



# The Backbone

A publication of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler, Seneca, and Tompkins Counties

BECAUSE HISTORY MATTERS

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## IN MEMORIAM—ALLAN BUDDLE BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

*Editor's Note: The following tributes were sent in memory of Allan Buddle for our newsletter.*

**From Seneca County Historian Walter Gable:**

Allan Buddle's passing is a huge loss in terms of the promotion of awareness of the history of the southern part of Seneca County.

When I became Seneca County Historian in August 2003, Allan, as then President of the Interlaken Historical Society, was the first local society leader to reach out to invite me to their next board of trustees meeting. That began over 15 years of my actively working with Allan in so many ways, to the point that I considered him and Ann to be personal friends as well as professional colleagues.

(continued on page 2)



BY HAROLD BUSH

Welcome to Spring. We will be soon have Winter as a memory, and a reminder of how harsh the conditions may have been in the past. Ponder that our ancestors coped with having no electric, indoor plumbing, central heating systems, and other modern day luxuries that we take for granted. Please welcome our 2019 Officers and Trustees. We are looking forward to activities, events, and improvements to our BRHG history sharing. We are forming more connections with other history oriented organizations, and plan to join some of their events. The transcribing of original land grant survey notes to build an accessible data base continues, and a Time Line panel display is being developed week by week (display easels are complete, and the era depiction art work is in progress).



### **Upcoming work in the Reynoldsville Cemetery is scheduled for May 18 (9am - 2pm).**

Thank you for all of your help in previous years, and thank you for the new helpers joining us this year. Lunch will be provided at the Reynoldsville Community Center.

### **IN MEMORIAM—ALLAN BUDDLE BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER**

#### **From Seneca County Historian Walter Gable, (continued from Page 1):**

When Allan retired as President of the Interlaken Historical Society, he asked me to give remarks at his farewell gathering. I was honored to do this.

I worked closely with Allan on so many Backbone Ridge History Group projects, starting before it was even officially organized. It is clear to me that that organization would not have come into existence without Allan as the driving force. Our collaboration continued with the development of the informational brochure that is still used, and various programs. Several times I have scanned for Allan's reference various informational index cards regarding portions of the New Military Tract in the Backbone Ridge area.



Thanks to Allan, the BRHG has promoted many wonderful programs, as well the publication of books such as *Families of Townsendville*, *Yesterday and Today*, and *The Contributors' Column, Historical Essays Published in the Interlaken Review 1917-1942*. Allan spearheaded teams of volunteers that have done extensive restoration work in various cemeteries, such as Bethel, Clawson, Shannon, the Bishop Johnson, Bond Family Plot, Bierge Velie, Chrisfield, Currey, Potts and Reynoldsville Cemeteries. He was the driving force in putting together the current BRHG project of creating a digital, GPS, interactive database of all aspects of history keyed to the New Military Tract Lots in the Backbone Ridge.

With all these accomplishments, it is easy to see why it was my professional pleasure to honor Allan Buddle in October 2018 as a recipient of the Seneca County Historian's Award. He is only the 5<sup>th</sup> person to be so honored by myself and the Seneca County Board of Supervisors since the inception of the award in 2006. The award resolution concludes with this comment: "Now therefore be it resolved, that with great gratitude for his tremendous contributions to the advancement of Seneca County history, especially that of the Backbone Ridge area, the Board of Supervisors hereby endorses the Seneca County Historian's Office granting the 'Seneca County Historian's Award' to Allan Buddle for the advancement of Seneca County History."

**From Judy Butterfield:**

One day he walked into my mind.....and then my heart.....

On a Thursday in Spring 2018 while I was doing a shift at the library in Lodi, Allan Buddle arrived to drop off a poster and on that very day, he also dropped into my life. While he was there we began to chat about the BRHG and before he could ask me to join I said I just didn't have time to become a member. I could read his mind. I had long ago determined not to add too much to my plate ever again and my shift at the library had evolved into several shifts and a book fair. However, I did allow that I could afford the \$10.00 to receive the newsletter. In one small comment and in less than 5 minutes, he found a chink in my armor.....he then proceeded to tell me that since I was interested in history (oh why, oh why do I tell people these things?) he had a small, easy, 'do it in my own time', task that might be perfect for me. The BRHG needed someone to begin making descriptions for the collected items just around the corner at their building. Did I think I'd have time and be interested? My interest was huge. Be able to touch and look at relics from the past? Be part of setting up a museum of sorts? You bet....

And so it began. I don't think I've ever known someone so able to weasel into my thoughts, to find my interests and yet barely know me. I think he must have been a mind reader. He was able to change my mind, and my adventures with BRHG began. I have never started the collection cataloging because I received an email telling me about this other opportunity that needed help: transcribing original land surveys. It's only a meeting every other week, and work from home, he said. No pressure. Once again.....he got me. I have been involved in the transcribing of the original land surveys done in the late 1700's to lay out the New Military Tract. This is the land the state would need to give as payment to it's soldiers in the Revolutionary War. He certainly didn't lie to me, there have only been meetings a couple times a month and it is mostly work from home, but I don't go lightly into anything. I was IN and loving every second of the work.

You would have thought I'd have been able to stop at this and just keep my head down. I was spending what had been spare time between the library and transcribing. I was in my glory. How on earth had he known? But somehow he did because he broke down every reserve, every bit of my hesitance and got my interest in local history stirred up in a big way. He even managed, as his health declined, to get me to lead a group on an adventure along a path in the National Forest. I have always tried to work behind the scenes. I don't like to speak in front of people. Yes I can, I have, but it makes me so nervous I can't think straight. But he assured me I could do it. I didn't see any other volunteers raising their hands to fill in for this intelligent, quiet spoken man, who had so many ideas and was no longer able to do these things himself. So OK, I agreed I'd do it. I immersed myself in the project and did the tour. I loved it. He was right, yet again.

I'm not sure if he could have sold ice to an Eskimo but he was sure able to entice me to rise to challenges. I will miss him. I feel he had so much more to get done. I know he was working on a project till very near the end of his time with us. I hope that this group of like minded individuals will step up and carry on the great work he began.

Allan Buddle - a man with a twinkle in his eyes, a wonderful warm grin on his face and someone who I will always treasure in my heart.



**A Gracious Gentleman by Julie Morris:**

I first met Allan Buddle when I worked for the Schuyler County Historical Society in 2016. Our board needed someone to fill a trustee vacancy for one year. Allan agreed to fill that spot. This was incredibly good luck for the Society. We were wanting to build a small museum showcasing rural life in Schuyler County. Allan was so generous with his time, talent, and resources.

First, Allan shared his time. The Schuyler County Historical Society had a building off-site that was full of tools and items essential to farm life around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but many items were unknown, either the function of the tool, or the proper name. Allan went through photographs giving names and uses. Those he couldn't identify from photographs, he went to see in person and reported back to the museum staff. I was touched by how Allan had taken this laborious task on. He was so gracious with his time and would light up with delight to explain how a tool would be used. His enthusiasm was contagious.

Second, Allan shared his talent. Mr. Buddle was essential in creating the Interlaken Farm Museum and he brought that knowledge to Schuyler County. He toured our board members at the Interlaken Farm Museum and shared his books on how to get from building to exhibition. Finally, Allan shared his resources. The Rural Life Center was built behind the Brick Tavern Museum on Catharine Street in Montour Falls. The board had decided to set up the museum as vignettes, starting with a farm kitchen going to the barn yard, and working its way around to the outbuilding workshop. The centerpiece of the kitchen was to be a turn of the century stove. The museum had found one but upon seeing it and its poor condition, Allan quickly offered up one he had in storage. This donation made the farm kitchen vignette a star in the museum.

After Allan left the Schuyler County Board, I joined him working with the Backbone Ridge History Group. His excitement and enthusiasm for a project was a joy to be around. Allan Buddle was a gracious gentleman and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to call him my friend.

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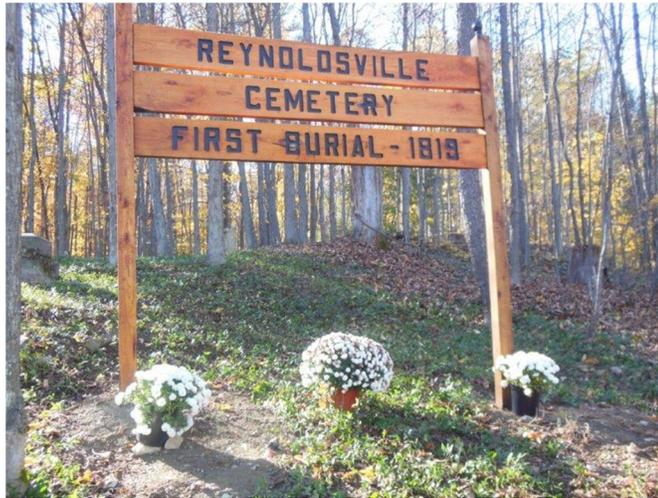
**From Kari Milliman Gauntt**

I met Allan when I was working for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest; we crossed paths as part of my work in partnerships and heritage resources. During those years, the forest had active partnerships with local historical societies and the Backbone Ridge History Group, and we worked together to restore local cemeteries, and provide teachers with materials, information, and host special programs on local history. There was also an active archaeological excavation program led by Dr. LouAnn Wurst with SUNY Brockport and then the University of Michigan. This paired up perfectly with Allan's interest in local history as the students were excavating the old farmsteads that made up the national forest. The study lasted over ten years, and Allan was very involved with the university group, hosting picnics for the students at their farm and meeting with them in the field. Through their involvement with the BRHG, we hosted special programs where Dr. Wurst would speak, bring artifacts, and answer questions from the local community.

Thus, we became fast friends and partners in local cemetery restoration, sharing our local heritage with children, learning more about our local history through archaeology, and building upon our local knowledge of history and further expanding upon it. Allan's enthusiasm and zeal for sharing local history was contagious. His easy demeanor, wonderful smile and sense of humor made working with him fun. He enjoyed life and was quick to share his time and knowledge with others. He had lots of ideas and dreams and it was hard to say no to Allan. He could talk you into most anything! You will note that while I moved away from New York State, I am still your Newsletter Editor. Of course, I plan on returning when I retire, but in the meantime—how could I have said no? It was the LEAST I could do, to contribute to the group, and being so far away.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**REYNOLDSVILLE CEMETERY CLEANUP AND COMMUNITY LUNCH**



## Reynoldsville Cemetery Cleanup & Community Lunch

BRHG's spring Reynoldsville Cemetery Cleanup will be **Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-2** (or as much time as you have available), rain or shine. Please bring hand tools and gloves. Flags for veterans' graves will be provided.

*Lunch will be served at the  
Reynoldsville Community Building (old school house) at noon.*

Please contact Harold Bush at  
[haroldbush95@gmail.com](mailto:haroldbush95@gmail.com) or 607-227-8994  
 with any questions.

**IN MEMORIAM—ALLAN BUDDLE**  
**BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER**

**From Charlotte Dickens:**

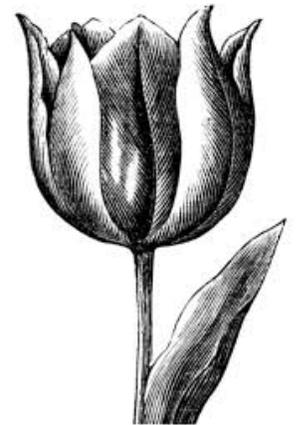
Allan Buddle was a great supporter of the preservation of the history of the Backbone Ridge community. Under his leadership of the BRHG great strides were made in the recording of the history of the area, in securing grants so that it could be done, and in preserving the information that has been discovered. The community owes a great debt of gratitude for his vision and the many hours of voluntary effort in bringing so much of our past to light. We have lost a great asset when we lost Allan, and we can hope that we may continue this work in such a dedicated manner in the future. We wish to honor him for his hours of volunteerism and his dedication, and though we are doing this posthumously, we can hope also that he knew the high regard in which many had for him as a person and for his efforts.

## IN MEMORIAM—ALLAN BUDDLE BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

### From Naomi C. Brewer:

Allan Buddle - A warm, gentle, fun man. I am grateful to have known him. He was President of Interlaken Historical Society and I was President of Ovid Historical Society and we worked together on committees to present programs. We worked helping to make historical road markers. When he formed the Backbone Ridge History Group he insisted I attend their meetings to help them get formed and going. It was always a great time. A very caring man and I miss him.

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### From Doris Pike:

It is with sadness that Allan has left us, but it is with joy now that his body is as perfect as he was.

Allan never started a project or event without seeing it from start to finish: like cleaning up cemeteries that have been forgotten; finding soldiers' graves that for many years have not been honored with a flag; like putting a little girl's headstone with her mom and dad's headstone that had gotten separated; like finding an old Methodist church foundation and cemetery and making a real special event of it; like the Hector and Trumansburg parades; like the displays at the Trumansburg Fair and Plow days; and special programs like musicals with Uncle Joe and the Rosebud Ramblers and many, numerous events.

Allan would see that each year, each venue that could hold a public event, was honored with a program of interest and knowledge of days gone by.

I will miss him as a friend and the foundation of each event that was a part of our local history.

Bless the family and friends—they too are missing him, as a Husband, Dad, Grandfather, and friend—as always, he was a kind and gentle man.

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### From Hector Historian Sandra Bradford:

The first time I met Allan was 10 years ago; Allan called me and asked if he could come over and talk to me about the Backbone Ridge History Group and if I would consider becoming a part of the group. When I answered the door that 10 years ago, there was that big warm smile. That is what I will remember the most about Allan. I have been part of the BRHG ever since. I have seen Allan put his heart and soul into the work that has been done always with a smile. He brought together the programs and service that has been done over the years with such boundless energy, he truly loved what he did. I was privileged to meet his lovely wife Ann and later his daughter Beth who shares that same smile.

Allan will be greatly missed as a friend and a moving force, in his family and community of friends. I pray for comfort for His family, and be assured that he is smiling down on all of you, for love never dies!

Rossiter W. Raymond said: 'Life is eternal and love immortal; and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.'

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**IN MEMORIAM-ALLAN BUDDLE  
BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER**

Hector  
**Community Yard Sale**  
A Benefit for Logan Community Center



**Worthy of Preservation**

**May 18th & 19th**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18TH**

8-3pm: Yard sale & silent auction

*Seeking your quality goods! If it's  
usable and saleable, WE WANT IT!*

**SUNDAY, MAY 19TH**

10-4pm: Yard sale & bake sale

Silent auction & 50/50 Raffle

12-4pm: Food: Moe's Ice Cream

Shuck Yeah!

Music: Whistlin' Dyl @12pm

Notorious Stringbusters @2pm

Join us in the preservation of a local historic beauty, the Logan Community Center. Shop, eat, drink, and celebrate the company of friends and neighbors as you learn about our mission to save a historic building and turn it into a thriving community center.

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**DONATION DROP-OFF: Where?** Logan Community Center **When?** Sat, May 11: 10-4pm  
(corner of Cty Rt 2 & 4) Wed, May 15: 12-3pm  
or by appointment.

*The Logan Community Center Preservation Committee / 607-592-0343 / JamesJensen460@gmail.com*

**From Kari Milliman Gauntt, continued from page 4:**

I especially enjoyed helping with the local school's field trips at the Farmer's Museum in Interlaken, and with special programs in the local school's elementary school, based on the Farmer Boy story. Allan would host the local school children one day a year at the Interlaken Farmer's Museum and show them farming equipment and demonstrate how it was used. It was a lot of prep work, and yet every year, he hitched up his trailer and hauled all kinds of farm equipment that the kids could actually use, like his fanning mill. One year he even had me bring some sheep that we kept in a small enclosure on the front lawn. He loved this day, especially allowing them the hands on experience and teaching them about their local history. His face would light up and he would be beaming a huge smile as soon as the kids would crank the handle on the fanning mill. My memories of Allan at the museum are of him and his horse during Interlaken's Olde Home Day, sitting with my sheep during the field trip, and of him explaining the uses of various equipment to the kids and my personal favorite—the dog treadmill powered butter churn. During one of my first visits to the museum I learned that Allan had some farming equipment from my late uncle, Emil Freier, and that “sealed the deal” for me. Now I had a family connection to the museum and that seemed to foster my friendship and partnership with Allan.

Some of my fondest memories of Allan are when we would be out and about talking to people collecting oral history, and riding through the countryside looking at old schoolhouses and dreaming about renovating one and of having a living history farm some day. Allan was a dreamer, but he also made things happen. Preservation of local history was a benefit of his dreaming—and the founding of the Backbone Ridge History Group. And as he loved farming, and he loved planting seeds in peoples minds. He knew what made people tick and could foster that by planting an idea—and watch it bloom. He fostered many friendships and partnerships through the years and so many people are going to miss him—not only his friendship and camaraderie, but his professionalism and leadership and how he brought so many people together for our local heritage.

I greatly miss Allan as a friend and colleague, and am concerned that our loss will diminish the push for preservation of local history. Please—if you are at all interested in your heritage, please consider volunteering and or helping the BRHG in some way. Nothing would honor Allan's memory more.

**From Hector Historian Sandra Bradford, continued from page 6:**

While we mourn the loss of our friend, others have rejoiced to meet him beyond the horizon, I know Allan has met them with that warm wonderful smile we all know.

‘Is death the last sleep? No—it is the last and final awakening.’ Sir Walter Scott

Till we meet again beyond that horizon!

**MYSTERY PHOTO**

This month's mystery object was chosen by Cheryl Hine, Pastor and dear friend of Allan Buddle and his family. Allan had asked Cheryl to celebrate his funeral and burial. Cheryl held this object up during the funeral and challenged us all to identify it! Do you know what it is?



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS  
TO THE BACKBONE RIDGE HISTORY GROUP**

Many thanks to those who have so generously donated to the Backbone Ridge History Group in honor of Allan Buddle:

Robert Betzler  
Martijna and Vernon Briggs, Jr.  
Karen Edwards  
Damon and Kari Gauntt  
Walter Gable  
Carol and William Grove  
Cheryl Hine  
Jeffrey Honig  
Ruth Lange  
Shirley and Bill McAneny  
Susan Magnosi  
Charles McNaull  
Kathleen and Charles Onan  
Caroline and Bill Pritchard  
Marie and James Roloson

Mimi and Bill Schaffner  
Lorraine Stern  
Georgianna Stevenson  
Sally and John Tillinghast  
Karen and Donald Trotter, Jr.  
Carol Uitos  
Jeffrey and Marcia Vann  
Christ Vogt and Meg Jastran



**IN MEMORIAM—ALLAN BUDDLE  
BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER**

**From Harold P. Bush:**

The 1st experience with Allan was at a Courier and Ives event. The event was held at Traders Village on Route 89 around the beginning of December 2016. He was in character as a Corn Husker, and I as a Civil War soldier. We had a conversation about some of the local history, and some of my ancestors' connection to the Hector land use area, and The National Forest. We, and a teen age young man occupied a hay wagon in the Trumansburg Fair Parade the next summer. I was playing period music (late 1800's - early 1900's), Allan with a walk behind plow, and the young man turning the crank on what I believe was an old flaying mill. (I think we took 1st place in our classification). We enjoyed our forays in support of historical display. Will miss you, but am thankful to have known you.

**From Glenda Gephart, Executive Director, Schuyler County Historical Society:**

Allan Buddle was a long-time member of the board of trustees of the Schuyler County Historical Society, serving as vice president for more than 16 years. Jean Hubsch, former board president and current trustee, said "He was a big help with working on setting up the Wickham Rural Life Center in 2017. He knew so much about farm tools and farm equipment." Hubsch describes him as a "really nice guy" and as a "gentle man and a gentleman."

**From Bob Kibbee:**

"Knowledge of places is closely linked to knowledge of the self, to grasping one's position in the larger scheme of things, including one's own community, and to securing a confident sense of who one is as a person."

— Keith H. Basso, Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache

**From Marty Schlabach:**

In 2003 Mary Jean and I joined the barn tour organized by the Interlaken Historical Society. When we toured the Batty barn, Allan was the docent explaining the barn to visitors. That was our first encounter with Allan. By the end of our conversation we were on our way to joining the Interlaken Historical Society and not too long after that Mary Jean became a member of the Board of Trustees. Allan knew how to draw people in and get them involved.

Allan and I had an immediate connection, given our common interest in agriculture and local history. I believe it was 2005 that Allan, as president of the Interlaken Historical Society, led the organization of the Society's first Plowing Day and Country Fair. We participated in the planning and the event, and I remember that first one as a very wet one. But it was none the less a success and it has become a biennial event ever since. Leading up to the Plowing Day event was the Historical Society's participation in the Trumansburg Fair, in both the exhibits and the parade, to promote the coming Plowing Day and Country Fair in Interlaken. Allan was always full of ideas on what to display in the exhibit and the float for the parade. If the Historical Society didn't have it in their collection, Allan had the items of interest in his barn or he would find the desired items in someone's barn.

Allan reached out to younger people as well, trying to find the connection that would engage kids in an appreciation of history. One avenue for that was the Farmer Boy project in cooperation with the local school. Hands-on activities in addition to reading from the Laura Ingalls Wilder book helped 4<sup>th</sup> graders to experience some aspects of 19<sup>th</sup> century rural American life.

The Backbone Ridge History Group was a brainchild of Allan's. Thought of as a study group, it was started with an emphasis on researching the history of Backbone Ridge area and gathering memories and stories of those living or having grown up in the area now part of the Finger Lakes National Forest. The Interlaken Historical Society was the host for grants and other administrative matters at the beginning until Allan had the BRHG formally and legally established.

It seemed that every time that Allan and Ann traveled, even for just the day, Allan came back full of new ideas. Must have been that sitting in the car for several hours got the creative juices flowing, and new programs were dreamed up and additional projects were imagined. And he was ready to run them by others to see what others thought.

Just a couple of years ago, Allan got several of us involved in participating in a Currier & Ives event during Christmas time at the Traders Village on Route 89. We were staging the husking bee image in costume. Allan got permission to cut some corn in a farmer's field to create the scene as authentically as we could, and we brought in a truck load of corn stalks for the event. You never knew what to expect when Allan proposed a new project or event. But he was quite successful in engaging others in his initiatives.

Allan was already experiencing some of the symptoms of ALS in August 2018 when I asked if he would be willing to use his pickup and cattle trailer to take Lewis & Clark, my two Milking Shorthorn oxen-in-training, to the Geneva Historical Society's Farm Day event at the Johnston House. He was having difficulty being understood when talking and turning his head to back up the truck and trailer was challenging. But he willingly took on the task of getting us to an historical event that he had many times in the past participated in himself, often demonstrating the use of a fanning mill.



Then in September of 2018 his farm auction was held where he sold most of his farm equipment. He had already reduced his cattle herd substantially, but giving up farming was hard on him. He loved his animals and the activities of farming. And he willingly shared his knowledge and experience with others, including me. When I got two one-week-old calves in 2016 with the intention of training them to be oxen, Allan was always available to provide advice. He provided ideas on housing, feeding and their care. He shared equipment and gave me guidance on pasture improvement and laying out a plan for rotational grazing.

(continued on page 11)

## IN MEMORIAM—ALLAN BUDDLE BRHG PAST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

### From Marty Schlabach, continued from page 10:

In addition to his family, Allan's passion was farming and local history. And he was a leader who found ways to engage others that best suited their skills and affinities. I'd like to think that I learned a little from observing him, perhaps in particular when I was on the receiving end of his efforts to engage.

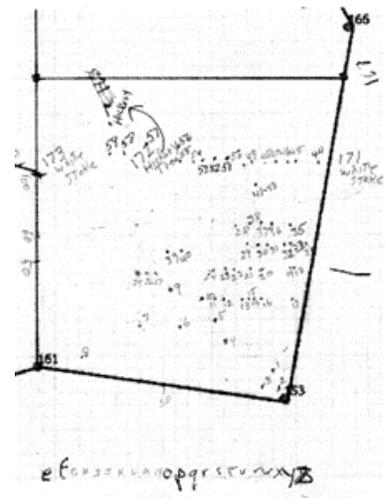
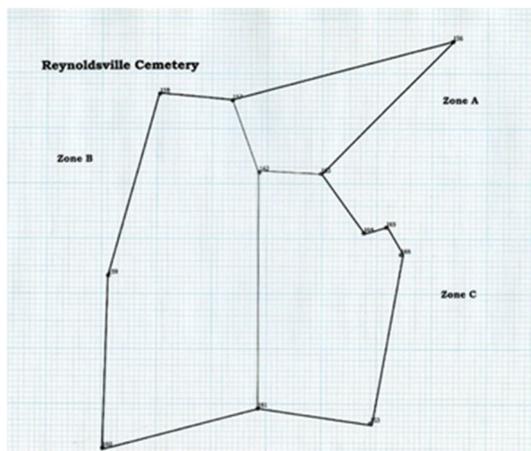
Our community is a better place because of Allan. I and many others who were directly or indirectly impacted by him, miss him. I miss him as a friend. I miss him as a leader. I miss him as an organizer in the community. But I continue to feel his impact on the community, as I'm sure many others do as well.

### From Bob Kibbee, continued from page 9:

Places spoke to Allan. He could stand with his rake looking at the overgrown (pre-Allan) mess of the Reynoldsville Cemetery and hear in his mind the whisper of the place, a kind of low hum from which he could extract the stories of the dead, then imagine how they connected to the present and how the present could connect with the past, how he might reveal the voices to his friends and community. Connections were important to Allan and he found many ways to make connections. He would start with the practical and the personal: clear away the mess. It was easy to get people on board with that, to make that connection. But what they didn't know was that that was only the beginning...more connections would soon come, ready or not.

### Reynoldsville Cemetery

Allan and I got to know each other over the Reynoldsville Cemetery. He knew I was interested in maps and I knew he was interested in cemeteries. Allan wanted a map of the cemetery. It took us a while to get the map in focus. As you can see, the Reynoldsville Cemetery is not laid out in regular rows or regular anything. It was a challenge on the ground, but the idea of it grew as we worked: we thought we could put a map of the cemetery online and share it with everyone. Allan knew Doris Pike had a lot of information about the people there. Could we make that connection?



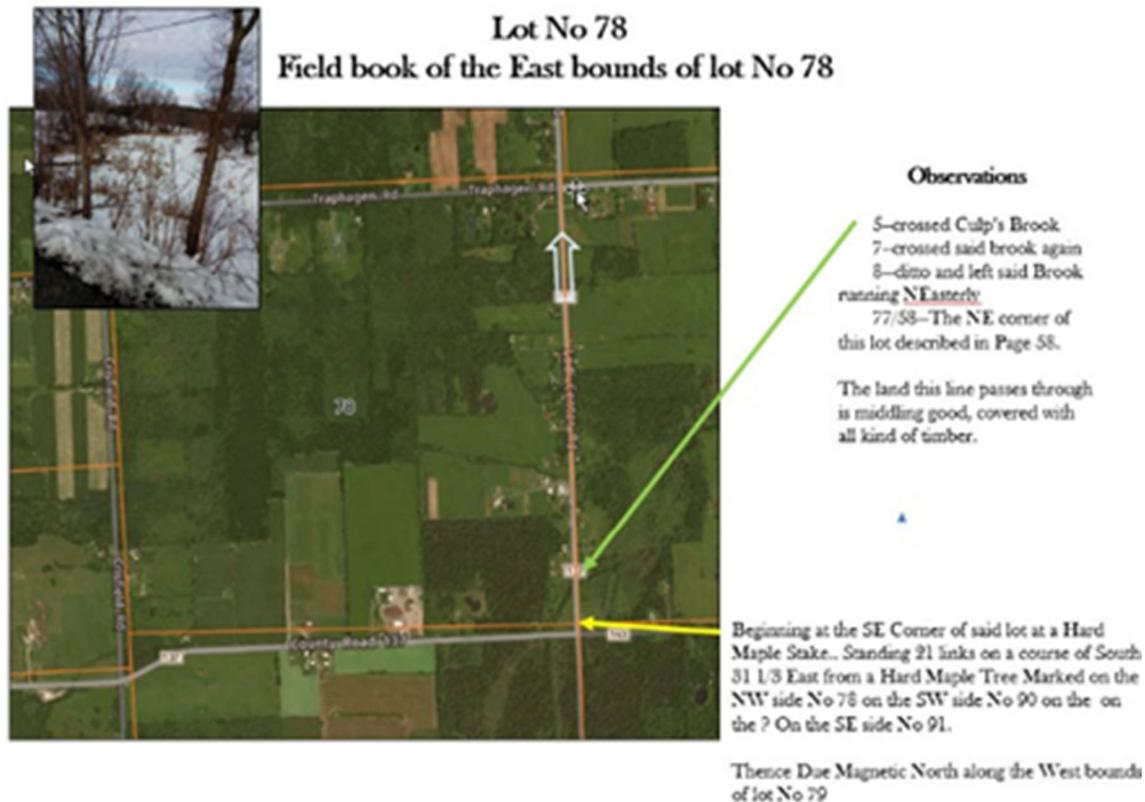
Well, we tried, and as always with Allan, we had a good time trying. We laid out the bounds and then divided the cemetery into zones. We located the stones. We met with Doris. But mostly we connected, and I learned a lot. Allan knew this place in a way that, as Basso says, helped him understand his position in the larger scheme. More than that, he brought whoever would commit to his vision into that same place of understanding, usually before they really were aware of how that had happened.

(continued on page 12)

**From Bob Kibbee, continued from page 11:**

### The Military Tract

Once the realization of the connection potential of an online map was planted Allan quickly arrived at a bigger, more expansive vision, a vision that would connect more people with more history. I'm thinking the genesis of the Backbone Ridge / Military Tract project might have bubbled up from conversations at the Last Friday Friends group at the Falls Restaurant. The Map was a very typical Allan undertaking. It was based on his deep knowledge of the history of the Ridge and his compelling mission to tell its many stories. He brought to the project an impressive network of friends and co-conspirators and his uncanny ability to get people to volunteer, once again. It was a really impressive group that set to work transcribing the challenging handwritten notes of the men who had surveyed the Military Tract in 1790-91. Allan was an avid transcriber himself and would look around the room and beam as we puzzled over an obscure abbreviation



Allan's awful prognosis came as we were just hitting our stride with the project. The next months were a moving display of determination and unflagging effort as Allan struggled with ALS while maintaining pride, dignity and a commitment to getting the story told.

Allan felt—he had always felt—that the only way we could really understand history was to see it played out in front of us, or by playing it out ourselves. The surveys and observations will tell a story, but in the long run, to Allan at least, there was more to it than lines and dots. It was a story of an event that shaped the history and geography of the Backbone Ridge and would best be understood by re-enacting the survey. It was a quintessentially Allan undertaking under very difficult conditions, but, with his deep knowledge of the history, his vision and unflagging enthusiasm, the survey re-enactment was in every way a brilliant success. I think we're all looking forward to future re-enactments in memory of the wonderful friend who touched us all.

(continued on page 13)

**From Bob Kibbee, continued from page 12:**

“Everything is held together with stories. That is all that is holding us together, stories and compassion.”

— Barry Lopez

This is what holds us together now even in Allan’s absence—the compassion we learned from working beside him, and the stories he retrieved for us.

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**From June Szabo:**

Not long after meeting Allan Buddle I realized he was a man who loved where he lived---the land, its history and the people. I asked Allan if I could interview him for a project I am working on and in March of 2018, I sat down with Ann and Allan Buddle at their kitchen table, to talk about sense of place. These are Allan’s answers to my questions.

Allan Buddle:

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

Here – I first moved to T-burg, lived in an apartment with a 90 year old land lord and another tenant who was 98. I came here from Cooperstown for a job at Sampson State Park. I bought my first house on Stillwell Road and drove by this house every day on my way to work. I found out it was for sale and listed with the wife of a co-worker. We bought it in 1969; it needed a lot of work and we didn’t move in until 1972.

**Why do you live here?**

When the job at Sampson ended, I took a job with an engineering firm in Rochester and for a year, I drove back and forth. Then I worked for the DEC in the Southern Tier (after the flood in 1972) to manage flood control and drove back and forth. But it was more complicated than that. We loved it here and made a decision to stay here. I needed to be on a farm. I grew up on a dairy farm and I always thought in the back of my mind I needed that again, so it’s the land. I needed to be on the land. Once I was here, I wanted to stay.

**Do you think that where you live (The Finger Lakes Region) in any way influence you or your work?  
How?**

This community has been into organic farming for a long time and I got involved with that. I was very involved with starting Northeast Organic Farming Association. When we first moved here, I spent a lot of time in the National Forest looking for archeological sites. A while ago, we went to Cades Cove in Tennessee. A community there was dismantled and restored to become part of The Great Smokey Mountains National Park. Thinking about the community that had been here and how much history could be found in our National Forest, the thought grew into the Backbone Ridge History Group. I got together with Kari Lusk (now Milliman Gauntt) and John Potter (Director of the Montour Falls Museum) we put our heads together and started the Backbone Ridge History Group. I was also involved with the Interlaken Historical Society at the time.

(continued on page 14)

From June Szabo, continued from page 13:

**4. Is there a particular place here that especially brings you joy, peace, comfort or lifts your spirits? Where?**

My home – out in the fields looking at my house, when I see my place. We bought it in 1969 from four brothers it was in terrible shape. The house was built in 1810. We have an archeological site on our property where there was an Indian village. It was excavated twice; they found the remains of a long house and 18,000 artifacts in the village. The land was part of the military tract. Awarded to a Revolutionary war soldier named Risdale. It then went to Hinton (a speculator) who sold it to the Cole family. The title to the land was given to the Coles in 1796 and it remained in that family until we bought it in 1969. Marian Cole Klinko saved it for the family in the depression by selling cherries. There were 10 acres of cherry trees here. The orchard is gone now, but in our best year, we sold 14 tons of cherries. I also have those feelings (but not as much) at the Bethel cemetery, where there is a foundation for an old meetinghouse and on the site of the native village on our land.



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**We hope that information contained in the Backbone continues to be of interest and we welcome suggestions for content related to the history of the Backbone Ridge and surrounding communities. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions or contributions of articles by mail at the address above or through the website.**



**For new or renewal memberships, for an individual or household please send \$10 to BRHG, PO Box 62, Trumansburg, NY 14886**

**Allan Buddle setting up  
"Dairy on the Backbone" Exhibit  
at the 2013 Trumansburg Fair**

**Photo contributed by Doris Pike**