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Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Ruffner from Peter Ruffner - January 16, 1972

Caleb Ruffner

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Peter Ruffner
Herrenfeld
CH 7304-Maienfeld
Switzerland

Maiefeld, January 16th 1972

Mrs. Caleb A. Ruffner
Lincoln Avenue, Box 351
Pleasantville, Ohio 43148

Dear Mrs. Doris Edna Laver-Ruffner
dear Mr. Caleb A. Donald Ruffner,

Following to my airmail letter, dated November 16th 1971, you answered with your airmail letter of November 26th and addressed to me one exemplary of the book "Peter Ruffner and His Descendants" together with one exemplar of the "First Supplement 1969", also a road map Ohio and a road map Eastern United States. For all those sendings I thank you cordially.

With my postcard of December 12th 1971, showing Maiefeld, I promised you to answer in a long letter during christmas or New Years-days. Did you receive that card?

Malhorously I was not able to follow my promise and here is why: A few days before Christmas day, on December 16th 1971, my mother died in the age of 87½ years. Since now I had much to do, not only with the funerals, but much more with all the authorities, furthermore I had to answer to all the kin people here in Switzerland, in Germany and also in Texas who let us have their condolences. - Therefore please excuse my long silence.

On December 18th arrived here also your airmail sending containing "The Story of Albert Ruffner". I thank you also for it. I suppose that each time you get in possession of important news of one of the descendants of Peter Ruffner the emigrant in 1732 about, or of other descendants, you dress up circular letters and send them to persons you find they could be interested to be informed?

The two books you sent me, I could not yet studie them thoroughly because during the days monday-to friday I am working as a bankclark in Chur/Coire, that is about 15 miles from here. I am living my house every morning at 6.50, am back for lunch at 1230, have to leave again at 13.15 and am back in the evening at 1845, all the 4 raids by railway. My motorcar I am using it at Samdays an Suddays, in wintertime for doing Ski-sport,

But now back to your letter of November 26th 1971: Out of the books there is to see, that Mrs. Doris Laver Ruffner und Mrs. Oliver Taylor Ruffner and probably also their husbands (are they brothers) have don a lot of researches on the Ruffner families, but that you have not been successfull in finding out if Peter Ruffner (1732) was a kin of Mrs. Snyder Roberts respectively of that lady's grandfather Christian Ruffner/wife Cordula Faller, or even of my and my brother's clan. Nor could I find it out and the reason for me is, that civil-registers exists only since 1830 about, in earlier time there were only church-books. But there exist here church-books only for period beginning 1720 about to 1830, because in the unfortunate year (war) 1720 the retiring austrian-troops met fire on the houses and castels here and whole Maiefeld was burned, also the church-books, archives, a.s.o. - However in our State Archive in Chur/Coire there exists documents showing that Ruffner People were residing in Maiefeld already in 1475 and after 1725 in different villages near Maiefeld: please see enclosure.

.y.

January 16th 1971

I on my side am convinced that Peter Ruffner (1732) or his father or an ancestor came from Maienfeld to Hannover in Germany, perhaps as a soldier of some king because at that time Germany was not yet united, not yet born, however there existed the Kingdom of Hannover. Perhaps they were workmen, farmers, or of some other profession. Do you have in hand some documents showing that Peter Ruffner started for the USA in 1732 or near date really from Hannover or its surroundings? If yes, could I have a photocopy of that document? What about the baron Ruffner? - I would be very glad if we can settle by further research if there is kinship. Do you know where at 1732 Simon-Georg-Mary lived and what lets you suppose that Mary was the sister of Peter?

What caused you to write on page 1 of the book to the following settlement: There are presently many Ruffner's in Switzerland, Bavaria and Tyrol-Austria".

For me and other Ruffner's here it was until now unknown that persons with our family-name are residing or have been residing in Bavaria and Tyrol-Austria. I suppose, that you may have contacted some authorities or some genealogical experts in those two countries? Could you give me their addresses, let me have copies of their answers? Furthermore, did such experts or someone else explain you from what our family-name has been derived?

I join here one copy of my letter of October 12th 1971 sent to Mrs. Snyder E. Roberts and also a photostatic-copy received from a genealogical expert here showing where Ruffner's or Ruffner's have been found residing once. I hope they will find your interest. - Are you still in connection with Mr. Ruffner Max in Langenthal?

You mention that you admire Switzerland and its people. Have you ever been here and can you read, write and understand our language (German)? At most I suppose that Mr. Frederick Gale Ruffner jr., president and owner of Gale Research Company-Editors and Publishers, is able to do so or has in his staff people able to translate letters, prospectus and also books written in German into English language? Is he, as example, selling English translated books written originally in German however, by Mrs. Johanna Spiry? One of her stories entitled "Heidi" translated in at most 12 languages, also in Japanese, is handling here in Maienfeld.

Would you be interested to get from me an exemplary of the heraldic weapon of the Ruffner's, also a family-tree of our clan? I could send them to you at cheap price.

If you want to have some prospectus of Maienfeld, its surroundings, the Grisons, or maps of Switzerland, etc., please let me know.

May I have more news from you? I thank you in advance and hope that you may enjoy best healthiness. - Please excuse my not perfect English.

Sincerely yours

Peter Ruffner, 1910



2 encl. named