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Ruffner Family Association

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RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 5, Issue #3

September 2002

In Memoriam

George Edward Ruffner

September 17, 1925 - July 9, 2002

"A Great Tree has fallen in the forest of our family and the landscape will never again be the same." These words written by Bob Sheets in conveying the sad news of George Edward Ruffner's death are echoed by all Ruffner family members who came to know, love and admire this gallant and humane man. As Bob went on to say, "he has completed the journey of a great and giving life, whose inspiration will be forever implanted upon the soul of our Ruffner Family Association."

George, a proud descendent of Benjamin Ruffner, was the first child of Walter Ray and Theta Logan Ruffner. He was born in Effingham County, Illinois at the home of his great grandfather, Harrison Ruffner. After graduating from Effingham High School, he entered active service in the U.S. Army in January of 1943. While in the service, he was wounded in action and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. After his discharge in 1945, he returned home to Mason, Illinois and married Ruth Lavonne Byers on November 22, 1945. They began their married life in Mason, with George working in the Post Office.

In 1965, George transferred to Bedford Texas. After a disability retirement in 1972, and upon recovery, he began working for Absolute Security as a chief of security. In 1974, the family moved to Niotaze, Kansas, where he worked for Cookson Hills Christian School. A year later, he was transferred to the main unit of the school in Kansas, Oklahoma where he served as superintendent.

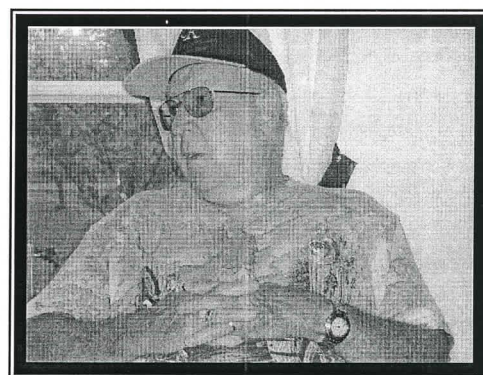
In 1979, the family moved to Miami, Oklahoma where George worked with the Miami Police Department and started traveling with World Mission Builders (WMB). In 1989, they moved to Inola, Oklahoma where George continued his mission work with WMB, building churches and holding crusades in Missouri, Arizona, North Carolina and third world countries. In 1992, they built the Inola Christian Church, with a large addition being made in 1998. George was a charter member and served as an elder of the church.

In 2001, at the Ruffner Family Reunion in Luray, Virginia, George was awarded the first RFA Humanitarian Award for his work with World Mission Builders. George, with his cousin Lester Ward "Budge" Ruffner, began the Ruffner Family Reunions in 1991. From that reunion would eventually spring the formation of the Ruffner Family Association. He was a founding member of the RFA Board of Directors and faithfully attended each meeting sharing his sage counsel at each gathering. George wrote last year about how blessed he felt to see the growth of the Ruffner Family reunions and the joy he felt in the opportunity to meet cousins he might never have known.

George was preceded in death by his parents, grandson, Aaron Gill; great-grandson, Darin Gill, and brother, Bob Ruffner.

He is survived by his wife Ruth; children, Marsha Gill of Mesquite, Texas, Rebekah Johnson of Inola, Janella Holeman and husband Mike of Inola, Mason Ruffner of Wimberly, Texas, Roger Ruffner of Debukey, Iowa, and Doug Ruffner of Inola; Grandchildren, Gayla DeCosta of El Paso, Texas, Todd Johnson, Amanda Shoemaker, Dustin Spurlock and wife Jennifer, Heather Spurlock, and Kelsey Holeman all of Inola; great-grandchildren, Taylor & Casey Gill, Logan, Hannah & Macy Shoemaker, Cailey & Jordan Spurlock, and Aaron DeCosta; sisters, Wanda Pugh of California and Rhea Witt of Illinois, and brother, Lawrence Ruffner of Florida.

A celebration of George's life and accomplishments was held at the Inola Christian Church on July 12, 2002, followed by a graveside service at Highland Cemetery. A floral tribute from the Ruffner Family Association graced the altar. The pastor read the poem, "How do you live your dash?" Readers may remember this poem which appeared in the August 1999 issue of RR&R about the dash signifying all the years between one's birth and death dates. **George Edward Ruffner could certainly be proud of the way he lived his "dash."**



George Edward Ruffner at Mason, Illinois Reunion - June 2002

Contributions in George's memory can be made to Mission Builders International, c/o Inola Christian Church, P.O. Box 782, Inola, OK 74036 or the Ruffner Family Association, PO Box #351, Luray, VA 22835. The next church to be built in the Phillipines by MBI will be in George's memory and a plaque denoting that honor placed within its walls. (Editor's Note: A more detailed bio of George can be found in the May 2001 issue of RR&R.)

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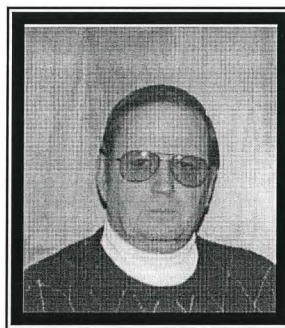
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RFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET IN MALDEN, WEST VIRGINIA

On June 21, 2002, **President Sam McNeely** welcomed 35 Ruffner family members and guests to the board meeting at the Kanawha Salines Church. **Phyllis Hershock** provided the minutes prepared by **Elisabeth Ruffner** from the previous meeting in Luray on June 16, 2001. **Nancy Lee Shifflett** presented the treasurer's report stating the association currently has \$8,426.92 as equity in our VA account. She stated that this year's membership of 145, including three new life members, shows a decline from the 2001 membership of 180. **Sam** reported that \$405 had been collected as the Ruffner contribution for the Booker T. Washington Scholarship, and the members at hand voted to add money to raise that amount to \$1,000.

Joan Reid reported that our newsletter average cost is \$400 per issue. She suggested our recipient list include additional libraries and historians. **K. Daniel Ruffner and Daniel Ruffner** have done a major revision of the family website and it was reported there had been 2,814 hits in the past year from many places around the world in addition to the U.S. **Joe Ruffner** presented the status of the Endowment Fund efforts and emphasized that the RFA must provide public access and support educational and historical purposes to become a tax-exempt association (see progress report on page 4 of this issue). **Pam and Mark Flasch** are working on the data entry for the upcoming Ruffner book publication (see big push report on page 9 of this issue). It was decided that one more mailing should go out to the membership encouraging them to submit family names. **Lawrence Ruffner** was elected to the Board and **Patsy Ruffner** retired with appreciation from the Board. A **nominating committee** to prepare a slate of candidates for RFA officers and board members to be considered in 2003, was appointed. Please contact **Bob Sheets, Joan Reid or Joe Ruffner** to make suggestions. Examples of proposed stationery designed by **Cheryl Reed** with a Ruffner logo were presented. **Jack Childers** shared the idea that some families are now tracing their genetic histories with DNA. A discussion of the upcoming reunion in Prescott, AZ resulted in an agreement that individuals bring data about services, lodging and general costs to a board meeting before a location for future reunions is chosen.

~ **Phyllis Hershock, RFA Secretary**



A Message from the President

"It was the best of times - It was the worst of times." These familiar words from Charles Dickens aptly fit recent times for our association. In late June, we experienced the high of the Booker T. Washington Family reunion and our association annual meeting. This was followed by the devastating news that our

cousin George Ruffner had died at his home in Oklahoma. It seems each issue of our newsletter recently has had as its lead story the passing of another of our members. When it will end is anyone's guess.

To conduct our Association Board of Directors meeting in the church I attended as a boy was one of the highlights of my tenure as president of the Ruffner Family Association. If someone had told me fifty years ago that such would occur in my life, I would have thought they were reading a fantasy novel to me. We had a wonderful meeting and the solemn memorial service conducted by Bob Sheets and other participants was the culmination of a great day for us and the members of the Washington Family who joined us.

The Ruffner cemetery rededication and the fellowship with descendants of Booker T. Washington during their reunion served to make for a fantastic weekend of activities for approximately thirty-five of us. It was a pleasure to again present our family contribution to the Washington family scholarship fund at Tuskegee University.

George and Ruth Ruffner, along with son Doug, were active participants in the activities in Malden during the weekend. After leaving West Virginia, they journeyed to meet with other members of our family in Illinois. After returning to Oklahoma, George was stricken with a heart attack and was hospitalized for several days. He was released from the hospital on July 8th and suffered a fatal attack the following day. I had the pleasure of talking with George just hours before he passed away. He seemed to be feeling great and we shared a couple of jokes. Little did I know then that I would never have that pleasure again.

I attended the funeral for our departed cousin on July 12th and was honored to deliver a eulogy on behalf of all our family members. It was quite apparent to me that the members of the Inola, Oklahoma community shared a deep love and respect for George that all of us have acquired since our association was formed. I personally will miss his calming influence, great wit and the compassion he exhibited toward all those he came into contact with. Our heartfelt sympathy is poured out to Ruth and all the family members who have lost so much by his passing.

Maybe the next several months will be more sedate and we can move forward with the work of our association toward publishing an update of our family genealogy and preparing for our reunion in Prescott, Arizona in June 2003.

~ **Samuel H. McNeely, President**

Editor's Note: See pages 6, 7, 8 & 10 of this issue for more news of the RFA Annual Meeting and the Washington Family Reunion.

How many Ruffners or Ruffner relatives can you identify in this photo?



This is a picture of the 1949 Mason, Illinois baseball team, members of the Little Wabash Valley Baseball League. In 1949, they won the league championship.

On the team were five Ruffners and two Ruffner relatives. The Ruffners included Clare A. Ruffner and his two sons, Clare Gene & Urban, and Clare A.'s nephews, George and his brother Robert. The two Ruffner relatives were Myron Leith and Urban "Buck" Ready.

Since Clare A. is the elder Ruffner, I will use him as the base for explaining the relationship. Clare A.'s great grandparents were Andrew and Elizabeth (Leith) Ruffner. Andrew Ruffner came to Illinois with his brothers-in-law James, David and Wilkinson Leith from Fairfield County, Ohio in about 1840-1841. They purchased land in and around present day Mason.

Soon after returning to Ohio to retrieve his family, Andrew was stricken with cholera and died in 1842. Elizabeth then embarked, with her five children, on the journey to Illinois to settle on land purchased by her late husband near her aforementioned brothers from whom Myron Leith is descended.

Andrew and Elizabeth's previously mentioned five children included a son, Harrison N. Ruffner. Harrison was the grandfather of Ray Ruffner (father of George and Robert) and Clare A. Ruffner (father of Clare Gene and Urban).

Also among Andrew and Elizabeth's children was a daughter, Margaret E., who married Charles D. Wilson of Mason. Their daughter married a Ready, whose union would produce a son, Lynn Ready, father of Urban "Buck" Ready.

Hopefully this will give some insight into the long association of Ruffners and the small village of Mason, Illinois throughout history—not just in baseball, but also in other endeavors.

As a special note—Cousin George Ruffner, a charter member of the RFA board and whose sudden passing we all mourn, pitched a no-hitter against a strong Pana, Illinois team during Mason's run for the 1949 championship.

~ Submitted by Gary Ruffner (son of Clare Gene Ruffner)

Did you identify anyone in the photo?

No?—see the key below:

Kneeling left to right: **Urban Ruffner** [1934-2000], **Myron Leith**, **George Ruffner** [1924-2002], **Clare Gene Ruffner** [1931-], Orville "Bus" Heth, **Clare A. Ruffner** [1908-1971], **Urban "Buck" Ready**

Standing L-R: Glen "Blackbird" Mesnard, Jesse Overdahl, Herschel White, Keith Senior, Charles Mesnard Jr., **Robert "Bob" Ruffner** [1927-1996], Robert Mefford, Charles Kincaid and Ed Wilson

Ruffner Family Association

Luray, Virginia

Samuel H. McNeely, President . . . Virginia

Phyllis Hershock, Secy Pennsylvania

Nancy Lee Shifflett, Treasurer . . . Virginia

Board of Directors

Barbara Burner Missouri

Jack Childers Delaware

Roberta Ruffner Kirwin Ohio

Jane Ruffner Lucas Virginia

Judith McNeely Ohio & Virginia

Joan Ruffner Reid Ohio

Elisabeth Ruffner Arizona

Frederick G. Ruffner Michigan & Florida

Gary Ruffner Illinois

Joseph Wilson Ruffner Alabama

K. Daniel Ruffner Ohio

Lawrence Ruffner Florida

Melissa Ruffner Arizona

Dorothy 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

www.ruffnerfamily.org

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**

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Columbus, OH 43213

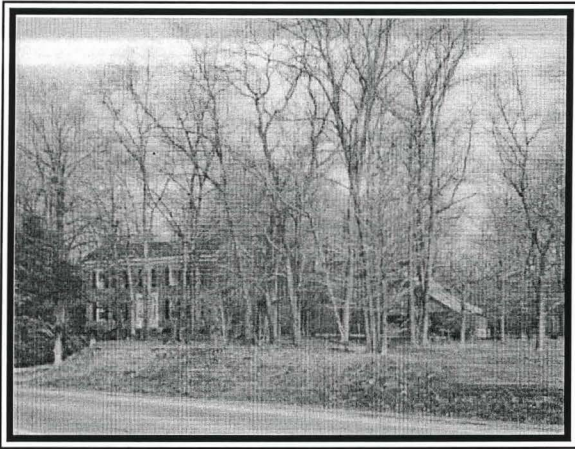
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Contributing Editor:

Robert Newman Sheets

What Is It? Where Is It?



Careful guessing this one. You may be surprised!

~ See page 7 for the answer

Words from the Past

Lancaster (Ohio) Eagle Gazette
September 11, 1934



The Window Peeper ~By Hy C. Ruffner~

TOP OF THE YEAR - We are now in the beginning of that charming season that might well be called the top of the year. The days are neither too hot nor too cold and "bright sunshine" accompanies a majority of the days. Evening brings a comfortable chill to the air that makes sleep delightful and invigorating.

Autumn brings a fulfillment of early summer hopes and is the real harvest time of the year. Fields, orchards, gardens and vineyards are yielding their wealth of foodstuff and the cold months stretching ahead are robbed of their terrors. Only individual sloth, misfortune or our careless social management can bring famine to America with its broad acres and almost unlimited resources.

Autumn is a season of joy and rejoicing culminating in our Thanksgiving holiday at the threshold of Winter. It is the golden season when we receive, in a measure, a goodly portion of the things we anticipated and though not fully up to our zealous anticipation and wish, we accept and receive in the true spirit of a weak and defenseless humanity, entirely dependent upon Old Mother Nature to produce our food.

Autumn weather is healthful and rejuvenating, restoring the zeal for good things to eat. It is our most enchanting season. It is the top of the year.

Editor's Note: See the Editor's Desk on page 12 of this issue for details on "The Window Peeper."

ENDOWMENT FUND PROGRESS

The Trustees report to the RFA Board of Directors included some key items, which are cited in an abbreviated form for your information.

One Trustee position remains vacant. [If you wish to be considered for appointment to this position of responsibility, please contact Sam McNeely, President of RFA.]

The Trustees are:

- ✓identifying areas of RFA's constitutional organization and operation which need revision;
- ✓reviewing the public purpose and public access of RFA activities required for tax-exempt status;
- ✓assisting Elisabeth F. Ruffner to complete RFA's application for tax-exempt status.

The Trustees continuing efforts will focus on:

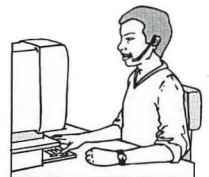
- ✓developing guidelines for the Fund's initial undertakings;
- ✓proposing revisions to RFA's Mission Statement and Constitution and By-Laws;
- ✓developing a guidebook to identify RFA, its purpose, organization and operational procedures.

Following the report presentation, discussion, questions and comments by Board members, the report was unanimously accepted with the Board's directive to complete and activate each reported item as soon as possible. Future issues of the RR&R will report the Trustees actions and progress.



Ruffner Family WebSite Update

Our webmasters, **K. Daniel Ruffner** and **Dan Ruffner** continue to improve and update the family website.



Recently added to the Family Events page are write-ups and photos from the 2000 Eleanor, WV visit and the 2002 Washington Family Reunion.

One of the most interesting developments in the site is data to determine how the site is being utilized. Between July 2001 and June 16, 2002, the website had been visited by 2,814 users. During that same period, we averaged over 240 visitors a month. The two highest months to date have been August 2001 with 350 visitors and April 2002 with 364. For the last 6 months of 2001, we had 1321 visitors. As of the middle of June this year - we had 1493 visitors.

What are people looking for? The Black Widow Article included on the RR&R page has received many hits from people looking for information on the infamous arachnid. We hope they read and found the article interesting although it probably wasn't exactly what they had in mind.

HAVE YOU VIEWED THE SITE LATELY?

www.ruffnerfamily.org



On the Trail to Prescott, Arizona - June 19-22, 2003

In 1888, George Calvin Ruffner was one of five men who organized and produced the event which became the world's oldest rodeo, continuing to be held each Fourth of July in Prescott, Arizona. His brother, Lester Lee and his nephew, Lester Ward "Budge" also acted as arena

director, stock contractor, timekeeper, parade director and in other capacities during their lifetimes.

George Ruffner was Yavapai County Sheriff for many years and Arizona's oldest peace officer when he died in 1933, in Prescott. He was the first person from Arizona to be inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners in the Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

His story will be a part of the 2003 reunion to be held June 19-22 in Prescott, which was also the site of the second reunion of this branch of the family ten years ago. George Ruffner of Inola, Oklahoma, recently deceased, and Budge Ruffner of Prescott, 1918-1996, organized the first gathering of the Benjamin line descendants of Mary Steinman and Peter Ruffner who settled in the Luray Valley of Virginia in 1739. The first contemporary reunion of this branch was held in 1991, in Mason, Illinois, the home area of the descendants who went west to Illinois from Virginia.

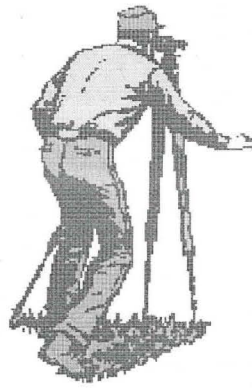
Today Ruffners from all branches of the Mary and Peter line gather biennially from several states and even other countries to meet and visit, have fun as a family sharing our history, and conduct the business of the Ruffner Family Association, Inc. now nearly 200 strong. In the spirit of past gatherings, the 2003 reunion in Prescott will continue the telling of the story of our western venturing predecessors, and offer an opportunity for their descendants to celebrate their contributions to the history of America.

The tentative schedule includes a visit to Sharlot Hall Museum, repository of a wealth of Ruffner materials, where we will access the archives for research; a visit to Jerome, the "billion dollar copper camp" where Morris Andrew Ruffner filed the first mining claims in the Verde Valley; the unveiling of an historic marker at the site of the George C. Ruffner owned Plaza Stables commemorating his contributions and his life in the west; a chuck wagon meal prepared by cowboy cooks and live entertainment, and the now-famous Ruffner Family auction.

**~ Melissa Ruffner, Chairman
2003 Ruffner Family Reunion
PO Box 2577, Prescott, AZ 86302
(928) 445-4567**



**Mark these dates on your
calendar—June 19-22, 2003
and check your mail for further
details & registration information.**



Ernest Howard Ruffner Surveys the Panhandle

In 1876, then Lt. Ernest Howard Ruffner was chief engineer of the Department of Missouri. He conceived an idea for a topographic survey of the headwaters of the Red River in the Texas Panhandle. The only existing military report of the area had been made in 1852, and the exact distance between the Red and Canadian rivers had never been completely determined.

His proposal included a stadia line survey beginning at Fort Elliott, following the Palo Duro Canyon to the junction of Tierra Blanca and Palo Duro creeks, and then proceeding southeastward to Tule Creek, another major tributary, and back to a point on the original line. Along the way, he planned to make celestial observations calculating longitude and latitude at various points, prepare compass courses and topographic sketches of smaller creeks and side canyons, and document sources of fresh water.

Ernest's proposals were approved and on April 25, 1876, he and other members of the expedition boarded a train from Fort Leavenworth to Dodge City and nearby Fort Dodge. The expedition crew included Lt. Francis L. D. Baldwin, hero of the Red River War, and Carl Julius Adolph Hunnius, a civilian draftsman who had immigrated to the U.S. from Leipzig in 1861, and had fought with the Union Army during the Civil War. Hunnius was to keep a detailed diary of the expedition. At Fort Dodge, Ruffner's command secured wagons and a military escort before setting out on the military road which led to Fort Elliott. Once at the fort, they obtained a larger escort and services of several civilian scouts, including William (Billy) Dixon.

The command left Fort Elliott on May 11, 1876, and would spend six weeks surveying the headwaters of the Red River. They operated from a base camp on Prairie Dog Town Fork in Randall County near the site of the present Lake Tanglewood community. The survey covered portions of eight counties.

Ruffner and his crew returned to Fort Leavenworth on June 30, with the official report describing the work, the stadia survey, barometric pressures, botany, entomology and geology. The report also included 17 sheets of detailed maps recording the survey's route and terrain. This report would provide a wealth of natural history data prior to pioneer settlement and railroad colonization of the Panhandle.

In his diary, Hunnius recorded impressions of the Panhandle and its canyons. He included several pencil illustrations of personalities and places, compiling a record of the Panhandle before the coming of the free-range cattle business and the changes it brought.

Despite the historical and scientific merit of Ernest's 1876 survey, it lay forgotten for many years in the National Archives and the maps were never published. Many years after Hunnius's death, his diary was donated to the University of Kansas. In 1985, T. Lindsay Baker published the Ruffner report, with the maps and the Hunnius diary, for the first time in the *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*. (continued on page 10)

Source: The Handbook of Texas Online
© The Texas State Historical Association

Rededication of the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church ~ A Re-enactment

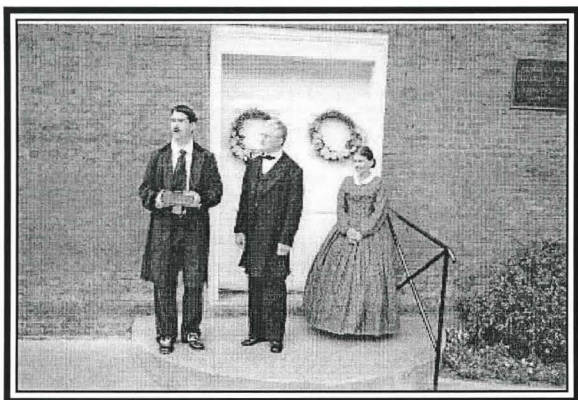
Before the Board of Directors resumed their business meeting following a lunch break, they and the attending guests were treated to a symbolic re-enactment of the 1840 dedication of the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church. Dressed in period costumes and assuming the roles of three persons central to the Church's formation and construction were: Garrett Jeter of Malden, WV, who portrayed Dr. Henry Ruffner; and Craig and Phyllis Hershock of York, PA, who portrayed David Ruffner and his wife Ann [Brumbach] Ruffner.

As they stood upon the Church's front step, David [Craig] opened the re-enactment with words of welcome. He continued with remarks about the need for spiritual guidance in the Kanawha Salines community. In conclusion, he expressed his pride in his son, Henry, and the pastoral responsibilities he performed.

At that point, he presented Henry a Bible for use in the Church's services. The Bible, which was used in this symbolic act, was a 1709 scholar's reference Bible written in Greek and Latin, and it probably was owned and used by Dr. Henry Ruffner at one time.

In accepting the Bible and responding to David's words of introduction, Henry [Garrett], also, welcomed those in attendance. He then spoke of the guidance and inspiration he had always received from his father and mother. He acknowledged the opportunities he had been given to go to school and pursue his educational and religious training. In closing, he asked the Lord to bless those in attendance and each person in the community of this edifice.

For more than 160 years, the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church has been a source of spiritual guidance to this small community. May it continue for many more!



Dr. Henry Ruffner [Garrett Jeter], Col. David Ruffner [Craig Hershock] and Ann Ruffner [Phyllis Hershock] on the step of Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church, Malden, WV - June 21, 2002.

RR&R Special Feature

The Disappearance of Frank K. Bowen

Frank Bowen, a G-G-G-Grandson of Peter and Mary Ruffner, was born in Missouri in 1869. He was the eldest son of Rebecca Sperry Ruffner and James W. Bowen. Frank's father died when he was a young boy and his mother later remarried. The family lived in Great Falls, Montana where Frank's stepfather, James Emerson, was a deputy sheriff. Rebecca, Frank's mother, was a sister of my great grandmother, Martha Caroline Marye (Ruffner) Tutt. Thus, Frank and his younger brother, Bert were first cousins of my grandfather, Lee Emerson Tutt. However, they were more like siblings, as the families lived together for much of Frank's boyhood.

In 1886, while Frank was still only 16 years old, he disappeared forever. Even though he was very young, Frank had a small freight hauling operation out of Great Falls. His usual run was to Salt Lake City, Utah—the round trip taking about four months. It was late in the fall this year, and Frank's mother persuaded him to take a shorter run from home to a mining camp in the Teton River area, about 60 miles north of Great Falls. Frank loaded his wagon and started on his way. He had four horses pulling the freight wagon and trailed a saddle horse. Rebecca said good-bye to Frank, never realizing that she would never see her eldest son again. He did not make it to the mining camp and no trace of him was found.



Frank K. Bowen (on right) and Burkett (Bert) Bowen (left), 1881

Frank's cousin, Lee, sometimes worked on a ranch owned by the Emersons, north of Great Falls. At a later time, after the disappearance of Frank, Lee was sent to Chicago on ranch business. While at the stockyards in Chicago, Lee recognized Frank Bowen's horse by the identifying brand, and learned that the horse was being used in the stockyards as a riding horse. Lee immediately returned to Great Falls and told Frank's stepfather what he had seen. James Emerson then headed for Chicago himself, but all he was able to find was that the horse came in with a herd of range horses from Montana. Frank's stepfather followed some leads, but was never able to solve the mystery.

For the rest of her life, Rebecca, Frank's mother, never gave up hope that her son would return some day, but he was never heard from again.

Rebecca Sperry (Ruffner) Bowen Emerson died on October 7, 1917; her husband James Emerson on February 13, 1919, and they are both buried in Forestvale Cemetery in Helena, Montana. Frank Bowen's younger brother, Burkett (Bert) Bowen, was born on January 10, 1871, and died January 16, 1909. He is buried next to his mother in Helena.

~ Submitted by Betty Lou Gaeng
Arlington, Washington
Descendent of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner
through their son, Peter, Jr.



MALDEN MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Edith Johnson and Doris Ruffner Eulogized in David Ruffner's Church

One hundred and sixty-two years after the doors of the Kanawha Salines Church were first opened in Malden, Virginia, descendants of Booker T. Washington joined with the Ruffner Family Association in a Memorial for **Edith Washington Johnson** and **Doris Laver Ruffner**. This service brought together these two families so inextricably linked forever by the memorable friendship between the young Booker and Viola Knapp Ruffner. It was held following the Annual Meeting of the Association as its traditional memorial to those of our family and friends, who have passed on since our last reunion or meeting. Officiating was board member **Robert Newman Sheets** of Denver and **Kate Ruffner** of West Chester, Ohio. The historic little church built by Col. David Ruffner and dedicated by his son, Rev. Henry Ruffner, president of Washington College (1836-1848) in Lexington, Virginia, was filled to capacity with the Washington Family on the opening day of their 2002 Family Reunion.

The service opened with recorded music of Jessye Norman singing, "Amazing Grace." Bob welcomed us with special emphasis on the attendance of the family of Edith Johnson, Booker T. Washington's granddaughter. He invoked the power of the words to the traditional hymn as a testimony to the power we all possess for amazing grace. Bob reminded us that it was grace which brought us to the Ruffner Church on June 21, 2002, to honor the memory of our deceased family and friends.

A 'ceremony of flowers' was conducted by board member **Phyllis Hershock** of York, Pennsylvania. Dressed in the period costume of 1840, as Ann (Brumbach) Ruffner, (1766-1852) "Mother of the Salines Church," she placed a white carnation into a floral arrangement of Green Pine Boughs and Golden Wheat Shafts as Bob read the names of those we memorialize: **Emma Lee Lewis**, Eleanor, WV; **Iva Jane Roberson**, Rockville, MD; **Francis Diamond Woodward**, Aiken, SC; **Dennis Minadeo**, Misson Viejo, CA; **John Millican**, Wood River, IL; **Francis Bryant Brown**, Luray, VA; **Trela LaVern Doty**, Scottville, IL; **Ada Doty Tesson**, Mattoon, IL; **Vicki Cyphert**, Luray, VA; **Sybil Dofflemeyer Baker**, Berryville, VA; **Virginia Lewis Couch Ball**, Charleston, WV; **Susan Orr Cozart**, Berwyn, PA; **Lucille Doty**, Windsor, IL; **Hugh Wisher**, Sullivan, IL; **Florence Smith**, Columbus, OH; **Evelyn Marie Ruffner Reed**, Fenton, MI and **Janet Enriquez**, Chaldron, NE.

The Pine Boughs were cut from trees on the Peter & Mary Ruffner Homestead in Luray and the wheat shafts from the Palouse Region of Washington State. As Bob mentioned, they symbolized the high mountains and the fruitful plains of our nation and the extent of our Ruffner Family's legacy from sea to sea. With the floral arrangement filled with the white carnations and to the music, "Requiem, I Have Loved," red carnations were added by **Joe Ruffner** of Alabama for Doris and for Edith, by her sister, **Margaret Washington Clifford** of Atlanta. As Bob told us of the contributions of grace given to us all by these two inspiring and loving persons; Doris for being the coauthor of the Peter Ruffner Books and Edith for being the renewing spirit that has brought our two families back together, Joe tied the two red carnations together with a ribbon to remind us of the bonds between our families and our determination to never again let the ties be broken.

As the music concluded, the doors of the church opened and in walked Viola Ruffner and nine year old Booker T. Washington, in the persons of **Shirley Ann Sheets** of Denver and **Bryan Taliaferro McDonald** of Flint, Michigan. They took their seats in the front row of the church in memory of the day in 1868, when Viola brought her young friend to her family's church. The symbolism was not lost on this moving occasion as both families shared the gift and inspiration she gave him that day, so long ago.

The music and tributes were complimented by selections of poetry, beautifully delivered by **Kate Ruffner**. They were Native American poems by Nancy Wood: "Today Is a Very Good Day to Die" and "A Long Time I Have Lived With You."

Bob eulogized Edith and Doris as great teachers in our lives who had brought to our family table a bounty of riches from the legacy of our ancestors. Richness of courage, determination, perseverance and faith which has sustained our families for many generations. He told how Doris, as co-editor with Olive Taylor Ruffner of the Peter Ruffner Books, first awakened our interest and knowledge in our family's genealogy and how Edith, with her sister Margaret Washington Clifford, had awakened our interest and knowledge in the shared Washington—Ruffner history. "When Edith and Doris walked into our lives," he said, "our lives were never to again be the same. Their amazing grace had enriched us all."

The service came to a close with cherished comments from our President **Sam McNeely** of Luray, Virginia, who reminded us of the powerful message of love for family that those we have just honored, have given us in our shared journey with them. His remembrance of Doris and Edith, touched us all in a way that our own lives have been guided by their grace. The service closed with "The Prayer" as recorded in concert by Josh Groban and Charlotte Church. The words, "Let this be our prayer, as we go away. Lead us to a place - guide us with your grace," filled the little church of David and Ann Ruffner as another historic moment in the church's history came to a close.

The Ruffner Family Association wishes to thank the Board of Elders, especially **Louie Hutchinson**, church historian **Bonnie Bitzer** and retired elder **Harry Gardner**. Their generosity in opening the doors for this memorial service and our annual meeting has entered them in the roll of cherished friends and honorary cousins.

Answer to What Is It? Where Is It?

This beautiful brick home (ca. 1830) is that of **Henry Ruffner** [1781-1863] and his wife, **Elizabeth 'Betsy' Sidner** [1786-1847]. Henry was the grandson of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner and the eldest child of Reuben Ruffner [1748-1833], and his wife, Catherine Dager (b.unknown, d. 1830). It is located in Crawfordsville, Indiana adjacent to the modern-day Crawfordsville High School, which was built on the Ruffner farm land. The house is one of five fine brick homes owned by Ruffners within 2 and 3 miles of each other. Three of them are still standing and occupied.

~ Submitted by **Dorothea Russell** (desc. Reuben)

Ruffner Cemetery Rededication Malden, West Virginia

The Ruffner Family Cemetery near Malden, West Virginia contains the graves of some of the most prominent members of the Ruffner Family. David Ruffner along with sons Lewis and Henry and other family members are buried there. For years this cemetery has not been properly maintained and had become overgrown with vegetation. Through joint efforts by Amherst Industries, who owns the land, and our family association the cemetery was restored to a more presentable condition. The undergrowth was removed, the trees trimmed, tombstones cleaned and new cemetery boundary marker posts were installed. This restoration was accomplished as a prelude to a rededication of the cemetery by association members on June 22nd.

On a brilliant afternoon the rededication was conducted with appropriate ceremony highlighting the history of the family in the salt industry in the area. After remarks by Bob Sheets and Sam McNeely, a floral arrangement was placed beside tombstones alongside American flags. The ceremony was culminated by the dedication of a flowering dogwood tree in memory of Edith Washington Johnson, granddaughter of Booker T. Washington and RFA Board member. A plaque was placed in front of the tree to honor Edith.



Association members gathered under the umbrella of shade provided by the ancient trees of the old Ruffner Burial Ground in Malden, West Virginia, as Bob Sheets led them in a rededication of this sacred place in the Ruffner Family history.

God made my cathedral under the stars;
He gave my cathedral trees for its spires;
He hewed me an altar in the depth of a hill;
He gave for a hymnal a rock-bedded rill;
He voiced me a sermon of heavenly light
In the beauty around me~The calmness of night;
And I felt as I knelt on the velvet-like sod
I had supped of the Spirit in the Temple of God.

~ Ruth Furbree

RR&R Special Feature

A Visit with Swiss Cousins - June 2002

In June, my husband, R.J., and I had the pleasure of spending time in Switzerland where we visited with some of our Ruffner cousins. Our first visit was with Max and Carmen Rufener (note spelling variation) of Langenthal. I first met Max over 50 years ago when Max, then in his early 20s, spent a year traveling around the United States. In the course of his travels, Max contacted Paul Ruffner (my uncle) in Columbus, Ohio. Paul, in turn, introduced Max to Fred and Olive Ruffner (my aunt and uncle) and their sons Fred and Jim, as well as to my family (my mother is Edna Ruffner Troup). Throughout the years, our families have stayed in touch with Max through visits and letters. In 1980, Max's son Tom and daughter-in-law Christine visited us when they repeated Max's tradition with their own year-long trip through the United States. We were pleased to visit again with Tom and Christine in June. While we have not been able to establish a genealogical tie to the "Rufeners," we have chosen to adopt each other as cousins.

During a day in Zurich, R.J. and I happened upon a shop with a sign that said "Ruffner." Thinking we would at least take a picture of the sign, I decided to step inside this Ruffner leather shop and found myself speechless. Behind the counter was a woman I was sure I had seen before...and I had. On another trip to Zurich over 20 years ago, we had met this shop's proprietor, Ilda Ruffner, through her son Reto who has another Ruffner leather shop in Zurich. Ilda, now 81, invited us to visit with her at a nearby inn and we were pleased that Reto was able to join us. Ilda's late husband was from either Davos or Maienfeld.

On another day, we ventured to Maienfeld. Not only is Maienfeld the home of the Johanna Spyri character "Heidi," it is also the home of a Peter Ruffner who lived until about 1995, and who had genealogical ties to the "original" Peter Ruffner. As we got off the train, we met a local woman who, after she heard we were interested in Ruffner family genealogy, invited us to her home. Her husband is retired and has made local genealogy his hobby. He has an extensive list of people from Maienfeld, including many Ruffners! It was a brief but delightful visit and he likely could be a great resource in our search for Ruffners of Switzerland. After this visit, we walked to the top of the mountain where we found "Heidi's" house. While our hosts thought nothing of it, this was a bit of a strenuous walk for two Americans unused to the terrain! But it was a beautiful day and the countryside looked like a postcard.

The next day, we traveled by train to Bern where we were met by Rolf and Beatrice Ruffner and their son Columban. (Columban is another source of Ruffner genealogy and provided me with a copy of all of the Ruffners he has located in Switzerland.) Rolf is definitely a descendant of Peter Ruffner of Maienfeld. To see Rolf and my cousin Fred Ruffner side-by-side, there is a strong family resemblance! Rolf and Beatrice visited us here several years ago and we were honored by their hospitality. We also met their daughter Raiza and her daughter Sarah. That evening, we introduced the Rufeners (Max, Carmen, Tom and Christine) to the Ruffners (Rolf, Beatrice, Columban and Raiza). Though they live only 30 miles apart, the two families had never met. All agreed it was a great idea, however, and expect that they will get together again!

We returned from Switzerland with wonderful memories of visiting with family from our homeland. The Ruffners/Rufeners are wonderful people and it would be exciting to add a Swiss chapter to the Ruffner Family Association. If anyone would like more information on our Swiss cousins, please feel free to contact me at: Ripurdy@aol.com.

~ Submitted by Nancy Troup Purdy
Descendant of Emanuel

Know Your RFA Board Members ~ Gary Gene Ruffner

On September 18, 1956, **Gary Gene Ruffner** was born to Clare Gene Ruffner and Betty Catheryn (Percival) Ruffner at St. Anthony Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Illinois. On September 24, 1958, a sister, Lois Catheryn "Cathy", was added to the family. Gary attended Mason Grade School through the fifth grade. He attended sixth through eighth at Edgewood Grade School, where he was a member of the Edgewood Eagles basketball team. He graduated from Effingham High School in May of 1974.

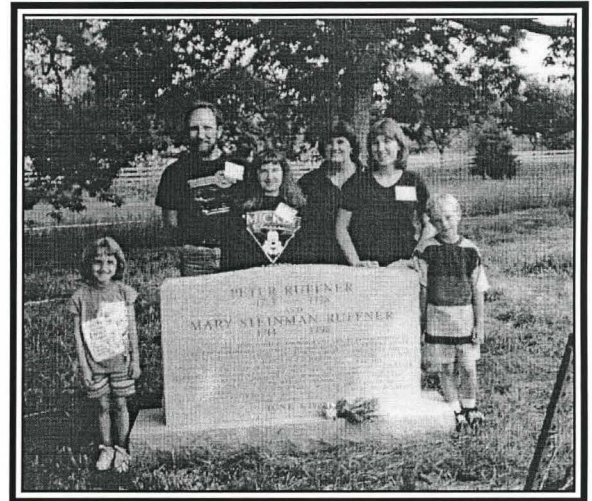
Gary spent the majority of his childhood with his best friends, Tim Rush and Steve White, who later married his sister Cathy. Gary, Tim and Steve shared many boyhood adventures including camping, fishing, swimming, riding scooters and numerous escapades.

On September 6, 1975, Gary married Judy Ann Boehm at the Mason Christian Church in Mason, Illinois. They have four children: Billie age 21, Jamie age 17, Jacob age 12 and Kylie age 10. Gary has been employed at Quebecor World for twenty-four years. He also works part-time with his uncle, Jerry Ruffner, finishing drywall. He enjoys riding his motorcycle and helping with his son's junior football league in his free time.

Gary has been very active in the Mason community. He is a fifth generation Ruffner to be a member of the Mason Christian Church. His great-great grandfather, Harrison Newton Ruffner, being the first. His love of history has made him an asset to the civic center organization during the annual Memorial Day celebrations. His love for the community proved invaluable in 1989, when the building the community had used for many, many years for a variety of events, as well as extra classrooms for the local school system, was destroyed by fire. Gary was instrumental in the organization of the community to work together to rebuild and continue with the annual events, and incorporate a vision for the future.

With all Gary's accomplishments in the community, his true passion is the history of the Ruffner family. He has spent many hours researching documents, driven many miles, and spoken with many people in search of his heritage. He was instrumental in organizing the first Ruffner reunion, which was held in his hometown of Mason, in 1991. He is very proud of the Ruffner family and their place in history.

Editor's Note: The above biography was written by Gary's sister, **Cathy White**. Gary wished to publicly thank her and the rest of his family for all their help and support over the years.



Left to Right: Kylie, Gary, Jamie, Judy, Billie Jo and Jacob Ruffner at the 1997 Reunion in Luray

The Big Push ~ Genealogy and History Publication

To push the publication of the family genealogy and history toward its completion, **Mark and Pam [McNeely] Flasch** have agreed to compile the information which has, and continues to be, gathered by the seven family branch coordinators listed below. The next issue of the RR&R newsletter will report the compilation progress and announce the projected dates for other phases of the publication's completion.

As Mark and Pam undertake this enormous task, we call upon each reader to help. There are any number of family lines we've not found, and others who have not responded to previous contacts. To include each descendant of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner, we need their information. Please communicate this to every member of your family and encourage them to submit information about themselves and their family members. Some relatives, having a surname other than Ruffner, might not know their kinship to the Ruffner family. Inform them and encourage their participation. Be sure you and each Ruffner relative are among those included in the publication.

The responses we receive will determine the publication's completeness. When the compilation work is completed, the information will be formatted for publication. It will then be too late to add submissions. Late submissions will have to wait for a possible future revision of the publication. Family Branch Coordinators (branch) are:

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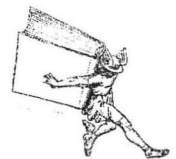
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2002 Booker T. Washington Family Reunion

~ by K. Daniel Ruffner, II

The descendants of Booker T. Washington gathered from Thursday, July 20 to Sunday, July 23 in Charleston, West Virginia for their biennial reunion. As in Roanoke, VA in June of 2000, the Ruffner Family received the honor of an invitation by the Washington family to attend. The reunion was co-chaired by David Barnett and Gerald Barnett, with help from Van Barnett and Edith Charles.

At 4:00 in the afternoon of July 21, the Booker T. Washington family arrived at the Kanawha Salines Church in Malden, WV for a memorial service to honor the memory of Edith Washington Johnson (who passed away on January 6, 2002) and Doris Laver Ruffner (who passed away on April 9, 2002). [See page 7.]

West Virginia State Senator Larry Rowe opened his Malden home to the Washington and Ruffner families for a reception immediately following the memorial service. The lawn behind this beautiful home overlooking the Kanawha River provided a perfect atmosphere for each family to mingle, get reacquainted, and begin the development of new relationships.

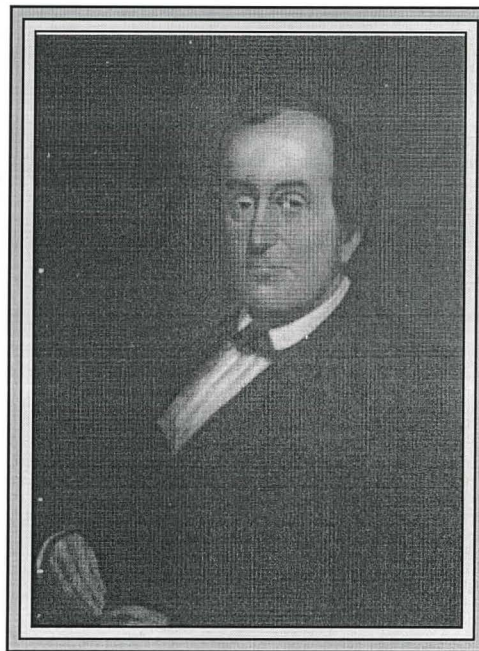
That evening, we all gathered together for the opening reception of the Booker T. Washington Descendants Reunion at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Charleston, WV. Our families continued to socialize and hear about the weekend's upcoming activities. Perhaps the one thing I will remember most about that evening was the showing of a video from the 1996 Booker T. Washington reunion. In this video, we all saw Edith Washington Johnson introducing each Washington family member present and explaining their relationship to Booker T. Washington.

On Saturday, July 22, the Ruffner Family Association sponsored refreshments at the Joseph Ruffner log cabin located in Daniel Boone Park (between Charleston and Malden) for the Washington family as they made their way to West Virginia State University for some afternoon activities.

The Saturday evening banquet was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The Washington and Ruffner families again got together for a wonderful meal, program and fellowship. Prior to dinner, we all posed for an official family photograph. The master of ceremonies for the evening was Edith's son, Charles Hughes. Dr. Carolyn Dorsey provided the main presentation for the evening with a discussion of Olivia Davidson Washington (Booker's second wife) and her role in the development of the Tuskegee Institute. Toward the end of the evening, Margaret Washington Clifford and Eric Hughes (Edith's other son) provided special remarks. Our RFA president, Sam McNeely, then presented a check to Margaret in the amount of \$1000 for the scholarship fund at The Tuskegee University from the Ruffner Family Association.

We all anxiously await the Booker T. Washington Family Reunion to be held at Hampton, VA in 2004.

Portraits from the Past



General Lewis Ruffner of Malden, WV

This portrait was painted by his son, Colonel Ernest Howard Ruffner. As the portrait is neither signed nor dated, it may have been painted in the late 1860s after Ernest Howard graduated from West Point. If it was, Lewis Ruffner would have been in his late sixties. He died in 1883, and is buried in Malden, West Virginia. Legend has it that Lewis was the first "white" child born in what is now Charleston, West Virginia in 1797. He made his fortune in salt. Through his second wife, Viola Knapp Ruffner, he is remembered as a supporter of Booker T. Washington. Booker T. Washington credits Viola for his education at the Ruffner home in Malden. The portrait came down through Ernest Howard's family and is now owned by Robert Henry Ruffner of Williamsburg, Virginia, Lewis' great-great grandson from his second wife, Viola Knapp Ruffner. It was given to Robert by his grandfather, Arthur Ruffner, who was Ernest Howard's son.

Ernest Howard Ruffner

(continued from page 5)

Ernest Howard Ruffner (desc. Joseph) was born on July 24, 1845. His parents were General Lewis and Viola (Knapp) Ruffner. He attended Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio and was a Cadet at West Point from 1863 to 1867, graduating number one in his class. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant of the Engineers and advanced through the grades, retiring as a Colonel of the Engineers on June 24, 1909.

In addition to his survey of the Texas Panhandle, Ernest's distinguished career in the Army Engineers included surveys of the Great Lakes, and the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Oklahoma.

Ernest was married twice—first to Mary Watson and secondly to Dorothy Grey. His four children were from his first marriage—Ernest Lewis, Henry Watson, Arthur and Violet.

He was a artist of more than average ability (see article above) and a natural linguist—speaking Spanish, French and German. After his retirement, he bought the old home of William Howard Taft, President of the United States, in Cincinnati, Ohio and it was there he died at the age of 92 on May 24, 1937. He was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, beside his mother and his first wife, Mary Watson.



In Memoriam ~

Nancy Maxwell Ruffner Chilton, 90, of Charleston, West Virginia, died August 3, 2002, at home after a short illness. She was descended from Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner through Joseph Ruffner, Daniel Ruffner, James Ruffner, Meredith Payson Ruffner and Robert E. Lee Ruffner.

Nancy was a lifelong resident of Charleston and a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. She was a graduate of Walnut Hill Prep School and attended Sweetbrier College, Amherst, VA. She was the previous president of the Kanawha Garden Club of America, a past member of the Charleston Junior League and a Colonial Dame.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, William Edwin Chilton II; her parents, Robert E. Lee Ruffner and Nancy Levi Woodward Ruffner; and her daughter, Nancy Ruffner Chilton Nelson.

She is survived by her daughters, Cynthia Noyes Chilton of Lexington, KY; Alice Woodward Chilton Zuber of Highland Park, IL; sons, William Ruffner Chilton of Ann Arbor, MI; Robert Maxwell Chilton of Charleston; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Charleston. Burial took place at Teays Hill Cemetery, St. Albans.

David A. Guseman, 70, New Salem, Ohio, died Tuesday, August 6, 2002, at Fairfield Medical Center. He was descended from Peter & Mary through their son, Emanuel.

He was a retired carpenter and a Korean conflict veteran, serving in the U.S. Army.

David is survived by two sons and daughter-in-law, Daniel L. & Melinda Guseman of Jacksonville, Texas, and Doug Guseman of Lancaster, Ohio; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra & David Seeger of Upper Arlington, Ohio and Sharon & Kelly Giles of Lancaster; five grandchildren, Matthew Guseman, Velvet Rogers, Andrew, Krystal and Alan Giles; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles & Barbara Guseman, Roger & Eleanor Guseman, all of Lancaster, and Carl & Linda Guseman of Amanda, Ohio; sisters and brothers-in-law, Twila Hartman of Lancaster, Janet Guseman of North Canton, Ohio, Charlotte & George Dittmar, Lois Bibler, all of Lancaster, Linda & Gary Whittington of Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Wilda Baker (Crist) Guseman. Wilda was the great-granddaughter of Anna Ruffner Crist; she being the daughter of Jacob, son of Emanuel.

Following a Caring Cremation, memorial services were held at the Frank E. Smith Funeral Home Chapel, Lancaster, Ohio.

Shirley Ann Ruffner Mull, 66 passed away August 9, 2002, at home in Bear, Delaware, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was descended from Peter & Mary through Emanuel, Jacob, Jonas and Noah P. Ruffner.

Earlier in her life, she worked as a home health aide, caring for the sick and elderly, as well as family members. Later in life, she

worked as assistant manager at Swan Cleaners in Columbus, Ohio.

Throughout her life, many people came to love her because of her beautiful smile and caring spirit. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother and sister and will be sadly missed by all who loved her.

Shirley is survived by daughters, Pam Mixter of Bear, Delaware, and Kelly Mull of Columbus, Ohio; son, Steven Mull of Bremen, Ohio; sisters, Eileen Hedges of Lancaster, Ohio, Donna Neale and Marilyn Morian of Columbus; brothers, Carl and Ronald Ruffner of Columbus; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Frank E. Smith Funeral Home in Lancaster. Interment was at Floral Hills Cemetery.



WEDDINGS

Leila Elisabeth Weiner (desc. Benjamin) and **Randolph Miller Leahy**, both of Connecticut, were wed on **June 22, 2002**, at the Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church in Milford, Connecticut.

Leila is the daughter of Melissa Ruffner of Prescott, AZ and Jerome Weiner of LeGrande, OR. **Randolph** is the son of Murial & Richard Merenda of Terryville, CT and James Leahy of Norwalk, CT.

The bride and groom are both U.S. Marine Corps veterans and met through a mutual friend in North Carolina while they were both on active duty.



BIRTHS

Hannah Pearl Bergstrom (desc. Emanuel) was born on June 23, 2002, at the Bethesda Naval Hospital to **Lt. Comdr. John and Stephanie (Lytle) Bergstrom**. She weighed 6 lb. 10 oz. and was 20-1/2 inches long.

Her grandmother, Sara Lytle reports that she may have her mother's pretty red hair.

Jacob Reed Roussin (desc. Emanuel) was born on August 3, 2002. His parents are **Brooke Adrienne (Kirst) and Robert Anthony George Roussin**. He weighed 6 lbs. 5.5 oz. and was 18 inches long. His maternal grandparents, Cheryl Reed-White & Peter White report that Jacob has a full head of curly dark blond hair (just like his mom when she was born).

Emily Ann Silva (desc. Joseph) was born on July 29, 2002, at Sonora Community Hospital. Her parents are **Lori (McNeely) and Dan Silva** of Sonora, California. She weighed 5 1/2 lbs. and was 18 3/4 inches long. Her maternal grandparents are Jim & Judi McNeely of Powell, Ohio. Her paternal grandparents are Dick & Jane Silva of Twain Harte, California. Her grandmother, Judi McNeely says "she has the most beautiful blue eyes and red/gold hair. She is very tiny but absolutely perfect!"

Ruffners in the news -

The Daily Courier, Prescott, AZ, June 23, 2002

Elisabeth Ruffner receives honorary degree

This past May, Elisabeth Ruffner, member of the RFA Board of Directors, received an honorary degree from Yavapai College in Prescott, Arizona. She was honored for her work with the college in its founding years, and her continued support of its growth and progress.

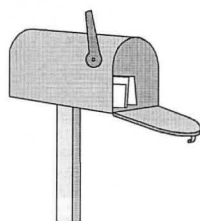
At 82, Elisabeth is still sharper and busier than most. She keeps books for two local businesses and is grandmother to eight children and great-grandmother to four. In addition, she does volunteer charity work and is one of the Prescott area's most accomplished historians.

Elisabeth chaired the Prescott Area Arts and Humanities Council in the 1980s and helped establish cultural venues, including the Yavapai College Performance Hall and Prescott High School's theater.

A self-described "citizen activist who never accepted nomination for public office," she has been vocal in a number of issues that came before local voters in recent years. They include the 1997 "Yes for Prescott" campaign, road and open space tax issues, the 2000 Yavapai College bond, and support for the Prescott Gateway Mall. In each case, the issue she supported prevailed.

In the early 70s, Elisabeth worked with the Arizona Commission on the Arts "Art in Architecture" program to design landscaping and artwork for the Prescott campus.

Her knowledge of Prescott history has brought her fame, but she is not native to the area. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and came to Prescott as the bride of Lester "Budge" Ruffner.



The Mailbox

"What a surprise it was to open the June 'Ruffner Roots & Ramblings' and see a picture of Cedar Grove. I lived in that house for 10 years in the thirties. In fact, my parents did a lot of remodeling - adding a dining room, bathroom and kitchen (the

kitchens were in the basement originally). My mother, Virginia Lewis Couch Ball, was born and raised in that house. The one thing I remember very vividly about it was there was one bedroom and bathroom upstairs and that was all that was upstairs - also a huge tub with claw feet - it was my parents' room. I have a photograph of the house when it had many trees in the front and a hedge. Also a brick sidewalk. I remember when they redid Kanawha Street (it became Kanawha Blvd). My family was very busy taking some of that brick because they were very unhappy that the brick was being removed. Many happy memories in that house - shooting fireworks toward the Kanawha River from the banks across the street from Cedar Grove - having relatives (Grandmother Virginia Patrick Ruffner Couch's sister Mary Rogers Ruffner Payne and her husband, Oscar Payne (he taught me to blow bubbles with chewing gum) next door at 1510. And so it goes...My parents sold Cedar Grove in 1940 when we moved to South Hills."

~ from Virginia "Dinny" Ruffner Ball Fisher

The Editor's Desk

Getting to know Grandpa ~

Last month, my dear first cousin Roberta (Ruffner) Kirwin dropped off an entire notebook of columns our grandfather wrote in 1934 and part of 1935 for the Lancaster (Ohio) Eagle Gazette. One of them appears on page 4 of this issue. What a joy they have been to read and after all these years, I feel like I am "getting to know Grandpa." We had several visits with Grandma and Grandpa in my early childhood years, but as I grew into my teens and early 20s, they became practically non-existent. So, I never had the opportunity to sit down with the "Fairfielder," as he was called, and have a serious talk about family history.

Hy C. Ruffner or Hiram Clay Ruffner, as he was christened, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio on June 15, 1883. He was the great-great grandson of Emanuel Ruffner, youngest son of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. His parents were William Stuart Ruffner, who was a school teacher, and Almeda McNaghten, daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Deeds) McNaghten.

Grandpa was an excellent gardener—even referring to himself as "the gardener of this column" in the newspaper. He died suddenly on August 5, 1959, while tending his beloved garden at the home he and grandma shared in Lancaster, Ohio.

Grandpa wrote a column for the Lancaster Eagle Gazette for several years. On September 11, 1934, when he wrote the column in this issue, conditions were quite different from the September 11th we will forever remember because of the horrific events that took place last year. The country was just recovering from the Great Depression, our president, Franklin D. Roosevelt had launched the National Recovery Act, prohibition had ended after 12 years and labor and management had begun to arbitrate their differences rather than resorting to violence. America's future loomed bright ahead, despite the storm clouds gathering in Europe with the Austrian civil uprising, which would eventually throw the world into global chaos.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I extend appreciation to all who submitted photos and articles for this issue - especially **Betty L. Gaeng, Nancy Troup Purdy, Robert Henry Ruffner, Gary Ruffner, Dorothea Russell and Elisabeth Ruffner.**

With love to all,

Cousin Joan

RR&R Editorial Board

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Deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2002.

Send your news, articles & photos to:

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