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Winter 2008

Ruffner Roots and Ramblings, Vol. 11, Issue 1

Ruffner Family Association

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Ruffner Roots & Ramblings



Ruffner Family Association Volume 11 Number 1 Winter 2008

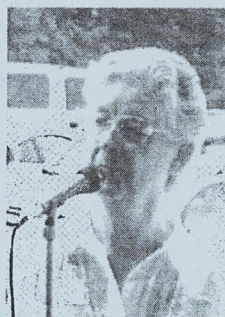
Sneak Preview!

Dorotha Russell presents 'Reuben Ruffner and some of his many Descendants'; RFA to publish edition in 2008

By Dorotha Russell

Reuben was the fourth son (fifth child) of Peter and Mary Steinman Ruffner. He was born 20 or 22 October 1748 and married Catherine Dager 10 April 1775 in Virginia. Because there were no clues to her parentage in the marriage record, identifying who she truly was has been a daunting task. A Polly Deger married a John Brown 15 August 1820, the only similar name to be found in the county. There was a Peter Dager in Whitmarsh township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in 1780, and he and his wife, Catherine were witnesses to baptisms in Tohickon Reformed Church, and in Whitpain township, same county, there was a Dager family. There was a Martin Dager in Washington County, Pennsylvania. This is not a far stretch from Page County, Virginia.

Rupp's list of emigrants includes Deg, Dege, Deggen, Deghe and Degler. An Elias Deger came to America with his family from Germany in 1752. A list of Virginians in the Revolution reveals a Robert Dagar, a William Dagen and Peter Dager or Dagger. An Isaac Degge and an Edward Degger are also shown on the list. A Virginia wills list 1632-1800 reveals Dag, Degge and Jacob Daggy is found in Augusta County court records. William and Abraham Degart, Mennonites, lived in Virginia along Bateson's Creek. A Dague family history has a Frederick Deg as its emigrant ancestor who settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania, although he had first gone to Lancaster County and there might have struck up an acquaintance with the Ruffners. A Jacob Dage appears in Frederick County, and in 1810, Peter Dagger in Botetourt County and Adam, David, Jacob and James Decker in Shenandoah County, all in Virginia. Virginia patent book no. 7, page 160, reveals a



Dorotha Russell at the 2005 RFA Reunion in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

land patent awarded to a Degar, on of twenty persons sharing 1000 acres in New Kent County, Virginia, on the south side of Totopotomoy Creek in April 1682. Finally, there was a family by the name of Yeager living near the original site of Peter and Mary Ruffner's home – not too much of a stretch when names were variously understood and often misspelled.

The Reuben Ruffners lived on Big Hawksbill, two miles from today's intersection of Main and Broad streets in Luray. Their log cabin is still standing near a much later brick home which is presently occupied. We must be grateful to those folks for carefully maintaining the old log cabin through the years. During the summer of 2001, restoration was begun on the cabin in an effort to make it a National Heritage Historical Site. The project proves to be a complex chore as the restorer strives to meet the obligations of historical demands. After chinks were removed from between the logs, it was discovered that the cabin had originally faced east toward the early day village of Mundellsville a quarter mile away (where Reuben's brother Joseph lived. –m & p.) In the interim, the east door became a window and the north window became the front door, and a two level store-room was appended on the northeast corner of the cabin. (cont. on page 8)



The original Reuben Ruffner cabin still stands in Page County, Virginia, just south of Luray.



The President's Pen

Family visits and greetings are a highlight of the holiday season, and we were delighted to receive so much correspondence from our extended Ruffner family over the past couple of months. Thanks to everyone who has contributed their fascinating personal stories and articles for Ruffner Roots and Ramblings! Our family organization is built on your input and all the family tales and remembrances our members have shared down through the years.

Some of you have recently asked if RR&R could cover more on your specific branch of the family. Over the past decade, the RFA has generally relied on members to share what they themselves have researched on their own family history for printing in the RR&R, to enrich our knowledge of the role our ancestors played in building this great nation. For a few prominent Ruffners (e.g., William Henry Ruffner) it's just a matter of retelling a story already in libraries. For most, however (like Rev. James Abram Ruffner in the Fall '07 RR&R) it's a story we wouldn't know unless shared by a descendant. We ask everyone to email us, write to us, or call us with your own family stories and it will be our great pleasure to share them in the RR&R; that's the whole purpose of the Ruffner Family Association.

We look forward to our board meeting in Effingham, Illinois, in June. We'll have more details on that in the spring issue.



Ruffner Family Association
President Mark V. Flasch, VA
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Ruffner Roots and Ramblings

Editor Pamela McNeely Flasch, VA

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 (with permission granted if not an original work, via e-mail in **WORD** format. Photos may also be sent electronically in **JPEG** format.

The **e-mail address** is catvorrang@yahoo.com. The 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 shmcneely@comcast.net.

Mark

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$20 - Individual

\$30 - Family

send to:

Ruffner Family Association
Sam McNeely, treasurer
Box 351
Luray, VA 22835

QUERIES

**WHO is it? WHAT is it?
WHERE is it?**

Send your inquiries (photos in jpeg format) to catvorrang@yahoo.com and we will publish them in the follow issue. Hopefully our readers will be able to answer any questions sent in. You may also send them to Pam Flasch at 19 Amiss Avenue, Luray, VA 22835.

Name:
Phone:
E-mail:
Mailing Address:

Best way to contact you:

I am looking for information on :

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.

"The Ruffner Family: Page County Roots... Branches all over the United States and Beyond"

Exhibit at Luray branch of Page County Library highlights Ruffners past and present

Last summer, we took photographs from the first two editions of the updated Peter Ruffner and His Descendants to the Ruffner Family Reunion in Denver. In October and November, the Ruffner Family Association was in the spotlight at the Luray branch of the Page County Public Library in an exhibit titled "The Ruffner Family: Page County Roots ... Branches all over the United States and Beyond." We featured these photographs as well as displaying photos of local Ruffners currently living in Page County. On the suggestion of Marria Blinn, we would like to share some of those photos, which illustrate the influence of Ruffners all over the world. Here are seven Joseph descendants; next time we'll focus on the descendants of Peter, Junior.

Alfred Ruffner Rochester 1895-1989 (Peter, Joseph, David, Lewis, Sarah Ann Ruffner, Julia Gwynn Smith) a lifelong Seattle resident, was active in the Democratic Party, served on the Seattle City Council (1944-1956), and published *The Seattlite*. Rochester was the original advocate and founder of Century 21, known as The Seattle World's Fair of 1962.



Pattie Belle Ruffner Jacobs, 1875-1935 (Peter, Joseph, David, Lewis, Lewis) was born 2 Oct 1875 in Malden, West Virginia, lived in Alabama, was a suffragette and second vice-president of the National League of Women Voters.



(General) Clark L.⁷ 'Nick' Ruffner, 1903-1982 (Peter, Joseph, David, Lewis, Ernest Howard, Ernest Lewis) graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1924 and led a distinguished Army career, retiring in



1962 as a four-star general. General Ruffner commanded the 2nd Infantry "Indianhead" Division during the Korean War and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his victory in the battle of Soyang River in May, 1951, during which he survived a helicopter crash.

(Major General) David Lewis⁷ Ruffner, 1896-

1973 (Peter, Joseph, David, Henry, David Lewis, Joel Henry) graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1917 and was sent to France as a part of the American Expeditionary Force (World War I). He was promoted to Brigadier General and named 10th Mountain Division Artillery Commander in September 1943, deploying to Italy in 1945 for the Po Valley Offensive (World War II). He received a Silver Star and a Bronze Star as well as a Purple Heart during the campaign. He was promoted to Major General in 1950; in May 1952 he assumed command of the 45th Infantry Division in Korea. He retired in March 1953 with more than 35 years service, having participated in three major wars.



Dorcas Laidley Tiemeyer Houston, 1915-1999 (Peter, Joseph, David, Henry, David Lewis, Joel

Henry, Diana Laidley Ruffner Tiemeyer) left her nursing career to be a full-time mother. When her husband, Dr. Charles Houston, led the first Peace Corps project in India from 1962-1965 Dorcas accompanied him. Dr. Houston is also a world-renowned explorer and physician.



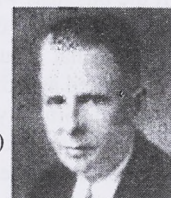
Catherine Ann Williams Owens, 1819-1886 (Peter, Joseph, Samuel,

Esther Ruffner Williams) joined the Latter Day Saints movement with her husband Robert, relocating to Nauvoo, Illinois, in the mid



1840's. In summer of 1847 they were part of the Latter Day Saints' migration from Iowa to Utah. Robert served in the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican American War and as a missionary to India and Australia.

Richard Laidley Ruffner, 1894-1965 (Peter, Joseph, David, Henry, David Lewis, Joel Henry) was mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, 1937-1940.



Ruffners in the News...

Making cards for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan a rewarding experience

Contributed by Susan de Castro McCann; reprinted by permission

The Redstone (Colorado) Review; Friday, 21 December 2007 One of the most fun parts of the holiday season is receiving greeting cards...

But for Pat Journeay (Peter, Peter, Elizabeth Ruffner Pennybacker, John, Charles Henry, James Edward, Annabelle Pennybacker Bigham) cards have a much deeper meaning. She has been teaching stamping and card making to various groups for about five years. This year Journeay and a group of people at the Longmont Senior Center in her card making class decided to send their hand made cards to people serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I wanted to do something to support the families and the people who serve," said Journeay. When word got out that Journeay was making cards for service people, she was overwhelmed with people wanting to pitch in. That was on Monday November 26. "We had over 30 people show up in Longmont and we had to turn some people away," she said. "... Fox News showed up to film us making the cards."

"We ended up sending out over 300 greeting cards," she said. ...That was in early December.

Making the cards was one thing, but knowing where to send them was quite another. "It is hard to get the cards delivered," said Journeay. "I read somewhere that if you do not have an individual name of a service person on the card and the address, that they will throw the cards away because they are afraid of terrorist attacks or anthrax or something like that. ... So I went on the Internet and I found ... a site called operationpal.com which gives the names of injured soldiers. ... I (also) found a National Guard unit in California and ... a Guard unit in North Carolina that would also take the cards. Then people just started calling me up and telling me about their son or daughter serving in the military and asked if we could send cards to them, so we did that. ... We sent cards to family members who had lost someone in the war also."

Journeay said that this experience has changed her thinking about serving others. "I found that this was so rewarding that I want to do more charity work."



Pat Journeay

Abigail McNeely interviews Richard Hilliard at Elkton Middle School Career Day

I walked into the Elkton Middle School auditorium and sat in the back row, away from the group of seventh graders already seated. I watched one of the 70-some guests at the Career Pathways Showcase that day: an artist from JMU. He spoke of loving comic books as a kid and drawing ever since he could hold a pencil, about his three books and how he was inspired to write his very first from watching Apollo 11 live on a black and white television. Before the bell rang, allowing the seventh grade to go back to class, he gave them a word of advice: "Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something because you came from Elkton. Follow your dreams." The kids piled out with that thought still in their head, and as they did, I made my way down to introduce myself.

He shook my hand and introduced himself as Rich Hilliard. (Peter, Peter, John, Reuben, John Bedinger, John William, Charlotte Page Ruffner Long, Yvonne Long Hilliard) We sat in the front row and talked in between groups. His fourth book **Lucky 13: Survival in Space** is going to be illustrated digitally, instead of with canvas and acrylics like his past three books. I asked him how, personally, the visual arts had changed since he was in school. "It isn't someone sitting in a room with paper and paint anymore," he said. He was around 20 years old when people started doing art digitally and was over 30 by the time he actually bought a computer. Rich said that some of his friends actually left the business when digital art became so popular; however, he decided he would stick around.

Before Hilliard wrote children's books, he worked in some surprising places. For example, he worked with a company that set up animatronics for amusement parks and trade shows, which meant he got to travel quite a bit. He also worked as a freelance toy designer, designing toys of characters from Batman, Star Wars, and the most recent set of figures, Sin City. He also said that for a short time he worked on Dungeons and Dragons.

Do you have any advice for future artists or writers, Mr. Hilliard? "Draw everyday. Write everyday. Again, don't let anyone tell you that you can't go to New York and make it because you came from Elkton. Believe me. I came from Stanley." — Abigail Lee McNeely (Peter, Joseph, David, Lewis, Joel, Herman, Aileen Ruffner McNeely, Samuel, Samuel Lee)



Abigail McNeely and Rich Hilliard

Richard and Kim Ruffner share photos, newspaper clippings from the life of West Coast Pioneer Peter M. Ruffner

(Peter, Peter Jr., Joshua, Peter M., Francis, Roy, Richard, Kim)

(Mark and I first heard from Kim Ruffner in the fall of 2007. She sent a genealogy starting with J. Ruffner, who was born in 1828. She didn't know who J's father was and asked for our help. We were quickly able to determine that Peter M. was the son of Joshua Ruffner and his wife Sarah Rivercomb. After corresponding with Kim, she has since provided us with these photos and obituaries as well as recorded interviews with her uncle Roy Koontz Ruffner and her father and grandfather. She also included the transcripts, and we'll be sharing excerpts from these in future issues.) — Pam

Mrs. Peter Ruffner

Mrs. Peter Ruffner (nee Ellen Koontz) died at The Dalles Tuesday evening. She was born in Ohio, March 27, 1832, and was married to Peter Ruffner in Iowa in 1852. A month after their marriage they started across the plains to this coast, arriving in Vancouver, Washington, on the 11th of October, 1852. They made their home near Portland until 1854, when they moved to Southern Oregon. In 1862, they moved to The Dalles. Besides a husband, Mrs. Ruffner leaves eight children, a daughter, Mrs. Laura Boehmer, having died on September 9, 1898. The others are Andrew Ruffner, of Seattle; Mrs. Joseph Marsh, of Wasco; Mrs. John Koontz, Mrs. Alice Kootnz, Frank and William Ruffner and Clara and Maude Ruffner, all of The Dalles.

Death of An Old Pioneer

Peter Ruffner, who has been living with his daughter, Mrs. Ellen Koontz, in this city, died Saturday morning of old age very peacefully. Mr. Ruffner was sitting in a chair when he passed away and died so quietly that no one was near him at the time.

The funeral was held here Monday morning at 9 o'clock and the body taken to The Dalles for burial.



For many years, Mr. Ruffner was a resident of The Dalles and in connection with his death the Chronicle of that place says:

Peter Ruffner, who was aged 85 years and 3 months, was born in the state of Virginia, and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852, settling at Port Orford. He came to The Dalles in 1960 and was one of the earliest marshals the city knew. He was a stone mason by trade and much of his work is now seen in the oldest residences of the city. For the past six years he has made his home with his daughter in Hood River. His six surviving children — Andrew Ruffner of Bremerton, Washington; Mrs. Joseph Marsh of Wasco; Mrs. Ellen Koontz of Hood River; Frank Ruffner of Portland; Mrs. Clara Carmicheal of Seattle — accompanied the remains, which were carried to their last resting place by old-time friends, Messrs. G. A. Lieve, A. Y. Marsh, Henry Witmore, Aleck Anderson, George Ruch and Wm. Weggenman. Mrs. Ruffner died eight years ago and was buried in Odd Fellows cemetery.



Peter M. Ruffner, shown above as a young man and at left as an older man.

RUFFNER — At the family home, 439 East 41st St., Estella Ruffner, age 54 years, beloved wife of F. M. Ruffner, mother of Roy K. Ruffner and Jack B. Ruffner of this city; sister of Wesley, Ernest and Marion Koontz and Hazel Day of this city. Funeral services will take place in the conservatory chapel of the East Side Funeral Directors, Inc., 414 E. Alder St., Saturday, June 24 at 2 p. m. Interment at Crescent Grove cemetery, Metzger, Or. Friends invited.

"It is worthwhile for any one to have behind him a few generations of honest, hardworking ancestry."

—John Phillips Marguand

Contributed by Joan Ruffner Reid

Mary Tittle shares her impressions of her father

... I will try to give you a picture of my father (Rev.) James Ruffner for your records. To begin, I remember that he was a stickler for organization, which he maintained in his home and his work. He preferred to have a place for everything and everything in its place. ... He found life to be less stressful that way.

As you know, he lost his first wife when their three children were very young. This forced him to become a master chef for he loved to eat and to have tasty food for his family. No matter where he was stationed, he managed to maintain a garden, even if he were forced to rob the flower garden of space. ... I can remember coming home from school and going to the garden and digging up a turnip or carrot, washing it and eating it the way you eat an apple. Daddy's biscuits, cornbread and pies were the best I ever tasted and his stewed tomato casserole in which he used his leftover biscuits was a favorite with the family and friends. This cooking expertise set him in good stead, in the depression years, when his church could not pay him a salary. Nothing daunted, he arranged to use the two extra bedrooms in the parsonage to rent to two men, for room and board. The rent payments kept him in pin and expense money.

Here I will include an excerpt from my family story which gives a good description of my father. Shortly after my mother died James was transferred to Donna, Texas. The following is what I wrote about him in my story.

Before I get involved with telling you about my pre-teen influences in Donna for you to analyze and evaluate the consequences, I would like to tell you a little about the big, gentle man who was my father. In the previous chapters I concentrated on the influences of my mother (Mary Lavinia Bishop Cook) because she was the dominant influence in the very early years. She was a role model that even the modern woman would be proud to emulate. She took advantage of her God-given talents, nurtured them and developed them to their full potential,

in spite of her failing health. Now that my father and I must continue our lives without her, I would like to paint a picture of the gentle man who made every effort to be both my mother and father. He was kind and thoughtful yet used the same tough love discipline my mother administered. His name was James, but because of his friendly nature everyone called him Jim. Here in after I will refer to my father as Jim. He was a big man, six feet two inches tall, with eyes of sky blue and a smile to warm the heart of you. However, he grew up in a family which did not condone public displays of affection. Hugging and kissing were not his style. He believed that these displays were, very often, exhibitory and pretentious. There are those who think this theory to be unnecessarily informal and even austere but that would belie Jim's naturally kind and gentle nature.

Jim would listen to people by the hour as they poured out their doubts and problems and make an effort to ease their pain and help them solve their problems and he always kept his counsel. He firmly believed that words and actions can always be misconstrued, should never be accepted as fact and never repeated. He deplored man's tendency to nurture gossip and believed it to be the greatest sin for he had seen too many lives ruined and families destroyed by someone making an assumption and jumping to the wrong conclusions. He believed in the old German expression, "never complain and never explain." He considered both to be useless procedures. People usually prefer to believe what they want to believe.

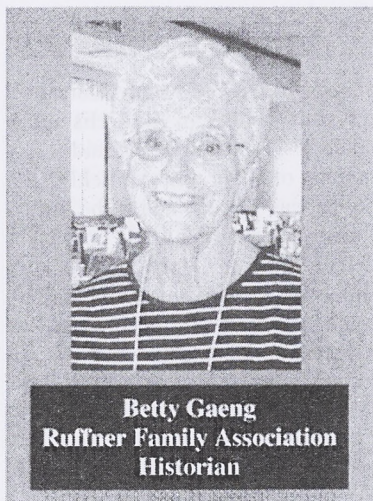
In reflection, I believe that Jim could have been a success at almost any profession. He could have studied to be an architect for he loved, in his quiet times, to take out a pencil and pad and sketch plans for houses, churches, etc. It was a hobby with him. He had been instrumental in the planning and building of the beautiful (downtown) Methodist Church in Brownsville, when he was stationed there. (see photo above)



Jim, (sister) Margaret and my brother Lloyd Ruffner were all farmers at heart and they became interested in finding a farm to purchase. They saved and pooled their resources and finally found a ten-acre farm on the outskirts of Donna. It was then that Jim started drawing plans for a farmhouse cottage and slowly, in his spare time, built that cottage with nothing more than a hammer and saw for tools. Retirement for him was not far away and he hoped to be able to retire there. Jim, Margaret and Lloyd, with the help of farm labor, had been planting an orchard of citrus trees on the land. Between the cottage and the orchard they had left space for a vegetable garden and other types of fruit trees. They planted bananas, papayas, avocados, limes, lemons, peaches and figs near the garden area. Believe me, when those three took on a project, they did it right, as they projection into their desire for the future.

Margaret loved flowers and she planted them around the cottage. There were roses everywhere. Lloyd planted a cactus plant, in the front yard, which grew almost as tall as an oak tree and had pastel flowers as big as saucers. It was spectacular. When Jim was transferred, Margaret stayed in Donna and moved into the cottage and made it her home. Lloyd moved there also to help take care of the farm and the orchard. When Jim retired he moved there and the three lived there the rest of their lives.

(We look forward to reading more by Mary in upcoming issues.) —Pam



1885
Luray Business Directory
Contributed by Betty Gaeng

OFFICIAL

A. K. GRIM, State Senator
E. J. ARMSTRONG,
Commonwealth's Attorney
C. T. HOLTEMAN,
Deputy Clerk of the Court
COUNTY SUPERVISORS:
William F. Grayson, Martin Strickler,
A. E. Strole

LAWYERS.

H. J. SMOOT, M. L. WELFLEY,
ALEX J. BRAND, B. C. RUST,
E. T. BOOTON, E. J. ARM-
STRONG, WALTON & BRO.,
J. G. NEWMAN, R. S. PARKS,
S. J. RICHEY

DRUGGISTS AND
PHYSICIANS.

J. G. BOOTON, Physician and Sur-
geon
T. L. BOOTON, Physician and Sur-
geon
J. M. AMISS, Dental Surgeon
A. W. McKIM & CO., Dealers in
Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals,
Paints, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs,
Perfumery, Painters' Articles, Win-
dow-Glass and Putty, Fine Toilet
Soaps

Fine Hair and Tooth Brushes,
Dental and Surgical Instruments, Paint
Brushes, Fancy Articles, Camphene,
Turpentine, Books and Stationery,
Garden Seeds, and all Patent

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all made for cash, therefore they sell
goods as low as they can be obtained
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Physicians' Prescriptions carefully
compounded and attended to at all
hours of the day or night. Established
1868.

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tionery, Toilet and Laundry Soaps,
Brushes, Combs, Colognes, Florida
Waters, Toilet, and Fancy Notions,
Pocket Books and Ladies' Compan-
ions, Bay Rum and Barbers' Sup-
plies, Diamond Dyes, Corn Starch,
Chocolate, Soda, Mustard, Sponges
and Matches, Baking Powders, Gela-
tine, Pepper and Spices of all kinds,
Cheese and Crackers, Sardines, Cat-
sups, Canned Meats, Fruits, Soda Wa-
ter and Candies. Goods ordered every
week, consequently they can be fully
relied upon as pure and genuine. Phy-
sicians' Prescriptions carefully com-
pounded by an experienced pharma-
cist.

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ware and Tinware, Heating and Cook-
ing Stoves and Agricultural Imple-
ments. Roofing, Spouting, Guttering,
Repairing and Tinnerns' Work done at
the Lowest cash prices.

GROVE & BRO., Dealers in Dry
Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats,
Caps, Fancy and Toilet Articles and
Classes of General Merchandise. East
Luray.

H. C. FRAVEL, Dealer in and Re-
pairer of Watches, Clocks and Jewelry
of all kinds. Established 1865.

Original Source: Various publishers of
County Land Ownership Atlases, Micro-
filmed by the Library of Congress, Wash-
ington, D. C. Year: 1885; Town: Luray;
County: Page; State: Virginia.

Older Than Dirt
QUIZ

*Count all the items you per-
sonally remember — not the
ones you were told about by
your elders. Ratings at the bot-
tom.*

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles
with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dis-
pensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with
tableside juke boxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass
bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a
word prefix (OLive-6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doodly
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H Green Stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 =

You're still young

If you remembered 6-10 =

You are getting older

If you remembered 11-15 =

Don't tell your age

If you remembered 16-25 =

You're older than dirt!

“Reuben Ruffner...” cont. from page 1

Reuben sold his 211-acre farm to Samuel Coffman and his wife September 22, 1788 and moved his wife and their small family to Lincoln County, Kentucky. (At the time, this was Kentucky County, Virginia. Kentucky did not become a state until June 1, 1792.—m & p) Although we have no certain date for the family's departure from Virginia, (Shenandoah Valley — m & p) a deed from Joseph Ruther-

ford to Reuben Ruffner in Lincoln County, Kentucky bears the date 15 June 1789 for 150 acres for which he paid the same 150 pound Virginia money that he had received from Samuel Coffman. His name appears on tax lists thereafter, but not much of anywhere else, although he was the appraiser of an estate in 1792. Eight children, four daughters and four sons, were born into this branch of the family ac-

cording to the will which Reuben left when he died in 1822. His will, made 27 December 1820, said nothing of being weak or sickly, but he was 72 years old at the time. Catherine died after 1830, both of them in Lincoln County, Kentucky, and were probably buried on their property since I have been unable to locate burial data in cemetery records there.

A Ruffner spouse

Dr. Charles Houston talks to Alpinist magazine

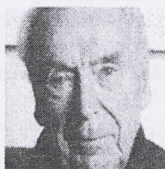
A pioneer in medicine, the Peace Corps and high altitude exploration, Dr. Charles Houston married Dorcas Laidley Tiemeyer in 1941, (see p 3) and has received numerous awards for his many accomplishments. The following is an excerpt from a 2004 interview with Alpinist.—pmf

“I've had three passions in my life—medicine, family and mountaineering. I've been blessed with a wonderful family and some success in medicine and mountaineering. My climbing career began with an apprenticeship during the Golden Age, with great alpine climbers. This was before climbing had become a route to fame and fortune. I went on to a happy British-American partnership that climbed Nanda Devi, the highest summit reached for twenty years. The 1938 K2 expedition, by a group of friends, examined the mountain and found the best route up the southern side. The 1953 attempt ended in heroic tragedy, since which I have not climbed.

On K2, we thought of the rope as both a psychological and physical bond that brings a party closer together in every sense. We avoided selecting people for our team who we thought were going to put themselves first. We were a group with common ideals, and we went as friends with a willingness to share.

It seems to me arrogant to say that men conquer mountains. With a little bit of luck you may stand on a summit for a short time. I think we should approach mountains with all reverence and come as suitors, not as adversaries. We should treat them with respect and leave them unscarred. We should go there for rebirth and enjoyment, not fame and fortune. The mountains are forever; we are only temporary. To me high mountains are a feeling, felt in the heart and along the blood.”

— Dr. Charles Houston, from *Alpinist Magazine*, Issue #9, reprinted with permission.



ATTENTION

descendants of

Simon Ruffner

(b. 1687)

Arrived Pennsylvania 1743

We are looking for submissions from this family that we can publish here in RR&R. Please send your information to us so that we can learn more about your branch of our family.

California Here We Come!

The 2008 Booker T. Washington Family Reunion

Historic Mission Inn & Spa
Riverside, California
June 19-22, 2008



Don't miss this very special Booker T. Washington family reunion. For information and registration forms, contact Eric Hughes, 303-399-2443, ekhughes@comcast.net; or visit the reunion website, <http://videos.wbzb.net/BTWReunion2008/INDEX.HTM>.

Requests, thanks received for Ruffner Genealogy

From Mary Lee Davis Marchi, Director of Gallia (Ohio) County Historical & Genealogical Society

Thank you so very much for your recent donation to the Gallia County Historical and Genealogical Society.

The Peter Ruffner and his Descendants family history will be a wonderful addition to our library and a valuable research tool for Ruffner researchers.

Thank you for keeping us in mind.

From Rebecca Ebert, archivist, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA

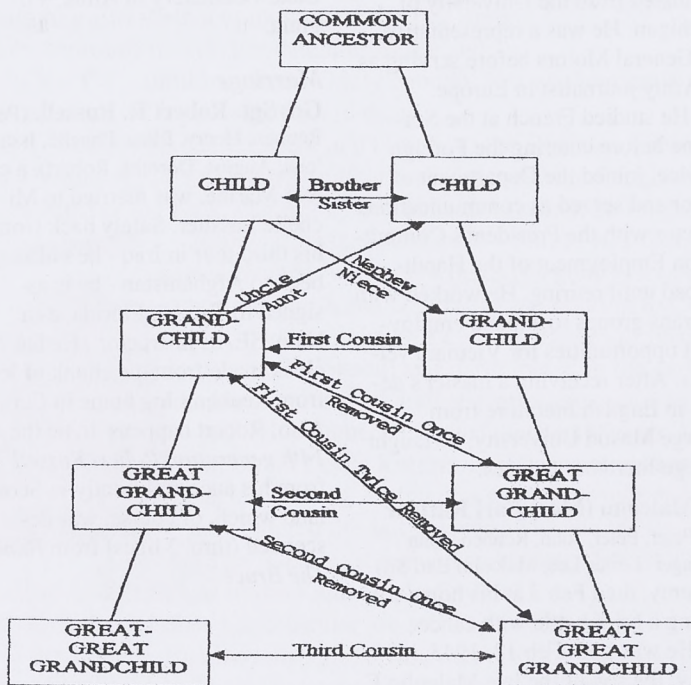
I would like to order Peter Ruffner and His Descendants, vol. 1 and vol.2 for the archives. Could you please prepare a bill, with postage and handling, that I could give our order department, then they can prepare a check, and we can add these lovely books to our collection.

I read of your publications in the recent newsletter.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Marria Blinn provides relationship chart for determining degree of kin

CHART OF RELATIONSHIPS
Through a Common Ancestor



Now
Available

The Second Editions of Peter Ruffner & His Descendants



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Descendants of Peter the
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Peter Ruffner, Junior
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Descendants of Peter the
Pioneer's first child,
Joseph Ruffner
\$40
(plus \$10 shipping)

Both volumes contain the original genealogies, as compiled tirelessly by Doris Laver Ruffner and Olive Taylor Ruffner (shown above) in the middle-twentieth century. These new editions include photos, maps and charts, as well as expanded commentary. To order a copy, contact Mark and Pam Flasch at catvorrang@yahoo.com or call them at 540-743-4229.

Milestones

Deaths

Sylvia Ann Smedley

Hargrove, 68 (Peter, Elizabeth, Mary Stover, Elizabeth Burner, Susan Hoover, Olive Peer, Shadwell Smedley) of Zanesville, Ohio, died Oct 28, 2007 at Willow Haven Care Center in Zanesville, following a courageous battle with cancer.



She was born Jun 15, 1939 in Zanesville, daughter of Fulton S. and Anna Gonda Smedley. She was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, retired from Goss Supply, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Muskingum Chapter Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution as well as an associate member of Narrow Passage DAR of Woodstock, Virginia. She was a life member of the Hottle Keller Memorial, Inc. of Woodstock, member of the Muskingum County and Ohio Genealogical societies, volunteer librarian in the John McIntire Library Genealogy Room, past worthy matron of the Muskingum Chapter Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Brighton Historical Society and was the arts and crafts chairperson of the Zane's Trace Commemoration.

Sylvia is survived by her husband William "Bill" F. Hargrove; sons John F. Hargrove of Baltimore, Maryland, and Joe F. (Tina Lavy) Hargrove of Zanesville; grandchildren Alec Nikole Hargrove, Dana Lavy and Brady Lavy; sister Mary (Ronald) Graham of Hilliard, Ohio; brother Commander Fulton Joseph (Susan) Smedley USN Retired of Arcadia, Florida; many nieces and nephews. Sylvia was buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Zanesville.

Norma Caroline Ruffner, 81, of Columbus, Ohio, died Dec 18, 2007 at Riverside Methodist Hospital. She was a member of the Women of the Moose Chapter #434 and Baltimore VFW Post #3761 Ladies Auxiliary. She is sur-

vived by sons Thomas R. (Ann) Ruffner of Centerburg, Ohio, and Kenneth L. (Marie) Ruffner of Columbus, Ohio; daughter Darlene (Mike) Hull of Gahanna, Ohio; 8 grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-granddaughter; 3 sisters and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth W. Ruffner (Peter, Emanuel, Jacob I, Jonas, Noah P., Roy) a sister and brother. She is buried at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Robert Henry Ruffner (Peter, Joseph, David, Lewis, Ernest Howard, Arthur, Arthur Fritz), 74, died Jan 20 at Sentara Williamsburg (Virginia) Regional Medical Center.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Margaret S. Ruffner of Williamsburg; sons Kevin C. Ruffner of Berlin and Colin C. Ruffner of Fairfax Station, Virginia; brother Richard Arthur Ruffner and 3 grandchildren.

Bob was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, grew up in Cleveland and graduated from the University of Michigan. He was a representative for General Motors before serving as an Army journalist in Europe.

He studied French at the Sorbonne before entering the Foreign Service, joined the Department of Labor and served as communications director with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped until retiring. He worked with veterans groups to expand employment opportunities for Vietnam veterans. After receiving a master's degree in English literature from George Mason University, he taught college literature courses.

Malcolm (Mac) Earl Ruffner II, (Peter, Peter, John, Reuben, John Bedinger, Lester Lee, Malcolm Earl Sr.) of Luray, died Feb 3 at his home following a brief battle with cancer.

He was born Feb 12, 1943, in Luray, the son of the late Malcolm E. and Bettie Lee Hite Ruffner.

He graduated from Luray High School and was a member of the Stanley Baptist Church and the Masonic Lodge Lafayette 137 of Luray. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in November of 2005. From early boyhood throughout his adult life Mac had been an avid sportsman, loving the outdoors and enjoyed many hunting trips throughout the west, most recently returning from Colorado.

Mac is survived by his wife Shirley; two sons, John Robert Ruffner of Stanley, and William Joseph Ruffner of Luray; one daughter, Lori Ann Campbell of Stanley; one stepdaughter, Denita Jo Gray of Stanley; one sister, Nancy Lee Shifflett of Luray; one grandson, Cody Ruffner; four granddaughters, Kristina Ruffner, Nicole Ruffner, Breanna Campbell and Makenna Campbell; two nieces and one nephew. A funeral service with Masonic Rites was conducted Feb 5, with burial at St. Luke's Cemetery in Alma, Virginia.

Marriage

GnySgt. Robert R. Russell, (Peter, Reuben, Henry, Eliza, Phoebe, Issalona, August, Dorothea, Robert), a career Marine, was married to Michelle Lassiter. Safely back from his third tour in Iraq - he's also been to Afghanistan - he is assigned to Tampa, Florida, as a Navy SEAL instructor. He has the clock made from the chunk of log from Reuben's log home in Luray. Also, Robert happens to be the 14th generation Robert Russell from his ancestral family in Scotland which, of course, was descended (thru' 3 lines) from *Robert The Bruce*.

Book Review by Mark Flasch

In Their Footsteps by Rody Johnson relives Charleston, WV in the late 1800's

Rody¹⁰ Johnson is a tenth generation Peter Ruffner descendant who wonderfully tells the story of his Charleston, WV, ancestry in his book **In Their Footsteps**, published in 2005 by the Quarrier Press. Rody's lineage to Peter Ruffner is through his father Howard B.⁹ Johnson, Jr. – Howard B.⁸ Johnson, Sr. – Rodolph L.⁷ Johnson – Anne D.⁶ (Lewis) Johnson – Elizabeth J. 'Bettie'⁵ (Wilson) Lewis – Elizabeth⁴ (Ruffner) Wilson – Daniel³ Ruffner – Joseph² Ruffner – Peter¹ Ruffner.

Rody takes us back through the life of his great-great-grandfather Charles Cameron 'C.C.' Lewis (1839-1917) in Part IV of his five-part story. C.C. Lewis married Elizabeth J. 'Bettie' Wilson (1840-1929) granddaughter of Holly Grove builder and salt pioneer Daniel Ruffner (1779-1865). Daniel Ruffner's youngest daughter from his first marriage, Elizabeth, marries the physically imposing but less than faithful 'Nat' V. Wilson. Nat's sister later married Daniel Ruffner's oldest son Charles. Elizabeth and Nat had eight children before Nat decided to start himself a "new" family, abandoning Elizabeth and moving up the Elk River. Elizabeth moved in with her daughter Bettie and son-in-law C.C., until her death. Oddly enough, Nat was evidently still buried next to Elizabeth at Spring Hill Cemetery, who preceded him in death.

C.C. Lewis's forbearers were tied closely to the Ruffners since the earliest days of settlement in the Kanawha Valley. C.C.'s great-grandfather was Colonel John Dickinson, who originally sold Daniel's father Joseph Ruffner the Kanawha Valley bottomland to which he migrates from the Shenandoah Valley in 1795.

John D. Lewis, C.C. Lewis's father, was first married to Sally Lee Shrewsbury, whose sister Elizabeth was first wife of (General) Lewis Ruffner. After Sally died, John D. Lewis married Anne Dickinson (no relation to Colonel Dickinson), who was the mother of C.C. Lewis. John D. Lewis operated salt furnaces alongside those of Ruffner, Shrewsbury, and Dickinson; and participated in the early cartel that tried to control salt prices to the burgeoning pork industry growing up along the Ohio River.

Charles Cameron Lewis attended Mercer Academy in Charleston, whose principal was David Lewis Ruffner. C.C. was also a member of the Kanawha Riflemen under Captain George Patton and served through the skirmish at Scary Creek in 1861, and then entered the salt business with his father. He married Bettie in 1864 and they had five children. Charles remained an industrialist all his life, serving as a wholesale grocer, coal capitalist, and President of the Kanawha Valley Bank.

Rody Johnson does a spectacular job reliving the life of C.C. Lewis through vivid accounts of Charleston in the 1800's. He also tells similar fascinating stories of other ancestors around early America in four additional parts to *In Their Footsteps*. Rody recreates images of his ancestor's reflections and conversations with lifelike accuracy and emotion.

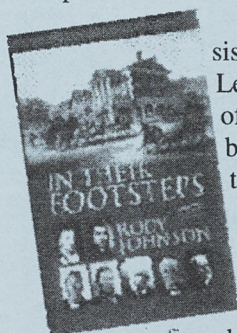


C.C. Lewis Family, Christmas 1904
From Rody Johnson's "*In their Footsteps*"

Back row, l to r: John Lewis, Mrs. John Lewis, Ashby Lee Beidler, Elizabeth Josephine Lewis Beidler, Charles S. Stacy, Virginia Wilson Lewis Stacy, Howard S. Johnson, Laura Payne Lewis, Charles Cameron Lewis, Jr.

Center row, l to r: Elizabeth (Bettie) Wilson Lewis, Charles Cameron (C.C.) Lewis, Anne Dickinson Lewis Johnson.

First row, l to r: Elizabeth Josephine Stacy, George Palmer Stacy, Charles Lewis Stacy, Frank Payne Lewis, Rodolph Lewis Johnson, Margaret Lynn Lewis, Andrew Payne Lewis, Ashby Lee Biedler, Jr., Charles Cameron Lewis, III



Ruffner Roots & Ramblings

From your editor

"Making Connections"

I've spent much of my life in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains — in Virginia and South Carolina. One must wonder if our forebears settled in the Shenandoah Valley because of the close resemblance to their native Switzerland.

Wikipedia describes **synchronicity** (a term coined by Swiss psychologist Carl Jung) as "the experience of two or more events which occur in a meaningful manner, but which are causally un-related. In order to be synchronous, the events must be related to one another conceptually, and the chance that they would occur together by random chance must be very small."

Last winter, I found that Ruffner daughter Dorcas Laidley Tiemeyer (see page 3) had married Dr. Charles Houston, world renowned explorer, climber and medical expert in the study of high altitude pulmonary edema. Simultaneously, my sister Kim Fulcher was in Denver, suffering possibly from altitude sickness. (or maybe the flu?)

In June, several Ruffners learned first-hand what high altitude can do, as several of them were stricken at the family reunion in the Colorado Rockies, home of Bob and Shirley Sheets, Jane Webber and Pat Journeay. (see page 4)

After talking with Dr. Houston, I contacted **Alpinist** magazine for permission to reprint the article I'd read online. They had no electronic copy and it was no longer online. I

planned to purchase a copy after the holidays and type it myself. After the new year, I discovered their entire warehouse had burned to the ground, destroying their back issues. There is an excerpt of that article on page 8.

The irony and synchronicity of the mountains, our heritage and our research got even more interesting as we recently discovered that RFA historian Betty Gaeng, who lives under the watch of Mount Rainier, was well acquainted with Al Rochester (also on page 3.) See Betty's letter below. (Note also that Betty's father Walter Deebach and Robert Henry

Ruffner (see page 10) both worked for Veterans' rights.

Then, as I looked for an illustration for Mary Tittle's article, I found a postcard of the Brownsville church for sale on ebay and purchased it. What are the chances of that? I'm sending that to Mary as a souvenir.

Many thanks to Betty, Dorothea Russell, Pat Journeay, Mary Tittle and my niece Abigail McNeely for sharing with us in this issue. Maybe someday Abigail will write this column!

Keep connecting with us! Best regards from Luray,

Pam



Kimberly
McNeely Fulcher

Dear Pam, Mark and Sam,

The older I get, the more I realize what a small world we live in. On pages 96, 97 and 98 of *Peter Ruffner and His Descendants, Second Edition* (Joseph Ruffner), is the story of Alfred Ruffner Rochester. I first really got to know Al Rochester in the mid-1940s when I went to work for my father. Al Rochester and my father were fellow veterans of WWI. They became good friends, and they worked together on committees for many years until my father's retirement in 1970.

My father was an ombudsman for the veterans of Washington for over 25 years, and Al Rochester served on several committees representing veterans' interests. He was appointed by the governor to serve on the Washington State Rehabilitation Committee in the 1940s. I was their recording secretary at committee meetings for a few years. To me, he was always Mr. Rochester, but to my father he was always Al.

I never knew until I read Al Rochester's obituary in the Seattle Times that his middle name was Ruffner. I don't believe my parents knew that either. In the letters I wrote and the minutes I took, he was always called either Al or Alfred R. Rochester.

Al Rochester was a down-to-earth, simple man, who at times was very boisterous. He was always friendly—and would stop by my desk to say hello and talk for a while. He always had a big smile. He liked to joke, and every once in a while he would join my father and smoke a cigar. I don't think that was an activity he particularly enjoyed—he was probably just being polite. He was an energetic man, and a leader who knew how to get his point across.

Seeing his picture and story brought back a lot of memories. It is a small world!

Betty Lou Gaeng

Submissions

If possible, send your original, electronic articles, with permission granted, to catvorrang@yahoo.com.