



Half-Shire Historical Society Newsletter

The Towns of Half-Shire:

Albion...Amboy...Boylston...Camden...Florence...Mexico...Montague...
New Haven...Orwell...Osceola...Parish...Redfield...Richland...Sandy Creek...Williamstown

March 2021

Preserving History in the Eastern Lake Ontario Region of NY since 1972

Vol. XLVII No. 1

The Vanishing Family Bible and its accompanying family records

Two hundred years ago, every home in our region, and for that matter in most of the Western world, had a family Bible, or for Catholics, a devotional book such as the "The Queen of Angels, the Life of the Blessed Virgin."

These were often the only written books early families owned. Along with religious uses, the family Bible was traditionally a place where our forebearers recorded family births, deaths, and marriages. In times when paper was scarce, the blank pages at the beginning, end, or between the Old and New Testaments offered space for such records to be logged.

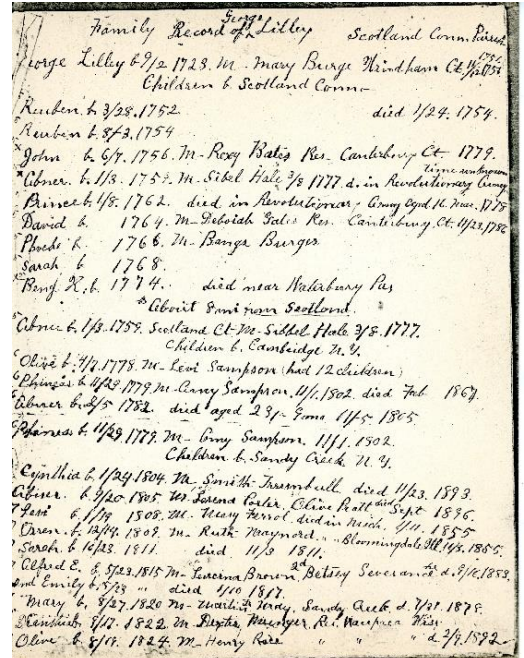
As time went on, the savviest publishers included decorative pages to note births, deaths, and marriages. Many late 19th century Bibles included a page for a marriage certificate and even a page where family members would sign a temperance oath. Some elaborate Bibles had pages with cutouts for family photos.

Right: A page from the George Lilley Bible copied at Half-Shire in the 1970s. The whereabouts of this multi-page early book is now unknown. The records began in 1723 and span 200 years.

A common quest for many genealogists is "Where did our Bible go?" A much more prevalent and sad answer these days is into the trash, thrift shop, or lawn sale. In our fast-paced, mobile society where "decluttering" is in vogue, these priceless repositories of family records are vanishing at a rapid pace. For many years, Half-Shire has sought Bibles from our region to borrow and digitize. Over the years, we have been gifted many, and in 2020 our collection began to take noticeable leaps forward. A standard question our volunteers now ask researchers is "Where are your Bible records?" The importance of discovering if you own one with records or who the keeper of your books is cannot be emphasized enough, particularly here in New York State where vital records were not regularly kept until the 1880s, and even then, they were not good. To trace your lineage for SAR, DAR, the Mayflower Society, or any heraldic group, Bible records are one of the most sought source documents.

In each issue, we run a set of records to try to draw attention to our vanishing Bible records. Over the past few years, this effort has "flushed out" many books that even the owners had forgotten. If you have a Bible with records, please contact us and make arrangements for us to make high-quality digital scans. We will provide you in turn with enhanced copies for your records.

We have a new book repair/binder we are delighted with: Robert LoMascolo of Aurora, NY who has restored two of our bibles recently.



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Half-Shire Membership: Annual Dues are \$15 per year, \$50 for supporting membership, \$400 life membership payable to Half-Shire c/o P.O. 73 Richland, New York 13144-0073.

The Half-Shire Historical Society

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Founded on November 15, 1972; NYSED charter: Provisional-Dec. 1973; Permanent-Feb. 1978

Officers (2018-2020) with terms of office expiration

President (2022)	Shawn P. Doyle, 85 Lake St, Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-3620	spdinpul@hotmail.com
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Treasurer (2022)	Betty Warren, 2785 Co. Rte. 2, Richland, NY 13144	315-298-2975	Bettybjwarren@aol.com
Secretary (2022)	Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY 13029	315-447-4270	facolvin@windstream.net
Librarian (Appointed)	Sharon L. Turo, P.O. Box 256, Sandy Creek, NY 13145	315-387-3112	slturo@earthlink.net

Board of Trustees (2019-2020) with terms of office expiration

Albion (2023)	Florence Gardner, P.O. Box 394, 312 Bridge St, Altmar, NY 13302	315-298-5723	(no email)
Amboy (2023)	Lori E. Monette, 1847 Co. Rte. 6, Fulton, NY 13069	315-657-3579	gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com
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Camden (2023)	Rebecca Kennedy, 4939 North Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-0120	rkennedy62@yahoo.com
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Mexico/New Haven (2021)	Louise Meyer, 513 Co. Rte. 58, Mexico, NY 13114	315-963-3652	llhjmeier@gmail.com
Orwell (2021)	Rose Graham, P.O. Box 162, 1999 Co. Rte., 2, Orwell, NY 13426	315-298-2070	rosegrah@yahoo.com
Osceola/Montague (2021)	Leona Chereshnoski, 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13475	315-599-8836	lchere@hughes.net
Parish (2021)	Venita Ackley, 422 Kipp Rd., Parish, NY 13131	315-382-6529	ackleyv@gmail.com
Redfield (2022)	(Vacant)		
Richland (2022)	Robin Philips, 102 Ivans Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-7279	designsofelegance@netzero.net
Sandy Creek (2022)	Margaret Kastler, 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083	315-387-5209	kastlerm@hotmail.com
Williamstown (2022)	Glenna Gorski, P.O. Box 54, Co. Rte. 17N., Williamstown, NY 13493	315-964-2393	lgorski@frontiernet.net
Trustee-at-Large (2021)	Heather Stevens, 435 Deer Run Dr., Central Square, NY 13036	315-870-2069	dstevens@incpark.com
Trustees Emeritus	Julie Robst, 1100 Druid Rd. East, Apt. 511, Clearwater, FL 33756	727-276-4375	keeperofthetree@aol.com
	Liz Grant, 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437	315-599-7735	(no email)

President's Report, Shawn Doyle—It has been a difficult season here at Half-Shire. We have had an "old fashioned winter" with regular snows and cold. Beyond that, the resurgence of the Corona Virus around the holidays made gathering tough. A skeletal group of volunteers continued to staff the building a few days a week, but major research projects such as the Williamstown Ladies Book were hampered by the inability to work together.

We have taken advantage of the time without visitors to continue work on the building. The Southeast classroom was gutted in late January and as we write the room is being sheet rocked and will soon be painted and have new hardwood flooring.

This room will be used to house a replica schoolroom with our extensive collection of education materials and records from our various school districts. Storage areas will be created in the closet and an upper shelving unit.

We also are working on last touches to the stage with the back wall insulation and new sheetrock as well as new hardwoods flooring.

We are still planning to have our first meeting on Saturday March 27th. We are closely watching the virus numbers which seem to be dropping as more and more people get the shots. We hope things continue to level out so we can resume our normal work with a full contingent of volunteers.

Despite the low numbers of volunteer hours at the building, an incredible amount of work has been completed by volunteers such as our Librarian Sharon

Turo, Treasurer Betty Warren and Trustee Venita Ackley, who have been the principal workers here though the winter. The Pomeroy research room has been updated nicely with new notebooks and a change in shelving arrangements.

Our enhanced WiFi and internet funded by grants from the Greater Pulaski Community Fund and the Museum Association of New York (MANY)/ Pomeroy Foundation has greatly assisted our staff as well as area students who can upload and download homework from our parking lot. We have also offered space and time in our building to some Pulaski and APW students to work this winter.

As the sun shines in our windows today as I write, we cannot help but to look forward to outdoor work. Stephanie Pierce, one of our principal volunteers, has already been ordering seeds for the back garden and we have plans for some perennial gardens around the perimeter. New sidewalks are planned across the front as well as our memorial bricks around the flagpole.

The return of the *Tug Hill Literary Review* has pleased us with the comments and support from our members. We are very happy to again be collaborating with our friends at the Historical Association of South Jefferson (HASJEFF). Similarly, we have been working closely with Pulaski Historical Society this winter, assisting in the printing of their newsletter.

We are very grateful for the support of our members who carried us through 2020 and continue to stick with us in these difficult times.

Remembering Friends

(Half-Shire volunteers clip from the Pulaski, Camden and Watertown newspapers weekly and scan the internet for death notices of significance to the area. We have a comprehensive index available online on our website. From this large quantity we select significant deaths that touched our organization, officers, members or communities. We endeavor to try to represent our fifteen towns and its people in all we do, and this small selection is just a sample of our weekly additions.)

Hugh Greenway (May 6 1946-Jun 12 2020) Born in Syracuse the son of John & Ruth (Gill) Greenway, Hugh was married to the former Judith Manwaring, Town of Mexico historian, who survives along with two children and six grandchildren. Hugh was a union carpenter and enjoyed fishing.

Nancy Stainton Conti (May 4 1945-Jun 1 2020) Born in Syracuse the daughter of Robert & Ruth (Harrington) Stainton, Nancy and her family moved to Pulaski as youths where they attended school. In 1966 she was married to Harold Conti, her husband of 54 years, who held her hand at the end. The couple also have a large family of children and grandchildren as well as her brother Bob Stainton of Pulaski and sister Christine Dearlove of Detroit, MI, both of whom are members. (Bob's granddaughter Caroline is a life member and our current much loved Snow Scholar.)

Anna Vinney Lock Brand (Jan 26 1924-Jun 26 2020) Born in Little France the daughter of Charles & Julia (Boutell) Vinney, Anna was married 1st to Robert McCaw Lock of Redfield and later to Frank Brand. She was the last of a family of five. Among her survivors are children Karen Lock Button and Kevin Lock. A daughter Susan Lock Ostrowski passed away in 2011.



Richard Knoeller (Jun 13 1932-Sep 17 2020) Born in Oradell, NJ the son of Charles A. & Harriet (Lane) Knoeller, Richard attended Pulaski and Sandy Creek Schools following his family's move here. Richard was married 1st to the former Margaret Hollis (Kastler) our Trustee. Two sons and a 2nd wife predeceased him; daughter Karen Lippe survives in Florida. Richard is remembered as a good athlete.

Lynn Giddings (Jan 1 1941-Nov 24 2020) Born in Lorain, Ohio the daughter of Dan & Genevieve (Hancock) Roberts, Lynn married Mervin Jay Giddings in 1963. She is survived by Mervin, their two children and six grandchildren. The couple have been members of Half-Shire for several years.

Beverly Berry Reynolds (Jul 24 1938-Nov 24 2020) Born in Sandy Creek the daughter of Cecil & Frances (Stacy) Berry, Bev had been married to Frederick Reynolds with whom she had six children who survive. Bev was well known as a waitress in several Pulaski area restaurants and was a past member of Half-Shire.

Charles Wheeler (Apr 6 1926-Nov 24 2020) Born in Williamstown the son of Charles E. & Nettie (Wafful) Wheeler. He was a 1944 graduate of APW schools and an Army veteran. Charles married the former Phoebe Britton in 1950. The couple had four children who along with many grandchildren survive (Colin and Libbie Wansink are past Snow Scholars of Half-Shire and began the work on our Masons book as their project). Charles was well-known and respected in the region.

Joanne Cronk Burritt (Aug 3 1942-Nov 26 2020) Born in Sackets Harbor the daughter of Donald & Ellen (McGrath) Cronk, Joanne was a 1960 graduate of Pulaski. She was 1st



married to William Cook (d. 1970) by whom she had three children. Joanne's Mom **Ellen** passed away a few weeks later on January 28, in Oswego at age 101. **Ellen McGrath** (left) was born in Sackets Harbor May 1, 1919 the daughter of Joseph & Angeline (Spencer) McGrath and graduated from school there in 1938. Ellen married Donald Cronk, Sr. in 1940 and was well-known in the Pulaski area for her long service as Village Clerk. Besides her late daughter Joanne, Ellen is survived by son Don Cronk Jr. of Pulaski and a daughter Katherine Cronk Folino of Alex Bay. Interestingly, Ellen's sister-in-law **Arlene Merriman Singer** of Cicero passed away Dec 15, 2020. Arlene was born in Otisco on Dec 10, 1917 and married to James Henry Loatwall Singer (1913-1959) who was a half-brother to Donald Cronk, Sr., and a cousin of member Brenda Dupee Sanchez. (Genealogy note: Donald Cronk, Sr. and James Loatwall Singer were the sons of James Henry Loatwall of Albion, and following the deaths of their mothers both were raised by their own mother's families; it is a remarkable coincidence that these two brothers' wives lived to such advanced ages in good health, and died weeks apart.

Jean Horning Woods (May 6 1932-Nov 28 2020) Born in Parish the daughter of Thelma Horning Petit, Jean was married 67 years to Carl T. Woods, and the mother of four children. A past member and an occasional correspondent of ours, we learned of her death when we sought to call her on a family history question.

Doris Barber Wightman (Aug 15 1948-Dec 1 2020) Born in Redfield the daughter of Charles & Doris (Birmingham) Barber, Doris was the 2nd of twelve children. She was raised in Redfield by her grandmother Jennie Barber Potter many years, and later moved to Massachusetts where her parents and siblings lived. She married William Wightman and had three children. Doris is survived by nine siblings, several of whom are Half-Shire members.

Bonnie Breezee (Apr 22 1947-Dec 3 2020) Born the daughter of Robert F. & Evelyn Janet (Brown) Darling; Bonnie was raised in Pulaski. She was married to Albert Breezee and lived in Oswego many years. Besides her husband she is survived by four children, several grandchildren and a large extended family. Bonnie was a former correspondent of ours and assisted in compilation of her father's military records for our Redfield book.

John David Thomas (Jun 27 1938-Dec 4 2020) Born in Pulaski the son of John D. & Beatrice (Wilder) Thomas, "Jack" was married to the former Nancy Boyd, by whom he had three daughters, Jeanne, Susan and Jackie, who along with Nancy, four grandchildren and sister Sandra Wilson, survive

Noreen Aldous Balcom (Apr 30 1930-Dec 6 2020) Born in Canton, NY the daughter of Melbourne E. & Ardis (Mott) Aldous. Noreen was married to Stephen R. Balcom of Pulaski



in 1959. The couple have two daughters Lori and Ilene and five grandchildren. Noreen enjoyed her family and gardening. She and Steve had an amazing garden each year and canned extensively. Both have been longtime members and supporters of Half-Shire.

Howard Skellington (Nov 16 1926-Dec 7 2020) Born on Long Island the son of Richard & Leona (Albro) Skellington, Howard was married in 1951 to Betty Hallock. The couple lived in Williamstown most of their lives where they raised their three children. The family was active in the Pine Meadows Church. Son and daughter in law Gary & Donette are members of Half-Shire.

Judy Randall Huyck (Apr 25 1942-Dec 9 2020) Born in Redfield the daughter of Vernon & Evelyn (Ballou) Randall, Judy was a 1960 graduate of Sandy Creek Schools. She was united in marriage to Dale Huyck in 1963, and together they raised two sons, Brian and Russell, who survive along with three grandchildren and sisters Lowana R. Davenport, Joanne W. Friend and brothers John and Tom Warren, several of whom are among our members. Our sincere sympathy to the family and special note of the exceptional care Judy received from her husband Dale and family.

Catherine Crocker (Feb 16 1952-Dec 15 2020) Born in Chattahoochee, GA, daughter of Virgil & Gladys (Milligan) Hager. Catherine was a 1970 Pulaski graduate and was married to Timothy Crocker of Pulaski. The couple have four children and four grandchildren, who, along with Tim, survive. Daughter Abby McCullough of Richland is a member

Juan Olaiz (1941-Dec 19 2020) Juan was married to the former Lois Salisbury of Pulaski, a long-time member of ours. He passed away in Arizona after a brief illness. Our sincere condolences to the family.

Virginia Mead Smith (Jun 19 1937-Dec 26 2020) Born in Boylston the daughter of W. Walter & Charlotte (Yerdon) Mead, "Ginny" graduated from Sandy Creek Schools in 1954 and went on to earn her LPN from SUNY Morrisville in 1955. She and husband Herbert Smith had three children who survive as well as seven grandchildren & eight great grands. Several of the extended family are involved with Half-Shire.

Beverly Ward Wilbur (Jun 14 1934-Dec 19 2020) Born in Syracuse the daughter of Alfred & Laura (Lincoln) Ward, Bev was married in 1957 to the late Ronald Wilbur by whom she had four children. As we go to press, her oldest daughter **Sharon Powell** passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 15 in Wittman, MD age 63. The family had lived in Osceola, Williamstown and Altmar. Bev last lived in Pulaski. She was a member of Half-Shire.



Joseph Rose (May 3 1954-Dec 20 2020) Born the son of Joseph & Nellie (Martin) Rose, Joe was married to the former Valorie Cronk and lived in Parish. Among his survivors are four children and three siblings including our member Linda Taylor, to whom we offer our condolences.

Diane Fanning Hayes (Jul 1 1955-Dec 20 2020) Born in Rome the daughter of Donald & Carol (Stephenson) Fanning, Diane was a 1973 graduate of Camden Schools. She was married to Michael L. Hayes who died in 2016. She is survived by stepson Senator Hayes, two grandsons, two sisters and brother Tom Fanning who is a member of Half-Shire, along with other family to whom we offer sympathy.

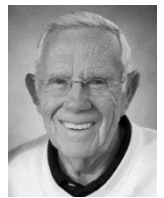
Jerry Britton (Jul 10 1941-Dec 25 2020) Born in Altmar the son of William W. & Julia (Oyer) Britton; Jerry was a 1960 graduate of APW schools. He served in the Air Force and returned in 1965 to marry the former Carole Wright, by whom he has four children. An active player and coach for softball and baseball, Jerry was very involved in the Williamstown community. Among his many survivors are several members of Half-Shire to whom we offer our sympathy.

Mary Clerkin Higgins (Nov 16 1954-Dec 25 2020) Born in Queens daughter of Thomas & Margaret (Walker) Clerkin, Mary and her family relocated to Sandy Creek in her youth, where she graduated in 1972. Mary went on to earn a degree at Fordham in 1976 and apprenticed under renown-stained glass expert Melville Greenland in Chelsea. As the years went by Mary herself became internationally respected for her work in stained glass conservation, working in cathedrals and museums worldwide. She was married in 1976 to Steven Higgins and they have one son Walker. The Higgins family foundation benefitted many organizations in our region thanks to the intercession of Mary's mother Margaret, a life member of Half-Shire to whom along with the entire family we extend our sincere condolences on the untimely loss of this talented and compassionate lady.

Mary Eileen Forbes Morris (Nov 11 1922-Dec 28 2021) Born in Altmar the daughter of Phillip & Anna (Rice) Forbes. Mary was a graduate of Altmar schools in 1939. She was married to Clark Morris who died in 1990. She was the last of a well-known family of eight and is survived by sister-in-law Nancy Forbes of Pulaski and many, many nieces and nephews across the region.

Joan Wilder Spink (Nov 12 1943-Dec 29 2020) Born in Pulaski the daughter of James R. & Venita (Skinner) Wilder, Joan was married to Robert Spink who survives along with their three children Dan, Tim and Maureen. Joan was a member of the Pulaski Class of 1961 and past member.

Michael Mitchell (Mar 20, 1938-Jan 20 2021) Born in Indiana the son of Louis & Anna (Keller) Mitchell, the family moved to Utica, NY in his youth. Mike was married to the former Josephine Ciszek in 1962, by whom he had six children raised in Pulaski where the family owned and operated the Log Cabin Restaurant 1977-2000. The family was all very active in the community. Following the destruction of the restaurant by fire, Mike moved to Florida where he retired.



Bert Mehlenbacher (Nov 26 1924-Jan 21 2021) Born in Oakland, NY son of Bert & Mable (LaBour) Mehlenbacher, Bert Jr. served in the Army during WWII. He was married to the late Alice Zahler of Sandy Creek by whom he has four children who survive along with his brother-in-law Andy Zahler, a long-time member of Half Shire.

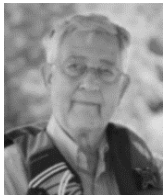
Phillip Beebe (Mar 1940-Jan 26 2021) born in Palermo the son of Bernard and Arlene (Gleason) Beebe. Phil was married to the former Betty Cole who was raised in Redfield by Lee and Claire Yerdon. Together they had five children.

Don Clemons (May 18 1940-Jan 27 2021) Born in Pulaski, the son of Ernest & Nerine (Balch) Clemons, Don was married to Sandra Cone who passed away in 2009 and by whom he had three children. Don was employed at New

Process Gear for 32 years. Besides his three children and five grandchildren are a brother Dean Clemons and three sisters: Donna Balcom, Lindy Perzan, and Darlene Pickett. Several in the family are among our members and we offer our sympathy.

Kay Vaughan Cutchins Billingham (Jan 4 1929-Jan 30 2021) Born in Franklin, VA the daughter of Clifford A. & Sarah (Vaughan) Cutchins, she married Dr. William Billingham and moved to Syracuse where she assisted in his dental practice, raised three children and offered a life of quiet service to countless volunteer organizations. An active member and past 2nd Vice Regent of the Asa Danforth DAR chapter, together with her husband Bill, who long served as an SAR President and officer, they were both well known in heritage circles. The Billinghams were past members of Half-Shire and will be missed by their wide circle of friends.

Leon Archer (Jan 11 1941-Jan 31 2021) Born in Watertown the son of Claude R. & Bertha (Stevenson) Archer, Leon attended Sandy Creek schools, graduating in 1959. He went on to earn his degree at SUNY Albany '64 and taught 32 years in the Fulton City School District. Married to Geraldine "Sue" Yerdon of Redfield in 1961, Leon and Sue had five children and thirteen grandchildren who survive and along with Sue, all have our sincere condolences.



Daniel Hall (Jun 13 1956-Feb 2 2021) Born in Canastota, NY the son Harlan & Geraldine "Boots" (Balcom) Hall. Dan lived in Redfield in the old Balcom family home. He was married to Christine Sevatus of Florence by whom he had four children. Dan is also survived by six siblings, including Arlie Corday and Sarah Clerkin, both members of Half-Shire.

Marie Cummins Wood (Oct 3 1935-Feb 4 2021) Born in Sandy Creek the daughter of Maitland & Myrtle (Woodard) Cummins, Marie attended Sandy Creek Schools. She was married to the late Robert Wood by whom she had two children, John and Roberta. Among her survivors are daughter Roberta Clark, three grandchildren and her brother George Cummins, who along with wife Sybil are valued members of Half-Shire.

Jean Bentley Jones (Apr 9 1921-Feb 4 2021) Born in Pulaski the daughter of William K. & Winifred (Davis) Bentley, Jean was a 1938 graduate of Pulaski schools. She was married to Roy Jones in 1941 and they moved to Utica, NY. Roy's career took them to Florida, Pennsylvania and finally Poland, Ohio, where she died. Three daughters (including member Diane Naples), seven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and many special nephews and nieces including Albert Johnson and Jennifer Nash Cole of Pulaski, survive.

Roberta Chase Merritt (Apr 18 1924-Feb 10 2021) Born in Syracuse the daughter of Homer L. & Elizabeth (Barker) Chase, Roberta was descended from many pioneer families in Boylston and Osceola. She was 1st married to Wallace Cowen, and 2nd to Robert Merritt. She is survived by her five children, 12 grandchildren and 18 great grands. Her daughter Penny Archibee, who lived next to her in Maple View, is a long-time member of ours to whom we extend our sympathy.

Thomas Jackson (Jul 26 1940-Feb 12 2021) Born in Syracuse the son of Thomas & Dorothy (Perkins) Jackson,

Tom worked 30 years for New Process Gear there. He was elected Judge in his adopted community of Redfield and served 15 years. He is survived by his wife Clairette, four step-children and three sisters. Tom was a past member of Half-Shire and we offer our condolences to the family.

Norma Cain Moonan (Aug 5 1932-Feb 15 2021) Born in Derby, England the daughter of Harold & Florence (Moneypenny) Cain, Norma attended school in England and came to the US upon her marriage to Kenneth E. Moonan. Together they operated Moonan's Shoe Store on Jefferson St. in Pulaski from 1961-77. Mr. Moonan passed away in 1978. Norma was well-known and beloved in her adopted community, and her three children Ken, Kelly Allport and Leslie Kline, along with her grandchildren and many friends have our sincere sympathy. (Norma's former daughter-in-law, Angela, manages our website.)



Barbara Stevens White (Oct 6 1934-Feb 17 2021) Born in Pulaski the daughter of Orville & Eleanor (Rose) Stevens, Barb was raised in Orwell and graduated from Sandy Creek Schools in 1952. Married in 1956 to Donald White, the couple had three daughters and four sons. One son, **Eric White (June 28, 1960)** passed away on December 9, 2020. Barb worked many years as a secretary and was well known and loved. She was a member of Half-Shire in recent years, as is her daughter Donna Phillips of Pulaski. Sincere sympathy to the family, especially Donna and Bob Phillips who also suffered the loss of Bob's sister **Patricia Phillips Peralta**, 59 of Oswego on December 13, 2020.



Jacqueline Horr Clutter-Tsyzkiewicz (Feb 15 1955-Feb 21 2021) Born the daughter of Stanley & Ethel (Durfey) Horr, Jackie was raised in Central Square where her family owned the El-Dur Manor Restaurant many years. She was married 1st to the late Albert Clutter and 2nd to the late Jeffrey Tsyzkiewicz. She is survived by sisters Jeanette Stewart of Pulaski and Judy Dery, among others. Several of this family are among our membership.

Leigh M. Monette (Mar 14 1972-Jan 27 2021) Born in Oswego the son of Half-Shire member Leo & Bettie (Knosp) Monette and nephew of our VP, Greg Monette. Leigh died unexpectedly in Colorado. He graduated from Oswego High School in 1989 and was a graduate of SUNY Buffalo. He went on and earned his law degree from the University of Denver College of Law where he was confirmed the degree of Juris Doctor. He had been employed by various law offices. Besides his parents he is survived by two daughters, Aerin and Lydia Monette, both of Colorado, and two brothers, Jeff of Oswego and Mark Monette of Syracuse.

Doris Smith Wadsworth (Jan 6 1921-Mar 1 2021) Born in New Lebanon, NY the daughter of Wm. B. & Sarah Florence (Strang) Smith, Doris was married to Vincent D. Wadsworth. Vincent was brother to the late George, Kelton and Cynthia Wadsworth Atkinson of Pulaski area. Her son, William Wadsworth called us as we were going to print looking to get contact information for his Atkinson and Wadsworth cousins to pass on his mom's death.

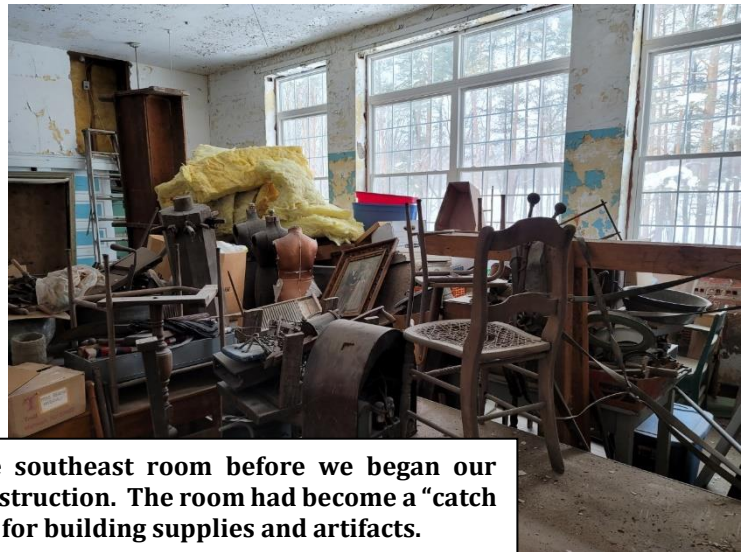
WINTER 2020-2021 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



Members John Allen and Ron Wilson of Oswego have been assisting us with woodworking repair projects. We were delighted that they were able to repair the Fulton DAR cabinet that had been damaged before we had gotten it. The pair next began building custom bookcases for placement in the renovated southeast classroom with adjustable shelving. We are absolutely delighted with their work! John is a retired attorney with Bond, Schoeneck and King, and Ron served as a business manager at Pulaski Schools for several years as part of his career in school finance.



Work is ongoing to re-wrap the 200 years of Oswego City newspapers that we took in between 2017 and 2020. The collection was transferred to us from Oswego County.

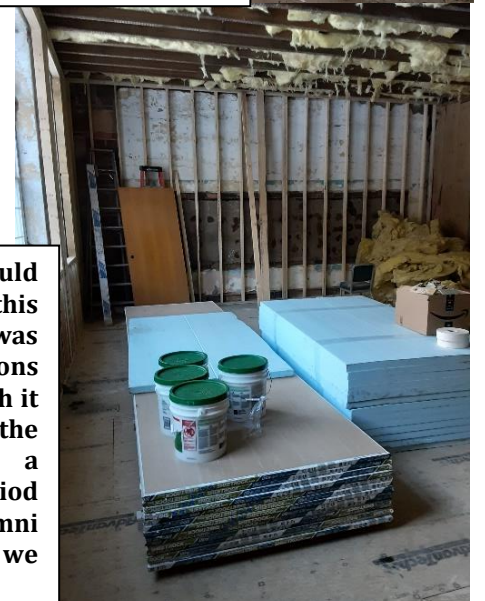


The southeast room before we began our construction. The room had become a "catch all" for building supplies and artifacts.



The annual roof drain icicle on our south wall grew to a height of 25 feet this year before crashing, it presented quite a spectacle.

Work on the southeast classroom should be nearly done by the time this newsletter arrives. This project was funded by a combination of donations and bequests and we went ahead with it as our carpenter had time during the winter. The room will contain a classroom set up to the 1926 period along with extensive school and alumni records from the five school districts we cover.



WINTER 2020-21 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



One of our favorite “Bernie Sanders memes” following the inauguration of President Biden was this one that Carolyn Yerdon posted in January.



The children of the late Harwood & Naomi Miller Donahue (l-r) Cathie McGrath, Marsha LaSell, Louana Hull & Randy Donahue met at Louana’s home in Sandy Creek on Jan. 1st for their annual Donahue family holiday gathering.



On Thursday December 3rd Kenneth Bundy of the Adopt a Gold Star Family Program, came up to Half-Shire and honored our Treasurer Betty Burdick Warren on the 52nd anniversary of her brother Daniel Burdick’s death in Vietnam. Joining Betty in this photo are her husband Marvin and Ken Bundy. The trio enjoyed a lunch provided by Betty’s daughter Robin Philips and were joined by our volunteer Stephanie Pierce who is active in the Pulaski Legion.



Venita Ackley and Fay Colvin at work in the Southwell room this winter.

(Below) While we were unable to present a full Salmon River Winterfest in January 2021, Half-Shire sponsored a snow sculpture contest and two live music events on Facebook. At one event local musician Joe Battles of Altmar (pictured right) played to ten members of the Winterfest committee in attendance and to thousands online. Pictured: Pat & Angie Nolan, Cliff & Kathy Hilton, Brian and Marylou Leary, Jim FitzGerald (our neighbor)



News and Contact Info from Across the Fifteen Townships

Albion—Florence Gardner, Historian and H-S Trustee: Box 394, Altmar, NY 13302. 315-298-5723. Florence was excited to receive a copy of early Pineville Cemetery records. These were found and donated by one of our members and go back to the 1850.

Amboy—Tim Kelley, Historian: 822 NYS Rte. 69, Williamstown, 13493. Phone/Fax: 315-964-1165. amboytownhistorian@gmail.com **H-S Trustee Lori E. Monette:** 1847 Co. Rte. 6, Fulton, NY 13069. 315-657-3579. gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com. The Amboy group last met in October and has not set the 2021 schedule yet.

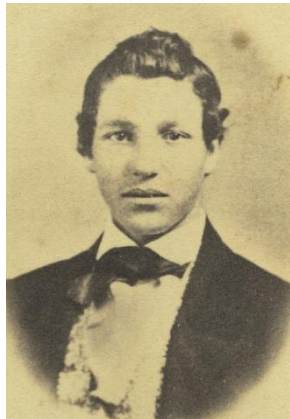
Boylston—Marcy Newman, Historian and H-S Trustee: 184 County Rte. 13, Lacona, NY 13083. 315-387-5458. marcyn@frontiernet.net Marcy said no news but lots of snow!

Camden (Oneida County)—Tim Nichols, Historian: 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982; timngo15@yahoo.com. **Becky Kennedy, H-S Trustee:** 4939 N. Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-0120. rkennedy62@yahoo.com. As we finish the southeast classroom at Half-Shire, we are looking to build a collection of Camden School yearbooks. We encourage anyone looking to part with some to consider donating them here. Our current collection is very small.

Florence (Oneida County)—Sherry McNamara, Historian: 11899 Tompkins Corners, Florence Rd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-0487. **Doreen Tilton, H-S Trustee:** 12334 Florence-Redfield Rd., Camden NY 13316. 315-245-2760. Doreen_Tilton@yahoo.com

Mexico—Judy Greenway, Historian: 503 East Stone Rd, Mexico, NY 13144 315-963-9593. jumangree@yahoo.com **Louise Meyer, H-S Trustee:** 513 Co. Rte. 58., Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-3652. llhjmeier@gmail.com Mexico Historical Society PO 331, 3250 Main St., Mexico, NY 13114 315-963-7853

Last issue we ran a photo purported to be Asa Dean Davis of Mexico, son of Benjamin D. & Rachel Orinda (Buell)Davis of Mexico. The photo was however of his cousin Morgan Bulen (1831-1864) who died at St. Louis, Mo. during the Civil war.



Asa, (pictured above) died in camp at Key West, FL during the war of illness. In a future issue we will discuss the records of Moran Bulen, Asa and the large number of their relations who fought for the Union during the Civil War. We are grateful to Mark Bulen for the correction of our mistake! Meanwhile sales of the new book on Mexico Civil War veterans by Half-Shire

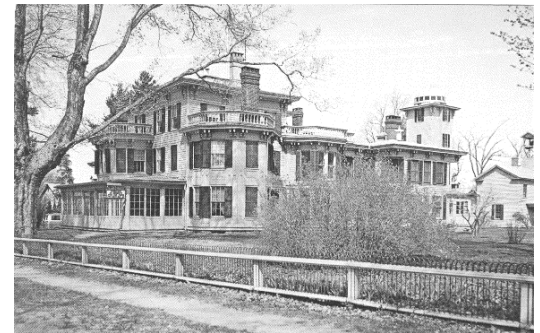
Julie Litts Robst are going well. The 402-page book is well worth the \$70 purchase price for researchers and Civil War buffs. It is based on letters home that were published by the *Mexico Independent* from 1861-1865.

The book will make you cry in some parts, feel proud of the bravery and sacrifice, and better understand the misery of this great war between the states. We highly recommend this book, (\$3 postage)

Montague (Lewis County)—Dave Andolora, Historian: c/o 6353 Salmon River Road, Lowville NY 13367. **Leona Chereshnowski, H-S Trustee:** 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-8836. lchere@hughes.net

New Haven—Debra Allen, Historian: PO Box 141, New Haven, NY 13121. 315-963-3900 x 8. historian@newhavenny.com **Louise Meyer, H-S Trustee:** 513 Co. Rte. 58., Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-3652. llhjmeier@gmail.com. New historian Deb Allen has been in frequent touch with us sharing information and adding to our New Haven records here. Deb also serves as Town of Volney Historian. Member Jeff Jerrett posts many

interesting photos from New Haven and Mexico area. The photo of the right, is one he has



of the old Shephard estate that once dominated the hamlet of New Haven.

Orwell—Rose Graham, Historian and H-S-Trustee: 1999 County Rte. 2, Orwell, NY 13426. 315-298-2070. rosemgrah@yahoo.com. During her time at home this winter Rose has kept busy with work, sorting her records and doing research. We are anxious for spring so we can receive some of Rose's beautiful flowers from her gardens on our tables here!

Osceola (Lewis County)—Richard Ancalm, Historian: 681 Barker Rd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-599-7344. **Leona Chereshnowski, H-S Trustee:** 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-8836. lchere@hughes.net. During COVID Leona and her son Peter Chereshnowski have been sorting the letters and papers of their ancestor "Old Lard" Clemens. The pair have been broadcasting interesting videos on this collection in collaboration with the Tug Hill Commission. The videos can be viewed on You-Tube and searched by the Tug Hill Commission.

Parish—Bridgett Swartz, Historian: P.O. Box 195, Parish, NY 13131. **Venita Ackley, H-S Trustee:** 422 Kipp Rd. Parish, NY 13131. 315-382-6529. ackleyv@gmail.com

Venita Ackley has continued to work at Half-Shire on Tuesdays. She works from the Pomeroy Room with Sharon Turo and Betty Warren where the trio inventory family files and are going through each notebook to assess the content and also replace binders as needed.

Venita is also working on an extensive collection of photos taken in during 2018, scanning and inventorying the work. Of special note are the photos of the late Paul and Elwood Bristol of Redfield, the Lee family of Ellisburg and the Ledger from the Altmar Hotel in the early 1900s. We are indebted to Venita for her dedication to this work!

We were happy to assist member Janet Menter



Gerlack of Oklahoma in obtaining a stone for her mom Bessie Youngs Menter (1904-2000) which

Venita is having placed on the family lot in Pleasant Lawn in Parish this spring.

Redfield—Liz Grant Historian and H-S Trustee: 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-7735.

Carolyn Yerdon of Redfield has to date (March 2) reported 183.7 inches of snow this season.

Richland/Pulaski—Shawn Doyle, Town & Village Historian: 85 Lake St., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-3620 or 602-6388. spdinpul@hotmail.com **Kevin Stewart, Deputy Town Historian:** junkyinny@gmail.com **Robin Philips, H-S Trustee:** 102 Ivens Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-7279. designsofelegance@netzero.net

Preparation for the next term of Snow Scholar work is in the planning stage. This year Carolyn Stainton will complete her 3rd year and we are very grateful to her for her work at scanning Pulaski yearbooks. Carolyn's neighbor Connor Mahaffy will begin his three-year work with us on town historical projects. Connor is the son of Dave Mahaffy and grandson of member Shirley Jacobs Mahaffy. We look forward to his project!

In other news Kevin Stewart and Shawn continue to work on family trees from the Richland/Pulaski area along with Julie Litts Robst. We were delighted to find in our collection a rare 1850 Pulaski newspaper that has a full obituary for pioneer Nathaniel Holmes of Richland who we learn from the article was also a Revolutionary War soldier. Nathaniel is buried in a small family cemetery on Rte. 11 south of Pulaski.

Sandy Creek—Peggy Rice, Historian (Town, Village and Lacona): P.O. Box 52, 1992 Harwood Dr. Sandy Creek, NY 13145. 315-387-5456 x7. schistoriansandycreek@gmail.com Website:

<http://SandyCreeknyhistory.com> **Margaret Kastler, H-S Trustee:** 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083. 315-387-5209. kastlerm@hotmail.com. The History Center in Sandy Creek Town Hall is now open on Fridays 10am-2pm. Peggy has some beautiful and interesting new exhibits on display for all to enjoy.

Sandy Creek Central School District Alumni Association—Sharon Turo '64, President: P.O. Box 256, Sandy Creek, NY. 315-387-3112. slturo@earthlink.net **Margaret Hollis Kastler '51, Historian:** 315-387-5209. kastlerm@hotmail.com The executive committee of the SCCSD Alumni Assoc. will be meeting later this month to determine the chances of having the Annual Meeting & Banquet this year. The newsletter will be delivered to Association members in early May with the committee's decision.

Williamstown—Glenna Gorski, Historian & H-S Trustee: P.O. Box 54, Williamstown, NY 13493. 315-964-2393. lgorski@frontiernet.net Historical Building open Tuesdays: 9 AM to 12 Noon.

Our dear Trustee and historian Glenna underwent some surgery this winter and is recovering at home. This and COVID has set the Williamstown Womans' book work back some. Anne LaDuke and Shawn Doyle meet each Sunday to work on the project, and Becky Kennedy has also done some work from home editing.

We continue to find fascinating information on ladies



from Williamstown's rich past. The story of Delia Fish Taylor (1834-1916), whose father owned one of the earliest Inns located in Williamstown, is one such story. Delia was educated as a teacher but after her marriage did not continue to work. She instilled the value of education in all of her children, and her five daughters were quite remarkable; three were teachers, one an actress and one daughter Isabel (1865-1932) was a medical doctor in Oswego, NY.

Tug Hill Bibles: Ebenezer and Ruth Corey Buell Family of Dugway

(Town of Albion) In the late 1980s while doing some family research, Half-Shire President Shawn Doyle came across some Xerox records of a bible once owned by a maternal uncle Ebenezer Cory Buell (1803-1887) and his wife Adelia Drake (1804-1876). A few years later it was learned the custodian of the Bible was Mary Lago Smith of Richland, a great-grandchild. In subsequent years Doyle and Mrs. Smith discussed loaning the Bible to Half-Shire to get high resolution scans of the records and photos, but something always came up. A few years before her death in 2016 Mrs. Smith had moved in with her daughter Paula Hill in Mexico. Shortly after the move a pipe burst in the home, severely damaging many items in a closet, among which was this Bible and one of the next generation's, Chauncey Barnes (1824-1862) and Ellen Augusta Buell (1828-1912). Paula was able to salvage the photos from the back but the pages were hopelessly sodden and not able to be saved.

The story of these two lost artifacts is told here to "hammer home" the need to get good digital images of artifacts like this that once gone, are irretrievable. Fortunately, we have the Xerox copies from the 1980s to lay out the following record. Ebenezer Buell was the 2nd child (of 15) born to War of 1812 veteran Levi Buell (1774-1851) who came to Oswego County from Killingworth, Connecticut by way of Fairfield, Herkimer County, NY where he was thrice married, the first wife being Ebenezer's mother, Phoebe Cory (1779-1803).

All items in parentheses are added by our editor to clarify information.

Page 1- Births and Marriages

Ebenezer C. Buell was married to Adelia Drake (at New Haven (Oswego County) December 31, 1827 by Elder R. T. Smith (*Adelia was the daughter of Chauncey Drake, 1773-1844 and Hannah Cozzens, 1775-1849*))

Chauncey Barnes was married to Ellen A. Buell at Albion July 15, 1849 by Elder D. Delano

Hugh H. Baker was married to Antoinette L. Buell (at Albion November 30, 1854 by the Rev. Mr. Plylas (sp.?)

James Parkhurst was married to Caroline T. Buell (at Albion September 15, 1855 by Rev. Mr. Plylas (?))

Ebenezer C. Buell was born in Fairfield, (Herkimer County, NY) July 17, 1803

Adelia P. Drake was born September 30, 1804 at Parish (Madison County, NY)

Ellen Augusta Buell was born (in) Liverpool (Onondaga County, NY) December 19, 1828

Antoinette Louisa Buell was born (in) Salina (Onondaga County) October 9, 1834

Caroline Theodosia Buell was born (in) Clay (Onondaga County) October 2, 1837

Artemesia Marion Buell was born (in) Clay (Onondaga County) July 25, 1839

Francis Cornelia Buell was born (in) Clay (Onondaga County) March 4, 1832 died the next May

"On the 19th day of February 1851 there was a pair of twin daughters born to Chauncey and Ellen" (Ellen Buell and husband Chauncey Barnes)

Page 2 Births and Deaths

Chauncey Barnes was born December 21, 1824 at Winfield, NY

Ellen A, Buell was born December 19, 1828 at Liverpool

Florence A. and Frances A. Barnes was born February 19, 1851 in Albion

Orrin C. Barnes was born March 13, 1852 in Albion

Adelia E. Barnes was born March 6, 1854 in Albion

William J. Barnes was born May 17, 1856

Elmer E. Barnes was born (in) Albion June 14, 1861

Frances Cornelia Buell died May 27, 1842 aged 12 weeks

Frances (Barnes) one of the twins died February 25, 1851 age 6 days, Florence (Barnes) the other twin died March 3, 1851 age 12 days

Chauncey Barnes died in the Army at Union Mills, Fairfax County, Va. March 19, 1862 age 37.

Adelia C. Barnes died (in) Parish on August 5, 1867 age 13

William C. Barnes died (in) Syracuse October 21, 1891

Photos in the back included: 1- Ebenezer and Adelia (Drake) Buell; 2- James C. and Caroline (Buell) Parkhurst; **3-Mary Ann (Smith) Field (1836-1881)** half niece of Ebenezer); 4-George E. C. Buell (1845-1862); 5-Clarissa Barnes (unknown relation); 6-Lucy Buell Howard (1817-1863, half-sister of Ebenezer Buell); 7-Maria Van Tassel Demelt (1847-1923, half-niece of Ebenezer Buell); 8-Alvin D. Howard (1845-1920, half-nephew of Ebenezer Buell); and 9-John Levi Howard (1846-1863, half-nephew of Ebenezer Buell, died at Battle of Wilderness)

(Right) this photo of Mary Ann Smith Field was one of the photos in the back of the Ebenezer Buell Bible. She was a half-niece of his by his sister Wealthy Buell Smith VanTassell Pitcher.



Trustee Spotlight: Margaret Hollis Kastler, Sandy Creek



Margaret was born in Lacona on the Hollis homestead, the daughter of Lawrence Hollis (1897-1982) & Ina White (1895-1966). She attended Sandy Creek schools and following her graduation in 1951, Margaret served in the Army. She married and raised three children. Her sons Peter and Thomas have passed away, daughter Karen Lippe lives in West Palm beach,

Florida, she has 14 grandchildren of whom she is proud.

She also ran her own business for 10 years and worked 15 years as Director of Ainsworth Memorial Library in Sandy Creek.

She has always been an active volunteer with numerous organizations. Some of them included NOCA Ambulance Corps, the Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association, the Dune Coalition, Half-Shire Historical Society, the Sandy Creek Central School District Alumni Association. During those years, she also continued her education and earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Utica/Rome Technology.

Margaret's life in public service spanned over 40 years serving as Sandy Creek Town Assessor, Supervisor and as Oswego County District 1 Legislator. She retired in 2020.

Today, Margaret enjoys, among other things, working outdoors in her yard, feeding the birds and keeping track of the other wildlife that visit her yard. She also enjoys watching old movies on TV and before Covid-19, eating out with friends.

Except for her years in the military and in Florida, Margaret has been at home in the house she grew up in on Wheat Hill. Her energetic approach to volunteerism and public service has brought her into contact with a wide range of people to the benefit of the wider community of northern Oswego County. Margaret's intimate knowledge of the people and local history of the area is incomparable. Fortunately for both the Sandy Creek History Room and Half-Shire, Margaret is more than happy to share what she knows!

Fall Raffle Winners

Our winners of the Winter Raffle were drawn on Facebook live on March 3rd by Sharon Turo and Marcy Newman. 1st place Dave Loveland, Camden who selected the hand-crafted afghan by Nancy Blackwell of Morton, Illinois, 2nd place Carolyn Yerdon of Redfield who selected the DNA kit, and 3rd place Terri Howard of Pulaski the white afghan by Lillian Frazier of Pulaski.

For the spring raffle we have a DNA kit and two afghans hand-crafted by members to choose from or a book of choice.

Guess who? Way Back:

In last quarter's "Guess Who" we again stumped everyone. The photo, shown here, was a late 1950s photo of a Sandy Creek Girl Scout Troup led by Mrs. (Dorie) Burch Reed decorating a Christmas tree. Clockwise from the top center:



Mrs. Reed, Bonnie Bettinger, Pat Thompson (bending over), Kathleen Keating, Cheri Bartholomew, Karen Stafford, Sharon Turo, Cindy Fuller and Martha Prescott.

In this contest we have a scene from a Tug Hill classroom in 1914. The teacher was a life-long resident of the area and well-respected in her community and across the region.

Winners will be selected from two mailing districts:



people who live in zip codes beginning "13---" and all others. This is how the mail goes out. First call or email from each mailing district will earn a year's membership and a Half-Shire publication of their choice.

Books for Sale

Enclosed in the packet is a selection of books for sale from our gift shop.

Special note: The new Evergreen Cemetery of Orwell book is finally done after two years! This 512-page volume was assembled using all available material including maps, ledgers, and other records. The \$80 cost is really well worth the content within. Full obituaries are included on most all burials, with vital statistics where available. (\$4 shipping).

NEW! The 1861-1869 Mexico Independent Vital record book is ready and available for \$45 plus \$3 shipping. The 257-page book is jam packed with genealogical data gleaned from the papers.

Half-Shire Historical Society
P.O. 73, 1100 County Rte. 48
Richland, New York 13144-0073

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Meetings and Upcoming Events for 2021***

- Sat. Mar. 27, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Apr. 24, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. May 22, 2021 SAR State Meeting (Private)
- Sat. May 29, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Jun. 19, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Jul. 24, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Aug. 28, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Sep. 25, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 23, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 20, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.

- 2nd Sat. Apr. -Nov. 2021 Ontario Chapter DAR Regular meeting, (Private) noon
- 2nd Sat. Apr. -Nov. 2021 Kayandatsayana-Ft. Oswego Chapter DAR Regular meeting, (Private) noon

*****All Events are subject to cancelation depending on the COVID situation and warnings in our area, best to contact us ahead at 315-298-2986 or Shawn Doyle at 315-298-3620
Facebook "Mary White/Halfshire"**

(Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are at Richland headquarters)

Half-Shire Headquarters is located in the former Richland School building at
1100 County Route 48 North in the Hamlet of Richland NY, (Just north of the County Route 2 intersections)

*Meetings subject to Change - see the Local Papers or our Facebook "Mary White"
Or call the Society at 315-298-2986 or Shawn Doyle at 315-298-3620