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11-14-1965

### Mrs. Caleb Ruffner Correspondence

Doris Ruffner

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Answered  
1-16-73  
LGR

4997 Terry Drive  
Ventura, Calif  
November 13, 1972

Dear Mrs Ruffner,

Thank you  
for your letter.

I am so sorry to hear of the  
sad news about Olive. I  
know how grieved you must  
be. I enjoyed her letters, about  
re search and family history.

I was Zelma Hood and  
Thilcox was my name until  
I re married last April.

I am the grand daughter  
of Joseph Hood and his third  
wife. Joseph was a son  
of Nehemiah and Eve Ruffner  
Hood - page 49 (I believe) in  
the Ruffner book.

Olive told me of the  
plans for the second Supplement.

I sent her the information  
on my family - She made a copy

2 in the form you used in  
the Ruffner book. This  
copy was in the back of  
the lost book.

I will be so grateful if  
you can have another copy  
made for me to replace it.

I sent to Frederick Ruffner  
this morning for another  
set of books.

Olive said Volume three  
was very questionable - but  
she was writing it as it  
came to her. I hope you  
can finish the second  
Supplement. I know she  
wavered like that.

Please let me know if there  
is any change in Olive condition.  
My sympathy goes to you and  
her family.

Cordially

Zelma Whiteside

Feb. 3 -

Dear Dix & C.

I'm sorry I have neglected writing.

What a winter we have had. We have had 3 snows wind & cold. The sun is shining this morning.

We talked with Pally one night last week & they had only 5-6 in. snow. Our 3 accumulated about 25 inches. The wind has been terrific. Drifts every where and people stranded. We are due more bad weather this week-end.

Well I started this days ago -

We are now in <sup>Ksburg</sup> Frederickburg Va. Jacob is still with con. work. We go home on week-ends.

Emma Rebecca  
married

Leo Brubaker  
Children

Vergiea Frances - Ernest Logg <sup>married</sup>

Thelma Rebecca - Ray Judd

Daniel William - Cora Lee  
Seckford

---

Jacob Daniel married

Frances S. Baldwin -  
Children

Nelson S. Died age 3yr - 10 mo.

Doris Marie - married

Edgar M. Whiting II

Jane Walton m -

Richard P. Lucas

Sue Rebecca m -

Louis W. Housden

Pally married

Jon Dee Hershberger

Hope you can read this  
with all the mistakes I've made

Love Frances

I will begin with Jacob's  
sisters since he is the youngest.  
Elizabeth married Ashby Dofflemeyer  
children don't know who they  
all married

## Loyd      Ralph      Sybil  
Eda      Lynn      George  
Pearl      Ruth

---

Mable ~~Clair~~ <sup>Clara</sup> married  
Martin Shirley  
children

Virginia Ellen <sup>married</sup> Pennington  
William Abraham      " "      don't know

Rubin Martin  
~~Clair~~ Clara Elizabeth  
Mary Catherine -      <sup>Francis B. Brown</sup>  
Kauffman Lou

---

Edna Virginia      married  
Isaac Turner  
children  
Elizabeth - married Dalton Setz  
Edna - married

Raymond Martin

Wellston, Ohio  
March, 20, 1966

Dear Mrs. Ruffner;

Will you please forgive my negligence in not answering. I was ill all fall and did get back to normal until last of January. Somewhere along the line your letter was misplaced and only recently found it when cleaning a drawer. A few days later your second letter arrived.

Will do my best to answer your questions according to information I have. The children of Isaac and Christena Stewart Ruffner were

David - He was living in Trumbull Co at time of birth death.

John  
Mary Catherine

Isaac  
Stuart  
Samuel

Thomas

Edward + twin

Christena was standing in front of large stone fire place when quite unexpectedly the twin arrived and was killed as the head hit the stone hearth. Imagine Uncle Ed was born quite properly in bed.

Edward Ruffner + Minnie Shaw Ruffner

had two daughters;

Irene - Who was born Feb 21, 1896 Died Feb 22 '07

Eldred - Born Feb. 13 1900

2

Eldred married Raymond Hartman Treffinger  
September 3, 1922. They have three children  
Theodore, Karl, <sup>Edward - Born Oct 21, 1927</sup> and Carolyn and I think  
Each child has two children. Karl I think  
is living in Berkeley California -  
Eldred could give you much information  
but at present is unable to write well. But  
I imagine would enjoy a visit and could  
tell you much.

As to my immediate family

Name - John Lewis Ruffner

Born - Aug. 25, 1859 near Rushville, Ohio

Died - Feb 25, 1937

Parents - Isaac Ruffner and Christena Stewart

Married - Laura Bruce Rush, Oct. 3, 1893 (Born Jan 19, 1867)

Died - Aug. 14, 1947

Parents - Morgan Rush and Josephine B. Wilson

### Children

1. Irma - Unmarried - Born <sup>at Galena Kans</sup> Sept. 7, 1894 - Died <sup>July 9</sup> in 1950  
Worked as a librarian in Cleveland, Ohio  
Was an O.W.U. graduate also had  
a degree from Western Reserve - <sup>at Galena Kansas</sup> Phi Beta Kappa
2. Lois - Unmarried - Born Jan 23, 1896 - Died  
Aug. 9, 1963 at Oakland Calif and buried  
there. An O.W.U. graduate and Masters  
from University of Chicago - Was head  
of Math dept. in Oakland's largest H.S.  
Was a Phi Beta Kappa -
3. Morgan - Aug 8 - 1903 - Elfton Indian Territory  
His first wife Myrtle Schering died Jan 23, 1929  
at Salem Ohio -

4

Since my husband's death I live alone and although it is a lonely at times I have much for which I am thankful, with wonderful children and grandchildren - I keep very busy with much volunteer welfare work - I have headed the local Clothing Bank for past seven years - Church and Club work, besides managing some rental property and my garden.

I do hope this rambling letter will be of some use to you - Am wondering just what the relationship between our two families is -

I have a history of the Ruffners that Eldred Seffinger compiled & sent me years ago - I would be glad to lend it to you if you wish

Sincerely  
Christine Martindill



November 14, 1965

name received from  
Mrs George Bryant Jr.  
2844 Arizona Ave.  
N.W. Washington D.C. 20016

Mrs Margaret Zink  
5332 Wakefield Road  
Green Acres  
Washington D.C. 20016

Dear Mrs Zink:

To introduce myself I am Doris Ruffner-  
Mrs Caleb Ruffner of Pleasantville, Ohio. A Sister-in-  
law-and I have been getting together a history of  
Peter Ruffner and his descendants.

We have amassed a great deal of information from  
from Texas, California, Virginia to New York, but are  
always looking for more.

My husband and I stopped this Fall at  
several towns in Illinois in search of information  
on Michael and Emanuel Ruffner 2nd. It was while we  
were in Greenup, Illinois that we obtained the infor-  
mation needed on Abraham Lincoln Ruffner.

We think we have your family fairly well  
tied into the past, but would greatly appreciate your  
tracing it back as far as you possibly can.

Here is some of the information we have  
on your family so far-

Peter Ruffner- the pioneer was born in Switzerland  
approx 1713, and was just a young man when he came  
from Hanover, Germany to America-in fact he ran away  
from a University in Switzerland to seek his fortune.  
An only sister Mary had married Abraham Strickler and  
lived in Massanutten, Spotsylvania County, Pa. The  
Strickler geneology published in the year 1925 called  
" Forerunners" gives information as to the early Stricklers  
and Ruffners of Virginia. The year 1739 Peter Ruffner  
married Mary Steinman, she was born in 1714, and they  
settled on land given to them by her father on the  
Hawksbille in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. They had  
eight children-

Joseph Ruffner, Benjamin Ruffner, Catherine Ruffner,  
Peter Jr. Ruffner, Reuben Ruffner, Tobias Ruffner,  
Elizabeth Ruffner and Emanuel Ruffner.

Your line of the family comes down from his second son  
Benjamin and our through the youngest son Emanuel.  
Peter died in 1778 and his wife Mary in 1798 and are  
buried in Luray, Virginia.

Benjamin Ruffner was born August 14, 1742 in the Shenan-  
doah Valley-was married first to a Burner and second to  
a Heistand- They had twelve children-He died 1807.

By first wife- Peter Ruffner, Benjamin Ruffner 2nd. Mary  
Ruffner, Regina Ruffner, Martin Ruffner and Ann Ruffner  
By second Wife- Emanuel Ruffner, Reuben Ruffner, Abraham  
Ruffner, Barbara Ruffner, Michael Ruffner and Elizabeth  
Ruffner .

It appears that Benjamin Ruffner was a member of Michael Rader's Company of Militia in 1775 as we find a "Bengeman Rufner" with that Company in a camp near Fort Pitt on October 7, 1775. (his is probably where his son Michael received his name)

Michael Ruffner was born August 24, 1798 died September 15, 1877. Martin and Michael Ruffner were half brothers- Martin married Margaret Newman, was killed by the Indians in Ohio, his widow and son Walter moved to Illinois. We find Michael Ruffner living in Ohio at an early age, his father died when he was near ten so it follows that he stayed near to his brothers and sisters- Regina married David Brumback settled near Baltimore, Ohio - and we find most all of his brothers and sister living in Ohio. Emanuel Ruffner his uncle (our line) settled near Rushville, Ohio Richland County, Ohio. Michael Ruffner first married a girl by the name of Louisa Coulson of Rushville, Ohio- she died a year or so after marriage- no heirs- he later moved with his father-in-law to Baltimore, Ohio where in business together. Here he married Sarah Nichols on Feb. 18, 1836 and near the year 1839 moved also to Illinois. There were children of this marriage- but I do not know their names. Near the year 1848 he married a Jane Westall Born March 31, 1827 and had four children;

Born May 23, 1850	Hiram Ruffner	no heirs	Died <del>Oct. 4, 1863</del> <sup>1923 or so</sup>
Born March 11, 1853	Eliza Ellen Ruffner		died Sept 1 - 1906
Born Sept. 27, 1859	Laura Belle Ruffner		Died June 22, 1860
Born Oct. 4, 1863	Abraham Lincoln Ruffner		died 1938

Eliza Ellen Ruffner married on March 13, 1874 John Clement Freeman and they had six children-

Born June 13, 1875	Susan Freeman	- um Franklin Spenny
Born 1879	Margaret Eisenman	- Edward Zink
Born Dec. 23, 1883	Elsie Freeman	- unmarried died 2/18/1963
Born	Iva Freeman	- Otis Wedges
Born	Arthur Freeman	- unmarried
Born March 1877	Guy C. Freeman	- (died in infancy)

Mrs Elsie Bryant sent me the information I needed on Susan Freeman and her kin, and it was through her that I received your name and address, The name Zink is not new to us as my husband had an uncle William Ruffner married a Matilda Zink of Lancaster, Ohio.

We would like any dates you might have- Would you have the names of Michael's children by his second wife? dates of births, of deaths, marriages, children, present addresses- as far as you can go in your own immediate family, or any interesting event of the Ruffner Clan. We have been working on the Ruffner history for years. It is now being readied for publish- they will only be a few copies made- this is not a money making scheme- we are only thinking of the value of this information for the future generations and hope to place the copies in a few of our historical libraries. We need all the

Born in Virginia  
Michael was  
dead census 1880

Born 1827

from Virginia

John Clement  
Freeman born in  
Indiana

Born in Illinois

information you might have-

Will need information on Margaret Freeman-Elsie Freeman-  
Iva Freeman-Arthur Freeman and Guy C. Freeman-

May we please hear from you.

Most sincerely,

Mrs Caleb A. Ruffner  
Pleasantville, Ohio

P.S. On going over the file on Martin Ruffner, I find  
that Michael, a sister, and his mother came to Ohio  
with his brother Martin.

Elizabeth A. Spenny

6<sup>th</sup> Gen from Peter thru Emanuel

m  
Charles Spenny 8/3/1885

November 10, 1965

① Nellie - Hesser

② Helen - Hesser

from Spenny family, Meigs Co., Ill.

Dear Doris:

This is going to be piece meal as I am working part-time at my church and can't always keep at it. I feel a little bit like I am cheating the Lord. My typewriter at home is a portable and the one here is electric. However, I was glad to hear from you. I have always wanted to do this family, but I was so stymied on my own that I have not done much recently. I was in Richmond one day.

As for Eliza Ellen Ruffner, I can only say my aunt here in Washington has her bible, but I have not been able to get it from her. I still have hopes of getting her to give it to some Geneological Society or at least where it can be used by all. I will try again. I do think a letter from you to her would remind her of the importance of giving it to someone or organization like this to preserve it. She is very old and time is short. Also she prides herself on dates, but I must say she is not always accurate although she is my only source now. My mother is living, but senile and never did seem to know too much about families. She seemed to think it was silly.

I took the following from the Bible:

	<u>Birth</u>		<u>Died</u>
Ruffner, Dr. Michael	8/24/1798		9/15/1877
<u>Children</u>			
Hiram S. or L.	5/23/1850	5/17/22	1923 or so?
Eliza Ellen	3/11/1853		9/1/1906
Laura Belle	9/27/1859		6/22/1860
Abramam Lincoln	10/4/1863		1938

Eliza Ellen Ruffner married John Clement Freeman (my grandparents) March 13, 1874. She was a member of the United Brethern Church, but later became a Methodist.

The Freeman children:

	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Died</u>
Susan Freeman	6/13/1875	Wm. Franklin Spenny	
Margaret Freeman		Edward Zink	
Elsie Freeman	12/23/1883	unmarried	2/18/1963
Iva Freeman		Otis Hedges	
Arthur Freeman		unmarried	
Guy C. Freeman	3/1877		I believe he died in infancy

Susan Freeman Spenny and Wm. Franklin Spenny (my parents)

<u>Children</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Died</u>
Wm. Freeman	1/10/1905	Sally Tennyson	2/28/69

Their Children

Sallyann Tennyson  
Susan Holbrook  
Sanford She is married

They live at 1169 Villa Avenue, Belmont, California. My brother died there in San Mateo. I seldom hear from them.

Children of Susan Freeman and Wm. Franklin Spenny (continued)

	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Died</u>
Elsie Frances	12/14/1906	Geo. Badger Bryant, Jr.	

Their Children

III			
Geo. Badger, Jr.	12/07/38	Mardge Etta Lupton	married 7/28/61

One son born May 28, 1962 -	George Badger, IV	
Ross Freeman Bryant 1/3/43	unmarried	in college
Reginald Spenny 2/5/1910	unmarried	

In this same Bible it says she had two brothers and two half sisters. I know nothing about them, but will see what I can find out.

Otis Hedges and Iva Spenny Hedges had one daughter Doris Hedges Murray and she lives here so I will talk to her, and ask her to send you the information on her mother.

Also Raymond Zink, son of Margaret <sup>Spenny</sup> and Edward Zink lives here with his mother and he can send you what he knows. I will see them both right away.

Now in this same Bible was the following:

Westall, Elizabeth Jane Born - 3/31/1827<sup>8</sup> Died - 4/5/1892/ I think this was Eliza Ellen's mother and so her maiden name would be westall or Westhall.

One day I was going thru the Perry County, Ohio Census (1830) at the Archives for other things and found a notation on a

James Westhall or Westall

- 1 male child under 16
- 1 male ~~child under 20~~ over 30 and under 40
- 1 female under 5
- 1 female under 10
- 1 female over 30 and under 40

There was in this household a Jonathan Freeman. It seems to me my grandfather lived with the Westall family. It also seems to me I have heard Aunt Margaret say he was left an orphan.

Then you might like to know I found the following: in Heads of Families

Berks County, Pa. 1790	(near Reading, Pa./)
Conrad Ruffner	page 31
Peter "	" "
George "	" 32

<u>Virginia Census - 1783</u>	<u>White</u>
Ruffner, Benjamin	8
" Emanuel	4
" Peter	9
" Ruben	6
" Joseph	

*This has never been pursued further just took it down when seeing the name*

Virginia Census - 1785

White

Shanadoah County	
Ruffner, Rubin	5
Princess Anne County	
Ruffner, Mary	3
Ruffner, Benjamin	10
Ruffner, Peter	7

*This is again only information I happened on - However, there was and still is a German settlement in Shanadoah Co*

I am delighted you wrote to me. I love to try to fit the pieces together. However, I have not had good luck on my own Spenny family. The will of the original one was lost in a will book during the Civil War. There is a Reverend Loren Spenny in Dayton who is very much interested and has tried hard also. There are many of this family in Ohio.

I was in England twice last year and found what I think is the first marriage of this James Spenny, but as yet I have not been able to prove. There is also a town there called "Spennymoor." ~~xxx~~ I thought I had a man in Richmond to look up Land Grants for me, but I have not heard from him. Since working I do not have much time even though I do not work every day. I do hope to take the course on Geneological Research given at American University next year.

In the meantime while waiting to hear from me please write to

Mrs. Margaret Zink (my aunt)  
5332 Wakefield Road  
Green Acres  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Tell her the importance of preserving the Bible where all can use it.

Again I am glad you wrote and I will get busy once again and certainly go talk to Aunt Margaret. As I said before, the time is short.

Sincerely,

*Elin Bryant*

Pleasantville, Ohio  
Oct. 13, 1965

Mrs Rachel Robinson  
13250 Fairfield Lane  
Apt. 173 L  
Seal Beach, California 90740

Dear Mrs Robinson:

I was anxiously awaiting your letter and was very excited receiving it, every little bit of information I acquire is like finding a pearl- its such a thrill putting together bits and pieces of our family history, it is very intriguing I can assure you.

I did send you a post card (many years ago) right after being married into the Ruffner family, my husband the youngest of his generation was elected President of the Coplin-Ruffner Reunion and of course I was elected to take over the secretary's job. This reunion finally dwindled out-not held any more.

The Paul Ruffner you requested I get in touch with is my brother in law, he has been collecting material for many years but hasn't got any of it in shape where we can really get much information-I talked to him last Sunday, in fact he read your letter and as to the information I need he somehow has either lost it or has it tucked so far away that we couldn't find it, anyways it looks like I am going to have to call again on you for this information.

This is what we have so far as to your family.

Your great, great, great grandfather was Peter Ruffner-Born 1713 Approx. Died 1778 married year 1739 to Mary Steinman, she was born 1714 died 1798. They had eight children:

Joseph Ruffner

Benjamin Ruffner -----

Catherine Ruffner

Peter Jr. Ruffner

Reuben Ruffner

Tobias Ruffner

Elizabeth Ruffner

Emanuel Ruffner ----- Your line comes down from his second son Benjamin, and ours through his youngest son Emanuel

Benjamin Ruffner was born Aug. 14, 1742 in Shenandoah Valley, Died 1807 Was married first to a Burner, married second to a Heistand. He had twelve children:

By first wife-

Peter Ruffner 2nd.

Benjamin Ruffner 2nd.

Mary Ruffner

Regina Ruffner

Martin Ruffner -----

Ann Ruffner

By second wife-

Emanuel Ruffner

Reuben Ruffner

Abraham Ruffner

Barbara Ruffner

Michael Ruffner ----- 8-24-1798

Elizabeth Ruffner

Martin Ruffner and Michael Ruffner were half brothers- Martin Ruffner married MARGARET NEWMAN, he was killed by the Indians and his widow and only son Walter Ruffner moved to Illinois.

yes 8-24-1798

Michael Ruffner was born in the Shenandoah Valley approx year 1785 He came to Ohio and first lived in Rushville, Ohio married a girl by the name of Louisa Coulson, but she died a year after marriage and he later moved to Baltimore, Ohio and married a girl from there I believe she was raised by a family named Morris, but am not sure of her maiden name. This is the same Michael Ruffner that later settled in Illinois and we have as your great grandfather.

was Sarah Nichols - they were married Feb 18, 1836  
Michael Ruffner Heirs

third wife was Jane Westall

Abraham Lincoln Ruffner Born ~~Approx 1350~~ Oct 4-1863  
Hiram Ruffner - Born 5-23-1850  
ELIZA " married John Freeman

(Were there any other children ? )

yes by 2nd wife

2 girls

Nellie Tutwiler

Abraham Lincoln Ruffner Married  
HEIRS

Bonnie Ruffner Born 9-6-1886 died 4/5/23 never married  
Glen Ruffner " 7-21-1889 married Lela Rhoades  
Harley M. Ruffner " 5-29-1891 - died 2/1/61 never married  
Rachel Ruffner " 8-11/1895 married George Robinson  
Mildred Graham Ruffner - June 14, 1904 died June 1950  
Thomas Ruffner - (lived only 2 or 3 years) Born 1896  
John " - Born 1897 died in infancy

As you see we have none of this information, we believe that Glen has a son living in New York-is this correct? Did the rest of your brothers and sisters have families? and do you have any children? Just a lot of questions unanswered.

Glen the only one that had children Rossine born 5/30/1913  
Glen Jr. " 1/24/1919

A few years ago, my husband and I visited in Luray, Virginia which is located on the Hawksbill, visited and went through the home of Peter Ruffner- Benjamin also lived on the Big Hawksbill in the home now owned by Warren E. Frank. It is very long with the north end built into a hill sheltered from the northern blasts. There is a lot of stonework in the first floor. The large kitchen with it's huge fireplace faces south. The next room going toward the hill is the dining room, and back of that is the cellar which is mostly underground. The superstructure is partly log, partly frame. It appears that Benjamin was a member of Michael Rader's Company of Militia in 1775 as we find a "BENGEMAN RUFNER" with that company in a camp near Fort Pitt on October 7, 1775. (this is probably were his son Michael received his name) michael was 10 when his father died.

I also purchased a book " Old Homes" of Page County, Virginia published by Jennie Ann Kerkhoff-It has pictures of some of the old Ruffner homes-Benjamin's home is in it.

Also sending a little information on Peter Ruffner which is very interesting.

Most sincerely