

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

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The lady that young Samuel, John and Joseph called "Moeder"

Johanna ^{HER} + Van Der Hoff _{MARK}

by Phyllis Ryerse

"Moeder" – the 'oe' pronounced as in 'too.'

That's the Dutch word for Mother and though the Ryerse family had been in this country for three generations, like most of their neighbors in Pequannock, New Jersey, they still attended the Dutch church where the service was preached in the familiar old language and they spoke Dutch at home - along with a little English - when necessary!

The house was full of children. Luke Reyerse's first wife, Elizabeth Howell had died in 1745 and it would be 6 years before he married 24 year old Johanna Van Der Hoff. She not only became the wife of the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas but took on the job of Moeder to his 5 children! There was 14 year old Mary, 12 year old Luke Jr., 9 year old George, 7 year old Ann and 6 year old Elizabeth and she would soon have 6 more children of her own! An old inventory dated 1764 says there were slaves to help with the work and there was plenty of work to do!

Johanna could not write. She made a mark when she had to sign her name (shown above) but she made sure that all of her children attended school and received a proper education. She made sure they were taught the Bible as well and when they became adults, they all held dear the things they had learned as children. Her son Samuel would be called on many times to read the sermon and minister to the other early settlers both in New Brunswick and Port Ryerse, Canada when there was no preacher available. Her son John was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania. Her daughter Elizabeth faithfully attended what we now call Old Tennant Church near Freehold, N. J. and her son Joseph held tenaciously to the doctrines of the Anglican Church in Canada and was mightily grieved when all 6 of his sons took after "those Methodists!"



Luke Reyerse is described as a "man of giant stature and great strength." His new wife Johanna, standing next to him must have seemed the diminutive Dutch vrouw. She was small - but capable of the job at hand! She came from a good family with roots in Dutch New Amsterdam almost as far back as the Reijersz family. Johanna's family arrived under the care of her widowed great-grandmother, another capable Dutch lady!

The VAN DER HOFF Family

Extracted from Twelve New Netherland Families compiled in 1959 by Mr. Wilson V. Ledley, Executive Secretary of the Holland Society, New York.



FIRST GENERATION

Johanna's story begins with her great-grandfather, **Cornelis Van der Hoeve** who lived in Hoeven, a village in Gelderland, Holland. He married **Geertje Van Fulpen** sometime before 1640. After Cornelis died, his widow and their six children emigrated to New Amsterdam, sailing from Beest, Geiderland on the ship "**The Beaver**," arriving on May 9, 1661. The children's ages were listed on the ship's roster as 21, 19, 17, 15, 13 and 10. They included the following:

1. **Guysbert Cornelise** b. about 1640.
2. **Cornelis Cornelise** b. about 1642.
3. **Neeltje** b. about 1644.
4. **Elizabeth** b. about 1646, married Jurian Caljer.
5. * **Jan Cornelise** b. about 1648.
6. **Hadduwina** b. about 1651.
(birth dates calculated from passenger list)

Geertje settled in the Bedford section of Brooklyn where her son Cornelis would later serve as a magistrate. By 1675 she and her younger children followed her oldest son Guysbert to Albany. It was there that she married again to Steven Janszen Conyn but they soon separated amicably. In 1683, Geertje Van der Hoeven became a member of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany. She died there on 29 December 1684.

SECOND GENERATION

* **Jan Cornelise** was born in Holland about 1648 and came to New Amsterdam with his widowed mother. He later settled in Albany where he joined the Dutch Church in 1683. His married **Dorothea Jans** b. ca. 1660. She was the daughter of Jan Jochems and Marytje _?_ Caljer of Albany. He must have been a shoemaker for in 1684 he sued for payment for a pair of shoes he had delivered - and in the same year he was listed as being in arrears for his taxes. In 1693 he was appointed Constable to serve for one year. Sometime after the birth of twin boys, he moved his family to Bergen County, N. J. where they were residing in May 1697. We have no further information for Jan or Dorothea after the birth of their ninth child in 1705. Those children included:

1. **Cornelis** b. 1683.
2. **Johannis** bap 1686.
3. **Geertruy** bap 1688.
4. * **Guysbert** bap 1692.
5. **Isak** bap 1694 (twin).
6. **Jacob** bap 1694 (twin).
7. **Hendrick** bap. 1696.
8. **Abraham** bap 1700
9. **Gerrit** bap 1705.

THIRD GENERATION

* **Guysbert Van Der Hoef** was baptized at Albany 20 January 1692 and lived with his family in Bergen County, N.J. He was probably named for his uncle who died unmarried. From the baptism of his son Gerrit we know that his wife was **Margrietje Vreeland**, the daughter of Michael Vreeland and his wife Marya Joris. A very important document in connecting Johanna Van Der Hoff to this family is the Last Will and Testament of Michael Vreeland dated in 1750 in which he mentions the seven children of his deceased daughter Margaret. He did not name them. Only two sons have been positively identified and strong evidence presented for 3 more by Mr. Ledley. He states "Hendrick has been named as a son primarily since his eldest son of record was named Guysbert and the ages fit. The name of Michael comes through the Vreeland family. Abraham is placed here tentatively largely since there is no other likely place in the family and the age fits. Guysbert died intestate probably before 22 Dec. 1758 when his eldest son John posted a bond."

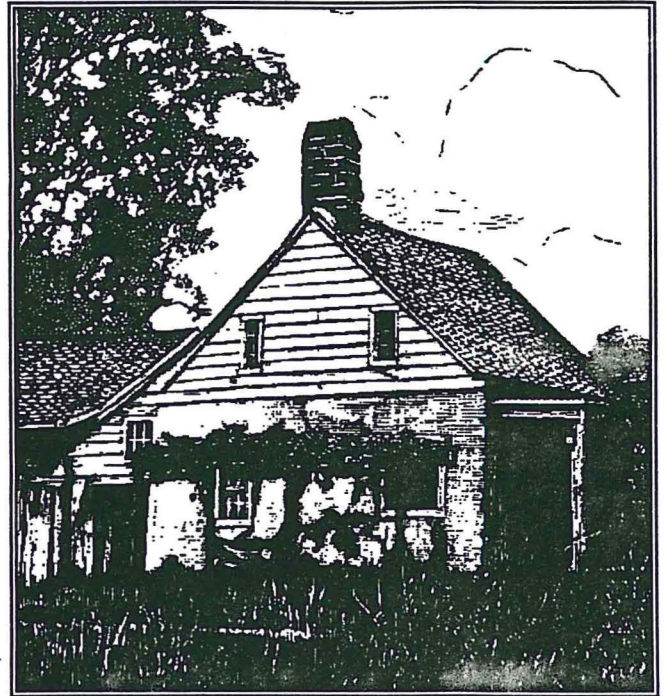
Mr. Ledley goes on, "Two other children, most likely daughters living in 1750, have not been identified." After studying all the possibilities, we believe that one of them was our Johanna. By the birth of their third son, Guysbert and Margrietje had moved to Acquackanonk, N.J. Their children as listed by Mr. Ledley include the following. These would be Johanna's brothers and sister.

1. **John** – posted bond to settle father's estate.
No further information.
2. **Hendrick** b. about 1725. There is a considerable gap from 1754 to 1772 in the records of his children's baptisms, no doubt due to the loss of the Ganseगत Dutch Church records.
- 3-4. There is a gap here of 5 years during which **Johanna** and (maybe) her sister were born.
5. **Gerrit** baptised 29 Mar 1730.
6. **Abraham** b. about 1732. Had children baptized at Acquackanonk.
7. **Michael** b. about 1734. Most of his children were baptized at Ganseगत Dutch Church, whose records were lost by fire.

Genealogists prefer documented proof for every family connection. The devastating fire at the Ganseगत (Fairfield, NJ) Dutch Church, however, destroyed irreplaceable early records that have prevented many family historians from proving relationships beyond a doubt. They must then resort to a method of proving facts taken from the law profession – that of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. Mr. Ledley used that method to determine the children of Guysbert Van Der Hoef and we follow his lead, using that same method to return Johanna to her family. Guysbert's family was the only Van Der Hoff family living in the vicinity. The Vreeland will prove there were 7 children. Johanna's birth fits into the 1725-30 time frame.

Luke Reyerse and his first wife Elizabeth attended the Pompton Plains Dutch Church and all of their children's baptismal records can be found there. When Luke married Johanna, however, they apparently began to attend the church closer to her family – Ganseगत, the young and growing branch ministry of the church at Acquackanonk.

The loss of the Ganseगत Church records undoubtedly destroyed the marriage record of Johanna Van Der Hoff to Luke Reyerse as well as the baptismal records for all of their six children. It no doubt also destroyed the marriage record of their oldest son Samuel as well as baptismal records for at least one of his children. Those flames left this family with many unanswered questions.



The Pequannock home of Luke & Johanna

60 year old Luke Reyerse died early in 1764, leaving 37 year old Johanna a widow with 6 children. At the time of his death, those children and their ages were:

1. Samuel b. 1752 – 12 years old.
2. John b. 1756 – 8 years old.
3. Hitje (Phoebe) – 7 years old.
4. Elizabeth - 5 years old.
5. Sarah – 4 years old.
6. Joseph b. 1761 – 3 years old.

Luke was a large land owner and his will reflects the division of those lands to all of his children. Johanna was to live in "*my dwelling house three years after my decease or until such time that a house shall be built for her and her children.*" It is unclear if that was ever done. She was also to receive 8 acres of land "*lying upon the road that leads from peequanek to pompton adjoining the south side of Nicholas Jones lott.*" That lot was located next door to one given to Mary Brown, Luke's oldest daughter. Johanna was also to have his "*cubbert and the weavers loume with all the utencels thereunto belonging.*"

Johanna Van Der Hoff - continued

An Inventory of the personal estate of Luke Reyerse taken the 20th Day February 1764 runs 4 pages and holds many interesting items, evidence of a comfortable household. They included "Linnen Sheets, Indian Blankets, Humspun coverlet, bed & bolster, straw bed, Holland tek, pillows with the feathers, pewter platters & basins, a pewter tankard, a skimmer, a chafin dish, 3 wine decanters, cruet for vinegar, a brass pepper box, 2 stone jugs, earthen cups, a new looking glass, a lanthorn, 2 tables, 6 new chairs, 7 old chairs (big family!) pewter chamber pot, iron candlesticks, brass candlestick, a gumwood chest, baskets, meet tub, a Woolen wheel, a Little wheel, an old firkin, 2 pare wool cards, a Sword, fire tongs, large churn, small churn, milk tubs, iron kettles, tea kettle, Sharp Sizars," and every imaginable tool from a broad ax, to pitching forks.

It also lists many farm animals from a "black Stallyen" to yearling calves. His personal belongings included an old caster hat, Buckskin Breeches, a "hummade" Broadcloth coat, and of course, the famous flowered waistcoat. (see "Luke's Vest" - Port Ryerse Journal - Nov. '95)

We do not know exactly when Johanna died but it appears that she lived about 10 years after her husband's death. She was buried in the Ryerson Family Burial ground close to their home, beside her husband Luke. None of her children were yet married so she did not see the births of any grandchildren. These were the days of unrest before the Revolutionary War and she must have been distressed at the arguments and heated discussions that took place around her fireplace. Her sons all seemed to be leaning towards loyalty to the British government - a stand that probably pleased her.

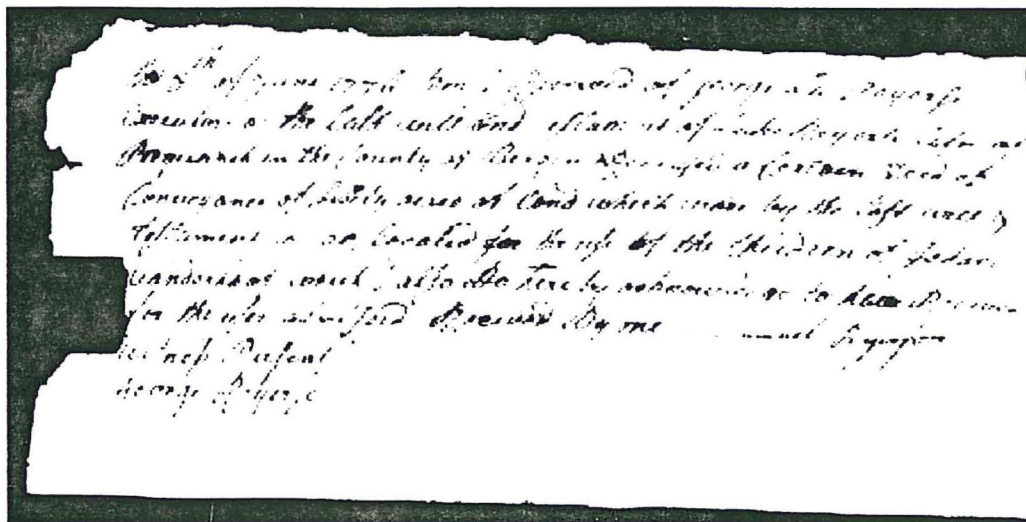
Luke Reyerse's will directed that there should be "purchased sixty acres of Proprietary right"

for land to be conveniently laid out and held until Johannas youngest son arrived at the full age of one and twenty years. It was then to be appraised and the value paid to Johanna's six children or their survivors - each of them an equal share. We show here a receipt for this land signed by Samuel Ryerson which is dated the 8th of June 1776, a date that falls about six years before Johanna's youngest son, Joseph, turned 21 years of age.

The receipt reads, "The 8th of June 1776 then I received of George Lu Reyerse, executor of the last will and testament of Luke Reyerse, late of Pequaneek in the County of Bergen, Deceased, a Certain Deed of Conveyance of sixty acres of land which was by the last will and testament to be located for the use of the children of Johana Vanderhoof which I also do hereby acknowledge to have received for the use aforesaid. Received by me - signed Samuel Ryerson. Witness present George Reyerse." (a cousin who lived nearby)

Did Johanna die in 1776 - the land given to her children at that time? Perhaps.

The final, sad question. Was this the same land that was confiscated from her children by the State of New Jersey during the war? An inquisition had been held and judgment entered against a long list of men who had remained loyal to the King. The New Jersey Gazette listed the land that was to be sold at public vendue. It included 30 acres of woodland at Pompton, lately belonging to Samuel Ryerson. It was sold on the green at Morristown, N.J. on April 5, 1780. Maybe it was better that our Johanna didn't live to see that day.



Note: The Ryerson family burial ground is now underneath a Rt 23 cloverleaf in Wayne, N.J. For more information see *The Port Ryerse Journal* - June 1996.

SOURCES for Johanna's story can be found in the following:

- A condensed version of Ledley's Vanderhoof History can be found on the internet (prepared by Sharon Rogers) www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/5732/WilsonLedley.html
- Vanderhoof - Rodney Dale Vanderhoof - 1990.
- Cor Snabel - our Dutch expert in the Netherlands.
- Ryerson Collection - Rutgers University Library.
- Ryerson Genealogy, 1916 by Albert Winslow Ryerson

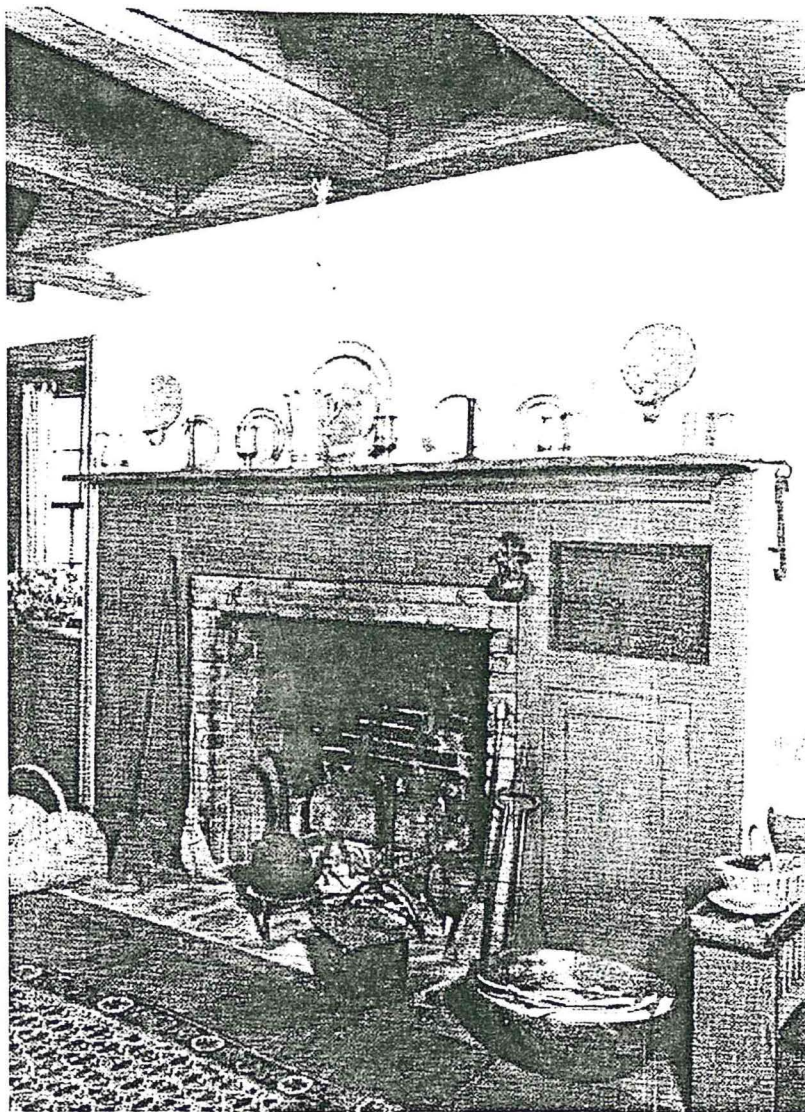
Johanna's Kitchen

The old inventory of the Luke Reyerse house gives us a peek into Johanna's kitchen. She must have been thrifty, exacting and diligent – the quintessential Dutch huisvrouw. The inventory is full of fascinating (sometimes unfamiliar) items.

As we read the inventory, it's almost as if Johanna is giving us a personal tour beginning at the front door where the *Lanthorn* hung, then a look inside the old cupboard where she carefully stored the sweet smelling *humspun Linens*, the *Callico mantle piece* and the *white mantle piece*. One was for weekdays and the other for Sunday when the fireplace was also given a day of rest and dressed in its best! There on a shelf she points out the pewter basons, Luke's tankard and the children's earthen bowls. The inventory also lists 4 *white flowered earthin Dishes*. How tantalizing! What did these special dishes really look like?

There in the corner is a *pare of Shoemakers pinchers*. The children wore out their shoes so quickly and there was a constant need for new ones! The children slept upstairs in the loft but Johanna and Luke slept in the far corner where we see the *bed & bolster with feather pillows* and a *straw Holland tek*.

Now she directs our attention to her "kitchen." The old inventory begins with a spit, and then lists a *pare of hand irons*, a *pare of fire Tongs*, a *Shovel*, a *Gridiron*, 2 *trivits*, 4 *Trambles* and several *Iron pot and kettles*. Perhaps one of them was a Dutch Oven. This essential cooking tool was placed on a trivet and set over a bed of hot coals. Hot coals were also placed on the lid which usually had a lip to prevent them from falling off. Many recipes can be found in seventeenth century Dutch cookbooks for tarts or raised pies placed carefully in these iron pots and baked to perfection! Pear and apple tarts are mentioned, spiced with ground cinnamon, powder of sandalwood or anise seed. Savory raised pies included a cheese pie and a meat pie made with boiled beef, mutton or veal. Johanna probably baked bread in hers also. Too bad we didn't arrive in time for tea and tarts!



Johanna's kitchen – shown here about 1984. The house was owned at that time by an avid antique collector who kept the old house and fireplace much as it was when Johanna cooked there. Johanna kept her spinning wheels nearby, herbs drying from the ceiling...and it almost feels like she has just stepped away to check on the ruckus her children are making outside the Dutch door!



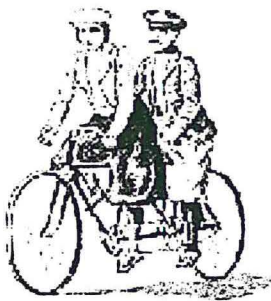
What's NEW in the PAST?

Following is the Passenger List for the Dutch ship **De Bever** (The Beaver) which brought Johanna Van Der Hoff's great grandmother, Geertje and her six children to New Amsterdam. Coincidentally, the captain on the ship for that voyage was **Pieter REYERSEN**.

Huijgh Barentsen De Clein, wife and seven children.
 Pieter Marselis from Beest, wife and four children.
 Aert Pietersen Buys from Beest, wife and son.
 Frans Jacobsen from Beest, wife and two children.
The widow Geertje Cornelis from Beest and six children, ages 21, 19, 17, 15, 13 and 10 years.
 The widow Adriaentjen Cornelis from Beest and one daughter.
 Gossen Jansen Van Noort from Beest.
 Neeltjen Jans from Beest.
 Aert Teunissen Middagh.
 Jacob Bastiaensen from Heycop.
 Estiene Genjoy from Rochelle, wife and three children.
 Hendrickje Jochems.
 Geertje Jochems
 Jan Lammertsen from Bremen.
 Wouter Gysen from Hilverson.
 Gideon Jacobs.
 The son of Evert Pietersen, Consoler of the sick.



Ken Oakley of Florida has a Canadian connection for his American Ryerson family. Ken's great uncle, Arthur Ryerson settled in Toronto where he became a partner in a bicycle company known as **RYERSON & WIGHT**.



Missing Ryerson links in Canada

By Thomas Ryerson

There are a couple Canadian Ryerson families who we can't connect to our family.

- There was a **George Ryerson** who lived in the Goderich area in 1851. He was married with two daughters and lived on an Indian Reserve. Was he an Indian who took the name of the Rev. George Ryerson who was an Indian Missionary in his early career?
- There was a Michael Ryerson listed in the 1859-60 Toronto City Directory, and in 1857 apparently there was a George Ryerson listed in Toronto as well. Michael's occupation was a messenger, while George was a tailor. They only appear in the city directory one time.
- In the 1871 Ontario Census there was a Basil Ryerson who lived in Petrolia, near Sarnia, ON. He was born in 1842 in Ontario, and was of Scotch descent. But as of yet, we have no idea of his connection.
- We believe William Delos Ryerson was born in Canada on April 13th 1834. We've had very little luck tying him into the family although we have some possibilities. A descendant of William Delos Ryerson, Mr. William T. Ryerson of Winchester, MA, would really like to find out how he ties in with the family. A baptism was found for a William Ryerson about 1834 in the records of the Picton Methodist Church, Prince Edward County. There was no mention of his parents. It is believed that he lived in Toronto until 1858 when he moved to New York State. There have been traces of Ryerson's in Prince Edward County before. There was a couple, A. Ryerson (we only know his initial) and his wife Eliza Bonter, who had two boys, Gilbert H. Ryerson and George Meldron Ryerson. They lived in Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County about 1878. As a guess, A. Ryerson was probably born about 1840 and could have been a younger brother to William Delos Ryerson. He could also be connected to our other "missing links" mentioned above, George, Basil and Michael Ryerson.

One theory on the Prince Edward County Ryerson family is that they descended from the John Francis Ryerson family of Nova Scotia. John Francis Ryerson, a Loyalist, was a cousin to Col. Joe and Col. Sam. John Francis Ryerson petitioned for land in Ontario before 1789 and it's possible some of his kin could have settled in Ontario. There are several possibilities, but at this point, it's still all guess-work! Records are so scarce in Ontario in the period of 1800 to 1869 but the search goes on.

A Box of Ryerson "STUFF" - Phyllis Ryerse

Years ago, a large cardboard box of Ryerson "stuff" was donated to the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society from the estate of Louise Ryerson. No one knew what all that "stuff" was and it was stored away for several years. I was asked to sort it all out and found it full of old tintypes, photographs, diaries, receipts, and other Ryerson memorabilia. I spent the next several weeks having great fun looking it all over and dating and identifying the people in the pictures etc.

One item that stumped me was a lovely old portrait - the likeness of an elderly man - on glass against black velvet inside a richly ornamented case. When I took the picture out of the case and looked at the back, I discovered a stamp with the name Brady. My curious nature took me quickly off to the library to "read up" on Mathew Brady, the famous early photographer....and lo and behold, there in the reference book was a picture of the same man in a slightly different pose as the one I had in my care! That picture was identified as Samuel F. B. Morse, the famous inventor and artist.

A quick letter was sent to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. which holds entire collection of negatives, plates, tintypes, daguerreotypes etc belonging to Mathew Brady. It wasn't long before news arrived that it was, indeed an original Brady daguerreotype (technically an ambrotype) - probably taken by Brady himself - of the man who had taught him this new photographic process.

The original is now safely stored in a bank vault - but the question remains: Why was this rare and valuable daguerreotype in a box of Ryerson "stuff?" One theory relates to the fact that Morse developed the telegraph with the assistance of Alfred Vail of Morristown, NJ. Alfred's father owned the famous Speedwell Iron Works. The Ryersons were also ironmasters, Martin J. Ryerson operating Ringwood in this same time period. Is that the connection? Samuel Morse painted a long series of admirable likenesses including scores of the nation's most prominent citizens. Is it possible that he painted one or more of the three sets of unsigned portraits of Martin J. Ryerson and his wife? There are strong similarities between these oil paintings and the established style of other Morse portraits.

We have no answers - only tantalizing possibilities. Isn't it amazing what you might find in a box of "stuff!"

CUTTINGS PATENT
BRADY
JULY 4 & 11, 1854



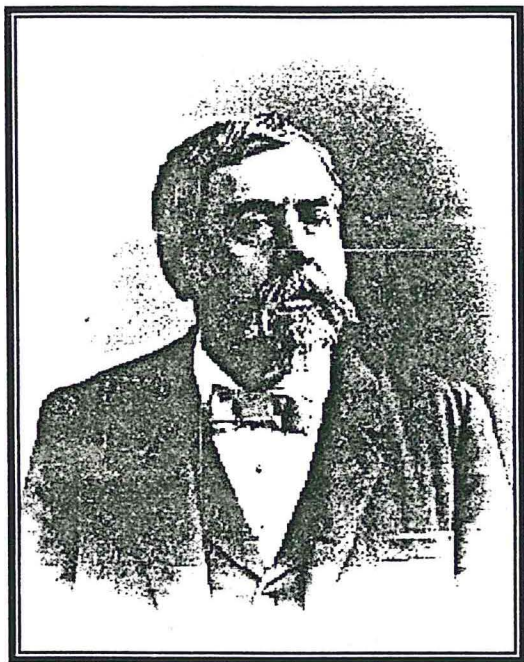
Daguerreotype of Samuel F. B. Morse
Approx. 6" x 8"



Portrait of
Martin J.
Ryerson

Was it painted
by S.F.B. Morse?

The DOCTOR is IN



Dr. John G. Ryerson graduated from Rutgers college, studied medicine at New York University with Dr. Parker and graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He built up a large practice in Boonton, Morris Co., N.J. He became a surgeon of note and was recognized as one of the leading men in his profession. He was a "fellow" of the N.J. Medical Society and served as President of that organization at one time.

Proud of his family's heritage, he encouraged his nephew, Louis Johnnes Ryerson to write The Ryerson Family of America and supplied much information to Albert Winslow Ryerson when he was writing the 1916 Ryerson Genealogy. He had in his possession a large collection of old documents pertaining to the early Ryerson ancestry. Those documents now make up most of the Ryerson Collection held by Special Collections at Rutgers University Library in New Brunswick, N.J.

We are fortunate to have a copy of a small book written by Dr. Ryerson when he was 81 years old entitled

"A Mind Remedy"

in which he proposes a cure for a multitude of ailments by the use of lactose, or sugar of milk. Those ailments for which he gives case studies include among others

- Asthma
- Exzema
- Lateral Curvature (and Pityriasis)
- Alcoholism
- Mania Potu
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Locomotor Ataxia
- Organic Heart Disease
- Angina Pectoris
- Senile Gangrene
- Gout – Rheumatic
- Interstitial Nephritis
- Arterio-Sclerosis
- Hypochondria
- Lithiasis
- Acne Punctata
- Chorea
- Irregular Teeth
- Color of Hair Restored
- Nervous
- Goitre
- Fibroids
- Difficult Labor
- After Pains
- Vomiting in Pregnancy
- Dysmenorrhea
- Puerperal Convulsions
- Paralysis Agitans

We quote from **A Mind Remedy**, (pg. 71)

"The following is a working formula for making lactose from milk that can be prepared by any intelligent druggist. It is quite as efficient and only one-third the quantity is needed as is used of the commercial product; only enough of it was used to show its medicinal effect, the commercial product being more convenient.

Lactose as a remedy is not like many others that by frequent use a tolerance is acquired. On the contrary, the more frequent the indications for its use occur, the more prompt and efficient the remedy. The indications come farther apart and sooner or later the patient is cured.

FORMULA FOR MAKING LACTOSE

By Herbert S. Hitchcock, Boonton, N.J.

Milk.....4 pts.
Acetic Acid Dil. 10%..... 1 oz.
White of Egg.....1

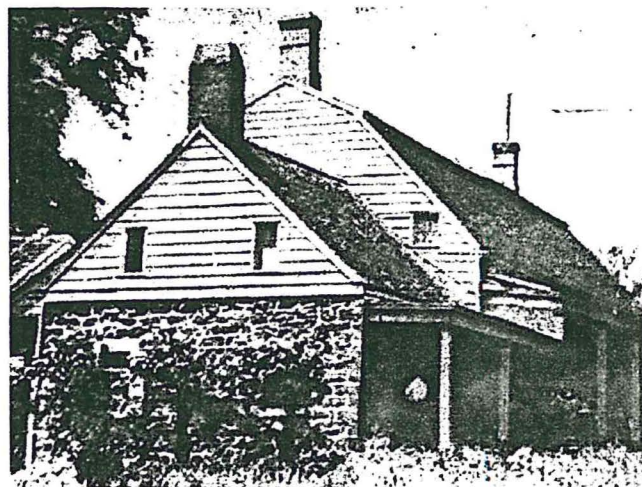
Place the milk in a double boiler, add the acetic acid, stirring well. Bring the water in the outside boiler nearly to a boil. Allow the milk to cool, then strain through a cloth, squeezing the precipitated casein dry. Reject the casein.

To the liquid add the white of egg thoroughly beaten and mix well and pour back into the double boiler.

To the water in the outside boiler. Add a double handful of salt. Bring the salt water to a vigorous boil. The liquid in the inner vessel should boil or nearly so. In about ten minutes remove the liquid and allow it to cool.

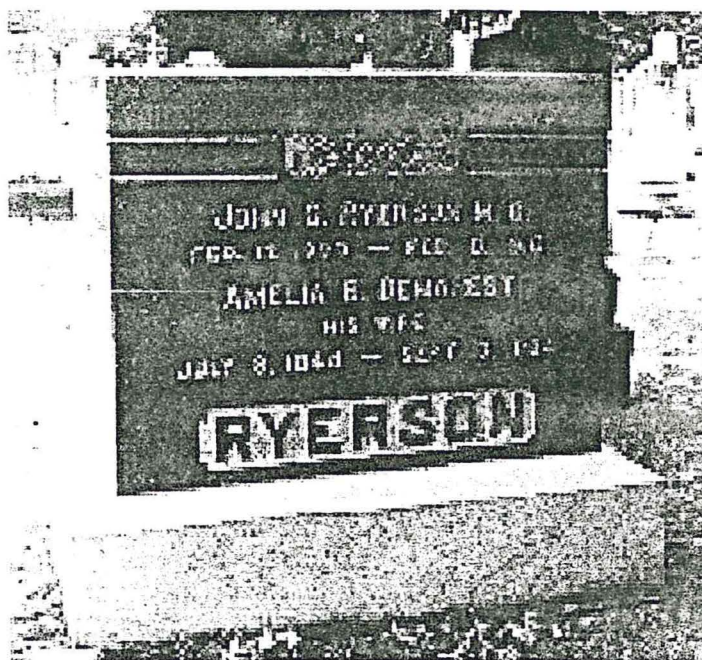
Now pour through a fine strainer with care and allow it to drain by gravity only, do not squeeze. If the resulting filtrate is slightly turbid it should be filtered through paper or cotton. Evaporate the filtrate at a very gentle heat on a sand-bath. If turbidity appears at once on heating, the treatment with white of an egg must be repeated, taking care to have the salt water boiling very hard.

Toward the last of the evaporation a turbidity will appear which is simply the milk sugar beginning to come out, and at this point the product should be stirred until it is dry.



Dr. Ryerson was born in the old Ryerson house - in the large wing that had been added on after the Revolutionary War. The small older wing at this end was the home of Luke and Johanna Reyerse.

Dr. Ryerson and his wife are buried behind the Pompton Plains Reformed Church, Wayne, N.J.



Another in our "favorite son" series –

JAN RYERSE –

Professor/Biologist/Runner

- In His Own Words

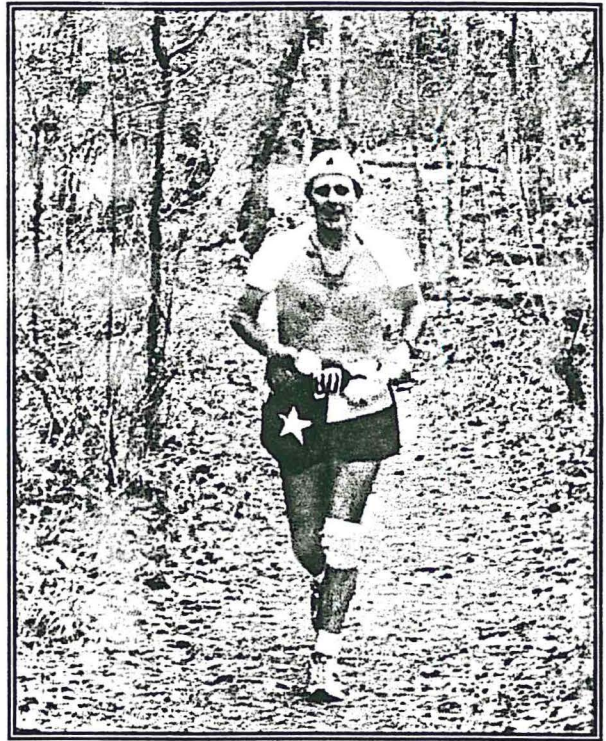
"I ran a little cross-country in high school but that was it for any serious running until December 1969. A college room-mate asked if I wanted to go for a run. We ran around a couple of blocks and it darned near killed me - I was a smoker and I came back huffing and puffing - totally out of breath. I had to get in shape.

In the early 70's they held an annual long distance road race in London, Ontario where I was going to college. It was called the Springbank Distance Classic. Top runners from around the world came to compete. I saw Bebe Bekela, Frank Shorter and Marcie Larieu-Smith running 15 and 20 mile races and I was captivated. In 1972 one of the graduate students at the university, Grant McClaren went to the Olympics on the Canadian 5000 meter team. I heard these guys talking in the hallway about doing these long 20 and 25 mile runs on weekends and I thought - no way could anyone run that in training. That was soon to change.

In 1978 my family moved to southern California where I did post-doctoral work at the University of California, Irvine. There folks ran year round and there were lots of organized 5 mile, 10K, ½ marathon and marathon races. Marathons, of course, are always 26.2 miles. I got in with a group of guys who ran marathons and was soon doing 15 and 20 mile training runs in preparation for my first marathon, which I ran in 1979 in a time of about 3 hours and 30 minutes. I recall the last 6 miles as going on and on and on - and how much it hurt. Yet when it was over I couldn't wait to try another one.

So here it is, 2000. I've run 47 marathons with a personal best of 2 hours and 58 minutes - lots and lots of them under 3 hours and 10 minutes. I've qualified for and run the Boston Marathon three times including the 100th Boston in 1996 when they had almost 40,000 runners.

I needed another running challenge besides marathons. I had heard about these things called ultra-



Jan at Rocky Racoon Feb. 99

marathons of 50K (31 miles) up to 100 mile and beyond. I couldn't believe anyone could run 100 miles and I certainly didn't think it would be anything I could ever do. But I found that I really enjoyed going out and doing 3 or 4 hour runs and I really liked being in the woods and forest camping and hiking. Turns out many of these ultras are run on trails in state and national parks - very beautiful surroundings so it was a natural combination of running long distance and being in the woods that brought me to ultra-running.

My first ultra was a 50K which I ran in December 1989 in Forest Park in St. Louis. It was 40 degrees and drizzling with a strong east wind - not a great experience even though I ran a very respectable 4:36. It was 2 weeks after the 1996 Boston marathon before I ran another ultra. It was a 50K - 31 mile - ultra run on woodland trails near St. Louis. I had a blast!!! Since then I've run 19 ultra-marathons including 5 50 milers, 2 100 Ks (62 miles) and 5 100 milers. My 50 mile personal best is 9:11 and my 100 mile PB is 22:44 which I ran at the Rocky Racoon 100 mile trail race in Huntsville State park north of Houston TX last February 1999. Generally they have "cut-off" times of 30 hours for 100 milers to be an "official" finisher and get your name and time in UltraRunning magazine.

JAN RYERSE - *continued*

You have to understand that no one actually runs the whole 100 miles - we usually walk the uphill and take the occasional break at aid stations where we can get food and liquids. Of course the better the finishing time you're after, the more running you have to do. Your legs get very, very tired. Some people throw up. Some have to drop because of blisters. Some get dehydrated and can't go on and you constantly have to watch your footing so you don't do what we call a "face plant" - fall down and injure yourself. Running 50 milers and 100 milers is a real challenge - I guess that's one reason I like them so much - you get to look deep inside yourself and see what you are made of. It's easy to quit but there's nothing on earth like the personal satisfaction of knowing you met the challenge and finished a 100 mile trial endurance race.

Those are long hours but on the trails you see all sorts of wildlife - turkey, deer, snakes, birds, fox etc - which is really neat. You usually start in the early morning, 5 or 6 am, then run through the day and through the night - so you need a variety of clothing, shoes, food and lights. I really like running at night. I wear a miner's type headlamp and carry a hand held flashlight.

In December I ran a 50K race in Texas called the Sunmart 50K/50M with my two daughters Tashya and Amy. Amy has run two marathons and one 50K so this was not new ground for her but Tashya had never gone beyond 20 miles. We ran together the entire way and crossed the finish line together in 6:33 - a very decent time and well up in the field of 700 runners. We had a very enjoyable time together.

Here in St. Louis I helped start up an ultrarunning club which we call the SLUGs for St. Louis Ultrarunning Group and I am editor of the SLUG newsletter which comes out 3 times a year with stories and photos of races we've run.

This summer I am going to attempt what is called the Grand Slam of ultrarunning - running 4 very difficult 100 milers (Old Dominion in Virginia, Western States in California, Leadville in Colorado and Wasatch Front in Utah) in a span of 14 weeks between the first of June and the middle of September. In the past 15 years only about 150 people have

accomplished this so it will be a huge challenge but if I don't try I'll never know if I can do it or not. Wish me luck! Yes I love to run - it's a passion.!"

Editors note: Jan recently finished the Rocky Racoon 2000 run in 24 hours and 46 minutes. "Not quite as good as I'd hoped for," he commented, "but it got very cold during the night (down to 25 degrees) and I do better in warmer weather. Hearing the coyotes singing in the middle of the night and seeing two armadillos shuffling in the brush was enough to make the trip worth the time." What does Jan do when he's not running? "I am a University Professor - a cell biologist/electron microscopist in the Pathology Department at the St. Louis University Health Sciences Center - have been there since 1980. I am an avid bird-watcher. I read a lot and I relax by watching sports on TV. My wife, Sheila, is Director of the St. Louis Symphony Music School. My daughter Tashya Ryerse lives in San Antonio, Texas and is a chemical engineer with Valero oil refinery. My daughter Amy lives here in St. Louis with her husband Ron Moser. They are expecting their first child in August. This will make us grandparents for the first time and of course my mom and dad, Barb and Vern Ryerse of Port Ryerse, will become great-grandparents for the first time!"

Watch the fall issue of the Port Ryerse Journal for an update on Jan's success at the Grand Slam --- and for news of the new baby! (Pictured below - Jan's family, l. to r. Tashya, Sheila, Amy, Jan and their two Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers.) Read more about it on the internet: <http://www.run100s.com/Freebies/jr.htm>



"Believe me, there is nothing in this world like the feeling of crossing the finish line at the end of a 100. It's a high you'll ride for months."

A Chat with Phyllis

We made it! It's finally the new year 2000! With fireworks and celebrations going on around the world, it was definitely a historical event, one you can tell your grandchildren about years from now. They'll have a good chuckle over how scared we were that our computer systems might fail!

We begin a new issue year and somehow it feels like the blackboard has been erased and washed down in anticipation of exciting things to come. So let's get on with it! I hope you'll enjoy reading the story about our Grandmother Johanna. She's been overlooked for too many years. We didn't even know what family she belonged to but now we can set the record straight at last.

We have received so many kind comments about The Port Ryerse Journal and we thank you all. Our subscription list is growing – another sign that you appreciate the work we're doing. Thank you for that also. We'll keep it coming as long as there are interesting family stories to tell....and as long as our computers keep working! <grin>

NEXT ISSUE: "John's Other Wife!"

It has been discovered by a couple of devoted family researchers that we have identified the WRONG LADY as the wife of John Ryerson (brother to Samuel Ryerse and Joseph Ryerson.) You won't want to miss a story that includes ancient records, a Victorian Mansion.....and a cat! We'll get it right yet!

Phyllis Ryerse

The Port Ryerse Journal

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Subscription Rate \$12/year
Submissions Welcome

**It's 2000 – Do you know where your
Great-Great-Great Grandparents are?**



Captain Patrick Ferguson

(by Dr. M.M. Gilchrist)

To learn more about the man who led the Loyalists up King's Mountain to defeat, an action in which Capt. Samuel Ryerson was wounded and taken prisoner, see this internet web page:

www.silverwhistle.free-online.co.uk



To learn more about the N.J. Volunteers in which Samuel, Joseph and Martin Ryerson served, see:

www.rovalprovincial.com

In Memory Of

- Ryerse, Clarence Wesley, b. May 16, 1920 d. Jan 10, 2000. (#1774 – pg. 230)
- Ryerse, Herman E. d. Oct 10, 1997. His wife Sarah Ann d. Sept 5, 1998 both in Rochester, NY. (#622 – pg. 131)

The Port Ryerse Journal

The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2

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June 2000

The Rags to Riches Story of

MARTIN RYERSON

FUR TRADER/LUMBERMAN/MILLIONAIRE

Fired by stories of adventure and great opportunity 'Out West,' 16 year old Martin Ryerson, a little money in his pocket from his parents and driven by ambition, left home in Paterson, NJ and headed – for Michigan! He had heard of the great chances for advancement there, but when he finally reached Detroit in 1834, his money was all gone and his chances looked bleak. Willing to do any odd job, he was soon employed by Richard Godfrey, an Indian trader, who took him to Grand Rapids, then only a small clearing in the woods.

In May of 1836 Martin started out on foot for Muskegon. About halfway there, he came to the Muskegon River where he encountered Joseph "Trucky" Troutier, another fur trader going up the river on a flatboat. He took the lad on board and soon gave him a job. Troutier was half Indian and his wife was a full-blooded Ottawa. A large colony of Indians lived around Muskegon Lake and it wasn't long before Martin learned the Ottawa language and adopted many Indian customs. With his dark good looks and his black hair now grown long, he soon became a great favorite of the Indians and they taught him how to hunt and trap. He traveled over much of Michigan in those pursuits, most of the time at a salary of \$8 a month. Like many other traders, he soon took an Indian girl as his wife, marrying her according to the customs of her tribe. A full blooded Ottawa, she was remembered by some of the earliest settlers as having beautiful glossy black hair as she sat on the floor of their cabin making moccasins.

When the fur trade was at its height, sales amounted to \$3 million dollars a year. The industry was dwindling greatly now, however, and the supply of fur-bearing animals in the Muskegon area had become virtually exhausted.



Martin then went to work for P.T. Newell at his Muskegon trading post and sawmill. By the fall of 1841, Martin formed a partnership with S.J. Green and contracted to run Newell's mill for two years. It was a modest mill by later standards, with one upright saw which could turn out about 50,000 board feet of lumber in a year. Green later dropped out of the business but Martin continued to manage the mill until 1845 when in partnership with J.H. Knickerbocker, he bought out his employer. They soon had the old mill removed and a new one built on the same site.

Martin was always considered the brains of the business and in the early years worked as much as eighteen hours a day, doing any job, no matter how difficult, that needed being done.

In 1847 Knickerbocker withdrew from the firm, his interest being sold to Robert W. Morris who remained a partner in the firm until 1865 when he retired and the firm became Ryerson, Hills & Co. Many mills were constructed on Muskegon Lake during this time and many of them changed owners and names frequently. One count estimated that there were 47 sawmills by the 1870's. Ryerson, Hills & Co. however, remained under the same management for years.

In 1847, Martin Ryerson, at his own expense, built the first wagon road from Muskegon to Grand Rapids, following an Indian trail that went through the present Ravenna. He marked the line himself with the aid of an Indian, and then sent a gang of men to cut away the timber. Previous to this the only road to Grand Rapids was by foot along the beach to Grand Haven and then by boat or stage the rest of the way.

Martin Ryerson did not relax his efforts when he became a mill owner. He worked more tirelessly than ever, setting an example his men found difficult to follow. Their mill sawed logs already coming down the river. Soon they expanded their project to include lumbering camps of their own along the Muskegon River. This enterprise was handicapped by the uncertainty and difficulty of log delivery until the establishment of the booming companies to get the logs down river and sorted out for the several mills. More and bigger camps were started all along the river.

Then came the green winter (no snow) of 1870-71. In order to prevent worms from destroying the logs, they had to be gotten into water, and without snow, they had to be hauled on wheels – slow and expensive. Many lumbering operations went broke but Ryerson, Hills & Co. had the know-how to build wooden tram roads back into the woods and drew the cars with horses out to the river, an operation which kept them in business. They also used huge bobsleds on iced roads. The logs were then loaded onto flatcars for delivery by rail to the Ryerson saw mills on Muskegon Lake. Later as the cuts came to be farther and farther from the river, metal rails and steam locomotives took over from the wooden rails and horses.

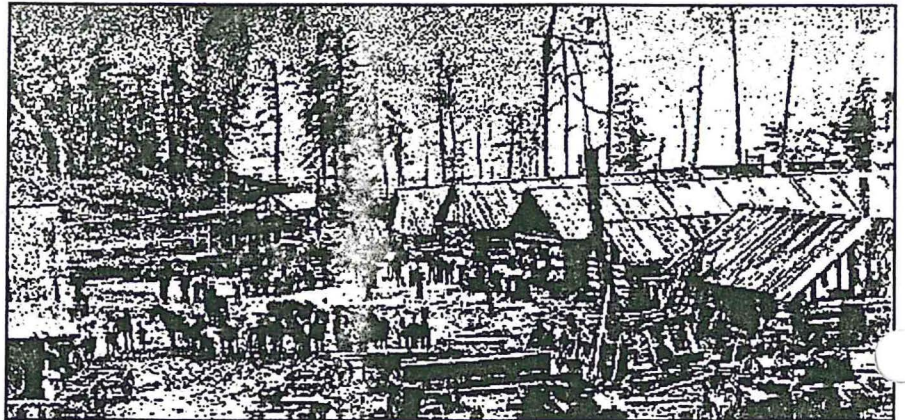
To facilitate their logging operations, several logging camps were established at strategic points such as the supply camp at Ryerson Switch, Headquarters at Jacob's Camp 1, and Camp 2 at the north end of Pickeral Lake. As inroads were made into the timber, the hauling distances increased even more.

Logs were then dumped into Long Lake and in the spring were floated to the south end of the lake, carried by the flood waters suddenly released from dams. There they were loaded on flatcars and hauled over a tram road to the Ryerson chute or roll-way located at the foot of Coopers St. on the Muskegon River.

In 1881, an observer described the work of the Ryerson & Hills loading operations. "The logs are drawn out of the lake on an endless chain which grabs the logs until they stop on a platform built up a little higher than the car bunkers. Eight men can load 12 cars and have them ready to move in 15 minutes. The locomotive moves the 12 cars to the river bank and then returns, making continuous trips all day. A day's work averages about 18 round trips or 216 cars daily!" This project was carried on every summer for about 12 years. Starting about May when the logging camps had closed down, it continued until all the logs had been hauled to the river.

The log haul to Ryerson Switch continued year after year. By 1886 it is claimed that an average of 300,000 feet of logs were hauled daily and dumped in the river, a total of 30,000,000 feet for the year. The old-timers remember that during June, July and August, "it was a big thrill to watch the logs go down the Ryerson chute, splash into the water and head for Muskegon."

1871 was the year of the "timber grab" when the government turned over land for sale and Ryerson & Hills along with many of the other big companies gathered up thousands of acres of good timber for cutting and speculation. In 1877 Ryerson & Hills also bought the Sam Rose holdings west of Newaygo. They were already doing big business but didn't reach their peak until the middle 1880's when they built a modern mill in Muskegon to take the ever increasing – and seemingly endless number of logs. It was built on the bank of the Muskegon Lake, along with an office and living quarters, near the channel to Lake Michigan. They employed about 85 men and housed their families too. It was a real company town.



THE MUSKEGON Chronicle

History Unveiled

March 27, 2000

The Receding waters of Muskegon Lake are offering a rare glimpse of the region's lumbering history.

Michael G. Walsh, Chronicle Staff Writer

As lake levels decline, ghosts of long-ago lumbering operations are beginning to re-emerge along the newly defined Muskegon Lake shoreline. For amateur archaeologists, the low water spells a summer of adventure.

John McGarry, director of the Muskegon County Museum said many people have found logs bearing strange-looking symbols. In recent weeks, the museum has had trouble keeping in stock a book that identifies the rune-like timber brands, designs that identified the company that owned each log.

Stan Woodard, a North Muskegon amateur historian and archaeologist, has found more than log marks. He's found an entire community that once bustled along Muskegon Lake's north shore.

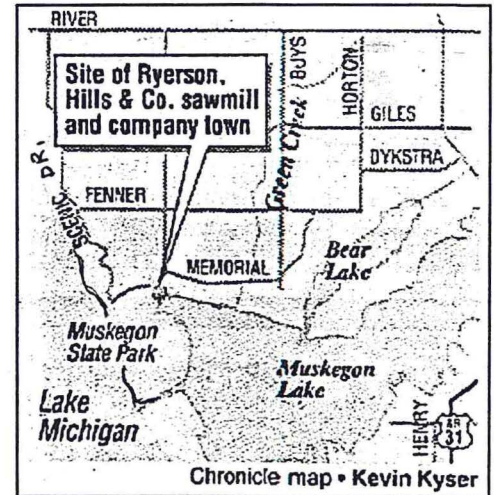
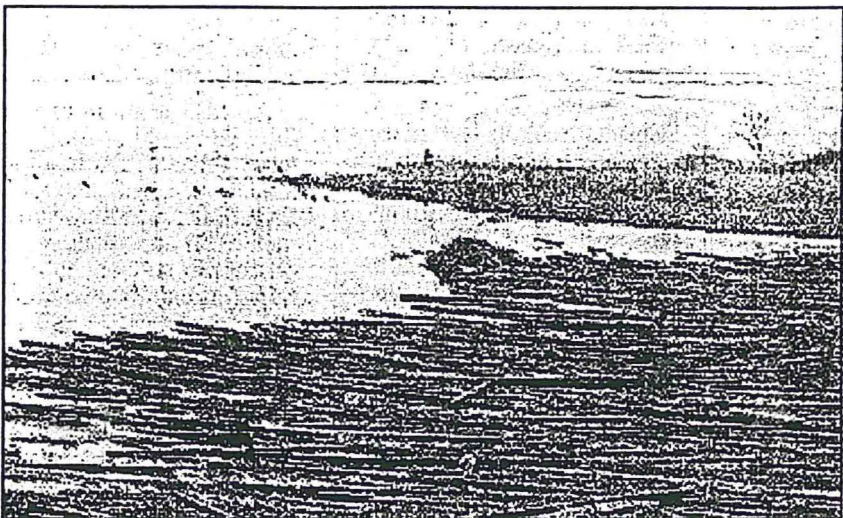
Ryerson, Hills and Co. operated a sawmill and company town between 1851 and 1891 near what is now known as Snug Harbor in Muskegon State Park. Today, its foundations are again visible – as are hundreds of square feet of lumbering debris, timber the operation discarded and used as a crude roadway across swampy areas.

"It's exposed for the first time in over 100 years," Woodard said.

McGarry said the museum is always interested in unusual finds. For example, a part of a dugout canoe used by "chain dogs" – loggers who linked logs at the mouth of the Muskegon River into makeshift rafts to haul them to the mills – recently turned up. It will make its way to an exhibit.

The Ryerson debris field of discarded logs is about 40 feet wide by 100 yards long. It's still in use today but by a different kind of empire builder. "There are muskrats out there building condos out of that pine," Woodard said. "They're doing their own lakeshore development!"

But it can be dangerous, too. "I went in up to my chest the first time I was out there," Woodard said. "It's mucky and it's sawdust, so it's treacherous."



The Life of a Logger

A lumber camp contained all the buildings and supplies necessary to maintain from 50 to 100 men. It usually included a bunkhouse, a cook's shanty, a stable, a blacksmith's shop and a company store. They were constructed of logs or rough timbers with mud used to fill the gaps and keep out the cold. They were rough and fitted the use for which they were intended. After breakfast the teamsters and loaders left for the skidways to load their sleighs and start for the river and the choppers and sawyers set out for the swamp.

From a letter written by a logger in 1882, we read "We have to get up at about 2:30 a.m. and get breakfast at 3:00 and then walk four miles to work taking a cold dinner with us. We get back at sundown so you see we have a pretty long day in the woods. When we go to bed, we hear snoring in seven different languages, imported from Germany, Norway, etc. No lumberjack is troubled with insomnia after 12 or 14 hours of hard physical labor in the open air. We are soon asleep, only to be awakened in a few minutes by the voice of the cook singing, "Roll out your dead bodies. Daylight in the swamp!"

In 1883, the steamer **CARRIE RYERSON** was built for use between the downtown mill and Bay Mill Park. It carried passengers and freight and was used for towing logs and other ships. It also was equipped with a firefighting pump to aid in putting out mill fires around the lake. The steamer was named for Martin's daughter-in-law, Carrie (Hutchinson) Ryerson.

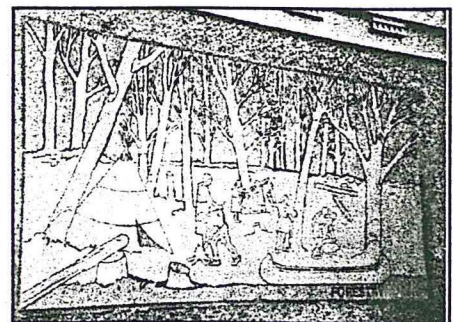
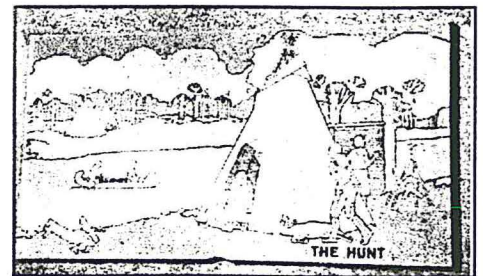
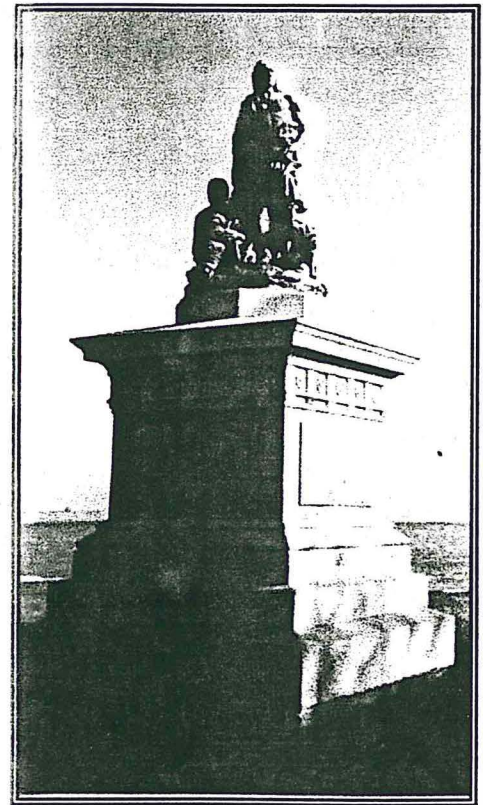
Ryerson, Hills & Co. owned about 900 acres along the Lake Michigan shore. In 1923, this property was acquired as a public park by the state of Michigan, the County Board of Supervisors, the city of Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. In 1925 The Scenic Highway was built through the park and it has become an integral part of the area's recreational activities ever since.

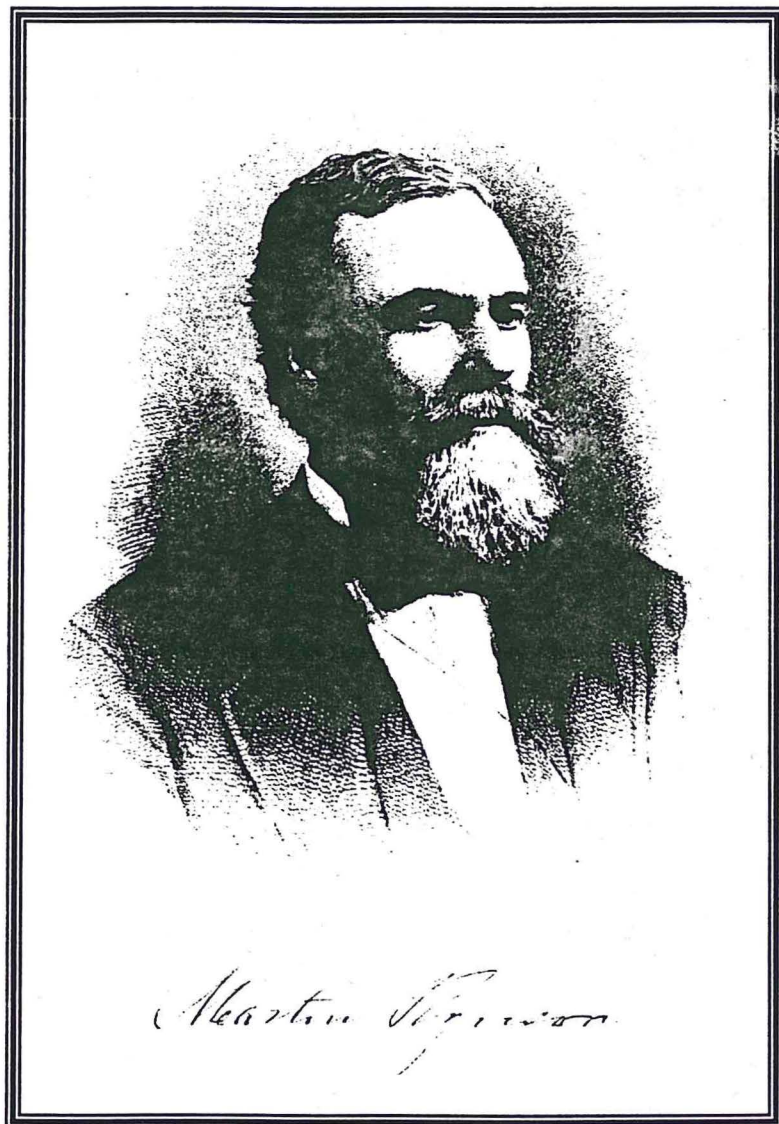
By the 1860s Martin Ryerson had expanded his business to include offices and lumberyards in Chicago, operating by the name Martin Ryerson & Co. The demand for lumber for the westward expansion of the country enabled him to secure a market for his lumber at prices far above what could be realized in Muskegon. He invested in numerous other Chicago enterprises including real estate.

The Ryerson, Hills & Co. mill in Muskegon operated until Nov. 11, 1891 when it cut its last logs. The small business started there with the money Martin was able to save from his small wages had prospered and grown until it eventually became one of the largest of its kind in the West.

Martin's young Indian wife had died but he never forgot that it was among her people that he had acquired a profound admiration for their character and friendship. In their honor, he presented to the people of Chicago, a bronze Indian group, **The Ottawa's** - a hunter, a squaw and a wolf dog, in bronze. It has large bas-reliefs around its granite pedestal illustrating scenes of Indian life. The statue, one of the finest specimens of bronze in the west, is erected in Chicago's Lincoln Park. It was sculpted by the celebrated J.J. Boyle.

Martin had a daughter by his first wife. During the regular session of the Michigan State Legislature in 1857, Act No. 89 was passed which stated that *Mary Ryerson, the daughter of Martin Ryerson by an Indian mother, born at Muskegon in 1843 is hereby declared to be legitimized and shall forever be entitled to all the rights, privileges, powers and property which she may acquire from her parents...in every respect as if the said Mary had been born during the lawful wedlock of Martin Ryerson and the said Indian woman.* It was approved on February 10, 1857. Mary has been characterized as a fine and cultivated lady. Martin was careful to see that she received a thorough education in Paris, and he provided her with a generous dowry when she married **Charles R. BUTTS**. Descendants from this marriage lived in Switzerland.





In 1851 Martin married again to **Louisa M. DUVERNEY**, the daughter of Deacon Pierre C. Duverney of Grand Haven. She died shortly thereafter, without issue.

In 1855 he married a third time to **Mary A. CAMPAU**, daughter of Antoine Campau, the Grand Rapids trader and early settler. By her he had one child,
MARTIN ANTOINE RYERSON .



Mary (Campau) Ryerson

Martin Ryerson died in Boston, Mass. on Sept. 6, 1887 where he had been vacationing. He was about 69. He left an estate estimated at 4 million dollars including several blocks of prime Chicago real estate. It included the southeast corner of Franklin and Madison Streets, the north-east corner of Adams Street and Wabash Avenue, the east side of Wabash Avenue just south of Madison Street, the north side of Randolph Street east of State street and 330 feet on Market Street, extending to the river. He erected several large and handsome buildings on these properties. He also had some interest in the Elgin Watch Co.

He had for more than 30 years been identified with the growth of Chicago and gave liberally of his wealth to every worthy cause. Beneficiaries of his estate included the Chicago Relief and Aid Society and eight different hospitals and asylums including the endowment of an 8 bed ward in Mercy Hospital.

The chief landmark in Muskegon that recalls the days when Indians roamed the region is the old Indian burying ground on Morris Street. Martin Ryerson acquired the land with the intention of giving it to the city as a park. Questions of title, however, kept the question before the courts for many years. In 1925, the state Supreme Court finally ruled that title of the property legally belonged to Mr. Ryerson. His son, Martin A. Ryerson then forwarded to the city a quit claim deed for the Indian Cemetery. He also sent a certified check for \$5000 to provide perpetual care and another for \$2,225 for the immediate beautification of the grounds. The threat of paving it over for a parking lot has now been settled!

It has been said (though unproven) that Martin's first Indian wife is buried in the little one acre yard.

Lost and Found

.....and now for the rest of the story!

Remaining behind in Paterson, NJ when young Martin Ryerson went off for Michigan was his older brother, George Boice Ryerson. George Boice had married and had three children. Following his trade as a carpenter, he had gone to Savannah, Georgia to work, regularly sending money home to his wife with the plan for her to eventually join him.

Now she received a letter telling her that he had volunteered for service in the campaign against the Seminole Indians of Florida. That was the last letter she received and rumors led her to believe that he had been killed in battle. She clung to the hope that the rumors were false but after a lengthy period of time without word, she was convinced that he was dead and took her children to New York State to live. She died not long after, leaving three orphaned children. When these children grew up,

1. **Clara** married Cornelius Schurter and settled on her husband's farm in Newburg, NY.
2. **Sarah** married also. It is said that she and her children started for California with a wagon train to join her husband who had gone on ahead. They were never heard from again and were presumed dead, either having been killed by Indians or having perished from the hardships of the trip.
3. **George Boice Jr.** went west as a young man and became a noted Indian fighter. He was one of General Custer's scouts. He later went to Mexico where he became the owner of three famous ranches, the Los Vallecitos, the Santa Clara and the Ytelia, a total of about 76,000 acres, and also became the governor of Lower California.

(This sounds like another exciting story – research underway!)

And now the story takes a curious turn.

George Boice Ryerson who had been presumed killed in battle with the Seminoles, had not perished after all but had been desperately wounded and laid near death in a Savannah hospital. When he had recovered enough to realize the passing of time, he wrote immediately to his wife in Paterson but she had already moved away. None of his friends or relatives seemed to know where she had gone. He continued searching to no avail. After 13 years, he finally headed across the Plains to the west coast.

He spent many years in California without hearing of any of his family until one day in San Francisco, he chanced to meet his brother Martin! One can only imagine the shock and joy of that reunion. Martin invited George to return with him to Chicago. Sadly, Martin died a short time later, cutting short their glad reunion.

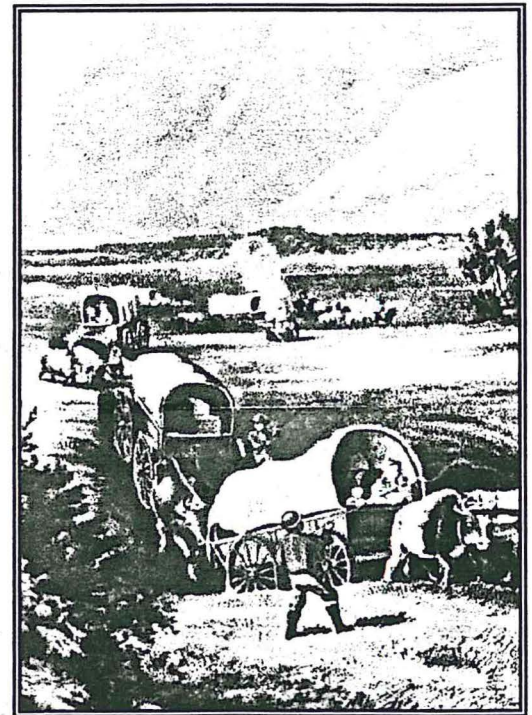
Early the next year, **Clara** Schurter read a brief notice in the newspaper telling of the death of Martin Ryerson, Chicago millionaire who had been born in Paterson. Recalling her mother's stories of an uncle who had gone west as a young lad, she wrote to Chicago, seeking information on his Paterson connections.

A reply from Martin's son, Martin Antoine confirmed her suspicions that the Chicago millionaire was her uncle!

She was further astounded to learn that her own father was not dead but alive and well in Chicago!

After a separation of over 52 years, father and daughter and son (Geo. Boice Jr.) were finally reunited.

WOW!



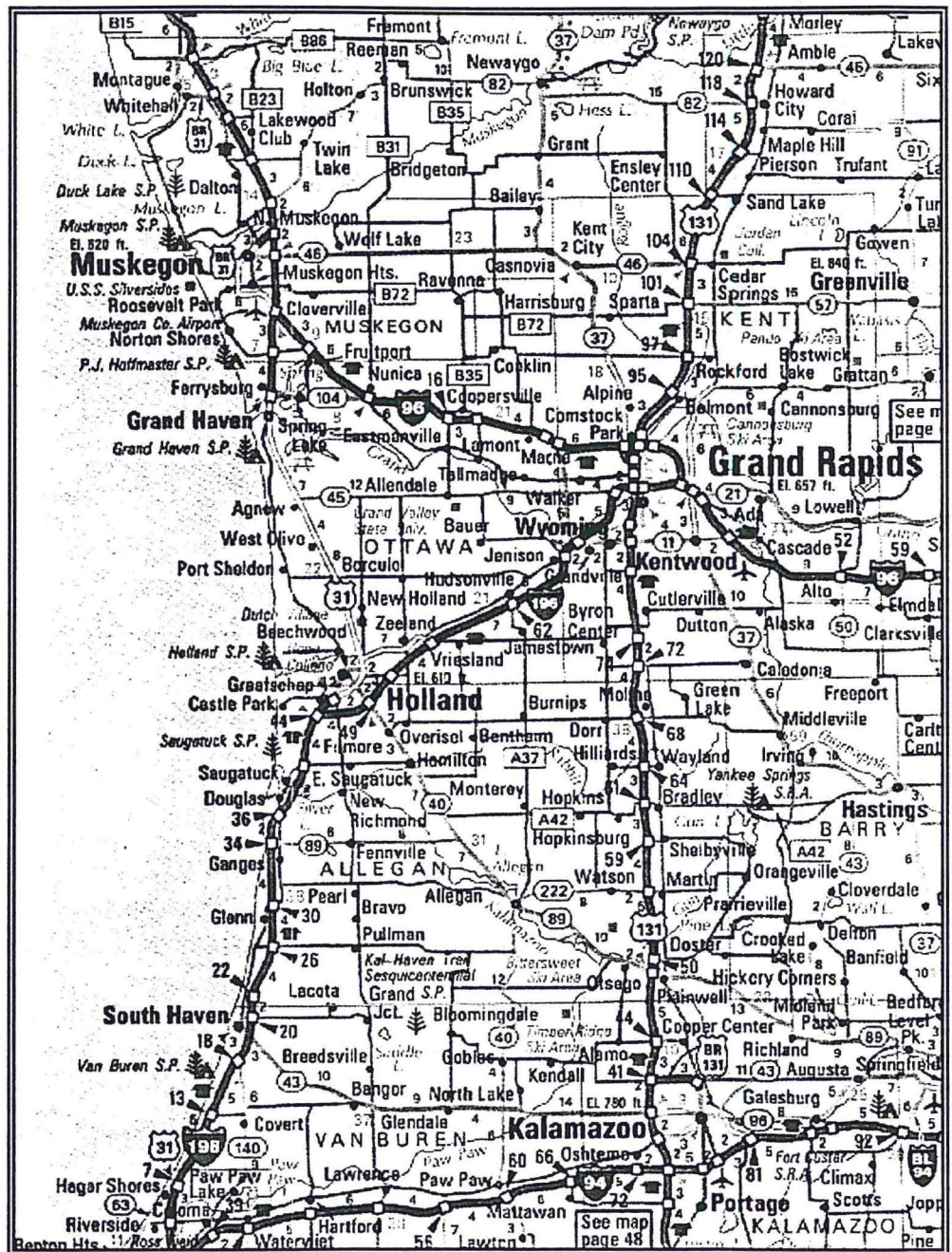
But wait – this strange tale is not over yet!

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Line of DESCENT for
 Martin Ryerson

Reijer
 Reijer Reijersz
 Martin Reyersen
 Frans Ryerson
 Theunis Ryerson
 Theunis Ryerson
 Theunis Ryerson
 Martin Ryerson
 Martin Antoine Ryerson



More RYERSON "Stuff" in a DUMPSTER!

Cardboard boxes, old office furnishings, wooden pallets, broken furniture and heaps of other junk - thrown helter skelter into a dumpster in Newton, Sussex County, New Jersey. Mark Forder just needed a chair for his home office and was rummaging through this dumpster when he spied an old metal box. It was unusual enough that he pulled it out, thinking it would look good on a shelf in his office as well. Instead it got placed on a shelf in a closet where it sat for the next six months. Finally finding some spare time, Mark pried open the padlock and discovered that the old steel box was jammed full to the top with what at first appeared to be junk! What he really had was well over 2000 individual items of great interest to collectors of ephemera, local historians, and museums such as The Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame and the Smithsonian. It included advertising pieces, Billheads, menus, photographs, political items,

railroad memorabilia, broadsides, blotters and business cards, theater bills, and 19th century baseball items. He spent the next year researching the first 500 pieces - and has a way to go! You can see more of this collection on the internet at <http://home.att.net/~mforder/> We reproduce several fascinating items here connected with the Ryerson family. They feature **H. O. Ryerson**, a druggist in Newton, NJ. Mark has suggested that we locate a book called "Images of America-Newton" by the Arcadia Publishing Company which has photographs of the old drug store. I haven't found a copy of that book yet - perhaps one of our readers is familiar with it and will share the old photos with us. H.O. Ryerson is a descendant of Martin > Joris > Martin Ryerson who settled in Hunterdon Co. NJ and whose family later moved up to Sussex Co. The old steel box, curiously, belonged to a Charles Steele and measures about 12" x 12" x 18."

H. O. RYERSON & CO., DRUGGISTS, NEWTON, N. J. PROPRIETORS OF "Coltsfoot Expectorant," "AGUE PILLS." —AND— "IMPROVED CONDITION POWDERS." — SOLE AGENTS FOR Wadsworth, Martinez & Longman's PURE PAINTS.	<i>Newton, N. J.</i> <i>1884</i> <i>Mo</i> TO H. O. RYERSON & CO., DR. To Amount of Account Due. = = = \$ <i>5.00</i> <i>and Jan 4/84</i> Statements sent on the first of each month. No goods sold on long credit. All accounts due on the first of the month following the purchase.
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KEEP THIS CARD FOR REFERENCE, AS IT HAS THE New Code of Weather Signals of the U. S. Signal Service, WHICH ARE DISPLAYED EACH DAY AT THE DRUG STORE —OF— H. O. RYERSON & CO., NEWTON, N. J. These indications are telegraphed to us direct from the Chief Signal Office, at Washington, D. C., each morning.

[over]

To The Voters Of Newton

We the undersigned feeling that our fathers, husbands, brothers and sons are exposed to undue temptation by having to go to places where intoxicants are sold to cast their votes on election day, do implore your political party to change its place of voting, in the future, to some place where there can be no such demoralizing influence. We feel that the law prohibiting the sale on that day, does not do away with the evil.

John A. H. Martin	Mary M. Ryerson
A. S. Martin	Map. C. Fowler
Ed. Colan	Wm. Henry H. Hazzard
Mrs David Heitzel	Mrs R. H. Ross
Wm. Samuel Easton	S. P. Adams
Mrs Mary E. Steller	Mrs Chas. C. Thompson
J. E. Hough	Mrs M. W. Armstrong
Mrs W. L. Perkins	Mrs J. H. Hopkins
Wm. H. Phipps	Mrs J. L. Howells
Ed. H. Phipps	Ed. McDougall
M. A. Shan	Mrs S. P. Cummings
E. A. Woodford	R. A. Woodford
Mrs L. Kew	W. H. Armstrong
Mrs George D. Cummings	L. Orelana
Miss Annie Craik	Drusilla B. Bell
Mrs Anna Craik	Mrs E. E. Barrett
	Mrs. C. R. McPartey

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The RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association Newsletter

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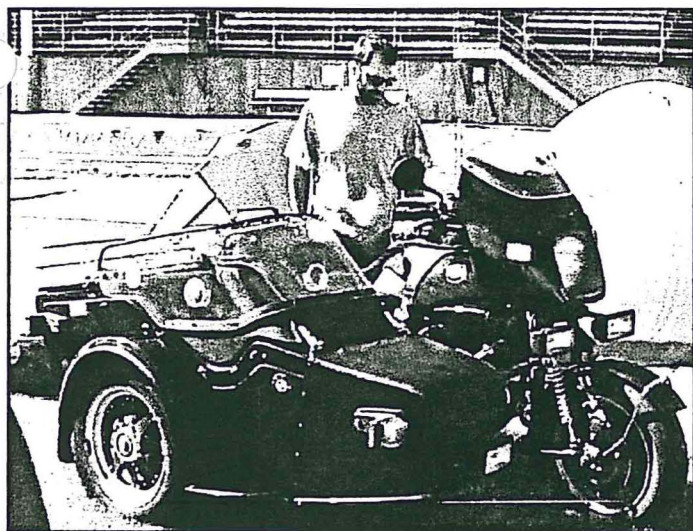
FINDING THE RIGHT WIFE FOR

JOHN RYERSON

by Phyllis Ryerse with lots of help from Ron Sieber

Luke's son -- Samuel and Joseph's brother - Mystery Man!

The mysterious and elusive John was the son of Luke and Johanna Ryerse. (*Port Ryerse Journal February 2000*) He left such a scant paper trail that his life continues to be cloaked in mystery. Mystery can lead to speculation - and we have believed for many years that his first wife was Hannah Waln from Hunterdon Co., New Jersey as found in the old marriage records there. This error was repeated and eventually even printed in the Ryerse-Ryerson Family History that we published in 1974. We were wrong!



Onto the scene *roars* our cousin, **RON SIEBER**, out there kicking up dust on his BMW motorcycle on weekends. A great-great-great-great-great grandson of John Ryerson, Ron is constantly digging into the old records - researching - questioning. Why did John move west? Where did he train to become a minister? What happened to his sisters? Was he a Loyalist like his brothers? Did he fight in the Rev. War? Where did he settle in Ohio? When were his children born? Why didn't he leave a will?

In order to get a better picture of John's life, Ron created a fascinating and helpful 'time line.' From this we began to understand John's activities a little more. John

was only about 20 when his mother died. The Ryerson Genealogy tells us that he went to Easton, Pa. with his sister Sarah. We know nothing about her - not even if she was older or younger than John, and we know nothing of his activities during this period.

Undaunted, Ron continued his intense search and eventually turned up three important old records that have shed new light on John and his life. An extremely interesting find was a Muster Roll from the Pennsylvania Archives:

"Capt. Abraham Horn's Militia Company in the Second Class of the Second Battalion of NORTHAMPTON County under the command of Col. Nicholas Kern in the service of the United States on the frontiers of the said county for two months service - called to turn out & meet at Capt. Jacob Hellers the 16th day of April 1782 - pay commencing 2 days before the said day of rendezvous."

Included with the list of privates in this militia company was John Ryerson. Days served on the frontier: 60. This astounding discovery meant that John was not a Loyalist like his brothers but joined the American side! No wonder he didn't move to New Brunswick to join them!

"....it was pretty late in the conflict," says Ron. "For all intents and purposes, the war was over by then...and if he was just in the militia, it might have been an admission on his part that the American rebels had won the war. It was probably a peace keeping effort on the border at that point. Maybe his brothers up in New Brunswick wouldn't have held that against him!"

If that piece of information wasn't dramatic enough, wait till you hear what ELSE Ron dug up!

Ryason was the way most of John's sons spelled their surname. **Isaac RYASON** was John Ryerson's fourth son and an early settler of DeKalb Co., Indiana. Isaac built a fine farm, raised a nice family and lived a full life. His wife passed away and, at the age of 79, Isaac took a new wife. The discovery of the record of that marriage record set Ron off on a whole new search -- for it stated very clearly -- the stunning news -- that Isaac's mother (and John Ryerson's wife) was a lady named **SARAH RODER** - NOT Hannah Waln!

An even more curious find was a listing for Captain **Conrad RODER** found in that same battalion of Northampton Co., Pa. militia. Was there a connection? A quick check of the internet turned up the Roder/Roeder Family web page with a listing for Conrad and three generations before him...and yes, giving him a daughter Sarah born 23 December 1781!

Before we could break out the champagne, Ron fired up his calculator....and it soon became clear that this Sarah, born in 1781, could not be the mother of John Ryerson's oldest child Samuel, born 1787!

"In my mind," says Ron, "this Sarah is as good a candidate as I have been able to find but she could **not possibly** have been Samuel's mother. She could, however, be **John's second wife** and the mother of the children born after 1801 - which started coming along like clockwork!" She must have died about 1810 because from the marriage records -- "Ye Ancient Swains," abstracted from the Lancaster, Ohio Gazette, we learn that John married (thirdly ?) Mrs. Margaret Friend in November of 1811 and had one more child, Reson, born in 1812, before John died.

And so a different mystery arises....did John Ryerson have THREE wives? Have we found the correct Sarah Roder? Why can't we find birth records for the other children? "The search goes on," says Ron. "I'm still waiting for a sign from Sarah!"

The last we know about John Ryerson is extracted from the records of the Common Pleas Court of Pickaway County, Ohio. '...To the Sheriff of said county Greetings. We command you to summon John Ranalls if he be found in your bailiwick to appear before the Judges of the Court forthwith to answer until John Ryerson of a Plea of Trespass, Assault and Battery Damage \$500.' John Ranalls was brought before the court....'whereupon John Ryerson by R. Douglass his attorney complains that the said John

Ranalls on the first day of September in 1813 with force and arms, to wit; with fists, clubs and sticks made an assault upon him and then and there beat, wounded, kicked, bruised and evilly entreated him insomuch that of his life it was greatly despaired and other wrongs and injuries to the great Damage of the said John Ryerson five hundred dollars as he saith and therefore bringeth suit."

Futher proceedings were postponed until the next term held in February of 1814. At that time the suit was discontinued by the Attorney for the Plaintiff because John Ryerson had died on January 1st, 1814. One can only wonder if it was from the effect of this assault.

He died without a will but the Probate records of Pickaway County gives an appraisal of the inventory of his small estate.

Probate record: p. 169

State of Ohio, Pickaway County (Seal)

At the house of Samuel Ryarson (*John's oldest son*) in Salt Creek township, personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace for said County, viz. Henry Hallar, Samuel Harvey, & Henry Whistler, who being duly sworn according to the law, to appraise his property of John Ryersan dec'd as such as was order to shown them - Certified by me this 19th day of February 1814. John Scott Esq'r. Fee not pd. 30 cts. paid feby 16th 1814.

Articles of this present vendue is such: article, 1st That the highest bidder, shall be the buyer. Article 2d That any person buying any property, at his sale, in the amount of two dollars or & no more, must pay the cash down today. Article 3d That any person buying to the amount of two dollars, & upward, shall have six months credit, by giving approved security. Article 4th The administrator reserves one bed to himself to save the property from under value, and further

p. 170

any person, that buys at this sale & does not comply with the above article or returns the property, before sun set shall pay twenty cents of each hundred, for disappointment of sale.

March 4, 1814

Samuel Ryason adm.

John Ryason dec'd

1 pr double trees John Pain .50
1 bake oven & bail Moses Huston 1.25
1 large kettle & bail John Scott 4.12-1/2
1 Set plow irons Anthony Howard 4.76
1 Bed stead & 1 chair Saml. Ryason " .40
1 Shovel plow James Huston 2.81
1 pr Horse geers? James Morris 5.55
1 pr of Horse geers Saml. Harvey 5.25
1 old Saddle John Ryason 1.1
1 new Saddle Robert Howard 8.32-1/2

1 pr Saddle Bags John Gay 1.38
 1 Silver Watch Alex Berry 8.2-1/2
 1 Silver Watch Moses Huston 6.36-1/2
 1 pr Spectacles Thomas Harbirk .63
 2 Books Saml. Ryason .51
 1 Razor & Stone Saml. Ryason 1.50
 1 Skip of bees, 1st choice John Gay 3.20
 1 Skip of bees, 2d choice John Gay 2.68
 1 half Skip of bees Thomas Harbirk 1.7-1/4
 1 Small lot of 5 tools Alexander Berry 1.1
 1 Eu & blk lamb James Morris 5.1
 2 Sheep 1st choice John Parcils 6.79
 2 Sheep 2d choice Geo Hoster 5.51
 1 Sheep 3d choice John Scotts 2.50
 1 Cower(?) Parker Lee 13.12-1/2
 1 Note for 8g(?) Bare (or Barl) John Pain 6.3
 1 Blanket Saml. Ryason 2.3
 1 Blanket Anthony Howard 2.39
 p. 171 (poor or light copy, all of this page)
 1 Lot old used clothing Saml. Ryason 2.2
 2 Flath? (poor copy) (plates?) Saml. Ryason 3.00
 1 Lott Bricks .. over 100.50 cts John Pain 10.00
 1 Lott mens cloaths Saml. Ryason 4.00
 1 Sorrel Mare John Scott
 10.00 (could read 40.00 or 70.00)
 1 Bottle Robert Howard 00.35

We the appraisers of John Ryerson's (inv?) after appraising the movable property, think ourselves bound to allow the widow something for her (?) selve, or servant, (?) & children, one year — after due consideration, we allow her what property she has now got (?) with. **Her loom** — As witness (?) our hands this 19th day of February 1814.

Henry Haller

Samuel Harvey

Henry Whistler

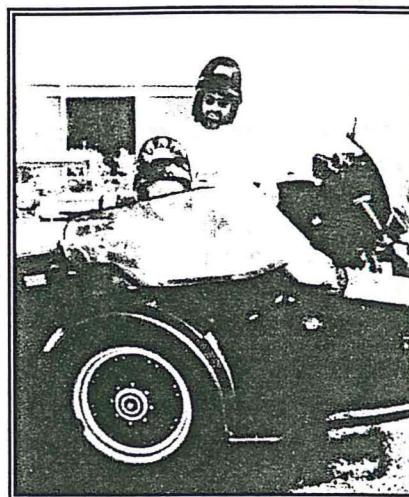
Fee not paid. 50 cts paid Feby 16th 1815

END OF PROBATE

Inventory lists are some of my favorite documents and give an actual LOOK into the lives of our ancestors. John Ryerson's estate was modest but interesting. He owned some sheep, a cow.....he kept some bees, rode a sorrel mare and had a couple of saddles. He shaved....he had 2 beds, a chair, some old clothes and a few tools.

If I had been at the sale...what would I have bid on? I would have wondered about the two books, what were their titles? Why did he have TWO watches when most folks had none? Spectacles?? Gold rimmed reading glasses I suppose. And what was that bottle clear at the end of the list? Did it hold medicine? Or something a little more potent!

FOR NOW, John's first wife remains anonymous but the search goes on!



1985 BMW K100 with an EML sidecar.

For the guys: the engine displacement is 1000 cc's developing 90 horsepower.

For the gals: put on your helmet, get in and hang on!

RON SIEBER has been interested in family history since he flunked an 8th grade genealogy project! Later a great aunt gave him a thick binder on the Norwegian side of his family, his brother-in-law gave him an early copy of Family Tree Maker and he's been up-grading ever since...bigger hard drive, CD's, scanner etc. He says he always keeps coming back to the John Ryason line — perhaps because of the unusual name corruption/variation! In 'real life' he is part owner of a heavy equipment repair business.

Ron: "Over the years I've owned about 10 motorcycles, all BMW's with the exception of a vintage Cushman scooter that my Dad gave me and a 1967 Honda 305 Dream - my first real motorcycle. I bought my first "hack" about 1985 — a vintage BMW R60, but after a trip to the Canadian Worlds Fair I decided the "old girl" didn't have enough horsepower (only 30 wimpy hp) and subsequently I sold her! About 15 years ago, Maggie and I joined the BMW Riders of Oregon. Motorcycle touring is a truly great way to travel — especially if it's not raining! I've found that it's those twisty little back roads that lead me to the most interesting places.

My riding buddy Fred asked me if I was interested in going to the "49er Rally," the biggest rally on the west coast sponsored by the Northern California BMW club. We took a couple of day rides through the Gold country, ending up at an old courthouse where we spent 4 hours finding obits, voting records etc. looking for some of Maggie's ancestors! Fred was a good sport about it!"

Ron and Maggie live in Salem, Oregon with their daughter Anna who is 6 years old.

State of Ohio }
Pickaway County } ss.

At the House of Samuel Ryerson
in said county town ship, personally appe-
ared before me, a justice of the peace for
said County, Wm. Henry Mearns, Samuel
Mearns, & Henry Whittier, who being duly
sworn according to law, to apprehend the
property of John Ryerson dec'd as such
as was due to show them - Certified by
me this 19th day of February 1854

John Scott Esq.
The not p? 30 Cts. paid July 16th 1854

Articles of this present Vendor is such: Article
1st That the highest bid do, shall be the best.
Article, 2^d That any person buying and pro-
perty, at this sale, to the amount of two dollars
or more, must pay the cash down to day.
Article 3^d That any person buying to the
amount of two dollars, & upwards, shall have
six months credit, by giving approved
Security; Article the 4th The administrator
resolves and bid to himself to save the
property from under value; and further

Then **WHO** was Hannah Waln??

By Phyllis Ryerse

When I still lived in New Jersey, I saw a news item in the local paper one day about CATS! It told about a cat that had wandered into (and stayed) at the Burholme Mansion located a bit north of Philadelphia. The Burholme Mansion, it noted was the home of Robert W. Ryerss, the son of Joseph Ryerss, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant. I thought that I had seen every house, every mansion/farm and piece of land that EVER belonged to ANY Ryerse/Ryerson etc. in the entire New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania area! But here was one I had missed.

As it happened, on a later trip to Philly, I was able to find Burholme Park...but alas, the museum was closed that day and all I could do was walk around this wonderful old Victorian mansion and try to peek into the windows. I didn't see a cat!

In later correspondence with the librarian and museum curator at Burholme, we discussed the Ryerss family of Staten Island, trying to make a connection between them and Joseph Ryerss who built the mansion.

Although we did not establish a connection at that time, I pulled out that file again when Ron and I were trying to identify John Ryerson's first wife. One sentence jumped out at me – that I hadn't noticed before. The people at Burholme didn't know much about the Ryerss family but had much more information on the maternal side, the WALNS!

Further research has now established the following descent from **Adriaen Ryerse** of Brooklyn, N.Y., the older brother of our Martin Ryerson.

Adriaen's son was **Gozen Adriance Ryerss** who married Miss Vanderbilt and moved to Staten Island.

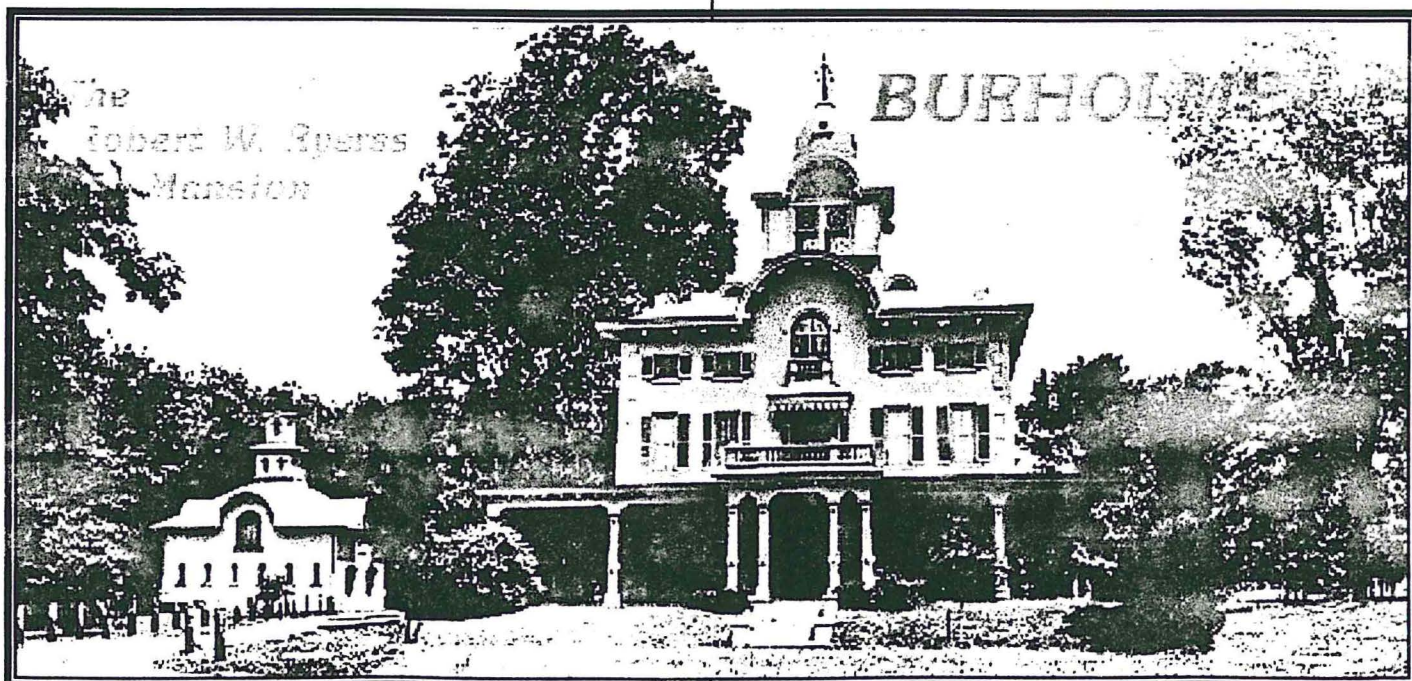
Their son **Adrian Ryerss** married Esther Dubois.

Their son was **Judge Gozen Ryerss**. (see next page)

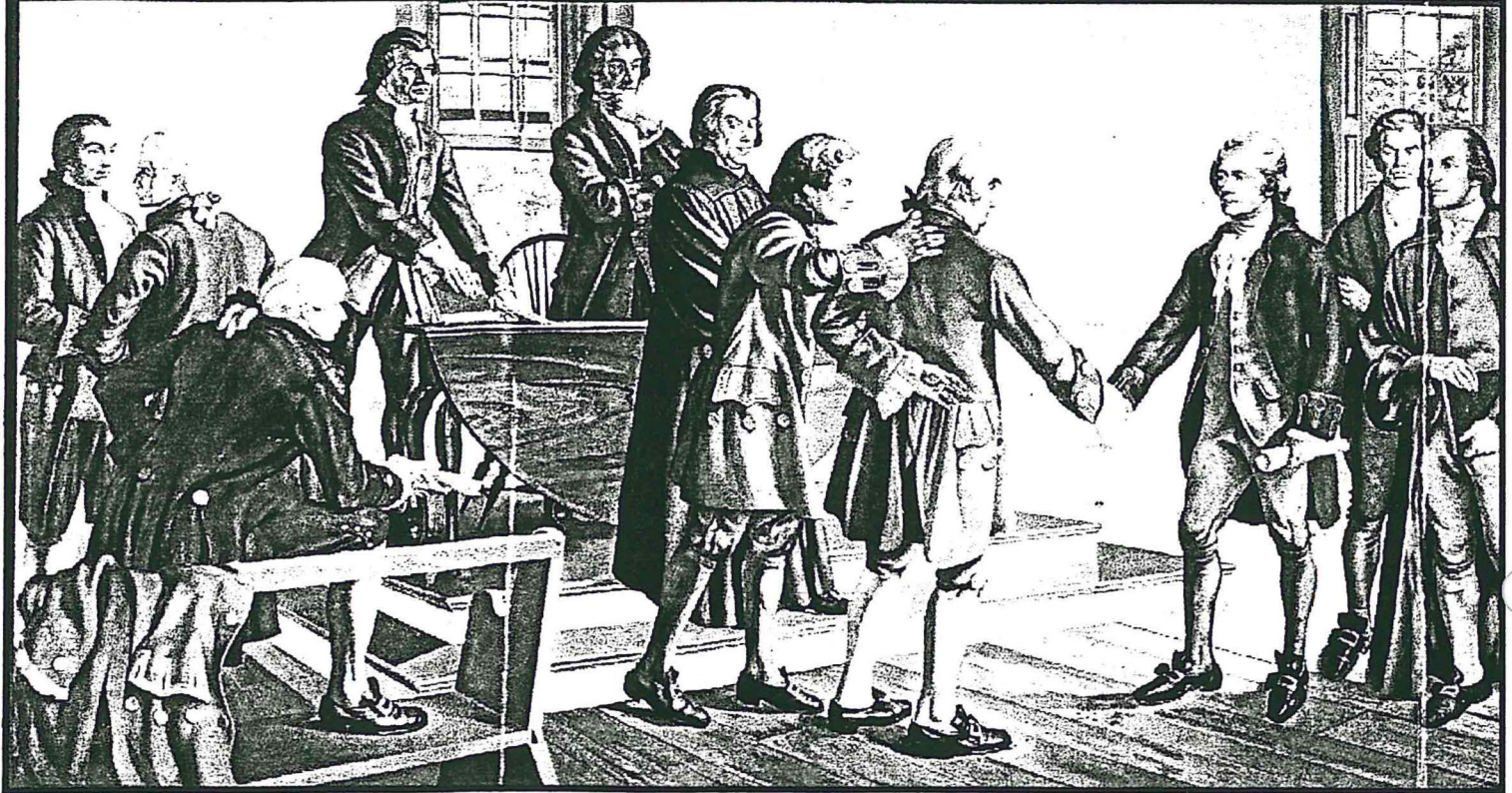
His son was **John P. Ryerss** who married
HANNAH WALN in Hunterdon Co., N.J.
At last, we have Hannah married to the right husband!

Their son was **Joseph Waln Ryerss** who built the Burholme Mansion in Philadelphia.

His son was **Robert Ryerss** who willed Burholme Mansion and 50 acres of land to the City of Philadelphia to be used as a park, library and museum
..... in which there lives this cat.....



Delegates at the New York Convention

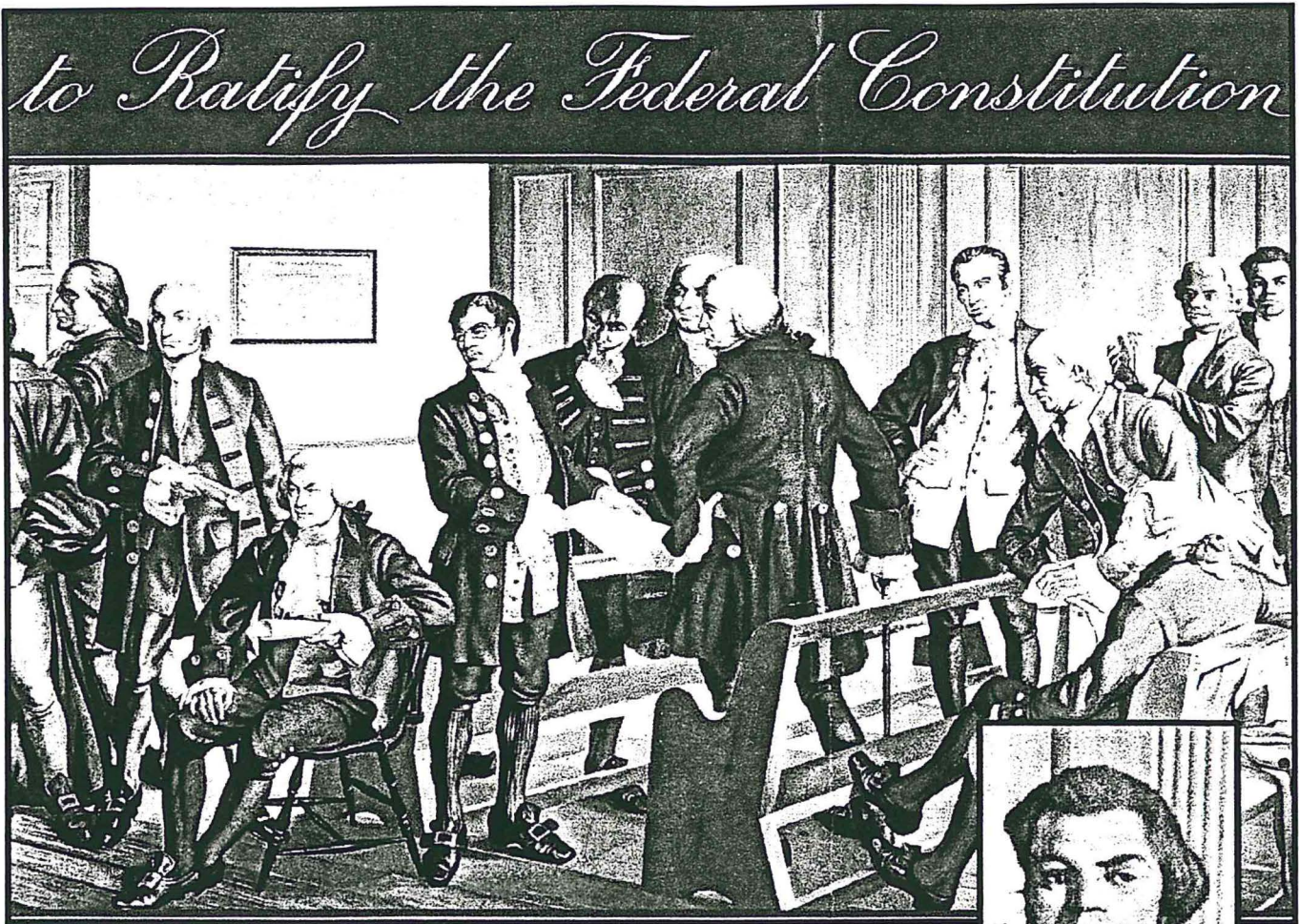


On June 17, 1788, over sixty elected delegates from throughout New York State attended the opening session of the New York Ratification Convention which met at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to decide if the state would ratify the federal Constitution. As the delegates converged on Poughkeepsie, they realized the critical situation of the state and the country.

Almost immediately, Federalists such as Alexander Hamilton, Robert R. Livingston and John Jay began to single out members of the opposition to converse with them on the subject of the Constitution.

On July 26, the convention voted 30 to 27 to ratify the Constitution without condition, but with recommendatory amendments that eventually served as the basis for the Bill of Rights.

This large, richly colored mural, painted by Gerald Foster, was installed in the Poughkeepsie Post Office in 1938 to commemorate this historic event. Governor George Clinton is seen in the center shaking hands with Alexander Hamilton. At the far right is our distant cousin, **Gozen Ryerss**.



From right to left : Phillip Van Cortlandt, Cornelius Schoonmaker, Peter Vrooman, John Haring, Israel Thompson, Robert R. Livingston, Melancton Smith, Gov. George Clinton, Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Bancker, John Jay, James Clinton, Isaac Roosevelt, John Sloss Hobart, Jacobus Swartwout, Peter Vandervoort, James Duane, Phillip Livingston, John Lansing, Lewis Morris, Richard Morris, Dirck Wyncoop and **Gozen Ryerss.**



1 Lot red Bird Clothing... Saml Ryerson	2. 2
2. Hat... ..	3. 00
1 Lot Bricks. per 100. 5000 ft. ... Pain	10. 00
1 Lot men's Clothing... Saml Ryerson	4. 00
1 Brown Mare... John H. H. ...	4. 00
1 Bottle... Robert Howard	00 25

We the administrators of John Ryerson's estate after administering the movable property, think ourselves bound to allow the widow something for her subsistence & expenses, one year - after due consideration, we allow her what is properly due her now gotten with the loan - as this is our friends this 10th day of February 1814

Henry Mallow
James Harvey
Manny Mallow
The not paid. 5000
10 and 100 100 1815

Last part of the Inventory from the Probate Records of the estate of **JOHN RYERSON**, deceased.
It lists the dollar value that the item brought at the vendue and who purchased it.

Bits and Pieces - found by Geri Ryerson Kanner on the internet!

From the Internet – Assorted old RYERSON businesses operating in NEW YORK

Ryerson Steel

Ryerson Music Publishers, Inc.

Ryerson Street Block Association

Ryerson Dodge, Inc.

Ryerson Street Realty Corp.

Ryerson Towers, Inc.

From an old Boston Newspaper.....A Big HAUL.

On the evening of the 10th inst., Mary (Kershaw) Fenton was arrested by Capt. Howard for larceny. The marshal was not satisfied that the theft of the shawl was the only offense she had committed and succeeded in tracing the woman to No. 6 John Street, which proved a veritable storehouse of stolen goods. All the forenoon the officers labored, packing trunks and boxes with articles of every conceivable design and material. The seizure represents in round figures \$1000, and is the greatest transaction of the kind that ever occurred in this city.

Following is a list of some of the articles recovered:

1 box celluloid rings
1 plush picture frame
2 silk umbrellas
5 parasols
7 hats and bonnets
3 gilt easels
1 brass easel
1 doz. breast pins
4 pairs kid gloves
5 skirts, cotton and woolen
1 dress
2 wrappers
1 silk dress
1 waterproof
1 doz. aprons

5 corsets
275 yards calico
30 pairs of woolen and cotton stockings
50 yards dress flannel
50 yards veiling
1/2 doz. fine night gowns
3 shawls
1 fur collar
100 yards of dress goods
30 yards silk
4 Russia - leather shopping bags
4 pairs boots
1 pair overshoes
2 mirrors
50 yards silk and satin ribbon

Silk handkerchiefs, cutlery, glass ware, silver spoons, earrings, bracelets, photographs, fancy cards, leather pocket books, rolls of gimp, needle cases, dinner pails, 'boss' coffee pots, China pitchers, glass decanters, perfumery, spools of silk, cotton thread, framed pictures, porcelain vases, elegant dessert plates, lines collars and cuffs, hair switches, China ornaments, hair - pins, Japanese cabinets, rolls of lace, fichus, neckties, tin dippers, wine glasses, egg cups, tumblers, card holders, jelly dishes, table spoons, and an infinity of articles too numerous to mention. A number of items have been identified as goods taken from **H. J. Ryerson**, Stuart & Reid and Oswald & Aldred. An inspection and identification of the goods is invited.

47th annual Ryerse-Ryerson picnic held - July 2000

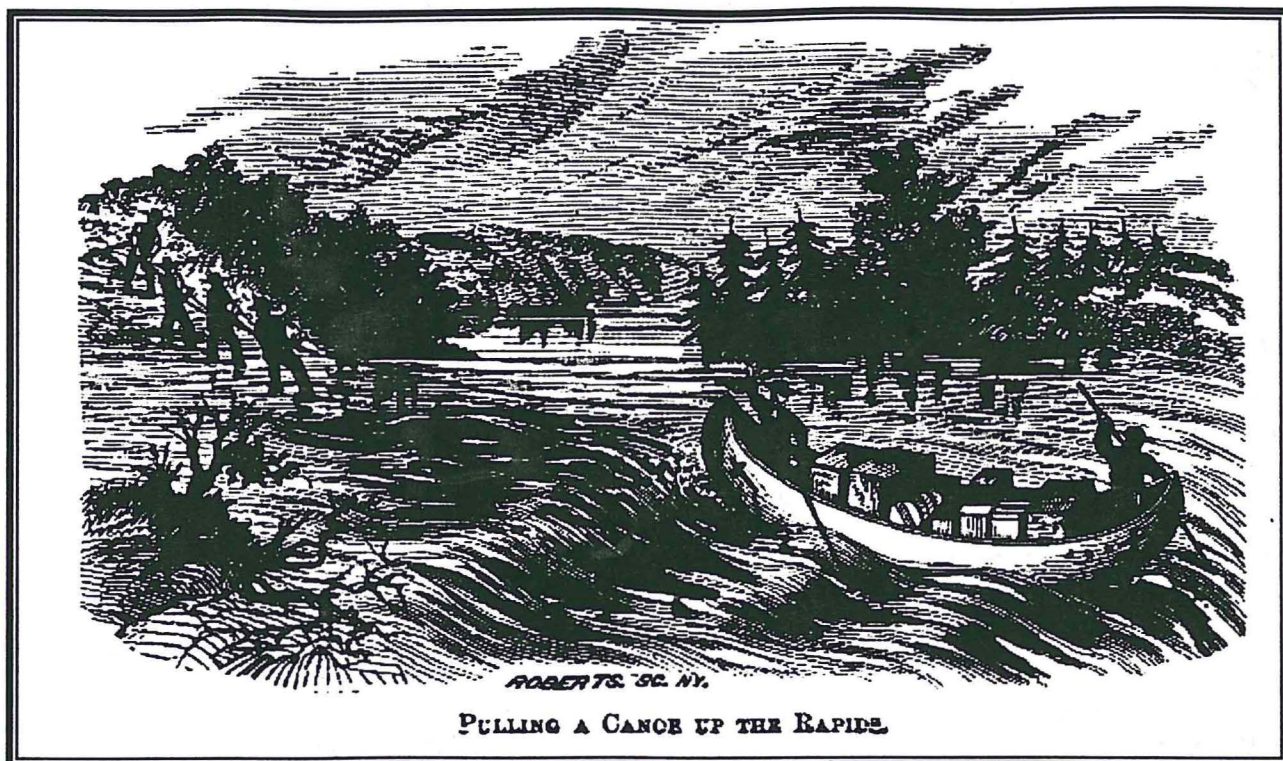
By Thomas A. Ryerson

For the first time in eight years, rain poured down on Ryerse Park in Port Ryerse at the 47th annual Family Picnic. Thankfully, this did not dampen the spirits of about one hundred family members who found refuge in the 100-year old barn of Vern Ryerse. Yes folks, we've been lucky at Ryerse Park. It has only rained twice since 1985 when we began to meet at the park. For those who braved the rain, a bountiful smorgasbord was laid out and everyone had a chance to get "up close and personal" with their cousins.

The rain didn't stop Jan Chithalen and Stephen Mahdi from having the children's candy toss. About 25 wet and wild kids dived and plunged in the soggy grass for sweets while the rain raged on!

The family quilt project continues with family members designing and creating foot square quilt pieces. Eleanor Chithalen has already received quilt squares from eager family members which will eventually be sewn together.

Next year's picnic is planned for July 8, 2001.



Sailing on the Great Lakes

Published by J. Disturnell - 1874

Kaministiquia River The Mountain Fall on this

stream is described by **Rev. J. Ryerson**

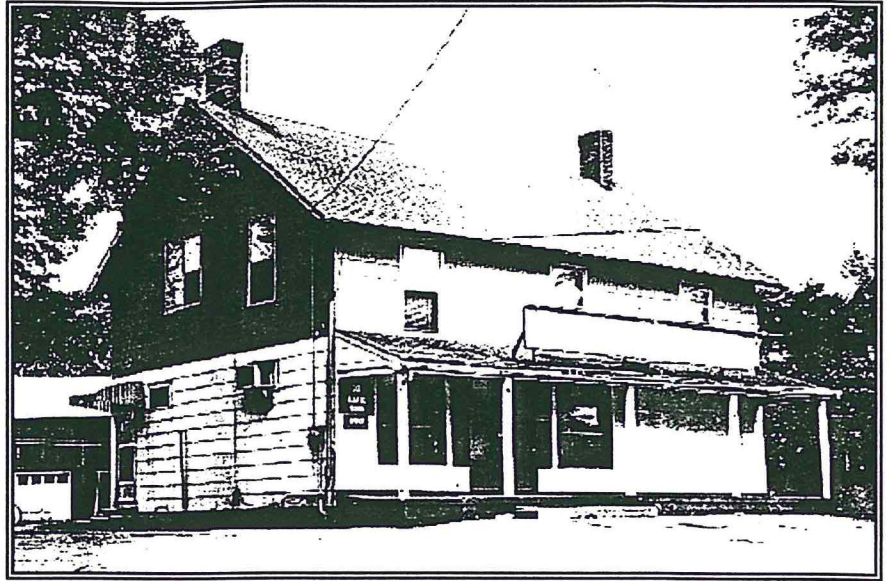
"We had great difficulty in finding it as first but, guided by its thundering road, through such a thicket of brush, thorns and briars, as I never before thought of, we reached the spot from whence it was visible. The whole river plunged in one broad white sheet, through a space not more than fifty feet wide and over a precipice higher by many feet, than the Niagara Falls. The concave sheet comes together about three-fourths of the way to the bottom from whence the spray springs high into the air, bedewing and whitening the precipitous and wild looking crags with which the fall is composed, and clothing with drapery of foam, the gloomy pines, that hang about the clefts and fissures of the rocks. The falls and the whole surrounding scenery, for sublimity, wilderness and novel grandeur, exceeds anything of the kind I ever saw."

The Winnipeg River **Rev. Mr. Ryerson** remarks:

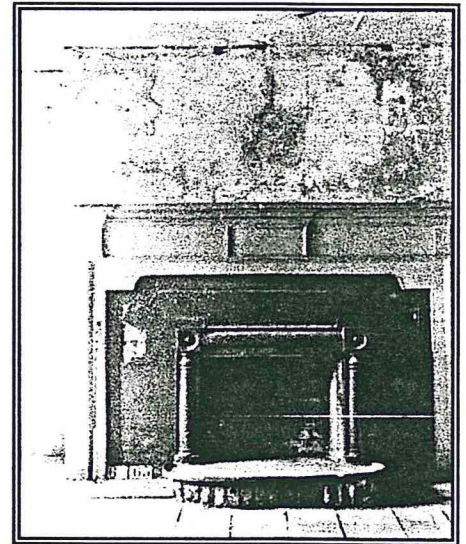
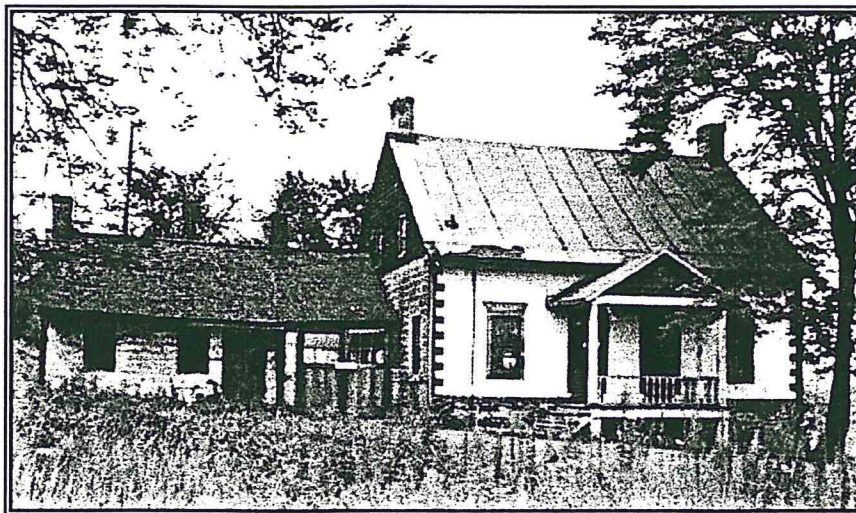
"The scenery for many miles around is strikingly beautiful. The climate for Hudson's Bay Territory is here remarkably fine and salubrious, the land amazingly rich and productive. The water in Lakes Lac La Pluie, Lac Du Bois, Winnipeg etc. is not deep, and because of their wide surface and great shallowness, during the summer season, they become exceedingly warm; this has a wonderful effect on the temperature of the atmosphere in the adjacent neighborhoods and no doubt makes the great difference in the climate in these parts. They grow spring wheat here to perfection and vegetation is rapid, luxuriant and comes to maturity before frosts occur."

Source- <http://www.umd.umich.edu/moa>

The DeMott-Ryerson General Store was an important center of retail, commercial and social activity in the Wayne, N.J. area in the early 1900's. A variety of dry goods and groceries were sold to area residents and these items were often delivered by horse and wagon. The structure was built during the late 1800's. For many years it was also called the Old Turnpike Toll House. It was still standing in 1998 near the intersection of the Newark-Pompton Turnpike and Rt. 23.



A look at the **Johannis G. Ryerson house** located along the Goffle Brook, the oldest part of the house built circa 1707 by one of the first families of Hawthorne, N.J. Johannis was the son of Joris Ryerson. Unfortunately, on the afternoon of 28 October 1950, the old Ryerson house at 367 Goffle Road was consumed by flames of an unknown origin.



A Chat with Phyllis

Are you a RYASON?

Many descendants of John Ryerson adopted this spelling – probably because a clerk spelled it the way he 'heard' it.....Ry-a-son. It has become one of my favorite ways to say the name....it just rolls off your tongue! John had four sons – 'the Ryason boys' who moved from Ohio on into Indiana, Illinois and later generations eventually made it all the way to the west coast. They had large families and you're likely to find descendants in nearly every western state.

Ron Sieber is one of them who gives his line of descent as follows: John Ryerson 4, John Ryason (Jr.) 5, Samuel Ryason 6, Ira Seymour Ryason 7, Leanna Emily Ryason 8, Marjorie Loraine Tollum 9, Ronald J. Sieber 10.

It was Ron who discovered that we had the wrong wife for John and is hard at work filling in further details on his elusive ancestor.

He invites any other Ryason cousins to contact him at:

940 Gerleon Drive S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302-2113
or by e-mail at rmsieber@uswest.net

Phyllis Ryerse

In MEMORY of

Margaret (Ryerse) Madge of Colborne St N, Simcoe, died at her residence on Monday September 11th 2000, in her 85th year. Wife of Murray Madge and mother of Ian Madge, she will be sadly missed by her brother Bob Ryerse of Simcoe, and sisters Bertha Scott of Mississauga and Mary Brown of Clinton. She was predeceased by her sons Don and David. A service to celebrate Mrs. Madge's life was held at the funeral home on Friday, Sept 15th at 11 AM. Rev. John Cruickshank officiated. Donations to The Who Did It Club, Canadian Cancer Society or the Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family.

The Port Ryerse Journal

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RYERSE-RYERSON Family Association

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Submissions Welcome & Encouraged!

UPDATE ---- from Jan Ryerse

See The Port Ryerse Journal – February 2000 issue

Hi Phyllis,

My Grand Slam attempt remains a dream!

I finished the first one - the Old Dominion 100 in West Virginia in a time of 26 hours and 38 minutes - then 3 weeks later in Squaw Valley CA for the Western States 100 - I developed severe and persistent leg and lower back cramps after about 40 miles of steep ascents and descents and had to drop out at just under 50 miles - so that killed my Grand Slam attempt. I decided I'd try Leadville Trail 100 in Colorado in August but I cancelled out of the Wasatch Front 100 in Utah in September.

I went out to Colorado to train on the Leadville course for 10 days in July and ran the entire course in both directions including the climbs up over Sugarloaf Pass (11,200 feet) and Hope Pass (12,600 feet) - (I also hiked up to the top of Mount Elbert which at 14,400 + feet is the highest mountain in CO) all without any problems - but come race day on August 19th I developed bad leg cramps again and dropped out with only about 42 miles done. I've now finished 7 100 mile trail endurance runs - (not in the mountains) and I've DNF'd (did not finish) 3 100's - all of which have been in the mountains - so there's an obvious pattern there.

I definitely will enter more mountain 100's. Even with the DNF's, it was really fun to be in the mountains in the cool crisp air and seeing the beautiful scenery. I had some great trips this summer and some good quality time with family members and ultrarunning friends. After all, I'm doing this for fun - not just to finish - although that's nice too!

Sept 18, 2000 – short update.

I did well at the USA Track & Field 24 hr. National Championship Ultramarathon in Toledo, Ohio. Placed 15th overall out of about 165 starters – got 50 and 100 mile PRs (personal records) along the way to the 113 miles – just goes to show I'm a good flat-land runner – I just don't like 'them mountains!'



Now for the more important stuff! My daughter Amy and her husband Ron Moser had a baby girl - born on Saturday 5 August 2000. She's a little darling - her name is **Sophia Lael Moser**.

Jan