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Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 5, Issue 2

Ruffner Family Association

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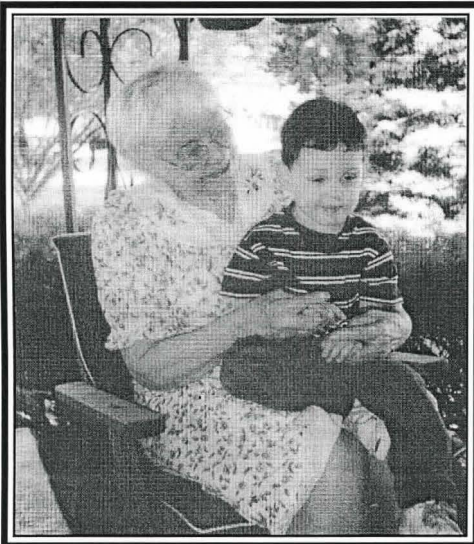


RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 5, Issue #2

June 2002

In Remembrance ~ Doris Laver Ruffner



Doris Laver Ruffner & great-grandson, Geoffrey Ethan Hunt - May 2000 ~ the past & future intertwined with love.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2002, Doris Laver Ruffner peacefully passed away at the Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster, Ohio, after a long illness. A longtime resident of Pleasantville, Ohio, she centered her life on her family and community. Caleb Ruffner, her husband of 64 years, her daughter Sara, her granddaughters, and her great-grandson were the lights of her life. She guided them, took joy in their lives and presented them with a model of responsibility of service.

Perhaps best known by members of the Ruffner Family for her co-authorship of *Peter Ruffner and His Descendants*, Doris' interest in genealogy sprang from a love of history instilled in her at a young age. She began collecting genealogical data long before it became a popular pastime. Doris and her co-author, Olive Taylor Ruffner, were married to brothers, Caleb Abraham and Frederick Gale Ruffner. Knowledge of the availability of their first volume, published in 1966, was mainly by word of mouth. Many of us were amazed at the depth and breadth of our family roots. Prior to their two volumes (the second being published in 1969), we probably had very little knowledge of the past history of the Ruffner Family in America. Through their outstanding efforts, a bridge was formed uniting generation upon generation of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner's descendants.

Doris didn't limit herself to Ruffner genealogy, she researched all the branches of her family, producing numerous notebooks. One of her last requests to daughter Sara was to put her books in order - a true genealogist toward eternity.

At the Ruffner Family Reunion in Charleston, West Virginia in June of 1995, many of us met Doris for the first time. Although she was well into her 80s at the time, she patiently listened to and answered questions about our heritage. We were to have the pleasure of seeing her again at the 1997 reunion in Luray, Virginia and the 1999 reunion in Lancaster, Ohio. Always gracious - always smiling - she was an inspiration to all.

Doris was born in Columbus, Ohio on April 1, 1908, to Guy S. Laver and Edna Knight. Her mother, Edna, died when Doris was just three years old. The family moved many times as she was growing up, but all her high school years were spent in Basil, Ohio. She played basketball for Liberty Union High School and graduated in 1928.

She met Caleb on a blind date in 1933, married him on Mother's Day, May 8, 1938, and moved to Pleasantville. Their daughter, Sara Louise, was born May 22, 1941.

Doris was a member of Trinity Reform Church of Basil where she taught Sunday School, later moving her membership to Lincoln Avenue Methodist of Pleasantville in the 1950s. She worked for Ohio Fuel Gas Company and the Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles. She was a poll worker for the Pleasantville Board of Elections for 25 years and served as village clerk twice for about 20 years, at little or no pay.

She was active with the PTA for 12 years helping her daughter Sara's friends and whoever needed help. Doris was a member of both Baltimore and Eastern Star and became an honorary member of the Pleasantville Garden Club after serving 50 years.

(continued on page 2)

Remembering Doris Laver Ruffner (from page 1)

Doris' pleasures were simple - flower gardening, oil painting, quilting, genealogy and reading. As her daughter Sara says, "she touched many lives and all were better for knowing her."

She is survived and lovingly remembered by her husband Caleb of Pleasantville; daughter, Sara (Ruffner) Lytle of Seneca, South Carolina; granddaughters Cynthia (Alan) Hunt of Falls Church, Virginia; Stephanie (John) Bergstrom of Alexandria, Virginia, and Jennifer Lytle of Albuquerque, New Mexico; great-grandson, Geoffrey Ethan Hunt; sister, Louise Giesy of Parma Heights, Ohio; twin brother and his wife, Don and Edna Laver of Mesa, Arizona; many nieces and nephews; special cousin, Jim Knight of Lancaster; and many loving and caring neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Guy S. and Edna Knight Laver; an infant sister; and brother and wife, Carroll and Florence Laver.

Doris was interred at West Rushville Cemetery in Ohio on Saturday, April 13, 2002, after a grave side service.

Her daughter Sara said she asked her daughters if they would like some remembrance of their grandmother to take home. They all said - "Mother, we have our personal memories of grandma and all the things she did for us."

Like her family, we all have special memories of Doris and what she did for us. The legacy of her research will remain with us forever and we will preserve it with all the honor it so richly deserves.

The Ruffner Family Association will conduct a memorial to Doris Laver Ruffner at the close of their Annual Meeting in Malden, West Virginia on June 21, 2002. ■

In Appreciation

We want to thank all our Ruffner cousins for their lovely cards of condolence. Our wife and mother will be missed, but we know she is in good hands and walks in a beautiful garden with God.

Again, thank you for remembering. God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Caleb Ruffner &

Sara Lytle

"Family"

*Years ago in some century past,
One woman stepped forward
To take up the quest!
Of creating the outlines
Of our family crest.
One man joined her
In this holy deed
Thus beginning the pages
Of our family creed.
Two ribbons entwined
In this tapestry
Forming the pattern
Of our destiny.
The fabric still unfolds
With each alteration
Its design particular
To each generation.
Our family lives on
Through struggle and strife
A tribute to those
Who brought it to life.*

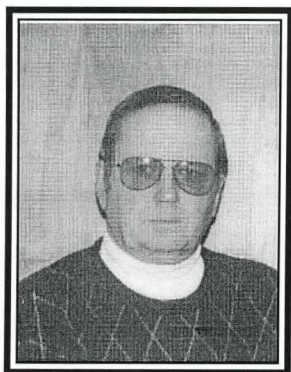
~ Diane C. Daniels

Editor's Note: This beautiful poem by Diane C. Daniels appeared in "Kentucky Rich" (2001), a novel by Fern Michaels (Kensington Books). It is printed with the permission of Ms. Daniels.

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— and much more

*A Message from the Association President**~ Sam McNeely*

Greetings from the Page Valley of Virginia. An "Appalachian Spring" is settling into our beautiful part of this great country. The grass is green, the dogwoods, lilacs, tulips and other spring flora are in full bloom. The beauty of God's creation is everywhere. Mixed in with these are the dandelions and thistles we work so diligently to remove from our lawns and pastures. Within the last year, we have seen the beautiful aspects of our lives try to be taken over by the "dandelions and thistles," but they caused our country to come together

as never before. The spirit of our people has shone brightly through it all. We as Americans are now a stronger and more unified nation as a result of the events of last fall.

Our family association is a stronger organization because of the efforts of some of those who helped shape our future. In my case, my interest in our family began when my uncle made a trip to Luray, Virginia in 1972. There he encountered the history of our family, ***Peter Ruffner And His Descendants***, compiled by Olive and Doris Ruffner. What he found whetted my appetite to learn more about my family. After my retirement, this interest was culminated by our movement to our ancestral roots. I continue to be amazed at what these two ladies were able to accomplish with steno pads and typewriters.

The final chapter of these books has now been written with the recent passing of Doris Ruffner. This wonderful lady was a source of strength to her family and to us in her extended family. I'm sure all will join me in expressing sincere sympathy to her husband Caleb, daughter Sara Lytle and the remainder of the family. We should work with utmost haste to complete the updates of these genealogical efforts she and Olive started over thirty years ago.

I wish to encourage as many of our members as possible to join us at the Booker T. Washington family reunion in Charleston, West Virginia in June. We will conduct a meeting of our association Board of Directors with a memorial service for our dearly departed board member Edith Washington Johnson at the historic Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church. All members are invited to attend.

Lastly, I encourage all who have ventured into cyber space to check our family website. It is being constantly updated and contains valuable and informative information for all persons associated with our family. Hope to see you in "Wild Wonderful West Virginia" in June. ■

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2002 DUES?

**Please respond at your earliest opportunity.
Keep your family association strong.**

Thank you!

Ruffner Family Association

Luray, Virginia

Samuel H. McNeely, President . . . Virginia

Phyllis Herschok, Secy . . . Pennsylvania

Nancy Lee Shifflet, Treasurer . . . Virginia

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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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What Is It? Where Is It?



Can you guess the name of this historic home? Do you know where it is and who lived in it?

~ See page 10

What's New - RFA Website

Our webmasters, K. Daniel and Dan Ruffner, keep making updates to the site. Check out the Ruffner Family Events Pages. Recently added pages are: 1909 Ruffner Reunion held at West Rushville, Ohio; 2000 Washington Family Reunion at Roanoke, VA; A Brief History of Illinois Ruffners; 2000 Illinois Ruffner Reunion [with photos]; and the 2001 Illinois Ruffner Reunion. Other new web pages are under construction.

Our family site is a good source of information for all out there in Cyber Space. Recommend it to all your family members and friends. If they do not have a computer, run off copies of the pages for them.

K. Daniel and Dan have done a phenomenal job with the site. They express their appreciation to all who have made contributions and welcome new contributions.

CHECK IT OUT!
www.ruffnerfamily.org



Plans Set for RFA Annual Meeting & Booker T. Washington Family Reunion

The historic town of Malden in the great Kanawha Valley of West Virginia will play host to the Ruffner Family Association 2002 Annual Meeting. We will gather at the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church, 9:00am June 21st for a full day of deliberations by our Board of Directors. At noon there will be a picnic lunch on the grounds of the Church followed by a 1:00pm Ceremony commemorating the building of the church by David Ruffner and the preaching of the first sermon by his son, Rev. Henry Ruffner. The meeting will conclude at 4:00pm followed by a Memorial Service honoring Edith Washington Johnson and Doris Laver Ruffner. That evening we will attend the Opening Reception of the Booker T. Washington Descendant's Reunion at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston. The Ruffner Family Association will maintain a Ruffner Hospitality Suite in the Hotel so when you arrive in Charleston/Malden, be sure and stop by to see your cousins and pick up a copy of our schedule for the week and a copy of the Walking and Driving Guide to Ruffner Historical Sites. Look for directions in the lobby.

On Saturday, June 22nd we will conduct a noon time ceremony at the Joseph Ruffner Cabin followed by a rededication of the Ruffner Family Burial Ground in Malden. The rest of the day will be given over to your self guided tours of this very historic area in the life of the Ruffner Family. Those registered with the Washington Reunion will join in on "A Walk With Booker T. Washington," from the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston to Malden and the restoration cabin of his youth when he worked for Viola and Lewis Ruffner. That evening we will attend the Washington Reunion Banquet at the Embassy Suites. Those arriving early and wishing to do research at the State Archive, should check in at the Archive reception desk for our schedule of events. **Additional information can be obtained from Joe Ruffner, Email: <jruffner@bellsouth.net>**

Registration for the full **Washington Family Reunion**, \$110 or the special Ruffner Plan of \$35 for only the Reception & Banquet, must be made with **Edith Charles, 168 Audobon Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 10552**. (See *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*, Vol. 5, #1 for details.)

Reservations at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** can be made by calling **(304) 347-8700**. Be sure and indicate you are with the "Booker T. Washington Reunion."

Some of the Ruffners will be lodging at the **Red Roof Inn Kanawha City** (across the river from Malden), 6305 SE MacCorkle Ave. For reservations call: **1-800-874-9000** and mention you are with the Ruffner Family Association.

For additional information on the **Ruffner Family Association Annual Meeting**, contact **Sam McNeely (540) 743-5882**, Email: <smcneely@shentel.net> or **Bob Sheets (303) 733-4935**, Email: <rnsheets@aol.com>

For the **Washington Reunion**, Edith Charles Email: <EWC1113@aol.com>

Note: Thursday, June 20th is the WV Day state holiday, which should provide some interesting events around town.■

Joseph and David Ruffner Begin The Kanawha Salt Industry

~ by Bill Myers

Following Joseph's death in 1803, his sons Joseph II and David (who were not as enamored with farming as their father) embarked on an effort to develop the salt business and establish a manufacturing business which could supply the explosive demand for salt growing at their western door front.

Their efforts were not more clearly stated than in a letter Joseph's brother David wrote to the *Niles Weekly Register* on November 8, 1815. It reads as follows:

"At the first settlement of this place there was great Buffalo Lick (as it was then called) discovered, where some weak saltwater oozed out of the bank of the river. After some time, the inhabitants sank [hollow] gums into the sand and gravel at a place, into which the water collected; but it was so weak, that though sufficient quantities might be collected, not more than three or four bushels of salt were made in a day. After the property came into possession of my brother Joseph Ruffner and myself (by devise), we were desirous to see the effect of sinking large Sycamore gums as low down as we could force them. We found great difficulty in this, on account of the water coming in so rapidly. When we got down about eighteen feet below the surface of the river, we discovered that our gums lodged on a solid, smooth three stone rock - and the water was but little improved as we descended. We then bored a hole in the rock of about 2-1/2 inches diameter - the size that is now generally used for the purpose. After we had penetrated the rock eighteen or twenty feet we struck upon a vein of water much saltier than any that had ever been obtained in this place. Our neighbors followed our example, and generally succeeded in obtaining good salt water, to the distance of two and an half mile below, and four miles above us, on the river. They all have to sink the gums about eighteen feet, where they come to the rock, into which they bore a hole from on to two hundred feet deep. The rock is never perforated through, the water weeps into the hole at soft and porous places; but no cavities are ever found in it. The cost of boring is from three to four dollars per foot, and each well produces, on average, a sufficient quantity of water to make 300 bushels of salt per day. The first water that is struck in the auger hole is generally fresh, or salt water of an inferior quality, which is excluded by means of copper or tin tubes put down into the auger hole, and so secured that none of the water which comes in above the lower end of the tube can discharge itself into the gum, which has a bottom put into it immediately upon the rock, and is secured in such a manner that no water can get into it except that which comes up the tube from below. The water thus gathered in the gum will rise about as high as the surface of the river at low water mark; and it requires from 70 to 100 gallons of it to make a bushel of salt.

There are now established and in operation here, fifty-two furnaces (and many are erecting) containing from 40 to 60 kettles of 36 gallons each-all which make from 2500 to 3000 bushels of salt per day. The quantity may be increased as the demand shall justify.

Firewood, in the course of time, must become scarce or difficult to get - but stone coal may be used instead of it, and of this our stock is inexhaustible.

These works are situated six miles above Charleston, Kanawha Court House; 66 miles from the mouth of the river, [Kanawha], and 26 below the great falls. The river is navigable, with a gentle current, at all seasons of the year, for boats drawing two feet water, and at most seasons for boats of size. Your obedient humble servant, DAVID RUFFNER, Kanawha Salt-works."■

Ruffner Brothers' Well

The Ruffner Brothers' Well referred to in the foregoing article was considered to be one of the three most important wells drilled in America. It was the first known well to have been "drilled," in distinction to "dug." Listed as drilled between 1806 and 1808, it preceded the second by over half a century and the third by almost a century. Its importance is based on the above and the development of well drilling tools and practices which became standard equipment for other well drillers in the salt industry. When Edwin Drake started to drill his first oil well in Titusville, PA (the second most important well noted above), he employed well drillers and expertise from the Kanawha Valley.

In drilling the well, the Ruffners undertook a job for which they nor anyone else had experience. Therefore, one must assume they were possessed of indomitable ingenuity and determination.

The salt produced from these wells was called "red salt from Kanawha" because of its iron content. It had a strong taste and was superior in the making of butter and curing meat. The salt was cooked in huge iron kettles and shipped down river to markets in the west.

In 1817, David Ruffner became the first salt producer to use coal as a fuel for boiling the salt from brine.

In 1827, Lewis Ruffner and Frederick Brooks were the first producers to use a steam engine for drilling and pumping wells.

The salt industry peaked in 1846, when over 3 million bushels were produced. For a time Malden was one of the wealthiest communities in the state.■

Sources: *The History of Oil Well Drilling* by J. E. Brantly (©1971 Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, TX).
Kanawha County Images by Stan Cohen (Richard Andre, Research Associate)

Ruffner Roots in Charleston

Joseph, the eldest child of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner, was the first Ruffner who came to the Kanawha Valley. He was born September 25, 1740, at the Big Spring on Hawksbill Creek in the Shenandoah Valley (now Luray, Page County). On May 22, 1764, he married Ann Heistand, daughter of Henry Heistand. Ann was born October 15, 1742.

Joseph is said to have had his mother's characteristics of raven black hair, black eyes, dark complexion and medium stature. Full of energy and sometimes excitable, he usually was a quiet and temperate man. Ann was reported to be a tall, comely, sensible and virtuous woman.

They had eight children: Esther, b. September 4, 1765, who died of measles in 1783; David, b. January 18, 1767; Joseph II, b. February 14, 1769; Tobias, b. October 22, 1770; Samuel, b. October 26, 1773; Eve, b. September 27, 1775; Daniel, b. November 11, 1779, and Abraham, b. October 11, 1781.

Joseph & Ann's farm was next above his father's, on both sides of the Hawksbill. It had 1200 acres of fertile land. His land included a grist mill and saw mill, which are now known as Willow Grove Mills.

For 30 years, Joseph Ruffner pursued his career of crop farming, raising stock, hide trading and hauling goods to Fredericksburg as his family grew up.

His good fortune came to a disastrous end in 1794, and changed the course of his family's history. A disheartened Joseph set out to find a new life for his family. In *Joseph Ruffner - The Move from Luray to Charleston* by Bill Myers, which appeared in Vol. 1, Issue #2 of *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*, you can read the events that brought Joseph and his family to Charleston.

After purchasing extensive land in the Kanawha from Colonel John Dickinson, sight unseen, Joseph set out in the spring of 1795, alone and on horseback, to see what he had bought. The story of his journey appeared in *The 300 Mile Journey from Luray to Charleston* submitted by Bill Myers in Vol. 2, Issue #1 of *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*.

As reported before, Joseph was not disappointed with his purchase and set about buying additional land from the Clendenin brothers. At this time, there wasn't another family living between the seven families at Fort Lee and Point Pleasant (where the Kanawha River enters the Ohio), a distance of 60 miles.

A few days after his additional land purchases, Joseph went back to the Shenandoah and that fall of 1795, he moved his entire family, with the exception of his oldest son, David, who was married and remained in Shenandoah for another year, and his only daughter, Eve, who was married about that time to Nehemiah Wood. Nehemiah and Eve eventually settled in Rio Grande, Ohio.

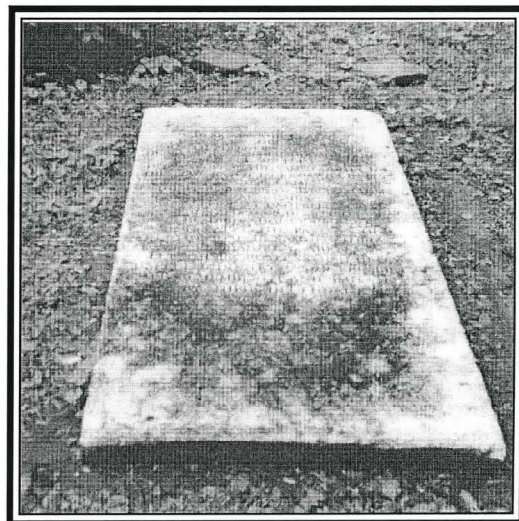
He sold his Shenandoah land to Samuel and Christian Forrer. When he brought his family to Kanawha his first concern was to provide a home for his family. For awhile, they lived at Fort Lee, but eventually he erected a comfortable two room log home [see RR&R, Vol. 5, Issue #1] between a smaller fort approximately two miles west of Fort Lee and the present location of Holly Grove Mansion, built in 1815, by Daniel Ruffner, his son. He was made overseer of the public road that passed his lands.

Joseph Ruffner died on March 23, 1803, at the age of 63 years and 6 months, leaving much unfinished work in the capable hands of five of his sons. His fourth son, Samuel, was feeble as the result of a cradle accident in his infancy. Joseph's will appeared in the December 1999 issue of RR&R, Vol. 2, Issue #4.

In *Genealogies of West Virginia Families*, Dr. William Henry Ruffner wrote in May of 1901, "I think that no member of the large Ruffner family has been possessed of a deeper penetration, a sounder judgment, a readier facility for laying hold at the critical moment, and a cooler courage than the head of the Kanawha branch."

William Henry went on - "His wife was a fitting companion. She outlived him 17 years, and died in 1820, aged 78 years. She was industrious and active and very benevolent. In her latter years she rode much on horseback, making social and charitable visits. Riding down 'Ruffner Hollow' one night with her little grandson, Joel, behind her on the horse, a terrific scream came from a tree they were passing. The old lady simply said 'It's a panther,' at the same time laying whip to her horse, who shot down the ravine like an arrow, and carried the party safely to the open country."

(continued on page 7)



Graves of Joseph & Ann (Heistand) Ruffner (Ruffner Library Photo)

Ruffner Roots in Charleston (from page 6)

Joseph and Ann are buried in the old Ruffner Burial Ground, now Pioneer Park, located on Kanawha Avenue. The Ruffner Burial Ground was given to the town of Charleston, in 1831, by Daniel Ruffner. It was to be used as a public cemetery. In 1870, when Spring Hill Cemetery was established, most of the graves were removed. The only graves remaining today are those of Joseph and Ann (Heistand) Ruffner, and that of Elizabeth Painter, wife of Daniel Ruffner. The park also includes a memorial to the Kanawha Riflemen who served the Confederacy, which was erected after the Civil War. The memorial includes the names of Andrew L., Daniel Jr., David L., Henry D., Joel Jr. and Meredith P. Ruffner.

On the large brown sandstone slab which adorns the graves of Joseph and Ann are engraved the words, "Let their spotless integrity, useful industry and sincere piety be remembered and imitated by their descendants." ■

Bringing Religion to the Kanawha

After the salt industry began to flourish in the Kanawha Valley, Dr. Henry Ruffner once wrote: "Adventurers flocked in from all parts of the country eager to share in the spoils. Most of the newcomers were men of bad morals. Some were young men of good character. Many boatmen of the old school frequented these salt-making shores before steamboats in a great measure had superseded the old sorts of River craft. The old people of Kanawha remember no doubt what horrible profanity, what rioting and drunkenness, what quarreling and fighting, what low gambling and cheating prevailed throughout this community in those days. As to religion it could hardly be said to exist except in the hearts of a few. I may venture to say that a thousand words of cursing and swearing were heard for every word of prayer and thanksgiving to God."

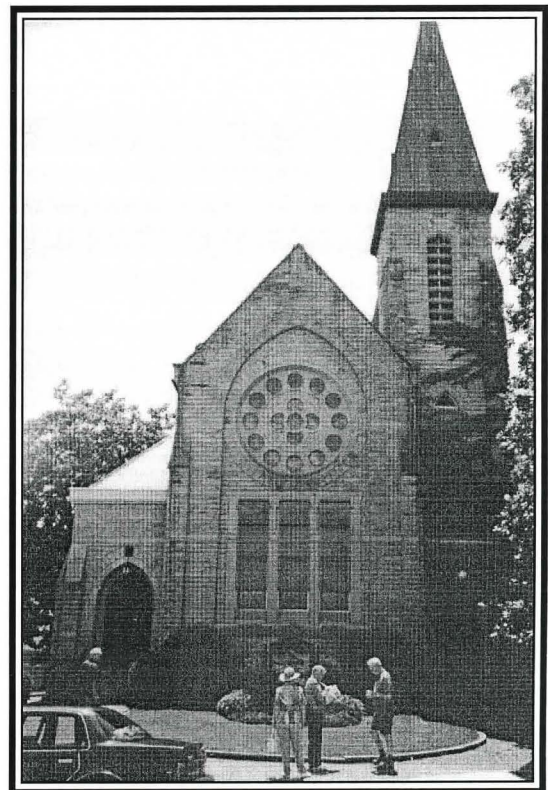
The conditions, particularly in the Malden area, described by Henry no doubt had an extreme influence on his father, Colonel David Ruffner. David by then had labored long and hard developing the salt industry. He had long outgrown the temper of his younger days and yearned for a more cultured life. He by 1808, had served as a justice of the peace for eighteen years of his life - 6 years in Shenandoah County - 12 years in Kanawha County. He would go on to serve as a justice for the remainder of his life. He had also been a member of the House of Delegates of the Virginia General Assembly for 8 years. He had first-hand knowledge of the merging moral decay of his beloved Salines, the land that had provided he and his family with a new life. As the most prominent and influential man in the Kanawha Valley, he had the ways and means to see that his sons, Henry and Lewis would receive proper educations. He also had the ways and means to bring religion to the Kanawha. As reported in

David Ruffner's Church - Kanawha Salines Presbyterian which appeared in RR&R, Vol. 4, Issue #4, he undertook conducting sessions of worship at his home. Later constructing Col. David Ruffner's Meeting House which seated 200 people.

His breast must have swelled with fatherly pride when his son, Dr. Henry Ruffner, completed his theology lessons with Dr. John McElhenny at Lewisburg, and then at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. In the fall of 1815, after appearing before and receiving his license to preach from the Lexington Presbytery, Dr. Henry Ruffner returned to the Kanawha Valley. He organized the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church with congregations at the Salines and Charleston in 1819.

We will not dwell again on the history of the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church as this has been reported in earlier issues of RR&R. We will instead visit the history of the Kanawha Presbyterian Churches in Charleston.

Around 1817, David Ruffner gave approximately one-half of a city block of land to be used for religion and education. He gave one-half of this plot, located at Hale and Virginia Streets, to the Society of Presbyterians and the other half, located at the corner of Hale and Quarrier Streets, to the president and trustees of Mercer Academy for the location of a school. In 1818, Mercer Academy was built on this spot. *(continued on page 8)*



Kanawha United Presbyterian Church
(Ruffner Library Photo)

Bringing Religion to the Kanawha (from page 7)

The Kanawha Presbyterian Church was organized on March 14, 1819, under the leadership of Rev. Henry Ruffner. Members of the church lived in Kanawha Salines (Malden) and in Charleston with services held in both locations. Services in Charleston were held at the Mercer Academy from 1819 to 1830. By 1820, Colonel Ruffner had turned over all his business affairs to his son, Lewis, and devoted the remainder of his life to the religious improvement of the people of the Kanawha Valley.

A brick church building located on Virginia Street, near Hale Street, was completed and dedicated in 1830.

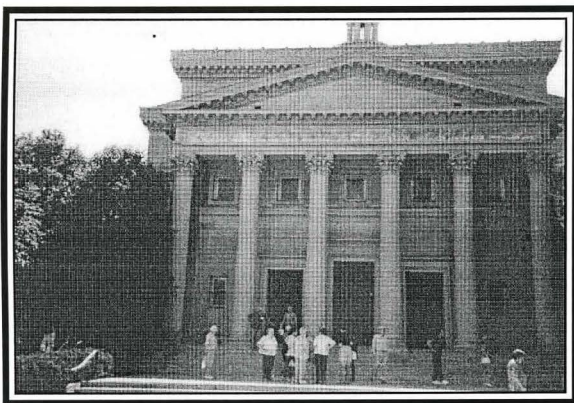
In 1841, the Kanawha Salines and Charleston congregations were separated into two churches. In February 1846, the little red brick church caught on fire and burned. It was later rebuilt and would go on to serve the First Presbyterian Church congregation until 1889 [see First Presbyterian Church below].

In 1872, the Charleston congregation again divided into two churches. The majority of the congregation organized the First Presbyterian Church. They retained the church building and sought affiliation with the Southern denomination. Twenty-five members remained in the Kanawha Church, which retained the manse and the church records, and became affiliated with the Northern denomination.

From this point on, the Charleston churches, who both cite Dr. Henry Ruffner as their founder, began separate histories

First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church inherited the old church building after the 1872 division. Services were held there from 1872 until 1889. As the church continued to grow, the church body purchased the Mercer School lot at the corner of Hale and Washington Streets. A new church was



First Presbyterian Church in 1995
(Ruffner Library Photo)

constructed during 1888 and 1889, and by August of 1889, services were conducted at the new stone sanctuary.

By 1912, the church had grown to such an extent that a

new building was erected on the corner of Broad and Virginia Streets, which was completed and dedicated in 1915.

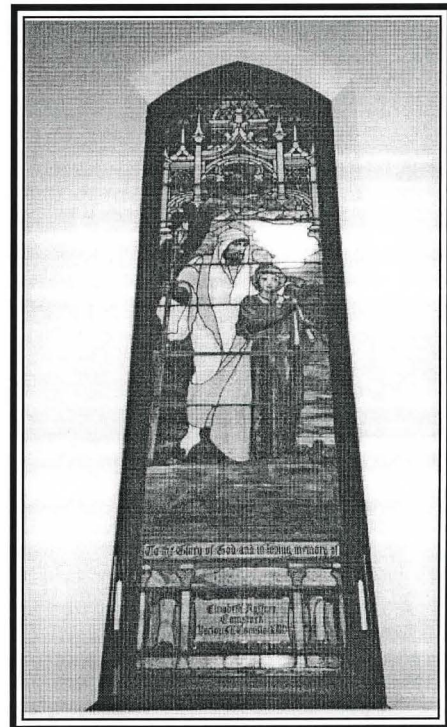
David's daughters and sons-in-law, Anne & Dr. Richard E. Putney and Susan & Moses Fuqua were members of First Presbyterian Church. Both sons-in-law became elders during David's lifetime. Descendants of the Putneys continued as members over the years.

Kanawha Presbyterian Church

Left without a place of worship after the 1872 division, the remaining members of the Kanawha Presbyterian Church purchased the Asbury Chapel. It was used as a temporary church from 1873 to 1885.

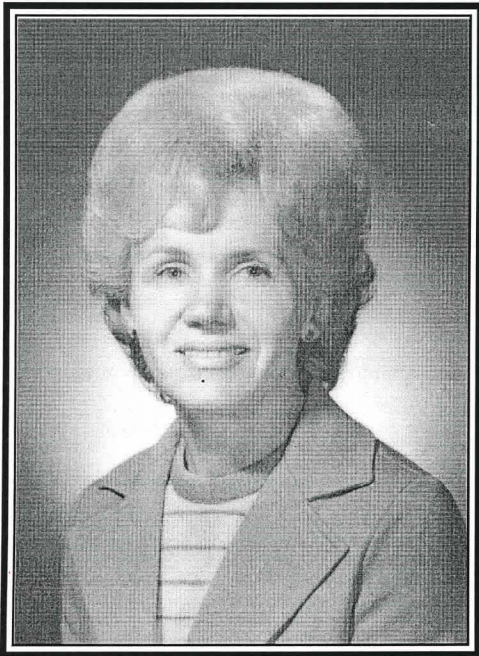
On April 25, 1885, the Kanawha Presbyterian Church dedicated a new church building at 1009 Virginia Street, East. In 1915, Tiffany windows were installed. A larger education building and Fellowship Hall were dedicated in 1954. Finally, in 1970, the two congregations of Schwamb Memorial Presbyterian Church (a former mission of Kanawha Presbyterian) and Kanawha Presbyterian merged forming Kanawha United Presbyterian Church.

The extent of Ruffner membership in Kanawha Presbyterian is not known, however there is a beautiful stained glass window in the church dedicated to Elizabeth Ruffner Comstock and her husband, Dr. Lucius L. Comstock. Elizabeth was the daughter of Augustus Ruffner (Peter/Joseph/Daniel) and Mary Elizabeth Rogers. ■



Elizabeth Ruffner Comstock Window
- Kanawha Presbyterian Church

Know Your RFA Board Members - Roberta Ruffner Kirwin



Roberta in 1977

Roberta "Bobbie" Kirwin has been a member of the Board of Directors since the Ruffner Family Association's conception in 1997. She is a descendant of Emanuel Ruffner

She was born in Columbus, Ohio on April 15, 1935, the first child of Roderick and Virginia Louise (Schotts) Ruffner. She has four sisters - Doris, Arlene, Donna & Diane (the latter two being twins) and one brother, Roger.

Roberta graduated from West High School, Columbus in June of 1953. She met her husband, Bill Kirwin, when she was just 16, but they did not begin dating until the fall of 1953. They were married in September of 1954, and settled in Columbus. Bill was with the Prairie Township Fire Department.

In her senior year of high school, she began to work for the Ohio Bell Telephone Company; a job she was to retain upon graduation. She spent the next 31-1/2 years working for the phone company as an operator, cashier, draftswoman in engineering and as a maintenance administrator.

She retired from Ohio Bell in 1984, when she was just 49.

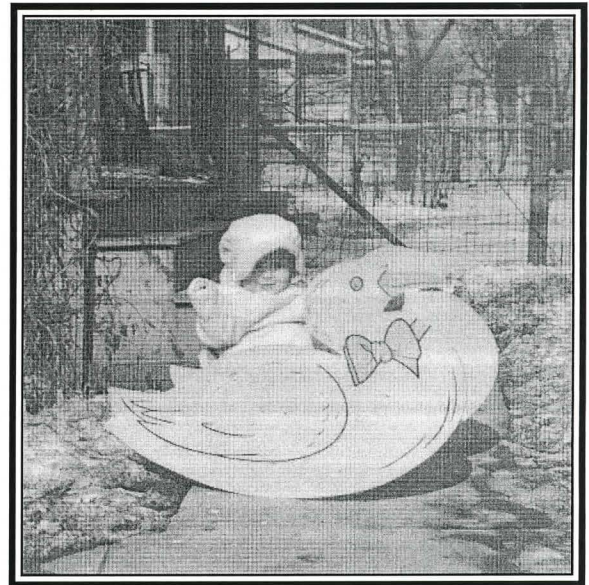
Although Roberta and Bill continued to live in Columbus, they bought a farm in Fairfield County in 1968.

He was very excited when he saw the land and decided they were going to build a log home. Emanuel would have been proud. Isn't that how he got started?

Bill, a man of his word, set about clearing all the trees off the land and sure enough built them a log home. In 1992, their country retreat was ready and they made the move from Columbus. Last year, they put in a large pond and stocked it with fish. They are both excited about fishing on their own land this year.

Roberta keeps busy all the time. She is a member of the DAR in Lancaster, enjoys crocheting, sewing, reading, and planting flowers & vegetables. She loves to drive and is always off practically every morning running around the countryside. Bill makes excellent homemade wine and trains German Shepherds.

Roberta was the contact for many Ohio Ruffners when the Ruffner Family Reunions began to increase in 1995, sending them notices and making phone calls. In fact, any time you need some information from Fairfield County, she will be off and running to get it for you. She has attended all the reunions from 1995 on and chaired the outstanding 1999 Ruffner Family Reunion in Lancaster, Ohio. ■



Baby Roberta in her Ducky Rocker

The RFA Welcomes Their Newest Members

Andrea Lee (Hopkins) White of Mt. Home, Idaho, daughter of Clarence Robert and Alma Inez Tigard Hopkins, was born in Boise, Idaho. She is one of 6 children and is descended from Joseph through Samuel, Esther (Ruffner) Williams and Catherine Ann (Williams) Owens. Andrea, married to Clair White, has 3 children, 4 stepchildren and 17 grandchildren. She is a professional quilter and also does various crafts and ceramics.

Natasha Jean (Davis) Blankenship of Springfield, Virginia, daughter of Eckel Shirley and Doris Davis. She is descended from Peter, Jr. through John, Reuben, Jacob W., Mabel Claire (Ruffner) Shirley and Virginia Ellen (Shirley) Davis Johnson. Natasha is an office manager for a family owned manufacturer's liaison business. She will be relocating with her employer to Prince Frederick, Maryland this coming fall.



Freedom has a Price!

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

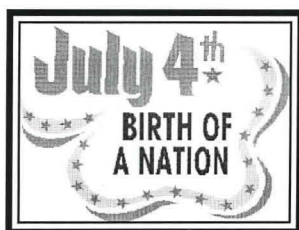
John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and grist mill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates. Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution.

These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted...We shouldn't. So, take a couple of minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid . . .

LET'S ALL REMEMBER THAT FREEDOM IS "NEVER FREE!"

Author Unknown



A Colonial Fourth of July

~ From the diary of Lewis Summers, who passed down the Kanawha Valley in 1808, in search of desirable lands for his father, Col. George Summers, under date of Monday, July 4th, 1808:

"Horse still lame and unable to travel; took off a shoe; appears to be graveled; cleared the wound and filled with hot tar and nailed leather over it.

"This day was celebrated here by the gentlemen and ladies of the neighborhood, about 20 of each. The dancing commenced at 12 o'clock, dined about 3, and continued dancing, etc. until after 12. The ladies were generally handsome, danced with ease if not with elegance. The Gentl'n friendly in the extreme. The time was spent in the greatest harmony and sociability, no ceremonial rules impeding a full enjoym't of the occasion; each, both male and female vying in producing the greatest quantity of satisfaction. The Gentl'n and their families of most note who attended were Mr. Reynolds and family, Mr. David and Mr. Joseph Ruffner and family, Mr. Buster and family, Col. Donalson the Clerk and family, Mr. Sparks and family; some fine girls from Teaze's Valley. Note: Promised to write to D. Ruffner the acc't of my journey home."



Answer to ~

What Is It? Where Is It?

(from page 4)

You are correct if you said "**Cedar Grove**," the Augustus Ruffner home in **Charleston, West Virginia**. This Federal Style home was built by the fourth son of Daniel Ruffner, builder of "Holly Grove." (see RR&R Vol. 3, #1)

Following his marriage in 1833, to Mary Elizabeth Rogers, Augustus built this substantial home facing the road connecting Malden and Charleston, and overlooking the Kanawha River. In 1844, Daniel had divided his Kanawha lands between his children before moving to Ohio, giving Augustus, vast land holdings which today are just a town lot, two doors from Ruffner Avenue at 1506 Kanawha Blvd.

After the death of Augustus, the house passed to his son, Col. Henry Daniel Ruffner. (See RR&R Vol. 3, #2) Today it is in private hands not open to tours.

Announcement

The sequel to the all time best selling history of Kanawha County is now available.

Kanawha County Images Vol II

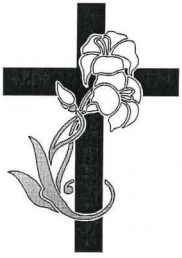
544 pages with over 1000 illustrations

If you really want to know what life was like for the Ruffner ancestors of old Kanawha, this is it!

Pictorial Histories Publishing Co.

713 S. 3rd Street, Missoula MT 59801

Price \$44.95 (includes shipping & handling)



IN MEMORIAM

Susan Orr Cozart, age 65, of Denver, CO and Berwyn, PA, died February 24, 2002, in Pennsylvania, of cancer. She was the daughter of Leonora (Alexander) Orr of Bryn Mawr an early supporter of the Ruffner Family Association.

We were introduced to Cousin Susan by her dear friend in Denver, Camilla Prosser, who one day said to Susan, "I know a family working on a Ruffner Reunion. Are you related to them?" This began a cherished relationship between Susan and the Rigg/Sheets family. Prior to leaving Denver last year she was their guest at the reception for Edith Washington Johnson and Margaret Washington Clifford. The granddaughters of Booker T. Washington and Susan shared a common legacy in the Great Kanawha Valley of West Virginia. Her great great grandfather Daniel, son of Charleston Pioneers, Joseph and Ann (Heistand) Ruffner, was the builder of Holly Grove and on whose farm land the State Capitol now stands. It was Daniel's son, Augustus and Mary (Rogers) Ruffner who built "Cedar Grove" his historic home still standing on Kanawha Blvd. in Charleston. Their daughter Leonora Caroline married William Alexander, a prominent farmer of Putnam County. Their son Andrew S. Alexander married Susan Mann and was a judge and banker in Charleston. Their daughter Leonora, Susan's mother, married Charles Orr of Philadelphia. Susan was married to Henry Cruger VanSchaack, III and Cornelius Cozart of Denver.

She is survived by her mother, a brother Andrew A. Orr; sisters, Leonora Orr and Carolyn P. Orr; a son Henry Cruger VanSchaack, IV; daughter Leonora (VanSchaack) Urbana. Her husband Cornelius and another daughter, Diane VanSchaack preceded her in death. A Memorial Service was held February 27, 2002, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Chapel, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and a celebration of her life was held in Denver. Those who cherished her charm and wonderful sense of humor, miss her very much.

Janet Enriquez (desc. Joseph) passed quietly away on Thursday, May 9, 2002, in Chadron, Nebraska. Her daughter, Cindi Trickler, writes: My mother lived with me for the last 6 months. I would like to let all of her friends and family know she loved you all and enjoyed your email and letters. We moved her to a nursing home in Chadron on May 2nd from the Chadron Hospital. She thought it was time and Raymond, her oldest, and I brought some of the comforts we thought she would like. We got her settled in and she was so surprised when three of her girls came from Georgia to take care of her May 5th. We tended her needs and the Hospice nurses were so great. At the end my sisters and I praised the Lord of Heaven for her being our Mother and that he had taken her home to be with him now. Mom loved her Lord and believed his word. He blessed her with 13 children and 30 grandchildren, most of us are from Georgia.

Mom was born July 31, 1937, and lived her childhood between her Mother's home in Virginia and her Father's home in Hay Springs, Nebraska. Many of her friends visited her and I am thankful to you all.

She was laid to rest on May 14th at the Hay Springs Cemetery.

Evelyn Marie (Ruffner) Reed, age 90, of Fenton, Michigan passed away on March 18, 2002, at her home. Evelyn was born January 22, 1912, in Pittsford, Michigan, the daughter of Orestes and Hila (Williams) Ruffner. She was descended from Emanuel through Jacob, Isaac, David and Orestes.

She was married on February 17, 1936, to Leo N. Reed, who preceded her in death in 1985.

Former business owners in Holly and Fenton, the Reeds moved to the West Branch area in 1956, where they became developers of the Elbow Lake Subdivision in Prescott. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Reed relocated to Fenton to be near family members.

She is survived by two daughters, Cheryl L. (Peter White) Reed of Harbor Springs and Sandra S. (Thomas) Elliott of Fenton; five grandchildren, Thomas H. Elliott, Donald J. (Vickie) Elliott, Marria D. (Steven) Blinn, Maia M. Kirst and Brooke (Robert) Roussin; and three great-grandchildren, Chad, Tyler and Danielle.

We regret that we do not have more details on the following Ruffner Family recently deceased. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families:

Lucille Doty of Windsor, Illinois (desc. Benjamin)

Hugh Wisher of Sullivan, Illinois (desc. Benjamin)

***There is a land of the
living and a land of the dead,
and the bridge is love.***

~ Thornton Wilder

Washington & Lee Names New President

Washington & Lee's Board of Trustees has elected the University's 24th President - Dr. Thomas G. Burish. He will begin his tenure on July 1, 2002.

Dr. Burish comes to W&L from Vanderbilt University, where he has been the Provost and chief administrative officer for the past 10 years. As Vanderbilt's longest-serving Provost, Dr. Burish oversaw the student-run honor system and eight deans including those for the schools of law, business, divinity, engineering and arts & sciences.

He is a licensed psychologist and holds psychology degrees from Notre Dame (A.B.) and the University of Kansas (M.A., Ph.D.). Dr. Burish's selection follows a six-month national search involving more than 150 candidates in academic, corporate, government, foundation, law and other professional fields.



Wedding Bells

Brooke Adrienne Kirst and **Robert Anthony George Roussin** were married Saturday, February 23, 2002, at the First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs, Michigan.

Brooke, a descendant of Emanuel, is the daughter of Cheryl Reed-White & Peter White of Harbor Springs and Jon & Cheryl Kirst of Carefree, Arizona. The groom's parents are Daniel and Jane Roussin of Harbor Springs.

Brooke is completing a degree in elementary education at the Petoskey campus of Springs Arbor College. Robert is a flooring contractor in the Harbor Springs-Petoskey area.

Ruffners in the News

Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett of Luray, Virginia was successfully re-elected to the Luray Town Council for a second four year term. Nancy serves RFA as treasurer and chaired the 2001 Family Reunion in Luray.



Melissa Ruffner of Prescott, Arizona is featured in a story titled "**Meet Ms. Prescott**" in the February 2002 issue of *Arizona Highways*. Melissa is chairing the 2003 Ruffner Family Reunion in Prescott.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!
2003 RUFFNER
FAMILY REUNION
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
JUNE 19-22, 2003**

Watch future issues for reunion plans & registration information!

2003 Ruffner Family Reunion Attendees who plan to visit the **Grand Canyon** are advised to make reservations early. For information, call (928) 638-7888 or visit their website - <http://www.ups.gov/grca>. Information on the Grand Canyon Railway can be obtained at 1-800-The-Train.

The Editor's Desk

Just Wondering ~



This is the 15th issue of Ruffner Roots & Ramblings. When the idea of a newsletter was conceived in 1997, I had serious doubts that we would find enough material to fill 48 pages every year. As time went on, however, articles, ideas and research material kept popping up - sometimes from sources I never knew existed. For instance, I would have never known of Diane Daniels' poem (on page 2) had it not been for my sister sending me a handwritten copy. Since then I have had the opportunity to become acquainted with a remarkably talented lady who appreciates the value of family ties. She and her twin were recently reunited with aunts, uncles and cousins they had not seen for years.

However, our backlog is getting rather low. What was once a whole notebook of ideas has diminished to a small section. So - I was **just wondering** are there some stories out there for the Peter, Jr., Benjamin, Emanuel, Reuben and Elizabeth branches of the family? We could go on and on with Joseph's family. The history of this branch is documented in numerous books, diaries and libraries.

Maybe you know something from your own family. Maybe there is something you have come across in your own personal research. Maybe there is something you think would not be of sufficient interest outside of your own family. The roots of the Ruffner family did not stop in Virginia and West Virginia - they trailed across the entire face of this country - north to south - east to west. It is a story of an American pioneer family. Who was the first Ruffner to settle in your area? What is their story?

This family publication will continue to go on, but we need each and every member's input to make it a chronicle of the entire family's role in the settlement of the American Frontier.

Don't leave us wondering - send in something today. Do it in memory of Doris Laver Ruffner to continue the story she and Olive Taylor Ruffner began in 1966. Thank you!

**Love & hugs,
Cousin Joan**

RR&R Editorial Board

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| Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett | | Luray, VA |
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Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2002.

Send your news & articles to:

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

120 Rita Court

Columbus OH 43213

Email: Jokereid@aol.com