FAMILY PROFILE
A ZEST FOR LIFE: WILLIAM CASSEDA Y ("CASS") RUCKER
By Michael P. Rucker


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 William Casseday Rucker, his line of descent is from John Chapman, Samuel James, Western Tennessee (Wood, p.118), James, Benjamin, John, Peter.

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 Getter." 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.

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

Besides being the Bay City Letter 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 "boojos 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 Willis\(^5\) Rucker (John\(^4\), Isaac\(^3\), John\(^2\), Peter\(^1\)), 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; Pamela 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. William\(^6\) J. "Cole" Rucker, b. @1816.

Issue by 2nd marriage:
2. John\(^6\) N. Rucker, b. @1823.
3. Martha\(^6\) Ann Rucker, b. @1825; m. 1852. Preston H. Duff.
4. Juliana\(^6\) Rucker, b. @1827.
5. Matilda\(^6\) J. Rucker, b. @1829; m. 1852, Leyton Peter.
6. Sarah\(^6\) S. Rucker, b. @1830.
7. Pamela\(^6\) E. Rucker, b. @1834.
8. Susan\(^6\) ("Sue") E. Rucker, b. @1837; m. 1865, John Stinnet.
9. James\(^6\) Alexander Rucker, b. 1839; m. 6 Dec 1866, Sarah Grant.
10. Almary\(^6\) F. Rucker, b. @1841.
11. Nancy\(^6\) K. Rucker, b. @1843.

PARENTS OF REUBEN RUCKER OF JACKSON CO., IN

The line of Reuben\(^4\) Rucker and son Nathan\(^5\) Cheney Rucker have been misidentified by both Wood, p.141, and Whitley, p.50. I feel Reuben is the son of Wyatt\(^3\) (James\(^2\), Peter\(^1\)) 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:
1. Reuben\(^4\) Rucker, b. 15 Sep 1781, VA, d. 27 Dec 1846, Jackson Co., IN; m. Elizabeth ______
2. Susannah\(^4\) 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).
3. Margaret\(^4\) ("Peggy") Rucker; m. 14 Sep 1808, to James Kite (mar. record, Greenup Co., consent of W. C. Rucker).
(Note: 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.
I have been trying to find the link of my great-great-grandmother, SARAH RUCKER HUNT, to the Ohio ancestors. Ambrose Rucker (Lemuel3, James2, Peter1, Wood, p.258) and Sarah Steele's first son, Lemuel5, 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 Lemuel5, 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.
7. Silas Rucker, b. 1840, twin. (I have picture of twins)
8. William L. Rucker, b. 1843, became a doctor in Martinsville, MO.
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? Reuben 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 (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 Institute 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 7 Lee Rucker (William 6 Ambrose, William 5 Ballenger, George 4, John 3, John 2, Peter 1), 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: Behind the Old Brick Wall, 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
Square [Squire?] Rucker (no dates)
Mr. Paulus G. Rucker/ age 21/ date of burial: May 24, 1865 (no stone)

Who were these Ruckers? One would think this was Pleasant Rucker (Joshua 3, William 2, Peter 1—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 (Joshua 3, William 2, Peter 1), 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 be 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 Hospitality Room, Holiday Inn
5:00 - 7:00 Social hour at Hospitality Room, BYOL; setups and light snacks provided

Saturday, June 11:
9:30 Buses will leave Holiday Inn for Poplar Forest
10:00-11:30 Tour of Poplar Forest. Group photos will be taken here
12:00-1:30 Brief meeting and lunch at North Bedford Baptist Church
1:30-3:30 Visit to two old Rucker homes in Bedford County
4:00-5:00 Visit to the town of Bedford, light refreshments at Avenel, once a plantation house
6:00 - 7:00 Social hour at Hospitality Room, BYOL; setups and light snacks provided

Sunday, June 12:
9:00-10:00 Newly elected board meeting
10:00-12:00 Meeting of the Rucker Family Society, Holiday Inn
12:00 Lunch at the Holiday Inn
Afternoon Unveiling of the Rucker Highway markers on Rt. 29, Falconerville, Amherst County

REGISTRATION FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>No. of People</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>$10. per person</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. June 11, Poplar Forest, lunch, Avenel, and BUS</td>
<td>$21. per person</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. June 11, Poplar Forest, lunch, Avenel (no bus)</td>
<td>$13. per person</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffet lunch at Holiday Inn, Sunday June 12</td>
<td>$14. per person</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount enclosed $_______

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


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.

No material in this newsletter may be reprinted without express written permission from the Editor.

*********************************************

1994 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

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

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

___ Donation for the next project of The Rucker Family Society:

Name(s):

Address:

I descend from __________________________________, child of Peter Rucker.
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 Fredericksburg, 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.