyright, and therefore are fair game for Google books.

Before I finish with this article, I'd like to show a source typical of late 19th and early 20th century biographical compendiums. The article that has been reproduced

below is copied verbatim from a Google digitized Volume 5 of Men of Mark in Virginia – Ideals of American Life – A Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State (editor in chief, Lyon G. Tyler, Men of Mark Publishing Company, Washington D. C., 1909) that contains a biography of Pannill Rucker, a grandson of Ambrose Rucker (Pannill⁷ Rucker, George⁶ H. M., Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). The mix of accurate information and wishful thinking is amazing and instructive. What is truly wonderful about these types of articles is the quality of the steel engravings of the biographical subject.



Yours very tenty Pamil Rucker.

PANNILL RUCKER

RUCKER, PANNILL, of Martinsville, Henry county, Virginia, for many years president of the Rucker-Witten Tobacco company, chairman of the board of supervisors of Henry county, was born at Vol. 20, No. 4, December 2009

Lynchburg, Campbell county, Virginia, on the 13th of May, 1867. He is the son of George McDaniel Rucker, a dry goods merchant of Lynchburg, and Mrs. Susan Maria (Pannill) Rucker. Of his father's family, Ambrose Rucker and Benjamin Rucker were colonial justices of the peace for Amherst county, Virginia, between 1761 and 1768. In 1775 they were both selected as members of the county committee for Amherst county, who were chosen as twenty-one "of the most discreet, fit and able men of the county." Mr. Rucker's descent is in a direct line from Ambrose Rucker. His mother's family, the Pannills, trace their descent for one Painell, who name is found in the battle roll of Battle Abbey [Editor's note-the battle roll is a supposed list, written in the 14th century, of the companions of William the Conqueror at the Battle Hastings that was fought in 1066]. The name was afterward changed to Pannéll, and then to Pannill. He came to England with William the Conqueror. The family sided with the king in the war against Cromwell; and as a consequence the two brothers who had taken an active part in the civil war, emigrated to Virginia on Cromwell's accession to power. One of these settled near Norfolk; and the other, from whom Mr. Rucker is descended, settled on the Rapidan and changed the name to Pannill, while the Norfolk branch retained the earlier spelling, Pannell.

In his boyhood, Pannill Rucker was strong, vigorous and hardy; fond of outdoor sports. He attended the public schools at Lynchburg and the Moravian school at Salem, North Carolina. From his early years he was taught to do some work in the tobacco factory, even in school days. His first position in business was at Penn's Store, Virginia, in the tobacco factory of G. Penn and Company. After a few years, he organized, in 1893, the Rucker and Witten tobacco company, and from 1893, to 1905, he was president of that company. Since

sacrificed his own life in an attempt to save a fellow soldier by plunging his horse in a flooding stream in an attempt to save the drowning man. Unfortunately, they both perished. A military report states that "Rucker rode his horse into the stream when in heavy flood to rescue his comrade, Lieutenant Henley, and both were drowned." Rucker was then in command of a company of Indian scouts. The date was July 21, 1876. The canyon in Arizona where this tragedy occurred is named Rucker Canyon in his honor. Can anyone identify the ancestry of this hero, Jonathan Anthony Rucker?

Sabrina is the nine-year-old granddaughter of Michael P. "Mike" Rucker, the Reporter for the RFS newsletter. She would like to become a regular contributor to the Rucker Family Society Newsletter. Anyone with information about this Jonathan Anthony Rucker should respond to Sabrina at yaysmr@gmail. com or to her proud grandfather, Mike at <u>mikruc@aol.com</u>.

Additional Queries

Are there any Rucker Family Society members who can give further information about Otis Gray Rucker (1885-1941), tobacco auctioneer, who is featured in this advertisement for Lucky Strike cigarettes found on page 55 of the October 28, 1940, issue of *Life* magazine? Was he the only auctioneer that the American Tobacco Company used

in their advertisements? Was Otis Rucker the voice used in the radio "commercials" for Luckies? Beyond the Rucker connection, this particular issue of the magazine was interesting because it featured a review of the United States Navy, with extensive photographs of Pearl Harbor just 13 months prior to the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. On page twelve of the June 1994 (Vol. 5, Num. 2) issue of the RFS newsletter a similar ad for Lucky Strikes with Otis Rucker and another wholesome brunette was featured, as well as a short article on Otis Rucker on page twenty.

Lineage of Otis⁸ Gray Rucker: Samuel⁷ B. Rucker, William⁶ G., Garland⁵, Ambrose⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.



Do you know of *anyone* with a Rucker lineage who is a member of the National Huguenot Society or the Huguenot Society of America? This query comes from

* * * * *

1906, Mr. Rucker has given much of his time and attention to stock-raising and agriculture; and he also has a wholesale grocery and retail drug business.

Mr. Rucker has served two terms as a member of the Martinsville town council. In 1905, he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors of Henry county, and he still fills that position.

On the 16th of February, 1898, Mr. Rucker married Miss Frankie Stevens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Stevens, of St. Louis, Missouri. They have three children, of whom two are living in 1907.

Mr. Rucker is an Odd Fellow. He is a member of the Westmoreland club of Richmond, of the Orinoco club, of Danville, Virginia; and of the Twin City club at Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In religious belief and church relations he is identified with the Protestant Episcopal church, and is a vestryman of the Christ's church of the that denomination, at Martinsville. In his political relations, he is identified with the Democratic party; and he has never swerved from allegiance to the principles and the nominees of that organization. In 1900, he was a delegate from the fifth Virginia district to the National Democratic convention at Kansas City, Missouri.

He finds his favorite exercise and recreation in horseback riding and hunting. To the young people of Virginia he commends: "ambition, carefulness in details, and promptness in the transaction of all business."

Good searching and researching!

Query of the Quarter by Sabrina Marie Rucker

Lt. Jonathan Anthony "Tony" Rucker was a true hero. He Vol. 20, No. 4, December 2009

Joanelle Mulrain and Jeannie Brydon. If there are members who are, could you please contact Joanelle at <u>jmulrain@comcast.net</u>.

* * *

Corrections to Wood's

Page 76 — The children of Ambrose³ Rucker, Sr., are listed not in order of birth, but boys first then girls. Here are his Issue as mentioned in Ambrose Rucker's Will (W. B. 4, p.479, Amherst Co., Virginia, dated 3 Dec 1803):

- 1. Reuben⁴
- 2. Winifred⁴
- 3. Margaret⁴ "Peggy"
- 4. Mary⁴ "Mollie"
- 5. Ambrose⁴ R [Jr.]
- 6. Frances⁴ "Frankey"
- 7. Isaac⁴
- 8. Sophia⁴
- 9. Caroline⁴
- 10. Elizabeth4 "Betsy"
- 11. Matilda⁴
- 12. Sarah⁴ "Sally"
- 13. Charlotte⁴
- 14. Benjamin⁴

Page 76 — Margaret McDaniel died 26 (not 16) Aug 1798 (from Family Bible, see bottom of p.77, sub by Anne Rucker Loyd, 2007).

Page 79 — The wife of Ambrose⁵ Rucker (Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹), Elizabeth Parks's tombstone (at the Ambrose Rucker family cemetery) said she died June 5, 1854 (not May 5), see p.80.

Page 82 — De Funiak (not De Funkia) Springs, FL (from Google).

Page 82 — Edwin⁶ Sorrell Rucker married 2nd 9 May 1854, to Emily Jane Clark, b. 21 Jan 1821, d. 1 Oct 1866 (tombstone at Graham Cove, p.80). Emily was the mother of his two youngest daughters, Cora Elizabeth and Mary Margaret. (W. B. 15, p.495, Amherst Co., Virginia) Guardian Bond-John E. Edwards and Howard A. Clark, 19 Nov 1860, for John E. Edwards as guardian of Cora E. and Mary M. Rucker, orphans of Edwin S. Rucker, deceased.

Page 82 — Valentine⁷ H. Rucker (Edwin⁶ S., Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹) was called "Vol" (info from Mitzi Baldock, Miami, FL, 1990). He inherited his grandfather's home. in Graham Cove (Wood, p.79) in Amherst Co., Virginia. Leaving no heirs, the home passed to his wife and out of the family. He was buried in Lynchburg's Spring Hill Cemetery, in his wife's family plot.(Editor's note: The home burned many years ago and the land is now owed by a Rucker descendant: Ellen Wagner and husband Bob. of Maryland. They have graciously allowed us to visit Col. Ambrose Rucker's graveyard over the years.)

Page 83 — Under Ruckers who served in the 2nd VA Cavalry, Co. E, CSA: Edward L. Rucker, was the same person as "Booker" 4th on the list. See p.138.

In Memoriam

Rita Adkins Rucker, age 81 of Richmond, Virginia, died October 7, 2009. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Neville L. Rucker; daughters, Bobbye R. Terry and husband Norman of Lorenzo, Texas; Tracy R. Foard and husband Scott; and two grandchildren, Garreth and Rhiannon. She was buried in Greenwood Memorial Gardens, Richmond, Virginia. Article from the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Nov. 11, 2009. Lineage of Neville⁸ L. Rucker: Charles⁷ H., Nathan⁶ J., Nathaniel⁵ W., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Charles⁸ "Chuck" Frederick Berry (Mary⁷ E. Clark, Margaret⁶ E. Rucker, William⁵ T., William⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹), a very active member of the Rucker Family Society, passed away July 10, 2009. He was born May 13, 1930 in San Jose, California, He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. After the war, he worked for General Electric for 40 years until his retirement. He was a Nuclear Fuel Engineer and joined the project to build the first plutonium fuel pant. He went on to become the Facilities Operations Manager for a number of GE sites across the country. In retirement he focused on genealogy and wrote a book on early Campbell days, Campbell Station. Chuck is survived by his two sisters, Betty Grand and Jean Ellen Vallandigham; his two sons, Greg and Doug Berry; his five grandchildren, Michelle, Katelyn, Anthony, Rose and Billy; his two great grandchildren, Zachary and Kegan; and his wife, Marion. He will be sorely missed by his family and by members of the Rucker Family Society. Article based on an obituary from the San Jose Mercury News, Jul. 15, 2009.



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FANTASTIC OLD PHOTOS

Do you have fantastically fabulous old photographs of your Rucker ancestors? This one was was recently submitted by Kathy Shearer, who is a descendant of Susan Smith. The couple pictured is William Ballenger Rucker (1791-1861) and his wife Mary Ann Dawson Rucker (1809-1863). They are both descendants of Peter Rucker, and the grandparents of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. Their lineages are: William⁵ B. Rucker, George⁴, John³, John², Pete1¹, and Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Col. Ambrose³, John², Peter¹ - making them second cousins, once removed.

If you have old Rucker photos and would be willing to share them with other Rucker Family Society members, they can be published in the newsletter and online at http://ruckerphotos.multiply.com.

Check them out, they're amazing!





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