

the RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 26, NO. 2, AUGUST 2015



RUCKER FAMILY REUNION 2015

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2015 Rucker Family Society Reunion - "Wild and Wonderful"

Quality Inn, Lewisburg,
West Virginia
October 8-11, 2015

Schedule

Thursday, October 8 Arrival Day

Afternoon - Arrive and settle in
at Quality Inn in Lewisburg Dinner
on own at nearby restaurants
7:00 PM - Brief Weekend Orientation
meeting
8:00 PM - Poetry recital by Mike
Rucker

Friday, October 9

Breakfast - On your own
9:00 AM - Welcome by Chris
Rucker (President of RFS)
9:30 AM - History of the Green-
brier County with Jim Talbert, of
the Greenbrier Historical Society
10:00 AM - The Colorful Life of
Dr. William Parks Rucker of
Lewisburg by Mike Rucker
10:30 AM - Break
11:00 AM - Presentations by
Rucker Family Society Members
12:00 Noon Lunch at Quality

Continued on next page

America's Ruckers and Kin in Early Middle Tennessee

by J. E. Bunch

With the Revolution seemingly over, and liberty holding reign, the thrilling prospect of westward expansion would stir the soul of many an American pioneer. One exciting destination was the great and untamed wilds of a particularly thriving region. This area would, with the signing of the statehood proclamation by President George Washington on June 1st, 1796, be named, "Tennessee," the 16th state. With its fertile plains, its rolling hills, and its green mountains, Tennessee is divided into three geographic regions: West, Middle, and East (represented by three stars on the state flag). Accompanying the names of the early pioneer families who settled the middle region of Tennessee is a notable list: Donelsons, Robertsons, Jacksons, Martins, and others, including

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***The Rucker Family
Society Newsletter***

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Anne Denton

Mary Ann Laurence

Alice Rucker

Christopher Rucker

Mike Rucker

Bill Smith

Karen van der Werf

Inn

1:20 PM - Motor coach departs
for Greenbrier Hotel

2:00 or 3:00 - Greenbrier
"Bunker Tour" (1 ½ Hour Tour)

or

2:00 or 3:30 - Greenbrier "Hotel
Tour" (1 Hour Tour)

4:30 PM - Motor Coach returns
to Quality Inn

5:00 PM - Break

6:00 PM - Buffet dinner at the
Quality Inn

or

5:30 PM - Personal reservations
at Historic General Lewis Inn

7:00 PM—Motor coach departs
for Carnegie Hall performance

7:30 PM - Attend the Wonderful
Zydeco Band *BeauSoleil* at Car-
negie Hall

10:00 PM (approx) - Motor
coach returns to Quality Inn at
conclusion of performance

Saturday, October 10

Breakfast - On your own

9:00 AM - Rucker Family
Presentations

10:00 AM - Rucker Family
DNA Project Discussion

10:30 AM - Rucker Family
Memorabilia Auction*

11:00 AM - Motor coach de-
parts for downtown Lewisburg

11:00 to 3:00 Lunch: On your
own at Lewisburg's Taste of Our
Town

1:45 PM - Walk on your own to
nearby Greenbrier Historical So-
ciety and North House Museum

2:00 PM - Tour of Greenbrier
Historical Society and North
House

3:00 PM - Visit to Lewisburg
Cemetery and grave of

*Attendees are urged to bring Rucker
related items for the auction.

Dr. William Parks Rucker

4:00 PM (approx.) Motor coach
returns to Quality Inn

6:00 PM - Buffet dinner at the
Quality Inn

7:00 PM - Motor coach departs
for Greenbrier Valley Theatre.

7:30 PM - Performance of
Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at Green-
brier Valley Theatre

10:00 PM (approx.) - Motor
coach returns to Quality Inn

Sunday, October 11

Breakfast - On your own

9:00 AM - Rucker Family Socie-
ty Board Meeting

Morning activities to be deter-
mined

12:00 Noon - Lunch at Quality
Inn

After Lunch - Departure or per-
sonal visits to additional sites in
area

**Additional Sites to Visit in
Lewisburg Area:**

- Historic General Lewis Inn:
Breakfast, lunch, dinner and
tour. Call ahead for reserva-
tions (304-645-2600)
- Lost World Caverns (5 miles)
(Adults \$12, Children \$6)
- Greenbank National Radio As-
tronomy Observatory (70
miles) (Adults \$6, Students
\$3.50)
- White Sulphur Springs Nation-
al Fish Hatchery (Free admis-
sion, but closed Sundays)
- Golf at Lewisburg Elks Coun-
try Club or The Greenbrier Re-
sort (Elks Club 304-645-3660
or Greenbrier 304-536-1110)

- Greenbrier Historical Society Museum
- Carnegie Hall: Concerts, Artwork, Gardens
- Watts Roost Vineyards
- Greenbrier Valley Theatre
- Trillium Performing Arts Collective
- Wolf Creek Gallery
- Old Stone Presbyterian Church
- Outlet Stores nearby

Please consult the Rucker Family Society website for complete information concerning transportation to and from the reunion.

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America's Ruckers and Kin in Early Middle Tennessee

Ruckers.

Following the pioneers' lead, a good number of early settlers arrived in the region utilizing the Revolutionary War land bounties their families had earned through military service. During that early period the capital city was located on the Stones River in the growing town of Murfreesboro, in Rutherford County, in Middle Tennessee. However, later, in 1843, the state capital was moved north by about 40 miles, across the county line into flourishing Nashville, on the Cumberland River, in Davidson County.

The following is not intended as an exhaustive list of the members of the named families.

Captain Benjamin Rucker of Amherst County, Virginia, born c. 1729, was a planter, lawyer, sheriff, and justice of the peace.

He married an Elizabeth (*) c. 1757 and had a large family and a large plantation. Benjamin and his brother Anthony, in 1775, were the inventors of the James River Batteau, a boat designed with the capacity to transport up to 9,000 pounds of tobacco. The vessels were also used for transporting large amounts of military supplies, and occasionally for the transportation of men. Between 1820 and 1840 at least 500 batteau and more than 1500 batteauxmen were operating between Lynchburg and Richmond, Virginia. In 1776 Benjamin served in the Revolutionary War as a captain. Benjamin and Elizabeth's large family included four sons who married four Reade sisters:

(1.) James, born Sept. 04, 1758, married Nancy Anne Reade (James' first wife, E. Tate, was the mother of the Elizabeth Rucker, mentioned later).

(2.) Thomas, born c. 1760, married Sarah "Sallie" Reade.

(3.) Gideon, born May 06, 1772, married Joyce "Joycey" Reade.

(4.) Bennett, born May 31, 1779, married Johanna "Joanna" Reade.

The four Reade sisters were the daughters of William Reade (a second cousin of Pres. George Washington) and wife Johanna Jones (daughter of Thomas Jones and wife Sarah Hancock) of Bedford County, Virginia. This Reade family are descendants of Colonel George Reade and wife Elizabeth Martiau (daughter of Nicholas Martiau and wife Jane Bartley, noted settlers of Jame-

stown), who are also the ancestors of not only Thomas Nelson, Jr. and Pres. George Washington, but ironically, also of the current English queen, Elizabeth II via their shared ancestor, Englishman/Colonial American, Robert Porteous (the 4th great-grandfather of the late Queen Mother), who after many years in the American colony returned to England. All four couples of the Reade-Rucker unions moved to Middle Tennessee by the 1790's where they were early settlers of note amongst the growing population.

(2.) Thomas Rucker's home, in 1804, served as the first Rutherford County court. Some years later, in 1811, his land was considered for the location of a new county seat, but a different loca-



Stones River, Tennessee

tion was chosen at Murfreesboro. The four industrious Rucker brothers, each a minister of a different church denomination, had large plantations and thousands of acres of prime Middle Tennessee farm land along the Stones River in the eastern part of Rutherford County, where county lines, in 1836, were changed as Cannon County (county seat, Woodbury) was formed from eastern Rutherford County. The brothers' adjacent lands straddled both sides of the

new county line.

These Middle Tennessee Rucker families also had other historic ties to the region. One such tie was with (1.) James Rucker's daughter Elizabeth, who married Severn Donelson, son of Tennessee pioneer John Donelson, and who was brother of first lady and pioneer Rachel Donelson Jackson. Severn and Elizabeth Rucker Donelson produced a set of twin boys, but because Andrew and Rachel could not have children, Severn and Elizabeth decided to share one of their twins with the yearning couple. The boy was raised at The Hermitage, home of the Jacksons, with the name Andrew Jackson, Jr.. After Elizabeth was widowed, she lived for a time with her son at The Hermitage, where in 1828, she died. Elizabeth's remains rest at the The Hermitage's cemetery.

Some Donelson/Jackson descendants at The Hermitage married kin of another Tennessee founding pioneer, legislator of three states, and Revolutionary War officer, Henry County, Virginia's, General Joseph Martin, who along with early explorer



Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage

Doctor Thomas Walker, many years prior, had stopped at a spring near a gap in the mountains that had, up to that point, separated Virginia from the wild

west. With the last of their rum remaining, the two explorers gave a toast to the Duke of Cumberland, giving rise to the name of the Cumberland Gap, the Cumberland Mountains, and the Cumberland River. Gen. Joseph Martin also worked with Tennessee founding pioneers John Donelson and James Robertson, as well as Native Indian leaders, on American settlement treaties, including the Hopewell Treaty.

Elizabeth Rucker Donelson's father, (1.) James Rucker, was also the father of Doctor William Reade Rucker who married Susan Childress, sister of first lady Sarah Childress Polk, and had at least two daughters. These two daughters, Sarah and Johanna, stayed at the White House with



Cumberland Gap

their aunt and uncle, President and Mrs. James K. Polk, while attending college in Washington D.C.. One of the two sisters, thought to be Sarah Polk Rucker (named for her aunt), appears in a recently discovered photograph standing on the front steps of the White House with the Polks and other dignitaries, including Dolly Madison. **Much of President Polk's diary, in which he includes mention of his Rucker nieces and his Rucker brother-in-law, is published on-line.

Samuel Hervey Laughlin was

born in 1795 in Washington County, Virginia (son of John Laughlin and wife Sarah Duncan, a daughter of Virginians pioneering lands on the frontier when they were taken as prisoners of war by British forces at Riddle's Station, near Martin's Station in 1780). Laughlin began the practice of law in Murfreesboro in 1815. He served several terms as city alderman, as the third mayor of Murfreesboro (but the first to hold the office full term) and as a state representative. He was a Murfreesboro classmate, friend, and colleague of James K. Polk, and went to D.C. with Polk when he was elected president. Laughlin was also the editor of a Nashville newspaper, administrator of the U.S. land office, and author of an 1840's journal in which he detailed the history of the early political scene of Middle Tennessee, as well as many personal details of his life and the lives of his friends and neighbors, such as meeting his wife Mary Clarke Bass (daughter of Rutherford County's Captain James Bass and wife T. Loundon). His wife's sister Temperance Weston Bass (previously married to Smith) became the second wife of another son of (1.) James Rucker when she wed planter Benjamin Reade Rucker of Maple Shade. Yet another son of (1.) James Rucker, Samuel Reade Rucker (veteran of the War of 1812), who, like Laughlin, served as mayor of Murfreesboro and in state politics, and who, as a young man, was also captured by the charms of the same Miss Mary Clarke

Bass. With Laughlin winning Mary's hand, Samuel Reade Rucker went on to marry Martha "Mattie" Bedford Martin. Some of Laughlin's kin included among the early settlers of the area were: Sharpes, Lockes, and Duncans. ***Laughlin's extensive journal is also published on-line.

(2.) Thomas Rucker's son Doctor Edmund Rucker was born in 1800. He married Louisa Winchester (daughter of Sumner County's General James Winchester, of Cragfont, and wife Susan Black) and had a large family. Their son General Edmund Winchester Rucker, a self-taught civil engineer, joined the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War as a private and moved up through the ranks to colonel. Rucker served as a brigade commander under General Nathan Bedford Forrest at the Battle of Franklin in Williamson County and at the Battle of Nashville in adjacent Davidson County where he was shot and captured and suffered the loss of an arm. The war ended before his planned military promotion took place. Rucker's ranking as general, although well deserved, is an honorary title. After the war he and Gen. Forrest were partners in building railroads. Rucker became an industrial leader in Birmingham, Alabama, becoming a major shareholder and manager of a large steel mill and several coal mines. He died on April 13, 1924 and is buried in Birmingham's Oak Hill Cemetery. Gen. Edmund Winchester Rucker is

the namesake of the U.S. army post, Fort Rucker, Alabama.

(3.) Gideon Rucker and wife Joyce Reade had a large plantation on Locke's Creek and a large family, including two girls who married two sons of the aforementioned Gen. Joseph Martin (son of Albemarle County, Virginia's Captain Joseph Martin, Sr. and wife Susannah Chiles, granddaughter of Colonel John Page and wife Alice Luckin) and wife Susannah Graves of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Gen. Martin's son Captain Lewis Graves Martin married (3.) Gideon Rucker's daughter Belinda America Rucker in Murfreesboro, in 1816. Capt. Lewis G. Martin's brother, the Hon. John C. Martin, Esq., married another daughter of (3.) Gideon Rucker, Sophia Rucker (named for her aunt Sophia Rucker Burrus). Hon. John C. Martin was responsible for the construction of the Cannon County Court House in Woodbury, in 1836, served five terms, first in 1837 and last in 1852, as County Executive of Cannon County, Head Justice of the Cannon County Courts. This Judge John C. Martin, not to be confused with other men of the same name, was born in Henry County, Virginia. He married and lived his adult life in Cannon County, Tennessee, and is buried there. Capt. Lewis G. Martin and four of his brothers served in the War of 1812, while their eldest brother Colonel William Martin of Smith County, Middle Tennessee, served in the Revolutionary War alongside their father.

(3.) Gideon Rucker's first Middle Tennessee home, near Rucker's Knob at Porterfield, was built by 1804. His second home built in nearby Readyville, Cannon County, was finished by 1816. During the same early period two additional brothers of Capt. Lewis G. and Hon. John C., also moved to Middle Tennessee, to Maury County (county seat, Columbia), Alexander and Thomas Martin. These two brothers married two daughters of John Fendall Carr and wife Elizabeth Dalton. Back in Virginia, the Carrs were close associates of Thomas Jefferson (Jefferson's sister Martha married his best friend, Dabney Carr). Carr is buried at Monticello. When growing up, Gen. Joseph Martin's father's plantation was located adjacent to Thomas Jefferson's father, Peter Jefferson's, plantation. Amongst other notable friends, these men were friends and associates of Patrick Henry, Colonel Benjamin Cleveland (Gen. Joseph Martin and Col. Cleveland married sisters, Susannah and Mary Graves), Major John Redd of Henry County, Virginia (Redd also kept a diary, much of which is also published on-line), and the Fighting Gamecock, General Thomas Sumter.

Some other historically notable cousins of the five Martin brothers of early Middle Tennessee include: first cousin General William Martin, Jr., bachelor of his home Rural Plains in Franklin, Williamson County, Middle Tennessee (son of Gen. Joseph Martin's brother Captain Wil-

liam Martin, Sr. and wife Rachel Dalton). Gen. William Martin, Jr. (with ranking promotions) served in the War of 1812 with Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans (not to be confused with his first cousin of the same name, one of the five Martin brothers who moved to Middle Tennessee, Col. William Martin of Smith County, who fought at the same battles, but who was often at odds with Andrew Jackson). Gen. William Martin, Jr. was in charge of the 9th brigade in 1825, when it was reviewed by the Marquis de Lafayette and Gen. Jackson at The Hermitage and he led Lafayette's tour of America that same year. One of Gen. William Martin Jr.'s sisters, Sarah "Sallie" Martin, married Colonel John Hughes in Henry County, Virginia. The Hugheses joined Martin in Williamson County. Another sister, Virginia "Jincey" Martin and husband Samuel Clarke, who also went to live in Williamson County, were the parents of Sarah "Sallie" Martin Clarke (a descendant of George Rogers and William Clark), wife of General John Sumner Russwurm (first cousin of Thomas E. Sumner) of Williamson County and later, of Murfreesboro, in Rutherford County.

Many family get-togethers in the Middle Tennessee of the 1820's and 1830's were most certainly filled with storytelling, interesting conversation, and lively political debate, but many of their familiar exchanges would eventually become long distance correspondences as some of the suc-

ceeding generations would set out for places on the new frontier, like Missouri, Texas, and California--where stories and diaries and mementos of the early pioneer life of Tennessee would be passed down for generations.

*(Genealogy researchers are actively seeking a source for the maiden name of Benjamin Rucker's wife Elizabeth, born c. 1729)

06/02/15 - Sources include: The Lyman C. Draper Papers, The Virginia Calendar Papers, **The James K. Polk Diary (The Diary of James K. Polk During His Presidency, 1845 to 1849 Now First ... - James Knox Polk - Google Books), ***The S.H. Laughlin Journal (http://www.frontierfolk.net/ramsha_research/laughlin.html), Research of Gary Boyd Roberts, Massachusetts genealogist, Thomas D. Mackie, Director of the Amherst County Historical Museum, Records of Grace Episcopal Church at Yorktown, Virginia, and my own genealogy research conducted from Middle Tennessee, J.E. Bunch.

* * * * *

In Memoriam

Rucker Mator Stevens, 97, died July 19, 2015 in Orlando, Florida. He was born March 15, 1918 in Campbell County, Virginia and was the son of James William Stevens, Jr. and Nettie Virginia Rucker.

He was a Master Mason and a member of Naval Lodge No. 4 of the District of Columbia. Following a four-year tour in Coast Guard during World War II, he held successive jobs as a member of the Capital Police Force in

Washington D.C., at Sears and Roebuck, and Fairfax County National Bank, before retiring and returning to life as a farmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Nettie Stevens; wife Dorothy Fitzherbert Stevens; oldest daughter Caryn Stevens Mohr; and his brothers James W. Stevens III and Melvin L. Stevens. He is survived by his sister LaVerne Garren of Roanoke, VA; son, Charles R. Stevens of Orlando, and daughter, Janice A. Stevens of Orlando; seven grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Mr. Steven's Rucker lineage is: Rucker⁸ Mator Stevens, Nettie Virginia⁷ Rucker, Milton⁶ Metaux, Isaac⁵ Martin, Reuben⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹.

Dr. T. Donald Rucker, 81, a health economist who helped shape Medicare and became a pharmacy administration professor and government consultant, died Jan. 28, 2007 Adamstown, Maryland.

Thomas Donald Rucker was born June 26, 1925 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Steubenville, Ohio. He was a business graduate of Miami University of Ohio; received a master's degree in economics from Ohio State University; and a doctorate in economics from Syracuse University. He became a labor economist with the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, and in Chicago on health care policy for the Blue Shield.

Dr. Rucker came to Washington in 1965 and became chief of the

Social Security Administration's drug studies branch. He also was a member of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare task force on prescription drugs.

Dr. Rucker served as head of the pharmacy administration departments at Ohio State University and the University of Illinois at Chicago, when he published and lectured on drug formularies and drug utilization review, testified before Congress, and consulted with several federal agencies.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Marion Rucker of Adamstown; a daughter, Lee Rucker Keiser of Bethesda; a sister Martha; and a granddaughter.

Dr. Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Thomas⁸ Donald Rucker, Thomas⁷ Dabney, John⁶ Isaac, Isaac⁵ Martin, Reuben⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹.

Stephen Morley Rucker was born in Seattle, Washington, on May 24, 1938 and died in Santa Monica, California, August 28, 2010, the son of Benjamin Wallace Rucker and Helen Gayle Bornstein.

Rucker first at the University of Washington. He was attracted to business from his earliest years, Steve persuaded his parents to let him do his graduate studies at the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia where he graduated with an MBA in 1960. Afterwards he joined the U.S. Army and became a Commissioned Officer serving from 1960-61.

Returning to his business career, he joined a number of investment firms. The firms included Goldman Sachs, Kidder-Peabody, Morgan Stanley,

Wertheim Investments and completed his business career in 2001 at Donaldson, Lufkin, Jenrette/Credit Suisse.

When Stephen came to Los Angeles, he was "discovered" by the Hollywood film community that recommended him as the person to help guide their investments. When Ronald Reagan was President, he and Steve had offices in the same building and became "buddies."

Stephen married Patricia S. Meisel in 1964, and they had two children, Kimberly Rucker and James M. Rucker. Some years after his divorce from Patricia, Stephen Rucker married Jennifer Pytko of Las Vegas.

Stephen Morley Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Stephen⁹ M. Rucker, Benjamin⁸ W., Samuel⁷ Paschal, Benjamin⁶ Lewis, Benjamin⁵ Asbury (who married Melinda⁵ Rucker, William⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), John⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

When Your Name Is Smith

by Jeannie Brydon
and Bill Smith



French C Smith (1809-1880)

This article began when Jeannie sent an email to four RFS board members at the end of May concerning a little known offshoot of the Rucker clan. It caught my attention because of the title of Jeannie's article.

She wrote, "When your name is Smith, you need to come up with unusual names." This is what French C. Smith (1809-1880) and his wife, Eliza Hector (1812-1888) did in the early 1800s. They were married in Virginia and moved to Guadalupe, Co., TX. Their family Bible helped identify the names of the children. Of eleven children, five died in infancy and only three married.

1. Mary Catherine Smith, b. 2 Aug 1832, in VA, d. 16 May 1837 TX. (*Beautiful choices for given names for a young lady in 19th century America, and nothing to suggest what was to come*)

2. Black Hawk Smith, b. 18 Jan 1834, VA, d. 6 Mar 1846 TX. (*Likely named for a leader of the Sauk tribe from near Saginaw Bay, MI and the Black Hawk War of 1832*)

3. James Hector Smith, b. 16 May 1836, VA, d. 14 Jun 1837. (*Hector was his mother's surname, but judging where his parents went with classical names, Hector could refer to the Trojan prince who married Andromache [see next child] and their son was Astyanax [see child 6]*)

4. Andromache Hector Smith, b. 1 Feb 1838 TX, d. 25 Jan 1904 TX. (*Wife of Prince Hector*)

5. Albert Galetan Smith, b. 24 Feb 1840 TX, d. 17 Feb 1910 TX, m. Vina Maddox. (*Albert Gallatin, American politician and diplomat [1761-1849]*)

6. Astanax Troy Smith, b. 19

Feb 1842 TX, d. 22 Jun 1892 NM, m. Hulda Lou Butler. (*Astyanax was the son of Hector and Andromache, and he was a Prince of Troy*)

7. William Orgetorix "Jett" Smith, b. 3 Sep 1844 TX, d. 22 Jun 1916 TX. (*Orgetorix was a wealthy "barbarian" during the time of Julius Caesar*)

8. Xantipa Smith, b. 22 Aug 1846 TX, d. 1 Sep 1848 TX. (*Xanthippe was the wife of the Greek philosopher Socrates*)

9. Mary Roxanna Smith, b. 9 Jun 1848 TX, d. 12 Nov 1936 TX. (*Roxana was the Asian wife of Alexander the Great. Roxanne was also the love interest of Cyrano de Bergerac*)

10. Dunnorix Smith, b. 1 Jul 1850 TX, d. 17 Feb 1851 TX. (*Dumnorix was a Celtic leader during the time of Julius Caesar*)

11. Guy French Smith, b. 10 Jan 1853 TX, d. 30 May 1906 TX, m. Mary Jane Johnson. (*After such extravagance, Guy seems too tame - it's a Norman French name with Germanic roots*)

If one looks at the non-Rucker lineage of the Smith-Hector children, it becomes apparent where the naming practices originated. French Smith's wife has siblings - James Priam, Andromache, Cassandra, Astyanax and Ilion. For better or for worse, these naming practices did not continue into a third generation.

The Rucker lineage of French⁷ C. Smith is: Ezekiel⁶ Smith, Isaac⁵, Jr., Isaac⁴, Sr., Margaret³

Rucker, John², Peter¹.

Scrubland Critters?

by Mike Rucker
and Bill Smith

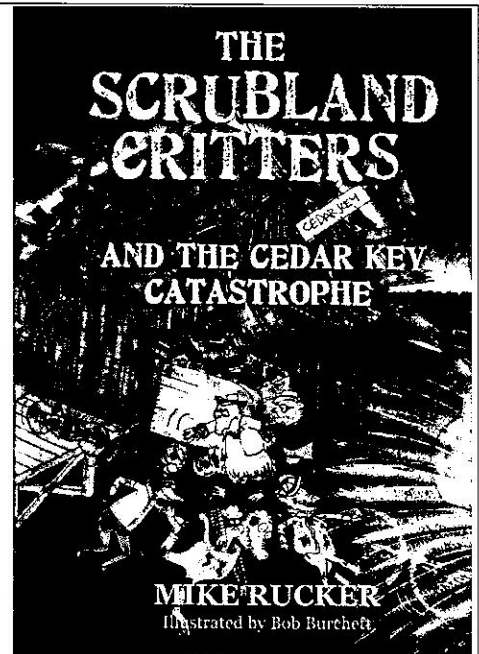
So apparently Mike had some extra time this past year, and he has authored another book. This one, *The Scrubland Critters and the Cedar Key Catastrophe*, involves just what the title intimates: a group of "critters" from the scrublands who become involved in a real-life location, Cedar Key, Florida. Cedar Key is located just off the west coast of that state. Mike's story takes place in 1867 and, while I can't spoil the ending, I will say that the critters (Wiley Fox, Ally Gator, Suzy Squirrel, Percy Possum, Harry Hogg and Randy Raccoon) are deeply concerned when "progress" threatens their natural community and their very continued existence.

The book is published by Peppertree Press and is available through their website, www.peppertreepublishing.com in both hardcover or paperback.

Leesburg Inn – A Well Known "Watering Place"

by Mike Rucker

The Leesburg [Virginia] Inn was a well-known "watering place" in that community during the early years of the twentieth century. Its porches were filled with rockers and many folks "from the city" [Washington, D.C.] came to the "cool breezes of the county" to relax at there. Its dining room had an excellent reputation. For many it represented the height of "good southern living" in the descriptive advertising phrase which many use, yet



today, but few can define in detail.

The inn was owned and operated for many years by Frank Cunningham and his wife Susan (Sudie) Margaret Rucker. Sudie was the sixth of ten children of Daniel Hilton Rucker, who was clerk of court of Buena Vista, Virginia. She was born May 4, 1870 in Buena Vista, in 1900 she married Frank Davies Cunningham, and died November 18, 1945 in Leesburg.

Sudie managed the dining room at the Leesburg Inn. There were many "regulars" who came to dine frequently. According to Sudie's nephew, Jack Rucker Jones, one of those regulars "from the city" was known to Sudie as "Mister" Marshall. Sudie interacted with him almost every weekend before and during World War II era when Marshall returned to his home in Leesburg from Washington and dined at the inn. One day another regular to the inn asked Sudie how often "General" Marshall came to dine there. Sudie replied, "Well, I don't know any 'General' Marshall, but that nice

'Mister' Marshall comes here almost every Saturday. She did not know that 'Mister' Marshall was U. S. Army Chief of Staff and chief military adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the primary architect of the United States' worldwide war effort as well as the architect of the "Marshall Plan" for the recovery of Europe after the war.

The inn was built in 1889, five years before the Loudoun County Courthouse was built next door. With its long, arcaded three-story porch, the Leesburg Inn framed the north side of the courthouse lawn. Elected officials and staff often dined at the inn and met there for meetings. The building continued to serve as an inn through the mid-20th century until it was purchased by Loudoun County for additional office space. The county allowed the structure to deteriorate until it was unsafe for use and was demolished in 1974.

It was Elizabeth Lee Rucker Sites, Sudie's great-great-niece, who suggested this article and she relates her fond memories hearing her grandmother tell about attending an annual event that occurred at the inn for a number of years: a triple birthday celebration on the fourth of May for Sudie, her brother Albon McDaniel Rucker (1868), and her niece Annie Byrd Rucker Brown (1881) were born on that calendar date. A gala party would ensue at the inn on that day and was attended by many Rucker family members and friends.

The Rucker lineages of Sudie Rucker are: Susan⁷ (Sudie) Margaret, Daniel⁶ Hilton (married Maryamna⁶ Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Pe-

ter¹), William⁵ Ballanger (married Mary Ann⁶ Dawson, Ambrose⁵ Rucker, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹), George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Sources: Raflo, Frank. *Within the Iron Gates: A Collection of Stories About Loudoun As Remembered After Rereading the Loudoun Times-Mirror for the Years 1925-1975*. Leesburg, VA: Printed by Loudoun Times-Mirror, 1988. Pages 422-431. Photo credit: Winslow Williams Photograph Collection (VC 0003), 1925-1980, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

* * * * *

Greenbrier County, West Virginia

By Jeannie Brydon

Lewisburg, West Virginia, the site of our next reunion, is in Greenbrier County. James Rucker, one of the sons of Peter Rucker, Immigrant, moved to that area with most of his children.

Greenbrier County, founded in 1778, was originally part of Augusta County and was located in Virginia until the Civil War when the western part of the state was formed into West Virginia. Jim Talbert of the Greenbrier Historical Society will give us the history of the Greenbrier County.

James Rucker in 1782 appears on George Poagge's lists of Heads of Families of Bath county: 'James Rucker Sr., James Rucker, Jr., and Wyatt Rucker on the Greenbrier River Section.'" James patented land in Greenbrier and his sons DeWitt,

James Jr., Ephraim, Lemuel, Wyatt and Elzaphan shared this land. Most of this family eventually moved to Ohio.

One of James's descendants, Elzy Rucker (I think was the son of DeWitt Rucker) lived in Greenbrier with his wife, Frances and two children. Elzy died in the War of 1812, but his widow continued to have children. All the subsequent children had the name Rucker, which makes it difficult for descendants to trace. Maybe with yDNA tests, their family can be identified. Carolyn "Cara" Miller is one of these descendants and hopefully will attend the reunion to tell us more.

And of course, we look forward to hearing more about Dr. William Parks Rucker, the infamous character of Lewisburg. Michael P. "Mike" Rucker will have his book available for sale, *Bridge Burner*, the story of William Parks's shenanigans. Mike says the full proceeds of all sales on *Bridge Burner* as well as that from sales of his children's books will be donated to the Rucker Family Society."

As one item on the program Mike Rucker will take us on an exciting PowerPoint adventure through Rucker Gap between Bath County, Virginia and Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

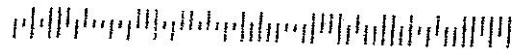
We hope to see you in Lewisburg, Oct 8, 2015, to learn more about the Ruckers and Greenbrier County.

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This marvelous building was owned and operated by Sudie Rucker and her husband Frank Cunningham for many years.

The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



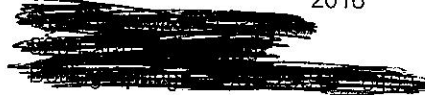
Rucker

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