

S P R I N G E D I T I O N

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 24, NO. 1, MARCH 2013

White House Ruckers

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Thomas Allen & Atterson
Walden Rucker

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

This is a story of two Rucker brothers who became prominent and successful in the wild and woolly days of Colorado about the turn of the 20th century.

These brothers, Thomas Allen Rucker and Atterson Walden Rucker, were two of seven children born to James⁷ Willis Rucker and Elizabeth Elrod (Jones) Rucker. Their father, James, had served as a major in the Mexican War.

Thomas Rucker was born May 1, 1844, Cole County, Missouri. The family then reversed the typical westward movement of 19th century Americans, and relocated to Harrodsburg, Kentucky where Atterson was born April 3, 1847. Both boys were educated in the local common schools and attended Bethany College.

In 1862 Thomas, Atterson and their two other brothers, David and John W., joined General

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The Rucker Roundup

2014 Rucker Family Society Reunion in Phoenix

Plans are certainly moving forward for the next Rucker Family Reunion to be held in the Phoenix area Thursday, February 27 through Sunday, March 2, 2014. The meetings will take place in the San Tan DoubleTree by Hilton in Gilbert, AZ. Gilbert is a town southeast of Phoenix, but well within the Phoenix metropolitan area.

There are special dinners including Thursday night's Carne Asada Dinner at Jason Rucker's home that includes a Family History Presentation. Friday will be dinner and a Western Show at the "Rockin' R Ranch." Saturday's dinner at Cheryl Rucker's home will feature the Rucker Brothers' BBQ and Auction.

Day trips before and after the reunion could include the Grand Canyon, Rucker Canyon, golfing and Spring training baseball. More information soon.

***The Rucker Family
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Joseph Orville Shelby's brigade, which was part of Major General Sterling Price's corps, in service to the Confederacy.

After the Civil War, the Rucker family left Kentucky a second time, and returned to Missouri briefly, then on to Kansas. In 1868 Atterson was admitted to the bar while in Missouri. Thomas was certified a lawyer the following year. By 1870 the brothers opened a law office together in Baxter Springs, Kansas, but then relocated to Kansas City in 1874, and continued their practice.

Atterson Walden Rucker



The *Aspen Democrat* stated in 1908, "There are few men who are more popular on the Western Slope [of Colorado]." The *History of Colorado* felt that Atterson Rucker "... has by reason of his extended and intelligently directed activity has left his impress upon the history of Colorado as lawyer, legislator, agriculturist, and stock raiser."

During the Civil War, Atterson participated in the engagements at Carthage, Lexington, and elsewhere in Missouri. Taken prisoner in August 1862, and after having been imprisoned for six months at Springfield, Missouri, he was paroled.

Atterson remained in Kansas City practicing law from 1874 to 1879, when he relocated to Leadville, Colorado. He was appointed judge of the criminal court of Lake County and served on the bench for a short period. Retiring from this office, he resumed private practice, in Leadville until 1885, when he moved to Denver.

In 1908 when he was elected a member of the U. S. House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket from Colorado's first congressional district. Although it was a strong Republican district, he was elected with a significant majority. During his time in congress, he served as a member of the Insular Committee. In this responsibility he made official trips of inspection and investigation, to the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines, as well as to Japan and China. He also served as a member of the Irrigation Committee, the Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Pension Committee.

Atterson was unsuccessful in his bid for reelection in 1912, at which time he resumed his law practice in Denver. He also became involved in raising registered pure-blooded Hampshire Down sheep, having

the only flock of the kind in the state at that time. He was a member of the Farmers Union, the National Wool Growers' Association, the Cattle Growers' Association and the National Farmers' Institute.

In 1884, Atterson Rucker bought a one-sixth interest in the Aspen Silver Mine for \$15,000 from Harvey Otis Young (who is actually best known as a landscape artist of the Colorado Rockies). Shortly after the contract was signed, the miners struck a major vein of silver. Despite their signed contract, Young refused to accept Rucker's money for the deal and, instead, sold the one-sixth interest to a friend named Wheeler. Rucker, of course, sued Young and Wheeler for specific performance of the contract. The courts found in Rucker's favor numerous times, but Young and Wheeler continuously appealed and managed to drag the case along until 1892 when Rucker finally prevailed. He was awarded the astounding amount of \$801,670, which today would be worth between \$18 and \$20 million.

According to Wilbur Fiske Stone's *History of Colorado*:

It has often been thought that the qualities which are demanded for success along professional lines are at variance with those which are needed for the achievement of prosperity in agriculture. Be this as it may, Hon. Atterson W. Rucker has won prominence in both fields and by reason of his extended and intelligently directed activity has left his impress upon the history of Colorado as lawyer,

legislator, agriculturist and stock raiser.

Atterson Rucker died near Mount Morrison, Colorado, on July 19, 1924 and was interred in the Littleton Cemetery, Littleton, Colorado. On March 5, 1872 Atterson Rucker married Celeste E. Caruth (1854-1906), the daughter of Hon. Samuel B. and Eliza Jane (Brown) Caruth, in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Atterson and Celeste had one child: Ethel Rucker (1874-1955).

As with many Ruckers, these brothers had two lines of descent from Peter Rucker: Thomas⁷ Allen Rucker and Atterson⁷ Walden Rucker, James⁶ W., John⁵, James⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and John⁵'s wife Rachel⁵ Rucker John⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Thomas Allen Rucker



Thomas A. Rucker

"The judge of the [Colorado] Ninth Judicial District, Thomas A. Rucker, had advised some of the [cattle stock growers] association members to "run the cattle thieves out of the country and that was the only way to get rid of them." So stated the *Glenwood Springs* [Colorado] *Avalanche Echo*, in its December 20, 1900 edition.

These were typical of the words and actions of this outspoken and forthright individual, who was a notable figure in Eastern Colorado at that period. Although the above statement was out of his courtroom it was not outside of his character.

Thomas Rucker practiced law in Kansas City from 1874 until 1881. He then relocated to Aspen, Colorado in and was elected Judge of Pritikin County two years later. In 1883 the governor of Colorado appointed him to fill the position of the newly appointed ninth judicial district.

When he took the bench of this new judicial district he found a severe backlog of cases. One of the more notorious of these lingering cases was that of Elijah Cravens in Glen Wood Springs who had been accused of murder several years earlier. Thomas Rucker tried to make that case a priority, but was constantly thwarted by continual legal maneuvers. Finally, in July 1888 Cravens appeared before Rucker's court and was convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

The very next month another murder occurred, that of Herman C. Babcock. The no-nonsense Rucker arranged for a speedier trial in this case and Babcock was convicted of first degree murder in October of the same year. Later in 1888 Rucker was facing a challenge to reelection by James L. Hodges, a Republican who contended that Rucker was soft on criminals and promoted long trial delays. Hodges won the election but Rucker retained the seat as

Hodges was soon found guilty of buying votes.

The Colorado Supreme Court reviewed one of Thomas Rucker's cases and sanctioned his decisions. Though he was accused of abusing his power, in 1891 successfully defended himself against impeachment. Despite his political and professional difficulties he continued to serve the Ninth Judicial District until 1901. Thomas Rucker's reputation was widespread. The *San Francisco Morning Call* reported in its February 15, 1894 edition:

Judge Thomas A. Rucker of Aspen, Colo. is in the city. He is a cousin of L. G. Rucker, the popular Palace Hotel clerk, and is here simply on a pleasure trip. ... He is looked upon as one of the authorities in mining law and has tried some of the biggest cases of the land in that state. His vigorous manner in dealing with criminals has gained him much celebrity in Colorado, and when Denver suffers from one of its periodical epidemics of crime the Judge is usually sent to dispose of the catch in the criminal net.

Judge Thomas Allen Rucker died March 6, 1918 in Aspen, Colorado and was buried in Red Butte Cemetery, Aspen, Colorado. On September 5, 1867 Thomas married Mariam Buena Pemberton (1849-1944), the daughter of George M. and Melissa M. (Pemberton) Pemberton, in Pettis County, Missouri. Thomas and Mariam reared three children: Willis G. Rucker (1868-1895), Dr.

Pemberton Thomas Rucker (1870-1960), and Atterson Warren Rucker (1874-1965).

* * * *

In Memoriam

LILLIAN LAYNE HANMER of Keysville, Virginia, died this past October 26, 2012. She was the daughter of Estelle Rucker Layne and Paul A. Layne; born in Cullen, VA on August 8, 1921. She was preceded in death by her husband James H. Hanmer, her son James H. Hanmer, Jr. and her sister Edythe Layne Lienchart. She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-laws Joan and Bill Schmidt of Rogers, AR; Peggy and Steve Richards of Maystille, Ky and her daughter-in-law Betsy Hanmer of Keysville, Va. She is also survived by 2 grandchildren, Drew H. Gibson and Kate L. Price and her sister, Anne Layne Denton.

Lill graduated from The University of North Carolina, Greensboro with a degree in Health and Physical Education. After graduation, she became the first P.E. teacher at Randolph-Henry High School in 1942.

Lill was an active member of the Keysville United Methodist Church where she served as Secretary to the Treasurer, Sunday School Teacher, Lay Leader, delegate to Annual Conference, Chairman of the Administration Board and served on many committees. She also enjoyed golf, dancing, tennis, bridge, traveling and was an avid Virginia Tech fan.

Funeral services were Tuesday,

October 30, at Keysville United Methodist Church.

Lillian¹⁰ Layne Hamner's Rucker lineage is: Estelle⁹ Rucker Layne, Edwin⁸ Samuel Rucker, Ambrose⁷ Clark, Edwin⁶ Sorrell, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter.

DEWITT CYRIL "LADD" RUCKER, JR. died May 6, 2012 in Camarillo, California at the age of 92. Ladd was born April 23, 1920 to DeWitt and Helen Rucker in San Francisco, CA and grew up in San Jose, CA. Ladd attended the University of Oregon. He enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving with Marine Intelligence. After World War II, Ladd worked as an actor for Warner Brothers Studios. Ladd moved back to San Jose where he took over The Rucker Company, his family's real estate business that had been established in 1874. However, he would return to work in the film industry. He worked as a location manager, production manager, and producer on various television movies and specials. Ladd worked on the Motion Picture Development Council in 1979 and was appointed to the California State Film Commissioner in 1985, where he served for over a decade. Ladd moved to San Luis Obispo in 1984 with his wife Lavon and granddaughter Becky. There he served as director of the San Luis Obispo Film Commission. After his wife's death in 2001, Ladd moved to Ventura and later Camarillo to be near his granddaughter and her family. Ladd is survived by his daughter,

California. One truly does exist – Rucker Elementary School, built originally in 1894, which is now located in Gilroy. Another, Rucker Creek, listed as a stream, only exists for part of the year. For the remainder of the year, Rucker Creek is a typical California dry streambed. Finally we arrive at Rucker, a populated place. Hmm. If populated, the question exists then, by whom? I suspect all citizens of officially recognized Rucker would state that they lived in Gilroy, since many people know of Gilroy, which hosts the (truly) well known Garlic Festival. After all, Gilroy is, the self-proclaimed, *Garlic Capital of the World!* When I “googled” the address at the street corner where the USGS/Google Maps “red location balloon” was pointing, which was presumably the center of “downtown” Rucker, and it turned up with a Gilroy, CA 95020 address.



Rucker Creek (May 2011)

So much for my tongue-in-cheek approach to the existence of Rucker, California - though it may seem as ephemeral as Rucker Creek, it does have an actual connection to a descendant of Peter Rucker.

When Joseph⁶ Edmonson [or Edmundson] Rucker (William⁵ Taliafero Rucker, William⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹) came to Santa Clara County, California in October 1852 with his parents,

William T. and Verenda S. (Taylor) Rucker, from Saline Co., Missouri, the “Golden State” had barely been a state for two years and was still dominated by those who held the huge land grants made during the Spanish and Mexican regimes. Joseph E. Rucker married Susan Brown, also from Missouri, September 27, 1855 in Gilroy. He farmed for a while and then became involved in real estate. Most of Joseph E. and Susan Rucker’s male children became farmers, but their son Joseph H. Rucker, born March 25, 1865, also entered into the real estate business with his father, who then changed the company’s name to J. E. Rucker & Son. After Joseph E.’s death in 1879, the company was named J. H. Rucker & Company.

June 6, 1888, Joseph H. Rucker married Mary “Mamie” Phileta Dunne (1864-1952). They had three children, Joseph Edmundson (1889-1975), DeWitt Cyril (1892-1973), Jerome Wilton (1894-1975), all of whom participated in their father’s business. Mamie Dunne was the daughter of James Dunne (1817-1874) and Catherine O’Toole (1828-1925), former wife of the late Bernard Murphy (1818-1853). It was through the vast land holdings of her first husband that Catherine Dunne came to inherit about 15,000 acres of land in the Santa Clara Valley. Eventually, she would sell off much of these land holding, with her son James, “Jimmy.” The land between San Martin and Gilroy would become Rucker, named for Catherine’s son-in-law, Joseph H. Rucker whose company was selling this part of the Dunne

Tract. This took place in 1894 and by about 1904, Rucker had been subsumed into the larger and more successful town of Gilroy.

The story of the Santa Clara County Ruckers has been told in segments before in *The Rucker Society Newsletter*. There are related articles in the December 1999 (Vol. 10, No. 4) regarding portraits of Wm. T. and Verenda S. Rucker, June 2002 (Vol. 13, No. 2) regarding the home of Joseph H. Rucker and Mamie Dunne, the “Rucker Mansion” in San Jose (Santa Clara Co.), and September 2011 (Vol. 22, No. 3) regarding the Rucker School bell in Gilroy. Also, the obituary for DeWitt Cyril “Ladd” Rucker, Jr. in this issue relates to the family as well.

* * * *

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MOSES PETER RUCKER

Part VI

Edited by

Michael “Mike” P. Rucker

Continued from Last Issue

Our regiment had to fight against great odds, both infantry and cavalry. We had orders to hold this position at all hazards until our infantry could come down from the wilderness and get in position in the rear. They charged our position repeatedly. On the 9th we had orders to fall back. The enemy thought we were fast giving way under the heavy pressure that they were giving us, but our infantry had come up in our rear, fortified and got their lines in readiness to receive them. We went back in a rush and carried them right into our infantry which was ready for

them. Their officers would urge them to go over, saying that this was nothing but cavalry with short guns, but they found out differently to their great surprise.

Grant was then extending his line in the direction of the Spottsylvania Heights. In this fight Charles Walker, Sam Murrell and Wm. D. Fields were among the wounded. I got them on the ambulance with the aid of others. Tilburn Johnson, Creed Hubbard and many others in the regiment were killed. Strange to say, so many of us came out alive as did, the fire was terrific. William Thaxton proposed to me to load my gun and his while crouched down behind him. A bullet knocked off his shoe heel and did not strike either of us.

On the 13th day of May, 1864, Sheridan started on a raid in the rear of Lee's army in the direction of Richmond, with infantry and cavalry, keeping his infantry in disguise with his cavalry. Lee could not spare a force at that time, being heavily engaged with Grant at Spottsylvania C. H., but he sent several regiments of cavalry in pursuit. Among that force was the 2nd Virginia. This was the hardest service I did during the war. For about eight days and nights we were in the saddle when not fighting on foot. We could not do much more than keep him in the road, but we fought him every day and sometimes twice a day beside skirmishes. The first fight we had with him was at Beaver Dam Station on the R. R. leading from Gordonsville to Richmond. The next fight was at Yellow Tavern

where we lost the gallant Stuart, an irreparable loss to our army.



General J.E.B. Stuart (1833-1864)

I recollect on this evening our company was drawn up in the rear of a battery to support it. We had hardly halted before I was fast asleep on my horse completely oblivious to what was going on. Four pieces opened on the enemy at once, and I woke up and was the most alarmed man I knew of during the war. It seemed to me that everything was torn all to pieces and it was sometime before I could calm myself to know where I was and what I was doing. On that evening I was out to the front of our lines to report what was going on. I had two men with me and I sent one back to let our men know that Sheridan was flanking our position with a large force of infantry, but my man got to the command about the time they were falling back and he never reported to me to fall back. I thought I would see why there was so much silence. I went back and found the rail piles behind which I had left the company, but

they were all gone. A great many things flashed over my mind in a moment, now for being captured or killed.

I made up my mind to feel my way back and resist capture as long as prudence would dictate. I started across a large field on foot, for my horse had been sent back with the led horses. This field had a settlement in it. I was confident from what I had seen of the movements of the enemy that they had well gained my rear. My command was nowhere in sight and had taken my horse with them. I saw a cavalry man making for me as I thought, just as I was passing this settlement. I got behind an old corn crib and thought to myself - "Let him come and I may yet get to ride out on his horse". At any rate, I was going to risk my chance with him and probably tumble him off his horse, but before I could fire the second time at him he had gotten close enough for me to see that he was a Confederate. I did not have time to apologize to him and he did not have time to accept it. I made good speed from that place in the direction from which I first came.

One of the peculiar things about my soldier life is that I never lost my bearings. When I went into a fight I generally knew which way to get back. In my travels to overtake my company I came to a large lake of water. I did not have time to go around it, so straight through I went and found it shallow all the way across. To my great delight I finally caught up with my company and got on my horse, a very much fatigued man, but I felt very good that I was not

captured. My old friend, Whit Nance, got his old hat very badly damaged that evening as well as his head badly bruised.



Mechanicsville, Virginia - Ellerson's Mill

The next time we overtook Sheridan he was near the bridge near Taylorsville which we saved. That day we fought at Ashland. The enemy got to this place before we did and we divided our forces and attacked them on all sides and routed them. Something like a regiment came down the street on which our company was and bid fair at one time to ride over us. Being on foot, we took shelter behind the houses on each side of the street and fired on them as they passed down the street. I got in a chimney corner and did my best on them. They were so badly stampeded that they did not fire on us. I recollect I singled out an officer, as I thought, and aimed to hit him just above the saddle. This caused him to reel on his horse and one of our men ran out and knocked him off with the butt of his gun and got his horse. This was an easy thing for him to do, but he bore off the honor of killing this man in a hand to hand fight and capturing his horse. I let him have the honor, but I always thought I shot that man and believe he was badly disabled when he was struck with the gun.

As we were going into this fight Lieutenant Hughes was wounded on the breast with a spent ball. When we got back to our horses, we started again traveling private roads. Sheridan would not let us travel main roads. I often think of an incident which happened to me that day. When I got on my horse, I was so tired and sleepy that I went fast asleep, having perfect confidence in my horse that she would keep her place in line. While asleep my body went faster than my head, which exposed my face to the limbs which hung over the road. A limb first struck me under the chin, then jumped to my nose, giving me a tremendous lick on the nose and appearing to hang long enough to gather force to give the top of my head a sounder. It was all done so quickly that I could not tell "who was striking Billy Patterson". This scrape on my face hurt me very badly and the laughing of the boys was not to be compared to the way my face was hurting. It hurt so badly that if we had been ordered into a fight just at that point. I certainly could have put up a good one, and for the remainder of that day I was as wide awake as any other man in that regiment.

The next night found us near Mechanicsville, with Sheridan between this place and Richmond. Both the Confederate and Federal men by this time were run down and badly fatigued. The 6th Virginia was thrown in a charge at this place and they came out badly stampeded, ran by us and made no stop, with the exception of Colonel Flourney. He stopped by a rail fence and whaled the fence and wanted to know where all the Southern chivalry was. One of our

men replied to him by saying – "If you are talking about your men, they are gone, I know not where. They came by us running". Sheridan here found out that there were troops enough in the works around Richmond with the cavalry that was then hovering around him, not to make a success of his "On to Richmond", and decided that it was his best policy to try to get back.



Grapevine Bridge

We again got in his front at Grapevine Bridge, and gave him battle. After a desperate struggle against heavy odds, (he bringing up a heavy column of infantry) we had to get out of the way and let them pass. We lost some brave men and officers in this fight.

* * * *

**The Childress and Morgan
Families of Bedford
County, Virginia
by Shannon Chandler
Edited by Bill Smith**

This article is an interesting connection to the many African-American Ruckers in the United States. In November of last year, Chris Rucker was contacted by Shannon Chandler, who is a resident of Chesterfield Co., VA. She had been researching her own family history when she discovered a connection between

her great-grandmother and the Ruckers of Bedford Co., VA.

Shannon's great-grandmother, Nettie Childress Brooks, listed in the 1900 U.S. Census of Bedford Co., VA as Inetta Childress, born March 1900 and living with her parents, Pleasant and Fannie Childress, and their seven other children, in Staunton, Bedford Co., VA.

Shannon indicated that Nettie's father, Pleasant, had been a slave on one of the Rucker plantations in Bedford Co. and had been emancipated before the Civil War. Again according to the 1900 Census, Pleasant had been born in February 1846 in Virginia to parents also born in Virginia. He is listed as a farmer and that he had been married to his wife Fannie for 14 years (so about 1886).

Shannon's information also told her that Pleasant had been given several acres of farmland in Moneta, which is about 95 miles south of Staunton, where Pleasant and Fannie lived in 1900. Another version of the story indicates that Pleasant and Alexander purchased a farm in Moneta, and then donated part of the property for a school for black children.

Pleasant Childress and his first wife Alexander only had one child, Early Childress. Early married Ellen I. Morgan, the daughter of Sam Henry Morgan and Ida Hall. Pleasant and his second wife, Fannie, had eight children and one of their daughters, Irma, married

another member of the Sam and Ida Morgan family. She married Sam Morgan, Jr.

Perhaps the most interesting information that Shannon mentioned was that when the slaves were emancipated they were given surnames. Apparently the mistress of the plantation wanted her family names represented in the process, and lined up the prospective recipients and gave them the surnames Morgan and Childress alternately. There may not have been a family connection between the recipients of their surname, but they would forever be linked in this unusual ceremony.

Further research may yet reveal on which plantation of the Rucker family Pleasant worked, but that will take more time and resources spent in Bedford County researching deeds and wills since census slave schedules do not include names.

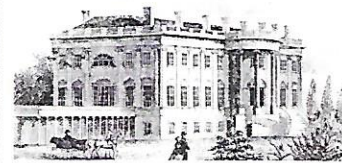
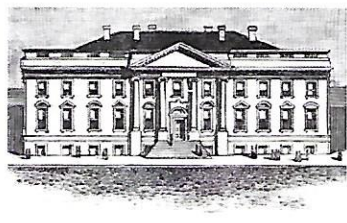
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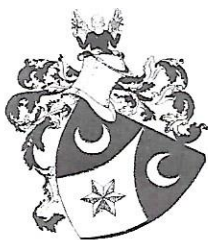
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The White House Ruckers



Many who attended the Nashville Rucker Reunion learned that the Ruckers of Murfreesboro, Tennessee had a connection to the White House of James K. Polk and his wife Sarah Childress. Though the Polks did not have children of their own, they were particularly fond of their two nieces, Joanna Lucinda Rucker (1822-1856) and Sarah Polk Rucker (1825-1850). These young ladies were the children of William⁵ Reade Rucker (James⁴, Benjamin³, John², Peter¹) and Susan Childress, Susan being the sister of the First Lady. The Rucker sisters married their husbands on November 6, 1850 - Joanna to Robert B. Jetton and Sarah to James Phillips. (Photo courtesy of Scarlett Rucker-Misikir)

The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



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Susan Rucker; sons David Rucker and Paul Rucker; granddaughter, Becky Crowell; grandsons Christopher Rucker, Derek Rucker, Kyle Rucker, and Clinton Rucker; great-grandchildren Camille Crowell, Elise Crowell, Charlotte Rucker, Emi Rucker, and Connor Rucker. He was preceded in death by his wife Lavon Rucker and brother Roderick Rucker.

Ladd's Rucker lineage is: DeWitt⁶ C. Rucker, Sr., Joseph⁶ H., Joseph⁵ E., William⁴ T., William³, Thomas², Peter¹.

* * * *

Query

Who were the Children of Joel Rucker?

Jeannie Brydon asks this question - Does anyone know the children of Joel Rucker of Kanawha Co., WV?

Joel⁴ Rucker (William³, Thomas², Peter¹ and William³'s wife, Elizabeth⁴ Smith, Margaret³ Rucker, John², Peter¹), b. between 1760 and 1770^[1], Culpeper (now Madison) Co., VA, d. 1837^[2], Kanawha Co., [W]VA; m. 1st 22 Sep 1791^[3], Culpeper Co., VA to Amy Young; m. 2nd Susannah _____^[4], b. ca 1787, living in the 1850 census.

Will of Joel Rucker, W. B. 1, p. 251, Kanawha Co., [W]VA (submitted by Alice Rucker Allen, 1994):

I Joel Rucker of the County of Kanawha and state of Virginia and in the Eighteenth hundred and thirty seventh year of our lord being in my right mind do

make this my last will and testament.

1st I do will that I be buried in a plane [sic] and genteel manner.

2nd I do give and Bequest to my wife Susannah Rucker my little property that is to say one house two cows two sows one gun my crop of corn in the field with the rest of my little property with in & with out such as bedding clothing and kitching [sic] ware and tools for farming. Likewise to have free privilege of my lands her lifetime to do as she thinks fit given under my hands this 3 day of Janu 1837.

Arch'd Price

Lewis Young Joel X Rucker

James Jesse (his mark)

At a county court held for Kanawha County the 9th day of October 1837. The last will and testament of Joel Rucker deceased was this day presented in court and proven by the autho. of Lewis Young and (Jesse) James . . .

Joel's will mentions his wife Susannah, but no children. Is anyone researching this line?

My guess is the Ruckers living in Kanawha Co., (now West Virginia) were his children.

Issue by Joel Rucker and his 1st wife, Amy Young (unproved):

1. Fielding⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1794 (1850 census); m. 1st ca 1820, Margaret Price; m. 2nd 1829, Abigail Newhouse.
2. John⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1798; m. Aug 1818, Elizabeth Price.
3. Samuel⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1802 (1850 census); m. 1st Dianah

_____ ; m. 2nd Christiana Strickland.

4. Benjamin⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1805 (1850 census); m. 1st 17 Apr 1827, Christeny Strickland; m. 2nd 1 Sep 1831, Elizabeth Cobb; m. 3rd 8 Apr 1854, Nancy Cobb, b. ca 1811.

5. Sarah⁵ Rucker, b. ca 1799; m. 13 Jul 1825, Edmund Newhouse, b. 16 Dec 1798, son of Henry Newhouse and Elizabeth Claypole. They moved to Marion Co., IN about 1835 (D. B. U-V, p.125-126, Kanawha Co., [W]VA). They had a son named Joel. (From *Our Rucker & Balsler Heritage*, compiled by A. Jewel Rucker, 2001.)

^[1]Birth estimate from the 1830 census. Jewel Rucker (p.29) pointed out that if he actually served in the War of 1812, he was probably born closer to 1770.

^[2]Will probated 9th of October 1837.

^[3]Marriage bond recorded in Culpeper Co., VA.

^[4]Joel Rucker's will mentioned wife, Susannah.

* * * *

The Tale of Rucker, California by Bill Smith

Rucker, California actually no longer exists. Some might say it never did. In fact, it didn't even make it into Erwin Gudde's *California Place Names*. Even the ultimate authority, the United States Board on Geographic Names, only comes up with three entries relating to the name Rucker, in Santa Clara Co.,