



# 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 2021

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

Vol. XLVII No. 2

## Half-Shire Salutes the Memory of H. Douglas Barclay (1932-2021)

On March 14, in the greater Pulaski area, and across the state people learned the sad news of the passing of former State Senator and Ambassador to El Salvador Hugh Douglas Barclay. On July 5, 1932, Doug was born in New York City, the only child of Hugh and Dorothy (Moody) Barclay. For a time, he was educated in a one room schoolhouse near the family home Douglaston Manor Farms, outside of Pulaski. He later attended St. Paul's Preparatory School and Yale University where he earned his degree in 1955. Doug then served in the US Army from 1955-57, returning to enter Syracuse University, earning his law degree in 1961. Doug rose to lead partner in what is now known as Barclay Damon LLP.



Doug ran for the New York State Senate and served from 1964-84. During his tenure, he was instrumental in crafting modern legislation regarding banking and finance and criminal justice reforms. Doug helped bring the sanitary sewer system to Pulaski, and with the river cleaned up, the NYS DEC fish hatchery and the reintroduction of the long-lost salmon to the Salmon River. Doug took particular and well-deserved pride to boost the Salmon River Corridor to a world-class fishing destination. He was devoted to the greater region and was a critical force behind the establishment of the Tug Hill Commission, an amazingly beneficial agency that supports local governments to ensure sustainable development in our Half-Shire region and beyond.

From 2003-06, Doug served as American Ambassador to the Central American nation of El Salvador. He worked closely with the leadership there to put the strife-torn country on a path to economic recovery. Doug's years of business experience and contacts working in the American private sector were beneficial to the work he did in El Salvador, and he cherished the friendships made during that time.

Doug was married for 61 years to the former Sara "Dee Dee" Seiter, who survives him along with their five children: David, Katie, Dorothy, Susan, and Assemblyman William Barclay, and ten grandchildren.

Doug and Dee Dee have been life members and great supporters of Half-Shire since our inception. Doug has always shown a great interest in our work and in the long-term planning for our organization and building. We will genuinely miss his wise counsel, and his deep interest and knowledge of his family's part in settling and helping to build the Salmon River Corridor from 1808 forward. Our thoughts go out to the family, and our gratitude also for sharing this extraordinary individual with us all.

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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**

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

**Phone: 315-298-2986; [halfshire@hotmail.org](mailto:halfshire@hotmail.org) <http://www.halfshire.com>, Facebook: "Half Shire"**

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

**Officers (2018-2020) with terms of office expiration**

<b>President (2022)</b>	Shawn P. Doyle, 85 Lake St, Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-3620	<a href="mailto:spdinpul@gmail.com">spdinpul@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Pres. (2022)</b>	Greg Monette, Kings Park Drive, Apartment 113C, Liverpool, NY 13089	315-532-8265	moon2eye@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer (2022)</b>	Betty Warren, 2785 Co. Rte. 2, Richland, NY 13144	315-298-2975	Bettybjwarren@aol.com
<b>Secretary (2022)</b>	Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY 13029	315-447-4270	facolvin@windstream.net
<b>Librarian (Appointed)</b>	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**

<b>Albion (2023)</b>	Florence Gardner, P.O. Box 394, 312 Bridge St, Altmar, NY 13302	315-298-5723	(no email)
<b>Amboy (2023)</b>	Lori E. Monette, Kings Park Drive, Apartment 113C, Liverpool, NY 13089	315-657-3579	gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com
<b>Boylston (2023)</b>	Marcy Newman, 184 Co. Rte. 13, Lacona, NY 13083	315-387-5458	marcyn@frontiernet.net
<b>Camden (2023)</b>	Rebecca Kennedy, 4939 North Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-0120	rkennedy62@yahoo.com
<b>Florence (2021)</b>	Doreen Tilton, 12334 Florence-Redfield Rd., Camden, NY 13316	315-245-2760	Doreen_Tilton@yahoo.com
<b>Mexico/New Haven (2021)</b>	Louise Meyer, 513 Co. Rte. 58, Mexico, NY 13114	315-963-3652	llhjmeier@gmail.com
<b>Orwell (2021)</b>	Rose Graham, P.O. Box 162, 1999 Co. Rte., 2, Orwell, NY 13426	315-298-2070	rosegrah@yahoo.com
<b>Osceola/Montague (2021)</b>	Leona Chereshnoski, 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13475	315-599-8836	lchere@hughes.net
<b>Parish (2021)</b>	Venita Ackley, 422 Kipp Rd., Parish, NY 13131	315-382-6529	ackleyv@gmail.com
<b>Redfield (2022)</b>	(Vacant)		
<b>Richland (2022)</b>	Robin Philips, 102 Ivans Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-7279	designsofelegance@netzero.net
<b>Sandy Creek (2022)</b>	Margaret Kastler, 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083	315-387-5209	kastlerm@hotmail.com
<b>Williamstown (2022)</b>	Glenna Gorski, P.O. Box 54, Co. Rte. 17N., Williamstown, NY 13493	315-964-2393	glgorski@frontiernet.net
<b>Trustee-at-Large (2021)</b>	Heather Stevens, 435 Deer Run Dr., Central Square, NY 13036	315-870-2069	<a href="mailto:dstevens@incpark.com">dstevens@incpark.com</a>
<b>Trustees Emeritus</b>	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**—As I write in late June, the roses are blooming, and everything is green and fresh after a long night of rain. Summer is very welcome after our long pandemic winter, which we are all more than ready for.

After a year of intense renovations inside our building, we are looking good and back in business. The newly renovated southeast classroom has added a new component to our research and displays. A fresh oriental rug compliments the bright blue walls and crisp ash hardwood floor.

In early May, we cleaned the Lions Club room so they can resume meetings. We are very grateful that we could use this room as a lay-down area during the construction. Downstairs, some work remains to be completed on the stage; all of this is pending the installation of four new windows in late July.

On June 14, the sidewalks out front were removed; two layers of old broken-up walks, one from the 1860s school that was eight inches below the surface, and then the 1926 concrete walk covered by asphalt in the 1960s. In recent years, the walks had deteriorated to a dangerous degree. A May inspection by ARISE representative **Jim Karasak** cited the danger, and subsequent falls confirmed the dire need to replace. The concrete was poured on June 17.

Research activities have increased with the overall reopening of the world around us. We have been gratified by the photography and documents that have come in for us to copy and add to the collections in our respective libraries. The online inventories of each research room are available on our website and frequently used by far-flung researchers. It is a testament to the work of our indexers such as **Greg Monette** and **Fay Colvin** when someone calls or emails and cites an exact location of what they are looking for.

On May 22, we hosted the annual meeting of the Empire State Sons of the American Revolution. This statewide organization honored us with a second visit as the September 2020 hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting went so well. Once again, a hybrid meeting was conducted with many virtually present from across the state on Zoom.

On Saturday, June 5, we hosted our first post-pandemic dinner dance with Still Kickin'. Fifty-five people attended, which was a good number to start with. Everyone enjoyed a safe and fun evening of dancing and good food.

On June 24-26, we hosted the Pulaski Alumni Class of 1960 for their reunion and also an open house for all area alumni. It was a relief to see the attendees get in and out on the new walks, and after one person with difficulties navigated them very, very well, he lauded the change!

At the May 29 meeting, the society approved a sub-committee to investigate the building of a barn and pavilion in 2022. Monies have been received toward this, and we are looking at working with the local Amish Community to build a more authentic Victorian-period structure like so many of theirs. **Jim FitzGerald**, our next-door neighbor to the south has been working with them on a similar structure, and we asked Jim to solicit bids from them.

On the next page, we have a building report on capital work accomplished. Included in this message is a slip for donations toward the building fund, which is pretty well depleted--this annual appeal for financial assistance we send out with the June letter. We are only as strong as our donor base, which has been very supportive in these uncertain times.

We hope everyone reading this can enjoy the summer with loved ones, and also hope you might drop in and see us!

## Report on building work through 2021

Seven years ago, we embarked on a capital project plan with a goal in which we endeavored to complete a set number of needed improvements by the 2022 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society's founding. In 2014, we installed a handicapped access lift to enable better access to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. We later renovated both restrooms, with the ladies room fully accessible. Both of these projects were funded in part by the John Ben Snow Foundation. In 2015, the Southwell Research room was completed, rehabbing the northwest lower room thanks to a donation in memory of Jon Southwell by his widow, Kimberly

In 2014, with assistance from the Greater Pulaski Community Fund, the old furnace room was gutted. The furnace was temporarily relocated to the main hall, with an additional one added equipped with central air capacity. Over the years, the Pulaski Community Fund also assisted with renovations to the main hall (flooring), the rebuilding of the stage with a new concrete base, and some technology upgrades.

Private monies raised covered the cost of the new roofing system (over \$55,000), other generous donations funded the cost of the upstairs hall rehabilitation, the Balcom Library (generous donation and work by Charles Balcom in memory of Allison Regner Balcom), and the main hall sheetrock and wiring project as well as the kitchen renovation (funds donated in memory of Erma Schroeder).

As 2020 dawned, we were awarded monies to renovate the former coal storage room, used from 1997-2019 by the town of Richland for records. This Pomeroy Foundation grant work was completed during the initial days of COVID. Later in 2020, the Pomeroy Foundation and the Museum Association of New York monies augmented by Pulaski Community Grant monies boosted our internet capacity and wiring. As a result, we now have complete property coverage with high-power WIFI, which we offered to the community students for use during the height of the virus lockdowns and continue to this day.

As 2021 began, we used private monies to completely renovate the southeast classroom (**pictured right**), which now is set up as an example classroom and houses research records from the school districts of our region. As reported on the last page, we have now replaced the front sidewalks (**pictured left**), across the front and to the main road.



Other smaller projects completed include new shelving in various places, a small storage room in the front of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and work continues to build a second-floor restroom and reinstall the ceiling in the main hallway. Security cameras now cover all rooms and are installed on the smartphones of many of the officers and trustees. A new website has more than paid for itself with many new members, and access to our collections now open to the world. Since 1999, all thirty-eight windows have been replaced (four on order) with high-efficiency double-pane windows with lifetime warranties. All six doors have been replaced similarly.

We have not lost sight of our mission to preserve, protect and promote the heritage of our region. Family trees have been built from scratch and our collection, gravestones repaired and replaced, and to date, over 20 family Bibles have been restored and rebound. In addition, we have kept up with quarterly newsletters on time since 2017 and added a quarterly reborn *Tug Hill Literary Review*. Thousands of new volumes have been added to our shelves, and hundreds of thousands of images scanned. These are just a few of the items completed during the capital work that may seem to take up most of our time.

In November 2022, we plan to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a party. It is hoped that by that time our stage will be fully completed with new curtains and lighting and that a new barn/pavilion will grace the back lawn, assisting us with storage and additional display space. Our long-awaited memorial brick garden walk will also be done.

As noted, the Greater Pulaski Community Fund, the John Ben Snow Foundation, Entergy Corporation, Verizon, and the Pomeroy Foundation have all played a large part in our capital improvements. Equally important, however, over the years many, key members of the organization have also donated significantly to see our projects through. The core of our support continues to come from dues and donations from many valued members past and present, members who believe in our vision and mission.

A sincere thank you to all who have assisted us in reconstructing our facility, and in building such a strong and vibrant organization. With your support, our future looks stable and bright.



## 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.)*

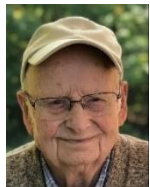
**Shirley V. St. Louis** (May 1 1933-Jun 28 2020) Born in Watertown the daughter of Joseph & Hester (Marsaw) Villeneuve, Shirley was descended from several Tug Hill pioneer families including Baker, Marsaw and Yerdon. She was married to Herbert St. Louis in 1951; he died in 1998. Together they had eight children who survive with many other descendants. Shirley and her sister Mary Gregory were early members of Half-Shire and active in our founding years.

**Pamela Pond Ingersoll** (Jun 9 1941-Feb 7 2021) Born in Marblehead, Massachusetts the daughter of Robert & Bernice (Budgel) Pond, Pam was married forty years to F. Thomas Ingersoll, formerly of Pulaski. Pam was educated and trained as a teacher, and throughout her 38-year career made a great impact on the lives of many children, many of whom kept in touch over the years. Tom and Pam have been longtime members of Half-Shire, and we extend our sincere condolences to Tom and their family.

**Elwyn Kersey** (Mar 1,1927, Feb 28 2021) Born the son of Seymour & Rhue (Johnson) Kersey, Elwyn was a 1945 graduate of Sandy Creek schools. He was married to the late Mildred Noble, who died in 2018. Among his survivors are three daughters, and five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Elwyn had worked at Blount Lumber.

**Barbara Johnson Farnsworth** (Jan 9 1930-Feb 28 2021) Born in Brooklyn the daughter of Elmer & Florence Stowell (Smith) Johnson. Barbara was married to the late David Farnsworth of Camden, owner of Farnsworth printing. She is survived by a large family who mourn her loss.

**Daniel Luke** (Jan 20 1928-Mar 1 2021) Born in Baldwinsville the son of Daniel & Mary Jane (McCarthy) Luke. Dan was married nearly 70 years to the former Anna Lennon, with whom he had five children, including our members Carol Yerdon and Nancy Yerdon both of Redfield as well as six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Dan was respected and loved by those who knew him.



**Mary Zayown Glerum** (May 4 1938-Mar 4 2021) born in Oswego the daughter of Marshall & Helen (Conguskey) Zayown, Mary was married 65 years to John Glerum who survives along with three children, eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Mary was a past member of Half Shire as well as Aunt to member John (Beth Taplin) Zayown. Many will remember Mary and John and their hard work with the Oswego County Fair over the years.

**Jack Kaple** (Apr 4 1945-Mar 10 1921) Born in Camillus the son John & Maxine (Cross) Kaple, the family moved to Orwell area early on. Jack graduated from APW schools in 1964 and served four years with the Coast Guard. Jack was locally known as a gifted artist. He was very active in the local railroad association. Jack is survived by (Half-Shire member) Joan Waterbury, his companion of over 50 years, and his brother Robert of Orwell and two sisters.

**Violet Ryder Pringle** (Sep 15 1929-Mar 14 2021) Born in Tonawanda, NY the daughter of Kenneth & Clara Ellen

(McDougall) Ryder, Violet lived most of her life in Volney. Married in 1947 to Leonard Pringle, the couple had two sons and a daughter. Son Myron is a long-time member of ours and has great interest in his heritage. Violet is also survived by her husband of 74 years and several grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

**Robert Craner** (Apr 28 1934-Mar 15 2021) Born in Syracuse the son of Robert & Rheta (Henderson) Craner, Robert was a well-known pharmacist in Pulaski for many years. Married to the former Betty Parris, Robert is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A twelve-year air force veteran, Craner's ancestors were early settlers of Little France in Hastings. Daughter Stephanie is a member of ours.

**Paul "Rusty" Yerdon** (Feb 16 1925-Mar 15 2021) Born in Redfield the youngest of eight children of Norman & Edith (Giddings) Yerdon, Paul was a 1944 graduate of Sandy Creek and lived many years in Central Square. He was married in 1956 to the former Marian Maynard of Caughdenoy who survives along with son David and a daughter Sue Ellen who survive along with four grandchildren and two great grandchildren as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins who revere his memory. Paul and Marian have been great supporters of Half-Shire over the years. He will long be remembered for his characteristic red hair and keen wit and interest in those around him.



**Josephine Wheeler VanWinkle** (Jul 17 1937-Mar 16 2021) Born in Williamstown the daughter of Kenneth & Mildred (Sparks) Wheeler, Josie was married to James VanWinkle of Camden, with whom she had six daughters and a son, who gave the couple 19 grandchildren and over 40 great grandchildren so far. Josie worked side by side for many years with Jim at the management and operation of the Queen Central News in Camden. The weekly paper has defied convention by surviving and thriving under the VanWinkle family leadership. Our condolences to Jim and the entire family, some of who are on our membership rolls.



**Virginia Doviak** (1922-Mar 19 2021) Born in West Virginia, one of the seven children of Stanley & Anna (Maciag) Polczak, the family was of Polish origin and later settled in Oswego County where the children attended Richland School in our building. Virginia was a graduate of Pulaski Schools and worked for a time in New York City as a nanny. She was married to John Doviak, who predeceased her. Virginia was part of a family active in Half-Shire for many years, her sister Lucy Emery is still a supportive member. Our sympathy goes out to Lucy, sister Lee Ballard, and Virginia's four children.

**Julia Elizabeth Oyer** (Apr 15 1991-Mar 20 2021) Born in Syracuse the daughter of Ezra & MaryBeth (Ours) Oyer, Julia earned a master in Public Health in 2014 from the University of Boston. She was a passionate outdoors woman and volunteered in spare time with the SPCA. Her death was a shock to her loving family, which include several Half-Shire

members who have our sincere sympathy at the loss of such an accomplished young lady.

**Charles Nemier** (Jul 3 1935-Mar 24 2021) Born in Boylston the son of John & Alta (Shafty) Nemier, Charles graduated from Sandy Creek Schools in 1953. He married Dorothy Caster in 1959 and the couple operated a dairy farm in Boylston many years and were well known for their maple syrup. Charles served as Boylston Highway Superintendent for a time and drove school bus. A son, daughter, and three grandchildren are among his survivors. Charles was a past member of Half-Shire.

**Helen Bishop** (Jul 18 1923-Apr 2 2021) Born in Pulaski the daughter of Howard & Iris (Robb) Crocker, Helen was a 1941 graduate of Pulaski Schools. She went on to earn a degree at Syracuse University and worked in Minoa Schools many years. She was a talented artist and active in many pursuits. Helen was married to the late Dr. Thomas Bishop and is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, and a large extended family. Helen was a longtime member of Half-Shire.

**June Corsette Bryant** (Aug 31 1928-Apr 4 2021) Born the daughter of Frederick & Leona (Cottet) Corsette, June was united in marriage to Robert Bryant in 1950. They lived many years on the north shore of Oneida lake. June was an active member of the Oswego County research community and supported many organizations, including Half-Shire. She will be very much missed, and her four children and ten grandchildren and extended family have our sincere sympathy at her passing after a long life well lived.

**Karen Soule Bush** (May 11 1942-Apr 12 2021) Born the daughter of Thomas & Alice (Samson) Soule, Karen was a 1961 graduate of Sandy Creek Schools. She was married to the late Ronald Bush (1939-2015) with whom she had three children, including Rhonda Clemens, a valued member.

**Barbara Denton Knight** (Sep 3, 1928-Apr 12, 2021) Born in Oswego the daughter of Benjamin & Anna (Donahue) Denton, Barbara was a life resident of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward. Married in 1948 to Traver Knight (1924-2017), the couple had one daughter Judy, who passed away in 1991. Barb was a passionate genealogist and very proud of both her Irish ancestors from Kerry as well as her abolitionist GG grandfather Starr Clark of Mexico. Barb was a long-time Half-Shire member and supporter. She is sincerely missed by her family and friends.

**James Johnson** (Oct 5 1934-Apr 14 2021) Born in Pulaski the son of Earl & Marjorie (Armstrong) Johnson, Jim was a 1951 graduate of Pulaski Schools and a veteran of the Air Force. Upon his return home, he soon took over the family business Earl's Tavern, a landmark on Jefferson Street in Pulaski for many years. Jim was an active member of the Masonic Lodge and other orders, who will be sincerely missed by his brothers there, as well as his companion Sherri, his son and two daughters.

**Bonnie Boutell** (Jul 2 1944-Apr 16 2021) Born the daughter of Dayton & Rowena (Fox) Boutell, Bonnie was a life resident of Mexico, NY where she worked many years for the Oswego County Weeklies. Bonnie's sudden death following a car accident that shocked her family and friends who cared for deeply her. She was a custodian of many artifacts and stories from her late mother Rowena, who was a valued

member of Half-Shire. Our sincere sympathy to her son and daughter, and the entire family, several of whom are Half-Shire members.

**Jeanie Thomas** (Jan 23 2000-Apr 18 2021) Born the daughter of Larry Thomas & Sheila Sweeting, Jeannie was a 2020 graduate of APW schools and worked as a waitress. She was the niece to our devoted volunteer, Stephanie Pierce. Jennie's tragic death was a shock to the family, and our hearts go out to them at this time.

**Kathleen Reilly Jennings** (Jul 24 1939-Apr 24 2021) Born in Albany the daughter of Herbert & Dorothy (Rigney) Reilly, Kathleen was a graduate of St. Rose College in 1961. She was married in 1964 to Rodney Jennings, and the couple soon moved to Oswego County where both taught in the APW School District many years. Rod was an award-winning band instructor for the district who died in 1991. Kathy taught at the Altmar Elementary School from 1979-99. Kathy was very active in St. John's Church in Pulaski many years and was also a 2<sup>nd</sup> mother to many other youth in the Pulaski community. Among their survivors are their daughter Dorothy, sons Rod Jr., Jack, Tom, and Tim and 10 grandchildren who have our sincere sympathy at the loss of "their matriarch."

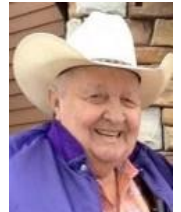
**Nancy Wright** (Dec 30 1955-Apr 25 2021) Born in Oneida the daughter of Rowlan & Virginia (Anderson) Stanton, Nancy was from an old Amboy family. She graduated from APW schools in 1974 and earned her degree at Virginia Tech in 1978. Nancy was a 32-year employee of Oswego County Social Services and was very compassionate above and beyond her job. She is survived by her son Allen, sister Cynthia Stanton (a Half-Shire member) and their brother Cregg, along with several nieces and nephews.

**Nancy Masuicca Near** (Dec 25 1937-Apr 28 2021) Born in Oswego to Francis & Cora (Lybolt) Masuicca, Nancy lived in Baldwinsville many years. Among her survivors are her brother Charles (Evelyn Potter) Masuicca, a Half-Shire member, who has our sincere sympathy.

**Marietta Taplin Whaley** (Feb 8 1926-May 2 2021) Born the daughter of Wyon & Doris (Wheeler) Taplin, Marietta was 1<sup>st</sup> married to Edmund Wood, with whom she had five children, and later married to Dayton Whaley, both of whom predeceased her. Marietta was a valued long-time member and correspondent of ours. Her friends and family have our sincere condolences.

**Albert McCarty** (May 6 1934-May 3 2021) Born the son of Harry & Anna (Green) McCarty, Albert lived in Fulton area most of his life. He was a father of four with many grandchildren. He also was an uncle of Trustee Glenna Gorski of Williamstown.

**Eugene Ackerman** (Jan 17 1934-May 12 2021) Born in Boylston the son of Guy & Bernice (Tyfair) Ackerman, Gene was married in 1952 to the former Celia Forbes who passed away Jan 22, 2019. Gene was an Operating Engineer for Union Local 158 and retired in 1989. Among his survivors are two sons, two daughters, two sisters, and a brother; several of the family are members of Half Shire.



*Remembering Friends continued on page 11*



# SPRING 2021 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



Close friends and Half Shire Members Gloria Craig and Patsy Doyle were recently reunited after a year separation due to COVID quarantine. *The former Pulaski neighbors* now live in Oswego, NY.

The late Barbara Denton Knight (1928-2021), Shawn Doyle and their cousin the late Doris Brown Allen (1921-2014) The three descendants of the Donahue family of County Kerry Ireland and Oswego New York collaborated on research many years. Barb recently passed away, but her research legacy lives on.



Lillian Frazier, Sharon Robarge, Barb & Jim Joslyn enjoyed the June 5 dinner dance



Secretary Fay Yerdon Colvin caught up with former Treasurer Mary Balcom Yerdon at the June 5 dinner dance



Iva Woodruff Goodwin, class of 1944 was presented with the centerpiece at the Pulaski Alumni banquet by Alumni board member Tiffany Hax Craig

Members Brad and Allison Trudell enjoyed a mask free dance at the June 5 dinner dance with Still 'Kickin.

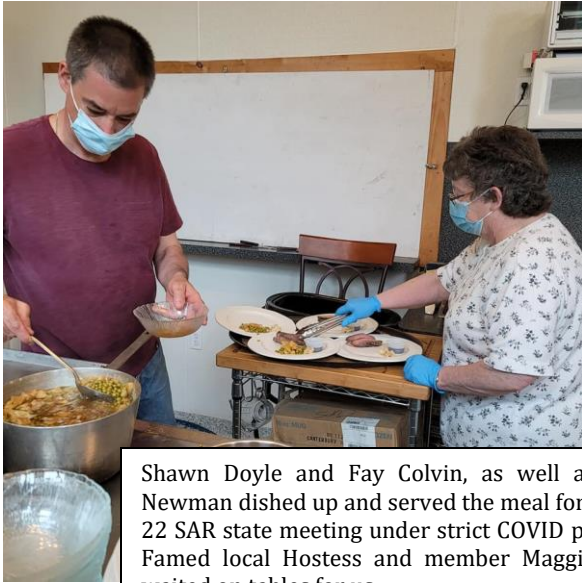


Member Don Pratt, Pulaski class of 1955 was the patriarch of a four-generation family of graduates at the Pulaski Alumni banquet that included daughter Debbie Pratt Gibbs, '77, Scott Spicer, '93 and Samuel Spicer, '21





# SPRING 2021 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



Shawn Doyle and Fay Colvin, as well as Marcy Newman dished up and served the meal for the May 22 SAR state meeting under strict COVID protocols. Famed local Hostess and member Maggie Seeley waited on tables for us.



Outgoing SAR State President George Gydeson presided over the annual meeting of the Empire State SAR held at Half Shire on May 22.



Over 50 SAR participants gathered at Half Shire while others participated remotely by zoom across NYS

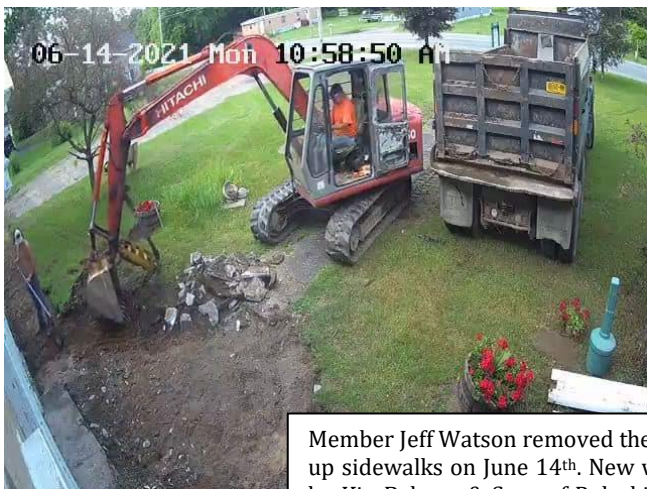
The new school exhibit in the SE classroom features custom built bookshelves crafted and donated by members John Allen and Ron Wilson



The 1939 Dental Hygienist Chair from Pulaski school is a curious addition to the new SE classroom Alumni exhibit.



Rose Barber and friend Val Thomas visited in April and Val donated a Selkirk lighthouse painting by Ila Henderson and a photo of late Syracuse musician Will Johnson Alger (1925-1992) who is buried in Pulaski cemetery. Alger was part of the well-known Syracuse jazz group the "Salt City Six"



Member Jeff Watson removed the 95-year-old very broken up sidewalks on June 14<sup>th</sup>. New walks were then installed by Kip Balcom & Sons of Pulaski. The photo on the right was taken from the roof, looking towards the road



## 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.

**Amboy—Tim Kelley, Historian:** 822 NYS Rte. 69, Williamstown, 13493. Phone/Fax: 315-964-1165. amboytownhistorian@gmail.com **H-S Trustee Lori E. Monette:** Kings Park Drive, Apartment 113C, Liverpool, NY 13089 315-657-3579. gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com.

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

Members of the family of Stanley Nemier visited in May and donated several items



including his military uniform. Stanley's niece Carolyn Caufield Barbato and husband John; her cousin Sharon Martin Hilliker and daughter Emily. Stanley was a beloved member and amazing researcher who focused on Boylston families.

**Camden (Oneida County)—Tim Nichols, Historian:** 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982; [timngo15@yahoo.com](mailto:timngo15@yahoo.com). **Becky Kennedy, H-S Trustee:** 4939 N. Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-0120. rkennedy62@yahoo.com. Recently two yearbooks from Camden High School have been donated to our school collection.

**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](mailto:Doreen_Tilton@yahoo.com)

**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) Mexico Historical Society PO 331, 3250 Main St., Mexico, NY 13114 315-963-7853.

This is a photo of the Teller Station in the Chandler-Ames Bank in Mexico. The Mexico Historical Society is restoring the 1855 bank building to its 19th century condition. The walls & ceiling are paneled similarly. They are crafted



from quarter sawn oak. This new museum should be open for this Christmas season. The Bank is located adjacent to The Starr Clark Tin Shop & Underground Railroad Museum.

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

**New Haven—Debra Allen, Historian:** PO Box 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). 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.

**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). Rose is currently working with Sharon Turo to get the Evergreen Cemetery records previously scanned by Shawn Doyle edited and ready for researchers to use.

**Osceola (Lewis County)—Historian-(Vacant); Leona Chereshnowski, H-S Trustee:** 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-8836. [lchere@hughes.net](mailto:lchere@hughes.net). News from the New York Old Tyme Fiddlers' Assn.

After a long intermission, The New York State Old Tyme Fiddlers Association Concert Series will pick up our instruments again and the fans, will take their places either on the dance floor or their seats for our delayed summer concert series. Be sure to be there at some point and enjoy with all of us. The museum will be open as well. Pick a date and come to Osceola NY, 1121 Comins Road. Always a good time!

- July 11 Sun. Patti's Fiddler's Kitchen will be open!
- July 11 Sun. 2-5 pm – Pat Kane, Corning, NY
- July 18 Sun. 2-5 pm – Dillon Black, Watertown, NY
- July 25 Sun. 2-5 pm – TBA
- July 29 Thu. 6:30-8:30 pm – Central Chapter concert, Camden Park Gazebo
- Aug. 1 Sun. 2-5 pm – Liz Fiddle (Friedel), Oneida, NY
- Aug. 8 Sun. 2-5 pm – Henry Jankiewicz, Syracuse, NY
- Aug. 14 Saturday Daylong special event – “Sustain Music and Nature” Featuring Caleb Brazie and Sterling Brownell
- Aug. 15 Sun. 2-5 pm – John Kirk & Trish Miller, Greenfield Center, NY
- Aug. 22 Sun. 2-5 pm – Timothy Ball, Ithaca, NY
- Aug. 29 Sun. 2-5 pm – Fiddlin's Fun, Binghamton, NY chapter of NYSOTFA
- Sept. 5 Sun. 2-5 pm - Central Chapter of the NYSOTFA
- Sept. 12 Sun. 2-5 pm – Jackie Hobbs
- Sept. 19 Sun. 2-5 pm - Oswego Valley Fiddlers chapter of NYSOTFA
- Sept. 26 Sun. 12:30 – 5 pm - SEASON CLOSER JAM



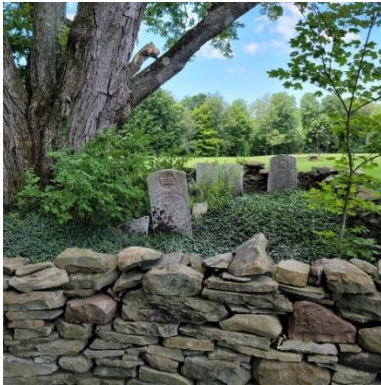
**Parish—Bridgett Swartz, Historian:** P.O. Box 195, Parish, NY 13131. **Venita Ackley, H-S Trustee:** 422 Kipp Rd. Parish, NY 13131. 315-382-6529. ackleyv@gmail.com

**Redfield—Liz Grant Historian and H-S Trustee-Emeritus:** 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-7735. Old Home Days will be held on Sep. 25, 2021

**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 In going through our collections this year that were stored in the SE classroom we rediscovered some newspapers donated by member June Walker in past years. In perusing an old Richland Courier, we found the obituary of Nathaniel Holmes formerly of Richland. This was the first time we had ever seen an obituary for this man, as this particular newspaper is not digitized. The account of his life is as follows:

**Another Revolutionary Soldier Gone**  
(Page 3 of the March 20, 1850 Richland Courier)  
*Died at the residence of his son in South Richland, Nathaniel Holmes in the 90th year of his age the deceased was born in Pomfret,*



*Connecticut and lived neighbor to General Putnam the hero of Horse neck. The deceased was a privateer 3 months in the Revolutionary War and assisted in taking a number of prizes after which he was drafted and served through the war. Was in the army at the time New London was burned and assisted in burying the dead the next day. From Connecticut he emigrated to Springfield in Otsego County when the town was one complete wilderness and there cleared a large farm from the effects of which and taking a severe cold was seized with the Rheumatism from which he has been confined most of the time for 30 years. The deceased has never drawn a pension which he might have done, having proof of service. When urged to apply for one, would always say, as long as he had enough to support himself, he would not, nor said I have not done too much for my country and I want no pay for what I have done.*

Nathaniel Holmes is buried in a small private plot dominated by a large maple tree amidst a well-cared for lawn on Rte. 11 south of Pulaski near the Mexico line. Others in the small stone-fenced cemetery are:

**Ann Eliza Holmes** died 1861 Age 13 Years

**Eliza** wife of Isiah Holmes died December 27, 1865 Age 50 Years

**Isaiah Holmes** died June 23, 1870 Age 83 Years 3 Months 9 Days

**Nathaniel Holmes** died March 1850 Age 90 Years

**Mary** wife of Nathaniel Holmes died August 5, 1846 Age 86 Years

**Sally** wife of Isaiah Holmes died July 8, 1843 Age 49 Years

**Sandy Creek—Peggy Rice, Historian (Town, Village and Lacona):** P.O. Box 52, Sandy Creek, NY 13145. 315-387-5456 x7 [schistorian@frontiernet.net](mailto:schistorian@frontiernet.net) Website: <http://SandyCreeknyhistory.com>

**Margaret Kastler, H-S Trustee:** 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083. 315-387-5209. [kastlerm@hotmail.com](mailto:kastlerm@hotmail.com). Many new "old" exhibits have been added for display. Also, although the center is open on Fridays, 10am-2pm, the Center will open by appointment for persons visiting the area or those with conflicting schedules.

**Sandy Creek Central School District Alumni Association—Sharon Turo '64, President:** P.O. Box 256, Sandy Creek, NY. 315-387-3112. [sturo@earthlink.net](mailto:sturo@earthlink.net)

**Margaret Hollis Kastler '51, Historian:** 315-387-5209. [kastlerm@hotmail.com](mailto:kastlerm@hotmail.com)

Sandy Creek Alumni should have received their annual newsletter by now. If you have not, use the contact information above to receive one. Sadly, the Annual Meeting & Banquet for 2021 has once again been canceled due to COVID-19. Plans are being made for a special event in 2022.

**Williamstown—Glenna Gorski, Historian & H-S Trustee:** P.O. Box 54, Williamstown, NY 13493. 315-964-2393. [glgorski@frontiernet.net](mailto:glgorski@frontiernet.net) Historical Building open Tuesdays: 9 AM to 12 Noon. Williamstown Field Days will be held Jul 22-24 in Williamstown.

Work on the Williamstown Ladies book series continues. Some biographies are short and "beg more information" such as this one:

### **Leila C. Crossett (1874-1951)**

Leila C. Crossett was born October 1874 in Orwell the daughter of Benjamin Crossett (1851-1920) and Harriet C. Eastman (1852-1923). Leila's siblings were: (1) Mary "Mayme" Crossett (1877-1953) and (2) Dewitt Newman Crossett (1880-1952).

Leila never married, and was active in the Ricard Community. She was very active in the Women's Christian Temperance Society and the Ricard Methodist Church. Lela died on December 18, 1951 in Ricard and is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Altmar.



**Right- Leila Crossett**

**Tug Hill Bibles: James & Ruth (Polly) Jerrett family Bible (missing)**

In 1966 Charles Jerred of New Haven went to see the late Anne Spencer, who lived on Rte. 104 in the “old Spencer home,” a large brick structure built in 1877 by Daniel Spencer, husband of Ruth Jerrett. Ann conveyed her knowledge of the family history to Charles Jerred who wrote it down in a notebook, a digital copy of which was given to us by his kinsman Jeff Jerrett.

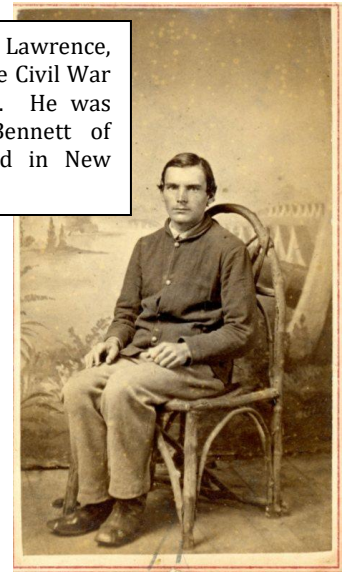
At the time Anne was the custodian of the Jerrett family Bible which Charles described as old and worn and covered in calfskin. The book was printed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1813 by M. Carey Co.

Anne died in 1980, and the old Spencer home was sold. The whereabouts of the family Bible since that time is unknown, we are fortunate to have the notes taken in 1966 by Charles that include the entries for the family bible.

James Jerrett was born in the town of Chorley, Lancashire County England on March 15, 1749. He was married to Ruth Polly of the town of Sharon in Litchfield County, Connecticut. Ruth was born September 20, 1762, there. James and Ruth had 15 children, all enumerated in the Bible as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>
Betsey Jerred	Oct 24, 1782	July 11, 1820
Polly Jerrett	Oct 28, 1784	July 2, 1880
James Jerrett	May 18 1786	Feb 1, 1831
Rebecca Jerrett	Dec 4 1787	Jan 19, 1881
Robert Jerrett	Mar 17, 1789	Nov 20, 1851
Sally Jerrett Degatt	Jan 27, 1791	March 1878
John Jerrett	May 11, 1793	Mar 24, 1814
Ebenezer Jerrett	Oct 11, 1795	Aug 10, 1806
Infant Jerrett	Aug 10, 1796	Aug 30, 1796
Richard Jerrett	Aug 9, 1797	Apr 29, 1877
Anne Jerred	Sept 20, 1799	Nov 29, 1891
Lawrence Jerred	June 27 1801	Jan 28, 1848
Ezra Jerrett	Nov 3, 1804	Nov 1809
Jerrett Twins	May 28, 1807	died at 9 and 15 days

Edwin Jerred, son of Lawrence, 1844-1917, served in the Civil War with an Ohio regiment. He was married to Frances Bennett of Redfield and they lived in New Haven.



Note that the surname has varied over the years from Jerret to Jerrett and even Jerred. Lawrence Jerred and his family continued their line with the “d” at the end of the name while many of the Jerretts who remain in Oswego County are using the “tt” ending.

Descendants and historians alike would be overjoyed if this Bible were to turn up. In 1966 Charles Jerred described it in “rough condition.”

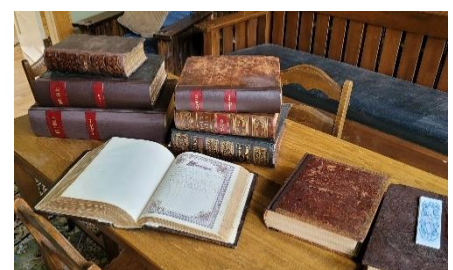
According to Charles Jerred’s notes from his 1966 visit with Anne Spencer: “James Jerrett born in the town of Chorley, County Lancaster, England was conscripted or “Shanghaied” into the British Army in this manner, it seems that young men could be taken up on several pretexts. One of them was the offense of being found with foreign money on his person. James was at an Inn and one of the recruiters secretly dropped a piece of foreign money in his (and probably several others) pocket, then accused him of having it. He was taken into the army and sent to New England some time before or during the Revolution. He repaid the British military for the unjust usage by deserting from Burgoyne’s Army sometime before the Battle of Saratoga. From there he must have travelled to New England because he married Ruth Polly in Connecticut about 1781.

Special thanks to member Jeff Jerrett for information and access to these important records.

**Bible Restoration Fund**

On your slip there is a box added for Bible restoration. Half-Shire has a family Bible collection that spans literally 300 years, with our earliest volume a 1730 book that documents the Irish Family who later settled Albion. We have been sending our Bibles in most need of repair to Robert LoMascolo of Aurora, NY, we have been delighted with his expert craftsmanship and care in the repair and restoration of these priceless tomes that tell the story of our regional families, often long before vital records were kept in New York. Work costs range between \$80 and \$200 for most books.

We aim to conserve our entire collection over the next couple years as funds allow. If we have a Bible in our collection for a family of yours, you may want to sponsor its restoration. Several who have seen the work have already done this. Pictured here are a few of the Bibles in our collection recently restored: Dewey, White, Sampson, Wells, Koon, Mott, Draper, Grant-Farmer and Luddington.





### Trustee Spotlight: Louise Meyer, Mexico

Louise Meyer, is our trustee representing the towns of Mexico and New Haven. She has been a valued member of Half-Shire for several years, as well as a long-time member of the Mexico Historical Society.

Born in New Haven, the daughter of Kenneth & Marion (Hall) Sherman, Louise was educated in Mexico Schools. She was first married to Donald Rose and the family operated a farm outside of Mexico until Don's health forced them to sell it. Don passed away in 1980. Their children attended Mexico Schools, and went on to college and have all done very well.



Louise was married several years later to Henry Meyer an Industrial Art teacher at Mexico Central School. Henry passed away in 2019. After Louise retired from Oswego County Social Services, she and Henry spent their retirement years spending time with family and traveling. She recalls memorable trips to Alaska, Hawaii and Switzerland. Seeing the Alps by cable car was breathtaking she recalls.

Louise has had a particular interest in the Asa Davis family of Mexico, NY dating back to the War of 1812. Through her 1<sup>st</sup> husband, Louise's family owned the original Davis homestead, and she took great care in sorting and organizing artifacts and documents found.

Louise is an extremely knowledgeable trustee for her region, and has provided scores of materials on her family, and particularly the Davis family to us.

### Books for Sale

***Evergreen Cemetery of Orwell***, \$80+ \$4 shipping. This 512-page volume was assembled using all available material including maps, ledgers, and other records. Full obituaries are included on most all burials, with vital statistics where available.

***Letters Home***, \$70 + \$4 Shipping. Letters from Civil War soldiers published in the Mexico Independent.

***Vol. I Mexico Independent Newspapers Vital Records, 1860-1869*** \$45 + \$3 shipping. The 257-page book is jam packed with genealogical data gleaned from the papers.

A full list of books for sale can be found on our website at [www.halfshire.org](http://www.halfshire.org)

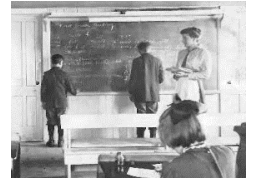
### Spring Raffle Winners

The Spring raffle winners were drawn at the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting which was also on Facebook live. Winners were: 1st-Victor Yerdon, Phoenix (DNA kit) 2nd-Shirley Mamele, Pulaski, (Orwell Cemetery book) 3rd-Donna Balcom, Pulaski, Afghan from Lillian Frazier Congratulations to all the winners!

This quarter we have another DNA kit, another afghan and book of choice.

### Guess who? Way Back:

We are on a sad roll of no answers to our guess who. The last issue mystery photo March was given to us by the Grant family of Redfield. It is an original copy of Agnes Duane Grant (1896-1979) with her Boylston school children in 1913. This photo was printed in the 1914 Report on Schools in the Sandy Creek, Boylston and Redfield supervisory district.



In this issue we are staying with our school theme and



have a photo of three young boys outside of their one room school in one of our Half-Shire communities. The first person to identify one of the boys, and the school wins their choice of a book from our book shop.

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.

### Remembering Friends continued from page 5

**Richard Krebs** (May 27 1928-May 25 2021) Born in Pennsylvania the son of Charles & Emma (Hertzler) Krebs formally of Daysville area. Richard was a 1945 graduate of Pulaski Schools His widow Sharon Rose & their six children survive, and many grand & great grandchildren. Dick had a quick wit, and his kindness will long be remembered.

**Maureen Whalen Bouck** (May 4 1949-May 26 2021) Born in Potsdam, NY the daughter of Harry & Mary (Betty) Whalen, Maureen lived in Liverpool many years where she worked at SUNY Upstate. She passed away after a short illness. Among her survivors are her two sons, a granddaughter and three brothers and four sisters which include our life member Margaret Bourdage of Albion. Maureen was a warm and generous lady who leaves a great void in her passing.

**Thomas Hoenow** (Jun 20 1944-May 28 2021) Born in Pulaski the son of the late Otto & Frances (Mattison) Hoenow, Tom was a 1961 graduate of Pulaski Schools, and later went on to Rensselaer Polytech. He was a 30-year steelworker. In his later years, Tom was a member of our organization, as his parents had been at the founding. Sincere condolences.

### Late Note from The Editors:

This newsletter arrives later than planned. We have been inundated with work with the new sidewalk work, and in trying to keep up with the research requests of summer visitors. Shawn also have been working out of town frequently with his job. The *Tug Hill Literary Review* will follow up with its next issue in late July.

Thank you for your patience!

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\*\*\*

- Thu-Sat. Jul. 22-24, 2021 Williamstown Field Days, Williamstown
- Sat. Jul. 24, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Jul. 31, 2021 Pulaski School 1980s Reunion, Richland Headquarters 7 p.m.-1 a.m.
- Sat. Aug. 21, 2021 Richland Old Home Days
- Sat. Aug. 28, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Sep. 4-5, 2021 Redfield Old Home Days, Center Square, Redfield
- Sat. Sep. 25, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Sep. 25, 2021 Redfield Old Home Day
- Sat. Oct. 23, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 23, 2021 Dinner Dance with Still Kickin, Richland headquarters 5 p.m.-11 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 20, 2021 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Apr. -Nov. 2021 Ontario Chapter DAR Regular meeting, (Private) noon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Apr. -Nov. 2021 Kayandatsayana-Ft. Oswego Chapter DAR Regular meeting, (Private) noon
  
- Sat. Jul.-Oct. 2021 Farmers Market, Richland headquarters 11 a.m.-3 p.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