



the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

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June 2004

“Lemuel or Samuel”

Deciphering Old Handwriting
by Jeannie Robinson

At the April 17, 2004 Virginia Genealogical Society Spring Conference on Methodology, Dorothy A. Boyd-Rush spoke on “Early Handwriting and Accurate Transcription.” She told us about the challenge of deciphering the unreadable handwriting of our early American Ancestors, called Paleography (actually the study of lousy handwriting).

In the 18th and 19th centuries there was no standardization of writing, everyone basically did their own thing. She suggested getting a manual on early handwriting and/or checking out the website: <http://dohistory.org.onyourown/toolkit/writing.html>

Ms. Boyd-Rush spoke on the confusion of reading names, giving the example of her pet peeve, David and Daniel which are almost impossible to differentiate in early handwriting.

Now, you ask, why does it make any difference — who cares if it’s David or Daniel, it’s still the same person. What’s it to me? Plenty if it’s your ancestor. You **want** to know his correct name. And, as in the example below, one name can be mistaken for two different people.

Which brings us the Rucker family and the use of the names Lemuel and Samuel. The letters “L” and “S” were hard to distinguish which is why Sudie Rucker Wood in her *Rucker Family Genealogy* (Old Dominion Press, 1932) had difficulties.

On page 252 of Wood’s book, James Rucker, eighth child of Peter Rucker, immigrant, was listed as having nine children. Unfortunately he did not leave a will so we don’t know the exact names of his children. His issue has to be determined from courthouse and other records. Of the nine Wood listed, one was Lemuel and one was Samuel. After much study, I have determined that they were one and the same person.

Lemuel is discussed on p.256-258 of Wood’s book. Samuel is on p.266-267. Lots is known about Lemuel including a family Bible which names his nine children. Very little is known about Samuel, only a few courthouse records including his service in the Revolution. Was Samuel not really a person, but a deciphering mistake? Let’s compare these records.

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Wood, p.257: "**Lemuel** served in the Revolution. Enlisted 1776. Served two years as a private, then as a sergeant under Captain George Slaughter, of the 8th Virginia regiment . . ." (Military references listed). Wood, p.267: ". . . **Samuel Rucker** of the 8th Virginia Regiment, serving under Captain George Slaughter" (Aud. Acct. XXXI, 161). Of course it wasn't unusual for brothers to serve in the same regiment, but not so in this case.

Looking at the tax records, on page 256 of Wood: **Lemuel Rucker** paid a personal tax in Augusta County, Virginia in 1782 on himself and three slaves until 1788. On page 267: Personal tax books of Augusta, 1783, **Samuel** paid his personal tax, and on three horses until 1788. When I looked up the original tax records, not once was Lemuel and Samuel listed in the same year. It was one or the other, depending on how the name was construed. When studying the names very carefully, under a strong magnifying glass, it definitely was Lemuel Rucker!

One last and final clue, the name Lemuel was used over and over again in early generations of the Rucker family, but not once was Samuel used.

I'm sure there are lots of names that are confused in early records, just do your best and compare information. Of course, it's much easier now with computers, copying machines, photocopiers and

scanning machines. Early authors didn't have this benefit, so be wary when studying family histories.

Genealogy workshops and conferences have excellent material to help you in your research. There are many books available at your library and web sites on old handwriting.

And most important: look at the original records, not just court copied material. Remember, every time something is copied, there is a 10% chance of making a mistake.

Note: This article was used in the June 2004 issue of the *News & Notes*, newsletter of GRIVA — Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia.

Questions and Answers

Query From Muriel Gillespie Bryant: A distant Gillespie cousin of mine was wondering if I had any info on a "James E. Rucker, born 1818, place unknown; died in Troup, Texas; married Elizabeth (maiden name unknown), who also died in Troup, Texas. Daughter, Susan Rucker." I could find no James E. in George's line, but since I do not have Peter's complete line, don't know where or if he might fit in. Any ideas? He would be her daughter's great-great-grandfather (on her ex-husband's mother side).

Answer from Jeannie: Yes, James E. Rucker was more than likely James Ervin* Rucker, born 22 Apr 1818, TN, d. 25 Jan 1870, Smith Co., TX; m. 28 Feb 1838, McMinn Co., TN, to Elizabeth Gregory, b. 10 Jul 1822, McMinn Co., TN, d. 7 Aug 1895, Smith Co., TX. They are buried in the Rucker Cemetery, Troup, Smith Co., TX. They had 13 children. James⁵ E. was the son of Mary Wheeler and James⁴ Rucker, (Mordecai³, William², Peter¹).

*Note: Middle name not proved.

Marriage Records Mohave Co., AZ

From Alice J. Rucker at <upstairs@att.net>

Alice J. Rucker of Sylmar, CA has collected the marriage records from the Mohave County, Arizona court house. If anyone is researching Ruckers of Mohave Co., AZ or knows these people, please contact Alice.

~Dorothy Mae Rucker to Curley F. Debbs, June 25, 1953

~Judith Arlene Rucker to James F. Smith, May 9, 1951 (Norma Rucker was a witness!)

~Shelby L. Rucker to Alice Hay, April 28, 1933

~Martin Anderson Rucker to Eunice Frederick, January 6, 1923

~Lloyd Rucker to Erma Leverette, Dec. 19, 1955

* * * * *

Kentucky Marriages 1797-1865 From Kentucky Newspapers

Submitted by Carla Leighton in Oregon, August 4, 2003 <leighton@pacifier.com>: I received the following from H. S. Search in Kansas <hssearch@cpol.net> who bought a book at a garage sale and found the following info on Rucker Marriages. I hope this may help someone.

Kentucky Marriages 1797-1865, compiled by G. Glenn Clift; Reprinted from The Register of The Kentucky Historical Society, 1966. In the introduction, it states marriage notices were taken from the Lexington, Kentucky public library's files of Lexington newspapers.

1.) Caleb William, of Lexington, to **Miss Nancy Rucker**, daughter of Isaac Rucker, of Jessamine county. Married Nov. 12, 1834. *Lexington Observer and Reporter*, Nov. 19, page 79.

2.) Joseph Van Pelt, of Lexington, to **Miss**

Sarah Ann Rucker, of Fayette county. Married Sept. 18, 1859. *Kentucky Statesman*, Sept. 23, page 194.

3.) James Hutson, of Jessamine county, to **Miss Susan Rucker**, of Lexington. Married at the residence of C.S. Wade, Dec. 24, 1861. *Lexington Observer and Reporter*, Dec. 28, page 198.

Note from H. S. Search: I have this James listed as HUDSON__ Does anyone know if it should be HUDSON or HUTSON? His parents were listed as William Henry Rucker (1812-1894) and Nancy Adcock Hudson (1812-1890). They have five known children.

4.) J. R. Meloy to **Miss Rebecca Rucker**, both of Lexington. Married Jan. 22, 1862. *Lexington Observer and Reporter*, page 199.

* * * * *

RUCKER CEMETERY

Denton Co., Texas

From Jody Huck of Arlington, Texas (of the Mordecai Rucker family) <pjhuck@msn.com>: I Found this cemetery in Denton Co., Texas. Who knows, someone may be looking for this family. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txdenton/cemeteries/rucker.htm>

Old timers who spent their childhood in the area where Rucker Cemetery is located say that at one time this was a very large cemetery. Now only nine grave sites can be located. The cemetery started when the Rucker Family lived on the land. Directions: From Denton, Texas, take US 380 East to FR. 2931— North on FR. 2931 for 0.9 miles — on the right side of the road is a metal gate — go through gate approximately 275 yards to a small graveyard amid trees.

Ella: no dates or other name, just a small marker
Moda: no dates or other name, just a small marker

James A. Hogan: s/o W.M. & M.M. Hogan; b. Sep. 28, 1855; d. Feb. 24, 1864

John S. Rucker: h/o Mary S. Rucker; b. Nov. 7, 1825; d. Apr. 16, 1868

Mary S. Rucker: w/o John S. Rucker; b. Apr. 27, 1825; d. Sept. 2, 1902

Almira S. Rucker: s/o John & Mary S. Rucker; b. Mar. 24, 1861; d. Jun. 7, 1868

Mary D. Rucker: d/o John & Mary S. Rucker; b. Mar. 22, 1863; d. Feb. 15, 1865

Rebecca F. Rucker: d/o John & Mary S. Rucker; b. Jul. 14, 1848; d. Mar. 3, 1895

Elijah N. Townley: b. Mar. 14, 1849; d. Sept. 23, 1873

Census Records on this family from Ron Payne's *Ruckers in the 1880 Federal Census*:

1880 Denton Co., TX census, Precinct 6, p.195A: Mary Rucker, age 55, b. VA, housekeeper; Francis (dau), age 31, b. MO; James (son), age 21, b. TX, farmer; Liza Rucker (dau), age 14, b. TX, at school; Albirt Davis (other), age 14, b. MO, farm laborer.

1880 Denton Co., TX census, p.179A: George Rucker, age 34, b. MO, farmer; Mollie (wife), age 30, b. TX.

1880 Denton Co., TX census, p.195A: William Rucker, age 28, b. TX, farmer (parents b. VA); Mattie (wife), age 22, b. TX; Alley (dau), age 3, b. TX; John (son), age 1, b. TX.

OAK HILL CEMETERY

Belle Plaine, Benton County, Iowa.

Recorded 8/2/03 by Muriel Gillespie Bryant

Graves are from the family of **William⁵ Rucker** (Paschal⁴, Lemuel³, James², Peter¹) and Nancy Blake. The cemetery is located west of the town of Belle Plaine. It is a huge cemetery with an old section located on the side of a hill, with a newer section behind.

William Rucker, March 1, 1847- April 11, 1913
Nancy J., Nov. 17, 1846- June 5, 1916 "His Wife"

Noah Rucker, Oct. 28, 1825- Sept. 7, 1906

Amanda C., July 18, 1832- May 1, 1911 "His Wife"

Pearle Rucker, 1874-1947

Jessie, 1876-1964

Mary Rucker, Dec. 25, 1845- Jan. 20, 1922

Divinna, March 31, 1845- Oct. 15, 1923

Julia Rucker, 1864- 1952 (to left of above stone)

Charles Rucker, 1850- 1929 (to right of Mary & Divinna stone)

John Rucker, 1853-1912

Beuna V., 1857- 1928 "His Wife"

Clyde G. Rucker, 1885- 1929

William Rucker, Jan. 22, 1818- July 8, 1897

Nancy, Feb. 9, 1824- Dec. 14, 1888 "His Wife"

J. Clide Hanley, July 9, 1881- March 24, 1884
(on same marker with Wm & Nancy — possibly a grandchild?)

Note from Muriel: Indentations indicate names were recorded on the same stone.

Who was Carey Rucker of Kanawha Co., West Virginia?

Carey Rucker was married 20 Apr 1910 to Grace Adeline Calvert, born 21 May 1886, daughter of James Turner Calvert and Cynthia Frances Toney. They lived in Kanawha Co., WV and had six children:

1. Lois Lucille Rucker
2. Cynthia Frances Rucker
3. Calvert Rucker
4. Grace Elizabeth Rucker
5. Carl Lawrence Rucker
6. Bryce Wilson Rucker

(Source: *Descendants of Virginia Calverts*, compiled by Ella Foy O'Gorman, 1947, p.333; info from Maryland Historical Mag., Vol. XXV.)

Researching The War Between the States

by Charles Berry

There was a Civil War Union Victory Medal on my father's 1st World War uniform next to his victory medal. Unfortunately, he died before I could ask him whose and why. I asked his brother, my Uncle, and he said, "Oh that was my mother's father's medal, but I don't know more." Her father, my great-grandfather, was Meshach Bell, Jr., and I set out to discover all the Civil War battles he was in. I managed to get his discharge papers, and, to my surprise, he got a disability discharge. I couldn't discern the reason, and the thought of his being severely wounded or other equally exotic explanations crossed my mind. I sent a copy to my nephew, a medical doctor, to see if he could decipher the cause for the disability discharge. Unfortunately, he could, and reported that my great-grandfather, who had enlisted at Portsmouth, NH, on August 11, 1862 and gone to Washington, D.C. for training, was discharged after six months of steady diarrhea, and the Union declared him disabled. He fought in no battles. I knew of no other relatives who were with the Union, but my interest in the Civil War continued. Then I remember the Rucker relatives on my mother's side had originally come from Virginia, although my great, great-grandfather, William Rucker, had brought his family from Virginia to Missouri around 1830, and his son, William T. Rucker, my great-grandfather, had brought his family from Missouri to California in 1852. Incidentally, my grandmother, Margaret Rucker, was conceived on the trip to California. Both trips had preceded the Civil War. Yet I felt some Ruckers had stayed in Virginia, while some had migrated predominately to other southern and border States. I contacted my 1st cousin, Lorraine Vail, who shares the same grandmother, Margaret Rucker, with me. I asked if she knew any Ruckers in the Civil war, and she sent me "one of my (her) treasures," a booklet by Ron Payne called "Rebel Ruckers — A Listing of Ruckers Who Served in

the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America." It listed many Ruckers by State of enlistment, rank, regiment and Company. That made it easy to discern battle participation by knowing the organizations involved. There was even a Rucker Legion commanded by Colonel (later General) Edmund Winchester Rucker. He was 2nd in command to Nathan Bedford Forrest and his Forrest Calvary Corp., and they became business partners after the War. Fort Rucker in Alabama was named for the same Edmund Rucker. My great-grandfather, William T. Rucker, had married Verenda S. Taylor, a cousin of our 12th President, Zachary Taylor. Those Taylors were also from Virginia, and many Taylors also fought for the Confederacy including the young adjutant who stood at Lee's side during the Battle of Gettysburg. Learning of my ancestor's involvement has only heightened my interest in the War Between the States. I would suggest the same for anyone interested.

Research from Ron Payne's booklet on "Ruckers of the War Between the States." For additional Ruckers who served in "The War" see RFSN, Vol. 9, No. 1, Mar 1998.

IN MEMORIAM

Richard ("Dick") Henry Rucker died August 15, 2003 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia after a prolonged illness. He was born December 29, 1919 in Cornell, Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois and majored in ceramic engineering. After college, he joined the U. S. Army Reserves and was assigned to the 65th Engineering Combat Battalion. He held various positions throughout his career in the United States and abroad. He retired in 1979 as a lieutenant colonel, having been a Veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Dick was an honorary member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Dick had many business endeavors in Northern, Virginia, including selling Life Insurance and operating a coin-operated car wash. He retired to Louisa, Virginia in the mid-1980s. In 1998 he and his wife returned to Alexandria. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Helen Bowen Rucker. His first marriage to Lola Rucker ended in divorce. He is survived by two children from his 1st marriage: Richard H. Rucker Jr. of Myrtle Beach, SC and James Rucker of Kailua, Hawaii; and two children from his second marriage: Linda Rucker of Mineral, VA and Gregory Rucker of Alexandria; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was buried at Mount Comfort Cemetery. His parents were Floyd Henry Rucker and Madge R. Gregory. His genealogy is unknown, but his grandfather was William Rucker (1844-1918) of Cornell, IL and his wife, Amanda Myers. (Source: Leaflet from Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, submitted by his wife, Helen B. Rucker. Obituary, from the *Washington Post*, 21 Aug 2003, sent by Robert Sealock, Fairfax, VA.)

* * * * *

May Wiley Rucker, age 91, died Friday, June 4, 2004, at Lynchburg General Hospital. Born March 27, 1913 at Batavia, Ohio, May was the wife of the late Hannon George Rucker and a resident of Monroe in Amherst County, Virginia. She is survived by two sisters, Eloise Coleman and Martha Lindsey both of Lynchburg; a grandson, Jeffrey W. Bibb and wife, Jan E. Komarnitzki, of Lynchburg; and a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a daughter, June Rucker Bibb and her husband, Wallace. Her funeral service was held at the Elon Presbyterian Church.

Both of Hannon's parents were Rucker descendants: Father, Robert⁷ B. Rucker (James⁶ A., Willis⁵, John⁴, Isaac³, John², Peter¹) and Mother, Minnie⁸ V. Burford (George⁷ T., Tinsley⁶

D., Daniel⁵ L., Mary⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). May was buried at Fort Hill Memorial Park. Obituary submitted by Laurie Giudice of Forest, VA.

* * * * *

James M. McDaniel Jr., age 82, of Memphis, TN died February 12, 2004 at home. Mr. McDaniel was born in Memphis, TN on November 6, 1921, the son of James and Lulu McDaniel. Graduating from South Side High School, he earned a law degree from Southern Law University and a B.S. degree from Memphis State, where he was President of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He entered military service December 1941 and later served on the *U.S.S. Guam* (CB-2) in the Pacific, involved in the battle of Okinawa and the liberation of the Philippines and Korea. On the *Guam*, he shot down a kamikaze pilot intent on sinking his ship.

Following his discharge from the Navy, he married Estelle Jane Sloan on August 28, 1948. He worked with the Todd Co. and NCR selling business systems and designing forms. He was a member of Whitehaven United Methodist Church where he formed and led an Explorer Post for boys studying flying. He also read the Bible to the blind through public radio, coached little league baseball and was an avid golfer.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, sons Johnny A. McDaniel, James M. McDaniel, III, Duane S. McDaniel and daughter Estelle Luann Watson; and 5 grandchildren, Darah, Larkin, James McDaniel IV, Bonnie Watson and Lorelei McDaniel. He leaves two sisters Frances Carpenter and Geraldine Griffith. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Dolly Miller.

Estelle is the daughter of Estelle Lockhart Gray and William⁷ Absalom Sloan (Marcus⁶ E., Susannah⁵ S. Marr, John⁴, Sarah³ Rucker, John²,

Peter¹) and John⁴ Rucker' wife, Sarah⁴ Rucker (Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). Obituary submitted by Estelle McDaniel of Memphis, TN.

* * * * *

Marjorie Virginia Thompson Rucker

died April 13, 2004 in Fauquier Co., Virginia. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, John William Rucker. They lived on the family farm, "Hill Crest Farm," in Fauquier Co., VA.

Note: This was the same farm that Sudie Rucker Wood was raised, but a new home was built by John's father. John raises prize-winning, Black Angus Cattle along with his daughters, Sue and Connie. Another daughter, Penny Rucker, lives in Portsmouth, VA. They have one grandchild, Courtenay Rucker (daughter of Connie).

Marjorie was formerly the business manager for the Fauquier Livestock Exchange. She was buried at the Upperville Baptist Church Cemetery, Upperville, VA.

John⁸ William Rucker's lineage: Bayard⁷ Ambrose, William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and William⁵ B.'s wife Mary⁶ Ann Dawson Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

John was the subject of "The Family Profile" article, by Michael P. Rucker, in *The Rucker Family Society Newsletter*, Vol. 4, No.4, Dec 1993, p.35. John and his father, Bayard Ambrose Rucker, are listed on p.56 of *The Rucker Family Genealogy* by Sudie Rucker Wood, 1932.

Source: Michael P. Rucker and family knowledge.

* * * * *

News from Members

Note from Mike Rucker: I have sent a check for \$350 to the Steven Rucker Firefighter Memorial Fund. This money is from sales of the Terry the Tractor books.

Mike has just come out with his 12th book, "Terry and the Trouble with Trash." If you would like a copy, please send a check for \$6.00 to Michael P. Rucker, 1003 W. Centennial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2828. He will autograph it for you.

Query of the Quarter: Does anyone know about Richard Rucker, New Orleans Artist? You can see his some of his paintings by going to Ebay and entering his name.

Note from Jeannie: Lost member: Her newsletter was returned with no forwarding address: Emily Rucker Jancusa, 58851 Holmberg Road #3623, Parkland, FL 33067.

* * *

Ruckers in the News: A friend happened to see some Ruckers featured on TV recently. I think the show was "If These Walls Could Talk." It was about restoring an old home. She was afraid someone would ask for more details about the Rucker home in question, but fortunately a little searching paid off.

The HGTV (Home and Garden Television) channel featured renovations to the kitchen of the Victorian home of Randal Rucker at web site: http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/dc_design_kitchen/article/0,1793,HGTV_3375_1395289,00.html Nothing was said about the house's location, but it did say it was his grandmother's kitchen.

If anyone knows more about this home and where it is located, please let us know. Also, who is Randal Rucker?

THINGS TO TAKE WHEN VISITING A CEMETERY

1. A Camera
2. Paper and pen to copy down everything written on the stones (in case the photos don't turn out)
3. Gloves to protect your hands when clearing away the brush
4. Clippers to clip the weeds for photos
5. A hat to protect your face from the sun
6. Sun screen and bug spray
7. Umbrella for when it's really hot, or if it's rainy

Do not touch the tombstones if possible.

Note: Shaving cream used to be recommended for enhancing stones for photographs, but it has been found that the acid in the cream eats away at the stone. Be very gentle if cleaning a tombstone and use nothing harsher than mild soap and water. Each time you clean a stone, you are removing a layer of stone. The best thing is not to touch the stone at all except to remove ivy and plant growth. Chalk should not be used either.

An added tip to COMMUNICATE WITH UNKNOWN COUSINS: Leave a message in a jar or bottle at the gravesite (tightly sealed). Include genealogical information and your name, address and phone number. Phyllis Friesner of Eagle Rock, MO, left a note and was surprised to hear from relatives as much as three years later (From *Antique Week*, July 1992, via the Seattle Genealogy Society Bulletin.)

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY



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A letter to the Members of the Rucker Family Society

From outgoing President Jeannie Robinson: The June issue of the newsletter is my last time as President and newsletter Editor. We have a new president and officers ready to serve you. We appreciate all that the former officers have done and hope they continue to be active.

At the June 2004 board meeting the following officers were elected:

President - Chris Rucker	<SparkleCityChris@aol.com>
Vice President - Jeannie Robinson	<JeannieB@access4less.net>
Treasurer - Becky Fox	<JohnIFox@aol.com>
*Secretary - Jeannie Robinson	<Rucker@access4less.net>
Registrar - Alice J. Rucker	<upstairs@worldnet.att.net>

*Note: The person who planned to be our secretary has resigned.

New Treasurer: From now on, please send your membership dues to our new treasurer to Becky Fox. Annual dues are \$10.00. Make your check to The Rucker Society and mail to her at:

Rebecca D. Fox, Treasurer
3915 SW Hidden Cove Circle
Lee's Summit, MO 64082-4634

Please let Becky, Alice or me know of any changes of address. We don't like losing members because of a move. The post office will only forward mail for a few months and then the newsletter is returned with no forwarding address.

Newsletter Editor: We have plans for a new newsletter editor, Theresa ("Terri") Sillanpaa. Please send her photos and stories about the reunion or any articles that you would like to see in the newsletter. She is currently newsletter editor for the Fitzwilliam, NH local historical society and I'm sure will do a fine job for us. Her email is <tmharlow@msn.com> or write her at:

Theresa Sillanpaa
296 Royalston Road
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447.

Newly elected board members are Fred W. Rucker of Bountiful, Utah and Alice J. Rucker of Sylmar, California. Fred Rucker, his wife, Carol and his sister Doris Wasden will be in charge of our next reunion in Salt Lake City. Alice Rucker is our new Registrar and she has already written anyone who has not renewed their membership for this year.

2004 Rucker Family Reunion: Our family reunion this year was wonderful. Nell Cordick and Ruth Pillow hosted a delightful get-together in Amherst County, Virginia. About 120 people attended including many local cousins. The next issue of the newsletter will be all about the reunion.

Finally, the Rucker Family Society is alive and moving forward with gusto. Chris Rucker will be a wonderful president and I think you will be pleased with our changes. I will still be here and will stay active.

Thank you so very much for your continued support. *Jeannie*

From our new President, Chris Rucker: *We can all be thankful for those who have volunteered their time and effort to fill Rucker Family Society offices and serve on the Board of Directors. Without our officers and Board, nothing would get accomplished: no newsletter, no website, no reunions, and likely no Society. As a new slate of officers assumes the responsibilities which were so ably borne by the outgoing ones, I am hopeful that the Society will continue to thrive, nurtured by the efforts of those who labor behind the scenes. As our new president, I hope to continue the laudable work of Jeannie Robinson, who has done so much for our Society. We are fortunate that she will continue as our vice-president, and I plan to lean on her as much as she will allow.*

As a short introduction, I move from the vice-president's slot. My wife, Jeannie, and I live in Spartanburg, SC, where I am an Ear, Nose and Throat physician. A native Virginian, my interest in the Rucker family grew out of my research on the Ruckers who served the Confederate cavalry from Amherst County, Virginia during the Civil War. My wife Jeannie and I are historical reenactors, which brings an immediacy to my study of our Rucker ancestors.

I'm appealing to everyone to visit our photo sharing website. Please go to <http://www.msnusers.com/AncestralRuckerPhotos>. Ask your kids or grand kids for help getting there, if needed. Join the site, and involve your family members in getting photos of their ancestors on line for others to see. Have the younger ones do some basic research, and let them write the text to accompany the pictures.

Jo Thiessen, head of the Rucker web site has died and we send her family our love and thoughts. We are in the process of finding someone to take charge of the web site.

One final note: the reunion in Amherst County was fantastic! Nell Cordick and Ruth Pillow have my admiration and gratitude; their organizational skills and Southern hospitality have no peer. If you missed it, you can see some pictures on the photo website, but it was a thousand times better in person. Don't miss the next one in Salt Lake City in 2006!

Chris Rucker, President

Rucker Family Society

Editor's note: Chris's father is Edmund Harrison Rucker Jr. found on p.54 of Sudie Rucker Wood's *Rucker Family Genealogy*.



Chris and Jeannie Rucker, Civil War Reenactors
At the 2004 Rucker Family Reunion