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Ruffner Family Association

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RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 6, Issue #1

March 2003

Ohio Celebrates 200 Years

March 1, 2003, marks the 200th anniversary of Ohio becoming the 17th state of the federal Union. Many events will be held throughout the state in the next eight months to honor Ohio's historical past, recognize its present-day significance and mark the beginning of its third century.

Preparations began 5 years ago when Scott Hagan, Ohio's Bicentennial barn painter, took up his brush and began applying the red, white and blue Bicentennial logo to a country barn in each of Ohio's 88 counties. His work was completed last September with the 88th one in Sandusky County, Ohio.

A history-making Bicentennial Bell project was initiated in October of 2001, to further commemorate the event. Each county will conduct a two-day event in which a 2 foot high bronze bell, weighing 250 lbs, will be cast on-site, dedicated, presented to the county and rung for the first time.

The U.S. Postal Service will issue an Ohio Statehood Stamp. Approximately 50 million of the stamps will be made available to the public on March 1, 2003, the official Ohio Statehood Day. The photograph of a pastoral farm in Washington County just north of Marietta, Ohio's first settlement, with the date 1803, will grace the stamp.

Early days of Ohio's statehood were closely linked with the Ordinance of 1787, which is sometimes called "the Magna Carta of the Northwest." From this ordinance would come the organization of the Northwest Territory, the first large body of land to be added to the original 13 colonies. The territory was north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. It included the present-day states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois. Arthur St. Clair, an officer in the Revolutionary War, was named as the first and only governor of the new territory.

The Ordinance of 1787 stated that two steps should be taken to bring part of the territory into the Union as a full-fledged state. 1) When any portion of the Northwest Territory had 5,000 free male inhabitants, twenty-one years or older, a territorial government could be formed for that portion and a house of representatives could be elected to make laws and control finances. 2) When the territory reached a population of 60,000, it could take steps to become a state. In 1798, the "Territory of Ohio" (encompassing what is now the states of Ohio and Indiana) was formed and the first representative legislature from the Northwest Territory was elected.

Three years of policy conflicts and political differences between Governor St. Clair and the Ohio Territory's legislative body followed. One of the main issues was the power of veto by the governor. The federal Constitution already provided for overriding the President's veto. The Ohio territorial assembly wanted the Ordinance of 1787 changed to permit the same kind of action by their body so they could override the governor's veto. When William Henry Harrison, then a representative of Congress, proposed at that group's meeting in Philadelphia that a division

(continued on page 2)



The Ruffner Family Reunion - Prescott, Arizona - June 19-22, 2003

- see page 3 of this issue -

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~ AND MUCH MORE

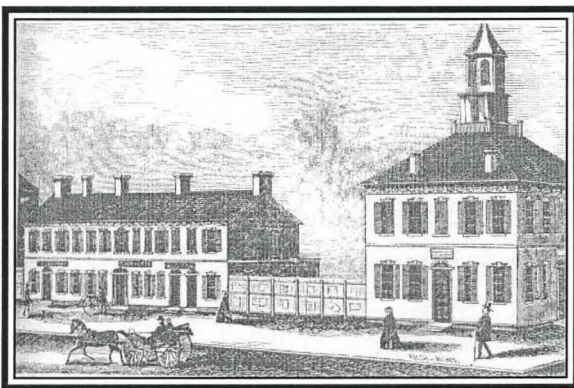
Ohio Celebrates 200 Years (continued from page 1)

be made in the Ohio Territory - one part to continue as the Ohio Territory and the other part to be called the Indiana Territory, Governor St. Clair proposed there be three divisions. Facing a deadlocked situation, the Ohio Territory Legislature had no choice but to pass the governor's measure. However, when the news reached the people of Chillicothe and supporters of the move to make Ohio a state, a riot ensued and the governor moved the assembly's meeting place to Cincinnati. Immediately thereafter, Thomas Worthington, sometimes called "The Father of Ohio Statehood," led a committee to the nation's capital in 1801, to request Congress to overturn the assembly's act. The group was successful and Congress voted almost unanimously to set the action aside. Finally, early in 1802, Congress passed an act enabling the people of the Ohio Territory to form a new state.

The First Constitutional Convention of thirty-five men met in Chillicothe on November 1, 1802. A governor and members of both houses of the assembly were elected on January 11, 1803. Edward Tiffin, the new governor of the nation's 17th state, was sworn into office on March 3, 1803, at Chillicothe, the state's first capital.

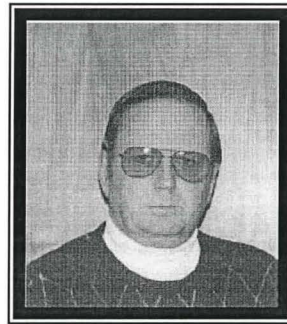
A permanent capital city for Ohio would prove to take longer than the quest for statehood. Chillicothe remained Ohio's capital until 1810, when it was moved to Zanesville. This proved to be an unsatisfactory location and it was moved back to Chillicothe in 1812. With the desire to have the state capital in the center of the state and the donation of ten acres for state buildings and a like amount for a state penitentiary by four citizens of Franklinton, a proposal was accepted to again move the capital to a location across the Scioto River from Franklinton. By 1816, it was ready and the name of "Columbus" was given to the new town. The Statehouse, library and state offices had all been completed.

For further information on Ohio's Bicentennial events, check out <<http://www.ohiobicentennial.com/ohio.htm>>.



Left to Right - U.S. Courthouse, State Office and Capitol Building, Columbus, Ohio, 1816-1852

A Message from the President



The beginning of a new year always gives us pause to stop and reflect upon happenings of the previous one. Certainly we lost some of our most dedicated and also some of our founding members. Their presence among us will be greatly missed by our family organization. Conventional wisdom tells us to look forward rather than dwelling on the past. I hope we are all looking forward to the

upcoming reunion in Arizona in June. I certainly am! The stories I have read and the tales that have been told to me about our ancestors in that area will come alive with my first visit to Arizona. In addition, this will be an opportunity for some of our western members, who have not attended previous reunions, to meet their family from all across America.

Hardly a week goes by that I don't receive an inquiry from another Ruffner who has found their family through a variety of means. Two recent additions have come about by our web site and one referred by our "Calabash Cousin" Sandra Giffen. Our membership has steadily increased each year since we formally organized in 1999. This has also led to us being in a fairly stable financial condition.

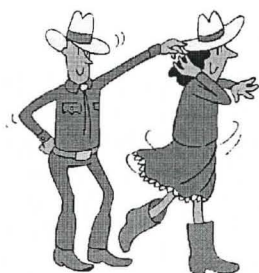
For those of you who have sent in advance subscriptions to our family genealogy update, I am happy to report that work is progressing on this endeavor. Mark and Pam Flasch have immersed themselves into this project. They continue to receive information from family members for inclusion in the new edition. They have also done research on their own to ensure that as much available information is made a part of the long awaited update. This is one last reminder to our members to contact me as soon as possible if you have information you want to be included.

My family and I send you greetings for a safe and prosperous 2003. My prayer is that God grant you a healthy life in a world at peace.

📣 Announcement 📣

Due to other commitments, Barbara Rowles will no longer be the coordinator for the "Emanuel" branch research in connection with the updated Ruffner Family genealogy update. We are indebted to Cousin Barb for the fine work she has done. She has passed on all data previously submitted to Pam and Mark Flasch for incorporation in the book. Please send all future family surveys, photos and other information you want to include in the "Emanuel" portion of the books to:

Samuel H. McNeely
 Ruffner Family Association
 PO Box #351, Luray, VA 22835
 Thank you!



**RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
JUNE 19-22, 2003**

The reunion schedule and registration were mailed to all members in January. Hopefully you have received your copy. **Due to a misprint, the toll free number for the St. Michael Hotel was incorrect. The CORRECT NUMBER is 1-800-678-3757.**

A final mailing will go out in early March to RFA members and it will include a form to indicate the items you are donating to the **biennial auction**. Please bring the form and the items with you to Prescott, or mail both in advance to Melissa Ruffner at the address listed at the bottom of this column. At past auctions, we have had many remarkable Ruffner-related items. The proceeds from the sale help to meet the expenses of ongoing and future Ruffner Family Association special projects.

Pre-Reunion tour plans: Ernest Howard Ruffner worked extensively in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado in the 1870s. He engineered roads, conducted and published a study of moths of the area, and surveyed several mountain ranges, among other pursuits. One of the ranges he was involved in surveying, called the Sneffles Range, lies between Telluride, Ouray and Ridgway, Colorado. The range includes Hayden Peak, Whipple Mountain and Ruffner Mountain, named after members of the survey party.

In 1973, Rebecca Ruffner, her fiancé and another couple purchased 35 acres on Last Dollar Road, just west of Hayden Peak in the San Juan National Forest, at 9500 feet elevation. In perusing a USGS map to locate their newly acquired property, Ruffner Mountain, 13,000 ft., was found to be not 10 miles away. In due time, Rebecca discovered the considerable documentation of Ernest's work in the southwest, and located a trail which skirts the slopes of Ruffner Mountain on the edge of Deep Creek Mesa, above the San Miguel River.

Today, Rebecca co-owns a three story log cabin built in 1989, on the 35 acres. **Ruffner Reunion participants are cordially invited to drive to Ridgway, Colorado on June 18 and tour Last Dollar Road to Ruffner Mountain**, then visit the Telluride Library where several maps and historic documents of Ernest Ruffner are available for study. **If you are interested in joining this tour, please contact Rebecca at <beck@cablone.net, or PO Box 61, Prescott, AZ 86302-0061.**

The travel itinerary would be: Depart Denver for Ridgway, via US 285, over Monarch Pass on June 17 (about 265 miles). On June 18, tour Last Dollar Road, Ruffner cabin, Ruffner Mountain, Telluride Library and return to Ridgway. On June 19, depart Ridgway for Prescott via Cortez, CO or Monument Valley, Utah (either route will take 9+ hours, 470 miles).

Alternate pre-reunion tours have been planned by the Colorado Ruffners (see *Travel Ruffner Roads to Prescott* on the following page).

Can you help us with some history? We are trying to document as much information as possible about Arizona ancestors. While the life of Sheriff George Ruffner is well known, our first ancestor to come to the Arizona Territory - Morris Andrew Ruffner - remains mostly a mystery. The late Budge Ruffner of Prescott, who was, with the late George Ruffner of Inola, Oklahoma, an originator of the current Ruffner Reunions, searched for years for a place called "Ruffner" near the Verde River in eastern Yavapai County [see map on page 4 of this issue]. Recently information has come to light pinpointing the location of a homestead by that name. We have also located an obituary for Morris Andrew Ruffner stating that he died in Gila Bend, Arizona Territory, in September 1884. We are hoping to locate the cemetery there as well. If anyone has a family photo which includes Morris, we would like to include it in the reunion booklet.

Further details can be found on the Ruffner Family Website (see page 12). Please address all questions and responses to:

**Melissa Ruffner, Chairman
2003 Ruffner Family Reunion
PO Box 2577, Prescott, AZ 86302
(928) 445-4567 or email: elisabeth19@aol.com**

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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.

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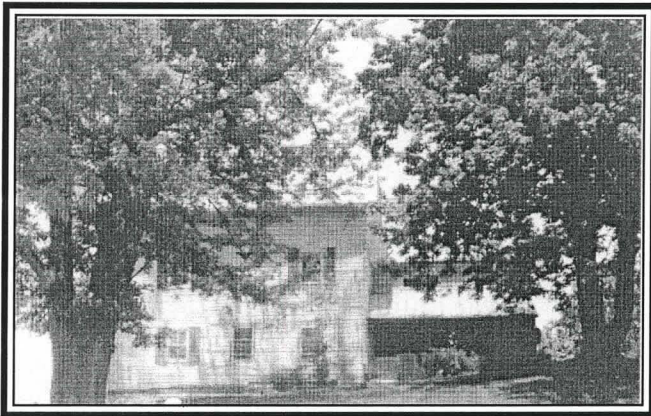
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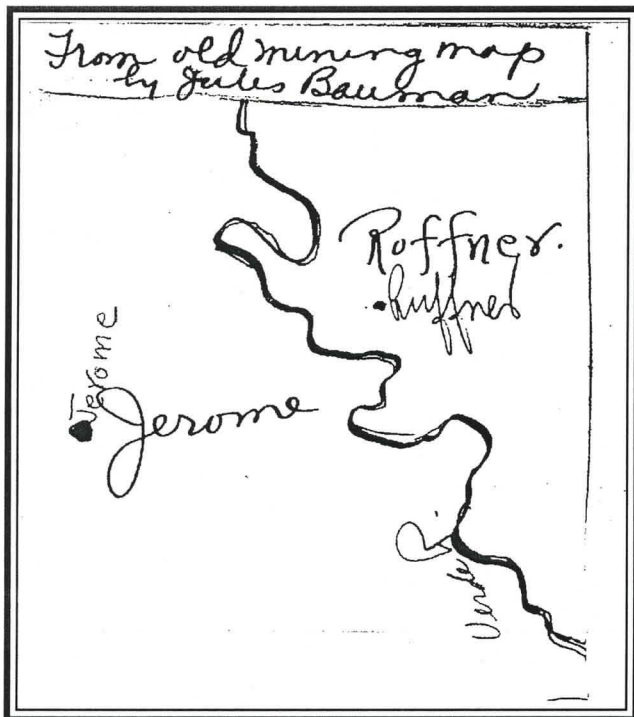
What Is It? Where Is It?



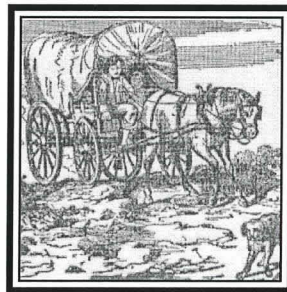
This house has a very historic distinction. Do you know what it is and do you know its "Ruffner" connection?

~ See page 9 for answer

Ruffner Family Reunion (from page 3)
 Site of Morris Andrew Ruffner's homestead
 from old mining map by Jules Bauman



Attention 2003 Reunion Attendees:
 A supplemental list of Prescott hotels, Bed & Breakfasts and Campgrounds are listed on page 12 of this issue.



Travel Ruffner
 Roads to Prescott

One of the great experiences for those driving to Prescott for the 2003 Reunion will be knowing the roads beneath their cars were built under the leadership of Col. Ernest Howard Ruffner. When you Eastern Cousins are planning your trip across Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico, be sure and see if you are not following the trail of those Army Engineers who under Col. Ruffner's leadership, mapped and built the many roads connecting the early military forts of the Western States. As chief engineer for the Department of the Missouri at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Cousin Ernest made a name for himself in his surveys and mappings of the Western States. Born in 1845, he was the son of Gen. Lewis Ruffner & Viola Knapp Ruffner. He graduated first in his class at West Point in 1867, and rose to the rank of Lt. Col. during an illustrious career. Upon retirement, he bought the home in Cincinnati which was President William Howard Taft's birthplace and there Ernest died in 1937.

If you plan to drive through the Old Indian Territory on I-40 passing through the Red River area of the Texas Panhandle, you can relive the Ruffner Expedition of 1876, when under Cousin Ernest's leadership they mapped the famous Palo Duro Canyon and headwaters of the Red River. Or if you want to drive to Denver, you can connect with the Colorado Ruffners who will be leading a caravan to Prescott on the roads he built through Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. They will be passing through Fort Garland, the oldest military fort in Colorado and traveling either south along the road he built between Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico or west along the southern boundary of Colorado to Durango and the road he built in 1879.

In the great San Juan Mountains of Colorado, you can have the opportunity to see another Ruffner Mountain, named for Col. Ernest Ruffner following his explorations and road building in the area of Durango, Silverton, Ouray and Telluride. [See Ruffner Family Reunion on page 3 of this issue.]

Two other optional routes to Prescott from Denver will be: 1) **MESA VERDE ROUTE:** Leave Denver June 18 via I-25 over La Veta Pass to Fort Garland. Continue on US-160 over Wolf Creek Pass to Pagosa Springs and Durango. Lodging in Durango. June 19 to Prescott via Mesa Verde National Park, Cortez and Navajo Reservation, about 400 miles. 2) **SANTA FE ROUTE:** Leave Denver June 18 via I-25 to Fort Garland then south to Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico on State Route 159. Overnight in Albuquerque. June 19 drive to Flagstaff and Prescott via I-40, about 421 miles. Additional information on these tours can be obtained from Bob Sheets at <rnsheets@aol.com>.

Following the reunion on Sunday, June 22, many of our cousins will be visiting the Grand Canyon, about 129 miles. Overnight reservations should be made immediately. After a tour on June 23, some will drive back to Denver via the Navajo Reservation and Durango, about 330 miles. Overnight in Durango. On June 24 drive to Denver, about 339 miles. It has been 127 years since Col. Ruffner laid out these roads and we can honor his accomplishment by hitching up the mule and heading west for another grand Ruffner Family Reunion.

See you on the Road to Reunion 2003.

Letters from the Past

Submitted by K. Daniel Ruffner

Anyone who has spent time doing genealogical research knows the excitement of uncovering a bit of information or artifact which offers a glimpse into the personal life of your ancestors. In many ways, a letter which surfaced a couple of months ago provides the Ruffner family a window into the love, humor and hardships of an earlier generation. I worked with Joan Ruffner Reid to decipher the handwriting of this letter and believe we have come up with a good translation. We both found the names of acquaintances the most difficult to determine.

This letter was written 177 years ago by Anna (Coffman) Ruffner [1778-1853] and Benjamin Ruffner II [1772-1831] to their daughter, Mary Ruffner [1802-1865]. Benjamin Ruffner II was the son of Benjamin Ruffner [1742-1807], the second oldest son of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. The letter was sent from Rushville, Fairfield County, Ohio as a stampless letter to Kanawha Salines, Virginia. Kanawha Salines was the original name for what eventually would become known as Malden, West Virginia. Some of the family members referenced in the letter are Mary's younger brother, David Ruffner [1803-1846]. "Uncle" Emanuel Ruffner [1757-1848] and Mary's younger sister, Elizabeth Ruffner [1803-1827]. The letter shows the humor within the family when they ask Mary to bring her future husband up to Ohio so they can all meet him. There is also some good-natured ribbing from Mary's sister Elizabeth about the fact that she was married before her older sister.

It is important to place this letter within the historical context of the Ruffner family. Mary Ruffner eventually married Levi Ross of Kanawha Salines in 1827. Mary and Levi moved to Ohio and had nine children, the fourth being a son by the name of Marion Ross. Marion served in the Civil War and participated with Andrews' Raiders to capture the confederate locomotive, "The General." Pursuing confederate troops overtook "The General" and the Andrews' Raiders were taken prisoner. Marion Ross was executed by the Confederates in June 1862, and later was awarded posthumously the United States Congressional Medal of Honor. Levi Ross died within a few months of Marion's death and Mary Ruffner Ross died in March 1865.

Mary's brother, David Ruffner, died in 1846, but the exact circumstances are unclear. One version says he was killed in an accident in Columbus, Ohio where he had taken a horse thief he had arrested, and for whom a reward had been posted. Another version had him receiving a mortal leg injury when his horse ran away.

Mary's sister, Elizabeth Ruffner, had just recently married David Trickler when this letter was written. Elizabeth and David had a son in January 1827 who they named Benjamin. It is important to note that Mary's mother mentions in the letter, "Your sister Elizabeth has enjoyed better health for a year past than she formerly did." Elizabeth died 14 months later on May 10, 1827.

The following letter is part of the archives held at The Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23223.

The envelope accompanying the three-page letter is inscribed: March the 12, 1826, Rushville, Fairfield County, Ohio ~

Dear Daughter,

We thus embrace this opportunity of writing to let you know that we all [are well] at this time, thanks be to the giver of all good for his kind blessings, hoping when this silent messenger comes to your hand, it may find you enjoying the same.

Dear Mary, we received your letter of the 28 January and was glad to hear that you was well and so well pleased. I should have written before but David has been at home but very little all winter. He is at the canal doing business for the contractors. He gets 20 dollars per month for his services.

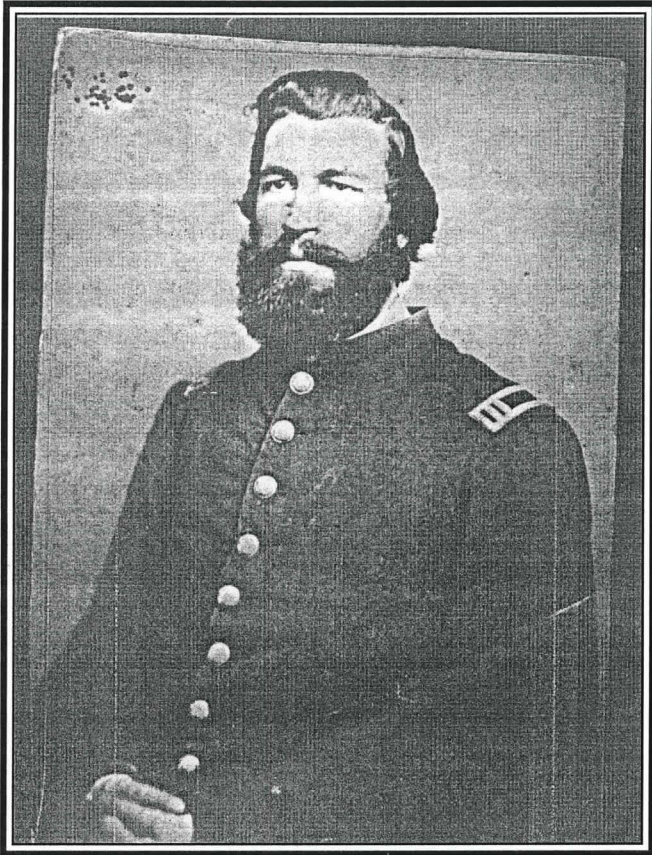
Dear Mary, you state in your letter you are anxious to hear from your friends and acquaintances. I will therefore relate a few circumstances which have taken place. On the 18 January, Elizabeth was married to David Trickler and is gone to the Ohio River. They are now living with the old people but intends moving to his farm after sugar making is over. We look for them up after harvest to move her property. Your sister Elizabeth has enjoyed better health for a year past than she formerly did. We get a letter from David and Elizabeth about two weeks ago stating that they were well. Also they wish to hear from you. There is three of the widow Spittler's children married, Christ to Mary Stith, Molly xxx Stith, Anna to Mr. Peters, Abraham Spittler's Barbary to Jonas Beaver, Anna Pence to Tunis Ashbrook, Hannah C___ to John E___, Barbary Byzer to Willy Gundy and Betty Byzer is gone stark crazy and Samuel F___, our g___ l___, is married to a Miss Howard of Cincinnati and a number more too tedious to mention. John Winder's wife and child is dead. David Kagy's, John H___ and Lewis Kagy's child is dead.

You state in yours you wish to know what was become of Musselman's family. Rebecca lives at Jacob Ruffner's, Mary lives at Uncle Emanuel Ruffner's, Diana lives at Christian Kagy's and L___ at Lewis Kagy's and the old woman is yet on the old place. John S___ lives with her. A few days ago the old lady had beau which caused us to wait and see if a wedding would not be but when the old lady went to repose thinking on her old Dear and looking at his clothes she said to marry wasn't her desire and so the old man had to retire. This poetry is as good as I can make it fit but so it was the old lady gave him the mit.

Dear Mary you appear to be so well satisfied and if you think you can do better and enjoy more real pleasures among your friends willing you would stay only I wish you to write and let us know your intention concerning matrimony as you still state in your letters you may get married and then you would have to ask your husband if you may come to see us. We would be glad you would write and let us know what kind of coal digger or pit digger he is so we may prepare to meet you when you come to see us. Now laying all jokes aside seriously wish you to write and let us know when you intend coming to see us. Your brothers and sisters are very desirous see you, the neighbors are glad to hear from you, Uncle Emanuel Ruffner, Aunt, cousin Joseph and Ronda, Christian Kagy's family, xxx xxx xxx, Uncle Abraham all send their best love and compliments to you. We all send our love Uncle David and Aunt Ann and all inquiring friends. We shall write often now Elizabeth intends living with us. She will write for us. I want you to

(continued on page 6)

Portraits from the Past



Captain Augustus Ruffner Keller

Augustus was the son of Susanna Ruffner and Daniel Keller. His grandfather was Emanuel Ruffner, youngest child of Peter and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. He was born on July 1, 1838, in Fairfield County, Ohio. He was the 9th of 11 children.

Augustus' father, Daniel, inherited his father's plantation of 122 acres in 1825. He added many more acres and it was said you could ride for five miles without getting off his land. Daniel represented Fairfield County in the Ohio Legislature in 1849. He was a trustee of the Ohio State University and his vote helped determine its location on the Neil farm north of Columbus. He was also one of the founders of Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

Augustus was educated at Otterbein University. Following graduation, he became active in newspaper work, both in Westerville and Lancaster, Ohio. He later went to California, but returned to Ohio with the outbreak of the Civil War.

He enlisted in the 90th OVI, was commissioned a Lieutenant in July 1862, and was promoted to Captain in 1863, in command of Company C of the same regiment. In 1864, he was assigned to the Quartermaster Department of Civil Engineers on Steadman's staff at Chattanooga, serving to the end of the war as Chief Quartermaster of the 23rd Army Corps.

On April 20, 1865, Augustus married Margaret McFarland [1840-1919], daughter of Walter McFarland. Walter McFarland was a very early pioneer of Fairfield County arriving as early as 1798. It is interesting to note that both Augustus' father and Margaret's father

were giants in size and strength. It was said that Walter McFarland could carry loads that required six men to lift and place on his shoulders.

Augustus and Margaret were the parents of four children: Helen Julia, Daniel McFarland, Emma Edith and Henry Wilson. Their oldest daughter, Helen Julia, never married. She was a famous pianist, headquartered in Chicago. Their youngest daughter, Emma Edith, died at age 18. Their youngest son, Henry Wilson, never married and was killed in a train accident between Columbus and Lancaster. Their oldest son, Daniel McFarland, the only one to marry, moved to Sycamore, Illinois. He was a salesman for the H.C. Godman Shoe Co. He and his wife, Bonnie Brady, had two children: Dorothy Margaret and Richard Martin. Unfortunately, tragedy would again strike Augustus' family when Daniel was killed by a fall from a cherry tree.

Augustus went into the Civil War a Democrat, but came out an ardent Republican. He was a great orator and conversationalist, always in great demand during political campaigns. His father, Daniel, a strong Democrat, never reconciled himself to all his sons becoming Republicans. Fortunately, Daniel did have Democratic allies in his sons-in-law.

Augustus was a trustee for the Ohio State Penitentiary. In 1876, he was a presidential elector from Ohio, casting his vote in the Electoral College for Rutherford B. Hayes. In 1878, President Hayes appointed him Government Agent for the Crow Indians in Montana, a position he held for several years. While in this position, he took a large delegation of Indians to Washington to see President Hayes. The trip created quite a sensation, being the first of its kind in the history of the United States. He also visited Lancaster, Ohio with the braves in 1879, and received a wonderful reception at the City Hall.

Augustus died on May 22, 1896, and is buried at Forest Rose Cemetery in Lancaster, Ohio.

Sources: Peter Ruffner and His Descendants, Olive Taylor Ruffner & Doris Laver Ruffner, 1966, and Pioneer Period and Pioneer People of Fairfield County, Ohio, C.M.L. Wiseman, 1901.

Letters from the Past

(continued from page 5)

write the first opportunity. I want you to write to Elizabeth. So no more, but remain your affectionate father and mother until death Benjamin and Anna Ruffner

A footnote to the letter reads ~

Dear Miss, after writing almost three sides and spending an afternoon, I think it is my privilege to write and state a few things. As Betsy already married and Nancy is in a fair way as I have read two letters she shared from the Ohio River and should she get married before you and you come home without a wife we would have you xxx in the hog trough as it is customary for the older sister so to do when the younger sister marries first. So no more Mary Ruffner. Elizabeth it will xxx xxx.

Editor's Note: Some spelling in the above letter has been altered, however phrasing remains the same. The xxx denotes words not legible in the time-worn letter. As stated on page 5, the original letter is in the Library of Virginia Archives.

Ruffner Pioneers of Ohio

When Ohio became a state in 1803, the prospect of migration to the area became increasingly attractive. Thousands and thousands migrated from the eastern states. For the most part, the early pioneers of Ohio were strong, hard working and eager people looking forward to new opportunities. Among them were some of our Ruffner ancestors, who gave up comfortable homes in Virginia to courageously set out on a journey to the Ohio wilderness.

Although we have always cited Emanuel's family when writing about our Ohio ancestors, many children of **Benjamin Ruffner, Sr.**, Emanuel's older brother, were also early pioneers of Fairfield County, Ohio. Several of the children by his first wife, **Catherine Burner** and his second wife, **Elizabeth Heistand** [1756-1820], migrated and settled in the county, named for "Fair Fields," established in 1800.

Peter Ruffner, Benjamin's oldest child, migrated in 1803. He lived on the old State Road, where he was a farmer and distiller. In trying to determine what was meant by "old State Road," we can only assume it referred to Route 22, known as the Cincinnati-Zanesville Road. From Peter's will, we learn that he was a resident of Richland Township in Fairfield County and Rte 22 does run through that township. We can also determine from Peter's will that he owned approximately 300 acres. We can further pinpoint the location of his property by stating he lived near Edward Murphy. Murphy was said to live in a section south of Emanuel Ruffner and William Wilson, where he farmed and kept a tavern. It would appear Murphy didn't have to go far for his supplies since Peter Ruffner and William Wilson were both distillers.

Peter and his wife, **Catherine**, had two children: **Sevilla**, born about 1801 and **Peter Jefferson**. Later records show that Sevilla married **David Iles** on June 15, 1820. They had at least one child - a son, **William Iles**. Peter Jefferson and his wife **Zerelda** were living in Boone County, Missouri in 1853. It is thought that Sevilla and David also resided there.

Peter died fairly young in 1805. Peter's widow later married one of the executors of his will. They were Andrew Hite and Jacob Musselman.

Benjamin Ruffner II [1772-1831] lived near Rushville (see *Letters from the Past* on page 5 of this issue). We do not know the exact year Benjamin II migrated to Fairfield County, however we do know it was in the early 1800s. He was married to **Anna Coffman** [1778-1853] on June 23, 1801. They had 13 children: **Mary, David C., Elizabeth, Andrew H., Anna, Easter, Rebecca, Benjamin III, Noah, Lydia, Catherine, Aaron and Dorothy**. Benjamin is buried at Pleasant Run Cemetery in Fairfield County. Anna is buried at Honey Creek Baptist Cemetery in Christiansburg, Ohio.

Some of Benjamin II and Anna's children would press on to settle in other areas of the Northwest Territory. Their oldest daughter, **Mary (Ruffner) Ross** (see page 5) and her husband, **Levi Ross**, settled in Champaign County, Ohio, in the midwestern part of the state.

Their son, **Andrew Harrison Ruffner**, died of cholera in Fairfield County, when he was just 37-years-old. His widow, **Elizabeth (Leith) Ruffner**, moved her family to Illinois, Effingham County, in 1843. Andrew and Elizabeth's son, **Harrison N. Ruffner**, was the forebear of the Ruffners who would go on to settle lands in Illinois, Colorado and Arizona. In fact, Harrison N.

and **Catherine (White) Ruffner** were the grandparents of the late "Budge" Ruffner and the great-grandparents of the late George Edward Ruffner, originators of the Ruffner Family Reunions we enjoy today.

Benjamin III, who had been a successful whiskey distiller near Hebron, Ohio, moved to a farm near Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1850.

Resuming the story of **Benjamin I and Catherine (Burner) Ruffner's** children, their daughter, **Mary** [1777-1807] married **Jacob Musselman** [1771-1825] in 1797. It is uncertain when they moved to Fairfield County, however if Jacob was the same as the executor of Peter's will (see above), they must have been in Fairfield County in 1805. Unfortunately, Mary died at the young age of 30 and was buried at Pleasant Run Cemetery. They had four children: **Benjamin, Joseph, Isaac and Rebecca**.

Regina [1773-1855], married **David Brumbach** [1771-1824] on September 23, 1800, in Virginia. They migrated to Liberty Township, Fairfield County in 1803. They had six children: **Isaac, Nancy, Benjamin, Mary, Phoebe and Martin**. They are both buried in the Brumbach family cemetery at Poplar Creek, Fairfield County, Ohio.

After his father's death in Virginia in 1807, **Martin**, his stepmother, **Elizabeth Heistand**, his half-brother **Michael** and his half-sister **Barbara** migrated to Fairfield County. In 1809, he returned to Virginia, married **Margaret Newman**. Margaret was the daughter of Walter Newman, a wealthy plantation owner from Virginia. In 1812, he and his family migrated to Richland (now Ashland) County, Ohio where he was slain by the Indians on September 15th of that same year (see *RR&R, Vol. 2, Issue #2, April 1999*). Fortunately, he had sent his wife and their 2-year-old son, **Walter Newman Ruffner** [1810-1890], to stay in Utica (Licking County), Ohio or they probably would have met the same fate.

Michael [1798-1877] and his mother (**Elizabeth Heistand**) also migrated to Richland County in 1812. At the time of Martin's death, they were boarding nearby with his sister, **Barbara** [b. 1788] and her husband, **Richard Hughes**. After Martin's death, it is believed that Michael and his mother returned to Fairfield County as later facts would indicate. It is unknown whether his sister Barbara and her husband remained in Richland County. **Elizabeth (Heistand) Ruffner** died in Fairfield County 1820 and is buried in the Ruffner-Friend Cemetery on the Ruffner-Rowles farm.

Michael was an ambitious and enterprising young man. He married **Louisa Coulson** on October 22, 1823, in Fairfield County, Ohio. His first business venture was a tin and copper shop in Rushville. In 1829, he had a general mercantile business with the Davenport's in Baltimore, Ohio. Between 1832-33, he joined with his father-in-law, William Coulson, in a firm known as M. Ruffner & Company. They erected a flour mill on the canal (probably the Ohio and Erie). A few years later, his first wife, Louisa Coulson, passed away and in 1836, he married **Sara Nichels**, sold his share of the mill business and moved to Illinois, near Greenup. There he opened a pharmacy and practiced medicine.

It is unknown when Michael's second wife died, but he was married for a third time to **Elizabeth Jane Westall** [1827-1892] in
(continued on page 8)

Ruffner Pioneers of Ohio (from page 7)

Cumberland County, Illinois. There were no children from his first marriage. The children of Michael and his second wife Sara were: **Mary, Matilda and Catherine** and possibly more. Michael and his third wife, Elizabeth had four children: **Hiram, Eliza Ellen, Laura Belle** and their last, **Abraham Lincoln**, who was born when Michael was 65 years old. It is said he was named for President Lincoln, who was Michael's good friend. Michael is buried near Casey, Illinois.

There is no record of when **Abraham [1791-1867], Benjamin and Elizabeth {Heistand} Ruffner's** third son, migrated to Ohio. There is also no record of his ever being married. He is buried next to his mother in the Ruffner-Friend Cemetery. So with Abraham, we conclude our sketch of Benjamin Sr's children in Ohio. It is interesting to note that eight of the thirteen went forward to become "Pioneers of Ohio."

Eve (Ruffner) Wood [1777-1821], the daughter of **Joseph Ruffner and Ann Heistand** of Kanawha County, Virginia was also an early Ohio pioneer. She married **Nehemiah Wood, Jr. [1770-1824]** in Page County, Virginia, where he served as a member of the Virginia Legislature.

The family moved to Gallia County, Ohio in 1805, and settled in Raccoon Township. Their property encompassed 1500 acres, just south of the town of Rio Grande. The tract is now owned by Bob Evans of "restaurant" fame. The lovely brick home they started, which was completed by their sons, was featured in *RR&R, Vol. 4, Issue #3, September 2001*.

Nehemiah was the first postmaster of the Township at Wood's Mills (now Adamsville). In addition to being a postmaster and farmer, Nehemiah operated a saw mill and a grist mill.

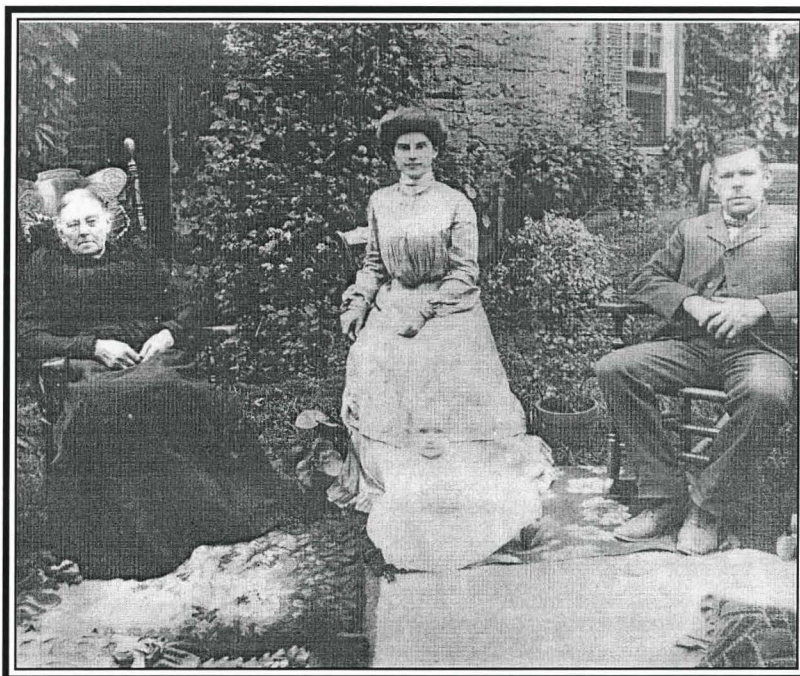
Eve and Nehemiah had eight sons: **Noah, Harrison, William M., Charles G., Joseph, Luther David, James Perry and Lewis N.** After Eve's death in 1821, Nehemiah married M. June Daugherty, by whom he had two daughters.

Eve and Nehemiah are buried in Watson Cemetery which lies high on a hill at the farm.

As late as 1862, when the property was owned by Eve and Nehemiah's son, Harrison, the Wood House served as a stagecoach stop.

We will not repeat the story of the migration of **Emanuel and Magdalene (Grove) Ruffner** to Ohio in this issue. It has been well covered in past issues. We will only add that approximately 20% of our Ruffner contacts are residents of Ohio, who continue to preserve and enhance the family legacy in the nation's 17th state.

(Sources: *Peter Ruffner & His Descendants, Olive Taylor Ruffner & Doris Laver Ruffner, 1966 and Pioneer Period and Pioneer People, Wiseman, 1901*)

Four Generations of Fairfield County, Ohio

Pictured above, left to right, are **Elizabeth (Ruffner) Friend, Gertrude (Friend) Geiger** with her daughter **Meriam Geiger** seated on the ground before her and **Joachim Friend**, Elizabeth's son and Gertrude's father (photo taken in 1903)

Elizabeth (Ruffner) Friend [1824-1910], was the daughter of **Joseph and Ronda (Davis) Ruffner** and granddaughter of **Emanuel Ruffner**. She married **John Friend** on July 4, 1847. They had five children: **Joachim W., Maybell, Alice, Jennie and Jefferson H. Friend**. Elizabeth's sister, **Mary Ann**, married John's brother, **William Friend**. Elizabeth and John are buried in the Ruffner-Friend Cemetery at the Ruffner-Rowles farm.

Joachim W. Friend [1852-1934], Elizabeth and John's son, married **Sophia Furry [1859-1924]** on June 10, 1880. They had four children: **Gertrude M., John F., Harold** (who died at age 6) and an infant who died in 1892.

Gertrude M. (Friend) Geiger [1881-1965], Joachim and Sophia's daughter, married **Edward H. Geiger [1878-1949]** on October 2, 1901. They had five children: **Meriam**, born September 15, 1902, shown in the picture above; **Carol, John Herbert, Richard** (who died at birth) and **Marcella (Marcille)**. Gertrude is buried at the Methodist Cemetery in New Salem, Ohio.

Meriam (Geiger) Thomen married **Raymond Thomen** in 1926. They had one son, **Wallace**.

On September 11, 1909, Elizabeth and her sister, Mary Ann gathered together their Ruffner kin for a reunion on the land their grandfather Emanuel had settled nearly 100 years earlier. There was a large turnout and the elderly sisters were delighted. Mary Ann died just 50 days after the event at the age of 90. Elizabeth passed away just six months later at the age of 84.

*Editor's Note: Our thanks to **Roberta Ruffner Kirwin** for sending this photo to share with our readers.*



Query ~

This photo has been identified as a **Barr Family Reunion**. The Barr family connection to the Ruffners springs from Elizabeth (Ruffner) and John Friend (see page 8 of this issue). Their oldest daughter, Maybell [1857-1941] married Jacob Barr, Jr. on September 16, 1875. Maybell and Jacob had four daughters: Nettie A. [1876-?], who married Aubrey E. Leith [1876-1964], the son of Leslie W. Leith and Rebecca C. McNaghten, on January 23, 1901; Stella [1879-?], who married Homer Wyker, a physician, in 1911; Blanche [1882-?], who married William Winegarner, a mortician, in 1905, and Nellie [1884-?], who married Otto L. Sims [1887-1964], a veterinarian, auctioneer and member of the Ohio House of Representatives, in 1915. Are you familiar with this photo? Can you identify anyone in it?

Please send your responses to:
Ruffner Roots & Ramblings
120 Rita Court
Columbus, OH 43213
<Jokereid@aol.com>

Editor's Note: This photo was sent to us by Roberta Ruffner Kirwin. She and the editors of this newsletter are hoping the people in this wonderful old photo can be identified and included in the update of the Ruffner Family history. **Do you have a query? See page 12**

Answer to Where Is It? What Is It? - from page 4

You guessed right if you said it was the **Harmon-George House on Three Springs Farm**. It is historically significant because it is the oldest house in **Fairfield County, Ohio**. It was built in 1802, by Frederick Harmon (Harman), who came to Ohio from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania in 1800, with seven other families. They migrated on a flat boat from the Monongahela River of Pennsylvania to the mouth of the Scioto River in Ohio, where the boat was abandoned. With two or three wagons loaded with their household goods and farming implements, the party followed the Scioto River. The members of the party walked most of the way, cutting a road to the Pickaway Plains above Chillicothe. From that point, they journeyed forward three more days to reach their destination, which came to be known as Harmon Settlement. One year earlier in 1799, Frederick, with several others, had traveled to Fairfield County. Frederick claimed 640 acres. The men built several small cabins before returning to Pennsylvania for their families. Unfortunately, Frederick's horse was stolen by the Indians and he had to walk all the way back to Westmoreland County.

What is particularly unusual about this log house is that it stands two-and-one half stories. The usual log structures of the 1800s were crude one story buildings. It is thought it was built to serve as a lookout for Indians. The rooms in both stories are about 8-1/2 feet high and the logs rise another 3 feet above the attic floor. The rafters are hewed and the floor joists are whole logs hewed flat, top and bottom. Originally, the house just had an outside stairway to reach the second floor. There were eight rooms in the original log structure. Walnut siding over the logs and three additional rooms were added over 150 years ago. The partitions between the rooms are cherry boards. A polished hewed walnut log, 38 feet long and about one foot square, goes through the middle of the house and braces the second floor. There is no evidence that the house ever contained a fireplace. It can only be surmised that the cooking chores in the early days were performed in another building. The interior partitions of the house are made of solid wild cherry boards. The floor boards on the first floor are made of oak and random width. Upstairs, they are painted, but also random width, ranging from 12 to 16 inches with beaded edges.

The farm derived its name from the three springs on the property. Two are located near the spring house, and the other in the barnyard. A short distance from the house was a small grist mill powered by a small stream fed in part by the three springs.

There was a large two story spring house located just below the house which burned down many years ago. It had a large room upstairs in which school was taught in 1815. Church services were also held in the same room by the United Brethren. In those days, spring houses were often large enough for all the cooking, eating and family living. Since the main house was unheated, perhaps, in the early days, it was just used for sleeping during the winter months.

The house has been continuously occupied by descendants of Frederick Harmon for 201 years. After Frederick came his son and daughter-in-law, John P. Harmon, Sr. and Eliza (Hottel) Harmon. Now we come to the "**Ruffner connection**" to the home with its next occupants. **Rebecca Ruffner**, daughter of Jonas Ruffner and Susanna Rhodes, and great-granddaughter of Emanuel Ruffner (the pioneer), married John P. Harmon, Jr. on September 12, 1878. The house eventually passed to their daughter, Fannie (Harmon) George. Thus, from Fannie to the present day, the Harmon-George House has been occupied by descendants of John and Rebecca.

Another historical aspect of the Harmon property is that Zane's Trace ran through it. Portions of the trace are still visible and maintained by the current owners.

Words from the Past

From the Window Peeper
by Hy C. Ruffner
Lancaster (Ohio) Gazette
January 27, 1934

THREE WEEKS OF SUNSHINE - Now comes the definite assurance that the Fairfield contingent of the Salvation Army will begin a three-weeks session of mid-winter camp meeting in the old Syndicate store room next door to the Hippodrome Theatre next Tuesday night, January 30.

This is real good news. It means nearly a month of the good old songs and music that have done so much to bring renewed hope and cheer to the hearts of unnumbered multitudes. It is a frank unspoken testimonial of the deep-rooted faith in the Rock of Ages. It will bring together people in all walks of life who will meet unashamed in a winter demonstration of faith in the Light that never dims and the Hand that never fails.

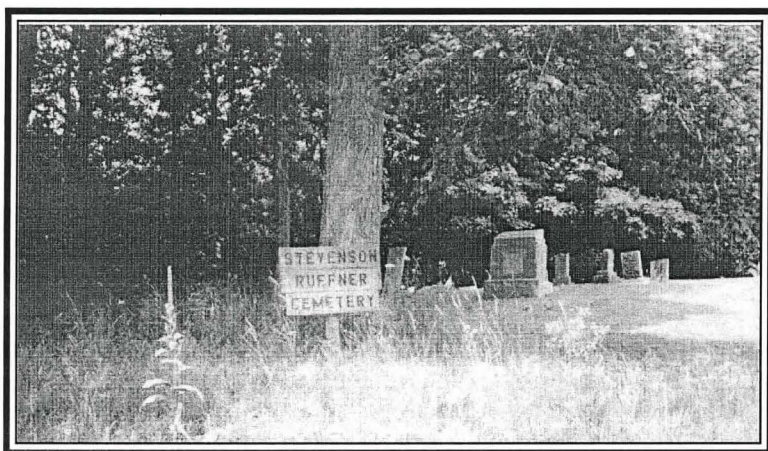
Camp meeting is an institution that dates back for more than a thousand years. Fairfield county has always been blessed with this type of religious and social service. Back in pioneer days, people came in ox carts and on horse-back for many miles to have a part in the great outdoor religious gatherings at the old camp grounds now marked only by the Ruffner-Stevenson burial ground two miles north of West Rushville.

Another famous camp ground back in those horse and buggy days was the one south of Baltimore and west of Pleasantville. Great throngs of people came there each summer to attend the meetings made famous by gospel oratory and revival songs. Still another camp ground is located at Stoutsville where annual gatherings are still held and each year sees a tented village enliven the grove.

The famous old Lancaster Camp Ground west of the city has brought thousands of people together for 75 years. Not only the leading spiritual exhorters have graced the platform in the big auditorium, but presidents, statesmen and national men and women of affairs have spoken there.

This will be the third annual mid-winter camp meeting sponsored in Lancaster by the Salvation Army. Captain Bob Atkinson originated this custom locally and the interest each year has grown. This year, Captain Ruth Stevenson and Envoy Janice Mast are planning to make the event bigger and better than ever.

"Brighten The Corner Where You Are!" "Let The Lower Lights Be Burning!" "When The Roll is Called Up Yonder" - Let's go to camp meeting!



Sign referred to in paragraph 3 of the column above.
See page 11 of this issue for more on this location.

KINSMAN

*Alas, my elusive kinsman
You've led me quite a chase
I thought I'd found your courthouse
But the Yankees burned the place.*

*You always kept your bags packed
Although you had no fame, and
Just for the fun of it
Twice you changed your name.*

*You never owed any man, or
At least I found no bills
In spite of eleven offspring
You never left a will.*

*They say our name's from Europe
Came state side on a ship
Either they lost the passenger list
Or granddad gave them the slip.*

*I'm the only one that's looking
Another searcher I can't find
I play (maybe that's his father's name)
As I go out of my mind.*

*They said you had a headstone
In a shady plot
I've been there twenty times, and
Can't even find the lot.*

*You never wrote a letter
Your Bible we can't find
It's probably in some attic
Out of sight and out of mind.*

*You first married a.....Smith
And just to set the tone
The other four were Sarahs
And everyone a Jones.*

*You cost me two fortunes
One of which I did not have
My wife, my house and Fido
God, how I miss that yellow lab.*

*But somewhere you slipped up,
Ole Boy, Somewhere you left a track
And if I don't find you this year
Well.....Next year I'll be back.*

~ Original Poem by Wayne Hand, 1999

Stevenson-Ruffner Cemetery

The Stevenson-Ruffner Cemetery referred to in *Words from the Past* on page 10 was part of the 693 acres Emanuel purchased in 1803, in Richland Township, Fairfield County, Ohio. The transaction was duly processed and recorded at the Land Office of Chillicothe, Ohio.

The tract was bisected by Gun Barrel Road (see editor's notes below), laying just south of Little Rush Creek and extending south to about a mile north of West Rushville. The cemetery is located at the intersection of Richland and Snake Road Roads.

The only connection we have found between the Ruffner and the Stevenson families is that both families were among the original settlers of Richland Township, and they were close neighbors. Daniel Stevenson and his family migrated from Maryland. They arrived in Fairfield County in 1803. They were Methodists and Daniel gave land for construction of the first Methodist church in the county, Richland Chapel. It was a hewed log structure and stood near the old graveyard, in sight of the home of Daniel Stevenson, not far from the Wilson's (Emanuel later purchased an additional 202 acres from Mr. Wilson). Daniel entertained Bishop Asbury on one or two of his visits to Fairfield County, and it was on his land where Asbury conducted the first camp meeting held in the county. (Source: *Pioneer Period and Pioneer People*, Wiseman, 1901.)

The quaint Stevenson-Ruffner Cemetery, located on a knoll surrounded by mature trees, is the final resting place for Jacob Ruffner and many of his children. Jacob was the oldest son of Emanuel & Magdalene (Grove) Ruffner and the grandson of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. Among the graves are:

Jacob Ruffner [1781-1839] and his wife, Magdalene (Bibler) Ruffner [1788-1848]; Anna (Ruffner) Crist [1809-?]; Jonas Ruffner [1811-1881] and his wife Susanna (Rhodes) Ruffner [1818-1886]; Isaac Ruffner [1816-1879] and his wife Christena (Stuart) Ruffner [1827-1903]; Rebecca (Ruffner) Smutz [1818-1890] and her husband, Samuel Smutz [1823-1912]; Rebecca [Smutz] Johnson [1856-1937] and her husband John Johnson [1856-1937]; Mary (Ruffner) Henthorn [1830-1853]; John Ruffner [1820-1820]; Joshua Ruffner [1821-1841]; Lewis Ruffner [1826-1827/29]; Sarah Ruffner [1828-1829]; Jacob M. Ruffner [1840-1864], killed at Atlanta in the Civil War; Joseph A. Ruffner [1838-1921] and his first wife, Mary Stith [1836-1900], and Isaac Newton Ruffner [1862-1863].

Editor's Note: In 1834, a road was laid out to connect the Foresman's Mill on the bank of Rush Creek, north of the Rushvilles, with the state road. It began at the east end of Rush Creek bridge and followed the bottomland north along the east side of Rush Creek, abutting the farms of Jacob Ruffner and Caleb Copeland (Coplin). To lay out this road, Simon Hartman and Daniel Dudrick served as chairmen, Jonas Ruffner was the marker and Earl Giffner, the surveyor. In 1861, the road was extended farther north, following the east bank, more or less, of Indian Creek. It is now designated as Richland Township Road 413, but was known to many older residents of Fairfield County as Gun Barrel Road because of its many crooks and turns. It may have been likened to the bore of the hunting rifles used by the early settlers of Fairfield County.

(Source: *Looking Into The Gun Barrel, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*, Charles Goslin)

In Memoriam



ROSE MARY (DONAWORTH) RUFFNER, age 70, December 19, 2002, Cincinnati, Ohio. Rose Mary is survived by her husband, Ernest Howard Ruffner, III; three sons, David A. (Sue) Ruffner, Daniel E. Ruffner and Andrew H. Ruffner, and niece Donna (Bill) Dowdney.

Rose Mary's husband, Ernest Howard Ruffner, III, is a great-grandson of Ernest Howard Ruffner (see pages 3 and 4 of this issue). Rose Mary's son, Daniel E., is the creator of the Ruffner Family WebSite.

NEVA RUFFNER WOODALL (desc. Benjamin), 92, February 12, 2003, Lake Placid, Florida.

Neva was the daughter of Edward White and Macy (Anderson) Ruffner and the granddaughter of Harrison N. and Catherine (White) Ruffner (see page 7 of this issue).

Burial took place at Oakridge Cemetery in Effingham, Illinois.

Births

KAILA PIMENTEL BROWN, born at 6:42 pm on Sunday, November 24, 2002, a healthy baby girl weighing 7 lbs., 8 oz., 19-3/4 inches long. She is the daughter of Elna and Brian Brown (desc. Peter, Jr.).



Welcome, precious little child, so fresh from God above.

*May angels guide your tiny feet and bring you smiles to wear,
and may our Heavenly Father always keep you in his care.*

Sent by proud grandparents ~

Donna & Bob Brown of Great Falls, VA

In Search of Spring

Dr James A. Putney [1816-1876], the son of Dr. Richard Ellis Putney and Anne (Ruffner) Putney and grandson of Colonel David Ruffner, was a true nature lover as evidenced by notes in the journals he kept. This is an excerpt from 1847, regarding the notice of birds and the times at which they were seen.

January 25 - King Fisher and Blue Bird and various kinds of Sapsuckers - also heard the Log Cock, the Crow, Jay Bird, Tom Tit, Red Bird, Snow Bird, varieties of Hawks - Pigeons - Pheasants.

February 13th - Large Yellowhammer - Woodpecker - Snowbird, Crow - heard the Salmon colored tree frog today.

March 5th - Saw the Swamp Black Bird for the first time this year. (Also a large Butterfly.) Flushed a Woodcock on top of the mountains.



**ALTERNATIVE LODGING
2003 RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

HOTELS/MOTELS

- Comfort Inn**
1290 White Spar (800) 889-9774
- Days Inn**
7875 E. Hwy 69 (800) 329-7466
- Hampton Inn of Prescott**
3453 Ranch Dr. (800) 528-1234
- Holiday Inn Express**
3454 Ranch Dr (800) 465-4329
- Motel 6**
1111 E. Sheldon (800) 466-8357
- Super 8 Motel**
1105 E. Sheldon (800) 800-8000

BED & BREAKFASTS

- Briar Wreath Inn**
232 S. Arizona Ave. (928) 778-6048
- Pleasant Street Inn**
142 S. Pleasant St. (877) 226-7128

CAMPGROUNDS/RV PARKS

- Point of Rocks Campground**
4 Mi North on Hwy 89 (928) 445-9018
- Prescott Gardens Mobile Home Park**
510 Copper Basin Rd. (928) 445-5882
- Willow Lake RV & Camping**
1617 Heritage Park Rd. (928) 445-6311

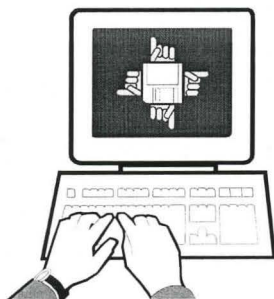
For additional Lodging Information, check the Prescott Area Lodging Association - <www.prescott-lodging.org>

For additional area information, check the Prescott Chamber of Commerce - <www.prescott.org>; call (800) 266-7534 or email: chamber@prescott.org.

**The Ruffner
Family WebSite**

Your guide to family history, past reunions & meetings, current events including the 2003 Ruffner Family Reunion and forms for the Ruffner Family Association.

Check it out today ~
www.ruffnerfamily.org



DO YOU HAVE A QUERY?

We'll be happy to publish it. Please include all possible information including all known names and dates. Send with your name, mailing and email addresses to: Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, 120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213 or email to <Jokereid@aol.com>. Thank you!

The Editor's Desk ~

Nourishing the Minds and Souls

The matters of education and religion were important aspects of pioneer life. Provisions were made in each area of settlement so this vital part of their existence would not fall by the wayside. I would imagine practically every one of us could count a preacher or a teacher among our ancestors.

In the early days, a single structure might serve as church and school as evidenced by the old spring house on the Harmon property (page 9). Sometimes, the minister would also serve as the settlement's teacher. Of course, school was usually just conducted during three or four winter months. The youngsters could not be spared from farm and household chores in the warmer months. Although the curriculum in those days was limited - reading, writing and arithmetic, it is said the early teachers were devoted to their work and the children eager to learn. So despite its short duration and its limitation, the pioneer children may have fared better in their education than we might realize.

Concern for the religious side of life was first and foremost among the early settlers. Crude buildings for worship were erected so this phase of their lives could continue in the wilderness. On page 11 of this issue, you read that Daniel Stevenson donated land so a Methodist church could be built. It was the same with our family of pioneers who came from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Many of them were Primitive Baptists and they helped establish the Pleasant Run Primitive Baptist Congregation in the early 1800s in Fairfield County. This congregation is still in existence today.

Outdoor revival meetings, as mentioned on page 10 of this issue, were common in the early pioneer days. I don't know whether the tradition goes back 1000 years as Hy C. states, however it could have started in Europe. It is said these meetings resulted in many conversions and great improvements in pioneer life.

With the rigors and dangers the early pioneers faced in their day-to-day lives, the comfort of education and religion was something they refused to sacrifice. So no matter how difficult, they persevered to provide the means to supply their minds and souls with these nourishments.

Looking back with admiration & looking forward with hope,
Cousin Joan

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Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2003.
We could use some news, articles and photos -
so please send to Ruffner Roots & Ramblings
at the address shown on this page.
Thank you!