



The Backbone

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

BECAUSE HISTORY MATTERS

REDEDICATION AT THE REYNOLDSVILLE CEMETERY

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Editors Note: The following comments were from Schuyler County Historian Doris Pike during the Rededication Ceremony on October 24, 2015.

First, let me take a few minutes to thank the following folks: **Bill Fenton** and **Bill Fletcher** for taking time to record grave sites of all known cemeteries in the Town of Hector.

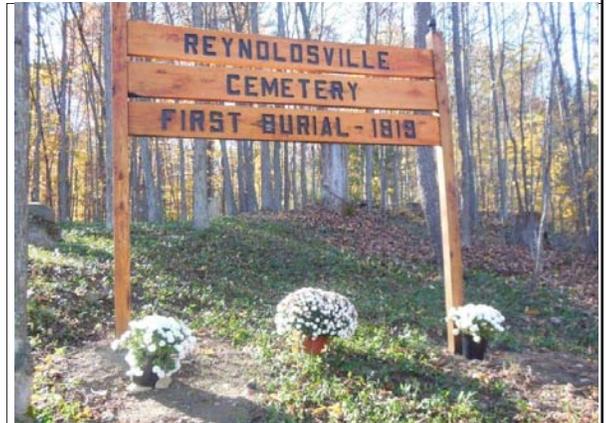
Gloria Houseworth Kellogg and cousin **Sue Magnosi** for all their hours in researching land deeds, church and community history related to the Reynoldsville Cemetery.

Allan Buddle and the Backbone Ridge History Group for continuing the clean-up and restoration of abandoned cemeteries and for the new sign.

Pete Simpson for his military ability to help us place flags.

Dave Beckhorn for always coming ready to work before anyone else with shovels, rakes, and grave rod to find hidden stones and a truck to haul many loads of brush to the Hector dump.

Sharon and Mark Ricci for coming from Ohio each cleaning season bringing backpack leaf blower, weed trimmer and many more hand tools and making an overnight stay to GREATLY HELP and to research their ancestors the Dates Family. This will be the first sign recognizing the Reynoldsville Cemetery.



NEW SIGN CREATED BY RICH AND JORDAN FOSTER, INSTALLED BY DAVE BECKHORN, MARK SMITH, ARVINE PIKE, BOB SNEDEKER AND ALLAN BUDDLE. PHOTO BY SHARON AND MARK RICCI.

Back in War Time money was limited, but land was plenty, so as pay to the soldiers for rank and at least 3 years of active duty they were given land chosen by lottery in the Military Tract created by the government. As it often happens, the government was very slow in handing out these parcels of land. Some soldiers kept their given land, then other soldiers sold them to other folks because they had already homestead property in their home area. The government also allotted land for the church, school and library.

The Reynoldsville Cemetery was part of Military Lot #54 in the Military Town of Hector # 21 that was given to Peter Denny for his service. After many changes of ownership it became the property of Orland & Hannah Hager who then sold it to Joel Reese for twelve dollars which included the Reynoldsville Cemetery.

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BY ALLAN BUDDLE

Here we are again wrapping up another busy planting, growing and harvesting season and expressing thanks. I like to keep in mind the symbolism of the Patrons of Husbandry as the Grangers proceeded through the year. Springtime- The Lesson is Faith, the Symbol is The Seed. Summertime- The Lesson is Hope, the Symbol is Fruit and Grains Blossoming. Fall- The Lesson is Charity, the Symbol is Gleaning and Sharing some of the Ripened Grain. Winter- The Lesson is Fidelity, Symbols are Old Age and the Feast. Therein lies the phrase that we have heard so many times possibly without thinking about its meaning, at least in the context of life on the farm on the Backbone Ridge- "Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity." Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

"FRUITS OF THE BACKBONE YESTERDAY AND TODAY" **FALL PRESENTATION 2015**

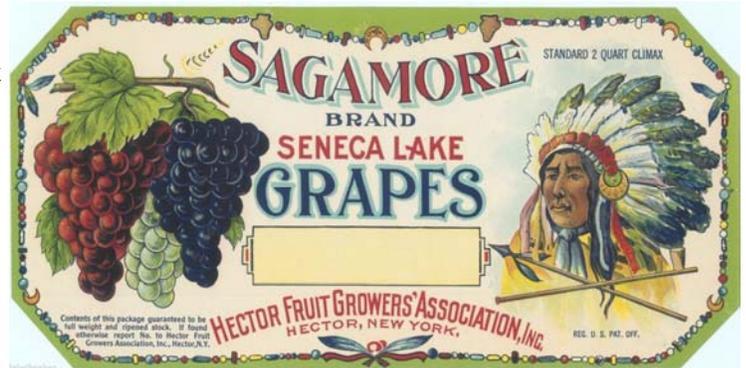
BY GERRY MESSMER

EmCee Gerry Messmer kicked off our Fall 2015 History Presentation by citing some extracts from his Grandfather Hakes' 1925 Farm Journal to set the stage for "Fruits of the Backbone Yesterday and Today." He cited how his grandfather began his career in fruit production in the early 1900's, moving from Pennsylvania to Hector with his family. He explained how he learned the agri-business of fruit farming –first by tenant farming and then by improving production on his own farm, a farm which included many facets of farming that included only a portion devoted to grape production.

From that Journal, Messmer read the following entries, showing how the Hakes' Farm fruit production resulted in a tidy sum: they "shipped 933-12 qt. cases & 906-2 qt. cases by rail and truck." The going rate of \$.15 showed that each 12-qt. case brought \$1.80 which meant a total of \$1,679 and that the 2 qt. cases totaled \$271.80 or a grand total of \$1,950.80 brought by his grapes alone. Messmer also cited the Hakes' other crop and animal production; that, when added to his grape crop, produced to a rather handsome annual income for the family.

To continue our story of fruit, Phil Davis, our first guest speaker, took us back to the early years of fruit production in the Hector area of Schuyler County. Phil not only told us about those halcyon early years but brought us up to the present by discussing his own family's early years in the production of fruit including the famous peaches of the Seneca Lake region. Phil is continuing his beloved life's career, especially in the growing of grapes and the production of juice for the burgeoning wine business along the Seneca Lake Wine Trail where today's emphasis has changed from table fruit to the modern day famous award winning Finger Lakes wine production "along the Backbone" on the Seneca Lake side of our historic homeland.

Messmer then introduced Ruth Lucas, owner and founder of the first larger grape vineyards and winery on the "Cayuga Lake side of the Backbone Ridge." Ruth is really the "Pioneer" of the winery business in that area. Prior to Ruth's founding of their exclusive viniferous grape business, grapes were not a large income producing crop in south Seneca County - tree fruit like apples, pears and plums were the preferred fruit production leaders. Ruth told us how in the early 1970's she and her family first visited and fell in love with the beauty and envisioned the potential of our Finger Lakes area, especially in the climate that lent itself to the basic needs of fruit growing. She told us of those early years, of the work and devotion to detail that is required in the, then infant, business of producing wine from grapes needed to produce what are now world-wide recognized and award winning Finger Lakes Wines.



The first church was located across the road, built in 1824, and moved to its present location in 1854, the cemetery being right across the way on a knoll in 1824 was an excellent location.

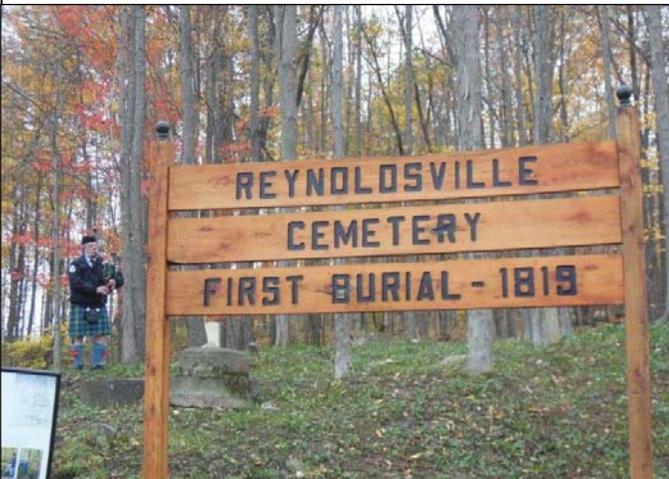
The first recorded cemetery clean-up by the Historical Committee of Hector was April 12, 2003 and at that time one major topic reads like this: "We would like some designs for a cemetery sign to be put up, if we know of anyone who would submit a design please do so." Some 12 years later that dream is coming true today.

One of the most interesting outcomes of the 2013 clean-up was from a neighbor requesting that we come and get a headstone that was part of her sidewalk and return it to the cemetery. We are under the thoughts that it belongs in the plot of the family that donated the land for the cemetery

in the 1800's. So far the earliest grave found dated August 4, 1819 with the name of **Emma Bunyan** 19 years 9 months of age. She was the wife of Elbert Bunyan, daughter of Charles and Ada Wiggins. The last burial was **Harry Schilling**, born 1900 and died 1982, making this the last burial dug by hand. He married Bernice Faye Dean, daughter of Zina and Augusta Dean.



CEMETERY CHAIRMAN DAVE BECKHORN WELCOMING COMMENTS. PHOTO BY SHARON AND MARK RICCI



BOB KIBBEE PLAYING AMAZING GRACE. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON AND MARK RICCI.

The Reynoldsville Cemetery consists of about 249 grave sites and growing. Since starting this project we keep finding gravestones that were not listed in the records. Some dates on the stones are not as recorded previously. Careful cleaning has allowed us to update the records which will be available soon on the Backbone Ridge History Group Website.

First Annual Currier and Ives Festival At Traders Village

Join the Backbone Ridge History Group and others at Traders Village on December 5th 2015 for an equestrian parade, caroling, sleigh rides (snow permitting), nativity play, Christmas Tree lighting and reenactments in period costume of scenes in Currier and Ives prints. Our Group will be husking corn.



MORE ABOUT HAY ON THE BACKBONE RIDGE

BY ALLAN BUDDLE

How important was the hay crop on the Backbone Ridge?

In the summer issue of the *Backbone* we talked about the difficulty of trying to get hay this past summer because of the weather. Instead of having a field day we decided to have a float featuring "Haying the Old Way" and an exhibit "Haying the Old Way and Keeping the Haymakers Clean." The float was later entered in the Trumansburg Firemen's Parade where it won 2nd place in the agricultural entries. See photo at right.



Prior to the advent of steam or gas engine sources of power, hay was harvested and stored loose in barns during the summer, a small amount for on farm livestock but mostly as a cash crop. To make it economical to ship, the hay was baled. One of the earliest balers, called hay presses then, was a "Jump Press." See photo above. This particular Jump Press was being used on the Darling Farm near Mecklenburg. It was manufactured by the Hazard Hay Press Company in Trumansburg, New York at the end of the 19th Century.

Hay was pitched into a structure about four feet square and twelve feet high. A person standing on a shelf near the top jumped on the hay compressing it a little at a time until the structure was full. Then a frame was placed on the hay and a cable passing over the frame applied pressure to further compress the hay. The power for compression was produced by horses walking around a sweep connected to a shaft which was connected to a winch like device. When the hay was as compact as possible, wires were placed around the bale and fastened. The bale was then released and slid out. These bales weighed several hundred pounds and would be rolled back into the barn for storage until they could be hauled to the closest railroad station and shipped to New York or other cities where they were used to feed the street horses.

(continued on page 7)

DETERMINING REGIONAL WEATHER PATTERNS FROM A HISTORICAL DIARY

BY JASE BERNHARDT

Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania
(Manuscript received 10 February, 2015, in final form 17 July, 2015)

ABSTRACT

Prior to the twentieth century, there was a dearth of official local weather and climate observations for much of the United States outside of major cities. Useful information can be gleaned, however, from primary accounts such as historical diaries kept by farmers and others whose interests were tied to the land. Herman Smith, a farmer in west-central New York State, kept a detailed record of daily life, including weather characteristics such as temperature, precipitation and wind, for his farm near Covert. Two full years of his diary, 1884 and 1886, were recently published and selected for study. Although typically not numeric data, the lexicon used in the diary to describe relative heat and cold allow Smith's observations to be analyzed semi-quantitatively in order to determine the weather experienced that year including factors affecting the growing season, as well as significant weather and climatic events. The analysis demonstrates that for Covert-located in an area of topographic variability and proximal to the Finger Lakes-microclimatic effects occasionally dominated over the synoptic circulation. This finding was further reinforced by comparison of Smith's 1886 records with those of a nearby farmer. Meanwhile, Smith's accounts also establish an inextricable link between his agricultural practices and the weather and climate patterns he observed. These findings underscore the value of acquiring climatic data from non conventional sources for places and times when reliable data may be nonexistent in order to better understand how climate, and its impacts on the environment, have varied over time, across multiple scales.

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Editors Note- Please see e-mail message from Jase Bernhardt below.:

Allan, About a year and a half ago, I spoke at a Backbone Ridge History Group program about work I was doing on weather observations from a farmer's diary in Covert, New York in the 19th century. Thanks to the help of yourself and others from the Group, I was able to finish the work earlier this year, and the associated paper has recently been published. Please see attached for a copy of the paper, in case you were interested in taking a look. Also, feel free to send along to others who might be interested.

Best Wishes,
Jase Bernhardt
Graduate Student
Penn State University



NOTICE: The old Trumansburg Newspapers have been digitized and are available on-line They Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg received a grant for the project, which is now complete. We will add a link on our website: <http://Trumansburg.advantage-preservation.com>

MYSTERY PHOTO'S

Last Month's Mystery Picture Identification:

Editor's note:

Thank you to Tina Kolberg for providing these photos. The two gentlemen dressed for winter are Halsey Minor, Tina's Great Granduncle, and John Kellogg, his friend, both long time residents and businessmen of Interlaken, New York.

The cabin called Mount Airy was located near the intersection of Chicken Coop Hill Road and Potomac Road in the Town of Hector. Tina provided the following description- "It is all the same building, with/without the addition, which was still standing when I saw it, and the woods came right up to the back of it- it faced east and was at the west edge of a clearing about 80' diameter." For much more local history and photos please see Tina's website www.tinakogenealogy.wordpress.com.



This Edition's Mystery Photo:



Does anyone know where this is, and better yet, what's missing?



MAIL BAG

In the last issue of The Backbone, the Serrine family was mentioned. There was a Serrine from this area that was a weaver. Is there someone knowledgeable about the Serrine family that might know more?

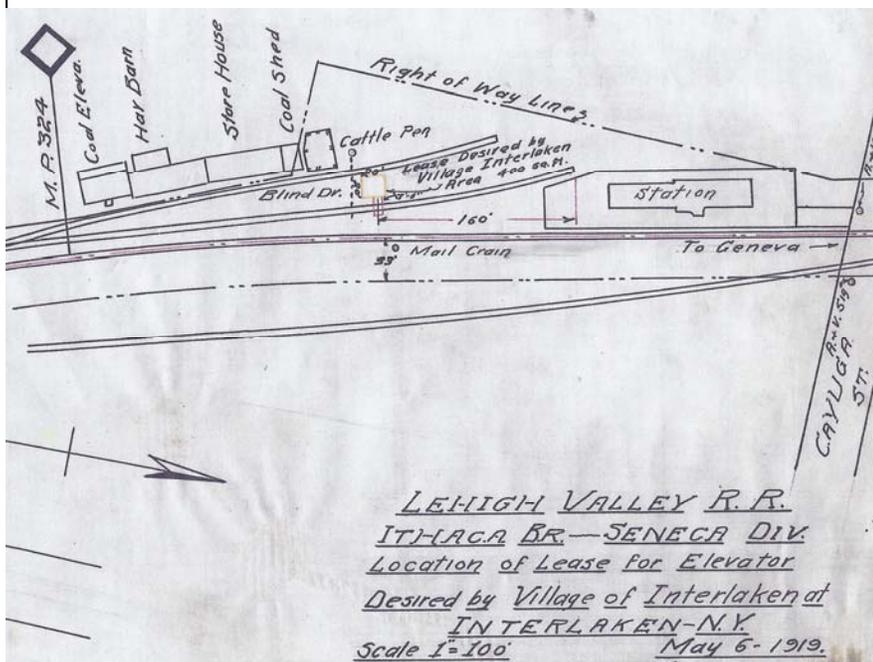
Check the entry for Beaty in the enclosed. I'm enclosing a picture of a coverlet made by Beaty and then a close up picture of the corner that has names and dates woven in. (see photo above)

Marty Schlabach MLS5@cornell.edu
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 607-255-6919
 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

MORE ABOUT HAY ON THE BACKBONE RIDGE

BY ALLAN BUDDLE
(continued from page 4)

A 1919 drawing of the Interlaken Railroad Station provided by Scott Lowe, clearly shows where these bales would have been stored for later shipment. See drawing below. Also see excerpts from oral history interviews with Kermit Leonard (KL), Ed Gates (EG), John Hart (JH) and Lynn Taber (LN).



interviews with Kermit Leonard (KL), Ed Gates (EG), John Hart (JH) and Lynn Taber (LN).

Kermit Leonard

AB = How were the things that your produced on the farm transported? The things that you sold, how did you get them to wherever you sold them?

KL = They had a lot of hay in the winter-time. Farmers would all drive to Trumansburg to depot. Trumansburg was the biggest depot for hay on the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Farmers drive their hay to Trumansburg. Where the GLF is, that was a hay barn. I'd load the hay in the barn. Cars would come in, railroad cars. Andrew Sawyer worked in the hay barn

for years. They were big bales, 200 lb. bales, 225, something like that.

AB = Do you remember the hazard hay press?

KL = Yes, I had one. Ran it for years. And a stationary baler. I baled hay one year for Updike. He lived up there on Bishops Corner. He had a big barn there, full of hay. We were three days getting it baled out. He lived in the schoolhouse. Do you know where it is? He lived in the schoolhouse. It was hot weather and his wife had the windows open and no screens, and the flies were terrible. When you ate you had one hand and had to keep flies off. For three days. Miles Updike, I think it was.

AB = The school, was it where Dugue Road cuts off?

KL = It went up Searsburg Road to Bishops Corners, then you turn right and went over to the next road, turn left and there's a schoolhouse.

AB = Kermit is saying it was the schoolhouse that's on Seneca Road just west of where Bishop Corners Road comes into it. That's still there.

Ed Gates

AB: When we talked on the phone you also told me how they used to...most of what they grew on the Backbone Ridge in the later years was hay. How did they take the hay off? What happened to it, what did they use it for?

EG: Well, the 1894 directory of the Schuyler County, which included the Town of Hector and a major portion of the Backbone, lists those farmers who were shipping hay. And these guys would have loose hay in their barn and some guy would come around with a jump press and I don't know what that looks like, but it would make probably a 1500 pound bale. They would take those bales and put them on a sledge and haul them down to the railroad here in Burdett. Then they'd get them on the train and haul them down to New York City to feed the horses.

MORE ABOUT HAY ON THE BACKBONE RIDGE

BY ALLAN BUDDLE
(continued from page 7)

John Hart

AB: When it was time to harvest and cut the wheat and oats, did each individual farm do that or did a group work together?

JH: Sometimes one of the other farmers might have a binder at the time and might bind the grain for you and then they brought a threshing machine around from farm to farm at the time. And also there was another folks that pressed hay, they had a big hay press that was hauled around by three horses and then they had a sweep that operated the machine. I didn't have much to do with that because I wasn't husky enough to do that sort of work.

AB: Do you remember any names associated with that?

JH: Not around Interlaken, but in Valois area there was a Henry Creighton that ran a threshing machine and he used a big old Rumley oil pull tractor and hauled that machine around and threshed all around that area.

Lynn Taber came here was it a small dairy?

LT: Well my father, no, no. When my father and mother bought this place in '19, the barn actually only had a hay roof on it, what we call the big barn, and they did hay. My mother and father did a lot of hay, so they put hay in the barn and press it out and take it down to the rail road in the winter to ship it to New York or wherever it went. So my dad raised the roof on the barn, and put a gamble roof on the barn so it'd hold more hay. Then the, I can remember once the hay presser come, which would be an upright hay press.

AB: Now when you say an upright hay press, do you, what do you mean by that? What do you mean by an upright hay press? Can you describe it to me?

LT: Well [laughs] it was just a box I guess and more or less they put hay in it and people jumped, men would jump.

AB: OK, you're referring to what they called a "jump press" then.

LT: "Jump press" OK, jump press, upright hay press. Actually the Hazard Hay Press Company was made in Trumansburg where Millspaugh's is now.

AB: Uh-huh I learned that from Don Betzler.

LT: [laughs] I told him.

AB: [laughs] I know he said you did.

LT: And there is a Hazard Hay Press down in Darling barn now. I've never seen it, but.

AB: I saw it. When we had that program on, Meck- Mecklenburg at the fire house, I learned about that then, and we went, a couple guys went and looked at it.

LT: I heard it was in the barn.

AB: It's in the barn and its set-up straight up and it looks to me like it's holding the barn up.

LT: Oh wow. Keith Kelsey told me that it was there cause I imagine Raymond Darling and an upright, or jump press you call it, upright hay press. And Keith told me that if you can get the patent number off it you could send down to Washington and get blue prints of the hay press.

AB: Bet we'll follow up with that one.

LT: If you could ever, if the patent sticker was still on it, you could send to Washington to get the details of the hay press. Now my, I remember one year, my mother first when the hay pressers came, I'm not just sure of who they were but they set up, and one, one year they were here a month and my mother fed them three meals a day and she said she went through twenty-five pounds of flour a day.

AB: Wow. Laughter]

LT: But then they pressed (baled) the hay and then my dad, he would like to use a sleigh if they had enough snow he could use the sleigh he'd take it to Burdette and put it in a rail road car.

AB: Uh-huh, how big were the bales that came out of that thing, can you remember?

LT: This is another question that I wished I could've asked but they must have been something like 2x3x4 or something like that.

AB: "2x3x4" yeah.

LT: Yeah I'm just not sure how many dad got or many he put in a car or things but. These are all questions I wished I could've asked.

MAIL BAG

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

The following is an excerpt from *American Coverlets and their Weavers*, by Clarita S. Anderson, Ohio University Press, Athens:

BEATY, W.

Location: Farmersville, Seneca Co., N. Y.

Extant Coverlets: 1833

Advertisements: W. Beaty announced on July 9, 1833, in the *Trumansburg Advertiser* (N. Y.) that "they [Beaty and SIRRINE] still carried on the Weaving Business in Farmersville, Seneca Co." They wove **Patent Coverlets and Flowered Carpets plus standard cloth.**

Corner Blocks: his occupation, location, date, and client's name

History: W. Beaty is not listed in the 1830 or 1840 U. S. Census. His partner was SIRRINE. SIRRINE's given name is not known.

The following page excerpt is from *Kaleidoscope*, The John and Janet Simmermaker Collection, *Favorite Coverlets*, An Exhibition at the National Museum of the American Coverlet, Bedford, PA, April 12, 2014—October 15, 2014.



22. Beaty 1833 Farmersville, New York Double Weave Coverlet for S. LaTourette

I believe this is an 1833 New York coverlet woven in Farmersville by a weaver named Beaty for S. LaTourette. Clarita Anderson quotes an ad in the *Trumansburg Advertiser* newspaper dated July 9, 1833 that W. Beaty and SIRRINE state "they still carry on the Weaving Business in Farmersville, Seneca Co." and they wove "Patent Coverlets and Flowered Carpets." I have not been able to locate a W. Beaty and a SIRRINE in Farmersville. If I look for a Farmersville in the 1830 US Census for NY I find a Farmersville in Cattaraugus County. I did find an "Abram / Abraham LaTourette" in the 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census in Lodi, which is just west of Farmersville, who was born "about 1795 in New Jersey". He had a daughter Susan born 22 July 1826 and a daughter Sarah born April 3, 1831 but I wouldn't think he would buy a coverlet for a girl less than about 16 years old.

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Trustee meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday 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

For new and renewal memberships, please send \$10 to Membership Chair, Rose Smith, at PO Box 64, Trumansburg, NY 14886.

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