

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 1

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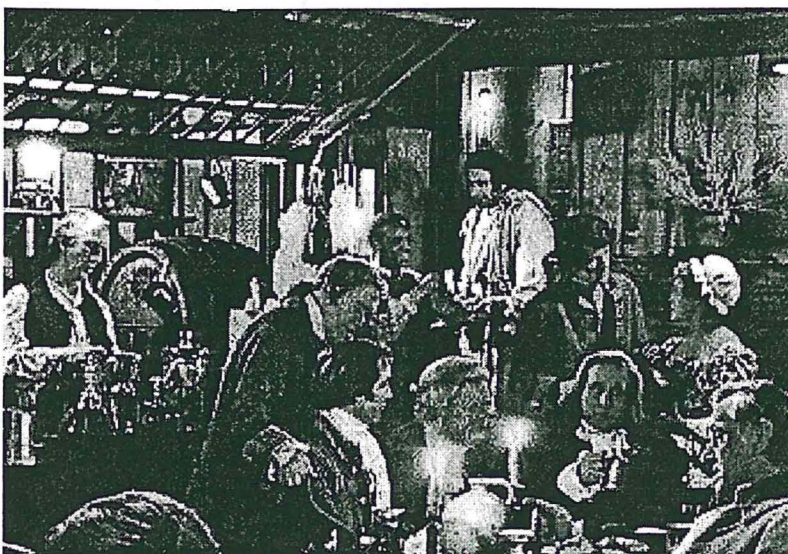
February 1997

RAPALJES

...of Taverns...a new Grandmother...and a cradle! *By Phyllis Ryerse*

With no morning edition of the newspaper or 6 o'clock TV news, the inhabitants of the little settlement at New Netherlands had to rely on taverns and tap houses to hear the latest in political and social news. Easy profits encouraged many of them to turn their houses into taverns for the sale of brandy, tobacco and beer and early taverns soon sprang up like weeds. It wasn't long before there were heard many complaints of 'mischief and perversity' caused by immoderate drinking. Sailors ashore were a problem and Indians were always a serious threat to the colony – especially drunken ones.

Many ordinances and regulations were drafted over the years to ban the tapping or drawing of wine on the Lord's Day so that the people might not be distracted from attending divine worship. Determined to prevent amusements during church services, the Director and Council forbade the exercise of all lawful occupations on Sunday as well as excessive drinking bouts, dancing, playing cards, backgammon, ball, rolling ninepins, pleasure boating or driving about in carts or wagons before or during church service. A few years later there was added to this list, fishing, fowling, picking nuts and strawberries as well as the calling and shouting of children in the streets! Penalties and fines were only a little successful at enforcing these rules.



In March of 1648, all tavern keepers were ordered to come before Gov. Stuyvesant and his Council to promise to obey all the regulations. Twelve men presented them-selves before the Council including our very early grandfather.

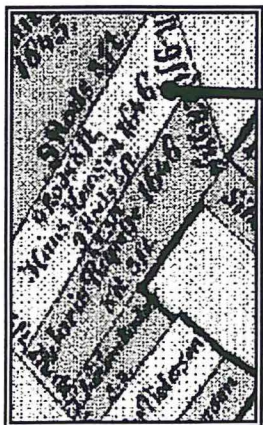
Joris Rapalje.

His tavern was probably located in one of the two houses he built south of the Fort at number 17-19

Pearl Street, just west of Whitehall Street. New York was much narrower in those days and Pearl Street, which lay near the river, was named for all the mother-of-pearl shells that washed up on the shore. Being close to the docks, the Rapalje's tavern probably attracted many sea-going men. Catalyntje Trico, Joris Rapalje's wife, kept the books for the business and one wonders if she also helped keep the mugs full of rum and cider amid the talk and laughter of their customers. One also wonders if their tavern boasted a sign over the door? Maybe the Lions Head Tavern? or The Red Dragon Inn?...or maybe just **Joresy's** Inn, the name by which he was called so many times in the Court Minutes of New Amsterdam.

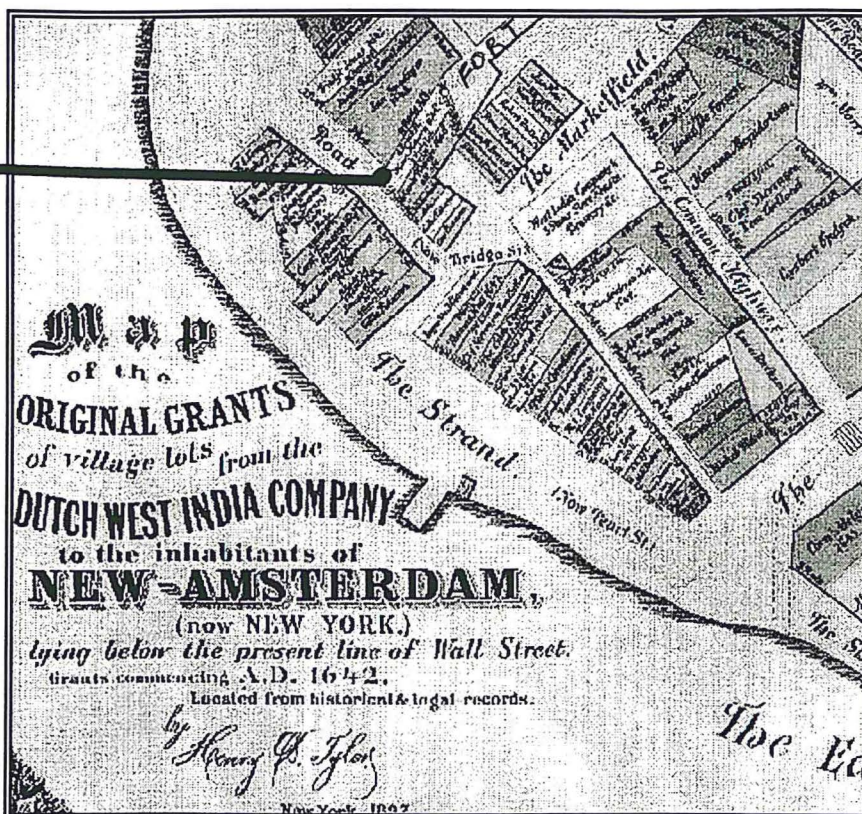
By 1655, Joris Rapalje had rented his house on Pearl Street and had moved his family to the Wallabout, along the bend in the East River just opposite New Amsterdam. His interests had now turned to farming.

Continued page 2



Enlargement showing Joris Rapalje lot.

The business of eating and drinking continues in New York today as a billion dollar a year enterprise.



RAPALJES...a new Grandmother

In the year 1680, Jasper Danckaerts, a Labadist missionary wrote in his diary that he had visited an old Walloon woman living on the Wallabout who was the aunt of Arnoldus de la Grange. That woman was Catalina Trico – our early grandmother. How she was the aunt of de la Grange has stumped all the expert historians and genealogists for many years. Research on this subject was taken up again recently by Pim Niewenhuis in the ancient Dutch records. The results of his search can be found in a wonderfully detailed account in **New Netherland Connections**.^{*} Employing the skills of a private detective, the ability to decipher the old Dutch handwriting and a working knowledge of the Dutch patronymic system, he was able to weave together another branch on the family tree. The search began with Marie Flamen who stood as witness for her (half) sister when Catalina married Joris Rapalje at Amsterdam's Walloon Church in 1624. Mary Flamen had married Philippe de la Fontaine in 1615 and it was her granddaughter Cornelia de la Fontaine who was married to Arnoldus de la Grange. So the answer to the old

question that puzzled the historians is that Catalina Trico was the great aunt of Cornelia Fontaine, her husband having 'adopted' Catalina and affectionately calling her his 'aunt!'

More important, however, was the examination of Marie Flamen's will dated Oct. 15, 1624. In this ancient document she ordered that her mother was to receive 1000 Carolus guilders if she was still alive at the time of her daughter (Marie's) death. We learn her mother's name for the first time as **Michele Sauvagic**.

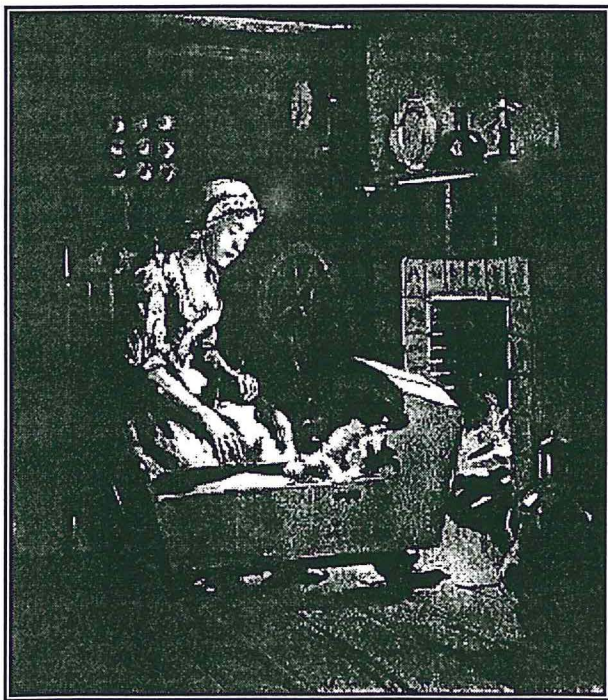
What exciting news....we now have another great-great...grandmother to add to our family tree. Research most certainly will continue on this interesting family but for the moment we can state that Michele Sauvagic was married to ___?___ Flamen. To this union was born one child (maybe more) named Marie Flamen. At some point Mr. Flamen died and Michele Sauvagic married Jeronimus Trico. Their children included Catalina Trico, a younger sister Margriet Trico and perhaps one son (who may turn out to be the Philippe Trico who lived in Haarlem – no hard proof yet.)

RAPALJES.....and a cradle!

Returning again to the diary entry dated May 30, 1680 kept by Jasper Danckaerts, we read that Catalina Trico was... "74 years old. She is worldly minded, with mere bonte (translation 'human kindness'), living with her whole heart, as well as body, among her progeny which now numbers 145 and will soon reach 150."

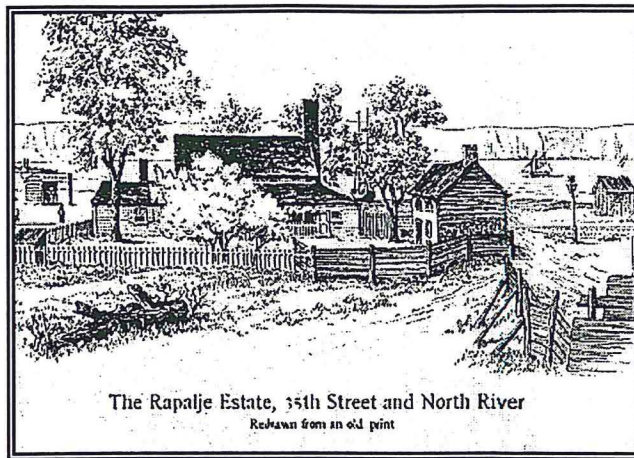
What a family reunion she could have had! The children of Joris and Catalina (Trico) Rapalje intermarried with so many of the early and prominent Dutch families that dozens of books and articles have been written about them. One of the most interesting is found in the October '59 issue of the American Genealogist in which the respected historian, George E. McCracken Ph.D attempted to list those 145 descendants that were born by May 30, 1680 and the 5 more that would soon thereafter be born. The list includes the first six children born to the Rapalje's 9th child, Annetje and her husband, Marten Reyerszen.

With all of these lists of children and babies about to be born, it seems only appropriate that we should include a reprint of an old painting entitled *The Rapalje Cradle*, printed first in the 1889-90 Yearbook of the Holland Society.

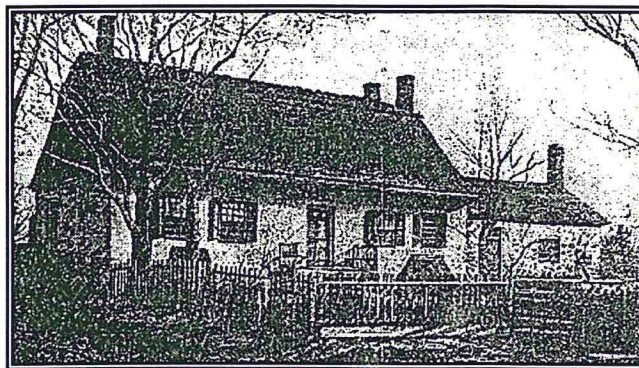


Pretty it was to see the fat little Dutchmen sleeping-author unknown

Homes of later Rapalyes



*The Rapalje Estate, 35th Street and North River
Redrawn from an old print
"Famous Families of New York"
by Margherita Arlina Hamm printed in 1970*



*The Rapelye Home
Landmark of a Century Ago on the Cripplebush Road
(East Brooklyn Savings Bank - 1922 Booklet)*

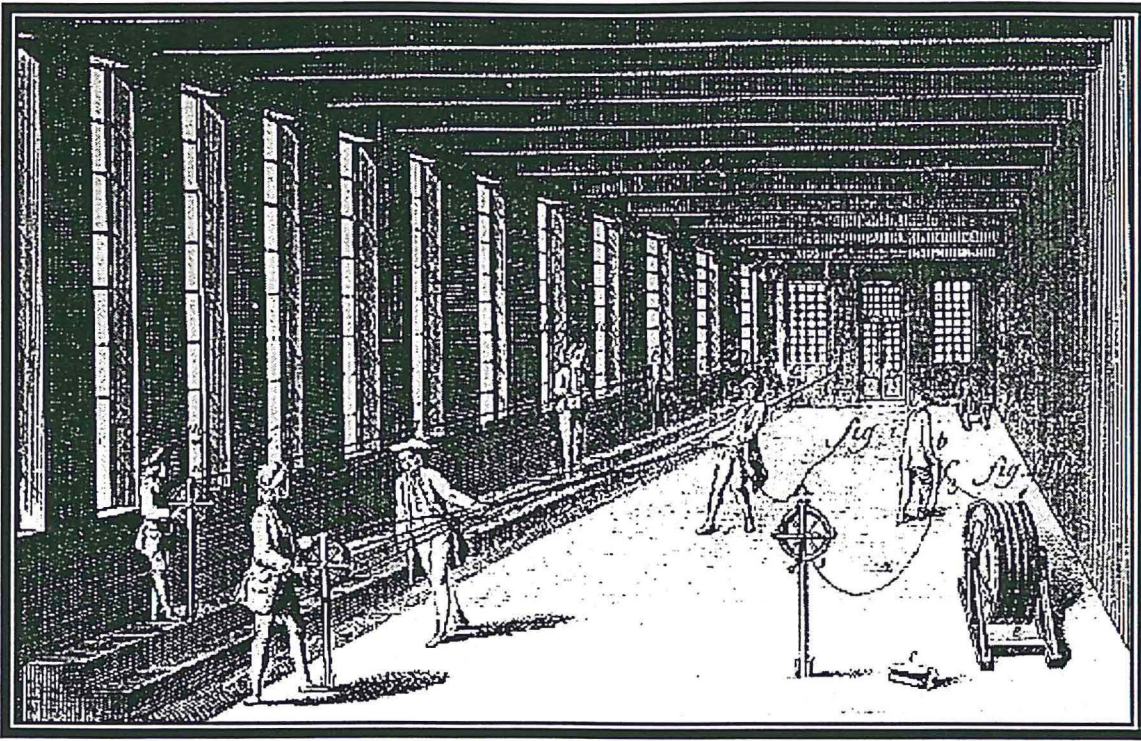
References on the Rapalye family

The Founding Families of New Netherland by George Olin Zabriskie - De Halve Maen, Jan.-April-July 1972.

New Amsterdam's Taverns and Tavernkeepers by Kenneth Scott, Ph.D. - De Halve Maen, April, July, Oct. 1964 and Jan., April 1965.

Catalina Trico from Namur & Her Nephew, Arnoldus de la Grange by Dorothy A. Koenig with Pim Nieuwenhuis, New Netherland Connections Vol 1, No. 3 and 4.

* New Netherland Connections published quarterly by Dorothy A. Koenig, 1232 Carlotta Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707-2707.



Reijer Reijersz – the Ropemaker

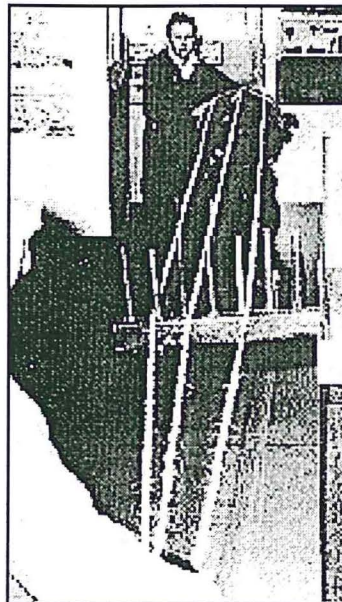
Rope – from a common clothes line to a ship's intricate rigging to huge dock cables more than 20 inches in circumference, rude ropes of some kind have been known in all ages among all peoples. Ropes and cords were among the earliest mechanical necessities of man.

How are they made? A continuous series of fibers made from bark, wood, vines, leather thongs, willow, flax and other materials are separated, combed into ribbons and twisted into strands. Then three of these strands are twisted together forming a rope.

To create great lengths of rope requires a long building – a ropewalk – fifteen hundred feet or more in length. In the old process of rope-making by hand, this was literally a 'walk' for the workman walked from one end to the other and back again as the fibers were twisted into long stands of rope. Sometimes, the strands were passed through a trough of hot tar.

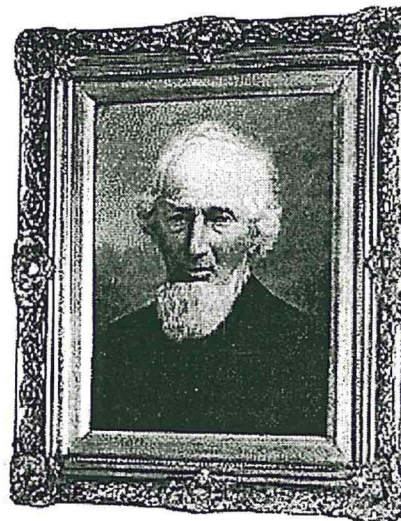
The days of ropewalks are gone, except for a specialist or two making ropes for church bells. Modern machines now turn out rope of all sizes and materials by means of complex gearing, hoops and spindles.

The old way of making rope was much more exciting, even if the roper had to walk the equivalent of a whole circuit around the earth in a working lifetime.



In England, Bridgeport Museum workers demonstrate a short piece of rope-making. One man keeps turning the crank handle of the 'jack,' revolving the hooks to which three yarns are attached. The ropemaker holds the 'top' and as he moves forward, rope is formed behind him. A longer piece of rope is being manufactured in the picture above.

The Portraits of Martin John and Anna Ryerson



Martin John Ryerson was born at Ringwood Manor, Ringwood, NJ on October 31, 1814, the grandson of Martin I. Ryerson, the renowned ironmaster. At his grandfather's death, Martin John inherited the manorhouse at Ringwood, the farms, lands, stores, worker homes, saw and grist mills of the Bloomingdale Forge as well as a large interest in many of the area iron mines. Like his father and grandfather before him, he was for a long time engaged in the manufacturing of wrought or charcoal iron. His obituary from an 1889 New York newspaper gives a fascinating look at this man.

"He was a gentleman of the old school, very dignified in carriage, of a commanding appearance and very cordial and entertaining in all his manners. It was a great treat to meet him at his house and nothing afforded him more pleasure than to show his friends through his house and barns. He was justly proud of his cattle, in the management of which he was very exact. As a student of high-bred stock, he secured some of the best strains. The beautiful spots of the Ayreshires will long remain a monument to his memory among the farmers of this beautiful valley. He was fond of history, especially the history of the Ryerson family who came from Amsterdam, Holland in 1640. He was a member of the Holland Society of New York and took a deep interest in all their meetings. His family owned at one time the largest tract of land held by one house in New Jersey, and for value, such as ore, timber, water power and farming lands, could not be beat, the

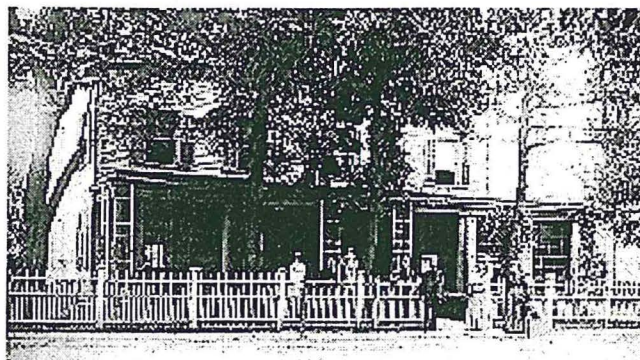
Ringwood tract itself being an immense estate. He owned at one time it is said, 7000 acres in Morris County alone. During the days of blast furnaces and before railroads were built, the Ryerson's mule teams hauling ore from Ringwood to Bloomingdale were the wonder of the road.

The family owned slaves and rode in state carriages. The carriage houses contain some strange vehicles which never fail to attract attention when seen upon the road. In those days they were *grand*.

It will be many a long day before we can boast a citizen who can draw to our village men of such prominence as did Mr. Ryerson. The visit of Horace Greeley and the ride through historic Pompton in the family coach drawn by four pure white mules raised on the farm is only one example."

Mr. Ryerson was a member of the House Assembly in 1842, a State Senator in 1848 and a Passaic Co. Freeholder from 1850-1853. It is said that he cut a splendid figure mounted on a horse as he rode over the fields to look after his men. He married his second wife, Anna Woodward, on Oct. 2, 1862.

The above portraits of Martin John and his wife, painted during their later years, turned up recently in the showroom of a New Jersey antique shop. Alerted by a message on the Internet, these portraits are once again hanging in the home of one of Martin John's ancestors in Pompton Plains.



*Ryerson Mansion
Bloomingdale, NJ*

My Grandfather was a.....

One thing is abundantly clear. Our ancestors were an able and ambitious bunch. Their talents ran the gamut from chopping wood to preaching. The following is from a book entitled Cerveau's Savannah by Waring.

"The City Hotel on Bay Street was small, its parlors beautifully appointed, its bedrooms comfortable, its table and service of the very best. It catered to a masculine, sporting crowd, particularly the rich planters from the country as well as the young men around town for it had by far the best stocked barroom in the city and, a famous cellar of good Madeira and brandy. On fine spring mornings, the young men would stand about the front entrance waiting for the sun to pass the yardarm. If they needed a restorative from yesterday's libations, they were only two doors away from Ryerson's Drug Store on Whitaker Street. Ryerson advertised the very best soda water to be found anywhere, an excellent chaser for the most potent nostrums."



How many Ryerse/Ryerson Occupations can you find in this Word Hunt Puzzle? The hidden words may run horizontally from l. to r. OR r. to l. and vertically from top to bottom or bottom to top. Good luck! Solution in next issue of the *Port Ryerse Journal*.

Ropemaking

Farmer

Tavern keeper

Minister

Justice of Peace

Judge

Tobacco Grower

Surveyor

Lawyer

Doctor

Constable

Shoemaker

School Teacher

Miller

Soldier

Stonemason

Circuit rider

Z	B	B	V	U	Z	L	J	H	O	T	K	N	V	B	M	T	O	C	J	D	G	S
Q	Y	E	M	B	N	U	O	F	J	Y	I	M	H	C	O	F	I	U	A	I	K	P
H	J	Z	U	Z	O	R	O	T	C	O	D	R	G	B	K	R	S	M	S	A	R	X
V	T	S	R	R	E	T	S	I	N	I	M	R	A	O	C	T	M	U	V	A	Y	G
X	K	H	F	F	Q	T	H	G	H	I	Z	C	F	U	I	T	R	V	Y	J	G	A
S	Z	O	B	A	D	Z	R	M	K	Y	C	X	I	C	A	B	L	T	T	T	S	Q
N	V	E	N	P	R	H	W	T	G	O	J	T	E	V	Q	N	X	Y	M	N	T	Q
X	O	M	S	W	W	M	V	Y	G	L	R	O	E	N	W	X	O	I	G	J	O	G
E	E	A	P	B	O	X	E	R	B	I	F	R	R	W	V	D	J	C	X	B	N	O
A	Y	K	W	M	L	O	O	R	D	P	N	E	S	L	Q	A	K	H	K	X	E	A
N	P	E	A	F	U	W	M	E	E	K	H	L	F	Z	P	A	A	T	F	R	M	X
Q	W	R	Z	M	E	X	R	A	E	C	I	B	R	B	G	V	J	S	A	O	A	B
H	R	O	O	R	J	R	C	E	A	A	Z	A	O	E	R	E	Y	W	A	L	S	M
O	U	M	O	M	X	E	P	E	Y	E	T	T	P	U	H	F	S	C	B	C	O	T
E	L	G	J	D	N	E	T	S	K	Z	L	S	E	W	P	C	I	L	G	R	N	B
E	G	D	U	J	R	L	Z	D	J	J	D	N	M	V	Y	T	T	S	E	I	T	S
F	A	G	R	I	O	M	I	L	L	E	R	O	A	W	L	H	G	I	C	C	N	E
Y	B	H	I	O	M	U	J	J	M	M	P	C	K	A	T	E	D	E	T	T	F	H
V	E	Z	H	S	U	R	V	E	Y	O	R	D	I	Y	B	L	W	Z	K	D	J	K
H	E	C	S	H	F	W	J	J	Z	U	E	O	N	Y	O	R	K	G	W	A	I	C
B	S	R	U	Q	S	A	I	U	J	C	F	X	G	S	V	H	A	R	I	X	G	U
P	J	J	I	S	H	X	W	U	F	A	J	C	D	B	Y	I	S	S	B	G	M	Z

Tom Ryerson and a band called OWEN

A fellow of many and varied talents – that's our cousin Tom Ryerson. Deeply interested in the Ryerse and Ryerson family history, he wrote thousands of letters to cousins all over the US and Canada, gathering an immense amount of data that was used in preparing the Ryerse-Ryerson Family History. Tom never does anything ½ way! Now that the History is in its final printing, Tom has turned his interests to a different field and is pursuing success for his band much like he did the family history! **OWEN** is a four member group playing what Tom describes as "aggressive/progressive pop music." He is the vocalist-lyricist backed by Doug Hainer, guitarist, Andrew Hainer on the bass and Steve Wright on drums. Recent milestones include the release of a cassette titled *The Prophecy Ep*, the contribution of two original songs to *Hard Music Indie Comp '96*, a compilation featuring eight southwestern Ontario bands, and performances in London, Toronto, and at Bros in Woodstock, Ontario.

OWEN has also recorded new material in a Kitchener recording studio for the production of a new CD.

We wish Tom and his friends much success and look forward to featuring other young and talented 'cousins' in future issues of **The Port Ryerse Journal**.



OWEN

(Tom Ryerson is seated at the right.)

Family Book added to these libraries

- Blackwell North America Library, Blackwood, NJ.
- Central Bureau Voor Genealogie, The Hague, Netherlands
- Everton Publishers Library, Logan, Utah
- Newberry Library, Chicago, IL
- Niagara Falls Public Library, Niagara Falls, ON
- Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS
- Ulster Co. Hist. Soc., Hurley, NY
- Underhill Society of America Archives, Grandville, MI
- Windsor Public Library, Windsor, ON

Copies still available
(2nd printing)

The Ryerse-Ryerson Family History

by Phyllis A. Ryerse & Thomas A. Ryerson

This historically important record of one of the oldest families in America and Canada is available again for a short time.

Don't miss the opportunity
to add this book to your
Family collection

Order your copy now from:

**Thomas A. Ryerson
Box 262**

Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada N5C 3KS

A Message from the Editor

I haven't decided yet if I was born too soon or too late. I dearly love our family history and all these glimpses backward into other times and different places. Yet, I'd let out a howl if you took away my microwave or air conditioning. Yes, I get nostalgic about the old days and simpler ways but I'm also thrilled to be living in this electronic age where everything is digital and we've only just begun to understand the wonders of cyberspace. The possibilities for expanding family history and connecting with others who share our research are infinite.

For instance: A Dutchman, digging into ancient records recently in The Hague, Holland discovered an exciting new piece of Rapalje family information. He sent it via the Internet to a lady in Berkeley, Calif. who added it to her newsletter which was seen by a lady in Las Vegas, who, knowing of my interest, sent me a fax down here in Georgia and I in turn have passed it along to all you 'cousins' in the US and Canada! Yes, we now have the name of another of our great, gr...grandmothers!

For instance: A passing comment on an Internet bulletin board that there was an aged painting of 'some old Ryerson' in an antique shop in New Jersey - passed like lightning to my Internet address here in Georgia. I connected with a friend in New Jersey who hurried right off to that antique store - and I'm happy to report that 'old' Mr. & Mrs. Martin John Ryerson are back in family hands! (Read more about both of these stories elsewhere in this issue.)

Yes, the world grows smaller by the hour! So if you'd like to chat with me or pass along family news, just dial in to my Internet address:

phyllisr@eclipsecomputer.com

or send me a fax at (770) 534-8920

I'd love to hear from you!

Phyllis Ryerse

The Port Ryerse Journal

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33  A

Births

- **Lucy Alexandra Sarah Ryerson** born March 3, 1995 in Vancouver, B.C. to Lindsay Earl and Liesje (King) Ryerson. (Pg 237 #1849)
- **Kevin Daniel Colbert** born Jan. 5, 1996 in Etobicoke, ON to Michael and Shannon (Manning) Colbert. (Pg 281 #2988)
- **Dexter Max Crowe** born June 3, 1996 in Sydney, Australia to Phillip and Sarah (Maybe) Crowe. (A correction is noted here that their first son, Alexander was born on Dec. 5, 1990.) (Pg 343 #4284)

Marriages

- **Andrea Fleming and Michael Anthony Pozzobon** were united in marriage on Sept., 23, 1995 in Etobicoke, On. (Pg 236 #2989)

In Memory

- **Lieutenant Colonel Peter Thomas Clifton C.V.O. D.S.O. D.L.** died at home in England on Nov. 5, 1996. He was 85. Funeral held at All Saints Church, Dummer, England. (Pg163 #942)
- **Venton, William John Albert** at Vernon, B.C. on Dec. 9, 1995. He was 69. Mourning his passing are five children, Bonnie, Billie, Dwayne, Bobbi Jean and Debbie Lea as well as Shirley, his companion of many years. (Pg 236 #1841)
- **Ryerson, Ralph Edgerton** at Fort Erie, ON Sept. 15, 1996. He was 76 and was buried beside his late wife Nellie at Woodland Cemetery, Hamilton, ON. Ralph was the great-uncle of Thomas Ryerson, co-author of the Ryerse-Ryerson Family History. (Pg 332 #4158)

Honorary Degree Recipient

The University of Western Ontario has recognized Ramsay Gunton with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree for outstanding achievement. Dr. Gunton, a 1945 graduate of Western and a retired member of Western's department of medicine, has done pioneering work on a technique used to assess heart valve disease. A summer-time resident of Port Ryerse, Dr. Gunton is the great, great, great grandson of Samuel Ryerse.

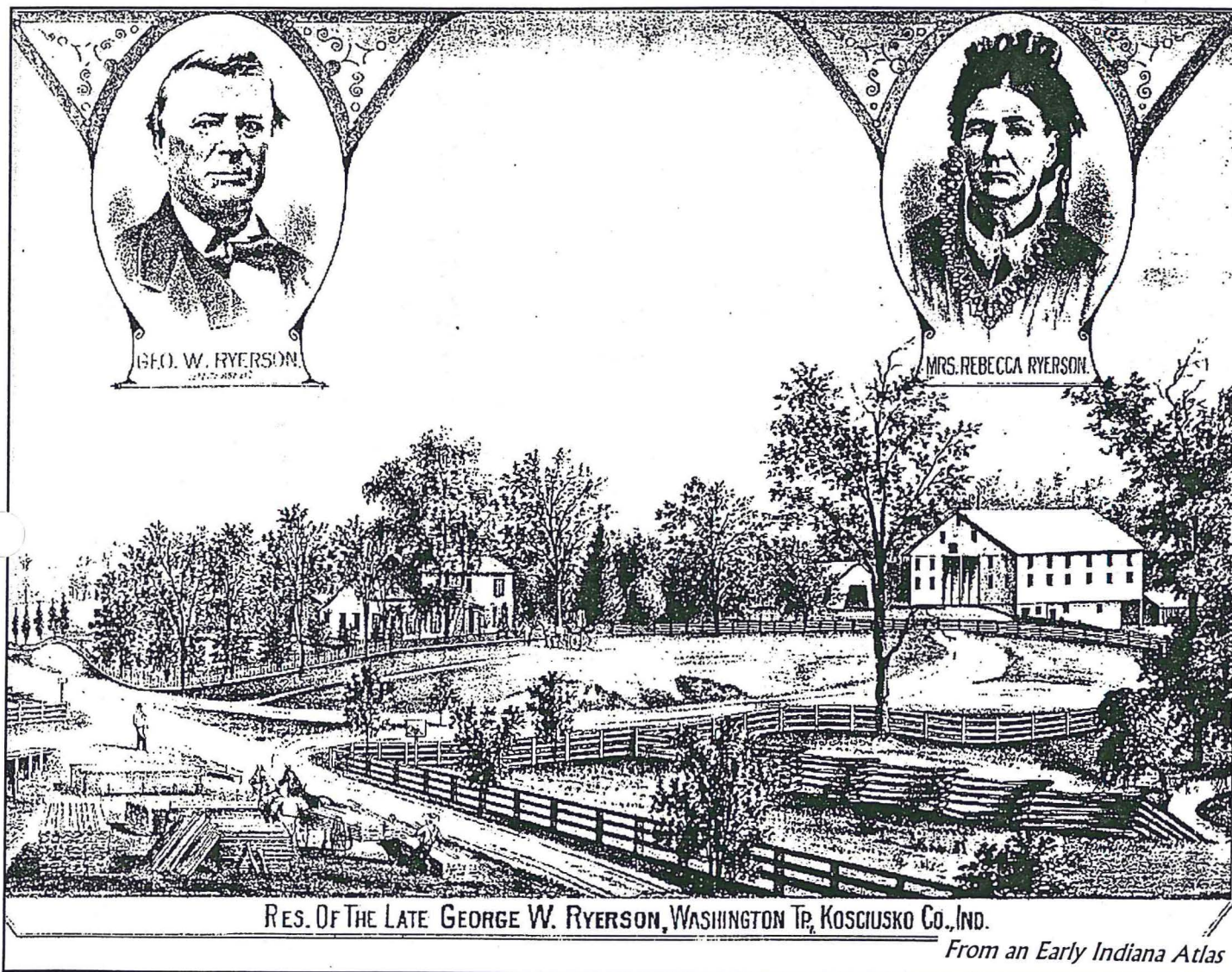
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The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

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Down on the Farm!

We were Farmers! GOOD ones! In early New Amsterdam, we planted tobacco where there are now only city streets and skyscrapers. We planted corn on our farms in New Jersey where now is sprawling suburbia. We farmed in New Brunswick, Canada where a bushel of winter wheat yielded from 20 to 30 bushels. We farmed the rich bottom lands along the Black Creek in Norfolk County, Ontario, and we carried the grain to Newark (Niagara Falls) to have it ground into fine white flour. And where there's a small a piece of dirt to scratch in - we still plant our kitchen-gardens with tomatoes, squash and beans!

Weather - a sampling of entries

January 1, 1876 - Clear & warm like a bright sunshiny day in June.

March 18 - A clear cold day. The atmosphere filled with drifting snow although the sun shone clear and unclouded the entire day.

March 24 - Cold & freezing weather- Potatoes froze in the Barn.

April 14 - Cold heavy snow one foot deep. Trees covered and bent down.

July 6, 7 & 8 - Very hot. Thermometer at 95 in the shade.

Sept 23 - First frost.

October - Violent rain storm from S.E. Lowlands all under water.

Nov 5 - Commenced burning coal.

December 5 - First snowfall - about 9 inches deep. Made excellent sleighing. Continued good sleighing until Jan 30.

Crops - a sampling of entries

Feb 17 - Last hay off stack.

April 24 - Planted potatoes.

April 27 - Sowed Oats.

May 16 - Planted Corn.

Aug 5 - Transplanted cabbage.

Sept 14 - Finished cutting corn.

Sept 21 - Sowed Wheat.

Oct 11 - Sowed Rye.

Oct 14 - Finished husking corn.

Oct 25 1866 - took to Van Ness' mill

6 bushels wheat, 4 bushels Rye

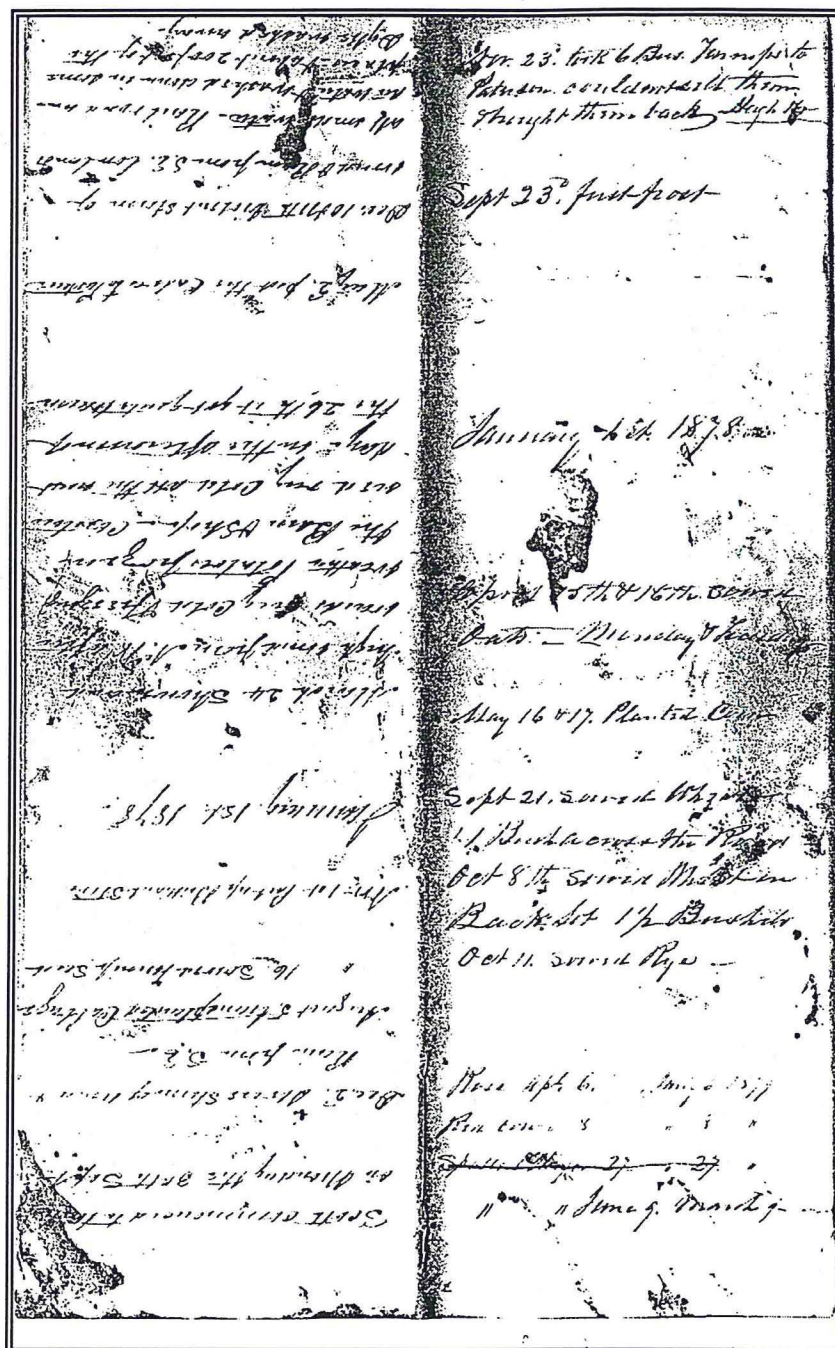
6 bushels Buckwheat, 1-1/2 b. of corn.

March 22 - Took logs off the mountain to the sawmill at Preakness.

May 2 - Put the calves to pasture.

Dec 1 - Butchered hogs - very cold day.

An Old Farm Journal kept by George A. Ryerson, of Pequannock, New Jersey from 1857 to 1879. He was a successful farmer, a community leader and also served as a Judge of the Passaic County Court.



Most entries are devoted to farm concerns - the weather, the cattle, and the crops - corn, wheat, rye, buckwheat, potatoes and hay. The journal also contains farm receipts and an account of family expenditures. Curiously, he began by making entries on one side of the journal, continuing all the way to the end. He then turned the journal upside down and, beginning at the back - made entries all the way to the beginning. If you examine these pages closely, you will see the handwriting upside down on the left side.

Original in Ryerson Files - the Philhower Collection. Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick, NJ.

Journal measures 4 x 12" and contains about 50 pages.

RYERSON FARM INVENTIONS

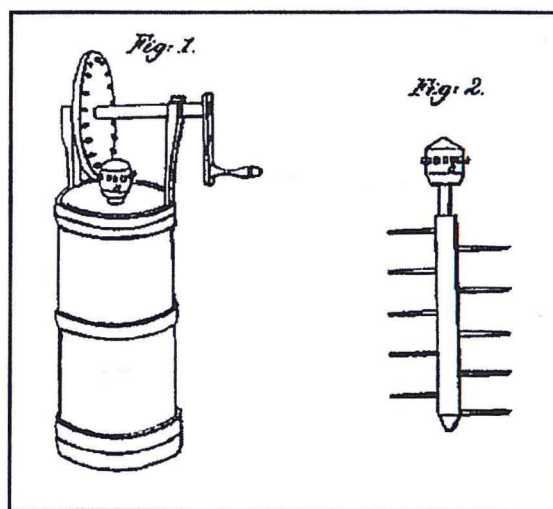
From patents found at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, our family can boast of several serious inventors.

In 1818, Pierson Reading, the grandson of Mary (Ryerson) and Gov. John Reading, invented a new and revolutionary **HORSE RAKE**. Unfortunately, the original drawing and specifications for this useful tool are missing from the record. (We believe this tool was used to rake hay into rows that could then be gathered into bales - and was probably pulled by a horse. If we're wrong, we wait for a reader to set us straight!)



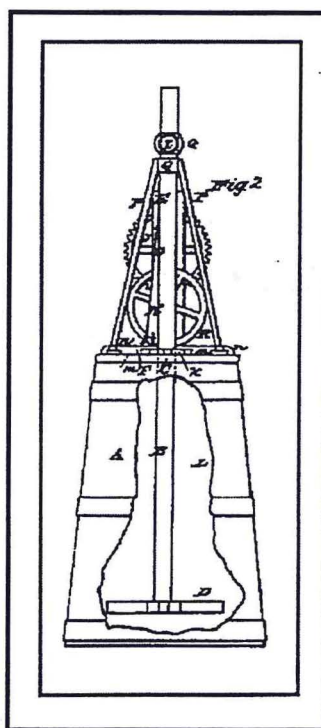
RYERSON Butter Churn

On July 17, 1835, Reading Ryerson of Oxford Co., Maine, the son of Luke Ryerson and nephew of Col. Samuel Ryerse, patented "*A new and useful improvement in the dash of the common BUTTER CHURN.*" The original illustrations (Fig. 1 and 2) show the clever gear arrangement.



Ryerson BETTER Butter Churn!

On February 27, 1866, Ira J. Ryerson of Pierceton, Indiana received Patent No. 52,890 for a better BUTTER CHURN. The specifications attached to this patent describe its improvements and explains that it can be attached to the lid of the common churn to more easily operate the dasher. "*The shaft is to be turned by a face wheel and wallower, in the manner of bevil gear, and upon the shaft there are floats, or dashers, some of which are horizontal and others vertical: the floats are called cutting floats, and it is to these that the goodness of the churn is attributed.*"



The **Ryerson Farm Journal** mentioned several cows! There was a white cow, a spotted heifer, a "wild red cow" and a favorite brown cow called **"ROSA."**

These animals regularly supplied rich milk for churns such as these.

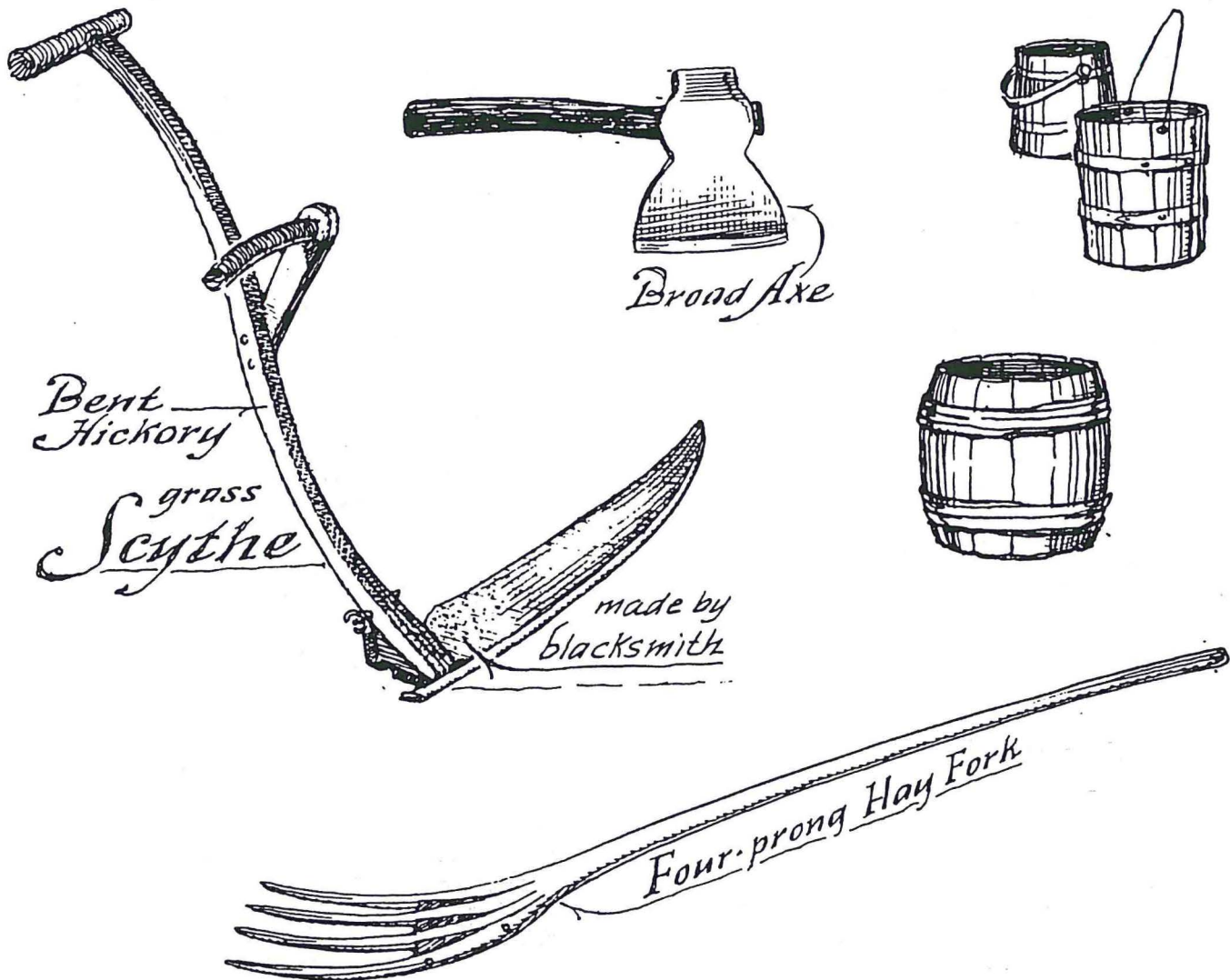
From the 1749 "Inventory of the Estate of Joris Ryerse, late of Pequannock in the County of Bergen," we list a few of the items he needed to run his farm.

1 Wagon
Broad Ax
Adze
Sythe
Dunk fork
1 spade
asstd barrels & kegs & pails
branding irons
1 churn
1 Bog Hoe
Augers & Chisels

His livestock included:

5 steers	
14 cows	1 Pleasure Sleigh
18 horses	2 bells
11 pigs	
24 sheep	
saddles	
leather collars	

Illustrations from "A Museum of Early American Tools," "American Yesterday," and "The ABC Book of Early America" by the very talented writer and artist, Eric Sloane.



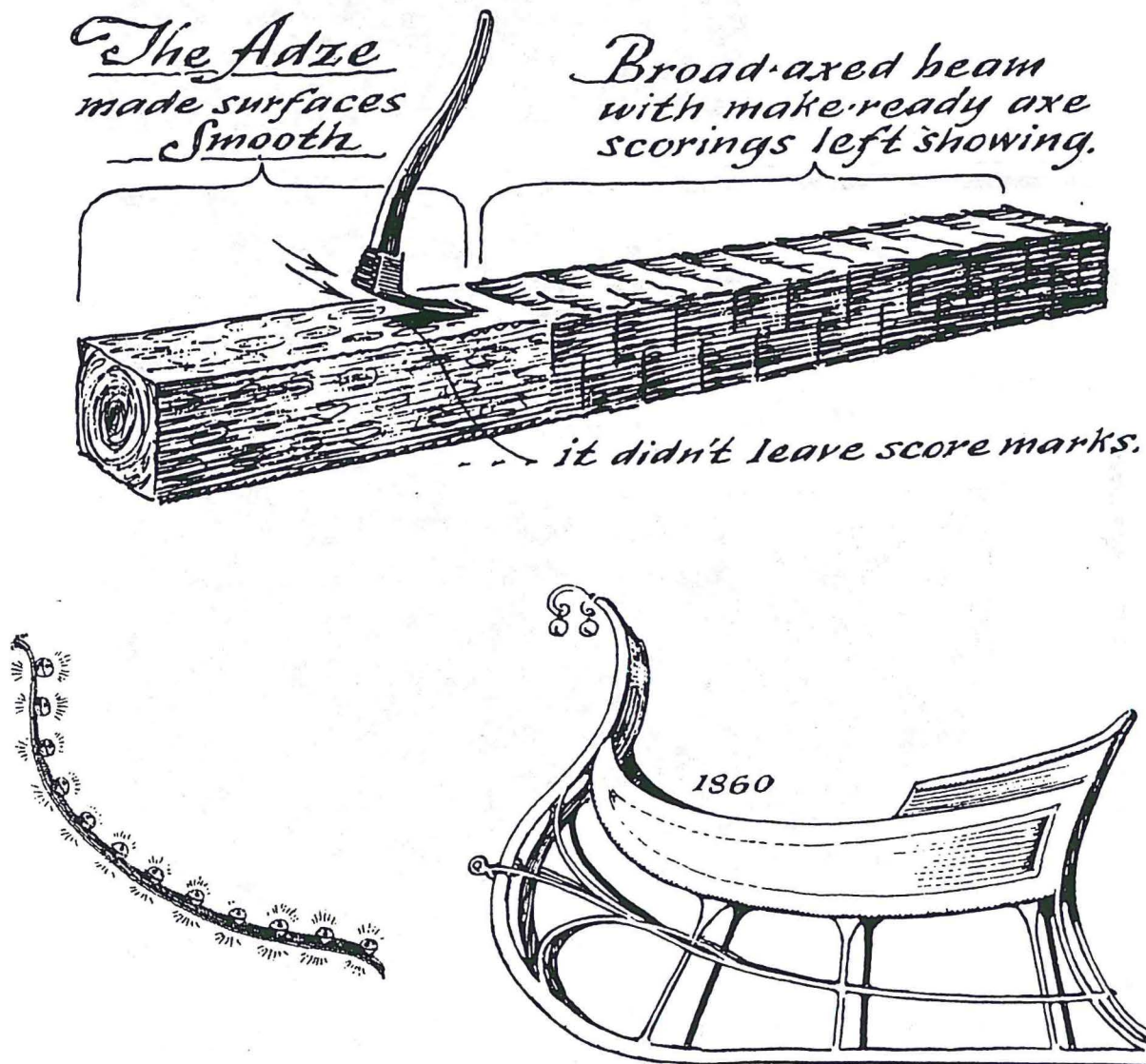
Farm equipment found in "A true Inventory taken this 20th Day of February 1764 of the Personal Estate of Luke Reyerse of Pecquaneck in the County of Bergen."

Farm equipment

Plough & Share
Iron tooth Harrow
A grain fan
Pitching forks
Shoemaker pinchers
Grinding stone
Corn basket
Large & small churns
1 old iron bound wagon
Pleasure Sleigh

His livestock

2 Bulls
6 steers - red & black
& 33 other cows of various descriptions
13 horses including
4 yr. old Black Stallion
large brown Pacing horse
a Yellow horse
Ballfast horse
brown stalyen
a bay mare
and several colts

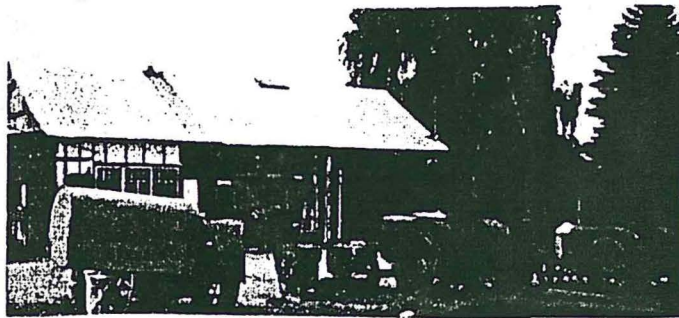


Farm equipment - 1920 style looked a little different than that on the previous pages.

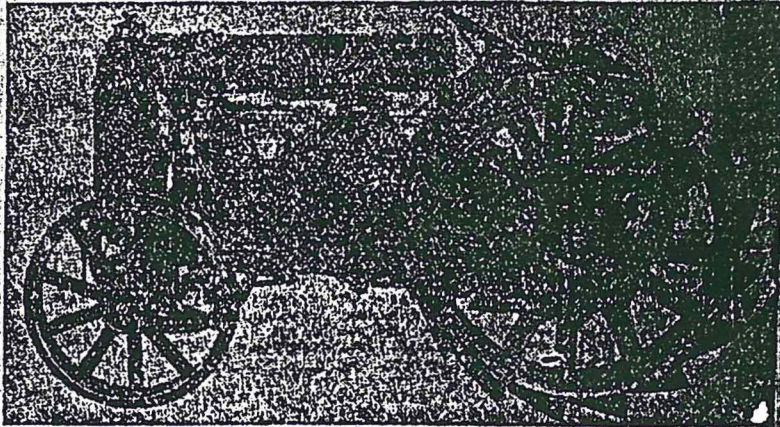
Collin Ryerse farmed the rich lands of his Black Creek homestead in Norfolk Co. Ontario. He was strong and independent and had a deep love for the land. There were always chores to be done, yet he finished each day of hard labor with the complete satisfaction of knowing that his work had been productive. **Collin Ryerse** was the proud owner of a 1921 Fordson Tractor similar to the one shown in the accompanying advertisement. The old tractor, primitive to our eyes, was of enormous help to Collin and was probably the envy of the neighborhood!

Collin's son Edmon inherited the old Fordson - and along with it a love for all old machinery - the workhorses of their day. His collection has grown until it includes (among others) a 1938 Farmall, a couple of John Deere tractors, a grain grinder, a barrel churn, a grain tally, an orchard sprayer and a list of other turn-of-the-century equipment too long to include here!

Edmon's Farm Collection - - -



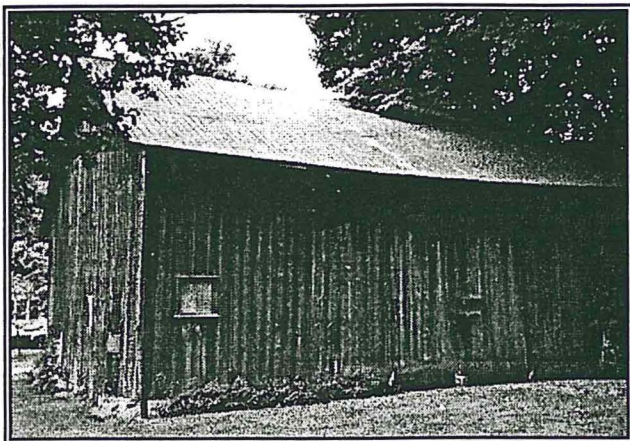
"Fordson"
THE UNIVERSAL TRACTOR
 Built By Henry Ford and Son



\$750.00 f. o. b.
DEARBORN.

The Prime Mover of the Farms of the World. It Eats Only When It Works.
 Does More Work Than a Lot Full of Mules. Does It Quicker, Cheaper and Better.
 The Fordson Tractor is as far Ahead of Mule Power as the Automobile is of the
 Surry.

It Eats Only When It Works

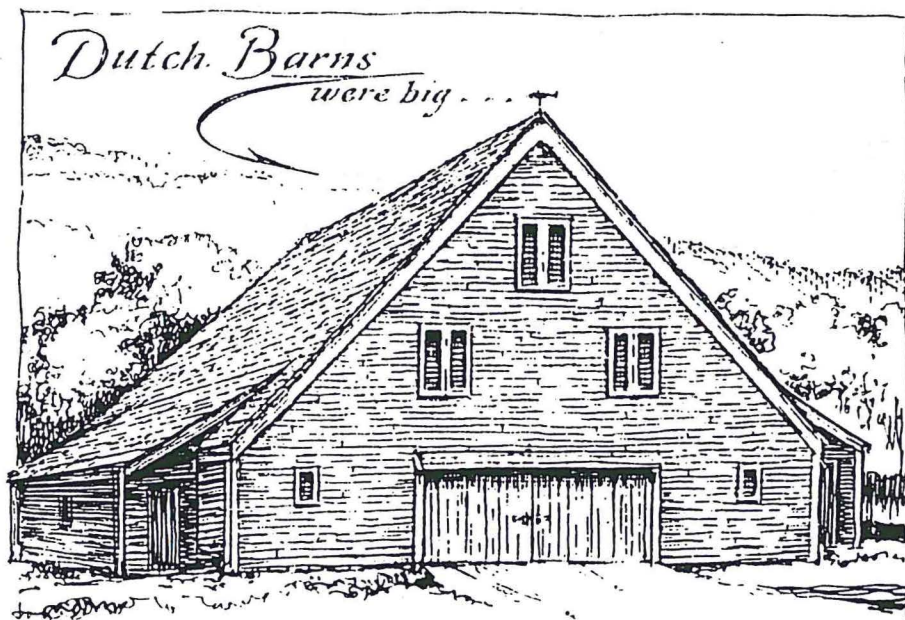


The **RYERSE BARN** - Port Ryerse, Ontario, Canada

Rev. George Joseph Ryerse built a house and a barn on his homestead farm sometime during the years after his marriage in 1816. The old farmhouse was later destroyed by fire - but the barn still stands and will be the scene of the 44th Annual Ryerse-Ryerson Reunion in "Ryerse Park" in July 1997.



The old hay-wagons that used to wallow down the road with their wheels hidden beneath a mountain of sweet-smelling new hay, are now resting out their last years in the sun - out behind our barns!



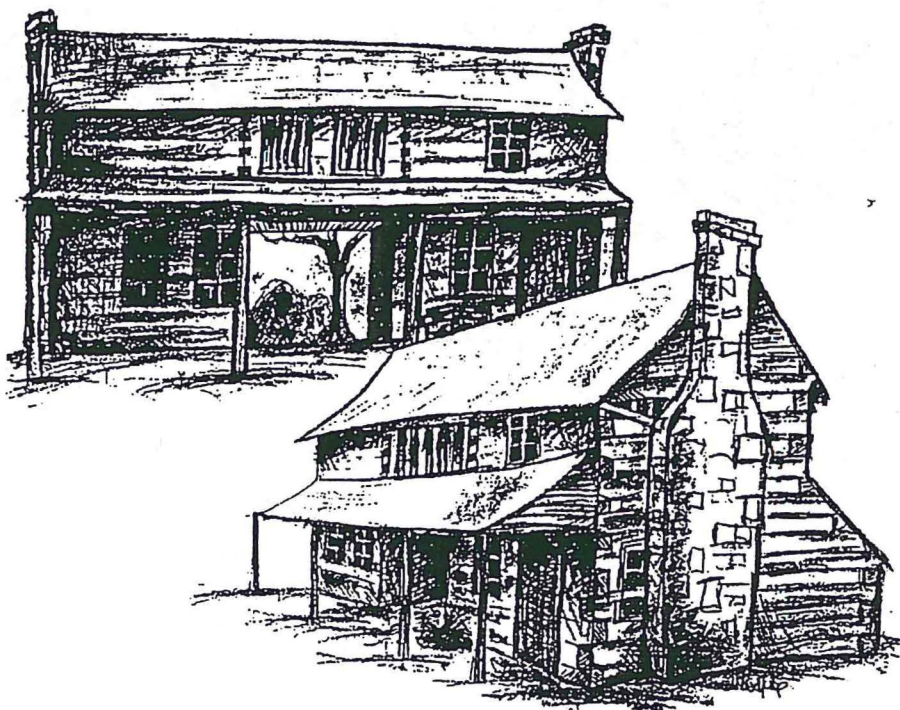
The First Log Cabin/Farmhouse in Port Ryerse

"...they at once set to work and put up the wished for log house or houses, for there were two attached, which gave them a parlor, 2 bedrooms, kitchen and garret. On removing from the shanty to this house, my mother felt as if in a palace."

- Amelia (Ryerse) Harris described the first house her father Samuel built in Port Ryerse.

An artistic version of what the cabin may have looked like - taken from Amelia's account and from other cabins built during the 1790's.

- drawn by Tiffany Ryerse, an 8th generation descendant of Samuel Ryerse.



Amelia continued"One fine, bright morning as some visitors were taking their departure, there was an alarm of fire and sure enough, the stick chimney had caught fire and communicated it to the garret and in a few minutes the whole of the upper part of the house was in flames. Our visitors joined with the family and laborers in getting out the furniture as fast as possible. Nearly everything was saved from the lower part of the house but all that was in the garret was lost. It had been used as a storeroom and contained cases which had not been unpacked since they came from New York. These things - linen, bedding and some nice little articles of furniture and various nicknacks, prized beyond their value, were a great loss. But the greatest loss was a box or two of books. These were not to be replaced this side of New York and to a young family, the loss was irreparable."



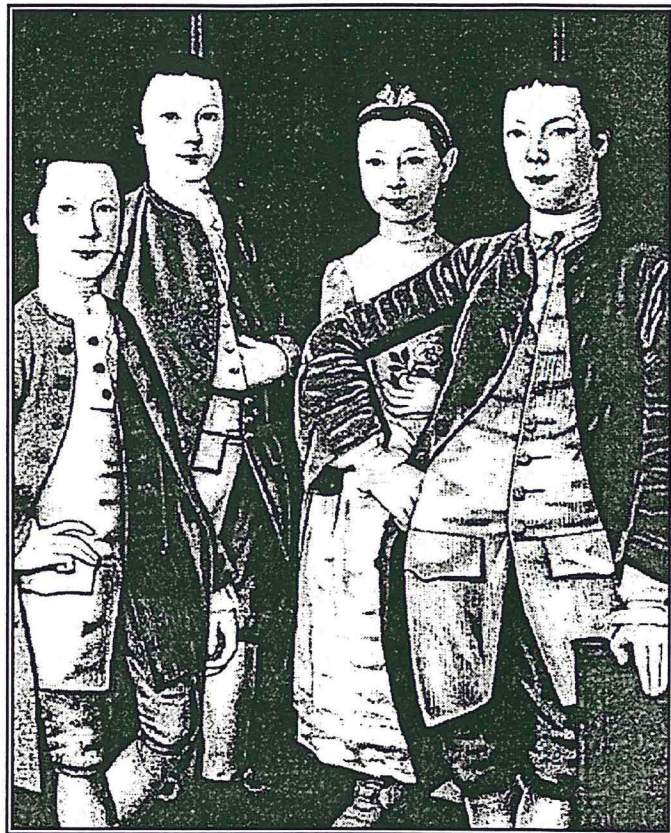
As you drive through back country roads, you will often see a tall tree rising above the countryside - a "marker" or "first growth" tree planted there by an early settler, for shade, or to please his wife. Nearby will stand a venerable old farm house - or the remains of a foundation - where our early ancestors raised the cows and chickens ---- and the children!

What's New in the PAST?

Recently brought to our attention by a cousin, Dorothy Hall of So. Windsor, Ct. (but too late for inclusion in our last issue that featured the Rapalje family), are these wonderful primitive paintings now in the collection of the New York Historical Society. **The Rapalje Children**, painted by John Durand in 1768 is one of the finest specimens of colonial painting in America. Indeed, the Historical Society calls it one of their "prized possessions." They were the children of Garret Rapalje and his wife Helena De Nyse and are, from left to right, Garret (b. 1757), George (b. 1759), Anne (b. 1762) and Jaques (b. 1752).

Typical of Durand's style are the gay, bright colors which include vermillion, blue, teal green, a soft silver-gray, gold and olive green. The picture had long been in storage in a warehouse near New York before it was placed with the Society. It measures 50-3/4" x 40"

These children were the 5th generation great-grand children of Joris Rapalje and Catalina Tricot and "cousins" to the Samuel Ryerse children.



Also painted by John Durand is this portrait of **Garret Rapalje**, father of the above children. A resident of New York, he was an importer. His receipt book dating from 1758 -1764 is in the Museum of the City of New York. 42" x 30"



Ann Rapalje was the sister of Garret and the aunt to the children in the picture above. She was married to Gerardus Duyckinck II and had two children of her own. The painting measures 42-1/2" x 39-1/2" and is attributed to Lawrence Kilburn.

How to Find Yourself (on our family tree!)

For those readers and family history researchers who are searching for a connection to the Ryerse or Ryerson family, we offer the following helps. If your grandparent was living about 1916 or before, you may be able to make a quick and easy connection by locating him/her in the **RYERSON GENEALOGY** written by Albert Winslow Ryerson (privately printed in 1916 by Edward L. Ryerson of Chicago). Albert W. Ryerson, a cousin, (Marten-Joris-Lucas-Luke Jr.-Nehemiah-Samuel-John), was a businessman who traveled extensively throughout the United States, having visited all the principal cities of the U.S. in every state, as well as over 80 libraries and historical societies - while yet a young man.

From an unpublished copy of a Foreword that he wrote for his genealogy, he wrote,

"...whenever hearing of a family who was reputed to have an ancient family Bible, or special knowledge of the family genealogy, I've driven for miles into the country all through the state of Maine, in the back woods of Missouri, over the plains of Wyoming, through the mountains of Colorado, among the country folks of Canada and under the sunny skies of old Mexico. No effort or expense has been spared to make this work as accurate as possible."

It is to Albert Winslow Ryerson that we are indebted for many of the details of our early history. If you are able to make a connection to the Ryerson Genealogy, you will then be able to trace your lineage back to Martin Ryerson, the early New Amsterdam (New York) settler.

For further information on the earliest generations, including two more generations in Amsterdam, Holland before Martin, you will want to see **The Ryerse-Ryerson FAMILY HISTORY - 1574-1994** by Phyllis Ryerse and Thomas Ryerson printed in 1994. If you are also looking for Canadian connections, this book lists thousands of cousins who descend from the brothers Samuel and Joseph, Loyalists who moved first to New Brunswick and later to Norfolk Co., Ontario, Canada after the American Revolution. This volume is also well-indexed and easy to search.

Copies of both of the above mentioned family histories can be found in most major libraries in the US/Canada and in the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, The Hague. (A very few copies of the R/R FAMILY HISTORY are still available for purchase as of June 1997. Contact Thomas Ryerson c/o this publication.)

If you have access to the internet, you may be able to connect with other cousins who are also searching for your line. The potential for sharing family information via this medium has only just begun to be explored.

*There'll be no rain if there's enough
blue in the sky to paint a Dutch boys
pants!*

What we include in every *Port Ryerse Journal*

Places/stories/things that reflect
this family's heritage.

- *A little Dutch*
- *A little New York/New Jersey*
- *A little Canada*

The 1703 New York Census - West Ward
From the Documentary History of NY v.1 page 395

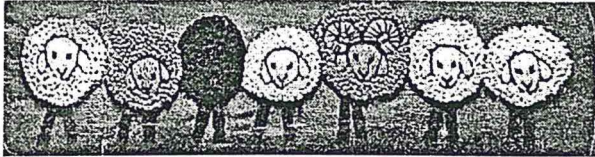
Jores Riersie 1 male between 16-60
2 females
4 male children
4 female children
2 male negros
1 male child negro

Notice: The (New Amsterdam City)
Council sat this day and smoked 12
pipes on the affairs of the colony.

*From an early issue of
the Oquawka, Illinois Spectator:*

"James Ryason finished up harvesting his crop of hops last week. He has a fine drying house, complete in all its appointments and has succeeded in curing his hops in excellent order. It took him about a week with about 16 hands to gather and dry the crop from 3 acres.





A Message from the Editor

I may be a "townie" but I have planted vegetable seeds, pulled weeds from rows of beans and eaten tomatoes warmed by the sun - right off the vine. Twice a week my father used to start up the old Plymouth and we would drive a few miles out of town to a farm where our old tin milk jug was filled with cold, fresh milk. Thick, rich cream would rise to the top and by the next morning would measure at least 3" deep!

200 years ago, whether you were a blacksmith, a butcher or a shoemaker, you were also a farmer. Even those ancestors who were judges or schoolteachers, had gnarled hands that knew the plow, could milk a cow or build a rail fence. Today, many small family farms have been swallowed up by large commercial ventures. Even so, the joy and satisfaction of "playing in the dirt" is still in us, even if we only plant a few flowers or a row of potatoes. We hope you've enjoyed a look back at some of our family farms in this issue.

A Family Reunion Reminder

Mark your calendars and plan to join the family at the 44th Annual Ryerse-Ryerson Reunion. As in the past, cousins will arrive carrying chocolate cakes, potato salad, pies, pickles and other delicacies too numerous to list! There'll be hand-shaking, back slapping - new babies to coo at and the growth of children in the last year to marvel at. There'll be games and prizes and family news to catch up on. You won't want to miss a minute of this yearly family event. Join us!

The Port Ryerse Journal

Published 3 times a year by the

RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association.

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada N5C 3K5

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In Memory

RYERSON, Adna M. died on Feb 9, 1997 at Epsom, Surrey, England. She had been in the hospital with a broken hip from a fall on New Years Eve. She was 89.

#4137 page 321

Letters & E-Mail to the Editors!

YES, we now get electronic mail addressed to:

PHYLLISR@eclipsecomputer.com

Let's hear from you!

"...just got the latest issue of the Port Ryerse Journal and I want to tell you how impressed I am with the article on the Rapaljes. That was a tremendous bit of work and beautifully presented. Very nice."

- Bob Magee

"...we're enjoying the family newsletter tremendously.

The new little snippets of info that surface with each

issue are delightful!"

- Eleanor Chithalen

YALE University Scholarship Awarded

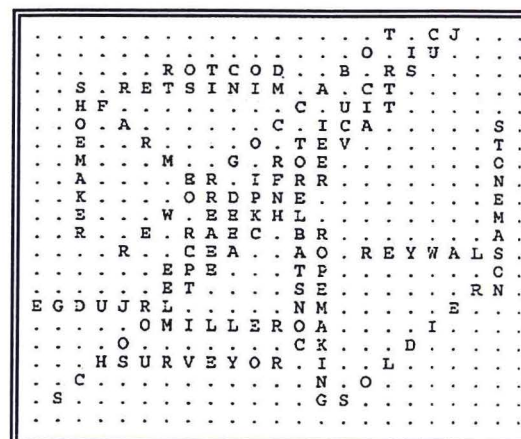
This years Arthur Larned Ryerson Scholarship has been awarded to Erin Johnson of South Jordan, Utah. She has declared a double major in art and art history, specializing in photographic art. She hopes for a career as a museum curator. In the summer of 1995 she participated in a cultural exchange program doing volunteer work on a Navajo reservation.

University of GEORGIA at Athens

Congratulations to 1997 Magna Cum Laude graduate, Tiffany Michelle Ryerse, daughter of John & Phyllis Ryerse, Gainesville, Georgia.

My GRANDFATHER was a.....

Solution to last issue's puzzle!





It's the 44th annual.....
RYERSE-RYERSON FAMILY REUNION

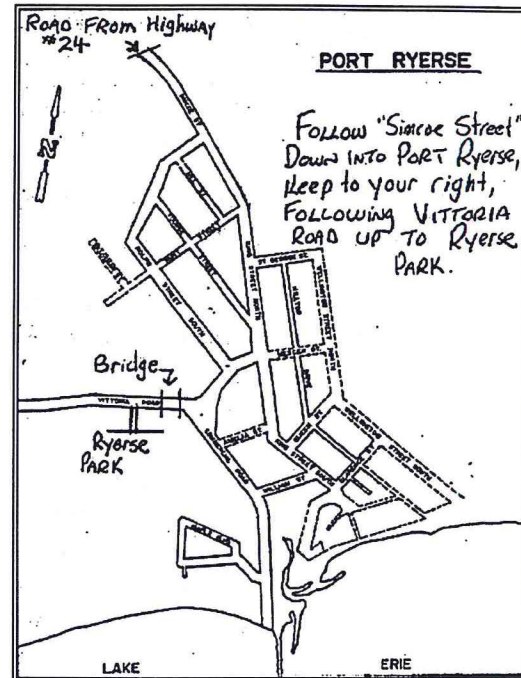
1954-1997

Sunday July 13, 1997

One O'Clock PM



Area Map



Local Map

Ryerse Park, Port Ryerse, Ontario

Take Highway 24 either south from Simcoe or east from Highway 59 and exit towards Lake Erie at the 'Port Ryerse' sign. Follow the main road down into the hamlet. Once you've reached the bottom of the hill, take the right fork to cross over the bridge and go up the other hill to Vernon & Barbara Ryerse's laneway on your left. WATCH for signs.

Delicious Smorgasbord Lunch!

Bring the food of your choice, plates, silverware, cups and lawn chairs. Hot tea, coffee and some juice will be provided. The reunion will be held rain or shine. (A clear day has been ordered!)

GAMES * SPORTS * PRIZES * ENTERTAINMENT * CONVERSATION

Reunion Executive

President.....Robert E. Ryerse, Simcoe, Ont. 426-3140
Vice-Pres.....Lloyd T. Ryerse, Port Dover, Ont. 428-9902
Secretary.....Thomas A. Ryerson Woodstock, Ont. 421-3621
Treasurer.....David A. Avery, Simcoe, Ont. 426-1413
Programme...Belinda J. Ryerson & Melba Ryerse

Sports.....Jan Chithalen & Stephen Mahdi
Tables.....Vivianne & Mary Kitchen, Delhi, Ont.
Grounds.....Vern, Robert C. & Edmon A. Ryerse
Sound.....Murray Madge

THANKS to Vern & Barbara and all who make our reunions such a success every year.

Please invite any relatives we may have missed with this mail-out.

If you are a member of the RYERSE or RYERSON family - YOU ARE INVITED!

July

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 3

ISSN. 1201-0065

October 1997

NANCY SHAW RYERSE

By David Avery



On January 13, 1835, George Joseph Ryerse, age forty, married twenty year old Nancy Shaw. It was another combination of second generation pioneer families.

George was well known in the Long Point, Ontario, Canada area. His father, Colonel Samuel Ryerse of New Jersey stock, had been a prominent Loyalist settler and held senior positions in the local militia and judiciary. His mother, Sarah Underhill, came from the Loyalist branch of an established family in Westchester, New York. George himself had become recognized as a successful farmer, a veteran of the 1812-14 conflict, a respected physician and an energetic minister of the Baptist Church.

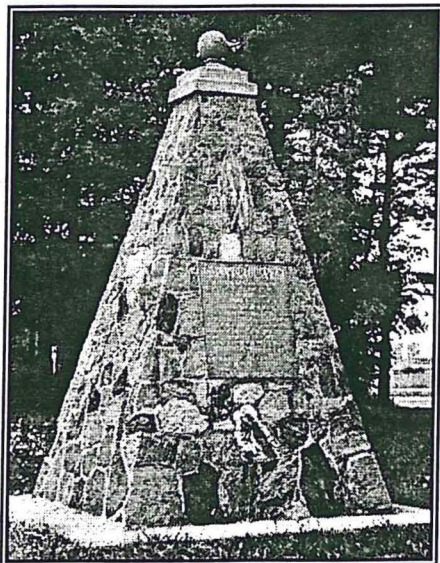
Early the previous year, the sudden death of Elizabeth, George's childhood friend and first wife, had left him heartbroken with five young children.

Although he was probably helped by his mother and sister-in-law who lived nearby, the children must have occupied much of his time and restricted his commitments to patients and parishioners. Therefore his marriage to Nancy Shaw was a fortuitous event for the entire family.

Nancy had a very interesting family background. Her father, Dennis Shaw was an officer in the local militia and as the son of a Loyalist, had a 200 acre grant in Townsend. His father, Captain Richard Shaw (variously referred to as Shaff, Shoff, Shoeff, Shaft) had served with Butler's Rangers during the Revolution and fought at the siege of Fort Wyoming. He settled briefly in the Niagara District before moving to Townsend with his two sons, becoming one of the earliest and most respected citizens in the township.

Nancy's grandmother, the wife of Richard Shaw, was Freelove Culver. The Culver family can be traced five generations before Freelove to Edward the Puritan, who arrived in Boston in 1635 with the historic Winthrop fleet. He received a grant of land in Mystic, Connecticut which his son John inherited and continued to farm. Despite John's marriage to Mary, daughter of Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts, both he and his eldest son John were imprisoned because they had become members of the Rogerene religious sect. The third John appears to have been a Rogerene or at least a sympathizer because he moved with his wife Freelove Lamb to Schooley's Mountain in New Jersey when the sect was evicted from Connecticut. John III's second son Jabez was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1760. After the Revolution, Jabez was considered a Loyalist because of his sympathies during the war. He emigrated to Upper Canada at the express invitation of Governor Simcoe to establish congregations in the Long Point region. He was promised 1000 acres for himself, 400 for each of his married children and 200 for those who were single. He brought his wife Anna and eight of their thirteen children to Windham Township.

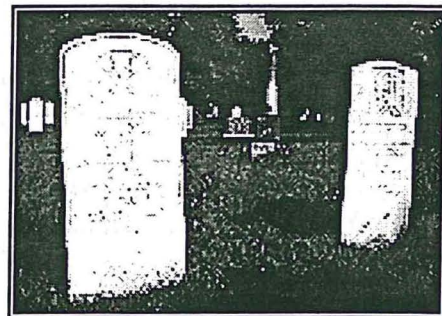
Included in the caravan was his daughter Freelove and her husband Richard Shaw. Notwithstanding the difficult conditions all the early settlers experienced, Rev. Jabez Culver was an indefatigable preacher, establishing churches at Turkey Point, Oakland and Windham. When frail with age and no longer able to travel, he preached in his own home. Today a large cairn in a pine grove several miles north of Simcoe commemorates the contributions he and his family made to the development of a new country.



Nancy Shaw's mother was Sophia Loder. Until her marriage, Sophia lived with her illustrious brother Job and his family. Job Loder was a man reportedly blessed with a number of virtues including intelligence, industry and integrity. He arrived in Charlotteville from Sussex County New Jersey in the 1790's as a skilled millwright and carpenter. He built a number of the pioneer mills in the area including the Finch and Gustin mills. In 1803 he operated a tavern in the early town of Charlotteville which was made the temporary judicial headquarters of the London District. Later Job won the contract to build a permanent courthouse and jail and when they became operational he was the first jailer. The subsequent moving of the courts may have induced him to leave for the thriving village of Sovereign's Mill (now Waterford) in Townsend. On the other hand it is possible there was a Culver connection in the family that may have been influential in a move closer to the Culver and Shaw homesteads. Anyhow, Job acquired the Sovereign's mill and shortly thereafter owned a farm, store, distillery and several more saw and grist mills. He built a church which he specified was to be available to all denominations. The village was becoming known as Lodersville. In 1826 however, Job was attracted to greater opportunities in the much larger community of Ancaster. There he repeated his success in operating the local mills and controlling most of the town's mercantile establishments.

Job Loder died in 1861 at age 85, a wealthy man noted for his integrity. Therefore Sophia Loder had not only experienced a comfortable lifestyle, she had an influential brother - and Nancy had a powerful uncle.

George and Nancy's marriage lasted forty-one years, until George's death in 1876. Nancy died in Simcoe in 1894. She was ninety years old. They are both buried in the Vittoria Baptist Cemetery. Their nine children and their descendants are listed in the Ryerse-Ryerson Family History.



References: Owen's Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement contains extensive references to these families.

In Memory



We are saddened to report the death of **Pansy May (Fischer) Ryerse** on July 17, 1997 in her 101st year. She will be remembered fondly as the charming lady who cut the cake at the gala 1994 Ryerse-Ryerson Family Reunion, using the sword that belonged to Samuel Ryerse. She married Clinton George Ryerse in 1919 and they were the parents of three children. In more recent years, she was a member of the Port Dover Horticulture Society and St. Paul's Anglican Church. She was buried near her husband at Port Dover Cemetery. (see #428 - pg 111)

Letters & E-Mail to the Editors!

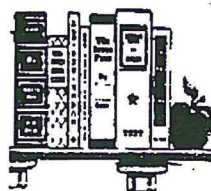
YES, we now can get electronic mail addressed to:
PHYLLISR@eclipsecomputer.com
 Let's hear from you!

1997 Reunion News

As promised -

**Great weather & Great food
 and a new line up of officers!**

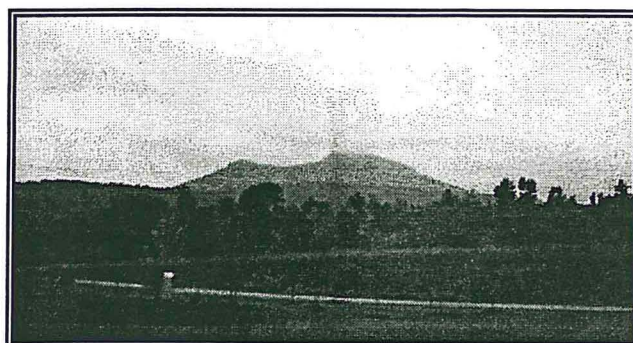
President - T. Lloyd Ryerse
 Vice President - H. Burnley Stratford Jr.
 Secretary - Thomas A. Ryerson
 Treasurer - David A. Avery
 Program - Belinda Ryerson and Melba Ryerse
 Sports & Games - Jan Chithalen and Stephen Mahdi
 Tables - Melissa and Maureen Jones
 Grounds - Vern, Robert C. and Edmon A. Ryerse
 Sound - Murry and Ian Madge
Don't miss the Reunion in 1998



A Note from the Editor

Back to New Jersey!

I've just returned from ten days in the Garden State - searching for more new and interesting information on our Ryerse/Ryerson ancestors! The trip north on Interstate #85 took us past King's Mountain, S.C. As we took this picture, the early morning mists were gently covering the field of battle where Capt. Samuel Ryerse was taken prisoner.



In New Jersey I drove through "Ryerse and Ryerson-country," past the old home farm in Pequannock, past several burial grounds where members of our family rest in peace - and spent a morning at Ringwood Manor, the home of Martin J. Ryerson, the great Ironmaster. Located in Ringwood State Park, it is also the home of the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society. You will enjoy seeing the old pictures from a Ryerson Family Album held in their collection.

We are very pleased to present the story of Nancy Shaw in this issue. David Avery has done another outstanding job of research on this New Jersey - turned Ontario Loyalist family! Thanks David!

Family Bibles are an important source for family information. We are indebted to Wendy Bergerud for alerting us to the Orren Sutton Ryerse Family Bible and for sending us these sharp clear images of the old Bible - by electronic mail. Thanks Wendy!

Phyllis Ryerse

The Port Ryerse Journal

Published 3 times a year by the

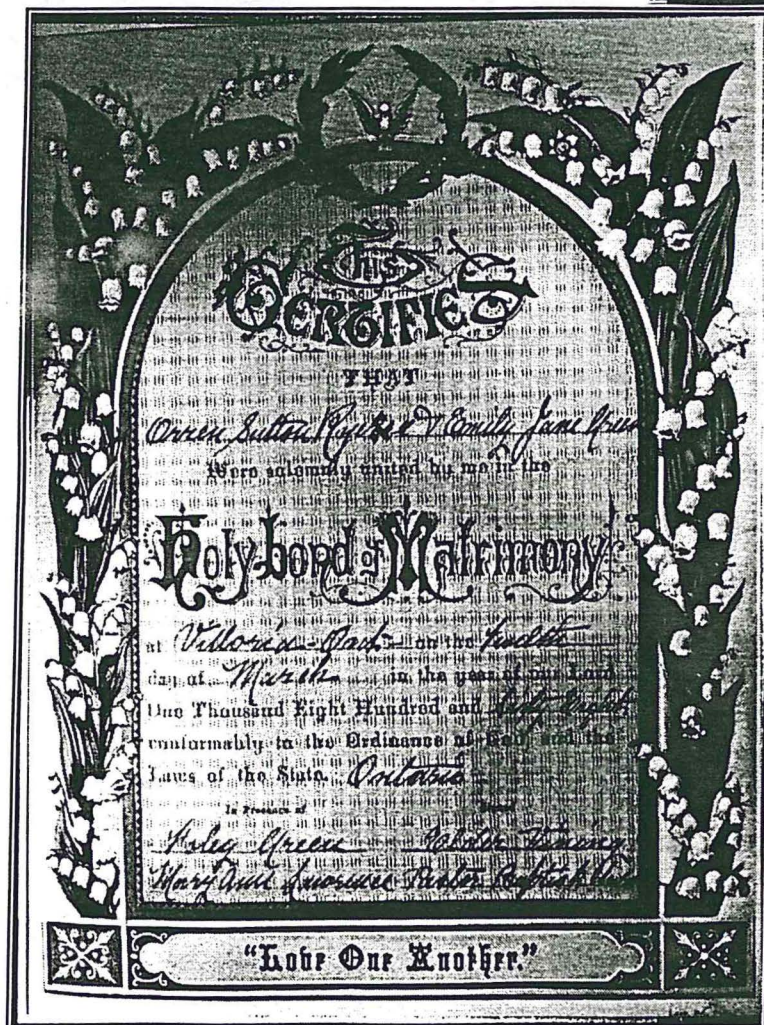
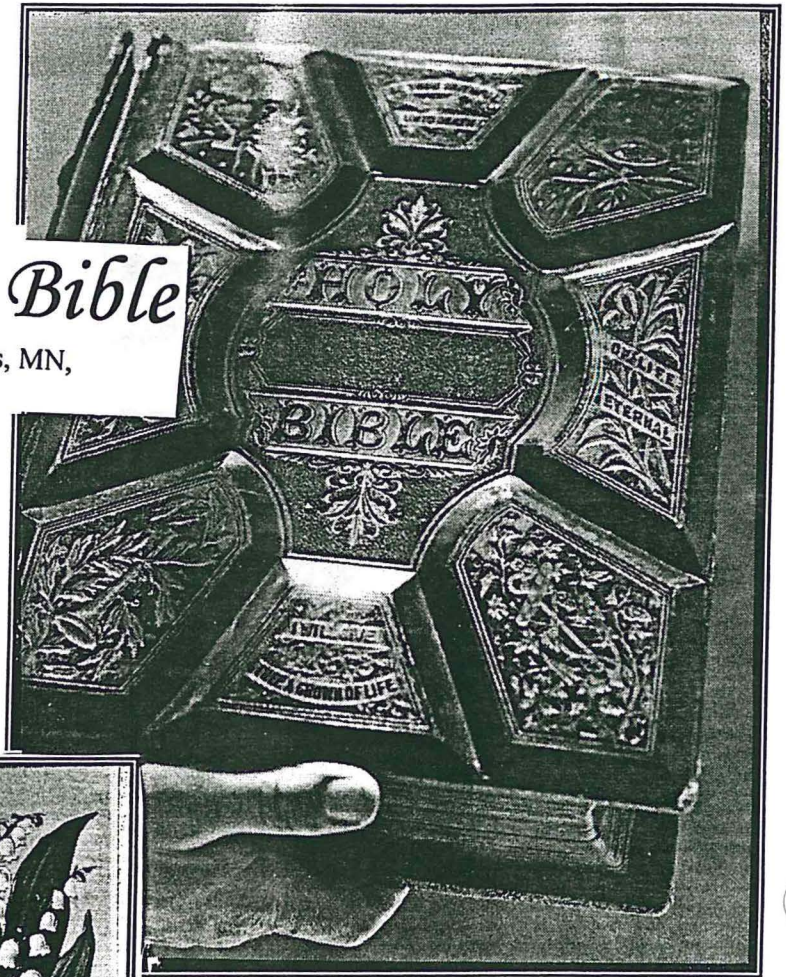
RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association.

Box 262, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada N5C 3K5
 3373 Dawsonville Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30506 USA

Subscription rate \$10 year
 Submissions Welcome

A Ryerse Family Bible

Inherited by Scott Ryerse of Minneapolis, MN,
(the oldest son of the oldest son etc.)



"This Certifies That Orren Sutton Ryerse and Emily Jane Green were solemnly united by me in the Holy bond of Matrimony at Vittoria, Ont. on the twelfth day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Eight conformably to the Ordinance of God, and the Laws of the State Ontario. In the presence of Foley Green and Mary Ann Lawrence. Signed Elder Vining, Pastor Baptist (next word unclear)

"Love One Another"

Our thanks to Wendy Bergerud for sharing this information with us.

She asks: Is it Foley Green?

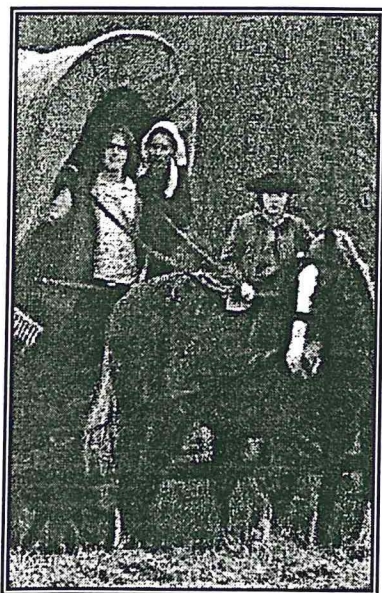
Is he Emily's father?

What word follows Pastor Baptist?

For birth-death-marriage data extracted from this fine old Bible, please see the enclosed Supplement of new and corrected family information.

Family Bibles are fascinating repositories of family history. Not only are the new babies dutifully recorded but often these Bibles become the home for all sorts of memorabilia. Scraps of wedding dress fabric, four leaf clovers, newspaper clippings and even snippets of hair, often find their way between the pages of these old volumes. An interesting letter found its way into another Ryerse Family Bible depicting the difficulties of migrating to Indiana in 1819. It is reproduced here in part - unedited - for your enjoyment.

"Dear Sister, Our route from home to Bethlehem, Pa. on the 4th day. Visited the church at Nunery. Neat as wax. Went 1/4 mile encamp for breakfast on bank of the Lehi without coffee. Only 1 horse so C and I alternately rode and walked. Had tolerable accomadations. Had fine weather until Aligany Mtns were reached. Started raining and had miserable entertainment. Got to Chambersburg. Passed through Carlisle and Harrisburgh and many towns to Wheeling for delightful week at pleasant Boarding House (400 miles from home) while boat was being built to convey us down the River then very low. Traveled 100 miles down river and our boat stove and we sank to the Bottom (about 2 feet). Built fire on shore, breakfasted in good spirits dried most of clothes, had boat repaired and went on to Marietta (Ohio) 3 miles. Boat sank again and took seven weeks to the "Falls of Ohio." Thence overland our journey was 100 miles over most tremendous roads. Very fateauging. I was sick the whole way. Hope to visit Jersey in 2 years. Vincens has 400

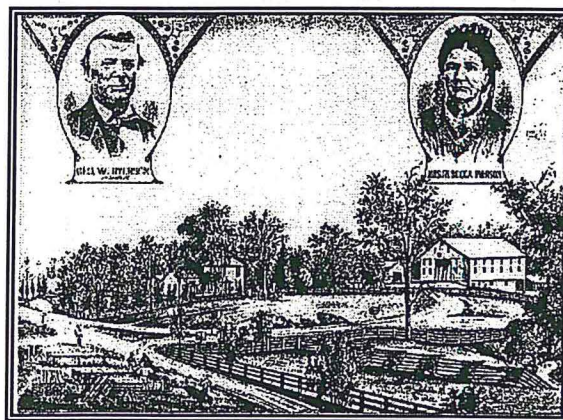


houses. Preaching every other Sabbath. Jacob has left us and settled 20 miles away. The family is scattering. Give my love in strong terms to Grandpapa and brother. Teach the children to say Aunt Cathine. Your affectionate sister."

Vincennes, Ind.
Jan. 1, 1820.

NOW WE KNOW !

Regrettably, the large Indiana farm on the cover of the last Port Ryerse Journal went unidentified. Though labeled as the residence of George W. Ryerson, we were unable to discover his connection to the family at that time. It wasn't long, however, before we received a message on the internet from **Ron Sieber**, a new-found cousin from Salem, Oregon. He pointed out that George W. Ryerson was in fact another "cousin" - his line of descent being through Reijer- Reijer- Marten- Joris- John G.- Hassel and Johannis



A little more digging and we can now tell you that George Washington Ryerson (1811-1871) was one of the pioneers of Indiana, settling in Kosciusko Co. when it was but a wilderness. He accumulated a large property including the farm illustrated in the Indiana Atlas (and above) and virtually built the town of Pierceton, Indiana. He was known throughout that area as "Uncle George." In 1833 he married Rebecca, the daughter of George and Catherine Lipps of Green Briar Co., Virginia. They had ten children.

NEW INFO on JOHN RYERSON

Ron Sieber is a descendant of John Ryerson and found the last supplement very interesting and helpful in discovering some of his unknown ancestors. He also shared much new information with us on his branch of the family and we will soon issue an up-dated version including his new information on John's descendants.

*A plump wife and a big barn -
Never did any man harm!*

What's New in the Past?

Exciting news about **Egerton Ryerson**

We have just learned that Peter Ryerson, the great-great grandson of Egerton Ryerson, the founder of Canada's Educational System, has donated a large scrapbook full of documents of great historical and family interest to the Archives at Ryerson University in Toronto. Fragile and yellowed with time, the old scrapbook holds hundreds of letters and documents that follow Egerton's career as well as the early history of Canada. The oldest document is dated 1783. Many are from such prominent figures in early Canadian history as Sir Isaac Brock, Lord Stanley, and the Earl of Dufferin.

The Archives recently moved into larger quarters where they can better display their holdings. Plans are to temporarily place the 130 page Ryerson scrapbook in an enclosed cabinet until necessary preservation procedures can be addressed. Most of the items have been glued into the scrapbook pages, creating quite a challenge for Mr. Claude Doucet, the Ryerson Archivist. He is also attempting to achieve the return of Egerton's desk which would be put on display in a position of honor accompanying the new and important documents.

Peter Ryerson lives with his family on a 70 foot barge in Middlesex, England. He is one of at least five living great-great-grandchildren of Egerton Ryerson, including two who live in Australia. "Everytime someone looked at the old scrapbook, it got a little more frayed," said Mr. Ryerson. "I knew it belonged in Canada." With the agreement of other family members, it is now back in Canada.

We are gathering the details of the fascinating story of how the scrapbook traveled back to Canada as well as what treasures it holds and hope to bring you the rest of the story in the next issues. Stay tuned!

pr



Egerton Ryerson

A Ryerson Family Album

From the archives of the New Jersey Highlands Historical Society at Ringwood Manor, NJ



The family of *Martin John Ryerson* and his first wife,

Mary Ann Conklin, of Bloomingdale, NJ (circa 1887-88)

(see "The Portrait of Martin John....." In the February 1997 issue of the Port Ryerse Journal)

from l. to r. Ella Mary Ryerson, Louis Johnes Ryerson, his wife, Janie (Roome), Andrew Zabriskie Ryerson, his daughter Isabel and his wife, Georgiana (Linen).



The oldest son, **Andrew Zabriskie Ryerson**, was born in 1844 and lived all of his life in Bloomingdale on his father's vast estate. He was engaged in the real estate business with his offices in New York.

Louis Johnes Ryerson

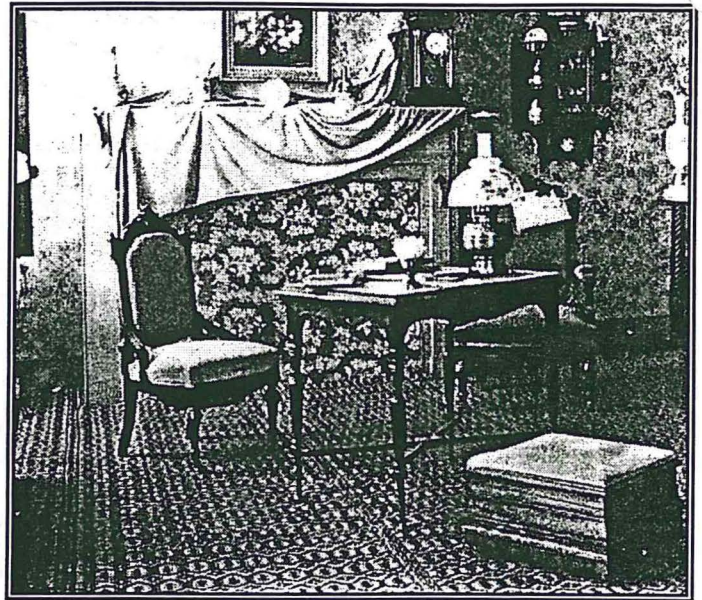
was born in 1850 and was a graduate of Columbia Law School in New York. He practiced law in New

York and was later associated with Vice-President Garret A. Hobart in Paterson, NJ. He was the author of *The Ryerson Family in America* published in 1902, covering mainly the family in New Jersey. He lived on Poplar Avenue in Pompton Plains, NJ.



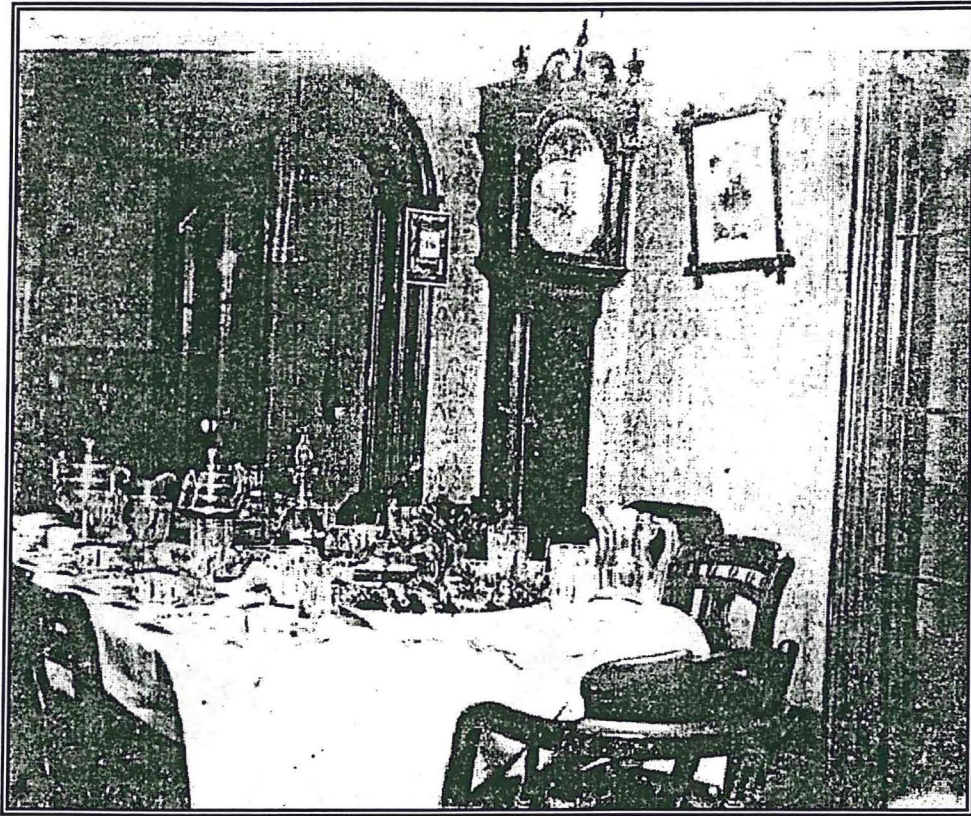


Ella Mary Ryerson was born in 1856. She married James G. Rogers and lived in Springfield, Ohio. She was a great favorite of her father and is described as "accomplished" in his obituary. The photograph below shows her playing a pipe organ in the Ryerson home.



The Ryerson home was decorated in the popular Victorian fashion of that era. It was customary to dramatically cover the fireplace during the summer months.



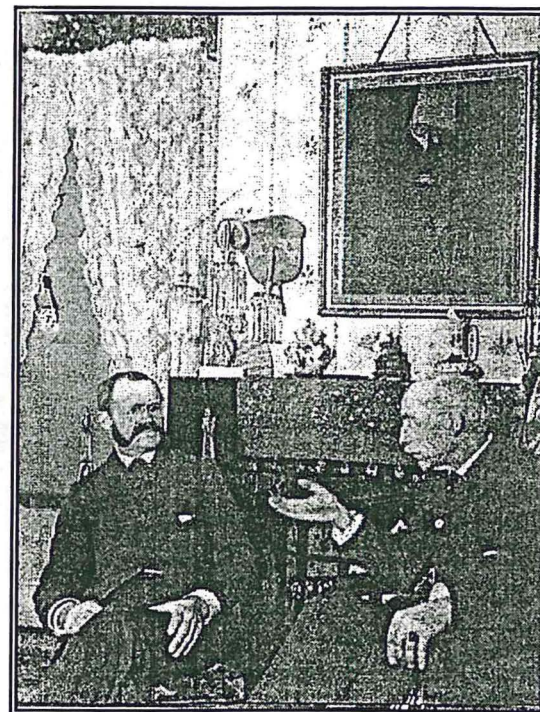
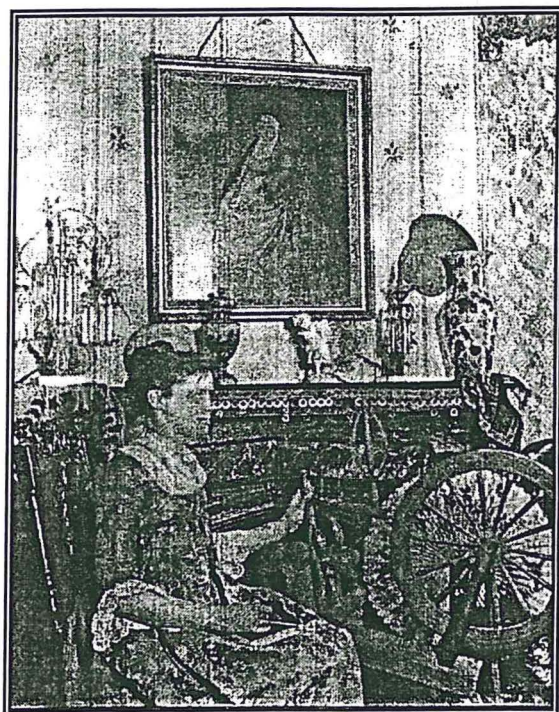


The family's wealth is evident in this elegant dining room. While the sumptuous meal and the silver and crystal serving pieces are impressive, the most important piece in this room is the grandfather's clock.

A small handwritten note attached inside the clock gives us the story.

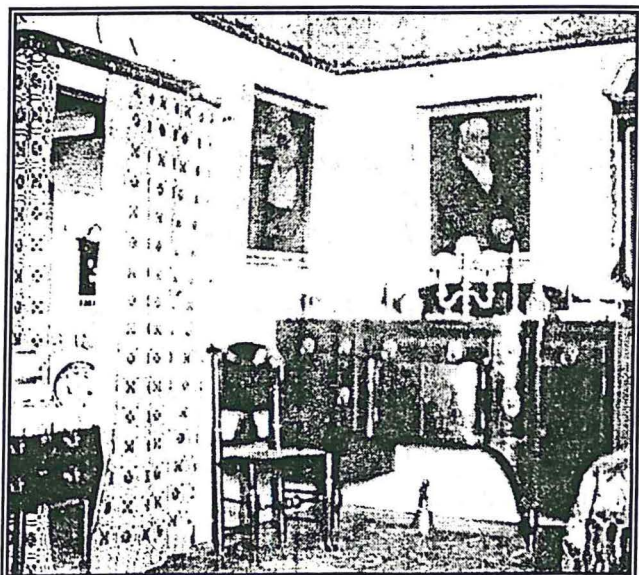
"This clock was a (paper torn away) out-fit of John M. Ryerson and Clarissa Van Winkle who were married March 2nd, 1806. They resided at Ringwood where he died June 28, 1820. In the inventory of his property, the clock was appraised at 70.00 and with his other household effects was set ... (word unclear) to his widow. His widow and family removed to Pompton and occupied the "Yellow Cottage" till the winter of 1839 when they removed to Bloomingdale. On the widow's death in 1860 this clock was inherited by her only son Martin John Ryerson and till his death in 1889 had for 50 years kept the time continuously in the Bloomingdale homestead. On Martin John's death it became the property of his eldest son, Andrew Zabriskie Ryerson who with his family removed to (word unclear) Place 1/2 mile from the Bloomingdale homestead - and on his death Jan 10, 1910, the clock became the property of his brother, the undersigned, who has this day finished renovating the case and works and started it going. Dated Pompton Plains, N.J. June 14, 1910 Louis Johnes Ryerson"

The faithful old clock eventually came into the hands of a New York antiques dealer and was purchased by a Ryerson cousin, Edward L. Ryerson of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Ryerson generously returned the clock to Ringwood Manor where it remains to this day, standing proudly in the Ryerson wing. A pastoral scene and a ship on rough seas are depicted on the moon dial and the initials JMR & CVW March 2, 1806 can be found at the bottom of the clock face. It appears from this old photograph that the Ryerson coat of arms was not originally on the clock face. It may have been added by Louis Johnes Ryerson who was so proud of his family's heritage.



Opulent Victorian décor continued in the parlor of the Ryerson home. On the wall can be seen the two oil portraits of the Ringwood Ironmaster, Martin J. Ryerson and his wife, Sophronia "Vrouche" (Van Winkle) Ryerson. They were the great grandparents of Andrew Zabriskie, Louis Johnes and Ella Mary Ryerson. These portraits now hang in the Dey Mansion in Preakness, NJ.

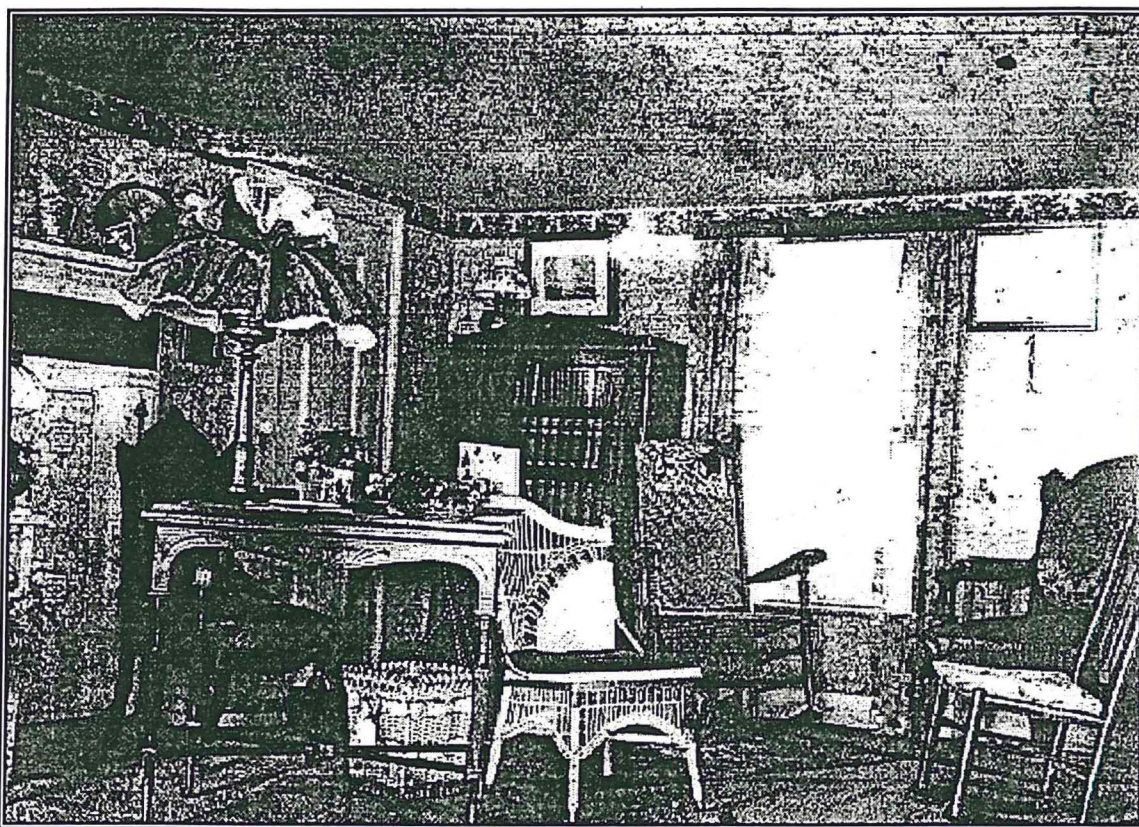
Careful study of the fragile Ryerson Family Album, using a magnifying glass to examine the old photographs in detail, has turned up the curious fact that the Ringwood Ironmaster, Martin J. Ryerson apparently had three sets of portraits painted of himself and his wife - probably one for each of his three sons. The second set can be seen in the photo below, hanging over the buffet in the Ryerson home. This portrait of Martin J. now hangs in Ringwood Manor. This portrait of "Vrouche," however, has not been located.



The third pair of portraits is held by the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark, NJ. While quite similar to the paintings shown here hanging over the buffet, a closer examination will show that their hands are in different positions. In the Historical Society portrait, Martin has his right hand tucked into his frock coat (a'la Napoleon!) - while they are folded in his lap in this portrait over the buffet. "Vrouche" is positioned slightly different as well.

"The RYERSONS - Men of Iron, Men of Steel"

is a featured story planned for a coming issue of *The Port Ryerse Journal*. You won't want to miss this fascinating story of our family's involvement in these trades.



The old Family Album holds many photographs. We had a difficult time choosing the most interesting. This large photo is loose in the album and may show the Poplar Ave, Pompton Plains home-office of Louis Johnes Ryerson. Are those his law books in the case? Did he work on "**The Ryerson Family In America**" at this desk? And don't you *love* that lamp shade?!



Louise Janet Ryerson, the only daughter of Louis Johnes Ryerson, was born in 1889. She never married and lived to a ripe old age in her father's house on Poplar Avenue. At her death, the old photo album and other family memorabilia were given to the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society at Ringwood Manor. It is to Louise that we are grateful for this visit to the home of our early "cousins." We would also like to thank the librarians at the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society who allowed us to copy and share with you all of these charming old photos.

BUYER BEWARE - DO NOT BE DECEIVED!

HALBERT'S of Bath, Ohio is infamous in genealogical circles in the United States and now around the world. The company has been in the courts many times because of thousands of consumer complaints to postal authorities. They sell a mass-merchandised book called "**The World Book of _____**." The blanks are filled in with your surname. These books contain a bit of basic material on how to research a family tree, followed by pages of telephone book listings (some out of date) of people with the same surname. They claim that "each heirloom edition is virtually handmade to order" but what you get is something that looks hurriedly assembled on someone's dining room table!

The address in Bath, Ohio is simply a mail drop. There is no company named Halberts at 3687 Ira Road. Telephone Directory Assistance can not find a listing for Halberts anywhere in the area that serves Bath. Apparently all the mail sent to Halberts at that address is bundled up and forwarded to the parent company - Numa Corp. - in nearby Akron, Ohio. Numa, operating under the name of Halberts, has been flooding the United States with advertisements for their "World Books" for years - and now they have expanded into other countries as well.

BURKE'S PEERAGE was a highly regarded company in England that used to have an impeccable reputation. Founded in the 1820's, the company was well known for their scholarly publication of "Burke's Peerage and Baronetcy." This book traced the ancestry of almost every person with a title in the United Kingdom and was updated regularly. But hard times arrived at Burke's and the company was sold in the 1980's to the Numa Corp. Almost immediately, the British version of Halbert's mass-produced telephone listings under the Burke's Peerage banner began showing up. The Burke's Peerage books selling in England today are almost identical to the Halberts books sold in the U.S. and Canada.

The October 7 issue of The Mirror, one of Britain's biggest selling national daily newspapers, carried an article in their "Sorted" column. This column regularly investigates various scandals and scams. It's headline read - "**Books give family trees a bad name**"

The article continued....."The once-respected Burke's Peerage has gone down hill since an American firm was granted license to use the name. If your name is Smith, you've probably received junk mail offering the Burke's Peerage World Book of Smiths. For \$29.95 you get a poorly produced book with little family history and lists of Smiths around the world..."

The column ends with a brief recommendation: "One to Avoid!"

