

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 24, NO. 2, JUNE 2013

RFS 2014 Reunion

see page 20

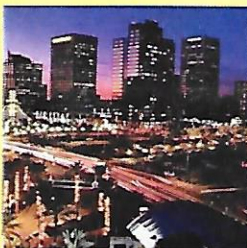


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THE RUCKER ROUNDUP 2014 Rucker Family Society Reunion

The 2014 RFS Reunion Gilbert, Arizona, Feb 27-Mar 2, 2014, is only 8 months away! Additional information about making reservations is on the last page of this issue. Listed below are some of the many day trips and local enticements of the Phoenix Metropolitan area. Distances are from the Double Tree Hotel where the reunion will be held.

DAY TRIPS

Sedona & Oak Creek (150 mi) - Extensive hiking and mountain bike trails, fine dining and spiritual pursuits.

Mission San Xavier del Bac & Tucson Presidio (110 mi) - 1770 Spanish mission being restored to its former beauty. The presidio is being restored to its 18th century condition.

Clarkdale Verde Valley Railroad & return via Jerome-Prescott (140 mi) - The Verde Canyon Railroad is a "heritage" railroad through the "longest-running nature show."

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Two Major John F. Ruckers

Which one was the "Notorious Bushwhacker?"

by Booker Hall Rucker and
Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

There were apparently two Major John F. Ruckers of Boone County, Missouri who served with the Missouri State Guard during the Civil War. This makes for a complicated history especially when one of these men was accused of being a "notorious bushwhacker" – but which one? The authors hope to clarify the histories of the two Ruckers.

Civil War history in Missouri is more difficult to trace than in those states that officially joined the Confederacy. Since Missouri did not secede from the Union, the military units raised were not part of the regular Confederate service during the early stages of the war - resulting in fewer contemporaneous records of

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Editor:

Jean “Jeannie” W. Brydon

304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226-1705
1-804-358-3185
rucker10@comcast.net
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Assistant Editor:

Bill Smith

wsmith0128@ca.rr.com

President:

Christopher Rucker

christopherrucker@msn.com

Annual Membership
\$15.00 individual
Please send dues to
Alice Rucker

Treasurer

13331 Gridley Street
Sylmar, CA 91342-4529
aliruc@ca.rr.com

*Please notify Alice about a
change of address*

Reporter: Mike Rucker

mikruc@aol.com

RFS Board Members:

Frank Bazler
Larry Black
Jeannie Brydon
Anne Denton
Mary Ann Laurence
Alice Rucker
Christopher Rucker
Loren Rucker
Bill Smith
Karen van der Werf

events. Those Missourians loyal to the “Southern Cause” rallied to the call of the governor to defend the state against invasion by Union forces under the banner of the “Missouri State Guard.” Such was the case with the two men named John F. Rucker.

This first part of the article will deal with Booker Rucker’s great-grandfather with the goal of establishing that he was not the “notorious bushwhacker.”



John Fleming, circa 1861

Major John F. Rucker I

The following is from Col. William F. Switzler’s 1882 *History of Boone County, Missouri* summarizes this first Major Rucker:

Maj. John F. [Fleming] Rucker, one of the most prominent and influential business men of Sturgeon, [Missouri] was born in Amherst county, Virginia, September 19th, 1838. He is the son of John D. and Lucy J. (nee Tinsley) Rucker. Maj. Rucker came to Sturgeon in 1858, where he remained until the war. He joined Company C. which was raised in that place. He was

afterwards made a lieutenant in a St. Louis regiment commanded by Col. Kelly. He entered the service in 1861, at Jefferson City. He was at Boonville and Lexington, went South with the army and participated in the battles of Carthage and Wilson Creek. He was also in [several other] battles of less note. [He] Came home after the surrender of Lexington, and was captured by the enemy and imprisoned at Macon City. He was released on parole, but was soon afterwards re-arrested on a charge of treason and conspiracy, having been indicted by the United States Court. He was taken to St. Louis and put in jail. Giving bail he was released from prison. He attended several terms of the United States Court but his case was not called up. A compromise was at last agreed upon by which Maj. Rucker, was banished to Montana during the war. While in Montana he was elected chief clerk of the legislature and also a member of the territorial constitutional convention.

At the close of the war Maj. Rucker returned to Virginia, and after a short stay in the Old Dominion, he returned to Sturgeon, where he has lived ever since [1882]. He was married, August 28th, 1867, to Miss Julia, daughter of Col. William Early Rucker, of Audrain County, Missouri. Four sons were born of this marriage. Their names are Booker H., Guy Lockridge, Early D., and Ray. The first wife dying, March 30th, 1879, he was married, May 18th, 1880, to Miss Frankie D., daughter of Carter Dingle, of Mexico, Audrain county, Missouri.

Maj. and Mrs. Rucker are both members of the Methodist Church South. He has been

superintendent of the Sunday school for fourteen years. Has always been a Democrat in politics. Has held the office of chairman of the Congressional Central Committee for five or six years past. In 1875 he was elected to the convention to form a new State constitution representing the Ninth Senatorial District. It was a free race and there were a number of candidates, including Col. Switzler, [the original author of this excerpt] who was also elected.

The Major is, practically speaking, a self-made man. He is a public-spirited citizen in the truest sense of the term, and has been an earnest laborer in the cause of immigration. He suggested the main points in the immigration bill. He is a director of the Sturgeon bank and has been for several years. He and Mr. Sherwood W. Turner own a controlling interest in the business. He is the leading man in the firm of Rucker & Turner, a store that is doing a large business. They also have an extensive trade in railroad ties.

The reason Rucker was indicted in the United States Court system, versus the Military Court system, was that rather than considering him a prisoner of war since he was a member the Missouri State Guard, which was not an "official" Confederate unit, the Union authorities could charge him with treason. Many other Confederates soldiers were banished to the Montana Territory to the point that the territorial governor is said to have written a letter to President Lincoln that he needed more help since "half of

[Confederate General] Price's army is out here."

Statement of John F. Rucker, a prisoner at the Gratiot Street Prison, St. Louis, made the 7th day of February 1863, at his trial as a spy:

My age is 32 years

I live in Boone County, Missouri

I was born in Virginia

I was captured in Camden County Mo. near Linn Creek on or about the 7th day of January 1863 by Maj. O'Halleran

The cause of my arrest was that I had been in the Confederate service. I resigned my commission as Major in the Confederate service about the last of October 1862. I was not in the service when taken.

I had been in arms against the United States and was a [rank] Major in Miss (?) near Ber Halian [hard to read]. I was sworn into the rebel service about the 16 day of May 1861 by Col. Clark in Cooper County, Missouri for two years or if necessary longer (?) I was made a Major of C.S.A. Nov. 5, 1862.

When captured I was first taken to Linn Creek and remained there about two days and then to Jeff City and was not examined and was sent to Gratiot St. Prison about the 21 (?) day of July (?) 1863.

I never took the oath of allegiance to the United States.

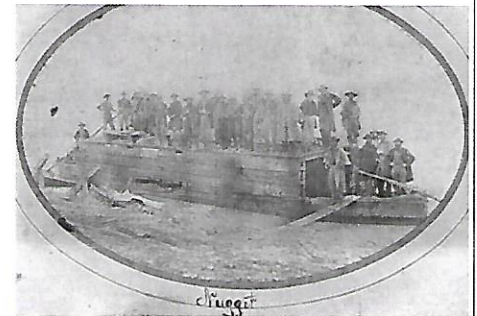
I left Fort Smith with my brother and old man Flannigan about 16 December 1862 and arrived in Camden County, where taken about the 6 January 1863. I paroled (?) by day and had on the same uniform I have now, gray with scap (?) buttons. I did not come to get recruits in Boone

Co. If John M. Wisner do write to his wife he was mistaken. I as first thought of doing so and a ___ Byrbrudge (?) wished me to but I concluded it would be hasardous [sic]. My desire was to return home and remain, and if the Confederate army came in and got possession of Missouri in the Spring,; then I thought I might go out again.

John F. Rucker

signed in presence of W. W. Howe

Rucker's imprisonment and consequent plea agreement along with a payment of bail terminated the Civil War experience of this first Major John Fleming Rucker.



"Jno. F. Rucker leading a party down the Missouri River." Apparently of a boatload of Confederate soldiers coming home in 1867, on a boat called "The Nugget."

Obituary, 2 Jan 1890, *Mexico Weekly Ledger*

Major John F. Rucker is dead. A more worthy citizen never lived in the State. A purer private and public life, more worthy of emulation by the young men of North Missouri, was never calmly ended in the strength of manhood and the prime of life. His was the personification of true nobility of character. He left the impress of high-toned moral personality upon all with

whom he worked, for his whole life was one of work, whether in the cause of religion, masonry, commerce, politics or on the field of battle. His individuality of character placed him prominently in the lead in all of these. He had a high and commendable opinion of his fellow man, and measured men by the good or evil influences of their lives. He was the soul of honor and true chivalry; always in great activity, but had time to say a kind word to those in distress and contribute to the necessities of the poor; an aspirant for high position in State, but a faithful superintendent of his home Sunday School; his company sought by the influential, but never refused to the worthy obscure; a desperate enemy in battle and a tender-hearted, sympathetic friend in peace. May his life be the standard of many of our young men, for it was worthy in all its phases.

John Fleming Rucker's lineage is: Maj. John⁶ Fleming Rucker (John⁵ D. L. Rucker, John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹).

He was born September 19, 1838², in Amherst Co., VA, and died December 28, 1889 in Sturgeon, Boone Co., MO. He was married first on August 28, 1867, in Missouri, to Julia⁵ Rucker (William⁴E. Rucker, John³, Ephraim², Peter¹), who was born

June 18, 1843, who died March 30, 1879, and is buried in Mount Pisgah Cemetery, Audrain Co., MO. John married second on May 18, 1880, in Mexico, Audrain Co., MO, to Frances "Frankie" Dingle, daughter of Carter Dingle, of Mexico. John came to Missouri in 1858. John and Julia had five children, Booker Hall Rucker (1868-1957), Guy Lockridge Rucker (1870-1897), Early Dabney Rucker (1873-1958), Ray Fleming Rucker (1874-1909), and Horace Rucker, who "died young." John and Frankie had two children, Grace Preston Rucker (1883-) and Fannie Dingle Rucker (1888-1976).

Major John F. Rucker II

While this first Major John F. Rucker was banished to Montana Territory the other was still actively engaged in making warfare against the Union "invading forces." For example the newspaper *Columbia Statesman* reported on August 8, 1862 that:

One day last week J.F. Rucker, of Rocheport, a Major from Price's army, who escaped from the Military Prison in St. Louis, boarded the steamer *H.D. Bacon* at the Rocheport Landing and demanded whatever government horses or stores there were on the boat. Being convinced that the horses belonged to private patrons and that there were no government stores aboard, the

boat was permitted to go on up the river.

He continued his leadership of a band of Missouri volunteers over the next several months. On October 3, 1862, the *Statesman* reported that Major Rucker and his men had crossed the Missouri river eight miles below Rocheport and were heading southwest to join the main rebel army there.

He was captured again on January 6, 1863 and taken to Gratiot Prison in St. Louis. He escaped for a second time on March 12.

The following report by a fellow Confederate prisoner tells of this second escape:

MARCH 13, 1863.—Five Confederate officers made their escape this morning. --- Because we could not tell how it occurred, we were thrown into the strong room and locked up. --- We have never heard the full particulars as to the manner in which [the prisoners] effected their escape, but as near as we have learned is as follows: It seems that the leader got an over coat resembling the kind the Federal officers wear, and yesterday evening went to the guard who stands at the front door, and represented himself as a Federal surgeon, asking the guard at the same time if he had seen anything of the ambulance which was to convey three or four patients to the small-pox island. The

guard informed him he had not. The would-be surgeon then remarked that "that was a great way to do business, and if it did not come this evening they would have to walk there in the morning." So this morning, bright and early, the Dr. learning from the same guard that the ambulance had not arrived, made preparations to foot it. He then went up stairs and informed his patients he was ready. They all followed him down stairs, out the front door into the street, which was the last we saw of Major Rucker, Captain Stemmons, [James] Harvey Rucker [Nathan⁵ C., Reuben⁴, Wyatt³, James², Peter¹], and two others unknown to us. As they passed out one of the patients had a bandage around his head, and another his arm in a sling, all of which was well calculated to deceive the most vigilant [guard].

During the period following his second escape this Major Rucker enhanced his reputation as a "bushwhacker" as indicated by the following Union report:

Glasgow, Mo., June 1, 1863
 Captain Steinmetz, with 15 men, ran into a camp of bushwhackers 3 miles north of Rocheport at sunrise this morning. The rebels fired upon them, and a short skirmish ensued, our men getting scattered, and were driven within 3 miles of Fayette. Four of our men are missing. --- Jackman, Pulliam, Todd, and **Rucker** were with the rebels, having about 60 men.

Rucker and others of these "bushwhackers" were recaptured three days later, June 4, and returned to prison in St. Louis.

I held off this writing this disclosure, but Jeannie Brydon, doyenne of all things Rucker, maintains that there really never were two John F. Ruckers serving in Missouri State Guard during the Civil War, the confusion is that there were *two* enlistments for John F. Rucker on 1 Jul 1863, one in Sturgeon and one in Rocheport.

* * * *

CELEBRATIONS



John Willson Rucker celebrated his 98th birthday July 2, 2011. (John E., Benjamin, Joseph Burrus, James, Benjamin, John, Peter) John Willson Rucker was born in Nashville, Tennessee July 2, 1913. His children, Mary Carol Rucker Estes, John Willson Rucker Jr., Edmond Rucker, Evelyn Rucker McFarland, Thomas Rucker, Daniel Rucker, and foster daughter, Mary Ruth Gammon, gathered with their families for a luncheon at Otter Creek Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tennessee. Many grandchildren and great-

grandchildren also were present, along with nieces Elaine VanSteenberg and Sherrilyn Johnson.

John has been in two other issues of the RFS Newsletter. The December 2004 issue celebrated the 70th wedding anniversary of John and his wife, Ruth. The prior year, in the December 2003 issue, John and Ruth's 90th birthdays were reported.

This photo was sent in October of 2011, which means that John's 100th birthday celebration should be coming up soon.

* * * *

THE RUCKER ROUNDUP

Continued from page 11

- Tonto National Monument (95 mi) - This national monument preserves pre-15th century cliff dwellings in the mountains of the Sonoran Desert.
- Desert & off-road jeep tours - Including Eco-tours, off-road experiences, and a retracing of the Butterfield stage trail.
- Grand Canyon (260 mi) - Go backcountry hiking, take a river trip, camp out, take a nature tour, or visit the park headquarters and be overwhelmed by the canyon's sheer beauty!
- Boyce Thompson Arboretum (45 mi) - In a natural setting, learn about the Sonoran Desert's plants and animals.
- Prescott & Whiskey Row (130 mi) - Explore the Prescott Valley, and Whiskey Row, a restored area of Prescott that had more than 20 saloons at the turn of the 20th century.
- Montezuma's Castle (130 mi) - The best-preserved cliff dwellings in

Arizona (no actual connection to the Aztecs or Montezuma).

Kartchner Caverns (160 mi) - These limestone caves were only discovered in 1974 and are a "live" cave system.

Biosphere 2 (100 mi) - An enclosed "science experiment" that includes many different aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

(100 mi) - The premier nature museum for the Sonoran Desert. Learn about the plants and animals of this unique ecosystem.

Titan Missile Museum (125 mi) - Tour an actual command center and Titan II ICBM missile silo from from the Cold War era.

METRO PHOENIX AREA

PhoenixArt Museum (32 mi) - A world class museum with collections of American, Asian, European, Latin American paintings and photography.

Tovrea Castle (25 mi) - Originally the centerpiece of a resort, it has become a public park with a huge collection of native cacti (the castle resembles a 3-tier wedding cake).

Desert Botanical Garden (28 mi) - Explore the trails and observe the fantastic examples of Sonoran Desert plants.

Arabian horse ranch - The Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show will be taking place shortly before the reunion. Check out the dates, and learn about the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona.

Taliesin West & Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation (35 mi) - Take a tour of Wright's personal winter home that he began in 1937, and marvel at his ability to integrate the outdoors with the house's interiors.

Irish Cultural Center (32 mi) - Do research on your Celtic roots in a building that looks like it was built in the Emerald Isle.

Phoenix Golf Courses - More than 150 golf courses can be found in

the Phoenix area. Take your choice. Baseball Spring Training - In 2013 the White Sox, Dodgers, Angels, Giants, Rangers, Royals, Mariners, Padres, Athletics, Brewers, Indians, Reds, Cubs, Rockies and D-backs all played in Spring Training in Phoenix.

Musical Instrument Museum (40 mi) - The museum houses musical instruments from more than 200 countries. Tours and lessons are available.

* * * *

In Memoriam

Dwain Verne Myers, eldest son of Loren Verne and Marjory Ruth (Clay) Myers, was born February 27, 1939 in Sidney, Cheyenne Co., Nebraska and died, March 16, 2013 at Colonial Acres, Humboldt Co., NE.

Dwain graduated from Broken Bow High School in 1956, attended college at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and then Kearney State where he earned a BA in Education, and later obtained his Masters in Education and Specialist in Education.

Dwain married Linda Woods in Kearny on August 27, 1960. Dwayne taught school in many communities in Nebraska. He was a principal at Elm Creek and a superintendent at Sumner and Stella before leaving education when he and Linda opened a business in Auburn in 1987. They retired in 2004.

Dwain also served in the Nebraska National Guard. He was the editor of *Clay Family: Our Roots Are Your Roots* by his mother, Marjory

Ruth Clay Myers. He was a member of the Auburn Christian Church, Auburn Rotary Club and Masonic Lodge of Stella, Humboldt and Brownville.

Dwain is survived by his wife Linda of Auburn, NE; sons Thomas of Hazelgreen, WI; Tim and wife Shelly of Bellevue, NE; and Sam of Texas; granddaughter Sarah Ann Myers of Omaha, NE; brother David of Lincoln, NE; sister Karen and husband Jim Lehmkulher of Hawaii.

Funeral services were March 21 in Auburn. Committal services and burial were on Friday, March 22, at the Broken Bow Cemetery.

Dwain⁹ Verne Myers' Rucker lineage is: Marjory⁸ Ruth Clay Myers, James⁷ William Clay, Mary⁶ Elizabeth Rucker, Lemuel⁵, Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹.

William Glenn Rucker, Jr. died Tuesday, May 21, 2013, in Temple, Bell Co., Texas. Services were held May 25th, followed by a private burial.

"Glenn" as he was known by all, is survived by: his wife of 67 years, Kloma M. (Brown) Rucker; his three children, Debra Leggett and husband Bill Hannon of San Antonio; Becky McEntire and husband Keith of Temple, and Bill Rucker and wife Rhonda of Temple; 12 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Ray Rucker and wife Margaret; and Olen Rucker and wife Shirley. He was preceded in death by his

parents: William Glenn Rucker, Sr. and Jewel (Knowles) Rucker.



Glenn was born March 10, 1925 in Temple and was educated in Temple schools through junior college. He earned two degrees from Texas A&M University, in Architecture and Structural Engineering in 1951.

Glenn served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 until 1946, and received a Presidential Unit Citation and the American Campaign medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal, the World War II Victory medal, the Good Conduct medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service.

He built his successful architectural practice in Temple that was in operation for 55 years, until he retired in 2006. To quote his published obituary, "There is hardly a church, school or public building in Temple that he did not design or remodel." He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a member and past commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Glenn loved fishing, hunting, camping, history and genealogy.

Glenn's Rucker lineage is: William Glenn¹⁰ Rucker, Jr., William Glenn⁹, Sr., William⁸ Joseph, John Elzy⁷, Joseph⁶, Elzy⁵, Joel⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹.

Mary Margaret Davis Shelton, 93, of North Garden, Virginia, died December 22, 2012. She was born on July 6, 1919, the daughter of the late Samuel Emmett Davis and Margaret Lucille Woodroof.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Ernest R. "Bud" Shelton; her daughter, Charlotte Jean Shelton of North Garden; three sons, Ernest Ray Shelton Jr. of North Garden and Leland, NC, William Chesley Shelton of Chesterfield, VA, and Todd Davies Shelton of Falls Church, VA; three daughters-in-law, Margaret Goodman Shelton of Leland, Cynthia Trusilo Shelton of Chesterfield, and Carrie Becker Shelton of Falls Church. Other survivors include eight grandchildren, Dr. Joseph William Shelton and Charles Edward Brockenbrough Shelton, both of Atlanta, GA, Robert Davis Shelton of Middleton, CT, Anne Whiting Shelton of North Garden, Mary Alice Shelton and Laura Trusilo Shelton of Chesterfield, Amelia Bright Shelton and Laurel Ray Shelton of Falls Church; granddaughter-in-law, Sundi Crosswhite Shelton; and two great-grandchildren, Simeon Taller Shelton and Estella Rue Shelton of Atlanta. She is also survived by two sisters, Sarah Emily Stephens King of Madison

Heights, VA, and Jean Alice Davis Harris of Bedford Co., VA. She was predeceased by two brothers, William Ambrose Davis Sr. of Amherst, VA, and Samuel Emmett Davis Jr. of Elon, VA; and a sister, Elizabeth Serena Davis of Amherst.



Mrs. Shelton was born in Amherst County and graduated from Pleasant View High School and from Phillips Business School in Lynchburg, Virginia. She worked for the United States Department of the Navy in World War II. After the war she and her husband returned to Amherst County to farm and raise their family, where she also ran a country store. They moved to Charlottesville in 1961. She began a twenty-year career with the University of Virginia in 1964 with the School for Continuing Education, and in 1984 retired from the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts affiliated with the Business School where she managed the institute's *Digest* and other publications. Mary Margaret was a voracious reader of American history, biography, current events, and genealogy. She was a member of the Daughters of the American

Revolution, the Jamestowne Society, the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century and the Daughters of the American Colonists.

The funeral service was held December 28, 2012, at Trinity United Methodist Church in North Garden, Virginia.

Mary¹⁰ Margaret (Davis) Shelton's Rucker lineage is: Margaret⁹ Lucille Woodroof, Ambrose⁸ Pleasants, Alfred⁷ McDaniel, Margaret⁶ McDaniel Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Col. Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

* * * *

Mary Persis Rucker Houser

By Mildred Houser Snyder

Mary Persis Rucker's granddaughter, Mildred Houser Snyder, wrote this biography of her grandmother in 1991 and was submitted by Peggy Sanger in 2008.

Mary P. Rucker was born 26 Aug 1855, in Jacksonville, Morgan Co., IL, and died 13 Dec 1942, in Bellingham, Whatcom Co., WA. She married Anderson "Addie" Houser (1840-1911) on 15 Nov 1876, in Homer, Champaign, IL, of Jacksonville, IL. He was the son of Jonathan and Susannah (Mason) Houser.

"Grandma was a member of the Russellites, a forerunner of the Jehovah's Witnesses. My dad, Rex, Mary Jane & I went to the meetings with her. It was an all-

day affair. Large lunch baskets were prepared and shared by all. My dad did let us kids go to the afternoon movies and then sleep on the benches because the meetings lasted until 9pm.

As we peeled and sliced apples, pears, snipped beans, or shelled peas, Grandma constantly told us Bible stories. Catholics were the work of the devil as were idle hands, in her opinion. I remember making pear butter. It took huge amounts of peeled & sliced pears put into a copper boiler and boiled down so it took almost constant stirring with a large wooden paddle to keep it from burning. After about a half a day of cooking it was thick enough to be canned.



Mary P. Rucker, her mother, Sarah F. Rucker, and her sister Mattie B. Rucker

In the summer time flies were a constant problem. We did have sticky strips hanging from the ceiling and fly paper sitting around that caught some but often it took a real round-up. We kids were sent to get leafy branches with which we all chased the flies from one room to the next and finally out the door.

Before we got electricity, clothes were scrubbed on a wash board and strung on branches and the grass to dry. I don't know why someone hadn't put up a clothesline. As soon as school was out, we'd go barefooted and before long our feet were tough as shoe leather. Grandma often made us get out of bed and wash our feet. I thought that a willful waste of soap and water.

We always had plenty of fruits and vegetables raised on the farm; apples, pears, sweet and sour cherries, raspberries, strawberries, currants. Crab apples made pectin for jams & jellies. A large vegetable garden was fertilized from the chicken and cows that also supplied eggs, milk, and meat. The rule was eat what you can and can what you can't.

Grandma was no great shakes as a cook. Potatoes were overcooked and cabbage stewed until gray. I don't remember her making a cake, pie or cookies. She did make fruit cobblers, gingerbread, and huge shortcakes. Not the little cakes or biscuits made today, but a huge baking powder short cake the size of our largest platter. It was sliced in two, one slice on the platter, lots of sweetened strawberries put on, then the other layer, followed by more strawberries and topped with whipped cream. It was a sight to behold.

The main source of income for the family of eight was Grandma's Civil War widow's pension. She

told us they first got \$25/month but when her husband lost a finger she just traced his hand on a piece of paper & sent it into the war office and his pension was raised to \$40/month. She spent \$5/week on groceries, buying flour, sugar, cornmeal, oatmeal, cheese and nearly always 4 kinds of fish tips (those pieces next to the head & the tail for 25cents. Once a week we had corn meal mush for dinner, what was left over was allowed to set overnight in a large platter, then sliced and fried for breakfast. Often rice was our dinner. A night treat was raw oatmeal in a glass with sugar & milk.

One of the most hated jobs for Mary Jane & me was doing the dishes. We'd let them set until everything was dried on, often the hardest pans were hidden. The water had to be heated on the stove, which may have burned out by the time we were forced to do them. Never enough water, barely warm, the soap never [made] suds and it felt awfully greasy. I remember Francis insisted that we rinse them I thought he was awfully fussy.

Somehow we had all acquired nicknames. Francis was Skinny; Rex, Manny; Mildred, Sister; and Mary Jane, Merjane. One of Francis' games changed all that. If we called anybody by his nickname the person could keep

on hitting the offender until he could touch a "safe place", a certain tree. Never did we return to the nicknames.

While we always had enough to eat, having anything "good" for school lunch was another matter. When we didn't make our own sour cream butter, we had "oleo" which was like white lard until the packet of coloring was mixed in and nobody wanted to do that job so it was uncolored oleo and runny jelly sandwiches. Having no wax paper, our lunches were wrapped in newspapers. My lunch was kept under the table in my lap just pulling out a sandwich as needed. On better days when I had spent the night at my Auntie Ann's house, the lunch that she had carefully packed for me with wax paper, napkin, cookies - all the goodies - was sheer delicacy. I carefully laid it out on the table so all could see what a nice lunch I had. If we had failed to make any lunch Daddy would give us each a nickel or a dime. We'd buy hamburgers for 5 cents and a whole sack of broken cookies with the other nickel.

I remember wearing long black lyle stockings held above the knee by a round garter. As holes developed in the heel, I just pulled the extra down and tucked the extra under my toe. After a time the stockings got pretty short and very

uncomfortable with all the excess under my foot. Having something suitable to wear to school was always a problem. Once I earned my letter sweater, I wore it constantly. I was good at sports and it was a life saver for me. It gave me the confidence that I did not have socially."

I'm sure that many families were having a rough time during the Depression, but having mothers smoothed the way for most kids. By the time our grandmother was about 75, she had raised her own brood of 8 and now 5 grandchildren to care for. Our quarrelling and fighting was the bane of her life. Religion was her only solace.

As I look back now I am very grateful to my grandmother for taking us all in, but I don't remember telling her that. We all missed a lot by not having our mother, but nothing is taken away without giving us something else. We all grew up to be health, self-reliant people. All made good marriages. Not one of us divorced.

At age 87, Grandmother had a stroke and died three days later.

Mary has two Rucker lines: Mary⁷ Persis Rucker, Ahmed⁶ H., Ahmed⁵, John⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and Ahmed's wife, Nellie⁵ Rucker, James⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

THE RUCKER ROUNDUP

2014 Rucker Family Society Reunion - Feb 27-Mar 2, 2014

Since the Reunion is slated for peak season in Arizona, we encourage you to make hotel reservations at a special rate at the SanTan DoubleTree by Hilton in Gilbert, AZ. The rates are: \$134 for a single or double, a triple is \$144, and a quad will be \$154 a night, and that includes breakfast. Reservations must be made by January 26, 2014 under the name Rucker Family Society. The reservation number is 1-888-695-3423.

Please bring a Pedigree Chart of your family. We will be meeting in groups to share family history. We will also go to the Family History Library for research, and hopefully make your own Genealogy Fan Chart. Plans include special dinners include: (Thurs) Carne Asada Dinner at Jason Rucker's home at \$18 pp (\$8 for children) and Family History Presentation; (Fri) Dinner and Western Show at "Rockin R Ranch" at \$35 pp; and (Sat) Rucker Brothers BBQ/ Auction at \$20 pp (\$8 for children).



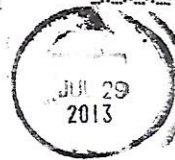
The RUCKER family SOCIETY



Rucker

Jeannie Brydon
304 Charmian Road
Richmond, VA 23226 -1705

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



First Class Mail

627 2016
Dr. Christopher D. Rucker
329 Farm Lake Road
Boiling Springs, SC 29316 6403

2931636403 6026

