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Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 2, Issue 1

Ruffner Family Association

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RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 2, Issue #1

JANUARY 1999

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL THE RUFFNER COUSINS!



On behalf of the Organizing Board of the Ruffner Family Association, we wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. The dawn of 1999 brings us within a year of the millennium, but more importantly, just five months away from the Ruffner Family Reunion.

By now, you should have received our 1999 Reunion Announcement and Registration form. **PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION!** If you have not received the announcement and registration form, contact Roberta Kirwin or Bob Sheets (see box on this page for details). We've heard from Ruffner cousins all over the United States who are planning to attend.

Inside this issue, you'll find a story about Zane's Trace that linked the East to Ohio and Kentucky. A portion of that trail will be viewed on our historical tour of Ohio's Fairfield County on June 5th. We hope your New Year resolutions included one to attend the 1999 reunion.

1999 Ruffner Family Reunion

If you have not received information on the 1999 reunion, please contact:

Roberta Ruffner Kirwin,
the convention chair, at

7700 Revenge Road
Lancaster, OH 43130
(Phone 740/681-9969) or

Robert N. Sheets,
organizing chair of the association,
at 1675 South Steele Street,
Denver, CO 80210

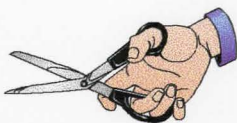
(Phone: 303/733-4935 or
Email: Rnsheets@aol.com)

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and much more -

The Ruffner Family Quilt



The Ruffner Family Quilt Pattern is available for sale. The quilt pattern was made from a quilt found in a concealed wall cupboard in the Ruffner-Rowles House. The exact age and maker of the quilt are undetermined. The pattern is "Love Apple," a rare old design. It consists of nine 17" squares plus edging.

The Ruffner-Rowles House was completed and occupied in 1844 by Colonel Joseph Ruffner, son of Emanuel (Ohio pioneer and youngest son of Peter) and his wife Rhoda Davis of Licking County, Ohio. According to *Pioneer Period and Pioneer People of Fairfield County, Ohio*, "He was one of a half dozen old Virginia gentlemen who often met in Lancaster and spent a social afternoon. No one who ever knew him can forget his courtly manners and gentlemanly bearing. He was every inch a gentleman and a good and useful man." Upon his death, the house was inherited by his two daughters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth, who had married brothers, William and John Friend. The current occupants, Bob and Marjorie Rowles, are the sixth generation of the original owners.

The quilt pattern has been copied on paper by Roberta Ruffner Kirwin. The cost of \$11 includes postage. Send your order and check **made payable to Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, 7700 Revenge Road, Lancaster, OH 43130**. Call if you have questions - 740/681-9969. All proceeds above costs of this pattern will go to the Ruffner Family Association.

AN OPEN LETTER re: the Reprint of Peter Ruffner & His Descendants



Dear Ruffner Family,

Please be advised that the planning stages are underway for the reprint of "Peter Ruffner and His Descendants." This project is of perfect timing being that the Ruffner Family Association is at its strongest since its formation. Thirty years have passed since the original two authors painstakingly compiled our family history into two books. In 30 years, much has changed in the Ruffner Family with births, deaths, marriages, corrections of information and new findings.

As the Project Coordinator/Chief Editor, I have set a projection date of 2003. I would like to see its completion for the Ruffner Family Reunion of that year. While in this stage, I am in search of dedicated ancestors to coordinate research, layout, and other important aspects of this undertaking. For those interested, I will send out a questionnaire for fact finding purposes.

I will submit a proposal to be reviewed by our Executive Board on 1 March 1999. After their review, we can begin on our great research of history. The important theme is to have fun and prepare a book for future generations to enjoy. I'm sure this was the feeling of the first authors and we are obligated to carry this on in our publication.

For a show of interest and more information, call or write.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Williams

420 North Third Street

Catawissa, PA 17820

(570) 356-2604

email: swilliam@bloomu.edu

P.S. I will be chairing a Genealogy Workshop immediately following the 1999 Reunion in Lancaster for exchange of research, genealogy instruction, working with the internet and the records in the Lancaster Public Library. Sessions will be held on Sunday evening, June 6th and all day Monday, June 7th.

Report From The Chairman

Robert Newman Sheets

On behalf of your organizing committee, we welcome the many new members who have joined us in this association and a special thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership.

On a recent walk with our dog Tammy, I stopped to enjoy the spectacular sunset over the majestic Rocky Mountains. Bright golds were fading into fire pinks, framed by an azure sky. It was a Classic Colorado Sky to which we are long accustomed. Yet this sky spoke to me in ways I had not heard before. This was a Shenandoah Valley Sky and had once been witnessed by Mary and Peter Ruffner as they stood in the doorway of their newly built log home on the Hawksbill Creek in the year 1739. It reminded me that the sunsets, the rivers, the mountains and prairies, and the oceans are as constant for us as they were for them. Just as another constant, their legacy, is not only a family but is a collection of very special individuals.

Think of the history that has passed by that doorway; the French & Indian War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Recall also that sons and daughters of the founders were witness to the establishment of our republic, the election of our first President and when the Ruffners were making their way to Ohio, the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery was leaving Saint Louis. But nothing in history so involved the descendants of Peter & Mary as the great Civil War when Ruffner brothers died on both sides of the conflict. Even though the forces of nature and society at times tore the fabric of the Ruffner Family unity, it prevails today with the same source of strength and spirit. The same spirit that unites us as the **Ruffner Family Association** and all under the ever-constant and dependable—Sunrise and Sunset.

Ninety years ago in 1909, a group of Ruffners gathered in Ohio on the farm of Peter's youngest son, Emanuel, to hold their "first Reunion." The names of those attending will all be very familiar to our family historians. What they did there we will repeat in just five short months at the fifth modern day **Ruffner Family Reunion** and our Chartering Meeting of the **Ruffner Family Association**. Our Reunion Chair, **Roberta (Ruffner) Kirwin** and her committee have planned a weekend of exciting and inspirational events. Having enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Bob and Marjorie Rowles, I know you will not soon forget the emotions you will feel when you visit the **Ruffner/Rowles historic farm**.

When we gather in Lancaster and affirm our charter of association, we will elect our first national president, vice president, secretary and treasurer along with a new board of directors. It is not too early for us to think about our new officers and future plans for the RFA. Any of you who would like to serve your cousins in this manner, please let me know. A nominating committee will present a slate-of-officers for us to consider at the meeting in Ohio. You will see in this issue of the RR&R, copies of our draft **Articles of Incorporation** and **By-Laws**. Your organizing committee will appreciate any feed-back. Let us know what you think.

As was mentioned in the Reunion Brochure, some of us will begin the 1999 Reunion on the Ruffner Homestead in Luray. After a special

(continued on page 12)

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.

Editor: **Joan Ruffner Reid**

120 Rita Court
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 237-8264

Email: Jokereid@aol.com

Fax: (614) 237-8264 (call first)

Contributing Editor:

Robert Newman Sheets

draft

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Article I - Name

The name of the corporation shall be:
THE RUFFNER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Article II - Terms of Existence

This corporation shall exist in perpetuity, from and after the date of filing these Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, unless sooner dissolved or disincorporated according to law.

Article III - Objects, Purpose and Powers

A. The corporation is organized for historical, literary and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

B. In furtherance of its purposes, the corporation shall have the powers granted to a nonprofit corporation under the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act to do everything necessary, proper, advisable, or convenient for the accomplishment of the purposes herein above set forth, and to do all other things incidental thereto or connected therewith which are not forbidden by the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act, by any other law, or by these Articles of Incorporation, and which are not inconsistent with the purposes described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

C. No part of the property or funds of this corporation, or income therefrom, shall at any time be used for the benefit of the incorporator hereof, its members, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Paragraph A above. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in, (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Article IV - Dissolution and Final Liquidation

Upon dissolution and final liquidation of the corporation after the payment of all liabilities and obligations of the corporation, or after making adequate provisions therefor, the assets of the corporation shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic corporations, societies, or organizations engaged in activities similar to those of this corporation, pursuant to a plan of dissolution adopted under the provisions of the Colorado Nonprofit Act: provided, however, that the purposes of such corporation, societies, or organizations, and the activities thereof, shall conform to an exempt purpose within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as is now or may be hereafter, amended.

Article V - Initial Registered Office and Initial Registered Agent

The address of the initial registered office of the corporation shall be 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, Colorado 80210, and the name of the initial registered agent is Robert Newman Sheets at the same address.

Article VI - Directors

The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors of the corporation is three (3), and the names and addresses of the persons to serve as the initial directors are as follows:

Robert Newman Sheets	1675 South Steele Street Denver, CO 80210
Jane Munro Webber	9083 West 88th Circle Broomfield, CO 80021
Shirley Ann Sheets	1675 South Steele Street Denver, CO 80210

Article VII - Incorporator

The name and address of the incorporator is as follows:
Robert Newman Sheets 1675 South Steele Street
Denver, CO 80210

Article VIII - By-Laws

The Board of Directors of this corporation shall have the power to adopt such prudential By-Laws as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the proper government and management of the business and affairs of this corporation, and to amend, alter or repeal the same at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

Article IX - Amendments

The corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, change or repeal any provision contained in, or to add any provision to, its Articles of Incorporation from time to time, in any manner now or hereafter prescribed or permitted by the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above named incorporator has hereunto set his hand this ____ day of _____, 19____.

draft

BY-LAWS OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Article 1 - Board of Directors

Section 1. The property, funds and affairs of the corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of no less than three (3) members. The first Board of Directors of the corporation shall consist of the initial Board of Directors named in the Articles of Incorporation and they shall serve until their successors are duly elected. The term of office of each director shall be one (1) year and/or until their successor is duly elected and qualified. Upon the death, disqualification, resignation or inability of a director to act, the remaining directors may, by unanimous vote, elect a successor, who shall hold office for the unexpired term or until a successor shall have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall exercise the powers of management and control of the business of the corporation and, subject to the provisions of the laws of the State of Colorado, of the Articles of Incorporation, of these By-Laws, and of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as is now or may be hereafter amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder, may exercise all of the powers of the corporation.

Section 3. Any director may be removed from office by the unanimous vote of those present at any meeting of the Board of Directors, if it appears that he/she has been, and will thereafter during the balance of his/her term, be unable to act as a director, or that he/she is otherwise disqualified.

Section 4. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be held annually. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time or times and at such place or places as the Board of Directors shall, from time to time, determine, within or without the State of Colorado.

Section 5. Two (2) directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. The signature of approval at the conclusion of the minutes of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be for all purposes tantamount to the presence of such directors at such meeting.

Article II - Officers

Section 1. At the organization meeting of the directors of this corporation, the directors shall choose a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer to hold office until the election of their successors.

Section 2. Any person may hold any two of the offices mentioned in Section 1 hereof, except the President may not hold the office of Secretary.

Section 3. The directors may from time to time create such additional offices as they may deem necessary to properly conduct the corporate affairs. In such event such officer shall conduct such duties as may be designated by the

Board of Directors.

Section 4. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation. The President shall preside over all meetings of the directors, and shall have general management of the business of the corporation. The president shall have the responsibility of seeing that all orders and resolutions of the directors are carried into effect and shall execute bonds, mortgages, contracts and other instruments as may be directed or approved by the Board.

Section 5. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and act as Secretary thereof, and shall keep a record of the minutes of such proceedings in a book kept for that purpose. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the directors, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the directors or the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the corporation, and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the corporation, and in such depositories as may be designated by the directors.

Section 7. If the office of the President, Secretary or Treasurer becomes vacant by reason of the death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise, the directors in office, although less than a quorum, may choose a successor or successors to hold office for the unexpired term.

Article III - Elections

Directors shall be elected at each regular meeting of the Directors by a majority vote of the incumbents, except that no director may vote in respect of his own election.

Article IV - Conveyance and Encumbrances

By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, all or any part of the corporate property may be conveyed or encumbered. The instruments necessary to convey or encumber said property shall be executed by the President and Secretary.

Article V - Seal

The corporate seal of this corporation shall consist of the words "RUFFNER FAMILY ASSOCIATION encircling the word 'SEAL.'"

Article VI - Amendments

Any by-law may be repealed, modified or amended, or any new by-law may be adopted, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors.

Article VII - Construction of By-Laws

These by-laws shall be so construed and the Directors shall in all events act so that this corporation qualifies as an exempt literary and educational organization pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any similar future United States Internal Revenue Law).

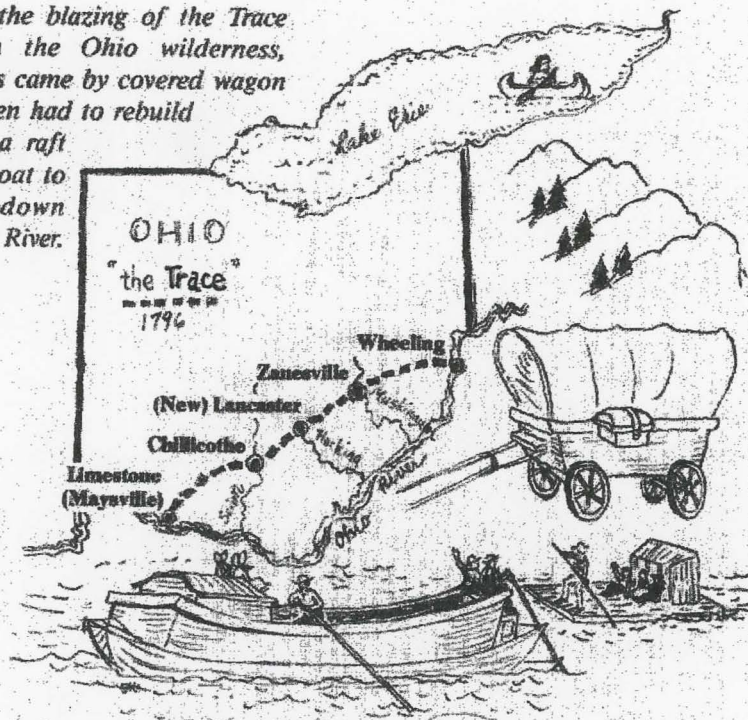
Zane's Trace & The Ruffner Family

Rick and Donna Ruffner Gillilan (desc. Emanuel)

By an Act of Congress on May 17, 1796, the plan to build a trail from Wheeling, WV through the Ohio country to Limestone (today's Maysville) KY was approved. This trail would become the Zane Trace named after Ebenezer Zane, the man who, with the assistance of his two brothers Silas and Jonathan, would plan and direct the trail's construction. Zane Trace would be 230 miles long, mostly following Indian trails and just wide enough for a man on horseback. The trace would pass through what is now Zanesville (founded in 1801 and named after the Zane Family), (New) Lancaster (founded in 1800 by Ebenezer's brother Jonathan and his son-in-law John McIntire), and Chillicothe. Zane Trace, just as Ebenezer Zane had predicted, served as a lifeline into America's western wilderness. By 1804, the trace was approximately 20 feet wide allowing wagons to move overland instead of just rafting down the mighty Ohio River.

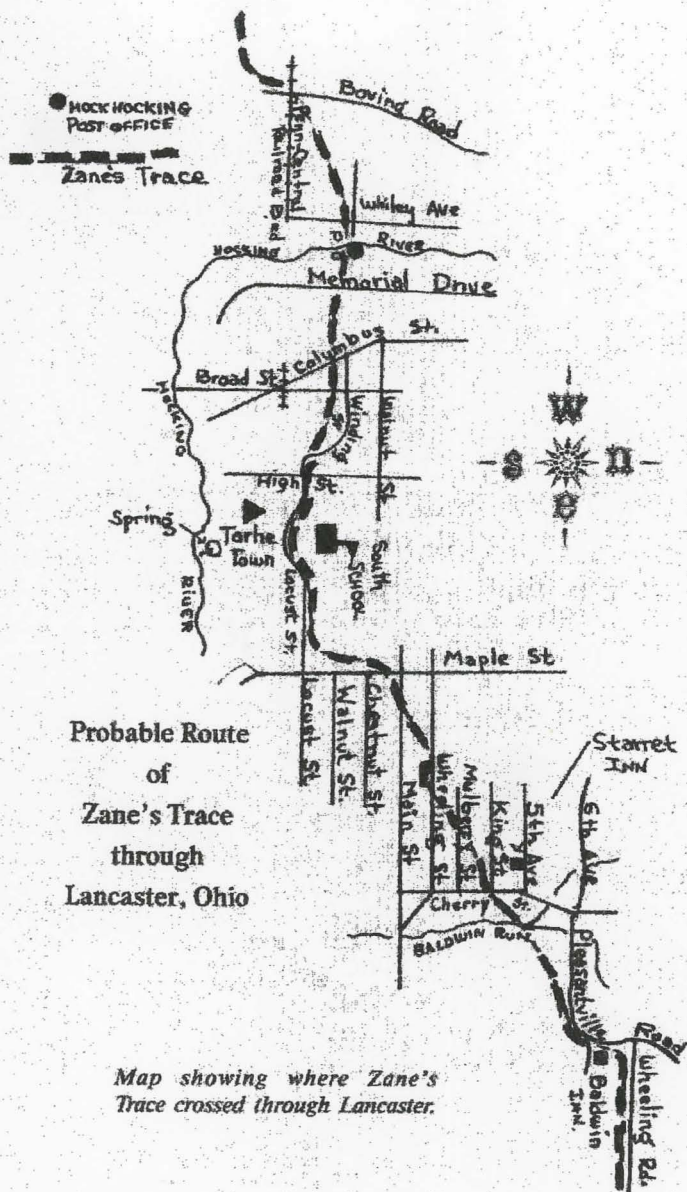
As Zane Trace passed through Lancaster, it ran through the Harmon Farm. The Harmon House was built in 1802 and is one of the oldest homes in Fairfield County. It was the home of John P. Harmon and his wife Rebecca Ruffner-Harmon (great-granddaughter of Emanuel Ruffner). Today, the farm is part of the Valley View Golf Course and still in the family, the home of Dixie Smith, the Granddaughter of Carl Lester George and his wife Fannie Harmon-George (daughter of John P. and Rebecca Ruffner-Harmon). As one visits the farm, Zane's Trace lives on, as portions of the trail are still visible today.

Before the blazing of the Trace through the Ohio wilderness, pioneers came by covered wagon and often had to rebuild it into a raft or flatboat to travel down the Ohio River.



Map showing Zane's Trace and the three cities founded by Ebenezer Zane.

Courtesy of Fairfield Heritage Association, Inc.
Campfire to Courthouse Page 13



Map showing where Zane's Trace crossed through Lancaster.

Courtesy of Fairfield Heritage Association, Inc.
Campfire to Courthouse Page 15

Editor's Note:

Our thanks to Roberta Ruffner Kirwin (desc. Emanuel) for obtaining permission from the Fairfield Heritage Association to publish these maps from their archives.

THE 300 MILE JOURNEY FROM LURAY TO CHARLESTON

Submitted by Bill Myers
(Much of the following is taken from Peter Ruffner and His Descendents by Olive & Doris Ruffner, 1966)

Based on Colonel John Dickerson's recommendation and his purchase of Dickerson's land in the area, Joseph (Peter's son) traveled alone on horseback into the Kanawha Valley in the spring of 1795. It was a 300 mile trip through wilderness. From Greenbrier, he followed the route of Mad Ann Bailey, Frontier Messenger, for a hundred miles (in 1789 Mad Ann Bailey had made a solitary ride on a black pony from Fort Clendinen to Camp Union and back, avoiding Indians and other threats of the wilderness, in order to successfully obtain gunpowder and other supplies which were needed to defend the fort from the Indian attack it was under).

Joseph was then faced with crossing the Gauley, a wild, treacherous river in the spring.

How Joseph got across the Gauley River was told by Paddy Huddleston, a tavern keeper from nearby: "Seven miles from the mouth, where the river runs high and strong, with no path leading to it, I saw a man on the opposite bank. Surely he wouldn't be fool enough to try to ford or swim it! He took a short handled ax to chop wood from a chestnut tree fallen by the cliff. He nailed the lengths together into a makeshift raft and stacked supplies on it. Tying the raft to the horse's tail, he forced the horse into the water, and jumping onto the raft encouraged the horse by talking to it. He got across. He knocked the raft apart and put the nails back into the saddle bags and came home with me for the night. His name was Joseph Ruffner. It was still 25 miles to the salt licks. I wonder if he was disappointed when he saw how small the salt licks were."

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IN SEARCH OF THE RUFFNERS.....

the Fruit of the Tree

(Reprinted with permission of author, Marian Harnach, and Ruffner Mountain Nature Center)

When I first began tracing the history of the Ruffners, I was delighted to learn that several direct descendants of the family's founding father currently reside in Alabama. One of them, Joseph Ruffner of Montgomery, (currently of Huntsville, AL) provided me with much valuable genealogical information, and also passed along an interesting and revealing story. When he and some of his children visited the Nature Center in the early 1980s, he asked the staff member on duty about the man for whom the mountain was named. To his surprise, he learned that no one had ever posed that question before, nor did the subject then seem to arouse any particular interest.

That man was, in fact, William Henry Ruffner—great-great-grandson of the first Ruffner (Peter Ruffner) to settle in America. He was born in 1824; married in 1850; had two sons, both of whom died in infancy, and two daughters. He died in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1908, at the age of 84, and is buried in the family plot in Lexington, Virginia.

But these are bare-bone facts; they give us no hint of the essence of the real person. Luckily, we have contemporary reports—many of them written by close friends not long after his death—to flesh out our perception of the man. Thus we know that he had "rare gifts with the pen and as a speaker;" was "able, tactful, and kindly;" had a "marked gentleness of manner," and was "wise and upright."

An acquaintance described him as being "a man of very imposing appearance. He was six feet tall and weighed something over 200 pounds—his eyes were blue and his complexion swarthy, and as I recall him during his old age he had heavy flowing locks of snow-white hair. Some of us can remember the striking picture the old gentleman made, driving into Lexington nearly every day in his old high-seated buggy, with a black slouch hat on his head and a long cape around his shoulders. A stranger would involuntarily stop and take a second look at this commanding figure." A head-and-shoulders picture taken in his later years shows a man with a calm, judicial mien, and crinkle-rimmed eyes that seem to be gazing into the future—or perhaps looking back on a long and satisfying career.

His father was Dr. Henry Ruffner, a respected theologian and educator; his mother, Sarah—beautiful, charming, and a fine conversationalist—was the daughter of a prosperous farmer. William Henry graduated at age 18 from Washington College, of which his father was president; three years later he earned his master's degree, followed by his doctorate. His study of theology at Princeton led to his being named chaplain at the University of Virginia, and later, of Philadelphia's Seventh Presbyterian Church.

In 1870, he was asked by the Virginia legislature to draft an outline for a public school system. The idea was not without opposition; the state's wealthy planters had always been against free education for the masses, maintaining it was a luxury intended only for those who could afford it. But after his election as Virginia's first school superintendent (aided in his campaign by an endorsement from Robert E. Lee), Ruffner drew up a

plan that would become a model for public schools in other southern states. In time, he would be called the Horace Mann of Virginia, the Master Builder of her educational system.

Like his father, he was committed to what he called the "improvability" of the Negroes. He organized the first black Sunday school in Lexington—possibly the one at which Stonewall Jackson later taught—and encouraged blacks to become teachers as well as students. The need to educate all people, regardless of their race or social status, became a "persistent theme" in his public school crusade.

An ardent student himself, he worked as a geologist for the University of Virginia. In 1883, he undertook a 500-mile survey of the topography, geology, mineral, agricultural and mining resources along the route of the Georgia Pacific railroad—a study that took him through the city of Birmingham a mere 12 years after its incorporation.

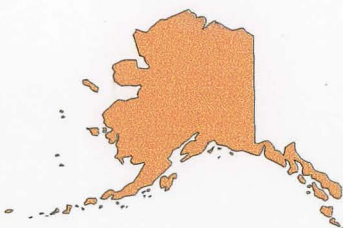
It was only natural that his work should come to the attention of the railroad, in one instance prompting them to move their staked-out line forty miles in order to follow the lines he had laid out. In 1887, Georgia Pacific took over the Sloss Furnace Company, including their Irondale mines and the limestone quarry at Gate City. By 1899, each of the three Sloss operations at Irondale were producing 200 tons of ore daily. Shortly after the turn of the century, those mines were renamed for William Henry Ruffner.

He continued with his scientific research until age 75, and claimed to be the first man to correctly locate the Alabama coal fields on the geologic scale. Even in his declining years, he busied himself writing historical and biographical papers, and conducting experiments in agriculture and irrigation.

In 1850 he married Harriet Gray, who lived as his "faithful and devoted helpmate," for forty-five years. When he died in 1908, he was eulogized as a man whose life was one of "unselfish toil made worth living by the enthusiasm

(continued on page 11)

NORTH TO ALASKA - MELISSA RUFFNER EXPLORES HER ROOTS



(An article by Sandy Moss which appeared in *The Daily Courier*, Yavapai County, Arizona on July 28, 1998.)

Near a small mining town named Atlin in British Columbia is a sign that reads "Ruffner Mine Road."

To Becky Ruffner of Prescott, who was in Alaska visiting friends last year, the sign meant a relative had been there.

To her historian sister, Melissa, the sign meant she had to get to Alaska and find out who this Ruffner was.

"I knew it had to be a relative," Melissa said, as most Ruffners can be traced to a great-grandfather, Peter Ruffner, who migrated to Virginia from Maienfeld, Switzerland, during the 1700s.

For the past year and a half, Melissa has researched Julius M. Ruffner, miner and prominent citizen of Atlin.

She contacted Diane Smith, with the Atlin Historical Society and co-author of "Atlin, the Story of British Columbia's Last Gold Rush," and found that Julius was born Nov. 28, 1866, in Cincinnati, Ohio, had married twice and was an auditor for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad before making the trek to Alaska for the gold rush in 1897.

Julius was not the only traveler to Alaska regions. The late 1890s recession saw hundreds of thousands of people grasping at financial straws and willing to go to Alaska to brave horrendous weather, rugged country, and horrible risks.

Melissa's great-uncle, Julius, was one of the lucky ones, however, who quickly became an "experienced promoter" of gold mining with a crew of 20 men working his claims. (See Editor's Note)

He solicited Guggenheim money to develop mining along the creeks and so forth, Melissa said, and was credited as being one of the most important people to bring in outside money and develop mining there.

But the Atlin Historical Society has only sketchy personal information on one of its foremost citizens, Melissa said. "His home is still up there, but after his return to the 'lower 48' for a visit, he never returned and it was unclear to them what had happened to him."

The genealogical society in Prescott helped Melissa learn that Julius had actually died in 1929 in Monmouth, ILL, at his brother-in-law's house.

Finally ready with all the information she's gathered, Melissa leaves Aug. 2 for her month-long sojourn to Alaska and British Columbia with a backpack and one small bag.

"I'm traveling light, as much like a trip he might have made, to make it as accurate as possible," she said.

"I'm going to retrace Julius' footsteps; fly to Seattle, ferry from Bellingham (Wash.) to Skagway (Alaska) and from there rent a van and camp along the way," Melissa said.

"Experiencing these things is how I learn about them. It's the way I

enjoy learning about history," she said. "it gives you an idea of what these people went through."

"My interest is to re-create a great uncle of mine who went to the historic Alaska Gold Rush a hundred years ago and add to what they don't know about him in Atlin; who his family was, where he came from, and to personalize his contribution there, then bring that information and photos to our family reunion next year in Ohio," she said.

"Hopefully we can add more to his story," Melissa said. "Maybe even find a descendant who has a photo of him."

Melissa also will be panning for gold on the Fourth of July Creek, just like her great uncle did, and in her little historian heart, she jokes about finding a hidden map with a notation from her great-uncle: "To my spunky great-niece who comes here on the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Gold Rush—here's where the gold mine was." ■

(Editor's Note: Melissa is descended from Peter & Mary's son Benjamin. For the purpose of genealogical accuracy, she is a third cousin to Julius, three times removed. Julius was a descendant of Joseph, Benjamin's brother. Melissa, an accomplished speaker, writer and historian, will entertain us with the details of her Alaska adventure at the 1999 Reunion Banquet on Saturday, June 5. Don't miss it!)

RECIPES NEEDED FOR COOKBOOK

We still need recipes for the Ruffner Family Cookbook.



Please send your favorite in as soon as you receive this newsletter. The cookbooks will be sold at the 1999 reunion. All proceeds above costs will go to the Ruffner Family Association. Send them to **Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, 7700 Revenge Road, Lancaster, OH 43130.** Please include the name of Peter & Mary's son/daughter from whom you are descended with your submittal.

HISTORY OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY OF KANAWHA by Charles Hedrick (2nd in a Series)

(A continuation of Mr. Hedrick's sketch of Colonel David Ruffner written in 1884 for the *Charleston Gazette*.)

Asking pardon of the reader for this digression, I return to the chief subject of my sketch. David Ruffner, better known as Colonel David Ruffner, being a County Militia Colonel who never set a squadron in a real battle field, remained in the salt business until 1823, when he turned his affairs over to his son, Lewis, who took charge of them and wound them up, and became his successor in the manufacture of salt. In religion Colonel Ruffner was a Presbyterian, and a devout Christian. He furnished a building to be used as a church, near his dwelling just below Malden, where he had started religious services and regular Sunday School. And he always led the service in both—praying and singing with as much enthusiasm as Martin Luther ever did. He would never permit any other to raise the tune, or permit any musical instrument to be used in his church.

About the year 1833 he donated by deed to the Presbyterian Church in Charleston, a lot of ground on which the First Presbyterian Church and a handsome parsonage now stand (see Editor's note); and also a large lot adjoining the above, to incorporators for the Mercer Academy. These lots were then, and still are, in the most eligible part of the city.

He was a Justice of the Peace for 47 years, and ex-officio one of the Judges of the County Court, which at that time, had general jurisdiction in civil and criminal causes, and he was for many years the presiding justice of that Court. As a Justice of the Peace in the county, he had all the business pertaining to that office in his neighborhood, which was then performed without fees. The business was annoying as well as unprofitable, as that part of the county was infested with many rough and tough characters, including a great many flat-boatmen. Many of these latter were good men in the main, but all more or less rude and but slightly educated. The Colonel, therefore, as a Justice of the Peace, had his hands full of bad cases continually. Not being technically learned in the law, he confined his rule as a Justice in the County, and a Judge in the County Court, in all cases within very narrow limits, to common sense and reason, to justice and lenity, and the speedy determination of civil and criminal cases. In woodman's phrase, he invariably hewed to the line, let the chips fall where they might.

Colonel Ruffner was plain, bland and gentle in his manner, ingenuous in his actions and methods, and perfectly original in all his characteristics. He was not known as a wit, but tradition tells a hundred and one

anecdotes of him full of what might be called dry and grotesque humor; more or less of them true, but all of them having some foundation in fact, and illustrative of his character. To properly depict this phase of his character would require the pen of an Irving. So the writer of these sketches will not attempt it. But apropos of this trait; one story may be pardoned. Once on a time during his long tenure of the office of Justice, a bold raw Irishman was brought before him, charged with a small larceny. The proof was clear. The culprit not knowing but he might be hanged, said: "May it please your Honor, an'I crave the benefit of the Clargy." He was sentenced to go to prison unless he could give bail to answer an indictment. This he was unable to do. The Colonel was loth to send him to jail, and mercifully commuted the sentence. A honey-locust tree, studded with thorns, stood hard by. The Colonel said to him: "You gits no bail, so I condemns you to climb that tree to the highest fork, and I lets you go free." He gratefully embraced the alternative, and miraculously came down with only a few bad scratches. Turning to the Colonel the Irishman said: "An'thanks to your Lordship for letting me off so aisy; divil the bit would they've done it in the ould country; the swate likes to your Lordship is not to be found in all Ireland."

Colonel David Ruffner died February 1st, 1843, in the 76th year of his age, full of years and honors. "The noblest Roman of them all." His widow followed him November 22nd, 1852.

On the records of the County Court of Kanawha, may be found a series of resolutions adopted February 13, 1843, in memory of Col. David Ruffner. we quote the following five paragraphs:

"That we individually and as a Court take pleasure in the avowal of the opinion that Col. David Ruffner as a member of this Court, and for many years its presiding officer, discharged his duties with diligence, ability and impartiality."

"That we highly appreciate the promptitude and alacrity with which he discharged his official duties in the country, administering justice without regard to rank or station, and that we esteem his whole official life as one which furnishes an example that any of his surviving brethren may adopt with advantage, and few can ever expect successfully to imitate."

"That we regard the citizens of this county in common with a large portion of the people of the West, as indebted to the memory of the deceased to an almost incalculable amount for his skillfully conducted experiments in disclosing the vast treasures in coal and salt which lay concealed in the Kanawha Valley, and for that fruitfulness of mind which devised the various plans for reducing those elements of wealth to practical

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HISTORY OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY OF KANAWHA

(continued from page 10)

enjoyment, by which his own country was improved and enriched, and without which the settlement of the Western States would have been seriously retarded."

"That the latter years of Colonel Ruffner have not been less distinguished for his generous devotion to the improvement of the moral condition of his county, by aiding with argument, persuasion and liberal donations in the establishment and maintenance of every society and institution, religious, moral or literary, which, in his opinion, was calculated to improve and elevate the moral character of the people."

"And that in the opinion of this Court one of the most amiable and excellent traits of character to which human nature can aspire, has been beautifully exemplified in the acts and conduct of the deceased in the latter years of his life, by unostentation and open-handed charities to the poor and needy of his neighborhood; by untiring efforts to reclaim the abandoned and profligate; by ministering comfort and consolation to the sick, whether of body or mind, and going about as a Good Samaritan in search of his suffering fellow-men, who by the laws of humanity were entitled to any share of his kindness and benevolence."

"On motion of Col. B.H. Smith, the Bar expressed a cordial and unanimous concurrence in the above."

The attempt to add anything to the above beautiful eulogy, would be to "paint the lily, gild refined gold, or add another hue to the rainbow." Yet the writer will add in concluding this notice, that David Ruffner was not the man to hide or deny his faults and weaknesses whatever they might be, but recognized them and profited by the lessons they taught. Aspiring to build better for the future upon the dead and erring past.

**"He held it truth with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things."**

His children were four in number, viz: Henry, born January 16th, 1790; Anne E., born May 11th, 1792; Susan B., born December 14th, 1794, and Lewis, born October 1, 1797. All born in Shenandoah County, except Lewis, who was born in Kanawha.■

Editor's Note: The church referred to by Mr. Hedrick in this article was razed in 1889. When the Presbyterian Church became divided between northern and southern factions, some members purchased another chapel under the name of Kanawha Presbyterian. It was used as a temporary church from 1873 to 1885. The present Kanawha Presbyterian Church was officially opened in 1885 and still stands at the corner of Virginia & McFarland Streets in Charleston, WV.

IN SEARCH OF THE RUFFNERS

(continued from page 8)

and the devotion which kept him true to his work." In a touching and fitting gesture, his funeral was attended by students from the Lexington grammar school.

By his dedication to the enlightenment of mankind, William Henry Ruffner, along with many others of his family, has left an indelible mark on the history of this country and this state. And now, if anyone should ask who the Ruffners were, and why this mountain bears their name, we will know the answer.■

The above story first appeared in the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center's newsletter. It was researched and written by Marian Harnach, a volunteer at the Center. Permission to reprint was graciously granted by the author and the Center. The Center is a nature preserve and geological site with several hiking trails. It is located in an urban area of east Birmingham, AL. For further information about Ruffner Mountain, use the following:

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center

1214 - 81st Street, So.

Birmingham, AL 35206

(205) 833-8264

E-mail Address: >ruffner@bellsouth.net<

Web Address: www.bham.net/ruffner/index.html

or: www.bham.net/attractions

THE 300 MILE JOURNEY FROM LURAY TO CHARLESTON

(continued from page 7)

Joseph stayed at Paddy's tavern and ordinary overnight. Probably typical for the times, "A warm diet dinner" could be had for 16 2/3 cents, a good bed and clean sheets for 8 1/3 cents. If that was too rich for your purse, a "cold diet dinner could be had for 10 1/2 cents, a bed with no sheets, but with a bed companion—whoever might come along—could be had for 5 1/2 cents. If one wished to eliminate all expenditure, advantage could be taken of Paddy's religiously motivated generosity. It was only necessary to arrive on Sunday and stay entirely free of cost, as Paddy made no charges on the Sabbath day. Another of Paddy's unusual characteristics was his antipathy toward liquor. Despite his reputation as a brandy maker par excellence, the liquor was used solely by the patrons, and entirely untouched by him and his sons. The tavern was often visited by Daniel Boone when he was hunting and trapping in the region.

After a night's rest at Paddy's, Joseph was again on his way, and a few hours later he had reached his property. After 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.■

Report from the Chairman *(continued from page 3)*

ceremony at the **Ruffner Inn and Monument**, a car caravan following closely the route **Emanuel Ruffner** took when he crossed the Allegheny Mountains, the Ohio River and into the Northwest Territory in 1805, will arrive at Our Reunion Hotel in time for the reception on June 4th. Contact me for details if you are interested in retracing the route with us.

I know you will be happy to hear that we are only \$165.05 short of our final payment on the **Luray Monument to Peter & Mary Ruffner**. When we gather in Lancaster, we will dedicate another historical plaque at a surprise location. Those wishing to donate to that project are asked to send their checks to my address made out to "**Ruffner Monument Fund**."

A REMINDER: Reunion Chair Roberta tells us there are still some blank pages in the **Ruffner Cookbook** and we're waiting for **YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES!** Please help support this project in which we can all share and benefit. (See page 9 of this newsletter for details.)

Your association continues to grow in memberships and interest. If you have not joined or renewed for 1999, we urge you to do so. It is only through your membership and contributions that we are able to 'keep the Ruffner Tree well rooted.' We continue to receive here in Denver, **Queries** on the Ruffner Genealogy. We will answer them when we have research on hand but until the completion of the **Revised Edition of the Peter Ruffner Book**, we will not have the answer to many of your questions. Hopefully you will be able to attend the Ruffner Research Seminar on June 6 and 7 (see **Shawn Williams'** letter on page 2 of this issue). A speedy response to the forms you will soon receive from him will be greatly appreciated. If you send us a query, please provide as much detail as possible.

Your organizing committee trusts that you have all enjoyed a meaningful season of renewed family relationships and together can celebrate a prosperous new year. Now it's time to load up the wagons for Ohio.

With sincere affection,

Bob Sheets

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BOOKS OF INTEREST

OLD HOMES OF PAGE COUNTY by Jennie Ann Kerkoff - Locations, exterior and interior photos and extensive descriptions of a number of old Page County homes and forts. Published 1962. Cost \$30*

THE GERMAN ELEMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY OF VIRGINIA by John W. Wayland - Account of the first white men in the Valley, the Germans, early settlements, county records, towns and founders, religious life, politics, war, education, slavery, home life, and industry. Published 1907 Cost \$25*

*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

FOR SERIOUS GENEALOGISTS/RESEARCHERS:

Hazel Lawler, co-author of "*Nehemiah Wood of the Shenandoah Valley*," has announced the sale of her 1980 publication. **These hardcover books are \$15 each or two for \$25.** This publication contains extensive research on many of the early families of Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. Ruffner family links are included. The book has dates of birth, death, marriages, early wills and much more. Lawler, an expert in genealogy, traces the Wood Family's expansion across the United States. To order write: **Mrs. Hazel Lawler, 1223 Windsor Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227-3744.**

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Please send your articles, announcements and any other material you would like published in the newsletter to Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, c/o Joan Ruffner Reid, 120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213; e-mail: Jokereid@aol.com; phone (614) 237-8264 or fax (614) 237-8264 (call first). If you e-mail, do not send in MIME format. Send text in RTF and photos/documents in PCX. Include your name, address and descendency (Peter's son/daughter) with your submission. The deadline for the next issue will be March 15, 1999. Thanks for reading!

With every good wish for a happy new year,
 Your loving cousin & editor,

Joan

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings is published by the Ruffner Family Association, 1675 So. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210.