

The BULLETIN 2023

Keeping the Stone House strong and the Bull family connected to each other and the world



From the President

Lyle Shute | Line of Mary
lshute@hvc.rr.com

Hello cousins

Every year we have many family and friends who visit the Bull Family homestead, but did you know we also have lots of wildlife visitors? We have had sightings this year of deer, coyotes, fox, turkeys, muskrats and fishers, but the two most exciting wildlife visitors were several bald eagles over the pond, and a mama black bear with three cubs strolling through the woods. Below are pictures of the bears heading towards one of the nature trails at the Homestead and the eagles on the pond.

Another exciting time at the homestead was the donor appreciation event held at the Stone House in April to recognize those folks who donated during the "\$300 for 300 years" fundraising initiative. We highlighted and displayed the portraits which were recently restored along with two newly acquired portraits, which complement some of our existing collection. Two local experts were invited to answer questions about historical portraits, itinerant artists, and to provide commentary and observations about our collection. Light fare and beverages were enjoyed, and of course some wonderful conversation.



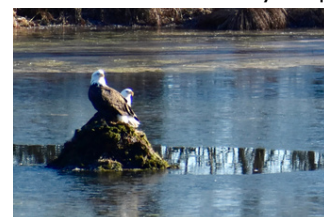
The Association is continuing our efforts to protect the cemetery in South Blooming Grove, where many Bull descendants are buried. This area is experiencing tremendous development pressure and we are looking to meet with local officials in the near future to discuss further action.

The possibility of a solar farm on the Association property is being seriously vetted; we have multiple solar farm proposals being evaluated by a committee. These are exciting times with New York State moving away from fossil fuels and promoting clean renewable energy sources and solar could also be transformational for the Association.



Each year I select a special volunteer, a person who exhibits an extraordinary commitment to the organization. This year that volunteer is cousin Karl Franck. Karl has attended many Bull family reunions and is responsible for creating the "Bully Cup" cornhole tournament and, through Karl's leadership, is one of the highlights of the annual picnic. Read more about Karl and the Bully Cup in this BULLETIN.

I hope you all have August 5th on your calendars for the 156th Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic. Be sure to rsvp online at www.bullstonehouse.org and I look forward to seeing you there.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the ANNUAL MEETING of the WILLIAM BULL AND SARAH WELLS STONE HOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at one o'clock PM EST for the transaction of such business as may come before it and to elect (4) directors. Please see our website for attending virtually.

Dated May 31, 2023
Lyle Shute, President



Scan to Donate

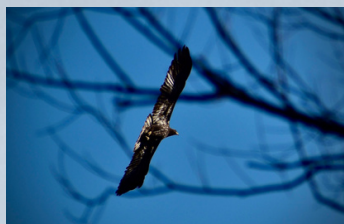


Caretaker's Connection

Julie Boyd Cole | Line of John, William, Thomas, and John again
9th Generation, 5th generation in her line to live in the Bull Stone House
julie@bullstonehouse.org



This November will mark my four-year anniversary as the resident caretaker of our Bull Stone House and Homestead. What an honor to be here and take care of the most important pillar of our four pillars! We are the only family in America to own and occupy their original Homestead for this long.



In these four years, with the help of some very dedicated volunteers, we have hosted hundreds of descendants and non-descendants on tours of the property, worked with schools, Girl and Boy Scouts, worked on curating our collections on every floor of the Stone House, including researching and indexing hundreds of documents from the 1700s and 1800s, documented historic trees, including one that was alive in the days of our ancestors Sarah Wells and William Bull, planted dozens of vegetation and created more than a mile of trails around the 108 acres of our homestead, and on and on. In the winter, I break out the snow blower and shovels. In the Spring, I break out the mowers and trowels. I'm sure you have guessed, it is a lot of work, but incredibly fulfilling. I know the volunteers would agree. We have the privilege of helping to preserve our amazing legacy, The Bull Family of Orange County, started by Sarah and William in 1718!!

I can't list all of the volunteers who have picked up a shovel or dust rag to help take care of our Homestead in the last year, but here are a few that need a thank you from us all: **Bill Roe, Sarah Brownell, Elsa and Phil Cameron, Anne Somerville, AJ, Lindsay, Andi and Jax DeWitt, Stephen and Lyle Shute, Campbell Cole, Damon Fredlund, Nancy Boyd, and Dudley Hourigan!** This group has rolled up their sleeves and got dirty and sweaty to help out on this property whenever asked! If you see any of them at picnic, please pat them on the back and tell them how much you appreciate them!



Also, I have been working on the Orange County 250th American Revolution Committee. You may know that many Bulls were involved in some way in the American Revolution. There were only about 100 Bulls alive during the eight years of the Revolution and it is hard to imagine they all didn't have an opinion on what was then considered a civil war! About 40 Bulls and In-laws served in some capacity. Most were rebels or Patriots. In fact, William Bull III was a captain in the Continental Army and was at Valley Forge. But we also had Loyalists who fought for the British. John Bull's sons were on opposite sides of the war. His son William Bull, a grandson of Sarah and William, eventually moved to Canada as a refugee. While his brother Samuel helped forge the famous chain that Gen. Washington had strung across the Hudson River to stop the British Navy from sailing up it. William Booth, son of Sarah and George Booth and grandson of Sarah and William, was a spy for the Patriots in the Long Island Culper Spy Ring made famous by the TV show Turn. We had Bulls who fought in most of the battles. Bulls who fled to Canada. Bull family members were injured and even died as a prisoner of war. It was a very difficult time for our family, as it was in the nation. And important to note, that Sarah Wells Bull lived through it all.



And yet, somehow we stayed together as a family. By and large, we stayed connected. We have letters from William Bull who moved to Canada to his family at the Stone House. Their politics might have been at odds, but their love for each other remained. That is pretty powerful, don't you think?

When you are at the picnic this year, be sure to visit the parlor to see some of our best items from the American Revolution, including a portrait of Daniel Bull, a grandson of William and Sarah, and the last AR veteran in the Bull Family to die. He served in the Ulster County Militia while his father and brothers were Tories.

I love the stories of our ancestors and the Homestead itself because it reminds us all that family and love do indeed conquer all if we remember that! We owe our ancestors an enormous debt. One that the people listed above, and many more of you, certainly fulfill!

Can't wait to see you all at the 156th Annual Reunion and Picnic!

The 156th Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic Saturday August 5th, 2023



You are Invited!

Actually, you don't need an invitation, **you're a Bull**, and you're always welcome to attend the Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic! Gather your clan and come to Campbell Hall on **Saturday, August 5th at 10:00 AM**. Bring your picnic lunch and maybe a chair or two and get ready for fun, games and some quality visiting time with your cousins. Tour the Bull Stone House and New World Dutch Barn, walk the trails on the property, chat up an Association Board member, connect with our Genealogist on the virtual reunion, and just enjoy the day! Campsites are available on the grounds so reserve yours on our website today!

BUT FIRST: Don't forget to register! The 156th Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic will be held both **in person and online**, and **registration is required to attend**. Head to our website for registration and to join the herd of volunteers that help with set-up, activities or other details of the day: www.bullstonehouse.org
Cousins, we want to see you!

Volunteer Spotlight



Karl Franck | Line of John

Cousin Karl Franck only found out about his Bull Family heritage in 2018, but the exuberance and enthusiasm he brings to every picnic is deeply rooted. Karl is in our Volunteer Spotlight this year for developing the highly successful, and FUN, Bully Cornhole Tournament. Let's get to know cousin Karl a little better.



How did you feel when you learned you were part of this huge family? It's hard to describe because I've never been a part of anything like this. It included feelings like curiosity, amazement and wonder. My sister Karen Franck Bush has done all the heavy lifting with genealogical research and when she brought me up to speed, I couldn't believe what I was learning.

What was it like attending your first reunion? I didn't know what to expect, but everyone was very welcoming, and I felt like I belonged. By the end of the day, I couldn't believe how fast things went by and I started looking forward to the next reunion.

When and how were you inspired to create the Bully tournament? After my sister attended her first reunion and shared her great experience, I began looking at photos from previous picnics and noticed that the reunion was missing games like cornhole and horseshoes. A game like cornhole is perfect for an event like this, so I offered to make two sets for everyone to enjoy and then it turned into a tournament. At the time, I was playing in a cornhole league in New Hampshire, so I had experience with running tournaments, which was helpful. Our first tournament was a huge success, and I am glad we are able to offer it each year.

Tell us a little about yourself. I'm a 9th generation descendant (line of John and grandson of Marion Howell). I've been married to my wife, Mary, for 27 years and we have three children, Elizabeth, Connor and Matthew. We live in an historic home, built in 1725, in Litchfield, New Hampshire. I'm a licensed NH architect and also an architectural photographer. I'm the Chairman of the Litchfield, New Hampshire Heritage Commission.

I am active in my church as a part of the tech team that manages the livestream broadcasts for our services (instead of just going to church, I get to play with cool toys!). I have a current daily running streak, with a minimum of one mile, for over 4,180 days (almost 11 1/2 years).

What should cousins know about this year's tournament? I would like to start the tournament earlier than in previous years and try to have it done (or close to done) by the time that the business meeting and lunch start. There are often waiting periods for teams between matches, and there are a lot of other things going on throughout the day to enjoy. Having it wrapped up earlier than in previous years will allow the meeting to be conducted without distractions, and those playing in the tournament will be able to participate in other activities later in the day. And then the boards will still be available for pickup games in the afternoon.

Anything else you'd like to share? My Dad was an 8th generation descendant who was adopted at an early age and never had any knowledge of, or interest in learning about his biological family. It's a real shame that he lived his whole life without knowing he was a part of this amazing family. My whole family looks forward to going to the picnic each year and we have made it a part of our yearly vacation. We have enjoyed spending time in Orange County and at the Bull Stone house and love the acceptance and welcome we receive each year.

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

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Roberta Bull

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Brenda Williams

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In Kind Donations

Nancy Boyd

Sarah and Jim Brownell

Al and Linda Bull

Julie Boyd Cole

Marc Nozell

Orange County Arboretum

Lyle Shute

Anne Summerville

Bill & Judy Wood



Donations received and recorded as of March 31st. Any omissions or errors are unintentional; please contact us with any corrections.

Donations in Memory or Honor

Roberta Bull in memory of **Floyd L Bull, Richard S Bull, Mr & Mrs Raymond S Bull, Mr & Mrs John Bull, William Bull, and Charles Bull**

Nanci Gould in honor of **Marie Bockover Todd**,
Born November 27, 1890

Seth Coulter in memory of **Patricia Hallock Coulter & William Henry Hallock**

Elinor & Andrew Hart in memory of
Elizabeth Hunter

Virginia Heinritzi to honor **Charity Bull Taylor**
(1777 Orange County NY - 1863 Ingham County MI)
married to Jonathon Taylor; daughter of Ebenezer
via John Bull

Thank you for these thoughtful gifts

Lynda Kamaka and her mother **Jean Forney, 93**
years young, line of Ann, in memory of Lynda's
husband, **Ron Kamaka 1963-2022**

Dawn Laird in honor of **Gary Charles Hasert**

Martha Carpenter Siegriest in memory of
Hamlet S Roe

Doug & Julie Stainton in honor of **Martha C Siegriest**

June Van Wingerden in honor of **Willis Ivor Clark & George Bowman Clark**

Bill & Judy Wood in memory of **Elizabeth Bull LaRue, Gladys LaRue Shofkom & Doris Posl Sayer**



Join The BULLpen Today

Todd Vandervort | Line of John
Nominating and Governance Chair
toddevandervortgroup.com

Did you know that the **William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association** has folks on our Board, are committee members, or are volunteers, who **live all across the U.S.**? It's true. You don't have to be a neighbor to the Stone House to help keep our association going strong. Do you have an interest in genealogy, writing newsletters, architecture and construction, history research or have some new ideas for throwing an awesome reunion?

Whether you're nearby to pitch in for clean-up days, setting up for Bull Picnic or other events, or are able to call in and do committee work, **your Association needs you!**

Send me an e-mail or chat me up at the 156th Reunion so we can discuss all the opportunities for you to join the herd. I hope to hear from you soon.



Historic Interpretation and Collections Committee



Linda Bull
Archivist

linda@bullstonehouse.org

The Historic Interpretations and Collections Committee is grateful for the donations that made it possible to have restoration work done on some of the portraits in the family collection. One of the portraits that was restored in 2022 was that of George Conning. George's portrait was donated by John Edgar Mills in 2014. The portrait has been a favorite one of our goers since it is of a young man wearing an earring and holding a wooden measuring stick. The portrait is dated approximately 1875. We do not have too much information about George. He was the 12th of 13 children born to William Conning, Jr. and Eliza Hannah Rogers in Hamptonburgh, NY. The Conning family was part of the line of Sarah. George was member of the 6th generation. The 1870 Census shows George living in a rooming house in Goshen, NY and working as a dry goods merchant. Unfortunately, in 1875, George developed consumption and died at the family farm on March 20th. He was buried in the Neelytown Cemetery.

We do not know who the artist was who painted the portrait of George, nor do we know the circumstances that led to the portrait being made. The restoration was done by Cheryl Chase of Old Painting Restoration, Matamoras, PA. She is an excellent restoration artist and we have used her services on other portraits in the family collection.

Family Memories



Barbara Sylk | Line of John
Trustee
bsylk@aol.com



My grandmother, **Cora Wood Bull**, was born in 1909, in Monroe, NY, and she and her sister **Hannah**, along with their brothers, spent the winters in Monroe attending school, and summers on Sugar Loaf Mountain at the family farm. My mother, **Corinne** and her sister **June**, plus her brothers **Jack, Carl and Robert**, also started life in Monroe, but later moved to Trenton, NJ.

Those family members shared many stories about the Bull Stone House, the annual picnics, Goshen, Monroe, fun on the lakes, and the farm on Sugar Loaf Mountain. Their stories then became part of my sisters' and my childhood stories as well. And as we began spending time with the Bull cousins in Orange County, even though we had no idea then how deep and rich the Bull family story was, when it was "Time to go to the Bull family picnic"...that was it - get in the car.

A physical part of these stories, passed to us from my grandmother, and now housed at the Bull Stone House, is a hand hewn rolling pin. You can tell by the knicks and deep rich color that it must have been well used. My grandmother told us there was a huge tree in the front yard at the farm on Sugar Loaf, and one day it crashed down. Most of this tree was chopped to use for firewood, but some of it was carved up into rolling pins to be used for pastry and pies. I remember thinking this was such an amazing thing to do. Make a rolling pin from a tree and using it to make a pie crust?! I was too young at the time to be cooking anything so it seemed like such a magical thing!

My mother, sisters and I have traveled many roads near Sugar Loaf over the years, trying to see if we could spot the old family farm; no luck so far but we keep looking. But that more than 100 year old rolling pin and the stories passed down to us keep us roaming the roads, continuing our search for the homestead.

I hope you all have special memories that you are passing on to your family, the way I hope to with my children and grandchildren. What a treasure we have in our Bull Stone House, land and collections. And, if you happen to spot the farm house in the photo above on your travels through Sugar Loaf, please let me know!

2022
Picnic
Fun



Celebrity Spotlight



Cousin **Margie Baker** is still shaking the genealogy tree and found another Bull celebrity. **Edie Adams** - 9th Generation, Line of John. Edie was a familiar presence of television, motion pictures and the theater in a career that spanned from the 1950s until her passing. She was married to comedian Ernie Kovacs, and co-starred in his television programs. Born **Elizabeth Edith Enke** in Kingston, Pennsylvania, she studied at the Juilliard School of Music, where she trained as a classical vocalist. After winning the "Miss U.S. Television Beauty Pageant" in 1950, she made her Broadway stage debut in the musical "Wonderful Town" (1953 to 1954) and won a Tony Award in the production "Li'l Abner" (1956 to 1958).

Her movie credits include "The Apartment" (1960), "Lover Come Back" (1961), "Under the Yum Yum Tree" (1963), "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" (1963), "Love with the Proper Stranger" (1963), "The Oscar" (1966) and "Cheech and Chong: Up in Smoke" (1978). She appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show", "The Dinah Shore Chevy Show" as well as in "The Love Boat" and "Murder, She Wrote" on television. She also starred in her own musical variety program "The Edie Adams Show" from 1963 to 1964. , and appeared in the long-running commercial series for Muriel Cigars. After Ernie Kovacs' death from an automobile accident in 1962, Adams married music publisher and photographer Marty Mills and later to jazz musician Pete Candoli. She died in her Los Angeles, California home from complications of pneumonia and cancer.

Genealogy Corner



Judy Wood | Line of John

Genealogist

bullfamilygenealogist@verizon.net

Over 121,000 names strong! After almost 18 years and adding over 81,000 names to the Bull Genealogy, it is time for me to pass on my passion to the next Genealogist. If you are interested in taking on this important role for the greater Bull family - please reach out to me at bullfamilygenealogist@verizon.net or 972-413-0300. Training will be provided and you will have a wonderful genealogy committee behind you. Due to some health issues, I will not be attending this year's picnic, but I will be on the virtual picnic to answer any questions you may have or meet with anyone over a zoom/phone call to update your Bull family line. It has been my passion for the past 18 years to keep the Bull Genealogy records and I loved talking to cousins and growing our legacy and recording the stories you have shared.

This year we are trying a new Bull Genealogy option - a personal family report beginning with William Bull and Sarah Wells down to you on a thumb drive and will include photos, documents and stories from the Bull records. If you are the first 10 family members, this will be free. Not the 1st 10 to reply, the cost is \$50 to own your own Bull Genealogy treasure to pass down to your descendants or print it out for a gift. Please remember that the Bull Genealogy is updated and maintained by family volunteers and all proceeds raised support this effort.

Keep an eye on the Bull website - www.bullstonehouse.org/genealogy.html for a refreshed look and links to pension files for Bull men that served in the Civil War - A big THANK YOU to cousin, Cindy Norton who has been working hard to scan these huge files at the National Archives in Washington, DC

Hitting the "Buildings and Grounds" Running



Bill Roe | Line of Mary

Buildings and Grounds Chair

Hello cousins, what a time it has been since I have been volunteering around the homestead, joining the Buildings and Grounds Committee, *now chairing it*, and becoming a member of your board of trustees. Quite a lot goes in to taking care of our beloved 300 year old property and it seems that it really does take a village. It's not all smoke and mirrors to keep this historic property and buildings lasting for so long; it's elbow grease and human power.

Several of the projects the Buildings and Grounds Committee is currently working to engage contractors for are:

- Repairing or replacing the Stone House shutters
- Painting of the Stone House trim and the Carriage House
- Cabling of our historic maple trees to preserve and prevent limb failure, and to prevent tree damage to the Dutch Barn, along with removal of trees which have been killed by the invasive Emerald ash borer

I want to thank several cousins for their continued dedication to the homestead. I am so thankful for **Julie Cole** and her heartfelt commitment to the Bull Stone House and grounds. I am excited for my new co-chair, **Jim Sorrell**, and his passion to continue to get things done on this committee. Thank you to **Dudley Hourigan** who is in the process of fixing a hose bib leak. Thank you to **Curtis Johnson** for joining the efforts. And thank you to **Sarah Brownell**; we will miss her hands-on work at the homestead since her move out of Orange County.

If you live near the Bull Stone House our committee could sure use your help. Find me at the Annual Reunion to see how you can get involved. And of course we couldn't continue our efforts without your donations - Thank you.

www.bullstonehouse.org - 183 County Route 51, Campbell Hall, NY - 845-496-2855 - info@bullstonehouse.org

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	
Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	
OPERATIONS	
Donations	\$ 28,092
Other Contributions	423
Bull Market (Net)	1,873
Genealogy	916
Picnic	705
Investments	19,494
Total Income	\$ 51,502
Fund Raising	
Genealogy	848
Picnic/Annual Meeting	1,943
General Administrative	6,010
House & Grounds	14,641
Total Expenses	\$ 25,512
Net Operating Income	\$ 25,990
OTHER	
Bequests & Large Gifts	55,000
Repairs & Restoration	(11,127)
Paver Expense	(2,755)
Net Income	\$ 67,108
Gain/Loss Securities Sales	\$ 20,851
Change in Net Assets	\$ 87,960

The BULL-e-tin 2023

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

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