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The Backbone

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

BECAUSE HISTORY MATTERS

IN MEMORY OF DENNY (SANDRA DENISE O'CONNOR) TEETER

This issue of the Backbone is dedicated to Denny Teeter, an advocate and staunch supporter of the BRHG. Denny joined the group in its early years, working through the tough times when we were creating mission statements, purpose statements and defining who we were and who we wanted to be in order to proceed with our not for profit status.

Denny (Sandra Denise O'Connor) Teeter

OCTOBER 24, 1938—MARCH 15, 2016

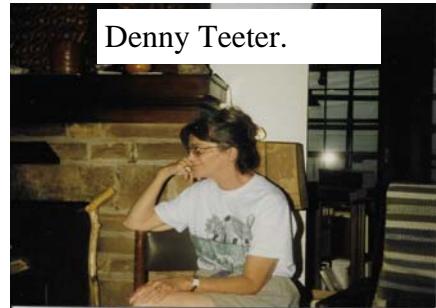


Denny Teeter was born Sandra Denise O'Connor on October 24, 1938. Her parents were Donald J. and Audrey Harkness O'Connor. Her brothers are Chris and Kim; her older brother, Joel, predeceased her. Denny was raised in the Town of Dryden, and she and her late husband, Robert, raised their daughters, Kirsten Pierce and Lisa Teeter-Naylor, on Logan Road in Hector. She graduated from Dryden Central School in 1956, attended Antioch College in Ohio, and participated in the Antioch Education Abroad program in 1960 with a year in Denmark. She worked for the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC, taught at Cascadilla School in Ithaca; and worked for the Schuyler County Board of Elections from 1984 until her retirement in 2003. Denny was an active member of the Cayuga Trails Club and the Logan Community Association. She served enthusiastically on the Watkins Glen School Board of Education. She had earlier coedited "The Burdett PTA Chronicle" and was involved in various school organizations and committees. Denny and her family also opened their home to a number of foster children in the 1970s and 1980s, and she was a 4-H leader for a number of years. Denny, who read and wrote in every available free moment, taught adult education courses through St. Anthony's Free University and BOCES and took a number of courses in the community. Later, she tutored for the Literacy Volunteers Program and was active with the Burdett Ladies Wednesday Afternoon Club and the Watkins Glen Writers Group. Denny maintained a high degree of interest in the American political system throughout her life, beginning with enthusiastically supporting her father during his several campaigns for a seat in the U.S. Congress when she was a young girl. Denny always peeled potatoes, sold tickets, and made Irish soda bread for the Schuyler County Democratic Party's Saint Patrick's Day Dinner. She initiated the All-Night Senior Party at Watkins Glen High School and reliably provided delicious baked goods at the Hector Fair and the Logan Bazaars. She also took great enjoyment in Thursday lunches at the Hector Presbyterian Church, monthly lunches with "the Dryden girls," and Friday lunches with her dear friends Carol and Charlotte. She wrote the Logan column (published in the *Review & Express*) for many years, with loyal followers from near and far.

It is an honor for the Board of Directors of the Backbone Ridge History Group to dedicate this issue of *The Backbone* to Denny Teeter. We have known Denny as a person with great dedication to her beliefs without hesitation to speak up in their support.

Following Denny's example, before going further with this message it seemed appropriate to review the Purposes for which the BRHG was created and to compare the articles in this issue with those Purposes.

The first Purpose follows: ***To encourage and disseminate a greater knowledge of the history of the State of New York and particularly the area known as the Backbone Ridge in Schuyler and Seneca Counties.*** As you read through this issue please evaluate it and let us know how we are doing and/or what you would like to have included in future issues.



The second Purpose follows: ***To establish and maintain a museum of Backbone Ridge history open to the public.*** Sadly we have done nothing to develop this purpose which is a monumental task and will need a professionally developed plan if it is to be successful in both the short and long term. This Purpose more than any will hinge on the ability to engage in and sustain meaningful, mutually fulfilling partnerships.

Now to address more immediate needs- You have noted that a significant effort by the BRHG in the last couple of years has been directed at the Reynoldsville Cemetery under the leadership of Dave Beckhorn. Perhaps as a result, we hear of increasing numbers of visitors at the cemetery. If you have visited the cemetery you have seen no evidence of any apparent layout plan other than within family plots. The terrain was most likely a contributing factor. Somewhere there must be some documentation for approval of burial sites. So far none has been discovered.

What to do to make it easier for visitors to find the graves of their family members? That question has been pondered at length since there are between 200 and 300 burials in the cemetery. A recent suggestion is to create a zone map and list burials within each zone which itself will be designated somewhat by the terrain. We have enlisted mapping specialist Robert Kibbee to guide us in a mapping effort. You may recall that Bob has other talents including playing Amazing Grace on his bagpipe at the Reynoldsville Cemetery Rededication last fall. The message below from Bob provides some guidance to get us started however we need help. Please let me know if you can help and I will be in touch when a day and time are selected to see if you are available then. 607 532 4213 or orchardland@zoom-dsl.com.

Essentially, as I had suggested:

1. draw the boundary on a graph pad
2. segment the cemetery (might be good to use colored mason's twine and some stakes)
3. segment the sketch on the graph pad
4. locate features on the graph pad (trees, rocks, larger headstones, other features)
5. number the graves on the pad and record the headstone data on another sheet
6. Use the program to complete the map and database.

We could make a date and do 1, 2, 3 and some 4 to get the process started. Maybe plan on 3-4 hours. If we had 6-7 people it would go pretty quickly.

Bob



MEMORIES OF THE GRANGE LEAGUE FEDERATION

Editor's Note- Research on the Patrons of Husbandry, Grange, turned up this article about one person's opinion on the rise and fall of the Grange League Federation (GLF). It has some interesting local connections. If you have some experiences that you would like to share about your local GLF please let us know. We will use the feedback, no pun intended, in the next issue of **The Backbone**. As someone said, "every town had one".

GLF, Its Rise and Fall, by Charles E. Page, November 2003

These are my own personal opinions about "the rise and fall" of the organization known as GLF. I have been associated with it in some way for over 70 years. [As a patron, employee, and stockholder]. These are my own thoughts. Others might take a different view. The first I ever knew of GLF was in the early 1930's. I had started raising chickens and needed to buy feed for them. I was 11 or 12 years old. At different times I had bought feed from Hollenbeck's mill in Munnsville, Frank Mayer in Oneida, and A.J. Moses in Eaton. Of course these were large transactions, [You bet!] involving the purchase of 5 or 10 lbs. of feed all at once. The dollar amount came to two or three cents a pound. I had 25 chickens.

GLF was a couple blocks down the street from where we lived on East Walnut St. in Oneida. I could walk down there after school and buy any amount I wanted, a pound or two or more. They would scoop it out of a 100lb.bag and weigh it up. A man named Elbert Evans was the mill/store manager [a good Welsh name!] GLF was a farmer owned cooperative formed by The Grange, The Dairymen's League, and Farm Bureau Federation in about 1920. It was founded largely due to the efforts of H.E. Babcock of Ithaca, thrived, and steadily expanded. I think the reason for its remarkable success and expansion was due to the fact that it was a "true co-op" in the sense it existed for the good of the users [customers] and not intended to make money for any corporation or individual. It came at a time when farmers were in the mind of purchasing their needs on the retail market and selling at wholesale, just the opposite of the way a business should operate.

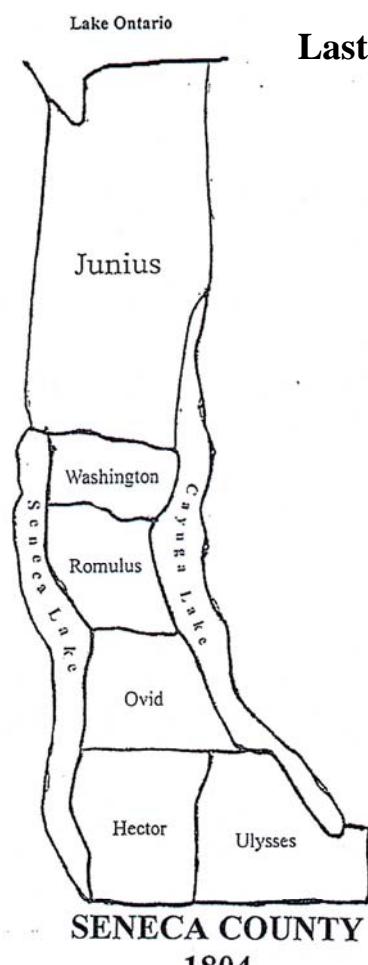
The store employees consisting mainly of "farm boys" were paid reasonable wages and if money was made above expenses and reserves, it was refunded at the end of each year to the buyers. That seems almost unbelievable in this day and age! Each purchase was written on a sales slip with the buyer's name and address, and at year's end a refund check was issued to each person. The amount of the check was based on a percentage of the co-op's profit in proportion to the buyer's total purchases. The percentage was determined each year by the elected farmer committee that oversaw the operation of the store in cooperation with a district management team headquartered in New Hartford.

Competing companies tried to sell the notion that if GLF feed was sold at a lower price than theirs, it must be of poorer quality. However, the formulas for the mixed feeds were printed on the tags of each bag. They were called "open formulas" as the exact poundage of each ingredient was listed openly along with the nutritional analysis. The formulas were developed and provided by the experiment stations of three state colleges, Cornell, Penn State, and Rutgers.

Farmers gradually discovered GLF's cooperative operation was for real" and scope and rapidity of its expansion was amazing. For about 50 years it "ruled the roost" in the feed and farm supply business in the Northeast.

I think the original concept began to change when it became a stock company. Common [voting] stock had been issued to its farmer members, but then preferred stock was offered to the general public for investment. Originally all people who purchased things there shared the profits via the refunds. Gradually it lost

(continued on page 8)

MYSTERY PHOTO**Last Edition's Mystery Photo:**

We asked if anyone could identify the county and year of this map. Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian, shared the following:

The Establishment of Seneca County on March 24, 1804. Somehow many sources use the date of March 29—rather than the correct date of March 24—in the year 1804 as the date for the establishment of Seneca County. For several years following the end of the American Revolution, the western portions of an existing county were made a new county by action of the New York State Legislature and Governor. As this process applied specifically to present-day Seneca County, Seneca County was part of Montgomery County and then became part of the newly-created Herkimer County on February 16, 1791. On March 5, 1794, basically the western portion of Herkimer County became Onondaga County. On March 8, 1799, the western portion of Onondaga County became Cayuga County. The western boundary of Cayuga County was the Pre-Emption Line, which had been established by a survey in 1788 and then revised in a re-survey in 1792. Soon after the creation of Cayuga County, there were several factors contributing to a desire to create a new county. One such factor was the rivalry between Cayuga village and Aurora to be the county seat for Cayuga County. Aurora was the official site for the transaction of Cayuga County business. The completion of the first Cayuga Lake Bridge in 1800, however, made it much easier for Cayuga County residents living west of Cayuga Lake—including what is today Seneca County—to get to Cayuga village—the eastern terminus of the Bridge—than to Aurora. The village of Aurora could only be reached by small boats propelled by oarsmen or by small sailing vessels or by crossing the Cayuga Bridge and proceeding overland the distance between Cayuga village and Aurora. When serious discussion about the formation of a new county began in 1802, several projects were discussed. One plan was to divide Cayuga County into two parts north and south. Presumably in this proposal the northern part, consisting of taking the boundary between the Military Tract townships of Ovid and Romulus in the area between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and projecting that line eastward, would remain Cayuga County. The area south of this east-west dividing boundary would become a new county. A second plan was to separate off the western portion of Cayuga County to create a new county extending from Lake Ontario southward. A third plan was to take the eastern portion of Ontario County and a part of Cayuga County to create a new county. Each of these proposals was being promoted by “local statesmen” who wanted their local community to become the probable site for the county seat in the newly-established county. In the first plan mentioned, Cayuga village, for example might well have become the new county seat for the northern portion of Cayuga County. In the third plan, Geneva may well have become the county seat. The question of dividing Cayuga County was brought before the New York State Legislature in 1803. On March 16, 1803, Senator Lemuel Chipman, who represented Ontario County, introduced a bill. The bill was read twice and committed to the committee of the whole, but no further action was taken by the legislature that year. In 1804, more petitions for the various plans to create a new county were sent to the New York State

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(continued on page 5)

MYSTERY PHOTO
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Legislature. Dr. Silas Halsey, a resident of present-day Lodi in Seneca County, was now back serving in the New York State Assembly. He had served previously in the Assembly in 1797, 1798, and 1800 to 1801. In 1803 he was one of three Cayuga County representatives serving in the Assembly, with the other two living east of Cayuga Lake. These many years of service in the Assembly had made him very knowledgeable of the issue of creating new counties, as well as enabling him to form many important acquaintances in Albany. On February 3, 1804, a petition from citizens of the town of Hector was presented to the Assembly. This petition called for the creation of a new county for the territory between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. This petition was referred to a special committee of 5, of which Dr. Halsey was named chairman. On February 27, 1804, Dr. Halsey introduced "an act to divide the county of Cayuga and for other purposes." The bill was read twice and referred to the committee of the whole. On March 7, 1804, the bill was favorably considered. On March 9th, the bill was referred to a selection committee of which Dr. Halsey was chairman to "report complete." Halsey's committee reported back the bill with amendments, which were accepted. On March 10th, this bill passed the Assembly. The Senate passed the Assembly bill without amendment on March 21st. The Governor signed the bill on March 24, 1804, becoming a law on that day. The name "Seneca" was given to the new county. The new Seneca County embraced a territory described as follows: The south boundary, beginning at the head of Seneca Lake, at the southwest corner of the town of Hector—thence running east on the south line of the towns of Hector and Ulysses, to the southeast corner of the last named town (the whole of the town of Ulysses and Hector being included in Seneca county—and the south boundary of Ulysses extending about 4.5 miles south of Ithaca.) The east boundary, being constituted by the town of Dryden and the center of Cayuga lake, and its outlet, to the west line of the town of Brutus, and thence north in the west line of Brutus and Cato, and farther on north to Lake Ontario—the north boundary extending along Ontario lake to the county of Ontario, thence south along the Ontario county or new Pre-emption line to Seneca lake. The west boundary, which has been the subject of considerable comment and controversy, had been already defined in the boundaries of Cayuga county, established by the Revised laws of 1801, (and continued as to Seneca county in the Revised Laws of 1813)—as bounded westerly by the line called the new Pre-emption line, from Lake Ontario to Seneca lake and thence along the west shore of said lake to the southwest corner of the township of Hector. After the counties of Tompkins and Wayne had been erected, in part from Seneca county, the Revised Statutes passed in 1827, describe the county boundaries as they now exist, as follows: All that part of the State bounded on the north by the county of Wayne, on the east by the county of Cayuga, on the south by the county of Tompkins (and now in part belong to Schuyler county) and on the west by the west shore of the Seneca lake, and form the north end of said lake by the pre-emption line, as established by law.

[This article was written by Seneca County Historian Walter Gable on April 9, 2010. The information comes from an article titled "Seneca County," by the Honorable Diedrich Willers. It is found in the 1904 Volume of Historical Papers Read Before the Seneca Falls Historical Society, pp 3-17, which can be accessed at the Seneca Falls Historical Society.]

THIS EDITION'S MYSTERY PHOTO

The mystery presented in this issue of the Backbone relates to the Searsburg School Class of 1894. Please take a close look at the photo on page 12 and the list of names on page 9 and try and match them up. There is a small section of the Hector 1874 map on page 8; names on that map twenty years prior may provide some hints even though that photo was taken 122 years ago. Any information about Mr. Russell, the teacher, would be very interesting. We hope someone will have matches or information that we can share with you in the next issue of *The Backbone*.

CLEANING THE REYNOLDSVILLE CEMETERY BY DORIS PIKE

On Friday, May 13th, 2016 a small group of us eager folks: Dave Beckhorn, Mark Smith, Allan Buddle, Arvine Pike and I, entered the Reynoldsville Cemetery. We knew our work day would not be long, because rain was in the forecast. We thought it best to stay on the lower left corner of the cemetery where the Case Family plots are located. Even though it rained, we managed to accomplish what we came to do, and our work day ended at noon.

Saturday, May 14th was an entirely different day. Sue Magnosie joined us, bringing cinnamon rolls for everyone, and Mark brought his tractor. We could feel this was going to be a successful day. Even if we did not succeed in cleaning a large part of the cemetery, what we would accomplish was going to be gratifying to our hearts.

As we continued up the hill to the next group of stones, we found Hiram and Lydia Cornell's big monument toppled over, and while unearthing it, we noticed at the bottom it said "Gracie age 3yrs 10mo 25day . We miss our darling daughter". At that point, we knew we should start looking for a child's stone. Using our, find a grave probe, we hit upon a stone and discovered it had the name of "Gracie" on the top. Continually working, very gently, we found "Gracie" age 3yrs 10mo, 25day." This took our small group two hours to use Mark's tractor to lift and place these very heavy broken stones near each other. Thank God no one got hurt. What a good feeling it was to be able to put Gracie's stone near her folks that loved her so much. To sweeten the work, Georgina Stevenson came with homemade cookies. We left that day knowing Gracie, her mom and dad were once again together as a family.

SEARSBURG—A MOMENT IN TIME BY SALLY WRIGHT TILLINGHAST (AGE 58)

The photo of the Searsburg School (see page 12) was taken on May 18, 1894. One hundred twenty-one years later, the Ulysses Historical Society displayed it at the Trumansburg Fair in New York. On Wednesday, August 26, 2015, my husband Jack Tillinghast and I went to the fair to watch the horse pulls. As we walked through the domestic building at the fairgrounds, I passed by this picture of the old Searsburg School and a flood of memories came pouring into my head. I remembered my Aunt, Hazel Wright, telling me that in the fall of 1941 she entered the first grade at the Searsburg School as the youngest person in the one room schoolhouse. She remained there thru 1942. Hazel and her sister Mary, who was in 7th grade, would walk about a mile every morning to Searsburg from the family farm on the corner of Stilwell and Searsburg Roads. Her parents, Frank and Alice Wright, eventually bought the maypole that was in the schoolyard on the playground. My brothers, sisters, and I would swing for hours on that maypole every chance we got! My dad would stop almost nightly to buy milk and eggs from Frank and Alice, so that was our chance to play on the maypole with our cousins. It is my understanding that Sadie Burr, who Aunt Hazel took piano lessons from, is one of the students in this photo. I myself did not know any of the students in the picture, but the one room schoolhouse seen behind them was what really caught my eye. In the mid 1960's, I was one of about 20 kids growing up on the four corners in Searsburg. In the schoolhouse's afterlife in the 60's and 70's, it had become well known as the neighborhood fort. We made it our mission to explore the old fallen down school. I just recently learned in a conversation with my oldest sister Charlotte, that because of an old well and the school itself falling down, everybody's parents made it clear that, "*No kids were to go up there and play around that old school.*" So naturally, it was the first place we headed to on a Saturday morning adventure. It had become our mission to recreate this school into the neighborhood fort. Our strategy was to send everybody

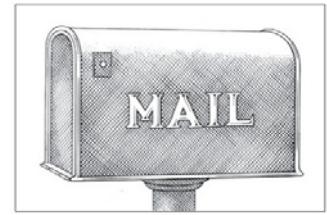
(continued on page 9)

MAIL BAG

Allan received the following from Priscilla Weir on Saturday, April 02, 2016

Good morning Allan...Just received and read the Backbone newsletter. Re page 8.the Warranty Deed. William Spence is my ancestor. He married Charity LaMoreaux and they had 11 children. He was a veteran of the War of 1812 and I had a tombstone erected beside his original stone in the Valois cemetery. This is recorded in the SPENCE genealogy I donated to the Interlaken Historical Society and is on their shelves. The name Oakley Allen was familiar to me as he was a physician in Watkins Glen for many years. His wife was my English teacher. Other names familiar to me were Burnett (Bill Burnett and I went to school together), Creighton.(I vividly recall Henry Creighton coming down the road with his steam thresher on his way to each farmer to thresh their wheat. You could hear it coming before you could see it.) Jaquish was long a familiar name in the Hector area. And of course I remember the Houston family name also. My nephew Charles Fausold sent me a copy of the material he will present on Dr. Gilmor. I think you will enjoy it.

Enough rambling! Priscilla Weir



Hi Allan, Thanks for your quick response. I have been working on the Reynolds Family history for a number of years. All I started with was that my great-grandmother, Nellie Italia Reynolds, had heritage in Reynoldsville, New York. My husband and I were in the area about 30 years ago coming back from an apple growers conference in the east. At the time I was just at the beginning of my search. I have put some of it together since then. Nellie was the daughter of Elihu G. Reynolds and was born in Chicago after her father came there from New York. I have used early Chicago Directories to place him and Ira Reynolds, who I believe is his father, together there living in the same house (mid-late 1840's). The only actual document, my starting point, is a photocopy of a deed of a land sale in Hector. It involves land being sold to Elihu G. Reynolds and lists the other names of people involved, land of Ira Reynolds, Smith Reynolds, in the 1830's. That actual sale deed came from my father's aunt, because the original was still existing in the family "stuff" there must be a relationship between these people. I won't list all my further information here now, but will say that this Elihu G. Reynolds moved around. In the 1850's he seems to be absent from his family at the time of the census, with his wife in the household of Ira Reynolds. He may be in California, no hard proof of that, but he is again absent in 1860 and he may be the Elihu Reynolds at Gold Hill in Nebraska. He has two daughters born in Chicago, mid 1860's. About 1867 he moves to Benton Harbor Michigan and stays there until 1884 when the family leaves for the Dakota Territory. They homestead, his oldest daughter also files a homestead claim. She, Ida Harriet, stays and marries there. My great-grandmother, Nellie, marries a fellow homesteader from Illinois and they return to Illinois. My other questions deal more with Ira Reynolds and his wife. Also there is a George W. Reynolds in Chicago, joining the same church as Elihu, that may be a brother. I found online a marriage record for Elihu G. Reynolds marriage to Emily Hager, this is about the same time as the above land sale. The 1840 Hector census lists Elihu G. and wife and son under 5. With Elihu in 1850 (actually living with Ira) is a James Reynolds that would match that child. Emily seems to be deceased by this time, second wife Ruth. All the early Chicago records were burned in the Chicago Fire in 1871. I don't know what happened between 1840 and 1850. Did Emily Hager Reynolds die in Hector, or after they came to Chicago? You may not be able to shed much light on that. What is the relationship between the older Joel Reynolds and Ira? Any information on the wife of Ira Reynolds? I have seen a reference to an older Elihu Reynolds that was married to Betsy Chase, how does he fit in? A Betsy Reynolds is at one time in the household of Smith Reynolds when they both are older people. So many questions. Thanks for your time, any help would be appreciated. Wendy Ela, Rochester, Wisconsin.

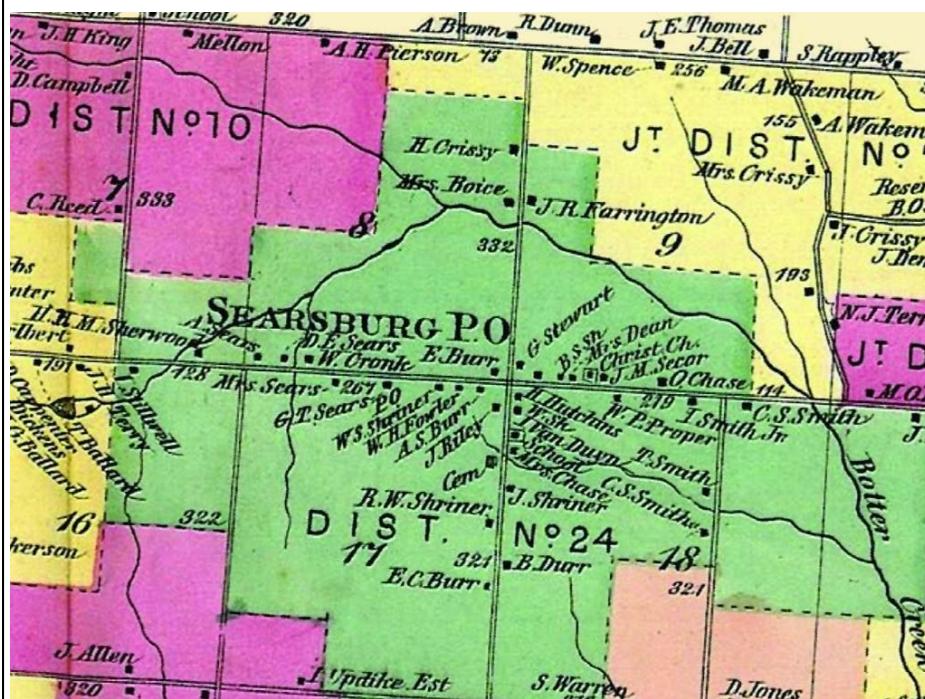
Editors Note: If you have information or questions for Wendy Ela, please send them to Allan Buddle at 9176 County Road 142, Interlaken, NY 14847 or orchardland@zoom-dsl.com and they will be forwarded to her.

its true co-op spirit. The farmers themselves were partly responsible for the change. Times for them were getting tougher, and when the chance came to stick it to the city customers, they took it. They allowed the co-op to go into other business sidelines mainly to add to the business profit. The business took on a life of its own, beyond supplying farmers' needs.

I remember when Oneida GLF started selling garden fertilizer [regular farm 5-10-5] in fancy 5lb.bags to attract city gardeners. One bag would be labeled '5-10-5 Garden fertilizer' and another labeled 5-10-5 Rose food."That is called "merchandizing." Of course, smart merchandising is the key to successful selling in any regular for profit business. You could buy the same fertilizer in 80 pound bags that farmers used in the field, for a fraction of the per pound price. In the beginning one could buy as small an amount as you wanted. The GLF employee would take time to open a big bag and scoop out whatever you wanted at very little increase in the per pound price over that for the large bags. But this notion of buying and selling for the benefit of the consumer was disappearing. Profit for the investing stockholders became an added factor.

As the size of GLF grew throughout the Northeast management tended to hire business college graduates to run the stores rather than promote the less educated farm people. Some of the managers and trainees had never seen the inside of a barn, or plowed a furrow, but of course, they had the business skills required to run large businesses.

Of course another, and most important, factor was the decline in the number of small farms and farm-raised potential employees. The small farms that had been its strong base and the reason for the co-op's inception were fast disappearing. The large farms of today have their own large quantity buying power. The result was here was a big business left without a reason for existing except for making money to keep it alive and make money for its investors. Through the years it went into other profitable lines, merged with Eastern States Co-op, expanded to cover all of the Northeast, [renamed Agway] and did well. But it was not the phenomenon that was GLF. GLF and Agway had its day for about three-quarters of a century and Agway still hangs on mainly through its Energy Products Division [Nov. 2003]



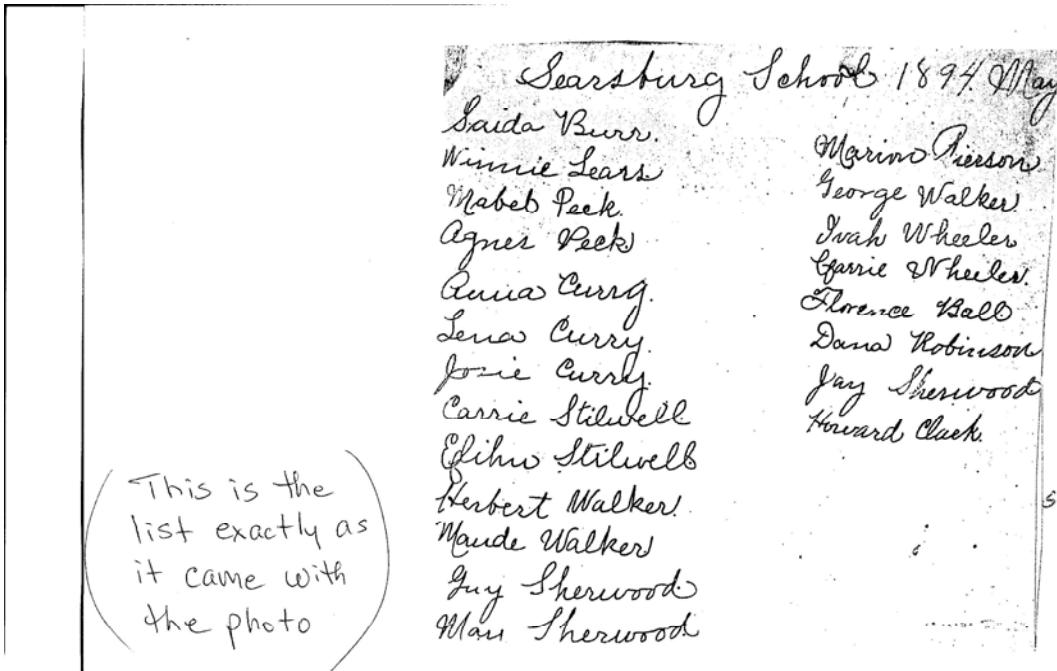
Editors note: A portion of the Hector 1874 map is at the left, depicting the Searsburg area.

SEARSBURG—A MOMENT IN TIME

BY SALLY WRIGHT TILLINGHAST (AGE 58)
 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Back home to his or her dad's garage and bring back any half-used can of paint you could find of any color. As I recall, after we mixed the paint, we came up with some bluish-green, 1950's Florida concoction," and slapped that paint on any wall still standing. There was part of an old chalkboard still adhered to one wall. So naturally, we would act out the roll of teacher and students. We especially liked acting out recess on the swing set, that after seventy years, still stood outdoors off to one side of the building. It still had a couple of chains and swings attached to it. My brother Wayne recalls picking many wild strawberries along the school road and plums off the tree behind the school. My sister Debbie and I would sometimes walk up to the old school, take a bagged lunch with us and just play on the swing set for hours. It seemed like there were thousands of Lilies of the Valley that over the years had grown up all around the swings. We would pick a handful of these lilies and head back home with a grand bouquet. It always felt like we had accomplished a wonderful day's outing. My younger sister Donna recalls still spending a lot of "play time" on that property in the years that followed. There was a large maple tree on the south edge of the property. Donna and other neighbor kids her age once again raided their dad's garages for any unused planks that could become part of the "secret tree house." Coincidentally the same tree was tapped yearly by my dad, (Pete Wright) for batches of his sought after maple syrup ... that fed the whole neighborhood. That grand old tree still stands today guarding our old school house property.

Eventually we grew older and the Searsburg School fell down around itself. The play fort was no more. The last hurrah had been sung. At some point in time, the lot was sold to Clayton Grove. A "Searsburg moment in time" had passed. Therefore, it was understandable when I saw this photo at the fair that a flood of memories would overcome me. It made me stop and realize the words that really do ring true. A picture is worth a thousand 'words'!



Editors Note: Names listed above was a scan of the reverse of the photo from page 12

The picture is Mrs. Pearson with her students at Searsburg School May 18, 1894

DOCTORS OF THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

BY ALLAN BUDDLE

The Backbone Ridge History Group invites you to this program:

Doctors of the Horse & Buggy Days

Dr. William S. Gillmor
Dr. John M. Townsend
Dr. John O. Hill

Saturday, May 7, 2016
2 to 4 pm

Logan Community Center
4074 Co. Rd. 2, Burdett, NY 14818

You are also welcome to attend the Bazaar from 9 am to 3 pm!

Program Schedule:

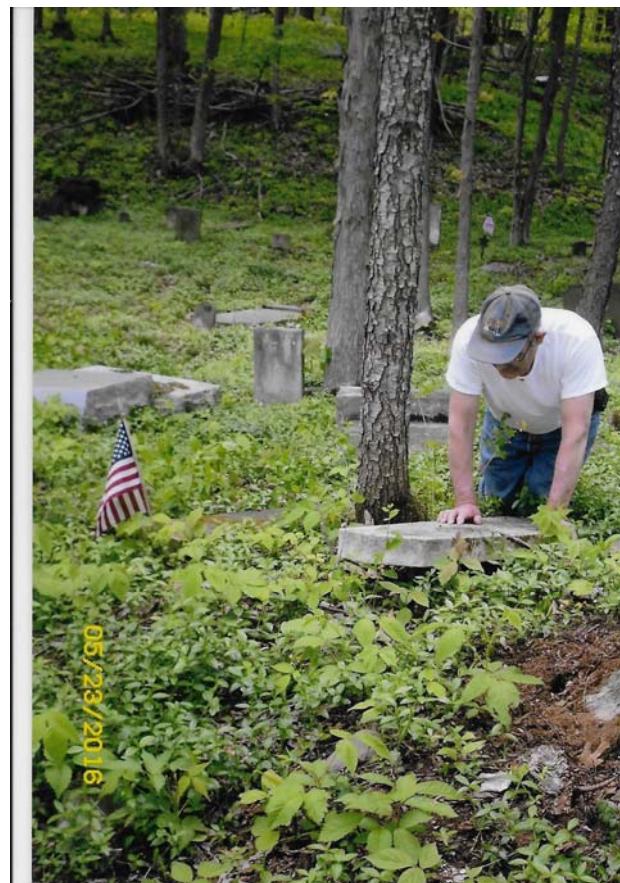
- Charles Fausold talks about Dr. Gillmor
- Refreshments Break
- Joe Baldwin talks about Dr. Hill
- John Townsend Feller talks about Dr. Townsend
- Audience Sharing of Old-time Doctor Stories

for further information, contact Allan Budde (orchardland@Zoom-dsl.com) (607-532-4213)

The Backbone Ridge History Group owes a very large thank you to the presenters at the Doctors of the Horse and Buggy Days. The mailer that preceded the program and both Charles Fausold and Joe Baldwin presented some very interesting history. An estimated 75 to 100 attended the program at the Logan Community Center on May 7, 2016. We are also grateful to the Board of Directors of the Logan Community Center for partnering with us so that the Spring Bazaar and the Program overlapped hopefully increasing attendance at both events.

Charles Fausold's power point presentation which focuses on a diary kept by Dr. Gillmor's daughter was fascinating and painted such a clear picture of the Backbone Ridge including many, many names that were familiar to the audience. Fortunately Charles is preparing the presentation for placement on the Backbone Ridge History Group website

Below, Dave Beckhorn placing flags on graves of Perry Brothers who served in the Civil War.



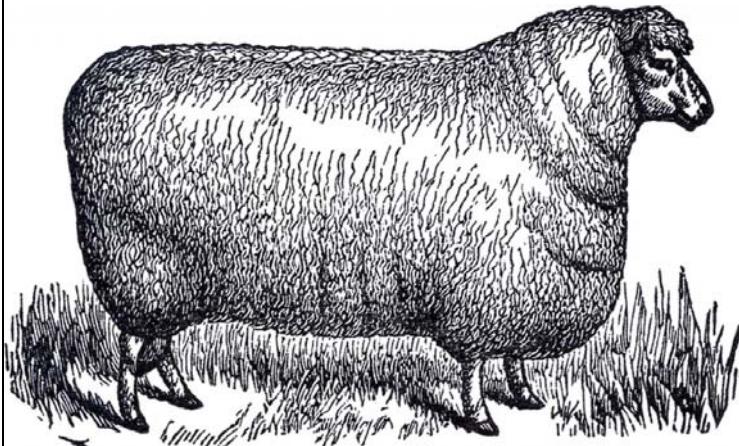
SUMMER FLOATS AND EXHIBITS SHEEP, WOOL AND TEXTILES

A review of some 1926 to 1928 data of hilltop farms in our area showed that the average number of ewes and lambs on 20 farms was 15.4 and 13.2 respectively. Records of the Seneca County Sheep Growers Association from the 1940's display a very businesslike approach to sheep raising and marketing of wool with technical assistance from Cornell University. The Schuyler County Sheep Breeders Cooperative Association records from the 1970's show a total of 32 flocks in the area surrounding the Backbone Ridge. These records were in the home of John and Anne Knight long-time sheep breeders and growers in Townsendville. John was Secretary of the Seneca County Sheep Growers Association for many years. The records were passed along to the Backbone Ridge History Group for safe-keeping and will be returned to the two Associations.

Sheep and wool were and are still very important in our area and the BRHG is planning a float for the Hector Fireman's Parade and Trumansburg Fireman's Parade the last week in July and the last week in August respectively. The floats, we hope will have a small pen of lambs, someone operating a spinning wheel and some products of the wool harvest. If anyone reading this has a couple rather docile lambs that would like a ride in a parade please let us know.

The sheep, wool and textile theme will be carried over into the exhibit in Domestics Building at the Trumansburg Fair. We hope to have a spinner on hand to demonstrate and discuss the fine points of spinning the yarn and turning it into fine clothing and other products.

At right, Dave Beckhorn placing a flag on a veteran's grave in the Reynoldsville Cemetery.



Backbone Ridge History Group

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Trustees:

Sandra Bradford, Doris Pike, Rose Smith, David Smith, Kelly Paonessa Terry, Charlotte Dickens, Phil Davis

Officers:

Allan Buddle, President; David Beckhorn, Vice President; Gerard Messmer, Secretary; Julie Clawson, Treasurer; Rose Smith, Membership Chair;

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

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The photo below is of the Searsburg School, taken on May 18, 1894.

