

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

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June 1993

FAMILY PROFILE

Hannon and May Rucker of Amherst Co., VA

Imagine a charming, immaculately kept brick cottage on Tobacco Row Mountain as the evening lights of Lynchburg begin to flicker on in the distance. You have just finished a delightful meal highlighted by fresh home grown vegetables. Your host is strumming a popular ballad of yesteryear on his guitar. You're at

home with Hannon and May Rucker.

Hannon was born September 1, 1904, and has lived in Amherst County all his life. Hannon's occupation was a fruit grower and he also raised registered Hereford cattle. He and his brother Harry owned the largest peach and apple orchard in Amherst County. Their fruit was renowned for high quality. In addition to a thriving local trade, their fruit was often shipped all over the world. Hannon's interest in fruit trees included grafting new limbs and experimenting with the production of hybrid varieties of peaches and apples. Originally he grew winesaps, kinnards, pippins, black twig, and sheephead (a large white apple). He bowed to market pressure when the red delicious became popular and replanted almost entirely with that variety. Two of the apple trees on Hannon's property are well over one hundred years old. Hannon believes they were planted by his ancestral cousin Valentine, who was reported to be one of the County's first orchardists.

May, whose maiden name was Anna May Wiley, was born in Batavia, Ohio, and reared in Amherst County. She attended Phillips Secretary College and was a medical assistant for thirty years for a Lynchburg physician. May and Hannon were married June 25, 1926, and will be celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary on June 25th, 1993.

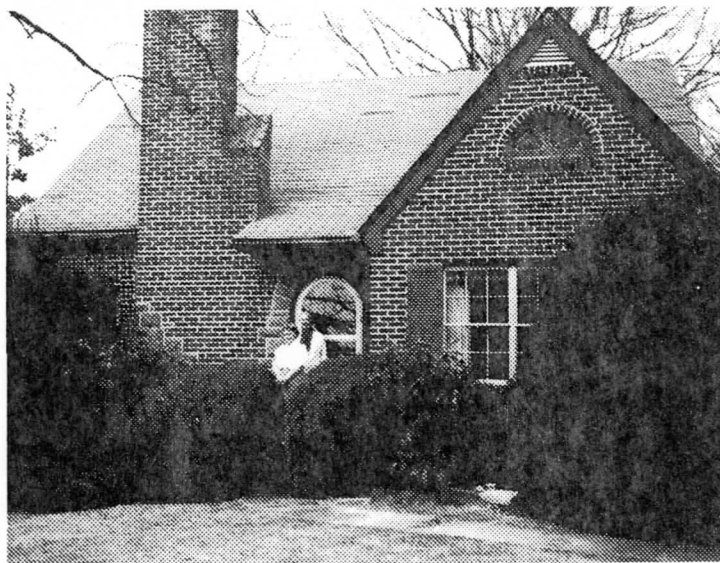


May is a lovely lady and enjoys visits from cousins. Hannon, who stood up at the 1988 Rucker Reunion and invited the family to meet in Amherst in 1990, and May were on the 1990 planning committee. May did more than her share by having the planning committee over for delicious dinners and get-togethers. Cooking is a specialty of May's and her home cooked dinners are a treat not to be missed.

Their only child, June Dare Rucker, was born 3 Mar, 1928, and died 20 July, 1980. June was a graduate of Mary Washington College and obtained her Masters Degree at Lynchburg College. June was a teacher in Amherst County for many years and became principal of the local Elon Elementary School. She was married to Wallace S. Bibb. June's only child, Jeffrey Wallace Bibb, graduated from Kenyon College in 1980 with a B. A. in English. Jeffrey has his own business in Monroe, Virginia, making and marketing web shoulder straps for stringed instruments. His high quality, decorative straps are used by many well known musicians.

Hannon has always been a busy, involved member of the community and the church. He is still an active member of the Ruritan Club and served as president in 1959. He was a member of the local organized militia during World War II and also was a member of the Farm Bureau and the Virginia State Horticultural Society. He served as an elder at Elon Presbyterian Church for 35 years. In 1987, as a tribute to his service, he was named Elder Emeritus.

Hannon has always been dedicated to his church. In 1941, with the help of Florence Lewis, a missionary to Africa, he worked to establish the local Indian Mission Church. He and Miss Lewis visited the local Indian village and gained about 50 church attendants. Hannon



Hannon and May's Cozy Cottage
at the foot of Tobacco Row Mountains
Overlooking the rolling hills of Amherst

volunteered as Sunday school superintendent and adult teacher while Miss Lewis taught the children. These were still horse and buggy days for the Indians, so Hannon and Miss Lewis often drove around the mountains to pick up their parishioners. Services were held in the Smyrna school building and began with Bible school. The Indians were poorly educated so they began by telling them stories of the life of Christ. Hannon remembers that "they were very responsive to everything we taught them, they wanted a church."

After the school building was sold by the county in 1943, Hannon led a drive to build a new church building on Cedar Gate Road. In 1944 the congregation moved into their new frame church, built by its members. Hannon acted as the volunteer general manager and teacher for the school. He handled all procurements, acted as treasurer, and even built fires in the wood stove before services. Hannon continued to serve as a lay preacher for the Indian Mission for many years and always enjoyed his involvement in the church's work. In 1977 he was honored with a special recognition service.

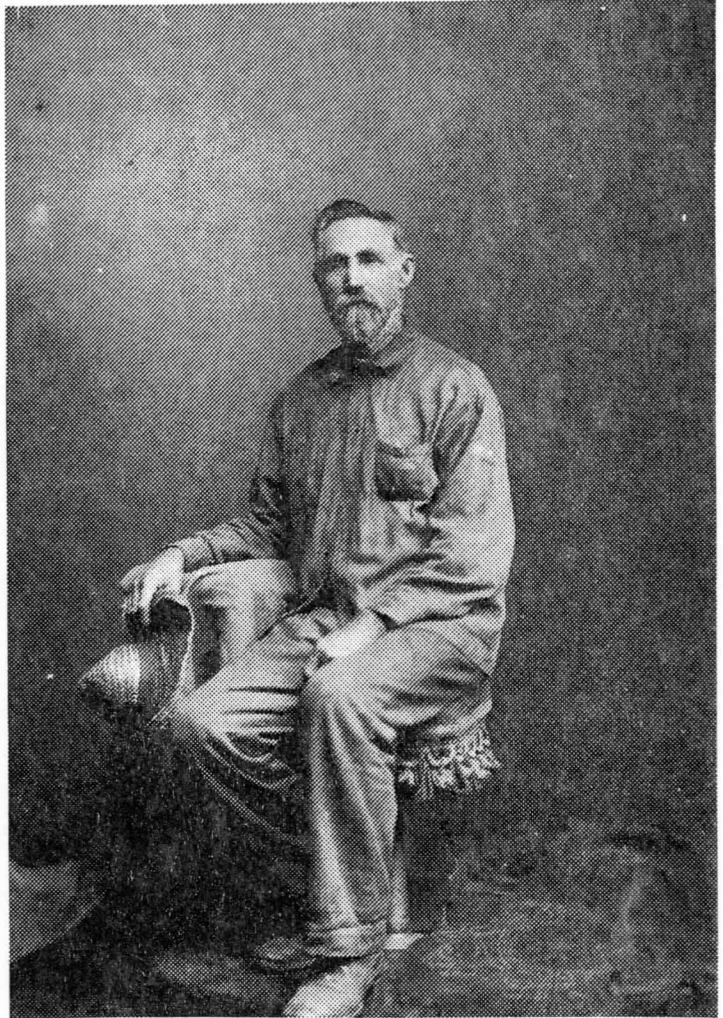
Along with his busy schedule at the orchard, Hannon found time to drive a county school bus. His first vehicle in 1925 was a Ford Model "T" truck outfitted with a covered body and side curtains that covered the body sides in bad weather. He recalls that, "It had a bench on each side, the back was wide open, and when the weather was warm, we would roll up the side curtains." For the initial eight student passengers, the four mile trip from Tobacco Row Mountain to Elon School was the first time they had ever ridden in a motor vehicle for any distance.

After hauling three generations of children over winding county roads in all sorts of weather, Hannon drove a school bus for the last time in June 1977. In contrast to the original Model "T," it was a sleek sixty-six passenger vehicle that he turned over to a new driver. He finished his career with a perfect safety record. His clear blue eyes sparkle as he tells of the icy roads, snow storms, fallen trees and axle-deep mud that seldom kept him from making his daily runs. He was always a good friend to children, encouraging them to get an education and to make the most of their lives.

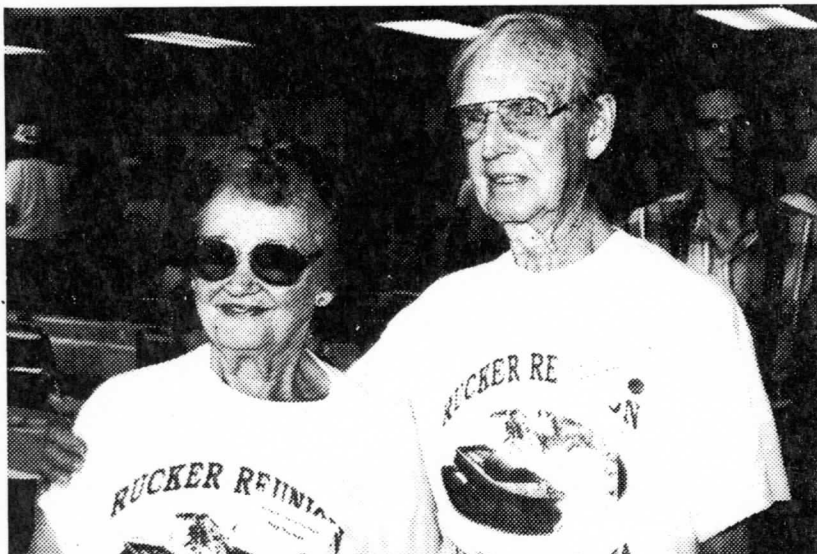
Hannon has maintained a lifelong interest in music. In addition to his active participation in the church choir, he is an accomplished stringed instrument performer. He still plays guitar, banjo and mandolin. During the 1920's he and his brother Harry played with a band for many local parties and dances. They often received requests to play in Lynchburg, but they could seldom accommodate their Lynchburg fans because the town was too distant. Furthermore, the pay was meager and the band was usually asked to continue playing well beyond the agreed upon three or four hours.

Another way in which Hannon has served his community is through his skill at finding ground water by dousing. He has helped hundreds of his neighbors to locate the best site for their wells by the use of his "peach tree switch divining rod."

In 1984 Hannon was treated to a ride in a recently constructed replica of a James River Batteau, a boat used for transporting cargo along the river. The first batteau was designed and constructed by Anthony and Benjamin Rucker and, appropriately, this batteau was christened "The Anthony Rucker." All Ruckers attending the 1990



Hannon's grandfather, JAMES ALEXANDER RUCKER



May and Hannon Rucker at the 1990 Rucker Reunion in their Rucker T-shirts.

reunion were offered a ride in one of the batteaux gathered for the annual batteau race.

The roots of many Amherst County residents run deep, but few are as well established as those of Hannon⁶ G. Rucker, son of Minnie⁶ Vivian Burford and Robert⁶ B. Rucker (James⁵ Alexander Rucker, Willis⁵, John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹, see Wood, p.135). Hannon is the sixth generation of Ruckers to live there since John² Rucker patented 5,850 acres in 1739. Hannon and May live just up the hill⁵ from the Graham Cove house, home of Ambrose⁵ Rucker (Wood, p.79).

Since his retirement this ramrod-straight mountain man spends many pleasant afternoons strumming his guitar, bringing to life songs popular many years ago, and recalling a wonderful lifetime on Tobacco Row Mountain; a time beginning before television, automobiles, paved roads and the hectic pace of modern life.

(Article by May Rucker, edited by Michael P. Rucker, Peoria, IL.)

J E A N N I E - A L O G Y

AMBROSE⁵ RUCKER MCDANIEL
OF VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY

4. Ambrose⁵ Rucker McDaniel (Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹), son of Margaret Rucker and John McDaniel, namesake of his illustrious grandfather, Ambrose Rucker, was born @1783 and was married first, to Olive Sandidge, 2 December 1804 (Amherst County marriage bonds). Olive, dau. of William Sandidge, had died by 1830, the date of her father's Will. Ambrose later remarried and was listed in the 1850 Barren Co., KY, census with wife, Mary M., age 63, born in VA.

While researching in Amherst County court records, I looked through the chancery papers. These are loose papers of the period, many actually written by these people, as opposed to the court book copied by a clerk. There are too many papers to read them all, but I did find some interesting papers of Ambrose Rucker McDaniel. Wood, on p.415, didn't find Ambrose Rucker McDaniel's will, written in Barren Co., KY, and recorded in Amherst as he had children still living there (Will Book 15, p.259, 13 Mar 1857, probated 22 Apr 1859, Amherst Co., VA).

Chancery Suits, Box 47, Lindsey D. McDaniel vs Ambrose R. McDaniel, Dabney Sandidge and others: Deposition of Dudley Sandidge, in Amherst Co., VA, 8 Oct 1857: ...Ambrose R. McDaniel made sale of [his] land and ...divided the proceeds among his children leaving one half in the hands of Dabney Sandidge in deferred payments for his four children Lucinda, Tamsey, John, and William who remained here and carried the remainder with him for his remaining four children who went to Kentucky.

Issue:

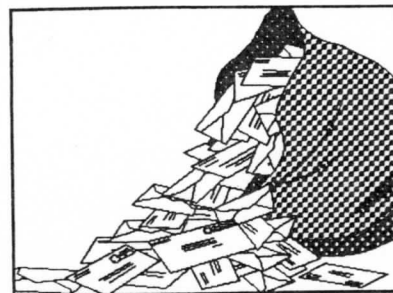
1. Lucinda⁶ McDaniel, b. @1805, m. 22 Sep 1831, Albert⁵ Henry Ogden (Agnes⁴ Rucker, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) (marriage bond: dau. of Ambrose McDaniel, sur. Anthony R. Ogden). Lucinda m. 2nd John M. Williams, 31 May 1843.
 2. William⁶ H. McDaniel, b. @1807, d. 24 May 1876; m. 15 Dec 1828, Sarah Tucker.
 3. John⁶ S. McDaniel, b. @1811; m. 22 Dec 1831, Rebecca⁵ Ann Ogden (Agnes⁴ Rucker, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) see RFSN, Vol 4, No. 1, p.5.
 4. Dabney⁶ H. McDaniel, b, @1814, d. Barren Co., KY.
 5. Tamsey⁶ Jane McDaniel, b. @1816, m. 2 May 1836, John Hayslett.
- Minors when mother died (Lindsey McDaniel, uncle, became guardian):
6. Lindsey⁶ D. McDaniel, b. @1820, d. between 1857 and 1859 (Records in Chancery Suits, Amherst Co., VA); m. 2 Sep 1841, Barren Co., Ky, Polina P. Hall.
 7. George⁶ McDaniel, b. @1822, d. by 1849, Barren Co., KY.
 8. Gideon⁶ McDaniel, b. 1 Jun 1824, d. 6 Feb 1907; m. 1849, Sarah _____, Barren Co., KY (tombstone).

(Source: Wood, p.114, 414; Amherst Co. Marriage Records, deeds, Wills, Chancery suit, Census records, research of Jean Robinson; info on William H. McDaniel from Mary Leigh Boisseau, Danville, VA; Barren Co., KY, Marriage and Cemetery Records, research of Mary Snyder.)

(Note: If anyone has found the marriage record of Ambrose Rucker McDaniel and his second wife, Mary M., please share it with the Editor.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LETTER FROM ALICE RUCKER, of Sylmar, CA: "My husband and I visited Richmond, VA, in the summer of 1990. It was a pleasure/casual trip. We had dropped our boy off at West Point that year for him to begin college. It doesn't seem possible that three years could have already passed. (He is still there! -it is a very tough school) Anyway, we poked our way down as far as Virginia and enjoyed the historical things of Boston, Philadelphia and Ruckersville. We met Marcus and Anna Watson and took a picture of the Ruckersville sign [highway marker] which had just been placed.



"Rucker genealogy is the most fun hobby I have. I am a church musician and do bookkeeping for my husband's ceramic tile business. I would, of course, love to find out someday that Peter Rucker, immigrant, descends from the famous harpsichord makers, Hans and Andreas Ruckers of Antwerp!!! (I own a harpsichord but it is not a Ruckers!)

"My little prayer is that...in my lifetime we discover the documentation needed to connect our European roots."

Note: Loren Rucker, husband of Alice, descends from Abner Rucker and Nancy Morton through son Julius, see Wood, p.157.

RUCKERS OF SCHUYLER CO., ILLINOIS:

The 1850 Schuyler Co., IL, census has the following:

Elihu Rucker	age 26	Sawer	\$50.	born in TN	(married
Cordeliu	16			IL	(within year
Ransom Rucker	30	Farmer		TN	
Newman Rucker	21	Laborer		"	
Eli Rucker	15	"		"	

I know that Ransom Rucker of Rutherford Co., TN, married Charlotte Manning in 1817...I think if I remember they moved to Illinois... What dates? Where? Where were they by 1850. Are these the children of Ransom and Charlotte? What do you know about the Schuyler County, Illinois, Ruckers? Please respond to Vic Castens, 525 E. Washington, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.

Will of JESSE BEAUCHAMP of Fayette Co., KY, leaves "to little grandson WILLIAM RUCKER." Father, JOHN RUCKER, has the option of choosing for his son one quarter fraction of good land in some of the new states lately laid off, or a negro girl, Lenne, and her increase. (Will Book E, p.100, dated 3 Nov 1819, prob. Dec Court 1819, Fayette Co., KY.) Question: Who was John Rucker who married the dau. of Jesse Beauchamp and had son William? Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226. (804) 358-3185.

TENNESSEE TIDBITS: From Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1791-1808, compiled by Sherida K. Eddlemon, 1988, submitted by Ron Payne, Falkville, AL.

August 30, 1806, Vol 1 #38: Wanted, a journeyman baker. Jeremiah Rucker.

February 14, 1807, Vol. 2 #62: I will give \$4 per 100 pounds for a quantity of good flour delivered to my shop in Nashville. J. Rucker.

December 17, 1807, Vol 3 #106: The copartnership of J. Rucker and Frederick Weuve is hereby dissolved by mutual Consent. Frederick Weuve.

Question from the Editor: Who was Jeremiah Rucker of Nashville, TN? Note: Jeremiah⁵ Rucker, son of Abner⁴ (Anthony³, John², Peter¹) and Nancy Morton, Wood, p.157, was married 3 Feb 1795, to Lucy Tanner. Please note that Jeremiah's parents, Abner Rucker and Nancy Morton, were married Feb. 1793. This could not be!

I think the Jeremiah Rucker who married Lucy Tanner was the son of James Rucker and Ann Morton, see Wood p.18. The two Jeremiahs were 1st cousins, the namesake of their grandfather, Jeremiah Morton, see Wood, p.327. He may also have been the Jeremiah in Nashville. If anyone has any information about these two Jeremiahs or is a descendant, please contact the Editor, Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226, (804) 358-3185.

A. E. DIVINE OF GRANBURY, TX, made the grand tour of his ancestors homes last fall. Among other places, he visited the stomping grounds of Caleb William and wife Nancy⁵ Rucker in Ruckerville, Clark Co., KY. He also visited Jessamine Co., KY, home of Nancy's parents, Isaac⁴ Rucker and Minty Ogden. Wood, p.65, said Isaac left a will in Versailles, KY. Actually he died intestate, having left all his property to his children in the 29 May 1833 Deed. The deed lists his children as: Catharine Rucker, Emaline Rumsey, Nancy Rucker, John, James Rucker (are John and James the same person or two people?), Benjamin Rucker, Elizabeth Rucker, William Rucker, and Sally Rucker. As you see, this differs slightly from Wood's. A. E. Divine's final stop before Richmond, was John³ Rucker's home, "Whitehall," in Amherst Co., VA. Has anyone else visited their ancestor's home in KY? The Editor would like to know.

LETTER FROM FLORENCE RUCKER COLLINS: "The March '93 issue of the Rucker Society Newsletter arrived..., and we all enjoyed seeing Mike's article about the Alaskan bit of the Rucker family. He did a nice job, we think! I've been corresponding with Mike for quite a while and finally got to meet him and his wife at a mini-reunion (descendants of Nell Rucker Magill)... Awfully nice folks! We also noted the article on the Alaska Highway. Dick (my husband) came to Alaska in the summer of '42 and worked on the highway for several months, before getting involved in the Civil Aeronautics Agency, which was setting up weather and aircraft radio communication stations across the state."

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BOARD MEETING AT PEAKS OF OTTER, BEDFORD CO., VA

The RFS Board met May 15 & 16 in Bedford County to organize the 1994 Rucker Reunion. Plans are progressing nicely and a fun weekend is planned for June 11 and 12, 1994. Plan to come early and visit the batteaux at Lynchburg on Friday evening, May 10th. The Bedford Historical Society Museum is open on Friday for genealogical research.

Saturday morning we will visit Poplar Forest, summer home of Thomas Jefferson (a unique home in the process of renovation), we will lunch at the old railroad station at Bedford, and we will tour Rucker homes in the afternoon. If everything works out, we will have a bus for transportation which worked out so well last year.

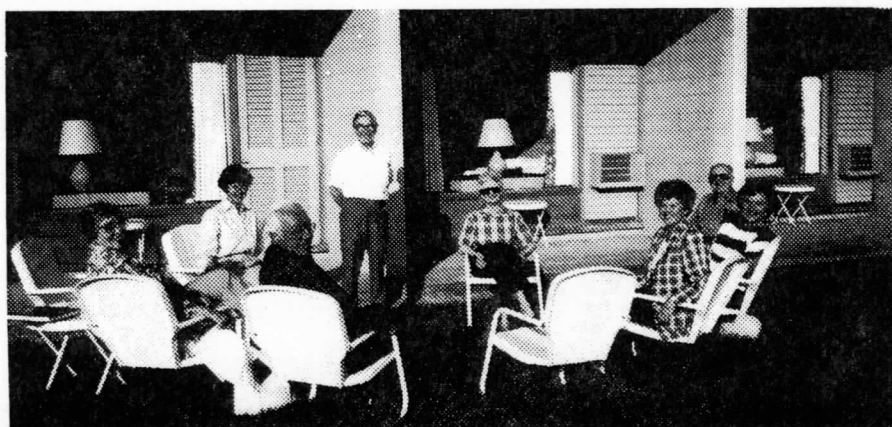
The Holiday Inn in Lynchburg will be headquarters for the group and a reception will be held there in the evening.

Chairman of the event is Jack White, native of Bedford County. His committee consists of Bill Rucker, Ruth McBride, Mary Johnson, Jim Rucker, Jean Robinson, and other members of the board.

Make your plans to come to Lynchburg for the 1994 Rucker Reunion.



Board Members and Reunion Committee at Peaks of Otter



RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY UPDATE

Some of you have been inquiring about the status of the Rucker Family Genealogy Update originally written by Sudie Rucker Wood in 1932. There has been a rumor going around that the deadline for submitting information is June 1993. I just wanted to let everyone know that there has been no deadline set for the gathering of material for the update, which I am in the process of preparing. I am researching all family lines and double checking the authenticity of the information in Wood's book.

If you have family sources to go along with your genealogy, I would greatly appreciate your sharing them with me. I need Family Bible records, tombstone inscriptions and cemetery records, census records, courthouse records--deeds, wills, marriage bonds, and anything that will help make a new book more accurate.

Genealogy is a matter of interpretation of available records, but first you must examine the records. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your genealogy and proof. Please continue to send family information to me: Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

RUCKER NOTEPADS: People have been asking how to get the Rucker Notepads showing Peter Rucker surviving the shipwreck on his arrival to America. They were designed by Edward J. Willis, my son, of Chesterfield, VA. Pads are \$5.00 each and envelopes are \$1.50 for ten, price includes postage. Send check, made out to Jean B. Robinson, to her at 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

HIGHWAY MARKER FOR RUCKER'S CHURCH: Ed and Marita Taylor of Amherst County, VA; Rod and Lou Mason of Bethesda, MD; Ruth McBride of Lynchburg, VA; and Mary Johnson of Amherst Co., VA, have been helping me locate the site of Rucker's Church, see references in Wood, p.70, 116, and 428. After much searching in the records and tramping through the woods, we have come to the conclusion that the ground has been plowed under and we may never find the evidence that Sudie Rucker Wood did on p.70. However, we know the approximate location and the board has approved plans to place a Highway Marker in Faulconerville, VA, to recognize the church founded by Col. Ambrose Rucker. Hopefully the marker will be in place for the 1994 reunion. If you would like to donate towards the marker, make a check out to The Rucker Society (for the Historical Marker Fund), send to Mr. Lewis M. White, Treasurer, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181.

IN MEMORIAM

Member #181, Mr. Stanley D. Rucker, 4606 Conner Street, Chattanooga, TN 37411, has died. His February, 1993, newsletter was returned with the notation that he was deceased. If anyone knew him, or has an obit, please write to the Editor.

250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

1993 is the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson and Virginia and his homeplace, Monticello, are having a year long celebration. Not only is Thomas Jefferson a very important figure in American History, he was a friend of the Rucker family.

He and Col. Ambrose Rucker were good friends and worked together during the Revolutionary War. When Ambrose needed a lawyer in a lawsuit, he contacted his friend T.J. Jefferson wrote back that he was too busy to take the case, but recommended Patrick Henry instead.

Thomas Jefferson's main claim to fame, as far as the Ruckers are concerned, was his testimony that Anthony and Benjamin Rucker were indeed the inventors of the batteau and he was at the launching. Jefferson passed through Amherst to get to his summer home, "Poplar Forest," which the family plans to visit at the 1994 Bedford reunion.

REPRINT OF SUDIE RUCKER WOOD'S RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY: For those who have ordered reprints, please be patient. Now that we have enough orders, we will reprint and they should be delivered by the end of the summer. We needed to have at least 100 orders to reprint. We will have 30 extra copies for future sales. If you still would like to order a copy, please use the order form below.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$7.00 for Membership (The 1st number on your address label is the year you are paid, the 2nd is your membership number): _____

Donations for the Cemetery Repair Fund and/or the Highway Marker to be placed in Faulconerville, VA, for Rucker's Church. _____

Order a reprint of Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy, cost \$16.00, includes postage _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

I descend from _____, child of Peter Rucker. (If you do not know, please let us know the earliest ancestor that you can trace to and your line of descent.)

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

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

WINGFIELD FAMILY SOCIETY

While in Fredericksburg in May 1991, planning for the 1992 Rucker Reunion, I looked over the Sheraton as a possible site for the Sunday Meeting. As it turned out, we did meet there in the building that was once a barn. That same weekend, the Wingfield Family Society were having their reunion there and I picked up one of their newsletters. I thought some Rucker Family descendants might be interested in joining their society.

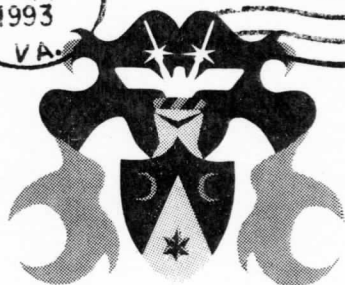
Wood, p.104: Isaac⁴ Rucker (Ambrose³, John², Peter¹) married 19 Oct 1812, Mary Wingfield, his third wife. Mary Wingfield was the dau. of Nathan Wingfield and Ann Atkinson, granddau. of Robert and Ann Wingfield of Louisa Co., VA. Isaac Rucker, m. 1st 28 Jan 1793, Mary Higginbotham (who died by the end of the year), and m. 2nd 12 Jan 1796, Mary Ann Christian. (Marriage Records, Amherst Co., VA). Isaac and Mary Wingfield had three children: Nathan⁵ Wingfield Rucker, Mary⁵ Ann Rucker, and Thomas⁵ Hollewell Rucker.

Cost of the Wingfield Family Society is \$25.00 a year, they produce an excellent newsletter and run well organized reunions. Write to the Editor, Robert E. Carr, 310 Belleview Blvd, Belleair, FL 34616, (813) 461-4187. The Wingfield Family Society was formed in 1987 and is open to all Wingfield descendants.

"REACH OUT TO RUCKERS"

Invite a relative to join

Next RUCKER REUNION - June 11 & 12, 1994 - BEDFORD CO., VA



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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