



# 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 2024 Preserving History in the Eastern Lake Ontario Region of NY since 1972 Vol. I No. 1 & 2

## Richland Farmers' Market kicked off June 19 at Half-Shire

(Richland) In 2017, we started a Saturday Farmers' Market in Richland on our front lawn with mixed results. Organized as a joint venture with the Richland Park Association, the market carried on intermittently through 2020. With the Grant Memorial Barn's construction and additions, we relaunched the Richland Hamlet

Farmers' Market on Wednesdays beginning June 19, 2024. The weekly event is open to any craft, food, or informational vendor free of charge. We have held the market each Wednesday from about 3 p.m. with the option of tables in the pavilion, lawn or barn and working from the back of one's car, truck or tent is available to vendors.



**Barb Fuller** of Dancing Goat Farm has been on site with her popular goats and goat soap products weekly. Our trustee **Doreen Tilton** has had misc.

craft and household items as well as homemade candies and baked goods. Pulaski Lions Club has offered food each week from their food truck. Linda Trombly has antique jewelry while **Lisa Yesensky** of Greenhouse Effect Gardens has offered plants and herbs weekly.

We have had several other crafters and have hoped, with the new space, to offer a mid-week respite, ending each night (weather permitting) with a small campfire.

**Sandra Langer** has conducted children's crafts, games and giveaways. Horseshoe pits, corn hole boards and a new electronic dart board in the barn have been popular. Despite some rainy and windy nights, live music has been planned for each night, and we will gauge the weather into September to perhaps continue longer. Popular blues band Dam Dog kicked things off on June 19, with the Dancing Witches of the Lake Ontario Broom Riders also performing for charity. Historical and genealogical research has been available in the main building with weekly feature displays.

We hope "Wednesdays at the Barn" will become a popular repast this summer and in the future. On the first night, we offered a strawberry shortcake social. We will add a link to the website at [www.halfshire.org](http://www.halfshire.org) to keep you updated on weekly events as they are set.

A new balcony on the second floor of the barn has also been a popular venue to relax and view the market with an excellent view of the lawns and activities,

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**Half-Shire Membership:** 2024 Annual Dues are \$20 per year, \$50 for supporting membership, \$500 life membership payable to Half-Shire P.O. 73 Richland, New York 13144-0073. Your address label now indicates your dues status.

**The Half-Shire Historical Society**

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

**Phone: 315-298-2986; halfshire1972@gmail.com http://www.halfshire.com, Facebook: "Mary White Half Shire"**

**Founded on November 15, 1972; NYSED charter: Provisional-Dec. 12, 1973; Permanent-Feb. 23, 1978**

**Officers (2023-2024) with terms of office expiration**

<b>President (2024)</b>	Shawn P. Doyle, 85 Lake St, Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-3620	spdinpul@hotmail.com
<b>Vice Pres. (2024)</b>	Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY; 13029; 315-447-4270	facolvin@windstream.net
<b>Treasurer (2024)</b>	Betty Warren, 2785 Co. Rte. 2, Richland, NY; 13144; 315-298-2975	Bettybjwarren@aol.com
<b>Secretary (2024)</b>	Charlotte DeGaetano 424 Albion Cross Rd. Pulaski, New York 13142; 315-298-5986	(no email)
<b>Librarian (Appointed)</b>	Sharon L. Turo, P.O. Box 256, 11 Park St., Sandy Creek, NY 13145; 315-387-3112	slturo@earthlink.net
<b>Board of Trustees (2023-2024) with terms of office expiration</b>		
<b>Albion (2026)</b>	Florence Gardner, P.O. Box 394, 312 Bridge St., Altmar, NY 13302; 315-298-5723	(no email)
<b>Amboy (2026)</b>	Stephanie Pierce, 1094 Albion Cross Rd. Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-5015	
<b>Boylston (2026)</b>	Marcy Newman, 3784 Club Cottage Dr., Southport, SC 28461; 315-778-4234	marcyn@frontiernet.net
<b>Camden (2026)</b>	Tim Nichols, 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316; 315-245-1982	timtgo15@yahoo.com
<b>Florence (2024)</b>	Doreen Tilton, 12330 Florence-Redfield Rd., Camden, NY 13316; 315-245-2760	Doreen_Tilton@yahoo.com
<b>Mexico/New Haven (2024)</b>	Allie Proud, P.O. 703, 83 Wayne St., Mexico, NY 13114; 315-963-3129	proud83@icloud.com
<b>Orwell (2024)</b>	Rose Graham, P.O. Box 162, 1999 Co. Rte. 2, Orwell, NY 13426; 315-298-2070	rosegrah@yahoo.com
<b>Osceola/Montague (2024)</b>	Leona Chereshnoski, 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13475; 315-599-8836	lmchere@gmail.com
<b>Parish (2024)</b>	Venita Ackley, 422 Kipp Rd., Parish, NY 13131; 315-596-9791	ackleyv@gmail.com
<b>Redfield (2025)</b>	Maureen Stedman, 259 McCaw Rd. Redfield, NY 13437; 315-599-7166	maureens0259@gmail.com
<b>Richland (2025)</b>	Robin Philips, 102 Ivans Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-7279	designsofelegance@netzero.net
<b>Sandy Creek (2025)</b>	Margaret Kastler, 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083; 315-387-5209	kastlterm@hotmail.com
<b>Williamstown (2025)</b>	Rebecca Kennedy, 8823 St. Rt. 178, Henderson, NY 13650; 215-532-4464	rkennedy62@yahoo.com
<b>Trustee-at-Large (2024)</b>	Heather Stevens, 435 Deer Run Dr. Central Square, NY 13036; 315-870-2069	dstevens@incpark.com
<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—

Our timelines for newsletters continue to be off. The December newsletter went out on February 20, two months later. As we worked to wrap it up, we expanded the issue by four pages to accommodate the additional stories and the growing list of obituaries. This current newsletter for "March" is now five months late; as I write, in early July, we are already late for June. As you can imagine, obituaries are piled up, and we will cut off what we had through early April.

The problems that cause delays have been plentiful. We have been swamped with catering events at the building, meetings, and some larger estate donations that need immediate attention in sorting and inventory.

On an average day, I arrive thinking I will have time to focus on the newsletter, and other paperwork, and then the phone rings or guests drop by, which is all good! We are finding the need for more volunteers, as those who are here most days are very busy. Additionally, the various construction projects on site have to be organized and overseen.

This said, looking back over the past four months, we have accomplished a great deal and taken in some beautiful artifacts, photos, and documents. We were saddened by the loss of a long-time member, **Malcom Adsit** of Adams, NY; however, we were very gratified that there were many things left for us, and working with the family, we found an enormous collection of old photos from Redfield and surrounding area that was almost all labeled!

Also, from the Adsit estate, we took in many beautiful cups and saucers that belonged to the late **Ann Minosh Adsit**, as well as her collection of Fenton glass. These items are all on display across the tracks at Rural and Migrant Ministry and are there on loan as we do not have proper display space here. The DAR held a luncheon in March at RMMOC, and the ladies enjoyed using the tea sets!

Capital work began in June, as we were awarded a grant of \$8,000 from the Greater Pulaski Community Fund to expand the concrete pads around the barn. We also poured footers for the first phase of the back porch on our main building. The 12' x 24' porch now serves also as a stage for outdoor music events. We completed this on June 19. Monies for this project were raised by a Facebook fundraiser this winter, for which we are all very grateful!

With so many events planned for the summer, this stage/porch has proven a great asset. The Richland Farmers Market has used this weekly, as well as small gatherings such as the SCCS class of 1964 for their luncheon/reunion.

In early June we hosted the Heritage Foundation bus tour, held the APW 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion on Sunday, June 9. Then on the last weekend of June, there were four Pulaski reunions (1974, 1959, 1964, and 1969), a bus tour, and a Sunday breakfast. We hope to see many more of our readers this summer. We are generally open Monday through Friday and often on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Best to call ahead if you are coming from afar.

## Remembering Friends (February 2024 through April 10, 2024)

*(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. We select significant deaths from this extensive collection that touched our organization, officers, members or communities. We try to represent our 15 towns and their people in all we do, and this small selection is just a sample of our weekly additions; full obituaries are in our collection.)*

**Martha C. Tubbs** (May 23, 1936-Jun 1, 2023) Born in Sandy Creek, the daughter of William J. and Ellen (Corse) Potter, Martha married Clifford E. Tubbs in 1962. Martha passed away last year in Kingman, AZ, and we were just notified. She was a past member of ours.

**Jeffrey Hiscock**-(Feb 17, 1970-Nov 29, 2023) Born in Watertown, the son of Ramon and Florence (McKenna) Hiscock, Jeff was a 1988 graduate of APW schools and went on to SUNY Potsdam, earning a degree in chemistry in 1992. Jeff was a great sports fan, and his loss to his family was devastating. A celebration of life was held at Half-Shire this spring.

**Estelle Perry Hilton** (Jul 28, 1927-Dec 20, 2023) Born in Port Arthur, TX, Estelle was the daughter of the late Allen Minton and Agnes Corinne (Borne) Perry. She was married in 1948 to Earl M. Hilton, Jr. of Louisiana, a GGG grandson of Orwell pioneer Peter Hilton. Estelle and her family were active LDS church members, and they compiled a detailed family history of their ancestors. She was long-time member of Half-Shire, and at her death, Estelle left nine children, 63 grandchildren, 167 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren!

**Irene Dewine**-(Nov 7, 1940-Dec 21, 2023) Born in Liverpool, NY, the daughter of William and Genevieve (Wojcieson) Davis, Irene was a 1958 graduate of Onondaga Central High. She married Joseph Dewine of Oswego and served as a correction officer and later court attendant for Oswego County. She was trained as a nurse's aide at Oswego Hospital. Irene was the mother of four sons and a daughter who survive. Joseph died in 1990.

**Bradley Chavis**-(May 11, 1957-Feb 3, 2024) Born in Washington State, the son of Gilbert and Frances (Smith) Chavis, Brad married Mary McDaniel of Altmar. He is survived by three children, including Joe Battles of Altmar.

**Stephen C. Sattler** (Jul 23, 1941-Jan 4, 2024) Born in Bluefield, West Virginia, the son of Charles and Bernice (Smith) Sattler, Steve served in the Marines after high school. He went on to earn a degree in business administration from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College in Ohio. While living in the Sandy Creek area for several years, Steve was an active community member, serving in the Oswego County Legislature, the Sandy Creek Fire Dept., the Fair Association and the Sandy Creek Masons, where he served as Master. He was best known for his years with WSCP Radio, which he helped found in the 1970s. Married to the former Kathleen Crouch in 1965, the couple has two sons who survive, Eric and Stephen, as well as five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Steve maintained many ties to our region after relocating to Delaware, Ohio, and was a Half-Shire member. A daughter, Summer, and two siblings predeceased him.

**Winford Joyner Smith**-(Aug 25, 1947-Jan 17, 2024) Born in Lowville, the son of Winford and Arlene (Joyner) Smith, "Wynn" was a 1965 graduate of Belleville Academy. He married the former Audrey Marie Hulsizer in 1976, and

together they operated the Townhouse and the Roadhouse in the 1980s. The couple has four surviving children, 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Several members of the family have been Half-Shire members.

**James Leddy** (Nov 29, 1925-Jan 18, 2024) Born in Great Bend, NY, the son of Francis and Pauline (Keppler) Leddy, he was married to the late Helen Souva (1928-2022). The couple had four children: Rosalie, Kathleen, Gary (1949-2018), and Roger (who was married to the late **Suzanne Yerdon** (Apr 18, 1953-Jul 13, 2023), daughter of the late Clayton & Erma (Mead) Yerdon of Redfield). Roger and Suzanne were members of Half-Shire. James and Helen were a day short of their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary when she passed away in 2022.

**Gilbert Grover Trumble**-(Jul 25, 1928-Feb 11, 2024) Born in Albion, the son of Frederick and Roxanna (Trumble) Britton, Grover attended Altmar schools and went on to serve in the US Navy (1945-1947) where he was awarded a Purple Heart. He married the former Faylene Balch in 1948 and worked 40 years for Camden Wire. Grover was a life member and past Commander of Williamstown VFW, serving as Oswego County Commander. He was an active outdoorsman and well-regarded in his community. Grover was a past member of Half-Shire and is survived by his six children, 16 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren as well as a host of friends. A memorial veteran banner with his image hangs on Main Street in Williamstown.

**Barbara Hubbard**-(Jul 16, 1951-Feb 13, 2024) The daughter of Howard and Martha (Davis) Hubbard, Barb was a 1969 Pulaski schools and 1973 graduate of SUNY Potsdam. She worked in Pulaski for American Finance and later McKean Insurance. Barb was active in the community and a member of the Fernwood Methodist Church. She was active in many church affairs. Barb was also a well-known softball player in her youth. Several members of the family are members of Half-Shire; survivors include sisters Joanne Cossa, David, Kathy and Ken Hubbard as well as several nieces and nephews and many friends. A brother, Robert, died in 2006.

**Anita Wheeler**-(June 7, 1944-Feb 9, 2024) Born in Petaluma, CA, the daughter of Donald and Helen (Fargo) Morehouse, Anita was married in 1966 to James Wheeler of Pulaski. Five children and four grandchildren survive as does her husband, Jim. Several family members are members of Half-Shire, and we extend our condolences.

**Patricia Dutch**-(Feb 29, 1964-Feb 7, 2024) Born in Tennessee to Karen Tobiasson, she was also raised by stepfather Lawrence Witzigman and lived in Osceola. Pat was known as Diane to her friends. She was a certified genealogist and enjoyed family research. Several nieces, nephews and good friends survive.

**Lawrence Twiss**-(Feb 29, 1944-Feb 18, 2024) Born in Mexico, the son of George O. and Lilly (Akins) Twiss, Larry

was the great-grandson of Sam Manchester, who owned "Tally Ho," the rambling old farm on the Redfield-Florence Road, The Manchester family drove one of the last stagecoaches in the area. Sam's daughter Julia married Frank Twiss, a well-known cheesemaker. Larry and his wife Carolyn raised six children in the Mexico area, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren also survive them.

**Timothy Bryant**-(June 16, 1944-Feb 9, 2024) Born in Rome, the son of the late John J. and Pauline (Helbock) Bryant, Tim was a lifelong resident of the McConnellsville area and attended Camden schools and Syracuse University, going on to college in NH where he graduated as valedictorian. He returned home later to take over the family business, G. W. Bryant Core Sands. Tim was very active in his community and surrounding area. His late mother was a Half-Shire member.

Two weeks later, Tim's sister **Candace A. Bryant** (Nov 12, 1948-Feb 25, 2024) passed away after a short illness. A Camden schools and Wells College graduate in Aurora, Candace worked with her parents and brother in the family business for many years. She was a talented pianist and singer, active in St. John's Church in Camden. She and her brother are survived by their many Bryant and Helbock cousins.

**Jane Ann Sullivan Spellman**-(Nov 9, 1930-Feb 12, 2024) Born in Fulton, the daughter of Judge Eugene and Ruth (Reedy) Sullivan, Jane Ann was educated in Fulton schools. She went on to Smith College in Massachusetts, earning a degree in 1952. She worked for Girl Scouts of America for a time before settling in the Mohawk Valley where she worked for 53 years at the Herkimer County Historical Society. Jane Ann married James Spellman of Ilion, who passed away in 2004. Jane Ann was the author of two volumes of biographies of notable women in the Herkimer/Oneida County region, *Women Belong in History*. She spent time each summer at the family cottage on Ramona Beach in Richland. Sister-in-law Frances Sullivan and daughter Margaret are valued members of Half-Shire.

**Beverly Benedetto**-(March 18, 1936-Feb 21, 2024) Born in Bayonne, NJ, the daughter of Michael and Estelle (Czaplicki) Zaniznick, she married Pasquale Benedetto and moved to Amboy, NY. The couple raised a family of seven children. Bev was active in her adopted community, assisting in many organizations. Among her survivors are her son, Hon. Thomas Benedetto.

**Nellie Luella Carnrite Moran**-(Feb 24, 1932-Feb 2024) Born in Lacona, the daughter of Ephraim and Lillian (Stacy) Carnrite. Luella attended Sandy Creek schools and married Al Moran, who died in 2003. Among her survivors are three children and her sister, Mary Mason of Oswego, a valued member of Half-Shire.

**Joseph Woods**-(Feb 26, 1989-Feb 26, 2024) The son of the late Richard Woods and the former Christine Parkhurst, Joe attended APW schools. He lived in the Pulaski area, and his passing was a significant loss to his loved ones. Among his survivors are his mom, stepfather Tim Bacon, siblings Richard, Emily, stepsiblings Kari Schulte, Kenny Bacon, Alaina Bacon and Erin Klarner (one of our regular editors and life members) as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Judith McCarthy**-(Oct 17, 1946-Feb 24, 2024) Born in Hackensack, NJ, the daughter of Julius and Dorthea

(Matcalfe) Thaisz, Judy was the valedictorian and president of Morrisville-Eaton Central class of 1964. She studied at Cornell University and later worked for the Oneida Dispatch as a reporter. She married Frederick "Mac" McCarthy, Sr., a NYS trooper, and settled in Fulton. Judy was an active member of her adopted community and sat on the Fulton Friends of History board. She was a longtime member of Half-Shire. Among her survivors are six children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many good friends.

**Edison Jordal**-(Nov 9, 1945-Feb 26, 2024) The son of Otto Francis and Dorothy A. (Griffin) Jordal, Ed was a 1964 graduate of Mexico schools. Ed married the former Carolyn Jackson in 1967, and the couple had two sons, Daniel and Darren. Carolyn passed away in 2016. Several members of the family are Half-Shire members.

**Alfred Thibault**-(Oct 2, 1934-Feb 27, 2024) Born in Salem, MA, the son of Emil and Blanche (Cote) Thibault, Alfred was an Army veteran serving at Ft. Knox. He married his wife of 66 years, Maxine Jones, and the couple raised a family of five children that now includes 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. His son, Dr. Glenn Thibault of Orwell, is among his survivors and a valued Half-Shire member to whom we send condolences.

**Richard Roach**-(Sept 25, 1933-Feb 29, 2024) Born in Oswego, the son of Albert and Viola (Burdick) Roach, Dick was a graduate of Oswego High. He served in the Army and returned to work at Nestle in Fulton as a millwright. He was active in union affairs and retired after 35 years. Dick is survived by his wife, the former Josephine Sova, and three children. Among his extended family are his cousins Betty Warren and Robin Philips from our board.

**Velma Gardner Short**-(Mar 24, 1934-Feb 10, 2024) Born in Oswego, the daughter of George and Laura Mae (Forbes) Gardner, Velma graduated from Altmar School and went on to Oswego State. She married Julian Short of Connecticut in 1954. The couple later lived in Tonawanda, NY, where they raised their four surviving children. Velma was sister-in-law to our Trustee Florence Gardner, and her celebration of life was held at Half-Shire.

**Leonard Pringle**-(Nov 19, 1927-Mar 3, 2024) Born in Fulton, the son of F. Roy and Mary (Revitt) Pringle, Leonard was an Army veteran of WWII, returning to work for Nestle in Fulton many years, and later the Oswego County Sheriff. He was married 74 years to the former Violet Ryder, who passed away in 2021. Among their survivors are son Myron, daughter Melinda Canale, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**William J. Carey**-(Nov 6, 1954-Mar 3, 2024) The son of Gerald F. and Madeline (Hart) Carey, Bill graduated from Moravia High, went on to earn his teaching degree at SUNY Oswego and taught technology many years at Mexico High School. He had a passion for history and antiques and was interested in local history. Five siblings survive Bill.

**Karen Macklen**-(Apr 21, 1958-Mar 8, 2024) Born in Watertown, the daughter of the late Frank and Kay (Moore) Ramsey, Karen was a 1977 graduate of South Jefferson schools. She married Mark Macklen of Worth in 1980, and the couple have two children and two grandchildren who survive. Karen was a niece of Harold Samson, author of *Tug Hill Country*.

**Lois Kaminski**-(Aug 26, 1947-Mar 9, 2024) Born in Worcester, MA, to L. Paul and Marcia (Rice) Clark, Lois and her husband, John Kaminski, settled in Williamstown after they spent time in the US Navy. They had two daughters, 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren at her death. The family also hosted 17 exchange students, and over the years, Lois was very involved in the Williamstown Fire Auxiliary.

**Lisa Williams**-(Aug 21, 1981-Mar 10, 2024) was born in Oswego, the daughter of Robert McCarthy and Kathleen (Harmon) McCarthy. Lisa was a preschool teacher for SUNY Oswego daycare and the area YMCA for many years. Lisa's mom, Kathleen, is a long-time member of Half-Shire.

**William Taylor**-(Jun 11, 1932-Mar 15, 2024) Born in Knoxville, IL, the son of Hartford and Elizabeth (Mulliner) Taylor, he was a 1950 graduate of Senna High School in Chicago. Bill trained as a civil engineer and, in retirement, played guitar with a bluegrass group. Married to the former Patricia Rhodes, he is also survived by three children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The couple lived in Camden.

**Yvonne Spencer**-(May 28, 1932-Mar 17, 2024) Born in New Bremen, NY, the daughter of Deane and Helen (Kilburn) Wetmore, she was a 1949 graduate of Camden schools. Vonnie married William Spencer in 1950 and lived on Empey Ave there. She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Ruth Adams**-(Apr 4, 1929-Mar 18, 2024) Born in Syracuse, the daughter of Waldred and Eva (Cook) Tuttle, Ruth worked for Bell Telephone for many years. She is survived by five children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Ruth's daughter-in-law, Cathie Ouderkirk Adams, is a valued member of Half-Shire.

**Pamela Hill VanDusen**-(Jan 29, 1951-Mar 22, 2024) The daughter of the late Franklin and Mildred (Kastler) Hill, Pam was educated in Redfield and Sandy Creek schools. Her family once operated a restaurant in the Braes mansion in Redfield. Pam was married to **Tim VanDusen** (Jan 15, 1949-Jun 10, 2024), who passed away unexpectedly in June. The couple have a son, Shawn, and two grandchildren. Pam's brother, Frederick "Rip" Hill, also survives.

**Joyce Miller**-(Apr 20, 1934-Mar 23, 2024) Born in Fernwood, the daughter of William and Ella (Calkins) Webb, Joyce married Herbert Miller in 1954. He passed away in 2023. The couple raised two children, Todd (who died in 2022) and Jodi. They also have a grandson, Chad Metott.

**Sonya Farmer**-(Nov 10, 1938-Mar 25, 2024) Born in Adams, the daughter of Don and Thelma (Lyman) Nichols, Sonya graduated from Adams schools. She operated Mr. Mike's Restaurant for many years and later became an ordained minister. Two children, 11 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren survive her, along with many friends.

**Neal Johnson**-(Sept 26, 1953-Mar 27, 2024) Born in Pleasantville, NY, to Rodney and Valerie Johnson, Neal moved to Oswego in 1971 and worked at the FitzPatrick Power Plant for over 35 years. He was active in scouting and enjoyed woodworking and old cars. Neal had become

an essential volunteer at the Richardson Bates House Museum in Oswego and, shortly before his untimely death, helped us move the enormous DAR cabinet from there to Half-Shire. He was a kind man; his loss was a blow to his many friends and family,

**Susan Brosnan**-(Apr 27, 1937-Mar 27, 2024) Born in Volney, she was the adopted daughter of Arthur and Margaret Newman of Syracuse. She later moved to Altmar, where she lived for 45 years, serving as town clerk and driving a bus for the APW district. She was an active volunteer in the area. Four children, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild survive her.

**Leonard Webb**-(Jul 12, 1942-Mar 30, 2024) Born in Amboy, the son of Erwin and Ruth (Oyer) Webb, Leonard attended APW schools. He went on to work for 50 years for Madison Concrete. He is survived by a large family, including his wife Pauline, five children, 12 grandchildren, siblings "Skip" Webb, and sisters Corienne and Mary.

**Aleata Leete** (Apr 4, 1944-Mar 31, 1944) Born in Saranac Lake, NY, the daughter of Reginald and Vironica (Quirk) Howley, Aleata graduated from Tupper Lake schools and went on to earn her nursing degree at St. Joseph's in Syracuse. She married Charles Leete in 1971 and lived in Lacona since that time. Aleata was an active volunteer and served as head nurse at the Rural and Migrant Ministry in Richland for several years and worked at Unity Acres in Orwell. She is survived by her companion, Charles Bremm, and several nieces and nephews.

**Bettie Harvey**-(Oct 13, 1936-Apr 6, 2024) The daughter of Charles and Mary (Plopper) Stewart, Bettie attended Sandy Creek schools. She married Vivian Harvey of Redfield in 1953 and was an active member of the Redfield Fire Dept. Auxiliary, the VFW in Lacona and the Rebekah Lodge in Redfield. She drove a bus for Sandy Creek schools and operated the Easy-Going Diner in Redfield for a while. Survivors include three sons, two daughters and 17 grandchildren. Bettie was a past Half-Shire member.

**Ross Davis**-(Apr 28, 1954-Apr 8, 2024) Born in Norfolk, VA, the son of Charles and Thelma (Strough) Davis, Ross married the former LuAnn Ouderkirk in 1973. The couple lived in Redfield for many years, where they raised their two children. They also have 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Three sisters also survive: Fay Madigan, LaVina Engle, and Linda Henderson.

**Richard Dix**-(Aug 13, 1942-Apr 10, 2024) Born in Phoenix, NY, the son of Norman and Norma (Kinne) Dix. Among his survivors are his sister-in-law Barbara Dix, former Oswego County Historian and a valued Half-Shire member

**Malcom Adsit**-(May 12, 1932-Apr 10, 2024) Born in Redfield, the son of Winne and Rena (Balcom) Adsit, Malcom was a 1950 graduate of Sandy Creek schools and a Korean War veteran. He worked 35 years for Niagara Mohawk Power Company and was well-known in the North Country. Married to the former Anna Minosh, who died in 2020, he is survived by daughter Judith Fuller and granddaughter Candi Fuller. Malcom was a longtime member and supporter of Half-Shire and left us many valuable photos and documents of his family and the rich history of Redfield.

# Winter/Spring 2024 News and Views Centerfold



Left- On April 10, representatives of CNY Arts, **Jeremy Stoller** and **Ben Verdi** visited Half-Shire to meet with local non-profits and discuss upcoming grants.



Above and left-At the April 27 meeting, local authors **Alice Trudell Matthews** and **Jim Farfaglia** spoke on their recent works, which are available at Half-Shire



Left-On March 14, staff of Tobin's Real Wood of Syracuse worked with us to move an enormous wooden display cabinet from Oswego's Richardson Bates House Museum to our facility. The cabinet belongs to the DAR and was finally moved after much planning thanks to donations made by member **Susan Downey**. This fits nicely in the Allison Balcom library.

Some of the Swartzentruber boys

from up the road, also assisted in the move

Below-**Betty Burdick Warren**, our treasurer, holds the plaque honoring her brother Dan who lost his life in Vietnam. Dan was among the initial 15 honorees of the Pulaski Alumni Wall of Distinction, which was dedicated on May 27 as part of the Pulaski Memorial Day commemorations. All of these initial honorees gave their life in wartime service.



Above-Pulaski class of 1964 member **Bill Larrabee** made a sign for our kitchen, dedicated in memory of his friend and classmate, the late **Erma Potter Schroeder**, our former curator.

Right-This spring DAR members **Linda Smith** and **Catherine Beebe** presented a \$500 donation to Half-Shire, which we used toward the construction of our new porch and stage.



# Winter/Spring 2024 News and Views Centerfold



Left- Dear friend and frequent editor of many of our publications **Arlie Hall Corday** and her husband **Howard** stopped by this spring to review the many items of the Malcom Adsit estate we received pertaining to her Balcom family.



Above right- On June 1, the Heritage Foundation of Oswego County conducted a bus tour of the Town of Richland/Village of Pulaski with its last stop, Half-Shire, for a light meal and music in the Grant Pavilion and Barn.

Right- Heritage President **Austin Wheelock** congratulates **Allen Goodsell** and **Dawn Holynski** of the Fernwood Community Center on a restoration grant and loan.



Left- On June 9, Half-Shire hosted the APW class of 1974 reunion dinner. The group had a wonderful time and were particularly pleased that their classmate "**Chip**" Hamlin and wife **Donna** were able to join them (lower left) after a recent hospitalization.



Right- On May 18, the **Gibbs** family of the Pulaski area held a party to honor their matriarch, **Anne Hurd Gibbs Miller**. Over 70 members of the family were present, including Anne's seven children. Anne is a life member and valued friend of Half-Shire.

Lower left- On May 22, our good friends **Deb McLean** and cousin **Lani Rousseau** were in town to visit and exchange materials we each have been sorting from the estate of **June Walker**.



Left- Also present at the April 27 meeting was **Jim Emery** of Mexico with his mother **Lucy Polczak Emery**, pictured here with their cousin, our beloved Trustee **Florence Pizon Gardner**.

## News and Contact Info from Across the 15 Towns

**Oswego County Historian, Debra Allen:** 384 E. River Rd, Oswego, NY 13126 [historian@oswegocounty.com](mailto:historian@oswegocounty.com) 315-349-8460. Deb has been busy settling into her new job and volunteering at Oswego's Heritage Foundation record center. She led the management of the Heritage building at the County Fair this summer, which ran from July 3 to July 7 in Sandy Creek.

**Albion—Florence Gardner, Historian:** Box 394, Altmar, NY 13302. 315-298-5723. Florence marked her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 24. She remains very active in research and answering inquiries.

**Amboy—Vacant.** The town of Amboy is searching for a new historian. Tim Kelley has stepped down.

**Boylston—Roxanne Ferguson, Historian:** 5444 County Rte. 50, Richland, NY 13144. In early July War of 1812 book and researcher **Greg Chester** visited the area, and we took him to the unmarked cemetery in the northwest corner of Boylston that is purportedly the resting place of British soldiers from an interior skirmish during that conflict. The cemetery was brought to our attention in 2018 by former historian **Marcy Newman** and has been GEO marked for further investigation, and NYS DEC officials are aware of it.

**Camden (Oneida County)—Tim Nichols, Historian:** 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982;



[tingto15@yahoo.com](mailto:tingto15@yahoo.com)  
Members of the James and Lauretta (Dunn) Barker family were here this spring to share research on their ancestors: l-r, **Larry, Karen, Don and Kathleen.**

**Historian Tim Nichols** has been busy assisting the Queen Village Historical Society in inventories and work.

**Florence (Oneida County)—Sherry McNamara, Historian:** 11899 Tompkins Corners, Florence Rd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-0487.

The annual mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Florence is set for Sunday, Sept. 22, at 11 a.m. This is a wonderful annual event at the 200-year-old sanctuary on the hill in Florence.

**Mexico—Judy Greenway, Historian:** 503 East Stone Road, Mexico, NY 13144. 315-963-9593.

[jumangree@yahoo.com](mailto:jumangree@yahoo.com) The Mexico Historical Society has had a busy season. **President Jim Hotchkiss** has been planning and conducting programs in the cemetery and at the museum. A recent birthday celebration for noted abolitionist Starr Clark was held. Meetings are on second Thursdays, 7 p.m., at the tin shop. 315-963-7853 for more information.

**Montague (Lewis County)—Dave Andolora,**

Historian: c/o 6353 Salmon River Road, Lowville, NY 13367.

**New Haven—Kelly Miller** PO 141, New Haven, NY 13121; 315-963-3900. [historian@newhavenny.com](mailto:historian@newhavenny.com) Kelly had a great exhibit at the County Fair this year and has been a frequent participant in our meetings.

Her informative Facebook posts are enjoyed by many.

**Orwell—George Stevens, Historian:** 7411 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083. [itsallhighadventure@yahoo.com](mailto:itsallhighadventure@yahoo.com).

315-404-7134. George has been busy settling into his new job and regularly posting scanned photos and documents to Facebook, eliciting many comments and information.

**Osceola (Lewis County)—Historian Tammy Becker:** 2630 Prince Brook Rd., Redfield, NY 13437

[Beckertammy604@gmail.com](mailto:Beckertammy604@gmail.com).

**Parish—Bridgett Swartz, Historian:**

P.O. Box 195, Parish, NY 13131.

Member **Brent Petrie** and brother **Richard** were in on April 20 and met with **Venita Ackley** and **Shawn Doyle**. Brent donated several more books on the Palatine families, especially the Vrooman family.

Brent told of an

interesting trip to Holland to review old letters that he viewed in the Leydon University Library. These letters were raided from foreign ships by the British navy in the pre-revolutionary times. (To be fair, they "all did it" but the British saved the mail and returned it recently!)

**Redfield—Liz Grant Historian:** 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@gmail.com](mailto:spdinpul@gmail.com) **Kevin**

**Stewart, Deputy Town Historian:**

[junkyinny@gmail.com](mailto:junkyinny@gmail.com). On April 12, Elizabeth Snow (far right) visited nonprofits

in the area to inspect applicants for the 2024 grant round. She met with **Allen**

**Goodsell** and **Dawn Holynski** at the new

Fernwood

Community center (former Methodist Church). Half-Shire received a generous technology grant from the foundation this year!

**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>

**Williamstown—Beverly Carusone, Historian,**

PO 55, 3411 Co. Rte. 17 Williamstown, NY 13493





## Albert Alonzo Fellows of the 110th Regiment, By Natalie J. Woodall

(Richland) Born in May 1843 in Pulaski, NY, Albert Alonzo Fellows was a son of Isaac Fellows (Sept. 22, 1800-Jan. 11, 1874) and Cynthia Young (1805-March 8, 1881). He was the fourth child in a family of five.

Sometime after the 1855 New York census was taken, Albert left Oswego County to work as a clerk in Pontiac, Livingston, IL. Shortly after the Civil War began, recruiting for soldiers was started in Illinois, and in August, the 39th Illinois was organized. Nicknamed the Yates Phalanx after Governor Richard Yates, the regiment recruited over 800 men, and among them was 19-year-old Albert Alonzo Fellows, who enlisted on Aug. 1, 1861, and mustered into Co C. After training in Missouri and Maryland, the Yates Phalanx moved to Virginia. It was attached to the Army of the Potomac. In March 1862, the 39th participated in the battle of Winchester, or, more correctly, the battle of Kernstown, the only conflict Confederate General Stonewall Jackson lost. While the battle itself took place on March 23, 1862, the previous day, Union pickets were overrun, and many were taken captive. Corporal Fellows was one of them. He was marched off to Richmond and confined in Libby Prison. **Right: Albert's stone in Pulaski Cemetery**



The prison consisted of three buildings confiscated by Confederate military authorities in March 1862. Later, it was reserved for Union officers. In its early days, it housed enlisted men, and on April 14, Fellows entered its gates. According to the Town Clerks' Registers, he spent 52 days there, which is incorrect. He was in Confederate hands for 51 days, but only 28 were spent in Libby. Albert was paroled on May 11, 1862, and discharged from the Union Army on May 30. It is pretty likely that he immediately headed for his parents' home to rest and recuperate.

Albert and his brother James Grant (April 14, 1844-April 14, 1911) enlisted in the 110th Regiment at Pulaski on August 19, 1862, and mustered into Co. B. Perhaps because of his prior military experience, Albert was appointed a first lieutenant. On January 10, 1863, he was promoted to captain and transferred to Co. I.

The 110th Regiment left the state at the end of August and headed for Camp Patterson in Baltimore, MD. In November, they boarded the steamer Ericsson to begin a journey to Louisiana. After engaging in several minor conflicts, the 110th was ordered to rebel-held Port Hudson, a fort on the Mississippi River strategically important for the Union and the Confederacy. On June 14, 1863, General Nathaniel Banks, commanding officer of the 19th Army, ordered a charge up the steep slopes behind Port Hudson in a disastrous effort to dislodge the Confederates. Among those selected for this ill-conceived and doomed venture were companies B and I of the 110th Regiment.

In February 1864, the 110th was ordered to Fort Jefferson in the Gulf of Mexico, which the Union Army used as a prison. Captain Fellows performed detached duty as an assistant inspector general at regimental headquarters in Key West. He also participated in the battle of Fort Myers, a little-known skirmish considered the southernmost battle of the Civil War. The Union Army confiscated 4500 head of cattle, and angry local cattlemen, later dubbed the Cow Cavalry, marched to Fort Myers on Feb. 20, 1864, demanding that Colonel James Doyle surrender. Colonel Doyle responded that he would never surrender and threatened to destroy the mob. After several hours of fighting and a few casualties, the farmers withdrew.

Although the war officially ended in April 1865, the 110th remained at Fort Jefferson, awaiting a replacement regiment. In August, the 161st arrived, and the men of the 110th boarded a ship bound for New York Harbor. They arrived on Aug. 24 and headed to Albany, where they were paid and mustered out on Aug. 28.

On Jan. 1, 1866, Fellows and several companions took the train from Richland to Sand Bank (Altmar) to visit former Quartermaster Franklin G. Comstock. The group planned to take the 7 p.m. train back to Richland and gathered on the platform to begin boarding. Albert waited until the train moved before attempting to board the last car. The Pulaski Democrat reported what happened next:

*His left foot must have slipped upon the step, passed through, and became entangled. He lost hold of the irons, fell backward, and was thus dragged two and a half miles before the remains of his body became detached from the car. Quartermaster Comstock and others at Sand Bank saw enough of his mishap in getting aboard to excite their fear that all was not well, and they followed along the track until they found his hat, a boot, and stocking and discovered other evidence of the awful catastrophe. They at once telegraphed to Mr. H. H. Mellen at Richland Station, who, when the train arrived without Capt. Fellows put a box on the hand car and went up the road until he found what remained of the body and met the Sand Bank party picking up the fragments. The details are too shocking to dwell upon, and our readers must be content to know that he was torn to pieces.*

The Oswego Daily Palladium eulogized him on Jan. 3, announcing Capt.'s death. Fellows was received with sorrow by many in this city, who had become attached to him on account of his many winning virtues, his frank and manly bearing, his generous, impulsive, yet kindly disposition, and his devoted attachment to his country, which showed itself when that country stood most in need of strong arms and brave hearts to defend her from the assault of treason. Some entered the army for preferment or love of gain, but Capt. Fellows seemed fired by pure patriotism and went into the service of his country deeply impressed with the sacredness of her cause and did noble work therein.

Ironically, a man who had served in two regiments, had been captured and confined by the enemy, and had survived to talk about his experiences should meet with such a tragic, senseless end. Captain Fellows lies in the family plot in Pulaski Village Cemetery. A beautiful gravestone paying tribute to his military service marks his final resting place.

## **Regional Bibles: President William Howard Taft's Mexico, NY Family** **The Cynthia Taft Butler (1773-1837) Family Bible (1810)**

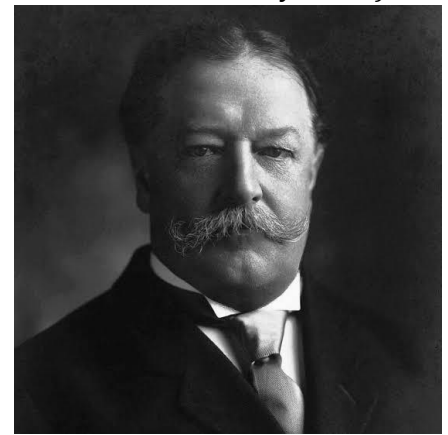
(Mexico) In early March, our long-time member Larry Rogers of New Haven brought in a box of old papers and a small Bible he had purchased from an estate in Mexico a few years ago. Among the papers was a small Bible printed in 1810 that Larry said linked the Schmidt family of Mexico to the 27<sup>th</sup> American president and 10<sup>th</sup> chief justice of the Supreme Court, William Howard Taft (1856-1927). Initially skeptical, we ran the data and confirmed that the small red Bible was given to Rawson Butler (1806-1865) on Oct. 28, 1831, by his maiden aunt, Sophia Taft (1787-1843). Sophia Taft was Rawson's maternal aunt as well as the paternal GG Great Aunt of President William Howard Taft (1856-1927), making the last owner of the Bible, past Half-Shire member Ralph Schmidt (1921-2007), a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin of the president. Ralph's mother's great-grandmother, Cynthia Taft Butler (1773-1837), lived and died in Mexico, NY. She was a great-grand aunt of President Taft.

This Bible is a "gateway record" to Revolutionary War soldier Aaron Taft (1743-1808), who served as a minuteman in Captain Joseph Chapin's unit, which responded to the Lexington Alarm in April 1775. Aaron Taft's wife, Rhoda Rawson (1749-1827), was herself the granddaughter of Edward Rawson (1615-1693), an early Harvard graduate who served as secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The records in this Bible are truly special and very important. (Parenthesis and additions added by editor)

### **Births**

Cynthia Maria(h) Butler born at Utica, Oneida Co. N.Y. 13 August 1802  
 George Taft Butler born in Utica, N.Y., 24<sup>th</sup> November 1804  
 Rawson Allen Butler was born in Utica, N.Y., on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1806  
 Mary Ann Butler was born in Utica, N.Y., on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1809  
 Pamela Matthews was born at Keane, N.H., on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1812  
 Henry Taft Butler was born in Mexico, N.Y. December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1840  
 Mary Eunice Butler was born in Mexico, N.Y., on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1844  
 George Matthews Butler was born in Mexico, N.Y., 10<sup>th</sup> September 1846  
 Edward Rawson Butler was born in Mexico, N.Y., on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1849  
 Frank Carroll Butler was born in Mexico, N.Y., on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1852  
 Meta May Butler was born at Butterfly, (New Haven) N.Y., 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1879  
 George Markham Butler was born in Butterfly, N.Y. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1888  
 Harold R. Butler born at Butterfly, N.Y. October 5, 1893  
 Mary Evelyn Reed was born in Butterfly, N.Y., on March 28, 1903  
 George E. Schmidt born May 3, 1923,



**Above-President William Howard Taft (1857-1930)**

### **Marriages**

R.(awson) A.(llen) Butler and Miss P(amelia) Matthews at Mexico, N.Y. 7<sup>th</sup> November 1859 by Rev. Burroughs Holmes  
 Cynthia M. Butler and Cha(rles) C. Johnson at Mexico, N.Y. 13 December 1865 by Rev. T. A. Weed (smudged)  
 Edward R. Butler and Emma Markham, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1878, by Rev. J. Cross

### **Deaths**

Cynthia (Taft) Butler died in Mexico, NY, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1837 at 15 minutes past 4 p.m., aged 63 y, five months.  
 George Taft Butler died in Mexico on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1841, 15 minutes before 3 p.m., aged 36 yrs., 11mos. 13 days  
 Nathan Butler died in Mexico, N.Y., on March 19, 1849, aged 76 years., nine days  
 Mary Eunice Butler died in Mexico, N.Y., August 22, 1859, at 5 am, aged 17 yrs., two months.,  
 Cynthia Mariah Butler died in Mexico on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1866, at half past 3 pm, aged 22 yrs., six mos., nine days  
 Rawson A. Butler died in Mexico on September 9, 1865, , aged 59 yrs., 3 mo.  
 Mariah C(ynthia) Butler, died in New Haven, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1875, aged 72 years (note 1<sup>st</sup> names reversed)  
 Lawrence Schmidt died on March 13, 1951  
 Meta M. Schmidt died Oswego Hosp. April 16, 1958, age 76  
 George Markham Butler died February 2, 1977, aged 88  
 Annette S. Butler died February 7, 1980, at age 92 (both died at Milford Manor, Camden, Del.)  
 Ralph (O'Neil) Wm. O Schmidt d.o.b April 24, 1921, d.o.d 19 July 2007 (last date completed by Half-Shire)  
 Harold R. Butler died at Butterfly on June 23, 1894, aged eight months, 18 days  
 Edward R. Butler died April 25, 1918, New Haven, NY  
 Emma A. Butler died at Butterfly on November 25, 1922. "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind us is not to die."  
 George Edw. Schmidt died December 20, 1927, age four years  
 Evelyn Reed died on March 8, 1930 (nearly 27 yrs.)  
 Frank C. Butler killed in Mexico on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1868, age 16 years  
 Henry L. Butler died at Fulton, NY, on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1869, at ages 28 years  
 George M. Butler died at Butterfly, Oswego Co., N.Y. September 4, 1883, at 4 p.m., age 37 years lacking five days  
 Pamela C. Butler died at her house in Butterfly, Oswego Co., N.Y., between 2 and 3 a.m. on her 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 1884.

## Bible/Marker Restoration Fund

Half-Shire has a family Bible collection that spans 300 years. We have been sending our Bibles that most need repair to Robert Lomascolo of Aurora, NY. We have been delighted with his expert craftsmanship and care in repairing and restoring these priceless tomes that tell the story of our regional families, often long before vital records were kept in New York. We gratefully accept donations for this important ongoing work.

### 2024 Summer Concert Series in Osceola

#### Concert Date Name of Group

June 2	Alice Clemens Opener
June 9	Kit Fallon
June 16	Pat Kane
June 23	Merry Mischief
July 7	Mohawk Valley Bluegrass
July 14	Phil Banaszak
July 21	Day at the Museum
July 27 + 28	Fiddler's Picnic Festival TBA
Aug 4	Jim Kimball + Karen Canning
Aug 10 + 11	Liz Simchick
Aug 18	Henry Jankiewicz
Aug 25	Donnie Perkins
Sept 1	Adger Williams
Sept 8	Central Chapter
Sept 15	Fiddlin's Fun
Sept 22	Roger Thesier House Party

**Join us, where the tradition comes alive!**

### NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers' Assn.

1121 Comins Rd. (Osceola) Redfield, NY 13437

Contact 315-599-8836 for more information.

The Fiddlers' Hall of Fame concerts have been well attended this year so far, and the organization has received some funding to update the infrastructure. If you haven't been to a Sunday concert in the past few years, you really should take a drive up to Osceola and enjoy the wonderful music and atmosphere!

### New Raffles and Fall Raffle Winners!

We've enclosed a set of raffle tickets for your consideration. Prizes include a painting by Celia Potter, our usual hand-crafted afghans and a DNA kit.

**The winners of the winter raffle were Linda Waggoner, Barb Joslyn and JoAnn Bakeman.** These were drawn in March live on Facebook.

### Dues and labels

We continue to receive a few calls since we changed our accounting methods and don't stamp newsletters in red ink "paid" anymore. **If you look at your mailing label, the date of the year for which you were most recently paid is indicated after your name. If you are a Life member, it will say "Life"; if**

**you have paid for 2024, it will say "2024."**

If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to email us at [halfshire@hotmail.com](mailto:halfshire@hotmail.com) or phone us Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 315.298.2986.

## Half-Shire acquires 4th Tyler Coverlet

This spring we learned that another Tyler Coverlet had come up for sale at the Fishville Antiques in Pulaski. The red coverlet is fairly worn but is one of the last examples made before the death of Henry Tyler in 1857. The original owner was Elsie I. Gibbs (1833-1866), who is buried in North Watertown Cemetery and was the wife of Israel Gibbs and ancestor of some of the Richland Hamlet Gibbs family. We are still researching her and her family.

### Parting glance...

We often joke that Fridays are "Yerdon day" as many of Vice President **Fay Yerdon Colvin's** relations stop by for coffee and to visit.

On March 15, several members of the Yerdon family met for an afternoon of catching up. Family patriarch **Victor Yerdon**, who turned 96 in June, presided over the day's conversation and laughter.



(l-r) Molly and Ambrose Yerdon, Herb Yerdon, Don Yerdon, Darlene and Victor Yerdon (seated), Michelle Yerdon Halstead, Mike Yerdon, Fay Ann Yerdon Colvin, Paulette Yerdon, Karen and Larry Porter, Lawrence Girard and daughter Laura.

**Victor is the last grandchild of Abraham Yerdon (1837-1923) the others come down from his uncles Will Yerdon and Norm Yerdon and their sister Anna Mae Yerdon Bradley.**

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

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### **Scheduled Meetings and Upcoming Events for 2024**

- **Fri July 26-28, 2024** Grant Family Reunion, Richland HQ (Private)
- **Sat August 3, 2024** Annual Pulaski 1980s Reunion, Richland HQ
- **Sat Aug 17, 2024** Sandy Creek 1966 reunion (private)
- **Sat Aug 24, 2024** Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.
- **Sat/Sun August 31-Sept 1** Redfield Old Home Days at Redfield Town Center Square
- **Sun Sept 22, 2024** St. Mary's Annual Mass in Florence, 11 a.m.
- **Sat Sept 28, 2024** Annual Society Lunch and General meeting, noon-2 p.m.
- **Sat Oct 12, 2024** Fall Dinner Dance with Still Kickin', 5-10 p.m.
- **Sat Oct 25, 2024** Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.
- **Sat Nov 16, 2024** SAR/DAR annual joint luncheon noon (with tree ceremony)
- **Sat Nov 23, 2024** Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.
- **Sat Dec 7, 2024** Christmas in Mexico, NY event
- **Sun Dec 8, 2024** Light Up Pulaski Christmas event
- **Sat Dec 14, 2024** Half-Shire Christmas Party, noon on
- **Sat Dec 21, 2024** Christmas in Richland festival, noon on
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Mar.-Nov. 2024** Joint DAR Regular meeting (private), noon (off July/Aug)

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

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

**\*Meetings subject to Change - see our Facebook "Mary White" Half-Shire or phone**