

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

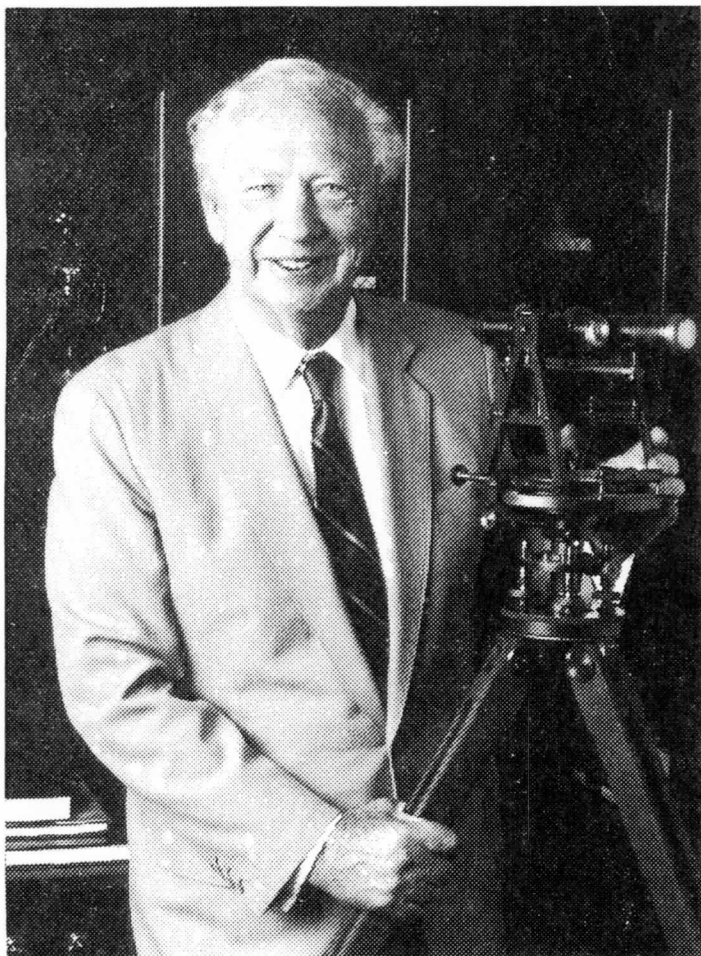
Volume 6

Number 1

March 1995

FAMILY PROFILE - SIDNEY OLIVER DEWBERRY by Michael P. Rucker

The story of Sid Dewberry's life reads like a Horatio Alger saga: He was born in a sawmill shanty, co-founded a small engineering firm that, under his leadership, has grown to become one of the country's largest firms of engineers, architects, designers and planners. And, equally important, he is acknowledged as one of the fairest, nicest individuals you may ever meet.



Let's begin in Hurt, Virginia with Sid's childhood home--the sawmill shanty. Sid's great-grandfather Ambrose Rucker purchased 1,239½ acres in Pittsylvania County in 1851. He farmed and milled timber from the land. Needing accommodation for his workers, he built a large frame structure near the sawmill.

When his daughter Mary B. "Molly" married Civil War veteran Aaron Jackson "Jack" Dewberry in 1876, Ambrose gave Molly 200 acres and the old sawmill worker's lodging as a wedding gift. (See RFSN, Vol. 4, No. 3, for additional information.)

SID¹⁰'S LINE OF DESCENT:
ALBERT⁹ SIDNEY DEWBERRY,
MOLLY⁸ RUCKER, AMBROSE⁷,
REUBEN⁶ DAWSON, AMBROSE⁵, REU-
BEN⁴, AMBROSE³, JOHN², PETER¹

Jack and Molly Dewberry reared nine children in the small cottage. In 1920 a son, Sid (father to our current Sid), and his wife Katie purchased the dwelling from the other heirs. In an interesting coincidence, nine children were also born to Sid and Katie in the same old frame building. Sidney O. Dewberry was born there December 23, 1927. There were four brothers and two sisters older than Sid and two younger sisters.

The elder Sid Dewberry was a bridge builder in addition to being a small farmer. He succumbed to a long battle with leukemia in 1937 when Sid was nine years old.

"Sid was the youngest and smallest of the boys, so for most of his childhood, he was sort of clean up man, the scapegoat," Sid's eldest brother, the Rev. Willis E. Dewberry, once recalled. This background fostered in Sid a determination to get an education and to do well in life.

After the death of the senior Sid, the family made ends meet by farming the land. (Sid remembers that the site of the old sawmill pile raised great potatoes.) Mules and horses were used to cultivate the fields. "We certainly couldn't afford a tractor," Sid remembers. "We worked from sun up to sun down and went to school in between."

Sid graduated from Gretna High School in June 1945. Although he was only seventeen, the U. S. Army recognized Sid's potential for math and engineering. They sent him to Virginia Polytechnic Institute for a short course before dispatching him off to boot camp.

After his military discharge, he enrolled in the Virginia Tech extension campus at Danville under the G. I. Bill. His ties to his home soil were still strong, however, and he made the forty-mile trip home each weekend by whatever means were available--hitchhike, bus, or, once, an old bicycle. "I decided pretty quickly not to do that again," he recollects.

After completing the two-year engineering curriculum offered at Danville, Sid moved to Washington to live with his brothers Willis and Raymond while attending George Washington University. While at GWU, on June 1, 1950, he married his hometown sweetheart, Reva Ann Lanier.

Reva grew up on a farm near Sid's family in Pittsylvania County. She was a serious student and was salutatorian for her graduating class. Reva kept the books for Sid's company during the firm's first ten

years. She's also concentrated on spending time with their children and grandchildren. She enjoys decorating and interior design, growing flowers, cooking, fine clothes, travel, and the family boat.

In 1951 Sid received his degree in Civil Engineering and began work for a local surveying and engineering company.

In 1956 Sid and Richard Davis (now retired) co-founded a small engineering firm in Arlington County, Virginia, with a staff of six. Dewberry and Davis has now grown into the largest such company in the state with a staff of over 1100 and annual contracts totaling more than \$90 million in fees.

The new company was inaugurated on Friday the 13th [1956], during a recession. They got a few small jobs, but no big breaks and after nine months the primary money partners wanted to cut their losses and close down. "If I had been superstitious, I probably would have," he admits. However, he convinced the investors to give the venture a full year. "One year to the day after we opened, we got two nice jobs," Sid says with a grin.

Eldest son Barry, Chief Operating Officer for D&D, describes his father's success. Barry states, "My mother insists that Sid is so lucky that he could dive head first into a mud puddle and come up with a rose between his teeth. He's a very lucky guy--but maybe you get to be lucky by being a hard worker, too. I say that because it would be just his style to blame it all on luck."

Maybe so, but according to his brother Earl, still of Pittsylvania County, Sid's success is due in large part to his ability to work with people. "He has a way. He can get them to do anything he wants them to. But, he is still a very modest person."

Modest certainly, and well liked, too. When the New Dominion magazine did a feature story on Sid for their November/December, 1988 edition, the editor commented that they could

find no one willing to say anything negative about Sid. He wrote, "Sid Dewberry, it seems universally acknowledged, is a nice guy."

His liking for interaction with people and a desire to get things done led Sid to give politics a try in 1971. "I thought I wanted to lead a political life--it was one of my secret ambitions. When some people urged me to run for the Arlington County Board, I agreed." He lost and found out the hard way that the rules of politics are substantially different from those of business. "Businessmen get to know and trust each other. You do business on a handshake," he states. "In politics, nothing is put in writing either, but when you think you can trust people you can't. That doesn't appeal to me."

He has been approached several times about going public, but has rejected each, in turn. "I couldn't work for anyone else. They tell me I could get a lot of money. But, what would I do with the money. I'd worry about it mostly," he conjectures.

Sid has structured the business into a family partnership with an eye to the future--survive into future generations with family members in charge as non-engineering professionals. That would be unusual for an engineering firm where the leader is generally an engineer or architect. But, Sid believes that son Barry (age 43) is well equipped for the task. He was the first of the children to enter the firm and is in line to replace Sid as CEO. Daughter Karen (age 42) was an interior designer for the company until her daughters were born. She may return after the children are in college. Son Michael (age 28) will graduate, with honors, from Marymount College in June. He plans to attend law school this fall. Youngest son Tom (age 22) is an engineering student at George Mason University and works part time for Dewberry & Davis.

Sid carries a pair of boots in the trunk of his car in order to get on site at various projects as often as possible. "Maybe it's just be-



Sid Dewberry and family
November 1990

From left:
Thomas Lanier Dewberry
Stephanie Ann (Anglin), and husband Michael Sidney Dewberry

Reva
Sid

Karen (Dewberry) and husband Bruce Grand Pré
their children, Suzanne Michelle ("Suzy") and Candace Anne ("Candy") Grand Pré

Arlene (Evans) and husband Barry Keith Dewberry

See next page for additional grandchildren



Michael Sidney Dewberry II and Katie Ann Dewberry
Children of Stephanie and Michael Dewberry
(not yet born when family photo was taken)

cause I'm an old farm boy, but I believe you have to walk the land before you can really get a feel of the job." He also likes to "walk the floor" at the office chatting with employees about how each project is going, but always leaving the technical decisions to them.

While most engineering and architectural firms are headed by professionals who get involved in the details of each project, Sid is more a concept person--a long term planner who can see what the possibilities are for each project or property. Equally important, he is the kind of person who can get people--property owners, government, employees, businessmen--to work together to accomplish the vision.

Typically, Sid modestly states, "I have just been fortunate to land in the right place at the right time. The suburban Washington, D.C. area was booming. It was just under a million people then [1956]; now it has over four million."

"There were many people who provided assistance and support in those early days," he says. "But the most important person was my wife, Reva. She did the bookkeeping for the first

ten years and taught me nearly everything I know about accounting. She's been my most valuable asset and sounding board throughout the years and I continue to rely on her for advice and ideas."

A full list of significant recent projects by D&D would be too long for inclusion here, but it would include the 10-mile Dulles Toll Road in Fairfax County, Virginia; the Appalachian Music Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway in southwestern Virginia; the Lansdowne Executive Resort in Loudoun County, Virginia; numerous residential communities such as Montgomery Village in Maryland; Burke Center, Franklin Farm and Ashburn Farm in northern Virginia; the Filene Center II at the Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, VA; and the Prince William Institute--an academic and research venture in Prince William County, Virginia. D&D also designed the Dulles Greenway, the 14-mile extension to the Dulles Toll Road--the nation's first privately financed toll road in more than 100 years.

Emergency situations are nothing unusual for D&D. The company has a special division of 200 people, Management Engineering & Technical Services, which among other duties, responds to federal government requests for on-site disaster assistance. For example, more than 50 employees were assigned to the Los Angeles earthquake in January 1994. Over 60 were dispatched to Miami following Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The company also provided technical assistance and on-site inspections during the 1993 midwest floods and the 1994 floods in Georgia.

Dewberry & Davis currently has eighteen offices: eight in Virginia, with out of state branches in Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Texas. The New Dominion article stated that the firm is ". . . arguably the East Coast's best full service engineering and design firm."

Sid is currently vice chairman of the George Mason University Board of Trustees. He has worked closely with that school on a number of projects, most notably the Urban Systems Engineering Institute. This is an organization composed of Northern Virginia and Metropolitan Washington area engineering and land development leaders. The institute serves as liaison between the university's degree programs in Urban Systems Engineering and the development, engineering, construction and facilities community. Sid was a catalyst in the creation of this innovative program.

Sid is particularly proud of his key role in establishing the northern Virginia-based Engineers and Surveyors Institute, an award-winning professional organization formed to enhance real estate development, plan preparation, review and approval in the region. Thanks to the Institute's efforts, the time required to obtain building permits has been drastically reduced.

He also serves on the Governor's Commission for the Future of Higher Education, and the Virginia Business-Higher Education Council. He was recently appointed by Governor George Allen to chair the Regional Economic Development Advisory Council for Region 6 (Northern Virginia).

Sid's recent awards include New Dominion magazine's Northern Virginian of the year (1992); George Washington University's Distinguished Alumni Award (1991), and the Leadership Award for the Virginia Economic Bridge Initiative (1994) in recognition of his efforts to stimulate the economy of the state's rural areas.

An important project that Sid has been working on for several years will come to fruition later this year: the first comprehensive handbook covering the entire land development process. Published by McGraw Hill, it will be used by practitioners as well as students at the university level. This is an example of Sid's willingness to share the knowledge he has gained over the years.

Sid has come a long way since his humble beginnings in the old sawmill house: from hitchhiking the dusty roads of south-central Virginia to become a nationally respected leader in a firm that has designed many of the nation's highways, airports, shopping centers and residential communities.

And, he's still the universally acclaimed "nice guy." What an accomplishment in this litigious, back biting era!

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Issue of Sid and Reva Dewberry:

1. Barry Keith Dewberry, b. 10 July 1951; m. 10 Jan. 1981, Arlene Evans.
2. Karen Sue Dewberry, born 14 February 1953; m. 23 September 1978, Bruce Grand Pré.
1. Candace ("Candy") Anne Grand Pré, born 26 October 1980.
2. Suzanne ("Suzy") Michelle Grand Pré, born 24 July 1985.
3. Michael Sidney Dewberry, born 19 May 1966; m. 12 May 1990, to Stephanie Ann Anglin.
1. Michael Sidney Dewberry II, born 25 September 1992.
2. Katie Ann Dewberry, born 9 April 1994.
4. Thomas Lanier Dewberry, born 19 March 1973.

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NOTES: We announced a year ago that Michael P. Rucker would do an article about Ambrose Rucker of Pittsylvania Co., VA, and his cabin, still standing. The article was sent to Sid Dewberry, a descendant, whose Marketing Communications Manager, Jim Parsons, edited the enclosed pamphlet. It was much too large for the newsletter so Sid is sending it to you with his compliments. Mike, in communicating with Sid, realized what a special person he is and embarked on the family profile included in this newsletter. Many thanks also to Mabel Bennett, Gretna, VA, another descendant, for her contributions of articles and photos for the Ambrose Rucker story.

JEANNIE-ALOGY NEW DISCOVERIES

Another Rucker cousin has just been located, living at Westminster-Canterbury, a retirement home in Richmond, VA. Henrietta (Binford) Thompson, Wood, p.84, is the granddaughter of Cora⁷ Rucker (Edwin⁶ Sorrell, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹).

In looking up something in the Amherst Co. Will books, I saw a listing for Cora Rucker. My antennae perked up and lo and behold it was a guardian bond for Cora E., Mary M. and Emily S. Rucker, orphans of Edwin S. Rucker, dated 19 Nov 1860 (W. B. 15, p.495, Amherst Co., VA). Who were Mary and Emily? Edwin's wife had died in 1852. Did he remarry?

The 1860 Amherst Co., VA, census, p.376, showed his children: Valentine H. Rucker, age 29; A. C. 25; W. I. 21; L. E. 11; William F. 9; C. E. 5; M. M. 3; E. L. 1. Yes there was Cora, Mary and Emily, all born after Edwin's 1st wife's death.

On page 80 of Wood's book is the cemetery records of Graham Cove:
 Edwin S. Rucker/ b. April 8, 1803/ d. May 6, 1859
 Hilton G. Rucker [son]/ b. March 29, 1837/ d. August 1, 1860
 Lucy Jane Rucker [1st wife]/ b. April 3, 1813/ d. October 28, 1852
 EMILY J. RUCKER [2nd wife]/ b. 21 Jan 1821/ d. 1 Oct 1866.

There is no marriage bond for Emily and Edwin, but closeness of burial and having a daughter named Emily are good clues that she was his wife. (This was confirmed by Henrietta Thompson, who knew Emily Clark was Edwin's 2nd wife. She also knew about Mary, but not Emily.)

Wood, p.83, shows Emily J. Clark as the 1st wife of Ambrose C. Rucker. I think that this Emily was the wife of Edwin, not his son Ambrose C. For one thing, Emily was 15 years older than Ambrose. Plus, the guardians for the children were John E. Edwards and Howard A. Clark. Howard was probably Emily's brother (confirmed by Mrs. Thompson). Even though their mother, Emily, was still living, it was tradition for an uncle to take over guardianship of minor children.

I can find no other records of Mary and Emily (Whitley, p.53 mentions Mary, but not Emily, so possibly Emily died young). If anyone has additional information on Mary and Emily, please contact the editor.

Issue of Edwin⁶ Sorrell Rucker and Lucy Hylton (all born Amherst County, birth dates estimated from census records):

1. Valentine⁷ H. Rucker, b. @1831; m. 1864, Arianna M. West.
2. Ambrose⁷ Clark Rucker, b. @1835; m. Sallie M. Mason.
3. Elizabeth⁷ Rucker, died young.
4. Dr. Hylton⁷ James Rucker, b. @1837, d. @1860; unmarried.
5. Washington⁷ Irving Rucker, b. Feb 1839; m. 1st Sarah Knight Jones; m. 2nd Elizabeth ("Betty") E. Shelton.
6. Lucy⁷ Edwin Rucker, b. @1849; m. Andrew J. Porter.
7. Wilber⁷ Fisk Rucker, b. @1851, living 1928, Nashville, TN.

Issue of Edwin⁶ Sorrell Rucker and Emily J. Clark:

8. Cora⁷ E. Rucker, b. @1855; m. William Binford (2nd wife).
9. Mary⁷ M. Rucker, b. @1857; m. _____ Mason.
10. Emily⁷ S. Rucker, b. @1859.

IN MEMORIAM

SARAH⁹ KIRK ROWBOTHAM, died January 14, 1995, Richmond, VA. She was the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Arthur Rowbotham, D.D., and Sally⁸ Moss Smith (Benjamin⁷ Franklin, Downing⁶, Downing⁵, Downing⁴ Rucker Smith, Margaret³ Rucker, John², Peter¹), see Wood, p.173. She was born June 25, 1909, and never married. Her mother was a good friend of Sudie Rucker Wood and supplied the descendants of Downing Rucker.

In the latter part of 1994, I discovered Sarah was living at Westminster-Canterbury, a retirement home in Richmond. We talked on the phone and I planned to visit her. However she was in the health care unit, on oxygen, so we waited until she returned to her apartment. I made an appointment to visit her the week before Christmas. When I turned up with a bacterial infection, we postponed the visit. Before I could get over there, I was notified that she had died. However, she had sent me her family information bringing her line up to date. Her closest living relative is her nephew, Dr. Robert Lewis Hudgins, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

Interment was at Quaker Memorial Church Cemetery, Lynchburg, VA.

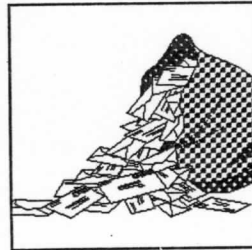
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MARTHA RUCKER SAEGERT, born February 7, 1925, Leakey, TX, d. February 3, 1995, Georgetown, TX. She was the wife of Joe Saegert. A daughter survives.

Martha was a daughter of Henry Franklin Rucker, granddaughter of George Glasscock [sic] Rucker. Her surviving brothers are Vernon, Raymond and H. F. Rucker. Her ancestry is unknown. Submitted by James H. ("Jim") and Millie Rucker, of Georgetown, TX, via Alice Rucker Allen, of Austin, TX.

Editor's note: There was a George⁷ Glascock Rucker [Reuben⁶ Dawson, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.81], b. @1822, Pittsylvania Co., VA, and lived in Bastrop Co., TX. He also had a grandson by the same name.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



RICHARD E. RUCKER (obit, Vol. 5, issue 3, p.36) was the son of Richard Rucker and Elizabeth Thompson. His sisters are Elizabeth (Rucker) Simms and Frances (Rucker) Goode. Richard's

parents and sister, Elizabeth, are buried at Sandy Creek Baptist Church on Route 616 (I assume near Farmville, VA). Notes from Vivian B. and Harvey A. Rucker Jr. of Jetersville, VA, 1994.

The lineage of Richard Rucker has not been identified.

WILLIAM³ RUCKER (William², Peter¹): "It may interest the Virginia Ruckers to know that for many years there has been a marble monument in Elbert County, GA, to my ancestor William Rucker, for his Revolutionary service in two different units.

"I don't suppose anyone has discovered Peter's roots--have they?

"I remain, Bonded by the Blood," Keith Rucker Haygood, Gaffney, SC. Dated Sept. 15, 1991.

Editor's note: I just came across the letter from Keith and thought the membership would be interested as the Board is considering having the next Rucker reunion in Alpharetta, Georgia.

HELP FROM THE "SPIRITS OF OUR ANCESTORS"

Follow-up: **ISSUE OF LEMUEL⁵ RUCKER** (Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹) AND SARAH (STEVENS?), of Monroe Co., OH, from "Questions and Answers," RFSN Vol. 5, No. 1, Mar. 1994, p.5, from Marilyn Elliott of Des Moines, IA.

The children have been found recorded in blank pages of a copy of Whitley's 1928 Rucker book. They are the handwritten notes of Mary E. Rucker Clay of Ansley, NE, passed down to Edith Willeford, Lincoln, NE, 1994. Names and dates have been, possibly, copied from a Family Bible and/or census records.

Issue of Lemuel⁵ and Sarah Rucker:

1. Sarah⁶ Rucker, b. Aug 1830; m. 1850, Monroe Co., OH, to John Hunt, b. 1827, MD (ancestor of Marilyn Elliott).
2. Maria⁵ Rucker, b. 1831, died one year of age.
3. Emily⁶ Rucker, b. 1832, d. 18 May 1852, Monroe Co., OH; m. Thomas W. Gulick. After Emily died, Thomas moved to Gentry Co., MO, and married Emiline⁵ Rucker (Lemuel⁴ B., Lemuel³, James², Peter¹).
4. Lucinda⁶ Rucker, died in infancy.
5. Asbury⁶ Bishop Rucker, b. Aug 1836, Monroe Co., OH; m. 5 Oct 1865, Elizabeth Rose in Lawrence Co., OH.
6. Elias⁶ Rucker, b. Sep 1839, twin; m. 1st 31 Jul 1861, Lawrence Co., OH, to Margaret Webb; m. 2nd Jane Hunt, niece of John Hunt.
7. Silas⁶ Rucker, b. Sep 1839, twin, d. Oregon, 1904; m. Elizabeth (census).
8. Dr. William⁶ Leeper Rucker, b. 28 Jul 1843; m. Martha Wren.
9. Mary⁶ Elizabeth Rucker, b. 10 Apr 1846, Monroe Co., OH; m. 26 Jan 1864, William Henry Clay.
10. James⁶ Franklin Rucker, b. 1 Jun 1848, Monroe Co., OH, d. Apr 1927, Harrison Co., MO; m. Mary Blalock of Gentry Co.
11. Martha⁶ Ann Rucker, b. Mar 1851, Lawrence Co., OH, died age 2.

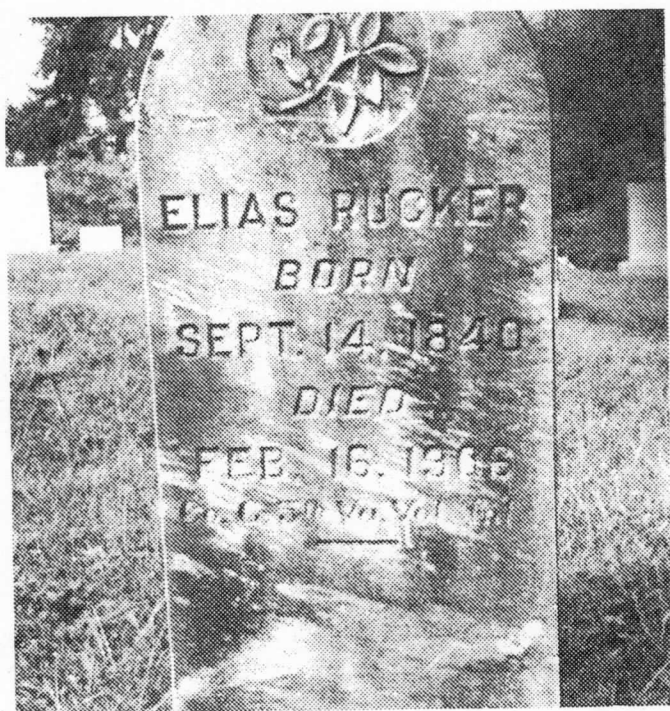
It's funny how some answers are found. Much of genealogy is solved by "the spirits of our ancestors" moving in mysterious ways. Our ancestors' spirits are always there helping us in ways we don't understand and explain simply as "coincidence" or "fate." From time to time I will write about some of these experiences. Following are excerpts from letters with one such experience.

IN January, I received A LETTER FROM MARILYN ELLIOTT, Des Moines, IA, about the children of Lemuel: "I have copies of photographs of two men, supposedly Elias and Silas. The family believes them to be twins. They look to be the same age, but are dressed differently." A few days later, I received the following.

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF
GEORGETTA R. ORNDORFF, Winter Haven,

FL, a descendant of Elias Rucker: "I was pleased to see that I was the 500th member of The Rucker [Family] Society. I placed my order today for Sudie Rucker Wood's reprint.

"Actually, I have very little of my Rucker history. I just recently, by fate, got interested in genealogy. I say "by fate" as I was standing in a library waiting for my husband to pick out some tapes when a woman put a book on the shelf. I reached up, got the book, thumbed through a few pages and there was the family [group] sheet of Peter Rucker, my maiden name. This piqued my interest. In September, I located and visited my great-grandfather Elias B. Rucker's grave in Lawrence County, Ohio. The tombstone said he was born Sept. 14, 1840 and died Feb. 16, 1906. It also said he served in the Civil War from Virginia, Co. G, 5th VA Vol. Inf. con't



Tombstone of Elias Rucker - Lawrence Co., OH

"My grandfather was Albert Rucker and my father was Grant U. Rucker. All members of my father's family are deceased. I tried to get information from the National Archives in Washington about his military/pension records, but they told me I would have to get this information from Richmond, VA. I wrote the Virginia Historical Society and they told me about the Rucker [Family] Society."

Because of Marilyn's letter which arrived a few days earlier, I knew Georgetta's ancestry. This is one example of "the spirits of our ancestors" at work. If you have any such experiences, please share them for printing in the newsletter.

Georgetta wrote again, "I was delighted, thrilled, to get all of the information on my ancestry. Beyond my wildest dreams, to get all of those pieces of the puzzle at once. Many, many thanks."

SOURCES USED FOR THE FAMILY PROFILE OF SIDNEY OLIVER DEWBERRY:

"The Magic Touch of Engineer Sid Dewberry," by Bonnie Jacob, New Dominion Magazine, Nov/Dec 1988.

"Gretna Graduate Now Is Powerful Virginia Planner," The Journal, Altavista, VA, 23 Nov 1988.

"PS Talks with Sid Dewberry," by Nick Harrison, Professional Surveyor Magazine, Mar/Apr 1990.

"Sidney O. Dewberry--Co-Founder of Dewberry & Davis," DDC News, a publication of Danville Comm. College.

"Founder of Architectural Firm Retains Personal Touch," The Danville, VA, Register, 14 Feb 1989.

TIME TO RENEW FOR 1995

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SOME BURIALS IN BEDFORD COUNTY, submitted by Anne R. Glover:

At TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH (not Ruckers):

Albert McDaniel/ b. June 12, 1824/ d. September 28, 1899 and

Catharine Oglesby McDaniel/ b. November 7, 1827/ d. March 30, 1890

Albert McDaniel Oglesby/ b. December 31, 1856/ d. September 23, 1935

At SHILOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rt. #221:

Washington E. Rucker/ 1834 - 1922 [Washington⁷ Irving Rucker, Edwin⁶ Sorrell, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹] and his daughter

Ethel R. Rucker/ wife of Samuel P. Berger/ b. March 21, 1890/ d. November 4, 1910

Anne has been busy researching and updating her booklet of the descendants of Joshua Rucker of Bedford County, VA. If you have any information on this family, please write to her at 8388 SE Croft Circle #4, Hobe Sound, FL 33455.

TAVENAR RUCKER: "I have been trying to find the link of my great-great-great-grandfather, Tavenar Rucker, to Peter¹ Rucker, the immigrant. I believe we descend from James² Rucker. His children resided around Anthony Creek, Greenbrier Co., (W)VA.

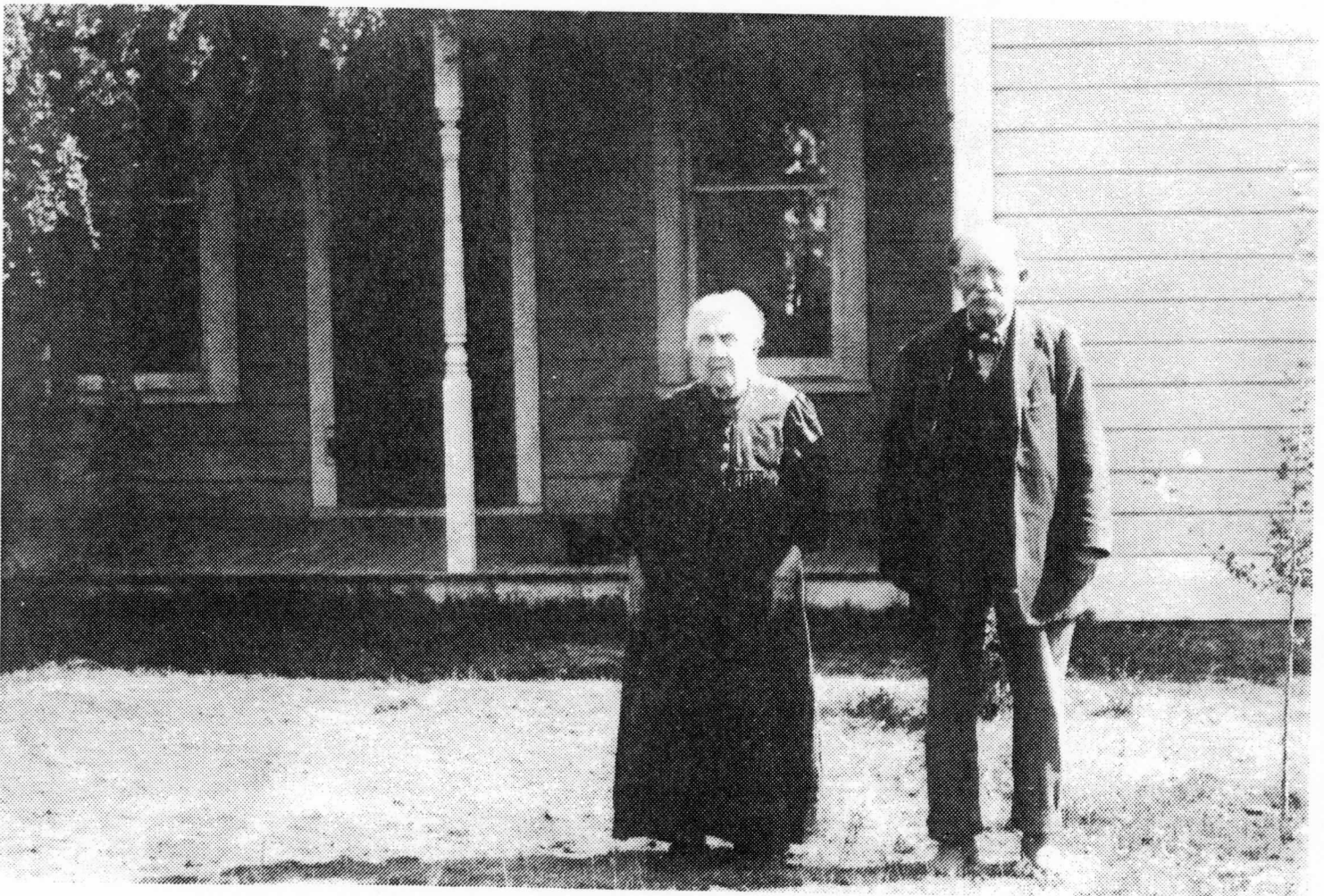
"Sudie Rucker Wood, p.270: Samuel Kincaid & wife Margaret of Greenbrier Co., deeded to Tavenar Rucker, of same, for 5 shillings, 100 acres on North fork of Anthony Creek. Page 271, Personal tax book of Greenbrier: Taverna [sic], 1796-1816 (Estate); Hannah (his wife), 1817-1818. Tavenar probably died in 1816 as his wife pays his tax the following year.

"Tavenar & Hannah's son, William M. Rucker, was born 14 Feb 1803, VA. Wood, p.271, William sold same land as above, as 'heir at law of Tavenar Rucker, deceased, of Greenbrier Co.,' 7 Oct 1826 (D. B. 10, p.389).

"William married 28 Mar 1828 Catherine Byer/Bowyer/Boyer, b. 1807, (W)VA. She may have been the dau. of Peter Boyer/Bowyer who married Catherine Shelman, 16 Aug 1793, in Augusta Co., VA. They moved to Cass Co., IN, where they were listed in the 1850 census.

"William and Catherine's children, Mary M. S. Rucker was born 1830, (W)VA, and Denarbus B. Rucker was born 27 Oct 1832, Fayette Co., (W)VA. The family moved to Logansport, IN, 1834; Cass Co., IN, 1840 & 1850 census. In 1854 they moved to Fillmore Co., MN.

"I descend from **DENARBUS RUCKER** and wife **CLARINDA DODGE**, [photo below] taken in Idaho around 1914. Does anyone know any of the people listed above? I would like to correspond with you. Please write to me, Pauline McFarlin, 1131 - 4 Ave. S.E., Rochester, MN 55904."



CORNEILLE MCCARN RUCKER (from a six--year-old newspaper article): An autograph party was held for 91 year old poet, Corneille McCarn Rucker, on Sept. 19 at Lori's Book and Card Shop on 4th Avenue in Franklin. She has published a book of poems called "Christmas is Love."

Here is a sample verse from her poem, "Gifts."
 "I Thank thee Lord, for all thy blessings given
 "The Holy Child -- the stars that evenings bring
 "And lesser gifts -- a hand to hold -- a smile
 "A leaf --a feather from a bluebird's wing."

Submitted by Betty Larrabee, W. Palm Beach, FL, Jan. 20, 1995. Betty writes: "I am a descendant of Peter, John, John Jr., and William Rucker, as well as a subscriber to the newsletter. I am enclosing an item I found tucked away, probably 6 years ago. I found the article in the Williamson County newspaper in Tennessee. I find it very interesting; maybe you do also. It's possible some of the readers would know or have heard of Corneille? I sure enjoy the newsletter."

PETER RUCKER, HUGUENOT ANCESTOR: Letter from Miss Bettie Jane Tuttle, Lexington, KY, Jan. 20, 1995: "Mrs. [Alice] Allen asked me to write you making certain you knew that Peter Rucker has again been accepted as a Huguenot. My papers were approved recently"

Note from the Editor: I found out that its not because Peter Rucker has been proven to be a Huguenot, it's because the society has relaxed the rules. So get your applications in now, they may change their minds later.

STICKY NOTES: The National Archives recommends that we should NOT use removable self-stick notes on any paper that has permanent value. Their lab examined 3M Scotch Post-It-Notes and found the adhesive remained on papers even when the note was removed immediately. The remaining adhesive could cause important records to stick together or the files in which they are used. In addition, as the chemicals in the adhesive break down over time, they can deteriorate the paper and make printing illegible. The lab also found the adhesive lifted photocopied images after two weeks of aging. Sometimes the colors will run when wet. So please remove those sticky notes from your important papers, or better still, don't use them in the first place. (GRIVA "News & Notes," Oct, 1994.)

"8870" FORMULA: Often a tombstone has the death date written as "71 years, 7 mos, 9 days," but the exact date of birth is not given. Use the "8870" Formula to determine the birth date.

Example:	18890506	died 1889, May 6
Subtract:	710709	71 yrs, 7 mos, 9 days
Subtract:	8870	Constant
Answer:	18170927	Born 1817, Sep 27

If the age is smaller than the death date the formula is not needed.

Example:	18891216	died 1889, Dec 16
Subtract:	710709	71 yrs, 7 mos, 9 days
Answer:	18170507	Born 1817, May 7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION OF THE COLBY RUCKER MARKER

A commemorative marker will be placed at the Rucker family cemetery, Thorn Hill, Grainger Co., TN, on April 15, 1995. You are cordially invited to attend. For more information, please write Ronald ("Ron") F. Payne, Rt. 3, Box 20, Falkville, AL 35622.

RUCKER REUNION - ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

A small reunion is planned for July 2, 1995, in Rochester, MN, at the Silver Lake Park, east side from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Potluck lunch and supper, games, and lots of visiting.

We are asking relatives attending to bring updates on their Rucker ancestors and descendants, plus old photos of Rucker ancestors and unidentified people. At the last reunion we took group family pictures and we will bring copies for those who want them. Please contact: Pauline McFarlin, 1131 - 4 Ave S.E., Rochester, MN 55904, (507) 289-4682, if you plan to attend. It'll be fun--mark your calendars now.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA CANALS AND NAVIGATIONS SOCIETY

The Ruckers are invited to join the batteau buffs for a festival, April 28-30 at Eagle Rock, VA. The group will stay at the Howard Johnsons at Troutville, near Roanoke. There will be many exciting events taking place including batteau rides. Many of you rode the batteaux in Lynchburg at the 1990 Rucker Reunion, but for the ones who didn't, this is another opportunity. If interested, contact Nancy Dunnavant, 7563 Sambar Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832, (804) 748-6764.

TALK ON RUCKERS OF BEDFORD: Jean Robinson has been invited to give her talk on "The Ruckers of Bedford County," to the Bedford Genealogical Society. Her talk, planned for the 1994 Rucker Reunion in Bedford, was not given due to the lack of time. Those of you who live in the vicinity are encouraged to attend the meeting which will be held June 10th, 1995, at 2:00. Come to the Bedford Museum, 210 East Main Street, Bedford, VA.

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Order a reprint of The Rucker Family Genealogy, see membership form

1995 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

COMING NEXT NEWSLETTER:

An article on Reuben Rucker, the founder of Ruckerville, KY, is being written by Betty Jane Tuttle of Lexington, KY.

RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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