

Several years ago I acquired a copy of the Rucker Family Genealogy. The following excerpts from it that pertain to the *Vawter* line may be of interest to some of the VVV.

PR

THE  
RUCKER FAMILY  
GENEALOGY

WITH THEIR  
ANCESTORS, DESCENDANTS  
AND CONNECTIONS

• • •

COMPILED BY  
SUDIE RUCKER WOOD  
From original records, letters and other material  
collected over a period of thirty years.

• • •

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
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## PREFACE

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For many years, as a labor of love and of family interest, the writer has from time to time made genealogical notes. Finally as these grew in number and opportunity permitted and inclination urged, these notes took form and the present volume is the result. Much information has been compiled from family Bibles and other family records, but for the most part, from long and painstaking research into state and county records. Correspondence with representatives of the family who have moved from Virginia has made it possible to complete their lines.

The descendants of Peter Rucker, first of his name in America, are scattered throughout the United States. No doubt in the hearts of many of them is a desire for accurate knowledge of their lineage and of their forbears, which this volume attempts to supply.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to all who have contributed items of family history and extracts from court records. Special acknowledgment is made of the invaluable assistance rendered by the late Mrs. James G. Tanner for her untiring efforts in creating among the scattered Ruckers, interest in collecting family history. Finally, acknowledgment is made to Mrs. Ellen Theisz for years so graciously expended in compiling some of the records used in this book.

If those members of the family into whose hands this volume may come, shall find in it something of interest and of value, the writer will feel amply repaid for the time and labor expended.

Sudie Rucker Wood

## CHAPTER ONE

### Peter Rucker

Peter Rucker, first of the name, settled in Virginia about 1690. The tradition is that he was a French Huguenot, shipwrecked near the mouth of the James River, and that he swam ashore, living there for a time.

A search in the land office does not show that he patented land there nor in Essex, where he was living in 1704, and paying tythes on 500 acres of land (Quit Rent). If he patented this tract of 500 acres of land, it was never recorded in the land office. Since no deeds appear in Essex County, he may have divided this land between his children before his death, for he does not divide it in his will. In 1743, his son, William, sold 193 acres, "land received by inheritance."

Peter Rucker may have been a French Huguenot, for he was naturalized with a number of Frenchmen. We know, too, that his children were protestants. His son, John, in 1732, assisted in locating an Episcopal Church.

There is in the *The Legislative Journal of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, Vol. 1, page 390, Monday, April 24, 1704, "The petitions of Peter Rucker, Cypian Prou, John James Veillon, Teliffe Alverton, Peter Fouyeilles, Francis Colonis, Jacqueline Jaque, Bartholomew Depucy, Isaac ffiguier, and John Rossett, praying for naturalization, were read and ordered to be recorded; the same to be referred to the confederation of The House of Burgess."

Also, in *The Journals of the House of Burgess*, 1702-12, page 74, Monday, May 8, 1704, "Upon consideration of the report of the said committee, upon the petition of Peter Rucker, Cypian Prou, and others --- praying to be naturalized, the House agrees to the naturalization."

From Brook's *Emigrants*, "Many emigrants from France and Holland went to London first, where the expense of the transportation to America was borne by the Relief Committee of London. They settled along the Potomac, Rappahannock, and James rivers. The French Huguenots were exempt from taxes for fourteen years." Peter was paying tythes in 1704, therefore if he were from France or Holland, he must certainly have been here by 1690.

Taken from the *The German Element in America* by Herrmann Schuricht, Vol 1, p. 43, in reference to the French and German migration, "Numerous migrations of French Huguenots and Cal-

vanist from Alsace and Loraine came to America, settling in tidewater Virginia.”

A careful search in London does not show that Peter Rucker lived in London before coming to America c. 1690. Mr. C. E. Lart, of London, an authority on the French Huguenot emigration, says the name is certainly German or Dutch. He tried to locate Peter Rucker through the Walloon Church Records in Leyden, without success.

A superficial search has been made in Berlin among the “Deutschen Hugenottenvereins” with no result.

Dr. F. C. Wieder of the Biblintheek der Rijks Universitiit of Leyden, Holland, says there is a very full list of the Walloons, who passed through that port, but the Rucker name does not appear until 1725, too late for our family.

Frederick <sup>2</sup> Coghill (James <sup>1</sup>) and wife Sara leased to Peter Rucker 56 acres of land on Cockleshell Creek on the Rappahannock River in 1707. Later, Frederick deeds this 56 acres to John, son of Peter Rucker, for “love and affection” (see John <sup>2</sup> Rucker).

Richard Booker, of Essex County, for “love and affection for John Pemberton” deeded 50 acres of land near “Peter Rucker’s line” (D. B. 17, p. 140), Feb. 19, 1723, Essex.

Elizabeth, wife of Peter Rucker, may have died in 1752, the year when his slaves were divided. “Thomas Rucker, William Rucker, William Offell, and Shem Cook, agree to legacies: paid by James and Ephraim Rucker, executors, of Peter Rucker, dec’d, “out of his estate to each a slave: and also, to Isaac Tinsley and Ephraim Rucker (D. B. 1, p. 400), Feb. 21, 1752, Orange.

Will of Peter Rucker, dated, June 18, 1743; probated, Feb 23, 1743 (W. B. 1, p. 299), Orange:

In the name of God amen I Peter Rucker of Saint Marks Parish in the county of Orange planter being weak in body but of pursued mind and memory knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last will and Testament in manner following: Imprimis I do order that all my Just Debts and funeral charges be paid and satisfied. Item I lend unto my beloved wife Elizabeth Rucker all my Estate both real and Personal During her natural life and after her Decease to be Devided in the following manner. Item I give and bequeath unto my beloved Daughter Margaret Tinsley and my Son In-law Isaac Tinsley a negro boy named yerksire to them and their heirs forever. Item I give and bequeath to my beloved Son Ephraim Rucker a negro Girl named Phllis to him and his heirs forever. Item I give and bequeath to my beloved Daughter Ann Cook and my son in law Shem Cook a negro girl named Jeney to her and her



## CHAPTER FOUR

Thomas Rucker

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3. Thomas <sup>2</sup>Rucker (Peter <sup>1</sup>). d. in Culpeper, 1763; m. Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> Reynolds (Cornelius <sup>2</sup>, Cornelius <sup>1</sup>), of Essex Co.

Will of Martha Reynolds Mch. 10, 1753, Sept. 18, 1753,  
To son Cornelius; to dau.s; Elizabeth Rucker, Ann Beazley, Margaret Leandall, Mary Goodloe; to grandson, Cornelius Reynolds, son of William Reynolds, dec'd. Executors: Son, Cornelius Reynolds; Son-in-law, Thomas Rucker. Witness; David Dishman, Thomas Reynolds, William Moore (W.B. 9, p 246), Essex Co., Va.

Will of Cornelius <sup>2</sup> Reynolds, Apr. 15, 1734, Feb. 18, 1734.  
To sons; William Reynolds, Cornelius Reynolds; to dau.s Sarah, Annie, Margaret, Mary; To my wife, Martha. Witness: Broumfield Long, Samuel Bizwell, John Long (W.B. 5, p. 320), Essex.

Inventory of estate of Mr. Cornelius Reynolds by his wife, Margery, Executrix, 9th Feb. 1685 (W. B. 6, p.88), Old Rappa. Co. Va.

Thomas Rucker of St. Anne Parish, Essex, bought 100 acres of land from James Taylor of St. Stephen Parish, King and Queen Co. May 27, 1725 (D.B.A., p 143) Spotsylvania Co.

In 1727 he sold his land to Henry Downs of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania Co. Thomas was then living in King and Queen.

In 1730 he patented 876 acres of land in Spotsylvania. 476 acres of this patent he sold in 1732 to his brother, John Rucker, land in St. Marks Parish, wife Elizabeth, signed the deed. Witness: Thomas Chew, Joseph Hawkins, Robert Turner.

In 1739 he bought from John Rucker 539 acres of land on the North side of the Rapidan River, on Maple Run.

In a suit against Jarrell, Thomas paid Henry Powell 90 lbs. of Tobacco for one days attendance, coming and going 10 miles to court. Also 30 lbs. of tobacco to James McKenney, and 90 lbs. to Sarah Keaton, all as witnesses (O.B. 1732, p 276), Dec. 13, 1734, Caroline Co.

He was appointed surveyor of the roads in "Room" of Charles Beasley, May 10, 1730. Four years later he petitioned the court to appoint James ffitch in his "Room".

176 (in part)

In 1737 Thomas and wife, Elizabeth, and James Rucker and wife, Margaret, sold land to Charles Beasley. Thomas deeded land to sons, Thomas, Cornelius and Peter, to the other sons he willed land on the North of the Rapidan (now in Madison Co.)

May 28, 1741, Thomas was appointed constable in Orange in place of William Jackson (O.B.2, p. 357) Caroline

Thomas Rucker of Caroline sold land to Robert Taliaferro, 1741. (He moved to Orange before 1747.)

Thomas Rucker of Orange, St. Thomas Parish, sold 123 acres of land to William Rucker, for 25 lb., Aug, 22, 1747. Witness; Bartho. Vawter, Nathan Underwood, Ephraim Rucker.

238 (in part)

William bought one hundred and twenty-three acres of land from Thomas Rucker, both of St. Thomas Parish, Orange Co. on Aug. 22nd, 1747. Witness: Bartholomus Vawter and Ephraim Rucker (D.B.11, page 18, Orange Co.)

CHAPTER EIGHT  
Mary Rucker

7. Mary <sup>2</sup> Rucker (Peter <sup>1</sup>), married William Offill. Her brother, John, deeded 100 acres of land to her. William Offill patented 2000 acres of land in Orange, Rockingham and Page Counties.

In 1752 after the death of Elizabeth, William Offill received a negro out of Peter Rucker's, deceased, estate (D.B. 1, p 400), 21 Feb. 1752, Culpeper.

In 1755, Nov. 4, William Offill and wife, Mary of Broomfield Parish, Culpeper, sold to John Offill for 10 lbs. sterling, 100 acres, part of the patent made by John Rucker, adjoining Ephraim Rucker, Isaac Tinsley, Richard Vawter, Jeremiah Early and Peter Rucker (D. B. B., p. 301), Culpeper.

253 (in part)

James bought 376 acres from John Powell of Culpeper of Broomfield Parish. Land on Great Mountains, adjoining Francis Conway's, and over the Great Mountains to Captain John Frogg. Witness: Thomas Rucker, Russell Hill, Bartholomew Vawter (D.B.A., page 448, Oct. 19th 1752).

CHAPTER TEN  
Ephraim Rucker

(page 273)

9. Ephraim<sup>2</sup> Rucker (Peter), d. Dec 1796 in Madison, m. Margaret Vawter (daughter of John Vawter and Margaret Noel of Essex.

(Will of John Vawter, May 23, 1748, 1752 in Culpeper Co. mentions "My wife, Margaret". To my daughter Winifred, 150 acres of land inherited of my father-in-law, Daniel Noel.

To my dau., Margaret Rucker, 150 acres at the Great Mountain, part of a patent of 700 acres patented in 1736 by me. Witness: Edwin, Elizabeth and Samuel Vawter. (The above 150 acres of land was deeded by John Vawter to Ephraim Rucker, Feb 7th, 1750).

(Daniel Noel patented 200 acres of land in St. Anne Parish, Essex Co., adjoining the land of his mother, Nov. 13, 1713 (L. GR. B. 10. page 188)

Isaac Tinsley and wife Margaret Rucker, sold 100 acres to Ephraim, land in Culpeper on Elk Run, in the forks of Rapidan and Robinson River, in 1759.

Angus and Ann Vawter of Orange Co., sold to Ephraim and James Barbour 159 acres of land on Pocomony Fork Mts. being one-half of the land patented by James Lewis and John Harford in 1751 (D. B. 13, page 272, Orange Co. ).

23 June, 1776, Ephraim sold this 159 acres to Jeremiah Jarrell.

In 1773 William Twyman and wife, Winifred, of Culpeper, sold to Ephraim 505 acres of land on Elk Run in the forks of Rapidan and Robinson Rivers.

He deeded 150 acres to son, Angus Rucker, in 1775, in the forks of Robinson and Rapidan Rivers; on North side of the court house road near Holt's mountains. The same day Ephraim deeded to Edmund Gaines 150 acres in the same location, to James Davis, 150 more in the same location.

The first land and personal tax books of Orange mentions him as "Col. Ephraim Rucker", paying on 63 acres, on eight slaves, names Sambo, James, John, Giles, Hog, Ishal, Rachel and Adams, and 13 head of Cattle. Ephraim owned this property in Orange (Greene) but he was living on the North side of the Rapidan River in Culpeper (Madison).

The first land and personal tax books of Culpeper Co. mentions Ephraim as paying on 400 acres of land and on 16 slaves, Harry, Ben, York, Cloe, Venus, Diana, Will, Phil, Moll, George, James, Milly, Violet, Phillis, and Frank, and his own personal tax. In 1796 he pays his own and "son Julius".

In 1787 (Culpeper) he pays a personal tax on two sons, Julius and Elliot (Both sons being away in Revolutionary service).

When Madison was formed from Culpeper in 1792 he is paying on the same 400 acres, continuing until his death, 1796. His estate continued until 1811 (Tax list). In 1799 Margaret Rucker paid on 7 slaves in Madison. In 1800 she pays on "son" continuing until 1813. This son may be Julius, who was injured in the Rev. Service. Ephraim paid on Julius in 1795, and in 1796 paid on two grand sons.

"Ephraim and wife, Margaret Rucker, paid 30 shillings for the present years schooling of Charles George Cook, and thirty shillings for the next, and for the year following." Sept. 3, 1774 (D. B. H., page 22, Culpeper).

In 1775 Charles G. Cook paid 21 lb. to Ephraim for 60 acres of land, 1/2 miles above the bridge, which crosses Elk Run.

Revolutionary Service reference. Culpeper Court, Oct 7, 1777, commissioners appointed James Slaughter, John Slaughter, and Ephraim Rucker as Lieutenant Colonels (Council Journals, 1777-8).

*Hammersley's U.S. Army Register 1777-81*, mentions Lieutenant Colonel Ephraim Rucker. *Heitman's* mentions the same.

*War 23, 1776*, mentions Captain Ephraim Rucker of Culpeper Co., Virginia.

Ephraim Rucker's will, dated Sept. 24, 1796, probated Dec. 28th, 1797 (W. B. 1, page 348, Madison Co.).

To my wife, Margaret, my whole estate until her death, then 1/7 to son Angus, and the land whereon he now lives. 1/7 to son Elliott, 1/7 to son John, 1/7 to daughter, Tabitha Gaines, 1/7 to daughter, Mary Vawter, 1/7 to daughter, Tomagen Rucker and her sons John and Ambrose Booten, and her daughters Ann and Elizabeth Rucker.

To my daughter, Margaret Morgan, and her sons, Elliot and Joseph Minor, and her daughter, Mary Early. Witness; James Ridish, George Allen and Joseph Bradford. Executors: Sons, Angus, Elliott and John. Angus and John gave bond in the sum of \$10,000.00 Dec. 28, 1797, with William Blakey and Joseph Bradford, security.

Settlement of part of estate April 29, 1809, shows the estate to be in debt to John Rucker, \$59.19.

Settlement of some property of the estate of Ephraim by John Rucker only acting executor in 1805 (W. B. 2, page 206).

Paid to Edmund Gaines; To William Morgan; To Julius Rucker; To Augustine Rucker.

In 1815 Angus Rucker, Executor of Ephraim Rucker, sold to Abraham Edden's of Orange, 400 acres of land, Ephraim died seized with. Land in Madison County, adjoining Dr William Morgan's, the heirs of Augustine Rucker, deceased, and Captain Joseph Early (D.B. 5, p. 471, Madison County).

1. Angus<sup>3</sup> Rucker.
2. Elliott<sup>3</sup> Rucker.
3. John<sup>3</sup> Rucker.
4. Tabitha<sup>3</sup>
5. Mary<sup>3</sup> Vawter.
6. Tomagen<sup>3</sup> Rucker.
7. Margaret<sup>3</sup> Morgan.
8. Julius<sup>3</sup> Rucker.

1. Angus<sup>3</sup> Rucker (Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), b. 1746 Culpeper, d. 1836, m. Jane Allen, about 1770. The inscription on his tombstone in Madison County States "Departed this life on Sept. 21, 1836, in the 89th year of his age, an officer of the Revolution and for many years a soldier of the cross."

His father deeded 150 acres of land to him May 15, 1775, on the Northside of the Court house road, near Holt's Mountains, in the forks of the Rapidan and Robinson Rivers, in Culpeper County.

In 1792 he bought 265 acres near the Rapid Ann meeting house. In 1805 he bought 125 acres from Joseph Early's estate, land on Elk Run. In 1815 he bought 100 acres adjoining Edmund Gaines.

In 1805 he sold 99 1/2 acres to Edmund Gaines for \$50.00.  
Witness: Augustine Rucker, William Gaines and George A. Allen.

1801 Angus Rucker and wife, Jane, sold to Augustine Rucker, 28 acres for 48 lb. Land in Madison. At the same time Angus bought 30 acres from Augustine and wife, Thomsey Rucker.

In 1815 Angus sold to Philip Slaughter a grant of 1,000 acres of land in Indian Territory. Granted for Rev. service.

In 1826, Angus and wife, Jane, sold to Augustine Rucker land beginning at Mrs. Early's Corner, and 24 acres on an old

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road called the Mountain Road, where it meets the main road, leading from Graves store to Fredericksburg.

Angus volunteered for Rev. service as a private in 1775, from Culpeper Co. 24 June, 1777 he was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Captain John Nicholas Co. under Col. George Gibson. On the 3rd day of July, 1777, he was made Captain of the same regiment, serving until 1780. In 1781 he was appointed Superintendent of a hospital in Chesterfield Co., and served until the surrender (Pension Department, Washington, D.C.) One of his pension claim numbers is S. 19068, executed February 26, 1830, then a resident of Madison County.

Revolutionary Service References: W. D. 18-6, June 24, 1777; W. D. 1935, Dec. 6 Bounty warrants. Heitman's.

Executive Department, Richmond, Virginia, April 5, 1838.

"The heirs of Angus Rucker are allowed Bounty land for his service as Captain in the state line from Jan 7, 1783, to Nov. 3, 1783, in addition to quantity heretofore allowed. Land issued to George A. Rucker, devisee and executor of Captain Angus Rucker.

Among the petitions, is one from Norfolk, No. 4283.

"Memorial of the military Officers, and Citizens of the State of Va. on behalf of themselves and the troops under their command, asking exemption from taxation during the War, for themselves and their overseers, as lands and crops deteriorate during absence."

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5. Mary<sup>3</sup> Rucker (Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), m. June 4, 1784, William<sup>4</sup> Vawter (David<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) (marriage bond in Orange Co. Security James Staples). William, b. 1758, d. Nov. 27, 1823.

They moved to Woodford Co., Ky., in 1788, then to Burlington, Boone Co., Ky.

In 1803, William and Mary sold land in Fayette Co., Ky., between the years of 1805 and 1809, also land in Jessemine and Gallatin Counties, KY.

William was appointed by Angus Rucker, of Madison Co., trustee for his daughter, Jane Minor, wife of Elliott Minor, of Boone Co., Ky. William refused to act.

William Vawter served in the Revolution. Enlisted Jan. 17, 1779, under Captain John Champ, of the 1st Virginia Regiment, under Colonel George Gibson. Later became a lieutenant. At a court of appeals held at the Capitol in Richmond, Va., Sept., 1791, in a suit, the Commonwealth against William Vawter, late lieutenant in the 1st Va. Regiment - Case was dismissed.

William Vawter's name appears in the first census of Kentucky, 1790.

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. William <sup>4</sup> Vawter, Jr. | 4. Edmond <sup>4</sup> Vawter   |
| 2. George <sup>4</sup> M. Vawter    | 5. Thomas <sup>4</sup> Vawter   |
| 3. Herman <sup>4</sup> Vawter       | 6. Virginia <sup>4</sup> Vawter |

512 (in part, from "Auxiliary lines")

VAWTER

Bartholomew, John and Angus Vawter came from England to Virginia.

John<sup>1</sup> Vawter, b. 1665, d. in Essex.

1. John<sup>2</sup> Vawter, Jr., b 1691, d. 1752 m. Margaret Noel, d. 1756 (daughter of David). John Vawter's will dated May 23, 1748, probated Nov. 10, 1752, Culpeper County.

John Vawter patented 25 acres of land in Essex County, Sept 5, 1723 (L. Gr., b. 11, p. 233) on the south side of the Rappahannock in St. Anne Parish in the forks of Blackberry Creek, formerly granted to John Page.

July 20, 1736, John Vawter and Philip Stogdale of Orange County, patented 380 acres of land adjoining William Eddings, Robert Slaughter and William Robinson (L. Grants, b. 17, p. 129)

20 July 1736, John Vawter patented 700 acres of land in Orange County, adjoining Thomas Stanton, Francis Conway and William Neale for transporting 14 persons into the colony, names given (L. Gr., b. 17, p. 135)

1. Bartholomew<sup>3</sup> Vawter, wife Winifred acknowledged a deed in Essex Co., Aug., 1696 (O. B. 1695-99, p 29).
2. Richard<sup>3</sup> Vawter
3. Angus<sup>3</sup> Vawter
4. Winifred<sup>3</sup> Vawter
5. David<sup>3</sup>
6. Margaret<sup>3</sup>

5. David<sup>3</sup> Vawter, b 1720, d. 1785, m. about 1755, Mary, of Culpeper.

1. William<sup>4</sup> Vawter, m. Mary<sup>3</sup> Rucker (Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>), 1st cousin.

*The Virginia Colonial Churches*, p. 210, refers to the Vawter Church as having been built before 1719. This church is still standing in St. Ann's Parish. Essex. In an old land survey made

513 (in part)

by John Vawter for Buckingham Brown who lived on Blackburn's Creek close to the Vawter Church. On this plot dated 1722 is a road leading to the church. In another survey made for John Hawkins, who also owned land on the same creek, surveyed by John Vawter, the Church land was shown as a boundary, this plot was dated 1719.

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