

# The Backbone

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

BECAUSE HISTORY MATTERS

**INSIDE THIS**

**EDITION:**

Haying the Old Way	1, 5
President's Update	2
Rededication of the Reynoldsville Cemetery	2, 7
Special Event—Fruits of the Backbone	3
Mail Box	4, 5
Mystery Photos	6

## HAYING THE OLD WAY SWEAT AND SWITCHEL

BY ALLAN BUDDLE

How many times have we heard; “make hay while the sun shines?” That is literally true. This had to be one of the worst haying seasons I have experienced in 46 years of making my own hay and it “ain’t over yet” as another old saying goes. Planning started out for a “hay day” through the donation of a field of hay on Round School House Road owned by Ed Gates. With his generosity and early interest by long-time local farmer Eric Lokken, Chemung Valley Old Timers member Frank Johnson and Gary and Karen Jones of the New York Steam Engine Association, we were on our way. Enter the weather and well.....you know the rest of the story.

What to do? With fair time coming, someone suggested maybe we could have a float in the Hector Firemen’s Parade featuring “Haying The Old Way”. For a float you need a wagon, and since my wagon was not in use making hay, I said ‘Why not’. Enter Arvine and Doris Pike and Sandy Bradford and their creative skills and we were on our way, not to forget that Denny Teeter suggested that we could not have “Haying the Old Way” without switchel.

Then Bruce and Linda Wright came to our rescue and pulled our float in

the parade with one of their collection of 18 restored, shiny red Farmall and International Harvester Tractors. Riding the float with pitchforks in hand were Kevin Carpenter from Lodi and Austin Cornwell from Trumansburg. These willing young men were recruited by David and Rose Smith. The red switchel dispenser on top of the milk can was donated by Denny Teeter.

*Editors Note: The float was also entered in the Trumansburg Fair Firemen’s Parade, this time pulled by Bob Snedeker and his shiny John Deere tractor.*

So with team work, we pulled it off, had a lot of fun doing it and want to thank everyone for their help. For the adventurous and old at heart, we also want to share a recipe for Switchel (see page 5).

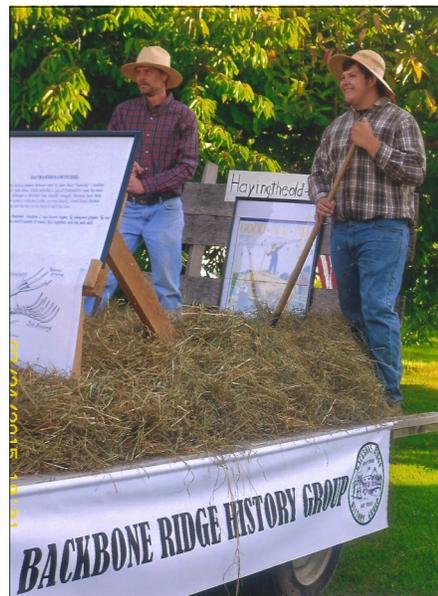


Photo by Doris Pike, Schuyler County Historian

BY ALLAN BUDDLE

Good to visit again! Since the last issue of the *Backbone*, several messages have been received both providing information about Backbone Ridge families and requesting information about others. Some are included in this issue. This is one of the primary purposes of the newsletter, a tool for making connections. Please keep the messages coming.

The Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties received official status in July 2010 in the form of a Provisional Charter from the New York State Board of Regents. The Provisional Charter was effective for five years at which time a new application had to be submitted for either an extension of the Provisional Charter or for an Absolute Charter. Qualification for an Absolute Charter requires among other things, a staffed museum, open to the public. We believe the Research Center being developed in the former Charles Jennings Law Office in Lodi, will fulfill that requirement. However, it is not ready for that yet since remodeling is still occurring. Therefore the BRHG applied for and was granted a 5-year extension of the Provisional Charter until 2020. In addition to the extension, changes in the official name and address were requested and approved. The mailing address however has not changed.

As additional information has been gathered over the previous five years, it has become obvious that many of the Backbone Ridge families had connections to the Trumansburg area, therefore Tompkins County, in which Trumansburg is located, has been added to the name. We are now known officially as the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler, Seneca and Tompkins Counties. This should have been obvious years ago when I interviewed the late Floyd Compton. He told me how his father cut firewood on their farm near the intersection of Chicken Coop Hill and Potomac Roads and delivered it with horse and wagon or horse and sleigh to homeowners in Trumansburg.

Thank you all for your continuing support! As always, keep us in mind if you run across any historical information related in any way to the Backbone Ridge. I can be reached at 607 532 4213 or e-mail [orchard-land@zoom-dsl.com](mailto:orchard-land@zoom-dsl.com).

## **REDEDICATION OF REYNOLDSVILLE CEMETERY**

BY DAVE BECKHORN

### **Special Event—Rededication of the Reynoldsville Cemetery**

**1 PM, October 24, 2015**

Cemetery Chairman Dave Beckhorn has announced the dates October 23 and 24 for the **Fall Cemetery Cleanup and Restoration**. A great amount of work has taken place in this cemetery over the past couple of years but much more remains to be done. This year on Friday October 23, volunteers will concentrate on the lower area near the intersection of Kenyon Road Potomac Road and State Route 227. The purpose for concentrating on this area this fall is to prepare for the rededication of the cemetery and celebration of a new cemetery marker at 1 PM on Saturday, October 24.

(continued on page 7)



## Special Event—Fruits of the Backbone, Yesterday and Today

Saturday, October 10, 2015

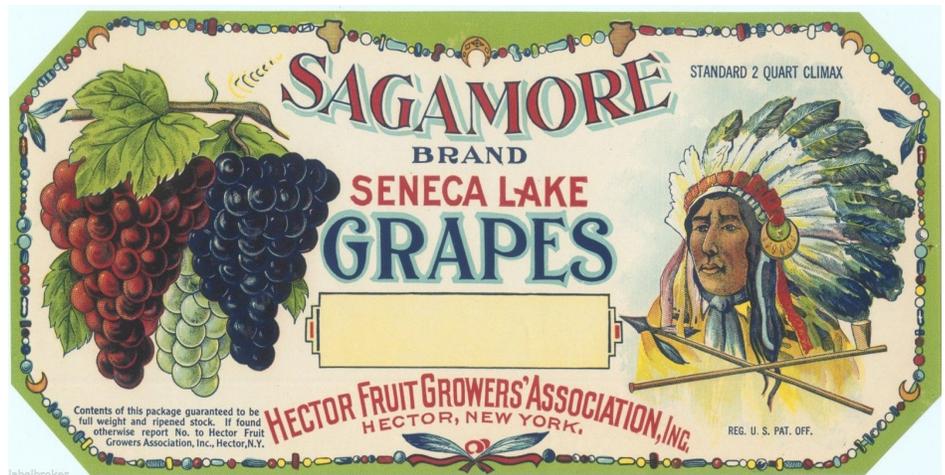
2 to 4 PM

Lodi Fire Hall

State Route 414

Emcee Gerry Messmer announced that the 2015 Backbone Ridge History Group (BRHG) fall presentation program has a very enticing, informative and exciting set of stories to tell. The upcoming program will be especially aimed at and focused on “The Fruits of the Backbone, Yesterday and Today “ and how our area became, and still is, world renowned. The program will build on the previous live presentations featured by the BRHG that have also appeared in the pages of our BRHG newsletters. Our slate of speakers for the day will present historic as well as firsthand accounts of how and why fruit was produced “in the good old days” and how fruit brought us to “today’s

modern history.” Speakers from both sides of the Backbone will be on hand to whet our appetites for the” **history of us**” that the BRHG is so well known for. Orchardist, Producer, and Historian Phil Davis will discuss the history of fruit in the Hector area as we know it today and how we got here from yesterday. Joining us, from the other side of the Backbone, along southern Seneca County, the “Pioneer of



Wine” in that area will be Ruth Lucas of Lucas Vineyards and Winery. Dave Smith, BRHG Genealogist, will also be on hand to present us with the historical trace of one of our preeminent fruit-producing Hector farm families, the Erways. The fall program will be held in the Lodi, New York Fire Department on NYS 414 and will also include refreshments. Join the Backbone Ridge History Group on Saturday afternoon October 10th for this special gathering from 2 until 4 PM. It is hoped that time will allow questions or additions of artifacts by attendees.



Photo left: Fran Grohoski at the 4th of July event in Lodi where Doris Pike had our display board set up and talked with visitors.

## MAIL CALL

### Message from a descendent of George Washington Cole

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to find information about Uncle Wash, who is my 3 Greats Grand Uncle. His elder brothers also served in the Union Army or government.

My 5 Greats Grandfather David Cole, his wife and two sons of his four children first moved to upper finger lake area NY after his own father died in New Jersey. His wife was descended from Peter Van Zandt. It was their son David who fought in the War of 1812 and whose monument is in Trumansburg. The second son was named Cornelius (this name derived from the Van Zandt family). It is possible the two daughters were already married and remained in New Jersey.

With the inheritance and sale of his portion of the New Jersey family property the elder David purchased the property in Lodi for eldest namesake son David and most likely the additional house where he set up the youngest son Cornelius. After his death David as his eldest son inherited that house. The younger son Cornelius inherited a second home where he resided until his death. From my reading of family information, this Cornelius died without issue and the property returned to the only remaining son David which may be why Elijah Cole was living in this house with his wife and child when the gold rush came around the corner and Elijah left for greener pastures with younger brother Cornelius, who had been named for the Uncle in whose house Elijah had been residing.

It is quite apparent that David Cole born in New Jersey and Veteran of the War of 1812 had quite a good sense of business. He married well, Rachel Townsend of Townsville; had a successful farm and horse breeding business. He went into business with his father-in-law where they built and rented out various buildings in and around Lodi and Townsville. He had 11 surviving children!

Editor's note- This message from Merideth Crowell was in response to an article in a previous issue of the *Backbone* submitted by Marsha Smith. For more about the Cole Family, we would be pleased to put you in touch with the author.

### Message from Jim Serrine

Dear Editor:

My cousin, Bob Wixom, gave me a subscription to the backbone recently and I just read the latest edition. My eye was drawn to the picture of the Reynoldsville School. And then, 1913 jumped out at me. So here it is from the top... The road was named after my grandfather, Frederick Barber Serrine (b. 1870). He moved to the house at 6060 Serrine Rd. with his mother in 1875. At the time it was owned by his maternal grandparents. He lived there for the re-

mainder of his life. Fred and Eliza Strowbridge Serrine had 3 children, Clara (b. 1895), Horace (b. 1898) and Robert (b. 1913). I am Bob's only son. My aunt (called Carey, her last name, by everyone who knew her) taught at the Reynoldsville School. I remember her telling stories of her students. The name Soule came up often. I think Pete was one of them. At 18, she had probably not arrived yet at the school.

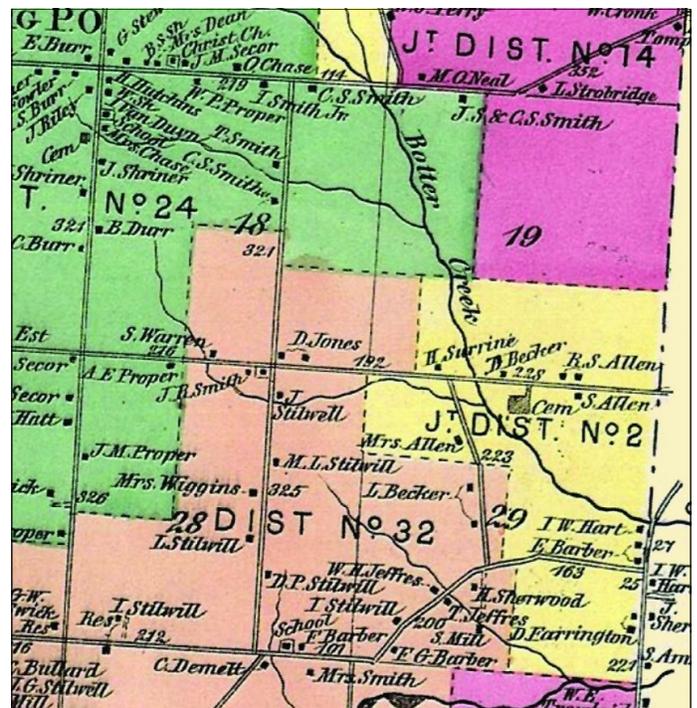
The 'story' of Fred's early life is substantiated by the auction bill from his deceased father's farm, dated 3-4-1875. I have an original! I have always thought that farm was near the corner of the Rumsey and Bower Rd. The bill states "...at the late residence of Horace Serrine, deceased, in the town of Hector, 1 mile west of the Ayers school house, and a half mile east of David Jones' ....".

Can someone better define the location of this farm? I have a Serrine genealogy if you have other questions. Keep up the good work. Hope to hear from you soon. Jim Serrine, Roanoke, VA.

Hi Jim

So good to hear from you! It is amazing how many families with information about yesteryear are showing up with information to share and looking for information. A copy of the 1874 Hector Map is attached which I think shows the H. Serrine homestead at the location you Identified. Would it be ok if I use your e-mail in the next newsletter to see what more information about the Serrine family might surface? I will write again but need to go take care of my chores right now. Thanks again for writing! Allan

The map did the trick. Thank you. Yes, use email as you like.



**MAIL CALL**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

**Letter from a member in Freeville, New York**

My husband and I enjoy the *Backbone* newsletters and stories of local history. Recently I obtained an 1886 obituary for Dr. Patrick Flood, and was able to load it onto the free genealogy website [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).

Dr. Flood's obituary provided an exceptional amount of biographical information about him. Dr. Flood lived, and practiced medicine in Lodi, New York from 1845 to 1857. His children were born in Lodi. He later served in the Civil War and was mayor of Elmira, New York.

Perhaps one of your researchers might be able to find out more about Dr. Flood's 12 years in Lodi and write up an account of this period, for a future *Backbone* newsletter. I'd be most interested in seeing the results of further historical research, although I am not much of a writer or researcher myself. I am hoping that someone in the Backbone Group might take on this modest project. For example, where in Lodi did he live? Is the home still standing?

I am enclosing the findagrave.com memorials for Dr. Flood and his son Thomas S. Flood. These memorials are quite biographical and will provide a basis of information about this family.

I hope you may be interested as I am, in this early resident of Lodi.

(Editor's Note- The memorials for Patrick Henry Flood, March 1814 to March 12, 1886 and Thomas Schmeck Flood April 12, 1844 to October 28, 1908, both buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira New York, are available at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). If you would like to address the questions above or perhaps do more extensive research, please let us know your findings so we can share with our readers. Thank you!)

**Photo from "Haying the Old Way" exhibit at Trumansburg Fair. Left—Sweat and Switchel, and Right—Keeping Haymakers Clean**



**Photo from "Haying the Old Way" exhibit at Trumansburg Fair:**



Photos courtesy of Doris Pike, Schuyler County Historian

**Recipe for Switchel "Haymakers Punch" - a refreshing drink from the early farming days.**

Here's a classic recipe from the 1930's which was unearthed from the archives of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*.

- 1 gallon water
- 1 1/2 cups molasses
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger (ground)

If you want to cut the molasses, that's fine. You can use a few tablespoons of maple syrup, honey, or just find the balance that suits you. Remember to start with less sugar—as you can always add more. Switchel shouldn't coat your mouth; it should taste refreshing. Another idea is to add a teaspoon of fresh lemon or lime juice for zing.

# MYSTERY PHOTO'S

## Last Edition's Mystery Photo:



## This Month's Mystery Photos:



## Last Month's Mystery Picture Identification

The Mystery Photo from the Spring Edition is of the Hector Grazing Headquarters however we still do not know where it was located. Can anyone help with the location?



## NOTICE:



Annual Membership Meeting of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler, Seneca, and Tompkins Counties—October 21, 2015, 7 PM, BRHG Research Center, 2153 Seneca Street, Lodi, NY

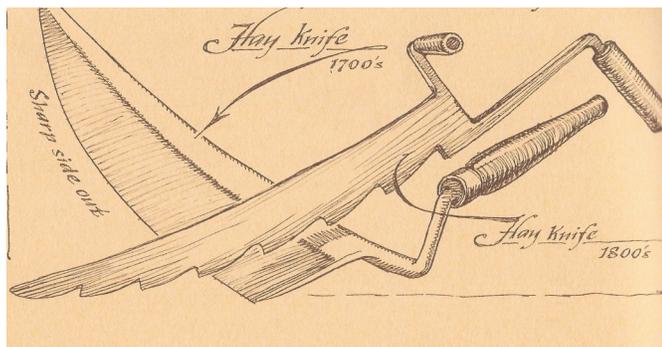


Image from "Diary of an Early American Boy, Noah Blake, 1805" by Eric Sloan Pg. 64.

## REDEDICATION OF REYNOLDSVILLE CEMETERY

BY DAVE BECKHORN  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Dave reports the largest turnout yet for the cleanup and restoration work that occurred in May with 24 volunteers involved ranging from teenagers to octogenarians. Mark Smith brought his tractor with a bucket which helped to redefine a horse and buggy path along the edge of the cemetery. Brush and debris was removed to a Town of Hector site, thanks to arrangements made by Supervisor Dickens.

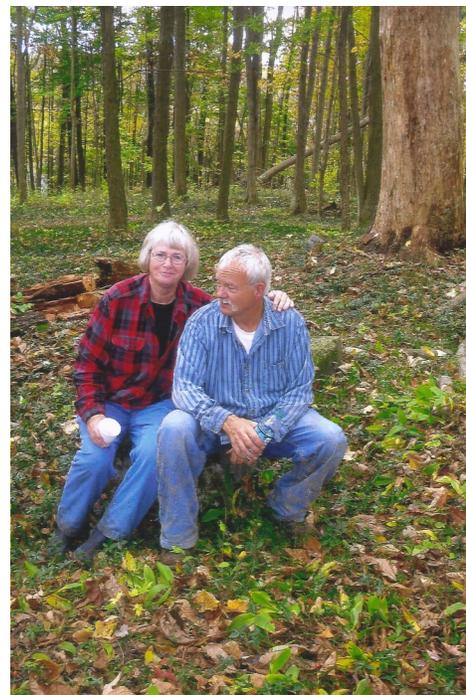
There are numerous clusters of family plots throughout the cemetery. Carol Lent, a descendent of the Case Family, prominent in Reynoldsville history, drove up from Van Etten. She was pleased to view the stones of her family members and observe the improvements in the appearance of the cemetery. Mark Smith provided a photo to share, see right.

William Case 1834 to 1891  
Hannah (Hathaway) Case 1837 to 1883



Dave Beckhorn and Mark Smith removing a couple of small trees that were threatening a headstone.

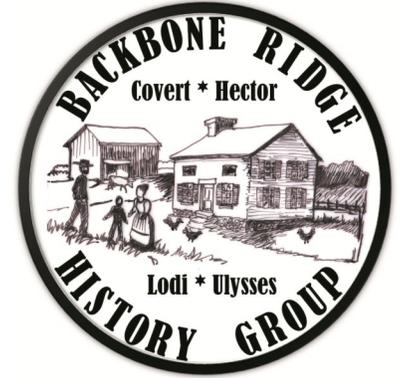
Photo by Doris Pike, Schuyler Co. Historian



Mark and Sharron Ricci who travel from Ohio twice each year, armed with chain saw, backpack leaf blower, weedeater and hand tools to help and spruce up the Dates Family Plot.

Photo by Doris Pike, Schuyler Co. Historian

**Backbone Ridge History Group**  
**PO Box 64**  
**Trumansburg, NY 14886**



**Trustees:**

Sandra Bradford, Doris Pike, Denise Teeter, Rose Smith, David Smith,  
Amber Rose Murray, Kelly Paonessa Terry, Jack Murray.

**Officers:**

Allan Buddle, President; David Beckhorn, Vice President; Gerard Messmer,  
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Newsletter Designer/Editor, Kari Milliman Gauntt; Daniel Huston, Webmaster

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

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

**Backbone Ridge History Group**  
**of Schuyler, Tompkins and**  
**Seneca Counties**  
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