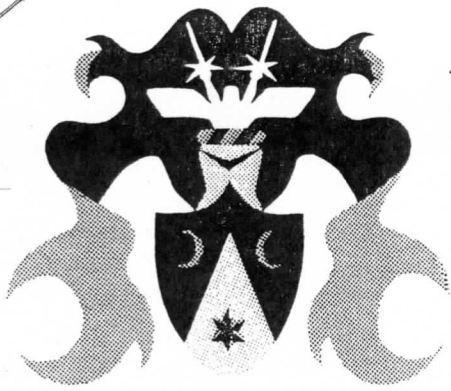


Wild West Tucker Town



the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

Number 4

December 1997

GEORGE FOSTER RUCKER

Track and Field Statistician Par Excellence

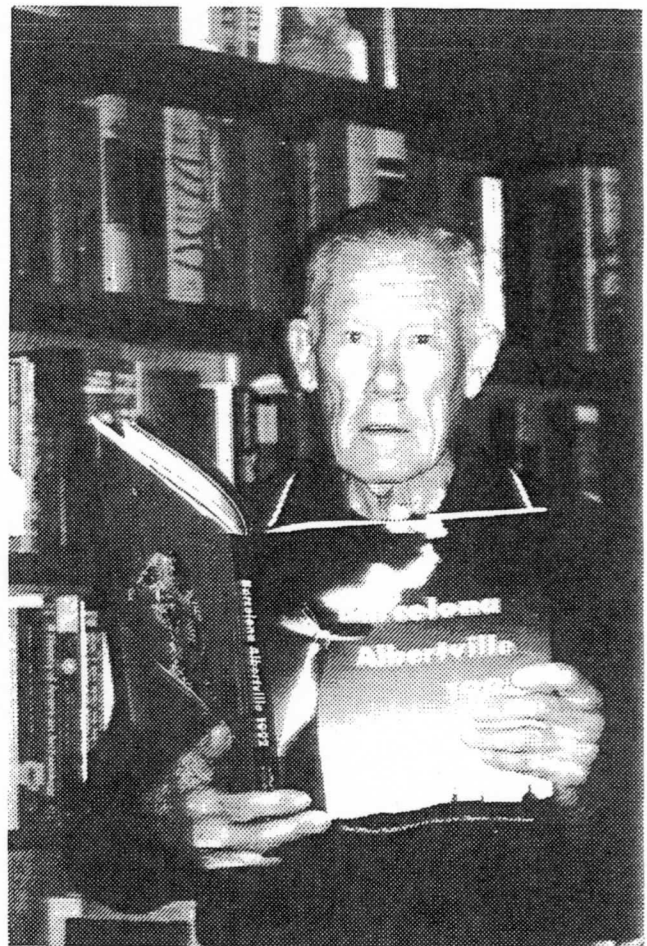
by Michael P. Rucker

"Where in the World is Carmen Diago?" is the name of a popular geography-based board game. "Where in the World is Foster Rucker?" could be equally intriguing, because this 88 year old can often be found in the far reaches of the world.

Actually, the answer to the latter question could usually be answered by determining where the Summer Olympics or the World Track & Field Championships are in any particular year. Foster's primary lifelong interest has been attending the track and field events at the Summer Olympics, or the world championships in the alternate years, not to mention a great proportion of the U. S. National meets.

Foster, who now lives in Sunriver, Oregon, developed his passion for track and field events during his days at Southern Methodist University where he was a varsity athlete in the mile and half-mile. Upon his graduation in 1931, with a BS in Electrical Engineering, jobs were in short supply, so he accepted a position as an instructor in the Electrical Engineering Department. He took on a second job as Assistant Track Coach. His interest in following track events and track statistics began with this position and has never left him.

He went from there to Cal Tech where he received his MS in Electrical Engineering and accepted employment in 1934 with Leeds and Northrup, an early manufacturer of scientific and engineering measuring instruments. His career was dedicated to the development, sales and servicing of precision electrical measuring devices.



Southern California was then, as now, a great place for track, and Foster's interest grew and continues to this day. An engineer by profession, a statistician by avocation, he is listed in the directory of the Track and Field Writers of America.

According to Foster, "Track fans have a natural interest in measurement controls and statistics. They tend to think in numbers, not philosophy."

Foster married Maybelle Butterfield June 18, 1938 in Los Angeles. After living 25 years in Los Angeles they moved to Philadelphia for four years where he was manager of market development. They then moved to Cleveland as district manager for the final 10 years of his career. Foster and Maybelle retired to Sunriver in December 1972. Maybelle died January 27, 1989. They have no offspring.

George Foster Rucker was born May 19, 1909 in Abilene, Texas. He is the son of Samuel James Rucker, Jr. and Frances Elizabeth Foster. His father was a Methodist Minister, serving many pastorates in the Central Texas Conference. His line of descent from his grandfather to Peter Rucker runs as follows: Samuel⁶ James, Western⁵ Tennessee, James⁴, Benjamin³, John² and Peter¹.

NOTE: OUR 1998
RUCKER REUNION
WILL VISIT THE
AREA WHERE JAMES⁴
RUCKER LIVED.
PLACE JUNE 12-14
ON YOUR CALENDAR

He attended his first Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia

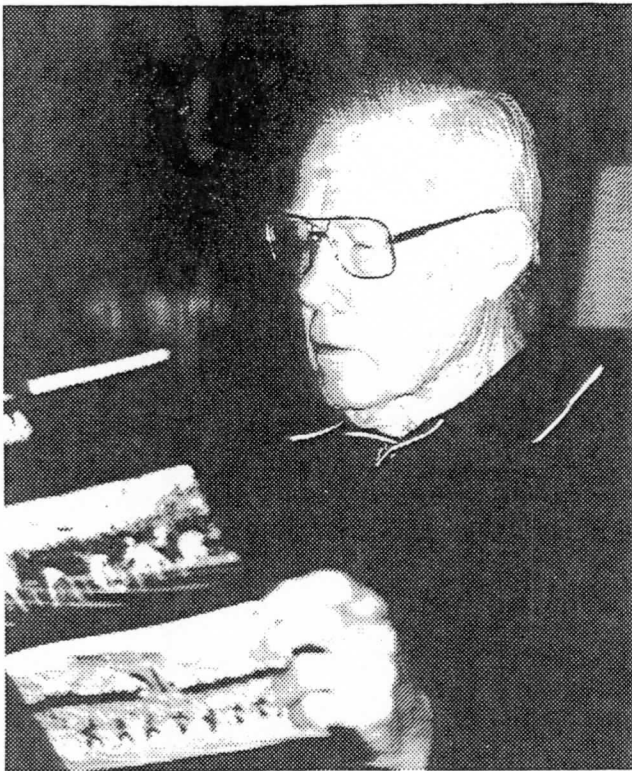
in 1956. There, he and Maybelle met friends that have remained over forty years. Foster will renew some of these acquaintances in the year 2000 when he attends the Summer Olympics in Sydney.

Since 1956 Foster has attended seven Summer Olympics and more small track and field events than he can count. He officiated at numerous events around the country, but was "never recruited" for duty at the Olympics. A typical year will find Foster taking one (sometimes two) overseas trips and, at least, half a dozen track events in the US. He currently has plans to attend forthcoming events in Raleigh, North Carolina and Cheyenne, Wyoming in early 1998.

Foster's other interest is his massive library. If you were to read a book a day it would take you more than ten years to read all the books in Foster's library. They are arrayed on more than 250 feet of shelves in his home. Foster explains that the library stemmed from Maybelle's love of reading. "She never went to college," he explains. "College came to her through the Western World's great literature. She read it all." Since there are hundreds of books on track and world travel, it seems certain that Foster himself has been a major contributor to this massive book collection.

What will happen to this treasure trove? The track books will go to the Track and Field Hall of Fame in Indianapolis. Nieces and nephews will receive the titles of their choice, and the remainder will be donated to local libraries.

Shortly after retiring to Sunriver in December 1972 his statistical skills were noted and



he was asked if he would record and compile the local weather statistics. During the first eleven years of this volunteer effort the weather instruments were located in Foster's yard. Neighbors filled in for him when he and Maybelle were away. During that period he missed the twice-daily readings only two days.

He reported the readings to the radio and television stations, the local newspapers, as well as, the National Weather Service. Foster notes that the electrical company used his statistics to justify their billings when people complained about their heating and electrical bills, particularly during extremes of temperature. The local golf maintenance staff used them to plan their watering schedule. In 1984 the instruments were moved to the Sunriver Nature Center where the staff now records the measurements. Although paid staff have taken over the daily readings, Foster

still reports them to the local media and prepares the monthly reports.

Foster's physical activities includes playing tennis, swimming and doing water aerobics several days a week.

In recent years health problems have begun to slow Foster down somewhat. In 1985 he had heart bypass surgery -- five and a half bypasses, actually. Foster explains with wry smile and a twinkle in his eye that the last one must have branched into two. Early in 1997 he underwent back surgery for a pinched nerve in a lumbar disk. During his recovery he fell and injured a knee, requiring orthoscopic surgery. Still, he insists he is doing fine and will soon be back on his whirlwind schedule of attending track and field events around the world.

I'd bet on it.

#

Notes from the Editor:
Foster Rucker is the first cousin of Cass Rucker of Bay City, TX, subject of the "Family Profile" of March 1994, Vol. 5, No. 1, p.1.

The idea for a profile on Foster Rucker was submitted by Mary Rucker Cole of Houston, TX.

If you would like to communicate with Foster Rucker, write him at P.O. Box 3248, Sunriver, Oregon 97707, or phone 541-593-1445

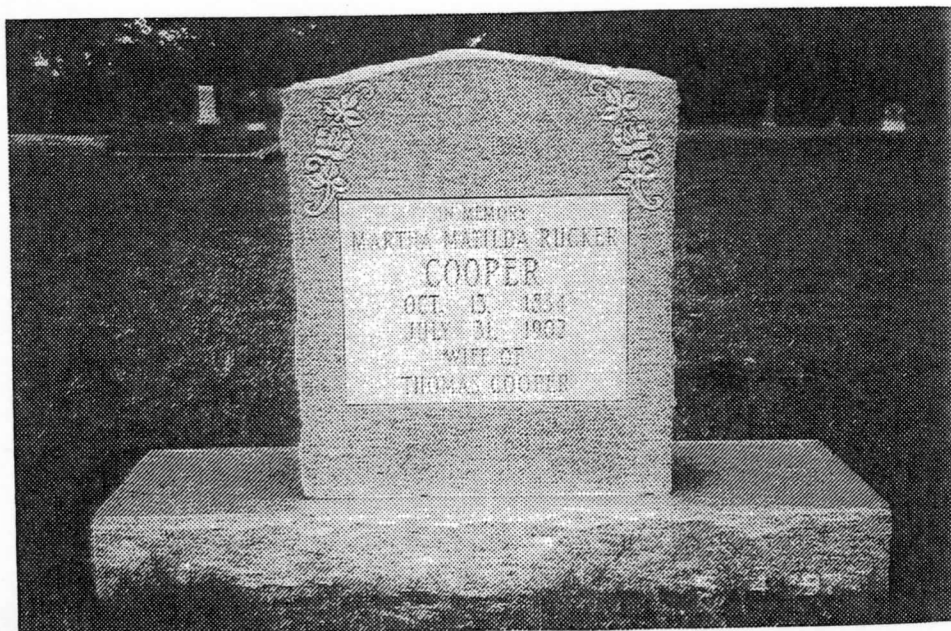
Articles used in the profile are: "Veterans of Five Olympics, Ruckers Await 1984 Games," by Ila Grant Hopper, The Bulletin, Dec. 27, 1977; "CO Weatherman Retires after 11 years," by Ila Grant Hopper, The Bulletin, May 7, 1985; and "Keeping Track of Books," by Rob Phillips, Sunriver Scene, March 1994.

**MARTHA MATILDA RUCKER
COOPER**

A tombstone was recently erected in memory of Martha Matilda Rucker Cooper by her 0.great granddaughters, Rheda Smith Davis and Linda Smith Hess. Years earlier, an aunt had explained approximately where she was buried in the South Church Cemetery south of Nevada, Collin County, Texas. Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Hess requested permission from the cemetery to erect a marker as near her grave as possible.

Martha Matilda Rucker was born October 13, 1834, and died July 31, 1902 in Nevada, Texas. Her parents were Margaret Young Bates and Wilford Rucker (James⁴, Mordecai³, William², Peter¹), of McMinn Co., TN. She and her husband, Thomas Cooper, resided in Cleveland, Tennessee. After the death of her husband and mother, she went to Nevada, Texas to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Margaret Sarepta Cooper and William Giles Smith.

The accompanying photos were sent courtesy of Rheda Smith Davis of Greenville, Texas.



"WILD WEST RUCKERS"
"In the Land of Enchantment"
 Rucker Reunion Review

June 20-22, 1997, the "Wild West" Ruckers, who descend from Richard⁶ Morton Rucker (Julius⁵, Abner⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹), had a fantastic 6th biennial reunion which was held in Cuba, NM.



Some of the sons of Richard Morton Rucker were considered by historians to be among the most famous cowboys of the four corners area.

There were more than one hundred family members in attendance. The location was special because the ranch property, where the reunion was held, was in a beautiful hidden valley, and was once the home of Emily, widow of Richard Morton Rucker, and son Franklin. Also, in this vicinity, other descendants of Richard Morton Rucker had homesteads.

Most folks arrived around 4:00 p.m. on Friday for a social time of talking, sharing pictures and genealogies, and dancing. There was a hot pit fire going all afternoon and into the evening to produce coals for slowly roasting meat that would cook all night.

On Saturday at high noon, there was a grand fiesta. It featured a wonderful spread of Mexican-Southwestern food, including the meat roasted the night before. The reunion hosts were Frank⁸ Duran-Rucker (Franklin⁷ Merritt, Richard⁶ Morton, . . .), wife Leonor and their wonderful large family.

All day there were games, some of which included a horse-shoe tournament and a pinata for the children. There was mucho conversation and plenty of relaxing. In the early afternoon there was a cute skit. An auction of donated hand crafted items was held. It was a tremendous success, much of which was due the great auctioneering of Harold Duran-Rucker. Proceeds of the auction went to the reunion fund. After the auction, there was live southwestern music provided by a band led by Lonnie Duran-Rucker, Harold Montoya (a Rucker) and Lonny's son, Matthew Duran-Rucker. There was dancing late into the night, which included a "Wedding March Procession" (contra dance), led by Frank and Leonor Duran-Rucker with everyone joining in. To end the evening, there was a great gathering with everyone circled around the fireplace in the huge old cabin to share family stories.

We closed the reunion Sunday morning over another great feast -- a lavish continental breakfast which included every fruit and pastry imaginable.

This was the greatest reunion/party there ever was. Tremendous thanks go not only to Frank and Leonor, but also to their daughters JoAnn (who was in charge), Rosie, Theresa, Dolores, Fedelina, and LaVern, and their families. Vaya con Dios until our next gathering in Northern California, late June 1999 where all are welcome.

Submitted by Alice and Loren⁹ Rucker (Harold⁸ Robert, Thomas⁷ 'Loren,' Richard⁶ Morton, Julius⁵, Abner⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹) of Sylmar, CA. Phone - 818-365-7027 E-mail upstairs@worldnet.att.net

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
ANNOUNCEMENT
OF DOROTHY RUCKER CAIN,
NEW BOARD MEMBER
OF THE
RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY,
AND HER HUSBAND,
STANTON "TOODLE" CAIN

MISSING

A child of God among the link
Whose heart beats fast and then it sinks
As names are called to join the chain
And his is absent once again.
This valiant child who faced the strife
our own ancestor who gave us life.
Who will come on Zion's Mount
To raise him unto God's own fount
Where he can drink of Celestial light
And with his spouse and kin unite.

On earth God's precious plan unfolds
A child is born with searching soul
This is another valiant one
Who feels his work has just begun
A quest, a search, this child won't rest
'till all are found and family blessed.
And so one day the missing child
Sees the Savior's gentle smile
As He beckons, "Come follow me;
Your wait is o'er and you are free".
FOUND

.....Bobi Morgan 12 Sep 1997

Bobi Morgan, Rucker descendant,
enjoys writing poetry in her
spare time



28, Jun. Dorothy Jean (Rucker) and Stanton 'Toodle' Cain 1997

Scipio church open house will honor Cain marriage

Stanton 'Toodle' and Dorothy Cain of Gosport will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 28, with an open house from 4-8 p.m. at the Scipio United Methodist Church.

Mr. Cain and the former Dorothy Jean Rucker were married June 28, 1947, in Vernon by the Rev. Albert L. Tull.

He is a self-employed con-

tractor. Mrs. Cain is a home-maker.

They are the parents of Jerry Cain of Columbus, Diane Sarver and Richard Cain of Scipio, Janet Wilson of North Vernon and Juanita Jewell of Hazard, Ky. They have 11 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to attend.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



ANSWER TO
QUERY: From
"Jeannie-alogy,"
Vol. 8, No. 2 &
3, p.24: The
Editor wanted to
find marriage of

Elizabeth Booton and a Rucker. From a letter to Edythe Whitley at the Williamson County, Tennessee Library at Franklin, the Editor found a record of the marriage of Elizabeth ("Betsy") Booton to Ephraim⁵ Rucker (Dewitt⁴ Rucker, _____³, James², Peter¹). This gives evidence to Ann and Elizabeth Rucker, mentioned in the Will of their grandfather, Ephraim Rucker, as being the children of Tomagen Rucker and her first husband, Ambrose Booton.

Someone has said that the Ann Booton that married Lemuel Rucker was not the daughter of Tomagen Rucker and Ambrose Booton, but has not sent proof to substantiate it.

Note: This is from letters written by Emma L. Nock, Denver, CO, between 1926-1930 to Edythe Whitley (Vol. 1 & 8, Rucker papers, Williamson Co., TN, library at Franklin). Emma descends from Ephraim Rucker and Betsy Booton through their daughter, Margaret Rucker who married Richard Falwell. She said the parents of Ephraim Rucker were DeWitt Rucker and Polly Sloan. She did not identify the parents of DeWitt Rucker, but he is surely of the James line. Lineage is suggested by the Editor.

The Editor thinks that, probably, Dewitt Rucker of Greenbrier Co., [W]VA, who married (27 Feb 1817) Nelly Rucker (William³, Thomas², Peter¹, Wood, p.235) may have been a son of DeWitt and Polly Sloan. What do you think?

* * * * *

QUERY FROM THE COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CHRONICLES, Vol. XVII, No. 4, Summer 1996/7, p.108: "Seeking info about a Grist Mill located at RUCKER Lake in the 1860's. Rucker Lake is two miles west of Rock Quarry, which is two miles west of Farmersville." The person wants to know who owned and operated the mill? The Ruckers would like to know for whom the lake is named. Information sent to the Editor will be forwarded to the Collin County newsletter.

* * * * *

FOUND IN THE RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY IN CULPEPER, VA:

Aubrey M. Rucker, died July 13, 1986, WWII, Inf. #1024, USCG

Ivy Rucker, died February 14, 1994, I, #1024, Dependant [wife of Aubrey?]

Henry Smith Rucker, died September 7, 1969, WWII, F, #254, US ARMY

Can anyone identify these Ruckers?

* * * * *

UNCLAIMED CIVIL WAR MEDALS:

Lori Samples has found a web site for unclaimed Civil War medals. Two Ruckers are listed:
Henry R. Rucker of the 45th, U.S. Army
Silas C. Rucker, 5th Reg. Inf. Volunteers

If you are related to them or know or someone who is, see web-site: www.wvnc.wvnet.edu/history/medallst.htm/

* * * * *

POINT LOOKOUT PRISONER OF WAR

ORGANIZATION: Two Ruckers were imprisoned at Point Lookout, St. Mary's County, MD:

BENJAMIN LINDSEY RUCKER;

Private, Co. H (no date), POW Prince Edward Co., April 6, 1864, taken to Point Lookout April 1, 1865. Took oath and released there June 17, 1865. Residence - Amherst Co., VA; light complexion. brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'4½".

WILLIAM R. RUCKER;

Private, Co. H, Sept. 1862, Amherst Co., VA present through June 1864, Wounded Ft. Canton, 1864, POW Burkeville April 6, 1865. Taken to Pt. Lookout April 14, 1865. Took Oath and released there June 17, 1865. Res. Amherst Courthouse; dark complexion, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'10". Born Nov 18, 1840, Amherst, died 25 Jan 1870; married to Sarah Ogden.

Submitted by Carolyn C. Billups, 39045 Tanglewood Ct., Mechanicsville, MD 20659-4323. E-mail - rebel63@erols.com. Contact Carolyn if you are interested in joining this organization.

* * * * *

QUERY OF THE QUARTER

By Michael P. Rucker

Who was Edwin A. Rucker of Chicago? He invented the system of recording land ownership. His company, Rees and Rucker, is now the Chicago Title & Trust Company. It is the oldest and largest title company in the United States. (Found in a Richmond Magazine.)

EDWIN/EDWARD A. RUCKER

Founder of Chicago Title and Trust Company

Additional notes from Mike Rucker

In recent weeks both Jeannie Robinson and I found brief articles which refer to a man named Rucker as the founder of Chicago Title and Trust Company, the world's largest property title insurance company. A recent article in Illinois Heritage refers to him as Edward A. Rucker. The September/October issue of At Home in Richmond names him as Edwin A. Rucker.

Here is an excerpt from Illinois Heritage: "The year was 1847; Chicago was booming. Almost 17,000 people called it home . . . and new pioneers were streaming in steadily to grasp the opportunities for independence, which the rich prairie soil promised. An obscure young law clerk, Edward A. Rucker, devised a system of keeping track of every recorded instrument and legal proceeding affecting real estate titles. This saved attorneys the laborious task of searching official records in connection with transfers of real property. It was a valuable service and was welcomed. Rucker hung out his shingle in the Saloon Building . . . then later that year, joined with James H. Rees in the Merchants' Exchange."

Who was this Edward or Edwin A. Rucker? Please send any information to Michael P. Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2828. Mike will write an article about this man if he receives sufficient information. He will send a copy of his latest children's book, "Terry and the Elephant," to all who respond with pertinent information.

QUERY: Ann Dooley of Millbrae, California would like to correspond with anyone who descends from Samuel Burks Rucker (Tinsley⁵, Ambrose⁴ Jr., Ambrose³, John², Peter¹), b. ca 1812, Amherst Co., VA, d. 1871; m. ca 1834, Martha (McClure) Jones. They are listed in the 1850 census in Franklin Co., MO. Write Ann Dooley, 771 Santa Margarita, Millbrae, CA 94030 or E-mail her at ADooley121@aol.com

CORRECTION to Vol. 8 No. 2 & 3, Summer, 1997, p. 23: Framed peacock dresser scarf belonged to her great-grandmother, Mary Frances Gooch Rucker (not her grandmother). From Judy Hendren McKinney, Lake Jackson, TX.

Judy's son Christopher David Motley and his bride, Laurie Jene Stahl, were married July 6, 1997, at Freeport, Texas. They had an outdoor ceremony at the gazebo in Velasco Park. Christopher is a fire fighter for the city of Freeport, TX.

Judy and her husband, Henry E. McKinney Jr. celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on August 1, 1997 with an exchange of new wedding rings.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: A new editor is needed for the Rucker Family Society Newsletter. I must spend my available time working on the update of my grandmother Sudie Rucker Wood's book. Her book was printed in 1932 and much has happened since then.

My office is overloaded with material that people have been kind enough to send me and I must begin to process this material.

Over the next few years, I will be entering family information into the computer purchased

by money donated by Ethel McDonnell. Please help by volunteering to become the new editor. Thanks, Jeannie Robinson.

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM DILLARD RUCKER, died October 20, 1997, at a hospital in Athens, AL. He lived at Elkmont, AL. (From The Decatur Daily, Oct. 21, 1997, sub. by Ron Payne, Falkville, AL.)

#####

WILLIAM HENRY DEISEL GLOVER, husband of Anne Glover, died November 1, 1997 at Stuart, Florida. He was buried at Trinity Episcopal Church, Boonsboro, Lynchburg, VA (from Anne Glover, Hobe Sound, FL).

#####

ROBERT ("RED") BENJAMIN RUCKER, age 68, died October 6, 1997 at Madison Heights, Amherst Co., VA. He was born April 29, 1929 in Amherst Co., son of Robert⁸ Talmadge Rucker (Robert⁷ B., James⁶ A., Willis⁵, John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹) and Gracie Dickerson Rucker. "Red" was married to Gertrude Chumbley Rucker. He was a retired sales agent with Armour & Company, a U. S. Marines veteran of the Korean War, a member of the Retread Motorcycle Club International and a member of Madison Heights Christian Church. He was preceded in death by a brother, Clyde T. Rucker. Interment with full military honors by American Legion Post 16 took place at Fort Hill Memorial Park. (From the Amherst County, VA, newspaper, submitted by Mary M. Johnson, Madison Heights, VA.)

con't next page

IN MEMORIAM - CONTINUED

ETHEL ARMINA RUCKER McDONNELL, died July 8, 1997, in Portland, Oregon, just shy of her 98th birthday. Ethel was born August 31, 1899, in Lacombe, Linn Co., Oregon, the youngest of eight children born to James Franklin Rucker and Armina Raines. Her family moved from Metz, Missouri to Oregon in 1884 and settled in Linn County. Her father was a very influential member of the community. He was, at various times, the first postmaster of Dotyville, the owner of a sawmill, and a farmer of a 280-acre farm. It was there that Ethel was born in 1899.

Her father died when she was eight years old and Ethel was left to live alone with her mother, Armina. All of her brothers and sisters had left home by that time. After her mother died in 1914, Ethel, age 15, went to work to support herself. One of her jobs was working for the Department of Justice. About this time she thought about starting a journal. She asked her boss at the Justice Department if this was a good idea, he said: "Just so long as you don't put anything personal in it that could come back to haunt you in later years." She must have taken this advise seriously, because in her later years all the journals were very impersonal accounts of her travels.

On November 18, 1927, Ethel married Lawrence William McDonnell. She and Lawrence settled in Portland, Oregon where her main hobby was playing golf. She served as President of the Oregon Women's Golf Association and, in later years, served as President of the Oregon's Women's Senior Golf Association. Ethel and Lawrence were world

travelers. In their lifetime, they visited almost all the continents many times. Ethel felt that travel broadened a person.

Her home in Portland was built by her husband and father-in-law. Lawrence made the house distinctive and unique by painting the driveway a green and white check. She moved into the home as a bride and remained there until the last year of her life.

Ethel and Lawrence had no children and he preceded her in death in 1994. She continued to live in her home by herself until she was 96 years of age. She is survived by her nieces and nephews and their families who will miss her very much.

A few years ago, she turned over her genealogy work to her nephew Gerald Rucker. Gerry became very active in the Rucker Family Society, eventually becoming a board member. Before her death, Ethel made a large donation to the society to help with publication of the update of The Rucker Family Genealogy, written by Sudie Rucker Wood.

(Submitted by Brenda Longton, McMinnville, OR.)

WANTED: The new address of Joan Mims, whose last known address was 216 4th St. NW, Attalla, Alabama 35954. She sent the Editor some family letters, a few years ago, and she needs to contact her about them.

Contact Jeannie Robinson, see address, page 46.

CONFEDERATE RUCKERS UPDATE

by Ron Payne

Changes and additions to the booklet which was enclosed in RFSN, Vol. 8, No. 2 & 3, are provided below.

ALABAMA

George Milam Rucker¹ 27th Infantry
Nathaniel Almon Rucker¹

ARKANSAS

Edmond T. Rucker² 1st Infantry Co. I
George R. Rucker² 12th Infantry Co. D

FLORIDA

Benjamin Franklin Rucker³ Ludlow's Company

GEORGIA

Arthur A. Rucker⁴ Pvt 14th Infantry Co. A
Russell J. Rucker¹ Pvt 22nd Infantry Co. E
James B. Rucker⁴ Pvt 27th Infantry Co. G
J. A. Rucker⁴ Pvt 40th Infantry Co. E
William Barden Rucker⁶

KENTUCKY

Harvey Pierce Rucker¹

MISSISSIPPI

Edmund T. Rucker¹
Francis M. Rucker¹
Houston Campbell Rucker¹

NORTH CAROLINA

Adin L. Rucker⁷

TENNESSEE

Alonzo De Alvarado Rucker⁸
James Madison Rucker¹
John S. Rucker⁸
William P. Rucker⁸

VIRGINIA

Ambrose C. Rucker⁹ Pvt 2nd Cavalry Co. E
Benjamin Lindsey Rucker¹⁰
Daniel H. Rucker⁹ Pvt 2nd Cavalry Co. E
Edward Lewis Rucker⁹
Edward Perrow Rucker¹¹
Godfrey Toler (not J) Rucker⁹
Isaac Willis Rucker⁹
Marcellus Parks Rucker⁹
Moses Peter Rucker¹²
Paul Brown Rucker⁹
Washington Irving (not J) Rucker⁹
William Ambrose Rucker⁹

Sources:

1. *Rucker Heritage*, Alice Rucker Allen
2. *Arkansas Confederate Veterans and Widows Pension Applications*, Frances T. Ingmire
3. *Biographical Rosters of Florida's Confederate and Union Soldiers, 1861-1865*, David W. Hartman and David Coles
4. *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865*, Lillian Henderson
5. Jean B. Robinson, Richmond, VA
6. Jule Rucker, Evans, GA
7. *Adin L. Rucker Scrapbook, 1860-1862*, microfilm in the Southern Historical Collection at Chapel Hill, NC
8. Tombstone inscription
9. Dr. Christopher D. Rucker, Roanoke, VA
10. *19th Virginia Infantry*, Ervin L. Jordan, Jr. and Herbert A. Thomas, Jr.
11. Claude L. Rucker, Jr., Fernandina Beach, FL
12. William B. Rucker, Fairfax, VA

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Rucker Cousins,

I would like to bring to your attention that the 1998 National Rucker Reunion will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on June 12, 13, and 14, 1998. The location will be the Holiday Inn at Brentwood, which is a short distance from the airport (shuttle available for \$5.00).

Many thanks to our coordinators: Herman & Dorothy Rucker, John Rucker, and Ron Payne for the outstanding job they have done putting this reunion in order. Please be sure to thank them when you see them at the reunion

I'm sure we will have a very educational and fun time so now is the time to let all of our family members know of this event so they can start preparing to attend this reunion. There are lots of cousins that have never attended one of our reunions and would be pleased to be notified of it.

Nashville has a lot of Ruckers that you will meet and several homes will be visited in addition to the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson. Jackson and his wife, Rachel Donelson, not being able to have children, adopted Rachel's brother's son. Her brother Severn Donelson, founder of Nashville, TN, was married to Elizabeth⁵ Rucker (James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹), see Wood, p.122. Andrew Jackson Jr. was a Rucker descendant. The area is steeped in Rucker history.

Some of the board members will be checking in at the Holiday Inn on Thursday night. Room rates are the same for Thursday night as for Friday and Saturday. Sunday night the rates go up to well over one hundred dollars due to the "Nashville Fan Fare Week."

On Friday there will be time to visit the Edythe Whitley papers at the Franklin, TN, Library. The hotel will lend us their mini-van for those who need transportation. Friday night you will have a chance to visit the Grand Ole Opry (see details on page 47).

Please note the reunion agenda and registration form. Please take time to fill out this form at your earliest opportunity, and forward it to Mrs. Libby Rucker Reed, registrar. This will help to make her job easier, and not have a last minute rush. Please note the deadlines for rooms and reunion registration.

Both Joyce and I will be happy to answer any questions. Again, thanks to our "Nashville Coordinators" for all their efforts to make this reunion another great event.

See you in Tennessee!

Sincerely,

A. Roland Pittman

Home phone (804) 985-2803
E-mail - apitt72803@aol.com



1998 RUCKER REUNION - JUNE 12, 13, 14, 1998
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

MOTEL RESERVATIONS:

The Holiday Inn, 780 Hickory Blvd, Brentwood, TN 37027 (615-373-2600) is holding a block of rooms for the Rucker Reunion for the nights of Friday & Saturday, June 12 and 13, 1998. Rates are \$69.00 plus room tax. All meetings and socials will be held at the Holiday Inn. Bus tours will begin there as well. Come early if you like, but the motel rates go up Sunday night due to a Nashville Festival. Remember to mention the Rucker Family Society when making reservations.

A second motel is available nearby for \$55.00 per night or \$258 a week for an efficiency apartment. Contact Extended Stay America, 9020 Church St., Brentwood, TN, Phone (615) 377-7847.

MEMBERS MUST MAKE THEIR OWN MOTEL RESERVATIONS. DEADLINE MAY 12, 1998

REUNION REGISTRATION FEE - \$12.00 per person

FRIDAY, JUNE 12:

Spend the day in Franklin, TN. Visit the Williamson County Library where Edythe Whitley's genealogy records are stored. There is room for only 40 researchers. However, there are plenty of museum-houses and antique malls for the others. The hotel will lend us a mini-van for those that need transportation to Franklin.

1:30 - 2:30 - Informal Genealogy meeting at Hospitality Room 832

3:00 - 5:00 - Board of Directors meeting at Holiday Inn

4:30 - 6:00 - Registration at Holiday Inn

6:30 - 11:30 - Bus trip to Grand Ole Opry (see notice next page)

6:00 - 7:30 - Hospitality room (BYOL, setups and light snacks provided)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13:

7:30 to 8:15 - Late Registration at Holiday Inn

8:30 - Bus leaves Holiday Inn for tour of the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson whose adopted son was a Rucker. Lunch will be served at the Hermitage. In the afternoon, we will tour Rucker home sites in Rutherford Co., TN. Return to Holiday Inn, approximately 5:00 p.m. - Bus, lunch and tour - \$24.00 per person

7:00 8:00 - Hospitality room (BYOL, setups and light snacks provided)

SUNDAY, JUNE 14:

9:00 to 9:45 - Board of Directors meeting

10:00 to 12:00 noon - Rucker Family Society Meeting

Speaker, Mr. T. Vance Little, Brentwood Historian

12:00 - Lunch Buffet at the Holiday Inn, Cost \$15.00 per person

1:00 - Meeting of newly elected Board of Directors

REUNION COMMITTEE:

The committee has worked long and hard to plan a fabulous reunion. Please contact them if you have any questions:

Ron Payne, 79 Payne Rd, Falkville, AL 35622

Herman and Dorothy Rucker, 5417 Cotton Wood, Brentwood, TN 37027

John Rucker, The Meadows 200 Pear Court, Nashville, TN 37221

SEND REUNION CHECKS TO: Mrs. Libby Rucker Reed, Registrar

1510 Bradyville Road

phone (615) 890-6859

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

**1998 RUCKER REUNION
FRIDAY NIGHT, JUNE 12, 1998
VISIT TO THE GRAND OLE OPRY**

On Friday evening we have arranged tickets and a bus to carry interested people to the Grand Ole Opry. **THIS EVENT IS BEING RUN SEPARATELY FROM THE REUNION.** You must sign up for the complete package (tickets plus bus).

There are tickets reserved for 45 people. Please sign up early to assure availability. Tickets must be paid one month in advance and there will be no refund of money past May 1st.

SCHEDULE: 6:30 p.m. - bus leaves the Holiday Inn
 7:30 p.m. - Grand Ole Opry Show
 10:30 p.m. - bus returns to the Holiday Inn

Fast food and soft drinks will be available at the Grand Ole Opry and you can eat in your seats. Souvenirs are available in the gift shop (please make your purchases before or during the show as the bus must leave promptly after show).

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS MAY 1, 1998. RESERVE YOUR TICKETS THROUGH DONALD ALLEN. DO NOT SEND YOUR MONEY TO THE REUNION COMMITTEE!

Send the name and address of those attending and a check for \$30.00 per person, made out to:

Donald H. Allen	Home phone (512) 280-6977
1004 Mintern Lane #A	E-mail - dha48@mail.texas.net
Austin, TX 78748-6409	

**UPDATE OF THE RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIAL - SEPTEMBER 1, 1998**

SEPTEMBER 1, 1998 will be the cut off date for submitting family group sheets (FGS) and material for the update of the Rucker Family Genealogy. If you have been putting off gathering your material, now is the time to send it in. Please send your family information to

Jean B. Robinson	phone (804) 358-3185
304 Charmian Road	E-mail - ruckerfs@erols.com
Richmond, VA 23226	

Note: Jeannie's computer crashed and she lost all E-mail messages prior to Nov. 17th. If you sent her information, via E-mail, before that date, please resubmit it to her.

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS: Send copies of your FGS and material to Doris W. Edwards, 2017 43rd St. SE, U-2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508. She is placing copies of family group sheets at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA. E-mail her at dewards@triton.net

COMPUTER DISKS: Send your family data on computer discs (PAF or Family Tree Maker) to Ruth McBride, 9104 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA. Ruth has a new E-mail address: ashmont@earthlink.net If you have not heard from Ruth, please E-mail her again as she has lost many of her messages sent to her old address.

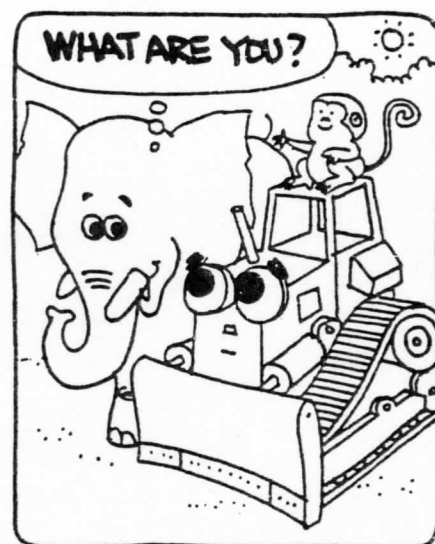
Send **CEMETERY INFORMATION** (name, location, owner, condition, and tombstone listings) to James M. Rucker, Rt. 1, Box 56-B, Gladys, VA 24554.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION: TERRY AND THE TRACTOR

MIKE RUCKER has released the fifth book in his "TERRY THE TRACTOR" children's book series.

The new book, **TERRY AND THE ELEPHANT**, concerns doing one's best and the development of close friendships.

Mike got the idea for **TERRY AND THE ELEPHANT** while living in the Far East as a representative for Caterpillar Inc. He witnessed a unique "machine demonstration" in which a tractor was demonstrated at a logging site which had always used elephants to handle logs. The tractor was able to pull the logs from the forest better than the elephants, but the elephants were better at handling the logs at the saw mill. In **TERRY AND THE ELEPHANT** a friendly monkey helps the two contestants become friends and all of the characters learn an important lesson.



You may order any of Mike's "Terry the Tractor" books by sending him a check for \$4.95 each (\$3.95 + \$1.00 First Class Postage). Specify the books desired and if a special note by the author is desired.

The five titles are: **TERRY THE TRACTOR**, **TERRY AND THE BULLY**, **TERRY THE ATHLETE**, **TERRY AND THE SUPER POWERFUL FUEL**, and **TERRY AND THE ELEPHANT**.

Send your orders to: Michael P. Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614-2828

WILKES COUNTY, NC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

Descendants of Colby Rucker may be interested in joining the **WILKES COUNTY, NC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC**. Colby lived in Wilkes County for a while with his grandmother, Ann Wisdom. He met and married his wife there before moving to Grainger County, TN.

The society's collection of books and documents are housed in the Genealogy Research Room of Wilkes Public Library, in North Wilkesboro. Membership dues are \$10.00 a year and includes four Bulletins, free queries, and listing of family surnames in "Our Forefathers" feature of the Bulletin. Their main objective is collecting genealogy books and material, and Ancestor Charts for their files for the benefit of other researchers. Even if you are not interested in joining, you may want to send them any family information that relates to family that lived in Wilkes County.

To join, send a check for \$10.00 to Wilkes Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 1629, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659-1629

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SIGN UP EARLY FOR THE RUCKER REUNION
JUNE 12, 13, 14, 1998
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

PLEASE PAY YOUR 1998 MEMBERSHIP DUES

WANTED:
EDITOR FOR THE NEWSLETTER



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

97 176
Mrs. Alice J. Rucker
13331 Gridley St.
Sylmar, CA 91342-4529

