

# The KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 32, NO. 1, JUNE 2021



## 2022 Rucker Reunion in Monterey, California

- Embry Cobb Rucker .....p. 1, 4-5
- Living in Iran during the Shah .p. 1-4
- Dewberry School of Music .....p. 5
- Who was Judge Wm Rucker? p. 6
- Query.....p. 6
- Gen. Louis Henry Rucker .....p. 6-8
- In Memoriam.....p. 8-9
- 2022 Reunion in Monterey.....p. 10



## Embry Cobb Rucker

by Michael P. “Mike” Rucker

The Reverend Embry Cobb Rucker was a significant figure in the community of Reston, Virginia from the time of his arrival there in 1969 until his death there August 1, 1994. He was a community activist who was instrumental in the founding of several social service programs in Reston. He was the rector and spiritual leader of the new town's first Episcopal congregation, a church without a building called the Episcopal Congregation of the Church at Reston.

In fact, he discouraged the building of church structures, famously stating upon his retirement from the ministry in 1976, “The church’s real business should be people. We should get away from the bullshit of constructing buildings.” His congregation met and worshiped in a storefront. From behind a battered metal desk at the back of the Common Ground Coffee House, which he established, he

*Continued on page 4*

## Living in Iran before the Shah’s Downfall

by W. Price Wood

*The following is a reminiscence of a newly married American couple moving to Iran in the last days before the Islamic Revolution that ousted Iran’s shah. Much of what they observed, and lived, has changed, but much remains the same. Iran remains a developing country (formerly known as a Third World country) and its future will likely be as rocky as its past. There is much value in their observations and should not be viewed as value judgements.*

In January 1975, four months after Sharon and I were married, we left Richmond for my new job in Iran. After we landed in Tehran, we checked into our hotel. The next morning, I heard a lot of noise outside the window. We were on the 4th floor. I looked out and could not believe my eyes. It was something out of a keystone cop movie. There was a huge traffic jam. Some

*Continued on page 2*

***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

Mike Rucker—Reporter

Bill Smith—Assistant Editor

blowing their horns. Other people were on the streets punching each other out. I thought, "Where in the world have we moved to?" The next day we got a taxi and went looking for apartments. We were petrified. There were no traffic rules. People drove on the wrong side of the street, even going the wrong way on a divided street. They would be backing down a street and expect people driving towards them to move out of the way. They were all blowing their horns. Woe be the pedestrian. It was not long before we got into a huge wreck. I remember pulling glass out of my teeth and thinking "We have moved to hell."

After we got a new driver and new car, we found a very nice contemporary flat at the far end of the city. It was on the last street going up a mountain. It was in a very exclusive neighborhood, between the Shah's palace and his sister's home. It had a fantastic view.

It also had the Iranian "squat hole," with places on either side to place your feet. With no water trap, the mosquitos loved this, flying in and out at will.

One night, in the middle of the night, we heard a knock at our front door. I went to open it. When I did, I was confronted by a man in a uniform with a big gun. A worried feeling came over me. He asked if I had left my car door unlocked. I said, "I guess so." I was very relieved. He locked it and we went back to bed.

We assumed we were being

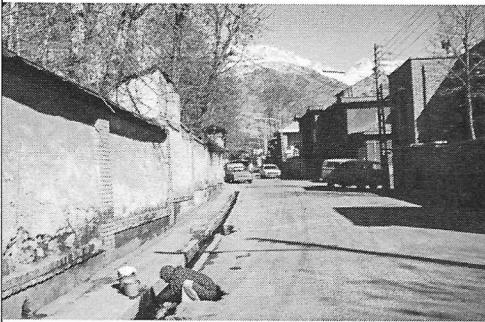
watched. One time our landlord's son came to visit us. He was whispering. We realized that it was because he either assumed, or knew, our apartment was being bugged. We were sure our phone was bugged.

Another time I was attending a business meeting with our Iranian customers. To my surprise, the wall opened up and a man came out with earphones on his head. He walked over to the window and shut it to keep out the traffic noise. Who would ever have thought there was a hidden door in that wall?

Tehran was a crazy place. Pizza delivery cars were disguised as emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens. The way people drove was insane. On a "freeway" we would be passed by cars going in the wrong direction, some backing up and some turned around and completely in the wrong direction. Bathrooms had the "squat hole" with a small plastic water pitcher next to it that you would use to put water in your left hand and wipe yourself. It's disgusting that they didn't even have soap and water to wash their soiled hand with — only a small pitcher of water! There was nothing to dry your hands.

There were streams of water coming off the mountain through the city that were called *jubes*. These were used as both drinking and household water for the poor. I remember seeing a little boy urinating into one and downstream someone else was brushing their teeth in it. Woman washing dishes in jube with snowy mountains in background.

Their construction was scary. They would build high-rises with steel beams and floors made of



bricks formed as arcs, like a keystone arch. Obviously, these were not very strong. In one building, a safe was placed on the top floor. It went through that floor, the next, and the next until it hit the ground.

We heard of one American engineer who actually went crazy at the way they constructed buildings.

We also heard about a builder who was constructing a large industrial complex. He bought wheelbarrows for the workers. The workers took the wheels off and carried the wheelbarrows with no wheels.

Muslims don't fear death. Whatever happens is Allah's will. Once I saw a construction man walking carelessly on a beam. He fell about four stories onto a pile of bricks. The other men laughed. They couldn't understand why we married for love



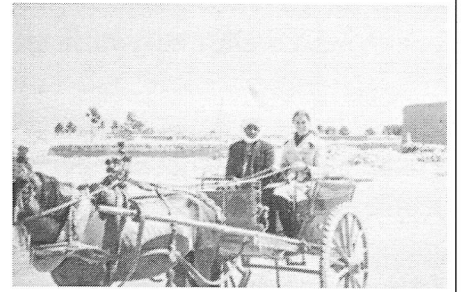
Camel passing Sharon's donkey cart

rather than having arranged marriages. We knew an American woman who was devastated when the Iranian boyfriend she was living with said he had to move out. When she asked why, he said that his parents had found him a wife, and he had to get married.

During the wedding ceremony the bride and groom would go to a back room and have sex. Then the groom would bring the sheet out of the bedroom with blood on it to show that his wife had been a virgin and he had broken her hymen. A very costly operation, some doctors would perform, was to sew women back up, so that it would look like they were still a virgin. I suspect a bottle of red wine was hidden nearby, just in case.

They hate Russia. One of my coworkers took a vacation trip to Russia. He came back with a Russian fur hat with a big red star on the front. He thought it would be funny if he wore it to a meeting with one of the Iranian admirals. The admiral didn't have much of a sense of humor. When he saw the hat, he gave my coworker and his family 24 hours to get out of the country.

One weekend Sharon and I decided we would spend the day picking up the trash in the lot next door. We got our tools and trash bags and went out on Saturday morning to do our cleanup project. We worked hard and picked up the bottles, cans, and



Sharon in a Donkey Cart

trash and put it out for our trash man to pick up. The next week, when the garbage man came, he threw it back in the lot next door.

We took a vacation to Herat, Afghanistan. This resembled a Biblical town with no motor vehicles and dirt roads crowded with camels and donkeys.

We befriended a local family and were invited to dinner. We had seen no women so far, but were told the patriarch had eight wives. We sat with the men on the floor of a large room around a huge pile of rice. A woman was serving us. Women were covered with burkas, so all we saw were their eyes. We had no utensils. You reached into the pile of rice with your right hand. When I used my left hand, the room fell silent. I got stares from all the men. Then one man, very diplomatically, got up, got a plate of rice, and put it on the floor, in front of me. This seemed to satisfy everyone, and we all enjoyed the rest of the meal. After dinner, Sharon got to meet the wives. They ranged in age from 15 to 50.

In Iran, when you reach the age

of 50, the government gives you a card, which allowed you to go to a government store and buy opium. In the evening the streets would be filled with smoke by people lighting coals for their opium pipes.

Toward the end of my contract, Sharon and I decided we were making so much money we would try to stay. Sharon had gotten a job teaching English to Bell helicopter pilots. Fortunately for us, I could not get an extension. Not long after we left, the Shah was overthrown, and Americans got trapped in the American embassy and imprisoned.

Postscript: An incredible thing happened forty-six years later. Sharon met an Iranian woman in Richmond. They discovered that she had grown up several doors down on the same street Sharon and I lived on in Tehran!

Price Wood's Rucker lineages are: William<sup>9</sup> Price Wood III (William<sup>8</sup> P., Jr., Studie<sup>7</sup> S. Rucker, William<sup>6</sup> A. William<sup>5</sup> B., George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup> and Wm. B.'s wife Mary<sup>6</sup> A. D. Rucker, Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). Price is a grandson of Studie Rucker Wood, author of *the Rucker Family Genealogy*.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Embry Cobb Rucker

*Continued from page 1*

Conducted his ministry, listening to the stories of anyone who cared to drop by. Over the years he heard about drugs and alcohol

problems, tormented marriages, financial crises, child care difficulties and all manner of personal grief and tragedy. These meetings led him to form the Common Ground Foundation, a non-profit organization that became the launching pad for such social services as the Common Ground Child Care Center, a Reston bus service, a visiting nurses' agency and two organizations created to help needy persons. He founded a shelter facility which is named the Embry Rucker Shelter for the Homeless, a 70-bed residential shelter that provides safe, emergency housing for individuals and families. He was called "Reston's first social service agency."

His early life was as equally adventurous as his later ministry. He was born in New York City and grew up in Philadelphia. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1936, with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. His nickname at VMI was "Tooty."

He began his career as an employee of Atlantic Steel Castings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1943, he relocated to Louisville, Kentucky, where he engaged in businesses, including starting the Rucker Corporation, a wood products company in 1950. He also taught industrial management at the University of Louisville.

In 1954, he read for Holy Orders to become an Episcopal bishop.

Then in 1963, he came to the Washington area as rector of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria where he remained until 1969, when he moved to Reston.

His retirement, in 1976, followed a series of heart attacks, but he remained a community activist. He never budged from his position that a church could operate better without bricks and mortar, but the congregation began renting space in a Baptist church and eventually decided to build a sanctuary of its own.

In 1977, he ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for the Virginia House of Delegates, and later became an outspoken advocate for affordable housing in Fairfax County. He also pressured the county Board of Supervisors to raise taxes to compensate for budget shortfalls that threatened some of the programs he championed.

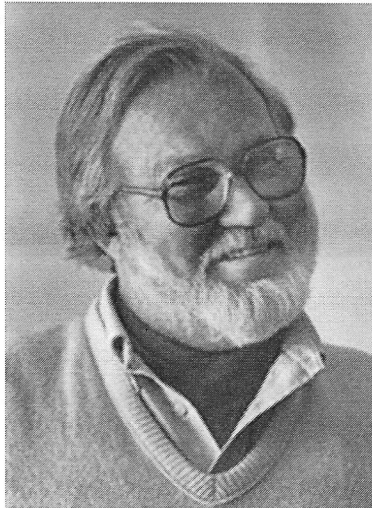
"I'm afraid of not being political,



Embry C. Rucker as a VMI cadet

He once said. "There is so much we can do." He received several awards, including the Reston Times "Man of the Year" award in 1970, the Reston Black Focus Community Service Award for Leadership in 1982, the Fairfax County Human Rights Award in 1986 and a citation of merit from the Federation of Civic Associations of Fairfax County.

He met Marianne "Nonny" von Bitter when a student at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia in 1937.



They married in Berlin, Germany in 1939. They had two sons: Embry Jr. in 1939. He is a renowned photographer who resides in Southern California. Rudolph "Rudy" von Bittner was born in 1946. Rudy is a science fiction author and was a computer science professor at San Jose State University, CA. There are five grandchildren. In 1978 he and Nonny were divorced, and he moved in with Pricilla Ames of Reston, who would remain his companion for the rest of his life.

He suffered a mild stroke in 1992. A more severe stroke in 1993 forced him to move to the Cameron Glen Care Center nursing home, where he died of a heart attack in 1994. He is buried in the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon, VA.

Lineage Rev. Embry<sup>9</sup> Cobb Rucker, Tinsley<sup>8</sup> White Rucker III, Tinsley<sup>7</sup> White Rucker, Jr., Tinsley<sup>6</sup> White Rucker, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Cornelius<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **George Mason University Dewberry School of Music by Michael "Mike" P. Rucker**

On September 13, 2020, George Mason University celebrated the remarkable "generosity" of the Dewberry family by the naming of the Reva and Sid Dewberry School of Music. The Dewberry's have gifted about \$5 million to George Mason University, and in recent years, \$3.2 million to the School of Music.

Sid Dewberry is the founder and former CEO of one of America's premier engineering and architectural companies.

He has stated, "My dream is to put [George Mason University] on the top of the heap. I think we're well on our way to doing that. I want the [George Mason] School of Music to be the best school in the United States and the world, not only for [future] teachers but also for performers."

As part of his dream to make

George Mason one of the worlds' premier music schools the Dewberrys decided to have a portion of their contributions make the university an "all Steinway" school. The university now has eighty Steinway pianos thanks to Sid and Reva's generosity. Their benevolence has also created a \$1.8 million music scholarship fund. .

The Dewberry family has a long-standing commitment to the university. Dewberry Hall, as well as the Sid and Reva Dewberry Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering have also been named in their honor.

Sid, now aged 94, began fulfilling a life-long goal to play the piano at age 75. His piano instructor is Linda Monson, the School of Music director, who has been a faculty member at the university since 1999. She stated, "The name Dewberry symbolizes excellence, extraordinary commitment, innovation and long-standing relationships. Our School of Music embraces those same qualities, especially with our goal of excellence in all areas and having a very tangible path to get there. To have our school be named after a benefactor who embodies all of these same qualities is such an honor.

Sid Dewberry was profiled in the March 1995 (Vol. 6, No.1) and the March 2012 (Vol 23, No. 1) of the *Rucker Family Society Newsletter*. Sid Dewberry's Rucker lineage is: Sidney<sup>9</sup> O.Dewberry, Mary<sup>8</sup> "Molly" B. Rucker, Ambrose<sup>7</sup>, Reuben<sup>6</sup> D., Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

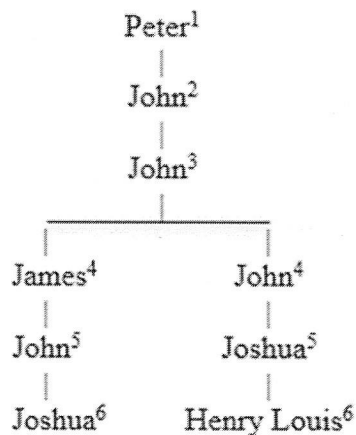
### Who was Judge William Rucker?

By Jean "Jeannie" W. Brydon

Joshua<sup>6</sup> Rucker (John<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) mentioned on page 20 of *Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy* is listed with son "William<sup>7</sup> Rucker, Judge of Cook Co., IL. His portrait is in the Court House of Chicago."

This Joshua Rucker was born 8 May 1811 and died in Caldwell Co., KY, September 2, 1846. His will mentions just two children, Nancy Jane and Adele. His widow, having remarried, is listed in the 1850 census with her new husband and the two Rucker daughters.

Joshua did not have a son so he could not have been the father of Judge William Rucker. Joshua had a first cousin once removed, also named Joshua<sup>5</sup> Rucker (John<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), who is mentioned in Wood, on page 32-33. He lived in Chicago, IL and this Joshua seems more logical to have had a son living in Chicago. However he had no son named William. He did have



a son who was a lawyer and judge in Chicago: Henry Louis Rucker. Bill Smith in RFS newsletter, Vol. 27, No. 2, Aug 2016, on page 12, wrote about this Henry Louis Rucker who was born 6 Dec 1809, in Kentucky, and died 10 Jan 1867 in Chicago, Illinois.

Was Henry<sup>6</sup> Louis possibly the Rucker Judge that Wood mentioned on page 20?

\*\*\*\*\*

### Query

**Javonnie Shearn** is trying to verify my connection to the Virginia Ruckers. Family history says my great grandmother was born a slave as the daughter of an enslaved woman and the plantation owner. Her name was Millie Rucker, born ca 1850. She would have been freed before adulthood. I can find census reports for her, but AFTER she was freed. My dilemma is confirming she is, in fact, the daughter of a Rucker. It is possible she was given that name after a sale to a Rucker and not related at all. My question therefore is: is there anyone who has done their DNA test on Ancestry who I can check the connection with? If so, please email me at [jaidshea@gmail.com](mailto:jaidshea@gmail.com) or call me at 971-235-1765, so we can exchange ancestry member ID's.

Millie Rucker was in the 1870 Lamar Co., TX census, age 21, born in Mississippi, with one child. She was in the 1880 Lamar Co., TX, census listed as

Millie Rucker, age 30, born in Alabama with six children. The difference in birth places leads to much confusion in research.

\*\*\*\*\*

### General Louis Henry Rucker

By Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

This article is excerpted from the *New York Times* Washington, December 22, 1897. **Relief for Klondike:** Major Rucker with Cavalry will Examine Route

"... General Merriam, commanding the Department of the Columbia, who has been assigned by Secretary [of War Russell A.] Alger with the military guard to be sent out with the relief expeditions, has telegraphed the secretary that he has selected Major L. H. Rucker, Fourth Cavalry, to proceed to Alaska and make a reconnaissance of the passes leading from the head of the Lynn canal. He reports that the officer has already started from Walla Walla, WA and by his experience as a quartermaster and a cavalryman is well fitted for the duty and is also physically able to endure the hard service ahead of him . . ."

Major Rucker's assignment was the response by the United States government to the Klondike Gold Rush during which an estimated 100,000 prospectors swarmed to the region between



Gen. Louis Henry Rucker (1842-1906)

1896 and 1899. Between 60 and 80% were U.S. citizens. Fewer than half actually reached the Klondike creeks where the gold was found. The rush began in August 1896 when local miners discovered gold. Major Rucker “. . . was “assigned to command and to take temporary station at Dyea [Alaska], where he is to establish a camp and supply depot.”

There had been reports of some starving and freezing to death. The task ahead for Major Rucker was to deliver 200,000 pounds of food. In addition, 600 reindeer were dispatched from Lapland for the relief effort . . . “and also tandem and single sleds.” There were 538 reindeer loaded in Seattle for transportation to the gold fields. Of these 521 were alive when offloaded. However, the supply of reindeer moss (a type of lichen) soon was depleted and the supply of native Alaskan lichen was insufficient. The deer began to weaken and die.

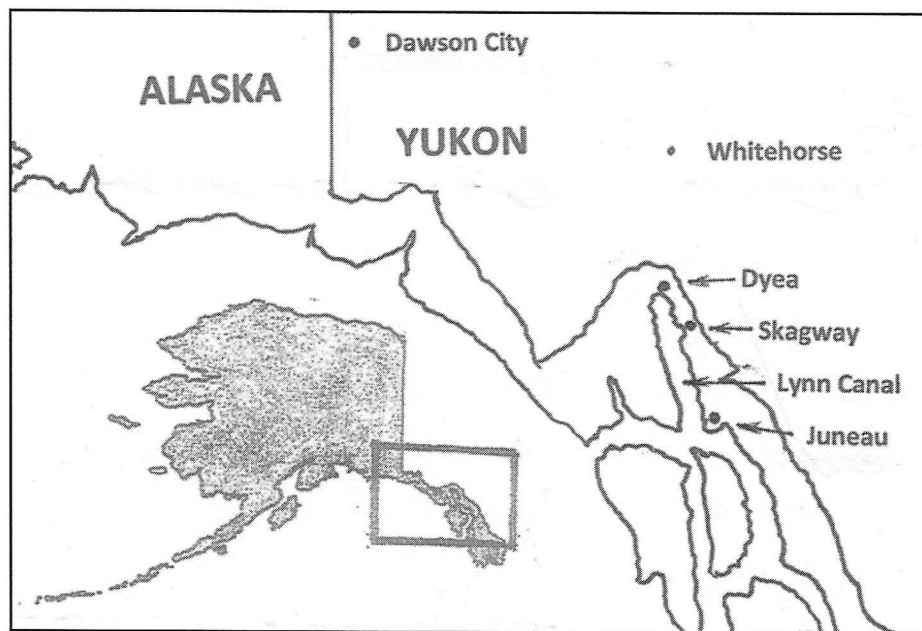
The U.S. Army authorities decided that the reindeer were not fit for the duty and did not take them.

There were two “jumping off places” for the prospective miners to enter the Yukon and begin their search for gold: the small towns of Dyea and Skagway, both located at the head of the natural Lynn Canal at the end of the Inside Passage. From there, they had to travel over the mountain ranges into Canada's Yukon Territory, and then down the river network to the Klondike. From Dyea they took the White Pass and from Skagway the Chilkoot Trail across the narrow band of U. S. territory to enter Canada. Each miner was required by the Canadian authorities to bring a year's supply of food. The necessary food and provisions weighed nearly a ton for each man and had to be carried on their backs in multiple trips up the steep trails. Upon

establishing the Dyea supply depot Rucker reported that the incidence of starvation and death by freezing was less severe than anticipated, but still it was a significant undertaking.”

This was but one of the many military adventures of Louis Henry Rucker. He was born in Illinois 23 January 1841 and joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry of the U.S. Army as a private August 18, 1861 in Chicago. He was promoted to second lieutenant November 26, 1864 and to first lieutenant February 7, 1867 “for gallant and meritorious service during the war.” On December 8, 1868 he was promoted by brevet to captain and assigned to the quartermaster corps August 25, 1872.

With his promotion to major in 1897 he was assigned to the rescue duty in Alaska. He continued his rapid promotions and was a cavalry major in Cuba at the beginning of the Spanish-American



War in April 1898. In 1901, he was assigned to the occupation of Manila (Inspector General's Department) as lieutenant colonel and soon promoted to colonel. He was confirmed by the Senate as Brigadier General November 23, 1903 and retired the following day, having served with distinction in all his many assignments during 42 years of service. Louis Henry Rucker died July 9, 1906 in San Francisco, CA and was buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery. Rucker was married twice, first to Gertrude Briggs and second, to Cinderella Rosette (1847-1925). He had at least two children, John R. Rucker (1874-1952) and Shelby L. Rucker (1881-1938). Louis H. Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Louis<sup>7</sup> Henry, Henry<sup>6</sup> L., Joshua<sup>5</sup> P., John<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

## In Memoriam

**Elizabeth Lee Rucker Sites**, known to her friends and family as "Lee," passed peacefully on December 1, 2020, at the age of 94. Lee was born in 1926, in Lynchburg, Virginia, the daughter of Samuel Burks Rucker and Katherine Brown Williams. Lee met her future husband, Joseph Lee Sites (1929-2015), thanks to a blind date. Joe was from near-by Gladstone, Virginia and a recent West Point graduate. Following their marriage in 1953, Lee and Joe began a life of travel



L to R: Katherine Louise Eubank, Lee's great-grandmother who married Parks McDaniel Rucker; Katherine Brown Rucker, Lee's mother who married Samuel Burks Rucker; infant Elizabeth Lee Rucker; Annie Byrd Rucker, Lee's grandmother; in chair, Rebecca Williams, Lee's great-great-grandmother, married J.N. Eubank

and adventure across the United States and around the world. Between Joe's military career and their love of travel, they visited every state in the U.S. and 54 countries, which included living for years in Italy and Germany. Later, they called Fairfax, Virginia home, and thanks to Joe's service in the Army's Diplomatic Corps, they attended many embassy parties. Wherever they lived, Lee always loved entertaining and sharing the spirit of Virginia hospitality. Following the passing of Joe in 2015, Lee continued to enjoy local adventures, visiting numerous Virginia vineyards with their son Joey.

Lee is survived by her son Joseph Lee Sites (b. 1958), Junior, known as "Joey" and her grandson Samuel Kettlewell-Sites. This obituary was originally published in *The Washington Post* on December 16, 2020.

Lee Sites's Rucker lineages are: Elizabeth<sup>10</sup> Lee Rucker, Katherine<sup>9</sup> Brown, Annie<sup>8</sup> Byrd, Parks<sup>7</sup> McDaniel, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>5</sup> Ballenger, George<sup>4</sup>. John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Lee<sup>9</sup> Rucker, Samuel Burks<sup>8</sup>, Jr., Samuel<sup>7</sup> Burks, William<sup>6</sup> Garland, Garland<sup>5</sup>, Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \*

**Mary Ruth Bennett Rucker**, 86, of Cornelius, NC passed away on December 21, 2017. Mary was born December 25, 1930 in Ada, OK to Robert H. Bennett and Lorenza Hammonds Bennett. Mary was married for 68 years, Dana Henry Rucker, III (1926-2018). Mary and her husband were parents of three children, Robert D. (m. Debbie), Joseph B. (m. Judy) and Donna (m. Chris Holcombe) and grandparents of nine (Kathy Grey, Joy Rucker, Dana, Jr. (Rebecca) Rucker, Joseph, Jr. (Jenny) Rucker, Summy Rucker, Aaron Rucker, Michelle Holcombe, Jessica Holcombe, Brooke Holcombe) and one great-granddaughter, Lauren Rucker. Mary Ruth served as President of the South Piedmont Chapter Auxiliary of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina, and was a charter member of Lake Norman Baptist Church, where she served in many capacities. She also was the office manager for Dana H. Rucker & Associates for many years. Mary Ruth was currently a member of the Neighborhood Church, Huntersville, NC.

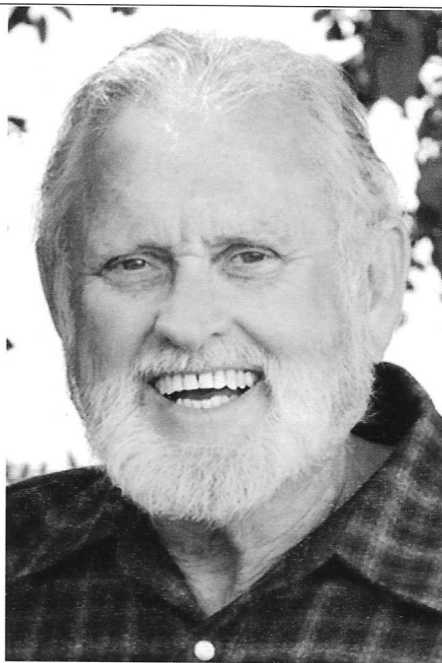


Mary's husband, Dana<sup>9</sup> H. Rucker's lineages are: Dana<sup>9</sup> H. Rucker III, Dana<sup>8</sup> H. II, Dana<sup>7</sup> H., William<sup>6</sup> A., William<sup>5</sup> B. [m. Mary Ann<sup>6</sup> Dawson, Ambrose<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>], George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \*

**Loren Delmar Rucker.** Until age 8, Loren was an only child. He was born in San Fernando June 20, 1947. His mother Lorraine read to him, and taught him about Greek Mythology, archaeology, how to sing, and play the piano. He was a little Lord Fauntleroy. His parents moved frequently, so Loren attended a different school every year, and one year, it was three schools. He got along with that well because he was very intelligent and could survive. In high school he sang tenor in men's glee club, and played football. He met the love of his life, Alice while she and girlfriend Gay were watching the guys lift weights in Gay's garage. They dated two and a half years in high school, but each went on to marry others. After divorces, Loren and Alice met up again in 1977 and have been together ever since. They brought up their three children together as one family and lived in Sylmar in the home purchased in 1978.

Loren's father Harold was in the tile business so Loren worked with him for a time. After more official training with the tile union, he began his professional life in the tile business and took on a life-long partner Frank Dupuis and the pair became *Rucker Tile*. Throughout the southland, they were well-known and widely respected leaders in the commercial ceramic tile contracting business for 35 years. They tiled many churches, colleges, hospitals, stores, amusement parks, and although later redesigned, was the fa-



mous and most photographed place in LA, the fountain at Universal Studios. Depending on the project, Rucker Tile averaged 35-80 employees, and won various prestigious tile awards. Loren was president of the Association of Tile Contractors and served on many committees. He had interest in the tile apprenticeship program and often sponsored participants. In later years after retiring, he became a ceramic tile consultant. He admired and knew everything about early California tile and had a small collection of artistic pieces.

Loren was a special husband, father and grandfather (Bapa!). He was wise, caring, protective, and loved to have a good time. He made sure growing up was special for the kids and their friends. They attended private schools and all the kids and grandkids loved body surfing, fishing, hunting, camping, or a new pet or some other animal that he adopted. The kids and grandkids always wanted to be around Bapa.

Anyone who knew Loren knew of his deep passion for fishing and hunting. He fished both ocean and fresh water fish. Having lived in La

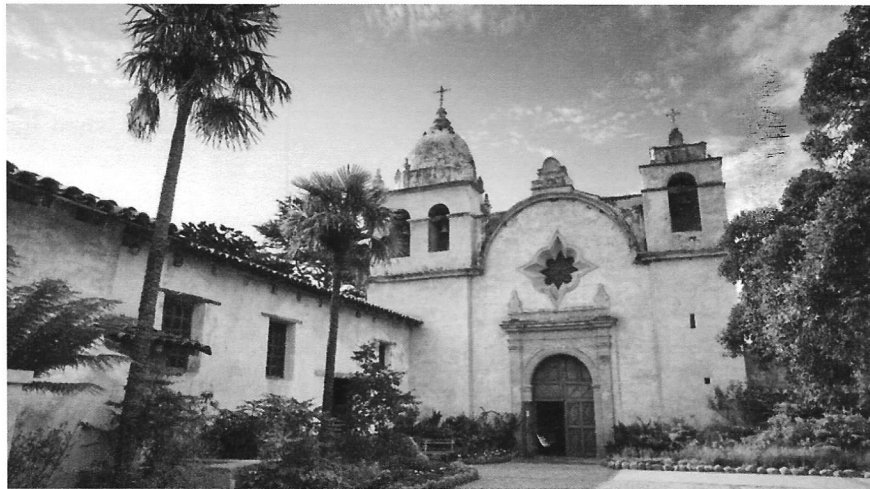
Paz, Baja for some time when he was 15 he learned to speak Spanish. His friends called him "Lorenzo" and when he moved back to California his nickname became Lonzo. He often returned to Baja to fish for marlin, sailfish, dorado, etc., and shared that love with many friends and family.

Thoreau's *On Man and Nature* was his favorite book. For music, Loren loved Rock 'n Roll, jazz, baroque, Beatles, and Bob Dylan (to name a few). He could recall complete lyrics of songs, and always had something playing when he drove his great big beloved 4-wheel drive trucks. Loren and Alice did a lot of traveling and went to places such as Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Mexico (especially Yucatan), Ireland, Scotland, and England. He was interested in his Rucker heritage, so they also visited many ancestral places in the USA.

Given a choice, Loren said he would have loved to have become an archaeologist, or run a fishing-hunting lodge in Montana. Over the years he always said that when it comes time for him to return to God, he hoped it would be the result of fishing on a beautiful mountain stream and he'd be pulled under by a great big fish. Sadly, it was COVID pneumonia that was the cause of his death January 22, 2021.

Loren is predeceased by son Daniel and survived by wife of 42 years, Alice (Geist) Rucker, son Martti Mallinen, daughter Liisa (Mat) Duncan, grandchildren Tait, Jagger, and Ella Duncan, sister Kathy (Cecil) Bollinger and nephews Jason and Christopher. Loren will remain in all our hearts forever.

Loren's Rucker lineage is: Loren<sup>9</sup> Delmar Rucker, Harold<sup>8</sup>, Thomas<sup>7</sup> Loren, Richard<sup>6</sup> Morton, Julius<sup>5</sup>, Abner<sup>4</sup>, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.



**Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo**

The beautiful Carmel Mission is one of the many historic venues 2022 reunion participants could visit. The next reunion, planned for Fall 2022, is scheduled to be held in Monterey, so be prepared to enjoy the justifiably famous coastal beauty and amazing dining with your California Rucker Cousins. Planning is underway, so watch for more details to follow. The Reunion Committee asks that you complete an online questionnaire contained in this issue of the newsletter or complete the paper version of the same questionnaire and mail it to Carol Gavette, whose home address it on the reverse of the paper questionnaire. If you would rather complete an online version, copy and paste the following URL (link) . . . <https://forms.gle/wLRxFdAxSLNTgd6D6>

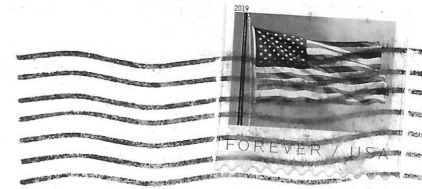
# The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



Rucker

Jeannie Brydon  
 1500 Westbrook Court #3111  
 Richmond, VA 23227

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



First Class Mail

627 2021  
 Dr. Christopher D. Rucker  
 329 Farm Lake Road  
 Boiling Springs, SC 29316 6403

2931698403 R026

