

10-23  
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

0-35

Ryerson House

**IMPORTANT**

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

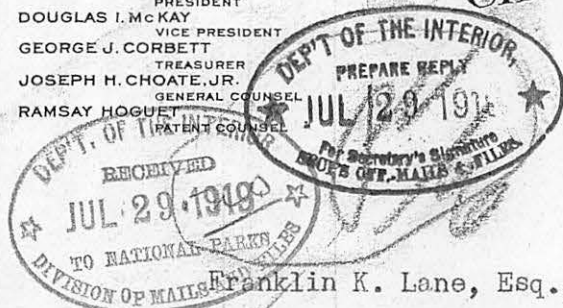
NEWTON B. DRURY,  
*Director.*

THE  
CHEMICAL FOUNDATION  
INCORPORATED  
81 FULTON STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

FRANCIS P. GARVAN  
PRESIDENT  
DOUGLAS I. MCKAY  
VICE PRESIDENT  
GEORGE J. CORBETT  
TREASURER  
JOSEPH H. CHOATE, JR.  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
RAMSAY HOGUE  
PATENT COUNSEL

## TRUSTEES

OTTO T. BANNARD, CHAIRMAN  
CLEVELAND H. DODGE  
GEORGE L. INGRAHAM  
B. HOWELL GRISWOLD, JR.  
RALPH STONE



July 28, 1919.

Franklin K. Lane, Esq.,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have just returned from a visit I paid over Sunday with the Misses Hewitt at Ringwood Manor, New Jersey, and am bringing up a matter which they have been considering for some time.

The Misses Hewitt are grand-daughters of the late Mr. Peter Cooper, have a large fortune, and have inherited the Manor which is a place absolutely unique in this country. Built before the Revolution, it has been preserved by the family since 1840, and is really a museum of historical association of the best traditions of this country.

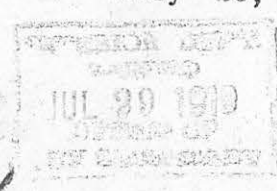
I will not attempt to describe all they have but it is a charming old house with a wonderful garden forming the manor house for the estate. The ladies own about nine hundred (900) acres in the place and feel that when they go, the place should become a Federal Government Park, and they are quite willing to leave it for that purpose. There is also a strong possibility that the rest of the estate, comprising about 25,000 acres, which is now owned by other members of the family would be given to the Government also.

I felt that you would be interested in such a proposal and thought that possibly I might be the means of bringing you together. If on your next trip through New York you will let me know, or drop a note to the Misses Hewitt, Ridgewood, New Jersey, I know that they would be only too glad to have you and Mrs. Lane come out and visit them, and if nothing comes of this proposal, you will have met two very charming and unusual ladies who have devoted their lives and money to the best interests of their fellowmen.

There is just one difficulty that I can see in the way of accomplishing this matter and that is the present proposal of the State of New Jersey to construct a reservoir to furnish water to Paterson, Newark, etc. If this goes through it will convert this estate into a huge lake and blot out this place which they feel should be preserved for the people.

*W. H. Keppel  
would be  
interested  
in it*

*Ammer  
BRS  
C*



Franklin K. Lane, Esq.

-2-

July 28, 1919.

This project is not the only way of getting the water, as there are abundant smaller watersheds which might be dammed and then combined.

When they told me about this matter of creating a Federal Park, I naturally thought of you, knowing that you would be interested.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Lane, I am

Yours very sincerely,

*Samuel H. Lucas*

SAT/S

August 3, 1919.

Dear Mr. Tucker:

I have your letter, and I shall look into the matter of Ringwood Manor. There ought to be some way by which such historic places could be preserved, but I doubt very much if it would be practicable to have it converted into a national park. However, one of these days I will avail myself of your invitation and either in person or through someone else enjoy the hospitality of the Misses Hewitt for a while.

Cordially yours,

*William H. Taft*

✓  
Mr. Samuel A. Tucker,  
81 Fulton Street,  
New York, N. Y.

*Nat. Park*

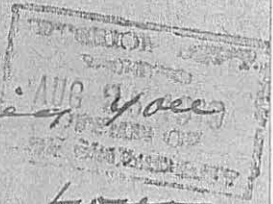
AS REWRITTEN IN THE  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

*W.H.T.*



Dark Harbor,  
Maine *P/C*  
Aug 21 1919.

Dear Mr. Lane.

I enclose herewith  a letter I received from  
Miss Newell as it will  
show you how they feel  
about this place and  
how anxious they are  
to do the best with it.  
I am just ending a week  
vacation up here with my

Family but will be back  
again in New York on  
Monday.

Yours very sincerely  
Samuel A. Tilden.

Ringwood Manor, N. J. August 11th, 1919.

My dear Mr. Tucker:-

Both my sister and I appreciate more than I can express in words, your great kindness in writing to Secretary Lane concerning our desire to preserve Ringwood Manor for the public, through converting it into a National Park, and I do hope that Secretary Lane may be induced to come up here, before it is too late for the country to look attractive, to inspect the house and place, when possibly they might interest him sufficiently, to induce him to see if some plan could be devised by which the U. S. Government would take it over, in spite of the fact that he is so deeply occupied with important affairs that go with his great position. Should you happen to see him at any time, may we could upon your kindness to remind him again about this matter and say how delighted we should be to receive him here at any time, or any representative he might delegate in his place. It is most gratifying to think that there is a chance of such a fortunate occurrence and should anything definite come of it in the future, it will be entirely owing to your kindly ambassadorship in this matter we have so much at heart and which would be so greatly in accordance with our Mother's desire, as she considered great forest areas near our big cities of the most vital importance for the health, pleasure and education of their communities and what could be more appropriate and

gratifying than that the granddaughters of Peter Cooper should contribute in a small degree towards this object in the country, what he did for the free education of the public in New York City and which could be done in the name and memory of his daughter, who inherited all his philanthropic and humanitarian views and proved the depth of her sympathies with them during her whole life by making so many great personal sacrifices to develop and execute his ideas and render his beloved foundation so successful.

I think we neglected to explain to you, that when the whole Ringwood Estate is divided up among us 6 heirs, that it may be perhaps possible, to have the 2 sixths parts that will accrue to my sister and me, assigned to adjoin Ringwood Manor, which then comprise a block of land of about 6000 or 7000 acres. Moreover that Mama arranged by a deed with the Ringwood Company that the face of the mountains surrounding this place, can never be deforested, consequently they will always retain their beautiful old timber, which will conserve the wildness of the forests and add so much to the charm and beauty of Ringwood Manor. If the house could be kept as a museum, we would have an additional and genuine incentive to continue to add to its collections so that during our life time, it might become of sufficient historic value and interest to justify its maintenance.

I only wish that Newark was the chief conspirator in the water project but alas, Paterson, which is much nearer, is the prime



offender and having moreover the most political influence, should be headed off first, since Newark and Passaic only bring up the rear guard.

It was more than kind of you to investigate what could be done about the legacy Mama left our poor old maid and while you say there is very little chance that our Government will return it to her, I cannot yet abandon all hope and will wait with patience the final outcome of the Alien Property question. In your first letter, you stated "that something might be done by application to her own" (government). Does that mean that she must formulate a request through the German Government to the U. S. Government for the return of her property; for if you could spare time to explain this to me more fully, I will gladly act immediately on your suggestion and spare no time or trouble to try to save her poor little legacy for her.

I trust you will not hesitate to pay us another little visit whenever you care to spend a Sunday out of town and get cool, although if this present weather continues, there will be small inducement to leave N. Y. Also you must not forget your promise to let us know when Mrs. Tucker returns in the autumn, when I trust we may have the pleasure of seeing you both here and you may rest assured that we will not bother you with any more personal affairs,

as we so selfishly did this time and with kind regards and a  
thousand thanks for your kindness, believe me

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Cooper Hewitt.



*Mr. Corwin*

August 25, 1919.

Dear Mr. Tucker:-

I have your note of August 21st and have read with much interest Miss Hewitt's letter to you, which I am returning. I have had a copy of it made however which I shall keep and show to Mr. Mather, Director of our National Park Service, when he returns to the city.

Cordially yours,

*William H. Mather*  
*Mather*

Mr. Samuel A. Tucker,  
61 Fulton Street,  
New York City.

Inc. 4739

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 17, 1920.

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*file*  
*me*

FRANCIS P. GARVANI  
PRESIDENT  
DOUGLAS I. MCKAY  
VICE PRESIDENT  
GEORGE J. CORBETT  
TREASURER  
JOSEPH H. CHOATE, JR.  
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CLEVELAND H. DODGE  
GEORGE L. INGRAHAM  
B. HOWELL GRISWOLD, JR.  
RALPH STONE

REFER TO

CABLE ADDRESS:  
CHEMFOUND

April 20, 1920.

Stephen T. Mather, Esq.,  
Director of National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of April 17th, I am indeed glad that the tentative proposal of the Misses Hewitt for the use of their property at Ringwood, New Jersey, on the part of the Government has received favorable consideration.

I am sending your letter to the Misses Hewitt, 9 Lexington Ave., New York City, and believe that they will take the subject up directly with you.

If there is anything, however, that I can do in the matter, I shall be only too happy to be of help but I feel that my connection in the case was simply due to my personal acquaintance with Ex-Secretary Lane.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. A. Tuckers".

SAT/S

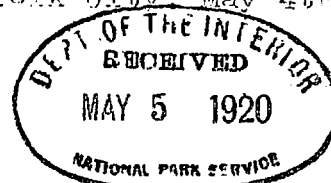
Enclosure.

P. S. - The enclosed copy of a letter to you seems to have been included inadvertently as it does not appear to me to have a bearing on the case. I am therefore returning it to you.

S. A. T.



P.E.  
948  
66  
Lexington Ave. New York City, May 4th. 1920.



My dear Mr. Mather

Mr Samuel A. Tucker of the Chemical Foundation, has kindly forwarded me yr kind letter of April 17th regarding our idea & tentative suggestion made through him to Ex-Secretary Lane, to present that portion of the Ringwood Estate, now at our disposal, to the U.S. Government for a National Park & I wrote to say, that it would give us the greatest pleasure to meet you here at your convenience, in order to talk this matter ~~over~~ any time you should be passing through New York. Or, when we go to Ringwood for the summer, have you visit us there, ~~so~~ ~~that~~ that we may have a better opportunity of showing you over the land & seeing if it comprises sufficient acreage & attractions to make it an object to acquire it; as in the near future, when the whole Ringwood Estate is finally settled up, it may be possible to arrange to increase the amount of land considerably.

It would seem a pity that such a historic place, intimately connected with many of the important events of the Revolutionary War, one of the oldest in this country & with such wonderful natural beauties, both in cultivated land which resembles an English Park & also embellished by so much spring water, both lake & streams & natural forest land, where the timber has always been ~~conserved~~, so near the great cities of New York, Jersey City, Passaic, Newark, Elisabeth & Paterson, should not be preserved for the public. For it would supply not only an area for pure air, like the European parks, but afford endless pleasure & recreation for thousands of citizens of all ages & classes. Its vicinity to West Point, might prove an additional inducement for the Government to possess

it, since it affords a marvellous opportunity to manoeuvre troops, while the absence of musquitos, the dryness of the soil & the altitude of the cleared land in the valley is 500 ft above sea level, so wonderfully watered & shaded ( the hills are about 1000 ft above sea level ) produce the most admirable sanitary conditions for such a purpose, where the men would be encamped in tents.

There might possibly be a few technical obstacles to overcome, but the tentative project might be worth yr consideration whenever you feel inclined to take it up in person, then should it meet with yr approval, you could submit it later, to Secretary Payne, to see what he thought of it.

Tray pardon this hasty line & with renewed thanks for yr courteous & gratifying letter, Believe me

Sincerely yours

*Sarah Cooper Hewitt*

( Sarah Cooper Hewitt. )

*B. G. Proposed Ples  
Ringwood Manor*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

May 5, 1920.

Dear Miss Hewitt:

In Mr. Mather's absence in the West it falls upon me to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of May 4 bearing on the Ringwood Estate matter.

Mr. Mather is greatly interested in your offer, and as he will be back here shortly I am taking the liberty of holding your letter for his return rather than sending it to him out West. You may expect to hear from him direct as soon as he has an opportunity to get at his correspondence upon his return.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Acting Director.

Miss Sarah Cooper Hewitt,  
No. 9 Lexington Avenue,  
New York City.

ABB-123

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1920.

Dear Miss Hewitt:

This is a belated acknowledgement of your letter of May 5 in regard to the possibility of the gift of a portion of the Ringwood Estate to the Government as a national park. As you know, I am much interested in this suggestion, but with the pressure of my administrative work I have not been able to give it the thought that it deserves.

I have to go West again in a few days and will not be back again until the middle of August. Perhaps then I can persuade Secretary Payne to come up with me and look over the ground, although his work here keeps him very closely tied down. At any rate, I will endeavor to at least see the estate myself sometime during August or September if it is at all possible. My own summer home is at Darien, Connecticut, and while I am able to spend but little time there now I will try to motor over from there to Ringwood at some time that will be convenient to you, and go over the whole matter.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) Stephen T. Mather.

Director.

Miss Sarah Cooper Hewitt,  
No. 9 Lexington Avenue,  
New York City.

STH-lps

Ringwood Manor. N.J. June 27th.



My dear Mr Mather

I trust you will pardon my unavoidable delay in answer -  
-ing yr kind letter of June 12th, but I have been away from home on a  
motor trip and have only just returned and found it awaiting me here.

It is a great pleasure to learn that you think you can arrange to  
visit Ringwood some time during next September and possibly have  
Secretary Payne accompany you, although it might perhaps be advisea-  
ble for you first to make a sort of reconnoitring trip to inspect the  
place and talk things over with us and report the result to him,  
before putting him to this trouble.

We are leaving here shortly for Bar Harbor, but expect to return  
early in September, when I will immediately notify you as soon as we get  
back and find out when it will be convenient for you to motor over here  
from Darien, as it is a very easy trip and through a most picturesque  
and lovely country, if you come by West Point, the Harriman Park and  
through Tuxedo Park; as the Tuxedo and Ringwood tracts adjoin in places  
and our house is only 6 miles from the Tuxedo Club. In case you do not  
happen to be a member, we will give you a letter to pass through the  
Park as our guest, as that is the shortest cut and the roads are best.  
We shall be delighted to put you up for as long as you find it conveni-  
ent, as there is not only a great deal to see, but considerable matter  
to be discussed, concerning which yr experience and any suggestions  
you may make, will prove of great value in solving the problem before us.

Pray pardon this hasty line and with renewed thanks for yr court-

-eous letter which we appreciate exceedingly and looking forward with  
pleasure to seeing you, Believe me

Sincerely yours

*Sarah Cooper Hewitt*

( Sarah Cooper Hewitt )



*File  
me*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

*P.J.  
Proposed to  
Ringwood Manor*

June 22, 1920.

My dear Miss Hewitt:

Your letter of June 27th to Director Mather has been handed to me as he is now in the west on a visit to a number of our national parks and will hardly return before the latter part of August. However, I am going to hold it for his return, and I am sure he will thoroughly enjoy a visit to Ringwood Manor at the first opportunity presented and will feel grateful for your very kind invitation.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd.) ARTHUR B. CAMMERER

Acting Director.

*McQ*

Miss Sarah Cooper Hewitt,  
Ringwood Manor, N. J.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1920.

*P.L.  
Proposed Park  
Ringwood Manor*

Dear Miss Hewitt:

I have had so much work to do in the national parks in the west this summer that it has been impossible for me to visit Ringwood as I had hoped. I only just got back from the west last week and must go out again at once, not to return here until December first, when I will be kept pretty busy with legislation of interest to the National Park Service.

I was speaking to Secretary Payne in regard to the possibility of his visiting Ringwood with me, and I only wish we could have been up there during some of this beautiful fall weather. If December would not be too late it might be possible that I could get Secretary Payne to run up with me for some week end. I have my own little car near New York and it will be a simple matter to run up there if the weather conditions are right.

I have never forgotten a very interesting ride I had at night some thirty odd years ago, when, as a reporter on the New York Sun, I was detailed to see your father when he was Mayor of New York and learn whether he had performed a marriage ceremony that day, the rumor having started that he had performed this ceremony for Countess Yznaga. I think it was your brother Erskin

Hewitt who met me at that time, and I talked with your father as he spoke over the banisters denying the rumor. I had a long midnight ride back to Suffern, I think, over the mountains.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) STEPHEN T. MATHER

Stephen T. Mather,  
Director.

Miss Sarah Cooper Hewitt,  
No. 9 Lexington Avenue,  
New York, New York.

STM-W

10-23  
(May 1929)

6-7410

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
RYERSON HOUSE NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-35

PART 1

*File  
w*

PROPOSED MONUMENTS

RYERSON HOUSE

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LAST DATE ON TOP

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IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*

W. J. H.

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

Louisa Mackay Howe

Secy. to the President

Bloomington, N. J.

Jan - 8 - 1935

Mr Franklin D. Roosevelt

President

Dear sir: -

I own the "Old Ryerson Forge", a place where iron was made for Cannon balls for the Civil War. The Bellan House still stands and the walls of the Forge. My Husband died two years ago, and I am too poor to pay the taxes. I would like to offer it to the Government, and they in turn build a Memorial Park to the Ryersons. It is 430 ft long by 350 ft deep. In the heart of the town, bounded on north by Hamburg Turnpike west by W. P. Church east by Bloomington Avenue south by Pequannock River and N. Y. S. N. R. R. I wish the Government could buy it, and help me out of my troubles. Please do something



for me in the name of the Mrs who died  
for us.

Signed

Mrs W. E. Blanchard

P.S. I should have said it was an Historic  
place, with Historic People as my Husband's  
Grand Father and Grand Uncle came over from  
France with Lafayette.

(Blanchard?)

Interior

Mrs. W. E. Blamhard

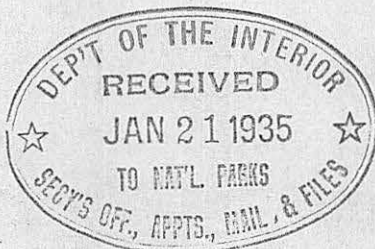
Bloomington, N. J.

Jan. 8, 1935

Owens the "Old Ryerson Forge", an historic place of Civil War days  
and is unable to pay taxes on it. Wants to sell it to the govt.

Agriculture

*M. Smith*  
*B. J. B.*





*Parks*  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
RECEIVED  
JAN 18 1935  
MAILS

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.

RECEIVED  
JAN 18 1935  
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
JAN 18 1935  
TO NAT'L PARKS  
PEERS OFF. APPTS., MAIL, & FILES

*Jan 19 1935*  
*Interior*  
*adml*  
*1/15/35*

Hon. F. L. [unclear]  
President of U.S.

My dear President  
am enclosing you an article  
of the Byerson House Commission Meeting, which  
was of the opinion you would be interested in.  
The U.S. Legislature last year passed a bill to look into the  
advisability of taking this over as a State Park and  
Senator Moore, the Governor, appointed 3 Commissioners  
to take the matter into consideration.

Senator Moore thinks it would be better to have it  
a National Park, and I think I do also.

It was General Washington's request that in  
the kept as such to honor what was done they told  
the cause in the Revolution.

It is very historical, the chain is there  
and lots of historical things pertaining to the War  
such as *forges*, *mines* etc where the Cannon Balls were  
made. I trust you will do what you can  
for it. As to getting it as a National Park there  
is a lot of land all around this place to be had and  
very desirable for a Park. *Huddell* what you can do  
I remain yours very sincerely  
*Martin G. Hoggencamp*  
*one of the Commissioners*

THE PATERSON MORNING CALL, MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1935

## "Ryerson House" Body To Seek Extension

Of Tenure In Order To  
Carry Out Pur-  
poses

Ridgewood, Jan. 6—A meeting of the "Ryerson House" commission, consisting of Martin J. Hogencamp of Paterson, Charlotte C. Ayerigg of Passaic and Hiram Calkins, of Ridgewood, appointed by Governor Moore some months ago to examine the subject of acquiring the property in northern Passaic county known as the Forges and Manor of Ringwood, as an historical state park, was held in the office of the chairman last Friday afternoon.

An exhaustive survey of the work accomplished since its appointment last August was made and plans for continuing it were discussed and formulated. In view of the fact that it was impossible, owing to the magnitude of the task, for the commission to complete it to its entire satisfaction within the term of the present legislature, a bill will be introduced in the coming session to extend the commission for another year.

The work of the commission has been accomplished without cost of any kind to the state. The matter of extending its labors has already been taken up with Senator Barbour, who will be the majority leader in the coming session, and in an influential position to help the commission in its work.

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.,

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 1934

Hon. F. H. Roosevelt,  
President of U.S.

My Dear President

Thank you for your  
letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> in regard to Pigeon  
House, as a National Park.  
Enclosed find clipping in regard  
to it. Kindly do what you can to get  
it on a Natl Park.

It is a wonderful place.  
House has 7 of Rome and very  
historical in regard to Revolutionary  
War and war. Gen Washington  
regress it should be kept on such  
there is lot of land around it to get  
in the Ramapo Mountains, a fine close  
place to protect the old life and good land.  
odgins 17<sup>th</sup> St. Perhaps may require some land if it  
am sure if you saw it, you would strongly advocate it.

(2)

## THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J., .....193

- It will give lots of Work to  
People to make Hood, Pants  
etc. 14 City People come up to see  
is by auto, lots of them.

It odours orange & Rockland co  
in N.Y.

am sorry to have to trouble  
you, but am sure one word from  
you to your Secretary of the Interior  
will be all that is necessary,  
and you will never regret it,  
as President to honor Washington  
his last request to keep this as  
 Shrine in memory of what you  
done there at the time of the Revolution.

The troops were mustered there to march  
to Yorktown, also the Continental Congress took place  
there when soldiers mutinied at Compton and some  
were shot. By giving this your kind attention and  
thanking you in advance I remain your truly  
Martin J. Hogeboom

Mr Chatelain  
M Rahm

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1935

✓  
Mrs. W. E. Blanchard,  
Bloomington,  
New Jersey.

Dear Mrs. Blanchard:

Your letter of January 8, to President Roosevelt, concerning the "Old Ryerson Forge" in Bloomington, New Jersey, has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration and reply.

Although this Service has no funds for the acquisition of places of this kind, the site is historically interesting, and the Historical Division of the Service will make a study of the history of the Forge, to determine its possible interest and value as a park development.

I wish to thank you for your letter. You may be sure your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer  
Director

HK:ICS

*Chas. Bryant*  
*Walter Wright*  
*Brooklyn*  
*James*  
*Dalson*  
*Amey*

*0-35*  
*Ryerson*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1935

Mr. Martin J. Hogenkamp,  
176-177 East 15th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Hogenkamp:

Your letter of January 10 to President Roosevelt concerning the work of the "Ryerson House" Commission has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration.

A letter was recently received from Mrs. W. E. Blanchard of Bloomingdale, New Jersey, the owner of the "Old Ryerson Forge", in which she suggested the possibility of making a national park of this area. Although this Service has no funds for the acquisition of places of this kind, the site is historically interesting, and the Historical Division of the Service has been asked to make a study of the history of the Forge, to determine its possible value as a park development.

We were glad to hear of the work of your commission. You may be sure your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Director

HK:ICS

H. K.  
Chateth  
Walton  
Wirth  
Jerning  
Galsork  
Hamm

Rec'd 2/9/35

MARCUS A. COOLIDGE, MASS., CHAIR.  
WILLIAM H. KING, UTAH  
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

DANIEL F. O'CONNELL, CLERK



February 6, 1935.

Hon. Conrad S. Wirth  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior

Dear Mr. Wirth:

With further reference to our telephone conversation of to-day, I might say that I am interested in learning the steps which must be taken by individuals who are desirous of having a site considered by your Department for a National Park.

*Py...*  
The property involved is known as Ringwood Manor and is the seat of many Revolutionary incidents. Included among these is the forging of a chain which was used to block the Hudson River when fear was felt that the British frigates would attempt to storm West Point.

I have been given to understand that this subject has also been referred to the Secretary of the Interior. The area around which this activity centered is in Passaic County, New Jersey.

Thanking you for your kindness in this matter, I am

Very truly yours,

*Osborn*

Mr. Chatelain

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.,

Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1935

Mr. A. A. Cameron  
Director of U.S. Dept of The Interior  
Wall Park Comm.

Dear Mr. Cameron  
your letter, of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
in regard to The Ryerson House, to be taken  
over as a National Historical Park, is recd.  
I thank you for same, and your kind  
interest in the matter.

Our chairman of the Commission <sup>from Hiram Catlin</sup>  
will get in touch with you, as I gave him  
the letter.

as I am informed General Washington  
wanted this place kept as a Historical Place, for  
what was done there in aid of our independence.  
The Cañon Path and Chain that was put across  
the Hudson were made there in the furnace  
and are one of the things at that place. The House has  
78 Rooms, and lots of Historic value in it. Washington  
lived here. The old Mackinac Spot is there where  
he had his Horse Shoe, part of the chain is there, and lots  
other things. Every year General Croghan under Washington  
is buried there. It is a Natural Place or a Park.

(2)

# THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J., .....193

and ground can be got all around it  
of hundreds of acres in the Ramapo Mountain  
great place for Wild Life Protection  
etc. adjoin the Menagogue State Park  
which has hundreds of acres.

Border close to Interstate Park  
in NY State.

The only way to describe it  
is, that it is a Wonderful Place  
and one has to go to look it over  
to get an idea of it.

It should long ago have  
been taken over by the Government  
as a historical <sup>kindly</sup> ~~place~~ <sup>also</sup> all you can help us get  
is.

Why the troops were mustered in  
there to march to Yorktown  
and they had the Corps Marshal of Troops there  
mustered at that place, and you know that  
the collection will tell you more about it. I remain  
Yours sincerely, Martin J. Hogenkamp

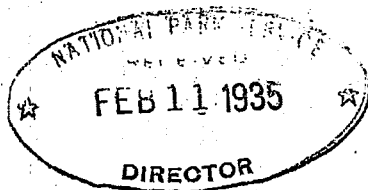
# ROBERTS EVERETT ASSOCIATES, INC.

232 MADISON AVE.



NEW YORK, N. Y.

AShland 4-2147



February 9, 1935

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer, Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the request of Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
of Ridgewood, N. J., I am forwarding to you by  
this letter a copy of the pamphlet: "The Forges  
and Manor of Ringwood."

Very truly yours,

James Larwood/RC

TELEPHONE  
RIDGEWOOD 6-2323



HIRAM CALKINS  
CLAIM ADJUSTER  
45 NORTH BROAD ST.  
RIDGEWOOD  
NEW JERSEY

February 9, 1935

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer  
Director Nat'l Park Service  
Dep't of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:

Martin J. Hogencamp, of Paterson, New Jersey, a member of the "Ryersen House" Commission, so-called, of which I happen to be the chairman, has forwarded to me your letter to him of Feb. 4, re the subject of the acquisition of the historic property at Ringwood, Passaic County, New Jersey, known as the "Forges and Manor of Ringwood" as a national or state park. I am taking this opportunity to lay before you a brief history of this movement, because of your expressed interest in it.

Under separate cover, I am sending you from New York an illustrated booklet, "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood," that you may see for yourself what a wonderful place it is. In view of the fact that it served the Continental Army during the Revolution as a supply base for cannon, cannon balls and other implements of war, and the further fact that, had the British captured it, as they tried several times to do, the Continental Army would have been most seriously hampered, if not put out of business entirely, the importance of Ringwood to the patriot cause is immediately apparent. To many its importance is second only to Mount Vernon and Valley Forge.

As a member of the S.A.R. and a former secretary of the N.Y. Genealogical and Biographical Soc., I became interested in this historic landmark several years ago and sought to rouse public interest in it. It was privately occupied then, the Wanakee Reservoir near by was in process of construction and it seemed to be an inauspicious time to further the project. Conditions have materially changed since then, and now, all things considered, this seems to be a particularly propitious time, and there is much public sentiment throughout the state for it.



HIRAM CALKINS  
CLAIM ADJUSTER  
45 NORTH BROAD ST.  
RIDGEWOOD  
NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE  
RIDGEWOOD 8-2323

HC to ABC 2/9/35 #2

Last Spring, I drew up and had passed by our State Legislature a bill creating a non-salaried commission to make a study of the subject, ascertain how much ground would be needed, what the cost would be and what steps should be taken to acquire the property. This has been done in a most painstaking way. An appraisal has been made by three of the most competent appraisers hereabouts and we are nearly ready to report.

In the meantime, it was my purpose to seek a conference with your commission when the weather got better and lay our findings, maps and surveys before you, in an effort to enlist your co-operation in effecting this much-desired acquisition. I have some documents setting forth its historic importance that will astound you, unless you are already familiar with them.

The "Old Ryerson Forge", to which you refer in your letter to Mr. Hogencamp, is just a small affair in the rear of a house on the main street of Bloomingdale. It is not susceptible of any park development because it is surrounded by residences in the heart of the village and stands about 100 or 150 feet from the sidewalk in a vacant lot. I have visited it and talked with the owner, Mrs. Blanchard. It has no historical or Revolutionary significance. It is just a village landmark of purely local interest.

I should like very much indeed to have a conference with you and any members of your commission you would care to include, preferably at Ringwood, so you could see it for yourselves. If you have never been there you can have no conception of its beauty and historical importance. George Washington caused a survey of it to be made by Gen. Erskine and recommended to Congress informally that it be acquired as a national park. I am seeking to have that recommendation carried out and have a photostat copy of that survey.

Enclosed I send you a copy of a letter from Mr. Charles Wilber of the New Jersey Dept. of Conservation and Development to another member of our commission, which speaks for itself. The Morristown National Park, which, I understand, was acquired through co-operation of your commission, is in no way comparable to Ringwood in historic importance, scenic beauty or popular appeal, which has revenue producing possibilities beside.

HIRAM CALKINS  
CLAIM ADJUSTER  
45 NORTH BROAD ST.  
RIDGEWOOD  
NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE  
RIDGEWOOD 6-2323

HC to ABC 2/9/35 #3

I would be very glad to arrange a private inspection of the property and its wonderful collection of historical relics by your commission at your convenience, or to confer with you and them at Washington first if you prefer. The property is unoccupied except for a caretaker. There are so many phases of the project that warrant consideration I cannot include them all in a single letter. Therefore, request is made for an opportunity to lay them before you that you may see the possibilities for yourself and advise what can be done to consummate this most worthy project. I await the courtesy of your comment with interest.

Very truly yours

HC:SC  
Encl.1

*Hiram Calkins*

Chairman

Ryerson House Commission

copy

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

State House Annex, Trenton

August 8, 1934

Miss Charlotte C. Ayerigg  
Ridgewood, N.J.

Dear Miss Ayerigg:

I was very much interested and pleased to see by a press notice recently that you have been appointed on the State Commission authorized by the Legislature to study the feasibility of acquiring the Ringwood Manor property.

For a number of years this Department has advocated the acquisition of as much of the entire Ringwood Estate as could be secured to be taken as a State Reservation. From reading the terms of the bill which authorized your commission it is not quite plain whether the intention is to make recommendation for a small property including the old Manor simply for the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

preservation of the Manor and its surroundings or for the acquisition of a sizeable property. I am writing to urge that consideration be given by the Commission to the possibility of State acquisition of a large part of the entire Ringwood properties and if you are willing hope you will present this suggestion to the Commission.

This area is one of the most unspoiled, as well as one of the wildest and most picturesque of the large woodland areas in the State. It is admirably suited to serve as a large State reservation for the protection and development of the timber cover, for its relation to the great Wanaque Reservoir project as the tributary watershed, for its availability as a game and wild life area, in addition to its scenic attractiveness.

It is my personal conviction that the area would be worth any price within reason to the State, and this opinion is borne out by the formal inclusion of this as one of the recommended State projects in the wild land reservation program approved by the Board of Conservation and Development several years ago and by a number of members of the Legislature at the time and since.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT  
(Signed) C.P. Wilber

Chief

Division of Forests & Parks

GPV/MW

From  
Hiram Catkins  
Ridge wood, N.J.

*The*  
FORGES  
and MANOR of  
*RINGWOOD*

*1935*

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Guide to Some of  
the Outdoor Items of  
Interest and  
Relics

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Synopsis of Some  
Historical Events  
and  
Tales

Recollections of Erskine Hewitt





VIEW OF GARDEN SHOWING NEWEL POSTS FROM LAFAYETTE PLACE KNOWN AS COLONADE ROW.

*The*  
**FORGES**  
and **MANOR** of  
*RINGWOOD*

*1935*

---

Guide to Some of  
the Outdoor Items of  
Interest and  
Relics

---

Synopsis of Some  
Historical Events  
and  
Tales

---

Recollections of Erskine Hewitt

STANDING on the terrace in front of the house on the former bed of the road from Morristown to West Point, laid out by General Greene; is the double row of trees planted on each side by Mrs. Ryerson, in the form of a rebus, in honor of the Peace of Ghent. Turning to the extreme right, one can see the gap between Hope Mountain and Whaleback where the mines are located from whence the ore was taken to be made into iron. Swinging gradually to the left, the site of the old Indian encampment may be seen on the point of the hill. The field at the foot is known as the "Magazine Lot" because there was located, within the memory of the present generation, the Magazine Building where powder was stored, and the key of the padlock of which is still preserved. This was under the shade of one of the two old apple trees said to have been planted prior to the Revolution, and which only died just before the World War. The field when plowed nearly always yields Indian arrow-heads showing that it must have been the scene of numerous fights between the various tribes over the Happy Hunting



Grounds. The camp site was probably selected because, although low, it overlooked the valley and the approach of enemies, and water was readily accessible. Again, almost in line with the mine but a little to the North and on the lawn, were the slave quarters, the sites of the foundations of which appear in dry summers through the burned grass, and which were in such a dilapidated condition that they were torn down by Mrs. Hewitt as unsightly and beyond repair.

Next, a little to the West and further off, is a French statue from a Bishop's palace near Avignon, representing Africa, and then the gates of Columbia College followed (still more to the left and nearer) by the little lead fountain which was removed from Versailles at the time of the Commune and which Mrs. Hewitt had mounted on the upper one of the two millstones which were in use in the mill when Peter Cooper acquired the property.

Overlooking the pond at the far end on the top of the bank is the old Revolutionary grave yard, the use of which has been discontinued now for more than 50 years, but where upwards of 500 people are reported to have been buried; more than 150 soldiers of the Revolution, early settlers, a large number of Indians, as well as some slaves.

Here too lies Robert Erskine and his Clerk, Robert Montieth. Erskine's tomb was said to have been erected by Washington, and the oak tree which the General planted there when he came over from Kingston to attend Erskine's funeral lived until a few years since, when it was struck by lightning and died. Part of its trunk is still kept in the cellar of the Manor House.

In the old days the pond did not exist and the point in front, seen when facing South, that juts out, was part of a field surrounded by a high stone wall which was the old cattle corral. There the troops formed under the actual command of General Howe, Washington stopping in the house and marched thence to Pompton, suppressing the mutiny, which, Washington declared, was the most critical time of the Revolution. General Howe's report, written and dated at Ringwood, to General Washington hangs in the hall, telling how he surrounded the mutinous regiments and took two men from each and shot them, which was probably the reason Washington did not actually command the troops in person, it not being advisable that he should shoot his own men and a duty that could better be performed by another.

There too, the first 3,000 men formed to march to Yorktown, leaving a trail of blood from Ring-

wood to Philadelphia; where Robert Morris is rumored to have pledged his last credit to raise the money needed to purchase shoes for them to go on with, and when the notes became due, it is believed after repeated renewals and exchanges, and when they could not be met, that Morris was locked in the Debtors Prison because of their non-payment by the Government, and that they still remained unpaid even to a few years ago. Some of his notes also hang in the house.

The outer gates and walls were built in the days of Mrs. Hewitt's early residence.

The old bridge across the stream on the main entrance drive has been replaced by a modern structure—given as a Christmas present to the Misses Hewitt. In the early days there was a ford at this point and a number of cannon and grape shot which undoubtedly must have joggled off the wagons when they were jolting over the rocks in the bed of the stream, were found by boys when wading up to as late as forty years ago.

Along the wall holding in the flood waters of the brook, formerly rested the great wheel shaft which supplied the power for the forges and furnace, and also for the first magnetic separator which was invented by Robert Erskine, consisting of an oak log as a drum with magnets driven into it on to

which was poured the crushed ore as it slowly revolved, the rock passing by and the ore after being brushed off on the far side, falling into a bin. These were disposed of by a manager while Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt were in Europe.

Across the brook at its side and under the bank, is a spring much used both before and after the Revolution, the water of which has more recently been brought across the stream by a pipe and pump.

Next, the old Revolutionary blacksmith shop—now used as a gas house—with some of the old furnace tools in front of the door. Until a few years since, a giant oak tree stood on one side of the entrance under which an anvil was placed and horses shod (in hot weather) while the blacksmith's boy worked the bellows and forge inside.

About 65 years ago, when Miss S. C. Hewitt was being taught at Ringwood by a Governess with considerable artistic talent, amongst others, she painted the picture of the old smithy. When beginning she asked Sammy Morgan, the blacksmith, who lived to be well over 100 and who was standing at the door, if he would like to be painted in the picture and he said "yes he would." He thereupon disappeared into the shop and was gone so long that she called out and asked what he was doing and for him to come out and pose. He said

"he was looking for his best hammer and he could not come until he found it." This picture is now hanging in the hall.

She also painted another one—of the two oak trees and some cows along the General Greene road, now in grass, which also hangs in the hall.

The weeping elm between the two ponds sprouted in 1871.

The upper of the three ponds is the site of the casting bed of the furnace. The two buildings, remodeled into the stable and dairy were formerly the crushing and stamping mills. The stone end of the dairy, where an old hammer now rests, is one of the two wheel pits where the water wheel revolved, supplying the blast for the furnace. The other pit being at the other end of the dairy to the South. This supplied the power to the forge, crushers and grist mill.

The remarkable features of the stable consists of the fact that teams could be kept harnessed while others were being driven in and out and both in no way interfering with one another or with the storage of traps; the handling or washing of incoming carriages or cleaning down of horses. That another course of brick could be laid when the present flooring should be worn out before the boarding would be reached, and that the drainage

gutters were so designed that it would be difficult for horses to strain their legs, and that when the windows were opened they were so arranged that there was no down draft on the animals to give them a cold, or direct lighting to hurt their eyes. The heart of cypress finish is truly remarkable, in fact, all the arrangements are most unique even to the floor of the hay loft which is equal to that of the finest of ball rooms. The harness room is probably without superior, as are the three upstairs rooms, i.e., the saddle room, that for the storage of blankets, etc., and the room for harness and accoutrements not in general use. There too, is the room for the storage of sleighs and their shafts, etc. The closets for wagon poles and medicines, etc. in the hall are most cunningly concealed and devised. The carriages and sleighs which dated back to 1757 and many of which were made by Brewster and others of the best known makers were sent by Miss Hewitt to Henry Ford's Museum. A number were finished in natural wood or beautifully enamelled and had been made on special order.

The beams of oak hand hewn by adze may also yet be seen in the basement dating from the time when the building functioned as a crushing mill.



The water is supplied by gravity from the mill pond through the raceway.

Three of the farm buildings are of rubble and were erected prior to the Revolution and rarely require repair.

The cows are Simmenthal-Swiss cattle—they are from the late Theodore Havemeyer's herd, and are exempt from tuberculosis. They are gentle, hardy and of rapid growth, reaching a size nearly as great as of Holsteins and give almost as much and as rich milk as the Jerseys.

The water fall is the site of the old furnace which existed until Mr. Hewitt thought it had reached such a dangerous stage that it might fall and injure children who continually played in and about it, so he ordered it filled up and the stones used to make the steps for the water fall, the water of which is still supplied by the old raceway which was built for the furnace power.

The dam of the mill pond above was constructed by Hasenclever and strengthened and heightened by Erskine.

The wooden house near the gate is believed to be the oldest building now standing on the manor close. For a number of years it was the gardener's cottage, after that, for quite a period it was used as a Catholic church.

The field beyond was known as Irishtown because of the houses there occupied by Irish families employed in the clay bed making bricks and in the forge.

The wheel shaft now lying on the ground was that of the water wheel for supplying power to the grist mill, etc., the smaller one of the two wheel shafts of the water wheels that supplied the power.

The other items at the crossroad consist of furnace bricks from the Hewitt and Wanaque furnace, a baffle bar from the Wanaque furnace, all of more recent date, baffle plate from the Ringwood furnace, pieces of blooms, pigs, and other iron relics found on the place.

The small house on the other side of the road at the end of the main house was formerly the manager's dwelling and was moved to its present position from the front lawn and turned into a laundry and bedrooms for visitor's valets and chauffeurs.

On the terrace lawn in front of the house, rests one of the old forge anvils, blooms and plates; part of the chain which went across the Hudson River at West Point and which was probably made at Ringwood—Robert Erskine's bill (now at the headquarters in Newburg) showing charges for this. One of the main deck guns of the Con-

stitution when it captured the *Guerriere*, one of the two believed still remaining from the battery which was landed for the defense of Washington and buried on the retreat, the others having been melted up. One of the only two mortars which were fired at the capture of Vicksburg and Island No. 10, and bearing Inspector General Flagler's private mark, by which he recognized it, and the gun-carriage which was made by Mr. Hewitt; then the hammer and anvil which forged the chain, and the cog-wheel which was on the shaft supplying the power.

On the path in front of the house are Indian grindstones and crushing stones which were found on the place; two of them coming from the Indian Camp.

The iron gate is that of the English Governor General's house on Bowling Green, New York, and the ornaments on each side of the door are from the Schermerhorn House on 23rd Street, New York.

The brownstone block is the manor's old mounting block of Revolutionary and prior days, and the giant pear tree alongside the porte-cochère was probably planted at least 50 years before the Revolution and occasionally still bears pears.

In the chimney above the porte-cochère hangs

the bell from the old furnace which rang in times of danger, fire and raids, summoning all the people of the place.

The iron slab at the steps is from the furnace and that and the others in front may have served as hearths or firebacks.

The lanterns are those which stood at the corners of the railing which surrounded King George's lead statue on Bowling Green, New York, the pictures of which may be seen in the print of the mob tearing down the statue, and the piece of ornamental iron work is from the English Governor-General's house, the other (the more important and elaborate one) having been first missed at the same time as the great tongs, when the grounds were opened and a special exhibit arranged on the afternoons in 1933 at the request of the State Bicentennial Commission, for twenty days for exhibition purposes and which without advertisement resulted in the visit of nearly 21,000 people. Starting at 125 the first day and ending with 9400 on the last day although it was raining cats and dogs.

The house was built at various times, the West end being the oldest. At two different times additions were made, later a house was moved up, remodeled and attached; then another addition

was built and lastly, the Manager's house was moved up off the end across the road.

Originally the sides of the house were clapboards. About 45 years ago these were removed and replaced with cement to save the cost of constant painting and to render the house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, as well as more economical to heat. At different times the house, too, has been rearranged and the rooms remodeled.

The heating and the plumbing are so arranged that they can be turned on or off as the house is open in whole or in thirds. Features of the house are the double air spaces in the walls and the great thickness of the walls in the cellar contributing to its solidity, while the air spaces make for dryness and uniformity of temperature. The water was formerly supplied by a ram from the dairy, but now comes by gravity under a heavy fall from Shepherd's Pond and Lake Towanda, to the large cement tank on the top of the hill back of the house, which also serves to reduce the pressure, but even so it will throw a stream over the house.

The windows of the glass piazza were formerly part of the Cooper Union Art School, and when they were taken down at the time that building was altered and added to, they were brought up

to Ringwood as a matter of sentiment to be used to make an open-air or closed-in piazza, as they are arranged like doors to open wide.

When it became necessary, because of the growth of New York, to tear down Peter Cooper's old house at the corner of 28th Street and Fourth Avenue, New York, near where the Boston and Albany Turnpikes crossed, and which was erected by Mr. Cooper with wooden pegs because nails were unobtainable, this, too, was removed to Ringwood by Mrs. Hewitt as a matter of sentiment.

Passing along the front of the house is the door said to be from the old original house on which the under paint is stated by Mr. F. Baumgarten one of Mr. Thomas Snells' most skilled workmen to be over 150 years old and an ornamental volute by DeLaunitz, one of the first Polish refugees and the father-in-law of Daniel French, the artist; and a terrace of modern Baltimore hexagonal brick, similar to the old. The old knockers from the two doors were removed for purposes of preservation and are kept in the house. The two stone tables are mill stones from Padua.

Continuing to the garden back of the house, planned and laid out by Mrs. Hewitt (who said she could not paint a picture but could make one) and Miss E. G. Hewitt, are two tuyères and a baffle

bar from the Wanaque furnace. The well, dug by Robert Erskine, the last fifteen feet in solid rock, is almost sixty feet deep and has about fifteen feet of water, the temperature and level of which never seem to vary winter or summer. The water itself is very pure having but a slight trace of iron. The pink marble curb, iron work and original lead buckets are Venetian and were secured and erected by Mrs. Hewitt. The ornaments on each side of the entrance door are from Greenwich Street, and the volute, the other of the pair which were both carved free hand by DeLaunitz.

The columns in the garden are from the New York Life Insurance Company Building on Broadway, N. Y., and the marble benches are an anniversary wedding present from Mr. Hewitt to Mrs. Hewitt. The garden ornaments are French and were purchased and installed by Mrs. Hewitt.

The gates are from Astor's House on 33rd Street, New York, and the Yew tree by the side of the steps is from a seed from fruit from Bey Ler Bey palace, Constantinople, where Mrs. Hewitt was allowed to pick it by the Sultan Abdul Hamid's aide.

The fountain in the center is mounted on another one of the old millstones which were in use on the place.

The pink semi-circular well curb is Venetian



and was an acquisition of Mrs. and the Misses Hewitt, and the caryatides against the wall are Italian and put in place by Mrs. Hewitt.

The two ornaments on each side of the path are from Greenwich Street, New York, and the Chinese vase a present from Mr. Erskine Hewitt to the Misses Hewitt is placed on another of the millstones. The gates are from William Cooper's house on 21st Street, New York. Then the little marble copy of the Diana, a present to Miss E. G. Hewitt from Mr. Snell. The statue at the end of the walk is French and represents Europe, and is also from the Bishop's palace.

Passing around the corner are some of the newel posts from Colonnade Row, Lafayette Place, New York, and the little marble boy playing with the rabbit is French and was purchased and set up by Mr. Erskine Hewitt. The three entrance gates to the vegetable garden are those of the Middle Dutch Reformed Church in New York, up one of which when about 15 years of age, Alexander Hamilton is said to have climbed to harangue the mob, the first time he was ever heard of in public life, and through which for many years all the students of Columbia College walked for their graduating exercises.

The muscatel grapes in the Green House may

be said to be the only pedigreed grapes in this country, and certainly have a most remarkable flavor. Their progenitors were brought to Spain by the Moors when they conquered it. Later when Ferdinand and Isabella captured Granada, they kept these grapes as a royal prerogative, and no cuttings were ever permitted to be made.

Sir William Cunard was one of the great grape specialists of England, so after he had established the Cunard Line to Spain, the then King, as a mark of special recognition, presented him with some cuttings.

Sir William was a great friend of Mr. Hewitt, and many years later, when Mrs. Hewitt was sailing from England for home, she found a package of cuttings from these grape vines in her cabin as a present from Sir William, and from these the present vines were propagated.

The little log cabin, now a place for garden tools, was formerly a play house with a large fireplace completely fitted up with the old spit and crane spiders, pots, hanging griddle pans, waffle irons, etc., removed from the Manor House, and where the family and guests went frequently for 5 o'clock tea in chilly autumn weather before a great open fire, sitting around swapping stories and telling of the day's doings while waiting for Miss E. G. Hewitt to make cakes and the most

delicious crullers, doughnuts, cookies, etc., as well as to cook the home made sausages. For all of which she was justly famous.

At the request of the Philadelphia Exposition Committee of 1876, Mr. Hewitt loaned sufficient utensils, spit crane and spiders, etc. to fit up an entire kitchen of the Revolutionary period of 1776, for the Exposition. But after the close of the Exposition, these were not returned, and when enquiring the reason why, was informed that they had been lost. A few years ago there was a similar collection in the Philadelphia Museum.

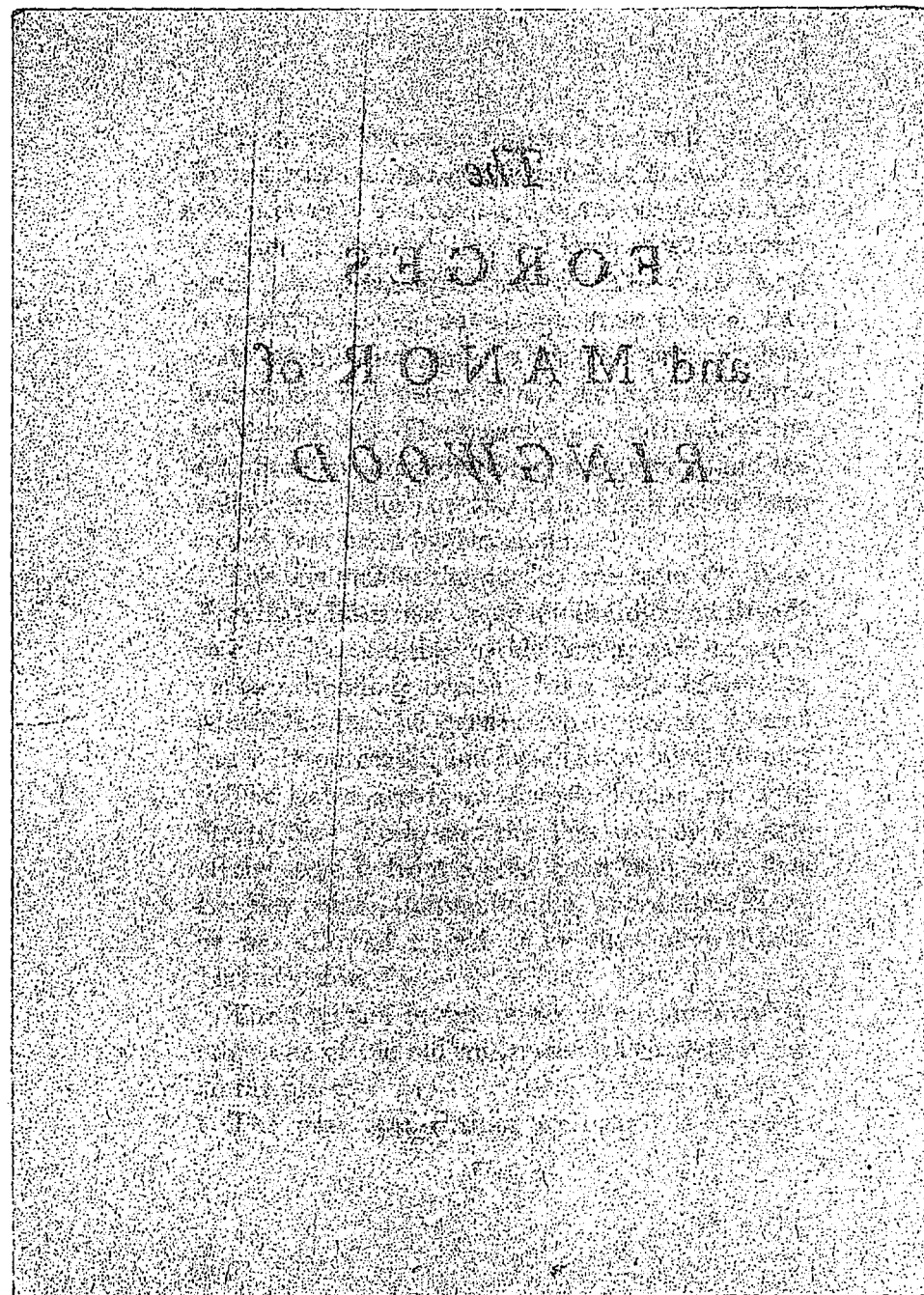
In the cellar of the house remain still the dog churn and many of these household utensils, as well as wooden utensils and implements and many of the old furnace tools.

The old letters found in a trunk in the house were given away by Mr. Hewitt.

The visitors' books of Ringwood are most unique and extraordinary, running back to just subsequent to the Civil War, they are filled with poetry, illustrated with water colors, drawings and record hosts of names of those distinguished in all walks of life, as well as containing many minor lights; seven large volumes in all, and serving to show well the atmosphere and the wide and varied activities of the great house through this period of years.

100

*The*  
FORGES  
and MANOR of  
*RINGWOOD*



WHEN Iron Ore was discovered and began to be worked in the region, Baron Hasenclever, the great promoter of his day learned of it. He came to this country, bought up and consolidated the various properties and sold the stock of the Company he formed in London mainly amongst the Court circles where he was an intimate, and largely to the Queen's Maids of Honour and even to Queen Charlotte. He then brought out to this country mechanics from England and iron workers from the Palatinate as well as others and started to develop on what was then a large scale, spending for what was that time huge sums of money. Exactly what he did appears in the "Defense of Baron Hasenclever" one of the very rare items of "Americana" in which is described fully the place, its operations and the life of that period; just how much ore was mined, charcoal and pig iron made, hemp and corn grown as well as all other kinds of grain, etc., the houses, forges and furnaces that were built, the roads and dams made and the water power created.

Tradition is that Hasenclever lived at Ring-



wood in great style with a brass band, but sent no money back to England which could be used for dividends, so he was removed and placed on trial for waste and graft. Tradition also relates that when because of Hasenclever's mismanagement, the place did not pay, King George was persuaded by his entourage to sign the tax on tea from which it has been inferred the Company was to benefit in some manner, so that the place may be said to have been the cause of the Revolution. Hasenclever was succeeded for two years by John Jacob Faesch and then Robert Erskine was sent out as Manager. At that time Erskine was one of the few engineers, including Washington, in this country. When the Revolution broke out Erskine sided with the Colonists and was appointed by Washington, Geographer and Surveyor General to the Revolutionary Armies, i.e., Chief Engineer, and as such made most of the military maps, including those for Washington's Jersey campaign, filling the office until his death and the advent of Kosciusko.

From the opening of hostilities, Robert Erskine maintained a company of troops ready to march on 24 hours notice, but the making of iron being more important even than military service, it was never called out but once for active duty, and

then the place was raided with the object of destroying the forge and furnace. However, the house was first burned, Mrs. Erskine escaping in her night dress with her watch in her slipper, and the raiders finding much rum and wine in the cellar proceeded to get drunk, thus delaying the burning and destruction of the furnace forge and other buildings, and giving sufficient time for troops to be summoned and drive them off.

As a large part of the iron used in the Revolution, such as cannon balls, strip iron, pig iron, etc., including a large portion of the chain which was laid across the Hudson at West Point, was made on the place, it was commonly said that the place also won the Revolution as well as being the cause of it.

It was the custom, during the Revolution, to parole captured officers at particular places and in the custody of certain people. Tradition relates that an English Colonel was paroled in the custody of Robert Erskine at Ringwood and that they became quite friendly, drinking mulled port and rum toddies after dinner, in the course of which the Colonel obtained a good deal of military information, some of which he succeeded in transmitting to the British, so that a general order was issued that the place and Robert Erskine should

never be mentioned in orders, letters, papers or correspondence, and many of the documents dated merely "Headquarters" are supposed to have had their origin in the house.

Washington being thoroughly familiar with the country was also supposed to have said "that New York would become the largest city on this continent and possibly in the world, and that the inhabitants were entitled to the best there was as a park and recreation ground and that 150,000 acres should be taken in this region, with Ringwood approximately as a center for such purposes." A map made by Erskine of the region, utilized later to show the location and what might be included, a photostat of which is in the house, has the following notation:

"Surveys done for his Ex. "General Washington by Rob Erskine F R S, Survy to the Army—*G. quitant 1778-1779.*

Exhibit "A" A copy of a "Survey done for Gen. Washington" which includes one half of the area proposed for a National Preserve, viz. all that is desired to the West of the Hudson River, offered as evidence of the importance of the region; as considered by Genl. Washington during our Rev-

olutionary period. The indication of various locations by the attachment of the names of our distinguished revolutionary heroes is significant of the extent to which the region was occupied during the war. Comparing this map with that of the U. S. Government fails to discover essential changes in one hundred and twenty-five years.

Edward L. Partridge"

The only permanent barracks for troops in the State of New Jersey were maintained at Ringwood. It was also the halfway stopping place (over night) of those journeying from Morristown to West Point and vice-versa, on the road which General Greene laid out in front of the house through Tuxedo, and in that way many of the leading Generals and characters of the Revolution passed through or spent the night at Ringwood, such as Lincoln, Howe, etc. Washington himself paying a number of such visits as is evidenced from entries in his expense account showing washing done at Ringwood and horses shod. Three separate times Washington spent longer periods at Ringwood, namely at the time of Major André's execution and for Erskine's funeral, when the shutters were closed in his headquarters at Kingston; at the time of the Pompton Mutiny,

when he was supposed to have spent nearly the week at Ringwood, and also when he celebrated the Declaration of Peace with General Lincoln and others by a dinner for which event it was said guests came out from as far as New York, and that everyone got quite merry.

A partial record of inhabitants of Ringwood having served with the Revolutionary forces has been compiled, and considering, the present population is surprisingly large, which shows that there must have been many more inhabitants in the region then than now.

EXTRACTS FROM "FAMILY RECORDS  
COLLECTED BY WILLIAM JACKSON"  
1869"

"Soon after the Revolution commenced, Lord Sterling represented to the British Government that these furnaces were *all* there were, by which the Rebels could procure Shot & Shell, and that if the Government pay for them, they would burn them down, which they did, and then left the country. All the property was confiscated and after many years was bought by Martin Ryerson, Esq. of Pompton, who owned it at the time he died, at an advanced age, upwards of 90 years.

Lord Sterling's representations were untrue,

for at the same time the Hibernia Furnace was in blast, carried on by Ross & Bird, in 1772, and afterwards carried on by John Stoutsbury until 1799."

The above extract serves to show that the military importance of the place was well recognized.

From the above, it might be surmised that Lord Sterling was in communication with the other side, or even, possibly a traitor to the Revolution. This view is somewhat borne out by the fact that when ordered by Washington to attack New York, the troops failed to move. Washington came in person and made Lord Sterling take the Oath of Allegiance, which he witnessed, before all the troops, and Sterling never again received any important command. This Oath is now in the hall at Ringwood.

Robert Erskine built the dam at Tuxedo, and dug the ditch in order to turn the waters of Tuxedo Lake Ringwood way to increase the power for the furnace and forge.

He also constructed a dam at Greenwood Lake for the power at Hewitt furnace and forge.

NEW YORK HERALD

Wednesday, April 4, 1804

To BE SOLD, that valuable estate known by the

name of RINGWOOD IRONWORKS, situate in the county of Bergen, and state of New Jersey.

This estate contains about six thousand two hundred acres of land, of which there is upwards of six hundred acres cleared; two hundred and fifty acres of good meadow, which is now regularly mowed; besides a large quantity of land capable, with a little expence, of being converted into excellent arable land and meadow. There is on the premises a large Iron Furnace in complete order, which has cast four hundred and fifty tons of cast iron a year. One Iron Forge built last year, in perfect repair, which has three fires, and is equal in point of situation and repair to any forge in New Jersey. On the stream of water running through this tract there are several other scites for water-works, some of which were once occupied by the American Company (the former proprietors of this estate) as seats for forges and a grist mill; others have never been occupied at all. The wood on this tract is excellent, and in inexhaustible quantities, within one mile of the furnace; besides coal-houses, workmen's houses, and all other buildings necessary as appurtenances to the iron-works.

There is on this estate an elegant Mansion House, 92 feet front, and about 30 feet deep, on



which there has lately been expended a large sum of money, and is now in perfect repair. The Wood also on this estate is sufficient for every purpose which can be wanted about the works—in short, when it is considered that these works are within 25 miles of three different Landings; Acquacknonk, on Passaic river; Demarest's Landing, on Hackinsack river, and Haverstraw, on the Hudson river—it is believed that no estate now offered for sale affords so fair a prospect of advantage to a purchaser as this.

Also, the tract of Land known by the name of the Long Pond, adjoining the former, containing about Six Thousand Six Hundred Acres. This tract was also formerly the property of the American Company, and they had on the premises a large Iron Furnace, a Forge, and other works. The Iron Mines on this estate are numerous and good; the Scites for Water works are equal, if not superior, to any others in New Jersey; the wood in great abundance; and the estate one of the best objects of speculation now at market. These two estates will be sold either separate or together, as may best suit the purchaser. If, however, they are sold separate, the Long Pond tract will be sold first. For terms apply to the subscriber at the

Ringwood works. The payment will be made easy to the purchaser.

JOHN OLD.

N.B. If the above property is not sold at private sale before the 16th day of April next, it will on that day be offered at Public Sale, at Ringwood Furnace. At the same time and place will be sold a variety of Household Furniture, a number of Team and Hackney Horses, Oxen, Milch Cows, Waggons, Carts, two complete setts of Smiths, and one of Carpenters Tools, &c. &c. The terms of sale will be made known by applying to the Subscriber at or before that time.

J. OLD.

Ringwood, March 15.

Mar 21 to Ap. 16

Copy of the letter, endorsed Captain B. Walker, "General Washington and his Lady are to visit me at Pompton," to Brigadier General Clinton, or Officer Commanding New York Brigade, Morristown, March 28th, 1782.

Sir:—

The Commander-in-Chief proposes leaving this place tomorrow evening, so as to arrive in the vicinity of your cantonment in the evening, and the next morning early will review the

troops, and proceed the same day as far as Ringwood. As it is rather dangerous remaining at night in the clove, you will please to send a captain's guard from your brigade to remain at Ringwood the night the General stays there. You will please to order your Quartermaster to provide sufficient quarters in your vicinity for the General and his family, which consists of Mrs. Washington and four gentlemen and nineteen horses, inclusive of the escort of the officers, sergeant and twelve dragoons.

I am, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

Benjamin Walker,

Aide de Camp.

The pass above the house has always been known as the "Clove" and is so designated in all the old correspondence and documents. The local names, too, are not only quite characteristic, but interesting. The names of some of the Lakes are as follows: Iawanda, Tuxedo, Wawayanda, Awosting, etc. The names of some of the brooks are, Wanaque, Cupsaw, Pequest, Ringwood, etc. The names of some of the mountains are, Wind Beam, Whaleback, Hope and Board.

Answering the frequently expressed feminine

question and for the delectation of female fears, are there ghosts?—There are.

More than the usual number of old ghostly superstitions float about the place. There is "Spook rock" on the old mine road where the spirit of one of the early settlers is supposed at times to come out of the crack and sit at night on the top of the rock (to the terror of the wayfarer).

In the depths of Peters and Hope mines, the miners, at rare intervals, hear the knocking of those who have gone before, summoning some of the living present to join them, nearly always followed by a serious accident. So strong was this superstition that the miners would quit work for several days when the knocking began until reassured by lapse of time and their formen.

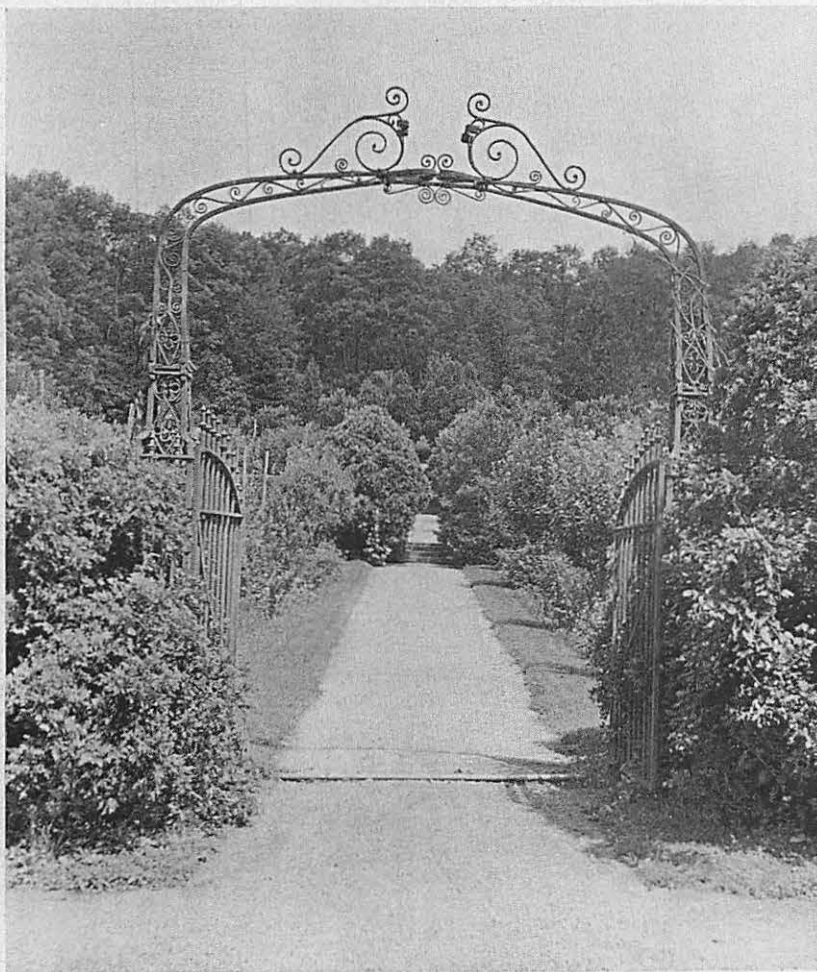
Robert Erskine's grave, from which, after a brick fell out in early days, his ghost was said to come and sit on the top of the tomb with a blue lantern and escort those passing on the road as far as the bridge and then mysteriously disappear without saying a word. This superstition became so strong and prevalent that none of the negro inhabitants would walk past the tomb after nine o'clock on dark nights. So to overcome this, Mrs. Hewitt had the brick replaced, since which time

the ghost has never appeared and the superstition has nearly faded away.

Lastly, and seldom, the unusual ghost of the house, only heard in four rooms on stormy or windy nights and who wakes sleepers out of a sound sleep when he opens the front door, walks the right number of steps to the stairs, the right number to the landing, across the landing up to the top and across the hall and then stops, and which has never been seen but only heard.

A rather amusing story is told of the Ringwood bull. When the owners of the place got in financial difficulties and could not pay, the Sheriff, amongst other items, used to advertise the bull for sale. Extensions of debt were obtained and some were paid of what were owed when the matter would lapse. Then when things got in a bad way again, the bull would be advertised, and this went on over a period of years. Finally when conditions got particularly bad, the Sheriff called and said he must really seize the bull and sell it, when he was told by the owner, Mr. Ryerson that unfortunately the bull had been killed and eaten two years before.

Until the advent of Peter Cooper, there was practically no cash in the locality. Goods and supplies were received every so often and were dis-



GATE FROM MIDDLE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH THROUGH WHICH MR. A. S. HEWITT WALKED FOR HIS COLUMBIA COLLEGE GRADUATING EXERCISES IN 1842, AND CLIMBED BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON TO HARANGUE THE MOB.



SOUTH VIEW OF THE RINGWOOD HOUSE SHOWING FRONT TERRACE AND TREES PLANTED IN HONOR OF PEACE OF GHENT  
BY MRS. RYERSON.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

FEB 16 1935

*Brown  
Watson*

*0-35  
Ryerson*

Hon. A. Harry Moore,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Moore:

We have received your letter of February 6 in which you state you are interested in learning the steps which must be taken by individuals who are desirous of having a site considered for a national park.

National parks and monuments are established to preserve areas which are universally recognized as outstanding examples of major types of American landscape, or sites of great historic or scientific value to the entire American public. National parks are established by acts of Congress while national monuments may be set aside by Presidential Proclamation.

Your reference to the property known as Ringwood Manor or Ryerson House in Passaic County, has been noted, and our Historical Division is studying this matter.

In case this area were to be considered for administration by the National Park Service, it should be free from private ownership as there are no funds available for the purchase of this land for park purposes.

For the Director:

Cordially yours,

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Conrad L. Wirth.  
Assistant Director.

✓  
KAB-fmd



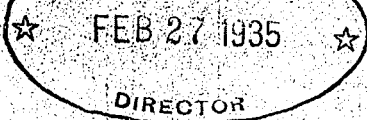
Telephone Lambert 6195

*Dr. Bryant*  
*M. Chateau*

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC. *M. Witz*

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants



175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.,

*Feb 26* 1935

*Mr. Arno P. Cammerer*  
*Director of the National Service*  
*U.S. Dept of the Interior*  
*My dear Mr. Cammerer.*

*Enclosed please find*  
*an Editorial about the George House*  
*to be taken over as a Nat. Service*  
*or for Washington, D.C. request.*

*Kindly do all you can*  
*and greatly obliges*

*Yours very sincerely*

*Martin J. Logans*

THE PATERSON EVENING NEWS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1935

### A NATIONAL SHRINE AT THE HISTORIC RYERSON HOUSE

The 203rd anniversary of the birth of George Washington being universally celebrated today again brings into vivid prominence the wealth of Washingtonian lore rampant in Northern New Jersey. Particular reference is made to the historic Ryerson House, in Ringwood.

The Ryerson House Commission appointed by Governor Moore, last summer, has been making noteworthy efforts to have the Federal authorities establish a national park at the Ryerson manse. The outstanding proponent of the move is Martin Hogenkamp of Paterson, whose patriotic endeavors have become a byword.

None will deny such a project is eminently fitting. One of the immortal Washington's last requests was that the shrine be preserved for posterity. Troops were quartered there during the Revolution and ore taken from the Ringwood mines was cast into cannonballs. Surveyor-General Robert Erskine, mapmaker and indispensable associate of Washington, is buried there.

It is the perfect National Shrine, and it is to be hoped that it will eventuate.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Chittela*  
*Brown*  
*Janning*  
*Golson*

February 27, 1936

Mr. Martin J. Hogencamp,  
175-177 East 15th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

0-35  
*Reynolds*

Dear Mr. Hogencamp:

The National Park Service has received your letter of February 26, to which you attached a newspaper editorial on the Old Ryerson House, in Ringwood, New Jersey.

This Service is very glad to obtain this information which will be valuable for our files. We thank you for sending this clipping to us.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY  
A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

VEC:ICS

*Mr. W. H. H.*

*Please note  
B. J. H. H.  
Miss D. H. H.  
F. L.*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Kahy  
Brown  
Trager  
Z. H.  
Kerning*

*File*

March 13, 1935

*D-35*

*Reynolds*

Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
Chairman, Ryerson House Commission,  
45 North Broad Street,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Calkins:

The National Park Service has received your letter of February 9, with enclosures, dealing with the park possibility of "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood" in Passaic County, New Jersey.

This is undoubtedly a beautiful and historic tract, and the Historical Division of this Service has been asked to make a study of its potentialities for development as a national historical park. However, the National Park Service has no funds for the purchase of such an area. In the creation of national historical parks or monuments, we are usually dependent upon donations for acquisition of the necessary lands and properties. The existence of Morristown National Historical Park, which you mention in your letter, is due to the generosity of the Washington Association of New Jersey, the town of Morristown, and several private individuals, who donated the land embraced within the present area of the park.

Your kindness in calling this matter to our attention is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY  
A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director



Bloomington N.J.

Mar. - 13 - 1935 -

Mr. A. B. Hammer

~~Mr. Bernier~~

~~Mr. Bryant~~

Dear sir: -

~~Mr. H. C. L. L.~~

I am sending you a booklet;  
on page 6 you will find a picture of the  
"Old Ryerson Forge" taken in 1897. It has fallen  
into decay since then, the foundation still  
stands, the old stone building in the back  
ground still stands in good condition, the old  
Hammer Shaft lies on the ground, the race-ways  
and pond are still in evidence but dry. I have  
a few other things that belong to the Forge. By  
the way "Federal Hill", where the Federal Army  
encamped is only one half mile from my place.  
If possible I would like to sell this to the  
State this year, as I cannot keep it, and don't  
like to sell it in building lots. Do what you can  
for me.

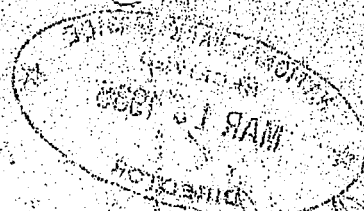
Signed

Mrs. W. E. Blanchard

over

Please return to the  
J. W. C. Co. 1000 10th St. W. Wash. D.C.

1981-1982



W. B. Smith

I am writing to you  
 of our friends and  
 all who are  
 with us in the  
 and the other

[illegible]

*[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, possibly "The end of the world"]*

Telephone Lambert 6195

RECEIVED  
APR 2 - 1935  
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LANDS

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

*Mr. [Signature]*  
*By [Signature]*  
*April 3 - 1935*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.

*Perch 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*1935*

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
APR - 2 1935  
TO NAT'L PARKS  
SPECIAL AGT., REPT'S., B.L. & FILES

*Interior*  
*(Nat'l Park Service)*  
*RECEIVED*  
*FOR CONSIDERATION*  
*By [Signature]*  
*Copy to President*

*Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
*President*  
*My dear President*

*Enclosed please find*  
*article about Gerson House etc.*  
*Kindly do all you can to*  
*get this as a National Park and Shrine*  
*to honor General Washington*  
*Request*

*This is a Natural Place for a*  
*Park and Shrine.*  
*Lots of Ground can be got*  
*around there. This gives people*  
*work, and is a great place for Field*  
*Life Preservation etc.*  
*Kindly do all you can for it, and*  
*greatly oblige yours truly*  
*Arthur H. Hoge*  
*Hogencamp*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## Ryerson House / Board Continues

### Governor Signs Measure —Mayor Writes to the President

Governor Harold G. Hoffman last night signed the bill sponsored by Assemblyman Schroeder, of Bergen county, extending the Ryerson House commission for another year. The commissioners are Hiram Calkins, of Ridgewood, chairman; Martin J. Hogencamp, of this city, vice-chairman, and Miss Charlotte C. Ayerig, of Ridgewood, secretary.

As a step toward creating a national park at Ringwood Manor, Mayor John V. Hinchliffe at the request of Mr. Hogencamp, has sent a letter to President Roosevelt, urging the project.

The letter follows:

"I have been requested by Mr. Martin J. Hogencamp, of this city, to recommend to you the establishment of a national park at Ringwood Manor, N. J.

"This particular location is the site of the Ryerson house which has a very historical background and is quite accessible from any part of our state. Land could undoubtedly be secured at a very reasonable price.

"I am of the opinion that this location is suitable for a National Park."

TWO

## Ringwood Manor National Shrine

### Suggestion Made By Mar- tin Hogencamp Received By The President

Proposal that the federal government take over Ringwood Manor as a national shrine is now under consideration by Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the interior, it became known yesterday, following the receipt by Martin J. Hogencamp of a letter from the White House.

The suggestion that the government maintain the celebrated historical spot in this county was recently made to President Roosevelt by Mr. Hogencamp, who is a member of the state commission named last year to study the manor as a possible state park. Mr. Hogencamp a few days ago received from Louis Mc Henry Howe, secretary to the president, the following letter:

The White House  
Washington

January 15, 1935.

"My dear Mr. Hogencamp:

"Your letter of January tenth, with the enclosed clipping, has been received. By the President's direction, it is being referred to the Secretary of the Interior, who has jurisdiction over the National Park Service, for consideration.

"Very sincerely yours,

"LOUIS McH. HOWE,

"Secretary to the President."

Because northern New Jersey, centering particularly around northern Passaic county and its Ramapo mountains, was so largely instrumental in shaping the destinies of our early days, and has assumed so commanding and at the same time so interesting a part in American history, Mr. Hogencamp believes the Ringwood manor, associated as it was so intimately with the events of the Revolution and particularly with Washington's activities in this vicinity, should take its place alongside other famous American memorials.

Ringwood manor was the seat of the earliest iron mining activities in the American colonies, was the Revolutionary home of Robert Erskine, friend and surveyor-general to Washington.

## IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room.

Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

ARNO B. CAMMERER,

Director.

To:

Mr. Lehtelaine

WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

10-38

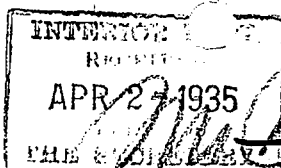
10-39

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

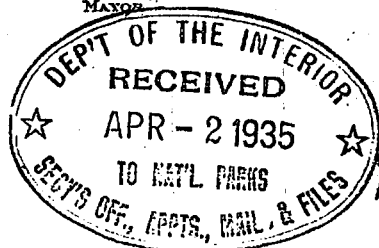
*Miss Brown* <sup>noted</sup>  
*Phone no.* <sup>JMD</sup>

*I wrote to Mr  
Chablain.*

*JLB*



JOHN V. HINGHLIFFE  
MAYOR



Office of the Mayor

City Hall

RECEIVED  
FOR CONSIDERATION  
RECEIVED  
FOR CONSIDERATION

*Louis Mackay Howe*

March,  
Twenty-Second,  
1935.

*Interior  
(Nat. Park Serv.)*

*3/25-35  
trp*

*Chatelain*

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.

Your Excellency:

I have been requested by one, Mr.  
Martin J. Hogencamp, of this City,  
to recommend to you the establishment  
of a national park at Ringwood Manor,  
N.J.

This particular location is the site  
of the Ryerson House which has a very  
historical background and is quite  
accessible from any part of our State.  
Land could undoubtedly be secured at  
a very reasonable price.

I am of the opinion that this location  
is suitable for a National Park.

Respectfully submitted,

*John V. Hinghliff*  
MAYOR.

P. R. S. 17716

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

*Walton  
Wirth*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE COPY



Colonel Richard Lieber,  
Collaborator,  
512 Illinois Building,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

My dear Colonel Lieber:

I have received a copy of your address,  
which you delivered before the Fifth National  
Conference on State Parks at Hot Springs.

Mr. Wirth had this address sent to me,  
and I read it with much interest.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1935

Mr. Martin J. Hogencamp,  
The Franklin Overall Company,  
175-177 East 15th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Hogencamp:

The National Park Service has received your letter of February 8, and has also received by reference your letters of January 24 and March 28 to President Roosevelt, concerning the possibility of making a national park of the area in Passaic County, New Jersey, known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood."

You will recall that we have already written to you on February 4 and February 27 concerning this matter.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter recently sent to Mr. Hiram Calkins, the Chairman of the Ryerson House Commission, which will explain our attitude on this subject.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,  
(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer  
Director

Enclosure 591174  
HE:tvw

Kahn  
Chittie  
Brown  
Bryant  
Jennings  
Hogencamp

0-35  
Ryerson House



Telephone <sup>ARK</sup> Lambert 6195

APR 16 1935

MAILS AND FILES

*Miss Duncan notes  
Noted Jmd*

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

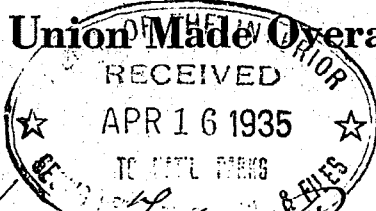
Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

INVENTOR DEPT

APR 16 1935

OFFICE AT  
NEW YORK



PATENTED  
RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR CONSIDERATION

Louis Messing  
Secy to President

*Chaklam*

1935

Hon. F. D. Roosevelt  
President of United States.

My Dear President  
congratulate you on your great victory  
in getting the Relief Bill passed. Trust you will meet with great  
success. I trust you will be able to do something for  
the Person House Commission which was named by  
Senator Moore when Governor of N.J. to take over or a park.

The State of N.J. has no money to spare at present  
and therefore asking for your help. Since you have the  
money now for such a purpose.

This place is a natural place for a National Park and Shrine  
has all the facilities, such as historical, Wild Life protection  
water (head for northern N.J.) and planting of trees etc.

This gives work for people etc.  
Kindly ask Senator Moore who can give you all  
information about it.

It means a great deal for N.J. also 17 city  
and orange County in N.J.

It will also grow. I encourage the Shington request  
that it should be kept as a National Shrine and Park  
do all you can for us, and greatly oblige  
Yours Truly  
Arthur Hogenkamp



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Kaher  
Chattam  
P. F.  
Jenny*

April 12, 1935

Hon. John V. Hinchliffe,  
Mayor, City of Paterson,  
City Hall,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

*0-35  
Byerson House*

My dear Mayor Hinchliffe:

The National Park Service has received, by reference from President Roosevelt, your letter of March 22 concerning the proposal to make a national park of the area known as "Ringwood Manor" in Passaic County, New Jersey.

We have already written to Mr. Hiram Calkins, the Chairman of the Byerson House Commission in connection with this matter. A copy of our letter to him, which will explain our attitude on this subject, is enclosed.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY  
A. E. Demaray, Jr.  
Acting Director.

Enclosure 591200

HK: ICS

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Kalu  
Chittaur  
Jennings*

April 23, 1935

Mrs. W. E. Blanchard,  
Bloomingdale,  
New Jersey.

*0-35  
Ryerson*

My dear Mrs. Blanchard:

The National Park Service has received your letter of March 13, with enclosure, concerning the proposal to make a national park of the old Ryerson Forge in Bloomingdale.

You will recall that we wrote you in regard to this matter on January 31, 1935. Although this site is of some historic interest, it is not felt that it belongs in the group of national parks and monuments administered by this Service. Perhaps the local authorities of your community could be interested in the preservation of this old mill.

The booklet enclosed with your letter is being returned, in accordance with your request.

Sincerely yours,  
(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Director

*AC*

HK:ICS

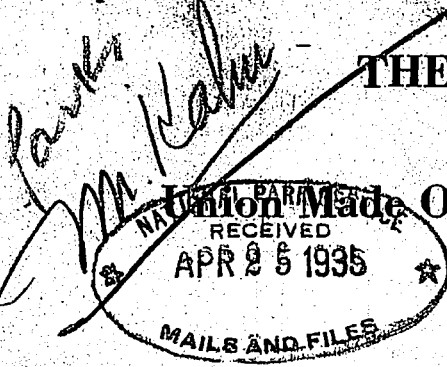
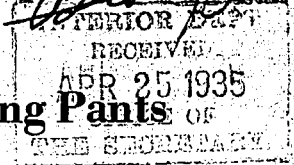
**THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.**

Manufacturers of

**Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants**

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.,



*April 24<sup>th</sup> 1935*

*Hon. H. C. Taper  
Secretary of Interior  
Washington*

*Dear Secretary I have written to President Roosevelt about looking over the Persson house at Ringwood Manor as a National Park, and he has referred it to you. I am one of the Commissioners appointed by Senator Hoover when he was Governor of N.J. to take over this house etc as a Park. The State of N.J. has no money at present to spare, am therefore trying to get the Government to take it over.*

*It is a National Place for a National Park, and very historical, also is good to plant trees to protect the State's Mud, and also for Bird life protection. Will give lots of work to people to lay out roads and walks etc. It is in Passaic Co. N.J. adjoins Orange Co. N.J. I can get lots of ground around this house. When General Washington requested to keep this as a shrine and Park I am informed. I trust you will look into this carefully, and do what you can to help this Commission. I am sure you will be successful. Sincerely, H. H. H.*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Kahn  
Brow  
Bryant  
Jennings  
Amaly*

April 27, 1935

Mr. Martin J. Hogencamp,  
175-177 East 15th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

*6-35  
Bryant*

Dear Mr. Hogencamp:

Your letter of April 10 to President Roosevelt, and your letter of April 24 to Secretary Ickes, concerning the proposed establishment of a national historical park in the area known as "The Forge and Manor of Ringwood" in Passaic County, New Jersey, have been referred to this Service for consideration.

As you will recall, we have written to you on February 4, February 27, and April 6, 1935, in regard to this matter. I am enclosing for your information a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Hiram Galkins, the chairman of your Commission, on this subject, which will explain our attitude in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER  
Arno B. Cammerer,  
Director

Enclosure 622216

THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

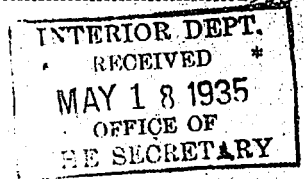
Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.

May 16<sup>th</sup> 1935



Hon. F. D. Roosevelt.

President of the United States

My dear President

Enclosed clipping of Person house  
which was in news on the 13<sup>th</sup> and sending to you.  
Trust you will like what it says.

Expect a number to inspect this house  
Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 P.M.

Would like Mr. Roosevelt and you to be  
present, if you or Mr. Roosevelt cannot attend.  
Perhaps some one to represent you.

The place is only a little way from Hyde  
Park and opens orange co. It is in  
Passaic Co. known as Ringwood Manor.

The place has to be seen to appreciate  
it. Very historical etc.

I trust you will do all you can  
for us for the Government to take  
it over. Sincerely yours,  
Martin J. McGinnis

## Coyle Selected As President of Newspaper Club

### Picas Hold Dinner Meeting and Election at Wanaque Valley Inn

Robert B. Coyle, for thirty years an active member of the Pica club was unanimously elected president of the North Jersey newspapermen's club at the annual meeting held Saturday at the Wanaque Valley inn, Hewitt.

Arthur G. McMahon, of the Passaic Herald-News was elected vice-president; Charles A. Winans was reelected secretary and George H. Burke was reelected treasurer. The following were elected members of the executive committee Ralph Bentley, retiring president; William Spaar, Jr., Noah Krieger, Robert Stakesing, J. Lee Stark and Major Joseph Paccavajo.

#### Admit New Members

George L. Walsh and Alderman Joseph W. King, both of Paterson, were elected to associate membership while John Passaretti, orchestra leader, was elected to honorary membership. The Pica club went on record on the motion of Abe J. Greene, associate editor of the News, to endorse the movement to have the federal government take over the Ryerson house, at Ringwood, as a national patriotic shrine. The move which already has the support of Governor Harold G. Hoffman and United States Senators W. Warren Barbour and A. Harry Moore, was suggested in behalf of Martin J. Hogencamp, Ryerson house commissioner.

In behalf of Mr. Hogencamp, Mr. Greene extended an invitation to the members to inspect the Ryerson house on Saturday afternoon, June 1.

One of the oldest active newspapermen in North Jersey, President Coyle was associated with the News when its plant was located on Paterson street many years ago. Later he was associated with the old Paterson Press.

The members of the club were the dinner guests of James Larwood, Hewitt estate associate through Alex M. MacLeod, Republican county chairman.

#### Shore Dinner at Lake

It was also indicated that the annual shore dinner of the club would be at the Bon Air lodge, Lake Hopatcong on the last Saturday in July.

A few words, not speeches, were made by the following who were introduced by Toastmaster Burke: Ogden Hewitt, Charles B. Messick, secretary of the state civil service commission; James Larwood, William Borden, of Trenton; James Higgins, of Newark; Abe J. Greene, Harry Durkin, Charles A. Koppen, Allen W. Smith, Alex M. MacLeod, Theodore Bunker, Ralph E. Bentley, Robert Stakesing, James Madden, John J. Sweeney, Albert Rhodes and Robert B. Coyle.

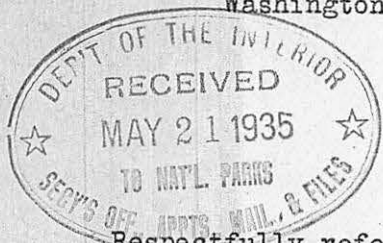
Entertainment was furnished by Will Oakland and Billie Lee, through the courtesy of Frank Donato, of the Colonia Inn.

*Paul*

COPY

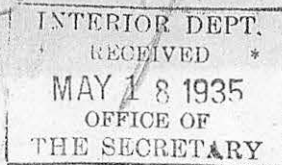
THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington



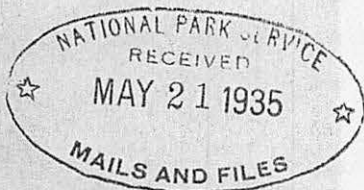
May 17, 1935.

*Chatlain*



Respectfully referred to the Department of the Interior for consideration and appropriate acknowledgment.

(Sgd.) Louis Mc. H. Howe  
LOUIS McH. HOWE  
Secretary to the President





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Kuhn*  
*Chittenden*  
*Bryant*  
*Jennings*  
*Galsob*

May 27, 1935

Mr. Martin J. Hogenkamp,  
176-177 East 18th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Hogenkamp:

Your letter of May 16, with enclosure, to President Roosevelt, concerning the proposal to make a national historical monument of the area known as the "Forges and Manor of Ringwood", has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration.

As you know, we have already written to you on February 4, February 27, April 6 and April 21, and have also written to Mr. Hiram Calkins, the Chairman of the Ryerson House Commission. A copy of our letter to Mr. Calkins was enclosed in our last letter to you.

Inasmuch as this is an area which is being offered for sale the National Park Service can take no further action in connection with the matter, as it has no funds with which to acquire lands of this kind.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) G. A. MOSKEY

A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

HK:ICS

Mr. Chateaux  
71

## THE FRANKLIN OVERALL CO., INC.

Manufacturers of

Union Made Overalls, Sack Coats, Aprons and Working Pants

175-177 E. 15th STREET

Paterson, N. J.

1935

 INTERIOR DEPT.  
 RECEIVED  
 JUN 7 - 1935  
 OFFICE OF  
 THE SECRETARY

 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 RECEIVED  
 JUN - 8 1935  
 MAILS AND FILES

Hon. F. D. Roosevelt

President of U.S.

My Dear President

Please find Enclosed article about trip  
to Ryerson House, at Ringwood, New  
Jersey. I am very sorry Mr. Roosevelt  
could not be present, as I am sure  
he would have enjoyed to see the  
Historic House, and the Historical  
things in it.

It is one of the most Historical  
Places in the U.S. and has as much  
if not more, than any Place of Historical  
Relics in the House as any in the U.S.

It is too bad that some thing came  
in the way of taking over as a National  
Shrine by the U.S. as to honor General  
Washington. I regret, but you will  
help me. With kind regards, I remain, your  
devoted friend,  
Arthur H. Hogue

# Ryerson House Movement Speeded After DAR Visit

Estate Well Preserved—Extensive Historical Collection on Hand—Washington Envisioned Grounds as National Preserve

Impetus to the movement to have the historic Ryerson House in Ringwood preserved as a national shrine had been gathered today as a result of an inspection of the picturesque estate by members of Garret A. Hobart and William Patterson Chapters, D. A. R., and representatives of kindred organizations.

## 60 Persons in Party

A group of approximately sixty persons was conducted through the massive and beautifully appointed rooms of the one-time home of Surveyor General Robert Erskine, aide to George Washington, Saturday, by Erskine Hewitt, president of the Ringwood company, present owners of the estate. The trip was arranged with Mr. Hewitt, a descendant of the early owners, by Martin Hogencamp, member of the state Ryerson House commission.

D. Stanton Hammond, president of the Passaic County Historical

Visit Paterson's Free \$12,000 Exposition Home, East 41st, Park and 7th Avenue.

society, sounded the keynote of brief addresses heard by the group after the host had explained some of the hundreds of relics in the old mansion. Declaring there has been "a lot of talk" about making the Ryerson estate a national shrine, Mr. Hammond suggested "now let's do something about it." He urged members of the D. A. R. and others to write to President Roosevelt, proposing that the federal government acquire the property.

## Well Preserved

Principal Francis R. North, of Eastside High school, in behalf

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)

## Ryerson House Movement Speeded After Visit

(Continued from page 1)

of the educational interests, declared the residents of Passaic county and the nation are obligated to the Erskine, Cooper and Hewitt families for preserving the mansion, near which the important iron smelting of the Revolutionary war was done, and which the father of his country visited.

Others called upon by Mr. Hogencamp, all of whom pledged their personal efforts and the aid of their groups to have the site acquired by the government, were Mrs. Julia Vermeulen and Mrs. Hester Fles, regents of Hobart and Patterson chapters, respectively; Mrs. Madeline Cotterell, honorary regent of Hobart Chapter; Mrs. Charles B. Folley, treasurer of the state D. A. R.; Miss Mary G. Jackson, organizing regent of Hobart chapter, and Edgar H. Ellis, former assemblyman and former freeholder who supported measures aiming at state acquisition of the Dey house in Preakness.

## Washington's Vision

As early as Washington's time, a national preserve was envisioned for the Ringwood area, Mr. Hewitt revealed. Washington predicted New York would become the largest city in the country and possibly of the world. Mr. Hewitt said, and made the assertion "nothing would be too good" for its inhabitant in the way of a nearby national shrine. In connection with his plans toward this end he had had Surveyor General Robert Erskine draft a map of an area of 150,000 acres on the Ringwood estate, a photostatic copy of which was shown by the host.

There are several hundred additional relics available for the Ryerson House collection which have been loaned to various museums Mr. Hewitt said.

Among the relics of most interest to Patersonians displayed by Mr. Hewitt was a letter written in 1781 by Alexander Hamilton to Nicholas Low, John Buyard, and Elisha Boudinot, a committee of directors of the Society for the Establishment of Useful Manufactures in which Hamilton recommended Paterson as an industrial site. Efforts will be made by Mr. Hamilton as president of the Historical society, to obtain a copy of the letter for the county museum at Lambert Castle.

*Martin J. Kogers*  
If Not Delivered In 5 Days Return To

**Franklin Overall Co., Inc.**

175-177 E. 15th STREET

PATERSON, N. J.



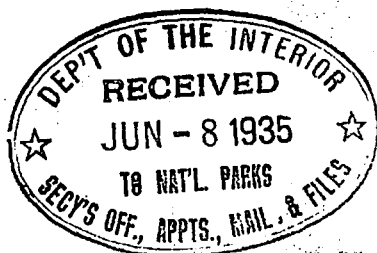
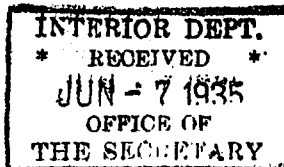
BUY U.S. SAVING  
BONDS  
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER



*Von. F. L. Roosevelt,*  
*President of the U.S.,*  
*Washington D.C.*  
*White House*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington



June 5, 1935

Respectfully referred to the officials of the Department of the Interior for consideration and acknowledgment.

(Sgd.) Louis McH. Howe,  
LOUIS McH. HOWE  
Secretary to the President





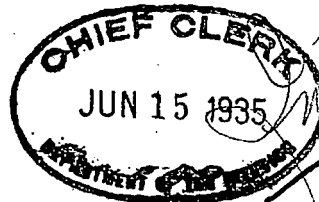
RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

Louis McHenry Howe

Secy. to the President

June 10, 1935

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Mansion,  
Washington, D. C.



My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Representing the sentiment of twenty-eight principals of the public schools of Paterson, New Jersey, I am writing to you, concerning the historic site of "Ringwood Manor," at Ringwood, New Jersey.

This estate, situated in the northern end of New Jersey is now owned by Erskine Hewitt and during the Revolution, was occupied by Robert Erskine - Surveyor General to George Washington.

There is so much of historical interest connected with the property, that we feel it should be made a National Shrine. The fact that Mr. Hewitt is willing to part with such ancestral property, would make it easier for the proper commissions or bureaus to use their influence to finance this project.

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Public School Number Fourteen  
Paterson, New Jersey

Trusting that this will be brought  
to the attention of those interested in  
"National Shrines," I remain,

Very respectfully yours,  
Eleanor Mombert.  
Sec'y - Treas. Paterson Prin. Ass'n.



E. Mombert,  
School No. 14,  
Paterson, N. J.

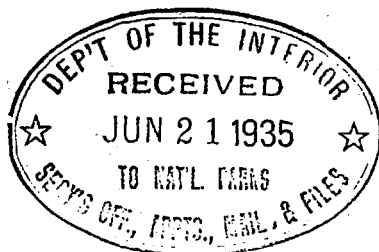


BUY U.S. SAVINGS  
BOND  
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER



Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Mansion,  
Washington,  
D. C.

*Parks*



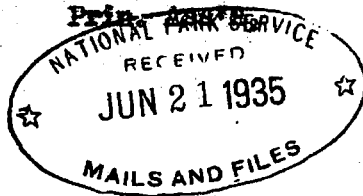
*Mr Chatelain*  
*Mr West*  
*2/1/35*

*Miss Stone*  
*same as*

**Eleanor Lambert,**  
**Sec. Treas., Paterson**  
**Prin. Park**

**Paterson,**  
**New Jersey.**

**June 10, 1935.**



**RE: Proposes making a national shrine**  
**of "Ringwood Manor," at Ringwood,**  
**N. J.**

**Dept. of Interior**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Chetani  
Bryant  
Jimmie  
Golcott  
Simara*

June 15, 1935

Mr. Martin J. Hogencamp,  
175-177 East 15th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

*6-25  
Ryerson*

Dear Mr. Hogencamp:

Your letter of June 4 to President Roosevelt, with enclosure, concerning the Old Ryerson House, at Ringwood Manor, has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration.

We have already written to you several times in regard to this old home. Although this building is undoubtedly worthy of preservation, it is impossible for the National Park Service to take any action in this matter. The area has been offered for sale and this Service has no available funds with which to purchase sites of this kind.

Your continued interest in this matter is appreciated.

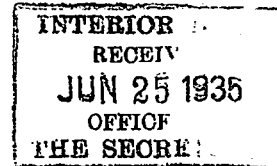
Sincerely yours,  
(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Director

ICS



GARRET A. HOBART CHAPTER  
D. A. R.  
RYERSON, NEW JERSEY



#400 Lafayette Avenue,  
Hawthorne, N.J.  
June 22nd, 1935.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of Interior,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

Re: Ryerson House, "Ringwood Manor",  
Ringwood, Passaic County, N.J.

Cooperating with other patriotic societies,  
I am writing to ask your interest in placing before  
our President the acquisition of this beautiful historic  
estate for a NATIONAL SHRINE.

It is located in Northern Passaic County,  
and was the country home of Robert Erskine, friend of  
and Surveyor General of George Washington. The house  
rests in a beautiful setting of more than a hundred and  
fifty thousand acres, and the massive and beautifully  
appointed rooms contain hundreds of relics which would  
be of untold interest to visitors from far and near.

Garret A. Hobart Chapter of the National  
Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
respectfully requests your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Julia SR Vermeulen*  
Chapter Regent.

(Mrs. John H. Vermeulen)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

Kahn  
Brown  
Chilton  
Trager  
Jumming

June 28, 1935

Miss Eleanor Mombert,  
Public School No. 14,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

6-35  
Reg. 1000

Dear Miss Mombert:

Your letter of June 10 to President Roosevelt, concerning the proposal to make a national historical park or monument at "Ringwood Manor" in Passaic County, New Jersey, has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration.

This is undoubtedly a beautiful and historic area. However, this Service has no funds with which to acquire sites of this kind. In the creation of national parks and monuments we are usually dependent upon donations for obtaining the necessary lands and properties.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(S4D.) HILLORY A. TOLSON

Hillory A. Tolson,  
Acting Director.

HK:ICS

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

Kahn  
Brown  
Tracy

Lin  
Juring

June 28, 1936

Mrs. John H. Vermeulen,  
400 Lafayette Avenue,  
Rutherford, New Jersey.

6-35  
Reverend

Dear Mrs. Vermeulen:

Your letter of June 22 to Secretary Ickes, concerning the proposal to make a national historical park or monument at "Ringwood Manor" in Passaic County, New Jersey, has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration.

This is undoubtedly a beautiful and historic area. However, this Service has no funds with which to acquire sites of this kind. In the creation of national parks and monuments we are usually dependent upon donations for obtaining the necessary lands and properties.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HILLORY A. TOLSON

Hillory A. Tolson,  
Acting Director.

HK/ios

Miss Stone  
the usual  
thanks

9425

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
RECEIVED  
AUG 14 1935  
MAILS AND FILES

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
AUG 14 1935  
TO NAT'L PARKS  
SVC'S OFF., IPTS., MAIL, & FILES

4 Wilse  
August

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

RECEIVED  
AUG 13 1935  
OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

Seey Square  
t 12, 1935

722 Commerce  
Park St

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
AUG 14 1935  
TO NAT'L PARKS  
SECY'S OFF., RPTS., MAIL, & FILES

4 Wilsey Square  
August 12, 1935

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
AUG 14 1935  
TO NAT'L PARKS  
SECY'S OFF., RPTS., MAIL, & FILES

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
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 AUG 14 1935  
 TO NAT'L PARKS  
 SERV'S OFF., APPTS., MAIL, & FILES

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 RECEIVED  
 AUG 14 1935  
 TO NAT'L PARKS  
 SERV'S OFF., APPTS., MAIL, & FILES



HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

H.C. to H.L.I.  
Aug. 2/35, #2

We have had an inventory and a survey made and have created considerable public sentiment in favor of the project. State officials, however, say that the demands of Washington upon the State for its quota for Emergency Relief preclude the State from doing anything about the matter at this time. The Passaic County Park Commission says they have no funds available and the people will not authorize a new bond issue at this time.

The Federal PWA Director for this State says he is confined to engineering projects and has no funds available. Hence this appeal to you, here made in view of an article published in the New York Times yesterday, which states that the preservation of historic sites has been adopted as a national policy and that a bill just passed by Congress has authorized a survey, to be made under your direction.

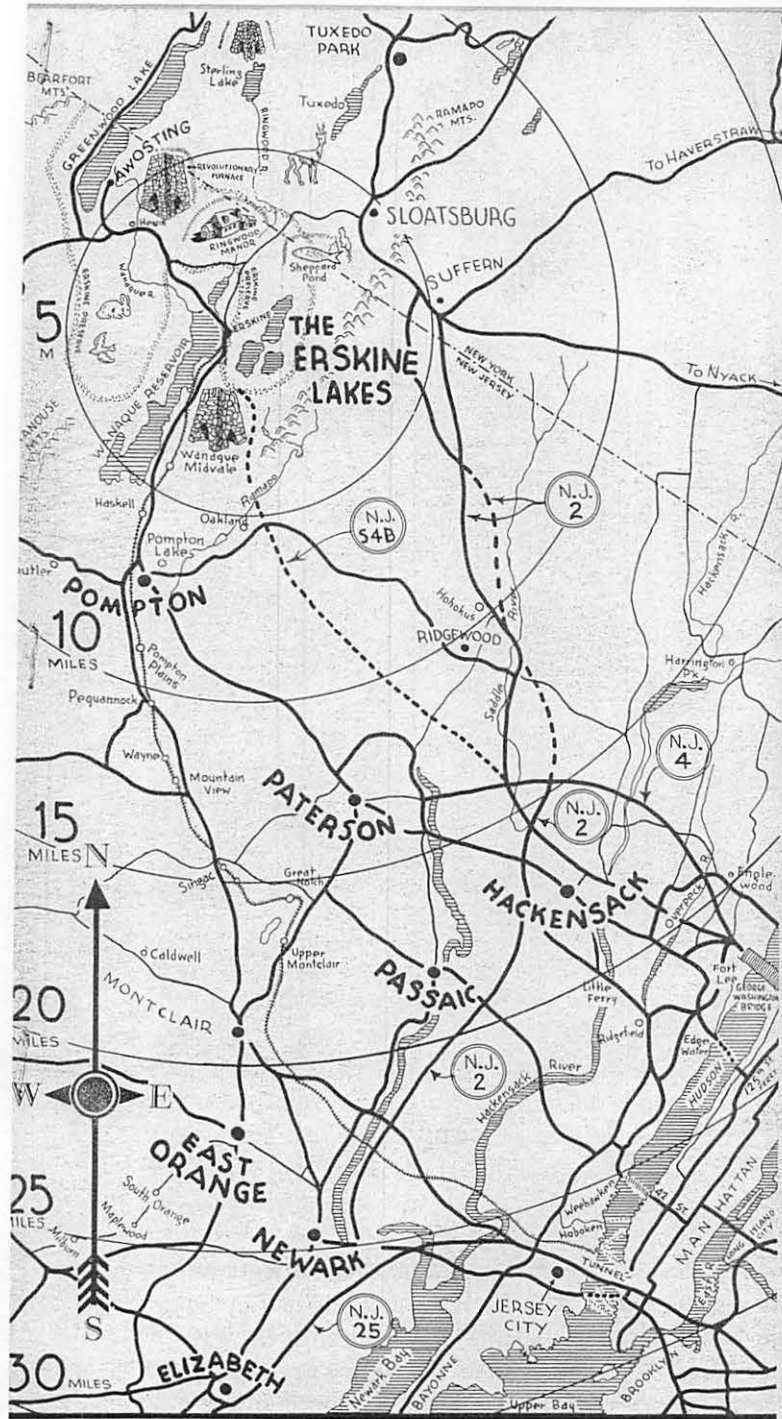
As this proposition has merits far beyond those of the Washington Headquarters at Morristown and an earning capacity equal to, if not greater than Fort Ticonderoga, which nets something over \$40,000 per annum, I am directing this appeal to you in the interest of present and future generations, in the hope that you will give me the opportunity to lay before you in person, at your office and at your convenience, further details of this most interesting and meritorious project, together with some exhibits bearing upon the subject. I am sure you will find them interesting.

In the meantime, I await the courtesy of any comment you may be pleased to make.

Very truly yours

*Hiram Calkins*

HC-SC  
Encl. 2



### CRADLE OF THE REVOLUTION

The above map follows in many respects the general outlines of the great map representing the Ramapo Mountain region of northern New Jersey and southern New York, originally drawn by Robert Erskine at the command of George Washington, and now one of the rarest cartographic representations relating to America.

The present map shows the Revolutionary furnaces and furnace sites at Hewitt, at Wanaque-Midvale and near Sterling Lake. Both the Wanaque and Ringwood rivers have been included, as well as the approximate boundaries of the 20,000-acre Erskine Lakes Preserve. The outlines of Sheppard Pond are to be found under the fish, and famous old Ringwood Manor is clearly indicated.

THE  
FORGES AND MANOR

*Cradle of the Revolution*

ASSEMBLY No. 109

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

"An Act providing for the appointment of a commission to examine into the subject of the acquisition and preservation of the old Ryerson House and Burial Ground, so called, located in the borough of Ringwood, county of Passaic, and to define its powers and duties."

"WHEREAS It has been the consistent policy of the State of New Jersey, for more than half a century, to stimulate the acquisition and preservation of historic sites within its borders . . . and WHEREAS It is known to have been a cherished wish and hope of the first President . . . that this said tract . . . would ultimately be preserved as a public park for the benefit of posterity; etc."

"BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: Upon the passage and approval of this act, the Governor shall appoint a commission of three members, . . . to examine into the feasibility and practicability of acquiring . . . the property known as the old Ryerson House and Burial Ground, etc., etc."

OF  
RINGWOOD



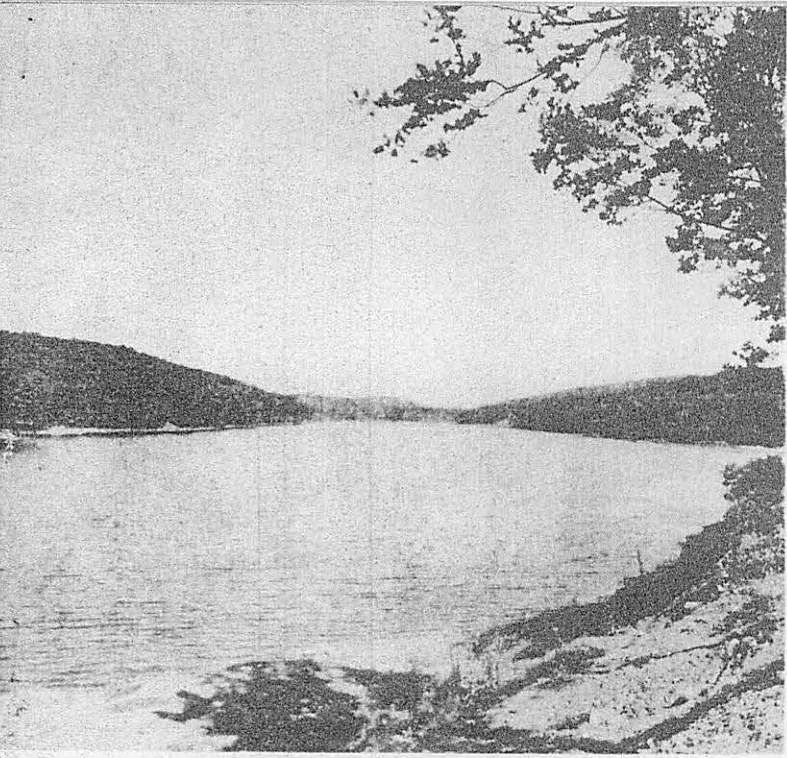


### Ringwood Manor

"... second only to Mount Vernon"

Of recent years much has been written about the "American scene," meaning that background of pioneer forefathers which has afforded us a groundwork for the development of our national culture and daily life. Only a few years ago James Truslow Adams appeared with his *Epic of America*, and was largely successful in explaining that we, as Americans, are as we are because we cannot be otherwise. Being what it was, the early history of America has left a deep impress upon all of us; and today we only continue upon those national currents set going in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Because northern New Jersey, centering particularly around northern Passaic County and its Ramapo Mountains, was so largely instrumental in shaping those destinies of our early days, and has assumed so commanding, and at the same time so interesting, a part in American history, the present sketch is an attempt to trace a few of those features which are of both nation-wide and local appeal. From the early days of the Indians, through the American Revolution, George Washington and the coincident and subsequent events surrounding famous old Ringwood Manor, still shadowy and beautiful on Valley Road, northern Passaic County has been in the forefront of the ever-changing "American scene." Today it is no different.



Cupsaw Lake

"The 'scooping out' process . . ."

Even in prehistoric times, many millions of years ago, the Ramapo Mountains were prominent in earth history. Covered for thousands of years by the great glacial ice-cap, these mountains were once as high or higher, and possibly more rugged and sheer, than our gaunt Rockies of the West. But the final retreat, or recession, northward of the vast glacial cover leveled off the tops of the mountains and made them round, partially filled up the tremendous valleys, and presented the Ramapos to the aboriginal Indians much as they are today. The path and movement of this great glacier is still traceable on every mountainside and in every valley, where grooved rocks show the scraping of stone on stone.

When, still millions of years later, the original tribes of Algonquin Indians came into the Ramapo Mountains to displace and drive southward the slightly earlier Cherokees, their place and tribal names became affixed to the land. These Lenape, Minisink and other tribes of Algonquins saw with clear vision, and their descriptive names are the titles in common use today. The mountains they called

"Remopuck," now our Ramapos, meaning "land of round lakes," because of the large number of lakes caused by the "scooping out" process of glacial recession. Possibly the most beautiful river in New Jersey, and certainly one of the loveliest in the East, they called Wanaque, or Wynockie, from "winak" and "aki," signifying, respectively, "sassafras" and "land." Thus the Wanaque, known as one of the finest trout streams in the world, flows through the "land of the sassafras."

This "land of round lakes" has further perpetuated itself in our place names today through Awosting, now a large and beautiful summer community on the southeastern shores of eight-mile-long Greenwood Lake, once known as "Long Pond," and Cupsaw, the name of one of the three large lakes in the Erskine Lakes chain, which comprises Lake Erskine and Upper Lake as well. "Awosting" is said to be the Indian term for "festival," and was applied to that specific time of aboriginal celebration immediately following the harvest season. The Indians went "a-wosting." The name "Cupsaw" is from

#### On The Wanaque

The "land of the sassafras"



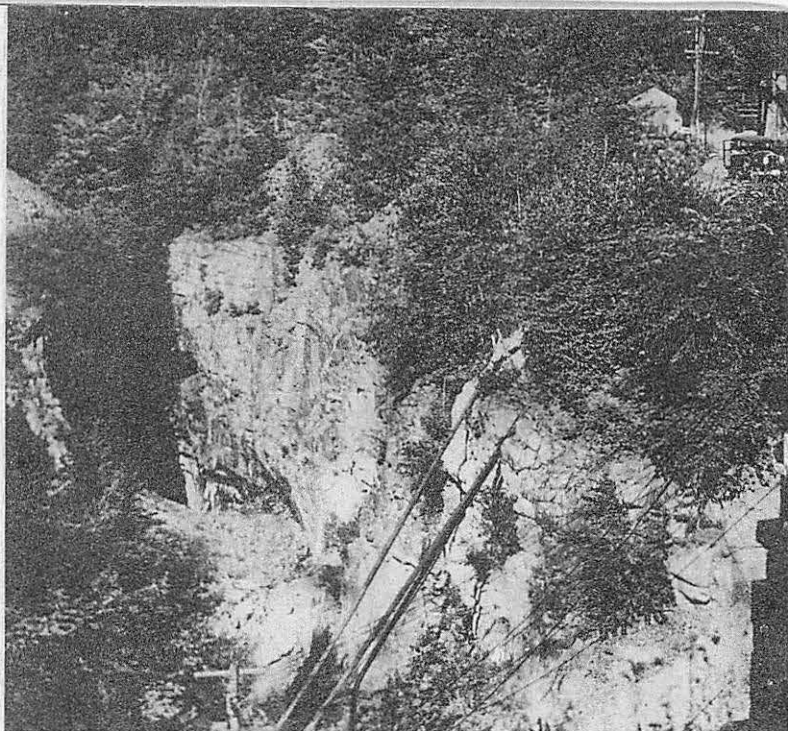
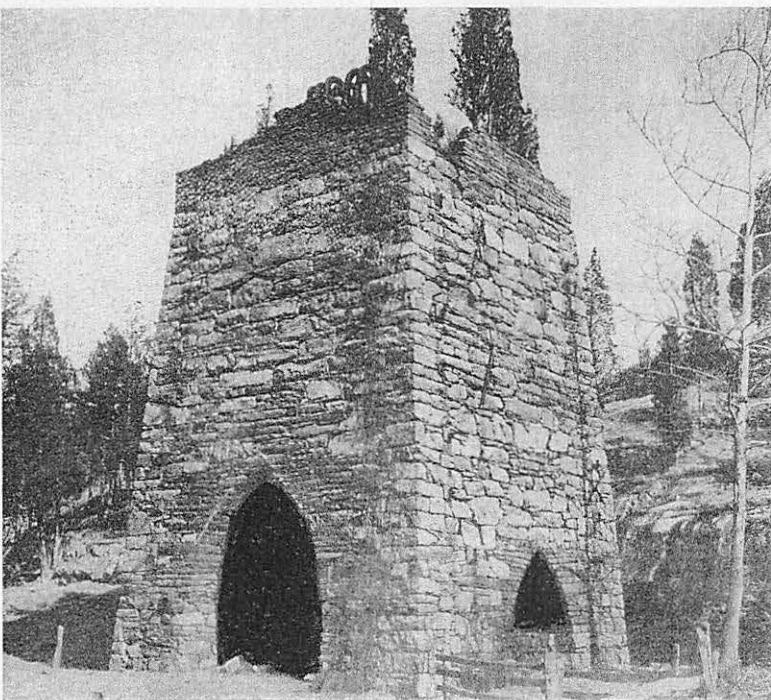


the term meaning "curley brook," and relates to the principal rivulet flowing into the lake, now a famous trout stream.

What would these Algonquins, could they come back with their bows and arrows, think today of their beautiful and clear lakes, still as beautiful and clear as when they left them, and still surrounded by magnificent forests, but on whose surfaces sleek sailboats and yachts go winging, fast motorboats speed in races and iceboats in winter, and around whose shores all the outdoor games of the white man are played? Would they yell in excitement as one of the largest outboard motorboat regattas in this country is held annually on their "Long Pond," or swoop down and participate in the tennis, horse-shoe-pitching, iceskating and fishing? Would they shoot off their clouds of arrows when groups go horseback riding over their own and other mountain trails, hunt their deer and drive great shining automobiles through their glens and over their high ranges? Who knows . . . ?

The Indians likewise called one of the highest of the Ramapos "Wimbeam,"

**Revolutionary Furnace**  
"Many still stand . . ."

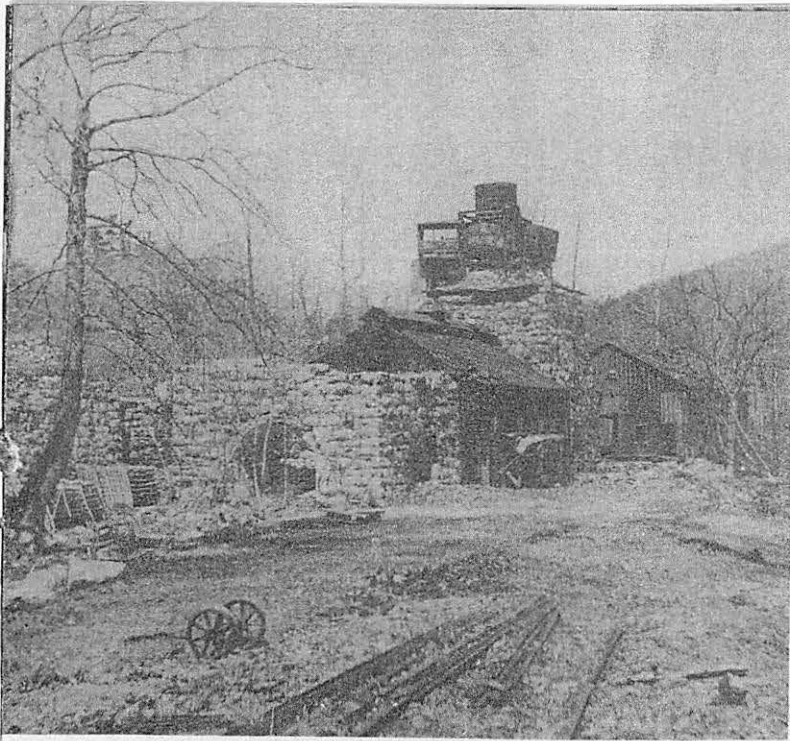


**One Of The Ancient Mines**  
" . . . huge deposits of iron ore"

from a combination of Lenape words meaning "lone tree mountain." These words are "wimb," signifying the "heart of a tree," and "moschiwi," having to do with the expression "bare or open."

Many towns and villages in northern New Jersey show their Indian history in such names as Pequannock, Singac, Macopin, Pompton and Pompton Lakes, through which last runs the principal highway from metropolitan residential New Jersey to the Ramapo Mountain section. Even the larger cities, situated on routes leading to the mountains, show similar derivations in the names of Hoboken, Passaic and Hackensack.

White traders, trappers, hunters and a few settlers began to penetrate into the Ramapo Mountains about the middle of the 17th century. At that time the land was an unknown and unexplored wilderness of great forests, lakes and rushing rivers, inhabited entirely by the Algonquins and in turn protected by them. The Indians, however, were not overly hostile, and in many ways welcomed the coming of the new men, bringing, as they did,



**Ringwood Relic**

" . . . turned out their molten metal"

new methods of hunting and ensnaring fish and game, and new interests. Bit by bit white families began to purchase the land from the Indians, and it is from many of these original purchases, grants and titles that we have the original source history of the region. This process of land purchase and settlement continued without serious interruption for almost a hundred years before any event of untoward significance came to pass.

Such an event did transpire, however, with the discovery of copper in 1720. This ore was unearthed in small quantities in the foothills of the Ramapos and, while prospecting for better veins, a further discovery was made which was to have a distinct bearing upon the fortunes and future of the then young Colonies. This latter event was the finding of huge deposits of iron ore, of a superior grade, and in a region both accessible to man and adaptable for smelting and forging operations. Consider what an astounding disclosure this must have been to the struggling and aspiring Colonies, accustomed to purchase all of their iron utensils from England, and to pay

round, fat prices for them as well! Consider, also, what a setback this must have been to the "iron interests" in England, for years accustomed to supplying a fast increasing and profitable trade in the Colonies!

This happened shortly before 1740, and in that year enterprising interests in New York City and in Newark, two fonts of capital and engineering skill in the Colonies, formed a concern known as the Ringwood Company to carry on iron operations in opposition and competition to the established mills and mines in the mother country. Almost overnight a little hamlet sprang up in the very heart of the mountains. Inasmuch as the company founding it was known as the Ringwood Company, so also did that name adhere to the hamlet; and, later, the same name was given to the borough — the northernmost borough of Passaic County, lying just under the New York—New Jersey state line. On contemporary maps of that early period, Ringwood appears as a considerably larger community than did the present-day large cities of Paterson and Passaic.

**Wanaque Inn in Winter**

" . . . typical Colonial atmosphere"





page 5



Interior View of  
Manor House

"and countless documents . . ."

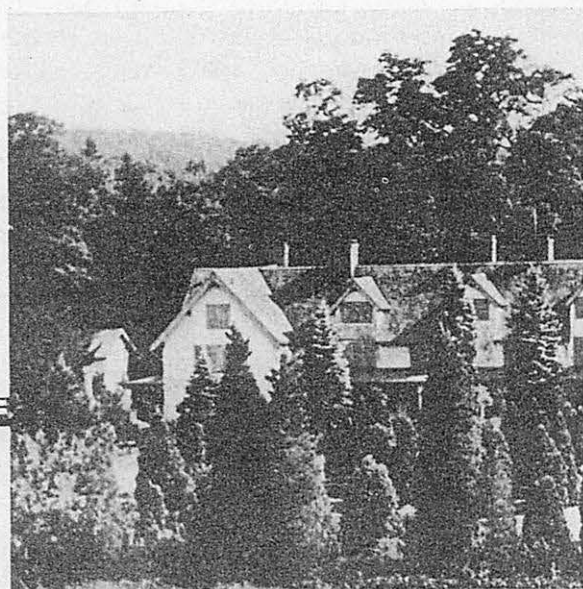
For some years operations prospered, and the hamlet of Ringwood grew in numbers. Some few years later, however, shortly after the middle of that century, other interests, and this time from England, acquired all the properties of the original Ringwood Company, added other properties, and obtained a charter from the English government to operate as the American Iron Company.

With the coming of the American Iron Company came also a singular individual by the name of Peter Hasenclever, a man of German birth and descent, but of English experience in the field of iron mining. This Hasenclever was made general manager, or proprietor, and was the first real iron master in America. It is said that in many ways he was a man of hard disposition, and with many eccentricities. He even, it is said, had a German band to serenade him on hot summer days!

Whatever may have been his personal habits, Hasenclever was almost wholly instrumental in making the Ringwood section the greatest iron center in North America. And if he subsequently fell from grace, was removed to England and tried for mismanagement and maladministration, it is at least to his credit that he founded the original "Forges and Manor of Ringwood," now known as Ringwood Manor, and one of the most beautiful and dynamically historical sites in America. Termed by some as "second in historical importance only to Mount Vernon," Ringwood Manor may soon be purchased by the State of New Jersey and preserved as a State Park.

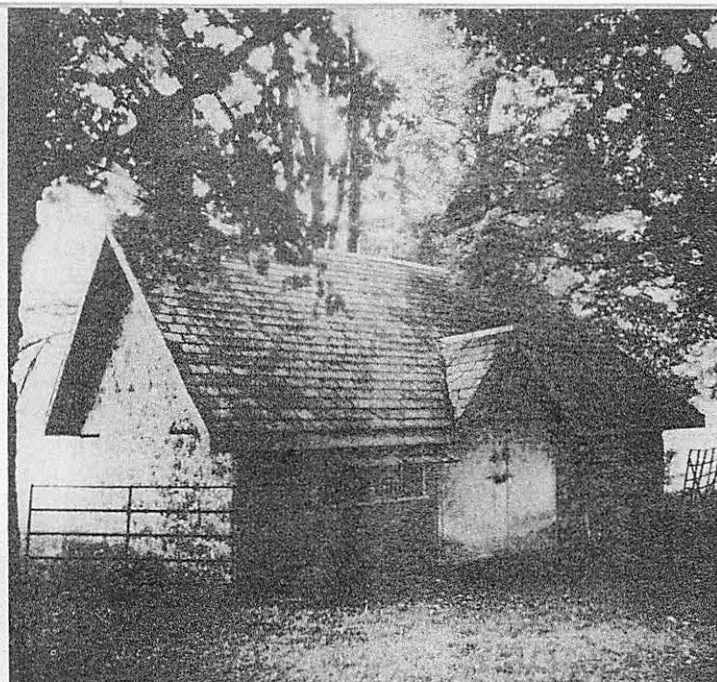
With the decline of the iron business due in part to the mismanagement of

" . . . beautiful with  
age"





page 6



Hasenclever, the directors of the American Iron Company were moved to appoint in his place a young mining engineer of Scotch descent by the name of Robert Erskine. And it is with this young Robert Erskine, intelligent, quick, alert and enterprising that so much of American history and the history of northern New Jersey is interwoven. Erskine came to America in June, of 1771, removed almost immediately from New York to the Ramapo Mountains, and as immediately delved into the tangled affairs of Ringwood and the American Iron Company.

The history of the years that followed is the history of the struggle of the Colonies leading up to the Revolution. Erskine, by diligent work, rehabilitated the properties and extended the grounds of Ringwood Manor. Then came the rumble of war, of Revolution, of struggle that was to sever old ties and fond relationships. Now firmly a part of the spirit both of the country and of the times, Erskine cast his lot with those seeking liberty. And with every knowledge of what he was doing, he cast also the destinies of Ringwood, of Ringwood Manor, and the entire iron industry under his supervision on the side of the cause of Washington and the American Patriots.

Then began the greatest hum of industry ever heard up to that time in the mountains and valleys of northern New Jersey. The forges of Ringwood turned out their molten metal, and this, when poured into various molds, became cannon for Washington's armies, muskets, pistols and camp stoves for his men, wagon-wheel rims, axles, couplingpins, bolts and rivets, large and small cannonballs and,

### The Old Blacksmith's Shop

"Where Washington's horses were shod"



"... venerable with glory"

last but not least, historic iron for the gigantic chain that was to be stretched across the Hudson River at West Point as a barricade against the British ships.

Robert Erskine worked day and night with his many forges, and their importance was so great, and recognized as such, that Washington caused armed guards and companies of soldiers to be stationed at and near them for protection against the enemy. So great was his work for the cause of liberty, and so great was the need of an expert geographer and cartographer, or map maker, that Washington personally requested the Congress to commission Erskine Surveyor General to him and to all the Revolutionary armies. In his own words, Washington wrote to the Congress, then assembled in Philadelphia: "If such a person should be approved of, I beg leave to recommend Mr. Robert Erskine . . ."

Erskine was immediately appointed, and at once took up his duties, at the same time continuing charge of the iron works. He continued, also, to make Ringwood Manor his home and his headquarters, and at that famous old place drew and plotted the famous and beautiful series

#### Erskine's Grave

"Washington planted a tree . . ."



#### Again The Wanaque

"One of the finest trout streams in the world"

of maps which meant so much to Washington's success in his New Jersey campaigns.

During these stirring times Washington was often a visitor at Ringwood Manor, sleeping in the old house, having his horses shod in the smith's shop, and walking about the grounds. Many letters of his are in existence dated from the Manor and concerned with the problems of war. He was at Ringwood during the time of the famous Pompton Mutiny, called by him the most critical time of the Revolution, and was also there when the Manor celebrated the declaration of peace, terminating the Revolution, by a great dinner, which drew guests from as far away as New York City. Washington had previously been present at the Manor on the day of Erskine's death, October 2, 1780, and, in 1782, in company with Martha Washington, returned to plant a tree at Erskine's grave.

Today Ringwood Manor is both beautiful with age and venerable with glory. With its strategic situation in what was then called "The Close," the only logical inland route for transportation and communication at that time between Boston,





#### Native Trout

"... thousands are annually caught"

West Point and Philadelphia, the Manor house and grounds can be said to occupy one of the most important historic locations in America. This "Close" is now known as Valley Road, and leads from Sloatsburg, N. Y., above Suffern, westward and into the heart of the Ramapo country.

On the Manor grounds is the old blacksmith's shop where Washington's horses were shod. Immediately in front of the house is the site and vestige of the old road where the first 3,000 men were formed to march to Yorktown, and where other troops were marshalled for the drive against the Pompton Mutiny. On the upper lawn lie a number of links of the famous chain-type that stretched across the Hudson River, and nearby stands the anvil and hammer used in making the chain. Nearby, also, is a main deck cannon from the historic old fighting ship "Constitution," better known to every schoolchild in America as "Old Ironsides." A few feet farther away is a giant mortar used in the capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the Civil War, the "carriage" of which was made by the owners of Ring-

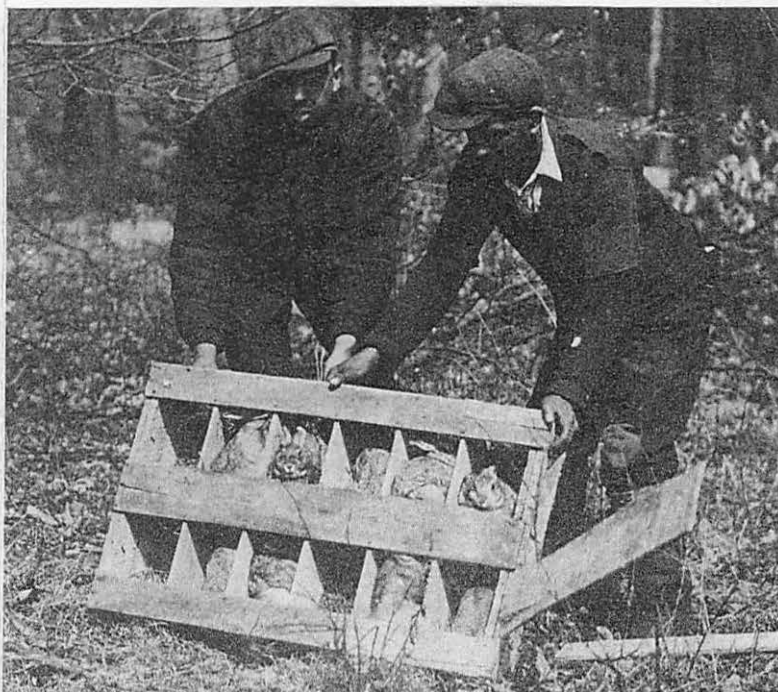
wood. And at other points are sites of old forges, old iron crushing and stamping mills, and old cooling pits for the molten iron. A hundred yards from the house is the vault-grave of Robert Erskine, and beside it that of his secretary, Robert Monteath. And near these are graves of Revolutionary soldiers and Algonquin Indians who fought side by side under Washington and his generals.

Although the tree planted by Washington at Erskine's grave was demolished by lightning some years ago, its spot is now marked, and a large section of the trunk is preserved in the Manor House. There are also in the Manor House great collections of Erskine maps, Washington letters, and countless documents, mementos and relics of the Revolution and Revolutionary leaders. All these are the result of continuous additions during a period of over a hundred years.

As well as those contained within the grounds of Ringwood Manor, Revolutionary sites and vestiges of the early iron industry are to be found throughout the Ramapo Mountains. Many of the old

#### Releasing Rabbits

"... as part of a constructive conservation program"





### The Manor Grounds

"... a number of links of the famous Hudson River chain"

forges and charcoal furnaces still stand, though somewhat crumbled away in decay; and traces of military roads still wind helter-skelter over the ridges and down the valleys.

Following the death of Erskine and the end of the Revolution, Ringwood Manor passed into and through several hands before finally becoming the property of Martin Ryerson about 1807. Ryerson was a man, in some ways similar to the earlier Hasenclever, of large vision and many capabilities, though not a possessor of his predecessor's eccentricities. Under his influence the iron industry of Ringwood again flourished, and Ringwood Manor was beautiful once again. Ryerson, however, lived only until 1839, and upon his death all the Ringwood properties, together with the Manor and grounds, passed to his sons. Unable to continue the productiveness of the properties, and being ungifted with the proclivities of the father, the Ryerson sons disposed of the property on September 1, 1853.

The purchaser was Peter Cooper, then widely known as inventor, philanthropist, guiding spirit behind the laying of the first trans-Atlantic cable, and the founder of the present famous Cooper Union Institute in New York City. In purchasing Ringwood Manor, the grounds, estate and adjoining properties, Peter Cooper became one of the largest single landowners in the State of New Jersey, for at that time the "Ringwood properties" comprised almost 150 square miles of territory, or nearly 100,000 acres.

Upon the death of Cooper title to the properties passed to his son-in-law, Abram S. Hewitt, who later was to become Mayor of the City of New York.

The present Ringwood Company was founded in 1905 by Mr. Hewitt's widow, and sole ownership and management of the company's properties and interests since that time have been vested in that company, owned by her heirs.

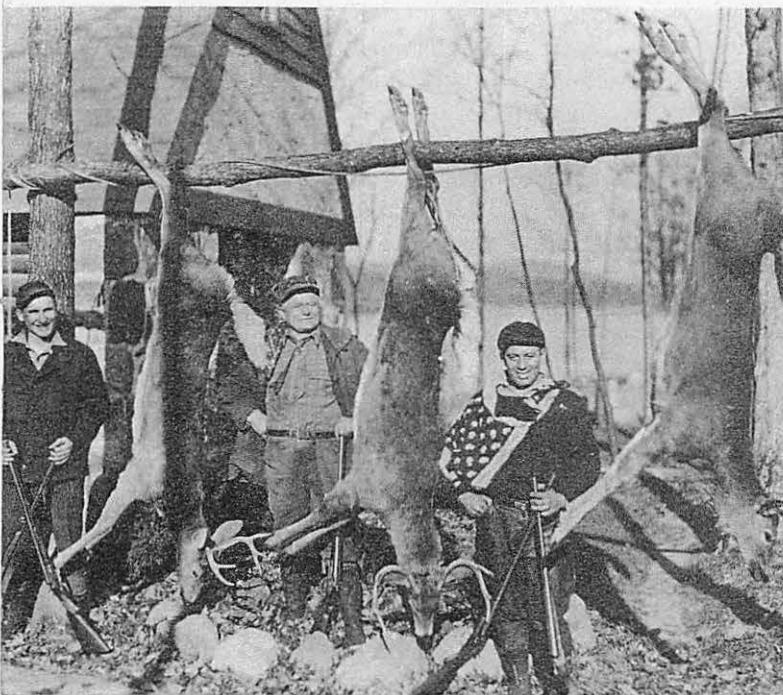


Several years ago the State of New Jersey purchased from the Ringwood Company many thousands of acres of territory in the Ramapo Mountains and converted them into one of the largest and most beautiful public water supply reservoirs in or adjacent to the metropolitan area. This is known as the Wanaque Reservoir, and stretches for twelve miles from the village of Wanaque-Midvale almost to the hamlet of Hewitt, on the north, and to the hamlet of Ringwood, on the east. The reservoir supplies much of the water used by the cities of Newark, Paterson, Passaic, Rutherford and scores of towns and villages in the valleys served by the Erie and Lackawanna railroads.

The entire section is one of great natural beauty and health-building environment. All the ranges of the Ramapos, and their ever-spreading tributary ranges, wall in lovely valleys, deep and cool, exhilarating and picturesque. Here are white-foaming and icy rivers, swift-flowing and falling through gorge and chasm; crystal brooks and springs. Here are lakes—a veritable land of lakes—clear and

### Three Fine Bucks

"Algonquins . . . hunt their deer . . ."

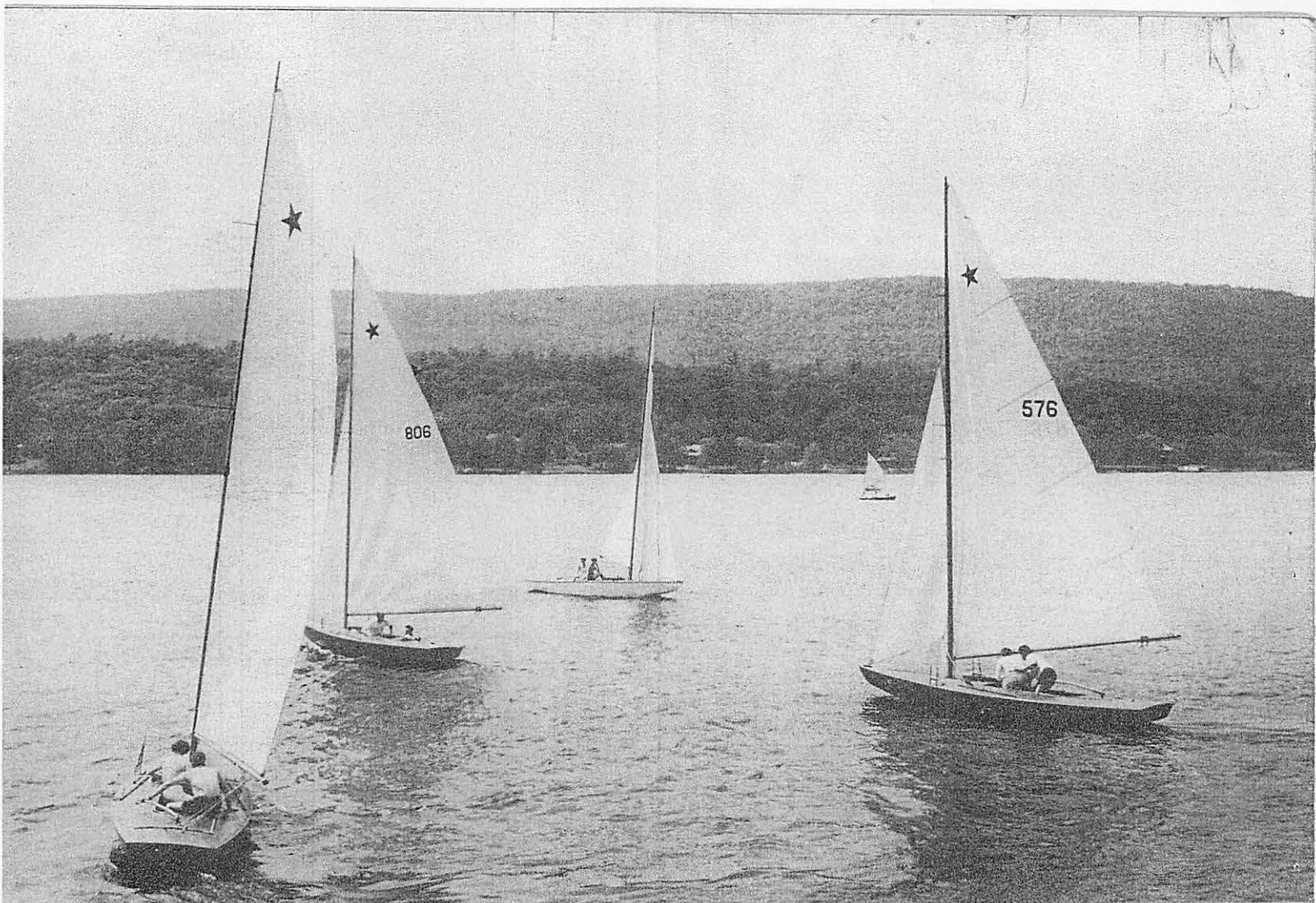


### "Mine Hole" And Falls Of The Wanaque

" . . . many were the film sequences 'shot' "

sparkling as they first appeared millions of years ago out of the great glacial ice cap. Here are the Wanaque and Ringwood rivers, two of the finest trout streams to be found near the metropolitan areas.

Here, too, not long ago, was established the great Erskine Lakes Preserve on some 20,000 acres of mountain and valley land, and incorporating not only the Wanaque and Ringwood rivers, but such splendid trout brooks as Burnt Meadow, High Mountain, Cupsaw and Hewitt as well Sheppard Pond, called "Iawanda," meaning "placid water," by the Indians, years ago before the passage of protective game and fish laws a public "meat fishing" ground, is said to be the finest natural bass and pickerel feeding pond in the State of New Jersey, and is also included in the big preserve. Thousands of trout, all above nine inches in length, are regularly stocked in the leading rivers and brooks throughout the fishing season, and game is released, fed and protected as part of a constructive conservation program for adequate and enjoyable hunting.



### Racing—At The Turn

"... sleek sailboats and yachts go winging"

This Ramapo Mountain<sup>1</sup> section, encircled by, yet completely set apart from, towns and cities, and looking down upon half a score of golf courses, holds in the Wanaque Valley one of the most beautiful stretches of country within several hundred miles of New York. Cut through the center at the north by the Wanaque River, and having spread over its southern area the immense Wanaque Reservoir, the valley possesses a distinct charm which, in some ways and for some indescribable reason, seems to set it apart among mountain valleys. At the north end, where the Pompton Turnpike cuts across from east to west, the Wanaque Valley Inn furnishes a bit of typical Colonial atmosphere, and the Wanaque Valley Stables, near by, front upon almost a thousand miles of Indian trails, bridle paths and ancient and abandoned roads left by charcoal burners and loggers. This valley, too, some twenty-five years ago, was nature's "set" for the infant motion picture industry then growing up about Fort Lee, N. J. Around 1910 many were the film sequences "shot" with the cascading falls above the famous Mine Hole in the Wanaque River as a background.

Together, the Ramapos and the Wanaque Valley, which gave so much in the Revolution, and in the Civil War under Peter Cooper, gave even again to their utmost under the Ringwood Company administration during the World War, when their mines and furnaces let flow a continuous river of molten iron for guns and battleships. In continuous operation for almost 190 years, it has been only recently, during the past four or five years, when low import tariffs made operations impossible, that the mines were forced to shut down. Skeleton crews are still kept available, however, and upon very short notice the mines and furnaces could again be thrown into operation.



WHEREAS: It is a matter of historical record that the property known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood", in Passaic County New Jersey, occupied a strategic position in the War of the Revolution and played a most important part in the conduct of that great struggle for American Independence throughout its duration;

AND WHEREAS: It is known that George Washington caused a survey of that area to be made by his Chief Geographer, General Robert Erskine with a view to recommending that it be preserved to posterity as a national preserve;

AND WHEREAS: It has been made known to us that the said property is now available for that purpose and that contemplated developments in that area make it advisable that it be pre-empted for public benefit at this time; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, the undersigned, members of the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution, in annual meeting assembled do petition His Excellency, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Thirty-second President of these United States, to cause the necessary steps to be taken to carry out that worthy project and make of this area a national historic park for the benefit of posterity. And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution, bearing our signatures, be inscribed in the minutes of this annual meeting and forwarded to the commission created by the Legislature of this state to examine into this subject, to be transmitted by the said commission to the President, together with what ever data and exhibits that said commission deems pertinent to its purpose.

Done at Newark New Jersey  
April 27, 1935

The above is a copy of a resolution passed unanimously and signed by every member of the N.J.Soc., Sons of the Amer. Revolution at its annual meeting last April. A similar resolution was passed by the Board of Trustees of the N.J.Soc, Daughters of the Revolution and another by the National Soc at its annual convention in Garden City, L.I., last May.

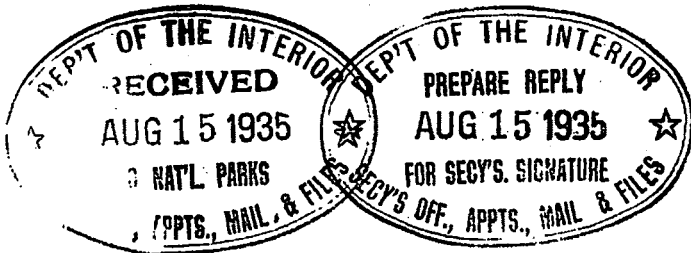
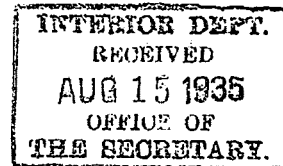
21431

W. WARREN BARBOUR  
NEW JERSEY

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:  
INTEROCEANIC CANALS  
LIBRARY  
MANUFACTURES  
MILITARY AFFAIRS  
MUNITIONS INVESTIGATION  
POST OFFICES AND POST ROADS  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

August 14, 1935



The Honorable Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Mr. Hiram Calkins, Chairman of the Ringwood Manor Commission, has written you with reference to having the Federal Government take over the grounds as a Revolutionary Shrine.

He understands that your Department is giving consideration to acquiring such sites and he believes that it would be well for your Department to give favorable study to the Ringwood Manor project.

It would be helpful to have your advices.

Most sincerely,

*W. Warren Barbour*

PRS 21431

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

*Filed  
Helen*

*Jolson*

**YELLOW'S NOTED**

AUG 19 1935

*0-35  
Ryerson*

Hon. W. Warren Barbour,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Barbour:

Secretary Ickes has asked me to reply to your letter of August 14, concerning the proposal to make a national historical park or monument of Ringwood Manor, in New Jersey.

The National Park Service of this Department has made a partial study of this area, which seems to possess considerable historical interest. However, a field investigation will be necessary to determine its national importance. It is possible that this site could be handled later under the provisions of legislation (S. 2073) which has just received the approval of Congress.

It is our understanding that the Ringwood Manor area is for sale. The National Park Service does not have funds with which to acquire such sites. In the event of the creation of national historical parks and monuments, as well as the preservation of historic sites, we are dependent upon donations for obtaining the necessary lands and properties. You will recall that such was the case in the establishment of Morristown National Historical Park.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HARRY SLATTERY  
Harry Slattery  
Personal Assistant  
to the Secretary

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Chas. H. Butterfield  
Jennings  
Galsorth*

August 27, 1935

Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
4 Wilsey Square,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

*0-35  
Ryerson/*

My dear Mr. Calkins:

The National Park Service has received by reference from the Secretary of the Interior your letter of August 12th, concerning the area in Passaic County, New Jersey, known as the "Forge and Manor of Ringwood".

On March 13, 1935, we wrote to you concerning this matter. The situation in regard to the acquisition of this area has not materially changed since that time.

We hope that it will be possible to make a field investigation of the area within the next few weeks.

Sincerely yours,  
(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

HK:ICS

cc-Mr. Cox  
sent (8/26/35)

*7 =*

HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.



#4 Wilsey Square *in Demaray*  
August 30, 1935

Mr. A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.,

*Chattahoochee*  
*my*  
*9-7*

Dear Mr. Demaray:

This acknowledges your very courteous and welcome favor of the 27th, in response to mine of the 12th addressed to the Secretary of the Interior and referred to you for attention.

I still have the letter of March 13 from your Department on the subject of the acquisition of Ringwood Manor, but assumed that the approval by Congress of S. 2073 and S. 2074, both of which I have before me, would alter the situation at this time.

These two measures, as you know, establish the acquisition of such historic sites as a national policy hereafter, and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make a survey of them with a view to such acquisition. I have no doubt that Senator Barbour would sponsor any enabling measure that might be necessary. Senator Moore and Representatives Perkins and Seger are both in favor.

I note your welcome expectation of making a field survey of this particular site "within the next few weeks". If you have never been there, I can assure you of a surprise and an unusual treat. It is a very beautiful spot, replete with historic interest and relics.

The Manor House is closed and unoccupied. If you will advise me a day or two in advance, I will see that it is available for your inspection. The Commission of which I have the honor to be Chairman will deem it a pleasure to welcome you and your party there.

Very truly yours

HC:SC

*Hiram Calkins*

HIRAM CALKINS  
Chairman Ringwood  
Manor Commission

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Helm  
Cheterson  
Janning  
Jolson*

September 14, 1935

Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
Chairman, Ringwood Manor Commission,  
Number 4 Wilsey Square,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Calkins:

The National Park Service has received your letter of August 30, regarding Ringwood Manor, in New Jersey.

Under the provisions of Public No. 292, An Act to preserve historic American Sites, the National Park Service will be able to broaden and develop its program for the preservation of historic sites and buildings. However, of necessity, there will be some delay in inaugurating our program inasmuch as no funds are available at this time for the purchase of property.

The field investigation of Ringwood Manor, mentioned in my letter to you dated August 27, will probably be made by one of our historians from Morristown National Historical Park. He will get in touch with you when it is possible to make the proposed study on the ground.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY  
A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

CT:ICS

cc-Mr. Cox



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PRS 24356

WASHINGTON

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE COPY

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Helm  
Strom  
Salim.*

DEC 17 1935

Hon. W. Warren Barbour,

United States Senate.

My dear Senator Barbour:

Your letter of December 6 to Secretary Ickes, with its enclosures, in behalf of Mr. Henry G. Marshfield of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, who wishes to obtain a position as appraiser at the Ringwood Manor in New Jersey, which is being investigated as a possible national historic site, has been referred to me for reply.

The details of the program for the restoration and preservation of national historic sites and buildings have not been worked out, and it is not known definitely what personnel will be required. It is believed, however, that the present personnel of the National Park Service, which Service has immediate supervision of the program, will be able to carry it out.

For your information, all permanent positions in that Service, with the exception of unskilled laborers employed in some of the national parks and monuments, are under Civil Service and, in filling vacancies, it is necessary to comply with the rules of the Civil Service Commission.

Positions under the President's emergency programs are not subject to Civil Service rules and, in the Department of the Interior, appointments to administrative and supervisory positions are made by the Secretary from lists of qualified applicants maintained by this Office. These lists now contain thousands of eligibles, and it is expected that few new appointments will be made in the future.

It is regretted that more encouraging information cannot be offered you.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) E. K. BURLEW

E. K. BURLEW,  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary.



GARRET A. HOBART CHAPTER  
D. A. R.  
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

*Shurt*

No. 23 Sherman Avenue,  
Paterson, N.J.,  
February 8th, 1936.

Hon. Harry A. Moore,  
United State Senate,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

Re; Ryerson House, "Ringwood Manor"  
Ringwood, Passaic County, N.J.

This property is located in Northern Passaic County, and was the country home of Robert Erskine, friend of and Surveyor General for George Washington. The house rests in a beautiful setting of thousands of acres, and the massive and beautifully appointed rooms contain hundreds of relics which would be of untold interest to visitors from far and near.

Co-operating with other patriotic societies, I am writing to ask your interest in placing before the proper parties the acquisition of this beautiful historic estate for a NATIONAL SHRINE.

Garret A. Hobart Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution respectfully requests your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Bertha Hardy*  
Corresponding Secretary  
(Miss Bertha Hardy)

*File 2*

BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT., CHAIRMAN  
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M. M. NEELY, W. VA.  
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AUGUSTINE LONERGAN, CONN.  
HUEY P. LONG, LA.  
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HOMER T. BONE, WASH.  
VIC DONAHEY, OHIO  
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.  
A. HARRY MOORE, N. J.  
HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.

JAMES COUZENS, MICH.  
JESSE H. METCALF, R. I.  
DANIEL O. HASTINGS, DEL.  
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE  
JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

MAUDE W. MITCHELL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

February 14  
19 36



Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Director:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory and is respectfully referred to your consideration and comment.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred H. Brown".

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Ruh*  
*Chetani*  
*Wirth*  
*Johnson*

February 25, 1936

Hon. A. Harry Moore,

United States Senate.

My dear Senator Moore:

The National Park Service has received your letter of February 14, with enclosure, concerning the proposal to make a national historical park or monument of Ringwood Manor, in New Jersey.

This is undoubtedly a beautiful and historic tract, and the National Park Service has already made a study of the area, as well as a field inspection. However, it is our understanding that the Ringwood Manor area is for sale, and this Service does not have funds with which to acquire such sites. In the creation of national parks and monuments, and the preservation of historic sites, we are usually dependent upon donations for obtaining the necessary lands and properties. You will recall that such was the case in the establishment of the Morristown National Historical Park.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

HK:tvw

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PRS 26956

WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE COPY MAY 22 1936

*Carbach  
Helm  
Satin  
Johnson*

Hon. W. Warren Barbour,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Barbour:

Your letter of May 15 to Secretary Ickes, with its enclosures, in behalf of Mr. Henry Grah Hershfield of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, who wishes to obtain a position as an appraiser in connection with the investigation of Ringwood Manor as a possible national historic site, has been referred to me for reply.

Plans for the program for the restoration and preservation of national historic sites and buildings have not been completed, and it is not known definitely at this time what personnel will be required. It is believed, however, that the present personnel of the National Park Service, which Service has immediate supervision of the program, will be able to carry it out.

For your information, all permanent positions in that Service, with the exception of unskilled laborers employed in some of the national parks and monuments, are under Civil Service and, in filling vacancies, it is necessary to comply with the rules of the Civil Service Commission.

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It is regretted that more encouraging information cannot be offered you.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) E. K. BURLEW

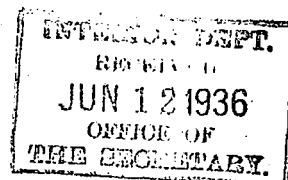
E. K. BURLEW,  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary.

cc: Mr. Chatelain  
KDR

HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

#4 Wilsey Square  
June 8, 1936

Hon. Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.,



Dear Sir:

On the afternoon of July 4th, The "Ringwood Manor Commission", in co-operation with the Daughters of the Revolution, the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of New England Women, the State and County Historical Societies, and other patriotic and historical organizations of New Jersey, will hold a special Independence Day celebration at Ringwood Manor, in Passaic County. A committee, composed of the local and state officials of these organizations is at work right now preparing the program.

Ringwood Manor is the Revolutionary landmark in northern New Jersey which our commission and the patriotic societies of this State hope will be acquired soon by the Nation, under the provisions of the "Historic Sites Act", as a national park for the benefit of the public. You may recall that the Commission and Senators Moore and Barbour, of New Jersey, have communicated with you on the subject; also that the National Park Service sent officials of the Morristown National Historical Park to make an inspection of the place last December. Under separate cover I am sending you a recently published pamphlet about it.

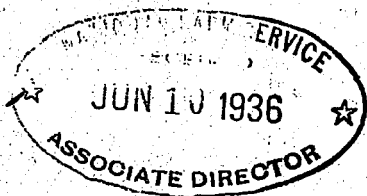
The program being worked out by the committee promises to be particularly impressive. It will include choral and instrumental music, patriotic presentations and addresses. The affair will be exploited in all the newspapers of the State and the metropolitan area. The outlook is for a very large gathering, weather permitting. The Committee plans to have a county official speak briefly for the County and another brief address by an official of the State Department of Conservation and Development. Senators Moore and Barbour are also being invited to speak.

The Committee has requested me to express the hope that you will honor us by accepting the invitation, here extended, to be present and deliver the principal address, speaking for the Nation. It is prepared to extend a most cordial welcome and to provide a special escort appropriate to your office. We all earnestly hope our efforts in behalf of this worthy project may be honored by the presence of so distinguished a member of the Administration. Your reply is eagerly awaited.

Respectfully yours

*Hiram Calkins*  
Chairman, Ringwood  
Manor Commission





TELEPHONE  
RIDGEWOOD 6-2323

HIRAM CALKINS  
CLAIM ADJUSTER  
45 NORTH BROAD ST.  
RIDGEWOOD  
NEW JERSEY

MOVED TO #4 WILSEY SQUARE

*Mr. Calkins*  
*Ryerson*  
*6/10*

June 9, 1936

*Chateaufort*  
*what do you suggest*  
*can*

Hon. A. E. Demaray  
Acting Director  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:

On the afternoon of July 4th next, the Daughters of the Revolution, the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Society of New England Women and various other patriotic and historical societies of this State will hold a Patriotic Assembly at Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, N.J., in co-operation with the Ryerson House Commission, of which I happen to be the chairman. A committee consisting of the heads of local chapters of these organizations is preparing the program right now.

This program will include choral and instrumental music, patriotic presentations and addresses. Among these will be our two United States Senators, the Congressman of the district and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Development. The Committee and the Commission would deem it an honor if you would be present on that occasion and speak on behalf of the National Park Service. We feel the people would be glad to know something about it.

This affair will be exploited in all the newspapers of the State and the metropolitan area. The outlook is for a very large gathering, weather permitting. Influential people hereabouts are interested in it and are seeking to induce the Secretary of the Interior to make the principal address. A formal invitation has been sent to him. We would very much like to have you there, too. If by chance that should be impossible, we would appreciate it if you would send some one to represent your department. Your response is awaited with interest and anticipation.

Very truly yours

*Hiram Calkins*  
Chairman Ryerson  
House Commission

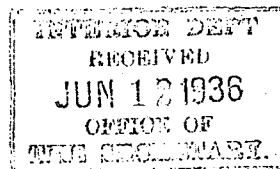
ELLISON D. SMITH, S.-C., CHAIRMAN.  
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C. A. LAWTON, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

June 11  
1936



Honorable Harold L. Ickes,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am transmitting a letter from the  
Honorable Hamilton Cross with an invitation.  
The letter from Mr. Cross is a detailed  
explanation of the affair. I do hope you  
can accept.

Sincerely,

8

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT  
re the  
FORGES AND MANOR OF RINGWOOD  
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

April 27, 1935

WHEREAS: It is a matter of historical record that the property known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood", in Passaic County New Jersey, occupied a strategic position in the War of the Revolution and played a most important part in the conduct of that great struggle for American Independence throughout its duration;

AND WHEREAS: It is known that George Washington caused a survey of that area to be made by his Chief Geographer, General Robert Erskine with a view to recommending that it be preserved to posterity as a national park;

AND WHEREAS: It has been made known to us that the said property is now available for that purpose and that contemplated developments in that area make it advisable that it be pre-empted for public benefit at this time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, the undersigned, members of the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution, in annual meeting assembled, do petition His Excellency, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Thirty-second President of these United States, to cause the necessary steps to be taken to carry out that worthy project and make of this area a national historic park and memorial to the founders of this nation. And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution, bearing our signatures, be inscribed in the minutes of this annual meeting and forwarded to the commission created by the Legislature of this State to examine into this subject, to be transmitted by the said commission to The President, together with whatever data and exhibits the said commission deems pertinent to its purpose.

Done at Newark New Jersey  
April 27, 1935

| NAME                                                             | ADDRESS |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Phlander Betts, Pres., N.J. Society, S.A.R.                      |         |
| George Hunter - Pres. Capt. Abraham Godwin, S.A.R.               |         |
| John D. Glover - Pres. Monmouth Chapter, S.A.R.                  |         |
| Charles R. Master - Capt. Abraham Godwin Chapter S.A.R.          |         |
| W. G. Brown - Monmouth Chapter                                   |         |
| James B. Hill - Montclair Chapter                                |         |
| Harold Bolton - Montclair Chap. S.A.R.                           |         |
| James Greenwood - Montclair Chapter                              |         |
| James C. Higgins - Montclair Chapter                             |         |
| Frank R. Ring - Montclair Chapter                                |         |
| Clifton C. Quimby, The Montclair Chapter                         |         |
| John H. Peck - " "                                               |         |
| John H. Lee - The Montclair Chapter                              |         |
| William D. Schuyler - The Montclair Chapter                      |         |
| George W. Smith - The Newark Chapter                             |         |
| D. Stanton Hammond - Paterson - Capt. Abm. Godwin S.A.R. Chapter |         |

|                                          |                                    |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ <i>A. H. Churchill</i>                 | <i>Montclair Chapter</i>           |
| ✓ <i>John B. Tolson</i>                  | <i>Newark Chapter</i>              |
| ✓ <i>George W. Lamm</i>                  | <i>Elizabeth N. J.</i>             |
| ✓ <i>Frank D. Lamm</i>                   | <i>Maywood N. J.</i>               |
| ✓ <i>Harry J. Brewer</i>                 | <i>Summit N. J.</i>                |
| ✓ <i>R. B. Lamm</i>                      | <i>Newark N. J.</i>                |
| ✓ <i>James H. Elliott</i>                | <i>Jersey City Chapter, N. J.</i>  |
| ✓ <i>John B. Lamm</i>                    | <i>Newark N. J.</i>                |
| ✓ <i>Mary D. Havell</i> (Orange Chapter) | <i>East Orange N. J.</i>           |
| ✓ <i>M. S. Waters</i>                    | <i>Newark Chapter Newark N. J.</i> |
| ✓ <i>Willard C. Mulholland</i>           | <i>Newark Chapter</i>              |
| ✓ <i>Benjamin Cole</i>                   | <i>Newark Chapter</i>              |
| ✓ <i>Robert E. Dams</i>                  | <i>Montclair Chapter N. J.</i>     |
| ✓ <i>William W. Crane</i> (Pres.)        | <i>Elizabethton Chapter</i>        |

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THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, ASTOR LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS, 410 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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- ✓ E. A. Will 235 E Broad St Westfield - Westfield Chap. 13
- ✓ Walter Thompson 403 Mountain Ave do
- ✓ Malcolm B. Ayres 319 E. Dudley Ave.
- ✓ Albert R. Headen 307 Westfield, N.J.
- ✓ John H. Haase 1931 Central Ave Westfield N.J.
- ✓ Arthur Franklin 211 Stiles St. Elizabeth N.J.
- ✓ James Melville 501 Grove St Westfield N.J.
- ✓ George H. Bowie Jr. 752 Clark St., Westfield, N.J.
- ✓ W. M. Mason Harris 440 No. Walnut St Orange N.J.
- ✓ Geo Newton Jones 123 N. Passaic Ave Rutherford N.J.
- ✓ Elmer E. Dmion 60 Montross Ave Rutherford N.J.
- ✓ E. W. Sorell 7 Irving St Orange N.J.
- ✓ G. F. Purson 60 Durand P. Irvington N.J.
- ✓ Robert Treat Beach 376 Upper Mountain Avenue, Montclair, N.J.
- ✓ Ferret Beach 214 Park Street Montclair N.J.
- ✓ Wilemnd S. Muehmore 577 Broadway Newark, N.J.
- ✓ M. S. Waters 162 North 9th St. Newark N.J.
- ✓ Benjamin De 26 Snowd Place Glen Ridge N.J.
- ✓ Mirae Calhoun, Ridgewood, N.Y.



WHEREAS: It is a matter of historical record that the property known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood", in Passaic County New Jersey, occupied a strategic position in the War of the Revolution and played a most important part in the conduct of that great struggle for American Independence throughout its duration;

AND WHEREAS: It is known that George Washington caused a survey of that area to be made by his Chief Geographer, General Robert Erskine with a view to recommending that it be preserved to posterity as a national park;

AND WHEREAS: It has been made known to us that the said property is now available for that purpose and that contemplated developments in that area make it advisable that it be pre-empted for public benefit at this time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, the undersigned, members of the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution, in annual meeting assembled, do petition His Excellency, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Thirty-second President of these United States, to cause the necessary steps to be taken to carry out that worthy project and make of this area a national historic park and memorial to the founders of this Nation. And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution, bearing our signatures, be inscribed in the minutes of this annual meeting and forwarded to the commission created by the Legislature of this State to examine into this subject, to be transmitted by the said commission to The President, together with whatever data and exhibits the said commission deems pertinent to its purpose.

Done at Newark New Jersey  
April 27, 1935

| <u>NAME</u>          | <u>ADDRESS</u>                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Thomas W. Williams | Hotel Alford L. Orange N.J.          |
| ✓ William R. Kard    | 300 Broadway Newark N.J.             |
| ✓ H. Warren Baber    | 65 Carnegie Ave E. Orange N.J.       |
| ✓ J. J. Williams     | 471 Hillside Ave Orange N.J.         |
| ✓ John R. Weeks      | 26 Snowden Pl Glen Ridge             |
| ✓ H. G. Waddell      | 19 Whittlesy Ave E. Orange           |
| ✓ Rose Klook         | 173 Renshaw Ave Edison               |
| ✓ O. S. Thompson     | 334 So. Valley Road Orange N.J.      |
| ✓ Willis Fleckinger  | 176 Connetts Pl D.C. Orange Chop     |
| ✓ Clarence Genard    | 75 Ward Pl S.E. " "                  |
| ✓ Edmund Carter      | 28 South Crescent Maplwood. Maplwood |
| ✓ J. H. Fryman       | 60 Burnet St " "                     |
| ✓ J. P. Schueren     | 128 W. 6th Ave Roselle N.J.          |

✓ Arthur S. Kimball - Jersey City Chapter -  
✓ Sayer Cove Newark Chapter  
✓ H. P. Wood Beach Montclair Chapter

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Before the

FORGES AND MANOR OF RINGWOOD

PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

MAY, 1935

WHEREAS: It is a matter of historical record that the property known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood", in Passaic County New Jersey, occupied a strategic position in the War of the Revolution and played a most important part in the conduct of that great struggle for American Independence throughout its duration;

AND WHEREAS: It is known that George Washington caused a survey of that area to be made by his Chief Geographer, General Robert Erskine with a view to recommending that it be preserved to posterity as a national park:

AND WHEREAS: It has been made known to us that the said property is now available for that purpose and that contemplated developments in that area make it advisable that it be pre-empted for public benefit at this time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, the undersigned, officers and members of the National Society, Daughters of the Revolution, in annual convention assembled, do petition His Excellency, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of these United States, to cause the necessary steps to be taken to carry out that most worthy project and make of this area a national historic park and memorial to the founders; of this nation: and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution, bearing our signatures, be forwarded to the Chairman of the Commission created by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to examine into this subject, of which our President General is a member, to be transmitted by the said Commission to the President, together with whatever data and exhibits the said Commission deems pertinent to its purpose.

Done at Garden City, L.I.

May 1935

Mrs. Uriah L. Brown.

Martha J. Roster

Jessie D. Watter

Edw. E. Martin

Maria M. Knicker

Mrs. Charles M. Benedict - New York

" Miriam A. McEwan New Jersey

" Henry J. Kent Pennsylvania

Mrs. Robert R. Kitchel - "

Mrs. E. E. Young "

Mrs. G. F. Staniford New Jersey

Mrs. Alice M. Ames.

Mrs. Herbert W. Will - California

Mrs. Nathaniel Seaver New York - Penn.

Mrs. Harry K. Derlin L. I.

Mrs. Grant A. Pulbladdo L. I.

Mrs. L. Francis Goodhue New York

Mrs. Frank C. Manning " "

Anna Mcraiser, New Jersey.

Mrs. Wm. Tabing New York -

Mrs. J. A. Medina " "

(Miss) Fannie W. Decker L.I. State

(Mrs.) Mary J. Mowatt Long Island

(Mrs.) Cynthia G. Perkins Long Island

(Mrs.) Fannie M. Peet Long Island

Elizabeth F. Howell, Long Island.

Mrs. Kettie B. Howell Long Island

Karime F. Tyler, Long Island

Bertha E. Norris

Minnie S. Latham New Jersey.

Effie Kussman

Helen A. Goldberg

Alice L. Burkyle Long Island.

Lucy W. Heller - Long Island

Paul W. Weaver New Jersey -

Sarah R. Lirripton Long Island

Louise E. Clark Long Island

Alma Larrick New York.

Blanche H. Otis New York

Melanie Card Jones Brooklyn N.Y.

Jennie Sheffield Russell Jersey City N.J.

Catherine B. Cunningham Camp Hill Pa.

Emilie Ward Mills Hollis L.I.

Cardyn E. Reese New York City

Flora & Follen - Brooklyn N.Y.

M. J. Richard Wiggins R.I. State Society

Miss Edna T. Roberts Minneapolis Minn.

Mrs. Wm. J. Robinson New York.

WHEREAS: It is a matter of historical record that the property known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood", in Passaic County New Jersey, occupied a strategic position in the War of the Revolution and played a most important part in the conduct of that great struggle for American Independence throughout its duration;

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Done at Garden City, L.I.  
May 1935

Marion E. Mansur - - - - - Massachusetts  
Effie M. Hale.

Mabel J. Levis - Pennsylvania

Mabelle Stevens - Long Island.

Anna C. M. Demarest N. J.

Antoinette Cross Sr., N. J.

Sarah S. Hosking, Penna.

Hettie R. Thayer N. Y.

Joanne L. Grant Long Island.

Margaret B. Gill New York City

Miss Edna T. Roberts Minneapolis  
member Battery Road chapter D. of R.



PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

re the

FORGES AND MANOR OF RINGWOOD

PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS: It is a matter of historical record that the property known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood", in Passaic County New Jersey, occupied a strategic position in the War of the Revolution and played a most important part in the conduct of that great struggle for American Independence throughout its duration;

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RESOLVED: That we, the undersigned, officers and members of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Society, Daughters of the Revolution, do petition His Excellency, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of these United States, to cause the necessary steps to be taken to carry out that most worthy project and make of this area a national historic park and memorial to the founders of this nation: and be it

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Done at  
May 10 1935

| <u>NAME and OFFICE</u>                      | <u>CHAPTER and RESIDENCE</u>         |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mary E. Burtis, Regent, N.J. State D. of R. | 406 Clarendon Place - Orange, N.J.   |
| Edna B. Speck, Rec. Sec.                    | 16 W. Passaic Ave. -<br>Rutherford - |
| Anna Inkraiss                               | 230 Lindenkamack Rd.                 |
| Helen A. Goldberg - Treasurer               | North Hackensack, N.J.               |
| Harriet E. Dyer                             | 54 Grand Pl. Arlington, N.J.         |
| Flourence H. Clark                          | 449 Beverly Rd. Ridgewood, N.Y.      |
| Helene Kachouch Anderson                    | 30 Casa Terrace Ridgewood, N.Y.      |
| Elizabeth W. Wicks                          | 38 Ethelbert Pl., Ridgewood, N.Y.    |
| Euphemia C. Russman                         | 522 Chestnut St. Arlington, N.J.     |
| E. Grace V. Swigert                         | 430 Lindenkamack Rd., Oradell, N.J.  |
| Beatrice M. Stening                         | 177 Lincoln Ave. Ridgewood, N.Y.     |
| Alie M. Crosby                              | 396 Clarendon Place - Orange, N.J.   |
| Anabel J. Crawford                          | 26 Appleton Place Glen Ridge, N.J.   |

Mr. Cor Weeks 26 Snowden Place Glen Ridge N. J.  
May Reynolds Corbitt 146 Lakeside St. Rutherford N. J.  
Rachel G. Orfman 201 Springfield Ave. Rutherford  
Elsie H. Harold 41 Kenmore Ter. East Orange N. J.  
Rosamond M. Gabraskie, North Hackensack, N. J.  
Elnora H. Mayhew, Tenafly, N. J.  
William B. Weeks Tenafly, N. J.

HEADQUARTERS  
RYERSON HOUSE COMMISSION  
Ridgewood, New Jersey

#4 Wilsey Square  
June 12, 1936

Dear Compatriot:

On the afternoon of July 4th, the Daughters of the Revolution, the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of New England Women, the County Historical Societies, and similar organizations of this State will hold a "Patriotic Assembly" in celebration of Independence Day at Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, under the auspices of the Ryerson House Commission. The House and grounds will be turned over to us for that day.

This Commission, you will recall, was created by act of the Legislature to effect the preservation of this famous Revolutionary landmark as a National Park. It has given a great deal of time to the matter, and the passage of the "Historic Sites Act" by Congress brings it nearer to success. The celebration is being planned as a demonstration in furtherance of this worthy project.

A committee composed of the heads of the above organizations in Passaic and Bergen Counties is arranging the details. A program has been worked out which includes choral singing by fifty voices, instrumental music by a twenty-piece band, patriotic presentations and addresses by distinguished representatives of the County, State and Nation. The affair will be exploited in all papers of the State and the metropolitan area.

The proceedings will begin with a parade of the chapters through the grounds to the south lawn of the estate by delegations from all over the State. All are being invited. Each will be accompanied by its color-bearer, who will drop out at the speakers' stand and mass the colors there. It is expected that some will come in uniform.

We would very much like to have your chapter represented by as large a delegation as possible. The size, however, is not as important as the representation. We will appreciate it if you will notify the undersigned if such a representation will be present, and approximately how many. It should be on the grounds at 2:30 P. M. sharp. We will appreciate your cooperation in this worthy enterprise. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Chairman Ryerson  
House Commission

This letter sent to all chapters  
of Sons of Amer Revolution  
Daughters " "  
Daughters of " "  
Soc. of New England Women  
all County and other Soc.  
Wives and societies  
Children of Amer Rev  
and others throughout  
the State of N. Jersey.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1936.

*Paulsen*

Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
Chairman, Ringwood Manor Commission,  
4 Wilsey Square,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Calkins:

Just before leaving the city, the Secretary asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 8, extending to him a cordial invitation to be present and deliver the principal address at an Independence Day celebration at Ringwood Manor to be held on the afternoon of July 4. Your letter was presented by Senator Moore.

The Secretary appreciates very much the cordial invitation and regrets that previous plans which he has made for that day make it impossible for him to accept.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HARRY SLATTERY

Harry Slattery,  
Personal Assistant to the Secretary.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

*Pennington*

June 13, 1936.

Hon. A. Harry Moore,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Moore:

I send herewith a copy of a letter to Mr. Hiram  
Calkins which explains itself.

Before leaving the city, the Secretary asked me to  
tell you that he appreciates your interest in the invita-  
tion from Mr. Calkins and that he regrets very much that  
previous plans which he made make it impossible for him  
to accept.

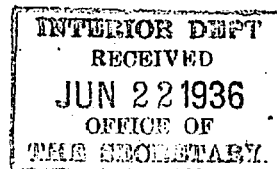
Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HARRY SLATTERY

Harry Slattery,  
Personal Assistant to the Secretary.

Enclosure.

HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.



#4 Wilsey Square  
June 18, 1936

Mr Harry Slattery  
Assistant to the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:

This acknowledges your favor of June 13, by direction of the Secretary, to whom I sent a cordial invitation to be present at the "Patriotic Assembly" of the patriotic and historical societies of this State, to be held on Independence Day at Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey, under the auspices of the State-created Ryerson House Commission, of which I happen to be the chairman.

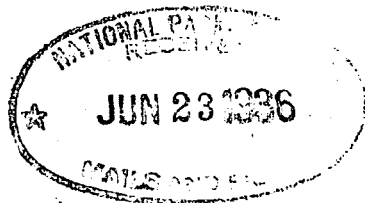
On behalf of the Commission, and of the Committee on Arrangements, composed of the heads of the organizations above referred to, I am instructed to express our regrets that the Secretary cannot be present; also that the invitation apparently failed to impress him with its true significance.

We had hoped that, if he could not be present himself, he would at least send a representative in his place, because we believed it would be particularly advantageous to the Administration to do so at this time.

Very truly yours

*Hiram Calkins*  
Chairman Ryerson  
House Commission

HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.



#4 Wilsey Square  
June 19, 1936

*Mr. Tolson*  
*Mr. J. P. [unclear]*  
*Mr. Chatelain*

Director National Park Service  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:

On the afternoon of July 4th, the historical and patriotic societies of this State will hold a "Patriotic Assembly" at Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey, under the auspices of the state-created Ryerson House Commission, of which I happen to be the chairman. Enclosed I send a copy of the call sent to the heads of all chapters in the State which tells fully about it.

June 9th, I wrote to the Acting Director, Mr. Demaray, asking that he or some one from your department be present and address the gathering. The invitation was sent to him because I have been under the impression from previous correspondence that he was the official in charge.

As no reply has been received, and knowing there have been some changes in the staff at Morristown, it occurs to me that perhaps Mr. Demaray is no longer attached to the Department. We are trying to complete the list of speakers so announcement can be made to the press in plenty of time, hence this further communication on the subject.

This matter is of great public interest hereabouts, particularly to the members of the patriotic and historical societies. The newspapers have had much about it in the last two years. They publish gladly everything we send them. The people would be greatly interested to know something about the Department and the plans it is pursuing under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act.

Both the Commission and the Committee in charge of the celebration are very anxious to have someone in authority from the Department to speak at the affair. The Director of the State Department of Conservation and Development has graciously accepted an invitation to do so. We would appreciate it greatly if you could be there; if not, then some one you may designate. Your response is awaited with interest and anticipation.

Very truly yours

*Hiram Calkins*

Chairman Ryerson  
House Commission

HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

*See*  
*Shale*  
#4 Wilsey Square  
June 20, 1936

*Invitation*

To His Excellency  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.,

Sir:

At Ringwood Manor, in the northern part of Passaic County, New Jersey, there is an historical landmark known as "The Forges and Manor of Ringwood" which is famous for the following reasons:

It is the site of one of the earliest iron mining developments during the colonial period; it is the site of the residence and the tomb of Robert Erskine, Chief Geographer and Surveyor General of the Continental Army; it was used many times as temporary headquarters of high ranking officers, including General Washington; it was an important base of supplies throughout the Revolution and played a large part in winning that historic conflict.

In 1934 the Legislature of this State passed an act, for which I drew the bill, creating a commission to study the subject of preserving this famous place as a National Park. Through its efforts, representatives of the National Park Service visited the place last Fall and, I understand, have just recommended it for favorable consideration.

Enclosed I send you some petitions directed to you by the New Jersey Soc. Sons of the Amer. Revolution, the National Society Daughters of the Revolution and the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Society, of the same. These speak for themselves. I am told they were signed by every member present when the resolutions were adopted. ✓

On the afternoon of July 4th, the historical, revolutionary and other patriotic societies of this State will hold a "Patriotic Assembly" at Ringwood, in celebration of Independence Day and as a demonstration that they are whole-heartedly behind the proposal to make of this place a National Park and Center of Conservation. Enclosed is a copy of the call which was sent to every chapter of those organizations in this State. A very large crowd is expected.

We are very anxious to have some one there from the Department of the Interior and/or the National Park Service, to tell the people about the Historic Sites Act, (S 2073) passed last year, because some of us believe it would be particularly advantageous to the Administration to do so at this time.

HIRAM CALKINS  
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

HC to FDR  
6/20/36, #2

Responses to our efforts in this direction warrant our belief that the true significance of this has not been realized in Washington. Hence this appeal to you, who have demonstrated such refreshing Americanism in so many ways and so many times, to speak the word somewhere that will galvanize somebody into responsive action.

The affair is being exploited in all the papers of this State and the metropolitan area. State and National officials of the important revolutionary and historical societies will be present. If, by chance, You were planning to be in this vicinity at that time and would honor us with your presence, if only for a short stay, the overwhelming success of the affair would be assured, notwithstanding the view of some of your national strategists that New Jersey is one of the very doubtful states.

I crave your indulgence for the length of this letter, but nothing less would be adequate. Our appeal rests with you. In the meantime, I have the honor to be

Very respectfully yours

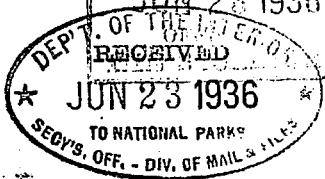
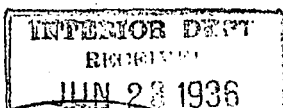
*Hiram Calkins*

Chairman Ryerson  
House Commission

*Parks*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 22, 1936.



Respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Interior for consideration and advice to Mr. Calkins.

*M. H. McIntyre*  
M. H. MCINTYRE  
Assistant Secretary to the President





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1936.

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Tolson:

I attach herewith correspondence with Mr. Ryerson.  
It might be that it will be wise to send some representative  
from the Park Service to this celebration. Who would you  
suggest? The Secretary is favorable to having someone re-  
present the Department.

  
Harry Slattery,  
Personal Assistant to the Secretary.

Attachment.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1936.

Memorandum for Mr. Slattery:

In response to your memorandum of June 23, it is suggested that Mr. Verne E. Chatelain, Acting Assistant Director, Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings of this Service, represent the Department at the celebration to be held July 4, at Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey, under the auspices of the Ryerson House Commission. A suggested reply to Mr. Calhoun's letter of June 18 is attached.

Acting Associate Director.

Enclosure 1004032.

ht:ack

cc Mr. Chatelain

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

*W. L. Holmes*

*Salim Tolson*

JUN 25 1936

NPS OFFICE COPY

YELLOW NOTED

Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
Chairman, Ringwood Manor Commission,  
4 Wilsey Square,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Calkins:

I have received your letter of June 18 with further reference to your invitation to the Secretary to attend the celebration to be held at Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey, on July 4.

As I explained in my letter of June 13, Secretary Ickes regrets that previous plans make it impossible for him to accept your invitation. However, he has designated Mr. Verno B. Chatelain, Acting Assistant Director, Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings of the National Park Service, to represent this Department at the celebration.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) HARRY SLATTERY

Harry Slattery,  
Personal Assistant to the Secretary.

cc Mr. Demaray ✓  
Mr. Chatelain ✓

ht:mfs

*Jolson*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1936.

*D-35  
Rogerson / June*

Mr. Miron Galkins,  
Chairman, Ringwood Manor Commission,  
4 Wilsey Square,  
Ringwood, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Galkins:

This will acknowledge your letters of June 9 and 19 to this Service, and your letter of June 20 to President Roosevelt, which has been referred to this Service, concerning the celebration on July 4 at the Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey.

The Secretary of the Interior, Associate Director Demaray and I will be unable to attend the celebration. Accordingly, Mr. Vernon E. Chatelain, Acting Assistant Director, Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings of this Service, has been designated to represent the Department of the Interior, and, if desired by you, to deliver a talk regarding the Historic Sites Act. Superintendent Elbert Cox, of Morristown National Historical Park, also may attend.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Director.

vec:ht:ach

cc: Mr. Chatelain.  
Supt. Cox.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1936.

Mr. Miram Galkins,  
Chairman, Ryerson House Commission,  
4 Wilsey Square,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Galkins:

Reference is made to your letter of June 27, regarding my proposed visit to Ringwood Manor on July 4.

Please be advised that I plan to arrive in time for the parade at 2:30 and the ceremonies at 3 o'clock, and will conform to the arrangements which you have indicated in your letter. I shall probably drive and my automobile will have a District of Columbia license numbered 82-509.

It is a great pleasure to look forward to this meeting with you. I have heard a great deal about Ringwood Manor and as you know the National Park Service has made some investigations of the site. It is possible that Mr. Cox, Superintendent of the Morristown National Historical Park, will be able to come along with me.

Sincerely yours,

Verne E. Chatelain  
Acting Assistant Director.

VEC:RMS.

CC-Mr. Cox.

*Letter of June 27.  
Will Mr. Chatelain*

*File  
Gm 7*

*0-35  
Ryerson House*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1936.

Mr. Elbert Cox,  
Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park,  
Morristown, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 26 concerning the "patriotic assembly" which is to be held at Ringwood Manor on July 4.

The Secretary of the Interior has designated me to represent the Department on this occasion and deliver an address as requested by Mr. Calkins, Chairman of the Ryerson House Commission. As you will note from the attached copy of my letter to Mr. Calkins I plan to arrive at the Manor in time for the parade and ceremonies. It will be a pleasure to have you accompany me if you can arrange to be there.

Sincerely yours,

*signed*

Verns E. Chatelain  
Acting Assistant Director.

ms.

Enclosure 969188.

COPY ONLY RECEIVED IN M. & F.



Report on Ringwood Manor

with Mr. Chatelain.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1936.

0-35  
Ryerson

Memorandum for the Director:

*by*  
Complying with arrangements made with you ~~and~~ Mr. Wirth, I am planning to accompany him to St. Paul and Grand Portage Minnesota, leaving by American Airlines at 4:00 P. M. today. I plan to return by the same route Friday, July 3, and will be at Ringwood Manor, Ridgewood, New Jersey on Saturday, July 4, to represent the Service at those exercises.

Verne E. Chatelain  
Acting Assistant Director

VEC:emf

copy in 0-35  
Grand Portage

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
STATE HOUSE ANNEX, TRENTON



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTS THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF NEW JERSEY IN GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, FORESTRY, AND ALL UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES. IT PUBLISHES MAPS AND DETAILED INFORMATION, AND OFFERS ADVICE ABOUT MINERALS, SOILS, WELLS, FORESTS AND SHADE TREES. IT CONDUCTS THE STATE FOREST NURSERIES, STATE MUSEUM, STATE FORESTS, SOME STATE PARKS, AND FOREST FIRE SERVICE

July 8, 1936.

Mr. Arno B. Cammerer, Director  
U. S. Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the Fourth of July celebration at Ringwood Manor, New Jersey at the old Ryerson Mansion I had a talk with Mr. Verne E. Chatelain of the National Park Service and I am putting in writing some of the items I went over with him in the interest of possible acquisition of this historic relic as an historic site worthy of national preservation.

I am not going into any details whatsoever as to the historic associations because I assume that these have already been taken up with the National Park Service in considerable detail by the commission that is actively working for the preservation of the area as a national shrine. I do want to say, however, that the old Mansion with its surrounding grounds and the old iron furnaces adjacent to it lie in the heart of an area that has been emphatically recommended for State park acquisition for a number of years. If the historic features are of such a nature that they justify protection by federal ownership as I feel they do it is my belief that such federal ownership will be a really helpful and perhaps a deciding factor in making a large wild land recreation area available in this general vicinity around the historic manor as a focal point.

Whether the national government feels justified in establishing such an area as a national park or whether this feature of the development is left for State action by the establishment of a State park I feel strongly that action taken by the federal government in connection with the significant historic buildings and adjacent sites will be an extremely timely and appropriate step in making such recreation area available in this part of the State eventually. The location is one extremely accessible to the dense population of the metropolitan area in New Jersey and of New York and its environs. It is an unusually unspoiled area and offers opportunity for the development of outdoor recreation in all its forms.

I am writing this so that this point of view may be available in any judgment the National Park Service may make in connection with the immediate historic manor itself.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

CPW/MW

C. P. Wilber, Chief  
Division of Forests & Parks.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

July 10, 1936.

Mr. Martin J. Hogencamp, ✓  
175-177 E. 15th Street,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

0-35  
Refer to House

Dear Mr. Hogencamp:

Reference is made to your letter of July 7, together with newspaper clippings which reported the celebration activities at Ringwood Manor on July 1.

It was very thoughtful of you to send this material. Please be assured that I formed a very favorable attitude toward your committee and the beautiful region which contains some of the most important historic sites in the Nation. I shall look forward to visiting with you again sometime.

Please express regards to Mr. Calkins, Mr. Stites and all the others who made the day so interesting and pleasant.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) VERNE E. CHATELAIN

Verne E. Chatelain  
Acting Assistant Director.

vac:ms.

HIRAM CALKINS  
Ridgewood, N. J.

COPY

#4 Wilsey Square  
July 12, 1936.

Mr. Elbert Cox,  
Morristown Nat'l Park  
Morristown, New Jersey;

Dear Mr. Cox:

Thank you for your very courteous favor of the 7th and for the very pleasing expressions in it. We, too, were glad to renew the acquaintance with you and Mrs. Cox; we think you are both very charming people.

Enclosed I send a complete list of the specially invited guests present at the Ringwood Manor Celebration on the Fourth. There were a few others who wrote very appreciative responses to the invitation and gave valid reasons why they could not be present. There may have been others whose presence was not made known to me.

There were a number of photographs taken but I have no copies of them yet. A man in Clifton or Paterson made over a hundred feet of moving picture film and wants us to go up there and let him complete the second hundred feet. He is coming here shortly to project the first hundred feet on my office wall. Will you know how they turned out.

In the meantime, accept assurances of our pleasure in having you there and renewed thanks for your gracious part in the program. I am writing Mr. Chatelain and sending him a copy of the enclosed list, too. He made a most excellent impression upon all concerned. We were delighted that he was chosen to come.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) Hiram Calkins,

Chairman Ryerson  
House Commission.

Took part in program

Specially Invited Guests, Ringwood Manor Celebration

COPY

Independence Day, July 4, 1936

--O--

- # Hon. Verne E. Chatelain, National Park Service, Washington, D. C.
- # Hon. Elbert Cox, National Park Service, Morristown, N. J.
- # Hon. Charles F. Wilber, Department of Conservation and Development, Trenton, N. J.
- Hon. Louis Sherwood, N. J. Commission on Historic Sites, Montclair, N. J.
- Hon. H. Prescott Beach, Vice-Pres.-General Nat'l Soc. Sons of American Revolution and Pres. N. J. Soc., S.A.R.
- Mrs. Parlan Semple, Jr. Pres.-General Nat'l Soc. New England Women, Montclair, N. J.
- # Mrs. Miriam A. McEwan, State Regent Daughters of the Revolution, Ridgewood, N. J.
- X Mrs. J. Warren Perkins, Vice-Regent N. J. Soc. Daughters of the American Revolution, East Orange, N. J.
- X Mr. William B. Shelton, Pres. Soc. for Constitutional Security, Leonia, N. J.
- Robert M. Boyd, former Governor Soc. of Colonial Wars in New Jersey, representing the present Governor, Morris Rutherford.
- # Charles A. Winans, Secty. Passaic Co. Park Comm'n., Paterson, N. J.
- # Dr. William Rauchfuss, Curator Dey Mansion, Preakness, N. J.
- # Rev. Harry W. Noble, Chaplain N. J. Soc. Sons Amer. Rev., Jersey City, N. J.
- William H. Zabriskie, Pres. Bergen Unit, Holland Soc., Hackensack, N. J.
- \* Francis G. Koehler, Pres. Bergen Co., Historical Soc., Hackensack, N. J.
- # D. Stanton Hammond, Pres. Passaic Co. Histor. Soc., and Vice-Pres. N. J. Society S.A.R., Paterson, N. J.
- # Mrs. William H. Stratton, Pres. Wyckoff Colony, Nat'l Soc. New Eng. Women, Ridgewood, N. J.
- Mrs. John H. Vermeulen, Regent Abram Godwin Chapter, D.A.R., Hawthorne, N. J.
- Mrs. J. C. N. Fles, Regent William Paterson Chapter, D.A.R., Hawthorne, N. J.
- Mrs. Thomas G. Flavelle, Regent Claverack Chapter, D.A.R., Clifton, N. J.
- Mrs. George E. Williams, Regent Acquackanock Landing Chapter, D.A.R., Passaic, N. J.
- Mrs. Mary A. VanNest MacDonald, Regent Francis Hopkinson Chapter, D.A.R., Jamesburg, N. J.
- Mrs. Jennie M. Provost, Regent Hackensack Chapter, Daughters of Rev., Hackensack, N. J.



Special Guests (Continued)

≠ Frank E. Smith, Pres. Capt. Abraham Godwin Chap. S.A.R., Clifton, N. J.

Charles A. Bogert, Pres. Paramus Chapter, S.A.R., River Edge.

≠ Mr. D. Christie Terhune, Chairman Historic Sites Committee Bergen Co.  
Histor. Soc., Hackensack, N. J.

Mr. Frederick Loede, Jr., Supt. Passaic Co., Park Commission Lambert Castle,  
Paterson, N. J.

Hon. Fred A. Hartley, Congressman 10th Dist. N. J., Kearney, N. J.

Hon. John McNaughton, Member House of Assembly, Passaic Co., Pompton Lakes, N. J.

Hon. J. Parnel Thomas, Member House of Assembly, Bergen Co., Allendale, N. J.

Hon. Hamilton Cross, Judge Fourth Judicial District Court, Bergen County,  
Ridgewood, N. J.

X Officially represented.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

July 17, 1936.

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Chatelain.

Dear Mr. Chatelain:

I enclose copy of the letter from Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
transmitting a list of specially invited guests for the  
Ringwood Manor celebration on July 4th. I believe you will be  
interested in this information.

Sincerely yours,

*Elbert Cox*  
Elbert Cox,  
Superintendent.

Enclosure.

*Mr. Chatelain*  
*Mr. Lee* *See 7/20*  
*File*  
*0-35*  
*Ryerson House*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

July 20, 1936.

Mr. C. P. Wilber,  
Chief, Division of Forests and Parks,  
Department of Conservation and Development,  
State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey.

0-35  
Rogers

Dear Mr. Wilber:

Reference is made to your letter of July 8 regarding the proposed Ringwood Manor Historic Site project.

Your comments are of interest to this Service and are greatly appreciated. A careful investigation of this proposal will be made in order that the proper recommendations may be made to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites and Monuments and Buildings, at its next meeting in October.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) VERNE E. CHATELAIN

Verne E. Chatelain  
Acting Assistant Director.

veg:mas.

cc-Supt. Oak.

HIRAM CALKINS  
Ridgewood, N.J.

C  
O  
P  
Y

#4 Wilsey Square,  
October 3, 1936

Mr. Verne E. Chatelain,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chatelain:

Mr. Stites, of Ringwood Manor, told me shortly after the Independence Day Celebration there at which you honored us with your presence, that you wished to be notified when Mr. Erskine Hewitt returned from Europe because you wanted to have an interview with him.

I was at Ringwood last Sunday and saw Mr. Hewitt there. He has authorized me to extend to you a cordial invitation to meet him there or in New York as you prefer, at any time which suits your convenience. He would like to entertain you and anyone you may care to bring with you either at the Tuxedo Club, the Down Town Club in New York, or the Wanaque Inn as you prefer.

A little week-end trip north ought to be enticing this time of year, so if you will advise me just when you will arrive and where I can meet you, I shall be most happy to make the necessary arrangements. Our compliments to Mrs. Chatelain.

Very truly yours,

(sgd)

Hiram Calkins

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1936

Mr. Hiram Calkins,  
#4 Wilsey Square,  
Ridgewood, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Calkins:

Your letter of October 3, addressed to Mr. Chatelain,  
has come to my attention.

I regret to inform you that Mr. Chatelain's resignation  
became effective on September 15. Mr. Chatelain's address  
is 5521 Colorado Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. Your let-  
ter has been forwarded to him.

Sincerely yours,

Branch Spalding,  
Acting Assistant Director.

cc - Mr. Chatelain  
with Mr. Calkin's letter

BS:tvw

0-35  
Representative

KEARNY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
KEARNY, NEW JERSEY

GARFIELD SCHOOL  
BELGROVE DRIVE AND HALSTEAD ST.  
EDWIN S. BRADY, PRINCIPAL

| ROUTED TO   | DATE        |
|-------------|-------------|
| H. H. HANER | OCT 31 1938 |
|             |             |
|             |             |
| 6           |             |

October 26, 1938.

Mr. Vernon G. Setser,  
Department of the Interior,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.

NOV-5 1938 *Miss Kennedy*  
*Br. of Historic Sites*  
*Dr. Stauffer*

Dear Sir;

Being a native of New Jersey I have become interested in Ringwood Manor State Park Situated about ten miles south-west of Suffren, N.Y. in this state. I learned that you have a historical Sketch of Ringwood Manor State Park. If you have any of these Sketches to give out to the schools I would be glad to receive one.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Very truly yours

Edwin S. Brady

OCT 31 10 14 PM '38



October 31, 1938

Mr. Edwin S. Brady, Principal  
Garfield School  
Belgrove Drive and Halstead Street  
Kearny, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Brady:

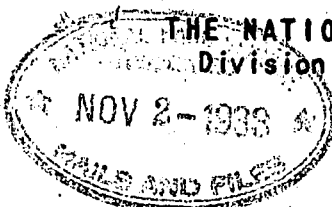
The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 26, addressed to Mr. V. G. Setser of the staff of this Division, relative to an historical sketch of Ringwood Manor State Park.

It is regretted that The National Archives has no material on this subject for distribution. Mr. Setser states that he has none in his personal possession. Ringwood Manor is, or was until very recently, a part of the estate of Mr. Erskine Hewitt, Gramercy Park, New York City. It is possible that he can furnish you with some literature with regard to it. Your letter is being referred to the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, for further consideration and reply. It is believed that that agency may have collected some information with regard to Ringwood, either through its State Parks Division or its Survey of Historic Sites.

Very truly yours,

P. M. HAMER, Chief  
Division of Reference

Form K-8.



DATE Oct. 31, 1938

FROM: Mr. Edwin S. Brady, Principal  
Garfield School  
Belgrove Drive and Halstead Street  
Kearny, New Jersey

DATED: October 26, 1938

ACTION: Respectfully referred to:

The Director  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

AND THE WRITER SO INFORMED.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. H. H. H.", written over a horizontal line.

CHIEF, DIVISION OF REFERENCE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

November 7, 1938

Mr. Edwin S. Brady,  
Principal, Garfield School,  
Belgrove Drive and Halstead Street,  
Kearny, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Brady:

Your letter of October 26, to Dr. V. G. Setser, regarding Ringwood Manor State Park has been referred to the National Park Service for reply.

It is regretted that the National Park Service has no historical sketches of this site available for use in the schools. One copy of a short report on this area by Dr. Setser, formerly of the staff at Morristown National Historical Park, is in our files, but mimeographed copies have never been made.

We have a copy of a thirty-four page pamphlet entitled The Forges and Manor of Ringwood, written apparently by Erskine Hewitt, but the place of publication is not given. There is also in our possession an eleven page booklet, called The Forges and Manor of Ringwood, which was presented to us several years ago by the Ringwood Company, Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey. The superintendent of the state park may be able to inform you where copies of these pamphlets may be secured for distribution in the schools. It is possible that this park has its own booklet for distribution to the public.

Your interest in this historic old area is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) Francis S. Ronalds

Francis S. Ronalds,  
Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites.

aps:isg

OLD RYERSON FORGE

Bloomington, New Jersey

(Undated)

OLD RYERSON  
FORGE

*Study File*

OLD RYERSON FORGE, BLOOMINGDALE, NEW JERSEY

Bloomington, New Jersey, is on the borderline of Passaic and Morris Counties, officially in the former, in northern New Jersey, about thirty-five miles from New York City. The region is noted as a pioneer center of the iron industry in the colonies.

The Ryerson forge was one of many owned by members of that pioneer family in the well known Pompton Lakes region. Judge Martin W. Ryerson whose forge is believed to be the one owned by Mrs. Blanchard, was prominent in the early nineteenth century. His son, Peter M. Ryerson, killed in the Peninsula Campaign at the age of fifty-seven, is said to have been the largest iron manufacturer in the United States for many years.(1) A nephew of Judge Ryerson, also named Martin J., owned the Ringwood iron mines in the same region.(2)

Charles Boyer, author of a work on New Jersey forges, states that "There were three forges operated at Bloomington in 1850,... the third, by M.T. Ryerson. Of these nothing further is known, and they probably confined their efforts to making iron billets." (3) This statement is an indication that the Ryerson forge was not relatively of major importance.

The iron industry in New Jersey played an important part in colonial and early United States history, as it was developed earlier in this state than elsewhere, and was especially useful in time of war. Boyer's work contains descriptions of seventy-one furnaces or forges in addition to twenty-eight which are mentioned and located. His map indicates that they are almost evenly distributed throughout the state.

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1. John Whitehead, The Passaic Valley, New Jersey. New York, The New Jersey Genealogical Co. 1901. 245.

2. Ibid., 243.

3. Charles S. Boyer, Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1931. 41.

Hanover and Hibernia furnaces are especially noteworthy as sources of military supplies, the latter having furnished large quantities of shot and cannon for the Continental Army. These and other furnaces were actively engaged in making cannon balls during the War of 1812.

The large manufacturing establishments used great quantities of charcoal for the making of which extensive tracts of forest lands were required. As many as twenty thousand acres of timber land were sometimes held, and one thousand acres utilized each year, with the remainder untouched in order to develop a new supply.(4)

The early iron industry in New Jersey is doubtless worthy of study, but the task is considerable, and it is suggested that the report of the committee already conducting an investigation be consulted before action is taken by the Park Service. Certainly much work must be done before one can be in a position to pass judgment on the relative importance of various forges.

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4. Boyer, Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey, xiii.

Submitted by  
Historical Division  
Branch of Research and Education

*J. Walter Coleman*

J. Walter Coleman  
Historical Assistant.