

# The Port Ryerse Journal

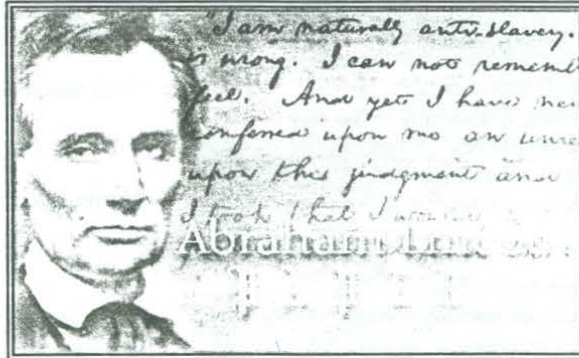
## The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 1

ISSN 201-0065

February 2003

Dear Mr. President



### LETTER from Martin Ryerson to Abraham Lincoln, April 18, 1864 From the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress

Newton, Sussex Co., N.J.  
Apl. 18, 1864

Mr. President,

As I never have been, and am not now, & never expect to be an applicant for any thing from your Administration, I trust my motives in this communication may not be misconstrued.

For 18 months I have been convinced that the best interests of the country demanded your reelection. & so wrote nearly a year ago to Govr. Seward, with whom I have been in the habit of corresponding for some years, and am much gratified at the degree of unanimity among Union men in your favor.

I have always been a Democrat, & voted for Douglass in 1860, but there is no longer any Democratic Party like that to which I was ardently devoted: modern Democracy is devotion to slavery & traitors.

But while I look upon your nomination as a certainty, at least as certain as any such future event can be, yet I am by no means so sanguine about the election. & unless we speedily have great military successes I look upon it as quite doubtful. I have not space to detail now all the reasons for this opinion. One of the chief ones is the division among Republicans, & the apparent determination to run Fremont at all hazards. Should it be done, I fear that in many large States he would take off votes enough to defeat you, and your defeat, & the triumph of the Copperhead Democrats, would be such a calamity to our country that nothing not positively wrong should be left undone to prevent it. In view of this permit me to suggest whether Fremont cannot be induced to refuse the use of his name against you if nominated, & to give you a hearty support, by an understanding through some confidential friend, that he should have your support for the succession? I am aware that here are at least half a dozen, including members of your Cabinet, looking to this succession, & such a movement would require very

Newton, N. J. Apr. 18  
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Highest respect regards,  
Your obt. servt.  
Martin Ryerson

To Excellency  
Abraham Lincoln  
President of the United States

## Dear Mr. President - continued

delicate management to avoid giving offence in those quarters, but I am persuaded that it might be made; & kept secret long enough. Surely a fit negotiator could be found, & if I do not greatly mistake in my estimate of ~~Frem~~ Fremont it would succeed. His heart is fixed on the Presidency, & he ought to have sense enough to see that by running now as an independent Candidate not only would he greatly endanger your election, & be himself defeated at present, but be politically destroyed in the future, & that only in the way I suggest can he ever reach the Presidency. I cannot see any political or moral wrong in such an arrangement, & the stake to the country, & to the whole human race, is so great, that I should rejoice to see it made.

Permit me some suggestions about the Vice Presidency. It seems to me that you would be greatly strengthened by changing the Candidate, & taking either Dix, B. F. Butler<sup>1</sup> or Andrew Johnson. I name Dix first, because I think he would bring most strength to the ticket. He enjoys the respect & confidence of the whole country; there is nothing about him positively offensive to any Democrats except those of the Vallandigham & Wood<sup>2</sup> stripe; the Dem. press has not that I am aware of at all denounced him; he has a strong hold upon the conservative & business men, & capitalists, & would I think strengthen the ticket greatly in N. Y. & to some extent in every State. I would next prefer Johnson; I believe he is well liked in all the loyal States by conservatives & radicals, & his nomination might strengthen the cause ticket in the West, South, & South West. But I am not enough acquainted with public opinion in those States to have a decided opinion of my own as to them. At all events, it would animate & encourage loyal men in the South & South West, & strengthen the Union in those quarters, by shewing them that loyal Southern men are not to be ignored.

I name Butler, because I think he would do most to conciliate the Radical Republicans: he would not bring any Dem. strength; Dems who oppose you, hate him much worse than they do you, chiefly I suppose because of the contrast between his former & present position. But at all events a new man should be taken for V. P. & he ought to be one who in 1860 acted with the Dem. Party.

I trust Sir that you will pardon my freedom in making these suggestions. I have done it because of the earnest desire I feel for your reelection. National gratitude, as well as the safety of the country, demand it, & I confess that there is still enough of the old Adam about me to cause me to desire to see Southern Traitors still further humbled by living four years under your Presidency with a restored Union; they causelessly, & most wickedly rebelled against your lawful election, & basely plotted your murder, and now I want them to have enough of it, for their own good, as well as their humiliation, & as a lesson to future generations that the lawful decisions of the ballot box must be quietly submitted to.

You have Mr. President, my warmest sympathies in your trying position; no ruler was ever so tried. But we may rejoice that God rules, that he is the hearer & answerer of prayer, & while unceasing prayer is offered in your behalf, in many lands, besides our own, I shall not cease to hope for a speedy & auspicious solution of all our trials.

With sentiments of the highest respect & regard,

Your obt. Servt.

Martin Ryerson.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JUDGE MARTIN RYERSON, LL.D.**, was the eldest son of the Hon. Thomas Coxe and Hannah Amelia Jarvis (Ogden) Ryerson. He was b. at Hamburg, N.J. Sept. 15, 1815 and d. July 17, 1875. He opened a law office in Newark but later moved to Newton, his native county and there practiced law with very great success. In 1844 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention and in 1849 he was elected to the Lower House. In 1855 he was made an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. His reputation as a jurist was national.

**MARTIN RYERSON** also wrote a (9 page) letter to William H. Seward on August 11, 1862. The subject of that letter was Emancipation, and although far too long to include here, we excerpt one interesting paragraph.

"I was once a Democrat of the strictest sect, a Pharisee of the Pharisees but I am now most thoroughly convinced that unless our Government makes up it's mind, and that speedily, to destroy slavery, and proceeds with out delay to act upon that determination, it will destroy our Union and we of the Free States will be at the mercy of Europe."

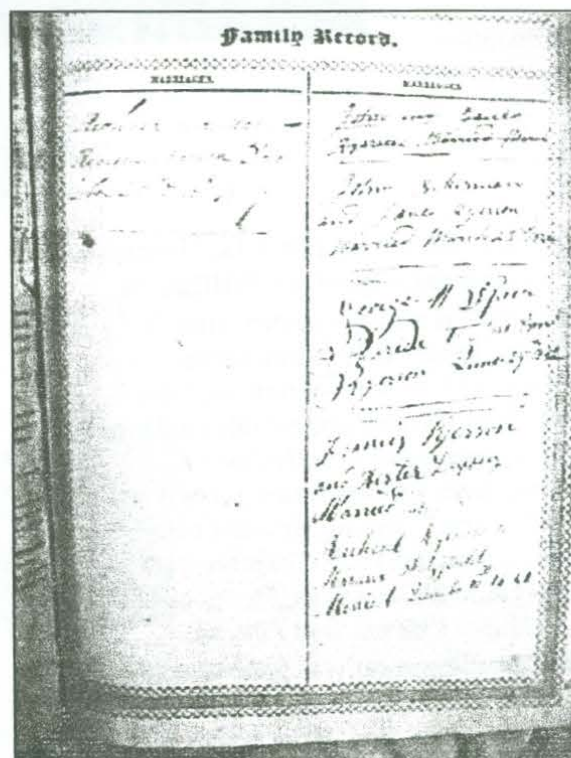
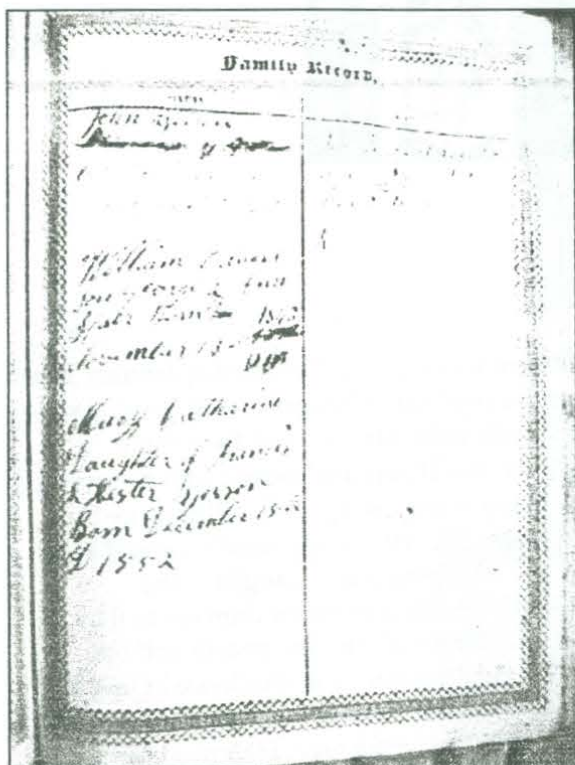
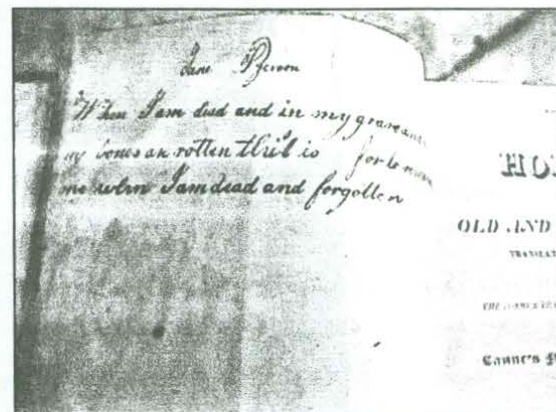
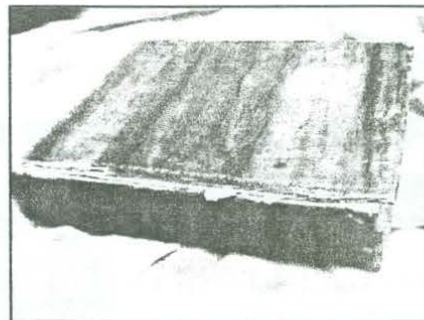
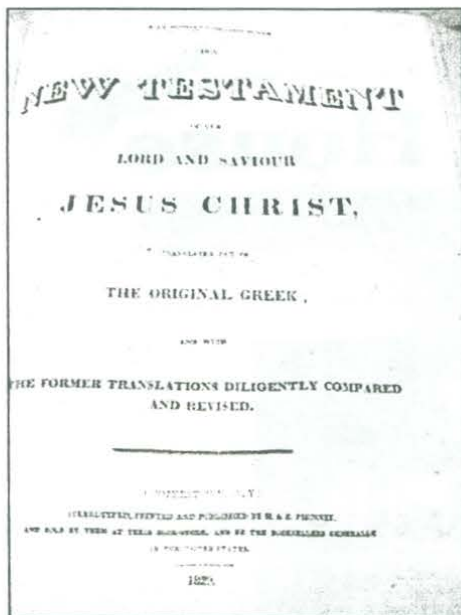


## READ MORE ABOUT IT

Our thanks to Roger Hastings who has provided this internet link:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html>

# Ryerson/Ackerman Bible (recently auctioned on eBay)



Contact Phyllis (ryerse@bellsouth.net) if this is your branch of the family and you'd like better copies.

# A.G. Thomson House

## *Historic Bed & Breakfast Inn*

2617 East Third Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55812 • Toll Free (877) 807-8077



The home now known as the A.G. Thomson House was originally built for **William N. Ryerson** in 1909 at a cost of approximately \$17,000. It was designed by Minneapolis architect, Edwin H. Hewitt—a native of Red Wing, Minnesota, "whose impeccable credentials included an apprenticeship with Cass Gilbert and a diploma from the celebrated Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris." Among Hewitt's better known buildings in the Twin Cities are the Minneapolis Club, Blake School, Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, and Pillsbury House. **William Ryerson** was general manager of Great Northern Power Company when he commissioned construction of the house beginning in mid-summer, 1909.

**Ryerson** had come to Duluth that January from a similar position in Niagara Falls, New York—along with wife, Martha, and their three children. The **Ryersons** moved into the newly completed home on April 27, 1910. A fire on Christmas Day, 1913—apparently caused by burning wrapping paper caught in the chimney—resulted in major damage to the house, with repairs totaling nearly half its original construction cost. Evidence of that fire still exists in the form of a few charred roof joists in the west end of the attic. Had more been known about the home's original owners at the time it was opened as a Bed and Breakfast in May, 2000, it might have been called the **Ryerson House B&B!**



William Newton Ryerson – b. 1875

Interesting features of the A.G. Thomson house first and foremost include its size. Gambrel Roof Colonial Revival houses were typically two stories with the gambrel roof enclosing the second story. The A.G. Thomson house, however, pushes the gambrel roof up to the third story creating a much larger curb presentation borrowing, perhaps, from the Neo-Classical style which was also fashionable during the era, but without the full height portico on the front.



William & Martha about 1901



Wm. Newton Ryerson Jr.  
b. 1902

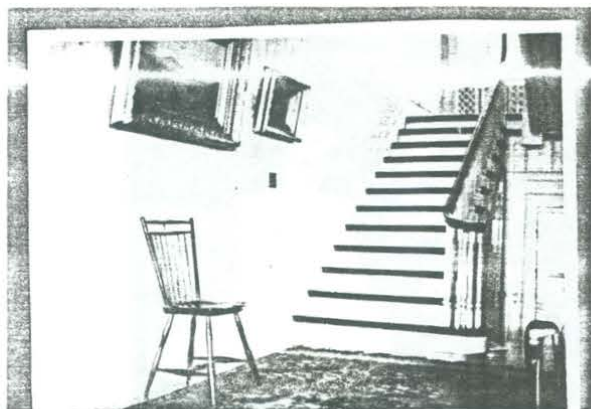


Ryerson children on front stoop (circa 1911)

Elizabeth, Phillip & William Jr. (Eliz. & Wm. were twins)



Living Room after fire (circa 1913)

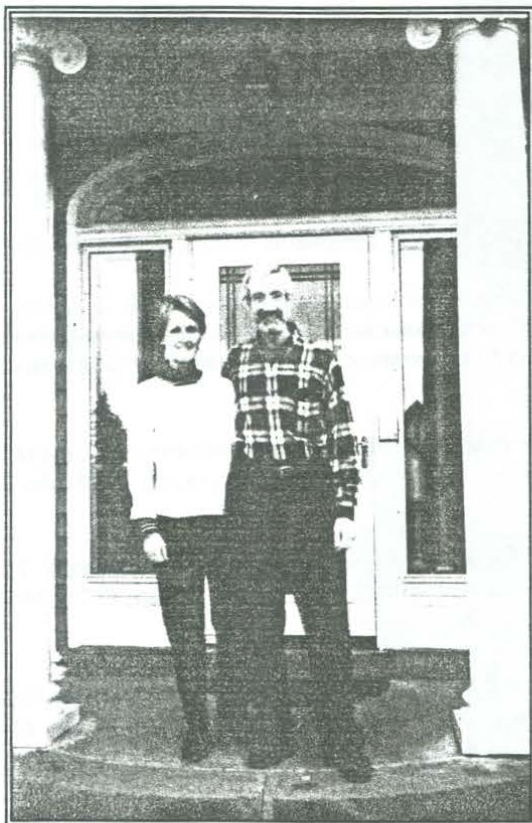


Ryerson Family  
& friends  
1908





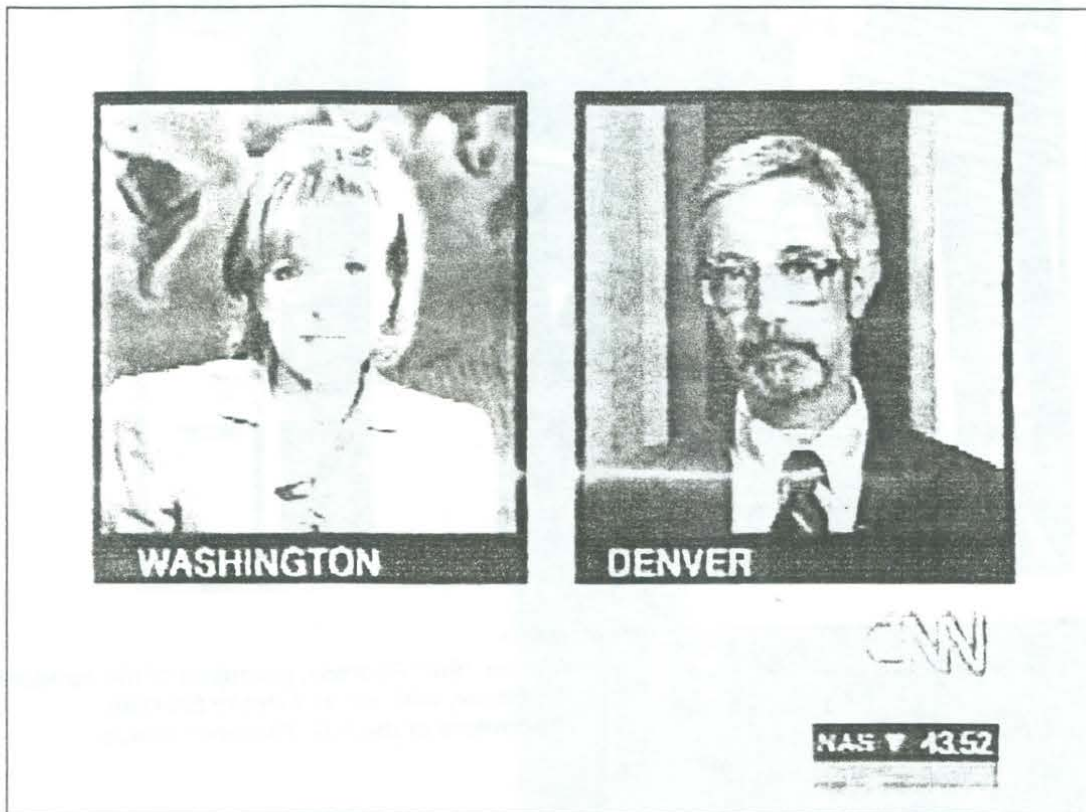
*above*  
William "Bill" Ryerson, grandson of the builder of the house, with Bill and Becky Brakken, Proprietors of the A.G. Thomson House.



*Left*  
"Bill" and his wife, Leta on a recent visit to the old family home!

*The next time you visit Duluth, Minnesota, We invite you to take advantage of the warm hospitality and and the historic elegance of the A.G. Thomson House.*

*E:mail: [info@thomsonhouse.biz](mailto:info@thomsonhouse.biz)*



Bill and his wife Leta live in Shelbourne, Vt. where he founded the Population Media Center in 1998.

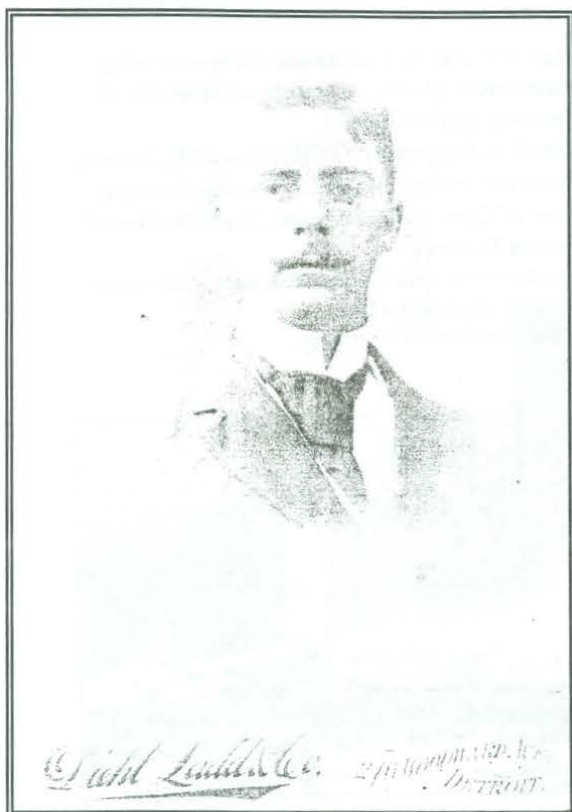
Population Media Center, Inc. (PMC) is a non-profit, nongovernmental organization with a mission of working worldwide to enlist the broadcast and print media to educate people about the personal benefits of family planning, encourage the use of effective measures to prevent transmission of HIV and other STDs, promote general reproductive health, elevate women's status and promote the concept of gender equity.

PMC's programs concentrate on entertainment broadcasting designed to encourage delayed parenthood; use of effective methods of contraception; adoption of safe sexual behaviors, and empowerment of women to play equal roles in family decisions and, more broadly, in society.

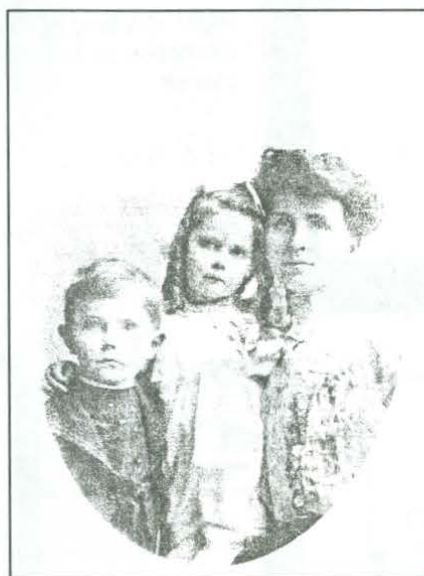
PMC is currently active in 13 countries, with projects at various stages of development and implementation. These countries are The Philippines, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan, Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

Be sure to look at his web page. <http://www.populationmedia.org/> You will learn many things there and you will be stunned to see the World Population Counter climbing as you watch. On the day that the world's population passed 6 billion, he was interviewed by CNN's Judy Woodruff in Denver.

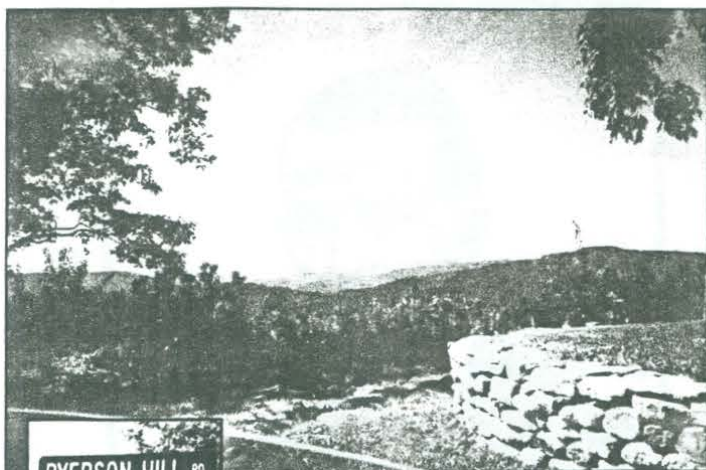
Bill is an intelligent and fascinating guy, doing very important work.  
We're glad he's 'one of us!'



Albert Winslow RYERSON, author of *The RYERSON Genealogy*



Vida Marsh RYERSON (wife of Albert W. Ryerson) - Two of their children, Albert Jr. & Grace Louise

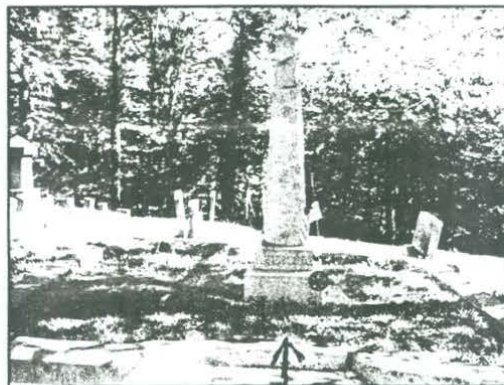


*Incredible view from Luke Ryerson land towards the White Mountains of New Hampshire.*

Sincere thanks to Constance Alexander who shared these photos of her grandfather (A.W. Ryerson) and his family.

as well as the pictures of Ryerson Hill, Maine, which she visited in 2001. This was the early home of Capt. Luke Ryerson, (half-brother of Samuel Ryerse).

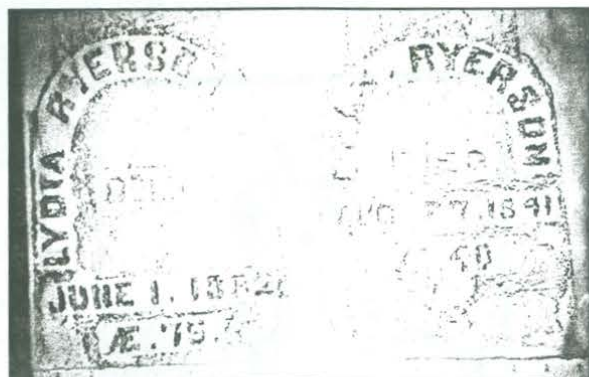
*(Martin>Joris>Lucas>Luke>Nehemiah>Samuel W.>John Rhutilus>Albert Winslow>Grace>Constance)*



*The Ryerson plot in the old cemetery holds many early members of the family including Col William, the oldest son of Luke.*



*Right: Rubbing of the inscription on the tall obelisk.*



*Below: Cushman Ryerson and Job Ryerson.*



Constance and I have searched (unsuccessfully) for any files or notes from the work on the Ryerson Genealogy left by her grandfather. We can only surmise that they were discarded or destroyed many years ago.

## A Chat with Phyllis



From letters to Abraham Lincoln  
to NASCAR racing cars!  
What a family!

It's been a great pleasure to report on a whole spectrum of interesting family members for - can it be 10 years!! The stories and new information keep coming in. When they stop, we'll stop! We want to thank all of you who have renewed your subscription for 2003. We'll try to keep it fun and interesting.

We look forward to hearing from Michael Crutchley again - as soon as he gets moved to his new address. He's promised us surprises!

Special recognition goes to Bob Andrews of Port Ryerse who painted the wonderful view of Port Ryerse shown on the back page. It was created especially for the 1994 family reunion which commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Capt. Samuel Ryerse and his family in Upper Canada - a memorable gathering!

The next Ryerse-Ryerson reunion/picnic will be held on Sunday July 13th 2003 at Vittoria, ON, Canada. Make plans now to join us.

Phyllis

### The Port Ryerse Journal

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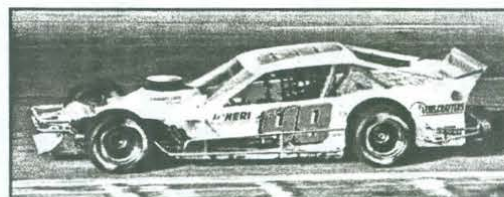
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New York Times

January 19, 1882

*A train on the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad, leaving Bloomingdale, N.J. at 8:25 am yesterday for New York, a few minutes later struck a team of mules and a wagon in which was riding Senator Martin J. Ryerson of Bloomingdale. Neither Martin J. Ryerson nor his mules were injured but the wagon was lifted over an adjacent fence and deposited in the field.*



Don Ryerse of Rochester, NY

- 29 years racing experience in all phases of NASCAR racing as driver, mechanic, designer, and owner.

- Numerous Top 10 Finishes in NASCAR points in his tenure as driver.

- involved in the design and building of race cars for many feature winners and track champions, Mr. Ryerse's dedication to the sport of racing is unsurpassed.

### YALE UNIVERSITY

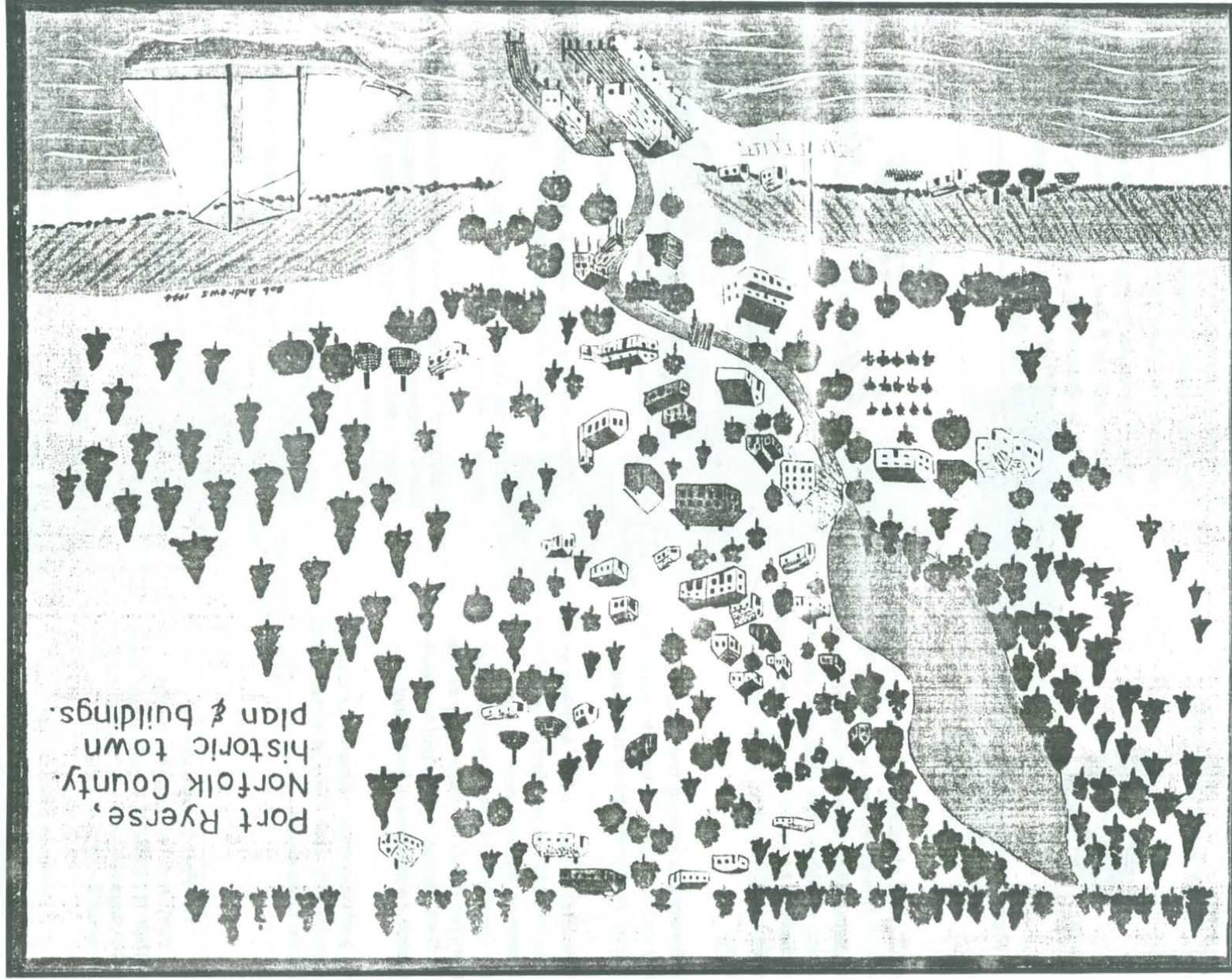
The University has announced this years recipient of the Arthur Larned Ryerson Memorial Scholarship.

She is **Elizabeth "Eli" Lara** of Wilmington, Delaware. She takes a full range of courses and intends to major in molecular biochemistry and biophysics and will attend medical school after leaving Yale, possibly to become a neurologist. She plays the cello.

### Panoramic Map of Muskegon, Michigan

Shows Ryerson, Hills & Co. lumber mill (#20) on the bay at lower left with 3 other mills.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/mdbquery.html>



Port Ryerse,  
Norfolk County.  
plan & buildings.

Bob Andrews 1994

# The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

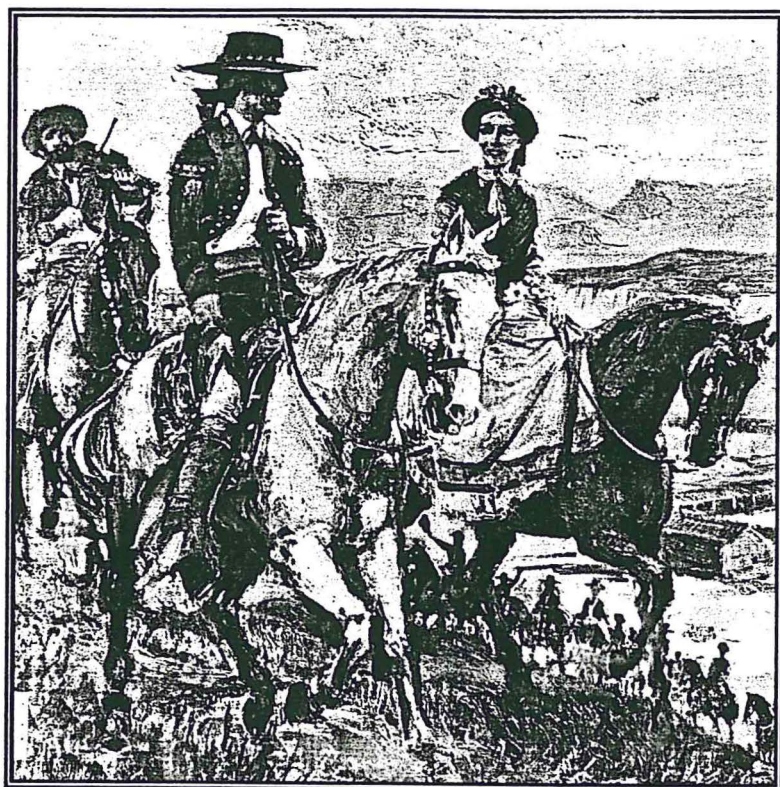
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The Strange Story of

## Governor George B. RYERSON



*Typical early California Ranchero*

### *Who WAS He?*

A Scout & Indian fighter for Gen. Custer?  
A flamboyant adventurer?  
A Cowboy?  
A Vast Ranch owner?  
A Poker Player?  
A Gambler?  
A Hard Drinker?  
A Civil War soldier?  
A Mexican citizen?  
The Governor of Southern California?  
Married a Mexican lady who was later  
convicted of murder?

We have more questions than answers about this man! The most curious of all was the discovery that someone used a razor blade to slice out all references to him in the respected *History of Southern California*. Even his name was excised from the index!

**The Ryerson Genealogy** says he was born in New Jersey in 1824. His obituary says it was St. Louis in 1832. The genealogy says he went west and became a noted Indian fighter and a scout for General George A. Custer. None of the experts on that subject ever heard of him! It also says that he later went to Mexico where he became the owner of three famous ranches, the Los Vallecitos, The Santa Clara and the Ytelia, aggregating in all about 76,000 acres. It is unclear if he owned the Los Vallecitos. The other ranches could not be found. A search of the 16 volume roster of Confederate soldiers provided no information on any involvement in the Civil War.

By far the most information found was in an obituary written after his death and a news story about a murder involving his wife. We include highlights. You can put together your own picture of this enigmatic 'cousin!' The only thing we know for sure is that he was a colorful, mysterious guy who really spices up our family tree!

# The San Diego Union

## GOVERNOR RYERSON DEAD

His Life Full of Excitement, War,  
Romance and Affairs of State.

The San Diego Union - January 23, 1896

George Ryerson, former governor of Lower California and one of the best known men in Southern California, died in his rooms at the Delmonico Hotel in this city. **GOVERNOR RYERSON** was born in St. Louis MO March 10, 1832, the son of George B. and Clara (CRANE) RYERSON. In many ways he was a remarkable man and might have reached a high station in Mexican national affairs but for his chief failing, that of playing cards. He was as well-known for his skillful poker-playing, perhaps, as for any other quality.

When he was 18 years old he left home and went to Chihuahua, Mexico where his love for adventure and exciting experiences was gratified. He found congenial company by as desperate a lot of men as can be imagined. He stayed there two years and in 1852 he drove a band of sheep from Chihuahua to San Diego, crossing the wildest part of the continent and from that time on was identified with Southern California.

In 1859 he married Guadalupe SERRANO, the sister of Rafael SERRANO, of Lower California. The brother and sister owned three square leagues of land in the Vallecitos Valley - the great Vallecitos Rancho of 33,000 acres and innumerable cattle and sheep, and RYERSON found himself in good circumstances. He became a Mexican citizen and remained so until his death. He could not content himself with pastoral life, however, and lived part of the time in Old San Diego.

Early in the war of the rebellion he disappeared, leaving no word behind, and for seven years was absent. It was understood that he had gone to join

the confederate side and was a Colonel in command of a regiment during the war but this was a matter of doubt. No one knows just where he spent the seven years of the war. When his wife became convinced that he was dead, she married again, and lived with her new husband who was an American, on the Vallecitos ranch.

After the war, and with as little warning as his departure, RYERSON turned up at San Diego, and went to meet his wife. Her second husband got wind of his approach and disappeared. RYERSON and his wife made up and lived happily.

She is a woman of considerable charm and intelligence, and her brother, Rafael SERRANO, is a hard-working and industrious man who has done much to keep the Vallecitos ranch and cattle from disappearing under Governor RYERSON'S expensive ways of living.

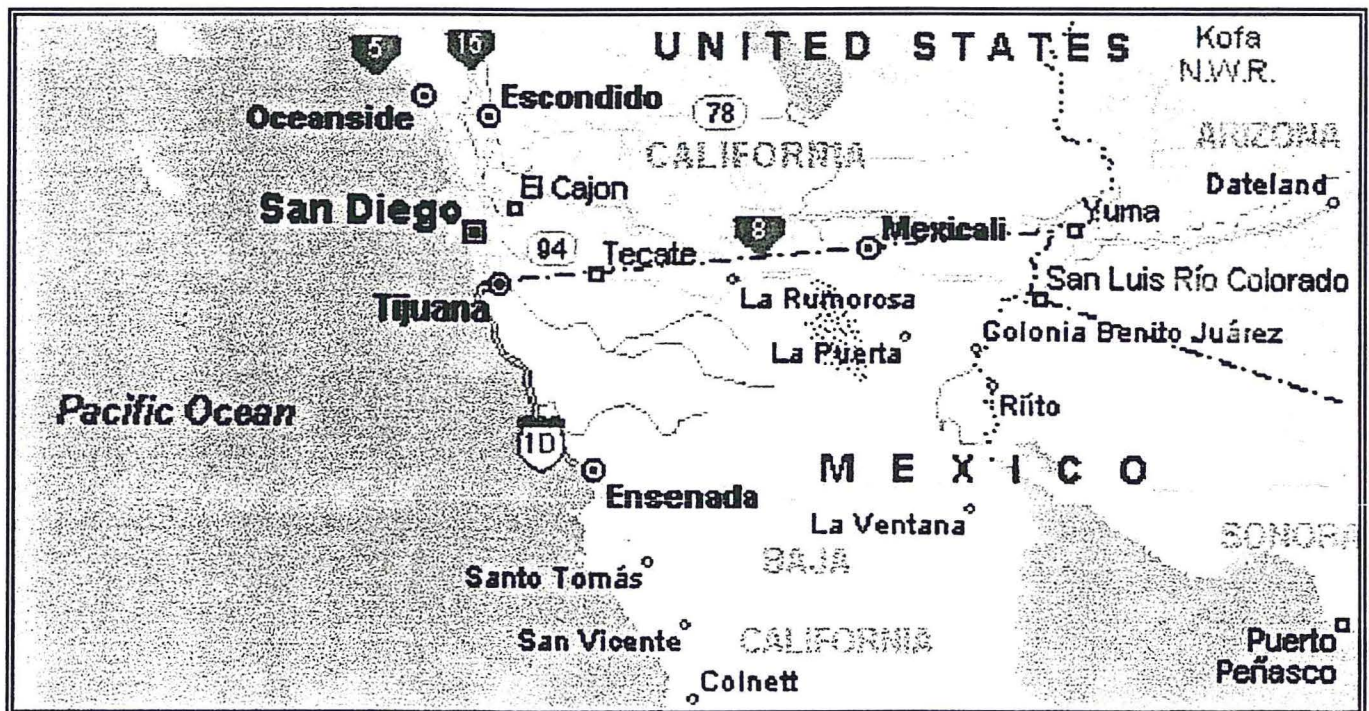
In 1886, RYERSON was appointed sub-prefect of the northern district of Lower California, his powers being autocratic under the general government at the City of Mexico. He proved to his superiors that he had ability and was retained for some years. He was also elected President of the municipality of Ensenada, which includes the entire territory of the northern half of the peninsula. He had perhaps the best knowledge of Mexican law, customs and the people as any man on the peninsula. During his term, however, great latitude was allowed to lovers of the national game of monte, and in fact, of any other game of chance, and in the early days of the boom, Ensenada was a lively place. RYERSON was succeeded by Gen. Luis E. TORRES in 1887.

In the fall of 1887 RYERSON, wielding an enormous sledge, drove in the first stake of the Peninsular Railroad of Lower California. He was the ideal choice for he was a man of great physical strength, being over six feet tall, and though spare, possessed astonishing endurance. In his early days he was famous for feats of strength.

He preferred the society of Mexicans to Americans, and so far as possible became a Mexican. He spoke the language and followed the customs and took no interest in American business or politics. He once remarked, *"May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I ever say that I am an American!"*

Though possessed of large means for many years, RYERSON left no estate of consequence. His interest in the Vallecitos ranch was heavily mortgaged, if not already out of his hands. He was the owner at one time of large herds of cattle but these, too, dwindled away.

He left no relatives, except his wife and her brother. The couple had no children. The governor was related to the well-known RYERSON family of Chicago and St. Louis. He was interred here in the Masonic cemetery.



## The Governor's Lady

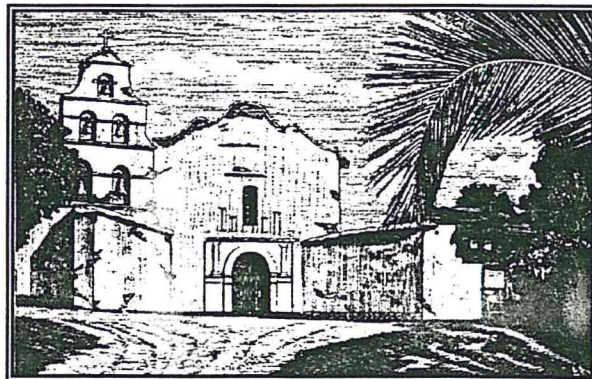
In 1859, George Ryerson married **Guadalupe Serrano**, a member of one of the most respected families on the coast. She was described as a woman of considerable charm and intelligence. It appears that she and her brother Rafael Serrano were the children of José Antonio Serrano who was granted the Pauma Rancho by Gov. Manuel Micheltorena in 1844. He was the son of Leandro Serrano whose father came to San Diego with Serra in 1769. Don José married Rafaela, daughter of Rosario Aguilar, the majordomo of San Diego Mission in 1838. Don

José built an adobe home there and stocked the rancho with cattle and horses. Don José got along well with the Indians in the area and his herds thrived on the well-watered lands of the valley and on the surrounding hillsides. The ranch contained 3 square leagues or 13,309.60 acres of land, the name Pauma meaning *I bring water*. It was about midway between what is now Camp Pendleton and the Palomar Observatory, west of Oceanside, Ca. on route 76.

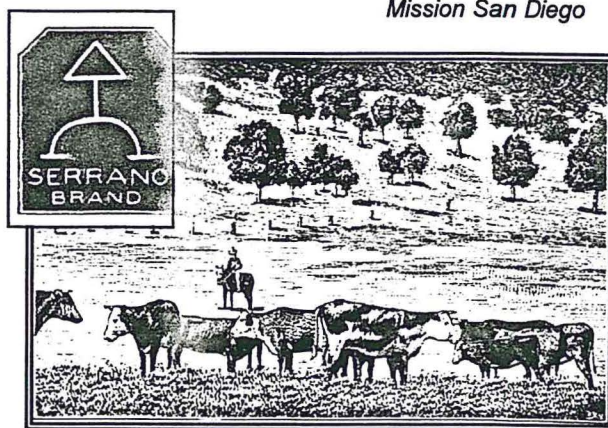
The colorful history of California cannot be told without including the extravagant years of the Dons. Their great ranches extended up and down the coast and far back into the mountain valleys. Great armies of vaqueros (*cowboys*) were employed to tend the vast herds of cattle and sheep and it was possible for many rancheros to ride for days without crossing the boundary of their lands. For the Dons, rancho life meant fiestas, fine horses and leisure.

Don José was a staunch supporter of the Pico brothers in their resistance to the American advance into California. He rode with General Andres Pico at the Battle of San Pasqual and then fled back to his rancho when the Pico forces were scattered. In December of 1846, shortly after the battle of San Pasqual, the Indians captured and later massacred 11 relatives and friends of the Serrano family who were at the Pauma Ranch. The victims were California rangers who had driven their herds of cattle, sheep and horses to the rancho as a protective measure against their seizure by the American forces. Don José, his 14 year old son Jesús, and José Aguilar, his brother-in-law, had left at sundown to join José's wife and small children (Guadalupe & Rafael) in nearby Pala and escaped being captured.

\*\*\*\*\*



Mission San Diego



The San Diego *World* of February 13, 1874, reported that 1 square league of the Pauma Rancho had been sold by the sheriff for back taxes amounting to \$124.84.

The Los Vallecitos de San Marcos Rancho lies south and east of the Pauma Rancho but we have not yet been able to verify that George Ryerson ever owned even part of it. It was originally granted to Don Jose Maria Alvarado who was captured at the Pauma Rancho and later killed. Vallecitos Station was a stop on the Butterfield Stage line. Ownership during the next few years is unclear however, Lorenzo Soto was the next official owner and it was later purchased by a former Army officer. It was later part of the land boom when the town of San Marcos was laid out.

George Ryerson and his wife were also known to have lived in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico in later years and there is a town nearby called Vallecitos - which might explain the confusion in names.



## LITTLE BOY MURDERED

Horrible Crime at Ensenada  
Widow of Ex-Governor Ryerson under arrest.

San Diego UNION, San Diego, Calif, 19 July 1899

Mrs. Ryerson, widow of the late ex-Governor George Ryerson of Lower California is under arrest at Ensenada charged with causing the death of a 10 year old boy named Jesus Gutierrez some time Monday night. The boy had been working for Mrs. Ryerson. Yesterday morning his dead body was found hanging to a tree by a clothesline and as Mrs. Ryerson was the only other person about the premises, she was taken into custody. She is about 65 years old and has always borne a high reputation.

According to the Associated Press report from Ensenada, however, Mrs. Ryerson has been in the habit of clubbing the little boy for the slightest cause. Monday evening, it is reported, he was tied up with a dog-collar around his neck to which was attached about forty feet of clothesline and hauled up in a tree. Yesterday morning he was found on his knees dead and a postmortem examination showed that his neck was broken. Mrs. Ryerson was arrested, charged with his murder.

Mrs. Ryerson's preliminary examination was held yesterday afternoon and revealed that she had quarreled with the boy Monday night. Cries were heard by the neighbors about 9 o'clock but no attention was paid to them, the people thinking it was the usual cry of the coast guard. Soon after 9 o'clock Monday night Mrs. Ryerson appeared on the street apparently looking for the boy. She had been drinking and was somewhat the worse from the effects of *mascal*. (*Ed. Mexican liquor distilled from the fermented juice of certain species of agave.*)

Examination of the boy's body showed only that the neck was broken but no bruises on the body to indicate that he had been killed and then drawn up by the rope. When found he was in a position indicating that he could have stood upon his feet if he had been conscious.

Mrs. Ryerson stoutly affirms her innocence and insists that she is ignorant of the crime. She has many friends both in this city and at Ensenada who are loathe to believe that she was cruel to the boy. She was always of a motherly disposition, kind to everybody about her and never showed any vicious traits. She had been the wife of Governor George Ryerson for over forty years, up to his death in this city two years ago. She was a Serrano, belonging to one of the best families on the coast. Since the death of Governor Ryerson she has been in poor circumstances.

### Mrs. Ryerson in Jail

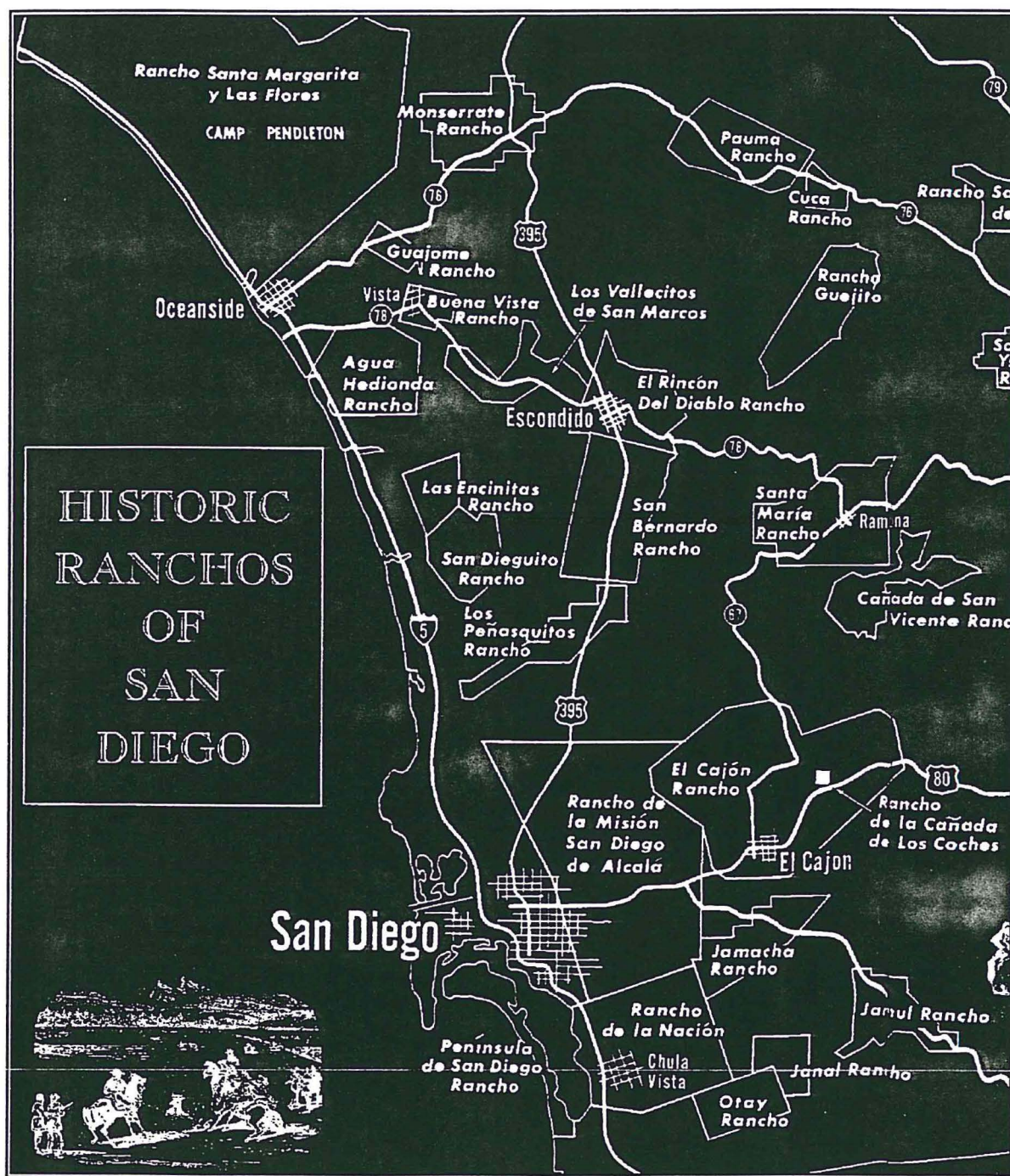
Wife of Former Governor Begins Term,  
Under Sentence for Manslaughter.

(To The Brooklyn Eagle)

San Diego, Ca. August 31, 1900

Word has been received from Ensenada that Mrs. RYERSON, wife of the late Governor George RYERSON of lower California, has been found guilty of manslaughter, and is now serving her sentence in the Ensenada Jail.

About a year ago a Mexican boy, who had been in the employ of Mrs. RYERSON, was found dead hanging from a tree near her residence. Mrs. RYERSON was charged with the murder of the boy. The case was appealed to the city of Mexico, but the judgment of lower court was confirmed. The term of sentence is not known.



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## BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE

JULY 7, 1902

*Workman's Find While Excavating a Cellar.*

Long Island City, L.I., July 7, 1902



"Workmen excavating the cellar for the new High school on Academy Street and Wilbur Avenue, today unearthed a tombstone six feet below the surface of the ground. The stones bore this inscription:

**"In memory of John Francis RYERSON,**  
who departed this life August 3, 1793,  
aged seventy-four years, three months and  
twenty-two days"

The property was sold to the city by a granddaughter of the late John L. De Berverse who inherited it from her mother. Prior to the De Bervese family owning the land, it belonged to the **RYERSON** family. The stone was uncovered two-feet beyond the line fence and the grave it marked is probably beneath the sidewalk of Academy street."

-----and more DETAILS from a follow-up article!

".... the bones and headstone of John Francis RYERSON were unearthed a few days ago by the men excavating for the high school and some of the bones were sold to a junkman by the foreman on the job. Part of the skull and some small pieces of bones are in a basket lying in the area way of the old homestead..."

-----AND EVEN MORE DETAILS!

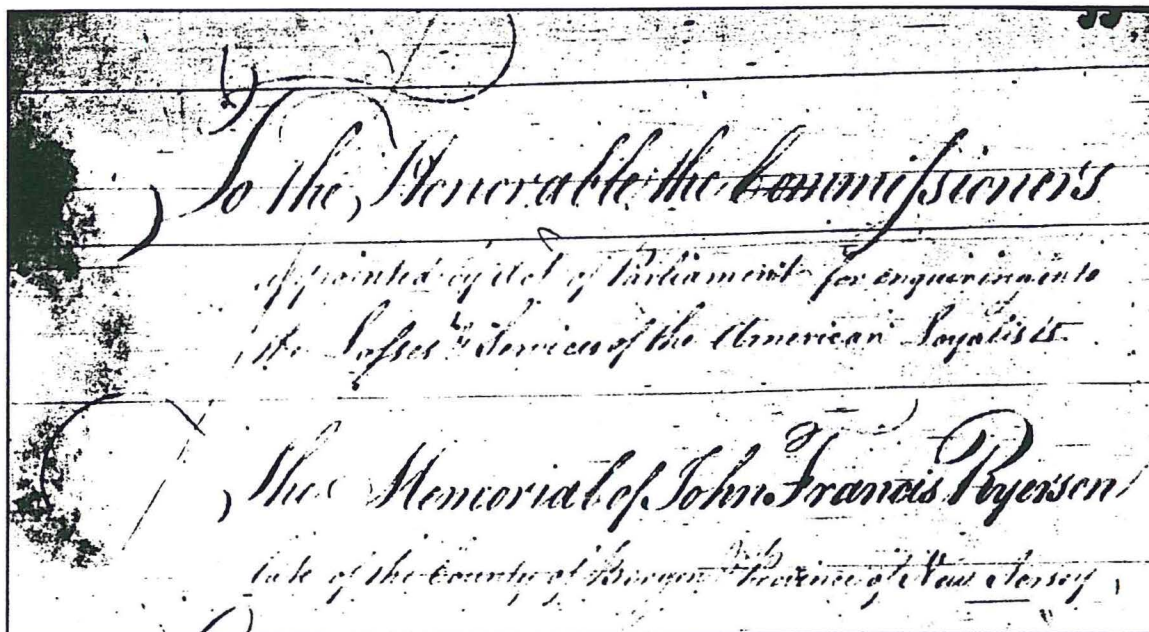
Long Island City, L. I., July 10-- A one thousand dollar BOND issued by The Southside Railroad Co. with eighty coupons attached, was found hidden back of an old chimney in a small outbuilding in Dutch Kills this morning. The building stands on the plot bought by the city for the new Long Island City High School.

A narrow chimney was pulled down by workmen. When the last bricks of the chimney were removed a yellow piece of paper fell out of a hole back of the bricks. Mr. Thyer, the contractor, picked it up, and unfolding the paper, was surprised to find the bond issued on May 15, 1873. None of the coupons had been removed.

How the bond came to be hidden back of the chimney in the small building will probably ever remain a mystery. It is badly stained and the creases in the paper indicate that it must have been in this narrow space, folded for years."

## WHO WAS JOHN FRANCIS RYERSON?

He was a large landholder, a member of a branch of our family which held vast tracts of land in New Jersey, New York and elsewhere. He was a prosperous miller and farmer. He owned 534 acres of land in Saddle River Township, New Jersey and inherited the homestead farmhouse that had been built about 1730 by his father Frans Ryerson. As was the case in many families at that time, the Ryersons were divided in their sympathies during the Revolution. Samuel, Joseph and Martin Ryerson, cousins of John Francis had chosen to remain loyal to the King of England and suffered greatly for that loyalty. Their stories have been told in earlier issues of this journal. John Francis lost much for his loyalty too and this is his story.



*In His own Words.....*

*To the Honorable Commissioners  
appointed by act of Parliament for inquiring into  
the losses of services of the American Loyalists*

The Memorial of **John Francis Ryerson** late of the County of Bergen and Province of New Jersey Sheweth, that your Memorialist was ever uniformly and steadily attached to His Majesty's Person and the British Government and was opposed to the Measures of the American Congress as he thought the proceedings of the Americans would be ruinous to the Country. He did his utmost to oppose their measures which made him so obnoxious that he could not live at home but lay many weeks in the woods. He made his escape at the risk of his life, fired at by many parties of the Rebels. This happened in Christmas 1776. He joined the British in 1777 and rendered them every Service in his power for the suppression of the Rebellion and the Re-establishment of the British Government in America, and has remained with them ever since on Long Island and in the Province of Nova Scotia.

*The claim continues on for 6 more pages including a long list of items lost, both land and buildings and personal property. The list includes many farm animals as well as wheat, rye, corn and timothy hay. It includes blacksmith tools, feather beds, kettles, churns, spinning wheels, wagons, a looking glass and 1 Negro man!*

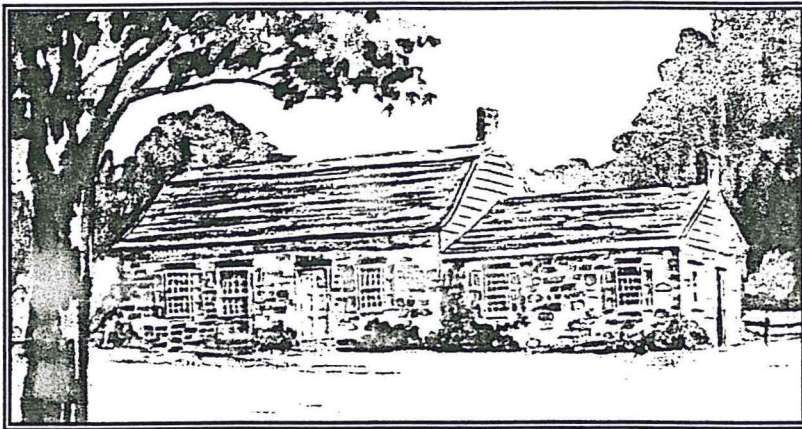
Claim totaled £ 3259.1.9 of which he was allowed £ 1420.

#### New Jersey Gazette - 8 June 1779

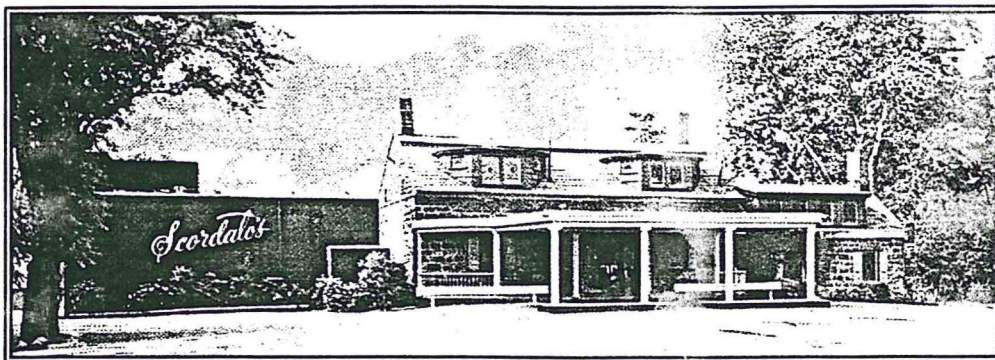
The Inferior Court of Common Pleas, Bergen County, has returned inquisitions for joining the King of Great Britain and other treasonable practices against (64 men including)... John F. Ryerson, his property confiscated, sold and applied to the use of the state.

During the summer of 1780, the Marquis de Lafayette and two brigades of light infantry were camped on this property, Lafayette's own quarters set up near where the Ryerson barn stood! They were there to protect the main body of Washington's army then encamped at Col. Dey's.

In 1783, Ryerson, his wife, a daughter, several sons and two servants settled at Clements, Nova Scotia where in 1784 he received a grant of two hundred acres of land. He would remain there for five years.



**Frans Ryerson House (small wing)** built about 1730 along Wagaraw Road overlooking the river. It faced south to obtain maximum sunlight and had a wonderful scenic view of the Passaic river and the valley. Additions made in later years include the larger wing, porches etc. In 1970 the property was purchased by the **Scordato family** who have turned it into a fine Italian restaurant in the midst of what is now a heavily industrialized area of Hawthorne, N.J.



During the summer of 1785 John Francis Ryerson traveled back to New Jersey for a visit and learned that 342 acres of his homestead had been confiscated and sold but that the remainder had *not been found* and consequently, could not be disposed of the authorities. He returned to the United States about 1789 and took up residence at Newtown, New York where in 1790 he purchased a large farm at Dutch Kills, now a part of Long Island City. He died there on 8 April 1798 and was buried near his house. Over 100 years later, his tombstone was found buried in the cellar of the old house as we learned in the previous Brooklyn Eagle news report! On that location – at 41 Wilbur Avenue and 29 Academy Street in Long Island City was erected the Bryant High School which saw use for many years. In the 1920's it was replaced by a new building used for many years as the Long Island City High School. Today it is called New Comers High School and is used for foreign students who need to learn English before they join the regular student body.

Efforts to locate the old tombstone have been unsuccessful!

*Note: There is some discrepancy in the dates on the old stone - perhaps due to a misreading of the dates as printed in the news article ....or the stone mason was given the wrong dates. The Ryerson Genealogy (1916) gives the following: b. 1 April 1724/ d. 8 April 1798. Could the 8 have been read as a 3??*

The old Ryerson homestead in New Jersey eventually came back into the hands of Richard DeGray, nephew of John Francis, the son of his sister Helena. It remained in the DeGray family for several generations until the death of 90 year old Minnie DeGray and then was sold out of the family.

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Public Record Office, London, England – (Rev. War claims)

Lafayette's Encampment at Wagaraw by Walter Arndt Lucas

Salvage Archaeology at the Ryerson (DeGray) House by Edward J. Lenik

## What's NEW in the PAST LANE!

### A NEW MARK

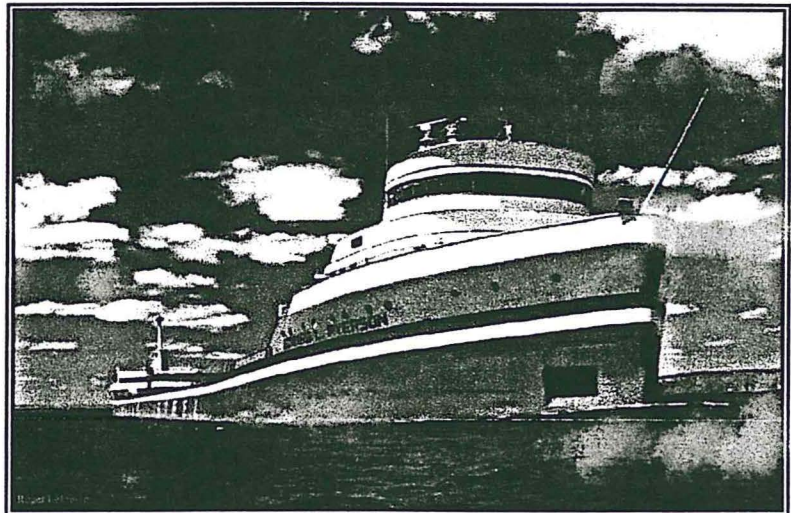
*For Lucas Ryerson, Silversmith*

Two more coin silver serving spoons have turned up carrying the mark of our 'cousin,' early silversmith, Lucas Ryerson. These are large....about 9" in length and carry the familiar 'brilliant' engraved designs on the handles - the initials *AMG* and *GVW*. The makers mark on the back of the handle of one of them - unlike the graceful script we are accustomed to seeing, shows the name in block letters. A major collector and expert on New Jersey silver says he has no reason to question the authenticity of this new mark. We happily add these to our growing record of known Lucas Ryerson silver. That list totals about 50 pieces to date. These spoons are in the possession of another of our cousins, Les Bymes.



\*\*\*\*\*

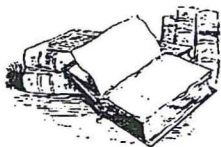
The **EDWARD L. RYERSON**, is one of the last straight-deck lakers still part of the American fleet. Ryerson's lack of a self-unloading rig makes her less competitive in the ore trade since unloading times are long and limited ports have unloading capabilities. Rumors have persisted for years about the Ryerson's conversion to a self-unloader, but nothing has been finalized. Until economic conditions warrant her use she will remain in lay-up. The Ryerson last operated in 1998 and has since been in lay-up at Sturgeon Bay, WI.



Before her inactivity, Ryerson was mainly in ore trades from Lake Superior ports and Escanaba to lower Lake Michigan ports since her 1960 launching in Manitowoc, Wisconsin (Manitowoc's last). Some stone was carried from Lake Huron ports. Early in her career, she set tonnage records for iron-ore with cargoes over 25,000 tons. Edward L. Ryerson has a modern, streamlined, unique look. Her bow and pilothouse have graceful curves, and her aftercabins support a large, elliptical stack. A 9,000 horsepower, steam turbine gives her good speed (16 + knots). She remains a favorite around the lakes. For a better look try this internet link <http://www.boatnerd.com/pictures/fleet/ryerson.htm>

By Rod Burdick

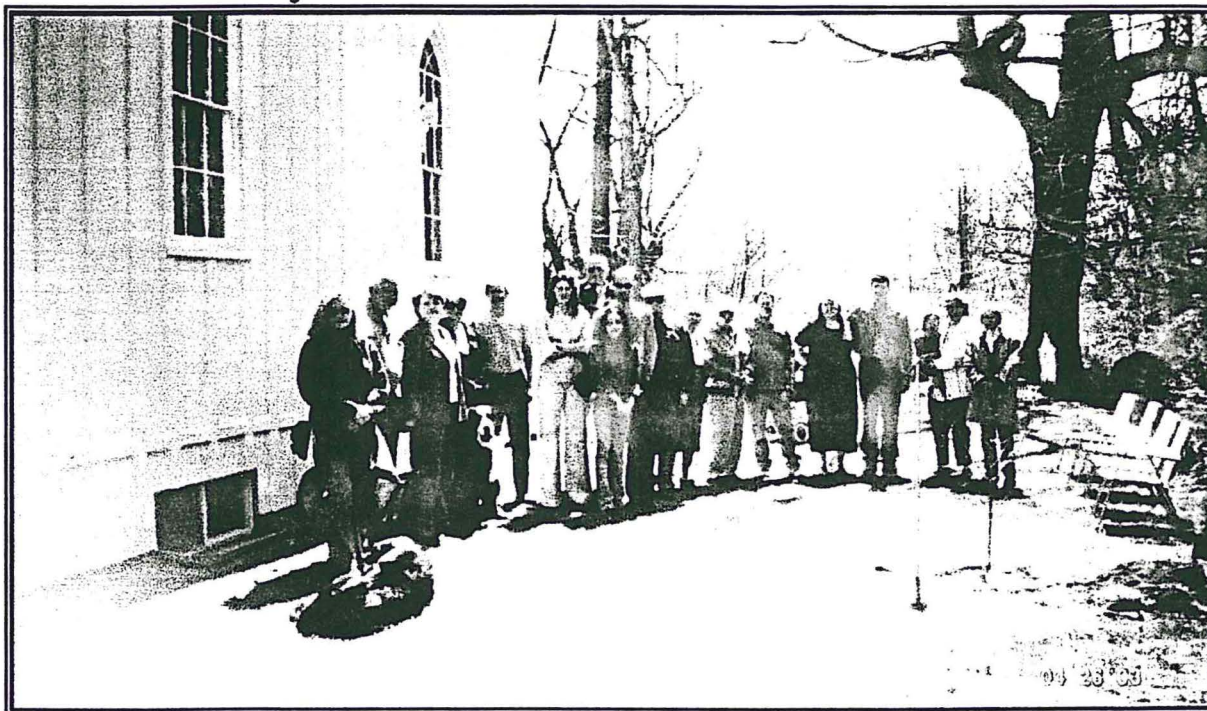
## *A Chat with Phyllis*



I hope you are all planning to attend the Ryerse-Ryerson Family Reunion in July. This will be the FIFTIETH time we have gathered together to celebrate family and you won't want to miss the fun!

Lots of exciting news in this issue. The more I investigated, the more fascinating it became! I hope you enjoy these until-now-unknown family stories. Special thanks to Geri Kanner, Barb Fitzmaurice, Les Byrnes and Tom Ryerson who helped with this issue. It sure helps to have many 'eyes' looking for interesting family stories! We look forward to hearing from Michael Crutchley - He's promised us more surprises! *Phyllis*

*Below* - Eighteen Ryerse-Ryerson cousins who gathered on a beautiful Saturday, on the north side of the Port Ryerse Church, Port Ryerse, Ontario, to take part in a historic occasion - the planting of a dogwood tree in memory of Vern Ryerse. A plaque was also installed with the following inscription.



"Norfolk Flowering Dogwood-A Native Species To This Area And The Flower Of The County Of Norfolk.

Planted In Celebration Of 50 Years Of The Ryerse-Ryerson Family Picnic and In The Memory Of Vern Ryerse, A Staunch Supporter.

Erected April 26, 2003"

### The Port Ryerse Journal

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### Family TRIVIA!!

Mr. and Mrs. RYERSON were characters on a recent Law & Order TV program!!

Ned RYERSON was the insurance salesman in the movie "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray.

Watch those TV and Movie credits.....you may find a 'cousin!'

### DRUMROLL.....

This years Arthur Larned Ryerson Scholarship goes to Michael McDaniel, YALE University's Class of 2005. Michael is a talented scholar and athlete from Aurora, Colorado and is pursuing a major in economics. Atta Boy, Mike!!

# The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

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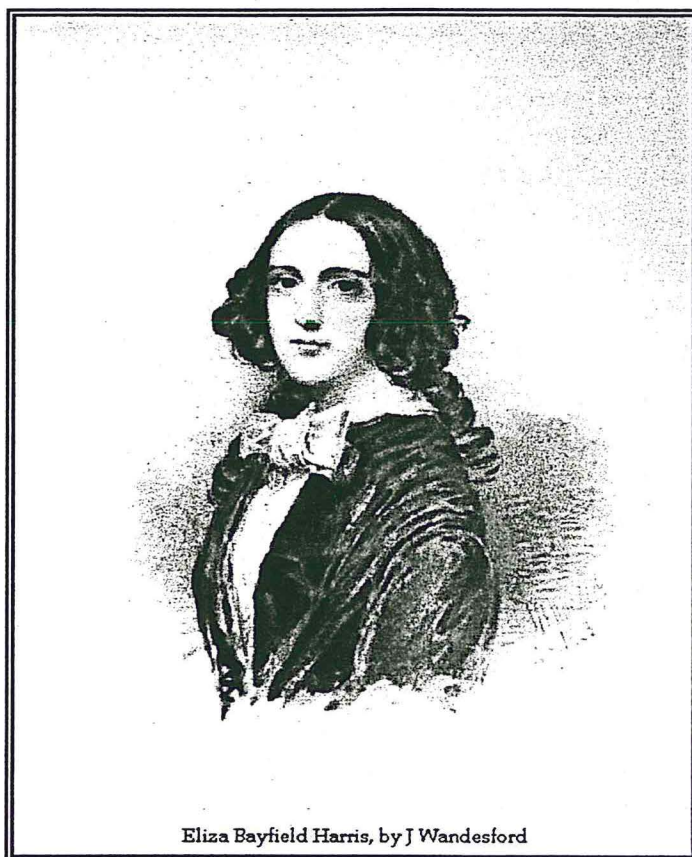
## *Eliza of Sunninghill Park*

by Michael Crutchley

Eliza Bayfield, one of the beautiful and accomplished daughters of the late Captain John Harris, R.N. of Eldon House, London, Ontario, and his wife, Amelia, the daughter of Colonel Samuel Ryerse, U.E.Loyalist, was born in Port Ryerse, Woodhouse Township, Upper Canada on 4 October 1825. Eliza and her sister Mary were twins.

Eliza married General George Charles Crutchley on 16 October 1851. He was then commanding the 23<sup>rd</sup> Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Canada. He was the second son of George Henry Duffield Crutchley, Esquire of Sunninghill Park, Berks, and his wife Juliana, eldest daughter of Sir William Burrell, Bart. Charles Crutchley won the Victoria Cross in the war for blocking Ostend Harbor. Charles and Eliza settled in England about 1853. They had 6 children.

In 1878, Charles inherited Sunninghill Park and £12,000 per year.



Eliza Bayfield Harris, by J Wandesford

*Eliza B Crutchley*



*Eliza Bayfield (Harris) Crutchley c. 1854*  
J.J.Talman Regional Collection UWO

A letter from England - September 2003

*Phyllis is very persuasive and asked me to do this little episode for you, my first 'letter from 'over the pond.'*

- Michael Crutchley

## Berkshire Haunt

It was a sunny morning in early 2000, unusually warm and cloudless for an English winter's day. We were in a village in Berkshire and had no idea we were about to experience something similar to an opening scene of *Quantum Leap*. For those of you unfortunate enough to own a television, you may know this long running sci-fi series following time-traveller scientist Sam Becket, who keeps 'leaping' into unfamiliar and sometimes unpleasant situations in his quest to find his way back home. A typical episode might find him waking up as a no hope boxer on the take, or as a beautiful secretary suffering from

harassment from her boss, or as a young Elvis Presley, a rabbi, or even as Marilyn Monroe's secretary! Oh boy!

To give you some background to the situation, by 1997, the turn of the century was fast approaching, and I had been asked to help with an exhibition for the village of Cheapside in Berkshire, on the borders of Windsor Castle, about twenty miles west of London. A book and video were to accompany the event.

One of the more prominent homes in the village is Sunninghill Park, a six hundred acre estate, for two centuries home to the Crutchley family. Known to us as 'The Park.' It is now owned by the Crown and occupied by Prince Andrew, Duke of York and his young family.

A team of keen local villagers did most of the research, while I took all the credit. (It's painless, and it's called 'management'). By 1998 the work was done and I immersed myself in the daily body count of family history research, and in the process, getting totally and obsessively embroiled in the Ercolano story.

Two years later my wife Edwina and I received an invitation to attend the opening of the Cheapside Millennium Exhibition to be held at the village hall, and so on that sunny Saturday morning we dusted off our best brogues, and took our motorcar to Berkshire.



## Scottish Justice

We left the car parked on the outskirts of the village and walked the rest of the way. Smiling faces lined the winding narrow street with its ancient cottages and cosy pubs. There was colour everywhere. Flags waved and bunting fluttered. The background noise was a hum and chatter of excited anticipation.

As we neared the hall we were stopped at the end of a long red carpet.

"You can't go in there", an official looking villager informed us bluntly, arms outstretched.

"B-but we've been invited"

"And who might *you* be then?" arms still outstretched.

"We might be Mr and Mrs Crutchley" we replied meekly.

The arms dropped, "Come this way quickly!" and we were whisked into the Village Hall to be met by a neatly dressed young man with a broad Scottish accent. So broad, he could have passed as Sean Connery's speech therapist. This was the man who had done all the research into the history of The Park, and who had generously given me all the credit. Quickly introducing me to the exhibition organiser Christine Weightman, he went on to say, "His Royal Highness will be here in just four minutes, Michael. We should like you to wait here by the Sunninghill Park exhibit. You will be introduced to the royal party, and we would like you to give a brief history of The Park, no more than say ten minutes, after which time HRH will no doubt wish to ask questions about your knowledge of the Sunninghill Park estate and of his family home...?"

Brian held his voice on the word 'home' for a couple of seconds, and then ended it with a sort of sinister question mark, head on one side, eyes peeping up at me. I knew that he knew without a shadow of a doubt that I knew almost nothing about The Park or its history. I had passed over it and moved on a few years before. And I'd been given no warning of this. None. Edwina and I had merrily bowled along for the free tea and scones and a jolly day out, and now I was about to give a free speech on a subject I knew squat about, to one of the most prominent members of our royal family! Oh boy!

## Royal Appointment

We were still frozen to the spot five minutes later when the introductions began. My first impression was that **Prince Andrew** is very much taller and leaner than expected, towering above those around him, including his two young police bodyguards, who looked more like FBI suits than English 'bobbies.' He is also strikingly handsome with the most intense blue eyes. He's very professional in public, putting at ease all those around him with calm and modest efficiency.

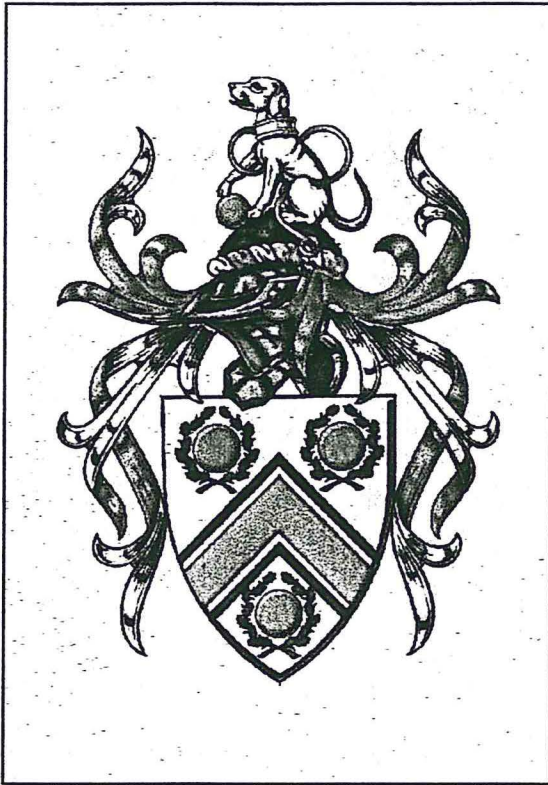


Myself with Prince Andrew  
& Christine Weightman

Although he listened with genuine interest to the drivel I was making up, I very quickly discovered that he was quietly prompting me. Thankfully he knew much of the history of the Park, and spoke eloquently of its history.

After being purchased in 1945 by the Crown, it was to be rebuilt as the matrimonial home for his parents; then Princess Elizabeth and her dashing young groom Prince Philip Mountbatten. **But an arsonist burned the house down while the Queen was away on her honeymoon** and the project was abandoned. Andrew told me that the Queen was so superstitious that she would not have it rebuilt on the original site, and so his home was erected thirty five years later 'in the orchard.'

Soon we were on equal terms, swapping notes about The Park, each with a common interest. Among the various items and portraits on display, dating mostly from the Victorian age was our family coat of arms. "Ah yes," he said *"these crop up all over The Park, on the weather vane over the lodge and on several garden urns I seem to recall. In fact you Crutchleys are everywhere!"*



The ice was broken, and the royal entourage moved on. We were left with a feeling of immense pride and gratitude to have been associated with this little village and its people, and we dined out on the event for months afterwards, exaggerating and embellishing our stories of royal patronage until I don't think even we could believe them ourselves!

## Loyal Canadian Roots

It was this event, and the research leading up to it that was to cement my interest in family history. It transformed a vague interest in my pedigree into an obsession to find out as much as possible about my hitherto unknown forefathers. Most of them I could trace back a long way, as most are documented in Burke's, Debrett's and other pedigree journals. But Sunninghill Park was of particular interest to me, as my ancestor General Charles Crutchley had inherited it in 1878 while in middle age. I knew much about him and his ancestors, and a little about his life, but the big mystery to me was his wife and *her* ancestry. Through a cousin I discovered that she was Eliza Bayfield Harris, daughter of John Harris, and that she had been married in London in the 1850's. But I had little to go on. After much exhaustive research I posted a note on a Harris genealogy website, and immediately received a response from a Canadian based in Ontario. "Have you heard of Eldon House in London, Ontario?" he wrote. Of course... *that* London.

Eliza, I was to finally discover, was the daughter of **Amelia Ryerse** and John Harris, and **granddaughter of Col Samuel Ryerse of Port Ryerse.**

Immediately I had access to whole chunks of ancestry. But this was not the usual bag-load of Brits. These were Canadians! (How about that, eh?). And more, now I can quit bragging about being descended from kings and nobles of England and Scotland (and Robert the Bruce, who seems to have sired the entire planet). I have discovered a rare find, like the elusive walnut in the bran-tub... Like finding a four-leaf clover... Like getting an A in math... I have found out something to be unusually proud of... and now I am privileged to go public.

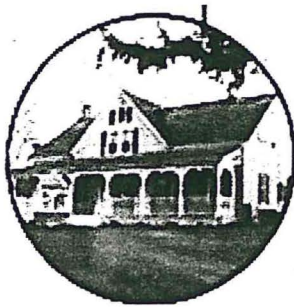
Hey everyone... **I'm a United Empire Loyalist!** That is, with Colonel Sam's permission.

Michael Crutchley  
Southwater  
West Sussex



Eliza died in Baden, Hamburg in 1910. This photo was taken of Eliza in 1908 before her death. She was a great patron of the village and much loved by everyone. She and her husband were buried at St. Michael's Church, Sunninghill.

The Times ran a huge report on her funeral.



## The NICHOLAS RYERSON HOUSE

*Enjoying new life as  
GUZZO Electric, Inc.*  
44 Newark-Pompton Turnpike  
Wayne, New Jersey

Nicholas Ryerson was the youngest of ten children born to Judge George L. Ryerson and his wife Mary. At the time of his birth his family had just moved into the new wing of the '1787 House' on the Newark-Pompton Turnpike. Nicholas grew up on land that was part of the original Lower Pequannock Patent - land acquired in 1695 from the Indians and the East Jersey Proprietors by his great-grandfather, Joris Ryerson. At his death, Joris Ryerson directed that the land be divided among his descendants. Nicholas would inherit a share of these original lands, handed down from father to son, as can be seen in his fathers will.

*".... I give devise and bequeath to my son Nicholas Ryerson and to his heirs and assigns forever, all that land with buildings included on same where the said Nicholas G. Ryerson now lives, lying between the road late the Newark-Pompton Turnpike road and Bog and Fly meadow bounded on the south by lands of Abraham Ryerson, on the east by the Bog & Fly meadow, north by lands of Henry Doremus, west by the road late the Newark-Pompton Turnpike road until where it began..."*

His house, at least the small wing of it, was already standing across the road from his father's house, according to this will which was written in February of 1835. Since Nicholas was married in 1810 we may safely assume that it was erected about that time or soon after, probably by Nicholas himself, perhaps with the help of his brothers and neighbors. The house was small, constructed of stone with a gable roof. Typical of most Dutch houses, it faced south and boasted a broad fireplace and a swinging iron crane in its one room. Overhead was a low-ceilinged garret used for storage and a place for the children to sleep - reached by steep, narrow stairs at the left of the fireplace. The floor was laid with wide planks. The hardware on the "Dutch" door was probably forged by a local craftsman.

Nicholas married Martjetie (Mary) Jacobus but everyone called her "Mottle." She was also Dutch, having descended from Roeloff Jacobus who came to America from Holland before 1690. Unfortunately, their life together ended

tragically on January 26, 1838 when Nicholas was killed by a falling tree.

The children of Nicholas and "Mottie" Ryerson were:

1. Abraham b. 1811 (one source says he drowned in 1814)
2. George b. 1813 (same source says this child fatally burned)
3. Elmira b. 1817 m. Abraham Mandeville of Pompton Plains.
4. Abraham Nicholas b. 27 Dec. 1819 m. Catherine Ann Doremus

**They resided on his Father's homestead.**

- A. Charles b. 1854
- B. Nicholas b. 1859
- C. Thomas b. 1862 m. Delia Tindall

**Resided on the old homestead**

- a. Adelaide b. 1887
- b. Harry b. 1888

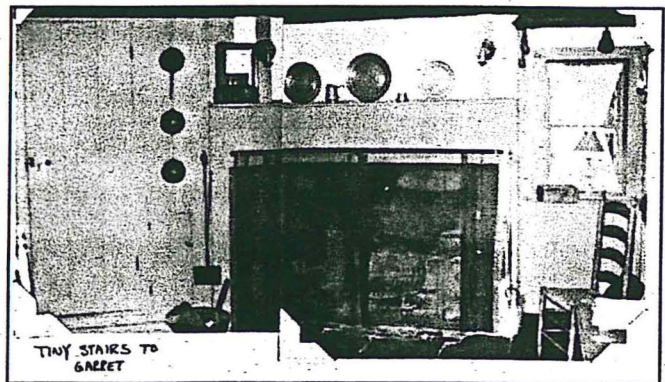
**Resided on old homestead**

- c. Charles b. 1890
- d. Abraham b. 1892

5. Leah Mary b. 1823 m. Henry Post Resided at Two Bridges

6. George b. 1826 m. Margaret Van Nostrand

It is said that Abraham Ryerson who inherited the house from his father, used to heat buckets of tar in the old fireplace. Being somewhat forgetful he would soon have a dandy fire to put out. It is a wonder that the house survived so many near fires.



In later years, a large addition was built onto the east end of the original house which is the main portion of the house as it stands today. A 52 foot veranda was added across the front of the house which overlooks a rolling lawn, once a kitchen garden.

Other lands inherited by Nicholas Ryerson from excerpts of his fathers will:

*".....Another lot lying on the east side of before mentioned lot, said lot called Bog and Fly Meadow, the one equal one*

half on the western end of the said Bog and Fly and adjoining his homestead place. Also about 10 acres of my homestead farm out of the north westerly corner beginning at a white ash sapling marked on four sides standing on the east bank of the Paquanac River ...links & chains.... containing 10 acres to be the same more or less....."

".....I also give devise and bequeath to my son Nicholas G. Ryerson and to his heirs and assigns forever the westerly side of a tract of woodland lying on the west side of the meadow and the said lot No. 2 given to John G. Ryerson which will more and fully appear on a map drawn the 15 April 1831 beginning ..... (links and chains).... containing 50 90/100 acres."

The absence of a Last Will and Testament written by Nicholas G. Ryerson is undoubtedly due to his sudden death. There does exist, however, the "Inventory of all and singular the Goods and Chattles Rights and Credits of Nicholas G. Ryerson late of the township of Manchester in the County of Passaic made this 26th day of March 1838." It is copied in full below and lists many interesting items to be found in both house and barns. (*Original spelling retained*) It also shows Nicholas as quite a business man and lender of money - something akin to the neighborhood banker in his day!

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| One pair of Bay Horses                              | \$150.00 |
| One Sorrel Horse and Two Bay colts                  | 155.00   |
| One yoaik of Steers and One Single Ox               | 65.00    |
| Five milk Cows and Two Calves                       | 85.00    |
| Fortson Sheep and Seven Lambs                       | 30.00    |
| A lot of hay in Three Barricks                      | 25.00    |
| Hay and straw in Barn and Cow House                 | 12.00    |
| Three plows and One Harrow                          | 10.00    |
| Two Farm wagons One Light Two horn wagon            | 38.00    |
| One Carage wagon and harness                        | 80.00    |
| One pleasure Sleigh, Two wood sleds                 | 25.00    |
| Two Set of double harness                           | 25.00    |
| Forks, Rakes, Shovels, Spades, Hows, Cradles        | 6.00     |
| Oats, Corn and Buckwheat on the Granary             | 25.00    |
| Four Hogs and eight Shotes, a lot of Chains         | 33.00    |
| Twenty eight Fowls, Two meat casks                  | 9.00     |
| One Grind stone, One crosscut saw                   | 3.50     |
| A lot of potatoes in the Seller, Loom               | 21.00    |
| A lot of Barrels, Churn, Kealors, Milk pans         | 4.50     |
| Two brass kittles, 2 Griddls, Iron pots and kittles | 7.00     |
| Tubs and Pails, One Tea Kittle and Spinning Wheels  | \$4.00   |
| Table, Chairs, Earthen & Stone pots.                |          |
| cups & Saucers                                      | 2.00     |
| One Single and One double barrel Gun                | 5.00     |
| Two narrow axes and one post ax                     | 2.00     |
| Six Beds, Bedsteds and Beding, curtngs etc.         | 80.00    |
| One Eight Day Clock, One wooden Clock               | 40.00    |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| One Cloths press, One Bureau                    | 30.00 |
| Engrane and Common Carpets, window curtins      | 25.00 |
| Wearing Apparel and linnen                      | 50.00 |
| China, Glass, Crockery, Picture frames etc.     | 8.00  |
| Books, Andirons, Shovel & Thongs, Table & Stand | 7.50  |
| Saddle & Bridle, Bells and Buffalo Robe         | 10.00 |
| Cubboard and contents in the Garret             | 30.00 |
| Meat in Smoke house and Seller                  | 15.00 |

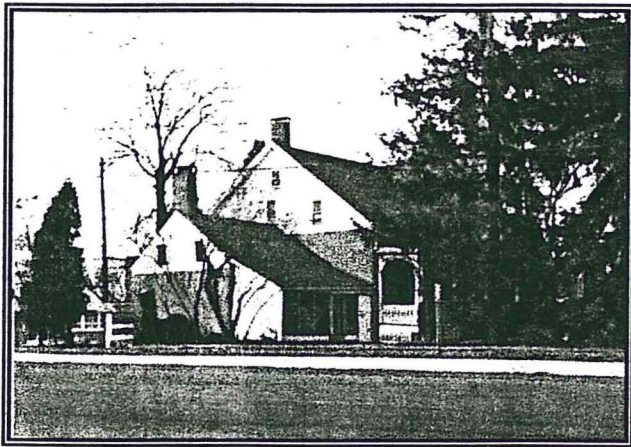
\*\*\*\*\*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| A note of hand against G.B. Sains for \$4.50                       |          |
| Interest on the same   | 1.08     |
| One note against Cors. R. Jacobis                                  | 10.00    |
| Interest   | 1.85     |
| One note against G. B. Saims                                       | 100.00   |
| Interest   | \$25.75  |
| One note against Jacob & Isaac Van Wart                            | 50.00    |
| Interest   | \$1.75   |
| One note against Paul B. Debow                                     | \$100.00 |
| Interest   | \$1.50   |
| One note against Gilles W. Mandaville                              | \$20.00  |
| Interest   | \$1.10   |
| One note against Daniel B. Decker                                  | \$35.00  |
| Interest   | \$.70    |
| One note against John Debow  | \$50.00  |
| Interest   | \$9.12   |
| One note against John P. Van Houton, Peter I Cook and William Mead | \$30.20  |
| Interest and Bal due   | 13.78    |
| One note against Henry I. Sisco & Jacob Francisco                  |          |
| \$50.00 Interest   | \$12.38  |
| One note against Robert Courter                                    | \$200.00 |
| Interest and balance due   | 106.50   |
| One note against Charles Steer                                     | \$15.00  |
| Interest   | \$5.30   |
| One note against Jeremiah Mitchel                                  | \$80.00  |
| Interest on same   | \$4.80   |
| One note against Henry I. Sisco                                    | \$10.00  |
| Interest   | \$2.47   |
| One note against Peter G. Ryerson                                  | \$68.00  |
| Interest   | \$4.76   |
| One note against Anthony A. Jacobis                                | \$75.00  |
| Interest   | \$4.50   |
| One note against Thomas H. Stagg                                   | \$75.00  |
| Interest   | \$8.87   |
| One note against Geo. G. Ryerson                                   | \$38.14  |
| Interest   | \$6.96   |
| One note against Jeremiah Mitchel                                  | \$100.00 |
| Interest   | \$5.00   |
| One note against Anthony A. Jacobus                                | \$410.00 |
| Interest   | \$55.35  |
| One note against Adrian Jacobus                                    | \$200    |
| Interest   | \$53.33  |
| One note against Adrian Jacobus                                    | \$400    |
| Interest and balance due   |          |

### The NICHOLAS RYERSON House - *continued*

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| One Bond and Mortgage against Jacob D. Provoost |          |
| \$141.99 interest 6.37                          | \$148.36 |
| One Note against Ambrose Tompkins               | \$177.97 |
| Interest \$4.44                                 | 182.41   |
| One Note against Ambrose Tompkins               | 177.97   |
| Interest \$4.44                                 | 182.41   |
| One Note against Ambrose Tompkins               | \$177.97 |
| Interest \$4.44                                 | 182.41   |

**TOTAL value of the estate      \$4057.44**



1970's



2003

See page 11 for the 1861 Wayne Township map showing the location of the old Nicholas Ryerson house.

The house remained in the Ryerson family until 1948 when it was purchased by James and Ruth Woodall. In 1962 it was purchased by Mr. Charles Cerbone who used four of its fifteen rooms as Chas. II Beauty Salon and the rest as his residence. Joseph Guzzo purchased the house from Ernie Boniface in 2000. It has now been beautifully restored as you can see in these pictures. It now serves as the main offices for GUZZO Electric, Inc., a company that does large scale electrical installations, having completed several major projects at the Newark International Airport among others. [www.GuzzoElectric.com](http://www.GuzzoElectric.com).

The old house has been structurally renovated and now has fresh paint and period wallpaper and the replacement of many light fixtures with restored early pieces. The fireplaces have been converted to natural gas units for safety. Outside the grounds have been beautifully landscaped and the property now has a 'park like' setting. The old well was located and 'brought back to life' with field stone above grade and a beautiful gazebo-like roof built over the top. Mr. Guzzo's wife, Susan, is operating a small antique shop in the oldest section, a perfect setting for her wonderful collection of antiques. If you're in the neighborhood, be sure to stop by!



## TITANIC News



We have received the sad news that **George Henry Perkins** has died in Florida at age 89. He was the only child of the Ryerson family maid, Victorine Chaudanson.

\*\*\*\*\*



*Mrs. Arthur L. (Emily) Ryerson*

### A TITANIC Photo Gallery

Phillip Gowan and Brian Meister have spent years searching the files of old passports housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It was a slow and painstaking search that resulted in perhaps the most complete set of Titanic related passport photos – some never seen before. They are now available on-line at A Gallery of Titanic Visages at <http://www.encyclopedia-titanic.org>

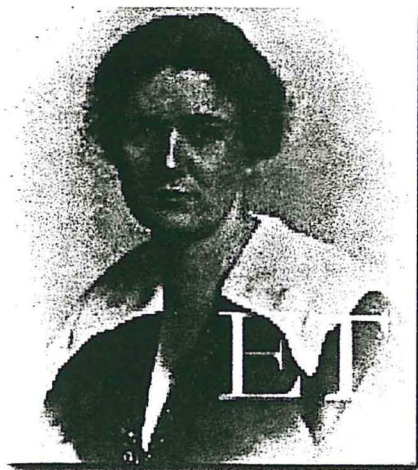
We have been given permission to share these photos of Ryerson family members who were on the Titanic and survived the sinking back in 1912. Included here are two photos of Emily (*Borie*) Ryerson, one of her son Jack and one of her daughter Susan.



*Emily*



*Jack*



*Susan*

## We get e-mail !

*This one was too good **not** to share!!!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday, July 29, 2003 7:40 am

Hi,

My name is Vic Alasio. During a search of the internet to settle a small wager, I happened upon a reference to you and feel you are the only person that can settle a very minor disagreement.

Having grown up in New York City, I had always been told that the name Dey, (as in Dey Street and your ancestral Dey Farm in New York City) is pronounced "Die" as opposed to "Day".

A friend of mine, Bob Lape, the well known restaurant critic for WCBS Radio in New York City, and the original Eyewitness Gourmet for WABC's Eyewitness News, contends that the correct pronunciation is "Day" as opposed to "Die". He's even aired our dispute on the radio here in New York during a recent review of The Millenium restaurant across the street from "Ground Zero".

Since you are part of the original family that settled that particular area of New York City, yours shall be the final word.

He may be a newsman, but I'm a New Yorker and I believe I'm right! Besides, he's from Ohio so how could he possibly know how to say Dey?

Thanks for your help!

Vic Alasio

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday July 29, 2003 8:47 am

**VIC!!**

*I hope you have a nice chunk of change riding on this one!! Haha!*  
*I've been researching this family for 45 years.....lived in New Jersey for 20 years and counted as my friends.....several members of the Dey family including Raymond Dey (now deceased) who knew the history of that family from the time they first set foot in New Amsterdam!!*

**YESSSS.....every one of them pronounced it as DIE. No question about it!**

**Tell your friend to stick to 'food'..... or be sent back to Ohio!! Hahaha!**

**Phyllis**

\*\*\*\*\*

July 29, 2003 8:58 am

**ALWAYS SAY DIE**

Dear Phyllis,

Thanks for the really prompt reply!  
 I hope to convince Bob to give your family the proper respect by "standing corrected" on the air!

Vic

\*\*\*\*\*

Egregio Don Roberto,

Since you've chosen to air our little "dispute," the Dey is now cast!

The area in question was once a part of the Dey Farm, which had a 309 foot frontage along Broadway and ran in a westerly direction for 800 feet, to the water's edge of the Hudson River. There was a wagon path through the farm. It was called "Dey Street" as late as 1767.

I've contacted descendants of the original family and will get back to you soon. If I'm right, you owe me dinner at the Millenium!

Vic

\*\*\*\*\*

**WOW....Vic!**

**Dinner at Millenium???? Sounds like a pretty tasty pay off! Wish I still lived along the Jersey Shore.....I'd run into town and join you! Ah well!**

**Enjoy!**

**Phyllis**

\*\*\*\*\*

August 4, 2003 12:23

**THE DEY HAS BEEN CAST!**

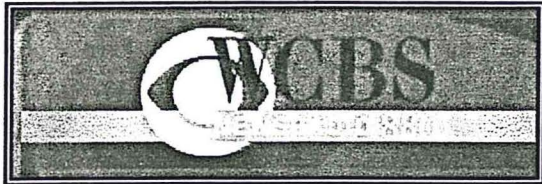
Hi Phyllis!

Thought you would get a kick out of Bob Lape's follow-up story on the Dey-Day controversy. The piece airs today...no less than three times...on WCBS Radio here in New York City. Now, the entire world knows the proper pronunciation! Let's hope all the Ryersons in New York and New Jersey tune in!

Vic

\*\*\*\*\*

**e-mail – continued next page**



## Dining Diary

Aug 4, 2003 12:23 pm US/Eastern  
NEW YORK (CBS)

**The Dey has been cast.** When I recently reported on the signature restaurant in the Millenium Hilton Hotel overlooking Ground Zero, I noted some confusion over how to pronounce its name which is also its address: Church and Dey – DEE –EE–WYE. My colleague, Vic Alasio, claimed it was Dey, not Day. We asked the restaurant people who said Day, not Dey. So Vic contacted a member of the original family that settled that part of town, Phyllis Ryerson, now resident of Atlanta. She reports researching the Dey family for forty-five years, counting as friends members of the Dey family including one Raymond Dey. He knew the family history from the time they set foot in New Amsterdam. And every one of them pronounced it Dey. Now we must let the matter die!

[http://wcbs880.com/dining/local\\_story\\_216124235.html](http://wcbs880.com/dining/local_story_216124235.html)

August 10, 2003 1:00 p.m.

**Hi VIC!!**

*Well, this one was fun!!*

*Who said history was boring!!!!*

*I don't know if there are many Ryersons left in NY/NJ to hear the story.....but if they did.....they'll be smiling all d-a-y!*

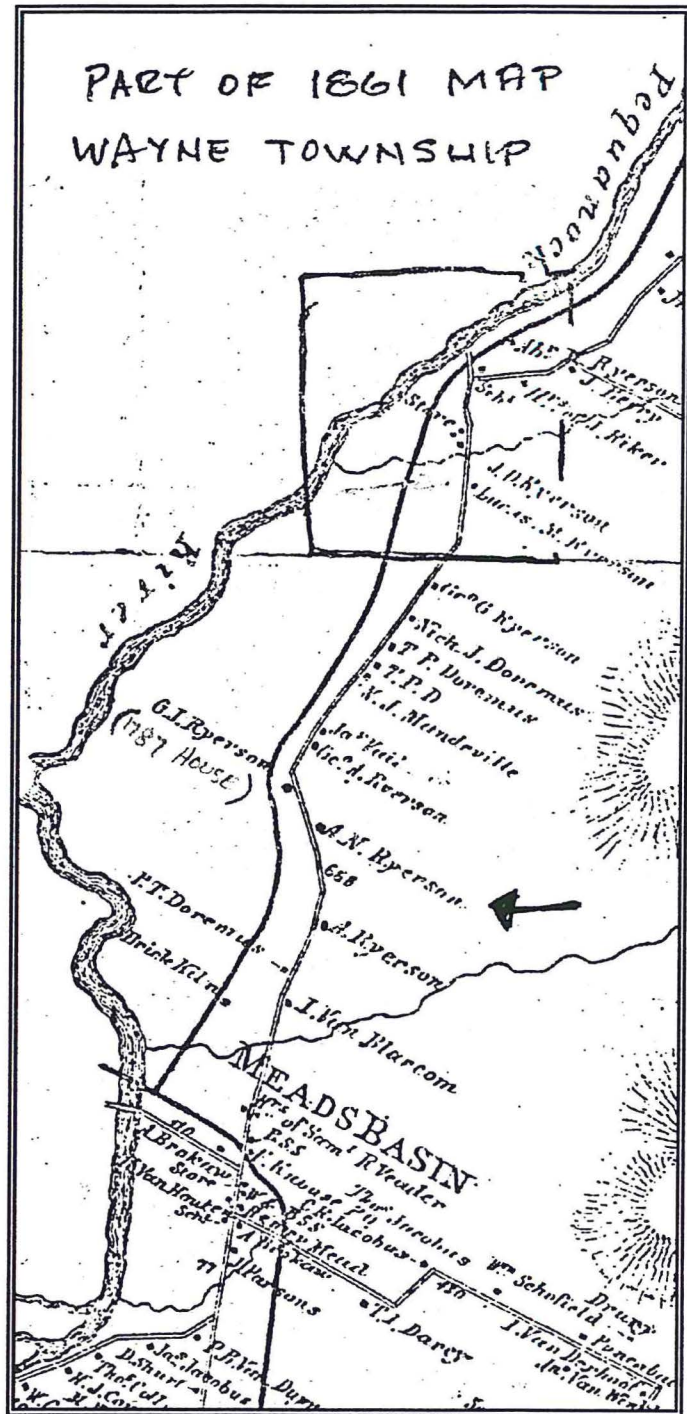
*Thanks for sharing 'the rest of the story!'*

*This one goes into the next issue of the Port Ryerse Journal.....the newsletter for the Ryerse/Ryerson family!*

*Yeah.....this is good stuff!*

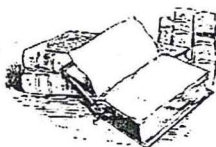
*Our readers will enjoy it and Bob's show will get some free publicity!*

*Phyllis*



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## *A Chat with Phyllis*



We are pleased to announce the marriage of Thomas Ryerson and Victoria Brown on October 17, 2003 in England. They honeymooned at the De Vere Grand Hotel on Brighton Beach, East Sussex. Our best wishes go to the new bride and groom.



*This street sign is in Port Dover, Ontario. I believe there is also a Crutchley Road there. I know the Crutchleys had property interests in Ontario, as did all the other Harris's who went to England. Their affairs were badly handled by their brothers Edward and George who were lawyers in London, Ontario. If anyone knows any history behind the street signs, I'd be very interested!*

*Michael Crutchley*



Thomas and Victoria  
October 17, 2003