

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1

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“FOUL RIFT! Pull Jersey! Pull Jersey!” shouted the steersman.



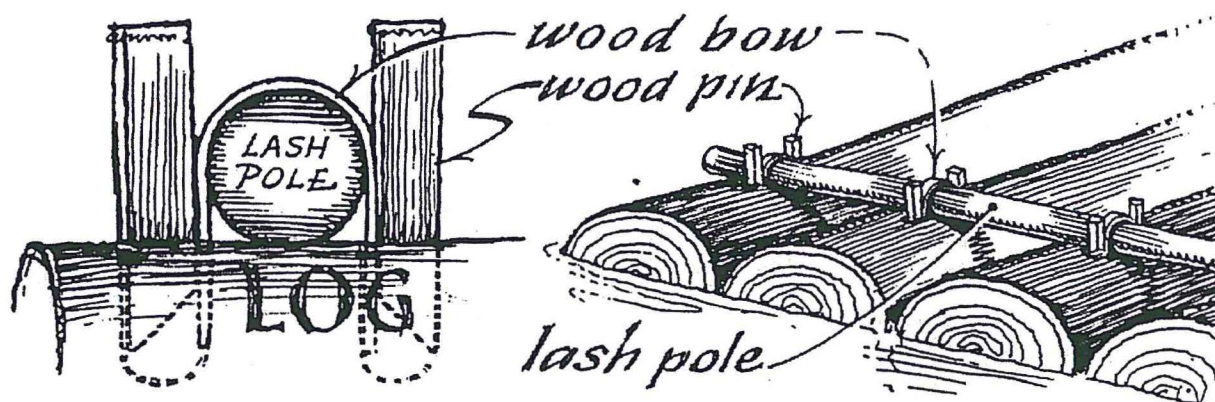
Twenty-six year old John Ryerson leaned into the sweep with all his might. He knew they were

fast approaching the greatest obstacle along the entire Delaware River and it was going to take all of their muscles and skill to navigate this rocky stretch. “Pull for Jersey, boys!” “Now t’other way,” came the cry. “Pull Penn! Pull Penn!” and pull they did, the rocks cruelly scraping the bottom of their raft as the cold foaming river water swirled over their feet. John was grateful that the steersman knew every rift and eddy on this river by heart. Nevertheless, riding a timber raft worth thousands of dollars, being pushed along at high speed by these rushing waters, John knew that even a slight mistake by the steersman could mean disaster.

The trip to this point had been full of hard work, close calls and high adventure. As the demand for lumber increased, thousands of logs were fastened together into giant rafts and floated down the Delaware to the mills and shipyards of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Ships needed tall masts and spars and burgeoning cities required millions of feet of timber. The forested areas of the upper reaches of the

Delaware River consisted of great white pines, oaks and chestnut and in the backlands there were solid stands of hemlock in the valleys. The ridges were densely populated with beech, ash, maple, cherry, hickory and other hardwoods. All awaited the unrelenting demands for timber. After the pines were all cut down, the hemlocks followed.

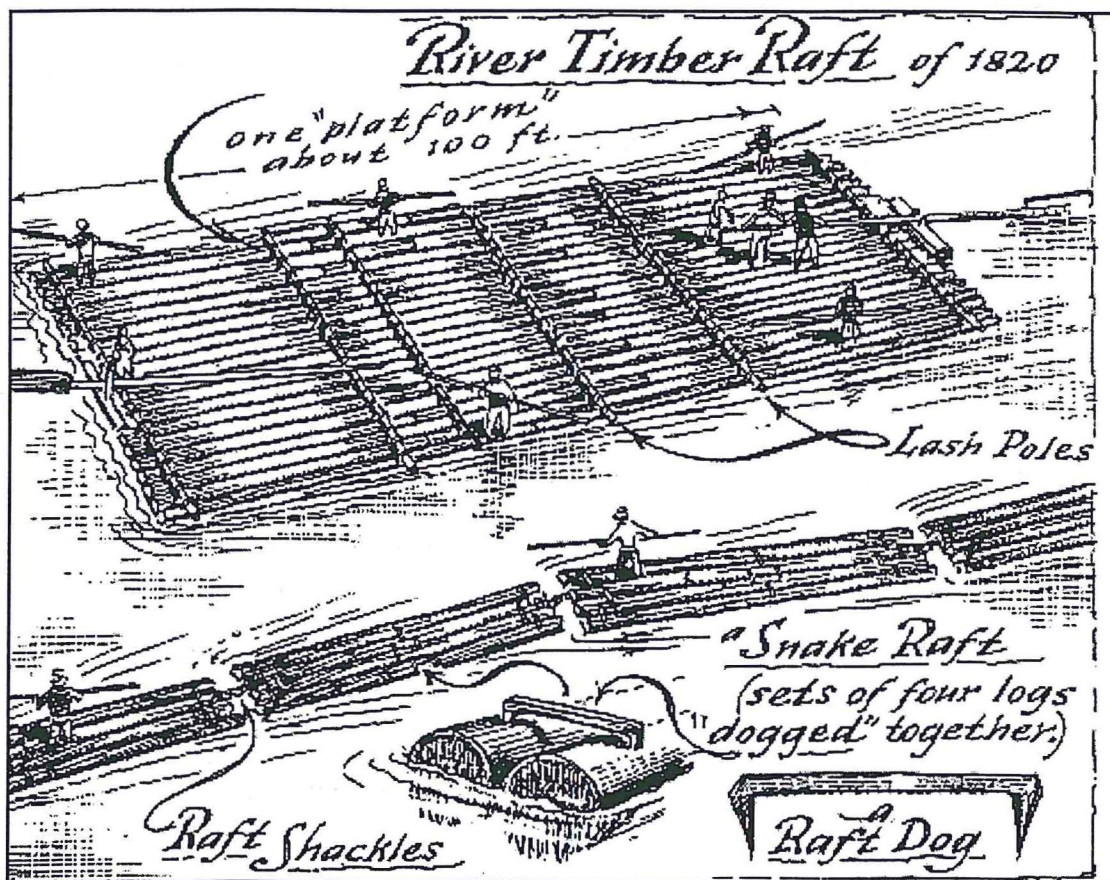
It began in early spring. After the ice had disappeared from the river, the logging started. At places like Deposit, NY, (named for the great deposits of timber delivered there), great logs were skidded down large chutes to the river bank, or were pulled there by teams of horses or oxen. The lumbermen then rolled the logs into the water, side by side and end to end and ingeniously connected them into rafts approximately 20 by 160 feet. They were held together by 3” saplings of water birch or ironwood, called lash poles. These were attached to the logs with hickory bows held in place with ash plugs. Sometimes horseshoes were used. They added long oars for steering – one fixed to the front end and one to the



rear, made from stout poles, 30 to 35 feet long and 6 to 8 inches in diameter. One man handled each oar, the rear oar operated by the steersman, his oar being somewhat off center toward the Pennsylvania side of the river as the current propelled the raft down stream. These rafts were fastened, one behind the other, to make one long raft. There were usually 4 or 5 men on each raft although one of the largest rafts, made of wharf timber, was 85 by 215 feet long and contained 120,000 feet of lumber. It was piloted to Philadelphia in 1870 by eight men manning eight oars. Sometimes deckloads of unfloatable lumber was piled on top of the rafts to make the dangerous trip even more

profitable. Smaller "snake rafts" were sometimes made from sets of four logs "dogged" together as seen in the illustration.

The work was difficult and dangerous but the excitement and rewards drew adventurous men from miles around. John Ryerson was one of them. Lumbermen in the woods labored from 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM for about \$18 a month, paid twice a year. It isn't hard to understand why these men jumped at the opportunity to make that much money in about three days rafting time.



RIFTS

The Delaware River had many obstructions – called rifts – which prevented navigation. The greatest number of rifts were from Easton downward. The greatest obstacle in the entire river was Foul Rift, three miles below Belvidere, where the fall was 22 feet. Rocks had been dynamited at various places, especially at Foul Rift, so that boats could pass safely. Raft owners often paid from one to ten dollars to local men along the river who could take them through the most difficult rifts and turns. These steersmen had to be alert, decisive and quick to act. Their calls of “Pull Jersey” or “Pull Pennsylvania” could be heard all along the river as it carried them violently thru these obstructions. If there had been sufficient snow the previous winter, and if the melting caused higher flooding or “freshets,” the rafts would float at rapid speeds over the dangerous places, the oars forcing the rafts sidewise to avoid the obstacles.

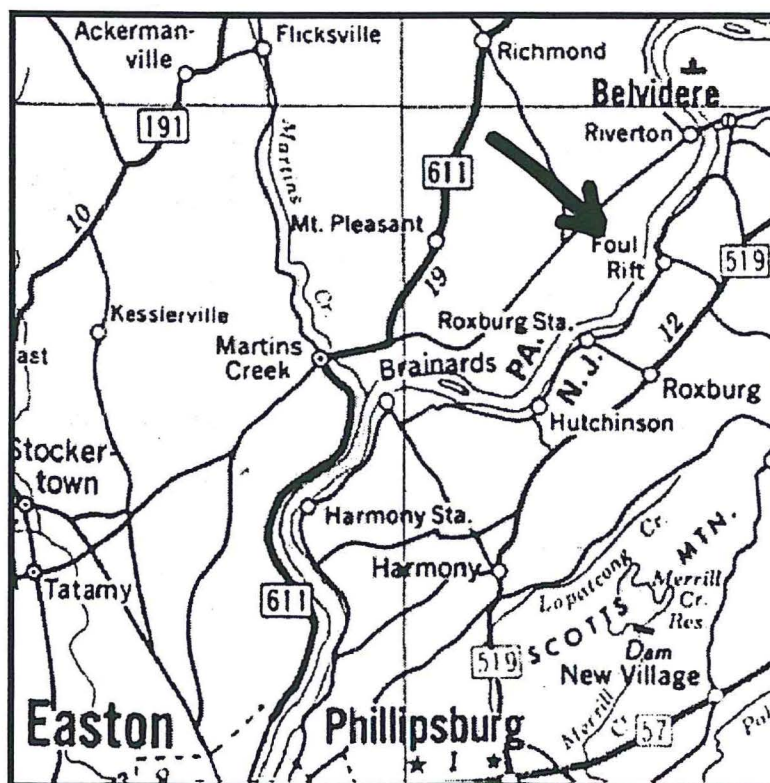
Rafting along other parts of the river was exciting also and John enjoyed watching the shoreline pass by as they floated majestically down the river. There were many taverns located along the river, usually near eddies where rafts were tied up for the night. Raftsmen were a hearty bunch who worked hard and played hard too. These taverns were the scene of many a wrestling match and an occasional fist fight to determine who was the best man on the raft or fleet of rafts. Their appetites were enormous too and the taverns and inns always kept a goodly supply of salt pork, pancake flour and liquor on hand.

May 2, 1834 – DISASTER

“Foul Rift ahead, pull Jersey boys!” came the cry again and John and the other hands leaned with all their might against the oars. Bumping and grinding over the rocks, they had almost made it through the rift when the raft under John’s feet began to break apart under the heavy pounding. Suddenly he was plunged into the icy cold water. He could feel the rocks raking his body as he was pulled along by the rushing waters. He thought his lungs would burst before he finally managed to come up gasping for air between the heavy logs that were rushing by. He grabbed frantically for a smaller log to hold on to, trying to avoid being crushed between it and those rugged rocks.

Finally, he managed to pull himself up on 6 logs that were still pegged together and with extreme effort, managed to maneuver his little raft ashore about 2 miles down the river. There he pulled himself wet and shivering up onto the shore.

***FOUL RIFT can still be found
on a current EXXON New Jersey Road Map
as shown below.***





RESCUE

The folks who lived below Foul Rift were used to pulling wet and bedraggled rafters out of the river and John soon found a warm fire and a welcome meal. He didn't know whether the rest of the crew had escaped with their lives as well. Pushing his hand down into a wet trouser pocket, he found \$50 – soggy and wet. His little trunk with a new suit of clothes and \$230 wages from previous work, were lost at the bottom of the river.

We don't know if the crew was able to regroup and salvage any of the logs or remnants of rafts. Loose floating logs were fair game and there were always fellows along the river waiting to corral a few and take them on to the mills at Philadelphia for their own profit. John Ryerson probably never collected any pay for being dashed into the river. He was lucky to escape with his life.

On to Philadelphia – on dry land!

John's situation was now quite unsettled. Unemployed, he was determined not to go home until he had earned more money, and so he made his way on to Philadelphia. Once there, he decided to travel further on to Washington D.C., the seat of Government. There he soon found employment as a schoolteacher. He engaged 33 students at \$6 each and so was earning about \$200 for the year. Undoubtedly, a highlight of the years class curriculum was the telling of the exciting story of his rafting on the Delaware, a thrilling real-life adventure for his class!

LIFE IN THE U.S. CAPITOL

John enjoyed teaching and in his own words, "I am much pleased with my situation." In a letter home to his parents in Paquanac, N.J. he wrote, "I've seen all the big men such as General (President!) Jackson etc." – news which must have amazed his friends and neighbors back in New Jersey.



His only complaint was that, "...it's so confounded hot and unless we have some cooler weather very soon I shall desert my post and come NORTH!"

He did eventually return north to Bergin Hill (now Jersey City, N.J.) where he became the editor of *The Telegraph*, a newspaper which later was absorbed by *The Standard*. From 1875 to 1876 he served as Superintendent of Public Schools. He married Matilda, daughter of David Linderman of Sullivan Co., NY. They had six children. John A. Ryerson died Sept. 18, 1881 in Jersey City.

The End of the RAFTING BUSINESS

By the beginning of the 1920's, all of the raftable timber had been consumed and the hillsides were denuded. Today, however, the slopes are forested once more and the hardwoods, white pine and hemlocks have returned to the depleted forests.

References: Rafting on the Delaware River by Harry B. and Grace M. Weiss, New Jersey Agricultural Society, 1967. An address delivered by Ralph E. Wright at the 65th Annual Banquet of the Minisink Valley Hist. Soc. in 1954. Illustrations reprinted from *A Museum of Early American Tools* by Eric Sloane, by permission of the publishers. The Ryerson Genealogy printed in 1916. Photo of Foul Rift courtesy of Mrs. Walter J. Hankins reprinted from *The Bay and River Delaware* by David B. Tyler. Copy of original letter provided by Mead Stapler.



Portraits of **Judge Abraham Ryerson Jr. and his wife Sarah Bush**,
the parents of John Ryerson who went rafting on the Delaware.

Text of handwritten letter addressed to John's brother:

**George A. Ryerson
Mead's Basin
Bergen County
New Jersey**

Sent from City of Washington via Paterson, NJ

Washington, D.C. 12 July 1834

In January last I wrote to you from Springfield (NY) informing you that I intended to leave there and come towards home. I came as far as Bainbridge, 50 miles south from Springfield.

I then wrote to you again telling you that I should stay there until the latter part of April, when I should leave and come down the Delaware River on some rafts to Philadelphia and requested you to write me but never received an answer from you. We left Bainbridge at the expected time and sailed or rather floated majestically down the majestic Delaware. No accidents befell us until Sunday the 2 May when we came to the "Foul Rifts" just below Belvidere NJ which is I believe about west from Pacquanac. Here our rafts struck the rocks and were broken in fragments. We barely escaped with our lives. I lost my trunk containing a suit of new clothes and \$230 in cash. The owner of the rafts lost upwards of \$1000 besides his rafts. I came ashore two miles below on 6 boards pegged together. I had \$50 in my pocket with which I proceeded to Philadelphia – determined not to come home until I should have more money.

When I got to Philadelphia, I concluded to visit the seat of government. I came on to this place, took a school which am now keeping. I have seen all the big men such as Gen. Jackson etc. and am much pleased with my situation excepting that it is so confounded hot and unless we have some cooler weather very soon I shall desert my post and come North. I am making about \$200 per annum – 33 scholars at \$6 per annum. I shall be home in November, next, if not before. My health is good. By this mail I send you and others some documents concerning the General Post Office. You must write me a letter without fail and in return I will send you a much longer one than this.

Give my respect to all and especially to Mother.

Yours, etc.

I. A. Ryerson

His use of the initials I.A. instead of J.A. was common practice in those days.

Isaac Mead was Postmaster of Mead's Basin.

In more recent times, the name Mead's Basin has become Mountain View.

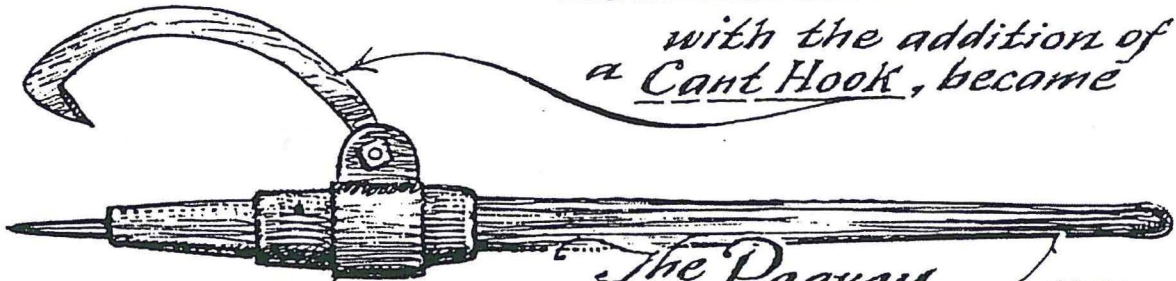


*The Cant Hook
for rolling a log*



iron spike

the Jam Pike

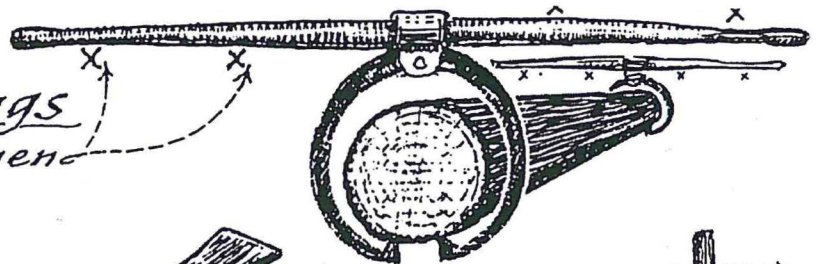


*with the addition of
a Cant Hook, became*

The Peavey

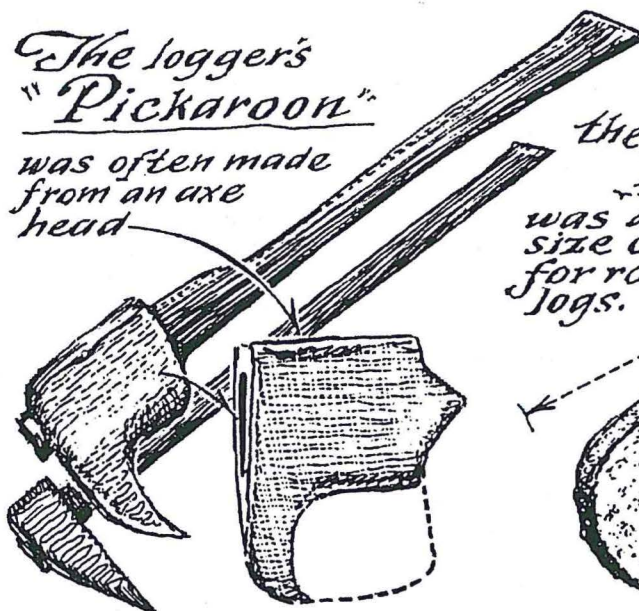
1871

*The Log Tongs
for four men*

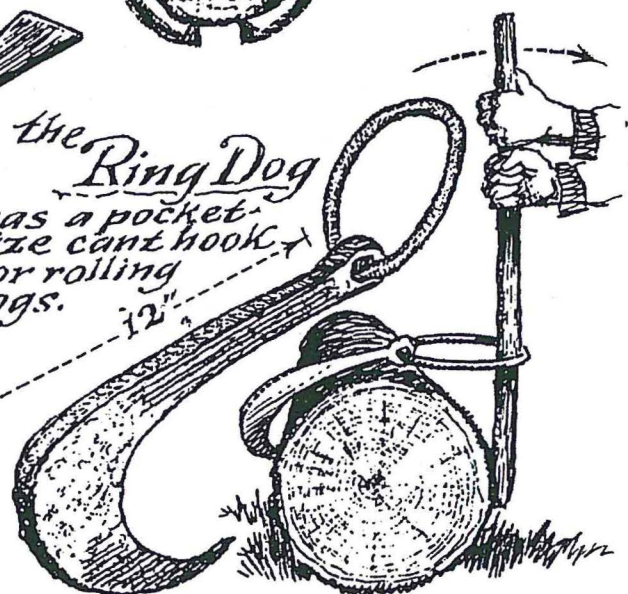


*The logger's
"Pickaroon"*

*was often made
from an axe
head*

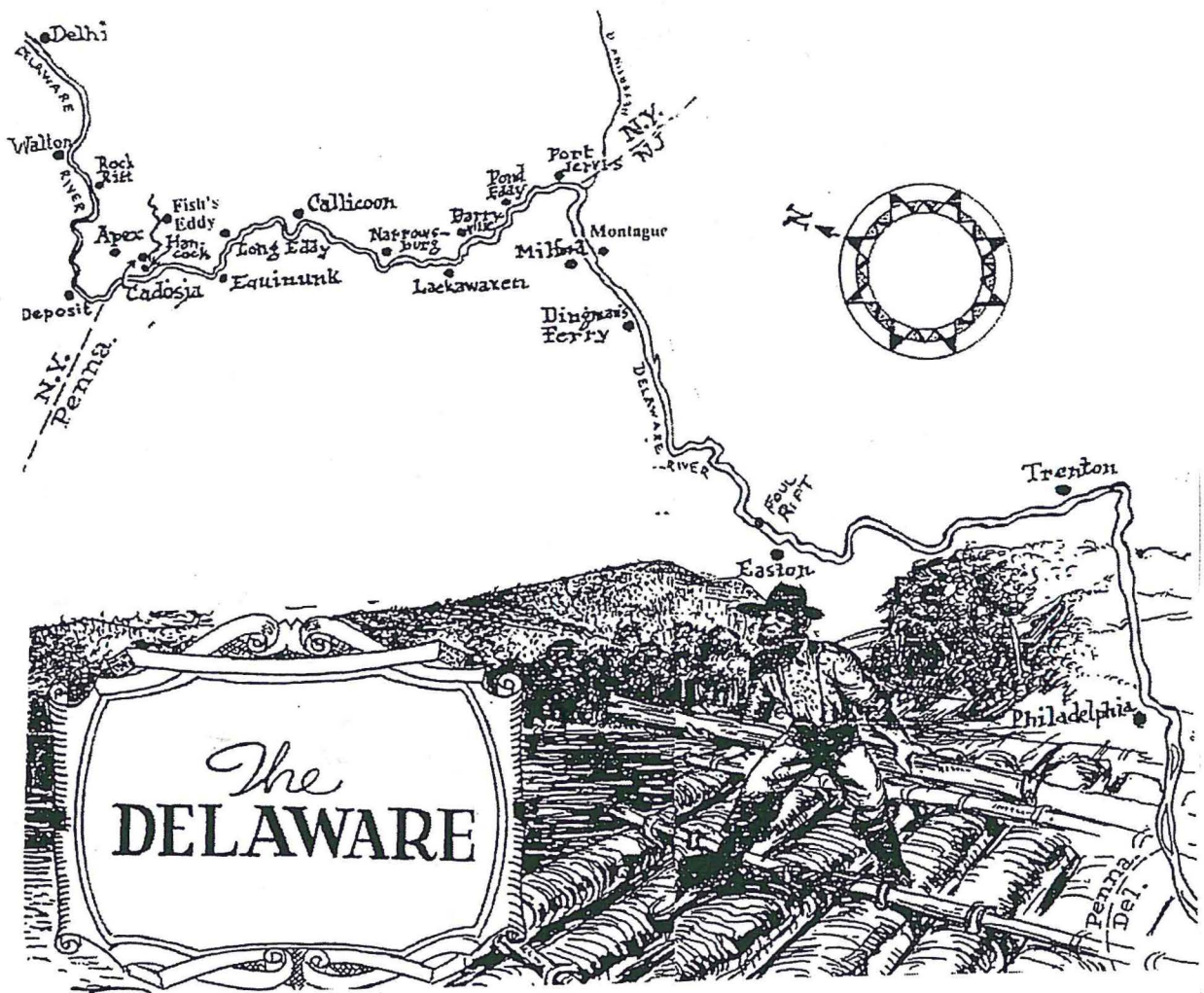


*the Ring Dog
was a pocket-
size cant hook
for rolling
logs.*





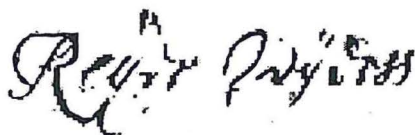
The Delaware River marks the line between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Bainbridge, NY is north of Deposit, NY and south of the city of Springfield which is not shown on this map.



A Name is a Name is a Name

or

How our ancestors signed their names – and when!



Reijer Reijersz
Written by church clerk
Amsterdam, Holland
Year – 1630



His Mark

No signature has been found for Marten, the son of Reijer Reijersz, however, we find his name written as

Marten Reijersen

in the records of the Flatbush Dutch Church - 1663. His name is also found on the Breukelen assessment rolls in 1675 as

Maerten Ryerse

and in 1683 as

Marten Reisen

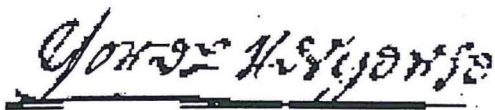
The name of Joris, the son of Marten Reijersen can be found in the 1703 Census of New York and is written

Jores Riersie

The 1707 Survey of the lands purchased in New Jersey records his name as

George Reyersen

He is recorded as George Ryerson throughout the text of his last Will and Testament written in 1749 by an unknown writer. The signature from that document is reproduced here and appears to be in his own hand.



The old handwriting is difficult to decipher but it appears that He wrote his name as

Yores Reijerse.

The Inventory of the Estate of Joris Ryerson's also provides us with the signatures of two of his sons, John and George Jr. It is interesting to note that they were still using the Dutch spelling of

REIJERSE

in 1749, over 100 years after their grandfather arrived from Amsterdam.



In June of 1752, a public auction was held to liquidate the estate of Joris Ryerson. We have the sale list, written by an unknown clerk. It is interesting to notice that he spelled the name as shown here, perhaps phonetically. The character that resembles an f was used as an s.



We have several examples of the signature of Joris's son, Luke. The one shown below, dated 1759, still contains the old wax seal. Many of these old documents can be seen in the Ryerson file of the Philhower Collection located in the Special Collections of the Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.



And so the spelling of **REYERSE** continued for one more generation.

Luke Reyerse had five sons. From all the documents we have found pertaining to these boys, it appears that they all could write and now spelled the surname as

RYERSON.

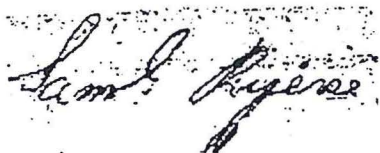
On June 8, 1776, Samuel Ryerson signed a receipt acknowledging receipt of 60 acres of land from the settlement of his father's last will and testament. Samuel was about 24 years old and was not yet caught up in the horrors of the American Revolution.



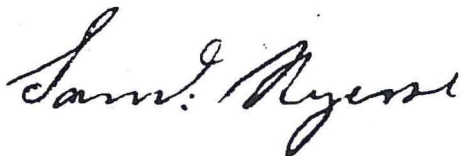
Samuel wrote a letter to his brother George Luke on September 24, 1779. He was then with the NJ troops that had gone south to fight in Georgia. The signature below is from that letter.



Taken a prisoner during the Battle of Kings Mountain, Samuel was made to sign a document acknowledging that he was a POW. It is dated October 13, 1780. It is the first evidence we have that he had now begun to spell his name **RYERSE**.



In a letter to his brother dated New York May 19, 1781, he writes, ".....hope to drive the Rebels out of the country or make them own George their Master," and signed it



Exiled to New Brunswick after the war, Samuel wrote many letters to Thomas Carleton, the Governor of the Province, asking for land fit for cultivation for the men of the 3rd Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers. Copies of these documents have been found and in every instance, Samuel signed his name **RYERSE**.

Samuel eventually settled in Canada where the area became known as Port Ryerse. We have numerous original documents all showing that he continued to write his name right up to the time of his death as follows, sometimes even with little flourishes!



Why did Samuel Ryerson begin to spell his surname as his father and grandfather before him.....while his brothers and cousins and all of their descendants continued using Ryerson? One thought is that when his commission as Colonel of the Norfolk Co. (Ontario) Militia arrived, it contained a spelling error and he adopted that spelling rather than to deal with the complications of having it corrected. This idea, however, disagrees with the evidence.

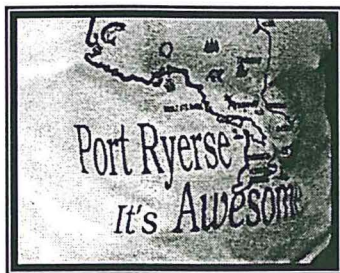
Another possibility is that the bitterness of losing the war was so painful that he did it as a defiant gesture to distinguish himself from those members of the family who fought against him and won the war!

We may never know the full reason. We do know, however, that Samuel's younger brother Joseph retained the spelling of Ryerson - which makes the job of tracing the descendants of both of these brothers in Canada much easier.



Most of the descendants of the American branch of the family have also continued using Ryerson. The Ryerse branch is much smaller but very proud - feeling that their name more closely resembles the original old Dutch name.

No matter how you spell it, we're all cousins and proud of it!

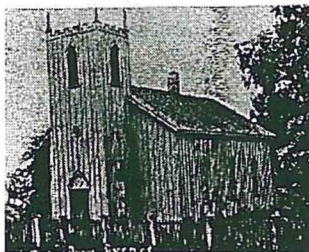


What's in a Name?? Your VOTE Counts!

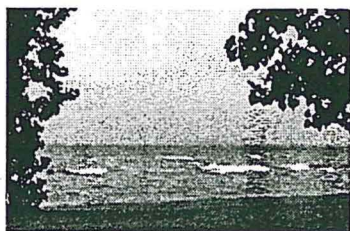
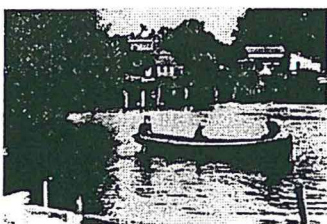
PORT RYERSE. The name evokes intensely pleasant memories of a unique little village on the northern shores of Lake Erie. Samuel Ryerse, rowing along that shoreline in 1794, came to a small creek and an eminence from which he surveyed the stunning view out over the lake and quickly determined that these woods and hills would suit a new settlement just fine! "This is where I'll be buried," he declared, and set to work. Soon he had a sawmill and a gristmill in operation and had provided his family with a comfortable home. In later years, a general store, a church and other buildings joined the skyline. By the 1850's it had become a center for shipbuilding and until the railroad detoured its line over towards Port Dover, Port Ryerse had all the potential to become a growing city. Instead, it became a favorite summer place for succeeding Ryerse and Ryerson generations and the descendants of other families who settled there as well.



General Store & Memorial Church



In 1999, the quiet little village continues to be a sentimental vacation spot for many and a year round home for those residents who enjoy its quiet charms and can't be enticed to return to suburbia.



On the second weekend of every July, Port Ryerse becomes a very busy place as 100 to 150 Ryerse/Ryerson descendants arrive at Ryerse Park, bringing potluck and lawn chairs, to enjoy the annual family gathering. Memories of the Bicentennial Gathering in 1994 when over 1000 cousins came to celebrate our heritage will never be forgotten. If you've never been to Port Ryerse, you should plan a trip there someday.

Our newsletter

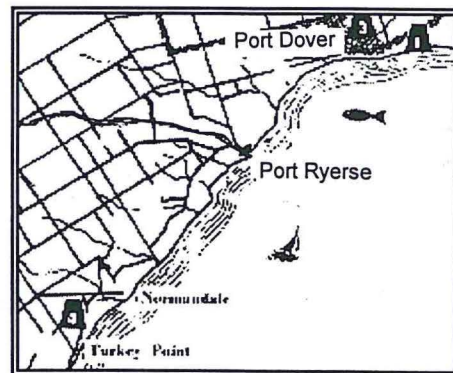
When plans for a family newsletter were initially discussed, one of the first requirements was a name. Since we were also diligently researching and compiling data on the descendants of Samuel and his brother Joseph for the new and updated family history, the name *The Port Ryerse Journal* seemed a natural – for the area to which they were exiled after the pain and deep distress of the American Revolution.

It is true that we cover all the branches of the family - from the early Amsterdam Dutch Reijersz to the New Amsterdam Reyerszen immigrants from the early New Jersey Ryerson settlers to our boys who fought in the Revolutionary War. Interestingly, a recent internet check of US and Canadian phone directories finds the number of Ryerse families to be less than 200 while the Ryerson families number about 800. So, today there are more Ryerson families than there are Ryerses.

WHAT do YOU think??

We've had a suggestion that the name of our little journal does not adequately convey the fact that we cover ALL branches of the family – the Ryerses AND the Ryersons both in the US and Canada. We'd like to hear the opinions of our readers. Do you like our name? Does it "say it all?" Should we change it? Or leave it alone? If you think it should change – what do you think it should change TO? (Please keep in mind the space limitations on our page one header! Long rambling titles won't fit!)

Drop a note to our Post Office box in Ingersoll, Ontario or to my e-mail address: Phyllis@webnet.com and stay tuned for the results of our informal poll.



A Note from the Editor

MEAD – that name should be very familiar to you folks who know about our early family history. It was John Mead, the weaver, who joined Joris Ryerson and others in the purchase of thousands of acres of prime New Jersey land, first from the Minisink Indians and then from the East Jersey Proprietors back in 1695. The Meads and the Ryersons became close neighbors and friends when their land lots along the Pequannock fell adjacent to one another. They looked out for each other in the early days of settlement. They helped each other build barns and harvest the corn. John Mead loaned money to Joris' grandson for a business venture, Jannitje Mead bought a looking glass at an auction of Ryerson goods. Both the Mead and the Ryerson families were caught up in the turmoil of the American Revolution and, of course, there were marriages between young Meads and marriageable Ryersons! The area where the Meads lived came to be known as **Mead's Basin**.

Now, let me introduce you to Mr. William Mead Stapler of Sussex Co., N.J. Mead Stapler is a direct descendant of John Mead and has lived for many years near that part of NJ that was home to both of our ancestors. He has been a good friend of mine for nearly 30 years, a knowledgeable historian who happily drove me all over Bergen, Passaic & Morris Counties, showing me all those points of interest that brought our family history to life. Using old maps, he showed me where the boundaries of those first land purchases lay ---- then showed me where those places were today on modern roads. He showed me their churches and cemeteries and where the early houses had been located. We had a grand "tour" with me soaking up all that interesting history as fast as he could tell it - like it had all happened yesterday! What a guy! EVERYone doing family research should find such a person to help them get started. A great mentor! Thanks Mead for all the help and advice you've given me over the years!

Mead is interested in many different areas of historical research and we are indebted to him for the rafting story in this issue. A friend of his, Len Peck, a retired postal employee and stamp collector, showed Mead an old envelope he had just purchased - bearing the date of 1834 and a post mark from **Mead's Basin**. While the postmark was of interest to Mead, he knew the letter inside the envelope would be of interest to me and generously made sure I had a copy. And so we have the exciting story of John Ryerson "rafting" on the Delaware River. Thanks again Mead!

Phyllis Ryerse

The King's Men ON COMMAND



We are pleased to announce the publication of a major new work of history, compiled by the late Theodore V. Brush and brought to publication by Mead Stapler. It is a compilation in alphabetical order of all the New Jersey Loyalist Volunteers who enlisted in the service of their King during the American Revolutionary War. It is the result of many years of effort by the late Ted Brush to research all of the available records in both Canada and the United States. The search included Company Muster Rolls, compensation claims, deeds, wills, as well as searching out living descendants. It is a work of interest to all historians and genealogists. A copy of this work can be obtained from the

Minisink Valley Historical Society, P.O. Box 659, Port Jervis, NY 12771-0659

Paper, 110 pages, illustrated. Price \$19.95 (US) plus \$4.95 shipping.

Our Readers are Talking!

- I always enjoy the Journal, and especially this last one which focused on Egerton Ryerson's life. -
Mary McPherson, Brantford, Ont.
- You are doing a great job-please keep it up
Sheila Harbron, Etobicoke, Ont.
- Your book and newsletter are both so well written and are invaluable aids! *Judy Eisenhauer, Brinklow, MD*
- Many thanks for your continued interest.
Wilf Ryerse, North Bay

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SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Are you on the Internet? Geri Ryerson Kanner - a cousin who lives in Las Vegas, NV is building a Ryerson/Ryerse web page. Check it out at: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Park/4630> You can also join the Ryerson discussion group by sending e-mail to Ryerson-lrequest@rootsweb.com leaving the subject line blank and placing the single word - Subscribe - in the body of the message.

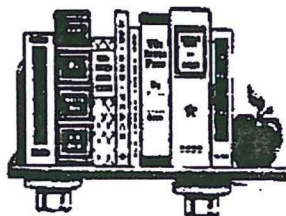
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Volume 6 Issue 2

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June 1999



James M. Ryerson - Schoolmaster The Union Academy on Pompton Plains

by Phyllis A. Ryerse

A fascinating piece of history laid hidden away for many years in the archives of Alexander Library at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. It is a collection that should prove interesting to local historians, present day educators and descendants who can trace their ancestry back to some of the early students. It will also be interesting to kids who attend today's schools that are equipped with computers and resources undreamed of by earlier generations. These fascinating old documents tell the story by themselves. Only a little background information is needed to fill in the blanks.

The story begins with "The Union Academy of Pompton Plains" which was formed in 1812. Classes were held in a small building located near the lane to Garret M. Van Ness's dwelling, later called Brown's Lane. To this little school came an exceptionally bright young lad named **James Ryerson**. He was the second of eight children born to Martin G. Ryerson and his wife Nantje or Hannah Ackerman. They lived on the family farm in Upper Pacquannac. James was the great-great-grandson of Joris Ryerson, one of the company of men including Capt. Arent Schuyler, Major Anthony Brockholst, Col. Nicholas Bayard, Jan Mead and others who had purchased the beautiful Pompton Valley from the Minisink Indians many years earlier.

James's grandfather, George L. Ryerson still lived on some of the land where his ancestor first settled. James had often found arrow-heads in his grandfather's newly plowed fields, evidence of those earlier inhabitants.

Now, however, James applied himself diligently to his studies and soon proved to be a very special student. The Rev. Garrett Schenck, pastor of the Pompton Plains Reformed Church stated that James "*possessed a deep-thinking and acquisitive mind.*" We are fortunate to have found two of James's school workbooks and have reproduced several sample pages. They are stunning examples of the educational abilities of this 13-year-old boy. From his penmanship, the variety of lettering styles, the interesting page layouts, the art work - to his math skills which embraced geometry, trigonometry, surveying exercises and navigational methods - all of these show a remarkable level of learning that would be hard to match by today's 5th graders.

Recently, his workbooks were shown to a middle school teacher who works with gifted and talented students of the same age group. This teacher stated that compared to her students, James was doing work about three grades ahead of the average student. Checking very carefully over the math that he did more than 180 years ago, she gave him a perfect score!

We are pleased to present this
5th Year Anniversary Edition
We hope you have enjoyed every issue!

SURVEYING

comprising also exercises in

GEOMETRY & TRIGONOMETRY

with the use of

LOGARITHMS &c. &c.

compiled by

James M. Ryerson

July 1st 1817

OBLIQUE ANGULAR TRIGONOMETRY

THEO. I.

In any plane triangle ABC the sides are proportional to the sines of their opposite angles.

THEO. II.

In any plane triangle the sum of the two given sides, including the given angle is to their difference as the tang of half the sum of the two unknown angles is to the tang of half their difference.

THEO. III.

In any right lined plane triangle the base will be the sum of their other sides; as the difference of those sides is to the difference of the segments of the base made by the perpendicular which fall from the angular point C .

THEO. IV.

If to half the sum of 2 quantities be added half their difference the sum will be the greatest of them; and if from half the sum be subtracted half their difference the remainder will be the least of them.

Given two sides and an angle opposite to one of them given, to find the other angles and side.

Logarithms.

Then observe the index of the given log. which shows how many figures must be integers and how many decimals for the number of integers is one more than the given index as before.

Examples.

Required the number of the Log. 455241.

$$\begin{array}{r} 455241 \\ 55290 \\ \hline 11000 \\ 916 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

The required number is 3567216

Required the number of the Log. 509901.

$$\begin{array}{r} 509901 \\ 99999 \\ \hline 20000 \quad 50 \\ 7900 \quad 12560.7 \\ 298 \\ \hline 20 \\ 7 \end{array}$$

PROB. I.

Multiply 12 by 45.4

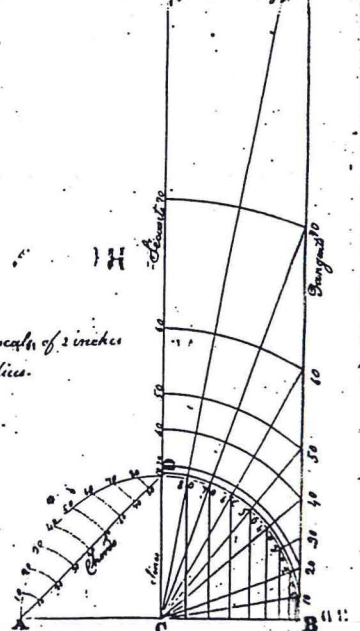
$$\begin{array}{r} 260826 \\ 100000 \\ 120826 \\ \hline 535327 \\ 13) 50000(3846 \\ 110 \\ 104 \\ \hline 60 \\ 57 \\ \hline 3 \end{array}$$

Log 3.53534 = No. 35903946

Geometry.

and we shall have the sines of 10, 20, 30, &c. and if from A we describe the arc 10, 20, 30, &c. from every division of the arc AB , we shall have the tangents. The same may be done by having the same tangent line to every angle degree on the quadrant, by subdividing every of the 9 former divisions into ten equal parts. By this method the sines, tangents &c. may be drawn to any radius and if after it be transferred to lines on the rule, we shall have the scales of sines, tangents, &c. ready for use.

Projected on a scale of 2 inches for radius.

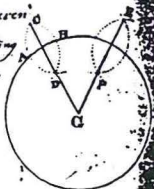


GEOMETRICAL PROBLEMS

PROBLEM XVII.

To find the centre of a circle.

With any radius and one foot in the circumference as at *cl*, describe an arch of a circle as *cd* then removing the foot from *cl*, to where it cuts the given circle as at *ch*, on *cl* describe another arch cutting or crossing the former as at *e* and through the points of intersection draw the line *cd* which will give one right line passing through the centre, in like manner may another right line be drawn, as *ef*, which shall cross the first right line at the centre required for any two diameters well observed cut or cross one another in the central point.



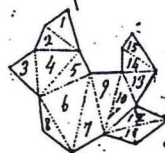
As the foregoing and succeeding problems were not contained in the treatise of Geometry, which I had studied as preparation to Surveying I have thought it proper to select (from John Hamilton Morris's Navigations, and insert them in this place.

Done

To find the contents of ground.

PROB. XV.

To find the area of a piece of ground by dividing it into triangles, and triangles.



Field Book of the above plot of ground.

Line	Length	Area	Total
1	24.2	17.0	412.92
2	16.3	16.3	
3	25.2	16.0	225.6
4	48.8	19.6	712.42
5	16.2	16.2	
6	49.4	29.0	1086.8
7	15.0	15.0	
8	32.7	6.7	129.64
9	40.0	17.0	600.0
10	30	30	
11	42.8	10.2	481.5
12	18.3	18.3	
13	26.2	17.9	236.49
14	24.0	14.6	259.2
15	10.0	10.0	
Contents in acres			442.57

Right.

PROB. VII.

To take the altitude of a perpendicular object on a hill, from a place beneath it.

This is done at two stations, thus:

Let the height *DE*, of a wind-mill on a hill be required.

First station. Angle to the top *DAB* 21° 00'.
Angle to the top *CAB* 35° 00'.
Stationary distance *AB* 104 feet.

Second station. Angle to the top *ECB* 58° 30'.

DE required.



The angle *UBB* - *A* - *ACB* 17° 30'.

In the triangle *ADC* find *AC* thus,

As sine of ang. *ACB* 15° 30' 9.2618
to *AB* 104 2.10703
Sum of logs *ABC* 15° 30' 9.37411
..... 11.47721
To *AC* 373.6 = 2.57331

The angle *CAE* - *DAB* - *CAD* 14°

The angle *ACB* - *ADB* - *DAB* - *111° D*

In the triangle *ADC* find *DC* thus,

As sine of ang. *ACD* 11° 9.34015
to *AC* 373.6 2.57331
Sum of logs *ACD* 11° 11.91346
..... 17.90677
To *DC* 3646 = 1.93676

NAVIGATION

comprising

PLANE SAILING

TRAVERSE SAILING

MIDDLE LATITUDE SAILING

MERCATOR'S SAILING

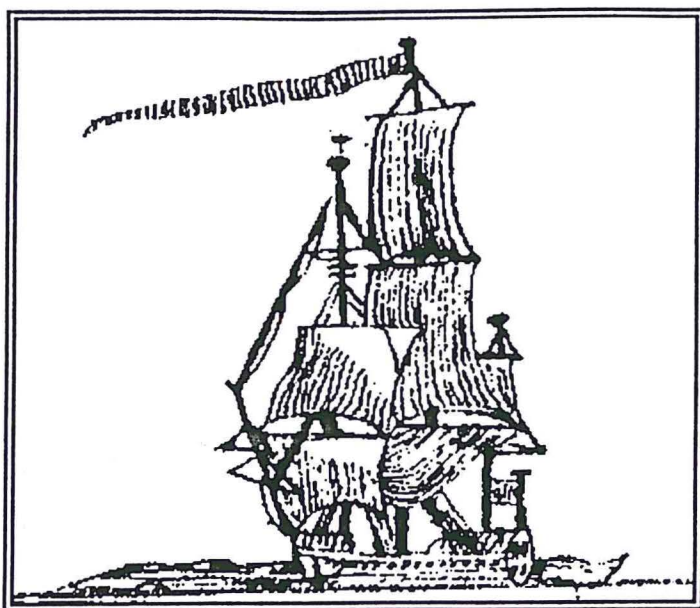
together with the

Method of keeping a journal at sea,
Lunar observations, &c. &c.

performed by

JAMES M. RIERSON

January 15th 1818.



Enlarged detail of 13 year old James M. Ryerson's art work. This ship is from his legal sized school book titled "Navigation" seen on the previous page.

From 4 contracts dated from March 1826 through November 1827, we learn that James became a teacher at the Union Academy. He agreed to teach 5-1/2 days a week for 13 weeks and would receive \$1.50 per student to be paid to him directly by the parent. This person was also required to furnish a load of fire wood to the school house. **James was then about 21 years old.** Subscribers who signed the contracts include Giles A. Mandeville, Martin J. Berry, C. Vanness, Peter Van Ness, John Slingerland, Peter Roome, Cornelius Mandeville, Clarissa Demott, Peter Slingerland, James Mandeville, Henry Mandeville, Peter Debow, **John Ryerson, John G. Ryerson, Nicholas G. Ryerson, Abraham Ryerson,** William Smith, James A. Van Nuyse, Margaret Frederick, Anna Hopper, John Berdan, Thomas Neal, Isaac H. Mead, Daniel DeHart, Paul D. Sandford, Gilliam Terhune, Leah Shuster, W. S. Hogencompe, Thomas Onderdonk, Simon S. Vanness, J. W. Demarest, John Schoonmaker, John Debow and Cornelius Vanness.

September	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
Cornelius W. Vanness	2	2	2	-	-	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	2	2
Giles A. Mandeville	1	1	1	-	-	0	1	0	0	-	-	1	1	1	0	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
James A. Mandeville	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	0	1	1	1
Clarissa Demott	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	0	0	-	0	-	0	1	1	1
Paul Debow	-	2	1	2	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	-	1	-	2	2	2	1
Peter G. Mandeville	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	0	1	1
Peter C. Van Ness	-	2	3	3	-	2	2	2	0	-	-	0	0	0	1	1	-	3	-	2	3	2	2
Cornelius W. Mandeville	1	1	0	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	0	1
Peter Roome	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	0	-	1	1	1	1
Cornelius R. Vanness	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
Henry Mandeville	0	1	1	-	-	0	1	0	0	-	-	1	1	1	0	0	-	1	-	0	1	1	1
John Slingerland	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	0	0	1	-	0	-	1	1	1	1
Peter Jones	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	0	0	-	0	-	1	1	1	1
Giles A. Mandeville	1	1	1	-	-	0	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	0	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
Henry Berry	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
John Mead	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	0	-	1	1	1	1
Lucas Ryerson	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
John Slingerland	0	0	0	-	-	1	1	0	1	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	1	1	1
William F. Berry	-	1	1	0	-	0	1	1	0	-	-	0	1	1	0	1	-	0	-	1	0	0	0
Stephen Berry	-	0	2	0	-	2	0	0	0	-	-	2	2	2	2	0	-	2	-	0	0	0	0
John Slingerland	0	2	2	-	-	0	2	0	2	-	-	0	0	2	0	0	-	0	-	0	2	2	2
Paul D. Sandford	-	1	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	0	1	1
Margaret Vanness	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
James A. Berry	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
John Ryerson	-	2	2	1	-	1	0	0	0	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	-	2	-	2	1	1	1

James kept careful records of his students. We have about 20 registers like this one. Each child got a mark for each day. What did those marks represent? Was 1 a good grade? Was 3 very bad? On a later record, our ancestor Lucas Ryerson was present and received all 1's. Was YOUR ancestor a good student?

May 28th 1831

We, the undersigned, agree to pay, for the purpose of enlarging the Sunday School Library of Pompton Plains, the sums of money annexed to our respective names, to be appropriated thereto by the officers of the School.

James Ryerson \$ 50
 Agnes Van Ness \$ 25
 Maria Mandeville \$ 25
 Elizabeth Mandeville \$ 25
 Rebecca Day \$ 12
 Mary Mandeville \$ 12
 Elizabeth Mandeville \$ 12
 Margaret Mandeville \$ 12
 Ann Mandeville \$ 25
 Mary Ann Van Ness \$ 12
 Mary Mandeville \$ 12
 Jane Demott \$ 25
 Clarissa Demott \$ 25

James Ryerson \$ 50
 Agnes Van Ness \$ 25
 Maria Mandeville \$ 25
 Elizabeth Mandeville \$ 25
 Rebecca Day \$ 12
 Mary Mandeville \$ 12
 Elizabeth Mandeville \$ 12
 Margaret Mandeville \$ 12
 Ann Mandeville \$ 25
 Mary Ann Van Ness \$ 12
 Mary Mandeville \$ 12
 Jane Demott \$ 25
 Clarissa Demott \$ 25

Leah Van Ness \$ 25
 Elizabeth Mead \$ 25
 Martha Van Ness \$ 25
 Fanny Stinger \$ 25
 Susan Mead \$ 25
 James Mandeville \$ 25

James was a member of the Pompton Plains Reformed Church, maybe even a Sunday School teacher, and was actively working to improve the Sunday School Library. The ladies of the church seemed happy to contribute to the efforts of this very eligible young schoolmaster. Notice how carefully this paper has been sewn together.

Catalogue of books by James Ryerson

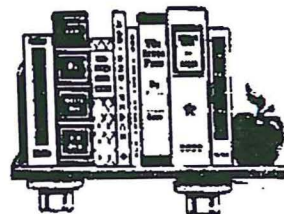
	Volume	Price
Porter's Bible	1	12.5
Balm Book	1	0.625
Baker's Theological Dictionary	1	1.10
Christian Monitor	1 D.	0.50
Young's Night Thoughts	1 D.	0.375
Clarke's Discourses	1 D.	0.75
Parental affection	1 D.	0.25
Love's Sermons	1 D.	0.20
New Testament	1 D.	0.25
Murphy's Eccl. History	1	1.75
Incestuous Marriage	1 D.	0.25
Hamplerey on the Sabbath	1 D.	0.20
Vote-book N.B. collections	1 D.	0.50
Controversy between several Episcopal ministers and a Methodist preacher	1 D.	0.25

James had now become interested in the possibility of attending Rutgers University. In anticipation of his entrance into an institution of higher learning, he took an inventory of his library.

	Volume	Price		Volume	Price
Collection of Hymns for the use of Antioch	1		History of America	4 H.	3.00
Christians of the Chippewagon	1 D.	0.15	Chambers's Dictionary	1 H.	2.00
S.D. Teachers guide	1	0.18	Virgil Delphini	1 D.	1.50
S.D. Teachers Manual	1	0.18	Taber's Greek Grammar	1 D.	1.00
Guide to Christ P.	1 D.	0.15	Cicero's Commentary	1 D.	0.625
Questions on Scripture	1 D.	0.15	Chaires Introduction	1 D.	0.22
Advice to a young Christian	0.375		Ruddiman's Latin Grammar	1 D.	0.51
Vocabulary of the principal words in the N. Testament	0.375		Murray's Duodecimo Grammar	1	0.625
Bible Dictionary	1	1.00	Walker's Latin Dictionary	1	1.25
Biblical Antiquities	1	1.25	Woodbridge and Willard's		
American S.D. Magazine	15	1.00	Geography with Atlas	2	2.50
Jay's Closet Exercises	1	0.00	Small volume do. do.	2	0.625
Boon's Meditations	0.375		Bony Castle's Algebra	1 D.	0.50
Baxter's Saints Rest	0.25		Brown's Grammar	1 D.	0.20
Watts on the Church	0.50		Gould's Stenography	1 D.	0.75
			3 Abridgements N. Grammar	2	0.50

Expenses at New Brunswick

Oct. 30	Fare f. A. Y. to B. Ke	11.00	3
Nov 30	Stone & pipe (sup. log)	4.93	0
7	Wood 71 ft.	2.31	0
...	Legendre.	1.00	0
...	Shovel & tongs	0.37	1/2
...	Lamp, filler, and oil	0.62	1/2
...	Blank cutting. Spent	0.18	1/2
...	Shelling & setting a den	0.18	1/2
...	Atlas of Am. Geography	2.25	0
...	...	0.16	0
...	...	2.45	0
...	Paper, ink & ink Writing book	0.46	0
...	Attending books & oil	0.34	0
...	Lead & musk	3.00	0
Feb	Board	2.00	0
...	Tuscular Questions	62	1/2



From Oct. 30	# 1832	7.50
...	Oil and shoe mending &c	0.78
...	Thompe	0.31
...	Paid to Phil. S.	3.75
...	Stack	0.75
May 7	Bought Blair's lecture	1.00
...	Lempriere's dictionary	1.50
...	Travelling expenses	2.10
...	Writing book, oil & postage	0.62
May - 30	Paid for board	20.10
...	To the Society	0.50
...	Incidental &c College	5.00
June 8	Bot. Day's Mathematics	1.00
...	Oil	1.75
Sept. 15	Purchased Stewart's Phil.	1.75
...	Young's Trigonometry	1.12
...	Campbell's Rhetoric	1.06
...	Incidental expenses	1.10
...	Paid for board	20.00
...	Society fees of last term	0.25
...	Oil & oil	1.25
...	Wood	2.25
...	Stone pipe	0.75
Dec. 12	Board	20.70
...	Deliver pen &c	0.68
...	Paper &c Book &c	1.00

A sad ending to a bright and promising career.

James Ryerson can be found listed as a member of the Sophomore Class in the Rutgers College catalogue of 1834-35. From his little journal we find that he made a last payment on the term beginning March 2, 1836.

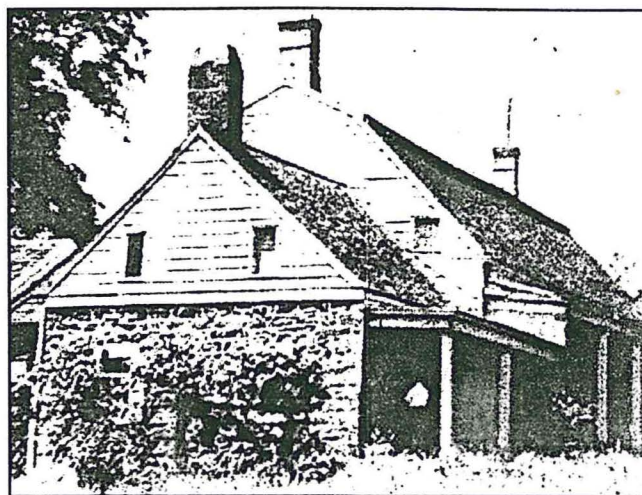
Miss Jane R. Ryerson, an elderly member of the family (now deceased) has stated that "*James graduated from Rutgers in 1837 and had entered the Seminary but was compelled to leave on account of ill health. He remained an invalid the rest of his life.*"

From the Rev. Garrett Schenck manuscript we read that James "*had gone part way through a college course at Rutgers when his mind became disordered and he was brought home to live in retirement.*" We wonder if today's medical profession could have restored him to good health. Sadly, the last we learn about James Ryerson is from his grave stone which stands behind the Pompton Plains Reformed Church, nearly swallowed up by a bush.



JAMES M. RYERSON

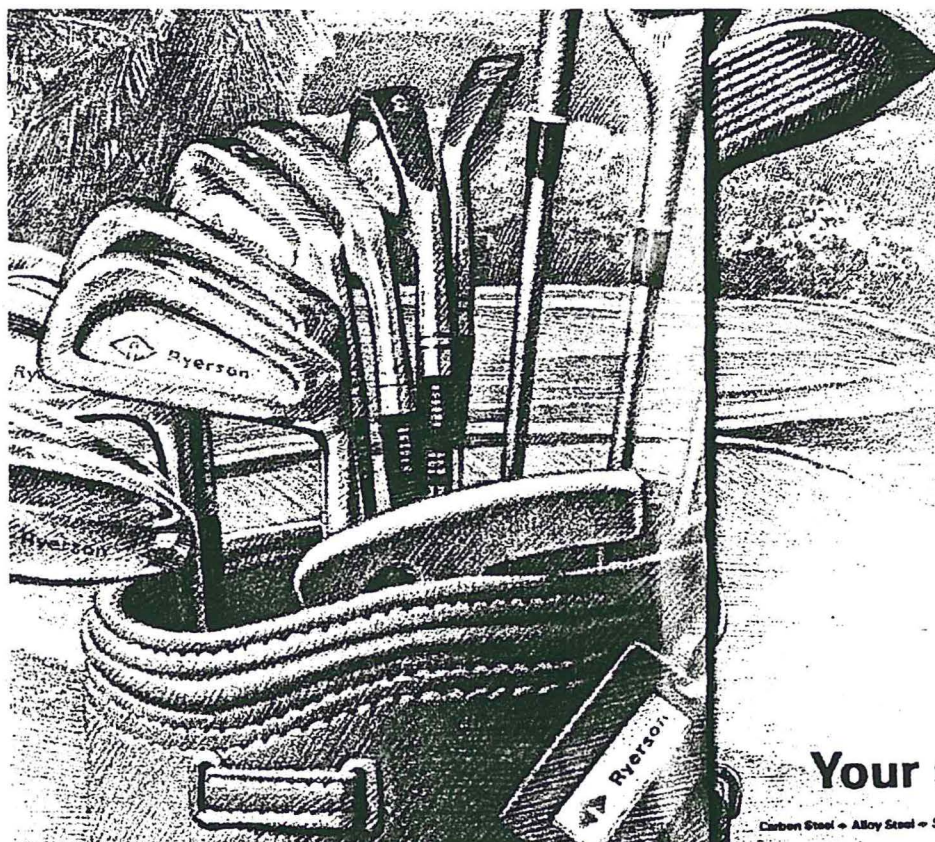
died
Oct 9, 1856
in the 52nd year
of his age



James's grandfather's house was located on the corner of Ryerson Ave. and the Newark-Pompton Turnpike in Pequannock until 1937. In that year it was totally dismantled and moved to Essex Fells, NJ. You may recognize the small wing as the birthplace of Samuel Ryerse and Joseph Ryerson.

References

Correspondence - Office of the Registrar, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
Edwards, Carl Irving. Pequannock Township History 1740-1956. p. 27.
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Schenck, Rev. Garret C. "Early Settlements and Settlers of Pompton, Pequannoc and Pompton Plains." p. 251 original document. NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ.
Ryerson, Albert Winslow. The Ryerson Genealogy 1916, p. 104.



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We thought you'd enjoy seeing this clever advertisement just found in a current magazine. Unfortunately, it's printed in full color, which we can't show you. Needless to say, we're very proud of all our cousins and their endeavors. Please alert us to any other interesting family-related articles or ads!

YALE UNIVERSITY has informed us once again of the granting of the Arthur Larned Ryerson Scholarship award. This year it goes to Ms. Tara Conklin of Montgomery, New York where she graduated with honors from Valley Central High School. Profiled in Who's Who among American High School Students, she is expected to declare a major next year. Good Luck, Tara!

DO YOU GET E-MAIL???

Share your address with us!!

Send us mail at Phyllis@webnet.com

Our INTERNET Presence

Our family is represented on the Internet by a web page which you can access at the following address:

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Park/4630

While still under construction, with additions and corrections still to come, it is nicely crafted and "user friendly!" It was created during 1998 by our cousin Geraldine Ryerson Kanner who lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is also hosting the Ryerson discussion group on the RootsWeb network of surnames. Membership is growing and we have "connected" with some very interesting cousins seeking their Ryerson roots. Recent queries came from **MAX RYERSON** who lives and goes to school in Monaco and another American Ryerson family from **NORWAY**. Join us!

What's New in the Past?



Races on Long Island – Currier & Ives

News Flash – May 25, 1782

ASCOT HEATH RACES. Monday next a match for 60 guineas between Mr. Van Mater's *Juniper* and Mr. Ryerson's *Calfskin*. To run the best of three 2-mile heats.

History of Brooklyn - Stilles

Quote – “Never was there such horse flesh as in those days on Long Island”

- Walt Whitman

“The people of Bushwick, in common with other towns, suffered long the misrule of the bigoted Duke of York. The news of his abduction in 1688 and the succession to the English throne of his daughter, Mary and her husband, William of Orange, was received with a general outburst of heartfelt joy. The auspicious event was celebrated at the house of Gabriel Sprong to which most of the Bushwick inhabitants were invited. Isaac Remsen delivered a short eloquent address, reviewing the grief to which the town had been subjected.

JACOB RYERSE then proposed the health and long reign of William and Mary which was honored by the company in a full bumper of good cider and the company separated in high spirits!”

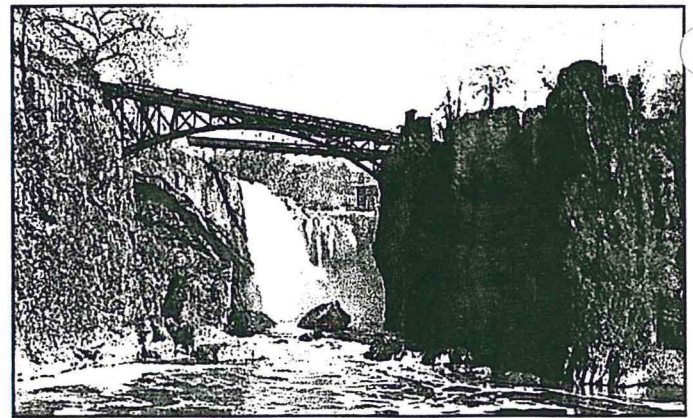
- History of Brooklyn Vol.II - Stilles



From a daily journal kept by the young surveyor, John READING dated April 24, 1715.....

“Jonathan Ladd, John Chopman and I in the morning went over to **George RYASONS** upon Pequannock River from thence we went down to the falls of Passaic River where we beheld the great and wonderful Cataraks and Clefs of the same. The water falling by computation about fifty or sixty foot onto a cavity of a rock, from thence making its way into a still pond from whence it declined very Rapidly in a great stream for about one fourth of a mile. We returned back to RYASONS that night. This day we met with some Indians.....”

Alexander Hamilton visited the Great Falls of the Passaic River long before the city of Paterson was there. The ceaseless power of the 77 foot waterfall fired his dreams of industrial strength for the new American nation – a declaration of economic independence from foreign markets to assure the hard won gains of the Revolution.



The Great Falls of the Passaic in recent years

From the History of GRACE CHURCH, Jamaica, Long Island – consecrated July 15, 1822.

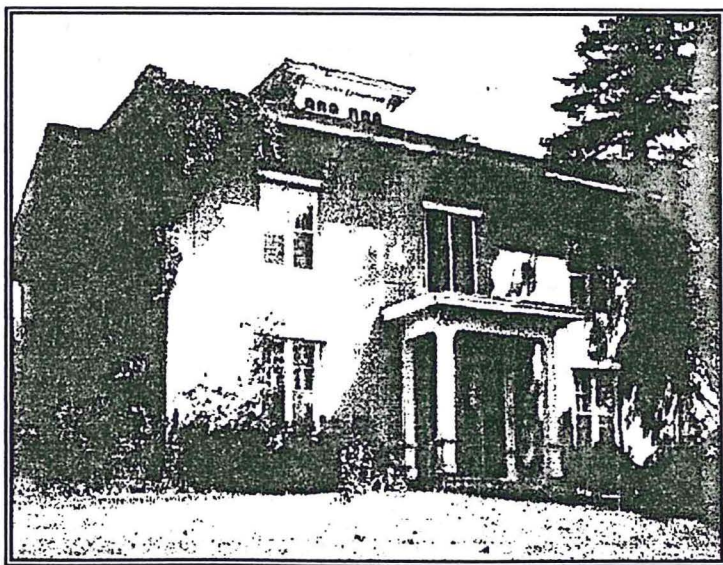
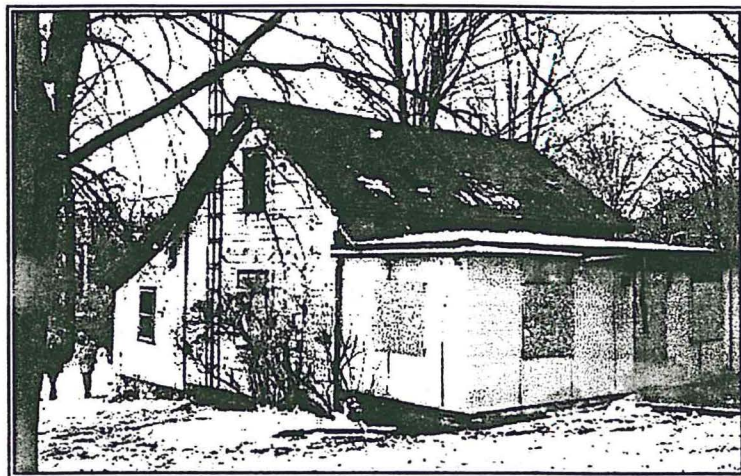
“On December 3, 1829 young **George E. Ryerson** was arrested for stealing prayer books, altar decorations and carpet from Grace Church.”

FIRE Destroys Two RYERSE/RYERSON Homes

FIRE guts Port Ryerse Landmark

A piece of Port Ryerse history was lost by fire on the night of November 15, 1997. Firemen lost their desperate fight when flames burst through the roof, gutting the little cottage and consuming the wide, hand-hewn floor boards. The old house on Young Street has now been completely razed and the land stands empty except for a small shed. The ancient deed, now in the possession of Brigid and Bob Kemp, mentions **Rev. George Joseph Ryerse** as the original owner with later transfers to Edward Brownlee and to Marie Austin, wife of John Slaght Austin, Simcoe, blacksmith. It included Lots # 1 through 9. Although the date of the original construction is unknown, it was one of the early buildings in the little village.

Our thanks to Sheilah McCullagh for sharing this story with us.



Lured by tales of great wealth, Peter J. Brown sold his business in Paterson, N.J. and with his brother-in-law, **John N. Ryerson**, headed West for the California gold fields in 1850. Quickly realizing they would never get rich digging for that elusive gold, they opened a store selling much needed supplies and

groceries to other gold diggers. Returning by ship after two years, the two reportedly hid their profits and some gold nuggets in a pork barrel. In 1853 Peter acquired a portion of the 500 acre Ryerson farm from his father-in-law, **Nicholas Ryerson** and built this imposing 12-room, two-story, stucco mansion. The house and surrounding farm have had a fascinating history – from Indian Village to modern housing development. A stage coach trail was very early located on the upper portion of farm until the construction of the Pochuch Turnpike (Route 517) connecting Hamburg with Goshen gradually forced the ancient road into disuse. Gypsies, traveling in gaily decorated caravans camped along the road each spring. During Prohibition, a distillery was operated in the house, unknown to the owners! The farm generated much controversy in 1968 when plans were presented for an airport on the land. Strong public protests led to the abandonment of that idea. The mansion was destroyed by fire on January 17, 1971. Meadow Lark Estates now occupies the land. An 18 month project to realign Rt. 517 will remove a sharp curve from the road past the old property.

(--from an article in the New Jersey Sunday Herald written by Jennie Sweetman, history writer for the paper.)



FIVE YEARS ! How can that be ?!

We handed out the first Complimentary Copies to those who attended the 1994 Bicentennial Reunion – an event that still brings back warm and happy memories. That first issue carried a letter of Congratulations from the Mayor of Amsterdam, Holland, the story of Col. Sam's bout with Lake Fever and a welcome to all our friends and relatives who traveled so far to join in the festivities of that fantastic weekend. If you still have your copy of Vol. I Issue I – dated July 1994, you have a real collectors item!



We started small but we've grown in number of pages, quality of content (we hope!) and number of subscribers – up to about 80 at the moment, with a dozen or so complimentary copies of every issue going to libraries and archives across the US and Canada. We are small, but global - our readers live

in Australia, England, the US and Canada.

We have covered many different topics including the Battle of King's Mountain, family graveyards, churches, and farms, our ventures into the iron and steel business, a look at Luke Ryerse's vest and a even a review of all the rascals and scoundrels in our family tree! We've included stories about the Vail family, the Shaw's, the Underhills, the Davenports, the Stickneys, the Rapaljes and a long list of Ryerses and Ryersons. And there's more to come!

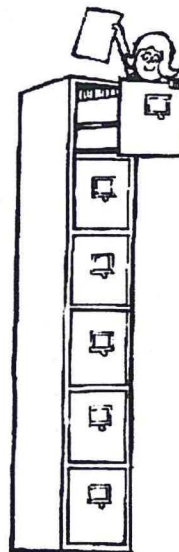
The subscription fee only covers printing and mailing costs. There has never been a charge for gathering the stories and information – writing the copy – getting it all into a computer and lookin' good – running copies – or stuffing envelopes. We do all that for the LOVE of it! Our reward? The friendship and loyalty of all our readers! You've given us some great feedback and we love hearing from you. You told us that several of your favorite issues included the one about Egerton Ryersonand the Titanic issue!

Your more recent comments are strongly in favor of keeping the current name of our newsletter

- It's an important part of our Heritage – don't change it.
- It's closer to the original Dutch spelling – keep it.
- Leave the original name – we like Nostalgia!
- For Pete's sake – leave it alone!

And so we will, although we have increased the size of the names Ryerse-Ryerson on the masthead.

We are convinced, more than ever, that this is a TERRIFIC FAMILY – unique, brimming with life and interesting stories. Our goal is to bring them all to you. We're ready for the NEXT five and we hope you'll come along with us for an exciting ride!



So it's back into the archives for new material. We welcome your ideas. Come on, write up that story that Grandma Ryerse used to tell you and send it along! We'll put it in a coming issue!

We're working on a story about Martin Ryerson, the lumber baron and still digging to learn more about ship-building in Port Ryerse! See ya' in October.

Phyllis and Tom

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The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

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Another in our 'FAVORITE SON' series by Phyllis Ryerse

Lucas Ryerson, Silversmith

More than 75 silversmiths are known to have worked in New Jersey during the 18th and early 19th centuries. One of them was one of "our boys," Lucas Ryerson who worked in the Pompton area.

As the country grew and the people prospered, there arose a very real need for a way to keep their money safe. There were no savings banks and so the people turned to silversmiths for help. These craftsmen melted down silver coins, removed the impurities and turned them into bowls and spoons and other useful objects which retained the original value of the metal from which they were made. Each piece was worth its weight in silver. It was not only as good as money – it *was* money. A piece of land could be purchased with a silver bowl, provided that the amount of silver in the bowl was equal in value to the asking price of the land. Security was an issue as well. It would be more difficult to make off with a silver candlestick than a pouch of coins and the victim of a robbery could more easily prove ownership of the candlestick than the coins.

The silversmith was not only a skilled craftsman but he was also a banker, or the nearest thing to it. All over the countryside, people turned their savings into silver bowls, spoons, cups, mugs, porringers, inkstands, tankards, strainers, coffee and teapots.

The first order of business for the silversmith was to weigh the coins to determine the amount of silver. He did this in the presence of the customer. After deciding on the item to be made, the silversmith prepared his furnace for the exacting task ahead. The coins were placed in a shallow cup which was then placed on the hearth of a specially built refining furnace. The intense heat of the furnace melted the coins and the silversmith could then separate the pure metal from most of the impurities. The molten silver was allowed to cool and harden and then rubbed on a flint-like stone called a touchstone. The streak that it made on the stone was then compared to that of pure silver. If the two marks did not match, the batch was re-melted and the process repeated until the streaks looked alike.

Once the silver was refined to an absolutely pure state, it was much too soft to be of any practical use. By re-melting it and adding a small amount of copper, it was made more durable. A careful measuring of the mixture or alloy of silver and copper was very important and determined its quality. The best American silver contained, out of every 1000 parts, 925 parts of pure silver and 75 parts of pure copper. This proportion made a silver equal to English sterling, known as the finest silver in the world.

Lucas Ryerson hallmark found on the handle of a coin silver spoon. Authors collection



Lucas Ryerson, Silversmith – continued

The coins came from...

Commerce was conducted by merchant ships plying their trade with the West Indies, Portugese Islands, English and European ports, as well as with the neighboring towns along the Atlantic seaboard. The result was an influx of English, Dutch, French, Portugese and Spanish coin. The household silver pieces created from all of this was not an ostentatious display but a practical solution to a problem. It was useful and pleasing to the eye and it could always be reconverted into coinage in time of need. It was also very durable and could be safely hidden or buried in time of strife. There are many stories told of the family silver being dropped to the bottom of the well – or buried in the woods near the farm as enemy soldiers advanced up the road. In peace times, of course, the family silver could be passed on to the next generation as an inheritance.

Learning the trade...

The silversmith's craft was both difficult and time consuming. A youth was required to serve an apprenticeship of about seven years – usually between the ages of 14 and 21, with a reputable silversmith. He usually lived with his master. Upon satisfactory completion of his training, the youth was admitted as a 'freeman' and given permission to practice his trade.

American Silver...

Silver produced in America was, on the whole, much simpler than contemporary pieces made in Europe or England. The limited number of tools available was one reason for the simplicity. The tastes of the early settlers was another. The silver spoons made by Lucas Ryerson have a classic simplicity of great appeal. No hollowware, such as tankards or sugar bowls have been found with his mark although they may exist - as yet undiscovered. Look for his hallmark on any silver you find the next time you visit your favorite antique shop!

Silversmith Reference Books...

There are a large number of books which list American silversmiths and their marks. **Lucas Ryerson** is listed in nearly all of them. Unfortunately, he is listed as LOW or LOU Ryerson, working in York, Pennsylvania with a date give of 1760. This would be some eleven years prior to his birthdate! It is a case of incorrect data being copied from author to author with no additional research. Reader beware!

Honesty...

The silversmith was of necessity, a man of integrity, for on his honor alone depended the fineness of the silver he was commissioned to make from the coins deposited with him. **Lucas Ryerson** was a respected member of the community. Rev. Garret C. Schenck, pastor of the Pompton Plains Dutch Reformed Church stated that Lucas was "a man most exemplary in his life and conduct and was a warm-hearted Christian."

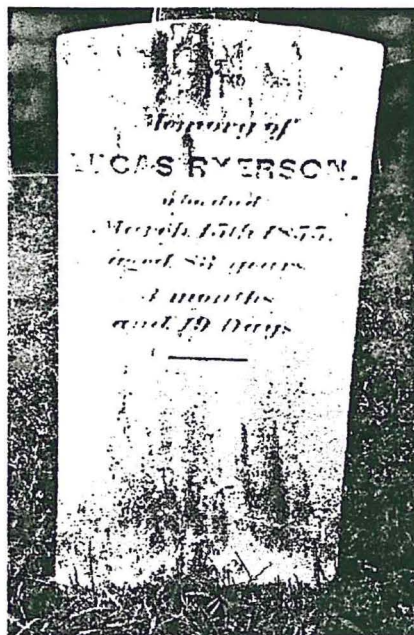
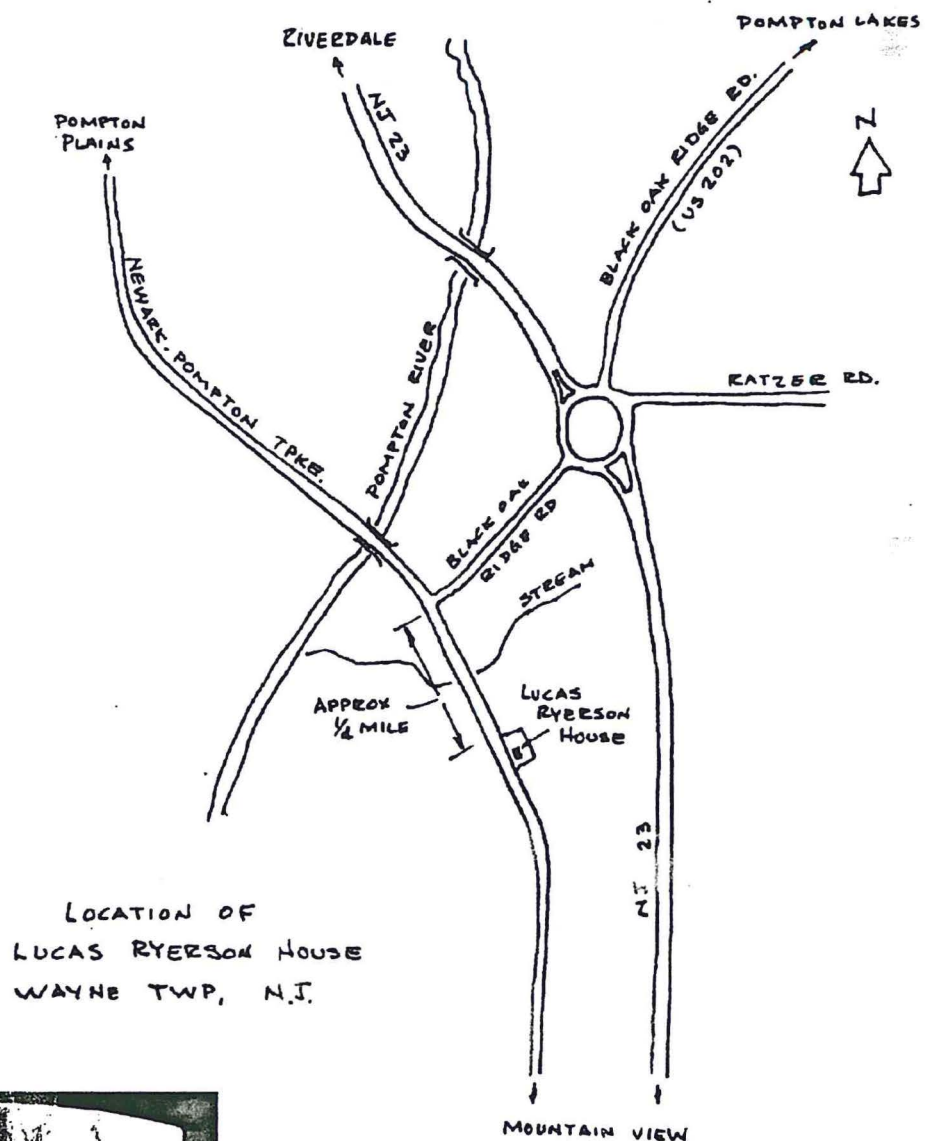
Lucas was married to Catherine Decker. They had four children: Maria, born in 1802, married Henry R. Van Ness, John D. born in 1804, unmarried, and twins Peter and Elizabeth who were born in 1807 and married Sarah Kipp and William Richards, respectively. Peter and his two sons, John Henry and Edgar, carried on the jewelry business in Newark, New Jersey until about 1912.

We find **Lucas Ryerson** on an early map of Pompton Plains. (shown next page) Below is a picture of the house standing today at that location. While it probably was Lucas Ryerson's home and workshop, an in depth study of the old deeds and perhaps some archaeological work would prove it conclusively.



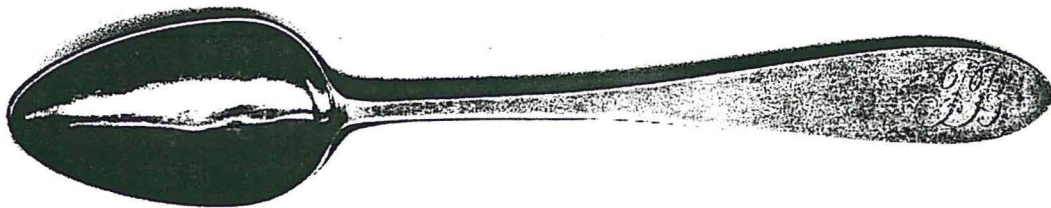
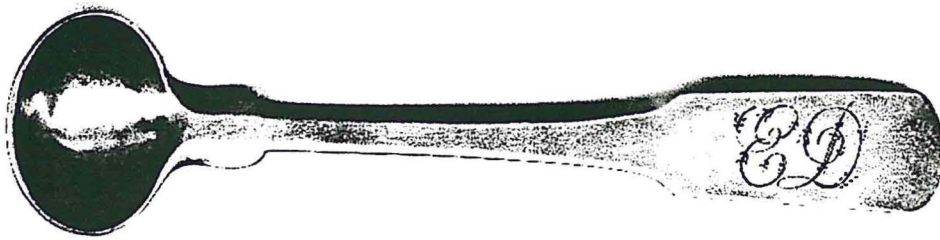
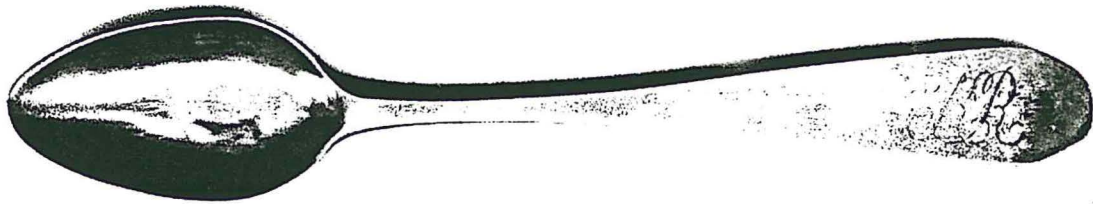
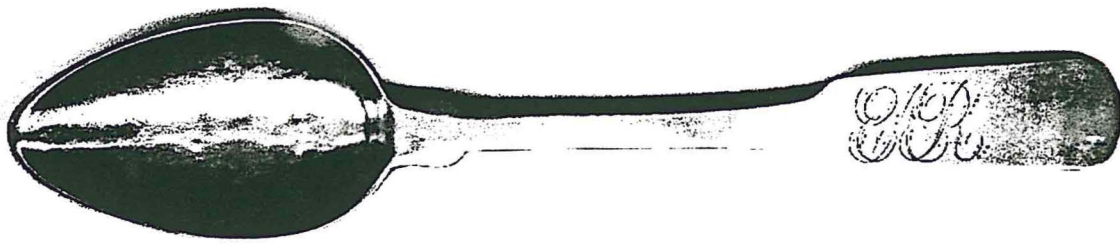
Factories take over...

The craft of the silversmith flourished until about 1840 when it was succeeded by factories and the development of machinery for stamping and spinning silver – and the silversmith as a lone craftsman disappeared.



Lucas Ryerson died on March 15, 1855. He was 83 years, 3 months and 19 days old at his death and was buried in the side yard of the Pompton Plains Dutch Reformed Church.

Lucas also made tall case clocks and we will look at that subject in a later issue of the Journal.



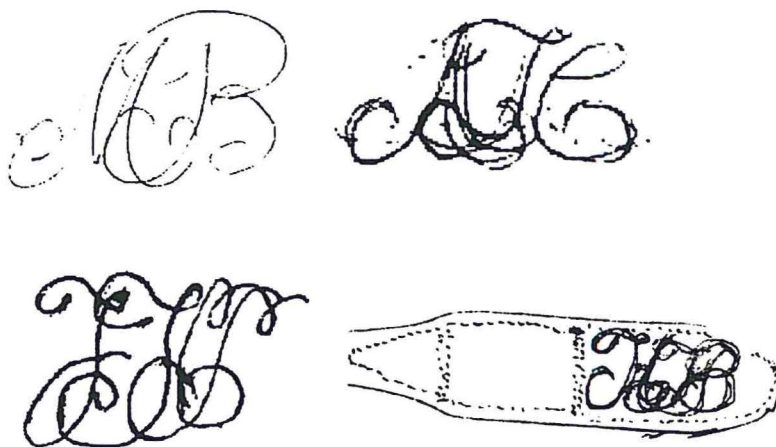
We have located between 40-50 pieces of **Lucas Ryerson** coin silverware. No doubt there are more. Most are in private collections. The Dey Mansion in Preakness, N. J. has a large serving spoon on display if you would like to see an actual piece. The Pequannock Township Municipal Building has 2 large tablespoons, one placed in the cornerstone of this beautiful Williamsburg-style building when it was laid in 1956 The other was in a display case in the lobby for several years. The North Jersey Highlands Historical Society has a large serving spoon in its collection but it is not currently on display.

Ryerson coin silver spoons have coffin shaped, rounded, fiddle shaped and oval shaped handles. Some are small teaspoons, others are large 9-1/2" long serving spoons.....and my personal favorites, the dainty little jam and jelly servers. (3rd down opposite page)

Most have engraved initials in a graceful script on the handles. We list some of the initials that have been have found. Could they be the initials of YOUR ancestor?

The March 1995 issue of *The Port Ryerse Journal* showed a "chatelaine" made by Lucas Ryerson. Pinned or clipped to the belt or bodice of a housewife, it carried keys or scissors at the other end which could be dropped into an apron pocket.

It is thought that the silver sugar tongs attributed to **Lucas Ryerson** in the October 1958 issue of *Antiques Magazine* may not be his work.

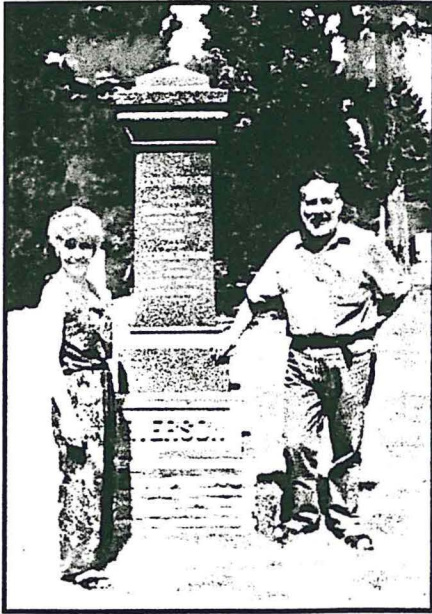


Initials found on other spoons include the following:

J E M	G V G	S V N
E V R	H M V N	H D
G V H	A H K	P M G
N C M	H T B	K R
T B	N C M	A T C
E D	E R	M B

Sources for this article include The 1916 Ryerson Genealogy; Colonial American Craftsmen - The Silversmith, L.E. Fisher; Passaic County Atlas, 1861; Newark, N.J. City Directory; Calendar of Wills, N.J. Archives; Early Ratables of Bergen County, and an assortment of Handbooks and Directories of American Silversmiths, all of which carry erroneous information about Lucas Ryerson.

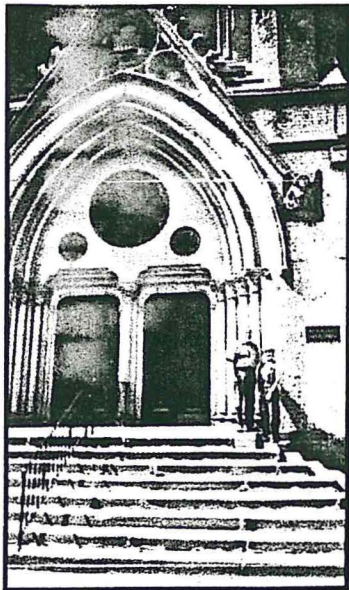
Egerton Ryerson Descendant Welcomed to Canada



Egerton Ryerson tombstone



Victoria College



Metropolitan United Church, Toronto

Peter Ryerson, the great, great grandson of Egerton Ryerson, the founder of Canada's educational system, visited Canada for the first time this summer. Welcomed to Toronto by John Galbraith, his third cousin once removed, he and his wife Janet were given a tour of many of the places of importance to his ancestors. Peter, you will remember, graciously donated the old Ryerson scrapbook and the portraits of Egerton and his wife to Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto.

(Read more about it in The Port Ryerse Journal – October 1998)

They visited Mount Pleasant to see the grave of Egerton Ryerson and then on to the Provincial Parliament Buildings at Queens' Park. When the identity of the visitor was made known, a private tour by the chief tour guide was arranged and they were invited to see the large paintings of classical art which Egerton had brought from England and Europe. These were to be used to educate teachers so that they could convey the appreciation of fine art to their students. Many of these paintings were 4 by 8 feet with intricately carved, gold leaf frames. They were also shown two busts and a large portrait of Egerton Ryerson.

After a stroll across the campus of the University of Toronto, they visited Victoria College. Again announcing their connections with Egerton, the staff was delighted and very helpful in showing them some interesting items from the Ryerson files as well as two busts and two very good portraits of Egerton.

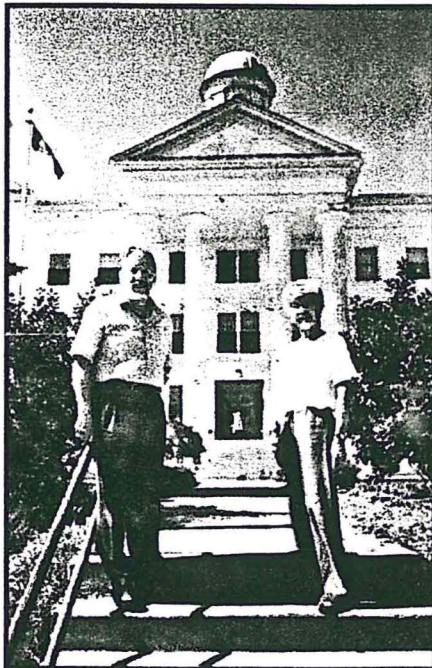
After lunch, they visited the imposing edifice of the Metropolitan United Church where Egerton Ryerson preached in the early years, along with his brothers John and William. Announcing themselves with a wink as "the Ryerson boys," they were welcomed with enthusiasm by the pastor who was pleased to have these very special visitors.

Remembering a passage from "My Dearest Sophie," (a collection of Egerton's letters to his daughter), it was decided to try to locate the place where Egerton used to live on Toronto Street...where he kept a cow. They found that once rural location, but alas, it is now filled with office towers and city traffic. No house, no cow! Then it was off to Gould Street and some picture taking in front of the famous statue outside Ryerson University.

Since both Peter and his wife Janet are teachers and Peter serves in an elected capacity on an education committee, it was arranged for them to spend several hours the next day with the Director of Education for the Region of Durham and also the head of Special Education. It was a profitable time of exchanging ideas and information. The Durham Board has recently won a coveted international award for Educational Leadership.



A visit was made to the original Victoria College at Coburg. As at all of their previous stops, the Director was excited and honored to show the facilities to Dr. Ryerson's descendants. An imposing building with its tall pillars overlooking the town from a hill, it now provides apartment living for senior citizens.



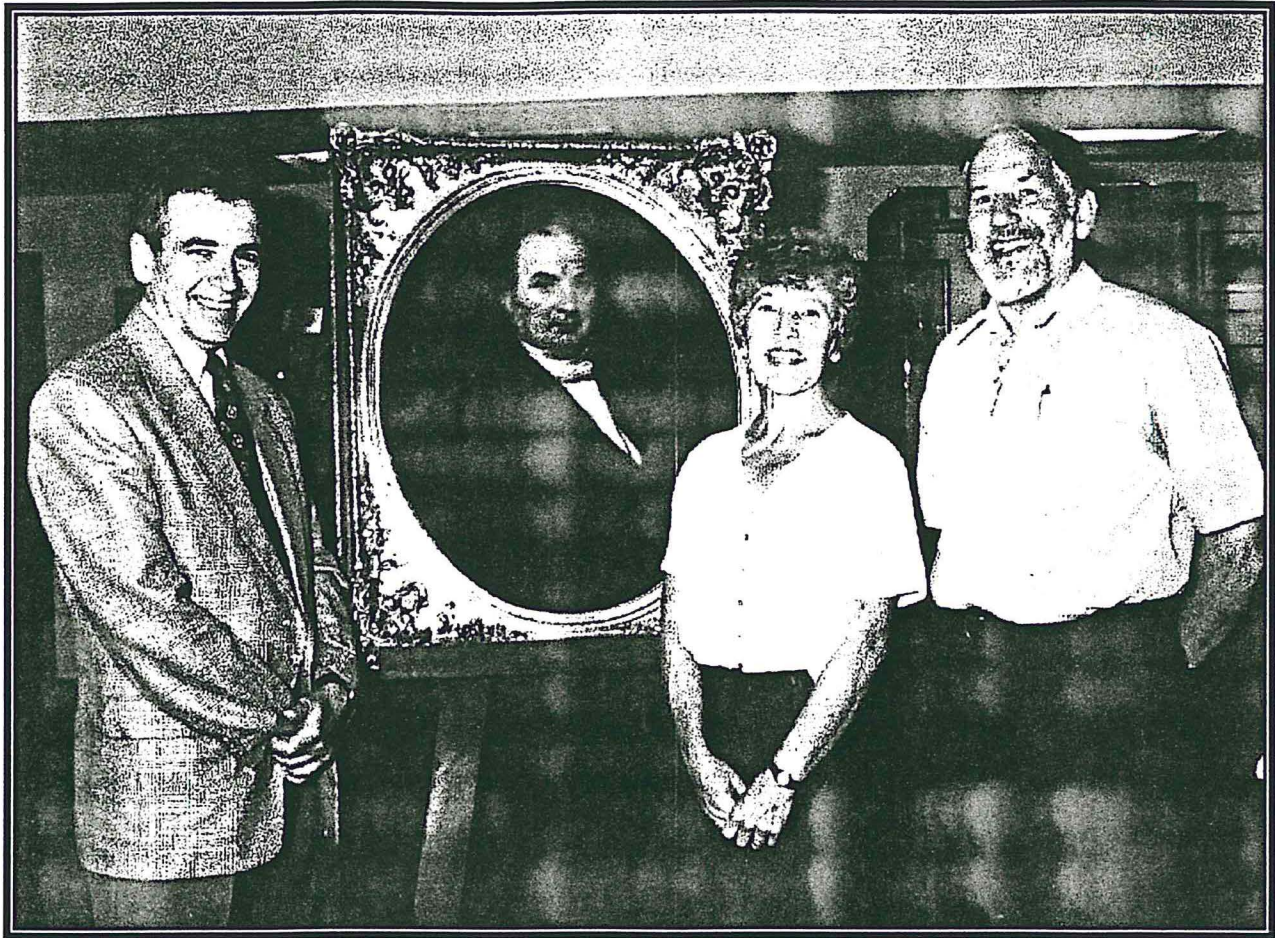
Returning to Toronto, they took the ferry to Toronto Island where they enjoyed a pleasant and elegant evening meal on the veranda of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club – celebrating family – (and Ann Galbraiths birthday!)



Peter, Janet and John Galbraith

TIME FOR SOME CAMPING

Peter and Janet were then off for some restful camping in the Muskoka region and a tour around scenic Niagara Falls. Continuing on to Port Ryerse they were met by Thomas Ryerson who showed them around the historic village, the family graves and the land where his great great great Grandfather Joseph Ryerson once lived and farmed. They were joined by Verne Ryerse who greeted them warmly and showed them the area of the first land grants and where the family reunion takes place each year. A visit was made to Vittoria, the early capital of the area and to Joseph Ryerson's grave at the historic Woodhouse Church.



The trip to Canada also included time spent touring the campus of Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto as guests of the Archivist, Mr. Claude Doucet. He showed them a variety of interesting files and documents relating to Egerton. They were impressed with the careful preservation work (160 hours!) that had been done on the portrait of Egerton by the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa. The portrait of Egerton's wife is also being restored but will not require as much work as Egerton's.

On August 10, the day before Peter and Janet were scheduled to return to England, Mr. Doucet arranged an official ceremony to honor Peter for his very important donation to the university. The newly restored portrait was then officially unveiled.

Attending were students and faculty, including two vice-presidents. Gillian Mothersill was also in

attendance. She was the faculty member who graciously acted as personal courier for the Ryerson Family Scrapbook in 1996. Dr. Claude Lajeunesse, Ryerson University President, addressed the gathering and presented the honored guests with a framed certificate on behalf of the University.

Peter concluded the event by saying a few words of appreciation and relief that the portraits and papers are now in good hands. "These things have far more significance to Canada and this is the proper place for them," he said. "I am sure the University will take far better care of them than I ever could."

Peter and Janet have now returned to England and in a recent message he said, "We had a great time and enjoyed Canada immensely!"

We enjoyed their visit too!



A Trip to Canada – Photo Album

Tom and Peter Ryerson by
Woodhouse Church

Peter on Ryerson Avenue, Toronto

On the road into Port Ryerse by the
charming Port Ryerse sign

Water's edge, Port Ryerse, taken from
the jetty

Photographs compliments of John Galbraith,
Peter Ryerson and Claude Doucet.

What's New in the Past?

A tantalizing sentence from the 1916 Ryerson Genealogy reads *"Judge George Ryerson Jr. married Mary, daughter of Abraham Duboise....and their children's births are recorded in an ancient Bible, the records being written in the Dutch language in the handwriting of Judge Ryerson."*

An ancient Bible? Births written in Dutch? I've been researching this family for nearly 40 years and during all of that time, I've always kept a look-out for an ancient Bible with Dutch writing. No luck.

The genealogy goes on to say, *"This Bible descended to their daughter Ann Ryerson, wife of Henry Cook and is now in possession of the Cook family."* Cooks? Never ran into any of those either! Till now!

I received an e-mail message from David Berry who lives in Monterey, Calif. His message read, *"I am a 5th Great Grandson of Hendrik Van Der Cook and Ann Ryerson of Essex and Bergen County, New Jersey. I have copies of some items transcribed from an old family Bible and sent to my Great Great Uncle Edwin A. Moore by his cousin Gertrude Moore Scouten in 1923. It includes the following which might be of interest to someone!"*

YES, I was very interested but NO, he doesn't know what distant relative might have the old Bible but he has generously shared with us those names that were so carefully written in the old Bible, now translated into English and handed on down for several generations! Who knows, perhaps we'll track down the old Bible one of these days!

From the old Bible:

June 6, 1744, J. George Ryerson married to Mary Dubois and on the 25th of April 1745 was born a son named **George** who died on the 11th of May, 1746, aged one year and 16 days.

April 25, 1747 was born a daughter named **Mary**.

March 20, 1748 was born a son named **George**.

30th March 1751 was born a son named **Nicholas**.

March 2nd, 1753 New Style was born a daughter named **Ann**. She married Henry Cook.

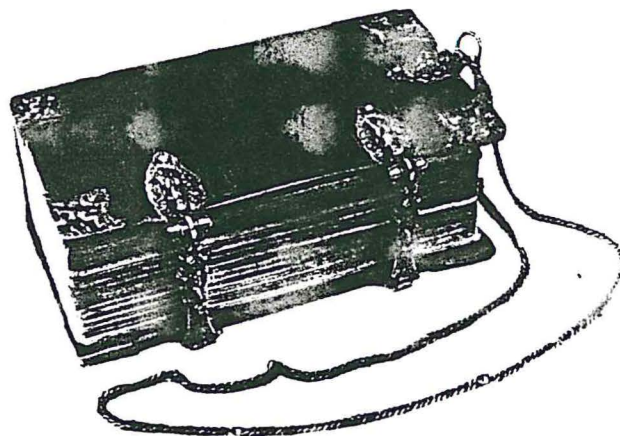
The 22nd of May, 1755 died the above named **Nicholas** aged 4 years, one month, 11 days.

The 21st of June 1755 died the above named **George** aged 6 years, 2 months and 19 days.

5th of November 1755 was born a son named **Martin**.
18th of October, 1758 was born a daughter named **Elizabeth**.

23rd of January 1762 was born a son named **Abraham**.

The 22nd of February 1765 at nine o'clock at night was born a son named **John**.



An old Dutch Bible
– circa 1715, leather covered, silver mounts and chain.

The Good Old Days?

Grandmother, on a winter's day
Milked the cows and fed them hay,
Slopped the hogs, saddled the mule,
And got the children off to school;
Did a washing, mopped the floors,
Washed the windows, did some chores;
Cooked a dish of home-dried fruit,
Pressed her husband's Sunday suit;
Swept the parlor, made the bed,
Baked a dozen loaves of bread;
Split some firewood and lugged it in,
Enough to fill the kitchen bin;
Stewed some apples she thought would spoil,
Cleaned the lamps, filled them with oil;
Churned the butter, baked a cake;
Then exclaimed, "For Heaven's sake,
The calves are out of the pen."
Rushed out and chased them in;
Gathered the eggs and locked the stable,
Back to the house and set the table;
Cooked a supper that was delicious,
Afterwards washed up all the dishes;
Fed the cat and sprinkled the clothes,
Mended a basketful of hose;
Then opened the organ and began to play,
"When you come to the end of a perfect day!"

Author - unknown



What's ahead? A story about an early relative/physician who had a cure for just about everything from gout to eczema; the story of a fabulously wealthy lumber baron and his lost and found relatives, (your cousins,) and the crusty old American Civil

Not many copies left, but our family book, The Ryerse-Ryerson Family 1574-1994 is now being sold on the internet – Amazon.com.

Mark your calendars!

Submissions Welcome



Port DOVER/ Port RYERSE Football Team 1896

Fall is in the air and it's time to play some football! (Make that Rugby, if you live in the U.S.!) We know very few details about this team except that they won lots of games and played other teams around the area including at least one U.S. team from across the Lake. On one occasion, the boys boarded the boat to cross the lake for Erie, PA when the water was very rough and choppy – a condition which soon resulted in some very sea-sick young fellows getting rid of their lunches over the railing! We can only surmise the outcome of the game they played that day! You might recognize a couple of the players – the ones with the big moustaches!! The fellow in the very middle is William Arthur Ryerse, captain of the team. The fellow kneeling in the front row, second from right, is Thomas Edmon England. He married Mary Maybell Stringer. Their daughter Margaret married Colin Ryerse, the son of William Arthur Ryerse and their granddaughter, Eleanor rushed this grand old photograph to us in time for our printing deadline!

GO TEAM!!