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Ruffner Lineage

Ernest Lewis Ruffner

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RUFFNER LINEAGE

1. PETER RUFFNER, immigrant ancestor, was the third son of a German Baron, born near the German border, in the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, circa 1713; died in Shenandoah County near the present site of Luray Virginia about Jan. 17, 1778. Came to the United States in 1737. He settled first in Philadelphia, Pa. A Street there named Ruffner.

He brought with him an only sister who married John Strickler. *no (Abraham?)*
He married Mary Steinman, They moved to an estate on the waters of the Hawksbill Creek, Orange Co. Va. near the present site of Luray. He evidently possessed more than ordinary wealth, as he bought more land. He built his dwelling at a Big Spring, on the edge of Luray - this house two stories, brick, was in good repair when I saw it in 1939. Hand carved transoms over the doors; wood mantles; all hand carved; boxed in stairs, Locust trees from which the old place took its name "Locust Row" He spoke the German language, was a Protestant of the Martin Luther faith; he was tall; good-looking man over six feet tall; strong of mind and character; a man of mark and influence in his community; his sons married, he gave a plantation to each of them. He and wife are buried at the old home, but nothing remains of their resting place. The name of this old settler is perpetuated in "Ruffner's Cave at Luray."

Children - All born in Shenandoah County, Virginia

Joseph - Born Sept. 25, 1740	Died March 23, 1803	Charleston, West Virginia
Benjamin - Born Aug. 14, 1743	Married Eliz. Burner - 2nd. Eliz. Heistand	
Catherine - Born May 13, 1744	Died before coming of age.	
Peter Jr. - Born Dec. 23, 1746	Married Catherine Burner <i>Elizabeth</i>	
Reubin - Born Oct. 20, 1748	Moved to Kentucky	
Tobias - Born Aug. 4, 1752		
Elizabeth - Born March 4, 1755	Married Jacob Stover	
Emanuel - Born March 31, 1757	Married Madeline Grove & Elizabeth	

JOSEPH RUFFNER

2. JOSEPH RUFFNER, eldest child of Peter and Mary Steinman Ruffner

Born Sept. 25, 1740 Died Charleston West Va. March 23, 1803

Married Married Ann Heistand, after his father died, he moved to the old homestead. In the middle of 1770 he purchased a large estate in the Kenawha Valley, West Virginia, and moved his family there. He also had a tract of land near Melden West Virginia and adjoining counties. On these lands were salt springs and he operated grist and saw mills. He built his home on upper Kenawha at Charleston, West Virginia a little distance below the State Capitol. He was a large man, of sterling character, and prominent in affairs in his town and county.

He and his wife were buried in the old Ruffner burying ground below his home, now Ruffner Park.

Children - All born in Shenandoah Co. Virginia

Esther	Born Sept. 4, 1765	Died at age 18
David	Born Jan. 18, 1767	Married Ann Brombach
Joseph	Born Feb. 14, 1769	Married Margaret moved to Cinn.
Tobias	Born Oct. 22, 1770	Married Mary Muzzleman
Samuel	Born Oct. 26, 1773	Married Catherine Daggs
Eve	Born Sept. 29, 1777	Married Nehemia Wood moved to Ohio
Daniel	Born Nov. 11, 1779	Married Elizabeth Painter Died July 31, 1865
Abraham	Born Oct. 11, 1781	Married Martha Ross moved to Cinn.

3 - DAVID RUFFNER, Eldest child of Joseph Ruffner and Ann Heistand. Born in Orange County Va. Jan. 18, 1767 Died Feb. 1, 1843 married Ann Brumbach, daughter of a Methodist Minister, Rev. Henry Brumbach. Col. David Ruffner (Col. of Militia) his brothers Joseph Jr. and Tobias, succeeded to 502 acres of land around Cambells Creek Kanawha County near Malden, West Virginia rich in salt springs and coal. They made salt and mined coal.

COL. DAVID RUFFNER was a devout Presbyterian. In 1833 he donated the land in Charleston for the First Presbyterian Church and Parsonage and Mercar Academy still used for that purpose. He was a member of the Virginia Assembly; Justice of the Peace for 47 years. He was presiding justice of that Court. He was plain, bland and gentle in his manner. Many stories are told of his punishments of the Court. Upon his death, the County Court and Barr Assoc. attended his funeral in a body. In 1823 he retired from business, and turned his affairs over to his son Lewis Ruffner-

Children -

Henry	Born Jan. 16, 1790	married Sally Lyle	2nd Laura Kirby
Anne	Born May 11, 1792	" Dr. Richard E. Putney	
Susan	Born Dec. 14, 1794	" Moses M. Fuqua	
Lewis	Born Oct. 1, 1797	" Elizabeth A. Shrewsbury	2nd. Viola Knapp

References-

David Ruffner same as for Peter and Joseph; History Ruffner family Charles Hedrick Notes D.C. Gallaher, Charleston, West Virginia.

4. **LEWIS RUFFNER** - Fourth child of David and Ann Brumbach Ruffner- Born Oct. 1, 1797 in Clendennin Fort, afterwards Charleston, West Virginia. He was the

first white child born in Kanawha Co. Died Nov. 10, 1883, 86 years old. and is buried in the family burial ground back of the old homestead, Malden, West Virginia. He married first Elizabeth A.D. Shrewsbury whom he had seven children-Second wife Viola Knapp of Arlington Va. she died Dec. 5, 1903 and is buried in Cave Hill, Louisville, Ky. She was interested in the education of the negro and Brooker T. Washington whom she taught, refers to her with great affection in his book,

Up From Slavery. David Ruffner was one of the salt Kings of Kanawha. He started the manufacture of salt in 1820 and continued until 1873. He was elected to the Legislature of Virginia in 1825-26-27. Appointed Justice of the Peace 1828-vacated it in 1845. In 1861 a staunch Union man he was chosen again to the Legislature, but later against the advice of his friends and family he declared for the Union. He was made a Maj. General of Militia for the Union. In 1863 he was one of the delegates which framed the constitution of the new State of West Virginia. In 1868 in quelling a riot between the whites and negroes, he was seriously hurt by being hit by a rock in the head. In 1873 he turned over his business to trustees. He was a man of sound practical mind; always thought for him-self, when he thought he was right he was immovable; detested trickery; and deceit; very charitable. A Member of the Presbyterian Church.

Children- All Born in Kanawha Valley- by first Wife

✓ Sarah Ann	Born March 16, 1829	Married Dr. R.B. Smith
✓ Madeline E.	Born Nov, 25, 1827	Married John M. Robinson
✓ Julia L.	Born July 11, 1830	Married Samuel Gwyn
Henrietta	Born April 24, 1832	Never married
David Henry	Born July 4, 1835	Never married
✓ Lewis Jr.	Born July 19, 1838	Married Virginia West.
✓ Joel L.	Born May 30, 1840	Married Elizabeth Britt

Children By second Wife-

✓ Ernest Howard	Born July 24, 1845	Married 1st. Mary Watson- 2nd. Dorothy Grey
✓ Stella B.	Born 1849	Married Robert Wiley

5. COL. ERNEST HOWARD RUFFNER.

Ernest Howard Ruffner Born 8th child of Gen. Lewis Ruffner born July 24, 1845 died May 24, 1937 Married 1st. Mary Watson- 2nd. Dorothy Grey. Buried at Cave Hill. Louisville with mother and first wife. First schooling was at Keynon College and then West Point 1863-1867 being number one in his class. Served through all grades retired as Colonel of Engineers 1909. Duties were from surveys of Great Lakes, Military Roads, New Mexico; survey Pan-Handle of Texas afterwards State of Oklahoma; breakwaters lakes and dams rivers. He was a painter of more than average ability; a natural linguist; Spanish; French; German. and through marriage related to a number of Army families. After retirement bought the old home of William Howard Taft, the President of United States in Cinn. Ohio and it was here that he died age 92.

Children all by first wife

✓ Ernest Lewis Ruffner	-Born Dec. 10, 1870	Married 1st. Jennie H. Thomas 2nd. Jessica B. Bowen
✓ Henry Watson	-Born Aug. 24, 1872 died Dec. 8, 1931	Married Helen Warfield
✓ Arthur-	Born Dec. 6, 1875	Married Margaret Hassenfritz
✓ Violet-	Born March 12, 1883	Married Louis K. Debus

References to General Lewis and Col. Ernest Ruffner.

Lewis Ruffner Bible; History Ruffner family in Kanawha Hedrick 1884;
Genealogy notes D.C. Gallagher 1917 Cinn. papers
West Point annual Report by Col. E.L. Ruffner

✓ 6. COL. ERNEST LEWIS RUFFNER

Col. Ernest Lewis Ruffner, eldest son of Col. Ernest Howard Ruffner, born Dec. 10, 1870 married 1st. Jennie H. Thomas 2nd. Jessica B. Bowen Retired Officer Medical Corps. U.S. Army living San Francisco, California. Served as Medical Officer Spanish American War; then through all grades in regular Army retiring as Colonel at age 64; in 1934.

Phillipine Insurrection; two years in France with A.E.F.; Hawian Department Fellow American College of Surgeons; Distinguished Service Medal from U.S. Government; Officer Legion DeHonneur France;

Children Children Oall from first marriage

✓ Gretchen	Born Jan. 10, 1900	Married Col. Thomas H. Davies
✓ Clark L. Ruffner	Born Jan. 12, 1903	Married Elizabeth Morris.

✓ 6. HENRY WATSON RUFFNER

Henry Watson Ruffner Born Sept. 24, 1872 died Dec. 8, 1931 married Helen Warfield. He was an Episcopal Clergyman. Gifted as a musical composer, and artist. He was ill for years with Tuberculosis, which he contracted while Chaplain at the Tombs Jail, New York.

Children -

✓ Mary Ruffner	- Born Dec. 18, 1899 Died 1940	Never married helped her mother with care of father, was a talented women.
✓ Helen Warfield Ruffner-	Married Caleb Stone	-Born Aug. 22, 1901

✓ 6. ARTHUR RUFFNER -

Arthur Ruffner Born Dec. 6, 1875 Married Margaret Hassenfritz, He is a farmer at Williamsburg, Clermont County, Ohio

Children -
2nd.

Ernest Howard Ruffner Born June 4, 1900 Married Flora Vaught
Arthur Fritz Ruffner Born March 3, 1903 Married Margaret Conley
Margaret Ruffner Born June 6, 1905 - married Harold P. Chatterton-Williamsburg, Ohio
(No Children)

✓ 6. VIOLET RUFFNER DEBUS

Violet Ruffner born March 12, 1883 married L.K. DeBus Cincinnati Business man

Children-

Mary Elizabeth DeBus Born Oct. 3, 1908 Married Robert W. Knauff of Cinn.
Martha DeBus Born Sept. 9, 1910 Married Dr. Charles H. Barnacle-Denver, Col.
Louis Kissam DeBus - Born Feb. 13, 1915 married Elizabeth Bemis - Denver, Col.
Louis Kissam DeBus is in the U.S. Glider Service of the Air Corps.

✓ 7. GRETCHEN RUFFNER - DAVIES- (MRS. THOMAS H. DAVIES)
Born Jan. 10, 1900 married Col. Thomas H. Davies Gen. Staff U.S.

Children-

Gretchen Davies Born Aug. 6, 1928
Thomas Hayden Davies Jr. Born June 13, 1935

✓ 7. CLARK L. RUFFNER-

Clark L. Ruffner Col. General Staff U.S.A. Born Jan. 12, 1903 Graduate
Virginia Military Institute 1924 entered Regular Army as 2nd Lt. Cav. June 15, 1924
went through all grades to Col. Gen. Staff 1942.

Children-

Genevieve Ruffner Born Sept. 22, 1930
Ernest Lewis Ruffner 2nd. Born Dec. 16, 1934

note

✓ 7. ERNEST HOWARD RUFFNER 2nd. ~~DATE OSU 1918~~
Ernest Howard Ruffner 2nd. Born June 4, 1900 married Flora Vaught.

Children

Ernest Howard Ruffner 3rd. Born Jan. 13, 1932

✓ 7. ARTHUR FRITZ RUFFNER-

Born March 3, 1903 married Margaret Conley.

Children-

Richard Arthur Ruffner Born June 9, 1931
Robert Henry Ruffner Born May 2, 1933

✓ 7. MARY ELIZ. DEBUS KNAUFT Born Oct. 3, 1908 married ROBERT W. KNAUFT

Children

Louisa DeBus Knauff Born May 17, 1936
Barbara Ruffner Knauff Born Aug. 6, 1938
Robert Frederick Knauff Born Aug. 1942

✓ 7. MARTHA DEBUS BARNACLE Born Sept. 27, 1910 married MAJ. CLARKE BARNACLE U.S.
MED. CORPS.

Children-

John Clarke Barnacle Born Dec. 1942

This concludes a genealogy of the Ruffner family from Peter 1st. Genealogy
Joseph 2nd - David 3rd. Gen. Lewis 4th. Col. Ernest Howard 5th. Col. Ernest Lewis; Henry;
Arthur; Violet all 6th. Arthur; Ernest Howard 2nd.; Gretchen;

Clark Louis DeBus; Mary Eliz; Martha; 7th. Ernest Howard 3rd;
Richard Arthur; Robert Henry; Children Helen Stone; Children Mary Eliz, Knauf
children Martha Barnacle 8th Generation.

One peculiar characteristic of the men of the family as known to me is that
all the first sons of the Ruffner family are or were Left Handed.
All had large ears-One son Thomas Haden Davies is also left handed. None of the
girls of the family are left handed that I know of.
Enclosed please find pictures of all the Grandfathers as far back as I could get
them.

The name Ernest is a family name. Ernest Howard first; second, third; Ernest Lewis
first; second.

2472 Francisco St.
San Francisco, California
Jan 26, 1943

Signed- Ernest Lewis Ruffner

Ernest S. Ruffner - 1855-1925
Andrew Brown Ruffner died 1830 - age 27
Andrew Ruffner
George Ruffner 173-1831
Rebecca Ruffner - 1836 age 30 yrs
The Ruffner family
from left handed