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Winter 2007

Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 10, Issue 1

Ruffner Family Association

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Ruffner Family Association, "Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 10, Issue 1" (2007). *Ruffner Roots & Ramblings*. 31.

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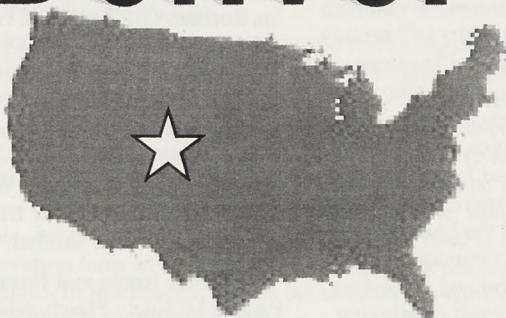
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Ruffner Roots & Ramblings



Ruffner Family Association Volume 10 Number 1 Winter 2007

Denver or BUST!



Ruffner Family

Reunion

June 14-17

Estes Park, Colorado

For more information:

Bob Sheets, Ruffner Reunion, 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210

Email Rnsheets@aol.com or phone: 303-733-4935.

Contributions to support the 2007 Reunion are now being accepted at the above address with checks made out to: "*Ruffner Family Association.*"

REGISTRATION FEE: Adults 16 and above -- \$10. Children \$5 for ages 8-15. Children under 7 free, especially when bringing their parents and/or grandparents. Registration fee covers administration, reunion booklet, badges, etc. Our traditional banquet, picnic and barbecue are covered in room registration. Those staying in RV Parks off campus will pay a special daily meal fee.

RECREATION: swimming, basketball, tennis, hiking, horseback riding, as well as off campus opportunities for golf; tours of Rocky Mountain National Park; shopping in Estes Park; Tea at the famous Stanley Hotel and historical tours of the Estes Valley.

ACCOMMODATIONS will be in the Wind River and Alpen Lodges. Each room has two queen size beds, (some with additional sofa beds); private bath, telephone and balcony with a majestic view of the surrounding mountains. Cost will be the most reasonable you will ever encounter. Lodging and three meals a day per person, is \$143 for one adult to a room; \$87 each for two adults to a room; \$68 each for three adults to a room; \$59 each for four adults to a room; children age 3-15, \$14 each. Remember, these rates are per night and include three meals per day.



The President's Pen

Best wishes to all in this New Year.

I hope this edition of the Ruffner Roots & Ramblings finds you and your family doing well.

In June 2006 the Ruffner family and the (Booker T.) Washington family met again at the Booker T. Washington Family Reunion held on the campus of Tuskegee University in Alabama. The Ruffner Family Association was represented by me, Ann, and Kate Ruffner, as well as Sam and Betty McNeely. We all had a wonderful time seeing the university and meeting with many of our friends in the Washington family.

This trip was the culmination of a biennial journey that the Washington family began back in 2000 at the birthplace of Booker T. Washington in Franklin County, Virginia.

In 2002 the Washington family held their reunion in Charleston and Malden, West Virginia, an area that holds special significance for both of our families and where Booker found employment and educational opportunities with Viola Ruffner. Viola remained an important person to Booker throughout his life.

In 2004 the Washington family headed east to Hampton, Virginia where Booker T. Washington attended school. And in 2006 the Washington family met on the grounds of Tuskegee University, the college that Booker founded and served as President up until his death in 1815. Beginning with the attendance of Booker's granddaughters, Edith Washington Johnson and Margaret Washington Clifford, at the 1999 Ruffner reunion in Lancaster, Ohio, the Ruffner family and the Washington family have continued to maintain this connection.



Booker T. Washington

At each of the Washington reunions, the Ruffner family has been in attendance and participated in honoring the life and legacy of Booker T. Washington. Our connection is an important chapter not only in our shared family history, but in our national history. I know that both families will continue to maintain this bond that began in the 19th century and still remains in the 21st century.

Looking at our own reunion this summer, I am very excited about the opportunity for all of us to gather at a location so well suited for our reunion needs and reunion experience. Those of you who attended the Lancaster County Pennsylvania reunion in 2005 know that a wonderful and rewarding time for all was the result of bringing together family history, getting acquainted and reacquainted with Ruffners from all over the country, ample selections of good food, and activities for the kids, adults, and families. Estes Park will have all that while offering the scenic Rocky Mountains. Come to think of it, we have visited a number of great scenic areas in our recent past, notably the rolling countryside of Lancaster County, the beautiful Arizona highways, and the Shenandoah Valley. Be a part of this continuing tradition!!

The website will be undergoing some changes this spring, but the first order of business will be to update the site to become a resource for information surrounding the upcoming Ruffner Reunion at Estes Park this June. WebPages and links are being built right now and will be available shortly. So, if you have not visited the site in awhile, take a look at www.ruffnerfamily.org.



Dan Ruffner

Dan

Ruffner Family Association Board
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Robert Brown, VA; Barbara Burner, GA; Jack Childers, DE; Pamela McNeely Flasch, VA; Betty Gaeng, WA; Roberta Ruffner Kirwin, OH; Jane Ruffner Lucas, VA; Joan Ruffner Reid, OH; Donald Ruffner, IL; Douglas Ruffner, OK; Frederick G. Ruffner, MI; Joseph Wilson Ruffner, AL; Lawrence Ruffner, FL; Melissa Ruffner, AZ; Robert Newman Sheets, CO; Shirley Ann Sheets, CO; Nancy Lee Ruffner Shifflett, VA; Sally Ruffner Spangler, VA; Jane Munro Webber, CO. **Directors Emeritus:** Dorothea Russell and George Ruffner.

Ruffner Roots and Ramblings

Pamela McNeely Flasch, editor

Guidelines for Publication

Ruffner Roots and Ramblings is now a quarterly newsletter, publishing in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. The deadline for publication is Dec 1, Mar 1, Jun 1 and Sep 1 for the following month.

If possible, please send electronic data via e-mail in **WORD** format. Photos may also be sent electronically in **JPEG** format.

My e-mail address is catvor-rang@yahoo.com. My snail mail address is: Pam Flasch 19 Amiss Avenue, Luray, VA 22835

Membership corrections should be sent to Sam McNeely 3 Meadow Lane, Luray, VA 22835 or shmneely@comcast.net.

Mission of the Ruffner Family Association
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.

Auction, Newmans highlight 2007 Ruffner Family Reunion

RFA reaches a Milestone at 2007 Reunion

Come this June at the Ruffner Reunion in Estes Park, CO, the RFA will reach a special anniversary. It was just ten years ago that we were attending the 1997 Reunion in Luray, VA, and a decision was made to establish an organizing committee to create a family association in order to sponsor future reunions and possibly other activities. Two year later we met in Lancaster, OH and indeed we chartered as the RFA and as they say, "the rest is history". We can now reflect on a series of wonderful reunions in Charleston, WV, Lancaster, PA, Prescott, AZ as well as Lancaster, OH and our original Homestead, Luray. Now we all head to Colorado for the 2007 Reunion in Estes Park at the magnificent YMCA Camp and Conference Center.

Nestled in the famous Estes Valley and Rocky Mountain National Park, the Y facility caters to the total family experience and will provide us with the another great reunion. **If you have not received your brochure on the reunion or have questions, be sure and contact Bob Sheets (303) 733-4935, Email: Rnsheets@aol.com or write him at 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210.** The Reunion is Thu, June 14 through Sun, June 17th. Lodging will be at the Wind River Lodge and all our reservations will be sent to The Reunion Committee, not the YMCA. Be sure and fill out and send in the official Registration/Reservation form when it arrives in the mail over the next few weeks.

Highlights of this reunion will be the chance for a family, with kids and grandkids to share the great outdoors in the spectacular Rocky Mountains and gets some good old fashioned visiting in with a national gathering of cousins. Colorado has been pounded by big snows this winter so it should be a Green Reunion. Don't forget to pack your shorts, hiking boots, swim trunks, square dance shoes and a big appetite. And be sure to bring songs to sing, stories to tell and your love of adventure. Tell dad it is time for some R&R and to pack up the van and head to the hills. Your Colorado Cousins are looking forward to returning the hospitality they have experienced at reunions in Illinois, Arizona, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. See you all in Colorado!

Welcome Newman Cousins!

The Newman Family Society, which is headquartered in Denver, is holding its Annual Meeting in Colorado and will have many of its members in attendance at the 2007 Ruffner Family Reunion. Many of them were with us at Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania for the 2005 Reunion and the story has been often told of the event which early bound the Newman family to the Ruffners with the marriage of Margaret Newman to Martin Ruffner who was massacred by the Indians in Ohio, 1812. Their only son Walter Newman Ruffner migrated to Illinois and propagate a long line of descendants of the Ruffner and Newman gene pool, notably Don Ruffner, Shirley Jenkins, Sharon Medlock and Eric Bradley. The Newmans and Ruffners also joined their DNA again in Denver, Colorado 1930 under the name of Sheets. Officers of the Newman Family Society recalling the tragic death of Martin Ruffner, will be taking part in our 2007 Memorial Service and the healing ceremony.

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE!

So you were putting away those Christmas decorations in the attic and you heard yourself say, *"instead of keeping that old pair of antique skates hanging here, I should donate them to the Ruffner Auction."* You are correct! You should! Now is the time to round up those items and send them to Colorado for the 2007 Auction to be held during the Ruffner Family Reunion.

These auctions have become a fun tradition as a means of supporting the reunions and other activities of the RFA. We have auctioned off framed photos of our historic homes; reproductions of the ancestors portraits; jewelry; old maps; rare books; cut glass; silver pieces; crystal vases; pottery; toys and general nic-nacs that have been in the family. Whether an item has a Ruffner connection or not, it can be sold and earn money to support the Association and the Reunion.

Either bring the items with you to the Reunion or send them to Robert N. Sheets, Ruffner Family Reunion, 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210. Please identify the item with a note about its age and history and who in your family is donating it to the Auction. The Auction will take place in the Ruffner Lounge of the Wind River Lodge 4 pm Sat, Jun 16. Bring your piggy banks. See you there!

A Ruffner Voice is heard in Indiana by Dorothea Russell

(desc Reuben)

Franklin Pierce Ruffner was born 8 September 1852 in Parke County, Indiana, the fifth child, first son, of Andrew M. and Kate Smith Ruffner. We suppose he was named for the man hotly campaigning at the time for the office of President of the United States, so we can easily deduce the family's political stand. They won! Franklin Pierce became the fourteenth and, at that time, the youngest U. S. President, and their son was bearing the name of a winner.

With the growing northern opposition to slavery and the rising prejudice against immigrants, the new President faces a trying time of it to 'firmly maintain the Constitution.' He strongly favored the Compromise of 1850, which sought to settle the slavery dispute, but he supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed slavery in large portions of the west, and he protected the rights of immigrants. The upshot of these choices brought another 'new birth,' the creation of the Republican Party to defeat slaver and the 'Know-Nothing' or American Party established by those opposed to immigration.

People were still attracted to the Gold Rush in the West, and the railroads were extending their lines West. The Gadsden Purchase added the land from Mexico to the Territory of New Mexico, and for the first time, Christmas carolers sang "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Pierce's administration marked one of the most prosperous periods in American history.

We must not make too many deductions here, for we could be wrong, but the Pierce's young son Benjamin had died in a train accident that year, so it might have been in his honor that the Ruffners chose the name...or was it to honor both Benjamin Franklin and Franklin Pierce?

We can wonder how they really felt about the issue of slavery, but they would likely have favored supporting the immigrants. After all, their grandparents were immigrants and even they themselves had immigrated from Vir-

ginia to Kentucky and from Kentucky to Indiana. They could easily see how this large and growing country could adequately house all comers. They apparently approved of the national expansion projects.

So we find Franklin Pierce Ruffner in Indiana, growing up with eight sisters and at least one brother, Joseph, the last born. By the 1870 Federal Census his parents are no longer living together and his mother is supported by her brother Richard Smith. His father is identified as a wagoner (a later day's teamster) and Frank is sometimes also listed as 'teamster' but, in the 1900 Federal Census, when he is a widower living with his two teen-aged sons, he is first identified as a 'showman.'

By his obituary of March 1929 he was 'for many years an entertainer who gained a reputation as a ventriloquist of considerable ability.' We are at a loss to determine just when Frank Ruffner took up the challenge of showmanship. As a youth, was he often the family fun maker? If his parents couldn't get along together, the household of children must often have needed a distraction from the disharmony between the parents.

Did he provide for himself an imaginary buddy in the presence of all females? Did he need a confidante for many trying times in his life? We can wonder how or when, but did he perhaps see a ventriloquist doing the 'talking comedy' in a tent show or vaudeville production of the early era (or perhaps a talking motion picture of the early 1900s) and decide he could do that, too? What he did was he got himself into a very ancient art form!

The first known record of the use of ventriloquism dates to 2000 BC in Asia and the Orient. Because impersonation of people was forbidden by religious taboos, priests would use ventriloquism and puppets to make people believe that idols were alive and able to speak and prophesy.

By 800 BC, the art of puppetry was popular in Greece, and their first puppeteer known by name was

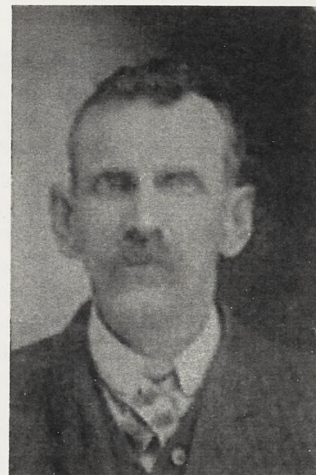


Photo is courtesy of Richard Ruffner of Chicopee, Massachusetts, a grandson of Franklin Pierce Ruffner

Pontheinos, who performed in the theatre of Dionysus in Athens. Small clay puppet figures have been found in ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptians tombs. Somewhere around the sixth century BC, 'belly talking' (ventriloquism) was used supposedly to communicate with the dead. It was thought that the spirits of the dead went to the stomachs of the prophets and continued to exist there!

In the sixteenth century, puppets were used to dramatize the scriptures. The Renaissance saw a revival of ventriloquism and for the first time used as a form of entertainment. The first puppeteers in America were the Indians!

Jules Vernon, one of the more famous American vaudeville ventriloquists, worked with multiple figures. Throughout the vaudeville years, its popularity waxed and waned until about the end of the nineteenth century, when an Englishman named Fred Russell came up with an act with a single dummy and became known as 'the father of modern ventriloquism.' But it wasn't until about 100 years ago and the presentations by Edgar Bergen and Charley McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd that the entertainment moved from magic and divining to comedy,

hence came the 'comedy talkers.'

Probably Frank Ruffner's fame as 'a ventriloquist of considerable ability' never traveled far from Montgomery County. From 1897, theatre notices often appeared in *The Crawfordsville Journal-Review* (upper right corner, front page) of productions at 'Hollins Hall/Opera House' on Main Street – a Marine Band, a dog show, a pantomimist, plays by the New Richmond Comedy Company, Wabash College productions and church ladies' festivals, but I found none featuring a Ruffner ventriloquist! Perhaps his performances were limited to family and community gatherings. His name didn't make it into a 'Who's Who,' but then you can't find Edgar Bergen's name there today either.

Franklin P. Ruffner was married twice. By his first wife he fathered three sons, Charles Amos, Fount Winfield and John Andrew. His second wife, Sarah Elizabeth Hibbs, bore a daughter, Minnie and an unnamed infant daughter and died after scarcely more than a decade of marriage. By the 1920 Federal Census, we find him, age 67, living in Beaver Dam Township, Butler County, Missouri, a 'relation' residing in the home of Charles Wilson and his wife Silvena, who was a sister of Frank. Ten years later, he is the 'father-in-law' living in Bristol, Elkhart County, Indiana, with his daughter Grace and her husband Charles Sanders. In November he moved into the Montgomery County Home, where he lived but a few months before he died. Both he and his wife are buried in the Old Indian Creek Cemetery, not far from Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Resources: Google – *The Free Dictionary* by Farlex, *Ventriloquism; The Art of Ventriloquism and Puppetry* at <http://diannedunbar.tripod.com/id1.html>; microfilms of *The Crawfordsville Journal*; with help from the Crawfordsville Public Library Archives and Betty Gaeng and Joan Reid, Ruffner family genealogists.

Research:

Marria Blinn gives tips on using the Library of Virginia

Marria Blinn (desc Emanuel)



The Library of Virginia has a wealth of information on our Virginia ancestors. Much of this information can be accessed on-line. Below are step-by-step directions that take you to some land records of the Ruffners. Once you have successfully found the Ruffners, try putting in your other Virginia ancestors' names and checking other areas than just the land records. You may be surprised at what you find!

To access the Library of Virginia, first begin by going to the web-site: www.lva.lib.va.us. Next, click on "What we have", then scroll down and click on "Land Records". After that, click on "Virginia Land Office Patents...." and then type in your ancestor's last name where it says "Type word or phrase" and then click on "Go". After this, a list should appear. Click on the small box to the left of your ancestor's name and then click on the number next to the box that you checked. When the record pages appear, you will see the letters "URL (Click on link)" towards the top of the page. Click on one of the web addresses to the right. A page should appear with the word "Document" in bold letters stamped across a picture of a document and page numbers listed next to it. Click on the 1st page number and the 1st page of your land grant should appear. If this does not happen, you probably need something called a "TIFF Viewer" which can easily be downloaded by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on "TIFF Tips".

Getting to the land grants may sound complicated, but when you take it step by step, it is very easy. It's a great thrill to see our ancestors' documents! For a nice keepsake, the documents look very professional when printed on parchment paper and framed for display.

2007 MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOR ANCESTORS

There will be a Memorial Service for our Ancestors Sunday morning, June 17, during the 2007 Ruffner Family Reunion, with special tributes to our members who have died since our Reunion in Pennsylvania.

A beautiful outdoor chapel, situated among the tall Pines and majestic Aspens with a backdrop of snow capped Longs Peak, will be the scene of a gathering of descendants of all the Ruffner branches in America. A beautiful floral ceremony will honor the names of those who have gone before to establish this family in every state of the Union. Augmented by music and song, the spoken word will recall those generations that have shaped our lives and brought us to this wonderful association.

A special tribute will honor those members of our family who have served this nation in the armed services and those who are currently around the world wearing proudly the emblem of this nation. A major event will be a Healing Ritual with representatives of the various tribes of the Native Americans who will join with representatives of our family in closing the wounds of centuries of conflict between our peoples, most notably the tragic death of Martin Ruffner in Ohio, 1812. In this beautiful valley, which the Native American's ancestors once called home, we will come together in a spirit of harmony and stewardship for the land we now preserve for our descendants.

If you have lost a relative over the past few years and we have not noted their passing in the Ruffner Roots & Ramblings, please send their names and obituaries to **Robert N. Sheets, 1675 South Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210.**

William Henry Ruffner's 1899 letter to cousin Meredith

Editor's Note: Mark and I photocopied this letter in 75-year-old Wm Henry's own hand, which was on file at the WV Historical Society. The letter is written from Lexington, VA, to his cousin in Charleston, WV, Meredith Payson Ruffner, who was Robert Chilton's Great-Great-Grandfather.

9/21/20 Old letter from W. H. Ruffner re Ruffner family who first settled Kanawha Valley and describes old forts, etc and particularly old home now owned and occupied by Mrs. Nash on Kanawha St. REZR.

Lexington, VA, Ap. 12, 1899

My dear Cousin Meredith:

I want to write you a long, friendly letter, but my fingers have become so stiff that I cannot now tell how far I can go. Ever since I was in Kanawha I have wanted to do this in memory of the pleasant visit to your sweet home, the loving kindness of Cousin Hattie, the gentle behavior of your children and your own hospitality and daily cousinly attentions. If I had any excuse for my delay I would gladly give it; but I can only plead my constitutional weakness and ask you to be lenient.

One half my heart has always dwelt in Kanawha. In former days I had intimate personal associations with three generations of my Ruffner kin – and many of them I was strongly attached – but circumstances so changed the course of life that of late years I have become almost a stranger where once I was so familiar. But my interest in my people have never abated, and I follow the family history from first to last with increasing zeal.

I know much of Joseph, the founder of the Kanawha branch, whilst he was still a citizen of Shenandoah, where he carried on largely and successfully a number of different lines of business. I have followed him in imagination when in the spring of 1795 he followed the crooked trail alone on horseback a distance of three

or four hundred miles, ferrying the raging Gauley on a raft tied to his horse's tail, lodging with Paddy Hudleston below the Falls, stopping at The Licks, when he had bought "unsight, unseen" the year before, passing on to the Clendennin Fort alongside of which had been laid off a town called Charleston, which then had six houses in it. Here Joseph adds the whole bottom of 1030 acres to his previous purchase of The Dickinson Survey of 502 acres, including the Salt Spring. Joseph then returned to Shenandoah in the autumn of the same year, 1795, moved all his family except David, who came with his wife and three children the following year (1796), to Kanawha – and we can imagine what a train he had – there was Joseph and wife, daughter Eve and sons Joseph, Tobias, Samuel, Daniel with wife and 3 children, and Abraham – and all their belongings: how many wagons there were cannot be now be told – but I have no doubt his famous six-horse road wagon covered with bear skins was there.

There were two forts, standing a mile apart. The lower and stronger one stood in front of Charles Lewis' house; the upper one, which was erected for the protection of the laboring men, stood between the present Holly Grover Mansion and the River. Joseph seems at first to have used both forts, but when David moved out the next year, he was assigned the lower fort, which the patriarch made the upper fort the center of his operations. Hence all generations descending from Joseph first should look with filial reverence upon the spot where now stands the beautiful Holly Grove house – more beautiful to my eye with its strong walls and harmonious proportions than the multitudinous gables now so fashionable.

This upper fort was the true center for developing the fine resources of that magnificent plain: where forty crops of corn were raised on the same ground without any apparent diminution of its fertility. Joseph was a stal-

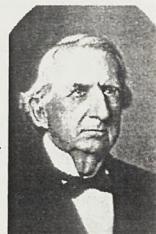
wart man, and his wife was a true help-mate: they had six sons and a daughter, all except one of whom (Samuel) possessed much of the vigor and determined character of the parents. The father was now 55 years of age, of broad mind, thrifty habits and large experience. Here was work enough to be done, and rich openings for business. Besides farming, Joseph soon began to trade. Tradition does not tell us whether he ever dealt in ginseng (!), but it does tell us that he made contracts for supplying bear skins to the French army.

It is certain that he was prosperous. Among his later purchases was a tract of 6,600 acres of land lying along the Ohio River below Point Pleasant. His divided a large estate among his children. His notable career was prematurely ended in 1803, only eight years after ??? to Kanawha, age 63 when he died. Lewis Ruffner remembered him, and said he was a large man.

He had before his death laid off an ample body of land below and above his dwelling, which he mentioned in his will as 'the plantation on which I now live,' giving it to his wife for her life-time, after which it was to belong to Daniel. The wife lived to 1820 and left a good name for personal excellence and active charity.

Daniel with his little family lived with his widowed mother, and being highly capable, as well as faithful, at once became the practical owner of the place. He built the brick mansion in 1815; and so well was it built that when the woodwork was burned in 1832 the walls were so strong that the damage was immediately repaired.

My early recollection of the Holly Grove establishment included not only the house with its wing as we now see it, but also a small office building near the left-hand corner of the mansion as



William Henry Ruffner

Payson Ruffner reveals his longing for Kanawha

you entered and extending back from this small building and reaching the public road in front – in fact a mere extension of the front yard downward, was an ample lot, clean and well-covered with a short grass sod, in which stood a group of extremely neat outbuildings, stables and sheds, all painted red and tipped with white – all kept in perfect order. The garden was nicely laid off and presented an attractive appearance on the opposite side of the front yard – the yard contained a variety of trees, chiefly evergreens and seems to my memory to have been larger than it is now.

I have now arrived at the period which is so near to your own recollection that I may turn over the family history to you and Andrew – and I should add your cousin Fanny, who is probably the best informed of all the Kanawha Kin. I got much from her. Sally Lyle and Ethel also possess a surprising amount of family learning. Of course, Cousin Rebecca on the line of Tobias, and still more on the line of Peter the second, is no doubt the best living authority. When time begins to blunt the edge of your business enthusiasm you will find your interest growing in genealogy and you will be sorry that you let the old people die without gathering information which posterity will want.

My last visit to Kanawha was just 102 years after Joseph's immigration.

There came with him and a little later with his son David about 16 souls. It would be impossible now to enumerate the dead and living descendants of Joseph. But it would be moderate to estimate the number at six or seven hundred. When in Kanawha, I made up a list of 278 living descendants. A number have been added since. About 2/5 of the whole were descended from Daniel.

I felt much at home when in Kanawha – though feeling greatly the absence of my dear brother David and of many others of the family. My association with you and your family, and with Andrew, forms a line of pleasant reminiscences of my visit. The hospitable treatment received from you and Cousin Hattie will not be forgotten. Andrew showed an equal disposition to be kind and hospitable and apologized for not having a house of his own – poor fellow – but promised to have one by the next time I would come. Tell him with my love that I will try to set off just as soon as he notifies me!

I suppose your children have grown several inches since I saw them, but I hope they will not stop school for some time to come. I enclose an autograph for R. E. Lee, which I hope he will value.

Will you or Cousin Hattie please to give my kind regards to Cousin Rebecca, Molly and Mr. McClung. I re-

member with pleasure my visits to them, especially the day that Molly gave me and others the handsome entertainment. I truly sympathise (sic) with them in their troubles. Is it true that their home is advertised for sale? I hear very little Kanawha news, I am sorry to say. We have had a few pleasant letters from our friends there – but I should like to hear frequently. I cannot complain, remembering my own delinquencies.

I hope your pear trees and grape vines gave you a good crop of their delicious fruit last season and that also that your great business continues to flourish. Do write me a good, long letter, such as I have now written to you.

With love to Cousin Hattie and the children, I remain

Your Affectionate Cousin
W. H. Ruffner

(over)

My daughter Anne sends her kind regards to you and your family. My family consists simply of her and Miss Sally Gray. I feel the pains and weakness of age more than I have ever felt them before; and it cannot be long until serious changes will occur.

William Henry Ruffner's home in Rockingham County, Virginia, is being restored



By Sam McNeely (desc Joseph)

I talked with Nolan Liskey concerning his recent work on the old William Henry Ruffner home; Hillside. He indicated that once he realized the historic value of it he decided to restore it to better condition. He has repaired the chimneys, repaired and painted the roof and completely painted the exterior. He intends to continue with restoration of the interior at a later time. He said that his great-grandfather had lived and died there after William Henry. I intend to send him some of the biography Pam and Mark have put together on him. Apparently William Henry lived there from 1853 to 1863 before moving back to Lexington, which was in the middle of the Civil War. I will give you more info as I obtain it.

Samuel Tobias Ruffner: A Man of War,

Several years ago, Lucy Ruffner (Dunn) Wood of Front Royal, Virginia, then a lady in her 70s, wrote a long letter to me about her family and especially her grandfather, Rev. Samuel Tobias Ruffner, D.D. Dr. Ruffner was a Presbyterian minister (or preacher as Lucy called him) in Missouri. I recognized his name immediately having often seen it on marriage and baptismal records for Missouri in the late 1800s.

Lucy wrote *"My grandfather, Samuel T. Ruffner was a captain in the Cavalry, CSA, and fought under General Price on the Western side of the Mississippi. When the war was over, he threw his sword away in a corn field and decided to become a minister, which he did by teaching to put himself through theological school."*

She also wrote that on June 8, 1908, her grandfather made an entry in the back of a Bible concordance listing his family from Peter and Mary Ruffner and stating *"Joseph and Anna were both born in Shenandoah County, now Page County, and emigrated to Kanawha, West Virginia in 1795 and became the proprietors of this bottom and salt springs at Campbell's Creek. They were the parents of David, Joseph, Samuel, Tobias, Eve, Daniel and Abram."*

Isaac Ruffner, the son of Tobias, was born at Campbell's Creek, Kanawha County, Jan. 21, 1804. He married Mary Coffman. Their children were Susan, Margaret, Samuel Tobias, Henry Clay, Mary Elizabeth and Annie Lois." (In this Coffman family, the name was sometimes spelled Kaufman in records, but evidently in Lucy's family, Coffman was preferred.)

Lucy Ruffner Dunn was born

in 1912 in Virginia, the daughter of Edith Hadassah Ruffner (1887-1986) and Thomas H. Dunn Jr. Lucy had a sister Mary who was two years younger, and a brother Sammy, one year younger than Mary. Lucy's parents separated while the children were very young and her mother supported the family as a schoolteacher in Front Royal, Virginia.

Lucy married Brereton J. Wood (1913-1987). They had a son who served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Seattle, Washington where a daughter Mary Pinckney Wood was born. Lucy died in Front Royal in 1995 at the age of 83. In memory of Lucy Ruffner (Dunn) Wood, this is the story of her beloved grandfather.

SAMUEL TOBIAS RUFFNER was born February 27, 1836 in Malden, Kanawha County, Virginia, in what was to become West Virginia. He was the only surviving son of Isaac Ruffner (1804-1884) and Mary Coffman/Kaufman (1805-1873), grandson of Tobias Ruffner and Mary Mussleman and great-grandson of Joseph Ruffner and Anne Heistand. Samuel had four sisters, but his only brother Henry Clay Ruffner, died from cholera at the age of 10.

Samuel's mother Mary was the daughter of Samuel and Susanna Coffman, and she married Isaac Ruffner on June 19, 1828. In 1853, along with his parents, Samuel moved to Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri. In 1855, Samuel entered Masonic College in Lexington and remained for two years. He then attended Center College at Danville, Kentucky, graduating in 1858 with high honors. After graduation, he returned to Lexington where he taught

school until the war between the states became a reality.

Samuel left his teaching position and in September of 1861 enlisted in the Confederate Army as part of the Missouri State Guard in Capt. John Bowman's Company, Col. Elliott's Regiment, receiving an appointment as a lieutenant. His first engagement was the Battle of Lexington, a very bloody three-day battle in his hometown. His second engagement was in Arkansas March 6-8, 1862 in the Battle of Pea Ridge, often called the Battle for the Elkhorn Tavern. Here the Confederacy received a terrible loss. Pea Ridge was one of the major battles during the early days of the war--the South having 14,000 troops and the North with 11,250. There were an estimated 5,949 casualties in this encounter--the Union had a loss of 1,349 men and the Confederacy losing a total of 4,600 men. As a consequence of this battle, the South lost control of Missouri.

While with his troops in Memphis, Tennessee, Samuel became ill and was sent to the hospital and when his health had improved, he was sent to Hot Springs, Arkansas until his return to full health. Samuel then associated himself with a Capt. Roberts who was recruiting, with his headquarters in Tahlequah, Indian Territory. From these recruits a battery was organized with Roberts as captain and Samuel Ruffner as lieutenant. On December 7, 1862 the battery took part in another especially bloody skirmish in a valley in Arkansas called Prairie Grove. Looking south from her home on West Hill, a 14-year old



A Man of Peace

by Betty Lou Deebach Gaeng (desc Peter Jr.)

Julia West viewed the horror of the battle and wrote this in her diary:

December 7, will long be remembered especially by those of us who lived here and witnessed the battle of Prairie Grove. It was a beautiful, cold, frosty Sunday morning....About 10 o'clock the cannonading began and about noon war began in earnest. It seemed everyone would be killed.

Immediately following the Battle of Prairie Grove, Capt. Roberts resigned and Samuel was promoted to captain and took command. As captain of Ruffner's Missouri Battery, an unattached artillery brigade, he took part in the Little Rock, Arkansas Expedition from August 1, 1863 until September 14, 1863. The Union's strength in this battle was 10,447 men, while the Confederacy had 8,000 men. Casualties for the Union were 18 killed, 118 wounded and 1 missing. Casualties for the Confederacy were 12 killed, 34 wounded and 18 missing.

Capt. Ruffner's Missouri Battery remained active in the Arkansas Campaign from March 23, 1864 until May 8, 1864. His battery was part of the Red River Campaign which took place from April through May of 1864 with Ruffner's Missouri Battery under the command of Capt. Ruffner as part of the Second Infantry Division. On April 8, 1864, the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana (part of the Red River Campaign) was fought and Capt. Ruffner's battery was again an active participant. Because this battle, taking place near the Sabine River and the Texas border was so far from the center of the major activities in Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia, little attention was paid to it, however, as the Civil War was nearing

its end, this battle became the last major victory for the Confederate forces. On November 19, 1864, special orders were issued to organize the artillery into battalions, and Capt. Ruffner's group became the First Missouri Field Battery, belonging to the Fifth Artillery Battalion which consisted of men from Arkansas and Missouri. Capt. Ruffner and his men remained active until the Confederacy surrendered to Union forces in the spring of 1865. As Samuel Ruffner told his granddaughter, having had enough of war and all its carnage, on his way home he threw away his sword and vowed to become a man of God.

In order to have the money to attend theologian college, Samuel went back to teaching and taught school in Nebraska for two years. He finally returned to Missouri in 1869 and began his preparations for the ministry. Samuel was licensed in 1872, and on May 26, 1873 in Missouri, he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. His first assignment was Waverly (Missouri) Presbyterian Church, near his hometown of Lexington and Samuel remained as pastor for seven years. In 1877 at the age of 41, still a bachelor, Samuel met 29-year old Lucy E. Jackson of Rappahannock County, Virginia while she was in Missouri to visit her brother. Samuel and Lucy were married in Lafayette County, Missouri on June 13, 1877.

In November of 1879, Rev. Ruffner was transferred to the Presbyterian Church in Higginsville, Missouri, a few miles south of Lexington and Waverly. Later he would take up his ministry in the Presbyterian faith in eastern Missouri at Farmington, St. Francois County.

Samuel and Lucy were the parents of two daughters, Mary (called Mamie) (1879-1942) and Edith Hadassah Ruffner, mentioned above. Mamie Ruffner married George Cabell Ramsey (1882-1958) and they lived and died in Front Royal, Virginia, where they are both buried near Mamie's parents. Samuel and Lucy (Jackson) Ruffner were married for 37 years when Lucy died in 1913. Samuel died in Front Royal, Virginia on January 22, 1923 just over a month shy of his 87th birthday and he is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Front Royal next to his wife Lucy.

Samuel Tobias Ruffner had kept the vow he made at that corn field on his way home from war--he became a man of God--a very respected *preacher*.

Sources of Information:

History of Lafayette County, Missouri (1881) ~ U.S. Census Records 1850-1930 ~ Social Security Death records ~ Records of Ray County, Missouri Cemetery ~ Cemetery records for Prospect Hill Cemetery, Front Royal, Virginia ~ Records of Missouri Marriages 1851-1900 ~ Presbyterian Ministerial Directory 1898 ~ Records of the battles of the Civil War ~ and especially the words of Samuel's granddaughter Lucy Ruffner (Dunn) Wood.

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Milestones

Deaths

Peter-Peter-John-Mary Elizabeth-Daniel Harrison-Mary Blanche Strickler-Eldon Virgil Rickard-Vivian "Tib" Rickard Slye-Chapman E. Slye-

Chapman Alexander Slye, 18, of Fredericksburg, VA, died Jul 3, 2006, in New Kent County.

He was born in Fredericksburg, Jun 6, 1988, the son of Chapman E. and Marila P. Slye of Fredericksburg. Surviving in addition to his parents are two sisters, Giselle Maria Slye and Maria Cristina Slye, both of Fredericksburg; and his grandmothers, Vivian E. Slye of Luray and Mary S. Posada of Charlottesville.

Peter-Peter-John-Philip-Isaac-David Isaac-

David L. Ruffner, 80, of Winchester, VA, died May 31, 2001 in the V. A. Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV.

David was born Oct 20, 1920 in Warren County, son of David I and Ollie G. Wood Ruffner. He was retired as a heavy equipment operator for Perry Engineering. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

He married Geraldine Reedy Aug 11, 1945; who passed away Sep 4, 1991.

He is survived by two sons: Dalton Lee Ruffner and Terry Wayne Ruffner, both of Winchester; a daughter, Carolyn Ann Coates of Richmond; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Peter-Emanuel-Jacob-Anna Crist-William Crist-Harry Crist-Wilda Guseman-Carl Guseman-

Carl V. Guseman, 72, of Stoutsville, passed away Oct 1, 2006 at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster.

He was born Nov 14, 1933, in Fairfield County and was the son of the late Harold B. and Wanda Crist Guseman. Carl was retired from General Electric Company in Circleville and was an Army veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Linda M. Phillips Guseman; his children, Tammy Aneshansley of Groveport; Scott (April) Guseman of Houston, TX; Steve Guseman of Lufkin, TX and Robin (Floyd) Tackett of South Bloomfield; four grandchildren: Brian Jones, Adrian and Taylor Guseman and Jessica Tackett. He is also survived by two brothers, Charles Guseman and Roger (Elinora) Guseman, both of Lancaster; five sisters, Twila Hartman; Lois Bibler and Charlotte (George) Dittmar, all of Lancas-

ter; Janet Guseman of North Canton and Linda Whittington of Bechtelsville, PA; and nieces and nephews.

Carl was preceded in death by a grandson, Christopher Aneshansley and a brother, David Guseman.

Charles Robert 'Chuck' Hinzey, 52, of Lewis Center, OH, passed away Oct 6, 2006. He was born Mar 3, 1954 and was a 1972 graduate of Grove City High School and a 1976 graduate of Ohio University, where he was a sousaphone player in the Marching 110.

He married **Wendy Ann Neff** (Peter-Emanuel-Jacob-Isaac-WilliamStuart-Hiram Clay-Everett Stuart-Barbara Ruffner Neff) in 1977. He was a Construction Project Management Coordinator and Stationary Steam Engineer at Conesville Power Plant, Houston Lighting and Power, American Electric Power and America Municipal Power of Ohio for twenty-five years. Most recently he owned a UPS store in Powell, OH.

He was a Deacon and Elder of the Presbyterian Church, USA, a coach for youth sports programs and a proud Eagle Scout.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Alice Przebeszski Hinzey. He is survived by his wife, Wendy; his father and stepmother, Charles Hiram and Mae Hinzey of Hilliard, OH; his children, John Robert and Angela Lynne Hinzey; his sister, Alicia Blocksom and several cousins.

Patricia Karig Ruffner, 83, died Oct 16, 2006 at home in Marshall, VA.

Patricia was born in Orange, NJ, and graduated from St. Agnes School in Alexandria in 1939. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, she studied art during the summers in Boston and New York City, as well as at the Phillips Art School in Washington.

She was preceded in death by three husbands: Edward Alexis Smith, Harry Davie Archer, Jr. and **Richard Laidley Ruffner, Jr.** (Peter-Joseph-David-Henry-David Lewis-Joel Henry-Richard Laidley Sr.) Survivors include five children, Alexis Smith of Luray, VA; Robin Smith Williams of Slate Mills, VA; Devon Archer Schreiner of Warrenton; Mary Keith Ruffner of Delaplane and

Richard Laidley Ruffner III of Jefferson, VA; a sister, Keating K. Carrier of Alexandria and three grandsons.

Peter-Emanuel-Jacob-Anna Crist-William Crist-Harry Crist-Wilda Guseman-Lois Bibler-

Diana Lynn Bibler Appel, 49, of Lancaster, OH, died Nov 5, 2006 at Fairfield Medical Center.

Diana attended Canal Community Baptist Church and was a frequent volunteer at Fairfield Center for Disabilities and Cerebral Palsy.

She is survived by her mother, Lois Bibler of Lancaster; sisters Jacquelyn (Tim) Hitchcock of Canal Winchester; and Kathryn (Jerry) Inman of Pleasantville; brothers Rex (Kathy) Bibler of Lancaster and Curt (Sue) Bibler of Alpharetta, GA; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Diana was preceded in death by her father, Donald Bibler; brother Larry "Butch" Bibler and grandparents Harold and Wilda Guseman and Lee and Hazel Bibler.

Virginia C. Ruffner of Richmond, died Nov 9, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Compton Ruffner; and one niece. She is survived by her sister, Annie C. Brandon, two great-nieces, one great-nephew, three great-great-nieces and two great-great nephews and their spouses, all of Richmond. She was a retiree of Reynolds Metal Co. and also worked in real estate offices for a number of years, and was a volunteer at St. Mary's Hospital and Lakewood Manor Healthcare. She was a member of Derbyshire Baptist Church.

Peter-Emmanuel-Jacob-I-Isaac-William Stuart-Hiram Clay-Everett Stuart-

Barbara Jean Ruffner Neff of Williamsport, OH, died Nov 17, 2006 at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus.

Born Oct 25, 1927 to Everett and Ruth (Reese) Ruffner, she graduated from South High School in Columbus and was employed by the American Education Press in Columbus and also worked as an office assistant.

She married Francis William 'Bill' Neff Nov 18, 1951. A devoted homemaker and wife, she also took

enormous pride in serving for 18 years as a cook for Westfall Schools.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Lois Archambeau; sister-in-law Nancy Drake; brother-in-law Harold Simmons and son-in-law Charles Hinzey. She is survived by her husband, her children: Peggy (Gary) Wright of Williamsport, Wendy Hinzey of Lewis Center, Brian (Valerie) Neff of Circleville, Anita (Michael) Weidinger of Yorktown, VA, and April (Greg) Kritzwiser of Waverly and her grandchildren: Clinton, Nathan and Heather Wright; Angela and John Hinzey; Megan and Allison Neff; George and Benjamin Weidinger; and Erin and Andrew Kritzwiser. She is also survived by her sister Joan (Ken) Reid of Columbus; brother Norman (Marilyn) Ruffner of Tacoma, Washington; Sisters-in-law, Betty (John) Riddle of Orient; Sue (Rick) Hill of Lawrence, KS; special friend Ann Simmons of Westerville; cousin Phyllis Sturm, several nieces and nephews.

Peter-Peter-John-Reuben-Jacob-William-Elma Virginia Ruffner-

Edna E. Martin, 90, of New Market, Virginia, died Nov 25, 2006 at Willow Estates in Penn Laird.

Edna was born May 12, 1916 in Page County and was the daughter of the late Isaac H. and Elma Virginia Ruffner Turner.

She was a homemaker and a member of Manor Memorial United Methodist Church in New Market. She was an avid golfer and was a member of Shenvallee Women's Golf Club.

She married Raymond C. Martin Apr 13, 1946. He preceded her in death Dec 20, 2000.

Edna is survived by two sons, Rodney Martin of Mount Crawford and Jerry Martin of New Market, a granddaughter and a great-grandson.

Peter-Benjamin-Benjamin-Andrew Harrison-Harrison Newton-Edward-Clare Anderson-

Clare "Gene" Ruffner, 75, of Mason, IL died Nov. 24, 2006, at St. Anthony's Memorial, Effingham, IL.

He was born Aug 15, 1931, in Mason, IL, the son of Clare Anderson and Geneva Blanche (Bailey) Ruff-

ner. He married Betty Percival Oct 23, 1955 in Effingham. Gene was a retired truck driver for Yellow Freight; a member, elder, and deacon at Mason Christian Church; a founding member of Mason Christian Academy and a member of the Yellow Freight 1,000,000 mile club. Gene was a U.S. Navy Veteran of the Korean War earning a Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Ribbon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Paul "P.D." and Urban Ruffner, and a sister, Sara Joan Ruffner. Surviving are his wife Betty of Mason; son, Gary (Judy) Ruffner of Mason; daughter, Cathy (Steve) White of Mason; brother Jerry (Carol) Ruffner of Mason; sister-in-law, Shirley Ruffner of Mason; grandchildren: Sara (Clint) Little, Billie (Tom) Bales and Jamie, Jacob and Kylie Ruffner.

Pete- Peter-John-Reuben-Jacob William-Emma Rebecca Ruffner Brubaker -

Virginia Frances Long, 84, of Stanley, VA, died Jan 5, 2007, at Page Memorial Hospital.

She was born Feb 27, 1922, in Luray and was a daughter of the late Leo David and Emma Rebecca Ruffner Brubaker. Virginia was a farmer and an avid gardener. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and devoted member of the Hawksbill Primitive Baptist Church, where she was baptized in 1954.

On Oct 25, 1939, she married Ernest Macon Long, who survives.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two daughters, Barbara Long Burner and husband James F. Burner, and Jane Long Kinser and husband Paul E. Kinser, all of Stanley; five grandchildren, Deborah Kile of New Market, Julia Ann Mercer of Luray, John R. Ruffner of Stanley, W. Joe Ruffner of Luray, and Lori Ann Campbell of Stanley; and six great-grandchildren, Jordan Mercer of Luray, Kristina Ruffner and Cody Ruffner, both of Stanley, Nicole Ruffner of Luray, and Breanna Campbell and Makenna Campbell, both of Stanley. She was preceded in death by a sister, Thelma Judd; and a brother, Daniel William Brubaker.

Marriages

Peter-Peter-John-Reuben-Jacob William-Jacob Daniel-Jane Ruffner Lucas-Richard Lucas-

Elizabeth Brooks Lucas of Richmond, Virginia, and Paul Edward Heizer, Jr. of Mechanicsville, Virginia, were married at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond August 12, 2006.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bruce Lucas of Manakin-Sabot, Virginia and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Jane Ruffner) Lucas of Winchester.

Peter-Peter-Jonas-Peter A.-Peter Edwin-Edwin Grover-Dorothy Ruffner Rinker-Phyllis Rinker Hershock-

Amanda Hershock married Hans Harris in York, Pennsylvania, August 12, 2006. She is the daughter of Phyllis and Craig Hershock and the granddaughter of Dorothy Ruffner Rinker, all of York.

Births

Peter-Emanuel-Jacob I-Isaac-William Stuart-Hiram Clay-Everett Stuart-Norman Stuart-Michael Stuart-Denelle Marie-

Twins **May** and **Reece Glasco** were born December 23, 2005 to **Denelle Marie Ruffner** and Marice Glasco of Tacoma, Washington.

Peter-Emanuel-Jacob I-Isaac-William Stuart-Hiram Clay-Everett Stuart-Norman Stuart-Norma Ruffner Zink-

Alexa Jennifer Hill was born May 25, 2006 to **Nicolle** and Adam Hill of Seattle, Washington.

Peter-Emanuel-Jacob I-Isaac-William Stuart-Hiram Clay-Everett Stuart-Norman Stuart-Scott-

Jack Edward Ruffner was born June 23, 2006 to **Scott** and Janice Ruffner of Tacoma, Washington.

Peter-Emanuel-Joseph-Elizabeth-Maybell-Nettie-Donald Barr-Donn-

Adam and **Adrienne** Leith are the proud parents of a baby girl, **Alexis Renee Leith**, born September 26, 2006.

Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

From your editor

Over the last five years, as Mark and I have collected information on the Ruffner Family, we have often marveled at the work of Doris and Olive Ruffner, pictured at right, the wives of Emanuel descendants in Ohio who compiled and published *Peter Ruffner and his Descendants* in the 1960's.

Keep in mind that they had no Internet, no computer and no cell phone for those times when their research took them to places unknown. What patience they showed as they plodded along with their typewriter and carbon paper — all in the interest of preserving their husbands' family history and genealogy. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their foresight and their gift to all of us.

In June, we have the chance to walk in the footsteps of Benjamin Ruffner and his descendants. Bob and Shirley Ann Sheets are hosting the 2007 reunion in Denver at Estes Park. The weekend features many opportunities to



Doris Laver Ruffner (1908-2002) and Olive Taylor Ruffner (1898-1979)

learn about our family, make new friends and reacquaint with those we've met before. I hope that you will be able to join your family in the Mile-High City for a weekend you'll always remember. Please let Bob know if you need registration materials. (see pp 1 and 3)

Many thanks to this issue's contributors. What would we do without our dedicated historians such as Betty Lou Gaeng, Marria Blinn and Dorothea Russell? I must also thank former editor Joan Reid and Roberta Ruffner

Kirwin, who are so faithful about keeping us updated on the Emanuel branch.

Finally, our deepest sympathies go out to the many families represented on pages 8 and 9. We've certainly lost many cousins recently and it's important to remember them here.

It is a great pleasure to offer congratulations to the new couples and new members of our family listed there as well!

Please continue to send your news, your ideas and your work to RR&R. It is my privilege to prepare this newsletter for each and every one of you.

*Warmest regards,
Pam*

Send your news!

If possible, send your electronic articles, with permission granted, to catvorrang@yahoo.com. Or mail them to Pam Flasch at 19 Amiss Avenue, Luray, Virginia 22835.

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