

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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RUCKER MANSION SAVED FROM THE WRECKING BALL by Michael P. Rucker



look for "alternative uses" for the property, all of which involved demolishing or extensively altering the mansion.

Fortunately, the story has a happy ending because Davis and Carol Brandvold of Everett stepped forward and on December 31, 1992 they purchased it as their home for \$700,000. More about the Brandvold's later - first some family history.

The Everett area, immediately north of Seattle, was not yet established when brothers Bethel⁶ J. Rucker and Wyatt⁶ Jasper Rucker (Wyatt⁵, Julius⁴, Ambrose³, James², Peter¹) [see Wood, p.269] arrived in the northwest in 1888 from Ohio. The two bachelor brothers relocated with their widowed mother, Jane Morris Rucker, from Noble County, Ohio after reading of the opportunities for development in Snohomish County, Washington.

"It sits high on Rucker Hill with a commanding view of Puget Sound, the city and its harbor on Port Gardner Bay, and the distant mountain ranges to the west and east." Thus, Rod Mason, Rucker Family Society president, described the Rucker Mansion of Everett, Washington after he and his wife, Lou, visited there in August 1992.

At the time of Rod's visit the mansion's future was in doubt. It had been listed for sale for \$875,000 nearly two years earlier by the owners, Northwest Equity Investors who had received it in default of a mortgage by the former owners. With little interest from potential purchasers, Northwest Equity began to

EVERETT, WASHINGTON, CELEBRATES
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY
1893-1993

The brothers promptly began to purchase land for speculation. In one instance Wyatt obtained a row boat, and while ostensibly trolling

for salmon, he was actually ascertaining the depth of the water in front of what is now the subharbor of Everett. He then made his first investment in Snohomish County by purchasing a waterfront farm, which included 160 acres, dwelling, furnishings and livestock, all for thirty-five hundred dollars.

Within a few months, Wyatt, Bethel and several associates had acquired title to eight hundred acres. On August 22, 1890, they filed a petition to establish a town with the proposed name of Port Gardner. Their request was held in abeyance by the county authorities. A group of influential outside developers later recorded a petition to incorporate a town to be named Everett. The second request was put to public vote in April 1893 and approved. The Rucker investment paid off handsomely, however; about fifty acres of downtown Everett was initially owned by them.

About 1905 Bethel selected the most desirable home site for his personal residence. There he built "The Mansion" for \$40,000. Bethel and his bride, Ruby Brown, moved into it that year upon their return from a three month honeymoon to the Orient.



MANSION'S TWO STORY CARRIAGE HOUSE

Ruby, the dau. of Mary Lincoln and C. C. Brown, was born in Flan-dreau, South Dakota on February 9, 1881. The family moved to Everett because of Mr. Brown's health. Ruby graduated with honors from the University of Washington. She taught Latin at the local high school for two years until her marriage to Rucker. Among her memories were the coming of the automobile. Ruby became the family driver because Bethel never learned to drive. Their longest trip was a 15,000 mile circuit through the United States and Canada. "... We went to Salt Lake City, Columbus, Ottawa, Quebec, New England, down the Atlantic coast [to] Florida and across to California. I did all the driving."

Bethel and Ruby occupied the mansion only about five years. It remained in the family until 1923. A report entitled Preserving Washington's History in 1976 described the house as, "...one of the grandest homes in the city of Everett. ...The property commands a breathtaking view and has been little altered over the years." An ad in Historic Preservation News stated, "...it combines the elements of the Italian Villa, Queen Anne and Georgian Revival styles; 10,000 sq. ft. on 4 floors, featuring exquisite golden-oak floors, leaded beveled glass windows, carriage house, 3 lovely acres; [and] 30 minutes to Seattle."

During a visit to the impressive Rucker family mausoleum in the Evergreen Cemetery in Everett, Rod Mason was impressed by the size of building shaped like a pyramid. He had Lou stand beside it for size measurement (see photo). Rod was struck by the "sense of devotion" Wyatt and Bethel felt for their mother as indicated by the inscription on the door. It reads as follows: "Father, Wyatt Rucker, d. May 27, 1878" and "Mother, Jane

Morris Rucker, d. November 10, 1907, The Pioneer of Everett, The True Wife, The Perfect Mother, The Soul of Honor." The brothers had their father's body disinterred and brought from Ohio for placement in the mausoleum in 1929. The remains of six additional family members are interred in the mausoleum.

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RUCKERS BURIED AT EVERGREEN
(From cemetery records)

Jane M. Rucker, mother, died 10 Nov 1908.

Wyatt Rucker, father, d. 27 May 1878, originally buried in Ohio, placed in Rucker Mausoleum, 4 Nov 1929.

Wyatt Jasper Rucker, son, b. 18 Dec 1857, d. 13 Nov 1931, Seattle, lumberman, unmarried.

Bethel J. Rucker, son, b. 11 Aug 1862, Noble Co., OH, d. 28 Mar 1945, Everett, WA, retired logger.

Ruby Brown Rucker, Bethel's wife, b. 9 Feb 1881, N. Dakota, d. 4 Jan 1972, age 90.

Jasper L. Rucker, Bethel's son, b. 24 Jan 1906, Everett, WA, d. 13 Feb 1963, attorney.

Justus Rogers Armstrong, Bethel's son-in-law, b. 16 May 1904, d. 21 Apr 1950, Burbank, CA.

John Wyatt Armstrong, grandson of Bethel, b. 18 Jan 1936, died next day.



RUCKER MAUSOLEUM, EVERGREEN CEMETERY

The obituary notice of Wyatt J. Rucker was featured in the front page headlines of the Everett Daily Herald, November 14, 1931, the day following his death: "Sudden Attack Claims W. J. Rucker." The lengthy obituary states, "So wide have been Mr. Rucker's business interests since his coming that he has been often named as the 'Father of Everett.' Despite his seventy-four years, Mr. Rucker was said, by friends, to have been preparing a new enterprise at the time of his death. He had recently returned from Mexico which he had visited by airplane, and his new business move would, it was stated, have been apart from the lumbering, banking, and railroading activities with which he had formerly been associated."

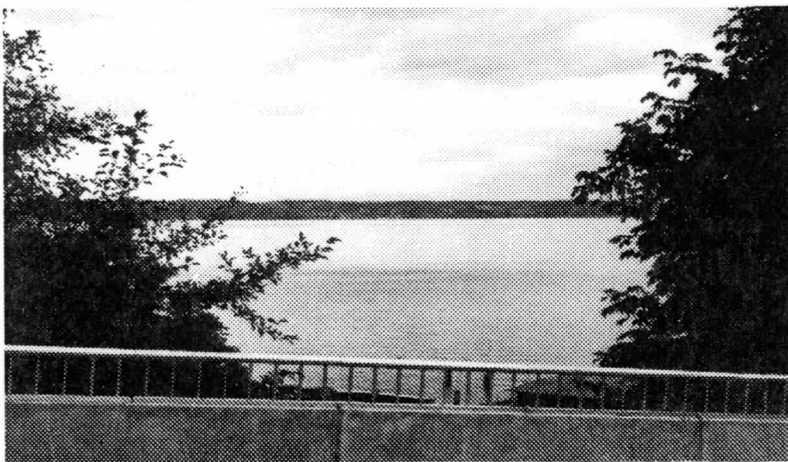
The Rucker brothers made a positive and lasting impact on the Everett community. Their business interests encompassed banking, lumbering, railroads and real estate development. Among the place names in their honor is Rucker Avenue, one of the city's three major north-south streets. To further commemorate the name a large plaque at Rucker Hill Park indicates, "... In 1954, Ruby and Jasper Rucker and Margaret Rucker Armstrong donated half an acre of land to the city for use as Rucker Park Hill."

Proud new owner of the Rucker Mansion, Carol Brandvold stated, "We just know this house is something that everyone in Everett was meant to enjoy. So, once the house [restoration] is finished we want people to call on us."

The Brandvold's have been working to restore the mansion to its original condition. David Brandvold was previously in the construction business and the couple are doing most of the work themselves. Carol Brandvold is an artist and interior decorator. David has also been a mortgage lender and has taught real estate courses.

"The house is actually in fairly good shape," David Brandvold said. "The original construction of the home was of such good quality that it has aged well." He stressed that keeping the history of the home and its use intact was much of the motivation for buying it.

"We've seen too many of the older homes in Everett being torn down," David said. "We want to see that doesn't happen in this case."



VIEW OF HARBOR AT EVERETT, WA



Photographs of Rucker sites in Everett, WA, by Rod Mason

EDITOR'S NOTES - RUCKER MANSION, EVERETT, WA

In August of 1992, Mike Rucker sent me notice of a house for sale from the newsletter of the National Historic Trust. It was The Rucker Mansion in Everett, WA. He planned to write for information. The next day, I was talking to Rod Mason on the phone and he was leaving on a trip to Seattle to visit relatives. I gave him the assignment of exploring the town of Everett and locating the mansion. He did and found a delightful place, found Rucker street, Rucker building, Rucker mansion, Rucker park, and the Rucker mausoleum at Evergreen cemetery. He took the photos used in this article.

As a member of the Board of the Genealogy Research Institute in Richmond, I have been put in charge of periodicals. This will not only be fun to do, but I will have access to articles to use in our newsletter. Never did I dream I would find a newsletter of the Everett area, with an article on the celebration of their 100th anniversary this year.

Following is some additional information from The Sounder, newsletter of Sno-Isle Genealogy Society, Vol VII, p.43, May 1993.

On April 27, 1993, Everett, Washington, celebrated its centennial. The petition for incorporation was approved in a public referendum, on April 27, 1893, by a vote of 670 to 99. The town was named for Everett Colby, the son of the head of

the syndicate which filed the petition.

If anyone would like to subscribe to The Sounder, membership is \$15.00 per year which includes a subscription to the quarterly magazine and monthly meetings. Write to Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 63, Edmonds, WA 98020.

Additional information from Mike:

Today Everett is a thriving city, 30 miles north of Seattle. It is the home of Boeing's 747 aircraft assembly plant. This building is renowned as having the greatest span of any building in the world without a supporting column.

Many thanks to Mike Rucker for writing about Everett. He has written many letters to get information, including contacting Rucker cousins still in the area. His sources include the History of Snohomish County, Vol. II, Preserving Washington's History, A. U. S. Bicentennial Report, assorted articles from the Everett Daily Herald, and the eyewitness account of Rod Mason. Mike has also been in contact with Bill Rucker, Bethel's grandson, an attorney who still lives in the area today.

For an article on Ruby Rucker, wife of Bethel, see Rucker Ruckus, Vol. 3, Is. 2, p.97.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The reprints of Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy were mailed on September 3 to those who had ordered copies. A few more copies are available at \$16, and they will probably sell out soon. To order a copy, or if your ordered copy has not been received or was damaged in the mail, write to our treasurer, Lewis M. (Jack) White, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181.

In the August 1992 issue of this newsletter (V2N3P4) it was proposed that we place a historical highway marker at Faulconerville, VA, to commemorate Rucker's Chapel, founded by Col. Ambrose³ Rucker as the first Anglican Church in Amherst County. Our board of directors agreed and made a proposal to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The wording we submitted for the marker included reference to the James River batteau which was invented by Anthony and Benjamin Rucker, brothers of Ambrose. Our proposal was accepted with more enthusiasm than we had hoped for. They suggested that there was too much information for one marker, and that we have two markers, one for Rucker's Chapel and the other for the James River batteau. Our board of directors unanimously agreed. The markers will be in place for a dedication ceremony in conjunction with our 1994 reunion.

The Rucker Chapel marker was approved at the August meeting of the Virginia Historic Resources Board. The batteau marker was deferred to the October meeting to allow for some editing of the proposed wording, which cannot be changed after Board approval. We anticipate no problem with this approval. Ruth McBride of Amherst County is working with the highway department to find a suitable location in Faulconerville.

The cost to the Rucker Family Society will be about \$1000 per marker. We have \$1800 in our cemetery and memorial fund, which many of you will remember was started at our 1990 reunion to repair the broken stones at the Ambrose⁵ Rucker cemetery and place a marker on the James Alexander Rucker cemetery, both in Amherst Co. Subsequently, several of James A. Rucker's descendants placed the marker to him without Rucker Society funds and suggested that the society funds be used for projects of broader interest to the family. A number of our members have expressed interest in the historic roadside markers and intend to make additional contributions to the cemetery and highway marker fund; I hope that many of you will feel the same. If anyone who contributed to the fund when it was described only for use on family cemeteries does not want their contribution used for the highway marker project, please let Jack White or me know and we will assure that it is used only for some of the cemetery repair and care work. The Ambrose⁵ Rucker cemetery at Graham Cove has been cleaned and weeded several times and the broken marker stones pictured in the August 1992 newsletter are to be reset on concrete pads after the frost kills the ticks etc. this fall.

Lou and I have met with Jack White (wearing his other hat as chairman of the Bedford reunion) and his committee and we are enthused with the plans being developed. We are looking forward to seeing many of you again, or for the first time, at the reunion in June. Please plan to attend and talk it up among all the Rucker "cousins" that you know. All of our past reunions have been full of fun and fellowship. We want each one to be the "best ever."

Rod Mason, President

JEANNIE-ALOGY ELZAPHAN⁵ RUCKER

In Eva Davidson's book, p.86 and 99, she lists about nine or ten Elzaphans: one, son of James and Elizabeth Rucker, married Sarah L. Prince. Teresa Klaiber, of New Concord, OH, has helped me find the correct information about this Elzaphan. He was married twice, proof was found in marriage and census records. Both wives were much younger than he and together they bore him 17 children.

2. Elzaphan⁵ Rucker (James⁴, Ephraim³, James², Peter¹), son of James Rucker and Elizabeth Deatly, b. @1814, in OH; m. 1st 17 Sep 1846, Lawrence Co., KY (marriage bond), to Elizabeth Alley, b. @1828, in VA (1850 census), d. 20 Apr 1859, Carter Co., KY (age 35, Kentucky Deaths, Vol 3, compiled by Annie Walker Burns Bell, 1934); m. 2nd 23 Sep 1860, Carter Co., KY (marriage bond), to Sarah L. Prince, b. @1846, in KY (1870 census).

The census records show that Elzaphan was married to Elizabeth in 1850, a widower in 1860, and married to Sarah in 1870. (Note: Spelling of names in census records left exactly as found in records)

1850 census records, Carter Co., KY:

Elzaphan Rucker age 36, farmer, \$400, b. in OH; Elizabeth age 22, b. in VA; Thomas J. age 3, b. in KY; James M. age 1, b. in KY; Jacob R. age 8/12.

1860 Carter Co., KY, census records, p.313:

Elzaphan Rucker, age 45, farmer, \$1361, b. in OH; Thomas 13; James M. 11; Jacob R. 10; Mary 7; Nancy 6; Eliha 2; Melissa 1; Elizabeth Rucker, age 65, knitter, b. in VA (Elzaphan's mother?).

(Note: Elzaphan didn't waste much time. His wife died 1859, probably in childbirth with dau. Alberta, he remarried in 1860 to a 13 year old girl who then had to raise his seven children, some of them as old as she, and immediately began having her own brood. Boyd County was created in 1860 from parts of Greenup, Carter, and Lawrence.)

1870 Boyd Co., KY, census:

Elzaphan 55; Sarah E. 23; Thomas J. 23; James W. 22; Jacob R. 20; Mary E.; Richard 9; Eliza 7; Rosanna 3; Annabell 1.

1880 Boyd Co., KY, census index, Vol 27, 195, Upper Catlettsburg:

Elzaphan Rucker, age 65, b. KY; wife Sarah, age 34; James 31, Jacob 30, Elihue 22; Elbertta 21; Richard 19; Eliza 16; Rosanne 14; Anna B. 12; Elzaphan 8; Johnnie 6; Sallie 4; Baby 2/12 (all born in KY).

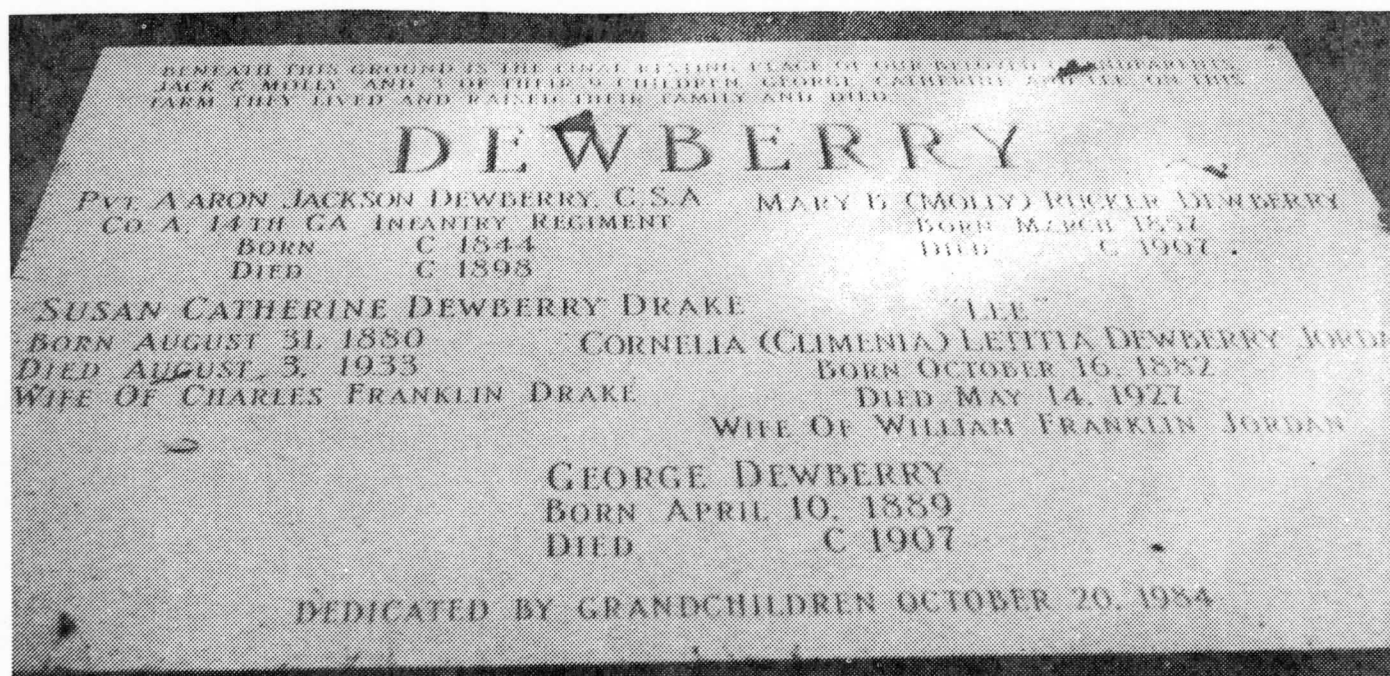
Issue by 1st wife Elizabeth Alley (all born Carter Co., KY):

1. Thomas⁶ J. Rucker, b. @1847, m. Annie _____.
2. James⁶ M. Rucker, b. @1849 (31 in 1880 census).
3. Jacob⁶ R. Rucker, b. 12 Jul 1850.
4. Mary⁶ Rucker, b. 26 May 1853.
5. Nancy⁶ Rucker, b. @1854; m. 4 Apr 1872, George Dent.
6. Walter Rucker, b. 4 Jan 1856, d. 11 Nov 1857, (Kentucky Deaths, Vol, 3, by Annie Walker Burns Bell, 1934).
7. Juliann⁶ Rucker, b. 24 Oct 1856, d. 30 Oct 1856, Carter Co., KY (Kentucky Deaths, Vol. 3, by Annie Walker Burns Bell, 1934).
8. Elihu⁶ Rucker, b. 13 Jan 1858.
9. Melissa⁶ Alberta ("Birde") Rucker, b. 26 Mar 1859, d. 29 Jan 1957; m. 9 Nov 1881, George M. Francisco.

Issue by 2nd wife, Sarah Prince (all born Boyd Co., KY):

10. Richard⁶ Rucker, b. @1861.
11. Eliza⁶ Rucker, b. @1864.
12. Rosanne⁶ Rucker, b. @1866.
13. Anna⁶ Belle Rucker, b. @1868.
14. Elzaphan⁶ Rucker, b. @1872.
15. Johnnie⁶ Rucker, b. @1874.
16. Sallie⁶ Rucker, b. @1876.
17. Baby⁶ Rucker, b. @1880.

(Source: Davidson, p.94-95, information from Richard Rucker given to Eva Davidson, letter now in my possession; FGS of Teresa Klaiber, New Concord, OH; 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 census records.)



DEWBERRY/RUCKER MEMORIAL MARKER

A service was held October 20, 1984, to dedicate the above marker to the memory of Aaron Dewberry and his wife, Mary B. (Molly) Rucker. The ceremony took place at the Ambrose Rucker family cemetery 1.7 miles south of New Prospect Church, in Pittsylvania Co., VA.

Aaron Dewberry and his brother James, of Forsyth, GA, volunteered for the Confederate army. They fought together through most of the war. James was killed at Petersburg seven days before the final surrender. Aaron was with the troops at Appomattox.

Aaron was wounded and went with his friend, Ambrose Rucker, to his home at Hurt, VA, 40 miles southwest of Appomattox. While recuperating, he met and fell in love with Molly Rucker, who was only 7 years old.

He returned home to Forsyth to be with his mother who had suffered a nervous breakdown after hearing the news of James's death. Aaron communicated with Molly and returned to VA after his mother's death in 1876.

According to an article in the Forsyth, GA, Local Advertiser published in 1876, the couple was married March 16, 1876, at Hurt store.

Molly's father, Ambrose, gave the couple 200 acres of land, adjoining his, in Pittsylvania Co., VA. They moved into an existing shanty for sawmill staff where they lived and raised their 9 children.

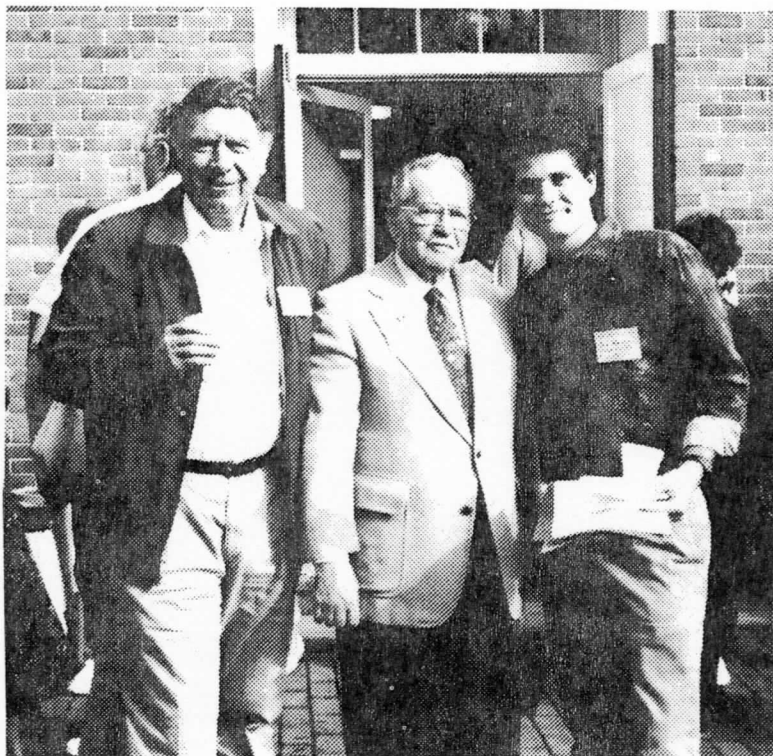
Aaron, crippled in the Civil War, made oak chairs and sold them for 50 cents each to support the family. He also sold woven baskets.

Aaron died in 1898 leaving Molly with five children under the age of 15. Her mother died shortly after Aaron, then Molly and the children moved in with her father. One of her sons, Albert Sidney Dewberry, bought the old shanty home in 1919 and raised his six children.

The descendants of this family were compiled by Sidney Alton Dewberry and Sidney Oliver Dewberry in a beautiful book, Ancestors, Cousins and Descendants of Aaron Jackson Dewberry, printed Oct 1984. It includes a history of Molly⁸ Rucker's descent (Ambrose⁷, Reuben⁶ Dawson, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, see Wood, p.81).

Sid Dewberry, who sent me a copy of the book, suggests a combination Dewberry/Rucker reunion at the Ambrose Rucker farm, one day.

IN MEMORIAM - AMBROSE S. RUCKER JR.



AMBROSE S. RUCKER JR., our beloved cousin from Kansas City, has died. Ambrose attended the 1990 and 1992 Rucker Reunion and endeared himself to all of us. The picture at left was taken at Vauter's Church at the 1992 Rucker Reunion in Essex Co., VA, with Gerald B. Rucker, of Lebanon, OR, (his traveling companion), on the left, and Paul J. Shearman of Waynesboro, VA, on the right. Ambrose wrote a prayer for the family which was read by Gerald at the lunch on Sunday. It was a beautiful and moving prayer.

Ambrose was 83 years old and lived a long and happy life. He loved to tell stories about the family

and wrote down some of his stories for the newsletter. (See p.32 for a letter from Ambrose. He was able to pick out the minutest of details from the Rucker genealogy and bring them to light.) Ambrose will surely be missed by all of us who came to know and love him.

Doris Edwards received a letter from his daughter, Raymonette Lanning, of Kansas City, saying her father passed away in March: "We miss him so but he left us with fond memories." Ambrose was born 6 Jan 1910, in Salisbury, MO; m. 1 Jun 1935, to Oleva Calos Hurt, b. 24 Aug 1914, d. 5 Aug 1985. They are buried at White Chapel Memorial Gardens in Kansas City.

Ambrose was the son of Ambrose S. Rucker and Minnie Elizabeth Eastin. He descends from two sons of Peter Rucker, Ephraim and James Rucker. He was proud of being the only Rucker who could stand twice at the roll call of descendants of children of Peter Rucker. His line is as follows: Ambrose⁷ S. Rucker Jr., Ambrose⁶ S., Joseph⁵ E., Ephraim⁴, Tomagen³, Ephraim², Peter¹; and Augustine³, James², Peter¹. Ambrose's father is listed on p.292 of Wood's book. Wood listed this line under Ephraim as she could not prove the James line.

Ambrose and Oleva are survived by four children, Raymonette Lanning, James Ambrose Rucker, Roberta Ann Haney, and Rebecca Jane Daly; and six grandchildren.

Ambrose graduated from Moberly, MO, Jr. College, and the U. of Wisconsin. He attended a graduate school of banking in 1956. Ambrose worked for the Commerce Bank of Kansas City for 28 years and retired as Vice-President. He called it the flagship of Commerce Bankshares group of banks in Missouri.

Note: The family has not sent an obituary for Ambrose, so we don't know the exact date of death. I searched through my letters from Ambrose to find the information used above.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSHUA ELDON RUCKER, age 83, died January 3, 1992, in Lynchburg, VA. He was the husband of Bess Thompson Rucker. Born in Boonsboro, Bedford Co., VA, he was the son of the late John T. Rucker and Katherine Dawson. He attended E. C. Glass High School and graduated from V. P. I., 1930, with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was employed by the Department of Public Works and was its Director at the time of his retirement in 1972. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and the Elks Club. He is survived by one son, J. Eldon Rucker Jr., of Vienna, VA; two daughters, Jane Rucker Lovelace of Raleigh, NC, and Sue Rucker Pitts of Lynchburg; one brother, John T. Rucker Jr.; three sisters, Virginia R. Rucker, Mrs. Albert A. Barley, and Mrs. B. H. Lester, all of Lynchburg; and seven grandchildren. Buried was at Boonsboro Cemetery on Coffey Road, across from Trinity Church. (From The News & Advance, Lynchburg, VA, submitted by Mary Johnson, Madison Heights, VA)

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LORRAINE ROADCAP RUCKER, age 93, died January 4, 1992, St. Petersburg, FL. She was born in Rockbridge Co., VA. A graduate of the College of William and Mary, she worked with the public school system in Roanoke. She was a member of Christ United Methodist Church. Burial was at Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg. (Lynchburg, The News & Advance, submitted by Mary Johnson, Madison Heights, VA)

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ERVA LEE RUCKER QUARLES, 89, died May 12, 1993, Bedford Co., VA. She was a daughter of the late Campbell and Lockie Rucker. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Marie M. Moore of Montclair, NJ; two sons, Campbell R. Morris of Bedford, and Malcolm ("Mack") Morris of Long Beach, NJ; four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Archie Quarles, and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret M. Thompson. She was buried at Fairmont Cemetery, Bedford Co., VA. (Submitted by Marita Taylor, Madison Heights, VA, from the Lynchburg The News & Advance.)

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GOLDA BELLE HALL RUCKER, age 91, of Fredericksburg, VA, died there, June 20, 1993. Born in Schuyler, VA, she was a dau. of the late Frank James Hall and Anne Jane Drumheller. She was a former member of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. She is survived by a dau, Shirley Wright; a son, Carlton Edward ("John") Rucker of Madison Heights; two grandchildren, including Carlton Edward Rucker Jr. of Madison Heights; and six great grandchildren. She was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg. (Submitted by Mary Johnson, Madison Heights, Va, from the Lynchburg, The News & Advance.)
Her son died three weeks later:

CARLTON E. (JOHN) RUCKER, age 62, died July 14, 1993. Born in Lynchburg, VA, he was the son of the late James Edward Rucker and Golda Hall. He was retired from Litton Industries, was an Air Force veteran of the Korean Conflict, and a member of Quaker Memoria Presbyterian Church. He was preceded in death by one sister, Imogene Rucker Hill. He is survived by his wife, Kay Doss Rucker, and one son, Carlton Edward (Eddie) Rucker Jr., and one grandson, Geoffrey Edward Rucker, both of Lynchburg. One sister survives, Shirley Wright of Fredericksburg. Burial was at Spring Hill Cemetery in Amherst. (Submitted by Marita Taylor, Madison Heights, VA, from the Amherst New Era-Progress.)

IN MEMORIAM - con't

STANLEY DARYL RUCKER was born July 24, 1947 in Chickamauga, GA, son of Gidion Elmer Rucker and Bessie Windom, and died May 29, 1992, a few months short of his 45th birthday. In 1969, he married Susan Perron from New York City, and had two children, Tiffany Blaine Rucker, born 1971, and Jinny Allison Rucker, born 1976. They were divorced in 1983 and, in 1986, he married Betty Wooten from Alabama. They divorced in 1991. (Carolyn J. Moats, his first cousin and "dear friend," was shocked to learn of his death in the last newsletter. She called around and did confirm that it was her cousin. She contributed the above information.)

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SAMUEL CHARLES RUCKER passed away August 3, 1992. He was born October 31, 1910, in Century 2, WV, to Jarret Elza and Rhoda Harris Rucker. He married Ann Riese Schurch, April 16, 1932 in Cincinnati, OH. After Ann passed away, he married Grace Henabright, May 2, 1957. Grace was born May 4, 1908, and died March 28, 1988. They are buried at Baltimore Pike Cemetery in Cincinnati, OH. Charles and Grace adopted one daughter, Eilene, who survives. Eilene Rucker married Jon Busam of Cincinnati. (Submitted by Carolyn Moats, Moatsville, WV, his niece.)

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WALTER WILSON DAVIS, age 71, died 20 Dec 1991, in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salem, NC. He was the husband of Katherine Currier Lawhorne Davis. He was born in Amherst County, the son of the late Walter Scott Davis and Mary Ola Rucker. He retired from the U.S. Navy, having served in World War II. He is survived by a brother, Ronald Davis of Hedgesville, WV; and three sisters, Louise Ore and Thelma Dunford, both of Lynchburg; and Dorothy Phelps of Madison Heights; and two stepchildren. He was a member of First United Methodist Church. He was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg. (Lynchburg, The News & Advance, submitted by Mary Johnson, Madison Heights.)

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Mary Johnson, Marita Taylor, and Carolyn Moats for submitting the above obituaries. I hope others will send copies of family obituaries to include in the newsletter. We would also like to have articles written by members about family history and experiences in finding one's ancestors. Please send them to the Editor: Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226, (804) 358-3185.

Dues are \$7.00 annually, payable January 1st. Please make check out to The Rucker Society and mail to: Mr. Lewis M. White, Treasurer, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181. Dues include the quarterly newsletter and notice of the biennial reunions. Anyone signing up for membership after October 1 will be credited for the next year. If you desire to receive newsletters for both 1993 and 1994, please send a check for \$14.00 to cover the cost of two years.

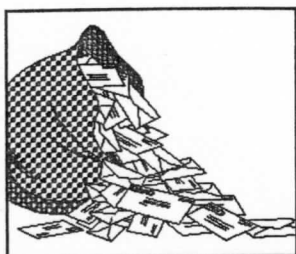
New Rucker Book: Alice Rucker Allen has just published her family genealogy, Rucker Heritage, including descendants of Peter⁵ Rucker (John², Peter¹). She has been working for many years on this book and has included the 1st four generations of Ruckers in America. Alice and other family members have worked together to verify the early history of the Ruckers and the material is as up to date as possible. This book is a must for every Rucker family member working on their lineage. See letter from Alice on p.33 in this newsletter.

Another Rucker is published: Michael P. Rucker, Peoria, IL, has published his first book, Terry the Tractor. A child's book about a tractor who is misused. Mike, assistant editor of our newsletter, has enclosed a flyer with this newsletter. If the flyer is missing, send a check for \$3.95, plus \$2.00 postage and handling, to Michael P. Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2828. (Note: In the flyer, the city in WV, Huntington, was inadvertently omitted.)

We are always interested in the accomplishments of our members. Congratulations to our newly published authors.

Note: No material in this newsletter may be reprinted without written permission of the Editor.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



WISDOM: Need parents and siblings of Solomon Hiram Wisdom. He married Sarah Thompson in the Natchez District about 1790. Solomon and daughter Margaret inherited a plantation on Bayou Sara, West Feliciana Parish, LA, from William Cook. The family moved to this area from Natchez. Some of Margaret's siblings were Solomon Hiram Wisdom Jr., William Wisdom, Nathan Wisdom, Nancy Wisdom, Hettie Wisdom and Sarah Wisdom.

Why did William Cook leave his plantation to Solomon and at his death to his dau. Margaret, wife of John Smith? Would like to have any information on the Wisdoms.

In close association was the Peter³ Rucker (Thomas², Peter¹) family in Natchez and West Feliciana. Peter m. Sarah Wisdom and his brother Thomas Jr. married her sister, Elizabeth Wisdom. Sarah and Elizabeth Wisdom's parents, John and Ann Wisdom, lived in Wilkes Co., NC, moving there from Culpeper Co., VA. Ann's will, W. B. 2, p.49-50, is proof of the Rucker and Wisdom marriages. No proof has been found of kinship between Sarah Wisdom (about 20 years older) and Solomon Wisdom. From Mary O. Hanna, 1007 Hereford St., College Station, TX 77840.

OBITUARY OF REBECCA RUCKER:

The enclosed obituary was submitted by Ruth McBride, Amherst Co., VA, and I feel warrants including in the newsletter. Rebecca Rucker, wife of Anthony (Wood, p.154) lived to be 107 years old. Her mind was crystal clear until the end. She was survived by five generations of descendants, which totaled between two and three hundred. She was buried beside "the remains of the companion of her youth."

The article appeared in The Lynchburg, Virginian, April 4, 1842, p. 3, col. 4.

QUERY OF THE QUARTER: Joanna and Sarah Rucker lived at the White house with their Uncle, President James K. Polk (Wood, p.124-5). If anyone has any information about them, please send it to the Editor.

OBITUARY.

Died, at her residence in Amherst county, on the 23rd ult., REBECCA, relict of the late Anthony Rucker. She was born the 10th of December, 1735, O. S., having lived some months more than 107 years. She had had a presentiment for some time of her demise in this month, and spoke of it prophetically. Without any apparent sickness, the laws of the living body seemed strangely natural to finish their work and gently cease. About three weeks before this, after her devotions, as she lay at night (for she was not denied this spiritual exercise) she called her household, and enquired if they saw a beautiful light; tho' lately her eyes had failed to almost total blindness, she then thought for a while, that she could see again, so bright within was the marvellous light of immortality: (we may not rashly suppose confidently, that this was an illusion from a physical cause.) Her intellectual faculties at this advanced age were unimpaired, and continued clear. She had been a professor of the religion of the despised Jesus before the remembrance, perhaps, of her eldest living offspring; also she was as long a member of the Episcopal church, her continued attachment to which was expressed by desiring that her funeral sermon might be preached by one of the ministers of this christian order. The writer's heart is full whilst here recording that she bore witness through several generations of that newness of life "by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" in Christ. She lived to see the fifth generation; and He who had watched over her earliest helplessness, and with whom she had walked by faith, in peace, thro' many a trial, still continued with her, (an everlasting communion,) when the successions of her associates of time, one by one were departed, her "great joy" and "sure support" in second infancy. What an overwhelming evidence of the priceless value of religion! Only a few minutes before "the weary wheels of life at length stood still," she gave testimony that she was about entering into the promised world; and she finished her work of obedience in tenderly entreating that her descendants would all meet her in heaven the number of whom alive is perhaps between two and three hundred, whose filial obedience regarding a dying relative's wishful love, she might naturally the more hopefully claim.

If indeed the most worthy are those who dare walk in the Christian "paths of pleasantness," then the virtues of the deceased pilgrim may be inferred,—eloquently enough for eulogy. She was buried, as she had requested, by the remains of the companion of her youth. "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible."

Review of the Lynchburg Markets,

LETTER FROM AMBROSE S. RUCKER JR.

The following excerpts are from a letter of Ambrose Rucker. They are typical of the stories Ambrose told at the reunion. The letter was written after the 1990 Rucker Reunion to thank the committee for a very fine reunion which he called "a joyful experience," and to remind me of the stories he told that he knew I wouldn't remember.

"You and the committee members were superb. Good material, good planning, good execution, good public relations, and receptive family group made it, in my opinion, a highly successful event. ...

"Arriving early on Friday I recalled that Paul Sackett, now President, retired at Crestar Bank in Lynchburg, had told me that an Ambrose Rucker was the Bank's first president. I stopped in a Crestar at 11:40 a.m. to renew acquaintances. He was out for lunch but the bank's current president, Albert S. Kemper III, received me graciously and during our visit he took me to the Board room and showed me the list of original stockholders, which included two Ambrose Ruckers, obviously grandsons of great grandsons of Col. Ambrose³ Rucker who was much discussed at the reunion. Paul Sackett returned from lunch. When I told him I was now 8 he smiled and said 'I have you beat!' We had a pleasant visit.

"When I arrived home and was rested from my trip, I reread the history of Ambrose³ in your grandmother's book [Wood, p.66-76], and ran through my mind the various addendum you had verbally added during the reunion. When I first read A. R.'s will many years ago, I remember I thought, 'Well, he was well off, but \$50,000 is not too impressive.' This time after reading again that his executors were bonded for \$50,000, I drove down to and visited the Bureau of Labor Statistics kept in the Federal building and asked them what \$50,000 in 1807 would equate to in current 1990 dollars. They said the current amount would be \$38,965,000, a tidy sum in money in anyone's league. ...

"I was about to interject information in response to your inquiry about Ann² Rucker Cook, but time was of the essence, and I knew information could be postponed. Ann Cook's son was obviously Charles³ George Cook who is mentioned on page 274 RFG [Wood], paragraph 4. Her [scion] grandson Sam Cook is currently Board Chairman of Central Bank, Jefferson City, MO, the flagship of Central Bank Group, another prestigious bank in Central Missouri. I don't know how many generations downstream Sam Cook is from Ann Rucker Cook but he knows he's a member of the Rucker Family. ..."

<<<<<>>>>>

(Note from the Editor: The last paragraph about Charles George Cook, the son of Ann Rucker Cook, is very important as Wood wrote nothing about her children. Mary Snyder, in her last newsletter, Rucker Ruckus, dated Jan. 1993 [Vol.10, Is.4, p.401], lists eight children of Ann Rucker and a Shem Cook, born between 1767 and 1779 [source LDS records]. The Cooks we married prior to the 18 Jan 1742/3 date of Peter Rucker's Will [Wood, p. 297]. The birth dates of the children do not match the age of the parent. If Ann was born 1726, as MRS says, she would have been 41 when she had her 1st child and 53 with her last, plus she wouldn't have waited 20 years to have her first child. I feel these were her grandchildren. Remember, LDS records are not proved and should not be used until verified.)

ALICE RUCKER ALLEN
1514 Westover Road
Austin, Texas 78703-1912

July 1993

Dear Rucker relatives and friends:

I am very happy to inform you that after several years of research and work, my book *Rucker Heritage* is now in the process of being printed. Publication date is the 15th of September, 1993.

The book is 8½ x 11, hard bound, and has 556 pages of genealogy, history, some connecting lines to Rucker families, maps, notes, and indexes.

In the beginning of the book the data is of Peter¹ Rucker, the Immigrant, and of his ten children. This data is carried down for four generations and has some new and updated information from contemporary researchers. The third chapter begins with Peter³ Rucker (John², Peter¹) and contains all that has been found of the descendants of Peter³ Rucker (John², Peter¹), including current generations.

Many people have contributed to the book, for which I am very grateful. Without your help the book would not have been as complete as it is. Many thanks for all of your help.

Each book is \$33.00 (\$30.00 for each book and \$3.00 each for postage and handling). The following form is for your convenience in ordering.

Most sincerely,

Alice Rucker Allen

Please send _____ book(s) at \$30.00 for each book and \$3.00 each for postage and handling to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Total amount included _____ Autograph copy, yes no (circle your choice).

R

Make check to: Alice Rucker Allen, mail to 1514 Westover Road, Austin, Texas 78703-1912

The Oregon Trail Project

The Oregon Trail Project, a project of the Idaho Genealogical Society, is issuing special certificates to anyone whose ancestors traveled west via the Oregon trail between the years 1811 and 1911.

1993 is the 150th anniversary of the peak year of westerly migration. In 1843 about 300,000 pioneers journeyed west to begin new lives. The Old Platte Road, as it was called then, became known as the Oregon Trail. Pioneer families left their homes and families to travel to new lands in the northwest. The hardships they had to endure is unimaginable to us.

To qualify, applicants must prove direct descent from a person who traveled any part of the Oregon Trail between 1811 and 1911. The non-profit organization is dedicated to collecting, archiving and publishing data about the Oregon Trail. For information write to the Oregon Trail Project at 4620 Overland Road #206, Boise, Idaho 83705. Also send a copy to the editor of the Rucker Family Society Newsletter.

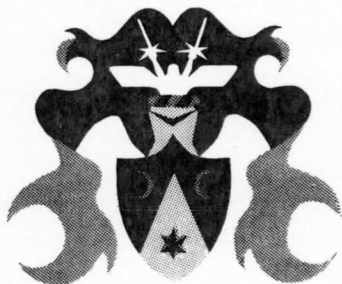
"REACH OUT TO RUCKERS"

Ambrose S. Rucker Jr. dies, p.28

FAMILY PROFILE - RUCKER MANSION, p.21

Rucker Heritage - New Rucker Book by Alice Rucker Allen, p.33

NOTE DATE OF NEXT RUCKER REUNION - JUNE 11 & 12, 1994



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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