

PETER¹ RUCKER, IMMIGRANT

by Jeannie Brydon

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Peter¹ Rucker, Immigrant to America, circa 1700¹, settled in Essex Co., Virginia. He married shortly thereafter and began the Rucker dynasty.

born ca 1675, in Europe²

Naturalized 8 May 1704³

died in Feb of 1743/1744 (old style/new style), Orange Co., VA⁴

married ca 1700, to Elizabeth _____ (maiden name unknown)⁵

birth date and place unknown

died ca 1752, Culpeper Co., VA, when Peter Rucker's estate was divided (D. B. 1, p.400, 21 Feb 1752, Culpeper Co., VA).

The Ruckers lived in Essex County, later moving to Spotsylvania Co., where John Rucker purchased land for them⁶. In 1734 Spotsylvania Co. became Orange, in 1848 it became Culpeper, and in 1793, it became Madison Co., VA as it is today.

Will of Peter Rucker mentions children in this order:

Three mentioned by name (Usually listed in order of birth):

Margaret Tinsley

Ephraim Rucker

Ann Cook

The Rest of my children (probably in order of birth):

Thomas Rucker

Elisabeth Pearse [sic]

William Rucker

Mary Offell

James Rucker

[Margaret Tinsley—scratched through]

Ephraim Rucker

Ann Cook

Issue (probably born in Essex Co., VA, birth dates are estimated)⁷:

1. John² Rucker, b. ca 1701; m. Susannah _____⁸.
2. Peter² Rucker, b. ca 1703, died young⁹.
3. Thomas² Rucker, b. ca 1705; m. Elizabeth Reynolds¹⁰.
4. Elizabeth² Rucker, b. ca 1708; m. William Pierce¹¹.
5. William² Rucker, b. ca 1710; m. Honar _____¹².
6. Mary² Rucker, b. ca 1712; m. 6 Feb 1729/1730 in Spotsylvania Co., VA William Offill¹³.
7. James² Rucker, b. ca 1714; m. Margaret _____¹⁴.
8. Margaret² Rucker, b. ca 1716; m. Isaac Tinsley¹⁵.
9. Ephraim² Rucker, b. ca 1718; m. 25 Mar 1738, Essex Co., VA to Margaret Vawter¹⁶.
10. Ann² Rucker, b. ca 1727; m. Shem Cook¹⁷.

Endnotes:

1. It was previously thought that Peter arrived in 1690, but that was taking into consideration that immigrants had to be in the country fourteen years to be naturalized. However, the law now believed applicable in the early 1700s required only a four-year residency, and the fourteen-year residency requirement for aliens was a late 1700s law. Final approval of Peter's petition for naturalization was granted on 8 May 1704, leading us to believe he arrived in the year 1700.

2. No evidence has been found as to Peter Rucker's origin. His name is Germanic, yet he was naturalized with several French refugees, leading historians to believe he came from Alsace-Lorraine, an area that was part French, part German. In 1700 many French Huguenots arrived in Virginia. Peter Rucker's birth date is pure speculation.

3. From the *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1702/3-1705*, etc., Edited by H. R. McIlwaine, Richmond, VA 1912, p.74.

4. Peter Rucker's Will was dated 18 Jan 1742/1743, and proved 23 Feb 1743/1744 (Will Book 1, p.299, Orange Co., VA). Peter died sometime between those two dates.

5. The surname Fielding came from Whitley's book and she has since admitted she was mistaken and that Fielding was not Elizabeth's maiden name. There is no evidence of a Fielding living near the Ruckers in Essex Co.

6. Deed Book B, p.493, 5 Feb 1733/34, Spotsylvania Co., VA, 420 acres was deeded to Peter and Elizabeth Rucker from John Rucker.

7. Names of children are from Will of Peter Rucker, except for sons John, who predeceased his father by one year, and Peter (see #8). Birth dates are estimated from first appeared in records, marriage dates (if known) and birth of first child (if known).

8. Whitley was also wrong about John's wife's maiden name being Phillips. The family Coghill has been researched and no evidence exists of a female named Elizabeth Coghill. Frederick Coghill's wife's maiden name was Goss, but we can find no Elizabeth Goss.

9. The only record of son, Peter Rucker, was in the Frederick Coghill deed, dated 28 Jan 1707/8 (Deed Book 13, p. 91, Essex Co., VA): . . . *for the kind love and affection I owe unto John, Peter, and Thomas Rucker, sons of said Peter Rucker* . . .
10. Will of Martha Reynolds, 10 Mar 1753, 18 Sep 1753, (W. B. 9, p.246, Essex Co., VA): To *daughter Elizabeth Rucker* . . . *Son-in-law, Thomas Rucker*.
11. Elizabeth Rucker married William Pierce, not James. James's Will was dated 1818, so he would have been over 100 yrs old at death – highly unlikely.
12. William Rucker sold land and his wife, Honour [sic] Rucker signed, 22 Mar 1742/43 (D. B. 7, p.175, Orange Co., VA).
13. 21 Feb 1752, after the death of Elizabeth Rucker, William Offill received a Negro out of the estate of Peter Rucker, deceased (D. B. 1, p.400, Culpeper Co., VA).
14. James Rucker and wife, Margaret, of Culpeper, sold land, 16th Sep 1756 (D. B. B, p.498, Culpeper Co., VA).
15. Isaac (X) Tinsley and Margaret (X) Tinsley signed receipt of estate of Peter Rucker, 21 Feb 1752, (D. B. 1, p.412, 21 Feb 1752, Culpeper Co., VA).
16. Will of John Vawter of Essex Co., VA, 23 May 1748, prob. 16 Nov 1752 in Culpeper Co., VA (W. B. A, p.65-67), mentions daughter, Margaret Rucker.
17. Excerpt from the Will of Peter Rucker: ***Item*** *I give and bequeath to my beloved Daughter Ann Cook & my Son in law Shem Cook* . . . Will Book 1, p. 299, Orange Co., VA, Dated 18 Jan 1742/1743 Probated 23 Feb 1743/1743 (old/new style calendar).