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# ANTI-SWEARING SOCIETY

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From the Old Testament, Book of Exodus, Chapter XX, we find the Ten Commandments. The way Jews and Protestants number these it is the Third Commandment which states, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

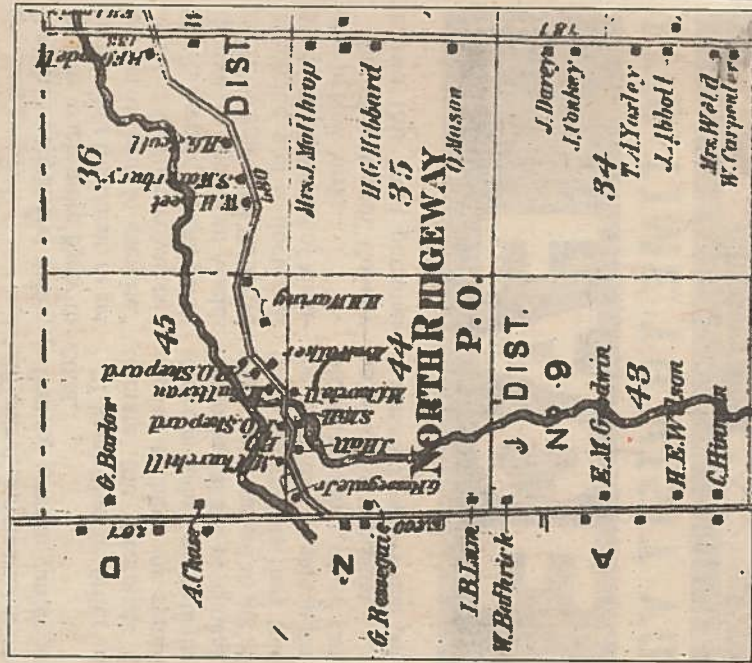
In a column written by former County Historian Arden McAllister, I find this bit of interesting information provided to him by Mrs. Harold Tuttle of Jeddo. It is as follows:

"The minutes of the North Ridgeway Anti-Swearing Society have been found recently. They indicate that on January 20, 1852 about 40 people met and drew up a constitution for their society. The preamble states: "We whose names are annexed, desirous of forming a society to shield us from the evils of profane swearing and elevate our characters as men, do pledge ourselves to be governed by the following constitution." The



by-laws state that any member who was accused of using or countenancing profane or immoral language was to have a fair trial. If found guilty, the fine was not to exceed 12 1/2 cents. The minutes for the February 14 reveal that two "delinquents" were fined 6 pence, and a third one volunteered his infraction of the rules. He too was fined 6 pence. The minutes stopped short after just a few meetings. We don't know if the other minutes were lost or if the organization just faded out as quickly as it came."

Surely it would have been hard to "police" such behavior although it was an attempt to better society. The other interesting bit of information is that this group was formed at a place called North Ridgeway. Oddly the little settlement was not directly north of



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Ridgeway but actually north of Jeddo, in the very north west part of the Town of Ridgeway. That places it two and one half miles north of Route 104 on the County Line Road where the Mill Road intersects it. From 1837 to 1903 the little settlement even had a post office.

But like so many little hamlets that were hubs of activity in the 19th century, North Ridgeway is unheard of by most people today. The name appears here on the 1875 atlas map as it also appears on maps from 1852, 1860 and 1913.