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Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 2, Issue 2

Ruffner Family Association

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RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 2, Issue #2

APRIL 1999

MCNEELYS PURCHASE PETER RUFFNER HOMESTEAD

Ruffner Cousins across the country are celebrating the good news from Luray, Virginia. After 159 years, the Homestead of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner is once again home to a Ruffner Family. Our cousins, Jim and Judi McNeely of Powell, Ohio have purchased the property once known as "Big Spring" from the Weinstein Family of New York and Chicago. Jim's brother, Sam, and his wife Betty have moved from their home in South Carolina to Luray, to do renovation and oversee restoration of the Homestead Properties.

The founders had settled there on the banks of the Hawksbill Creek in 1739, the year of their marriage in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The twenty-three acre site contains a Federal Style Brick Home built by Peter Ruffner, Jr. on the foundation of the original homestead of his parents. The house that Peter, Jr. inherited from his father was a two room—two-story brick and log structure. It is in the cellar that traces of the original house can be seen. This classic home continues to operate as a Bed & Breakfast.

A second home, known as the White House, was built near the turn of the century, is more Victorian in style and operates as apartments. There is a barn with outbuildings that completes the Pioneer Farm atmosphere. In the center of the great pasture is a little hill on which is the ancient burial ground of our ancestors, Peter and Mary. This is the site of the Ruffner Monument erected during the 1997 Ruffner Family Reunion.

In his lifetime, Peter Ruffner owned all the land on both sides of the Hawksbill Creek from Stonyman to where it enters the Shenandoah River. The town of Luray as well as the Luray Caverns (Ruffner Cave) are on the original land holdings. It was in 1812 that Isaac Ruffner (who inherited the Homestead from his father, Peter, Jr.) gave the land for the development of the new town of Luray. The property was sold to William Chapman in 1840, who made extensive improvements to the red brick home. In 1880, it became part of the property of the Deford Tannery and housed many of their superintendents. In 1941, it became the site of the Virginia Oak Tannery founded by Arthur & Stephen Blaut. The Jerome Weinstein Family became owners in 1978.

Few towns or cities in America still have within their core area the original farm of its founders. The citizens of Page County and Luray, as well as all the descendants of Peter & Mary Ruffner, have much to be grateful for in the efforts of Jim and Judi McNeely to save from destruction this beautiful and historic site. We know many of our cousins will want to be with us this coming June 2nd at 5:00pm on the lawn in front of the Ruffner Inn for the re-dedication of the Homestead. The following morning, a car caravan will depart from the Homestead to retrace the route taken by Emanuel and Magdalene (Grove) Ruffner on their migration to Ohio in 1805. Our arrival in Lancaster, Ohio will signal the beginning of the 1999 Ruffner Family Reunion. Join us for this very special occasion on June 2nd to say a big "Thank You" to our cousins Jim and Judi.

(see the McNeely's own story on page 6)

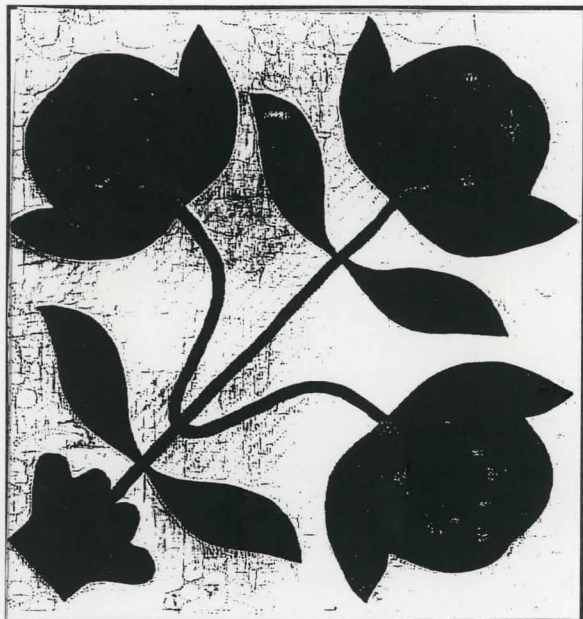
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RUFFNER QUILT PATTERN

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 (shown below) is "Love Apple," a rare old design. It consists of nine 17" squares plus edging.



The 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.

If you have not received information on the 1999 reunion, please contact: Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, the reunion chair, at 7700 Revenge Road, Lancaster, OH 43130 (Phone 740/681-9969) or Robert N. Sheets, organizing chair of the association, at 1675 S. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210 (Phone 303/733-4935 or email: Rnsheets@aol.com).



**The 1999
Ruffner Auction
Sunday, June 6th**



If you've never attended a Ruffner Reunion, you probably don't know that we hold an auction to raise funds for the Ruffner Family Association. This year's auction will be held during the Reunion picnic at the Ruffner/Rowles farm on Sunday, June 6th.

As official family auctioneer, I'm calling on all the Ruffner cousins to contribute items for the sale. All donated items should be Ruffner Family-related.

Suggestions: Framed photos of Ruffner places, framed copies of family photos (identified ancestors), books, document copies (framed or otherwise), mementos, something grown in a Ruffner garden, something made by a Ruffner, something you made especially for the Ruffner Reunion, etc., etc., etc.

I will have a table set up in the Hospitality Room at the headquarters hotel beginning Friday, June 4th. Please deliver all items to me then. If you can't arrive until Saturday, please look me up or deliver your item to someone on the hospitality staff for the reunion. They'll see that I receive it. If you can't come to the reunion this year, but have an item you want to donate—mail it to Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, the 1999 Reunion Chair (her address is on this page).

The auction is always lots of fun and all funds received from it go directly to the Ruffner Family Association for future projects.

If you have any questions, please call me in Prescott, Arizona at (520) 445-4567.

Many thanks,

Melissa

Melissa Ruffner
Ruffner Auction Chair



**WORK IN PROGRESS
UP-DATING AND
SECOND EDITION
PETER RUFFNER AND
HIS DESCENDANTS
Shawn Williams, Editor
420 North Third Street
Catawissa, PA 17820**

**Look for forms in the mail soon,
respond rapidly. Don't be left out.**

Report From The Chairman

Robert Newman Sheets

This has become a grand year in the history of the **Ruffner Family in America**. We have so much to celebrate, beginning with the return of the Ancestral Homestead into Ruffner ownership. I know you will all join me in toasting our cousins, Jim and Judi McNeely, the new owners of "Big Spring." May all the spirits of those courageous pioneers smile on our modern day pioneer cousins. Come help us celebrate this milestone by attending the **RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY** on June 2, 1999, at the **RUFFNER HOUSE INN**, 5:00pm in LURAY, VIRGINIA. That next day, we will all take part in a car caravan that leaves the Inn at 8:00am re-tracing the route to Ohio taken by Emanuel Ruffner and his family in 1805. If you are interested in this **RUFFNER PILGRIMAGE**, please contact me at my address in this issue. There promises to be a lot of fine celebrating at the **1999 RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION** and we hope to see you all in Lancaster, this June 4-6th. Reunion Chair, Roberta (Ruffner) Kirwin has not only planned the best reunion to date, but this will be the first meeting of our **Ruffner Family Association** and election of officers. The importance doesn't stop there, for you will be introduced to the plans for updating the Ruffner records and publication of the **Second Edition of the Peter Ruffner Books**. Your association is also scheduling another first by holding a **Workshop on Family Records** and Genealogy Exchange at the close of the reunion.

Many inquiries have been made as to whether we include in our membership the descendants of Peter Ruffner's sister Mary, who married Abraham Strickler. The answer is YES, as our Association is open to all interested persons who have yet to document their connection to Peter & Mary Ruffner or are descended from one of the other Ruffner immigrants to America such as Simon Ruffner of Pennsylvania who some claim as a possible brother of Peter. Whereas the genealogy of our various families is important, it is the mutual celebration of the American Family Saga that we share with interest and commemoration—that brings us together.

WARNING! That is the best word to describe a genealogy scam that has been in business for years. Have you ever received a mailing that announces the publication of "The History of The Ruffners," or "The New World Book of Ruffners," or "The Ruffners in America" and you are in it! For about 40 dollars you can get a history of our family and listings of Ruffners alive today. Ten to one, it is mailed from Bath, Ohio and contains a little picture of a family, indicating they are Ruffners and very happy. This warning, dear cousins, is that you will be paying money to someone who has copied names out of phone books and they have been duping the public for years.

A word about **EXHIBITS** at the reunion in Lancaster. Many of our cousins are bringing letters, documents, genealogical materials and artifacts to display and we urge you to follow certain guidelines. Be sure all items are marked or tagged with your name and address. Make an inventory of those items before bringing them to the Hospitality Room. Breakable or fragile items should be packed in good material. Just make sure you claim them at the close of the Reunion.

(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 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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Robert Newman Sheets

THE RUFFNER QUIZ

Okay cousins—it's time to play a little game we'll be featuring from time to time. We'll show you a picture and you have to tell us what it is and where it is. As a bonus, we'll even give you the history. Ready—

WHAT IS IT?



WHERE IS IT?

(answer on page 11)

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Bob Cochrane (desc. Benjamin) for providing the picture and the history for this object. If you have a good idea for a future "what is it—where is it?"—let us know.

Report From The Chairman

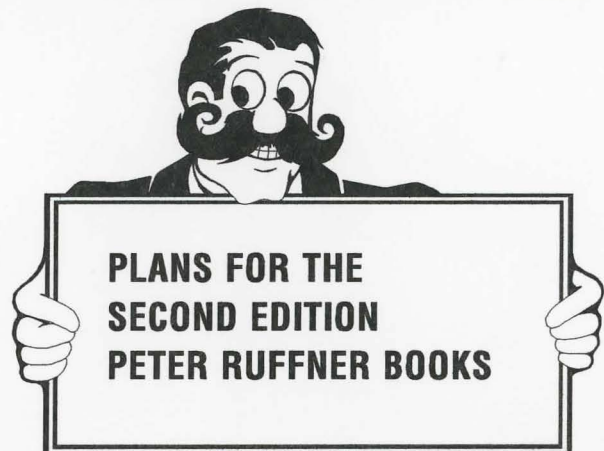
(continued from page 3)

Before our arrival in Ohio, your Organizing Committee will have adopted the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws enabling us to hold our first national election. A slate of officers will be put forward by a nominating committee with voting at the Annual Meeting during the Reunion Banquet.

I will close this report with an appeal to those of you who have yet to submit your 1999 membership dues of \$15 per year. Your volunteer committee is trying to hold down the expenses of a rapidly growing association which now has more interested addresses than dues paying members. For this low fee, you are assured a good return on an investment in our shared legacy. For such a young association, we already have an outstanding newsletter as well as holding reunions of which we can be very proud. For those of you who have already paid your dues and some who have made general contributions, we thank you. Now let's go for a goal of 100% so we can show our new officers their effort is appreciated.

Put on your thinking caps and come to the reunion with location suggestions for the 2001 event. The site and chairman will be determined at the 1999 reunion.

Have a happy Springtime and we'll see you in Ohio.■



A major undertaking of the Ruffner Family Association is the updating of the classic two volumes by Doris Laver Ruffner and Olive Taylor Ruffner, "**Peter Ruffner and His Descendants**," published in 1966 and 1969. **Shawn Williams**, a descendant of Peter Ruffner, Jr., has been appointed as Editor of the Second Edition. He lives in Catawissa, Pennsylvania with his wife Rebecca and their two year old son, Jacob. Shawn is looking for volunteers to serve as **Branch Coordinators** or **Team Leaders** to gather the data and documentation from their cousins in the lines down from the children of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. If you are interested in helping with this important project, please contact Shawn at **420 North Third Street, Catawissa, PA 17820** or Email <swilliam@husky.bloomu.edu>. Be looking for the forms to be mailed soon. Your response will be appreciated and ensure a correct and valuable family record.

Looking Forward— The 1999 Ruffner Reunion

Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, 1999 Chair

The Ruffner Cookbook—I want to personally thank all of you who submitted recipes for the cookbook. We were short of recipes coming down to the deadline—but thanks to your overwhelming response to my last minute plea, the cookbook has been sent to the printer and copies will be available at the reunion.

Separate Function Rates Set—Due to many requests, we have set up separate rates for two of the reunion events for those who cannot attend all three days. **Those wishing to attend the banquet only should pay \$17 per person and those wishing to attend the picnic only should pay \$6 per person. THESE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE AND PREPAID.**

Alternate Lodging in Lancaster—A new Hampton Inn is scheduled to open between May 1 and May 15 near the Headquarters hotel for the reunion. The toll-free number for Hampton Inns is (800) 426-7866.

Special Church Service—It has become a tradition for the Ruffner Family to participate in a service during the course of the bi-annual reunions at a church of significance to our ancestors. We are pleased to announce that the 1999 service will be held at the Lancaster (formerly Pleasant Run) Primitive Baptist Church on June 6, 1999, at 2:00pm with Elder Walter Morrow officiating. Emanuel Ruffner, Peter's youngest son, was a prominent member of the church. According to Ohio history, this church was constituted in Virginia about 1790, and came out of what was called the White House Church in Shenandoah County, VA. It was transported, in a body, to Ohio in 1805 by its founders because of their anti-slavery principles.

Reunion Exhibit—Registrants are urged to bring identifiable photos of Ruffner ancestors, newspaper articles, historical artifacts and even family keepsakes for the exhibit. Table space will be provided in the hospitality room.

I look forward to seeing you
at the reunion.

Cousin Roberta



KEEP THOSE REGISTRATIONS COMING!

1999 Genealogy Workshop

Shawn Williams, Genealogy Editor

At the request of many of our cousins who have been in attendance at our past reunions, a first time event will take place in Lancaster, Ohio. **June 7th**, the day following our 1999 Reunion, the Association is sponsoring a **Genealogy Workshop and Records Exchange Session** to be held at the historic home known as "The Georgian." It is the headquarters and museum of the Fairfield Heritage Association located in the center of the National Register Historic District known as Square 13. This beautiful Federal and Regency style home will accommodate our day long session beginning at 9:00am and ending at 5:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who are just beginning your family research or are advanced and anxious to share information. This free session will be very valuable to those wanting to learn the "How & Where" of genealogy searching. Be sure and **BRING YOUR RESEARCH** with you. Come learn from those who have been digging in the ground around our family tree. You will learn more about the branch to which you are attached. During this session, we will be giving instructions on the completion of the records and forms needed to ensure your family line is properly represented in the **Second Edition of the Peter Ruffner Books**. We will also have access to the records at the Lancaster Library and the Fairfield County Court House. If you want the facts, don't miss this special session with the experts. **It's free!**

**SIGN UP WITH BOB SHEETS, 1675 SOUTH STEELE ST.
DENVER, CO 80210 OR EMAIL: Rnsheets@aol.com**

Top 10 indicators that you've become a Gene-Aholic

- #10 You introduce your daughter as your descendant.
- #9 You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you're related.
- #8 You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
- #7 You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
- #6 You've taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
- #5 You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but also you understand it.
- #4 The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
- #3 The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1880 census index.
- #2 More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
- #1 Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

We're Home Again!

The McNeely's own story

The official deed was recorded at 12:01am on March 3, 1999. All the documents list the names of James *Ruffner* McNeely, Sr. and Judith W. McNeely—8th generation *Ruffners*—as owners of this historic property. Negotiations began in August of 1998. We fought hard, and won the war!

Our purchase consists of 23 acres, which includes the *Ruffner Burial Grounds* and *The Ruffner House*, a 4600 sq. ft. Federal Style Home, built on the original structure of Peter and Mary's home. The house was greatly enlarged in 1840 to its present structure by the Chapmans, who purchased it from a *Peter Ruffner*. The ownership of the "red brick house" has been associated with various owners of the tannery operation, which is adjacent to the property. It has been home to most of the superintendents of the Tannery. The Tannery buildings have recently been sold as well. Their future will be warehouses, we've been told.

The purchase also included the White House, circa 1900, approximately 9500 square feet, 3 barns, a spring-house, pump house, greenhouse, implement shed, schoolhouse, and other miscellaneous outbuildings.

The joys of ownership have not actually sunk in! We have had an opportunity to spend only a few days in *The Ruffner House*. What an awesome feeling to walk about the house and grounds, mingling with the spirits of one's ancestors!

With the help of Big brother, Sam, and wife, Betty, who will share some of their retirement time in Luray, we have already begun several major projects on both homes. The entire property has suffered from years of neglect, and is in desperate need of attention. The damage of a major flood to the Shenandoah Valley two years ago still remains on the property—the swimming pool sits abandoned, just a huge hole in the earth. A once stately fountain lays on its side in the center of a once awesome boxwood garden, now neglected and overgrown, as are most of the grounds. The big Barn, which is over 100 years old, needs immediate attention to protect the integrity of its structure—the springhouse needs a new roof. These are just a few projects on a very long list. *The Ruffner House* and *The White House* are long overdue for redecorating and refurbishing. We are giving thought to naming our guest rooms in honor of our mothers and grandmothers—Elizabeth, Cammie, Aileen and Frances.

The future holds hundreds of gallons of paint, a forest of lumber, hours of labor, and buckets of sweat and tears.

Sonia Croucher is the Innkeeper for *The Ruffner House*, and we are so fortunate to have her! She is actively involved in many organizations in Luray and does an outstanding job of promoting it. At the completion of our

legal business, she took us about Luray, introducing us to the town and the people. We enjoyed local restaurants, set up bank accounts and visited the Chamber of Commerce. Her tour included a visit to the *Milton House* in Stanley, where she had arranged for us to meet successful B&B owners, John and Karen Tipton. They met us with the graciousness and hospitality that one usually reads about, but rarely experiences. They spent hours of their valuable time sharing their wealth of information and experience. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

On another day, Frank and Clara Brown treated us to a delicious lunch at the *Mimslyn*, a large, renowned B&B in Luray. We had a great time of family and fellowship. Clara and Frank have been supporting us with notes of encouragement and with their prayers throughout this lengthy process. They took us to visit their own personal historic home. How delighted we were to learn we are neighbors!

On March 11, 1999, Luray's local paper, *The Page News and Courier*, featured a wonderful story, titled "*Coming Home—Nearly 160 years after being sold away, Ruffner House is back in the family.*" Reporter, Joe Farruggia did the story. He is very knowledgeable about the *Ruffners* in Luray and in West Virginia. There are a few inaccuracies in his story, but nothing major. He did not take the first note! He has been invited to join us for the return of the *Ruffners* in June, for what Bob Sheets has said will be a "Re-dedication."

We plan to continue to operate *The Ruffner House* as a Bed & Breakfast, booking the 4 guest rooms on the second floor, each with private baths, while repairing and refurbishing around the guests. The White House will continue to function as rental apartments.

(continued on page 7)



The Ruffner House

We're Home Again!

(continued from page 6)

September and October, when the leaves are at full color, are the most popular months for visitors to the Shenandoah Valley. There are many visitors to the Luray Caverns, which are open all year around.

We will be in Ohio at least 2 more years while Jim fulfills his commitment to McGrawHill, spending as much working time in Luray as possible. Then *we'll* see where *we* plan to spend *our* retirement! Our two children, Lori Ann of Sunnyvale, CA, and Jim, Jr. of Lexington, KY (recently transferred to Columbus, OH), are quite anxious to share in the joy of the new "addition" to our family. In fact, Jim, Jr. is our Marketing Manager. He will be in charge of all our advertising and promotion for the B&B. He hopes to have our Website set up soon.

Sam and Betty will share time between their home base in South Carolina, enjoying their retirement days, and enjoying Luray. We have received many offers of help from family and friends, to do what they can, when they can, to share in the repair and restoration of the houses and property. This will be an ongoing process for years to come! *Ruffner* cousins in Luray have extended their offers of help and hospitality as well. **Thank you all!!**

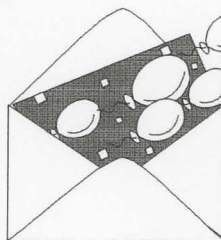
We have initiated the tedious process to have the property listed in the *National Register of Historical Places*, and with the *Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historical Landmarks*.

Please feel free to visit and tour *The Ruffner House*. Please call Sonia first so she can make arrangements.

We want to extend an invitation to the *Ruffner* Cousins who will be returning to Luray in June to visit the Monument in the *Ruffner Family Burial Grounds*, on their journey to Lancaster, OH and the homestead of *Emanuel Ruffner*, and to **ALL** cousins, to join us for an "Open House" at this time.■

**The Ruffner House not only has excellent guest accommodations, but hosts functions such as weddings, receptions, birthday parties, etc.
Call (540) 743-7855 for reservations.**

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations in this issue, the series, "**History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha**" by Charles Hedrick, will continue in the August issue of *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*.



You are cordially invited to the Re-dedication of the Peter & Mary Ruffner Homestead

Ruffner Cousins and friends are invited to join with the McNeely Family and the Ruffner Family

Association in the re-dedication of the Peter & Mary Ruffner Homestead in Luray, Virginia, **June 2, 1999, at 5:00pm** on the lawn of The Ruffner House. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception. Many of the cousins attending this event will leave the next morning on car caravan to Ohio and the 1999 RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION. Those who need overnight accommodations can call The Ruffner House (540) 743-7855 or the Ramada Inn (540) 743-4521.

DON'T MISS THIS HISTORIC EVENT!



WAGONS HO TO THE OLD OHIO

Come join our Ruffner Pilgrimage when we retrace the historic route taken by Emanuel Ruffner and his family in their migration to the Northwest Territory in 1805. The day following the re-dedication of the Ruffner Homestead, we will **depart Luray, Virginia at 8:00am** at the Ruffner House Inn. Our route will take us north crossing the Shenandoah River to Maryland where we will go west on the Old National Road, the first highway created by Congress. The historic road, now US-40, will cross the Potomac River then take us into Pennsylvania where we will stop for lunch at the Century Inn near Washington. The Inn is one of the original wagon stops on the National Road or Pike. Crossing the Ohio River at Wheeling, West Virginia, we will take the famous route known as Zane's Trace which leads through Zanesville and south to Lancaster. If you wish to join us on this historic journey on **June 3rd**, call Bob Sheets (303) 733-4935 or write to his address in this issue.

Looking Back—

The 1909 Ruffner Reunion

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the *Pleasantville News* (Ohio) on September 12, 1909. The old article has some damaged and torn sections. After an unsuccessful effort to locate an undamaged copy, we have decided to reprint the legible sections because it is so appropriate as we are about to meet 90 years later in the same location.)

Held on the Farm, Near West Rushville, Where Emanuel Ruffner Settled 104 Years Ago.

About 104 years ago there emigrated from the Shenandoah Valley, in Virginia, a family who settled on a farm about one and one-half miles west of West Rushville now owned by Mary Ann Friend.

The family was a large one consisting of eleven children, five boys and six girls, namely John, Henry, Jacob, Emanuel and Joseph; Barbara, Anna, Mary, Elizabeth, Magdalena and Susan. The head of this great family was Emanuel Ruffner, who was born in Virginia in 1757 and died on the farm where he settled, in 1848 at the advanced age of 91 years.

The descendants of this old man held their first annual reunion on the farm that he settled, and near the little cemetery where he lies buried, on September 11, 1909.

During the hour before noon an organization was perfected for the continuation of these reunions to be held annually at a stated time and place that we may reap the manifold advantages of knowing those of our clan or people in a social commingling together.

.....I don't think I ever witnessed in any gathering before more universally cheerful, happy and bright beaming faces than I witnessed when looking down that long table in the midst of the noonday repast.

The afternoon was spent in short addresses and excellent music which seemed to inspire all to that higher plain of thought.

Notably among the addresses was the one given by Uncle David Pence, who is now in his 87th year. He spoke for a considerable length of time on the pioneer life he went through, a time we of this generation know nothing about. One important lesson he taught in that talk was, that he had lived this long life and never quarreled with any of his fellow men. Though he often differed in opinion with men but never allowed that difference to grow into a quarrel stage.

There were present at the reunion five persons, the average of whose age was more than 83 years, the five persons respectively, David Pence, Samuel Smutz, Edward Stevenson, Elizabeth Friend and Mary Ann Friend. Others

in the seventies were Dr. B.A. Thomas and wife and C.D. Smutz.

While there were many who could not be present in person yet their deep interest prompted them to be there by letter and as they said in spirit.

Appended will be found some of the families living in the Fairfield County, Ohio, and other states who are direct descendants of Emanuel Ruffner. Through his sons come the families of David, John, Jonas, Isaac and Jacob, all heads of large families. The sisters of the last three mentioned being Barbara Tussing, Magdalena Holliday, Mary Henthorn, Anna Crist, Rebecca Smutz, and Emily Rowles. These also represent large families.

The daughters of Joseph, son of Emanuel Sr. are Mary Ann and Elizabeth Friend. Through his daughters we have the Pences, T.P. Ashbrook family, Millers, Stakers, Falls, Spitlers, Weavers, Kraners, Warners, Taylors, Smiths, Rislers, Eymans, McNaghtens, there being three families of them, T.J., Owen, and Noah, Collins, Claytons, Bakers, Kellers, Shavers, Caldwells, Hites, Rigbys and Medills.

The names given are those whose ages would average more than in years, whose children and children's children were they to meet together, would form a multitude of people.

Our next reunion will be held the same place it was held this year on the first Wednesday in August, 1910.

After singing "Blessed be the tie that binds," the reunion became a thing of the past and will only remain in memory as one long and pleasing thought. ■

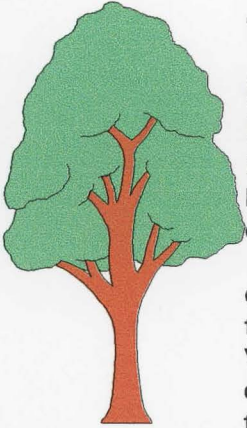
*Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain
but we shall still be joined in heart
and hope to meet again.*

*John Fawcett
1740-1817*

DO YOU HAVE A QUERY?

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings will publish it. Please include as much information as possible, e.g. person's name, parents' names, spouse's name, known birth, marriage and death dates. Include your name, mailing and/or e-mail address.



THE OLD ELM TREE

(From *Peter Ruffner and His Descendants* by Doris Laver Ruffner and Olive Taylor Ruffner December 1966.)

Doris and Olive told the legend of Emanuel and his family when they reached the Fairfield County land he had purchased. While they could not subscribe to the entire tale being correct, they did feel it could be essentially correct.

"In Fairfield County, between the towns of Pleasantville and Rushville, there stands a large, stately elm tree which is attached to the history of three generations of one family. In the year 1805, just two years after the State of Ohio had been admitted into the Union, there began from the State of Virginia westward the pilgrimage of the family of the pioneer, Emanuel Ruffner. At that time the country west of the Alleghenies was practically a wilderness. Indians, a few with a brotherly feeling toward the white man, but the majority with bitter hatred toward the usurper of their hunting grounds, roamed the forests. No family group ever lay down at night without their guns in their hands. Thru this wilderness, over mountains and down into valleys, the family of Emanuel Ruffner journeyed on horseback one summer, seeking a new home. Mrs. Ruffner rode the entire trip on horseback with a tiny baby in her arms.⁽¹⁾ There were several other children partly grown in the group. Coming up thru southern Ohio, the family at last reached the fertile acres of what now constitutes Fairfield County. As a long day drew to a close, the weary group came upon a huge elm tree, standing majestically in the midst of its brothers in the great forest that then covered this County. Its great branches seemed to hold out a loving welcome to the tired travelers, and they decided to spend the night there.

As they were preparing their simple camp supper, Mr. Ruffner chanced to spy a herd of graceful brown deer watering at some hidden fount not many yards distant. Upon investigation he discovered a flowing spring of clear, cold water. The decision was reached that night to make this spot their future home. The next morning Mr. Ruffner and his elder sons began the work of clearing the woodland about the spring and hewing the timber for the cabin. But the great elm was spared, not only because of its size and beauty, but because of its being the factor in the location of their new home. Tradition tells us that a treaty with the Indians for that section of land was made under the elm tree. (Note—the land was **not** bought from the Indians, but Emanuel is said to have signed a treaty giving the Indians hunting rights.)"

Doris and Olive recount "when Emanuel and his family came to Fairfield County it was a dense forest, a wilderness of oak, walnut, ash, elm, sugar maple, locust, mulberry and hickory, with a thick undergrowth of pawpaw, wild plum, black haw, grape vines and spice wood. The old elm tree under which the family camped, as related above, had branches which covered a space of ground 104 feet in diameter. This was virgin forest and trees of such fantastic size were commonplace—so history tells us."

"It is the belief of some of the family that Emanuel's first Ohio home was the cabin now at the rear of the lovely brick home (Ruffner/Rowles house) which presently stands on the land close by the Ruffner-Friend Cemetery. This can hardly be true since that particular tract of land was not purchased by Emanuel until 1807, and he certainly arrived in Ohio no later than 1805. Therefor (*sic*) it is most logical to assume that the cabin in question is the second in which he and his family lived." ■

⁽¹⁾ History would indicate that Emanuel and his family arrived in a Conestoga wagon. It was Emanuel's oldest daughter, Barbara Ruffner Pence who traveled from Virginia on horseback in 1807 carrying her baby on a pillow.

(Editor's Note: Doris and Olive report that the "Old Elm Tree" died 15 or 20 years prior to 1966, but they did save some wood from it.)



Emanuel Ruffner Cabin



In the Kitchen

with a Ruffner Descendant

The following article about Colonel Robert Cochrane, Ph.D. (desc. Benjamin) is from the *South Bend (Indiana) Tribune*, January 25, 1999.

Leftovers take boredom out of pancakes

by Judy Bradford

Sure, you can go to the store, buy a boxed mix and make pancakes.

"But that would take all the fun out of making them yourself," says Bob Cochrane, who has been collecting pancake recipes for 40 years.

He's the author of "Pancakes and More," a self-published cookbook that he wrote in 1991. Some of the more interesting recipes are ones using ingredients that might be leftovers: Rice, sour cream, bread crumbs or beer. Breakfast is not a fancy meal, but it is essential, as the author notes in his book.

"Breakfast time at our house is not, as a rule, the time for lavish display of food and drink," he wrote. "Enough simple, nourishing food to keep body and soul together until lunchtime has always seemed more in order."

He started making pancakes out of necessity. His wife, Martha, who died three years ago, was a wonderful homemaker, "but it took a long time for her to get moving in the morning." He soon found that if he wanted anything to eat before work, he'd have to fix it himself.

Cochrane is retired from Cole Associates and the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He has also been an educator in Oregon, California and Colorado. Soon, he'll publish the second edition of his pancake cookbook, which contains many amusing anecdotes and facts about pancakes and food in general.

To him, food is fun. "When I got my doctorate (in 1953, from Peabody College in Nashville), people said 'Oh, now you can write books!' I said, 'Baloney.' But a cookbook, now I always thought that would be fun."

The second edition of his cookbook is nearly ready for print. Here are some of the recipes:

RICE GRIDDLE CAKES

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 cup flour | 1 cup milk |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 1 egg |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 1 tablespoon vegetable oil |
| 1 cup boiled rice | |

Combine dry ingredients. Mix together the milk, egg and oil. Add liquid mix to dry mix. Add boiled rice and stir well. Bake on a medium hot griddle.

SOUR CREAM PANCAKES

- ½ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 eggs

Combine dry ingredients in a mixing bowl. Beat eggs thoroughly and blend in with the sour cream. Stir into dry mix. Bake on a moderately hot griddle.

BEER PANCAKES

- 3¾ cups flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon sugar
- 2 cups milk
- ½ cup beer
- 4 eggs, separated

Beat egg yolks thoroughly while slowly adding milk, beer, sugar and salt. Stir in flour. Beat into a smooth batter. Beat egg whites stiff and fold into batter. Cook over medium heat on well-greased griddle.

BREAD CRUMB GRIDDLE CAKES

- 1 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¾ teaspoon grated orange peel
- 2 cups milk
- 3 eggs, separated
- 2 tablespoons oil

Mix bread crumbs with 1 cup of the milk and set aside until the milk is absorbed. Grate orange peel. Mix together the egg yolks with the remaining cup of milk and the oil.

Combine the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, orange peel, baking powder and salt.

Add the liquid mix to the dry mix and stir well. When batter is smooth, fold in the stiffly-beaten egg whites. Bake on a medium-hot and lightly-greased griddle. ■

Have any recent newspaper article about yourself or a member of your family? We'd love to reprint it. Include ancestor's name, name of newspaper and date with your submission.

ANSWER TO RUFFNER QUIZ (from page 4)

What is it? The Ruffner Monument

Erected in 1882 by the Ashland County Historical Society, the monument marks the burial site of Martin Ruffner, Frederick Zimmer, and the latter's wife and daughter. These pioneers were killed on this spot, September 10, 1812, by Delaware Indians.

Where is it? Ashland County, Ohio

The Ruffner Monument is one mile south of Mifflin, Ohio on the east side of State Route 603. It stands on sloping ground bordering Seymour's Run. (Zimmer is translated in English as Seymour, thus Seymour's Run.)

History—

Martin Ruffner, son of Benjamin Ruffner, Sr. and Catherine Burner, was born in Shenandoah County, VA. He moved to Fairfield County, OH in 1807 after the death of his father. Accompanying him were his step-mother Elizabeth Heistand Ruffner, his half-brother Michael, and a sister who was the wife of Richard Hughes. In 1809, he returned to Virginia and married Margaret Newman, daughter of Walter Newman, a wealthy plantation owner. The newlyweds returned to Fairfield County, where, in 1810, their son, Walter Newman Ruffner, was born. In 1812, Martin and his family, accompanied by his step-mother, step-brother and the Hughes migrated to Ashland County. In the spring of 1812, Martin and his brother-in-law erected cabins for their families about a half mile west of Mifflin. Their nearest neighbors were Frederick Zimmer, his wife, daughter Catherine and son Philip. Other close neighbors were the James Copus and James Lambright families.

On September 10, 1812, Michael Ruffner met two well-armed Indians on the trail between Martin's and Mr. Zimmer's cabins. They seemed friendly and asked if the Zimmers were at home. He replied, they were and continued toward his step-brother's home. Upon arrival, he told Martin of the meeting. Martin suspected trouble—took down his gun—mounted a fast horse, and hurriedly rode to warn Zimmer and the other settlers. He arrived at the Zimmer home before the Indians and sent Philip Zimmer to warn James Copus and James Lambright, who accompanied Philip back to the Zimmer cabin. By now it was evening, and finding no lights or sign of life, Copus slightly pressed against the cabin door. He placed his hand on the floor of the cabin and found it wet with blood. Afraid to enter, he ran back to Lambright and Philip who were concealed a short distance away. Fearing for Philip's safety, Lambright and Copus convinced the distraught young man to accompany them. The three then journeyed to a block-house to sound the alarm. The next morning, the men, accompanied by a number of well armed soldiers,

proceeded to the cabins of Ruffner and Hughes.

Finding them undisturbed, the group hurried down the trail to the Zimmer cabin. Inside they found Mr. Zimmer, his wife and daughter Catherine, all dead and scalped. They found Martin in the yard. It was apparent he had made a desperate effort to save the Zimmer family. His gun was nearly bent double and he had lost several fingers in the struggle. He had been shot twice through the body and scalped. The attack must have been very sudden and unexpected; for Martin, with his trusty rifle, would have been more than a match for just two Indians. There can be little doubt that the attack was carried out by many more than two.

Five days after the Ruffner-Zimmer murders, James Copus, his family and three soldiers were also slain by Indians. It seems that a broken promise was the underlying cause of both the Ruffner-Zimmer and Copus murders. James Copus enjoyed a favorable relationship with the Indians in that vicinity. They trusted him and he was not afraid of them.

In the War of 1812, after the surrender of Hull's army at Detroit, there was widespread fear that the Indians who had been used by the British forces would continue to harass the settlers in Ohio and American troops were organized to protect the settlers.

It was decided to relocate a settlement of Delaware Indians away from their homes in Greentown. To effect this relocation without fighting, the officer in charge of the troops persuaded James Copus to meet with the Indians.

An agreement was reached. The Indians were promised that their rights, lives and property would be protected. The Indians were moved to a location near the present site of Mansfield. In looking back as they were traveling, the Indians saw their entire village being burned by the troops left behind to guard the village.

The Hon. Henry C. Hedges of Mansfield at the unveiling of the Ruffner Monument said, "Martin Ruffner over whose dust and in whose memory we here and now unveil this monument at a distance of seventy years from the date of his tragic death in his heroic, but hopeless defense of the Zimmer family, was no common man, no ordinary personage. It is sad to contemplate what possibilities of good to and for all the settlers of the valleys of the Mohican in the early days of perplexity, distress and danger were forever lost by his death.....His was a nature free from the uneasy or painful emotion produced by an apprehension of danger, on the contrary he was fearless and bold.....A man of wonderful physical strength, endurance and activity, of large kind heart and generous soul, in every fact such a one as we would look for if we were seeking a pioneer, one who goes before to remove obstructions and prepare the way for others."■



In Memoriam

Josephine "Jo" Ruffner Freckman, 83, of Park Hills, Kentucky, departed from us at 4:10 a.m. Wednesday, January 6, 1999, at Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. She was a homemaker.

Her husband, Henry L. Freckman Sr., died in 1983. A son, Henry L. Freckman Jr., and a daughter, Betty Jo Freckman Stewart, also preceded her in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Judy Ann Hartke of Fairfield, CA; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jo was a descendant of Joseph and a member of the Ruffner Family Association.



The Old Burying Ground by E. C. Dolson

*The sunken graves are marked with names
unknown,
and tangled grass and bindweed festoons grow
About each quaint, old-fashioned, slanting stone
Set here long ago.*

*Yet, dreamily, warm summer air floats by,
Where human footsteps now but seldom press.
And here the unremembered sleepers lie
In sweet forgetfulness.*

? QUERIES ?

Seeking information on William D. **RUFFNER**, b. 1847, Westmoreland County, PA; m. Jane Elizabeth **CHRISTY** (b.1852/55 Turtle Creek, Allegheny, PA; d. 10-4-1875 Greensburg, Westmoreland, PA) March 16, 1871, Westmoreland Co., PA. Two children: Laura Ann Christy **RUFFNER** m. Walter Ferguson **JOHNSTON** 4/20/1891, and Susan **RUFFNER** b. 1875, Westmoreland, PA. Please respond to **Barbara McCormick**, 2918 Arthur, Kingman, AZ 86401; phone (520) 753-5174; email: southpaw@ctaz.com. Thank you!

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



As I complete this fourth issue of Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, I want to ex-press my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed stories, announcements, newspaper articles and pictures. You have made my job a lot easier. I hope you all will participate and continue to participate by keeping the "news" coming. Please send your submissions 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, TXT or WP format. I would prefer receiving photos by regular mail. They will be returned as soon as they are scanned. Include your name, address and descendency (Peter's son/daughter) with your submission. Thanks for reading!

Your loving cousin & editor,

Joan

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