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Ruffner Family Association

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RUFFNER ROOTS & RAMBLINGS

Volume 6, Issue #3

September 2003

A Message from our new President

Greetings from the southwest corner of Ohio! I am honored to be serving as the second president of the Ruffner Family Association. First, I would like to express my respect and appreciation for the work that **Sam McNeely** did as president during the formative years of this organization. We are all in his debt for the leadership and devotion he gave to the RFA. I am happy to say that Sam will continue to have a significant impact on the Association by serving in his new capacity as Treasurer and Chief Operating Officer.

What a wonderful reunion we had in Prescott, Arizona this year. For those who attended it was a chance to meet up with old friends, make new ones, visit a beautiful part of the country, and learn more about the Ruffners who made their way west. As with previous reunions, I have continued to reminisce throughout the summer about this experience.

The Ruffner Family Association Board of Directors also met during the reunion and were able to discuss many important items pertinent to the future of our organization. We came away with renewed interest in our current projects and ideas, as well as a better understanding of where we need to focus our energy. Some items I would like to specifically mention to the Ruffner Family Association membership are:

- **The 2004 meeting of the Ruffner Family Association Board of Directors** - The Board will meet next in Cincinnati, Ohio next summer. Much more information on this meeting will be published in future months and I want to remind the membership that all Board meetings of the Association are always open to all RFA members.
- **The 2005 Ruffner Family Association Reunion** - The next RFA reunion will be held in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. This was the original destination of Peter Ruffner and where he met his wife, Mary Steinman.
- **The publication of an update to *Peter Ruffner and His Descendants*** - This project has resulted in the receipt of a large amount of data which is still being compiled. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR FAMILY DATA IS 11/30/2003.** We are in the midst of discussion about the final publication of this book. It is no small undertaking and there is still much work to do. Watch for publication status updates in upcoming issues of this newsletter and the Ruffner Family Association website.

The success of the Ruffner Family Association and its projects are the result of volunteer efforts by an active membership. There are many opportunities to serve and we are always looking for those interested in contributing some of their time to the Association. Right now we have some specific needs in the following areas:

- **The Reunion Committee** - Organizing a reunion is a daunting task for any one individual. Therefore, the Ruffner Family Association is seeking a permanent committee to work through the details and planning of our biennial family reunions. We need three or four additional people to serve on this committee. Right now Joe Ruffner, Bob Sheets and Joan Reid are serving, but they need your help. This is a very important way for you to serve the Association. These positions are for those who want to see the Association continue to grow and have an impact on our younger generations.
- **The Publications Committee** - As I mentioned before, there is still much work ahead of us to complete publication of our extensive family genealogy. We are seeking volunteers willing to help review, write and be part of a group which will see the publication through to its completion. We owe much of the Association's very existence to the work which Doris Laver Ruffner and Olive Taylor Ruffner did almost 40 years ago. Our goal is to update and expand their extensive work into an up-to-date documentation of the Ruffner Family history and provide information for future generations.
- **The Ruffner Family Association as a non-profit organization and the Ruffner Endowment Fund** - **Elisabeth Ruffner** has done much research into the intricacies involved in our Association becoming a non-profit organization. This will become even more important as we work through projects, such as the publication. **Joe Ruffner** has done extensive work crafting an outline and vision for the Ruffner Endowment Fund. An endowment fund, with a board, would allow our Association to have a dedicated group to oversee the financial decisions we need to make concerning those projects and concerns that meet our defined criteria and mission. We are at a point now where I would like to see the Ruffner Family Association move forward with these items. **For the non-profit role**, we are looking for someone who

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RFA Board Meeting Report

On June 21, 2003, President **Sam McNeely** welcomed RFA members to the board meeting at St. Michael's Hotel, the reunion headquarters, in Prescott, AZ. **Phyllis Hershock** provided the minutes from the previous meeting of June 2002, in Malden, WV.

Nancy Lee Shifflett presented the treasurer's report stating the Association currently has assets totaling \$10,485.59 and liabilities of \$4,245, resulting in an equity of \$6,240.59. She said this year's membership stands at 139, including 3 life members and 13 new members in 2003. This is a drop from last year's membership of 145. **Sara Lytle** will now head our membership efforts, which will follow a June-to-June year.

Joan Reid requested help in her work with *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*. It was suggested that an assistant editor, as well as local reporters, be recruited to aid in this quarterly undertaking.

Many aspects of the family genealogy publication project were discussed. After extensive time and effort, **Pam & Mark Flasch** have prepared the first part, a 400-page document for the 2500 people identified in the Peter Jr. line, from surveys and personal interviews. Challenges beyond entering the great quantity of information into the computer include survey forms completed in different ways, incomplete information and material not yet received from some branch editors. The discussion also covered concerns about leadership of the project, gathering data from family members who have not filled out survey forms, and a time line leading to a publishing date. November 30, 2003, was set as the absolute deadline for accepting new information.

Sam McNeely expressed a need for a more substantial fence around the Ruffner family monument in Luray.

Faith Leahy asked the board how she could petition the membership for support of her mother's running in a Marine Corps Marathon to benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society research. It was suggested that a request be printed in the next RR&R.

The report of the nominating committee was presented and approved. Those nominated and elected were **K. Daniel Ruffner** (OH), president; **Phyllis Hershock** (PA), secretary, and **Sam McNeely** (VA), treasurer & chief operating officer. Present board members were reelected with the addition of **Pam Flasch** (VA), **Robert Brown** (VA), **Donald Ruffner** (IL), **Doug Ruffner** (OK) and **Betty Gaeng** (WA).

Future family reunions were discussed with the selection of Lancaster, PA as the location for the 2005 gathering. A standing committee of three was identified who will develop plans for these upcoming events in coordination with family members close to the chosen site. Also mentioned was Estes Park, CO for the 2007 reunion which will need a 3-year advance reservation.

The next board meeting will be in Cincinnati, OH in 2004.
 ~ Respectfully submitted, **Phyllis Hershock**, RFA Secretary

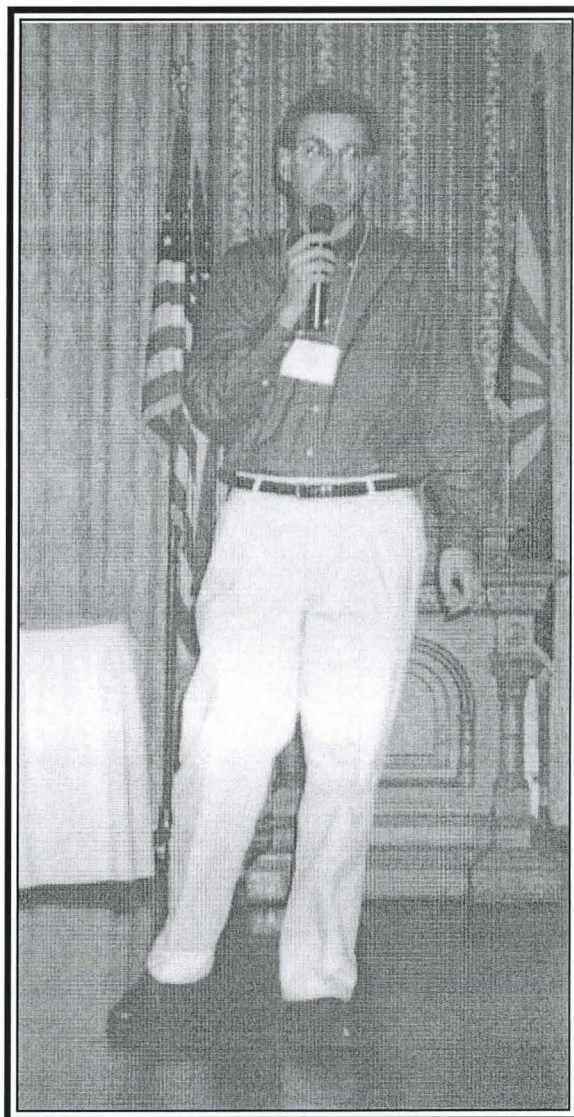
President's Message (continued from page 1)

would be able to maintain our official forms and keep us in compliance. **For the Endowment Fund board**, we are looking for people who are interested in the proper review and determination of how the financial resources are applied.

I would love to hear from you. **If you have an interest in participating in one of more of our initiatives, please contact me.** If you would like more information before deciding, let me know. Remember, you will not be alone. In each of these positions, you will have peers and advisors. You can reach me by e-mail, letter or telephone. **These opportunities will allow you to play a key role in the future of the Ruffner Family Association.**

Dan Ruffner

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New RFA President Dan Ruffner at 2003 Reunion in Prescott, AZ - June 21.

Tax Exemption Status for RFA

by Elisabeth F. Ruffner, Prescott, AZ

A nation learns about the past through the eyes and ears of the descendants of the founding families. The Ruffner Family Association has made a salutary beginning in accumulating the records of one line of America's forebears, celebrating their presence in various places around the country, and resolving to continue to enhance the joy of meeting and sharing with new cousins, worldwide. Excellent founding documents for the Ruffner Family Association have been filed in the form of incorporation in the State of Colorado, by-laws, and a mission statement as follows:

The following statement of purpose was drafted and adopted in assembly at Luray, Virginia, June 7, 1997, by attendees at the Ruffner Family Reunion. As their purpose to organize and incorporate a not-for-profit association was realized at the 1999 Ruffner Family Reunion in Lancaster, Ohio, the Statement of Purpose was altered to fit the now existing association. "The descendants of Peter Ruffner and Mary (Steinman) Ruffner, who made their first homestead in Page County, Virginia, near the Hawksbill Creek of the Great Shenandoah in 1739, have declared their intent to support an association of members who will research and preserve their common heritage through the collection of artifacts and documents which form the basis for knowledge and appreciation of the historic role played by the Ruffner Descendants and their collateral lines, in the settlement and development of the American frontier."

Further, the association has informally discussed the inclusion of an endowment to fund scholarships in archival practice, to protect and maintain material evidence of the past, such as burial grounds, residences, commercial buildings and sites of local, state and national significance. The fund has been suggested as a method of identification of private collections, identification of archival materials already in various forms and repositories, and the creation of a central repository for permanent curation at a college or university.

Achieving tax exempt status for the association is the natural next step for a variety of reasons, mainly to avoid the obligation of payment of income taxes by the association, and to give donors the privilege of making a tax-exempt gift to the association. This could include contemporary monetary contributions as well as estate planning to benefit the association as well as the family of donors. There are also a number of opportunities for grants to tax exempt organizations in the charters of local, state and national private and public entities, such as for an archival directory of national resources related to the family, a how-to publication for placing a family resource in a publically accessible archive and/or museum.

For the past several years, as a board member of the association, and now as a trustee of the as-yet-to be formed endowment, I have gathered information relevant to filing for tax-exemption with the Internal Revenue Service (this will be my sixth successful application for non-profit, tax-exempt status for two statewide and four local organizations). A number of cousins, primarily Bob Sheets and Joe Ruffner, have provided the work and documentation on the formation and incorporation of the association and on the creation of the endowment. Remaining to be accomplished is the collection of the information the IRS requires to be submitted, including the detailed financial records, and descriptions of not only our work to date, but anticipated activities of the corporation.

We've come a long way since that first "two-family" gathering in Mason, Illinois in 1991, and the future is bright with the promise of more fiscal organization and receipt of tax exempt status so that the association can accumulate the funds for publishing, archiving and granting scholarships. **Let's go!**

Ruffner Family Association

Luray, Virginia

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 Phyllis Herschok, Secretary Pennsylvania
 Sam McNeely, Treas. & Chief Operating Officer Virginia

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 Jane Munro Webber Colorado

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Chartered and incorporated in 1999, to support an association of members who will research and preserve their common heritage through the collection of artifacts and documents which form the basis for knowledge and appreciation of the historic role played by the Ruffner Descendants and their collateral lines in the settlement and development of the American Frontier.

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Remembering a Grand Reunion

Prescott Arizona won't soon forget the reunion of the Ruffner family in June 2003! Fourteen states were represented with 16 attending from Illinois, 9 from Ohio, 8 each from Arizona, California & Florida, 6 each from Colorado & Virginia, 3 each from Pennsylvania & Washington; 2 each from Idaho, New Mexico & Oklahoma, and one each from Connecticut & South Carolina.

On Friday morning, as cousins began arriving at the historic Hotel St. Michael on Prescott's tree shaded Courthouse Plaza, new friendships were forged, and old ones renewed. We visited Sharlot Hall Museum (founded by the first female to hold public office in the Arizona Territory, and close friend of several Ruffner generations) where we were welcomed by director **Richard Sims**. The archival staff, especially **Lorri Carlson**, assisted in the preparation of a spiral bound print-out of all the reference cards relating to Ruffner archival material in the collection. Senior Curator **Norm Tessman** displayed and allowed us to photograph historic Ruffner artifacts, including the bridle and martingale presented to George Ruffner on the occasion of his being the first man on record in the Arizona Territory to bulldog a steer. This leaping off a running horse to bring a horned critter to the ground soon became a scheduled event at the world's oldest rodeo, which George helped organize.

Mary Ward Ruffner, wife of Lester, and the first public school music teacher in the territory, and Mary (Mollie) Birchett Ruffner, wife of Sheriff George Ruffner, are memorialized in the museum rose garden along with other women who have lived in the Arizona Territory, which became a state in 1912.

In the afternoon, we gathered in the beautiful St. Michael Hotel ballroom to hear presentations on our Ruffner ancestors. **Elisabeth Ruffner** presented a slide lecture titled, "Catherine White and Harrison Newton Ruffner and their Descendants in the West;" **Melissa Ruffner** spoke on Morris Andrew Ruffner and **Jim Lockwood**, a member of the Arizona Rangers who study lawmen and outlaws of the territory, gave an illustrated lecture on George C. Ruffner. These presentations were followed by the first of two auctions of items donated by Ruffner cousins - the proceeds of which go to the Ruffner Family Association for special projects.

Saturday morning, the Ruffner Family Association held the first of two very productive meetings. Reports and discussion on various issues are covered by our new president, **K. Daniel Ruffner**, and our secretary, **Phyllis Hershock**, in this issue. One of the most exciting developments was the founding of the Ruffner Youth Board. Kudos to **Ann Ruffner** (OH) and **Doug Ruffner** (OK). Stay tuned for reports of activities of our younger cousins!

Many Ruffners used their reunion booklet to take the self-guided walking/driving tour of Ruffner historic sites. Later Melissa guided a walking tour of Prescott's downtown assisted by her granddaughter **Faith Leahy** (CT). The tour concluded at the site of an historic plaque marking the site of the Ruffner Plaza Stables funded jointly by the City of Prescott and the Ruffner Family Association. **Mayor Rowle Simmons** and **City Councilman Robert Behnke** welcomed the group to Prescott.



Melissa Ruffner and her granddaughter, Faith Leahy, with the historic plaque marking the site of the Ruffner Plaza Stables.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PLAQUE WHICH CONTAINS AN ETCHED PHOTO OF THE STABLES AND A LEGEND ABOUT SHERIFF GEORGE RUFFNER MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MELISSA RUFFNER, PO BOX 2577, PRESCOTT 86302. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO RUFFNER FAMILY REUNION ~ \$6.00 FOR 5X7 AND \$8 FOR 8X10 ~ S&H INCLUDED.

The gala banquet and association annual meeting began with an elegant dinner at the St. Michael ballroom where we welcomed new president Dan, after thanking outgoing president **Sam McNeely**. After dessert, we were entertained by the Granite Creek Band and a dance caller who had most of us on the floor for the better part of three hours. Cousin **Virginia Rigg**, age 99, was seen tapping her feet and everyone had a ball!

The closing activities on Sunday included an authentic cowboy chuckwagon lunch plus family group photos taken with the latest technology allowing us to view them and order on the spot. The second auction was conducted by Melissa, ably assisted by **Gary Ruffner**, resulting in a grand total of \$1041 paid by our generous family members.

Many, many thanks to all who helped with every aspect of planning and production of this memorable gathering. Wouldn't our forebears be proud to see this large and loving family in action? I can hardly wait to see you all in Mary Steinman's country - Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Ruffner

2003 Ruffner Reunion Chairman

Ruffner Family Association Youth Board of Directors

By Kate Lauren Ruffner, West Chester, Ohio

As I sat under the shade of the rather large and thick oak trees at the wooden picnic table with other Ruffner kids sitting across and beside me, I was quiet in thought. At the Chuckwagon picnic on our last day of the 2003 Prescott Reunion, **Doug Ruffner** and **Ann Hoffman Ruffner** announced the idea of a Board of Directors for the Ruffner kids. Instead of attending the auction, all the kids (age 18 or younger) present who were interested in participating on a youth board, gathered together and started to brainstorm.

The picture shows, left to right, **Doug Ruffner** with **Kylie Ruffner**, **Phillip Vaughn**, **Faith Leahy**, **Jacob Ruffner**, **Jamie Ruffner** and **Kate Ruffner**. Ideas for RFAYB (Ruffner Family Association Youth Board) included planning fun things to do at reunions, designing the Ruffner patches and t-shirts and even getting involved in planning a reunion in the future. The RFAYB purpose is to get the kids involved and excited about the Ruffner genealogy, in order to continue RFA for many generations.

The next Youth Board of Directors meeting will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in conjunction with the Ruffner Family Association Board of Directors meeting in June 2004. Some exciting things proposed at the first official meeting to do in Cincinnati were going to King's Island, visiting the Underground Railroad Museum, or even attending a Red's game at The Great American Ballpark.

If you or your child (if you are over 18 and reading this) are interested in participating in the Ruffner Family Association Youth Board of Directors, please contact Ann Hoffman-Ruffner at ruffnerfamily@cinci.rr.com.



Help Us Dig Up Our Roots



With the selection of Lancaster, PA as the location for our reunion in 2005, we Ruffners are heading back to our roots before Mary and Peter Ruffner settled in Luray, Virginia. The RFA is asking the genealogists among you to share any information you might have discovered about Peter Ruffner, his wife Mary Steinman, and Mary's parents/siblings in Pennsylvania.

While living in Lancaster County, Peter Sr. had married the daughter of Joseph and Fronica Steinman. Records referring to Peter's in-laws use a number of spellings including Stoneman, Stehman, Staneman, Steman, Staman, with Stoneman used quite frequently in referring to Mary's parents. References to this couple and Mary can be found on the Steinman family website.

Nearly three hundred years have passed since the Stoneman couple married and started their family with Mary in 1714. At that time, the area was called Chester County (which is presently located east of Lancaster County, closer to Philadelphia). We see this on records indicating that Joseph Stoneman bought and sold land in Manor and Conestoga Townships - both south of Lancaster City.

Here is an opportunity for you to make a contribution to the reunion planning. Before we select our reunion headquarters by the end of 2003, we need to pinpoint areas with family connections. **Phyl Hershock** lives in York County, due west of Lancaster, and is hoping to take the information you provide and "run with it," or at least head that way in her car. Please email her at: chershock@cyberia.com or send the materials to her home at **2575 Sandy Lane, York, PA 17402**



Support a Ruffner Run!

Her name is **Leila Leahy** and she is the granddaughter of Elisabeth F. Ruffner and the late Lester Ward "Budge" Ruffner (co-founder of the Ruffner Family reunions) of Prescott, AZ. Two years ago, a friend and neighbor of Leila passed away after a long battle with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. In memory of her dear friend, she has signed up to run in the Marine Corps Marathon on October 26, 2003 in Washington, DC to raise money for the leukemia/lymph cancers battle. Leila has been training for months to prepare for this 26.2 mile marathon and she needs your help to reach her goal of raising \$5,000 for this effort. She will be wearing her grandfather's dogtag from World War II as inspiration when she runs this race and will be representing the Ruffner Family at the starting chute.

Your tax deductible contribution can be made to **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Attn: Team In Training, 300 Research Parkway, Suite 310, Meriden, CT 06450 (Phone: 888-282-9465)**. Please note on your contribution that it is to support **TNT Member Leila Leahy for the Marine Corps Marathon**. Thank you!

RR&R Feature Article

Phoebe May Case - A Grandmother Lost*by Betty Lou Gaeng, Arlington, WA*

This story will be different than the usual one appearing in a family newsletter, but it demonstrates the complexities to be found when we undertake the huge task of researching the history of our families. It is a story to show that there is more to learn from our ancestors than just names and statistics. Many led lives that were unusual and far from perfection and greatness. However, our character and the way we lead our own lives is influenced by these ancestors, even though their time in our lives may be brief. This is a story about a woman who has been an enigma to me for many years, and most of all, it is a story about forgiveness.

I have been haunted by the mystery of my maternal grandmother, Phoebe, ever since I began over 18 years ago to research the different branches of my family. She was briefly the daughter-in-law of Martha Carolyn Marye (Ruffner) Tutt, whose story was told in the December 2002 newsletter. During Phoebe's short marriage to Martha's son, she became the mother of his only child, my mother. Without Phoebe, a line of Ruffner descendants would not be here.

Phoebe always lived within a few miles from our family, but we were never allowed to know her. We could have passed on the street while shopping in Seattle, but would not have known each other. Yet, she was the only grandmother my brothers, sister and I had. Our paternal grandmother had died 28 years before I was even born. I only remember seeing my grandmother Phoebe one time, when I was four or five years old. She came to our house, and my mother spoke to her over a gate that remained closed. During this time, my two older brothers and I watched from the distance of the front porch. I have one small photo of Phoebe, taken when she was a very young woman. She had a very sweet face—which seemed to belie the sad life she must have led.

In my quest, I have found many statistical facts about Phoebe, but realize I will never know the personal ones—it is too late. I can only guess as to what her thoughts were, or what happened in her life to influence the decisions she was to make throughout her life.

When I began this project, the only information I had was that my grandmother's name was Phoebe Case, she was from North Dakota, was married to my grandfather, Lee Emerson Tutt, they had a daughter, Marie Virginia Tutt (my mother), and Phoebe had another daughter from a later marriage. As my mother would never speak about Phoebe, I don't even know that she knew much.

Following is a synopsis of the information I have discovered during my difficult research. My grandmother's full name was Phoebe May Case, she was born in New York in February 1879, the daughter of Thomas and Lucy J. Case. She had four brothers, Marcus, George, Fred and John, and three sisters, Fanny and twins, Mable and Myrtal. All of them were born in New York except John and the twins. Phoebe's mother died sometime after 1888, and in 1898, her father remarried.

In 1895, shortly after her 16th birthday, Phoebe married William U. Grant and they lived on his farm in Benson County, North Dakota. Two children were born during this marriage, Harold Burton and Hazel Blanch. Phoebe and William were divorced in 1898 and custody of the two children was awarded to William.

On 20 November 1901 in Spokane, Washington, Phoebe and my grandfather were married. They lived in Great Falls, Montana, but moved to Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada, where my grandfather worked for the Grand Forks Gazette. It was there that my mother was born on 18 March 1903. In 1907, during a visit in Yakima, Washington to see his mother, Martha, my grandfather accepted a job with the Yakima Herald, and the little family settled there. However, this was a very troubled marriage, and finally in 1910, Lee filed for divorce. After a deluge of claims, counter-claims, and a trial lasting several days, the divorce was granted on 13 June 1910. Custody of their young daughter was given to her paternal grandmother, Martha.

In 2001, during my visit to Yakima, I spent a full day in the county courthouse in front of a microfilm machine perusing and making copies of the huge volume of paperwork concerning this lengthy and contentious divorce, all the time with the thought that what I was reading was very similar to a daytime soap opera on TV. I was really shocked, when I came to the final conclusion papers and learned that my mother, at the very young age of seven was present during this trial. It must have been a very traumatic experience for her, and even though I never heard her speak of it, I can now look back and see the signs of how it influenced her life.

Now, to get back to the statistics regarding Phoebe's life—during the time of the divorce proceedings and after, she was living in Yakima and her 21-year-old sister, Myrtal lived with her. In 1911, Phoebe married for the third time. This time to Richard Samuel Best, her long-time boyfriend. In 1914, the couple moved to Seattle, Washington and their daughter, Sarah, was born. This was again a short marriage, ending in 1917, in yet another divorce. This time, the child remained with Phoebe.

Sometime during the 1920s, Phoebe married for the fourth time—to Jeremiah J. (Jim) Roth. In the 1930s, this marriage also ended with another divorce.

The next, and last time, I have been able to find any written reference to Phoebe, was in 1943 and 1944 when she was working at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle. She was married again—this time to a Robert Best. However, I am almost certain there is another marriage in between which I have not found.

Phoebe must have felt very alone at times, and may have regretted all the mistakes she had made, and all she had lost. She probably never knew what had become of her two children from her first marriage. However, in my research, I learned the family had moved to the interior of Canada. In her last days, knowing she had but a short time to live, she tried again to make peace with my mother. Phoebe must have felt a great need to be forgiven, but forgiveness does not come easily to us, and again the door remained closed. I believe that Sarah, the daughter of Phoebe's third marriage was with her to the end, and for this I am glad.

It is most likely that Phoebe died in the mid-1950s in the Seattle, King County, Washington area, but, even though I have thoroughly checked the Washington State mortality records, I have not found any information on her death. I assume that her name had changed from yet another marriage. However, my search continues in the hope that I will be able to fill in some of the missing years, and discover Phoebe's final resting place. Perhaps, when I do find it, I can finally write "finished," and maybe this granddaughter Phoebe never knew, can even put flowers on her grave—I'll bet she liked roses.

Letters from the Past

Submitted by K. Daniel Ruffner, West Chester, OH

By chance I recently stumbled across a letter that resides in The Library of Virginia Archives which was written by David Ruffner (b. 06/18/1767, d. 02/01/1843) to Col. John Stuart (b. 03/17/1749, d. 08/18/1823) of Greenbrier, dated May 6, 1811. David Ruffner was the grandson of Peter Ruffner and the son of Joseph Ruffner, Sr. David and his brother, Joseph Ruffner, Jr. (b. 02/14/1769, d. 06/10/1837), had been making a name for themselves in salt production in the Kanawha Salines area (now known as Malden, West Virginia). The purpose of this letter was to negotiate the terms of a debt that David or the Ruffner family owed to Col. Stuart. Other business is mentioned at the beginning of the letter, but not much detail is provided.

Who was John Stuart? It turns out he was quite notable and had some importance to the early history of Virginia. He commanded a unit under General Andrew Lewis at the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, which was fought against the Indians. Many officers were killed and John Stuart was given command of a large portion of Lewis' army. Col. William Frogg was killed in the battle leaving behind his widow, Agatha Frogg. Agatha was the sister of John Stuart's commander, General Lewis. John Stuart married Agatha on 11/18/1776. One of their children, Charles Augustus Stuart (b. 04/23/1782) is mentioned in the letter since he had previously corresponded with David Ruffner.

John Stuart was known as someone who had accumulated a large fortune for the time period. That David and Joseph Ruffner, Jr. would have had dealings with him is not surprising. What is interesting is the Ruffners owed a debt to him that could not be easily paid. David assures John Stuart they are good for it and is eager to work out the terms. David mentions he will be going to the Chancery Court in Staunton and will plan on visiting John.

Also on the letter are some interesting notations in the margins, which are not in David's hand. One note mentions that the government is currently paying 6% interest and it appears that this is how John is determining what the Ruffners will pay. Also, on the back of the letter are more notes which seem to indicate the amount of the debt. There is a figure of \$2,309.91, which appears to be the principal. Added to that is a charge of 6% (resulting in notation of \$136.5946). Other markings include the amount of \$11.54, which would be the annual interest amount divided into 12 equal monthly interest payments. Another notation assumes the principal and interest may not be paid and so a new total amount is used as the basis for calculating 6% interest in a second year.

Joseph Ruffner, Jr. is mentioned in the beginning of the letter. David was possibly playing a bigger role in the business at this time. This is only an assumption since we know that Joseph moved to Cincinnati, Ohio the following year, 1812.

This letter is part of archives held at The Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23223. The source of the information pertaining to John Stuart is found in "The History of West Virginia, Old and New" published 1923, The American Historical Society, Inc., Chicago and New York, Volume II, pg. 625-626.

The text of the letter follows. In this translation of the letter, possible words are shown in bold face and Xs for words not legible. ~

Kanawha 6th May 1811

Dear Sir,

I received yours per your son Charles in answer to mine written you formerly.

Joseph Ruffner is now here and he will probably write to your son xx **his** himself therefore think it unnecessary for me to write you on that subject. And as to Brown xxxx land, that price they ask is in my opinion out of the question.

And as to the debt due you from us as I stated to you that it was not in our power to pay it now without making great sacrifices for that purpose. Fortunately for us you have always shown us such a friendly and indulgent disposition otherwise we might have been much injured, but I can **apprise** you that I have not therefore been xxxxx or inattentive to the thing, but have ever had it much at heart. And justice certainly demands of us that we should pay you as much interest as you could make of your money had you it in your hands. And I should justly be charged with the height of ingratitude to withhold from you (had I it my power) such a remuneration as justice demands from me, after the numerous favors I have from time to time received from your hands which I acknowledge with the highest sense of gratitude, and nothing shall be wanting on my part but an opportunity to **requite** them.

I shall go to the next Chancery Court at Staunton when I shall certainly call on you and make such arrangements concerning the debt as you shall require. Should I not be able to leave home early enough xx xxxx my harvest, haymaking xx as to have it in my power to call on you as I go on, I shall most certainly do it as I return from Court. I hope that will not be supposed by you to be putting off the thing to too distant a day. If so I want to come up for the **specific** purpose.

I remain Dear Sir most sincerely
Your very **humble servant**,
David Ruffner



Important Petition to be signed

There is a petition to the Virginia Lawmakers (General Assembly and Senate) proposing legislation on preservation of neglected, abandoned and unlicensed (family) cemeteries in the Commonwealth of Virginia. To review this petition and sign if so desired, go to ~

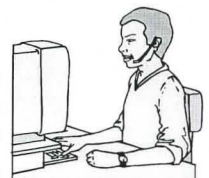
<http://www.petitiononline.com/hnvr2993/petition.html>

Please relay this information to others who may be interested.

Ruffner WebSite Update

We regret that we had insufficient room to publish more photos of the 2003 reunion in this issue, however readers are urged to visit the Ruffner Website - www.ruffnerfamily.org. Reunion photos, in living color, should be posted by the time you receive this issue.

Dan Ruffner advises that our WebSite had 500 visitors in July - a **new high!**



*For the Building of the Kingdom
A Polygamist Family ~
The Saga of Robert & Catherine Ann (Williams) Owens*

This biography was compiled by **Barbara (Brumble) Stoddard** from the stories of Rose Eva (Owens) Jorgensen; research by Lyle Owens and other Edgley & Owens Family Organization members; land records; census records; church records; Temple records; Vital records, and information on Robert Owens' mission from the Historical Department of the LDS Church. The story was sent to RR&R by **Andrea Lee (Hopkins) White** of Idaho, a direct descendent of Robert & Catherine Ann (Williams) Owens. Catherine Ann Williams was the daughter of Esther Ruffner & William Williams; the granddaughter of Samuel & Catherine (Dages) Ruffner and the great-granddaughter of Joseph Ruffner, Sr., son of Peter & Mary (Steinman) Ruffner. She was born in Kanawha County, Virginia in 1819. Samuel & Catherine Ruffner, and their family, migrated to Gallia County, Ohio around 1820. It is unknown whether Esther and William Williams accompanied them. Esther had three brothers: Angus Dages, Elias and Joseph. (Source: *Peter Ruffner and His Descendants*, Doris Laver Ruffner & Olive Taylor Ruffner, 1966, from a letter received from Mrs. Theo Gyllinskog of Smithfield, Utah in 1938.)

On the tenth of July 1818, Robert Owens was born in Dover, Kent County, Delaware. His parents were Margaret Turner and Edmund H. Owens. Robert's brother and sisters were William, Margaret and Elizabeth. The family resided in Caroline County, Maryland near Margaret's family. Margaret and Edmund inherited property there in January 1808, from her father when he died.

In 1826 and 1827, Edmund and Margaret sold their property and in 1828, when Robert was ten, the family moved to Wayne Township, Pickaway County, Ohio. Robert's father died just a couple of years later. A stepbrother, George, joined the family when Margaret remarried.

In 1837, in Franklin County, Ohio, Robert married at the age of nineteen. His young bride was Catherine Ann Williams, the daughter of Esther Ruffner and William Williams from Virginia.

Catherine and Robert had their first child in September 1838. They named him Jerome. He was born in Madison County, Indiana. A daughter, Josephine, was born two years later in Whitt County, Illinois. One and a half years later, Isabelle joined the family in Gallatin County, Illinois. The family moved to McCrackon County, Kentucky.

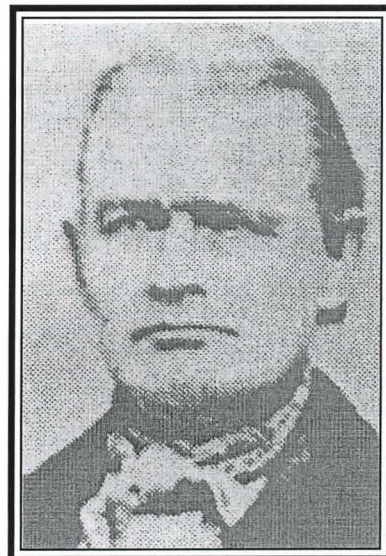
In Kentucky, Catherine and Robert heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints preached and believed it. In March 1844, they had a son. The depth of their testimony is demonstrated in the name they gave their new infant - Nephi, the Book of Mormon Prophet. Six months later, on the twenty-first of September 1844, Robert and Catherine were baptized. They gathered with the saints in Nauvoo in the spring of 1845. They were there when the Nauvoo Temple was completed. Robert and Catherine were both able to receive their endowments the seventh of February 1846; the last day ordinances were performed in that temple. After the Prophet, Joseph Smith had been martyred, the persecution increased against the 'Mormons' again. Catherine and Robert were swept up in the forced migration west to Deseret in the top of the Rocky Mountains.

It was unusually bitter cold that February 1846, when the Saints were forced to cross the Mississippi River. Within a day or two, that great river froze a mile wide creating a roadway for the pioneers as they fled Illinois. This was a great miracle and manifestation of the mercy and power of God on behalf of His people.

At Mt. Pisgah, the Saints remained for a time while the brethren plowed some land and planted grain for the emigrants who would follow. Captain James Allen of the United States Army arrived there on the 26th of June 1846, accompanied by three dragoons. The camp of Saints was momentarily thrown into great excitement by this event, and the cry ran throughout the camp, "The United States troops are upon us!"

Captain Allen had come to "accept the services for twelve months of four or five companies of Mormon men who may be willing to serve their country in our present war with Mexico."

The men were furnished with \$21,000 for clothes, etc. By making do with the clothes they had, the men were able to provide the means for their families to complete their journey west. President Young was also desirous to have the Saints established in the west first before the gentiles could lay claims and drive the Mormons out again. Elder Little and Colonel Kane had diligently worked in Washington to get this opportunity to help the pioneers.



Robert Owens ~ 1818-1883



Catherine Ann Williams ~
1819-1886

For the Building of the Kingdom (continued)

Robert and his family were in Mount Pisgah when Heber C. Kimball and Brigham Young arrived to appeal to the Saints to join. Robert was one of the five hundred to volunteer. He was a private in Company B serving under Captain Jesse D. Hunter.

On Saturday, 18 July 1846, President Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Parley P. Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards and John Taylor met in private council on the banks of the Missouri River and there gave the men their last charge and blessing, with firm promise that on condition of their faithfulness, their lives should be spared, the expedition should result in good and their names should be held in honorable remembrance by all generations.

Before the army's departure from the camps in the vicinity of Council Bluffs, a 'Ball' was held in their honor. Under a bowery of trees where the ground had been trodden hard and to the music of violins, horns and sleigh bells, they danced with light hearts from an early hour till the sun went down. In the silence that followed, a young lady sang, "By the River Babylon" and they all sat down and wept when they remembered Zion. An Elder asked the blessings of Heaven on all who with purity of heart and brotherhood of spirit mingled there, then they all dispersed.

On the twentieth of July 1846, they took up their march for Fort Leavenworth. The Battalion arrived at the fort on the first of August and began their preparations for the great western march.

Due to the loss of the most able men, it was determined to make camp and get settled before winter rather than proceeding into the mountains. Permission was granted, due to the circumstances, allowing the Saints to set up a temporary settlement on Indian Reservation lands. A place on the Missouri River where the Saints could be gathered was sought. A "high plateau overlooking the river" was the site selected and given the name of "Winter Quarters." This is situated some five or six miles above Omaha.

The pioneers gathered there and were divided and subdivided into groups. Soon the "miracle" of a city, regularly laid off with streets and by-ways appeared in the wilderness.

It was the policy of Brigham Young to keep everybody employed. The women, in addition to their household duties, engaged in spinning, knitting, making leggings from deer hides and family clothing.

These were very hard times for Catherine Ann. There were occasional annoyances, chiefly caused by the thieving propensities of the Indians surrounding them, and the intermittent assaults made upon the Omahas by the Iowas and the Sioux. More serious trials, however, were the tragedies of losing all three of her daughters - Josephine, Isabelle due to diphtheria, and the new baby, Mary Elizabeth, born just five weeks after Robert left. He never got to see her. Catherine was not alone in her suffering. There were six hundred burials at Winter Quarters before the cold weather brought relief. The Saints called the fever and disease the "black canker." The hot swamp air was heavy with disease germs. The deficiency of their diets also caused scurvy.

While in Winter Quarters on December 7, 1846, Catherine Ann received her Patriarchal Blessing under the hand of John Smith. She was told that she would have the same right as the men that had the Priesthood. This was a great blessing in her life.

When Robert left, Catherine was fully outfitted with a pair of well-broken oxen. The captain of one of the companies took them away from her saying a woman would only be a nuisance to the company. That didn't seem to discourage her for she broke in two of her heifers and with her two young boys, Jerome 9 and Nephi 3, followed right behind the company. While crossing the plains, the animals stampeded. She was holding on to them for dear life, but she didn't forget to holler back to Jerome, "Hold on thee to the churn dash." She milked her cows on the way to the valley. This also helped her to live until they could get some crops planted and harvested. Catherine and her boys arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley October 4, 1847, with the Daniel M. Thomas Company, one of the first wagon trains.

The Mormon Battalion followed what is known as the "Cimmaron Route." The distance from the Mormon Camps to San Diego exceeded 2000 miles. Much of the route lay through trackless desert. At few points could food be obtained in sufficient quantity for man or beast, and some time even water failed. Wells were sunk in the wilderness and on one occasion at least, the men traveled 100 miles without water. At Santa Fe, rations were reduced and soon after were further reduced to one-half and finally to one-fourth allowance. The meat being the flesh of such animals as were unable to proceed further. Even their hides and entrails were eagerly devoured, being gulped down with droughts of water, when water could be had. While suffering these hardships, the men were compelled to carry their own knapsacks, muskets and extra ammunition, and sometimes to push the wagons through heavy sand or to help drag them over rugged mountain ranges.

Passing through a New Mexico Pueblo on the 24th of October, some of the men were almost naked as on the day of their birth, except for a breach cloth. In this plight in the middle of December, the Battalion reached the San Pedro River, some 340 strong, and here occurred the only battle the Battalion fought during their campaign - an encounter with a herd of wild bulls.

On reaching San Diego, the army thought the journey ended, but after two days, they were ordered to garrison duty at the San Luis Ray Mission. Six weeks later, Company B was ordered back to San Diego for duty to relieve the dragoons. They were about thirty in number and under the command of Lt. Stoneman, camping at Old Town, near the site which is known as Ramona's Marriage Place. Religious services were held every Sunday and were well attended by the gentiles.

The Battalion is credited in four great movements that made the development of the west: 1) The opening of the highways; 2) the conquest of Northern Mexico; 3) the discovery of gold in California, and 4) the adoption of irrigation farming by Anglo-Saxon people.

Robert, at last, completed his enlistment and mustered out of the Battalion July 16, 1847, in San Diego, California. On the twentieth of July 1847, at Los Angeles, Robert with the majority of those who did not re-enlist, were organized into companies for traveling, after the ancient and modern Israelite custom, with captains of hundred, fifties and tens. On the twenty-first, the pioneers advanced scarcely knowing whither they went. Under the most trying difficulties, they traveled northward. On the twenty-sixth of August, the men camped two miles from Sutters Fort. They gathered supplies and made preparations to go to the Valley to join their families. Half of the company turned back to work the winter in California. Robert along with the rest, continued on to the Great Basin, arriving there October 16, 1847.

In the December issue of RR&R, we will continue the story of Robert and Catherine (Williams) Owens as Robert is reunited with Catherine and their sons in Salt Lake City.

Page Public Library Expands

by *Sam McNeely, Luray, VA*

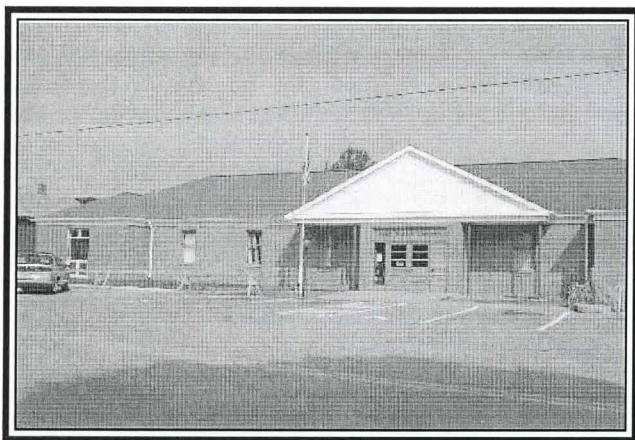
The Page Public Library in Luray will double in size after recent renovations add three rooms. September 1, 2003, is the expected date for completion of the expansion. Many Ruffner Family Association members discovered the information about their family roots in this small library.

Luray's public library was constructed in 1969, and since then had remained the same, including the olive-colored carpet, which still covers the floor today.

Community fund-raisers totaled more than \$380,000 for the project. The wishing well at Luray Caverns contributed more than \$100,000 toward the expansion.

One of the additional rooms is solely for genealogy. The past genealogy section was disorganized and hard to use for those doing research. The new genealogy area will allow room for the addition of new material and provide adequate space for visitors to conduct their research.

Debbie McDonough is the current librarian. She replaced Vicki Cyphert, who passed away in 2001. Vicki and Debbie assisted many of our family members with research prior to and during the two Ruffner reunions held in Luray in 1997 and 2001. Debbie encourages members of our family to visit and see the new addition once it is completed.



Page Public Library ~ Luray, Virginia

Volunteers Needed for DNA Testing

There has always been the question of whether the Rufner and Ruffner families of PA are related. We have also wondered whether Peter Ruffner, who came to America in 1732, married Mary Steinman and moved to Luray, VA, was related to Simon Rufner of PA and/or Christian Ruffner of Tennessee. The only sure way to solve these mysteries is through a DNA program.

Dan Ruffner, president of the RFA, and Peg Rufner, a descendant of Simon, discussed the possibility of doing a DNA analysis. This program has been established and we are ready to go! We are hoping to get a good sample of the Ruffner lines from Peter Ruffner, Simon Rufner and Christian Ruffner. We also intend to send information to people in Switzerland and Germany to find possible old world family connections with present day Europe.

This testing is currently only for male participants that carry the

Ruffner/Rufner surname. The cost per person is \$101 for a 12-marker Y-chromosome test. A more extensive 25-marker test is available that will allow us to determine how many generations back a common ancestor may be. This test is \$171 if done initially, but your original 12-marker test can be upgraded for a \$90 fee. The DNA sample kit consists of using a swab on the inside of your cheek. Each participant will receive this kit with mailers and instructions.

We still need additional people to qualify for our group rate. More information is available on the Ruffner Family Association website. Access the homepage at <http://www.ruffnerfamily.org>, click on the "Ruffner/Rufner Surname DNA Project" in the topic box, and you will be linked to an informational page with instructions and how to order. You can order a kit directly from the link on this page.

Please contact Dan Ruffner if you have any questions, have participants he can provide information to for testing, or would like to make a financial contribution to this cause. If the internet is not how you would like to do business, Dan can take care of ordering the kits for you.

Dan Ruffner

7534 Fallsridge Lane

West Chester, OH 45069

(513) 779-0977 or E-mail: ruffnerfamily@cinci.rr.com

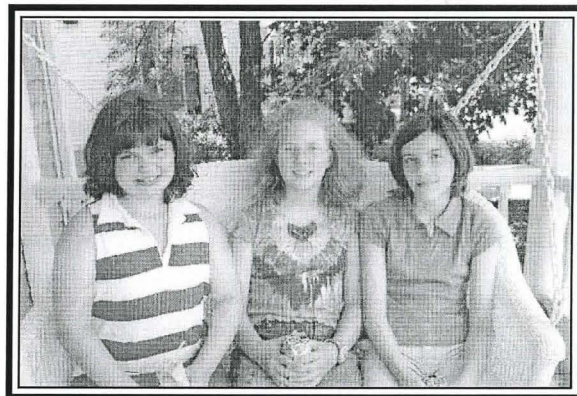
DOUBLE COUSINS!

By *Pam Flasch, Springfield, Virginia*

Recently, Ruffner cousins Teilah Tate (desc. Peter, Jr.), Abigail McNeely and Anna Flasch (desc. Joseph) enjoyed a sleepover at the Flasch home in Luray. These three girls share an even closer bond—they are related through two sides of their families!

The girls, who are 10, 9 and 11 respectively, are third cousins through their great-great-great-grandfather, Emory Cornelius McKee of South Carolina. Emory was the great grandfather of Betty Henderson McNeely, Anna and Abigail's grandmother. He was also the great grandfather of Essie Mae McKee Phillips, Teilah's paternal grandmother. Teilah is the daughter of Vanessa Brown and granddaughter of Mary Long of Luray, Virginia.

It was the first meeting of the "double cousins" and they hope to have many more happy times together. It took only minutes for the three to become acquainted and soon they were staging a series of skits in the Flasch living room, building a fort out of blankets and blowing bubbles on the porch swing.



Left to right - Abigail McNeely, Teilah Tate and Anna Flasch

In Memoriam

Niley E. (Ruffner) Ryan, 93, of Greeley, Colorado, died Sunday, March 23, 2003, at the Life Care Center of Greeley.

Niley, a descendant of Joseph, son of Peter Ruffner, was born December 11, 1909, in Bendena, Kansas to George B.C. and Niley Z. Jackson Ruffner. On December 2, 1939, she married Lawrence J. Ryan in Chicago. He died December 24, 1963. Mrs. Ryan worked at the Kingsbury Ordinance Plant in South Bend, Indiana during World War II. She was a homemaker and a licensed practical nurse.

Survivors are a daughter, Linda Krause and husband, Duaine of Greeley; a son, James J. Ryan and wife Rae of Broomfield, CO; a niece, Betty Addison of Lancaster, PA; five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A sister, Pearl Ruffner Marion, and a brother, George Ruffner, are deceased. Services were held at the Adamson Memorial West Chapel, Greeley, with interment at the Pine Lake Cemetery in LaPorte, Indiana.

Luella (Rigg) Munro, 87, died in Westminster, Colorado, June 13, 2003. She was the mother of our RFA Board Member, Jane Munro Webber and the late Donna Munro Pipa.

She was born Luella May Rigg in Westminster, April 8, 1916, to Leland Stanford Rigg and Clara (Cram) Rigg. Leland's sister, Virginia Rigg, was there when she was born and at the age of 99 was there for her memorial service June 27, 2003, at the Arvada Presbyterian Church.

A graduate of Arvada High School, in 1937 she married Wallace Roy Munro, a native of Evanston, Illinois. Her grandmother was Alma (Ruffner) Rigg, Virginia's mother. Luella is a descendant of Peter & Mary Ruffner through their son Benjamin.

Her parents, brother Bill Rigg, husband Roy and daughter Donna all preceded her in death. She is survived by daughter Jane Webber; grandchildren Sean Webber, Laurie Webber and John Paul Pipa; Aunt Virginia Rigg and cousins, Shirley Ann Sheets and Bob Sheets.

Lois (Ruffner) Archambeau, 70, died on June 19, 2003, in Newark, Ohio. A resident of Stuart, Florida for many years, she had recently returned to Columbus, OH for her remaining days.

Lois, a descendant of Emanuel, was born in Columbus, OH, July 20, 1932, to Everett Stuart Ruffner and Ruth (Reese) Ruffner. She married Paul Archambeau on May 13, 1965, in Oregon.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Paul. She is survived by daughters and sons-in-law, Sheilah (Donnelly) Nieman & Kenneth Nieman of Newark, OH and Laura (Donnelly) Pegg & Greg Pegg of Pickerington, OH; grandchildren, Natalie (Nieman) Peterson, Nicholas Nieman, Kelli Nieman, Ashley Chalfant, Ryan Pegg and Erika Pegg; brother and sister-in-law, Norman & Marilyn Ruffner of Tacoma, WA; sisters and brothers-in-law, Barbara & F. William Neff of Williamsport, OH and Joan & Kenneth Reid of Columbus, OH; several nieces and nephews.

As she requested, her cremains were scattered by her children and grandchildren in a natural setting among the flowers, birds and butterflies she loved.



Caleb A. Ruffner, 91, died peacefully at his home on Tuesday, August 12, 2003, after a short illness.

He was born in Pleasantville, Ohio, on September 26, 1911, to Estella Luella (Shrider) and George Bertram Ruffner (desc. Emanuel). He graduated from Pleasantville High School in 1929.

On May 8, 1938, he married Doris Edna Laver, the daughter of Guy S. & Edna (Knight) Laver. Doris is well known throughout the Ruffner family as the co-author of *Peter Ruffner and His Descendants*, 1966/1969.

Caleb was a life-long resident of Pleasantville and a prominent figure in the village, where he served as mayor, fire chief, and member and president of the school board. He worked for the Pleasantville Mill Co. and was manager of the Thurston Elevator Co. for 33 years.

He became a member of Lincoln Avenue Methodist Church in the 1950s, but was a Primitive Baptist at heart. His hobbies were gardening and woodworking.

He is survived and dearly remembered by his daughter, Sara Lytle of Seneca, South Carolina; granddaughters, Cynthia (Alan) Hunt of Falls Church, VA, Stephanie (John) Bergstrom of Alexandria, VA and Jennifer Lytle of Seneca, SC; great-grandchildren, Geoffrey Ethan Hunt and Hannah Pearl Bergstrom; many nieces and nephews; loving neighbors and caregivers.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris (see RR&R, June 2002); his parents; an infant sister, Florence; brothers and sisters-in-law, Fred & Olive Ruffner, Paul & Flora Ruffner, and George & Marguerite Ruffner; sisters and brother-in-law, Mabel Keller and Edna & Richard Troup.

A grave side service was held at the West Rushville Cemetery where he was interred on August 16, 2003.



Caleb A. Ruffner (far right) with brothers, left to right, Ernest Paul Ruffner [1901-1974], Frederick G. Ruffner [1894-1970], and George E. Ruffner [1907-1990] - photo ca. 1940s

Births



Lucas Zachary Hill

Lucas was born on Tuesday, June 3, 2003, at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland, Washington. At birth, he weighed 5 pounds, 6 oz. and was 19-1/4" long. He is an 11th generation descendant of Emanuel and the son of Adam & Nicolle (Zink) Hill of Seattle. His maternal grandmother is Norma Zink and maternal great-grandparents are Norman & Marilyn Ruffner, all of Tacoma, WA.

Elise Nicole Blinn, a descendant of Emanuel, was born on April 8, 2002, at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. She weighed 7 lbs, 12 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Her proud parents are Steve & Marria Blinn of Orland Park, IL. She was joyfully welcomed by her big brother Chad, now 18, and big sister Danielle, now 12. She is the granddaughter of Sandra S. Reed Elliott [1937-2003] and Tom Elliott, and the great-granddaughter of Evelyn M. Ruffner Reed ([1912-2002]).

Hayden Finn Leffler, a descendant of Emanuel, was born on August 10, 2003. She weighed 9 lbs, 5 oz. and was 21 inches long. Her proud parents are Heather (Gillilan) and Michael Leffler. She is the granddaughter of Rick & Donna (Ruffner) Gillilan of McArthur, Ohio.

From the Cumberland Press

Greenup, Illinois ~ February 24, 1898

Vevay Park ~ The Ruffner school will close on Friday, March 4th. Perhaps an entertainment will be given free - perhaps at the table.

The Ruffners of this vicinity gathered at the home of Charles Spencer in Casey last Wednesday and partook of a glorious repast. Quite a number were present and all were photographed by Frank Pherson. Frank will not take any more groups soon after dinner - it takes too long to work the negatives down to natural size.

Tommy Tutweiler and wife celebrated their tin wedding last Wednesday. A large number of eaters were present. We presume there were enough present to "clean the platter" for the reason that no cake went far enough to reach ye correspondent, like cake usually does on such occasions. It seems that some of the people around here "live to eat" and do not heed the maxim, "*Esse oportet ut vivas, non vivas ut edas*" - whatever that means.

Editor's Note: The above news notes were submitted by **Nancy Giles** of Ontario, California, our new RR&R Kentucky Reporter. She would like to know if any of our cousins has a **photo of the Ruffner school and the photo mentioned in the second paragraph**. C. H. Spencer was married to Margaret Ann Ruffner, daughter of Walter Newman Ruffner (desc. of Benjamin).

The article on Tommy Tutweiler refers to the family of Nettie Tutweiler, married to Abraham Lincoln Ruffner, son of Michael Ruffner (desc. of Benjamin) and his third wife, Elizabeth Jane Westall.

Please respond directly to **Nancy Giles, 1456 E. Philadelphia, #375, Ontario, CA 91761-5747; e-mail NEGDAG@aol.com**.

The Editor's Desk

At the recent RFA Board of Directors meetings in Prescott, Arizona, suggestions were made to streamline the flow of news and ease the work load of putting together a quarterly newsletter such as *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*. Our president, Dan Ruffner, has developed a new organizational structure for the newsletter's editorial board by appointing **Kim Fulcher** as Assistant Editor. Kim has a degree in journalism and has worked for newspapers, radio and television stations. He has also appointed reporters from areas of specific Ruffner and other historical interest throughout the country to complete the balance of the RR&R Editorial Board. They are: **Elisabeth Ruffner** (Arizona), **Bob Sheets** (Colorado), **Carol Ruffner** (Illinois), **Nancy Giles** (Kentucky), **Roberta Ruffner Kirwin** (Ohio), **Phyllis Hershock** (Pennsylvania) and **Pam Flasch** (Virginia). **We are in need of a volunteer to serve as a West Virginia Reporter.**

I would like to personally thank all of the above volunteers who have so graciously consented to serve on the editorial board. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

I also wish to express my gratitude to **Joe Ruffner, Bill Myers, Melissa Ruffner, Nancy Lee Shifflett** and **Shawn Williams**, who have given so much of their time and contributed immensely to the success of the RR&R since the publication of its first issue in 1998.

On behalf of the editorial board, I urge readers to continue to contribute their family stories, news and photos to the newsletter. These personal family memories enhance the diversity of our family history. This issue alone has brought us interesting and unusual stories from **Betty Gaeng** and **Andrea White**.

I am honored to continue serving as editor of our family history newsletter. Your comments and suggestions will be gratefully received.

Love,
Cousin Joan

RR&R Editorial Board

Kim Fulcher	Assistant Editor
Elisabeth Ruffner	Arizona Reporter
Robert N. Sheets	Colorado Reporter
Carol Ruffner	Illinois Reporter
Nancy Giles	Kentucky Reporter
Roberta Ruffner Kirwin	Ohio Reporter
Phyllis Hershock	Pennsylvania Reporter
Pam Flasch	Virginia Reporter
Open	West Virginia Reporter

**Deadline for the next issue is
November 1, 2003**

Please send your news, articles and/or photos to:

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

120 Rita Court, Columbus, OH 43213

E-mail to Joan Reid - Jokereid@aol.com

or Kim Fulcher - Kimmiefulcher@aol.com

Thank you!