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### Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 5, Issue 4

Ruffner Family Association

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# RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 5, Issue #4

December 2002

## The Wild West Awaits!

### Pony Express Bulletin from Prescott, Arizona

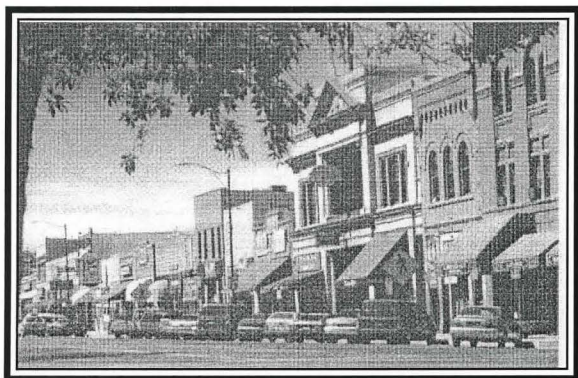
In every Ruffner generation there were those who kept the home fires burning and those who had to see what might lie over the next mountain. And, so it was with members of the Ruffner family including Morris Andrew Ruffner (desc. Benjamin) and Ernest Howard Ruffner (desc. Joseph). We will explore their migration into Arizona Territory during the Ruffner Family Reunion being held June 19-22, 2003.

On Friday, June 20 registration will take place in the ballroom of the Hotel St. Michael in Prescott, where displays will be exhibited of Ruffner memorabilia and auction items. During the morning, we will visit Sharlot Hall Museum where the senior curator will show us the Ruffner artifacts in the museum collection. Those wishing to may visit the archives and access Ruffner information. The afternoon will include tales by and about Ruffner contributions in the settling of the West. George C. Ruffner (desc. Benjamin), Sheriff of Yavapai County, will be featured in a special slide presentation.

Saturday activities are planned to include a driving tour of historic sites, a downtown walking tour featuring Ruffner sites and stories, the unveiling of a historic marker at the site of the Ruffner Livery Stable adjacent to the Courthouse Plaza, and activities for the children. That evening, the beautiful ballroom at the historic Hotel St. Michael will be the setting for the reunion banquet and annual meeting of the Ruffner Family Association.

Sunday lunch will feature authentic cowboy vittles served from a real chuck wagon, followed by the traditional "family photo" opportunities and fund raising Ruffner auction.

On your way to the official reunion activities in Prescott, you are invited to meet up with Rebecca Ruffner and other members of the Arizona Ruffner families in Ridgeway, Colorado on June 16, 2003. On June 17, our caravan of courageous current generation explorers will proceed to the Ruffner Last Dollar Cabin with a hike into the Sneffles Range to the base of Ruffner Mountain, named for Ernest Howard Ruffner. Anyone interested in the Colorado side trip may receive information about reservations and accommodations in the Colorado towns - Ridgeway, Ouray and Telluride - all in the same area of Colorado mountain country, with the registration mailing to be sent soon after January 1st.



*Famous "Whiskey Row" on Montezuma Street in Prescott, AZ, where Sheriff George Ruffner had his Livery Business.*

### Bring your sense of adventure for a wonderful weekend of family fun!

Post reunion travel opportunities to area attractions, including the Grand Canyon, will be provided with registration information.

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



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~ AND MUCH MORE

## IN APPRECIATION

As reported in the last issue of RR&R, the Ruffner Family Association was pleased to present a contribution to the Washington family scholarship fund at Tuskegee University. The following letter was received by our president, Sam McNeely:

**Tuskegee University**

Founded by Booker T. Washington

September 23, 2002

Dear Mr. McNeely:

*I am pleased to formally acknowledge your gift of \$1,000.00 which will be used for student scholarship support at Tuskegee University. We are deeply grateful for your support and your sincere wish to help the University remain strong and viable.*

*On behalf of the entire Tuskegee University family, I extend our thanks for your gift and look forward to your continued support.*

*Sincerely,  
Benjamin F. Payton  
President*

The Ruffner Family Association expresses its appreciation to all who donated funds to make this contribution possible. Our support of worthy educational and historical projects is essential to the continuing growth of our family association and the future of today's young people.

***We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.***

~ Unknown

Family  
Publication  
Update

The updated publication of the genealogy of Peter Ruffner is moving along swiftly. Many thanks to the publication team captains for their great work collecting and compiling the descendent lines. Barbara Rowles has electronically provided the completed Emanuel Ruffner family, which was the largest branch in Doris Laver Ruffner and Olive Taylor Ruffner's *Peter Ruffner and his Descendants* (and supplement). Similarly Barbara Burner has provided data for the Elizabeth (Ruffner) Stover branch and the Catherine (Ruffner) Clem family. We have received the collected information for the descendants of Peter Ruffner Jr., including a great deal of data compiled electronically by Bob Schlatzer, Barbara Kibler and Jack Childers. And, Gary Ruffner has sent along the information for the Benjamin line. Also, almost all the data from the original books has been input into the electronic database, including notes and stories.

We will soon be receiving the collected information for the Joseph and Reuben lines, and will begin compiling texts and photos to accompany the basic genealogy.

If you have portraits or photos of Peter's early descendants, born before 1850, we would be very grateful if you could send a compressed digital reproduction (.jpg file or equivalent) along with an explanatory caption to us at [RuffnerPhotos@yahoo.com](mailto:RuffnerPhotos@yahoo.com).

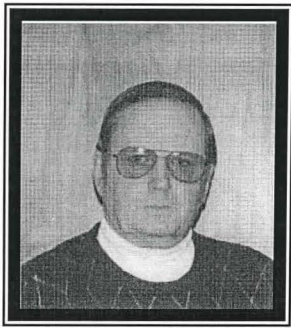
**Many thanks,  
Mark and Pam (McNeely) Flasch**

## ERROR NOTED~

Corrections to the cover page of the September 2002, issue ~ **George Edward Ruffner's birth date was September 27, 1925.** We also omitted his **half-sister Pamela Gilbert of Bloomington, Illinois** as one of his survivors. Our sincere apologies to his family for this lapse.

**2003 Membership Renewal  
due January 1st**

Most of you will receive a dues invoice with this issue. We hope you will respond and keep your family association strong. Our thanks go out to all for your continuing support. Do you have the time or inclination to further serve your family association? See page 4 for details.



## A Message from the President

One of the most beautiful times of the year in the Valley of our ancestors has arrived. The leaves are turning to radiant fall colors. Soon they will drop from the trees and be no more. Such is also the story of our organization during the past year. We have seen some of our cherished members fade from this earth

never to be seen again. It has been hard for many of us to realize they are gone, and our lives are bare just as the trees will be when their leaves are gone.

Next spring these same trees will develop buds and before we know it there will be new leaves adorning them. Our association needs to take a cue from nature and begin to cultivate new and younger leaders so they can perpetuate it when we too will pass on into the fall and winter of our lives. As difficult as it is to accept, a vast majority of our members have more of their lives behind them than is in front of them. That can be a sobering thought if we only stop to realize it.

I have written this as a means to encourage each of us to solicit the interest of our younger generations so they can carry the Ruffner banner forward. Most people only get an interest in their family when they reach middle age. Unfortunately, most of the people who can help them with the information are no longer around. This comes from my own experience, and probably is the same for most of you.

As 2002 comes to a close, we should stop and remember those no longer with us and also count the blessings of the past year. Betty and I are happy that two of our children and their families have relocated nearer to us. Pam and her family have returned from Germany and now reside in Springfield, Virginia. Our son Lee and his family have moved here from Florida and we are now able to see several of our grandchildren more often.

Pam and Mark have begun data entry from the surveys which have been received from family members. This is the next step forward in our efforts to update our family genealogy. If any are aware of members who have not completed their survey and wish to be included in the update, I urge them to contact me as soon as possible to insure they will be included.

I conclude by wishing all our family spread across this great country a very happy holiday season. ■

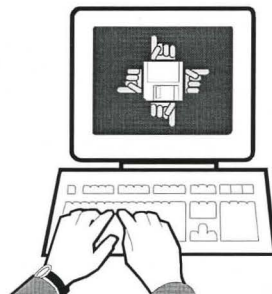
~ **Samuel H. McNeely, President**

## The Ruffner Family WebSite

Your electronic guide to family history, past reunions & meetings, current events and forms of the Ruffner Family Association.

Check it out today -

**[www.ruffnerfamily.org](http://www.ruffnerfamily.org)**



## Ruffner Family Association

Luray, Virginia

Samuel H. McNeely, President . . . . . Virginia  
Phyllis Hershock, Secy . . . . . Pennsylvania  
Nancy Lee Shifflett, Treasurer . . . . . Virginia

### Board of Directors

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Jack Childers . . . . . Delaware  
Roberta Ruffner Kirwin . . . . . Ohio  
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Judith McNeely . . . . . Ohio & Virginia  
Joan Ruffner Reid . . . . . Ohio  
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Frederick G. Ruffner . . . . . Michigan & Florida  
Gary Ruffner . . . . . Illinois  
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Robert Newman Sheets . . . . . Colorado  
Shirley Ann Sheets . . . . . Colorado  
Sally Ruffner Spangler . . . . . Virginia  
Jane Munro Webber . . . . . Colorado

### Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

is published by

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PO Box #351

Luray, VA 22835

[www.ruffnerfamily.org](http://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**

120 Rita Court

Columbus, OH 43213

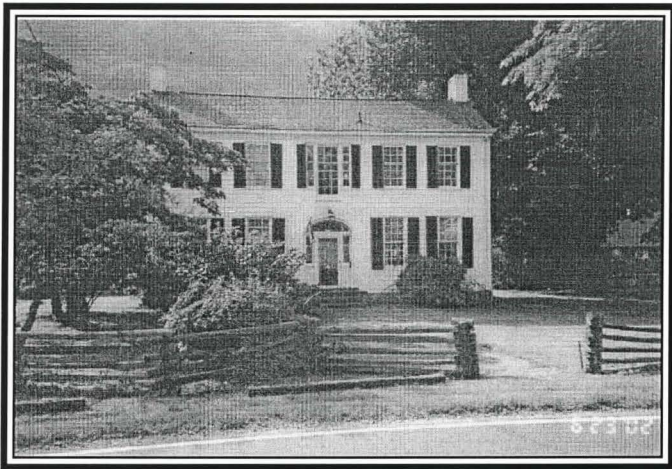
(614) 237-8264

Email: [Jokereid@aol.com](mailto:Jokereid@aol.com)

Contributing Editor:

**Robert Newman Sheets**

## What Is It? Where Is It?



Do you know the historic location of this house and who lived in it?

~ See page 9 for the answer

## Nominations Needed

At our next reunion in Prescott, AZ, June 19-22, 2003, the RFA Board of Directors will meet to elect officers and directors for the years 2003-2005. The Nominating Committee is requesting your help to prepare a slate of candidates.

Those presently serving have devoted much time and effort to ensure the continuing success of your family association. If you are interested in joining them in these endeavors, please submit your name or recommend someone for nomination to one of the committee members listed below:

Joe Ruffner  
11511 Jade Lane  
Huntsville AL 35803  
(256) 882-6645  
[jruffner@bellsouth.net](mailto:jruffner@bellsouth.net)

Robert Sheets  
1675 So. Steele St.  
Denver CO 80210  
(303) 733-4935  
[rnsheets@aol.com](mailto:rnsheets@aol.com)

Joan Reid  
120 Rita Court  
Columbus OH 43213  
(614) 237-8264  
[Jokereid@aol.com](mailto:Jokereid@aol.com)

If you would like to add your expertise as a member of one of RFA's committees such as Publications, Newsletter, Endowment Fund, or the WebSite, please contact our president: Sam McNeely, PO Box #351, Luray, VA 22835, (540) 743-5882, [smcneely@shentel.net](mailto:smcneely@shentel.net).

Thank you for your consideration!



## Want to Host a Future Ruffner Family Reunion?

As the Ruffner Family Association continues to grow, our memberships now reside in almost every state of our nation. With increased memberships, we have more members wanting to host or sponsor a future reunion. Is it your hometown, a special resort or national park site or a unique place like Ruffner Mountain in Alabama that you have in mind? We need your ideas and input in order to make the best site selection possible.

### Where to begin?

You will want to determine the feasibility of the site you want to recommend. Are there cousins in the area who will assist you in the local arrangements? Is there an active Chamber of Commerce where you can obtain support? What about available and reasonable lodging? Can they handle our size gathering? What historic and recreational facilities are in the area? Are there Ruffner Historical sites to visit?

Each reunion is an experience and an opportunity for family members to gather and renew ancestral bonds. The main criteria is to make it enjoyable and informative for the participants.

If you are interested in hosting a future Ruffner Family reunion, submit a written proposal to the president of the Association by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each reunion year. Include your backup materials. The Reunion Committee will review your proposal and make an announcement of their decision at the Annual Meeting of the Board and membership.

RFA president, **Sam McNeely** will accept bids for the **2005 Ruffner Family Reunion** until **May 1, 2003**. ■

## Will the 2005 reunion be in your area?

## The Children's Corner

(History can be fun)

In the old days, houses had thatched roofs (thick straw) piled high, with no wood beneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof ~ thus the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

The floor was dirt, and only the wealthy had something other than dirt ~ thus, the saying "dirt poor."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that "a man could bring home the bacon."

They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."



RR&R Special Feature**Luray, Virginia to Yakima, Washington**

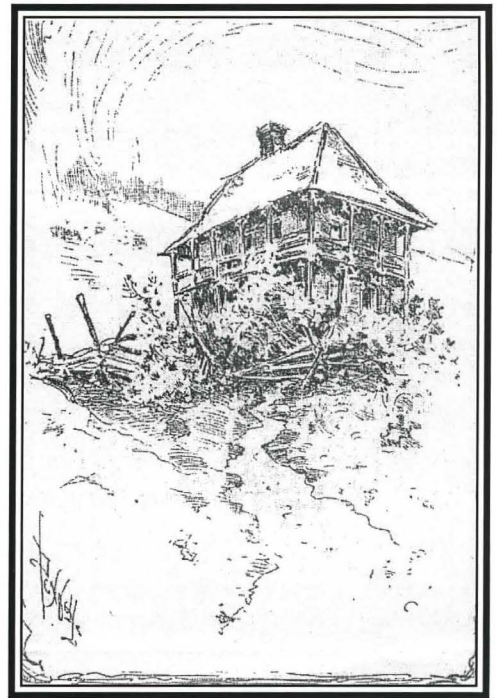
In 1880, this sketch appeared in the article "The Caverns of Luray" in *Scribner's Monthly*, Vol. XXIII, a publication which has been in my family since that time. The story describes the house at the entrance to the Luray Caverns as follows:

*"The ground rises only a trifle from the level of the valley to the hill, and on the open slope stands a house with porticoes all around, conspicuous in fresh paint, and having a public air about it. There is the ordinary appearance of public waiting-rooms about this house, but, unlike most houses, the great interest of it lies in its cellar. Registering your name, your guide gives you a tin frame much like a scoop-shovel, held upright by a handle at the back, which holds in front three lighted candles. He opens an inner door, and you follow him down a staircase of masonry, and before you grasp the idea that your adventures have begun you find yourself in the large antechamber of the caverns."*

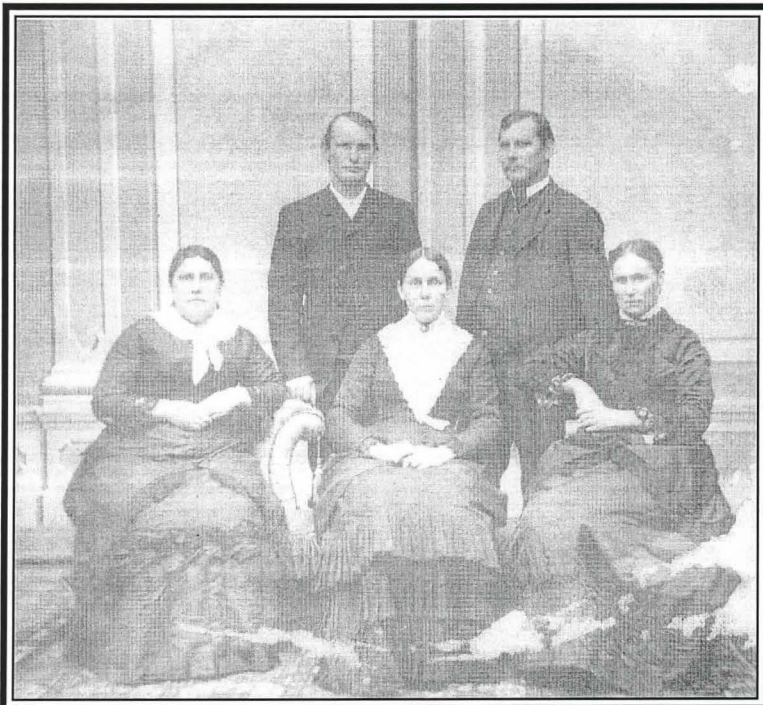
When I visited the Luray Caverns in June of 2001, I was surprised to see that the masonry staircase was still there, evidently no longer in use.

Visiting the Luray Caverns was special to me, for the house shown in the sketch was the birthplace of my great grandmother Martha Caroline Marye Ruffner and her siblings. The house was located on the farm owned by their father, Peter A. Ruffner [1812-1870], and mother, Eliza Jane Sperry [1814-1861]. Peter A. was the son of Jonas and Anna (Mauck) Ruffner of the old pioneer farm. All the children of Peter and Eliza were born in this house, to-wit: Emma Jane [1841-1924], Martha [1843-1928], Rebecca Sperry [1845-1917], Peter Edwin [1847-1928] and Joseph William [1849-1917]. (See photo below.)

Three other children were born to the couple, but died young—Anna Elizabeth [1836-1840], Mary Frances [1838-1840] and Sperry [1851-1852]. In addition to Martha being my great grandmother, Peter Edwin, her younger brother, was the grandfather of another RFA member, Dorothy Rinker, and the great grandfather of Phyllis Hershock, our secretary.



*Cottage at entrance of cave*




---

*Photo key—*

Children of Peter A. and Elizabeth (Sperry) Ruffner

Back row, left to right—Peter Edwin Ruffner

and Joseph William Ruffner.

Front, left to right—Emma Jane (Ruffner) Emerson,  
Rebecca Sperry (Ruffner) Bowen Emerson and  
Martha "Mattie" Caroline Marye (Ruffner) Tutt.

*Plattsmouth, Nebraska—1880.*

---

In the mid-1850s, Peter A. Ruffner sold this land and the family moved to Missouri; then in 1863, to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where Peter died. In 1863, great grandmother Mattie (as she was called) married  
*(continued on page 6)*

**Luray, Virginia to Yakima, Washington (continued)**

Andrew Tutt of Culpeper, Virginia. In 1884, the family settled in Helena, Montana. Here, the day after Christmas in 1885, Andrew died, leaving his widow, Mattie, and three children, Lee Emerson (my grandfather), Maude Elizabeth and James Ewing. Mattie then supported her family as a dressmaker. The family, a few years later, moved to Great Falls, Montana to be near Mattie's two sisters and their families. In 1905, Mattie lived in Pendleton, Oregon with her son James and daughter Maude. In 1907, the family went to Yakima, Washington, and were joined there that same year by Mattie's son Lee, his wife Phoebe and the couple's young daughter. In 1910, Lee and Phoebe were divorced and the court awarded custody of their seven-year-old daughter, Marie Virginia (my mother) to her grandmother Mattie. (See photo.) Thus, at the age of 67, Mattie had another child to raise. Mattie died in Yakima in 1928, two days short of her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is buried in the old and very lovely Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima, where to the west, the majestic 14,410 ft. high Mount Rainier stands guard.

On a beautiful July morning in 2001, I traveled to Yakima, my birthplace, and went to Tahoma Cemetery. In June, less than a month earlier, I had visited Mattie's place of birth in Luray, Virginia. Now, 2500 miles west of there, I stood at her final resting place. My great grandmother died when I was only one year old, so I never knew her, but at that moment in time, in that peaceful spot, gazing at her grave, marked by a very unpretentious stone, engraved simply "Martha C. Tutt," I felt very close to her. ■

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



*Marie Virginia Tutt  
Yakima, Washington, 1913*

## Ruffner's Cave connection to Luray Caverns

When the first settlers came to the Page Valley, the cave, which would eventually be known as Ruffner's Cave, was already in existence. It would be discovered around 1808, located near the present Luray Caverns, in the same hill, about a mile west of the original town of Luray, Virginia. It was called Ruffner's Cave, quite simply, because the Ruffners owned the land on which it was situated. It had a large opening, was easily accessed and open to everyone. The Indians apparently knew of its existence. A human female skeleton covered with about three quarters of an inch of drip-stone was discovered in Skeleton Gorge. The skeleton is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. It is thought that an Indian wandered from the old cave into skeleton gorge of what would become Luray Caverns and, unable to find her way out, perished.

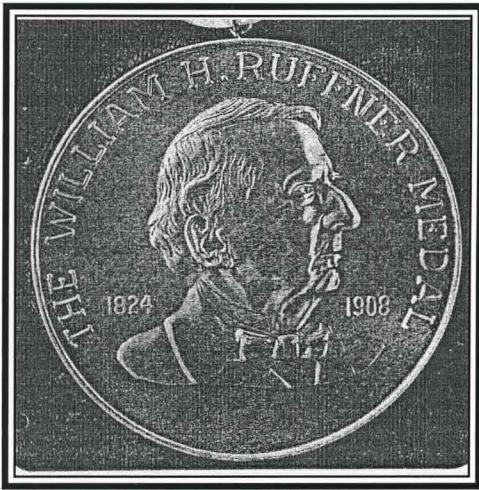
In 1878, Benton Stebbins, a photographer from Pennsylvania and his family moved to Luray, Virginia for the purpose of establishing a photography business. He had heard that the railroad was coming to the Page Valley and this should increase the population and make his business profitable. A local young man named Billy Campbell, who had an interest in photography, approached Mr. Stebbins about learning more of the art of photography. The two formed a friendship which included exploration of caves in the area.

Billy Campbell told Mr. Stebbins about Ruffner Cave. Stebbins, Billy, Andrew Campbell (Billy's brother) and Trent Lillard explored the old cave. Unfortunately, most of the beauty of the old cave had been destroyed by visitors during the foregoing 70 years. Benton Stebbins came up with the idea that if a cave could be found that was suitable for showing off to travelers, it would be beneficial to the town of Luray. They then set about exploring existing sinkholes around Cave Hill and the surrounding area in the hope of finding a more beautiful cave near the old cave. After several weeks and several failures, they dug into a sinkhole not far from Ruffner Cave. On a hot August 13, 1878, at four p.m. in the afternoon, after much digging, Andrew Campbell, the smallest of the group, holding a rope in one hand and a candle in the other, slipped backward into the sublime abyss which would come to be known as Luray Caverns.

By then, the Ruffner family had sold most of the land to local residents. Peter A. Ruffner had sold his land in the mid-1850s to a man named Smith. Betty Gaeng, his gr-gr-granddaughter writes "The family, when they lived there, must have known the caves existed, as my mother told me that her grandmother said the house was always cool in the summer from the air that came from the cellar—evidently a natural form of air conditioning." Indeed it was—the temperature in the caverns remains at 54 degrees, night and day, regardless of the season. The entrance to Ruffner Cave is still in existence, but is barricaded against entry by the present owners of Luray Caverns. (Sources: *A Short History of Page County, Virginia* and *The Page Library*.)

There is another story on the discovery of Ruffner Cave which Harry Strickler mentioned in his 1952 *A Short History of Page County, Virginia*, naming the cave because a Ruffner boy had gone into the cave to explore it and was lost for 48 hours before being rescued by his friends. The May 14, 1825, issue of *The Sentinel* first published this story and *Martin's Gazetteer*, in quoting from the *Sentinel* says the boy "was later murdered by the Indians." Wayland, in his *History of Shenandoah County* says the boy "was a son of Joseph Ruffner." (No son of Joseph was killed by the Indians, but Martin Ruffner, son of Benjamin, was massacred by the Indians in Ohio, 1812.) Wayland also says that the Ruffner boy had discovered the cave in 1793. The Civil War Map of the 1862 Valley Campaign indicates Ruffner Cave on Cave Hill. ■

## Virginia Tech's Highest Individual Award Named for a Ruffner



Why did the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University name their highest individual award for Dr. William Henry Ruffner in 1998? To honor the man and the singular service he afforded the state's land-grant college in its early struggles to survive. Without his efforts there might not be a Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University today. They considered him one of the three outstanding educators during the days of Reconstruction following the Civil War. The others were General Robert E. Lee and Matthew F. Maury, the scientist of the sea. The bronze medal which bears his likeness is given to those who provide exceptional service to the University.

William Henry Ruffner, gr-gr-grandson of Peter and Mary [Steinman] Ruffner, no doubt lived one of the most fascinating lives of any of Peter's progeny. He was born on February 11, 1824, in Lexington, Virginia. His parents were Dr. Henry Ruffner and Sarah Montgomery Lyle. At the time of his birth, his father was on the faculty of Washington College (now Washington & Lee). When William Henry was 12, his father became president of the college, a position he would hold from 1836 to 1848.

After graduating from Washington College in 1842, William Henry managed his father's salt works in Kanawha County, West Virginia for a year. He then returned to Washington College for his master's degree, attended the Union Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sydney for a year and the Princeton Theological Seminary for another year. He then spent time peddling religious books and became an itinerant preacher at country churches. He would later serve as trustee at Washington & Lee University from 1865 to 1876, and write a history of the institution.

In 1849, he became chaplain of the University of Virginia. During his two years there, he studied with and formed a friendship with William Holmes McGuffey, editor of the famous *McGuffey Readers*.

Before he left as chaplain, in 1850, he married Harriet Ann Gray, daughter of Robert Gray and Isabella Waterman of Harrisonburg, Virginia. In 1852, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Philadelphia and became pastor of Philadelphia's Seventh Presbyterian Church, but was forced to resign because of chronic throat trouble.

William and Harriet had two sons, Robert and Henry, who both died in infancy and two daughters, Anne Howell (Ruffner) Barclay and Sally Montgomery (Ruffner) Campbell. Anne had no children and Sally only had one surviving child, Henry R. Campbell, born in 1890.

For the next 16 years, he farmed and only preached on an occasional basis. Like his father, he was opposed to slavery, basing his position on economic, rather than moral or religious grounds. He told Stonewall Jackson that it was Lincoln's call for troops at the start of the Civil War that converted him, as it did many Virginians, to secession. Following the accepted custom for ministers, he remained at home and did his bit by visiting the distressed, writing letters to the front, gathering food and clothes for the armies and joining the Home Guards. The only home of William Henry, which is still standing, is in Harrisonburg, Virginia. It was here William Henry entertained General "Stonewall" Jackson and his staff during the Shenandoah Campaign of 1862.

After the Civil War, Virginia was readmitted to the Union with the requirement that it adopt a new constitution and provide public education, especially education for the former slaves (the Underwood Constitution). Dr. William Henry Ruffner was chosen to be the man to plan the system of public education for Virginia and carry it out. His selection as first State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia was strongly endorsed by General Robert E. Lee.

When the General Assembly, in 1869, asked William H. Ruffner to form a plan for the state's public schools, he did so with speed and thoroughness. His plan became law in July, 1870. It was followed by a series of reports by Dr. Ruffner. Through these reports he answered quite clearly all those Virginians who opposed the support of schools by the state.

Under the new plan for public schools, money for their support was raised from a small tax on private property; a poll tax was levied as a requirement for voting; interest from the Literary Fund, and counties and school districts could impose a special school tax locally if they wished.

Dr. Ruffner made good use of the school funds. At the end of his first year as State Superintendent, 130,000 pupils were enrolled in 2900 schools. These schools were located in every corner of the state. Had he been able to use all the money set aside for the public schools, his task would have been much easier. However, the state auditor claimed that the school fund could be used for other purposes. Much of the school money was used to pay interest on the state debt. Thus, the schools became a political football. Dr. Ruffner and the public schools, however, had their supporters. William Mahone and the Readjusters paid back the money owed to the schools—giving more money than had been promised by the Underwood Constitution.

(continued on page 8)

***Virginia Tech's Highest Individual Award Named for a Ruffner (continued from page 7)***

Thus, William Henry Ruffner became author of the school law of Virginia—Ruffner's law, which he prepared in consultation with Professor John B. Minor of the University of Virginia, a profound student and teacher of law. Ruffner's law was highly praised by the United States Commissioner of Education and served as a guide for similar laws in other Southern states.

His "School Reports of Virginia" added up to eleven volumes from 1872 to 1882. Halfway through his time as superintendent, he decided that political struggles were not proper for a clergyman. With his characteristic ethical sense he resigned from the clergy. After his second term as superintendent, he was defeated twice—despite an outcry from the Commissioner of Education in Washington that his defeat would be a disaster for the cause of education.

In 1883, he undertook a 500 mile survey of the topography, geology, mineral, agricultural and mining resources along the route of the Georgia Pacific railroad—a study that took him through the city of Birmingham a mere 12 years after its incorporation. The story of his work in Alabama and how Ruffner Mountain, now a reclaimed nature preserve, came to be named for him was included in the January 1999, issue of *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*.

One of the latter events in his educational career included his founding and becoming the first president (or principal as he called himself) of the State Normal School in Farmville, Virginia (now Longwood College). He served in this position from 1884 to 1887. The September 2001, issue of *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings* reported the major fire that struck the historic Ruffner Complex at the college.

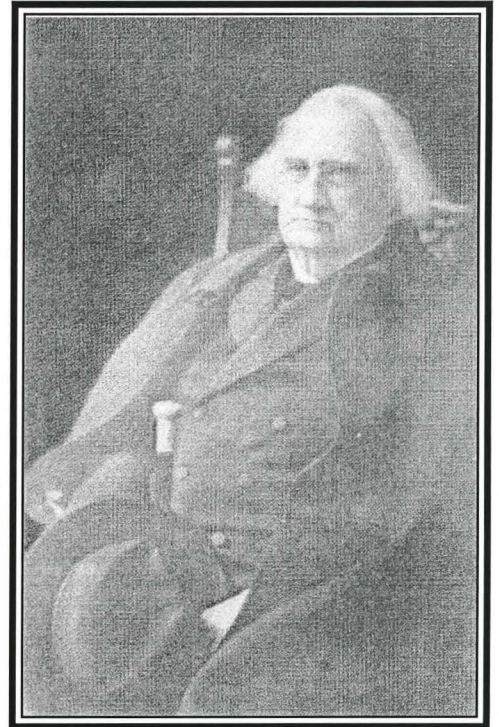
When he retired from the educational field in 1887, Dr. Ruffner turned to making surveys for large corporations. One he prepared was on behalf of local railroad advocates in Seattle, Washington for which he spent a number of weeks in the Puget Sound area and around the state. His railroad study, *A Report on Washington Territory*, was published in 1889. Around 1890, Ruffner Street was named in his honor in a plat filed on behalf of D. H. Gilman, who was developing the huge Gilman plat from Magnolia to Queen Anne, to include a town to be called Boulevard (today's Interbay), and an operations and service center for the railroad complex he planned for Seattle and northwestern Washington. Many streets thereabouts were named for various influential people who helped Gilman and other Seattle businessmen bring the railroads to the city.

In later years, he was described as a large man some 6 ft. tall, 200 pounds, with blue crinkle-rimmed eyes and flowing locks of snow-white hair. He lived near Lexington, Virginia at his estate, named "Tribrook Farm" from which he would make daily trips to Lexington in his horse-drawn buggy. He presented an imposing figure with a slouch hat on his head and a cape around his shoulders.

He wrote many personal letters, which are housed at the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in Montreat, N.C. To his daughters, he once wrote: "Your Mother is in her glory—& has become so lively & handsome that I'm afraid she will tire of her lantern-jawed, querulous old man....."

Dr. William Henry Ruffner died on November 24, 1908, in Ashville, North Carolina. He is buried in the Ruffner family plot at the "Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery" in Lexington, Virginia.

Dr. G. Burke Johnston, C.P. Miles professor emeritus of English at Virginia Tech, gave his impressions of Dr. Ruffner as he spoke at the March 18, 1998, Founder's Day observance at Tech: "Though I know that no human being can be satisfactorily summed up—his principal characteristics were integrity, ambition for a good cause without desire for personal glory, family affection, and profound faith. He was a true and wise idealist, realizing that although perfection is not possible, much good can be done on this side of perfection. The result of his determined and patient work is memorialized throughout the commonwealth with living monuments—not the least of which is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University." ■

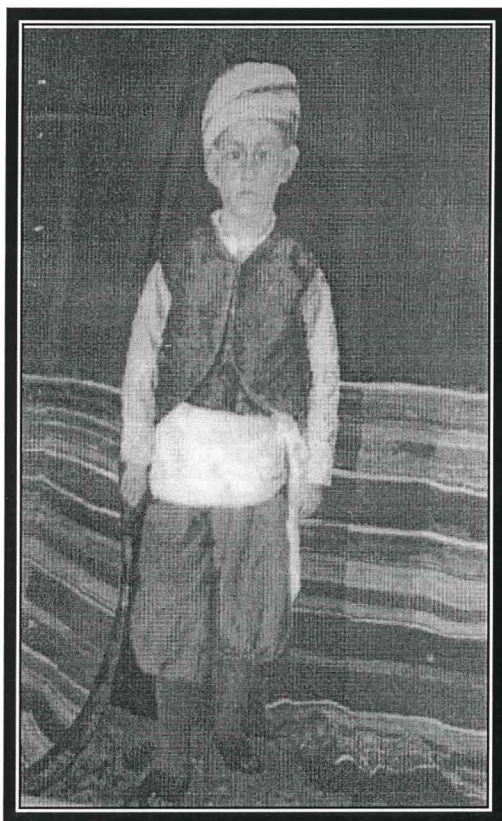


***Dr. William Henry Ruffner***

(Sources: *Context* (Virginia Tech), 1998; *Peter Ruffner & His Descendants*, 1966; *The Public School System* (Virginia) and *In Search of the Ruffners* by Marian Harnach (Ruffner Mountain Nature Center).

***In the field of public education the doctrine  
of "separate but equal" has no place.  
Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.  
~ Earl Warren***

## Portraits from the Past



*Arthur Ruffner of Williamsburg, Ohio*

Arthur Ruffner was the son of Colonel Ernest Howard Ruffner who painted this portrait, and the grandson of Lewis & Viola Ruffner. The portrait is neither signed nor dated but it appears to have been painted in the 1880s when Arthur Ruffner would have been about 8 years old. He is dressed as a Zouave (see note below) with colorful Mexican serapes draped on the sides. Arthur Ruffner was born in 1875, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He married Margaret Hassenfritz of Buffalo, New York in 1898, and had four children. Arthur and his family lived in Malden, West Virginia before moving to a tobacco farm in Clermont County, Ohio, near the town of Williamsburg. Arthur Ruffner died in Williamsburg, Ohio in 1956. This portrait is owned by Robert Henry Ruffner, Arthur Ruffner's grandson, who inherited it from his aunt, Margaret Ruffner Chatterton. ■

*Note: The Zouaves (pronounced zoo - aves) were Algerian light infantry troops of the French colonial service - especially noted for their excellent marksmanship. Despite the small influence of French culture on the pre-Civil War North, the Zouave uniforms gained much popularity with many militia units formed in the late 1850s and early 1860s. The Union Zouave uniform, which most closely resembled the actual French Zouaves, was worn by the 5<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry during the American Civil War, 1863.*

## Letters from the Past

(Following are excerpts from a letter written by Doris Laver Ruffner, co-author of *Peter Ruffner & His Descendants* to James "Jake" Hervey Ruffner and his wife, Margaret Moore Ruffner on March 10, 1975.)

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ruffner:

I am sorry so late in answering your letter. Thanks so much for the Christmas card. Appreciated it very much. I finally got a copy of the coat of arms. The coat of arms came from Peter Ruffner, "Herrenfeld," CH 7304 Maienfeld, Switzerland. Mr. Ruffner and family live in Maienfeld, but he works in a bank in Chur. According to Peter, the Ruffners were Walsers. The name Walser comes from "Grey Weavers," because the people upon their move to Switzerland from Germany had to live up high in the mountains, because the good land in the valleys was already settled. The type of sheep they raised produced a grey wool, thus the name "grey weavers" or Walsers. Ruffner means River People. The Ruffner tribes lived near the mountain rivers to provide water for themselves and their herds.

Cheryl Kirst (now Reed) and her husband of Bay City, Michigan (a Ruffner kin) got Peter's address from me and went over to Switzerland to see Peter and his family. She later wrote me that it was thrilling to see the land where our people hopefully came from. She said it was a beauty indescribable in words. Tall—tall snow capped Alps, with several small villages visible at one time dotting their slopes, the sun shining brightly on the meadow flowers in the valleys below. She said truly an Eden, if ever there was one.

I have a copy of a page from the Anniversary book of St. Amandus Church in Maienfeld, which shows - Peter Ruffner 1475, Peter Ruffner 1486, Peter Ruffner 1599, Peter Ruffner 1793 and we feel sure our Peter Ruffner was from Maienfeld too.....

As Ever  
Doris Ruffner

P.S. Coat of Arms - The three mountains represent the "Three Grison Peaks" overlooking Maienfeld. Your daughter probably read the book "Heidi" when she was a little girl. It was written in Maienfeld.

## Answer to What Is It? Where Is It?

(from page 4)

**What:** The Putney House  
**Where:** Malden, West Virginia

Built around 1836, this was the home of Dr. Richard Ellis Putney and his wife, Ann Ruffner, daughter of David Ruffner and sister to Henry and Lewis Ruffner, and Susan (Ruffner) Fuqua. He was a prominent physician for over fifty years and an Elder in the church built by his father-in-law, the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church. Situated across an open field from the church, it later became the manse for their pastors. Richard and Ann had seven children. The home today is the Law Office of Jeter and Coleman.

## Kennesaw, Georgia Welcoming Descendants of Andrews Raiders

George Deeming, curator of the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw is seeking people with ties to the troops who took part in "the great locomotive chase." He and the town are planning to welcome descendants of the Yankee raiders.

It took place early in 1862, when Union soldiers, under the command of Captain Andrews, disguised as civilians sneaked behind enemy lines to steal the General, a Georgia State Western & Atlantic Railroad locomotive. They planned to board the train in Marietta, Georgia and hijack it when the crew stopped for breakfast at Kennesaw (then known as Big Shanty).

They were to take the train to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and destroy the track and trestles behind them as they escaped. Had they been successful, they would have wrecked a key Confederate supply line linking Atlanta and Chattanooga. They did do a lot of damage as they fled Georgia by pulling up rails and cutting telegraph lines.

In Ringgold, with the Rebels in pursuit aboard the locomotive Texas, the General ran out of steam and the 22 raiders were captured. Their imprisonment and trial are described in the book *Daring and Suffering* by William C. Pittenger, one of the Raiders. Eight were tried and hanged; the remaining 14 made a jailbreak after seven months. Six were recaptured, but eight reached Union lines—two of them by floating down the Chattahoochee River to a Yankee blockade in the Gulf of Mexico.

The raiders would become the first U.S. soldiers to be awarded the newly inaugurated Medal of Honor.

The **Ruffner connection** to this piece of history is through **Sgt. Major Marion Andrew Ross (desc. Benjamin)**.

Marion was the son of Mary (Ruffner) and Levi Ross. His grandfather was **Benjamin Ruffner II**. He was born on October 9, 1832, in Champaign County, Ohio. He enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry on August 20, 1861. On December 7, 1861, he was promoted to Sergeant Major and detached from Company A on secret service with the Mitchell Raiders. In June 1862, he became one of the 22 men, 16 from Ohio, who became the famous Andrews Raiders.

Pittenger describes Marion as having a singing voice of marvelous sweetness, who taught his fellow prisoners many ballads during their imprisonment. All were in complete despair after the trial and being sentenced to death by hanging, but Pittenger said, "Marion was a marvel to us all. He was perfectly erect, with easy grace; there was not a sign of dread, while his eye beamed and his whole face became radiant with the martyr's joy." He said "tell them at home," in a clear vibrating tone, "if any of you escape, that I died for my country, and did not regret it."

After the execution of Captain Andrews, and on June 16, 1862, Marion Andrew Ross and 6 others were executed by hanging. He is buried at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

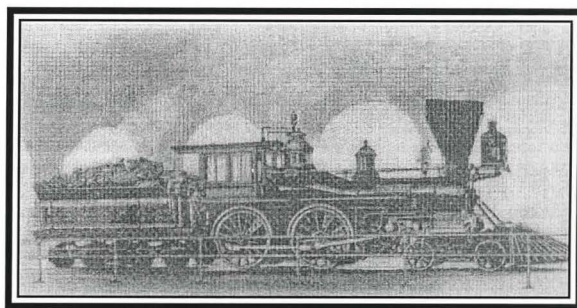
On March 20, 1889, the Ohio General Assembly appropriated \$5,000 to erect a monument in the National Cemetery in memory of the eight so-called Andrews Raiders.

The locomotive, "The General," was eventually restored and moved to Kennesaw. At the recently expanded museum, an addition details the story of each raider.

Next spring, Deeming hopes descendants will travel to Kennesaw to view the Raiders Gallery and enjoy some Southern hospitality. He hopes that descendants don't hold the history of the affair against the Peach State. "Southerners were very much insulted by the entire thing," he said of the raid and the "necktie party" that followed. "They can write, e-mail or call me so I can send them out an invitation."

➔For more information about the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, write curator George Deeming at 2829 Cherokee St., Kennesaw, GA 30144; call 678-354-7242; or send e-mail to [gdeeming@kennesaw.ga](mailto:gdeeming@kennesaw.ga).

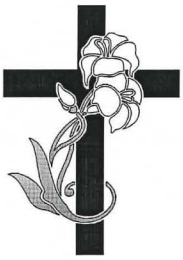
(Sources: *Y'll come: Georgia burg to welcome descendants of Yankee raiders* by Mike Harden, *The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*, October 24, 2002, and *Peter Ruffner & His Descendants* (Doris Laver Ruffner & Olive Taylor Ruffner, 1966.)



*The General*

## Archiving Ruffner History Through a National Library Network

When you receive your quarterly copy of Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, it is also being sent, on a complimentary basis, to many libraries, historical sites and genealogy societies throughout the United States. We are pleased to report that many of them catalog the newsletter for access by their visitors. We regard this as an essential tool toward the development of our family association and the knowledge of the historical role our family played in the settlement of the American Frontier. At the present time, we are mailing to locations in Alabama, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and also the NSDAR Library in Washington, DC. At the RFA Board of Directors' meeting in June of this year, approval was granted to expand the list. We, therefore, are requesting readers' input of libraries, societies or historical sites in their communities which may be interested in receiving the newsletter. Please send their names, addresses and telephone numbers to Joan Ruffner Reid, Editor, Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, 120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213, or e-mail at [Jokereid@aol.com](mailto:Jokereid@aol.com). For addresses of present locations receiving the RR&R, contact the RR&R Editor. Thank you!



## In Memoriam

**Margaret P. (Ruffner) Herzog** (desc. Emanuel), age 81, of Hillsdale, Michigan, passed away Wednesday, February 27, 2002, at the home of her daughter in Hudson. She was born September 21, 1920, in Jefferson Twp.,

Michigan to Orestes and Hila (Williams) Ruffner. She married Arthur E. "Dutch" Herzog on December 16, 1939, and he preceded her in death in April of 1990.

Margaret was a life time Hillsdale area resident and a former employee at Hillsdale Community Health Center. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Hillsdale and member of JOY Circle of the Church.

Surviving Margaret are one daughter, Karen (David) Young of Hudson, Michigan; one step-son, Gerald Herzog of Lompoc, California; a sister, Evelyn Reed of Fenton (Evelyn passed away on March 18, 2002 - see June 2002 issue of RR&R); one grandson, Tom (Sabine) Young and two grandchildren, Shawna and David. In addition to her husband, Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, a brother and two sisters.

Following a funeral service on March 2, 2002, she was interred at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Hillsdale.

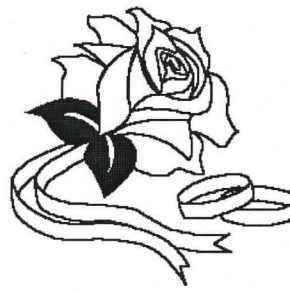
**Donald Hochradel**, 76, Baltimore, Ohio, died Friday, June 14, 2002, at his residence.

He retired after 30 years as a field service representative for General Electric Planes and Jets, was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Fairfield Fish and Game Association and Baltimore VFW Post 3761. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, having served at Great Lakes, IL, and aboard the USS West Virginia and USS Indiana.

Donald is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eileen L. Hochradel (desc. Emanuel); daughters and sons-in-law, Marcia Kay and James Mastel of Spring, Texas, and Theresa Jo and Danny Kalb of Baltimore; son, Jeffrey Alan Hochradel of Baltimore; former daughter-in-law, Lori Hochradel of Thurston; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; sisters, Shirley Hochradel of Lancaster, Violet (Dave) Miller of Galena and Mary Ann Harrison of Baltimore; brothers, Carl Hochradel of Baltimore, Bob Hochradel of Fairfield Beach, Bill (Susie) Hochradel of Lancaster and Jim (Margaret) Hochradel of Baltimore; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Cecil (Pud) and Peggy Fisher, and LaDonna Laver; and several nieces and nephews.

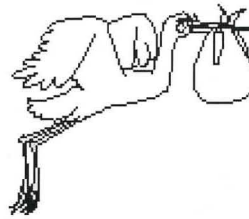
He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Elva Hochradel; sister and brother-in-law, Janis and Jim Huff; and sisters-in-law, Marvene Hochradel and Betty Hochradel.

Donald was interred on June 17, 2002, at the Basil Memorial Cemetery where the Baltimore VFW conducted military grave side services.



## Weddings

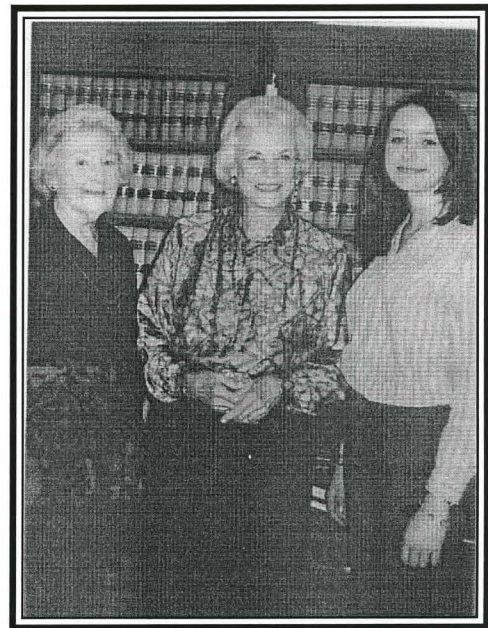
**Heather Gillilan** and **Michael Leffler** were married on May 19, 2002, at the Green Street United Methodist Church in Piqua, Ohio. Michael's Uncle Jim, pastor of the church, presided at the event. Heather (desc. Emanuel) is the daughter of Rick and Donna Gillilan of McArthur, Ohio. The groom's parents are Terry Leffler and Nan Blue, both of Columbus, Ohio.



## Births

**Calvin Jacob Ruffner** was born September 5, 2002, to Robert "Rob" and Andrea Ruffner of Lancaster, Ohio. He weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. and was 20-1/2 inches long. Calvin is a descendant of Emanuel.

## Famous Friends



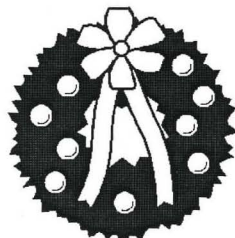
Elisabeth (Bette) Ruffner of Prescott, Arizona and her granddaughter, Chelly Browning Tyler had the pleasure of visiting with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court in June of 2001. The justice and Bette are old friends and she treated them to a special tour. Left to right in the photo: Bette, Justice O'Connor and Chelly.

## The Census Taker

It was the first day of census, and all through the land;  
 The pollster was ready...a black book in hand.  
 He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;  
 His book and some quills were tucked close by his side.  
 A long winding ride down a road barely there;  
 Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.  
 The woman was tired, with lines on her face;  
 And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.  
 She gave him some water...as they sat at the table;  
 And she answered his questions...the best she was able.  
 He asked of her children...Yes, she had quite a few;  
 The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.  
 She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;  
 His sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.  
 She noted each person who lived there with pride;  
 And she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.  
 He noted the sex, the color, the age...  
 The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.  
 At the number of children, she nodded her head;  
 And saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.  
 The places of birth she "never forgot;"  
 Was it Kansas? or Utah? or Oregon...or not?  
 They came from Scotland, of that she was clear;  
 But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.  
 They spoke of employment, of schooling and such;  
 They could read some..and write some..but really not much.  
 When the questions were answered, his job there was done;  
 So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.  
 We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear;  
 "May God bless you all for another ten years."  
 Now picture a time warp...it's now you and me;  
 As we search for the people on our family tree.  
 We squint at the census and scroll down so slow;  
 As we search for that entry from long, long ago.  
 Could they only imagine on that long ago day;  
 That the entries they made would effect us this way?  
 If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel;  
 And the searching that makes them so increasingly real.  
 We can hear if we listen the words they impart;  
 Through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart.  
 ~ Author Unknown

*May your Christmas be rich with love,  
 warm with friendship, happy with life's goodness,  
 and filled with the promise of a wonderful year ahead.*

Merry Christmas &  
 Happy New Year  
 from the  
 Ruffner Family Association  
 and the staff of  
 Ruffner Roots & Ramblings



## The Editor's Desk

### My cup runneth over ~

Sitting here in my little cubbyhole office in Columbus, Ohio—the home of Ruffner Roots & Ramblings—it doesn't seem possible another whole year has passed.



We have covered a lot of subjects this year thanks to the input of our great editorial board and our wonderful readers. It has been particularly rewarding to add "Special Features," written by family members, to the newsletter. These heart-felt family memories bring us closer to the purpose of our association—the knowledge and appreciation of our family's migration across this great country.

The articles you submit from newspapers & magazines and the tales of your travels bring us up to date on the activities of today's Ruffners - who are still making family history.

We are also very appreciative for the historic location photos our readers have submitted for What Is It? Where Is It? and the family photos for Portraits from the Past. Behind every picture is a story - and you have all made this come true.

So as this year ends, I want to again express my thanks to all for making my job easier this year and enriching my life with new knowledge. I look forward to hearing from more of you in the coming year.

*With love & best wishes for a happy holiday season,  
 Cousin Joan*

### RR&R Editorial Board

Robert Sheets, Contributing Editor ..... Denver, CO  
 Joe Ruffner, Contributing Writer ..... Huntsville, AL  
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 Melissa Ruffner ..... Prescott, AZ  
 Nancy Lee (Ruffner) Shifflett ..... Luray, VA  
 Shawn Williams ..... Catawissa, PA

### Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2003.

Send your news, articles & photos to:  
 Ruffner Roots & Ramblings  
 120 Rita Court, Columbus OH 43213  
 Email: [Jokereid@aol.com](mailto:Jokereid@aol.com)

**AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
 THE NEXT RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION  
 PRESCOTT, ARIZONA  
 JUNE 19-22, 2003**

Watch your January mail for  
 registration information.