

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 34, No. 1, March 2023

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David Hugh Dillard And the Dillard Mansion Amherst Co., Virginia By Jeannie Brydon

One never knows where they are going to find a clue to a relative's information. On Sunday, December 11, 2022, an article on the Dillard Mansion appeared in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. I thought that he was a Rucker descendant, but I had no idea that it was Queena Dillard Stoval's brother.

Lineage: David⁸ Hugh Dillard, Ella⁷ N. Woodroof, Margaret⁶ M. Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹ and Margaret⁶ M. Rucker's husband, Rev. Pitt⁶ Woodroof, Judith⁵ McDaniel, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

David Hugh Dillard was born 20 Aug 1889 in Amherst Co., VA and married Leonora Rosa vanGelder in 1924 in Lynchburg, VA. David was

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Franklin Rucker Of Rockingham Co., VA Who Was His Father? By Jeannie Brydon

About 40 years ago, I began my research of **Angus³ Rucker** (Ephraim², Peter¹), and his children. He lived in Wolftown, Madison Co., VA. Angus is buried behind the house and behind that is a most unusual octagonal silo (shades of Thomas Jefferson). Angus had six children, one being John F. Rucker.

Sudie Rucker Wood, in her *Rucker Family Genealogy*, wrote about him on p.284: John⁴ F. Rucker, the son of Angus³ Rucker, m. Feb. 19, 1816, Mary Jarrell, Madison Co., VA, daughter of Mary Jarrell. No children were listed.

Rockingham County, VA, is hard to research as the records were burned in the Civil War. It is located just west of where the Ruckers lived in Madison Co., VA. The county seat is Harrisonburg.

Continued on page 5

*The Rucker Family Society
Newsletter*

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the son of James Spotswood Dillard and Ella Nathan Woodroof (Rucker descendant).

David’s father died when he was nine years old and his mother took in boarders to earn money to support her twelve surviving children. In the 1880 census, James and Ella were newly weds with one son and they were living on a farm in Amherst County, just a few miles north of Lynchburg. By 1900, Ella was a widow living in Lynchburg. They moved to Lynchburg about 1881 between the birth of their 2nd and 3rd child. The 1897 City Directory said he worked for Dillard and Hopkins, but the Editor can’t find any information on this company.

The six sons turned out well, the oldest, **John**, was a farmer and eventually became farm manager for David. **James**, a lawyer, lived in Spokane, WA. **David** became president of the Old Dominion Box Company and his brother, **Edwin** worked with him becoming Vice President. **Stark** founded the Dillard Paper Co., in Greensboro, NC (now a part of International Paper Co.). The youngest son, **Powell** became a physician in Lynchburg, VA.

The six daughters, Mamie, Elizabeth, Margaret, Ella, Serena and Jean, all married well and became wives and mothers, the most famous was Serena “Queena” Stovall, artist, who was known as the grandma Moses of Virginia. Her paintings are very collectable.

In the WWI Draft Reg. Cards, 1917: David lived at 3 Denver Ave., Lynchburg, VA. His job was Sec-Treas. of Old Dominion Box Co., located at 22-24 – 9th St. He was married with 1-2 children. He was described as short, medium build, brown hair and eyes. Military service: He was a private with the National Guard for 3 years.

The Old Dominion Box Company was incorporated in 1926 and David became its president. It is now located at 186 Dillard Road, Madison Heights, VA. After David’s death, his son, Edward Spotswood Dillard took over control of the company.

David Hugh Dillard was known as a Lynchburg’s Industrialist, businessman and philanthropist. In 1942, he built the Dillard mansion, his dream home. After his wife died in 1975, he sold the home. It has had several owners over the years and is on the market again.



**The Dillard Mansion
Amherst Co., Virginia**

From the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Sunday Dec 11, 2022, p. A14: "Dillard Mansion 'a hallmark right there in Elon.'" The Dillard Mansion, built from 1940-1942, by David Hugh Dillard, sits on a knoll overlooking the Tobacco Row Mountains. It is on Route 130 just west of Elon. The house, originally called "The Shelter," sits on 17 acres, and the address is now 2770 Elon Road.

The house is made of hand-cut stone hauled down from the mountains. The home is a colonial style with white columns on the front with a round cupola on the roof, which can be reached by climbing a spiral staircase. It has two wings, one of which contains a den and master bedroom suite and the other a kitchen, playroom and four-car garage. You enter the large front hall with living room to the right, library to the left and large dining room straight ahead with views of

the Tobacco Row Mountains.

The article describes the Dillard Mansion as Amherst County's most distinguished and iconic homes designed by architect Everette Fauber. It has spacious and elegant formal rooms. It has about two-dozen rooms including seven bedrooms and seven bathrooms and two half baths.

Maybe one day, The Rucker Family Reunion will visit the mansion.

* * * * *

Editor's notes

Articles for the newsletter:

Please submit articles for the newsletter – family stories, letters, information that is not in Wood's book, obituaries, etc. Jeannie's address is on page 2.

Dues: \$15.00 is due now for the year 2023. Please send to Nell Cordick, whose address is also on page 2.

Change of address:

Many thanks to all who let us know when they change their address. This is very helpful to us as sometimes the newsletter is returned to us with no forwarding address.

Gen. Louis Henry Rucker's tombstone at San Francisco National Cemetery



BRIGADIER GENERAL

LOUIS H. RUCKER

U. S. A.

DIED JULY 9, 1906

CINDERELLA R. RUCKER

DIED JANUARY 4 1925

See RFS Newsletter, Vol. 27, No. 2, p.13, Article on Gen. Louis Henry Rucker.

M1: Gertrude "Gertee" Briggs.
M2: Cinderella Rosette.

Lineage: Gen. Louis⁷ Henry Rucker, Henry⁶, Joshua⁵, John⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ (Wood, p. 34).

Continued from page 1

I found the following in a book: Guardian Bond, 15 Jul 1839, for minor children of John F. Rucker, Jarred Powell, guardian. Orphans: **Onslow, Angeline, Eliza** (*Abstracts of Executors, Administrators, and Guardians Bonds of Rockingham Co., VA, 1778-1864*, by Marguriete B. Priode, 1978).

Three of John F.'s children were identified in this bond, but what about others? I searched the census records of Rockingham Co., VA that shows five possible children.

1850 Rockingham Co., VA, census (Five potential children of John F. Rucker): P.180 56th Dist.: **James Frazier**, age 26, Laborer; **Jane [Rucker]**, age 26; Noah, age 10; George, age 8; Lavinia, age 6; Amanda, age 5; John Rodgers, age 44, farmer; Mary 41; 8 children. P.181, 56 ½ Dist.: **Franklin Rucker**, age 26, Boatman, living with Isaac Huffman, age 43, Farmer, and family, plus Robert Phillips, age 23, farmer.

P.185 56 ½ Dist.: **Onslow Rucker**, age 24, Farmer, living with family of Andrew Coffman, age 54, potter.

P.190 56 ½ Dist.: **Asa Baugher**, age 31, Farmer, \$1,640; **Eliza [Rucker]** 21; George 7; Angus 5; Andrew 2.

P.190 56 ½ Dist.: **Mickleberry Roach**, age 29, Laborer; **Angeline [Rucker]** 23, Emanuel 9; William 7; Mary 3; Scott 1, Mary Rucker [widow of John F. Rucker], age 55.

So according to the census, here is what I have:

John⁴ F. Rucker (Angus³, Ephraim², Peter¹), b. ca 1793 (U. S. Army Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914) d. ca 1839 (*Abstracts of Executors, Administrators, and Guardians Bonds of Rockingham Co., VA, 1778-1864*, by Marguriete B. Priode, 1978); m. 19 Nov 1816 (Madison Co., VA, Marriage Bond, 10 Feb 1816), Mary Jarrell.

Issue (Guardian Bond and census records):

1. Sarah Jane⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1820 (tombstone); m. James Frazier.
2. Franklin Rucker, b. ca 1824 (1850 census).
2. Onslow⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1826 (1850 census), d. Dec 1851, Rockingham Co., VA; unmarried.
3. Angelina⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1827 (1850 census); m. Mickleberry/Michael Berry Roach.
4. Eliza⁵ F. Rucker, b. 18 Feb 1827 (tombstone); m. Asa Samuel Baugher.

In researching, I came across a descendant, Wendy Mathias, who submitted a chancery suit. Onslow died

and his heirs sued Jarred Powell. Asa Baugher (Administrator for Onslow Rucker) vs. Jared Powell. *The heirs at law of Onslow Rucker are Mary Rucker his mother, Jane Frazier, wife of James Frazier, Angeline Roach wife of Mickleberry Roach and Eliza Baugher wife of this complainant.*

Franklin was not listed as an heir of Onslow Rucker. This answers the question I have asking for years – Franklin was not the son of John F. Rucker.

Wood, p.232 said Franklin⁵ "Frank" Rucker was the son of Jarvis⁴ (William³, Thomas², Peter¹ and William³'s wife, Elizabeth⁴ Smith, Margaret³ Rucker, John², Peter¹). For 40 years I have thought that Franklin was the son of John F. Rucker and that Sudie had it wrong. It just seemed logical that Frank went with his siblings to Rockingham Co., but a cousin could have gone, too.

Jarvis and Angus lived adjoining each other in the 1830 Madison Co., VA census.

Wood, p.232, said Jarvis's son, Frank, b. 1820, d. 1890, m. Sarah Herndon. Nowhere does Wood say where Frank or his children lived. She did show one of Frank's sons married in Shenandoah, VA. However in looking up his

records, it showed he m. 23 Sep 1851 in Rockingham Co., VA.

Here is what I have on Frank:

Franklin⁵ "Frank"

Rucker, b. ca 1824 (1850 census); m. 23 Sep 1851 (Marriage Bond, p.81, dated 25 Aug 1851) Rockingham Co., VA to Sarah Ann Herndon, b. ca 1832, d. 19 Mar 1893, age 61 years (tombstone). Franklin lived on today's Route 340 (2008, road is N. East Highway), near Naked Creek, north of Elkton, in Rockingham Co., VA and just across the creek from the town of Shenandoah in Page Co., VA. His son Walter and grandson Edward lived on the same land. Edward's widow continues to live in a house on the property (1997).

Franklin was listed in census records, 1850 as a boatman, 1860 as a shoemaker, and 1880 as a butcher.

They were buried at Elk Run Cemetery, Elkton, VA.

Issue:

1. William⁶ "Billy" W. Rucker, b. 6 Sep 1852, d. 16 Apr 1935 (Iowa Death Records), Woodberry, IA.
2. John⁶ Wesley Rucker, b. 20 Jul 1854. Page Co., VA.
3. Elizabeth⁶ Rucker, b. ca 1858 (census), d. young.

4. Ann⁶ Maria "Mary" Rucker, b. 15 Mar 1859, d. young.

5. Thomas⁶ F. Rucker, b. 20 May 1861.

*6. George⁶ Allen Rucker, b. 11 Dec 1862. Lived at Naked Creek, Rockingham Co., VA.

7. Robert⁶ "Bob" Edward Rucker, b. 15 Aug 1865. Shenandoah, Page Co., VA.

8. Walter⁶ Newman Rucker, b. 22 Mar 1867. Lived near Elkton, at Naked Creek, Rockingham Co., VA.

9. Mary⁶ Susan Rucker, b. 17 Aug 1870. Lived Page Co., VA.

10. James⁶ Clinton Rucker, b. 21 Apr 1873. Lived Audubon Co., IA.

Part II

The Editor's family have a Time Share at Massanutten in Rockingham Co., VA, near Elkton. For entertainment we drove around exploring the surrounding area.

One day in 1997, while driving around, I yelled, "Stop the car!" There on the mailbox was the name "Rucker." We stopped and knocked on the door. (It was 9 am) and Mrs. Rucker answered the door. She was very friendly and willing to talk to us, but unfortunately her husband, Edward, had died and she knew nothing about the Rucker family. She lived in a small house just a

few doors from the Naked Creek that divided Rockingham County and Page County. Little did I know that would turn out to be Franklin's grandson and the location of his home.

We continued our drive across the river to the town of Shenandoah in Page County. Many of these Ruckers moved to Shenandoah.

Later I went back and found what could have been Franklin Rucker's house on the top of a hill -- it was a white clapboard farmhouse. At the bottom of the hill was grandson Edward's home.

Franklin lived on today's Route 340 (2008, road is N. East Highway), near Naked Creek, north of Elkton, in Rockingham Co., VA and just across the creek from the town of Shenandoah in Page Co., VA. His son Walter and grandson Edward lived on the same land. Edward's widow continues to live in a house on the property (1997).

We next went to the cemeteries in Shenandoah and found Rucker burials at the United Methodist Church Cemetery and the Shenandoah Cemetery.

Continued on next page

Part III

Rucker Meat Shop Shenandoah, Page Co., VA

While researching the Editor found in *Shenandoah: A History of Our Town and Its People*, an article about the Rucker Meat Shop at the corner of Virginia Avenue and Main Street early 1900s. It was founded by Franklin Rucker and carried on by his son Robert "Bob" Rucker.

Info from Wendy Mathias: Franklin is my 2x great grandfather. What I know of the Rucker Butcher Shop is that a Mr. Harnsburger encouraged him to open it because the town of Shenandoah needed one. There is a little write up in a history of Shenandoah that the town put together on its 100th anniversary. There is also a chancery cause on the Library of VA website involving the sale of some land following Frank's death.

Robert "Bob" Rucker was my great-grand uncle. He was my maternal grandmother's uncle, brother to her father Joseph Calhoun Rucker. Uncle Bob ran the meat market in Shenandoah, Virginia. He took over from his father Frank who had opened the shop in 1870.

The building was torn down about 1920 and Bob moved his business to his home on Third Street.



Robert "Bob" Rucker
In the backyard of his home



Bob's wife, Mattie Rucker

Bob was born August 15, 1863. In 1901 he married Mattie Wood. They had two children. Bob died on New Year's Day 1951.

* * * * *

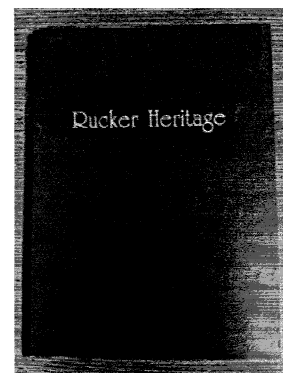
Rucker Heritage **Books For Sale**

Rucker Heritage compiled by
Alice Rucker Allen, Morgan
Printing Co., Austin, TX
©1993

Alice was a careful researcher and traveled to document primary sources for her work. After she passed away, her children donated the rest of her beautiful books containing 555 pages. Some were sold at the recent reunion in Monterey, but seven copies remain available.

Alice discusses Peter¹, John², Peter³, Reuben⁴, Reuben⁵ and Joseph⁶ Moore Rucker families. There are name, place, and topical indices. A section of maps details westward expansion, and early Virginia maps showing county formations and land ownership plats as well as others that detail specific families. The book is in the same style as the Sudie Rucker Wood book and the early generations are updated from that as additions and corrections were known.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Rucker YDNA project. If you would like to purchase, send a \$60 check payable to *Rucker Family Society c/o Alice J. Rucker, Treasurer, 13331 Gridley St., Sylmar, CA. 91342-4529.*



In Memoriam

Judith Marie *Guenther* Clay

Submitted by Lawrence Clay

Judith "Judy" Marie *Guenther* Clay, age 80, of Horton, Kansas, passed away November 3, 2022 in a nursing home in Horton. She was born June 25, 1942 in Atwood, KS, the first child of Walter Guenther and Ilda Schroeder. She grew up and attended school in Linn, KS and graduated from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, NE.

She taught school for a few months and worked in Fort Dodge, IA until her marriage on May 28, 1967 to Richard Wayne Clay, a high school math teacher. They lived in Lincoln and Stanton, NE with their final move to Horton, KS in 1974.

Judy was a church organist in Fort Dodge and Stanton then became church organist and choir director at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha, KS from 1975 until she had a stroke in March 1998. She was also the church secretary, active in LWMI and Aids for Lutherans, a life long member of the Girl Scouts of the United States. She was employed as a para-professional with the Brown County, Kansas Special Education COOP until her stroke. Judy remained active in

her church until confinement to a nursing home about two years ago.

Judy is survived by her husband, Richard Clay; daughter Jennifer (Ragan) Todd of Pittsburg, KS; son Samuel (Yoko) Clay of Statesboro, GA; sisters, Kathleen Lahey of Kansas City, MO and Martha (David) Piotrowsky of Ottawa, KS; brother-in-law, Lawrence Clay of Kennewick, WA; sisters-in-law, Dawn Johnson of McCook NE, Jean (Dillard) Anderson of North Platte, NE and Elizabeth Baker of Kenosha, WI; and grandchildren, Emily and Ian Todd and Hannah, Rachel and Joel Clay.

A Celebration of life was held on November 8th at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha with burial at the Horton Municipal Cemetery.

Her husband's lineage:
Richard⁹ Wayne Clay, Ralph⁸ Richard Clay, James⁷ William Clay, Mary⁶ Elizabeth Rucker, Lemuel⁵ S., Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹.

* * * * *

Michael "Mike" Maxwell David Rucker

Lineage: Michael⁹ M. D. Rucker, Lucian⁸ M., Fred⁷, George⁶ G., John⁵ B., Burton⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹.



December 22, 1960 -
December 13, 2022 Mike Rucker, 61, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Sandy Springs, GA.

Mike was born in Mobile, Alabama, on December 22, 1960 to Betty Boswell Rucker and the late Lucian "Pete" Rucker. He graduated from Perry High School, earned an Electrical Engineering Degree from Georgia Tech, and later a Masters in Divinity from Western University. Mike had a long IT career that began at Motorola GEG and he was recently honored as the Quality Employee of the Year at InComm.

Mike was a brilliant creator of poetry and songs and loved performing his music at any and every opportunity. He gave back to his community by his involvement with various charitable organizations.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lucian "Pete" Rucker and is survived by his

mother, Betty Rucker. He is also survived by his wife, Rodie Rucker; his children, Jessica Thompson (Randell), Rebecca Rucker, and Sarah Rucker; his granddaughter-in-law Caitlin Thompson; his grandchildren, Adleigh and Oliver Thompson; his sisters, Kelly Gray (Walter) and Paula Hall; and several nieces, nephews and grandnephews.

Services will be held at 2 PM, Friday, December 16, 2022, in the Chapel at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home, Perry, GA.

Posted online on December 17, 2022; published in *The Arizona Republic*.

* * * * *

Fort Rucker To Be Renamed

By Michael "Mike" P. Rucker

Alabama's Fort Rucker is to be renamed as Fort Novosel after Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, Sr. The new name is to take effect January 1, 2024.

The new name is in honor of the late Michael J. Novosel Sr. of Enterprise, Alabama. He served in World War II in the Army Air Corps, in Korea in the Air Force and in Vietnam as an Army warrant officer and helicopter pilot. In order to

serve in Vietnam, he relinquished the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve to become a chief warrant officer in the Army.

Novosel was assigned to Vietnam as a 'Dustoff' pilot. He flew helicopters evacuating combat zone casualties; a dangerous mission in which approximately one third of all medevac pilots became casualties themselves. In Novosel's two tours in Vietnam, he flew 2,543 extraction missions, rescuing over 5,500 seriously wounded soldiers. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military decoration, for his bravery in conducting a medical evacuation under fire in the Vietnam War.

The choice of Novosel as the new name is especially appropriate based on his outstanding military record and that his hometown was Enterprise, Alabama, the location of the base.

The base had been named Rucker for Colonel Edmund Winchester Rucker, a brigade commander in the Confederate Army during the Civil War - who had been given the honorary title of "general."

The base came into existence during the early months of World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 8, 1941. On December 15, 1941, Congress voted an appropriation of \$10 billion for the defense of the United States and the creation of new training camps and military bases. The original name of the post was Ozark Triangular Division Camp, but before the camp was officially opened on May 1, 1942, the War Department named it Camp Rucker.

Camp Rucker was deactivated after World War II and reopened for the Korean War with an added helicopter-training base. It became home for the Department of Rotary Wing Training of the Army Aviation School. Camp Rucker was renamed as Fort Rucker in 1955.

The other bases named after Confederate officers to be renamed are Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Pickett, Virginia; and Fort Polk, Louisiana; and Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Two ships, the USNS Maury and the USS Chancellorsville are also to be renamed.

William Price Wood and Sudie Rucker Wood And their five children

William Price Wood and Sudie Rucker were married at Sudie's home in Fauquier County, Virginia on the 3rd of July 1901. The children began coming in 1903 and came every year and a half for five years. Five years later Garland was born. They lived on Grace Street, moving to 2702 Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia after the last child was born. They lived there the rest of their lives. The Woods loved to travel, play sports and spent the summers at their farm in Amelia County, Virginia. William was a seedsman and president to T. W. Wood & Sons in Richmond, Virginia. Sudie was a genealogist and wrote *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. The family loved to play and were a fun loving family.

Photo of William P. Wood, Sudie Rucker and children, probably taken about 1915

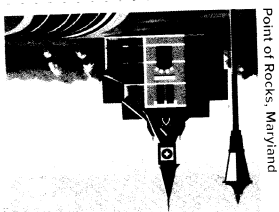
Back row: William Price Wood, Lillian "Lil" Lee Wood, Sudie Elizabeth Wood, Sudie Rucker
Front row: Jean Whittet Wood, William "Bill" Price Wood, Jr., and Garland Ambrose Wood





Primitive Tombstones of Gideon Rucker (Benjamin, John, Peter) born 6 May 1772, d. 7 Feb 1842 and his wife Joyce Reade, b. 1771, d. Nov 1859. Rucker Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co., TN.

First Class Mail



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