Summer Edition Summer Edition 2013

The Backbone

a publication of the Backbone Ridge Kistory Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties

BECAUSE HISTORY MATTERS



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GEORGE WASHINGTON COLE BY MARSHA SMITH

George Washington Cole was the younger brother of Cornelius Cole, the well know former resident of Lodi, NY who moved to California during the Gold Rush and later became a Senator from California during the Lincoln Administration. George was born on March 26, 1827 to David Cole and Rachel Townsend Cole. He grew up on the home place, located on lot 66/67 in the Town of Lodi. His grandfather, David Cole, was a Revolutionary War veteran and his father, also David Cole, fought in the War of 1812. George studied medicine, graduating from the Geneva College of Medicine in 1850. I have found little evidence of him practicing as a physician. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the Army. He eventually attained the rank of Brevet Major General. One of his commands during the Civil War was with the 2nd US Colored Cavalry. He mustered out of service in February 1866. He died in Mora, New Mexico on December 9. 1875 and is buried there. It is commonly believed that that the grave for a George Washington Cole in the

Townsend Cemetery is his grave but military and cemetery records indicate that this is not the case. Unfortunately, he is not always remembered as an honorable physician and soldier -- but as the man who killed L. Harris Hiscock, a Syracuse lawyer and politician.

George married Mary Barto, the sister of Judge Henry Barto of Tompkins County, NY. He and Mary had two daughters. They settled in Syracuse in 1857 and he invested in a lumber business. He was a close friend with L. Harris Hiscock. Mr. Hiscock's wife, Lucy, died in 1861. In 1864, Mr. Hiscock became involved with Mary Cole. They apparently had an affair while George was in the Army. George was devastated. He already had bouts of deep depression which were thought to be related to injuries he received during the war. In present day terms, he likely had PTSD. He felt totally betrayed by his wife and his friend. His very honor was at stake. According to testimony, he originally planned to take his wife back to Brooklyn and then return to Albany to confront (continued on page 3)

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

BY ALLAN BUDDLE

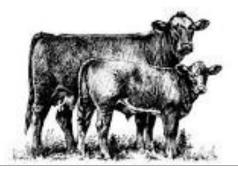
The hustle and bustle of spring and early summer has us all in its grasp. There were some dry warm days good for planting field crops and gardens and then some rain to bring on the hay and pastures. How important the type of spring must have been to the Hector Backbone farmers! In a conversation with an owner of one of the herds on the Hector Grazing lands, I heard how good the pastures are this spring and how happy his cows are.

Speaking of grazing lands, we recently learned of diaries from 1934 and 1935 kept by Lyman Bond and his wife Heyltje (Petie). Lyman was the first manager of the grazing lands prior to formation of the Hector Grazing Association. He also had many other roles during the time when the Resettlement Administration was acquiring lands on the Hector Backbone. Fortunately, Charlotte Bond, keeper of the Bond Family history, transcribed the diaries and has authorized their placement on the BRHG website www.backboneridgehistorygroup.org. The trustees are very grateful for the significant contribution of time expended in typing the transcripts and sharing with all of us.

We learned in early May that the Nelson B. Delavan Foundation awarded a grant to the BRHG for purchase of electronic equipment and software. This grant will be used to create an electronic database of the ever growing collection of documents, photos and artifacts that tell the story of the people and lands on and around the Hector Backbone. Members of our archives committee, Sandra Bradford, Doris Pike and Bobbi Beckhorn with technical assistance by Marci Van Der Heide, are anxious to begin this process.

Thank you to Dave Beckhorn for rounding up volunteers to clear and restore some of the stones in the Burge-Velie and the Bishop Johnson Family Plots. Several historic items surfaced along with the work in the cemeteries. Please see the article on page 9.

Dr. LouAnn Wurst will be returning to present a program cosponsored by the BRHG and Ulysses Historical Society and lead a "Walk and Talk" session to visit several of the sites excavated over the past decade in the Finger Lakes National Forest. Program title- *Finishing with a Flourish: The Farmstead Archaeology's "Final Season"*. Please see the article on page 6 and mark your calendar.



GEORGE WASHINGTON COLE BY MARSHA SMITH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Hiscock and "force him at the mouth of a pistol on his knees to beg forgiveness for the great injury he had done...,and then to compel him to leave the country in ten days..." He went to Stanwix Hall and in the heat of the moment, he shot and killed Hiscock instead.

He stood trial for the murder of Mr. Hiscock twice. He pled not guilty by reason of temporary insanity. His defense reasoned that he had been sane up until he saw Mr. Hiscock, the man who tore his family apart and grievously injured George's honor. At that moment, he snapped and became temporarily insane during the actual murder. Once the act was completed, he returned to his normal, sane self. The first trial ended with a hung jury. The second trial brought an acquittal. Through out the trial and after the verdict was decided, George was attacked by the press. The press speculated on Mary's role in the affair, often portraying her as a weak and amoral woman, they discussed his relationships with his family and children, and raked him over the coals in general. This was the biggest story in New York State at the time-- reminiscent of the OJ Simpson trial in our era.

After his acquittal, George and Mary remained apart. She lived with her brother, Henry Barto, in Trumansburg. George worked in the Registrar's Office of the New York City Post Office. By 1874, he was in New Mexico where he was investing in large tracts of land. He contracted pneumonia and died in 1875. He is buried in the Ceran St. Vrain Cemetery in Mora, New Mexico.



Cole Headstone, New Mexico



Continued on page 6

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Last Edition's Mystery Photo:

The mystery object that appears somewhat like a stove with a stove pipe is actually a "Magic Lantern". The light from two kerosene lamps is reflected by a piece of eisenglass (mica), passes through a glass

plate slide, is magnified by a lens and is then projected on a screen or wall. The "Magic Lantern" was invented in the 1600's and was still used until the introduction of 35 millimeter slides became available. BRHG has a collection of glass plate slides that were used for agricultural training purposes. A very poor quality image scanned from one of the glass plate slides is below. The caption states- Field meeting to inspect the results of potato fertilizer. (6-19-19).





Summer Edition's Mystery Photo:

Can anyone identify this or what they are doing?

Be the first to identify it by writing in to Orchardland @zoom-dsl.com.



MAIL CALL

COMMENTS AND LETTERS AND PICTURES FROM OUR READERS

Editor's Note: "Mail Call" will become a new regular article in all future issues. Let us hear from you! We welcome letters and pictures from our readers. Please include name, address, and phone number with your submissions. You can email us at orchardland@zoom-dsl.com or write us at Backbone Ridge History Group, PO Box 64, Trumansburg, NY 14886. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

More About Gooseberries: Dear Allan,

On reading your article on Gooseberry Pie, it brought back memories. My grandfather, Fred Wyer, on settling this farm along Cayuga Lake, planted much of it into a small vineyard and the rest into various orchards. A cherry orchard, several varieties of pears & apples everywhere. Just past the north yard there were sour cherry trees and next to them he planted rows of Gooseberries. When they ripened they were pink and yellow and very sweet. I don't remember Mother ever making a pie but she canned many jars of preserve. You might call it jam and we all loved it all year.

Some years ago trees sprung up near them and the red currant bushes. Some of those trees were black walnut and not knowing what would happen- happened. All the Gooseberries & Currants died.

I married and brought the groom to live on the homestead. We had a nice garden and to show Hubby what a good cook I could be, I made him a Green Tomato Mincemeat Pie. It was so tart, a real pucker-upper, and he said – no more of that! Later, I made it, not in a pie, but canned it and we enjoyed it on our plate with our meal. He survived through many more of my cooking blunders!

Naomi C. Brewer

More on the Larkin Idea:

Read the newsletter with interest since my Grandmother on my mother's side is Deliah Larkin..... have lots of 'stuff' including LOTS of the Larkin labels....

Karen Allen

GEORGE WASHINGTON COLE BY MARSHA SMITH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

His obituary reads:

2 US C Cav

"Daily New Mexican Santa Fe."

Dated Dec 27 1875.

Obituary,.. Dr George W Cole died at his residence in Mora New Mexico on the 9th instant. He was buried with Masonic honors on the 12th he being a member of Union Lodge No 450. A large concourse of citizens of the town and country attended the funeral ceremonies. Doctor Cole was a Brigadier General of volunteers in the Union Army During the late war serving with distinction throughout. He came to New Mexico about three years ago and lived in Mora since last January. He was greatly loved and respected by all who knew him and was noted for his kindness to the poor, giving them his medical attendance without charge. He leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

Sources:

Will of David Cole, Seneca County Surrogates Court, Waterloo, NY. File # 2345

Deed: Fernando Nolan and Juliana Avita, his wife to George W. Cole, County of Mora, Territory of New Mexico, 1875. Liber unknown, pages 9-10.

Moss, Laura-Eve, "He Has Ravished my Poor, Simple, Innocent Wife!" :Exploring the Meaning of Honor in the Murder Trials of George W. Cole, Murder on Trial, 1620-2002, Asher, Goodheart, and Rogers, editors. State University of New York Press, 2005.

Ceran St. Vrain Cemetery, Mora, New Mexico. **Find-A-Grave**. http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=38392&GRid=62575234&

Finger Lakes National Forest Farmstead Archaeology Project Walk and Talk

1 to 4 PM July 13, 2013

The public is invited on a walking tour of farm sites excavated over the last decade as part of the Finger Lakes National Forest Farmstead Archaeology Project. The tour will be lead by Dr. LouAnn Wurst who will point out the cultural features associated with each farm site and discuss the nature of the archaeological and historical context for each farm. We will visit the Albright, McNetton, Creighton, R. Henry, Smith, Ball and Chesley farm sites as well as Schoolhouse #29. Be advised that some of these sites are very overgrown and we will be covering some rough terrain. The tour will begin at 1:00 from the parking area near the pond at the bend on Burnt Hill Road and should conclude by 4:00. This event is rain or shine so come prepared.

For additional directions to the site of the "Walk and Talk", contact the Finger Lakes National Forest at 607-546-4470 or Allan Buddle at 607-532-4213.

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HISTORY OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

BRHG Spring Program
Presented by Carol Bailey, State Grange Historian
By Allan Buddle

In 1867, out of the necessity to reconstruct the country after the Civil War, a group of far-sighted individuals from across the country set out to find a way. Their Declaration of Purposes:

"We cherish the belief that sectionalism is, and of right should be, dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future. In our agricultural brotherhood and its purposes we shall recognize no North, no South, no East, no West."

"We desire a proper equality, equity and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed burdens and justly distributed power. These are American ideas, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American republic."

On April 20, 2013, State Grange Historian Carol Bailey addressed an assembly of about forty at the Searsburg Grange Hall. Carol aptly presented the Grange story over the last one hundred and forty six years which accommodated the evolving needs of rural America in; agricultural production, a fair return for labor and investments, education and social networking. Oliver Hudson Kelley, the father of the Grange, and the other founders had a war cry- *To educate and elevate the American Farmer*. A key policy from the beginning- Both women and men are to be equals in all Grange matters.

Following Carol's presentation, the audience viewed a power point presentation, that displayed excerpts from the minute books of the Covert and Mecklenburg Granges during the decades leading up to the Great Depression. The minutes provided a window on the issues of rural schools, introduction of electricity into the area, maintenance (or the lack thereof) of roads and "scientific farming" among other things. The importance of the Granges as a social network was very well demonstrated also with entries about skits, dinners, support for the unfortunate and to keep the Grange Halls in good repair. With Gerry Messmer's able assistance there was plenty of audience participation in sharing of memories.

1 The Grange- Friend of the Farmer 1867-1947, Charles M. Gardner, 1949, Published by The National Grange





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Finishing with a Flourish: The Farmstead Archaeology's "Final Season"

7:30 PM July 9, 2013

Ulysses Historical Society

39 South Street, Trumansburg, New York

The Farmstead Archaeology Project has been researching farms on the Hector Backbone since 2000. Over these years, we have investigated 22 farms located at the southern end of the Finger Lakes National Forest. In this talk I will highlight the results of excavations conducted last summer at the Estelle Kimble farm. We choose to work at this site because it represents a very unusual occupational history—it was owned by a bachelor farmer who lived there with his mother. The material culture from this site also shows some interesting patterns compared to the rest of our sample. Situating the Kimble Farm in this context helps to clarify the larger patterns in our data, allows us to reflect on what we have learned about everyday life on the Hector Backbone, and emphasizes the larger implications of this research.



Photo Ste-

phen Damm excavating in the Kimble privy

of

Cemetery Restoration Project Burge - Velie Cemetery April, 2013

The Burge-Velie Cemetery is listed in the Schuyler County GenWeb page but without a location. This presented a bit of a challenge to Dave Beckhorn who is the Chairman of the BRHG Abandoned Cemetery Committee. Having been successful in locating the cemetery, Dave brought a group of volunteers into the woods off Picnic Area Road. The Photo #1 below, shows the group taking stock of the site to come up with a plan for clearing, cleaning and restoring.



PHOTO #1 ~ Names L to R: John "Doc"Dombroski, Ann Buddle, Dave Beckhorn, Dave Lacy, Colin Mc Naul, Peter Rice (Not pictured-Mary Burton). Dave Lacy, from the Green Mountains National Forest, has been our mentor and technical expert for years. Mary Burton from the Finger Lakes National Forest assisted.



<u>PHOTO #2</u> ~ shows stones covered with moss being cleaned with a biocide especially formulated for the purpose so the stone can be read to the extent that it is legible and then documented.

Documentation from the Stones in the Burge - Velie Cemetery April 26, 2013

Abial Gardner, died Jun 22, 1837, ag'd 77 y'rs. 11 mo's. & 6d's.

Polly, wife of Abial Gardner, died May 27, 1819, ag'd 41 y'rs, & 22 days.

In memory of Zillah wife of Jared Post, who died March 4,1850, aged 70 yrs, & 8 mo.

If we consult this frame of clay,
We sure shall have no cause to mourn
Tis' God who gives & takes away,
If we are his & not our own.

In memory of Jeremiah, son of Nicholas & Elizabeth Egbert who died Feb 26, 1806, ag'd 19 y 6 m & 26 days Frinds not phy(sicians cou)ld not save My dying body from the grave. Portion in parenthesis was not legible. Stone is damaged.

Tyler, Polly, daughter of David & Sally Tyler died April 14, 1832 A&d 40 Yrs 8M & 6D Stone difficult to read.

Charles, son of Edward & Janil? Jewel died May 12, 1818 A&d 10m 7d Small stone, difficult to read.

Footstone: S-A J

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CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

An inspection of the Schuyler County GenWeb site may reveal some variation between actual observations recorded above and those listed on the GenWeb site.

Interestingly, in addition to the formal stones with carvings, one of which is shown below as Photo #3, there are at least a dozen field stones set on edge as head stones with accompanying foot stones six to eight feet away. Both are in straight lines across the cemetery, but with no inscriptions. Photo #4 shows one line of the head stones marked with red flags. Who are these souls? We hope the families of these folks know where they are buried. Did they predate the engraved stones or come after them and why only field stones for markers? Many questions that may never be answered, but surely cross your mind when working in the cemetery. From information obtained from the stones that could be read, we learned that the birth years ranged from 1759 to 1791 with the exception of one boy born in 1817 who died the following year.





PHOTO #3 PHOTO #4

On the evening following work on this cemetery, Peter Rice did some research and reported his findings and some questions in the e-mail message below.

Looking at the 1874 map of Hector, I found a J W Welie listed as living in house right by the cemetery, probably house just down road to the immediate west of where we were. So I pulled up FamilySearch.org and looked for that name. Nothing really, so I substituted Velie for Welie and there he was in the 1880 census.

Now John W. is 52, wife Lydia is 40, and their children as follows: Charles 14, Birge 12, Marion 9, George 6, and Ednia(sic) 1.

So I'm guessing "Burge-Velie" cemetery takes its name from Birge Velie. (That is if the listing for son Birge is a correct spelling.) Perhaps it got mixed up over the years and went from "the cemetery up at Birge Velies place" to Burge-Velie Cemetery. Just speculation, but a good possibility.

I will continue to search now for young master Birge. All for now.

Regards,

Peter

CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

Review of the census data by others, for a number of decades finds Birge's name spelled either Birge or Burge. The 1940 Federal Census has him at age 72, living on the west side of Route 414 very near to the Hamlet of Hector.

In a discussion with the owner of the property where the cemetery is located, we learned that there is a foundation of an old house near the road and very near the cemetery which may have been John W. Velie's home.

Charlotte Bond also provided some information from old newspapers. According to an account in the Elmira Telegram, May 3, 1903, "The home of John W. Velie, father of Attorney George M. Velie of this village (Watkins Glen), located at Logan, about eight miles from here, was entirely destroyed by fire Thursday morning. The loss was about \$2,500, with only \$800 insurance."

The 1870 Agricultural Census lists John W. Velie as owning 48 ac. tilled- 4 acs. woodland & forest- 3 horsesfarm, equipment & livestock valued \$3750.00.

The work on the Burge-Velie Cemetery is a great demonstration of teamwork and volunteerism. Without the detective work of Dave Beckhorn we may have never found this cemetery which is well hidden in the woods.

Submitted by Allan Buddle

NOTATIONS FROM THE GRANGE BOOKS

Editors Note: The following submission was taken from the Searsburg Grange books. The dates are to be read as ***Allan—Im confused.

C: 5/13/11 The best money paying animal on the farm by Mr. Luther Hand was explained very explicitly how his sheep answer this purpose.

C: 2/4/12 An interesting talk about cabbages, raising, cultivating and harvesting the crops were given by Bro Coleman Ditmars.

C: 9/28/12 A letter was received from State Grange about the oleomargarine bill asking for money to help their cause. It was moved and carried to send them \$2.00 for their work.

C: 4/26/13 A talk by Mr. Steven on the use of lime finished the hour.

C: 11/8/13 Rev. John L Greene gave an interesting and instructive talk on bees.

(continued on page 12)

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NOTATIONS FROM THE GRANGE BOOKS

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 10)

C: 4/11/14 Lecturer's Hour was filled by a talk by H.P. King on spraying apple and peach trees.

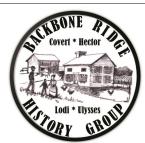
C: 4/25/14 Lecturer's Hour was filled by an interesting talk on incubator chickens by Mr. Tunis Osgood.

C: 8/8/14 Lecturer's Hour Talk on Harvesting Grain by Mr. A. D. Hopkins. Discussion on butter making.

C: 10/23/15 Bro Godfrey read an article about wheat smut, its treatment and the danger of flies from smutly wheat.

C: 2/12/16 It was stated that the Farmers Institute will be held in the Grange Hall February 26. It was moved supported and carried to have a box dinner. Grange to furnish coffee.

Check your mailing label below, to see if you have a red rectangle (need to pay dues in 2013) or a red "P" (2013 dues paid). If you see neither and would like to become a member, please send \$10 to Membership Chair, Rose Smith, at PO Box 64, Trumansburg, NY 14886.



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