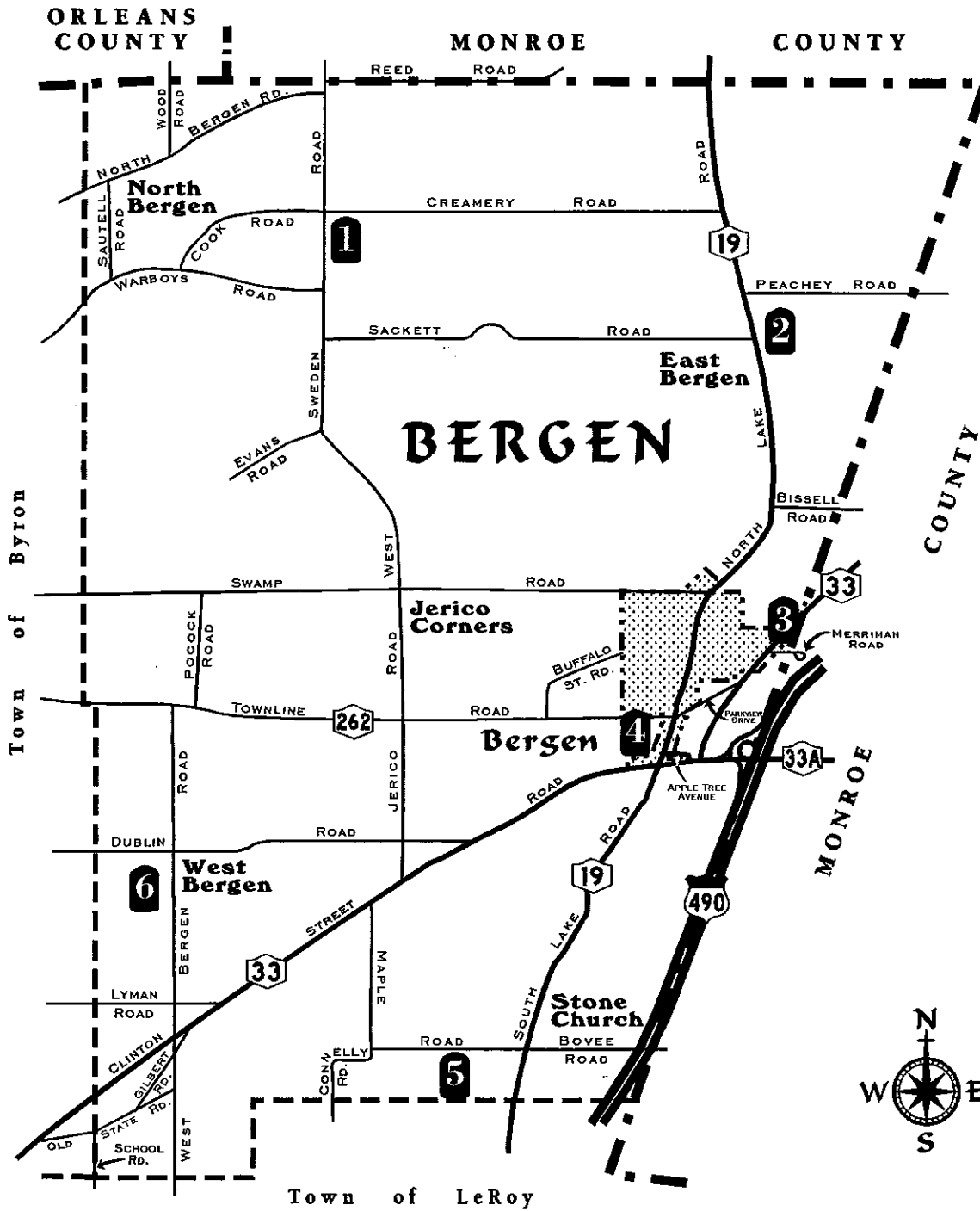


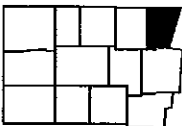
There is a map of the Town of Bergen on the next page.
 The numbers on the map mark the location of the cemeteries.
 On the following pages the name or names of the cemetery
 are listed with the number corresponding to the location on the map.

TOWN OF BERGEN

CEMETERIES



Town of Bergen's location in Genesee County



Established on April 2, 1813



*An Overview
of the Cemeteries
in Bergen*

*Compiled in celebration
of the Village of Bergen's 125 years
and Genesee County's 200 years.*

BERGEN CEMETERIES

There are six cemeteries in the Town of Bergen. Three of them are active; one is active, only for those who already own a plot; one is inactive; and the last has been abandoned and not available to the public.

1 The North Bergen Cemetery (Red School Cemetery) is a neighborhood cemetery no longer in use. It is across from what was formerly a red school house which is now a private dwelling. Recently when the town started taking care of the cemetery it was renamed, North Bergen Cemetery. The first burial in this cemetery appears to have been Emeline P, daughter of William and Sarah Matoon. She died September 11, 1812. She was one year, four months old.

One of the last people buried in this cemetery was Joel Bascom, a War of 1812 veteran, who died January 29, 1854, age 80 years. The epitaph on his tombstone, *"Thou shall come to thy grave in a full age, Like a shock of corn cometh into this season."* Bascom's widow died February 8, 1854, 79 years old. Horace Landon was the last person buried there. He died March 7, 1854, age 67 years.

Boy Scout, Troop 31, assembled a 3-rail fence along the west and north boundaries of this cemetery in 1999 to protect the sacred land from snowmobiles in the winter. The Bergen Historical Society raised the funds for this fence.

2 The oldest cemetery in Bergen is the East Bergen Cemetery. It was once known as the Barr Burying Ground, as it was opposite the James Barr residence. This cemetery was incorporated as the East Bergen Cemetery on September 29, 1877. The cemetery association gave the Town of Bergen a quick deed to it in 1878.

This cemetery is also a neighborhood cemetery. The District Three School was on the west side of the road between Sackett and Creamery Road. There was a post office nearby which could have been in a home or store. When the land around this cemetery was sold, this plot of land was excluded from the sale. There are some very old memorial stones in this cemetery. There are also replacement stones and some new stones.

Jesse Townsend, who died September 25, 1809, age 87 years, was probably the first person buried here. The first white child born in the Town of Bergen, Col. Luther Crosby, who was born in 1806 and died 1864 is buried here. James E. Davis, son of George and Mary L. Davis, was wounded in Chancellorville, Va.. He died in Stanton Hospital, Washington, D.C., June 29, 1863.

Another Civil War death was Wilbert Fuller, son of David W. and Salvane Falls. He died July 8, 1864, age 24 years and 20 days, in Washington, D.C. of wounds received in the charge at Cold Harbor. The epitaph on his stone reads, *"Here let me rest, I shall charge no more, The boys that are left will the Union restore, Now Heaven is my home, For in sickness I cried, To that friend of sinners Who met me on this side"* Burials are still being made in this cemetery for people who already own plots here.

3 Saint Bridget's Catholic Church purchased 4 acres of land, east of the village, January 20, 1871 for a burying ground. Half of the land was consecrated for the cemetery. Rev. James Laeher, pastor at St. Bridget's at the time, signed the deed for Bishop Stephen Ryan. The earliest death date is 1873. Other early deaths are Jane Conway 1873-1875, William Haley 1849-1877, and Ellen Giblin Haley 1849-1877. Buried in this cemetery are two priests who served the St. Bridget's parish, Rev. John B. Malamphy, who served from 1937-1955, died in 1955; and Father J. O'Donovan pastor from 1956-1974, died March 4, 1985. The spelling of this church's name was Saint Bridget until 1930 when it was changed to Saint Brigid.

4 The people of the Congregational/Presbyterian Church in the Village of Bergen chose a committee, "For the purpose of purchasing a spot of land for a burial ground" in 1810. It wasn't until May 10, 1813 that the society (church) purchased land at Buell's Corner for the cemetery.

The date of deaths on some stones in the cemetery are prior to 1813. It is not known whether burials were allowed before the legal work was done or whether the people had been buried in other places and moved to Mount Rest Cemetery after the burying ground was purchased.

One of the earliest burials was Hamilton Wilcox who was wounded at Black Rock in the War of 1812 on December 30, 1813. He was found wounded a day or so later and brought back to Bergen. It was necessary to amputate an arm. He died on the operating table (which was a kitchen table) on January 14, 1814.

When the burying ground was purchased, land was also purchased for a meeting house. This house of worship was finished in 1828. In 1854, it was put on logs and rolled down to its present location at 38 South Lake Avenue. People from that church bought the lots where the building had set for their graves. James Doolittle has the tall red granite obelisk on the west side of the site. There is a new monument/marker just west of this site containing a history of the site and of the cemetery.

On August 26, 1879, a petition was presented to the trustees of the Congregational Church asking them to call a special society meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of incorporating the cemetery. The meeting was held on September 23, 1879.

The church had bought the land for the cemetery and had managed it from 1813 to this time. During this time it had become a community cemetery, but only church members could serve on the cemetery committee. It seemed fairer to incorporate so that all those with lots in the cemetery could have a voice in running it. All papers and maps were turned over to that new community committee.

The eight inch, nearly five ton columbiad, cannon (located at the top of the hill) came from Governor's Island. According to the newspaper it was mounted on a six foot high cut stone. The base is now faced with brick and cement. The cannon is a memorial for the Civil War soldier. On May 3, 1898 it was drawn up the hill by two teams of horses to its present position. Soon afterwards, Dr. Morris Townsend came to the cemetery one night and jammed the gun so it couldn't be fired, as he was afraid that the veterans would blow themselves up if an attempt was made to fire it.

The entrance driveway and west section of the cemetery were purchased in 1908. In 1920 the five store lots that were located in the northeast section of the cemetery (corner of 262 and 19) were purchased. This was the southwest corner of the business section of Bergen Corners. The southwest section of the cemetery was also purchased in 1920. The southern area that contains the new exit road and the new burial ground was purchased in 1999. The new vault, found at the fork of the entrance, was built in 2002.

5 The land bought for the Stone Church Rural Cemetery was purchased by the Stone Church Congregational/Presbyterian Church in 1828 from Col. Norton S. Davis. The church paid fifty dollars per acre for the land with a reserve of two lots 16x40 feet each for Col. Davis's own use. Col. Davis died on September 29, 1828, at the age of 42 years. He was the first person interred in the society burying ground. The cemetery was deeded to "The Stone Church Rural Cemetery Association" on August 23, 1887. Three acres of land was obtained from Harold Morse in 1964. It was a partial gift from Mr. Morse.

Many of the Ward family are buried in this cemetery. This family was responsible for establishing the governments in the area, the post offices, the stores, the building of local roads and the founding of both the Bergen and Stone Church Congregational/Presbyterian Churches. The Village of Bergen was laid out and registered as Wardville, after the Ward family.

6 The West Bergen Cemetery (Richmond Family Cemetery) had abandoned bones uncovered in 1983. They were reinterred there. This cemetery is not open to the public.