The BULLetin 2026

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

From the President

Barbara Sylk, Line of John

bsylk@aol.com

Spring 2026

Dear Bull Family and Friends,

President's letter

Celebrate America 250th at your Annual Bull Family Picnic and Reunion!
Dear Bull Family and Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at this year's Annual Picnic on August 1, your Board of Directors would like to express our sincere gratitude for the continued support of our family membership. Thanks to the generosity of Roger Hansen and many of you over the past year, we have been able to maintain the house, barn, and property with proper care. We are also now moving forward with a major initiative: the digitization and preservation of our archives—an effort that previously felt out of reach.

Because of your support, this work is now underway. Utilizing new technology, along with the dedication of our outstanding board members and volunteers, we have begun working with the CatalogIt program (see page 5). This system, enhanced by emerging artificial intelligence features, will allow us to uncover and share more of the rich history contained in our collection of documents dating from the early 1700's to today. As part of this effort, these valuable items will also be carefully rehoused in a secure, offsite storage facility designed to ensure their long-term preservation.

We have several important initiatives underway. Plans are in place to renovate the downstairs bathroom adjacent to the kitchen, making it both accessible and updated. We are also taking steps to have increased security across the property. In addition, we are clearing out the smaller outbuildings to better meet storage needs. We've connected with local officials, who have expressed strong support and admiration for our historic homestead. We continue to work with nearby cemeteries, where many Bull family members are interred, advocating for their protection. Our outreach also includes partnerships with local organizations and educational institutions, including universities, to further our mission of education.

These initiatives—along with house tours and other projects—require both resources and ongoing commitment. The Bull family is entering a new era in preserving and sharing its history, made possible by your continued support of this 300-plus-year-old homestead. As a Board and team of dedicated volunteers, we take your trust seriously and strive to honor it in all we do. Please see the article below to learn more about our volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved.

We need you!

Barbara Sylk
President, line of John

Annual Meeting Notice
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, Aug 1, 2026 at one o'clock PM EDT for the transaction of such business as may come before it and to elect (4) directors. Please see our website to register.
Barbara Sylk, President

Scan to Donate

Genealogy Corner

Judy Wood | Genealogist
10th Generation line of John

The Bull Genealogy is over 172,000 names strong!

Bull Genealogy 2026

How many people can say they are cousins to over 172,000 people? Come meet some of your cousins at this year's 159th annual Bull picnic on August 1, 2026. The Genealogy Tent will be open both Friday night from 5 to 8pm and again on Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm, but you don't need to wait until Picnic to bring your family line up to date. In fact if you update or add a new/existing person in the Bull Genealogy by June 25th, you will be entered to win a 2026 Bull Genealogy jump drive during the picnic business meeting. Reach out so you don't have to stand in line at the picnic – or download a fillable Family Group sheet by logging into www.bullstonehouse.org/genealogy save the form to your computer and follow the instructions on page 2 before emailing it to me.

A big thank you to Margie Baker, John Austin, Betsy Harris, Dee Dee Deering, Shelley Hutchinson and Bob Eager and all those that sent in family updates, I couldn't do it without your support.

Updated Bull Genealogy jump drives will be available to purchase at the picnic for $75 (living people's information is protected for their privacy) or if you have purchased one previously, it's only $15. Not attending the picnic – you can order one by reaching out to me. Questions? Email: bullfamilygenealogist@verizon.net or call me 972-413-0300 (CDT)

Volunteer Spotlight 2026

Bill Wood
Highland Village, TX

Quiet, steady, and always behind the scenes, Bill Wood—husband of our Bull genealogist, Judy Wood, has been a pillar of support to the Bull Family Association in many ways. In 2005, he converted the Bull genealogy from a DOS-based PAF program into Family Tree Maker, and then helped merge multiple versions of our Bull mailing list into one unified database. He also expanded the list with email addresses, helping us stay connected with cousins far beyond traditional mail. Bill even traveled twice to New Brunswick, Canada to retrieve Bull Genealogy records for Judy to record our Bull Loyalist cousins, spending countless hours copying records.

For over eight years, Bill and Judy printed, collated, and mailed both the annual Bull-e-tin and yearly letters. Bill travels to New York each year for the Bull Picnic, where he provides computer support to Judy and anyone else who needs it. He is currently contributing to the Catalogit archive project, scanning and transcribing materials to help preserve our Bull legacy for future generations.

Bill is a devoted father of three and grandfather of seven. Born in North Carolina and raised in Massachusetts and California, he has worn many hats—Boy Scout leader, softball coach, and longtime Xerox employee, where he worked in electronic publishing and helped create Xerox's first interconnected call centers during the early days of networking.

Bill likes to joke that he's an "outlaw" member of the Bull family, but you'll find him right where he belongs—under the Genealogy tent at this year's Bull picnic.

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

BENEFACTORS
Edwina & Roger Hansen

SUPPORTERS
Joseph Bergen Sr.
Gene & Mary Bull
Roberta Bull
Diane Carroll
Barbara Russum
Mina Lolita Smith (in her will)
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Linda Lou Sully
Richard & Rae Teed
Karen Thompson

Keep in Touch
Have you Moved? New Email?
Email:info@bullstonehouse.org
Call: 845-496-2855

Join "Bull Family "Facebook group

In Memory of Alfred Booth by Think Bluefish
In Memory of Richard Charles Bull by Barbara Bull
In Memory of Connie Chaffee by Virginia Heinritzi
In Memory of Harriet A Patterson Hunter by Harriet Hunter
In Memory of Floyd, Richard, Grace & John, Mary & Roy, Charles, Jack and William Bull by Roberta Bull
In Memory of Robert Shute & Hamlet Roe by Lyle & Linda Shute

Donations received and recorded as of March 31, 2026.
Any omissions or errors are unintentional; please contact us with any corrections.

Lyle R. Shute Treasurer
Line of Mary

Tree Dedication & Planting Initiative

This year, we are proud to offer a **meaningful opportunity** for our members to help restore and preserve the beauty of the Bull Homestead in Campbell Hall, NY. In recent years, weather and natural aging have taken a toll on the majestic hardwood trees that once provided shade and character to the grounds surrounding the Bull Stone House.

Through this special initiative, we aim to replant and replenish native hardwoods—ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same timeless landscape at the homestead. We invite you to **dedicate a tree in honor or memory of a loved one, family member, or meaningful occasion.** Your participation not only creates a lasting tribute, but also directly supports the Association's ongoing preservation efforts.

With a donation of $1,500.00, a 2½-inch diameter native hardwood tree will be purchased, delivered and professionally installed in a prominent location on the Homestead property—either near the Stone House or along the lane. Each dedication will include a **custom engraved plaque**, creating a permanent and personal legacy on the grounds.

Tree placement will be thoughtfully determined by the Association based on the number of participants.

Join us in renewing the landscape and leaving a living legacy rooted in history.

Donations can be by check, payable to the *William Bull and Sarah Wells Stonehouse Association, Inc.* and mailed to *183 County Route 51, Campbell Hall, NY 10916* or at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/tree-dedication-and-planting-initiative

Donations Requested – QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution)

The William Bull and Sarah Wells Stonehouse Association operates and maintains the historic homestead solely through the generosity of its members. As a 100% volunteer organization with no paid staff, every dollar contributed directly supports operations, preservation and upkeep of the property, making annual donations essential to our mission. One tax-efficient way to give is through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from an IRA—available to those age 70½ or older—which allows you to direct funds to the Association, potentially satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution, and avoid recognizing the distribution as taxable income. Please consult your financial advisor and contact your IRA custodian to arrange a direct distribution in support of the *William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association, Inc. 183 County Route 51, Campbell Hall, NY 10916.*

BULL STONE HOUSE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

INCOME	
Fundraising	30,437
Solar Power Revenue	8,800
Contributions	958
Bull Market	1,615
Genealogy Income	1,171
Picnic Income	2,697
Investment Income	28,854
TOTAL INCOME	**$74,532**
EXPENSES	
Fundraising	3,016
Bull-e-tin	4,294
Genealogy	1,134
Picnic Expense	7,314
Finance & Admin	6,918
House & Grounds	16,894
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 39,570**
NET OPERATING INC	**$ 34,962**
Special Events	**-**
Gains on Investment	**23,239**
Large Bequests & Gifts	**30,000**
Furniture & Equipment	**-**
Repairs & Restoration	**(27,310)**
Net Increase	**$ 60,891**

Custom plaque to be similar to above

Historic Interpretation and Collections Committee

Linda Bull | Archivist
linda@bullstonehouse.org

There were 15 individual tours in 2025 for family members and the public. In addition to the open house times during the picnic, we had 3 public open houses. Path Through History weekends continued in June and October with 36 visitors. This year, the Board agreed to conduct a "Christmas with the Bulls Open House in early December. That attracted over 100 visitors.

Thanks to all the house decorators, docents and CatalogIt volunteers: Barbara Sylk, Kathi Nywening, Cheri & Caylee Cardone, Sarah Baiano, Kathleen & Dudley Hourigan, Bill Roe, C.J. Wolansky, Del Roberson, Elsa Cameron, Cheri and Caylee Cardone, Daniele Raccio, Jude Crisci, Al Bull, John Austin, Judy & Bill Wood, Marc Nozell, Bob Eager and Betsy Harris.

If you are interested in being a docent please email me Linda@bullstonehouse.org I can use docents for the Path Through History event on June 20, 2026 and also for the Bull picnic on August 1, 2026.

There will be an opportunity on July 31 to tour the Stone House and Barn as well as during the Picnic on August 1. The attic will be open but please remember there are restrictions to access for the attic. People must be physically fit and wearing sturdy shoes. For your safety, the Board does not allow flip-flops or other non-secure shoes.

If you and your family are unable to attend picnic this year, but find yourself coming to Orange County at another time please reach out to me and I will arrange a tour of the Stone House for you.

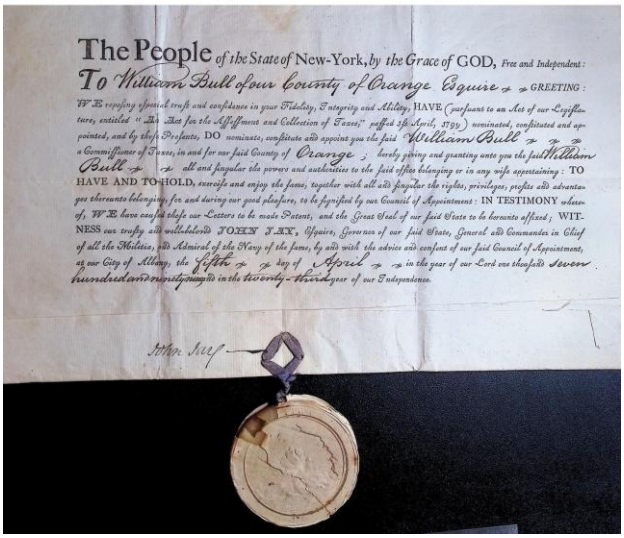
What's in the Bull Stone House closet? We are beginning to find out and share via CatalogIt Software.

Our Bull family is taking an impressive and forward-thinking approach to safeguarding its legacy. With more than 20,000 historical documents in our care, we are meticulously scanning, transcribing, and organizing each item within CatalogIt—a platform designed to help families, museums, and archives, preserve cultural heritage. By converting fragile papers into high-quality digital records and adding detailed transcriptions, they're ensuring that stories, letters, photographs, and records remain accessible for generations. This effort not only protects the physical materials from time and deterioration but also transforms the family's history into a searchable, educational resource that future descendants and researchers can explore with ease.

The Bull family is now inviting volunteers—both locally in Orange County and from anywhere across the United States and Canada—to join this remarkable preservation effort. With more than 20,000 historical documents being scanned, transcribed, and cataloged in CatalogIt, extra hands can make a meaningful difference. Whether you're passionate about genealogy, history, archival work, or simply love helping preserve stories for future generations, your time and skills can directly support this important project. Remote volunteers can assist with transcription and data entry, while local volunteers may also help with scanning and organizing materials. It's a chance to be part of something lasting and deeply meaningful.

We are also safeguarding our documents by moving them to an offsite climate controlled storage facility in Orange County, NY, where they can be accessed and retrieved as needed. Please reach out to volunteer by sending an email to info@bullstonehouse.org to join us in this meaningful project. You can view the over 1900 documents by going to: https://hub.catalogit.app/collections and select William Bull collection (use the search function to look for a name, location or do a specific search).

William Bull III appointed Tax Commissioner 1799



The People of the State of New-York, by the Grace of GOD, Free and Independent:
To William Bull of our County of Orange Esquire GREETING:
WE reposing special trust and confidence in your Fidelity, Integrity and Ability, HAVE (pursuant to an Act of our Legislature, entitled "An Act for the Assessment and Collection of Taxes," passed 5th April, 1799) nominated, constituted and appointed, and by these Presents, DO nominate, constitute and appoint you the said William Bull a Commissioner of Taxes, in and for our said County of Orange; hereby giving and granting unto you the said William Bull all and singular the powers and authorities to the said office belonging or in any wise appertaining: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, exercise and enjoy the same, together with all and singular the rights, privileges, profits and advantages thereunto belonging, for and during our good pleasure, to be signified by our Council of Appointments: IN TESTIMONY whereof, WE have caused these our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said State to be hereunto affixed; WITNESS our trusty and well-beloved JOHN JAY, Esquire, Governor of our said State, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same, by and with the advice and consent of our said Council of Appointment, at our City of Albany, the Fifth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine and in the twenty-third year of our Independence.

John Jay

Great Seal - State of New York

You're invited to this year's The 159th Annual Bull Family Reunion and Picnic Saturday August 1, 2026 from 9:30 AM till 4 PM EDT

Bull descendants are always welcome, but we encourage you to Register ahead of time for either the in-person or online virtual picnic at no charge. Go to: www.bullstonehouse.org to register today!

Bring your picnic lunch or visit our website for an opportunity to purchase a catered meal by **July 17th** (to include: Grilled Salmon; Grilled Chicken; Meatballs; Chicken Tenders, and assorted sides along with Cookies and bottled water, prepared by our neighbors at The Horse and Sulky.
The cost is $20.00 for adults and $10 for children 10 and under.
We'll have tables and benches but feel free to bring your own chairs for your comfort. And get ready to get your cousin visit on!

Coming to camp with your **RV or tent**? Cost is $30 per day and includes electricity. Email info@bullstonehouse.org to register by July 25th.

Friday Night Pizza and Music by Oxford Station Band from 5pm to 8pm at Bull Stone House grounds.
Are you arriving early for the picnic and not sure what to do? Or are you a local and love the evenings at Bull Stone House or pizza and some good relaxing music? House tours, registration and Genealogy will open at 5pm and New York style pizza's will arrive about 6pm. Bring cash - $5 a slice with a bottle of water, or $8 for 2 slices and water, or you can bring your own food and grab a table.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BULL FAMILY!

Over the past year, we've spent a great deal of time reflecting on the meaning of "family" and appreciating just how much our extended Bull family has grown over the past 250+ years. Through the insights shared by fellow Board members and volunteers, we've deepened our understanding of the Bull family's history dating back to 1722—and its connection to the birth of our nation in 1776, as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Our Bull ancestors were British citizens for three generations before the Revolutionary War, which lasted until 1783. We often reflect on the courage, conviction, and sacrifices they made to help establish a new nation of 13 colonies. It was a difficult and uncertain time, but also one filled with opportunity.
Today, we invite you to be part of that continuing legacy. Your talents and contributions can help strengthen the Bull Association, no matter where you live. **Local volunteer opportunities:**

- Serve as a docent or tour guide for a few hours
- Help stage and decorate furniture and artifacts for tours
- Scan archival documents for the CatalogIt project
- Assist with technical needs (Mailchimp, website updates, sound equipment, computers, scanners)
- Support preservation of the house and grounds; work with contractors; help clean out outbuildings and attic spaces
- Provide bookkeeping or accounting support
- Offer legal expertise to review contracts or provide advice
- Help plant flowers for the picnic
- Lead crafts or activities for children during the picnic

Volunteer opportunities from anywhere:

- Assist with Bull genealogy research and help connect with relatives for updates
- Transcribe archived documents from your computer
- Write articles for Bulletin or annual letter or help share Bull family stories

There's a place for everyone to contribute—and we welcome your involvement.
Questions? Email: info@bullstonehouse.org

Everything you need to know about Bull Picnic Weekend

Please Pre-register for the In-Person or Virtual Picnic or order lunch for Saturday on our Bull Website:

www.bullstonehouse.org

Music by Oxford Station Band

Timeline for Friday, July 31st

Friday night - House tours & Genealogy & Registration at 5:00 PM,
Pizza and music from 6 - 8pm

Timeline for Saturday:
(More questions? email: info@bullstonehouse.org)

Registration & Genealogy & Bull Market & Lunch tickets pick up - opens at 9:30 AM,

House Tours open at 10am till 11:45am

History Talk by Martha Washington at the Front door of Bull Stone House 11:15am & 3pm

Flag raising at 11:45 AM, Take down British Flag, raise Betsy Ross Flag of 13 colonies

Please leave Fido at home

Blessing & Lunch at 12:00 pm

Ice Cream truck arrives 12:30pm

Last call for 50/50 drawing

Annual board meeting at 1:00 pm, Blue Ribbons, 50/50, jump drive drawing

Group photo at flagpole at 1:30 pm

House reopens for tours, Genealogy, Bull Market from 2:00 pm to approx.4:00 pm

11am to Noon and 2 to 4pm the following:

Children's activities: corn husk dolls, scavenger hunt, rock painting, coloring poster/tablecloth

Hayrides & Petting rabbits & goats.

Corn Hole tournament 2 to 4pm

Development Table – 11am to Noon and 2 to 4pm

Archive documents – Catalogit 10am to Noon and 2 to 4pm

Closing song about 3:30pm

4pm - Help clean up trash and put a bench away till next year

To visit the attic – don't wear sandals – only shoes

Plan to stop by the Bull Market Tent at this year's picnic, where we'll be featuring special merchandise to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

The BULLetin 2026

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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