

# the Rucker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

Number 3

September 1994



### 1994 RUCKER REUNION

The 1994 Rucker Family Photograph at Poplar Forest - Saturday

The 1994 Rucker Reunion was headquartered at the Holiday Inn, Lynchburg. Saturday, we visited Bedford County where our first stop was Poplar Forest, summer home of Thomas Jefferson. We had planned to have the group photo taken on the steps of his octagonal shaped home, but due to construction the steps had been removed. A knoll made by TJ of dirt taken from the sunken gardens created a great spot for our picture. Many thanks to Sharon Trent for taking the pictures both Saturday and Sunday.

See page 24 for ordering reunion photos

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS MEETING

June 11, 1994

The 1994 reunion of The Rucker Family Society was held at North Bedford Baptist Church, Bedford County, Virginia, on Saturday, June 11, 1994. Rod Mason presided and Charles Robinson served as Secretary.

Roland Pittman called the roll of children of Peter Rucker, and descendants were present as follows:

John	54	William	5
Peter	0	Mary	0
Thomas	5	James	1
Elizabeth	0	Ephraim	1
Margaret	1	Ann	1

Board nominations for officers were presented and they were elected as follows: President-Roland Pittman; Vice-President-Carolyn Billups; Treasurer-Jack White; Secretary-Charles Robinson and Editor-Jean Robinson. Rod Mason then passed the gavel to Roland Pittman.

Nominations for election as Directors were presented, and the following were elected to serve until the 1996 Reunion: Alice Allen; Carolyn Billups; Doris Edwards; Ruth McBride; Roland Pittman; Charles Robinson; Jean Robinson; Gerald Rucker; James Rucker; William Rucker; Edward Taylor and Jack White. Rod Mason would remain an ex-officio member. The President introduced the Directors, and stated that Ruth McBride, Gerald Rucker and William Rucker would be serving their first term.

Jean Robinson recognized several authors in the Society who had recently published books dealing primarily with geneology.

Carolyn Billups sang 'America The Beautiful', following which Reverend Stinson of North Bedford Baptist Church gave the invocation, and the meeting recessed.

The meeting reconvened on Sunday, June 12, 1994 with Roland Pittman presiding.

He requested those attending their first reunion to stand, and eighteen people were so recognized.

He then asked how many states were represented, and members from fourteen states were present as follows:

Alabama	-1	California	-4	Florida	-2
Georgia	-1	Kansas	-4	Louisiana	-1
Maryland	-10	Michigan	-2	Oregon	-1
Pennsylvania	-2	S. Carolina	-1	Texas	-14
Utah	-2	Virginia	-31		

The President then recognized the efforts of the Reunion Committee, the Reunion Registrar, and those assisting them.

Ed Taylor reported his activities in cleaning and restoring the Graham Cove cemetery in Amherst County.

Roland Pittman spoke on some of the early Ruckers in Virginia and their activities.

Rod Mason reported the deaths of members since the last Reunion, and led a silent prayer in their memory.

Members were requested to contact the Editor if they were interested in purchasing a reprint of the Sudie Rucker Wood book, and a third reprinting would be ordered if there was sufficient demand.

Jack White, Reunion Committee Chairman, introduced Peter Viemeister, author of several books on Bedford County history, who spoke on the history and present status of Bedford County.

Jean Robinson spoke on the Rucker family members who settled in Bedford County. She then introduced Bill Trout of the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society, who showed slides and spoke on the history of the batteau.

The meeting concluded with Gerald Rucker reading the prayer composed by the late Ambrose Rucker at the 1992 reunion.

*Charles D. Robinson*  
Secretary

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roland Pittman - President  
Carolyn S. Billups - Vice President  
Lewis M. White - Treasurer  
Charles D. Robinson - Secretary  
Jean B. Robinson - Newsletter Editor  
Doris W. Edwards - Registrar

Alice Rucker Allen  
Ruth McBride  
Gerald B. Rucker  
James M. Rucker  
William B. Rucker  
Edward W. Taylor

Rod Mason - Ex-officio  
Anna D. Watson - Director Emeritus  
Mary R. Snyder - Honorary Director

### 1994 RUCKER REUNION - SUNDAY'S PHOTOGRAPHS

To order photographs of the Reunion, please send \$5.50 for each one, to Sharon's mother, Mary Johnson, 245 Amelon Road, Madison Heights, VA 24572. Specify Saturday or Sunday. Order both for \$11.00, post paid.

Saturday's photo is pictured on p.21. Sunday's is below and includes two photographs for the same price. The pictures will be 8 x 10 inches with Saturday's being slightly larger to fit everyone in.

On Sunday Sharon Trent, the photographer, had to take two photos to get everyone in. The price of \$5.50 includes both of these pictures.



## 1994 RUCKER FAMILY REUNION IN LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

by Alice Rucker Allen

What a wonderful experience to again be in Virginia and attend the fourth nation-wide meeting of the Rucker Family. Each time that I have attended has been very meaningful, and this 1994 meeting proved to be even better. There is something about meeting with our Rucker relatives and their families that gives me a big thrill. I was especially happy to see and talk with many persons that I have corresponded with and visited with over the phone, and to see many of those persons who have ordered *Rucker Heritage*. Many of these have become close friends as well as being related.

We, my sister Lucille Chessmore, her husband, Walter Chessmore, my husband, Howard, and I, arrived in Lynchburg on Thursday afternoon, June 9, and found that the Charles D. Robinsons (Jeannie and Chuck) and the James E. Edwards (Doris and Jim) had already arrived. We all began to catch up on the news at the same time, then went out to eat, talked some more, and went to bed at a decent hour.

At noon Friday, people gathered at Boonsboro Country Club for a delightful visit with many Ruckers and a good lunch, all planned by Anne Glover, who is a descendant of Joshua<sup>5</sup> Rucker. The picture in the Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2 does not do justice to this wonderful old home, called **Sholto**, built by the Merriwether family. William<sup>7</sup> Rucker (Joshua<sup>6</sup> Tinsley, Joshua<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>), Wood, pg 148, married Bernice Merriwether and inherited the home. Joshua<sup>6</sup> Tinsley Rucker came to live with them and is buried at **Sholto**. It is now the Boonsboro Country Club and is a lovely place with beautiful surroundings.

Board meeting was in the afternoon, and people continued to arrive and go to the reception room to register and visit. Those of you who were not in attendance just do not know what you have missed by not being at this reception. It was due to start at 5:00 pm, but it started as soon as the door was open, with everyone talking, laughing, and having a great time. I was delighted with all the new persons that I met, and am not sure that I actually met them all.

Saturday morning, two bus loads of people began the all-day tour. Lewis ("Jack") White and his committee did a superb job of planning and organizing, and Jack had prepared a booklet "North Bedford County Guide" with pictures and a map for our bus tour. **Poplar Forest** was the first on our tour, this old summer home of Thomas Jefferson was a sight to see. By looking at the pictures, I had thought it a very large home, so was surprised to find it not so big and in a rather dilapidated state. It is very good that it is being repaired, it would not last much longer if something is not done. A lady (that knew much about the home, having visited many times with the owners that owned **Poplar Forrest** before it became a nonprofit corporation and opened to the public) was our main guide. How thrilling to know that we walked in the home that was Thomas Jefferson's, and to know that he was a friend of the Ruckers. After leaving **Poplar Forest**, we drove by **St. Stephens Episcopal Church**, **Ivy Hill**, **The Old Rectory**, **Berkeley**, **Elk Hill**, **Glen Alpine**, which was the home of Lewis and Vixella Rucker White, and **Ivy Chapel**, then stopped at **North Bedford Baptist Church** where we had a short business meeting and a very good lunch. Some of Jack White's relatives are buried in the Cemetery next to this Church. After lunch we saw **Glen Oak**, with the old log cabin in the back, which was the former home of Joshua Rucker. We saw several other homes including the former William Rucker home and then stopped at **Pleasant Vale**, the former George Rucker place. James<sup>6</sup> Monroe Rucker (Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>) built **Pleasant Vale** in 1856, this being Lewis White's family line. To get to this home, the buses stopped on the road and we all walked up to the house. Before we could get to the house, we had to cross a small creek with running water, the buses could not maneuver the creek. Rod Mason with help of some others, fashioned a board to span the creek and had a handrail which was held at each end by two persons, for people to cross the creek and not get wet. Luckily, no one fell into the water. The home is still being used and reminded me very much of my Rucker grandparents' home.

Our tour then took us to the City of Bedford. William B. ("Bill") Rucker and his sister, Barbara L. Rucker, prepared "People and Places in the City of Bedford" with pictures and maps, a very helpful guide for us on the Bedford tour. We stopped at **Avenel**, a mansion that was formerly a plantation house built in 1830s by the Burwell family and visited by General Robert E. Lee. We had welcome refreshments in this lovely home.

We had a very lively and talkative group at the evening social hour in the Hospitality Room.

Sunday morning was a newly-elected board meeting, then all gathered for the general meeting. The room was almost full and many of us were delighted to see Anna Watson present. Anna, to me, is the mother of our Rucker Reunions as she worked so hard to get the reunion started in 1988 in Ruckersville. We had a very good program. Peter Viemeister gave some history of Bedford, William Trout had a slide show of the James River Batteau, Jean B. Robinson gave a history of Ruckers in Bedford, County, and Rod Mason read a list of persons that were deceased since the last reunion. It is always sad to know that some of our loved ones have passed on, we miss them. Lunch at the Holiday Inn was very good.

By 2:15 many had gathered to unveil the two highway markers on Rt. 29 at Faulconerville, this again was a very impressive service. Several persons drove to the nearby old log cabin of Anthony Rucker, a wonderful cabin. Refreshments were served there, then the group went to the newly-restored Rucker Family Cemetery on Ambrose Rucker Road, Elon. Ambrose<sup>5</sup> (Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>) and his wife, Elizabeth Parks, are buried here. Ed Taylor and his helpers have cleaned and restored this Cemetery, it looked so very much better than the last time several of us had seen it. Walter Chessmore used his 'shaving cream' technique to bring out the markings of the stones by spreading the shaving cream with a window-washing tool, then wiping, leaving the cream in the depressed letters, making the writing on the stones much easier to read.

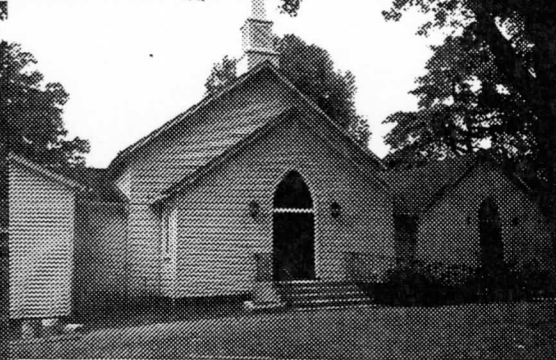
I feel very fortunate to have been able to attend all the Rucker reunions, they just keep getting better, and being with my Rucker relatives gives me a satisfied feeling that I do not know how to put into words. For those who have not attended and those who have only attended once or twice, it would be nice to see you at the next reunion in 1996.

Clan  
gathers  
at  
Poplar  
Forest



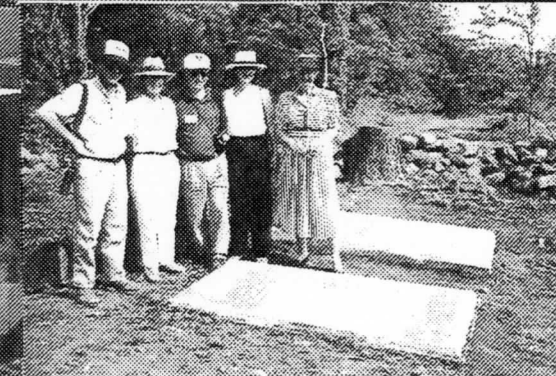
Crossing  
the creek  
at Pleasant  
Vale

Glen Oak  
Farm  
home of  
Joshua  
Rucker



North  
Bedford  
Baptist  
Church

Sunday  
Meeting  
at the  
Holiday  
Inn



William B.  
Rucker &  
family  
at Ambrose  
Rucker  
Cemetery  
(Jean B.  
Robinson--  
on right--  
took photos)

## THE VETERANS COLUMN

Edited by Michael P. Rucker

## CLAYTON RUCKER - WORLD WAR II

Survivor of the Sinking of the Carrier USS Lipscombe Bay

Clayton Columbus Rucker was born in Hot Spring County, Arkansas, on January 25, 1924, the fourth child of Henry Cornelius Rucker and Madge Irene Cline. He is called "Buck" by friends and family.

He was inducted into the U. S. Navy in 1943 and received his training at San Diego, CA. After nine weeks of intense training and a three-week post as a ship's mess cook he was assigned to the Aircraft Carrier, Lipscombe Bay.

Buck recounts that "While on the deck . . . all us new recruits were lined up waiting for orders when someone hit me on the back almost knocking me off my feet and across the deck. I jumped up thinking that someone was getting rough already. It was Doyle Honold, my first cousin. He was a parachute rigger. We had a great reunion right there."

The Lipscombe Bay was assigned to the massive Gilbert Islands Operation when she was lost to a Japanese torpedo on November 24, 1943. She was the first "baby flattop" lost as a result of enemy action in the Pacific.

Concerning the sinking of the ship Buck remembers, "We were about five miles off Marcus Island supporting the soldiers and marines on the island. We were all out there just circling when a Japanese submarine torpedo hit us. I was in the ammunition room. There was a steel door and a hole through where I passed ammunition through to the gun crew. The impact knocked ammunition down on me. I crawled out from under it and couldn't find my life preserver. When I did find it, I couldn't get it out from under the ammunition. I thought, 'well I'm going to run anyway.' I looked up at the door which was hanging there. When I started to pull it out of the way, I remember being real scared, the door

was frozen in place. I thought, 'man howdy' here I am in a room with four steel walls and no way to get out. Then I thought of the ammunition hole. I went out of that hole head first and fell on a soldier by the name of Young who was on guard duty. He was torn up pretty bad and was dead. I took his life preserver, put it on and ran.

"There was oil burning everywhere and the ship was going down fast. The water was full of injured and dead. I was swimming real hard trying to get away from a 'live net' that was burning close by. I was in the water for about two and [a] half hours before being picked up.

"After being picked up, we were sent back to Pearl Harbor to hospitals there. I was real worried about my cousin, wondering if he had made it. One day when the chaplain came in, I told him about my cousin and he made the remark that there was a man in another hospital saying the same thing. I asked if his name was Honold and he said, 'That's it!'"

Buck and Doyle recovered from their wounds and after shore leave, returned to active duty. They both received the Purple Heart Award for wounds received in the sinking of the Lipscombe Bay. There was a total complement of 911 men aboard the ship. Buck and Doyle were more fortunate than 644 of their fellow crew members who lost their lives.

After the war, Buck became an oil field worker. He spent the majority of his career abroad in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Brazil. He retired to his hometown of Malvern, Arkansas, in 1989 after losing a leg in an oil field accident.

See notes on next page

## EDITORIAL NOTE:

We have recently had a lot of interest in (and input concerning) wartime experiences; therefore, we have initiated The Veterans Column. If you or any Rucker relative wish to share an interesting experience from any war please sent it to our roving newsletter reporter, Michael P. Rucker, at 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614.

We thank Irene Rucker Larsen, of Hot Springs, AR, for submitting the story about Clayton Rucker. His account from an interview in July 1992 has been deposited in the Office of U.S. Naval Records and History.

Doyle Honold is not a Rucker descendant, but contributed information to this story.

Clayton's ancestry: son of Henry Cornelius Rucker, grandson of Isaac Cornelius Rucker, great grandson of James Paschal Rucker, who first appeared in the 1850 census in Saline Co., AR. Further lineage of James P. Rucker is unknown although the family feels he descends from Peter Rucker. Census records say he was born in TN. His tombstone at the New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery, Rollo, AR, gives the dates 1824-1907.

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## RUCKER BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A number of books have been recently published by and about Ruckers. They are offered to the membership for purchase. If you have ever researched genealogy, then you know the bargain you get at purchasing someone else's work at a nominal fee. Alice Allen's book is essential for every Rucker library. (If anyone desires an autographed copy, please request so when ordering.)

Alice Rucker Allen, has written a beautiful, hardbound book, Rucker Heritage. It includes the first four generations of Ruckers in America plus the descendants of Peter<sup>3</sup> Rucker (John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), many not included in Sudie Rucker Wood's book. Cost \$35.00, post paid, send to Alice, 1514 Westover Road, Austin, TX 78703.

Lucille Rucker Chessmore, The Augustus Oliver Family, costs \$35.00, post paid. Send to Lucille, 3804 Wayland Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Lucille and Alice are sisters, and both have included information on the Joseph Herman Rucker family in their books, see RFSN Vol. 2, No. 3, Aug. 1991.

Anne Rucker Glover, "Joshua Tinsley Rucker of Bedford County, VA, 1837-1915, Ancestors and Descendants." Anne has compiled the descendants of Joshua Tinsley Rucker, son of Joshua Rucker and Emily Tinsley (Wood, p. 148). His son, William Harris Rucker, married Catherine "Bernice" Meriwether of "Sholto" now the Boonsboro County Club, located just west of Lynchburg, VA. Joshua Tinsley Rucker spent his last years at Sholto. Send \$10, post paid, to Anne at 8388 SE Croft Circle #4, Hobe Sound, FL 33455.

Michael P. Rucker, "Terry the Tractor," a delightful child's story (age 8-10) about a small tractor from its inception until "he" comes on hard times and finally is rescued by a kindly owner. Mike, assistant editor of the Rucker newsletter, has worked for Caterpillar Inc. for over 30 years. Cost (softbound copy) \$3.95, plus \$2.00 shipping and handling fee for the 1st copy (and \$.75 for shipping additional copies). (For orders of 5 or more, deduct 40%) Send to Mike Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614. P.S. Mike is writing a sequel, "Terry and the Bully."

continued

1994 Reunion Booklet, "Tour of North Bedford County," written by Lewis M. ("Jack") White, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181, is available at cost for \$5.00, post paid. This is a super work on family homes in the northern district of Bedford Co., VA. It includes family homes and churches of George and William Rucker, sons of John<sup>3</sup> (John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), and Joshua Rucker, son of Reuben<sup>4</sup> (Isaac<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and some of their descendants.

Ron Payne has produced a new booklet, "Three Generations of Paynes and Ruckers." It is the story of Moses Payne and Nancy Rucker (Colby<sup>4</sup>), their parents and grandparents. It tells of their geographic origins and their travels. He has offered this booklet to the membership for \$10.00, postage included. Send to Ron Payne, Rt. 3, Box 20, Falkville, AL 35622-9403.

The Ruckers of South Carolina, by Brent H. Holcomb, P. O. Box 21766, Columbia, SC 29221, \$22.00 post paid. Brent Holcomb is a professional genealogist and editor of the South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research. He is a lecturer and will be at the "On to Richmond" genealogical conference to be held in Richmond this fall. The Ruckers of SC do not descend from Peter Rucker but some of you may be interested in this family. Mr. Holcomb has done a very fine job of researching the descendants of Samuel Rucker, immigrant to SC in 1750.

Anyone interested in the Ruckers of Amherst, might enjoy The Diary of Robert Rose, by Ralph E. Fall, 1977. On page 20, it gives the marriage date of John<sup>3</sup> Rucker and Eleanor Warren (not in the Sudie Wood's Rucker book). "October 26, 1747, Married John Rucker to Eleanor Warren and took his Money for the Fee." (See Wood, p.15.) Mr. Fall has included

many anecdotes about the Ruckers. To order, send \$25.00, post paid, to The Rev. Ralph Emmett Fall, 592 North Bethany Road, McDonough, GA 30253-3022. (Note: GA residents add 5% sales tax.)

Excerpts from a letter from Ralph Fall: "We have a rather large and important Rucker family here in town where the elder man is the owner of a large real estate firm.

"A Virginia state highway marker was dedicated at the site of old Vauter's Church in Essex County, when I was invited to be present this year. It states that the building was erected as a unit in 1731 and not in two segments as had been believed for 100 years before 1969, when all the plaster inside the edifice was removed down to the bare brick." (Note: if this was true than the Ruckers were gone by the time the present building was constructed.)

A GENEALOGY SOFTWARE CATALOG is being offered by member, Joe Sissoms, 3500 Gentry Road, Irving, TX 75062, (214) 650-9026. His company, Italy & Avalon, Inc., has been developing and distributing genealogy and other software internationally since 1989.

His catalog offers a collection of over 200 genealogy data files & DOS programs and other software of interest to the researcher. He also offers LDS CD-Rom data. Please contact him for a free catalog.

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NOTE FROM MICHAEL P. RUCKER: The article on Ambrose Rucker of Pittsylvania Co., VA, is being postponed until the next newsletter as additional information is being researched by the family.

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## CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

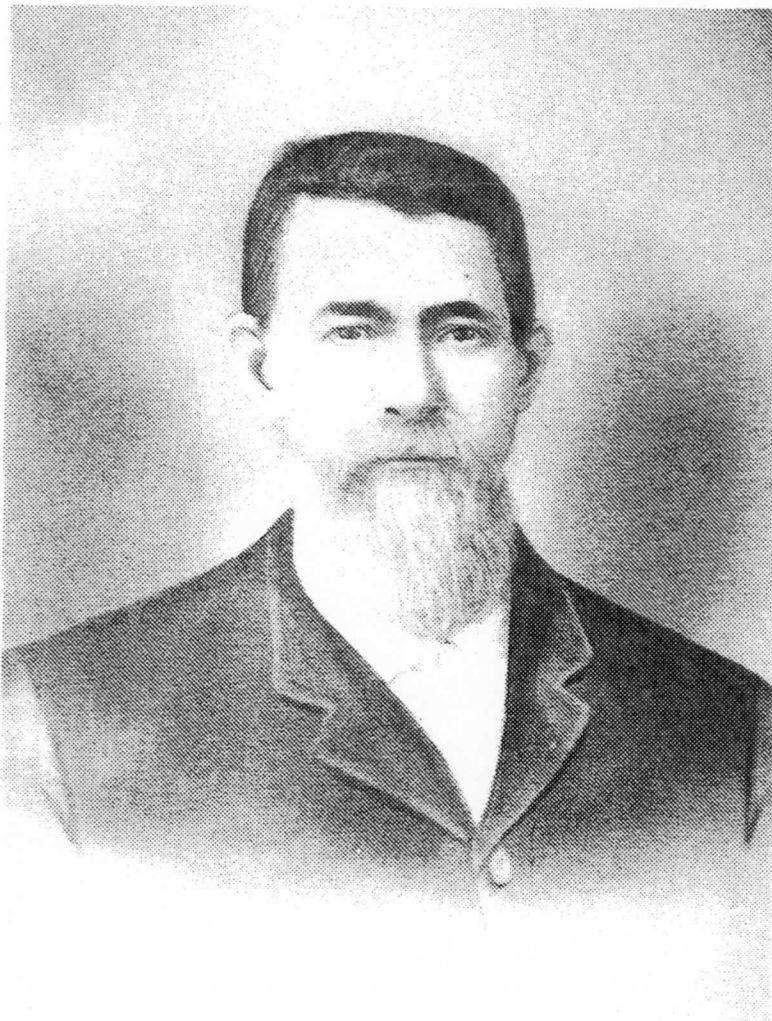
A Query from Sudie Rucker Wood, p.124: "The following statement was made by James Hudson, of Versailles, KY, who was an eye witness to the incident: 'During the Civil War, when the Confederate soldiers were stationed near Appomattox C. H., a soldier was asked to volunteer to set on fire the Court House, to prevent its being captured by the Federal troops. A man from a Tennessee Company by the name of Benjamin Rucker volunteered. He succeeded in setting the house on fire, but being in full view of the enemy he was immediately shot.'

"We do not know to which family the above Benjamin belongs, but are placing it here [p.124] hoping some day to hear from the descendants of the above soldier."

Can anyone identify this heroic Benjamin Rucker? Is there someone who is willing to research him for us? Ron Payne, perhaps?

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## JOSEPH MOORE RUCKER



Edward J. Willis III is requesting stories about Ruckers who fought in the Civil War. He announced this at the Rucker Reunion and has received the following from Alice Rucker Allen.

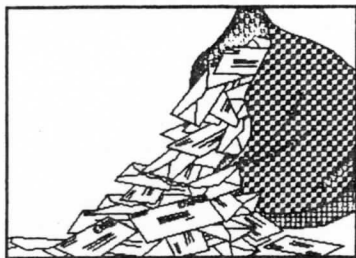
Alice's grandfather, Joseph ("Joe") Moore Rucker was the youngest of nine sons of Reuben<sup>5</sup> Rucker who served in the Confederate army. (See RFSN, Vol.2, No. 3, for Alice's family.) Also See Rucker Heritage, p.309.

Joe served in Company K, 4th Alabama Cavalry under Gen. Phillip D. Roddy. They were under the command of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, the notorious cavalry leader.

He fought in the battles at Franklin, TN, and Brice's Crossroads, MS. On January 25, 1864, at Bainbridge, AL, Joe's horse was shot out from under him. He was paid the value of his horse, \$425.00 at Courtland, Lawrence Co., AL, on the 5th of February. The pay of Confederate money had the meager gold value of five cents. Joe served until the close of the war.

Send your photos and stories to the Editor.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



"I really enjoyed your article on 'Fuzzy Logic.' I think I am becoming a genealogist. I'm thinking also of the Rucker Reunion and wish I could be there. I'm excited about all your research, and when it is on a computer disk, it could be put into the LDS computer bank. And that would correct any errors. The computer does have Fuzzy Logic now as new stuff goes in, but the old material needs a correction disk."

From Doris Rucker Wasden, Salt Lake City, UT. Doris and I met this winter when my husband and I went to Park City for a week of skiing. I met Doris at the LDS Library and we spent the day together researching and getting to know each other. She took me on a tour of the recently renovated former Utah Hotel, now offices for the Mormons.

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"Enjoyed my first Rucker Family Society Newsletter." See Query on Weldon Lee Rucker, published in Vol. 5, No. 1, March 1994, newsletter.

"I have found out more information on my step-grandfather, WELDON LEE RUCKER. He was born 26 Jul 1870, in Mobetie, Wheeler County, TX, and married 1st a Miss Permelia A. Dunlap, b. c1860 in Galesburg, Knox Co., IL, on 14 Sep 1893 in Galesburg, ceremony performed by S. P. Dunlap from Springfield, OH. Mr. Rucker married 2nd my grandmother, Ziska Jincks Farrington, c1902, in Bryceland, Clayborne Parish, LA, after my grandfather, Thomas George Farrington died. Does anyone have information on these individuals?"

Write to Arthur Farrington, 5640 Beechwood Dr., Lawton, OK 73505-2902.

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"The article on Cass Rucker, in the March newsletter, was very interesting to me. Cass is my father's first cousin--their fathers were sons of Samuel James Rucker and Adelaide Mitchell Rucker. Cass's father was John Chapman Rucker and my Dad's was William Mitchell Rucker Sr. The article was a nice surprise! From Mary Rucker Cole, Houston, TX, an attender at the 1994 Rucker Reunion.

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LETTER FROM J. WILLARD RUCKER, MALVERN ARKANSAS:

Dear cousins and Rucker Descendants:

I'm sending you an article on Col. Edmund Winchester Rucker for whom Ft. Rucker, AL, was named. I would like to know if anyone can connect him with their family? My great grandfather was born in Tennessee, in 1824, near the same post as Gen. Edmund Rucker. My great G.F., James Paschal Rucker, and his brother, James Franklin Rucker, moved to Arkansas in the 1840s.

I would like very much to get to the reunion, but it is too far to drive.

I was in Camp Picket, VA, Aug. and Sept. 1842, near a town called Blackstone. I went into Lynchburg for a weekend pass and stayed with some people by the name of Jim and Grace Bradock. They treated me so nice.

You folks have a good time.

Love from Arkansas,

Willard and Juanita Rucker  
12 Lincoln St., Malvern, AR 72104.

Note from the Editor: Col. Edmund W. Rucker is listed on p.127 of Sudie Rucker Wood's book. Also see RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 1, p.9; and RUCKER RUCKUS, Vol. 2, Is 2, p.99, for additional information.

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## JEANNIE-ALOGY "Never Assume Anything"

At a family conference for our church, last May, our leader told the following story: A doctor was examining a 78 year old man and found him in perfect health. In fact he had the body of a 30 year old. The doctor questioned him, "How in the world do you keep yourself in such good shape." The man replied that he didn't do anything special but he did try to eat healthy food and lots of fruit. The doctor, writing this down, asked how old his father was when he died.

The hale and hearty man replied, "Did I say my father had died?"

"Well, no," answered the doctor. "Is he alive?" Yes he was alive and also physically fit at the age of 98.

The doctor asked him the age that his grandfather had died and again the man answered, "Did I say my grandfather had died?" No, thought the doctor, wondering how old he was. "My grandfather is 118 and is planning on getting married next week."

The doctor couldn't believe what he was hearing. He couldn't understand why a man of 118 would want to take on the responsibilities of married life. He questioned: "Why does your grandfather want to get married at such an advanced age?"

The patient replied, "Did I say he wanted to get married?"

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The point of this story is that one must never assume anything in genealogy research. This is especially true in using other peoples' documentation. We are too quick to accept what is written as correct, whether it's a published book or a handwritten note. Again I remind you to not accept what you find in books without double checking it against original records as well as comparing it to other sources.

Here is one interesting example to show the kinds of mistakes that can be made in a census record. In the

1870 Amherst Co., VA, census records the same family was listed twice. The names are different and the ages are different, but it's obviously the same family.

1870 Amherst Co., p.477:

Susan Burford, age 65;  
William R. Hochins, age 26,  
R[ail] Road laborer;  
Virginia, age 25;  
Olivia M., age 2.

1870 Amherst Co., p.484:

Susan W. Burford, age 66;  
Wm. R. Hatcher, age 26,  
laborer, R Road;  
Virginia A., age 24;  
Lelia M., age 1.

Getting correct information in census records was not the mission of the census taker. It was more important to get the correct number of people, rather than how old each person was or if the name was spelled correctly. Mistakes were made and sometimes people were counted twice as in this example and sometimes they were missed altogether. This must be taken into consideration when examining census records.

Use books and records as a clue to your ancestor, but remember: **Never assume anything!**

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**MEMO TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE 1994 REUNION:** The kind folks who opened their homes to us for the reunion would appreciate a thank you note.

The Joshua Rucker home, "Glen Oaks": Mr. and Mrs. Howard Belcher (Howard and Margaret), Rt. 2, Box 940, Forest, VA 24551.

The George Rucker home, "Pleasant Vale": Mrs. Frances Hatcher ("Nannie"), Rt. 2, Box 762, Forest, VA 24551.

From Lewis M. ("Jack") White, chairman of the 1994 reunion.

## PETER RUCKER'S ARRIVAL IN AMERICA HIS SHIPWRECK--NEW STORIES

Ron Payne of Falkville, AL, has sent a xerox from Days Gone by in Alpharetta and Roswell, GA, by Caroline Matheny Dillman, taken from articles printed in the Alpharetta-Roswell ReVue. One of the articles, entitled "The Ruckers," was originally published Nov. 15, 1986. It contains a new story of Peter Rucker's arrival in America: ". . . Peter Rucker was the first Rucker on American soil, and he came on a ship that was wrecked just before reaching the shores of Virginia back in the late 1600s. It seems that there were two potential survivors of the disaster, and they gambled in a game of 'Seven Up' to determine who would win the remaining keg of rum to use to float to shore. Peter won, and 'a keg of rum' has, over the years, been used as the password of Peter Rucker's descendants."

The story was told by Edith Copeland Rucker to about 100 descendants at the Rucker Family Reunion in Georgia. She began her talk thus: "By the grace of God, a deck of cards, and a keg of rum you are here today." This is an even better story than the one printed previously in this newsletter about Peter floating to shore on two casks of rum. (See Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 3, p.6.)

## OTHER STORIES OF PETER RUCKER'S ARRIVAL IN AMERICA

"Peter Rucker, born in England, emigrated with his family from England to Essex County, VA, about the year 1700, was naturalized, and became a citizen of Virginia in 1704. [He] died in Orange County, VA, in 1753." From "Our Rucker Family" by W. J. Carter, 1926. (Submitted by Julie Rucker, Decatur, IL.)

wrote: "That there were three Rucker brothers who came over from Holland in Colonial days. Their ship sank and only one lived to get to shore and that all the Ruckers were descended from this one man and most of them lived in the south." (Sent in by Neil's son, Clair N. Rucker, San Jose, CA.)

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"In checking out the Rucker's background, I found that in 1732 Peter Rucker landed in Richmond, VA, and a few years later married [do not know who] and had 8 children, 4 boys & 4 girls. Over the years the family scattered about Alabama, Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana & Texas." Written by Capt. James B. Rucker, Kansas City, MO, in a letter to Gerald A. Pilcher, 4 Feb. 1982. (From Doris W. Edwards, Grands Rapids, MI.)

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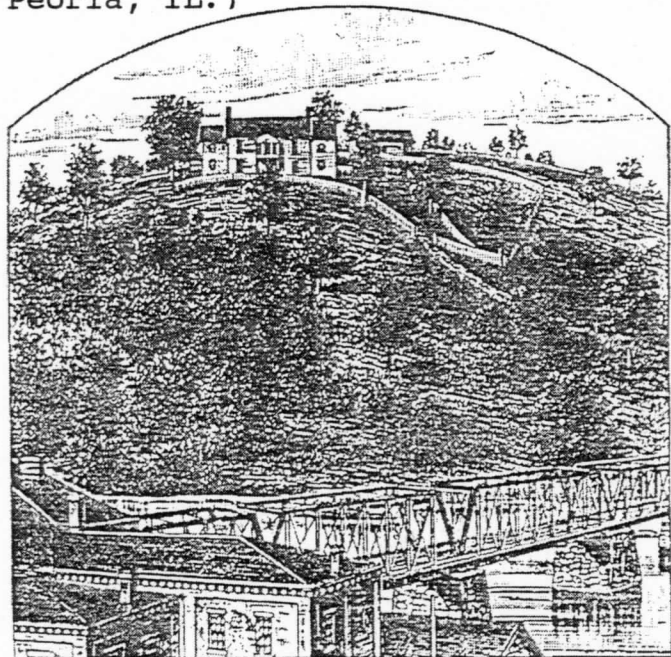
The following was written by Neil Lewis Rucker of Burdett, KS, in a letter to Paul H. Rucker of Burlington, Iowa, June 1, 1966. He

If anyone has other, published or unpublished, stories of Peter Rucker's arrival, please send them to the Editor. With so many different stories handed down on different sides of the family, we feel there must be some truth to a shipwreck.

In Huguenot Emigration to Virginia, by R. A. Brock, there is evidence of a shipwreck in Jamestown in 1700. Everyone survived but lost all their personal property. It must have been a traumatic event for the story to be carried down through each generation by word of mouth. However as stories are wont to do, they get better with each telling until inaccurate stories, like the ones above, have survived.

### A LYNCHBURG MANSION

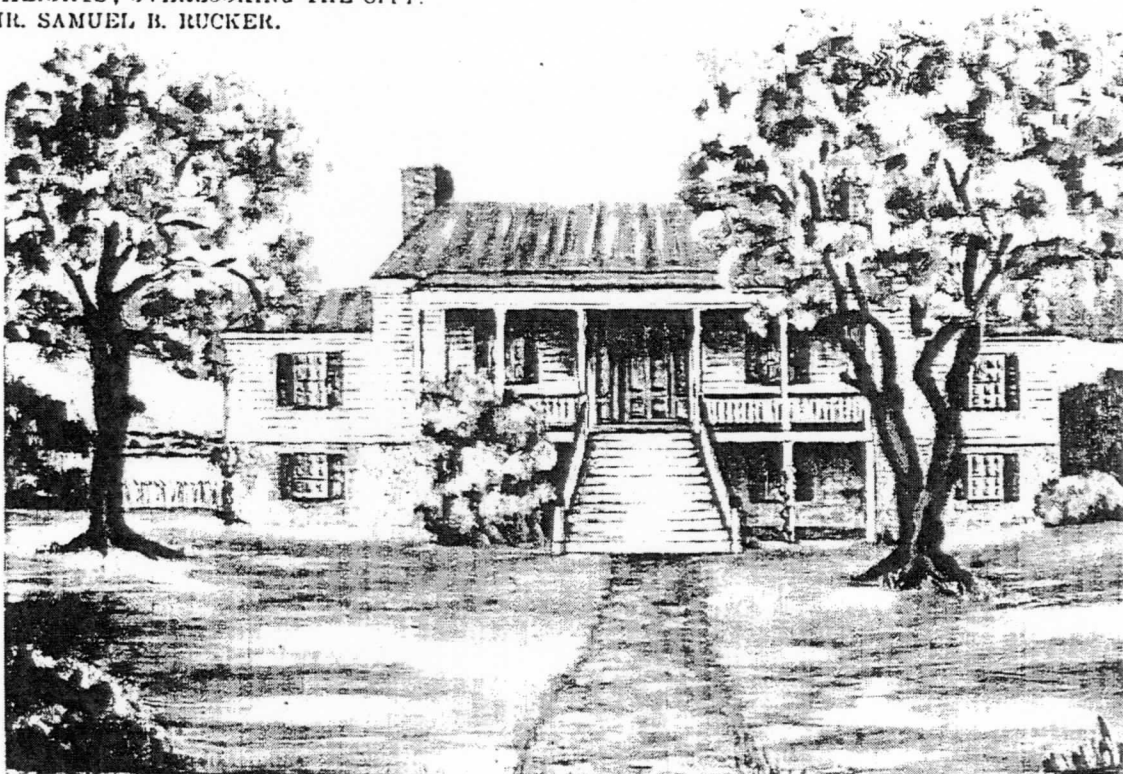
Samuel B. Rucker's home is pictured in Sketch Book of Lynchburg, Va., Its People and Its Trade, A story as told in 1887, by Edward Pollock. A large home, overlooking the city of Lynchburg, situated high on a hill over the railroad bridge. The home is no longer standing. (Submitted by Ruth McBride, Amherst Co., VA, and Michael P. Rucker, Peoria, IL.)



"CITY VIEW," ON AMHERST HEIGHTS; OVERLOOKING THE CITY.  
RESIDENCE OF MR. SAMUEL B. RUCKER.

At the 1994 reunion, Henry L. Rucker, of Aiken, SC, grandson of Samuel Burks Rucker, took me on a guided tour of his grandfather's property. I had thought it was in Lynchburg, but it was located across the river, on a high knoll overlooking the James River. The same river where Anthony and Benjamin Rucker launched the first batteau many years before. The property is now owned by Ruth McBride's nephew and is the headquarters for his sign business. The entrance is on Route 29, business, just north of the bridge. Henry pointed out where the front yard had been and where the grass is a different color than the surrounding growth. Henry said he visited there as a youngster and had many happy memories. The home burned sometime in the 1930s. It has a spectacular view of Lynchburg.

I had written the above and was preparing the newsletter for the printer when I received a letter from Henry Rucker. He enclosed a sketch of his grandfather's house. It differs slightly from the one reprinted in the Sketch Book of Lynchburg, but it could have been altered over the years.



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**MACK RUCKER DIES OF HEART ATTACK**  
 by Michael P. Rucker

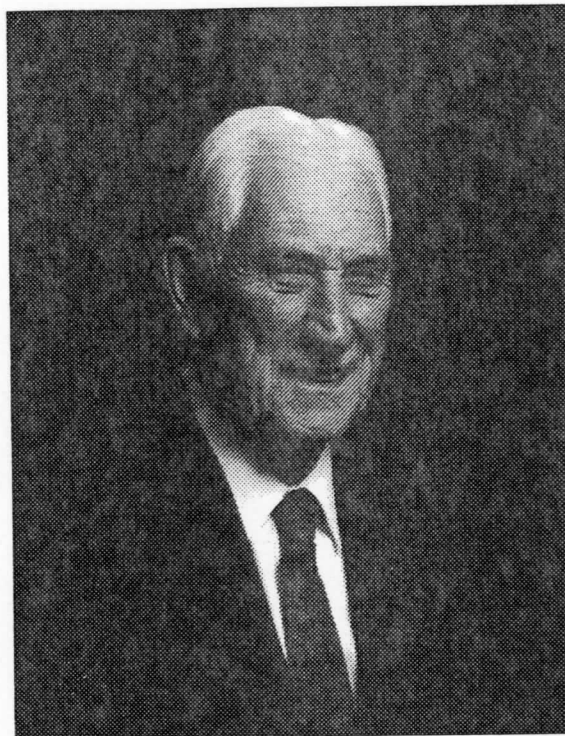
Albon McDaniel Rucker, Jr. died of cardiac problems May 21, 1994, in a Richmond, Virginia hospital. Known to all as "Mack," he was an active and gregarious individual with many and varied interests. He was a charter member of the board of the Rucker Family Society. He and Isabelle hosted the Saturday evening reception for the 1990 reunion in Amherst County, VA.

Mack<sup>8</sup> (Albon<sup>7</sup> McDaniel, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>5</sup> B., George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was born August 9, 1912, in Buena Vista, Virginia, the son of Albon McDaniel Rucker and Katherine Williams Rucker. He is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Isabelle (see RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 3, p.6).

He attended Virginia Military Academy for a short while, but did not enjoy the cadet system and left to seek employment. He went to Arlington, Virginia to live with an aunt and uncle, Ashton Crenshaw Jones and Margaret Virginia Rucker (see RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 2, p.4). Jobs were in short supply during the Depression, but he was fortunate enough to find a position as assistant treasurer with Clarendon Trust Company. He remained there until 1938 when he and a friend opened the first furniture store in Arlington, known as Furniture, Inc. During this period he earned a law degree from National University in Washington, D.C. by attending night school.

He married Harriet Isabelle Pettit of Fredericks Hall in Louisa County on June 14, 1941. In 1942 he entered the Navy as Ensign and was assigned to the Pentagon. The following year he was assigned to the USS Whitman in the Pacific Theater of World War II until his discharge as a full Lieutenant in October 1945.

In 1948 he sold his interest in the furniture store and purchased a farm in Louisa County near where Isabelle grew up. He raised Angus cattle for several years until he was



asked to join the Virginia State Tax Department in 1958. Later, he was appointed the first Administrator of Unclaimed Property, a position he held until his retirement in 1977.

During his retirement he became an avid "rock hound" and an excellent gardener. He manicured the lawn and shrubs of his beautiful home in Chesterfield County with loving care. The property is surrounded on three sides by the Swift Creek Reservoir. Hundreds of mountain laurels grace the gardens and walkways.

Mack was a member of the Seventh Street Christian Church in Richmond. He was buried at Bethpage Christian Church, Fredericks Hall, Virginia.

Isabelle, was appointed to be the first director of the Governor's School for the Gifted in 1975. Isabelle received a B. A. Degree from Randolph Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg and a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Virginia. She taught high school before joining the state government. She retired from the Virginia State Department of Education in 1979. Mack will be sorely missed by all.

## IN MEMORIAM continued

**RICHARD ("DICK") E. RUCKER**, age 76, died July 1, 1994, Farmville, VA. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Pattie Bowe Rucker and one step-daughter, Mrs. Cathy Cave, of Woodstock, VA. Burial was at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Front Royal, VA. (From the Richmond Times Dispatch, July 2, 1994. If anyone knows to which family Dick belongs, please contact the Editor.)

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**BETTY J. WARE**, wife of Col. Joseph M. Ware of San Antonio, TX, died this spring. We hope Col. Ware will send us an obituary for additional information.

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**MARY ELIZABETH RUCKER PEIRCE**, wife of George Roland Peirce, died February 20, 1993. She was buried at Friends Creek Cemetery, Argenta, IL. Her line of descent is from Melvin<sup>8</sup> Barnett Rucker, John<sup>7</sup> Elliott, James<sup>6</sup> Cowan, John<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Mordecai<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. Mary graduated in 1936 from the University of Illinois, with a major in Home Economics. She worked for the National Livestock and Meat Board giving cooking schools in cities from New England to Arizona across the U.S. She also worked as a Home Economist for Central Illinois Power and Light Company. She was predeceased by one son David. She is survived by her husband and two sons, John and Donald, and three grandchildren.

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## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Please send queries, obituaries, 50th anniversary notices, articles and suggestions to the Editor: Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226, (804) 358-3185. We would very much like to receive suggestions or articles for the Family Profile section.

**Family Update:** We are still requesting family lineage papers. If you have not submitted your family, there is still time to do so. I have been working on early lines of the Ruckers and, this summer, researched the James<sup>2</sup> Rucker family in Ohio. Rebecca Jones, daughter of John Rucker Jones, of Falls Church, VA, is helping me enter information into the computer. Many thanks to Rebecca for volunteering to help.

**Membership Dues** are \$7.00 annually, payable January 1st. Checks should be made to The Rucker Society and mailed 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 September 1 will be credited for the next year. If new members desire to receive newsletters for both 1994 and 1995, please send a check for \$14.00 to cover the cost of two years.

My husband, Chuck, and I will be taking "the trip of a lifetime" this fall. We leave September 5 for a two month cruise around South America. We sail out of Miami and head south through the Panama Canal. Please keep your letters coming but, remember, it will be awhile before I answer. It will be hard being away from genealogy for so long and being out of touch with you. However, I hope to get caught up on some reading.

## THE PRESERVATION AND MEMORIAL FUND

## REPRINT OF SUDIE RUCKER WOOD'S BOOK

The board has decided to change the name of the Highway Marker fund to the Preservation and Memorial Fund. This name will cover any future activities we decide upon. In the past we have repaired tombstones, cleared cemeteries, and placed highway markers to the Ruckers.

We would like to seek information from our membership for activities on which to use these funds. We would like to know the location of any cemeteries of Ruckers that need repairing. Or suggestions for highway markers to any famous Rucker or event.

About the repair or placement of cemetery markers: We would like to encourage descendants to repair their own family graveyards. The Rucker Family Society will make a donation but will not fully fund such repairs or placement of markers.

Please let us know when such repairs are desired, in writing, and the board will consider them at our annual meeting.

We have received many requests for Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy. The Board has authorized another reprinting if we get 100 prepaid orders. We continually get new members all the time and each one wants a copy of the book. Plus some families want copies for their children. It will take about six months for the copies to be ready.

The reprints will be just like the others done in 1991 and 1993. We must have the money up front to reprint. If we don't get enough orders, your money will be fully refunded. Send your check for \$20.00 and your name and address made out to The Rucker Society to Lewis M. (Jack) White, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181, or use the order form below. If you are keeping your newsletters for future use and want to keep it intact, please xerox the form below or use a plain piece of paper.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

\_\_\_ Reprint of Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy  
Paperback copy, a reprint--not an update, at \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

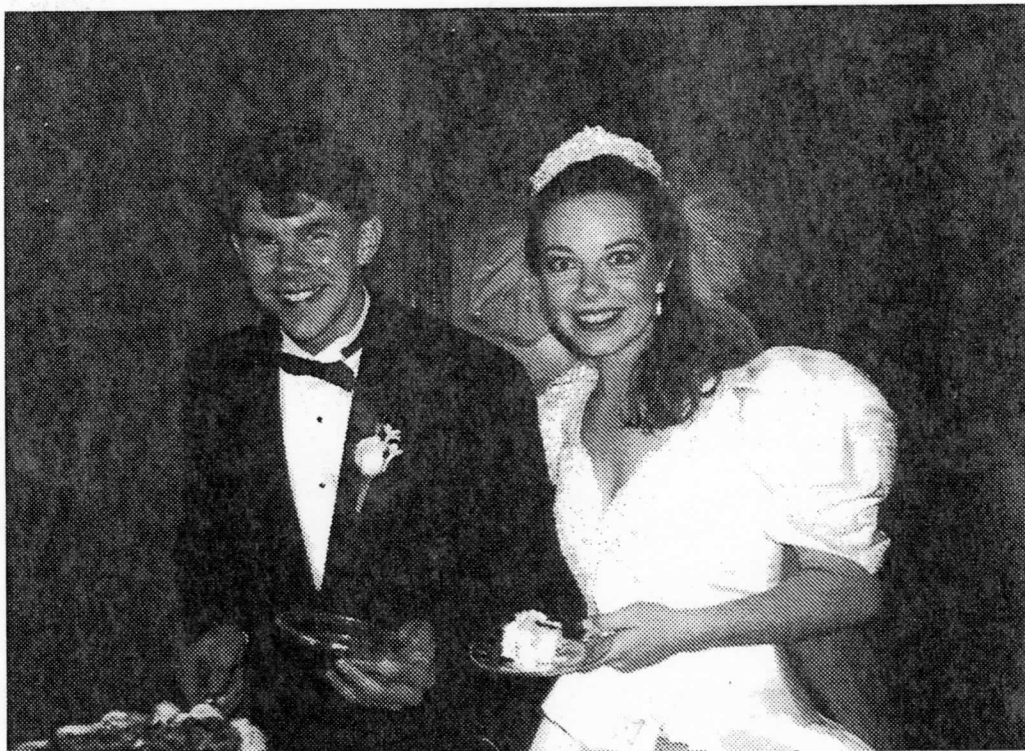
\_\_\_ Donations for the Preservation and Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**The MARRIAGE OF DEREK RUCKER AND DIANE MULSO** took place on Saturday, June 25, 1994, at St. Joseph's Church, Lake Orion, MI, near the bride's home in Rochester Hills. Derek, the son of Michael P. Rucker and Harriet Jones Rucker, is acclaimed for having the most lines of descent from Peter Rucker--seven in all (see RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 1, p.1 & 10). Derek and Diane met while studying engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Diane is working as an engineer at General Motors and Derek is in graduate school. The couple will live in Northville, Michigan.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY**

Jean B. Robinson, Editor  
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Richmond, VA 23226

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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