

KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 26, NO. 3, DECEMBER 2015



RUCKER FAMILY REUNION 2015

Table of Contents

Rucker Reunion.....	p. 21-24
Peter Rucker's Daughters. p.	21-22
Calling All Profiles.....	p. 24
In Memoriam.....	p. 24-28
yDNA Project Report.....	p. 28-29
Who Was Margaret Miller. p.	29
Scrubland Critters.....	p. 18
Query: Anthony P. Rucker p.	29
Rucker Lumber.....	p. 30

2015 Rucker Family Society Reunion -

"Wild and Wonderful"

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

The Rucker Family Reunion in Lewisburg, West Virginia was truly "Wild and Wonderful."

The attendees began their adventure by attending a 30 minute recitation by Mike Rucker of the *Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, assisted by his three beautiful granddaughters as his audio/video assistants. Mike then recited other Coleridge poems at length, all supplemented by PowerPoint visuals.

The keynote address Friday morning was delivered by Jim Talbert of the Greenbrier Historical Society who told of the history of Greenbrier County with emphasis of Rucker family members who were early settlers in the area. Mike Rucker followed his presentation with a visual Power Point tour through "Rucker Gap" which provided early settlers a path between what is now Bath County, Virginia and Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The gap was

Continued on next page

Where have All the Daughters Gone?

by Bill Smith

Those of you who have attended recent RFS Reunions know that they tend to be organized around Peter Rucker's five sons: Ephraim, James, John, Thomas and William (in alphabetical order). Did you know that Peter had four daughters and that their descendants attended earlier reunions? So where have all these descendants of Peter's gone? Why don't they attend?

Jeannie Brydon tells us that Peter Rucker and his wife Elizabeth had Elizabeth (b. ca 1708 and married [William] Pierce), Margaret (b. ca 1710 and married Isaac Tinsley), Mary (b. ca 1712 and married William Ofill), and Ann (b. ca 1722 and married Shem Cooke, Sr.). From the amount of information available on the descendants of Peter's daughters, it looks like seemingly untouched territory.

Alice Rucker has records of some granddaughters of Peter whose descendants are current RFS members. Four current members are descended from John's daughters Mildred and Sarah; three current members are descended from Ephraim's daughter Tomagen; and one cur-

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rent member is descended from Thomas' daughter Frances.

So, the information is "out there." Let's see if we can't reunite with these descendants of Peter Rucker's daughters and granddaughters before our next Reunion and celebrate them equally.

2015 Rucker Reunion

Continued from page 21

named for James Rucker one of the first settlers in the area who owned many hundreds of acres of land on both sides of what is now the state line between Virginia and West Virginia. Mike then followed with a Power Point quiz on the history and geography of West Virginia – which the participants failed miserably.

Friday afternoon was devoted to the "Greenbrier Bunker Tour" and the "Historic Greenbrier Hotel Tour." The Greenbrier Bunker, carved deep into the mountainside beneath the West Virginia Wing of the Greenbrier Resort, was an emergency Cold War fallout shelter. It was a top secret U.S. government reloca-

tion facility for members of both houses of Congress. Construction began in 1958 on the 112,544-square-foot bunker, which was built 720 feet into the hillside. Once completed in 1961, the facility was maintained in a constant state of readiness by a small group of government employees working undercover. The Bunker was decommissioned in 1992 and made available for tours by the public.

The Bunker provided the following to protect members of Congress:

- Four secure and hidden entrances
- A 25-ton blast door that opens with only 50 lbs. of pressure
- Decontamination chambers
- 18 dormitories, designed to accommodate over 1,100 people
- A water purification plant with three 25,000 gallon water storage tanks
- Three Caterpillar diesel engines
- 14,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tanks



Attendees of the 2015 Rucker Family Society's Reunion in Lewisburg, West Virginia



Mike Rucker discusses Rucker Gap

The Bunker Tour was followed by a grand tour of the Greenbrier Hotel hosted by Dr. Robert S. Conte who has been the Greenbrier's resident Historian since 1978. The group was particularly interested to learn of the magnificent "High Style" decorations begun by the famous interior decorator Dorothy Draper who infused various designs based on the rhododendron flower as a beautiful the motif for the entire premises. This rhododendron motif infuses the carpets, wall paper, furniture and even Dr. Conte's necktie.

On Friday evening the group attended a performance at Lewisburg's beautiful Carnegie Hall, built with funds provided

by industrialist Andrew Carnegie. This is one of only three "Carnegie Halls" within the U.S. The performance was a rousing performance by the zydeco band "Beau Soleil avec Michael Douchet," the most famous and most popular band of Louisiana Cajun music – a "foot stomping" performance, with some younger members of the Rucker family dancing in the aisles near the stage.

The highlight on Saturday morning was a presentation by "Little Billy Joe Rucker of Mississippi" who kept the audience in stitches with a recital of his antics as a child – as good as any recital by Mark Twain. That individual "Little Billy Joe" (a.k.a. Bill Rucker of Georgia) will be the host of the next Rucker Family Reunion which will be in Columbus, Georgia, at a date to be chosen in 2017.

Saturday afternoon was the "Lewisburg Taste of Our Town" (a.k.a. TOOT) a street festival which shuts down the entire downtown of Lewisburg for food and frivolity.

After the attendees had eaten

their fill and enjoyed the music in the streets of Lewisburg the group assembled at the North House Museum of the Greenbrier Historical Society for a well conducted tour of the history of the area – including discussion and photos of the "turkey trots" of the late 1800's when up to 17,000 turkeys at a time would be herded to the train depot in Ronceverte about 6 miles from Lewisburg.

Then they visited the "Rucker Plot" within the Old Stone Church Cemetery to view the graves of Dr. William Parks Rucker, the famous (or infamous) Union Army "Bridge Burner" and others of the Rucker clan.

Saturday evening the group attended the performance of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre which hosts the only professional theatrical company within the State of West Virginia. It was a truly great performance. The program provided to those in attendance made reference to the similarity between the ghost of Hamlet's father and the "Greenbrier Ghost" whose testimony resulted in a conviction of murder. Dr. William Parks Rucker was the defense attorney for that trial there in Lewisburg.

The primary event on Sunday morning was the always exciting auction with Mike Rucker as the auctioneer assisted by Chris Rucker and Mike's son Derek who convinced the attendees to buy nearly every bit of Rucker paraphernalia which those in attendance had brought for the purpose. The most interesting auction items were "carpenter



The view from the Greenbrier Hotel toward "the Bunker"

bee traps" hand crafted by Little Billy Joe Rucker himself.

The reunion photos are courtesy of Jeannie Brydon.

In summary, it was a great event. We urge all to attend the next reunions. The current plans are to hold the 2017 reunion in Columbus, Georgia; the 2019 reunion in Lynchburg, Virginia; and the 2021 reunion in Monterey, California.

* * * * *

Calling for All Profiles! by Bill Smith

I'm lucky enough to have a copy of all of the RFS Newsletters (beginning with Volume 1, Number 1 in May 1990). One of the hallmarks of Jeannie Brydon's tireless work was to have family profiles in most issues. She established this practice in the second issue, Vol. 1, No. 2, and the subject of the profile was Edward Walter Rucker IV (lineage Edward⁹ W. Rucker IV, Edward⁸ W. III, Edward⁷ W., Jr., Edward⁶ W., Ephraim⁵, Edward⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹).

Quite honestly, I miss them. They show all the marvelous similarities and differences of the many Ruckers from all corners of our nation. I don't imagine the profile subject necessarily wrote every word of the profile, so your fear of writing should not stop you. Please, if you and your family have not been featured in a profile, put it on your to-do list of things to accomplish in 2016.

If a profile is not your specialty, then suggest a favorite Rucker cousin, living or not, who you would like us introduce, and we'll do the research and writing. All would work. Thanks!

In Memoriam

Florence Rucker Collins, longtime resident of Lake Minchumina, passed away quietly November 4, 2015 at the Pioneer's Home, Fairbanks, Alaska. Her birth in May 1921 in Connecticut was an especially joyful event since her parents had nearly given up on having children. Florence Rucker probably inherited her curiosity from her father, an inventor; her lifelong love of reading fed a sharp intellect and long memory. As a child, her favorite word was "Why?" and as an adult she served as a living encyclopedia, answering questions as diverse as "How old is the Earth?" "Who was Henry VIII?" and "What's ANILCA?"

Although fascinated by paleontology, it was geology that offered more opportunities for a young woman during World War II, so she studied rocks at the prestigious University of Chicago. There she struck up a lifelong friendship with another young Florence, Miss Robinson. In 1945 the pair witnessed an exhibit of fighter planes meant to encourage people to invest in war bonds but which instead triggered them to invest in flying lessons. Gas rationing meant no fuel for a car, but they could buy gas for a plane. By the time the pair learned to drive in 1947, they had already flown from Texas to Florida. Adventurous spirit led the young ladies up the Alaska Highway the first year it opened to the public. Later, master's degrees in geology allowed Florence and Florence (a.k.a. Ru and Ro) to return to Alaska as employees of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Florence found 1949 Fairbanks a fascinating town, with Cushman St. and Second Ave. boasting the only pavement, dog teams in the streets and float planes on the Chena River. She and Ro micro-

scopically analyzed rock cores from northern Alaska oil fields, while envying male field workers who geologized remote outcrops in the exotic far north.

In 1950 the two paid \$3,800 for a Cessna 140 which they flew to Alaska. With their own wings, the two Florences flew almost every weekend to Nome, Kotzebue, the North Slope and Canada. Once, over Lake Minchumina, they spotted an isolated homestead on the lakeshore, with the quintessential log cabin and garden plot. "Gee, it would be wonderful to own a place like that!"

The thought so intrigued them that when some property came up for sale at Minchumina, they joined another pilot, Nancy Baker, to buy it sight unseen, only to discover they'd purchased the same idyllic site they had flown over! Weekends at Minchumina gave Florence a chance to know Dick Collins, the FAA station manager there, but more adventures lay ahead before marriage entered her mind.



In 1953, she and a group of friends floated the Yukon from Whitehorse to Circle, 700 miles of wilderness only 55 years after the great Klondike stampede opened the country. The two Florences also kayaked Porcupine River from Old Crow to Fort Yukon.

The USGS rudely interrupted Ru and Ro's northern adventures by

shipping them to Washington, D.C., to write reports. As soon as they acquired a grant for a new Alaska study, the two women bought a Supercub on floats and flew from the Potomac River to the MacKenzie Delta and down to Fairbanks. Landing at isolated locations for fuel garnered stares of amazement at the daring women piloting the lanky craft.

Ru and Ro spent summer 1956 at Lake Minchumina, studying prehistoric sand dunes that ripple across much of the flat country between Nenana and Minchumina. They landed at many remote lakes, naming several of them including Dune Lake, Totek and Big Spectacle Lake.

A romance blossomed between Florence and Dick, and by 1959 they were a family with a son and twin daughters. Florence didn't give up her adventures just because she'd "settled down." She went moose hunting shortly before giving birth and flew home from the hospital with Dick and their new babies. They flew around Alaska and across the nation and made family vacations from Kobuk to the Bahamas.

They invested years in building a new home at Minchumina, which included blasting a basement in the bedrock with dynamite and hauling local boulders for cementing into a stone basement before rafting in cabin logs for a two-story home.

After a few idyllic years, the kids made the mistake of becoming teenagers. Knowing that after eight years of home schooling, they would benefit from a formal education, Dick and Florence sacrificed five winters in Fairbanks so they could attend public school.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the couple made many 300 to 800-mile wilderness journeys in their 22-foot riverboat.

They hauled the dog team back to Fairbanks for the school year, and headed off to the Yukon River site of Birches to set up a ham radio rig for helping the Yukon 800 boat races.

They traveled the world from New Zealand to Iceland to Bonaire. Closer to home, Florence served alternately as president and secretary of the local Homeowner's Association, boating across the lake and zipping around the village perched behind Dick on his motorcycle. Florence continued the environmental work she'd begun with pioneers Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter, and worked as a subsistence liaison with Denali Park. Members of the Denali Subsistence Commission voted her president for about two decades; the Park Service gave her a lifetime achievement award; and the Northern Alaska Environmental Center named an award in her honor.

Time flows unstopping, but even after her husband died in 2004, Florence joyfully went dog sledding, snow machining or boating each time she caught the mail plane to Minchumina for a visit home. She chose to move into the Pioneer's Home when in her mid-80s, but still joined her daughters on the 300-mile round trip flight to the lake for her 90th birthday, her last great thrill in adventure-filled life.

Florence is survived by her son Ray and Frankie Collins and children Richard and Karen, and Florence's twin daughters, Florence Dickey "Miki" and Julie Hubbard Collins. Florence and her husband Dick (Richard Hubbard Collins, the son of Ray Merrill and June (Hubbard) Collins —) were married April 13, 1957 in Virginia, but spent their lives together in Alaska.

This obituary was published in *Daily News-Miner* on November 15, 2015.

There are other published references to Florence's accomplishments. One is in the August 1957 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*. In the most recent of National Geographic, one her twin daughters and two of the dogs are pictured on pages 86 and 87. There are numerous references in National Parks publications to Florence and a lovely tribute to her life's work as well.

Florence's Collin's lineage is: Florence⁸ Parks Rucker, Benjamin Parks⁷, Benjamin⁶ Lindsay, Benjamin⁵ Jennings, Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Rucker Alexander Tibbs, Sr., 92, of Lynchburg, passed away Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at the Hospice House in Lynchburg. He was the husband of Lucille Simpkins Tibbs. Born September 19, 1923, he was the son of the late Willard Russell Tibbs and the late Nena Rucker Tibbs.



Rucker was a self-employed, certified flight instructor and a commercial licensed air pilot. He was a proud Army veteran serving our country during World War II. Rucker was the founder of New London Airport, where he was also a member of the Civil Air Patrol and a member of the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame as well as a charter mem-

ber of the New London Ruritan Club. He was also an aircraft mechanic and a tank mechanic in the U.S. Army. Rucker was also presented an award from the Virginia House of Delegates for his service to our country and community.

In addition to his parents, Rucker was preceded in death by one daughter, Betty Jo Tibbs.

In addition to his wife, Rucker is survived by three children, Rucker "R.A." Tibbs, Jr. and his wife, Brenda, Janet Tibbs, and Jean Ferguson and her friend, Larry Witt, all of Forest; one brother, Jessie Tibbs and his wife, Shirley of Forest; sister-in-law, Sarah Moss of Raleigh, N.C.; three grandchildren, Chris Tibbs, Sunny Thornton, and Charlie Ferguson, III; six great grandchildren, Story Smith, Grayson Tibbs, Sully Tibbs, Wyatt Thornton, Charlie Ferguson, IV, and Chase Thornton; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be conducted 11 a.m., Friday, October 16, 2015, at Fort Hill Memorial Park with the Rev. Steve Parker and the Rev. Ralph Jackson officiating.

At the family's request, there will be no visitation hours at the funeral home yet family and friends are welcome for visitation at the residence at Otter Hill Farm.

Rucker A. Tibbs Rucker lineage is: Rucker⁸ A. Tibbs, Nena⁷ Lair Rucker, John⁶ Isaac, Isaac⁵ Martin, Reuben⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹.

Ernest Paul Boles, II, age 82, died November 4, 2015 in Wichita, KS. He was born Jan. 23, 1933 in Liberal, KS, the son of Ernest Paul and Vaughn Neva (Fankhauser) Boles. Paul was a lifelong resident of Seward

County and graduated from Liberal High School in 1950.

In 1954, he graduated from Friends University with bachelor's degree in sociology, and in 1958 he earned a bachelor's degree in education. At Friends University he was the senior class president and a member of the Singing Quakers. Later in life, Paul served on the Board of Friends University for many years.



On Sept. 24, 1954, Paul married Patsy Ann Rucker in Wichita, KS at University Friends Church. In the same year, the young couple returned to Seward County to follow Paul's dream of farming and ranching, which he continued for the rest of his life. During these early days, Paul also taught history at Liberal High School. In 1963, Paul was recognized as an Outstanding Young Farmer by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, the Boles Ranch has been home to a registered Holstein dairy as well as registered black Angus.

Paul was an active member and supporter of the Friends Church in Liberal, where he taught Sunday school for many years.

Paul truly loved people and Southwest Kansas. He demonstrated his devotion to his com-

munity through service on numerous local boards, including the Southwest Historical Society and the Seward County Soil Conservation Board. He was on the founding Board of Trustees of Seward County Community College and a member of the Rotary. He was involved in banking and served on the boards of the Peoples National Bank and The Community Bank.

Paul was known locally for his talks on Seward County history and singing at numerous events throughout the years. He was active in Boy Scouts and attended the 1946 World Jamboree in Europe. He made his ranch available for Boy Scout campsouts for hundreds of boys throughout the years.

Paul is survived by his wife, Patsy, their daughter Sarah Boles Foreman and husband David of Liberal, KS, and son Ernest Paul Boles, III and wife Katharina of Kronberg, Germany, and his sister JoAnne Fitzgerald of Liberal, KS. He also is survived by five grandchildren: Nathan Foreman and wife Sarah Michelle; Anna-Vaughn Ewertt and husband Jason; Ernest Paul Boles, IV; Oliver Boles and Megan Boles; and seven great-grandchildren: Abigail Foreman; Levi Foreman; Mariah Foreman; Isaac Paul Foreman; Luke Ewertt; William Ewertt and Adalynne Vaughn Ewertt. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Paul's wife Patsy's Rucker lineage is: Patsy⁸ A. Rucker Boles, Ira⁷ Rucker, John⁶ L., William⁵, James⁴, Mordecai³, William², Peter¹.

Donald Scott Rucker, Sr., 96, of Lynchburg, Virginia, passed away November 26, 2015 at Runk & Pratt Residential Adult

Care, Lynchburg. He was the husband of Dorothy Burruss Rucker.

Mr. Rucker was born March 31, 1919 in Lynchburg, the son of the late William Madison Rucker and Cora Hamilton Rucker. He was preceded in death by nine brothers and one sister. Mr. Rucker was a retired dispatcher with T.I.M.E. in Knoxville, TN and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He was a member of Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Madison Heights, VA. In addition to his wife, Mr. Rucker is survived by two sons, Donald S. Rucker, Jr., and wife Lynn of Lawrenceville and Dale L. Rucker and wife Pamela of Roanoke, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Rucker's lineage is: Donald⁷ Scott Rucker, William⁶ Madison, James⁵ Alexander, Willis⁴, John³, Thomas², Peter¹.

Garland Ambrose "Gar" Wood, Jr., died in Richmond, Virginia on February 6, 2016. Gar was born in Richmond on September 3, 1944. He was preceded in death by his parents, Garland A. Wood and Marion Fugitt Wood. He was survived by his brother, Thomas Ward



Wood (Kathleen); and his sisters, Marion Lee Wood Addison (David), Bettie Dade Wood, Carol Townshend Wood and Sudie Rucker Wood. His survivors also include his nephews, David Dunham Addison Jr. (Kara), John Garland Wood, and Thomas Ward Wood Jr.; and his nieces, Lee Addison Lesley (Chad) and Townshend Addison Fonville (David). Gar graduated from St. Christopher's School, where he was on the football and wrestling teams and was president of the glee club, an experience which contributed to his love of singing. He attended the University of Richmond, where he served as Class Treasurer, and he graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he was captain of the wrestling team. He served in the Virginia Army National Guard for six years. Gar spent his boyhood summers on his family's farm in Amelia County, Virginia and gained a lifelong interest in things that grow, especially flowers which he grew and loved to share with his family and friends. He always enjoyed being with people, especially when they laughed at his jokes. Gar's Rucker lineages are: Garland⁹ A. Wood, Jr., Garland⁸ A. Wood, Sr., "Sudie"⁷ Rucker, William⁶ A., William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹; William B.'s wife Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Dr. Rucker Remembered by Mozelle Brown

Dr. Anthony Warren Rucker, died in 1979. The following is an edited version of a charming eulogy delivered at his memorial. The printed version was sent to

RFS to RFS President Chris Rucker by member Jon Rucker (Jon's Rucker lineage: Jon¹⁰ S. Rucker, Sr., Leslie⁹ Clary, Herbert⁸ Leslie, Washington⁷ Irving, Edwin⁶ Sorrell, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹).

Dr. Rucker Remembered



By Mozelle Brown

Dr. Anthony Warren Rucker was born Friday the 13th of April, 1900. He apparently said that he was protected from all danger of ill fortune because that day was Good Friday.

After Dr. Rucker graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he traveled to Nashville and entered Vanderbilt Medical School where he earned his medical degree. While in Nashville, he "met, wooed, and won the gifted Corneille McCam." Dr. Rucker always called himself a child of the Blue Ridge, and once he finished his medical training the Ruckers moved to Henry County, VA where he spent sixteen years in general practice. "As the years went by, he became more and more interested in pediatrics and finally decided to limit his practice to the branch of medicine." After completing he training, the Ruckers moved to Columbia, TN, where Dr. Rucker prac-

ticed pediatrics for sixteen addition years.

By this time retirement was "drawing near" the Ruckers looked for a location that needed a doctor and was near the Blue Ridge Mountains. Greene County, VA was this ideal place. 1962 marked their move to Stanardsville, in Greene County where they became "home folks." Fourteen years after that, a local clinic was established with doctors and nurses from the University of Virginia Hospital. Finally, Dr. Rucker finally closed his office, *but* continued to make home visits.

Dr. Rucker died of a heart attack on June 1, 1979. His wife wrote the following poem during her first Christmas season following his death.

GIFTS

He loved the woods and walked there every day;

Returning, he would some small treasure bring,

Perhaps a perfect scarlet maple leaf,

Or just a feather from a blue bird's wing.

He could not know how My heart warmed with joy,

Not only for the magic spirit-lift,

But for the love that made him understand

My kindred love that met his tender gift.

I thank thee Lord, for all thy blessings given,

Thy Holy Child – the stars that evenings bring;

And lesser gifts – a hand to hold – a smile,

A leaf -- a feather from a blue bird's wing.

I was not able to determine who Mozelle Brown was or what the relationship was with Dr. Ruck-

er.

Jeannie Brydon informed me that Dr. Rucker's nephew, Warren Page Rucker (son of Ney⁸ Williams Rucker) attended a number of early Rucker Reunions.

Dr. Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Anthony⁸ Warren Rucker, Orlando⁷ Childs, Ambrose⁶ Clifton, Anthony⁵, Ambrose⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

* * * * *

Report on the Rucker yDNA Surname Project by Alice Rucker and Paul Mize

This is a report that was given at the reunion in Lewisburg and we wanted to share it with everyone.

Our project began in 2005 for men only because the "y" chromosome only applies to a man and his father and his father ... etc. (female humans inherit two x chromosomes, one each from both her parents; while males have an x and a y - the x from his mother and the y from his father). Chromosomes tend to remain the same, but the yDNA can change, or "mutate" slightly here and there. Because changes are extremely infrequent, this is the solid, scientific approach to connect American Ruckers with a present-day living European who will, in time, be found to match Ruckers *and* have a paper trail they will share.

To date, we currently have approximately 75 men our yDNA project.

In 2005 the standard was to test 37 markers called STRs (short tandem repeat) on the y chromosome. STR markers are the genetic code that has a variable number of repeated sections, and they can change from generation

to generation.

So as we learned more of the science of yDNA we began testing at 67, then 111 markers that provided more in-depth conclusions. When men matched within tolerance, they were placed into groups based on testing results, and we now have a number of groups. Out of these groups, our largest is what we have called the "Peter Pattern" group. This group distinguishes our immigrant Peter Rucker and his *male siblings and ancestors* from others that may also carry the Rucker surname, and is identifiable under the haplogroup "R" identifying European males, and further defined down as code R-M269.

Think of haplogroups like you would a large clan. Haplogroups pertain to deep ancestral origins dating back thousands of years. Haplogroups are assigned letters of the alphabet, and refinements, or subgroups, are assigned additional number and letter combinations.

yDNA alone cannot tell us *which* son (or other male relative) of Peter Rucker a man descends from. The two things necessary for solid evidence of a descent from Peter Rucker are a well-researched paper trail with positive yDNA results.

Those who tested and did not match the "Peter Pattern" surname group have distinguished themselves into other groupings:

(E-M2) is a single African American without group match, though he felt certain he descended from a Rucker slave owner (his yDNA proves that it is not true)

(I-M170) are a group of 4 Englishmen, who did not know

each other

(I-M223) are a group of 3 Germans, who did not know each other

(I-M253) are English men living in England and Australia, who did not know each other

Additionally, we have a "Mixed Results" group who haven't matched anyone else yet

In addition to previous attempts at connecting with Europeans individually, the RFS yDNA Surname Project advertises on International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) for free yDNA tests. Here is an example of the advertisement we use:

The Rucker Surname yDNA Project is willing to supply a free yDNA test kit to qualified males who have biological Rucker or similar surname ancestry in England or Continental Europe with genealogy into or earlier than the 1700s. We are trying to connect American colonial immigrant Peter Rucker, who is lacking paper trail to his homeland. Those interested should submit their genealogy/pedigree for review. The offer will be subject to the approval of the Administrators' assessment that the outcome is likely to benefit the project.

To be continued in the next issue

Who was Margaret Rucker Shannon Miller? by Bill Smith

Last May, Mike Rucker sent this question to several RFS members: "Do you have any idea who this lady is? There is no information about here at the Greenbrier Historical Society - not even her newspaper obituary. He accompanied his query with a

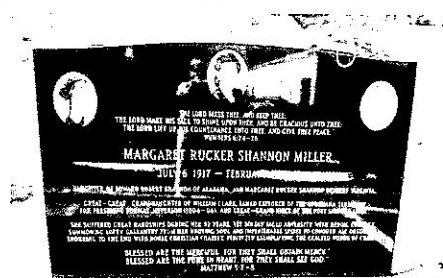


photo of her headstone from Lewisburg's Old Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Jeannie Brydon and I took the bait and found *some* information, but not a lot. Jeannie determined that Margaret Miller's Rucker lineage is Margaret⁹ Rucker Shannon, Margaret⁸ Clarke Rucker, William⁷ P., Clifton⁶ H., Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹. The headstone states "Great-Great Granddaughter of Gen. William Clark, Famed explorer of the Louisiana Territory for President Thomas Jefferson (1804-1806) and Great Grand Niece of the poet Sidney Lanier."

I could not verify either claim, though I tried. I also was also unsuccessful in determining who Mr. Miller was who she had married at some point in her life. I did determine why there hadn't been an obituary in Greenbrier County, WV where she was buried. She had died in Washington D.C.

The 2 year old Margaret Shannon is shown living in Huntington, WV with her parents, E. Robert and Margaret Clark (Rucker) Shannon, and grandmother Maude Rucker in the 1920 census. None of the 1930 or 1940 census records seem to relate to Margaret's family.

The last bit of evidence I found about her life was from 1992

when she (living in Huntington, WV) and her lawyer (working in Washington D.C.) filed a complaint against West Virginia-American Water Co., which refunded Mrs. Miller the requested amount and the claim was dropped.

So if you may have more information about Margaret Rucker Shannon Miller, let us know and we'll publish it.

- Query -

This query is submitted by Alice Rucker.

Descendants are seeking ancestors of Anthony P. Rucker. Only known information comes from this single census record:

1850 U. S. Census, New Orleans Municipality 2, Ward 3, Louisiana. Anthony P. Rucker, age 39, b. VA, occupation "Coppersmith"; Mrs. Rucker, 22, b. Illinois; Thos. F. Rucker, 4, b. MO; Wm. G. Rucker, 2, b. La.; Mrs. Abroosea (sp?), 40, b. NY. Enumeration date, 5 Mar 1850.

Descendants of William G. Rucker (the younger child above) would greatly appreciate any information you may have concerning this family.

This Meme Says It All!

Undocumented
Genealogy is
Mythology





Here is a postcard of the Rucker Lumber Company in Arlington, Virginia from the early 1940s. The original owners of the firm were brothers George Anna Rucker and William Williams Rucker, both sons of Parks McDaniel Rucker of Buena Vista, Virginia. Mike Rucker tells us that by the time of this postcard, ownership was with non-Rucker individuals.

The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



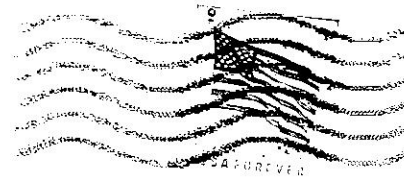
Rucker

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