

S U M M E R E D I T I O N

the KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 29, NO. 2, AUGUST 2018

Hot Springs Victorian Inn



2019 Rucker Reunion..... p. 11, 14-15
 Hot Springs Victorian Inn... p. 11,12-13
 John Anthony Rucker p. 13-14
 Rucker Cousins Marry p. 15-16
 Mildred Rucker p. 16-17
 Amanda Rucker p. 16
 Accidents Kill 3 Ruckers ... p. 16-18
 Benjamin Rucker's Legacy p. 18-19
 Editor's Notes p. 19
 Rucker wins an Oscar..... p. 20

Save these Dates!
Rucker Family Society
2019 Amherst, Virginia
June 7, 8 and 9, 2019

Reunion Schedule Set
by Ruth Pillow & Nell Cordick

Though subject to change, it's obvious this will be another interesting and rewarding reunion

Reunion Headquarters: Sweet Briar College, Amherst, VA (former Rucker property)

Thursday, June 6

Rosehill, Amherst, VA: Cocktail Party at the home of the great-great-grandson of Peter Rucker and the grandson of Anthony Rucker, Bateau Co-Inventor

Friday, June 7

9:00 Leave Sweet Briar for Appomattox Historical Tour

10:00 Tour of Appomattox Park

11:30 Tour of Appomattox Civil War Museum

Lunch

Talk by Constance Rucker Bowder

Rucker Family History: Jeannie and Alice

DNA Update: Alice

Hot Springs Victorian Inn
by Jeannie Brydon and
Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

When was the last time you spent a night in a "fairylane home?" If not for a while, or even never, you owe it to yourself to visit, Hot Springs Victorian Inn, the bed and breakfast of Carol (Wood) and Dale Lawrence in Hot Springs, Virginia. They recently purchased this historic mansion in Hot Springs, Virginia.

It would be impossible in this brief article to fully express the charm and splendor – or the hospitality of Carol and Dale - within the almost unimaginable beauty of this magnificent mansion.

Carol is the granddaughter of Sudie Rucker Wood (the author of the *Rucker Family Genealogy*) and William Price Wood.

Carol and Dale married on June 3, 2017. Both are delightfully outgoing individuals so, shortly after marriage, they began looking for a unique bed and break-

Continued on page 14

Continued on page 12

***The Rucker Family
Society Newsletter***

Is published three-times each year

Editor:

Jean “Jeannie” W. Brydon

1500 Westbrook Court #3111

Richmond, VA 23227

804-200-1344

rucker10@comcast.net

Copyright - All Rights Reserved

Assistant Editor:

Bill Smith

wsmith0128@ca.rr.com

Reporter: Mike Rucker

mikruc@aol.com

President:

Christopher Rucker

christopherrucker@msn.com

Annual Membership

\$15.00 individual

Please send dues to

Nell Cordick

Registrar

6624 McCambell Cluster,

Centreville, VA 20120

Nell's email is lecnrc@aol.com

Alice Rucker

Treasurer

13331 Gridley Street

Sylmar, CA 91342-4529

alice.rucker@gmail.com

RFS Board Members

Jeannie Brydon—Editor

Nell Cordick—Registrar

Anne Denton—Secretary

Alice Rucker—Treasurer

Christopher Rucker—President

Derek Rucker—Member at Large

Loren Rucker—Member at Large

Mike Rucker—Reporter

Bill Smith—Assistant Editor



fast to purchase and host. They found their dream in the mansion which they renamed Hot Springs Victorian Inn.

The property is within 100 yards of the famous Sam Snead Golf Course and “just around the corner” from the magnificent Homestead Resort. The rooms and accommodations are decorated in the Victorian tradition with four poster beds and other furniture of the period. They have names such as the Richmond Room, the Queen Elizabeth Room, and the Queen Victoria Room. Guests feel at home from the very moment of their arrival in the driveway.

Mike and Jeannie were fortunate to be invited by Carol and Dale to “check out” their accommodations before they “officially” began accepting guests. Our hosts told us that we were to be treated in the manner in which they anticipated receiving and hosting their visitors. After arrival, we were invited to sit on the porch and enjoy their company and

survey the lovely yard and vista of the Warm Springs Valley.

Both Dale and Carol are excellent cooks and treated us to delicious breakfasts. Our requested critique ranged from the items (and quality) of the breakfast menu selections, to the properly folded cloth napkins - and when and from which side, to provide and pick up each used utensil and dish.

May we suggest that you visit there when you next feel the need to “be enchanted” – or certainly as you come to the Rucker Family Reunion at Sweet Briar College in Amherst County next June, 2019.

You will never forget your wonderland experience with Carol and Dale.

To make your reservation contact Carol and Dale at: carolwl.0603@gmail.com or by phone: 540-839-3134

Carol’s Rucker lineages are: Carol⁹ Townshend Wood, Garland Ambrose⁸ Wood, Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A., William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹; and William⁵ B. Rucker’s wife, Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

The following information has been Excerpted from the web site: hotspringsvictorian.inn.com. The Hot Springs Victorian Inn was built in 1899 by Dr. Henry S. Pole, a



well-known physician in Bath County, Virginia. He named the home "Ilahee" which translates to "high Victorian house" with an unusual exuberance of details and elements. The irregular plan is typical; however the main stairwell has several landings and runs in several different directions. The house has unusual projections, turrets, bay windows, and a veranda which extends around most of the house. The interior has been somewhat altered, although six of the eight fireplace mantels remain.

Dr. Pole was a natural physician and through the many years he practiced, he acquired an extensive knowledge of spa treatments which was unequaled. This was especially appropriate

due to the home's proximity to the hot and warm running mineral springs located nearby. He was the first in the area to purchase an automobile. The noisy machine caused many residents to attempt to outlaw autos on Bath County roads.

Liz and Richard King discovered the property while on vacation in July, 1987 and have restored the property and expanded its offerings to be one of Virginia's most exclusive Bed and Breakfast Inns. They ran it as a bed and breakfast for 30 years.

In the spring of 2018, Carol and Dale Lawrence, were looking to open a bed and breakfast. They purchased the home to continue the tradition and changed the name to the Hot Springs Victorian Inn.

John Anthony Rucker

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

Arizona Territory, July 11, 1878: The White River was in flash flood stage following a downpour. Lieutenant John Anthony "Tony" Rucker and Lieutenant Austin Henely had been leading a mission to intercept renegade Indians. They were returning back to their base camp with pack horses carrying supplies.

Their Apache scout, John Rope, and several others had already crossed the flooded river to return to their destination known then as Camp Supply. The others had progressed carefully in crossing the torrent. They had swum their horses across the swollen river one-by-one. The two less-experienced lieutenants plunged into the raging current side-by-side. Their horses collided. Henely's horse stumbled throwing him into the raging water. Rucker dismounted and swam after his fellow officer in an attempt to save his life, however both perished in the raging maelstrom.

Their bodies were recovered one



Lt. J. A. "Tony" Rucker

-and-one-half miles downstream by John Rope and taken to Fort Bowie some fifty miles to the north for burial. Tony's body was later reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery adjacent to Daniel Henry Rucker. [See Author's note below]



Rucker Canyon, Arizona

During 1876-77 Rucker had led a long and grueling pursuit of Apache stock thieves, catching up with them in southwestern New Mexico. In July 1877, his command administered the first sharp punishment the renegade Chiricahuas had ever received from U. S. troops. The exploration of the region by Rucker's party resulted in the founding of Bisbee, Arizona, a fabulously rich silver-copper camp. The Rucker Mine was opened there August 2, 1877.

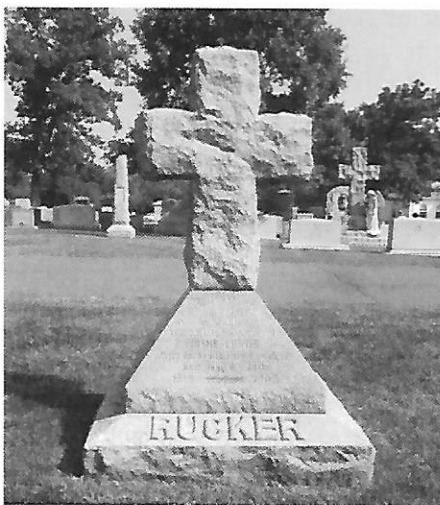
Camp Rucker became one of the more important military stations in the campaign against the Apache Indians led by Geronimo and Cochise.

Tony was born in Detroit, Michigan in March 15, 1851, the oldest son of Gen. Daniel Henry Rucker and his wife Irene Curtis. Rucker entered the U. S. Military Academy in 1868. On graduation he was commissioned as second lieutenant he was assigned to the 6th U. S. Cavalry involved with the Indian campaigns in the Arizona Territory. On April 29, 1879, Camp Supply

was officially renamed Camp Rucker. The White River became known as Rucker River. A dramatic canyon nearby is named Rucker Canyon, along with beautiful Rucker Lake.

The remnants of Camp Rucker exist to this day. They are located on Coronado National Forest in the Chiricahua Wilderness of the Douglas Ranger District. Public access is permitted to the site of Camp Rucker and the modern camp grounds at Rucker Lake. At the site of Camp Rucker the ruins of a number of adobe and log buildings are still to be found including a bunkhouse, officers' quarters, a commissary warehouse and a bakery.

Reporter's commentary: I visited the site of Camp Rucker in February 2014 just before the Phoenix Rucker Family Reunion where I reported on my visit. While this remote and unpopulated area is accessible to the



Grave marker for John Anthony Rucker
in Arlington National Cemetery

public one must drive 20 miles of dusty unpaved roads from either the east or the west to reach Camp Rucker. It is easy to become lost in this wilderness. Signs warn the visitor to be aware of suspicious (read "undocumented") persons whom might be encountered within the area. The area is only 20 miles north of Nogales, Arizona/Mexico. During my two days of exploration of the region I was stopped three times, twice by U. S. Immigration Authorities and once by sheriff's deputies. During one of the stops the immigration officers had me open the trunk of my car. Still I suggest a visit there as a remarkable adventure.

Author's note: General D. H. Rucker and his son J. A. "Tony" Rucker are not descendants of Peter Rucker. See the articles about General D. H. Rucker in the *Rucker Family Newsletters* Vol. 22, No. 1 & 2 and Vol 3, March/June and September, 2011.

Rucker Family Society 2019 Amherst, Virginia Reunion Schedule

- 3:00 Board Meeting
- 3:30 Amherst Cemetery
- 6:00 Dinner - Winton Country Club
- Mike Rucker - Talk on Col. Edmund W. Rucker
- Saturday, June 8*
- 9:00 Leave Sweet Briar

9:30 The Academy of Music,
Lynchburg VA
11:30 Lunch at Point of Honor
1:00 Bateau Festival, Rucker
Landing
3:00 Springhill, Presbyterian &
Elon Cemeteries
6:00 Dinner
Rucker Duel

Sunday, June 9

8:30 Board Meeting
9:30 Bethany Church
10:30 Rucker Sites in Elon
12:30 Lunch Winton Country
Club
Auction
2:00 Amherst Historical Muse-
um
Talk on Queena Stovall
Tour of Museum

Another Rucker Cousin Intermarriage Found

Abner Early married Martha Rucker

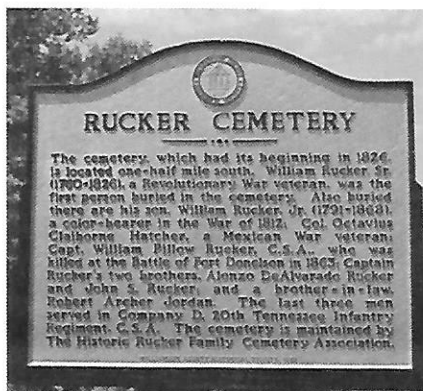
Who was She?

by Jeannie Brydon

I have been researching the children of Susanna⁵ Rucker (William⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), who married Thomas Early, of Bedford Co., VA, 6 Jan 1801 (See *Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy*, p.58). Thomas Early was born 6 Dec 1779 (Early family Bible is located at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA). Wood said they moved to Pennsylvania before 1812, but they actually moved to Pittsylvania Co., VA. They then moved to Williamson Co., TN. Thomas died by the 1850 census, but Susanna, then

age 67, was listed with her son, Joshua Early in the 1850 census.

Author's Note: Wood, p.58 listed Thomas and Susanna with one child: Rachel, who married Phillip Steckman, 1812. If Susanna married in 1801, she could not have had a daughter married in 1812. So the author believes they are not Rucker descendants. *Ancestry.com* indicates Rachel's children's parents were Henry



Steckman and Elizabeth Weavering. Therefore, the Steckman information on page 58 and 59 of Wood should be deleted. Susanna's parents moved to Williamson Co., TN as well, and were buried in the Rucker Cemetery in Arno, Williamson Co., TN.

Susanna Rucker and Thomas Early's children (as identified by daughter Harriet Early's Will dated 18 May 1860) were:

1. William Early, b. ca 1801, VA.
2. Sarah⁶ Early, b. ca 1803, VA.
3. Joshua⁶ Early, b. ca 1804, VA.
4. John⁶ W. Early, died before the 1850 census, leaving a son, William B. Early.
5. Martha⁶ Early, b. ca 1810.
6. Harriet⁶ Early, b. ca 1813 VA.

7. Spotswood⁶ H. Early, b. 22 Mar 1814 (date from Find A Grave).

8. Abner⁶ M. Early, b. ca 1815.

One by one, I researched each of these eight children. I then came to the last child, Abner. I found son, Abner⁶ M. Early (Susanna⁵ Rucker, William⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), was married to Martha C. Rucker, but the only thing I could find on *Ancestry.com* was her father's name, James Rucker (from her marriage records). Abner and Martha were married 13 April 1850 (Texas Marriage Collection, 1814-1909), in Rusk Co., TN. She was married before the 1850 census, so she wouldn't appear with her parents – the main thing that would identify her family.

I then searched for a James Rucker in the Rusk Co., TX census and found in the 1850 Rusk Co., Texas Census records: James W. Rucker, age 53, b. VA, farmer, \$1000; Elizabeth 48; Jonathan 25; James 23; Whitfield 19; Nelson 11; Mary 23; Susan 8. But no Martha.

The 1840 Bedford Co., VA census, p.248, showed a female age 5-10. Was this Martha?

Jas. W Rucker

Males - 1 (-5), 2 (5-10), 2 (10-15),
1 (15-20), 1 (40-50)

Females - 1 (-5), 1 (5-10),
1 (15-20), 1 (30-40), 1 (40-50)

James W. Rucker and Elizabeth Rucker were featured in the

Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 17, No. 3 & 4, p. 19, 24-25. This issue can be accessed on the Rucker Family Society Website.

Their children's names and birth dates are from the 1840 and 1850 census records:

1. George⁶ C. Rucker, b. ca 1820.
2. Mary⁶ Jane Rucker, b. 8 Apr 1822.
3. Jonathan⁶ A. Rucker, b. ca 1825.
4. James⁶ W. Rucker [Jr.], b. ca 1827.
5. Robert⁶ D. Rucker, b. ca 1829.
6. Whitfield⁶ L. Rucker, b. ca 1831.
7. Female⁶ Rucker, b. ca 1834.
8. Female⁶ Rucker, b. ca 1837.
9. Nelson⁶ A. Rucker, b. ca 1839.
10. Susan⁶ B. Rucker, b. ca 1842.

Martha was listed with husband Abner in the 1850 Williamson Co., TN census:

1850 Williamson Co., TN, Dist. 11 (all b. VA except grandson William): Joshua Early, age 46, Blacksmith, \$4000; Susanna, age 67; Harriet, age 37; Abner, age 35, Farmer; Martha, age 17; William (gson), age 18, b. TN, farmer.

Conclusion: Abner Early must have gone to Rusk Co., Texas to visit his cousins. While there, he met and married his 2nd cousin, Martha Rucker and came back to Maury Co., TN (which had been created out of Williamson Co. in 1897), where they lived their married life. I believe that Martha C. Rucker was the daughter of James⁵ W. Rucker (George⁴,

John³, John², Peter¹) and James⁵ W.'s wife, Elizabeth⁵ Rucker (Ambrose⁴, Jr., Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). Martha C. married her cousin Abner⁶ M. Early (Susanna⁵ Rucker, William⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), therefore, Martha and Abner's children would have three lines of Rucker descent.

Another intermarriage of Rucker cousins identified.

* * * * *

Amanda Rucker by Jeannie Brydon

This is a continuation from the Vol. 28, No. 3 article on Elizabeth Rucker and sister Mildred Rucker in Vol. 29, No. 1. The third sister was Amanda Rucker. They were the three daughters of John⁴ Rucker, Jr. (John³, Thomas², Peter¹) as proved by "Rucker v Burton" *Chancery Suits, Orange Co., VA, 1831-1845*, ed. by Ruth and Sam Sparacio, "Rucker v Burton," p.119-121.

There seems to be no dispute about Amanda Rucker's lineage on Ancestry.com. What is in Wood, p. 209 about Amanda is correct except for lineage.

Amanda⁵ "Manda" B. Rucker (John⁴, Jr., John³, Thomas², Peter¹), b. ca 1807, Ruckersville, Elbert Co., GA; m. 14 Jul 1829 (GA Marriages to 1850), Elbert Co., GA, to Willis B. Jones, b. ca 1803, NC, d. ca 1865. They are listed in the 1850 Macon Co.,

Alabama census with three children. These children are mentioned in the estate records of Willis Jones, 29 Jan 1875. The inventory, "Petition to sell property" recorded 7 Jan 1866 in Book 11, page 406 (Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999, Macon Co., AL), lists, among other things, a carriage, a buggy, a wagon, many chairs, tables and beds and one cow and calf. No horses or slaves were listed.

There three children were:

1. John⁶ Edwin Jones, b. ca 1832, GA; m. Catherine Whitehead.
2. Sarah⁶ E. Jones, b. ca 1835, GA; m. Eldred Hardy.
3. Ann⁶ Victoria Jones, b. ca 1838, GA; m. J. E. Wray.

* * * * *

Uncle, Nephew and Cousin, All Killed in Similar Tragic Accidents

by Jeannie Brydon

Genealogy is an interesting pastime. One thing leads to another and then it all interconnects. I was researching Harry⁸ David Rucker (David⁷ J., James⁶ W., John⁵, James⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and John⁵'s wife, Rachel⁵ Rucker, John⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), b. 8 Aug 1862, Clarksburg, Moniteau Co., MO, d. 1924 (Find A Grave), Amarillo, Randall Co., TX. However, I kept finding records for another man by the same name, but a different age. So I decided to search for him. In doing so, I found that

the 2nd Harry, born in Kentucky died a tragic death. Then I found two other of his relatives that also died tragically.

1). Harry⁷ David Rucker (Robert⁶ T., Absalom⁵, Elzaphan⁴, Ephraim³, James², Peter¹), b. 22 Oct 1890, KY, d. 27 Nov 1930, Rainier, Columbia Co., Oregon.

Obituary: "Harry Rucker Loses Life." Former Rainier Man Killed Instantly in Accident at Linnton, Saturday. Harry Rucker, well known in Rainier, was killed instantly while at work in the Johnson Lumber company plant at Linnton when a lumber carrier which he was driving dropped off the dock a distance of 12 foot pinning the driver under it. When fellow workmen reached the scene, Mr. Rucker was dead. His neck was broken and is skull was fractured at the base.

Harry David Rucker was born in Kentucky on October 17, 1890 and came to Rainier about 17 years ago, living here until he moved to Linnton four years ago. He was married March 26, 1817 to Miss Evelyn Stebinan of Rainer, who survives, with their three children, Loreta 12, Robert 8 and Donna 6. Five Brothers and one sister also survive, all living in the east and south.

Funeral services were held from the church of God Monday afternoon, with Rev. J. M. Ingold of-

ficiating. Burial was in the Green Mountain cemetery at Hudson.

Mrs. Rucker and children are with her parents, M. and Mrs. Frank Stebban [sic], temporarily, and probably will live in Rainier, as they have a home here.

2). Howard⁸ V. Rucker (William⁷ J., Robert⁶ T., Absalom⁵, Elzaphan⁴, Ephraim³, James², Peter¹), nephew of Harry David Rucker, b. ca 1915, d. 30 Aug 1939, Gallup, McKinley Co., NM.

Obituary "Howard Rucker Dies. Second Fire Victim," Howard Rucker died shortly after midnight this morning – the second victim of volcano-like flames that spread after a cave-in of a side of the old slack pile at the abandoned Mutual mine on North Second St.

Although more than a third of his body was covered by severe burns, he had been improving until last night. He lived only 31 hours after he ran from a 50-foot circle of flames that burned to death Dee Reeves of Albuquerque before he could reach safety.

Both were employees of Hayner & Burn, road contractors, who were having the cinders from the slack pile hauled to a highway job east of Gallup as blast around culverts for a new road bed.

Reeves operated a power shovel and Rucker was the driver of the

last truck to be filled with cinders for Monday's shift.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a. m. tomorrow at Sacred Heart Catholic church.

The 25-year-old Gallup youth leaves a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Rucker and a three months old baby. He had been living with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Rucker, 613 Aztec Ave.

In addition there are the following other survivors: Brothers – Charlie, also a driver on the road job; Dave, in Gallup high school; and Billy, 7; Sisters – Mrs. John T. Smith, Mrs. Donahue of Aspen, Colo.; Mrs. Elizabeth Littell, Gamerco; and Catherine and Helen.

3). William⁷ Howard Rucker (James⁶ M., Sariah⁵, James⁴, Ephraim³, James², Peter¹), a cousin, b. 7 Feb 1894 (WWI Draft Reg. Cards), Greenup Co., KY, d. 20 Jul 1929 (Find A Grave), Ashland, Boyd Co., KY. He was 35 years old. He married Helen Moyer by the 1917 Draft Registration Cards. They had six children (1930 census).

Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964: for Howard Rucker. The death certificate said he had a fracture of skull and right leg. Dynamite explosion (accident), Boyd Co., KY. Contributing factor: Failure to get away (???)

Maybe someone can find the

newspaper clipping that describes this accident or his obituary.

* * * * *

Benjamin Rucker's Legacy

by Mary Estes

Continued from the last issue

Gideon too, married one of the Reade sisters, Joyce, in 1794, according to Virginia records. Twenty-six year old Gideon brought a square mile of property from land speculator George Deaderick in 1798 near Bradley's Creek that ran into the East Fork of Stones River several miles south of the others. This tract included a distinctive high hill that came to be known as Rucker's Knob. At the same time he bought from Deaderick over 400 acres of land at the mouth of Locke Creek west not adjoining or in the same area as Rucker's Knob property.

In that pioneer time one could only guess how the area would be developed, where roads would be built and towns would be established. New divisions would draw county lines and where before locations were



Gideon and Bennett Rucker's House

identified by creeks, rivers and hills. In the years to come what seemed equal in desirability when land was purchased, later new advantages of where one lived and worked could be seen.

By 1802 Gideon was building a classic Georgian brick with large two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second. The two front doors led to separate stairways. The lower rooms could not be entered from each



Gideon Rucker's House on Hwy 70S

other. Upstairs the rooms too had no entry between them for proper seclusion of the males and females. Business was conducted in one of the downstairs rooms and it was thought this arrangement protected the family from a rougher frontier element. This house would be connected to an ell made of red cedar logs that was probably constructed first. Dependencies were also built of the same logs, a kitchen and what would be considered for a privileged owner, a dovecote. Both the interior and exterior woodwork shows refined workmanship.

Gideon developed both of his properties but in a few years the location on Locke's Creek began to have more advantages. First, a good road was built, the Stones

River Road, in 1806, and the Stage Rd. in 1811. Though both properties flourished with improvements and developed the rich land, there was potential with the Locke's Creek site. Being near the Stones River would enable community services and income with a gristmill, sawmill, and a cotton gin. Gideon became a busy man.

He built a two-story hewn red cedar log house with a central hallway. This house, like the house at Rucker's Knob, had a hallway to a large log room that formed an ell to the house. It commanded a prominent visage above the main road to other settlements to west in Rutherford County and beyond to Nashville.

Gideon Rucker made his choice. In 1817 he sold his place at Rucker's Knob to his younger brother Bennett. Bennett, the fourth Rucker brother, had married another Reed sister, Joanna, in 1802. He was 36 years old when he bought his home from Gideon. He does not seem to have been involved in the 1790's land dealings with his brothers. Perhaps he was still back in Virginia with his father. When Benjamin Rucker died in 1810, his will states, "I will and bequeath to my son Bennett Rucker all the land whereon I now live containing seven hundred and fifty acres..." With his brothers and sisters in Tennessee and being the youngest child, he may have

been the one to look after his aged parents.

Bennett Rucker married twice. Confusingly, his second wife was also named Joanna, Joanna Barton Wade, who he married in 1828. When he died in 1862 his property passed to his step-daughter and her husband Henry Goodloe. Their descendants owned it for several generations until recently. Bennett Rucker's grave and the Goodloe's are on the property.

The house that Gideon built at Rucker's Knob has seen a much different fate of location than the house he built just a few miles away at what was known then as Locke's Creek. It is still a breathtaking lovely early Middle Tennessee home, but it is tucked away off of a country road where it is hidden from any passerby's. The land lies on the present Rutherford-Cannon county line, near the community of Porterfield. Even now it would be considered remote. Only the never-changing Rucker's Knob gives away its presence.

For a long time Gideon's house which came to be built on a main road has been a landmark. Near the little village of Readyville on State Hwy. 70S, its logs have been weatherboarded over and a long front porch that runs the length of house, and is graced by a lovely second story gallery. Gideon prospered, added to his holdings, and eventually owned over 2,000 acres in Rutherford

and Cannon County. He had 9 children, and he and they were persons of influence in their time.

The early houses that James and Thomas built no longer exist since both were torn down in the 1930's when the Federal Government bought the land for the Veterans Administration to build



James Rucker, Junior's House

a hospital complex of 21 buildings. Its spacious grounds are marked with a small monument to James Rucker Jr. who served in the War of 1812. There is a newspaper article from the time that shows a picture of Thomas Rucker's house and describes its workmanship. It too, had impressive woodwork, some of which was saved and incorporated in a new residence nearby. The Frank Batey family lived in James Rucker's house before demolition. A daughter membered it years later as, "we knew the two back two rooms were the old part, they had solid brick walls probably fifteen inches thick, and they were the biggest rooms I ever saw." Like other Rucker houses those rooms were probably 20 feet by 20 feet and had 11-foot ceilings.

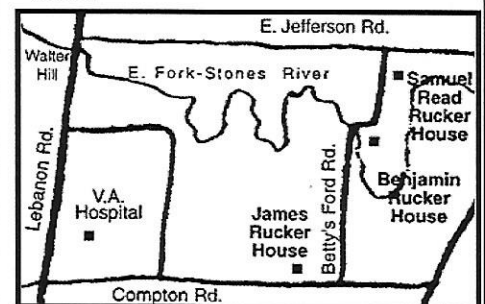
EDITOR'S NOTES

Editor's Note: It's time to renew your membership in the Rucker Family Society. The first number on your address label is your membership number. The second is the year through which you are paid. If it says 2017, send your \$15.00 to Nell Cordick (address on page 2). Our next reunion will be held in Lynchburg, VA, the weekend of June 7-10. Save the date and join us for another great family reunion.

Also, let us know when you move, so your newsletter subscription won't be interrupted.

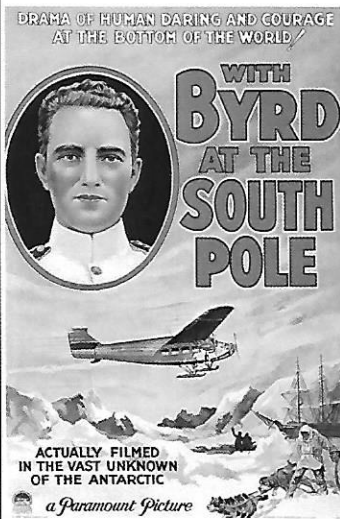
James Rucker, who had ten sons and four daughters, died in 1819. His will parceled his many acres to each of his sons, some of whom had already taken possession and built houses. Three houses built by James's sons have survived, the house built by James Jr., the house built by Samuel Reed, and the house built by Benjamin. They are east of the Veteran's Hospital which is on Lebanon Road, (US 231), about five miles from Murfreesboro.

Area of Middle Tennessee referenced in the article.



Continued in next Issue

Joseph Terrell Rucker



Joseph Terrell Rucker was a newsreel and television news photographer for Universal Newsreel, Paramount News and NBC. He accompanied Admiral Byrd to the South Pole and was awarded the "Oscar" for Best Cinematography for *With Byrd at the South Pole* at the third Academy Awards ceremony in November 1930 for the footage of that trip, along with fellow cameraman Willard Van der Veer.

Joseph Rucker was born in Atlanta, GA in 1887 and died in San Francisco, CA in 1957. He married Cecile Kauffman in 1915 and they had two children, Frances Joy and Joseph. His Rucker lineage is: Joseph⁸ T. Rucker, George⁷ G., Richard⁶ B., Fielding⁵, John⁴, Cornelius³, Thomas², Peter¹.

The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



Rucker

Jeannie Brydon
1500 Westbrook Court #3111
Richmond, VA 23227

First Class Mail

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED