

# the Rucker Family Society

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, No. 2, September 2022

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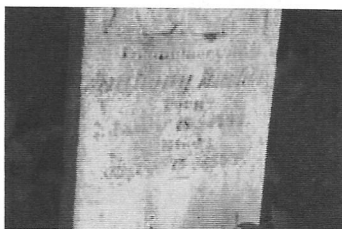
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**Tombstone of Anthony Rucker, father of Moses Peter Rucker  
Born - Jan'yry 18, 1793  
Died - July 15, 1858**

Anthony and his wife were buried in the at the family cemetery on their farm in Moneta, Bedford Co., VA.

### Memoirs of Moses<sup>6</sup> Peter Rucker

Written 1908

**Lineage:** Anthony<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Ambrose<sup>4</sup> Jr., Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. See Wood, p.103.

Moses Peter Rucker, of Bedford Co., VA, known as "Peter," told his memoirs and Civil War experiences to his daughter-in-law, Eliza Cauthorn Rucker, wife of J. A. Rucker. They were later typed into twenty pages, and previously recorded in the Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 22, no. 3, Edited by Mike Rucker. They are important enough to print again, this time edited by Jeannie Brydon.

### Growing up

My father [Anthony Rucker] was in the War of 1812, and we supposed he must have been born  
Continued on page 12

### William Waller Rucker Lawyer, Judge, Congressman



Caption:

*Congressman Rucker of Missouri who calls Mr. Blanton the Texas Democrat the "Republican Floor Leader"*

### Our Great Men in Washington

By Michael "Mike" P. Rucker

I found this political cartoon, titled "Our Great Men in Washington," in the archives of the Library of Congress while doing some research. It concerns William Waller Rucker, second of the four sons of Dr. William Parks Rucker.

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*The Rucker Family Society  
Newsletter*

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Derek Rucker – Member at Large  
Mike Rucker – Reporter

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about 1793<sup>1</sup>. He was the son of Captain Ambrose Rucker [Jr.] of Amherst County and was born there. He sprang from one of the first families of Amherst County and so ranked among the first of Bedford [County]. Captain Ambrose Rucker was said to be one the finest judges of land in the country. As evidenced of that fact, he purchased the land on which Almo Mead lived and died, and afterward purchased the land now called the Ben McGhee farm.

My mother was Margaret [Mackinsey] Hardy. She belonged to the Methodist Church. She was inclined to the Presbyterian Church but there were none near us. She was reared very strictly to observe the Sabbath. Her father didn't think it right to ride to church on horses that had worked all week [so they attended the nearest church].

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<sup>1</sup> Anthony Rucker was born 18 January 1793 and died 15 July 1858 (Find A Grave). He and his wife were buried on the family farm at Moneta, Bedford Co., VA. See photo at bottom left on page 11.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 1837, I was born<sup>2</sup>. My nurse was a genial, well-disposed colored boy named Hanibal [sic] and it was his delight to please me. He lived to be grown and died. He was very dear to me and I grieved over his death.

In 1842, I started school as company for my sister, Mack<sup>3</sup>, who had no one to go with her. The schoolhouse was a log-bodied house and the cracks were daubed with mud. Chestnut trees split open with legs put to them were our benches. More attention was paid to writing then than now. At that time it was thought to be a great accomplishment to write well. We had one log cut out of the house on one side to give us light and certain hours to write. This window had neither glass nor sash in it; but a plank fastened with leather hinges on the outside, which we could raise and give light while writing, much to our discomfort in cold weather.

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<sup>2</sup> Moses Peter Rucker was the youngest of ten children.

<sup>3</sup> Sister, Damaris “Mack” Ann Rucker was two years older than Peter.

My teacher's name was Hasten Amix, and he was a tyrant. He treated me as though he thought it absolutely necessary to use the switch every day. Through the years, I had other teachers and when I was large enough to make a good hand in the field, my father put me to work. He was fond of seeing work go on; consequently I was often stopped to do errands. I think my father thought that it was no small part of one's education to learn to work. I believed it was his idea to send me to a good classical school but his health began to decline. At this point one of his overseers died, April 1856, and, as there was no chance to get another at that season of the year, he told me he would have to send me to take his place. Oh! How I hated to do this but I was too proud to let him know my objections. I was a stout lad then, nineteen years old and full of energy. I made a fine crop that year of which I was very proud.

During this year I met her of whom I will say more hereafter. I did not cultivate her acquaintance, but thought she was a proud

little girl. I managed for my father till his death, which occurred July 1858. It was a sad blow for me to lose one of the best of fathers. The last thing he said to me was "Peter, take care of your Mother." This I tried to do until her death in the spring of 1871<sup>4</sup>.

Going back to 1858, I was again thrown in company with that little girl. She had grown very much, and was not as proud as I had thought. We formed a lasting friendship of which I will speak again. If I mistake not, this was the year in which I was converted. I have not a shadow of doubt in regard to my conversion. I have never seen the day that I did not want to be a Christian since I was eight years old. My mother would take me to church with her, and after preaching they would hold class meetings, which were the best meetings I ever attended.

...

During this fall, I joined a splendid Volunteer Company of Cavalry, all nicely uniformed and on

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<sup>4</sup> Her tombstone said she died April 7, 1870.

fine horses. It was truly a grand sight to behold them on parade. In 1859 when John Brown agitated his insurrection at Harper's Ferry, we tendered our services to Gov. Wise, which were accepted if needed. The whole country was in an excited condition and was closely patrolled for there at which time our Nation elected their president. Four parties contested elections: The Republican party voted for Abraham Lincoln, The Democratic party voted for Stephen A. Douglas and Jno. E. Breckenridge, the Old Whig or Peace Party, ignoring the dangerous political strife, voted for John Bell.

Lincoln was elected. The majority of electoral votes would have been 157; he received 180. I had then arrived at the age that I could vote. My sentiments were with the Peace Party and I voted for John Bell. I did so, partly because my father voted that ticket while living, but more because I had begun to read and think for myself and I endorsed the sentiments of the Old Whig party, which was then led in the state by such men as William L.

Goggin. When the state of Virginia held its convention to consider Secession and passed that ordinance, William L. Goggin was a delegate, and at the next Bedford County, he gave an account of him-self in a public speech in the Court House. When he tole [sic] the people, with tears in his eyes, how he deprecated the result, he broke down and wept like a child over the condition of the country. There were not many dry eyes in the crowd that evening.

When Lincoln called for 75,000 troops from Virginia to defend Washington and coerce our Southern States, which had seceded, of course no true Virginian could fight against his own State and his Southern brethren. So the patriotic boys began to fix for business. Our fine Volunteer Company, which I mentioned before, did not have the same attraction it had in time of peace. However, we were organized and ready for action, and responded at once to the call of Secession.

Continued next issue

## In Memoriam Sidney Oliver "Sid" Dewberry and Reva Anne Lanier Dewberry

Edited by Mike Rucker

Sidney "Sid" Oliver Dewberry (94) and Reva Anne Lanier Dewberry (91), Sid's beautiful hometown sweetheart and wife of 72 years, recently passed away 32 days apart. Both died in Arlington, Virginia; Reva on June 14, 2022; Sid on July 16, 2022. Both were born in Hurt, [Pittsylvania Co.], Virginia, Sid on December 23, 1927, and Reva on October 30, 1929.

Sid was an engineer and architect who built one of the country's most significant engineering and architectural companies. He was enrolled in an officer-training program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and served in the U.S. Army, 1945–1947. He received his B.S. in civil engineering from George Washington University. On June 3, 1950, Sid and Reva Anne were married.

In 1956, he founded the engineering firm *Dewberry*. This company



Sidney Oliver Dewberry  
Photo from GW Alumni  
Association

now has more 50 locations within the United States, one of the largest in the country, with over 2,000 employees. This award-winning architectural, engineering, planning, surveying, and landscape firm is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia.

George Mason University named its Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering, in honor of Sid and Reva Dewberry for the role Sid played in establishing, guiding, and supporting the department. He served on the George Mason University Board of Visitors.

Sid learned to play the piano at 75 years of age. He established the *Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music* to support and provide scholarships to the outstanding music program at George Mason

University. The Dewberry's have gifted more than \$5 million to George Mason University and in recent years an additional \$3.2 million to the university's School of Music, which acquired eighty Steinway pianos thanks to their generosity.

He received awards and honors too numerous to list from professional, community, and educational institutions. He was a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Member of the American Public Works Association, National Society of Professional Engineers, Virginia Association of Surveyors, and the Surveyors Historical Society. Sid was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to serve on many commissions, covering the topics of higher education, transportation policy, and community revitalization.

He was editor-in-chief of Dewberry's 1,000-page *Land Development Handbook: Planning, Engineering, and Surveying*, published by McGraw-Hill, which has become a college classroom staple. He wrote, co-authored, and published several other



Reva Anne *Lanier* Dewberry  
Photo from the Tribune Obituary

books.

Reva Ann Dewberry was salutatorian of her high school class, and was offered a full scholarship to Farmville Teachers College, her mother's alma mater. However, at her father's urging, she started work instead at The Lane Furniture Company. She pursued self-education and learned bookkeeping on her own, and helped Sid build the fledgling Dewberry Company. For the first ten years, Reva did virtually all the firm's bookkeeping and administrative work, and even some marketing.

Sid and Reva reared four children—Barry K. Dewberry, Karen S. Dewberry Grand Pré, Michael Sidney Dewberry and Thomas Lanier Dewberry.

Sid Dewberry was profiled in the *Rucker Family Society Newsletter*, March 1995, Vol. 6, No. 1, March 12, 2012, Vol. 23, No. 1 and June 2021, Vol. 32, No. 1. His Rucker lineage: 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>.

\* \* \*

### Howard Charles Allen

Submitted by son  
Donald H. Allen

Howard C. Allen passed away October 19, 2020 in Austin, Texas, at the age of 99. He was born April 21, 1921, in Vernon, Texas to Harvey C. Allen and Lillie Belle Kirk Allen. He grew up in living in Lamesa, Odessa and ultimately Amarillo, where he graduated from High School in 1937. The family then moved to Lubbock where Howard attended Texas Tech University, earning a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering in 1941.

While attending college, Howard met Alice Elizabeth Rucker of Abilene, Texas, who was

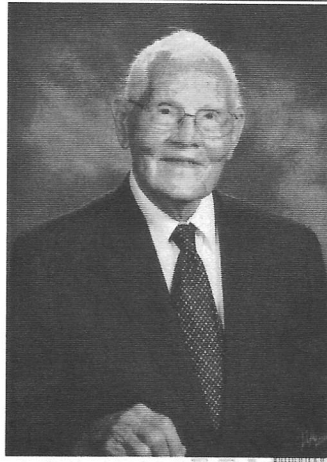


working on a degree in home economics, her second bachelor's degree. After both graduated, they married on June 30, 1941 in Abilene.

Howard and Alice moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where Howard joined McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in the structural design of Military aircraft. He was a U.S. Army Veteran, honorably discharged in 1946. The Allens then moved to Lamesa where he joined his father, a pioneer registered architect, in architecture and construction. In 1949, Howard was registered in Texas to practice architecture. He engaged in general architecture over a wide range of West and North Texas.

In 1966, Howard joined the Texas Department of Health in Austin as a consultant architect in the regulation of long-term care facilities. In 1973, he became the chief of the long-term care regulatory program, from which he retired in 1988.

Howard was a lifelong Methodist and current member of the First



Howard Charles Allen

United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. At various times over the years, he served as Sunday School teacher, choir member, participant in various lay programs and services, and a Sunday School member.

Howard was preceded in death by Alice in 2007 after over 65 years of marriage, and his sister, Athalene Pearson. He is survived by son, Donald H. Allen and grandson Austin H. Allen of Austin; daughter Wanza E. (Brooks) Grantier of Marshall, Michigan, and grandchildren Charles F. Grantier, Marguerite C. (Scott) Grupke, and Elise M. Grantier; daughter Barbara J. (David) Bend of Marble Falls, Texas, and grandchildren Aaron D. (Cristy) Bend and Hannah E. Bend; daughter Mary Jane (Mark) Phelps of Kingwood, Texas, and

grandchildren Ashley E. (Jonathan) Davis, Amanda M. (Kyle) Maltz, Angela V. Phelps (Grant Woods, fiancé), 12 great grandchildren.

Lineage: Howard's wife Alice<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Rucker, Joseph<sup>7</sup> H., Joseph<sup>6</sup> M., Reuben<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. See RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 3, Aug 1991. Wood, p.13.

\* \* \*

### Gail Clay, Jr.

Submitted by  
Lawrence E. Clay

Gail "Junior" Clay, Jr., 85, of Broken Bow, Neb. Passed away Dec. 21, 2021 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Junior was born Sept. 5, 1936 in Broken Bow to Gail B. and Stella Geiser Clay. He attended school in Broken Bow and graduated with the Class of 1954. On September 14, 1958, Junior was united in marriage to Janet Hohlfeld. The couple had two boys, Randy and Corey.

Junior worked for Custer Public Power District out of Broken Bow for several years. He

transferred to Callaway in 1967 as Operation Superintendent. They moved back to Broken Bow in 1984. He retired from Custer in 2002.

Junior was involved in softball, remote control airplanes, bowling and kites. Junior was a member of the Callaway Fire Department. He enjoyed refereeing football, camping with Sandpiper's and gardening.

He was preceded in death by son Randy; parents Gail and Stella; brother Dusty Clay; brothers-in-law John Wilson and Fred Dady.

Junior is survived by wife Janet of Broken Bow; son Corey Clay of Broken Bow; brothers Bob (Diann) Clay and Bill (Lee) Clay; sisters Deanna Wilson and Debbi Dady; sister-in-law Carol Clay; grandchildren: Alex, Brett and Erin.

Funeral Services were at the United Methodist Church in Broken Bow. Burial was in the Broken Bow Cemetery.

Published by *Custer County Chief* from Dec. 27, 2021 to Jan. 2, 2022.

Lineage: Gail<sup>8</sup> Clay, Jr., Gail<sup>8</sup> B. Clay, James<sup>7</sup> William Clay, Mary<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Rucker, Lemuel<sup>5</sup> S., Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \*

### Barbara Clay Crist

Submitted by  
Lawrence E. Clay

Barbara Clay Crist passed away peacefully in the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC on March 2, 2022 surrounded by her family.

Barbara was born November 19, 1929, the youngest of eleven children of Harold Henry Clay and Beatrice Enid Jones, on the western slopes of the Rockies in Craig, Colorado. Raised on a ranch, she couldn't wait to get out of the country and see the world. Single, she traveled from San Francisco to Boston, working as she went, finally ending up in Washington, D.C. where she met a dashing young Marine officer, George Crist. They were married May 25, 1959 out of the Marine Barracks. Thus began a 37-year adventure as a Marine



Barbara Clay Crist

wife, a role she enjoyed thoroughly – despite moving every two years.

Along the way she raised two boys, and was truly a contributing partner with her husband as they advanced upward through the ranks. As the first lady of the United States Central Command (her husband was the Commanding Officer of the United States Central Command from 1985 – 1988), she was a remarkable hostess, entertaining high-ranking dignitaries, foreign and American, with grace and skill.

After her husband's retirement from the Marines, they move to Beaufort, SC where she transformed an old house on the Point and filled it with antiques; a passion she and her husband both shared. An avid gardener, she created a formal and

tropical garden from bare low country sand. Both house and garden were on several tours – a testament to her abilities.

Barbara is survived by her husband, General George Crist, two sons, William Clay Crist of St. Petersburg, FL and David Brainard Crist of Potomac, MD, and a grandson, Matthew Crist, also of Potomac, MD.

Published by *The Island Packet* on March 6, 2022.

Lineage: Barbara<sup>8</sup> Neil Clay, Harold<sup>7</sup> "Harry" Henry Clay, Mary<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Rucker, Lemuel<sup>5</sup> S. Rucker, Ambrose<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

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## Genetic Genealogy

By Alice Rucker

The Rucker Surname Y chromosome project is alive and well. Close to 100 men have tested with varying degrees of results. Because of newer and deeper testing opportunities with the Big Y test\*, we are able to see deeper connections in the

sons of Peter Rucker, Immigrant. Our hope is to identify each son's descendants by aligning special mutations. A large portion of our Peter participants claim descent from the sons John, Thomas or William, but descendants of James and Ephraim are still very much needed.

Our Y chromosome project is often misunderstood by the uninitiated. We so often hear claims that that through autosomal DNA\* one can prove lineage to Peter. That is false. What could be said is that through autosomal DNA one could prove a match to a male who has a stellar paper trail back to Peter and has Y tested, but autosomal DNA alone cannot be used because it combines differently in each conception in each family and is no longer useful after three to four generations. Paper trails are of utmost importance to work with the Y chromosome results.

Our fund to do European research when a match is found is still active, but no match has been made yet. We are trying to use the Big Y test now because it offers so much more genetic information. We

are encouraging select previous participants who tested at lower levels to upgrade to the Big Y. For some funding is an impediment. We are now accepting donations made directly to the Family Tree DNA company for those who wish to help. \*\*

### Genetic Genealogy

We are grateful for all those who since 2006 have financially donated to the project hoping to find European matches. Recently some have donated directly to the Family Tree DNA company for us to use to help more closely align descendants of Peter Rucker. To all who have ever donated, we want to express our huge debt of gratitude. Together we are a team!

Alice Rucker,  
Administrator  
Rucker Surname Y-DNA  
Project

\* read more about Y testing vs autosomal testing at [ISOGG.org](http://ISOGG.org)

\*\* [ruckerdnaproject@gmail.com](mailto:ruckerdnaproject@gmail.com)



## Note From the President Chris Rucker

We are looking forward to the reunion in California, and enjoying the results of the organizing committee. They have done a great job of planning, and are proud to show off the attractions and beauty of their home. I hope that everyone has made plans to attend; I'll see you there.

Our editor seeks articles for the newsletter. Your family story will be very interesting to us. Any topic is welcome, and Jeannie will assist you with editing if you wish. If you didn't know, past newsletters are archived on our web site. Browse through them and perhaps you will find inspiration for an article of your own.

\* \* \* \* \*

Continued from page 11

**William Waller Rucker**, was born February 1, 1855 in Covington, Virginia, and died May 30, 1936, in Keytesville, Missouri. A Democrat, he served the second district of Missouri (Keytesville area) for twenty-four years from 1899 to 1923.

His adversary in this cartoon Congressman Thomas L. Blanton of Texas, a Democrat, was one of the most controversial congressmen in U.S. history. Members of Congress described him as "boorish, ill-tempered, loud, and prone to getting into shouting matches and, on occasion, literal fistfights with his fellow representatives on the House floor."

Lineage: William<sup>8</sup> Waller Rucker, William<sup>7</sup> P., Clifton<sup>6</sup> H., Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. Wood, p.86.

Additional notes from Jeannie Brydon: In 1873, at the age of 18, William moved to Chariton Co., Missouri. He taught school while he studied law, probably as a law clerk. He was admitted to the bar 1876 and formed the law firm of Huston and Rucker in Keytesville, and Brookfield, Missouri.

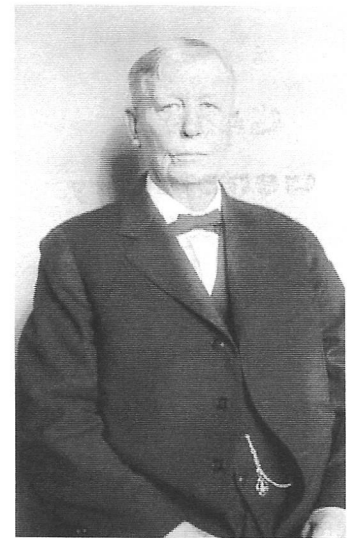
In 1886 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Chariton County from 1887 to 1892. After three terms, he was elected Circuit Judge, a position he held until from 1893 to 1898, at which time he was elected to Congress. He served for 24 consecutive years in the

56<sup>th</sup> through the 67<sup>th</sup> Congresses. While serving as Congressman from the 2nd Congressional Dist., 1899-1923, he worked on the passage of the "Woman's Suffrage" amendment.

Note from Ambrose Clifton Rucker, Apr 2004: William W. Rucker was on the committee to reelect the President when Woodrow Wilson was running.

He was U. S. Congressman, 1896-1922, of Missouri's 2nd district and lived at Keytesville.

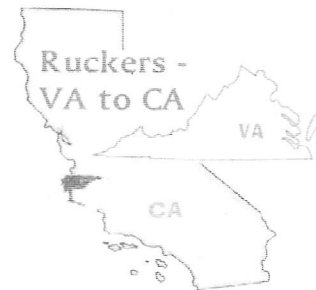
William Waller Rucker was married to Fannie Applegate. They didn't have any children, but raised his nephew, Roy Waller Rucker.



William Waller Rucker  
From Ancestry.com

# 2022 Rucker Family Society Reunion

Explore the westward migration of Rucker to the Golden West while having fun with your Rucker Cousins!

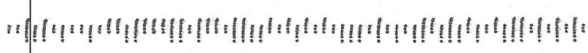


**WHEN:** October 13-16, 2022  
**WHERE:** Monterey on the California Coast  
Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey,  
[www.myevent.hilton.com/ruckerfamilysocietiyiltongardeninnmontrey/](http://www.myevent.hilton.com/ruckerfamilysocietiyiltongardeninnmontrey/)

**REUNION REGISTRATION:** Carol Gavette – [carolgavette@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolgavette@sbcglobal.net)

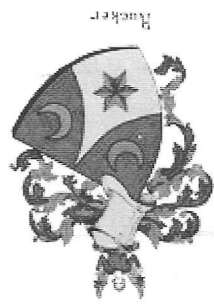
Text: 559-387-6902

**Be sure to bring your items for the Auction**  
**And any items you'd like to share in our Rucker History Display – scrapbooks, pictures, family trees, charts, memorabilia...**



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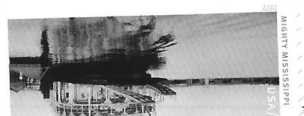
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