

SPRING EDITION

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 26, NO. 1, APRIL 2015



RUCKER FAMILY REUNION 2015

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Rucker Family Society Reunion

Lewisburg, West Virginia
October 8-11, 2015

The next Rucker Family Reunion will be in Lewisburg, West Virginia named in 2011 by *Budget Travel Magazine* as "America's Coolest Small Town."

Only four communities in the world can lay claim to a *Carnegie Hall* – Lewisburg is one of them. We will attend a performance there.

Lewisburg has *The Greenbrier Valley Theatre*, the ONLY professional theater in the state. We will attend a performance there.

The *Greenbrier*, one of America's premier resorts, is only 9 miles away – and we will tour the famous underground "Bunker," built to house the president, his cabinet and members of both houses of Congress during the Cold War in case of a

Continued on page 8

Marian Anderson

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

Let's start with a brief quiz. Can you name the Rucker family member whose image is on both the 1998 U.S. Treasury \$5000 paper Series I Bond and a 2005 U.S. Postal Service stamp?

The answer is famed singer and humanitarian Marian Anderson. Her Rucker lineage is: Marian⁴ Anderson, Delila Ann³ Rucker, Robert², Pleasant¹.



2005 USPS postage stamp

Marian Anderson became one of the most celebrated singers of the twentieth century. Equally important is that she was one of the most important advocates for racial equality in America. Between 1925 and 1965, she was

***The Rucker Family
Society Newsletter***

Is published three-times each year
in January, May, and September

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regarded as one of the most important classical vocal artists in the world. Her voice was described as “a rich, vibrant contralto of intrinsic beauty.”

Marian Anderson’s grandfather, Robert, and great grandfather, Pleasant, were slaves from Campbell County (near Lynchburg), Virginia. Pleasant is listed in the 1880 census records as “black,” and it is thought that he assumed the family name. No ancestors beyond Pleasant can be located in the records. Delila Ann Rucker, Marian’s mother, Pleasant’s granddaughter, is listed in the census as born about 1865, so she just avoided being born a slave.

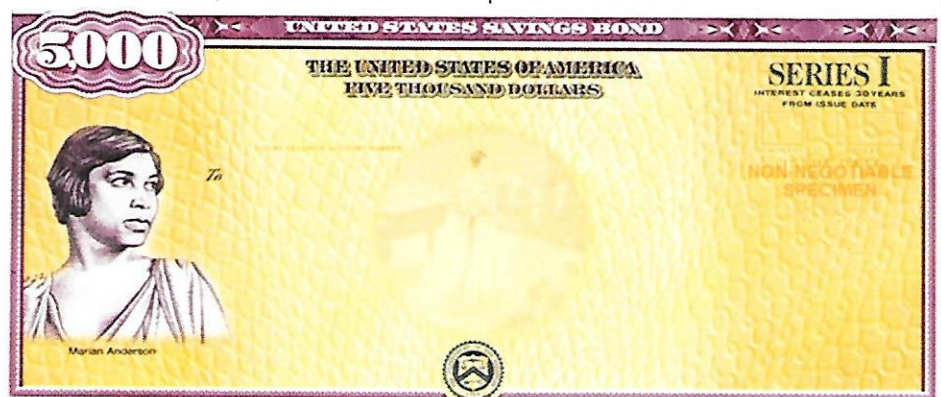
Marian Anderson was born on February 27, 1897 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of John Berkley Anderson and Annie Delilah (Rucker) Anderson. Before her marriage, Anderson's mother had attended the Virginia Seminary and College in Lynchburg and had worked as a schoolteacher in Virginia, sadly she was prevented from teaching in Philadelphia because she had not obtained a

degree – a law that applied only to black teachers but not white ones. She therefore earned an income looking after small children.

Marian was the eldest of the three Anderson children. Her two sisters, Alice (later spelled Alyse) (1899–1965) and Ethel (1902–1990), who also became singers. Ethel married James DePreist and their son, James Anderson DePreist (1936-2013), became a noted symphony conductor.

Marian's parents and father’s sister, Aunt Mary, were active in the Union Baptist Church in South Philadelphia, and it was Aunt Mary who noticed her niece's talent, and invited her to join the junior choir at the age of six. It was there she got to perform solos and duets, often with Aunt Mary who also had a fine voice. At a similarly young age, her aunt arranged for Marian to sing for local functions where she was sometimes paid 25 or 50 cents for singing a few songs. She was given nicknamed “The Baby Contralto.” Though her father bought her a piano at age

\$5,000 Series I Bond with the portrait of Marian Anderson



eight, the family could not afford lessons, so undaunted, Marian taught herself to play.

When Marian was 12, her father was in an accident at work, and died at the age of 34. Marian and her family had to move into the home of her father's parents, Benjamin and Isabella Anderson.

Marian graduated from grammar school in the summer of 1912, and her mother was not able to afford to send her to high school, or pay for music lessons. Still, Marian continued to perform wherever she could and to learn from those willing to instruct her.

Members of her church and other black community leaders raised money for her singing lessons and for her to attend South Philadelphia High School, from which she graduated in 1921. She chose the "Commercial Education Curriculum" to increase her chances for obtaining a job after graduation.

After leaving high school, Marian applied to the Philadelphia Music Academy (now University of the Arts), but was turned away, with the admonition. "We don't take coloreds." As her finances permitted, she continued to study voice privately. At this time, the only invitations to sing were from black colleges and churches in the South and, predictably, her fees were meager. In 1924 Marian was so discouraged, she contemplated abandoning her career as a singer.

As more than luck would have it, she won a singing contest sponsored by the Philadelphia Philharmonic Society which revived her spirits. In 1925 she entered a competition sponsored by the New York Philharmonic and she beat her 300 rivals. This was her first big break. As the winner she got to perform in concert with the orchestra on August 26, 1925, and her performance was an immediate success with both the audience and music critics. She remained in New York to pursue further studies.

On December 30, 1928, she performed a solo recital at Carnegie



Marian Anderson in 1939 at Lincoln Memorial

Hall and a *New York Times* critic wrote: "A true mezzo-soprano, she encompasses both ranges with full power, expressive feeling, dynamic contrast, and utmost delicacy." But despite this success, she was still performing mainly for black audiences and racial prejudice seemed to prevent her career from gaining momentum.

Fortunately, she obtained a scholarship through the National Association of Negro Musicians to study in Britain, and in 1930

she made her European debut in a highly praised concert in London. She spent the early 1930s touring Europe where she did not encounter the same prejudices she had experienced in the US. She even performed for the King and Queen of England, where she denied the Queen's request to sing a spiritual, believing that would be setting a stereotype for black artists.

By the mid-1930s, she had achieved world-class status, but returned to home because of the outbreak of war in Europe. On her return she often performed 70 recitals a year. Regardless of her fame, prejudice still plagued her at her home. She was still denied rooms in certain American hotels and was not allowed to eat in some American restaurants.

By 1939 her fame and virtuosity had been well established and she was scheduled to sing in Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. However the board of directors of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) which operates the facility (then and now) denied her permission. The District of Columbia Board of Education also declined a request to use the auditorium of a white public high school. As a result of this slight, thousands of DAR members resigned. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt intervened in this race-driven refusal. They provided for her to

perform a concert on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, to a crowd of more than 75,000 people and a radio audience in the millions. Her opening number, a rendition of *America* with its opening lyrics "My Country, 'tis of Thee," brought many in the audience to tears.

Miss Anderson's 1939 Lincoln Memorial performance has been said to be of equal significance to the "I have a Dream" speech made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, at that same location during the 1963 "March on Washington." In fact, her 1939 performance may possibly be of *greater* significance than Dr. King's speech because it was such a ground-breaking event. She also sang to the conscience of the nation in 1963 March.

During World War II and the Korean War, she entertained the troops in hospitals and bases. In 1943, she was finally permitted to sing at Constitution Hall at the invitation of the DAR to an integrated audience as part of a benefit for the American Red Cross. She said of the event, "When I finally walked onto the stage of Constitution Hall, I felt no different than I had in other halls. There was no sense of triumph. I felt that it was a beautiful concert hall and I was very happy to sing there." By contrast, the District of Columbia Board of Education continued to bar her from using high school auditoriums in

the District of Columbia. Marian was never confrontational when faced with discrimination. She accomplished much towards racial equality with her courteous and passive demeanor.

On July 17, 1943, she became the second wife of a man who had asked her to marry him when they were teenagers, Philadelphia architect Orpheus H. Fisher (1900-1986). The couple purchased a 100-acre farm in Danbury, Connecticut, after three years of being thwarted by property owners who refused to sell to them because of racial discrimination. Over the years Fisher built many buildings on the property including an acoustic rehearsal studio he designed for his wife. This property, which they named Marianna Farm, remained Marian's beloved home for more than 50 years.

Her fame was such that the December 30, 1946 issue of *Time Magazine* featured her as the subject of the lead article and her portrait on the cover. The article opened with the statement:

At Salzburg, backdropped by magical mountains, where Austria's great musical festivals were held before the war, and where he first heard Marian Anderson sing, Arturo Toscanini cried: "Yours is a voice such as one hears once in a hundred years."

In 1955 she became the first African American to perform with the Metropolitan Opera Compa-

ny. She sang the role of the fortuneteller Ulrica in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* to great acclaim. Although offered contracts with a number of important opera companies in both the U.S. and Europe she declined all of these because her lack of acting training made her uncomfortable in dramatic opera roles. She was more at home performing in concert and recital, however she did perform opera arias. A number of her opera aria recordings became bestsellers. She made many recordings that reflected her broad performance repertoire of everything from standard concert literature to lieder to opera to traditional American songs to spirituals.

In 1957 she sang for President Dwight D. Eisenhower's inauguration. She then toured India and the Far East as a goodwill ambassador through auspices of the U.S. State Department. She traveled 35,000 miles in 12 weeks, giving 24 concerts. Upon her return, President Eisenhower appointed her as a delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The same year, she was elected a Fellow of the



As Ulrica in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*

American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1958 she was officially designated delegate to the United Nations.

On January 20, 1961 she sang for President John F. Kennedy's inauguration, and the following year performed for the president and other dignitaries in the East Room of the White House. She toured Australia to great acclaim. She was active in supporting the civil rights movement during the 1960s, giving benefit concerts for the Congress of Racial Equality, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

In 1963, she sang at the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." That same year she was one of the original 31 recipients of the newly reinstated Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is awarded for "especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interest of the United States, World Peace or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

In 1965 Anderson concluded her farewell tour, after which she retired from public performance. The international tour began at Constitution Hall on Sunday October 24, 1964 and ended at Carnegie Hall on April 18, 1965.

A few of the awards she received include: the UN Peace Prize in 1972, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1977, the Kennedy Center Honors in 1978, the first

recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in 1984, and the National Medal of Arts in 1986. In 1980, the United States Treasury Department coined gold commemorative medal with her likeness. Finally, she was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from numerous universities and colleges.

In 1986, her husband, Orpheus Fisher died, after a marriage of 43 years. Marian remained in residence at Marianna Farm until 1992, one year before her death. She died of congestive heart failure on April 8, 1993, at age 96 in Portland, Oregon at the home of her nephew, James DePreist. She is interred at Eden Cemetery, in Collingdale, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

Although Marianna Farm was sold to developers, various preservationists as well as the City of Danbury fought to protect Anderson's studio. Their efforts proved successful and the Danbury Museum and Historical Society received a grant from the State of Connecticut, relocated the structure, restored it, and opened it to the public in 2004.

The Marian Anderson Award was originally established in 1943 with the \$10,000 Bok Prize she received that year from the city of Philadelphia. The fund now dispenses \$25,000 annually to an established artist, not necessarily a singer, who exhibits leadership in a humanitarian area. A separate prize, the "Marian

Anderson Prize for Emerging Classical Artists" is given to promising young classical singers.

The image of Marian Anderson stands as one of the most significant non-political Americans of all time. Her desire and effort to overcome nearly insurmountable obstacles should stand as a beacon to all Americans of any color, ethnic background or educational level. A true hero in all respects.

* * * * *

In Memoriam

Edmund Harrison Rucker, Jr., MD, age 88, passed away March 16, 2015 at his residence in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Dr. Rucker was the father of Rucker Family Society president Christopher Rucker. Dr. Rucker was born in Richmond, VA June 9, 1929, the only son of Edmund Harrison Rucker and Elizabeth Harrison Rucker. His only sibling, Marguerite Rucker Ellett, survives him in Richmond. He is survived by his wife Louise Davidson Rucker of Spartanburg, who he wed June 29, 1951 in Hinsdale, IL. Four children and two grandchildren survive: Edmund Harrison III of Paris, France; Christopher Davidson Rucker, MD and wife Jeannie of Spartanburg; Elizabeth Gail Rucker and daughter Emily Davidson Bender of Blacksburg, VA; and Bruce McDowell Rucker, wife Jeannine and daughter

Mayfair Rucker of Berkeley, CA. Dr. Rucker graduated from St. Christopher's Prep School in Richmond, the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and the University of Virginia Medical School. He served six years in the US Navy Medical Corps as a Lt. Commander. He practiced anesthesiology in Newport News, VA, and after retirement, moved to Spartanburg with his wife. Dr. Rucker was an avid historian of his family and the Civil War, and accompanied by a succession of beloved beagles, spent countless hours in cemeteries, battlefields and old homesteads pursuing his passion.

He descends from Peter Rucker through two lines: Edmund⁸ Harrison, Dana⁷ H., William⁶ Ambrose, William⁵ Ballenger, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹. Also as William Ballenger married his distant Rucker cousin, Mary Ann Dawson Rucker: Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Hannon Marshall Burford, 87, died October 25 in Newport News, Virginia. He was born in Amherst County, Virginia, on December 16, 1926, the son of William Nelson and Margaret (Rucker) Burford. He attended Lynchburg College and The University of Virginia, served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II and in 1949, he obtained a BS degree in engineering from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in

Kings Point, New York. He held an active U.S. Merchant Marine Officers engineering license and was a Commissioned Officer in the United States Naval Reserve. "Burf," as he was known to his co-workers, began his 38-year career at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in 1951, where he held various technical, engineering and management positions. In 1952 he married Elizabeth "Beth" Younger. A licensed engineer, he was an internationally recognized as an engineering expert on ship performance testing and sea trials of commercial and naval ships and submarines. He authored and co-authored numerous technical documents. He was a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church of Hampton, a member and supporter of the Christopher Newport University Lifelong Learning Society, and a member of the Rucker Family Society and attended many Rucker family reunions. He is survived by: his wife of 62 years, Beth Burford of Newport News; daughters: Ann Jett and husband John, Elizabeth "Betsy" Poulsen and husband Wendell; grandchildren: Elizabeth Frost and husband Aaron, Jason Poulsen, Jacob Poulsen and wife Katie, Wendell Turner "Trey" Poulsen III, Krystin McConnell and husband Sean, and great grandchildren: Judah, Re'me, Riley, and Sean Paul McConnell Jr. "Mac." Hannon was preceded in death by his

two sisters, Louise Burford Mason and Minnie Burford Jennings, and brother, William Owen Burford. Hannon Marshall Burford's Rucker lineage is: Marshall Burford⁹ Rucker, Margaret⁸ Russell, Robert⁷, James⁶ A., Willis⁵, John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹ and his 2nd line, Willaim⁸ Nelson Burford, James⁷ Ross Burford, Thomas⁶ Nelson Burford, Ambrose⁵ Rucker Burford, Mollie⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Retired Maj. **Arthur "Art" Albert Farrington**, 95, of Lawton, died at his home on September 20, 2014. Art was born February 8, 1919, to Arthur A. and Grace McMains Farrington in Citronelle, AL. Much of his childhood was spent in Louisiana, where at the age of 16 he became a licensed amateur Radio Operator. He married Hazel Sarah Kimball in 1942. He served in Salzburg, Austria, in Radio Communications, spent a tour in Japan, and retired from the Army in 1961 after 22 years of service. He later married Flo Miller in 2005. He invested much effort into Masonic activities and was a 33 degree in Scottish Rite, all positions of York Rites as well as serving as worshipful master and secretary of Masonic Lodge No.183 AF & AM. Art was also a member of NTL Sojourners, Elks, MOWW, Eastern Star No. 82, the Rucker Family Society, and Lawton's Boulevard Congregational and Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Flo; two daughters: Alice Farrington Bernhard and her husband Bill Jr., of Louisville, KY; and Linda Louise Farrington, of Lawton; grandchildren: Sarah Bernhard Shrouf, of Seattle, WA; Wilhelm K. Bernhard III of Easley, SC; and Anna Bernhard Carson, of Seattle; his stepsons: Carl Miller, of Lawton; and Chuck Miller, of Seattle; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Farrington was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife of 61 years, Hazel; and his sons: Charles David Farrington and Arthur Albert Farrington.

Maj. Farrington's Rucker connection is that his grandmother's second husband was Weldon Lee Rucker (b. 1870 in TX— d. 1935 in LA). Art was never able to trace the ancestry of this elusive Rucker. Any further information would be appreciated by his family.

Robert Henry Rucker, 84, formerly of Columbia City, Indiana, died August 26, 2014 in Fort Wayne. He was born July 26, 1930 in Champaign Co., OH, the son of William E. and Josephine (Hart) Rucker. His formative years were spent in Ironton and Springfield, OH. He served in the US Army from August 1951 until August 1953, serving in the Korean War. On April 5, 1968 he married Sharon L. Braddock, and they made their home in Whitley Co., IN. He was employed by General Electric for

26 years. He was known as "Rocky" Rucker, a Lightweight Golden Glove Boxing Champion. He was a member of the Tri Lakes Baptist Church, GE Boxing Club and American Legion Post #98.

His surviving relatives include his wife, Sharon: their eight children, Robin (Sharon) Rucker of South Whitley, IN; Chris (Rob Menzie) Cornelius of Warsaw, IN; Kelly Rucker of Ocala, FL; Laura (Ted) Wisniewski of Cherryville, NC; Bobbi Jo "BJ" Rucker of Columbia City, IN; Gary (Lisa) Nierman of Columbia City; Linda Eloph of Fort Wayne, IN; and Duane (Laurie) Nierman of Columbia City; 15 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren; and sister Mary Louise Verro, of Auburn, IN. His brother William Rucker preceded him in death.

Mr. Rucker was featured in an article by his daughter Bobbi Jo in the June 2009, Vol. 20, No. 2 issue of the *Rucker Family Society Newsletter*.

"Rocky" Rucker's lineage is: Robert⁸ H. Rucker, William⁷ E., Elias⁶, Lemuel⁵, Ambrose⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹.

John Tinsley Rucker Jr., 98, of Westminster Canterbury, Lynchburg, VA, died Friday, January 16, 2015. Born at "Sholto" in Boonsboro, Bedford County, Virginia, he was the son of the late John T. Rucker and Katherine Dawson Rucker. He attended E. C. Glass High School,

graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and from the University of Cincinnati with M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, also in Chemical Engineering. Following graduation he was employed in Research and Development at Hooker Electrochemical Company in Niagara Falls, N.Y. During and following the Second World War, he was engaged in research related to certain aspects of the Manhattan Project. At the time of his retirement in 1979, he was Manager of Chemical Research at the Niagara Falls division of Occidental Petroleum Corporation. He was a member of the Raven Society, Sigma Xi, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, and of Trinity Episcopal Church.

In addition to his wife, Aileen (Hoyer) Rucker, he is survived by daughters, Barbara Hancock (husband Butch) of Raleigh, North Carolina and their children, Bryan and Jessica; Priscilla Longhine (husband John) of Charlotte, North Carolina and their children Kristin and Laura; sons James Rucker wife (Jacqueline) of Brewerton, New York; John Tinsley Rucker III (wife Meredith) of Columbus, Ohio and their children, John IV, Kathryn and Meredith; and twenty great grandchildren.

John T. Rucker's Rucker lineage is: John⁸ T. Rucker Jr., John⁷ T., Joshua⁶ T., Joshua⁵, Reuben⁴,

Isaac³, John², Peter¹.

Continued from page 1

Rucker Family Reunion

possible nuclear attack.

Lewisburg's "Taste of Our Town" street festival will occur during our visit.

Dinner at the historic *General Lewis Inn* is on the agenda.

Dr./Major William Parks Rucker, the infamous slave owning Union patrician was a resident of Lewisburg and we will visit his home and grave.

Jim Talbert of the Greenbrier Historical Society will be our keynote speaker on Friday morning, October 9. He will emphasize local history and connections to its Rucker families.

A tour of the Green Bank Telescope is available for those who wish to stay over until Monday. It is the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope.

And, much, much more.

The event will be hosted at the Lewisburg Quality Inn, 540 N Jefferson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901 - (304) 645-7722.

The Quality Inn is providing a special rate for us. Those making reservations should ask for the "Rucker Family Reunion Rate" which is 10% lower than the standard rate. The special rate for a room with two Queen size

beds and two occupants is \$80.99 + Tax.

The Quality Inn has a shuttle service to and from the Greenbrier Valley Airport which is 4 miles away.

Getting There

Driving: Lewisburg is located on Interstate 64, 93 miles from Roanoke and 114 miles from Charleston. (Beautiful drives)

Air Service: Silver Airways, a regional carrier for United Airlines, serves the Greenbrier Valley Airport (LWB) from Washington-Dulles (IAD). On October 8, there are direct flights just after Noon and just after 5:00 PM, and on October 11/12 there's a direct flight at almost 7 PM and a 1 stop at just after 2 PM (non-stop flights are about 70 minutes and the 1-stop is 2 hours in total - these schedules and times are subject to change)

More details of the reunion will be provided as the agenda is finalized.

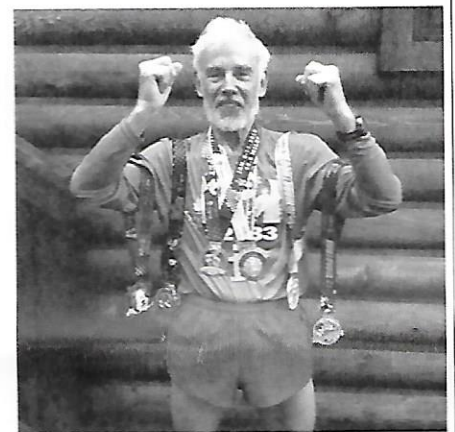
Mike Rucker Does Something "Dopey"

by Michael P. "Mike Rucker"

On his own admission, Mike Rucker did something rather dopey, or rather, Dopey this past January - in fact it was, the "Dopey Challenge" - a series of four races in four days at Walt Disney World in Florida. The "Dopey" consists of a 5K Race on Thursday, a 10K race on Fri-

day, a Half Marathon on Saturday and a Full Marathon on Sunday. The marathon was held on Sunday, January 11, 2015. Mike's niece, Heidi Rucker, joined him for the marathon on Sunday.

Mike stated, "It was by far my slowest marathon. Heidi and I stopped along the way to pose with the various Disney characters and just to enjoy the experience. It was a lot of fun."



Mike after the Dopey Challenge

This was Mike's 45th marathon. He says that he will run at least 5 more to get to a total of 50 - then he plans to run only half-marathons after that.

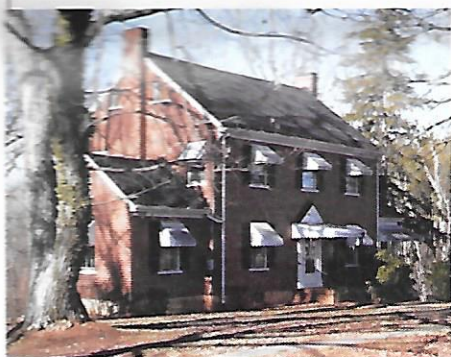
New Home and Museum for the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

The Rucker Family Society has provided a \$100 gift to the Virginia Canals & Navigation Society (VC&NS). This organization has acquired a house in Madison Heights, Virginia. The house is

to be the headquarters for VC&NS and will serve as a museum for the history of navigation on the James River - and, in particular, the history of the James River Batteau. Our gift will be used toward fitting out the house for historical displays.

The James River Batteau was the vessel designed, built and launched in 1775 by brothers Benjamin and Anthony Rucker. Thomas Jefferson witnessed the initial launch and wrote of it in his "day book" (diary) which became published as his *Notes on the State of Virginia*. By 1840 there were about 500 of these vessels on the James River. These unique boats, up to 60 feet



in length, permitted tobacco and other crops such as peanuts, cotton and whiskey to be transported to Richmond from Virginia's fertile Piedmont region. This more reliable and cost effective means of transportation greatly enhanced the economic development of the region.

Each June, on the Saturday before Father's Day, the VC&NC organizes the annual James River Batteau Festival. Each year

about 18 batteaux, replicas of the Rucker Brother's design, launch from Lynchburg for an eight-day voyage down the James River to Maidens Landing just upstream from Richmond.

The address of the house is 3806 S. Amherst Highway, Madison Heights, Virginia. The phone number of Dr. William E. Trout, who will reside there and be the principal tour guide, is (252) 482-5946 for information about the house or the bateaux festival. His e-mail address is bill@vacanals.org.

Another Blind Alley . . .

by Bill Smith

Recently RFS member Paul Mize ran across some tantalizing information concerning the European origins of the Peter Rucker family. This information stated that a Lord Thomas Rucker was granted a coat of arms in 1356 after the Battle of Poitiers, a major battle of the Hundred Years War fought between England and France, by Edward the Black Prince (1330-1376), the oldest son and therefore heir of English King Edward III (1312-1377). The arms were described as red with three gold stars and a chevron of gold, with a crest of a half lion (in natural colors) facing to the left, and with the motto "Semper Fidelis," Latin for "Always Faithful."

Nothing in this information seems to stand out as being inau-

thentic, but Mr. Mize took his quest to the next, and ultimate source of information about British coats of arms, to the College of Arms. According to the Herald Society website "the Official Registers of the College of Arms, accumulated over the centuries by the heralds in the execution of their official duties, [have] record[ed] a long series of registers of the armorial bearings granted or confirmed to English and Welsh families since the fifteenth century, continuing down to the present day."

One of the six Heralds at Arms personally responded (in the modern form of an email) with the following information - "There has never been any family called Rucker that has had a peerage which would entitle a person to the prefix of 'Lord'.

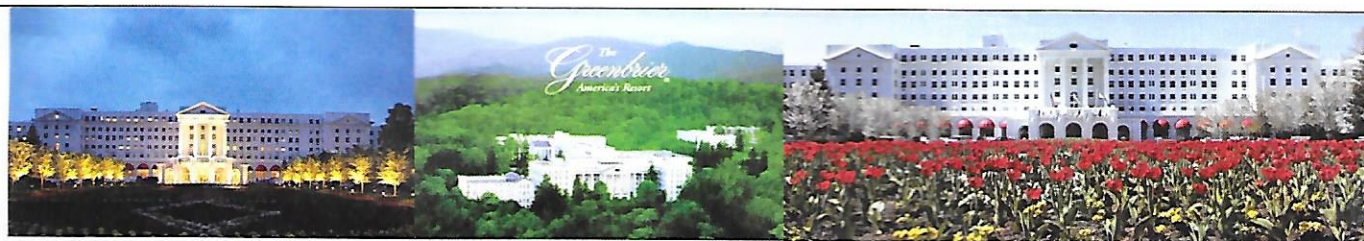
Coats of arms were very rarely granted before the 15th century. They were normally self-assumed and then later confirmed. The standard work on English medieval heraldry is the four volume Dictionary of British Arms, in volume 3 at page 392 the various people are given who bore the arms you describe but none have the name Rucker or anything like it.

I am sorry not to be of more help.

Yours sincerely,

David White
Somerset Herald
College of Arms"

What a marvelous lead this would have been if it had been true. I know Paul and others will continue their quest.



The Greenbrier Resort & Lewisburg

Located amid the breathtaking mountains of West Virginia, The Greenbrier is a National Historic Landmark and an award-winning resort that has been welcoming guests since 1778. The natural sulphur springs that drew their first guests over 235 years ago continue to lure visitors to the 10,000 acre luxury retreat today. With a guest list that includes 26 of our country's 44 Presidents, America's Resort has long been a favorite destination of royalty, celebrities and business leaders. The Greenbrier served as a WWII military hospital that admitted 24,148 patients, and at the height of the Cold War a top secret U.S. government relocation facility for Congress was built on property – securing The Greenbrier's place in history.



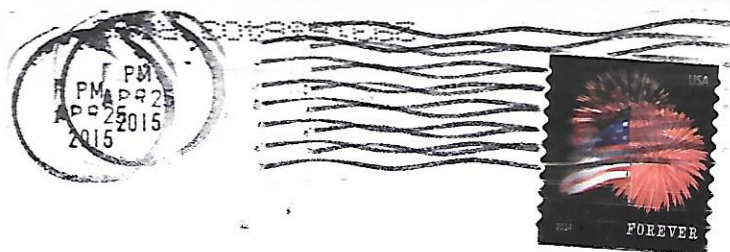
The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



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