

Longwood University

Digital Commons @ Longwood University

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

Ruffner Family Association Collection, LU-163

8-2000

Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 3, Issue 2

Ruffner Family Association

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/ruffner_roots_ramblings

Recommended Citation

Ruffner Family Association, "Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 3, Issue 2" (2000). *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*. 9.

https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/ruffner_roots_ramblings/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Ruffner Family Association Collection, LU-163 at Digital Commons @ Longwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ruffner Roots & Ramblings by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Longwood University. For more information, please contact alwinehd@longwood.edu.



RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 3, Issue #2

August 2000

Portraits from the Past

Colonel Henry Daniel Ruffner (desc. Joseph) was the son of Augustus Ruffner and Mary Elizabeth Rogers (see History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha in this issue). He was born August 15, 1834.

Henry married Sarah Alethea Patrick in 1860. Sarah "Sallie" was born on September 9, 1838. Her parents were Dr. Spicer Patrick and Lavinia Bream. Dr. Patrick was one of the early civic leaders in the Kanawha Valley. He settled in Charleston in 1816, after earning his medical degree and became one of the earliest, and largest, land owners west of the Elk River. He was a delegate to the Virginia Legislature and a member of the Virginia Secession Convention of 1861. Dr. Patrick and 31 other delegates from the western counties voted against the state's withdrawal from the Union, but they were voted down. Dr. Patrick was also a member of the Kanawha County Court and the first Speaker of the House of Delegates of the new state of West Virginia.

Henry Daniel Ruffner served throughout the Civil War as a Colonel in the Confederate Army.



Colonel Henry Daniel Ruffner

He and his wife resided on the old family homestead of his father above Charleston. They had three children: Virginia Patrick (who married Henry Couch), Mary and Augustus.

After the Civil War, he went to Leadville, Colorado where he opened a silver mine. The mine proved unprofitable and he returned to Charleston. In later years, he was a building contractor on the West Virginia State Capitol. Sarah died on October 6, 1886, at the age of 48. The Colonel died on July 25, 1925, at the age of ninety.

The photos of the portraits of the Colonel and Sarah were sent to us by Virginia Ruffner Ball Fisher of Santa Fe, NM. Virginia is their great-granddaughter. She writes: "My mother, Virginia Lewis Couch Ball, is still living in a nursing home in Charleston, WV. She will be 100 on May 13th (2000)....My mother, of course, knew her grandfather and spoke of him frequently."



Sarah Alethea Patrick Ruffner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE—**RFA Proclamation Page 3**

(Statement presented by President Sam McNeely with contribution to Tuskegee University)

Walking in the footsteps of**Booker T. Washington Page 4**

(In a blending of past and present, the emotion and inspiration of the BTW Reunion is related)

What is it? Where is it? . . Page 6

(Readers will have a hard time guessing where this Ruffner namesake is located)

Ruffners In The News Page 6**Eleanor's 65th Anniversary****And 'The Brick' Page 7**

(An affectionate look at Eleanor, WV)

Searching for Burial Sites -**"A Spiritual Journey" Page 8**

(Unearthing genealogical treasures in cemeteries)

Trekking thru OH, WV**and VA Page 10**

(Continuation of one man's journey to the land of his ancestors)

Genealogy Humor Page 12

(Some levity is added to research)

History of the Ruffner Family**Of Kanawha Page 13**

(Final installment of Charles Hedrick's sketches from The Charleston Gazette, 1884)

— and much more

A Message From the Association President Sam McNeely

What a delightful month of June we just concluded. A historic gathering of two families took place in Roanoke, Virginia. The descendants of Peter and Mary Ruffner were special invited guests of the descendants of Booker T. Washington at their reunion (see page 4). It was a gala occasion. More than a dozen members of the Ruffner Family Association, including the family matriarch Virginia Rigg, attended. The reunion included a reception, banquet, and talent show on Friday.

On Saturday morning, during the business meeting, we presented a check for more than eleven hundred dollars to the scholarship fund at Tuskegee University on behalf of our association (see proclamation on page 3). Washington granddaughters, Edith Johnson and Margaret Clifford, accepted the check on behalf of the Washington family. Joe Ruffner told of the continuation of the relationship of the Ruffner and Washington families in Alabama long after the death of Lewis and Viola Ruffner. After lunch the reunion moved to the Booker T. Washington National Monument at his birthplace in Hale's Ford where a bust of Booker T. was dedicated. The evening concluded with a vigil at the cabin where Booker was born. On Sunday the reunion concluded with a Memorial Service.

On Monday, the Ruffner Family Association Board of Directors and Publications Committee gathered in Luray, Virginia for two days of meetings to plan future activities of our association and discuss plans for the layout and distribution of our family genealogy. Members from as far away as Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri, Alabama, South Carolina, Ohio and Illinois made the journey to work on these activities. This shows the dedication of our board to improve all aspects of our association. A picnic on the grounds of The Ruffner House allowed members an opportunity to socialize and renew relationships with family members in Page County. On a sad note, on the return trip home, "Aunt" Ginny Rigg fell while visiting friends in Cincinnati and was hospitalized there for a period of time. She celebrated her ninety-sixth birthday there. I am sure you all join me in wishing her a speedy recovery and return to full health.

Lastly, to those of you who have not returned your family survey, or know of other family members who have not, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. It is this information that will go into our genealogy update.■

RFA DIRECTORS PROVIDE GREAT DEDICATION & REPRESENTATION

The June 26-27 Ruffner Family Association Board and Publications Committee meeting in Luray, VA had attendees from all over the country. Those individuals, representing all branches of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner's family, included: Barbara Burner, Jack & Cindy Childers, Barbara Kibler, Roberta Kirwin, Jane Lucas, Sara Lytle, Judi McNeely, Sam McNeely, Joan Reid, Barbara Rowles, Elisabeth Ruffner, Fred Ruffner, Gary Ruffner, George Ruffner, Joe Ruffner, Melissa Ruffner, Dorothea Russell, Bob Sheets, Shirley Sheets, Nancy Shifflett and Sally Spangler. Our congratulations to President McNeely and the Board for an excellent turnout. Special thanks to the Luray Fire Department for the use of their excellent facilities.

Policies adopted will be featured in this and future issues of this newsletter.



REMINDER

Have you paid your 2000 dues? Dues are payable January 1st of each year.

**Please send your \$15 to the:
Ruffner Family Association
1675 So. Steele Street
Denver, CO 80210**

Thanks for your support!

THE RUFFNER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, The Ruffner Family Association, a national organization represented by the descendants of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner, who homesteaded in 1739 on the banks of the Hawksbill Creek in the historic Valley of Virginia, called "the Shenandoah," were chartered in June of 1999 in order to research, collect and preserve the history of their progenitors and that of their descendants, and

Whereas, the descendants of Peter and Mary Ruffner, who now live in all regions of this great nation as the progeny of their seven children: Joseph, Benjamin, Peter, Jr., Reuben, Elizabeth and Emanuel, have seen a common interest in returning to the celebration of their heritage, and

Whereas, the history of all branches of our family are enriched with historic deeds, valor, outstanding accomplishments, and the endearing pioneer spirit that so exemplifies the true American Character, and

Whereas, the increased knowledge of our ancestors has opened a window into our past and we have been inspired by the association and relationships between our ancestors and those great Americans whose very nature has impacted our own history, and

Whereas, one of the most inspiring and endearing relationships was that of young Booker T. Washington with Lewis and Viola Ruffner of Malden, West Virginia, and

Whereas, that relationship has been renewed between the descendants of Washington and Ruffner through their shared reunion on the hallowed ground of his birth, we therefore honor Dr. Washington through a contribution to the Booker T. Washington Scholarship Fund at Tuskegee University, as a token of our faith in the spirit of the American Family and in memory of Lewis & Viola Ruffner, knowing that they would so approve of our honoring their treasured friend.

*Signed by me as the representative of the
Ruffner Family Association at the
Ruffner Family Homestead, Luray, Virginia, June 23, 2000*

Samuel Hearst McNeely, President



Our president Sam McNeely presenting the Ruffner Proclamation and contribution to the Booker T. Washington Scholarship Fund at Tuskegee University to Margaret Clifford and Edith Johnson.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Ruffner Family Association

Samuel H. McNeely, President
Luray, Virginia

Jack Childers Fenwick Island, DE
Roberta [Ruffner] Kirwin . . Lancaster, OH
Jane [Ruffner] Lucas Winchester, VA
Sara [Ruffner] Lytle Seneca, SC
Judith [Woodward] McNeely . Powell, OH
Joan [Ruffner] Reid Columbus, OH
Robert Rowles Lancaster, OH
Elisabeth [Friedrich] Ruffner Prescott, AZ
Fred Ruffner Grosse Point Farms, MI
Gary Ruffner Mason, IL
George Ruffner Inola, OK
Joseph Wilson Ruffner . . . Huntsville, AL
Melissa Ruffner Prescott, AZ
Patsy [Reed] Ruffner Riverview, FL
Robert Newman Sheets Denver, CO
Shirley Ann Sheets Denver, CO
Nancy [Ruffner] Shifflett Luray, VA
Sally [Ruffner] Spangler Lorton, VA
Jane [Munro] Webber . . . Broomfield, CO

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.

Editor: Joan Ruffner Reid

120 Rita Court

Columbus, OH 43213

(614) 237-8264

Email: Jokereid@aol.com

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

Contributing Editor:

Robert Newman Sheets

Walking in the footsteps of Booker T. Washington

by Robert Newman Sheets

It was a powerful and emotional moment, standing on the path between the slave cabin and the master's 'big house.' On this path one day in April, 1865 walked a nine year old named "Booker" and his mother Jane. Walking toward the big house that day they were slaves. Returning to their cabin that same day they were free.

The Widow Burroughs was sitting in her rocker at the Big House when out of the twilight rode a single Union Soldier requesting she assemble all the plantation slaves. It was then, Booker and his mother heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had by a Proclamation, granted them their freedom. And we were there! Not in 1863, but this past June 24th when this historic re-enactment took place on the site of his birth, the site of his enslavement and the site of his freedom.

How more honored could we be, that as guests of the descendants of the Booker T. Washington Family, we could share in this moment. We walked with them on that hallowed ground in the spirit of Lewis and Viola Ruffner.

The story has been often told of the role they played in nurturing Dr. Washington's early learning and self discipline. Working first in the Ruffner coal mines, he soon took a job in their home. Under Viola's watchful eye, as he said in his autobiography, *Up From Slavery*, "The lessons I learned in the home of Mrs. Ruffner were as valuable to me as any education I have ever gotten anywhere since." For a brief time in their lives, the young lad and the mistress of the Big House in Malden, West Virginia, found a common bond of respect, trust, admiration and love. A bond which would last their remaining lifetimes and later rest in the fabric of the folk lore of their descendants.

Viola died in 1903 at the age of ninety one and Dr. Washington died twelve years later at the age of fifty nine. Their thirty-one year relationship had a lasting impact on both families. The re-connection began last year when two of Washington's granddaughters, Edith Washington Johnson and Margaret Washington Clifford, were honored guests at our reunion in Lancaster, Ohio. The Ruffner Family was honored with an invitation to join the Washington descendants this past June on the plantation site of his birthplace.

Twelve members of the Ruffner Family Association represented us in Roanoke, Virginia during the three days of memorials and reunion. They were: Sam and Betty McNeely, Jane Lucas, Elisabeth Ruffner, George and Ruth Ruffner, Hugh Baker, Melissa Ruffner, Shirley Ann Sheets, Joe Ruffner, Virginia Rigg and Bob Sheets. Highlights of the well planned activities were the "Know Your Family" slide show presented by Edith with the attending descendants of Dr. Washington's children being introduced. This was the third reunion of the BTW Family Descendants and we were all very impressed and admiring of the attendance of so many children and young persons who were there to learn about and honor their illustrious ancestor. At the Reunion Banquet, held at the Headquarters Hotel Clarion, we were treated with a Youth Talent Showcase and met some of the outstanding scholars in the Washington family who are following the quest their ancestor began back in 1872 when he left employment in the Ruffner Home in Malden, West Virginia and headed to Hampton Institute.

At their traditional business meeting, our President Sam McNeely presented to Margaret and Edith a check from the Ruffner Family Association funding effort to support the scholarship fund at Tuskegee University. Speaking for the Washington Descendants, they thanked all the Ruffners who contributed to the \$1,120.00 gift given in the memory of Gen. Lewis and Viola Ruffner. The emotional highlight of the Ruffner presentation was the essay presented by Joseph Wilson Ruffner, Sr. of Huntsville, Alabama. By reflecting on childhood stories, Cousin Joe was able to impart the impact Dr. Washington's relationship had on the Ruffner family.

Saturday, June 24th was spent at the Booker T. Washington National Monument. The 224 acres of the original James and Elizabeth Burroughs Tobacco Plantation was designated a National Monument in 1957 and encompasses the archeological sites and restorations of many buildings which comprised the Burroughs' Plantation. The Park Superintendent, Rebecca Harriett, and her staff provided a well organized and memorable experience for all, beginning with an official welcome to the Big Tent by Marie Rust, Northeast Regional Director for the National Park Service and a key note address by Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service. The proper mood was established by the gospel choir, "Voices of Unity." Well over three hundred persons had gathered, many just tourists visiting the Park, to witness the unveiling of a monumental sculpture bust of Dr. Washington by sculptor, James Barnhill.

The actress, Ajena Rogers, performed a one woman theatre piece, "Rachel Hatcher: Looking to Freedom." She later would join other park personnel in a "Walk Around The Plantation" where dramatic presentations would enhance each building and its purpose. These concluded with everyone gathering at the site of the Big House where Miss Rogers portrayed Booker's mother Jane in the dramatic reading of the Emancipation Proclamation. As the sun set, and darkness came upon the park, we all walked to the Slave Cabin and there took part in a Candle Light Prayer Vigil in Remembrance of their Slave Ancestors. Pictures of this special day at the Monument Park can be seen on-line at www.NPS.gov.



(continued on page 5)

Walking in the footsteps of Booker T. Washington *(continued from page 4)*

On Sunday, the Washington Reunion concluded with a very impressive slide show tribute to their members who had died since the last reunion. The descendants of those memorialized gave personal reflections and tributes. They all departed the beautiful Roanoke Valley with plans to hold their 2002 gathering in Malden, West Virginia. They invited the members of the Ruffner Family Association to join them in celebrating our common and historical roots in the great Kanawha River Valley. David J. Barnett and his brother Gerald D. Barnett of Houston, Texas are Co-chairmen for the Malden Reunion. Watch for future announcements in the RR&R.

One could not leave this memorable gathering without coming to terms with the power of the path leading from the slave cabin where Booker T. Washington was born. It is a long but hallowed path which cuts through the center of our nation's heart. It is the path we must walk, from ignorance to enlightenment, from despair to hope, from fear to courage and from slavery to freedom. It is the soul/path of Dr. Booker T. Washington. ■



The Washington descendants and Ruffner guests at the Slave Cabin on the Burroughs Plantation.



Margaret Washington Clifford, Virginia Rigg and Edith Washington Johnson at the dedication of the monument bust of Booker T. Washington.

Mark Your Calendar

For the Ruffner Family Association
2001 Reunion
Luray, Virginia - June 14-17

It's less than a year away. **President Sam McNeely and Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett** have been working hard to put together an unforgettable Ruffner reunion. Tentative plans call for an optional tour of Lexington, VA on June 14th. Many areas of Ruffner interest lie there in connection with Dr. Henry Ruffner who was elected president of Washington & Lee University in 1820. Reunion events move to Luray on Friday, June 15th, with registration, exhibits and lots of time to get acquainted and reacquainted with your Ruffner cousins. Self-guided tours of historic sites of the Luray area will commence on Saturday with special events for the youngsters. Our traditional biennial banquet will be held on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, church services will be held and the reunion will be concluded with a family picnic and auction at either Yogi Bear Jellystone Park or Lake Arrowhead.

**PLEASE PLAN
TO ATTEND!**



WHAT IS IT?

WHERE IS IT?



SEE PAGE 15

NEW DUES STRUCTURE & MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2001

The RFA Board of Directors, at their recent meeting, unanimously passed a motion to adopt a modest raise in single dues and additional dues categories, including optional life membership. The new rates and categories are as follows:

Single	\$20/year
Family (all residing at one address)	\$30/year
Student (not residing with family)	\$10/year
Life Membership	\$500/one time

Dues invoices will be mailed in December.



Ruffners In The News

(Arizona)

Melissa Ruffner (desc. Benjamin) was interviewed by the Associated Press in Sept. 1999, as a "descendant of one of the first families in the Prescott area." The subject of the article was Prescott's growth from Arizona's first territorial capital in 1864 to the present. Melissa's historical tours were mentioned as well. Newspapers to pick up the AP article included San Diego, CA; Dallas, TX; and Scottsdale, AZ.



Melissa Ruffner, Prescott (AZ) Historical Tours, 1999 (photo courtesy of Melissa Ruffner)

Eleanor's 65th Anniversary and 'The Brick'

by Joseph Wilson Ruffner

Leaving Nitro, WV, on the highway to Eleanor, you soon come to a roadside marker showing the image of George Washington and giving a brief description of his involvement with these western Virginia lands. After passing this marker, when the shoulders of the road widen, you know you are approaching a more developed area. Soon you are in Eleanor, WV.

On the first day of our visit, we immediately spotted 'the Brick', or 'the Red House', or 'the Joseph Ruffner House'. It is known by each of these names to the local citizens and, as described, it is an easily identified landmark in the heart of this community. We met and were greeted by Mrs. Emma Lee Lewis—who first made us aware of this Ruffner house, and Mrs. Marlane Carr—the most knowledgeable person about the house's history and the most interested supporter of its preservation and future use.

As we toured the house from top to bottom, Marlane's descriptions of its known history, its role and influence as the administrative center during Eleanor's early years of development, and the ideas for its future use were most enlightening and intriguing. Its history is worthy of further discussion at some point.

The following day, we returned for the opening of their 65th Anniversary Celebration. Before the community dinner and entertainment began, we drove through most of the community. Here we saw the evidences of Eleanor's beginning and its continuing life; the homes, the schools, and the park. Most of these are located on semi-circular streets which radiate from the "hard road." On the opposite side of the road, at their geometric center, is 'the Brick'.

The housing was built for and by the original depression-era homesteaders. Some homes look as though they have not changed except for new paint while others have been remodeled. All are elegant; both in their neat and clean original simplicity, and in their tasteful and varied remodeling. Many are still owned by the original homesteaders' descendants. The scheduled activities I sampled during my brief visit were: A delicious home-cooked Celebration dinner, and a very talented gospel music performance. But, the real treats I derived from this experience were: Meeting and talking to the people, seeing their community, seeing them gather as a community, and observing their interactions with one another. Their interest in and concern for each other and their community was very openly obvious.

Marlane had said it would be a "simple small town celebration," and Emma Lee's latest note states, "hope you are glad you came." In my estimation, its simplicity perfectly captured the real sense and qualities of community. The same values which have been lost or were never possessed by many other communities.

Yes, I'm glad I went to Eleanor and my 'thanks' to all of you for your cordial hospitality! I shall fondly remember my experiences with the people, the setting, 'the Brick', and their small town community. And, maybe the next time I'm in the vicinity, I'll have enough time to just drop in to again say, 'Hello!' ■

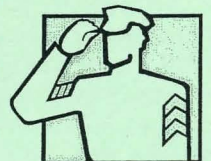


Marlane Carr and Emma Lee Lewis at the entrance to the Ruffner House in Eleanor, West Virginia.

FAMILY NEWS

Anita (Neff) Weidinger, DVM (desc. Emanuel) has opened her own veterinary practice: York Veterinary Hospital, 4628 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692; (757) 898-3700. Anita, a 1987 graduate of The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine, is the daughter of Barbara (Ruffner) & Bill Neff of Williamsport, OH.

Nicole (Zink) Hill has been promoted to the rank of Captain. Nicole (desc. Emanuel) is the daughter of Norma Lynn (Ruffner) Zink of Tacoma, WA. She is currently on active duty with the United States Army in **Hawaii**.





Searching for Burial Sites ~ “A Spiritual Journey”

by Robert Newman Sheets

Back in 1975, during a business tour of England and Wales as a guest of the British Arts Council, I happened to be in Norwich where I, with great luck, found the grave of a Newman ancestor. He was buried in the floor of a deconsecrated church, under some heavy canvas that protected the ancient floor from arts activities. Finding my ancestors grave stones became a passion for me when as youngsters, my sister Shirl and I would every summer be hiking with our grandmother, Edna Newman Sheets, through the mining ghost towns of Colorado. We learned from her the sanctity of those sites, no matter whose family they honored.

So, it was with the same excitement that we looked forward to joining with Cousin Joe Ruffner, prior to the Booker T. Washington Descendants Reunion, in a search for Viola (Knapp) Ruffner's grave in Louisville, Kentucky. Our Ruffner researchers have long wondered what the Kentucky connection was in our history, beginning with Peter & Mary's son Reuben, the first son to leave the Shenandoah Valley in 1789. Later some children and grandchildren of Joseph (brother of Reuben), who settled Charleston/Malden, West Virginia, also made their way to parts of Kentucky. Walking in the historic and beautiful Cave Hill Cemetery, we felt that our connection to Viola was under her guiding hand. The Ruffner plot contained not only her stone (1812-1903), but those of Colonel Ernest Howard Ruffner (1845-1937), the son of Gen. Lewis Ruffner and Viola, Mary H. his wife (1850-1921) and two Patton girls, Corinna G. (1816-1883) and Sophia (1821-1901). Although there are no additional markers, the listings for the Lewis Ruffner plot - Lot No. 43, Section H, which was purchased on April 21, 1849, also shows the recorded burial dates (not birth, nor death) for the following: Miss Florina Knapp (April 10, 1871); Hermann Ruffner (April 23, 1849), son of Lewis & Viola; Lewis Ruffner, Jr. (June 21, 1910) and his wife, Virginia Louisa (West) Ruffner (March 19, 1907).

Why was Viola buried in Louisville? Had she died there? And why was Ernest there when he had died in Cincinnati? The search for answers would continue but we were feeling closer to Viola, the great lady in the life of Booker T. Washington.

Why the interest or passion in grave sites? Genealogists and historians use them as tools for developing a person's record although we have learned that sometimes the dates and names are wrong. The words on the stones are just additional data. But for me there is another more powerful vibration that comes from finding the stone and touching it. It becomes a voice with the past. Here was interred the body of someone loved and cared for by their family. Here the stone was carved, often with a loving remembrance. Here the family gathered in their hour of loss and here so many years later we can gather to share those feelings for ancestors we never met. When a stone or marker no longer exists, it in no way diminishes the emotional connection we can have with such hallowed ground; witness the connection we all had in 1997, when we erected and dedicated the monument to Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner at the burial ground on their homestead in Luray, Virginia.

Some say that locating grave sites or finding lost sites is just pure luck or diligent research. I contend that once you set your mind to the task, you are not alone. This case in point: Back in 1995, when we were on our way to the Ruffner Reunion in Charleston, West Virginia, we spent the night in Clarksburg, 120 miles north. Shirl and I had grown up with the tale that our great grandfather, Major Daniel L. Sheets had migrated west in 1866 to the Colorado Territory because his family disowned him after he chose to join the Union Army contrary to his siblings Confederate sympathies. His parent's and siblings names were never mentioned again in our family. It was by chance I had learned in 1980 that he had been born in Lost Creek to Samuel and Elizabeth (Kinsley) Sheets, just ten miles south of Clarksburg. So maybe, just maybe, we might be able to find the grave sites of Samuel and Elizabeth.

We called the local Genealogy Library only to find that it was closed. But a young clerk told us, if we could show up at 2pm, he would personally let us in and help us search for burial listings. He greeted us at the door and showed us through volumes of inventories that had been generated by the WPA during the Great Depression. After about an hour, there it was, a listing, "Buried along Stone Pot Road in Lost Creek are the graves of Samuel Sheets, Elizabeth Sheets, Margaret Sheets and Martin Sheets." But where was Stone Pot Road? He didn't know. So off we drove to Lost Creek armed only with a USGS map I had purchased in Denver. The hills of West Virginia have many dirt roads and no road signs. Turning on a road we guessed might be Stone Pot, we came to a house and gentleman cutting weeds. At Shirl's suggestion, we stopped to ask him if it was Stone Pot Road. Yes it was. Did he know of any graves along the road with the name of 'Sheets?' And here is when we knew we were not alone on our journey. He said, "Yes, and if you will take me with you I will show you where they are."

It was more than just luck that brought us to Lost Creek that hot muggy day in June, to meet the only person living who knew where the graves were. Bob Lowther explained that while hunting mushrooms a few years back, he had come across the graves in the forest, but felt so sad, knowing that they represented a family and he had no one in which to share the discovery. We soon left Stone Pot and headed deep in to a "holler" called Devil's Lane. Leaving the car in Virginia's protection, Shirl and I joined Bob on a search of the hill before us. It took him a while but he soon found them, again covered

(continued on page 9)

Searching for Burial Sites ~ "A Spiritual Journey" (continued from page 8)

over by weeds, briar and moving earth. Weather and animals had not been good to the site, but with shovels and snow brushes, we soon uncovered all four stones.

Standing there looking down upon the names of our great great grandparents, it was a special moment for both Shirl and me. Here was the final resting place of their bones, bones that once cleared for the homestead, built the cabin and bore the child that would take the Sheets name to pioneer Colorado. Names and bones we thought lost to history, had come back home to their living descendants. Had we been guided to that little burial ground? We think we had. A closed library; yet we were let in. A road with no name; yet we turned on the right one. A man cutting weeds; so we asked him the right question. What seemed like a blind journey was in fact, a direct route to our ancestors.

Each time another obscure burial ground or forgotten Ruffner stone in a major cemetery is located by our members, we all take a step closer to that spirit that pulls, pushes and guides us to who they were and ultimately, who we are. We are never on the road alone.

Your support of the Ruffner Cemetery Committee is appreciated. For more information contact: Sam McNeely, Cemetery Restoration Committee, 3 Meadow Lane, Luray, VA 22835



Grave of Viola (Knapp) Ruffner, second wife of Gen. Lewis Ruffner, Mother of Ernest H. Ruffner, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY.



Grave of Ernest H. Ruffner and his first wife Mary (Watson) Ruffner, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY.

**Please send us your
Genealogy Survey ~**

For Joseph, send to:

Joseph W. Ruffner
11511 Jade Lane, Huntsville, AL 35803
(256) 882-6645
jruffner@bellsouth.net

For Peter, Jr., send to:

Nancy Lee Shifflett
917 West Main Street, Luray, VA 22835
(540) 743-6709
pyramid@shentel.net

For Benjamin, send to:

Shirley Ann Sheets
1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210-2939
(303) 733-4935
shirsheets@aol.com

For Reuben, send to:

Dorothea M. Russell
401 Burwash Drive, Apt. 121, Savoy, IL 61874
(217) 398-9858
Dweise@windsorofsavoy.com

For Elizabeth Stover, send to:

Barbara A. Burner
7600 Arlington Avenue, Raytown, MO 64138-1636
(816) 358-6986
BurnerFam@aol.com

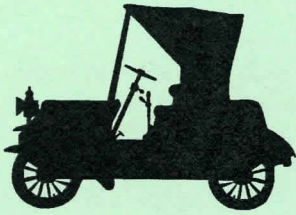
For Emanuel, send to:

Barbara A. Rowles
185 Marks Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130
(740) 653-3705
barowles@greenapple.com

Unsure? - Send to:

Samuel H. McNeely
4 Meadow Lane, Luray, VA 22835
(540) 743-5882
ruffwood@shentel.net

Don't be left out of the updated Ruffner History Book. If you didn't receive a survey, please contact the team coordinator for your branch of the family (listed above). Thank you!



Trekking thru OH, WV, and VA

(My trip to the Ruffner Family Reunion and beyond - June 1999)

By Joseph Wilson Ruffner

(Part 2 of Joe's remembrances as he visits the land of his ancestors for the first time.)

Lancaster, OH - June 5, 1999—The beginning of the Saturday morning tour almost wasn't for me. I could blame it on the Executive Committee's breakfast meeting, but that wasn't the reason. Time will march on whether you're trying to get in a few more moments of conversation or not. Anyway, I nearly missed the bus's departure time. Although there were several minutes to spare, this is not like me at all, I'm usually very early. Anyway, I got a seat, the tour started, and all of the sites were very interesting. They, and all the other sights represent to me something more than a house, or cemetery, or whatever. They fall somewhere in between the details and the overall view. The details are represented by the clay and water of the bricks, the forming by hands, the wielding of tools, and the knowledge and labor to build. If you get close enough you can see the personal touches in them, even the tiniest faults. The overall view is represented by the sight you see when looking down from the Ruffner-Friend Cemetery toward the Ruffner-Rowles home. You can see the house and barns, the cabin, the spring house, the trees, and the fields. But it's impossible to see the evidence of a thumb print on a wet brick from there. Both vantage points give their own perspective to the imagination, determination, skill, and human endeavor, which went into the family's migration, settlement of the land, and, most of all, their evident commitment to each other and the improvement of their circumstances. With each new sight, from afar or up close, I was in some way reminded of the experiences of our ancestors.

What more could you expect from an experience than I had already had? The remainder of Saturday would bring such delights as could surely only be a dream. This time they were real as life. As I was walking through the lobby, Roberta Kirwin caught my eye and beckoned for me to come to where she was sitting. As I approached, I made a quick survey of the other persons with whom she was seated. I knew immediately what she wanted. She was seated on one of the sofas talking with the Washington sisters. She introduced me to Edith and Margaret. Now I was standing face to face with these offspring of Booker T. Washington, the stories about whom had fascinated me nearly my whole life. We talked for quite some time, yet not nearly long enough. They had to excuse themselves to go unpack and get ready for the Banquet.

Almost immediately upon their leaving, I turned around in the lobby and there stood someone I recognized immediately, Ernest H. Ruffner. I'd never seen him. I just knew who it was. It was his great-great grandmother, Viola, who was the more prominent family character in the Ruffner-Washington story. We share the same gr-gr-grandfather, but the General had two wives. I'm descended through the first; Ernie from the second. We had talked on the phone and exchanged e-mail, but now we finally had met. I immediately liked him, but, once again, the time was growing short to get myself ready for the Banquet. This same whirlwind type meeting and introduction had happened on the previous day just before the Opening Reception. On this occasion, it happened to be Sam McNeely who I spotted and recognized along with his ever-present video camera. He, like Ernie, Bob and others, had been a correspondent with me for some time. Although time had once again cut us short, I at least knew who he was. I guess the fact we—Ernie, Sam and I—share the same gr-gr-grandfather created this affinity. To the best of my knowledge they, along with Sam's brother Jim, are my closest relatives in the Association. That's not counting the few cousins, all four of them, I know from my father's brother and sister. Isn't it strange some people have to go back more than 100 years to find someone they're related to? In our case, my ancestor, Lewis, Jr., was born in 1837; Sam and Jim's ancestor, Joel Shrewsbury, was born in 1840, and Ernie's ancestor, Ernest Howard, was born in 1845. Do you really suppose an affinity developed among brothers born within an 8 year span could pass down through the generations for more than 154 years since the birth of the youngest brother? After my experiences, I wouldn't doubt it. Makes me wonder how long it's been since Bob Rowles' ancestor, Emanuel, and my own ancestor, Joseph, began sharing these same sibling feelings with one another. He certainly generates this same type feeling—someone you've known and liked all your life. Just in case you're wondering, according to the book, it's been 242 years since the birth of Emanuel (Joseph born in 1740 and Emanuel in 1757).

The Banquet was a parade through, yet again. More of the inspiring reminders of our common family heritage spread throughout all its diverse branches. I think the real highlights were the recognitions given to those several deserving people for their individual contributions, and the warm reception given to our honored guests, Edith Washington Johnson and Margaret Washington Clifford.

June 6, 1999—Sunday's activities couldn't top all this, could it? No need to rank them, they each contributed their own unique bit to the totality of the experience. What a delight to be hosted so hospitably by such a lovely couple and their family in such an idyllic setting. The present time was most pleasing, but for a moment as I walked past the little cabin toward the cemetery for the Monument Dedication, I couldn't help but think of how many times Emanuel might have sat in front of the little cabin in the evening and for a brief moment thought of his young son buried in the cemetery at the top of the rise in front of him? Only someone who has experienced burying a child can answer that question with any accuracy. Did you take in the scenery as you walked around the farm yard or maybe from the cemetery hillside? Did you envision Emanuel crossing the river, mountains, and valleys on his way to the Northwest Territory? I did. Standing beside the Conestoga wagon and touching its plank sides gave a reality to the vision of pioneers learned in some grade school years. That very same wagon could have been one, of who knows how many, the family had for their use when acting as provisioners before, during, and

(continued on page 11)

Trekking thru OH, WV, and VA (continued from page 10)

after the Revolutionary War, or simply taking goods to a market somewhere beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In my close up inspection of the upstairs rooms of Emanuel's cabin, I noticed the very fine corner bead work on the ceiling planks. They ran along one edge of the face of the planking for the plank's full length. The beads could not have been more than 1/8th of an inch, which is a very fine detail even by today's methods. All these were handmade, absolutely straight and without flaws. This would have been very laborious and time consuming. Then they were used in an almost inconspicuous location. Why bother? Do you suppose they just didn't know how to cut corners? I don't mean working beads into the edge of wooden planks. I mean being a slacker about attention to details, making things easier, saving time, doing less. In general, what we could call making life easier. That would have been as foreign to them as the prospects of your next space flight is to you. Any effort required and any time consumed would have taken a backseat to the quality of their work, which they evidently had instilled in them. And, just look at the ridiculous results of this work. It's only stood on the same spot for 180+ years and looks to stand an even longer time from now. Evidently when they sawed and used a board, their concept of saving time, labor and all the rest, was to not ever have to go back and spend more time and labor to replace the original board. The time and labor was already spent, the board was in its place. It shouldn't need to be replaced and effort repeated. That would make for good time management even today—especially today. Needless to say, seeing these evidences of the efforts of Emanuel and all of his family, who had lived, worked and died here at this place, has moved all of them up about five notches on my scale—and there are just four notches on the whole darn thing. I was totally unprepared to find this very same fine beadwork on the original planking found in one of the old Ruffner homes in the Luray area some few days later, but I did. It, also, was on the ceiling planks no less. I don't believe anyone will ever be able to answer the questions: Who all learned this intricate skill? Where, when and from whom did they learn it? And, what possessed them to pay such detail to ceiling planks?

All to soon, the activities of the picnic came to a close, even most of the cleanup done. The wonderful food, the friendly camaraderie, and the magnificently relaxing setting had all combined to satiate the physical, mental, and emotional appetites. As I drove back toward town, I was reminded of how self sufficient all these ancestors had to have been. It was a short drive, but would have been a fair day's ride on horseback, even worse by wagon. If you needed a gallon of milk and the cow was dry, you could hardly be expected to go to town on the spur of the moment.

I spent the latter part of the afternoon and through the evening meal with my new found "cousin Sally (Ruffner) Spangler." Later, a small group of us gathered in one of the rooms and talked family genealogy. What else could you have expected? Also, had a chance to talk a little more at length with a couple of other family members. Melissa Ruffner and Gary Ruffner seemed intrigued by some of my materials. I was glad I had brought them so they could have a look. Their interest made packing, unpacking and hauling the "stuff" around all worthwhile. After the group broke up, I got to spend a bit more time talking and visiting with Gary. He is such a delight and so proud of his children's interest in the family. He's one of those folks who make you feel good.■

(Editor's Note: In the next issue, Joe travels onward to Charleston, WV in search of his family roots.)

Remembering those Ruffners who served in "America's Forgotten War"



Korean War Memorial, Washington, DC

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Its commemoration began June 25, 2000, and will run through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2003. Despite the fact that 1.5 million Americans fought in Korea, it came to be known as "America's Forgotten War." Recently, while visiting the many monuments to our armed services in Washington, DC, I thought of all the Ruffner descendants who had bravely served America from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm. During this national observance, The Ruffner Family Association pays tribute to all the Ruffner cousins who served in the Korean War. We salute their selflessness, courage and ability to withstand difficult conditions to ensure the freedom of a people and a country theretofore unknown to them. (Ed)

Twenty-one reasons to attend the 2001 RFA Reunion

1. Luray is located in Page County between the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountains in Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley.
2. The Shenandoah Valley is rich in history.
3. Page County is home to several National Historic Landmarks.
4. Luray Caverns, the largest in the eastern United States.
5. Shenandoah National Park, 196,000 acre mountain playground.
6. Luray is the central gateway to the 105-mile Skyline Drive.
7. George Washington National Forest in the Massanutten Mountain Range.
8. The Shenandoah River for canoeing, tubing, fishing & swimming.
9. The Shenandoah Jubilee featuring country, gospel, bluegrass & patriotic music.
10. Yogi Bear Jellystone Park featuring a 400' water slide.
11. The Ruffner House B&B, built on the original foundation of Peter & Mary's original home, circa 1739, and expanded to its present size in 1840.
12. The Reuben Ruffner log cabin.
13. The Benjamin Ruffner Home.
14. Calendine, residence of William Randolph Barbee, famed classic sculptor.
15. Mauck Meeting House built in 1770.
16. Excellent lodging - bed & breakfasts, country inns, cabins, country homes, motels and campgrounds.
17. Gift and antique shops.
18. Genealogy research at Page County Library.
19. Self-guided tours of the land and historic homes once owned by your ancestors.
20. Outstanding social events including hospitality, banquet, picnic and a genuine Ruffner Family auction.

And last, but not least—

21. Where else could you go and meet 200 cousins you never knew you had.

*Not to know what has been
transacted in former times
is to continue always a child.
~ Cicero*

Genealogy Humor

- ☹ My family coat of arms ties at the back—is that normal?
- ☹ My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!
- ☺ Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!
- ☺ My hobby is genealogy. I raise dust bunnies as pets.
- ☹ I'm not stuck. I'm ancestrally challenged.
- ☹ I'm searching for myself? Have you seen me?
- ☺ It's 2000... Do you know where your Gr-Grandparents are?
- ☺ A family reunion is an effective form of birth control.
- ☺ A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.
- ☺ A new cousin a day keeps the boredom away.
- ☹ After 30 days, unclaimed ancestors will be adopted.
- ☹ Ever find an ancestor HANGING from the family tree?
- ☺ Genealogists are time unravelers.
- ☺ Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide ... I seek!
- ☺ Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
- ☹ "Crazy" is a relative term in my family.
- ☺ A pack rat is hard to live with, but makes a fine ancestor.
- ☹ I should have asked them BEFORE they died!
- ☹ I think my ancestors had several "Bad heir" days.
- ☺ I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNEflower.
- ☺ Many a family tree needs pruning.
- ☹ Snobs talk as if they had begotten their own ancestors!
- ☺ That's strange; half my ancestors are WOMEN!
- ☹ I'm not sick, I've just got fading genes.
- ☺ Genealogists live in the PAST lane.
- ☺ Cousins marrying cousins: Very tangled roots!
- ☺ All right! Everybody out of the gene pool!
- ☺ Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!
- ☺ Shh! Be very, very quiet ... I'm hunting forebears.
- ☺ Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.
- ☹ That's the problem with the gene pool: NO Lifeguards.
- ☹ So many ancestors, so little time!!!

Thanks to Barbara Burner (desc. Elizabeth Stover) for submitting these clever one-liners. Barbara, from Raytown, MO, is the team coordinator for descendants of Elizabeth and co-chairs the RFA Nominating Committee.

History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha

by Charles Hedrick from *The Charleston Gazette*, 1884

(final installment)

Resuming the regular thread of these sketches we now come to—

COL. JOEL RUFFNER was the second son of Daniel—was domestic in his habits, and emphatically a useful man, whose chief ambition was to make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow on a spot of ground where only one grew before. Then he was one of the very few who obeyed and practiced each and all of the Ten Commandments laid down by Moses; and he also scrupulously practiced what is sometimes called the Eleventh Commandment—"attend to your own business and let that of others alone."

He was born in Kanawha County, and spent his long life, after attaining his majority, on his farm just above Charleston—the same farm given him by his father.

Notwithstanding he raised and liberally educated a large family, yet he kept out of debt and accumulated some money. Prudent and economizing, he shunned hazardous speculations and enterprizes. For although he was not without a reasonable share of public spirit, nor inclined to retard the wheels of industrial progress, yet he never took serious risks where an untoward turn of fortune might endanger his pecuniary independence. He was often entrusted by the courts and by individuals with important business affairs, and handled many and large sums of money for others, but never was he a defaulter, or neglectful of any matter that was entrusted to him. He never sought any public position. But, without any solicitation of his, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the county. This was then an honorable, but not a profitable office, no fees were allowed for any business performed by the Justice. Not in any sense a brilliant man, Colonel Joel was remarkable for his sound sense, clear judgment and sterling integrity. He was married in early life to Miss Diana Marye, a distant relative, in Shenandoah County, Virginia. She died 23rd October, 1881, and he September 8th, 1882. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church, and regular attendants on its ordinances at Charleston.

They had 16 children, of whom the first three died very young. Two sons, Daniel and Joel, died during the war. The following are now living:

Frances, married to David L. Ruffner, before mentioned in these memoirs.

W. Marye, unmarried, is in the grocery business in Charleston with Wm. H. Truslow, the firm name being Ruffner & Truslow.

Annie M. has remained single, and has devoted much of her time and talents to literature and teaching. After teaching some time at home, she taught at Russellville, KY. She then made a trip to Europe, passing much of her time while there in Paris. Upon her return she commenced a private high school, boarding many of her pupils, and is now engaged in that way on a beautiful place a few hundred yards from her father's late residence.

The other children of Joel, are Alexander and L. Diana, both unmarried; Kate A., married to W. H. Fant, of Owensboro, KY; Jennie A. and Theda, both unmarried; Willie A., married to C. Blaine of Kentucky; Louisa B., married to John Hopper, of Cincinnati, and James A., who spent some years in Nevada, married in Arizona, where he now resides.

AUGUSTUS RUFFNER was a steady and good business man, and possessed a bright mind well cultivated. He married Miss Mary Rogers, a daughter of the late Dr. Rogers, of Charleston. Besides cultivating a part of his father's farm adjoining Charleston, he was engaged early in the lumber and milling business on Elk River, within the corporation limits of the town. He built a neat residence on the farm, being the same residence now owned and occupied by his son, Col. H. D. Ruffner. Suddenly he was taken with a nervous affliction in one of his heels, and which soon after affected his whole frame, rendering him entirely helpless. For 18 or 20 years he was thus afflicted, and though he consulted the best physicians in all the country and visited various watering places, he got no relief. His mind, however, continued sound to the last. He died at his home March 3rd, 1855.

Augustus left three children: Col. Henry D. Ruffner, who married Miss Sallie, a daughter of Dr. Spicer Patrick. They reside at the old homestead of his father as before stated. He was in the whole of the late war, and was a Colonel in the Confederate Army. He went to Leadville some time ago, leaving his family at home, and opened a silver mine, which he found after a considerable trial would not pay. He came back to his old home after varied money expenses, no doubt a sadder and a wiser man. He is now a contractor on the State Capitol building. (See photos and additional history on the cover page.)

Leonora married William Alexander, a highly respectable and independent farmer of Putnam County, West Virginia. Mary married Dr. L. L. Comstock, a citizen and prominent physician of Charleston. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Ruffner, lives with him.

JAMES and ANDREW L. RUFFNER, twin sons of Daniel, both started with fine opportunities. But there was a notable difference in their careers. The former was a careful and prudent man and valuable citizen. In 1826 he married Miss Martha Morton, of Greenup, Kentucky. They lived a long time at the old homestead of his father, the present residence of Silas Ruffner, to whom he sold it about 1859 or 1860. He then removed to Charleston. They had four children, two sons and two daughters. One of the latter died at the age of seven years. James Ruffner spent the greater part of his life on his farm, but for several years was engaged in the manufacture of salt. A good business man, he succeeded in all his enterprises. He was strictly honest, and never failed to meet any and all of his obligations. His wife died in August, 1865, and he married again in 1866. His second wife was Miss Ellen, youngest daughter of the late James C. McFarland, of Charleston. He died the 6th



(continued on page 14)

History of the Ruffner Family of Kanawha (continued from page 13)

day of February, 1867, leaving surviving a widow with one child, a daughter, Nellie J. His widow is again married. Her second husband being Dr. Houser. They reside in Charleston.

He left three children of his first wife, viz: Andrew L., Meredith P., and Anastien W.

ANDREW L. and MEREDITH RUFFNER, sons of James, are both unmarried. They compose the firm of Ruffner Brothers, and are engaged in the wholesale grocery business in Charleston, and other enterprises. They own two fine two-story brick store houses in the city, one of which they built themselves, and also other valuable property in and around the city. These gentlemen are entitled to the credit of starting the first regular jobbing and wholesale trade in the County of Kanawha. And in this they have met with remarkable success. It is but justice to say they have shown a commendable spirit of enterprise, calculated to built up and promote the material prosperity of the city, and whole Kanawha Valley as well as their own.

ANASTEIN W., the surviving daughter of James Ruffner, by his first wife, married Col. William H. Hogeman, in 1869. They reside in Charleston. Col. Hogeman came to Charleston from New York just after he attained his majority. Having studied law in that state, he was licensed and admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court thereof in the City of New York, Dec. 16, 1867. But having previously been in Kanawha on some business and made the acquaintance of some of the prominent men, he chose Charleston for his future residence, and is now engaged in active practice, with more than ordinary success. Though he has taken much interest in the political questions of the day, he has never sought any political office. He was appointed by Governor Jacob one of his aides with the rank of Colonel, and the same compliment was paid him by Governors Mathews and Jackson. For some years he has been, and still is counsel of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway. He is now about 37 years of age.

ANDREW LEWIS RUFFNER, the twin brother of James, like all his brothers, was a tall man of fine proportions and vigorous mind. He was never married. When a young man he first engaged in the business of salt making. Being of a rollicking, jovial disposition, he became fond of river life and went to steam boating as an owner and commander. "Captain Andy" possessed a noble nature, but what with the jolly life of steam boating, and visiting Cincinnati, Louisville or some other city every week or so, with boon companions, he acquired an inordinate thirst for his cups. Steam boating was then a very profitable business and it brought money to him rapidly; but all this ended like the labor of the Danaides; the money ran out as it came in, so he never laid up or saved any.

Courtly, manly and liberal to a fault, bright and intelligent, he was a great favorite with all his associates. The victim of a wild and dissipated career, he died on May 27th, 1850, in Fairfield County, Ohio, while on a visit to his father who was then living there.

**"No further seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,
There they alike in trembling hope repose.
The bosom of his Father and his God."**

ELIZABETH RUFFNER, daughter of Daniel Ruffner, married N. V. Wilson. She now resides in Charleston with her son-in-law, Charles C. Lewis. Mrs. Wilson has eight children—five daughters and three sons. Kate married P. H. Noyes, a wholesale grocer of Charleston; Betty married C. C. Lewis, late Cashier of Kanawha Valley Bank and stockholder therein. Anna married A. W. Allemong of the firm of Henking, Allemong & Co., wholesale grocers of Gallipolis, Ohio. Virginia married Rev. John G. Hall, a Presbyterian minister and missionary. Willie married Charles Rooke of Malden. The sons are Daniel, Nathaniel V. and James, all living and in business in Kanawha County.

Daniel Ruffner had by his second wife the following children, all born in the State of Ohio, viz: Walter, born in the year 1845; Daniel, born February 1, 1847; Joseph born 29th October, 1848; Virginia, born in 1851 and William St. Elliot, born in 1853.

Walter was drowned by breaking through the ice on a pond on his father's farm in Fairfield County, Ohio, when about nine years of age. Daniel resides in Covington, Kentucky, and carries on business in Cincinnati. Virginia married Mr. James M. Stoughton, of Kentucky, and resides in Glendale, a suburb of Cincinnati, in which city her husband is engaged in business. He is a member of the firm of Smith, Stoughton & Payne, wholesale manufacturers and dealers in boots and shoes. William is a farmer and resides in Todd County, Kentucky. Joseph studied law in Cincinnati, came to Charleston in 1871, and commenced the practice of law, in which he made a fair start. In 1875 he married Miss Mary A. Jackson, of Richmond, Indiana, and after living in Charleston until the fall of 1878, he went to Richmond, Indiana, and from there to Cincinnati, in which places he was engaged in the practice of his profession. Not liking these locations he returned to Charleston in 1881, where he is now engaged in the practice of law.

And now, Mr. Editor, you have many thanks for the space allowed in your valuable paper for the foregoing sketches. Much more of interest to many, if not to the general public, might have been said of Col. David Ruffner, Dr. Henry Ruffner, General Lewis Ruffner, Daniel Ruffner and Col. Charles Ruffner, and some others. But the limits prescribed by the writer for this work, would have been excluded. And if any Carping Zolius shall complain that these sketches are too brief, or imperfectly written, or infected with any other vice, all the writer has to say is, take up your pen and do better. But, whatever may be said in the way of criticism, the writer has this consolation: That in what he has written, he has endeavored to tell the truth, and believes he has done so, from title page to—**COLOPHON**

What Is It? Where Is It?

(from page 6)

WHAT: Ruffner Mine Road

WHERE: Ruffner Mine Road - listed in *Mileposts* 2000 Edition on page 705 as J 51.6 (51.6 miles from the junction of Atlin Road with Tagish Road) - is 6.5 miles from Atlin, British Columbia. It was named after Julius Ruffner (descendant of Joseph) who, according to Diane Smith of the Atlin Historical Society, was "one of Atlin's most important citizens."

Julius Ruffner was born on November 28, 1866, in Cincinnati, OH, third son of Henry and Jemina (Perry) Ruffner. He was an auditor for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and, with his older brother, Jesse, was a contractor. One of their projects was the lake at Coney Island, outside Cincinnati. Archival materials at the Atlin Historical Society seem to indicate Julius was in Alaska sometime prior to the 1898 gold rush to the Yukon Territory, Canada. In Atlin, he was an owner/operator of several gold recovery companies.

In 1929, Julius and his second wife, Miriam "Minnie," went south to visit her family in Monmouth, IL. Here he suffered a heart attack and died. "Minnie" never returned to Atlin, British Columbia and their house was sold. It still stands overlooking Lake Atlin. Julius and Miriam Hallam Ruffner had no children.



Julius Ruffner (photo courtesy of Melissa Ruffner)

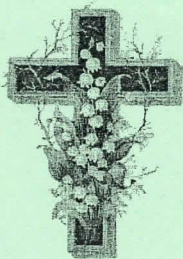


Julius Ruffner's Home on Atlin Lake
(photo courtesy of Melissa Ruffner)

The Atlin Historical Society had neither a photo of Julius Ruffner or any idea why he never came home. Melissa Ruffner has been able to locate a photo and the information about his death. A complete paper including all her research will be—at their request—deposited with the Atlin Historical Society, the McBride Museum in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory and the Yukon Archives.

A story about Melissa as she set off on her 1998 British Columbia trip to investigate Ruffner history appeared in the January 1999 issue of RR&R. Melissa is a member of the RFA Board of Directors, the RR&R Editorial Board and co-chairs the RFA Membership Committee. (Ed)

Do you know of a Ruffner namesake - have a photo and history? Please send to Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, 120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213. All photos will be returned.



In Memoriam

**Sue Rebecca (Ruffner) Housden
Luray, VA**

(Descendant of Peter, Jr.)
Aug. 19, 1932~Aug. 16, 2000

Sue was the daughter of Jacob Daniel Ruffner and Frances S. Baldwin. She was a direct descendant of Peter Ruffner, Jr. & Elizabeth Burner through their son John. She is survived by her daughter, Lora, sisters Jane (Ruffner) Lucas, Winchester, VA, and Doris (Ruffner) Whiting, Charles Town, WV.

Following cremation, a beautiful memorial service was held at the Stanley UM Church in Luray. Her daughter Lora played the piano for the anthem sung by the choir.

Sue was preceded in death by her husband Louis "Wayne" Housden, son Larry and sister, Polly (Ruffner) Hershberger.

**JOHN FREDERICK MANDT
Birmingham, AL**

(Descendant of Joseph)
January 2, 1957~January 13, 2000

John died January 13, 2000, at the age of 43. He was born January 2, 1957, in Kingston, NY to Richard Ruffner Mandt and Jeanne (Auer) Mandt. He married Patricia Allene Trott in 1982. They both held Law degrees from the Univ. of Alabama and were each awarded the prestigious Order of Coif. He was with the law firm of Balch and Bingham. John is survived by his parents, his wife, daughters Jennifer Allene 12 and Sarah Margaret 5, son David Ruffner age 7 and brothers Richard Ruffner Mandt of Patrick Springs, VA and David William Mandt of Cincinnati, OH. Burial was at Southern Heritage Cemetery in Birmingham.

John was a direct descendant of Joseph & Ann (Heistand) Ruffner through their son Daniel. His father Richard grew up in the Ruffner home known as "Rosedale" on Kanawha Blvd., Charleston, WV. The interior logs found in its demolition were the logs used to reconstruct the Joseph Ruffner cabin in Daniel Boone Park in 1976.

*"We never lose the ones we love
For, even though they're gone,
Within the hearts of those who care,
Their memory lingers on."*



The Editor's Desk

**RR&R Editorial Board
rich in research & reporting**

Our thanks to Editorial Board members Melissa Ruffner, Joe Ruffner and Bob Sheets for sharing their Ruffner memoirs in this issue. We are very privileged to have writers and historians of such caliber in the Ruffner Family Association. Special thanks go out to our president, Sam McNeely, for his inspiring leadership that keeps the Ruffner Family Association moving forward. We are grateful to Virginia Ruffner Ball Fisher, who gave us our cover page, and Barbara Burner, who gave us some chuckles. And, of course, to Charles Hedrick who, in 1884, took pen in hand to memorialize the Ruffner Family of Kanawha. We hope all our readers will be encouraged to submit family stories and news to the RR&R for the benefit of all. Hope you enjoy this issue. We welcome your suggestions for future editions.

*Love,
Cousin Joan*

RR&R Editorial Board

Robert Sheets, Contributing Editor Denver, CO
Bill Myers Mission Viejo, CA
Dan Ruffner West Chester, OH
Joe Ruffner Huntsville, AL
Melissa Ruffner Prescott, AZ
Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett Luray, VA
Shawn Williams Catawissa, PA

**Deadline for the next issue is
October 23, 2000**

Publication Guidelines

- All submissions, other than family news, must arrive at our office by the deadline date. If you cannot make the deadline, please call or email.
- The deadline for obituaries, births and other family news will remain flexible. The editor will advise if your news arrived too late for inclusion in the next issue.
- If you want to include a photo(s) with your article or other submission, please send either an original or a good quality color photocopy. All original photos will be returned.
- All submissions for "Where Is It" must contain both a history and photo.

If you know of a good Ruffner related story, but are hesitant to write it yourself, please send us a copy of your documentation and we will solicit a staff member to do the honors. Do not send original documents.