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Rice Newsletter

Summer, 1990

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

July, 1990

Dear Cousins,

This is a short, quick issue, partly to let those of you who cannot make it to the Annual Reunion know we haven't forgotten you, partly to keep up our four issues a year (we skipped one, a few years ago, and got an avalanche of mail complaining of a "missed" copy.), and lastly to jog the people who want to come to the Reunion but haven't gotten around to letting us know.

To the last group, "time's a-wastin'!" Please send in your reservations by return mail, so that we can include you in the number we give to the Country Club. They will accept no more reservations after August 15.

To the first group, we hope this issue will have something of interest to you in it, even though it is brief. Our main purpose is to keep in touch with everyone.

from your cousins,

Alex and Mickey Snow

NEW MEMBERS:

In this issue we welcome

Laura Lee Beyer, of Colorado Springs, Colorado,

Lee is descended from Henry, through his daughter, Mary, who married Thomas Brigham, and also through Samuel. From Samuel the descent goes through Edmund, to Seth, to another Edmund, to Samuel Robinson Rice, who married Lucy Brigham, bringing in the descent from Thomas and Mary (Rice) Brigham. Samuel and Lucy's daughter, Lucy Rice, married Charles Malcom. Lucy and Charles were Lee's great-great grandparents.

Priscilla Comins Craig, of Phoenix, Arizona

Priscilla is the daughter of Dorothy Rice, who died in October, 1989, at the age of 90. She is descended from Edward, through Jacob, Gershom, Thomas and Jonathan to Aaron, Dorothy's grandfather.

Mollie Evans, of Covington, Kentucky

Mollie is a cousin of Bessie Burris Hunt. They are descended from Thomas, through his son Peter, and several generations of Peter's, to Charles, to Jonathan Burris, their grandfather.

Robert H. Moore, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Bob is a cousin of member Jane McPherson, and a second cousin of your scribe, being descended from the Daniel Rice who was the first settler in Somerset, Vermont (now Dover). He is descended from Thomas and Edward through their respective son and daughter, Thomas and Anna, to Perez, Ephraim and the above-mentioned Daniel.

and

Dean & Anne Estabrook, of Reading, Mass., whose genealogy is missing.

REUNION REMINDER

As you know if you read the Spring Newsletter, the 1990 Annual Reunion of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association will held on August 25, at the Marlborough Country Club, in Marlborough, Mass. It will be a one-day meeting, lasting until after the cavalcade to place a wreath at the Edmund Rice memorial stone in Wayland.

Schedule:

- 9:30 am: Registration begins.
- 10:45 am: Board of Directors' meeting. this time.
- 12:00 noon: Luncheon \$10.00 per person
- 1:00 pm: Business meeting, followed by "Who Are We, and What Are We doing Here?"
- 3:30 pm, sharp: Cars leave for pilgrimage to Edmund Rice memorial.

Marlborough can best be reached from Interstate Route I-4. Take the Rte.20 exit, and turn East onto Rte. 20. This Main St. in Marlborough; go through town, and in about 2 1/2 miles you will come to the Concord Road on the left. The Marlborough Country Club is about 1/2 mile in on the Concord Road.

Reservations:

Dear Cousins;

Please make _____ reservations for the Edmund Rice Association Annual Reunion luncheon on August 25, 1990.

Name _____

Address _____

Check enclosed: _____ \$ _____

QUERIES

Any questions about Rice ancestors and their spouses are welcome in this column. You may get a lot of answers or you may get none - it's worth a try! If you have ever sent in a query which was not printed, we apologize and ask you to send it in again.

In this issue we have a query from a genealogist,

Mrs. Winnie Spencer,
620 Ave. Del Oro "Bug"
Sonoma CA 95476

who is "attempting to learn more about:

Elizabeth Rice b. 12 May 1758

m. @1780, prob. in Pennsylvania

d. 21 March, 1834, Clark Co., Ind.

William McCoy b. 31 March, 1754, Fayette Co., Penn.

d. 2 August, 1813, Clark Co., Ind.

"I highly suspect she descends from Edmund Rice, since her husband was a minister, and 3 of their 4 sons were ministers.

"Would you have any information regarding a Rice m. McCoy?"

I don't know about the relevance of 4 ministers in the family, nor do we have these people in any of our publications. Can anyone help?

Reservations:

Please fill out the reverse of this card and mail it with your check to:

Alex and Mickey Snow
P.O.Box 151
West Dover, VT 05356

Please send immediately!

Thank you

BOOK LIST

THE RICE FAMILY: by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858) 379 pages.

\$20.00 + \$2.50 handling.

INDEX (computer printout, 34 pp.)

\$4.00 postpaid.

SUPPLEMENT to THE RICE FAMILY: (1967) 110 pages.

\$10.00 postpaid

INDEX (computer printout, 18 pp.)

\$2.50 postpaid.

BOTH INDEXES TOGETHER:

\$5.00 postpaid.

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER of RICE DESCENDANTS: (1970) 1594 pages.

\$25.00 plus \$2.50 handling.

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1. (1983) 224 pages.

\$25.00 plus \$2.50 handling.

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2. (1987) 663 pages.

\$30.00 plus \$2.50 handling.

EDMUND RICE & HIS FAMILY: (1938) Elsie Hawes Smith

WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS: (1949) Rev. Clayton Rice both: 357 pages.

\$17.00 plus \$2.50 handling.

MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES: (1954) Elsie Hawes Smith 109 pages.

\$3.50 plus \$1.00 handling.

ORDER BLANK (Prices include mailing)

Book	Price	No. Copies	Amount
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"The" REGISTER:	\$27.50	_____	_____
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Ward's THE RICE FAMILY:	\$22.50	_____	_____
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Indexes:	\$5.00	_____	_____
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SUPPLEMENT #1 (Ward's)	\$10.00	_____	_____
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SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1:	\$27.50	_____	_____
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SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2:	\$32.50	_____	_____
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EDMUND RICE & HIS FAMILY, and

WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS:	\$19.50	_____	_____
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MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES:	\$4.50	_____	_____
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Total: _____

BOOK BROWSING

Some of you have asked, "Which book should I buy?" Bill Drury would answer "All of them," and your scribe would have to say, "Yes, eventually."

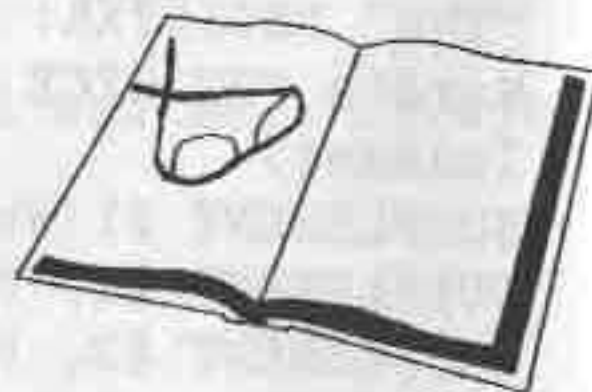
If one is buying one book at a time, the place to start is at the beginning, with Ward's *The Rice Family*. This was published in 1858, and covers the first six generations. It was reprinted in 1958, and is to be re-reprinted in 1990 or 1991. It lists all of the Rice descendants that Mr. Ward could discover, and also gives interesting bits of additional information, culled from wills, land records and newspapers, including such items as the founding of Worcester, and the experiences of those who were captured by Indians.

In 1958 it was well known that Ward's book was not complete, and a supplement, #1, was published, listing newly discovered individuals in the third to sixth generations. This is well worth buying along with the Ward book, or soon after, if your line happens to be one that disappears in Ward's third or fourth generation.

cont.

ORDER BLANK

All of the books listed on the previous page are available to Association members from the Association. To order books, please fill out the other side of this blank, clip and send, with your check for the total, to:



William H. Drury, Book Custodian
EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION
24 Buckman Drive,
Chelmsford, MA 01824 (over)

BROWSING, cont.

The masterpiece of the Association's publishing, the *Genealogical Register*, took more than ten years to prepare, and covers all (? well, almost all) of the Rice descendants up to the time of publication, or around 1970. This book is a must for anyone interested in Rice genealogy. Ward's book is still essential, however, because the Register does not repeat much of the early generation material that is already in Ward.

For those of you who have come along since 1970 (That includes brand new members with lines partially unknown earlier, and spouses and children who have joined the family in the past twenty years.), Supplement #2, parts 1 and 2, may be of value. Part 1 includes new information about early generations, and Part 2 brings us down to 1983.

The process continues. Most of the information contributed since Supplement #2, Part 2 went to the printer is on computer disc, ready to be compiled into - Part 3? The moral is, however, don't wait for Part 3, but buy the books now - each one contains different and interesting material.

* * *

STORIES:

A Strange Tale

During the nineteenth century there lived a man named William Marsh Rice. I have been asked more than once if he was descended from Edmund, and have to confess that I don't know. Born in Massachusetts in 1816, in 1839 William left home to explore the wide, wide world, and soon found himself in the brand new town of Houston, Texas. Here he settled down, married, and set out to make his fortune as an entrepreneur. After the death of his first wife, he remarried in 1867, his new bride being Elizabeth Baldwin Brown. There were no children by either marriage.

William Rice was indeed a successful entrepreneur, becoming the "richest man in Texas." After his marriage to Elizabeth he changed his legal residence to New York City, because (a) his wife didn't like the Texas summers, and (b) his northern sympathies during the Civil War made it prudent for him to live elsewhere.

Time passed, and the Rices grew older. William dreamed of using his wealth to establish and endow the "Rice Institute for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art", and so instructed in his will. In 1896 Elizabeth had a stroke, and died a few months later in Houston. Imagine William's shock when her will was read, and he learned that she had bestowed large sums of money on various charities, and not a penny to his "Rice Institute", a dream she had shared with him! Worse, the lawyer who prepared the will was to get 10% of the total!

Rice's lawyer was a good friend, Capt. James Addison Baker, who, incidentally, was also the grandfather of our Secretary of State, James A. Baker, III. Capt. Baker eventually succeeded in invalidating the will, on the grounds that Elizabeth's legal residence was in New York, not Texas, and that her soundness of mind was questionable when the will was written, after her stroke.

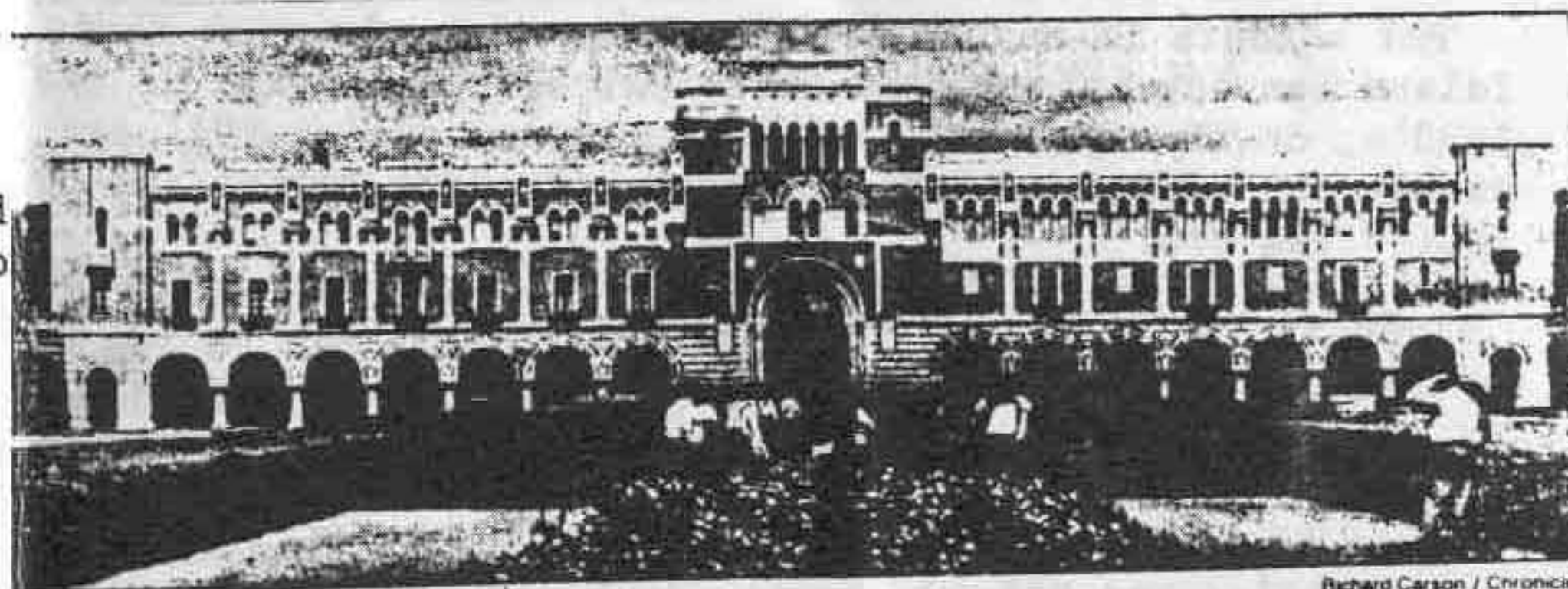
Four years later Capt. Baker's friendship and forensic abilities were put to an even harder test, when William Marsh Rice, then aged 94, was found dead in bed in his Madison Ave., N.Y., apartment.

Did he die of old age?

Did Agatha Christie read about this case?

William had been ill a few times, in the previous months, but was known to be generally in good health. Suspicious, Baker and William's brother, Frederick, persuaded the N.Y. District Attorney's office to investigate. In the nick of time they obtained a court order to prevent cremation of the body, and an autopsy was performed. Enough mercury was found in the body to have killed a much younger and stronger man! Other evidence, including a forged will and the purchase of chloroform with which to hasten the effects of the mercury, resulted in the conviction of Rice's manservant and a Texas lawyer, a Mr. Patrick, who had been retained to defend Mrs. Rice's spurious will and thus learned of the vast riches to be so feloniously obtained.

The ending of the story is that William Marsh Rice's huge wealth was secured for the purpose he desired. In 1902 the "Rice Institute" was established in Houston. Today the "Institute" is well known as Rice University.



The summit opens Monday with ceremonies in the Quadangle on the Rice campus, shown here. In the background is Lovett Hall

The information in this story was obtained from the Houston *Chronicle* of July 8, 1990, from an article written on the occasion of the recent "Economic Summit" held at Rice University. It was sent to us by Brian Bates, son of Cousin John Bates. We thank both of these gentlemen, and ask our readers;

Does anyone know if William Marsh Rice is related to us?

From the Momentous to the Frivolous

Our past President, Pat MacFarland, who has recently moved to Rhode Island, sends us a clip from the *Newport Daily News*, March 26, 1990, from a column called the "Grist Mill", by Leonard Panaggio.

"100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK: An unusual sight - a swallow seen in March; however, 'One swallow does not make a summer'.....

...Rice's Burlesque Company presented its operatic burlesque, 'The Corsair,' to a fair-sized Opera House audience."

And from the same column, May 14, 1990:

"What estates were used by the armed services during World War II?

"One that comes to mind was The Reef, ... now Brenton Point State Park. were any of the big houses on Conanicut Island utilized in such a manner?"

Pat wonders if anyone more familiar than she with Rhode Island has any information about "Rice's Burlesque" of the 1890's, or if anyone stationed in Newport during WWII can answer the second set of questions. (Cousins Martha and Ly McL. - ask Bob)

* * *

Echoes of the Civil War

One of our newer members, Mertel Henderson Grece, has written a delightful letter thanking us for the Civil War stories in the Spring issue. Cousin Mertel tells us:

"My Greatgrandfather Henderson (not the Rice line) was killed at Gettysburg. He left a wife and three little boys. My grandfather was Samuel, the eldest, only twelve years old, named for his father. As he died (when I was) quite young, before I had had time to ask him any questions, I know very little about it. My father said he thought that he had been a cavalry man. The whole family was crazy about horses, so it is probably true.

"My Grandmother Henderson remembered many things about the Civil War, as she was old enough to realize how terrible it was. She was proud of having shaken hands with Abraham Lincoln. I told this to our history class, but I don't think they believed me."

Cousin Mertel ends her letter by saying, "I will always be glad to hear from anyone who thinks that I might be able to help them with a problem." Her address is:

144 Fenelon Drive,

Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3A 3K9

Thank you ever so much, Cousin Mertel.

Your scribe's great grandfather, Erwin Fessenden, also fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. His brother, Frederic, was killed there. After the war Erwin came home and married Justina Rice, who was born in the Daniel Rice homestead in Somerset/Dover, Vermont.

Incidentally, both Cousin John Bates and I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has any information about Fessendens. Cousin John's mother's middle (not maiden) name was Fessenden, but he doesn't know where it came from. Erwin's father was Ruel Fessenden, and he came to Dover from Newfane, Vt., a neighboring town - but there is nothing there about his birth.

Both addresses are on the inside cover of this newsletter.

OBITUARY:

We have received a letter from our friend, Chester C. Doe, telling us of the sudden passing of his wife, Lillian (Peirce) Doe on December 22, 1989.

Cousin Lillian was born in Winchenden, Mass., in 1905, the daughter of Alton W. and Alice (Rice) Peirce. She and Chester were married in March, 1930, and lived in West Boylston, Mass. They had four sons and a daughter. One son, Gordon A. Doe, died in 1986, but the others survive, as well as twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church, the West Boylston Historical Society, the Worcester County Mechanics Association, and the Edmund Rice (1638) Association.

Our heart-felt sympathy to Cousin Chester, and a message:

We will not remove your name from our mailing list just because you aren't likely to attend any more reunions. If you are not interested in it, pass the copy along to Allen, Kingsley, Ralph or Meredith. One of them may find it interesting, maybe even consider joining us!

God bless you -

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 1954-1955: Charles W. Rice
- 1956-1957: Edgar W. Rice (1879-196?)
- 1958-1959: Stanley I. Rice (1898-1985)
- 1960: Donald Whittemore (1894-1988)
- 1961-1963: Frederick R. Rice (1895-1973)
- 1964-1965: William H. Hoefler (1893-197?)
- 1966-1967: Ray Lowther Ellis (1901-1982)
- 1967-1968: Erwin R. McLaughlin (1893-1968)
- 1969: Jeneve R. Melvin
- 1969-1973: Col. Allen Foster Rice (1904-1984)
- 1973-1974: Margaret E. Allen
- 1974-1975: Charles W. Rice
- 1975-1976: Seaver M. Rice (1892-1988)
- 1976-1978: Henry E. Rice, Jr. (1907-1984)
- 1979-1980: C. Whiting Rice, Jr.
- 1980-1982: William H. Drury
- 1982-1983: Patricia MacFarland
- 1983-1985: Janice Parmenter
- 1985-1987: Margaret S. Rice

NEWSLETTER
EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 151
West Dover, VT 05356

Edmund Rice (1638)

Association

Established 1851, Incorporated 1954



William Marsh Rice, who endowed the school that bears his name, was murdered in 1900.

Newsletter

Vol. 56 No. 3 Summer, 1990

Barbara M. Snow, editor