

Longwood University

Digital Commons @ Longwood University

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

Ruffner Family Association Collection, LU-163

3-2002

Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 5, Issue 1

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. 5, Issue 1" (2002). *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*. 17.

https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/ruffner_roots_ramblings/17

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 5, Issue #1

March 2002

In Memory of Edith Washington Johnson



The members of the Ruffner Family Association were devastated by the death of Edith Johnson on January 6, 2002. This venerable and endearing person had walked into our lives accompanied by her sister Margaret Washington Clifford, during our 1999 Ruffner Reunion in Lancaster, Ohio. Their attendance at our banquet opened the door for a renewal of the deep and abiding relationship between our two families, begun by Booker T. Washington and Viola Ruffner 134 years ago. That it should all end so abruptly after so many opportunities to know her true value as a human being, gives us all wonder at this transitory state. Edith had become one of our most devoted members of the Ruffner Family Association. Just this past June she had been elected to the RFA Board of Directors as the official representative from the Washington Family Association.

Those of us who were blessed to know her, to travel with her, to visit in her home, to be treated to her engaging philosophy of life and to have entertained her in our own homes, are having a difficult time comprehending her death so soon after we were introduced to the joy of her being. Yet, like her grandfather Booker Taliaferro Washington, she gave to each of us, not just her physical presence, but an open window through which we can view the humanity of un-compromised love. This caring and supportive person, whose life enriched and inspired legions of people during a long career in education, had in just two and one half years brought us into her fold.

Our president, Sam McNeely called Edith a "Bridge Builder" between our two families. (See President's Message this issue.) K. Dan, Ann and their daughter Kate Ruffner of West Chester, Ohio, represented the Ruffner Family at the Memorial Service held Saturday, January 12, 2002 in Wilberforce, Ohio at the National Afro American Museum. Participating were representatives from the Universities and the Wilberforce community. Dan Said, "I came away with the realization that her dedication to the education of young people throughout her life not only continued the legacy of her grandfather, but created one of her own. It was very special that Edith was able to spend so much time with the Ruffners last June. Like everyone else I assumed that we would be able to just pick up where we left off, when we all got back together in Charleston this coming June."

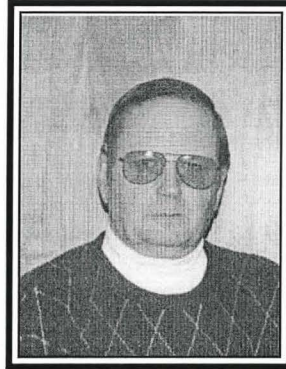
It was our cousin Joe Ruffner who first alerted us to Edith which resulted in our inviting her and her sister Margaret to the 1999 Lancaster Reunion. Joe reflected, "Before she passed from among us, Edith graciously opened the door and introduced us to her extended family. Through her, and her sister Margaret, the long ago relationship between our families was given an opportunity to renew and extend itself. Although Edith only shared this experience with us for a short time, I'll always treasure our moments together."

(continued on page 10)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE—

Call to Annual Meeting Page 2
 President's Message Page 2
 RFA Endowment Fund Page 3
 What Is It? Where Is It? Page 4
 Treasures Donated to
 Ruffner Archive Page 4
 Site of WV Capitol Building
 (Sale of Infant's Land) Page 5
 Family History/Surveys Page 8
 Know Your RFA Board Page 9
 RFA WebSite Update Page 10
 Wagons Ho, Ruffner
 Reunion Goes West Page 10
 Join Us In Malden 2002 Page 11
 BTW Reunion Page 11
 — and much more

A Message from the Association President
 ~ Sam McNeely



Greetings and Happy New Year from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. What a year 2001 we recently experienced. So many happy memories of our reunion and then the tragic events of September 11th. The emotions of us all were so eloquently characterized by Bob Sheets in our previous newsletter. As the magnitude of this event lingers with us, we all have feelings that are often difficult to relate or overcome.

As I sit here at my computer on a snowy evening, I am reminded of how quickly our lives can be changed. During the past year, we have all experienced loss within our immediate or extended family. Often we have known these people for a

short period of time, but their passing leaves a void in our lives.

When Betty and I decided to relocate here in Luray, the first couple who welcomed us with open arms was Francis and Clara Brown. They helped us to integrate into the community with relative ease. We were a part of their family and were accepted as such by all their friends and family. Sadly, within a six month period, they both departed this earth. I still find it difficult to drive by their farm because I know they are no longer there. Gladly, we have become closer with their sons Bryant and Bob, and their wonderful families. From the loss of Frank and Clara, we have become a part of their extended family.

Another recent loss is that of Edith Washington Johnson who was a "bridge builder" between the Ruffners and the family of Booker T. Washington. With her sister Margaret, Edith worked to bring our families closer. It would have been understandable if the Washington sisters had spurned Joe Ruffner's efforts to unite them with the Ruffner family. They could have said that the Ruffner-Washington relationship was a part of history they did not choose to renew. Instead, Edith and Margaret welcomed us with open arms and the bridge between the families is stronger because of them. We will certainly miss Edith's friendly smile at our future gatherings, including our Board of Directors' meetings to which she was elected at our recent reunion.

On the last day of our reunion in June, we learned that Judi McNeely's mother, Frances Woodward, had lost her gallant fight with cancer. "Gran," as she was known to all the McNeelys, was a large part of our life for many years and her death has left a large void in our lives. She was the surrogate grandmother for the weddings of all our children and made them feel as if they were indeed part of her family. She had been a part of each Christmas since Jim and Judi purchased the ancestral property. Her absence this year cast an air of sadness over the season. She was missed by all of us.

In April 2001, Longwood College at Farmville, Virginia was hit by a fire that destroyed the Rotunda and the Ruffner dormitories. In the aftermath of the fire, Longwood president Patricia Cormier reported to the student body, "Our Ruffners are gone." And so it is in our family association. Some of our family members are gone and we miss them dearly, but we will continue to move forward. Their spirit will help us to build a bigger and better association. ■



*Success is to be measured not so much by the position
 that one has reached in life as by the obstacles
 one has overcome while trying to succeed.*
 ~ Booker T. Washington

CALL TO MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting
 of the Ruffner Family
 Association Board of Directors
 will be held on
 Friday, June 21, 2002
 in Malden, West Virginia.
 All members of the RFA Board
 are urged to attend.
 We encourage all other
 interested RFA members to
 join us for the meeting.

Samuel H. McNeely
 President

(See page 11 of this issue for
 additional information.)

**HAVE YOU PAID
 YOUR 2002 DUES?**
 Please respond to
 your dues notice as
 soon as possible.



Thank you!

RFA ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Fund Trustees are working to complete the guidelines they will follow as the RFA moves toward implementation of the Endowment Fund. The guidelines will establish the parameters within which the Trustees will work, and will coordinate and guide the actions of the Trustees. The completion of the guidelines is the most important step to the Fund becoming fully operational. There is not a lot to say about the specific activities of the Trustees at this point.

There is an item for which we seek your immediate suggestions. This is the selection of an institution at which we will permanently locate the RFA Archive. We are looking to satisfy several significant criteria. Namely, the institution should have:

- Ability and willingness to store and preserve RFA's archival materials.
- Ability and willingness to accept future contributions to RFA's collection.
- Historic association to the Ruffner family.
- National prominence and stability as a repository of historical materials..
- Public access to RFA archival materials.

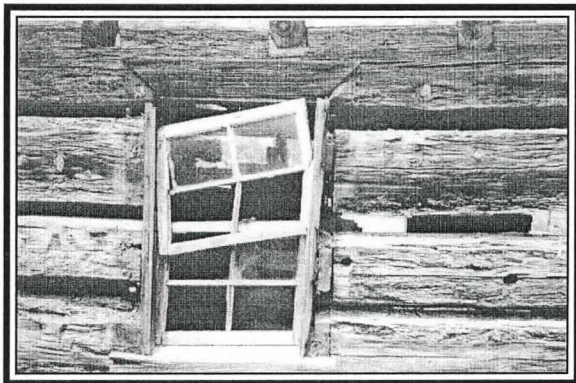
If you wish to suggest an institution which meets each of these criteria, please send us its name and location. Please include a brief description, based on the above criteria, supporting your suggestion.

Send suggestions to:

Joe Ruffner Home Phone: [256] 882-6645
 11511 Jade Lane E-mail: jruffner@bellsouth.net
 Huntsville, AL 35803

In one of our communications, an idea surfaced which has a great deal of merit. It suggested RFA publish and distribute a copy of the Fund Guidelines to each RFA member. This idea was expanded to suggest RFA have a printed member's handbook to describe its organizational structure, purpose and operation. It could also include the purpose and function of all Association programs, and how each member may participate in and support them. Sounds like a good idea and the Trustees will consider how this may be accomplished.

While the Trustees continue their work, we encourage you to think about the present Association programs and those situations you would like us to consider as avenues for your participation and support. In future issues of the RR&R, we will ask for other suggestions. Be ready to share your ideas! That way, RFA knows it is providing the programs and activities which meet your needs and interests. ■



Your past help enabled the RFA to contribute funds toward the repair of damage such as this at the Reuben Ruffner Cabin in Luray, Virginia.

**Save the
Ruffner Family
legacy!**

**Support
the RFA
Endowment
Fund!**

Ruffner Family Association Luray, Virginia

Samuel H. McNeely, President . . . Virginia
Phyllis Herschock, Secretary . . . Pennsylvania
Nancy Lee Shifflett, Treasurer . . . Virginia

Board of Directors

Barbara Burner Missouri
 Jack Childers Delaware
 Roberta Ruffner Kirwin Ohio
 Jane Ruffner Lucas Virginia
 Judith W. McNeely Ohio & Virginia
 Joan Ruffner Reid Ohio
 Elisabeth F. 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 Munro 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.

Editor: **Joan Ruffner Reid**

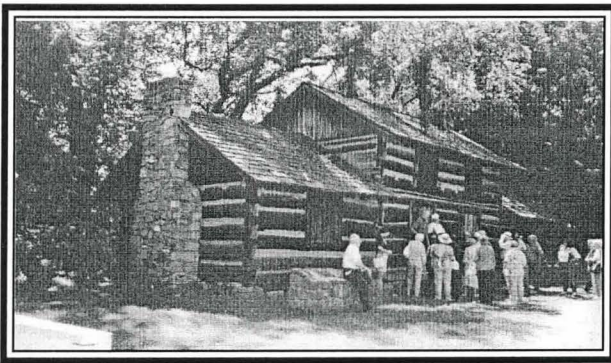
120 Rita Court
 Columbus, OH 43213
 (614) 237-8264

Email: Jokereid@aol.com

Contributing Editor:

Robert Newman Sheets

What Is It? Where Is It?



This ancient cabin is in a famous mountain town on the banks of a famous river in American History. Can you identify it and do you know who lived in it? Do you know when it was built?

Treasures Donated to Ruffner Archive

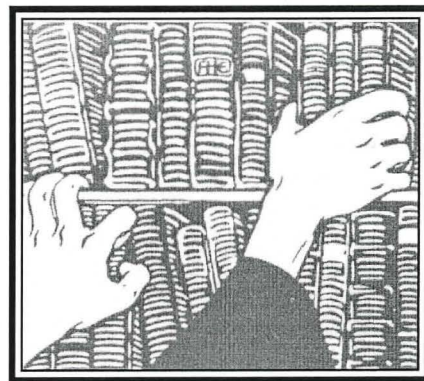
As we have reported in previous issues of this newsletter, the Ruffner Family Archive has been established by the Association as a major role in the establishment of the Ruffner Endowment Fund. Beginning back in 1995, four years before we were chartered as the Ruffner Family Association, items of great significance began to surface by family members who were eager to share letters, documents and pictures of their branches of the family. What emerged has been a collective history of a family whose members were participants in the development of our nation's history as well as the development of our national character. From that early 1739 homestead on the banks of the Hawksbill Creek in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to the present day, Ruffner Family members have plowed the ground in Ohio and Illinois; have worked the mines of West Virginia, Alabama, Arizona and Colorado; have taught in the schools of almost every state of the Union; have defended the Constitution of the Courts and on the battlefields of our national wars. Throughout those 263 years, our ancestors have preserved their thoughts, their portraits, their possessions as tokens of their identity. It is in our collections of the Ruffner Archive, we can see through a window clearly and better know and appreciate their contribution to the Ruffner Story.

So much has been written about William Henry Ruffner, that well educated son of the founder of Presbyterianism in West Virginia. We know about his monumental task of creating the legislation to establish a Public School System in the State of Virginia and to serve as the first State Superintendent. This educator, known as the "Horace Mann of the South," was also the man who surveyed roads in Washington State and mines in Alabama. You can

understand why a mountain was named for him in Alabama, when reading from one of our most recent acquisitions: "Report of Lands of Sloss Company Properties." This eight volume leather bound set of reports written by William in 1888, speaks well to the most unusual talent possessed by this ancestor of ours. These reports were donated to the Ruffner Archive last year by Mrs. Jessica Morris of McCalla, Alabama and her son Jack Morris of Greenwood Village, Colorado. The books resided for years in the personal collection of her husband, Jack E. Morris who was Chief Geologist of the Sloss Sheffield Steel & Iron Company.

What does this most significant donation mean to the whole of the Ruffner Family Association? It is indeed that other window we can look through to know more of the depth of learning and true nature of our ancestor-cousin, William Henry Ruffner. It points to the importance of our collective stewardship in bringing together the complete inventory and story of the descendants of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. It is knowing who they were then, that we better understand who we are today. The Ruffner Character inspired a pioneer spirit to move into the Great Northwest Territory and into the land of the Louisiana Purchase; to defend our democratic beliefs in every national war since the American Revolution; to guide generations in a set of spiritual beliefs; to educate the youth of our nation; to farm and ranch; to mine and build; to protect and defend; to nurture and to love our families. Each generation has kept alive that Ruffner Spirit and it is in the Ruffner Archive that we are preserving the memory links to the ancestors through pictures, words and possessions.

Remember, we each can contribute to this effort, as did the generous Morris Family, by preserving those items now in our family trunks. Donate them to the Ruffner Family Archive where they will be preserved and be shared by all your cousins. Send the item or a photo copy to the **Ruffner Family Archive, 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210**. Books about or written by a Ruffner, are also being accepted by the Ruffner Library at the same address. ■



A man cannot leave a better legacy to the world than a well educated family. ~Thomas Scott

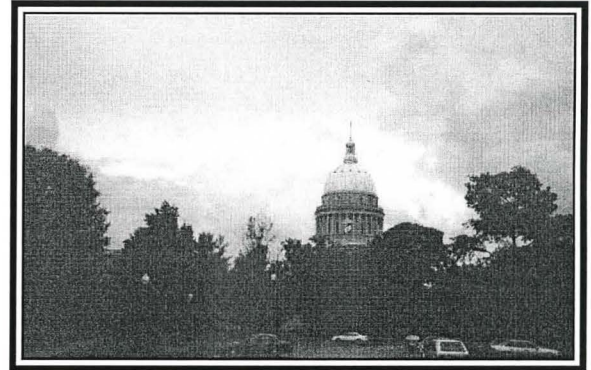
Site of West Virginia Capitol Building Once Owned by Ruffner Family

It is particularly notable and prophetic to descendants of Joseph Ruffner, son of Peter & Mary Steinman Ruffner, that the site of the West Virginia Capitol Building lies on a portion of the pioneer homestead of their ancestor. The land was purchased by Joseph Ruffner in 1796, from George and William Clendenin, founders of Charleston.

When West Virginia was formed on June 20, 1863, Wheeling was chosen as the first capital city. After the end of the Civil War in 1865, a move was initiated to move the capital to Charleston and in 1869, that move took place. However, Charleston's position as the West Virginia capital was to be short-lived. The state legislature voted to move the capital back to Wheeling in 1875. In 1877, as the result of a state-wide election, Charleston was named as the "permanent capital site." In 1885, then governor Emanuel Willis Wilson and other state officials were moved from Wheeling to a newly constructed second capitol building in Charleston. This building stood until January 1921, when it was destroyed by fire. In 1924, the state purchased a tract of land along the Kanawha River (the former Ruffner land) and began construction of the present capitol building. Completed in 1932, West Virginia finally had a permanent home for its government.

The descendancy of the owners of this land, which eventually became the site of the West Virginia Capitol Building, is as follows: Joseph Ruffner (1796-1803); Daniel Ruffner (1803-1844); Augustus Ruffner (1844-1856); Henry Daniel Ruffner (1856-1890) and his wife Sallie Patrick Ruffner (1856-1886); their children: Augustus, b. 22 Dec. 1864, m. Mary Blanche Van Natta; Virginia Patrick, b. 6 Aug. 1870, m. Lewis Henry Couch and Mary, b. 16 Sep. 1873, m. Oscar Frank Payne.

The proceedings of the sale of this land in 1890, when Mary Ruffner was 17 years old, are as follows:



West Virginia State Capitol Building
Charleston (1995) ~ *Ruffner Library Photo*

PROCEEDING TO SELL INFANT'S LAND NOTICE

On petition of H. D. Ruffner, Guardian of Mary E. Ruffner to sell land of ward.

To Augustus Ruffner, Blanche Ruffner his wife, Virginia P. Ruffner and Mary E. Ruffner.

You will please take notice that as the guardian of Mary E. Ruffner I will on the 28th day of November 1890, petition the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia to order the sale of the interest and estate of said Mary E. Ruffner in the parcel of real estate of which Mrs. Sallie Ruffner wife of H. D. Ruffner, died, seized and possessed situated in the said County on the North Side of the Kanawha River about two miles above the City of Charleston and containing 24 6/10 acres.

Nov. 17, 1890.

Respectfully,

H. D. Ruffner, G'd'n. Of Mary E. Ruffner.

By Counsel.

Served on the 17th day of November 1890 by delivering a true copy of this notice to Miss Mary E. Ruffner.

B. F. Wyatt, Deputy for R. Pickers, S.K.C.

Served accepted for Augustus Ruffner and Blanche Ruffner, and Virginia P. Ruffner this 17th day of Nov. 1890.

Joseph Ruffner, Attorney

(Sheriffs Fee 75¢)

PETITION

The petition of H. D. Ruffner in his own right and as Guardian of Mary E. Ruffner.

To Hon. F. A. Guthrie, Judge of the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Your petitioner represents unto your Honor that in the year 1886, his wife Sallie P. Ruffner, departed this life intestate. That at the time of her death she was seized of two tracts of land situated in Kanawha County, W. Va. One of which tracts or parcels is situated on the old James River and Kanawha turnpike road* one mile distant from and above the Court House of said County contains about four acres and on it is the old home place of the late Augustus Ruffner. And the other tract consists of twenty four and 6/10 acres, and is situated on the Kanawha River some two miles above said Court House and lies between said River and the line of the Kanawha & Michigan Railway and is bounded and described as follows: Beginning — to the beginning.

*Now Kanawha Boulevard.

(continued on page 6)

Site of West Virginia Capitol Building (continued)

That said Sallie P. Ruffner left surviving her three children viz., Augustus Ruffner, Virginia P. Ruffner and Mary E. Ruffner, and these are her heirs at law, and of them the said Augustus and Virginia are above the age of 20 years and Mary E. is about 17 years of age. That her interest in the aforesaid property is all the estate owned by the said Mary E. Ruffner.

That on the _____ day of _____ 188___, petitioner was by the County Court of said County duly appointed the guardian of said infant Mary E. Ruffner, and qualified as such and still remains such guardian. That there is no income derived from either of said properties sufficient to maintain and support said Mary E. Ruffner and she is wholly dependent upon petitioner for her support. That the said tract of 24 6/10 acres is unproductive and could not be made productive by the use of any means in the power or control of petitioner or of any of those interested therein.

That the lower tract whereon so ward resides with petitioner affords only a home but yields no revenue or income. That your petitioner as the husband of the late Sallie P. Ruffner is entitled to his courtesy in all said real estate. Your petitioner is without the means to afford to said ward such support, maintenance and education as she is by reason of her station in life entitled to receive, and he represents unto your Honor that a sale of the interest of his said ward in the said 24 6/10 acres of land, and the judicious investment of the proceeds thereof would yield an income sufficient for all her wants.

Petitioner represents that he has been offered for said last named tract the sum of \$800.00 per acre, \$5000.00 of which is to be paid in cash, and the residue in twelve months with interest. It is the opinion of the petitioner that it will very much promote the interest of his ward as well as the interest of all others interested in said tract to sell the same at the price mentioned, if no higher price can be obtained. That said Augustus Ruffner & Blanche his wife and Virginia P. Ruffner be made defendants hereto, that a guardian ad. litem be appointed by your Honor to defend the interests in this behalf of said Mary E. Ruffner, that the interest and estate of his said ward in said 24 6/10 acres be decreed to be sold and that all such further orders and decrees and that all such may be made herein as to your Honor may seem met and equity may require.

H. D. Ruffner, Guardian et. al.

State of West Virginia, Kanawha County and Henry D. Ruffner the petitioner in the foregoing petition being duly sworn says that the facts and allegations therein contained are true, except so far as they are therein states to be upon information and that so far as they are therein states to be upon information he believes them to be true.

H. D. Ruffner

Taken, sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of November 1890
C. Ct. 125 p. 42. Joseph Ruffner,
Filed by order of Court on the Notary Public
28th Nov. 1890.

ORDER FILING PETITION

H. D. Ruffner, Guardian)
vs.) On Petition to sell Infant's Land.
Mary E. Ruffner et. al.)

Henry D. Ruffner, Guardian of Mary E. Ruffner this day presented his petition asking leave to make sale of the interest of his said ward Mary E. Ruffner of a tract of land containing 24 6/10 acres situated about 2 miles above the Court House of Kanawha County and between the K. & M. Ry. and the Kanawha River, which petition is ordered to be filed. And the court doeth appoint C. B. Couch the guardian ad. litem of said infant defendant Mary E. Ruffner to represent her interest in this behalf.

(Enter F.A.C.)

Ent. C.O.B. No. 16, P. 220. Answer of Guardian ad litem
28, Nov. 1890. Sept. 91, per form.

DECREE TO SELL

H. D. Ruffner et. al.)
vs.) On Petition to Sell Infant's Land.
Mary E. Ruffner et. al.)

The matters arising upon the petition of H. D. Ruffner, Guardian of the infant defendant Mary E. Ruffner filed the 28th day of Nov. 1890 coming on this day to be heard, and it appearing that ten days notice of the filing of such petition was duly served upon the said Mary E. Ruffner infant defendant therein and upon Augustus Ruffner and Blanche his wife and Virginia P. Ruffner the other defendants named in said petition and C. B. Couch the guardian ad. litem of said infant defendant Mary E. Ruffner being present, and that it is clearly shown to the court by said petition, exhibits filed therewith and the evidence adduced that the interest of said minor Mary E. Ruffner will be promoted by the sale of the interest of said minor in the real estate in said petition described and therein asked to be sold and all other persons interested therein are before the Court

(continued on page 7)

Site of West Virginia Capitol Building (continued)

and consenting to the sale of the Whole of said tract and that for said tract of 24 6/10 acres described in said petition P. F. Duffy has offered to pay the sum of \$19,680.00 being at the rate of \$800.00 per acre, therefore, (answer of G.S.L. should be tendered and filed, form. P. 91.), of which the sum of \$5000.00 is to be paid in cash, and the balance in 12 months with interest at six per cent per annum from day of sale, and that \$800.00 per acre is a good and fair price for said real estate. It is therefore adjudged, ordered and decreed that said guardian be and he is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sell the interest of said infant Mary E. Ruffner in the aforesaid tract for a price not less than \$800.00 per acre and upon the terms stated herein, taking from the purchase bond, with ample security for the payment of the deferred installment of purchase money and reserving a lien upon said real estate to further secure the payment thereof, and it further appearing to the Court that said H. D. Ruffner is entitled as the husband of the late Sallie P. Ruffner to his courtesy in said tract of 24 6/10 acres and that he is entitled to a gross sum in lien thereof and that he is of the age of 56 years and that the interest of said Mary E. Ruffner in the entire proceeds of such sale will after deducting the sum due said H. D. Ruffner by reason of his said courtesy, and the interest of the other heirs of said Sallie P. Ruffner amount to the sum of \$4327.24 it is therefore further adjudged, ordered and decreed that before making the sale herein, before directed the said guardian H. D. Ruffner shall in open court enter into bond with approved security in the penalty of \$9000.00 conditioned for the faithful appliance of the proceeds of the sale of the interest of said Mary E. Ruffner in the 24 6/10 acres aforesaid. And thereupon the said H. D. Ruffner guardian aforesaid with Mary E. Comstock his security in open court entered into bond in the penalty of \$9000.00 conditioned for the faithful application of the proceeds of the interest of said Mary E. Ruffner the infant defendant herein, in the said 24 6/10 acres, which bond and security is hereby approved. (Enter F.A.C.)
 Enter - C.O.B. No. 16, page 220. 28, Nov. 1890.

REPORT OF SALE

H. D. Ruffner, Guardian)
 vs.) On petition to sell Real Estate of Infant.
 Mary E. Ruffner et. al.)

To the Hon. F. A. Guthrie, Judge et. al.
 The undersigned, the guardian of Mary E. Ruffner respectfully reports that acting under the authority of a decree entered herein Nov. 28, 1890 he has made private sale of the interest of said infant Mary E. Ruffner in the tract of 24 6/10 acres described in the petition filed in the cause, to P. F. Duffy Esq. The other parties in interest in said tract have likewise sold their respective interests therein to said Duffy. The price on which the whole of said tract was sold is \$19,680.00 being \$800.00 an acre, of which amount the said purchaser has paid in cash the sum of \$5000.00 and executes bonds as hereinafter states for the residue.

The undersigned in his undivided real capacity, as the husband of the late Sallie P. Ruffner being entitled to his courtesy in said real estate, and the same amounting to the sum of \$6698.28 the whole of said cost, payment, and \$1698.28 in addition is required to be discharged in full his interest as tenant by the courtesy which will reduce the amount of each share of the three children of said Sallie P. Ruffner, deed to the sum of \$4327.24. The said purchase has therefore executed his bonds for the said sum of \$4327.24 payable to the undersigned as guardian of said Mary E. Ruffner 12 mos. after date with interest at 6% per annum with John B. Floyd as his security.

Dec. 17, 1890. Respectfully submitted,
 H. D. Ruffner, Guardian of Mary E. Ruffner.

DECREE CONFIRMING SALE

H. D. Ruffner, Guardian of M. E. Ruffner)
 vs.) On petition to sell Infant's Land.
 Mary E. Ruffner et. al.)

H. D. Ruffner, G'd'n of Mary E. Ruffner this day presented his report of the sale of the interest of his said ward in the tract of 24 6/10 acres described in the papers heretofore filed herein; which report is ordered to be filed. And this cause coming on this day to be further heard upon the proceedings formerly had and papers filed herein and upon the said report of sale C. B. Couch the guardian ad. litem of said Mary E. Ruffner being present at the hearing and it appearing to the court (26: I. & 23) that said guardian did on Dec. 17, 1890 make private sale of said ward's interest in said real estate to P. F. Duffy for the sum of \$6560.00 being at the rate of \$800.00 per acre subject to the courtesy therein of said H. D. Ruffner and has executed his bond with John B. Floyd as surety for the sum of \$4327.24 payable one year after date with interest at 6% from date and that the said sum of \$4327.24 is the value of the said infants interest in said real estate after deducting the sum of \$2232.76 the value of the interest of said H. D. Ruffner as tenant by the courtesy therein which said sum said H. D. Ruffner is entitled to take as a gross sum in lien of his life estate as estate as tenant by the courtesy. And it further appearing that the price aforesaid is adequate and fair and that no better price could be procured. It is therefore adjudged, ordered and

(continued on page 8)

Site of West Virginia Capitol Building (continued)

decreed that the said sale be and the same is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed and that said H. D. Ruffner as tenant by the courtesy do take in lien of his life estate the said sum of \$2232.76 out of the first proceeds of said sale.

It is further adjudged, ordered and decreed that said H. D. Ruffner as the guardian of said infant M. E. Ruffner do make execute and acknowledge for record a deed with covenants of special warranty conveying the aforesaid interest of said Mary E. Ruffner to the said purchaser P. F. Duffy reserving therein a vendor's lien to secure the payment of the aforesaid purchase money.

It is further adjudged, ordered and decreed that said H. D. Ruffner do pay the costs of this proceeding including an allowance of \$50.00 for the expenses of this application, such costs and expenses to be credited to him in the settlement of his accounts as guardian as aforesaid.

Ent. Ch. OB. 16. P. 292. Dec. 18, '90. (Enter F. H. H.)

THIS DEED, made this 18th day of Dec. 1890 between H. D. Ruffner, Guardian of Mary E. Ruffner of the first part and P. F. Duffy of the second part.

Whereas the said Guardian in pursuance of the authority vested in him by an order of the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, made on the 28th day of November 1890 in a certain proceeding therein pending upon a petition filed by said Guardian to sell certain of the real estate belonging to his said ward Mary E. Ruffner in which proceeding the said H. D. Ruffner, Guardian as aforesaid was petitioner and said Mary Ruffner, Augustus Ruffner and Blanche Ruffner his wife and Virginia P. Ruffner were defendants did sell the interest of the said ward Mary E. Ruffner in the real estate hereinafter mentioned and described according to the terms and conditions required by said order at which sale the said P. F. Duffy become the purchaser for the sum of \$6560.00 from which is to be deducted the value of the life estate of H. D. Ruffner as tenant by the courtesy therein amounting to the sum of \$2232.76, and whereas the said purchaser has complied with the requirements of said order of sale, and has executed his bond for the sum of \$4327.24 with J. B. Floyd as his security payable one year after the date thereof to said H. D. Ruffner, guardian of Mary E. Ruffner with interest from date at the rate of 6% per annum. And whereas the said Court by a subsequent decree or order made in said proceeding on Dec. 18, 1890 confirmed the said sale and directed a deed for the interest of said Mary E. Ruffner in the said real estate hereinafter mentioned to be made to the said P. F. Duffy the said Guardian, now therefore this deed to interest that the said H. D. Ruffner Guardian as aforesaid doth grant unto the said P. F. Duffy all the right title and parcel of real estate, containing et. al. situated et. al. beginning et. al.

And the party of the first part doth hereby covenant that he will warrant specially the title to the interest hereby conveyed. And a lien is hereby reserved upon the real estate hereby conveyed to secure the payment of the aforesaid bond for the purchase money aforesaid.

Witness the following signature and seal.

H. D. Ruffner, Guardian of Mary E. Ruffner (seal)

State of W. Va. Kanawha County, to-wit:

Family History & Genealogy Surveys

- ☞ Responses to the Family History & Genealogy Survey are needed.
- ☞ Each family member should complete and return a set of the Survey Forms.
- ☞ Be sure each of your Ruffner kin has submitted their completed Surveys.
- ☞ Need Survey Forms? Contact your Branch Coordinator.



Branch Coordinators: [Family Branch]

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

Nancy Lee Shifflett [Peter, Jr.]
917 West Main Street
Luray, VA 22835
[540] 743-6709
pyramid@shentel.net

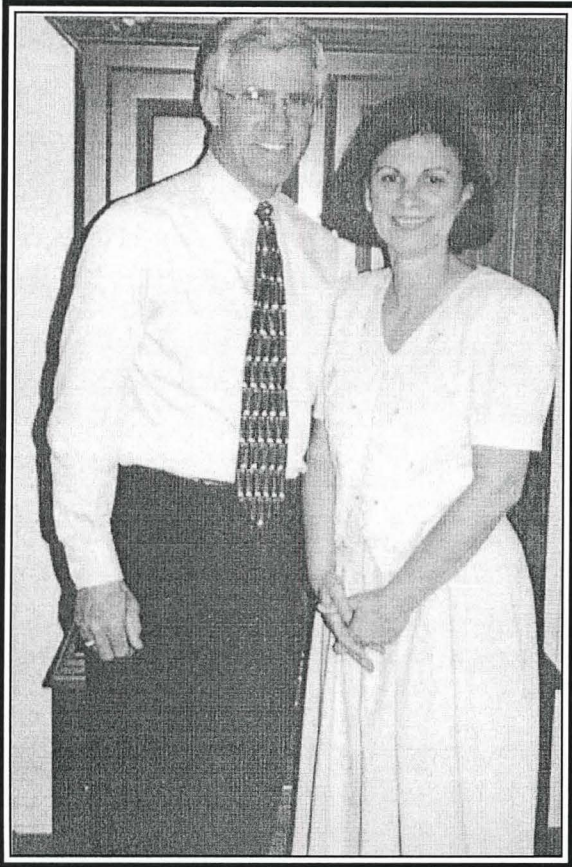
Barbara A. Burner [Elizabeth]
7600 Arlington Ave.
Raytown, MO 64138
[816] 358-6986
BurnerFam@aol.com

Gary Ruffner [Benjamin]
3500 North 825th Street
Mason, IL 62443
[618] 238-4120
gjruff@accessus.net

Dorotha M. Russell [Reuben]
401 Burwash Dr., #120
Savoy, IL 61874
[217] 398-9858
Dweise@windsorofsavoy.com

Barbara A. Rowles [Emanuel]
185 Marks Ave.
Lancaster, OH 43130
[740] 653-3705
barowles@greenapple.com

Know Your RFA Board Members - Phyllis Hershock



Craig & Phyllis Hershock

Phyllis Hershock is the newest member of the RFA board as secretary of our organization. She hails from Pennsylvania, just like Peter Ruffner's wife, Mary Steinman.

Phyllis was born in Philadelphia on April 19, 1948, the daughter of Ray and Dorothy (Ruffner) Rinker. (Many of you have met her mother at the last two reunions.) Four more Rinkers came along through the years, and they still visit when they can to celebrate birthdays and holidays. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1965, and Kutztown University in 1969, fulfilling her one goal to become a teacher. Phyl also met Craig Hershock in college, and they married on August 23, 1969, just before she began her teaching career. They settled in Craig's home of York, and there they have stayed for the past 32 years. Kristen and Amanda joined the family in 1975 and 1980 respectively.

Phyl taught third grade before the girls were born, substituted while they were young, and has been back at full time teaching in the elementary grades since the late 80s. She finished her master's degree in education from Penn State just a couple of years ago. Life is quieter now with Kristen out of college and Amanda away as a senior, but still very busy.

Free time is limited these days, but gardening for flowers and vegetables continues as a great source of contentment and satisfaction as it has for many years. Sewing once occupied much of Phyl's time making clothing for her girls, window treatments, and crafts. The most recent hobby she and Craig are pursuing is Civil War period dancing. They belong to a group that gives demonstrations as well as attends events wearing period correct outfits. At least that is one wardrobe that will never go out of style.

Being one of the Ruffners has long been important to Phyl, as her mother's family of six siblings from Omaha, NE has been close in spite of being separated by many miles. At their 1993 Ruffner reunion, her Uncle Paul pulled out an old Ruffner Bible with names and information

she had never heard of before. A few months later he put her in touch with Betty Gaeng of WA who sent kindly along their entire Ruffner lineage back to Peter Sr. It was so easy to remember all the names before Phyl's grandfather, Edwin, as the names are Peter (E.), Peter (A.), Jonas, Peter (Jr.) And Peter (Sr.).

In 1994 when their daughter Kristen went off to college in Winchester, VA, family members gave Craig and Phyl a 25th anniversary gift certificate for a bed and breakfast in Virginia. Lo and behold, there was the Ruffner name as one of the choices, but they chose a location closer to her school. A couple summers later found them headed to Luray with her mother and Kristen to show them the family homestead. Luck was with them as they met Sonja who explained the circumstances of the "For Sale" signs posted on the family property and gave her the connections to the RFA. During their visit to the library in Luray that day, they discovered none of their Nebraska branch of the family listed in the "Descendants" book. She and her mother remedied that for our upcoming publication as they accounted for a total of 100 Ruffner members and their mates from her grandfather's generation down to the grandchildren of her cousins.

Peter the Pioneer began a big circle of travel for Phyl's branch of the Ruffners that began with Peter Sr. leaving Pennsylvania for Virginia in the 1700s. Three generations later, in the 1800s, Jonas' son, Peter A., left the family home in Luray and headed west to settle in Nebraska. Again three generations later, her mother, Dorothy, married and moved east to live after WW II. Now her Kristen seems to have put down roots in Virginia, and the cycle begins again.

Phyl attended the RFA gatherings in Lancaster and Luray with Craig and her mother and thinks family reunions are a marvelous way to see our great country. Heading to Arizona in 2003, will be her first trip to the southwest, having visited Washington State for the Nebraska Ruffner reunion two years ago. She is looking forward to enjoying new people and places for many years to come. ■

Editor's Note: President Sam McNeely received the following note from Phyllis' mother, Dorothy (Ruffner) Rinker: "I so much enjoyed the reunion in Luray last summer. It truly is a great family to be a member of and going back to the roots of my ancestors was a thrill."

In Memory of Edith Washington Johnson from page 1

Cousin Melissa Ruffner of Prescott, Arizona recalled how, "Edith made the dozen or so Ruffners who came to [Washington Reunion] Roanoke feel welcome as members of her own large and loving family. I knew her for too brief a time, but she is someone I will remember as an enormously gracious and gentle woman who had influences on my life I continue to discover. God speed, dear lady."

Gary Ruffner of Mason, Illinois writes, "Words cannot describe the lasting impression that Edith made on myself and my family, when we had the pleasure of traveling across the mountains of West Virginia and Virginia last year. She will always be a bright spot in the lives of this family." His son Jacob chose to do a "power point" project for social studies on Booker T. Washington after getting to know Edith. Jacob's sister Kylie on reporting to her teacher of the Washington/Ruffner connection, was planning to bring Edith to Mason to meet her classmates. Such a natural reaction, for many of us were so smitten with this charming, humorous and inspiring person, that we wished to share her with all our Ruffner Cousins and friends.

Edith Olivia Washington was born June 5, 1924, in Tuskegee, Alabama to Edith (Merriwether) and Ernest Davidson Washington, the son of Booker T. Washington. She received a Bachelor of Science from Central State University of Ohio and a Masters of Education from Tuskegee University. She was retired from the staff of Central State after thirty-five years of service. She is survived by two sisters, Margaret Clifford of Atlanta, GA and Gloria Baskin of Buffalo, NY; two sons, Ernest Hughes and Eric Hughes, both of Denver; three grandchildren and one great grandson.

There will be a Memorial for Edith Johnson at the close of the Annual Meeting of the Ruffner Family Association in Malden, West Virginia this coming June. In attendance will be members of her family and participants in the Washington Family Reunion.

The Ruffner/Washington legacy is a powerful bond of respect, friendship and love. It was through dear Edith that we understood such power and we resolve to keep her message alive, for generations yet to come.

~ *Robert Newman Sheets*

**The Ruffner Family Website -
Your Source for Up-to-date Information
<http://ruffnerfamily.org>**

If you have access to the Internet, you are urged to view the family website. There you will find information on our ancestors, the early generations, the RFA, current and past events (including photos), articles from past newsletters and printable forms. Currently under construction are pages on RFA's Endowment Fund plus historic sites and monuments. The site is continuously being updated and improved. Visit it often and recommend it to your family and friends.

WAGONS HO! Ruffner Reunion Goes West



Plans are shaping up for a splendid 7th Ruffner Family Reunion to be held in the Historic Frontier Town of Prescott, Arizona. It will be the tenth Anniversary of our second reunion held there in 1993, and we will honor the memory of our cousin Lester "Budge" Ruffner who with George Ruffner of Inola, Oklahoma, planned the modern revival of our family reunions. His daughter Melissa Ruffner of Prescott serves as our chairperson.

Following the Civil War, many Ruffners joined the pioneer move west looking for new wealth and industry. Among them Morris Andrew Ruffner, great great grandson of Peter & Mary Steinman Ruffner, who in 1876, prospected in the Jerome area of Arizona. About the same time his nephews, Andrew and George Ruffner would leave their father's Mason, Illinois farm and eventually end up in the Prescott area. Andrew died in a mining accident, but George would become famous as Sheriff of Yavapai County. Budge's father Lester would go to Prescott to operate a mortuary his brother George had won in a poker game. The Ruffner name is rooted in the history of the ranches, mines, politics and business of Prescott and will offer a Western Feast of Historic Sites.

This reunion is a perfect opportunity for parents and grandparents to bring their children and grandchildren to a family reunion and experience first hand the history and drama that made the American West a place of legend and folk lore. Melissa, one of Arizona's esteemed historians and story tellers, as was her father, will treat us to three days of tours, chuck wagon suppers, square dancing and special events celebrating our family in the West. Don't pass up this wonderful chance to experience the Native American music, dance and art work that makes Arizona one of the treasured states in our nation.

Located in Central Arizona amid the largest stand of ponderosa pines in the world, Prescott offers activities and attractions for young and old alike. A city of mild climate, rich history and western hospitality that will welcome the Ruffners to what should be one of our largest reunions. Make sure you mark your calendars for June 2003 (exact dates to be announced). Make this a grand Western States vacation so we can see you and your family at the Grand Canyon, riding horseback in the Chino Valley, hiking on Granite Mountain, exploring area Ghost Towns, touring museums and attending Native American Dance Ceremonies.

It was Lt. Ernest Ruffner, son of Lewis and Viola Ruffner, who in the 1880s was in charge of building so many of the great western roads - just so in 2003, we could all assemble in Prescott, Arizona. For information, or input on planning for the reunion contact Reunion Chair, Melissa Ruffner, PO Box 2577, Prescott, AZ 86302. ■

JOIN US IN MALDEN 2002

The Annual Meeting of the Ruffner Family Association is scheduled for June 21st in Malden/Charleston, West Virginia. Returning once again to this famous area in Ruffner Family History, we will share events with the descendants of Booker T. Washington when they gather for their reunion, June 21 through June 23rd. We will be headquartered at the Executive Suites Hotel, 300 Court Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Some of us will be arriving a few days earlier to take advantage of the great research facilities in the West Virginia Archives. Attendees will be provided with a "Walking and Riding Tour Guide" to see all the famous Ruffner Historical Sites. Among them are: The Joseph Ruffner Cabin (1803), Holly Grove home of Daniel Ruffner (1815), Site of Fort Lee, first home of Joseph and his family when they arrived in 1795, the tombs of Joseph and Ann Ruffner in Pioneer Park (see photo, opposite column), Kanawha Salines Church founded by David Ruffner (1840), Replica Home of Booker T. Washington and his family and the ancient Ruffner burial ground on the property of the Ruffner Salt Works.

We will hold a special ceremony honoring the memory of Lewis and Viola Ruffner and their special relationship with Dr. Booker T. Washington. A Memorial Service will also be held for his granddaughter, Edith Washington Johnson who passed away January 6th.

Make your lodging reservations with Embassy Suites Hotel, (304) 347-8700 or at a motel of your choice. See the article on this page to register for the Washington Reunion. To receive updated details, please notify us of your plans to attend the Ruffner Family Association Annual Meeting by contacting Sam McNeely, PO Box #351, Luray, VA 22835. For additional information check out our website <www.ruffnerfamily.org>.

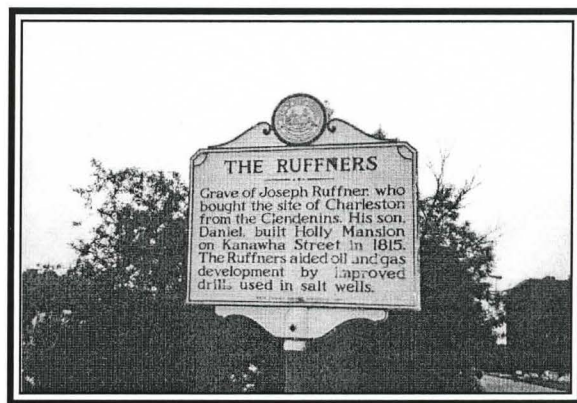
Answer to ~

What Is It? Where Is It?

(from page 4)

This famous cabin is part of the original homestead of Joseph and Ann (Heistand) Ruffner in Charleston, West Virginia. When he first moved his family into the Great Kanawha Valley in 1795, they lived in Old Fort Lee. As he expanded his property holdings along the Kanawha River, he built two rooms of this two story log home on the road known as the Kanawha Turnpike. Down the road is Daniel Ruffner's "Holly Grove" built in 1815. Daniel received the property on the death of his father Joseph in 1803. He deeded it to his son Col. Joel Ruffner in 1827, who expanded its size and named it "Rosedale." When Rosedale was taken down for development of the property in 1969, the original logs were found within the modernized walls. The log structure was dismantled and reconstructed as a 1976 Bicentennial Project by the Navy Seabees, Battalion 23 of South Charleston. It is located in the Daniel Boone Park between Charleston and Malden. Boone and Joseph Ruffner were associates in the early settlement of the valley.

Our cousin, Richard Mandt, Jr. of Mooresville, NC, grew up in the house. He and his brother William Frederick Mandt being the last Ruffner babies born there. The house today is maintained by the Colonial Dames of America and will be the site of events during the Annual Meeting of the Ruffner Family Association in June of this year. ■



Historic Marker at Grave Site of Joseph & Ann (Heistand) Ruffner, Charleston, WV

A WALK WITH DR. WASHINGTON

Exciting and meaningful plans have been made for the Reunion in Malden/Charleston, West Virginia, June 21-June 23 for the descendants of Booker T. Washington. Not since he left there in 1872, to attend Hampton School, has his family gathered in such large numbers at his Malden Home to honor him and celebrate his educational legacy. The now famous walk he took from Malden to Hampton will be memorialized in a "Walk With Booker T. Washington" from Charleston to Malden. The Reunion officially opens with a "Welcome Reception" 6:30pm June 21st at the Embassy Suites Hotel, to which the Ruffner Family is invited.

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 21

9:00am - Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Embassy Suites
6:30pm - Opening Reception, Embassy Suites Hotel
8:30pm - "Family Time", Adult Social and Children's Movie & Story Time

Saturday, June 22

10:30am-2:30pm - Walk with Dr. Washington, Box Lunch.
7:00pm - Banquet & Talent Show, Embassy Suites Hotel.
10:00pm - Dance & Social, Embassy Suites Hotel

Sunday, June 23

8:00am - Buffet Breakfast & Business Meeting, Embassy Suites
9:30am - Worship Service

Lodging Reservations should be made directly with the **Embassy Suites Hotel**, 300 Court Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Phone: (304) 347-8700. Indicate you are with the BTW Family Reunion.

Full Registration and Activity Fee is \$110 for adults 12 and older. \$60 for ages 4 to 11. **Advance registration deadline is April 1, 2002.** Fees paid after will be \$10 higher. Those wishing a Registration form can find one on the Ruffner Website or write Bob Sheets, 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210. Registrations should be sent to **Edith Charles**, 168 Audobon Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 10552.

David Barnett and his brothers Gerald & Van, co-chairmen of this year's Washington Gathering have put together an illuminating and engaging reunion to celebrate the life of their ancestor Booker T. Washington and his West Virginia experience, including that of Lewis and Viola Ruffner. The Ruffners attending the 2002 Annual Meeting of the RFA will appreciate the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful family, descendants of one of America's greatest educators. ■



IN MEMORIAM

Sybil Dofflemyer Baker,

80, of Berryville, VA, died Thursday, December 20, 2001. Sybil, a descendant of Peter, Jr., was born June 13, 1921, in Clarke County, the daughter of Ashby Kemper and Mary Elizabeth Ruffner Dofflemyer. She was retired as a bookkeeper with Moore & Dorsey and a member of the Berryville Baptist Church. Sybil married Hugh Martin Baker on December 24, 1937, in Winchester. Mr. Baker died October 27, 1999. Surviving are a son, Lt. Col. H. M. Baker, Jr., U.S. Army Ret. Of Berryville; a granddaughter and a great granddaughter. She was interred at the Green Hill Cemetery, Berryville.

Virginia Lewis Couch Ball, 101, Charleston, WV, passed away on September 26, 2001. Virginia, a descendant of Joseph, was born May 13, 1900, the daughter of Henry and Virginia (Ruffner) Couch. Portraits of her grandfather and grandmother, Colonel Henry Daniel and Sarah "Sallie" Alethea Patrick Ruffner were featured on the front page of the August 2000 issue of the RR&R. Her mother, Virginia Patrick (Ruffner) Couch is mentioned in this issue's article, *Site of West Virginia Capitol Building Once Owned by Ruffner Family*, beginning on page 5. Virginia Patrick Ruffner was one of the co-defendants in the proceedings described therein. Virginia Lewis Couch Ball is survived by her daughter, Virginia (Ball) Fisher of New Mexico.



Symbol

My faith is all a doubtful thing,
Wove on a doubtful loom, ~
Until there comes,
Each showery spring,
A cherry tree in bloom.

And Christ who died
Upon the tree
That death had stricken bare,
Comes beautifully back to me,
In blossoms, everywhere.

~ David Morton

**Easter Blessings to One and All
from the Ruffner Family Association
and the staff of RR&R**

The Editor's Desk Memories ~



With pleasure we have dedicated this issue to the memory of Edith Washington Johnson. Edith left all the Ruffner Family with wonderful memories.

At the 1999 Ruffner Family Reunion in Lancaster, Ohio, she graciously inscribed my copy of her grandfather's autobiography, *Up From Slavery*, with a message of appreciation: "This has been a beautiful Ruffner family weekend. Thank you for the experience."

I hope this book will someday become a part of the Ruffner Family Library.

Edith enjoyed reading *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*. On New Year's Day 2000, I opened up my e-mail to be greeted with a message from Edith thanking us for sending copies of the newsletter. The beautiful card and message was accompanied by the strains of *Auld Lang Syne*. "Should old acquaintance be forgot?" Never in the case of Edith Washington Johnson. Her memory will live in our hearts forever.

*With love to all,
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

HELP - WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS

Dig into your photo albums or that box under the bed and send us copies of the good pictures you have taken at our reunions or earlier family gatherings. We need them for the Ruffner Archives. Attach a 'Postit' to the back with identity of persons, place and date:

Send to: Robert Sheets
Ruffner Archive
1675 South Steele Street
Denver, CO 80210

Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2002.
Send your family news & articles to
Ruffner Roots & Ramblings
120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213