**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**

**September 2023 *Preserving History in the Eastern Lake Ontario Region of NY since 1972* Vol. XLIX No. 3**

**Well Known British Historian Barrie Trinder visits Half-Shire in August**

A person and person standing together

Description automatically generated(Richland) Barrie S. Trinder, a well-known British historian and writer, as well as a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, spent a day with us at Half-Shire on July 31. He was accompanied by his friend Maryellen Hemstreet of Syracuse, who studied with him years before.

The reason for Mr. Trinder’s visit was a project he has been working on while completing his recent book on Banbury, a small city in Oxfordshire, in the west of England. While researching families who had migrated to America from that area, he had found a letter written from Pineville, NY, in 1839, by John George (1808-1845), who had left the town of Anyho in neighboring Northamptonshire for America in the 1830s. The letter was published in a book on Anyho that Trinder came across some years ago, and knowing he was going to be visiting the US this past summer, he decided he wanted to know what happened to John George and his family in Oswego County.

Coming to Half-Shire was very fortuitous for Trinder, as after an initial period of research by Sharon Turo and Shawn Doyle, it was discovered that within our collections we had many of the answers to Trinder’s questions. Member Tim Wilder of Watkins Glen was contacted when Doyle discovered he was a descendant of the George family. Tim proved an invaluable contact on this quest as he has a large collection of photos, artifacts, and more importantly, handwritten memoirs compiled by John George’s daughter Elizabeth George Erskine (1836-1901) before her death.

Calls to our friends at The Historical Association of South Jefferson brought in more information on the family of John George’s wife, the former Anne Terry, and her sisters, three of whom married Eely men—all from Anyho also. In fact, some of the research done by Becky Kennedy and Shawn for the Williamstown women’s book series referenced these Eely ladies. The research proved that over twenty-five members of the Eely, George, and Terry families all immigrated to Oswego and Jefferson Counties from the tiny village of Anyho, leaving many hundreds of current descendants.

The stories of Tim’s ancestor Elizabeth written over one hundred years ago meticulously detail how the family traveled here, including vivid descriptions about the trip to Oswego on the Erie and Oswego Canals, as well as landing at Selkirk Point, and Browns Landing (on Lake Road, west of Pulaski). John George died in 1845, and his widow later remarried Richard Fletcher, living in South Albion. We have traced the family out extensively to the current day.

One of the most interesting discoveries occurred while hitting stone walls on the fate of John George’s older son and namesake, John George, Jr. We could not find him in our records right away, after we had found extensive records on the other three children. We did find him in the end--in our last issue of the newsletter in the Wells Bible records on page 10, as John George had married Kezia Wells and gone on to become a Methodist Minister.

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Trinder and Doyle will be co-authoring a treatment of the Anyho immigrants to be published in the spring issue of the Banbury Historical Journal, *Cake and Cockhorse*, we will also publish this in a future *Tug Hill Literary Review*.

We were delighted to meet Barrie and Maryellen and look forward to collaborating further with them on this fascinating subject.

**Half-Shire Membership: 2023 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**

**President’s Report, Shawn Doyle**—

**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 (2022-2023) *with terms of office expiration***

**President (2024)** Shawn P. Doyle, 85 Lake St, Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-3620 spdinpul@hotmail.com

**Vice Pres. (2024)** Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY; 13029; 315-447-4270 facolvin@windstream.net

**Treasurer (2024)** Betty Warren, 2785 Co. Rte. 2, Richland, NY; 13144; 315-298-2975 Bettybjwarren@aol.com

**Secretary (2024)** Charlotte DeGaetano 424 Albion Cross Rd. Pulaski, New York 13142; 315-298-5986 (no email)

**Librarian (Appointed)** Sharon L. Turo, P.O. Box 256, 11 Park St. Sandy Creek, NY 13115; 315-387-3112 slturo@earthlink.net

**Board of Trustees (2022-2023) *with terms of office expiration***

**Albion (2026)** Florence Gardner, P.O. Box 394, 312 Bridge St, Altmar, NY 13302; 315-298-5723 (no email)

**Amboy (2026)** Stephanie Pierce 1094 Albion Cross Rd. Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-5015

**Boylston (2026)** Marcy Newman, 3784 Club Cottage Dr., Southport, SC 28461; 315-778-4234 marcyn@frontiernet.net

**Camden (2026)** Tim Nichols 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, New York 13316; 315-245-1982 timgto15@yahoo.com

**Florence (2024)** Doreen Tilton, 12330 Florence-Redfield Rd. Camden, NY 13316; 315-245-2760 Doreen\_Tilton@yahoo.com

**Mexico/New Haven (2024)** Allie Proud, PO 703, 83 Wayne Street, Mexico, New York 13114; 315-963-3129 proud83@icloud.com

**Orwell (2024)** Rose Graham, P.O. Box 162, 1999 Co. Rte., 2, Orwell, NY 13426; 315-298-2070 rosegrah@yahoo.com

**Osceola/Montague (2024)** Leona Chereshnoski, 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13475; 315-599-8836 lmchere@gmail.com

**Parish (2024)** Venita Ackley, 422 Kipp Rd. Parish, NY 13131; 315-596-9791 ackleyv@gmail.com

**Redfield (2025)** Maureen Stedman 259 McCaw Rd. Redfield, New York 13437; 315-599-7166 maureens0259@gmail.com

**Richland (2025)** Robin Philips, 102 Ivans Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-7279 designsofelegance@netzero.net

**Sandy Creek (2025)** Margaret Kastler, 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083; 315-387-5209 kastlerm@hotmail.com

**Williamstown (2025)** Rebecca Kennedy, 8823 St. Rt. 178, Henderson, NY 13650; 215-532-4464 rkennedy62@yahoo.com

**Trustee-at-Large (2024)** Heather Stevens, 435 Deer Run Dr. Central Square, New York 13036; 315-870-2069 dstevens@incpark.com

**Trustees Emeritus** Julie Robst, 1100 Druid Rd. East, Apt. 511, Clearwater, FL 33756; 727-276-4375 keeperofthetree@aol.com

Liz Grant, 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437; 315-599-7735 (no email)

Once again, this issue is late. Since I retired fully in 2022, we are busier than ever, and it is a struggle to keep all the “balls in the air” as we juggle multiple events and projects here. On October 27, our paving project was completed with nine designated parking spaces on each side of the front, with two reserved for accessibility. We only paved to a width of 20-25 feet, as we need to install storm water basins and pipe on each side in the next few years down the middle of each side entrance from the road. Special thanks to the **John Ben Snow Foundation** and the **estate of Robert and June Walker** for the funds to complete this paving.

The barn work was delayed due to Adirondack Steel sending the wrong roofing material and refusing to exchange $1,800 worth of metal. We have found a buyer for this, and a new order arrived on November 17, and was promptly installed by our Amish workers on the substructure that was built for the two new wings.

Inside the main building, we have had some warranty work done this fall on two windows in the 3rd grade room, with two more to be replaced in the Lions Club room. Some plumbing updates are planned for the winter, and our new Corian windowsills were installed in the two south classrooms, the library, and the stage windows on November 4, by Corey Ballou. We are delighted.

Research work has increased this year, with countless requests arriving weekly by email, Facebook, and many in-person visits.

We continue to offer printing service to our peer organizations: Pulaski Historical Society, Oswego County Heritage Foundation, Mexico Historical Society, Rural and Migrant Ministry and The Salmon River Fine Art Center. Each group prints their newsletters at our site and all, but Pulaski uses our mailing services. These shared services are important relationships for Half-Shire.

Four of our board members also serve on the board of Rural Migrant Ministry across the tracks, and Half-Shire uses space in the large attic there for storage of some chairs, steamer trunks and other misc. items.

Our onsite Master Gardener, **Sue Bristol,** has worked extremely hard this summer and fall on our gardens around the site, and we are looking forward to seeing the blooms on the new bulbs in the spring. Thanks to “**Dee Dee”** **Barclay,** we have hundreds of daffodil bulbs planted, relocated from Douglaston Manor. Sue has procured several other donations of perennials and berry bushes from other generous donors.

**Venita Ackley** has completed the re-inventory of the SW classroom and is now working in the Balcom Library. This room contains many Bibles that have not been scanned or repaired, as well as scrapbooks, and government publications spanning two hundred years. Venita deserves great praise for her diligent, detailed work this year! This winter, she will assist **Fay Colvin** and myself as we organize the files and collections in the Southwell room.

The last shelving units were installed in the SE classroom this fall, these units handcrafted by **Ron Wood** and **John Allen** are filling up fast as our yearbook and education material collections have grown greatly. **Betty Warren** and **Joanne Hubbard** have charge of this room and its collections.

The Pomeroy Genealogy Library has grown its collection greatly through the year, and **Sharon Turo** continues to keep up with the inventories as well as working on our accession listings with **Pat Miller.**

As our 50th year closes, we have much to be proud of!

**Remembering Friends (July 2023-October 2023)**

*(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 that touched our organization, officers, members, or communities from this large collection. We try to represent our fifteen 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.*

**Mary Lou Corbett Martin** (Apr 29, 1929-Mar 24, 2023) Born in Watertown, to the late Joseph A. & Esther (Yousey) Corbett, Mary Lou attended Watertown and Pulaski Schools, graduating from Oswego High. She was the last of the ten children of the well-known Corbett-Proud family of Oswego City. Married to the late Wilbur Martin (1929-2002), the couple settled in Lowville, NY, where Mary Lou worked in the guidance office until retirement. She is survived by her four children, fourteen grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren and countless nieces and nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by siblings Richard Corbett, Dorothy Scharoun, Willard Corbett, Paul Corbett, Jane Miller, Thomas Corbett, Sally Proud, Barbara McDermott, and James Proud.

**JoAnn Bulen** (Jun 5, 1954-May 18, 2023) Born to Lionel & Ann (Rofino)Taschereau, she was a lifelong resident of Franklin, Massachusetts. JoAnn was the wife of our member Mark Bulen, and we send our sincere condolences.

A person smiling in front of trees

Description automatically generated**Virginia Brennan Pelsue** (May 31, 1938-Jun 2, 2023) Born in Boylston the to the late John & Elsie (Ingersoll) Brennan, “Jinnie” graduated from Sandy Creek Schools in 1956 and went on to earn her nurse’s degree, working many years at Community Hospital in Syracuse. Married for 51 years to the late Ivor Pelsue, the couple raised four children, Deborah (1960-2003), Matthew (1969-1992) and Douglas and T.J., who survive along with four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and her siblings Jack and Judy Brennan. Jinne was a beloved member of Half-Shire, and we will miss her greatly.

**Leonard Cole** (Jun 15, 1930-June 3, 2023) Born in Ellenburg, NY, to John C. & Catherine (Dominy) Cole, Leanard was a Korean War vet. He married the former Joyce Tyo in 1954, and they raised a family of four children which now includes six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family is well known in the Sandy Creek area.

**Philip Switzer** (Apr 27, 1953-Jun 3, 2023) and **Frederick Switzer** (Mar 27, 1958-Nov 6, 2023) Both born in Oswego, the sons of Meritt & Anne (Murtha) Switzer, Phil graduated from Pulaski Schools in 1971, and was a carpenter most of his life, having served in the Coast Guard. His brother Fred graduated in 1976. Many members of the Switzer and Murtha families are members of Half-Shire and have our sincere condolences.

**Margaret Barber** (May 6, 1942-Jun 3, 2023) Born in Carthage, to the late Francis & Dorothy (Wright) Percy, Margaret was raised also by her stepfather James Gorman after her father’s death in WWII. She served on the Sandy Creek School Board and was a member of Park UMC in Pulaski. She is survived by four children, four grandchildren, and two siblings Maureen Gorman and Darren Gorman, both well known to us.

**Betty Finnerty** (Dec 24, 1929-Jun 6, 2023) Born in Syracuse, to Francis & Leila (Dibble) Styan, she graduated from Eastwood High School. She was married in 1964 to William Thomas Finnerty (1935-1974) of Williamstown. She is survived by their two children, as well as two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**Richard McDermott** (Jul 18, 1956-Jun 10, 2023)Born in Lake Hurst, NJ, the son of Richard & Inez (Howard) McDermot, He was employed at Novelis in Oswego. Richard was married to **Annmarie McDermott-**(Sept 19, 1960-June 10, 2023) daughter of Donald & Joan (English) Castner of Rochester. Annmarie worked many years for APW schools. The couple died in a tragic auto accident early in the summer west of Dugway on Rte. 104. Among their survivors are three children and two grandchildren as well as many friends.

**Kathleen Quackenbush** (Oct 20, 1953-Jun 14, 2023) Born in Syracuse, to the late Tracy & Virginia (Whitney) Updike, she attended Manlius schools. She was married to Rodney Quakenbush of Pulaski and is survived by a large family of children, grandchildren, and a great granddaughter. Several members of the family participate in Half-Shire.

**William Potter** (Nov 3, 1948-Jun 15, 2023) Born in Watertown, to Parker & Vera (Leon) Potter, William served in Vietnam after graduation. He returned to join his father working in the woods of Tug Hill and later trained as a heavy equipment operator. He was twice married, and the father of two children. Bill was related to many of our members through the Potter, Colvin, Hilton, and Bass families.

**William Colvin** (Jul 23, 1975-Jun 16, 2023) Born in Mississippi, to the late Dan Orin & Donna (Hannah) Colvin), Bill worked as a police dispatcher several years, and his death followed a lengthy illness. His father passed away in 2022. Among his survivors are his sister Michele Rogers, a longtime member of Half-Shire.

**Marilynn Jane Bause** (Sep 20, 1951-Jun 17, 2023) born in Syracuse, to Andrew & Lois (Johnson) Pierce, she was educated in Buffalo Schools and went on to become a CPA, working for Key Bank. She was buried with her family on the Onondaga Reservation near Nedrow. Among her survivors are her husband Robert, a son, sister, and three nieces, the children of our Trustee Stephanie Pierce.

**Dennis Mothersell** (Oct 13, 1941-Jun 18, 2023) Born in Watertown, to Roswell & Mildred (LeMora) Mothersell, he attended Sandy Creek Schools. He worked previously for Lloyd Bumpus Logging and had a heating business for years. He is survived by his wife Bethel and three children by his first wife Connie Curry.

**Kathleen Babcock** (Nov 29, 1943-Jun 21, 2023) Born in McConnellsville, to the late Oscar and Marian (Trudell) Coonrod, Kathleen was married to the late Harold Babcock, who passed away in November 2021. Together they had two children, and currently have three grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Kathleen was a first cousin of the Trudell family who are active members of ours, including our Truste Doreen Tilton.

**Christal Goodsell** (Mar 14, 1953-June 22, 2023) Born in Watertown, to Carl & Dicia (Briggs) Whipple, Crystal graduated from Sandy Creek Schools in 1971. That same year she was united in marriage with Larry Goodsell of Fernwood, who survives as well as their three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Crystal is well remembered in Pulaski for her years working for Dr. Dunton, and her volunteer time at The Salmon River Fine Art Center. Larry and Crystal have been long-time members of Half-Shire, and their son Jon has assisted us for over twenty years on various computer issues when needed. Sincere sympathy to the family on the loss of this kind lady.

A person with a mustache wearing a hat

Description automatically generated**David LeRoy** (May 2, 1940-Jun 22, 2023) Born in Cortland, NY, to Harold J. & Evelyn (Ellis) LeRoy, David graduated in 1958 from Cortland High and went on to earn a degree at Clarkson University, followed by a master’s degree from Cornell University. David worked in the Structural Engineering Field for 39 years before retiring. He was a highly active outdoorsman and lover of history and nature. A long-time beloved member of Half-Shire, David spent many days in our building researching, reading, and visiting with our staff. He and his wife Nancy enjoyed camping and many outdoor activities in all four seasons. We will long remember our good friend and offer our sincere condolences to Nancy, and Dave’s three children and four grandchildren.

**Jacquelyn Mosher** (Jul 31, 1933-Jun 26, 2023) Born in Elmira, to Theus & Madeline (Wicks) Dickerson, Jackie married Wayne A. Mosher, Sr. in 1952. **Wayne Mosher** (Mar 24, 1930-May 21, 2021) was born in Middlebury Center, PA, to Richard & Wanda (Goodwin) Mosher. Wayne worked in Pulaski for Niagara Mohawk Power Co. for several years and went on to Administration at Nine Mile I Plant. Their son Wayne A. Mosher, Jr. is a long-time member of ours, and writes poetry for our (long paused) Literary Review. Besides losing his parents in the past two years, and his wife Kelly in 2022, Wayne’s father-in-law **Richard Johnson** (1937-June 28, 2023) of Oswego passed away this summer. Sincere condolences to the entire family.

**Elaine Barnard** (Sep 28, 1935-Jun 26, 2023) Born in Richland, to Hugh Wm. & Isabelle (Warren) Cummings, Elaine was a 1953 graduate of APW Schools. She was married to the late James Barnard with whom she had seven children who survive along with sixteen grandchildren and thirty three great-grandchildren. Two of Elaines’ children are members of Half-Shire as well as many cousins on her Helbock and Gorman families.

**Suzanne Blount Bartlett** (Jun 14, 1956-Jun 28, 2023) Born in Watertown, to the late F. Thomas & Evelyn (Benson) Blount, Suzanne was a graduate of Gould Academy in Maine and taught in Sandy Creek Schools. She is survived by her twin sons Max and Travis, and three sisters, Allison LaSpada, Cindy Blount, Leslie Blount. Suzanne was a 40-year member of AA and helped countless people struggling with addiction over the years.

**Cleo Weaver** (May 12, 1945-Jun 30, 2023) Born in Syracuse, to George & Betty (Smith) Trumble, Cleo attended APW School. She was married to the late David Weaver, and together they raised five children, and have eleven grandchildren. Cleo operated an extremely popular ice cream stand on Weaver Rd. for many years adjacent to her husband’s auto repair shop. Many of us at Half-Shire would “go up to Cleos” in the summer months. Sincere sympathy to her family.

**Mark Clark** (Apr 30, 1957-Jun 7, 2023) Born in Camden to Paul & Helen (Riley) Clark, Mark was a graduate of Camden schools. He lived and worked for many years in Rochester, where he passed away after a short illness. Mark is survived by his sister Monica, brothers Matt, Mike, and Martin as well as several nieces and nephews. The family are well-known in Florence, and many are members of Half-Shire.

**Fred Beardsley** (Jan 18, 1953-Jul 22, 2023) Born in Syracuse the son of Francis & Mary (Moulton) Beardsley, he worked several years as a union millwright. He later owned and operated Brewerton Building Supply. Fred was an active grassroots politician and rose to become Oswego County GOP Chair, he served many years in the Legislature and County Treasurer. Among his survivors are a son, several grandchildren, and many friends. Fred was an annual contributor to Half-Shire.

**Franklin Graham, Jr.** (Oct 7, 1957-Jul 4, 2023) Born in Watertown, NY, to Franklin & Bonetha (Dingman) Graham, Franklin was a logger on Tug Hill for many years and involved in Richland Fire Department. He is survived by his former wife Charity, three children, and seventeen grandchildren. Several of the family are Half-Shire members, including Trustee Rose Graham.

**Richard Albanese** (Apr 10, 1959-Jul 6, 2023) He was adopted and raised as the son of Frank & Verna (Tompkins) Albanese. Richard was a 1978 graduate of Camden Schools. He worked as a building Maintenance Mechanic. He is survived by three children and three grandchildren. His mom was a long-time member of Half-Shire, and several of his family are members.

**Ruthann Spath Tanner Walker** (Feb 4, 1943-Jul 6, 2023) Born in Pulaski, to Harold & Elizabeth (Rowell) Spath, Ruthann was a 1961 graduate of Pulaski Schools and later went on to Syracuse University and worked many years as a paralegal. She served on the Sandy Creek School Board and was a member of the NYS-DEC Advisory Board and active in many other organizations. She and her husband Jim Walker were owners of the Selkirk Light House for many years. She is survived by her husband, three children, grandchildren, and many close friends. Ruthann was a member of Half-Shire for many years.

**Charlene Weed** (Oct 31, 1938-Jul 26, 2023) Born in Syracuse, to Charles & Claire (Brilbeck) Weed, Charlene was a descendant of many of the pioneer families of the region, and spent many years researching her family tree, as well as working on the history of her village of Cleveland. Charlene was a graduate of OCC and Maryville College and worked for the state for over 30 years in the Criminal Justice Department. She was well-read and a great conversationalist. A long-time member of Half-Shire we will treasure Charlene’s memory.

**Theresa Walker** (Mar 13, 1967-Aug 2, 2023) Born in Rome, to Ron & Carol (Cavanaugh) Walker, Theresa was a twin sister to Patti, and has three brothers Russ, Ron, and Rick. Besides her siblings and her parents Terri is survived by a son Trevor Esch, and several friends who will dearly miss her dearly. Several of the family belong to Half-Shire, we send our sincere condolences.

**John Moot** (Jun 14, 1941-Aug 24, 2023) Born in Mexico, to Archa & Alice (Fox) Moot, John graduated from Pulaski schools in 1960. He was married on Dec 26, 1961, to the former **Barbara Whaley** (Feb 7, 1943-Jul 31, 2023) who passed away a couple of weeks prior. Barb was the daughter of the late Stanley & Nan (Brannan) Whaley of Richland. John and Barb raised three children. Karen Wilson, Jeff, and Brad Moot. Several of the family are members of Half-Shire and offer our sincere condolences on losing this wonderful couple.

**A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedEdmund J. Lescenski** (Jul 19, 1939-Aug 9, 2023) Born in Amboy, to Edmund & Elizabeth (Bulson) Lescenski, Ed attended APW Schools and served in the US Army eight years. He was married to Barbara in 1961, and together they had six children, fifteen grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, as well as foster children. Ed was an active volunteer in his hometown and served many years as President of Amboy Historical Society. He was a past Trustee of Half-Shire and crafted many interesting displays at the Oswego County Fair over the years. Ed was a great cook, and for many years led popular church dinners.

**Shirley Halsey** (Feb 23, 1936-Aug 28, 2023) Born in Orwell, to Lester & Marion (Palmiteer) Blodgett; Shirley was married to Don Halsey who passed away in 1970. Among her survivors are four daughters and one son. A son James died in 2017. A memorial lunch was held at Half-Shire for the family, many of whom are members.

**Carol Newvine** (Jun 12, 1945-Aug 31, 2023) Born in Fulton, to Neil & Havia (Gillespie) Chaffee, Carol was married in 1991 to Lowell Newvine, the historian of Hannibal, and Carol has been an able assistant to him, serving as president of the Hannibal Historical Society. Besides Lowell, Carol is survived by three children by her first husband Dwayne R. Adsitt, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and several stepchildren.

**Reuel Todd** (Oct 15, 1947-Aug 31, 2023)Born in Oswego, to Donald & June (Peavey) Todd, Reuel was known by all as “Moe” and served 44½ years in the Oswego County Sheriff’s Department, the last twenty years as the elected Sheriff. “Moe” was a good friend to many and was highly active in the community over the years, serving as President of the NYS Sheriffs Association. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, the former Valerie Clark, and son Mike and daughter Jolene, as well as two granddaughters, and several siblings. Our sincere condolences to the family, “Moe” was instrumental and providing “weekend workers” to Half-Shire and other nonprofits over his career, which contributed so much to where our organization is today.

**Deborah Stedman** (Aug 21, 1953-Sep 4, 2023) Born in Jacksonville, FL, to the late Paul & Louise (Cook) Miller. She was married to the late Robert “Birdshot” Stedman of Osceola, who passed away earlier this year. Several siblings, and three children from a prior marriage survive her.

**Raymond S. Jones** (May 4, 1925-Sep 7, 2023) Born in Scriba, to Raymond S. & Theresa (Worden) Jones, Ray was educated in Scriba and Oswego Schools. He founded Jones Supply and Construction in Scriba and was a part-time logger. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. Ray and his longtime companion Carol Holladay attended many dances at Half-Shire and were good members of society. Besides Carol, he leaves four children, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

**Henry J. Gloude** (Apr 20, 1944-Sep 8, 2023) Born the son of Henry & Gladys (Haskine) Gloude, the family has been long identified with the North Shore of Oneida Lake, in and around Cleveland. Henry served in local law enforcement for twenty-one years, and in his retirement became a sought-after carpenter. He worked on roof drains at Half-Shire twenty years ago. He is survived by his wife the former Lucy Plumpton, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

**Jean Cronk Burrows** (Feb 1, 1941-Sep 16, 2023) Born in Scriba, to Oscar & Hilda (Barton) Cronk, Jean spent her life in the hospitality industry, she previously owned Bill’s Place Hotel in Constantia, managed the Cranberry Lake Lodge, and later owned the Newton Falls Hotel. She served fifteen years as West Monroe Clerk here in Oswego County. Jean is survived by five children and seven grandchildren, as well as brother Oscar, sisters Sarah Davis, and Marlene Cronk White—who is one of our active life members at Half-Shire. One previous husband was Raymond Jancek (1921-2003). We extend our sincere condolence to the family.

**Richard Pollic** (Oct 4, 1949-Sept 18, 2023) Born in Albion, to George & Virginia (Mattison) Pollic, Rik was a 1967 graduate of Pulaski Schools and served in the Army following school. He married the former Debra Skinner in 1977 and the couple raised two sons. Both Rick and Debra have been longtime members of Half-Shire, and the celebration of life lunch was held at Half-Shire.

**Margaret McCarthy** (Oct 13, 1932-Sept 21, 2023) Born in Syracuse, to Charles & Clara (Kane) Lawyer, Peg graduated in 1950 from Most Holy Rosary School. She was married to John McCarthy, a Syracuse attorney in 1954. The couple moved to Constantia and raised their family there. In 1989, Peg became an active volunteer at Unity Acres in Orwell, and until her last illness was a devoted volunteer. She was highly respected in the region and her loss is felt by many. Her survivors include three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Summer 2023 News and Views Centerfold**

**A large group of people in a room

Description automatically generated**

*Left-On July 29 and 30, the family of Maurice and Virginia (Clark) Hurd gathered for a two day reunion.*

**A person holding a book

Description automatically generated***The family brought in many photos and documents us to scan for our collections*

**Two women standing together smiling

Description automatically generated**

*Left-Members* ***Natalie VanEgmund*** *and daughter* ***Melinda Hare*** *at Pulaski Farmer’s Market in July. Both are long-time, valued members! Melinda has donated many yards of material for our Christmas stocking program*

*Right-Member* ***Gary Will*** *with his grandparents family Bible that was restored by Robert Lomascolo*

**A person and person sitting at a table with glasses and bottles

Description automatically generatedA table and chairs in a room

Description automatically generated***Far left-Beautiful dining set that once belonged to* ***Doris Brown Allen*** *was donated by her son John Allen and has found a new home in the* ***Allison Regner Balcom*** *Library on the 2nd floor.*

*Left-Trustee* ***Margaret Hollis Kastler*** *shares an after dinner shot of jagermeister with her grandson* ***Peter Knoeller****, visiting from Tuttlingen, Germany. While here, Peter did his Ancestry DNA and found his father’s Knoeller family immigrated to the US from Höfen an der Enz, Calw, in Baden-Württemberg--just an hour and a half northwest of his home.*

**A person standing in a garden

Description automatically generated***Right-Master Gardener* ***Sue Bristol*** *hard at work on our east lawn. Despite a broken arm mid-summer, Sue and her granddaughter* ***Jada Crouch*** *worked many days planting many new perrenials and bushes around our property for which we are very grateful!*

**Summer 2023 News and Views Centerfold**

**A group of people standing next to a counter

Description automatically generated**

*A group of people standing in front of a door

Description automatically generatedLeft-Famed Log Cabin bartended* ***Charles “Chuck” Balcom*** *tended bar inside and out for ten hours at the Annual Pulaski Quest/80s reunion August 5. He is pictured here with son,* ***Carson****, and their Aunt* ***Dottie Kragloh Balcom McLaughlin****. This year we honored the classes of ’83 and ’88.*

**A group of people standing on stairs

Description automatically generated**

*Above Right: Members of the Pulaski Class of 1983: Sue Claridge, Nina Ginther Hamilton, Jan Woodrufff Holloway, Cheryl Moody-Miller, Don Babcock, Ellen Wansink Lowery, Leslie Lewis Corbo, Theresa Woolson, Tom Clemens, Michele Lewis Bundt, Darren Gorman. Not pictured, Kathy Karle Booth.*

*Left: Pulaski Class of 1984 from top, (L-R): Bryan Philips, Cliff Hilton, Pat Nolan, Bryan Luce, Marsha Smith Krebs, Dan Myers, Mary Beth Bellerdini, Rod Jennings, Greg Gibbs, Shawn Doyle, Jennifer Watson Hunt, Linda Walker Wicks, Maria Leib Jenson. Not pictured: Jodi Miller, Gail Gibbs Reese, Jon Havens, and Greta Wise Gilson*

*Below Right: Pulaski Class of 1988 (L-R): Kristy Bellows, Greg Sims, Melzer McConnell, Lance Lewis, Kip Balcom, Rob Jones, Robin Warren Philips, Jodi McNitt-Nicholson, Ron Revette, Jack Wheeler, Jeremy Snow*

*A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated*

*A group of people sitting outside

Description automatically generated***A group of people playing instruments

Description automatically generated***Below: Our barn and pavilion were central locations for the gathered 80s alumni from Pulaski on August 5, the band is considering an outdoor event for 2024 since we have now doubled the size of the structure.*

***Quest members Jack Jennings, Bryan Luce, Tom Jennings, Rod Jennings, and Dan Myers in the middle of a set!***

**News and Contact Info from Across the Fifteen Towns**

**Oswego County Historian, Debra Allen, Historian**: 384 E. River Rd, Oswego, NY 13126 [historian@oswegocounty.com](mailto:historian@oswegocounty.com) 315-349-8460

We are all delighted to announce that Oswego County has a new historian! Deb Allen, who has previously served the towns of New Haven and Volney has taken on this role by appointment of the County Legislature.

Deb is working from the Oswego County Records Center across from the Public Safety Center at the split where 481 becomes four lanes in Oswego. She welcomes visitors to the center. (best to call ahead)

**Albion—Florence Gardner, Historian**: Box 394, Altmar, NY 13302. 315-298-5723. Florence had a nice exhibit at the County Fair this year. She keeps busy with research and was helpful as part of the group that researched the John and Anne (Terry) George family written about on page 1.

**Amboy—Tim Kelley, Historian:** 822 NYS Rte. 69, Williamstown, 13493. Phone/Fax: 315-964-1165. [amboytownhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:amboytownhistorian@gmail.com)

The death of Amboy Historical President Ed Lescinski in August has changed things for the Amboy group. Many who enjoyed Ed’s church dinners are very saddened by the loss also.

**Boylston—Roxanne Ferguson, Historian**: 5444 County Rte. 50, Richland, NY 13144. Roxanne continues to add to her library of research resources, and we hope to see more of her this winter.

**Camden (Oneida County)—Tim Nichols, Historian**: 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982; [timgto15@yahoo.com](mailto:timgto15@yahoo.com)

Tim continues to write interesting columns for the *Queen Central News*, and this September he took in the archives of the paper from 1871 forward. These are stored at his home on good shelving.

A group of people sitting in a church

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

The Annual Mass of St Mary’s Church was very well attended. Over a dozen Half-Shire members were present. Among the winners of the annual raffle was President Doyle.

We have been working at Half-Shire with descendants of the Dowling family of Florence and Redfield. William Dowling, son of William Ernest Dowling (1936-2023) and a gg grandson of immigrants Michael Dowling (1820-1900) and his wife Elizabeth Cavanaugh (1837-1913). We continue to collect information for Bill on these families, as well as the Dunn and Mahar families of the region.

**Mexico—Judy Greenway, Historian**: 503 East Stone Rd, Mexico, NY 13144 315-963-9593. [jumangree@yahoo.com](mailto:jumangree@yahoo.com)

A wood paneled reception desk

Description automatically generatedThe Mexico Historical Society has had a busy year with the new bank building opening. (Shown right the main entry room)

We continue to print groups’ newsletters and enjoy our partnership with the organization.

Julie Litts Robst continues to work on the Primitive Cemetery book we hope to have completed this winter.

**Montague (Lewis County)--Dave Andolora**, Historian: c/o 6353 Salmon River Road, Lowville, NY 13367.

**New Haven—Kelly Miller** PO 141, New Haven, NY13121; 315-963-3900. [historian@newhavenny.com](mailto:historian@newhavenny.com)

Debbie Allen stepped down to assume the new job as Oswego County Historian. We welcome Kelly Miller as the new historian for New Haven and look forward to working with her!

**Orwell—Rose Graham, Historian:** 1999 County Rte. 2, Orwell, NY 13426. [rosemgrah@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemgrah@yahoo.com). 315-298-2070. Rose has been continuing to work from home on the sorting of Orwell Cemetery and Community church records.

**Osceola (Lewis County)—Historian Tammy Becker** 2630 Prince Brook Rd., Redfield, NY 13437 [Beckertammy604@gmail.com](mailto:Beckertammy604@gmail.com). Our trustee Leona Chereshnowski has been busy this past summer with the Fiddlers Hall of Fame and Museum. The summer concert series was solid, and the organization is looking forward to the 2024 season.

The Osceola Historical group has reformed and meets at the Library for study and work.

**Parish—Bridgett Swartz, Historian:** P.O. Box 195, Parish, NY 13131 The Parish Old Home Days went quite well this year, with large numbers present and enjoying the weekend.

The Parish Historical Society is looking into the acquisition of the former bank building in the village.

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

A person sitting in a chair with a stuffed bear

Description automatically generatedTrustee Maureen Stedman worked both days at the Redfield Old Home Days during the Old Home Days over Labor Day weekend.

Maureen is famous for her “bear reports” and so we set her up with a tame (stuffed) bear on Saturday.

The Redfield Fire Department outdid themselves again this year with a fantastic chicken BBQ, excellent music and a parade during the weekend.

A group of people standing in a field

Description automatically generatedHalf-Shire has many visitors at the booth and took many photos, including this of the surviving children of Oren “Ike” and Alice (Adams) Yerdon who posed for this one in birth order: Fran, Bethyl, Michael, Patrick, Kern, Stuart, Ambrose, and Herb. All continue to feel the loss of John Yerdon in Redfield, especially during the Old Home Days where his booming voice over the loudspeaker and his guiding hand in all things are still very sorely missed.

**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).

Shawn continues to oversee work by Pulaski Snow Scholars on the Civil War veteran biographies of the town. This summer Olivia LaRock and Izzy Eklund worked at this for two months. They will return in 2024.

During this time, we have made some significant discoveries. Working at first from the names on the monument out in front of the Court House in Pulaski, adding names that were “missed” or of men who are buried in our cemeteries, yet may have served elsewhere.

We are all excited in the Village of Pulaski to see our beloved Syracuse Northern Railroad Arches, just west of the long bridge in the village, have been stabilized and restored.

Much credit is due to Mayor Jan Tighe, who has been extremely aggressive in grant writing to the benefit of the village. The arches, built in 1870, were designed by Edward Canfield, whose sketch book of all his work for the Syracuse Northern Railroad is in the collections of Half-Shire, thanks to member Richard Palmer. When the tracks were taken up in the early 1880s the bridge was privately owned for a time and then as the steel and wood main structure began to fail, it was taken down.

A drawing of a arch

Description automatically generatedThese stone arches remained intact until the early 1900s, when workers began to take them down. Former historian Helen Bentley (1883-1983) intervened and stopped the destruction, sadly some of the stones from the southeast corner had been removed. They now have been replaced and the completed restoration looks wonderful, complimenting the pedestrian nature trail built by Mayor Karl Hax.

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

Peggy continues to work hard in Sandy Creek and Lacona. She has done a wonderful job with the rural cemeteries and particularly the Noyes Cemetery that is near to Peggys home. The Town of Sandy Creek at Peggys advice hired Artisan Monuments of Sandy Creek to clean and improve the stones in this historic site.

**Williamstown—Beverly Carusone, Historian,**

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

The Williamstown team led by Bev continue to work hard at inventorying and reorganizing the Williamstown facility.A group of people standing in a library

Description automatically generated Becky Kennedy and Shawn Doyle continue to work from Half-Shire on the Williamstown Women’s book series. Dotti McLaughlin has joined the research team and has added much to the effort.

In August Newton and James Tilton of Texas came north to visit their family. Both visited Half-Shire along with their sister Missy Tilton. Missy has gathered many of the handwritten family histories compiled by their late stepmother Vicki Lovenguth Tilton. These have been added to the Half-Shire collections.

All three are children of Newton Tilton, Sr. of Camden. Newton and James are the sons of the former Beatrice Finnerty of Williamstown, Missy is the daughter of Deborah Sipley.

**Regional Bibles: Richard and Margaret (Doheny) Newton Bible**

(Chaumont, NY) On April 28, Half-Shire President Doyle and Vice President Colvin attended the funeral and memorial services for our dear friends and departed Life Half-Shire members, Robert & June (Newton) Walker in Jefferson County. While going through some genealogy we were gifted by the family, we asked to borrow the Newton family Bible to scan for our collection.

The initial record in the Bible has a certificate for the marriage of Margaret R. Newton (sic. Doheny) to Richard R. Newton at Montreal, Canada on March 24, 1857. Witnesses were; John McCormick, Mary Ann McCormick, and Jonathan Mackay. There is no date for the bible publication, the publishing page is missing.

There are some discrepancies in the Bible, we have corrected dates and names with NYS record and added them in parenthesis.

**Marriages:**

**John E. James** was married at Ogdensburg November 23, 1888, by Rev. J. H. Conroy to **Matilda Newton**, John Lahey & M. Newton, witnesses

**Births**:

**Richard R(adford) Newton** was born on 16 March 1833 in Warwickshire, England, came to Ogdensburg, September 12, 1857, joined the Union Army Sept 16, 1861, served 3 years, and discharged from wound received at Battle of Wilderness

**Margaret Newton (Sic: maiden name Doheny)** was born 24 June 1836 in Tipperary, Ireland, came to Ogdensburg 12 Sept 1857

**Timothy Newton** was born 20 June 1858 Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York

**Matilda Newton** was born 31 March 1860 at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York (died July 21, 1948, in VanDyke, Michigan, this not in bible)

**Mary Anne Newton** was born 20 October 1864 at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York

**Richard Newton, Jr**. was born 1 August 1867 at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York

A person and person standing together

Description automatically generated**Marc Leonard** was born in Montreal June 24, 1869, came to Ogdensburg August 21, 1877, and was adopted by R. R. Newton

**Richard Newton, 3,** was born 1 November 1901 at Ogdensburg, New York the son of R. R. Newton

**Lillian Newton** was born in Ogdensburg, NY on the 8th Day October 1890

**Deaths:**

**Margaret R. (Doheny) Newton** died on 10 May 1905 (born May 10, 1836)

**Richard R(adford) Newton** died October 20, 1915 ***(NYS Records October 1, 1917)*** born March 16, 1833

**Anna Doheny** died May 29, 1919, born October 6, 1849

**Lillian Newton** died October 26, 1918, born October 6, 1890

**Mamie(Mary Ann) Newton** born October 20, 1864 (died in

**Mamie Newton,** died February 23, 1957

**Richard J(oseph) Newton,** died May 23, 1961

**Timothy Newton**, died April 23, 1918

**Richard R. Newton, Jr**. died May 1940-1941 (actual: May 17, 1941)

The Bible came to June from her parents (right) Richard Joseph Newton (1901-1961) and Avis Ione McLear (1908-1970) they were married on August 14, 1926, in Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, New York. The Bible will now pass to a cousin.

**Bible/Marker Restoration Fund**

*Half-Shire has a family Bible collection that spans 300 years. 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. We gratefully accept donations towards this ongoing important work.*

***Remembering Friends, (Continued)***

**Yvonne Bergin** (Jan 10, 1950-Sep 21, 2023) Born in Ireland, to Frank & Teresa (Gilsenan) Bergin, the family came to Camden, NY, in the early 1950s. Yvonne attended Camden Schools and later went to work at the FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant in Scriba. She was formerly married to Laird Petrie of Camden, with whom she had two children, Jeremy, and Shannon, who survive as well as seven grandchildren. Yvonne is a past member of ours, and we collaborated with her on a project on Camden veterans once. Sympathy to her family from us all.

**Robert Lawton** (Jan 19, 1934-Sep 26, 2023) Born in Gouverneur, to Marcus & Alice (Beckstead) Lawton, Bob married the former Charlotte Klein and settled in Richland Hamlet where they raised their four children. Bob was an Army veteran and returned to operate Lawton’s Sales and Service for over 40 years. His memorial lunch was held at Half-Shire. We extend our condolences to Charlotte and their family,

**Richard Pacific** (Jun 14, 1943-Sep 28, 2023) Born in Oswego, to Peter & Mary (Salis) Pacific, Richard was a 1961 graduate of Pulaski Schools. He was an accountant and tax preparer for many years, and for a brief time owned “Mallard Inn” in Pulaski, now Rte. 11 North. Dick is survived by three children and two grandchildren and was predeceased by two sisters and two brothers.

**Raffles**

The enclosed raffles include a painting by Celia Potter as well as our usual afghan and DNA kit.

**The winners of the summer raffle were:** Richard Williams, Christine Amico and Florence Gardner.

**Pulaski Annual Memory Tree**

Enclosed in this newsletter is a slip for those who wish to donate toward the annual memory tree. The lighting of this tree and the popular ceremony will be held on Sunday December 3, in Pulaski.

***As this newsletter is going out late, if you are sending monies in call Shawn Doyle at 315-602-6388 with the names and I will make sure Charlotte has them in time to add to the 4 x 8 board that will be on display in Pulaski South Park throughout the holiday season.***

**Society Acquires two new (to us) Tyler Coverlets!**

Tyler Coverlets were handcrafted in the Jefferson County Town of Henderson by Henry Tyler (1801-1858) and his family. Dyes for the wool were locally sourced from Elias Camp of Sackets Harbor. These coverlets are highly prized by collectors as the color has stayed bright for over 200 years.

These coverlets were pricy at the time as they were hand crafted with the finest materials. Each one has one of two patterns, in one of two color schemes (either red and ecru or royal blue and ecru). Each coverlet has the name of the customer it was crafted for along their residence and date.

**A hand holding a blue and white towel

Description automatically generated**Jefferson County Historical Society has the largest known collection known, with over forty. In 2022, were gifted with a blue coverlet that belonged to a family from New Haven in Oswego County. This year our member Brett Potts noted a blue one was on eBay for a low price. Shawn Doyle was able to purchase it for a very reasonable price. The coverlet was made in 1850 for Lois Lydia Eastman (1834-1924) of Ellisburg. (pictured above)

**A hand holding a red and white fabric

Description automatically generated**In September, another Tyler appeared in a local antique shop in Pulaski. This we purchased, and carefully cleaned following archival methods as it was heavily soiled. This third coverlet of our collection is still a mystery, the owner was Mary Ann Green of Jefferson County, and it is dated 1850. We are still trying to narrow down which Mary Ann Green of Jefferson County commissioned this red coverlet. (above)

We will be keeping our eyes out for other coverlets to add to our collection!

**Dues and labels**

We had 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 are 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 10am-4pm at 315.298.2986***

As part of these accounting changes, we now work in QuickBooks, which has made our tax and grant reporting much easier and more accurate. Thank you for your patience with these changes.

**Half-Shire Historical Society**

**Non-Profit Organization**

**US Postage Paid**

**Richland, NY 13144**

**Permit # 3**

**P.O. 73, 1100 County Rte. 48**

**Richland, New York 13144-0073**

**Address Service Requested**

**Scheduled Meetings and Upcoming Events for 2023/2024**

* **Sat Nov 25, 2023 Book signing noon-4pm**
* **Sat Dec. 9, 2023 Holiday Party and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.**
* **Sat Dec 16, 2023 Christmas in Richland 12-6pm**
* **Fri-Sun January 19-21, 2024 Annual Salmon River Winterfest/Food Challenge**
* **Sat Mar 23, 2024 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.**
* **Sat Apr 20-Sat Apr 27 Screen Free Week Activities (Eastern Lake Ontario Communities)**
* **Sat Apr 27, 2024 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.**
* **Sat May 25, 2024 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.**
* **Sat June 22, 2024 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.**
* **Fri-Sun June 28-30, Alumni Weekend**
* **Wed-Sun July 3-7 Oswego County Fair, Sandy Creek**
* **Sat July 20, 2024 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.**
* **Fri July 26-28, 2024 Grant Family Reunion, Richland HQ (Private)**
* **Sat August 3, 2024 Annual Pulaski 1980s Reunion, Richland HQ**
* **Sat Aug 24, 2024 Regular luncheon and meeting, Richland HQ, noon-2 p.m.**
* **2nd Sat. Mar.-June. 2024 Joint DAR Regular meeting, (Private) noon**

(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, (Just north of the County Route 2 intersections)**

**\*Meetings subject to Change - see our Facebook “Mary White” Half-Shire**

**Or call the Society at 315-298-2986 or Shawn Doyle at 315-298-3620**