

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

Number 3

August 1992

FAMILY PROFILE

Mary Doris Wright and James Eldred Edwards

50th Wedding Anniversary--July 23, 1992

Doris Wright Edwards is familiar to many of us as she is compiling all the descendants of Peter Rucker to place in the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA. When Doris started this project, she thought it would be an easy task and it wouldn't be difficult to contact all the descendants that she knew to make family group sheets. Little did she know that in a few years, the Rucker Family Society would form, giving her access to 300+ members and their families. She has been inundated with material that she has graciously shared with Mary Snyder for the Rucker Ruckus and Jean Robinson for the future update of the Rucker book.

Doris and Jim Edwards were married July 23, 1942, and celebrated their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** by flying to North Carolina in July for an Edwards family reunion, and will attend the Rucker family reunion October 10 & 11 in Fredericksburg, VA.

Jim, born in Cordova, NC, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in May 1940. He and Doris married and had one child before he was shipped out to the Pacific. Jim attained the rank of Aviation Chief Machinist Mate before he was discharged in 1946.



Doris and Jim Edwards

After the war, Jim worked as a credit analyst for Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. in Grand Rapids and later as a men's clothing salesman at Rogers Dept. Store, Western Michigan's largest Department Store.

Doris was born in Darlington, SC; attended school in Rockingham, NC; and graduated from Southeastern Business College, Florence, SC. She began work as a file clerk for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Charlotte, NC, and later was a secretary for North Carolina State Forest Service in Rockingham.

From Doris: "Jim and Doris married 23 July 1942, Rockingham, NC, after a courtship of four years. They lived in Corpus Christi, TX, where Jim was stationed in the Navy. Their first child, Jerry Lynn, was born 11 July 1943, and six weeks later Jim was sent to the Pacific to serve during World War II. Doris returned to NC to live with her widowed mother and they were encouraged by her mother's sister to move to Grand Rapids, MI, where there was a better job opportunity for Jim when he was discharged from the Navy in 1946. Since that time they have been blessed with three more children, Daniel Bryan, Karen Elizabeth, and James Vinton Edwards, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

"In 1979, Doris's life took on a new meaning that many of you will recognize--she became very interested in finding out more about her ancestors. As she was growing up, she never knew any of her Father's relatives. Knowing that her father was born and raised near Griffin, GA, she placed an article in a Griffin, GA, newspaper seeking help in tracing her ancestors. Only one person responded, but this led to many exciting experiences.



The Edwards Family - Christmas 1984

"Doris has found and restored the graves of her grandparents, Dr. Joseph Franklin Wright and Louisa Albina Ham, descendants of Stephen Hamm and Mildred³ Rucker, on the Monroe-Butts Counties, GA, line. She has also found the graves of John⁴ Ham (Mildred³, John², Peter¹) and Elizabeth Gatewood, near Elberton, Elbert Co., GA, and also the graves of William⁵ Ham (son of John⁴) and Mary Harden Smith of Monroe Co., GA. So far the lineage of Mary Harden Smith has not been determined.

"Doris's interest in placing Family Group Sheets at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA, began with her disappointment in not finding similar records at Libraries when she began her research in 1979. Since 1985, she has placed at the Virginia Historical Society, several notebooks containing Rucker Family Group Sheets, and has added to them each year. Many members of the Rucker Family Society have shared their family line so that they may be included in these records. At some future time, one of your own descendants may find the very records that you are currently contributing. Hopefully, their search will have been made a little easier and they will be proud to learn of their descent from Peter¹ Rucker, Immigrant, and his wife, Elizabeth."

Doris is a board member of the Rucker Family Society. Her line of descent: Doris⁸, Joseph⁷ Franklin Wright Jr., Louisa⁶ Albina Ham, William⁵ Ham, John⁴ Ham, Mildred³ Rucker, John² Rucker, Peter¹ Rucker.

Back Row (l. to r.): **James Vinton Edwards, JAMES (Jim) ELDRIDGE EDWARDS, Robert Todd Edwards, Scott Alan Edwards, Michael Lynn Edwards, **Daniel Bryan Edwards.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Pamela Parker Edwards, Angela Edwards, Susan Isaacs Edwards, DORIS WRIGHT EDWARDS, Bruce Cernak, **Karen Edwards Cernak, **Jerry Lynn Edwards.

Front Row (l. to r.): Laura Marie Edwards, Kelly Cernak, Christopher Cernak, Jay Edwards, Bryan Edwards (striped shirt), Bradley Edwards, Justin Jon Kronemeyer (step-grand son).

** children of Doris and Jim Edwards.

The Rucker-Eaves House

By Michael P. Rucker

"Take your place in North Carolina history."

Under that banner, The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina recently advertised the Rucker-Eaves House, in Rutherfordton. The house is located at 611 North Washington Street (known in 1870 as Back Street).

The ad described it as a "two-and-a-half story 1870 Gothic Revival. Decorative hand-painted ceilings in hall and parlor. Ten rooms, eight fireplaces, two porches, bay window. In foothills of Blue Ridge Mountains. 4,414 square feet, 2 acre lot. \$49,000."

Another bulletin stated, "A steeply pitched roof, decorative bargeboard, and dormers are perfect backdrops for the uniquely Gothic triangular-shaped windows in the third floor dormers. The house also has two covered porches and three bay windows."

According to Barbara Wishy, a foundation representative, the foundation looks for people "who appreciate the historic aspect" of the properties. The foundation found such people in Bob and Pat Trautmann who purchased the Rucker-Eaves House for \$45,000 in June, 1991. They estimate that another \$45,000 may be necessary to return the historic dwelling to its prime. The Trautmanns purchased it as a retirement home and will move there in 1994 after Bob and Pat retire from their teaching positions at Valdosta State College and South Georgia College respectively.

The history of the house provided by the foundation indi-



cates that the house was built by Dr. James⁵ Laxton Rucker (William⁴, Mordecai³, William², Peter¹, see Wood, p.248) for his bride Susan Elizabeth Fanning. It states, "Dr. Rucker was a much loved and highly respected physician in the town and served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army. Upon his return from service in the Civil War, he married Miss Fanning, established his medical practice and built the large house. Dr. Rucker maintained his office in the home, using rooms on the south side for treating the ill. It is also reported that he had a small operating room on the second floor of the house."

The house was inherited by Dr. Rucker's daughter Myra Laurissia Rucker, who married Robert S. Eaves, a prominent local attorney.

Of particular interest are the painted ceilings in the parlor and hallway. The foundation reports that two other buildings in the South have similarly

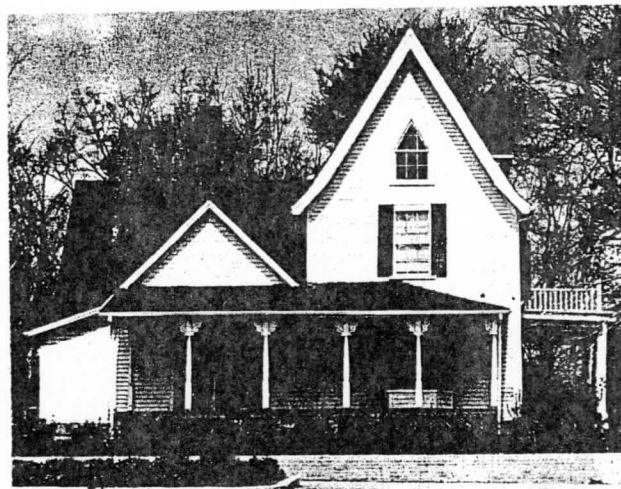
painted ceilings; in fact, it appears that the same stencils were used in all three instances. Additionally, the painter used the same style free-hand painting in all three, leaving little doubt that the same individual executed all three. For historians, the discovery gives some insight on itinerant painters of the day.

The other two building with similar ceilings are the Damascus Methodist Church in Lumpkin, GA, and the Calhoun-Perry House in Chireno, TX. The ceilings in several other rooms in the Rucker-Eaves House have been covered with gypsum board giving rise to speculation that similar paintings may lie in wait for restoration.

Restoration of the two exposed ceilings (and any others found to be decorated) will probably fall to Pat Trautmann who anticipates the possibility of having to "get up on my back like Michelangelo" to accomplish the job.



Detail of Hand Painted Ceilings



Side view of Rucker-Eaves House

Rucker-Eaves Line of Descent:

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      Peter1 Rucker m. Elizabeth
        |
      William2 Rucker m. Honar
        |
    Mordecai3 Rucker m. Susannah Allen
        |
    William4 Martin Rucker m. Lavina Lynch
        |
  *Dr. James5 Laxton Rucker m. Elizabeth Fanning
        |
    Myra6 Laurissia Rucker m. Robert Spencer Eaves
        |
  Robert7 Eaves  **Elizabeth7 Eaves  Rupert7 Eaves
                  |                   |
                ***Spencer8 Eaves  Myra8 Eaves
    
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* Dr. James L. Rucker--Builder of the Rucker-Eaves House

** Elizabeth Eaves Waldin--Owner of the house when sold in 1990

*** Spencer and Judy Eaves live in Gastonia, NC, and have been contacted by Mike Rucker.

Four Generations who lived in the House:

- 1st Dr. James L. Rucker
- 2nd Myra Rucker Eaves
- 3rd Robert, Dr. Rupert, and Elizabeth Eaves Waldin
- 4th Dr. Spencer Eaves, Myra Eaves

(Source: "Reflections," 5 Apr. 1972, newspaper article from the scrapbook of Miss Lona Logan, "Old Tyron Historical Collection," Isothermal Community College Library.)

Celebration--100th Birthday Minnie Rucker Bazler



Minnie Mabrum Rucker was born November 8, 1892, at the family home in Amherst County, VA. The home in which she grew up was pictured in Vol. 3, Issue 1, page 3, of this newsletter, featuring her brother Warner Rucker.

The second oldest of ten children, Minnie's parents were James⁶ Madison Rucker and Janie Ellis Duff. (See Wood, p. 112.) Minnie graduated from Pleasant View High School and attended summer sessions at Harrisonburg State Teachers College (now James Madison University). She taught school for several years in Amherst County.

Later she attended Business School in Salem, Virginia, and served as a Navy Yeomanette at Hampton Roads, Virginia, during World War I. After the war, she worked as a secretary at Columbus Varnish Company, Columbus, Ohio.

Minnie was nearing the age of 32 and spinsterhood when she was married October 15, 1924, to Frank Hays Bazler, in Columbus, Ohio. Her only child is Frank Ellis Bazler, born January 17, 1930, who contributed the material for this article. Son Frank is a lawyer in Troy, Ohio.

After the death of her husband, Frank, in 1944, Minnie became the Vice President and Treasurer of Bazler Transfer & Storage, Inc. She retired in 1958.

Until 1980 Minnie was a very busy lady. She was active in the Maynard Avenue Methodist Church in Columbus and served as a member of the board for 46 years. She was a delegate to the West Ohio Methodist Conference, taught Sunday School, and was past president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

During the 1930s, she was member of Eastern Star, and served as Royal Matron of Pallas Court of the Amaranth Lodge. She was a member and past president of the Glen Echo Child Welfare League, and a member and past vice-president of the Clintonville Women's Club.

She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Whetstone Chapter, Columbus, Ohio.

Minnie is presently living at Dorothy Love Retirement Community, an Ohio Presbyterian Home in Sidney, Ohio. She will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 8th, and I know she would enjoy receiving cards and letters from her Rucker relatives to help her celebrate a century of life. Send them to Minnie Rucker Bazler, Dorothy Love Retirement Community, 3003 West Cisco Road, Sidney, OH 45365.

Congratulations, Minnie, on your 100th Birthday.

Questions and Answers

CLAIBORNE⁶ RUCKER (William⁵, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹), b. @1831 (age 19 in 1850 census), Grainger Co., TN, m. 21 Oct. 1848, 1st cousin, ELIZABETH⁶ DALTON (Delphia⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹), b. @1826 (age 24 in 1850 census). Two children were listed in the 1850 census, in Grainger Co., TN: 1. Sarah Rucker, b. @1849 (age 1); 2. William, b. @1850 (age 6 months).



Claiborne and his family are not listed in the 1860 census in TN. I need help in locating where this family moved and the names and ages of the children. (Whitley, p.129-131, lists 5 children but gives no proof.) Also, would like to correspond with any descendants.

Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

SHIPWRECKS UPDATE: Paul Shearman of Fredericksburg travels frequently to London. His aunt, Ethel McDonnell, of Portland, Oregon, asked him to search the records at Lloyds of London. He was sad to report that records do not go back far enough to help us with our immigrant ancestor, Peter Rucker. He said they began registering ships in 1764 and shipwrecks in 1890. He also said there was no one big book, but many small books. Paul has recently moved to Virginia from Oregon and plans to attend the reunion in October.

Paul, the family thanks you for taking time out of your busy schedule to look up this information for us.

New member, ARTHUR. E. DIVINE, would like to purchase a copy of Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy if one is available.

If anyone has a copy of the last printing (now sold out) that they would be willing to sell, please contact Mr. A. E. Divine, 419 Aqua Vista Dr., Granbury, TX 76049.

RONALD PAYNE descends from Colby⁴ Rucker (Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹) through daughter Nancy who married Moses Payne. He supplied much information about Moses Payne, including a copy of the Family Bible that is filed with his pension papers at the Treasury Dept. in Washington D.C. It is nice to have the birth, marriage, and death dates of Moses Payne and his wife, Nancy Rucker, and the birthdates of their children.

Ron would like additional information about Colby Rucker, his ancestors and descendants. He would be willing to share information. Write Ronald F. Payne, Route 3, Box 20, Falkville, AL 35622.

In Memoriam

W. R. "Bob" RUCKER, died 10 Nov. 1991, of a heart attack at his home in Dallas, Texas. He was 78 years old and had received the 1987 Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, North Texas University. Bob served as board chairman of Rucker and Associates Inc. in Dallas, TX. He is survived by his wife, Inez Rucker, a son Bill Rucker of Dallas, a daughter, Cindy Patraw of Irving, TX, and two grand-children. (Newspaper article contributed by Bennie Loftin, Kiowa, OK.)

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THYRA BLACK WOOD, died 20 June 1992, in Richmond, VA. She was the widow of William Price Wood Jr. and daughter-in-law of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of The Rucker Family Genealogy. Thyra was born 23 Dec. 1909 in Wilmington, North Carolina, the daughter of Captain Daniel Jasper Black and Hyacinth Patterson. She is survived by two sons: Timothy Ward Wood II, and William Price Wood III; and two grandsons: William Erin Wood, and Taylor Fielding Wood, sons of Price Wood and Sharon Bridges. (Obit, Richmond Times Dispatch.)

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MAX⁹ McQUEEN RUCKER (Max⁸, Benson⁷, Andrew⁶ Wooley, John⁵ Burton, Burton⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹), son of Max Rucker and Eva Grace Sanders, died of a stroke, 11 July 1992, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Born 8 Dec. 1930, Max was 61 years old. He was married to Hazel Colquett, later divorced. He was the owner of Southwestern Lumber Company in Shreveport. Max is survived by his mother, Eva Rucker, and one sister, Cathleen, both of Montgomery, AL. Burial was at Robinson Springs Cemetery, Millbrook, AL. (Obituary notice from his cousin, Frances Evans, Atlanta, GA.)

LETTER FROM HILDA FEAGANS LARSON, of Roanoke, VA, niece of Warner Rucker, Family Profile, Vol. 3, no. 1: "The Ruckers were very musical and most played more than one instrument. They really had a band in their home. Warner was very talented in guitar, banjo, and fiddle [violin]. Girlie was a well known jazz pianist. Girlie and Warner often played in bands around in the area." Hilda has been helpful in updating the descendants of James⁶ Madison Rucker, in Wood, p.112.

Letter from the Editor

Please send articles and information for the newsletter to: Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, Va 23226. Phone #1-804-358-3185.

Membership runs from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st each year. Dues are \$5.00 and are due in January. Included are four newsletters and notice of the biennial reunions. Back copies of this years newsletters will be sent if you join later in the year. Dues are being kept low to encourage donations to the cemetery repair fund.

Check should be made out to The Rucker Society and mailed to: Mr. Lewis M. White, Treasurer, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181

The Rucker Ruckus is a separate newsletter, cost \$15.00 yearly, send to Mary Snyder, 1516 Elliot Dr., Jeffersonville, IN 47130.

FGS-Family Group Sheets

Doris Edwards says she receives packets of material every day, some up to 150 pages long. It is very expensive for her to duplicate these records to share with Mary Snyder, editor of the Rucker Ruckus and Jean Robinson, editor of the Rucker Society Newsletter. Therefore she suggests that each person xerox three copies to send to each of us. We would appreciate your doing us this favor. If you feel you can only send one copy, please now send them to Jean Robinson and she will forward copies to the others. Please let us know when you are sending three copies, so that we won't duplicate efforts. Thank you.

Doris W. Edwards, 2017 43rd S.E. U-2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.
 Mary R. Snyder, 1516 Elliott Drive, Jeffersonville, IN 47130.
 Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

Note--If you have your family lineage on computer, and have an IBM compatible, please send your material to Jean Robinson on 2S/HD Disks, either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" disks will do. You can imagine the time saver this would be. If possible, please try to follow the format used in Sudie Rucker Wood's book, The Rucker Family Genealogy.

Remember, when you send in your lineage charts, please include proof: copies of Family Bibles (with title page), cemetery records, court records, marriage records, census records, and other proof of your line. Proof is especially essential if your line is NOT included in Sudie Rucker Wood's book. Remember genealogy books today are not accepted by genealogists unless backed up with proof. We need to know from where your information came, even if it was "Great-Aunt Lucy."



Bill and Doris Camden

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Doris and Bill Camden celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 13, 1992, with an open house given by their three children: Lt. Commander William L. Camden Jr., USN (Ret.), of Bellaire, TX; Nancy Hauser of Horton, MI; Karen Welsh of LaFontaine, IN; and two grandchildren: Milo and Tonya Welsh.

Doris grew up in Keokuk, IA, and Bill in Excelsior, MN. They were married at St. Louis, MO, June 5, 1942.

Doris, a Rucker descendant, has written her memoirs about her early days in Keokuk, IA, on the Mississippi River, called "I Remember..." Cost is \$9.95 plus \$2.00 postage. Send to Doris McManis Camden, P. O. Box 214, Warsaw, IN 46581-0214.

RUCKER REUNION OCT 9, 10 & 11, 1992
FREDERICKSBURG, VA

EACH PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING OWN ROOM RESERVATIONS:

1. The Sheraton Inn, Fredericksburg, rate \$65 per night/double. 50 rooms being held until September 9th. Phone # (703) 786-8321.
2. Fredericksburg Colonial Inn, rate \$45 per night, single/double; \$50 per night for a suite. Continental breakfast. Phone # (703) 371-5666.
3. Best Western, Thunderbird, rate \$36 per night single/double. Includes Continental breakfast. Ask for Helga. Phone # (703) 786-7404 or 1-800-528-1234.

SCHEDULE

Friday - October 9 - 4:00-6:00 - Board Meeting
 6:30-7:30 - Social Hour - Sheraton-Hospitality Room
 B.Y.O.L. Set-ups and food provided.

Saturday - October 10 - Meeting and Lunch at Vauter's Church, Essex Co.
Bus Trip will be available - Cost \$6.50 per person (We need 46 people to be able to reserve a bus) - depart Sheraton at 8:15 a.m., Best Western at 8:30, Colonial Inn at 8:45. Return by 5:00 p.m.

9:30 - Registration and refreshments
 10:00 - 12:00 - Meeting
 12:30 - 1:30 - Catered Lunch, cost \$13.00 per person
 2:00 - 4:00 - Meeting and bus tour of the area
 6:30 - 8:00 - B.Y.O.L. Social Hour at Sheraton-Hospitality Room

Sunday - October 11

Meeting & Buffet Lunch - at the Sheraton Inn (I-95 & Route 3)

9:00 - 10:00 - Newly Elected Board Meeting
 10:00 - 12:00 - Meeting
 12:30 - 1:30 - Lunch, cost \$13.00 per person

REGISTRATION FORM Sign up as soon as possible.

Registration Fee - \$2.50 per person	# _____	people	cost \$ _____
Bus Trip - \$6.50 per person	# _____	people	cost \$ _____
Meeting & Lunch - Sat, Oct. 10th - Vauter's Church			
Cost \$13.00 per person	# _____	people	cost \$ _____
Meeting & Lunch - Sun, Oct. 11th - Sheraton Inn			
Cost \$13.00 per person	# _____	people	cost \$ _____

(Meals include tax & gratuity)

Total Cost \$ _____

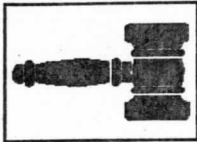
Names: _____

Address: _____

Make check payable to The Rucker Society, mail with form to:

Ms. Carolyn Billups
 440 Tanglewood Court
 Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Note From The President



Tempus fugit! It is less than eight weeks until our Rucker clan gathers again in Fredericksburg and Essex County, VA. We are looking forward to renewing many friendships with "Cousins" we've met at past reunions, and meeting many more for the first time at this one. A number of reservations are already in, but we are anticipating many more. Please make your reservations NOW before you lay this newsletter aside and let it slip your mind. It is very important to the reunion committee to have an early count on the expected attendance for planning purposes. If your plans have to be canceled later, we will make a full refund if we are notified by Oct. 8th.

A Registration form is on page 9. Please send it in promptly. The three hotels/motels are all holding rooms for us at a special rate, but can only hold them so long. Please let them know immediately if you plan to attend.

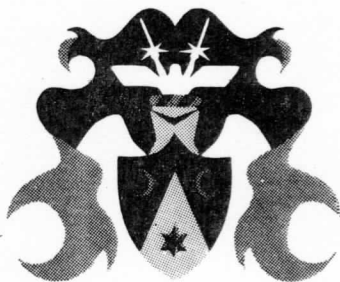
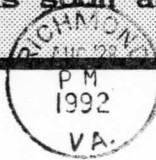
The reunion plans are developing nicely. Fredericksburg is a delightful colonial town, similar to what Williamsburg would have been without restoration. There are many sites to visit both in and around Fredericksburg. This is the town where George Washington grew up. "Walk in Washington's Footsteps" and visit Kenmore, plantation home of George Washington's sister, and his mother's, Mary Washington, home, both in Fredericksburg. There are many antique shops, boutiques, and restaurants. Nearby are four major Civil War battlefields. In Westmoreland County is Stratford, boyhood home of Robert E. Lee.

The real treat of the weekend will be the visit to Vauter's church in Essex County on Saturday. This was the area that Peter Rucker, immigrant, lived, worshiped, and raised his ten children. This is where the Ruckers had their earliest beginnings in America. We hope many will ride the charter bus(es) as several places we will visit are on private property with limited access and parking.

An election of officers and board of directors to serve the Rucker Family Society until the next reunion will be held at this one. If you are interested and willing to serve, or wish to suggest someone else, please contact Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226, (804) 358-3185, or Rod Mason, 5015 Battery Ln. #602, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 654-4818.

Best regards, Rod Mason

1992 RUCKER REUNION, OCTOBER 10 & 11, FREDERICKSBURG, VA
Registration Form on page 9
Please sign up as soon as possible



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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92 176
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED