

The Glenburn Estate

*Borough of Riverdale
County of Morris
State of New Jersey*



*A Project of the
Borough of Riverdale
A Municipal Corporation*

*In Cooperation with the
Riverdale Land Conservancy, Inc.
A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation*

The History of Glenburn

In 1695, Arent Schuyler made a series of land purchases from local Native Americans. In 1710 and 1717, Schuyler sold a 300 acre parcel to Simon Van Ness. This parcel remained in the Van Ness family for five generations and with each passing was divided into smaller and smaller farms. This land eventually became the 5.5 acre tract we know today as the Glenburn Estate.

Historical records show Simon H. Van Ness (born in 1780) built the first house on the Glenburn property for his family around 1816, although there may have been a mill on the tract prior to this date. The original house was a three-bay, side hall plan with 2 ½ stories and remains as the eastern three bays of the current house.

Future generations of the Van Ness family occupied the property until Martin Van Ness and his wife, Sarah Lavina Ryerson, sold the land in 1868 to George Linen.

George Linen was born in Scotland in 1802 and his artistic talent brought him to the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. Linen moved to England, Toronto and then to New York with his wife, Sarah Davies. He opened a studio in New York and became renowned for his portraiture. Linen painted the portraits of several statesmen,

including Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. In 1838 the National Academy of Design awarded Linen a medal for the best portrait painting by an American artist for his work of Henry Clay. Today, his portrait of William Popham hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

In 1868 Linen purchased the Riverdale property from Martin Van Ness and named it “Glenburn” after a place he loved in his native Scotland. Linen spent the rest of his life at the Glenburn Estate and listed himself as “farmer” in the 1880 census. Although he ceased painting as his livelihood, he created several landscapes, including a painting of the Glenburn Estate depicting the house, barn, and front lawn circa 1868.



George Linen's Painting of the Glenburn Estate

Soon after acquiring Glenburn, Liden added the western bays, arched windows, porches and the kitchen off the western gable end. After his death in 1888, the property passed to his wife and then their daughter, Georgiana Ryerson.

Maud Patterson owned Glenburn from 1912-1940, and created the Colonial Revival interior that remains today. Bay windows were added to the first floor and additional bathrooms installed on the second floor.

Virginia and Guido Montrastelle purchased Glenburn in 1940 and remodeled sections of the exterior, including the southern porch and concrete paths.

John and Mary Greco, the last private owners of Glenburn, made additional upgrades to the western section. They enclosed the western porch, enlarging the kitchen and glassed in the southern porch.

As for the barn, there is no definitive documentation of its construction date. It is certainly 19th century and could be original to the 1816 construction of the original house, as Simon H. Van Ness was a farmer.



Present

In 2006, the Borough of Riverdale purchased the Glenburn Estate for \$2.6 million. The Borough applied for and received funding from the New Jersey Green Acres Trust for \$1.15 million, from the Morris County Open Space Trust for \$1.2 million and from the Borough's own Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for \$250,000.



As of this date the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund has contributed more than \$335,000 towards the restoration of the Glenburn, with the Borough matching nearly \$100,000 of its Trust Fund money.



The Borough, together with the Riverdale Land Conservancy, is overseeing the restoration of the house and barn and the preservation of the land itself for the enjoyment of future generations.



The Results

During the fifteen month process of procuring the Glenburn Estate we had the support of residents, not only from Riverdale, but from many surrounding towns. What was especially gratifying about our successful acquisition and preservation was the change in vision held by the Borough of Riverdale towards open space and historic preservation. Glenburn has become a symbol of our community recognizing the need to protect our precious little remaining open space and preserving the reminders of our history and heritage.



Some of the immediate and long-term consequences of this achievement and change in policies in Riverdale are:

- Voters approve a Municipal Open Space Tax in 2004.
- A non-profit was formed, the Riverdale Land Conservancy, to assist the borough in creating understanding of the benefits of open space preservation.
- Riverdale has become a member of the Pequannock River Coalition and the Passaic River Coalition.
- We reestablished the borough's Shade Tree Commission and have been named a Tree City, USA two years in a row.
- We have appointed a state certified arborist who advises us on the proper care and maintenance of the trees in our parks and open spaces.
- An Eagle Scout project was approved and carried out on the site removing brush and weeds from the apple orchard.
- The Pequannock River Coalition presented to the borough its 2008 River Protection Award.
- The mayor received from the Pequannock River Coalition its 2005 Public Service Award.
- And the list continues to grow.

The Future

Each year the Riverdale Land Conservancy has hosted a farmer's market as a means of raising funds for the restoration of the Estate.

FARMERS MARKET

Every Tuesday from 2:30 to 7:00 pm
Beginning in June runs through October
at the Glenburn Estate
211 Hamburg Turnpike, Riverdale



Since this is a multi-community project, we intend to make the facilities available to area residents.

The front lawn is perfectly situated to accommodate a party or wedding tent. Along with the use of the first floor of the house, the Glenburn would be an ideal venue for formal events.

The barn and the proposed picnic grove behind it can be used for family reunions, company picnics or other events looking for a more rustic setting.

The barn itself is a three season facility, just the right place for small parties, club meetings, craft shows, flea markets, etc.



**Remember, the Glenburn Estate
is here for you!**

Come Join Us



You are invited to become a supporter of the **Riverdale Land Conservancy** in its continuing work to preserve

Riverdale's open space and historic sites.

Students/Seniors-----	\$ 10.00
Individual-----	\$ 20.00
Family-----	\$ 35.00
Friend-----	\$100.00
Sponsor-----	\$200.00
Patron-----	\$500.00

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Make checks payable to:

*Riverdale Land Conservancy, Inc.
43 Hillside Ave
Riverdale, NJ 07457*

Anyone is eligible to join and would be most welcome.

Glenburn Photo Album

Riverdale Art Center Members Elaine Poplis and Director Dr. Patti Watson visit the Glenburn Estate with Edna Joy Dana, the great-great granddaughter of George Linen.



Mrs. Terry Meier, along with her daughter Liz Schmitt, recounts fond memories while visiting the Glenburn. Mrs. Meier grew up in the house with her parents, Guido and Virginia Montrastelle.



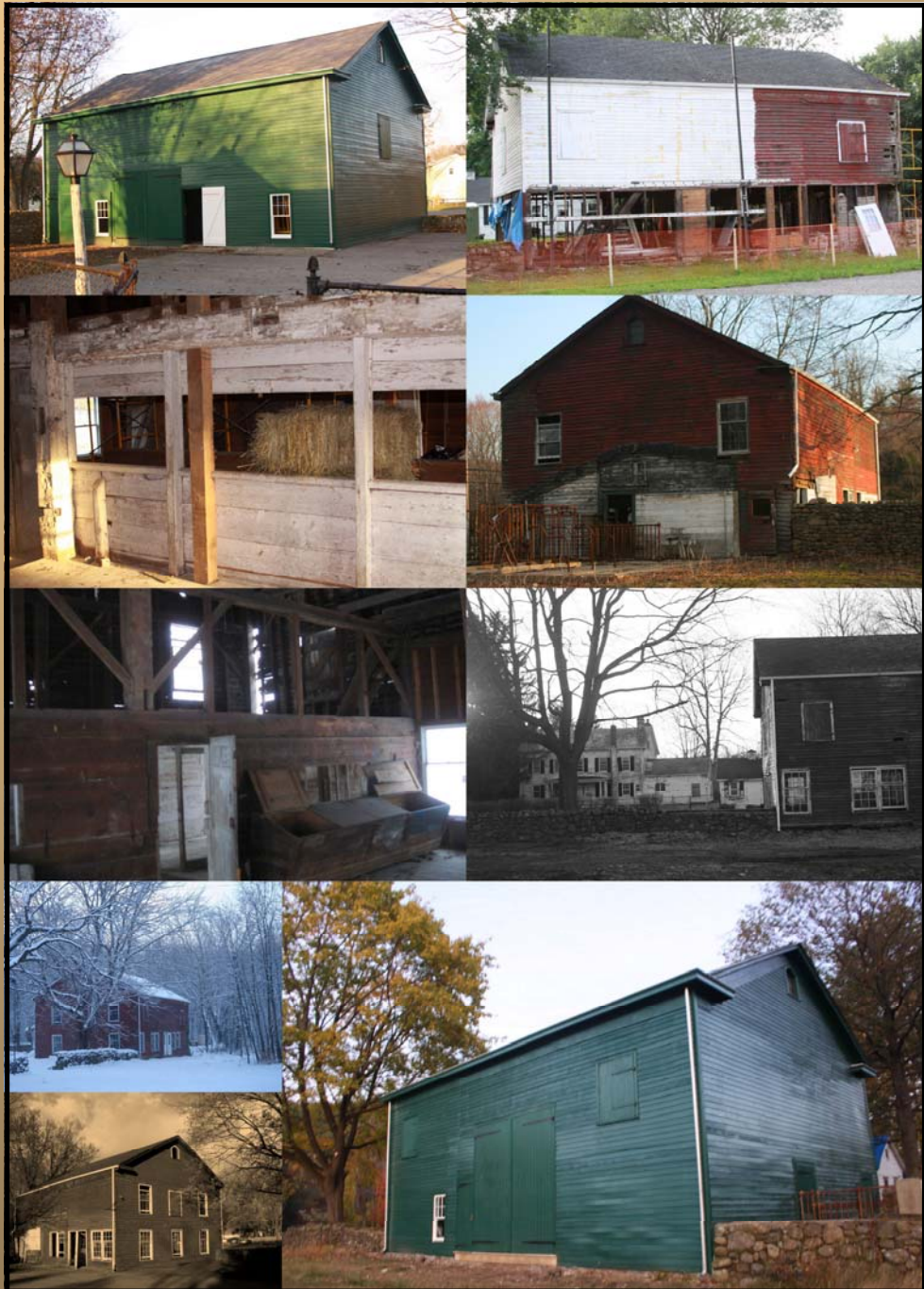
Riverdale Land Conservancy President Carolyn Masone, Riverdale Library Director Abby Saner and Historical Architect Eric Holtermann review restoration plans.



Community Clean-up of Glenburn



The Glenburn Barn - Then and Now



The Glenburn Estate

