

Jay

The Port Ryerse Journal

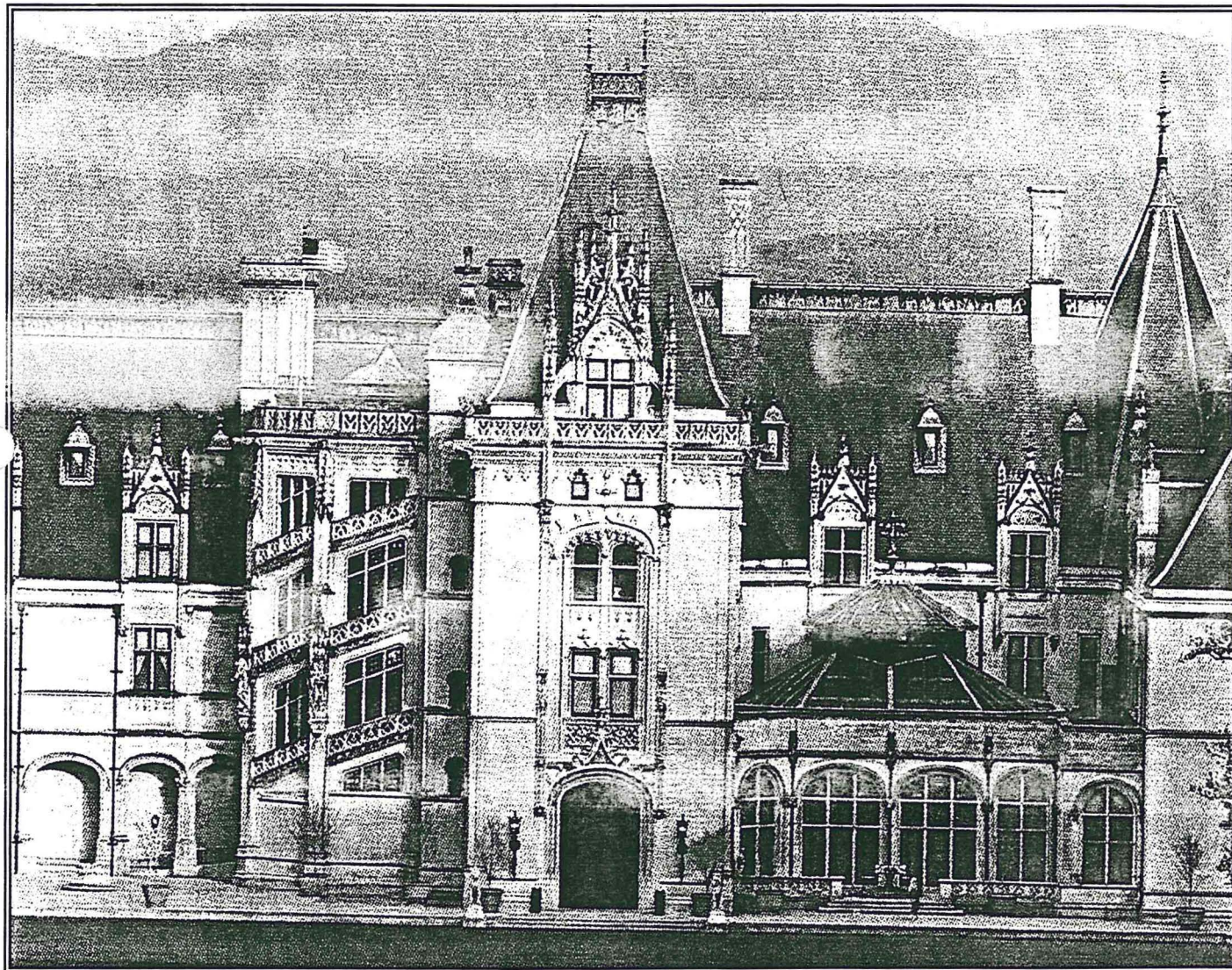
The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 2

ISSN 201-0065

June 2006

Come Visit Our (distant) Cousin's House!



Biltmore Estate
A NATIONAL TREASURE

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

America's Largest Home

COUSINS!

The brothers, **ADRIAEN AND MARTIN REYERSZ**, came to America from Amsterdam in 1646. Most of us can trace our ancestry to Martin but his brother Adriaen had a large family also. His youngest son Gosen settled on Staten Island and married Femmetje (Phoebe) the daughter of Aris and Hilletje **VANDERBILT**! Phoebe's brother, Jacob would become the great-grandfather of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt. (below)



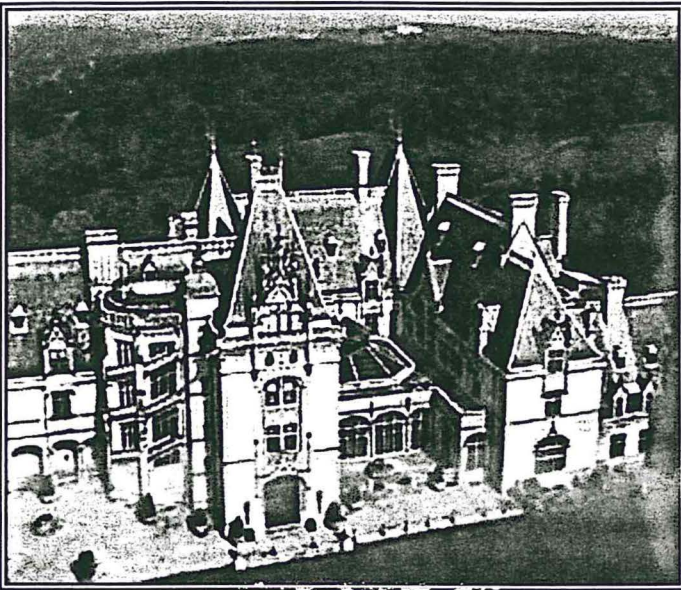
Cornelius Vanderbilt's birthplace, Staten Island

*In 1801 Judge Gosen Ryerss (Adrian³, Gosen², Adriaen¹ Ryersz) was a delegate from Staten Island, Richmond Co., NY to the convention for the adoption of the Federal Constitution. He was also a member of the Assembly 1791-4 and first Judge of the County in 1793, an office he held until his death.
See The Port Ryerse Journal – October 2000*

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT was born on Staten Island into a family rich with the Dutch heritage of colonial New York – but modest in means. When he was about 16, his mother paid him \$100 for plowing an eight-acre field and planting it with corn. With that money, he bought a sailboat, a two-masted scow called a 'periauger' and soon had a ferry service in operation to Manhattan. By the 1840's his steamship lines to ports all along the Atlantic coast placed him on a par with the most successful industrialists and earned him the name Commodore. He then began buying up struggling railroads in the 1860's and making them profitable. His trains ran on schedule and the service was good. His New York Central Railroad grew into the nation's biggest business by the 1870's. The hub of this network which he expanded throughout the Northeast and to Chicago, was the Grand Central Station in New York City. At his death in 1877 he had \$100 million which he left to his one heir, his son William Henry. Though he lacked the enthusiasm for business that his father thrived on, William Henry died in 1885 with twice what he had inherited.

Members of the Vanderbilt family are noted for many things. There's Vanderbilt University, a stable of racing horses including the famous *Native Dancer*, Alfred Vanderbilt who was lost in the sinking of the Lusitania, Harold Vanderbilt who successfully defended America's Cup against the British in the 1937 races as well as inventing the game of contract bridge! The eastern U.S. is strung with monuments to the name and their mansions run from the classic Marble House and the Breakers at Newport, R.I. to Hyde Park, N.Y. along the Hudson as well as the mansion William Henry built at 640 Fifth Avenue, NYC. Then he built its twin next door and soon the avenue was lined with residences of other Commodore grandchildren!

GEORGE WASHINGTON VANDERBILT surpassed them all when he built his North Carolina retreat – **BILTMORE**. It was and still is the most spectacular of the all the great Vanderbilt mansions.

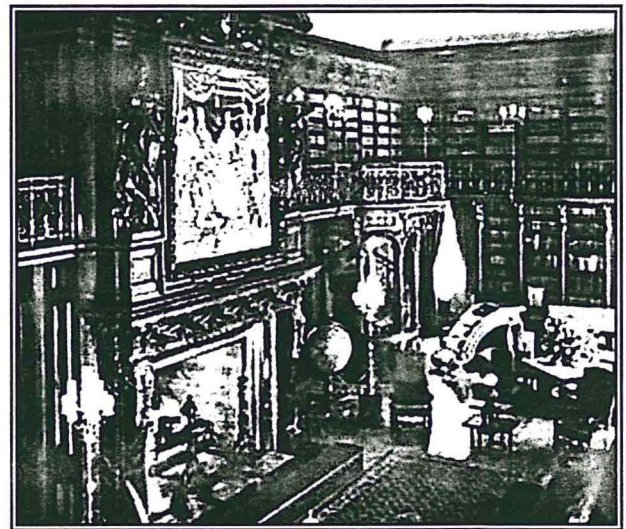


Inspired by the spectacular view, George Vanderbilt purchased 125,000 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, N.C. for his summer estate. Biltmore House took six years and 1000 men to build. It opened its doors on Christmas Eve 1895. With a façade of 390 feet, the house has 250 rooms, 65 fireplaces, 43 bathrooms, 34 bedrooms and three kitchens all of which are contained in over four acres of floor space. The massive stone spiral staircase rises four floors and has 102 steps. Through its center hangs an iron chandelier that weighs 1700 pounds and has 72 electric light bulbs.

At its completion, Biltmore House was one of the most innovative and technologically advanced homes in the world. Imagine hot and cold running water, elevators, indoor heating, a fire alarm system, refrigeration, electric lights, indoor bathrooms and 10 Bell telephones – all unheard of luxuries at the turn of the century! Imagine – dozens of servants, 10,000 books, furniture from 13 countries, 1600 prints and paintings - and if you were lucky enough to be a guest, you could enjoy the lush Winter Garden, the Tapestry Gallery, or bowling, billiards, an exercise room, indoor swimming, horseback, croquet, hunting, camping or fishing. As many as 64 guests could be entertained at the dinner table in the massive Banquet Hall – a room that spans 72 by 42 feet and is 70 feet high. Meals were usually seven courses requiring as many as 15 utensils per person. Fish and lobster were shipped in at least twice a week from New York.

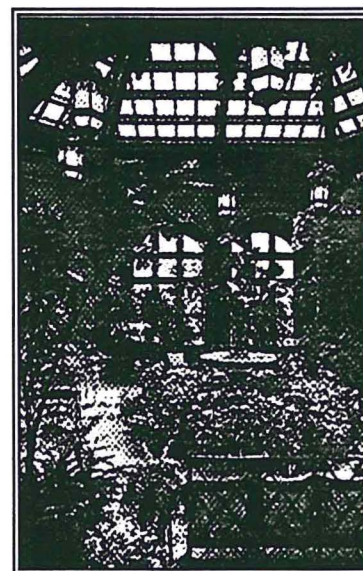


The four-story French Renaissance manor was designed as a country retreat for George W. Vanderbilt, his family and friends, and to showcase his vast collection of art and antiques gathered in world travels--a collection that remains intact today.

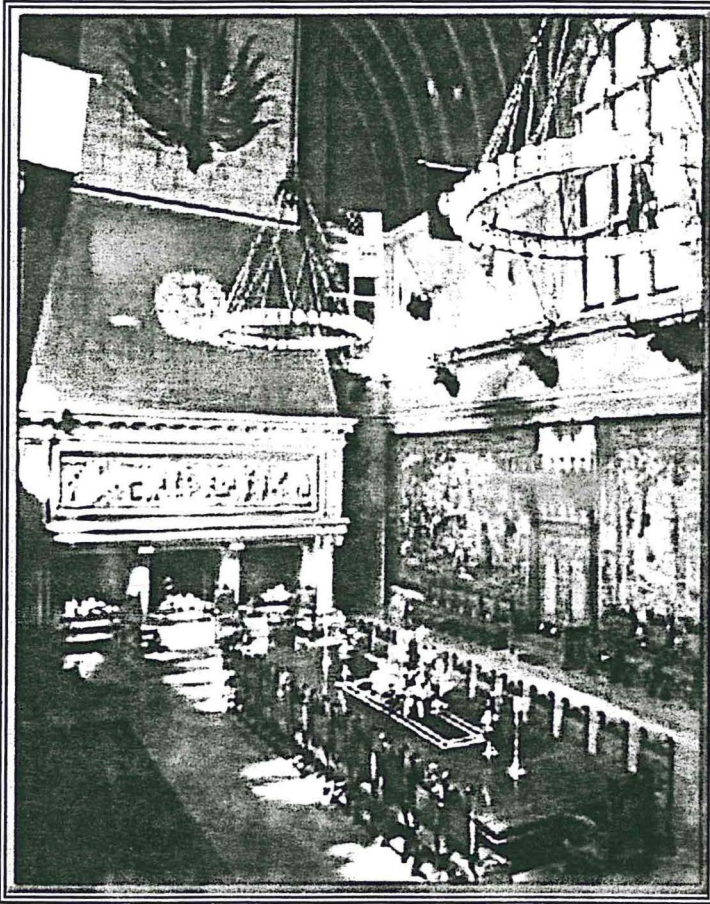


George Vanderbilt's Library

Ten thousand books and a heavenly view highlight the favorite room of Biltmore's founder.



As you step inside this elegant French Chateau you're greeted by the lush Winter Garden.



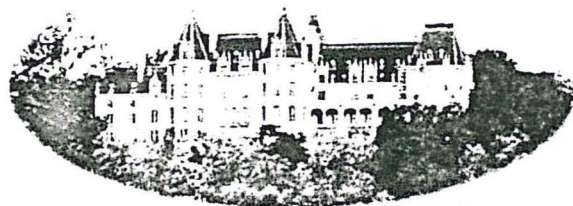
There are numerous outstanding events held at Biltmore during the year. If you visit there in the spring you'll be overwhelmed by the sight of 50,000 tulips in bloom and in the fall, carpets of mums cover the gardens. The mansion is decorated lavishly at Christmas, including these enormous trees in the Banquet Hall.

Frederick Law Olmsted designed the three-mile approach road and the estate's gardens including the Walled Garden, an Azalea Garden, a formal Italian Garden and a glass Conservatory.

After Vanderbilt died of complications from an appendectomy in 1914, his widow sold much of the original 125,000 acres to the federal government to become Pisgah National Forest. The estate includes approximately 8,000 acres today. Included are vineyards that provide more than 250 tons of grapes for the Biltmore Estate Winery, as well as farmland, pastures and forests. In addition to Biltmore House, the estate operates four restaurants, eight shops and its award-winning winery. The 213-room Inn on Biltmore Estate opened in spring 2001. Biltmore Estate is still privately owned and operated by George W. Vanderbilt's descendants and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. It remains a major tourist attraction in western North Carolina, with over 900,000 visitors from all over the world each year.

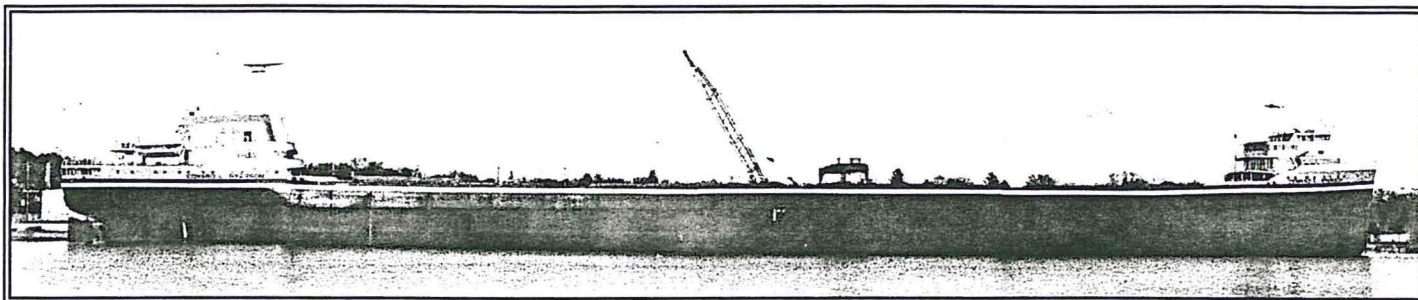
Moving Pictures filmed on the Biltmore Estate include:
The Last of the Mohicans, Forrest Gump, Patch Adams, Tap Roots, The Clearing, Mr. Destiny, My Fellow Americans, and The Private Eyes.

<http://www.biltmore.com/>



SOURCES

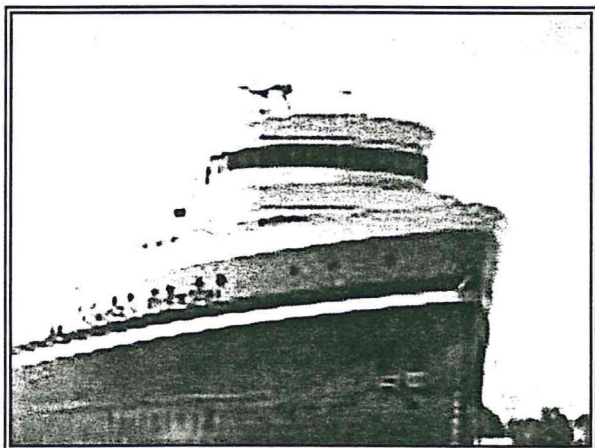
Data from the internet and brochures we were given when last we visited 'our cousins' house!



Duluth NEWS TRIBUNE - Fri, May. 26, 2006

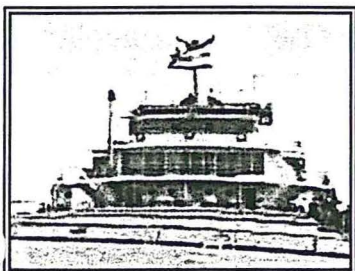
The RYERSON may return to service

A crew in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., is assessing the Edward L. Ryerson to determine whether the 730-foot vessel might sail again after more than a seven-year layup. Evaluation is ongoing and no determination has been made about the laker's future. The straight-deck steamer was built in 1960 at a cost of \$8 million dollars but lacks self-unloading equipment. Most lakers in service are self-unloaders which use an adjustable boom and conveyor belt system to independently discharge cargo. There are no plans to convert the Ryerson into a self-unloader because of \$10.5 million dollar cost, but there still could be a future for the ship as demand for freighters on the Great Lakes increases. Reports indicate the vessel would likely make regular calls on Duluth, Escanaba and Indiana Harbor if it resumes activity -- possibly as early as June or July.



The Edward L. Ryerson is 730 ft. long and 75 ft. wide. Maiden Voyage was on August 4, 1960. She was the largest vessel on the Great Lakes when she was commissioned. She was designed to be the **"prettiest boat on the Lakes."**

The living quarters, dining rooms and offices are air conditioned. Number of Cargo Holds - 4, which are serviced by 18 hatches. Boilers - 2 Combustion-engineered V2M. Propellor Shaft - 40-ft. long, 21-5/8" Diameter, with 5 stainless steel blades (6686 pounds per blade) 20-ft. overall diameter, 14-ft. variable pitch. Gross Registered Tons - 12,170

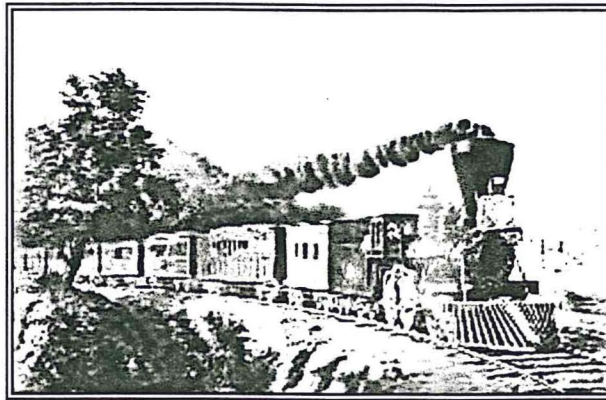


Find this thumbnail picture on Google IMAGES under Edward L. Ryerson Ship. Click on it to go to the Edward L. Ryerson page to see 51 more views of this amazing ship!

There is also a sound (WAV) link so you can actually HEAR the Ryerson's throaty "Salute!" You'll love it!!

TRAINS!

While our distant cousin, Cornelius Vanderbilt was making a success of the New York Central Railroad, another cousin was working to improve the construction of railroad cars.



world. The awful 'telescoping' of former years is almost unknown to the present generation and places him among the great benefactors of the human race as well as securing to him a handsome fortune.

Colonel Ezra Miller

Was born in Bergen County N.J. in 1812, the son of Ezra and Hannah (Ryerson) Miller. His mother was a granddaughter of Samuel Ellis who owned Ellis Island and his fathers' ancestors came to America on the boat following the Mayflower!

While his father wanted him to become a physician, young Ezra had a more mechanical mind and became a mechanical and hydraulic engineer. In September of 1833 he enlisted in an artillery company of the Second Regiment of the New York state militia. He was eventually promoted to colonel in 1842 and became commander of Fort Hamilton, Long Island where he continued for six years. Robert E. Lee, who afterward became the great Confederate general, was at that time stationed there. While playing with a feed cutter, Col. Miller's little daughter, Josephine, cut off a portion of the finger of Robt. E. Lee's nephew - the later famous General Fitzhugh Lee.

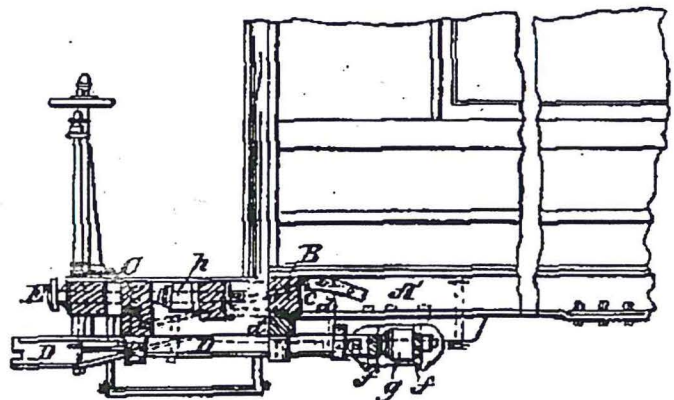
By the 1850's the great railroad lines of the country were being built and put into operation. As with any new enterprise, this experimental state resulted in many accidents. One of the worse features was the 'telescoping' of colliding cars. After an exhaustive study of the problem, Col. Miller decided that much of the difficulty could be overcome by changing the construction of the cars. He set to work and in 1863 patented his first of several inventions including the coupler, buffer and platform....patents that were eagerly adopted by railroads throughout the

He continued to live in Brooklyn until 1870 when he moved to his palatial home which he had built in Mahwah, New Jersey. Surrounded by every luxury, he enjoyed the well earned ease of the evening of a well spent life. The people of New Jersey elected him to the state senate in 1883. He passed away two years later.

U.S. Patent #56,594

July 4, 1866

The Miller Hook was a semi-automatic coupler that replaced the link and pin for most passenger cars built after about 1870, though it was seldom used for freight cars. The "hook" was only one part of a system that combined a coupling device, a buffer system and an improved end platform to prevent the telescoping of cars when a train struck an obstacle. At the same time it eliminated the violent yanks that otherwise accompanied the excessive slack take-up with link and pin couplers.



(above) Side view of the Miller Hook. For a better description check out GOOGLE – The Miller Hook

The VIEW from TURKEY MOUNTAIN

by Bill Luken

We always enjoy hearing from our friend Bill Luken in Yorktown Hts., NY. He's still digging vigorously into the story of Sarah (Underhill) (Davenport) Ryerse and the family owned properties in that area. Here are some of his fascinating recent "discoveries."

Spring is springing up here (finally). On Saturday, I took advantage of the pleasant weather to visit a local site known as Turkey Mountain. This was my first time to visit this place after living here for 15 years. This site is about a mile west of the Davenport house, and about 200 feet higher in elevation (800 feet versus 600 feet). At 800 feet, this is hardly a real "mountain" but the increased elevation allows the full NYC skyline to appear beyond the ridge. This is much better than the other site. (*The Port Ryerse Journal – February & June 2005 issues*). The difference is that the other site was accessible by car, but the top of Turkey Mountain is a 20-30 minute hike from the parking lot.

Besides the NYC skyline, one can see a water tower in the upper right, on the crest of the ridge. This is located in Ossining, about 5 miles south of the viewpoint. The Empire State Building is about 35-36 miles south of the viewpoint. That extra 30 miles picks up a lot of haze, even with a UV filter on the camera.

In the foreground, one can see the northbound lanes of the Taconic State Parkway. The southbound lanes are off to the right. There is a wide separation between the northbound and southbound lanes here because the terrain is so hilly. The Croton Reservoir is out of sight below the bottom of this photo. The

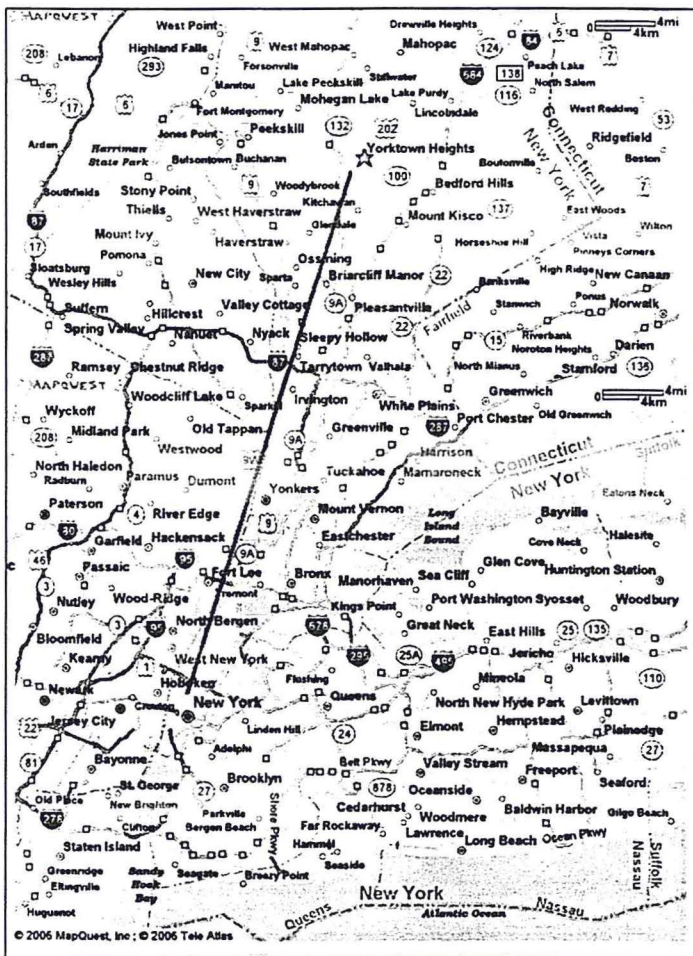
ravine occupied by the reservoir is so deep and so steep that the reservoir cannot be seen from this point.

From previous maps, we know that the Taconic State Parkway passes through Great Lot C-6, which is where **BARTOW UNDERHILL'S** (leased) land was located. Bartow's land (331 acres) did not include all of Great Lot C-6 (*probably in the range of roughly 1000-5000 acres?*), but it must have been located somewhere between the portion of the Taconic in the foreground, and the water tower on the ridge.



Underhill/Davenport 'country' where Sarah Ryerse grew up. This amazing picture is gorgeous in color – the way Bill sent it to me. It'll be difficult to reproduce here....but we're gonna try. Can you see the NYC skyline? The water tower – top right? The Taconic Parkway far below your feet?

The second image shows the line of sight from Turkey Mountain to mid-town Manhattan. Even though the viewpoint is on the west side of the Hudson, we see Manhattan from the east, because of the slight curve in the river.



After getting the picture of the NYC skyline over Great Lot C-6 (*), I looked through the USGS topographical maps for the area. While looking over this data, I noticed a **small cemetery** on Illington Road near the Taconic State Parkway (TSP). The southbound TSP (at 530 feet) actually passes about 100 feet above Illington Road (430 feet). As one drives along Illington Road, the TSP is not just "up there" - it is "way up there."

The northbound TSP and southbound TSP diverge here because the terrain is so hilly. It looks like the northbound side (formerly 2-way) is older and the southbound side was added later.

A short distance NE of the southbound TSP, I found the cemetery marked on the USGS map. There, I found graves of the Gerow family. This is known as the "Aner Gerow Cemetery." Who were they?

The Gerows were descendents of Huguenots named Giraud who settled in New Rochelle (late 1600s). Their descendents subsequently spread out across Westchester County with some ending up in Cortlandt Manor. There is an active Gerow family genealogical society.

A muster roll for the French & Indian War in 1760 shows 'Bartho Underhill' and 'Andrew Gerow' as officers. The 'private' men in the same company include three other men identified as 'Jerrow.' These were brothers of Andrew. The eldest, Daniel (Jr.) was or would become a Quaker and so probably did not want to be there. Isaac was a Loyalist who died in NYC during the revolution and his widow removed to New Brunswick after the war. Andrew may have been a 'closet Loyalist' since he signed a document in April 1775 protesting the coming revolution, but he did not relocate to Canada.

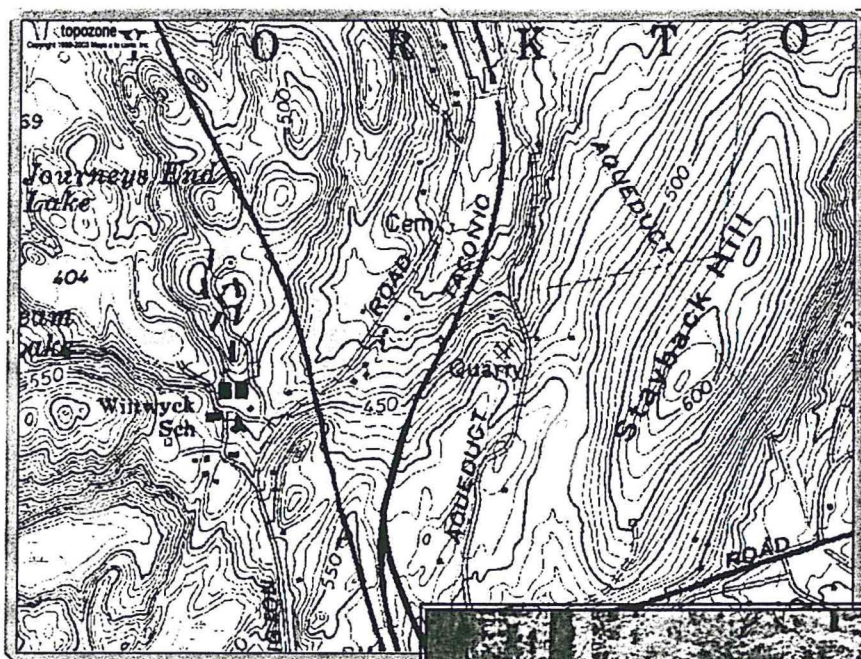
Andrew Gerow leased a farm adjacent to Bartow Underhill's in May 1768.

So, there is ample evidence that Bartow Underhill knew Andrew Gerow, that they were probably neighbors.

There are only 5 recognizable stones in the Aner Gerow Cemetery. Four of these are modern replacements. Only one, for Henry Gerow (1816-1839), is original. It looks like there are remains of older stones that have disintegrated. These seem to have been made from a shale-like stone that tend to be vulnerable to water. In very dry sites, these stones can last a long time but in a moist site they crumble in 100 years.

One possible conclusion is that Bartow may be buried in this cemetery and his grave stone has disintegrated. I have looked through the records for a number of other cemeteries without success. I suspect that Bartow was Anglican, but there were no Anglican churches nearby and no records of Bart Underhill in their (on-line) records.

So...maybe Bartow is buried here in his neighbor's cemetery.



note: CEM(etary) located in the top center of this topographical map.



What's New in the PAST Lane

BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE August 20, 1900

Saturday afternoon a gathering of young men played a game of baseball at Brooklyn Hills near the Forest Park Hotel. Among the players was Edward Bristow of 13 Irving Place, who, before joining the game, put his vest, which contained a gold hunting case watch, valued at \$32, in a locker in the hotel. After the game he went to get his belongings but they were gone. The case was reported to the police of the Seventy-eighth precinct and Detective Clancy was put to work. He traced the watch to Freel's Pawn Shop in Brooklyn and in a short time had arrested ALFRED RYERSON, 16 years age of 208 Reid Avenue, and George P. Millard of 38 Woodbine Street, Brooklyn. The pawn ticket was found upon Alfred RYERSON who had divided the money with his chum. They were arraigned before Magistrate Court at Far Rockaway and held for examination.

(ed. note: Poor Alfred sure got himself into a heap'o trouble! Wonder what they did with juvenile offenders in those days. Whatever it was – it probably wasn't as bad as what he got when he got home that night!)

More Fun Stuff!

- ❁ A miser is hard to live with but makes a fine ancestor!
- ❁ Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.
- ❁ My family coat of arms ties at the back....is that normal?
- ❁ Genealogy is an obsession...and thanks to the computer,
it's as easy as one, two.....tree!
- ❁ I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNEflower!
- ❁ Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!
- ❁ Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall out!



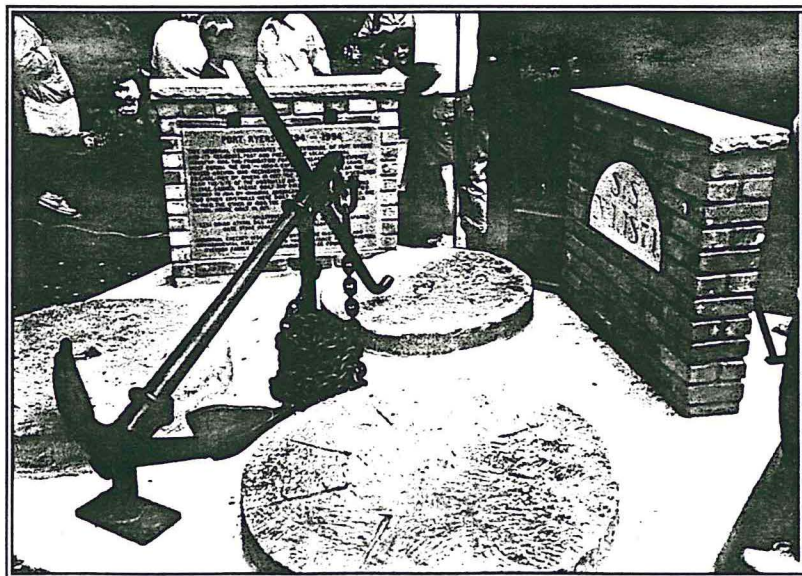
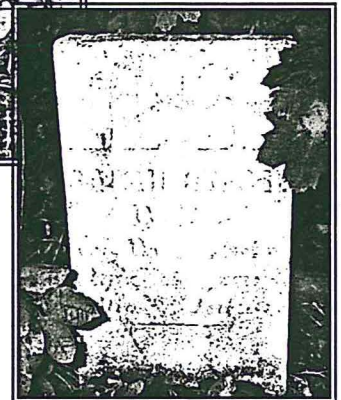
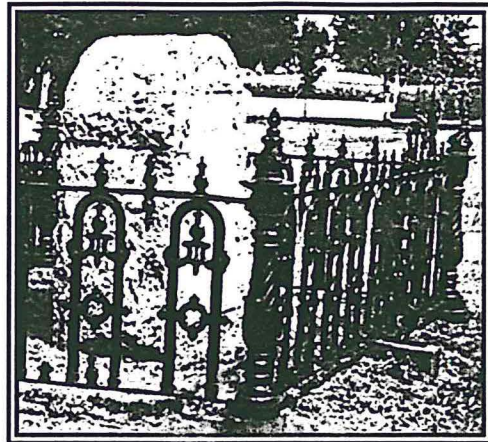
It's REUNION TIME

Time to eat, hug and celebrate family!

If you're one of the lucky ones to get to the family gathering this year, you might want to visit the graves of Joseph and Hetty RYERSON in the yard of Old Woodhouse Cemetery.

Then be sure to stop over at the Memorial Church in Port Ryerse and say hello to Samuel and Sarah RYERSE resting back there along the tree line! Then go around to the other side of the church and admire the outstanding memorial placed there for the 1994 gathering by the Port Ryerse Historical and Environmental Association, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and several members of the Ryerse-Ryerson family.

This memorial commemorates the bicentennial of Port Ryerse and its residents, past and present. The local shipping industry was the foundation for the village and progressed mostly during the mid-1800's exporting lumber and grain. The forged anchor was recovered from the original pier by divers in 1977. The millstones were discovered near the site of the grist mills on Young's Creek in Port Ryerse. Samuel Ryerse built the first mill circa 1797 but it was burned in 1814 by invading Americans during the War of 1812. Two other grist mills were built on the site, both burned, one in 1860 and the other in 1890. The date stone & bricks are from the old school house built in 1871.



Coffee with
Phyllis



BIG HOUSES & BIG SHIPS TRAINS & CEMETERIES

What a crazy collection of stories. Oh yes, don't forget the 16 yr. old thief....and the murders! We've got it all! This issue of the Port Ryerse Journal just sort of fell together in a heap! Haha! Hope you've enjoyed it!

Taking a vacation? Think about visiting Biltmore House in North Carolina. You'll be awed! (I guess we're the 'poor' cousins!)

SUMMERTIME is here....it's reunion time again! Mark your calendar now. You won't want to miss this one!

Let me hear from you - with any breaking and important family news. I need to keep up with all the terrific stuff all of you cousins are doing! HEY....I've got e-mail! Let me hear from you!!

Phyllis

The Port Ryerse Journal

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TORONTO STAR

www.thestar.com

Mass murder of 8 people southwest of Toronto

Peter Edwards, Staff Reporter

When: 1832

The first Toronto reporter to cover a mass murder was Wesleyan Methodist Reverend **William Ryerson**, the brother of Egerton Ryerson, publisher of the *Christian Guardian* newspaper, and namesake of Ryerson University and countless schools across the province. The year was 1832 and Norfolk County, in southwestern Ontario near London, was horrified by the murder of a mother and seven of her children in their secluded farmhouse.

The murder site of eight people was near what is now Highway 24, between the communities of Vanessa and Waterford. Rev. Ryerson's report ran in the Feb. 1, 1832 *Christian Guardian* under the headline:

Most Atrocious murders

One of the most unnatural crimes that ever stained the history of man

Ryerson wrote that suspicions immediately fell on Henry Sovereign (also spelled Sovereene and Sovereign), the father of the slain children. He opined that the slayings "originated from tippling" and "intemperance."

A crowd attended Sovereign's hanging in London on Aug. 13, 1832, even though there was a cholera epidemic. Spectators close to the gallows could hear Sovereign protest his innocence with his final breaths.

The *St. Thomas Journal* wrote, "... At about half past twelve the drop fell, and there hung between Heaven and earth the body of him who, we believe, was unanimously condemned as deserving death." It was Sovereign's second scheduled trip to the gallows. He had been sentenced to be hanged in 1819 for shooting a horse, but that death sentence was commuted.

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The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

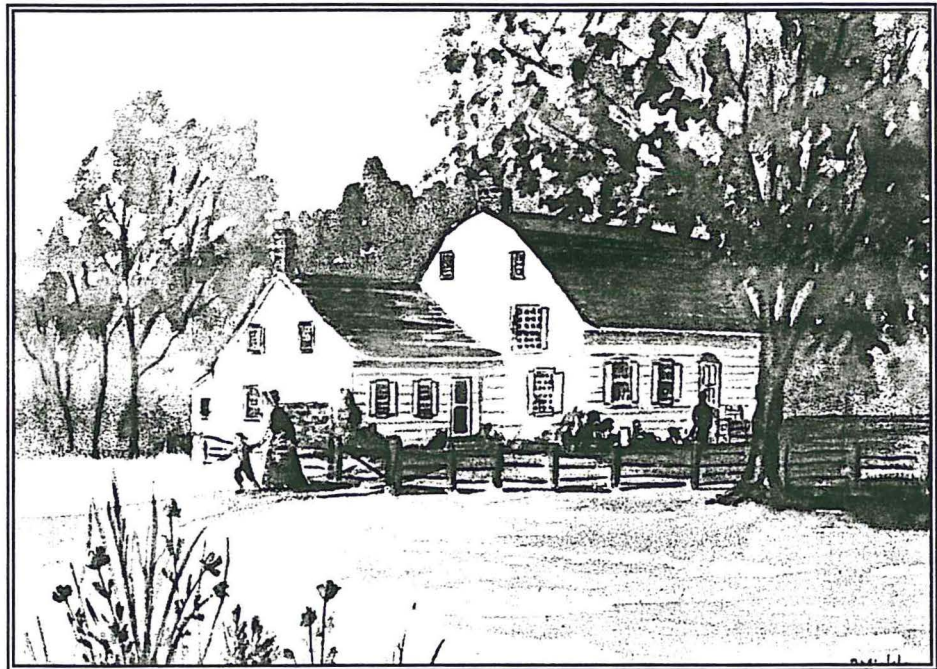
Volume 13 Issue 3

FINAL ISSUE

ISSN 201-0065 November 2006

In the Beginning.

Marten Reyerszen, the early ancestor of our branch of the family, came to New Amsterdam with his older brother Adriaen. They soon made their way across the East River to Flatbush where Adriaen would become an influential citizen and acquire a large farm. His grandson built this house on that land about 1750 (*small wing seen here in this artist's watercolor rendition*).



Both Marten and Adriaen attended the Dutch Church. It is unfortunate that the records for the Flatbush Dutch Church do not begin until 1660 since Adriaen was married there July 29, 1659. Marten was a member there as well for on Easter Sunday, 1663, he was confirmed as a member and admitted to the Lord's Supper at the Breuckelen Church – "*with letters from the Flatbush Church.*" Six weeks later we find another entry in the

Breuckelen Church records – this time from the Marriage Book dated May 14, 1663 – "*united in marriage Marten Reijerszen and Annetie Joris.*" - an attractive reason for moving his church membership!

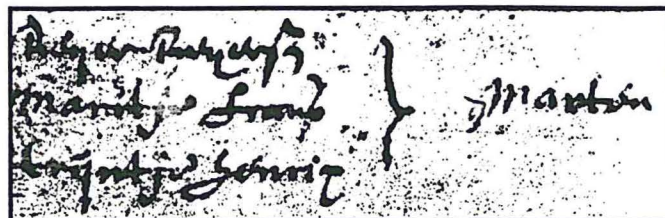
Adriaen Reyersz was a faithful member of the Flatbush Church the rest of his life. His name is found in the old church books....the saddest entries being those when he paid for shrouds and graves in the church for family members. Among those entries are several '*for a child.*' And then there is the entry on Feb. 25, 1710 when Adriaen's son Marten paid for a shroud for his father Adriaen and finally, on June 1, 1727, he paid for a grave in the church for his mother Annetie.



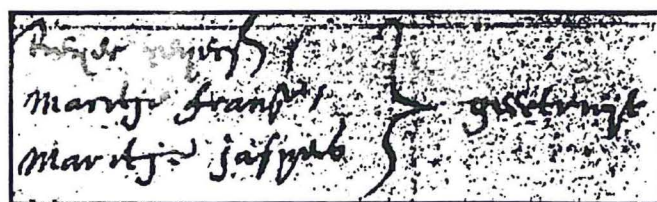
A rough sketch of the inscription in Dutch on the tombstone of Rem Martense, the grandson of Adriaen Reyersz – Flatbush Dutch Churchyard, Brooklyn, N.Y.

During our search of the original Dutch records, we were fortunate to locate the marriage record for Reijer Reijersz which gave us the name of his wife...and where she came from - Marritie Francen Van (from) Swindrecht. That village today is Zwindrecht near Dortrecht. We quickly examined all the records available for Swindrecht and found the early church books full of Frans and Francens and Frankens etc. – no doubt all relatives of Marritie. It is interesting to note that there were a lot of Adriaen Frans and Ary and Ari Fransens and even some Arien Fransens. It is also interesting that we found a Joost Reijersz there who had a son ARIEN born in 1628! (It's tempting – but unprovable - to wonder if Joost was related – perhaps a brother to our Reijer Reijersz!)

We were fortunate to locate a birth record for Marten...and his sister Geertruid in the Amsterdam records.



23 November 1637



20 February 1639

We did not find a birth record for Adriaen however, the records, as you can see, are hard to decipher and far from complete. Reijer/Reyer was a common name – there are many of them in the lists of births and deaths – the journal entries nearly impossible to read.

During these years, the Black Death was sweeping across Europe, killing 25 million people with outbreaks continuing into the 1600's. Marritie Francen died on 28 April 1643. The death register of Amsterdam's Nieuwe Kerk shows over 500 burials for that year, 53 deaths in the month of August alone. The population was gutted by this awful disease and record keeping was sometimes non-existent – just too many to write down - and the need for prompt burial more pressing. Other sad entries included death records for two infants (*een kind*) born in 1634 and 1636, both named Reyer Reijersz. Could they have been baby boys born before our Marten? We could find no further record of Geertruid – did she die young as well? We also found two adult death records for Reyer Reijersz - one in May 1639 and the other August 1640. Could one of them be our Reyer...leaving Marritie a widow. Many questions left unanswered.

If both Reyer and Marritie had died, it is certainly possible that their children were taken in by one of the Frans (Francen) relatives and brought to New Amsterdam. It has been suggested that an examination of the Orphan master records might tell us more. The old Dutch is very difficult to read. I urge future trained researchers to look for answers in that direction.

Many years later when Adriaen signed the Oath of Allegiance to the English in 1687, he stated that he had been in this country for 41 years. That would be 1646. Unfortunately, the ship registers do not exist back that early for us to discover what family members arrived together in that year. Adriaen would have been about 14 and Marten 9 or 10.

Yes, there were Fransens in New Amsterdam at that time. There was a Thomas Francen and a Hendrick Francen who in 1672 baptized a daughter Lysbeth. Guess who stood as witness at that event? Young Marten Reyerszen! And look, there was even a Catharyn and a Marritie Joosten listed with Marten in the same catechism class taught by Dominie Selyns. And of course, later on, Joost Frans, the widower, married Marten Reyerszen's widow! We're still collecting possible Frans relatives. There may be more - no doubt aunts and uncles and cousins!

Estimated TIME-LINE

Reijer Reijersz born 1605
Marritie Frans b. 1602
Married 26 Jan 1631
Adriaen born 1632
Marten born 23 Nov 1637
Marritie died April 1643
Adriaen says he came to
New Amsterdam in 1646.
He was 14
Marten was about 9-10

The name Reyer was a common one in Holland....much like our Smith or Jones.

In the fall of 1651, a Reyer Elbertsz (*Albertse*) and his wife Marritje Barentsz first appear in the records of Rensselaerswyck when they settled in Albany arriving from Breukelen, a village near and to the east of Westbroek in the province of Utrecht. They had two sons, Gerrit Reyerse and Arien. These boys would necessarily have been born in the very early 1630's since Marritje was close to the end of her child-bearing years. A search of the records of Breukelen, and Westbroek in the province of Utrecht failed to uncover a baptismal record for either boy even though those records were clear and easily searched.

Reyer and Marritje settled in Albany in 1651. In January 1652, the court granted Reyer permission to make brick and in October 1653 he obtained a land patent.

There are those who suggest that Reyer and Marritje were the parents of Adriaen Reyersz who came over in 1646. Did they send him on ahead? Perhaps but they do not explain why his parents did not join him in Flatbush.....or require a 14 year old son to join them in Albany. Is this suggestion is based only on a similar last name?

It is hard to question the words of George L. Ryerse, a direct descendant who stated that there were ... 'brothers who came to this country from Holland in the early days of the American Colonies.'

Other historians agree. Albert W. Ryerson says "Adriaen emigrated to America from Amsterdam in the year 1646. He came with his brother Martin...and they settled in Flatbush."

WHAT OTHER HISTORIANS SAY:

The Genealogy of the RYERSON Family in America 1646-1902 - Louis Johnes Ryerse. "The first we find in the early records and history of America is that **of Marten Reyersen, who, with his brother, Adrian Reyerson, came from Amsterdam in 1646 and settled on Long Island.**"

The RYERSON Genealogy – 1916 by A.W. Ryerson. (part II) The Adriance, Martense and Ryerss Families. "**Adriaen Reyersz emigrated to America from Amsterdam in the year 1646. He came with his brother, Martin, who, it appears, was a minor and they settled in Flatbush on Long Island.**" (Rikers' "Annals," Stiles' "History of Brooklyn," Bergen's "Kings County.")

American Families of Historic Lineage V.2 – Wm. S. Pelletreau ,A.M. a member of the N.Y. Historical Society. "**In America, we find two brothers, Adrian and Marten Reyersen, hailing from Amsterdam** and settling in New Amsterdam in 1646 and soon after crossing the river to Brooklyn and Flatbush on Long Island."

The History of Paterson, N.J. by the historian, William Nelson. "In 1646, Adriaen and Martin Reyersen emigrated from Amsterdam to New Netherland. Both were unmarried and were but lads. It has been conjectured that perhaps they were sons of Reyer Elbertsen who came from Utrecht and settled at Albany but **there seems to be little or no ground for this supposition.**"

Early settlements and settlers of Pompton, Pequannoc and Pompton Plains by Rev. Garret C. Schenck who was the pastor of the Pompton Plains (Dutch) Reformed Church for many years and became intimately acquainted with all of the old families in his congregation including George Luke Ryerse. He carefully recorded all the family genealogies directly from first-person interviews. After all, he preached to the 'experts' every Sunday! In recent years he is sometimes written off as a back-country preacher but it's hard to imagine why anyone would question his work. The memories of these family members out-weigh later conjecture.

An Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent-Van Schaick by John Ross Delafield.

Dutch Systems in Family Naming: New York and New Jersey – an address delivered to the National Genealogical Society by Rosalie Fellows Bailey. (Used Adriaen and Marten as illustration with this footnote: Called brothers by both Bergen and the Ryerson Genealogy w/o mentioning evidence and perhaps on the basis of a similar last name. No evidence has been produced that Adriaen came from Amsterdam as did Marten according to the latter's marriage record. It is relatively certain that Adriaen who emigrated as a child in about 1646 is to be identified with Adriaen the son of Reyer Elbertsz and Marietje Barentsdr who came from the province of Utrecht and settled at Albany by 1651."

History of Harlem by James Riker – 1904. Adriaen Reyersz was an early settler at Flatbush, L.I, the son PROBABLY of Reyer Elberts from Utrecht.

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/index/html>
The People of Colonial Albany Live Here!

53rd Annual Ryerse-Ryerson Family Reunion Report

The famous Tug of War highlighted the annual family gathering!

The teams were broken into sides according to odd and even Birthdays.

The Odds took it 2 straight! The odds won last year too!

We can guarantee there will always be good food and lots of fun when this family congregates every July! This year we had 140+ family members in attendance – our highest since we moved to the Vittoria Community Centre. This year saw the most children and teens ever – a great sign that pride in our family is still strong.

This year we were honored with a visit from newly discovered cousins! Loulene Johnson, Andrea Mayes, and Gordena Doering are sisters that all came from Modesto, CA. They descend from Tryphena Rebecca Ryerse who married Frank Locke. Bill and Jackie Esrey came from Oroville, CA. Jackie descends from Eleanor Augusta Ryerse who married George Kniffen.

Anne Ryerson was the 1st cousin of Samuel Ryerse and Joseph Ryerson, and married Andrew Denike, settling in the Kingston area of Ontario. Marilyn Denike and her sisters Leona Couch and Helen St. Denis all attended the reunion for the very first time! It was awesome that we could welcome all these people to the extended family!

The family contests are always a favorite – the oldest man was Edmon Ryerse at 82 years and the oldest lady was Mary Kitchen also 82 years old. But wait, there's more! Kylie Kitchen was the most recently potty trained.....and Audrey

Bryant's 36" long hair easily took the longest hair award! Dana Peddle won the Talent Show with her rendition of Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind."

More Excitement OUTSIDE – Potato Sack Races, 3-legged races, wheelbarrow races and the popular shoe-kick!

ELECTIONS

Margaret Ryerse Brown was elected Reunion President, Eleanor Chithalen as Vice President, Tom Ryerson remains the Secretary-Treasurer for the 7th year, Stephen Mahdi will continue directing the sports with the assistance of Katy Wilkinson & Laura Mitchell, Jeanette Ryerson will also continue to carry on her duties as Program Chairman with the help of Courtney Ryerson. Melissa Jones will continue to take care of the tables. Edwin Jones and Bob C. Ryerse remain on the grounds committee. A super special thanks to Ian Madge for taking care of the sound every year!

Thanks to the entire executive for their continued support. We all appreciate the special people it takes to keep this reunion running, even after 50 years!

The ONLY PROBLEM???? We couldn't get to the FOOD fast enough!! HaHa! Not to worry – the Executive committee is working on a solution! See you in 2007.

12+ YEARS of Story Highlights – The Port Ryerse Journal July 1994 to October 2006

Ryerse 1794 Arrival – NOT a Happy One! – July 1994
1994 Centennial Celebration – wrap up – Nov 1994
We found HELENA – Col Sam's wife!
And Hetty Stickney – Joseph's wife! – March 1995
The reckless and daring RICHARDSON DAVENPORT – July 1995
Luke's VEST! & The Vail connection - Nov 1995
King's Mountain - March 1996
Rest in Peace – June 1996
The Ryerses and Religion – Oct 1996
Reijer Reijersz, the Ropemaker – Feb 1997
Also The Rapaljes, Taverns, A new Grandmother and a Cradle!
Down on the Farm – June 1997
Bloomingdale, NJ Cousins – Oct 1997
RYERSONS ON THE TITANIC (& the Lusitania) – Feb 1998
Men of Iron – Men of Steel – June 1998
Egerton Ryerson – Oct 1998
A Name is a Name is a Name! – Feb 1999
The Schoolmaster of Pompton Plains – June 1999
Lucas Ryerson, the Silversmith – Oct 1999
Johanna – Sam, John & Joe's Moeder! - Feb 2000
Martin the Millionaire! - June 2000
Finding John the right wife! – Oct 2000
Samuel Heads South - June 2001
The SHIP builders of Port Ryerse – Feb 2001
TERRORISTS HIT The Old Ryerson Farm – Oct 2001
The Ercolano Sinks – (2 parts) – Oct 01/March 2002
The Ryerson LADIES – June 2002
Martin & Monet – Nov 2002
The Lincoln Letters – Feb 2003
The California Governor and his murderous wife! – June 2003
Eliza of Sunning Hill Park – Nov 2003
Dobb's Ferry connection – Feb 2004
The Harris'tocracy – June 2004
Thomas Ryerson Sr. – Oct 2004
Pequannock Farmland FLOODED – June 2005
The Ryerson POT – Feb 2005
The Veterans - Oct 2005
Col. Henry O. Ryerson – Feb 2006
Visit our cousin at Biltmore Estate! – June 2006

.....and even MORE fascinating stories! DID YOU SEE THEM ALL??

What's New in the PAST Lane (always a surprise!)

Annual Reunion reports

Ryersedes & Ryersons in the news (Google news watch)

Some of our 'stuff' for sale on eBay

A lost cousin on a Redbook cover!

Amelia Ryerse (another one) radio DJ in Baltimore, MD.

Silk in the Attic

A Long Ryerson prayer!

Don Ryerse – NASCAR driver!

Bumerkes!

Ali Ryerson, Jazz Flutist – on CD!

Ryerson TOMB in Chicago

Ryerson 'stuff' in a Dumpster!

The Port Ryerse FOOTBALL TEAM!

Rascals, Scoundrels and Horse-Thieves!

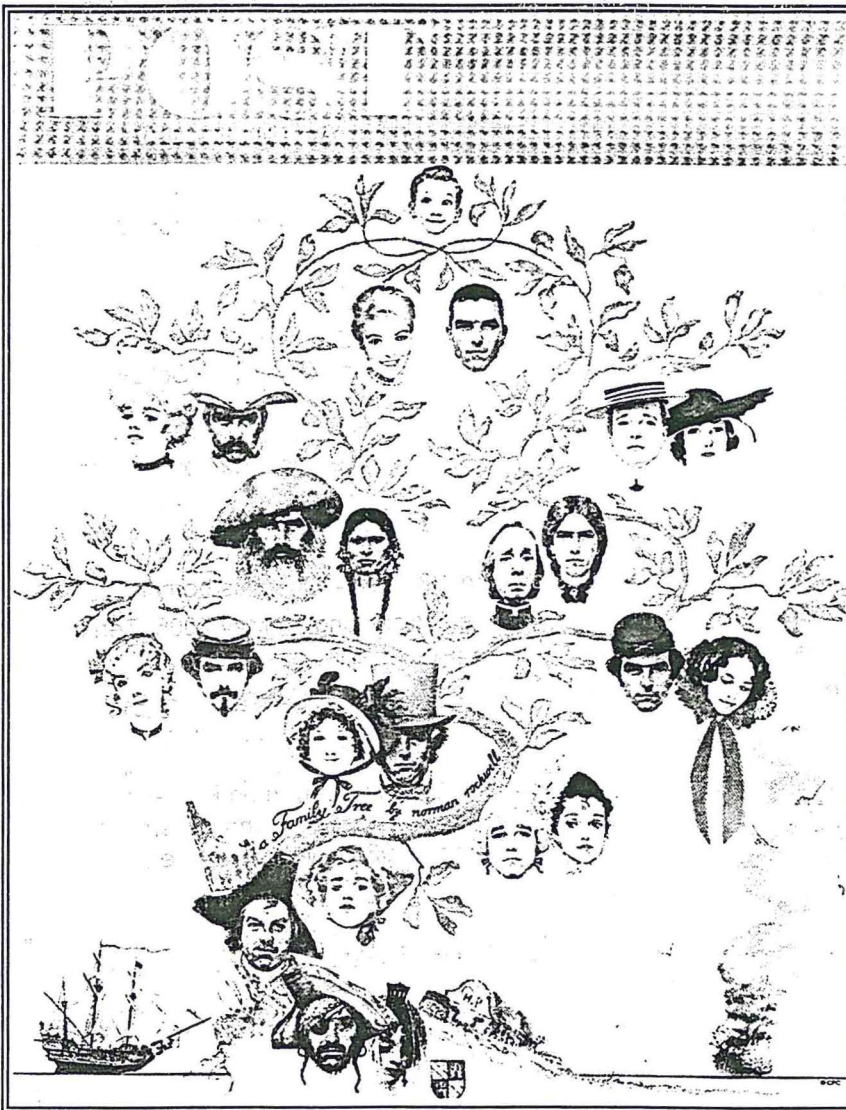
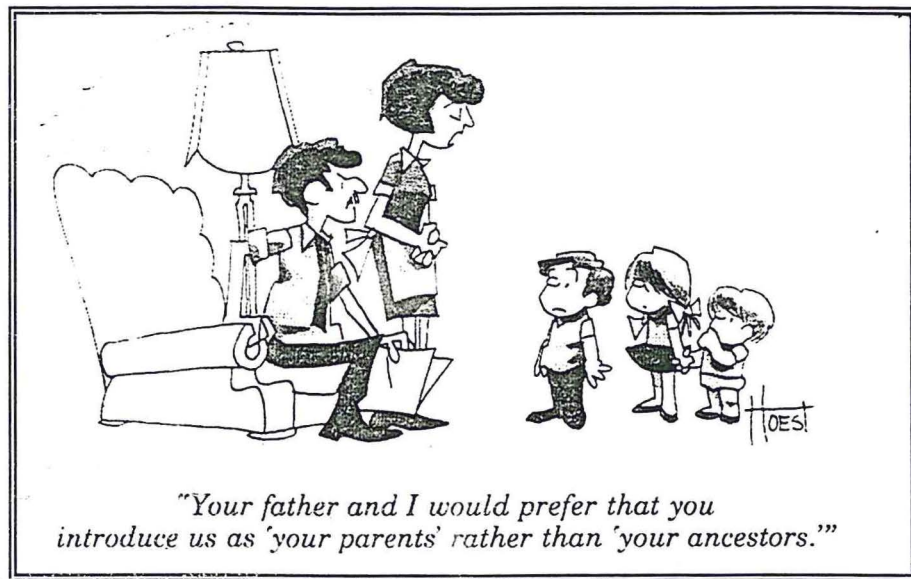
Annual Ryerson Scholarships – Yale University

Find us on the internet

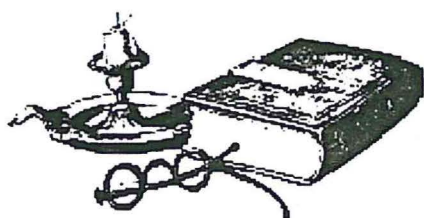
Ryersedes brides and Dutch tulips

Bob Andrew's – Port Ryerse historic town art work





*a couple of our favorites –
including this great family tree by
Norman Rockwell!*



October 2006 Supplement

New and corrected family information

Births

Pg 12, #15-Jeremy T. Quick and his partner Marina E. Zukina are the proud parents of **Emma Nicole Quick**. Emma was born on July 5th 2006 in Burnaby, BC, and is the first grandchild for Wendy Quick. Emma descends from Lois J. Ryerson of the Nova Scotia branch of the Ryerson clan.

Pg 185, #1175-Shawn and Kim Pettit are the proud parents of **Jack Kenneth Pettit**, born July 2nd 2005 in Woodstock, ON. Shawn and Kim were married on May 8th 2005 at Sacred Heart R.C. Church in Langton. Shawn is the eldest grandson of Rose (Kinchsular) and William Pettit of Delhi.

Deaths

Pg 179, #1100- **Irving Edward "Sonny" Gloss** died on September 20th 2006 in Buffalo, NY. He was about 72.

New Information

Pg 309, #3992- **Ella Hardy**, the grand-daughter of the Rev. John Ryerson, married David Thomas Duncombe on Jan. 17, 1878 in Simcoe, ON. David was born in 1841 and died in Chicago in 1911. Ella was born in Brantford in 1858 and died in 1952. They had one son, Henry Egerton Lyons Duncombe, born on Oct 26 1879. David was a barrister and an attorney at law who practised in Simcoe. At the time his son was born, it was discovered that David had bilked a very large amount of money from his clients. He fled the district and settled in Chicago where some of Ella's family were already living. It's not known if Ella and their son went to Chicago as well. More research needs to be done on this interesting family. The Duncombe's were a prominent Waterford family.

Pg 348, #4352- **Tim Lamberton** married his second wife, Terry Ann Salidas on April 28th 1984. She was born in Sarnia on April 14th 1955. Tim retired in December 2005 from his career in electroplating. In May 2006, Terry just completed her 18th year of teaching elementary school in Sarnia where they have lived since 1988. Both of Tim's sons are from his first marriage: Jason lives in Windsor and Jeffery lives in Sarnia.

Pg 327, #4112- **Clinton P. Ryerson's** 2nd wife Gertrude Elizabeth Evans was the second wife of Clinton Ryerson. She was born on June 15th 1901 and died on June 23 1973. Her first marriage was to Roy Cunningham who died in 1958. She had a large family of her own when she married Clinton about 1960. By that time her children were all grown up.

We encourage you to continue providing Tom Ryerson with updates on your family.

.....and now the *Ending*

We've had a great run....12+ years of discovering just how GREAT our great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandparents really were!! The 1994 Centennial gathering left us with an exhilaration of pride. Since then, we've tried to keep you up-to-date on current cousins as well. We're still a fun, fascinating, smart and yes, good-looking bunch!!

I've often wished I could sit down for a chat with Marten....and Samuel. If they had been at the 2006 Reunion, I believe that after seeing all their descendants busy and productive and doing interesting things -- they both would have been reassured that they made the right decision -- to come to New Amsterdam....and to come up to Ontario.

I've been looking back over a whole stack of past issues (38 of 'em) and I'm very proud of what we've done. It's quite an impressive body of work. But nothing lasts forever so save all those old issues for your kids and grandkids. This is the last issue.

The Port Ryerse Journal

The FINAL Issue

RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association

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USA

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[Ryerse Ryerson Family@yahoo.com](mailto:Ryerse_Ryerson_Family@yahoo.com)

Recommended Reading:

"The Island at the Center of the World"

The Epic story of Dutch Manhattan and the forgotten colony that shaped America

- by Russell Shorto

Follow your ancestors, **Joris Rapalje**, the Flemish textile worker, and **Catalina Trico**, a French-speaking teenager, as they came to New Amsterdam in a frightfully vulnerable wooden vessel. It is the story of the founding of our nation and reveals in riveting detail the crucial role of the Dutch in making America what it is today.

TOM SEZ -

We still have a few family T-Shirts left. They come in 4 sizes, and are \$12 plus postage. Please have a look at www.geocities.com/tomryerson/rassoc for neat information on the family, and information on ordering shirts, Port Ryerse Journals, and books.

The next Ryerse-Ryerson Family Picnic & Reunion will be held on Sunday July 8th 2007, beginning at noon, at the Vittoria & District Community Centre. Please call Tom Ryerson with any questions, queries, suggestions, etc, at 519-539-8827.

Tom also wants to encourage everyone to keep their family information up to date. Write/call or e-mail him with births, marriages and deaths.

Phyllis Sez -

It's a wise person who knows when to 'fold!'

My mailing and e-mail addresses are in the opposite column.....drop me a line to say hello!!