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Ruffner Family Association

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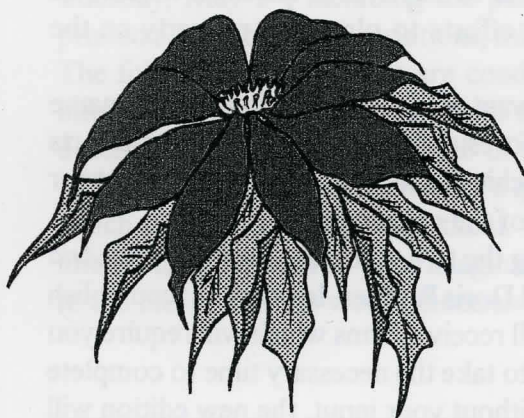


RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 2, Issue #4

December 1999

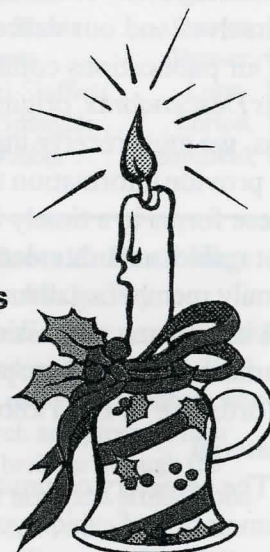
SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE RUFFNER FAMILY ASSOCIATION



GLAD GREETINGS WING ACROSS THE LAND,
SMALL MESSENGERS OF CHEER,
TO WISH YOU CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS,
AND A WONDERFUL, BRIGHT NEW YEAR!

~ FANNIE NEWMAN

The Ruffner Family Association and the staff of Ruffner Roots & Ramblings extend best wishes for a happy holiday season to all the Ruffner cousins. We are especially grateful to those who have so graciously and unselfishly supported the goals of our fledgling organization during the past year. We look forward to the new millennium and the continuation of our efforts to preserve and record the Ruffner Family history.



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—AND MUCH MORE

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

SAM MCNEELY



I bring you greetings from the Shenandoah Valley of our ancestors. Fall is creeping into the area as can be witnessed by the cool temperatures and the changing colors of the leaves and other vegetation. The Page County Heritage Festival was a wonderful affair and is an annual reminder of our heritage here in this beautiful place. Many of our cousins were active participants in the festival. Betty and I are settled into our residence and have been welcomed by the community. I wish all of you cousins had an opportunity to experience the return to small town life we have already enjoyed in our short time here.

Work is continuing on the restoration of The Homestead and all visitors remark to its charm and beauty. Sonia Croucher continues as the manager and her British demeanor lends itself to making guests feel welcome and leave promising to return. The last several months have seen many new cousins come for a visit or to stay in their ancestral home. Jim

and Judi are involved in many activities to improve the facilities, along with efforts to place the property on the National Register.

This family association was formed several years ago by a core group who wanted to see the Ruffner family name achieve the prominence it so rightly deserves. We are fortunate they had the foresight to continue with their efforts and bring many more of us into the fold. If we are to continue to grow and achieve the lofty goals we have set for ourselves and our descendants, we must all take an active part in the affairs of the organization.

Our publications committee has undertaken the task of revising and updating the two volumes, *Peter Ruffner And His Descendants*, originally written and published thirty years ago by Olive and Doris Ruffner. In order to accomplish this, we must receive input from everyone involved in our association. You will receive forms which will require you to provide information to be compiled into the new editions. I plead with you to take the necessary time to complete these forms in a timely fashion and return them to the appropriate person. Without your input, the new edition will not reflect accurate data on your family. The upcoming holidays will be a good time to compile this information as family members gather to celebrate.

I have in my possession much of the correspondence that was generated by the original books. As I scan it, I find numerous letters from people whose procrastination prevented their family from being represented in the final edition. Words like "if I had known what was being developed I would have sent my information sooner" are common in this material.

The cemetery committee has sent survey forms in our previous newsletter. I urge you to complete this survey for cemeteries of which you are aware. Each of us have ancestors buried in various locations across this nation. By obtaining and compiling this data, we will lessen the burden of future generations who may want to know more of the burial location of previous generations. Again this effort can only be accomplished by us, the living descendants of our great family.

Finally, I want to encourage each family to support your association financially. We had close to two-hundred relatives attending our recent reunion in Lancaster, Ohio. We do not have that many dues paying members and we will not be able to achieve our high goals without funds to carry them out. I want to urge those of you who have not joined or renewed your membership to do so as soon as possible.

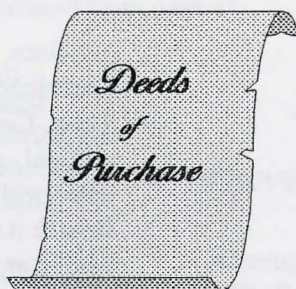
I have come to realize that many do not have the enthusiasm of others when it comes to the affairs of our association, however it is my goal as your president to inspire involvement by "many" not just "a few." Toward this end, I encourage you to volunteer to serve on a committee and assist with the activities we have recently undertaken. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

From my family to your family, blessings for the most joyous of holidays.

SAM

A SPECIAL GIFT

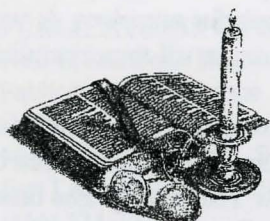
The transcribed and printed copies of the "Deeds of Purchase," included with this issue of the RR&R, are a gift to each recipient of this newsletter from an appreciative descendant of this Family.



During the first week of May 1761, Peter Ruffner bought from Thomas Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron, five parcels of land. He bought one parcel on each weekday, Monday through Friday of that week. The deeds for each of the first two days, Monday - May 4th and Tuesday, May 5th, including the parcel purchased on each day, are printed as complete transcriptions, minus the affixed Clerk's signature. The following three Deeds are condensed to merely show pertinent information regarding each parcel's size and purchase date. Tract descriptions are included for two of these.

Their presentation is hopefully of a quality suitable to any purpose for which you might wish to use them. Further comment about them is intentionally omitted so your imagination will be uncluttered and open to the intrigue of the works themselves.

~ *Anonymous*



YOU CAN'T READ GERMAN?

If you have old family documents written in German and have no way to translate them, there may be a solution to your problem. Dorothy Klix, a member from Renton, WA, has volunteered the services of her family to

assist you. Dorothy's husband, Roland, was born in Vienna, Austria from German parents. They moved to the United States when Roland was 10. His family all speaks German. As the oldest of 8 children, he keeps in close touch with his aunts who still live in Germany. Roland said he would be delighted to translate documents submitted by members of the Ruffner family. Also, his mother, Christel, is alive and well at 85. She has been translating materials for years. You can write to:

Dorothy Klix
10605 169th Ave. SE, Renton, WA 98059
Phone: (425) 228-6376
Email: Rolandk@IBM.net
Fax: (425) 392-1899

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Ruffner Family Association

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Ruffner Roots & Ramblings is published by

The Ruffner Family Association
Chartered and incorporated in 1999
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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SURVEY FOR UPDATE OF PETER RUFFNER & HIS DESCENDANTS

JOSEPH WILSON RUFFNER

We have had numerous requests to update this monumental, two-book family history compiled by Doris Laver Ruffner and Olive Taylor Ruffner in 1966 and 1969. In this venture, we will be honoring our Ruffner Forefathers as well as recording, for our children and grandchildren, our nieces, nephews, cousins - direct and collateral - an account of their ancestors, their heritage, leaving to them the security of a foundation, "where they came from!"

You should soon receive the printed copies of the Association's Survey Form and Instructions from a Team Coordinator representing the Ruffner Family Association's Publications Committee. The purpose of the Survey Form is to give each of you a form on which to record your Ruffner Family information. The accompanying Instructions are for your guidance in completing the Survey Form.

If you do not receive a packet soon after receiving this issue of the RR&R Newsletter, contact the Team Coordinator for your Family Branch or a member of the Publications Committee. For information on contacting any of these persons, see the lists at the end of this article.

The Team Coordinators are descended through the Ruffner Family Branch they represent. Each branch represents a first generation child of Peter Ruffner and Mary Steinman. The Coordinators are assisting the Publications Committee by working with the persons who are descended from their same Branch. Their first major task is to help distribute the Survey Forms to as many descendants of their Branch as possible. They will need the assistance of each of you in locating the names and addresses for many of the Family's descendants who are not on the Ruffner Family Association's Mailing List. Please make sure your Team Coordinator has the Name and Address, and any other current contact information you might be able to provide, for each and every one of your Ruffner Family relatives. It would be better for them to receive duplications of the individual's contact information, rather than miss contacting some descendant(s). Any questions, you might have about the Survey Form, may be addressed to or through your Branch's Team Coordinator. By using persons with their close Branch ties, we hope to provide as much direct assistance and advisement as you might need.

Once you complete the Survey Form, you should immediately return it by mail to your Family Branch's Team Coordinator. We urgently need you to return the original, which is printed on colored paper. Each paper color will serve as a designator of the particular Family Branch it represents. This will hopefully be an aid to those who later do the compiling of the information.

Each of us represents a small part of the larger Family begun by Peter and Mary. In the Association's effort to update this dedicated and loving work, we want you to wholeheartedly join us in the task. We are expectant of receiving extensive information from the descendant connections of Mary (Ruffner) Strickler, as well as from the PA, TN, and any other Ruffner Families. We welcome the receipt of information from each and every one of these Families. There are at present no Team Coordinators for these other Families, but we hope someone will step forward and assist with each of them. Volunteers are welcome.

Persons who represent the above allied Families and those who do not know from whom, or which Branch, they are descended (UNKNOWN BRANCH), should use the contact information provided below for Samuel H. McNeely.

The Publications Committee and Family Branch Team Coordinators have accepted an important challenge and set some ambitious goals and deadlines for ourselves. It will take the cooperative assistance from us all to accomplish this task.

We request a return of the completed Survey from each of you by **MAY 14, 2000**. The upcoming Holiday Season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's are prime times for you to talk about and work on Family projects. Please make this one of them.

Once we have the returned Forms, it's a matter of compiling all the information we receive, which is another way of saying our work has just begun. So, as soon as you receive your packet, open it and get busy filling out the blank spaces. A work session for the Publications Committee and Team Coordinators is planned for June, 2000 to begin the process of compiling the information we've received. This makes it necessary to have your responses by the **MAY 14TH** deadline.

We know you will want to see your own family's names in this valuable and historic work! We are confident we can count on your individual cooperation and we **THANK YOU** for it.

(continued on page 5)

SURVEY FOR UPDATE

(continued from page 4)

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(EMANUEL BRANCH)

Editor's Note: As of press time, a team coordinator for Emanuel's branch had not been appointed. This person's name will appear on the survey forms.

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THE RUFFNER QUIZ

Do you remember how to play the Ruffner Quiz? We show you a photo and you have to identify the location.

WHERE IS IT?

(Answer and history on page 8)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TENTATIVELY SET TO
MEET IN 2000**

A tentative Ruffner Family Association Board of Directors' meeting has been set for June 21 and 22, 2000 in Luray, VA. The event will take place before the Booker T. Washington Family Reunion in Roanoke [see related article in this issue].

It is hoped that the Publications Committee will meet at the same time to review genealogical survey data submitted by family members.

All interested parties will be advised when plans are finalized.

The Last Will and Testament of Joseph Ruffner, Sr.

In the name of God Amen. I, Joseph Ruffner Sr. of Kanawha County of State of Virginia make this my last Will & Testament. I resign my soul to its Creator in all humble hopes of its future business as in the disposal of a being infinitely good. As to my body I leave it to be buried at the discretion of my Executors herein after named. As to my worldly estate I dispose of it in the following fashion & form.

First I give to my well beloved wife the plantation where I now live during her natural life, the same to be hereafter devised and also my goods, chattels and slaves, name my Negroe man Peter, Negroe woman Lucy & Rachel to her during life, & the same to be disposed of at her death amongst my children at the directions of my wife.

Secondly I give to my son, Joseph, all that parcel of bottom land on Elk & Kanawha Rivers beginning at the mouth of the former including the ferry & running to the Kanawha River at low water marke, till it intersects the cross street adjoining the lot whereon Nehemiah Woods now lives & with that street to the back line of the town lots & thence with a strate line to the hill is to include his improvements thence with the foot of the hill till it strikes the upper corner on Elk River, & down the same to the beginning to him & his heirs forever & accepting all town lots in the bounds aforesaid unsold. I also allow my son Joseph to make titles to all lots He may have sold prior to this date in the town of Charleston.

Thirdly it is my will that all my bottom land namely beginning at my son Joseph's upper corner on Kanawha River & with the mean waters of the same at low water mark to my upper corner on the same river thence across the bottom to the foot of the hill, thence down the same meeting herewith to my son Joseph's upper corner at the hill & with said Joseph's property line to the beginning, the same to be divided into three tracts each to contain thirty acres more than the middle tract & the middle tract to contain thirty acres more than the upper tract & the several lines between said tracts to be run in such a manner so as not to injure either of said tracts to be here after devised.

Fourthly I give to my son David the lower tract whereon He now lives, to Him & His heirs forever to be here after laid off as above directed, all town lots there excepted to be here after devised.

Fifthly I give to my son Tobias the middle tract above described where on he now lives to be laid off as above directed to him & his heirs forever.

Sixthly I give to my son Daniel the upper tract where on I now live to be devised as above directed to him & his heirs forever after the death of my wife.

Seventhly I give to my sons David, Joseph & Tobias all my back lands below the first hollow near by opposite my house to be equally divided among them most suitable to each farm to them & their heirs forever.

Eighthly I give to my son Daniel all my back lands from the above mentioned hollow to my upper line to Him & His heirs forever after the death of my wife.

Ninthly I give to my son Samuel one thousand acres of land part of a tract which I purchased of Thomas T. Taylor on the waters of the Sixteen running into the Ohio River be divided according to quality to Him & His heirs forever. It is also my will that my son David pay one hundred dollars, my son Joseph one hundred dollars, my son Daniel sixty dollars, my son Tobias forty dollars, my son Abraham forty dollars, that each & ever one of them pay the Leser sums above mentioned to my executors within two years after my decease & that my executors lay out said money in a tract of good land for my son Samuel for which my executors are to make a title in seven years to Him or His heirs forever.

Tenthly I give to my daughter Eve all the land which I purchased of Thomas T. Taylor on the waters of the Sixteen running into the Ohio being all the land I purchased of the _____ excepting one thousand which I willed to my son Samuel out of said tract to Her & Her heirs forever.

Eleventhly I give to my son Abraham all that tract of land lying on Campbells Creek & Kanawha River which I purchased of Col. Dickison to Him & His heirs forever excepting the part lying on Kanawha River including the Salt Lick to be laid off in a manner following ~ beginning at the mouth of Campbells Creek & Kanawha River & running up the same to George Alderson's lower corner on said river & with said line accepts the bottom to the foot of the hill & with said hill to the bank of Campbells Creek where the road goes down the same thence with said creek to the beginning. It is my will that my sons David, Joseph, Tobias, Daniel & Abraham do make & experiment or cause it to be made of the Salt Lick in one year after my death & if in their opinion the water proves good & lasting, then all the profit arising from said land & Salt Lick to be in six equal parts & my son David to have one part, my son Joseph one, my son Tobias one, my son Daniel one & my son Abraham two parts, but if in their opinion the same is not good, then I give the same unto my son Abraham to Him & His heirs forever. However if my son Abraham would rather have seven hundred & fifty pounds then the whole of the tract of land purchased from Col. Dickison to gether with the Salt Lick, why then my Executors to dispose of said land & lick & out of the money arising there from to pay my son Abraham seven hundred & fifty pounds. I also give to my son Abraham one set of saw mill irons.

Twelfthly I give to my sons Tobias, Samuel, Daniel, Abraham and my daughter Eve each of them one lot of the unsold lots in the town of Charleston to be drawn by lots to them & their heirs forever. If there should be anymore lots unsold then those above I bequeath my Executors to sell & make titles for the same & the money arising there from to be applied in obeyance to the expence of my law & suits.

Thirteenthly it is my will that if my son Joseph should have any more bottom land than my son Tobias within the bound of his tract, the town excepted, to pay at the sum of twelve dollars per acre to my wife in exchange of money due Him which I allow my wife to settle the same.

Fourteenthly it is my will that my son Joseph collect all sums of money & demands due to pay all my just debts as far as he collects & to be allowed out of my estate for the same.

Fifteenthly & lastly I do hereby constitute & appoint my trusty friends Morris Hudson & Samuel Henry to gether with my sons David & Joseph Executors of this my last will & testament. Thereby revoking all other wills & testaments heretofore by me made.

In witness there of I have here unto set my hand & affixed my seal this 21st day of February in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & three.

Signed sealed & presented & published as the last will and testament of the above named Joseph Ruffner in presence of us.

John Reynolds

A. Donnally

W. M. Cathey

Joseph Ruffner (seal)

_____ Indicates words that were not legible.

See notes on next page.

NOTES ON JOSEPH'S WILL

The foregoing last will & testament of Joseph Ruffner, eldest son of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner, was submitted by Sam McNeely.

Joseph was born September 25, 1740 in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and died March 23, 1803 in Kanawha County. His wife was Ann Heistand (1742-1820). They had eight children: Ester (1765-1783); David (1767-1843); Joseph II (1769-1837); Tobias (1770-1834); Samuel (1773-?); Eve (1777-1821); Daniel (1779-1865) and Abraham (1781-1854).



2001 Ruffner Family Reunion

The 2001 Ruffner Family Reunion is tentatively scheduled for June 14 through June 17, 2001, in Luray, Virginia. Cousins Nancy Lee Shifflett and Sam McNeely are coordinating the event.

Unlike our reunion in 1997, the Ruffner Homestead, owned by Jim and Judi McNeely of Powell, Ohio, will play a role in the reunion activities. Many of the features of previous reunions, including historic tours, banquet, auction and a family picnic will be incorporated into this reunion. Your Board of Directors has completed a survey of our recent reunion in Lancaster, Ohio and suggestions obtained from the survey will be used to build upon that festive occasion.

Each reunion seems to generate more interest than the previous one and your coordinators are expecting this one to exceed two hundred representatives of our great family. The reunion is being held later in the month of June than previous ones in order that the youth may attend without missing excessive school days. In addition, it is planned that special programs will be held to allow younger family members to engage in activities of their own.

If enough interest is shown, a Saturday tour of historic Lexington, Virginia will be included. This area holds many sites with Ruffner historic ties. Additional details will be forthcoming in future communications.

ANSWER TO WHERE IS IT?

(From page 5)

Ruffner Park, a roadside park and community playground, is located in **Galena, Ohio (Delaware County)** on the old Three C Highway. The Three C Highway, prior to the construction of I-71, was the main road between Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio.

The park includes a picnic area, playground, baseball diamond, softball lot, tennis and basketball courts. The land was originally owned by the Galena School District, but was purchased and improved by the Galena Booster Club and dedicated in 1942.

It was named "Ruffner Park" in honor of John Morgan Ruffner who was killed in a grade crossing accident in Galena on December 28, 1938.

John Morgan Ruffner, who was known as "Morgan," was superintendent of Galena Schools and one of the sponsors of the playground campaign.

Morgan was descended from Emanuel, Jacob, Isaac and John Lewis Ruffner (1859-1937). His mother was Laura Bruce Rush (1867-1947). He was born August 8, 1903 in Afton, Indian Territory (Oklahoma). At the time of his death, he was serving his third year as head of the Galena Schools. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio and Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He was a graduate of the University of New Mexico. He taught at Cedarville, Ohio one year, then went to Salem, Ohio schools for two years. He was superintendent of the Powell, Ohio school district seven years before going to Galena.

He was chairman of the Delaware County, Ohio high school athletic committee and member of the county fair board. Morgan was a Mason, Methodist and strong Republican.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his widow, Mrs. Annabelle Ruffner; a son, Paul, 10; daughter, Patsy Lee, 2; mother, Mrs. Laura Ruffner of Delaware, and four sisters: Irma Ruffner of Cleveland, Lois Ruffner of California, Mrs. Mildred (John) Denton of Delaware, and Mrs. Christine (Ralph) Martindill of Wellston, Ohio.



FAMILY NEWS

James Thomas Williams (desc. Peter, Jr.) was born August 11, 1999, at 8:18am. He weighed 5 lbs., 15 oz. and was 18-1/2" long. His proud parents are Shawn and Rebecca Williams of Catawissa, PA. Brother Jacob is happy to have a baby brother. Papa Shawn, as you know, is the Editor of the 2nd edition and update of *Peter Ruffner & His Descendants*.

Shawn is currently completing training with the Pennsylvania State Highway Patrol.

Announcement is made of the **engagement** of Tamara S. "Tammy" Getz (desc. Peter, Jr.) of Fredericksburg, VA and Thomas Edward "Tommy" Teele of Manassas, VA. The wedding is planned for September 2000.

In Memoriam: **L. Wayne Housden**, husband of Sue Ruffner Housden (desc. Peter, Jr.), of Stanley, Virginia departed this life on October 18, 1999.



Emanuel Ruffner's First Ohio Cabin

Home of Necessity—

The early pioneers not only faced many hardships as they emigrated to new land to settle, but once there, had to endeavor to build shelter for their families. This crude dwelling was apparently the only home that Emanuel and his family had during the years between 1804 and 1810.

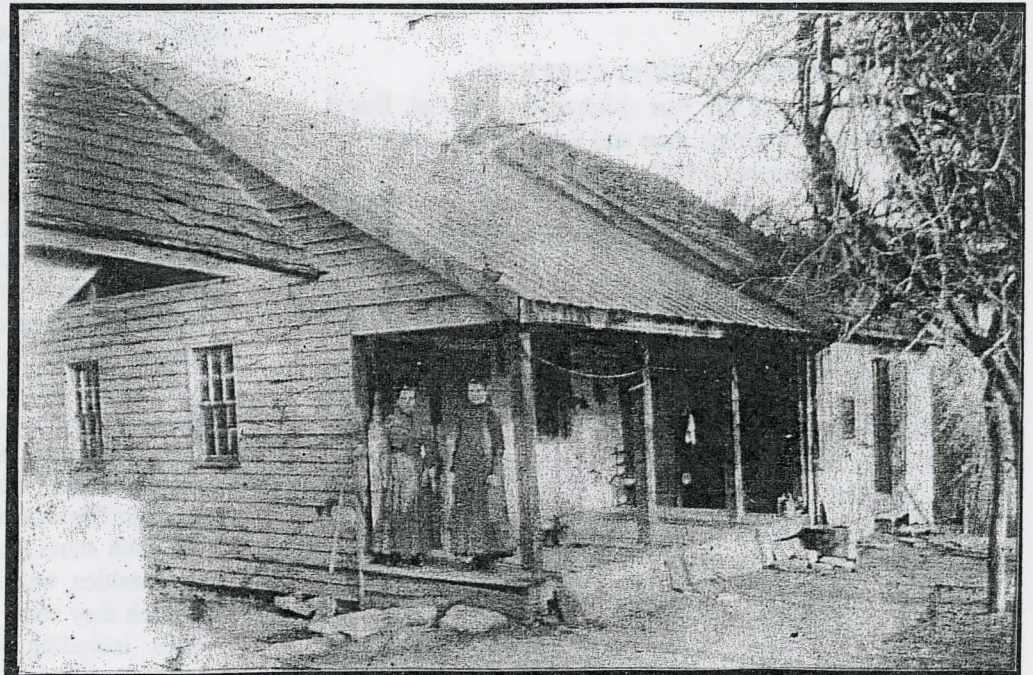
The photocopy of this and the Jonas Ruffner Home, shown below, were jointly submitted by Victoria (Ruffner) Young of Lancaster, Ohio and her nephew, Dan Ruffner of West Chester, Ohio. The photos were taken in 1901. With the photos they sent copies of handwritten notes by Victoria's father George Floyd Ruffner. (The spelling has been altered by the editor.)

"This is the first house built by Emanuel Ruffner 1/4 mile north of West Rushville in the year 1804. He was the Great Grandfather of Joseph Ruffner, the G-Great Grandfather of James P. Ruffner, the G-G-Great Grandfather of George F. Ruffner and the G-G-G-Great Grandfather of Victoria Ruffner." (George Floyd Ruffner)

"This is the second house built by the Ruffners in Fairfield Co. Richland Township by Jonas Ruffner. The birthplace of Joseph Ruffner, Jacob Ruffner, Lewis Ruffner (a baptist minister), Noah Ruffner, Sally Ruffner, Nancy Ruffner, Emeline Ruffner, Becky Ruffner and the children of Joseph Ruffner—James, Ruth, Mollie, and the son of James Ruffner—Ray Ruffner born July 13, 1887—the last Ruffner born in this house."

George Floyd Ruffner

Editor's Note: Jonas Ruffner (1811-1881) was the third child (first son) of Jacob Ruffner (1781-1839) and Magdalene Bibler. He was the grandson of Emanuel. Jonas and his wife, Susanna Rhodes, lived on a portion of the home farm where he raised stock.



The Jonas Ruffner Home, Fairfield County, Ohio

History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha

by Charles Hedrick (4th in a series)
Sketches of Tobias and General Lewis Ruffner from the *Charleston Gazette*, 1884.

Tobias, the third son of Joseph, Sr., made salt for a number of years on the 502 acres of which he owned a third, his share including the twelve acres below and a part of the bottom land above the mouth of Campbell's Creek. He built a residence on his land, which still stands there, but now belongs to the estate of the late John D. Lewis. He did not always prosper in his business, and the year 1830, being much embarrassed, turned his business over to his sons, Isaac, Benjamin Franklin and Silas, who operated his salt property with such success and profit that they all became independently rich and sold the property—the twelve acres below Campbell's Creek to John I. Cabell, and the residue to Lewis & Shrewsbury. He had a son named John who early removed to Missouri, and one named Jonas who, about 1835, removed to Iowa where he died. Franklin after residing some years in Putnam County, West Virginia, removed to Kansas City, Missouri. Isaac also removed to that state, but returned to Kanawha, and died in Charleston at the residence of his son-in-law, W.C. Reynolds, on the 14th day of March, 1884. Silas remained in Kanawha and now owns and resides on the old homestead and a portion of the large farm formerly owned by his uncle, Daniel Ruffner, about two miles above the Court House at Charleston. He married Miss Hydassa Morehead of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and is without offspring.

GENERAL LEWIS RUFFNER

Lewis, the youngest of the four children born to Col. David Ruffner, both as a business man and a public man, from his early manhood, occupied a high and enviable position in the community where he was born and lived the whole time (except a residence of a few years in Louisville, Kentucky) to a venerable old age.

When quite a boy he attended a school in Charleston, kept by Herbert P. Gaines, and afterwards went to school to Levi Welch at Charleston. In 1808 he attended a select school for one year, taught by Prof. Duvall on the farm of Robert Johnson, father of Hon. Richard M. Johnson, at the crossing of Elk Horn Creek, Scott County, Kentucky. In 1812 he entered a high school taught by Rev. John McElheny, at Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, where he remained until January, 1815. He then went to Cincinnati to an Academy where he remained one year. Thence, in 1816, he went to Washington College, Virginia, where he remained two years. He returned to Kanawha and taught school one year. In 1820 he commenced the manufacture of salt on a small wood furnace. He continued in this business with occasional interruption until November 20, 1873.

In 1820 he built a new furnace adapted to the use of coal for fuel. In 1823 he took possession of the property and salt business of his father, who retired and settled up his

business. In 1825 he was elected to the Legislature of Virginia—was re-elected in 1826, and again in 1828. These were times when an election to the Legislature was a compliment of which any one might well be proud.

On the 2nd of November, 1826, he was married to a daughter of the late Joel Shrewsbury, Sr. In 1828 he was appointed by the County Court and commissioned by the Governor a Justice of the Peace, (*dnm bene geserit*) which position he held without an interval until he vacated it in 1845, when he removed to Louisville, Kentucky. Here he remained until 1857, acting as agent for the sale of Kanawha salt. In 1857 he returned to his old home in Kanawha, and resumed the manufacture of salt.

From 1828 to 1861, General Lewis Ruffner ceased to mingle in politics. On the 4th Thursday of May, 1861, however, being a staunch Union man, he was again chosen to represent his native county in the Legislature of Virginia. On the 12th and 13th of April of that year, Fort Sumter had been fired on, the secession spirit was red-hot, and a destructive and bloody war loomed on the National horizon. The signs of death and ruin hurtled through the air and "the boldest held his breath for a time." General Ruffner, against the wishes of most of his relatives and many of his warmest personal friends, declared for the Union, and stood for it with the courage of inflexible conviction. Nor did he ever waver from the path he had chosen respecting the impending bloody crisis. In June of that year he was invited by leading citizens of other parts of what is now West Virginia, to meet them at Wheeling, with a view of taking action in reference to restoring Virginia to the Union—she having declared her secession therefrom by an ordinance in April preceding. He accepted the invitation, took a leading part in the convention which, by what was regarded by the people of some other parts of the State as a revolutionary method, declared the state restored to the Union, and that the delegates assembled at Wheeling constituted the legitimate Legislature of the state. He was elected as a member of the Legislature of the restored government of Virginia at Wheeling. In 1863 he was one of the delegates to the convention at Wheeling which framed the first Constitution of the new State of West Virginia, which went into operation June 20, 1863. In the same year he was appointed by the Legislature a Major-General of Militia for the state. He was also about that time tendered the position of Colonel of a regiment in the Federal army, which he declined on account, among other reasons, of the business interests which he represented at home, and which were continually in peril. His public life closed with the war.

In 1868 some four or five Negroes from Tinkersville, just below Malden, went up to Malden to a trial before a magistrate, in which they were interested. A mob of about one hundred whites, including some returned soldiers from both sides, collected at Malden, told the Negroes they should not attend the trial and drove them from Malden, and were pursuing them with stones and other weapons and threatening to drive them from the country—saying the Negroes were the cause of the war and should not stay in Kanawha. *(continued on next page)*

History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha (from page 10)

The mob was entirely composed of laboring men who no doubt thought the Negroes were in their way in the labor field. General Ruffner being informed of the difficulty went out to quell the difficulty and protect the blacks. He remonstrated with the mob who were still pursuing the Negroes, and while standing between the pursued and the pursuers, some one not yet known with certainty, threw a stone which struck the General on the head just above the left ear. He fell as if dead and was thought to be fatally stricken. In an unconscious condition he was carried to the house so badly injured as to be unable for several months to attend to any business, and he never wholly recovered from the injury. His memory was ever afterward affected, and also his vision. What, with age and the injury just mentioned, he became quite decrepit and infirm, and could not walk more than a few steps without the aid of two canes or crutches. His mind continued sound, but not nearly so vigorous as formerly. Recognizing his infirmities, and his incapacity to continue to manage his large property, he, on the 20th of March, 1873, turned it over to trustees, to manage for the benefit of his children, reserving an annuity sufficient to maintain himself and his wife whom he leaves a sorrowing widow, for the remnant of their lives. He lost his first wife in January, 1843, and married his second, Miss Viola Knapp, of Philadelphia, in December, 1843. Of the children of the first marriage four are living, two sons and two daughters. There were but two of the second marriage, a son and a daughter, both now living. The youngest of all is Ernest H. Ruffner, who graduated with honor at West Point, June, 1867, and now ranks as captain in the engineer service of the General Government. Stella, the daughter of the General, last marriage, was recently married to Mr. R. H. Wiley. They now live with her mother at the old ancestral homestead just below Malden.

General Ruffner was for many years a member of the Presbyterian church, firm in the faith to the day of his death. He died at 12:30 o'clock at night, November 10th, 1883.

Such is a cursory and unvarnished sketch of the chief events in the life of the late General Ruffner.

The writer does not hold the pen of a panegyrist, and will not say his character was perfect. Perfection is a chimera, and not to be found in mankind, either in business, morals or religion. But in the qualities that go to make up the character of a good man General Ruffner was far above the average. His character may be summed up, within the bounds of truth, as follows, or at least this is the estimate of the writer.

A man of sound practical mind, he was well read in books; and, until he received the injury above spoken of, he kept up with the current literature of his day. He conversed and wrote with much force and clearness, but was not a public speaker, and made no pretension to rhetorical display. In public life and in matters of business, he was regarded by his associates as a thinker, and much deference was paid to him in this respect. Whether in public life, or engaged in the large salt and mercantile companies of which he was often a member and a

large stockholder, he never permitted others to think for him; and although he thought and reasoned for himself, he gave ear to the argument and plans of others, and willingly yielded to them when convinced of their correctness. Some of his friends thought him to be inclined to obstinacy and self-will in matters of business. The writer, who knew him well, never found him so. On the contrary, he was not in the habit of making up his mind on important matters without due consideration and consultation with friends possessing his confidence, and when he made up his mind he was frank in declaring his views and opinions. So long, however, as he was satisfied in his own mind he was right, he was immovable. Conscious of being an honest and a just man himself, he scorned and detested everything that savored of dishonesty, trickery or duplicity in public men or business men, and never failed to denounce these vices unsparingly. He freely aided to the extent of his means, the inauguration and prosecution of every public enterprise that had for its object the development of the resources of his country and state. No charity that was brought to his notice went unblessed by his contribution. In a word, General Ruffner indulged, as much as any one within the knowledge of the writer, in the "luxury of doing good." A phenomenal virtue this may seem, but it is nevertheless true of him whose character the writer has thus attempted to describe. ■

Ruffners invited to Booker T. Washington Family Reunion

An invitation has been received from Clarence T. Walker, Chairman of the Booker T. Washington Family Reunion Year 2000, for members of our family to attend the event scheduled for June 23, 24 and 25 in Roanoke, VA. Mr. Walker writes—

"The Booker T. Washington family and the Ruffner family ties go back more than 128 years. There has always existed a mutual respect between our families. Booker T. Washington himself credits Ms. Viola Ruffner for helping to build his basic work ethic and helping to fuel his insatiable desire for academic achievement. Our family remains appreciative and respectful of the Ruffner family. We are bound and determined to continue our family ties."

Headquarters for the 3-day event is The Clarion Hotel at the Roanoke Airport.

Editor's Note: Viola (Knapp) Ruffner was the wife of General Lewis Ruffner whose life was capsulized in the preceding article by Charles Hedrick in 1884.

The Patchwork Quilt

*Did Gran'ma ever tell you
about the patchwork quilt
that lies across the sofa in
her room? It is made from
scraps of dresses that she
wore when she was young,
And some of them were woven on a loom.
Sometimes when it is raining and I can't play out of doors
She lets me spread it out upon the floor,
And as I choose the pieces I'd like to hear about,
She tells me of the dresses that she wore.
It isn't just the dresses that Gran'ma tells about;
It's the things that happen'd when she had them on,
And almost ev'ry piece that's in that dear old patchwork
quilt holds the mem'ry of a sorrow or a song...
Oh, things were very wonderful when Grand'mama was
young. You ought to hear her tell about it all.
The ladies all were beautiful, the children all were good,
And the men were all so gallant and so tall.
She calls the quilt her mem'ry bed, and every little piece
A flower blooming in its scented fold.
There are red ones for the roses and blues for "don't
forgets" and yellow ones for sunflowers of gold.
There's one she calls sweet lavender that smells like baby
clothes, and one of purple like the sunset skies.
I never ask about these, or the grey one like the rain,
For when I do Gran'ma always cries.
My Gran'ma told me once that life is just a patchwork quilt
Of births and deaths and marriages and things,
And that sometimes when you're looking for a lovely piece of
red, you only find a knot of faded strings.
But she says the red is redder when it's by a piece of brown,
And grey is not so grey by sunny gold;
Oh, I hope I'll have a lovely patchwork quilt like
Gran'mama's to show to little children when I'm old.*

By Natalie Whitted Price

Editor's Note: Our thanks to cousin Dorothea Russell (desc. Reuben) of Savoy, IL for submission of this charming poem.

Deadline for the next issue of RR&R is February 15, 2000.



The Editor's Desk

This is the last edition of RR&R for this year—to be more exact, this century. Hard to believe for some of us who have lived over two-thirds of our lives in the 20th Century.

When I put this newsletter together, read and re-read the stories submitted by all of you, I grow very close to our ancestors. As we gather together in our cozy homes during this season of thanksgiving and love, may we pay homage to our forefathers whose sacrifices, courage and determination paved our way.

My sincere appreciation goes out to the members of the Editorial Committee of this newsletter and those who have so greatly contributed to this issue: Sam McNeely, Joe Ruffner, Dorothy Klix, Nancy Lee Shifflett, Victoria Young and Dan Ruffner.

I wish you all a happy holiday season, a wonderful new year and a glorious new century.

Love,
Cousin Joan



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Happy New Year & Happy Millennium
from the Ruffner Family Association
celebrating 268 years of
Ruffners in America