

# the Rücker Family Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

Number 2

June 1994

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings Rucker Cousins:

As I am writing this, it is only five weeks until our reunion in Bedford County and Lynchburg, Virginia, on June 10-12, and by the time you receive this Newsletter the time will be even shorter. If you haven't sent in your registration yet, I urge you to do it immediately - the committee needs to know how many people to plan for and to make accurate committments to the meal and bus providers. A registration form is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A description of the reunion activities and arrangements was included in the last (March) issue of the Newsletter, but I'll summarize them here for those who may have laid that issue aside before registering. We will be headquartering at the Holiday Inn, Rt. 29 south at Odd Fellows Road, Lynchburg, VA. They are holding rooms for us until May 16, @ \$50 per room plus tax (ask for the Rucker Family Society reunion group rate). Their phone number is 804–847–4424. After May 16, I believe that they will still honor our group rate on a space available basis; if any problem, ask to speak to Mrs. Pamela Gerringer, with whom we have made the arrangements.

On Friday June 10, registration will begin at 3PM at the Hospitality Room of the Holiday Inn and at 5–7PM there will be a social hour, BYOL, with wine, setups and light snacks provided. On Saturday, early registration for anyone not arriving Friday evening, and at 9:30AM, busses will leave the Holiday Inn for a tour of Bedford County, where many Ruckers have lived (and many still do). Cars may follow the busses, but we suggest that most people use the bus because of parking limitations at some of the places we will visit and we will have narration on the busses. First stop will be a tour and group photo at Poplar Forest (in Bedford County but only a mile outside of Lynchburg). This will certainly be a highlight. For those not familiar with Poplar Forest, it was Thomas Jefferson's retreat home away from the crowds who came to see him at Monticello. The home is not as large but looks very much like the famous Monticello. It is now in process of being restored to its original state.

Lunch and a very short meeting of the Society (to elect officers and board members so the new board can meet early Sunday morning before the membership meeting) will be at North Bedford Baptist Church. The tour will visit two old Rucker homes and pass by a number of others having Rucker significance. Then on to the Town of Bedford, the home of several generations of Rucker doctors and lawyers. We will visit Avenel, a mansion which was a plantation house built in the 1830's, and visited by General Robert E. Lee. Here we will be served light refreshments. Back to Lynchburg for a social hour, same arrangements as Friday

evening.

Sunday morning at 10AM will be the meeting of the Rucker Family Society at the Holiday Inn, followed by a buffet luncheon. In the early afternoon we will go to Falconerville, in Amherst County, for the unveiling of two highway historic markers which our society has provided along Route US29. One of these markers is about the batteaux, the boat invented by Anthony and Benjamin Rucker, which was used in the important commerce of carrying tobacco down the James and other rivers to market. The other marker notes Rucker Chapel, built nearby by Ambrose Rucker, which was the first Anglican church in the area. Falconerville is about 8 miles out of Lynchburg and is on the way home for those traveling north or east.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as president of the Rucker Family Society since 1990. I will be vacating the presidency at this reunion meeting, but I will continue on the board as ex-officio. Lou and I have greatly enjoyed meeting many "cousins" and making many friendships in the Rucker Family Society and look forward to new ones next month. If you haven't already registered for the reunion, please don't put this Newsletter aside until you do so. Fond regards to all. Rod Mason.



#### IN MEMORIAM

JOE HERMAN RUCKER, age 77, died April 9, 1994, at Fresno, California. Joe H. was the brother of Alice Rucker Allen, board member of the Rucker Family Society. His line of descend: Joe<sup>8</sup> Herman Rucker, Joseph<sup>7</sup> Herman, Joseph<sup>6</sup> Moore, Reuben<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. See RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 3, p.1, Aug. 1991, for an article on his family.

Joe H. Rucker was born May 5, 1916, in Taylor County, TX. He is survived by his wife Mary Ruth (Longbothom) Rucker; three daughters, Gwynn Rucker of Seattle, WA; Gayle Rabon of Pittsburg, CA; Glynda Rathwick of Hanford, CA; and a foster daughter, Kathy Taber of Fresno, CA; and four grandchildren and two foster grandchildren.

He grew up in Abilene, TX, graduated from McMurry College, taught school in Texas for a while. He was the music and education minister for many West Texas Baptist churches in the mid-1950s. He moved to Fresno in 1959 where he taught for the Fresno Unified School District for 30 years. He was a member, deacon, sunday school teacher and choir member of Trinity Southern Baptist Church in Fresno.

Obituaries were in the <u>Abilene Reporter-News</u>, 11 Apr 1994, and the <u>Fresno Bee</u>, 11 & 12 Apr 1994, submitted by Alice R. Allen.



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VIXELLA RUCKER WHITE died April 5, 1994, at the age of 95, in Richmond, VA. She was formerly a resident of "Glen Alpine" of Cifax, in Bedford Co., VA, where the Rucker clan will visit in our June 11th reunion. She is survived by two sons, Lewis M. ("Jack") White (treasurer of the Rucker Family Society), of Vienna, VA, and Philip A. White of Vero Beach, FL; three daughters, Jeanne Kenny, Kilmarnock, VA, Polly Adkins of Richmond, and Cary Baber of Roanoke; thirteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis White, and a son, Barry R. White of Rocky Mount, NC.

Vix was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Bedford. She was buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Bedford, VA.

Vix was a loyal member of the Rucker Family Society and attended every reunion. She was the subject of a family profile in the newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 2, p.1, May 1991. Her obituary, 7 Apr 1994, appeared in the Richmond Times Dispatch. We will miss our beloved Vix at our June Reunion.

# JEANNIE-ALOGY "FUZZY LOGIC"

On Sunday mornings at 6 a.m. (Eastern time) the radio carries a wonderful, informative program by ABC News. It begins with a commentary by Hugh Downs. On April 17th he spoke on "Fuzzy Logic." It is a concept discovered by a scientist but not understood by Americans who think everything is black or white with no shades of gray. An example, he gave to describe it, is a hairy man. If you pluck out his hairs one by one, at what point does he become bald? The Japanese, who understand this logic, have developed a computer chip that operates with the concept of "fuzzy logic." For example, a microwave oven will be able to sense what kind of food has been placed in it, determine how long it needs to be cooked, and cook it to perfection. Whereas now, the human has to determine how long to cook it and when it is done. Imagine the possibilities-a personal computer that understands what you want, a car that drives itself, etc.

You ask, what has "fuzzy logic" to do with genealogy? "Fuzzy logic" is what gives genealogists the ability to "read between the lines." Beginning genealogists believe that what they read is gospel. They have no ability to interpret records. Until a researcher understands this concept, they will remain amateurs. The thesaurus gives words like blunfumbler, incompetent, skilled, and inexperienced for amateur. As Hugh Downs said, people who believe that everything has to be either black or white are "sick in Actually, I believe them the mind." to be uninformed.

Computer records at the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) library desperately need a "fuzzy logic" computer chip. If two people submit an ancestor's name and one spells his wife's name Susanna and the other Susannah, the LDS computer gives the ancestor two wives. The LDS computer has my ancestor, John Rucker, with two wives and 24 children. Actually

he had one wife and 12 children. This is very frustrating to others trying to look up the records.

Every record must be taken with the proverbial "grain of salt." This means court house records, recorded deeds, marriage records, birth and death certificates, census records, family Bibles, and especially published books that try to interpret these records.

Don't be in a hurry to decode records. Study them, ponder them, sleep on them (the best ideas come at night), discuss them and, most of all, use "fuzzy logic." Some people have gotten upset and angry because they wanted to believe a literal interpretation of the records instead of calculating what the re-

cords really mean.

For example, the Will of John McDaniel was misinterpreted by early genealogists. Will Book 10, p.77, Amherst Co., VA: "... my children hereafter named, viz: my sons Ambrose, Lindsey and Gideon; Betsy Davis, Peggy Ware and Sophia Strange; my four children hereafter named having had their full share of my estate, thirty odd years ago, viz: William, George, Mary Jones and Judieth Heiskill." Up to now, this has been thought to mean that the last four were children of his first wife, the first six were children by his second wife. Logical, right? Wrong!!! In carefully analyzing the county records, I have found that the first wife had seven children and the second three.

To become better informed, study records. Consult an authority--every state library has an archivist who is there to help you. Take a professional genealogist to lunch and pick his or her brains. Join a genealogy society and submit queries. Read books on the subject. Take every genealogy workshop, class and conference offered in your area. By doing so, you will learn to interpret records with that amazing new concept, "fuzzy logic."

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THE CHILDREN OF LEMUEL<sup>5</sup> RUCKER (Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James2, Peter1) were submitted by Edith and Bill Willeford, Lincoln, NE, who found notes written by Mary E. Clay, 1928, recorded in a copy of Whitley's book. See query in the last newsletter, Rucker Family Society, Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 5, from Marilyn Elliott, Des Moines, IA.

Lemuel<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. 8 Jun 1809, d. 1852; m. @1829, Monroe Co., OH, to Sarah Stevens, sister of Rachel Stevens, 2nd wife of his father, Ambrose. Sarah was b. 17 Aug 1809, Green Co., PA. Lemuel was a cabinet maker and farmer. In 1851, they moved to Lawrence Co., OH, where he died the next year.

# Issue (all but Martha were born Monroe Co., OH):

- Sarah<sup>6</sup> Rucker, b. 1830; m. 1850, John Hunt. Maria<sup>5</sup> Rucker, died one year of age. 1.
- Emily Rucker, b. 1832, d. 1852; m. Thomas W. Gulick.
- Lucinda<sup>6</sup> Rucker, died in infancy.
- Asbury<sup>6</sup> Bishop Rucker, b. Aug 1836; m. Elizabeth Rose. 5.
- Elias Rucker, b. Sep 1839, twin. 6.
- Silas6 Rucker, b. Sep 1839, twin; m. 1st Margaret Webb; m. 2nd 7. Jane Hunt, niece of John Hunt.
- William6 Leeper Rucker, b. 28 Jul 1843; m. Martha Wren. 8.
- Mary Elizabeth Rucker, b. 10 Apr 1846; m. 26 Jan 1864, William 9. Henry Clay.
- 10. James Franklin Rucker, b. 1 Jun 1848; m. Mary Blalock.
- 11. Martha Ann Rucker, b. Mar 1851, Lawrence Co., OH, died age 2.

\*

WYATT/WIATT3 RUCKER (JAMES2, PETER1) OF GREENUP CO., KY: interesting in corresponding with anyone connected to Wyatt Rucker. Does anyone know the name of his wife and children? I descend from Margaret Rucker who married James Kite on 14 Sep 1808 (mar. bonds, Greenup Co., KY, consent of W. C. Rucker). Jeannine Southers, 12721 Hashanli Place, Matthews, NC 28105. (Editor's note: see suggested children in last (Editor's note: see suggested children in last newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 1, March 1994, p. 3.)

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WILLIS RUCKER: A few years ago I "discovered" Willis Rucker, son of John Rucker (Thomas Peter) of Orange Co., VA. Willis was the 9th child of John Rucker and should be placed on p.179 in Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy. He was overlooked in his father's will because of the omission of a comma and the misspelling of his name in copying.

Now, I want you to delete a "Willis Rucker" from Wood's book, p.151. It said Emma Rucker (Isaac "Ike" Willis, Alexander Marr, Richard, Isaac, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) married Willis Rucker. NOT!! I have looked up the marriage records of Amherst County, VA, and found Emma, whose Christian name was Emily, was married to Albert D. Watts. From Marriage Book 3, p.163, 18 Oct 1886: Emily W. Rucker, age 17, dau. of I. W. & Susan E. Rucker; m. Albert D. Watts, age 22, son of Albert D. & Mollie Watts; married 3 Nov 1886. Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Rd., Richmond, VA 23226, (804) 358-3185.

## CHILDREN OF ARMISTEAD4 RUCKER

CORRECTION TO WOOD, p. 158: Most of the time, a family Bible is necessary to determine the children of a forefather. But in this case a small handwritten notebook of 25 pages, by Charles F. Rucker, of Robertson, MO, Jan. 1946, has produced many of the descendants of Armistead Rucker (Anthony3, John2, Peter1) of Amherst Co., VA. If you note in Wood, it says the widow of Armistead took her children and moved to St. Louis, MO.

The book, RUCKERS OF ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY, was acquired by Eva Davidson when she was writing her book, Rucker Kinsmen. She gave it to Florence Morehead, who recently sent it to Doris Edwards, who gave it to I am delighted that this invaluable book has come to light.

Children of ARMISTEAD4 RUCKER (Anthony3, John2, Peter1), m. 28 Dec 1803, Elizabeth ("Betsy") Richeson (Amherst Co. Marriage Bond, p.458):

- John<sup>5</sup> Rucker, b. 1810, d. by 15 Nov 1869; m. Elizabeth (Stevens) Duval. He moved to MO, but returned to VA to live.
- LeGrand ("Lee") Rucker, d. 1849; m. Mary Eleanor/Ellen.
- Anthony<sup>5</sup> Rucker, d. 1862; m. 1st \_\_\_\_; m. 2nd 16 Jul 1857, Franklin Co., MO, Sarah Jane Pursley. See below.
- Thomas R. Rucker, listed in the 1848, St. Louis, MO, city directory as a bricklayer. In 1850, he bought land in "St. Ferdinando Fields."
- Anne<sup>5</sup> Rucker; m. 15 Sep 1856, Anthony Foster (his 2nd wife), d. 5. 1860. He m. 1st Jane Rucker, sister of Anne.
- Cassandra ("Cassie") Rucker, m. Joseph H. Locke, of St. Louis, d. 1884.
- 7. My Jane Rucker, d. 1856; m. 1st 1836, Andrew Stephens; m. 2nd Anthony Foster, d. 1860 (who married Jane's sister, Anne).
- George<sup>5</sup> W. Rucker, b. @1812; m. Martha \_

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Doris Edwards brought the following to my attention: In the Rucker Family Genealogy, p. 159, Wood lists the three children of Anthony Rucker (Armistead4, Anthony3, John2, Peter1) as Richard, John and Jane. Wood said Anthony lived at Cedar Grove, Amherst Co., VA. Wood also suggested Anthony married Rebecca B. Eads, 21 Aug 1821. Actually Anthony Rucker (Abner4, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), on p.157, was the one who married Rebecca Eads. And John<sup>4</sup> Rucker (Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), Wood, p.134, was the father of Richard, John and Jane (among others). John Rucker's son, John D. L. Rucker, p.137, was the one who lived at Cedar Grove in Amherst.

Children of ANTHONY RUCKER (Armistead4, Anthony3, John2, Peter1), d. 1862; m. 1st \_\_\_\_; m. 2nd 16 Jul 1857, Franklin Co., MO, Sarah Jane Pursley (Wood, p.158) from "Ruckers of St. Louis, MO, by Charles F. Rucker:

- Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> Rucker, b. @1829, VA; m. 1853, Reuben H. Alexander.
   Virginia<sup>6</sup> Louise Rucker, b. @1836; m. 6 Jun 1854, Edward Price.
- Le Grand<sup>6</sup> Rucker, b. @1838, MO. 3.
- Thomas<sup>6</sup> R. Rucker, b. @1843; m. 26 Sep 1867, Elizabeth Ann Jones.
- Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Rucker, b. @1845; m. twice. 5.
- James Henry Rucker. Some of his descendants lived in Weld Co., CO. Lafayette Rucker, b. Dec 1849; m. 25 Jan 1883, Jane Woodland. 6.
- 7.
- § K. Tarleton<sup>6</sup> Rucker, unmarried.
- 98. Martha<sup>6</sup> Jane Rucker, m. 1st 28 Oct 1885, Benjamin Watters in St. Louis, MO; m. 2nd Harker Twitty.
- Nancy6 Rucker; m. James Woody. 1012.

### 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 should be made by May 16th.

Friday June 10:							
	Registration at the Board Meeting	Hospital	ity Room, Ho	liday Inn			
	Social hour at Hosp: snacks provided	itality 1	Room, BYOL;	setups and	light		
Saturday, June							
	Buses will leave Hol	idav Inn	for Poplar	Forest			
10:00-11:30	Tour of Poplar Forest. Group photos will be taken here						
12:00- 1:30	Tour of Poplar Forest. Group photos will be taken here 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 once a plantation ho	Bedford,			venel,		
	Social hour at Hosp: snacks provided		Room, BYOL;	setups and	light		
Sunday, June 12							
9:00-10:00	Newly elected board	meeting					
	10:00-12:00 Meeting of the Rucker Family Society, Holiday Inn						
	Lunch at the Holiday			-			
2:15	Unveiling of the 1	Rucker H	lighway mark	ers on Rt	. 29,		
	Falconerville, Amher	st Count	У				
******	*********	******	******	******	*****		
REGISTRA	TION FORM DI	EADLINE	JUNE 1, 1994				
Registration Fe	e \$10. per person	No.	people	Cost			
	oplar Forest, lunch, \$21. per person		people	Cost			
Sat. June 11, P Avenel (no bus)	oplar Forest, lunch, \$13. per person	No.	people	Cost			
Buffet lunch at June 12	Holiday Inn, Sunday \$14. per person	No.	people	Cost			
	Total amount e	nclosed	\$				

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

YOU ARE INVITED
TO LUNCH
AT BOONSBORO COUNTY CLUB
1:00 P. M.
FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

R.S.V.P. Mail a check for \$15.00, made out to Anne R. Glover, 8388 SE Croft Circle #4, Hobe Sound, FL 33455. Deadline for reservation, June 3rd.



Boonsboro County Club was once "Shalto," a Meriwether home, and home of Joshua Tinsley Rucker, Wood, p.148. At the Rucker Reunion, June 11th, we will visit "Oak Farm," formerly home of Joshua Rucker and Emily Tinsley, parents of Joshua Tinsley Rucker. Due to a prior commitment, we could not work in a visit to Boonsboro on our Saturday tour. Therefore, we have scheduled a luncheon at Boonsboro on Friday, June 10th.

Friday's lunch will be run separate from the reunion for those that come a day early and want to visit the lovely site. Please send your check to

Anne Glover, not to the reunion committee.

Sunday, June 12, 2:30 p.m.

After lunch, we will proceed to Faulconerville, Amherst Co., VA
For the unveiling of two highway markers,

1) Rucker's Chapel

2) James River Batteau
Afterwards, we will visit the log cabin home of Anthony<sup>3</sup> Rucker

Please join us for the unveiling of the two Rucker highway markers on Sunday of the reunion. We have worked towards this project for four years and we appreciate your donations that have made this project possible.

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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

	Vielina, VA 22101	
the	\$7.00 for Membership (The 1st number on your address label is year you are paid, the 2nd is your membership number):	
The	Donation for the next project of Rucker Family Society:	
Name	e(s):	_
Addı	ress:	_
T de	escend from . child of Peter Rucke	-

#### TOBACCO AUCTIONEER, OTIS GRAY RUCKER

The photo, on p. 12, of a tobacco advertisement, submitted by Michael P. Rucker, Peoria, IL, shows Otis "Gray" Rucker, tobacco auctioneer of Kinston, NC. Gray was the son of Samuel Burks Rucker, Lynchburg, VA (Wood, p.100-101). His brother, Henry L. Rucker, lived in Bedford, VA, in a house located across the street from Avenel where we will end our day's tour.

Mike thinks that Gray was the auctioneer heard on radio advertisements,

auctioning tobacco and chanting, "s-o-l-d to American."

#### BOARD MEMBERS 1992 TO 1994:

Pres. Rod Mason V. P. Roland Pittman

Treas. Lewis M. (Jack) White Charles D. Robinson Sect. Editor: Jean B. Robinson

Director Emeritus: Anna Watson

Reunion Committee (includes board members):

Ruth McBride

Lewis M. (Jack) White, chairman-

Alice Rucker Allen Carolyn S. Billups Doris W. Edwards James M. Rucker Mary Rucker Snyder

Edward W. Taylor

William B. Rucker Mary M. Johnson

Elections: New board members will be elected at the reunion. Nominations may be made from the floor for board members and reunion committee. If you are interested in serving the Rucker Family Society, please make your wishes known to someone on the board.

"REACH OUT TO RUCKERS"

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 1994 RUCKER REUNION - JUNE 11-12, P.17

TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE RENEWA p.19

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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