

Longwood University

Digital Commons @ Longwood University

Ruffner Family History Records

Ruffner Family Association Collection, LU-163

1928

Genealogy of the Ruffner Family

Unknown

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/ruffnerfamily_records

Recommended Citation

Unknown, "Genealogy of the Ruffner Family" (1928). *Ruffner Family History Records*. 65.
https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/ruffnerfamily_records/65

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Ruffner Family Association Collection, LU-163 at Digital Commons @ Longwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ruffner Family History Records by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Longwood University. For more information, please contact alwinehd@longwood.edu.

GENEALOGY OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY

FROM 1713 to 1928

A TRADITION IN THE FAMILY IS THAT THE RUFFNERS ORIGINALLY CAME
FROM SWITZERLAND

I. Peter Ruffner, a native of the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, born in the year 1713, is the first of the Ruffner family in America of whom we have any knowledge. He came of Teutonic German stock, being the third son of a German Baron, who owned large estates in Hanover. He was placed in an agriculture college, but before he had finished his studies left school without the knowledge of his parents, and came, in 1732, to the United States; having been attracted by the then glowing descriptions of America, published in German papers. Upon arrival in this country he located in Lancaster, an interior county of Pennsylvania. He was a man of strong mind and character, and of great energy. He was a very tall man (6 feet 3 inches) and considered good looking. Spoke the "Hoch Deutsch" (High Dutch) language, and in religion was a protestant of the Martin Luther school. While in Pennsylvania, he married Mary Steiman (born in Lancaster County, Penn. September 14, 1714) the daughter of a very wealthy German farmer who owned large estates in the valley of Virginia. These lands he had secured from King George II under a patent for a baronial estate. This property was situated on the Shenandoah River from both branches of the Hawsbill creek in Page (Shenandoah) county. Steiman gave to Peter Ruffner and his wife large holdings of these Virginia lands. The couple moved there in 1739, and established their dwelling at the "Big Springs", now on the edge of Luray, Va. He and his wife were industrious, thrifty people and acquired much additional property. They lived to a good old age, were of great influence in their county, and when they died, were buried on the Plantation which they had settled. Their five children were Joseph, Benjamin, Ruben, Peter Emanuel, and Elizabeth. The name of this early settler in Virginia is perpetuated in "Ruffners' Cave" Luray.

II. Joseph Ruffner, son of Peter Ruffner, was born September 25, 1740 in Shenandoah County, Virginia. He married Ann Heistand (born 1742, daughter of Henry Heistand) on May 22, 1764. They lived at Mundellsville, (now Willow Grove Mills), Virginia, and he operated a grist and saw mill on Hawsbill Creek; but later bought a large estate in Kanawha County, upon which were salt licks and moved there with his family in 1795. His eldest son, David, being the only one left behind to close up his father's affairs, which he did; then joined his family later on. Joseph Ruffner possessed much property as is evidenced by his will, which is shown in the Kanawha County (West Virginia) records. Most of the Ruffners of Kanawha County, and some from Ohio are descended from him.

The children are David, Joseph, Jobias, Samuel, Eve, Daniel, and Abraham.

- III. (Colonel) David Ruffner, son of Joseph Ruffner, was born in 1776 near Luray, Virginia. He was married in 1789 to Lydia Anne Brumback, (daughter of Rev. Henry Brumback, a Methodist preacher. Lydia Anne Brumback was born 1766 near Harrisonburg, Virginia.) After settling up his fathers affairs in Shenandoah County, David joined the rest of his family in Kanawha County in 1796. He was Justice of the Peace, a member of the Virginia assembly and Colonel of the Militia. He opened and operated the first coal mines, and in connection with his brothers started the first salt works, upon a tract near which is now located the town of Malden. David Ruffner was one of the most prominent men of the county, and established at Malden what is known as the "Salines Presbyterian." His children were Henry, Ann, Susan and Lewis (General)
- IV. (Rev.) Henry Ruffner, son of David Ruffner was born January 16, 1790 near Luray, Virginia. He came to Kanawha County with his father and was ordained a Minister in 1819, He was in charge of the "Kanawha Salines" Church. Later he moved to Lexington, Virginia where he became professor and then President of Washington College. He married Sarah Lyle (daughter of Capt. William Lyle of Rockbridge County, Virginia. After her death in Lexington, Va., January, 1849, he returned to Kanawha County, living there until his death December 17, 1861. His children were William Henry, David, Lewis, Julia and Anne.
- V. (Capt.) David Lewis Ruffner, son of Henry Ruffner, was born January 10, 1829 in Lexington, Virginia. He moved to Kanawha County, Virginia, where he married Frances Eleanor Ruffner (daughter of his cousin, Joel Ruffner) (Joel first cousin to Henry, father of David). She was born November 9, 1830 in Charleston, Virginia, and died November 6, 1909 in Charleston, West Virginia. They lived in Charleston, West Virginia and David Lewis Ruffner was a lawyer and civil engineer by profession. During the Civil War, he was Captain of the "Kanawha Rifle Men", and served on the staff of General Williams. He died April 22, 1896 in Charleston, West Virginia. His children were Sallie Lyle, Joel Henry, David Lewis, and Ethel Mayre.
- VI. Joel Henry Ruffner, the son of Captain David Lewis Ruffner, was born April 23, 1859 in Charleston, West Virginia. On June 8, 1886, he married Dorcas Claine Laidley, the daughter of Captain Richard Quarrier Laidley and Lydia Whittaker Laidley (later Fontaine). Dorcas Blaine Laidley was born November 13, 1865 in Charleston, West Virginia. They lived in Charleston, West Virginia and Joel Henry Ruffner was engaged in mercantile business. In 1915 he and his family moved to Lexington, Virginia

and lived there until his death October 31, 1917. Dorcas Laidley Ruffner, his wife, resided at their home place "Kanawha near Lexington and died December 10, 1927 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, while visiting her son, Capt. David Lewis Ruffner, who was stationed on army duty there. Their children were Diana Laidley, Lydia Fontaine, Richard Laidley, David Lewis, Percy Laidley, Dorcas Lyle, and Margaret Keith.

- VII. Richard Laidley Ruffner, son of Joel Henry Ruffner, was born September 30, 1894 in Charleston, West Virginia. He was engaged in the electrical business, being chief operator at the Virginian Power Company until the outbreak of the World War in 1917 when he enlisted in 313th Ambulance Company of Charleston, West Virginia. He served with the 79th Division overseas. At the end of the war he moved to Alexandria, Virginia and studied law, graduating at the National University of Law, Washington, D. C., June, 1924. He opened offices for the practice of this profession in Alexandria, Virginia. On May 22, 1926 he married Mary Ellen Harryman, (daughter of Dr. Harry Gaunt Harryman and Mary Klipstein Harryman, who was born July 30, 1893 in Baltimore, Maryland). Their children are - Richard Laidley, Jr.
- VIII. Richard Laidley Ruffner, Jr. son of Richard Laidley Ruffner, was born April 24, 1927 in Alexandria, Virginia.