

# HALF-SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Jon Emery Southwell Memorial Research Room

**Jon Emery Southwell (1975-2012)** Born the son of Joel and the late Sharon (Brodeur) Southwell, Jon attended Pulaski Schools graduating in 1993. While working full time at P & C Foods in Pulaski, Jon attended SUNY Oswego and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1998. Jon went on to become a Certified Public Accountant. He worked for Price Waterhouse, Coopers, and Deloitte and a couple of smaller firms rising to the position of director. He later left the field of accounting to become Vice President of taxation and assistant treasurer in 2011 at the age of 35—the youngest VP in that companies history! On June 11, 1994 he was united in marriage to the former Kimberly Stewart. Together they had three children, and also raised a niece. The room was dedicated on October 22, 2016 after an extensive renovation as a result of a generous bequest by his widow, Kimberly Stewart Southwell

Located in the Northwest corner of the 1st floor, this room contains 8 shelving units and a card catalog system. The first five shelves contain notebooks on various topics and records for each of the Half Shire Towns: Albion, Amboy, Boylston, Camden, Florence, Mexico, Montague, New Haven, Orwell, Osceola, Parish, Redfield, Richland (including Village of Pulaski), Sandy Creek and Williamstown. These shelves are maintained and updated by the Society trustees for each of the towns.

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO HALF-SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SO MANY RESOURCES TO SO MANY FAMILIES & ORGANIZATIONS.**

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The items that can be found for each town generally are records of cemeteries, veterans, churches, schools, census enumerations, excerpts from NYS Vital records index (to 1967) and misc. other topics. The sixth shelf unit contains similar records from the border towns and cities near our coverage area (such as Oswego, Fulton, Adams, etc.)

The seventh and eight shelf units contain the Half-Shire obituary collection. Avis and George Widrig began this collection in the early 1900s, and since the death of George Widrig in 2014 our volunteers have continued to save death notices and obituaries for people in or from our coverage area. Some marriage and birth records are also here, on a smaller scale. The card catalog contains various old indexes including the "Smith Index" an attempt by the late Esther Rancier to index all members of the Smith family in Northern NYS she encountered in her research.

Upper shelving contains copies of the Salmon River News, Pulaski Democrat and Camden Queen Central News from approximately 1989 to the present. Many of these newspapers are still not digitized. A complete inventory of holdings will be posted here when completed. The desks of the President and the Secretary of the Society are also located in this room, along with a comfortable table for six where much of the work of the society is conducted.

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TODAY. BECOME A PART OF A OUR FAMILY  
AND A TIME-HONORED TRADITION**