



One of the two lions that guard an entrance to the house.

During the management of the elder Ryerson, Ringwood forges furnished munitions for the War of 1812. Standing on the lawn in front of the house today is one of the main deck guns of the frigate Constitution, forged here. A grove of trees flanking the terrace in front of the house was planted by Mrs. Ryerson to commemorate the Peace of Ghent that ended the conflict.

By 1853 the fortunes of Ringwood were at a low ebb. Peter Cooper, the great industrialist and philanthropist, loaned the Ryersons money to build up the tottering structure; but in the end was forced to purchase it. The management of the iron properties was turned over to Abram S. Hewitt who in partnership with Peter Cooper's son, Edward, owned the Trenton Iron Company. Ringwood promised a valuable source of supply for the firm of Cooper and Hewitt which became one of the most important concerns in the iron-mining industry. After Abram Hewitt married his partner's sister Ringwood was chosen as their summer home.