

Editor's Note: The logo above has nothing to do with Peter Rucker or his descendants. It is just a decoration for the newsletter.

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George H. Rucker's First Automobile By Michael "Mike" Rucker

This story dates to April 25, 1913. I found the following letter and the receipt for the new car in the Rucker Realty Corp. archives. The letter is from a car dealer to Gorge H[ilton] Rucker. The new vehicle was a 1913 Overland Touring Car. Here's the letter:

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 24th Received and noted. We fully appreciate that you are a busy man, and we only request that you have the same consideration for us. Our time is just as valuable to us as yours is to you.

When we sold you the car you stated that your Mr. Jones would be the one we should teach to operate the car. Our young man came out to give him a lesson, leaving here at nine o'clock in the morning and reaching Continued on page 2

An Alaska Bush Life Education By Julie Collins

Edited from the Fairbanks *Newsminer*, May 22, 2022



Fiona Rucker tries her hand at skijoring behind a dogsled in March during her long visit with the Collins sisters,

Miki and Julie Collins, with a sled dog and some of their annual fur catch. Although she had made a couple of brief summer visits, our cousin Fiona Rucker arrived for her Continued on page 4

The Rucker Family Society Newsletter

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2024 Reunion Chairman Price Wood

2026 Reunion Chairman Kellie Hamilton Smith richkel@cox.net Continued from page 1 George H, Rucker's 1st car

your place in due time thereafter. and instructed him for just three quarters of an hour, when Mr. Jones took some other men in the car and had our young man drive them to several places in the county, consuming all the balance of the day up to seven o'clock in the evening when he arrived back here. The next time you put your Mr. Rees** in the car for a lesson and the same conditions prevailed; and one time you took it yourself, Mr. Jones, the man we started out to teach, only receiving two lessons. Whereas had he received all the lessons himself, he would have been thoroughly competent to operate the car.

We are perfectly willing to teach you, one man, how to operate the car and take care of same, but we cannot furnish chauffeurs to drive cars around on business errands.

To learn thoroughly how to operate an automobile, one should entirely dispel all business matters from his mind during the lesson period and give his undivided attention to the manipulation and operation of the car. Whenever this is done, we have no trouble in teaching, and the one being taught has no trouble whatever in learning.

Please bear in mind that we are ready and willing to carry out our part of the contract, and even go beyond it, but we must have your cooperation in the points referred to above. Yours very truly, Myers Brothers

*George Hilton Rucker Genealogy Line 1 -- George⁷ Hilton Rucker, Daniel⁶ Hilton, William⁵ Ballanger, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹. Line 2 -- George⁷ Hilton Rucker, Daniel⁶ Hilton, Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹. Line 3 – George⁸ Hilton Rucker, Mariamna⁷, James⁶ Monroe, Jonathan⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Next Issue

The Rucker Family Reunion held in Fredericksburg, VA was a great success. Even though the weather was hot, all enjoyed their visits to historic sights and at family get-togethers. Read more in the next issue.

Vol. 35, No. 1, June 2024

Jucate RETAIL A UTOMOBILE ORDER MYERS BROTHERS, Agents ALEXANDRIA, VA. DATE Chil 2nd, 1913 <u>Alexandria Va</u> PLEASE ENTER ORDER FOR ONE <u>Overland</u> CAR WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS SHOWN BELOW. MODEL 69 J. STYLE OF BODY Jouring, 54 BODY COLOR Dark Blue GEAR COLOR UPHOLSTERING Leather 1913 Overland Touring Model 69 PRICE FOR B. FACTORY Delivered \$1010 AMOUNT DEPOSIT ON CAR \$//000 BALANCE \$ 900 To be nove calls paid with interest at the rate of \$1000 per month. DATE TO BE SUPPER delivered; as soon as possible Maero Brok Myers Liother AGENTS BY

Vol. 35, No. 1, June 2024

Continued from page 1 Fiona Rucker "An Alaska Bush Life"

first winter stay here at our cabin on the bank of Lake Minchumina, Alaska during a raging February windstorm.

Her initial weeks included long spell of below-zero weather. Still, the 19-year-old proved game for just about anything. Right from the start she began driving the snow machine and helping with the timeconsuming firewood, water, and dog yard chores.

Fiona helped haul and store tons of feed, groceries, gasoline and propane, she spent three days on the trapline splitting and stacking firewood, moved many loads of seasoned firewood from stacks in the forest to our woodshed at home, and helped cut and haul dry spruce firewood. She replaced a broken doorknob and fixed the dog-pot cooker. She shoveled snow from woodpiles, water holes, out building and the canoe we had to move for spring access.

She helped repair the snow machine with nimble fingers that it nicely between small gaps. She brushed the Icelandic horses when their massively hairy coats began shedding in the spring.

With Fiona, we celebrated the arrival of the geese and swans; we watched a pair of moose

playing, listening to wolves howling and witnessed an altercation between a swan and an eagle on the river ice. We shared intimate details about our respective recipe-storage devices (us: typed paper, s' stained with grease; Fiona in a cell phone, smeared with grease) and perhaps more intimately, we shared our respective chocolate stashes.

No complaints were heard regarding the "Ick Factor" - the outhouse, dog yard cleanup, animal carcasses, the sooty dog-pat, and the not-so-clean house. It's possible that a squeak was heard when she scooped a vole up in her can of dog rice, but I'm not saying if it came from the vole or the girl. Fiona even tackled the project of cleaning the skulls of a coyote and wolverine. I was gratified at her curiosity as we stood over wolf droppings a quarter mile from home. "How can you tell it's a wolf?" she inquired. "It's packed with moose hair, and our dogs haven't had any moose hide to chew on." I told her. "That means the wolves are feeding on scraps of an old kill. The poop would be tarr black if there were gorging on meat."

After a few months to adjust to our remote location, Fiona will be ready for some real isolation as breakup locks us at home for a few weeks. No more river hiking, sledding, snow machining, or visits to and fro. With firewood and other project, and with birds arriving to brighten our days, I'm sure our companion will be fine.

Editorial note: Fur trappers and lifelong bush residents, Miki and Julie Collins, identical twins, live at remote Lake Minchumina, Alaska. They have written three books and provide a bi-weekly column called "In the Bush" to the Fairbanks *Newsminer* newspaper.

Miki (Florence) and Julie Collins have four lines of descent from Peter Rucker. See previous article about the twins in Vol. 16, No. 1, Sept. 2005, p.21. Their Rucker lineage: Florence⁹ Dickey "Miki" Collins and Julie⁹ Hubbard Collins, Florence⁸ Parks Rucker, Benjamin⁷ P., Benjamin⁶ L., Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose², John¹, Peter¹.

Lineage: Fiona¹¹ Rucker, Derek¹⁰ Peck, Michael⁹ P., Henry⁸ C. Jr., Dr. H.7 Cowles, Benjamin⁶ L., Benjamin⁵ J., Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹ and Cowles⁷'s wife, Lillian⁷ Eliza Rucker, Wm⁶ A., Wm⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and Wm⁵ B.'s wife, Mary⁶ Anne D. Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹ and Mike⁹'s wife Harriet⁹ A. Jones, John⁸, Margaret⁷, Daniel⁶ H., William B.⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and Wm. B's wife Mary⁶ Anne D. Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹, and Daniel⁶ H.'s wife, Mariamna⁷ Rucker, James⁶ Monroe, Jonathan⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

In Memoriam Judy Corinne Rucker

Judy Corinne Rucker Woolridge Susoeff, age 81, of West Sacramento, California died Sunday 27 August 2023 at a hospital in Sacramento, CA. Born in 1942 in Tulsa, OK, she was the daughter of the late Albert "Pete" Lockridge Rucker and the late Dorothy Lankford. Her sister, Connie Elizabeth Rucker Harjo Ellison died earlier in 2023. She is survived by her husband Allan Susoeff, daughter Jini and husband Mike Farrell, granddaughter Ashley Farrell, and son Lancelot Woolridge.

Judy graduated from Central High School, in Tulsa and married Garland Wooldridge in 1962. They headed west in 1972 when his employer reassigned him to northern California and Hawaii. They divorced in 1992.

An accomplished pianist and vocalist, she performed in choir, church and at weddings for many years.

Judy volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America as an assistant Den leader for 23⁺ years. In 1982 she became the first female to serve a term as a District Commissioner in the San Francisco Bay area Council. In 1988 she was presented with the Silver Beaver award, the highest recognition in the BSA for distinguished volunteer service.

She was the family historian and genealogist. Judy transcribed Civil War letters in the Rucker and Keebler families published as The Rucker and Keebler Letters in 19th century America, Compiled by Judy Rucker Susoeff, Sacramento, VA, 2013. One story was about the burning of the family home by the Union Army. Another about a Rucker that gave his slaves Sundays off where they typically went into town hired out and kept their earnings. He writes that farm productivity significantly increased since he started that day off. Bound copies of the transcriptions are in the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Judy learned carpentry and woodworking from her father. She liked to travel to English speaking countries like Australia, New Zealand and England. She enjoyed bowling and playing ping-pong.

Lineage: Judy⁷ Corinne Rucker, Albert⁸ Lockridge, John⁷ Chapman, Samuel⁶ James, Western⁵ Tennessee, James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹. Wood, p.125. Submitted by Judy's husband, Allan Susoeff.

Lucy Tinsley Rucker's tombstone

Submitted by Doug Macleod mrcloudsr@gmail.com

Lucy *Tinsley* Rucker wife of John D. L. Rucker born Apr 1, 1820 and died July 10, 1853.

It is the only marked stone in that cemetery, Doug recalls.

Jeannie's records showed Lucy was buried in a Tinsley family cemetery, located south of Elon, near the James River in Amherst Co., VA.

It sounds like the same place, but I have not seen it so appreciate Doug sending me the photo of the tombstone.



Lucy Tinsley Rucker's tombstone

Doug spoke to us at the last Amherst County Rucker Reunion and is an expert in Amherst County History.

If anyone else has seen the tombstone and knows it'sexact location, please let Jeannie know (address on page 2).

John D. L. Rucker was John⁵ Dabney Lewis Rucker

(John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹), b. 3 Dec 1811¹, Amherst Co., VA, d. 5 Oct 1868, Sturgeon, MO; m. 30 Dec 1837², Lucy Jane Tinsley, b. 1 Apr 1820, d. 10 Jul 1853, Amherst Co., VA, daughter of Edward Tinsley and Sarah Dawson.

George M. Rucker Who was he? By Jean "Jeannie" W. Brydon

Doug MacLeod, a Lynchburg area historian, spoke to us at our reunion in Amherst Co., VA in June of 2020. Since then he has sent me interesting tidbits found in the Lynchburg newspaper. Here is one of them. 4 Jan 1878, Ad from the Lynchburg Daily Virginian.

It was a difficult search, but Ancestry records led me to

¹Tombstone at Mt. Pisgah Church Cemetery, Boone Co., Missouri gave the dates:

b. Dec 20, 1811/ d. Oct. 5, 1858.
² Marriage Bond, Amherst Co., VA.
30 Dec 1837.

ANOTHER JOB LOT OF DRESS GOODS AT GEORGE M. RUCKER'S

The Ladies and others will find another JOB LOTS OF DRESS GOODS at this house, and much cheaper than ever sold in this city or elsewhere.

The word within is SELL, and if you will come and see these GREAT BARGAINS, the word will be with JOB BUY.

Viz – COME ONE – COME ALL – Viz

G. M. R.

find him in Wood, p.90. His full name was listed as George⁵ Henry McDaniel Rucker (Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). However I found his full name was George McDaniel Rucker – there was no evidence of the name Henry.

George had 12 children whom I continued to search. George M.'s son, Banks Rucker, was born in Lynchburg, VA, moved to Rye, Westchester Co., NY, and then to Los Angeles, CA. Banks had a son George McDaniel [sic] Rucker who lived in Los Angeles, but had two sons NOTE: Correction to Wood, p.90. George⁵ Henry McDaniel Rucker's name should be George⁵ McDaniel Rucker.

I can find no evidence in any records that he had the middle name "Henry."

born in Amherst Co., VA. HEY, that's not logical. So I kept looking and found another George M. Rucker who lived in Amherst Co., VA.

Two George McDaniel / Ruckers Confused in records on Ancestry.com

Both George M. Ruckers were born about the same time, but one lived in Amherst Co., VA, and the other lived in Los Angeles, CA. How could people mistake them in records? It turns out that only one was named George McDaniel Rucker and he came by it naturally as his great-grandmother was Margaret McDaniel, the daughter of George McDaniel. The other had the middle name "Mack" not McDaniel.

George⁸ McDaniel Rucker

George⁸ McDaniel Rucker's lineage: Banks⁷, George⁶

McDaniel, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Col. Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

George McDaniel was born 1 Nov 1900 (WW II Draft Records), Rye, NY, died 5 Jul 1989 (SS Death Index); married 29 Dec 1927 (CA County Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1849-1980), Los Angeles, CA, Charlotte Fralick. One child, Patricia⁹ "Patsy" Rucker, b. ca 1929, CA.

George⁸ Mack Rucker

Lineage: George⁸ Mack Rucker, John⁷ Wesley, James⁶ Alexander, Willis⁵, John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹.

<u>George Mack, born 27 Nov</u> 1896 (World War I Draft Registrations Cards), died 20 May 1966 (VA Death Records, 1912-2014), Route 1, Monroe, Amherst Co., VA; <u>married Minnie Franklin.</u> 1. Frank⁹ James "Pete" Rucker, b. 21 Feb 1933, d. 10 Nov 2002 (SS Death Records), Amherst Co., VA. 2. Edward⁹ P. "Buddy" Rucker, b. 13 Apr 1935, d. 21 Dec 1996 (obit), Amherst Co., VA.

He is not in Wood, but his great-grandfather, Willis Rucker, is in Wood, p.135.

Peaks View Farm Monroe, Amherst County Virginia By Gloria Stiltner



Peaks View Farm off Father Judge Road is a story of "a fortunate stroke of serendipity." After selling their 130-acre farm in Historic Waterford, VA, Roy and Gloria Stiltner found a 207-acre farm and house that needed renovation in Monroe, Amherst Co., VA in 2004 and purchased it from Sam Morcum. It took two years to renovate the house doing it part-time. They moved to the farm in 2012. It is probably one of the most beautiful farms and views of High Peak Mountain in Amherst County.

The linage of ownership of the land – the original patent of 5850 acres was taken up by John Rucker and completed in 1745 from King George II to Peter³ Rucker (son of John² Rucker, Peter¹). This land was divided up among the sons of John Rucker.

11 Nov 1751, Peter Rucker, oldest son and heir of Jno. Rucker, dec'd, of Orange Co., planter, to Ambrose Rucker of Orange, planter; by order of father's will—taken up by Jno. & patented to Peter Rucker, 324 acres, save four acres for David Rosser, adj. Harvie Rosser. Wit: Jno. Rucker, Wm. Miller, Geo. McDaniel. (D. B. 1, p.357, Albemarle Co., VA).

1810 (473 acres) was purchased by John Hansard (by highest bid) husband of Ambrose³ Rucker's daughter, Caroline⁴ Rucker.

1829 (260 acres) Isaac Hansard (son of John Hansard).

1829 (204 acres) John Hansard. 1830 (204 acres) sold to

William McDaniel.

1838 (204 acres) John R. and Mary McDaniel.

1849 (204 acres) Roy B. Scott 1854 (204 acres) Samuel B. Scott. 1855 (an additional 135 acres)

Samuel B. Scott.

1862 (340 acres) James C. and Millie Ann Taylor.

1863 (340 acres) John and Bridget Hughes.

1875 (340 acres) John and Betty A. Kelly.

1902 (340 acres) George Washington and Mary Tyree Dodd.

1935 (297 acres) Edward H. Miller and Laura Carter Miller.

1958 (170 Acres) Samuel T. and Airline B. Morcom.

2004 (207 Acres) Stonebrook Enterprises, Roy and Gloria Stiltner.

1935 to 1958

Ed Miller bought the property in 1935 for his wife as a wedding present. He operated a dairy farm, and stored wheat and corn in the grain log cabin building. Laura Carter Miller planted the Catalpa tree and 6 boxwoods in 1935. They are huge and still gracing the property. There was a log cabin house with stone chimney. A black family, Joe and Mattie Carter and daughter Vonnie and Granddaughter Thelma lived in this house and helped the Millers on the farm. The Millers had two children Nancy (b. 1937) and Jean (1940-1973). They sold the property and moved on, in 1958 because of a 5-year drought in Amherst County, VA. Gloria still phones Nancy Miller Irving, 86 vears old, who lives in Louisville, KY. Last year when the Stiltners were digging an irrigation trench they unearthed a trash burial ground of bottles and jars dumped there from 1935 to 1958. Gloria found a prescription bottle with Nancy's name on it as a young child. She called Nancy and Nancy said "Am I in trouble?" Nancy remembers quite well taking these items to this garbage pit. A wonderful find for a treasure hunter.

The Stiltners have been visited by Pat Gregory Tucker and Robert Gregory. Their mother, Hazel Dodd, the granddaughter of George W. Dodd, was born in the house in 1915. Their paternal grandfather, Leslie Clark Gregory, helped build the stonewall at the entrance to the Amherst Cemetery. Leslie Gregory was a building contractor and served as Superintendent of the cemetery for several years.

In 2023 The Stiltners had a surprise drive in visit by George E. Dodd (age 94), and his wife and two daughters. He was the son of Henry Homer Dodd, the son of George W. Dodd. George E. Dodd was. born in 1929 in the log cabin on the farm. This cabin still existed in 2004 in a dilapidated condition. It was sold to Buzzards Roost, a Lynchburg Antiques Dealer, and reassembled on a property owned by them. The stone chimney stood until 2020 when it collapsed on its own. George left Amherst, VA as a teenager to join the Navy and now lives in Virginia Beach, VA.



Log Cabin built pre 1902 in which George Dodd, a previous owner, was born.

In November 2023, The Stiltners arranged to have a get together with the Gregorys and the Dodds. It was a fabulous visit. Pat and Robert had not seen their cousin George for 30 years. George's daughter, Susie Dodd says she would love to have the farm back in her family one day. When the visitors depart, Gloria gives them a connection to the house, either a door trim rosette block or a glass doorknob. The experiences were all serendipity. We call it one of Godwinks.

Gloria Stiltner Biography:

The Stiltners have always been a fan of history and lived in historical homes. Their first renovation in 1972 was one of the Greenbelt MD WWII Defense homes. They also renovated an 1856 house on 2 acres in Vienna, VA and then they built an all-stone historic looking house on 135 acres in Waterford VA. They now live in the house described in this article on 207 acres in Monroe, VA. Gloria retired from the US Geological Survey in 2000. She currently is a Realtor with BHHS-DFG. She is a member of the Amherst Historical Museum, the Amherst

Women's Club, the Lynchburg Historical Society, and the Rucker Family Society and likes to play golf.

Note: One paragraph in this article about patents of Col. Ambrose Rucker was moved to the article on Graham's Cove

Valuable Land for Sale

The subscriber wishes to sell the following valuable TRACTS OF LAND,

To wit:

ONE TRACT

Whereon he now resides, in Amherst county, distant 12 miles from Lynchburg and 10 from Amherst court house, known by the name as **GRAHAM'S COVE**, containing 1350 acres between 4 and 500 of which are cleared. This land lies well and is in good heart. The dwelling house is comfortable and convenient, and has attached to it the necessary out houses, orchards, &c. There is yet a large portion of good Tobacco land to clear, which is very heavily timbered. The whole tract is well watered.

Also, One other Tract,

Adjoining the above described land, containing upwards of 700 acres. On this tract there are two settlements, on one of which is a very good house, all finished, outhouses, orchards, a good garden, &c. and of the other a confortable dwelling house, orchards, &c. This tract also adjoins the lands of John Sheldon, Col. John Ambler and others.

Also, One other Tract, Adjoining the first described tract as the south-west side, containing 839 acres, chiefly in woods, not more then 70 acres being cleared, which ware well enclosed. This tract is well timbered, and is fine Tobacco land.

Ambrose Rucker Amherst, Oct 27 1825

The above lands will be shown at any time by the subscribers to any person wishing to purchase – and for information with respect to the title, payment &c. After then to John Miller, of Lynchburg. A.R. Oct 27

Graham's Cove Sale of Col. Ambrose Rucker land in Amherst County, VA

The enclosed article was from an Ad from the Lynchburg *Daily Virginian* sent to me by Doug MacLeod of Lynchburg. What a wonderful ad as it confirms the name of Col. Ambrose Rucker's land. The Ambrose Rucker that wrote the ad was Col. Ambrose's son who had already moved to Bedford Co., VA.

The following was written by Gloria Stiltner in her article, Peaks View Farm: Col. Ambrose Rucker patented land on the south branches of Harris Creek in Graham Cove where he then moved. 90 acres, 10 Sep 1767, Patent Book 37, 1767-1768, p.116. 262 acres, 20 July 1768, Patent Book 37, 1767-1768, p.320. 375 acres, 20 July 1780, Patent Book E, 1775-1776, 1780-1781, p.272

This land also contains the walled graveyard, which still belongs to his descendants, but there are no markers for Col. Ambrose and his wife, Mary.

Now we know that Ambrose Rucker's farm was called **Graham's Cove**. I had always called it Graham Cove as that what it was called in the patent. ****



Our own Jeannie Rucker, wife of President Chris Rucker, is an expert on fashions over the years. She has written a book:



Sometimes The Bride Wears White: A Private Collection of Wedding Antiques, By Jeannie Rucker.

It is a collection of photographs and descriptions of antiques found in a private collection of wedding artifacts. Antique wedding histories and stories.

For more information see Amazon.com.



Wedding photo of Victoria Busse and Cabell Willis, Jeannie Brydon's grandson. They were married at Christ Episcopal Church in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. on April 28, 2023. Their reception was held at the Anderson House, the headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, D.C. They recently took their honeymoon in Italy, visiting Lake Como, Florence, Pompeii, Rome and the Amalfi Coast.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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First Class Mail

