



# 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

June 2020

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

Vol. XLVI No. 2

## HONORING MY ANCESTORS CONTRIBUTED BY DR. STEVEN BOVEE

I am blessed to have inherited from my grandfather, Melvin J. Bovee (1899-1988), a deep love for family and genealogy. We were very close and the stories and photographs he shared with me over the years are some of my greatest treasures. Among the stories he shared was his fond recollections of his own grandfather and grandmother, Daniel (1836-1919) and Elizabeth Ann Yerdon Bovee (1843-1915).

Daniel B. Bovee was born in Onondaga County to George Adam Smith Bovee (1807-1873) and Maria Yeardon/Jordan (1804-?). Elizabeth was born in Minden, NY to Peter George (1802-1891) and Nancy Elizabeth (1802-1852) Yerdon. Elizabeth's family moved from Morristown, NY to the Redfield area about 1852 and Daniel's family relocated to East Rodman, NY about 1858. Daniel and Elizabeth married in 1859 in Barnes Corners, NY.



At the outbreak of the Civil War, Daniel (August 1861, age 25) and his brother, Melvin V. Bovee (September 1861, age 20) enlisted in Company A of the 86<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry at Lakeport, NY. The 86<sup>th</sup> NY Regiment, known as the "Steuben Rangers," organized at Elmira, NY and mustered in November 20, 1861. They left NY for Washington, D.C., November 23, 1861, attached to the Army of the Potomac, defending the Capital through late 1862. They participated in General Pope's campaign in northern VA in August 1862, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Bull Run, where Melvin was wounded in the leg. They were engaged in a battle at Centreville, VA in September, a skirmish at Manassas Gap, VA in November, and the Battle of Fredericksburg in December. In a letter written home on January 29, 1863 from Camp Falmouth, VA, Melvin mentions sending \$25 of duty pay home to help his family. He also notes that, following several stormy days, they had to abandon an advance because of the muddy roads and he had to sleep in the snow and mud. He goes on to say that in the spring "we will give the Rebs a trial as they have never had." He closes the letter reminiscing about home, saying "I want to move back the lake again [Oneida]... although I may never see the lake again."<sup>1</sup>

In April and early May 1863, the 86<sup>th</sup> participated in the Chancellorsville campaign, including the Battle of Chancellorsville, where they sustained heavy losses while engaging General Stonewall Jackson and the Army of Northern VA. Daniel was shot in the back of the head by a musket ball, but survived, carrying the indentation on the back of his head for the rest of his life (as recalled by my grandfather). The 86<sup>th</sup> was engaged again in June at Beverly Ford, Bealton Station, and Fairfax Court House, VA, before advancing to Gettysburg, PA on July 1. At Gettysburg, the 86<sup>th</sup> was attached to General Sickles' 3<sup>rd</sup> Corp, positioned adjacent to Devil's Den, in front of Rose Woods. The fighting here on July 2<sup>nd</sup> was intense and Melvin sustained a mortal wound, "shot fighting bravely," as noted in his military file. Daniel continued on, pursuing Robert E. Lee back to VA.

Daniel reenlisted in December and fought with the 86<sup>th</sup> at the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864. In a letter written home in June, following this horrific battle, (Cont. on page 3)

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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.

<sup>1</sup> Letter contained in pension file for Melvin V. Bovee, obtained from the U.S. Archives.

**The Half-Shire Historical Society**

**P.O. 73; 1100 County Rte. 48, Richland, NY 13144-0073**

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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**

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<b>Secretary (2020)</b>	Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY 13029	315-447-4270	<a href="mailto:facolvin@windstream.net">facolvin@windstream.net</a>
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	Liz Grant, 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437	315-599-7735	(no email)

***President's Report, Shaw Doyle—***

Wow....how the world has changed since I last wrote this message. At the first week of March we all were busy planning for what was scheduled to be our busiest spring ever. On March 14 we hosted our first lunch meeting of the year to a large crowd, and we nervously looked for the news the week ahead to know what we were "in for". The prior day, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> no less, officers of the Central NY SAR had come up to discuss the planned State lunch meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and at that point we decided to cancel.

As the next week rolled around NYS cancelled everything else for us, and here as I write on May 18<sup>th</sup> we still do not know when we will next gather as a group in Richland, three private parties, the Dinner Dance and the DAR roundtable have all been canceled in the last two months, with three class reunions, and all Alumni weekend events cancelled for June.

At the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting we had the forethought to select the best low bidder, Joshua Philips, to work on the Pomeroy room construction "when he could". With everything closed that turned out to be right away. As Josh worked efficiently each night, we as a board set up an officers Facebook page, and between that and email voted to continue with Josh and repair the men's room as well as finally finish the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor foyer and flooring. Many other incidental projects were added on as time went on, and as of today we are all caught up, with a fresh coat of paint on all the entryway hall walls, up and downstairs.

With two new donors stepping up the last two classroom doors will be sent to the refinisher and mounted on all new ash woodwork, replacing the 100-year-old, but badly damaged and lead paint coated doorways.

The gem of our spring work of course is the new Wm. Pomeroy Genealogy Library in the old coal room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. This room brings all the genealogies in one place, with other related items in the cabinets.

And so, when we finally can reopen later this spring you all will see a building quietly and nicely transformed! Still on the docket is the back wall and hardwood flooring for the stage, a new stage curtain, and some minor work in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway with new ceiling and lighting---which just may get done by mid-June, if funds allow.

On the accession and research side, our volunteers have been busy editing the Williamstown Ladies book, Julie Litts Robst has been completing the Orwell Cemetery book, and many good collections of photos and artifacts have been coming in, with a table full of books awaiting Greg Monette to accession and shelve upstairs!

With people at home in quarantine, we received many, many requests for research help this spring. We are still trying to get all of these requests filled. I personally have been back on the road for work five days a week, so this has limited my time at the building. We hope to resume normalcy this summer, and when we do look forward to seeing everyone!

*(Cont. from page 1)* Daniel writes: "I am thankful to God that I am yet spared the privilege to write once more... I will give you a short detail of our regiment. We left camp on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May at eleven o'clock p.m. and on the 4<sup>th</sup> we crossed the Rapidan River. We slept on the old battlefield of Chancellorsville with 350 men in our regiment. On May 5<sup>th</sup> we became engaged. On the 6<sup>th</sup> many noble soldiers fell, never to arise in this world. Also, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the brave soldier and my dear friend, George Mazervea, got his death wound through both legs and had his left leg amputated. On the 7<sup>th</sup> he gave his life for his country. His loss is felt by his friend who mourns his sad fate. But he died like a soldier true to the Union cause and country... We broke camp on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 350 men and today we have 90 men for duty. In Company A we had 8 wounded and 2 killed... We lost out of 350 men in all, 200 men killed, wounded, or missing. We lost 116 in five minutes on a charge on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May... On the 12<sup>th</sup>, our Corps charged in mass, fighting for six hours without relief. We fought with 7 lines of battle. Our loss was not so heavy by  $\frac{1}{4}$  as the Rebels for we had rifle pits to fight behind. We have defeated the Rebel Lee at every point. We are within 7 miles of the Rebel Capital at Richmond."<sup>2</sup>



Daniel continued to serve with the 86<sup>th</sup> through the end of the War, engaged at the Siege at Petersburg, witnessing Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and participating in the Grand Review of troops in Washington DC on May 23, 1865. He was mustered out and returned home on June 27, 1865. He is pictured here in uniform in 1866.

After the war, Daniel and Elizabeth moved to Greenboro, where they operated a store, post office, and smithy and raised six children. Their first was named Melvin, after Daniel's late brother, and died at 8 months. Two years later in 1869, Jennie was born, followed by my great-grandfather, Franklin<sup>3</sup>, and his twin sister, Frances (Fannie) in 1871 and later Orra Etta (1878) and Florence (1883). In 1898, the family sat for a portrait, pictured on page 1 (Frances, Jennie, and Franklin on the back row; Daniel, Etta, Florence, and Elizabeth in the front row.

I recently came into possession of this family picture and two charcoal/crayon drawings of Daniel and Elizabeth, made from this portrait. The drawings were in fragile condition and badly water stained when I received them. With the help of a professional conservator, I was able to restore and preserve these important pieces of my past, as illustrated below.<sup>4</sup>

I am grateful for the significant sacrifices endured by Daniel and Elizabeth and proud to display these treasures in my home to be shared, along with the stories, with future generations of Bovees.



***(Above) Daniel Bovee, Wife Elizabeth (Yerdon) and their family as restored and hanging on Dr. Steve Bovee's walls at home in Churchville, NY. Dr. Bovee, a native of Belleville, is Executive Director of Community Development at Roberts Wesleyan College in Chili, New York. He is a valued and active member of Half-Shire.***

<sup>2</sup> Letter contained in pension file for Daniel B. Bovee, obtained from the U.S. Archives.

<sup>3</sup> Franklin would name his first son (my grandfather) Melvin Jay, in honor of his uncle. His son (my father) was also named Melvin Maxwell.

<sup>4</sup> Gary Albright is the former conservator at the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY. As noted on his website (<http://garvealbright.com/>), "During his career he has treated a diverse array of objects, including the Emancipation Proclamation, Honus Wagner baseball cards, Ansel Adams' photographs, Paul Revere's "The Bloody Massacre," and working drafts of the Constitution of the United States."

## 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 under 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 twelve towns and its people in all we do, and this small selection is just a sample of our weekly additions.)*

**Melbourne Edward "M.E." Griffith** (Mar 18 1931-Nov 28 2017) Born in Syracuse, NY the son of Melbourne & Anna (Riley) Griffith, "M.E." was a member of over 20 years and supported us in our early days at reorganization. We just learned about his death in trying to contact him in Corona, California where he had been living with his daughter Tammy Morrow. We were unaware of his death now over two years ago. The tree we just took down on our SW corner was dedicated to the memory of his late wife Cleo, and the new rose tree replacing it continues that tribute.

**Wayne Ewart** (Jun 26 1963-Feb 17 2020) Born in Oneida the son of Lewis & Karen (Bolton) Ewart, Wayne was employed many years at Harden Furniture. His father is a long-time member of Half-Shire, and besides him, Wayne is survived by four sisters, two brothers and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

**Keith Reynolds** (Jan 23 1961-Mar 5 2020) Born the son of Orlando & Charlotte (Sargent) Reynolds, Keith was raised in Richland where he spent most of his life, recently relocating to North Carolina. He was married to the former Laurie Minkler, and he worked 26 years for Fulton Boiler Works in Pulaski. Keith is survived by his wife, their son Shane and daughter Janell and 3 grandchildren, along with two brothers: Kelly and Tim and three sisters Marie Yerdon, Lou Ann Reynolds and Kathy Porter. Many of this family have been supporters of Half-Shire and have our sympathy.

**Edith Shoup Marsden** (Aug 10 1924-Mar 6 2020) Born in Adams, NY the daughter of William F. & Mildred (King) Shoup, Edith was married to Donald "Jack" Marsden of Mexico and together they raised their family in the north part of the town. Edith was a longtime secretary for the Commissioner of Social Services in Mexico and retired in 1984. She was a member of Half-Shire and a great supporter in collection of genealogy. Edith worked many years at the County Fair with our group, and she will be greatly missed.

**Dorothy Johnson Tubbs** (Nov 24 1918-Mar 6 2020) Born in Albion, Dorothy was the daughter of Frederick & Nina (Palmer) Johnson. The couple operated a dairy farm in Orwell and made maple syrup. They later moved to Pulaski where Dorothy was an active community volunteer for many years. Among her survivors are three children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Several family members belong to Half-Shire.

**John Currier** (Dec 1 1934-Mar 7 2020) formerly of Osceola, John was born December 1, 1934 in Rome, the son of Ralph & Lucille (Colvin) Currier. He graduated from Camden High School and was married to Beatrice Therbert on June 13, 1969. Beatrice passed away July 6, 2018. He was employed by Schoeller Technical Papers in Pulaski for 20 years, retiring in 2000. He had previously been employed by Agway Fuel Services. He is survived by three sons, a brother Bud, and a sister Ruth in Osceola.

**Ronald E. Jones** (Apr 26 1924-Mar 18 2020) Born just over the line in Redfield the son of Floyd & Ethel (Bardin) Jones, Ron was a life-long resident of the Redfield/Florence border along the old state Rd. Ron graduated from Redfield Union School in June 1941. He bought his family farm in 1942 and became a dairy farmer. In 1959 he began a life-long career as an on the road salesman for oil companies. By his first wife, Ron had six children, four sons Wayne, Gary, Robert, and Floyd survive, two daughters died as infants.



In 1971 Ron was married to the "love of his life" the former Tena Davis of Florence. Together the pair were active in their community, and Ron supplied dinner and dance music to local establishments from 1995-2010. Ron was a true Tug Hill legend and known for his

ultra-light flying, his love of hunting and trapping, as well as his great musical talent.

**Vera "Carnell" Dewey** (Jul 15 1927-Mar 28 2020) Born in Campbell, Missouri the daughter of Samuel & Ona Hicks, Carnell lived in Pulaski over 60 years. She is survived by her two daughters, Susan Carr and Sandra Johnson by her late husband Lewis Dewey. For many years Carnell was bookkeeper at Peter's Appliances. She was a member of our society and died in Hudson, Florida after a brief illness.

**Robert Walker** (Oct 30 1929-Mar 22 2020) son of Robert & Teresa (Lawson) Walker. He married the former June Newton and the couple made their home in Chaumont, NY. Bob served in the Korean War and was at Inchon. Bob & June both have been very active and supportive members of Half-Shire.

**Suzanne K. Kidney** (Sep 21 1943-Mar 31 2020) Born in Florence the daughter of William & Alice (Manley) Kidney, Suzie was a 1961 graduate of Camden Schools. She was a devoted communicant and supporter of St. Mary's Church in Florence and later attended St. Patrick's in Taberg. She worked 1983-2017 at Mystic Stamp in Camden and was a well-known gardener and friend to many. Suzie is survived by her longtime companion Leo Seaton of Florence, two sisters Joyce Willson and Jane Kessler, her brother in law Stedman Twiss and many nieces and nephew. Suzie was a treasured friend of Half-Shire, and many in this family are also members of our Society.



**Pauline Britton Hale** (Jun 25 1940-Apr 1 2020) Born in Williamstown the daughter of William & Julia (Oyer) Britton, Pauline attended local schools and married James Hale in 1959. Known as "Maudie", Pauline worked for the local phone exchange many years, and later in the cafeteria at Williamstown Elementary School. She was a devout Catholic, and member of the Williamstown Historical Society. She is survived by a large family that include three daughters and two sons along with 23 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren. Several members of the family have been involved in Half-Shire over the years.

**Gary Sweeney** (Mar 7 1938-Apr 1 2020) Born in Pulaski son of William & Clorys (Rossman) Sweeney, Gary attended Pulaski Schools and went on to a career in the Steamfitters Union Local #263. Gary was married to the current County Fair President the former Carol LaVere. Both have been very involved with the Fair and its operation for many years. He leaves behind his wife, and three daughters and a stepson, as well as six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**June Cates Hilliker** (Jun 26 1932-Apr 3 2020) Born in Pulaski, June was the daughter of Robert & Mildred (Stock) Cates. She graduated from Pulaski Schools in 1949 and worked for Oswego County and Lincoln bank over a long career. June has two sons Brian and Scott by her former husband Arthur Hilliker, along with four grand and one great-granddaughter. June was a beloved presence in Pulaski.



**Krupke Family:** The Eastern Lake Ontario Region was very saddened and shocked by three death in three weeks in one well respected family: **Barbara Jane Adams Krupke** (Jul 7 1936-Apr 6 2020) born in Watertown the daughter of Henry & Bessie (Wilbur) Adams, Jane graduated from Adams High School in 1954 and was married in 1957 to **Charles Krupke** (Jan 22 1938-Apr 6 2020). Charles was born in New Britain, CT. the son of Eric & Muriel (Turgeon) Krupke. He graduated from Altmar

School in 1956. Together, Chuck & Jane raised three sons and a daughter. The Krupkes operated a popular restaurant on Jefferson St. from 1963-79 in Pulaski, a popular stop for all ages. Chuck and Jane purchased and expanded the Redwood Motel on Rte. 13 operating it from 1973-2006. They were devout members of the Catholic church and were very active in most all facets of community life in Pulaski. Chuck was a founding member of the Pulaski Health Center, President of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and for many years, president of the Pulaski/Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce. He enjoyed flying his Cessna 172 from Richland Airport, and actively promoted that airfield. The Krupke children Bruce, Dan, Bill and Becky were always involved alongside their parents in community activities. Dan serves as Town of Richland Supervisor. **Bruce** passed away on March 15<sup>th</sup> after a battle with cancer. Chuck and Jane returned from their winter home during Bruce's final days and fell victim to the COVID virus.

**Amber Coffie** (Aug 5 1991-Apr 10 2020) Born in Watertown the daughter of Kelly & Ellen (Coffie) Reynolds, Amber grew up in Richland and graduated from Pulaski Schools in 2009. She passed away unexpectedly after a short illness, leaving a large family to mourn her passing. Amber's family have attended many events at Half Shire over the years, she is stepsister to Life Member Rodney Tilkins.

**Carolyn Dowd Fitzpatrick** (May 16 1949-Apr 12 2020) Born the daughter of James Clancy & Mary Louise (Flynn) Dowd of Syracuse. Carolyn served as President of the Jefferson County Historical Society and served several years as Chairwoman of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators. She was quite simply, a pillar of arts, culture, and politics in the North Country. She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Jim, their two sons and grandchildren. Carolyn was a recent subscriber of ours, and we had most recently worked together on research on Tyler Coverlets. She will be greatly missed!

**Rose Marie Link Doane** (Sep 25 1937-Apr 16 2020) born in Westdale, daughter of Pliny & Olive (Smith) Link, Rose graduated from Camden Schools in 1956 and married Artimus Doane in 1959. She wrote a popular column in the Queen Central News many years on cooking and homemaking. Rose also was active in the community with the VFW. Among her survivors are her five children, twenty grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren and two brothers, Richard and George Link, the latter is an active member of Half-Shire.



**Ira J. Halsey**, (Jul 13 1963-Apr 17 2020) born son of Lyle & Jean Allen Halsey. A 1981 graduate of Pulaski, Ira was married to the former Tracy Davenport by whom he had three children. Ira had a great sense of humor and was very kind. He is also survived by brother Fred Jenson, and sisters Shirley Hanley, Carol Quencer and Marion Jenson, all Half-Shire members. Ira died due to Covid complications.

**Thomas D. LaClair** (1938-Apr 18 2020) Born the son of T. Maynard & M. Isabel (Bond) LaClair and raised in Mexico, NY. Tom was a graduate of Mexico High and SUNY Oswego. He taught Industrial Arts at various Onondaga County Schools and later entered administration. He was past President of the NYS Technology Education Association and received national recognition for his work. Among his survivors are his wife of 69 years Esther, his three daughters and his sister Luella Laney, a life member of our Society.

**Loren Teachout** (Oct 24 1945-Apr 18 2020) Born the son of Rex & Emma (Hilton) Teachout, Loren was raised in Pulaski where the family had a farm south of the village. He owned and operated Walker's Cleaners for many years, retiring in 2018. Loren is best known for his years as part of the Salmon River Boys Country Music band. The group was composed of family members from the Hilton

and Teachout family and played old time music and square dances, performing at Half-Shire many times over the years. Among his survivors are his wife, the former Florence Rude, two brothers and two sisters.

**Arlene Stevens Davey Joss** (Aug 19 1933-Apr 19 2020) Born in Syracuse the daughter of Leon & Clara (Fisher) Stevens, Arlene's parents were killed in a car accident when she was seven, and she was raised by her Aunt, Mildred Fisher Tobin. In 1958 she married Lloyd Davey of Altmar, and together they operated a dairy farm. Lloyd died in 1993. Arlene later married widower Edison Joss of Pulaski and lived on the Joss farm on Lake Rd. Edison died in 2012. Among her survivors are son Ray, and numerous grand and great grandchildren along with her Joss family.

**Marian Murphy Stanton** (Jun 7 1936-Apr 26 2020) Born in Fulton the daughter of Richard & Marie (McDonough) Murphy, Marian graduated from Fulton High and went on to earn a degree at Syracuse University. She worked as a legal secretary in New York before returning to Fulton to assist with the family store, Murphy's Gift Shop. Following retirement in 1985 Marian began an active career in volunteerism. She was the first President of the Friends of History of Fulton which acquired the Pratt House and began their museum. Marian served on countless committees and boards and approached everything with boundless enthusiasm. Marian is survived by her daughter Susan Raby and family of Oswego, brother Richard of Webster and sister Eleanor Vayner of Fulton, along with many close friends and colleagues who mourn her loss.

**Charles Lewis** (Aug 9 1936-Apr 27 2020) Born in Pulaski the son of Herbert & Alma (Trumble) Lewis, Charles graduated from Pulaski Schools in 1953 and in 1959 married his wife nearly 61 years the former Dana Redway and raised a family of three. Charles served in the US Army from 1959-65 and was active in the community from The American Legion to youth hockey. His wife Dana, and children Lance, Larry and Leslie Corbo have our sincere sympathy.

**Maureen McGrath Ferazzoli** (Feb 17 1943-May 1 2020) Born in Oswego the daughter of Maurice & Winnifred (O'Mara) McGrath, Maureen retired from Oswego Abstract Co. She was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Sgt. James Ferazzoli of the Sheriff's Dept. Maureen is survived by two sons and her siblings, Betsy Dralle, Daniela and Joseph McGrath, the latter a long-time supporter of Half-Shire who lives in Fernwood. Our sympathy to the family in their loss.

**Thomas Paine Burton** (Mar 15 1932-May 6 2020) Born in Watertown the son of Charles & Gertrude (Lee) Burton, Tom was raised in Belleville and later Pulaski where he graduated in 1950 and went on to Hobart College. Tom worked for several years for Sen. H. Douglas Barclay & later Sen. McEwen. Tom was well-known and highly regarded in the region.

**Bessie Shaw Matteson** (Apr 16 1916-May 7 2020) Born in Sauquoit, NY the daughter of Frank & Flora (Phelps) Shaw, Bessie was married to the late Myron Matteson (1915-2004) whose family were from Orwell. Bessie was the acknowledged matriarch of the Ballou family that meets annually in Redfield, and she was honored as "Sr. Ms. Redfield" a few years before she turned 100. She is survived by a very large family who mourn her loss.

**Donna Jacobs Widrig** (1935-May 13 2020) Born in Oswego the daughter of Clinton & Annabelle (Mullen) Jacobs, Donna was raised in Mexico, NY. She was married to William Widrig who predeceased her. Donna was active in Mexico Historical Society, she was sister to our member Shirley Mahaffy, and is also survived by three sons and a daughter, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

**Victor Waggoner** (Jan 8 1969-May 30 2020) born the son of Victor & Linda (Phillips) Waggoner, "Vic" was a life-long resident of Orwell. He was an active member of the Pulaski Masons, and seasoned the chickens weekly prior to the Bar-B-Que. He passed away as we are ready to go to press following a recent battle with cancer. He is survived by his mother, a son Joshua and two sisters Pam and Pat all of Orwell. Our sympathy to the entire family, Linda is an active member of Half-Shire.

# SPRING 2020 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



Our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was well attended before the lockdown



**Anne Gibbs Miller**, winner of March drawing & her husband **Everett Miller**



**Brian Leary** & "Kimbo" apparently were underfoot a little too much during quarantine and were "locked out" by Mary Lou.



An unidentified member said, "screw the toilet paper" and stocked up on merlot wine instead.

The upstairs hall hardwood floor was installed in April, and since that time our carpenter has been Rebuilding each doorway with new ash to match the original design. Doors were refinished thanks to members **Jean White Ratio**, **Donald White** and **Greg & Lori Monette**. Additional doors are going out to be refinished thanks to **Fay Ann Yerdon Colvin**, and **Shawn Doyle**. The Pomeroy room was completed in April by **Josh Philips** and now houses our Genealogy collection.



**Bessie Matteson** waved to friends & family from her window on her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>. Three weeks later she passed away after a household accident



**Brian Leary** helped move the 8' tall cherry cabinet donated by **Mark Fruce** from the former Fulton woolen mill.



Member **Kathy Hilton** with the new quarantine roommate she & **Cliff** took in...

# SPRING 2020 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



The wreck of the 19<sup>th</sup> century schooner *Hartford* has been a popular site to visit since it washed ashore Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> near the mouth of Sandy Pond. A brief story of the *Hartford* appears on page 10.



Local musicians **Joe Battles** and **Brett Falso** have been playing live concerts Tuesdays and Friday to keep spirits up during the pandemic. They were first sponsored by Half-Shire in March, and each week local businesses have been sponsoring these great artists



Member **George Stevens** & his wife **Michelle** finally were able to break out for ice cream recently. George has kept many entertained during lockdown in social media with his wonderful gospel music videos filmed often outside, along with his rich collection of historical photos including this one of his maternal grandparents **George & Violet Potter Plummer** in their 1925 swim attire.



Internationally known weather watcher **Carolyn Yerdon** modeling the latest snow lady apparel on a snow blown fashion runway in Greenboro,



Our Trustee **Rose Graham** & her husband **Ken** are also dedicated country dancer and were prevented from much of this due to the virus while in Florida

Volunteer **Gayle Brosnan-Watters** with the quilt that she made & **Peg Neiper** finished off was won by **Mary Hurd Patterson** of Pennsylvania.



### Ludington Bible Records, with the Miller Family Addendum

On May 16<sup>th</sup> our volunteer, Cheryl Potts of Orwell brought in a large 1873 bible that she had been given by Laurie Sheltra of Orwell for us. The bible is in good condition and has the expected pages of records in between the new and old testament for, in this case, the family of Homer & Mary (House) Ludington of Parish, NY. What else we found in the bible amongst the inserts was what really made this accession one of great interest.

Homer Archibald Ludington was born in Parish December 15, 1847, the son of Franklyn & Katherine (Davey) Ludington. Homer was the 5<sup>th</sup> of seven children born to this couple. The Ludington family had come to Oswego County from Connecticut early in the 1800s, while the Davey family had long been in New York State, coming into Oswego County from Otsego.

The bible was given to Homer by his mother Katherine, in 1884. Homer had married the former Mary A. House in 1867. Mary was the daughter of Simon & Pamela (Rowe) House, and she descended from a solid line of American patriots, the House family having served in large numbers in the American Revolution. At the time Homer and Mary received the bible they had three children and entered their names on the pages. The bible seems to have passed down to their eldest son, Franklyn Gerald Ludington (1872-1950) who in turn married Jessie Isabel Miller (1873-1949). Many of the entries are likely in Jessie's hand.

Also, among the bible pages are countless obituaries and marriage announcements that span all families. Among these clippings we found what looked like an old savings bank booklet, which was inscribed on the front with information on a Sunday School conference in Syracuse in 1901. When we opened this, we had the greatest surprise, again in what we assume to be Jessie's handwriting was a listing of her father's family, her grandfather Miller's family, and her great grandfather Millers family.... all with birth and death information on everyone! (Right: a page from the "Sunday School booklet")

Born - Died -  
 John Miller = Aug. 10. 1788 = Dec. 23 - 1852  
 His wife, Margaret Maybe = Jan. 23 - 1791 = Nov. 27 - 1870  
 Age = 63 yrs - 4 mos. 13 days.  
 Age = 79 yrs - 10 mos - 4 days.  
 Were married Dec. 22 - 1810  
 Their Children  
 David Miller Dec. 10 - 1810 =  
 Jacob Henry Miller July. 16 - 1812 = Apr. 25 - 1879  
 Amanda Miller - Jan. 13 - 1815 = July 20 - 1840  
 Caroline Miller - Sept. 4 - 1818 = Oct. 29 - 1873  
 David married July 7 - 1833 -  
 Jacob H. " Dec. 22 - 1832 -  
 Amanda " June. 12 - 1833 -  
 Caroline " Aug. 21 - 1839 = to Eleazer  
 Votues of Parish -

The information entered by Jessie seems to be accurate by all the records we have on some of these people. Some of the records are ones we were missing. Many of the clippings attached to bible pages also recount the lives of the Millers, as well as the Ludingtons (some Ludingtons have an additional "d", this family does not use it). Jessie herself is memorialized in an obituary attached to a page, that hails her as a "Civic Leader" in Fulton where she served on the PTA, and was active in the Eastern Star, The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Methodist Church. She is buried with many of her ancestors in Pleasant Lawn Cemetery in Parish.

For the Ludingtons in the bible, here are our entries:

#### Births:

Homer and Mary Ludington's children:

Franklin G(erald) Ludington born Feb 1, 1872

Gerald W. Ludington born Oct 4, 1876

Alice A(lmira) Ludington born June 19, 1880

Their grandchildren

Marion Ludington Manning born Nov 23, 1912

Bernice Jessie Manning born April 8, 1923

Their Great-Grandchildren

Reginald John Sargeant born April 13, 1943

Lucinda Anne Beley born January 12, 1947

#### Deaths:

Gerald W. Ludington d. aged 3 years nine months, 1880

Mary A. (House) Ludington died 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1923, age 76 yrs. 10mos, 15 days

Homer A. Ludington d. January 1, 1928 aged 80 yrs. 16 days

John Ludington, April 1938, age 18

Jessie M(iller) Ludington died March 12, 1949 aged 75, 2 mo., 12 days

Frank G. Ludington died March 15, 1950 aged 78 yrs. 1 mo. 15 days

**No marriages are written into the bible**

**Special thanks to Cheryl Potts and Laurie Sheltra and let this serve as a reminder to our readers about the importance of locating and sharing the information on your family bibles!**



## 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 found some amazing records from the NY 110<sup>th</sup> Civil War Reg't in her home some time ago and brought them into Half-Shire where we digitized them. The attendance records are detailed and may have been kept by a former resident of the Gardner home Merritt Wood Seaman (1833-1881) who served with the unit.

**Amboy—Tim Kelley, Historian:** 822 NYS Rte. 69, Williamstown, 13493. Phone/Fax: 315-964-1165. [amboytownhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:amboytownhistorian@gmail.com) **H-S Trustee Lori E. Monette:** 1847 Co. Rte. 6, Fulton, NY 13069. 315-657-3579. [gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com](mailto:gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com).

We are pleased that Lori and Greg are home after time in Florida dealing with family concerns. We hear Ed Lescenski in Amboy is awaiting the end of the pandemic to resume church suppers.

**Boylston—Marcy Newman, Historian and H-S Trustee:** 184 County Rte. 13, Lacona, NY 13083. 315-387-5458. [marcyn@frontiernet.net](mailto:marcyn@frontiernet.net)

Marcy and Shawn Doyle met up with two DEC officers to look over a recently rediscovered cemetery in the northwest corner of Boylston on the abandoned Balch Rd. The cemetery is referenced in Lottie Rudd's writings and contains at least 30 bodies with several field stones in five rows. Bill and Betty Davies accompanied Marcy and Shawn back to survey the area. The DEC plans to properly mark the site and research continues as to who the burials are.



**Camden—Tim Nichols, Historian:** 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982; **Becky Kennedy, H-S Trustee:** 4939 N. Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-0120. [rkennedy62@yahoo.com](mailto:rkennedy62@yahoo.com)

Tim keeps busy with his research and occasional articles in the Camden newspaper. Becky Kennedy also continues her work on editing the Williamstown Woman's book.

**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.

**Mexico—Judy Greenway, Historian:** 503 East Stone Rd, Mexico, NY 13144 315-963-9593. [jumangree@yahoo.com](mailto:jumangree@yahoo.com) **Louise Meyer, H-S Trustee:** 513 Co. Rte. 58., Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-3652. [llhjmeier@gmail.com](mailto:llhjmeier@gmail.com)

There has been no news on movement with the Poor House Cemetery site on the north side of County Rte. 64

west of Mexico village. Half-Shire has continued downloading and sorting records from the now public admissions of residents from the 1830s forward. These records were previously denied to us by Oswego County, but New York State has now sold them to Ancestry.com

**Montague—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](mailto:lchere@hughes.net)

**New Haven—Marie Strong, Historian:** PO 141, New Haven, NY 13121. 315-963-3900. [historian@newhavenny.com](mailto:historian@newhavenny.com) **Louise Meyer, H-S Trustee:** 513 Co. Rte. 58., Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-3652. [llhjmeier@gmail.com](mailto:llhjmeier@gmail.com)

**Orwell—Rose Graham, Historian and H-S Trustee:** 1999 County Rte. 2, Orwell, NY 13426. 315-298-2070. [rosemgrah@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemgrah@yahoo.com)

The Evergreen Cemetery Book focusing on the lives of those interned within has been headed up by Julie Litts Robst and is coming to a conclusion. We hope to have the over 400-page book complete by summer.

**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](mailto:lchere@hughes.net)

In her time at home Leona has been sorting through her extensive collection of family material, some of which she has brought up to Half-Shire to have copied for our collection.

**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](mailto:ackleyv@gmail.com)

Venita completed the inventory of our genealogy holdings this winter. In her spare time, she has been working on updates to the Find A Grave sites that she manages. Venita is due great thanks for the detail and time she takes with this, adding much new information to these biographies helping researchers far and wide.

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

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

Shawn and Kevin have each been particularly busy during the self-quarantining period as more people have been doing research from home and even DNA testing. Shawn has spent considerable time scanning photos for town families and updating genealogies and

sending updates and corrections to Julie Litts Robst to ensure the cemetery records are current.



The attached photo was recently restored by Hannah Renouf for our collection. It is an early photo of early Richland resident and Civil War Veteran Adelbert Hilliker.

Henry Adelbert Hilliker was born March 7, 1845 in Sandy Creek the son of Job (1801-88) and Sally Fitch (1808-1907) Hilliker. Known generally by his middle name, Adelbert enlisted in the 147<sup>th</sup> NY in 1861 and was mustered into Company E. He served the duration of the war, and saw much combat in this storied regiment, including Gettysburg, Petersburg, Antietam, Mine Run, Pittsylvania, Chancellorsville and Richmond.

Sometime after his return home, Hilliker was united in marriage to Roxie Hough (1859-1943) by who he had four children: Frank Lamont (1888-1952), Marion Burdick (1889-1970), Mildred Boyd (1892-1967) and a daughter Mary Hilliker who died young.

Hilliker was an active member of the J.B. Butler Post of Union Veterans and was one of the longest-lived members at his death.

Half-Shire includes several descendants of this family in our membership, including grandson and namesake, Henry "Monte" Hilliker of Pulaski who marked his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday this past March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Special thanks to Hannah Bumpus Renouf for restoring this wonderful photo for our collection!

**Sandy Creek—Vacant, Historian (Town, Village and Lacona):** P.O. Box 52, 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

This past March as COVID began to lock us down the a surprise from our region's past washed ashore near the open channel of North Sandy Pond.

The skeletal remains of the three-masted schooner *Hartford* were positively identified by several experts in Maritime history. They had been tracked by one researcher just offshore a few years before.



The *Hartford* has a sad but important place in the lives of many of our members in Half-Shire. The Roche family of Richland/Pulaski descended from the ill-fated Captain of the vessel, William O'Toole (1846-94) (right) who was aboard the ship when it went down in a storm on October 11, 1894. Also aboard was O'Toole's wife the former Mary Manson (1859-94) and an infant daughter Mary Kathleen. The O'Tooles were an experienced Lake family and were trying to end

their year with one more good load, in this case of 22,000 bushels of grain headed to Cape Vincent from the Port of Detroit, Michigan when they lost control of the ship off the coast of Sandy Creek town. The O'Tooles and a crew of five others perished in the wreck. The only remains every positively removed and identified was the infant child.

Five older children had not gone on the trip with their parents and had been left in the care of their paternal grandmother, who continued to raise them after the tragedy. One child, Sarah (1887-1968) later married Michael Roche and raised their family of three sons in Pulaski, where they graduated from Central Schools and went on to very productive lives. These three sons of Sarah, Jack, Bill and Ed were drawn to the story of their grandparent's wreck and always sought answers. This writer has heard each of these men talk about the stories passed down, and it was a delight to connect descendants of these now departed grandsons with the Wreck "curator" maritime historian and diver Mark Barbour of Syracuse who has been advocating for salvage and protection of the *Hartford*.



On Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> Barbour accompanied Sarah Roche and her kinsman Marlene Noble Plumley to the site of the *Hartford* where they paid their respects and took photographs. For Sarah and her cousins this wreck has helped the family connect with the tragedy of 126 years past that forever altered the affairs of their family,

Special thanks to Mark Barbour for his advocacy and continued lobbying with the State to preserve this important piece of our region's history.

**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 Annual Meeting & Banquet for 2020 has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual Newsletter to all SCCSD Alumni has gone out as usual.

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

Final editing of Volume I of the Williamstown Woman's Book is nearing completion. The work was largely set aside during the pandemic as the editors could not meet. A completion date is set for July 4<sup>th</sup> week. Each book will sell for \$25.

## Guess who? Way Back:

Last quarter's "Guess who" generated a few responses from the Hurd family, who recognized some members in the photo.

Back row: **Jack Gilbert, John Hurd** and **Joanne Gilbert**. Middle:-**Anne Hurd Gibbs Miller, Maurice Hurd, Marie Kent Parsons** and front, **Clinton**



**Barker. Anne** herself called first from our region and I think the first message was from her niece, **Mary Hurd Patterson**, from PA, who had also won our quilt this past winter! Congratulations to both winners!



For this quarter's Guess who, we have a family photo taken about 1900. The father on the right, was born in Brownville, Jefferson County. His wife, in the middle, was born in Scriba. Together they made their home and raised a family of nine in one of our Half-Shire towns. Their descendants are numerous, several of whom, are members. Name the family and town they lived in.

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 years' membership and a Half-Shire publication of their choice.

## Spring Raffle Winners

Our plan had been to draw for the spring raffle on the night of our dinner-dance, May 16<sup>th</sup>. When that was cancelled, we instead drew on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> when a couple of the officers were present. The drawing was done on live Facebook feed. The three winners drawn, and their selected prize are as follows:

**Margaret Abran**, Norwich, NY, first drawn, she selected the afghan hand-made by Doreen Tilton. The next winner was **Ann Hopkins** of Blossvale who will come up to select a book, as will the 3<sup>rd</sup> winner **Janice Grant Gross** of Highland Heights, KY.

The Summer raffle will again feature a DNA kit, an afghan by Doreen Tilton, and a book of choice. Tickets enclosed are \$1 each donation, 6/\$5. Drawing for this will be at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting (which we hope to still have!)

## Fundraising in the Post COVID World

We have enclosed a letter with this mailing which discusses our projected losses due to the pandemic. For transparency and information on the back is the closed-out report for 2019. This year's budget is still a work in progress. With a good start thanks to Winterfest we have seen a sharp decline in revenue projected with most events scheduled cancelled.

If you are able to contribute something additional, please note on your return slip. As always, if your membership is paid as of the mailing for 2020 we will stamp your newsletters "paid". (This is done by hand, and sometimes Shawn misses some people, call if this happens!)

## Return of the Tug Hill Literary Review

In the spring of 2005 during a period of great energy and cooperation, we began a secondary publication that we brazenly called a "Literary Review". The publication was offered to paid members as a "bonus" and expanded in cooperation with The Historical Association of South Jefferson and even for a time the Lewis County Historical Society.

The now late George Widrig headed up the effort, and we had visions of a great new project. The decline in George's health and the loss of key staff at Half-Shire otherwise doomed the project to an early death in 2007.

At its best, the *Tug Hill Literary Review* offered a space for local writers to share their poetry, to showcase authors and local history books, and to offer more expansive articles than the newsletters of each organization could include in their publications. The desire for the return of the Literary Review has been sustained, and we are occasionally asked about it.

And so, in the weeks following this newsletters' release a new team will assemble Volume III, number I which we hope to send out in late June, and thence on a quarterly schedule opposite the regular newsletter.

To resume this project, we will offer reviews on some exciting new and recent books from the region, and the theme for the other writing will be "family reunions". An enlarged format is planned, with a layout similar to the current Half-Shire newsletter.

We will be reaching out to our friends across the line in Jefferson County to rejoin us, and also reaching out to all our readers for contributions and submissions as well as suggestions.

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 2020\*

- Sat. Jun. 13, 2020 Regular luncheon (with town Historians) and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Jun. 20, 2020 Ontario DAR meeting and Lunch (Private) noon-3pm
- Sat. Jul. 25, 2020 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Wed.-Sun. Aug. 5-9, 2020 Oswego County Fair, -----Cancelled
- Sat. Aug. 15, 2020 Redfield/Osceola school reunion Richland headquarters noon-3p.m.
- Sat. Aug. 22, 2020 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat.-Sun. Sep. 5-6, 2020 Redfield Old Home Days, Redfield Town Square
- Sat. Sep. 19, 2020 NYS SAR Quarterly meeting and luncheon (Private)
- Sat. Sep. 26, 2020 Annual luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 17, 2020 Dinner Dance with "Still Kickin" Richland headquarters 5-11 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 24, 2020 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 21, 2020 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 5, 2020 Christmas party, Richland headquarters-noon-3p.m.

**\*\*\*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