

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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Rucker School Bell

see page 20



Rucker School Bell

Table of Contents

Henry Allen Ruckerp. 11, 13-14

Marathon Runnerp. 11-13

In Memoriam.....p. 14-16

Gen. Daniel H Rucker..p. 16-18

Ruckers in Fictionp. 18

RFS Newsletter Index ..p. 19

Rucker School Bellp. 20

Henry Allan Rucker by Bill Smith



HON. H. A. RUCKER, ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Recently I reread an old email from one of the members of the Rucker Family Society. In it, Mrs. Scarlett Rucker-Misikir suggested writing an article about Henry Allan Rucker. As it turns out, this individual truly deserves the following article.

Henry A. Rucker was born in November 14, 1852 in Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia. Since his parents, Edward (1822-) and Betsey (abt 1820-) Rucker were slaves owned by the King family of Athens, Georgia, therefore
Continued on page 13 of this issue.

Peorian has Run Marathons on All Seven Continents

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Jane Miller
and the Peoria Journal Star

There are marathons, and then there are adventure marathons.

Mike Rucker of Peoria has experience at both. In fact, Rucker, who will be 71 next month, has run 29 marathons since October 1996.

"I do three or four a year," Rucker said.

A list of the races he has run includes Boston, Richmond and Twin Cities, but it also has entries like Antarctica and the Great Wall of China and, most recently, Safaricom.

That final marathon, run at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya, was the last race he needed to complete the Seven Continents Club. It's for those who have finished a marathon on each of the seven continents.

The challenge was put together by Marathon Tours and Travel, a travel agency based in Boston.

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Rucker, who is retired from Caterpillar Inc., began the adventure portion of his marathon career in February 2007 at the Antarctica marathon, where he ran amidst penguins, seals and large birds called skuas in a driving snow and sleet storm.

Another marathon, the Fin del Mundo (End of the World) in Ushuaia, Argentina, was the same week, so Rucker was able to check two continents off the list quickly.

Most people wouldn't run back-to-back marathons, but adventure marathons are different.

"The thing about doing these overseas adventure marathons is you don't run for time," Rucker said. "You can run a marathon to have a good 'time' or to have a 'good' time — you can run a fast time or have fun. And these overseas marathons are usually pretty severe (conditions). And I found I like the adventure marathons better than the big-city marathons."

Rucker's next adventure was the Great Wall of China in May 2008, but he ran four marathons in the U.S. between that trip and the Argentina trip. Of those U.S. runs, two were Boston Marathons.

China was difficult because of the air pollution and running up the steps of the Great Wall. The course also ran through some Chinese villages where the townspeople came out to watch.

He followed the China trip 11 months later with the London Marathon, which had 38,000 participants, and then ran the inaugural Australian Outback Marathon in a year ago.

Only 91 runners competed in the Australian race, which was run in the desert near Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, a landmark Rucker long had wanted to see.

But Rucker's favorite to this point is Safaricom, which he ran June 25.

"It was amazing," he said. "I never knew there were so many animals in the world. We were running in a remote area. It was just beautiful. We were out there with the animals."

A helicopter and spotter plane flew above the course to try to herd away the most dangerous animals. But Rucker said he spotted zebra herds, giraffes and a group of baboons near the finish.

"The race is two half-marathon (13-mile) loops," he said. "There were 1,250 runners but only 200 running full marathon. So the first time around, there were a lot of people but second time, there was nobody. Sometimes we would look back and couldn't see anybody."

"Every so often there was a guard with a rifle (in case of dangerous animals) and there were rest stops with water so we weren't entirely alone. And the second time around we saw a lot of wildlife."

But it was at altitude, it was hot and the dirt was like running on a beach. It just tires you out.”

The completion of the Seven Continents Club doesn't mean Rucker will stop doing overseas marathons. He plans to make Easter Island his next adventure destination.

“But I'll keep doing the local ones until I'm the last guy bringing up the ambulance behind,” he said. “And I'll keep doing the overseas ones as long as I can get there and cross the finish line.

“When you run a marathon, particularly some of these more difficult ones, you get out there about 20 miles and you think, ‘Why in the world am I doing this? I must be nuts,’ and of course you are. But then you finish and it's such a high and it's also the adventure. And that's what it's all about.

“I could go on a safari and take a lot of pictures and it would be great. But to do a marathon along with it and know that you can do it is quite a different thing.”

Henry Allan Rucker

Continued from page 11

Henry, too, was born a slave. The Kings of Georgia have as interesting history themselves, in that Roswell King (1765-1844) was born in Windsor, Connecticut, moved to Georgia when fifteen years old with his father Timothy, a Revolutionary

War veteran and weaver, and 64 years later Roswell King died in Roswell, Georgia (the eponymous city founded by the namesake and his son Barrington). The Kings made their fortune through agriculture and textile manufacturing, both of which involved the use of slave labor.

Following the Civil War, Henry attended the first school for freedmen in Atlanta; operated a barber shop in Atlanta; attended Atlanta University; and eventually served as a delegate to the 1880 Republican National Convention held in Chicago. In the same year, Rucker was appointed a clerk in the Internal Revenue Collector's Office in Atlanta by President Grover Cleveland. He was to hold this federal position between 1880-1885 and 1889-1893. Later in 1896, President McKinley appointed Rucker Collector of Internal Revenue for the entire District of Georgia. Rucker was the only African American to hold such an appointment, and served in this capacity until 1910. In 1904 Rucker built a three-story office building in Atlanta, which became the first such building built by and for African Americans in Atlanta. Its first floor was designed for retail space, and the two remaining floors were for professionals. The building was demolished in September 2001.



Rucker Building in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn Historic District (circa 1960)

Rucker was also active in the NAACP and the Niagara Movement, a black civil rights organization founded in 1905 by W. E. B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter. It was named for the “mighty current” of change the group wanted to effect. The movement's policies were opposed to racial segregation and disenfranchisement, and did not agree with the accommodation and conciliation promoted by other African American leaders of the time, such as Booker T. Washington.



Henry A. Rucker at his desk in Rucker Building

Henry A. Rucker and his wife, Annie Eunice Long (1865-1933), raised eight children: Henry A., Jr., Elizabeth “Bessie” (who married John Wesley Davis, President of West Virginia State College) Lucy Lorene (who

married Walter Henry Aiken, football coach for Fisk University), Jefferson L., Neddie, Hazel C., Alice L., and Ann L. (who married Charles W. Anderson). Henry A. Rucker died in 1924. A side note is that Rucker's father-in-law, Jefferson Franklin Long (1836-1901) became the only African American to be elected to the House of Representatives during Reconstruction from the state of Georgia.

In 1898, Mr. Rucker was asked to what would he attribute his success, and his reply was, "To the faithful, patient training and earnest prayers of a devout Christian mother."

In Memoriam

SHIRLEY ANN CLAY HOSTETLER, 77, of Twin Falls, ID died April 18, 2011 in Twin Falls. She was born January 2, 1934 to Donald and Violet (Hanneman) Clay in Broken Bow, NE. The family moved to Idaho in March 1940. She graduated from Filer, ID High School in 1952. She then attended business schools in Idaho.

Later Shirley moved to work in Seattle, WA where she met and married James B. Carter (1922-2004) in 1956. They had one daughter, Becky Carter Byberg, and they later divorced. Shirley moved back to Idaho in 1975 and married Stanley H. Hostetler (1931-2007) in June 1978. Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley; her

parents; brother, Bob Clay; sister, Darlene (Bill) Zink; a grandson and a great niece and great nephew.

She is survived by her daughter, Becky (Ted) Byberg, a grandson and granddaughter, all of Aurora, CO; a sister, LaVonne (Roland) Clindist of Twin Falls, ID; and two aunts, Marjorie (Clay) Myers of Lincoln, NE and Mildred (Hanneman) Cook of Broken Bow, NE.

Shirley⁹ Ann (Clay) Hostetler's lineage is: Donald⁸ Amsberry Clay, James⁷ William Clay, Mary⁶ Elizabeth Rucker, Lemuel⁵, Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹.

ARDIS GOODNER, 75, of Broken Bow, NE died Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at Good Samaritan Center in Callaway, NE. Burial with Daughters of the American Revolution rites were at Broken Bow Cemetery.

Ardis was born March 23, 1936, in Broken Bow to James and Evelyn (Clay) McCaslin. On December 31, 1955, she married Henry E. Goodner (1933-1989). He preceded her in death, as did two brothers and one sister. Survivors include her daughters, Terrie (Dann) Scofield and Sherrie (Duane) Olson of Broken Bow; sons, Greg (Annette) Goodner and Don (Bonnie) Goodner of Kearney, NE, and Ron (Cindy) Goodner of Elm Creek, NE; 10 grandchildren; brothers, Curt (Eula) McCaslin of Hershey, NE, Dan (Joyce) McCaslin of Broken Bow, Daryl (Jan) McCaslin of North Platte, NE; and sisters,

Audrey Jones of Thedford, NE, Cleo Purdum of Reed Point, MT, Beverly (Jim) Goehring of Cheyenne, WY, and Leata (Boyd) Krecji of Eustis, NE. She attended school in Broken Bow and Merna, and graduated from Merna High School. Ardis was a member of the DAR.

Ardis⁹ (McCaslin) Goodner's lineage is: Evelyn⁸ Emma, James⁷ William Clay, Mary⁶ Elizabeth Rucker, Lemuel⁵, Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹.

Originally published in the *Kearney Hub* on May 25, 2011.

ARLING RANDOLPH "BUD" SIMMONS, 75, a resident of Elkins, West Virginia died Saturday, July 17, 2010, in the University of Virginia Hospital at Charlottesville, Virginia. He was born Sunday, March 24, 1935, at Elkins, a son of the late Verl Otto and Lena Canfield Simmons.

On May 13, 1961, at Beverly, he was married to Jeannie P. Varner, who survives him. Also surviving are one son, Arling R. "Randy" Simmons II of Elkins, WV; one daughter, Barbara Shapiro and husband, Melvin, of Baltimore, MD; two brothers, Douglas "Doug" Simmons and wife, Martha, of Kerens, WV and Verl Otto "Junior" Simmons Jr. of Beverly, WV; one sister, Evelyn "Sissy" Davis Starcher of Sebring, FL; four granddaughters, Kari L. Shahan of Parsons, WV and Lauren, Isabella and Morgan Shapiro, all of Baltimore, Maryland; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Denzil David "Sonny" Simmons, Harry E. Simmons, William "Bill" Simmons and Richard Simmons.

He attended the schools of Randolph County, WV. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, and was selected as an honor guard for the Unknown Soldier from World War II. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service after nearly 33 years of service. Interment was on Wednesday, July 21 in Maplewood Cemetery at Elkins.

Arling⁹ Randolph "Bud" Simmons's lineage is: Lena⁸ Kathleen Canfield, Rosette⁷ Rucker, Jacob⁶ S., James⁵, Elzy⁴, DeWitt³, James², Peter¹.

MARY ELIZABETH FERRELL, 82, died Tuesday, April 19, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona. Elizabeth was born 28 Oct 1928 in Chattaroy, Mingo Co., WV, the daughter of Elmer Clive and Virginia Florence (Nowlin) Ferrell. Mary culminated her career with the U.S. Public Health Service as Director of Indian Health Services, from 1952 to 1980 in Tucson, AZ. She received her Masters of Science degree in nutrition, from Case Western Reserve University, was a expert genealogist on Virginia research, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution from October 7, 2000 until her death. She is survived by her brother, Rocky (Gloria) Ferrell; niece, Michelle of Basalt, CO; nephews, Marc and Anthony Ferrell of Scottsdale, AZ and numerous cousins.

Mary Elizabeth⁹ Ferrell's lineage is: Elmer⁸ Clive Ferrell, Eliza⁷ Jane Farley, William⁶ A. Farley, Nancy⁵ Allen, Phoebe⁴ Rucker, Peter³, John², Peter¹.

DAVID MILLAR RAINEY, 79, passed away Wednesday morning, May 26, 2010, at his residence after a brief illness. Dave was born on September 22, 1930 in Lynchburg, VA, to the late Cecil Dubois and Mariamna (Rucker) Rainey.

He was predeceased in death by his wife of 55 years, the Ann (Shoaf) Rainey, of Roanoke, and his brother Samuel Charles Rainey. He is survived by his brother Robert Dubois Rainey, of Arlington, VA; his three sons, Robert Sutherland Rainey, Scott Shoaf Rainey, and Brad Rucker Rainey, all of Lynchburg, and by his daughter, Katherine "Kate" (Al) Collado, of Chesapeake; by his four grandchildren, Robert Adam Rainey (Nicki) of Charlotte, Linda Gail Rainey of Danville, David Campbell Collado and John Alexander Collado, both of Chesapeake.

Dave graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now known as Virginia Tech) in 1952, with an Industrial Engineering degree. After graduation, he served in the Post-Korean War Army for four years. Dave then worked as an engineer from 1957 until his retirement in 1994. A Memorial Service for Dave was held at Peakland Baptist Church on June 3, 2010, and his remains were

placed in the Peakland Baptist Church Columbarium.

David^{9/10} Millar Rainey's three lineages are: (1) Mariamna^{8/9} B., Waller⁷ J., James⁶ M., Jonathan⁵, George⁴ M., John³ Rucker, John² Rucker, Peter¹; (2) Mariamna^{8/9} B., Russell⁸ McDaniel, John⁷ E., James⁶ P., William⁵, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹; (3) Mariamna^{8/9} B., Russell⁸ McDaniel, John⁷ E., James⁶ P., Elizabeth⁵ Pendleton, Sarah⁴ Rucker, John³, John², Peter¹.

BOSTON, May 15 -- **James Henry Haynie**, an author and for many years prominent as foreign correspondent of American newspapers, died at his home in Newton Centre to-day. Mr Haynie was born in Winchester, Ill., in 1841. He enlisted in the first infantry company raised in Chicago in 1861, and served in the Army of the Cumberland. After the war he became a reporter in Chicago. From 1875 to 1877 he was foreign editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES, in the latter year going to Paris as correspondent for several American newspapers. He was President for several terms of the Association of Foreign Correspondents at Paris and was decorated with the crosses of the Legion of Honor (French) and Royal Order of the Saviour, (Greek.) He returned to America in 1895. Mr. Haynie was the author of "Paris, Past and Present," and "The Captains and the Kings."

This obituary for **JAMES HENRY HAYNIE** appeared in the *New York Times* on May 16, 1912. Who it commemorates is obviously not a recent event, but one that still might be of interest to Rucker

researchers. Haynie was born in Winchester, Scott Co., Illinois, the son of Ornsby and Zarilda (Rucker) Haynie, and the grandson of Ahmed Rucker, who was the subject of articles in the RFS newsletter in September and December of last year. Haynie and his wife, Mary Huguenin Bright, who he had married in 1893 and was twenty-one years his junior, had two daughters, Hylida (b 1895) and Helen (b 1898), and lived in Newton Center, Massachusetts. In 1912 Haynie wrote a memoir of his time in the Civil War titled *The Nineteenth Illinois*, which was a volunteer regiment famous for its "Drill, Bravery, and Distinguished Services." The other two books mentioned in the obituary, *The Captains and the Kings* published in 1904, not to be confused with Taylor Caldwell's 1983 novel of a very similar title, was concerned with Haynie's reminiscences of the people he observed while working in the United States and Europe, and *Paris: Past and Present*, published in 1902, were both written and published in the United States, but were researched while working as a foreign correspondent. The two orders he received were most frequently awarded to citizens of France, for the Legion of Honor, and citizens of Greece, for the Order of the Savior, more accurately, the Order of the Redeemer, but were also awarded foreign-born individuals who performed exceptional service to those nations.

James⁷ Henry Haynie's lineage is: Zarilda⁶ Rucker, Ahmed⁵, John⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Quartermaster General Daniel Henry Rucker by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

This is the second and concluding part to Mike's article.

As Confederate forces threatened Washington in July 1864 the Quartermaster Corps was assigned line duty to protect the capital. Rucker commanded a brigade of 1,981 men, primarily civilian office staff, during this impromptu duty. On July 14, 1864, at the end of this duty General Meigs sent the following lavish dispatch of praise:

"By direction of Major-General McCook, General Rucker's brigade is relieved from duty in the trenches and will return to Washington, where its members – who are civilians in the service of the Quartermaster's Department – will resume their usual duties. The brigade will march this evening as soon as Brigadier-General Rucker, commanding, can make the necessary dispositions. Brevet Major-General Meigs, Quartermaster General, commanding the division, takes this opportunity to thank the soldiers and the civilians of the Quartermaster's Department for the alacrity and zeal with which they organized and moved to defend the capital, insulted by traitors. The rebel army, under tried and skillful leaders, has looked at and has felt the northern defenses of Washington. They looked ugly and felt hard. They left their dead unburied, and many of their wounded on the way by which they retire.

They will not soon again insult the majesty of a free people in the nation's capital . . ."

M.C. Meigs, Quartermaster-General,
Brevet Major-General

Rucker is referred to as brigadier general in these dispatches because he was commanding militia volunteers and, by tradition, was brevetted one rank above his regular army rank – as was Brigadier-General Meigs in this same instance.

But Meigs was not always pleased with the performance of his subordinate. As General Lee was crossing the Potomac en route to what resulted in the Battle of Gettysburg Meigs held Rucker responsible for a disastrous loss of supplies. Rucker dispatched a supply train of 150 wagons from the Washington to provision the Federal Army heading to cut off the invasion by General Lee. On June 28, 1863 Fitzhugh Lee's brigade of J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry captured the entire wagon train and took it with them to supply the Confederate Army of General Lee. As a result of this disaster Meigs sent the following terse message to Rucker:

Gen. Ingalls asks that 10,000 pairs of shoes and as many socks, be sent to Head Quarters Army of Potomac for issue to the corps as they pass that place.

Send them whenever a safe route is open, or if a sufficient escort. Last fall by positive orders, I put a stop to the sending of trains without escort from this District to the Army about Frederick. My orders . . . [have] been neglected and to day we have lost 900 mules and 150 wagon sent without

escort, while only yesterday 400 cavalry, which could have taken care of the train, marched to Frederick.

Take measures to prevent a repetition of this gross violation of all military rule. The orders of last Sept. and October should not have needed repetition. It is impossible for me to reach each Quarter Masters and as Chief Quarter Master of the Dept., I wish you to assume control of all the officers of the Department forwarding supplies to the army from this District and to prevent any more such disasters if possible. The present disaster could have been prevented. [Emphasis added]

M.C. Meigs, Quartermaster
General¹⁰

One of Rucker's contributions to the war effort was the design of an improved ambulance, aptly named the *Rucker Ambulance*. It incorporated much improved under-body suspension in addition to the provision to suspend two stretchers from the roof of the vehicle to avoid jarring the bodies of the wounded. According to *The Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War* "The most serviceable ambulance wagon used during the latter part of the war was that designed by Brigadier General D. H. Rucker, and built at the Government repair shops at Washington."

Rucker was also directly involved in the establishment of several Union prisons including the horrific enclosure at Point Lookout, Maryland. The following is the initial message from Meigs to Rucker concerning the issue:

[To] General D. H. Rucker, Chief Quartermaster, U.S. Army, Washington: General: It is proposed, as I am informed, by the General-in-Chief to establish a depot for prisoners of war at Point Lookout. The officer in command has not yet been designated, but it is proper to make provisions in advance. The depot will probably ultimately be constructed for 10,000 prisoners; for the present 5,000. Old tents should be sent from those in the depot and necessary camp and garrison equipage, lumber to erect kitchens and store houses, and large cast-iron boilers for cooking. The labor will be performed by the prisoners themselves, but preliminary arrangements should be made by this department.

Have you an officer disposable for it to send to establish the depot? If not, Captain Edwards, post quartermaster, should be called upon to receive the property. Lumber should be obtained by requisition from Baltimore. Colonel Donaldson will fill your requisition.

M. C. Meigs Quartermaster-
General

Perhaps one of Rucker's most significant Civil War involvements was his support for Clara Barton. Named Clarissa, she was a shy, tiny woman who hardly weighed 100 pounds. She had been a clerk in the U. S. Patent Office when the war began. Using her own money and connections developed through her work in the Patent Office she began to collect food and medical supplies for the war effort. She asked the War Department to permit her to go to the battlefield to distribute medicine and food. Her request was denied since *unmarried*

women were not allowed on the battlefield. But she was determined and continued to harass the War Department for assistance. Finally, Colonel Rucker took a chance and authorized an initial six wagons loaded with food, medicine, blankets, water, and other supplies. Her efforts promptly earned her the nickname "Angel of the Battlefield." She probably could not have continued her mission without the assistance of Colonel Rucker.

She provided aid to wounded soldiers from either side which caused some Northerners to criticize her. During the war, Barton often criticized the Army about the lack of food and supplies for the fighting men. She came to be known as a troublemaker among some officials. But in 1864, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton called her to help his Sanitary Commission on the battlefield. Clara Barton was named Superintendent of Nurses for the Army of the James in 1864 by Secretary of War Stanton.

When President Lincoln was shot, Rucker with others escorted Lincoln's body from the Petersen House where he died to the White House.¹⁴ Rucker organized the funeral train that carried Lincoln home to Springfield, Illinois.

During and following the Civil War the Quartermaster Department was recognized as the most efficiently run unit of the U. S. military operations; an accolade to the skill and diligence of

General Meigs and Colonel Rucker. After the war Rucker was responsible for a major logistical nightmare: the auction and disposition of surplus equipment and animals. He retained the best equipment for the army and navy dispatching it to various forts and storage depots.

Finally, on February 13, 1882 Rucker was promoted to the full rank of brigadier general and succeeded General Meigs as quartermaster general. He assumed this office on February 20 and immediately applied for a well deserved retirement being nearly seventy years of age, retiring from the army on February 23, 1882 after 45 continuous years of service to the U.S. Army.

After his retirement General Rucker continued to live in Washington, D.C. In 1909, and on reaching the age of ninety-three, he had a confrontation with a life insurance company who offered him a settlement that was well below the insurance value. The insurance company refused to continue his life insurance on the grounds that he was "statistically dead." He fought this absurd claim and won.

He died January 6, 1910 and was laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, in Section 1, Grave 74.

The World War II German Field Marshall Rommel perhaps said it best, "*Battles are won or lost by quartermasters before the first*

shot is fired." The contribution of Quartermaster Daniel Henry Rucker to the Union cause during the Civil War cannot be overstated.

Ruckers in Fiction

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

Gunsmoke ran for 635 episodes over 20 seasons, making it the longest-running prime time television drama. After a successful radio series *Gunsmoke* was originally a half-hour television program filmed in black-and-white in 1955. The series expanded to an hour format with its seventh season and began filming in color with the twelfth. It was for a number of years the most popular TV program. During its first full color season in 1966 *Gunsmoke* featured a program starring three characters named Rucker.

If you'll remember, *Gunsmoke* is set in and around Dodge City, Kansas, in the post-Civil War era and centers on United States Marshal Matt Dillon, played by James Arness, as he enforces law and order in the town. In its original format the series also focuses on Dillon's friendship with three other citizens of Dodge City: Doctor Galen "Doc" Adams, played by Milburn Stone, the town's physician; Kitty Russell, played by Amanda Blake, owner of the Long Branch Saloon; and

Chester Goode, played by Dennis Weaver, Dillon's assistant.

The episode involving the Rucker characters was aired on October 15, 1966 as number 414 in the series. It was entitled "The Good People." The Rucker characters were: Morgan Woodward as Ben Rucker, Tom Simcox as Seth Rucker, and Allen Case as Gabe Rucker. To summarize the plot: Ben Rucker, a bewhiskered bounty hunter, is accused of hanging a man while a well-respected rancher and his son, who actually committed the crime, let him take the rap for the murder.

In the interests of historical accuracy, not that anyone else would have picked up on the error, Mike writes that there was only one U. S. Marshal in each state or territory, so the fictional Matt Dillon, assigned to Dodge City, would actually be a *deputy* marshal.



Morgan Woodward as Ben Rucker and James Arness as Matt Dillon

Naturally, justice prevails and Ben Rucker is absolved of the crime.

Index to RFS Newsletters

Over the next several issues we will continue to print an index for the issues of the Rucker Family Society newsletter.

Page	Article
March 2001, Vol. 12, No. 1 (cont.)	
5	Prayer Given by Ambrose S. Rucker Jr. at the 1990 Rucker Family Reunion; Joseph ³ Rucker?; The James River Batteau Festival; Reminder-June 2004 Rucker Reunion
6	In Memoriam: Henry Cowles Rucker III, Novel H. Rucker
7	Continued In Memoriam: Anita Rucker Cottrell, McDaniel Rucker III and Gloria Jean Rucker
8	Continued In Memoriam: Horton Blackwell Rucker, Cecil Frank Rucker
9	Editor's Note; 2002 Rucker Reunion
10	William ² Rucker Lived in South Carolina
June 2001, Vol. 12, No. 2	
11	Ceremony Honoring Capt. Angus Rucker; Two Outstanding Ruckers-Father and Son
12	Continued Two Outstanding Ruckers-Part I Allen Willis Rucker Sr.
13	Continued Two Outstanding Ruckers-Part II Allen Willis Rucker Sr.
14	Continued Two Outstanding Ruckers- Part II Allen Willis Rucker Jr.
15	Continued Two Outstanding Ruckers- Part II Allen Willis Rucker Jr.; Continued Capt. Angus Rucker
16	Continued Capt. Angus Rucker; My Feelings Exactly-Poem
17	Questions and Answers
18	Marriage Announcement-Elizabeth Townsend Addison and Alton David Fonville III; Jeannie-alogy - Another Legend of Peter Rucker, Immigrant

19	Alice J. Rucker and Dr. W. L. Sluggett; President's Note
20	Who was Richard E. Rucker?
September 2001, Vol. 12, No. 3	
21	A Sketch of My War Experience by William Ambrose Rucker; In Memoriam: James Roderick Mason
22	Continued A Sketch of My War Experience
23	Continued A Sketch of My War Experience; Five James M. Ruckers
24	Continued In Memoriam: Talmadge Ray Rucker, Thelma Swayne
25	Continued In Memoriam: Sharon Leigh Johnson Trent, Howard Murell "Red" Rucker; Jeannie-alogy
26	Continued Jeannie-alogy; Obituary of Another James M. Rucker; Queries from the Internet
27	Continued Queries from the Internet
28	60 th Wedding Anniversary of Howard and Alice Rucker; Vance Rucker Mini-Profile
29	Our Rucker and Balsler Heritage; President's Note
30	Photo Corner-Jason Blake and Catherine (Rucker) Blake ca. 1880
December 2001, Vol. 12, No. 4	
30	James Fred Rucker Family Profile
31	Continued James Fred Rucker Family Profile
32	Continued James Fred Rucker Family Profile; Ron Payne's Research Booklets on Tennessee and Missouri
33	Lone Pine Cemetery, Telluride, CO; Query of the Quarter; In Memoriam: Dr. William Vincent Rucker
34	Continued In Memoriam: William Warnock Rucker, Vesta Othniel Rucker Webb, Lola Ann Rucker, Mrs. Enola Louise Rucker Speer
35	Suggestion-A Black Rucker Society; Tombstone Found
36	Julius Rucker-Birth, Death and Cemetery Information; "Keep Looking, We're all out Here"

37	Continued "Keep Looking, We're all out Here"
38	President's Letter
39	Photo of Alice Rucker on tombstone of Julius Rucker
March 2002, Vol. 13, No. 1	
1	Memories of My Dad-Luther Cecil "Gill" Gillespie
2	Continued Memories of My Dad-Luther Cecil "Gill" Gillespie
3	Continued Memories of My Dad-Luther Cecil "Gill" Gillespie
4	Continued Memories of My Dad-Luther Cecil "Gill" Gillespie; Gillespie Family Notes
5	Questions and Answers
6	Continued Questions and Answers; Burial Records from Durango, Colorado Hist. Museum; In Memoriam: Margaret Anna Fullerton Rucker
7	Continued In Memoriam: Andrew ⁹ "Morris" Hamm, Thomas ¹⁰ "Tom" Walling Bradfield
8	Continued In Memoriam: Milton Mathis Rucker, Zoah ⁸ Louise Rucker; African-American Ruckers
9	Jeannie-alogy
10	2002 Rucker Reunion, Kansas City, Missouri
June 2002, Vol. 13, No. 2	
11	The Rucker Mansion-Home of Joseph H. Rucker, San Jose
12	Continued The Rucker Mansion
13	Continued The Rucker Mansion; Benjamin Rucker (continued from Vol 13, No., p. 5)
14	Continued Benjamin Rucker; Raines Reunion; 2002 Batteau Festival; In Memoriam: Mary Elizabeth Rucker Snyder
15	Continued In Memoriam: Samuel James "Jim" Rucker IV, Frank Allen Beesley
16	2002 Rucker Reunion; Pre-Reunion Trip
17	President's Letter; Rucker Family Society Board of Directors
18	Photo Corner-Clay Family Reunion
September 2002, Vol. 13, No. 3	
19	A Very Special Family-The Robert Sumner Family of Gastonia, NC

Rucker School Bell

The following is a transcription of the plaque on the front of the Rucker School Bell located near Gilroy, Santa Clara Co., California. It should be noted that Catherine (O'Toole) *Dunne* is the more usual spelling of the ranch owner mentioned below.

"The Catherine Dunn Ranch once part of the Rancho San Francisco de Las Llagas Spanish land grant was divided in 1893 and sold to early settlers to form Rucker Township.

Education was especially important to these pioneers who had been through dreadfully tough times. They worked hard to raise \$5,000 in 1894 to build Rucker School and community center. The once two story building provided the physical assurance that their children would have access to an excellent education and better life.

The 1906 earthquake damaged the bell tower. Twice in the following years the school burned to the ground. Everything gone, except this strong and solid BELL still serving today as the spirit and strength of this community and faculty. Rucker School has been known for academic enrichment through theater arts since its humble beginning. The School was unified in 1966. We are lucky as most small country schools were closed and students bussed to town.

This bell rings out clear each year on graduation day as testament to the maturity of the students through the steadfast efforts of this community and Rucker's excellent teachers.

Dedicated Saturday Feb. 20, 2009
Mountain Charlie Chapter 1850 E Clampus Vitus
Right Wrongs Nobody"

The source of this information and further information can be found at
<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=18473>



Photo by Syd Whittle, April 25, 2009

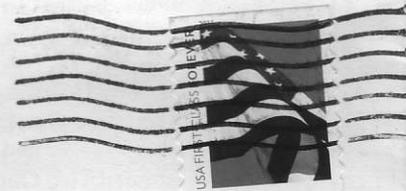
The RUCKER family SOCIETY



Rucker

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