

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

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JEAN B. ROBINSON

A Personal Profile on Our New President

by Michael P. Rucker

Jeannie Robinson is the new president of the Rucker Family Society. Probably the only thing most of us find unusual in that statement is the word "new." After all, Jeannie and the Society have been practically synonymous since the organization was founded.

It is also surprising that, after all these years, no Personal Profile on Jeannie has ever appeared in these pages. The reason for that is simple: she is a very modest person, always willing to pass the credit and attention to others while she does most of the hard work behind the scenes.

Well, Jeannie finally agreed to become the Society President and to permit a Profile. As for this profile - getting good stuff to write about her was tough because she is so modest. Those of us who know Jeannie, however, know what a ball of fire she is and have some inkling of how many activities and interests she has.

I asked her why she became so involved with genealogy and, in particular, Rucker genealogy. After all, her connection to the Rucker family is through her

grandmother, Sudie Rucker Wood. She replied, "Well, I was born with **The Book**," referring, of course, to *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, compiled by that grandmother.

"Also," she continued, "My grandfather on my father's side was very much involved in writing history. G. MacLaren Brydon was an Episcopal Minister and Historiographer of the Episcopal



Jeannie - "Princess from Virginia"

Diocese of Virginia. He wrote a two-volume set called, *Virginia's Mother Church*, a history of the early Anglican/Episcopal Church in Virginia. He started her on genealogy when she was a teenager and dubbed her "Jeannie the genealogist" when it took.

So, we can surmise that Jeannie inherited her interest in genealogy and history from both sides of the family.

She was born, Jean Wood Brydon, in Richmond on November 2, 1939. Her father, Robert Brydon, III, a retired C.P.A., is still an avid golfer at age 91. Her mother, Jean Whittet Wood, died in 1987, of breast cancer.

After her graduation from Richmond's St. Catherine's School, Jeannie attended Marjorie Webster Jr College in Washington, D.C. In 1958, while there, she was honored to be chosen the Virginia State Princess to the Cherry Blossom Festival, a prestigious event filled with eight days of pomp, fancy dress balls, a visit to the Japanese Embassy, and a grand parade. It included meetings with First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, U. S. Senators and other prominent people. Many of the princesses were daughters of Senators. Her picture was in every paper in Virginia and many out of state papers. The beautiful wardrobe came in useful, later that year, when Jeannie made her debut to Richmond Society.

In 1959, she married Edward Jones Willis, Jr. They had one son, Edward Jones Willis, III who was born March 15, 1962. Eddie, a commercial artist, designed the letterhead for this newsletter

and the cover for the reprint of the Rucker book. He is currently working on a book on Confederate soldiers buried at Oakwood Cemetery. He is married to Susan Parrish and they have one son, Cabell F. Willis, age six.

Genealogy was put on hold, while Jeannie attended Richmond Professional Institute. She graduated with the first class there after it was renamed Virginia Commonwealth University in 1969. She majored in Elementary Education with a minor in Art. Upon graduation, she taught third grade in Henrico County Schools.

On June 16, 1973, she married Charles D. Robinson. Chuck was born in Syracuse, New York, but quickly adds that his family was originally from Winchester, Virginia. A graduate of Northwestern University in Chicago, Chuck is a Certified Public Accountant and financial manager who specializes in insurance consulting. After graduation from college, Chuck moved to Richmond. Chuck has three children by his first marriage and three grandsons.

Chuck and Jeannie moved to Atlanta shortly after their marriage. It was in 1980, after they returned to Richmond, that her interest in genealogy took hold. She began by researching all of her ancestors. She had a Wood family reunion and a Brydon family reunion. But it was the interest in the Rucker family that intrigued her most of all.

In 1983, a cousin Price Wood, organized the first of the Rucker Family Reunions. That first reunion was at Hill Crest Farm in Fauquier County, Virginia, which has seen many generations of

Ruckers, including the current owners John and Marjorie Rucker, two of their daughters, Connie and Sue, and their grand daughter, Courtenay (see RFSN, Vol. 4, No. 4, p.36, Dec. 1993).

Following the success of that first event, Jeannie assisted in organizing the following Rucker Family Reunions (other organizers are in parenthesis):

- 1984 - Amherst County, Virginia (Ed Taylor)
- 1985 - Fauquier County again (John & Marjorie Rucker)
- 1986 - Richmond (held in conjunction with the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society)
- 1988 - Ruckersville, Virginia - the First National Rucker Reunion (Anna Watson)
- 1990 - Amherst County, Virginia (Ed Taylor, Hannon & Mae Rucker, Rod & Lou Mason)
- 1992 - Fredericksburg, Virginia (Roland & Joyce Pittman)
- 1994 - Bedford County, Virginia (Lewis M. "Jack" & Dagmar White, Ruth McBride, Mary Johnson & Bill Rucker)
- 1996 - Alpharetta, Georgia (near Atlanta) (Sim, Barbara & Julia Crisler, Ron Payne & Chuck Robinson)
- 1998 - Brentwood, Tennessee (near Nashville) (John & Ruth Rucker, Herman & Dorothy Rucker, Ron Payne)

Jeannie described the Rucker Family Society as "an accident waiting to happen." The interest of the Ruckers was so intense and people looked to her because of her grandmother's book. The Society formally organized at the 1990 meeting in Amherst County, with Rod Mason as the first president.

Jeannie is very involved in volunteer work. Perhaps most significantly with Richmond's St. James's Episcopal Church, where she is a past President of the Women's Board. The rector of St. James was heard to remark, some years ago, that he could probably get Jeannie to do more work for the church if she wasn't so involved with genealogy.

He might also have mentioned her involvement with the Three Chopt Garden Club (founded by her Aunt Sudie Wood Mann), her position on the Council of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, as well as the Guild of the Valentine Museum, which features the history of Richmond. One of her most exciting times was being a board member and recording secretary for the Woman's Club in Richmond. She was registrar of colonial states of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Virginia for two years. Jeannie said it was one of the toughest and most time consuming volunteer jobs that she has ever held.

In addition to all that, would you be surprised to know she is currently president of GRIVA (Genealogy Research Institute of Virginia)? GRIVA is group that encourages genealogical and historical research through trips, meetings, workshops, and publications. She promises this will be her last year so that she can get concentrate on the Rucker update.

Recreation? Jeannie likes tennis and skiing. Hobbies? Genealogy has taken precedence over her interest in gardening, sewing and arts and crafts. She also likes collecting antiques, traveling with Chuck, and baby-



Chuck and Jeannie Robinson in Vail, CO

sitting her two six year old grandsons (one is hers and one is Chuck's).

Jeannie and Chuck's travel typically falls into one of two categories: cruises or genealogy research trips. They usually take a cruise every other year, with genealogy trips between. She can rattle off an impressive list of states where her research has taken her: Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Ohio, to name a few. In other words, just about any state where Ruckers from Virginia were known to emigrate.

Their "trip of a lifetime" was a two month cruise around South America in the fall of 1994. They have been having reunions

every year with three other couples they met on that cruise.

She can spin some interesting yarns about her genealogical travels. She especially recalls the occasional times she just stumbled across a "Rucker connection" while least expecting it. An example is while on a convention trip in New Orleans, Louisiana, Jeannie and Chuck took a side trip to St. Francisville. While visiting "Rosedown" Plantation, the tour guide mentioned that the original plantation owner was a man named Turnbull. Jeannie remembered that Peter Rucker of Natchez had a daughter who was married to John Turnbull and this was their son. Even though she wasn't looking for Ruckers, she had come across them.

Not all of her genealogy work is devoted to the Rucker family. She is a member of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Jeannie is a descendent of Thomas Nelson, a signer for the Commonwealth of Virginia though another line of her heritage. (I was really disappointed to find out that a Rucker had not signed the Declaration.)

I was this far along with this story when I phoned Jeannie to glean some more information. She said, "We just got back from a trip to Rocky Mount, Virginia. There was a graveyard behind the B&B where we stayed and a funeral was taking place. I wandered over," she told me, "and, after the funeral, I asked the funeral director if he knew 'where any Ruckers were buried.' [I didn't have a clue if there were any.] The funeral director said, 'Why right behind this burial today.'

He told me the Ruckers lived just around the corner [See article on p.22]. When Chuck and I got home, the Ruckers' daughter had sent me a package of information on the entire line of Ruckers in the Rocky Mount area. I couldn't believe it."

I could. How about you?

* * * * *



Jeannie's grandson
Cabell Willis - left

Chuck's grandson
Tom Robinson - right

Christmas, 1997

* * * * *

Jeannie and Chuck celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, June 16, 1998, by taking a special trip to the Homestead, a resort, in Bath County, Virginia. In July they cruised from New York City to Nova Scotia, Saint Pierre, and Newfoundland.

Jeannie has two lines of Rucker descent: Jean⁸ Whittet Wood, Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹; and William B.'s wife Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

* * * * *

Additional Note from Jeannie: When I was Princess in the Cherry Blossom Festival, I received a phone call from Eva Davidson. Thinking she was the from the Virginia committee, I welcomed her offer to move me and my wardrobe from school to a hotel.

She arrived at school with her chauffeur and limousine and kissed me. I thought it was strange for a committee member to

be kissing me.

It turned out she was a Rucker cousin, the one who wrote *Rucker Kinsmen*. She had seen my photo in the Washington D. C. paper and had called my mother to see if she could help me. If you have a copy of her book, you will find my picture in it.

Cousin Eva and I became great friends and I spent many evenings at her home over the years. She lived in President Grant's summer home in Georgetown and it was always a treat to visit her and her husband, Gen. Howard Davidson. She hosted the most elegant dinner parties with full accompaniment of servants. After dinner, the ladies would retire upstairs to the bedroom. Cousin Eva's bathroom was the largest one I have ever seen with fireplace and large windows overlooking the gardens. Her chaise longue showed evidence she spent a lot of time in that wonderful retreat.

When I went to her funeral, her husband passed out copies of her newly published book. I was sorry that I hadn't been interested in genealogy previously, to seek her advice on the Ruckers.

* * * * *



ROSE DOWN PLANTATION AND HISTORIC GARDENS

is for sale. It had been a house museum and then a B & B until recently.

An add appeared in the June 26, 1998, Wall Street Journal, offering it for sale for 4.8 million. The fine museum collection of antique furniture will be sold separately, if not purchased by the buyer of the home.



The Rucker Family Reunion Photo at the Heritage, Home of President Andrew Jackson

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

June 12, 1998

The Board of Directors of the Rucker Family Society met at the Holiday Inn, Brentwood, Tennessee, on Friday June 12, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. Present were Dorothy Rucker Cain, Sim Crisler, Doris Edwards, Ruth McBride, Ron Payne, Joyce Pittman, Chuck Robinson, Jeannie Robinson, Bill Rucker and Ed Taylor. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, Joyce Pittman presided. Also present were John Rucker and Herman Rucker of the Reunion Committee, Alice Allen and Rod Mason.

A Treasurer's Report was submitted and approved.

Joyce Pittman reported that Roland Pittman had resigned as President, Carolyn Billups and Jule Rucker declined to be nominated for reelection, and Gerry Rucker had died shortly after the 1997 Board meeting.

The Board then considered replacements to present to the members' meeting, and nominated Jeannie Robinson as President. Rod Mason was nominated as Vice-President, on condition he would not become President. Becky Fox, Chris Rucker, Rod Mason and Margie Sutherland were nominated as Directors. It was then agreed not to submit Carolyn Billups and Jim Rucker as nominees for another term as Directors.

The Board then considered erecting a marker in Elbert County, Georgia and after discussion, agreed to support placing a marker in Ruckersville, Georgia commemorating Joseph Rucker.

The Board then approved a \$500 donation to the Hermitage, Andrew Jackson's home to be visited the next day, to help replace trees destroyed in a recent storm.

Ruth McBride reported on her collecting of data base files, advising some files contain mistakes and that some software programs are not compatible.

The Board considered another reprinting of the Sudie Rucker Wood book, as supplies were exhausted, and agreed to defer any action. The Board commended the Reunion Committee for their work in organizing the meeting, and they were authorized to pay the speakers, photographer and for printing the booklets.

It was agreed to defer discussion of the reunion in 2000 until the meeting reconvened.

Jeannie Robinson then distributed a letter from Gerry Rucker's niece, Judy Gregory, stating the computer was contributed by his aunt for updating the Rucker Family Genealogy and not for producing the newsletter.

The meeting then recessed.



BOARD MEMBERS (from left)

Front row: Joyce Pittman, Doris Edwards, Dorothy Cain, Ruth McBride, Alice Allen.

Back row: Ron Payne, Jeannie Robinson, Bill Rucker, Sim Crisler, Ed Taylor and Chuck Robinson

Photos taken by Rod Mason

The meeting reconvened on Sunday, June 14, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. All directors and guests originally present were in attendance, plus Becky Fox, Chris Rucker and Margie Sutherland.

Joyce proposed that Board nominations for officers and directors be presented to the members meeting, when nominations can be made from the floor, and upon election by the members, the outgoing president presents the gavel to the incoming president to continue the meeting. This was approved.

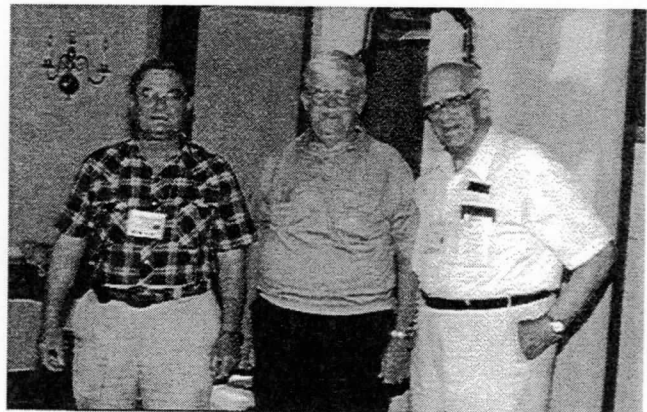
It was agreed to contribute \$100 to assist in renovating the Arno Cemetery nearby in Williamson County, family cemetery of Herman Rucker, Bill Jordan and Harold Hatcher.

The Board then considered the location of the reunion in 2000, and Jeannie Robinson proposed Williamsburg, Virginia, which was approved. The 1999 Board meeting would be held there, and the incoming President would set the date and notify Directors.

The meeting adjourned.
Charles D. Robinson, Secretary



REGISTRATION DESK -
MARY RUCKER ESTES & LIBBI RUCKER-REED



HERMAN RUCKER, RON PAYNE, JOHN RUCKER
REUNION COMMITTEE

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS MEETING
June 14, 1998

The 1998 reunion members meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Brentwood, Tennessee on Sunday June 14, 1998. Joyce Pittman acted as chairperson and Chuck Robinson served as Secretary.

Joyce Pittman led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Joyce Pittman presented the nominees for officers and directors, and they were elected as follows: President - Jeannie Robinson; Vice-President - Rod Mason; Treasurer - Jack White; Secretary - Chuck Robinson; Editor - Jeannie Robinson; Registrar - Doris Edwards; Directors - Dorothy Rucker Cain; Sim Crisler; Becky Fox; Ruth McBride; Ron Payne; Joyce Pittman; Bill Rucker; Chris Rucker; Margie Sutherland and Ed Taylor.

Joyce Pittman then handed the gavel to Jeannie Robinson, who then presided.

Jeannie Robinson recognized those who had worked on organizing the reunion - John and Ruth Rucker, Herman and Dorothy Rucker, Ron Payne, Libbi Rucker-Reed and Donald Allen. Ron Payne was also recognized for contributing the booklet on Col. Edmund Winchester Rucker, and Mary Rucker Estes was recognized for her booklet on the Ruckers of Rutherford County, Tennessee.

Rod Mason called the roll of Peter Rucker's children, and descendants were present as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|----|---------|---|
| John | 59 | William | 3 |
| Peter | 0 | Mary | 0 |
| Thomas | 8 | James | 1 |
| Elizabeth | 0 | Ephraim | 0 |
| Margaret | 0 | Ann | 6 |

He then asked how many states were represented, and seventeen states were present as follows:

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|------------|----|-------------|----|
| Alabama | 1 | Arkansas | 3 | California | 9 |
| Colorado | 3 | Delaware | 1 | Florida | 3 |
| Georgia | 8 | Indiana | 4 | Kansas | 4 |
| Maryland | 2 | Michigan | 1 | Mississippi | 3 |
| Missouri | 2 | New Jersey | 1 | Tennessee | 28 |
| Texas | 10 | Virginia | 13 | | |

In addition, nine persons had attended all reunions, and 41 were attending their first reunion. It was determined that all present from California had come from furthest away.

The meeting then had a moment of silence for Gerry Rucker, a Director who had passed away last year.

Jeannie Robinson asked John Rucker and all his 35-40 relatives in

attendance to stand and be recognized. She asked Herman Rucker and his family to also stand and be recognized.

Chuck Robinson read the attendance at previous reunions.

Heather Scott, a grand-daughter of John Rucker, read a delightful poem about genealogy.

Jeannie Robinson announced the next reunion would take place in the fall of 2000, the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Peter Rucker in Virginia, at a location to be determined by the Board.

She then made several announcements; September 1, 1998 was the deadline for material to be included in her Rucker Family update; \$500 had been donated to the Hermitage to help replace trees; Pat Marini of Rochester, N.Y. would become Editor as soon as the work could be transferred; Doris Edwards was collecting family group sheets; and Ruth McBride was receiving family information on discs.

Ron Payne announced that pictures taken at the Hermitage the day before were available from him for \$5.00.

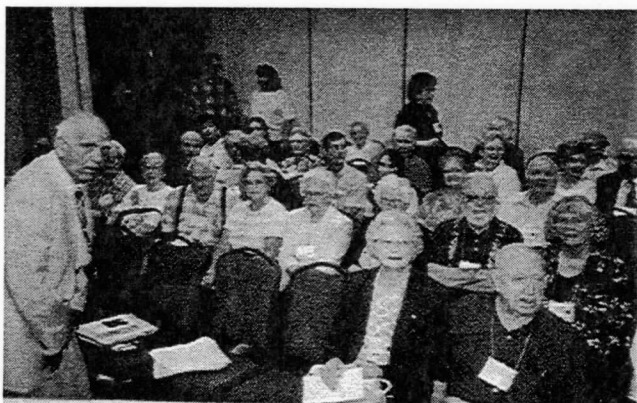
Jeannie Robinson spoke about the early Ruckers who settled in this area of Tennessee.

John Rucker introduced T. Vance Little, who spoke on the history of Brentwood and showed slides of homes in the area.

John Rucker then introduced Tom Bain who spoke on the Civil War in the area, especially the Battle of Franklin and Col. Edmund Winchester Rucker, for whom Fort Rucker, Alabama was named.

The meeting adjourned, and John Rucker gave the invocation for lunch.

Charles D. Robinson, Secretary



MEMBERS MEETING OF THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1998 (photos by Jean B. Robinson)

WILLIAM RUCKER CEMETERY ARNO, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

At the Rucker Reunion, a small group went on a tour of the William Rucker cemetery in Arno, Williamson Co., TN. We were aptly guided by descendants, Harold Hatcher and Freeman ("Bill") Jordan. It was hot and humid, but it was worth the trip to see where so many family members were buried. We also saw the local homes of the Ruckers who lived there. The family had spent many long hours cleaning up the cemetery for our visit. It looked great and we were happy to report that not one chigger bite was gotten.

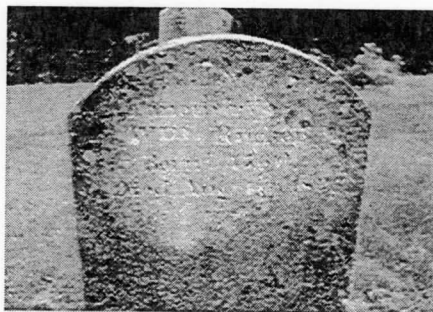


The Rucker Cemetery at Arno

* * *



Photo of tombstones that need repair



Stone of
William⁴ Rucker
(John³, John²,
Peter¹) immi-
grant to the
area
Born 1760,
Died 4 July 1826

LETTER TO THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY MEMBERS,

May this letter serve as an "update" on events in the Rucker Cemetery, [Arno], Williamson County, Tennessee.

The [William] Rucker Family Cemetery Association is in the process of providing an historical marker for the cemetery.

The marker is to be placed at the intersection of Owen Hill Road and the private road through the Sledge property leading to the Rucker Cemetery.

The approximate cost of the marker is \$1,325. The Williamson County Historical Society is offering \$500. The balance of the cost is to come from other contributors.

The Association is conducting

a fund raising campaign through letters to those who have relatives buried in the cemetery. We would very much like to donations from the Rucker Family Society members. Please send them to me at the address below.

The Todd Carter Chapter, Sons of Confederate Veterans may clean and reset the stones for the four Confederate Veterans buried in the cemetery. The four veterans are Captain William Pillow Rucker, Alonzo De Alvarado Rucker, John S. Rucker and their brother-in-law, Robert Archer Jordan (my grandfather).

It was great having you and the other Rucker family members in Tennessee this past June!

FROM FREEMAN (BILL) JORDAN JR.
433 Wauford Drive
Nashville, TN 37211-4466

JEANNIE-ALOGY

"Genealogy is like a 10,000 piece puzzle with no edges," said my husband when I told him of a gross error in judgment that I had made.

A few years ago, I was looking for a Samuel L. Rucker of Bedford Co., VA. I looked through *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, written by Sudie Rucker Wood. I couldn't find one, but did find a "S. L. Rucker," on page 99. For years now, I have placed Dr. Sam Rucker, the famous country doctor of Moneta, Bedford Co., VA, under that listing, even though census records showed "S.L." to be Sallie L. Rucker and the family lived in Botetourt Co., VA.

This is the worst example of poor judgment that I have ever made. Especially as Samuel L. Rucker was listed in the 1880 census of Franklin Co., VA, with his father, Joseph H. Rucker, who is listed in Wood on page 103). I had made up my mind and that was that!

Once I made my decision, I never doubted it again. I am writing this to show how easy it is to make a mistake when using a book as your guide. Even though the book may be correct in every manner, one's judgment may be the problem. However, books should not be used as a source without backing it up with documentation! Usually I do this, but I don't know what happened this time.

In the middle of August, Chuck and I were taking a mini-vacation and staying in a bed and breakfast home in Rocky Mount, VA. I didn't take my genealogy notes with me, intending to have

a vacation from that as well. But I should know better, as it is always with me. To get to Rocky Mount, we had to drive through Moneta, in Bedford County. That brought it to mind. And lo and behold, behind the B&B in Rocky Mount, was a cemetery. Of course, I had to look for Ruckers. The funeral people were there preparing a burial site, and I asked the funeral director if he knew where Ruckers were buried. He pointed to a tombstone a few feet away and there was James Hammet Rucker, son of Dr. Samuel L. Rucker of Moneta. His widow was still living and she lived only a block away. Behind her home was the dental office of their son, Dr. James H. Rucker Jr.

When I got back to Richmond, there was a packet from their daughter giving me the correct genealogy of the family. Was this a coincidence or the spirits of our ancestors at work!

See RFSN, Vol. 6, No. 2, Dec 1995, "The End of an Era," about the sale of the estate of Dr. Samuel L. Rucker. Please correct his lineage as follows: He was the son of Frances Susan Poindexter and Joseph⁶ Hardy Rucker (Anthony⁵, Ambrose⁴ Jr., Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). Dr. Sam was born 19 Jan 1871, Scruggs, Franklin Co., VA, and died 4 Oct 1931, Roanoke, VA. He married 27 Nov 1900, to Elizabeth Margaret Phelps, born 5 Jan 1875, Bedford Co., VA, and died 25 Sep 1956, Roanoke, VA.

Another example of a mistake in copying, that has been passed along until being checked by the editor, follows on the next page.

LAND OF COL. AMBROSE RUCKER

Col. Ambrose³ Rucker (John², Peter¹) of Amherst Co., VA, lived at Graham Cove, not at Bears Mountain as described by Sudie Rucker Wood.

Sudie, in *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.66, wrote: "Ambrose's land lay east of the Tobacco Row Mountains, south of Bears Mountains, to the south of Harris Creek on Rucker's Run, a branch of Harris Creek."

On p.71, Sudie Wood said William Cabell Jr. surveyed 350 acres for Ambrose Rucker, "land on the South side of Bears Mountain." THIS WAS A MISTAKE IN COPYING. Last year while at the Amherst Courthouse, I looked up the original deed and found the following:

From the Amherst Co., VA, Plat Book, 1761-1837, p.24: "90 acres on south branches of Harris Creek in Grayham [sic] Cove, 27 Feb 1766, survey by W. Cabell." And there, next to it, was the deed for 350 acres "on the South side of Bears Mt." for someone else. Sudie Wood had copied the wrong deed!

For years, the Editor has been looking for Ambrose's land near Bears Mountain without success.

Actually, Col. Ambrose Rucker's land abutted George McDaniel's land, later inherited by his son-in-law, Reuben⁴ Rucker, son of Ambrose³ and later lived on by his son, Ambrose⁵. This is described in Wood, p.79: "[Ambrose⁵ Rucker] lived in Graham Cove on the South branch of Harris Creek, on land adjoining his grandfather, Col. Ambrose Rucker."

There it is in black and white, she had the correct location on one page, but not another! Sometimes mistakes in copying can lead one astray for years. It is only with a deep study of ALL the clues, can someone find the correct answer.

The cemetery at Graham Cove, listed on p.80, is across the creek from the McDaniel home and faces another direction. Why? Was this the site of Ambrose's home which burned 50 years before Sudie R. Wood wrote her book? Is Col. Ambrose Rucker buried in that graveyard?

From a letter from Mrs. Ellen Rucker Theisz, of Garrett Park, Maryland, written March 2, 1922 to Mrs. G. W. Rucker, Greenfield, Ohio: "Col. Ambrose Rucker is said to have been 6 feet, 6 inches tall and weighed 300 pounds. His grave is the longest grave I ever saw. All the graves in the family grave yard are unusually long. The old family colonial home was burned about 50 or so years ago [about 1870]."

The Rucker cemetery was visited at all three Ruckers Reunions held in the area. A photo of it appears in Vol. 5, No. 3, p.26, September 1994.

Ruth McBride, of Amherst Co., Va, and RFS Board Member, has been searching for the original deed for Ambrose Rucker's property, but has not found it yet. Rucker descendant Ellen and husband Bob Wagner currently own the land that contains the cemetery. Could this be the original Ambrose Rucker property. If so, where was the location of the house that burned so many years ago?

WWI LETTER

Letter from Lt. Edward Walter Rucker II to his cousin Thomas Clyde Rucker regarding his first major engagement as a pilot. He was credited with bringing down at least one boche airplane and won the American Distinguished Service Cross. Ed was a graduate of Central College and OTS at Fort Riley, Kansas. He got his pilot's training in Toronto, Canada. From an article in the *Carrollton Democrat*, August 31, 1918. Letter submitted by Sally Tomson:

France - June 17, 1918

Dear Turk and Bernice:

Well I'm feeling pretty good just now, even tho it is a cold with dreary day. Reason, just mailed to Dad a little official order of recognition of a little scrap three of us had the other day. I wrote 'em some of it at home: it will finally reach you I guess.

It all happened when a big bunch of Hun single-seaters were just about to finish off a couple of U. S. two-seaters, who had been taking pictures. Four of us were ordered to meet the picture busses about 10 miles inside German lines and 18000-19000 feet up. We did it right on the minute, and exact location not a second too soon.

The four of us dived out of the sun on them as they started their attack on the others. The surprise was what saved us. Our numbers 1, 2, and 3 dived (I was 4, a dangerous job). No.3 accidentally (we suppose, no report) spun on his dive; No.2 shot at a Hun who was after our No. 3, # 1 went down with 4 Huns and accidentally spun, lost one, and went off with 3 after him. The instant we were seen, 4 Huns started to climb into the sun. I had 'em all to myself off in one corner.

I kept my head, and got at 'em one at a time, so no two could shoot at the same time. Got a peach of a shot at the first, and he very slowly nosed over, into a vertical dive, (Major says I got him sure). The others flipped into vertical dives suddenly as tracers began to pass them.

It all happened in a few seconds, I guess. I didn't dream I had shot over 50 rounds, and put that in the report, but the gunnery officer says 250 rounds were fired, from my guns, including 50-75 that I shot testing them, and one gun jammed at that. When the three of us got back, each thought he had a Hun, but it was so far from our observation posts that only one was barely discernible when it crashed. Confirmation of one only, however it was the first of the squadron. Got a mention in orders; that's all thus far. Had a bullet hole in my prop - guess I shot it there.

Have seen lots of things in the last couple of weeks, such as battles, night-bombing, etc. Have gotten accustomed to "Archie", the closest it has come to me was a 4 2/10" one, about 40 yds. to my right: got a terrific bump but no harm--just a scare.

By the way, while I think of it, will you drop Tom a line, tell him I am flying Nieuport 28 type French-specs 260- 280 kilometers, very maneuverable, rotary engine 165 h.p. (rated): picture of it in newspapers when Capt. Hall was reported prisoner.

Big crap game going on now, so I can't write any more now; I am going to bed. Must get up at 3:30. Lots of love from

Ed Jr.

IN MEMORIAM - LEWIS F. POWELL JR.



"Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., whose Virginia-bred civility, moderation and ability to build consensus made him a defining influence on the court, died Tuesday at his

Windsor Farms home. Virginia's most distinguished legal figure since John Marshall, Mr. Powell often cast the deciding vote in critical cases during his 15-year tenure on the high court." So begins the front page article, "A defining influence" in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 26, 1998.

Lewis F. Powell Jr. who died August 25, 1998, Richmond, Virginia, at the age of 90, was born September 19, 1907, in Suffolk, Virginia. He was the son of Lewis Franklin Powell and Mary Lewis Gwathmey. He grew up in Richmond and graduated from Washington and Lee University and its law school, where he was first in his class. He earned a master's degree from Harvard university.

His wife, Josephine Rucker Powell died three years ago, see RFSN, Vol. 7, No. 3, p.27, Sept. 1996. Jo was a charter member of the Rucker Family Society.

He enlisted in the Army Air Forces, in 1942, as a lieutenant. He served in North Africa and Italy until he was recalled to Washington for training in military intelligence. He was with the top-secret unit that broke the German code. He rose to the rank of colonel. He was

awarded the legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Justice Powell served on the Supreme Court for 15 years from January 7, 1972 until June 26, 1987. He was the pivotal vote on many decisions. Despite a conservative background, many of his votes were considered liberal. Court observers frequently said it was impossible to predict his votes on a matter. I thought it was very fitting that the *Richmond Free Press*, August 27-29, 1998, a pro-black newspaper, on page one, called him "a good man." He was committed to racial good will.

Justice Powell was a lawyer in Richmond for 34 years before his nomination to the Supreme Court. His interests were corporate and business law. He served on many corporate boards, university boards, and was chairman of the Richmond City School Board. He was president of the Richmond Bar Association in 1949 and 1964, and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. His personal papers have been donated to the archives at Washington and Lee University.

His biography was written by John Jeffres.

His funeral on August 31 was attended by many government officials including the entire Supreme Court. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Lewis F. Powell III spoke to a standing room only crowd.

Justice Powell is survived by a son and three daughters, 9 grandchildren and one great-grandson. His youngest grandson, born within the past year, is named Lewis F. Powell IV.

IN MEMORIAM

WINSTON KELLY RUCKER, called "Kelly," passed away on March 17, 1998 in Belton Research Hospital, in Belton, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City, MO. Kelly was born in Lewisburg, Kansas on June 13, 1909 and married Helen Katherine von Demfange on April 3, 1930. His wife Helen passed away December 28, 1988. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Judith Elaine Rucker Novak of Los Alamos, New Mexico, a son, John Winston Rucker of Shawnee, KS, three grandchildren, Kelle Anne Rucker Osburn of Elgin, Illinois, John C. Rucker of Kansas City, KS, and Jeffrey E. Rucker of Asan [sic], Guam, and five great-grandchildren.

Winston Kelly Rucker descends from Edward Franklin Rucker and Edward Lewis Rucker. His tie back to Peter Rucker is still under research but appears to be through Legrand Rucker and Armistead Rucker (Wood, p.158).

Submitted by John Winston Rucker, of Shawnee, Kansas

* * * * *



ELDON DuPREE RUCKER, born January 8, 1929, Mesa, Arizona, died January 27, 1998, Mammoth, Arizona, buried at Mesa City Cemetery, Mesa, Arizona. He is survived by

seven children: Cheryl Kay Rucker Horne, Eldon "Don" Rucker, Leonard Herbert Rucker, Douglas Lynn Rucker, Tom Edward Rucker, Dick Laine Rucker, and Rebecca

Ann Rucker Lambright; and 37 grandchildren.

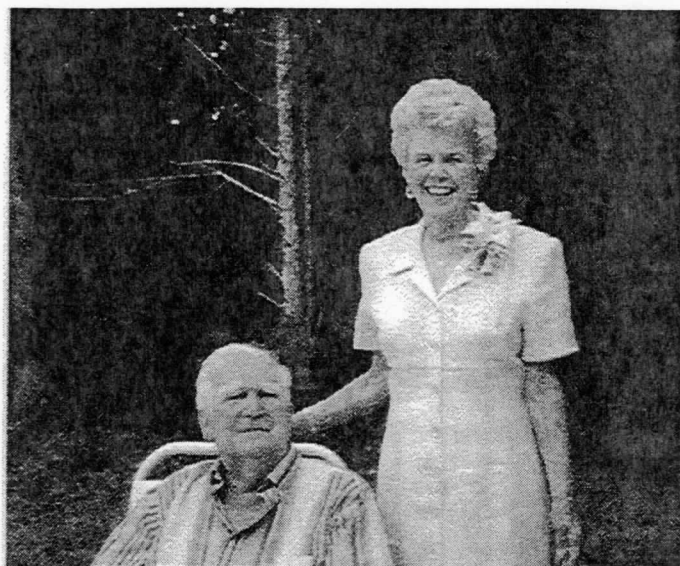
Submitted by Cheryl K. Horne, of Pinetop, Arizona

* * * * *

JOHN M. RUCKER SR., age 69, died March 21, 1998, in Hancock Co., Indiana. He was born March 29, 1928, in Monroe Co., IN, the son of Millard E. Rucker and Rose M. Davis Rucker-Hunt. He was a retired auto mechanic. He served in the navy Reserve during World War II. He was a volunteer for the Red Cross and American Heart Association for 30 years. He was an EMT volunteer for Greenfield Fire Department for 22 years, the Indianapolis 500 for 15 years and the Brickyard 400 for 4 years. He was a member of Curry's Chapel United Methodist Church, Greenfield Lions Club for 10 years and Reach Out to the Handicapped for 4 years.

John and his wife Norma Jean McClure Rucker had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary (see next page). He is survived by son John M. Rucker Jr. of Michigan City; daughters Carol L. Beesley of Edinburg, IL and Sarah J. Lime of Greenfield, IN; brother Bill J. Rucker of Indianapolis; sisters Dorothy J. Cain [RFS Board member] of Gosport, IN; Margaret F. Beesley of Seipoi, IN, and Catherine R. Holwager of North Vernon, IN; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lewis E. Rucker. He was buried at Aion Lutheran Cemetery in Hancock County.

Submitted by Dorothy J. Cain, Gosport, IN.



50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

SUDIE RUCKER MANN and
THOMAS EUGENE WILSON

Celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7, 1997, hosted by their children.

Sudie is the namesake and oldest grandchild of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*.

The Wilsons have two daughters, Sue Moore and Beverly Sumner, and seven grandchildren.

They live in Rock Hill, S.C.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

NORMA JEAN McCLURE and JOHN M. RUCKER SR. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at Curry Chapel United Methodist Church in Greenfield, IN. They were married on January 25, 1948, in Vernon, IN.

Their children are Carol Beesley of Edinburg, John M. Rucker Jr. of Michigan City and Sarah Lime of Greenfield, IN. They have 14 children and 7 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Rucker died two months after their anniversary, see p.26.



CIVIL WAR DESCENDANTS SOCIETY

Do you have a Civil War soldier in your ancestry? The Civil War Descendants Society has many services available. You can get a certificate of recognition for your Union or Confederate soldier. You can research your ancestor through a Union or Confederate Military Unit search as well as the U.S. Census indexes. For more information, please contact:

Civil War Descendants Society
P. O. Box 233
Athens, AL 35611-0233

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUERY - I am a son of Mary and Roy⁹ Rucker (Simeon⁶ Herbert, Aaron⁸ DeWitt⁴, Samuel⁶, William⁵, Colby⁴, Peter³, Thomas², Peter¹).

I would like to share information with other Rucker cousins.

My e-mail number is richrucker@juno.com
Richard J. Rucker, 717 Valley Drive, Dallastown, PA 17313

* * * * *

JOHN RUCKER, DISPATCH BEARER, from Wood, p.6: "From The Colonial Papers of North Carolina, Vol. 4, p.196, we learn that John Rucker was a dispatch bearer for the Revolutionary War."

From Lewis Hobgood Averett, CGRS, Lynchburg, VA, who has been researching John Rucker Jr. He wants to know if the John Rooker, mentioned below was the same John³ Rucker Jr., John², Peter¹) as Wood suggests? From *The State Records of North Carolina*, by Order of the General Assembly, edited by Walter Clark, Vol. XIV, 1779-1780, 1896, p.196, Capt. Richard Henderson to Gov. Caswell, August 15, 1779 (from the Executive Letter Book). Excerpt:

"The bearer, Mr. John Rooker, will wait your Excellency's leisure and bring such despatches [sic] as may be delivered."

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

The deadline for submitting family data for the Rucker Family Genealogy update is September 1, 1998. If you have not submitted your family information, please contact: Mrs. Jean B. Robinson,
304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226
phone: 1-804-358-3185
E-mail: <ruckerfs@erols.com>

Send data to Doris W. Edwards, 2017 43rd St. SE, U-2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508, who is placing copies of family groups sheets at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA.
E-mail <dorisedwards@triton.net>

Send your family data on computer discs (PAF or Family Tree Maker program, GED COM) to Ruth McBride, 9104 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA. Ruth's new E-mail <ashmont@earthlink.net>

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

Found in the Halifax County, VA, marriage bonds:

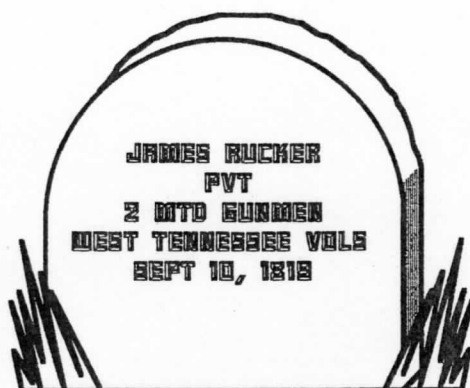
George G. Rucker married Mary R. Pole, 25 Nov 1850, surety, William W. White.

Does anyone know who this is?
Write to the Editor

* * * * *

BURIAL OF JAMES RUCKER

BY Ron Payne



The mortal remains of James⁴ Rucker (Benjamin³, John², Peter¹), lie buried under a marker (depicted above) on the grounds of the Veteran's Administration hospital in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, TN, land once owned by James.

James was born in 1758 in Amherst County, VA, to Benjamin and Betty Rucker, their first child. Three more sons and three daughters were subsequently born to this couple.

James became a Methodist minister. He married Euphan Tate of Bedford County 31 May 1781. Two daughters and two sons resulted from this union. Euphan died in Dec 1786.¹

James married a second time to Nancy Ann Reed on 31 Jan 1788. This marriage produced ten children. The first five children were born in Virginia, the fifth, Joanna, being born 19 Apr 1796. The sixth child, Western Tennessee Rucker, was born 16 Jul 1798 in Rutherford County, TN.¹

8 Oct 1798, James and brother Thomas Rucker of Campbell & Amherst County, VA, respectively [*this implies that James was a recent arrival, probably early that year*], purchased 640 acres of land in Davidson County, TN, on the waters of Stones River, from John Coffey and John Calloway.²

On 1 Feb 1801, James and Thomas Rucker, and Simon Miller, all of Wilson County, TN, acquired the "right and claim" to 5,000 acres of land called "Maidens Spring" in Wilson County on both sides of the east fork of Stones River, from Isaac Shelby of Lincoln County, KY.³

On 10 Jul 1802, James acquired a 1,267 acre tract and another 1,407 acre tract from his brother Thomas and Simon Miller, being a part of the 5,000 acre survey of Isaac Shelby.⁴

James was appointed inspector of cotton in Rutherford County in 1804.⁵

He served as a private in the Tennessee Volunteers in the War of 1812.⁶

Parson Rucker's death in September 1819 was reported in the 18 September issue of the *Nashville Whig*, a local newspaper.

James's brother Gideon, and his sisters Lucy, Mildred, and Sophia, also made the move to Tennessee, although those moves probably occurred at other times - Gideon sold land in Amherst County in April 1815 to move west, and Lucy's husband, Zachary Dawson, patented land near Murfreesboro in 1821.⁷

References (subscripts):

1. *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, Sudie Rucker Wood, pg 118
2. Davidson County, TN, *Land Records, 1797-1803*, pg 108
3. Davidson County, TN, *Land Records, 1797-1803*, pg 323
4. Davidson County, TN, *Land Records, 1797-1803*, pg 365
5. Rutherford County, TN, *Court Minutes, 1804-1810*, April 1804 session
6. *1812 Ancestor Index*, National Society United States Daughters of 1812
7. *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, Sudie Rucker Wood, pg 129

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REPRINT OF THE RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY IS SOLD OUT:

The society is sorry to announce that THE REPRINT OF THE RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY, BY SUDIE RUCKER WOOD IS SOLD OUT. There are no plans in the near future to reprint.

* * * * *

CHECK OUT THE RUCKER WEB PAGE:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~jogt/surnames/Rucker.htm>

Send information to Jo Thiessen at <jogl@aol.com> (Put Rucker on the Subject line to get her attention)

* * * * *

**RUCKER FAMILY REUNION
GROUP PHOTO**

To order a photo of the Rucker Family Society Reunion, pictured on p.16, please send a check for \$5.00 made out to Ron Payne and mail to him at 79 Payne Road Falkville, Al 35622-6236

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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Richmond, VA 23226

Ziggy

Tom Wilson

