



# The Backbone

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

B E C A U S E H I S T O R Y M A T T E R S

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| <p>INSIDE THIS ISSUE:</p>                                 | <p><b>Auble/Abel/Able Families on the Backbone Ridge</b><br/>BY DAVID SMITH</p>  |
| <p>Auble/Abel/Able Families on the Backbone Ridge 1,3</p> | <p>All Auble families in this area descended from one of 4 brothers who were sons of a Michael Auble. Their names were Andreas, Johannes, Matthias, and William. Andreas had a son Johannes who came to Seneca County where he died in 1871. He married Effie Schuyler. Their descendents went west or to Cayuga County. Johannes married Sophia Trimmer and had a son George who settled in Enfield. He had 8 children by Rachel Cripps and four by his second wife Betsy _____. George's children remained in the area.</p>  |
| <p>Presidents Update 2</p>                                | <p>Matthias married Catharine Fritts and settled in the town of Ovid about 1803. Many of his descendants are in the area today.</p>  |
| <p>Mystery Photo 4,5</p>                                  | <p>William Abel had 6 sons Michael, Andreas, George W, Ichabod, William, and John who came to Enfield and Ulysses and had children, some of whom remained in this area. These families kept the older spelling of their last name ABEL or ABLE. Thus the Aubles settled in Covert and Ovid, the Able and Abels settled in Enfield and Ulysses. Both lines settled in Hector. All came from the same New Jersey ancestors. Each family had a story to tell of their lives, some happy, some tragic. All contributed, however long or briefly to the sinews woven into the history of the backbone.</p>  |
| <p>Information Updates 6</p>                              | <p><i>I noted that <b>William Stephen Abel</b> served in the 9th infantry. In 1966-7 when I was at Fort Riley KS the 9th was reactivated and sent to Viet Nam. Our company provided transportation for the troops after their vehicles had been shipped. The troop train on which they departed was the last troop train used. After that troops were flown.</i></p>   |
| <p>Milliman Family History Connections 6-9</p>            | <p><b>William Stephen Abel</b> was the son of <b>Jarvis Stone Abel</b> and <b>Mary Hewitt Bower</b>. He is descended from <b>Michael Able / Auble</b> through his son William who settled in Ulysses in the early 1800s and kept the spelling Abel.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>William S Abel</b> was born on Christmas day 1879 at the family farm at <b>Abel's Corners</b> near Trumansburg. When the Spanish American War came he was one of several from the Trumansburg vicinity who enlisted. He served in the 9th US Infantry, Co. I. He served in the Philippines and loved the area so much that he stayed. When he was discharged he went to work in Manilla for the U S government.</p> <p>In 1917 his father Jarvis Abel died and expressed desire in his will that William might purchase the homestead farm and continue it under the Abel name. In 1918 he came back to Trumansburg to settle his part of the estate, but went back to the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on page 3)</p> |

BY ALLAN BUDDLE

A new book will soon be available from the Backbone Ridge History Group, made possible by the herculean efforts of Marsha Smith with support from the Nelson B. Delavan Foundation. The title of the book is: *Contributor's Columns, Historical Essays Published in the Interlaken Review 1917 – 1942*. There will be over two-hundred pages of very descriptive detail of the area that we consider to be the Backbone Ridge and surrounding communities. In addition there are many articles about road trips taken by the Contributors and their families and friends that provide an excellent picture of not only the country at the time, but the trials and tribulations of traveling by automobile. Below is a Forward for the book provided by Glynis Hart, editor of the Interlaken Review from 2008 through 2016.



#### Foreword

In 1887, a young man named Thomas Hause began a newspaper, *The Saturday Morning Review*, in the small village of Farmer, in the town of Covert, Seneca County, New York. The little village on a ridge between two lakes, Seneca to the west and Cayuga to the east, was renamed Interlaken in 1904, and Hause, who had changed the name of the paper to the *Farmer Review*, renamed it again. Since that time, “the only newspaper that cares anything at all about Interlaken” has been in continuous publication. As of this writing, the *Interlaken Review* is approaching its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017.

As the editor of the *Interlaken Review* from 2008-2016, and also of the nearby *Trumansburg Free Press* and the *Ovid Gazette*, I witnessed the strong sense of community these small towns keep alive. It is still possible to find a gathering of gray-haired wise-crackers solving the problems of the world on the bench outside the coffee shop in Trumansburg; to find people in the Interlaken diner arguing passionately about the best way to fix the water tower, to see school children waving cheerfully to their local policeman. This region of New York- the Finger Lakes- was settled by Europeans relatively late, with most white pioneers arriving after 1789 to settle on military lots, designated as payment for Revolutionary War service. The descendants of many of these settlers are still here. The past is not far away.

These columns, transcribed meticulously over many years by Marsha Smith, capture the Interlaken community's sense of the past as well as the warmth and fun of its long time dwellers. The writers, good friends or close acquaintances, trade good-natured corrections and share some of their memories. They were interested in the history of the houses and old mills, in their towns' contributions to the Civil War, in local and- when World Wars intruded- international issues. Some of my favorite stories in the book are in Herman Smith's accounts of his adventures in Kansas in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the automobile trips Smith and his friends assayed after automobile travel became possible. The world was bigger then, the towns smaller. But we humans have not changed much if we can still appreciate a good yarn and the twinkle in the eye of a narrator who brings it all together.

Glynis Hart

November 2016

BY DAVID SMITH  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

place he loved most. 28 May 1930 at Pasay City, Rizal, Philippines he married **Geromina Aquado** B 1888 the daughter of **Castor Aquado** And **Lucila Garcia**. They had a daughter **Milagros Abel**.

Before December 1941 his wife died. When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in December 1941 he was taken prisoner. As he described the situation, "I lived 87 days on a little rice and dirty soup twice daily, eating with my fingers, no knife, fork or spoon, and slept on a concrete floor in filth with nothing but an old pajama suit to wear." On March 15, 1942 he was confined at Fort Santiago where he stayed until liberated February 4 1945. He must have been a portly man for he writes that he lost 107 pounds, but that he still weighed 156. He was in good spirits but did not know if his daughter was alive or if his house was still standing. His home now was the Santo Tomas Interment Camp – same place new ownership. Soon he did return home and was reunited with his daughter.

On Washington's Birthday 1945 his sister **Eunice Davis** of Trumansburg received word from Washington that he had been freed and was in good health. She was permitted to send him a free cable of up to 25 words. The return cable and letters are the basis for the story of his confinement.

In 1956 William visited Trumansburg with his daughter **Milagros**. This was his second visit since joining the army back in 1899. He attended the fair, but did not recognize anyone. He commented on the change in the climate here as he had also done in 1918. His sisters **Eunice Davis** and **Lucy Tunison** had passed. His sister **Fannie Kinyoun** of Jacksonville was still living so he visited her and children of his other sisters. William died October 31, 1964 in Manilla, Philippines. He is buried at the North Cemetery, La Loma, Quezon City, Philippines.

*Editor's Note- The Resettlement Administration of the USDA acquired two parcels of land from **Frank W. Auble** on August 21 and October 9, 1936. These parcels are both near the intersection of Bower Road and Vesa Road on Hector Lots #15 and #25. On the Hector 1874 Map, it appears that C. Auble resided at that time on Lot#15. Another connection was made when Dave Beckhorn interviewed Marie Ely Baumgartner. A portion of that interview follows.*

### **Auble Connection to the Red House Inn**

MB: Well, it's kind of easier to work from now, backwards. So, my grandmother was Ina Grace Fenton and she was born May 15, 1894 and she was born in the Red House Inn. And she was born on the east side, there was a bay window there but when I drove past it this past week—sometimes I just get a hankering to go ride through the forest—and I was over in Trumansburg, so I took the scenic route home and went through the forest and went past the Red House Inn and I noticed now that it's kind of a blocked window, it's not a bay window any more as you'd think of a bay window being curved and beautiful it's more of a squared off bay window. But the bed she was born in was right in front of that window. She was born there. The house was, it was her grandparents' house, George and Elizabeth Auble. George and Elizabeth Auble were married in that house. Prior to their marriage, my great-grandfather Ellsworth Fenton and my grandmother's father, George Auble, cut down the trees to build the house with. My great-grandfather was not yet married so he was still a young man. I think my grandfather, I think I wrote it down here somewhere, where grandpa... I don't have it right here but, great-grandma Fenton was born in 1874 and her name was Mary Ellen. She and Ellsworth Fenton were married in the Red House, and they were married June 1, 1893. So, prior to 1893, my great-grandfather Ellsworth Fenton and George Auble, his future father-in-law, got to help cut down the trees to build the house with and they hauled them, dragged them, however they hauled trees, somewhere down between—I don't know if it was in Burdett or between Burdett and Watkins Glen, to a saw mill where the trees were cut into boards and then the boards were put on wagons and they brought them back up to Logan.

## LAST EDITION'S MYSTERY PHOTO



Editor's Note- Two days following the mailing of the Fall, 2016 Edition of the *Backbone*, we received the following message from Sharon Ricci:  
*Would that be Anne Knight with Elsie, the Borden Cow?  
 She was my art teacher when I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.  
 I also remember her being on the TV show "I've Got a Secret" because of her "job" of caring for that cow. This picture may not be Anne but it did bring back memories!*  
**Sharon**

It **WAS** Anne and Elsie the Borden Cow. Anne came to the Backbone Ridge area from the Rosemary Farm in South Kortright, Delaware County, home of a prize winning Brown Swiss herd of dairy cattle. Anne was fresh out of Teachers' College and Art School and took a position at the Interlaken Central School where she taught Art. While there she met John Knight, son of Arthur Knight a well known and respected sheep farmer living in Townsendville on the Backbone Ridge. Together, they totally immersed themselves into all aspects of the sheep industry and were key to the successful management of the Schuylers County Lamb Pool and the Seneca County Sheep Growers Association. Anne's art and other artistic creations are displayed throughout the community. In addition she was an historian and authored two books on the history of Townsendville. Anne passed away on August 26, 2016. She donated a treasure-trove of memorabilia to the Backbone Ridge History Group which will be stored as the John and Anne Knight Collection at the Research Center. The photo and following article were gleaned from the collection.

**Delaware County  
4-H Club News**

Vol. 18

November, 1947

No. 11

Last spring, Harold Willman made arrangements with the Borden Company to hire Ruth and Anne Rose of South Kortright to care for Elsie. They had a wonderful time, and we know you will want to read the story of their trip.

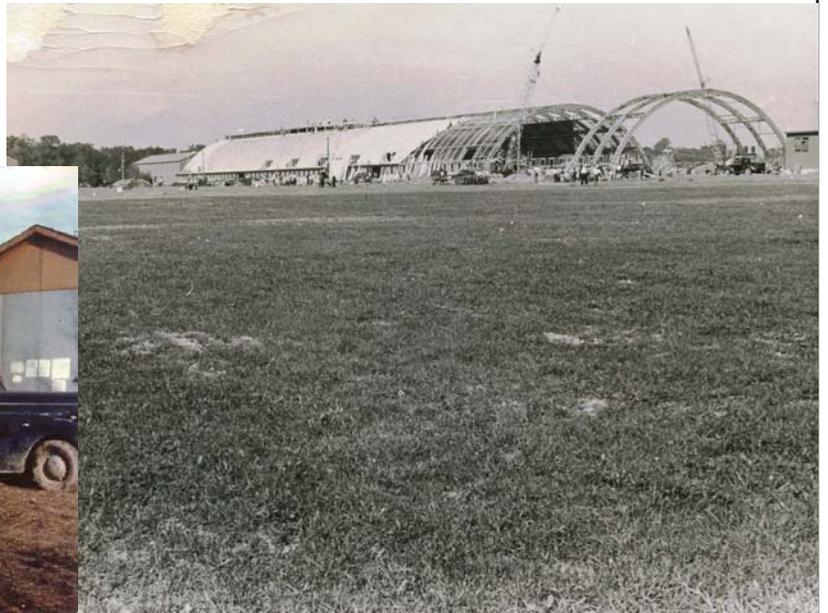
On August 6, we left for New York City where we were to be herds girls for Elsie and her new baby boy. Elsie's boudoir was on the fifth floor in Macy's Department Store. On Wednesday, August 12 Elsie brought someone new to the boudoir. Yes, it was her new baby boy, who thrilled thousands of boys and girls. Our job was to milk Elsie, feed her and her baby, answer any questions asked of us, and run any errands Elsie asked. One particular question we liked was, "Is she real?" Many persons had never seen a cow and couldn't believe their eyes.

Elsie's bedroom was femininely bovine in appearance. Her bed was a four-poster one with drapes at top and bottom. Her two chairs, one a barrel and the other a wheelbarrow, were of the same plaid as her bed and were upholstered well for her comfort. Pictures of her relative in large frames were on the wall- her Great Aunt Bess, Uncle Bosworth, Cousin Bart, and of course her daughter, Beulah. Elmer's picture was sitting on the dressing table which was lighted with milk bottle lamps. Mirror and brush lay at her convenience on the table. Elsie had a trunk in which her shawls, cosmetics and her numerous hats were kept. Her most popular hat was one designed and given to her by Hedda Hopper at Hollywood. The Playpen for junior was near enough for Elsie to keep a watchful eye on him to see that no one hurt him in the least. He enjoyed being paid compliments more than his mother. Elsie paid little or no attention to the crowds gazing upon her bovine beauty. She merely lay in her luxurious bed, beside her telephone chewing her cud with not a care in the world; her number MOO 2968. The titles of some of her books were "How to Live on 5,000 Quarts a Year", "Bulliver's Travels", and "Calves or a Career?"



# THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY PHOTO

Can anyone identify what is happening in this photo, and where it might have been?



## BACKBONE RIDGE HISTORY GROUP'S INFORMATION UPDATES

**Editors Note:** This section has been added to the newsletter to keep our members apprised of new information online and in our research library.

### **BRHG Web Page Updates:**

As we continue to help our website develop, we plan to add an additional page titled "Personal History". This page could include items of personal history from the Backbone Ridge Area to be posted here for all to enjoy. The first postings are expected to be diaries from the Civil War era. These updates are considered a work in progress so please be patient as we continue to evolve and grow. As always, please feel free to offer materials and suggestions. Dan Huston

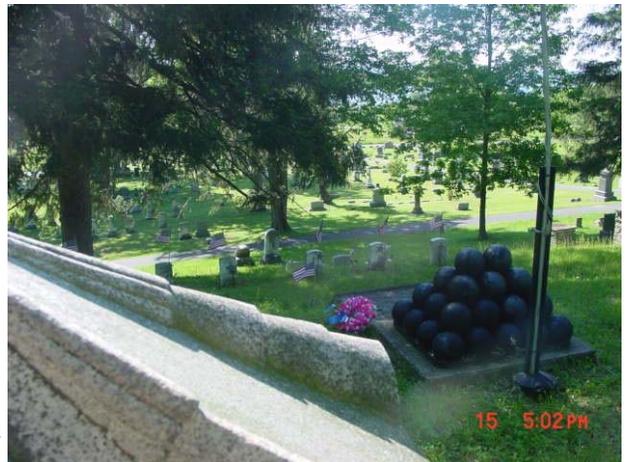
**New item on web page:** The Dr. Gillmor presentation by Charles Fausold is now on the website under Educational Programs.

Have you checked out the BRHG Website yet? If you have some time, go to [www.backboneridgehistorygroup.com](http://www.backboneridgehistorygroup.com)

## MILLIMAN FAMILY HISTORY CONNECTIONS BY KARI MILLIMAN GAUNTT

A letter by Dave Townsend that appeared in last editions Mail Bag spurred me to write the following article on a portion of my family history. As I read his letter, I was excited to read about the connection to the Millimans and even recalled the site where **Sarah Milliman Townsend** is buried. She and her husband are buried in the Valois Union Cemetery, (formerly called North Hector Cemetery) and on top of the steep grassy knoll near the cannon and cannonballs. I remembered it quite vividly, as I thought that spot was the most beautiful place in the whole cemetery. It was high up, and the view from there to the lake was stunning.

I've always been interested in history, and spearheaded many cemetery clean up days throughout the local area. I still laugh about a newspaper article written about me that said you could usually find me wandering through a local cemetery – because it was true! I like to think that I got that from my maternal grandmother, Kathryn Robson. She documented and cared for the Jerusalem Cemetery in Fayette for years, and I remember being there with her. While an employee of the Finger Lakes National Forest, I worked in the heritage resource program and did a lot of work for the forest archaeologist, who was located in Rutland, VT. As the forest is made up of former homestead sites, naturally it follows that there are old cemetery sites. I documented many of them, and got the public involved in documenting and maintaining some of them. John Genung, local historian from Waterloo, had loaned me his set of "Some Cemeteries Between the Lakes" to help me in my quest to locate headstones and document places. In addition, Bill Fenton, took me to many undocumented/abandoned cemetery sites in the area and shared a lot of information with me. He maintained maps and records of these cemeteries and was one of the resident experts in this field before his passing a few years ago.



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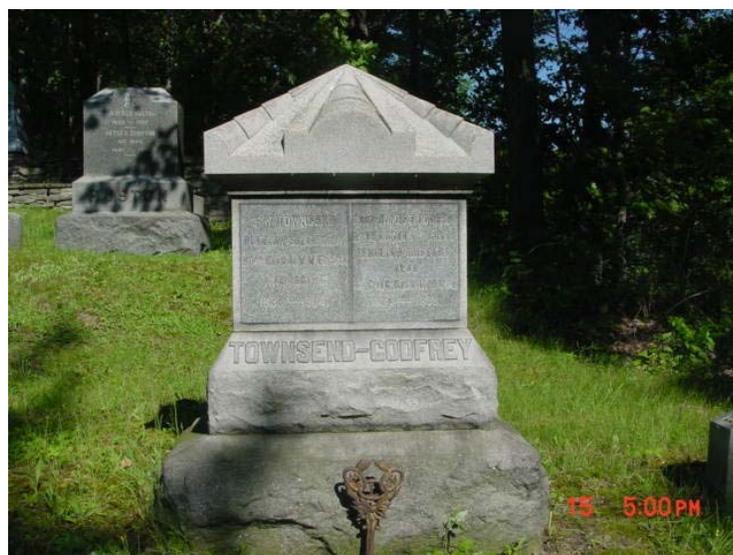
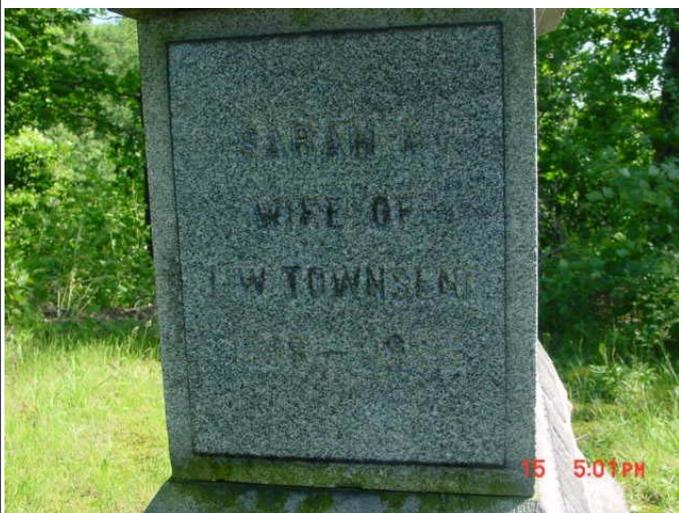
## MILLIMAN FAMILY HISTORY CONNECTIONS

### BY KARI MILLIMAN GAUNTT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

I began tracing the Milliman family history several-(fifteen or twenty!) years ago, and started visiting cemeteries to take photographs and obtain tracings of old headstones. My work on the Finger Lakes National Forest often took me to Rutland, VT, and interestingly enough, through countryside where my relatives lived and died. Often times I would take vacation time in conjunction with my trips so that I could locate old cemeteries along the way. My mother and I visited many cemeteries – Hoosick, Telford Farm, etc., and obtained headstone rubbings and took photographs. Another major help was the book *The Descendants of John Milliman of Kingston, Rhode Island*, compiled by Carol R. Austin in 1994.

In Dave Townsend's letter, he mentioned that **John Wesley Townsend** was united in marriage to **Miss Sarah Milliman**, a daughter of **Andrew and Cornelia (Henry) Milliman**. This is her headstone, along with another Townsend one from that hill.



Here's a recap of what I know of the Milliman history, from the beginning up to **Sarah Milliman Townsend**:

**John Milliman** was born about 1709 in Kingston, Washington County, RI; the first generation to be born in the US. He married Anna Bryant in 1734, and died around 1739 at the age of 30. They had three children, **Anna Abigail Milliman** born 1738 in Kingston, RI, **Bryant Milliman** born 1-13-1740 in N. Kingston, RI and died 5-23-1829 in Avon, Livingston County, NY; and **John Milliman** born 3-13-1736 in Kingston, RI and died 2-12-1810 in Hoosick, NY.

The generation that will lead us to **Sarah Milliman** is via **John Milliman** who married Hannah Fowler in 1758. Hannah was born 1-20-1740 in RI and died 3-26-1819. Her parents were Isaac Fowler and Mary Hopkins. They were buried in an abandoned cemetery in N. Hoosick. John and Hannah had 13 children: **John O. Milliman** born @ 1761 in RI and died 9-6-1828 in Hoosick, NY. He is buried in White Creek, Washington County, NY at Telford Farm. (between Hoosick and Bennington, VT. Married Elizabeth \_\_\_ and they had at least 7 kids, **Ann Milliman** born @ 1761 in RI. Married Aaron Bump before 1810, **Rowland Milliman** born @ 1762 in RI and died about 1851 in Morenci, Lenawee, MI. Married Cynthia Hodges and had 12 kids, **Hannah Milliman** born abt. 1764 in RI married before 1798 to Mr. Sharp, **Elizabeth Milliman**, born abt. 1774 in RI and married Jerome Hodge before 1798, **Joseph Milliman**. born abt. 1780 in NY and died 8-5-1857 in Lysander, Onondaga County, NY.

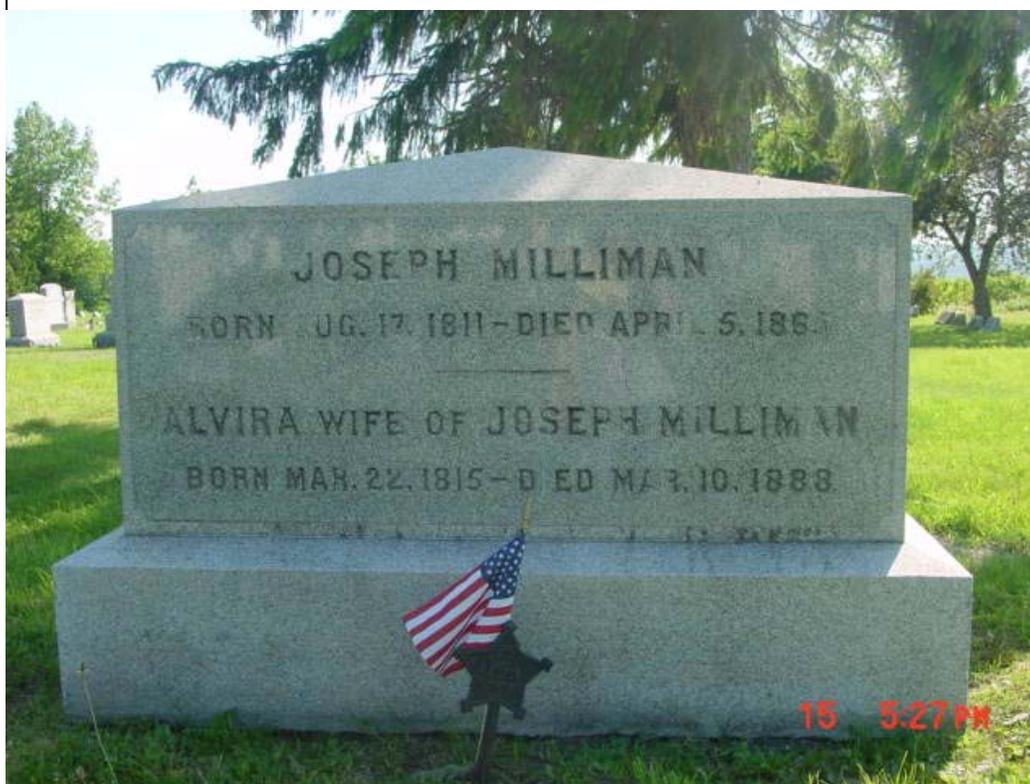
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**Sarah Milliman** born abt. 1782 in NY, married Benjamin Barker, **Samuel Milliman** born 1770 in Walloomsac, Washington Co. NY and died 1-16-1863 in Baldwinsville, Onondaga Co, NY, **Issac Milliman**, born 10-5-1772 in RI and died 9-28-1852 in Troy, Rensselaer Co, NY, **George Milliman**, born 10-19-1759 in RI And died 8-12-1832 in Hoosick, NY. Buried in Hoosick, NY. Married Elizabeth Tripp and had 3 kids, married again to ? and had 8 kids. **Amy Milliman** born 7-15-1777 in Rensselaer, NY and died 11-27-1868 in Hoosick, NY. Buried in Poultney, Rutland, Vt. Ward Cem. Married a Carlton, **Mary Milliman** born 8-1-1776 in NY and died 8-17-1853. Married Mr. Soule before 1798, and **Thomas Milliman**. born 12-1-1767 in RI and died 7-2-1844 in NY. Buried in Walloomsac, Washington Co, NY. Married Lydia Fowler. He was a Methodist and a farmer.

In the preceding paragraph, I mentioned that **John O. Milliman** was buried in White Creek, NY at Telford Farm, which my mother and I located one fall day We stopped to talk to the elderly farmer that owned the property, and he allowed us to visit the cemetery and take photos and stone rubbings. It was a beautiful old cemetery with wonderful tall headstones in a wooded setting, not too far off the dirt road. The cemetery was almost exclusively Milliman headstones and words cannot describe how serene and beautiful it was, tucked away in the woods. The headstones were very impressive and it appeared to have been lovingly maintained throughout the years. Maybe I will showcase those in another later article.

It is the second generation that splits my history from Dave Townsend's. My family tree is traced from **Rowland Milliman** in this generation; his from **Joseph Milliman**. I will share my knowledge of his family tree from this point forward, in order to get to **Sarah Milliman Townsend**.

**Joseph Milliman** married Sarah \_\_\_ who was born in 1781 in NY. They had ten children: a male child before 1800 in NY, two females children before 1800 in NY, **Elisha Milliman** born about 1822 in Hoosick, NY, **Evaline Milliman** born about 1825 in Hoosick, NY, **Sarah Jane Milliman** born 1816 in Hoosick, NY and died 6-16-1890 in Matteson, Waupaca, WI., **Ichabod Milliman** born 10-27-1805 in Hoosick, NY and died 2-6-



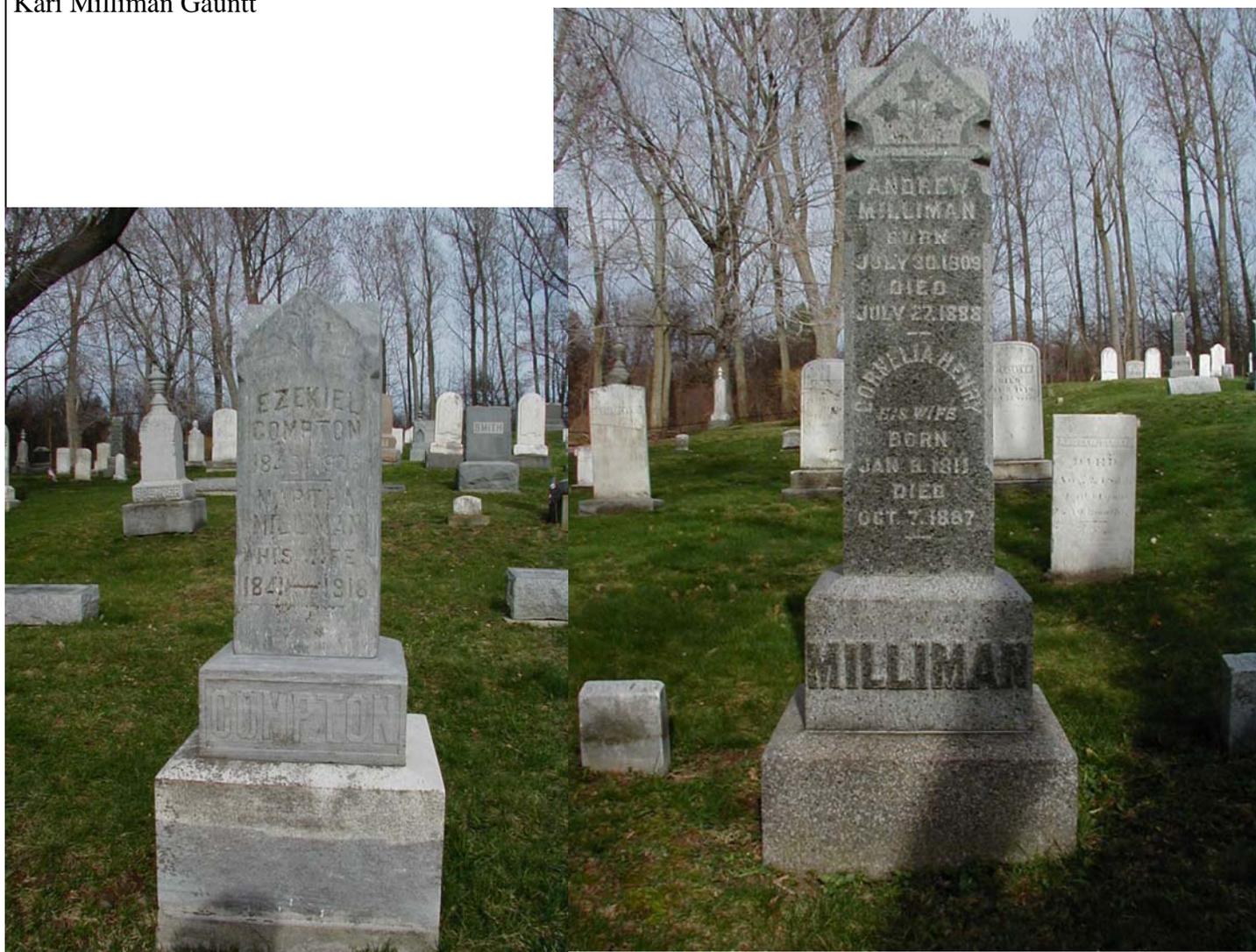
1876, **Andrew Milliman**, born 7-30-1809 in NY and died 7-27-1888 in North Hector, NY. He and his wife are buried in Logan Cemetery in Hector. **Joseph Milliman** born 8-17-1811 in Rensselaer, NY and died 4-5-1865 in Hector, He is buried in Hector Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Hector, NY. Married Alvira. one son, James, born 7-10-1837 and died 1-28-1886 or 1888, **Hiram Milliman** born 8-23-1800 in NY who died 2-2-1854 in Republic, Seneca, OH. Buried in Republic, Seneca, OH, Farewell Retreat, and **Hannah Milliman**, born 9-4-1807 in Hoosick.

The next generation follows **Andrew Milliman**, who married Cornelia Henry, daughter of Andrew Henry and Mary Evans. She was born 7-8-1811 in VT and died 10-7-1887 in Hector, NY. They married about 1833 and had several children: **Mary J. Milliman**, born abt. 1835 in Schuyler Co, NY, **Francis Milliman**, born about 1840 in Schuyler Co, NY and died before 1910, **Martha Milliman** born in Oct 1841 in Schuyler Co and died in 1918 in Hector, NY. She married Ezekiel Compton. She is buried at the Logan Cemetery, **Sarah A. Milliman** born Aug 1838 in Schuyler Co. and died 9-30-1907 in Hector, NY. Married a **J.W. Townsend**. Buried in the North Hector Cemetery, now called Valois, **Harriett Milliman** born 1846 in Schuyler Co.

It's been a fun quest, learning about my family history. It's strange that my work life brought me to so many places my ancestors inhabited. I don't believe it coincidental, I prefer to believe it is fate. While I'm currently living in Texas, my heart is in the Finger Lakes, and I can't wait to come back home. I have more research to do, more cemeteries to tend to, more cemeteries to explore, and more mysteries to solve!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our readers. May you all be blessed in the coming year. Thank you for supporting the Backbone Ridge History Group and I hope that you enjoy each and every issue of The Backbone.

Kari Milliman Gauntt



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**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN PO BOX NUMBER FROM 64 TO 62\*\*\***

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Trustee meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of each month at the Backbone Ridge History Research Center at the intersection of Route 96A and SR 414 in the Village of Lodi.

[WWW.BACKBONERIDGEHISTORYGROUP.COM](http://WWW.BACKBONERIDGEHISTORYGROUP.COM)

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