

SPRING EDITION

# The KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 31, NO. 2, WINTER 2020

**Rucker Mansion For Sale**



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**INSIDE VIEW OF  
REBELDOM  
A Batch of Letters**

by David Mosby

The following letter was captured by United States soldiers of the Second Iowa Regiment in November 1862. The referenced letter was written over several days by Lindsay (Linnie) Keenin, daughter of James and Lucinthia (Rucker) Keenin. She was just a month short of her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday when it was written. It was addressed to her cousin, James (Jimmie) E. Rucker, son of Lindsey Rucker, in Texas. He was 16 at the time. Both were grandchildren of Henry Tate Rucker and Nancy Kavanaugh Rucker. The letter that begins below appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on November 27, 1862.

\* \* \*

“During the recent raid into Orizaba, Mississippi by a squadron of our cavalry, our correspondent who accompanied the expedition confiscated a large number of letters and other documents, from which we make selections which we think will interest our readers. [*Orizaba is an extinct town. At the time, it was about 7 miles south of Ripley.*]

*Continued on page 13*



**Benjamin Rucker  
“Black Herman”  
The World’s Greatest  
Magician**

By Michael P. “Mike” Rucker  
He was born Benjamin Rucker in Amherst, Virginia June 6, 1889 to Harry and Louisa Rucker. He became an American stage magician, better known by his stage name Black Herman. He was the most prominent African-American magician of his time.

His greatest trick was to be buried alive in a coffin six feet in the ground. Then after several days, his associates would dig up the coffin to find him alive before an astonished audience.

*Continued on page 12*

***The Rucker Family  
Society Newsletter***

Is published three-times each year

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**"Black Herman"**

But that was just one of this many amazing performances.

Prior to becoming a magician, Rucker is said to have worked a number of jobs including as a farm hand, construction worker, as a bellhop in a local hotel and as a cook on Pennsylvania Railroad passenger trains.

At about age twenty, he relocated to Wheeling West Virginia where he became associated with several magicians. It was there that he became an assistant to "The Great Keller," a well-known magician who soon took Benjamin, his apprentice.

After apprenticing under Keller, as well as a second magician, who used the stage name "Prince Herman." Benjamin Rucker soon embarked on his own career as a performer. Rucker and Prince Herman sold patent medicine as well as performing prestidigitation, making their act as much a medicine show as a stage show. When Prince Herman died in 1909, Benjamin promptly assumed the name "Black Herman," in honor of his mentor. Rucker began to attract audiences to witness his performances

Eventually, Black Herman's made his homebase in Harlem. Jim Crow policies were prevalent at that time, so in the Northern states he could perform before racially mixed audiences, but when he traveled through the South, often with his own tent show, segregation laws kept his audiences primarily Black. He began to incorporate a political message into his shows, unusual at that time. Throughout his career, his shows promoted the

message of Black pride.

Rucker also capitalized on his audience's superstitions. At times, he would use his brother, Andrew Rucker, and his assistant, Washington Reeves, as confederates in the audience. Either man would suddenly jump up, seemingly possessed by demons. Black Herman would cast out the demon (usually represented by a small snake or lizard which was released into the crowd to cause a commotion), then give the man some special tonic which he called his "Secret African Remedy," a tonic that was mostly alcohol with some common spices. (which was, of course, for sale after the show). He would also offer a private psychic-reading to the man to further uncover the man's "problems."

Psychic readings were also available to any audience member who wished to pay for one. Sales of his patent medicine occasionally caused him to receive "cease and desist" orders, so his shows became more focused on his amazing tricks. He was arrested several times for fortune telling, but Rucker turned that to his advantage, proclaiming that the arrests were simply proof of the oppression of the African American in society, and that his power was so strong that no jail could hold him.

His specialties included stage levitation, the production of rabbits and doves, release from knots tied by audience members and imitations of bird sounds heard in the rural South and in Africa. A number of his magic tricks were compared to miracles from the Bible. He even narrated his rope escape routine by explaining that he used the meth-

ods that Africans used to escape the slave traders. Rucker would let audience members tie him up so he could demonstrate how "If the slave traders tried to take any of my people captive, we would release ourselves using our secret knowledge."

His "buried alive" act began with his interment in an outdoor area called "Black Herman's Private Graveyard." The paying audience could view his lifeless body and even check for a pulse. The audience would then witness Black Herman's (presumably) lifeless body placed in a coffin. As the coffin was lowered into the ground, Rucker would slip out unnoticed. For days, sometimes a week, people would pay to look at the grave, building the suspense over the fate of Black Herman. When the time was up, the coffin was exhumed with great drama and fanfare, and out walked Rucker to lead his audience into the theater, where he performed the rest of his show. Of course, during the time of his interment, Rucker was free to travel to another town to set up the same trick, returning in time to slip back into the coffin for the amazing revival. He claimed that he was immortal and that he was directly descended from Moses. He suggested that Blacks could elude Klansmen by escaping the limitations of mortality and simply outliving them.

Black Herman was the ostensible author of "Secrets of Magic, Mystery, and Legerdemain," a book published in 1925 that contains his semi-fictionalized autobiography, directions for simple illusions suitable to the novice stage magician, advice on astrology and lucky numbers, and some African-American hoo-

doo folk magic customs and practices. An announcement on the book's title page, "Black Herman Comes Through Every Seven Years," referred to Herman's pattern of returning to venues on a regular basis; the book was sold at his performances, alt-



hough it has been determined that he was not the author.

He used his success to make loans to local Black businessmen and organizations, established scholarships, and performed for free to help churches pay their bills. In addition to lucrative performances in big tents throughout the country, he purchased a printing plant, established a monthly magazine, founded *Black Herman's Mail Order Course of Graduated Lessons in the Art of Magic*, acquired real estate, bought shares in two cotton plantations, gave personal consultations, and started herb and root gardens in a dozen cities. Rucker became quite wealthy, and purchased a brownstone on West 119th Street in

New York City.

Black Herman died in Louisville, KY on April 15, 1934 at age 44 as a result of a heart attack. Due to the fame of his "buried alive" act, many people refused to believe he was really dead. His assistant, Washington Reeves, decided to charge a dime admission to view Black Herman's corpse. Several thousand people took advantage of the opportunity to see Rucker for the last time - and even to poke him with a pin to see if he was really dead. His death made front page news in Black newspapers all over the country." He was buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Bronx, New York City.

\* \* \* \* \*

## INSIDE VIEW OF REBELDOM

*Continued from page 11*

*Chicago Tribune* article: A YOUNG LADY "TROUBLED WITH YANKEES" - Owl Creek, Miss., Nov. 17, '62 [*Owl Creek is northeast of Ripley. Henry Tate Rucker's property was on Owl Creek.*]

"Jimmie E. Rucker

Dear Cousin: You can't imagine how glad I was to get your letter of September 30. It afforded me great pleasure, for I was almost crazy to hear some news. I am glad to hear that you are getting on so well and not troubled by Yankees. That is more than I can say. I reckon you heard that Gen. Van Dorn went and attacked Corinth. [*Interestingly, Van Dorn's grandmother was Mary (Donelson) Caffery, sister of Henry Tate Rucker's brother-in-law Severn Donelson.*] He stormed their fortifications and drove the Yanks back, but they

received heavy reinforcement and we were obliged to retreat, back to Ripley. Our army fell back to Holly Springs, and the Yankees pursued them as far as Ripley. In two days after the fight, 10,000 Yankees came right by our gate, and such a time we had, no one can have any idea except those that have witnessed the scene.

Such a band of rogues and liars, never went unhung. Our yard and orchard was not clear of them for two or three days. They stold every thing they could sit their eyes on. We had about twenty-five peach trees and a dozen quince trees, as full of fruit as could be, and they did not leave a single one hanging. – stold nearly all of our sweet potatoes, and all of our chickens, turkeys, geese, peafowl, that they could catch, drove off our horses, but they got away from them and came back home – made efforts to drive off our cattle but some officer interfered, and made them let them alone.

They took everything they wanted, did not search our house, but they did Grand Pa's and took a great many things from Grand Ma. [*Grand Pa and Grand Ma were Henry Tate Rucker and Nancy Rucker.*] Threatened to shoot Grand Pa, but old Uncle Hill told them his condition, He called them liars and threatened them with Price, Stonewall Jackson and Col. Falkner, and made them very mad. [*William Clark Falkner, great-grandfather of author William Faulkner, was a Colonel in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry at the outbreak of the war. After being replaced in 1862, he organized a regiment of partisan rangers from Tippah County.*] They carried off every negro in and about

Ripley that would go and took a great many by force. They took 30 from Cousin Simon Spight, 3 from Aunt Mary Spight, and 1 of ours. They took about 500 in all, just drove their wagons up and took men, women and children. [*Cousin Simon Spight is the son of Linnie's aunt, Mary (Rucker) Spight, and her husband, James Munford Spight.*]

Some of the wealthiest men are now the poorest. Ripley is almost deserted, nearly all of the inhabitants have fled from their houses to seek protection, and their dwellings burned and made horse stables of, they searched every house in Ripley 3 or 4 times, and took nearly all of the beds and bed clothes from a great many.

There is a family of Irish living in Ripley, under British protection, they robbed them of everything, and the gentleman has gone to report to the British Consul.

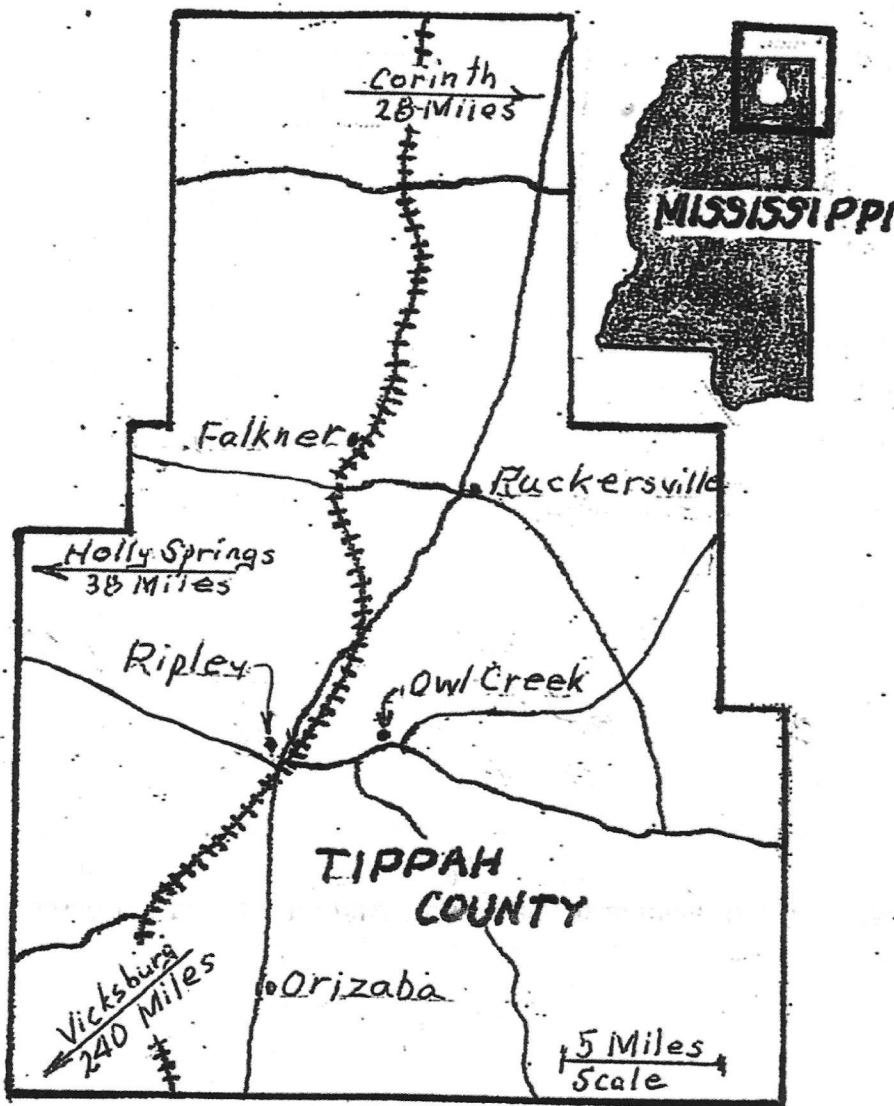
I must stop telling you about Yankee depredation or else I will weary your patience, for if I was to write all day I could not get through. They have had every one of our negro men, but they succeeded in getting away, all but one – he has been with them five weeks. Our cousins that were taken prisoner at Fort Donelson are both living and are at home on sick furlough [*James K. Polk Rucker, son of Charles C. Rucker, and Henry Rucker, son of William Rucker, were Linnie's cousins and were captured at Fort Donelson in February, 1862. Prisoner exchanges were made in Vicksburg the same year. Polk return to service, Henry died on January 1, 1863.*] I don't think that Cousin Henry will ever recover. Cousin Polk is

improving very fast, he got a transfer to Col. Falkner's Regiment, Partisan Rangers, and joined Brother's Company [*Brother is Linnie's step-brother H. T. Counseille and was a Captain in Company B, First Partisan Rangers.*].

But some of the officers of the Regiment got to "cutting up" and Col. Falkner had some of them arrested, and they told the privates to desert and go home, if they did not they would be put in Infantry to fill up vacancies, and nearly every one of the Companies deserted, in fact every Company did except Brother's and Capt. Garrett's.

Gen. Van Dorn has ordered all that did not desert to report to him at Abbeville. Brother is the Junior Captain in the Regiment and I am glad to say that he nor any of his Company did not desert. And all that did not desert will get pay, those that did will not, and the officers that did desert will share a fate they deserve. I am sorry for Col. Falkner and Lt. Col. Hovis, for they are brave and gallant officers, and deserve the praise and gratitude of their country. For they did all in their power to keep the Regiment together.

I reckon you have heard of our recent victories in Kentucky over Buell [*Perryville, Kentucky in October, 1862. Linnie refers to the 37<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regiment but it was actually the 34<sup>th</sup>.*] They confess that it was a total rout. Col. Benton's Regiment, 37<sup>th</sup> Miss., was badly cut up. Uncle Abbot Rucker was wounded in the leg and captured, and has never been heard from since. [*Abbott C. Rucker was her mother's brother*] Uncle Charles Rucker that was taken prisoner,



Map of Tippah County Mississippi

with a great many other Citizens, and taken to Alton, Illinois, have been released, and one of them got to Ripley a few days since. [Charles Rucker was also her mother's brother.] He says that Uncle C. and others came through Corinth, and they would keep them a few days, their army is on a "grand move" and they are afraid that the prisoners will communicate information of importance to Gens. Van Dorn and Price. This gentleman came a different route. Ma and brother Jimmie have gone to grandpa's on a visit, for first time since early last June. [Jimmie was her

*younger* brother, William James Keenin.] Cousin Mattie Barnett was delighted to receive a letter from you; she spent last night with me. I am very sorry that I did not send you her address. [Mattie Barnett was Martha Barnett, daughter of Albert and Frances Ann (Rucker) Barnett. She was about 14 years old at the time.] You knew it as well as I could have told you, but if you don't know it I will tell it to you. Address your letters thus: "Miss Mattie A. E. Barnett, Ripley, Tippah Co., Miss." Now be sure and don't forget it. I am sorry that I was so "modest" as not to

tell you in my last. You gave quite a nice description of yourself. I almost imagine that I can see you. I wish you could come to see us. I would be delighted to see you, and I hope that the war may end (that is we may whip the Yankees) and live in peace and happiness, as in days past and gone.

It is reported that England, France, and Russia, have recognized the Independence of the Confederate States of America, though I don't credit the report. I have heard it too often. You may be glad that you live in Texas, for if you lived here, you would not stay at home. All the boys 15 years of age have to join the army or be taken off by the Yankees. My little sweetheart is in Brother's Company, he is the nicest little boy you ever saw. Cousin Mattie B-'s prefers running South, than to join the army. My sweetheart spent Saturday night and Sunday morning with me, Cousin Polk Rucker, too. I heard today that Uncle Charles had gotten home.

Nearly all of the family are well. We have been having measles for the last six months, but I am happy to say that we are through with them now. I would try to give you a brief description of myself but, I am fast recovering from a spell of the measles, and it would be frightful to think of.

When the war is over (if ever), I will get my picture and send it to you. I wish you would send me your picture, I would like very much to see and have it. Sis [This refers to her sister, Susan, who was about 14 years old at the time.] is not dead yet, expect she will write you a letter and put in with mine.

This evening is a beautiful evening and the sun is shining brightly –but there is a gloom of sadness all around. We had a slight fall of snow a few weeks ago and everything out of doors begins to look like winter. Though if the Yankees were whipped away from Corinth we could do very well. I sometimes wish “For a lodge in some wilderness; some vast contiguity of shade” where rumors of oppression, war and deceit may never reach me more.

Brother has just returned from town; he says it is reported that Lord Lyons has arrived at Washington City and demanded an armistice of ninety days, and England and France have actually recognized the confederacy. We send these letters by brother to mail somewhere on his route to Abbeville, as there is no post office in Ripley. But you address your letter as usual to Ripley. I must close. Pa and Ma and all the children send their love to you. Write soon before the Yankees get Vicksburg. Excuse bad writing, spelling and composing. Write soon.

With this receive the love of your affectionate Cousin, Linnie A. Keenin.

Give my love to your Ma and Pa, and all your brothers and sisters. Don't believe anything Mat says about my sweetheart.

\* \* \*

David Mosby's Rucker Lineage is: David<sup>11</sup> Mosby, Jane<sup>10</sup> Coley (m. DeWitt Mosby), Rucker<sup>9</sup> Berry Coley, Helen<sup>8</sup> Fant Rucker (m. William Lee Coley), Charlie<sup>7</sup> Rucker, Dr. Charles<sup>6</sup>, Henry<sup>5</sup> Tate, James<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

Additional comments by Mike Rucker: Orizaba, Mississippi

was occupied by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa Regiment on November 2, 1862

The following persons were referenced from Studie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Genealogy*:

- Lindsay “Linnie” Keenin is listed incorrectly on p.121. Her mother, Lucinthia had four children by James Kennin: Lindsey Ann, Susan, William and Alice. Mary T. and Henry T. were Lucinthia's two children by William Henry Counseille .
- James (Jimmie) E. Rucker, was the son of Lindsey<sup>6</sup> Powell Rucker - probably known as “Polk.”
- Cousin Simon Spight and Aunt Mary Spight, are found on page 119. Their parents were Mary<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Donelson Rucker and James Mumford Spight.
- Cousin Mattie A. E. Barnett was the daughter of Frances<sup>6</sup> Ann Rucker and Albert G. Barnett.
- Uncle Abbot Rucker found on pages 119 and 122. Abbott<sup>6</sup> Coleman Rucker.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Are We Related to the Ruckers Family of Instrument Makers Flourishing in Antwerp Between 1580 – 1650?**

**by Alice Rucker**

So often people ask if we are related to the widely known, well respected, and universally important mid-16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries instrument builders of Antwerp,. Most everyone has heard of this Flemish family. The Ruckers built such high caliber, beautiful, and musically pleasing instruments and their reputation has never waned throughout the centuries. To think there might be a possibility of a familial rela-

tionship to them is a natural thought because their surname was Ruckers, and ours is Rucker. (Ditto for Darius Rucker) The majority focus of previous research has been on those Ruckers who built the instruments. Is it possible that a male ancestor has been overlooked who might have spawned Peter Rucker who is found in Virginia around 1690?

There is a Dutch society named Ruckers Genootschap in Antwerp. The Genootschap (association/society) is a long established society for Ruckers genealogy, musical instrument history, research, and for cataloging, archiving information, and discovering new information as available on the instruments and the family of builders who created these wonderful instruments.

It is reported that in Antwerp, the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century Ruckers surname name was variously found spelled as Ruyckers, Rueckers, Rieckers, Rueckaers, Rycardt, Rickaert, Ruckeerts, Ryckers, Ricaert and Ruckaert. The name Ruckers comes from the Christian name Ruckaert or Ryckaert (English, Richard). ‘Ruckers’ is thus a linguistic abbreviation of the patronymic Ryckaertszoon or Ruckaerts (in English, Richardson or Richards). Records can be found in the Antwerp Cathedral, and the Guild of St Luke. The guild was a protective organization for painters and musicians much the same as the stone mason's guild.

In addition to building harpsichords and virginals (like a harpsichord, but the strings are strung left-right), the Ruckers also worked for the cathedral tuning and repairing organs. The names

of these builders were Hans the Elder, sons Johannes and Andreas, and grandsons Joannes II, and Andreas II. Spelling was not consistent and sometimes records for Hans the Elder are indexed under Ioannes or Joannes. Son Joannes is also sometimes referred to Ioannes, Hans, Jan and Jean. Andreas is sometimes spelled Andries. Imagine researching those records trying to figure out which individual the record was pointing to!

The most notable Ruckers researcher was Dr. Jeanine Lambrechts-Douillez of Belgium and was the founding member of the Ruckers Society (Genootschap). She dedicated her life's work not only to all things pertaining to Ruckers instrument building, but also the genealogy of the Ruckers family. Sadly she passed away this July. Grant O'Brien is carrying on with Dr. Lambrechts-Douillez' work. [*RUCKERS: A Harpsichord and virginal building tradition*, Grant O'Brien, Cambridge University Press, NY 1990, 2008 digital version with corrections]

The Antwerp family of Ruckers seems to come to the Lowlands from Germany. There was a Hans Ruckers who appeared in the Antwerp city archives dating from 1530, who was described as from 'Weysenburg' [*Grove Music Online*]. While researching, Dr. Lambrechts-Douillez came across other Ruckers who had nothing to do with the family of harpsichord makers during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries in Antwerp, now a city in Belgium, then in the Spanish Netherlands or the independent United Provinces (modern Netherlands). She indicates most Ruckers probably came from Germany and that they were not related to the fami-

ly of harpsichord makers. Some were merchants with one who came from Augsburg and another one from Köln [Cologne]. Konrad Rucker was a secretary to the archbishop of Mainz and a Nikolaus Rucker, was a professor at the University of Mainz, who later became a lawyer in Frankfurt. There was even a Ruckers ship, registered in Lloyds Register for the year 1872-73. The owners were Messrs. Scrutton & C<sup>o</sup> London. It shipped an organ to Saint Thomas (one of the Danish West Indies - later the American Virgin Islands) and from there to Bassetterre, capital of Saint Kitts in the West Indies.

Although Ms. Lambrechts-Douillez could not relate these other Rucker names above to the harpsichord building families, she mentioned one Arnold Rucker who was a wood carver and organ builder and traveled between Marburg-an-der-Lahn, Aschaffenburg, Würzburg, Amerbach, and Seligenstadt during the period 1508-1536. With the similarity of the name Arnold Rucker, and the fact that all Flemish Ruckers were involved with repairs and tuning of the organs in Antwerp makes a strong argument for a connection between the two.

Dr. Lambrechts-Douillez felt that new information may be found from a continued complete and careful study of the Antwerp church and city archives and other historical sources in Belgium and Holland. She also said the Ruckers in Germany should also be investigated [Letter to compiler dated 1 Mar 1998 from Mw. J. Lambrechts-Douillez, Ruckers Genootschap].

Having larger families in earlier

centuries was the norm. Many children did not live to adulthood and this is the case with Hans Ruckers the Elder and his descendants. Hans' date of birth is not exactly known, but in 1575 he married in the Cathedral in Antwerp (Roman Catholic). In 1597 He installed and tuned fourteen or fifteen ranks (registers) of pipes in the cathedral. Hans probably died about 1598. He had three girls, five boys who died before maturity, and the three boys who lived:

- *Joannes II*, baptized in 1578 he became a harpsichord builder and also tuned and maintained several organs in Antwerp. His three children were daughters.

- *Andreas* "de oude" [the elder] (1579-aft 1651) was a harpsichord builder. His living male issue:

- *Andreas* "de jonge" II [the younger] (1607 - bef 1670) became a harpsichord builder. A tantalizing 1638 entry in the records of the Guild of St Luke that reads, "Rickart, claversingelmaker, wijnmeester" may refer to him.

- *Adrianus* (1590-1639) would have been about 49 years old at death. He had three children: Johannes (1612 - bef 1659); a girl, and a third child, sex unknown. Nothing is known of Johannes' life or the sex of that third child. These might be possibilities for future research.

Hans' father was Franz (or Francis) Ruckers who was born in Mechelen, Flanders, Antwerp, in the Region of Flemish Belgium. Did Franz have brothers, uncles, and male cousins? Most likely. Did Franz have other sons? Most likely.

Our Rucker yDNA pattern here in America indicates Celtic

origin. But because one has a certain yDNA pattern, that does not preclude you could not have traveled to and lived in areas where Celts were not the majority population. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there is a descendant of the Ruckers of Antwerp who we could locate today and who would be interested in and willing to join our yDNA project?

It is hoped that anyone who has the spark, time, and talent could might want to conduct research in Antwerp after reading this little article. That said, we all know that in genealogy, it is not wise to jump backward into some other generation or country and hope to connect dots.

For those of you who may be curious to know more about the actual harpsichord building and a more full view into the lives and times of the Ruckers, please refer to the very well-written article by Mike Rucker. That article stands as good today as was then. It is available on the RFS website.

After some time, the harpsichord fell a bit out of favor as music styles evolved. The piano took center stage, but the ancestor of the piano was the clavichord not the harpsichord. The difference between the two is that a harpsichord/virginal is plucked with a plectrum, and the clavichord/piano's strings are "hit" with a metal tangent. After something of a hiatus, the harpsichord had a revitalization in use during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I have one at my house!

Additional RFS Newsletters with articles about this family include: Vol. 2, no. 4, Nov 1991  
Vol. 3, no. 1, Feb 1992  
Vol. 3 no. 2, May 1992

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### Corrections to Wood by Jeannie Brydon

*The Rucker Family Genealogy* by Sudie Rucker Wood, Old Dominion Press, 1932, has much great information, but without evidence, it must be used as clues to find an ancestor. On pages 58-59 is information that cannot be substantiated by the Editor. So she suggests it should be removed. All the Steckman and Huggard information on pages 58-59 should be deleted.

**Susanna<sup>5</sup> Rucker** (William<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) married 6 Jan 1801 (VA Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850), Bedford Co., VA Thomas Early On page 58, it said they moved to "Pa." Evidence showed they lived in Bedford Co., VA, and moved to Williamson Co., TN with her parents and children. In the 1820 census, they were listed in Bedford Co., VA. By 1830 they were in Williamson Co., TN. Many in this family were buried at the Hatcher Cemetery, Arno, Williamson Co., TN.

Following are suggested children of Susanna Rucker and Thomas Early:

1. William Bluford Early, b. ca 1801. He moved to Yalobusha Co., MS.
2. Sarah<sup>6</sup> Early, b. ca 1802.
3. Joshua<sup>6</sup> Early, b. ca 1804 (1850 Williamson Co., TN census).
4. John<sup>6</sup> W. Early, b. ca 1806 (age 30-39 in 1840 Williamson Co., TN census).
5. Martha<sup>6</sup> Early, b. ca 1808.
6. Harriet<sup>6</sup> Early, b. ca 1813.
7. Spotswood<sup>6</sup> H. Early, b. 22 Mar 1814 (tombstone). Lived Williamson Co., TN.

8. Abner<sup>6</sup> Early, b. ca 1815 (1860 census with brother Joshua).

Wood p.58 said Rachel Early, daughter of Susanna Rucker and Thomas Early of Bedford Co., VA married in 1812 to Philip Steckman. The parents married in 1801, how could they have had a daughter that married in 1812? Also, there is no evidence of a daughter named Rachel. Rachel lived in Bedford Co., PA.

Susanna Rucker and Thomas Early lived in Bedford Co., VA and were somehow confused with the Earlys of Pennsylvania. If anyone finds proof of this family, please let the Editor know.

What happened to son, John<sup>6</sup> W. Early?

John<sup>6</sup> W. Early (Susanna<sup>5</sup> Rucker, William<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was listed in the 1840 Williamson Co., Tennessee census with wife and one child. The Editor cannot find him in the 1850. Had he died?

There are two marriage records of

John W. Early: Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002: John W. Early married 2 Aug 1830, Williamson Co., TN to Lucy W. Moss; John W. Early married 3 May 1838, Williamson Co., TN to Catharine E. Hatcher. However the Editor cannot find either Lucy or Catharine in the 1850 census. John<sup>6</sup> W. Early had one known child: William<sup>7</sup> "Bill" B. Early, b. ca 1832 (1850 census), Williamson Co., TN, d. 22 Sep 1894 (TN Find A Grave), Franklin, Williamson Co., TN.

Family Legend, Both of his parents died when he was young and he was raised by his grandmother and uncle Joshua Early and was listed with them in the



1850 census. They both died in 1860 and Bill was living alone on the old family farm near Bethesda, Williamson Co., TN when he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Dr. Marvin Pierce Rucker by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker**

During his more than 50 years of practice in the fields of gynecology and obstetrics Dr. Marvin Pierce Rucker delivered about 15,000 babies. He followed in the medical footsteps of his father Dr. Edwin Timothy Rucker.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Rucker made contributions in medical scholarship, research, teaching and writing. He was widely published in the medical field, but also published works regarding the naming of flowers and shrubs after scientists.

Marvin Rucker was born June 1, 1881 in Fairfax, Virginia. He graduated from Randolph Macon College at eighteen years of age and at the time of his death was a trustee there. He continued his studies at Harvard University, the Medical College of Virginia and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore from which he received his medical degree in 1903. He then studied medicine at the University of Leipzig in Germany where he learned about the method of childbirth called "Twilight sleep." Upon his return to Virginia he became a general practitioner in partnership with his father in Richmond. During this same period, he began teaching at the Medical College of Virginia, a position he continued for 27 years. From 1905 to 1912 he was president of

the Manchester, Virginia Board of Health.

In 1915, he began limiting his practice to gynecology and obstetrics in which fields he became internationally recognized. He became a special lecturer in the history of obstetrics at Duke University. He wrote extensively for medical publications in the United States and abroad. At the time of his death he was in his



eleventh year as the editor of the *Virginia Medical Monthly*. Throughout the months of his final illness he continued to write for many medical journals.

Dr. Rucker led many medical groups. In 1934, he became president of the American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons. In 1948, he was elected president of the Medical Society of Virginia.

Other medical organizations he led included the Richmond Academy of Medicine, South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Southern Medical Association's section on Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association's section on

Obstetrics. In 1947, he was elected vice-president of the American Gynecological Society.

Dr. Rucker became a member of the Richmond Board of Health in 1946 and served as board chairman from 1950 until his final illness.

In addition to his medical accomplishments he was chairman of the board of stewards of the Centenary Methodist Church in Richmond. He was a director of the Richmond Central and a trustee of Randolph-Macon College.

In 1955, Randolph Macon College produced an extensive volume: *The Selected Writings of Marvin Pierce Rucker and Complete Bibliography of his Works*.

In 1906, Dr. Rucker married Josephine McRae who died in 1981 at age 96. They had three children. Their two sons, Dr. Edwin Rucker and Dr. Douglas P. Rucker, were his medical partners. Their daughter, Josephine Pierce Rucker, married lawyer Lewis F. Powell (later, Justice of the United States Supreme Court, 1971 to 1987).

Dr. Marvin Pierce Rucker died October 23, 1953 in Johnston-Willis Hospital in Richmond, Virginia where he was a director. He is buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.

Dr. Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Marvin<sup>7</sup> P. Rucker, Dr. Edmund<sup>6</sup> T., Benjamin<sup>5</sup>, Isaac<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

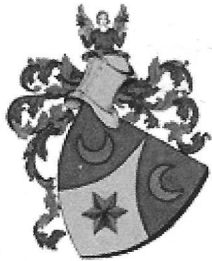
Note from Jeannie Brydon: Dr. Rucker and his sons were famous in Richmond for their "twilight sleep" method of childbirth. You had pain, but you didn't remember it. He delivered many locals including me.



***The Rucker Mansion, Everett, Washington—For Sale***

Earlier this year, the Rucker Mansion, located in Everett, WA was up for sale for almost \$3.5. Since then it has been removed from the market. Built by Bethel Rucker in 1904-5 the 10,000 sq. ft. building remains one of the finest homes ever constructed in the Northwest. For more information see RFS newsletter Vol. 4, No. 3, Sep 1993.

The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



Rucker

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