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Summer 1998

### Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 1, Issue 2

Ruffner Family Association

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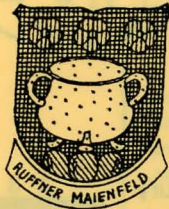
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# RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Issue #2, Summer 1998

Vol. 1

## COUNTDOWN TO THE 1999 RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION

**THAT'S RIGHT!** We're less than a year away from our family get-together in Lancaster, Ohio. Mark the dates, **June 4-6, 1999**, on your calendar. We are looking forward to a big turnout in the Buckeye State.

Preliminary plans include hospitality on Friday, June 4, at the headquarters hotel, The Best Western in Lancaster, where we'll all meet to get registered, acquainted and re-acquainted before setting off for two days of festivities. On Saturday, June 5, we will be treated to bus tours of the area settled by Ruffner ancestors close to two centuries ago. On Saturday night, we will enjoy our gala bi-annual banquet including interesting historical perspectives. On Sunday, the celebration continues with a picnic, hosted by your Ohio cousins, on the grounds of the Ruffner-Rowles house (see photo and story next page). Bob and Marjorie Rowles have graciously extended an invitation for this gathering being held at their beautiful Ohio homestead. A fund-raising auction and formation of plans for 2001 will round out the reunion.

The **Ruffner Quilt** pattern is now available for sale. The cost is \$11 including postage. **We haven't received many recipes for the Ruffner Family Cookbook. Come on - all you Ruffner cooks - send in some recipes so we can have the best cookbook ever.** Remember to include your full name, address and the name of Peter Ruffner's son/daughter from whom you were descended. We need to go to press with the cookbook before the end of the year to assure it will be available for sale at the reunion. All proceeds from the sale of the quilt pattern and the cookbook will go to the Ruffner Family Association for future projects. Send your quilt pattern order and your recipe(s) to me at 7700 Revenge Road, Lancaster, OH 43130; Phone: (740) 681-9969

*Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, 1999 Ruffner Reunion Chair*

### AND THE WINNER IS -

Congratulations to Joel Ruffner Bowman (desc. Joseph) of Richmond, VA, the winner in the "Name the Newsletter" contest. She has given the newsletter a name of which we can all be proud. The entries were judged by five anonymous family members. Our gratitude to the judges for making what had to be a hard choice and heartfelt thanks to all the contest entrants. The winner will receive a 2-year paid membership in the Ruffner Family Association.

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and much more -



## The Ruffner-Rowles House

History and legend fill this lovely nineteenth century Italianate style farmhouse and the surrounding land. Although the home was completed in 1844, its builder (Colonel Joseph Ruffner) and his father (Emanuel) occupied the land in 1805, first in a log cabin and later in a pioneer cottage which still stands a short distance from the present living quarters. Upon Joseph's death, his two daughters, who had married brothers, John and William Friend, inherited the property. Bob and Marjorie Rowles, the present owners, are the sixth generation of the original occupants, Joseph and Rhoda Ruffner.

The home is constructed of hand-made bricks and houses a beautiful interior accented by walnut and oak woodwork. Materials for the home were found and made on the land. The Rowles have redecorated and added to their ancestors' home making an inviting, comfortable center for their farm. They have strengthened the heritage of the structure by preserving and utilizing most effectively many family pieces of furniture. ■



The Ruffner-Rowles House

## From Lawman to Mortician (George C. Ruffner)

*From the World Wide Web*

When the territory of Arizona attained statehood in 1912, the Ruffner Funeral Home had been serving the people of central Arizona for nine years.

George C. Ruffner (desc. Benjamin), the revered pioneer sheriff of Yavapai County, acquired the establishment in a rather unorthodox manner. On the night of January 3, 1903, George chose to spend the snowy evening playing poker at the Palace Saloon. (Gambling was legal in territorial times.) Among the participants in the game was the local undertaker, Mr. Nevins, who frequently rented various types of livery from the Ruffner stable for use in his business.

Near the end of the evening they were the only two left in the game. When required to bet, Nevins had little money left on the table. He did, however, owe the Ruffner Livery Stable a sizable past-due account for services.

Nevins suggested a "double or nothing" bet. If Nevins had the winning hand, Ruffner would agree to mark the bill paid in full. If Ruffner proved the winner, the undertaking parlor would be owned by George Ruffner.

The name of today's establishment, the Arizona Ruffner Wakelin Funeral Home, gives ample evidence of the outcome of that fateful game. Ruffner obtained a mortician's license from the Territory of Arizona as did his younger brother Lester Lee, after attending the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago, Lester Ruffner took formal possession of the business on New Year's Eve 1906.

For the next forty years, Lester Ruffner devoted his life to the business, moving to the present location in 1927 when he purchased the Edmund W. Wells home. Judge Wells was a former Yavapai County Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorney for Arizona, Attorney General of the Territory and Candidate for Governor. Built in 1878, the excellently maintained Victorian Italianate building is on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the Historic House Association of America.

Lester Lee's son, Lester "Budge" Ward Ruffner, after completing his education, joined the firm in 1940 and with the exception of four years of service in the United States Air Force, remained active in the family business until 1978. He had become a well known writer and teacher of the American West. "Budge" Ruffner began the Ruffner Family Reunions in 1991. ■





## Report From The Board of Directors

*by Robert Newman Sheets, Organizing Chairman*

A year has passed since we last met in Luray at the Family Reunion and established your organizing committee for the Ruffner Family Association. Now called the **Board of Directors**, we are pleased to report on a very active and promising year of development. The correspondence has been impressive and we are delighted with the way the news has spread across the country bringing us in touch with many new names for our mailing list. Our paid membership stands at 83 giving us an operating income of \$1,085. Our major operating expenses have been postage and newsletter production. We have currently 186 on our active mailing list so we have many out there who have thought about joining the Association but have just "put it off." The Board reminds you that the validation of the hard work and volunteered time given by your officers is in the support you give through your membership.

Without question, we all owe a great debt to **Joan Ruffner Reid**, our **Editor In Chief** for the Association's newsletter. Nothing has done more to get the word out to our cousins than the newsletter you are now reading. Thank you Cousin Joan and your newsletter committee.

We are all looking forward to the Reunion in Ohio when we will hold the first meeting of our full membership and elect our first national officers. A draft of **By-laws** and **Articles of Incorporation** for the Association have been sent to your organizing committee and they will be adopting them before the 1999 Ohio Reunion. It is our intention to publish these documents in the next issue of the Ruffner newsletter in the hope our members will give additional input in their drafting.

**Editor of Ruffner Book named.** I am pleased to announce that cousin **Shawn Williams** of Catawissa and Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania has agreed to serve as our chief editor and research coordinator for the up-dating and republishing of the **Peter Ruffner Books**. First published in 1965 under the editorship of **Olive Taylor Ruffner** and **Doris Laver Ruffner**, a supplement was published in 1969. The archive and papers collected by them are in the Page County Library Historical Collection and a great deal of material has been collected since their books were published. Under Shawn's leadership, those papers will be catalogued, indexed and then added to a nationwide collection of new research to bring the Ruffner genealogy up to date. Without the Peter Ruffner Books, our association might never have been formed.

**Ruffner Bed & Breakfast Up-date.** The information we have at press time is that the **Weinstein Family**, owners of the Ruffner Family Homestead in Luray, Virginia, are interested now in selling the property and may do so through public auction. This is a timely opportunity for some of the descendants of Peter and Mary who have expressed an interest in purchasing outright or even forming a consortium of Ruffner owners to purchase the homestead and once again bring the home and the ancient burial ground back into the Ruffner Family. Interested parties should contact **Jan Weinstein** at Virginia Oak Tannery, 2530 Crawford Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 or phone: (847) 470-2537. (See related article in Ruffner News, Issue #1, Winter 1998.)

**The Ruffner Monument.** Your contributions continue to arrive in support of the Ruffner Monument in Luray. We are now just \$253 short

*(continued on page 4)*

## The Organizing Committee Ruffner Family Association

Robert Newman Sheets . Organizing Chair  
Denver, CO  
Betty Lou Ruffner Anderson Glen Allen, MO  
Gary Bauserman . . . . . Luray, VA  
Barbara A. Burner . . . . . Raytown, MO  
Jack Childers . . . . . Fenwick Island, DE  
Barbara Ruffner Kibler . . . . . Luray, VA  
Roberta Ruffner Kirwin . . . Lancaster, OH  
Sara Ruffner Lytle . . . . . Seneca, SC  
Sam McNeely . . . . . Aiken, SC  
Melissa Ruffner Moore . . . . Prescott, AZ  
Joan Ruffner Reid . . . . . Columbus, OH  
Douglas Ruffner . . . . . Barnsdall, OK  
Elizabeth Ruffner . . . . . Prescott, AZ  
Fred Ruffner . . . . . Grosse Point Farms, MI  
Gary Ruffner . . . . . Mason, IL  
George Ruffner . . . . . Inola, OK  
Patsy Ruffner . . . . . Riverview, FL  
Shirley Ann Sheets . . . . . Denver, CO  
Nancy Lee Ruffner Shifflett . . . Luray, VA  
Shawn Williams . . . . . Catawissa, PA

### Ruffner Roots & Ramblings is published by

*The Ruffner Family Association*

Organized in 1997 to support the incorporation of a not-for-profit association to maintain a society of members who will research and preserve their common heritage through the collection of historical artifacts and documents that form the basis for knowledge and appreciation of the historical role played by the Ruffner descendants and their collateral lines in the settlement of the American Frontier.

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Contributing Editor:

**Robert Newman Sheets**



### Report From The Board of Directors (continued from page 3)

of our goal to pay off the total cost of the monument of \$1766.00! Your enthusiasm and support demonstrates the validity of your association engaging in such monument activity.

**The Ruffner Cemetery Restoration Committee.** We are pleased to report that the Brothers McNeely, fresh from their success in erecting the fence at the Ruffner Burial Ground in Luray have now made contact with the folks in Charleston, West Virginia where they hope to begin the restoration of the family cemetery in Malden. You may recall the deplorable shape it was in on our visit there in 1995 to see the graves of Dr. Henry Ruffner, his brother Gen. Lewis Ruffner and many other descendants of Joseph & Elizabeth Ruffner, founders of the City of Charleston.

**1998 Dues are Due:** A friendly reminder that new memberships and renewed memberships are being happily received at your Denver Headquarters. Your Board of Directors wishes to thank those of you who have sent in your genealogical research, kept us abreast of your activities and introduced us to your extended families. The connection with the living descendants of Peter and Mary Ruffner has validated the creation of this Association. The spirit of Family that was planted in the Valley of Virginia in 1739 lives well in the same spirit we share today - in the Name of Ruffner. ■

### QUERIES

*In an effort to assist those seeking their ancestors and for the association's ongoing research program, the Ruffner Family News publishes this column of queries. In contacting the "seekers" listed below, please let them know where you saw their query.*

*(Note: b = born, m = married, d = died, bur = buried, ca = circa)*

Searching for descendants of **Elizabeth Ruffner and Abraham Pennybacker.** Please contact **Pat Journey** at P.O. Box 1116, Lyons, CO 80540 or e-mail: [pbj1@mci2000.com](mailto:pbj1@mci2000.com).

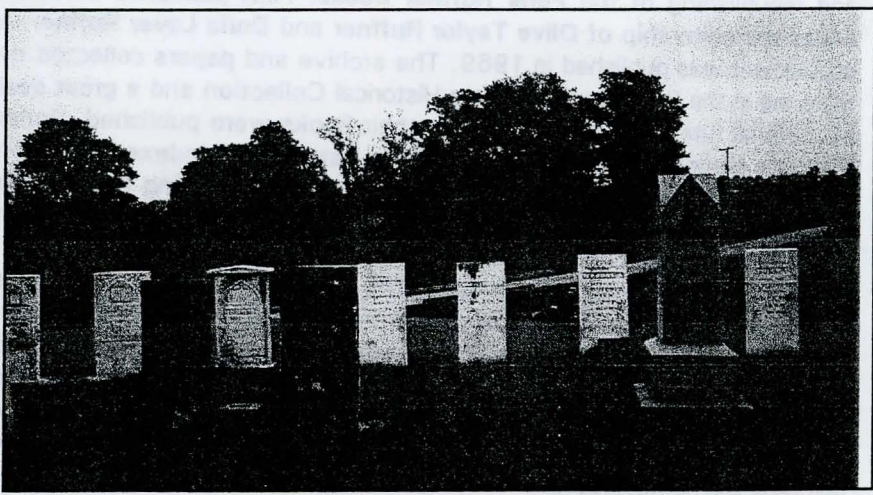
### WESTWARD HO ON THE RUFFNER TRAIL TO OHIO

(Second of a series on the history of the Ruffners in Ohio.)

**Emanuel Ruffner** came with his family to Ohio in 1805 and settled on the land still owned by his descendants, one and one-half miles from Rushville in Fairfield County. He came there when the Murpheys, Ijams, Wilsons, Rowles, Teals and Stevensons were his only neighbors - all distinguished as early pioneers of that vicinity. He was a teamster in the Revolutionary War and his son John drove a team for him in the war of 1812. Emanuel was a man of force and integrity, a good citizen and a very useful member of society. He reared a large and interesting family.

His son **Jacob** married Magdalene Bibler. They lived on a farm near the Stevenson Camp Ground. His second son, **John**, married Mary Rhodes and settled on a farm on the south fork of Licking, in Licking County, Ohio. His third son, **Emanuel II**, married Barbara Harshbarger. He was a blacksmith and lived many years near New Salem, Ohio. Late in life he moved with his family to Cumberland County, IL, near the town of Greenup. Emanuel's fourth son, **Henry**, was killed by a falling tree in 1806. His fifth son, **Colonel Joseph Ruffner**, married Rhoda Davis of Licking County. He lived a long life on the original Ruffner farm.

Emanuel's first daughter, **Barbara**, married David Pence in Virginia and came to Ohio in 1807. David Pence was a farmer. Emanuel's second daughter, **Anna**, married Thomas Kraner and they lived on a farm given them by her father. His third daughter, **Magdalene**, married Christian Baker, who represented Fairfield County in the Ohio Legislature for two terms. Emanuel's fourth daughter, **Elizabeth**, married M. Garner. His fifth daughter, **Susanna**, married Daniel Keller, who represented Fairfield County in the Ohio Legislature in 1849. Emanuel's sixth daughter, **Mary**, married William Hill, a prominent citizen. She died a year or two after her marriage in the year 1829.



**Emanuel Ruffner Grave**

Emanuel Ruffner lived to be 91 years old and died June 4, 1848. His first wife, Magdalene, died November, 1822 at 65. His second wife, Elizabeth, died December 1, 1842, at 63. Emanuel's grave lies between those of his two wives in the Ruffner-Friend Cemetery (see photo - 3stones to the left of large stone in right foreground). ■



## THE CONTEMPORARY SCENE

### MASON RUFFNER - BLUES WRITER/SINGER/GUITARIST

*From the World Wide Web*

Born in Illinois, Mason Ruffner (a descendant of Peter's son Benjamin) was raised in Fort Worth, where his family moved when he was 6. His musical roots go back to the mid-sixties, when the lanky teenager from Ft. Worth, Texas fell victim to the supernatural guitar prowess of Jimi Hendrix and the lyrical genius of Bob Dylan. He began tracing the lineage of modern rock back to its post-war origins, digging the sounds of Jimmy Reed, B.B. King, and Muddy Waters. No less influential were the works of French poets and novelists such as Rimbaud, Lautremont, and Baudelaire.

In the late sixties, Mason tried his hand at modern rock and folk music, but the blues bug wouldn't let him be. Eventually, blues singer Robert Ealey invited Mason to join his Five Careless Lovers, the house band at Ealey's own Blue Bird Lounge in Ft. Worth. This was Ruffner's formative period as a guitarist and stage performer. Departing Ft. Worth, Mason spent time in New York and California before settling down in New Orleans in 1979.

It was a full year before Ruffner and his band, The Blues Rockers, landed a steady gig at the 544 Club, playing three or four sets five nights a week. In an average year, they played more than 200 live gigs, and in time, the Blues Rockers became one of the most popular local bands in the Crescent City. They backed blues legends like Lightnin' Hopkins, John Lee Hooker, and Memphis Slim, and counted Bruce Springsteen, Jimmy Page, and Stevie Ray Vaughan among the stars who dropped in to listen or sit in.

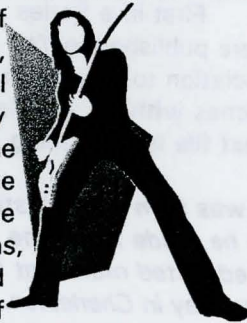
In 1985 Mason was signed to CBS Associated Records, and his debut LP was issued in October of that year. Produced by Rick Derringer, Mason Ruffner included such outstanding originals as "Just Be My Friend," "Lady Moon," and "Stranded." When Mason hit the road, headlining clubs and opening for Jimmy Page and The Firm's U.S. tour, some of America's top critics started to take notice.

In 1987 Mason released his Gypsy Blood album. In support of the LP, Mason toured with U2, Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Jimmy Page, and The Firm. The title track was included in the movie Steel Magnolias, and sales of the record soared.

Ringo Starr personally chose Ruffner to open his summer tour of 1989, the same year that also found Mason contributing in the studio to Daniel Lanois' debut LP Acadie and Bob Dylan's highly acclaimed release Oh, Mercy. Mason can also be heard on Dylan's Greatest Hits Vol. III, released in December '94.

The dynamic originality and articulate fretwork of Ruffner's latest release, Evolution, has captured the attention of superstar Carlos Santana, who has incorporated "Angel Love" off of Evolution into his live shows. In fact, whenever Santana performs around Mason's current residence in Austin, Texas, you'll find the two on stage performing "Angel Love" together.

Wimberly, Texas is the home base for the 45-year-old whose veteran status as a blues guitarist keeps him busy touring the United States as well as Europe. Check Mason's website for additional information. ■



## BOOKS OF INTEREST

**FORERUNNERS** by Harry M. Strickler - His first book, pub. 1924, history and genealogy of the Stricklers, Kauffmans, Stovers, Burners, Ruffners, Beavers, Shaffers, Brumbacks, Zirkles, Blossers, Groves, Brubakers, Neffs, Rothgebs, and other early families of Shenandoah, Rockingham, Augusta, Frederick and Page Counties dating back to 1700. . . . . Cost \$25\*

**TWENTY FIVE CHAPTERS ON THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY OF VIRGINIA** by John W. Wayland - Formation of the counties, races and religions, historical literature, newspapers, the Revolutionary War period, the naming of streams and mountains and an appendix with a concise history of the Civil War in the valley. . . . . Cost \$33\*

\*Plus postage

The above books are available from the:  
Page County Heritage Association  
c/o Bill Menefee, 10 Jamison Road  
Luray, VA 22835 - (540) 743-7721

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**8th Annual Mock/Mauck Family History Conference** in Bedford, Pennsylvania, **Sept. 25-27, 1998**. Contact Mock Family Historian, 366 Jacaranda Drive, Danville, CA 64506-2125.

**Childers/Childress Family Association 18th Annual Meeting** in Fort Wayne, Indiana, **October 8-11, 1998**. Contact: Miller Childers, PO Box 688, Selma, Alabama 367-068; Phone 334-872-2224.

**Pfannebecker/Pennybacker Reunion** to be held **July 2-4, 1999** in Philadelphia at the Pennypacker Mills Historic Home. You can obtain more information by writing to **Pat Journeay**, at P.O. Box 1116, Lyons, CO 80540 or e-mail: pbj1@mci2000.com.



## HISTORY OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY OF KANAWHA

First in a Series

The following sketches were published in *The Charleston Gazette* in 1884.

(Editor's Note: We express appreciation to **Joe Ruffner (desc. Joseph) of Huntsville, AL** for sharing this compilation of sketches with us. His "labor of love" scanning and converting this information to computer text file is something for which we will all be grateful.)

*Charles Hedrick, the author of these sketches, was born at Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia, in December, 1815. In 1844 he settled in Kanawha County, where he made his home till his death. His wife was Cornelia H. Welch, of Malden, Kanawha County. Charles Hedrick was educated mainly at Ohio University, Athens; studied law under Colonel B.H. Smith, at Charleston, and was a practicing attorney in Charleston. On March 4, 1873, he was appointed by Governor John J. Jacob Secretary of State for West Virginia, which office he held until 1877. He died at Charleston in June, 1897.*

### INTRODUCTION—

"Doubtless in due course of time Kanawha County will find a writer fully competent to the task of writing its history. But to attempt to write up the history of this county without introducing as prominent factors the Ruffner family, were to write up the history and making of England without bringing into the account the landing on the Kentish Coast, and occupancy of the Angles under Hengist and Horsa, or the invasion and occupancy of the Saxons and the Jutes. Or, to come down to later times, it would be the same thing as to attempt to write the history and making of the United States without introducing as prominent factors therein, the Pilgrim Fathers, the Cavaliers of Virginia, or the Huguenots of the Carolinas....."

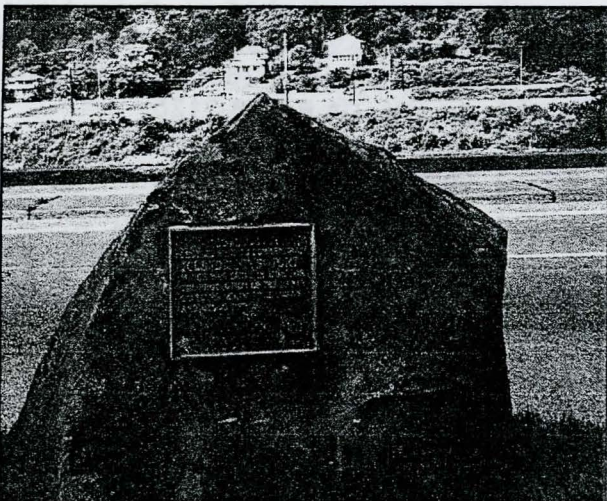
.....Peter and Mary Ruffner had six children: Joseph, Benjamin, Reuben, Peter, Emanuel and Elizabeth. Joseph, the eldest, settled first at the junction of Little and Big Hawksbill Creeks, in Shenandoah County, but afterwards, in the year of 1794, sold out his property and moved to the County of Kanawha.

In 1785, a man named John Dickinson, from the Valley of Virginia, procured a patent for 502 acres of land in Kanawha County, which took in the mouth of Campbells Creek, about 12 acres of which were immediately below the mouth and the rest just above it, from which the famous salt spring issued. He never attempted to make salt from the water, but meeting with Joseph Ruffner in Shenandoah in the year 1794, he gave him so glowing an account of the Kanawha country, and especially the salt springs, that Mr. Ruffner purchased the 502 acres from Dickinson before he saw it, and agreed to pay £500 certain for it, and other small sums according to the quantity of salt that might be made on it. (See related story this issue.) He then sold his Shenandoah property, and in the fall of 1795 removed to Kanawha County, bringing all his family, except David, who came October 20, 1796, with him, intending to manufacture salt. But after

his arrival, and looking around, his ardor for salt making grew cold, and his old love for farming lands returned. So he made a purchase of George and William Clendennin of a tract of 900 acres of rich bottom land immediately above the mouth of Elk River (see photo). This tract included the bottom on which the then village of Charleston had been platted, and a town commenced the year previous. The interest he took in clearing and reducing this land to a state fit for cultivation delayed his carrying into execution his original scheme of making salt, which he had never wholly abandoned. He died in 1803 (see photo, next page), leaving the following children, viz: David, born 18th June, 1767; Joseph, born 14th February, 1769; Tobias, born 22nd October, 1770; Eve, born 29th September, 1773; Samuel, born 26th October, 1777; Daniel, born 11th November, 1779, and Abraham, born 1st October, 1781. Esther, the eldest of all, died at the age of 18, unmarried. All were born in Shenandoah County, Virginia.

David, Joseph and Tobias succeeded to the 502 acres below and above Campbells Creek with the salt spring; their father, in his will, advised them to carry out as speedily as practicable his plans for

*(continued on page 7)*



**Site of Fort Clendenin**



*(History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha—continued from page 6)*

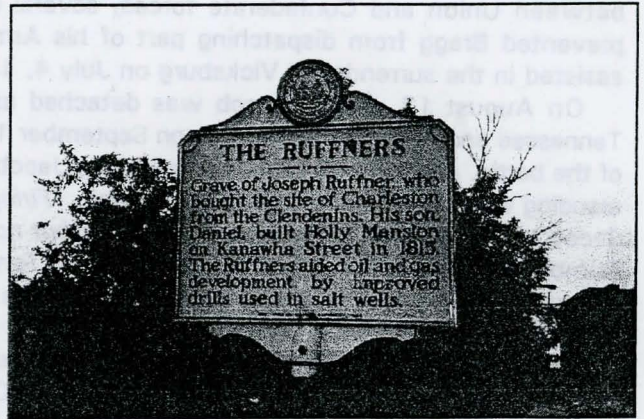
increasing the production of salt, as the demand was growing rapidly for that dispensable article, both from the immediate neighborhood and the vast and fertile country then opening up in the Ohio Valley. Instead of making salt himself, in 1797 he leased the salt water and the use of sufficient land to manufacture salt, to a citizen named Elisha Brooks, who in that year built a very imperfect salt furnace—the first ever erected in Kanawha or west of the Allegheny Mountains. This furnace, and the ways and means of procuring salt water were very crude and imperfect compared to what were in use a few years later when the manufacture of salt became the leading industry of the county—the territory of which at that time was very large, when all roads led to the salt works, as all roads once led to Rome.

### DAVID AND JOSEPH RUFFNER, JR.

These brothers addressed themselves with great energy to the work of enlarging the manufacture of salt, in 1805, and succeeded in having their first furnace running on the 11 February 1808. Every year they made some new and valuable improvements that increased the facilities for enlarging the production. They not only bored the first well into the rock, but were the first to use coal in boiling the water. Wood was first used, and all the hills along the Kanawha and Elk rivers near the furnaces—which in 1817 numbered about thirty,—were denuded of their growing timbers, and it was becoming very expensive to get sufficient wood to boil the water. All the hills facing the rivers were full of stone coal, as it was called in 1817. David commenced making experiments to bring coal into use. After some months trial he succeeded, and all the furnaces in the course of a few years were converted into coal furnaces. This greatly increased the quantity of salt, and lessened the expense of making it, and the salt makers and public generally were wholly indebted to David Ruffner for these advantages—and mainly also for first boring wells through the rock and devising means for excluding the fresh from the salt water.

Dean Swift chronicles that the King of the Brabdingnags told Gulliver, the famous traveler, that "whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together." A noble truth this, written by a great man in a fictitious narrative, and finds its fitting application in the life of David Ruffner. And in such a light was Col. David Ruffner regarded to producing, and showing others how to produce 100 bushels of salt in Kanawha for every bushel produced before.

In 1812, Joseph, the brother of David, removed, taking all his family, to Cincinnati, where he died May 10th, 1837. A fine monument to his memory stands in Spring Grove Cemetery. We have said that all roads led to the Salt Works, as all roads once led to Rome. This is not romance or idle statement when referred to the period from about 1808 to 1854. The staple of Kanawha Valley during that period was the salt which it produced. And for the earlier half of that period the manufacture of salt was, perhaps, the most important industry west of the Allegheny Mountains. All the Western and Southwestern States were nearly, if not entirely, supplied by the Kanawha works, except some rock or allum salt brought from Turks Island by way of New Orleans, at very high prices. This coarse salt was used only in making pickle pork, in connection with Kanawha fine salt. The production at these works rose as high as three million five hundred thousand bushels, of fifty pounds to the bushel, annually—fifty pounds being the statute bushel for salt. The mode of transporting this to the western and southwestern markets was at first by keel and flat-boats, employing a vast number of hands to load and navigate them. Afterwards (about 1825), steamboats began to ply the Kanawha River and carry salt, but the bulk of it was still, and for many years to come, carried in flats, the building of which occasioned a large and flourishing industry on Kanawha, Elk and Coal rivers; as also did the manufacture of barrels in which salt was packed for shipment. So that all the business in the Valley and contiguous counties, and much of the business in the other states mentioned, was in some way, more or less, connected with the salt business, and the Kanawha Salt Works became the centre of an immense trade. Immense, indeed, for that time in that part of the country lying west of the Alleghenies.■



Commemorative Sign at Joseph's Grave

*(Editor's Note: In the next issue, we will continue this series with Charles Hedrick's sketch of Colonel David Ruffner.)*





## Brave, Stainless and True-Hearted

*By Rick & Donna Ruffner Gillilan (desc. Emanuel)*

Jacob M. Ruffner was born on the family farm in Richland Twp., Fairfield County, Ohio on June 19, 1840. He was the second child of eight, having three brothers and four sisters. His parents, Jonas and Susanna, named him after his Grandfather, Jacob (son of Emanuel).

Jacob's life as a youth was spent fishing and swimming in Rush Creek as well as hunting the gently rolling hills, woods and pastures of northeastern Fairfield County. The church was a strong influence in his life and he also attended school during the winter, but his summers were spent working full-time on the family farm, mainly raising livestock. Jacob continued his education and what he lacked in educational skills, he more than made up with hard work and determination, two traits very common in his family. In the spring of 1861, he enrolled at the Fairfield Union Academy at Pleasantville, Ohio and all was going as planned or so it seemed. Like so many of Jacob's generation, a dark cloud of death loomed overhead. While attending his first term at the academy, on April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon by Confederate forces and the War of the Rebellion had started. A war that would claim over 620,000 American lives, ultimately including our Jacob.

Like his grandfather, Jacob (War of 1812) and his great-grandfather, Emanuel (Revolutionary War), he too marched off to war. His strong sense of duty led him to enlist in Co F of the 17th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under the command of Capt. James Stinchcomb. During his three-month enlistment, his duties included the dangerous service working as a scout behind enemy lines. He also served as a cook at which time he earned his nickname "*Kate*." Throughout his military career, he was always referred to as "*Kate*" Ruffner simply because of his compassion and concern for his men.

After his 90-day enlistment expired, he re-enlisted on August 30, 1861 mustering in as a First Sergeant in Company B of the 17th Ohio. His service in the Army of the Cumberland for the next eight months involved several forced marches and skirmishes as both the Union and Confederate Armies searched for a position of advantage in the western theatre of the war. On the 19th of January 1862, Jacob's regiment became involved in a major battle at Mill Springs, Kentucky. The Union Army was victorious and the victory created a gap in the Confederate line of defense in the Tennessee-Kentucky area.

On April 30, 1862, Jacob was detached from the regiment on recruiting service and August 15, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Jacob was now an officer but he never forgot what it was like to be a common soldier and this ability enabled him to be not only an excellent recruiter but also a leader of men.

He spent the next five months recruiting in his home state of Ohio stationed in Logan and then Lancaster, which allowed him to spend a great deal of time with his family.

In January 1863, after completing his recruitment duties, Jacob returned to the regiment just in time to fight in the battle of Stone's River (Murfreesboro, Tennessee). After three days of fighting, the Union Army narrowly defeated General Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee. From January to July 1863, numerous skirmishes and battles continued to occur between Union and Confederate forces, several of which Jacob participated in. These very skirmishes and battles prevented Bragg from dispatching part of his Army to reinforce Vicksburg. The lack of Confederate reinforcements assisted in the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

On August 12, 1863, Jacob was detached as acting Provost Marshall of his brigade stationed at Battle Creek, Tennessee and while in that position on September 19th, the Battle of Chickamauga began. In the "*Lurid, Seething Hell*" of the battle, and after his regiment fell back, Jacob remained at the breastworks with all of his "*Daring and Coolness*," standing with the colors of the 82nd Indiana, "*Firing his Pistols at the Rebels*." During this act of extraordinary bravery, Jacob was wounded in the neck, "*painfully but not seriously*." In spite of many such acts of bravery, the Army of the Cumberland was defeated by Bragg's Army of Tennessee. It is quite prophetic the name of the creek where this battle occurred "*Chickamauga*," is a Cherokee Indian name meaning "*River of Death*," for both armies suffered heavy casualties (the Union, 16,169—the Confederates, 18,274).

After all was lost, the Army of the Cumberland retreated to Chattanooga and a siege of that city began by the Confederate forces. Like all the union soldiers in Chattanooga, Jacob went on half rations for over a month, watching thousands of mules and horses starve to death. In his memoirs, General U.S. Grant stated concerning the siege, "It looked, indeed, as if two courses were open: The one to starve, the other to surrender or be captured."

On November 14, 1863, with the Union Army now receiving supplies and the siege of Chattanooga partially broken, Jacob's enlistment expired. He had fought bravely in several battles leading, inspiring, and winning the admiration of his

*(continued on page 10)*



## Joseph Ruffner - The Move from Luray to Charleston

By Bill Myers (desc. Joseph)

Peter's son Joseph (Peter had died in 1778), began considering leaving the Luray area after his barn was apparently intentionally burned in 1794 causing the loss of 4 horses and his herd of cows. (See related story this issue.) Shortly thereafter another stable was intentionally burned causing extensive loss of crops and animals. In the late 1700s there was no insurance for this type of loss and Joseph felt a real threat to his family. According to a May 1901 article written by Dr. W. H. Ruffner, this accounted for Joseph Ruffner setting out to finding another area in which to settle his family. W. H. Ruffner stated, "it is thought that these fires created in (Joseph) Ruffner's mind such a sense of insecurity that he determined at once on some important change." Joseph left the Luray area and during his search "he reached a point on the Cow Pasture which may not have been more than twenty miles from Clifton Forge - namely the house of Col. John Dickerson..."

While stopped there, Colonel John Dickerson apparently told Joseph about the Kanawha Valley (in what was to become West Virginia). Joseph and John had business dealings in the Shenandoah Valley in 1793 and 1794, and apparently trusted one another as Joseph bought from John, sight unseen, 502 acres of land along the Kanawha including the mouth of Campbell's Creek and the bottom above. The land also contained a salt swamp which, within two decades, would become renowned and make the Ruffner family very influential in what would be Charleston, WV.

Based on Colonel John Dickerson's recommendation and his purchase of Dickerson's land in the area, Joseph traveled alone on horseback into the Kanawha Valley in the spring of 1795. It was a 300 mile trip through wilderness.

After arriving there and inspecting the lands he had earlier purchased, he decided to extend his exploration a few miles farther west and pay a visit to Fort Clendinen (actually known since 1791 as Fort Lee in honor of "Light Horse Harry Lee," Revolutionary War hero who was father of Civil War General Robert E. Lee and Governor of Virginia).

As Joseph neared Fort Clendinen, a new sight greeted him. There was a beautiful plain of some 1,000 acres on which Charleston, West Virginia now stands. It was covered with virgin forest, the trees larger than those on the other side of the mountains he had just crossed. "What Joseph saw was bottom land, land that had already been cleared, but of course, the sides of the mountains were still full of trees... It was a beautiful site; the Elk River runs into the Kanawha River, a little bottom land sandwiched between two mountains. The wilderness trail that Andrew Lewis' army had traveled some fourteen years earlier was the same route. It was a nearly impassable path crossing through primeval forests over Gauley Mountain and ran between the rugged cliff-enclosed gorges of the New and Upper Kanawha River basins to the wider bottom lands down the Great Kanawha."

On April 26, 1795, Joseph rented "the cleared land on (George's) tract in this county near Charleston on the Kanawha River side for the term of one year." (See Editor's note following this article.)

During that summer and early fall, he apparently convinced himself that it was to here that he wanted to relocate so Joseph again returned home, this time to move his family. So it was that in the autumn of 1795 he, his wife, and six of their children (the youngest, Abraham, being 14) some 20 slaves, numerous horses, cows and other animals, led a six-horse bearskin-covered wagon to Kanawha. Arriving at Fort Clendinen, they occupied abandoned ranger cabins for the winter.

Joseph decided to purchase more land for farming and on May 23, 1796, George Clendenin signed a receipt for "one hundred and fifty dollars in part of five hundred pounds, payable the first day of June, in part of the payment of my plantation." (Figure 1) On June 23, 1796, George signed a receipt witnessed by his brother William stating "This day I have received of Joseph Ruffner Senior the just and full sum of five hundred pounds (unintelligible) being in part of two thousand pounds he and his two sons has contracted to give me for my Elk tract of land in Kanawha County." (See Editor's note following this article.)

(continued on page 10)

Figure 1



Joseph Ruffner—

### The Move from Luray to Charleston

(continued from page 9)

In a humorous aside relating to the transaction, George Clendinen apparently lost the written bond of Joseph (which normally would have been returned to Joseph upon receipt of his payment). In a letter to Joseph dated November 19, 1796, he writes the following: "Dear Sir, after asking how you and your good family are, I am unfortunate enough to inform you that looking over some of my papers, I give your last Bond of five hundred pounds to my wife for her to put away. She not having it in her power to put it away immediately, put it in her hussive and (at) this instant (it) dropped it out. We have searched every suspected place, but to no effect. . . My wife is of the opinion that as she was working with her cattle, and (as the paper upon which the bond was written) is something saltish, the (cows) have eat(en) it." (See Editor's note following this article.)

Joseph, who had no interest in the salt licks and the business and financial opportunities it would ultimately offer, leased that portion of his land to a local citizen named Elisha Brooks, who built the first salt furnace erected in Kanawha and the first west of the Allegheny Mountains. The furnace and the techniques Elisha used for gathering the salt were crude compared with that which were to come, but Brooks managed to make about 150 pounds of salt per day, which he sold at the kettles, at eight to ten cents per pound.

Joseph successfully farmed his land until his death in 1803. ▣

(Editor's Note: Bill Myers has offered to email scans of the documentation referred to in this article. If you are interested, he can be reached at [Billmyers1@aol.com](mailto:Billmyers1@aol.com).)



## WEDDINGS

**Congratulations to -  
Roger Ryan Lind (desc.  
Emanuel) and Leslie Marie  
Maugans wed July 1, 1998 in Columbus, OH.  
Roger is the son of Tim & Diane Ruffner Lind**

## Brave, Stainless and True-Hearted

(continued from page 8)

men. He had been promoted and wounded in battle. He could have returned home to a hero's welcome with the knowledge he had served with honor. But instead, on the very next day Jacob re-enlisted and again was promoted this time to the rank of 1st Lieutenant, Adjutant, 17th Ohio. Jacob's strong desire to excel and his sense of duty no doubt kept him in the army.

At dawn on Nov. 23, 1863, Union batteries opened up on Missionary Ridge. Confederate cannon returned fire thus the Battle of Chattanooga began. Three days later a shocked General Bragg and the Army of Tennessee was in full retreat to Ringgold, Georgia. Jacob and the Army of the Cumberland were, once again, victorious.

The winter of 1864 proved to be very harsh. Temperatures plunged below zero from the North well into the South. Both armies were occupied with surviving the weather and only minor actions were ordered on various fronts. In late February, the weather improved and plans were being made by Generals Grant, Thomas, and Sherman for the attack on Dalton, Georgia. After over two months of Union probing and numerous skirmishes, on May 12, 1864, the Army of Tennessee left Dalton retreating to Atlanta where Jacob would fight his last battle.

On Aug. 9, 1864, at 6:00 P.M. within view of Atlanta, while in command of a line of skirmishers, Jacob rose above the protective earthworks to point out the enemy lines to his relief officer. At that instant, a Confederate Sharpshooter fired. His aim was true and Jacob suffered a fatal head wound. As his body was carried to the rear "*many a brave man shed silent tears*" for young "*Kate*" Ruffner.

Jacob was somewhat of a fatalist. He often led charges, refused to retreat, and exposed himself constantly to enemy fire. At the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Jacob grabbed a haversack full of ammunition, casually jumped over the parapet and gave it to his men in the rifle pits. For a soldier, especially an officer, to show himself above the earthworks meant "certain death." When asked why he did such things, Jacob just smiled and replied, "*Boys if I am to be killed I would be no safer one hundred feet under the ground than in the thickest of Battle.*"

Jacob M. Ruffner, "*Bravest of the Brave*" was buried by the Masonic Order in the Stevenson-Ruffner Cemetery on the banks of Rush Creek in Fairfield County, Ohio. He was "*Brave, Stainless, and True-Hearted.*" ▣

## BIRTHS

**Tristan Paul Lind** (desc. Emanuel)

Born: June 8, 1997, Columbus, OH

Parents: R. Richard & Crystal Lind

Grandparents: Tim & Diane Ruffner Lind

**Geoffrey Ethan Hunt** (desc. Emanuel)

Born: February 3, 1998, Okinawa, Japan

Parents: Cynthia Lytle & Geoffrey Alan Hunt

Grandmother: Sara Ruffner Lytle

Great-grandparents: Caleb & Doris Ruffner

**Jordan Christopher Ruffner** (desc. Emanuel)

Born: June 21, 1998, Issaquah, WA

Parents: Jeff & Julie Ruffner

Grandparents: Norman & Marilyn Ruffner







## IN MEMORIAM

**Flora Vaught Ruffner**, 99 years & 2 months, January 3, 1998 in Williamsburg, Ohio where she lived her entire life and was an active member of the Presbyterian Church. She was the eldest of six children of Noble and Hattie Vaught. Flora was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Howard Ruffner, II (desc. Joseph) in 1955. Prior to his death, she assisted him in operating a service station and auto repair business for 18 years and had been a telephone operator with Cincinnati Bell for 17 years. Flora is survived by one son, Ernest Howard Ruffner (III), three grandsons, David, Daniel and Andrew Ruffner and one brother, Walter Vaught.

**Armada O. Ruffner**, 82, Friday, June 5, 1998, Columbus, OH. Retired from U.S. Army DCSC. Survived by nephew, Gerald (Joan) Ruffner of Cleveland; nieces, Susan Lloyd and Nancy (Bill) Teders, both of Columbus; sister-in-law, Eleanor Ruffner of Cleveland, many great and great-great nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, June 10, 1998 at the Chapel in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Columbus. (A story about Armada (desc. Emanuel) appeared in the Winter 1998 issue of the Ruffner Family News).

**Paul Archambeau**, Sunday, May 24, 1998 in Stuart, Florida. Survived by wife, Lois Ruffner Archambeau (desc. Emanuel); step-children, Sheila (Ken) Nieman of Newark, OH and Laura (Greg) Pegg of Pickerington, OH; step-grandchildren, Natalie, Nicholas and Kelli Nieman; Ashley Chalfant; Ryan and Erika Pegg.

**Howard C. Wilson**, 68, July 19, 1998, Newark, OH. He was born in Newark, OH on January 15, 1930 to the late Howard Z. and Violet (Ruffner) Wilson. Howard was a Korean War veteran (M/Sgt. in the U.S. Army). Howard is survived by his wife Gloria (Evers) Wilson; 2 sons Hop (Paulette) Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio and Bob E. Wilson of Columbus, OH; 2 daughters, Kim (John) McCartney of Newark, OH and Lynn (Brian) Pound of Wadsworth, OH; 11

grandchildren, Scott, Tiffany, Jeffrey and Matthew Wilson of Cincinnati; Brian, Scott and Corey McCartney; Courtney, Brent, Eric and Nathan Pound. Burial took place on Wednesday, July 22, at St. Joseph Cemetery, Newark, OH.

### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Thanks go out to all who have written, called and e-mailed reactions to the newsletter. Your comments and suggestions are sincerely appreciated. An Editorial Board for the newsletter has been appointed comprised of the Association members who volunteered for "newsletter duty." You can contact any of the following members to submit information for publication or send it to Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, c/o Joan Ruffner Reid, 120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213 or e-mail: Jokereid@aol.com. Please include your name, address and descendancy (Peter's son/daughter) with your submission. Deadline for the next issue will be November 1, 1998.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 1998 MEMBERSHIP,  
SIGN UP A FAMILY MEMBER AND MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR FOR THE 1999 REUNION.**

## Ruffner Family Association Membership Application

*"A people which take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors,  
will never achieve anything to be remembered by remote descendants."*

—T. B. Macauley

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Descended from (Peter's Son/Daughter) \_\_\_\_\_

My Committee interests are (optional):

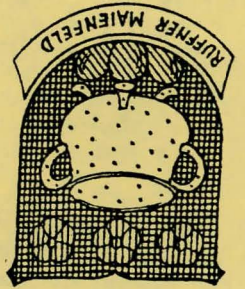
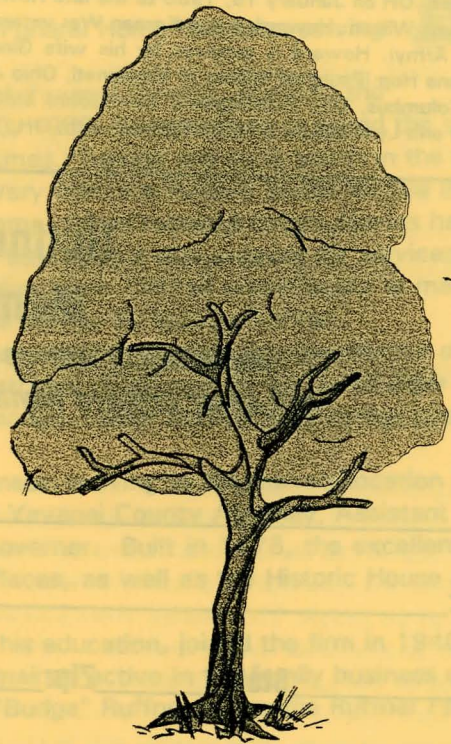
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**Mail with your check for \$15 to:  
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1675 S. Steele St., Denver, CO 80210**



# Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

(Formerly the Ruffner Family News)



Ruffner Family Association  
1675 So. Steele Street  
Denver, CO 80210