

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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Summer 1997

DR. HENRY COWLES RUCKER - COUNTRY DOCTOR

"HE WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD"

by Michael P. Rucker

It was a dark night made darker by the craggy brooding mountains of Wise County, Virginia. The lone rider studied the darkness ahead carefully as he followed the narrow mountain road close by a rippling creek. A screech owl nearby made the rider's hair stand on end. Suddenly, a masked man stepped into the road ahead and said, "Throw down your wallet, Mister. I've got a gun pointed at your heart."

The rider answered nervously, "I'm Dr. Rucker. I don't have any money. All I have is a chicken the Paines just gave me for treating their sick baby."

The robber replied, "Sorry, Doc," and hurried off down the creek bed.

The situation is hypothetical, but similar incidents did indeed happen to Dr. Henry Cowles Rucker in the early days of the twentieth century in the rough and tumble far western reaches of Virginia. Robberies were commonplace in that wild territory, but after a while the threat to Dr. Rucker lessened as people, even bandits, grew to respect the taciturn, hard-working doctor and realized that he probably had less money than anyone else. There was also the threat of the pistol, given to him by the Big Stone Gap police to protect himself. Eventually he found it unnecessary to carry it¹.

Henry Cowles Rucker was born April 23, 1878, in Amherst Co., VA. He was the fourth child, and second son, of Benjamin Lindsay Rucker² and Sarah ("Sallie") Frances Parks.

Occasionally Cowles, as he was called, accompanied his father to Fauquier County in Northern Virginia to swap cattle with his cousin, William Ambrose Rucker, who owned a farm called "Ridgeville," near Delaplane. As he reached high school age, he began to look forward to these



DR. HENRY COWLES RUCKER ca 1950

annual visits more and more. He was falling in love with William's daughter, Lillian Eliza, a bright eyed, vivacious girl who was two years younger than he.

Lillian was born and raised at "Ridgeville." She had the usual farm chores that young girls of that day had. There was a school house on the edge of the property where Lillian and the other Rucker children were educated along with the neighborhood children.

When Cowles decided to become a doctor, the logical choice of medical schools was the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond; but he decided instead to attend Columbia Medical University in Washington, D.C. It seems likely that his choice may have been influenced by the fact that Ridgeville Farm was within convenient distance for an occasional weekend visit.

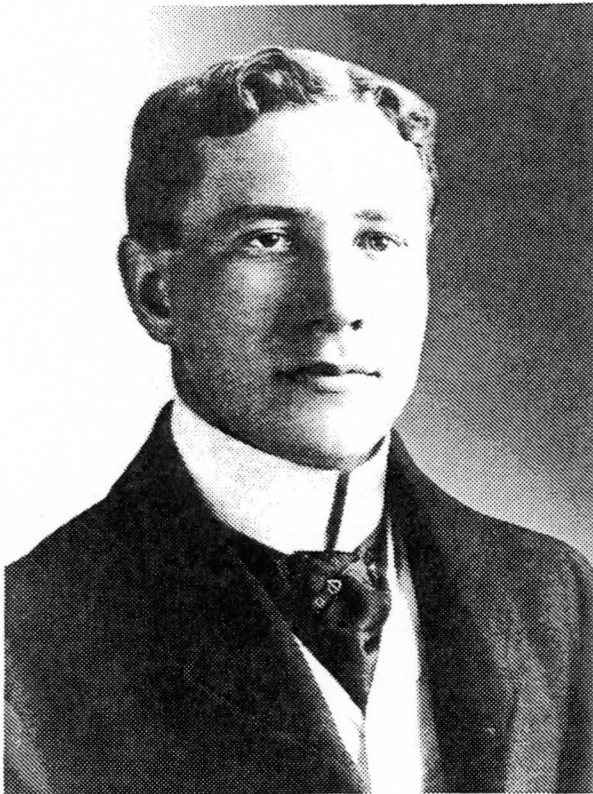
He was taught pathology by Dr. Walter Reed, recently returned from his historic work

with yellow fever in Panama. He obtained spending money by working as a pharmacist at a drug store at the corner of 33rd Street and O Street in Georgetown during any available hours. He also worked in the gross anatomy lab at George Washington University and at this time began smoking cigars, a habit he continued for the remainder of his life. He suffered from cancer of the mouth late in life, probably a result of his cigar smoking.

He had been fortunate to obtain financial assistance in the form of a fellowship which required that he begin his practice in a location to be selected by the government upon completion of his residency. He had no idea that his assignment would be Wise County, Virginia; arguably the roughest county in the state.

He reported for duty in Big Stone Gap in 1902 under the guidance of a more experienced doctor, the only other one in the county. His first major duty was to vaccinate every citizen with the newly approved smallpox vaccine. This required riding to the far reaches of every hollow with a deputy assigned to protect the young doctor and to convince all citizens to submit, at gun point if necessary, to the vaccination.

His more routine duties consisted of child births, mining accident victims, and treating gun shot wounds. The residents of that quarter loved their guns and employed them frequently for both the serious business of hunting and for play. During his ten years there, Cowles nearly filled a quinine jar with shotgun pellets and buckshot extracted from his patients. During a ceremony in 1953¹ honoring him for fifty years of active service to the field of medicine Cowles showed the bottle and remarked that it should have been more



COWLES RUCKER - MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE

lead in it; but "there were a lot of times when I couldn't get out all that metal a patient came in with."

No doubt the young doctor had plenty to keep him busy in the Virginia mining frontier, but he must have sorely missed his sweetheart, Lillian. Finally, at age 28, after four years in Wise County, he was able to return to marry his cousin. The ceremony took place on April 28, 1906³, at the home of Lillian's sister, Sudie⁴ and her husband, William P. Wood, at 1020 West Grace Street, in Richmond, VA.

The reactions of his bride to the rough and tumble world of Big Stone Gap were not recorded, but she must have been shocked at the contrast to the gentler and more sophisticated society of eastern Virginia. Their first son, Henry Cowles Rucker, Jr. was born there on January 28, 1907. A second

son, Benjamin Ambrose Rucker, was born November 13, 1911, in a clinic in St. Charles, Virginia, near Big Stone Gap. Shortly after that the doctor returned to eastern Virginia. A daughter, Sarah Ann Rucker, was born in Richmond on November 17, 1916.

He continued his practice in Richmond until 1917. Cowles was really a country doctor at heart, so he and Lil decided to return to rural life. They bought a farm close to the summer home of Lillian's sister, Sudie, near Mattoax in Amelia County. The only other doctor in Amelia County was sixteen miles away in Amelia Courthouse.

They called it Elk Hill Farm⁵. Lil ran the farm while the doctor stayed busy twelve to sixteen hours a day with his medical duties. After a few years, they invited Lil's bachelor brother, Claude Pendleton Rucker, to live



DR. H. COWLES RUCKER, SON, HENRY C.

RUCKER JR., AND LILLIAN RUCKER, ca 1910

with them and share the farm management.

The doctor had a large room for his office built onto their white frame house. There was no waiting room. Patients and their families waited in their cars on the circular driveway -- first come, first served. Often twelve or more cars would be waiting. Sometimes they would bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the spacious lawn which was arrayed with a fabulous assortment of tree species planted by the inhabitants of the site over many decades. Today all that remains of the house is the concrete slab that was the front porch.

One of Lillian's responsibilities was to take phone messages for the doctor. There were three hand crank phones at the bottom of the stairs just outside the doctor's office. All were party lines. One had to listen for a particular sequence of long and short rings to determine if the call was for the Rucker home. Three party line phones! It seemed that one was ringing at all times. Lillian asked each phone company to provide the same ring for the doctor, two shorts, one long and a short, to take some of the confusion out of listening for their ring on three different phones. Two phone companies were agreeable, but the third said the doctor would have to live with the signal they had assigned.

The more irritating phone problem involved the other families assigned to the three party lines: some individuals would listen in on the doctor's calls to learn who was sick or injured. When too many interlopers tried to listen in, Lillian could not clearly hear the caller. She would then, with great indignation, lambaste the miscreants until one-by-one they would drop off the line. Then she could hear well enough to take a

message from the caller.

The doctor made house calls to patients all over Amelia County, as well as to some in the counties of Powhatan and Chesterfield. Roads were poor, so he continued to make some house calls by horseback, but eventually hung up his saddle bags. In 1953 he recalled, "The last time I rode a horse was in 1922, and that time the snow was so deep I had to walk and lead the horse most of the way, anyhow."¹

By that era the automobile had virtually replaced the horse and more of his patients called on the doctor at his office. Finding the road into Elk Hill Farm rutted and muddy, some of his patients lent their labor to improving it, "as a token of affection" for the doctor.

In 1954, at age 74, Cowles received an award from the Medical Society of Virginia for 50 years of active service. The next year Governor Battle of Virginia appointed him as the state's representative to the Western Hemisphere Conference of the World Medical Association.

He received an invitation to be included in "Who's Who in America." He did not return the form with the required information because he said he "... didn't need that kind of publicity." But Lillian framed the invitation and hung it in his office.

Cowles was not very firm in collecting the debts owed him by his patients for his medical services. Even in the 1950's he often accepted farm produce as payment for his medical services. Sara Ann, his daughter, remembered a horse and buggy her father received from a patient as payment for medical expenses and gave to her. Upon his death, Lil chose not to pursue collection of the considerable accounts receivable owed by his patients and promptly destroyed all the

records.

Cowles and Lillian celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1956. His Amelia County patients chose to honor him with a reception about that same time. They presented him with a gold watch inscribed on the back with the words, "He went about doing good." Commenting to the media about the event, the self-effacing doctor replied, "They hadn't had a party in the county for a good while and they were looking for an excuse to get together." However, he proudly carried that watch until his death December 22, 1957⁶.

Lillian survived Cowles by eight years. After his death, she went to live with her son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Martha, in Arlington, VA. She died there April 23, 1968. She and Cowles are buried at the Amelia Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Lillian was as remarkable as her husband. Full of energy to the last she would occasionally astound visitors at age 86 by performing 20 push-ups. Proud Virginians from beginning to end, Cowles and Lillian were an impressive and even amazing couple.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Richmond newspaper, Feb. 10 & 11, 1953 (articles about Cowles's early days as a county doctor).

2. Benjamin had entered the War Between the States at age fifteen as a drummer boy and was captured in 1864 during the retreat from Richmond. He spent the remainder of the war in the Federal POW camp at Point Lookout, Maryland, and returned home to the family farm after the truce.

3. Richmond newspaper, dated April 28, 1906 (The Ruckers' wedding announcement).

4. Lillian's sister was

Sudie Rucker Wood, author of the Rucker Family Genealogy. Sudie and her husband, William P. Wood, had a farm in Amelia and persuaded the Ruckers to move to a nearby farm. Williamson Farm, the Wood's summer place, is now the Amelia Wildlife center.

5. Elk Hill Farm, the Ruckers' place is owned, today, by a grandson, James C. Rucker of Richmond, VA.

6. Richmond newspaper, December 23, 1957 (Cowles's obituary).

Additional notes from Richmond newspaper articles:

Cowles was a former President of the Amelia County Medical Society and a member of the Virginia and American Medical groups. He was a member of the Ruitan Club and Masonic Lodge of Powhatan County. He was also on the board of directors of Union Bank and Trust at Amelia Courthouse. Dr. Rucker was honored at the first Western Hemisphere Conference of the World Medical Association, April 23, 1953, on Cowles's 75th birthday.

Michael P. Rucker, author, is the grandson of Cowles and Lillian Rucker. See Mike's profile in Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 1.

Cowles and Lillian each had two lines of Rucker descent:

Dr. Henry⁷ Cowles Rucker (Benjamin⁶ L., Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.110) and

Dr. Henry⁷ Cowles Rucker (Sarah⁷ Frances Parks, Paulina⁶ Davies, Elizabeth⁵ McDaniel, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.416, 446).

Lillian⁷ Eliza Rucker (William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.56) and

Lillian⁷ Eliza Rucker (William⁶ A., Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood, p.88).

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

by Jean B. Robinson

April 19, 1997, was the second anniversary of the bombing of the Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. The trial for Timothy McVeigh brought back memories of my visit to the site last September.

It was the time of year when Chuck, my husband, and I travel west to research for early Ruckers who migrated from Virginia in the 1700s and 1800s. We spent two days in Oklahoma City and while there we visited the site of the Oklahoma City bombing.

The site brought a lump to my throat and tears to my eyes. Who would have thought that a year and a half before, on that fateful day, April 19, 1995, in the blink of an eye, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building would be destroyed, killing one hundred and sixty-eight people and injuring five hundred.

Today all that remains is an empty lot surrounded by a chain link fence. Attached to the fence are hundreds of stuffed animals, T-shirts with messages, flags, banners, fresh and dried flowers, hats and anything that can be left in memory of the children and adults who died that day. At one end is a bulletin board with notes and photographs of the events following the bombing.

We weren't the only ones that came to pay our respects and gaze at the vacant lot that was once a bustling office building. Others were strolling around reading the messages and grieving for those that arrived that morning but never left.

The street was blocked off to motor traffic allowing the many visitors room to view the site of the bombing. We visited twice,

once at ten o'clock at night and at noon the next day. I was surprised at the number of visitors both times. While we were there at night, a large limousine pulled up and a family jumped out to view the site. I wondered if they had lost a loved-one that day.

The next day a man in a business suit, who stood out among the rest of us in casual clothes, was pointing out the spot where the van containing the explosives sat. The pavement had been obliterated. Chills went up my spine as I remembered TV coverage of the event.

It turned out this man was the president of the survivors' club. He was there to be interviewed by a TV reporter as the bombing was in the news that week. It had just been announced that the trial for McVeigh would take place in Denver.

The vacant lot where the federal building stood was not very large. Without a building there it looked quite small. In glancing around, one could see other horribly damaged buildings that were still standing. Further away were structures with blown out windows that still had not been replaced. One can only imagine the amount of business records that were lost that day. Being a genealogist, it makes me shutter to think of such a loss.

There was a church on each side of site of the federal building. They had empty lots where damaged buildings had been torn down. Windows had been repaired and life was beginning to go on as usual. Life would go on, but people would never forget the horror of that day. I wondered if any Rucker had died in that catastrophe.

Last fall my fears were realized. I heard from a new member of the Rucker Family Society, Doyle Bloomer, of Grace-mont, OK. He wrote: "Since both parents died, we have tried to have our own Bloomer reunion. The one last year was very hard as our youngest [brother] was one of the victims of the OKC bombing. We knew how much he loved fun and good times, so we determined that's what we would do. The reunion this year was much easier."

Olen "Burl" Bloomer's life was snuffed out that day two years ago. He was 61 years old¹. His family had to go through the agony of not knowing what happened to him for days after the bombing. As time went on, they came to realize he would not be found alive. Then they faced the possibility that his body would not be found. Recovery effort would cease on May 5th and the building would be razed.

Burl's body was recovered intact on May 4th and his funeral took place May 8, 1995, 20 agonizing days after the bombing. The funeral was described by his step-son, Lee Switzer: "An Air Force Honor Guard² carried out his last rites at Lilac Hill Cemetery. The coffin, shrouded with an American flag, was withdrawn from the hearse. Six airmen spun 90 degrees on the gravel path and marched one final parade to the grave. A bellowing blue canopy cast an elusive shadowy pall over green metal chairs and carpet. There were no sounds save a chorus whispering through aluminum poles and guy wires . . ." The Honor Guard placed the casket on the chrome

(con't next page)

BELOW: 50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO OF VIOLA AND MARCUS BLOOMER AND FAMILY; BURL BLOOMER IS SEATED TO THE LEFT

SEATED L-R: BURL, VIOLA, MARCUS, ESTHER; STANDING L-R: ERDENE, DOYLE, DEAN, DENNIS, MURIEL, AND ELWANDA



frame, saluted and carefully folded the "colorful symbol of freedom." They handed it to Burl's only child, Maureen. As taps was played, tears flowed freely down the cheeks of many in attendance.

America will long remember this tragedy and our heart-felt sympathies go out to all who lost loved ones there, especially our Rucker cousin, Burl Bloomer.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Olen "Burl" Bloomer was born 16 Nov 1933, Elk City, OK, died 19 Apr 1995, Oklahoma City, OK; married 26 Dec 1964, Farmington, NM, to Norma Jean Simms. Burl was one of the eight children of Esther Viola Proctor and Marcus Bloomer.

2. Burl served in the Air Force for twenty years. Some of the places he lived were San Antonio, TX, Cheyenne, WY, Anchorage, AK, Maine, Missouri, Albuquerque, NM, and Takhli, Thailand. It was while in Albuquerque that he met and married his wife, Norma Jean Simms. Norma had been previously married and had two children, Lee and Lucretia. On March 31, 1966, their daughter, Maureen, was born in the base hospital in Anchorage, Alaska.

On December 31, 1974, he retired from the Air Force and later took a job in McAllen, TX. The family moved to Salt Lake City and then to Oklahoma City where Burl worked for the Department of Agriculture. Unfortunately his office was at the Federal Reserve Building and was destroyed that fateful day, April 19, 1995. Norma, who predeceased him, died June 2, 1990.

REFERENCES:

1. Newspaper article, "Gracemont minister's brother has been located and identified," by Paula McBride Savage, May 5, 1995, Anadarko, OK, Daily News, page 1.
2. Biography of Olen Burl Bloomer from the Special Memorial Issue of the deceased of the OKC bombing.
3. Letters and family group sheets from his brother, Doyle Bloomer.
4. "Sooner Death," memories of Lee E. Switzer, step-son of Olen Burl Bloomer.

Burl's three lines of descent from Peter Rucker: Father Marcus⁹ Bloomer:

1. (William⁸ C. Bloomer, Nancy⁷ E. Hayes, Colbert⁶, Sarah⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹);
2. (William⁸ C. Bloomer, Nancy⁷ E. Hayes, Mary⁶ Payne, Nancy⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹); and
3. William⁸ C. Bloomer was married to Samantha⁸ Watson (Sarah⁷ Hayes, Colbert⁶, Sarah⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹).

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

FOR THE NEXT RUCKER
REUNION

TO BE HELD IN NASHVILLE,
TENNESSEE

JUNE 12, 13, 14, 1998

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Need parents of SOPHRONIA E. RUCKER, born 12 May 1834 and died 19 Jul 1917; married THOMAS J. NEELY 13 Jun 1852 in Rankin Co., MS. Issue:

Jennie A. Neely, b. 23 Mar 1853, Rankin Co., MS;

Alice E. Neely, b. 4 Jan 1855, Rankin Co., MS;

Winnie Louise Neely, b. 20 Dec 1859, d. 13 Jul 1932; m. John Thomas Easterling, 13 Jan 1876, Lavaca Co., TX. Buried Shiloh Cemetery, Lavaca Co., TX.

Write to Billie Ruth Coleman, 205 Avondale, Del Rio, TX 78840.

DAWSON FAMILY - I would like to find the ancestors of my great-grandfather, Jonathan B. Dawson, born ca 1810, VA, died ca 1889, Clay City, Powell Co., KY.

He married 18 Dec 1837, Clark Co., KY, to Susannah E. Pigg, b. 1825, Casey Co., KY. They had nine children. Could he be the son of Jonathan Rucker Dawson, son of Zachary Dawson and Lucy Rucker (Wood, p.128)? From Dorothy Daniel, 2905 W. Aire Libre, Phoenix, Arizona 85023.

Editor's notes:

3 Jan 1809 (Will Book 4, p.573, Amherst Co., VA), Estate of Zachariah Dawson, dec'd, John McDaniel, administrator, children listed as Jonathan, Nelson, Martin, Benjamin and Betsy. As you can see this differs slightly from what Sudie Rucker Wood has on p.129 and 468.

Sudie Wood, p.468, had Jonathan Rucker Dawson, married 17 Sep 1818, to Sally L. Bowcock. Actually they were married 17 Sep 1808 (marriage records of Amherst Co., VA) which is compatible with the 1810 birth date of Jonathan B. Dawson.

The last recorded deed of Jonathan Rucker Dawson was Jan

1816, where he and wife, Sally, sold to James Wade of Lynchburg, for \$200, 25 acres on the road to Trent's ferry (D. B. N, p.45, Amherst Co., VA).

He was listed in the 1820 Amherst census, p.290, with wife. They had been married 12 years and no children were listed. They were not in the 1830 Amherst census.

John S. Morris III, descendant of Zachariah Dawson, agrees that Jonathan B. Dawson could not be the child of Jonathan and Sally Dawson, according to Virginia records.

JOHN LEA OF CASWELL CO., NC, Will, dated 10 Mar 1803, proved April 1803 court of Caswell County (W. B. E, p.5): Wife, Winneyfred [sic], eight children. His property was divided into six parts for his 6 children: James, John, Benjamin, Jeremiah, Nancy and Sally. Part of land "I leave to my daughter Frankey forever." Daughter Betsy Evans. John and Solomon Graves to appraise and divide estate. Exec: sons John, James, Benjamin, and Jeremiah. Wit: Solomon Graves, Barzilai Graves, John Graves. signed John Lea sen.

James Lea and Jerre Lea qualified (Caswell Co., NC, Will Book 1777-1814, abstracts by Katharine Kerr Dendall, 1979, p.87, sub. by Alice R. Allen, 1991.)

There is no evidence that Winifred, wife of Lea of Caswell Co., NC, was the daughter of John Rucker. Winifred was the fifth child of John and Susannah Rucker and was born circa 1727. The John and Winifred Lea of Caswell Co., NC, had children born starting in 1766. Winifred Rucker would have been 38 years old, too old to be starting a family of eight children.

The Lea family authority, Dr. Ben Lacy Rose, wrote Lea Families

North Carolina, and in Virginia Before 1800, in 1995, Richmond, VA, and concurs with this decision.

There is evidence of a John Lea in Amherst and Orange Counties, VA, in tax records (researched by Ruth McBride).

The only thing that can be proved is John Lea's son James Lea married Frankey Rucker, daughter of Ambrose Rucker of Amherst Co., VA (Wood, p.114).

*** From e-mail queries, p.21

Clue: Edward Lewis Rucker was baptized, 28 Jul 1838, age 2 ½ months, parents Lewis [Lee] Rucker and Helene Lee Catholic Baptisms, Saint Louis, Missouri, 1765-1840. Lineage: Le Grand⁵ ("Lee") Rucker (Armistead⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹). Information from "The Ruckers of St. Louis and Vicinity," a hand written volume by Charles F. Rucker, Robertson, MO, Jan. 1946. Now on deposit at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond.

Who was JAMES RUCKER that married LIVINIA HILL, 4 Feb 1802, Madison Co., KY? Marriage Records, bond dated 1 Feb 1802; bondsman, Joel White; father of the bride, David Hill.

One known child:

1. Fanny Rucker; m. 18 Sep 1822, Charles Rice (mar. bond, Madison Co., KY, bondsman, William Rice; consent of James Rucker, father of the bride).

If anyone has additional information on James Rucker please respond to the Editor, Jean B. Robinson, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

ELECTION WHISKEY

Found in the Brumback-Hotsinpillar Genealogy, by Elizabeth C. D. Vann and Margaret C. D. Dixon, Englewood, NJ, 1961, p.22:

"When the time came to vote for Burgesses, candidates were accustomed to dispense drinks at the court house. Voting was by 'Viva Vice' and the candidate would thank the voter for his support. When George Washington was a candidate from Frederick Co., [VA] in 1758, he 'stood on his dignity, relying on his merit and took no trouble or expense to obtain votes.' Stephen Hotzenbell (Mr. Washington's spelling) voted for Col. Martin and Mr. Hugh West. Washington must have decided dignity and merit were not enough to win the office. At the next election he furnished a full barrel of whiskey. Stephen and his oldest son, George, voted for Col. George Washington and Col. George Mercer, who were winners. Only freeholders could vote. They were supposed to be of the gentry class and owners of estates. The franchise was broadened in 1762 to include owners of smaller properties."

The story of George Washington serving whiskey to win an election rivals the story of John Rucker serving punch for his candidate. The full story of Rucker's punch escapades are published in The Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1742-1747.

An excerpt is printed in Sudie Rucker Wood's book, p.7-8, and Alice Rucker Allen's Rucker Heritage, p.38-40.

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E-MAIL, ZOOM - ZOOOMMM

E-mail, zoom - zooommm! It's a fabulous way to communicate! It is better than a phone call because the person has time to look something up and get back to you. In addition, you have a written record of the information. It is easier than a letter as there is no stamp to lick, no envelope to seal and no waiting for the slow mail of the postal service (snail mail).

Believe me, it is worth the effort to upgrade your computers and get on-line because you are missing out on the easiest way to communicate with your cousins. And for those of you who have not purchased your first computer, I highly recommend you do so.

FYI: Do you ever wonder what the three letter code, which follows the dot, at the end of an e-mail address means? It is the domain name codes:

com - commercial
net - network
edu - education sites
gov - U. S. Government
mil - military
org - non-profit organization

NOTE: From now on, e-mail addresses will not be printed in the newsletter. They will be available on the Rucker Family Society Web Page. If you would like to submit your address, send it to Jo Thiessen at jogt@ix.netcom.com. Be sure and place "Rucker" on the subject line to bring it to Jo's attention.

The Rucker Family Society Web Page:
<http://www.mindspring.com/~jogt/surnames/ruckerfs.htm>

To find the History of Fort Rucker, AL:
<http://www~rucker.army.mil>

The Editor will publish, here, changes of e-mail addresses, board members and queries.

NOTE - change of e-mail for Doris Edwards: dewards@triton.net

ruthmcbride@juno.com - Ruth M. McBride, Amherst Co., VA, RFS board member. Lines: (Gladys⁹ Irene Johnson, William⁸ Albert, Frances⁷ Ann Ware, Wilkerson⁶, Rosamond⁵, Margaret Rucker, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹)

lewiswhite@compuserve.com - Lewis ("Jack") White, Vienna, VA, RFS board member and treasurer. Two lines: (Lelia⁸ Vixella Rucker, Waller⁷ J., James⁶ M., Jonathan⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹) and (Russell⁸ McDaniel, John⁷ E., James⁶ P., William⁵, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹)

QUERIES

owslf1@aol.com - Floyd Owlsey, Oltewah, TN, desires to know parents of his ancestor, AUSTIN RUCKER, b. ca 1770-1780, m. 1804, Knox Co., TN, to Frankie George.

edrucker@ruraltel.net - Ed Rucker, desc. of JOSHUA RUCKER, b. ca 1787, VA, wife, Nancy Boatwright. Wants to correspond with other descendants.

airmanjohn@aol.com - John Winston Rucker, Shawnee, KS, wants to know parents of his ancestor, EDWARD LEWIS RUCKER, b. 27 May 1832, MO, d. 13 Apr 1907 (tombstone); m. 15 Dec 1866, Lucy J. Van Allen. See p.22 ***

Dazyy5@aol.com - Frances Ivester Simonian, wants to find parents of Anna Rucker, who married ca 1812, Rutherford Co., NC, to George Newell Ivester. They moved to Haversham Co., GA, where they raised their 11 children.

FUTURE FAMILY REUNIONS

BLOOMER FAMILY REUNION will be held August 29-31, Labor Day weekend, 1997 in Forsyth, MO. Please contact Rev. Doyle Bloomer, P. O. Box 1, Gravemont, OK 73042-0001. bloomer@tanet.net

REUNION OF DESCENDANTS OF REV. & MRS. THOMAS J. RUCKER will be held August 23, 1997, at Greenville, SC. All are invited. Please call Jule Rucker, of Evans, GA, for details (706) 863-7356. E-mail: jruck1234@aol.com

1998 RUCKER FAMILY REUNION will be held June 12, 13, 14, 1998, in Nashville, TN. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Contact the committee if you can help in any way.

John W. Rucker, 200 Pear Court, Nashville, TN 37221
(615) 646-5431

Herman and Dorothy Rucker, 5417 Cottonport Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027-7633
(615) 781-9577

Ron Payne, 79 Payne Road, Falkville, AL 35622-9403
(205) 739-9357

A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE INTERNET

Jackie Kachel wrote me recently with an unknown ancestor. Her g-g-g grandfather was John Rucker, b. @1840 in Indiana, d. 1913; m. Martha Miles, b. @1844 in Illinois.

Her main clues were the 1850 La Porte, IN, census: Andrew [sic] Rucker, age 50, born in

VA; Miranda, age 46, b. VA; Martha 18, b. OH; Isaac 17, b. OH; JOHN 13, b. IN.

And the La Porte Co., IN, Enumeration of children List, Feb 1844: AMBROSE B. RUCKER; Lucy 19; Martha 14; Isaac 12; JOHN 8; Milla 6.

Jackie was coming to Virginia and wanted to know, fast, who were her ancestors and where did they live.

My immediate thought was if he was born in Virginia and his name was Ambrose, he was from Amherst County. I put her in touch with Ruth McBride, board member and resident of Amherst. Ruth looked at the Amherst County marriage records and found the marriage record of Ambrose Rucker and Miranda Haas, dau. of John Haas, married 12 Oct 1825.

In Wood, p. 107, there is "Ambrose⁵, m. Haas, dau. of Jacob [sic], of Ohio." Ambrose was the son of Isaac³ (John², Peter¹), of Amherst Co., VA. Wood's clue saying he was "of Ohio" fit in with the census records showing two of his children born in Ohio.

Jackie and her husband went to Amherst, met with Ruth McBride, looked up her ancestor's records in the courthouse, and visited the cemetery at Mt. Horeb Church (Wood, p.106). All the while, the three of us were communicating via e-mail and feeding each other additional information as her ancestor's story unfolded.

And the society benefits from knowing where Ambrose Rucker moved and learning the names of his children. This will be added to the update of the Rucker Family Genealogy.

Jackie Kachel's e-mail address is FBDF93B@prodigy.com

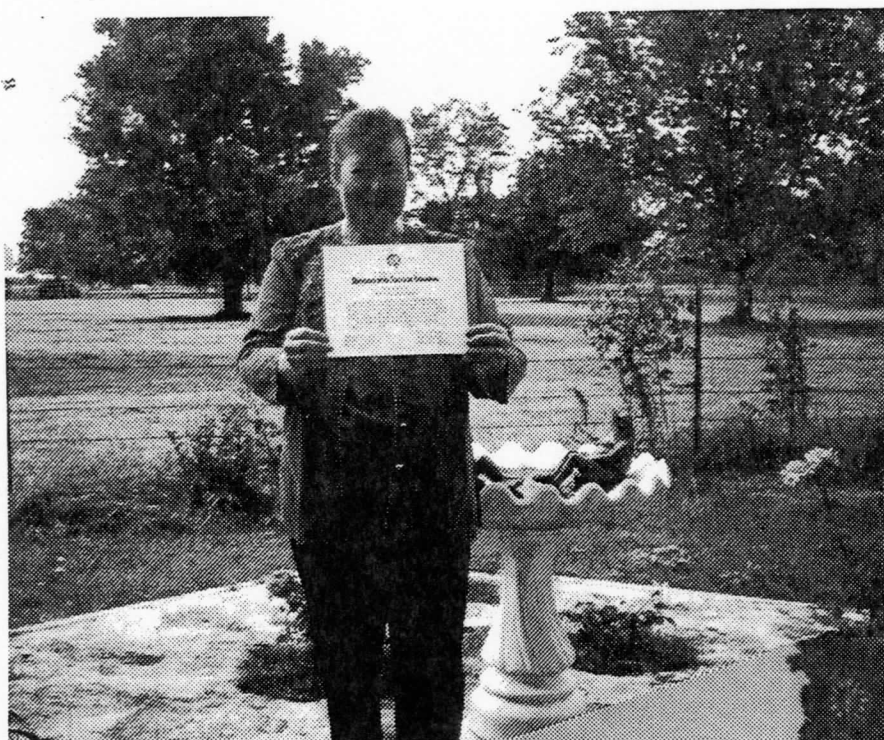
PROUD NEW D.A.R. MEMBERS

Congratulations to two Rucker Family Society members who recently joined the National Daughters of the American Revolution. Cousins, Judy and Karen were both accepted Feb. 8, 1997 on their ancestor Ephraim Rucker of Virginia.

Ephraim Rucker was a Lt. Col. of the Culpeper County militia, 1777-1781 (Council Journals).

Ephraim, the son of Peter Rucker, was born ca 1725, Essex Co., VA, and died Dec 1797, Madison Co., VA. See Wood, p.273-275.

Both Karen and Judy attended the Rucker Reunion, in Crabapple, GA, last year.



to the left -

Karen Sue Barton Duncan
Bartlesville, OK,
D.A.R. chapter

Holding her
certificate,
in her rose garden

to the right -

Judy Hendren McKinney
Ft. Velasco
D.A.R. Chapter
Lake Jackson, TX

Note framed peacock
dresser scarf,
that belonged
to her grandmother,
Mary Frances Gooch Rucker



JEANNIE-ALOGY

TOMAGEN³ RUCKER (Ephraim², Peter¹), born in Culpeper (now Madison) Co., VA, died before 1814, Madison Co., VA; married 1st ca 1763, Ambrose Booton, born ca 1740, died by 1779 (father's will), son of William Booton and Judah Hill. Tomagen married 2nd ca 1774, Augustine³ Rucker (James², Peter¹), born ca 1750, Culpeper Co., VA, died ca 1815 -- Will recorded, 23 Feb 1815, Madison Co., VA.

The following issue are from Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy, p.291, 292:

Issue of Tomagen³ Rucker and Ambrose Booton:

1. John⁴ Booton, b. ca 1765.
2. Ambrose⁴ Booton

Issue Tomagen³ Rucker and Augustine³ Rucker:

3. Ann⁴ Rucker
4. Elizabeth⁴ Rucker
5. Ephraim⁴ Rucker, b. ca 1778.
6. Larkin⁴ Rucker, b. 2 May 1783.
7. Polly⁴ Rucker

Yet, why does the will of Tomagen's father only list four of her children: Excerpt from the Will of Ephraim Rucker, dated 24 Sep 1796, proved 28 Dec 1797 (W. B. 1, p.348, Madison Co., VA): "Item. I give one other seventh part of the money arising from the sale [of my estate] to my daughter Tomagen Rucker, JOHN BOOTON her son, her son AMBROSE BOOTON & her daughter ANNA RUCKER and ELIZABETH RUCKER, to be equally between them & to be peaceable enjoyed by them and their heirs forever."

The dates show the other children were born by the date of his will. Why weren't they mentioned as well? Was it because the four children listed

were the children of Tomagen and her first husband and Ephraim was making sure that they received an inheritance. He probably thought the children of Tomagen's second marriage would be taken care of by their father, Augustine Rucker.

Let's consider that Anne and Elizabeth may have been Bootons that married Ruckers so their last name was Rucker and the four were the children of Tomagen and Ambrose Booton. There is proof of one such marriage: Lemuel³ Rucker (James², Peter¹) married ca 1783 to Ann Booton, born 11 Dec 1763, died Mar 1845. Was she the daughter of Tomagen Rucker? The dates fit. I have found no marriage for Elizabeth Booton to a Rucker, but maybe one of you know of such a marriage. If so, consider that these may be the correct children of Tomagen Rucker:

Issue of Tomagen³ Rucker and Ambrose Booton:

1. Ann⁴ Booton, b. 11 Dec 1763; m. ca 1783, Lemuel³ Rucker (James², Peter¹). 1616
2. John⁴ Booton, b. ca 1765; m. 24 Jan 1786, Frances Clark. 1617
3. Ambrose⁴ Booton 1619
4. Elizabeth⁴ Booton; m. _____ Rucker ???

Issue Tomagen³ Rucker and Augustine³ Rucker:

5. Polly⁴ Rucker; m. 13 Apr 1802, Thomas Parrott. 1624
6. Ephraim⁴ Rucker, b. ca 1778; m. 4 Jan 1816, Rosamond Wright. 1630
7. Larkin⁴ Rucker, b. 2 May 1783; m. 21 Feb 1815, Lucy Terry. 1622

What do you think? Write to the Editor or E-mail her at ruckerfs@erols.com

CIVIL WAR STUDIES CONTINUES

Ron Payne, Falkville, AL, has compiled a booklet, "A LISTING OF RUCKERS WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA." It is included in this issue. If you have any information or photos about Ruckers who served in that war, which you would like included in a future issue of the newsletter, please send them to the Editor.

RUCKER'S LEGION

East Tennessee, 21 Jan 1864: Command to Maj. George W. Day from Lt. Col. G. M. Sorrell: "The cavalry of Rucker's Legion will, as ordered last night, move to Bean's Station." Ron Payne notes that this was the vicinity of the home of his ancestor, Colby Rucker (Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹).

Report of Capt. John W. Hammond, 65th Indiana Infantry: Hdqrs. Detch. 2nd Brig. Outpost, Chucky Bend Road, near McFarland's Cross-Roads, Tenn, 13 Mar 1864:

"That I made a scout to Chucky Bend yesterday about 2 p.m. I found no enemy there, but learned of the presence of one battalion of Rucker's Legion, about 200 strong, camped just above Bent Creek and only a short distance below the mouth of Lick Creek, 1 3/4 miles above the point where Chucky Bend road touches Chucky River, and exactly in the real bend of Chucky. The battalion sent a small scout after me which was cut off by the Third Indiana Cavalry which came down the river road shortly after I left the bend.

"The enemy are still at the bend, and were in line of battle at daylight this morning, and were still in line at 8 a.m. They will doubtless await attack. I captured 1 prisoner who confirms the position of their troops, stating additionally that

the Second Battalion of Rucker's Legion is camped some 3 miles farther up the same creek, and their first and nearest infantry support is some 3 miles in their rear and about 2 1/2 miles from Bull's Gap"

From War of the Rebellion, by Lt. Col. Robert N. Scott, Series I, 1891, p.596, submitted by Ron Payne, Falkville, AL.

If anyone can identify the Rucker of Rucker's Legion, please contact Ron Payne, 79 Payne Road, Falkville, AL 35622-6236.

* * * * *

RUCKERS OF COMPANY E, 2ND VIRGINIA CAVALRY

Christopher Rucker is researching the Ruckers of Company E, 2nd VA Cavalry. If you have any information about them or if you know the burial place of any of them, please let him know. Christopher Rucker, M.D., 2252 Berkley Ave, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

RUCKERS OF CO. E, 2ND VA CAVALRY:
Page numbers refer to Wood's book sons of Edwin S. Rucker, p.82:

2nd Lt. Valentine Rucker
Pvt. Washington [I] Rucker
Ambrose G. [C] Rucker
sons of Benj. J. Rucker, p.109:
Henry Rucker
Paul Rucker
sons of Alex. Marr Rucker, p.151:
Godfrey Rucker
Isaac (Ike) Rucker
[Wm] Richard Rucker

Marcellus Rucker [p.84]
Wm. A[mbrose] Rucker [p.52]
Edward L. (Booker) Rucker [p.138]

Light Artillery, Kirkpatrick's Company:

Isaac W. Rucker [p.151]
Joshua T. Rucker [p.148]
(See next page)

CAPTAIN JOSHUA TINSLEY RUCKER CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

Joshua Tinsley Rucker's (1837-1915) Civil War records describe him with "Fair complexion, light hair, blue eyes and height 5 ft. 11 in." He enlisted in the Confederate Army as a Private on April 1, 1862, just before he turned 25 years old. He served in Capt. Kirkpatrick's Company of the Amherst Artillery, Nelson's Battalion.

Joshua was promoted to Sergeant on May 20, 1862. He was wounded at Fisher's Hill on Sept. 22, 1864, and he was furloughed home. His injury must have been slight as he was soon back in the fray. He was promoted to Lieutenant on January 31, 1865. On March 2, 1865, Lt. Rucker was captured by Maj. Gen. Sheridan's troops at Waynesboro, VA, and taken to the POW encampment at Fort Delaware, DE. He was released two months after the war was over, June 17, 1865. Before the end of the war, Joshua had been made Captain.

A memorial written about Capt. Rucker after his death said: "In the War Between the States, Capt. Rucker's experiences in Camp, in bivouac, on the march, on picket duty, on the skirmish line, on the battlefield, and in prison would furnish a story worthy of being recorded in war literature, but he was too modest to tell the story himself and never liked to pose as more than an average Virginian who loved his State."

Joshua T. Rucker, son of Joshua⁵ Rucker (Reuben⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹) and Emily H. Tinsley was born April 12, 1837, at Oak Farm, Bedford Co., VA, and died April 9, 1915, at "Sholto," Boonsboro, in Bedford County. He married 10 Jul 1872, at Trinity Episcopal Church, in Boonsboro, to Lucy Ellen Harris. They had six children.

Capt. Rucker was one of the substantial landowners of Bedford County. He served as deputy sheriff in 1857, and magistrate from 1877 to 1883. In his old age, he went to live with his daughter at Sholto, now the Boonsboro County Club. He died there and was buried there in the Meriwether Cemetery. His wife Lucy Ellen died November 10, 1939 and was buried in Trinity Episcopal Churchyard in Boonsboro.

Attendees at the 1994 Rucker Reunion visited his boyhood home in Bedford Co.

(Source: Anne Rucker Glover's booklet, Joshua Tinsley Rucker of Bedford Co., VA, 1837-1915, 1997; information from Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Ency.; and Famous Families of VA.)



CAPTAIN JOSHUA TINSLEY RUCKER

IN MEMORIAM

GERALD ("GERRY") BENTON RUCKER, Rucker Family Society Board member, died June 25, 1997 of lung cancer. Gerry was a very concerned, caring, and interested board member. He came to every members' meeting. His family profile was printed in Vol. 5, No. 4, Dec. 1994 of this newsletter. Last issue included a photo of Gerry and his three triplet granddaughters. Gerry was extremely proud that his line was being carried on by these three lovely girls. Gerry loved people, traveling, gardening and genealogy. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Gerry had been asking us for some time to create a set of objectives for the society. At the last reunion in Georgia, he gave the Editor his ideas. These ideas were submitted to the board, revised and approved. See page 32 for complete text.



Mitzi Baldock and daughter, Margaret Cabassa
at the 1994 Rucker Reunion in Fredericksburg, VA

MYRTLE ("MITZI") EPPS KEYES BALDOCK, died July 4, 1997, at Miami Beach, FL, of pancreatic cancer.

She was born on a farm in Bedford County, VA, February 22, 1922, to the late Aubrey Carol Keyes and Margaret Rucker. The sixth of eight children, she was raised during the great Depression years. Her family believed in God, hard work, love of family and strong moral character. She was a true Southern lady, genteel and full of grace and kindness.

She received her Associate of Arts Degree in 1971 from Miami Dade Jr. College. She continued her education at FTU and received a BS in 1971. She received her Masters of Science degree in Vocational Education in 1980. Mitzi began teaching Business Education at Lindsay Hopkins Vocational School of Miami, FL, as a part-time instructor in the early 1970s and then taught Business Education full time at Lindsay Hopkins from 1984 until Jan 1997.

She is survived by three children, Margaret Linda Cabassa and her husband Irv, David G. Baldock and wife Jeannie, Julia G. Duke and husband Doug; and six grandchildren. Five siblings survive her, two having previously died.

Mitzi's line of descent:
(Margaret⁸ Ellis Rucker,
Washington⁷ Irving, Edwin⁶
Sorrell, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴,
Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, Wood,
p.83-84).

From The News & Advance,
Lynchburg, VA, July 10, 1997,
submitted by Ruth McBride of
Amherst Co., VA.

* * * * *

JULIA RUCKER ZAHND, 85, died March 18, 1997, at Kansas City, MO. Mrs. Zahnd was born in Avenue City, MO, and lived most of her life in Savannah and St. Joseph, MO. She retired in 1983 after 15 years as a book-keeper with Marcun Distributing Co., St. Joseph, MO. She was a member of the first United Methodist Church of St. Joseph and the D.A.R., Savannah.

Julia was predeceased by her husband, Ammon L. Zahnd, daughter Janice Barbeck, sister Margaret Hastings, and brother John B. Rucker. Survivors include two sons, John R. Zahnd and Joe D. Zahnd, and two grand-sons, and two great-grandsons. (Obit from the Kansas City Star, 20 Mar 1997, submitted by Kevin Rucker, Overland Park, KS.)

* * * * *

HORACE⁹ "MARCUS" COFFEY was born @1904, died 17 Feb 1997, at Morristown, TN. He was the postmaster at Thorn Hill for 38 years before retirement in 1973. He helped organize and finance the first permanent telephone system in Thorn Hill in 1938.

Marcus was predeceased by ten brothers and sisters. His sister Myrtle Summers, survives; and his son and daughter-in-law, Inez Marie Coffey and Stanley M. Koenke of SC.

Marcus was the son of John Cleveland Coffey and Margaret⁸ Jane Wolfe (Maleta⁷ Hipsher, Myra⁶ Coffey, Margaret⁵ Rucker, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹) of Grainger Co.; TN. (From his obituary submitted by Lillian Harrell, and printed in Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse, June 1997, Issue 67, p.5.)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This mailing is a combination of the June and September newsletters. The editor is too far behind and will get even further without combining the two newsletters. She will be away for a month from the middle of August until the middle of September.

Jeannie and Chuck will be traveling to Texas for research, visiting, and attending the national FGS conference for genealogists in Dallas. The subject is "Unlock Your Heritage with Creative Problem Solving." The Robinsons will spend a week in the San Antonio area with three couples they met on their cruise around South America.

BACK COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER: Back copies of the newsletter are available from the Editor for \$2.00 each. The newsletter was begun in May of 1990 with three issues.

For a complete set, the price is \$50.00, postage included. Make check out to Jean B. Robinson, and send to her at 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTERS: Place your newsletters in a notebook for future reference. If you do not want to keep them, donate your back copies to a local genealogical library or historical society.

RUCKER CEMETERY RECORDS: Please send a copy of Rucker Cemetery records (See form, Vol. 6, No. 2) to James M. Rucker, Rt. 1, Box 56-B, Gladys, VA 24554.

Include the name of the current owner, exact location, condition, list of burials, and inscriptions of tombstones. If known, include identification of persons buried. Also, your name, address and telephone number.

**THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

April 12, 1997

The Board of Directors of the Rucker Family Society met at the Holiday Inn, Brentwood, Tennessee on Saturday, April 12, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. Roland Pittman, President, presided.

Present were: Dorothy Rucker Cain, Ruth McBride, Ron Payne, Joyce Pittman, Roland Pittman, Chuck Robinson, Jeannie Robinson, Gerry Rucker, and Jack White. Also present were Alice Allen, Rod Mason and Mary Snyder, retired Directors; and Herman Rucker, Dorothy Rucker, John Rucker and Libby Rucker-Reed, of the Nashville area.

The Secretary summarized the minutes of the previous meeting on October 4, 1996, and they were approved.

Jack White, Treasurer, submitted a current financial report, which was reviewed and approved. He stated 62 books were left from the latest reprinting of 200 copies of the Wood book.

Proposed objectives of the Society were distributed by Jeannie Robinson for study and action the following day.

The status of the proposed marker in Ruckersville, Georgia was reported. Jule Rucker had been in touch with the property owner of Joseph Rucker's home, who was interested in such a marker. In discussing the matter, Roland Pittman felt that more people would be likely to see a marker placed at the court house property in Elberton than in Ruckersville on private property. Chuck Robinson would ask Jule to contact Elbert County about a marker at the Court House.

In regard to the Rucker house in Everett, Washington, Gerry Rucker said that two doctors had purchased the home and that he was in contact with Bill Rucker, descendent of the original owners of the home.

Joyce Pittman distributed a reunion guideline for review and action the next day.

The Board then discussed the location of the Society's 1998 Reunion, and Ron Payne, Herman Rucker, Dorothy Rucker and John Rucker described the amenities of the Nashville area and Rucker related sites. Libby Rucker-Reed, daughter of Senator John Rucker of Murfreesboro, said she would consider being our registrar.

Jeannie Robinson advised that the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts had contacted her about the Rucker corner cupboard given them by Eva Davidson, now deceased. After discussion, the Board, not knowing how to contact her son or grandchildren, felt the Society should seek a place for display of the early Virginia piece, preferably in the Greene/Orange county area from where it originally came.

The meeting then recessed for lunch and a visit to several Rucker homes in the Murfreesboro area, led by John Rucker.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 13. All of the directors present previously, except Gerry Rucker, were present at this time.

The Board reviewed the Reunion Procedures prepared by Joyce Pittman, and had several comments. The President complimented her for her efforts. After discussion, these Procedures were adopted, subject to revisions to be circulated to Directors as soon as possible.

The Board then reviewed the proposed objectives of the Society, and after some revisions, approved them. They are attached following these minutes.

The Board then considered the site of the 1998 Reunion, and decided to have it in the Nashville area between May 15 and June 15, except Memorial Day weekend, as set by the Reunion Committee. Such Committee would comprise John Rucker, Chairman, Ron Payne, Herman and Dorothy Rucker.

The Board briefly discussed a site for the reunion in 2000, and felt a location in Tidewater Virginia, possibly Williamsburg, would be appropriate. The year 2000 will be the 300 anniversary of the arrival of Peter Rucker to Jamestown, Virginia.

Regarding the Rucker corner cupboard, Jeannie Robinson would seek more information from the Virginia Museum, and enquire if Montpelier, in Orange County, would be a suitable site. Ruth McBride would see if Poplar Forest, in Bedford County, might be interested in displaying it.

The meeting then adjourned.

Charles D. Robinson
Charles D. Robinson, Secretary

* * * * *

1996-1998 BOARD MEMBERS

Re-elected Board Members:

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

Ruth McBride
Gerald B. Rucker (deceased)
James M. Rucker
William B. Rucker
Edward W. Taylor

New Board members:

Dorothy Rucker Cain
Simeon Crisler
Ronald F. Payne

Joyce Pittman
Julius T. Rucker

Past Board Members:

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

OBJECTIVES OF THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

As Suggested by Gerald B. Rucker

The Rucker Family Society was formed in 1990 with the first newsletter distributed in May of that year. Membership in the Rucker Family Society includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and notices of biennial Rucker Reunions. National reunions have been held every other year since the first one held in 1988, in Ruckersville, VA, instigated by Anna Watson. Membership dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year, January 1st.

The objectives of the Rucker Family Society are:

1. To share information about the Rucker family and its ancestors, descendants and connections throughout the United States. The Society is nation-wide in purpose and objectives and is open to everyone who wants to know more about the family and/or wishes to share family information with others.
2. To collect data (family group sheets and computer disks) on all Rucker families, especially descendants of Peter Rucker, immigrant to Virginia in 1700.
3. To encourage members who wish to independently research the origins of the Rucker Family in Europe.
4. To encourage people to write their family histories and stories and to preserve their family papers and photographs.
5. To encourage families to restore and perpetuate family cemeteries.
6. To commemorate important Rucker sites and/or to memorialize family members who have made significant achievements in the past by the placement of highway markers or plaques to their honor.

* * * * *

The society has not established a set of By-Laws, but have agreed to abide by Roberts Rules of Order revised.

* * * * *

Membership in THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY is for the calendar year and dues are payable in January. Annual dues are \$7.00 (or \$14.00 for two years) and includes the newsletter and notice of the biennial reunions. Members joining after the first of the year will receive back issues of the newsletter for that calendar year. Please make check payable to The Rucker Society and mail to:

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

The Society is collecting family data for the Rucker Family Genealogy update. Please send your family group sheets to

Jean B. Robinson
304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226

Doris W. Edwards
2017 43rd St. SE, U-2
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Send your family data on computer discs to Ruth McBride, 9104 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: This combined issue of the newsletter will be sent to members who have not renewed for 1997, in the hopes that they will do so at the earliest opportunity. If you received a pink sheet, then take heed, this will be your last newsletter.

Please notify us of any change of address as this saves us the time and money of sending a second newsletter to you when the first one is returned.

Plans for the June 12-14, 1998 Rucker Reunion are progressing. Rooms are being held at the Holiday Inn, Brentwood, Tennessee. It is located just south of Nashville and is central to our tentative plans to visit the Hermitage, Rutherford Co. and, if desired, the Grand Old Opry.

Plan to come early and enjoy visiting Nashville and the surrounding area, at our low group rate. The following week will be a festival week in Nashville and the room-rates will double on Sunday night, so you may want to check out on Sunday.