

# The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

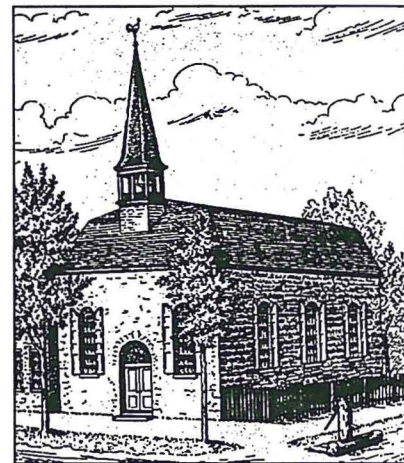
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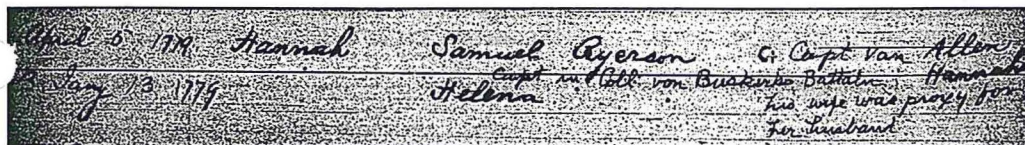
## Helena Has Been Found!

In spite of the 'wide paper' path left behind by Col. Samuel Ryerse including both military and personal documents, the identity of his first wife has remained a mystery for over 200 years. Intense research done prior to the publication of the Ryerse-Ryerson Family History covering nearly every church and public record in the northern two-thirds of New Jersey as well as parts of New York failed to unearth her name. Even when we thought we had discovered her possible identity, further investigation proved us wrong. It was all very discouraging and the new book went to the printers with only speculation as to who this elusive lady might be.

The old adage is true - when you stop searching for something lost, then it will surely turn up on its own! Thanks to some nearly forgotten information in the files of David Avery of Simcoe, Ontario and some further searching in the ancient New York records, we are now exceedingly pleased to announce that from the baptismal record of New York's oldest Lutheran Church we have found Col. Sam's wife as well as another daughter!



New York's Lutheran  
Church -Corner of  
Broadway & Rector St.



(bap.) April 5, 1779 Hannah of Samuel Ryerson,  
Capt. in Coll. von Buskirk's Battalion.  
b.(orn) Jan. 13, 1779 Helena

C: (standing as witness) Capt. Van Allen  
Hannah,  
his wife was proxy for her husband.

From this simple entry in the old church book we can learn several things, 1) that Samuel's wife's name was Helena! 2) that we can add little Hannah to the list of Samuel Ryerse's children (although it appears that she did not survive childhood,) 3) that Samuel chose his childhood friend, William Van Allen to stand as witness at this baptism. Capt. Van Allen was also a member of the 4th New Jersey Volunteers. At wars end he joined Samuel and other members of the NJ Vols. in New Brunswick where he is found on the map of lands received and divided between the men of this famous Loyalist regiment, 4) that Capt. Van Allen was apparently away on military business the day of this baptism and unable to appear and so he sent his wife Hannah in his place. We know that the Dutch custom was to name first children for their grandparents and later children for favorite aunts and uncles. We believe that Hannah Van Allen was Hannah Van Norden before her marriage. While our research has just begun on this new information - and on the Van Allen/Van Norden families, we are still tempted to speculate that Helena Ryerse was the sister of Hannah (Van Norden) Van Allen. Watch coming issues of *The Port Ryerse Journal* for updates on the continuing investigation of this very exciting discovery.

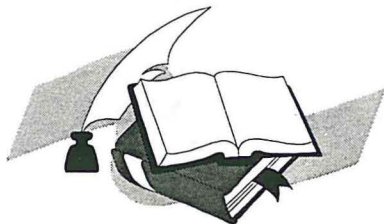
Phyllis Ryerse

## The Van Norden Family

The Van Norden family traces its ancestry back to 1572 in the province of Anjou, France. In that year, Seigneur Pierre Mabile de Nevy fled his native country and settled at Naarden, Holland. His grandson would become an early settler at New Amsterdam, probably arriving on the same ship as our ancestors, the Rapaljes.

Later descendants would settle around Hackensack, NJ including Gabriel Van Norden and his nephew John, both ardent Loyalists who became refugees in Nova Scotia after the Revolution. Research is in progress to determine if Helena Ryerse was a descendant of this old and respected family.





### From the Editors Desk

Here it is - issue three! Thanks for all the letters and new subscriptions that we have received. Word of mouth is very important to new ventures such as this and we appreciate your continued support. But remember, we need to hear from you. We'd like to know if you're enjoying the *Port Ryerse Journal* and we want to hear about all your family changes such as births, marriages or any changes of address. It's important that we keep up to date.

The supply of the first run of 500 books is almost gone. We're happy to report that copies have been ordered by the most important libraries both here and in the states. A re-print of the book could occur in the distant future but for now, this newsletter is our only means of keeping up-to-date and in touch with each other.

The next issue of the *Port Ryerse Journal* will arrive in your mailbox about the middle of June and will include a notice about the 1995 Family Reunion and Picnic at Port Ryerse, an event you won't want to miss.

### The Port Ryerse Journal

Published 3 times a year by the  
RYERSE-RYERSON Family Assoc.

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario

Canada N5C 3K5

Subscription rate \$10 yr.

Submissions welcome.

**Did you know?** That the officers of the 4th New Jersey Volunteers shouted orders in the DUTCH language when they wanted their regiments to march or maneuver or open fire on their enemies?

### From the MAILBAG

"I have never been a great fan of genealogical records but you have made this one eminently readable. The thoroughness of the coverage is very impressive indeed."

- Jack Maybee, Ottawa, Ontario

"(the Ryerse-Ryerson Family) is one of the best genealogical books I've seen."

- Amy C. Caswell, Spartanburg, NC.

"I would like to say thank you to the committee for organizing (the family picnic)...I've never been to such a large one before."

- Mary L. McPherson, Brantford, Ontario.

"We all have enjoyed learning more about our family roots." - Mark Edwards, Vernon, B.C.

### Births

(page numbers refer to the new Family History)

**Mordue, Kelsey Mary**, daughter of Bradley J. & Pamela M. (Whetstone) Mordue, baptised Sept. 25, 1994 Lynden, Ontario. pg. 357.

**Ross, Bradley William**, son of Doug and Lisa (Ryerson) Ross, Dec. 10, 1994 London, Ontario. pg. 355.

**Ryerse, Jesse Elizabeth**, daughter of Rick Ryerse and Joanne Carriere, Aug. 8, 1994 Woodstock, Ont. pg. 276.

**Ryerse, Joanna Louise**, daughter of Parry D. and Anna K (Baines-Holmes) Ryerse, Sept. 6, 1994 at Mount Home, Idaho. pg. 227.

(Information on the following three families will be found with New Family Information as well as on pg. 197 of the Family History.)

**Burkette, Austin Rhodes**, son of Tim & Donna (Rhodes) Burkette, June 9, 1994 at Reno, NV.

**McBride, Victoria June**, daughter of Tyler & Kalee (Rooker) McBride, Nov. 22, 1994 at Las Vegas, NV.

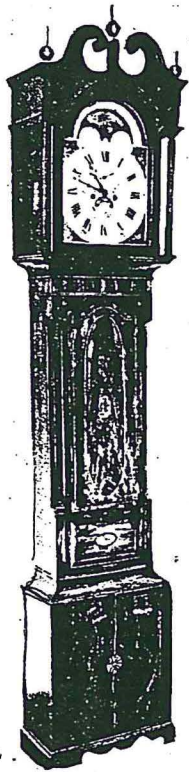
**Pennington, David Peter**, son of Rick & Susan (Calagna) Pennington, July 16, 1994 at Reno, NV.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Hobbs, William Charles** passed away on August 30, 1994 in his 66th year. He was the husband of the late (1988) Eleanor Jean (Hill) Hobbs. pg. 197.

**News Item:** Our Editor, Tom Ryerson was the guest speaker at a meeting of the London & Middlesex Branch of the O.G.S. on March 13th. He spoke on the topic of "The Sisters Ryerse - Amelia Ryerse Harris of Eldon House, London, and Elizabeth Ryerse Liger Roulliet of Philadelphia."





## Ryerson Grandfather Clock at Auction

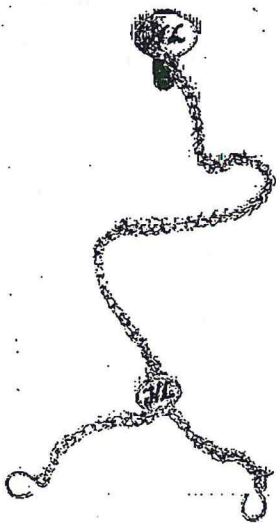
by Phyllis Ryerse

Word was received recently of the existence of another tallcase or Grandfathers clock made by our early "cousin," Lucas Ryerson of Pompton, NJ. Examples of his work are so finely crafted and so rare that plans were made to fly to New Jersey immediately to see this clock - and perhaps make a bid to purchase it at the antique auction which was scheduled for the following Monday night. Our excitement was intense as we prepared to leave - only to be dashed at the last minute by a phone call saying that the owners (identity unknown) had withdrawn the clock from the sale! Further inquiry revealed that the clock indeed had the name "**Lucas Ryerson - Pompton**" on the face along with delicately painted flowers around the face. A description of the clock-works appeared to match those of other known Ryerson clocks. The case was described as being constructed of mahogany and decorated with fine wooden inlays - also similar to other clocks made by

Ryerson. We are pleased to add this clock to the list of clocks that he made even though the opportunity to own it was lost. We have learned since that clocks of this rarity and age can sometimes carry a price tag from \$18,000 upwards to \$40,000+ depending on whether you are bidding against dealers or museum curators!

(Doubt our budget could have handled that!)

If that wasn't enough excitement, we learned the following week of another piece of Lucas Ryerson work - also for sale - this time a piece of fine jewelry which was called a "chatelaine." (See illustration) While we



knew that Lucas Ryerson made delicate teaspoons, serving spoons and other coin-silver flatware, we were totally unaware that he also created this type of ornamental item used by many of the early housewives. Pinned or clipped to a belt or bodice, it carried keys or scissors at the other end which could be dropped into an apron pocket (much like a man would do with a watch). This particular chatelaine carries Ryerson's "mark" on the back of the oval plate. The front carries his distinctive decorative engraved border as well as the initials of the owner, *HL*.

Price tag: about \$2500.

## An interview with Thomas Ryerson

*How did you get into family research to begin with?*

I never thought much about my roots until I saw the TV show *Roots* when I was about 12. In my 10th grade history class we discussed Great Canadians including Rev. Egerton Ryerson. I read as much as I could find on him and on the family and I began asking my grandfather questions about my ancestors. That's when I found I was descended from Egerton's younger brother, Wm. Edwy. The "Titanic connection" was also an exciting discovery.

I really got the genealogical "bug" in 1982. I attended the family picnic and learned about the *Ryerse* connection and about the **Black Book** which had been written 20 years before. I determined then that I would try to bring it up to date. William R. Yeager of the Norfolk Hist. Society was kind enough to open all of his files on the family to me and I began a massive letter-writing campaign to our far-flung "cousins," nearly 2000 letters altogether! When I was 23 I was accepted into the London & Middlesex Branch of the United Loyalist Assoc.

In 1988 I received a phone call from Phyllis Ryerse. The rest, as they say, is history! After many thousands of hours between us - of compiling and computing, we were able to publish the 430 page family history which was so well received at the 200th anniversary reunion & picnic. I've come a long way in the last 12 years, including some public speaking about the family, several terms as President of the Ryerse-son Family Assoc. and the 1993 Chairman of the Norfolk Co. Branch O.G.S.

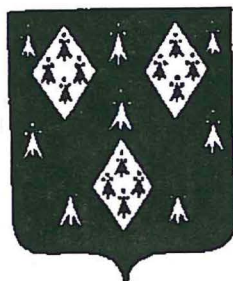
I was fortunate to be influenced and to receive encouragement from so many people along the way - and I say a hearty "thanks!"



## Sarah Mehetable "Hetty" Stickney

by Phyllis Ryerse

One of our stated goals has been to give our early Grandmothers the same attention as our early Grandfathers! With all the excitement over the discovery of "Grandmother" Helena Ryerse, it seems only appropriate that we should take a closer look at "Grandmother" Hetty Ryerson as well. She has been described as a light-hearted, auburn-haired beauty when at nineteen she married the handsome and dashing Joseph Ryerson, Loyalist soldier - now refugee - newly arrived in New Brunswick from New Jersey.



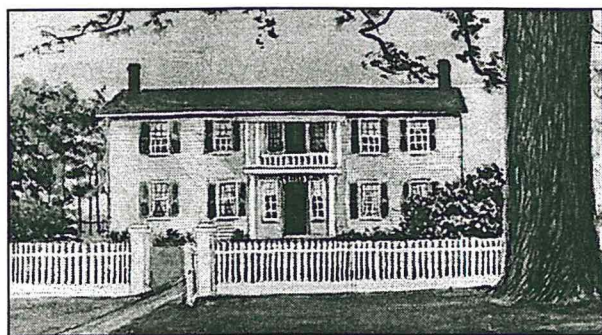
"STYCKNEY."

The earliest traditional history of the Stickney family begins in the year 1331 with John De Stickney who was lord of the manor of Stickney, Lincolnshire, England. Later generations include William Stickney (c.1465-1533) who held land at Stone Hall Manor, Frampton, England, on down to William Stickney (1592-1665) who with his wife Elizabeth and several children embarked for New England about 1637. In 1638 we find them on the roll of the First Church in Boston. By 1639 they were counted among the original settlers of Rowley, Mass. where they settled down to raise their ten children. "The original settlers of Rowley," wrote Governor Winthrop in his Journal, "were godly men...of good estate." It is interesting to note that William Stickney brought with him from his native land a copy of King James' translation of the Bible, a first edition printed in 1611. This same Bible was used at the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Rowley, Mass.

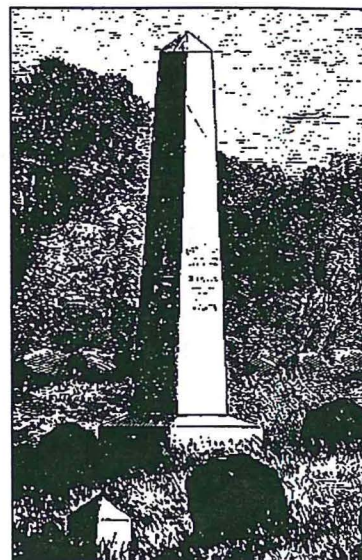
We find frequent mention of the Stickney name in many of the ancient Rowley town records including notice that William had erected a house at the corner of Bradford and Wethersfield Streets. His neighbor on the west side was James Barker. It will be remembered that Hetty Stickney's mother was Elizabeth Barker who married Isaac Stickney, both of them descendants of these early settlers.

We do not know why Isaac and Elizabeth removed to New Brunswick but we know they had already settled at Maugerville at the time of Hetty's birth on Oct. 7, 1766. There is no doubt that they carried with them the strong religious convictions of their ancestors which they passed on to their children. It has been written that Hetty (Stickney) Ryerson lived for God and her family - and probably in that order. After she and Joseph had moved their family to Norfolk County, Hetty became a Methodist in spite of her husband's prejudice against them. Her influence upon her children was profound and five of her six sons would become Methodist ministers. In an autobiography written in his old age, Egerton Ryerson acknowledged his debt to his mother for his "studious habits, mental energy....and character." He also recalled that his "first religious impression" occurred when he was about five years old. Having done something naughty, his mother took him into her bedroom - not for the spanking that he expected, but rather, she put her arms around him, explained how bad he had been and said a prayer for him - an experience that he never forgot.

The first Ryerson home in Norfolk County was a small log cabin made of "round logs" which Hetty soon turned into a comfortable home for their growing family. A second house soon replaced that cabin and by 1818, the family moved into the spacious home depicted in the familiar Cantelon painting.



Courtesy - Norfolk Co. Hist. Soc.



William Stickney  
Early Puritan Settler

Hetty died on June 10, 1850 in her 84th year. She and Joseph are buried in Old Woodhouse Cemetery. They were the parents of ten children and 57 grandchildren. Those who knew her called her a woman "of sound understanding and rare excellence."

We call her one of our outstanding "Grandmothers!"

### References:

- The Stickney Family*, printed in 1869 by Matthew Adams Stickney.
- The Ryerson Genealogy*, 1916, by Albert Winslow Ryerson
- The Canadians - Egerton Ryerson*, by Laura Damania

**Don't Miss the next issue of The Port Ryerse Journal. We're already at work on several new stories....with exciting new family information you won't want to miss!**



# The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

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July 1995

## Captain Richardson Davenport, Loyalist

The embers snapped and crackled as the familiar words of the marriage service were repeated for the couple standing by the fireplace. "I, Samuel Ryerse, take you Sarah for my wife." Sarah looked up into the face of a man she had grown to love very much. And yet, she could not help her thoughts as they took her back momentarily to another wedding day - the day she had married her first husband, the reckless and daring Richardson Davenport.

Things might have turned out so differently *if only* he hadn't felt such strong loyalty to the British government, *if only* he hadn't gone off to help put down the rebellion, *if only* he hadn't taken on such risky secret missions and *if only* he hadn't been killed during one of those missions.

The Davenport family lived in Westchester County, NY, a hotbed of raiding and reprisals that equaled in intensity and bitterness that of Bergen Co., NJ. Several of their sons had been involved in recruiting for the "Refugee Corps". Richardsons grandfather's 200 acre farm had been confiscated and the patriot Col. Green had been killed in a raid on his uncle's tavern, the Davenport House. Yes, there was much unrest and bitterness. Sarah's father, Bartow Underhill, lived on a farm just a few miles north of that of John & Elizabeth Davenport. These children of prominent Westchester families had grown up together. No one was surprised when Richardson and the pretty Sarah Underhill declared their intention to marry nor were they surprised when his military duties soon took him to the center of the action. They would have been very surprised, however, had they known the extent of his activities during the war.

While not a regular enlisted soldier, Richardson soon found himself attached to a band of "refugee troops" operating out of Sandy Hook, NJ engaged in recruiting and raiding along the Jersey coast. Richardson quickly proved to be an able leader and earned himself the title of "Captain." Leading a band of anywhere from 20 to 100 "refugees" and manning whale boats armed with "small guns and a 6 Pounder on a Swivel," they set out on many a "foray" along the coast.

Word of his bravery and daring apparently soon came to the attention of James Moody, perhaps through his younger brother, John Moody, who had joined Richardson on many of these "excursions." The Moodys, after all, had been raised along the south Jersey shore and knew all the coves, inlets and bays. James had been severely harassed by the patriots. Attacked in his home, forced to flee and hide in the woods for weeks, imprisoned and manacled with handcuffs made purposely ragged on the inside next to the skin, he had suffered great pain and loss, none of which shook his beliefs. "I would fight, bleed and die rather than to see the constitution of this country totally lost," he said. Contemporary historians described him as daring, gallant and shrewd and indeed, his very name now brought terror

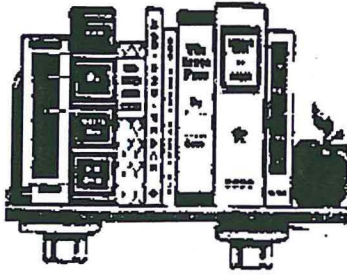


to the citizens of New Jersey. It was James Moody who had designed and carried out the wildly successful raid on Tinton Falls and later on the Sussex Co. jail in order to release two British soldiers. It was James Moody who plotted to kidnap New Jersey's Gov. Livingston and who raided so many patriot homes, forcing the inhabitants to swear support to King George, that he had fast become a legend. "*Moody is out,*" sent chills thru the Jersey countryside and many a mother, in order to get her children to come into the house would say, "*If you don't come in Moody will get you!*"

He now directed his energies to the official mails carried by post riders who usually travelled alone, easy marks on narrow roads lined with trees and underbrush. None were safe from his band of raiders. In June of 1781, Moody had captured a dispatch case full of papers from Count Rochambeau to George Washington containing important plans for coming campaigns. Tired, sweaty and covered with dust, Moody rode his horse directly to Sir Henry Clinton's headquarters on Manhattan Island. Clinton could hardly believe his good luck. As a reward he gave Moody prize money and a free hand to plan his own raids and spying missions. Always on the lookout for clever young men to help carry out his important yet dangerous endeavours, Moody now chose his brother John, James O'Hara, John Turner and Richardson Davenport for their bravery and cool-headedness in tight situations.

*Story continued on page three.*





### *A Message From the Editors*

When the idea for this family newsletter was still in the formative stage, one of our concerns was whether we could fill the pages on a long-term, continuing basis. The calendar is relentless and the need to 'fill up' the next issue would come with great regularity. I don't believe we resolved that concern - we just stumbled ahead with great naiveté. Yet here we are - working on the fourth issue, and even though it has been a busy year, one that included our great 200th Bicentennial Reunion, still the family news and ideas for future issues seem to be popping up just when we need them. We hope this continues!

Who could have foreseen the discovery of Col. Sam's first wife -- or the exciting adventures of Captain Davenport. While we can't guarantee such headline-grabbing stories in every issue - still we're proud of our first tentative efforts. We hope you'll bear with us as we 'learn the ropes.' We do it as a labor of love for this great and fascinating family. Please be patient as we get bigger and we hope - better.

Both of Col. Samuel Ryerse's wives have always been fascinating. His second wife, Sarah Underhill, the widow of Capt. Davenport, caught our imaginations early as we discovered how her early life unfolded. Born during the unsettled years prior to the Revolutionary War, married to a brave young man whose allegiance was strongly attached to the British and knowing that he was off on important and dangerous missions that could influence the outcome of the hostilities, Sarah must have been deeply affected. We wanted to know more about Captain Davenport - but we didn't even know his first name! Who was he, where did he come from and how did he come to die leaving behind this young widow?

The search for this young man has gone on for many years and just when we had nearly given up searching through militia lists, endless rosters of officers and countless histories of battles and skirmishes, we finally discovered the story of Capt. Richardson Davenport through the best research method ever employed: dumb luck! We hope you'll enjoy his story. It's one that turned out far more exciting than we ever imagined!

### **The Port Ryerse Journal**

Published 3 times a year by the  
**RYERSE-RYERSON Family Assoc.**

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario  
Canada N5C 3K5

Subscription rate \$10 yr.  
Submissions welcome.

## **New Family History Finds Home in 29 Libraries**

Allen Co. Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN  
American Antiquarian Soc., Worcester, MA  
Backus Heritage Village, Simcoe, Ont.  
Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY  
Delhi District Secondary School, Delhi, Ont.  
Delhi Public Library, Delhi, Ont.  
Eldon House, London, Ont.  
Elting Memorial Library, New Paltz, NY  
Eva Brook Donly Museum, Simcoe, Ont.  
Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT  
Free Library, Newburgh, NY  
Ingersoll Public Library, Ingersoll, Ont.  
Joint Free Public Library, Morristown, NJ  
Lambton Co. Library, Wyoming, Ont.  
London Public Library, London, Ont.  
Long Pt. Settlers Journal Library, Ridgeway, Ont.  
N. J. Historical Society, Newark, NJ  
National Library of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.  
New York Public Library, New York, NY  
No. Jersey Highlands Hist. Soc., Ringwood, NJ  
NY Genealogical & Biographical Soc., NYC  
Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto, Ont.  
Oxford County Library, Woodstock, Ont.  
Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick, NJ  
Simcoe Public Library, Simcoe, Ont.  
Somerset Co. Library, Bridgewater, NJ  
Stratford-Perth Archives, Stratford, Ont.  
United Empire Loyalist Assoc., London, Ont.  
Wayne Co. Historical Commission, Wayne, NJ

## **REVIEWS**

Long Point Settlers Journal - Ridgeway, Ont. *"This impressive work reflects many thousands of hours of detailed research in Holland, New York, New Jersey and Ontario. The descendant numbering is systematic and easy to follow."*

The Daily Sentinel Review - Woodstock, Ont. *".....a most comprehensive investigation of the Ryerson-Ryerse family lineage."*

The Simcoe Reformer, Simcoe, Ont. *"Years of untiring research have paid off....with the publication of this extensive family history dating back more than 400 years."*

The Ingersoll Times, Ingersoll, Ont. *"....a wonderful addition to our reference section" - Rosemary Lewis, Librarian.*

William Yeager, Norfolk Historical Society, Simcoe, Ont.  
*"It's huge, it's well done!"*

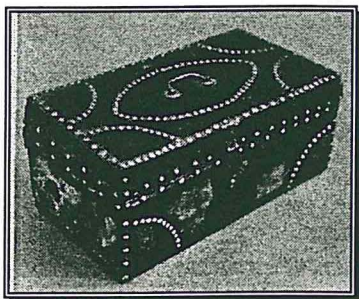
## **IN MEMORIAM**

Muriel M. 'Pearl' Dalzell, age 92, died on Feb. 18, 1995 at her home, Sand House, Wedmore, Somerset, England. Buried at Wedmore, she was predeceased by her husband. #531 - pg 121



### *Captain Davenport, Loyalist - continued from page one*

The Americans and their Allies were preparing to attack Lord Cornwallis in Virginia and it would be of strategic importance if the dispatches from the Congress in Philadelphia to General Washington could be intercepted. Yet, to do so at such a distance from all British protection would be difficult and extraordinarily dangerous. A reward of two hundred Guineas and expenses of a dollar a day to the end of the war was promised these young men, should they be successful.



**Military Dispatch Box**

Disguised as ordinary farmers, the four made their way deep into the countryside below Philadelphia. They had reached an area near Brandywine when they heard the sound of a fast approaching rider. It was all over so quickly. The post rider lay stunned on the ground, the packet of mail now in their possession. A quick look, yes, these were the papers they wanted, and back on their horses following Turner, who guided them on a circuitous route back towards the Delaware River and across into New Jersey.

They could breathe a bit easier now but they still had a long way to go. That part of New Jersey, called the "Pine Barrens," was and still is, a wilderness. Following sandy paths and wagon roads through the scrub pines, they made their way cautiously across Jersey. Young Moody, who knew which farm and cabin held "friends" who would provide fresh horses, now took over as their guide and at last they reached Little Egg Harbor on the sea coast. But their race to safety was not over yet. Jumping into a waiting whaleboat, they began the long row northward along the Jersey shore. Suddenly they were overtaken by two other boats manned by rebels who drove them ashore and took them as prisoners. Details are scarce on what happened next although we know they were treated roughly, including the threat of hanging by the neck, in order to extract confessions. Somehow they were able to make their escape and brought nearly all of the captured mail into NY.

The British surrender at Yorktown did not necessarily end all of the military action. One of Moody's last efforts was to steal all of the top secret records from the Continental Congress. His brother John was also chosen for this mission but unfortunately, he was captured and taken to Philadelphia where he was hung in November 1781. James Moody escaped by hiding inside a corn stalk for two days, even avoiding the soldiers who used their bayonets to jab the standing stalks in their search for him! Moody would end his days in Nova Scotia where he was occupied with the ship building business, launching his first ship in August of 1788 - fittingly christened "The Loyalist."

Captain Davenport returned to his duties with the armed whale boats along the Jersey shore. He took part in the March 1782 expedition against the rebel post on Tom's River, burning the block house, the grist and saw mills and several houses. Among the prisoners taken was Captain Joshua Huddy whose hanging death at the hands of the Loyalists would later set off an international incident. Unfortunately, Captain Davenport, who was badly wounded during the action, died soon after and was probably buried in an unmarked grave - apparently before he was able to collect his share of the reward money for capturing the mails. Word of his untimely death reached Westchester some time later. Sarah now found herself a widow as well as a refugee and gratefully accepted her brother's offer to accompany him to New Brunswick. Those dark days were behind her now and she was ready to start her new life with Samuel Ryerse.

*Phyllis Ryerse*

### **4th Battalion NJ Vols.**

*The New Jersey Gazette  
(Trenton) Dec. 10, 1777*

*"....Col. Van Boskirk....commands a battalion of about 200 banditti collected in Bergen who eat King George's beef and pork to very little purpose...."*

Since Samuel Ryerse was a proud member of this battalion during the Rev. War, we thought you'd enjoy hearing about the 1995 re-enactment group of the 4th NJ Volunteers, a lively collection of young fellows who spend their free time drilling and researching this old Loyalist unit. This summer's "campaign" schedule includes a Firelock Match to demonstrate their skills with powder and ball, marching in Memorial Day and 4th of July parades wearing exact replica NJV uniforms, an encampment along the Hudson River near West Point, NY as well as several re-enactments at battlefields up and down the east coast of the US.

One of their members, Todd W. Braisted, has been collecting data for a Loyalist Index, an ambitious project to create a data base of biographical and military info on every known Loyalist - over 10,000 to date and more being added as research continues.

Todd also edits the group's newsletter, appropriately called "Buskirk's Banditti." It is to Todd that we are indebted for his help in uncovering the identity and the extraordinary story of Capt. Richardson Davenport. **Thanks Todd!**

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*Also excerpts from:*

**Lt. James Moody** by Theodore Brush  
**The HIGHLANDER**  
NJ Highlands Historical Society

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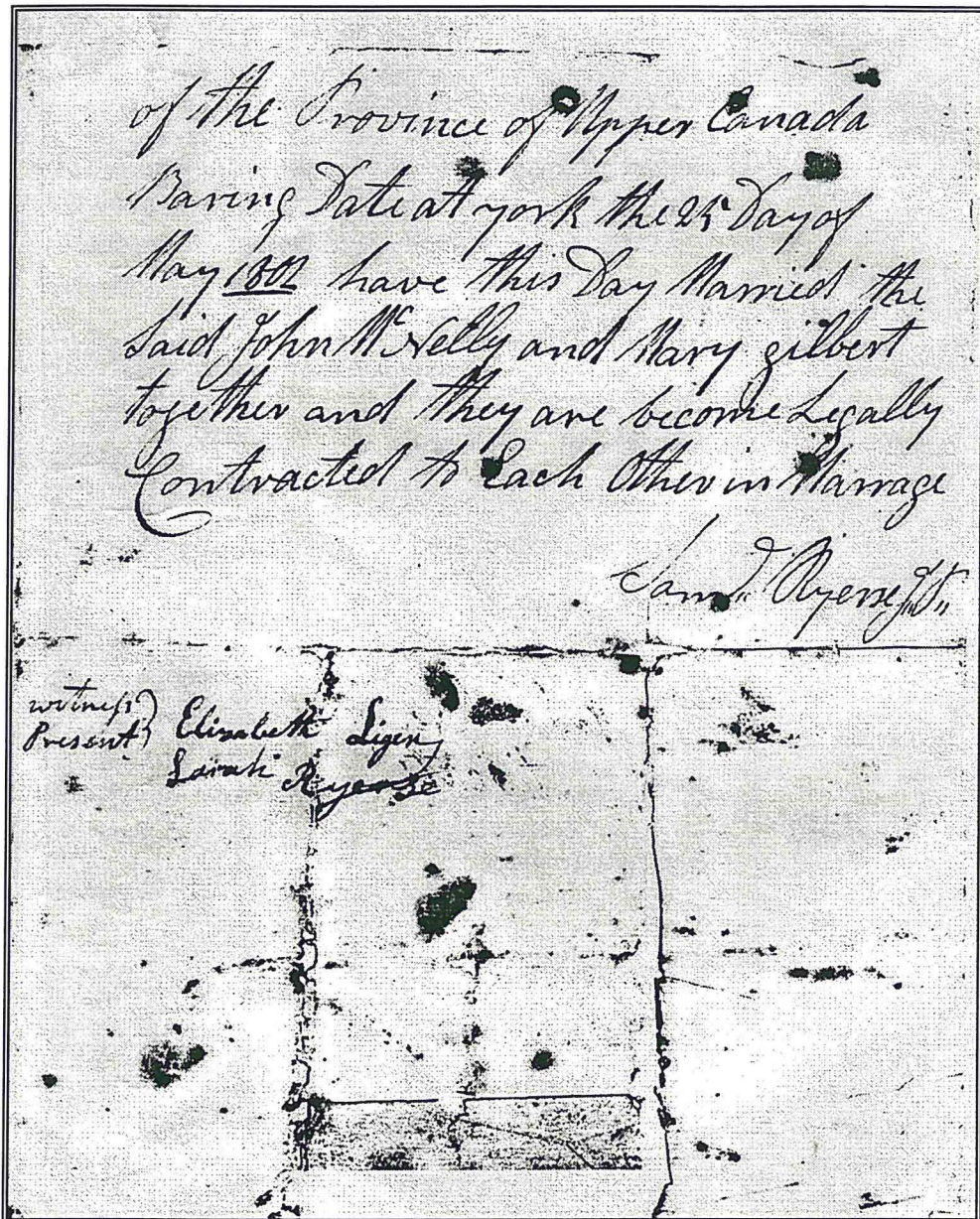
**Did you Know??** Around the turn of the century, a Ryerson barn in New Jersey was completely destroyed by fire. The horses killed in that blaze were buried in a field nearby that became known as **Horses Heaven!**



Woodhouse 26th of May 1802  
 Whereas John McElly and Mary Gilbert Both  
 of the Township of Woodhouse were desirous  
 of Intermarrying with Each Other and there  
 being no person or minister of the Church  
 of England living within eighteen  
 miles of them or either of them they have  
 applied to me for that purpose and  
 these are to certify that in pursuance  
 of the powers granted by an Act of the  
 Legislature of this province Passed in  
 the Thirty third year of his Majesty  
 King of Great Britain one of his Majestys  
 Justices of the Peace by virtue of a  
 Licence for that purpose granted  
 by Peter Hunter Lieutenant Governor

Certificate of a marriage performed on May 26, 1802 by **Samuel Ryerse**, Justice of the Peace. This old document is unique because it was written in full and signed by Col. Sam himself. It also contains the actual signature of his wife, **Sarah (Underhill/Davenport) Ryerse** as well as that of his eldest daughter, **Elizabeth Liger**.





We were not able to identify the bride & groom before press-time. Perhaps one of our readers can provide more information on the happy couple. Please note the use of the letter *f* in place of the letter *s*. The original document (shown here reduced slightly in size) is in the archives of the Norfolk Historical Society, Simcoe, Ont. We are indebted to David Avery for bringing it to our attention.



### Letters to the Editors

"I received the beautiful hard bound book, "The Ryerse-Ryerson Family 1574-1994." My thanks goes to Tom and Phyllis for the gigantic effort put into this project."

- Gene Ryerson, Stockton, CA  
(Gene is a gr-gr-gr-grandson of John Ryerson, the brother to both Samuel and Joseph Ryerson. We hope to print Gene's family tree in an upcoming issue of the PRJ.-ed)

"Phyllis & Thomas, this book is a work of art. You should be extremely proud of a project that took years in the making!"

- Georgia Atkinson White  
Backus Heritage Village, Pt. Rowan

Rec'd your book last week and were in awe of the work and love that you put into it! This book is very important to us. I'm sure you understand the importance of knowing where your family began." - Patrick & Rita Liger

Carlsbad, CA

(your kinds words are making us blush!! -Ed.)

### A Dutch Marriage Tradition



Everyone in Holland owns a pair of ice skates. That's because the countless rivers and canals make ice skating a national pastime. It is a custom for young betrothed couples to go from Amsterdam to Gouda where they buy a long clay pipe for the groom and they must bring it back without breaking it

- ice skating all the way -  
to ensure a happy marriage!

### NEXT ISSUE:

**The Ryersons and Slaves  
Lucas Ryerson's Vest!**

## The 41st Annual Ryerse-Ryerson Reunion & Smorgasbord

**Sunday July 9, 1995**

**1:30 pm**

**Ryerse Park, Port Ryerse, Ontario**

(Special thanks to Vern & Barbara Ryerse for their kind hospitality!)

Take Highway 24 south from Simcoe or east from Highway 59. Exit towards Lake Erie at the Port Ryerse sign. Follow main road down the hill and fork to the right to cross the bridge. Signs will mark Vern's driveway on the left.

**Bring: Your tastiest dish, plates, cups, silverware & lawn chairs!**

**Expect: Good food, good conversation, family news, games, prizes and the famous TUG-O-War !!**

President: Thomas Ryerson,  
Woodstock 1-519-421-3621

Vice President: Lloyd Ryerse

Secretary: Eleanor Chithalen,  
Lynden 1-519-647-2420

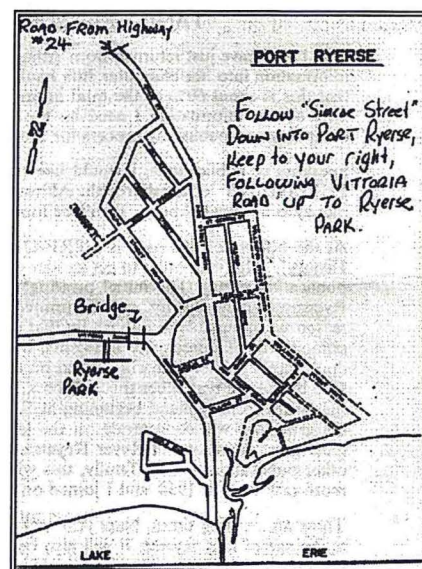
Program: Melissa & Jenifer Jones

Sports: Heather & Burnie Stratford

Tables: Maureen Jones  
& Belinda Ryerson

Grounds: Vern, Bob and  
Edmon Ryerse

Sound: Murry Madge



## The 150th Anniversary of Port Ryerse Memorial Church 1845-1995 The Port Ryerse Historical & Environmental Assoc. July 8-9, 1995

Events include a Saturday morning pancake breakfast at the church. Other events scheduled throughout the day ending with a musical program in the evening.

Sunday's activities will begin with a 10 AM service at the Port Ryerse Memorial Church with the Rev. Clarence Mitchell officiating.

Music will be provided by the Trinitones.

The Port Ryerse group will join our family at Ryerse Park at 3:30 PM for the annual Tug-O-War Challenge!

The Ryerse/son family will put forth their greatest efforts to win the prize this year after last year's near miss!

**For Information: call Jack Addison 1-519-428-1611**



# The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3

ISSN. 1201-0065

November 1995

## The VAIL Connection

by David Avery

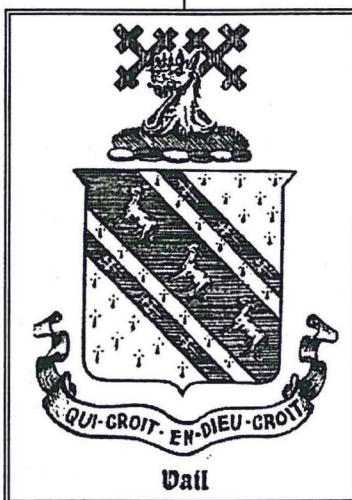
IN the quiet, dappled shade of Port Ryerse's Memorial Church yard stands a tombstone marking the last resting place of **ELIZABETH VAIL**. She is buried near her three infant sons, John, Charles and Joseph and about a dozen feet away from her father and mother-in-law, Samuel and Sarah Ryerse. The first wife of Rev. George Ryerse and the mother of eight children, she is the maternal ancestor of a good proportion of Ryerse descendants. Her stone reads: *In Memory of Elizabeth,*

*wife of George J. Ryerse who departed this life  
Feb. 19, 1834 aged 33 years 3 months and 3 days.*

Elizabeth and her twin brother Isaac were born Nov. 15, 1800 in Port Ryerse not long after the Vail family arrived from New Brunswick. Her father established a store in Port Ryerse and bought land (now the Oakes property) several miles west of the village. Undoubtedly from childhood, Elizabeth Vail and George Ryerse knew each other and it was not illogical that when he was twenty-two and she was sixteen, they were married on Christmas Day, December 25, 1816.

It must have been a difficult period with the region recovering from the War of 1812-14, the Ryerse's seeking compensation for the burning of their mills and George acting as head of his widowed mother's household. It is possible that the young couple lived initially with Sarah Ryerse because George was probably extremely busy operating the farm while pursuing his two interests - medicine and religion.

Several years later, about 1818, George built their large frame home on the high west bank of the creek opposite the mill site in Port Ryerse. Young Elizabeth must have been challenged by all of her domestic responsibilities as well as operating the farm when George was absent preaching and practicing medicine.



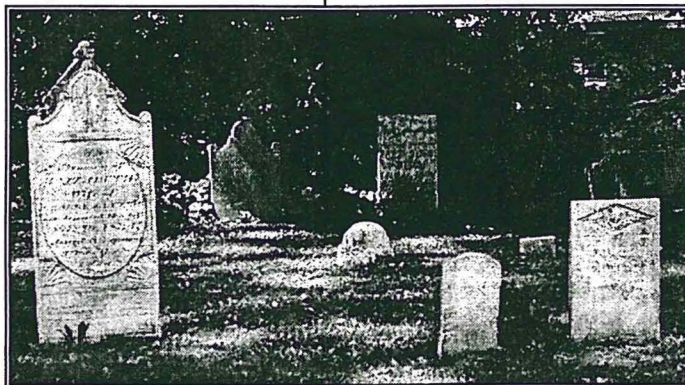
It was probably about this time that an avenue of young maple trees was planted, from the house to the road - many of which are flourishing today. (A depression in the ground identifies the location of the old house.)

Sadly, Elizabeth died on Feb. 19, 1834 at the age of thirty-three. Her obituary from the March 19, 1834 issue of the **Christian Guardian** states that "she died after an illness of four days. She was born and educated near the place of her decease, instructed by religious parents. She was amiable in her deportment and the subject of early religious impressions. When twenty five years of age, she obtained an evidence of her

acceptance with God and the following year was buried with Christ by Baptism and united with the Regular Baptist Church." Five of Elizabeth's children reached maturity, married and produced a total of thirty-one offspring.

### EARLY ANCESTORS (see family tree on page 4)

Elizabeth's earliest ancestors in America were **Thomas Veale** and his wife **Sarah Wentworth**. They emigrated in 1640 from Suffolk, England to Salem, MA, a Puritan community established in 1626 about fifteen miles northeast of Boston. It was founded primarily for religious purposes, the church elders controlling all economic and social activity and intolerant of any deviation from their own form of worship. Salem would become notorious in 1692 when

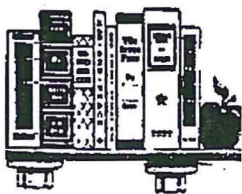


nineteen alleged witches were hung. As Quakers, the Vail family experienced religious persecution by the zealous local Puritans of Salem and by 1647 had moved to Southampton, Long Island. Thomas was a blacksmith and thus a major asset to the community but Puritan persecution con-

tinued in this area as well. In 1660 Thomas, his wife and children and a number of other Quaker families, moved again - this time to

*continued on page 5*





### *A Message From the Editors*

If you descend from Rev. George Ryerse and his first wife, **Elizabeth Vail**, you'll want to add this issue of the Port Ryerse Journal to your family archives. We are very pleased to present Elizabeth's story, submitted by one of our favorite cousins, David Avery of Simcoe, Ontario. David has done much research on the family and we look forward to hearing from him again in future issues. We're always looking for new and interesting material on the family and we encourage any of our readers to submit stories or ideas for up-coming issues.

We are at the end of our first full year of publishing *The Port Ryerse Journal* and we look forward to the new year. Our goal is to provide a vehicle for circulating family news, family history up-dates and to fill these pages with the most fascinating pieces of Ryerse/Ryerson Family history that we can find. If you like what we're doing and find our efforts of value, we hope you'll take a few minutes to renew your subscription for 1996. We're already at work on stories for the new year. Why, we might even rattle the bones of a few skeletons! Horse-thieves and vagabonds make great stories!

Meanwhile, we send you our sincere



**Season's Greetings &  
Best Wishes for the  
New Year.**

#### **The Port Ryerse Journal**

Published 3 times a year by the  
**RYERSE-RYERSON Family Assoc.**

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario

Canada N5C 3K5

Subscription rate \$10 yr.

Submissions welcome.

#### **Births**

- **Macdonald, Sarah Louise**, born April 1995, daughter of Keith Macdonald and Darlene Brown. (pg 200 - #2410)
- **Ryerson, Adrian Caplan**, born June 17, 1995 in Toronto, ON, son of John & Lori (Caplan) Ryerson. (pg 340 - #4250)
- **Ward, Michelle Sarah**, born May 21, 1995 in Simcoe, ON, the daughter of Bob & Lorrie (Ryerse) Ward. (Pg 275)

#### **Marriages**

**Deborah A. Dollman** was united in marriage in 1995 to **David Ward**. David is a native of England where the couple hope to visit so that David's parents can meet his new bride. (Pg 215 - #2654)

#### **In Memory**

- **Church, Len** died in May 1995 in his 71st year. (pg 147 - #783)
- **Clay, Samuel Sr.** died on May 27, 1995 in Stoney Creek, ON, aged 96. He was born on Nov. 14, 1899 at Selford, Pendelton, Lancashire, England. Samuel was a WWI veteran with the R.A.F. and later worked at Defasco in Hamilton as an electrician. He was cremated. (Pg 132, spouse of #633)
- **Fisher, Jane Ryerse** died on Dec. 28, 1994 in Fenwick, ON. Her ashes were interred in the Robertson family plot in Windham Center, ON. (Pg 158)
- **Pow, Alex** died March 1995 in his 71st year. (Pg 202 #1373)
- **Ryerse, Orpha Thompson Smith** died in 1994. She was the second wife of Thomas R. W. Ryerse. (Pg 173)
- **Ryerse, Thomas Ralph William** died June 26, 1995, aged 81. He was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Simcoe, ON beside his first wife, Laura Marr. (Pg 173)
- **Ryerson, Dorothy A.** died Aug. 30, 1995 aged 80 in Columbus, OH. She was the wife of the late Ralph R. Ryerson of Grove City, OH. (Pg 30)
- **Ryerson, Dorothy B.** died June 4 1995 in Brantford, ON at age 91. She was the widow of E. Hume Ryerson and was buried at Farrington Burial Ground in Brantford. (Pg 328 #4119)
- **Watts, George William** died January 1995 in Burlington, ON at age 83. (Pg 170)

#### **Correction**

In our story on Capt. Davenport, we stated that James Moody escaped capture by the Americans by hiding inside a corn stalk. That would be a physical impossibility! It should have read - corn shock. Our city-bred proofreader missed that one!



## **Ryerse-Ryerson Reunion -**

### **Back to 'Normal' in 1995** *by Eleanor Chithalen*

Our 200th anniversary festivities were a resounding success in 1994. However, we did hear a sigh of relief at the return to 'normal' (in '95) as 140 Ryersons and Ryerses gathered for the annual Reunion on Sunday, July 9, at Ryerse Park, Port Ryerse.

Having guided the family through the '1794-1994' success, Anniversary Chair Robert E. Ryerse accepted the Reunion presidency. Long-time president Thomas Ryerson moved to the secretaryship. Perennial vice-president is Lloyd Ryerse. Faithful treasurer Tom Tucker has passed on his collecting hat to David Avery. Other committees involve Mary and Vivienne Kitchen on Tables, Belinda Ryerson and Melba Ryerse on Programme, Jan Chithalen and Stephen Mahdi on Sports and Vern Ryerse, Edmon and Robert C. Ryerse on Grounds.

Prizes for interesting superlatives make good conversation. Winners this year included most mature woman, Mrs. Collin A. Ryerse, 95 years 11 months; most mature man Tom Tucker, 82; youngest girl Michelle Ward 7 weeks; youngest boy Joe Ryerse 11 months; longest married couple, Clarence and Dorothy Ryerse 53 years; newlyweds, Robert and Lorrie Ward 3-1/2 years. Traveling farthest was Stephen Mahdi of Aylmer, Quebec. There was a tie for 'longest hair' between Christy Miedema and Ariel Ryerse, both with 23 inch locks. The shortest hair was deemed to be the 5mm. bristle of Aaron Ryerse.

The most muscular among the Ryersons and Ryerses regret that they were unable to uphold their honour in the anticipated return match with Port Ryerse villagers who have been flaunting the coveted Tug o' War trophy since 1994. At the designated hour of combat, Port Ryerse representative Jack Addison arrived, cap in hand, to forfeit the game. Winning by default is not our style so please, Port Ryerse, have a team at the ready for 1996!

None of the fun would have been possible without the generosity of Vern and Barbara Ryerse and their beautiful park, or Murray and Ian Madge for their fine sound system. Thanks to all. See you second Sunday in July 1996.

### **Library Update**

We are pleased to report that the Bicentennial Committee purchased 20 copies of the family history which they have placed in the following public libraries: Simcoe, Delhi, Jarvis, Selkirk, Waterford, Port Dover, Norfolk, Backus, University of Western Ontario and Ryerson University. Copies also went to the Secondary School Libraries of Simcoe, Delhi, Waterford, Port Dover and Valley Heights and to the Public School Libraries of Elgin Ave., Doverwood and Townsend Central and to the Haldimand County Museum.

This brings the total number of libraries receiving a copy to 49.

**\$\$\$\$\$\$**

Bob Ryerse reports that the Bicentennial Committee has paid all the bills and sent along a check to the Ryerse-Ryerson Reunion Committee for the remaining funds. The Bicentennial Account is now closed.

## **Family Book a Sellout**

We are both pleased and amazed that our Ryerse/Ryerson Family History is now sold out. Genealogies are not prime candidates for the Best Seller List and we wondered if we would end up with stacks of unsold copies! The response, however, both from family and libraries in the US and Canada has been gratifying, and while all the books are gone - the requests continue to come in. We have started a list of those still wishing copies (including one just received from the Newberry Library in Chicago, IL) and are exploring the possibilities of a second edition. As you may imagine, the costs are great. However, if the number of requests grows to the break-even point, we will not hesitate to 'go to press' again. If you would like a copy of the second printing, we encourage you to place your order now.

**Review - Ontario Genealogical Society:** "There are not many family histories that equal this one in scope, depth, supporting research, source material and documentation, as well as printing and binding excellence. The authors have done a tremendous job of assembling a wealth of information into interesting and readable text.....This work is an important contribution to the genealogical literature of the US, Canada and the Netherlands and should be in all genealogical libraries of these countries."

### **Review - NY Genealogical & Biographical Society**

".....generations are greatly enhanced by interesting historical and biographical data. The layout of the entire book is unusually attractive, from the choice of typeface to an excellent selection of illustrations. This is an important and welcome contribution."

### **Letters to the Editor**

"I like your Journal idea of continuing genealogical updates and may adopt that for my Woodward family. The Stickney story is a gem. All in all a great newsletter." - R. Robert Mutrie, Ridgeway, Ontario

### **Queries ????**

SEEKING information about the descendants of Nathaniel Griffin b. 1766 Nine Partners, NY; d. 27 Aug 1855 Norfolk Co. and his wife Christina Beam b 1769 Sussex Co. NJ d. July 1856 Norfolk Co. Please reply to: Sandra Page, PO Box 101613, Fort Worth, Texas 76185 (817) 926-3048 or Compuserve 73503,2070.





## ".....a peaceful picture"

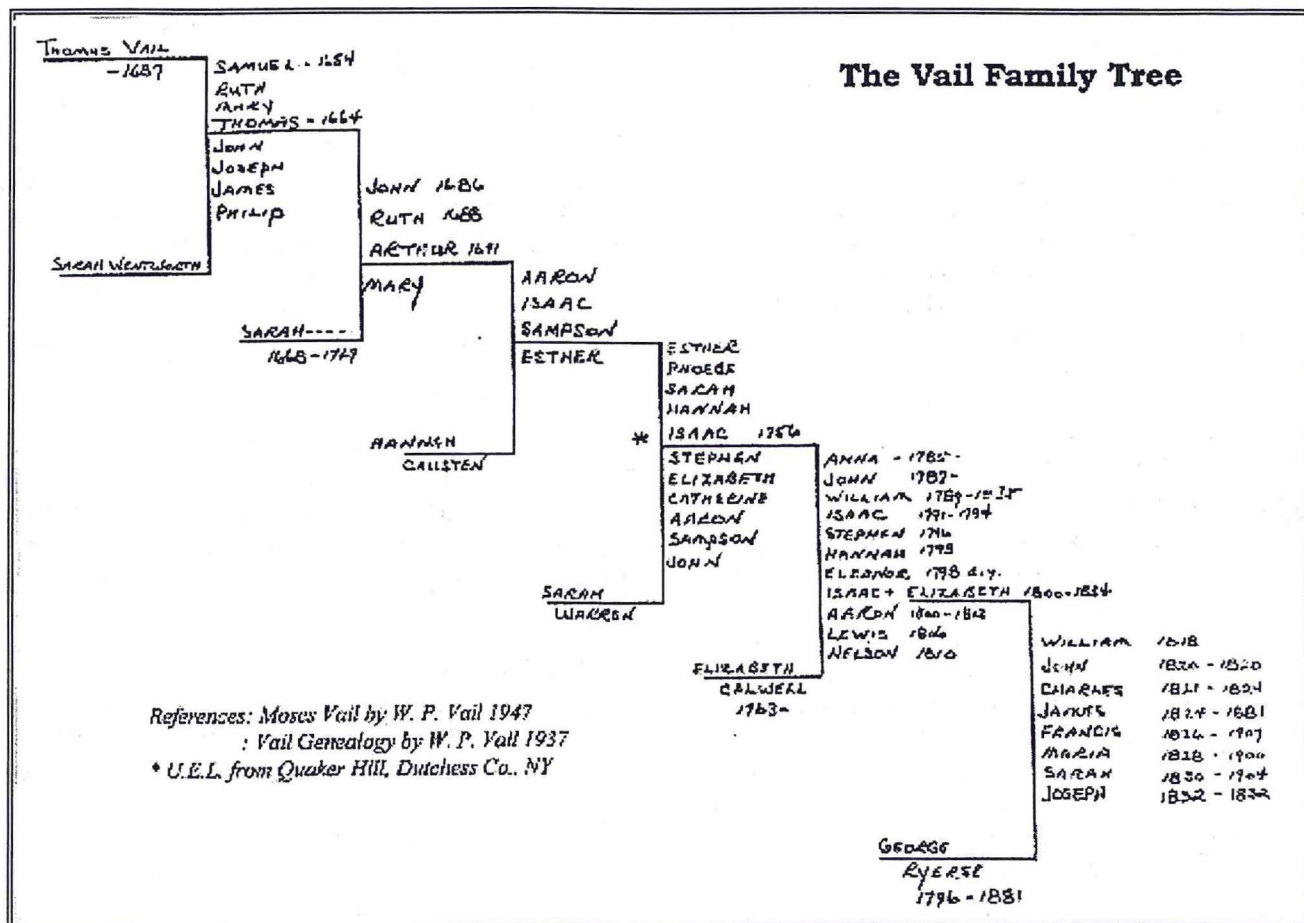
Highlights of a letter dated February 1992 written by Vern Ryerse, present owner of Col. Sam's land on which George and Elizabeth (Vail) Ryerse once lived.

"A very frequent joy of my life is a walk around the Ryerse property. My favorite is down the laneway across from the cottage towards the back field, listening to the river 'sing.' There are several spots where Young's Creek really 'sings.' The back field has two levels. From the higher western level you can look across the trees towards the village. At the lower level you are surrounded by trees, by the gully and the north boundary. An Indigo Bunting nests on that edge. In the spring, Ontario's national flower, the Trillium completely covers the sharply dropping bank to the river. I have planted Bird's Foot Trefoil, a low growing, soil conservation plant which has very small yellow flowers. I've also planted red fescue - another soil erosion preventing plant which grows in a clump and holds the snow cover. For me, a 'special aura' pervades this whole property." (Ed. Note: We share that feeling and believe our readers will agree that Col. Sam's land is in good hands)

**E.A.Owen - Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement** - "Many of the old people of Windham and other back townships will remember with pleasure the old house on the hill where they used to go for cherries and other fruit supplies."



Avenue of maple trees planted between house and barn on Ryerse property.





## *Elizabeth Vail* - continued from page 1

Westchester Co., a few miles north of New York City, where they finally obtained religious freedom and welcomed relief from the persecution they had suffered. When he died in 1687, Thomas had achieved some financial success, a respected position in the community and was the father of eight children.

One son, **Thomas Vail Jr.**, born in 1664, married **Sarah ?** and farmed in Eastchester, not far from his father's homestead. They raised four children. Their second son, **Arthur Vail**, born in 1691, married **Hannah Causten**. His family of three sons and a daughter achieved family prominence by becoming "blue stocking" Presbyterians, that is, devout members of a strict branch of that church. Arthur is noted in town records as a 'husbandman' and owned considerable property.

One of Arthur's sons, **Sampson Vail**, became a carpenter and moved to Dutchess Co., NY. He married **Sarah Warren**, a recent immigrant from England. Sampson had a deeply religious strain and was a passionate student of the Bible. During these studies he would leave his wife and children and wander in a trance about the countryside. During one of these wanderings he contracted smallpox and died. As a consequence, his family of fifteen was broken up among relatives.

His children belonged to the generation swept by the American Revolution. A son **Isaac Vail**, born in 1756, became a Loyalist and joined the New York Volunteers. As a sergeant he fought in some of the fiercest battles of the southern campaign. After the war he went with his regiment to New Brunswick where he married **Elizabeth Colwell**. He was granted two hundred acres in York Co. and purchased other land in the region but, like the Ryerses and Ryersons, found the climate and soil uncongenial and soon decided to move to the Long Point region of Upper Canada. Here, at last, the Vail family prospered. Isaac and Elizabeth Vail were the parents of our Elizabeth. They are buried in the Baptist Pioneer Cemetery in Vittoria, not far from the graves of Elizabeth's twin brother Isaac and his wife Mary Campbell. Isaac and Mary prospered, had eleven children and built the Georgian brick home which today remains in good condition. He fought with the Norfolk 2nd Reg. during the 1837 rebellion of Upper Canada. A major misfortune was the loss of his schooner with full cargo during a storm on Lake Erie.

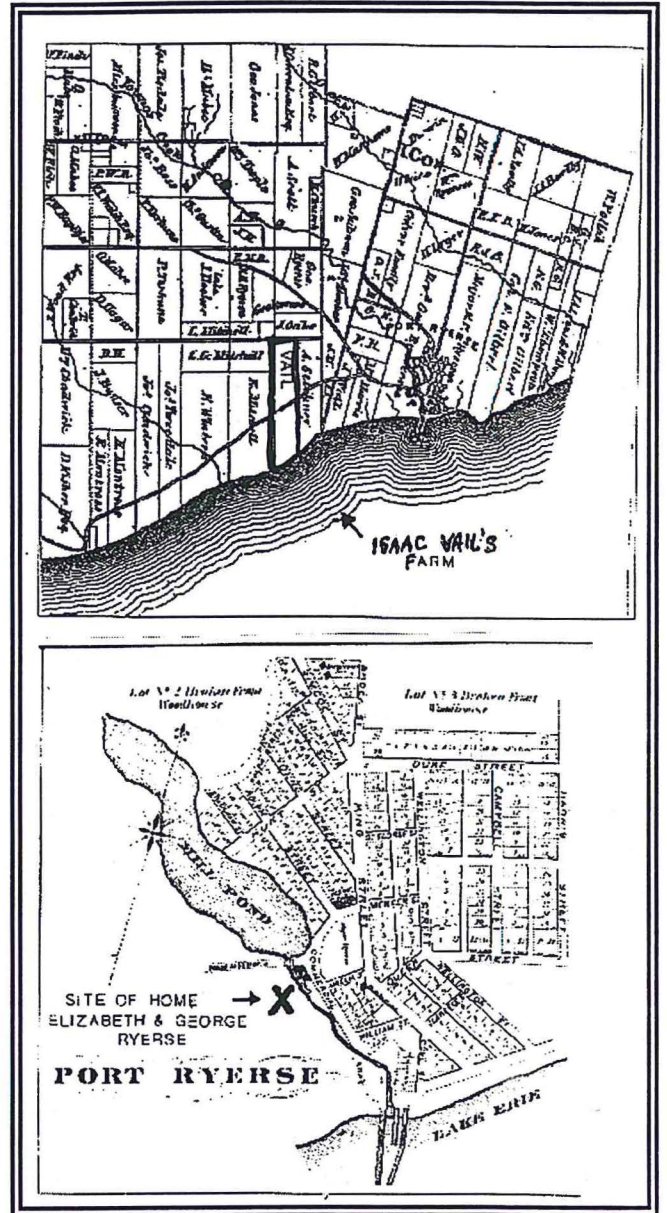
Elizabeth (Vail) Ryerse's weathered epitaph reads:

Her peace with God through Christ was (real?).

For him she lived, in him she died.

With him she reigns, this peaceful tomb

Holds her fair form till called home.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Morgen** - a Dutch word that means *morning*.

It was also used to indicate the area of farmland that a man could plow in one *morning*. The measurement varied, of course, depending on the condition of the soil as well as how early he went to work. This was a primitive method of estimating the size of land areas before surveying instruments became available.

Our early ancestor, Marten Reijersen owned 31-1/2 morgens of land and valley in Breuckelen valued at 178.10 pounds.





### Luke's Vest

Life in the American colonies in the early 1700's was one of prosperity and comfort. Ships from Europe, China and the Indies brought exquisite fabrics, beautiful china, books, furnishings and all those things which made life agreeable. The American preference at the time was for English fashions. An inventory taken February 20, 1764 of the personal estate of "Luke Reyerse of Peaquanock in the County of Bergen" (NJ) gives us a peek inside the old Dutch Kas (clothes closet) of our ancestor. We shall soon discover what kind of clothing was worn by this prosperous land owner and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The list (with original spelling) includes:

- 14 Shirts, 6 old and 8 new - *probably made of cambric or muslin, cut full with wide sleeves with wrist and neck bands. To these bands were attached ruffles or lace.*
- 2 pair Bukskin Breeches - *knee length, fairly close fitting, for everyday or more casual wear.*
- 2 pair of "Linnen Breeches" - *probably dark in color for business or formal wear.*
- A "Hummade Broadcloth Coat and Jacket" - *fairly close fitting with flared skirt, pleated side vents, wide cuffs, it reached just below the knee. Following the fasion of the day, it was cut away at the front, the side seams curving backwards.*
- A "Camblet Coat & Jacket" - *probably of matching fabric and cut similar to the above.*

- A Broadcloth Jaket and Breeches
- A Watch coat - *these followed the lines of the coats but were a few inches shorter.*
- 2 old Caster hats.
- And finally, **"A Gray Jaket and a flowered waist coat."** We are unsure whether Judge Ryerse wore robes when he sat as a Judge but there is no doubt that this soft dove-gray woolen jacket and flowered vest were worn on very special occasions. The vest (and coat lining) were probably embroidered with a rich flowered design using fine silk thread. Family tradition says that Luke was a very tall man and we can easily imagine that he wore his clothes with great style. To complete his wardrobe, Luke probably wore a wig tied back in a queue, a tri-cornered cocked hat and square-toed shoes with buckles.

We do not have a similar list of clothing for Luke's wife, Johanna Vanderhoff, but we expect that the wife of an important man in the community dressed just as fashionably as her husband. Their sons, Samuel, John and Joseph would have worn boys-sized fashions similar to their fathers.

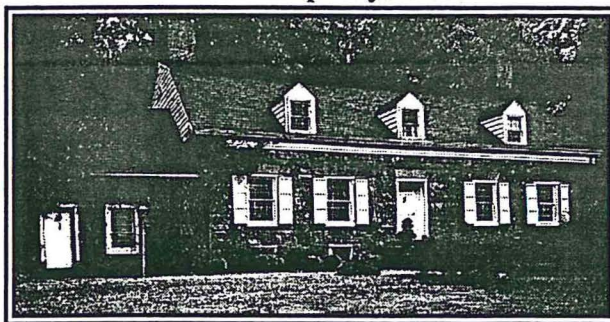
PR



### SOLD - Lucas Reyerse House

Built ca. 1736 - Addition 1787 - Pequannock, NJ  
Moved to Essex Fells, New Jersey ca. 1937

**Birthplace of Samuel Ryerse  
and Joseph Ryerson**



1995 Selling price unavailable. Sources report it was in excess of **\$1,300,000** - a figure that would make our ancestors shake their heads in wonder!

(Ours too!)

For more information, see Family History pages 25-27



## The RYERSONS & Slaves

Slaves were a part of the population of New Amsterdam and New Jersey almost from the very beginning of the Dutch settlement. Although they were considered "property" and listed in inventories along with the animals, the tables and chairs, it is generally acknowledged by historians that "among the Dutch, the treatment of the Negro was of the kindest character." Some became so attached to their "families" that their children remained from generation to generation. Gertrude Lefferts, in her book about life in Brooklyn and King's County, NY, wrote that for more than a century, this race formed a part of every Dutch family. They spoke the same language, carried on the same habits and customs and had many cares and interests in common. There existed sympathy and affection between them and the white members of the household. Often these slaves were highly skilled and were employed as stage drivers, sailors, iron workers, sawmill hands, carpenters, wheel-wrights, coopers, shoemakers etc. Some had great skill at playing the fiddle!

From the ancient records we find that many members of the Ryerson family owned slaves in the early days. From the 1749 Inventory of Personal Property belonging to Joris Ryerse, taken after his death, we find listed:

- 1 negro man valued at 50 pounds
- 1 negro woman valued at 40 pounds
- 1 negro girl valued at 40 pounds
- 1 negro girl valued at 36 pounds

Joris' sons all owned slaves and from the Last Will and Testament of Johannis G. Ryerson we find that he left to his son George a negro man named **Frank** and to his son Hessel a negro man name **Ben** and a wench called **Gen**. His two daughters were to share the services of the negro girl called **Mink**. Another negro wench was listed in the inventory of his estate and may have been sold at auction after his death.

Joris' son Martin built a small house for his slaves just east of his own house in Hunterdon Co., NJ. The slave house is long gone but the unmarked graves of several of his slaves remain near that spot.

From the June 15, 1741 issue of the New York Weekly Journal we find notice:

*William Hains (young servant) RUNaway from Marten Ryerson of Readington, Hunterdon Co. NJ.*

From the Dec. 7, 1747 issue we find:

*HARRY (negro) age c.20 RUNaway from George Ryerson Jr. of Pechqueneck, East New Jersey.*

From the N.Y. Gazette or Weekly Post Boy, Oct. 28 1754: *RUNaway the 27th of September past, from George Reyerse Jr. of Pequaneck in the county of Bergen, a Negro Man called Robin, of middle Stature, and about 40 Years of Age, not very black, had on when he went away a white Homespun woolen Jacket, a pare of Leather Briches, no Shoes, an old Bever Hatt,*

*and had about Forty Shillings in Money with him, as it is thought. Whoever takes up said Negro and secures him so that his Master may have him again, shall have Forty Shillings Reward, besides all reasonable Costs and Charges paid by George Reyerse*

Luke Reyerse also owned slaves as found in the Inventory of his Personal Estate. Listed next to a candlestick and a trunk we find:

- 1 negro man valued at 80 pounds
- 1 lame negro man valued at 20 pounds
- 1 negro woman valued at 60 pounds
- 1 negro child valued at 5 pounds

From the Last Will and Testament of Gov. John Reading, husband of Mary Ryerson, we find that he left to his son Thomas *"one negro man slave named Nero and Peg his wife...and as there is a Negro woman Slave called Nanny well Stricken in years and subject to be disordered with Rheumatick Pains, I will and order that she be maintained by any one of my Children who is willing to take her while she is able to earn her Cloaths and Victuals but when past labour, to be maintained by my Executors at the joynt Cost of all my Children."*

During the Revolutionary War, the British offered freedom to all Negroes who could escape to within their lines, usually meaning New York City where many came in with their Tory masters. Upon the treaty of peace in 1783 many of these newly freed slaves were shipped to safety in Nova Scotia. From "The Papers of the Continental Congress" we find a list of 750 negroes, men, women and children who were bound for St. Johns in the fall of 1783. Included are the names of **"Tom, Priscilla, Jan, Hetty and Susannah,** all formerly the property of John Ryerson" as well as **"John Ryerson,** a Stout fellow one-eyed" (who apparently was named for his master!) The list continues with **"Sarah,** a Stout Wench and **Sam Cooper,** a Stout Fellow, formerly the property of Frans Ryerson." (Frans was our Loyalist cousin who lived at Wagrow, now Hawthorne, NJ. and fled to Nova Scotia after the war.)

PR

The History of Morris Co., NJ tells us that there were two young German brothers who emigrated to America from Wurtemberg, Germany about 1750. On arrival they were informed by the ship's captain that their passage had not been paid and that they would have to be sold into service to pay their expenses. Such was the practice of unscrupulous men in those days. And so, **Jacob and Honiery Knauss** became "indentured servants" to Luke Reyerse. While serving there Honiery became acquainted with a German girl also working in the Reyerse household who had been bought under the same circumstances. After serving out his term, Honiery also served the balance of the girl's term and then took her for his wife. The pair settled near Newfoundland, NJ where they established a nice farm and raised a family.





## FADING MEMORIES

Among your family treasures are probably albums full of color photographs of your children and special family

events dating back as many as 40-45 years. If you have looked at any of them lately, you are probably shocked and saddened to see how quickly they are fading away! Unfortunately the impermanence of color materials puts these snapshots at high risk and if they have been stored in basements or attics, you may discover that swings in temperature and humidity in those areas have caused even greater damage. Color photographs are based on dyes and all dyes *eventually fade*. Dyes of different colors fade at different rates resulting in color shifts, causing them to turn predominately one color or another. Properly processed black and white photographs, on the other hand, have a life expectancy of 500 years. With careful storage, this can be extended to 1500 years! They can last that long because their images are composed of particles of silver which are much more stable than dyes. Damage to all types of photographs and negatives can come from many sources. We offer the following advice from the preservation experts.

### Hints for preserving your family photos

- Improper storage can invite mold and fungus which will cause blotchy, reddish-brown stains. Damage can come from mishandling - only touch photos by the edges. Damage can be caused by insects or rodents attracted to the gelatin and cellulose which compose photographic emulsion. Shoe boxes are for shoes, not for storing photographs! Store them instead in acid-free albums. Avoid contact paper, albums with black pages or any other highly acidic papers. Avoid plastic pocket pages made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) a chemical which will destroy the very item you are trying to save.
- Alas, many fine old photos have been attached to the pages of cheap magnetic-type albums and are stuck there permanently, yellowing with age and suffering the chemical reaction to the plastic covering page. Some have been attached with cellophane tape which in time can eat through paper. (Never do anything to a photo that can't be undone.)
- Use 'photo' or 'archival' mounting corners (available from photography suppliers or stamp dealers). Never use rubber cement, tape or any polyvinyl chloride materials.
- Maintain a cool, dry environment. Avoid powerful sources of heat, dampness and pollution. Don't store

your valuables in attics or basements, or near water sources like washing machines or bathrooms. Think about what's in the room above your heirlooms too. Don't hang photos over radiators, heat-producing appliances or the fireplace.

- Light causes fading. Each minute that your photo is in the light, either sunlight or fluorescent light, it will fade and deteriorate a little more. If you want to display a photo, it would be wise to make a copy for display and safely store the original away. Keep photos in the dark as much as possible.
- For some photos, the only hope of preserving them is to have a black and white copy made. If you want your wedding pictures to last for your grandchildren, have the photographer take a roll of black and white photos. Video tape, color slides, and most color prints have a limited life expectancy.

While you're working with your photo collection, be sure to identify each person in the photo. Use a soft lead pencil, writing in the margin areas on the back of the photo. Be sure that one of your children or relatives have copies of your collection or place them in a safety deposit vault so that if anything happens to the originals, your collection will survive. Many are the tragic stories of precious collections lost to fire and flood.

Take good care of the photographic memories you have inherited or collected, as well as those you are creating for future generations. *They are priceless treasures.* -PR



If you have any unique or interesting old family photos that you would like to share with our readers, please send them to:

**Phyllis Ryerse**  
3373 Dawsonville Hwy., Gainesville, GA. 30506. We'll scan them into the computer and return them unharmed to you by return mail. Please provide all available information about each photo.

### "The Long and Short of It"

Does anyone know the story behind this great old family photo?

*\*Renew Now \* Renew Now \* Renew Now \**