



The
F O R G E S
 and **M A N O R** of
R I N G W O O D

1935

Guide to Some of
 the Outdoor Items of
 Interest and
 Relics

Synopsis of Some
 Historical Events
 and
 Tales

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Recollections of Erskine Hewitt

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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, re-modeled 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 Simenthal-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 harrangue 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.

The
F O R G E S
and M A N O R of
R I N G W O O D

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, Waggon, Carts, two complete sets 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-

tributed per capita through their heads to the various families on the place, who were in that way paid for their work, and what was produced was sent out and sold or exchanged for these supplies. So tradition relates that owners purchased the property coming there rich and were literally eaten out of house and home in about fifty years, after which time, approximately, the property generally changed hands drifting into the ownership of a new proprietor who appeared upon the scene with another fortune good for about another fifty years. So closes the story written because of the many questions asked by visitors.

Probably the first forge at Ringwood was built by Cornelius Board, 1739.