



Half-Shire Historical Society Newsletter

The Towns of Half-Shire:
Albion...Amboy...Boylston...Camden...Florence...Mexico...Montague...
New Haven...Orwell...Osceola...Parish...Redfield...Richland...Sandy Creek...Williamstown

March 2020 Preserving History in the Eastern Lake Ontario Region of NY since 1972 Vol. XLVI No. 1

Williamstown Ladies Book Breaks New Ground in Research

(Williamstown) In the summer of 2018 **Glenna Gorski** and her team of volunteers at the Williamstown Historical Society began work on a new type of local history that would focus on women in the town's past. Having successfully researched and published two books which focused on biographies of the towns War Veterans Glenna and her team saw the ladies as being under-researched. Veteran writer **Anne LaDuke**, and Glenna have led the team that includes **Beverly Carasone, Becky Kennedy** and for the past year **Shawn Doyle**.

By 2019 the book had to expanded so much that the decision was made to aim for at least two volumes. As 2019 ended and 2020 began the team focused on Ladies whose maiden names fall within letters A thru G for volume 1.

When the book was conceived the team advertised in the Queen Central News and our own newsletter seeking submissions. As time went on the parameters were expanded to include women "born in, died in, buried in or closely associated through residence within the town of Williamstown from 1800-2020". To round the list out the researchers have culled the census listings, the cemetery records, vital records and local lore. Every effort has been made to identify the maiden names of all early settlers. This has been a difficult task as early county and regional histories mostly cite male settlers and leaders, but seldom mention the wives and daughters.

Of all the towns in the Half-Shire region Williamstown is probably the town best prepared for such a monumental project as this. For over 25 years Glenna and her volunteers have focused on gathering family histories and genealogies from local families as well as public domain publications from the 1800s. Augmented by the extensive Half-Shire collection and full access to a variety of internet web sites such as Ancestry.com, this project promises to deliver a collection of well researched, annotated biographies that will make this series a new source document for researchers. Every effort has been made to locate and include all available vital records and details.

Some notable ladies that are covered in the series include: The **Case sisters** who were talented businesswomen and travelers; The **Finnerty family** and their three sisters of Catholic religious orders; **Mercy Taft Fish** and her daughters who operated one of the first hotels in town and are well documented by their descendants; **Fanny Keyes** who left poverty in Happy Valley to become "**Una Clayton**" the Vaudeville Star and playwright. Throughout the book the authors have presented biographies of many women who certainly struggled in pioneer days to survive but left little record of their accomplishments and hard work other than the sturdy children they raised to carry their legacies forward. This project is sure to inspire others to follow, already Florence Gardner has begun work on a town of Albion project.



Kasoag resident Julia Doneburg Winsor (1851-1937 with youngest child Addie Mae about 1894

Volume one is due out in the Spring of 2020 and the planned price for a 250-page illustrated spiral bound book is \$25 (plus postage for those mailed). The editors are as anxious to see their hard work in print as many of the living subjects are.

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Half-Shire Membership: Annual Dues are \$12 per year, \$50 for supporting membership, \$350 life membership payable to Half-Shire c/o P.O. 73 Richland, New York 13144-0073.
We are now accepting 2020 Dues at \$12 (which was increased at the annual meeting in September)

The Half-Shire Historical Society

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

Phone: 315-298-2986; halfshire@hotmail.com <http://www.halfshire.com>, Facebook: "Half Shire"

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

Officers (2018-2020) with terms of office expiration

President (2020)	Shawn P. Doyle, 85 Lake St, Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-3620	spdinpul@hotmail.com
Vice Pres. (2020)	Greg Monette, 1847 Co. Rte. 6, Fulton, NY 13069	315-532-8265	moon2eye@yahoo.com
Treasurer (2020)	Betty Warren, 2785 Co. Rte. 2, Richland, NY 13144	315-298-2975	Bettybjwarren@aol.com
Secretary (2020)	Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY 13029	315-447-4270	facolvin@windstream.net

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

Albion (2020)	Florence Gardner, P.O. Box 394, 312 Bridge St, Altmar, NY 13302	315-298-5723	(no email)
Amboy (2020)	Lori E. Monette, 1847 Co. Rte. 6, Fulton, NY 13069	315-657-3579	gratefullyadopted@yahoo.com
Boylston (2020)	Marcy Newman, 184 Co. Rte. 13, Lacona, NY 13083	315-387-5458	marcyn@frontiernet.net
Camden (2020)	Rebecca Kennedy, 4939 North Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-0120	rkennedy62@yahoo.com
Florence (2021)	Doreen Tilton, 12334 Florence-Redfield Rd. Camden, NY 13316	315-245-2760	(no email)
Mexico/New Haven (2021)	Louise Meyer 513 Co. Rte. 58, Mexico, NY 13114	315-963-3652	llhjmeyer@gmail.com
Orwell (2021)	Rose Graham, P.O. Box 162, 1999 Co. Rte. 2, Orwell, NY 13426	315-298-2070	rosegrah@yahoo.com
Osceola/Montague (2021)	Leona Chereshnoski, 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13475	315-599-8836	lchere@hughes.net
Parish (2021)	Venita Ackley, 422 Kipp Rd. Parish, NY 13131	315-382-6529	ackleyv@gmail.com
Redfield (2022)	(Vacant)		
Richland (2022)	Robin Philips, 102 Ivans Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142	315-298-7279	designsofelegance@netzero.net
Sandy Creek (2022)	Margaret Kastler, 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083	315-387-5209	kastlerm@hotmail.com
Williamstown (2022)	Glenna Gorski, P.O. Box 54, Co. Rte. 17N. Williamstown, NY 13493	315-964-2393	glgorski@frontiernet.net
Trustee-at-Large (2020)	Barb Monette, 75 East Seneca St., Oswego, NY 13126-1123	315-343-2470	bmone14159@aol.com
Trustees Emeritus	Julie Robst, 1100 Druid Rd. East, Apt. 511, Clearwater, FL 33756	727-276-4375	keeperofthetree@aol.com
	Liz Grant, 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437	315-599-7735	(no email)

President's Report-Shawn Doyle

Remembering Friends

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

Richal White (Oct 31 1921-Apr 6 2017) We have belated learned of the death of a long-time member of ours from Adams NY. Rishel White was born in Warton, West Virginia the son of Elsworth & Bessie (White) White. He was a World War II veteran and spent time in a German prisoner of War camp before wars end. His late wife, the former Shirley Weeden, died in 2005 Rishel was well-known in the region and a long-time member of Half-Shire.

John Hull (Mar 22 1942-Nov 22 2019) Born in Utica the son of John J. & Iva (Brown) Hull, Jack was employed at Schoeller Papers in Pulaski 35 years. He was married in 1989 to the former Louana Donahue. They lived in Sandy Creek. Besides his wife Lou, Jack is survived by four sons, and a large extended family. Louana is a valued member of ours.



John E. Proud (May 15 1935-Nov 19 2019) Born in Oswego the son of John E. & Carrie (Petrie) Proud, Jack graduated from Oswego Schools in 1953, and went on to graduate from Oswego State in 1957. Jack began his teaching career in Mexico Schools in 1958 and retired in 1994 as Principal of Mexico High. Jack was elected to the Oswego County Legislature in 1995 and served until 2017. He was married to

the former Allie Youngs. Both were very active in their community and with the Mexico Historical Society. Both have been supporters of Half-Shire.

Eloise Fuller (Feb 6 1923-Nov 13 2019) Born in Fulton the daughter of Dr. Paul & Alla (Brewster) Knapp. Eloise was a graduate of the Northfield School for Girls in Massachusetts, and Syracuse University. Eloise worked as an Occupational Therapist for returning soldiers following World War II. She was married to Robert Fuller (1920-2005) and together they raised three children in Parish: Kay, Rillann and Half-Shire member, Hadwin Fuller, currently of Fayetteville. Mrs. Fuller was active in Parish community affairs.

Bruce Durgan (Oct 26 1952-Nov 22 2019) Born in Syracuse the son of Robert & Frances (Hall) Durgan, Bruce attended APW Schools. In 1970 he was married to the former Patty Muir and together they raised two sons and a daughter. Bruce worked at various jobs in the region and enjoyed life with his family in the Stone Hill, Happy Valley region of his ancestors, Williamstown. Bruce's sister in law is our Trustee, Williamstown historian Glenna Gorski.

John Petrie (Oct 1 1939-Dec 6 2019) Born in Richland (next door to Half-Shire) the son of Rollo & Ethel (Pettis) Petrie, he attended Richland and Pulaski schools. John lived and worked in Cortland, NY and raised his two sons. Among his survivors are his sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as his beloved sister Luella Petrie Rable and niece Sondra Petrie, both members of Half-Shire. John and Lu were regular visitors each summer and great supporters of our organization.

Robert Ackley (Oct 7 1942-Dec 2 2019) Born in Adams, NY the son of Ralph & Edna (Norman) Ackley, Robert was married in 1987 to the former Beverly Dyer of Richland, a

long-time member of Half-Shire. Bob worked 45 years for Taylor Concrete, and raised a large family. Bob was a talented fiddler and played in various bands.



Sharon Stedman (Oct 4 1938-Dec 22 2019) Born in Williamstown the daughter of Lyle & Julia (Wiggins) Stedman, Sharon attended the one room school at Checkard House and graduated from APW in 1956. She worked at Harden Furniture for many years, and Rochester Shoe Tree in Camden.

Sharon and her sister Maureen have lived in Redfield for many years and have been well-known and beloved community members. Her funeral was attended by several fellow Half-Shire members who will miss her presence.

Bertha Miller (Dec 6 1917-Dec 6 2019) Born in Lacona the daughter of Floyd & Nora (Robbins) Crandall, Bertha was married to Morgan Miller in 1946. Bertha was cafeteria Manager at Sandy Creek Schools for many years and is well remembered by many area alumni. She was predeceased by her two sons and is survived by many grand and great-grandchildren and a wide circle of friends.

Frederick Millard (Dec 24 1924-Sep 20 2019) Born in Watertown the son of Dyer & Galdys (Putnam) Millard, Fred was a scion of several of the oldest families in Jefferson County, particularly in Ellisburg. Fred was married in 1946 to the former Cora Elizabeth Barney (1925-2008) together they raised four children: Gail (longtime officer of the Historical Association of South Jefferson), Susan, Mary and Lydia Miller (a member of Half-Shire) along with brother Gail. Fred and Elizabeth were beloved early members of Half-Shire and well-known researchers of our region's rich history.

Carolyn Guyle Hiler (Apr 16 1940-Dec 11 2019) Born in Oswego the daughter of Glenn & Clara (Jerrett) Guyle. Carolyn graduated from Oswego High in 1957 and taught in Mexico Schools for many years. Carolyn was very active in the Mexico community, and served several years as talent show director of the Oswego County Fair. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, William Hiler, her daughter Kathryn and a large extended family.

Richard Waterman (May 17 1926-Dec 13 2019) Born in Camden the son of Fred B. & Betty (Kutchman) Waterman, Richard was married to the former Dorothy Willson (1931-2010). He served in the US Army Air Corp in WWII and returned to civilian life to work for the NY Central RR. Dick was best known for his work as a furniture upholster. He operated Camden Upholstery until age 89. Many will remember Dick ran the Utica-Rome Speedway and Dragway from 1964-79 and drove the pace car at the two NASCAR Grand National Races held at Albany-Saratoga Speedway. He attended every Daytona Race since the track was built and was inducted into the NYS Stock Car Assoc. Hall of Fame in 2008. His brother Burdette is a longtime member of ours.

Janice Marilyn Howard (Sep 8 1939-Dec 19 2019) Born in Parish the daughter of Theodore and Kathryn (Roach) Barber, Janice attended APW schools. She was married in 1958 to

Jerry Howard, and served as Post Master in maple View for a time. She was best known by researchers as the Librarian at the Mexico Public Library from 1981-2009.

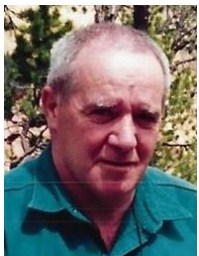
Hazel Miller Salisbury (Aug 1 1924-Aug 21 2019) Born in the town of Albion the daughter of Floyd & Lida (Richardson) Miller, and was married to Harold Salisbury in 1941, he passed away in 1980. She is survived by three children and five grandchildren on of which is our member Rodney Salisbury of Sandy Creek. Hazel was an avid bird watcher and gardener. She was devoted to her family.

Marie Anne Standley Kent Parsons (Jul 10 1939-Sep 21 2019) Born in Ithaca, NY the daughter of Arthur Clinton & Eleanor (Wagor) Standley, Marie was taken in by Floyd & Una (Waggoner) Kent of Sandy Creek at a young age following her father's death. She was educated in Sandy Creek, graduating in 1957. Marie devoted most of her life to her adopted community, and served as Town and Village Historian, Editor of the Sandy Creek News, was a member of countless boards from Alumni Association to the Woodlawn Cemetery Board. Marie was best known by us as the last of our six founding members of our Society. It was at the Kent home on November 15, 1972 that our organization was founded. Marie was instrumental in acquiring the former Richland School and built programs and accession files that set the basis for our organization. She did the paperwork for our permanent NYS Charter that was completed in 1978.

Marie was married later in life to David Parsons. The couple retired to Ocala, Florida a number of years ago where David died. Marie continued to be connected with us and was always available to discuss history.

A.C. Bowman (May 9 1969-Jan 2 2020) born the son of A.C. and Nancy (Chesbro) Bowman of Phoenix, NY, A.C. fought a long struggle with brain cancer. He is survived by his wife the former Rhonda Besaw, and a son A.C. Bowman, III, who is a life member of our society. Our condolences to A. C. and his family at this difficult time.

Laura Balcom Ruffos (Apr 7 1938-Dec 31 2019) Born in St. Charles, Illinois the daughter of Austin & Marie (Geldmeyer) Balcom. The family returned to Oswego County when she was young. Laura was married to George Ruffos in 1959 who survives along with their six children and eight grandchildren and a large extended family who mourn her loss.



Raymond Pappa (Aug 4 1939-Jan 26, 2020) Born in Williamstown the son of Wallace & Mildred (Balcom) Pappa he graduated from APW High School; Ray was married to the former Irene Trumble on July 9, 1960 and they were active in the community. Both were members of Half-Shire and worked on genealogy. Ray is survived by his wife, a daughter, Debra

Herrington of NC, a son, William (Diane) Pappa of Utah; six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren

Gary Robert Pappa (May 19 1948-Feb 7 2020) Born in Williamstown the son of Wallace & Mildred (Balcom) Pappa. Gary graduated from APW High School. He attended Colorado School of Trade, BOCES in Syracuse and Benton University. On May 26, 1975, he married his wife, Sandie, in Victor, NY. Gary was a boilermaker, pipe fitter, gunsmith, and spent 28 years as a project engineer for Corning, Inc. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Sandie E. (Swasey); four sons, two daughters,

two sisters, four brothers, thirteen grandchildren, one great grandchild, and by several nieces and nephews.

Ian Royal Ingersoll Mar 31 1945-Dec 29 2019) Born in Caneada, NY, the son of Royal B. & Gladys (Grange) Ingersoll. Ian graduated from Falconer Central High School. He served 9 years in the U.S. Airforce. Ian lived in Altmar, NY, was a member of Altmar Methodist Church and retired from the Syracuse water board. He died at the home of his sister, Esther Todd in Picayune, Miss. He was a past member of Half-Shire.

Charlene Killenbeck Cole (Jul 28 1948-Jan 1 2020) Our society was shocked to learn of the sudden death of our Trustee Emeritus and long-time friend, Char Cole on New Year's day. Born in Watertown, NY on July 28, 1948 to Clinton & Ruth (Dibble) Killenbeck, the second of four children. She grew up and attended school in Syracuse, NY for cosmetology. While there, Char met and subsequently married her high school sweetheart Raymond W. Cole on July 22, 1967. They had 2 children together, Raymond and Karen, to whom she was a stay-at-home mother.

Her passions were varied and evolved over the years. She liked to knit, hunt deer with friends and family and was an avid trap shooter, enjoying weekly league shoots with her husband across Central New York. For the last two decades she spent a considerable amount of time tracing and charting genealogy records dating back to the 1600's, identifying the common ancestral connections that unknowingly bind many of us.

She was a history buff who enjoyed researching places, events and time frames that are long lost and forgotten. Char was a member of the Kayendatsyona Fort Oswego Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was the Historian for the Town of Sandy Creek and Villages of Lacona and Sandy Creek for 20 years, where she worked tirelessly to preserve historic sites and was instrumental in renovating the Sandy Creek Town Hall. She preserved and archived records and wrote several articles and books on a variety of topics from local farming to documenting veterans buried in three abandoned cemeteries. She also compiled a collection of local histories.

Charlene is preceded in death by her parents and beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is survived by her husband of 52 years Ray; her son Raymond, his wife Zoe and granddaughter Allison Rae from Great Falls, MT; her daughter Karen and husband Edward Linton from Sellersville, PA; her brother Clinton (Lynne) Killenbeck of Suffield, CT; and younger siblings Janet and David.

Char is remembered by our society and the historical community for her devotion to historical research.

Eleanor Trendell (Jul 9 1933-Jan 5 2020) Born to Lewis & Frances (Price) Zufelt in Pulaski. She grew up with three brothers on the Zufelt Farm in the Town of Sandy Creek. She descended from settlers of the Pulaski area, Colonel Rufus Price and Benjamin Winch. Eleanor graduated from Pulaski Central School in 1950 and attended Syracuse University for one year before her married to Frank Trendell in June 1951. She returned to college and graduated from Buffalo State College with a B.S. degree in 1973. As a Registered Dietician, she was employed by the NYS Department of Mental Hygiene and DSS in eastern NYS. She returned to our area and worked

for the Office for the Aging from which she retired in 1988. Eleanor was an active board member of the Pulaski Historical Society. She is survived by her husband, five children, an extended family and many friends.



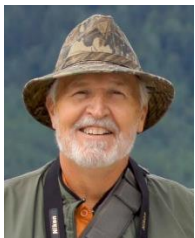
Donald Barber (Apr 14 1929 Jan 17 2020) Born in Redfield the youngest child of Charles & Jennie (Burtch) Barber, Don was educated in area schools and went into Ministry. He and his wife Marjorie Johnson have spent many years with their church working on humanitarian projects in Brazil. It was in his beloved Brazil that he passed away. He leaves a large family of

children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many cousins.

Mary Lou Flower Yerdon (Mar 8 1935-Jan 12 2020) Born the daughter of Arlington & Isabelle (Handrich) Flower, Mary Lou married Thomas Yerdon (1934-2016) in Redfield in 1953. She enjoyed cooking and baking for her family, friends and neighbors. She and her husband owned and operated the Tug Hill Diner for 12 years. Her pies were legendary! Mary Lou was known for her feisty sense of humor and will be missed by all that knew and loved her. She is survived by three children: Jan (Peter) Hathaway, Lori (Mike) Russell, and Timothy (Carol) Yerdon, 5 grand- and 9 great-grandchildren. Several of her family are members of Half-Shire

Betty Groves Lundgren (Jan 15 1922-Jan 23 2020) Born in Watertown the daughter of Eldridge & Erma (Randall) Groves she graduated from Mannsville Manor School in 1939. Betty was married to Ralph Lundgren (1930-2012) of Altmar in 1948, and together they had four daughters who survive. Betty was business agent at Pulaski Schools for 26 years, and during her life was active in the community. Betty and Ralph were longtime members of Half-Shire.

Sidney Hitchcock (Mar 5 1938-Jan 26 2020) Born in Pulaski to Donald and Thelma (Crandall) Hitchcock. He graduated from Pulaski High School and served in the United States Air Force from 1956-60. Sidney was employed by Schoeller Paper in Pulaski for many years. He is survived by his brothers Gary (Jeanne) Hitchcock of Pulaski and Donald Hitchcock, Jr of West Virginia.



Mark Lewis Ingram (May 26 1953-Jan 28 2020) born in Penn Yan, to Lloyd and Joan (Lewis) Ingram. Mark graduated from APW in 1971 and went on to Florida Technical College. Mark married Elizabeth Dian Sutherland in 1998. He worked in human resources/commercial construction sales for most of his life. He is survived by his

wife, 4 children, his parents Joan & David DeGraff, & 6 siblings including Half-Shire members Richard (Victoria) DeGraff.

Barbara Woolson Holbrook (Jul 24 1943-Jan 31 2020) born the daughter of Clinton and Mary (Skotnicki) Woolson. Barb was a 1961 graduate of Pulaski Schools. She is survived by four children, several grand and great-grandchildren. Her daughter Bonnie Finnerty and husband Tom are new members of ours. Barb was well regarded by her friends and classmates in Pulaski.

Donald Bellows (Sep 1 1934-Feb 7 2020) Born in Liverpool the son of Harrison and Lillian (Sloper) Bellows. He graduated

from Pulaski High School in 1953 and served in the United States Army from 1953 until 1956. Donald married Dorothy Woolson on July 2, 1977. He owned and operated Bellows Roofing for 50 years. He was also employed by GE for several years. Donald, known as "Whitey" was an officer and member of the Ringgold Fire Department for 30 years. He was a member of several other service organizations in the community,



including Half-Shire. Besides his wife he is survived by three daughters and a large extended family who along with the community will smile when thinking of him.

Robert Thomas (Mar 29 1927-Feb 10 2020) Born in Pulaski to Lee and Pearl (McLaughlin) Thomas. He attended Pulaski High School, class of 1945. Robert served in the United States Navy from 1945-46. He married Valerie Kallmeyer, together they owned and operated the Picture Frame Shop in Pulaski for many years. After that he was a job developer for Oswego County Dept. of Social Services until he retired. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus and Pulaski Chamber of Commerce. Bob is also survived by his five children and a large circle of friends.

Cecilia Schafer Clark (Oct 16 1928-Feb 11 2020) Born in Syracuse, the daughter of Clarence and Cecilia (Smith) Schafer, where she attended St. Margaret's Catholic School in Cecilia married Richard J. Clark on October 15, 1947 who passed away Jul 25, 2000. She retired from Hancock Field commissary in Syracuse after 22 years of service. Cecilia also worked at Gas Mart in Pulaski for 10 years after retiring from the commissary. Among her survivors are her daughter Nancy (Vincent) Lobdell and a son Richard. The Lobdells are active in the Pulaski community owning Healthway and the Kallet theater

John Warren (1933-Feb 21 2020) Born in Endicott, NY the son of Harold & Madonna (Eldred) Warren, John worked for IBM and was an active sportsman and hunters safety instructor. He passed away in Binghamton after a short illness. Among his survivors are his wife of 65 years, Wanda, and their two daughters and five grandchildren, and his brother Marvin Warren of Pulaski (husband of our Treasurer, Betty, and Father of our Trustee Robin). Our condolences to the entire family.

WINTER 2019-2020 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD

Pulaski Historical Curator **Elizabeth Stetz-Woods** enjoys Christmas music and a visit with **Selena Belser & family**



Florence Gardner at the piano

Half-Shire celebrated **Margaret Kastler's** Birthday with a beautiful cake made by **Doreen Tilton**

Abby Benson, great-niece of Trustee **Glena Gorski** decorating cookies at the 2019 Christmas party



Dec. 2019 Christmas party at Half-Shire L-R: **Florence Gardner, Glenna Gorski, Stephanie Pierce, Barb Monette, Marcy Newman, Fay Colvin, Margaret Kastler, Shawn Doyle, Sharon Turo, Anne LaDuke**



The new seating area complete with "fireplace"



Half-Shire hosted a birthday party for member **Linda McNitt** on Feb. 21. Many members of the Society were present



Half-Shire hosted the family of the late **Pat Bellinger** (1952-2019) for a Celebration of Life on January 4. Pictured are Pat's family: **Kim Southwell, Conor Southwell, Kaylyn Slattery, Gretchen Broadhurst & Michael Van Ry**



Rodney Tilkins with his Grandmother Doyle's 1st cousins former Redfield ladies **Linda Walker Murphy & Diane Walker Grasso** in Downsville, NY, all members of Half-Shire

WINTER 2019-2020 MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS CENTERFOLD



Robin Philips & "Buddy" the Winterfest mascot on the set of "Bridge St." offering samples of Restaurant Challenge fare



Winterfest Wing Walk



Stephanie Pierce, Sr. volunteer at Half-Shire takes a break from stuffing the Winterfest bags given to people on the annual Restaurant Challenge sponsored again this year by Half-Shire



Member **Nancy Yerdon Forbes** (center) joined friends and family at Rte 11 North Bar & Grill on January 26, doing the annual "Wing Walk" to benefit Half-Shire Historical Society. (L-R) **Christy Zawatski, Waitress Abby Bonono, Nancy Forbes, Andrea Colvin, Alyssa Saddler-Colvin, & Charity Zawatski**



Half-Shire Members **Cliff & Kathy Hilton & Jennifer Mooney** with Winterfest mascot "**Buddy**" along with friend **Terri Johnson**



Life members **Terry & Irma Bush** attended the Winterfest craft show and enjoyed the Osceola Fiddlers

Betty Sheldon of Empyville with **certificate**



DAR state **President** and **Sarah French** of were each presented with the SAR Martha Washington Medal at the Heritage luncheon

Half-Shire member **Chris Sheldon** presented with the **Medal** by SAR President **David Powell** at the annual Heritage luncheon at Drumlins in Syracuse. 21 Half-Shire members were present



News and Contact Info from Across the Fifteen Townships

Albion—Florence Gardner, Historian and H-S Trustee: P.O. Box 394, Altmar, NY 13302. 315-298-5723. (no email) Florence Gardner has announced that she will begin research on women in the town of Albion through history for an upcoming book or series. Following the template used for Williamstown, the criteria are to be “born in, lived in, died in or buried in” the town of Albion.

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

[Insert Trumble piece here](#)

Boylston—Marcy Newman, Historian and H-S Trustee: 184 County Rte. 13, Lacona, NY 13083. 315-387-5458. marcyn@frontiernet.net Marcy is seeking volunteers to assist the annual town picnic this summer.

Camden—Tim Nichols, Historian: 56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982. **Becky Kennedy, H-S Trustee:** 4939 N. Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY. 13142, 315-298-0120. rkennedy62@yahoo.com. Tim visited Half-Shire on July 10 for a day along with Clinton/Kirkland Historian **Richard Williams**. Both men are well regarded in the historical community, and we look forward to seeing them again soon!

Florence (Oneida County)—Sherry McNamara, Historian: 11899 Tompkins Corners, Florence Rd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-0487. **Doreen Tilton, H-S Trustee:** 12334 Florence-Redfield Rd., Camden NY 13316. 315-245-2760. **Glenna Gorski, Ann LaDuke, George Link and Shawn Doyle** have begun assembling information and constructing an outline for the upcoming planned book (or books) on the town of Florence. Contact Half-Shire for more information

Mexico—Judy Greenway, Historian: 503 E. Stone Rd., Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-7633. jumaangree@yahoo.com **Louise Meyer H-S Trustee:** 513 County Rte. 58, Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-3652. llhjmeier@gmail.com. **The town of Mexico Supervisor and Board have begun taking decisive actions to assert their intent to see the Poor House Cemetery restored and cared for. We commend Supervisor Anderson and the Town Board and stand willing to assist.**

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

The remote town of Montague in Lewis County is one of the newest towns added to our coverage region. Montague has a 2016 population of 78 souls and is best known for its deep snows in the wintertime. In future issues we will explore the rich history of settlement, and the sturdy pioneers who braved the extreme conditions to log the “big woods” and even farm in the last two centuries.

One frequent question is who was the town named for? The answer is both obvious and intriguing. **Mary Montague Pierrepont** was a daughter of Montague’s original American “owners” the New York City based entrepreneur **Hezekiah Beers Pierrepont**



(1768-1838) and his wife **Anna Maria Constable** (1783-1859). While Mary’s father likely visited the town as part of his family’s operation in land development, it is highly unlikely that Mary ever visited the land named for her. She lived and died in Brooklyn, NY and like her siblings was well educated. Mary died at the early age of 32 in February 1853. She is buried in Green-Wood cemetery on 5th Avenue in Brooklyn, NY. The impressive Pierrepont lot in Green-Wood features a mausoleum for the parents and individual graves for the children surrounding it.

Mary’s 1st cousin was **William Constable** of Constable Hall in Lewis County, her brother **William Constable Pierrepont** inherited the majority of the family holdings and managed land sales from his home in Pierrepont Manor.

For more information on these illustrious families come visit Half-Shire, or the Historical Association of South Jefferson who each have sizable files on these founding families.

New Haven—Marie Strong, Historian: P.O. Box 141, New Haven, NY 13121. 315-963-3900 x7. historian@newhavenny.com: **Louise Meyer, H-S Trustee:** 513 County Rte. 58, Mexico, NY 13114. 315-963-3652. llhjmeier@gmail.com. Former Town Clerk **Debbie Allen** has been assisting historian Marie Strong with the town research and collections.

Orwell—Rose Graham, Historian and H-S Trustee: P.O. Box 162, 1999 County Rte. 2, Orwell, NY 13426. 315-298-2070. rosemgrah@yahoo.com The Evergreen Cemetery Book focusing on the lives of those interned within has been headed up by **Julie Litts Robst** and is coming to a conclusion. We hope to have the over 400-page book complete by summer.

Osceola (Lewis County)—Alice Sterling, Historian: 42 Ryan Rd., Williamstown, NY 13493. **Leona**

Chereshnowski, H-S Trustee: 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-8836. lchere@hughes.net The Osceola historical group is trying to reorganize and have been meeting at the public Library there. Contact **Theresa Sullivan** for more information 315-599-8878.

Parish—Bridgett Swartz, Historian: P.O. Box 195, Parish, NY 13131. **Venita Ackley, H-S Trustee:** 422 Kipp Rd. Parish, NY 13131. 315-382-6529, ackleyv@gmail.com. Venita Ackley has been working through the winter on various projects at Half-Shire, particularly in conducting a full inventory of our genealogy holdings on the shelves.

Redfield—Liz Grant, Historian: 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-7735. **Trustee Seat Vacant:** Member **Carol Williams Pelosi** of Wake Forest, North Carolina loaned us a collection of photos from her native Redfield with many photos of her family in Orwell also. We have digitized these and thank Carol for thinking of us!

Richland/Pulaski—Shawn Doyle, Twp. Historian: 85 Lake St., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-3620, or 315-602-6388. spdinpul@hotmail.com **Kevin Stewart, Deputy Historian:** junkyinny@gmail.com; **Robin Philips, H-S Trustee:** 102 Ivens Rd., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-7279. designsofelegance@netzero.net. Shawn and Kevin continue to work on area families and answer correspondence regularly. Recently Shawn met with members of the Oswego County Historical Society on a joint bequest of material the two groups will soon be obtaining. The material comes from the **Beadle/Bentley** families of early Pulaski and needs to be picked up in Arkansas. Shawn is waiting for a date to go and retrieve this valuable collection of documents, diaries and ledgers.

Sandy Creek—, Vacant, Historian (Town, Village and Lacona): P.O. Box 52, Sandy Creek, NY 13145. 315-387-5456 x7. schistoriansandycreek@gmail.com. Website: <http://SandyCreeknyhistory.com> **Margaret Kastler, H-S Trustee:** 1695 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083. 315-387-5209. kastlerm@hotmail.com

Sandy Creek Alumni Association—Sharon Turo '64, President P.O. Box 256, Sandy Creek, NY. 315-387-3112. slturo@earthlink.net **Margaret Hollis Kastler '51, Historian:** 315-387-5209. kastlerm@hotmail.com The Executive Committee meets about six times a year to plan and prepare for the Annual Meeting and Banquet held in June each year. Call Sharon or Margaret for the meeting schedule if you would like to attend.

At the 2020 Annual Meeting and Banquet, will be held on June 26th at 7 pm in the high school cafeteria. The Newsletter with the Reservation form and raffle tickets will arrive in SCCS Alumni mailboxes about May 1st. Members of the 50-year class will also be receiving this issue of the Half-Shire Historical Society newsletter and a 1-year complementary membership in the Society.

We hope to spotlight the SCCS graduates from the Yerdon family this year. If you are a Yerdon descendant and a graduate, with a different surname, please contact Sharon at any of the above addresses. We would like as many to attend the banquet as possible.

Williamstown—Glenna Gorski, Historian & H-S Trustee: P.O. Box 54, Williamstown, NY 133493. 315-964-2393. glgorski@frontiernet.net. Historical Building on Tuesdays: 9 AM to 12 Noon. Work on Volume I of the Williamstown Book is nearing its end with 250 pages complete detailing the lives of ladies whose maiden names are between letters A and G. We are looking at the project running into at least one and perhaps two volumes further. Each book will sell for \$25

The Search for the Ancestors Horace¹ Miller of Jefferson & Oswego Counties, NY

As so often happens with genealogy, multiple events sparked an interest in this family's history. The publication of the *Trumble Clan* by Ivan Trumble & Ann LaDuke was the starting point. About a third of the Trumble family share a common Miller line of descent. That was followed by the recent death of one of the senior members of the family, a memoir, the donation of photographs, and inquiries from several genealogists across the county. The fact that at least five of my classmates were Millers, one of whom is now a close friend and neighbor motivated me as well. Today, there are currently four generations of the Miller family living in Jefferson and Oswego Counties.

The common Miller ancestor named in the *Trumble Clan* was **Horace¹ Miller** (1805-1885) & his wife, **Clarissa Burlingame Spencer** (1810-1879) and have been designated as Generation 1 of this particular Miller family.

Proving Horace's ancestry has not been so straight forward. What follows are the bits and pieces I have found so far and connecting them together requires assumptions and speculation.

Working back from 1850, Horace and his wife, Clarissa and their children Abijah, Spencer, Hulda Ann, Horace, Anson and Sophia were recorded in Albion, Oswego, NY. The 1830 census identified three Miller households in Hounsfield, Jefferson, NY: that of Abijah, Gilbert, & Horace. In 1820 only Abijah was recorded in Hounsfield. 1810 finds Abijah's family in Adams, Jefferson Co., NY with 1 male child under 10, presumed to be Horace, and the 1800 census recorded Abijah in Whitestown, Oneida, NY.

Continuing research on these three men suggests that Abijah came to New York State from Connecticut after 1799. But here again, while the information found is quite detailed, the connections between these families is plausible, but tenuous at best.

The search for "Abijah Miller" led to the Congregational church records in Glastonbury, Hartford, Connecticut. **Abijah Miller Jr.** (c.1765-aft 1830) and his wife were admitted to that particular congregation, and four of their children, Abijah, Anson, Clarissa, Gilbert, were baptized on June 10, 1798. Another child, Jason, was baptized March 7, 1799. *Early Connecticut Marriages* shows a marriage between Abijah Miller and Lucy Strong on August 18, 1791.

The other person of interest was **Captain Abijah Miller Sr.** (1735-1798), a Revolutionary War Veteran, who married Dorcas (possibly Goodwin) (1757-1804) in Glastonbury, Hartford, CT. Six children were named in his will dated 1797: Elizier, **Abijah Jr.** Mary (Miller) Cooley, Elizabeth, Prudence (Miller) Hollister, and



Amos Hugh³ Miller (1867-1936) and his wife, Julia Ann⁴ Trumble (1875-1954) were both descendants of Horace¹ Miller.

Sarah. Following his death, numerous land records indicate that his estate was sold and otherwise divided between his children. Abijah Jr. also sold property in his own name and is not recorded in the Connecticut census in 1800.

It should be noted here that the Miller Genealogy is a work in progress with more research needed. Anyone with information about the Connecticut origins of this family willing to share will be appreciated. Contact information for Half-Shire and for me can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. *Sharon L. Turo, Feb. 29, 2020*

Spring Raffle

Choice of
Quilt by Doreen Tilton
DNA Kit
Choice of Book

Tickets for the Spring Raffle, which will be held at the March meeting, are in this Newsletter

Fall drawing winners were:

1st, **Hurd**, Quilt by Gayle Brosnan
2nd, Elizabeth Stetz-Wood, DNA kit
3rd, Everett Miller, choice of book

Congratulations to all the winners!

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

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Meetings and Upcoming Events for 2020*

- Sat. Mar. 14, 2020 Regular lunch and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. Apr. 25, 2020 Regular lunch and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.
- Sat. May. 16, 2020 Dinner Dance with "Still Kickin" Richland headquarters 5-11 p.m.
- Sat. May. 23, 2020 Regular lunch and meeting, Richland headquarters noon-2 p.m.

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

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

*Meetings subject to Change - see the Local Papers or our Facebook "Mary White"

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