#### FALL EDITION

# KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

### NEWSLETTER

VOL. 23, NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 2012

#### John Kaylor Booton

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# Eight Comer Sisters Graduate from Madison College by Bill Smith

While doing some research on the descendants of Ephraim Rucker, Peter's youngest son, I ran across this forgotten bit of Rucker family history.

The small town of Shenandoah, Page County, Virginia doesn't seem a likely place for eight female children in a family of fourteen to attend and graduate from college. What makes it even more unusual is that these ladies graduated from the 1920s through the 1940s. It was noteworthy enough to have been written about in the *The Washington Post*.

Harrisonburg, Virginia's *Daily News-Record* may have reached a smaller readership than the *Washington Post*, but it gave their story more space. In the May 17, 1945, was a caption "Miss Nellie Elizabeth Comer, daughter of Mrs. Frank P. Comer and the late Mr. Comer



A portrait by Don Key of Sgt. John O'Neal Rucker commissioned by his friend and comrade Maj. J. D. Ainsley, Ret.

#### O'Neal Rucker Last Vietnam War Casualty by Bill Smith

Sgt. John O'Neal Rucker, died January 27, 1973. He holds the unfortunate distinction of being one of the last two servicemen to lose their lives in the Vietnam War, just eleven hours before the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, which was the agreement that ended direct

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### The Rucker Family Society Newsletter

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... will receive the degree bachelor of science in education ... at the age of 18." Nellie was noteworthy not only as the eighth sister in her family to attend James Madison University (then College) but at that time she was the college's youngest graduate.

Throughout the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, the Comer sisters were the largest immediate family to attend what would become James Madison University, and they stillhold or share that record. The college was founded in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, then in 1914 the State Normal School for Women, in 1924 the States Teachers College, in 1938 it became Madison College, and finally in 1976 became James Madison University, and began to admit men for the first time.

Franklin Pierce Comer (1875-1932) and Fannie Josephine Baugher (1879-1963) had a large family of fourteen children, and all but one lived to adulthood. As might be expected in rural Page County, according to census records. Frank was a farmer and Fannie didn't have an occupation (well, other than raising the children). The first child to attend what would become JMU was Beulah Mae Comer (1905-2004) who became the wife of Ray R. Huffman, began by taking classes in 1921. She then taught school in Page County and completed her BS degree in 1939 and returned to

Madison 20 years later for her master's.

Alma Beatrice Comer (1906-2003), the wife of Frederic Amos Shuler, followed her older sister in 1922 and 1923. Over the years, it was Alma's memories of college that convinced her two daughters, a granddaughter and a grandson to follow her path to Madison.

Mary Ann Comer (1911-2009) was next. Her independence came out when she chose nursing as her career instead of teaching. She graduated in 1932. After marriage, first to Sam Marks and then to Bill Kammel, she completed her nursing career at St. Luke's Hospital in La Crosse, WI.

Brownie Frances Comer (1915-), sister Number Four, earned her two-year certificate in 1935, a B.S. in 1939 and a Master of Science from the University of Virginia in 1966. She married Herman Cave and guided several generations of youngsters through school in Stanley, Page Co., VA.

Grace Marie Comer (1918-2006), from the class of '39, may have been the first Comer to rebel against Madison's rather strict rules. She recalled ignoring "lights out" to meet with friends and talk late into the night. She also joined the student revolt against the dress code for hats and gloves by putting on "old hats and clothes." She married Landon

Shackelford and took up her vocation at NASA.

Sister Number Six, Dr. Margaret Virginia Comer (1920-), earned a two-year certificate in 1938, which became the first of her four degrees. She enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh for her B.S., master's in education and a doctorate. She married Lt. Leon Kupiec, who was stationed with the Civilian Conservation Corps at Big Meadows in nearby Shenandoah National Park. Following World War II, the couple moved to Pittsburgh, where Margaret continued teaching and learning. Her doctoral dissertation, "The Effect of Drugs on Students' Learning," predicted the use and possible dangers of Ritalin for children with attention-deficit disorders.

The seventh sister, Catherine Charlene Comer (1921-1950), graduated in 1940. Her brief teaching career began in Silver Spring, MD, and ended with an automobile accident in Santa Ana, CA., where her husband, Edward Nichols, was stationed.

Nellie Elizabeth Comer (1926-2009), who married Saul Robinson of Luray, VA, was the eighth and final Comer sister to attend Madison. Graduating in 1945, she also began teaching in Silver Spring, MD, but the majority of her teaching was in Page County.

What kind of parents engender such amazing devotion to education and service? With only

four months of formal schooling, their mother, Fannie, taught herself to read. She was determined that her own children would have the opportunity to fulfill whatever potential for learning they possessed. Mary called her "the torch for education." Their father, Frank, offered support as well. A lifelong farmer he set a daily example of hard work and ethical conduct. The his community's final tribute was when, according to the Shenandoah Journal, his funeral in 1932 was "the largest ever held in or near Shenandoah," with "at least 2,290 people attended ... The funeral procession, with 350 cars, was more than two miles long, besides many people that walked ... He was known far and near, and he tried to play the game of life fair with his fellow man."

The children of Frank and Fannie (Baugher) Comer were: (1) Beulah Mae Comer [13 May 1905-13 Jan 2005] m. Ray Russel Huffman [1900-1970] and did not have children; Alma Beatrice Comer [20 Jun 1906-22 Jul 2003] m. Frederic Amos Shuler [1895-1964] and had 6 children; Claude Wilson Comer [18 Dec 1907-14 Feb 1992] m. Evelyn Virginia Jenkins [1908-] a had 4 children; Franklin Pierce Comer, Jr. [1 Jan 1909-16 Mar 1977] m. Hazel Florence Keyser [1914-2008] and had 1 child; Mary Ann Comer [29 Apr 1911-10 Jul 2009] m. Samuel Markos [1896-1975] and William Kammel [1903-1983] and did not have children; Charles D. Comer [1912-1913]; Avis P. Comer [1914-1914]; Brownie Frances Comer [21 Aug 1915-] m. Herman Emmett Cave [1913-1975] and had 3 children; John E. Comer [20 May 1917-2 Aug 2001] m. Mildred J. Galbraith [1927-2003] and had 1 child; Grace Marie Comer [5 Aug 1918-27 Feb 2006] m. Marion Landon Shackleford [1915-1986] and had 1 child; Dr. Margaret Virginia Comer [26 May 1920-] m. Leon S. Kupiec [1909-1994]; Catherine Charlene Comer [20] Jun 1921-5 Feb 1950] m. Edward Nichols; Nellie Elizabeth Comer [24 Sep 1926-10 Jul 2009] m. Saul Joseph Robinson [1929-2011] and had two children; and Peggy Page Comer (4 Jun 1928- ] m. James G. Sepcic [1919-].

The Comer<sup>8</sup> childrens' Rucker lineage is: Fannie<sup>7</sup> Josephine Baugher, Angus Gordon<sup>6</sup>, Eliza<sup>5</sup> F. Rucker John<sup>4</sup> Frank, Angus<sup>3</sup>, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

In its original form, this article first appeared at *www.jmu.edu* in the fall of 2003, written by Nancy Bondurant Jones.

#### In Memoriam

\* \* \* \*

Both Earl Rudolph Dewberry and his wife, Elizabeth "Polly" Garrison Dewberry recently passed away. Polly died on December 6, 2011 and Earl on September 5, 2012.



They were residents of Hurt, VA. Earl was born February 9, 1923, in Pittsylvania C o u n t y, Virginia, a son

of Albert Sidney Johnston Dewberry and Katie Bell (Wilkinson) Dewberry. Polly was born October 14, 1933, in Charlotte County, VA, a daughter of the late William R. Garrison and Gertrude (Myers) Garrison. Earl and Polly were married 58 years.

He was a retired regional sales manager with American General Life Insurance Company and a faithful, lifelong member of New Prospect Baptist Church in Hurt, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He enjoyed woodworking and family history. Earl spent years searching for the grave of his great grandfather Reuben Rucker and finally found it near Chatham Virginia. Reuben was a traveling preacher and the pastor of the church that Rucker/Dewberry family attended over the years since its founding in 1849. This church was originally called Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Mount Pleasant Church was used as a school house as well as a meeting place for church members. It was constructed on land owned by Ambrose Rucker which he sold to the church for \$3 an acre. When this church moved

to the village of Hurt, the name was changed to New Prospect Baptist Church because a member was quoted as saying "There will always be new prospects for this church." Earl was a stalwart member of this church his entire life as were the generations of his family before him.

Even today there are members of this church who are descendants of the original Rucker and Dewberry founders. Over the years Earl served in every position in the church except pastor, including superintendent of Sunday school, deacon, trustee and he sang in the choir beginning at about age 10. He became the church historian and uncovered many historical facts about the church. An example is that he found the location of the first church. The building was long ago demolished, but the foundation was still there. Earl identified every pastor the church has ever had over the years and had their names engraved on a bronze plaque with the dates they served.

According to his brother, Sidney O. Dewberry, "Earl was a small man, about 5'2", and never weighed more than 130 pounds. However he was stronger than most men of normal height. He had big hands from constant working manually on hundreds of projects.

"He loved wood working. Dewberry family members all have ash trays, baskets, chairs, and little do-dads in their house

that Earl made as gifts to us. I have a gavel, and several other things, made from wood taken from an old grain storage house on the family farm which was built from original wood taken from an old sawmill workers shanty that our grandfather Ambrose remodeled into a livable house for himself and his bride in 1875-76. This saw mill structure probably dated to the period 1820 to 1850. A man was killed from an explosion of a steam boiler which ran the saw while he was working at the sawmill."

The saw went straight up and down, rather than around as circular saws do in sawmills today and Earl could always tell if the saw was running straight from the notches left in the wood by the blade.

"One of Earl's strength of personality lay in his ability to shake your hand, look up to you, with those bright blue eyes, and make you feel special. He was always able to make people feel important with his humble demeanor. This was genuine and I doubt if he ever knew he was charming you when he talked to you. Everyone who knew Earl loved him and felt like just hugging him - men and women, alike."

Earl wrote a biography of his grandfather Ambrose Rucker (1826-1912) which was included with the *Rucker Family Society Newsletter* of March 1995 (Vol. 6, No. 1). [Anyone wishing a copy

may request a copy from Mike Rucker at: mikruc@aol.com, or look online at www.therucker familysociety.org/newsletter.html]

Earl and Polly are survived by two sons: Robert Earl Dewberry and wife Susan of Roanoke and Albert Sidney Dewberry and wife Young Sook of Hurt; two daughters, Marilyn Sue Bowling and husband Terry of Hurt and Sherry Lynn Durham and husband Martin of Florida. They have 10 grandchildren: Joshua, Ashley, Amber, Jesse, Katie, Jacob, Julie, William, Michael and Aaron; and three great-grandchildren, Emilie, Nico' and Konner.

Earl is also survived by one brother, Sidney Oliver Dewberry and wife Reva of Arlington; and one sister, Betty Louise Ackerman of Richmond. In addition to his wife, Earl was preceded in death by three brothers, Bill, Claude and Raymond Dewberry; and three sisters, Phyllis Dewberry, Pat Barnard and Dorothy Berger.

Earl's Rucker line of descent: Albert<sup>9</sup> Sidney Johnston Dewberry, Molly<sup>8</sup> Rucker, Ambrose<sup>7</sup>, Reuben<sup>6</sup> Dawson, Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

William Michael "Mike" Rucker, 71, died peacefully September 2, 2012 at his home in Milton, Florida. He was born on July 19, 1941 in Bell Plaine, IA and grew up in Marion, IA. Mike attended Marion High School where he excelled in sports. Following graduation in 1959, he

joined the U.S. Navy, serving from 1960 to 1966.

He was trained as an air sonarman helicopter crewman and assigned to Helicopter Squadron 6 aboard the Carrier *U.S.S. Kearsarge*. He was later crossed trained in underwater demolition. His ship participated in three Western Pacific deployments during the early involvement in Vietnam. In May 1963, he was selected as one of the three Navy swimmers who recovered Gordon Cooper's Faith 7 Mercury spacecraft following its return to the Pacific.

After leaving the U.S. Navy, he returned to Marion, married, had two children, and enjoyed a long career in electronic sales. Mike also lived in Evergreen, Colorado, Honolulu, Hawaii and Novato, California where he held executive management and sales positions in security solutions and building products. While in Novato, he met and married, Jean Sinkus. They settled and lived in their beach front home in Milton, Florida, outside of Pensacola.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William H. and Frances S. Rucker. He is survived by his wife Jean Rucker and their four children; Kerri Sinkus-Reyes of Novato, CA, Christine Stulak of Friendswood, TX, Christopher and Connie Sinkus of Royal Palm Beach, FL, and David Rucker of Pennsylvania; and his brother Steven and Dianna Rucker of Monticello, IA; nine grandchildren - Jonathon,

Christopher, Courtney, Camille, Stephanie, Kori, Cato, Aaron, Tabitha; and one great-grandchild Jocelynn.

Mike's lineage is: William Michael<sup>9</sup> Rucker, William<sup>8</sup> H., Frank Pearl<sup>7</sup>, William<sup>6</sup> S., Elliot<sup>5</sup>, Paschal<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

#### Sgt. John O'Neal Rucker

\* \* \* \* \*

Continued from page 21

United States military action in Vietnam and that temporarily stopped the fighting between North and South Vietnam. Sgt. Rucker was the victim of a 3 A.M. North Vietnamese artillery, rocket, and mortar attack on his barracks at DaNang Air Base.

O'Neal was born March 17, 1951 in Kilgore, Texas, to his parents John E. and Mae (Dulaney) Rucker and was raised in Linden, Cass Co., Texas. Even though Even though Rucker had a high draft number (each birthdate in the year was assigned a number and those men born on a day with a low number were drafted in order of their date's number), he volunteered to serve in the Air Force in February 1971. Once he completed his basic training, he volunteered to serve in Southeast Asia and was based in Thailand for much of his service which was aircraft maintenance. O'Neal's sister Margie remembers that he liked what he was doing and was proud to be in the Air Force.

Recently, through DNA testing, it was determined that when O'Neal was in Vietnam, he became the father of the daughter who was subsequently adopted by American parents who lived in Colorado. Her name is Tia Whittier (her adoptive parents are Jack and Karen Whittier) and met her father's family recently. She is married and she and her husband Allan McConnell have two sons, Ouentin and Matthew. McConnell feels that she would "really encourage people, especially with the amount of time that has passed since [the] Vietnam [War], that if they think they might have fathered a child to find out, to put the pieces back together because time is short."

A monument to his memory is on the grounds of the Cass County Courthouse. Sgt. Rucker is buried in the Center Hill Cemetery, Linden, TX.

John O'Neal<sup>10</sup> Rucker's lineage is: John<sup>9</sup> Elerise, John<sup>8</sup> Anderson, Stephen<sup>7</sup> Frederick, Enoch<sup>6</sup> Anderson, Wiley<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, George<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

#### THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MOSES PETER RUCKER

Part IV

Edited by

Michael "Mike" P. Rucker

Continued from Last Issue

We broke up winter quarters at Culpepper C. H. and moved to Fredericksburg about the last of March, 1863, where we stayed until Hooker crossed the Rappahannock at Chancellorsville. About the 1st of April we moved in the direction of Chancellorsville. Nearly all of the Infantry moved in the direction of the same place with the Cavalry in advance, and on the flanks. We had some heavy fighting keeping Lee's army secure from observation. When we reached the vicinity of Chancellorsville the enemy were making desperate efforts to find out where Lee and Jackson were. Lee used his cavalry altogether to keep the Yankee Cavalry from penetrating his lines. When we got nearly to Chancellorsville the enemy had possession of the plank road leading to Fredericksburg by Chancellorsville and the other road led to Jemina Ford on the Rappahannock River. This fork was picketed by a small force of the enemy's Cavalry.



The Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia 1863

On the first day of May, our Squadron was drawn up on this plank road about 11:00 o'clock under the command of that gallant Capt. James Breckenridge, who was an officer of very few words. Attention, right face, forward march; after going a short distance

- draw sabre, trot, pass it down the line that Jackson is in your rear. This stimulated the men to do their best. We were soon in sight of Hooker's mounted pickets who did not tarry. The thundering of that old plank road, and the rebel yell which we gave was noise enough for a large army. We followed those Yanks until the road that led to Jemina's Ford was clear, threw out our picket and came back to the said forks of the road. We soon saw Jackson and his staff coming. I don't think I shall ever forget how Jackson and his men looked that bright spring day. There was nothing gaudy in Jackson's appearance and he seemed to be in deep meditation. A small cap was on his head which would rise gently whenever we would cheer him. He was riding old Sorrel, who may now be seen at the Soldier's Home in Richmond, his hide stuffed, standing as if he was still alive. Don't fail to see "Sorrel" should you visit the Soldier's Home.

Jackson was now making his last flanking movement, the result of which the whole South is familiar with. He died from a wound received the night after victory was assured. What a sad loss this was to the Confederacy. Men, a few days ago full of glee, now looked sad. Nothing but the great victory sustained them in the trying hour.

I rode along the lines the day Hooker crossed back over the river. What destruction of life and property! That country was a

wilderness country. The leaves caught on fire and burned up many wounded man who were unable to get out of the way. General Stoneman of the Federal Army had gotten in our rear and for a while we had to watch our rear carefully. In consequence we had no place to send our prisoners. I was detailed to take charge of a Federal Major, a fine-looking, intelligent man, who had been captured the first day. He was turned over to me about dark and I told him he was in hands which would defend him if he behaved himself, but if he undertook to get away from me I would shoot him. I would also give him the privilege of saying anything he chose in regard to the war or anything else he saw fit to talk about.

I wish to hear him express himself fully and I would do the same thing. He thanked me and said he had nice provisions in his haversack and the first thing he would do would be to prepare something eat. He put on his coffee pot and when he put his genuine coffee in the pot, how delicious it did smell. He got us a nice supper and told me it was ready. He was a polite man and, of course, he poured me out a cup full first, but I told him to take hold of it and drink first himself. He did so and seemed to enjoy my suspicions and prudence but said not a word about it. I soon saw it was not poisonous and ate with him and enjoyed it hugely. After supper we sat down by the fire and witnessed our army drive

the Federals which was pleasing to me, but did not appear to affect him in the least. Finally he reminded me that I had given him the privilege to spend his opinion about the war and other things. He said, "My friend, we will whip you in this war". At that point, I looked toward the firing lines and the Federals seemed to be giving back rapidly. I told him to look in front of us, that it did not look much like it. He said that this was a small matter, and that if they had our Lee and Jackson and we had their Generals, everything would be in a different shape.



He continued- "We have all of your ports closed and the whole of the outside world to recruit from and to feed from and you have no such privileges (a thing I was bound to admit), and if they could not whip us any other way they would starve us out". The truth of this we realized not long after. I put up the best argument I could to the contrary, but he had me so completely whipped that I was contended to listen and strike back at him only when I could see that it would be plausible. On the third day of May I rode over the battlefield. The Federals had strong earthworks but Jackson's

turning their left put their lines in confusion

When Jackson was wounded, our General Stuart took command of his men and distinguished himself by his bravery on the field. It is said that when he took command his favorite command was "forward". He sang his favorites and put new words to it. It began thus - "Old Joe Hooker come out of the Wilderness, come out of Wilderness, come out of the Wilderness." Our command was used to keep off flanking parties and during the fight we made several spirited charges. One was at Todd's Tavern. Federal Cavalry had charge of the main road on which Jackson wanted to reach Chancellorsville and our brigade was chosen to drive them back. In the darkness of the night the 1st and 3rd made charges and were beaten back. Afterward the 2nd was ordered in and of all the yells I ever heard, that was greatest. The Yanks could not stand that for it was yelling enough for 20,000 men, and they left that country. We killed their Colonel and several men at the forks of the road, and the rest of them took to the bushes. Our Colonel was anxious to know which way they went, so he jumped off his horse and struck a match to see which way the horses' feet were turned. Mounting his horse he ordered forward, but could not find any organized body to fight.

After the battle of Chancellorsville there was a lull. Hooker had gone in the direction of Washington and our Army took position on the Rapidan until about the 6th of June. Lee commenced a move to the enemy's country on the 7th of June, and we were ordered to Raccoon Ford on the Rappahannock. We met a large body of cavalry which held us in check until they were pressed back at other fords and likely to be flanked. They then gave back and we terrified them to Brandy Station. Here we had a pretty smart fight, cutting off more of Gen. Kilpatrick's command than we could handle, said command being pressed by Gen. Stuart from Culpepper C.H.

To be continued in the next issue.

# RUCKER DESCENDANT IS HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS

#### by Bill Smith

As so frequently happens, while researching something else I ran across the story of Jane Keith, a beautiful young woman who was born in Missouri and died all too soon in Hollywood in 1944.

Jane Keith, as she was known professionally, was born Jane Neave Keithley on April 11, 1908 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was the youngest of the five children of Herbert Rucker Keithley (1862-1921) and Harriet Mabel "Hattie" Tinker (1868-1944). After "leaving the University of Chicago to enter the business world, she became the secretary to a

Michigan City [Indiana]. On a visit to Hollywood in 1929, she gained "an introduction into film circles" and she appeared in four movies in uncredited roles (Luxury Liner, Whoopee!, The Floradora Girl, and Paramount on Parade), and in The Secret Call she was Grace Roberts and in The Sea Wolf she played Lorna Marsh. These movies were released between 1930 and 1933.

While Jane's movie career did not achieve Oscar-level recognition, she did meet and marry film director Alfred Santell (1894-1981) [born Alfred Allen Samuelson] and had four children. The 1940 Census of California lists the Santell family living at 714 N. Walden Ave., Beverly Hills (just 5 houses away from Greer Garson and 2 houses from Walter Pidgeon). Living in the home were Alfred, then age 45, Jane, 32, and their four children; five year old Barbara Jane (1935-), four year old Linda Jane (1936-), one year old [Dr.] Allen Alfred (1928-2006), and their infant brother Evan Allen Santell (1929-2003). The remaining household members were two nurses, a cook and a butler. Jane's husband directed well over 90 films, but left the business in 1946, shortly after Jane's death. He eventually moved into the television industry. Santell's 1936 movie Winterset, starring Burgess Meredith, Margo and Eduardo Ciannelli, and received two Oscar nominations, and won the Venice Film Festival's Best Cinematography award.

Some interesting footnotes about Jane's descendants are: that her daughter Linda married Ward Gilmore, and they had two children, Neave, who is a therapist and social worker, and her brother Arch who was, from 1998 until 2011, a soloist with the New York City Ballet; and Jane's son Dr. Allen Santell has a medical library named in his honor at the Natvidad Medical Center in Salinas. California. The library "provides information resources in support of ... patient care and professional education activities. Dr. Santell served at the medical center from 1969 until 2006 as an exemplary physician, mentor and teacher.



A publicity photograph of Jane Keith (Jane Neave Keithley)

Jane's Rucker lineage is: Jane<sup>7</sup> Neave Keithley, Herbert<sup>6</sup> Rucker Keithley, Jane<sup>5</sup> Neave Vawter, William<sup>4</sup> Vawter, Jr., Mary<sup>3</sup> Rucker, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

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#### John Kaylor Booton

by Bill Smith



John Kaylor Booton (1823-1903)

When doing some Rucker research recently, I ran across the photograph on the left, of John K. Booton. I'm not certain why, but the photograph caused me to dig deeper, and this is what I found.

John Kaylor Booton was born August 19, 1823 in Shenandoah Co., Virginia, and died 76 years later, December 19, 1903 in Page County, Virginia. He was the son of Rev. Ambrose Crittendon Booton and Elizabeth Fry. He married Emily Heiskell Lauck (1834-1913) in 1852 and they had five children: Martha Lauck "Mollie" Booton (1853-1929), William Ambrose (-1855), Mariella "Mary" Booton (1857-1910), Dr. Theodore L. Booton (1862-1907), and Judge John Heiskell Booton (1874-1960).

John K. Booton enlisted on June 2, 1861, at age 37, and was appointed commander and captain of the "Dixie Artillery." Four months later he resigned to serve in the Virginia State Legislature. At the same time, he was put in charge of harness-making for Page County until the end of the Civil War.

By the 1880 Virginia Census, John's occupation was described as a Minister of the Gospel. He was ordained in the Primitive Baptist Church. Interestingly, in several sources he is described as an inventor. I couldn't discover what he invented, but it was commented on.

John<sup>6</sup> K. Booton's Rucker lineage is: Ambrose<sup>5</sup> C. Booton, John<sup>4</sup>, Tomagen<sup>3</sup> Rucker, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

## The RUCKER family SOCIETY



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