

Historical Overview of the Ancestral Tree of the S. Murray Rust Family of Virginia.

Emigrant:

According to the Rust family history, Rust of Virginia 1654-1940 by Ellsworth Marshall Rust, the S. Murray Rust Family descended from William Rust born about 1634, probably in Suffolk County, England. **William Rust** arrived in the Colony of Virginia around 1650 and established himself in the Northern Neck of Virginia. His first wife **Ann Medcalfe** mothered all four of his children. After Ann died he married Matilda Earle in 1697. He was known as William Rust of Yeocomico, in Cople Parish, Westmoreland County. "He appears to have been well educated for the time, for unlike many of his neighbors and friends, he always signed documents with his signature, never by mark." Observed as a man "who stood well in his community" he had the confidence and respect of others and "was actively concerned in the customary affairs of the citizen in a frontier community." He was frequently called upon to serve for citizenship duties as juror, a service which in that day was restricted to "the most able men of the county." He may have taken part in Bacon's Rebellion and records show a William Rust was later "discharged with eleven others for good behaviour." His descendants are now found in all parts of the United States, and in other countries.

First Generation:

Samuel Rust, (1695-1718) the third of four sons born to William and Ann Rust, was one of the Northern Neck's early pioneers who became an extensive land holder of about 1700 acres. He married **Martha Gardner** from Westmoreland County. The vestry of Yeocomico, established during his father's time, had been succeeded by the building of Yeocomico Church, built in 1706, which for almost ¾'s of a century "the loyal subjects of his Britannic Majesty were required to assemble each Sabbath for Divine Services under penalty of the forfeiture of a goodly quantity of tobacco." Worshipers in this early period were many," including Samuel Rust, who would figure prominently in the affairs of the Colony of Virginia." Following his father's civic responsibilities he also sat as a grand juror in Westmoreland County, with an unusual indictment, jurors themselves not excepted, of "all men within the County for being too much guilty of swearing & drunkenness". Fines were assessed and civility was promoted. Samuel was appointed Surveyor of the County's Roads and also named as appraiser of several estates, including the will of Vincent Cox which provided that if his wife died then Samuel Rust was to become guardian of his daughter, Winifred.

Second Generation:

Of the nine children born to Samuel and Martha Rust, two of their sons, **John and Matthew** began progeny lines that would rejoin in two generations with the marriage of second cousins in the early 1800's. Matthew married **Winifred Cox**, the same girl who was named in the Vincent Cox will, and John married **Agnes Clements**. During the lives of John (d.1727) and Matthew (d. 1751) land ownership was held by John in Prince William and Fauquier counties some of which came via land grant from Lady Fairfax. Matthew separately acquired land in Loudoun County. Matthew Rust built two tobacco warehouses at Rust's landing in Westmoreland County and was appointed tobacco inspector with an annual salary of 35 pounds. The Rust's Warehouse "made the Rust name familiar" to even remote places in the Colony of Virginia and throughout distant world markets.

Third Generation:

Cousins **William** (d.1801) and **George** (d. before 1792), son's of John and Matthew respectively, lived during the "tumultuous times" leading up to and including the Revolutionary War. William and his wife, **Monica** (maiden name not known), moved from what was Prince William County and is now Fauquier County to become residents in Loudoun County. William became Overseer and Surveyor of Loudoun County roads in 1764 and constable of Loudoun County in 1771. Brother George married **Mary Middleton**. Sibling Samuel Rust was a gentleman Justice of Westmoreland County, and vestryman of Yeocomico, and one of three on the Revolutionary Committee of Westmoreland County.

Fourth Generation:

Second cousins, **Captain George Rust** (d. about 1850) and **Elizabeth (Rust) Dunbar** (d. 1844), children respectively of William and George are married, which joins the descending family lines of their great grandfather, Samuel Rust. In 1781 the Loudoun County court appointed Captain George as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. Elizabeth and George make their home, known as "Green Level", in Loudoun County between Upperville and Bluemont. Another brother, Matthew, was one of 50 signers of the patriotic resolutions adopted in 1774 by the citizens of Loudoun County and was a commissioned lieutenant from Loudoun County during the war. Many others of the family are soldiers in the revolution. Family tradition tells the story that following Elizabeth's passing, Captain George sold "Green Level" to move to Arkansas at age 96, making the more than one thousand mile journey on horseback! Elizabeth is buried in a Rust Cemetery near Upperville, Virginia, also the resting place of Captain George's father, William Rust and several other family members.

Fifth Generation:

The first born of Captain George and Elizabeth's nine children was **General George Rust (1788-1857)** who married **Maria Clagett Marlow** in 1809. Maria suffered a tragic death at age 72 due to her clothing igniting at an open fireplace. General George was a volunteer defender of Baltimore in the War of 1812. His accomplishments include: "member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Loudoun County, commissioned Brigadier General of Virginia militia, marshal of the day on the occasion of General Lafayette's visit to Leesburg, candidate for elector Presidential election of 1828, superintendent of the U. S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry during the eight years of President Andrew Jackson's presidency, member first Board of Visitors to organize Virginia Military Institute." He once took to task Joel R. Poinsett, the U. S. Secretary of War, for not keeping his word regarding his son's (Armistead) appointment to West Point saying "I neither want nor expect any favors from you". A few weeks later the appointment came through. In 1853, Henry Bedinger, a former member of Congress wrote to then Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, on behalf of General George; "He is a Virginia Gentleman of great intelligence, and of the highest standing, possessed of a large fortune, and one who can wield more political influence than any other individual in our portion of the State. He has nothing to ask of the Govt. for himself, and desires to make your acquaintance on account of the high estimation he has ever had of your integrity and patriotism." General George bought the "Rockland" property in Leesburg, in 1820 and built the present house in 1822. Descendants of the family still remain in residence today. General George and wife Maria are both buried in Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Virginia.

Sixth Generation:

Colonel Armistead Thomson Mason Rust (1820-1887) was born at “Rockland” in Leesburg, Virginia, and also died there at age 67. Seven years following his graduation from West Point in 1842, second lieutenant Armistead married his first wife **Eliza Southgate Lawrence** from a well known Long Island family whose ancestors were among the early “nestors” of the village of Flushing, New York. “Rockland” was presented to the couple as a wedding present from General George and Maria Rust. Nine years later, 30 year old Eliza’s death left Armistead as father to four young children. In 1860, he married **Ida Lee** (1840-1921), a member of the famed Lee family of Virginia and great granddaughter of Richard Henry Lee. Together they had 12 more children, the youngest of which was Stirling Murray Rust. In 2006, Mr. S. Murray Rust, Jr. and son of Stirling Murray Rust, writes that his grandmother “Ida Lee was a double Lee as Armistead was a double Rust.” With the beginning of the Civil War, Armistead joined the army of Virginia, given the rank of Colonel in the Confederate States Army and also named Judge Advocate of the Military Court in 1862. At the end of the war Armistead was age 45 and was listed as a farmer when he took the oath of allegiance. Ida Lee’s family home near Shepherdstown, West Virginia was burned to the ground. Ida Lee lived 34 years after being widowed in 1887. Her last 25 years were spent in Leesburg. She is credited with energy, business capacity, and maintaining “Rockland” while paying off debts, and seeing to the education of the children. Colonel Armistead Rust and his first and second wives are buried in General George Rust lot, in Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Virginia.

Seventh Generation:

Stirling Murray Rust (1881-1954), born at “Rockland” as the youngest son of Colonel Rust and Ida Lee, was only 5 years old (almost 6) when his father died. Growing up in the difficult post Civil War era, S. Murray was molded with the love of family and wife, and tested by the circumstances of his life, which never bested him. His formal education included public school in Loudoun County, Woodberry Forest, near Orange where Ida Lee was house-mother for a few years, and Kenmore School, Amherst, VA. At age 27 he married **Mary Hilton Coburn** (1878-1979) of Lowell, Massachusetts. Their final home was “Murray Hill” in Leesburg, in which Rust descendants still reside. The following are excerpts of family history as told by their son and grandson.

From son S. Murray Rust, Jr.: *The Civil War was a most difficult time for men who were graduates of West Point and who served in the Confederate Army, particularly in the Virginia counties near Washington. After the war, Colonel Armistead was able to secure a presidential pardon to restore his citizenship just in time to keep “Rockland” out of the hands of the “Carpetbaggers”. Adjusting to conditions of post war Virginia, Armistead and Ida moved back to “Rockland” with five children aged 15 to 1. From then until Oct. 1, 1881 when my father was born they had ten more children. The Reconstruction period was a dreadful time in the “South” and Ida urged her children to leave Virginia and find opportunities that the developing industrial areas offered.*

In 1898 at age 16 my father went to Pittsburgh to seek his fortune. His father had died ten years earlier, still in debt following the Civil War. His assets were his five older brothers who had gone to Pittsburgh before him and some of them were still there, a mother and home to fall back on in Leesburg, but “No Money”. His sister Lilly Southgate (Rust) and husband Thomas Edwards stayed in Leesburg, maintaining an unofficial headquarters for her brothers and sisters to visit long after Ida died.

S. Murray Rust had little formal education but a surprisingly broad one, in practical matters from his brothers, manners and an appreciation of things beautiful from his sisters, and capacity to love, be loved and ability to get by from his mother. And that he did.

From grandson James O. Rust, Ph.D.: *Mr. S. Murray Rust began work in the steel business as an office boy. Among his other jobs were a tracer, a draftsman, a blast furnace tender and a boiler setter. Later he worked in construction and by 1920 became president of the Rust Engineering Company, which had been founded 15 years earlier in Alabama with two brothers, Edmund Jennings Lee Rust, and Ellsworth Marshall Rust. (In 2006, The Rust Engineering Company is part of the Washington Group, one of the largest U. S. engineering and construction firms.)*

S. Murray wrote in his diaries that the best contract he ever made was his marriage certificate. He met Mary H. Coburn, of Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1905 in Joliet, Illinois, where he had moved to work for the Illinois Steel Company. She was teaching high school biology. Engaged in 1906, financial problems hindered their plans. He sought support from his older brother, Lee, who gave advice about financial management and life's priorities. Lee recommended that his brother get out of debt as quickly as possible, enjoy life by attending baseball games, and not work all of the time as their other brothers did. Murray Rust's diaries show that he made an effort to follow those suggestions.

Mary Coburn was known to be unusually patient. Her patience was tested through an engagement that lasted over two years and living far apart during most of that time. After getting married they eventually settled in Pittsburgh.

Following S. Murray's heart attack in 1935, he returned to Loudoun County in 1939 when he and Mary moved to "Murray Hill", the home they built three miles east of Leesburg, overlooking the Potomac River. They remained there until their deaths in 1954 and 1979. As Mary H. C. Rust lived to enjoy her 100th birthday, she had numerous opportunities to express her special interests in Loudoun County. She was particularly interested in St. James Episcopal Church, the Loudoun County Hospital, and the Rescue Squad.

Those who knew S. Murray Rust best said that two principles that were central to his life were absolute integrity and never giving up on a problem. An example of these principles working together was when faced with a difficult business matter, Mr. Rust was slow to commit himself because once he made an agreement he was certain to uphold his end. Mary H. C. Rust was patient in her dealings with family and friends and always cheerful. She was an engaging story teller and enjoyed social events like picnics and antique fairs.

Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Generations:

S. Murray and Mary H. C. Rust had three children: **Alice Coburn Rust**, and twins **Mary Lee Rust**, and **Stirling Murray Rust, Jr.** The S. Murray Rust and Mary H. C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project has been established by the children and grandchildren of the three siblings through a grant to the Piedmont Community Foundation in Middleburg, Virginia. The project is a student grant-making program for students in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties anchored with an opening endowment. John M. Rust, son of S. Murray Rust Jr. speaks for their family in saying "the goal of the project is to encourage philanthropy in young people similar to what our grandparents did for us." S. Murray Rust Jr., at age 94 in 2006, adds that "the future of the country, its culture and civilization depend on our ability to pass on our knowledge, reasoning ability and values to the succeeding generation".

In 1950, Mr. S. Murray Rust established The Rust Foundation with headquarters in Pittsburgh funded by him and contribution from a few members of the family. Also he gave the Foundation most of his company stock. When the Company was sold the Foundation came into "It's Own".

Additional Rust Family information provided courtesy of S. Murray Rust, Jr. (June 2006)

Pertaining to the children Armistead Rust fathered with Ida Lee Rust:

Armistead (b 1853-d. 1856)	George	William Fitzhugh (W. F.)
Henrietta Lee	Edwin Gray (E. G.)	Edmund Jennings Lee (E. J. Lee)
Lilly Southgate	Delia (born & died 1871)	Ellsworth Marshall (E. M.)
Ida Lee	Henry Bedinger (H. B.)	Stirling Murray (S. M.)

By 1898 the six younger sons had started careers in iron steel and construction in various locations: Alabama, Georgia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois. In 1901 Edwin G. Rust invented the Rust Steam Boiler while working at a steel mill in Pueblo, Colorado. Working with him was brother Henry Bedinger Rust who found financing in 1903 in Pittsburgh and worked hard to make The Rust Boiler Company a thriving enterprise. The three brothers in Rust Engineering Company (E. J. Lee, E. M., S. M.) sold and erected the boilers. In 1908 the boiler company was sold with E. G. retired to other enterprises with a pocket full of money, and H. B. went to work for the buyer, Babcock & Wilcox. S. Murray was employed in several of E. G.'s enterprises as E. J. Lee and E. M. continued to develop the engineering company. Times were slow and little progress was made for a while.

S. M. married Mary Hilton Coburn of Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1908. They met in Joliet, Illinois, where he was working on a blast furnace and she was teaching school. They became engaged in June 1906. Mary went home to Lowell expecting to be married in six months but this was not to be. S. M. contracted rheumatic fever from which he recovered slowly. He went home to Leesburg for several months. Then the "Panic of 1907" kept him from getting a satisfactory job to enable him to pay off debts contracted during his illness. Mary wrote to him every day when they were apart, which was almost all the time. Until 1914 they were never in one place together for very long. He was trying to establish a career. She was sometimes with him but was always at home, in Lowell, for the birth of her children.

In 1914 S. M. rejoined his brothers at Rust Engineering with E. M. opening an office in Pittsburgh followed shortly by an office in Washington, D.C. The company prospered and grew through the First World War and the difficult times that followed. S. M. and Mary were able to settle into a home in Pittsburgh and were there for the next twenty five years. In 1920, when the company incorporated, S. M. became president working from the Pittsburgh headquarters with E. M. in Washington and E. J. Lee in Birmingham as vice presidents.

Also in 1914, older brother H. B. persuaded the Mellons to back his purchase of an interest in the German H. Koppers Co., the builders of By-Product Coke Ovens. (The light oils from coal gas called toluol, worth only a few cents a gallon before the war, rose to \$6 a gallon paid by the Allies: nitrated it becomes TNT). It's time had come and H. B. became President and his brother, William Fitzhugh Rust, was named the operating executive vice president. It was a tremendous success. The progress of both the Koppers and Rust Engineering companies was slowed by the Great Depression that along with Father Time, ended the business careers of H. B. and W. F. Rust.

After the sale of the Boiler Company in 1908, E. G. engaged in various enterprises in the iron and steel business in which he employed S.M. on a job-to-job basis. E. G. bought "Rockland" in 1912 from his mother, Ida Lee, which provided some cash for her to live on for a while. (H. B. and W. F. split the cost, 50/50, to build Ida a smaller home on East Cornwall Street in Leesburg where she lived until her death in 1921) E. G. sold "Rockland" outside the family in 1916 much to the distress of mother and siblings. He kept 50 acres on which he built "Lower Rockland" in 1920. He was restless and was away from Loudoun County on technical assignments most of the time until he died on Christmas Day in 1925. His widow lived on at "Lower Rockland" until her death, as did their daughter in later years. The other daughter also lived in Loudoun County.

H. B. bought "Rockland" in the middle 20's and spent much time there although he kept his home in Pittsburgh where he died in 1936. His daughter lived there in retirement, and now his grandson also has retired there after a successful career elsewhere in New York.

W.F. bought "Yeocomico" and retired there in the early 30's. He died in 1940. His widow lived on in Leesburg until she died. His two daughters also lived in Leesburg in retirement. Their son, W. Fitzhugh, Jr., retired to "Yeocomico" after making a considerable fortune developing radio stations after World War II. He gave the land for Ida Lee Park and his widow, Margaret Dole Rust, arranged for "Yeocomico" to become the Rust Sanctuary when she died. Their daughter currently lives in Fauquier County.

(E. J. Lee's sons) George and Harry, and I (S. Murray Rust, Jr.) joined the Rust Engineering Company, in the early 1930's. In 1935 Rust Engineering was just getting back on its feet when S. M. had a severe heart attack but good things started to happen. He survived. The Company continued to prosper. George and I found that the second generation could work well together, and the Company got its first contract for a complete paper mill. We were joined in 1939 by William B. Gillies, Jr., the husband of my sister Mary Lee, and after World War II by J. Paul Scheetz, the husband of my other sister Alice Coburn.

Recovering from his 1935 heart attack, S. M. was advised if he wanted to keep on living he must stop smoking and get away from the constant pressure of the day-to-day business. He did both! He and Mary moved to Leesburg in 1937 where they had bought land and built their final family home, "Murray Hill". Even with my assuming the presidency of the Company in 1943, S. M. continued to travel frequently to Pittsburgh and maintained continuing contact throughout the Second World War and until his death in 1954.

After S. M.'s death, his widow, Mary, lived on at "Murray Hill" and lived to see her 100th birthday. "Murray Hill" passed to my sister, Alice Rust Scheetz, who spent considerable time there but continued to live in Pittsburgh. She and her husband Paul established Loudoun Lamas Ltd. and lamas were raised there until her death in July 2002. They took an active interest in life in Leesburg and were very active and interested in Dodona Manor.

Alice left "Murray Hill" to her nephew. He and his wife live there in the revitalized house and grounds with their three sons coming and going and the story goes on.

The above summary and historical overview produced by
The Piedmont Community Foundation.
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