

# THE MOUNT AMWELL NEWS

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## Hunterdon Cemeteries

Dr. Fred Lathrup's Hunterdon cemeteries notebooks.

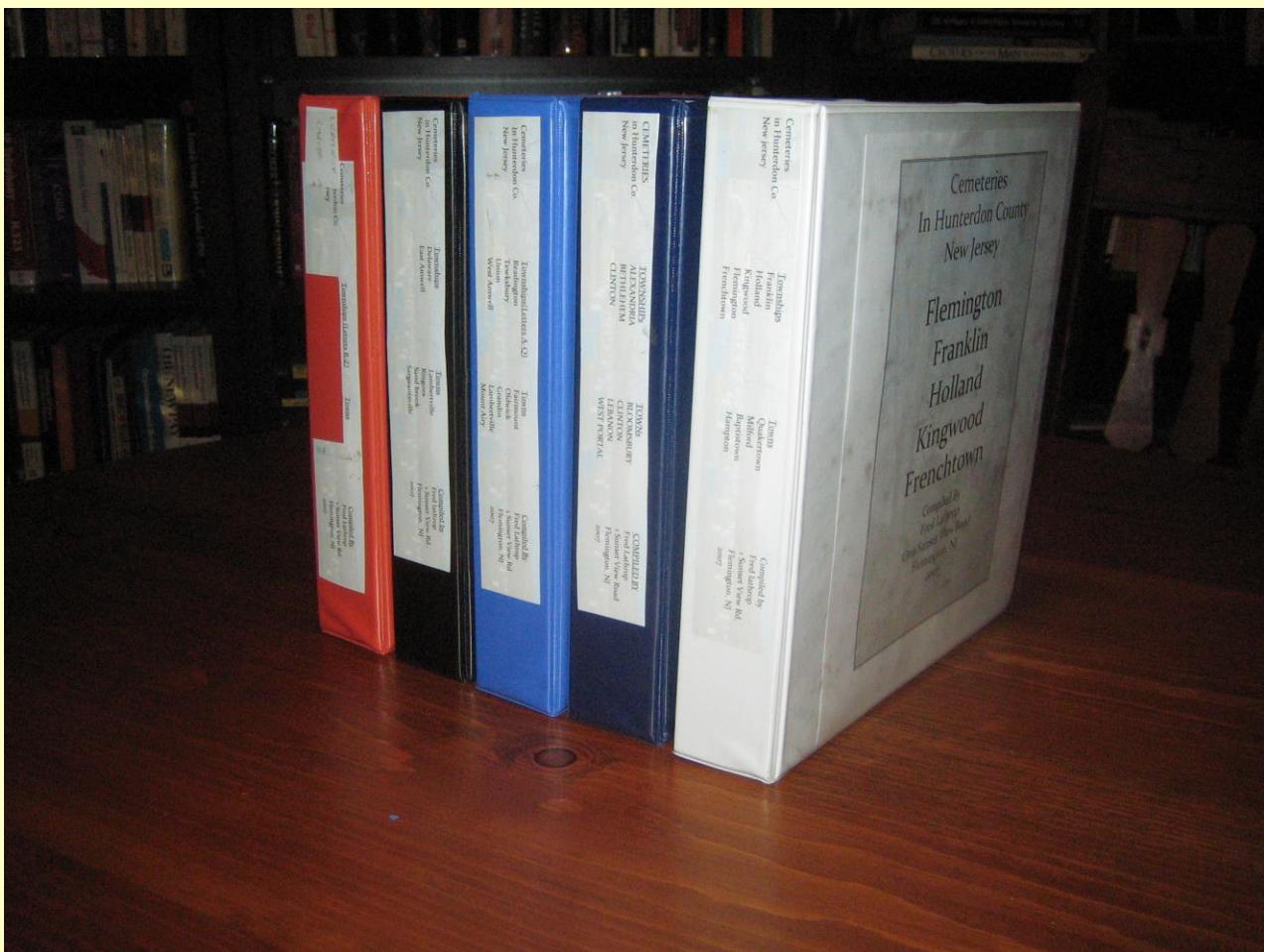
The Mount Amwell Project has received from Dr. Fred Lathrop his notebooks documenting the cemeteries of Hunterdon County. Dr. Lathrop has personally visited every cemetery. The five notebooks contain notes and pictures, internet printouts, newspaper clippings and reproductions from various references on 187 cemeteries, both active and historic. They are organized by townships into five three-ring binders. Each cemetery description includes a picture, the location (address, latitude and longitude) and nearest village or cross road. A cemetery history and a listing

### Inside This Issue

Fred Lathrop's Cemetery Survey	1
Meet the Ryersons - part 2	2
Reading Burying Ground Progress	4
Announcements	4

of all the internees is included in most cases.

The MTAP is evaluating the material for possible publication either in hard book format or internet form or both. Dr. Lathrop has decided to donate the original notebooks to the Hunterdon County Library.



## Meet the Ryersons

By William Luken

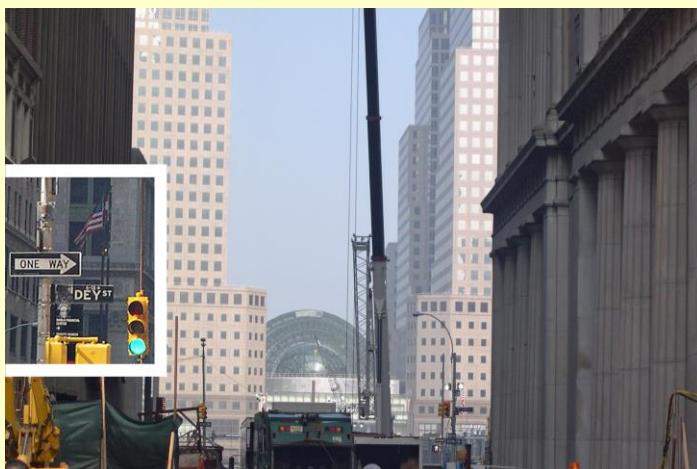
### Part 2 of 3: Mary Ryerson's Ancestors

Mary Ryerson's parents, Joris Ryerson and Anneken Schouten, were both born in America in 1666. Joris was born in a part of Breuckelen known as the Walebocht, or Walloon's Bay. Later this would be known to the English as Wallabout. For a long time, this would be the site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, but even that is history now.

Anneken Schouten was the daughter of Dutch immigrants Jan Lucaszen Schouten and Sara Jans. Following Dutch phonetics, "sch" is always pronounced like "sk" as in school. Consequently, Anneken's name should be pronounced "skouten" (not "shout'n").

Jan and Sara arrived in the New Netherlands on Feb. 17, 1659, settling first at New Castle in present-day Delaware. From there, they moved to Bergen County in New Jersey before settling near Pearl Street in New Amsterdam. Jan was a shoemaker, and he also operated a sloop that carried wheat, flour and other goods along the North River (Hudson's River). After Jan died, Sara is found in the records working as a butcher. (2)

Anneken married Theunis Dirckszen Dey in 1685 when she was 19 years old. Theunis was the son of Dirck Janszen Dey, a soldier employed by the Dutch West India Company. Dirck came to New Amsterdam in (about) 1641. He lived on the Old Company's Bowerie (farm), where he paid an annual rent of 600 guilders payable in wampum. This farm consisted of 5½ acres, extending for 309 feet along Broad Way and 800 feet from Broad Way to the North (or Hudson's) River. This area includes part of the present-day site of the World Trade Center. (2)



Dirck's home was located at the corner of Broad Way and Dey Street. After Dirck died in 1683, his son Theunis assumed the lease to all or part of this property. Theunis and his wife Anneken had three children, Jannetie (Jane), Dirck (Richard), and Sarah, before he died in 1688.

Following Theunis' death, Anneken married Joris Reyersen in 1691. They were married in the Dutch Reformed Church of St. Nicholas on Broad Way in New York City on August 11, 1691 by Henricus Selyns, the same minister who had married Joris's parents in 1666. The Dutch record reads:

*Joris Martenszen, j.m. Van do Walebocht, en Annek Schouten, Wede Van Theunis Dey, d'Eerste wonende de Walebocht, en tweede alhier.*

George, son of Marten, young man from the Wallabout, and Anneken Schouten, widow of Theunis Dey, the first resides in the Wallabout, and the second here (NYC).

Anneken had eleven more children as the wife of Joris. Three of these children "died young", but eight lived to adulthood, married, and raised families.

Joris (George) Reyerson was the second of eleven children born to Dutch immigrant Marten Reijersen and his wife Annetje Rapalje. Annetje was born in the Walebocht part of Brueckelen and baptized in New Amsterdam in 1646. She was the daughter of immigrant parents Joris Rapalje and Catalina Tricot. Joris Reyerson was named for his grandfather.

Joris Rapalje and Catalina Tricot were Walloons, French-speaking Protestants from present-day Belgium. Joris was born in a place called "Valencie" and he was baptized Georges Rapareillet on April 28, 1604 in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in Valenciennes.

From 1581 to 1713, most of present-day Belgium was known as the Spanish Netherlands (3). The Spanish rulers of this area were staunchly Catholic and Protestants were persecuted harshly. In order to avoid persecution, Protestant parents often had their children baptized in a Catholic church (2). Meanwhile, the Catholic Church would refuse to recognize the validity of the parent's Protestant marriages, and their children would be recorded as illegitimate.

The record of Joris's baptism reads (2) "Georges, illegitimate son of Jean Rapareillet". His unnamed mother, "la femme Rapareille" died and was buried in Valenciennes on Feb. 23, 1606. Members of the Rapareillet family removed to Protestant Holland soon after that, and Georges subsequently adopted the Dutch name Joris Rapalje.

Catalina was born in 1605 in a place called Pris, in the district of Walslant.. This is believed (2) to correspond to present-day Pry, a rural place near Charleroi in the Hainaut province of Belgium. Her family presumably removed to Holland soon after that.

Note that dates recorded in the Spanish Netherlands, a Catholic region, were presumably based on the (Catholic) Gregorian calendar, while dates in Holland and England would still be based on the older Julian calendar.

Joris Rapalje and Catalina Tricot were married in the Walloon Church in Amsterdam on Jan. 21, 1623/24. Four days later, they set sail for New Netherland on board the Eendracht (Unity or Concorde). They settled first at Fort Orange, at present-day Albany, New York. The town of New Amsterdam would not exist until two years later, in 1626. Soon after that, the Rapalje family moved to Manhattan Island. Eventually they settled in the Walebocht part of Breuckelen (4).

As one of the first families to settle within present-day New York, Joris Rapalje and Catalina Tricot have been the subjects of a huge amount of research, including historical research as well as genealogical research (5). Joris and Catalina are mentioned at least fifteen times in Shorto's book (6).

Mary Ryerson's ancestry is the subject of a long footnote on page 39 of Leach (1). Although this footnote is very informative, it contains several errors:

1. This note claims that Joris and Catalina came to the New Netherland in 1623. The year 1623 is also cited by Ostrander (7), which was available to Leach. A tercentennial commemorative postage stamp issued in 1924 shows this date as 1624. This discrepancy can be explained by the differences between the Julian calendar used in England and the Netherlands at that time, and the Gregorian calendar we use today.

On the Gregorian calendar, each new year begins on the first day of January. On the Julian calendar, the new year begins on March 22. Based on the Gregorian calendar, Joris and Catalina left Amsterdam in January, 1624. Based on the Julian calendar, this same date corresponds to January 1623, since 1624 would not begin until March.

2. This note claims that Catalina came from Paris, France. The original records indicate that she actually came from a place named "Pris" in present-day Belgium. It has been noted that the marriage clerk made this mistake (Paris), and then scratched it out.
3. This note claims that Anneken Schout(en) was the widow of Theunis Dye. His name should be spelled Dey, as represented by Dey Street in lower Manhattan.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, the huge volume of material devoted to Joris Rapalje and Catalina Tricot, the fact that the Ryerson family and then the Reading family are part of this epic saga gets lost completely. Although the Rapalje/Tricot scholars generally acknowledge nothing about the Readings and the Ryersons, the Readings should not forget about their ties to the founding of New York City.

#### References:

- (1) Josiah Granville Leach, *Genealogical and Biographical Memorials of the Reading, Howell, Yerkes, Watts, Latham, and Elkins Families*, J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1898.
- (2) Phyllis A. Ryerse and Thomas A. Ryerson, *The Ryerse-Ryerson Family, 1574-1994*, Second Avenue Printing, Ltd., Simcoe, Ontario, Canada, 1994.
- (3) See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Netherlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Netherlands).
- (4) See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallabout\\_Bay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallabout_Bay).
- (5) For example, ask Google to search for "Joris Rapalje".
- (6) Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World*, Doubleday, New York, 2004.
- (7) Stephen M. Ostrander, *A History of the City of Brooklyn and Kings County*, 1894 (available on Google Books).

## Reading Burying Ground Update

By Allan Reading



The photo shows the reconstruction of a portion the northwest corner of the wall surrounding the Reading Burying Ground in Rosemont. Additionally, the south west corner has since been repaired. The cost was well under the estimate of \$4000. Look for a full photo report on the MTAP web site in the future.

## Announcements

### Web site Members Access

The MTAP web site has been changed to include a member's only page. Content includes current newsletters. To access simply click on the members page and enter user: Member, password: MTAP2008.

### Fall meeting

We have a firm date for the Fall meeting in Stockton of 8 Nov 2008. Announcement letters will be mailed by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Membership dues

If you are not a life time member dues of \$10 for 2008 are expected.



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