

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

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FAMILY PROFILE

A ZEST FOR LIFE: WILLIAM CASSEDAY ("CASS") RUCKER By Michael P. Rucker

"CASS RUCKER STILL 'CHARACTER' AT 80." So proclaimed the Bay City [Texas] Daily Tribune in 1988.

Nearly five years later it is doubtful that Cass is any less colorful. His broad smile and energetic nature make him a popular figure around Bay City.

Cass was born June 24, 1908, on a farm near Waco, Texas. His full name is William⁸ Casseday Rucker, his

line of descent is from John⁷ Chapman, Samuel⁶ James, Western⁵ Tennessee (Wood, p.118), James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹.

Despite his eighty-five years, he is one of Bay City's most energetic citizens. Among his "hobbies" is that of being the community's self-proclaimed "Litter Gitter." While gathering trash along the roadways he hangs signs on his van proclaiming "I don't like trash."

He is also probably the only 85 year old in the community with six lawn mowers. He maintains eleven lawns around town for friends or relatives.



REGISTRATION FORM RUCKER FAMILY REUNION SEE p. 7

"I keep a mower in my van and as I ride around town, if I see something needs mowing--I just get out and mow it!"

He attended grade school in a one room school house. Upon graduation from high school, he set off for Baylor University. However, the

\$20 in his pocket didn't go far even with a small scholarship and a part time job. So he had to drop out and seek a full time job. His first job was with Humble Pipeline, but he was soon laid off. "It sorta hurt my pride. But, the next day in Waco, he picked up the paper to read where the entire crew I had been working with were killed in an oil tank explosion."

Over the years he was employed as a pipefitter, service station owner, insurance agent, and, from 1958 to 1973, with the Texas Employment Commission. During his time as a state employee he began taking the various civil service exams as a challenging hobby. Among the exams he took and passed were those for such positions as border patrol, claims examiner, and postal clerk.

Cass married his childhood sweetheart, Gladys Anita Hardy, on June 20, 1929. Gladys died August 13, 1990. Cass and Gladys have three children: Anita Marie (b. June 19, 1930), Elizabeth (b. October 17, 1932) and Patrick Casseday (b. June 8, 1940). Upon retirement from the TEC, Cass relocated from Port Arthur to Bay City to be close to his daugh-



Cass Rucker receiving Award

ter, Anita and her husband, Bill Bell, a former Bay City mayor.

Besides being the Bay City Litter Gitter, Cass's volunteer activities over the years have encompassed the local First United Methodist Church, Lions Club, Booster Club, Masonic Lodge and Boy Scouts. During more than thirty years' service to the Boy Scouts he served in volunteer roles from scout master to district commissioner. For his contribution to scouting he was awarded the Silver Beaver, the highest award given by the Boy Scouts.

His interest in helping youth led him to support the local high school athletic teams. For many years he has attended nearly every event and became a close friend of the coach. At a football game before about 2000 fans, the coach called Cass forward for a presentation of appreciation and named him "Bay City's Best Athletic Supporter," a title Cass cherishes. Cass reports, "People in Bay City still laugh about that presentation to this day."

Cass is a legend in his time and an inspiration to his community and family alike. He has sixteen grandchildren and "boojoos of great grandchildren."

If being a "character" means having Cass Rucker's zest for life, I'm certain everyone would like to be so labeled.

Alice Rucker Allen, Austin, TX, saw an article about Cass Rucker in the Daily Tribune and proposed him for the family profile. Mike Rucker did a superb job in writing the article for the Rucker Family Society Newsletter.

We are always looking for ideas for the family profile. Please submit suggestions to Michael P. Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614, or to the Editor.

JEANNIE-ALOGY

WILLIS RUCKER, OF AMHERST CO., VA, FOUND TO BE PROLIFIC

In examining the census records for Willis⁵ Rucker (John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹), I found that he had eleven children, instead of four as previously thought (see Wood, p.135). Lou Mason, wife of our president, Rod Mason, descends from James Alexander Rucker, one of the children of Willis Rucker, see article in The Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 1, p.4. Willis m. 1st Permela Cole and 2nd Tabatha Arnold.

1850 Amherst Co. census, Eastern Dist, p.84: Willis Rucker, age 61, farmer; Tabiatha [sic] 54, insane (?); Wm. J. C. 34; John N. 27, laborer; Martha Ann 25; Julia Ann 23; Matilda J. 21; Sarah S. 20; Pamelia E. 16; Susan 13; James A. 11; Almary F. 9; Nancy 7.

1860 Amherst Co. census, p.250: Willis Rucker, age 71, farming operation; Tabitha 62; Juliana 27; Sallie L. 25; Susan E. 22; Thomas (?) A. 20; Almary F. 18; Nancy K. 15.

Issue by 1st marriage:

1. William⁶ J. "Cole" Rucker, b. @1816.

Issue by 2nd marriage:

John⁶ N. Rucker, b. @1823. 2.

3. Martha Ann Rucker, b. @1825; m. 1852. Preston H. Duff.

Juliana⁶ Rucker, b. @1827.

5. Matilda6 J. Rucker, b. @1829; m. 1852, Leyton Peter.

Sarah⁶ S. Rucker, b. @1830.

7. Pamelia⁶ E. Rucker, b, @1834.

- 8. Susan⁶ ("Sue") E. Rucker, b. @1837; m. 1865, John Stinnet.
- 9. James Alexander Rucker, b. 1839; m. 6 Dec 1866, Sarah Grant.
- Almary⁶ F. Rucker, b. @1841.
 Nancy⁶ K. Rucker, b. @1843.

PARENTS OF REUBEN RUCKER OF JACKSON CO., IN

The line of Reuben⁴ Rucker and son Nathan⁵ Cheney Rucker have been misidentified by both Wood, p.141, and Whitley, p.50. I feel Reuben is the son of Wyatt³ (James², Peter[†]) for a couple of reasons. 1). Reuben named his second son "Wiatt" which a very good clue, as back then, people named their first three sons after the father, the father's father, and/or the mother's father. 2). A second clue is Nathan Cheney was born 4 Nov 1803, in Mason (now Greenup) Co., KY, where Wyatt was listed in the 1810 census showing they were in the same county at the same time.

These are possibly the children of Wyatt Rucker:

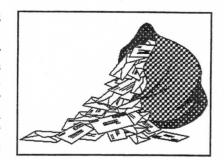
- Reuben⁴ Rucker, b. 15 Sep 1781, VA, d. 27 Dec 1846, Jackson Co., IN; m. Elizabeth
- Susannah Rucker, b. @1787, d. @1873, Lawrence Co., OH; m. 4 Sep 1808, Greenup Co., KY, George Washington Willis (marriage record, Greenup Co., consent given by Wyatt Rucker).

Margaret4 ("Peggy") Rucker; m. 14 Sep 1808, to James Kite (mar. record, Greenup Co., consent of W. C. Rucker).

Susannah and Margaret were probably married the same day, either 4th or 14th September.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

My step-grandfather, WELDON LEE RUCKER, was born 26 Jul 187_, and died 6 May 1935, Minden, Webster parish, LA, and is buried in Filmore Cemetery, Bossier par., LA, with a WOW (Woodman of the World) memorial Stone. After my grandfather, Thomas George Farrington, died, ca. 1902, Weldon Lee Rucker married my grandmother, Ziska Jincks Farrington, in Bryceland, Clayborne Par, LA. He raised my father and uncle as his own. Do you have information to relate to this individual? Write to Arthur Farrington, 5640 Beechwood Dr., Lawton, OK 73505.



RANSOM AND NEWMAN RUCKER OF TENNESSEE AND ILLINOIS

Ransom Rucker lived in Tennessee from the early 1800's until about 1838. His sons Ransom, b. @1820, Elihu, b. @1824, Newman, b. @1829, and Eli, b. @1835, were all born in Tennessee. They moved to Illinois before 1840 where they were listed in the 1840 and 1850 census indexes of Schuyler County. We descend from Elihu Rucker. Would like to share information on this family. Bill and Edith Willeford, 8121 Lamplighter Circle, Lincoln, NE 68510.

1850 Schuyler Co., IL, census, Frederick Fract twp, p.418: Elihu Rucker, age 26, b. TN; Cordelia, age 16, b. IL (his wife); Ransom, age 30, b. TN, laborer; Newman, age 21, b. TN, laborer; Eli 15, b. TN.

1860 Crawford Co. Arkansas, Van Buren twp, p.44:
Ransom Rucker, age 45, laborer, \$225, b. TN; Rachel, age 26, b. IL; James M., age 2, b. IL; Newman Rucker, age 34, laborer, b. TN; Francis Rucker, age 8, in school, b. IL (child by Newman's 1st wife, now dec'd); Eli Rucker, age 27, b. TN. (Note: Elihu remained in Schuyler Co., IL.)

Sons Ransom, Newman, and Eli, appeared in the 1860 Crawford Co., Arkansas census. They apparently lived in Illinois before moving to Arkansas. The census records shows they were born in Tennessee. Vic and Pat Castens, 525 E. Washington, Pittsburg, KS 66762. (Note: I have put the Willefords and Castens in touch with each other as both descend from Ransom Rucker who was born in TN, and whose children lived in IL in the 1850 census, and in AR in 1860.

BOOKLET OFFERED TO MEMBERSHIP

RON PAYNE has produced a delightful history of a regiment from Rockcastle Co., KY, and their escapades during the Civil War: "The Third Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment, A Brief History Including a Payne Family Connection." It includes photographs, charts, a roll of enlisted men, and map of the battles in which they engaged. Ron's work is well organized and well documented. Descendants of Moses Payne and Nancy Rucker as well as Civil War buffs will be interested in obtaining a copy.

Ron has offered this booklet to the membership for \$6.00, postage included. Send your check to him: Ron Payne, Rte 3, Box 20, Falkville, AL 35622-9403.

SARAH RUCKER - JOHN HUNT OF MONROE CO., OH

I have been trying to find the link of my great-great-grandmother, SARAH RUCKER HUNT, to the Ohio ancestors. Ambrose Rucker (Lemuel James , Peter , Wood, p.258) and Sarah Steele's first son, Lemuel , b. 1809, d. 1852, Monroe Co., OH, married Sarah (may have been Stevens) and had several children. Some were listed in the 1850 census, but my g-g-grandmother had married that year, and was living near them. Sarah, wife of Lemuel , was buried at Allen Cem. near Eagleville, MO. I believe their children to be:

- 1. Levi Rucker**
- 2. John Rucker, b. 1827; m. Jane _____, b. 1825 (1850 census).
- 3. Sarah Rucker, b. 1830; m. 1850, to John Hunt, b. 1827.
- 4. Emily Rucker, b. 1832; m. Thomas W. Gulick.
- *5. Asbury Rucker, b. 1836, OH.
- *6. Eilas Rucker, b. 1840, twin.
- 7. Silas Rucker, b. 1840, twin. (I have picture of twins)
- *8. William L. Rucker, b. 1843, became a doctor in Martinsville, MO.
- *9. Mary E. Rucker.
- *10. James Franklin, b. 1849, d. 1927, Eagleville, MO.

(* Listed in 1850 census, Monroe Co., OH, with Lemuel and Sarah Rucker.) (** I think Levi is son of Ambrose, not Lemuel--Editor. Need proof.)

Does anyone know of a will of Lemuel that would show his children? Does anyone have any information on this family?

I would very much like to correspond with anyone interested in this side of the family, or in need of information about other Missouri Ruckers. From Marilyn Elliott, 2410 57th Street, Des Moines, IA 50310.

REUBEN RUCKER OF ADAIR COUNTY, KY

To answer the question from Rucker Ruckus, Vol. 6, Issue 2, p.221: Who was Reuben Rucker of Adair Co., KY? Reuben⁴ Rucker was the son of Joshua³ (William², Peter¹) and came from Amelia County, VA, see Wood, p.241. Reuben and his youngest brother, Joshua Carter Rucker, moved to Adair Co., KY, and were listed there in the 1820 census.

In the 1810 Amelia Co. census:
Reuben Rucker males 2 (-10) 1 (

2 (-10) 1 (10-16) 1 (26-45)

females 2 (-10) 1 (10-16)

In the 1820 Adair Co., KY, census:

Rubin Rucker, p.44: males 1 (10-16) 1 (16-26) 1 (45+) females 1 (10-16) 2 (16-26) 1 (45+)

Joshua C. Rucker, p.42: males 2 (-10) 1 (16-26) 1 (26-45) females 3 (-10) 1 (16-26) 1 (26-45)

Joshua moved to Illinois in 1830, but Reuben continued to live in Adair Co. and was listed in the 1850 census: 78 years old, b. VA.

(For information on Joshua see: "One Rucker Family," by Florence Rucker Morehead, Snohomish, WA, 1987.)

Does anyone have additional information on Reuben? Was Robertson/Robinson Rucker of Amelia Co., VA, and Adair Co., KY, his son? If anyone is a descendant of this line, please contact the editor.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN RUEBEN BENNER of Warrenton, VA, died Nov 3, 1993. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sudie Hite Skinker Benner and one son John Benner Jr. He is survived by a daughter, Anne Benner Gee, of Shenandoah, Iowa; a son, William R. Benner, of Warrenton, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John was to be recognized as Fauquier County's last surviving veteran of World War I, in a ceremony on November 11th. His son, Bill; accepted the award for his father who passed away a few days before the service. John Benner was a student at Virginia Polytechnic Insitute when the war broke out. He enlisted in the U. S. Army and served from Jan. 11, 1918, to Jan. 20, 1919, in the 17th Service Co. of the Army Signal Corps. He spent most of his tour of duty at old Ft. Meigs, in Washington, D.C. He was discharged as a Private First Class. His wife, Sudie was in the U. S. Naval reserve during World War I, also in Washington, D.C.

John was a dairy farmer and lived on his parents' farm, "Bel Air," just north of Warrenton. Son, Bill, continues to work the farm today. John was an avid football player in his youth, and later became the coach at Warrenton High School. Benner Field in Warrenton was named in his honor. "Generations of players recall his drive and toughness, and the

lessons he taught about discipline and hard work."

He was a member of the Warrenton United Methodist Church and Mt. Carmel Masonic Lodge in Warrenton, where he was recognized as the group's oldest member after 75 years of service. He was a member of the Acca Temple Shrine in Richmond. He was a former member of the Warrenton Lions Club and the John D. Sudduth American Legion Post 72.

John's wife, Sudie, was named after her aunt, Sudie Rucker Wood. She was the daughter of Hugh Farland Skinker and Annie Lee Rucker (William Ambrose, William Ballenger, George John John, Peter), Wood, p.55.

RUCKERS BURIED IN THE OLD LYNCHBURG, VA, CEMETERY

Lucy Harrison Miller Baber, has compiled burials in the old Lynchburg cemetery from 1806 through 1913: <u>Behind the Old Brick Wall</u>, A Cemetery Story, 1968. Following are Rucker buried in Block No. 1, section 9: Pleasant Rucker/ age 92 years/ b. 1797/ d. July 11, 1889

Delila Ann Rucker/ age 76/b. 1815/ d. November 29, 1891

Harriet Eppes Rucker/ dau. of D. A. and Pleasant Rucker/ age 39/ b. 1847/
d. August 1886

Square [Squire?] Rucker (no dates)

Mr. Paulus G. Rucker/ age 21/ date of burial: May 24, 1865 (no stone)

William H. Rucker/ son of Robert Rucker/ b. March 4, 1873/ d. May 21, 1899
Who were these Ruckers? One would think this was Pleasant Rucker
(Joshua³, William², Peter¹--Wood, p.241) of Amelia Co., VA. Yet the dates
don't fit. Pleasant Rucker, of Amelia, was married 1st 5 Dec 1808, to
Betsy Farley; and 2nd 1833, to Nancy Walden. Pleasant in the Lynchburg
cemetery, born 1797, would have been 11 years old in 1808, too young to
have married. Could he have been the son of Reuben Rucker (Joshua³,
William², Peter¹), brother of Pleasant. Reuben was married December 20,
1793. Census records show he did have a son the age of Pleasant (see 1810
records below).

Can anyone identify Pleasant Rucker and his wife Delila Ann, and the other Ruckers buried in the old Lynchburg Cemetery?

RUCKER REUNION JUNE 11-12, 1994 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Members should make their own hotel reservations. The Holiday Inn, Rt. 29 south at Odd Fellows Road, Lynchburg, VA, is holding 50 rooms for the Rucker reunion for the nights of June 10th and 11th. This is the best place for members to stay since meetings and social hours will he held here and the buses will leave from here. Rates are \$50 per room plus tax. The telephone number for reservations is (804) 847-4424 and the address is P. O. Box 107729, Lynchburg, VA 24506. When making reservations you should mention the Rucker Family Society Reunion to get the above special rate. Reservations must be made by May 16th.

Friday June 10:		\	
3:00- 5:00	Registration at the Board Meeting	e Hospitality Room	, Holiday Inn
5:00- 7:00	Social hour at Ho	spitality Room, B	YOL; setups and
Saturday, June 11:			
9:30	Buses will leave Ho	oliday Inn for Pon	lar Forest
10:00-11:30	Tour of Poplar Fore	st. Group photos w	ill be taken here
12:00- 1:30	Brief meeting and la	unch at North Bedfor	rd Baptist Church
1:30- 3:30	Visit to two old Ru	icker homes in Bedi	ford County
4:00- 5:00	Visit to the town Avenel, once a plan	of Bedford, light	refreshments at
6:00- 7:00	Social hour at Ho	snitality Poom P	VOI: gotung and
	light snacks provid	ded Room, B	ion, secups and
Sunday, June 12:	right bhacks provid	acu	
9:00-10:00	Newly elected board	meeting	
10:00-12:00	Meeting of the Ruck	cer Family Society	Holiday Inn
12:00	Lunch at the Holida	av Inn	, norraay iiii
Afternoon	Unveiling of the F	Rucker Highway mar	kers on Pt 20
	Falconerville, Amhe	erst County	Kers on Re. 29,
***********	*************	**********	********
DDGTGTD3 TT 637			
REGISTRATION	FORM DEADI	LINE JUNE 1, 1994	
Registration Fee	310. per person	No. people	Cost
C-1 T-10			
Sat. June 11, Poplar	r Forest, lunch,		
Avenel, and BUS	321. per person	No. people	Cost
Sat. June 11, Poplar	Forest, lunch,		
Avenel (no bus)	313. per person	No. people	Cost
Buffet lunch at Holi	day Inn Cunder		
June 12	tday Inn, Sunday		
June 12	pr4. per person	No. people	Cost
	Tota	al amount enclosed	ė

Please fill out both sides of this form. Use a separate sheet of paper to list family members attending with you.

RUCKER FAMILY REUNION JUNE 10-12, 1994 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

It is my pleasure to serve as registrar for the 1994 Reunion. In order to make my job easier, and your reunion experience more pleasurable, please take time to read the following instructions.

- 1. Determine which events you would like to attend and pay for them all at one time.
- 2. If you are paying for other people in your family, please write their names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper so we can have an accurate listing of attendees.
- 3. Remember to make your check payable to THE RUCKER SOCIETY, not to me!
- 4. If at all possible, please send your registration in early. Latecomers may not be listed in the roster (though we welcome everyone!).

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE RUCKER SOCIETY MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Miss Carolyn S. Billups 440 Tanglewood Court Mechanicsville MD 20659

1994 RUCKER REUNION REGISTRATION		
NAME(S)		
ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE, ZIP		
TELEPHONE NUMBER ()		
Hotel you will be staying in		
Name/nickname as you would like it on your name tag		
Name of your ancestor, child of Peter Rucker, immigrant		
Membership number (second number listed on your address label)		
I am not a member, enclosed is my check for \$7.00		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING NEXT ISSUE: The story of Ambrose Rucker of Pittsylvania Co., VA, by Michael P. Rucker, Peoria, IL.

NOTE FROM JACK WHITE: As of this writing we have 435 members (not all current on their dues unfortunately) and many of these descend from Peter Rucker's son John, who patented land in Amherst County in 1739. Five of John's sons settled in Amherst. Of their descendants, five Rucker families moved to Bedford county. Our reunion will visit two Ruckers who settled in North Bedford county--George (Wood, p.39) and Joshua (Wood, p.148).

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have raised enough money to pay for both highway markers to be placed in Amherst county. As of November 1, 1993, \$2133.51 was in the cemetery/marker fund. After payment of the 1st marker, we have \$1161.51. The second marker will cost about \$1,000. We are accepting donations towards our next project. Any suggestions?

"AWAY, I'M BOUND AWAY: VIRGINIA AND THE WESTERN MOVEMENT," exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA, through May, 1994. Hundreds of frontier artifacts, including a Virginia-made Conestoga wagon and copies of a flatbed boat and a frontier cottage. If you get a chance, visit this exciting display about how and why our ancestors moved west.

"ON TO RICHMOND: FOUR CENTURIES OF FAMILY HISTORY," a genealogy conference to be held at the Richmond Marriott, 12-15 October 1994. This conference will focus on research in Virginia and North Carolina, and the areas which received major migrations from these two states. For a program, write to "On to Richmond!" Federation of Genealogical Societies, P. O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385, (801) 254-2785.

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1994 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

Please make check out to <u>The Rucker Society</u> and mail to:
 Mr. Lewis M. White, Treasurer
 9751 Firth Court
 Vienna, VA 22181

I descend	from	, child of Peter Rucker.
Address:		
Name(s):		
Donat The Rucke	ion for the next project r Family Society:	of
\$7.00 the year	for Membership (The 1st you are paid, the 2nd is	<pre>number on your address label is your membership number):</pre>

LETTER FROM JACK WHITE, TREASURER

Our biennial Rucker Family Reunion will be held this year for the first time in Bedford county, Virginia. The Ruckers have been well established in Bedford county where they settled before the revolution. Virginia is noted for its scenery and Bedford county with its magnificent view of the Blue Ridge mountains is considered to be one of its most beautiful counties.

We plan to charter busses, as we did at the last reunion in Frederick-sburg, to visit points of interest in North Bedford county. On Saturday morning we will visit Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's beautiful old home in Bedford county, now being restored to the way it looked when he lived there. After lunch at North Bedford Baptist church, which several Rucker families attended, we will visit two old Rucker homes nearby. Afterwards we will go through the village of Cifax, where another Rucker lived, on our way to Bedford where many Rucker families lived. We will stop at Avenel, an historic old home in the process of being restored, for refreshments.

After our meeting and lunch, on Sunday, at the Holiday Inn in Lynchburg, there will be an unveiling of two highway historical markers at Falconerville, in Amherst county, about ten miles north of Lynchburg in the vicinity of Sweet Briar college. One will note the founding of an early Episcopal Church founded by Col. Ambrose Rucker, and the other will relate to the invention of the James River Batteau by Anthony and Benjamin Rucker.

"REACH OUT TO RUCKERS"
Family Profile--Cass Rucker, p.1
JEANNIE-ALOGY, p.3

Registration Form for the 1994 Rucker Reunion June 11 & 12, p.7
TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE RENEW, p.9
Ron Payne offers booklet see p.4



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

94 176 Mrs. Alice J. Rucker 13331 Gridley St. Sylmar, CA 91342