

the KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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2019 Rucker Reunion in Review



Sweet Briar College—Reunion Homebase

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Rucker Family Society Reunion

June 6 -9, 2019

Sweet Briar College, Amherst,
Virginia

by Michael P. “Mike” Rucker

The venue for the reunion was the beautiful campus of Sweet Briar College. A portion of the college’s 3,250 acres was once owned by John Rucker (son of Peter), who patented 5,850 acres in the area in 1739. This immense acreage was subsequently divided among his seven sons, Peter, John, Ambrose, Benjamin, Rueben, Isaac, and Anthony. Knowing that we were meeting on “ancestral Rucker land” made us all feel more “at home.”

Thursday morning, June 6, a motor coach took us to the D Day Memorial site in Bedford (see: *RFS Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. May 2019). We can take pride in the fact that the memorial was designed by a Rucker cousin, Byron Dickson of Roanoke. Byron’s Rucker ancestry is refer-

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Deeper Clarity Surrounding the Naturalization of Peter Rucker[©]

by Alice Rucker

So often in genealogy, someone cites a source without verifying its authenticity and others continue to copy it without giving it any further thought. There are multiple sources where readers have picked up the notion that Peter “was naturalized with other French Huguenots.” But when digging a little deeper we see that may not be entirely true. The purpose of this article is to review the sources that are not primary, and compare them to the one(s) that is/are primary.

Compiler Sudie Rucker Wood¹ wrote “Peter Rucker may have been a French Huguenot, for he was naturalized with a number of Frenchmen.” Yes, The Huguenot Society of America has accepted Peter Rucker as a Huguenot. But upon questioning the society via telephone years ago, they confirmed they haven’t any documentation that Peter was a Huguenot. When pressed for answers as to why they allowed Peter’s entrance, they said they received continual and significant pressure from someone in

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Editor:

Jean “Jeannie” W. Brydon

1500 Westbrook Court #3111

Richmond, VA 23227

804-200-1344

rucker10@comcast.net

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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

lecnrc@aol.com

Alice Rucker

Treasurer

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

enced in the article mentioned above. We were there to attend the 75th anniversary of D-Day which had occurred June 6, 1944, in Normandy, France. The Rucker family entourage was among the nearly 12,000 who attended the event. Perhaps the most moving aspect was the recognition of the many veterans in attendance who stormed the beaches on that fateful day - some more than 100 years old. The most memorable visual aspect were the dozens of World War II aircraft that flew over at precisely the correct time in the program. It was a remarkable and unforgettable event.

On the return trip to Sweet Briar the motor coach delivered the group to “Batteau House” in Madison Heights. There we met a close friend of the Ruckers, Dr. Bill Trout, who has collected a wonderful array of memorabilia about the Rucker Batteau, as well as that of canal boats in Virginia and other eastern states.

That evening, the motor coach delivered the attendees to Rose Hill Farm near Amherst for an evening gathering. This is an historic Rucker property that is owned by the family of Nell Cordick and Ruth Pillow.

On Friday, we went to Appomattox Courthouse to visit the site of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to General U. S. Grant, an event that precipitated the end of

the Civil War. Then, we toured the new Robertson Confederate Museum there and attended an excellent lecture by Doug MacLeod about the Ruckers of Salt Creek and one on Rucker history by Bobbye Terry. This was followed by an historical (and hysterical) rendition by Rees Shearer reading the memoirs by his mother, Elizabeth Shearer about “Aint Sue.”

That evening after an excellent dinner at Sweet Briar College, we were treated to a discussion by Jeannie Brydon of Rucker family history. This was followed by Mike Rucker who presented a “Virginia quiz,” during which he taught and led the singing of “The Wreck of Old 97,” Virginia’s new State Song, memorializing the Southern Railway “Fast Mail” train that departed Monroe, Virginia, near the location of Sweet Briar College and derailed at Danville in a horrible disaster. Mike spoke on the saga of Colonel Edmund Winchester Rucker, the subject of his newly published book, *The Meanest and ‘Damnest’ Job*.

Then, DNA authority Paul Mize introduced an possible new direction for the search for the origin of Peter Rucker in Europe.

Saturday, June 7 was planned as the third annual Amherst Batteau Day at Rucker Landing in Madison Heights Park.

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Continued from page 11 - Deeper Clarity Surrounding the Naturalization of Peter Rucker

the Rucker Family Society to become a member of the Huguenot Society, so they relaxed their rules of entrance in the case of Peter Rucker, but would not do it again.

Author Edythe Whitley² cited “The peticon [petition] of Teliffe Alvertson for Naturalizacon, read and referred to ye confideracon of the Houfe of Burgesses — The peticon of Jno. Veillon, Peter Fonyeilles, John Dep, Francois Colonies Jaqueline Jaques, Bartholomew Depuys, Ifaac, ffiguier, John Roffett and Paul Drapier was read and referred to ye confideracon of the Houffe of Burgesses. The Petitiones of Cyprian Prou, Peter Rucker, and Ifaac Garret praying for Naturalizacon were feverally refented [sic] and read...” and it was ordered that “ye fame be referred to ye Consideracon of the Houffe of Burgesses.” Whitley got all the petitioners names down, but the way they are displayed makes it seem they were all in a lump. So some readers have interpreted this to mean that all these names on the same day were all French refugees and that they were all of one group. On closer examination, this is simply not the case.

In McIlwaine’s editorialized version(s) of the Journals of the House of Burgesses³ for April 24, 1704, the minutes of items of the day listed in order were: 1) the French Refugees settled at Manakin Town⁴ praying for [requesting] naturalization; 2) the verbiage concerning the “Strange [those roaming into the Colony from afar] Indians”; 3) the date of sail for merchant ships and trade; 4) several propositions and grievances from the counties of Henrico and Norfolk; 5) report of Test and oaths of a Burgess unto Edward Moseley, Adam Thorowgood, Benjamin Nottingham, Jacob Johnson, and John Turberville; 6) propositions and grievances from *Charles City County*; 7) a report for writ of election for *Prince George County*; then followed:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| •A Petition for the Naturalization of | Cyprian Prou ^{5 & 6} , |
| •A Petition for Naturalization of | Peter Ruckes ⁷ [sic], |
| •A Petition for Naturalization of | Isaac Garret ⁸ , |
| •A Petition for Naturalizacon ⁹ of | <i>John James Veillon & others</i> ¹⁰ , |
| •A Petition for Naturalizacon of | Teliffe Alverton ^{11 & 12} , |

In the original handwritten Journal of the House of Burgesses¹³, the petitions of the French Refugees settled at Manakin Town praying for naturalization are found on page 9. It is not until page 11 that we see the petitions for Prou, Rucker, Garrett, (also John James Veillon, & others), and lastly Telife Alverton. It would appear the French Refugees were made note of twice in one day for whatever reason(s).

The above mentioned petitions are organized with the petition of naturalizacon [naturalization] for Teliffe Alverton first, then the petitions of the French names clearly in a group of their own and bracketed. Following that are the *several* petitions for naturalization of Cyprian Prou, Peter Rucker [not Ruckes], then Isaac Garrett. To this researcher, the word “several” indicates more than one, so Peter was *not* in a group as others have assumed.

Here is the original text from page 9, of the Journal of the House of Burgesses

...having received diverse petitions heretofore presented by the French Refugees settled at Manakin Town praying for naturalization with severall other papers relating to that settlement have and thought fitt to recommend to ye House His mature consideration of the said petition and papers as being a case of very great importance.

Ordered that the said message together with the Petitions & Papers _____ be referred to the consideration of _____ Counsell __ [?] of proposition and grievances to report their opinions inform.

And page 11:

A Petition for the naturalization of - Cyprian Prou

A Petition for naturalization of - - Peter Rucker

A Petition for naturalization of - - Isaac Garrett

A Petition for naturalizacon of John James Veillon, & others

A Petition for naturalizacon of Telif Alverton

Being referred by the Council to the consideration of the House were severally read and referred to His Com.^{tee} of propositions and grievances to report his opinions thereon.

Because the plight of the French Refugees and their diverse petitions and their case of great importance were heard earlier and referred to the committee, (note p. 9) one might conclude that some discussion intervened, and afterward were spoken of again later in the day when the others' petitions were brought to attention. (note p. 11)

Of the naturalization petitions as listed in the original handwritten copy of the Executive Journal,¹⁴ Telif Alverton is first listed, then the group of French names, then follows Cyprian Prou, Peter Rucker, and Isaac Garrett. This differs from McIlwaine.

A clean and easy to read full transcription of this page is available on the Rucker Family Society web site.¹⁵ Many thanks to De Hill for assistance in reading the early 18th century script.

Virginia research specialist Eric G. Grundset wrote that

“... Just because his [Peter Rucker’s] name is in a list with other men [including French Refugees] does not mean that he was part of a group or that any of them were part of a group. I think it just happened that several petitions arrived at this particular time from these different individuals through their burgesses in attendance in Williamsburg at the General Assembly session. They were all referred to the committee as would have been the normal procedure, and then they were all granted naturalization following some discussion that is not written down. So, lumping them all together and labeling all of them as Huguenots really does not make any sense to me at all. Those published minutes are summaries of much longer discussions and deliberations. They are not verbatim transcriptions, and it does seem that people tend to read them like that.”¹⁶

What are the differences and similarities between the Executive Journals and the Journals of the House of Burgesses (some called Legislative Journals)? The Library of Virginia states:

“The Council of State consisted of about a dozen wealthy and well-connected gentlemen whom the king appointed to serve with the royal governor (or lieutenant governor in the absence of the governor).

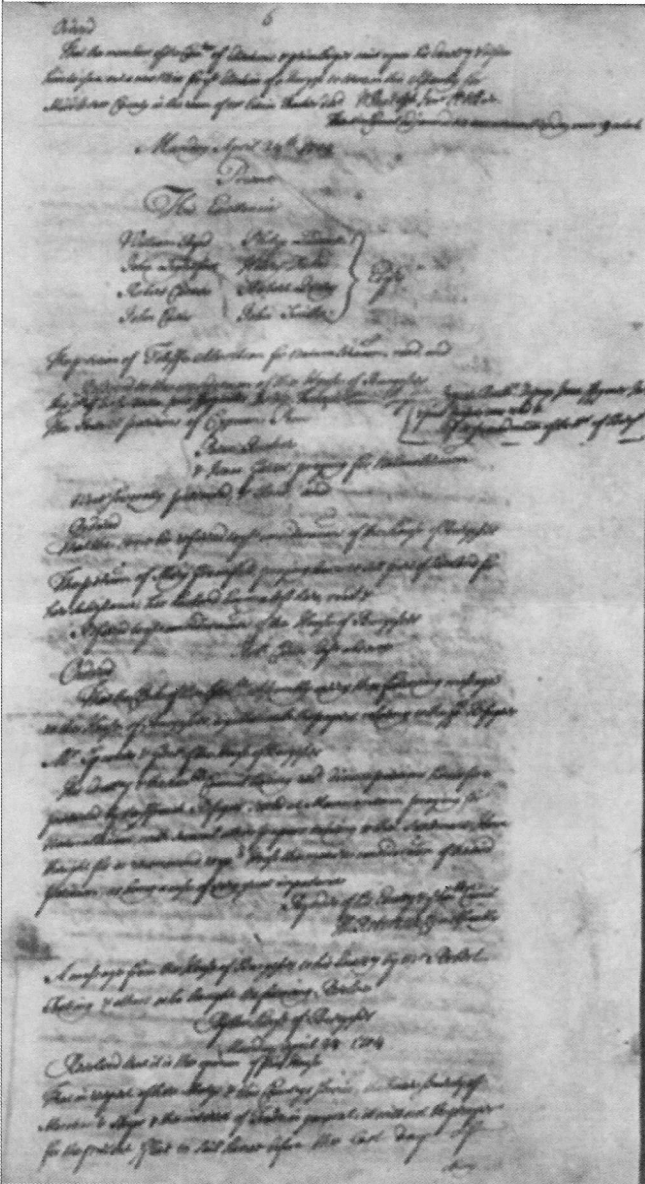
“The published volumes of the Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia contain the records of the Council of State in its capacity as executive advisers to the governor. They are all what we would today describe as executive branch documents.

“The published volumes of the Legislative Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia contain the records of the Council of State during sessions of the General Assembly because the members of the Council were the upper house of the General Assembly. The clerk kept separate legislative records of the council's proceedings in that capacity [as the clerk of the Senate of Virginia does now], just as the clerk of the House of Burgesses kept records of its proceedings [as the clerk of the House of Delegates does now].

Transcribed from the *Executive Journal of the Colonial Council, 1697-1720*, page with Monday, April 24, 1704 includes "...the several petitions of Cyprian Prou, Peter Rucker, & Isaac Garret" page shows a 6 at the top and is flagged. The original is located in the Library of Virginia, Vault 3/g.

Monday April 24th 1704
Present
His Excellencie

William Byrd	Phillip Ludwell	} Esq ^{rs}
John Lightfoot	Henry Duke	
Robert Carter	Robert Quary	
John Custis	John Smith	



The petition of Teliffe Alvertson for naturalizacon, read, and Referred to the consideracon of the Hou^e of Burge^ses

The pet^s of Jno. Jas. Veillon, Peter ffonsailles, Jno. Dep, Fran^{cois} Colonis [,] Jacqueline Jaquet, Barth^o. Depuys Isaac ffiguier Jno & Paul Drapier was read & Ref^d to ye consideracon of the H^s of Burge^ses

The Several petitions of Cyprian Prou Peter Rucker

& Isaac Garret, praying for naturalizacon were severally presented & Read, and Ordered

That the same be reffered to ye consideracon of the hou^e of Burg^ses
The peticon of Mary Greenfield, praying leave to sell part of her land for her substnace, her husband having left her, read & Referred to ye consideracon of the Hou^e of Burge^ses
Robert Carter Esq^{re} absent

Ordered
That the Clerk of the Gen^{le} A^ssembly carry the following me^sage to the Hou^e of Burge^ses, together with the papers relating to the ffr. Refugees Mr Speaker & Gent of the Hou^e of Burge^ses
His Excellency & the hon^{ble} Council having rec^d diverse petitions heretofore presented by the ffrrench Refugees settled at Manicantown praying for naturalizacon, with several other papers relating to that settlement, Have thought fit to recommend to ye & Hou^e the mature consideracon of the said petition, as being a ca^{se} of very great importance

By order of his Excellcy & ye Hon^{ble} Council
W _?_ Robertson Gen A^ssembly

A me^sage from the Hou^e of Burge^ses to his Excellcy by Mr Robert Bolling & others who fought the following Resolve

By the Hou^e of Burge^ses
Monday April 24 1704

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Hou^e
That in respon of her Matys & this Countrys ervice, the Better Feverly of Mor---- Shyes & the interor of Trade in general, it will not be proper for the _____ ffleet to sail _____ before the last day of

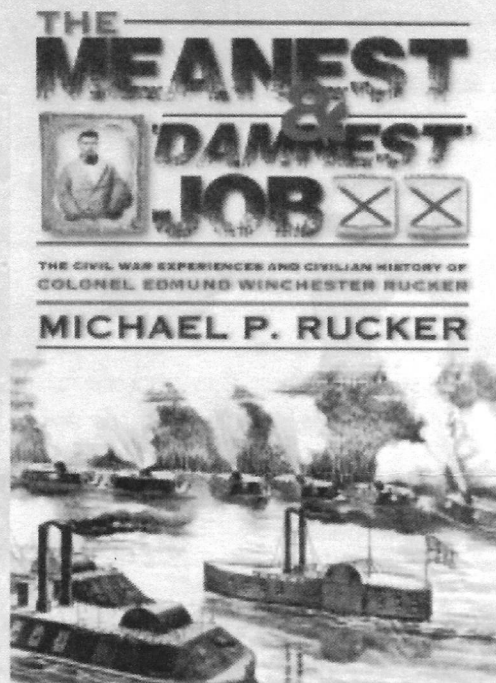
May

First biography of renowned Civil War officer and Alabama entrepreneur

The Meanest & 'Damnest' Job

*The Civil War Experiences and Civilian History of
Colonel Edmund Winchester Rucker*

Michael P. Rucker



Edmund Winchester Rucker was a force to be reckoned with both during the Civil War and in his post-war business ventures. During the campaign by the United States Army to capture the upper Mississippi River, Rucker and his faithful Confederate artillerists held off the entire Federal fleet. Rucker's leadership was also a major factor in the Confederate victory in the Battle of Brices Cross Roads, which has been called "History's Greatest Cavalry Battle." After the war, Rucker became one of the wealthiest early entrepreneurs in Birmingham. In recognition of his many accomplishments, Fort Rucker in Alabama was named in his honor. This book examines the military and business accomplishments of this outstanding leader who left his mark on both the Civil War and Southern industry.

"A painstakingly researched and lively account that recovers for a new generation of readers the fascinating story of Rucker's life."

∞ Karen R. Utz, Curator and Historian ∞
Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark

The Meanest & 'Damnest' Job is available now from NewSouth Books at www.newsouthbooks.com/meanestanddamnest and from all major book retailers.

978-1-58838-382-2 — \$28.95 — 320 pages — 6 x 9

Contact Lisa Harrison at harrison@newsouthbooks.com or by phone at 334-834-3556 for more information.

Mike's newest book is \$28.95 with no shipping cost if ordered from the author at: Michael Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614 or mikruc@aol.com. - and, that the author will autograph it. In addition, check out Mike's website at <https://www.mikeruckerbooks.com/>

“We do not know when the clerk of the Council of State began keeping separate legislative and executive journals, but we do know that by about 1680 they sent separate copies of each to England. We have a few originals of both here [at the Library of Virginia].”

“To complicate matters further, members of the Council of State were also the members of the General Court, the highest court in the colony, and their records, beginning in the middle of the 17th century, were in yet another series of record books, [though] most of which were destroyed when the state courthouse burned in April 1865.”¹⁷

It is abundantly clear to this researcher that Peter Rucker’s petition for naturalization was a stand-alone petition. And after having been referred to the committee for propositions and grievances¹⁸ a decision was announced on May 8, 1704 that says:

“And upon consideration of the report of the said Committee made upon the petitions of *John Gill, Stephen Gill, Samuel de Monville, Teleife Alverton, Isaac Garret, Peter Ruckes* [sic] and *Clypian* [sic] Prou praying to be Naturalized.

The Houses agreed to the report of the Committee viz

That it is reasonable the said persons should be naturalized when they are qualified by taking the Oathes Enjoyed by Law.”¹⁹

If Peter Rucker took the oath of allegiance, it has not yet been discovered where that was done. One source says oaths were administered at the county level where they lived, yet another source says the oaths were to be administered in Williamsburg.²⁰ It is known that the French Refugees²⁰ pled to have their oaths taken at their homes (because traveling so far would leave their homes undefended), so this gives the reader room to think there was considerable latitude at the local level for concessions to be made even if the law may have said something else.

So the May 8th decision above is for *multiple* petitions, not one petition some erroneously say were a “group of French Refugees”. Additionally, we have not heard the names of John & Stephen Gill, or Samuel de Monville in the record pages previously discussed.

On Wednesday, March 23, 1702/03 there were petitions for naturalization presented for “John & Stephen Gill, Paul Harrelson, and “The Refugees at y^e Manakin Town”. Keep in mind that the last day of the 1703 year was March 24, so their petitions were submitted about one month before Peter Rucker’s.²¹

The naturalization laws of the time said foreigners must have lived in the colony for four years, and were required to take the oath of fidelity in the court of the county where they resided.²² Because of Peter’s naturalization application, we know he was not a citizen under English Rule. He had to be from somewhere else. Could he have been from another North American Colony? Applying for naturalization in 1704 does not in any way indicate Peter Rucker arrived in Virginia in 1700. Apply that same logic to Cyprian Prou who arrived in 1684.

Perhaps Peter’s 1704 application for naturalization had more to do with land ownership than date of

arrival in the colony. An alien (or a denizen) could own land, but not pass it down to heirs.

There is evidence that Peter Rucker was in Rappahannock County, Virginia before 1700.²³ If we look at the names associated with Peter Rucker in Rappahannock County, Virginia, most will fall into the category of English surnames. If Peter Rucker were a French Refugee, one would expect to see him settled with others with French surnames. Renowned expert on meanings of names Fritz Juengling, PhD, AG, confirms "Rucker" to be a German surname.²⁴ However, at this time, no one has proof of how he got that surname.

The Studie Rucker Wood, Edythe Johns Rucker Whitley, and H. R. McIlwaine sources as described in this article represent honest attempts to portray information as they understood it. However, the primary sources, *Journal of the House of Burgesses* and *the Executive Journal of the Colonial Council* state the facts clearly, albeit hard to read. If a researcher consults the original sources, it is evident that Peter Rucker's petition for naturalization was a *stand-alone* petition, and that he was given permission to take the oath, even though we do not have a record of when or where that may have taken place. So at present, this researcher concludes that is not appropriate to say that Peter Rucker was a French Huguenot, simply that we do not have primary source documentation to prove what his nationality was.

¹ Studie Rucker Wood, Compiler, *The Rucker Family Genealogy with their Ancestors, Descendants and Connections* (Richmond, Virginia, Old Dominion Press, 1932). p. 1

² Edythe Johns Rucker Whitley, *History of the Rucker Family and their descendants* (Nashville, Tennessee, Hermitage Printing Co., 1927), p. 6

³ H. R. McIlwaine, editor, *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1702/3-1705, 1705-1706, 1710-1712* (Richmond, Virginia, The Colonial Press. E. Waddy Co. 1912), p. 47-48; see also *Legislative Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, H. R. McIlwaine, editor (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia State Library, 2edition, 1979)

⁴ Manakin Town was a settlement of the French refugees at a deserted Indian village called Manakintowne on the south side of the James River.

⁵ Cyprian Prou (age 21) was bound into service August 28, 1684 to Richard Bray of Virginia. Source: *Some Early Emigrants to America Abstracted from the Genealogists' Magazine Vol. 12, Nos. 1-16; Vol. 13, Nos. 1-8* as abstracted by Cregoe D. P. Nicholson

⁶ Cyprian, b ca 1663, d bef 5 Nov 1712, Richmond Co., VA, m Margaret Vensandeu, b ca 1660, d bef Nov 1712. Issue: five or six daughters, no known sons.

⁷ Peter Rucker is mentioned on page 166 of Thomas Hoskins Warner's book *History of Old Rappahannock County Virginia History 1656-1692 with Introduction 1608-1656 Including the present Counties of Essex and Richmond, and parts of Westmoreland, King George, Stafford, Caroline, and Spotsylvania Counties*. (Pauline Pearce Warner, Rappahannock Virginia, Publisher, 1965.) Names of landholders associated with Occupacia Creek were: Richard Lawson, James Gaynes, Peter Johnson, Wm. Lowry, Geo. Morris, Wm. Moseley, Peter Rucker, John Wier, Thos. Hawkins, Richard Coleman, Ralph Rowzee, Augustine Smith, Mr. Farmer, John Warren/Waring, John Pyne [Payne], Robert Payne, Geo. Eaton, John Gillett, John Phillips, John Watson, Phillip Rowsey, John Johnson, George Pley, Henry Berry, Wm. Gray, Henry Tandy, Alex Newman, Valentine Allen, Cornelius Nowell, and Hugh Owen.

⁸ In 1667 James Coghill transported a William Garrett (see *Cavaliers & Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, Abstracted and Indexed by Nell Marion Nugent, (Virginia Land Office, Richmond, Virginia, 1934, vol. 2). Could this be a relative of Isaac Garrett?

⁹ It is not known why the clerk chose two spellings, naturalization and naturalizacon. [the "c" has Tilde over it]. The "c" with a tilde over it is an abbreviation of "ti". This is explained on p. the preface of vol. 1 of *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia* From the *Public Record Office, London, Colonial Office, Class 5, Vol. 1311, D54, No. 10Lⁱⁱ* or p. 709.), edited by

¹¹ "...Totuskey Ferry in Richmond County ... The ferry is long gone but a little note at the end reads: "In 1705 the land of Tolieff Alverson, Jr. and that of Samuel Churchill adjoined the main road to the ferry." ... This part of Richmond County [is] several miles away from where Cyprian Prou lived (near the King George County line if not later actually in King George.)" e-mail to compiler from Craig Kilby citing *Place Names of the Northern Neck* by Rita R. Miller (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1983) p. 158

¹² In 1666, a certificate was granted to James Claughton for 250 aces for importing five persons: Tho. Merrifield, Edw. Woolridge, Henry Gubboy, Teliffe Alverson [Alverton?], and Anth. Nash. See *Records of Indentured Servants and Certificates for Land [in] Northumberland County, Virginia 1650-1795*, compiler W. Preston Haynie (Westminster, Maryland, Heritage Books, Inc., 1996)

¹³ *Virginia Sessional Papers 1703-1706 Assembly, Journal of the House of Burgesses*. Colonial Records Project, Microfilm Reel #16, Library of Virginia

¹⁴ *Executive Journal of the Colonial Council, 1697-1720*, Monday, April 1704, page 6, as found in the Library of Virginia Vault 3/g (original-handwritten)

¹⁵ <http://www.theruckerfamilysociety.org>

¹⁶ Email from Eric G. Grundset, author, *Research in Virginia*, 2nd ed., Special Publication No. 83, National Genealogical Society, Arlington, VA, 2007

¹⁷ Email from Library of Virginia to compiler dated July 29, 2019

¹⁸ For an understanding of the procedure of the committee for propositions and grievances, consult *Hening's Statutes at Large*, Vol. 3, p. 245-246, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?hvd.hw2scr&view=1up&seq=5>

¹⁹ *Virginia Sessional Papers 1703-1706 Assembly, Journal of the House of Burgesses*. Colonial Records Project, Microfilm Reel #16, Library of Virginia, Wednesday, March 24, 1702/03, p. 16

²⁰ *Virginia Naturalizations, 1657-1776*, Research Notes Number 9. The Library of Virginia. https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn9_natural1657.pdf (viewed June 22, 2019)

²¹ *Virginia Sessional Papers 1703-1706 Assembly, Journal of the House of Burgesses*. Colonial Records Project, Microfilm Reel #16, Library of Virginia, Monday, May 8, 1704, p. 70

²² *Virginia Naturalizations, 1657-1776*, Research Notes Number 9. The Library of Virginia. https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn9_natural1657.pdf (viewed June 22, 2019)

²³ Thomas Hoskins Warner, *History of Old Rappahannock County Virginia History 1656-1692 with Introduction 1608-1656 Including the present Counties of Essex and Richmond, and parts of Westmoreland, King George, Stafford, Caroline, and Spotsylvania Counties*. (Pauline Pearce Warner, Rappahannock Virginia, Publisher, 1965.)

²⁴ Email from Fritz Juengling, Phd, AG, Bountiful, Utah. He reviewed the surnames mentioned in the section with Peter Rucker in Thomas Hoskins Warner's book. Refer to footnote no. 7 above.

Continued from page 12

However, due to a "severe weather forecast" the entire event was cancelled by the Amherst County Department of Parks and Recreation. The plan had been for Mike Rucker and two others to reenact a "conversation" about Anthony and Benjamin Rucker inventing and patenting the design of the

James River batteau.

So, an alternative agenda was quickly put into play which included a backstage tour of Lynchburg's newly restored theater space, followed by research time with Rucker material in the Jones Memorial Library.

The afternoon was capped off by a visit to Woodruff's Cafe and

Pie Shop, in Monroe, Virginia. This country cafe was established in 1906 and is hosted by Mary Woodruff, 102 years of age. We had the pleasure of sitting with Mrs. Woodruff to discuss the history of the family restaurant - and the pies were more than excellent. The Woodruffs are descended from en-

slaved African Americans, and an eye-witness account from a Woodruff described the tragic result of a feud between the Rucker and Dearing families in 1862 (see newsletter Vol. 22, No. 4). After pie, we toured two local Rucker cemeteries and were instructed in the fine points of water witching and grave divining.

After an excellent dinner at Sweet Briar College, the attendees experienced the anticipated and exciting Rucker Memorabilia Auction that raised more than \$1,200 toward the Rucker Family DNA Project. The most exciting auction item was a one-night stay at Hot Springs B&B which is operated by Rucker cousin Carol Wood and her husband Dale Lawrence. (See *RFS Newsletter* No. 29, August 2018). Then, the audience was treated to a re-enactment of an event in 1742, when Captain John Rucker of Orange County (the same John Rucker who patented the land mentioned above) offered his excellent alcoholic punch to influence voters to vote for his friend running for office in the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg. He was pronounced under arrest by a sheriff's deputy who held Rucker at bay with a sword. John Rucker experienced severe wounds to his hands as he attempted to break the sword. He died shortly after this unfortunate episode

from unrelated causes.

On Sunday, June 9, we had a tour of Lynchburg's Presbyterian Cemetery, which included a visit to the grave of Queena Stovall, Virginia's most noted artist of rural scenes. There are thirty-six graves there with the Rucker surname, and Stovall is buried in one of the Rucker plots. Our guide showed us the resting places of notable Lynchburg citizens, and the beautiful architectural details in the elaborate tombstones. Lunch was a tasty barbecue on the grounds of the Amherst County Historical Museum, surrounded by artifacts from the days of batteaux and backyard stills.

We were treated to a lecture on autosomal DNA by Crystal Wright Rose who clearly demonstrated its value in identifying family relations in the previous four to six generations. There was also an excellent lecture by Ellen S. Agnew at the Amherst County Museum titled "Farm to Easel" about the art of Queena Stovall (a Rucker cousin, born Emma Serena Dillard in Amherst Co., VA {b 1887- d 1980} [Emma⁹ S. Dillard, Ella⁸ Woodroof, Margaret⁷ McDaniel Rucker, Benjamin⁶ Ambrose, Reuben⁵, Ambrose⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹]. In 2010, Stovall received a posthumous honor by the Library of Virginia as one of the "Virginia Women in Histo-

ry." She began painting at age 62 and has been called "the Grandma Moses of Virginia," because her pieces draw viewers into the scenes with the realistic country folk she portrays.

In conclusion, the accommodations at Sweet Briar College were comfortable and scenic, the food was excellent and the staff outstandingly helpful and hospitable. The adventures and lectures each day were delightful. In all, it was a wonderful experience!

* * * * *

DNA Corner



Alice Rucker, Administrator

Paul Mize & Charles Rucker,
Co-Administrators

WANTED!

Direct male descendants from the these sons of Peter¹ Rucker-William², James², or Ephraim². We have a substantial number of participants descending from Peter's sons John² and Thomas². Y-DNA and proven paper trails need to work together to show the full picture of the pedigree back to Peter Rucker. *Please support the project!*

* * *

Who Are We and Where Do We Come From? by Paul Mize

I bet ya'll want to know what we talked about at last June's Rucker Reunion. Was Peter Rucker French, a German, a Scot, or an

Armenian? Did I get your attention? The Rucker Surname Y-DNA Project is for all males who wish to work together to find their common Rucker heritage through Y-DNA testing and the sharing of their information.

Let's have a recap. The Rucker Y-DNA project began in 2005. The first kits were ordered in September of that year. As of July 4, 2019 there are 70 participants in the project. Of those 70 participants, 42 are direct descendants of Peter Rucker and it is those 42 we will discuss.

Of the 42 individuals, there are five who match by Y-DNA but who have last names that are not Rucker. Those five are descendants of Peter Rucker but were adopted by a "non-Rucker," born out of wedlock, or some other occurrence. These events are called MPE's (misattributed parentage/paternity events). The other 28 other individuals have absolutely no genetic relationship to Peter Rucker.

In February of 2014, the Rucker Family Society voted to pay for the upgrade of a tester's kit to the "Big Y." That kit was Loren Rucker's, a descendant of Peter's son John. It was a watershed day in our research and numerous new mutations were discovered from that upgrade. We can now guarantee that you are a descendant, or not, of John with one \$39 test. The Society's mon-

ey was well spent.

The most important Rucker-associated mutation that was discovered is called A431. The first person discovered to have that mutation was, again, Loren Rucker. Our first A431 ancestor is very old and he has many descendants who are our modern cousins. These modern cousins live in many countries and have many surnames. There is a list of those surnames available on request from me at paulmize@mac.com. There are over 70 different surnames that have the A431 mutation. The countries these different individuals come from Armenia to Spain, France, Canada, the British Isles, and Scandinavia. One lives in Germany, though he states that he is the descendant of a Scottish mercenary.

I bet you are wondering what kind of Y-DNA exists in this A431 grandparent. It is CELTIC specifically Ibero-Celtic Y-DNA which exists predominantly south and west of the Rhine River and into the British Isles. Our particular Celtic Y-DNA A431 ancestor was probably born in "France" several thousand years ago. Where he and his descendants traveled to from there is the ultimate question.

We now have seven individuals in our Project who have taken the Big Y-500 or Y-700 test. We have descendants of immigrant

Peter Rucker's sons John, Thomas, and James who have tested the Big Y. I believe we may have a descendant of Peter's son William in the queue, but we do not have a descendant of Ephraim who has taken the test. We desperately need an Ephraim descendant to step forward and help us refine our research.

In addition we have an autosomal DNA project which is hosted by Family Tree DNA and which will help you find recent cousins, not thousands of years in the past, but approximately four to five generations back. That project recently helped us avoid testing a European individual who had given us false hope. We strongly urge that you *do not* test at Ancestry.com since the number of false positives from that testing facility has led to confusion among our membership as to the origin of Peter Rucker. If you or any of your relatives are considering testing please contact Alice Rucker, Project Administrator or me, one of the Project Co-Administrators for up-to-date guidance on the Rucker Family Y-DNA or the autosomal program.

For helpful information about DNA in general, please visit the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, <https://isogg.org>.



In Memoriam

Elizabeth “Betty” Wyllys Stone Allen died in Richmond, Virginia, on June 29, 2019, aged 101. She was born in Guilford, Connecticut on August 9, 1917, the daughter of the late Claudia White Rucker Stone and William Morrell Stone. At age 3, her family moved to Arlington, Virginia, where she grew up, and from Washington-Lee High School as valedictorian in the class of 1934. Four years later, Betty graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. Within three weeks of her college graduation, Betty married George Edward Allen, Jr., a Richmond lawyer, who she met on a blind date.

Betty and George, who married for 52 years, lived in Richmond and raised four children, two of whom predeceased her, Margaret Allen Aiesi and George E. “Ted” Allen III. Betty is survived by her children Elizabeth Allen



Cuthbert and Meredith Council Allen and her seven grandchildren. Twelve great grandchildren also survive her.

For 28 years, from the 1950s to the early 1980s, Betty was a “political wife”, standing by her husband’s side during his many political campaigns for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. For Betty, the highlight of her husband’s political career came in 1957 when they had the opportunity to shake the hand of Queen Elizabeth II during the official visit to Jamestown. She kept the gloves she wore on this occasion, carefully labelled, to

the end of her life.

An art history major in college,

Betty enjoyed many years of serving the museum as a docent, a member of the Council of VFMA, and a member of the Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Home for forty years.

A member of First Baptist Church of Richmond for 81 years, where she taught Sunday School, served as President of the Woman’s Missionary Union, and was among the first three women ordained deacon.

Betty Allen’s three Rucker lineages are:

Line 1 - Elizabeth⁹ W. Stone, Claudia⁸ W. Rucker, George⁷ Hilton, Daniel⁶, William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Line 2 - Elizabeth⁹ W. Stone, Claudia⁸ W. Rucker, George⁷ Hilton, Daniel⁶, Mary⁶ Ann Dawson, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Line 3 - Elizabeth⁹ W. Stone, Claudia⁸ W. Rucker, George⁷ H., Marianna⁷, James⁶ Monroe, Jonathan⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

REUNION



MEMORIES





REUNION MEMORIES

Thanks to Nell Cordick for these Reunion Memories.

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

Minutes of Board and Members Meeting

June 6, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Rucker Family Society met at the Train Station in Amherst, Virginia on Friday, June 6, 2019 at 3:15 p.m. President, Christopher Rucker presided.

The items discussed at the board meeting were:

- a. DNA Project
- b. Treasurers Report
- c. Reprinting, with corrections, of Sudie Rucker Wood's book

The Board briefly discussed the location of the Society's 2021 Reunion. At that time no definite place or time was set.

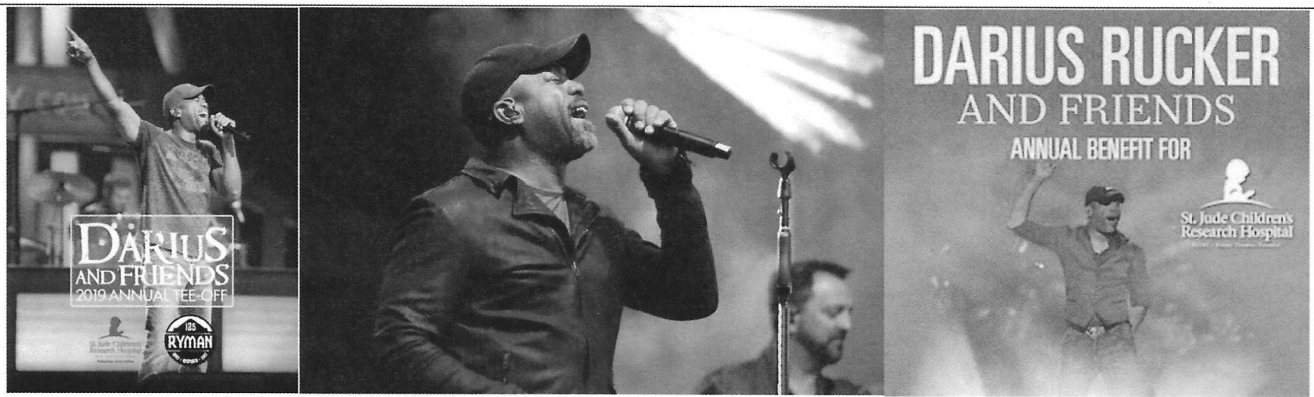
The Rucker Family Society reunion was held at Sweet Briar College, Amherst, Virginia, June 7-9, 2019. The reunion was hosted by Ruth Pillow and Nell Cordick. On the evening of June 7, 2019, Ruth and Nell hosted a cocktail party and dinner at their Rose Hill Farm, which was the home of a great-grandson of Peter Rucker. Our thanks go to them for a reunion well planned and executed.

The members' lines of descent from Peter Rucker were as follows:

2 lines: 10	4 lines: 3	5 lines: 2
6 lines: 1	7 lines: 4	

The number of first-time reunion attendees: 15. The number of states represented: 19. A total of 78 people were in attendance. We had one member from Hawaii, the most distant attendee.

Anne L. Denton
Secretary



Darius Rucker Raises over \$2 Million for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Darius Rucker is arguably the most famous “current living” Rucker in the United States. Over the past decade the singer has raised more than two million dollars for the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. His efforts at a Nashville concert in June 2019 alone, raised \$425,000. Rucker’s annual “Darius & Friends” benefit concert has been going on for the last 10 years. This year’s total was a record for the event. Rucker said he was inspired to start the benefit event after visiting the hospital a decade ago.

“I was struck on that first visit by how St. Jude not only cares for their patients, but also their patients’ families,” Rucker said. “They believe that a financial burden is the last thing a family should face when their focus needs to be on helping a kid get better, and St. Jude makes sure that their patients never pay a dime. It’s an honor for us to be able to help them continue such an important mission.”

The event included the benefit concert and a corresponding golf tournament and silent auction. The fundraising event is an unofficial kickoff to the Country Music Awards festival in Nashville.

The RUCKER family SOCIETY

Jeannie Brydon
 1500 Westbrook Court #3111
 Richmond, VA 23227



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First Class Mail

627 2019
 Dr. Christopher D. Rucker
 329 Farm Lake Road
 Boiling Springs, SC 29316 6403