

brick manufacture. In 1871 Mr. Edward Harris of London established a yard on the high ground east of the harbor, employing a big staff of hands and turning out a large product. The expectation was to ship out vessel loads of brick to outside places; but for some reason the enterprise did not succeed.

From 1851 onward the making of flour and other barrels was considerable of an industry. Several parties have engaged in this business, the chief ones being the Cuttings, father and son, Mr. John Long and Mr. W. H. Ryerse.

For some years during the sixties and seventies Mr. Abraham Marlatt conducted a pottery business at Port Ryerse and disposed of a large amount of earthenware of all kinds in the days when it was in general use, and before tinware supplanted it. For a few years in the seventies, Mr. Orrin Ryerse had a potash manufactory at the upper end of Rolph Street.

#### The Fishing Industry

In the early days fish of all kinds were very abundant in Lake Erie, and large quantities of whitefish and other kinds were caught in the fall of the year. The general price for whitefish was 10c each, and 12½c for the larger ones. A fine large sturgeon could be bought for 75c. When the mill dam was in existence there were large quantities of suckers caught at its foot with dip nets. In short, Ryerse's Creek was about the best place along the shore for miles to catch this kind of fish. One afternoon in the space of one hour I saw one thousand of these fish taken out of the creek with dip and sweep nets.

Again one afternoon Mr. Hammond Oakes and myself threw out three hundred from a small pond under the leaky waste weir. In 1876 and '77 an American company from Conneaut, Ohio, were engaged here in fishing on quite a large scale, using pound nets and the steamer Argyle.

#### Biographical Sketches

First will come my grandfather, Col. Samuel Ryerse. As I have written something of his life and work in the first days of this county's settlement, it is at present only necessary to say that during his seventeen years at the

Port he filled a place that scarce any other person could have filled. His name and lifework will be remembered for many years to come. My misfortune is that I cannot remember of my father mentioning his father's name a half dozen times to me during the first 24 years of my life; and it was just the same in the way of imparting information of their early days by my elder sisters and brothers. Had I been properly inquisitive or my relatives anxious to impart such knowledge, there was a mine of interesting information open to me.

#### Elder George Joseph Ryerse

I choose to speak of my father as Elder Ryerse, for he was never addressed by any other name during all the time that I knew him, namely, twenty-four years. Born Feb. 1st, 1795, on Long Island, N.Y., when one year old he, with his mother and a half-brother, Samuel, twelve to fifteen years of age, were brought to at that time an unbroken forest, there to spend the whole eighty-two years of his life. His early education was probably given in his own home, though I never heard him say anything about it. When eighteen years of age his father died, and he had to take his place as head of the family of four, namely, his mother, his brother Edward, and sister, Mrs. Amelia Harris. He spent his younger days like other pioneers, clearing land and making a comfortable home. Married on December 25th, 1816, to Elizabeth Vail, eight children were born to this union, five of whom reached maturity, the others dying when quite young. He succeeded quite well in the way of self-education, and in 1828 was licensed to preach by the Vittoria Baptist Church. Later he was ordained a regular Baptist minister. He also studied medicine on his own account and for the most of his active life spent much of his time preaching and serving sick people. And the peculiar part of it was, no charge was ever made, as far as I know for any services in either of these lines. If any one chose to make him a present of any kind, well and good; though this was not often the case.

He would visit a drug store in Buffalo in the winter time, purchase a