

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, No. 1, June 2022

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First Families of Ohio

Photo of Jason Blake and Catharine Rucker
Circa 1860s, contributed by Kathryn Mauz



The Story of Columbus Rucker

A Slave from Mississippi
By Corey Campbell



Photo of Columbus Rucker from
Trees.Ancestry.com
(2015).

Lineage of Columbus Rucker: Henry⁵ Tate Rucker, James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹.

The following is family legend: Henry Tate Rucker and his cousin's slave Betsy Charlotte sired a child, Columbus Rucker, born 1837. Betsy Charlotte was married to another slave by the name of Josh

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First Families of Ohio

By Kathryn Mauz

Ruckers eligible to be Members

In May 2019, based upon documentation of descent to myself, a 5x great-granddaughter of Lemuel³ Rucker (James², Peter¹), his wife Anna⁴ Booton (Tomagen³ Rucker, Ephraim², Peter¹), their son John⁴ Jackson Rucker and his wife Sarah Graham, and their daughter Catherine⁵ (m. Jason Blake) became accepted ancestors in The First Families of Ohio Society (FFO).

The FFO is a program of the Ohio Genealogical Society that recognizes individuals living in the State of Ohio in or before 1820.

A cousin, Robert⁴ Rucker (Elzaphan³, James², Peter¹), of Gallia County, Ohio, is the only Rucker previously recognized in

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*The Rucker Family Society
Newsletter*

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Columbus Rucker
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who was the driver, ordained Methodist minister and/or overseer on the plantation. Rucker’s home was known as Hurricane Plantation and was located in Cannonsburg, MS (10 miles east of Natchez). Later Columbus was sold to his father, Henry Tate and was separated from his family and older brother, Reason Rucker, son of Betsy and Josh.

After the Civil War, Josh Rucker, Sr. moved his entire family from the Rucker Plantation in Natchez to Fayette, MS, where he purchased and farmed land.

Columbus Rucker left the Rucker plantation in Tippah Co. MS and moved to Holly Springs, Marshall MS, where he purchased land and farmed. Columbus was married or lived with four wives (three at the same time and in the same house). It is said that he fathered forty-five children.

Corey Campbell who submitted the above information was the great great-granddaughter of Lizzie McKinnon, the daughter of Columbus Rucker and Alice Porter,

Slaves were not listed in census records by name until 1870 after they were freed. Columbus and Alice were listed in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 Marshall Co., MS, Holly Springs census. Two other women were listed with him as well as 16 children (plus 8 having died earlier). This is not 45 children, but who knows where the rest of them lived and if they were listed?

* * * * *

First Families of Ohio

Continued from page 1

the FFO¹. In addition to Lemuel³ and John⁴ J., four related Ruckers were enumerated as resident in 1820 in adjoining Seneca and Union Townships, Monroe County, Ohio: Lemuel³’s brothers Ephraim³ and Ambrose³;



FFO Metal given to Members

¹ #7324; Wood, p.267.

two sons of Lemuel³: Paschal⁴ and Ephraim⁴. At least one other son of Lemuel³, Edward⁴ is said to have gone to Ohio, in 1815². Ambrose³ (James², Peter¹) is said to have gone to Ohio in 1800³ prior to Ohio's statehood (in 1803). These Rucker families controlled large tracts of land, especially in the area of Wills Creek in Seneca Township, and many early land records are available⁴. Each of these Rucker patriarchs left numerous descendants in Ohio and elsewhere through the migrations of the 19th century, and they can document their lineages to be recognized among Ohio's First Families.

Daniel Blake and his family immigrated to Ohio about 1816 from Maine, and in 1820 were living in Union Township, Monroe County (but in a part of this township that became Stock Township, Noble County, in 1851). Five of Daniel Blake's twelve children inter-married with the Ruckers.

Note from Jeannie: There were at least eight inter-

² Wood, p.266.

³ Wood, p.268; see also Fedorchak, p.104.

⁴ <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>

marriages of Blakes and descendants of Lemuel³ Rucker (James², Peter¹).

Daniel Blake, who is mentioned in the *History of Noble County* (p.446), has been accepted as an ancestor in the FFO.

Note: Daniel Blake is demonstrably not the Daniel Blake of Wrentham, Mass., with whom he has been confused in print and in online family trees (for example, see Fedorchak, p.103, where his children are correctly listed but his ancestry is not).

Part II - FFI

Many of these same family members are eligible for membership in First Families of Iowa (FFI).

Jason Blake (Daniel) and Catherine⁵ Rucker were married on 6 May 1840. They settled on land Jason had purchased in 1836 (at age 15) along Wills Creek, less than a mile from Catherine's father's homestead. They had four children there, then in March 1852 left for the Buckeye Valley in Benton County, Iowa, near the future town site of Belle Plaine. In 2018, based upon document-

tation proving descent to my father, one of his great-great grandsons, Jason Blake was added to the roster of Pioneers recognized by the Iowa State Genealogical Society (pioneer 6944).

Catherine⁵ and their four children were, by association, also "pioneers," as they emigrated and settled at the same time, arriving from Ohio in April 1852⁵.

Catherine's cousins, the brothers William⁵ "Billy" and Elliot⁵ Rucker (Paschal⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹), arrived about the same time⁶.

Catherine's brother James⁵ (John⁴ J., Lemuel³, James², Peter¹) was also an early emigrant to Iowa, by 1860, when he was enumerated as a neighbor of Jason and Catherine Blake. Catherine's mother, Sarah (Graham) Rucker Gray⁷, later moved from Ohio to Iowa to live with son James⁵.

⁵ Jason Blake's obituary was in *Belle Plaine Every Other Daily Union*, 3 Jan 1899, p.4.

⁶ Early History of Belle Plaine, part 1, by E. E. Blake, in *Belle Plaine Union*, 4 Aug 1906, p.7.

⁷ Sarah Gray's obituary was in *Belle Plaine Independent*, 15 Aug 1883, p.3.

As of October 2019, of the more than 7000 individuals recognized in the ISGS certificate program⁸ there were no individuals with the surname Rucker, despite that there are Ruckers (including those mentioned above) who would be eligible for Pioneer (settled in Iowa before 1856) or Century (settled in Iowa at least 100 years ago) status.

Finally, in a previous Rucker newsletter (*RFSN* Vol. 12, No. 3, 2001: p.30), a photo was included on the back page showing a photo of Jason Blake and Catherine Rucker Blake "about 1880," along with some notes about their family. The caption indicated that this might be the only surviving photo of the couple. It so happens that our own family archives include a print of that photo, and we have two others, as well. One is a sepia-toned print mounted on a card (about 2.5"×4"), showing Catherine in a hoop skirt, with her hair in ringlets; it was taken at the same sitting as a photo of their eldest son, Ephraim Edward, and his young

wife, who were married in 1867.



Jason Blake and Catharine Rucker
ca 1860s, contributed by
Kathryn Mauz from a private
family collection

The other, a well-preserved tintype (about 2.5"×3.25") in a foil frame (and pictured on p.1), may also be earlier to judge by Catherine's styles of dress and hair; the style of this frame is also consistent with the 1860s. All three photos came down to us (in a shoebox) through Ephraim Blake, then his youngest daughter, Libbie (Blake) Ball, and her youngest daughter, Rene (Ball) Mauz, who died in Colorado in 2000.

Lineage: Kathryn¹⁰ Mauz, Weston⁹ Mauz, George-rene⁸ Ball, Libbie⁷ Blake,

Ephraim⁶ Blake, Catherine⁵ Rucker, John⁴ J., Lemuel³, James², Peter¹ and Lemuel³'s wife Anna⁴ Booton, Tomagen³ Rucker, Ephraim², Peter¹.

Sources cited:

Baldwin, T. W., *Vital Records of Wrentham, Massachusetts, to the year 1850: Vol. I—Births & Vol. II—Marriages and Deaths*, Boston: Stanhope Press, 1910.

Belle Plaine Every Other Daily Union, 3 Jan 1899.

Belle Plaine Independent, 15 Aug 1883.

Blake, E. E., "Early History of Belle Plaine, part 1," in *Belle Plaine Union*, 4 Aug 1906.

Fedorchak, C. F., *Monroe County, Ohio, Genealogical Records*, Vol. V. Privately published, 1967.

Watkins, C. H., *History of Noble County, Ohio*, Chicago, IL, 1887.

Wood, Sudie Rucker, *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, with their ancestors, descendants and connections, Richmond, VA, Old Dominion Press, 1932.

⁸ See http://iowa.genealogy.org/?page_id=5988.

2022 Rucker Family Society Reunion "Once Upon a Time"

Once upon a time 5000 years ago in a land far away, there were two cousins. They were cousins because they shared a grandfather and the DNA in their blood was very close. These two cousins lived on opposite sides of a great wide river. They wanted to play with each other, but they couldn't because the river was wide and dangerous. As with all humans, the cousins soon grew up. They both had sons, then grandsons and then great-grandsons. Each generation became a little farther away from the previous as they migrated and traveled away because their DNA changed. Despite these changes in the DNA, the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th generations of cousins were linked forever. As a matter of fact, all the descendants of the first two cousins were linked forever because of the miracle of DNA. In Monterey, we will trace back in time to these two cousins through the matching of their DNA.

We hope to see you in Monterey to share this story with you - *Paul Mize*



Explore the westward migration of Ruckers and Share fun times with your Rucker Cousins!

WHEN: October 13-16, 2022

WHERE: Monterey on the beautiful California Coast

Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey, CA

Hotel Reservations:

www.myevent.hilton.com/ruckerfamilysocietyhiltongardeninmonterey/

As part of our Rucker westward migration project, please send us a story about your Rucker family's migration westward. Be sure to include any pictures you may have!

Please bring your items for the Auction
and any items you'd like to share in our Rucker History Display

For additional information contact:

Carol Gavette

carolgavette@sbcglobal.net

2022 Rucker Family Society Reunion

MAIN EVENTS:

Thursday, Oct. 13 Registration available all day

Downtown Carmel and 17 Mile Drive

Reception and Welcome remarks

Smore's by the fire

Friday, Oct. 14 Tours

Presentation on California Migration

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Time Travel - Rucker Presentation

Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 15 Tours

Steinbeck Museum

Carmel Mission

Dinner

Presentation on Rucker Migration to California

Rucker Auction!

Sunday, Oct. 16

"Til We Meet Again" Brunch

Optional Event (to be determined)

Sudie Rucker Wood's wedding

From Lillian "Lil" Lee
Wood's Memoirs
Edited by Jean Brydon

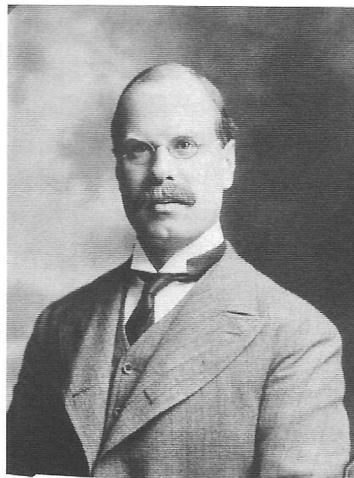


Sudie S. Rucker, in her
wedding suit

Sudie Rucker, age 29 and William P. Wood, age 35 "were married July 3, 1901 at Sudie's home, 'Ridgeville' in Fauquier County, Virginia. Ridgeville had been built in 1801 with thick walls and high ceilings, but it wasn't enough to keep the July heat out. It was an early wedding as the only train that left the Delaplane station was at 9 o'clock in the morning. The wedding took place at 7:30 a. m. Sudie wore a broadcloth suit, and broadcloth was heavy. Sudie had never had many clothes, being born seven years after the end

of the Civil War and everyone was impoverished. Being the sixth of nine children, she usually wore hand-me-downs. In getting a wedding suit, she thought about the winter ahead. On the train to Washington D. C., it was so hot, that she took off her jacket. When they arrived, William took her shopping and bought her new clothes including a bathing suit with long black stockings and a mushroom hat. When ladies swam, every part of the skin was covered.

William and Sudie took the next train to Atlantic City where she could try out her new clothes. Later, they went Niagara Falls, the popular place for honeymoons during that period. They next went to the Thousand Islands before returning home.



William Price Wood
They went on to have six children including a set of twins (see Wood, p.55):

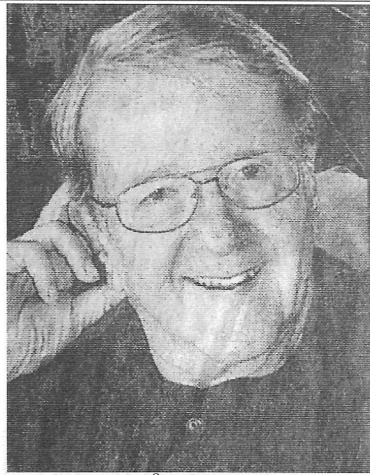
1. Sudie Elizabeth Wood
2. William Price Wood, Jr.
3. Lillian Lee Wood
4. Jean Whittet Wood
5. Garland Ambrose Wood
6. Thomas Ward Wood, twin, died at six months of age.

Lineage: Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and Wm. B.'s wife Mary⁶ A. D. Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

In Memoriam

Dr. Charles⁹ Monroe Rucker

Charles "Charlie" Monroe Rucker, age 87, of Phoenix, Arizona, passed away on November 25, 2021. Charlie was born on October 2, 1934, in Flagstaff, the first-born child of the late Kathryn Frances Rucker (née Keller) and the late George Kent Rucker. Charlie, the husband of Alexandria Rucker (née Burke); father to children Michael (Karen), Kathryn



Dr. Charles⁹ Monroe Rucker
Copy from newspaper

Worthington (Thomas), and Creed (Michelle); grandfather of Gabriela and Alexander Rucker, Chase and William Worthington, and Grady, Norah and Fiona Rucker; and brother of the late Retta Lou Nagel (and late husband Russell).

Charlie spent his childhood in Flagstaff. He received his undergraduate education at the University of Arizona where he graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He then attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he earned his Doctorate in Medicine in 1960. His medical training subsequently included internship at the University of Chicago (1960-1961), residency in General Surgery at St.

Luke's Hospital, New York City (1961-1965), and fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York City (1967-1969).

Between his residency and fellowship, Charlie served in the U. S. Army as general surgeon at the Army Hospital in Tehran, Iran (1965-1967). This is where he met his wife Alexandra, who was living in Tehran while her father served as consul general in the U. S. State Department. They returned to Phoenix where they enjoyed 55 years of marriage and raised three children. Charlie worked in private practice as a cardio-thoracic surgeon for over 30 years. He served as Chief of the Department of Surgery, Chairman of the Cardio-vascular Surgery Section.

Charlie was proud of his Arizona heritage and cherished the outdoors and natural beauty of his home state. His life was driven by love of family and immense Episcopal faith. His funeral was held at St. Barnabas on the Desert Episcopal Church, Paradise Valley, Arizona.

Obituary from *The Arizona Republic*, Dec. 8, 2021. Submitted by

Martha Brodersen of Phoenix, Arizona.

Lineage of Charles⁹ Monroe Rucker: George⁸ Kent Rucker, Creedon⁷ Monroe, James⁶, Jesse⁵ Jasney, James⁴, Mordecai³, William², Peter¹.

Leslie Anne Rucker

Leslie Anne (Gruver) Rucker passed away peacefully at her home in Glen Allen, Virginia, on May 11, 2022, after a righteous battle with cancer. She is reunited with her best friend and love of her life, Pierce Rucker, who passed away on February 13, 2021 (see his obituary in Vol. 32, No. 2, RFSN).

Leslie was the eldest daughter of Lois Marie Perdue Gruver and Howell "Hal" Lester Gruver, and



Leslie Anne (Gruver) Rucker

was born on their first wedding anniversary, August 21, 1955, in Waynesboro, Virginia. Becky appeared 14 months later. Susan was Hal's last shot at a son; alas, he ended up with three tomboys. Hal passed on a modicum of his athletic skills to his daughters, but none of his mathematics acumen. Lois passed on her common sense, love of reading and cooking, great cheekbones and legs. Leslie possessed a natural athleticism (aside from a broken nose from a bad softball bounce). We're still not sure where Becky's blue eyes came from.

Leslie is survived by her sisters, Rebecca Marie Gruver Rainey (Dave), Susan Gruver Macan (Bob); her aunt, Pat Perdue Terry (Sherman); her brother-in-law, Douglas P. Rucker Jr.; sister-in-law, Marian Rucker; niece, Meredith Louise Rucker (son, Miles Hunter).

Leslie attended VCU and the University of Richmond, and worked as a medical malpractice paralegal at Sands Anderson (where she first

encountered Pierce) in Richmond from 1978 until her retirement in 2017. Leslie was a fantastic chef; she and Pierce hosted fabulous Christmas Eve parties for decades. The menu always included crab dip (family secret), beef tenderloin (which disappeared quickly) and Pierce's infamous and smooth eggnog (responsible for many aching heads).

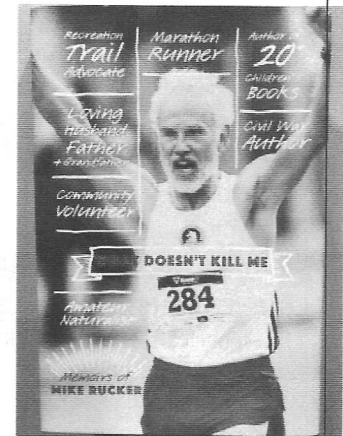
Leslie's other great loves included visiting the Outer Banks with her family, reading, music (Adele, Led Zeppelin, U2, Eric Clapton), hummingbirds, watching Jeopardy, playing Scrabble, spending wedding anniversaries at the Inn at Little Washington.

Interment will be held in Hollywood Cemetery at a future date.

Published by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on May 15, 2022.

Lineage of Leslie's husband, M.⁹ Pierce Rucker, Dr. Douglas⁸ Pendleton, Dr. Marvin⁷ Pierce, Edwin⁶ Timothy, Benjamin⁵ Jennings, Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

New book by and about Mike Rucker



What Doesn't Kill Me – The Memoirs of Michael Price Rucker

Mike Rucker has a new book – his personal *Memoirs*. He advises that he has a sufficient number of copies to provide one at no cost to any family member or friend who would like one.

Mike states: “It is primarily about my own experiences, but also about family members and others. It is written in short segments each of which is intended to be humorous, ironic - or at least entertaining.

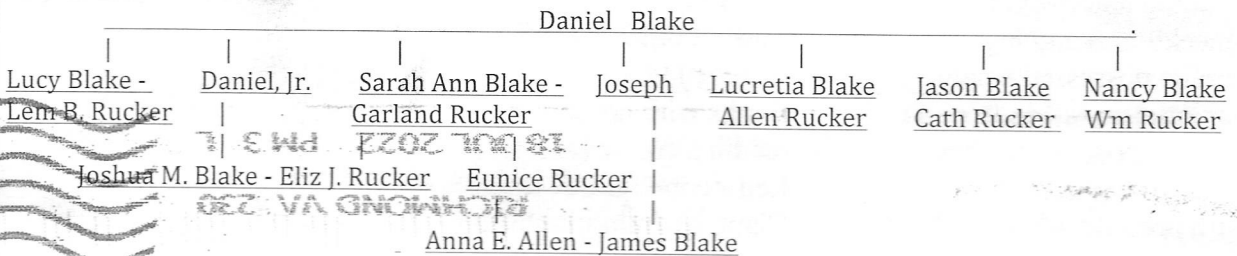
Those who would like a copy (gratis), e-mail Mike at: mikruc@aol.com and provide your mailing address.

Blake/Rucker Intermarriages

See Ruckers of Ohio, p.1, 2-4

By Jean "Jeannie" Brydon

- Lucretia Blake (Daniel Sr), m. Allen⁵ Rucker (Paschal⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹)
- Jason Blake (Daniel Sr), m. Catharine⁵ Rucker (John⁴ Jackson, Lemuel³)
- Lucy Blake (Daniel Sr), m. Lemuel⁴ B. Rucker (Lemuel³)
- Sarah Blake (Daniel Sr), m. Garland⁴ Rucker (Lemuel³)
- Nancy Blake (Daniel Sr), m. William⁵ Rucker (Paschal⁴, Lemuel³)
- Joshua Blake (Daniel Jr), m. Elizabeth⁵ Rucker (Garland⁴, Lemuel³)
- James Blake (Joseph, Daniel Sr), m. Anna⁵ Eliza Allen (Eunice⁴ Rucker, Garland⁴, Lemuel³)
- Joshua Morgan Blake (Daniel Jr.) m. Elizabeth⁵ Jane Rucker (Garland⁴, Lemuel³)



First Class Mail



2022

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