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Peter Ruffner Genealogy

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1. Peter Ruffner - Born in Switzerland in 1712. Came to America in 1732. Settled first in Lancaster Co. Pennsylvania and married Mary Steinman and afterward removed to Shenandoah Co. Va. and settled on the Hawksbill Creek where he acquired large possessions.

Children of Peter: -

Joseph	-	Born 9-25-1740 - died 3-23-1803, removed to Kanawha, Sept. 1795
Benjamin	-	Born 8-14-1742
Catherine	-	" 5-13-1749 - died in girlhood
Peter	-	" 12-23-1746
Ruben	-	" 10-22-1748
Tobias	-	" 8- 4-1752 - died age 15 years
Elizabeth	-	" 3- 4-1755
*Emanuel	-	" 3- 8-1757 - died June 4, 1848

2. *Emanuel removed to Ohio - 1805 - settled in Richland Township, Fairfield County, approximately 3 miles N. W. of Rushville, Ohio. He was a mile-skinner in the Revolutionary War.

Children of Emanuel: -

✓ John Ruffner	-	married - Mary Rhodes
✓ *Jacob Ruffner, Sr.	-	B 2/15/1781 - m. Magdaline d of Lewis & Barbara Bibler
✓ Barbara Ruffner	-	m David Tussing Pence
✓ Mary Ruffner	-	m. Wm Hill
✓ Ann Ruffner	-	m. Thomas Krane
✓ Magdaline Ruffner	-	married Christian Baker
✓ Susan Ruffner	-	m. Daniel Keller
✓ Emanuel Ruffner, Jr.	-	m. Barbara Horsbarger
✓ Joseph Ruffner	-	m. Rhoda Dovers
✓ Elizabeth Ruffner	-	m. M. Barnes

3. *Jacob Ruffner, Sr. - born 15 Feb. 1781 - died 7 Aug. 1839 - age 58 years. Married Magdaline Bibler, 15 June 1807, daughter of Lewis & Barbara Bibler. She was born 13 April 1788 and died 24 April 1848 - age 60 years.

Children of Jacob Ruffner, Sr.: -

Barbara	-	married David Tussing
Jonas	-	married Susana Rhodes
Isaac	-	married Tena Stuart - age 27 at time of father's death
Magdaline	-	married John Holleday - age 23 at time of father's death
*Jacob Jr.	-	married Eliza Copeland, also Coplin - age 15 at time of father's death
Rebecca	-	married Samuel Smutz
Ann	-	married William Christ
Mary	-	married John Henthon
Joshua	-	did not marry - age 18 at time of father's death
Emily	-	married Jesse Rowles

4. *Jacob Ruffner, Jr. - Born- Died-
Married Eliza Coplin (Copeland)

Children of Jacob, Jr.: -

Clara	- Born 11-30-1849	
Caleb Abraham	- Born 6-18-1851	
Jacob Marion	- Born 5-24-1853	- my preaching uncle
Eliza (Lidia)	- Born 2- 7-1856	- married Worth Geiger and resided on farm near Hebron, Ohio
Cynthia	- Born 7- 3-1858	- you may remember this great-aunt. she died in Westerville a few years ago.
Mary Magdaline	- Born 4- 5-1860	- married Jesse Rowles - died in Pleasantville
*George Bertran	- Born 3- 7-1866	- married Estelle Shrider of near Thornville, Perry County, Ohio
	Died 8-13-1914	Fatally injured August 1914, Newark, Ohio, age 48.

Frances Viola
William Tecumseh Sherman } = TWINS - Born 1-15-1890

a. Frances Viola (Ola) married Ira Spiter, a descendent of Christian Baker who married Magdaline Ruffner, a daughter of Emanuel.
b. William T. Ruffner was my drinking uncle.

5. *George B. Ruffner - your grandfather.

Children of George B. Ruffner: -

*Frederick G.	- married Olive Taylor
Mabel	- married Carl Keller
Florence	- died age 5 years
Paul	-
Edna	- married Richard Troup
George	- resides in Texas
Caleb Abraham Donald	-

6. * Frederick G. Ruffner, Sr.: -

Children of Frederick, Sr.: -

Frederick G. Ruffner Jr.
James A. Ruffner

* Denotes lineage from Peter.

Eliza Coplin (Copeland) wife of Jacob Ruffner, Jr., was the daughter of Caleb Coplin (Copeland), son of Chris'n-Christian Coplin-Copeland, a soldier in the War of 1812.

Caleb Coplin - A. G. records show Caleb Coplin also shown as Copeland, enlisted in Capt. Zeigler's Company, mounted volunteers, serving from 6 May 1813, discharged at Upper Sandusky 21 May 1813, including 7 days pay for returning home, calculated at 15 miles per day,

also,

he enlisted as private, 1 September 1813, and was discharged 1 March 1814. Capt. Jacob Catterline's Company.

Official records show Chris'n-Christian Coplin, also Copeland, father of above Caleb, he served in Revolutionary War (dates unknown), War Department records show him as Pvt. in Thomas Church's Company, 4th Penn Bn., Col. Anthony Wayne, and a Corporal in Capt. John Christies Company, 5th Penn. Regiment. He was granted a pension of 5 pounds per month. Died 2 June 1808.

Your uncle Caleb has Caleb Coplin's Rifle, given to him by his Uncle Caleb. It is suggested you name your next son, Caleb.

NOTE: Your great, great, great-grandfather, Frederick Shrider (spelling of name?) according to family tradition, was killed at the battle of Brandywine.

COPY

GENEALOGY OF THE RUFFNER FAMILY IN AMERICA.

Peter Ruffner born in Switzerland in 1712, Came to America in 1732; settled first in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and married Mary Steinman and afterward removed to Shenandoah County, Virginia and settled on the Hawksbill Creek, where he acquired large possessions.

The following are his descendants:-

- (1) Joseph, born September 25, 1740, Died March, 1803; removed to Kanawha in September, 1795
 Benjamin, born Aug. 14, 1742
 Catherine, born May 13, 1744 - died in girlhood
 Peter, born Dec. 23, 1746
 Reuben, born Oct. 22, 1748
 Tobias, born Aug. 4, 1752, died at the age of 15 years.
 Elizabeth, born March 4, 1755
 Emanuel, March 3, 1757; died June 4, 1848 - Removed to Ohio in 1805.

Grandchildren by Joseph Ruffner (1)

Joseph, son of Peter, had the following children:
 David, b. 18th Jan'y, 1767; d. Feb. 1, 1843
 Joseph, b. 14 Feby, 1769; d. May 10, 1837 in Cincinnati, Ohio where he lived for many years.
 Tobias, b. 22 Oct., 1770; d. Aug. 18, 1830
 Samuel, b. 26 Oct, 1773; d. _____
 Eve, b. 29 Sept, 1775 - Married Nehemiah Wood of Ohio, and died in that State.
 Daniel, b. 11 Nov., 1779; d. in Campbell Co., Ky. July 31, 1865.
 Abraham b. 1 Oct. 1781; d. _____ 18 _____ at his residence near Cincinnati, Ohio.

Great Grandchildren by Daniel Ruffner.

Daniel, son of Joseph, son of Peter had the following children:-
 Catherine b. 24 Sept, 1799; d. Oct. 20, 1849. She married David C. Ruffner of Ohio, and died in Fairfield Co., O.
 Charles b. 24 Feby, 1801; d. about 1881
 Joel, b. 11 Dec., 1802; d. about 1883
 Augustus b. 15, June 1805; d. March 3, 1855
 James, b. 27 Dec. 1807, d. Feb. 4, 1868
 Andrew L. b. 27 Dec., 1807; died May 27, 1851
 Elizabeth b. 5 July, 1810; d about 1885
 Walter b. 24 Nov., 1844; d Feb 12, 1854; drowned in Fairfield County, Ohio.
 Daniel b. 1 Feby 1847; d. Apr. 2, 1909 - never married.
 Joseph b. 29 Oct 1848 - still living - thank God!
 Virginia b 30 June 1851 - Resides in Montreux, Switzerland.
 Wm St. John Elliott b 23 Mch 1854 - Resides in Indiana.

The progeny of the above named descendants are legion.

Joseph Ruffner.

PETER RUFFNER

Peter Ruffner, the eldest, is the first of the Ruffner family of whom we have any intelligence in this country. He was a native of the Kingdom of Hanover in Germany; was of Teutonic-German stock; was the third son of a German baron who owned large landed estates in Hanover. He spoke the High Dutch language (Hoch-Deutsch) and was, in religion, a Protestant of the Martin Luther school.

He was at an agricultural college, and, before he had finished his studies (with other students), he left college without the knowledge of his parents, and came to this country, having been attracted hither by the glowing description of America published in the German States.

On arriving in this country, he located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where here very soon thereafter became acquainted with and married Miss Mary Steinman, the daughter of a very wealthy German farmer there who owned a large landed property in the Valley of Virginia.

Said Steinman was a native of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg in Germany. He was of the Slavonic-German stock. He spoke the Low Dutch (Platt Deutsch) language. He emigrated some years previously to this country, with considerable means, and had made a fortune by farming and grazing, and had invested much of his surplus funds in those valuable wild-lands in the Valley of Virginia along the Shenandoah River, and on both branches of the Hawksbill Creek in Shenandoah County.

Steinman gave to Ruffner a large body of very valuable land situated on both branches of the Hawksbill Creek, to which Ruffner and his wife Mary removed, and settled on the Hawksbill Creek, adjoining the town of Luray, where he lived many years with his wife Mary, and by her had the following children, viz:

1. Joseph, the progenitor of the Kanawha Ruffners;
2. Benjamin;
3. Reuben;
4. Peter;
5. Emmanuel, your progenitor;
6. Elizabeth.

One of Joseph's sons was the discoverer of the Luray Cave, which was long known as Ruffner's Cave, and was so put down on the old maps.

The early Ruffners were Mennonites and anti-war sect, and could not be expected to furnish many fighters, but Schunicht mentions George Ruffner as a noted Indian fighter. The early fighters belonged probably to the family of Emmanuel. He had a large family and was, himself, a giant in size and strength. In 1805 he removed to Fairfield County, Ohio.

Ruffner, who lived on the bank of the Ohio, was roused from sleep one winter night by the violent barking of his dogs, which were driving some animal into the river. Ruffner dashed down the bank, thinking the animal was probably a deer, and when he found that the dogs and their game had taken water, he plunged in after them. Ice was running freely in the river, but on he went, and when he reached the other side he found his dogs in fierce conflict with a large black wolf. But the wolf slashed the dogs so savagely as to clear the space around him, and then he stood ready to fight the master. Ruffner was in his night-clothes and without any sort of weapon, but he set the dogs on him again, and whilst they were scuffling in the edge of the water, he seized the wolf by the hind legs and tried to drown him, but failing in this he swung him high in the air and brought his head down upon a rock, crushing his skull.

Joseph Ruffner, the eldest son of the first Peter, was born in 1748, on the Hawksbill Creek in Shenandoah, now Page County. At the age of twenty-four, he married Ann Heistand. They were the parents of the following:

1. David;
2. Joseph, Jr.;
3. Samuel;
4. Tobias;
5. Daniel, my grandfather;
6. Abraham;
7. Eve.

In 1795, Joseph Ruffner came to Clindinin's Fort (now Charleston) and before leaving it, he owned everything from the Elk River to the head of the bottom, about three miles, upon which Charleston stands.

Daniel married Elizabeth Painter, and they were the parents of the following:

- David Ruffner*
m 1817
1. Catherine;
 2. Charles;
 3. Joel, my father;
 4. Augustus, Mrs. Alexander's father;
 5. James;
 6. Andrew;
 7. Elizabeth.

By a second wife:-

8. Walter;
9. Daniel;
10. Joseph;
11. Virginia;
12. William.

Anno M. Ruffner,
Penawha Street,
Charleston, W. Virginia.