

PRESIDENT'S DESK - 2014



WHO President
Susan McGibbon Tobias

I am so excited to be writing another Chronicle, letting our members, near and far, know about our accomplishments in the past year!

There has been so much happening that it's hard to know where to start. The coming year is looking pretty busy, also.

Our open house is normally held in the summer each year but last year we held it on Saturday, October 18, because our contractor wasn't finished with the inside of our newly built archival storage room by July.

The room came out even better than we expected. So many visitors have remarked that it is bigger than it looks from the outside!

On suggestion of one of our board members, it was voted unanimously to surprise board member and archivist, Jean Goddard (my mum) and dedicate the room to her for the multiple hours over the years that she has archived and organized the WHO collection.

At the open house, we held the ribbon-cutting ceremony with Westville Town Supervisor Rod Lauzon cutting the ribbon. We kept Mum busy in another part of the room for a few minutes while we quickly mounted an engraved plaque on the archival room door. Then, we got everyone's attention and announced our surprise.

Anyone who knows my mother, knows that it's not easy to surprise her but surprised she was, and most appreciative. She was quick to say that it isn't just her who makes the WHO successful or brought about the building of the room. It takes everyone pitching in, for which she, and all of us, are most grateful.

Mum is the organizer supreme, however, and without her we would not be as organized as we are.

As a 501(c)3, our records and accessioning have to meet certain criteria, and Mum's method of keeping things straight and organized has kept us neatly within New York State guidelines.

We are, also, sincerely indebted to WHO members Bob Gleason, Earl (Junior) and Shirley Jackson, Robert Gibbs, Ronnie and Marilyn Anderson, Suellen Botsford Neveu and SeaComm Federal Credit Union for monetary contributions; to Triple A Building Materials in Massena for deep discounts on interior materials and Graymont Ma-



terials in Skerry and Plattsburgh for a generous discount on concrete; to Stark's Gravel for sand to level the ground; to Jim Stowe of Stowe Contracting in North Bangor for rock bottom prices to construct the room and finish the interior; to Junior Jackson for seeking out our discounts with Triple A; to Myron Brady, Darrel Hoadley and Frank Goddard for painting the room; to Leslie McGibbon and Frank Goddard for installing the carpet; to WHO members and the community for donated items and working at our yard sale and to the Town of Westville, the town supervisor and town council members for constant support of our mission.

It's because everyone pitched in and helped out so willingly that we have a wonderful new archival storage room to categorize and protect Westville's artifacts. Thank you!

Now what to do with the old storage room? We all agree that a town's veterans deserve to have special recognition. We are dedicating that space to Westville's veterans. We plan to paint, install special lighting and shelving, and display pictures of the town's veterans from all wars plus display military artifacts that have been donated. We plan to dedicate this room at our open house this year (date to be determined).

Our special filing cabinet has many, many service records for Westville's vets but if you have a family member who was born in Westville or lived in Westville most of their life, that served in any war, beginning with the Revolutionary War, or who may be serving today, please make sure we have their service record information and/or a photograph. If you don't have their service record, let us know his or her name and we will submit a request for the information, with your permission as a family member.

It is only because of the bravery of our veterans that we enjoy our freedoms today. For a small northern town in New York state, Westville gave a large number of its sons, and a daughter, to fight the battle. Some came home. Some didn't. We plan to remember and honor them all.

Susan McGibbon Tobias

THANK YOU!

Each year when we look back at our accomplishments we see how so many have given donations of money, furnishings, artifacts and/or time. Please know how much we appreciate your kindness.

In addition to the named donors for the Jean L. McGibbon Goddard Archival Storage Room, we sincerely appreciate anyone who offered their help in any way. We achieve because of you and we don't take that for granted.

Last year, we were fortunate to receive a massive glass display cabinet from Randy and Tracey McAdam of Brushton. This has allowed us to show our delicate and smaller artifacts in a safe place for all to see. Earl (Junior) and Shirley Jackson donated a glass curio cabinet that complements the large glass cabinet. They fit nicely with the antique china cabinet that Bob Gleason donated, a family heirloom that belonged to his wife, Irma Miller Gleason, and the Miller family of Westville.



On display in these cabinets are multiple items from the Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church in Westville, donated by Board Member Richard Avery, making such a wonderful collection of Westville's faith history.

Beside these glass display cabinets, newly mounted in the wall, is the beautiful stained glass window, donated by Robert Gibbs in memory of his mother, Hazel King Gibbs. The window used to grace the Methodist Church that stood in Trout River for over 100 years. When it was torn down, the Gibbs family took possession of it. As years wore on, Robert was afraid it would



get lost or broken. He donated the window to the WHO, covered the cost of a small restoration to replace cracked glass and to build it into the wall. We have had several members and passersby remark how beautiful it looks when lit from inside at night.

From framed portraits to a silver tea set to a vintage television set, unique and wonderful artifacts have been entrusted to our care and we take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of the members and Board of Trustees of the WHO, thank you to all who have donated in so many different ways. We invite everyone to visit the Westville History Center and Museum so we can share our collection.

WHO CHANGE OF ADDRESS

All mail should be directed to WHO Board Member Jean Goddard's home: **Westville Historical Organization, c/o 19 County Route 20, Constable, NY 12926.**

DUES

Members are reminded that it's time for our yearly dues: \$8 for adults, and \$5 for kids 16 and younger are due for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Please mail your check to WHO Membership Chairman Carolyn Shane Faubert, 3843 Route 11, Malone, NY 12953-3725. New members are welcome!

A reminder to members who want to make a cash donation to WHO with their annual dues, and those who want to pay dues several years in advance, please make a note to us what the extra in your check is for so we can honor your wishes. Thank you!

FAMILY STORIES AND GENEALOGIES

We are always appreciative of family genealogies and family stories on people from Westville, even if they only lived in town for a little while. Often we have inquiries about residents who seem like they "were only passing through," because they stayed only a short time. That is still part of our town's history. Please contact Board Member Jean Goddard, 19 CR 20, Constable, NY 12926, lgoddard@twcny.rr.com or 518-358-2374, if you have something to contribute.

If you are receiving this Chronicle by snail mail and have a high speed internet E-mail address, please provide the E-mail address to mcgibby57@charter.net and r2g2intl2@verizon.net in order to update our files so we may save on paper/ink costs and postage. Thanks!

REMEMBER ANCESTORS ON MEMORIAL PLAQUES

At the Westville History Center, the WHO has two "Honors and Memorials" plaques for anyone wanting a lasting memento of their family's presence in Westville. The plaques hold plates that come in two sizes, small and large, for \$25 and \$50, respectively. Depending on the wording, two lines can be engraved on the small, gold plates, and three or four on the larger plates. One large plaque is full but we have purchased a second one and it, too, is filling up fast.

Send information exactly as you want to see it on the plate (a family name or individual's name, for example) along with the donor's name and your check to Westville Historical Organization, c/o 19 County Route 20, Constable, N.Y. 12926. Your donation will be acknowledged promptly.



Westville Historical Organization

WHO WEBSITE

Thanks to the skills of member Gail Ferris Beasley of Nassau Bay, Texas, our website, www.westville-history.net, is packed full of the latest information including photographs from our summer events. The site also gives information on becoming a member, books we have for sale, genealogies, and issues of the Chronicle from 2009 to 2014.

WWW.WESTVILLEHISTORY.NET

Time and memory are precious and irreplaceable. They are slipping away second by second. Before we know it, both are gone.

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE - 2014

Donor	In Loving Memory Of...	
Frank and Jean Goddard	Kurt Capiello Emily Johnson Reginald Johnson Kenneth Johnson Jack Johnson Phyllis Castleman Grace Wilson Robert Johnson Edgar Goddard Lily Goddard Victor Goddard	Reginald Goddard Edgar Harry Goddard Clive Goddard Maria Carter Johnson Arthur McGibbon Diane McGibbon Mildred McGibbon Charles Saunders Lila Lamay Reginald Bresette Sandy Bresette
Larry Tummons	Marie Tummons Bertwell Tummons	Lillian Tummons Francis Tummons
Lois Tummons	Alfred Robinson Sr. Irene Robinson Alfred Robinson Jr. Rodrique Lauzon Gloria Almond Linda Brady	Millie Foote Palmer Foote Marie Fleury Dolores Mallette Beatrice Stowell Angie Phillips
Ronnie and Marilyn Anderson	Edith Anderson Ralph Anderson Margaret Sherwin	Hollis Sherwin Shirley Willis Clifton Willis
Earl and Shirley Jackson	Ella Jackson Earl Jackson Robert Jackson Merton Jackson Bessie Jackson Grace Dustin Howard Dustin	Raymond Dustin John Oliver Tillson Cora Tillson John Edward Tillson Donald Tillson Gary Tillson Gloria Pearsall
James and Sandra Premo	Watson Fleury Marion Fleury Ernest Premo Sr. Ann Premo Beatrice Kirby Corleen Premo Robert Premo Judy Clark	Francis Snyder Florence Snyder Della Fleury Ann Phillips Gina Heberer Margaret Clark Merrill Kirby
Linda and Terry Mayville	Rita & Clarence Roy Anna & Arthur Fountain	Linda Brady Eleanor & Tennyson Mayville
Jules and Carolyn Faubert	Tom Shane Emmett & Beatrice Shane	Wellington Rockhill Lyle Thompson
Ed and Dottie Strong	Deceased members of the Strong family	
Gerald and Eileen Snyder	James McGraw Agatha McGraw Archie & Nevada	John A. Snyder Judy LaRock Lyle Pickering
Myron Brady	Chester Brady Marion Brady James Brady Francis Brady Bea Greene Marylou Tuper Linda Brady Frank Brady Delina Lamica Brady Orien Avery	Norma Reynolds Avery Roy Reynolds Wesley Reynolds Angalis Reynolds Syd Huminston Pee Wee Tuper Clayton Tuper Jr. Clayton Tuper Sr. David Greene Joe Greene
Carolyn McNamara	Rita Wylie Ross Wylie Reggie Wylie John Ferris	Vernon Wylie William Cameron Norman Gervais
Vernita Shane Tatro	Beatrice Shane	Emmett Shane
Mae White	Wesley White Ida White Clayton W. White Leafey Savoир William Joseph Savoир Herman Savoир William Francis Savoир Adeline Savoир	Gerald Savoир Florence McManus Rita Durant George White Laura Gratton Evelyn Cook Irene Savoир

Bob and Cathy Bashaw	Clarence & Rita Roy Jonathan Bashaw	Robert O. Bashaw Anna Fountain
Susan and Toby Tobias	Arthur W. McGibbon Kurt A. Capiello Reginald & Emily Ellen Johnson Alec McAdam Dorothy McAdam	Robert McGibbon Diane McGibbon Lyle McGibbon Ethel McGibbon Mirza & Marge Tobias
Viola M. Travers	Richard Travers	Jean Wood

Mom and brother, Troy	Aron B. DeLaire
Mom and Tom LaBarge	Aron B. DeLaire
Daughter, Gail and Tom	Ray & Irene Avery
Grandson, Troy & family	Ray & Irene Avery
Sister, Gail and Tom	Janice M. Lapage
Tom & Gail LaBarge	Lyle Tremblay
Aunt Gail and Tom	Craig Lapage
Son, Tom and Gail	Leonard Labarge

Names submitted for the Christmas Memory Tree are entered into a burgundy velvet Memorial Book that is on permanent display at the WHO.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(January - December 2014)

Income

Donations	\$ 2,842.00
Dues.....	1,136.00
Fund Raisers.....	636.80
Interest	9.56
Total Income	\$ 4,624.36
Gross Profit.....	\$ 4,624.36

Expenses

Alarm Service.....	\$ 180.00
Bank Fee	2.00
Building Project	5,869.64
Electric	522.44
Fuel.....	1,383.65
Insurance	812.26
Internet Fee	106.04
Miscellaneous	172.27
Office/Business Supplies	132.10
Open House Expenses	105.34
Postage	156.55
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00
Repair	177.00
Sales Tax.....	60.74
Telephone	445.96
Total Expenses.....	\$ 10,125.99

Net Income **\$ -5,501.63**

Checking Account Balance (December 31, 2014)..... \$ 1,470.80

Savings Account Balance (December 31, 2014)..... \$ 2,514.07

To our members who live at a distance or can't make it to the history center, please know that we welcome your inquiries regarding your genealogy and/or family lines from Westville. Just drop us a note and we will be happy to research our genealogy library, take pictures at cemeteries in Westville and nearby towns or copy photos you need to complete your research.

Editor — Susan McGibbon Tobias..... mcgibby57@charter.net
Graphic Design Editor — Gail Ferris Beasley..... r2g2intl2@verizon.net

The first person to go by the surname Armstrong was a Dane of Viking ancestry, Siward Boern, born in 985 AD.

Scottish legend has it that an armor-bearer named Fairbairn (or Siward) rescued a Scottish king. The king had been knocked from his horse in battle. He was doomed until Siward saw the king's predicament. Riding to the king's rescue with one hand, Siward picked the king up, armor and all, and hacked a path to safety for both of them. Thereby dubbed "The Strong Arm" which, in a few generations transformed itself into the surname Armstrong.

The grateful king granted Siward and his heir's lands on the border between Scotland and England. Looking ahead he could see the advantage of having a warrior family along the borders. For nearly 600 years Armstrongs lived in the "Debatable Lands" along an ancient Roman fortification known as Hadrian's Wall, which has historically been the boundary between England and Scotland.

Siward died in York in 1056 AD and is buried in the cloister of St. Mary's Church, which he had built. *Invictus Maneo* is the ancient Armstrong motto. It means; "I remain unvanquished."

Armstrongs were the largest and strongest of the unruly border clans of the debatable land. Having little loyalty to the Scottish Monarch and less to the English, along with Elliots, Johnstons, Nixons, Grayhams, Kerrs, Bells and others, the borderers or "Steel Bonnets" lived a violent life of horse and cattle theft known as "reiving." Tales of their time along the borders are celebrated in more than 400 English ballads and in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

The brutal, powerful, Armstrong clan, who could raise a 3,000-man cavalry, was a threat to the monarchy on both sides of the border. King James VI realized that he had to break the border clans if he were to unite Scotland and England. His first official act in 1603 was to declare borderers riding into England guilty of treason. He began the systematic annihilation of the Armstrongs and other border clans. At one point he trapped 37 Armstrong chiefs within his castle walls. He publicly hanged them all from the same tree at the same time.

By 1610 the Armstrongs had disappeared from their ancient strongholds along the Liddell River. Many were killed and their homes burned or blown up. Many others were exiled.

It appears that our branch of the Armstrong clan were exiled to Northern Ireland and spent a couple hundred years there before our great-great-great-grandfather, David J. Armstrong, arrived in Canada in 1817.

David Armstrong was from Pomeroy Parish, Dungannon, Tyrone County, North Ireland. He was 5'7" tall, with fair

hair, gray eyes, and a dark complexion. No doubt he is descended from the notorious border reivers who, for hundreds of years ruled the "Debatable Lands" on the border dividing Scotland and England. David's wife, Mary Ann, was from Thorn Hill, Dungannon, Tyrone County, North Ireland. Mary Ann was 11 years older than David. David's family did not approve of the marriage and shunned their union.

David served in the British military as a gunner in the 1st Royal Artillery. He came to Canada in 1817 to oversee the ordinance at Fort Chambly near Montreal. In 1822 he brought his wife Mary Ann and their three children to their new wilderness home in Lower Canada and settled them on a tract about 50 miles west of Montreal on a place known as "The Irish Ridge" in Godmanchester, Huntingdon Township, Quebec, Canada.

At that time the land was, as it had always been, in a state of complete wilderness. Forty-nine year old Mary Ann and her sons, 11-year old David James and young John Wallace, carved a farm from 100 acres of wilderness on Lot 27 in the 4th Range. The terms of purchase were generous due to the British government subsidies. At this period the British wanted to contain the French Canadians in eastern Quebec and they wanted loyal British subjects along the Canada/United States border. The terms of sale were 100 acres on the condition that 30 acres be cleared and cultivated and a house erected within 2 years.

The family must have met their obligation because in 1824 David was given a patent for the land. He soon expanded the family land holdings by acquiring an additional 100 acres adjoining the original purchase, on the same terms, in John's name. For the next several years David trudged the wild footpaths from Chambly to Godmanchester leading a French pony laden with supplies for the family.

During this time David lost his hearing when a cannon exploded near him. He was pensioned from the military at 12-cents per day. That doesn't sound like much now but in the early 1800's it was enough that David could pursue his calling as a Methodist circuit preacher.

He roamed from cabin to cabin within a dozen miles of his home preaching the gospel. An impeccably honest man, he was often called on to settle neighborhood disputes. In 1834 the Methodist clergy met in conference in Fort Covington, NY. At that conference David Armstrong was ordained as a Methodist minister. He used his ordination to perform marriages and funerals on the Irish Ridge and its environs.

Mary Ann died September 8, 1856, at her home in Godmanchester. David followed on May 5, 1862. David is buried in Ormstown, Quebec. There is no record of where

Mary Ann died September 8, 1856, at her home in Godmanchester. David followed on May 5, 1862. David is buried in Ormstown, Quebec. There is no record of where



Photo ca. 1900: Provided by Kevin Armstrong

THE WILLIAM ARMSTRONG FAMILY

The William Armstrong family at their home on Sulphur Springs Road in Westville. William and his family lived in the original McFadden cabin until they built a frame house on the same site. In 2000, remnants of the home, flowering trees and fruit trees from the door yard could still be observed on the site. Front, William and Eliza Douglas Armstrong; standing, Effie Jane, Andrew and Ernest.

Mary Ann is buried. After extensive research and two trips to Ormstown I have been unsuccessful in finding their graves. I suspect their graves are in the old Methodist Cemetery on the banks of the Chateaugay River, their markers long since gone.

Edward Armstrong was born in Ireland in 1812 (possibly the middle son of David and Mary Ann Armstrong). It is equally possible that Edward may have been David's nephew. Decades of diligent research have been unsuccessful in establishing the relationship between David J. and Edward Armstrong. In any event, by 1822 Edward was living in David's home on "The Irish Ridge" in Godmanchester.

Armstrong's friend from the old country, Michael McVeah, landed a job driving a stagecoach from Lachine, Quebec, to Fort Covington, New York. On one of his stage coach trips he met another friend from the old country, William McFadden. Young McVeah and his friend Edward Armstrong were soon visiting the daughters of the widower McFadden.

McFadden had arrived in Canada from Ireland in 1826 and in 1830 he purchased a farm in Westville, near the Canadian Border. McFadden was born in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, North Ireland, where he had been a friend of David Armstrong's father.

McVeah eloped to Irish Ridge in Canada with Katherine McFadden. Then in February 1839 Edward Armstrong eloped with Margaret McFadden. Old William McFadden was furious but in time his heart softened and Edward and Margaret were allowed to return to the farm and help William.

In January 1856, Edward bought 155 acres adjacent to the McFadden farm, between Sulphur Springs and Pilfershire Road, on Subdivision 2, Tract 1, Township 3, Lot 1 of Macomb's purchase. He paid \$249.62 or about \$1.60 per acre.

Edward and Margaret's first house was a cabin near the line dividing the Armstrong and McFadden farms. Later they built on higher ground but the two houses were still within shouting distance. At the time, their land was still being cleared of trees, though most of the large timber had already been cut and sold to shipbuilders along the St. Lawrence.

Edward was a sober, hard working, industrious man. As time passed, the woods yielded way to fields of potatoes, barley, oats, and corn. They raised cattle, sheep, and horses in their barns.

Margaret McFadden Armstrong was described as 90 pounds of energy. She was determined to make a home of the untamed wilderness. A fast and constant worker, a sharp and witty talker, she could milk two cows to Edwards one. Wherever the sound of her voice reached she was the boss.

She had money to lend during most of her life. Some was given to her by her father, some was from his estate. Most of it she earned from her poultry. For many years she got all the money that came to the farm through the sale of chickens, ducks, and turkeys. The eggs went to pay for household necessities and were traded at the stores at Trout River and Tolmie's line store. When Margaret was 70 years of age it is said she could out work, out walk and out talk any of her daughters.

Edward died at the age of 93 years in 1905. Margaret preceded him in 1890. Both are buried in Briggs Street Cemetery.

Edward and Margaret's children are: Thomas (b. 1840), William (b. 1842), David (b. 1844), Jane Ann (b. 1847), Mary Jane (b. 1850), Susan (b. 1851), George Ward (b. 1855), Edward (b. 1857), Francis (known as Johnny) (b. 1860), Lydia (b. 1864), and Samuel (b. 1869).

William married Eliza Douglass. They worked the McFadden farm in Westville during their lives. They had six children: Arthur, Luella, Andrew, Margaret, Effie, and Thomas.

David (Dade) married Jenny Harrison. They also farmed in the Westville area. They also had six children: Ruby, Bessie, Floyd, Pierce, Eva, and Samuel.

Jane married John Cameron. They raised six of John's children and four children they had together: Margaret, William, Florence, and Harriet.

Mary was a school teacher. She married William Tolan. They had one daughter, Willa May.

Susan married Smith March. They had a farm in Burke until Smith died about 1929.

George never married. He spent his life working for the railroad as a fireman, then as an engineer. He lost contact with the family for most of his life but returned to Westville before his death.

As a teenager, Edward James had a falling out with Tom. He moved west as a result of the quarrel. He became a stagecoach driver in Oregon and Washington and later made a fortune in wheat development. He would not allow himself to become homesick until he could afford to visit New York. When he did return he met and married Sarah Jane Armstrong, who, though not closely related to our branch of Armstrongs, was a cousin to David Armstrong's wife. They returned west to live out a prosperous life. Edward had two previous wives, Jessie McBride and Cora Ann Smith. He had a son, Zenas Appolis, with Cora Ann.

Francis or "Johnny" Armstrong married Eliza Rowley. They had one son, Rupert. They farmed, first, a farm known as the McCreddie farm. Later they sold that farm and bought what was known as the McCabe Farm.

Lydia married Sam Jellis. They had three children: Ethel, Walter, and Clarence.

Sam Armstrong was a strong healthy boy until he came down with whooping cough at age 5. From that time on he was subject to "spells" with difficulty breathing and nasal hemorrhaging. He was too frail to attend school and died at the age of 16.

My great-grandfather, Tom Armstrong, was Edward and Margaret's oldest son. Tom was born on February 1, 1840, in Godmanchester, Quebec, Canada. Except for 11 years in California, he lived 70 of his 81 years in Westville. He was married to Caroline Fay Davis who lived to the age of 95 years. Tom and Caroline are both buried in the Briggs Street Cemetery. They had a prosperous farm off Briggs St. in Westville.

The farms of Edward Sr., Tom, and William all abutted. The Armstrongs shared labor and could visit by walking the fields from one farm to the other.

Family legend had it that as a young man Tom had gone west for several years, returning home with enough gold to pay cash for his farm, fix up the house, barns and out buildings, and live out his life with some leisure.

It had been thought that Tom had struck it rich in the California gold fields. As I started investigating I soon found that the dates did not match up. Tom left Westville in

1860 at the age of 20 years old. He returned in 1871. My first thought was that he had taken part in the Civil War. A search of the records revealed three Tom Armstrongs from New York who served in the Civil War but none were our Tom Armstrong.

Eventually I found census records for Santa Cruz, California, where Tom was working as the foreman of a crew of loggers, all from northern New York and Lower Canada. I suspect the skills acquired felling Westville's giant pines proved valuable in felling California's giant redwoods.

Tom saved all his money during those years. Not trusting any one bank, he deposited his gold in four different banks. After withdrawing the gold from the first bank, he found the weight was so great that he had to hire a man on the street to help him drag the money to the next bank, where the banker explained how bank drafts worked.

Tom and Carrie's children were: George Elmer (b. 1879), Charles W. (b. 1882), Edward James (b. 1884), and Mary Edith (b. 1888).

George married Mamie Shannon in 1907. Charles married Edna Abling. They had two sons, Wesley, born in 1916, and Everett, born in 1917. In 1916, my grandfather, Edward, married a girl from an old Irish Ridge family, Grace Hellena Rosilla Furey. Mary Edith married John McGibbon. They had two children, Leon William and Caroline Bernice.

Grandfather Edward was a carpenter. As we drove the roads around Westville and Constable in 2000, 2003 and 2005, my dad could point out barns that grandfather built. Edward and Grace had six children: Violet married Hubert Sabin. They had a daughter Barbara. Glendon married Joyce Rivers. They had one son, Daniel. Ed Armstrong is married to Olive Martin. Edith died at age 18.

Ina Armstrong (my dad's twin) married Frank Welch. They have seven children: Karen, Connie, Don, Shawn, Bruce, Gary, and Dianne.

Leslie James Armstrong first married my mother, Anna May Reynolds. Dad is a pipe fitter retired from Eastman Kodak Company.

Mom has Westville roots, too. Her family had a farm on Sand Street for over 100 years and many of her Reynolds,

Rogers, and Russell kin still reside in the area. Her father, Francis Reynolds, moved to the Mohawk Valley in the 1920s. Mom is a homemaker residing in Rochester, New York.

I have three brothers. Larry Edward first married Deborah Salarno. They had one son Scott Albert. Later, he married Dianne Germek. They have two sons, Justin (b. 1979), and Aaron (b. 1982). Shane Leslie married Michelle Hunt. They have three sons: Brandon Arthur (b. 1981), who married Lisa Tibbitas on July 15, 2005; Ryan (b. 1982), and Kyle (b. 1983). Ryan and his wife, Sarah, have a daughter, Ryanna. Brian married Karen Denoto. They have a son, Conor (b. 1984), and a daughter, Shannon Rose (b. 1986).

With all these young nephews and a niece we have begun another generation of Armstrongs. The first of my branch was Justin and Stacy Harper Armstrong. They brought MyKenzie Patrice Armstrong, my niece, into the world on March 21, 2006. They also have a daughter, Addison, and a son, Hudson.

Throughout his life William Armstrong's son, Arthur W. Armstrong, kept the Armstrong family history. Even though Arthur left Westville before 1900 to live in the Midwest, Northwest, and finally in California, he returned year after year to collect and record the family history in his book *Where We Fit In*.

I came across Arthur's book late in my research and it verified many of the facts I had uncovered, and added human dimension that no government record ever could. In his prologue Arthur expresses a hope that "someone in the next generation will write the modern version of *Where We Fit In*." I hope Arthur is resting easy, assured that Sheri and I are adding to the work he began.

In closing I would like to recite the departing words of the last son of the last Armstrong Lord. This was the Goodnight or Neck Speech given by Sandie's Ringian's Thomas Armstrong as he stood on the gallows to be hung for the murder of Warden Carmichael. It is titled, "Armstrong's Last Goodnight."

This night is my departing night, For here no longer I can stay.
There's neither friend nor foe of mine, But wishes me away.

What I have done, through want of wit, I never, never can recall.
I hope you're all my friends as yet, Goodnight, and joy be with you all.

Invictus Maneo!

BOOKS FOR SALE

We offer special publications for those with an interest in Westville, Franklin County, NY.

"Earliest Memories, Westville Center, New York," written by Clara Clark Wright, is full of recollections, insights, and historical accounts of the people, businesses, and events that shaped Westville in its early years. Printed in a larger format, it has 63 pages full of journal entries, photographs and town maps, and is available for \$20.50 including tax (\$23.50 if mailed).

The reprinting of the 1977 book **"Mini Sketches of Westville"** by the community's former one-room schoolhouse teacher, Ola Stockwell, is packed with accounts of residents, businesses and early Westville happenings. The book is available for \$14 including tax (\$17 if mailed).

The **"Through the Ages Cookbook"** is packed with more than 260 recipes submitted by local families, area cooks, and contributors from as far away as Indiana. The cookbook is available for \$11 including tax, or \$14 if mailed.

Submit your request (along with your check) to Westville Historical Organization, 19 County Route 20, Constable, NY 12926. Be sure to specify the book title, number of copies, and shipping address.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held at the annual meeting in November. It was voted on that the slate of officers remain the same. All agreed. WHO Officers are:

President: Susan Tobias

Vice President: Sandy Fleury

Co-Secretaries: Jan Boyea and Anne Gaggin

Treasurer: Judy Stark

Board of Trustees members are Earl "Junior" Jackson, Jean Goddard, Rosanna Clark, Myron Brady and Richard Avery. All members are welcome to volunteer for election to the board. Meetings are held at least twice a year.