

Ruckers Harps I

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

Number 4

November 1991

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER:

In the last newsletter we reminded members that the \$5 annual dues for 1992 are now due. Many members have already responded and we have enough for an initial newsletter in 1992. I hope that those who have not sent in their check will do so soon. The Rucker Family Society Newsletter is very popular and we plan to put out at least four a year, in February, May, August, and November. As of September 30th, 1991, we had \$2,217.62 in our account of which \$1,070.00 was earmarked for the cemetery repair and historical markers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the cemetery repair and historical marker fund. Ideally we should thank contributors individually but with the membership continually growing--we now have 304 members--I would need a secretary to acknowledge every donation. I do try to answer any query from a member or refer it to someone who can. If any member does not receive a canceled check or begin receiving the newsletter they should write to me or call me at 1-703-281-2570.

Initially, we were called the Rucker Society and our checks are printed up with that name so checks should be made out to The Rucker Society and sent to me at 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181.

Both the hardcover and soft-cover reprints of Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Geneal-

ogy are sold out. We are still getting orders and I have had to return the checks. If there is sufficient demand, we will probably have another printing.

We appreciate everyone who notifies us of a change of address. It is very costly to have mail returned because the person moved. People who have summer or winter homes need to send us a post card each time they change addresses, if they want the newsletter sent to their current address.

Lewis M. (Jack) White, Treasurer

Family Profile: ROD (our president) AND LOU MASON, see page 3.



WASHINGTON STATE RUCKER REUNION

On August 3, 1991, the first Washington State Rucker Family Society reunion was held at the home of Sandra and Earl Bartell. Sandra, who is related to the Ruckers on her father's side, moved to Washington State from the east coast in 1989. Feeling a need to establish some sort of family connection out there, she contacted her father, Jack White (treasurer of the Rucker Family Society), and asked him to send her a list of all the members living in Washington State. The list only had 7 people, but she contacted all of them and proposed a reunion.

All of them either called or wrote, some of them sharing interesting stories about their families' moves from east to west years ago. One woman mentioned that she had heard of Rucker reunions with over 200 people in eastern Washington! Another said she attends a yearly Rucker reunion in western Washington with 90 other Ruckers.

Initially, 21 people were planning on attending the August 3rd reunion, but due to last minute conflicts, only 8 made it. Also attending were Sandra's parents, Jack and Dagmar White from Vienna, Virginia. The potluck barbecue was a great success and a repeat may be in the works for next year. Now if we could just get all those reportedly hundreds of other Washington State Ruckers to join our society . . . !

From Sandra White Bartell, 16625 N. E. 25th St., Bellevue, WA 98008.

Back row, left to right:

Jack White
Dagmar White
Barbara Janosik
Phil Janosik
George Arbuckle

front row, left to right:

Earl Bartell
Sandra Bartell
Curtis Rucker Bartell
Dorothy Arbuckle



CORRECTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTERS

Correction to Newsletter, Volume 2, Number 2, page 3: Ambrose Ballenger Rucker (the Editor's ancestor) should be William Ballenger Rucker. Page 7, Lucy Love Harrison is the granddaughter of Ashton⁸ C. Jones, Jr., Margaret⁷ Rucker, Daniel⁶, William⁵ Ballenger, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹. Generation 5 was mistakenly omitted. Many thanks to Doris W. Edwards, Grand Rapids, MI, for finding these errors.

Correction to Newsletter, Volume 2, Number 3, page 5: Nap Rucker was born 30 Sept. 1884, not 1894, making him 86 years old when he died. Thanks to A. D. Toten, Fort Worth, TX, for pointing out this mistake.

Family Profile of Rod (our president) and Lou Mason

In his remarks after being elected president of the Rucker Family Society at the reunion last year, Rod Mason said "Most of you are Ruckers because you just happened to be born that way, but I'm a Rucker by choice - I married one".

Lou Mason is a ninth generation Rucker whose line is Peter¹, John², Isaac³, John⁴, Willis⁵, James Alexander⁶, Robert B.⁷, Maggie Rucker Burford⁸, and Louise Burford Mason⁹. Willis⁵ appears on pp. 134-135 of Sudie Rucker Wood's *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. From information obtained by Lou from one of her mother's cousins, she learned that James Alexander Rucker, her great grandfather, was a son of Willis but he was not listed in Wood's *Genealogy* as an issue of Willis. Jeannie Robinson closed this link in the chain of descent when she found his marriage record in the Amherst County Virginia courthouse. James Alexander Rucker listed in his 1866 marriage license that his parents were Willis and Tabetha Rucker. From a family photo of James Alexander in a confederate uniform, it is deduced that he married Sallie Grant after he returned home from the war. Lou's mother remembered that her grandfather was referred to as Fox Hunting Jim. He lived and is buried near the headwaters of Harris Creek in Amherst County. (A memorial marker which was recently placed on that family graveyard was pictured in the last issue of this newsletter.)

Lou's grandfather, Robert B. Rucker, was an orchardist. Two of his sons, Harry and Hannon, continued and added many acres to the family farm and operated Rucker Brothers' Orchard for many years as one of Amherst County's best known growers of peaches and apples. Maggie and Bertha Rucker (sisters) married William and James Burford (brothers) and Lou is the daughter of Maggie and Bill. During the early 1930's, the Bill Burford family lived in the house which had earlier belonged to Daniel H. Rucker at Agricola, VA (Wood: pp.49-50, 444-445) but they did not know then that it was formerly a Rucker home. This house, now fallen almost to the ground, was visited by the attendees of the family reunion in 1990.

Lou's father was a farmer until he became caretaker of Pedlar Lake, the City of Lynchburg's water supply at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in western Amherst County. Her mother was famous for many years for her home cooked meals, and many fishermen came to the lake to eat at her table more than to fish. The Appalachian Trail crossed the Pedlar River at the dam which was in the Burford's front yard, so many trail walkers also stopped in on the recommendation of the write-up about her hospitality in some of the trail guide books. Upon retirement in 1963, they moved to the foot of High Peak on Tobacco Row Mountain, just a mile from her family homeplace. Lou's father died in 1978 and her mother in 1988.

Lou is a registered nurse graduate of Lynchburg General Hospital and has worked in hospitals in Alexandria, Virginia; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Rockford, Illinois. Her brother Owen, deceased, was a civil engineer with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, and brother Hannon is retired from Newport News Shipbuilding Company where he was a marine engineer. Her sister Minnie is married to Lawrence Jennings, a general contractor in Falls Church, Virginia.

Rod's father was originally from Lynchburg and he still has a number of relatives in the Lynchburg-Bedford area, but Rod and Lou met and married in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Rod was born in Roanoke, and he likes to remind Lou that he was born farther south than she was. However, his family moved to Hagerstown, Maryland during his first year. His father was a railway postal clerk and his mother was a school teacher before marriage. Although Sudie is a rather uncommon name, it was also the name of Rod's mother, so he frequently refers to Sudie Rucker Wood's *The Rucker Family Genealogy* as Sudie's book.

Rod graduated as a chemical engineer from The Johns Hopkins University in 1943. Except for a year in an Esso refinery, his entire employment was in the field of atomic energy, first with Manhattan District (WW II atomic bomb project) contractors in Tonawanda, N. Y., and Oak Ridge, TN., and later with the Atomic Energy Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in licensing radioactive isotopes for non-military uses, including nuclear medicine. Since retirement from NRC in 1976, Rod has done some consulting for several companies which use radioactive isotopes in devices for medical and industrial applications.

THE RUCKERS HARPSICHORDS

by Michael P. Rucker
Part 1 of 3 parts

HANS RUCKERS [sic] - THE FOUNDER

"The Stradivarius of harpsichords." That is a statement one often comes across while researching the Ruckers harpsichords.

Members of the Ruckers family of Antwerp were the paramount harpsichord builders of the late sixteenth and most of the seventeenth century.

Instruments similar to the harpsichord were known in Northern Europe as early as 1450. During the early and mid-1500's Italy assumed the lead in developing instruments of this sort. Then, during the 1570's Antwerp in the Netherlands became the leading source of harpsichords.

That this occurred was due largely to one man and his offspring: Hans Ruckers. From about 1580 until nearly 1700, Flemish harpsichord building was dominated by Hans Ruckers and his descendants. They built many different types and sizes of full fledged harpsichords, as well as virginals in several configurations.

An exhaustive study of the Ruckers family and their instruments has been the life-long work of Mevr. Dr. J. Lambrechts-Douillez. This lady is the curator of the Musea Oudheikundige (Vleeshuis Museum) in Antwerp, Belgium which contains several Ruckers harpsichords. She has compiled a series of six volumes documenting all available information on the Ruckers family and their harpsichords. The family information which follows was extracted largely from her works. She has been most gracious to correspond with me concerning this brief article.

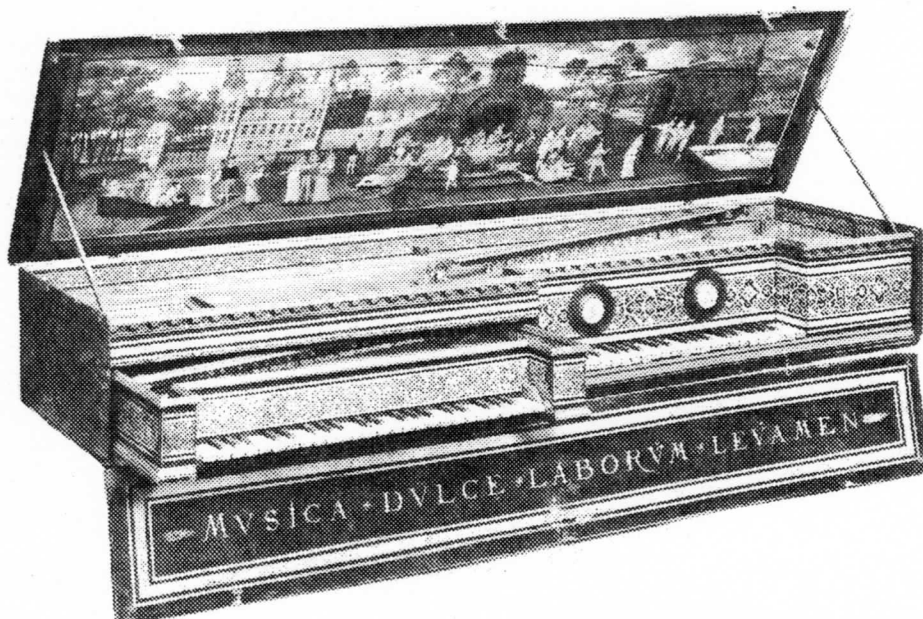
Hans Ruckers was probably born between 1540 and 1550. His place of birth is uncertain. However, concerning his point of origin, Dr. Lambrechts-Douillez writes, "Everything seems to point towards Germany via Mechlin."

Regardless of his origins, Hans Ruckers entered the Low Countries at a very turbulent time and some appreciation of the history of the Netherlands is important to understanding his accomplishments.

When Philip II ascended the throne of Spain in 1555 his dominion included the Netherlands. Although he resided in Netherlands until 1559 he had little understanding of and less liking for these energetic and creative people. The Netherlands at that time consisted of nearly a score of provinces, each with a separate government, bound into a loose political federation by the Duke of Burgundy in Brussels. The cities of the Netherlands were wealthy by standards of the times. Antwerp, with a population of over 100,000 was a major center of commerce, art and learning. It was regarded as one of the wealthiest cities in the world. A tremendous volume of merchandise arrived overland from the countries to the south, particularly from what is today Germany. Many colonies of foreign merchants lived in Antwerp and hundreds of ships a week departed down the Scheldt River to the North Sea and abroad laden with goods. In fact, by the mid-1500's Antwerp had achieved a near monopoly on North Sea commerce.

As major cosmopolitan centers, there was an active exchange of ideas within the cities of the Netherlands. Among these ideas were the Protestant doctrines of Calvin, Luther and others. King Philip tried unsuccessfully to root out such heresies with the inquisition tactics of persecution and executions. He could not fully accomplish his goal of exterminating heretics, however, without a strong and loyal Catholic leader on site in the Netherlands. In 1567 Philip dispatched the Duke of Alba to march north from Milan at the head of a Spanish army to take charge of the Netherlands. Those suspected of holding sympathy for Protestant ideas could suffer the loss of business, home, citizenship and even life.

In 1576 the Spanish mercenaries, defeated in the northern provinces and angry at their lack of pay, ran amok in Antwerp. The center of the city including the magnificent town hall and 1,400 houses was burned. The Spanish troops looted, pillaged and indiscriminately killed anyone they encountered in the streets. More than 7,000 people lost their lives. Antwerp was virtually put out of business and most of the foreign merchants packed up and left. The Duke of Alba completed the commercial ruin of Antwerp by enacting a crippling sales tax known as the Dixieme Denier. In addition to all this, the Protestants to the north blockaded the mouth of the River Scheldt.



The earliest surviving Hans Ruckers instrument - 1581 -
at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Until 1585, Antwerp was contested: an important crossroads of commerce and art astride the boundary between Catholicism and Protestantism. Many talented and educated citizens fled, most to other parts of Europe, some to the New World. It was a time of great disruption; Antwerp lost over half its population, declining to less than 45,000.

Through all this, it appears that Hans Ruckers was regarded as a Catholic in good standing. For example, from the marriages of his children into Catholic families it may be inferred that Ruckers was a Catholic. In fact, one of his children was baptized secretly during the brief period of Protestant rule in Antwerp. Furthermore, his business continued during the religious persecution by the Catholic administration which affected other artists and artisans, many of whom had to leave the city.

There are also records of Hans' employment to repair and tune the organ of St. Jacobskerck and of that in the Antwerp Cathedral from 1591 onwards. It seems highly unlikely that the rectors would have employed a Protestant for this important work.

Finally, in 1585, after a long siege, Antwerp fell to the Spanish forces and for the next 130 years the Southern Netherlands provinces remained under Spanish control. Meanwhile, warfare was almost continual along the shifting border between the Protestant Netherlands in the north and the Spanish Netherlands to the south. The fighting periodically became more fierce as France and England occasionally entered the fray.



Map of the Netherlands from Flemish Cities.
Their History and Art, by Wm. Gaunt & Paul Elek.

However, some measure of prosperity did return after 1585. The Dutch Protestants even permitted shipping to resume on the Scheldt, although they extracted heavy duties for the privilege.

In European cities of the time, anyone wishing to pursue a career as an artist or artisan found it imperative to seek admission to the local guild. In Antwerp this was the Guild of St. Luke. Admission was granted only after an extensive apprenticeship with a "master." Such apprenticeships sometimes lasted two or more decades and politics often played a role in obtaining an apprenticeship as well as eventual admission to the guild. It is also not surprising that guild membership tended to run in families.

The guild consisted of masters in such skilled trades as painters, framers, printers and bookbinders, but until 1557 there was no category for harpsichord makers. During that year ten instrument makers applied for recognition as masters of that new trade. Their petition for membership as "Claversinbalmakerre" was granted. While the term implies they made clavichords their instruments were clearly sophisticated enough to be termed harpsichords from the beginning, although that term appears not to have been in common use until several decades later. It appears that all the instruments made by these artisans were called virginals at the time, regardless whether they were upright or horizontal.

It is probable that Hans Ruckers was "taken in" as an apprentice by one of these initial artisans and in 1579 he was admitted to the Guild of St. Luke. Citizenship was usually a requirement in the guild. Hans did not become a full citizen until 1594, so he may have obtained special dispensation to become a member of the guild as an "outside citizen."

In 1584 Hans Ruckers rented a house on Jodenstraat. In 1597 he purchased this house. Over the years some of the world's most famous musical instruments emerged from its front door. Well over a hundred instruments made by the Ruckers family survive. Five of them can definitely be attributed to Hans.

In terms of original design, Hans was apparently the first to build virginals with a regular four-foot stop as well as instruments with two keyboards. He probably got this idea from his familiarity with multiple keyboard organs. Virginals with two keyboards were called "mother and child."

Concerning Hans Ruckers, Dr. Lambrechts-Douillez states, "His name was not even known [as an instrument builder] in 1557 and by 1580 he was established as the most prominent builder, being able to monopolize one of the most important crafts in instrument building of the 16th. and 17th centuries. From Hans to Joannes Couchet harpsichord building in Antwerp was directed by this family."

Hans Ruckers died in 1598, but two of his sons were well prepared to continue the thriving harpsichord building business he had established.

END PART 1.
 IN THE NEXT ISSUE: THE FOLLOWING GENERATIONS

I would like to thank those who provided excellent input by responding to the Aug. 1991 Query of the Quarter:

- o Joe and Lee Sites, Fairfax, Virginia
- o Jon S. Rucker, Manassas, Virginia
- o Lorraine and Frank Lee Vail, Bakersfield, CA
- o Henry C. Vaiden, III, Augusta, Georgia
- o Alice Rucker Allen, Austin, Texas
- o Jean B. Robinson, Richmond, Virginia

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Luther and Lillian McWhorter, married 9 Aug. 1941, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 9th of August 1991 with a surprise get together in their backyard at Odenville, Alabama. The party was given by their seven children. It was attended by 87 members of the family from California, Florida, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, and Alabama. It was a three day affair and a great time was had by all.

Lillian Elizabeth (Corum) McWhorter is the great-great-granddaughter of Richard "Dick" Edwin Rucker (b. 15 Mar. 1829, Greene Co., KY; d. 13 Oct. 1912, Munfordville, KY) and Harriet Thomas McCorkle (1827-1878).

Submitted by Lillian's sister, Opal A. Cox, Bogard, MO.



IN MEMORIAM

Donald O. Burford, 71, died 12 Jan. 1991 in Okeechobee, Florida. He was born 22 Feb. 1919 in Charleston, West Virginia, to Peter V. and Anna R. (Bess) Burford. During World War II, while stationed in Cincinnati, Ohio, he married Leah Anne Schare of that City. After the war, they made their residence in Dayton, Ohio, until 1962 when the family moved to Lake Worth, FL. Mr. Burford was in the automotive repair business for 40+ years.

He descends from the Ruckers as follows: Peter¹, John², Ambrose³, Mary⁴ who married James Burford, Reuben⁵ Rucker Burford, Hezekiah⁶ Burgess Burford and Peter⁷ Vincent Burford.

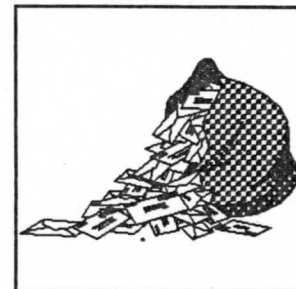
He is survived by his wife, Leah, daughter Leslie A. Cabral, son-in-law Manuel Cabral, and three grandchildren: Donald Lee, Dwayne Edward, and Leah Marie Cebal.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison Rucker, of Richmond, VA, widow of Edmund Harrison Rucker (see The Rucker Society Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 7, and Wood, p.54) blessedly died in her sleep on 16 November 1991. Born 18 Nov. 1903, in Greensboro, NC, she attended Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. Elizabeth lived in Richmond, VA, and was a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of VA, The Woman's Club, St. James's Episcopal Church. She raised two children and loved to babysit her seven grandchildren. Her second love was working in her garden and growing beautiful flowers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"Does anyone know the ancestor of Kemper Davies who married Elizabeth McDaniel? Wood, p.415 (bottom), said he was a brother of Dr. Landon Davies of Amherst County, VA. Their daughter, Pauline Davies married Welden Burwell Parks (Wood, p.446). He was born 21 March 1809, the nearest associated date I have. They are my great grandparents. I would like to write to anyone who might know anything about Kemper Davies and his ancestry." Florence Parks Rucker Collins, Lake Minchumina, AK 99757



"Would like to correspond with anyone who is a descendant of Ambrose³ Rucker (John², Peter¹) and his daughter, Mary⁴, who married James Burford (Wood, p.114). Their son, Reuben⁵ Rucker Burford left Amherst Co., VA, in the 1840's and settled in Kanawha County (now West Virginia) where his heirs lived and died in and around the Charleston area. I descend through Reuben's son Hezekiah⁶ Burgess Burford, and Peter⁷ Vincent Burford, and Donald⁸ O. Burford (my father)." Leslie (Burford) Cabral, 5601 South 37th Court, Greenacres, FL 33463.

"While doing research on my maternal grandfather's line (the Greenlee family), I found a publication by the Iowa Adjutant General's office, printed in 1910, listing all those who served in that state's volunteer infantry during the Civil War. In that volume, I found the names of five Ruckers: Cornelius, James, Aaron, Ambrose N., and Levi. Intrigued, I spent some time with the census records and identified the families from which these young men came.

"As is well known, many Ruckers settled in Ohio in the early 1800s. In turn, some moved to Iowa in the mid-century. I have a complete list of Ruckers in the 1850 census records of Ohio and 1860 census records of Iowa and will be happy to send copies to any member of the Society whose research may benefit." From Charles W. Bellamy, 7727 -100 Caminito Monarca, Carlsbad, CA 92009.

(Editor's note: Lemuel³ Rucker [James², Peter¹] moved to Ohio and many of his descendants are listed in the 1850 Ohio census. See Wood, p.256. One interesting note on p.258, Ambrose⁴ Rucker, son of Lemuel³, married twice and had 20 children over a period of 40 years.)

Query from the Editor: Lemuel³ Rucker married Ann Booton in 1783. Was she any kin to Ambrose Booton who married Tomagen Rucker? See James Cave's letter, next page.

NATURALIZATION (from p.10): Gabriel Maupin was the leader of French Huguenots sailing from England to Yorktown, Va, March 1700 on the Nassau (NSCDA - Colonial Dames - records). In The Huguenot publication #29, Gabriel Maupin petitioned for naturalization on 15 April 1705. This is evidence that there was no 14 year residency requirement in the early 1700s. Peter Rucker was naturalized 24 April 1704. Did he arrive in early 1699?

At Lloyd's of London there is a huge register book of sunken ships giving the dates of sinking and location. If anyone is going to London, will they search for a shipwreck in 1699 or 1700 along the coast of Virginia?

1992 RUCKER REUNION, OCTOBER 10 & 11, FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

Make your plans to attend the third national Rucker Reunion, Oct. 10 and 11, 1992, in Fredericksburg, VA. Our biennial meeting will be held at Vauter's Church, Essex County, at 10:30 a.m., Saturday morning.

BOOTON FAMILY

James W. Cave has submitted proof that Tomagen³ Rucker (Ephraim², Peter¹) was married first to Ambrose Booton (spelled Booton in most court records) in answer to his query in Volume 2, Number 2 Rucker Family Society Newsletter:

1. Peter³ Rucker sold land to Ambrose Booton, his first cousin (D. B. E, p.395, 14 Aug. 1767, Culpeper Co., VA, see Wood, p.11).

2. Account of Ambrose Booton's estate given in Culpeper Co., VA, W. B. B, p.14, 20 Feb. 1775, by Ephraim Rucker (his father-in-law).

3. Will of William Booton, proved 17 Apr. 1787, mentions deceased son Ambrose. One of the executors was Ephraim Rucker. Witnessed by Augustine Rucker, Tomagen's second husband (W. B. C, p.231, Culpeper Co., VA).

4. Will of Ephraim Rucker, prob. 28 Dec. 1797, mentions Tomagen Rucker's sons, John and Ambrose Booton (W. B. 1, p.348, Madison Co. VA).

Jim Cave submits additional information about his ancestry: Tomagen's son, John Booton, married Frances Clark, 24 Jan. 1786, Culpeper Co., Marriage Bond. Guardian Bond of orphan children of John Booton, 11 Feb. 1819 (W. B. 3, Madison Co., VA): Jemima Booton, Thomas M. Booton, John Booton, Rhoda Booton, Frances Booton, and Elizabeth Booton, orphans of John Booton. Signed Frances Booton, James Clark, Larkin Rucker.

Daughter Elizabeth Booton married Abner Cave, marriage license dated 8 Apr. 1834, Madison Co., VA, signed by Frances Booton, saying she was of age. They had one child, James Clark Cave, Jim Cave's great grandfather. Thanks, Jim, for you contribution.

QUERY OF THE QUARTER is the creation of Michael P. Rucker. In the February 1992 newsletter, Mike will devote his article to additional family members who made the harpsichords. The May newsletter will contain information about the harpsichords. He would like to have pictures of any Ruckers harpsichords and their location. Send further information on this subject to Mike at 1003 W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.

OGDEN FAMILY

Descendants of Benjamin Ogden and Agnes Rucker (Wood, p.162) might be interested in receiving The Ogden Newsletter. Write to W. Henry Ogden Jr., 1801 Ardath, Wichita Falls, Texas 76301.

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

The Rucker Family Society - Officers and Board Members:

Rod Mason - President
 Roland Pittman - Vice President
 Lewis M. White - Treasurer
 Charles D. Robinson - Secretary
 Jean B. Robinson - Newsletter Editor
 Alice Rucker Allen

Doris W. Edwards
 Jeanne Fallen
 A. McDaniel Rucker
 Mary Rucker Snyder
 E. W. Taylor
 Anna D. Watson

A new slate of directors will be presented to the membership to be voted on at the next reunion, October 10, 1992. Some board members will run again and others will not. Any volunteers who would like to serve, please let the editor know. We especially need people who can help us plan the 1994 reunion, tentatively planned for Bedford County, VA.

REMINDER to members:

1. Please send your family history and lineage charts to Mrs. Doris W. Edwards, 2017 43rd S.E. #U-2, Grand Rapids MI 49508.
2. Please send your 1992 dues, any donations, and address changes to Mr. Lewis M. (Jack) White, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181.
3. Send genealogical questions and articles to the newsletter editor, Mrs. Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.
4. Send suggestions for the society to the President, Mr. Rod Mason, 5015 Battery Lane #602, Bethesda, MD 20814.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$5.00 for 1992 Membership, now due: _____

Reprint of Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy, sold out,
 please check if you are interested in a future reprint: _____

Donations for the Cemetery Repair and
 Historical Marker fund: _____

please print:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

I descend from _____, child of Peter¹ Rucker.

Please make check payable to The Rucker Society and mail to:

Mr. Lewis M. (Jack) White, Treasurer
 9751 Firth Court
 Vienna, VA 22181.

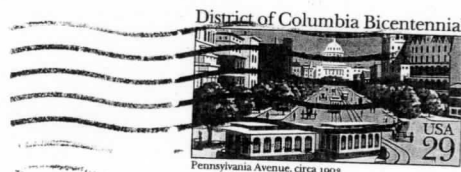
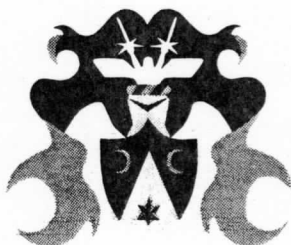
PETER RUCKER'S ARRIVAL: Thoughts from Thad Morris, 3506 Hillstone Court, Atlanta, GA 30319: Was Peter Rucker a huguenot? Did Peter Rucker, arrive in 1699 or 1700, not 1690 as written in Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy, p.1?

WAS PETER RUCKER A HUGUENOT: From The Huguenot, publication no. 29, 1779-1981: Petition of Cyprian Prou, Peter Rucker, Isaac Garret, and others, 24 April 1704 (source: Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. 1, p. 390). The editor of the article commented: "The names of some, including Peter Rucker, have apparently been Anglicized." Thad's comment: "If the Huguenot Society publishes it in their own magazine, who am I to argue?" (Letter dated 28 Aug. 1991.)

NATURALIZATION LAWS: From the Encyclopedia of American History, by Richard B. Morris, 1953, p.129: The Naturalization Act of 1795 required 5 years residence and that was changed to 14 years by the Naturalization Act passed 18 June 1798. However, that act was repealed in 1802 and the Naturalization Act of 1795 was reenacted. (Letter from Thad Morris, 9 Sept. 1991.) Was this 14 year residency, by chance, what Sudie Rucker Wood was basing her theory that Peter Rucker arrived in America in 1690?

In Hening's Statutes, Vol. 3 & 4 (the early laws of Virginia), it says that anyone not of British birth must be naturalized in order to sell or leave land by inheritance. There is nothing that states a residency requirement. Whenever anyone desired naturalization, he requested such from the Council of Colonial Virginia in Williamsburg.

See bottom of page 7 for another naturalization of that period.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED