

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 1

ISSN 201-0065

FEBRUARY 2005

The RYERSON POT!

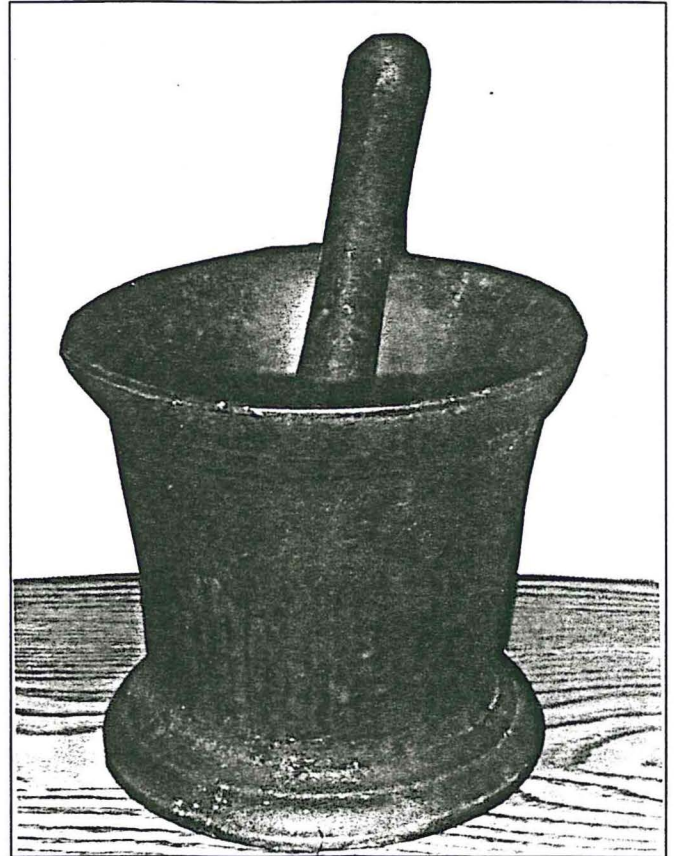
Nancy Pietruszka of South Carolina shares this story with us about 'the old Ryerson Pot' that she inherited from her father – actually a mortar & pestle!

"Years ago, my father, Leo Sanders, was excavating a lake in the Ringwood area, near where the iron mines were. He had found arrow heads there before but on that day he dug up this mortar & pestle which was buried about 8" deep in the earth. The lake was on the Bloomingdale/West Milford, N.J. border but I don't know the exact location."

Made of iron, the pestle measures 9" long. The mortar stands 6-1/2" high by 7-1/2" wide at the mouth. It carries a design of vertical lines scalloped around the top. A rubbing of the bottom *(enhanced here for clarity)* shows the name **RYERSON** and the year **1768**. The sideways *1* *(one)* might indicate that it was made as a sample.

We have shown the picture to several fellows knowledgeable in the early New Jersey iron works and they agree that the old mortar & pestle is quite a rare piece...well used and worn around its handle. It was cast at Ryerson Furnace in Pompton Lakes. A turned wooden model was pushed into a box packed with sand, removed very carefully and then the molten iron poured in! Its large size indicates it may have been used for mashing native herbs to produce medicines in large quantities - by an apothecary or a medical doctor. Such a unique and historical artifact is definitely a museum piece and would be quite at home in a museum *(perhaps in that area of New Jersey.)*

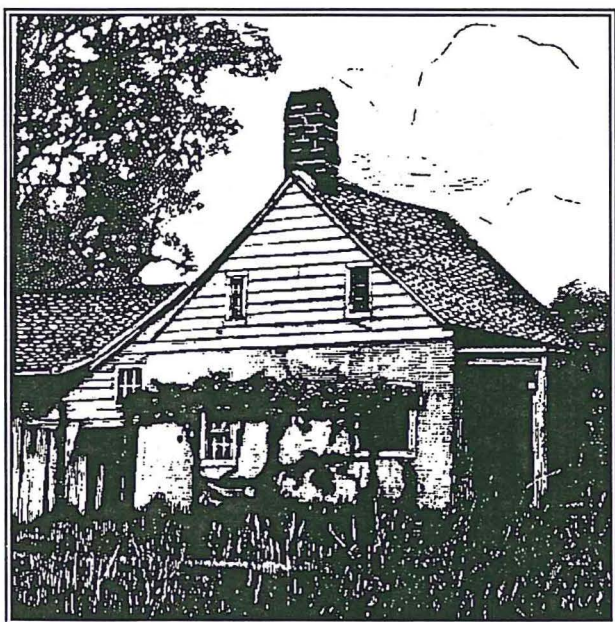
Thanks for sharing the story with us Nancy.....and take good care of the old Ryerson Pot!



Who married Lucas Ryerson?

by William L. LUKEN, Yorktown Heights, New York

Lucas Ryerson (1704-1764) married three times. Conventional genealogical sources identify Lucas Ryerson's first wife, Elizabeth Howell, as the daughter of Captain Daniel Howell and his wife Elizabeth "Elsie" Reading. Capt. Daniel Howell lived near present-day Stockton, New Jersey where his daughter Elizabeth was born in 1714. There seem to be no documents proving that Elizabeth Howell of Stockton ever married anybody, and the claim that she was the first wife of Lucas Ryerson appears to be pure speculation based on the fact that her mother's brother, Gov. John Reading, was married to Lucas Ryerson's sister Maritje (Mary).



Lucas Ryerson home – Pequannock, N.J.

ANOTHER WOMAN named Elizabeth Howell was born in Southampton, Long Island, in 1709. Her father was also named Daniel Howell, but he was not related to the Daniel Howell of Stockton, New Jersey.

About 1727, this Elizabeth Howell married William Pearson (or Pierson) in Southampton. They appear to have left Southampton soon after their marriage for no further record of them is found in that area. About the same time, Elizabeth's parents moved from Southampton to Ewing, New Jersey, where their graves can be found in the churchyard cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church. Conventional sources, including "The Pierson Millennium" have speculated that William Pearson and Elizabeth (Howell) Pearson followed her parents to Ewing.

After considering a number of small clues, I wish to propose an alternative explanation to the first marriage of Lucas Ryerson. In this alternative proposal, and contrary to conventional claims, I offer the following:

- * Elizabeth Howell of Stockton just disappears into the fog of time. Maybe she died unmarried. Maybe she married someone else. Lacking any documents, speculation is pointless.
- * William Pearson brings his young wife to some place in or near Pequannock, attracted by economic opportunities there. There was a large influx of new settlers in that place in the 1720s, including Dutch, English, German, and other newcomers.
- * Elizabeth Pearson subsequently gave birth to three children, William, Jr., Lemuel, and Amy, born in 1728, 1730, and 1732. Then, William Pearson died of unknown causes in 1733, at age 29, leaving a widow and three small children aged one, three, and five years.

Who married Lucas Ryerson? – cont.

Was it William Pearson's widow Elizabeth (Howell) Pearson, age 27, who in 1736 married Lucas Ryerson, age 32? If so, this means that, in addition to raising the five children they had together, the Ryerson household would also include the three children from Elizabeth (Howell) Pearson's first marriage. Presumably, Lucas Ryerson was designated as the legal guardian of these children. Then, Elizabeth died in 1745, leaving the three Pearson children as orphans in the care of Lucas Ryerson.

In 1745, the two Pearson boys would have been 15 and 17 years old. In those days, that was old enough to leave home and set out as adults. William and Lemuel apparently pursued careers as blacksmiths, skills they may have learned in the Ryerson household. The youngest of the Pearson children, Amy was only about 13 years old when her mother died, and she would have to remain in the Ryerson household until she married.

In 1753, Amy Pearson, about 21 years old, married Joseph Reading, the son of Gov. John Reading and Lucas Ryerson's sister Maritje (Mary). The Reading family genealogical records provide no information about the parents of Joseph Reading's bride. This implies they were not present and probably deceased long before this wedding.

In 1752, while Amy was presumably still living in the care of Lucas Ryerson, Lucas' third wife gave birth to her first child, a boy named Samuel, the same name as Joseph Reading's younger brother Samuel Reading, who died in 1749 at age seven years. Samuel Ryerson was not only a cousin to the late Samuel Reading, but he appears to have been

the first male cousin born after the death of Samuel Reading. The name Samuel also appears to be new to the Ryerson family where a more traditional Dutch name like Martin would be more likely.

As the wife of Joseph Reading, Amy Pearson gave birth to ten children, including four sons. The names of the first three sons followed a traditional obligatory pattern: William, for Amy's father; John, for Joseph's father; and Joseph, for Amy's husband. The fourth son, the first one where there was any real choice of a name, was named Samuel Ryerson Reading. This is also the only son known to have and use a middle name. It appears that Joseph and Amy wanted to make it perfectly clear how they chose this name.

Many years later, Lucas Ryerson's son Samuel, now going by the name Samuel Ryerse, would name one of his daughters Amelia, perhaps returning the favor for his big sister Amy (Pearson) Reading.

Meanwhile, in 1756, when Amy gave birth to her second son, John Reading, Lucas Ryerson's wife also gave birth to a boy named John. Amy's next son, Joseph Reading, Jr., was born in 1760. In 1761, the next child of Lucas Ryerson was also named Joseph. Like Samuel, the names John, Joseph, and Amelia, are all new to the Ryerson line.

A more detailed explanation will follow later. The complete explanation involves not only the Reading and Ryerson families but two unrelated Howell families and two unrelated Pearson families.

(The author invites comments, opinions - or new information on this subject from our readers.)

The very first recipe I received as a wedding present was handwritten on a 3X5" card and went like this: 3 double handfuls of flour, a pinch of salt, 1 sugar-shell of sugar, 1 scant single handful of butter etc. My new husband's grandmother (*in her eighties*) chuckled when I inquired how to translate the recipe into measurements I was familiar with. "What if my hands are a different size than your hands?" "T'won't matter a bit," she answered. "Recipes are all proportional. If your hands are different than mine, the size of the loaf of bread will vary a bit but the flavor and texture will be the same!" *Berny in Seattle, WA.*



Washing Clothes

Years ago a Kentucky grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe for washing clothes. It appears below just as it was written, and despite the spelling, has a bit of philosophy. This is an exact copy - as written - found in an old scrap book.

1. Bilt fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water.
2. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert.
3. Shave one hole cake of lie soap in bilin water.
4. Sort things, make 3 piles.
 - 1 pile white,
 - 1 pile colored,
 - 1 pile work britches and rags.
5. To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with bilin water.
6. Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, and then bile.
 - Rub colored don't bile, just rinch and starch.
7. Take things out of kettle with broomstick handle, then rinch, and starch.
8. Hang old rags on fence.
9. Spread tea towels on grass.
10. Pore rinch water in flower bed.
11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.
12. Turn tubs upside down.
13. Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings to have all that you have.

* * * *Paste this over your washer and dryer and the next time you think things are bleak, read it again and give thanks for your blessings!*

The REST of the Story!

The New Jersey Kanouse Family

Munsell's *History of Morris County, NJ*

The Kanouse family was of German origin, the name being originally spelled "Knauss." All of that name in this vicinity and in the vicinity of Newfoundland are traceable to two brothers who came from Württemberg, Germany, about 1750. Jacob settled in Rockaway Valley near Powerville, and the other, called "Honiery," settled in Bergen County (now Passaic), near John P. Brown's hotel at Newfoundland. His old homestead farm is now the property of John P. Brown, who is his great-grandson.

There is a well-authenticated tradition pertaining to these two brothers that they emigrated to America before they had attained to full age, and were accompanied by a half-brother who was older, a son of their mother by her first marriage; that they were provided with a moderate amount of means, enough to give them a start in the world and pay their expenses. When the vessel arrived in New York their half-brother, in whose keeping the funds had been placed, under some plausible excuse, but possibly in collusion with the captain, went ashore first, and failed to return. They were then told that their passage had not been paid and that they would have to be sold to service to pay their expenses, which the captain proceeded to do. Such it appears was the practice with captains of ships in those days.

The brother Honiery was sold to Lucas Ryerson, who resided on the east side of Pequannock River near Pompton Plains. While serving there he became acquainted with a German girl working with the same family and who had been bought by Ryerson under like circumstances. Honiery, after serving out his term also served for the balance of the girls' term and took her for his wife. Many descendants of Lucas Ryerson distinctly recollect

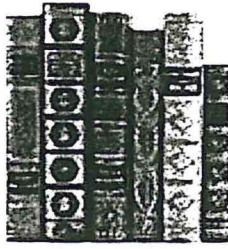
hearing their ancestors speak of this circumstance of young "Knauss" and the German girl, and that after they were married they went away and settled near Newfoundland, where in after years he became the owner of a nice farm.

Jacob after serving his term, settled prior to 1766 at Rockaway Valley, near Powerville, in Pequannock Township. The records of Pequannock township show that in 1766 a stray heifer was posted by him, and the county records show that he bought land in 1768, in the description of which mention is made of a brook running near the house of Jacob Kanouse, thus warranting the inference that he had previously bought land and built a house. That homestead, an old-fashioned frame building, is standing and occupied by the widow and children of Daniel Kanouse, who was a grandson. Jacob Kanouse died in 1821, at an advanced age.

John George "Honiery" settled at Newfoundland, Bergen County, New Jersey, not far from where Jacob lived. He is likely the Johan Georg Knauss whose baptism was recorded at the Evangelische Kirche Dornhan in Württemberg 2 April 1732. The church record says that he and his brother Jacob went to "Pennsylvania," which could be a broad reference to "America." Or the brothers may have set out for Pennsylvania and ended up in New Jersey instead. John George died at Newfoundland, Pompton Township, Bergen County, New Jersey 7 December 1810. He had a son, Jacob, born 10 June 1762. Quite a few of the Kanouses in the area of Newark and East Orange during the late 1800s are descendants of this Jacob. Another son, John Kanouse, born about 1765, removed to Manchester, Ontario County, New York, where he had a very large family. He often spelled his last name "Kanouts". Those are the only two children known, though there may have been daughters as yet unfound.
<http://www.jaknouse.athens.oh.us/genealogy/kanouse-nj.shtml>

kanouse@rand.org

A Chat with Phyllis



Any family historian and researcher worth his salt will challenge and question the facts concerning his family, always being careful to base his theories on documentation for proof beyond doubt. Bill Luken is such a researcher – an expert on the Reading family. We have had a fascinating exchange of ideas and facts on the Ryerson/Reading families in the last few weeks. His work continues as he sorts out all the possibilities.

"I do not claim that either story is correct. I'm trying to be cautious but I think I've opened up some interesting possibilities. I am simply looking for any records that would support one or the other. A marriage bond, divorce papers, guardianship papers, whatever. Meanwhile I want to get people thinking about the possibilities. Maybe someone will have an important clue I've missed."

This is definitely a work 'in progress' and we will follow his progress closely. Watch for updates!

Bill has also generously shared with us the story of Silk in the Attic, several USGS topographical maps of Hunterdon Co., NJ and some amazing aerial photos of the area around the John Reading and the Col. Martin Ryerson homes. Also other pictures from his recent visits to Hunterdon Co. Since I haven't visited those places in many years, it brought back many fond memories of some of my early trips down the back country roads of N. Jersey!

Thanks also goes to Geri Kanner Ryerson for her continuing internet searches – this time from newspaper archives - *Check it out!*

The BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE -Online
<http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>

Phyllis Ryerse

The Port Ryerse Journal

Published 3 times a year by the

RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association

596 George St., Woodstock Ontario, Canada N4S 4J8
7440 Quarter Horse Lane, Gainesville, GA 30506
USA

Subscription Rate \$12 year

Submissions Welcome & Encouraged!

Ryerse@Adelphia.net

Ryerse_Ryerson_Family@yahoo.com

Our TWO Amelias!



Amelia (Ryerse) Harris b. 1798



Amelia Ryerse b. 1968

We've all read the account that Amelia (Ryerse) Harris wrote about her father's early settlement in Canada. Now please meet another **Amelia Ryerse**, radio personality for 98 Rock, FM in Baltimore, MD. This modern day Amelia (who bears a striking resemblance to the earlier Amelia!) has been 'doing' radio for ten years from New Mexico (Alma Mater is NMSU in Las Cruces) to Louisiana, Eastern Shore of MD to North Carolina and back home to Baltimore.

Co-hosting a radio show is not all she has done. When this talented young woman heard about the drastic budget cuts at the Baltimore Zoo (the 3rd oldest Zoo in the Nation) she set out to single handedly raise \$50,000 and help save the Zoo. She went into a cage at the zoo on Monday November 10th and stayed until Saturday November 15th. It was a cold, windy, rainy week! She was hooked up to the studio through phone lines and broadcast from 7 am to midnight, living in a tent with an electric blanket, a Play Station Two & a Port-a-John!

When all was said and done, along with the \$\$ she had also raised the public awareness that the Zoo needed help. Superfresh Grocery Stores had a donation drive and Governor Earlich found a private donor to save the elephants for another year. Amelia says, *"I hope the donor falls in love with Dolly and Ana like I did and can help keep them there longer."*

Mickey and Amelia hosted the 9/11 Flag Ride (Ride to Remember). The participants began at the Harley Davidson store then took off for a ride around the beltway. \$40,000 was raised to benefit The Army Emergency Relief Fund. They also broadcast live during Summer Solstice from the Amstel Light Open Golf Tournament in Iceland!

We're very proud of you Amelia!

Amelia is the daughter of Richard and the granddaughter of Fred Ryerse – of the Michigan Ryerses! (#507 pg. 118)
Catch the MICKEY & AMELIA show weekdays from 3 to 7 p.m.
www.98online.com

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 2

ISSN 201-0065

JUNE 2005

JORIS RYERSE *could NEVER have imagined this happening on his lands!*

**Flood Damage Worse Than First Believed - Problems Grow For Flooding Victims -
Solution to flooding remains elusive -**

**Highlights from The Bergen Record - The Asbury Park Press - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Eyewitness NEWS Channel 7 NY - CBS - and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

On April 19, 2005, President Bush declared a major disaster for the State of New Jersey, triggering the release of federal funds to help people recover from the effects of severe storms and flooding that occurred April 1, 2005 through April 3, 2005. Highlights of several news reports follow:

At right - Passaic County rescuers are a welcomed sight on **Ryerson Avenue** in Wayne where dozens of homeowners are stranded in their waterlogged homes.



residents were forced from their homes.

The residents who live here along **Ryerson Avenue** (Joris's farm) are very tired and weary of it all, and of course they're extremely concerned about what they're going to find once they get an opportunity to go back home. This section of **Wayne, NJ** is waterlogged and

Flooding has long been a problem in the Passaic River Basin of New Jersey. Since colonial times, floods have claimed lives and damaged property. The most severe flood, the "flood of record," occurred in 1903, and more recent floods in 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, two in 1975, 1984, 1992, and 1999 were sufficiently devastating to warrant Federal Disaster declarations. Floods that wrecked homes and sent thousands of residents fleeing to drier ground after last weekend's torrential rains caused at least \$52 million in damage, the acting governor said Friday. Some 4,500 homes are known to have been damaged. Estimates are still being tabulated and these figures are going to balloon. Nearly 6,000 New Jersey

ruined. Hundreds of residents in low-lying areas of Wayne were encouraged to evacuate their homes, and police set up a mobile command center to assist the evacuations. Wayne Valley High School was used as a shelter to accommodate displaced residents. As the water levels go down, the damage becomes more and more evident. Thousands of dollars of tools, furniture and ruined household items will have to be trashed once the water recedes. Homeowners say it's too much to bear.

The water is still too high for many to start the clean up process, so for now residents have to wait and hope they'll be able to salvage some of their submerged possessions. That's the worst part. It's not the water that's the big deal, it's

the cleanup, it's the damage afterwards. The water that you stand in contains material from septic tanks, oil furnaces and a lot of diesel fuel. The smell of diesel fuel is strong. Some of the folks say they're going to get a power washer and bleach their entire home to start the cleanup process and then they are going to put lime all over their yard because they don't want their kids playing on lawns that are filled with germs.

The search for solutions to the problem has been in the works since the 1930's. One idea was elegantly simple. Called the Passaic River system, it would have created a flood tunnel. Install a drain smack in the middle and when the water levels fed by the Pequannock, the Ramapo, the Wanaque Rivers and other nearby streams is high, flush it straight into Newark Bay! Congress agreed to spend the money - \$2 billion - and then a strange thing happened. The State of New Jersey balked! The Governor in that year (1996) quashed the idea as too expensive and too - well, WEIRD! On to Plan B which everyone from the governor on down knows will not work - a planned buyout of property in the flood plain. And what of the industrial buildings, the schools and what would it cost to buy out Willowbrook Mall and return that land to marsh?

And so the inhabitants of Two Bridges, Pequannock, Lincoln Park. Wayne and other neighborhoods wait - with a constant eye on the weather forecasts - for more RAIN!



Here on Ryerson Avenue two gentlemen just rode in on a small boat having rescued their dog from their house that can't be accessed by car anymore.



More than 400 families have been evacuated from their homes in Wayne. Streets are empty except for ducks and the cars that homeowners forgot to move.



IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE

to highlight the world's expositions with some spectacular focal point. The Paris Exposition filled that requirement with the spectacular EIFFEL TOWER, a fittingly distinctive monument to commemorate the centennial of the French Revolution. There was nothing very original about the tower in Paris except that it was taller than any tower previously built. Likewise, the Ferris Wheel at Chicago's World's Fair was noteworthy because it was so surprisingly large. In 1893, **George Washington Gale FERRIS** was the champion of U.S. technology, the engineer who proved that America could top France's Eiffel Tower. That summer, excited tourists waited in line for the ride of a lifetime on Ferris's big mechanical wheel. It could carry 2,160 passengers at a time to a height equaling that of a twenty-six story building, in an era when most people had never even seen a skyscraper.

This wheel was a kind of gigantic merry-go-round, swinging vertically instead of horizontally. It was 250 feet in diameter, 825 feet in circumference, and 30 feet in width. It was elevated fifteen feet above the ground with the passengers at the top getting a view at an elevation of 265 feet. The wheel had thirty-six cars for passengers. Each car was 27 feet long, 13 feet wide

and 9 feet high. Each car had a heavy frame of iron and was covered externally with wood. It had a door and five broad plate-glass windows on each side. Each car contained forty revolving chairs made of wire and screwed to the floor. There was a conductor for each car to open doors and give information. The wheel weighed thirteen tons and when loaded with passengers three tons more.

The wheel was a substantial economic success. It provided a 20-minute passenger ride for 50 cents, operated for 19 weeks, and carried a total of 1.45 million paying customers. An estimated 90-percent of the visitors to the fair "took the ride," as many as 38,000 passengers in a day. It grossed over \$727,000. More importantly, it ran without accident, even though over the 19 weeks of operation it made about 10,000 revolutions. The wheel cost, in place, \$392,000.

George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. (1859 - 1896), civil engineer, and inventor of the "Ferris Wheel" was the great great grandson of Jeffrey Ferris, (1610-1666), an early settler of Greenwich, Conn.

YOU are a descendant of Jeffrey Ferris as well....

and a distant cousin to the inventor of the Ferris Wheel!

How's THAT for some interesting conversation for your next dinner party! Here's how:

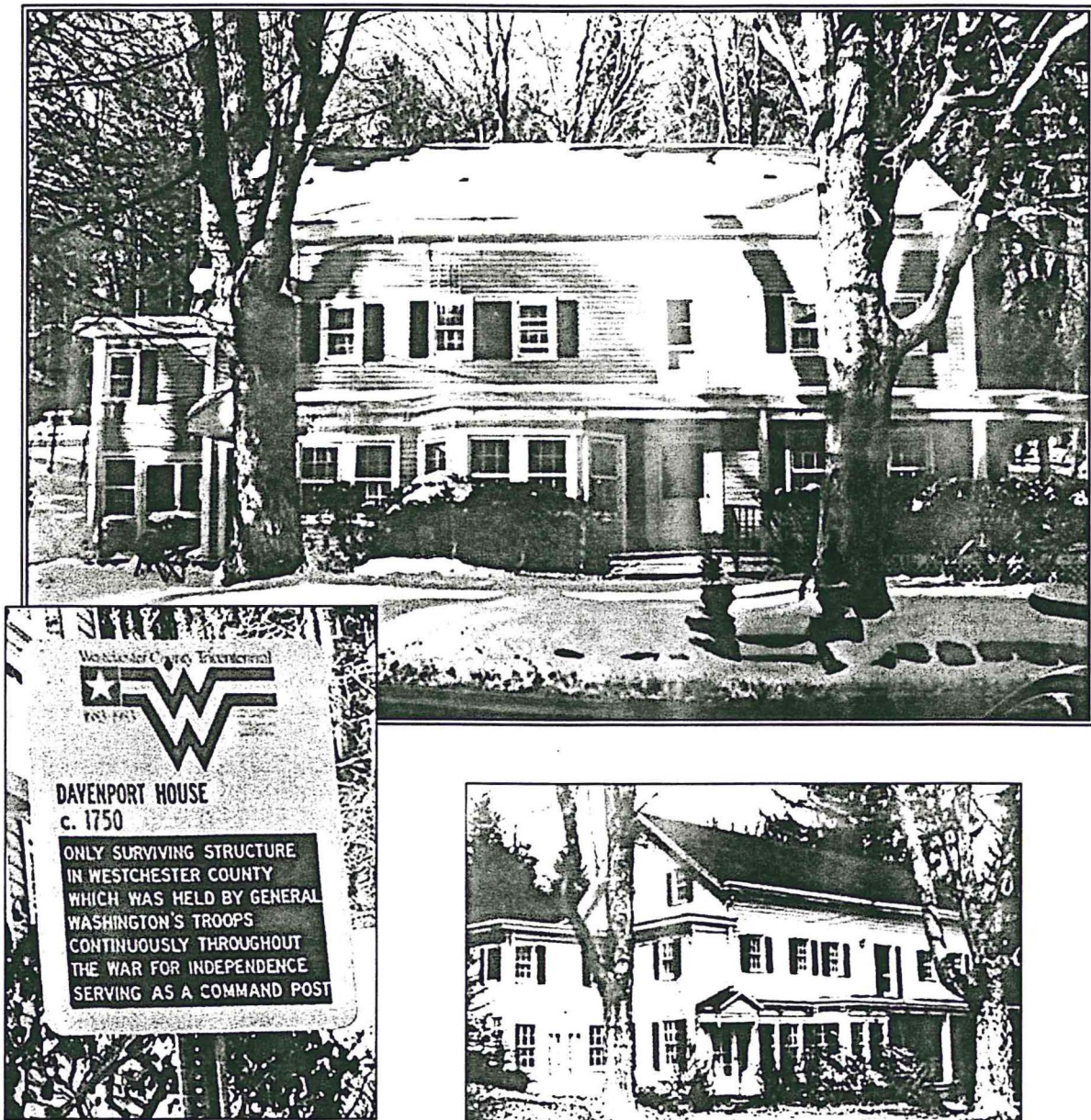
Jeffrey Ferris>John Ferris>Mary Ferris who m. Nathaniel Underhill>Nathaniel Underhill Jr.
>Bartow Underhill>Sarah Underhill who married **Samuel Ryerse.**

A second connection begins with Tamar Underhill (sister of Sarah Underhill) who married Peter Cyphers and their daughter Sarah Cyphers married **Sam Ryerse, Jr.**

Read more about it!

http://www.ferristree.com/descendants_of_jeffrey_ferris.htm

http://www.ferristree.com/george_washington_gale_ferris.htm



The DAVENPORT House

The Davenport House was built in 1750 by Richardson Davenport of Westchester County, New York, an area that was a hotbed of raiding and reprisals that equaled in intensity and bitterness that of Bergen Co. N.J. Richardson's father's 200 acre farm had been confiscated and his own house which he had operated as something of an Inn had been taken over by the American forces. By virtue of its view of the ford over the Croton River near what is now Pines Bridge, it became the headquarters for the troops commanded by Colonel Christopher Greene.

Richardson Davenport had a name-sake, his young nephew Richardson Davenport, the son of his brother John. This Richardson, if you remember, had married the pretty Sarah Underhill, the daughter of another Loyalist family, and had gone off to help put down the rebellion. His bravery and daring on raiding expeditions along the Jersey shore and secret spy missions soon earned him the title of Captain. One of the most daring and successful mission was to intercept a dispatch case full of papers from Count Rochambeau to George Washington containing important plans for coming campaigns! Captain Davenport was badly wounded later during the action at the rebel post on Tom's River, NJ and died soon after, leaving his wife Sarah as a widow and a refugee. She and her brother made their way from Westchester to New Brunswick where she would meet and eventually marry **Capt. SAMUEL RYERSE.**

(Read all about it in the July 1995 issue of the Port Ryerse Journal!)

On May 14, 1781, the British advanced on the Davenport house with a force of 200-300 men and took the Americans completely by surprise. Colonel Greene defended himself bravely with drawn sword but was overpowered and fell with numerous sword and bayonet wounds. His guards put up fierce resistance but were unable to prevent the Loyalists from taking the mortally-wounded Greene on the road back to their headquarters. Greene's troops pursued and fought a pitched battle in what was later called the Battle of Pine Bridge (Croton, NY.) In later years the Davenport House became the property of the Westchester Historical Society and also housed the Yorktown Museum. Today it is privately owned.

On May 14, 2005, the Yorktown Historical Society sponsored a reenactment of the "Battle of Pine's Bridge." Related activities took place on the grounds of Peter Pratt's Inn, a restaurant located across the road from the Davenport House and built on the foundation of a barn associated with the Davenport House. There are plans to make this an annual affair and everyone hopes for better weather next year.



British defeat Continentals again at the Battle of Pine's Bridge

American re-enactors overrun as visitors learn about the period

Michael Risinit
The Journal News

The Croton River today exists mostly in fragments, its path blocked by dams that piled up reservoirs where farmland once stood.

During the Revolutionary War, the river was a demarcation of sorts — marking where neutral ground began and where the Continental Army's territory ended. The Pine's Bridge crossing in Yorktown — near the intersection of routes 100 and 118 — was so vital for moving supplies and troops that Gen. George Washington ordered earthworks built for defending the bridge.

"That's why defense of Pine's Bridge was so important," said Monica Doherty of the Yorktown Historical Society. "If the British

controlled the bridge, they would have controlled the movement of the American patriots and the (allied) French troops."

Doherty was one of dozens of re-enactors yesterday afternoon at Peter Pratt's Inn commemorating the Battle of Pine's Bridge, which took place May 14, 1781. With help from the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, visitors to the inn could watch cider making, split-rail fence building and other period craft demonstrations. In addition, about 50 re-enactors faced off in a demonstration of the clash between Continental and British forces.

On a grassy expanse anchored by towering maple and fir trees behind the inn, the opposing sides traded volleys of black powder. Showers dampened their musket cartridges and caused steam to rise from the backs of the horses. Joe Ryan, a retired Blue Mountain Middle School history teacher, stood behind a microphone and provided a play-by-play of the engagement.

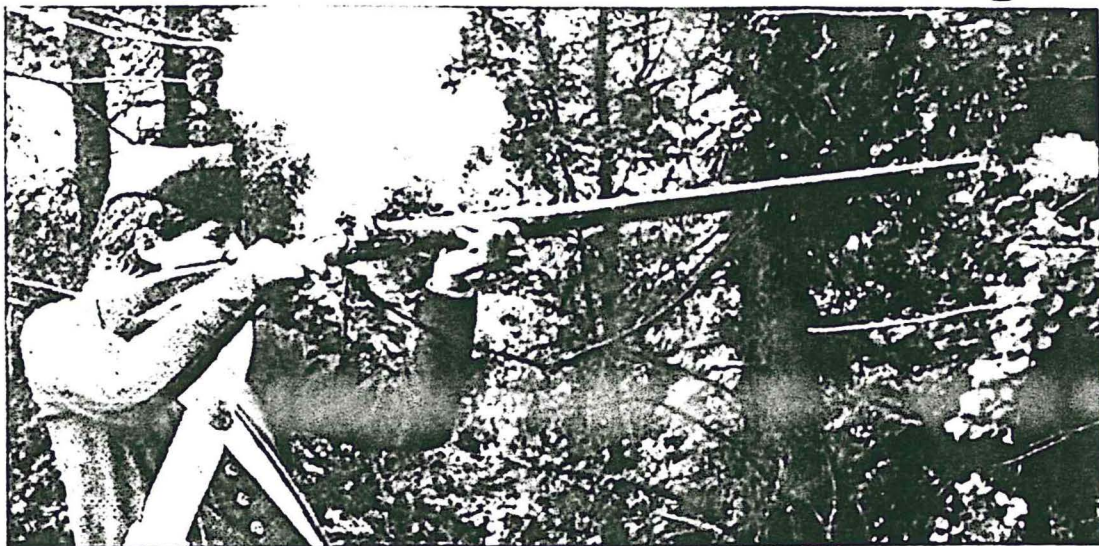
"Slowly the noose begins to tighten around the handful of troops. But the blood-red regimental flag is still there," he said, as the British advanced and the Continentals dwindled.

Eventually, the British prevailed. One British infantryman pretended to bludgeon a wounded American and tried to capture a woman re-enactor.

"The guy in the red shirt was obnoxious," said 9-year-old Amy Sparer of Yorktown, referring to the British soldier.

"It's a shame they had bad weather like this," said her mother, Susan Sparer. "But the British were very impressive. They carried the day."

The inn is built on the foundation of what was a barn for the nearby Davenport House. With its view of the river's crossing, the Davenport House served as the headquarters for the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. The British attacked the house that May morning, killing about a dozen men and dumping the commanding offi-



Angela Gaul/The Journal News

John Kish, 18, of Larchmont fires his musket during a Revolutionary War re-enactment yesterday at Peter Pratt's Inn in Yorktown.

cer's body in a ditch.

Ryan, who heads a teacher-training organization called the Living History Education Foundation, said yesterday's activities are

meant to inform as well as entertain.

"I think the smell of black powder and the sound of musket fire has a reality that far outstrips tele-

vision," Ryan said.

Reach Michael Risinit at mriscinit@thejournalnews.com or 845-228-2274.

The VIEW from Croton Heights

Our friend Bill Luken from Yorktown Heights, NY sends along this fascinating bit of information.

The DAVENPORT House and Peter Pratt's Inn is located in an old section of Yorktown called Croton Heights. They are located some distance from Hanover Street, the main road, Presently there are a couple of places in Yorktown from which one can see a bit of the Manhattan skyline – 40-45 miles to the south. One is on Croton Heights Road near Hanover Street. Just south of this section of Croton Heights Road there is an old farm where the trees have been cleared and so, provide an unobstructed view to the south. One can park a car along of the edge of this narrow windy road and just barely see the tops of the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building – with binoculars. Until 9-11-2001, there were two other towers plainly visible, even without binoculars!

This is exactly where I was at 9:15 on the morning of 9-11-2001. Having heard the news reports on the radio at about 9 am, I deviated from my normal commute-to-work route in order to swing by this location, knowing I could see the World Trade Towers from that point. Sure enough, there was this huge cloud of black smoke rising from both towers...rising up and then blowing to the left – to the east. I had already picked up my car-pool co-worker and we watched for about 5 minutes, then continued on to work, optimistic that the New York Fire Department could control the situation.

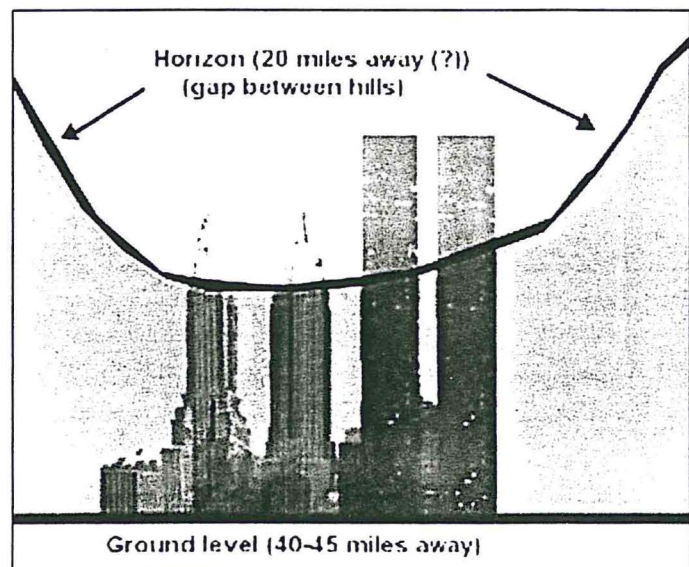
The attached diagram attempts to show what is visible from this point. This is a greatly enlarged view, like a powerful telescope.

At 45 miles, even skyscrapers look tiny! This distance is well beyond the horizon and one can only see the top 10% or so of each building that manages to reach above the horizon. Even here, one needs to peek through a small gap between distant hills and through the trees on the south side of the road. The shaded area in the diagram gives an x-ray view through the hills below the horizon.

Most people in Yorktown probably do not know about this spot! The Davenport House is located about 1 mile west of this point. During the Revolution, New York City had no skyscrapers. Instead the Americans objective was to overlook and guard the Croton River. The trees on the down-slope of the hill need to be cleared. These trees may have been cleared before 1781 but the trees there now probably have regrown since then. Nearly all new growth.

I hope this gives you an idea of how Croton Heights Road was not only the site of a disastrous attack on May 13, 1781 but was also in plain view of another disastrous attack 220 years later. Loyalists might not like being compared to Osama bin Laden, but the Patriots won, so they get to write the history books!

- Bill



The Joys and Woes of Genealogical Research! *A status report*

by Bill Luken

In the last issue of the Port Ryerse Journal you met Bill Luken and read about his alternate theory of WHO married Lucas RYERSON. Bill is still digging and we catch up with him in this issue still poking around cemeteries and searching for possible solutions to this grand puzzle. It's a story of success and failure – all common in the pursuit of family history!

First, there were definitely two contemporary women named Elizabeth Howell - and Lucas Ryerson married one of them. But "which one?" and "how do we know?" So I issued a challenge for anyone to identify any original document clearly linking Lucas to either woman. (Of course, I was hoping to link Lucas to the Elizabeth from Southampton!) Then (*aw shucks!*) Phyllis came up with a fine document clearly linking Lucas to the other Elizabeth, the one from Stockton in Amwell Twp.

So, is my theory dead? Can it be salvaged? Wait a minute!! Could it be an odd case of mistaken identity? Stay with me now – this may not be as nutty as it sounds!

Back in those days (1730-1750), there were no cameras and very few portraits. The only way to know what somebody looked like was to meet them in person. As a child grows up, this must be repeated because an adult looks very different from the same person as a child.

John Reading and his wife Mary Ryerson lived in a home on the Raritan River near present-day Flemington in Amwell Twp (then). His sister Mary Reading and her husband Daniel Howell lived near present-day Stockton and had several children including daughters Elizabeth and Mary. Stockton is not too far from Flemington so John Reading was probably able to see his nephews and nieces in Stockton from time to time. By 1733, both Mary and Daniel Howell had died. Their daughters Elizabeth and Mary would soon marry and move to other parts of New Jersey.

Meanwhile, in 1736, Lucas Ryerson married someone named Elizabeth Howell, daughter of Daniel and Mary Howell. Lucas and Elizabeth lived in Pequannock, which is quite a distance from Flemington. John Reading, meanwhile was busy with his farm, his growing family, and state politics. Remember, he was a member of the NJ Governor's Council. He traveled a lot, to Amboy, to Trenton, and no doubt to New York and Philadelphia. Years went by and he may have had few opportunities to go to Pequannock. Is it within the realm of possibility that he never mets Lucas's wife in person?

In 1745 Lucas's wife died. John Reading got the news and naturally concluded that Elizabeth Howell was his niece, the daughter of his late sister. He knew nothing about an Elizabeth Howell from Southampton and could not possibly have suspected any confusion.

Now the theory gets complicated!!

Lucas learned that his wife had inherited some property from her late father Daniel Howell and he was needed in Hunterdon County to help settle her estate. Did Mary (Howell) Sutphen come to Hunterdon with her husband? Lucas's wife was already dead and buried and with no photos, there would be no way for Mary to be certain that Lucas's wife was her own sister. Consequently, in spite of having married Elizabeth Howell from Southampton, could Lucas have ended up acquiring the property that was supposed to be inherited by Elizabeth Howell from Stockton? An odd case of mistaken identity?

Are we having fun yet?
We haven't even BEGUN! Read on!

Where ^{is} ~~are~~ Joseph Reading and His Wife Amy?

by William L. Luken- Yorktown Heights, New York

Joseph Reading (1728 - 1806) and his wife Amy Pearson Reading seemed to have a very close relationship with Joseph's uncle Lucas Ryerson (1704-1764). Joseph Reading's mother, Mary Ryerson was Lucas Ryerson's sister. Joseph Reading was a life-long resident of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. As a child, he lived with his parents near present-day Flemington. His childhood home was located across the river (*the South Branch of the Raritan River*) from the home of another uncle, Martin Ryerson.

Later, he lived in a fine house on an estate overlooking the Delaware River near present-day Rosemont.



Joseph and Amy were married in 1753, the same year that Lucas Ryerson moved back to Pequannock after living in Hunterdon County for about four years. During this period, Lucas married his third wife, Johanna Van Der Hoff, and their first child, Samuel was born in 1752. Consequently, Samuel Ryerson (later Ryerse) was probably born in Hunterdon County. Samuel Ryerson was probably named after Joseph's brother Samuel Ryerson Reading who died at age seven in 1749.

In 1756, both families had sons named John, after Joseph's father. In 1760 and 1761, each of these families had a son named Joseph and in 1771, Joseph and Amy named their fourth son Samuel Ryerson Reading.

After Joseph Reading died in 1806, his widow Amy was obliged to vacate the home she had shared with Joseph for the preceding 38 years. Under the terms of John Reading's will, ownership of this property passed directly to two sons, William and Joseph, Jr. who were not named in Joseph's will. At this time, Amy moved to another estate identified as "the plantation in the swamp." Amy was accompanied by her daughter Mary, who

never married, and granddaughter Susan. (*Silk in the Attic-Port Ryerse Journal-Feb 2005*)

After Amy died in 1828, her daughter Mary purchased the plantation in the swamp from her siblings, following the terms of Joseph's will. This property was sold again after Mary died in 1841. Mary, Susan and Susan's husband Peter Heath are all buried in adjacent graves in the Rosemont Cemetery in Rosemont, NJ, close to the home forfeited by Amy after Joseph's death in 1806. The Rosemont Cemetery also holds the graves of a number of other close relatives, including that of Samuel Ryerson Reading.

So, we know what happened to daughter Mary and granddaughter Susan, but whatever happened to Joseph and Amy? There are no signs of their graves in the Rosemont Cemetery. Nor is there any evidence for their graves in the Reading Family Cemetery located on a hilltop overlooking their former home.

According to a record in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Patriot Index, Joseph Reading, who died in Nov. 1806, was buried in the "Fairmont Cem" in Newark, New Jersey. The chances of Joseph Reading being buried in Newark are extremely remote. Newark is far removed from Rosemont and Hunterdon County and nobody in this family has any known ties to Newark. In addition, the Fairmount Cemetery in Newark was not established until 1855. He would have had to have been buried somewhere else in 1806, then dug up and re-interred sometime after 1855. According to records maintained by the Fairmount Cemetery, there is nobody named Joseph or Amy Reading buried in there.

There is a "Fair Mount Cemetery" in Chatham, New Jersey. Here again, it is very unlikely that Joseph or Amy would be buried here because of the distance from Rosemont.

In March of 2005, I obtained a copy of a transcript of a letter from Joseph's brother Thomas to his nephew John Mullen Reading. Dated Philadelphia August 1812, Thomas notes *"I don't know if I informed you of the Death of your Uncle Joseph who has been Dead sometime and the family all Distressed your Aunt living with 2 of the daughters in the Great Swamp as your Bror can inform you..."*

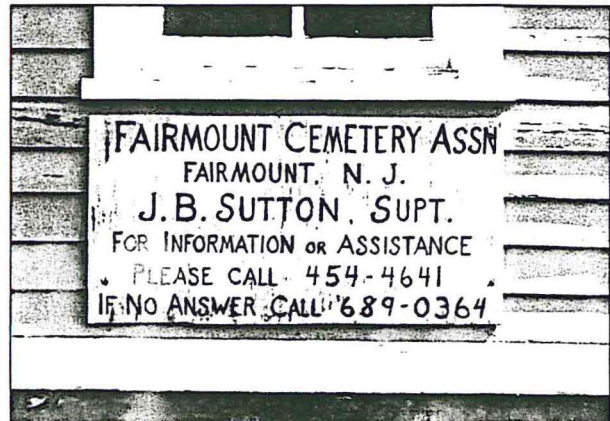
New Jersey has many swamps. Today, there is only one identified as "The Great Swamp." Now a National Wildlife Refuge it is located between Basking Ridge and (ta-da!) Chatham. So maybe the Fair Mount Cemetery in Chatham was a possible resting place for Joseph and Amy. After twenty phone calls over an eleven day period I was finally able to speak with someone who confirmed that they had no record of anybody with these names.

Another dead end!

I discovered three more Fairmount cemeteries right in Hunterdon County. The "Fairmount Cemetery," the "Fairmount Presbyterian Church Yard," and the "Fairmount Methodist Church Yard," all located in the town of Tewksbury near the northern border of Hunterdon County, about as far away from Rosemont as one can get while still in Hunterdon County.

The first had very few identifiable graves older than about 1870. E-mail inquiry resulted in this response: *"Joseph and Amy Reading are not listed among the people buried here. Also, their names could not be found in any of the NJ Historical Society records."*

STRIKE THREE, and still no clues about what happened to Joseph and Amy!



DEAD MAN on DUTY!

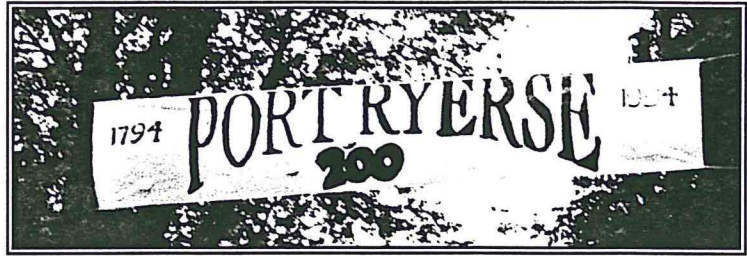
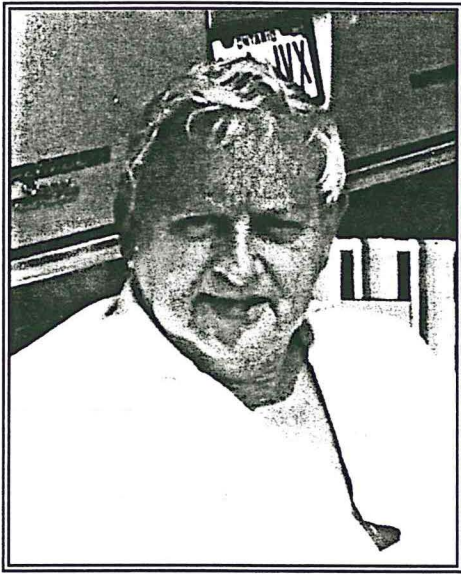
A hand-painted sign advises people of a number to call for information.

Sorry that person is dead! You get his widow, who tells you that she can't help. Her husband knew all that stuff, but he has been dead for two years now, and besides, he had Alzheimer's, so even before he died he couldn't remember any of that stuff. No, all the other old-timers are dead as well.



I found Locktown because the (now defunct) Baptist church there was also known as "The Chapel in the Swamp." The problem is that the old grave stones were all made of that crumbly brown-stone. These stones can last for centuries in very dry locations, but exposure to water causes them to crumble. The results have been utterly disastrous for this cemetery, located in "the Swamp," along the banks of Locktong Creek which probably floods annually.

Most of the stones in this cemetery have been reduced to short stubs, only about 3-6 inches tall. The portions with the inscriptions are completely gone. Who knows who may have been buried here? Joe and Amy could both be here.



'Flower' Bob Ryerse – 1930-2005

Active in the Simcoe Little Theatre, involved in more than 40 productions in over a 45 year period, Bob's dry wit and outgoing personality made him a natural actor who loved the limelight.

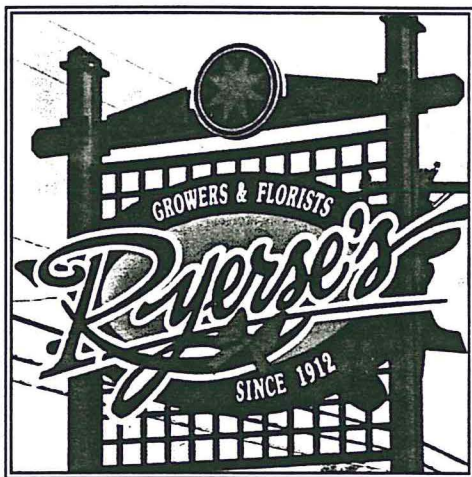
He was nominated Simcoe's Citizen of the Year in 2000. Noted for his hard work as a volunteer, he worked with Meals on Wheels and the Cancer Society among others.

With his interest in the Ryerse family background and his roots in the area, it is little wonder that he took an interest in local history. He was an active member of the Norfolk Historical Society.

In 1994 he served as co-chairman of the Ryerse-Ryerson Reunion '94 Committee and expertly helped steer the complicated planning for that 2 day event to great success. Coming from all across North America, the descendants of Samuel Ryerse, Joseph Ryerson as well as inhabitants of 'The Port' gathered for an event that will never be matched in our life-time. Beginning with a pancake breakfast, memorabilia exhibits, a Beach Regatta, a fish fry, a children's play entitled 'Spirits of the Past' and a street dance were just the beginning! The highlight of the weekend began Sunday morning with the re-enactment of Capt. Samuel Ryerse's arrival at the mouth of Ryerse Creek (*played by a descendant!*), the laying of a wreath on Capt. Ryerse's grave, the unveiling of an impressive monument to commemorate the event, the cutting of the cake using Capt. Ryerse's sword, and the Tug-O-War challenge topped off an amazing weekend - and Bob Ryerse had his hand in it all!

Our sincere sympathies are extended to Bob's wife, Barb, his children, Shelly Paladino, Stephen Ryerse and grandchildren, Nicole, Daniel and R. J. He is also remembered by his sisters Bertha Scott and Mary Brown.

Chris Thomas, a reporter with the Simcoe Reformer says, "The curtain has come down on a full and colourful life."

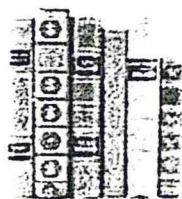


Founded by his father in 1912, Bob continued to operate Ryerse's Flowers and Garden Center in Simcoe, Ontario for many years. The familiar logo (*above*) was a common sight around town carried on the side of his delivery truck!

Bob was an outstanding citizen – generous with his time, talent and resources.

His good friend Wally Anderson remembers, 'When Bob was on the dance floor, everyone took cover!'

A Chat with Phyllis



It's Reunion time again! Gather up the kids, the grandparents, the aunts and uncles for another fun gathering. And don't forget the potato salad and lawn chairs!

I thought you'd enjoy a status report from Bill Luken on his current research into several family mysteries!! It gives you an up close and personal look at what a good researcher goes through while sorting out the facts and possibilities. Yes, it can be discouraging and we often wonder why we don't find another hobby to pursue. But NO, we keep on digging....and sometimes.....we get VERY lucky and a piece of ancient evidence turns up that is that one important piece to the puzzle we've been looking for. Why do we keep going?? Because we're addicted! It's a challenge that cannot be ignored! Some would agree that it's a disease! One for which there is no cure! Bill's affliction is incurable! So is mine! I've been afflicted since the first time I set foot in Port Ryerse!

Beware — it's highly infectious! <grin>

We'll miss Flower Bob! He kept us organized and moving in the right direction! Sympathies to the family.

phyllis

The Port Ryerse Journal

Published 3 times a year by the

RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada N5C 3K5
7440 Quarter Horse Lane, Gainesville, GA 30506
USA

Subscription Rate \$12 year

Submissions Welcome & Encouraged!

~~Rverse@Adelphia.net~~

Rverse_Ryerson_Family@yahoo.com

RYERSON Scholarship 2004-05 is held by Javier Lapeira, class of 2007. This remarkable young man has just completed his sophomore year at Yale University and is pursuing studies in biomedical engineering, French and the history of science and medicine. He will earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in five years. His list of accomplishments is extraordinary and we wish him great success in all of his endeavors.

TITANIC Exhibition of artifacts brought up from the ocean floor can be seen at the Maryland Science Center from February 15 to September 2005. Don't miss it if you are in the area.

New and corrected family info

Birth

Pg 341, #4467, Ben Ryerson and his partner Hayley Nicola Brooks announce the birth of their first child, Alexandra Elizabeth Ryerson, born 21 March 2005, London, England.

Marriage

Pg 199, #1342, Richard Wayne Jarvis, son of Grace (Ryerse) Fraser Jarvis, married on April 2nd 1993 in Orlando, FL, to Michele E. Fittin of Jersey City, NJ. They currently reside in Hawaii, USA.

Separation

Pg 354, #4507 & Nov 2003 Update of PRJ. Tom Ryerson and Vicki Brown, married 2003, separated October 2004. They remain friends and both continue to live in Woodstock, On.

If the last 50,000 years of man's existence were divided into lifetimes of approximately 62 years each, there have been about 800 such lifetimes. Only during the last 70 lifetimes has it been possible to communicate effectively from one lifetime to another, as writing makes it possible to do. Only during the last six lifetimes did masses of men ever see a printed word. Only during the last four has it been possible to measure time with any precision. Only in the last two has anyone anywhere used an electric motor. And the overwhelming majority of all the material goods we use in daily life today have been developed within the present, the 800th lifetime.

'FUTURE SHOCK' - TOFFLER

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 3

ISSN 201-0065

OCTOBER 2005

We Salute the Veterans

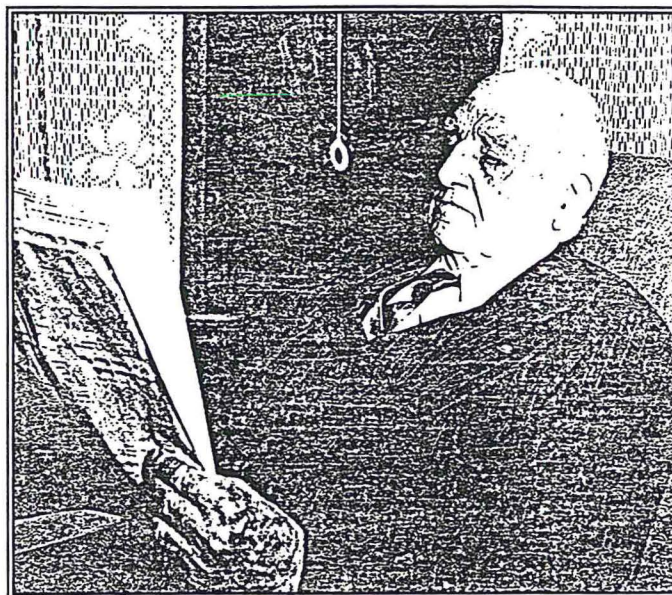
The men in this family have proven to be a courageous lot, always ready to defend family and country when duty demanded. The number in the various generations who served during Holland's war on Spain, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I and II, the Korean conflict, Viet Nam and the current conflicts in Iraq and the Mid-East, shows that **the fighting quality of this old Norse family is not thinned, merely a bit more civilized.**

On 6 April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and officially entered World War I. On 18 May 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed, requiring every male living within the United States between the ages of eighteen and forty-five to register for the draft. From those records we have located 118 draft cards for young Ryerse and Ryerson men who registered for the draft and served in WW I.

Records for the American Civil War can be examined as well and we are especially fascinated by the record of Abraham Ryerson of Pequannock, N.J. He enlisted in New York City in 1861 when he was 19 years old and was assigned to the Fourth New York Independent Battery of Light Artillery. He served under General Philip Sheridan and participated in a long list of battles including the siege of Yorktown, the battles of Williamsburg, Malvern, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg to mention only a few. He was discharged in October of 1864, the only member of his company to come out of the fight unharmed.

He married Martha Benjamin in 1868 and was a life-long member of the Pompton Plains Church, often walking the several miles every Sunday morning to attend services. He was a staunch Republican and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln.

He served ten years as assistant jailer for Hudson County and in 1902 was elected Sheriff for Morris County. He served as a Pequannock Councilman for two years and was a member of the county committee. He was employed for 22 years by the Lafin & Rand Powder works and once worked with a brother-in-law laying sidewalks in the Oranges (N.J.).



Abraham Ryerson in his Lincoln Park home.

When he was 95 he was chosen as Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade in Paterson, N.J., a role he was called on several times to perform. At his 100th birthday, the Lincoln Park V.F.W. honored him with a birthday party for 600 friends and relatives including veterans of five wars, Abraham being the last veteran of the Civil War in Morris County. He declined to speak himself but offered to shake hands with everyone present!

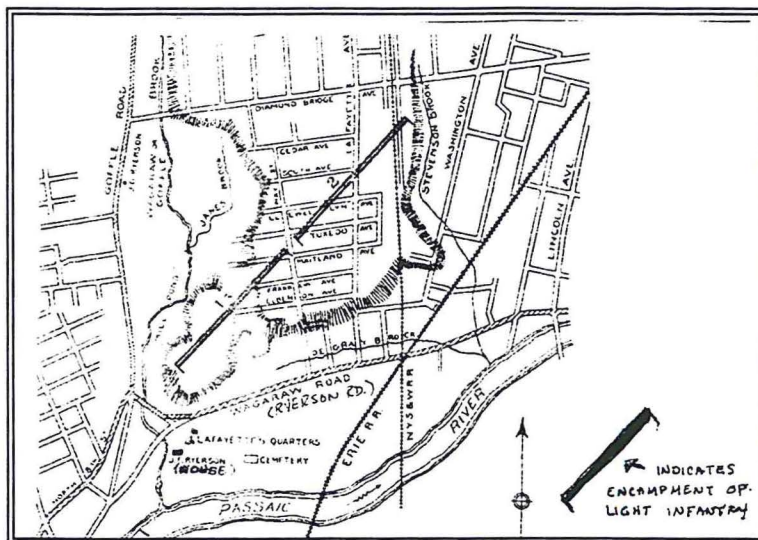
Abraham died in December 1943, just one month short of **102 years old**. He had a soldierly bearing and was in good health until he fell and fractured a hip. He loved to read the newspaper – without glasses – and treasured a pocket edition of the New Testament given to him by the Christian Assoc. of N.Y. when he entered the war.

As a very young child, Cathy Overcamp, our cousin from Maine, vividly remembers her great grandfather reading his paper, a large man with strong, gnarled hands – and a pocket watch sticking out of his vest pocket!

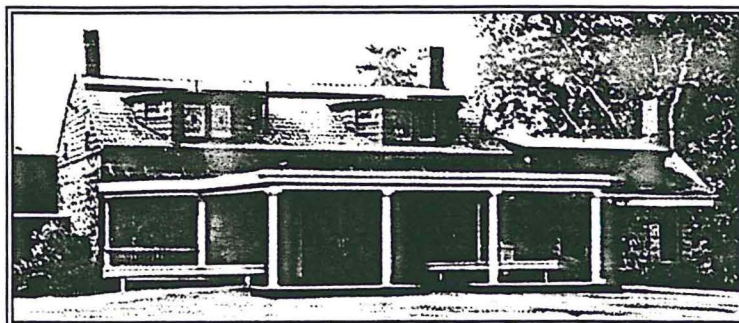
Phyllis Ryerse

The LOYALIST, Andrew TEN EYCK And his wife Ann Ryerson

So many families were torn apart by the Revolutionary War with some members remaining loyal to the King of England and others desiring independence from the ruler across the ocean. We've seen this happen in our own family....with the brothers Samuel Ryerse and Joseph Ryerson remaining loyal and the rest of their family fighting for the Patriot cause. The list includes John Francis Ryerson (son of Frans and nephew of Joris), who "steadfastly opposed the measures taken by the American Congress and 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." In his own words he tells of making "his escape at the risk of my life, fired at by many parties of the Rebels. I joined the British and remained with them on Long Island and later in the Province of Nova Scotia." And then, to add insult to injury, in July and October of 1780, the enemy... 2 brigades of Light Infantry or about 2000 men were encamped on his farm at Wagaraw and Major General Lafayette himself had stationed his headquarter tents directly back of the house. This farm and dwelling house that he had inherited from his father would be confiscated - just like land was confiscated from Samuel Ryerse.



John Francis had an older sister, **ANTJE**, who was born and baptized in NY on 10 November 1714, just a few years before their father. Frans had moved his family to N.J. She and her 11 siblings grew up at Wagaraw, which in the Indian language meant 'where the river bends.' It lay on the great bend of the Passaic River just north of what would someday be the bustling city of Paterson, N.J. It was a beautiful area - 600 acres in all. It had rich black soil and the Goffle Brook and the Passaic River were clear and fresh and teeming with fish. Her father had built their house facing south with a lovely view of the river and valley. (Shown above with addition of modern portico-serves today as Scordatos Restaurant, Hawthorne N.J.)



On 11 June 1746 it was written in the records of the Acquackanonk Dutch Church that **ANTJE REYERSEN** and **ANDRIES TEN EYCK** had been united in marriage. It states that both the bride, **Ann**, and the groom, **Andrew**, had been born in New York and were living in Somerset Co. somewhere near the Raritan River. They probably went to house-keeping in the Acquackanonk area where they would baptize their eight children including Andrew (Jr.) who we will follow in a minute. (Andrew's Will leaves to his sons, plantations on the Raritan River, Raritan Landing, on the South Branch of the Raritan River & a Mill on Holland's Brook.

*The **Coenraedt TEN EYCK** family sailed from Amsterdam about 1650 and settled in New Amsterdam. He and his wife Maria Boele would have 11 children including **TOBIAS** who married Eliza Hegeman. They had seven children including **ADRIAN**, who married Rebecca Van Der Vliet. Adrian would eventually move his family to Somerset Co., N.J. It is his son, Andries (**ANDREW**) who married Ann Ryerson.*



Andrew Ten EYCK (jr.) was a shoemaker and very early embraced the Loyalist cause. Like his 2nd cousins, Samuel Ryerse and Joseph Ryerson, he joined the New Jersey Loyalists and was assigned to the 2nd, later the 3rd Battalion. These battalions suffered like all the other NJV battalions – trying to recruit, train and immediately being thrown into combat! Initially,

there wasn't even clothing to give the men and they served until April 1777 in whatever they wore from home. That April, however, they were issued their first uniforms, green coats faced with white. For the next year they became known simply as "The Greens!"

They took part in numerous raids mostly originating from Staten Island until the Continental General John Sullivan proposed to wipe out the entire NJV! He tried but it didn't work! The command of the 3rd was given to Lt. Col. Isaac ALLEN, a Trenton lawyer and no doubt the finest commander among the NJV battalions. 120 men of the battalion had the honor of serving under the celebrated Captain Patrick Ferguson in their raid into New Jersey. They, along with some of the 1st battalion and the 5th Regiment of Foot (British), caught the famous Pulaski's Legion while asleep at Egg Harbor, N.J. They took part in other battles throughout the south, too many to list, but which included such familiar names as Musgrove's Mill, Ninety Six and Eutaw Springs. By February 1783, Andrew was noted as being 'on furlow, Staten Island.'

Wishing to remain under British rule after the war, many of these soldiers were resettled, some to New Brunswick (like Samuel and Joseph). Andrew Ten Eyck and his brother received a large land grant in Frontenac County, Kingston Township, on the present site of the town of Cataraqui, Ontario. In 1784, they made their way from New Jersey, thru dangerous forest trails and by water on Lake Champlain to Sorel on the St. Lawrence River. From Sorel they went to the North shore of Lake Ontario, settling in the Kingston area. Andrew's brother returned to New York soon after but he

stayed in the area a few years longer and then returned to New York, much like Sam Ryerse did.

Andrew married Catherine Bird on 23 Sept 1787 in New York City. They stayed in New York for about 10 years, coming back to Ontario on June 2 1797, settling on his land in Kingston. Andrew helped build a dock for the British Government there and a tavern, and in 1807 was granted a contract to run the Wolfe Island Ferry.

He became a Master Mariner sailing Lake Ontario out of Kingston until 1812. During the War of 1812, Andrew skippered an armed schooner protecting Kingston Harbour. In a major battle on 3 June 1813, he lost not only his left arm but also his oldest son, Samuel, killed in battle.

A story is told by his descendants that his ship was captured by the Americans at Cape Vincent in US waters. He was taken under guard and locked in the hold. During the night the American crew got drunk on Andrew's rum supply and he was able to free his crew, take back the ship and return to Kingston with the Americans as HIS prisoners!

After the War of 1812, he settled on land in Fredericksburg Township, Lennox & Addington County. He and Catharine had 14 children who have flourished and multiplied in Canada.

Like Ryerse, the Ten Eyck family name has been spelled many ways such as Tenyke, Denyke and most of the Canadian records have it as DENIKE. Research continues as we welcome these cousins to our data base!

Our thanks to **THOMAS RYERSON** who did all the sleuthing on this story! Great job Tom! Credit also goes to Linda BONNELL, Dave DENIKE and Steve VAN DIE for sharing information.

Ryerson Genealogy – 1916 pg. 10.

Anthony Denike 1803-1853 by Marilyn Denike of Hamilton. Privately printed 1994-5.

Holland Society Vol VI. Acquackanonk Dutch Church Records- pg 216.

http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany_bios/t/teneyck.html

[People of Colonial Albany Live Here website](http://www.peopleofcolonialalbanylivehere.com)

http://pages.prodigy.net/teneyck_FTree/FTree-1.html

<http://www.royalprovincial.com/index.htm>

<http://www.angelfire.com/ny/chickened/teneyckfamily.html>

The Unknown – but Beautiful ELIZABETH COLWELL

NO.....she was NOT the first wife of Capt. Samuel Ryerse! The rumor that she WAS his wife has been floating around for a long time. Let's set the record straight!

Many of you will be familiar with the dark brown (last time I saw it) house that sits right down almost at waters edge in Port Ryerse, Ontario. The creek is on the other side. Many years ago it was the residence of **Dr. John Gunton** and probably still belongs to some member of that family.

When I first visited Port Ryerse, I met Dr. Gunton, a fine old gentleman, considered the unofficial family historian in those days. He invited me to his home and we spent a long, fascinating afternoon together. He showed me many books and papers and documents about the family. I peppered him with questions and soaked up all the family history that I could! I didn't want to become 'a pest' but he seemed pleased with my intense interest and brought out more and more family memorabilia to share with me!

And so I asked him about Elizabeth Colwell. Was she Samuel's wife??? **"No, No,"** he said! **"I, myself am the source of that false rumor! Let me explain!"** Out from behind a door, he brought a large framed oil painting – of obvious great age. It was of a beautiful lady, sitting very straight and proper for her portrait! Dr. Gunton confessed that he had taken a screwdriver and pried the canvas out of the frame---- and after close examination, discovered a name written on the back....very faint in pencil. He was finally able to make out the letters:

Elizabeth Colwell.

But who was this lovely lady? He wondered if she could be Samuel's wife. From her clothing, she certainly was of the correct era....and probably of the correct age... but who was she?? He assured me that he did **NOT** know who she was. Over the next years he asked many of the family members and other old timers in the neighborhood who might know – but no one could identify her. Somehow her name began to be circulated as being Samuel's wife. That's how incorrect information gets started I suppose!

The 'old-timers' are all gone now but I have been asking around also – electronically! I found a George Colwell (b. 1729) whose wife was named Elizabeth.....as was their daughter Elizabeth who was born in 1759. Is this the beautiful Elizabeth in the

portrait? We have no further information about this Colwell family except that they lived somewhere around Westbury, Canada. We don't even know if it was in Ontario....or perhaps Quebec...or was it the name of a locality that is called something else today?? As usual - Lots of unanswered questions. All we know for sure is that Elizabeth Colwell was NOT the first wife of Sam Ryerse!

So WHO WAS Sam's first wife??

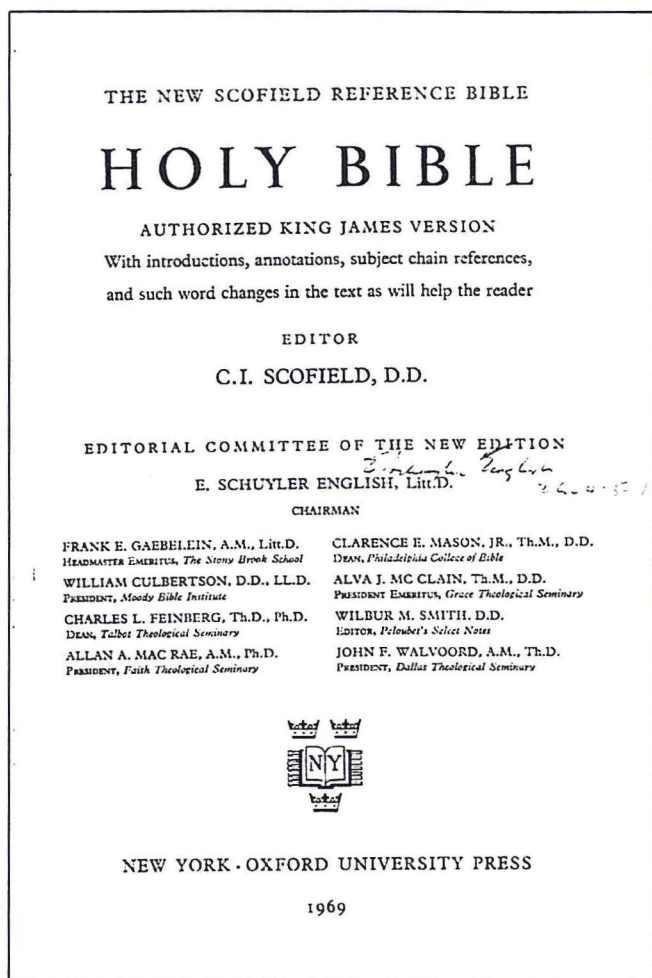
Samuel's oldest child Elizabeth, was baptized at the Dutch Church in Pequannock. The sponsors were Jacob and Elizabeth Demere (or Demerest). For awhile we investigated the large and complicated Demerest family. Lots of similarities there – for instance, both families had land confiscated by the government because of their Loyalty to the King. After the Rev. War was over and Samuel and his family had returned to N.Y., Jacob Demerest and his family were living in lower N.Y.....on Dey Street! Actually, there were THREE Jacob Demerests living nearby! (*This hobby can make ya' crazy!*)

Then our good friend and cousin David Avery was digging in the old NY Lutheran Church records and found another baptismal record for baby Hannah – daughter of Samuel and **HELENA** Ryerson!! (*March 1995 issue of the Port Ryerse Journal*) Sponsors at that baptism were Capt. Van Allen and his wife Hannah. The baby was probably named for Hannah Van Allen. Was she the baby's AUNT? Were Hannah and Helena Ryerson SISTERS? To the best of our research skills, Hannah was a Van Norden before her marriage to the dashing Capt. Van Allen. The Van Norden's are another large and complicated New Jersey family. So maybe our Helena was not a Demerest but instead a Van Norden?

That's where it stands today. All I can tell you with any certainty is that her name was HELENA and she was NOT Elizabeth Colwell!

Research continues. Perhaps another old document will turn up one day that will uncover Helena's identity! Keep Looking!

Phyllis Ryerse



Shown above is the title page of my Scofield Reference Bible (1969 edition). You'll notice that it has been autographed by **E. Schuyler English**, Litt.D., the Chairman of the Editorial Committee for this edition.

Since I am a preacher's daughter, I was used to traveling preachers and evangelists stopping by our house for a meal....and sometimes they would even give the Sunday's sermon (*and autograph a little girl's Bible!*).

After I was married and became interested in my husband's family history, I learned that one of his early ancestors, JORIS REYERSZ was a partner with **ARENT SCHUYLER** and other early settlers in the purchasing and settling of a large section of New Jersey land and I always wondered if E. Schuyler English was somehow related to Arent Schuyler! In 1971 we wrote to Dr. English and received a very gracious reply! Yes, he remembered the kind hospitality of our family. His brother had researched the English family in New Jersey and New York but alas, had never looked for a connection to the Schuyler family! There must be one! pr

Ryerse-Ryerson Family Reunion

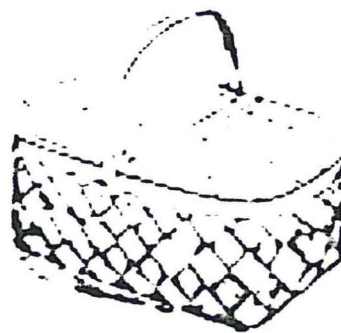
The 52nd Annual Ryerse-Ryerson Family Reunion was held Sunday July 10th, 2005. Hot and sunny day outside, cool inside with tables full of wonderful food and desserts!

15-1/2 mo. old Preston Chithalen and 86 year old Murray Madge were but two of the 110 Cousins assembled. There were lots of contest winners – too many to list – but here's a few highlights: Audrey Bryant with the longest hair at 33 inches! The Jelly Bean winner was Paige Trundou. Drusilla Bryant attended the reunion from the farthest distance, Bracebridge, ON.

With the beautiful summer weather, Jan Chithalen and Stephen "Bend the rules" Mahdi had no problem coaxing the family out to participate in the sports program that included 3-legged races, sprints and wheelbarrow races. Stuart Kitchen, Laikin Beresford, Katy Wilkinson and Sam Ryerse were all first place winners in the ever-popular shoe kick. (Wait...did I read that right??? YES.....SAM RYERSE!!)

The famous tug of war was followed by the first ever water balloon toss. The game started out orderly, but with 60 balloons full of Vittoria water, it didn't take long to turn it into a free for all. Even Tom Ryerson got himself into trouble when he tossed a balloon into the crowd of onlookers! (...by mistake....honest!)

This reunion is held in Canada the 2nd Sunday of July every year, and is open to the descendants of Col. Samuel Ryerse, Col. Joseph Ryerson, Francis Ryerson, and Anne Ryerson Denike, all who came to Canada after the American Revolution. Mark your calendars and join us for next years fun!



Cousins in the NEWS

Ryerson Tull 2Q Earnings Rise 25 Percent

7-28-2005 FORBES MAGAZINE

Metal processor Ryerson Tull Inc. on Thursday said its second-quarter profit swelled 25 percent, lifted by higher volumes and the January acquisition of Integrus Metals Inc. Net sales totaled \$1.52 billion, nearly twice last year's sales of \$794.7 million.

Looking forward, Ryerson said its third quarter is typically slower than the first half of the year because of summer shutdowns, adding that it also anticipates continued pricing pressure.

OCEANPORT, N.J. - Livermore Valley pulled away in the stretch and captured the \$60,000 Colleen Stakes at Monmouth Park on Saturday, beating Ten Halos by 4 1/2 lengths. The 2-year-old filly, trained by **Jim Ryerson**, paid \$7, \$3.60 and \$2.60.

August 11, 2005

Warwick police seek help in rash of burglaries

Warwick, N.Y. detectives are investigating a string of five similar burglaries over the past few weeks, and are asking residents to call with any information. The break-ins have occurred on Hoyt Road, Crescent Avenue, Brady Road, Woodside Drive and **Ryerson Road**.

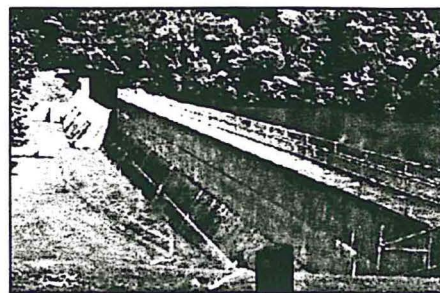
Welcome Home, Nate

Lance Corporal Nathan Ryerson was welcomed back from the war in Iraq with flags, signs, tears, a song and prayers of thanksgiving. Ryerson, 27, is a member of ill-fated Lima Company, 3rd Bat., 25th Marines from Ohio - a unit that lost 14 Marines on Aug. 3. Nate's wife Suzanne was expecting their first child and he was granted a temporary emergency leave when she was hospitalized with complications. She has now given birth to a baby boy who has been named Thomas Klyne Ryerson. His grandparents are Greg and Jane Ryerson of Centerville, Ohio.

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO -- The Herrett Center for Arts and Science is hosting "Immersion Presents: Life at the Extremes," a program that uses satellites to connect people to researchers studying hydrothermal vents on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. **Autumn Ryerse, 10**, saw the program with the Boys and Girls Club. "I thought it was interesting," she said. "It didn't look like it was underwater."

RYERSON LAKE Now a MUDHOLE!

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on Thursday began draining 62 acre Duke Lake at



Ryerson Station State Park in Greene Co., Pa. because of significant changes to the stability of the lake's 45-year-old concrete dam. The draw down will bring the water level below the damaged area of the dam. It is the centerpiece of the 1,164 acre park although there are other activities people can still enjoy including hiking, camping and swimming at the pool.

A flat expanse of brown mud scattered with pieces of driftwood is all that is left of the lake today. A consultant has been hired to determine the cause of the leak at the dam and develop options for repairing it. The intention is to restore it but it will take time.

Survivor of TITANIC sails with Rescuer New York, April 6, 1922

Mrs. Arthur Ryerson of Chicago was among the passengers sailing on the Mauritania today. Mrs. Ryerson is a survivor of the Titanic disaster and was rescued by the steamer Carpathia, then in command of Captain Rostron, who now commands the Mauritania. He greeted Mrs. Ryerson cordially when she boarded the vessel and she again thanked him for his rescue work at the time the Titanic sank.



The Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald

July 27, 2005

How Joyce's list became the toast of cyberspace

At 88, Joyce Ryerson never expected to become an internet celebrity, the darling of "the genies". "It got a bit silly," she says. People "come up to me and say, 'Are you the Ryerson of the Ryerson Index?'" Few outside the gentle world of genealogy have ever heard of the Ryerson Index. But at next month's meeting of the "Dead Persons Society" (after the 1989 film, *Dead Poets Society*), they'll be cracking open the champagne. The Ryerson Index is celebrating its millionth entry. It is an invaluable tool for any Australian trying to trace their family tree because privacy laws mean there is no public index of deaths in NSW after 1985.

Yet the index owes its advancement to a human quirk. For 14 years, Joyce Ryerson read her *Herald* every morning, cut out the requisite columns and saved them in her laundry room. She wasn't a genealogist then, merely trying to compile a register of former pupils of her old school, SCEGGS Darlinghurst. But when she mentioned the contents of her laundry to fellow members of the Dead Persons Society, there was jubilation.

"It took me a few minutes to pick my jaw off the ground," the societies Mr. Graham said. "To a genealogist, it's a goldmine. I was in that laundry the next day. I arrived home with the trunk of my car stuffed with death notices." His team set to work, converting the newspaper clippings into data that would prove invaluable to web-based family historians around the world for generations to come. This month, the 120 volunteers celebrated a milestone: their millionth entry. That makes the Ryerson Index the biggest of its type in the world, says Graham: "As far as newspaper-based indexes are concerned, there's nothing that comes remotely close to us."



Chicago REAL ESTATE – For Sale *Properties of Distinction* 1431 N. Astor Near North Side



This 1894 Georgian mansion is available for only the third time for \$6 million. For more than 40 years, the black brick Georgian was the home of the late Edward L. Ryerson and his wife, Nora. Ryerson was the chairman of Inland Steel and the founder of WTTW-Channel 11. The couple bought the house in 1919 and sold it in 1965. It has 12,500 sq. ft. of living space and 7 working fireplaces. The house is a time capsule to a more elegant era when the elite of Chicago raised their families and entertained their guests along exclusive streets such as Astor. Behind the scenes were a cadre of cooks, butlers, maids and other servants.

In 1965, the Ryersons actually considered tearing the house down rather than selling it. They dreaded the thought that someone might buy it and modernize it. Mrs. Ryerson would hide in a closet so she could overhear the conversations of would-be buyers. When she heard them say, 'I wouldn't change a thing,' she knew she had the right people."

The current owners, a retired banker and his wife, a successful novelist, are selling because they no longer need all of the room and stairs. Their children are grown and on their own. The couple has time to travel. Their next home will be all on one level, she said. An unusual feature of the house is the original "sheet presser." Patented in 1894, it is a large gas-fired device that processes sheets hung over vertical racks.

FOUND & LOST



You're gonna love this story!!

Here's the cover of a Redbook magazine that I've had in my possession since 1974!

The cover beauties are your cousins, Kathy and Amy Schuller!

In 1999 I was able to **FIND** Kathy's cousin, Theresa Havner in Yakima, Washington. We exchanged a few e-mails. She was very excited to connect to someone who could tell her more about her early ancestors.

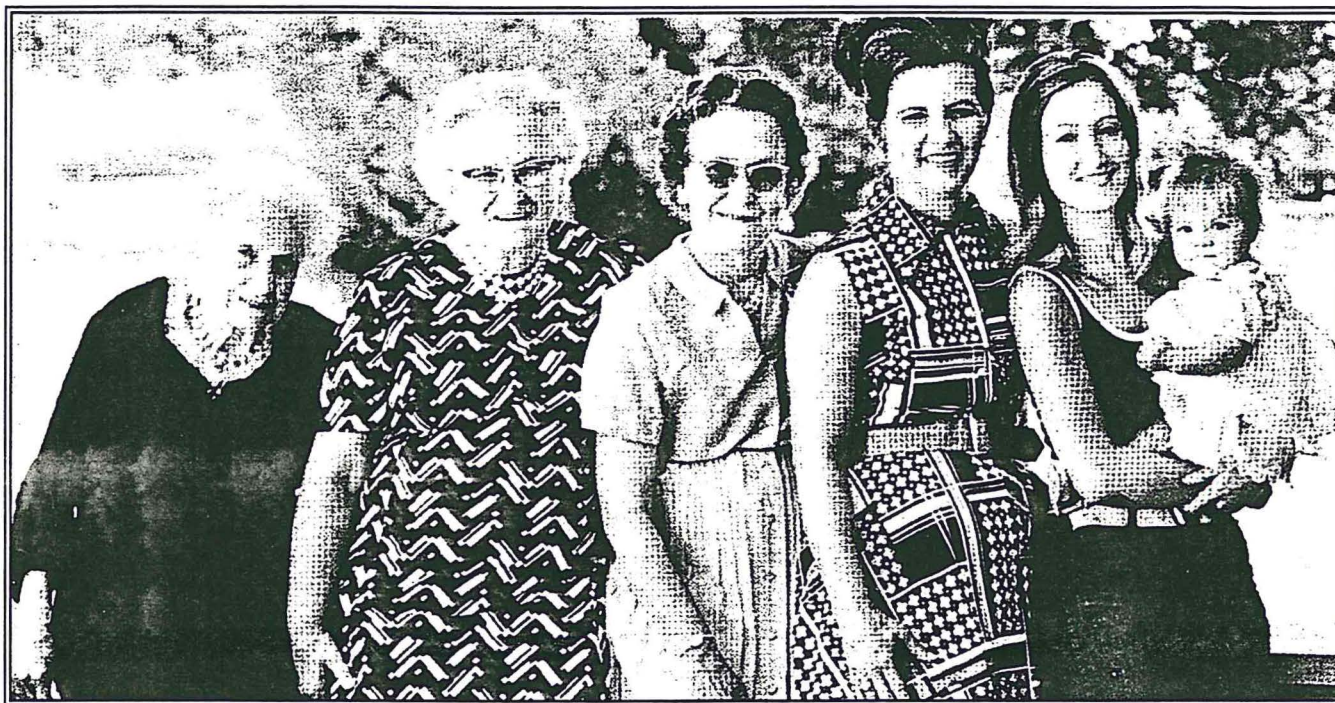
BUT THEN.....

I LOST HER and I've been unable to reach her since then - either by e-mail or regular mail. If she's moved, even the phone book won't help!

Meanwhile, I've condensed the lengthy 30+ year old Redbook story for you (*original written by free-lance writer Dorothy Gallagher*). I know you'll enjoy reading the story of SIX generations of women in this family - their lives and how you are related to them.

Meanwhile, if you know Theresa.....or Kathy.....or even Amy (*who would be 30 today!*) tell them I'm looking for them!

We'd love to hear some updates on the family in 2005!



Above: Edna RYERSON Troutman and her family on her 97th birthday.

From left to right – Edna;
her daughter Lucy
her granddaughter Louise
her great-granddaughter Sandra
her great-great-granddaughter Kathy
her great-great-great granddaughter, Amy

Edna Ryerson Troutman sits on a wooden chair waiting to tell the story of her life. She is a very old woman, 97 years old. In the year she was born Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States and General Custer was killed at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Now she is stooped with age; her hair is thin and white; her hands are knotted with arthritis. I recognize a bit of girlishness in her as I look at a faded photograph of a young woman, small and fair, wearing a long skirt with a child by her side.

That child, her daughter, is 80 years old now. Her daughter's daughter is 62. The female line descends on down to Amy Schuller, her great-great-great-granddaughter, 15 months old. Six generations that span almost 100 years.

In the interval between Edna and Amy there have been five wars, a great depression, revolutions in technology and in social customs. The men in the family have been farmers, small shop-keepers, laborers and itinerant loggers following the work.

Edna Troutman lives in a small, old, weathered gray house in the town of Yakima, in the eastern foothills of Washington's Cascade Mountains. She lives alone, about a mile away from her son and his wife. She has a Manx cat and a pug dog for company and still does all her own cooking, baking and housework. But let's let her tell her own story!



A photograph taken in 1910 shows Edna Ryerson Hipshire with her father Martin Ryerson, right, and her brother Abe.

"I was born on July 11, 1876 in Hope Township, Barry Co., Michigan. My father's name was Martin Ryerson and my mother's name was Elizabeth Hardy Ryerson. I'm the eighth generation of the family since the 1600's when they came over to the United States. My Dad did everything. He worked in the woods and he farmed and he was a river driver. You know what that is? Well, they had to wear special boots and they'd ride the logs down the river. My mother died when I was two and a half years old and after that I lived with my granddaddy Ryerson and my grandmother. They had an awful big farm and I grew up there. I miss my grandmother. I don't remember when she died but I must know something about it because I remember that when I went to bed I used to play I was dead!"

Martin>Frans>Theunis>Theunis>Theunis>Abraham>Martin>**EDNA**>Lucy>Louise>Sandra>Kathy>Amy Find Edna on page 253 of the 1916 Ryerson Genealogy.

"My life as a little girl was just like any other little girl's. I'd wander through the woods and eat all the wild stuff I could find. I knew when the first sassafras bark was ready to eat and I knew when the first wintergreen came up and when the first berries were ripe. And the mandrake apples. I could smell the mandrake apples just as far as they could be and I got the first ones every time. I'd get an apronful of them and go along and eat them just like you do the pomegranate. You punch a hole and suck them out! How I wish I could get another mandrake apple!"

"I just wandered all over by myself. I was taught to make fine stitches. I was educated in Hastings, Mich. I married in Hastings. I was about seventeen, I guess, when I got married, just the right age to make a wrong choice. But I had two wonderful kids by him. We did a lot of visiting and he was an awful dancer. He just loved to dance but I never cared for it. I sat on the sidelines with the little folks. They'd be asleep and he'd be dancing with everybody that he knew. I divorced him after ten years and went to live with my Dad and brother on their farm. Dad got me an incubator and a brooder and I had a great time raising chickens. I learned how to sew and make butter and had a wonderful time."

"It was always a sore spot with me that they sold out and came West. I never got my roots down out here. It's never been home. My Dad sold out because he got the 'wishing fever' – that's all I can tell you. After my mother died he couldn't settle down nowheres at all. He was lost, so we came West. We landed in Washington the first day of November, 1908. That's the year I married Mr. Hipshire. Then I commenced to work out. It was my first time for working out. Ten cents and hour, I got for washing,

ironing, scrubbing. My Dad worked on the canal they was building. And I picked fruit and packed fruit. I tell folks I've done everything but fly to the moon!"

Edna's daughter Lucy was born in 1893, a time when the results of the industrial revolution were making themselves felt. In the early 1890's the first movie film had been developed and the human voice transmitted over the air without wires. Edna's children turned to one another for child care, companionship and for good times.

And now Louise, Lucy's daughter, picks up the story: *"We'd all go camping when the kids was little. My mom and me would pile into a car and take a dirt road to this river. There was a barge there and the Indians pulled us across the river and we'd cook over an open fire and sleep on the ground in tents. Gosh, we used to have fun."*

Sandra is Louise's youngest daughter. She was born in 1934 and remembers that in her grandmother's butcher shop, hamburger cost 25 cents for 6 pounds. She grew up during the Second World War and married for the first time during the Korean War. She had 1 son and 3 daughters including Kathy who is Amy's mother (cover picture of them both).

"The grandmothers don't really give out advice to me," said Kathy. "They all pretty much feel their grand-kids should lead their own lives. Times have changed since they were young and married. They can only tell of their experiences and hope we'll learn something from them."

The women descending from Edna Ryerson Troutman are all self-reliant – none more so than 'little Grandma,' as the matriarch of the family is called. She is an astonishingly independent woman. Last autumn she had a fall in her house in Yakima. She didn't break anything, just shaken up a little. Lucy her daughter came over from Tacoma to stay with her awhile. *"She's fine," Kathy said, "but Grandma Lucy was letting Little Grandma's dog out one night and she fell down the steps and broke her arm in two places. So Little Grandma had to take care of HER! They're both fine now, thank goodness."*



(This story was written in winter of 1974)

Coffee with
Phyllis



We wish there was space enough here to tell the story of every one of our veterans. They include brave fellows in Canada and England as well as the USA. They fought hard and we are proud of them all.

We have been fascinated by Tom's discovery of our Denike cousins who were Loyalists and we are proud to recognize them in this issue. The similarities of the experiences of that family and that of Capt. Samuel Ryerse are striking.

If you are on the internet, sign on for daily Google alerts of news of Ryerse and Ryersons in the news. It's free and you'll be awed by the diverse activities of some of your cousins! You'll enjoy reading what's going on at Toronto's Ryerson University and what the students there are up to!

If you're in the market for a copy of the 1916 Ryerson Genealogy, the eBay Stores are advertising a reprint of the classic for \$32.55 + \$4 shipping.

This issue wraps up 12 years for the Port Ryerse Journal (*a stunning accomplishment at least from my point of view!*) We continue to receive positive feedback and appreciate hearing from our readers! You're a very loyal group and we'll try to keep every issue jam-packed with fresh and fascinating material!

Be sure to send Tom your subscription renewals at the address below. The February issue is already 'in the works' and it's a dandy!

phyllis

The Port Ryerse Journal
Published 3 times a year by the
RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association
Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada N5C 3K5
7440 Quarter Horse Lane, Gainesville, GA 30506
USA
Subscription Rate \$12 year
Submissions Welcome & Encouraged!
Ryerse@Adelphia.net
Ryerse_Ryerson_Family@yahoo.com

The State Journal-Register Online - Springfield, Ill.
9-13-05

TIM RYERSON, CEO of the Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the AMERICAN RED CROSS said his agency is helping more than 200 people from 88 families who have come to the Springfield area from the Gulf Coast hurricane tragedy.

Grand Old Veteran

At the age of 100 years he is still active and able to participate in the 1942 Memorial Day parade and exercises.

**Largest Memorial Day Parade
Is Most Successful In Years**

Abraham Ryerson, 100-Year-Old Civil War Veteran, Rides At Head Of Marchers—

Here's a giggle -

...from (*cousin*) Nancy Pietruszka...
My aunt told me that my great grandmother Ryerson-Cyphers used to chew tobacco...

Jan

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 1

ISSN 201-0065

FEBRUARY 2006

Another in our Favorite Son series

COLONEL HENRY OGDEN RYERSON

One of the most liked, most ambitious officers in New Jersey's Union Army during the American Civil War.

By DENNIS ROSS

Keeping his head down the Colonel crawled to the crest of the hill. He had ordered his men to lie down as the bullets from the enemy's rifle fire screamed overhead. They were in an exposed area with no real protection from the murderous Confederate sniper fire. The Union army was in full retreat as Yankee after Yankee came pouring through his position, running away from the superior numbers of confederates hiding in the protection of the woods.

The Colonel however, needed to see the enemy lines! He had to catch a glimpse of what he was facing so he could position his men for the next assault. He had come far with these men and would provide the best possible protection for their last assault on this day.

"Keep your heads down!" he yelled, as more and more bullets screamed overhead.

The wooded area was a good 100 to 200 yards to his left down an incline. He knew there were enemy troops to his right and a large detachment straight ahead. That enemy detachment was also in an exposed area but had dug in to wait for the next attack.

His orders were to stop the retreat of his army and advance at all costs to take the area. He had to see better, had to know how large the force was that he was facing! He also knew if he rose up to his knees he would expose himself to fire from the enemy but he had to take that chance! Just a few seconds and he could duck back down again and prepare his troops.



Henry Ogden Ryerson,
Colonel and commander of the
10th New Jersey Infantry of the 6th
Corps, Army of the Republic

Photo by Mathew Brady, 1860

In the wooded area across from the Union lines, a Confederate soldier sat perched in his tree watching the blue army crawling on their bellies. This sniper was an experienced soldier from Texas. Keeping a close eye on the moving herd of blue, he waited for his opportunity to pick anyone off who was foolish enough to rise up.

The Colonel could wait no longer. The day was getting long and he had to do something now! Rising up on his knees he brought his binoculars quickly to his face. The lone confederate sniper spotted the blue kepi rise up with his regiment's insignia on it. Taking careful aim through his scope, he held his breath and squeezed the trigger!

Colonel Henry Ogden Ryerson was born on January 10th, 1826, the fourth child of Judge Thomas Coxe Ryerson. Judge Ryerson was a New Jersey Supreme Court Justice and a War of 1812 Militia Veteran. His mother was the niece of Aaron Ogden, a Revolutionary War officer and New Jersey's ninth Governor.

Young Ryerson had studied law and received his law license in 1847. He decided not to setup practice at first but decided to travel around the country. He lived for a time in Chicago, California and Hawaii. He finally returned to New Jersey to settle down in 1857 and lived for a time in Belvidere. In 1857 he was appointed Newton's public prosecutor. This would come in handy during his war years as he was

called upon numerous times to preside over court martial proceedings.

When the civil war broke out he helped recruit company B of the 2nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry and joined them as their Captain. It was not long before he was promoted to the rank of Major.

On June 27th, 1862 Ryerson's unit was involved heavily in the Battle of Gaines Mill. There, while holding the regiment flag, he was shot through both thighs. A bad enough wound that his men thought it was mortal. As they retreated they left him on the field to die. There he stayed for some 10 days before a confederate unit discovered and took him and his fellow injured officers prisoner. He would then spend three weeks in a Richmond prison before he was exchanged. His injuries would keep him away from his unit until after October of that year, when he finally recuperated and re-joined the regiment. At that time he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

In November of 1862 he was promoted to full Colonel and assigned to the 23rd NJ Volunteers when their Colonel resigned due to poor health. Ryerson however, was very unsure and did not really want to take this assignment. "I hardly know what to do." He wrote in a letter to his sister in October, 1862, asking her advice on whether to take the promotion or not. His concerns were due to the fact the 23rd was going to be mustered out of the service in 1863 and the Colonel had aspirations of attaining higher and higher command. He thought he would be required to resign his commission at the conclusion of their service. However, that was not to be. He would prove time and again that he was too valuable to resign at the height of the war.

On November 12th he took command of the "out-of-control" South Jersey citizen soldiers and taking a cue from *Gulliver's Travels*, he knick named them the "Yahoos." Although not a compliment at the time, his men embraced the name, even adding it to their battle flag. This name would stick with them until they were mustered out at the end of their enlistments. His men would soon prove him wrong as when under heavy artillery fire they advanced 100 yards toward the enemy in perfect formation. He later wrote: "I have seldom seen the maneuver better executed by old regiments."

Colonel Ryerson proved himself a more than able bodied and brave soldier at the battle of Fredericksburg. Here the 23rd was involved in heavy fighting. His commander, Brigadier Albert Tolbert reported "he was to be seen in the thickest of the fight mounted, cheering his men on."

Head Quarters 1st Div. of Cavalry
March 21st 1864
Sunny 51 1864

Col. Sickles
captain of
General

I have the honor to acknowledge a copy of Special Order No. 10 of the Department ordering the return of five companies of the 10th Cavalry to the 1st Div. of Cavalry.

The detachment will leave March 21st on Thursday next the 4th inst. at 11 o'clock A.M. & will proceed by rail via Eastern & a train of cars for 250 men will have to be provided on the Delaware, Delaware Road & I am very respectfully
Yours truly
H. O. Ryerson
Col 10th N. Cavalry
Comd'g Detachment

When these five companies return to March 21st the others will receive a similar dispatch.
H. O. Ryerson
Col 10th N. Cavalry

54

January 1864
H. O. Ryerson
Original in the Archives

In March of 1863 Ryerson was transferred to the 10th New Jersey Volunteers. At that time they were stationed on provost duty in Washington D.C. but that was soon to change. In April he received orders to move his company to Suffolk, Va. to deal with the threat of General James Longstreet's foraging forces. Here they stayed for a month or so before being moved onto Carraville, Va. It was here that they experienced their first "friendly fire" incident. Colonel Ryerson and a Colonel Murphy were at the head of the column when a Colonel of the 170th NY fell off his horse and someone shouted "guerillas." Someone started firing. By the time the Colonel could settle the troops down, one man was dead and six wounded.

After the "friendly fire" incident, the 10th took up garrison duty in and around Washington. For a time the 10th was detailed to Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania to quell the draft riots occurring there.
(They were not at the Battle of Gettysburg.)

While in Philadelphia Ryerson was appointed president of a commission assigned to bring to trial those that incited the rioting. It was a job he truly disliked. He was itching to get back into the action. In early November 1863 they were dispatched to the coalfields of Schuylkill County PA. They would stay there for the winter months to calm things down. The coal miners in the area were upset with the possible drafting of soldiers and violence had broken out earlier in the year. The 10th NJ was sent there as a show of force. They made some arrests but for the most part the miners calmed down and all was quiet. Ryerson was once again put in charge of another military commission that would wind up charging some 100 miners with inciting riots and resisting the draft.

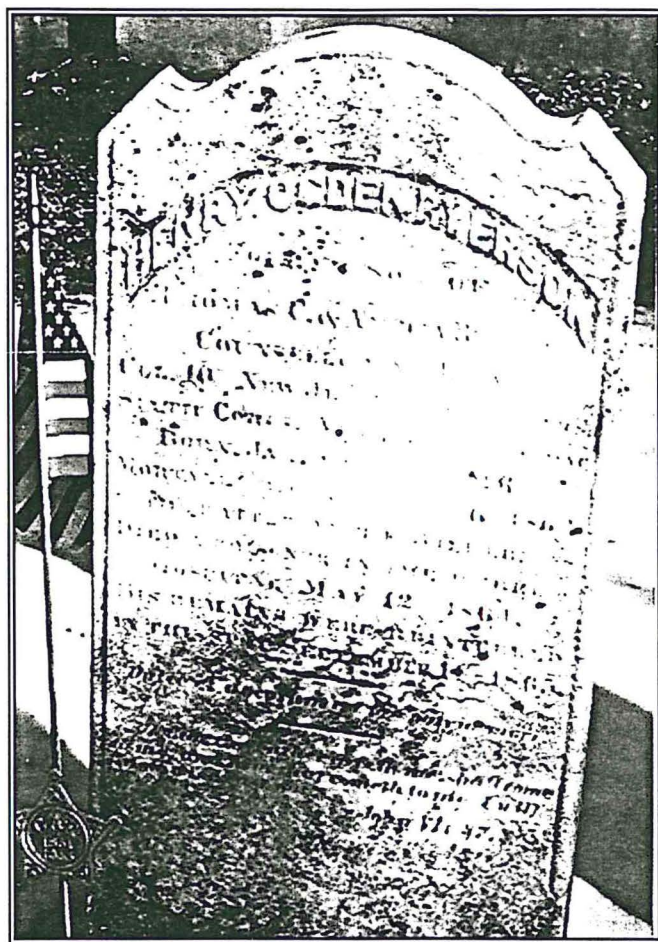
Ryerson seemed to enjoy being up in coal country at least for a time. He wrote that "It is a beautiful and healthy country, I breathe in new life with every breath of pure mountain air and feel the delights of returning health and strength." But by late January 1864 Ryerson had had it with his winter duty in Eastern Pennsylvania and longed for active duty at the front. He believed his duty here was hindering his chance for a promotion to Brigadier General. In a letter to his sister on January 26, 1864 he wrote, "...this spring campaign will be active, exciting and full of interest, and I must have some change. This life will kill me before long." He would soon have his wish.

In April of 1864 the 10th NJ was re-assigned to the 1st New Jersey Brigade and found its way to the Rapidan River joining the Union advance on Richmond. On the evening of May 6 the 10th found themselves pinned down with many of their fellow Yankees running from the enemy. The battle of the Wilderness was raging all around.

As Colonel Ryerson rose up, the sniper's mini ball found its mark, hitting him directly in the head, the force knocking him to the ground! His men carried him to a nearby cabin. Captain Cooke and two other officers stayed with the unconscious Ryerson as the Confederate forces routed the Union lines. All of them were soon prisoners.

The Colonel was taken to Locust Grove Confederate Hospital and attended to by a paroled Vermont surgeon. There he lingered for several days before dying on May 12, 1864. His grave was well marked by the Vermont surgeon and following the war, his body was recovered and returned to New Jersey where he was re-interred in the Old Newton cemetery.

Thus ended the long and distinguished career of one the most liked, most ambitious officers from New Jersey. He would never make Brigadier General but he left a lasting impression not only on the three units he served, but to others from New Jersey who knew and respected this brave ambitious officer.



Henry O. Ryerson is buried near his father, Judge Thomas Coxe Ryerse and his mother, Hannah Amelia Jarvis (Ogden). Nearby are his aunt and uncle the Honorable David and Mary Ryerson.

The Civil War Roundtable in Newton, N.J. is named for Col. H.O. Ryerson. They meet on Tuesdays at Sussex County College.

Camp 10th Regt N. I. Vol.
 near Fribourg Va. July 17th 64
 Brig. Genl. R. F. Stockton Jr.
 Asst. Genl. W. S. Vol.
 Dear Sir.

I have the
 honor to inform you of the death
 of Colonel Henry O'Ryerson of this
 Regiment which took place on the
 12th of May last

Colonel Ryerson was wounded in
 the head at the battle of this
 Wilderness on the evening of the 6th
 of May, and after being carried to
 the rear, he was captured by the
 enemy in consequence of the flight
 of the 6th Corps being ordered.

Yours Respectfully
 Chas. N. Say,
 Lieut. Col. Regt.
 10th N. I. Vol.

H. O. RYERSON & CO.,
DRUGGISTS,
NEWTON, N. J.

— — — — —

PROPRIETORS OF
"Coltsfoot Expectorant,"
"AGUE PILLS,"
 — — — — —
 AND
"IMPROVED CONDITION POWDERS."

— — — — —

SOLE AGENTS FOR
 Wadsworth, Martinez & Longman's
PURE PAINTS.

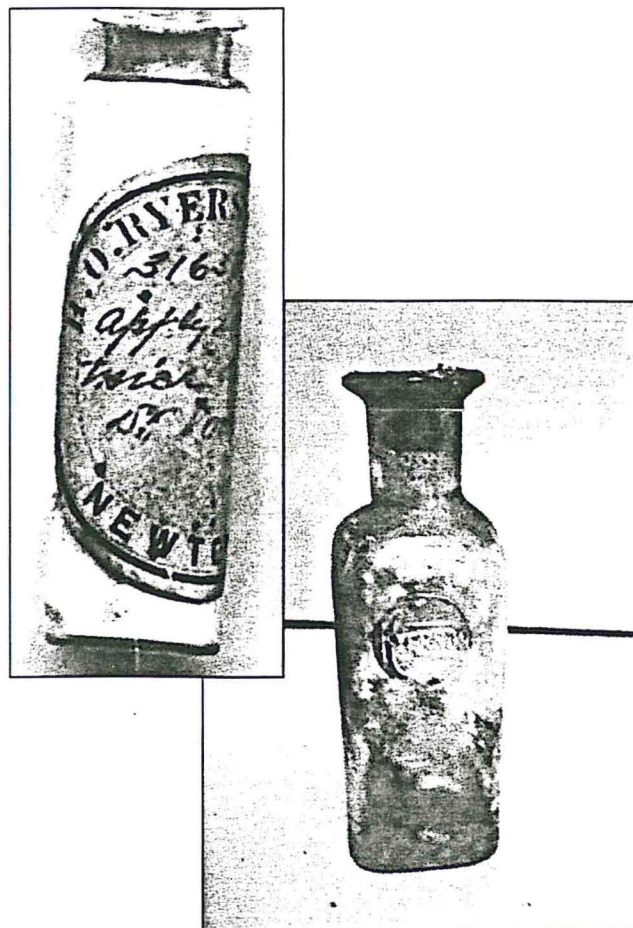
KEEP THIS CARD FOR REFERENCE,
 AS IT HAS THE
 New Code of Weather Signals of the U. S. Signal Service,
 WHICH ARE DISPLAYED EACH DAY AT THE
DRUG STORE
 — — — — —
H. O. RYERSON & CO.,
 NEWTON, N. J.

These indications are telegraphed to us direct from the Chief Signal Office, at Washington, D. C., each morning.

[over]

Henry Ogden Ryerson was proud to have his nephew (the son of Dr. Thomas Ryerson) named after him.

Young Henry Ogden (b. 1855) became a druggist in Newton, N.J. The June 2000 issue of the **Port Ryerse Journal** carried the story of the steel box found in a dumpster that contained H.O.Ryerson Drug store advertising pieces, business cards, receipts etc.and the March 2002 issue which carried these pictures of medicine bottles from the H.O. Ryerson drug store!





(Above) Enlarged view of the wonderful, ruffled seal attached to this old document.

THE STATE OF NEW-JERSEY,

To *John M. Reyson* Gentleman, GREETING :

WHEREAS Major *Adrian Post* of the County of *Bergen* hath certified to his Excellency the Commander in Chief of this State, that you have been duly chosen by the *Light Infantry* Company of the *Second* Battalion in the *Third* Regiment of the *Bergen* Militia, to be *Ensign* of the said Company : These are therefore to commission you the said *John M. Reyson* to be *Ensign* of the said Company : You are therefore to take the said Company of Militia into your Charge and Care as *Ensign* thereof, and duly to exercise both Officers and Soldiers of the said Company in Arms. And as they are hereby directed to obey you as their *Ensign* you are likewise to obey and follow such Orders and directions, from Time to Time, as you shall receive from your Colonel, or other your superior Officer or Officers ; and for your so doing this shall be your Commission. In Testimony whereof the Great Seal of the said State is hereunto affixed. Witness *Richard Howell* Esquire, Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New-Jersey, and Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor and Ordinary in the same, at Trenton, the *Fifth* Day of *October* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and one, - *AD. 1801.*

By His Excellency's Command,
John Beatty Secretary.

R. Howell

A piece of the past!

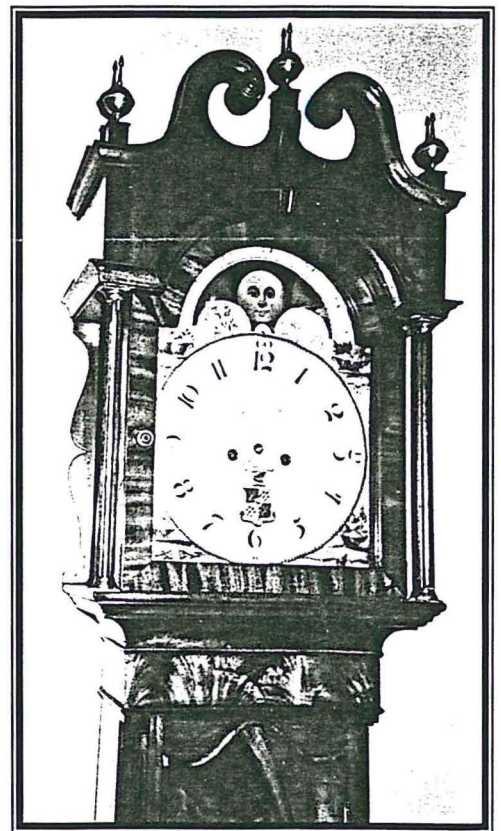
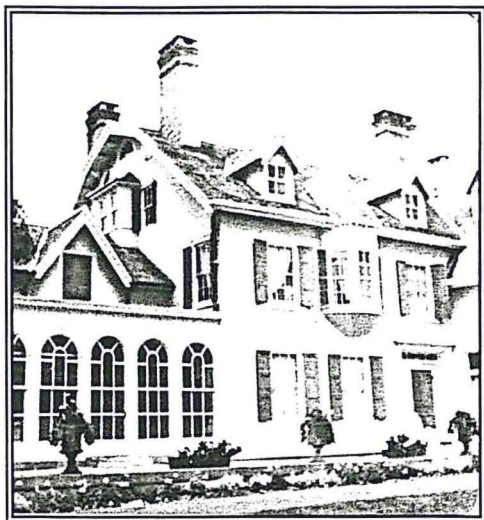
The wonderful old document shown on the opposite page is over 200 years old. It is the original commission given to **JOHN MARTIN RYERSON** in October of 1801. It states that

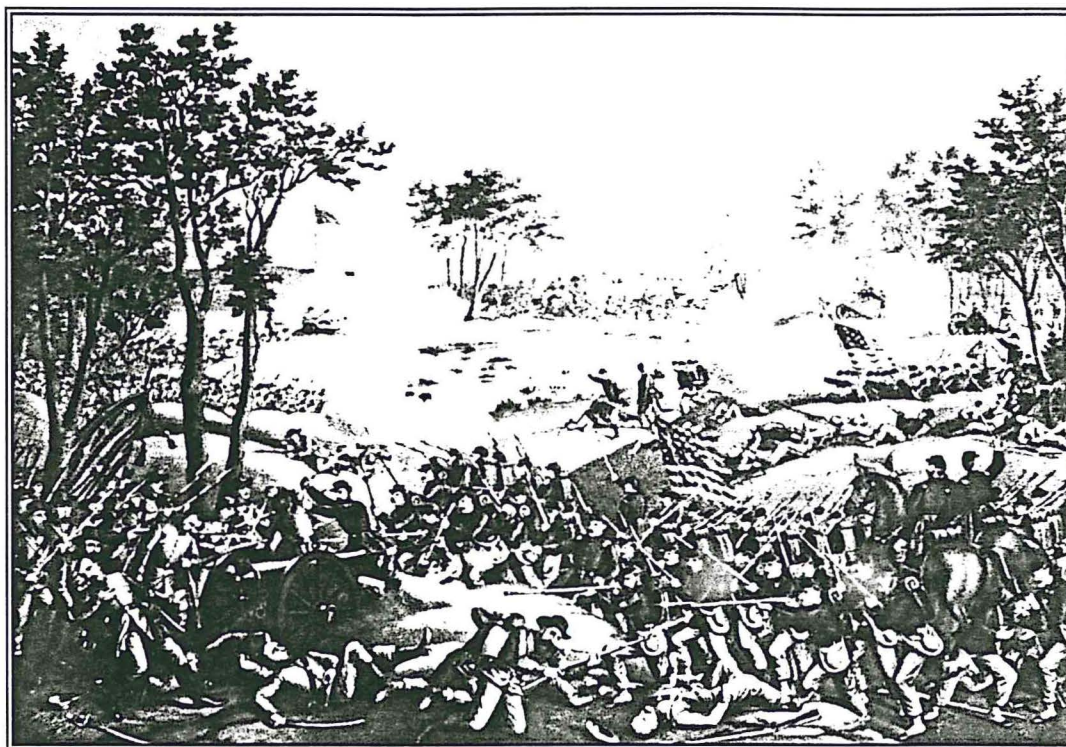
...."you have been duly chosen by the Light Infantry Company of the Second Battalion in the Third Regiment of the Bergen Militia, to be Ensign of the said Company. You are therefore to take the said Company of Militia into your Charge and Care as Ensign thereof, and duly to exercise both Officers and Soldiers of the said Company in Arms. " It is signed by Richard Howell, Esquire, Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New Jersey and Territories thereunto belonging."

John Martin Ryerson was the oldest son of Martin J. Ryerson, the great Ringwood iron master. He married Clarissa Van Winkle on March 2, 1806. The old grandfathers clock which stands in the Ryerson parlor at Ringwood Manor was part of the wedding 'outfit' for this young couple. On its lower face is inscribed the date and initials of the bride and groom.

MR & CVW
2nd March 1806

The clock was made by his cousin, Lucas Ryerson, the Pompton Plains silversmith and clockmaker. John Martin and his family resided at Ringwood where he was associated with his father in the iron business. In 1820 he met an untimely death at the early age of 38.





During the campaign of 1864, **General Ulysses S. Grant with the Army of the Potomac** battled **General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia** for six weeks across central Virginia. At the Wilderness (*where H.O. Ryerson was killed*), Spotsylvania, North Anna and Totopotomoy Creek, Lee repeatedly stalled, but never quite stopped Grant's **relentless drive southward on the Confederate capital**. Richmond was his ultimate goal. The next logical military objective for Grant was the crossroads called by locals:

Old Cold Harbor.



On June 1, General Sheridan's cavalry seized the important crossroads at Cold Harbor, only ten miles from Richmond. Both armies at once converged on this strategic point. The intense heat of the June days of lowland Virginia, intensified by the clouds of dust raised by every movement, and the want of drinkable water, brought suffering and weariness upon both the contending armies.

Our Story BEGINS with (a portion of) an eye-witness account printed in

The Western New-Yorker
And Wyoming Mirror.
THURSDAY, OCT. 13, 1864.

A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

In The Front, Near The Danville Road.
Five Miles South Of Petersburg; Oct 4, '64.

MR. EDITOR: "Believing that all, and especially those having sons, husbands and brothers here, are glad to hear of our situation, and knowing that Wyoming is pretty well represented in the 2d Mounted Riflemen, I take this opportunity of giving a very limited account that has come under my observation.

".....it now became a race between us whether we could cut off the rebels from (reaching) Richmond or not. We marched night and day, till many of the men had to fall out, but on we kept.... the second battalion went on picket on the left, while the third remained with the rest of the brigade, to defend the road and as a line of support for the pickets. Here we remained till the **2nd of June, 1864** when we marched from our

position, covering the rear of the army now on the march towards **Cold Harbour**. We had only proceeded about 2 miles, when a thunder storm with heavy showers came on. Just as it ceased we formed on the road, and expected to continue the march, when we heard the rattle of musketry from the rear. We immediately formed a line across the open clearing, and the whole advanced towards some woods. We had just passed the 3rd Maryland Infantry and the 20th Michigan extended as skirmishers. It was already dark as we reached the breastworks at the edge of the woods and as the skirmishers were driven in, commenced firing; the enemy, insiduously creeping up, for nearly 2 hours fired upon us on the right, while all else was comparatively quiet."

On the previous October 8, 1863, **SAMUEL RYERSE'S** Great-Grandson, **Gatien Alexis Liger** of Lewiston, Niagara County, New York had enlisted in Company I, New York 2nd Regiment of Mounted Rifles, a regiment that was known as the Governor's Guard. 35 year old Gatien was quickly promoted to Full Sergeant. His regiment was attached to the 22nd Corps near Washington D.C. and joined the Gen. U.S. Grant's Army of the Potomac in the Richmond Campaign.

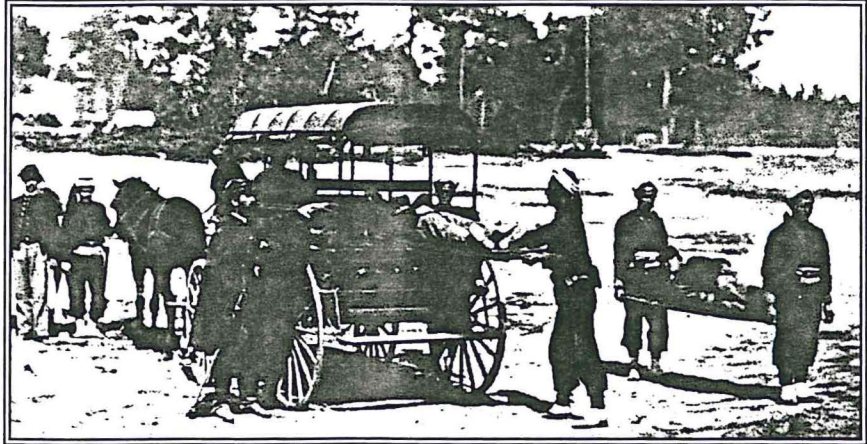
Gatien Liger had seen action in the battle at Spotsylvania Court House and now found himself in the mud of Cold Harbor. Just after dark on the 2nd of June, as Gatien crouched low, he heard the crack of a rifle and in the same instant felt a searing pain in his left knee. A mini ball had entered near the joint, passed down and lodged in the right side the calf of his leg, half way to his ankle. As soon as was possible he was carried to the rear of the action where the surgeon of the Regiment, Dr. Robert T. Paine Jr., cut out the ball and dressed the wound.

Very early the next morning almost 50,000 Federal troops Corps launched a massive assault. The Confederate position, now well entrenched, proved too strong for the Union troops. In less than an hour, thousands of Federal soldiers lay dead and dying between the lines. Pinned down by a tremendous volume of Confederate infantry and artillery fire, Grant's men could neither advance nor retreat. In a series of frontal assaults, the Federals were slaughtered, sustaining approximately 7,000 casualties in about 40 minutes compared to Confederate losses of 1,500. The battle was "sharp, quick, and decisive."

There is no denying that Cold Harbor was an unparalleled Federal disaster. It was also the last major opportunity for General Lee to stop General Grant. The **Battle of Cold Harbor** is remembered as one of history's bloodiest, most lopsided battles. In his memoirs of the battle, General Grant said "I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made. At Cold Harbor no advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained."

By then, Sgt. Gatien Liger had already been transported to Mount Pleasant Hospital in Washington and so missed that deadly battle.

Gatien was absent from his Regiment for 3 months. He was honorably discharged and mustered out along with his regiment on August 10, 1865 at Petersburg, Virginia.



On July 2, 1866 Gatien applied for an invalid pension (#78767). He stated that "his leg has never recovered fully. It troubles me about walking much and while I am at work -- making it often very difficult and painful to labour." Gatien lived in Lewiston, and when able to work at all, was employed as a day laborer. His pension was approved March 19, 1867.

On or about Sept 4th 1871, Gatien lost his Soldiers Disability Certificate and his pension discontinued. He had to be re-examined and re-apply for it. On Sept 4th 1873, it was noted that Gatien was receiving \$4.50 a month on his pension. At this check up, Gatien was described as 45 years old, 5 foot 9, weighed 145 pounds, with a light complexion. It was noted that the muscles in his damaged leg were not as firm as the ones in his healthy leg.

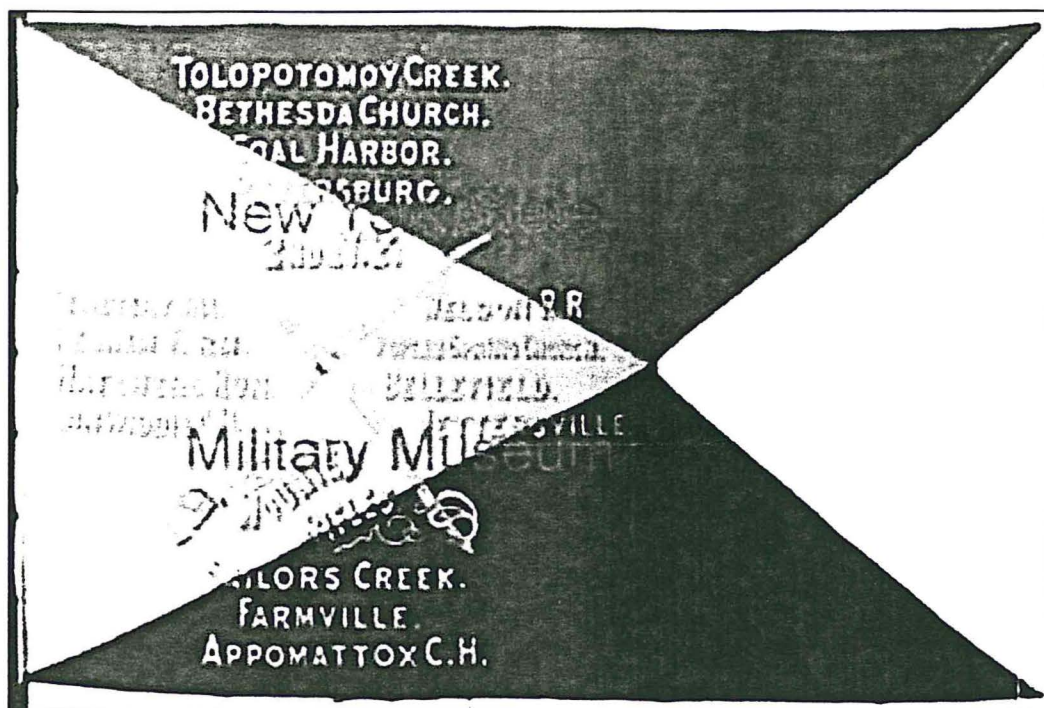
In September 1877, his pension was reduced to \$2 a month because the doctor thought the wound was slight. On Dec 29, 1882, Gatien applied to have his pension increased but this request was not granted. He tried again in Feb of 1883, because of increased pain, but the doctor concluded the increased pain was actually from frostbite and not the wound he received in 1864.

Gatien was dropped from the pension on April 26th 1886. He may have died by that date. His wife, the former Elizabeth S. Smith, died in 1889. They had five children.

YES, Gatien Alexis Liger and Henry O. Ryerson were distant cousins.

Martin > Joris > Martin > Martin > Judge Thomas > **Henry O.** (Sussex Co. N.J.)

Martin > Joris > Lucas > Samuel (to Canada) > Elizabeth (Liger) > John H. Liger > **Gatien Alexis** (served in the Norfolk Co., Canada Militia – later moved to Lewiston, N.Y. where he joined the 2nd NY Mounted Rifles)



Organized at Lockport and Buffalo, the 2nd Mounted Rifles initially served as infantry until November 1864 when the regiment received their mounts and joined the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps.

The regiment was attached to the 22nd Corps near Washington and joined the Gen. U.S. Grant's Army of the Potomac in the Richmond Campaign. It saw early action at Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and in the assaults on the Petersburg works, Poplar Springs Church Hatcher's Run and Nottoway Station and actions leading up to Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Its losses included 8 officers and 97 men. Another officer and 112 men died of disease, in prison etc. for a total of 218.

Sources:

The Union Army, Vol 2.

O.R. Series I Vol. XXXVI/1 (S#67).

New York in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, Vol. 2. Frederick Pisterer.

New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center - *online at the following link:*

<http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/cavalry/2ndMtdRifles/2ndMtdRiflesCWN.htm>

The complete account of service by 2nd Regiment Mounted Rifles can also be found there.

Thanks to Barb Fitzmaurice and Tom Ryerson for researching this story.

*Coffee with
Phyllis*



WAR STORIES !

Unplanned, the stories in this issue landed on my desk at about the same time! While not my favorite subject, yet when the boys involved in these bloody battles are "OUR BOYS" it all takes on a different look.

Dennis did a great job telling the tragic story of our cousin 'H.O.' at the Battle of The Wilderness. After a visit to the New Jersey Archives, I got this note from him:

"They have the original Civil War records here - in boxes! It was pretty cool to be holding the actual official orders and communications signed by Henry O. and his fellow officers! I can't believe they let you touch, copy etc. Most other places have it all on microfiche now."

I know the feeling! It's intoxicating and spurs one on to further searching for ancestors! Cemeteries affect me that way too....I just want to dig them up....shake them alive.....and say, "What was your mother's maiden name???"

Well, that's probably enough fun for this issue! See you next time!

phyllis

The Port Ryerse Journal

Published 3 times a year by the

RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada N5C 3K5
7440 Quarter Horse Lane, Gainesville, GA 30506
USA

Subscription Rate \$12 year

Submissions Welcome & Encouraged!

Ryerse@Adelphia.net

Ryerse_Ryerson_Family@Yahoo.com

BIRTHS

Pg 120, #921. Steve L. and Bobbi Ryerse are proud to announce the birth of their 2nd child, Aymi Ryerse. Aymi was born at 8 AM, November 3 2005, in Simcoe, ON, weighing in at 7 lbs and 11 oz.

MARRIAGES

Pg 209, #2544, Brandy Marie Ryerse, daughter of Randel & Wendy Ryerse, married Samuel Leonard Park on August 13th 2005 in Port Dover. Sam was born on May 23, 1980 in Hamilton, ON, and he is a carpenter by trade. Brandy is an administrative assistant. They will continue to reside in Port Dover.

COUSINS in the NEWS

ASPEN, COLO. - With police hot on her heels, a 32-year-old Snowmass Village, Colo., woman barged into a house Wednesday night to take cover. Unfortunately for her, the house she walked into belonged to Aspen Police Chief **Loren Ryerson.**

She was carrying 4.5 grams of cocaine, a crack pipe and an assortment of other drug paraphernalia in her purse. She was being followed by two Aspen officers who grew suspicious of her erratic behavior, police said. She abandoned her 1986 Chevrolet station wagon in front of the chief's house when it apparently ran out of gas.

"She knocked on a window and just opened our sliding glass door and came in," **Mary Ryerson** said. While police were searching her purse, she managed to escape, but they caught her about 30 yards away.

She faces charges of first-degree criminal trespassing, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia.