



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

Spring/Summer 2025

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

Vol. LI No. 2

A Full Summer of Activities held at the Society

(Richland) This past summer saw a full calendar of activities from early May into late September. The Richland Farmers Market and concert series was conducted from the pavilion, back lawn and porch from mid-June until the end of October. The weekly Wednesday event began on June 18, with renown blues band "Dam Dog", and to kick things off the society offered free strawberry shortcakes. Also, on opening night the Lake Ontario Broom Riders danced to the delight of the crowd. The following week, former Half-Shire vice president Bill Brosnan and his niece Megan Bolton and her band "on the Porch" regaled attendees with their great music on the very porch/stage named in honor of Bill Brosnan.



This year we only had one weather-related cancellation, and most nights were very nice, though attendance varied. Our "Christmas in July" event, sponsored and led by Joe and Amber Skotnicki brought over one hundred people to see the famed "Skotnicki collection" of inflatable ornaments to took up a large section of the northeast lawn. The Skotnicki's sponsored "Kickin Up Dust" for music on that memorable night.



On another well-attended night, Rural and Migrant Ministry sponsored a floral design class that was conducted by our trustee Robin Warren Philips, as part of the RMMOC CNY Arts grant for 2025. Throughout the summer we were able to offer fresh vegetables and baked goods from Levi and Mary Zook on Peck Rd., taken on consignment. We also added vegetables from our own gardens tended by Sue Bristol, as they ripened.



Beyond the farmer's markets on Wednesday nights, each weekend was normally busy with one event or another. Three class reunions, including the annual 1980s Pulaski reunion on August 2, were held, three bus tours, and several funeral lunches, and two blocks of Pulaski School

District workshops---each event kept us busy! In September we finally got the roofs completed on the north wing of the pavilion, and on the 2nd floor balcony on the barn, these were completed just in time for an evening wedding on October 11.

Also, in September our Amish friends stained the upper balcony and the Brosnan Stage/porch

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Half-Shire Membership: 2026 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

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

Officers (2023-2024) with terms of office expiration

President (2026)	Shawn P. Doyle, 85 Lake St, Pulaski, NY 13142; 315-298-3620	spdpinul@hotmail.com
Vice Pres. (2026)	Fay Ann Colvin, P.O. Box 592, Brewerton, NY; 13029; 315-447-4270	facolvin@windstream.net
Treasurer (2026)	Betty Warren, 2785 Co. Rte. 2, Richland, NY; 13144; 315-298-2975	Bettybjwarren@aol.com
Secretary (2026)	Charlotte DeGaetano 424 Albion Cross Rd. Pulaski, New York 13142; 315-298-5986	(no email)

Board of Trustees (2024-2025) 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	timcto15@yahoo.com
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Mexico/New Haven (2027)	Debra Allen, 3185 Co. Rte. 6, Mexico, New York 13114; 315-529-1321	djallen2013@twcnny.rr.com
Orwell (2027)	Rose Graham, P.O. Box 162, 1999 Co. Rte., 2, Orwell, NY 13426; 315-298-2070	rosegrah@yahoo.com
Osceola/Montague (2027)	Leona Cheresnoski, 1075 Comins Rd., Redfield, NY 13475; 315-599-8836	lmchere@gmail.com
Parish (2027)	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 (2025)	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)

Additional Volunteers: Sharon Turo, Joanne Hubbard, Pat Miller, Shelby Miller, Anna Blachman, Arlie Corday, Erin Klarner, Brett Potts, Frank Reynolds, Jim FitzGerald, Jim & Barb Joslyn, Sharon Robarge, Shelley Joss, Caroline Stainton

President's Report, Shawn Doyle—

Where did our summer go, so fast! Since the day I returned on June 1, from my son's wedding in Florida, I have been at Half-Shire every weekend, and often 5-6 days a week. Once again, we "overbooked" multiple events, and on at least two occasions we had events upstairs and down, and in our main hall and the barn. 2026 looks to be very busy with the American 250th celebrations. In 2026 we are going to limit reserved dates for rentals of the building as we have less staff to manage these events, and catering takes us away from our principal mission and activities. (This is a long-winded explanation for another late newsletter).

Despite the overbooked schedule, our team has accomplished a great deal this summer, despite all the events. **Venita Ackley** has worked on sorting and accessioning the last of the Widrig estate papers, a project that has been ongoing since 2015. Venita next went on to several smaller collections, and as we write she is working on finishing the Hollis-Kastler collection of books, photos and family history from our trustee **Margaret Kastler**. **Pat Miller** assisted Venita this summer, and spent a great deal of time completing the inventory of our extensive old sheet music collection, mainly from **George Widrig**.

In the SE classroom **Betty Warren** and **Joanne Hubbard** have been working at least once a week to refine the organization of our amazing textbook and school yearbook collections. This year working with the Historical Association of South Jefferson and

Henderson Historical Societies, we have added yearbooks from Adams, Henderson and added them to our Belleville Collection, while these schools are outside of our principal area of research we have many researchers who enjoy this collection.

Our master gardener, **Sue Bristol**, has been dedicated to the gardens. We had a good variety of vegetables and herbs throughout the summer and used these for many meals and events. The flowers across the grounds did decently despite the dry July-August period. The roses were particularly nice!

Jim FitzGerald, our neighbor to the south and east, has been a huge asset to our operation throughout the year, assisting with snow removal in the winter and lawn care through the summer. Jim also has been a great help with many events we have hosted.

Sharon Turo, Shelby Miller and **Susie Spencer** have been working in the Pomeroy room on inventories and accessions through the year, keeping very busy. **Fay Colvin** and I generally work on obituaries and misc. other tasks on Fridays, and our devoted secretary **Charlotte DeGaetano** keeps up with our correspondence and records.

Special thanks to the **Pulaski Lions Club**, who staffed the food truck during our farmers market, and also allowed us to use their club room for the wrapping of newspaper books (still ongoing) and other larger projects.

Remembering Friends (March-October 1, 2025)

(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 large collection that touched our organization, officers, members, or communities. 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.)

William Alton Stanley-(Feb 5, 1930-Jan 18, 2022) Born in Adams the son of William & Alice (Flagg) Stanley, Bill was raised in Osceola, Adams and the Syracuse area. He is survived by two children, and his wife Suzanne, as well as several cousins including our webmaster, Angela Moonan.

Gary Black-(May 9, 1949-June 22, 2024) Born in Elyria, OH the son of Adelbert & Elizabeth (Fador) Black, Gary was married to the former Nancy Potter of Richland. Nancy is a good member, and researcher as well as niece of our late curator Erma Potter Schroeder.

Arlea Farley-(May 29, 1924-Oct 15, 2024) Born in Mexico the daughter of Lot & Gladys (Hamilton) Ackley, she was a 1942 graduate of Mexico Schools, and later married Raymond Farley, who died in 1992. Arlea was a wonderful lady, and among her survivors are sister-in-law Venita, one of principal volunteers.

Mary Helen Greene-(Jun 27, 1937-Nov 14, 2024) Born in Florence, the daughter of Homer & Margaret (Corbett) Broadwell, Mary attended Oswego Schools and lived in Fulton for many years. She was an active researcher, and a past member of Half-Shire.

Eugene Ward-(Sept 22, 1932-Dec 13, 2024) Born in White Pine, KY the son of Wm. & Elsie (Maddox) Ward, Gene left his rural roots to become one of Tennessee's leading attorneys. He was married to Grand Old Opry star, **M. Jeannie Seely** (Jul 6, 1940-Aug 1, 2025) of Nashville, who passed away this summer. Jeanne was born in Townville, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Leo B. & Emma (Shade) Seely. Jeanne was a 2nd cousin to Shawn Doyle's grandfather Jack Seeley (1906-1973), born several miles from one another in Crawford County, Pennsylvania, Jeannies' late sister Mary Lou Lang, was a Half-Shire correspondent on genealogy).

Mary Ann Connor Grant-(Jan 1, 1935-Jan 15, 2025) Born the daughter of Weldon L. & Mary E. (O'Byrne) Connor, Mary Ann was married in 1957 to the late Theo "Ted" Grant of Redfield, she was a longtime member of Half-Shire, and a beloved summer visitor. Our sympathy to the family.

Keith Britton-(Jan 10, 1956-Jan 26, 2025) Born in Williamstown one of the ten children of William & Julia (Oyer) Britton, Keith was a longtime highway dept. worked in his hometown and enjoyed woodworking. Among his many survivors are his wife Carol and their six children and thirteen grandchildren as well as two brothers and two sisters, as well as many good friends.

Roszita Vance-(Jan 24, 2025) Born in Watertown the daughter of Ernest & Isabelle (Sanderson) Knowlton, Rose lived in North Syracuse most of her life. She was predeceased by husband **Thomas Vance** (Feb 20, 2024) and daughter **Sharon Betters** (Feb 25, 2017). Among her survivors are daughter Anne, and son Robert Desimone of Pulaski, and five grandchildren.

Louis Lombardo-(Nov 2, 1956-Feb 16, 2025) Son of Louis and Evelyn (LaPoint) Lombardo, former owners of the Log Cabin Inn during the 1960s and 70s in Pulaski. Lou was a 1975 Pulaski graduate and followed his parents in food

service management. A daughter, two sisters Francine Helinger, Debra Romeo and a brother Anthoney.

Harold "Jake" Hellinger-(Dec 28, 1942-Mar 11, 2025) Born the son of Alvin & Hazel (Snyder) Hellinger, he was a graduate of Mexico Schools and went on to St. Bonaventure University. Harold and four children as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren, two sisters Janet Larison and Doris Pierce. Jake was well regarded in the area.

Victor Yerdon-(Jun 19, 1928-Mar 13, 2025) Born in Redfield the son of Andy & Clarissa (Gibbs) Yerdon, Vic was the youngest of this family, and also the last of the grandchildren of Redfield pioneer Abraham Yerdon. He was a frequent, beloved visitor at Half-Shire, and his humor and knowledge will be long remembered. Vic is survived by a large family that includes his widow, Darlene, daughters Michelle, Danielle, Nichole and a son Lancing. As well as many grand and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and cousins. Half-Shire hosted a celebration of life for the family, and we miss his Friday afternoon visits.

Mary Lynn Raiti-(Sept 26, 1937-March 13, 2025) Born in Syracuse the daughter of DeRayne & Helyn (Zimmerman) Holtsbery. Mary Lynn was married to Francesco Raiti, and raised five children. The family operated the Redfield Cheese Factory for many years, which was the last cheese plant in that town. The family were well known and respected in the region and Mary will be long remembered.

Joan Bryant-(Feb 22, 1938-Mar 14, 2025) Born in Rome, daughter of Howard & Laura (Gibbs) Suits, she was married to the late Dale Bryant (1933-2005), by whom she had three children, Laurie, Brian and a son Gary who passed in 1981. One granddaughter and brother Jim Suits also survive. Many of this family are involved in Half-Shire.

Rene Paternoster-(Sept 29, 1968-Mar 16, 2025) Born in Greenock, Scotland the daughter of Michael & Agnes (McLellan) Docherty, she came here as a youth and was married Mike Paternoster and lived in Pulaski. The couple have two daughters, Kaeleigh and Samantha and a son Michael who survive. Rene was a much beloved lady in the community and will be missed.

Walter "Larry" Gregory-(Jul 12, 1947-Mar 17, 2025) Born the son of Reuben & Oleta (Trumble) Gregory, Larry attended Pulaski Schools. He was married to the former Pam Maitland, who survives as well as two children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As well as two brothers and two sisters.

Sherry Thurston-(Jul 29, 1947-Mar 18, 2025) Born the daughter of Kenneth & Augusta (Davis) Stevens, Sherry was a Groton High School graduate and went on to earn degrees in Human Services from Tompkins Cortland Community College and Empire State College. She was married to Wayne Thurston for 57 years who survives as well as two daughters, four grandchildren and two sisters. Sherry was an active member of the DAR, and Wayne the SAR.

Shirley O. Yerden-(Nov 24, 1930-Mar 20, 2025) Born in Granby the daughter of Ernest & Leita (Loveland)

Ouderkirk. Shirley was married to Clifton "Pete" Yerden and lived in Redfield most of her life where she was an beloved icon in the Hamlet of Greenboro. Shirley is survived by by sons Randy, Gregory and Steven. As well as nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Our dear friend, former weather watcher Carolyn Yerdon, assisted with Shirley's care in recent years.

Joan Waterbury-(Jan 18,1931-Mar 21, 2025) Born in Hagerstown, MD the daughter of Claude & Isabelle (Landis) Poole, she went on to earn a teaching degree at Frostburg State University. She was married to the late William Waterbury of Oswego and moved to Oswego County in the 1950s. She taught at APW Schools for thirty years. In later life she was companion to Jack Kaple, who died in 2021. Joan was an active volunteer and student of history. She was a member of Half-Shire for many years.

Leo Monette (Jan 17, 1951-Mar 25, 2025) Born in Oswego the son of Leo & Elizabeth (Cavanaugh) Monette, Leo and his wife Bette have two sons, six grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by four siblings, including our late President Greg Monette and sister Barb. Leo had a wide circle of friends and will be missed.

Charles Mahaffey-(Feb 1, 1956-Mar 25, 2025) Born the son of the late Paul, and Shirley (Jacobs) Mahaffey, Charles was a 1974 graduate of Pulaski School. He worked as an electrical supervisor at Schoeller Papers for several years. Charles is survived by his mother, two children, a grandson two brothers and many friends who will remember him. Robert Kaple (Apr 1951-Apr 2025) Born the son of Robert & Maxine (Cross) Kaple, Bob was graduate of He married Pat Caster (1955-2005) in 1973, and the couple had four daughters who survive and have our sincere sympathy.

Ethel E. Hilton-(Mar 22, 1956-Mar 31, 2025) Born the daughter of Ward & Marion (Britton) Stevens. She was married to James Hilton, by whom she had a large family who survive in the eastern Oswego County region.

Kathy Perry-(1951-March 2025) Born the daughter of Harvey & Winona (Lighthall) Ackley. She was educated in Pulaski Schools and married to James Perry. She died in Illinois. Among her survivors are step-mother Venita Ackley.

Richard Reynolds-(Feb 12, 1942-Mar 31, 2025) Born in Richland one of the eleven children of Orlando & Gladys (Martin) Reynolds, Dick was married to the former Marge Childers. Among Dick's survivors are children Nathan and Margo, several grandchildren and siblings Mary Woolson, Frank Reynolds, Jane Dingman and Sue Norton.

Robert Kaple-(Apr 15, 1951-Apr 2, 2025) Born the son of John & Maxine (Cross) Kaple, Robert attended APW schools. His wife Patricia Castor died in 2005, and he spent his last years with companion Marilyn Hauer. He is also survived by four children and several grandchildren. Bob was a member of Half-Shire and attended our dances.

April LaPage-(Apr 10, 1939-Apr 2, 2025) Born in Palermo the daughter of Charles & Viola (Smith) Raymond. She attended Mexico Schools and later married Donald LaPage. The couple their family in the Mexico area. Among her survivors are four children, daughter in law Mary Ann (LaDuke) LaPage and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Larry Roser-(Jun 21, 1948-Apr 2, 2025) Born in Orwell the son of Osman & Rose (Countryman) Roser, Larry was married to the former Marilyn Skinner in 1972. He was a US Navy veteran and later worked at Larabee Wire Mill. He and his wife lived in Ricard and were Half-Shire members.

Carol Minor-(Sept 15, 1942-Apr 6, 2025) Born the daughter of Leeward & Elizabeth (Dahl) Allen, Carol was the widow of Robert Minor of Orwell. She had five children, two of whom predeceased her. Carol was an active member of the Orwell community and drove bus for Sandy Creek Schools. Her daughter Jen Pappa is a member.

Charles Gerdon (Feb 12, 1930-April 6, 2025) Born in Mexico, NY the son of Tracy & Grace (Tilkins) Gerdon, Charles was married to the former Florence Balch in 1951. He served in the US Army for three years and later operated Gerdon's Store in Richland for 26 years, retiring to Floria in 1991. His wife passed in 1991, and their daughter Gloria survives. The Gerdons were life Half-Shire members.

Carol Gareau (Feb 2, 1954-Apr 6, 2025) Born the daughter of the late Mathurin & Leah (Redden) Hutchenson, Carol attended Pulaski Schools. She was married to Carl Gareau in 1972, and together they have four children and several grandchildren, She and her husband operated the White House Lodge across from Schoeller Paper many years, daughter Kelly is a member.

Gordon Therrien-(Aug 21, 1947-Apr 8, 2025) Born the son of Frank Therrien & the former Madeline Sorrell, Gordy attended Adams Center High and grew up in Southern Jefferson County. He was a well-known musician for many years, playing with the Bounty Hunters, The Country Who, Country Crew, North St. Band, and Steve Green band among others. His wife Diane and two children are among his survivors.

Joyce Brown-(Feb 22, 1932-Apr 12, 2025) Born in Richland the daughter of William Poole and the former Luella Lyons, Joyce graduated from Sandy Creek Schools in 1950. She married Lyndon Brown in 1950 and lived in Mannsville. Among her many survivors are her three children, 17 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and siblings Lucille Johnson, and our beloved volunteer Evelyn Allen. Three brothers John, Elwyn and Harold and a sister Norma predeceased her.

Kevin Balcom, Jr.-(Feb 21, 1989-Apr 17, 2025) Born the son of Kevin & Betty (Stowell) Balcom, Kevin was a 2007 graduate of Pulaski Schools. Among his survivors are his parents, two brothers, several aunts, uncles and cousins, and his maternal grandparents. His paternal grandmother Donna Balcom and Uncle Kip Balcom are Half-Shire members.

Beverly Yerdon-(Aug 26, 1947-Apr 22, 2025) Born the daughter of Glenn & Eva (Elmer) Hurd, Beverly was married to the late Eugene Yerdon (1932-2012). Among her survivors are two sons, David and Cecil and a daughter Rebecca, several grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as many siblings.

Ann Traynor-(May 30, 1933-Apr 25, 2025) Born the daughter of Robert & Oldis (Munroe) Clark, She trained as an LPN, and worked 30 years in the medical field. Married to Patrick Traynor, the couple had seven children,

including Denise Warchol (Steve) of Pulaski, who is a member.

Francis Adams-(Oct 19, 1934-Apr 28, 2025) Born in Redfield, the son of James & Julia (Helbock) Adams, Frank was educated in area schools and worked many years as a logger and also owned and operated the Redfield Hotel for nearly 40 years along with his wife the former Sylvia "Sukie" Yerdon (1938-2015). Frank served in several public offices, including Highway Superintendent and Town Supervisor. Among his survivors are daughter Julie Darling, three grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, siblings J. Marie Lambie and Carl Adams, and his companion Shirley Mahaffy. *(The deaths and celebrations of life for Vic Yerdon and Frankie were great losses to half-Shire and presented conflicts for many of us who wanted to be in two places at once. We will miss them both greatly.)*

Jean Manwarren-(Mar 17, 1928-May 6, 2025) Born in Ft. Plain the daughter of William J. & Mary (Edwards) Ellis, Jean was from an old Pulaski family. Married to Thomas Manwarren, among her survivors are Marjorie and Joan, and sister-in-law Muriel Halsey. A son Ward died in 2014.

Katherine Potter-(Feb 13, 1969-May 11, 2025) Born in Melbourne, FL the daughter of Milferd & Patricia (Elkin) Potter, Kathy died at her home in Orwell after a short illness. She was survived by her parents, son Jonathon, and two sisters Valerie and Loretta. One month later her mother Pat died on June 16, after a long illness. Pat was born on April 25, 1942, the daughter of Earl & Marjorie (LaCelle) Elkin. Pat was a longtime Half-Shire member, and an active volunteer in the community for many years, including with the Oswego County Fair Association. Celebrations of Life were held for both ladies at Half-Shire.

Michael Kimball-(July 20, 1955-May 15, 2025) Born in Watertown the son of Wayne & Patricia (Warner) Kimball, Mike was a 1974 graduate of Sandy Creek Schools. He retired as Supervisor of the Happy Valley unit of the DEC and made hand crafted forestry items in his retirement. Mike married the former Penny Bickford, with whom he raised four daughters. At the time of his death the family had grown to thirteen grandchildren. (Mike's niece Angela manages our website, and son in law Andrew just installed out front roof.) Our sympathy to the entire family.

James E. Smith-(June 21, 1951-May 16, 2025) Born the son of Harold & Anna (Carista) Smith, he was a 1972 graduate of Pulaski Schools. Jim was employed for 30 years at Carrier Corp. in Syracuse. He is survived by two children, three brothers Bill, John and Gary Smith and a sister Debbie Kuenle, and three grandchildren.

Jack VanNort-(Aug 28, 2004-May 17, 2025) Born in Manchester, NH the son of Mark VanNort and Kelly Keefe, he was the grandson of Pat Summerville VanNort of Pulaski. His sudden death was a great shock to the family, and we extend our sincere condolences.

Kevin M. Barker-(Jun 20, 1951-May 22, 2025) Born the son of the late Oren & N. Marie (Lindsey) Barker of Boylston, he was a 1970 graduate of Sandy Creek Schools. He worked at Ribstone Silo and later as an independent contractor. Besides his six siblings, he is survived by his Aunt Melva Hilliker and many nieces and nephews.

Richard Cooper-(Jun 11, 1938-May 23, 2025) Born the son of Earl & Ruth (Butterworth) Cooper, Richard was a

1956 graduate of Pulaski Schools. He worked for Corse Press and Blount Lumber before spending 25 years as a maintenance worker at Pulaski Ponderosa. Richard was a valued volunteer at half-Shire for nearly 20 years, researching topics for us on microfilm at the Ainsworth Library. He was a kind, humorous man, and is greatly missed. His sister Marie is his only near survivor.

James P. Galvin-(Mar 27, 1932-May 23, 2025) born in Oswego, the son of James & Theresa (Lagoe) Galvin, Jim was married in 1963 to the former Geneva Dain, by whom he had a family of eleven children. Following service in the US Navy and Army, Jim returned to Oswego and retired as part-owner of Browne-Davis Furniture there. He was a devout Catholic, and active in the societies of the faith. Besides his wife and ten children, he is survived by twenty grandchildren and a sister.

Lawrence Ecker-(Aug 28, 1946-May 24, 2025) Born the son of Lysle & Maralyn (Johnson) Ecker, Larry was a graduate of APW Schools and served in the US Navy. For many years he was the owner of Larry's barbershop on Lake St. in Pulaski. He was an active sportsman. Besides his wife Mary Ann (Riley), he is survived by two children, two grandchildren and four siblings, including our member Judith Faulkner of Parish.

Vicky Lynn Parvese-(Oct 12, 1964-June 4, 2025) Born the daughter of William & Donna (Woolson) Godfrey, Vicki attended Pulaski Schools. She worked for many years in the food industry, from work in Syracuse City Schools as a Culinary Arts Instructor to time at Brennan's Beach where her summer stand was very popular. Vicki is survived by her father, three siblings and a daughter Breanne. She was an active member of the Richland Hamlet community.

Otto Joss-(May 21, 1934-June 15, 2025) Born in Syracuse the son of Charles & Pauline (Grossman) Joss, Otto and his late brother Edson moved to the area with their families when they were newly married to establish dairy farms. Otto was married to the former Lucille Clark, by whom he had five children, and now seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Otto was active in Agway cooperative and the Young Farmers Association. In retirement Otto and Lucille travelled extensively and enjoyed their expanding family. Lucille passed away in 2019.

Marian Engle-(Jan 10, 1946-June 23, 2025) Born the daughter of William & Beatrice (Baker) Lloyd, Marian attended Pulaski Schools with her five sisters, of whom she is the last, with sister **Joanne Lallier** (July 12, 1944) having passed away on June 9. With her first husband Roger Chatterton Marian has three children, and by her second husband has four stepchildren. Daughter Deborah C. Hilton, a friend of Half-Shire also lost her companion

Adam Harlander-(Apr 27, 1979-June 29, 2025) Born the son of Darren and the late Karen (Perry) Harlander, Adam was a 1997 graduate of Camden Schools and went on to earn an associate's degree at Mohawk Valley Community College. He worked 14 years in the field of hospitality, lastly at Oneida Health. Many of the extended family are Half-Shire members, and we offer our sincere sympathy.

Marion Jerrett-(Nov 12, 1938-July 16, 2025) Born the daughter of Richard & Nola (Halsey) Jerrett, Marions's roots run deep in Oswego County. Her son Jeff is a good friend of Half-Shire and advises us on many genealogical

projects. Our sincere sympathy to Jeff and his family for their loss.

Kevin Dix-(Aug 19, 1959-July 19, 2025) Born the son of the late Marvin, and Barbara (Wall) Dix, Kevin was educated in Phoenix Schools and trained as a police officer, serving with the Oswego County Sheriff's Dept. and several local agencies. He is survived by his wife, the former Jamie Currier, five children, several grandchildren, three siblings, and his mother Barbara, the respected former Oswego County Historian and Half-Shire member.

Pheobe Wheeler-(Nov 18, 1931-July 23, 2025) born in Altmar the daughter of Frederick & Roxie (Trumble) Britton, Phoebe was educated at Checkered House one room school, She married Charles Wheeler in 1950 and raised a family of four children, as well as many foster children. She was cafeteria manager at APW Schools, retiring after 19 years. Besides her children Pheobe has seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren and siblings Louis, Jack, Peter, and Alice Eldred. Several of the family are Half-Shire members.

William Potter-(Apr 8, 1953-July 26, 2025) Born the son of Albert & Kathryn (Garvin) Potter, Bill was educated in Sandy Creek Schools. He retired after 35 years with Oswego County Social Services and at the time of his death was serving as Orwell Town Supervisor. Bill was the father of four children and had eight grandchildren as well as two siblings who survive. He had a deep love of history and was a valued member of Half-Shire

Irene Meyers (Mar 15, 1929-Aug 3, 2025) Born the daughter of Stephen & Catherine (Helinger) Rupracht. She graduated as Valedictorian in 1946 from Central Square schools. Married 56 years to Robert Myers, who passed away in 2006, the couple raised a family of three children. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Irene served for many years as historian for the Town of Hastings and the Village of Central Square. She was a published author of several books and pamphlets on history and will be missed.

John Tighe-(Nov 27, 1947-Aug 11, 2025) Born the son of William & Jane (Manwarring) Tighe, he was a 1965 graduate of Pulaski Schools. John married the former Judy Wilder in 1973, and together they had two children. After service in the Navy, John returned home and worked for 56 years for the Carpenters Union. Besides his wife and children, John is survived by three brothers and a sister.

James VanWinkle-Aug 17, 2025) Born in Camden the son of James & Eileen (Fox) VanWinkle, Jim was married in 1956 to the former Josephine Wheeler of Williamstown. The couple raised a family of seven children who survive along with 19 grandchildren, 49 great grandchildren who were all the pride of his life. Jim owned and edited the *Camden Queen Central News* for 49 years; he used this successful paper as a "bully pulpit" to advocate for the communities it served. He leaves a great legacy of service.

Jane Dingman-(Aug 27, 2025) Born in Richland one of eleven children of Orlando & Gladys (Martin) Reynolds. She was married to LeRoy Dingman (1941-2006) by whom she has two children who survive, LeRoy Jr., and Betty Jane Shepherd (son Rex died in 2003), as well as siblings Mary

Woolson, Suzzie Norton, and our volunteer and friend Frank Reynolds, all of whom have our sympathy.

Linda Goodnough-(May 24, 1936-Aug 31, 2025) Born the daughter of Robert & Christine (Greene) Sawyer in Sandy Creek, Linda was Salutatorian of the Class of 1954 there. Linda and her daughters owned and operated Greene Point Marina on North Sandy Pond, a family property that has been operated by five generations of this family. Linda was a very kind and giving person in the community, and is survived by four children, Cheryl Yerdon, Brian Goodnough, Christine and Cathleen. As well as nine grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Linda's passing leaves a void in the Sandy Creek Community that will not be soon filled.

Sandra L. Wing-(Dec 27, 1947-Sept 4, 2025) Born in Syracuse the daughter of Richard & Alberta (Reed) Bonner, Sandy had been married to John Wing of Richaldn (1947-2011) by whom she had two children, John and Jennifer, as well as two grandsons. She worked for several years for Pulaski School. Son John "JP" gifted Half-Shire several old electric clocks from Lura Sharp School removed as part of a renovation there several years ago.

Beverly J. Balcom-(Jul 29, 1929-Sept 7, 2025) Born in Ashtabula, Ohio the daughter of Howard & Ellen (Hewitt) McKesan, Bev was married to the late Rolan Balcom of Pulaski by whom she had three children, Mary Yerdon, Charles and Valerie Seamans. Bev was a frequent visitor at our Farmer's Market evenings, and a gentle soul with a keen wit. Her daughter Mary served as Half-Shire Treasurer for a time. Eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren also survive.

Kathryn Pacific-(Sept 9, 1959-Sept 10, 2025) Born in Watertown the daughter of Joseph & Marjorie (Fravor) Pacific, Kathy was a 1977 graduate of Pulaski Schools. She was employed by GTE in Oklahoma at the time of her passing. She is survived by siblings James and Gail Pacific, two nephews and three nieces and a large extended family

James O. Cronk-(Jan 19, 1941-Sept 14, 2025) Born in Altmar the son of Kenneth & Dorothy (Colvin) Cronk, Jim was long identified with his adopted community of Mallory, where he operated the Mallory Lumber and Steel. He was a great fan of Half-Shire, and we saw him and his wife Barb at many concerts here over the years. Besides Barb, Jim leaves a large family including six children, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren and siblings Mary Gaffey and Steve Cronk. We will miss our visits with Jim.

Vickie M. Richter-(Nov 16, 1952-Sept 15, 2025) Born the daughter of Giovanni & Verda (Mouck) Sperati, she attended Pulaski Schools and was married to Richard Richter (1942-2011). The couple had two children and five grandchildren she also is survived by siblings John, Don and Richard Sperati. Several of the family are Half-Shire members.

William J. Atkinson IV-(Nov 22, 1968-Sept 24, 2025) Born the son of William & Gail (Cranston) Atkinson, Bill was a 1985 graduate of Cicero-N. Syracuse Schools. Among his survivors are his wife Tracy three children, three grandchildren, his parents, and a large extended family, several of whom are among our members.

Tug Hill Regional Bibles: Matthew & Asenath (Hollis) Presler/Presley

(Orwell/Boylston) Between 1834 and 1907 Currier and Ives printed and sold these colorful family registers, for completion and framed display in homes. This one was given to Half-Shire by the late Ellen Presley Wild (1915-2005) and contains the earlier records we have for the Matthew and Asenath (Hollis) Presler family. The earliest Presler in America was Antoni Presler (1705), who immigrated to what is now Ulster County, New York Colony from Hochstadt, Sudliche Weinstrasse, in modern Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. The chart appears to be a very early print, likely from the mid-1860s.

Matthew Presler, Jr. was born in Charlton, Saratoga County, New York in 1808 the son of Matthew & Abigail Tift. The Presler family arrived in what is now Oswego County in about 1803, having lived for a time in Ellisburg, Jefferson County. Matthew Jr. married a neighboring young lady in 1830, Asenath Hollis, who was daughter of Joshua & Betsey (Adams) Hollis. The Hollis and Adams families both arrived in Orwell from New England about 1805. The Presler family were respectable, educated farmers, who had a strong Christian faith. Their first two children were born in Ellisburg, while the remaining five were born in Orwell. Their children later changed the spelling of their name to "Presley", which the main line of the family use today.

The following transcriptions are as they appear, with known pertinent additions found in parenthesis, most all entries are said to be in the hand of Aseneth H. Presler.

<u>Family Names</u>	<u>Born when and where</u>	<u>married when and by whom</u>	<u>Died when and where</u>
Matthew Presler	August 26 th 1808	Dec 30 th 1830 Orwell	October 27, 1890, Boylston
Asenath Hollis	July 20, 1806, Richland	by Rev. D. Calkins	April 14, 1887, Boylston
Betsy P. Presler	Oct 12 th 1831 Ellisburg		November 5, 1831, Ellisburg
Joshua H. Presler	April 10 th 1833, Ellisburg		July 3, 1833, Ellisburg
William H. Presler	May 25 th 1837, Orwell	Sept 15, 1859, by J. Hollis to Theodosia Cogswell	(d) June 14 th , 1911, Boylston
Leander C. Presler	Nov 10 th 1839, Orwell		(he died June 25, 1911 in Cincinnati, Ohio)
Margaret A. Presler	March 3, 1842, Orwell		Nov 2 nd 1863, Orwell
Lydia J. Presler	July 28 th 1846, Orwell		Nov 3, 1885, Boylston
Mary L. Presler	Nov 18 th 1849, Orwell	March 28, 1867 by M. Presler (married Charles Paddock, died 1938)	
William H. Presler	(from above, married 2 nd to: Jan 22 nd 1868 to Ellen Halsey by O.C. Cole		

William and his first wife Theodosia (Cogswell) Presley had four children. By his second wife, Ellen Halsy, William had five other children, including Arthur Presley, the father of the late Ellen Wild.

As part of this collection, Half-Shire has similar family records for both of William Presley's families.



Bible/Grave 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.

Spring/Summer 2025 News and Views Centerfold



Left-Betty Warren former student Robin Charles, who attended Richland school for a couple years, and was in Betty's 1st class, stopped by on June 21st Right-Ambrose and Molly Yerdon of Boylston dance at the May 11, dinner dance to the sounds of Still Kickin, with lead singer

"Spike" Trudell (below), a former co-worker of Ambrose.



Below-The Easter Bunny made an appearance in April for the annual screen free week luncheon and magic show. Many kids, and "kids at heart" such as Frank Hilliker captured the bunnies attention!



Left-the former Susan Morey (top) and Diane Walker (below) in their Redfield Elementary photo in 1954.



Both families left Redfield, and the two ladies met for the first time in 70 years, during their common cousin Mike Noble's funeral luncheon on May 17th in our Southwest classroom. Both decided they would have been great friends had they stayed in Redfield and graduated at Sandy Creek in 1966!



The Raleigh Morey family owned the Redfield Hotel from 1946-1955, and moved to Skaneateles, Diane and her family moved to Rome after the death of her father in 1955.



Right— Susan Morey Bremer, her sister Ann Morey, their 1st cousin

Marlene Noble Plumley, Marlene's 2nd cousin Diane Walker Grasso, and Sheri B. Noble, widow of Marlene's brother Mike. Diane holds a photo of her grandmother Cora Carr Walker with her eldest three sons, Lyndon (Diane's dad), Vernon and Arden. This photo hangs at the entry to Half-Shire



Spring/Summer 2025 News and Views Centerfold



Left-Charlotte Summerville DeGataeno, Patsy Seeley Doyle, Nancy Potter Black and Evelyn Potter Masuicca visited in the office in mid-May during Nancy's visit home from Florida to see her Aunt Evelyn and other family. Charlotte and Evelyn graduated from Pulaski in 1959; Nancy is the daughter of Shirley Potter Purvis who lives in Florida.

Left-In late May, President Doyle went to



Jacksonville, Florida to attend the wedding of son, Rodney to Lillian Blizzard of Maryland; Above- The rehearsal dinner

group: Samantha and Nicholas Lawler, Noel Blizzard Harris and husband Brandon; Lillian and Rodney, Shawn Doyle, Stephanie and James Blizzard. During the dinner Shawn and Noel were talking about her nursing college work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore---small world moment---one of Noel's recent professors was Erin Bacon Klarner, Half-Shire Life member and Snow Scholar at Half-Shire in 2006! Erin is also a 2nd cousin of Rodney and Nick! A quick text to Erin and she recalled Noel.



Left-20 years later, the John Ben Snow Scholarship program still brings talented students to our facility for three summers of projects. This year ended the three year term for Izzy Ecklund and Olivia LaRock who were also awarded two of the 2025 Erma Potter Schroeder Scholarships for their outstanding community service!

The third award went to long-time volunteer Xarion Jerome of Pulaski. Xarion has assisted in our building since he was a young child, he is GG Grandson of founder Avis Donovan Widrig.

Erm's scholarship is funded by proceeds from the annual Great Food Challenge held during Salmon River Winterfest.



(left to right) Jenna Robinson, Stephen Monette, their friend Paul Bush from Oswego, Adam Monette and Erin Cartmil.

Greg never lived to see the barn built, however he led the groundbreaking on September 26, 2021, just two months before he died on December 3, 2021, from COVID complications..

(groundbreaking--left-right) Sharon Turo, Betty Warren Greg Monette, Lori Monette, Jim FitzGerald

In mid-June two sons of our late Vice President, Greg Monette (1956-2021) came up to visit and toured the Grant Memorial Barn and our building.



Pomeroy Patriot Burial Signs dedicated across the Half-Shire Towns

(Oswego County) As part of the aggressive effort led by Oswego County Historian Debra Allen, to locate and mark each cemetery with a Revolutionary War Patriot Burial with a Pomeroy Foundation sign, we have marked five cemeteries in the northern Oswego County region this year. On October 11, we unveiled three signs in the towns of Williamstown and Albion. We began in Fairview cemetery in Williamstown with a sign that notes at least two patriots are proven that well cared for cemetery. Samule Plumb and Alexander Stone are both well marked here. Additionally, eight other patriots from the American Revolution who were part of the history of the town, but whose burials could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt or are buried elsewhere-- were honored in the program

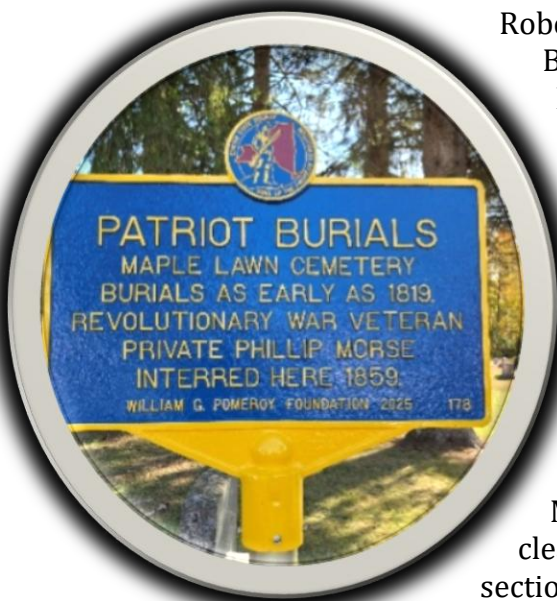
Town officials led by Supervisor Robert Oakes, Town Clerk Faith Baker, Highway Superintendent Henry Allen and Town Historian Beverly Carusone were present, as well as many members of the community, and members of the DAR and SAR.

Following this unveiling, many of the group went on to Maplelawn Cemetery in Dugway on St. Rte. 104 where Cemetery Board President Shawn Doyle and Secretary/Treasurer Charlotte DeGaetano were joined by Albion Town Supervisor Mike Faulkner and his wife Mary, Town Historian Florence Gardner as well as several others. Shirley Hanley, Regent, and Tasha and Paula Molner from the DAR were present in addition to others. At Dugway Phillip Morris/Morse was honored for his service. The Molner ladies have cleaned his stone, as well as others in the old

Phillip had in obtaining a pension for his service due to the inability to prove his service for many years. He had begun service as a seven-year-old child helping to convey baggage for the Continental Army. Several of his male relations also served.

The day culminated in the sign in Salmon River Cemetery on Rte. 13 in Pineville. Albion Town Supervisor Mike Faulkner and his wife Mary, Cemetery officials Fran Scriber and Joanne Blair were present as well as Shawn Doyle from SAR and Regent Shirley Hanley, Tasha and Paula Molnar from the DAR. At Pineville we honored Reuben Bennett for his service. After this last event many adjourned to Half-Shire for a luncheon of chicken and biscuits. We left early as the weather was foreboding rain, and we missed the Joyce Bennett Ezzo, a great-great grandchild of Reuben. We apologize to Joyce for missing her and thank her for her love of history and interest.

(On Saturday November 1, 2025, a large gathering of SAR officials will meet in two Pulaski Village cemeteries to honor 28 Patriots.)



News and Contact Info from Across the Fifteen Towns

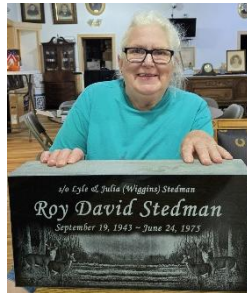
Oswego County Historian, Debra Allen, Historian:

384 E. River Rd, Oswego, NY 13126

historian@oswegocounty.com 315-349-8460. Deb leads the Oswego County 250th Committee, and also is the lead compiler of the book being researched on all of the revolutionary war soldiers who lived in, died in or are buried in Oswego County. The committee meets monthly and also sponsors a Revolutionary War Roundtable that alternates between Oswego and Half-Shire each month, the fourth Monday at 10:30 am. All are welcome.

Deb has been busy working on Pomeroy Patriot sign applications also [\[see page 12 for more on this!\]](#)

Albion—Florence Gardner, Historian: Box 394, Altmar, NY 13302. 315-298-5723. Florence worked with Deb and Shawn on the Pomeroy Patriot Signs for Dugway and Pineville Cemetery. She has also been assisting Bev Carusone in Williamstown on research on various families. This summer, Redfield Trustee Maureen Stedman placed a new stone on the grave of her brother Roy Stedman in Pineville Cemetery. A stone for a baby sister will be placed next to this in the spring.



Amboy—Vacant. The town of Amboy is searching for a new historian. Deb Allen and Shawn Doyle have found proof of two more Revolutionary War soldiers who lived in Amboy. To date, the only man proven had been Jesse Kinne (1764-1851) who is buried in a private cemetery. New record searches have found: Thomas Brown Jr. (1755-1830), Jacob Christman (c1770-after 1844), Isaac Cooper (1760-1837), George Dunbar (c1761-1849), Joshua Hall (1751-1823), Billings Worden (1756-1851) These men lived at one time in Amboy and are under review currently.

Boylston—Roxanne Ferguson, Historian: 5444 County Rte. 50, Richland, NY 13144. We were pleased



to learn that the Wells Family Cemetery in Boylston has been "cleaned up" nicely by the landowner. Peter Wells Jr. (1787-1854), son of a Revolutionary War soldier buried in the adjacent town of Ellisburg, settled in North Boylston and along with several family members is buried on the old family farm. Leon VanWie, 1,000 Island SAR President and cousin to the property owners shared photos of the cemetery recently with us. Peter Wells, Jr served in the War of 1812.

Camden (Oneida County)—Tim Nichols, Historian:

56 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-1982; timngto15@yahoo.com Tim keeps busy with Camden research, and has been a great help whenever we need research in his town or adjacent Oneida County towns. We will be leaning on Tim for help on the Revolutionary War vets in his town in 2026!

Florence (Oneida County)—Sherry McNamara, Historian:

11899 Tompkins Corners, Florence Rd., Camden, NY 13316. 315-245-0487. The annual mass at St. Mary's in Florence was held on September 21st. At least twenty Half-Shire members were present as President Doyle scanned the capacity crowd. Special thanks to the Clark family, Mike, Matt, Martin and Monica who do a superb job with this annual event, and



also to Father John Hogan who is an Oswego Irishman fills the late Bishop Costello's shoes pretty well each year!

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

jumangree@yahoo.com The Mexico Historical Society has had a good year, settling past issues with their old building and now acquiring the old Grace Episcopal Church on Main St. that they plan to use as an event center.

Stay tuned for more information on this.



Montague (Lewis County)--Dave Andolora, Historian:

c/o 6353 Salmon River Road, Lowville, NY 13367. In our search for area Revolutionary War graves we have not neglected our smallest town in the borderlands of the Shire. In Liberty Cemetery, Montague one Samuel Garnsey lies at rest. Samuel was born in Rehoboth, Massachusetts on October 3, 1762 and died in Clayton, NY in September 1843. He married Jerusha Darling (1761-1839), who is buried in West Lowville Rural Cemetery. Samuel has no gravestone shown on Find a Grave (we will send Grave Geeks to check this out, if not, and if we can prove he is here, we will get him a new stone.)

Garnsey lived in Dummerston, Vt after the War, and eight of his nine children can be found in that vicinity in the Vermont records, while the eldest, Samuel Jr. was born in Massachusetts in 1784. Research continues.

New Haven—Kelly Miller PO 141, New Haven, NY 13121; 315-963-3900. historian@newhavenny.com The Revolutionary War project hit “paydirt” this summer when evidence was found that founding father of the town, Soloman Warren Smith (1749-1824) is likely the same Soloman Smith listed in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution*. Deb Allen is working to prove this, will be significant for the many descendants in the town.

Orwell—George Stevens, Historian: 7411 Co. Rte. 15, Lacona, NY 13083. itsallhighadventure@yahoo.com. 315-404-7134. George Stevens has been very busy this summer, he had a nice exhibit at the Old Home Days in June, and again at the Oswego County Fair in July. George stops by Half-Shire frequently in his research.

Osceola (Lewis County)—Historian Tammy Becker 2630 Prince Brook Rd., Redfield, NY 13437 Beckertammy604@gmail.com. Leona reports that the Osceola Historical Society has been working on identifying the graves of all of its veterans, to ensure all are counted and properly flagged. So far there does not seem to be any Revolutionary War veterans in the town cemeteries. The Clemens cemetery in the north end does hold many oof the descendants of Jacob Clemens, whom Leona joined DAR under.

Recently we have been working with a Clemens researcher, Paul Hanson, who has some records on these families we did not have. Hanson continues to share his records with us as we compare files.

Parish—Bridgett Swartz, Historian: P.O. Box 195, Parish, NY 13131. The Village of Parish Cemetery now has a Pomeroy Patriot sign to note the service of Timothy Rider and Nathan Franklin. A cenotaph stone for Tunis Vrooman is also on that family lot. Other Parish soldier references in the pensions have not shown burial sites. The SAR and DAR will plan a proper dedication of the sign in the spring.

Redfield—Liz Grant Historian: 722 Co. Rte. 47, Redfield, NY 13437. 315-599-7735. The Redfield Old Home Days Aug 30-31 was well attended. Half-Shire staffed a booth there as normal and had many visitors. On the second day Roger Clark stopped by for the afternoon with daughter Theresa Switzer and sister-in-law Charlotte DeGaetano. Roger had many longtime friends stop by, including M. Joyce Yerdon LaCelle, who gave her old friend a hug and caught up for some time, while taking a break from the Redfield Auxiliary Booth she leads up. The Redfield Baked goods wheel was a huge hit, with the Warren and Walker families cleaning it out good during their annual competition while the Ballou-McCaw reunion was held on August 30. Dancing on Saturday night brought in



hundreds of people to hear Still Kickin. We caught our Osceola Trustee Leona Cheresnoski on the dance floor with her son Peter.

Richland/Pulaski—Shawn Doyle, Town & Village Historian: 85 Lake St., Pulaski, NY 13142. 315-298-3620 or 602-6388. spdinpul@gmail.com Kevin



Stewart, Deputy Town Historian: junkynny@gmail.com. Pulaski Historical Society and Half-Shire each were

very busy through the summer months. The Monday Historical Society sadly dissolved this year after over 120 years as a ladies club. One of the last projects they were involved in was the placement of a Pomeroy Marker by the historic Syracuse Northern Railroad arches along the north bank of the Salmon River. A grant to stabilize and preserve the arches was written by Mayor Jan Tighe, and in 2024 work was completed. On August 12, the Pomeroy sign was dedicated.



On November 1, 2025, two sign dedications are planned for Pulaski Village and Riverside Cemeteries. A planned dedication for Sand Hill/Daysville has been delayed until the sign can be moved, as it was mistakenly placed in front of the broken headstone of Benjamin VanEtten. (on top of his grave!) Further Pomeroy signs over the next years will be placed in Willis/South Richland, McClelland, Holmes Family, Browns Landing, Brookside Cemetery and Ferguson/Blue Springs in Richland Hamlet

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 has been busy with research and plans for the Pomeroy Signs that will be placed in Sandy Creek Cemeteries in the next few years. Four cemeteries qualify

Williamstown—Beverly Carusone, Historian, PO 55, 3411 Co. Rte. 17 Williamstown, NY 13493 The second volume of the Williamstown Ladies Book will be ready by Christmas. This book will tell the stories of ladies who were born in, lived in, died in or are buried in the town with maiden names “D-H” . When the book is ready it will be announced on Facebook. The Fairview Pomeroy Patriot sign was dedicated on October 11. (See article on Page 10)

(This article was featured in the recent Sheboygan Researcher newsletter from the Sheboygan Wisconsin Historical Society and is shared by permission. Pulaski/Richland historian Shawn Doyle purchased two new stones for Revolutionary War soldiers Dr. Jesse Meigs and Robert Muzzey in Barnard/North Rd Cemetery, just over the town line in Sandy Creek. Jarret Parrish and his mother Mary attended the SAR/DAR ceremony on July 5th. At the cemetery. During his 2024 visit, Jarret Parrish visited in 2024 and 2025 to research at Half-Shire)

Genealogical Journey: Honoring a Revolutionary Legacy

By Mary B. Parrish

In July 2024, Jarret Parrish, son of SCHRC Administrative Assistant Mary Parrish, traveled to New York to conduct genealogical research on the Meigs and Maltby family lines. His efforts led him to the Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland, New York, where he collaborated with its president, Shawn P. Doyle. Through Doyle's support, Jarret connected with extended relatives and resolved several long-standing family mysteries. Notably, he identified numerous previously unknown photographs in the Society's archive.

During his visit, Jarret traveled to Barnard Cemetery, located north of Pulaski, New York, to pay respects at the burial site of his sixth great-grandfather, Dr. Jesse Meigs. Although Jesse's final resting place was confirmed, a gravestone was absent.

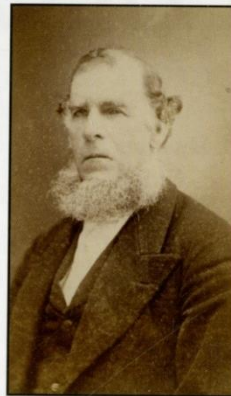
Jesse Meigs, born on March 7, 1763, in Connecticut, was the



Jarret Parrish and his fourth cousin, twice removed, Margaret (Hollis) Kastler. Jarret was able to identify numerous photos for her.

youngest child of Dr. John and Rebecca (Clark) Meigs. He married Hannah Pritchard on February 6, 1782, in Bethlehem, Connecticut, and together they had eight children. A respected physician in Litchfield County, Connecticut, Jesse's service in the Revolutionary War is documented in *Connecticut Men in the Revolution*, where he is listed as a member of Captain David Leavenworth's Company in Colonel Mosley's Regiment, stationed at Horseneck. By 1807, he had relocated to Richland Township, Oswego County, New York, where he remained until his death on April 22, 1838.

Jesse's grandson, John Decraso Parrish, immigrated to Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, in 1844. John was among the early settlers with ties to Oswego County. Other pioneering families from Oswego and nearby Jefferson County that settled in Sheboygan County include Carpenter, Harmon, Underhill, Bemis, Eastman, Curtiss, and Thackray.



John Decraso Parrish, grandson of Jesse Meigs, was a pioneer of Sheboygan County.

In April 2025, Doyle informed Jarret that the Half-Shire Historical Society had secured a gravestone for Jesse Meigs, with a dedication

ceremony planned by the Sons of the American Revolution for July 5. Jarret and Mary returned to New York to attend the event and commemorate Jesse's contributions.

During their visit, they met Pulaski Mayor Jan Tighe. Interestingly, her parents, Norbert and Norma Schell, resided in Sheboygan for 38 years, with Norbert serving as an administrator at Lakeshore Technical Institute (now Lakeshore College). The trip also provided further opportunities to connect with distant cousins and local historians, deepening the Parrish family's rich historical narrative. 🍀



Jarret and Mary Parrish pose with the newly dedicated gravestone of Pvt. Jesse Meigs.

Captain Delos Gary Remembered

By Natalie J. Woodall, PhD

(Oswego City) Captain Delos Gary was a soldier in Co. G, 147th Regiment from 1862-1863. Wounded severely at the battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, he was discharged for disability late in the year.

.0 Born on September 10, 1831, in Oneida County, NY, he was the son of Rev. George Gary and Elizabeth Armitage. Although his life was cut short by tuberculosis, he managed to acquire an impressive

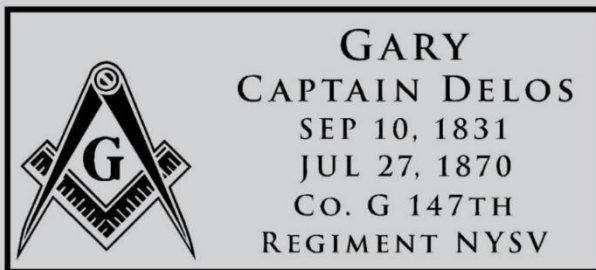


resume during his thirty-nine years on earth. He taught at Mexico Academy and was the first principal of Oswego High School. He studied law and became a successful attorney in practice with his brother-in-law, Charles T. Richardson. At the time of his death on July 27, 1870, he was on leave from his position as Oswego city judge. He was also a member of Oswego Lodge No. 127 F & A M.

Captain Gary is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Scriba. For many years his grave has been marked with a broken gravestone but in August 2025 that problem was corrected. Half-Shire Historical Society purchased a new stone to be erected adjacent to the original. Mr. Mark Crandall, Thousand Islands Chapter, SAR, and several anonymous donors generously paid for installing the monument on the grave.

Among the assembled at the Delos Gary grave on August 16, 2025, were: Dr. Natalie Woodall, Carla J. Salisbury, Lillian A. Schute, Peter Knoeller (GGG Grandson of Lt. John J. Hollis, NY 110th, Shawn Doyle and Gary Beadle, Photo By Debra Allen, Oswego County Historian

On August 16, a small group gathered at Riverside Cemetery to dedicate the new stone while others watched the ceremony via ZOOM. Half-Shire President Shawn P. Doyle acted as master of ceremonies for the occasion. Local historian Dr. Natalie J. Woodall briefly outlined Captain Gary's career. In the absence of Right Worshipful Christopher Reis of Lake City Lodge No. 127 F & A



M, President Doyle read the Masonic tribute. Carla J. Salisbury, Lillian A. Schute, and Natalie J. Woodall spoke on behalf of the Order of the Eastern Star. After the new stone was unveiled, the women decorated it with flowers. Dr. Woodall thanked all for their participation and pronounced the benediction.

selected Revolutionary War, and Civil War veterans and widows. A special committee will review suggested projects and select those deemed necessary and appropriate. Donations are gratefully accepted toward this effort)

(Half-Shire Historical Society has established a special fund to purchase replacement markers for

Volunteer Spotlight: Angela Moonan

(Jacksonville, Florida)

Angela Kimball Moonan, a native of the Half-Shire region with deep roots in the Eastern Lake Ontario/Tug Hill region has designed and maintained our website for nearly ten years. The daughter of the late Rick, and Jane (Bontomase) Kimball, Angela is currently a corporate storyteller, well-being strategist, and founder of *Living Well...Today*.



Angela cites the enduring examples of her grandparents, Tony and Pearl (Flagg) Bontomase—lifelong residents of Pulaski, and longtime active members of Half-Shire. Her devotion to the region has remained a constant throughout her life, from her early days as Miss Oswego County to her ongoing efforts supporting local businesses, leaders and communities.

Angela blends strategy with soul, helping organizations across industries—from healthcare to finance to law--communicate with clarity, connect with purpose, and build cultures of resilience and harmony.

Through her signature **Harmony Method**, the Mindful Leader Program, and the **ChooseWELL** workplace well-being program, she offers tools for growth, leadership and living well-today and every day.

Angela resides on the First Coast, in Jacksonville, Florida and continues to nurture her singing, floral arranging, photography, and connection to nature.

We at Half-Shire are very grateful to Angela for the work she has done and continues to do for our organization. We share her wonderful memories of her grandparents and think of Pearl every time we descend the main staircase where a beautiful stained glass window is mounted to catch the light into the middle 2nd floor window.

New Raffles and Fall Raffle Winners!

A set of raffle tickets are enclosed for your consideration. Prizes offered include a painting by Celia Potter, as well as our usual hand-crafted afghans and DNA kit.

The winners of the Fall raffle were:

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 are most recently paid is indicated after your name. If you are a Life member, it will say "Life"; if you have paid for 2025, it will say "2025."***

If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to email us at halfshire@hotmail.com or phone us Monday-Friday 10am-4pm at 315.298.2986

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 2025/26

- Sat Nov 15, 2025 SAR/DAR Patriot Luncheon
- Sat Nov 22, 2025 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat Dec 13, 2025 Holiday Party, lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat Dec 20, 2025 Christmas in Richland (Half-Shire, and across town)
- Fri-Mon Jan 16-19 2026 Salmon River Winterfest/Food Challenge
- Sat Mar 25-Sat Apr 4, 2026 Annual Screen Free Week
- Sat Mar 25, 2026 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat Apr 25, 2026 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat May 30, 2026 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat Jun 20, 2026 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Wed Jul 1-Sun Jul 5, 2026 Oswego County Fair
- Sat July 25, 2026 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat Aug 29, 2025 Regular lunch meeting noon-3pm, Richland HQ
- Sat/Sun Sept 5/6, 2026 Redfield Old Home Days
- Wednesdays from June-September, Richland Hamlet Farmers Market 4pm-8pm
- 2nd Sat. Mar.-Nov. 2026 DAR Regular meeting, (Private) noon (off 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**