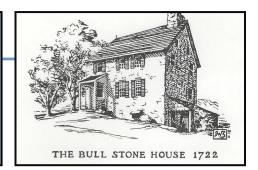
The BULL-e-tin

Spring 2020

The William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association, Inc

Keeping The Stone House strong and the Bull Family connected to each other and the world.



From the President Lyle Shute lshute@hvc.rr.com

family and I miss him dearly.

Hello cousins, I hope this finds you safe, healthy and well. Times sure are challenging these days and for some, more difficult than others. On a personal note, I just lost my father, Robert Shute, this month; a man who was such a champion for the

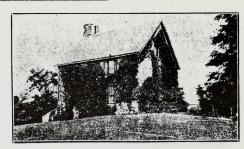
Bull family and an all around positive person. My

Death and tragedy always gives one pause and opportunities for reflection. Looking back on our Bull family history this current pandemic is one more hurdle where we Bulls will persevere. The Annual Bull Family Reunion has been held every year since 1867; the gathering in 1867 was the meeting of family members to consider the erection of a monument to Sarah Wells and William Bull. The family met during the 1918 Pandemic, again in 1919 while the pandemic was still ongoing, and every year of every war since the first reunion. The letter at right was sent to the family in 1920, 100 years ago, to fundraise for the purchase of the Bull Stone House as a memorial to the members of the family who served in World War I.

So what will we do this year for the **153rd Annual Reunion**? As of press time of this BULL-e-tin, we are not quite sure what our reunion will look like, but your Association Board members and committee members are hard at work to persevere. **Please keep checking our Bull Family website** for any updates. We encourage

The William Bull and Sarah Wells Family Association, Incorporated

MEMBERS OF 1920 WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:
CHARLES W. SLAUGHTER, President, 807 Rugby Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.
CHARLES M. BULL. Vice-President, 36 Worral Avenue, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
ERNEST M. BULL, Treasurer, 17 Battery Place, New York City,
ROBERT McLEOD JACKSON, Secretary, 120 Broadway, New York City,
HARRY C. BULL, Campbell Hall, N. Y.
HAMLET S. ROE, Chester, N. Y.
E. NORMAN BULL, 157 Academy Street, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
MRS. CLARENCE S. KNIGHT, Monroe, N. Y.
MISS LILLIAN BULL, Chester, N. Y.



OLD STONE HOUSE. Hamptonburgh, Orange County, N. Y

November 1st. 1920

TO THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM BULL AND SARAH WELLS:

The Committee appointed at the 1920 Bull Picnic to effect the purchase of the "Old Stone House" and farm of 185 acres has incorporated the Family and obtained an option on the property. This option cannot be exercised until the members of the Family have assured by pleage or contribution that the full amount of the purchase price will be in hand. Already over one-fifth of the \$20,000 necessary has been pleaged or contributed. It now remains for those who have not pleaged or contributed to send in their contribution or acquaint the committee with the amount they intend to subscribe by means of the enclosed pleage form.

Check or money order should be made payable to Ernest M. Bull, Treasurer, but mailed to the undersigned.

Unless each one who receives this letter realizes a personal responsibility and a generous response is received, it cannot be expected that we shall achieve this memorial to the boys who went to war.

A personal convass of the Family is impossible. If you desire further information do not hesitate to ask for it. Your name has been assigned to me and a prompt reply to me at my own sidress, as shown above, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerety yours,

s/ Charles W. Slaughter, Pres.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the ANNU-AL MEETING of the WILLIAM BULL AND SARAH WELLS STONE HOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC. will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at one o'clock PM, E.D.T. for the transaction of such business as may come before it and to elect (4) directors. Instructions on attending virtually will be forthcoming. Dated May 29, 2020

Lyle Shute, President Nancy Boyd, Secretary join the Bull Family Facebook group where we will also post updates.

I hope you will all join me in giving Todd Vandervort

I hope you will all join me in giving **Todd Vandervort** a huge show of appreciation for all of his service to our family and the Association in his **25 years on the board**, most recently as president. From helping coordinate the Sarah Wells Tricentennial presentation at SUNY Orange to helping facilitate getting the barn roof replaced; his passion and many efforts on behalf of our family will be remembered with deep gratitude. **Thank you Todd.**

Please stay well family and I hope to see you at the homestead in the not too distant future. ~ Lyle



you to share your e-mail information with us so that we can communicate with you more effectively, and don't forget to

Caretaker's Connection

Julie Boyd Cole julieboydcole@gmail.com

Hello Bull family!

I am so honored to have been selected after the long, diligent application process to be the caretaker of our Bull Stone House. I am very moved to be following in the footsteps of some pretty wonderful cousins including **Melanie Latimer** and her father, **Michael Brown**.

I grew up just a few miles north of the Stone House, in Montgomery, New York and began learning about the Bull family when I was very young from my grandfather, **Henry Pierson Bull**. Grandpa Bull was very involved in the Stone House Association throughout his entire life. My late mother, **Ginny Bull Meath**, was also devoted to our family and served as a Board member and on many committees. My love and interest in the Bull family is in my DNA. So much so that it led my cousin **Sarah Brownell** and I to research and write a book about our matriarch **Sarah Wells**.

I am the sixth-great granddaughter of William and Sarah Bull as well as, the fifth-great granddaughter of John, William, and Thomas, three of William and Sarah's sons. I am the direct descendant of a total of 11 people who once occupied the house. In fact, this homestead, built in 1722, has been occupied by the descendants of the family who built it, for its entire existence. Many days, I'll walk down the lane, replace stones that have fallen from one of the



meandering walls, or sit quietly in the house, and wonder what Sarah and William would think of the legacy they left for all of us.

When I moved into the homestead on November 1, 2019, I got right to work. From managing contractors, to gatherings of the family, to cleaning, to yard work; it has been non-stop but all the while such an honor and privilege to have this responsibility.

The day after Thanksgiving, I hosted a gathering with many of **the Brown family** members. It was both a thank you fellowship and an opportunity for me to learn details about the house from **Michael Brown** who lived in the house for **60 years**, and his immediate family.



My son **Campbell** and I are working almost every day on one project or another, inside and out, and I can't help but think about Sarah and William all the time. I wonder what it was like for them as they carried stones to the pile that would eventually become our Stone House, or what it was like to live so far from neighbors. I am sure it was a physically hard life, but I believe it must have been fulfilling. Because, each day at the Stone House, I am at peace.

Sadly, COVID-19 has made physically sharing the house with others a bit harder. I can **no longer give tours to anyone in person**, but have begun to give virtual tours utilizing Zoom video conferencing. I was able to give an interview this way for a young cousin who was working on a school report. Even though I long for the days when I can welcome visitors back in



to the house, this new technology gives us a way for long distance cousins to visit virtually.

I want to thank the Board who selected me for this position and for allowing me to follow in the footsteps of so many of my direct ancestors. I am truly honored by their faith in me.

I encourage you all to join our family's Facebook group, The Bull Family group, where I post pictures of the Stone House almost daily and often do Facebook Live events there as well.



I hope to see you all here at our Homestead **soon** and if anyone ever has any questions or wants to talk, you are welcome to call or text me on my cell at **352-871-5354** or send an email to the address above.

Volunteer Spotlight: Sarah Brownell

"I am motivated by the legacy of **Sarah Wells**, and so many members of my immediate family, as well as the sight of my children over the years giving of their time at the homestead. I am only trying to do my part in keeping our story alive for generations to come,"



Sarah Brownell, Volunteer Spotlight of the Year.

Who is Sarah Brownell? She is of the 9th generation in the line of John, Thomas, and William; the mother of three adult children - Pierson, Emily and Tucker; wife of Jim Brownell; Orange County resident; one half of the team that researched the life of Sarah Wells Bull that produced the book Sarah, An American Pioneer; the co-chair of the PR and Communications Committee; an honorary Trustee of the Board of our Association; the manager of the BullMarket; the website designer, and content producer; and the action behind decades of Bull family activities, including the 2012 Sarah Wells 300th anniversary of her settling the OC, a gigantic reunion and yearlong celebration. Sarah does so much for this family it can't all fit in this space. Just know, that if you have touched something with the Bull logo on it, been to the Stone House or the cemetery, been to a picnic, read something online about our heritage, or received a notice in the mail, Sarah Brownell most likely had a hand in it. One thing Sarah doesn't like is the spotlight. So we had to force this little thank you into the Bull-e-tin so we can all tell her how much we appreciate her dedication to our family. We love you, Sarah! You are an amazing volunteer!

You are Invited To the 153rd Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic

Really? How is this possible?! Isn't the state of New York closed? Well, you are correct but where there's a will, there's a way and we Bulls are going to pull off something in order to continue to say we are the second longest held family reunion in the U.S. if there is any way possible.

Here's what we know as of this publication date: The Mid-Hudson region, where the Bull Stone House is located, met the metrics required for reopening for phase 1 on May 25th. There are 4



phases of reopening with 2 weeks between each phase to monitor the metrics. Phase 4 is where entertainment and larger gatherings fall. In a perfect situation the state would hit phase 4 on July 6th. But again, we don't know what we don't know and every day brings new developments.



Whatever the regulatory situation is once we reach August 1st, the Annual Bull Family Reunion will not be the large gathering it has been in the past, most likely not even a gathering at the

homestead at all. Keeping our family safe is of our utmost concern so we will not be taking any risks. The Annual Meeting of the Association will take place virtually at 1:00 pm EST. More details of that will also be on our website www.bullstonehouse.org.

The Picnic Committee is working closely with a newly developed Technology Committee to bring the reunion to you wherever you are. With **Zoom teleconferencing**, **YouTube videos and aspects posted on our website**,

we hope to provide an experience full of fun, family, and history.

The regulations and reality of the situation are quite fluid at this time and in many ways, so is our reunion this year. Please



bear with us and **check in on our website often.** We'll communicate with e-mail, Facebook and even by carrier pigeon if we need

Keep in Touch

By phone: 845.496.2855 (BULL)
By e-mail: info@bullstonehouse.org
On the web: www.bullstonehouse.org
Mailing Address: 183 County Route 51
Campbell Hall, NY 10916
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram
Tours are by Appointment
Have you moved or changed your e-mail address? Let us know by using the

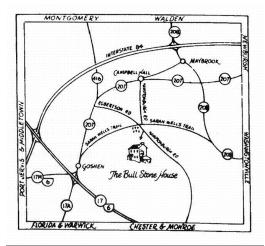
contact information above.

Let's all try to make it home next year on **August 7**, **2021** for the **154th Annual Reunion**. For now stay safe, stay well and we send our love.

153rd Annual BULL PICNIC Saturday August 1, 2020



1722 Bull Stone House
The Stone House at Hamptonburgh,
Orange County, New York,



The 153rd Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic will be a closed campus event this year

Register to attend virtually using our website at www.bullstonehouse.org/news

A sincere thank you to all listed below who generously donated to the Association this fiscal year!

Benefactors

Barbara Sylk

Supporters

Roger Hansen

Prior Family Foundation

Patrons

Peggy Becker Sarah Brookhart Sheldon Bull Elizabeth Crawford Elinor & Andrew Hart George Ketchum Corinne Lovenduski Kenneth Moriarty Barbara Russum William & Judy Wood

Donors

Katherine Benduden Ginny Brinkerhoff Larry & Mary Anne Condit Ronald Currie Susan Davis Jim Gerow Robert & Sarah Hemsen Charles F. Johnson Kenneth Miller Dale Ross

Associates

Kevin Abrams Richard & Dale Ahearn Michael & Juliet Albers **Donald Andrews** Betty A Landers Bashaw Regan Blomshield Nancy Boyd Diane Carroll Mary Condit Robert & Kathleen Eager Paul & Judith Eldridge Frederich & Priscilla Finch MacGregor Gould Kenneth Greene

Harold & Beverly Johnson

Associates - cont'd

John & Kathie Longinotti

Lauren Mariani Judy Maritato O & W Noble

Carl & Mamie Norman

Marc Nozell Paula C. Otto RJ&JRPage Lisa K Polster John Purdy Bettvann Rinefierd

Kristen Romine Helen Sandeman Eloise Schundler Stephen Schutt Dorothy Shipley

Angela Smith

Doug & Julie Stainton Nancy & Stephen Stetzer Virginia & Charles Tonneson Susan & Humphrey Tyler June Van Wingerden

Charles Wardell **Donald White**

Roland & Susan Wills Elizabeth Wynne

Contributors

Donald Bruyn Fred Bull V Y Carrington Tracy E Cross Ruth Eagen Connie & Gordon Ensing

Marty Frick Donald Honeychurch

Mary Link

Catherine Matthews

Rita E Metcalf

RobinTawney & William Nichols Joyce & Michael O'Connell Jean & Richard Osofsky

Richard Paddock Betsv Sherer

Robert & Elizabeth Smiley

Carol Springsteen Jean & Joseph Suity Linda Sullivan

Jane Transue Tricia Youngbull Members

Lauren Anderson Julie Boyd Cole Raymond Bull George Castleberry Harriet Clark Michelle Colatutto W H Cox II Alexis Dickerson

Elric Endersby Richard Gayle ElizabethGowan

J L Gross

Richard Ivory, Jr Susan Kulesz Kimberly Mayhew Janeallyn Mott Nancy Salley

Sue & Jeffery Sanford Robert & Phyllis Schields

Chris Shrader Ellen Springsteen Robert C Thompson MD Lynn Thompson

Joseph Thompson Gregory Van Inwegen Jay Vandervort

In Kind Donations

Margie Baker Nancy Boyd Sarah and Jim Brownell Al and Linda Bull Julie Boyd Cole Orange County Arboretum Lisa Polster Lisa Ryan Bice Wilson William & Judith Wood

> Donations received and recorded to May 22, 2020. Any omissions or errors are unintentional; please contact us with any corrections.

Howard Horton

Richard Jones

Janice Knight

Caroline Lampert Archie & Ruth Larison

Ron Kunst

Donations in Honor and Memorium

K Bensusen in memory of Marian Thorne Denny

Ginny Brinkerhoff in memory of Richard Ivory

Mary Ann and William Cohen in memory of Phebe Bull Vandervort Goldstein

Carol Demicco in memory of parents **George and Virginia Crist**

L. Ruth and Kris Earl in memory of Willard and sons Gary, Leroy, Robert & Glenn

Diane Faup in memory of Edith Bull West

Lisa K Polster in honor of the William A Bull family of Wisconsin

Helen Sandeman in memory of my parents Bogart R and Josphine Royce

Lyle R. and Linda M. Shute in memory of **Robert R. Shute**, a veteran who served in Vietnam, and had a great love for Orange County NY

William Shute for Olive Burnett

Chris Shrader in memory of mother Charlotte Bull Shrader and grandparents Willis & Klyda Bull

Martha C. Siegriest in memory of Hamlet S. Roe

Martha C. Siegriest in memory of Robert R. Shute

Charles Stack in memory of Albert Stack Jr.

Charles & Katherine Sterling in memory of mother Arlyn Bull Sterling

Robert C Thompson MD in memory of **Suzanne Campbell Thompson Galotti**

Robert & Marjorie Roe McElroy in loving memory of Scott, Steve, & Amy

Thank you for these loving gifts



Covid 19 and the Bull Stone House

Barbara Sylk - Trustee bsylk@aol.com

Our Bull Family ancestors must have had such a strong sense of commitment to family along with individual spirit and drive to help them deal with so many of the adversities they faced over the years. And now, with this worldwide pandemic we are once again faced with such hardships and confusion that we wonder if those ancestors knew something we don't.

My thought during the pandemic is that is seems that **it is** family that gives us our strength. It is **each of us** along with our communities coming together in support to carry us through. And with the size of this Bull Family there is support at every turn. We will prevail.

The Bull family is so fortunate during this time of upheaval to have **Julie Boyd Cole** in place as our caretaker at the Bull Stone House. She has proven to be an excellent steward and is taking such good care of the house and property.

Your Board of Trustees is also working every week to ensure that the house and the **William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association** remain physically and financially strong; continuing to work on behalf of the entire family. Genealogy is still being recorded, remedial work is still being done on the house, history is still being researched, and history is still being written.

Even still, we continue to need your support in helping the Association remain safe and strong well into the future. Please continue to be a part of your family legacy by sharing your support with thoughts, photos, and financially. We can not do it without you.

Bull Stone House Pathway Pavers Contributors 2019-2020

Grant Boyd Nancy Boyd Geoffrey Brock Sarah Brownell Lillian "Liz" Bull Corinna Bull Mullett Edward "Jed" Bullard Dawn Burnett Julie Cole Melanie Latimer Gregg Lounsbury Wavne Lounsbury Corinne S. Lovenduski Carol McCaullev Donna Reis Miller Kristin Romine Margret Schmidt Juliet Smith-Albers James Sorrell David Sorrell Carrie Spivey





Missing your cousins? You can always view some beautiful and heartwarming photos of past Bull Family Reunions on our website. www.bullstonehouse.org/photos

We miss you too!

Rene C. Sutton

Genealogy Corner

Judy Wood - Genealogist line of John

The Bull Family Genealogy Committee reached a new milestone this June, **93,000+ names recorded** and a personal

goal for **Judy Wood**, our family Genealogist, adding 12,000 names in the last year and doubling the 45,000 names she started with in 2006. This could not have happened without the multitude of hours of research by the dedicated volunteers on the Genealogy committee. A special thanks to **Margie Baker**, **Lisa Polster**, and **Sheila Erb** for their research on various family lines and all those who helped to transcribe obituaries.

However we celebrate the **153rd Annual Reunion**, you can still order a **2020 Bull Genealogy picnic special** for \$75 plus postage which includes a **Bull Blue Book** and a **2020 Bull Genealogy Flash Drive**. There are only a limited number of Blue Books still available so get your copy before they are all gone.

Don't forget to always update your Bull Family Group Record with any weddings, births, passings, etc. Simply go to the Ancestry tab on our website for the details, www.bullstonehouse.org/ancestry or contact Judy at bullfamilygenealogist@verizon.net or by mail to Judy Wood 3100 Vista Heights Ln Highland Village, TX 75077. Judy can even send you a copy of your current record for your reference.

Genealogy Flash Drive Contest



Here's your **chance to win** the updated **2020 Bull family genealogy** on a **flash drive!** Just email or mail us a **multi-generational** photo showing **3, 4 or 5** generations of your Bull family members, **together in the photo**, by **August 1st**, and we will draw a winner.

Don't forget to include the names of those in the photo. We will also rotate the photos on the Bull website ancestry page for your cousins to enjoy.

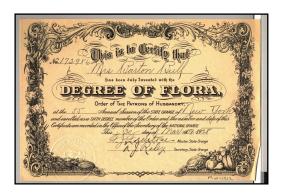
Scan and email your photo to bullfamilygenealogist@verizon.net or mail your photos to Judy Wood 3100 Vista Heights Ln Highland Village, TX 75077.

Start looking through those shoe boxes today! You can view several family photos of your cousins that have already been received on the Bull website ancestry tab.

Archival Project Update 2020

Marc Nozell - Board Member Line of John

Over the centuries the Bull Stone House has amassed quite a wide assortment of family photographs, letters, and various other documents and printed material. Cataloging this quantity of Bull history **is a challenge.** We are in the process of digitizing everything with the goal of also transcribing and making content available online.



Volunteers have started the process but **we need your help!** We have come up with a very straight forward way for anyone to help with the transcription. If you have a computer, can use a mouse and can surf the web, you are qualified to lend a hand. No special software to install or complicated instructions. Still worried? We can even set up one-on-one webinar sessions to help walk you through the process.



Please contact cousin **Marc Nozell** to help you in getting started contributing to this interesting and important project.

Email marc@nozell.com for more information and to see what amazing things have been discovered in your family history.

Buildings and Grounds

Bice Wilson - Chairperson bicewilson@gmail.com

Remarkable changes are taking place at the Bull Homestead! With the installation of our new Caretaker, Julie Boyd Cole, in November of 2019, the Association Board members and family volunteers jumped in to prepare for her arrival and for the reopening of the Bull Stone House for year round visitors. Electrical upgrades and mold remediation were tackled, along with the restoration and installation of two historic light figures which helped to improve the electrical grounding system. The project to replace the "spring room" and kitchen windows began and is still ongoing. A drainage swale was installed outside the windows to deter future water damage. None of these projects are possible without your continued support. We are so thankful for you, our cousins.

During the winter, we undertook the large project of repairing water damaged plaster and painting throughout much of the public areas of the house. After Julie's post project thorough cleaning, she and **Linda Bull**, chair of the Historical Interpretations and Collections Committee, along with several committee members, undertook a major curatorial upgrade of the way our collections are displayed in the house. It is at once a comfortable historically furnished home and a vibrant narrative of how generations of Bull descendants have lived and sustained our connections here.

Outside the house, **Julie** and her son **Campbell**, with a little help from **Sarah Brownell**, have been making major improvements throughout the grounds: upgrading the drainage in the fields along the lane, clearing the area around the spring house and creating a new landscaped stream to drain that area, planting new gardens, cutting brush around the pond so it is safe and comfortable to wander there, repairing stone walls, suppressing the Japanese Knotweed that was thriving around the outhouse, and making new gardens. Julie planted small flowering plants amongst the stones near the new swale along with **Betty Brown's** original iris bulbs. A multitude of wildlife has been spotted on the property this year: fox, turkey, deer, coyote, heron, racoon, skunk, possum, frog, turtle, and newt all call the Bull 100 acres their home.

In February, Boy Scout **Matthew Mycka** of Walden and members of his **Troop, 416 of Washingtonville**, installed bat boxes up behind the barn. Mycka is working towards his *Eagle Scout* with this project to help encourage the bats out of the barn and give them a new place to live.

We are exploring the possibility of leasing a portion of the back acres away from the house for use as a solar farm. Doing so will help the Hudson Valley create a more sustainable future, assure the Family Association of reliable income for many years, and provide us with low cost green energy.

Our house and grounds are thriving. Thank you again for your support in funding aspects of these very important projects for the continued preservation of your homestead.

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

<u>OPERATIONS</u>	
Annual Campaign	\$ 15,558
Memorials	2,095
Other Fundraising	5,540
Other Donations	874
Other Contributions	977
Genealogy	514
Bull Market (Net)	1,624
Picnic	795
Investments	11,331
Total Income	\$ 39,309
Fund Raising	\$ 1,577
Genealogy	349
Picnic/Annual Meeting	2,984
House & Grounds	17,205
General Administrative	9,157
Total Expenses	\$ 31,271
Net Operating Income	\$ 8,038
<u>OTHER</u>	
Special Events	(859)
Purchase of F&E	(100)
Repairs & Restoration	(14,997)
Paver Expense	(2,760)
Net (Increase/Decrease)	\$ (10,678)



Want to know how **you** can help **raise funds** to continue to preserve *your* **Bull Family legacy?**

- Shop on smile.amazon.com instead of Amazon a percentage of their commission on your purchases will be sent to the William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association's nonprofit. bit.ly/BullStoneHouse-Amzn
- Create a Facebook fundraiser on your Facebook page and ask your friends to give to our nonprofit.
- ~Utilize and share our website's Donate link. www.bullstonehouse.org/donate.

For more information on these or other ways to raise funds to continue your Bull Family legacy, please contact our Development Team at **info@bullstonehouse.org**



The BULL-e-tin Spring 2020

The William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association, Inc 183 County Route 51 Campbell Hall, NY 10916-2924 USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Directors and Officers

2020

Melanie Latimer Middletown, NY

Todd Vandervort - Retired Voorheesville, NY

Bice Wilson White Plains, NY

Judy Wood - VP & Genealogist Highland Village, TX 2021

Nancy Boyd - Secretary Roseburg, OR

> Lisa Brown Ryan Homer, NY

Barbara Sylk Merion Station, PA

> Jack Thew Naperville, IL

2022

Linda Bull - Archivist Walden, NY

> Marc Nozell Merrimack, NH

Lyle Shute - President Campbell Hall, NY

Doug Stainton - Treasurer Wurtsboro, NY

Honorary Board Members

Frank Schuerholz Mary Jane Bull Sorrell Charles F. "Sandy" Johnson Sarah Brownell Michael K. Brown -*President Emeritus*