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### Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 4, Issue 3

Ruffner Family Association

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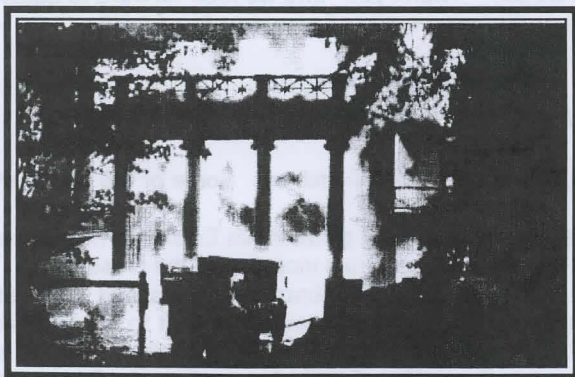
# RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 4, Issue #3

September 2001

## Major Fire Strikes Historic Ruffner Complex at Longwood College

Named for William Henry Ruffner (desc. Joseph), the Ruffner Complex includes Grainger Hall, West Ruffner, East Ruffner, South Ruffner and the Rotunda. The Rotunda, East Ruffner and West Ruffner had been undergoing a major \$12 million renovation over the past year. The halls and Rotunda building, constructed in the 1880s, were the landmark buildings of Longwood College located in Farmville, Virginia, 60 miles west of Richmond. The college was founded as the Farmville Female Seminary in 1839. Two years after William Henry's eight-year, two-term service as the first superintendent of public instruction of Virginia, he founded and became first president of the State Female Normal School (the former Farmville Female Seminary) in Farmville, Virginia, now Longwood College. He served in that position from 1884 to 1887. The college today is a coeducational, state-supported institution with an enrollment of nearly 4000 students.



Rotunda engulfed in flames

The disastrous fire broke out at the college on Tuesday night, April 24, 2001. Eleven fire companies with over 175 firefighters battled the blaze into the early morning hours. Fortunately all students were evacuated safely and there were no casualties.

Damage assessed the following morning included the complete gutting of the Rotunda, East Ruffner and West Ruffner. Grainger Hall, a newly-renovated building which featured state-of-the-art computerized classrooms, was also lost, suffering severe fire damage to the roof, attic, and top floor, with the other floors suffering severe smoke and water damage. The residence halls, Main Tabb and South Ruffner, suffered severe smoke and water damage. The other residence halls, South Tabb and the French dorms, suffered only minimal smoke damage. All residence halls should be ready for occupancy in time for the Fall 2001 session.

Saved from the blaze was the "gray step" that was located on the threshold of the main entrance to Ruffner Hall. The step, worn down over the years by the footsteps of thousands of Longwood students, holds special significance for those who have attended the institution.

While the reason for the fire is unknown and under investigation, current speculation is it was related to a small construction fire reported to have occurred in the Rotunda building earlier in the day. This fire was thought to have been extinguished so the cause is still under investigation. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Virginia State Police decided that arson could be ruled out as the fire's cause and released the site back to Longwood for recovery. Demolition and safety procedures continued throughout the month of May.

See page 2 of this edition for details on the Longwood "Rotunda Fund" and website addresses for viewing further news and photos of this unfortunate disaster. *(Photo from Longwood College website.)*



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— and more

## LONGWOOD COLLEGE ROTUNDA FUND

Pursuant to hundreds of messages and calls from their alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends offering help, Longwood College has established a special fund for reconstruction of their Historic Rotunda. People who wish to contribute may make checks payable to "The Rotunda Fund" and mail them to:

The Rotunda Fund  
Longwood College  
Alumni Office  
201 High Street  
Farmville, VA 23909

For further information, go to the Longwood homepage at [www.lwc.edu](http://www.lwc.edu) and look for appropriate links to the Ruffner Fire.

For additional reports, photos of the fire, and other fund raising activities for the reconstruction of the Rotunda, visit [www.farmville.net](http://www.farmville.net).

*Remember always that all  
of us are descended  
from immigrants.*

~ Franklin Delano Roosevelt

## One Reid and Two Sheets Honored

During the Ruffner Family Reunion Banquet on June 16<sup>th</sup>, held in the Luray Elementary School, our president Sam McNeely presented on behalf of the Association Members, certificates of tribute to Joan Reid, Shirley Ann Sheets and Bob Sheets. Along with the framed certificates each of them received a beautiful handcrafted clock made by President McNeely out of wood from the fence once surrounding the Homestead. The beautifully constructed keepsakes are inscribed with their names and the dates of the Luray Reunion. Each of them responded with remarks which are summarized in the following joint letter:

*Dear Cousins in Our Ruffner Family,*

*The three of us could not have been more overwhelmed or appreciative of your kind words and gracious intentions when you honored us at this past reunion in Luray. The framed certificates and the beautiful clocks will always be a wonderful reminder of the affection and respect we hold for each of you and our wonderful Ruffner Family Association. The kind words that you heaped upon us were indeed humbling. Any small contribution that we have been able to make has been done so with the full knowledge that we are not just a singular group with a narrow focus of membership or activity but an Association in the best sense of the word. For us to be singled out with such kind words behooves us to share those words with so many of you who have been an active participant in the Association and our activities. We are indeed partners in a marvelous and rewarding project, and together we have all helped to broaden the scope of the meaning of "Family." We have become an Association of cousins who share a common and illustrious heritage which crosses state lines and single family branches. We are able to accept with great humility your words of tribute, because we believe you also honor the memory of Mary Steinman and her young husband Peter Ruffner who, because of their courage, determination and love for each other and their children, set us all upon this journey of celebration. To Sam McNeely, members of the Board of Directors and all members of the Ruffner Family Association, we say, "Thank you" and we look forward to many years of continuing to prove ourselves worthy of your words and gift.*

*With great love and respect,  
Joan, Shirl and Bob*

Copies of their certificates are now in the Ruffner Archives. Some of the points of tribute are:

**For Joan**, "Through her dedication and continuing guidance as Editor, the newsletter has been recognized among the best of its type from inception to the present."

**For Shirley Ann**, "Her expertise in working with library resources and archived materials has been instrumental in locating many items significant to the Ruffner Family; Her enthusiasm and desire to share the richness of the Ruffner heritage is evidenced by the many members of the Ruffner Family Association who first heard about the Association from her."

**For Bob**, "His tremendous energy, his vast knowledge about our Ruffner family, his countless miles of travel and the personal resources that he has unselfishly expended have furthered the Ruffner Family Association."

## Page Library Plans Expansion ~

The Page Public Library is undertaking a 2,500 square foot, \$300,000 addition. Their present building was built in 1969. They are asking for financial assistance in this endeavor. Plans for the new addition include the addition of a centralized genealogical research area. For further information, contact the Page Library Association, Inc., 100 Zerkel Street, PO Box 734, Luray, VA 22835 / Phone: (540) 743-6867.



## A Message from the Association President Sam McNeely



Greetings once again from the beautiful Page Valley of our ancestors. What a joy it was to fellowship in June with our cousins from 34 states, Germany and Okinawa. There are so many to thank, from the people at Timber Ridge Church and Washington & Lee University, all the way to the Luray Town Council. A special thanks is in order to **Jim, Judi and Jim McNeely, Jr.**, along with **Sonia Croucher**, for the wonderful reception we received at **The Ruffner House**. This event helped to set this reunion apart from the previous one here in 1997. What a delight it was for all to tour the Homestead and to know that it is a part of our family and its heritage.

It was such a joy to unite with those of our kin we had not previously met. One of the best rewards I receive as your president is the kinship and the genuine people I get to meet as a result of our Association. We had people at our reunion who were unsure of how we contacted them, but we all benefitted from the experience of their attendance at our gathering. It was also great to have **Edith Washington Johnson** in attendance for the entire week.

No one particular event stands out as a highlight of the reunion, but the total experience was one we all will cherish for a long, long time. We thank each and everyone who purchased items we had on hand. This helped to make the reunion a financial success.

At the **Annual Meeting** of the **RFA Board of Directors**, we agreed to establish the **Ruffner Endowment Fund** under the capable leadership of **Joe Ruffner**. It will serve as an instrument to insure our artifacts and historical items are preserved for future generations. It will also be a means whereby our ancestral memorials, burial sites, and family history will be preserved for our descendants. This is a fledgling endeavor and you can be assured you will hear more in future editions of our newsletter. **I am still receiving names of members willing to serve as trustees for the fund. If you have experience serving on foundations or not-for-profit boards and wish to serve, please contact me prior to October 1, 2001, when I will make appointments.** Please send your letter of response to Sam McNeely, Ruffner Family Association, PO Box 351, Luray, VA 22835.

Other Annual Meeting business included the election of the 2001-2002 officers and board of directors for the Association. I wish to thank **Sara Lytle**, **Bob Rowles** and **Shawn Williams** for their service on the previous board.

Under the guidance of **Fred Ruffner**, we have started to take orders for the update of our family history and genealogy. Our Publications Committee was very busy at the reunion and progress is being made to publish this information for the present and future generations. You are encouraged to reserve either the standard or deluxe edition of this valuable work. Your early commitment will assist financially in its publication.

Finally, I am honored that the Board of Directors has chosen me to serve another term as your president. Our secretary, **Phyllis Hershock**, our treasurer, **Nancy Lee Shifflett**, and I will do our best to move our organization forward in a manner befitting those of our family name that have gone before.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**June 2002** ..... RFA Board of Directors Meeting & Mini-Family Reunion, Charleston, West Virginia  
**June 19-22, 2002** ..... Booker T. Washington Family Reunion  
 Malden/Charleston, West Virginia  
**June 2003** ..... Ruffner Family Biennial Reunion  
 Prescott, Arizona

See page 12 of this issue for additional information.

## Ruffner Family Association

**Samuel H. McNeely, President**  
**Phyllis Hershock, Secretary**  
**Nancy Lee Shifflett, Treasurer**  
 Luray, Virginia

### Board of Directors

Barbara Burner ..... Missouri  
 Jack Childers ..... Delaware  
 Edith Washington Johnson ..... Ohio  
 Roberta Ruffner Kirwin ..... Ohio  
 Jane Ruffner Lucas ..... Virginia  
 Judith W. McNeely ..... Ohio & Virginia  
 Joan Ruffner Reid ..... Ohio  
 Elisabeth Ruffner ..... Arizona  
 Frederick G. Ruffner ..... Michigan & Florida  
 Gary Ruffner ..... Illinois  
 George Ruffner ..... Oklahoma  
 Joseph W. Ruffner ..... Alabama  
 K. Daniel Ruffner ..... Ohio  
 Melissa Ruffner ..... Arizona  
 Patsy Reed Ruffner ..... Florida  
 Dorothea Russell ..... Illinois  
 Robert Newman Sheets ..... Colorado  
 Shirley Ann Sheets ..... Colorado  
 Sally Ruffner Spangler ..... Virginia  
 Jane Webber ..... Colorado

## Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

is published by

The Ruffner Family Association

PO Box #351

Luray, VA 22835

Chartered and incorporated in 1999, to maintain a society of members who will research 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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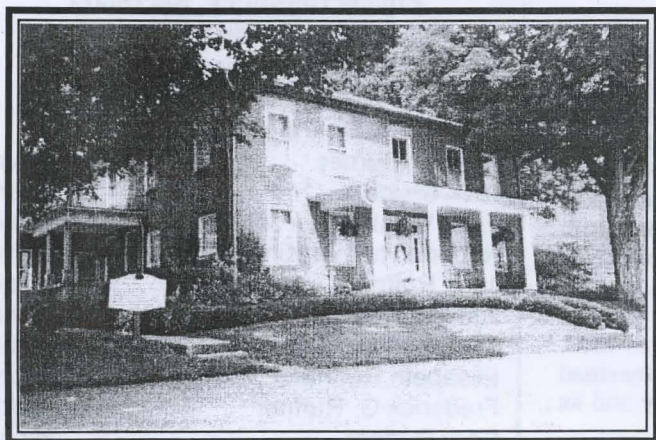
Fax: (614) 237-8264 (call first)

Contributing Editor:

**Robert Newman Sheets**



## WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?



How well do you know your Ruffner History?  
Can you identify this Historic Site?

~ see page 10 for answer.

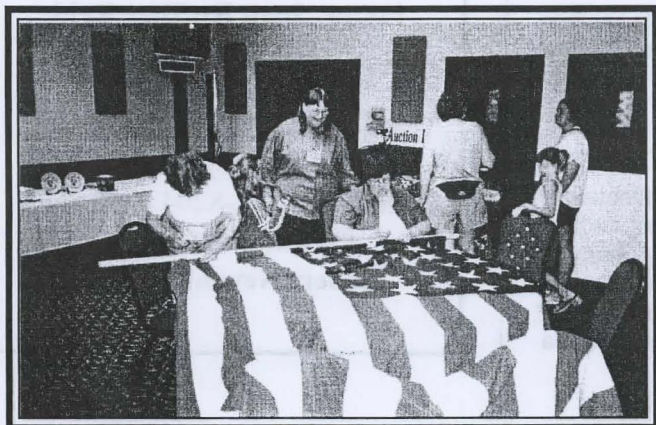
## RFA Endowment Fund

A significant action was taken by the Board of Directors at their annual meeting during the recent Family Reunion. Their acceptance and endorsement of the proposal to establish an Endowment Fund was unanimous.

The purpose of this fund is to provide a collective, continuing, and self-perpetuating means for family members, friends and interested parties to support each program as designated by the RFA. To address the proposal's purpose, there will be 5 Trustees appointed by RFA President Sam McNeely from among the active membership of RFA.

The Trustees will be dealing with the responsibilities identified in the adopted proposal. They are: Family Memorials, Family Burial Sites and Historically Associated Projects, Family Archive, and Family Research and Scholarship/Grant Programs.

The next issue of the Ruffner Roots and Ramblings will have a more comprehensive article describing this new and exciting venture for our Family. Meanwhile, our RFA President needs those of you wishing to be considered for an appointment as a Trustee to forward your name to him. [See p.3, President's column.]




## RFA BEGINS A FAMILY ARCHIVE

During conversations at this past reunion in Luray, you probably heard a cousin say, "I remember grandfather showing me his grandfather's Bounty Lands Certificate from service in the American Revolution. But that was years ago and I have no idea what happened to it. It used to be in an old box, I think in the attic." The disappointment that person had in losing sight of a family treasure is shared by all those who realize how often that story is repeated. Standing alone that piece of paper held singular significance, but when added to the total picture of the Ruffner Family's migration into the Northwest Territory, it becomes a classic window into our family history.

Our Ruffner Family Archive can be a solution to this dilemma and we can all help make it a successful program. We need a national **Ruffner Scavenger Hunt** to find those items and documents that are boxed up in basements, attics and closets. Those boxes that great Aunt Bessie, Grandpa Ed or Mother Nell gave us or left to us in their estate. Remember when we set them aside to look at, "when we have more time?" We need **NOW** to get into that box! Or, if the box is still over at Grandpa Ed's, we need to go over there **NOW** and ask him to show us what is in the box - and we need to record on tape or paper what he tells us about those items.

At our Annual Meeting held in Luray during this past Reunion, the **Ruffner Family Archive** was established, 1) to preserve and protect those documents and historical items that have been collected to date, and 2) to be able to accept documents and historical items that will be donated or loaned to the Ruffner Family Association, then to process them following professional preservation guidelines. We currently are working with 150 year old papers to adequately preserve them in acid-free file folders. They are also being transcribed in order to assist in the general knowledge of the history of that branch of the family. Their value to the complete history of the entire family is understandable. When we are successful in our **Ruffner Scavenger Hunt**, we will have the pictures, letters and documents that will bring life to the soon to be published history and genealogy of the descendants of Peter and Mary Steinman Ruffner.

This brings us back to grandmother's trunk in the attic. Let's all work together to find great grandfather's Civil War letter; that Land Grant signed by Thomas Jefferson; the portrait of the Ambassador to Imperial Russia and the little brown bag marked "Ruffner Brothers Red Salt." Let's pledge our support of the **Ruffner Family Archive** by making an inventory with photocopies of what we have and sending to **Ruffner Family Archive, c/o 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210.**

 Photo shows Mary Ruffner, Melissa Ruffner and Judy Ruffner preparing the 1849 Garrison Flag for the Ruffner Family Banquet, held Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The flag flew over the Presidio of San Francisco in 1849, the year of the California Gold Rush. George Thomas Marye, one of a number of Ruffners to seek their fortune in the gold mines, arrived there in August. He was a son of William Staige Marye and Mary Ruffner. She was a daughter of Peter Ruffner, Jr.



# In the Footsteps of Henry Ruffner

This past June 12 & 13, members of the RFA were treated to a Grand Tour of Historic Lexington, Virginia. Thirty-five of your cousins began their tour at the beautiful Lexington Visitor Center hosted by Jean Clark who helped us map out a thorough exploration of those sites that reflected the influence our Ruffner Ancestors had on the community and university. And indeed, had an influence upon many a young Ruffner scholar. Following a visit to the Rockbridge Historical Society in the Campbell House Museum, our car caravan drove by the home Henry Ruffner built in 1821, when he joined the faculty at Washington College. This beautiful home on Preston Avenue was for some time a Fraternity House but is again a private home. A few blocks away we held our traditional flag ceremony in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery. Just a few yards from the famous statue of the general is the Ruffner Family plot. There we gathered for words of history and tribute by Joe Ruffner. Assisting him in the placement of the flag at the grave of William Henry and Harriet Ruffner were Kate Ruffner of Cincinnati, Kylie Ruffner, Jacob Ruffner and Sierah Ruffner from Mason, Illinois. Leaving town center we went north to the very historic Timber Ridge Community and the Timber Ridge Church. On a hillside, next door to the birthplace of Sam Houston, sits the stone church organized in 1746, and where Henry Ruffner was pastor 1819-1831. Giving us a delightful, informative tour was Bobbie Sue Henry and Mary Lipscomb. We were greeted by the current pastor, Rev. Peter Smith.

Day two began with an excellent tour and briefing of the Special Collections Department of the Leyburn Library on the campus of Washington and Lee University. Vaughn Stanley, Special Collections Librarian, and his Assistant, Lisa McCown had prepared a viewing of the Ruffner Collection which comprises some of the most valued writings of Henry Ruffner. Our tours continued with a walk through beautiful Washington Hall, the signature landmark of the campus, on our way to the Henry Ruffner Home. Now known as the Lee-Jackson House, this historic house (see RR&R Vol 3 #3 "What is it - Where is it?") built for Henry when he was president of Washington College, 1836-1848, is now the home of the Dean of Students, David Howison and his wife Chris. They graciously opened their beautiful home with its period antiques to explore all the spaces and to feel the presences of Henry and Sally, their children: Julia 20, William 18, Ann 17 and David 13. A highlight of our being in this house was to have Edith Washington Johnson with us. The historical significance was not lost on the Ruffners and the University officials. She was in the home of the brother of Gen. Lewis Ruffner, who with his wife Viola had befriended her grandfather, Booker T. Washington (see *Lexington News-Gazette*, June 20, 2001 or [www.wlu.edu](http://www.wlu.edu)).

The day was heating up and we were able to cool down at a nice reception hosted by your Association at the Morris House where we visited with Ferris Hotchkiss, Assistant to President Elrod; Thomas Hamer, Development Office; Ted

Delaney, Professor of History and Taylor Sanders, Professor of History and author of "*A Journey In Faith*," history of the Timber Ridge Church.

We closed out our visit to Lexington and the University with a memorable tour of the Lee Memorial Chapel hosted by Pat Hobbs. The newly renovated museum primarily tells the story of Robert E. Lee and his presidency of the University. Lee, following his surrender to Gen. Grant at Appomattox, was appointed to be the president of Washington College in 1865. He first lived in the Ruffner House until a new home was built for him next door. Called the Lee House, it serves as the president's residence today. Following his death in 1870, and burial in the Lee Family Crypt below the Chapel, the Ruffner House became known as the Lee-Jackson House owing to Stonewall Jackson's marriage there in 1853, to the daughter of then president George Junkin.

Our departure from the campus took us north toward Luray and the Reunion. We made a diversion in Harrisonburg to see the home of William Henry and Harriet Ruffner, The Cedars, 1853-1863. It is one of the Shenandoah Valley's most historic homes and is in a sad state of affairs. With the encouragement we received in Lexington and the preservation of Dr. Henry's two homes, one would hope that the same thing could happen for his son's house. Something to ponder as we crossed the Massanutten Mountains and down into the Valley of the Hawksbill. We ponder still!



In the above photo, David Howison, Dean of Students welcomes Sam McNeely and the Ruffner Family to The Henry Ruffner Home - June 13, 2001.

## Sad News from Washington & Lee ~

The college's 22<sup>nd</sup> president, John W. Elrod passed away on July 27, in Stonewall Jackson Hospital, with his wife and son at his side. Services were held in historic Lee Chapel with more than 1,000 University, community and education leaders in attendance. He was laid to rest in Stonewall Jackson Cemetery. In 1999, Elrod presided over the year-long celebration of Washington and Lee's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is the ninth oldest college in the nation.



# THE RUFFNERS RETURN TO THE FAMILY HOMESTEAD

## From your Country Cuz ~

*Hello Cousins,*

*As I sit down to write you a note, my thoughts go back to the weekend of June 14<sup>th</sup>.*

*What a wonderful experience it was for me to greet and meet the first timers. To see their excitement as they met their cousins and being here in their ancestral home place. To hear questions regarding their line, about the town, and places to visit.*

*To reunite with the cousins previously met and the feeling of belonging to family. Ties that will never be broken because of our Ruffner Family Association, an avenue of keeping in touch.*

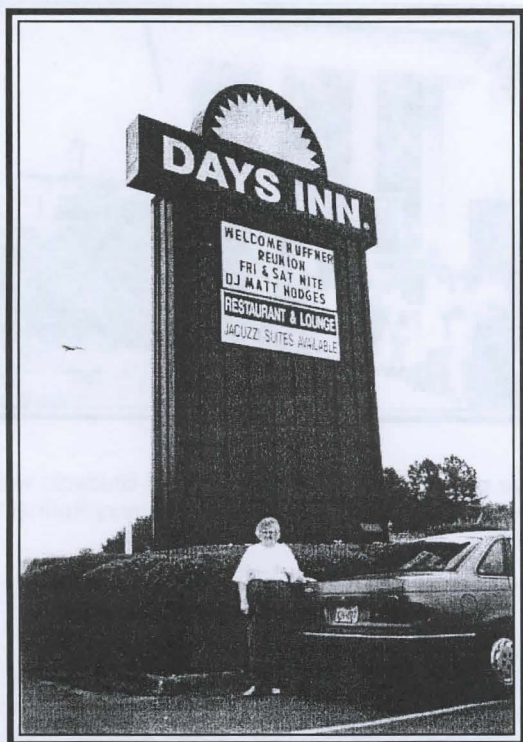
*The weekend was one of fellowship. Telling tales our grandfathers and grandmothers had related to us as children about their lives here in the valley and the homes they left in Luray many years ago. Wouldn't they have loved being here to see us all?*

*It was a pleasure and honor to be chair of the Reunion, but without the help of our president, Sam McNeely, it wouldn't have been possible. I owe him a great big thanks for all his hard work.*

*My thanks to all who helped before and during the Reunion.*

*I love you all, far and near, and hope to see you and more at our next Reunion in Prescott.*

**Love to all,  
Nancy Lee Ruffner Shifflett**



**Nancy Lee Ruffner Shifflett  
2001 Ruffner Family Reunion Chair**

## Memories of a Great 2001 Family Reunion

Under the outstanding leadership of reunion chair **Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett** and president **Sam McNeely**, the 2001 RFA Reunion in Luray kicked off on June 14<sup>th</sup>, with registration and hospitality at the headquarters hotel, Days Inn. While Nancy Lee handled registration, **Judy Ruffner** of Mason, IL was in charge of the sales table with displays of Ruffner wares. There were reunion tee shirts, hats, commemorative plates, bookmarks (lovingly handmade by **Jane Lucas** of Winchester, VA), cookbooks, coat-of-arms patches, beverage holders (donated by **Lawrence & Patsy Ruffner**, Riverview, FL) and books (donated by **Melissa & Elisabeth Ruffner**, Prescott, AZ). The **Page County Heritage Association** hosted a display of books containing history of the area. **Bob Sheets**' (Denver, CO) extensive display of photos from past reunions, Board meetings and other RFA planned activities drew many spectators. Also on display were photos of Historic Ruffner Homes prepared by **Joan Reid** (Columbus, OH) and a display of local Page County Historical artifacts prepared by **Gary Bauserman** (Luray, VA).

All registrants received a packet containing a "better than excellent" souvenir program prepared by **Jim McNeely, Jr.** of Lexington, KY, badges, a commemorative coat-of-arms pin, maps and other useful information. As more and more arrived, it didn't take long for the hospitality room to become alive with cousins renewing old friendships and greeting first-time reunion attendees.

Later that day, we were treated to a presentation by president **Sam McNeely** on "The Ruffners of Page County" complete with slides. It was an inspiring show, which set the tone for what would become a memorable reunion.

That evening, we all participated in a joyous sing-a-long with **Bryant Brown** of Pocatello, ID. Bryant is the son of the late Clara Elizabeth Brown, to whose memory the reunion program was dedicated, and Francis Brown of Luray, VA. The **Page Public Library** extended their evening hours so our family members could do research until 9:00 pm.

On Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, many more registrants arrived and the display of items for our Sunday auction took form. The hospitality room stayed busy all day while some reunion attendees headed toward the Luray Caverns and downtown Luray to shop. After lunch, **Barbara Kibler** (Luray, VA), **Barbara Rowles** (Lancaster, OH), **Joe Ruffner** (Huntsville, AL), **Melissa Ruffner** (Prescott, AZ) and **Bob Sheets** (Denver, CO) were panelists for a Genealogy Workshop at Days Inn. Later in the afternoon, we were treated to a slide show of the 2000 Booker T. Washington Reunion by **Melissa Ruffner**.

That evening, there was a special wreath ceremony in memory of Clara Brown at the Beahms Chapel Cemetery. The day concluded with a fabulous reception under tents on the great lawn of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner's Homestead hosted by the owners and our cousins, **Jim and Judi McNeely**. Following tours to enjoy the renovations of the old brick home provided by **Robin Ewing** and **Mary Lee Bryant**, we descended the great steps to the gardens and a feast of delicious hors d'oeuvres and libation from the Champagne fountain, all lovingly prepared by **Sonia Croucher**, Innkeeper, and **Jim McNeely, Jr.**

Saturday dawned - a little cloudy and warm, but fortunately the rain held off so we could all get started on self-guided driving tours of Page County and Ruffner historic sites. With great directions and descriptions of chosen sites, we were able to drive at our leisure around the Valley. Many of these sites were described in the May

*(continued on page 7)*



**Memories of a Great 2001 Family Reunion (continued)**

2001 issue of RR&R. We were warmly welcomed at some of the occupied homes and allowed to tour the facilities. At the Mauck Meeting House, we were greeted by **Chet Taylor**, volunteer docent from the Page County Heritage Association. At Calendine, docents **Nancy Waldo**, **Norma Webb** and **Lucille Painter** (all beautifully garbed in period costumes) told us the history of the lovely home built in the 1850s by Townsend Young and we were treated to a weaving demonstration.

While most of us were gallivanting around the Valley, the attending children were busily engaged in their own activities including a history lesson at the Massanutten School and a pizza party at Inn Lawn Park. Unfortunately, rain spoiled a planned pool party for them.

Back at Days Inn later in the afternoon, **Gary Bauserman** and **Barbara Kibler** conducted a Q&A session on Page County and Ruffner historic sites.

After a little relaxation, we were all off to the Luray Elementary School for our banquet. The tables were beautifully decorated with wildflower arrangements made by **Jane Lucas**. We were all welcomed by **Nancy (Ruffner) Shifflett** and **Dorotha Russell** (Savoy, IL) honored us by giving the invocation. We then partook of a delicious buffet dinner prepared and served by the **Page County Schools Food Service staff**. At the conclusion of dinner, a special musical presentation by **Reverend Paul Mishler** and his family took place. Singing accappella, their four voices blend beautifully and it was a special treat.

The evening concluded with president **Sam McNeely** conducting the RFA business meeting and making special presentations. In addition to those honors already reported on page 2 of this issue, **George Ruffner** of Inola, OK received the RFA Humanitarian Award for his many years of service with World Mission Builders, building churches and holding crusades, mainly in third world countries. **Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett** was presented with a framed painting of the barn on her family homestead (Accokeek Farm) for the dedication, love and hard work she contributed as chair of the 2001 Reunion. A check from the RFA was presented to **Ken & Pat Koontz** to help in the restoration of the Reuben Ruffner Log Cabin on their property (see their letter of thanks in opposite column).

On Sunday, the sun returned and gave us a picture-perfect, last reunion day. The events began with the Ruffner Monument Dedication adjacent to the Page Public Library in Luray. President **Sam McNeely** presided at the unveiling assisted by **Chelsea Vaughn** (Riverview, FL), **Kate Ruffner** (West Chester, OH), **Phillip Vaughn** (Riverview, FL) and **Benjamin Weidinger** (Yorktown, VA). The monument inscription reads: Dedicated to the memory of Isaac Ruffner, upon whose property the town of Luray was founded in 1812, and to the other descendants of Peter Ruffner Jr. and Elizabeth Burner ~ ~ ~ This monument was erected by the Ruffner Family Association whose members gathered here on June 14-17, 2001 to celebrate their common heritage (see photo).

We then all gathered at the Hawksbill Primitive Baptist Church for a singing and service energetically presided over by **Elder Ernest Long**. The church was constituted in 1826 and has held services in their present building since its erection in 1875.

After church, we all headed for Lake Arrowhead for a family picnic. A delicious buffet was prepared and served by **The Luray VFW Post 621 Ladies Auxiliary**. After lunch, we all posed for group family photos. Our day concluded with an auction organized and presided over by **Melissa Ruffner**. Over 40 items were enthusiastically auctioned off by Melissa, raising \$1,700 for the RFA. The Ruffner Family Association acknowledges and expresses appreciation to those who generously contributed items for this event.

(continued on page 8)



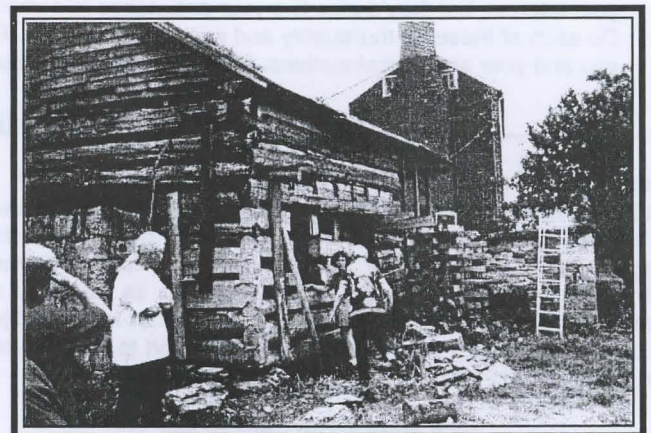
In photo above, Nancy Lee Shifflett, prepares to place a bouquet of roses in memory of her grandfather, Lester Lee Ruffner, and her father, Malcolm Earl Ruffner, on the newly unveiled Ruffner Monument. Looking on (left to right) are Phillip Vaughn, Kate Ruffner, Chelsea Vaughn, Sam McNeely, Ben Weidinger and Bob Sheets (behind Ben).

✿ Thank you from the Koontz Family ✿

*Dear Ruffner Family Members,*

*Thanks so much for the generous donation you made toward our endeavor of re-engineering and remodeling the cabin. Progress is slow, but it does look quite different than when you took the tour. When the process is completed, we encourage you to visit and see the finished product.*

*Thanks again,  
Ken & Pat Koontz*



Restoration work on the Reuben Ruffner Cabin during the 2001 Reunion





# The Swiss Family Ruffner

[Title for a historical novel?]

Actually, it is the working title for the updated publication of our Ruffner family genealogy and history. At their committee meeting in Luray during the recent Reunion, the members of the RFA Publications Committee and the Branch Captains agreed to this title.

For the past two years, these dedicated persons have been working on updating the information about our family. Adapting the format found in the publications done by Doris and Olive Ruffner, we sent out numerous Survey forms to gather information from the present generations of descendants. We also wished to find information about those descendants not included in Doris and Olive's previous works and other family stories. The respondents to our Survey have provided much new information. In each family branch, we now have the names of

many newly found relatives. As we move forward, we continue to look for many others who are still unknown.

We are making a pre-publication subscription available so you may reserve your personal copy, or copies. This allows you to select between the two versions of the planned publication. The Deluxe edition will have several special features; half-leather binding, slip-case covering, color pictures, and others. The Standard edition will have all the same information and pictures, but will not have the special features, i.e. color pictures, etc. These subscriptions will help the Publications Committee anticipate the number of each version to print, and provide start-up money for their printing. The pre-publication subscription prices are:

**Deluxe edition - \$500 per set, and Standard edition - \$100 per set**

Subscription forms were distributed at the Reunion Banquet and everyone receiving one is encouraged to utilize it to reserve their copy/copies. If you were not in attendance and/or don't have the form, you may print the form found on the family website: [www.ruffnerfamily.org](http://www.ruffnerfamily.org). Or, you may get the form by writing to the following address. Please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

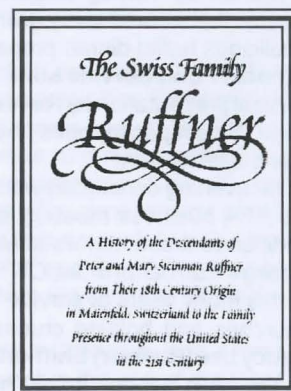
**Ruffner Family Association**  
c/o 11511 Jade Lane  
Huntsville, AL 35803

The tentative schedule is to have the genealogical information compiled by the end of 2001. Around the first of 2002, writers will begin working on the historical treatments for each family branch. Publication will follow the completion of this writing and is anticipated to be in late 2002, or early 2003.

But, we need your cooperation and assistance to compile the most complete and best work possible.

## HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- ▶ Be sure each and every one of your Ruffner relatives has completed and returned a Survey Form. If they never received one to complete, let us know! Contact your Branch Captain or use the above address. And, assist these relatives in doing a timely completion and return.
- ▶ If you have stories about your ancestors, send a written copy to your Branch Captain. The generation the story refers to does not matter, but a computerized version would reduce the workload.
- ▶ If you have artifacts, Bible listings, letters, diaries, or other historical documents - make an index or inventory and copies of each item - then share them. Send a copy of the index/inventory and a good photocopy or picture to the Ruffner Family Archive [see p.4, Family Archive article in this issue for the address]. An important part of the family story can be found in these instruments.
- ▶ Be sure you check with elderly relatives about these kinds of resources and the Survey Form. They would most probably be glad to know you were interested and would be happy to share or pass these resources on to another generation. They'd be proud of your interest, but they'd also like your assistance in complying with these requests.
- ▶ Do each of these as thoroughly and quickly as possible. Please don't assume we already know everything there is to know about you and your ancestors/relatives. After all, if we don't hear, it might be you or your relatives who get left out of the publication.



**You may now stop reading and get to work!**

## Memories of a Great 2001 Family Reunion (continued)

As the sun faded over lovely Lake Arrowhead, our reunion drew to a close and it was time for us to climb into our modern day wagons, strap ourselves in and journey back to our homes. Homes in 34 states including Alaska - homes as far away as Germany and Okinawa. We left with smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts - happy that we had made the effort to return to our roots - and the circle of our ever-growing family.

*We'll meet again - our family  
in Prescott, Arizona - 2003*

## A Note of Thanks to Those Who Made it Possible

Our overwhelming thanks to Nancy Lee Ruffner Shifflett, the 2001 Reunion Chair, and Sam McNeely, RFA president, for organizing and conducting a reunion we will always remember. Our profound appreciation to the other members of the 2001 Reunion Committee: Gary Bauserman, Emalice Rogers Jewell, Steve Judd, Barbara Ruffner Kibler, Jane Ruffner Lucas and Joan Ruffner Reid for their endeavors. To everyone mentioned in the foregoing article and all others who contributed their time, talent and resources to make this event so very special, our sincere gratitude.



# Know Your RFA Board Members

## Joseph Wilson (Joe) Ruffner

About mid-day on 22 December 1934, at their residence, 609 6<sup>th</sup> Street, No., Bessemer, AL, Lewis and Rachel (Wilson) Ruffner were presented with their second child - **Joseph Wilson Ruffner**. But, this son would be known as and called - Joe. He would be just one in a family of six siblings including his one brother and four sisters - Lewis, Sydney, Randy, Ann and Mary. The paternal grandparents of these children were Lewis West and Mary (Beals) Ruffner of Birmingham, AL.

The Bessemer public schools had to endure Joe's tenure until they could graduate him from high school in May 1953. From there, he attended Oklahoma Baptist University, but after one semester transferred to Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham where he graduated with an A.B. degree in August 1957.

Joe then began teaching/coaching at Homewood Jr. High School. In August of 1965, he was awarded an M.A. from the University of Alabama. In the Fall of 1965, he began teaching/coaching at Alabama College (Univ. Of Montevallo) in Montevallo, AL. Four years later, he started an 11-year association with Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro, TN. First as a teacher, then as Director of Campus Recreation (the University's recreational sports program for students and the campus community).

Some of his other positions included being a recreation therapist at an intermediate-care hospital's rehabilitation program and, also, for a state residential mental health/mental retardation facility. Presently, he is finally fulfilling his military obligation under the Selective Service system as a recreation specialist at the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal military base in Huntsville, AL. He has no immediate plans for more career moves, except for retirement - if he can ever break the habit.

In December of 1960, Joe married Emily Greene of Birmingham, AL. There are three children from this union: Marion ('Alex'), Melissa ('Missy') and Joseph, Jr. ('Jody'). There is one grandchild, Mary Elizabeth, from the marriage of Jody to Amy Goins of Murfreesboro, TN. Joe and Emily divorced in 1982, and he has not married again.

Joe's recollection of his earliest memories about the Kanawha Ruffners and other aspects of the Ruffner family, can't be dated. But, the intrigue of the Ruffner name he inherited and what he had heard left a desire to know more. As a youth, he remembers looking at the index of numerous books to see if there was a citation referring to "Ruffner." He continues the habit to this day. Finding a citation always re-ignites his desire to find and know even more, but they often create more questions than they answer. For Joe, the family story has been greatly expanded through his discoveries and, also, by the many gracious contributions of information from his recently discovered "cousins" and family friends.

Until early 1997, and his venture onto the Internet, Joe had no contact with any other Ruffner family members beyond his siblings, his father's mother and siblings, and his four Ruffner first cousins. He would often wonder about those other Ruffners he knew were out there somewhere, but all were unknown to him. He quickly discovered his connection to the presently identified Ruffner family relatives by finding Barbara Burner, Jack Childers and Sam McNeely on the Web (search engines are much better than looking through book indexes). These three people led him to the Ruffner Family Association. Not early enough for him to make it to the 1997 Reunion at Luray, but they certainly fed him some addictive information.

He now knows the "why" and "who" behind the naming of Ruffner Mountain, Ruffner Road and Ruffner Mines. These childhood questions were about sites in the Birmingham area close to where he was born, grew up, and lived for part of his life. He doesn't believe one lifetime will be long enough to find answers to his thousands of questions. But, he intends to pursue his Ruffner family interests, which are: find past and present family connections, learn the individual histories, locate and secure pertinent artifacts and references for the Family, and write his grandchild stories about his imaginary treks visiting among our Ruffner ancestors.

Introducing himself to his Ruffner "cousins," he usually says, "Hi! I'm Joe Ruffner, I believe we're related. I'm so very pleased to finally have the opportunity to meet you. I knew you were out there. I just didn't know your name or where I would find you. Let me tell you a little....!"

**So be on the lookout for that Ruffner fellow from Alabama.**



**Joe at age 5 or 6**

**Editor's Note:** What was left out of the foregoing bio of Cousin Joe, is all the work he has done for and countless hours he devotes to the Ruffner Family Association. Since joining the Association in 1997, he has written countless articles for RR&R and serves on its Editorial Board. He also serves as the "sparkplug" member of the RFA Publications Committee for which he designed and perfected the Survey Forms. He is currently managing the gathering of family history/content for the updated family genealogy & history book and serves as its Branch Captain for the 'Joseph' line. As if that wasn't enough, he conceived and is chairing the newly-formed Ruffner Endowment. The Ruffner Family Association is indeed fortunate to have Joe among their leadership.



## RFA Mourns the Loss of a Dear Friend

**Emma Lee Lewis** of Eleanor, WV passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2001. She had celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this past February. With her passing from this earthly life, we have lost a dear friend and ardent supporter of our Family Association. One can only speculate about the many persons she influenced during her lifetime. But, we, the members of the extended Ruffner family, are individually and collectively among this vast number.

We'll never fully know what inspired or influenced Emma Lee to befriend and join the RFA, nor how she happened to find us. We do know she was vitally interested in our knowing about the Ruffner House in Eleanor and the many ways it had been an influence within their community. She also wanted us to know the history of her friendly little community, and for us to visit and enjoy the town and the Ruffner House.

Why? We can confidently say Emma Lee Lewis understood the many ways this aged house, the small friendly community and each of their stories are inter-related with the past, present and future lives they touch. Each of them challenges those lives with lessons in Family, Community, History, Arts, Sciences and Religion. In fact, every academic discipline and all aspects of our lives. We are thankful she made us aware of these places and their stories when she introduced us to Eleanor, WV. Answering her challenge to know these stories and learn their lessons should now be considered a homework assignment. To this end, she continued her life-long profession - TEACHER.

*Editor's Note:* Emma Lee's beloved Eleanor, WV is mentioned in the April 2001, issue of **Blue Ridge Country**. The community was actually named "Red House" for the Ruffner House before Eleanor Roosevelt brought the president's program of economic recovery there in 1934 and 1935 during the Great Depression.

## What Is It? Where Is It?

**What: The Nehemiah & Eve Ruffner Wood Home on The Bob Evans Farm**

**Where: Rio Grande, Ohio**

This beautiful and historic home is the focal point of interest on the Bob Evans Farm. The founder of the restaurants that bear his name, he and his family lived in this house from 1953 thru 1970. It was built by Nehemiah Wood, Jr., for his wife Eve Ruffner, to replace the log cabin they built after emigrating from Western Virginia. He was the son of Nehemiah, Senior, early resident of Shenandoah County, Virginia. Nehemiah, Junior married Eve, daughter of Joseph and Ann (Heistand) Ruffner, at the Ruffner Home in Fort Lee on the Kanawha River. They moved across the Ohio River in 1805, to Gallia County and the town of Adamsville, now called Rio Grande. Eve died a year after they built this house in 1820. He died in 1824, and as late as 1862, the home was operated by his son, Harrison, as a Stagecoach Stop and Inn. The house is currently under complete historical restoration and will be opened to the public as a museum. It is a beautiful compliment to the Evans Farm which, with its restaurant and gift shops, provides the visitor a view of a true working farm.

## RUFFNER WEBSITE UPDATE

If you haven't visited the Ruffner Family Association's website recently, you may want to take a look. We recently added pictures from the June 2001 reunion in Luray, VA, as well as pictures from the pre-reunion visit to Lexington, VA and Washington & Lee University. These pictures can be found on the 'Photo Album' page that is accessible through the Ruffner Family Association Homepage ([www.ruffnerfamily.org](http://www.ruffnerfamily.org)).

For those that visit the website, we hope to communicate a little of our family history, provide information about the Ruffner Family Association, pass along information about planned reunion activities, and updates on special projects. Any forms that Ruffner Family Association members or prospective members may need can be found on the 'Printable Forms' web page (accessed through the 'Ruffner Family Association Homepage'). The 'Printable Forms' web page now has the subscription form for the book that the Publications Committee is currently putting together for publication by the Ruffner Family Association later next year. A sample title page is available for viewing on the 'Printable Forms' web page.

Please make a point to visit the website periodically. We are planning on updating some of the information that has been out there for awhile, building the pages that are "under construction," and becoming more interactive through the use of a bulletin board. Please feel free to e-mail me at [druffner@cinci.rr.com](mailto:druffner@cinci.rr.com) with any thoughts or suggestions you may have about the site.

~ K. Daniel Ruffner - West Chester, OH



## Wedding Bells

### COUCH-RUFFNER

Denise LaVonne Couch and Christopher David Ruffner (desc. Emanuel) were married on Saturday, May 26, 2001, at the First Congregational Church in Tacoma, Washington. Denise is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Randall Lert. Christopher (Chris) is the son of Norman & Marilyn (Letourneau) Ruffner of Tacoma, WA.

Their reception was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Temple Theater. After an extended honeymoon trip to Australia, the couple settled in Tacoma, Washington.

### NIEMAN-PETERSON

Natalie Anne Nieman (desc. Emanuel) and Scott Edward Peterson were married on Saturday, June 9, 2001, at The Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, Ohio. Their outdoor wedding took place in the garden of the Lodge. Natalie is the daughter of Sheila (Donnelly) and Kenneth Nieman of Newark, OH.

Following a honeymoon trip to the Bahamas, Natalie and Scott settled in Cincinnati, Ohio.

### UPCOMING NUPTIALS - JENKINS-WEASE

Tanya Jenkins (desc. Benjamin) and Michael Wease will be married October 13, 2001, at Lake of the Woods in Savoy, Illinois. Dorothea Russell of the RFA Board of Directors, will officiate at the ceremony.





# In Memoriam

## Clara Elizabeth Brown

passed away on Monday, April 30, 2001, in Luray, VA. She was born on February 23, 1921, in Luray, the daughter of Martin Reuben and Mabel Ruffner Shirley. She was a seventh generation descendant of Peter and Mary Steinman Ruffner, through their son Peter, Jr.

Clara was a member of the Luray United Methodist Church and taught Sunday School in the children's division, was an assistant teacher for the JOY Adult Class and teacher for Vacation Bible School. She was president of the United Methodist Women and a church representative on the Page County Council of Weekday Religious Education.

Love for family and doing for others was Clara's hobby. She provided flowers from her garden and angel food cake for church, nursing homes and shut-ins.

Clara was president of Springfield Elementary PTA, a member of Springfield Family and Community Education, an adult leader of the Springfield 4-H Club and chairman of the flower committee for the Page County Fair Association.

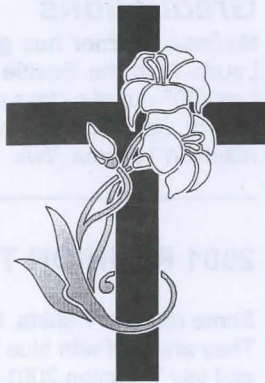
She volunteered at Treasure Trove for the Fairfax Hospital in Annandale, receiving numerous yearly pins, and volunteered for Page Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, working as secretary.

Clara was also a member of the Page County Historical Society and the Ruffner Family Association.

She married her devoted husband, Francis B. Brown, on October 3, 1938, who survives. They celebrated their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on October 3, 2000.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two sons and their spouses, Bryant S. Brown, and wife Shirley B., of Pocatello, ID, and Robert C. Brown, and wife Donna N., of Great Falls, VA; two sisters, Virginia Johnson of Springfield, VA, and Mary Long of Luray; five grandchildren and their spouses, Cheryl Peacock, and husband Michael, of Louisville, CO, Tracey L. Olson and husband Joe, of Berthoud, CO, Gregg Brown of Pocatello, ID, Brian Brown of Fairfax, VA, and Gary M. Brown, and wife Yanny L., of Oak Hill, VA; and five great-grandchildren, Hilary, Emily and Carrie Olson, Riley Bryant and Clarie Peacock.

Funeral services were held at the Luray United Methodist Church and Clara was laid to rest in the Beahm's Chapel Cemetery in Luray.



**Iva Jane Roberson** passed away on Tuesday, June 19, 2001, in Rockville, Maryland. She was the wife of Frank Roberson, who died in 1951.

Born February 20, 1904, in Luray, VA. The daughter of the late Joshua and Eva Collins Ruffner, Iva was a seventh generation descendant of Peter & Mary through their son Peter, Jr. She was a member of the Dickerson United Methodist Church.

Iva is survived by one daughter, Eva Brooks of Gaithersburg; one son, Donald Roberson of Florida; one sister, Ruth Viers of West Virginia; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Winona Roberson; two sons, Frank and Roland Roberson; six brothers, Kay, Fred, Banks, Roland, Bernard and Jack Ruffner; and two sisters, Maxine White and Geraldine Dorsey.

Iva was laid to rest in the Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville, Maryland.

† † † † †

Iva's daughter, Eva Roberson Brooks, wrote, "My mother lived alone in Dickerson, MD until she was 96 years old.....She was proud to be a Ruffner."

**Frances Diamond Woodward** passed away on Sunday, 17, 2001, at her residence in Aiken, South Carolina.

Born in Barnwell County SC, she was the daughter of the late Medicus C. and Bessie Sellers Diamond.

She retired after 30 years with Southern Bell Telephone. Frances was a member of Hagood Ave. Baptist Church of Barnwell, SC and the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Judi and Jim McNeely of Powell, Ohio. Judi and Jim McNeely (desc. Joseph) are the owners of The Ruffner House in Luray, VA. Also survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Grover and Sandra Woodward of Aiken, SC, Robert and Kristine Woodward of Athens, GA; grandchildren, Lori McNeely, Kimberly Samuels, Michael Woodward, Deborah Cox, Robert M. Woodward Jr., James R. McNeely Jr., Jason R., Woodward, Alicia A. Woodward, Jonathan W. Woodward, Brandon A. Woodward, Deanna Fini and Steven Fini; six great-grandchildren; one cousin, Ruth D. Kirkland of Barnwell, SC; dear friend, Annie Ruth Johnson of Aiken, SC; several nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by one grandson, Thomas Schweitzer; two brothers, Barney and M.C. Diamond Jr.; four sisters, Esther Diamond, Zelma Smith, Ima Scott and Jenny Curlee.

Frances was laid to rest in the Barnwell United Methodist Church Cemetery.

## ~ Our Condolences to the Minadeo and Millican Families ~

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sandy Minadeo (desc. Joseph) and her family for the loss of her husband, **Dennis Minadeo** and to Nancy Millican (desc. Benjamin) and her family for the loss of her husband, **John Millican**.

*May Love Bring You Comfort  
And Time Bring You Peace*

On Friday, June 15, 2001, members of the Ruffner Family Association, meeting in Luray for our biennial reunion, gathered at Clara's grave to place a wreath in memory of our dear departed cousin.

As Bob Sheets wrote in his memorial to her, "Sitting at Clara's table was to know the complete Ruffner experience. It was to be wrapped in the full arms of the spiritual connection to those ancestors who first tilled the soil in our ancient birth ground of the Hawksbill Homestead. To know of Mary Steinman Ruffner, we need only to have known Clara Shirley Brown."



## FUTURE REUNIONS & EVENTS



### RFA - Prescott, Arizona - 2003

We are pleased to announce that plans are being made to hold the next biennial Ruffner Family Reunion in Prescott, AZ, June, 2003. Dates to be announced.

The Ruffner family's arrival in the Arizona Territory dates back to 1867, when Morris Andrew Ruffner (desc. Benjamin) filed the first copper claims.

Melissa Ruffner will chair the 2003 event. She and her family are part of Arizona's and Prescott's history - from her great-uncle, Sheriff George Ruffner (see RR&R, Vol. 3-#3, December 2000), who was Arizona's first inductee into the Cowboy Hall of Fame - to her grandmother Mary Ethelyn (Ward) Ruffner, who was the territory's first public school music teacher.

With Melissa, who is a noted Arizona historian, guide and author, at the helm - the 2003 event promises to be an exciting and informative view of the past history and present day activities of the Ruffner Family in Prescott and Arizona. Additional information will appear in future editions of this newsletter.

### RFA - Charleston, West Virginia - 2002

The RFA Board of Directors will meet next June in Charleston, WV prior to attending the Washington Family Reunion mentioned below. Tentative plans call for a mini-reunion and research program.

All family members are welcome and urged to attend. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the Ruffner Family Reunion in 1995, or have never visited the Charleston area, you will be surprised at the scope of Ruffner history preserved in West Virginia's capital city.

Exact dates and plans for this historic trip to Charleston and Malden will appear in future issues.

### Booker T. Washington Family Reunion - 2002

The biennial reunion of one of its leading historical residents will be held in Charleston from June 19-22, 2002, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. More than 200 of Washington's descendants are expected to attend. Members of the Ruffner Family Association have been invited to attend and participate in their welcome reception with the City of Charleston, WV to be held Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

While plans for the reunion are still in the formative stage, a tentative walking tour of Malden is anticipated. It was in Malden the historic relationship between the Washington & Ruffner families began (see RR&R, Vol. 3-#3, December 2000). See future issues for registration information.

### Page County Heritage Festival October 6-7, 2001 - Luray, Virginia

This annual event, held at the peak of autumn color, will include an antique tractor & engine show, a Sunday auction, art & craft demonstrations, homemade food, spinning, basket weaving, live music and special fun for children. **For information call Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce at (540) 743-3915.**

## Graduations

**Marissa Ruffner** has graduated Suma Cum Laude from the Seattle University School of Law (30<sup>th</sup> out of a class of 300). Marissa is the wife of Scott Ruffner (desc. Emanuel). They reside in Tacoma, WA.



## 2001 REUNION T-SHIRTS



Some reunion T-shirts, in assorted sizes, are available for sale. They are gold with blue lettering, include the Ruffner coat-of-arms and say "Reunion 2001, Luray, Virginia."

Sizes are small, large, x-large and xx-large. Cost is \$12 (prepaid) per shirt. Send your order to ~  
The Ruffner Family Association  
PO Box 351, Luray, VA 22835.

## The Editor's Desk

### Family Pride ~

When Eva Roberson Brooks wrote that her mother was "proud to be a Ruffner" (see page 11 of this issue), it really struck a chord. That family pride is validated by over 180 people traveling from 34 states and foreign countries to attend the recent reunion in Luray.



And, we should be proud. One just needs to leaf through the pages of this and past issues of RR&R to glimpse a small portion of the part played by the Ruffner Family in the history of this country. One just needs to visit our website to get a glimpse of the past and present activities of our family.

The accomplishments of just two of our ancestors, Henry Ruffner and his son, William Henry Ruffner, are enough to make our chests swell. That same spirit and dedication continues in the present generations.

You, too, can show your family pride. Support the Ruffner Family Association and its programs. We need your help to preserve our family history for future generations. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know, 100 years from now, one of your descendants would say, "I am proud to be a Ruffner."

*With thanks & love,  
Cousin Joan*

## RR&R Editorial Board

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

**Deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2001**  
**Send your family news to Ruffner Roots & Ramblings**  
**120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213**