

A History for

**THE BUFFINGTON GIRLS  
FROM  
WEST VIRGINIA**

Melissa.....Suzanne....Jody

*Daughters of  
Ulysses Buffington  
and  
Helen Bryant*

10/15/97  
Allyson Duffney

**THE BUFFINGTON GIRLS FROM WEST VIRGINIA  
MELISSA...SUZANNE...JODY**

**Daughters of Ulysses Buffington and Helen Bryant**

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## FOREWORD

Over 40 years ago a second cousin, Jim Buffington, told me we were descended from a full-blooded Indian, Juhl Buffington, from down on the Ohio River. I laughed, but it did stimulate my curiosity, and through the years, I started collecting bits and pieces of information.

Through a research volume by Ralph M. Buffington, *The Buffington Family in America*, and by subsequent personal contacts with him, I learned that I was indeed a descendent of a full-blooded Indian. It appears that a Joel (it wasn't Juhl, as Cousin Jim reported) Buffington married Elizabeth Logan, part Shawnee Indian, in 1722. Furthermore, my daughters could trace their Buffington ancestors back nine generations in America.

From a scholarly work by Vincent Joseph Boveington and a later visit with him in England, I learned much about the family's origins in England.

Through a history of the Coon (Koon) family, researched and written by Otis Koon of Fairmont, West Virginia -- then made available to us by his daughter Eileen Koon -- I learned that my daughters could trace back, through their grandmother Blanche (Koon) Buffington, nine generations in West Virginia. They could trace the family back to men who built one of the first forts -- in what was then Virginia -- to protect their families from hostile Indians.

This work, then, is mostly the work of others. I, along with my daughter Jody, have rewritten, added to, and assembled it into what you have before you.

Most parents want to pass something on to their descendants. However, their heritage is something which passes on whether it is desired or not. I believe we can't help but be inspired by the lives of those who preceded us, and I believe by telling this ancestral story to my children and their children, they can learn something about themselves as well. Ralph Buffington, who at age 85 has spent most of his life tracing the ancestry of the Buffingtons, said that, through it all, he has been "continually amazed at the resilience of those early ancestors, and time after time discovered records of their ability to withstand adversity and 'bounce back' for greater accomplishments."

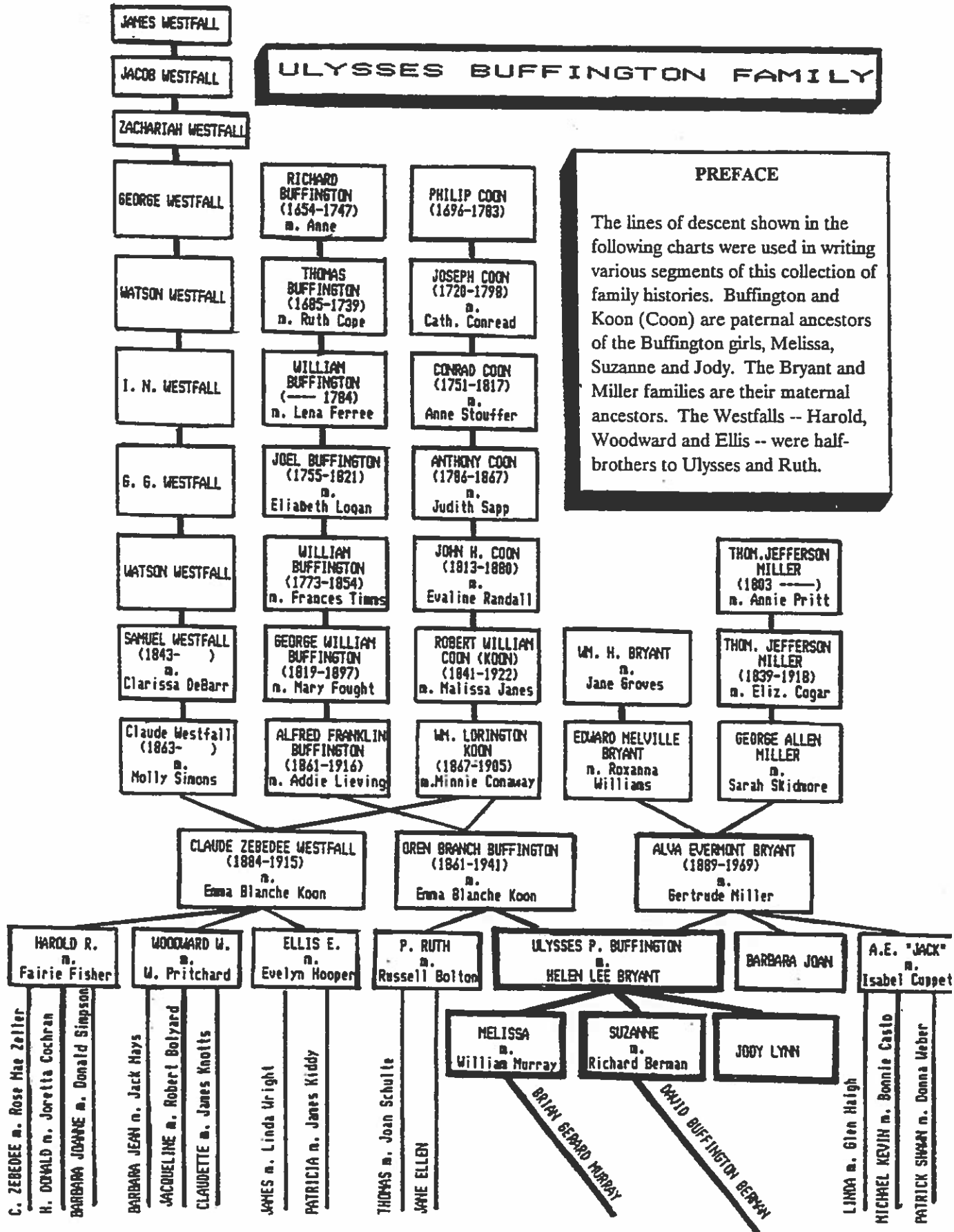
It has all been fascinating to me, and I hope it will be for others.

Ulysses Buffington  
November, 1992

# ULYSSES BUFFINGTON FAMILY

## PREFACE

The lines of descent shown in the following charts were used in writing various segments of this collection of family histories. Buffington and Koon (Coon) are paternal ancestors of the Buffington girls, Melissa, Suzanne and Jody. The Bryant and Miller families are their maternal ancestors. The Westfalls -- Harold, Woodward and Ellis -- were half-brothers to Ulysses and Ruth.

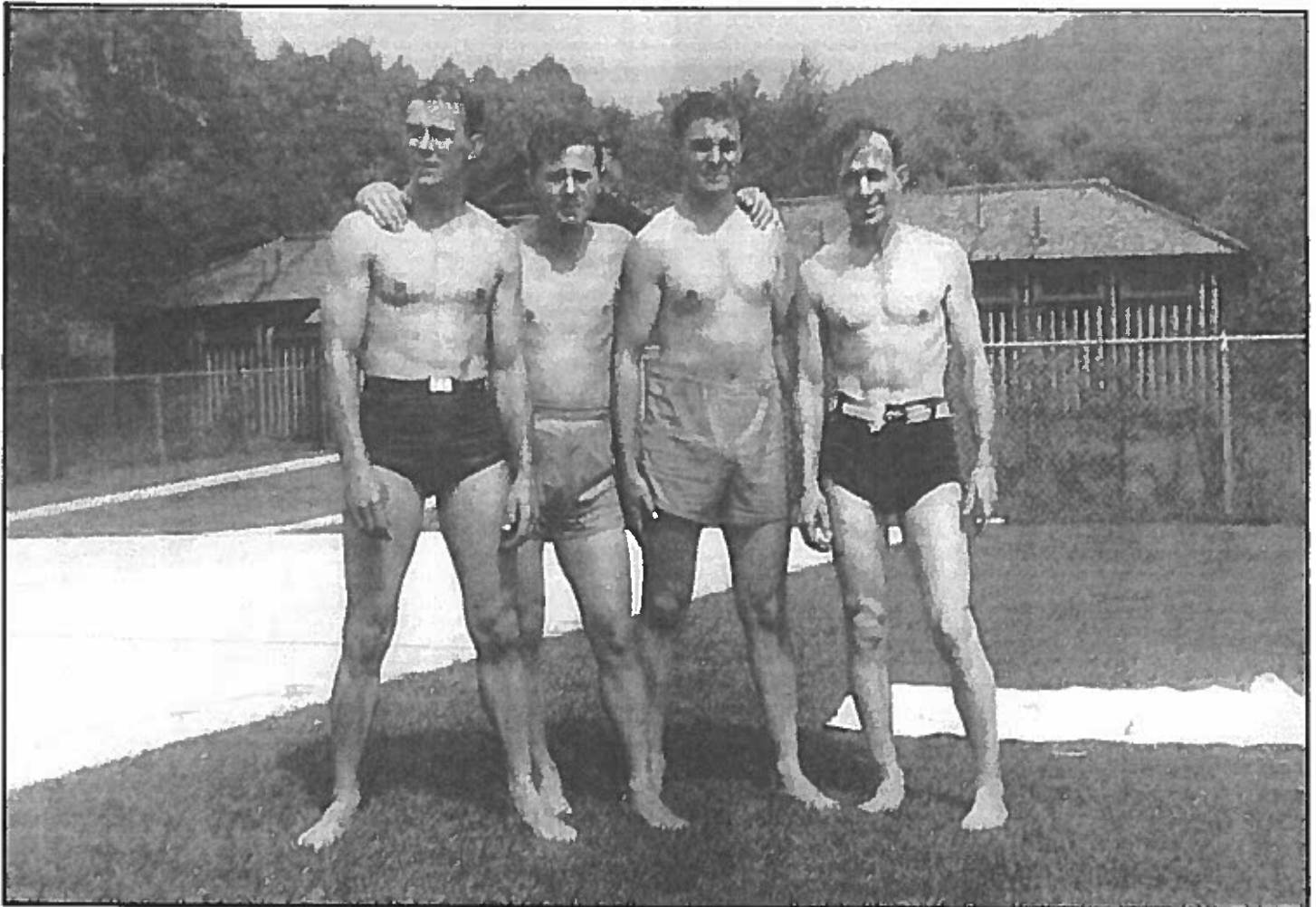




Clockwise from top: the Buffington family, 1961; the Buffington girls from West Virginia - circa 1985 - top, Jody, bottom, from left, Melissa and Suzanne; Helen and Ulysses ("Buff") Buffington.

Opposite page: top from left, Oren Branch Buffington, Emma Blanche (Koon) Buffington, Nina Marie Koon. Bottom photo: the four brothers - Ellis Westfall, Harold Westfall, Ulysses Buffington, Woodward Westfall.







Clockwise from top: The Buffington family in Dallas, Texas, 1975, prior to the International Lions parade and Buff's election to the International Board of Directors. From left, Melissa, Helen, Buff, Suzanne, and Jody; the Bolton family - first row from left, Ruth (Buffington) Bolton, Russell K. (Bud) Bolton. Second row, Joan (wife of Thomas), Thomas, Jane; David Buffington Berman, Brian Gerard Murray.





**Buffington-Westfall family reunion, circa 1966.**

Front row, from left, Michael Kiddy, \_\_\_\_\_, Jody Buffington, Jane Bolton, Suzanne Buffington, Cindy Westfall, Jeff Westfall, Kim Westfall, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Tom Bolton, Greg Simpson, Tracy Simpson, Melissa Buffington, \_\_\_\_\_.

Second row, Donald Simpson, Marie Koon, Ernest Sapp, Zella (Koon-Duty-Comp) Sapp, Woodward Westfall, Emma Blanch (Koon-Westfall) Buffington, Harold Westfall, Ellis Westfall, Ruth (Buffington) Bolton, Donald Westfall.

Third row, Ulysses ("Buff") Buffington, Jimmy Duty, \_\_\_\_\_, Joanne (Westfall) Simpson, Genevieve Duty, Helen (Bruant) Buffington, Claudette (Westfall) Knotts, Jim Knotts, \_\_\_\_\_, Winifred (Pritchard) Westfall, Patty (Westfall) Kiddy, \_\_\_\_\_, Fairie (Fisher) Westfall, Evelyn (Hooper) Westfall, Russell ("Bud") Bolton, Joretta (Cochran) Westfall, \_\_\_\_\_ Duty.



Top, Gertrude (Miller) Bryant and A.E. ("Jack") Bryant.

Below, the Bryant family: front row, from left, A.E. ("Jack") Bryant Jr., Isabel (Cuppett) Bryant, Linda (Bryant-Haigh) Evans. Second row, Kevin Bryant, Shawn Bryant.





**The Murray family, 1981,**  
from left: David, Terry,  
Paul, Wilma, Melissa,  
William, Melinda (Murray)  
Bjorlie, John Bjorlie.



**The Berman family, 1980,**  
from left: Beth, Steven,  
"Jake", Harry, Suzanne,  
Richard, Florence, Nathan  
Klebanow, Bertram and  
Cynthia Klebanow, and  
Robert and Ellen Berman.

## Chapter I

### English Origins of the Buffington Family

Thanks to research done by Vincent Joseph Boveington of Hertfordshire in England, much is known about our beginnings in England. In 1972, his book, *English Origins of the American Buffingtons*, was published; Ralph M. Buffington, noted American historian and genealogist of the Buffington family has this to say about the work:

"Few families have been so fortunate as the American Buffingtons in finding a kindred spirit to guide their search for the family origins in the mother country. In fact, the door has been thrown open by one person (Vincent Joseph Buffington), and we have found the fruit of his findings in a most generous way.

"It is a scholarly work, well documented, written in a warm, human style that should appeal to all who have the blood lines of the emigrants: Thomas Bovanton of Salem, Massachusetts, and Richard Bovington of Pennsylvania, both of whom became "Buffington" in the new world.

"All Buffingtons and future researchers must of necessity start with the work of Vincent Joseph Boveington. All previous work to find our ancestors in England failed because the name "Buffington" appears so English that few even considered there could be variations of the spelling before 1650 A.D. Now we know the name has been spelled in some thirty-five ways, and, open-minded, we are freed to continue the search for the minor details that will give the family structure even greater interest."

Most of the information in this chapter, therefore, is ours through Vincent Joseph Boveington's book, coupled with personal conversations with Vincent in 1976.

With little doubt the family name was, as all surnames were, the nickname of an individual derived from the place in England where that person lived. In other words, a person named "Buffington" (or any other name that sounds phonetically the same, but spelled differently) no doubt came from an area of England that sounded like "Buffington."

There are several theories about the meaning of the name, but the most accepted seems to be *the place of Bufa, on the top of the hill overlooking the town*. The truth is, however, no one really knows where or when it came into existence.

Some speculate that the name goes back to 1066, and the time of the Norman Conquest. But we do know for sure that there was a Bovington Village in Hertfordshire, England (written *Buvendon* in 1262) and that the village of Boynton was called Bovyngton as early as 1331. In addition, we know that down through the 14th century and after there lived men whose names were variously written Bovyndon, Bovindon, Bovindoner, Boveton, Boveington, Bovetown, Abovetown, Bovingdon, and even Buffington.

Historical documents highlight examples of how the name has been spelled: "Robert de Bovington, the son or grandson of Babod and Sir Robert, son of Robert above (1273-1324) were equally generous to.....," and "Walter de Bovyngton was Senechal of the Abby in the time of Richard I (1189-1199)." In the year 1320, a "John de Bovynton of Higham Ferers, Northamptonshire, acknowledged that he owed William le Gauger of London, one hundred shillings," and in 1353, "Richard Bovington gave Bovington Hall in Essex to the Prior and Convent of Christchurch Canterbury." As one can see, there are several examples of various spellings of the name.

Now to South Buckinghamshire -- our area of interest. Here the name was first seen in 1327, and again in 1332. The evidence comes in a Lay Subsidy (tax) against a Richard de Bovyndon of Weston Turville (three miles south of Aylesbury). The membrane upon which the above tax entry is written is still to be found there today, although it is very faint and will produce only a barely readable Photostat. Richard would not have been considered poor by any means. His movable possessions consisted of one mare at five years old; one young ox, a little pig, one half quarter of wheat, and one wooden vessel.

Vincent Boveington's book is filled with documented evidence of the "B" family (as he refers to them in consideration of the many ways of spelling down through the years). The old wills and other evidence of the family activities through the centuries make most interesting reading. One can't help but be impressed by the depth and breadth of research Vincent has accomplished.

Some descendants of the "B" family might possibly prefer that a history would include only those who were wealthy landowners, religious leaders, or holders of public office. And while there is certainly ample mention of such individuals, there is also a sprinkling of those who were expelled from the church, those who applied for charitable medical treatment, and even one, the son of a Dorothy Boveingdon, who in the mid-1600s was a member of England's notorious "Hell Fire Club," a pseudo-religious "cult" of questionable moral values whose members left behind a fair number of illegitimate children. (It is also reported that Benjamin Franklin joined the club during one of his visits to England.)

The ancestors of the Buffington families are thought to be descended from Thomas and Richard, from the region of Marlowe and the village of Penn, northwest of London. This narrative will try to stay within that geographic area.

There is very little documentary recurrence of the family in the Penn district of Bucks for nearly two centuries. But one must be aware that it was a period of little documentation for small farming people. It wasn't until 1538 that compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths was required. And even after that, Thomas Cromwell's orders were often disobeyed.

The village of Penn is about six miles from Great Marlowe, and must have been of great importance when the "B's" first arrived there sometime before 1573. For several centuries -- as early as 1294 -- it had been an inland port of terminus for river traffic to Southwark and to London. To the village folk of South Bucks, it must have indeed seemed a sophisticated, attractive town.

Sometime before 1573, John Bovington and his wife, Alice, made their home at Marlowe. Where John came from is unknown, but it seems most likely that he was one of the several Johns living at Penn a little earlier, worshipping at Holy Trinity Church, Parish of Penn in Buckinghamshire. The date is documented by John's and Alice's wills made and recorded in the spring of 1573.

Vincent's detailed and well-documented research continues with birth and marriage records, court records, and wills down through the next century, charting a direct line to the family of John Bovington (born 1608) and Joan Bushnell. They

were married in 1649 and produced a family of at least seven children, including a Thomas, born in 1642, and a Richard, born in 1655.

While admittedly there has been no proof established, most accept that these are the two brothers, who came to the New World -- Thomas to Salem, Massachusetts, and Richard to New Jersey in 1670 -- were recorded as "Buffington," and became the ancestors of thousands of Buffingtons in America.

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In the spring of 1976, Ulysses, while serving on the Board of Directors of Lions International, had occasion to be in London with Helen, and daughters Suzanne and Jody. He had purchased a copy of Vincent Joseph Boveington's book, *The English Origins of the American Buffingtons*, from Ralph Buffington of Houston, Texas. Through the book, he knew Vincent's last known address in Hertfordshire. He called and luckily talked to Vincent. He was greeted like a long lost cousin -- which indeed he was. At Vincent's invitation and insistence, Ulysses took his wife and daughters out of London to meet Vincent and spend a day touring the countryside.

Vincent met them with a mini-bus which he had rented for the day, and he graciously drove them around the areas of Penn, Marlowe, and the village of Bovingdon. They visited old cemeteries, with dozens of tombstones marking the gravesites of Bovingdon ancestors. In addition, they visited the area of Woodrow Farm, ancestral home of the Buffingtons.

One of the most interesting stops was the burial site of William Penn, considered "Mecca" for Quakers all over the world. The state of Pennsylvania is named after William Penn, and while there is no documented proof of any connection between Penn and the Buffington family, it is established that Richard Buffington was a contemporary of William Penn, they both were deeply involved in establishing Pennsylvania, and both came from the same Penn Parish in England.

The family also visited an old barn adjacent to Penn's burial site. The barn had been constructed from the timbers of the Mayflower -- a ship of so much significance in American history. Vincent explained that, in olden days when a ship was no longer seaworthy it was common to auction the vessel off so the valuable timbers could be salvaged. A farmer had purchased the Mayflower and salvaged the timber to build his barn. It was a thrill to be in the barn -- especially for Suzanne

and Jody -- and to rub one's hands over the old timbers and imagine the history they represented.

The day was one which the entire family remembers with great pleasure, feeling the good fortune of meeting Vincent Joseph Boveington and feeling the excitement he generated as he told about the pieces of history he found through what was, without a doubt, his labor of love.

In September, 1992, Ulysses and Helen revisited Bovingdon but gathered no additional information of importance.

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## **Chapter II**

### **The Buffington Family in America**

#### **Richard...Thomas...William**

#### **Richard Buffington**

Research has shown that all Buffingtons in America can be traced back to Richard Buffington, who emigrated to New Jersey sometime in or before 1676, or Thomas Bovanton -- the presumed brother of Richard -- who is recorded as being in Salem, Massachusetts as early as 1659. The Ulysses Buffington family is descended from Richard, who emigrated to New Jersey sometime in or before 1676.

Richard Boveington, born in 1654, considered himself from Great Marle upon the Thames in Buckinghamshire, England (not far from where Buckingham Palace stands today). The family had been established there for some generations, probably at Bovingdon Green, a hamlet only one mile from the center of town. It is believed that the family, using various spellings of the name, had lived in the towns and villages around Great Marle, or Marlowe, since at least 1300, and probably several centuries earlier.

Richard Buffington (the current spelling of the name is American in origin!), in addition to founding the largest segment of the Buffington family in America, made definite historic contributions to American colonial history. From West Jersey, Richard went to Upland, later Chester, Pennsylvania, and is recorded as being there before Penn received the Charter for the Province of Pennsylvania.

According to the proceedings of the Chester County Historical Society, dated 20 February, 1902, "There are few English families in Pennsylvania which can claim an earlier arrival than the Buffingtons."

There has been much uncertainty as to when Richard came to West Jersey, and why he left West Jersey for Upland, later Chester, Pennsylvania. In addition, the date of Richard's marriage to Ann (or Anne) is not known. However, certain facts about Richard are known, as well as a great deal of information about the problems in settling West Jersey and the development of the Quaker community in America.

Ralph M. Buffington, noted historian of the Buffington family in America, has pieced together this information and has developed his own theory of the "unknown years" of Richard's life from 1675 to 1677.

His theory assumes that Richard and Anne came over to America on the "Griffith" or "Griffen" on the first voyage of an English ship to West Jersey, landing at Salem on 25 November, 1675. It is known that Richard signed the New Jersey Compact or Constitution, actually entitled, "The Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors, Freeholders and Inhabitants of West Jersey in America." This document is dated 3 March, 1676.

The Concessions, long believed to be the work of William Penn, is now recognized as a joint production of Penn and Edward Byllinge. In England, the Concessions were signed, then a copy was sent to America on the "Kent," the second English ship to land in West Jersey. This copy was then signed by the resident proprietors, freeholders and other inhabitants during the early months of settlement. The position of Richard Buffington's name high on the list of signers indicates that Richard was among the earliest settlers in West Jersey.

Ralph Buffington writes, "The New Jersey Compact is one of the noblest documents in American history and should be widely known since it is the basis for a greater concept of freedom by the Colonists."

Apparently, these settlers had come to find land in America and to establish a new Quaker community. However, delays in obtaining land caused many colonists to despair. Many of those receiving land were given property that had poor soil and, in some cases, were low and surrounded by swamps.

Richard Wade, prominent in the early days of Salem, deserted the group and went to Upland, across the Delaware River, in April, 1676. Richard Buffington later followed him to Upland, where he and John Grubb, his partner, purchased Hopewell of Kent or Lamoco, property adjacent to Wade's. Ralph Buffington believes that Richard's admiration for Wade no doubt contributed to his following Wade to Upland.

There are other theories of why Richard Buffington moved to Upland. Since Richard is believed to be a friend of William Penn while in England, it is also possible he was asked by Penn to precede him to the new colony. Perhaps New Jersey, with its colony of Friends (Quakers) was the logical place to wait out the opening of Pennsylvania. Still, others believe Richard was an agent of the Duke of York prior to Penn's acquisition of the territory along the Delaware, and he may have come over on official business for the Duke. Whatever his official role, it is clear that Richard and Anne undoubtedly rendered heroic service in helping the new settlers of Pennsylvania when they arrived in the extremely cold winter of 1681.

Among the many recorded contributions Richard Buffington made are:

- a devotion to public service, including jury duty, constable, and even moving to the frontier of the colony (on the Brandywine) where he helped keep order;
- assisting in the layout of the public road from Philadelphia to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, that became the first unit of America's earliest trans-continental highway;
- forfeiting his material advancements in this Quaker country by joining the Baptists; being baptized in Crum Creek, Pennsylvania on 26 June, 1699, and being the first person in America known to have left money in his will for a Baptist church.

The activities of Richard Buffington are surprisingly well documented, perhaps more fully recorded than any other member of the family for the next two hundred years. His role as a good citizen is verified in court records of Upland, later Chester County. His name is recorded for public service more than twenty times between 1681 and 1695.

Richard married Anne probably in England. According to Ralph, Anne was considered an outspoken woman of strongly individualistic views. She often did not conform to the conventions of her day, and she was ready to stand by her friends in their difficulties, and lend her support as needed when they did not adhere to the Quaker rules and regulations. In all, Richard and Anne had ten children: Ann and Ruth (born in England), Richard Jr., Thomas, William, John, Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth, and Lydia. For at least a century or more, many historians believed that Richard Jr., born in 1679, was the first child born of English parents in America. It was only in this century that historians found proof of another child born two weeks earlier.

Anne Buffington died in 1695 and Richard married Frances, the widow of his former partner John Grubb. Richard and Frances had no children and it is not known when she died. However, in 1720, Richard married Alice Palmer, a young widow, and they had three children: Abigail, Joseph and Alice.

Richard Buffington continued in good health until his death in January 1747-48. As of his 85th birthday, he had 115 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The family at that time was well established through Chester and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The Ulysses Buffington family descends from Thomas Buffington, the fourth child and second son of Richard and Anne.

### **Thomas Buffington**

It is likely that Thomas Buffington was born at Upland, Chester County in 1680. The records available on Thomas are extensive, consisting of land grants, patents, sales, his marriage to Ruth Cope, the extensive Cope genealogy by Gilbert Cope, family marriage records, and lastly his will and inventory.

Ruth Cope was the daughter of Oliver Cope who emigrated from Wiltshire in England, around 1682. Oliver Cope purchased a 250 acre tract from William Penn, and lived near Richard and Ann Buffington. After Oliver Cope's death in 1697, Richard acted as one of the guardians for the children -- a situation that no doubt led to the meeting of Ruth and Thomas. They did marry, but the date of their marriage is unknown.

It is known that Thomas and Ruth had nine children: Richard, William, Rebecca, Ruth, Betty, Susanna, Rachel, Ann and Thomas.

Ruth died in 1728, and within a short time Thomas married Anne, presumed Anne Matthews. It is not known if there were children born of this marriage; the inventory of Thomas Buffington does indicate that he owned a cradle. According to Ralph Buffington, this may mean he was "a man of fond memories and deep sentiment, characteristic of so many of the family members."

The relatively small estate left by Thomas Buffington suggests that he had assisted his sons and daughters in becoming established. At his death his inventory listed only eighty-five acres of the hundreds of acres he had once owned. Most of his personal effects were old, one jacket valued at one pound was new.

The Ulysses Buffington family descends from William Buffington, second son and second oldest of Thomas and Ruth Cope Buffington.

## **William Buffington**

William Buffington was the founder of the most rigorous branch of the Buffington family. Little is known of his early life; however, he and his first wife, Alice (Rupp?) are recorded in a land transfer dated in 1729 in Chester County. In 1739, he is recorded as having witnessed a Quaker wedding in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It is believed that he and Alice had at least three children, Benjamin, Jonathan and John, but not much is known about them. It is assumed that William took care of these children before he left Pennsylvania, as they are not mentioned in his will. Alice died in the early 1740s, while William was living in Lancaster County. He married Magdalena (Lena) Feree about 1747, and their first child, Susannah, was born in 1748.

Sometime before 1757, William and Lena moved to the Fairfax Lands in the Northern neck of Virginia, where William was considered to be "a worthy citizen of that state until his death."

In 1760 William and Lena had purchased land in Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia), and in 1770 purchased a large interest of the Savage Land Grant in the Western part of the state that was the key to the family's later wealth.

William and Lena had seven children: Susannah, Thomas, Joel, David, Ruth, Jonathan (his second son by this name), and William. The year of Lena's death is now known, but in late 1778 or early 1779, William married Mary, widow of Christopher Smith. William and Mary had two children, Mary and Richard.

The Ulysses Buffington family descends from Joel, second child and oldest son of William and Lena Buffington. Joel Buffington is the great, great, great, great grandfather of Melissa, Suzanne and Jody Buffington.

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## THE BUFFINGTON FAMILY IN AMERICA

**RICHARD BUFFINGTON** - (emigrant) s. of Richard Buffington and Anne; b. England in 1654, d. January, 1747-48; m. (1) Ann (Anne), (2) Francis, (3) Alice. Issue: (1) Ann m. Benjamin Hickman, 1701: Ruth m. Ezekiel Harlan: Richard, Jr. b. 1679, d. 1741, m. Phebe Grubb: Thomas b. 1680 or 1685, m. (1) Ruth (2) Ann Matthews: William: John d. 1736, m. Sarah Everson: Hannah m. Jeremiah Dean 1736: Mary m. (1) William Baldwin (2) Charles Turner: Elizabeth m. (1) Peter Collins (2) John Freeman: Lydia d. prior to 1757, m. George Martin. Issue: (2) Abigail: Joseph: Alice.

**THOMAS BUFFINGTON** - s. of Richard Buffington and Ann, b. 1685, d. 1739, m. (1) Ruth Cope, daughter of Oliver and Rebecca Cope, d. 1729 (2) Ruth Skeen. Issue: Richard; William b. 1740: Thomas: Rebecca: Ruth: Betty: Susannah, b. 1729: Rachel: Ann.

**WILLIAM BUFFINGTON** - s. of Thomas Buffington and Ruth Cope, d. 1784, m. 1729 to (1) Alice Rupp (2) Magdalena (Lena) Ferree (3) Mary, widow of Christopher Smith. Issue: (1) Benjamin b. 1730, m. Mary Frissell (1 of 2): John B. b. 1732: Johnathan b. 1735, m. Ann Clayton 27 February. 1760: Issue: (2) Susannah b. 1748, m. Daniel Sullivan: Thomas b. 1751, m. Ann Cline: Joel, b. 1750-55, m. Elizabeth Logan: David m. Margaret: Ruth m. Thomas Collins: Jonathan: William. Issue: (3) names and dates not known for sure.

## Chapter III

### The West Virginia Buffingtons

While living in Hampshire County, Virginia, now West Virginia, both William Buffington and his son, Joel Buffington, purchased large tracts of land along the Ohio River in areas now known as Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. Land was very cheap, so some of it was purchased outright. However, much of it was acquired through government or military land grants. William is supposed to have, at one time, owned over 4,000 acres in the area now known as Huntington, West Virginia. There is no record, however, that he even visited most of his holdings along the Ohio river. He died in Hampshire County in 1784.

Joel, too, was a large landowner with more than 2,000 acres. In 1722, he married a part Shawnee Indian, Elizabeth Logan. There is no record of when Joel went to live on his property along the Ohio, but it is assumed that it was sometime after his marriage, since the birth of his first child, William, is recorded in Hampshire County in 1773. Elizabeth is the only woman Joel married, and they had eight children.

Since Joel owned other property in the area along the Ohio River, Joel and Elizabeth surely lived in more than one place. However, in 1787, Joel purchased an island in the Ohio River, where he made his home and farmed the land. A British journalist, stranded on the island by floodwater while Joel and Elizabeth lived there, reported that -- had the houses been in England -- they would have been "uninhabitable."

The island is located just up-stream from what is now Ravenswood, West Virginia, and is called Buffington Island. In addition, Buffington State Park is located on the Ohio side of the river, across from Buffington Island.

The island was flooded by the Ohio River almost every spring and eventually was abandoned as a home site. It was sold in 1824, three years after Joel's death.

Buffington Island became a landmark during the Civil War. It is reported in the history books that the Battle of Buffington Island in the Civil War, involving Morgan's Raiders, occurred 19 July, 1863. "Hundreds of Morgan's Confederates escaped through Jackson County (West Virginia) after this engagement." One historian said that 850 of Morgan's men were captured while only 300 escaped. Morgan himself was captured only seven days later.

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In 1973, Ulysses Buffington went to the Buffington Island area in Ohio to search for information about Joel or his descendants. When inquiring at a local farmhouse, he was told that there once had been some old tombstones in what was now a cornfield. During a brief search through the weeds, Ulysses reports tripping over a rock and almost breaking his ankle. When he looked back to see what had caused his fall, he was surprised, and not a little spooked, to see that he had tripped over the headstone of none other than Joel Buffington. He was tempted to bring it home in the trunk of his car, but thought better of disturbing it any further. Later he was told that other descendants from Iowa had removed it and it is now in their possession.

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There are hundreds of Buffingtons or descendants of Buffingtons along the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Cincinnati, Ohio, and beyond. Some of the early Buffington men were river boatmen, poling river keelboats down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers as far south as New Orleans -- but most of them seem to have been farmers and lumber men.

From here, the history of the Ulysses Buffington family follows the direct line of descent from Joel to Melissa, Suzanne and Jody. While it no doubt would be interesting to follow some of the other children of Joel and his descendants, it would take volumes. For, as Ralph Buffington noted, "There are more Buffington descendants attributed to Joel and his children than any other Buffington of his generation."



William, Joel's oldest child and probably named after Joel's father, married Sarah Hughes in Washington County, Ohio on Christmas Day, 1798. Although records show his living in several areas throughout his lifetime, he eventually settled on the Ohio side of the Ohio River north of Buffington Island in the general area of what is now known as Olive Township, Meigs County, Ohio. In 1808, he bought land there and he or his children continued to own land in this area for over 60 years. When Meigs County, Ohio was created in 1819, William Buffington was listed as one of only 11 voters in Olive Township.

On 24 August, 1817, William married a second time to Frances G. (Timms) Rowland, widow of George Rowland and daughter of Elisha Timms. Between his two wives, William had at least thirteen children.

In 1847 William acquired a large tract of land at the junction of the Little Kanawha and Hughes River, in what is now Wirt County, West Virginia. By 1850, he had moved there; he died on 8 May, 1854, and is buried there on his farm. His second wife Frances died 19 February, 1880, in Roane County, West Virginia. Records show that his death set off 30 years of litigation by his heirs.

The first child of William and his second wife, Frances, was a son, born in 1819. Named George William, he was to marry Mary Ann Fought in Wood County, West Virginia, on 18 September, 1845.

Marjories F. Mayes, a descendent of the Fought side of the family, did considerable research on the family and reports that George William was a miller, boatman, and a farmer. He often went by the name of "William," particularly after the death of his father. She also reports that George William and Mary Ann are buried in unmarked graves at the Rector Cemetery, Burning Springs, Wirt County, West Virginia. They had nine children.

The seventh child of George William and Mary Ann was Alfred Frank Buffington, born on 16 November, 1861. One can easily assume he was named after Mary Ann's father, Alfred Frank Fought. There is no record available to us of where Alfred Franklin was born, but it is assumed he was born in Newark, Wirt County, West Virginia, since five of his brothers and sisters born before him were born there.

Alfred Frank died before his grandson, Ulysses, was born. Ulysses remembers nothing about his grandparents on his father's side except to hear his father, Oren Branch, talk of his mother saying that her parents were German born by the name of Lieving, that he enjoyed hearing his grandfather Lieving speak German, and that his father, Oren, treasured a small bowl (still a family possession)

which appears to be made of milk glass. According to Oren, the bowl was brought to this country from Germany by grandmother Lieving or her parents.

Records show that Alfred Frank married Addie Virginia Lieving, and that Addie was the daughter of Henry Lieving (an emigrant from Germany) and Sarah Frances Yonker.

Through correspondence with Elnora Nuckles Dixon in 1986, a first cousin and daughter of Ulysses' aunt, Anna Mae (Buffington) Nuckles, Ulysses was told that Alfred Frank had been married previously, and had one child, a son, from that first marriage. The son, named Frank, died in 1940. She also confirmed that Alfred Frank and Addie had eight children. There are, however, only records of three children -- Roy Lee, Anna Mae, and Oren Branch -- so it is assumed that the other children died at infancy.

Cousin Elnora Dixon also writes that Alfred Frank was married a third time to Bertha (last name unknown). The last she knew of Bertha was that she was living in Cheylan, West Virginia, and had two daughters, Grace Buffington Pauley and Blanche Buffington Stone, also living at or near Cheylan.

Elnora also recalled that a brother, Joe (it is not clear whether this is Alfred Frank's brother or his son) lived in Upshur County. She confirmed this as in 1916, her father Dennis Nuckles was working for Joe at a saw mill there.

Finally, she also provided records showing that Sarah Frances Yonker was a direct descendant of Yost Yonker, one of two brothers who came to America about 1735. One brother, Addie's ancestor, came to Philadelphia. The other settled in what is now Yonkers, New York.

Elnora Nuckles Dixon died in 1987. A daughter, Mrs. Robert (Annette) Showalter is now living in Cody, Wyoming.

Alfred Frank Buffington died 18 December, 1916. The third recorded child of Alfred Frank and Addie Virginia Lieving was Oren Branch Buffington. He left the Ohio River Valley and went to Clarksburg, West Virginia the same year his father died.

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## THE WEST VIRGINIA BUFFINGTONS

**JOEL BUFFINGTON** - s. of William Buffington and Magalena (Lena) Feree, b. 1755, m. Elizabeth Logan 1772, d. 1821. Issue: William, b. 1773, m. (1) ?, (2) Sarah Hughes 25 December, 1798, (3) Frances Timms Rowland (Widow of George Rowland) 24 August 1817: Joseph, b. 1775, m. (1) Polly ---, (2) Asa ---- (3) Elizabeth: Abraham, b. 1784, m. Margaret ----: Jacob, b. 1785, m. Amelia Harvey 24 June 1804: Susan, b.?, m. Reason Nightswanger: Magdalena, b.?, m. Thomas Dewitt.

**WILLIAM BUFFINGTON** - s. of Joel Buffington and Elizabeth Logan b. 18 November 1773, m. (1) ? (2) Sarah Hughes 25 December, 1798, (3) Frances Timms Rowland (widow of George Rowland), d. 8 May 1854. Issue: (2) Elizabeth, b. 2 June, 1799, m. Reuben Tubbs 13 June, 1819, d. 17 October, 1892: Solomon W., b. 25 November, 1805, m. Matilda Romine 30 June, 1839 d. 21 May, 1862: Samuel, b. 1807-1810, m. Mary Pennypacker 24 December 1835, d. 17 August, 1865: Salvinia, b. 25 March, 1813, m. John Hall 21 January, 1813, d. 21 May, 1895: Seth, b. 1815, m. Elizabeth Deaver 1857-64, d. June 1867. Issue: (3) George William, b. 1819, m. Mary Fought 18 September, 1845, d. 1898: Elisha Timms, b. 1820, m. (1) Ruth Smart 18 February, 1847, (2) Susan ----, 1860, (3) M.Q. Arnett 21 August, 1876, (3) Mary Amanda ----, d. 16 September, 1898: Susannah, b. 1822, unmarried: Wesley F. b. 1823, m. Martha Seaman 28 January, 1850, d. 1858+: Brooks, b. May 1826, m. (1) Phoebe Gay 3 January 1851, (2) Mary Jane Reynolds Farrow 29 August, 1865, d. 1900: Jane Post, b. 18 November, 1827, m. Alfred Woodyard 29 March, 1851, d. 1915: Baldwin R. b. 1832, m. Nancy Petty 7 May 1851, d. 1872+: Phoebe R. b. 1834, m. Lewis Woodyard 3 October 1854, d. 1870+.

**GEORGE WILLIAM BUFFINGTON** - s. of William Buffington and Frances Timms, b. 1819, m. Mary Ann Fought 18 September, 1845, d. 1898. Issue: Richard C. b. 18 September, 1849, d. 6 September, 1856: George William, b. 14 September, 1851, m. Mary Reed 14 January, 1876, d. 21 May 1931: John T. b. January 1854, m. Anna ----: James P. b. 1855, m. Sarah Jane Cox 11 February, 1878, d. 1898: Charles W. b. 1857, unmarried, d. March 1876: Mary Elizabeth, b. 16 April 1859, m. John Camden Jones 31 August 1851, d. 14 January, 1935: Alfred Franklin, b. 16 November, 1861, m. (1)?, (2) Addie Virginia Lieving, (3) Bertha ----, d. 18 December, 1916: Martha, b. 1863: Joseph, b. 1866, m. Carrie --.

**ALFRED FRANKLIN BUFFINGTON** - s. of George William Buffington and Mary Ann Fought, b. 16 November, 1861, m. (1) ---- Elliott, (2) Addie Virginia Lieving, (3) Bertha ----, d. 18 December, 1916. Issue: (1) Frank, d. 1940: (2) Roy Lee, b. 18 May, 1892, m. Jennie ----: Anna Mae, b. 8 June 1894, m. Dennis Nuckles, d. 27 November, 1949: Oren Branch, b. 28 April 1897, m. Emma Blanche Koon, 14 November, 1917, d. 17 March 1941: Freddie, d. 17 March, 1901: (3) Grace, m. ---- Pauley: Blanche, m. - --- Stone.

## Chapter IV

### The Ulysses Buffington Family

Around 1916, Oren Branch Buffington came to Clarksburg, West Virginia, from Letart, West Virginia, where he had been teaching in a one-room school. Oren was physically handicapped -- presumably from polio during infancy -- leaving his right hand, arm, and leg somewhat withered. In Clarksburg, he felt fortunate to find employment as a "caller" for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Looking for a place to live, he was referred to Emma Blanche (Koon) Westfall, at 1302 Williams Avenue in the North View section of Clarksburg. She had recently been widowed; her first husband Claude Westfall had died the year before. Left with three small children, Harold, age 11, Woodward, age nine, and Ellis, who was under two, Blanche had decided to take in roomers to help make ends meet.

A year after Oren moved in, he and Blanche were married, and they continued to live on Williams Avenue in Clarksburg. Their first child, Ulysses Pershing Buffington, was born in September, 1918. Their second child, a daughter named Pearl Ruth, was born in November, 1921.

*Ulysses: "The 'Ulysses' came from the attending physician, Dr. Ulysses Showalter, who had probably been named for Ulysses Grant. The Pershing came from General John J. Pershing, a war hero at that time. The 'Pearl' came from one of Mom's best friends, Pearl Payne."*

Around 1925, the family moved to Baltimore Avenue in Clarksburg, close to the B & O "roundhouse." There they started a boarding house and restaurant which catered to railroad employees. This lasted about two years, until Oren and Blanche, encouraged by Oren's brother Roy, took Ellis, Ulysses and Ruth and moved to

Indianapolis, Indiana. Roy professed to have discovered a secret method of hardening copper but in less than a year the family was back in West Virginia. They lived briefly in Kingwood, where Oren worked as a Maytag washing machine salesman. Then, the family moved on to Butler, Pennsylvania for a few months, and then on to Washington, Pennsylvania, where Oren again worked as a Maytag salesman.

*Ruth: "Ulysses and I fondly remember, as youngsters, getting up at five in the morning, sitting in front of the stove in the bathroom, singing all the popular songs from song-sheets of the time, and then going to county fairs with our father. We would stand on the lids of the aluminum Maytag washers to demonstrate their strength, and sing those songs. We kids loved it!!"*

By this time, Harold, Blanche's oldest son and Oren's stepson, had moved to Washington, Pennsylvania to begin work as a machinist at the Hazel-Atlas Glass Factory. Woodward had joined the United States Navy.

The Great Depression began, and the family fell on hard times. Ruth recalls it was about this time she found out there was no Santa Claus; she was given a play desk for Christmas, and it was repossessed. Oren succumbed to pocketing some of the deposits on washing machine sales and had to pay the price. Blanche and Oren separated and Blanche again was left to support a family on her own. Ellis quit school to go to work and he and Harold -- now married to Fairie Fisher (in 1927) -- became the breadwinners.

In the early 1930s, Woodward finished his U.S. Navy duty, and took a job in Meadville, Pennsylvania. He took his mother, Ulysses, Ruth and Ellis with him. Ellis was able to return to school as a high school freshman and made first-team halfback on the Meadville High School football team. Blanche did house work to help keep the family's head above water.

*Ruth: "I was about eleven years old at the time. I remember standing on a chair and washing canning jars for the next door neighbor, Grace Mosbacher, who I called Aunt Grace. I took payment in the form of piano lessons. I learned to play the treble clef before we left Meadville. I didn't learn the base clef until 40 years later. Around that same time, I recall for the first time Mom's advice to 'keep my legs together.' It didn't take me 40 years to learn what that meant."*

In the summer of 1932, Oren went to Meadville to ask for a reconciliation with Blanche. Encouraged by oldest son Harold, who had already moved back to

Clarksburg to work at the Hazel-Atlas machine shop, she agreed to move back and considered giving it a chance.

Blanche and the three youngest children moved in with Harold and Fairie; Oren rented a room in Clarksburg. Woodward gave up his job in Meadville and also returned to Clarksburg, working at Hazel-Atlas as a mold maker. Soon thereafter, he married Winifred Pritchard. Ellis transferred to Victory High School in Clarksburg, where he played football and was selected All-State. He married Evelyn Hooper during his senior year and graduated in 1935 when he too went to work for Hazel-Atlas.

Ulysses and Ruth enrolled at North View Junior High School. Ulysses became cheerleader, was elected 9th grade class president, discovered girls, and won the city-wide yo-yo championship. Both children began to learn about ethnic and religious differences, going to school with the children of Italian, Spanish, Jewish, French, Polish and Greek backgrounds who lived in North View.

*Ruth: "Needless to say, money was pretty scarce. 'Liss' and I did a variety of things to earn spending money. He cut out and assembled wooden doorstops. I went door-to-door selling them. And we collected and sold junk metal, using the money to take weekend railway excursions to places such as Washington, D.C."*

Blanche and Oren never did not live together again. He died of pneumonia in 1941, and was buried in Moundsville, West Virginia.

*Ulysses: "I confess my memory of those years, especially the early ones, are pretty hazy. I know we moved a lot and I once counted that I attended 13 different schools before I graduated from high school. I used to laughingly say that during those depression years it was cheaper to move than pay rent.*

*"My memories of my father are not bad memories. He was never unkind to us. He always had a ready laugh, loved a good story, and was generous to a fault. Perhaps his physical disability, taking on the responsibility of a husband and father of three young children when he was only 19 years old, and then trying to cope with employment problems and shortage of money during the depression years, was greater than he could handle."*

During Ulysses' senior year at Victory High School he was elected Senior Class President and, as such, made many of the arrangements for senior class portraits. During the last month of school he was offered a job to learn photography at Sayre Studio, in Clarksburg -- by the photographer who took the class photos.

Ulysses accepted that it would soon be his turn to contribute to the support of the family, and that going to college would be out of the question. Half-brother Harold had been using his influence at the glass factory to get him a job, but when the offer at Sayre Studio came up, Ulysses knew he couldn't be "a little cog in a big machine." In June, 1936, he started as an apprentice at Sayre, making \$5.00 per week.

After two years, and increases of salary to \$15.00 per week, Ulysses, Blanche, and sister Ruth rented a small house and went into housekeeping for the first time. Blanche continued to live with Ulysses until her death 34 years later.

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Ruth finished high school in 1939 and was awarded a partial scholarship to West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. She spent her freshman year there, but made enough money working summer jobs to be able to transfer to -- and graduate from -- West Virginia University in Morgantown.

While at the University, she met and married Russell Kelso Bolton, Jr., a native of Morgantown. After serving in the United States Air Force during World War II, Russell -- or "Bud" as the family called him -- and Ruth made Morgantown their home, while Bud returned to school to study law at West Virginia University. During that time Ruth worked as secretary to the president of the university. Bud graduated from law school and took a job as Assistant Athletic Director for the University, while Ruth continued in her secretarial job.

After a year with the athletic department, Bud decided to enroll at New York University for graduate work in taxation. He and Ruth moved to Manhattan and spent a year. Bud was offered a position with a law firm on Park Avenue. He and Ruth moved to New Rochelle, New York, where -- having unsuccessfully tried several times to have children of their own -- they adopted two children, Thomas and Jane.

Following a couple of years with the law firm in New York, Bud left to become Tax Counsel with Rexall Drug, soon to become Dart Industries. The new job required yet another move, and the Bolton family made their new home in Tarzana, California.

Bud and Ruth had made a wise and fortunate change. Bud eventually became vice president and general counsel for Dart Industries. When the company merged with Kraft Foods, they moved to Northbrook, Illinois and he became

associate general counsel of Dart-Kraft until he retired. At that time, Bud and Ruth returned to California, sold their house in Tarzana shortly thereafter, and retired in a new home in Palm Desert, California.

Son Tommy married Joan Schulte, and had two children, Laurie Marie and Timothy Russell. He is the managing editor the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, a daily newspaper in Santa Barbara, California. Daughter Jane is an account adjuster with a large insurance company in Woodland Hills, California, and she lives in Simi Valley, California.

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The three Westfall brothers continued to work at Hazel-Atlas Glass Factory. Harold retired from the glass factory and passed away in 1986. His widow, Fairie, still lives in Clarksburg. The couple had three children: Barbara Joanne, Claude Zebedee (Zeb) and Harold Donald (Donnie).

Woodrow (Woody) and Winifred moved to Grafton, West Virginia, where Woody accepted a position as foreman of the mold shop at the Hazel-Atlas plant there. From Grafton they moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where he passed away on 30 November, 1987. Woody and Winifred had three children: Barbara Jean, Jacqueline (Jackie) and Claudette.

Ellis eventually left Hazel-Atlas to become a maintenance foreman at the Clarksburg plant of National Carbon, the position from which he finally retired. He and wife Evelyn have two children: James and Patricia.

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Ulysses built a home at 113 Temple Terrace in Clarksburg and he, with Blanche and Ruth, moved into it on Labor Day, 1941. Ruth got to spend very little time in the new home because she was attending college and eventually married. World War II began three months after they moved into their new home, and a year after that Ulysses joined the United States Navy as a photographer. He spent two years on an aircraft carrier on Lake Michigan, and then transferred to the U.S. Naval School of Photography at Pensacola, Florida. Six months there and he was sent to the Pacific Theater by way of San Diego Naval Air Station. He reached the island of Okinawa only days before the end of the war. Other than witnessing a



typhoon on the island, he saw little action; he returned home in November, 1945, to become manager of Sayre Studio.

During wartime, Blanche's sister, Marie (Koon), came to live with Blanche. Marie had been deaf since she was three years old, and had no means of support. With the exception of the last two or three years of her life -- when she divided her time between Clarksburg and living with Bud and Ruth in California -- she lived with Ulysses for the next 40 years of her life, until her death in 1988.

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Ulysses made a career of photography. His formal education ended at high school and his photographic education was limited to a summer course in 1937 at the Winona School of Photography at Winona Lake, Indiana and a few months at the U.S. Naval School of Photography while in the service. Nonetheless, he enjoyed the work and was successful. He served a term as president of the West Virginia Professional Photographers Association, appearing many times as a speaker before various professional photographic groups. In 1961, he was awarded the honorary degree of Master of Photography by the Professional Photographers Association of America, an award given in recognition of excellence in the profession. Before retiring in 1985, he was to eventually own three portrait studios in West Virginia.

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In 1952 Ulysses met and married Helen Lee Bryant, daughter of Alva E. "Jack" Bryant and Gertrude (Miller) Bryant. Helen worked for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, and she continued to work for several years after their marriage. Ulysses was 33 years old at the time; Helen was ten years his junior.

Ulysses' employer, Floyd Sayre, was also his mentor and benefactor. Floyd even helped finance the building of the new home on Temple Terrace. Unfortunately, Sayre developed an alcohol problem and, at the same time, Sayre's wife and two sons began to become more involved in the business. In October, 1955 Ulysses ended a relationship that had lasted almost 20 years, and he left Sayre Studio.

*Ulysses: "When I left Sayre, it certainly wasn't premeditated. I didn't even own a camera. Helen was pregnant with our second child, and resources were practically non-existent. Helen and I first looked at buying a photographic studio that was for sale in*

*Washington, Pennsylvania, but finally we decided I should open my own photographic studio in Clarksburg."*

Fortunately, while in the U.S. Navy and a single man, Ulysses had converted his G.I. insurance into an endowment policy upon which he was able to borrow. In November, 1955 he opened his own studio in a run-down second-story former storeroom. Working 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week, Ulysses and Helen made a go of it.

Sharing a home with a mother-in-law and her husband's deaf aunt -- built-in baby-sitters -- Helen found it not only practical but, many times desirable to continue working at the telephone company. Her income was important and welcome in those early years with the studio.

**Helen:** *"I can't deny there were a lot of tense moments. But Emmy and I always kept our cool and bit our lips. She used to say that we got along better than most mothers and daughters. I agree."*

The studio prospered and, although they had finished the attic to provide a third bedroom, the family was outgrowing the small house on Temple Terrace. Ulysses and Helen sold it and purchased a new and larger one at 216 Temple Terrace in 1957. An unfinished second floor of the new home was completed, providing separate living quarters for Blanche and Marie.

In 1963, a set-back occurred. A fire started in the office immediately below the studio, and it was destroyed. On the night of the fire Ulysses was in bed with the flu, but got up and went to the fire scene. Joined by his half-brothers Harold and Ellis in the middle of the night, they tried to salvage as much as possible from the fire.

**Helen:** *"Buff was rewarded for his attempt to save what was in the studio by a shattered window from a second story window falling on him. He had to get several stitches. Very little of the studio was salvaged, and he spent the next week in bed with a temperature as high as 103 degrees."*

In retrospect, the fire was a blessing. It forced the Buffingtons to make changes which were probably overdue. They purchased a building at 127 W. Main Street which had formerly been a doctor's office. With borrowed capital and money from the fire insurance, the building was remodeled into a new Buffington Studio.

They were later to purchase an adjoining piece of property, and turned it into a commercial parking lot.

In the years that followed they opened a second studio in Fairmont, West Virginia. Helen, who by this time had left the telephone company, helped as a receptionist and hand-colored senior portraits. A third studio was opened in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

For all practical purposes, Ulysses retired from active participation in the studios in 1985. At that time he entered into a partnership with his employees, who plan to exercise the option to purchase the partnership at the end of 1993.

*Ulysses: "I consider myself very fortunate in having loyal employees upon whom I depend -- especially Judy Rebrook in the first years, and then Ronnie Rogers, a real workaholic, who came to me as a high school student, stayed on, and eventually became a partner and manager."*

With retirement in mind in 1986, Ulysses and Helen purchased a small 2,000 square-foot home in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. For the next few years they spent the winter months in Hilton Head and the summers in Clarksburg. Finally, in September, 1990, they sold the house in Clarksburg, divided their furniture among their children, and moved to Hilton Head full time.

As of the telling of this history, Ulysses and Helen are still in Hilton Head. Ulysses plays golf and edits the newsletter for the local chapter of AARP on his little personal computer. He insists that "one of these days" he's going to put together a videotape of old home movies and very early video footage of the family. Helen shops, plays bridge, shops, plays bridge, and shops. Together they give one day a week to a local charity, delivering food to indigent residents on Hilton Head Island.

During their marriage, Ulysses and Helen had three children: Melissa, born in 1954; Suzanne in 1956; and Jody in 1959 -- all by Cesarean section.

*Melissa: I remember Dad used to complain about being surrounded by so many women in one household -- but he didn't seem to mind that they all liked to cook for him! But seriously, I have been told many times how we all seem to get along so well as a family, and what a great sense of humor we have. I think we got that sense of humor at an early age. For instance, when I was in junior high school, I can remember Mom*

*and Dad going out of town and calling home to see how we were doing. Suzanne decided to spice up the report a little....I think she told Dad that I had run away from home, and Jody had set the house on fire...something like that. Anyway, Dad's response was, "That's good, I'm glad to hear you're playing nice."*

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Between Melissa's junior and senior years at Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg, she became a Lions Club-sponsored summer exchange student in Dijon, France. During her senior year, she was named "West Virginia's Outstanding Teenager of the Year." She went on to attend Westhampton College at the University of Richmond, Virginia, spending her summers working at a local bank to save money to help pay for her tuition.

*Helen: "During the years when the girls were in grade school, they were encouraged to start a school-savings program. Their father promised he would try to provide sufficient money for two years of college for each of them. He pointed out, however, that their savings program could provide the beginning of a fund for each girl to pay for third and fourth years of college if they seriously wanted them. It's now apparent the girls believed him. Each of them did work and save, and each of them earned their college degree."*

Melissa majored in English at Westhampton, and became certified to teach high-school-level English and speech. After graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1976, Melissa spent the summer working in Nashville, Tennessee, with Suzanne. That fall, she moved to Westbury, New York, where she managed a local office of Kelly Girls, a temporary secretarial agency. In 1981 she married William ("Bill") Murray, of Glen Cove, New York, whom she met at the University of Richmond. Soon thereafter, she became personnel director for a division of Litton Industries, on Long Island. When that facility closed down, she accepted a position as director of human resources for Narda, a division of Loral Corporation. Melissa and Bill lived in various places on Long Island, and spent ten years in Greenlawn, New York before separating in June, 1991. They have one son, Brian Gerard Murray, born 27 July, 1985.

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Ulysses and Helen's second daughter, Suzanne, also became a Lions Club-sponsored summer exchange student to France. While there, her host family also took her to Spain. Quite early, Suzanne qualified herself as the extrovert of the family. During her sophomore year of high school, she was cast as "Dolly" in *Hello Dolly*, and she was immediately "bit by the bug." After appearing in other local productions, as "Annie" in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and "Ellie" in *Showboat*, she auditioned for, and was accepted to enter the North Carolina School for the Performing Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. After two years there she transferred to the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with a degree in musical theater.

During her four years in college she spent her summers on the stage -- two years at Carowinds theme park in Charlotte, North Carolina, and two years at Opryland, USA in Nashville, Tennessee. Like Melissa, Suzanne used the money she earned to help put herself through college.

After graduation, Suzanne spent two seasons with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, a summer session at Shawnee-on-the-Delaware in Pennsylvania, a season doing children's theater throughout the southern states, and several engagements in dinner theater in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Even with all that traveling, in 1980 she met and married a Clarksburg native, Richard Todd Berman. At that time Richard was teaching junior high school in Clarksburg. After their marriage, they moved to Manhattan to continue Suzanne's career, while Richard went to work for Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Bank. Suzanne was fortunate to get an agent, and appeared in an off-Broadway production. She also appeared on an NBC soap opera.

*Jody: "I remember I was student-teaching high school in Richmond, Virginia, when Suzanne was on the soap opera. I canceled class for the day, brought the television into the classroom, and made my students watch it. The moment she came on the screen, before I could say anything, everyone recognized her. They thought -- as most people do -- that we were twin sisters. We don't think we look that much alike!"*

New York City and Richard didn't agree. So, when he was offered a fellowship scholarship at Alfred University, New York, he and Suzanne agreed to move there. They lived in Alfred for two years, and Richard earned his master's degree in counseling.

During the second year Richard and Suzanne were in Alfred, they gave birth to a son, David Buffington Berman, on 9 September, 1982.

The three of them left Alfred to go to Beloit, Wisconsin, where Richard accepted a position in the career counseling department of Beloit College. Suzanne hasn't quite left the theater. Today, she is the "Balloon Fairy" of Beloit, and enjoys her full-time role of wife, mother, and homemaker. Richard has become active in the community and, as of the writing of this history, serves as the President of the local board of education. David has already begun to think about what he wants to do with his own life. He's leaning right now toward becoming a pitcher for the Atlanta Braves baseball team.

*Suzanne: "Dad asked me if there was anything I'd like to add to this narrative. Three things come to mind. First, when I was very young, I recall my grandmother, Emma Blanche, advising me that if any boy tried anything 'funny' with me, I should kick him in his [private parts] and run like hell! It was so unusual to hear Grandma use such 'earthy' language.*

*Also, we laugh and remember taking some seemingly disastrous story to Dad and every time, we'd get his great advice: 'Consider it a learning experience and get on with it.'*

*However, the greatest advice I heard many times in our home was the old quotation: 'Happiness is someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to.' It's been of great help."*

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Daughter Jody's claim to fame in high school was being a member of the first girl's basketball team to go the finals of the state tournament (and losing). She followed her older sister's footsteps and attended Westhampton College at the University of Richmond, getting her degree in English, journalism and secondary education. Her summers during college were spent working for the local newspaper in Clarksburg, putting her salary away to help pay for college tuition.

*Jody: "I was worried about following Melissa to such a small school, because I knew people would remember her. Actually, it worked out to my advantage. She was such a good student, the teachers automatically thought that brains ran in the family so they took it easy on me. It was great!"*

When she graduated, she decided she didn't want to teach high school as she had originally planned, so she decided to go to Washington, D.C. to look for a "corporate" job. Again, she followed Melissa's footsteps and landed a job for the

same division (different location) of Litton Industries, writing their employee newsletter. While at Litton, she applied for and was accepted into the graduate journalism program at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Continuing to go to school, Jody switched jobs a few times. First, she worked as a public relations specialist for Prince George's County Hospital. Within six months, however, a new management company came in and laid off a few hundred employees -- Jody included.

After that, Jody went to work for an apartment community, as the director of community relations. While there, she developed several special events to bring people to the community -- but it was a job she didn't particularly care for. So, when Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland offered her a job, she took it and moved to Baltimore.

For the first two years in Baltimore, Jody continued to commute back to the D.C. area to finish her master's degree, which she did in 1988. Her thesis, on corporate culture and public relations, was recognized nationally as the year's best master's thesis. Part of her thesis was used to write a chapter in a new textbook, *Excellence in Public Relations and Communications Management*; Jody is listed as co-author of the chapter.

As of the writing of this history, Jody lives in a townhouse in Owings Mills, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore. She is currently director of advertising and communications for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland. She is not married; no one has caught her yet.

*Jody: "In reading over this chapter, it occurs to me that not much has been said about the influence that Grandma Buffington and Aunt Marie had on our lives. I'm too young to remember much of Grandma other than what a strong-willed woman she was! Especially when she used her favorite curse word at me: 'Sugar tit!'*

*I remember Aunt Marie much more vividly. I remember playing 'go fish' at the kitchen table, and when I was very young, being the only little lady I know of who had a tea party with real brewed tea and lemon cookies. When I was really good, however, Aunt Marie would give me Dr. Pepper instead of tea. My, how my tastes have changed.*

*Dad always said Grandma and Marie spoiled us rotten, and I used to think he was right. Today, I know he was right. Their love and affection are pleasant memories, and their passing were sad moments in all our lives."*

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Ulysses -- or "Buff" as his friends called him -- was very active in community affairs. He was especially active in the Lions Club International, a service organization. He spent over 30 years in various offices and assignments, including two years as a Director on the International Board of Directors, and chair of the finance committee. During that time he and Helen traveled to 36 different states, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Canada, England, and Japan, making speeches on behalf of the International Association of Lions Clubs. Often times, one or more of their three daughters accompanied them on trips out of the country. Buff received many awards in recognition for his work for the Lions Club, including the highest award given to a member, The Ambassador of Goodwill Award. In 1977 Buff helped set up a meeting between the president of the Lions Club -- who happened to be from Brazil -- and the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter. This was no small feat since relations between Brazil and the U.S. were strained at the time.

*Melissa: "I remember Dad asking me once, to what did I attribute the self-confidence I seemed to display, especially immediately after graduating from college. After a little thought, I said it was because of all the travel we enjoyed when we were growing up."*

Among Buff's other community activities: he served as president of the local art center, and the Clarksburg-Harrison Cultural Foundation; he served on the board of directors of the Clarksburg Public Library and the United Hospital Center, and he also served as president of the Central West Virginia Shrine Club.

One of Buff's longest running gifts to the community projects was the summer theater program for high school students. In addition, he began an artist-in-residence program for Harrison County, helped start a stringed instrument program in the public schools, and was the producer of several local community theater productions. He chaired a group which restored Waldomore, a historic home in the middle of Clarksburg, and he served twelve years as a member of a state advisory committee to the West Virginia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

*Helen: "Once a civic leader in Clarksburg, when introducing Buff, said that probably no one in Clarksburg had done more to encourage the cultural development of the area. I used to laugh and say he may have joined the Women's Club, but couldn't pass the physical."*



Helen too stayed busy. Although a working mother, she found time to serve a term as president of the local Junior Women's Club, and vice president of the League for Service, a local women's service organization. She chaired both the social committee of the Hospital Auxiliary and the Parsonage Committee for the United Methodist Church. For ten years she served as a member of the Board of Directors of the local Salvation Army, and she took an active role in the projects of the Cultural Foundation.

Together, Buff and Helen served as members of the official board of their church, and were senior counselors for a youth program of the First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg.

*Ulysses: "Helen gave us a scare in 1983, when her heart valve ruptured and we took her to the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, Texas for surgery. Fortunately, we were able to get Dr. Denton Cooley, who repaired the valve and told her she wouldn't even remember she had a problem in six months. He wasn't 100 percent correct, but she now feels wonderful and is a #1 Cooley fan."*

Helen and Buff's great loves -- other than their children -- has always been, travel and musical theater. Through the years they traveled to most of the continents of the world and have vacationed in more than 30 countries. They never missed a chance to go to the theater, beginning with two Broadway productions on their honeymoon: Yul Brunner in *The King and I*, and Alfred Drake in *Kismet*.

Recently, Buff relaxed in his wicker recliner down in Hilton Head, South Carolina and reminisced on his life:

*"As a young man I used to ask myself if I would ever be successful. Later I started to realize that 'success' was rather a nebulous thing. I wasn't quite sure if 'success' meant wealth or fame or position or just what. Then one day I read a quotation: 'Success is not a destination, it's the journey.' I began then, to redefine what I wanted from life.*

*Looking back, I can hardly believe my good fortune in experiencing and enjoying so many of the ingredients that go into a happy journey.*

*As a child and as a young man, I was blessed with a loving and caring mother who strove to instill in me the difference between right and wrong, and the need for ethical and moral values. I learned to recognize things like the importance of the family, the joy of a home, the necessity of tolerance, the pettiness of prejudice, and the merit of trying to keep an open mind while having the courage to stand by my convictions.*

*Through half-brothers and a sister, I learned about loyalty and brotherly love; they contributed to making my life better when I was too immature to fully appreciate or properly acknowledge their value.*

*Through sheer good fortune, I became involved in a vocation I thoroughly enjoyed. I can't recall a day when I didn't look forward to going to my job -- and, I've often thought how sad so many people seem to hate their jobs, living unhappy lives. I've been able to become involved in Lions Club activities, our church, the Shrine, various arts groups, and a wide variety of civic projects which have helped to give me a sense of being needed and at the same time offered me chances to share.*

*I think most people would classify me as an optimist. I strongly believe that most things -- though perhaps I didn't understand this at the time -- happen for the best. I also thank God for my firm belief that, if you pause and reflect, you will find that most adversities bring with them unthought-of opportunities.*

*When I married, my cup runneth over. Helen was, and is, one of a kind. Few wives would have patiently shared their home with a mother-in-law and a husband's handicapped aunt for all those years as she did. Every newspaper or magazine I read, and every movie or television program I watch, makes me even more conscious of how wonderful our marriage has been and how much closer we have grown through the years. Retirement has been like a second honeymoon.*

*The icing on the cake has been our three daughters. During a time in history when the abuse of drugs and alcohol and extreme lifestyles have been commonplace, Helen and I are deeply thankful to have children who have chosen to live responsible lives that reflect many of the values we both feel are important. And now they have given us the added joy of two fine, handsome grandsons, David and Brian, who I know will give us even more reason to be proud and thankful.*

*Today, approaching my 74th birthday, the journey continues. My health is reasonably good, and I have an excellent appetite and a satisfactory sex life. I have a little money in the bank, Medicare, and my bridge game doesn't infuriate my wife too much. Now, if I could only improve my golf game."*

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## The Ulysses Buffington Family

**OREN BRANCH BUFFINGTON** - s. of Alfred Frank Buffington and Addie Virginia Lieving, b. 28 April, 1897, m. Emma Blanche Koon 14 November, 1917, d. 17 March, 1941. Issue: **Ulysses** b. 22 September, 1918, m. Helen Lee Bryant 29 May, 1952: **Pearl Ruth** b. 24 November, 1921, m. Russell Kelso Bolton, Jr. 6 March, 1944.

**ULYSSES PERSHING BUFFINGTON** - s. of Oren Branch Buffington and Emma Blanche Koon, b. 22 September, 1918, m. Helen Lee Bryant 29 May, 1952. Issue: **Melissa** b. 8 February, 1954, m. William Gerard Murray 19 September, 1981: **Suzanne** b. 20 February, 1956, m. Richard Todd Berman 25 May, 1980: **Jody Lynn** b. 5 October, 1959.

**MELISSA (Buffington) MURRAY** - d. of Ulysses Buffington and Helen Lee Bryant, b. 8 February, 1954, m. William Gerard Murray 19 September, 1981. Issue: **Brian Gerard** b. 26 July, 1985.

**SUZANNE (Buffington) BERMAN** - d. of Ulysses Buffington and Helen Lee Bryant, b. 20 February, 1956, m. Richard Todd Berman 25 May, 1980. Issue: **David Buffington** b. 9 September, 1982.

**JODY LYNN BUFFINGTON** - d. of Ulysses Buffington and Helen Lee Bryant, b. 5 October, 1959.

**DAVID BUFFINGTON BERMAN** - s. of Richard Berman and Suzanne Buffington, b. 9 September, 1982.

**BRIAN GERARD MURRAY** - s. of William Murray and Melissa Buffington, b. 26 July, 1985.