

SPRING EDITION

# *the* RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 27, NO. 1, APRIL 2016

## RUCKER DANCES WITH THE STARS!



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## Peter Rucker Descendant Dances with the Stars by Bill Smith

Did you know that Bindi Irwin, winner of the fall 2015 season of *Dancing with the Stars* television dancing competition, is a descendant of Peter Rucker? Well, if you have memorized all of the RFS newsletters, you would remember that then four-year-old Bindi is mentioned on page 26 of the September 2002 edition (Vol. 13, No. 3) in connection with her famous "Crocodile Hunter" father, Steve (Stephen Robert Irwin – b.1962- d. 2006) and his wife Theresa "Terri" Penelope Raines (b. 1964) [elsewhere Bindi's mother's name is recorded as Terri Elizabeth Raines]. Bindi's Rucker connections are through her maternal grandmother, and then back to two of Peter Rucker's sons, James and Ephraim.

Though only seventeen years old, Bindi Sue (b. 1998), has had a remarkable and remarkably

*Continued on page 3*

## Genetic Genealogy at SCGS Jamboree June 2, 2016 Burbank, California

The Southern California Genealogical Society and the leadership and members of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) sponsor an annual DNA Day prior to their annual Jamboree weekend of genealogy. Our Rucker yDNA Surname Project Administrator, Alice Rucker attended the conference this year along with 300 other participants. As one can imagine, it would be difficult to summarize in a few paragraphs the amount of information presented throughout a day like this. But, the following is a listing of the workshops taken, and a few sentences after each might give the reader a general idea:

Recruiting DNA in Europe by Katherine Hope Borges and Linda Magellan: join genealogical societies in Europe; let Europeans know what's in it for them if they would agree

***The Rucker Family  
Society Newsletter***

Is published three-times each year  
in April, August, and December

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to be tested; make better use of social media i.e. Facebook and LinkedIn.

From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask by Stephen P. Morse, PhD: was a good review of all the basics plus interesting stories on how the “Anastasia Mystery”, and the Thomas Jefferson/Sally Hemings ancestry problems were actually solved with DNA evidence.

DNA for Genealogists: Breaking Brick Walls, by Kitty Munson Cooper: yDNA alone may not be enough to solve the Peter Rucker brick wall.

The Peopling of Europe by Michael F. Hammer, PhD: a fabulously interesting presentation on how the R1b group (most common in Europe) migrated from the Eurasian Steppe in Russia; archaeological digs have found the implements people used, and those can be dated.

Finding Deep Ancestry with National Geographic’s Geno 2.0 Next Generation by Miguel Vilar, PhD National Geographic: that new skeletons continue to be found and examined and new haplogroups are designated; watch for reality TV meets anthropology reruns of “The Great Human Journey” that was aired in Spring of 2016.

When Technology Conflicts with Human Values by David Dowell, PhD: walked away with interesting quotes ... “Paper is a very neutral medium. It will record any nonsense any fool writes down”; “DNA doesn’t lie, but ability to interpret is not always 20/20”; technology exceeds humanity; and prescriptive mutation – a disease you will get eventually!”

Genetic Genealogy: Year in Review 2016 by Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD: discussed the progress of GedMatch, FTDNA, and 23AndMe.

These annual Genetic Genealogy events are jamb-packed with so much information. Ideas for how to better our project were noted, and a “to do” list was created. Attendance at these annual conferences is an integral part of keeping up to date with what’s going on in the genetic genealogy world. Alice is thankful for the RFS support to attend these conferences each year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rucker Descendant  
Dances with the Stars**

*Continued from page 1*

public life. Just to straighten things out a bit, she was named by her parents for her father's favorite female crocodile at the Australia Zoo, and her middle name, Sue, is from the family's

dog Sui. The name Bindi is said to



mean “young girl” in one of Australia’s Aboriginal languages. She began her television career at the age of two and regularly appeared on her father’s nature programs, including *The Crocodile Hunter Diaries*. Her *Wikipedia* entry is remarkably thorough in relating her professional accomplishments.

Bindi and her younger brother “Bob” (Robert b. 2003), have been homeschooled, and Bindi has recently completed her Certificate III in Business at the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Queensland East Coast school (The Certificate III in business provides learners with a diverse range of skills and knowledge for working in business including customer service

adviser, data entry operator, general clerk, payroll officer, typist, and word processing, and important soft skills, such as communication and teamwork.)

Bindi Sue Irwin’s Rucker lineage is: Bindi<sup>10</sup> Sue Irwin, Theresa<sup>9</sup> “Terri” Penelope [Terri Elizabeth] Raines, Clarence Alonzo<sup>8</sup>, Alonzo Clarence<sup>7</sup>, Charles Legrande<sup>6</sup>, Elizabeth Jane “Lizzie”<sup>5</sup> Rucker, Ephraim<sup>4</sup>, Tomagen<sup>3</sup>, Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>, and Tomagen Rucker’s husband, Augustine Rucker<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

### **More Rucker Geography Rucker Lake, California**

by Alice Rucker and Bill Smith

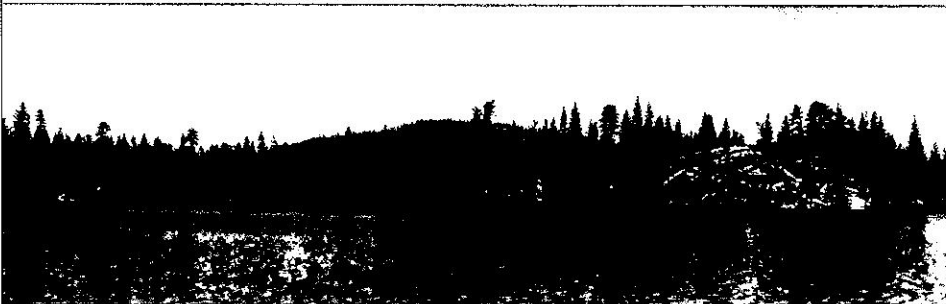
Recently Stephen Shearer, through his friend Mike Rucker, put out a query to some Rucker researchers. Alice Rucker was the first take the bait, and I am (Bill Smith) trying to follow up. Steve wrote “When I saw Rucker Lake on the state map we had to take a detour to check it out. It’s about 15-20 miles west of Donner Pass [near Lake Tahoe]. Pretty small, probably dammed

for hydroelectric like many lakes in the area, but also fairly idyllic. I wonder who the Rucker was for which it was named?”

Searches determined that Rucker Lake is in Nevada County (one of the “cow counties” in northeast California with a 2010 population of almost 99,000 people). It was created by the Meager Mining Co. before 1871 and was likely named for one of its officers. The 1895 Nevada County Mining and Business Directory lists Cornelius Rucker as an engineer (he was the only Rucker in the directory).

An examination of federal census records for Ruckers living in northeast California before or during 1871 reveals only one possible candidate for having Rucker Lake named for them. Therefore, I’m willing to propose that Rucker Lake, Nevada County, California, is named after Martin Cornelius<sup>6</sup> Rucker, the son of William<sup>5</sup> and Nancy Rucker (Paschal<sup>4</sup>, Lemuel<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>). Cornelius was born about 1842 in Ohio; moved with his family to Iowa; enlisted in the Union Army in Iowa in 1862; and married Sarah Van Hook Hanby (1848-1917) in 1867. In 1870 he and his wife still lived in Iowa, but moved to California sometime before 1880

and at which time he was described as a mining engineer. It was only on his headstone that I



Rucker Lake, California (photo by Steve Shearer)

learned his first name was Martin (though his son's World War I draft registration lists his father as Martin C. Rucker). Cornelius died suddenly on September 27, 1920 on a train in Modesto, CA, but on his way to Los Angeles; and was buried, next to his wife in Durham, Butte Co., CA. His son Roy Cutler Rucker (1875-1921) was also a mining engineer but worked in mines in California, the Union of South Africa and Ecuador.

\* \* \* \* \*

## In Memoriam



**Marguerite Rucker Ellett** died June 15, 2016, at Westminster Canterbury Richmond, VA after a period of declining health. Born in Greensboro, NC on November 5, 1926, she lived in Richmond for 89 years. She was the daughter of Elizabeth Harrison and Edmund Harrison Rucker. A graduate of St. Catherine's School and Sweet Briar College, she was a member of the Junior

League of Richmond and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. She served her community by working for the Community Chest. She was a member of St. James's Episcopal Church, where she taught Sunday school and served on the vestry. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 64 years, Tazewell Ellett III (1922-2012); and her brother, Edmund Harrison Rucker Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Elizabeth Ellett and husband William Louis "Mo" Shumate III; her sons, Edmund Tazewell Ellett and wife Lee Withers Ellett, and Robert Scott Ellett and wife Ruth Modlin Ellett; grandchildren, Pender Ellett Koontz and husband Mark Christopher Koontz, Edmund Tazewell Ellett Jr., Dabney Ellett Bowe and husband Timothy William Bowe II, and Sallie Kirkwood Harrison Ellett; and great-grandchildren, Zachary Sanford Shumate, Kelsey Marie Koontz and Todd Ellett Koontz. A memorial service was held at St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA, Saturday, June 25, 2016.

Mrs. Ellett's Rucker lineage is: Marguerite<sup>9</sup> Rucker, Edmund<sup>8</sup> H., Dana<sup>7</sup> H., William<sup>6</sup> A. William<sup>5</sup> B., George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>; and William B.'s wife Mary<sup>6</sup> Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

**Betsy Lou Rucker Mattes Tille**, 88, of Decatur, Illinois, passed away Tuesday, May 3, 2016. Betsy was born May 31, 1927, in Richmond, VA, the daughter of Reginald Rochester Rucker and Thelma Vanetta Cavanaugh. Betsy leaves one brother, Gale Patrick "Pat" Rucker of Dallas Texas, and one sister, Ann Rucker Norman of Monticello. She was preceded her in death by her parents, two husbands, an infant daughter, and sister, Peggy Sue Rucker Vest. She married Junior Keith "Pat" Mattes (1924-1988), Oct. 10, 1944, and Charles Herman Tille (1926-2009), May 26, 1971, both in Decatur, IL. Betsy worked at St. Mary's Hospital as a nurse, was a volunteer for the Red Cross, a Girl Scout leader and officer of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Betsy is survived by four children: Louann Mattes Brown and husband Peter, Susan Kay Mattes Kush and husband Jim, John Patrick Mattes and wife Robin, James Keith Mattes and wife Yoni. Betsy had ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren and two great-great grandsons.

Betsy Lou Rucker Mattes Tille's Rucker lineage is: Betsy Lou<sup>9</sup> Rucker, Reginald<sup>8</sup> Rochester, Waller<sup>7</sup> J., James<sup>6</sup> Monroe, Jonathon<sup>5</sup>, George<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>; and Mary<sup>8</sup> Russell McDan-

iel (wife of Waller J. Rucker<sup>7</sup>), John Edwards<sup>7</sup>, James Pendleton<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>5</sup>, Margaret "Peggy" Rucker<sup>4</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.



**Steven Porter Rucker**, 55, died March 3, 2016 at Frankfort Regional Medical Center. He was born July 27, 1960, the son of Porter (1938-2007) and Corrinne Rucker. Though a native of Shelbyville, Kentucky, he made his home in Frankfort. Mr. Rucker served as Executive Director of the Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA). Prior to this assignment, he served as Deputy Secretary for the Finance and Administration Cabinet where he oversaw the Department of Facilities and Support Services. He has also served in many information technology roles for the state government, culminating in his leadership as Commissioner of the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

On March 14, 2016, this resolu-

tion was passed by "the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky: Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Steven Porter Rucker, and extend heartfelt condolences to his family and friends in this time of loss. Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving memory of Steven Porter Rucker."

Mr. Rucker was an avid golfer, dedicated family man, and member of Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church. Survivors include his loving wife, Marsha Rucker, of Frankfort; son, Steven Rucker and his wife Alisha, of Lawrenceburg; daughters, Stevi Gottler and her husband Gabe, of Frankfort, and Jenny Richardson and her husband Paul, of Frankfort; four grandchildren, Lucas Gottler, Lyla Gottler, Gavin Dishon and Stella Richardson; a sister, Janey Lewis, Pleasureville; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Porter and Corinne Waford Rucker.

Steven P. Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Steven P. Rucker<sup>11</sup>, Porter<sup>10</sup>, Willana<sup>9</sup> (daughter of Benjamin), Benjamin<sup>8</sup>, Plato<sup>7</sup>, George<sup>6</sup> De Lafayette, Joshua<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Daughter's Whereabouts

by Mary Rucker Estes

Bill Smith asked in the December 2015 Rucker Family Society Newsletter "Where have All the Daughters Gone?" Our ancestor Peter Rucker did have four daughters. Being a Rucker daughter myself I am somewhat sad at the lack of interest in female lines. Since the surname changes when the daughters marry it takes more digging to trace the daughter of an ancestor as far back as Peter Rucker.

Several couples in the Rucker Family Society have found they have a common kinship with a Rucker ancestor. My husband, Wayne Estes, and I discovered we both could claim Peter among our forefathers. My husband descends from Peter's daughter Ann who married Shem Cook. Shem and Ann had eight children who are named in his will. Wayne's line is through Cooks until his grandmother Nettie Virginia Cook married his grandfather, Joseph Thomas Estes. His line to Peter is: Robert Wayne Estes<sup>10</sup>, William Fred<sup>9</sup>, Nettie Virginia Cook<sup>8</sup>, James Thomas<sup>7</sup>, Alexander<sup>6</sup>, James<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4</sup>, James<sup>3</sup>, Ann Rucker<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. Some of these depend on the best reasoning of several sources. My line to Peter is completely through the male lines: Mary Carol Rucker<sup>9</sup>, John Will-

son Rucker<sup>8</sup>, John Edmondson<sup>7</sup>, Benjamin<sup>6</sup>, Joseph Burrus<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. This makes us, I believe, 7th cousins once removed.

Therefore, Peter Rucker is my 6 times great-grandfather along with 128 other 6 times great-grandfathers, and Wayne's 7 times great-grandfather along with 256 others.

I don't want to forget that we have a wife for all those grandfathers to add as our grandmothers.

Mary Rucker Estes  
Thousand Oaks, California

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RFS member Sondra Tinsley-Evans also wanted her female Rucker heritage to be celebrated. The information below is extracted from her application to a national lineage society.

Sondra's Rucker lineage is: Sondra Renee Tinsley<sup>10</sup> (she is married to David G. Evans), James Henry Timsley<sup>9</sup> (who married Violet Sue Howe), James Henry Tinsley<sup>8</sup> (who married as his second wife, Dollie Florence Witt Kelley), Benjamin Smith

Tinsley<sup>7</sup> (who married Nannie Dunlap), James Anthony Tinsley<sup>6</sup> (who married Mary Jane Gilbert), Benjamin Smith Tinsley<sup>5</sup> (who married Nancy Lewis Hickman), James Tinsley<sup>4</sup> (who married Elizabeth Ford), James Tinsley<sup>3</sup> (who married Mary), Thomas Tinsley (who married Margaret Rucker<sup>2</sup>), Peter Rucker<sup>1</sup>.

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**Rudy Rucker Revisited**  
by Bill Smith



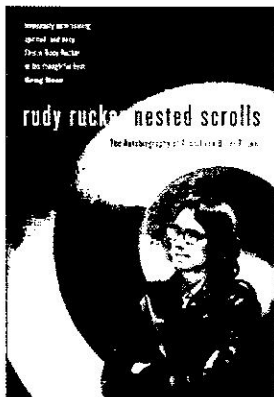
Rudy Rucker (2004 photo by Georgia Rucker)

While trolling for ideas for the newsletter, it dawned on me that I should check out some of the very earliest articles and see if they should be updated. Barely into my review, I ran across an

uncredited article about author Rudy Rucker in the February 1991 (Vol. 2, No. 1) issue of the newsletter. At first blush, someone named of Rudolf von Bitter Rucker looks like a potential German cousin of immigrant Peter Rucker, but I was definitely wrong. Rudy's pedigree is as American as it gets and he is a genuine tenth generation descendant of Peter.

Rudy Rucker was born March 22, 1946 in Louisville, KY, where his parents, Embry Cobb Rucker (1914-1994) and Marianne von Bitter, raised Rudy and his brother Embry Cobb Rucker, Jr.

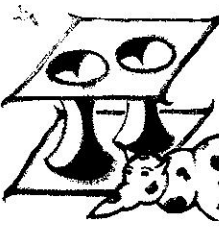
Rudy lives in California with his wife Sylvia Bogsch, who were married in 1967. Together they have three children, Georgia, Rudolf, Jr., and Isabel. Rudy the Elder (to distinguish himself from his son) received his B.A. from Swarthmore College in Mathematics 1967, his M.A. in Mathematics two years later from Rutgers University, and finally his PhD in Mathematical Logic in 1973, also from Rutgers. His teaching career has been: State University of New York College at Geneseo, assis-



Turing & Burroughs  
A BEATNIK SF NOVEL  
Rudy Rucker



THE  
BIG AHA  
Rudy Rucker



Rudy Rucker  
Complete  
Stories



The Hollow Earth  
by Rudy Rucker



tant professor of mathematics, 1972–78; University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, West Germany, von Humboldt research fellow, 1978–80; Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, VA, associate professor of mathematics, 1980–82; freelance writer, 1982–86; San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, professor of mathematics and computer science, 1986–2004.

He is a member of American Mathematical Society, Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA), Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonels (The Order describes itself as an organization of talented and capable men and women appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky because of their service to the state. The members act as the Governor's ambassadors of Kentucky's heritage and rich history of arts and entertainment, and whose primary objective is to support needy Kentucky charities and worthy Kentucky organizations by raising money from our membership to help those organizations.), and Church of the SubGenius (*Wikipedia* describes the Church as a parody religion that satirizes better known belief systems. It teaches a complex philosophy that focuses on J. R. "Bob" Dobbs, purportedly a salesman from the 1950s, who is revered as a prophet by the Church. SubGenius leaders have developed detailed narratives about Dobbs and his relationship to various

gods and conspiracies.). In 1982 (for *Software*) and 1988 (for *Wetware*), he has received the Philip K. Dick award for outstanding science fiction writing.

Dr. Rucker is best known for his science fiction writing (including at least 18 novels, three collections of short stories) which comprise the bulk of his more than 30 publications, but has written an autobiography and a memoir, five nonfiction books, a software textbook and a mathematics book.

Rudy Rucker's Rucker lineage is: Rudolf<sup>10</sup> von Bitter Rucker, Embry<sup>9</sup> Cobb, Tinsley<sup>8</sup> White III, Tinsley<sup>7</sup> White, Jr., Tinsley<sup>6</sup> White, Sr., Joseph<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Cornelius<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

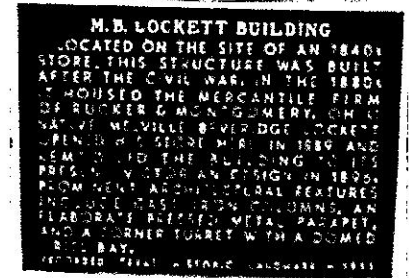
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### M.B. Lockett Building

Georgetown, Texas

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker  
and Bill Smith

Mike sent me the accompanying photo and text "Texas State Historical Marker: "Located on the site of an 1840s store, this structure was built after the Civil War. In the 1880s it housed the mercantile firm of Rucker & Montgomery. Ohio native Melville Beveridge Lockett opened his store here in 1889 and remodeled the building to its present Victorian design in 1896. Prominent architectural features include cast iron columns, an elaborate pressed metal parapet, and a corner turret with a domed oriel bay (oriel window is a form



of bay window which projects from the main wall of a building but does not reach to the ground). Recorded Texas Historic Landmark – 1991. The actual physical location of the marker is 119 W 7th St, Georgetown, Texas."

Innocently Mike asks if anyone can identify the Rucker of the mercantile firm of Rucker & Montgomery? I was more than



M. B. Lockett Building  
Georgetown, Texas  
Site of the historical marker

happy to give it a try. The Rucker in question is J. L. Rucker, more precisely John Lafayette Rucker, the son of John Nelson Rucker and Mahala Thomas. John was born February 11, 1836 in Grainge, Tennessee and died April 29, 1913. He married Lizzie Joyce Branch (1844-1888) January 18, 1861 in Grainger, TX. He and Lizzie had four children, Blanche Lucille (1867-1952), Cora (1868-1898), James Barten (1872-1914), and Hattie K. (1876-1934).

J. L. was also one of a small group of Methodist men to support and promote Southwestern University. Southwestern University (also referred to as Southwestern or SU) is a private, four-year, undergraduate, liberal arts college located in Georgetown, Texas. Formed in 1873 from a revival of collegiate charters granted in 1840, Southwestern claims to be the first university in Texas. J.L. also participated in a number of businesses including a local railroad, the waterworks, and a drugstore. With J. A. Montgomery he opened a general mercantile store advertising the establishment as a "Mammoth Store."

J. L.'s Rucker lineage is: John<sup>6</sup> Lafayette Rucker, John<sup>5</sup> Nelson, Colby<sup>4</sup>, Peter<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Eight Ideas to Search By** by Bill Smith

The following information if not new or original, but if you have run into a proverbial "brick wall," maybe reviewing these essentials could help. I wish I could claim them as original to me, but I can't. I have borrowed them from an issue of *American*

*Ancestors* magazine (that is generally concerned with New England and New York genealogy - the area of most of my own ancestry). Here we go:

Idea 1 - Start with what you know about a family or individual. Don't start with what you hope to prove, just start with what can be proved and go from there, wherever it takes you. Don't forget about what used to be our one source of information, printed materials - both books and written records.

Idea 2 - Don't give a search engine all of your information that you are search for. Begin searching the database with a small number of search terms and build from there. As is necessary, add more information (middle names or locations and dates of birth/death).

Idea 3 - Be flexible in name and place name spellings. Things could have changed or [perish the thought] you could have it wrong. I can't tell you how many times in my own research, individuals change the order of their names or used initials or adopted nicknames based on a cumbersome original. Record keepers could even have made unintentional errors.

Idea 4 - Look for coincidences. The greater the number of coincidences between your ancestor and the data you are search, the greater the possibility the record actually deals with your ancestor.

Idea 5 - Keep a research log. I know. Why should you, of the steel-trap mind, need to record what sources you have already searched? Well because we forget. Have you never made the mistake of searching a source

more than once because you forgot? Also, a research log will help you be able to record an accurate citation. Others will appreciate your keeping these citations accurate and succinct.

Idea 6 - Do NOT take a family tree or posting at face value. View it as a good place to start or as a potentially valuable clue. Though I am not a Rucker, I can tell you there is a great deal of wishful thinking and just plain wrong (make that unsubstantiated) information about Peter Rucker, the immigrant.

Idea 7 - "Check out" the sources provided in a citation. These sources could have valuable information concerning your family that may not have been valuable to the person whose work you are planning on using.

Idea 8 - Finally, Learn more about the geographic areas and record availability. Rucker Reunions provide firsthand opportunities to explore sources that may not be digitally available to you at home. Examining original sources may provide incites that lead you to unexpected directions.

Sorry if this is just review for everyone, but I'll bet it stirred up something that you have stopped doing or forgotten to do consistently.

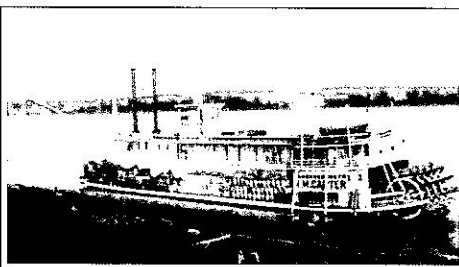
Good researching!

### **Mississippi Steamboat Explodes**

by Michael P. "Mike" Rucker

On November 21, 1908 the *Steamer H. M. Carter* was enroute from New Orleans to Baton Rouge with a cargo of merchandise when disaster struck. The vessel was near Bayou Gou-





Steamer H. M. Carter

la, Louisiana when the boiler exploded.

The pilot at the wheel of the Carter when the explosion occurred was Edward A. Rucker. The article below is an excerpt from the *New Orleans Picayune* afternoon edition of that day:

Edward A. Rucker, the pilot, who was at the wheel when the explosion occurred tells a thrilling story. "It was about ten minutes after 11," said Mr. Rucker, "and we were about 100 miles up the river I should judge. The first thing as I remember it, that intimated the coming disaster, was a dull rumbling noise from somewhere down in the body of the boat. All at once I felt the floor beneath me rising up, and then there was a roaring, crashing noise like the explosion of a hundred heavy guns. I felt myself flying through the air, and as the hiss of escaping steam, mingled with the chorus of wild startled cries, sounded in my ears, I instinctively released the wheel and clutched with all my strength of my hands the sides of the pilot-house, and held on like grim death. In a moment I found I was hanging on the outside of the pilot-house and looking behind me I saw that the front portion of the cabin had been blown away. I divined that an explosion had occurred, and let myself carefully down on the flimsy portion of the deck that yet remained. Looking out upon the river, I saw Captain Carter

clinging to a stage plank, and I called to him to hold on until help reached him. I next hurried back to the rear of the boat and assisted in lowering the lifeboats and the yawls. Everyone acted well, and considering the horror of the business there was very little confusion. We got Mrs. Carter, the owner's wife and her little girl, Lorena into the lifeboat first and then assisted the wounded. We accounted for everyone, but Casimir LeBlanc, the clerk; Peter Cami, the old bartender, and four negroes. The boat left New Orleans with twenty-nine negroes, and two of the negroes deserted at some landing between here and Donaldsonville. Of the twenty-seven, eight were more or less hurt, four were missing and fifteen were all right. Captain J. V. LeBlanc, who was in command, had left the boat at Donaldsonville to look after some business.

We had ON BOARD WHEN WE DEPARTED\* from New Orleans, the owner, his wife and child; Captain LeBlanc, George and Casimir LeBlanc, the clerks, two pilots, E. M. Elfert and myself; two mates, two engineers and the deckhands. We had no passengers."

Mr. Rucker lives at 5206 Constance Street, and although still a young man has served as pilot on a number of river boats including the Natchez. Mr. Rucker said that a great praises due to Dr. A. A. Allain, his wife and Father Neis, the priest of the Catholic Church at Bayou Goula who rendered splendid services to the injured; and too much could not be said of the prompt and valuable assistance of Captain Henry Smith, of the boat McDougal. The McDougal was in the river some distance from the Carter,

when she blew up. Captain Smith saw the crew getting ashore in boats, and hastening to Bayou Goula he obtained the ready assistance of Dr. and Mrs. Allain and Father Neis, and returned to help the distress and injured. Captain Smith did everything he possible could for the unfortunates and Dr. Allain and his wife worked with tireless energy among the wounded, while Father Neis was everywhere on the boat, encouraging the suffering men and assisting the doctor applying lotions and bandages to scalds and burns. At Donaldsonville Dr. E. K. Sims came aboard the McDougal and worked in conjunction with Dr. Allain all the way down the river to New Orleans.

Mr. Rucker said that in conclusion that some time after the explosion THE BOAT TOOK FIRE\*, and was soon a charred and blackened wreck upon the waters. \*Caps in original newspaper article

Edward Augustus Rucker (c. 1890s)

Edward Augustus Rucker's lineage is: Edward<sup>7</sup> A. Rucker (1867-1940), John<sup>6</sup> Alphus, Lewis<sup>5</sup> Dawson, John<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.

### Lamman Rucker - American Actor



In February 2014 after learning of his African ancestry, then forty-two year-old American actor Lamman Rucker was conferred the title 'Prince Tawong', meaning "father of the land or community." The ceremony was led by Cameroonian Ambassador to the United States Joseph Charles Foe-Atananga, representatives of the US NW Fons Council (whose purpose is to preserve and protect the cultural values of Cameroon), and the Chiefs and Royals representing each region in Cameroon, gave participating family members a traditional Cameroonian name and performed a "crossing over" ritual, which placed the family's feet back to their country of ancestry, Cameroon. Lamman Rucker and family hope to be very active in the Cameroonian community and are looking forward to travelling home to Cameroon. "This isn't just about a title for me, it's about responsibility. I plan to learn more about my culture and discover how I can make positive contributions to the advancement of Cameroonian Arts, Culture and Education."

## The RUCKER *family* SOCIETY



Rucker

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