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### The Ruffner Family of Coalfield, TN

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## The Ruffner Families of Coalfield

In the past, writers of Morgan County history have been rather negligent by not recording the story of one of the early Swiss-German colonizing families. The Christian Ruffner, Jr. descendants are numerous, and their activities have made a sizeable impact on the history of Coalfield and the first district of Morgan County.

Christian Ruffner, Jr. was born in the town of Maienfeld, and Canton (state) of Graubunden, Switzerland. His father was Christian Ruffner<sup>1st</sup> and his mother was

Anna Just Ruffner-

Christian Ruffner - 2nd  
Born 1807  
Died Approx. 1880

married  
March 1828

(Daughter of Peter & Cordula Faller)  
Cordula Faller  
Born Sept 1804  
Died

The first 4 of their 5 children were born in Switzerland, and the youngest one was born in Morgan County, Tenn.

### Children

Born 12-24-1829	Anna Ruffner (Died Young)
Born 9-17-1834	Christian A. Ruffner
Born 6-9-1839	Peter Amos Ruffner
Born 11-13-1842	Michael (Deaf Mute)
Born 3-12-1849	John William (Shake) Ruffner

Christian Ruffner Jr. and his wife and 4 children left Switzerland in 1846, bound for the Wartburg Colony in Morgan County, Tenn. Judging from the dates given in Christian Jr.'s naturalization papers which were filed in Wartburg in 1848, Christian, his family, and others colonizers were aboard the ship that encountered a storm on the high seas and was driven off course to some place on the Georgia coast before they made their way to Charleston, South Carolina.

Christian Ruffner Jr. was a millwright by trade, and probably helped with the establishing of Wartburg before he settled some few miles to the east in present-day 1st District which grew into a community with a post office called Rio, and as the Ruffners multiplied it was later called "Ruffner's Switch", and is the present-day Coalfield.

His first mill was located near the water fall slightly west of the Coalfield School. As time went on, he and his sons located other saw and grist mills powered by water, and later by steam. One version of a story is that Christian Jr. at one time operated a brewery in conjunction with his mill for the Schlitz family before the Schlitz family departed Morgan County to make their fortune in the beer business in Milwaukee.

The late Lottie Goddard remembered Christian Jr. well. She said, "He was a little man with a fiery temper." This high temper description was verified by the late Simeon Ruffner who said that he could remember his Grandfather getting mad at the water-powered saw, when it would get stuck in a saw log, and he would "whip" it with a stick while letting forth with some choice German phrases.

Christian A. Ruffner (3rd)

Married

Nancy Raby

Born 9-17-1834

12-29-1856

Born 5-1-1834

Died 5-31-1897

Died 11-11-1917

Christian A. Ruffner (3rd) Born in Maienfeld, and Canton of Graubunden, Switzerland  
came as a child to Morgan County, Tenn. year 1848

Children

*From Stone*  
1945 Born 1858

Linda Ruffner

Married Wesley Woods

Born

Wesley Ruffner

Married Rose Woods

*stone*  
6-14-1944 Born 3-2-1861

William (Billie) Ruffner

William C. - Married Margaret Langley  
Feb 18, 1865 died 5-21-1944

Born Nov 24 1865

Peter Amos Ruffner

Married Nancy Jane Goddard

*stone*  
4-25-1904 Born 7-29-1874

Laura Ruffner

- married Bolivar Butler

*stone*  
1964 - Born from Stone 1878

David M. Ruffner

Married Bertha Walls (have a son)  
1881-1966 Samuel

Born

Bell Ruffner

Married Spencer Jarnigan

Christian A. Ruffner 3rd. fought with the Union Army, Company F 5th Tenn. Inf.  
with the rank of sgt.

*Stone*  
shows Linda Ruffner 1858-1945

*Stone*

Fred Ruffner  
Sept 3-1880  
Oct 9-1964

wife Ellen  
2-7-1882  
12-31-1944

(Stone)  
Dorothy H. Ruffner  
6-22-1904

wife Grace Ruffner  
Children  
Floyd Dean 6-20-1906-12-6-1964  
Franklin 9-14-1933 9-15-1933  
4-2-1935 11-22-1937



Peter Amos Ruffner /nt,  
of Coalfield

Born 6-9-1839  
Died 6-17-1892

Married  
1-10-1865  
at Coalfield

~~Nancy~~ Elizabeth Jane Chiles

Born 10-30-1845  
Died 1-15-1929  
(daughter of Henry Chiles and Nancy  
Garner chiles)

### Children

Born 10-31-1866	Nancy Ann Ruffner	Died 4-17-1888 never married
Born 10-31-1867 <i>died 1943</i>	James W. Ruffner	Married Telia A. Hudson <i>born 1866 died 1958</i>
Born 3-18-1870 <i>died 4-10-1922</i>	Cordelia Ruffner	Married John Franklin Waller <i>10-1-1867 8-9-1948</i>
Born 3-6-1873 <i>died 4-21-1945</i>	Matilda Josephine Ruffner L.	Married John McCartt
Born 11-4-1875 <i>died 9-15-1948</i>	Lydia Ruffner	Married Rufus Nighbert <i>9-21-1867 9-23-1946</i>
Born 1-28-1879 <i>4-12-1963</i>	Orlena Holder Ruffner (Lena)	Married Walter Demarcus Russell <i>10-6-1878 6-17-1967</i>
Born 1-31-1882 <i>4-24-1960</i>	Docia Parelee Ruffner	Married Henry Landrum Halburnt <i>6-8-1879 1-31-1958</i>
Born 9-10-1885 <i>4-14-1955</i>	Vesta R Ruffner	Married John Parnell <i>8-13-1883 10-10-1947</i>
Born 6-14-1888 <i>1-9-1954</i>	Peter (John) Ruffner	Married Stella Keith <i>Born 1890 died 1945</i>
<del>Born 1890</del>	<del>Stella Keith</del>	
Born 4-24-1891	Elda	married Jefferson D. Caldwell <i>2-14-1882- 1-7-1960</i>
<del>XXXXXX 1891</del>	<del>JEFFERSON</del>	

Peter A. Ruffner served in the Union Army in Company K, 1st. Reg., Tenn. Inf.  
He was wounded at Knoxville, Tenn. in 1863

Peter A. Ruffner was born in Switzerland in Maienfeld and Canton of Graubunden  
Came as a child to Morgan County, Tenn. year 1848

Was mustered into service at Barbourville, Ky 8-21-61  
mustered out at Nashville Tenn. 9-17-1864

After was married lived in Morgan County, farmed-ran grist Mill.

Michael Ruffner

(They were deaf mutes)

Married

7-17-1892

Molly Hale

Born 11-13-1842

Died

Born

Died

Michael was born -Canton of Graubunden, Maienfeld Switzerland-Came to this County  
Of Morgan, Tenn .year 1846

#### Children

Born

Vandilla Ruffner

Born

Lovell Ruffner

John William Ruffner (Shak)

(also in some records "Jacob" and other records as "Jackson", but generally known as Shack Ruffner

John William (Shack) Ruffner

Susan Davis

Born 3-12-1849

Died 2-4-1916

Born

*from Stone  
shows  
3-12-1851  
2-4-1916*

Children

*from Stone  
died  
1943*  
Born 1877

John<sup>H.</sup> Ruffner  
(Twins)

married Lula Hopper 1882-1962

Born

James Ruffner

Born 7-24-1879

Simeon V. Ruffner

1st. Susie Lamance- 2nd. Gertrude Triplett

*Stone  
4-11-1916*  
Born Aug 16-1887

Joseph<sup>W.</sup> Ruffner

married Gertrude Stonecipher

Born

Frank Ruffner

Married Laura Hudson

Born

Parthena Ruffner

Married 1st. Morgan 2nd. Bud Lacken  
(2 children)

Born

Albert Ruffner

Married Ida Webster

Born

Rena Ruffner

Married Walter Jackson

Born

Nina Ruffner

*John*  
Married Henry Dagley

Peter Amos Ruffner 3rd.

Married

Nancy Jane Goddard

Born Nov 10, 1858  
Died July 7, 1923 (stone)

Born Sept 9-1861  
Died June 10, 1963 (stone)

Born Harvey Hannah Ruffner

Born Marshall Franklin Ruffner

Married Myrtle

Born Beulah Ruffner

married Hensley

Born Joan Ruffner

Married Woody Cross

Born Bertha Ruffner

Married Colvin

Ruth Ruffner phone 483-0811  
124 Audubon Rd.  
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

W. Ernest Ruffner  
Coalfield, phone 435-2426

Mack Ruffner phone 435-6548  
Harrison Hwy.  
Olive Springs, Tenn

Johnny Ruffner  
413 N. High St.  
Morristown, Tenn.  
37814

Carl L. Ruffner  
1524 Tyler Cir Phone 586-5746  
Morristown, Tenn

Mrs. Bryce B. Ruffner  
510 E. 2nd St.  
Morristown, Tenn.  
Phone 586-9598

Mrs Snyder E. Roberts  
Olive Springs, Tenn  
P.O. Box 302 37840

Marshall Franklin Ruffner

Married

Myrtle

Born  
Died

Born  
Died

Childred

Born

Carl Lee Ruffner

Tel 586-5746  
lives at 1524 Tyler Cir. Morristown, Tenn.  
37814

Born

Jack Ruffner

(lives in Michigan)

Born

Ruth Ruffner

not married

Born

Irene Ruffner

Married Bill Williams

Born

Dorothy (Dot) Ruffner

Married Alvin Potter

Born

Peggy Ruffner

Married William Pemberton



Harvey Hannah Ruffner

~~Peter James Ruffner~~

~~Nancy Jane Goddard~~

Born ~~2-XXXX-1885~~

Died

Born 1858

Died 1923

### Children

Born- Glen Ruffner (Died at age 8 )

Born- Herbert Ruffner 811 Crescent-Morristown, Tenn.

Born- Blaine Ruffner Address- 501 Avondale Ave. Middlesboro, Kentucky  
Phone 248-1677

Born- Vain Ruffner

Born Arvina Ruffner Married Phillips  
(lives in Michigan- 7 boys & 5 girls)

Born Marie Ruffner Married Smiddy

Born Winnie Ruffner-Divorced-Daughter-Caroline June Fenley has a son  
619 Brown Ave. Morristown, Tenn. Michael

Born Wayne Ruffner

Herbert Ruffner has one daughter Sarah Jane married James Kitts  
they have a son Bryan Lynn Kitts.

Caroline June Winnie's daughter - Caroline June Fenley  
married-  
they have a son- Michael Fenley  
Daughter -Laurie Fenley

*Graveyard stones (Coalfield, Tenn)*

*Lois Phillips 3-3-1929 Jan 18, 1948*

*Wm Phillips PFC Mid Dept  
World War II  
3-30-1906 Oct 11-1958*

*Dave was called Samuel*

Samuel Ruffner

Married

Bonnie Byers

Born

Born

Died

Died

Children

(most of them live in Georgia)

Born

James Ruffner

Born

Jane Ruffner

Born

Sammie Ruffner

Born

Jerry Ruffner

Born

Diane Ruffner

Born

Penny Ruffner

Born

Jean Ruffner

Esterbrook

*Graveyard - Coalfield*

*A. H. Walls Ruffner (stone overturned)*

Fred Ruffner - wife Ellen  
9-3-1880 Feb 7, 1882  
Oct 9-1964 Dec 31, 1944

Lester By Ruffner  
4-16-1915 5-5-1946

Tenn.  
5 Sgt 112 AFCS Sgt AAF  
World War II

Lula M. Ruffner - 1882-1962

Clonka, North Carolina

by pass Asheville -

red light cross 19 and 23 go behind clonka plant

highway 112-191 left 150 yds

highway 26