

**Town
of
Halfmoon
Archives
and
Historical Records**

**Inventory
April 2014**

James Corsaro, Archivist

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Town of Halfmoon

Archives and Historical Records

Inventory

2014

HALFMOON: A Brief History to 1899

Halfmoon occupies a part of the southeastern corner of the county. It is bounded on the north by Malta and Stiliwater, on the east by the east bounds of the county, on the south by Waterford and the south line of the county, and on the west by Clifton Park. The Revised Statutes (1899) define the town as follows:

The town of Halfmoon shall contain all that part of said county bounded northerly by Anthony's Kill, easterly by the east bounds of the county, southerly by Waterford and the south bounds of the county, and westerly by a line beginning at the outlet of Round Lake; then running south to the east side of William Gates' grist mill; then southerly through the centre of the mill pond across the bridge over said pond; then southerly to the west side of Joseph Merrill's dwelling house; then south to the Van Schaick line, then along said line to the Mohawk river, varying the same at the dwelling house of Ephraim Stevens so as to leave the same on the west side of the line.

The surface is undulating and contains several small streams running in places through narrow ravines. The eastern section, extending along the river bank, is flat and fertile, as is most of the land. Anthony's creek and Dwaas' kill flow into the Hudson, and Steena kill into the Mohawk. The Erie canal passes through the western half of the southern part of the town, running nearly parallel to the Mohawk river. The Champlain canal traverses the eastern part of the town from north to south. The Delaware & Hudson Canal company's railroad runs nearly parallel with this canal, and east of it, from Waterford to Mechanicville, running thence in a westerly direction about parallel with the north line of the town. The Fitchburg railroad also extends westerly from Mechanicville nearly parallel with the northern line of the town.

The earliest settlements in Halfmoon located on the banks of the Mohawk about 1680. Killiaen Vandenburg built a home near Dunsbach's Ferry in 1718. The earliest building in Mechanicville doubtless was Gates's tavern. Henry Bailey had a tavern about a mile below, near the river, soon after the Revolution, perhaps earlier. Shibael Cross had another at Middletown before the Revolution.

Mechanicville is the principal village in Halfmoon. It lies partly in the northeast corner of the town and partly in Stillwater. It is a manufacturing and railroad centre of considerable importance. Here are located large shops of the Delaware & Hudson and the Fitchburg railroads, the immense plant of the Duncan company, manufacturers of fine paper; two large sash and blind factories, two large brick kilns, four knitting mills, a shirt factory, important lumber yards, a factory for manufacturing electrical goods, and other manufactures. The Duncan company is supplied with power principally from a dam across the Hudson river, In 1897 and 1898 a second large dam was erected in the Hudson for the development of power for transmission to the works of the General Electric company at Schenectady, about fifteen miles away. The electric current will be transmitted from Mechanicville to Schenectady by heavy insulated wires. The village has excellent railroad facilities, including, beside the steam roads mentioned, an electric line between Mechanicville and Stillwater. A line extending southward and connecting with Troy and Albany is in course of construction, and plans are being made for an extension to Saratoga Springs. The school system has undergone great improvements in recent years, and two new school buildings are soon to be constructed. There are five churches in the village-Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal and Roman Catholic. There are also a Masonic lodge, and Odd Fellows lodge, three social clubs and several other fraternal organizations. It also has a well organized and equipped fire department. Mechanicville was not incorporated by law as a village until 1870. It was chartered by the County Court in July, 1859, and at the first election, September 10, following, ninety-five votes were cast. These trustees were elected: Cyrus Gilbert, Stephen Burtis, Lewis Smith, Job G. Viall, A. A. Buckhout. The board of trustees elected Lewis Smith chairman and William P. Harris clerk. Until 1870 the chief executive officer of the village was the chairman or president of the board of trustees. These officers were:

1859, Lewis Smith; 1862, William Clements; 1863, Lyman Dwight; 1864, Isaac M. Smith; 1865, John W. Ensign; 1866, John Elmer; 1867, John C. Greene; 1868, John C. Greene (removed from village and succeeded by Alonzo Howland); 1869, Lewis E. Smith; 1870, William W. Smith.

In 1870 the State Legislature granted a new charter for the village, when these officers were elected by the people direct:

President, William W. Smith; trustees, William Johnson, Newton H. Ballou, William M. Warren, Charles Wheeler; clerk, J. Frank Terry; treasurer, Richard Richards; collector, Michael Short.

The following is a complete list of the village presidents since the incorporation of Mechanicville:

1871, William W. Smith; 1872-78, Lewis E. Smith; 1879, Newton H. Ballou; 1880, John C. Greene; 1881, Charles Wheeler; 1882, J. Frank Terry; 1883, Daniel E. La Dow; 1884, George R. Moore; 1885-86, George E. Lockwood; 1887, Obadiah Tompkins; 1888-89, William W. Smith; 1890, Edward H. Strang; 1891, John C. Greene; 1892, William C. Tailmadge; 1893, Herbert O. Bailey; 1894, John H. Massey; 1895, Albert H. Barnes; 1896, Hiram B. Mace; 1897, Emmons A. Starks; 1898, William H. Allen.

There are five hamlets in Halfmoon. Newton is located about two miles southwest of Mechanicville; Smithtown about two miles south of Newton; Clifton Park west of the centre of the town near the Clifton Park town line; Crescent just north of the great bend in the Mohawk; and Middletown about a mile easterly from Crescent. The First Baptist church of Halfmoon, located at Middletown, organized in 1835, succeeded the Baptist church at Newtown, long since extinct. The Second Baptist church of Halfmoon, at Clifton Park, was founded in 1841, the M. E. church at Smithtown about 1870, the M. E. church at Crescent in 1852, the Reformed Protestant Dutch church of Middletown (now extinct) in 1791, and the M. E. church at Coon's Crossing about 1858.

Half moon was one of the original districts of Saratoga county, the other being Saratoga. In 1816 Waterford was set off, the name of Halfmoon then becoming Orange. The old name was restored in 1820. Clifton Park was taken off in 1828. The district of Halfmoon was organized as a part of Albany county in 1772, as a town of Albany county in 1788, and as a town as at present constituted in 1828. In the following list of supervisors, those serving from 1788 to 1828 came from various parts of the old town:

1788-90, Jacobus Van Schoonhoven; 1791, Benjamin Rosekrans; 1792-94, Richard Davis, jr.; 1795-1800, Benjamin Rosekrans; 1801-17, Zebulon Mott; 1818-20, Nathan Garnsey; 1821-27, David Garnsey; 1828-37, Asahel Philo; 1838-39, Isaac Smith; 1840, Platt Smith; 1841, Chauncey Boughton; 1842-43, Abraham Travis; 1844-45, William Chute; 1846, Benjamin S. Cowles; 1847, David W. Wait; 1848, Lucius M. Smith; 1849-50, James Noxon; 1851-52, Stephen Emigh; 1853-54, Benjamin Wait; 1855, Shubael Taylor; 1856-57, Thomas Noxon; 1858, Nehemiah Philo; 1859, William Cary; 1860-61, Thomas Noxon; 1862-63, C. J. Warrington; 1864-66, Thomas Noxon; 1867, John C. Greene; 1868, Charles H. Clute; 1869, Henry L. Haight; 1870-71, M. O. Caldwell; 1872-73, Daniel R. White; 1874, Jacob C. Defreest; 1875-76, Charles H. Clute; 1877-78, Henry L. Haight; 1879-82, George Rogers; 1883, Peter Smith; 1884-85, Cornelius R. Sheffer; 1886-87, Edward L. Haight; 1888-89, Melbourn H. Van Voorhees; 1890, Silas Hayner; 1891-97, Henry D. Safford; 1898, George H. Whitney.

The town clerks have been:

1788-90, Jacob Fort; 1791-1818, Abraham Moe; 1819-21, Asahel Philo; 1822, Ephraim Stevens; 1823-31, Benjamin I. Hall; 1832, Nicholas Emigh, jr.; 1833-35, John P. Steenburgh; 1836-37, Robert Forbes; 1838-39, Chauncey Boughton; 1840-43, Nicholas E. Philo; 1844-45, Nehemiah Philo; 1846, Henry L. Landon; 1847, Aaron A. Knight; 1848, Isaac Clements; 1849, James T. Wiley; 1850, Lyman W. Clements; 1851-53, L. B. Schermerhorn; 1854-55, Selafi Knight; 1856, Warren Rulison; 1857-59, C. J. Warrington; 1860, Henry Lape; 1861-62, Daniel R. White; 1863, Martin Sherman; 1864-67, Warren Rulison; 1868, M. O. Caldwell; 1869, James H. Clark; 1870, Jacob A. West; 1871, Warren Rulison; 1872-73, Jacob C. Defreest; 1874-75, S. S. Teachout; 1876-77, Henry Clark; 1878-82, J. Frank Terry; 1883-85, Edward L. Haight; 1886-90, William G. Davry; 1891-93, Norman W. Kelso; 1894-98, William T. Moore.

The justices of the peace elected by the people have been:

1831, William Fowler; 1832, William Clute; 1833, Stephen Varnum (or Vernam); 1834, Asahel

Phio; 1835, William Fowler; 1836, Nathan A. Philo; 1837, Stephen Vernam; 1838, Benjamin S. Curtis; 1839, James Noxie; 1840. Nathan A. Philo; 1841. James V. Bradshaw; 1842, Stephen H. Sherman; 1843, Lewis E. Smith; 1844, Nathan A. Philo; 1845, David W. Wait; 1846, B. S. Cowles; 1847, Moses Clements; 1848, Eldert I. Van Woert; 1849, .D. W. Wait; 1850, Samuel A. House; 1851, John R. McGregor; 1852, Abram Sickles; 1853, D. W. Wait; 1854. Charles H. Fowler; 1855, William Ostrander, John O. Mott; 1856, Selah Knight; 1857, William Hicks, Henry I. Dunsbach, Deodatus W. Hurd; 1858, Harmon J. .Quackenbush; 1859, Nathan Tabor; 1860, Abram Sickles; 1861, Samuel R. Mott; 1862, Melvin Van Voorhees; 1863, H. J. Quackenbush; 1864, Nathan F. Phio; 1865, Charles E. Dillingham, Smith L. Mitchell; 1866, James Clark; 1867, Charles E. Gorsline, William Hicks; 1868, Selab Knight; 1869. Charles E. Dillingham; 1870, Melvin Van Voorhees; 1871, Charles E. Gorsline, Charles E. Dillingham; 1872, Selah Knight; 1878, William A. P. Cassidy; 1874, Melvin Van Voorhees; 1875, William L. Potter; 1876, Selah Knight; 1877, William A. T. Cassidy; 1878, Henry Clark; 1879, William C. Tailmadge; 1880, Selah Knight; 1881, William A. T. Cassidy; 1882, Henry Clark (long term), William A. Mansfield (short term); 1883, William C. Tailmadge; 1884, James A. Knight; 1885, William A. T. Cassidy (long term), George W. Porter (short term); 1886, Fred I. Steenberg; 1887, Charles E. Hicks; 1888, George W. Porter; 1889, William A. T. Cassidy (long term), David P. Smith (short term); 1890, Fred L Steenberg; 1891, Nicholas Steenberg; 1892, John E. Thomson; 1893, John Baker; 1894, F. I. Steenberg; 1895, David F. Smith; 1896, John E. Thomson; 1897, William A. P. Cassidy; 1898, F. I. Steenberg. Under a law passed in 1894 a police justice has been elected every two years. In that year William G. Davey was elected to the office, and was reelected in 1896 and 1898.

(From the following book: HISTORY of HALFMOON, NY, FROM OUR COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE, A DESCRIPTIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK PREPARED AND PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SARATOGIAN THE BOSTON HISTORY COMPANY, PUBLISHERS 1899. This history, while it ends in 1899, should be useful particularly for the names of town officers, most of whom, are found in the records in this inventory.)

Introduction to Inventory:

Mission: The official records created by the Town of Halfmoon, Saratoga County that are of permanent value for their historical importance, for their use in the current operations of the town government, or for their use as evidence in any legal proceedings of the town requires that these records be preserved and made accessible to the staff of the town, to the citizens of the town and to researchers studying the history of the town. Some records must be preserved as permanent, according to state law, while other records may be disposed after time periods designated by state law. The records in this project are the historical records of the town rather than contemporary records. These records have been preserved for decades (in most cases for over a century) and they are not scheduled for disposal. These records may have some contemporary use in daily work or legal actions, but that is unlikely. The significance of the records inventoried here is the light that they shine upon the history of the Town of Halfmoon and for that reason are being kept permanently for town staff and research by historians and genealogists.

Staff: The staff with responsibility for the preservation and access of the town records includes the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk and staff of the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk, with the assistance of the Town Attorney as needed, acts as the Records Management Officer for the town. There is no staff person whose sole duty is the preservation and access for the town records; the staff of the Town Clerk handles the care of the records.

The following pages are an inventory of the historical records found in the vault of the Town Clerk's Office in Halfmoon, New York. The bound records (chiefly Town Board and other Board minutes and the Vital Records) are generally in very good condition. The bound records, in a variety of sizes, are filed together on shelves in the vault and are not mixed with the loose documents found in the "bankers" boxes. In a very few cases there are loose documents from the same office as those found in the bound volumes of records. There are approximately 202 volumes, either bound or in 3-ring binders. There are 34 boxes of loose documents. These thousands of documents are filed by town office, i.e. Highway Department, Overseer of the Poor, Justice of the Peace, etc. The documents for each of these offices were usually, though not always, found together. Thus, part of this project has included recreating these series of records for each office. In most cases, a brief statement is made about the history of the office that created the records in order to provide context for users of the records.

A word about condition of the records. The records were uniformly folded, many times very tightly folded (in most cases for over a century), with dust adhered to the document, and with hundreds of pins and other devices holding them together. Many of the documents, though not all, have been unfolded and all pins and any paper-clips were removed. The documents were not cleaned as this will require a major investment of time (much more than this project would allow). Some documents are very tightly folded or rolled and have been left as is. Unfolding or unrolling these documents will require humidification to increase the flexibility of the paper allowing it to be unfolded and flattened. This will usually need to be done prior to cleaning and flattening. That said, the majority of the historical records inventoried are in good condition except for the dust that has become adhered to them. They may be used by researchers without fear of damage. Gloves should be used by researchers and staff to keep their hands clean and the documents safe from any further damage. The records have been placed in new clean folders and boxes, although the folders and boxes are not acid-free. It should also be noted that the dates given in this inventory are accurate, but should not be considered complete or perfectly accurate as this inventory is not done at the item-level and many of the documents are tightly folded and could not be flattened to be examined in detail.

Some documents were scanned by a commercial scanning company prior to this inventory and were kept separate from the bulk of the collection. Wherever possible these scanned documents have been returned to the records of the office that created them, i.e. scans of Highway Department records returned to that department's record series. However, the scanned documents were not refiled in the particular order from which they came. This was not done because it was not known from exactly where they originated. Therefore, each series has a file of scanned documents separate from the remainder of the series.

A note for researchers, particularly, genealogists and Civil War historians. There is a series of records that includes detailed information about Halfmoon in the Civil War, including service

records and other data. There is also a good deal of material about the Grand Army of the Republic chapter in the town that includes much of interest about the charitable activities of the GAR in Halfmoon. Family historians will find that the Board of Health and Overseer of the Poor series include records with information for marriage and deaths and the Overseer has records of the poor receiving relief that often include not only the name of the person receiving assistance from the town, but their age, the reason for needing relief and their county, state or country of origin. Of course, many of the other series of records have records that are the primary resources for anyone researching various aspects of the history of Halfmoon.

Inventory

Bound Documents:

Town Boards and Board-Appointed Committees:

Minutes of Town of Halfmoon Board of Supervisors, 1786-2013

This is a series of minutes of the meetings of the Town Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon, NY and includes bound volumes and minutes in 3-ring binders. The Town Board met annually from 1788 mainly to elect town officers and to assign road construction; by the late 19th c. the Town Board met annually, but had regular Special Meetings as well. About 1901 the Board began to have regular meetings about once per month and continued to have Special Meetings. There were also Joint Meetings with the Clifton Park Town Board and Waterford Town Board about mutual issues and concerns especially roads and bridges. Meetings were held in the homes of various town residents, in hotels and later in the 19th century at the Town Clerk's Office. The minutes have loose correspondence, reports, orders, and so forth inserted into the volumes. These have been left in place as found. Indexing of minutes in the volumes begins in 1981.

The minutes include information about a variety of topics of interest to the town and Town Board. These include:

Election of town officers, laying out of roads, Board of Health reports, town audits, designation of polling places, canvassing of votes, bridge building, minutes of joint meetings with Town of Clifton Park and Town of Waterford, correspondence received by town, maps, Justice of the Peace, hydroelectric dams on Hudson River, bond issues, claims for compensation by the town, relief of indigent and poor Civil War veterans, school district reports and funding, health officer's reports of quarantined persons, bid and specifications for road, bridge and other work in the town, overseer of the poor reports, street lights, ordinances and permits re: baseball, bathing beaches, camps, etc., volunteer fire companies, fire district extensions, town borrowing, memorial resolutions, WPA projects, various funds (bridge, highway, machinery, snow, welfare, health; issuances of chattel mortgages, hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, marriage licenses, tax assessor, tax collector, petitions re: fire protection districts and water districts, ordinances re: vendors, peddlers and auto parts dealers and mobile homes, annual reports (statistical) of town departments, zoning, sewage disposal, lighting districts, water districts, legal notices, resolutions, contracts, invoices, change orders, Justice court reports, cable television, Town Attorney, Town of Halfmoon Master Plan, library tax district, insurance, septic systems, landfill closures, flood damage, fuel oil bids, subdivision regulations and construction standards, environmental assessment, grants, quarries, Clough-Harbor, Planning Board, Interpower, Halfmoon town employees appointments, salaries, benefits, etc., Local Laws, Senior Citizen Center, recreation, Saratoga County, Crescent Trail, transcripts of testimony at meetings, Boy Scouts, Mechanicville and other topics.

Volume No. Date:

No volume number, 2 volumes without any minutes; damaged in 1853 Town Clerk's Office fire. Pages are blank with water and fire damage and contain no information.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | April 1788-1827, with Commissioners of Highways minutes 1786-1830 |
| 2 | 1833-1855 town board minutes; Overseers of the Poor accounts, 1825-1841 and School District Reports, 1841-1852. |
| 3 | March 1854-February 1901 |
| 4 | March 1901-January 1916 |
| 5 | Jan. 1916-Dec. 1932 |
| 6 | Jan. 1933-Dec. 1938 |
| 7 | Jan. 1939-Dec. 1943, also includes printed estimate and preliminary budget for 1944 (later volumes usually include these and final budgets) |

Minutes for 1944-1947 missing

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|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 | Jan. 1948-Dec. 1951 |
| 9 | Dec. 1951-Oct. 1956 |
| 10 | Nov. 1956-Dec. 1962 (possibly missing some minutes as volume begins on p. 73 in the middle of a sentence) |
| 11 | Jan. 1963-Dec. 1964 |
| 12 | Jan. 1965-Dec. 1967 |
| 13 | Jan. 1968-Dec. 1969 |
| 14 | Jan. 1970-Dec. 1971 |
| 15 | Jan. 1972-Dec. 1973 |
| 16 | Jan. 1974-Dec. 1975 |
| 17 | Dec. 1975-Oct. 1976, in oversize folder |
| 18 | Jan. 1977-April 1977, in oversize folder |
| 19 | May 1977-Dec. 1977 |
| 20 | Jan. 1978-Dec. 1978 |
| 21 | Jan. 1979-Dec. 1979 |
| 22 | Jan. 1980-Dec. 1980, in oversize folder |
| 23 | Jan. 1981-Dec. 1981, in oversize folder |
| 24 | Jan. 1982-Nov. 1982, in oversize folder |
| 25 | Jan. 1983-Nov. 1983, in oversize folder |
| 26 | Jan. 1984-Dec. 1984, in oversize folder |
| 27 | Jan. 1985-Dec. 1985 |
| 28 | Jan. 1986-Dec. 1986 |
| 29 | Jan. 1987-Dec. 1987 |
| 30 | Jan. 1988-June 1988 |
| 31 | June 1988-Dec. 1988 |
| 32 | Jan. 1989-Dec. 1989 |
| 33 | Jan. 1990-April 1990 |
| 34 | May 1990-Nov. 1990 |
| 35 | Nov. 1990-Dec. 1990 |

36	Jan. 1991-June 1991
37	July 1991-Nov. 1991
38	Nov. 1991-Dec. 1991
39	Jan. 1992-Sept. 1992
40	Sept. 1992-Dec. 1992
41	Jan. 1993-August 1993
42	Aug. 1993-Dec. 1993
43	December 1993
44	Jan. 1994-Sept. 1994
45	Oct. 1994-Dec. 1994
46	Jan. 1995-Sept. 1995
47	Oct. 1995-Dec. 1995
48	Jan. 1996-June 1996
49	July 1996-Dec. 1996
50	Jan. 1997-Dec. 1997
51	Jan. 1998-Dec. 1998
52	Jan. 1999-Dec. 1999
53	Jan. 2000-Dec. 2000
54	Jan. 2001-Dec. 2001
55	Jan. 2002-Dec. 2002
56	Jan. 2003-Dec. 2003
57	Jan. 2004-Dec. 2004
58	Jan. 2005-Dec. 2005
59	Jan. 2006-Dec. 2006
60	Jan. 2007-Dec. 2007
61	Jan. 2008-Dec. 2008
62	Jan. 2009-Dec. 2009
63	Jan. 2010-Dec. 2010
64	Jan. 2011-Dec. 2001
65	Jan. 2012-Sept. 2012
66	Sept. 2012-Dec. 2012
67	Jan. 2013-Dec. 2013

Minutes of Town of Halfmoon Planning Board, 1964-2013

This is a series of the minutes of meetings of the Halfmoon Town Planning Board beginning in 1964 and running to 2013.

The minutes begin with the organizational meeting on February 13, 1964. That meeting had the Town Board appointing the Planning Board members and officers and setting the date for the following meeting in March 1964. At this first meeting, the duties of a Planning Board were explained and the Town Board explained why they believed a Planning Board was needed.

Minutes are in 3-ring binders, vols. 1-2 are handwritten in pencil and pen. Later minutes are typed. Topics include site plans presented for Board approval, statements of approval or disapproval of applications for proposed development or building, correspondence received by

board, reports from surveyors and others, memoranda re: environmental issues, correspondence, etc. re: to specific development proposals, zoning issues, legal notices published in the Townsman, site inspection policy, Clough-Harbor reports, transcripts of testimony before Planning Board.

Planning Board deals with site approvals for residential and subdivision developments, commercial site development (restaurants, car washes, stores, gas stations, etc.), sign approvals, mobile homes, construction equipment parking, septic system design, land use proposals, parking lots, auto dealerships, use permits.

Volume No.	Date
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Box 1:

1	Feb. 1964-March 1965; also includes correspondence, zoning ordinance, and general information about planning boards
2	Jan. 1968-Dec. 1969, handwritten minutes
3	Jan. 1970-Dec. 1972
4	1975-1976-1977-1978-1979
5	Feb. 1979-Dec. 1983
6	Jan. 1980-Dec. 1984
7	Jan. 1985-Dec. 1985
8	Jan. 1986-Nov. 1987
9	Folder of minutes of meetings, Dec. 1997 and June-November 1998 and correspondence re: organization and copies of planning board minutes.
10	USDA, Soil Survey of Saratoga County, May 1995 with maps.

Bound Volumes of Minutes:

11	Jan. 1988-Dec. 1988
12	Jan. 1989-Dec. 1990
13	Jan. 1991-Dec. 1992
14	Jan. 1993-Dec. 1995
15	Jan. 1996-Dec. 1997
16	Jan. 1998-Dec. 1998
17	Jan. 1999-Dec. 1999
18	Jan. 2000-Dec. 2000
19	Jan. 2001-Dec. 2003
20	Jan. 2004-Dec. 2005
21	Jan. 2006-May 2007
22	June 2007-Dec. 2008
23	Jan. 2012-Dec. 2012
24	Jan. 2013-Dec. 2013

Missing: Jan. 2009-Dec. 2011??

Minutes of Town of Halfmoon Zoning Board of Appeals, 1979-2013

This is a series of minutes of the Halfmoon Zoning Board of Appeals from 1979-2013. The minutes consist of statements of request for variance from zoning, with reasons for request, notes about any opposition to request, answers to any questions from the Board and vote to approve or deny the request. The variance requests are for both residential and commercial properties. It should be noted that the minutes re: to the request become more detailed and lengthy in recent years. There is also a folder that has a handwritten list of dates for which minutes are missing.

3 volumes dated as follows: 1979-2000, 2001-2009, and 2010-2013.

There is also a large Town of Halfmoon Zoning Map compiled by Clough, Harbour, Assoc., Nov. 2001.

Records of the Town of Halfmoon Ethics Committee, 2012

The Town of Halfmoon created an Ethics Committee by a Local Law, 2-1970 in 1970 to ensure “proper ethical conduct of its public officers and employees.” This is a single binder of minutes of the Ethics Committee for 2012 and includes a draft revision of the 1970 ethics law; also an article about municipal ethics boards and confidentiality of their proceedings.

Minutes of meetings of Town of Halfmoon Youth Commission

This is a series of minutes of the Halfmoon Youth Commission contained in 2 post binders. The Youth Commission was established in 1983 and had its first meeting May 9, 1983. The purpose of the Youth Commission is to “decide what types of programs and activities the people desire in the Town of Halfmoon and to also develop parks and other youth facilities which could be used for summer programs or year round programs.” The minutes include discussions about programs, parks, activities, budgets, staffing of town recreation programs, summer programs and other issues.

Vol. 1: 1983-1989

Vol. 2: 1989-1991

Financial Records of the Town of Halfmoon (Bound Volumes)

The following are several volumes and folders of financial records of the Town of Halfmoon.

Supervisor’s Budget Book, 1856-1898:

This is a one volume account book kept by the Halfmoon Town Supervisor and audited by the Town Clerk and Justice of Peace. It includes accounts of monies received from excise taxes, school funding, dog tax, fines, etc. by and paid to various town employees, residents and other villages by the Supervisor. Money was paid to inspectors of elections, overseers of poor, assessors, highway commissioner, for reports of births and deaths and others.

Book of Indebtedness, 1934-1951:

Record book of the loans of the Town of Halfmoon from the Bank of Waterford, NY, 1934-1951, includes amount borrowed, interest rate and date to be repaid.

Register of Bonds of the Town of Halfmoon, 1941-1980:

Record book of bonds issued by various banks to Halfmoon for various purposes, incl. revenue anticipation notes, tax equalization, water district serial bonds, trucks, bulldozer, and others, 1941-1980.

Minutes of Meetings of Town of Halfmoon Board of Auditors, 1894-1921:

This is a minute book of the Board of Auditors of Halfmoon and includes meeting minutes from March 1894 to August 1921. The Board examined bills and accounts submitted for payment by the Town and either allowed or disallowed payment. Bills were received from various town departments including the Overseer of the Poor, Highway Dept., jail, and others. Also, loose documents including bill of Overseer of the Poor and permit from same to St. Joseph's House for care of the Stevens child, 1918.

Ledger of Town Audit, 1916-1919:

Ledger of money received and paid as part of Halfmoon town audit; about 25 pp. only of the ledger are used; also, 12 pp. record audited amounts received and paid from various town funds, including Mortgage Tax, G.A.R. Post, Miscellaneous, Sheep, Manufacturers National Bank, Poor, Excise, Justices Fines, General, Corporation Tax, Dog License funds.

Record of Conditional Sale, 1949-1955:

This is a volume of the records of conditional sales of property to individuals from individuals in the Town of Halfmoon. The purchases were chiefly for automobiles, trucks, appliances, and televisions. The ownership of the item purchased did not accrue to the purchaser until the final payment was made for the item. These records are similar to the chattel mortgage records. The records are listed alphabetically.

List of Conveyances of Property in the Town of Halfmoon, 1920-1949, 3 vols.:

This is a series of 3 volumes of lists of conveyances of real property in the Town of Halfmoon. The information recorded included the Grantor, Grantee, consideration amount, and book and page number where the sale may be found in the Saratoga County Clerk's Office. The information is recorded monthly.

Mortgage Book of Town of Halfmoon, 1855-1942:

This is a book of mortgages recorded by the Town of Halfmoon, 1855-1941. The records include the name of the Mortgagor, Mortgagee, date of mortgage, amount secured, when due, date of filing of mortgage, renewal and remarks. The volume is in alphabetical order.

Chattel Mortgage Record Books 1895-1915 and 1942-1962.

This is a record of transfer of the right in personal property as security for the payment of money. The loaner owns the property until such time that buyer makes full payment for the property. Chattel mortgages were used to buy cattle and horses, automobiles, appliances, furniture and other goods; also used by factories to buy equipment and other materials. Chattel mortgages were used until other secured transactions (car loans, credit cards) took their place. They are important records of the types of personal property being purchased by consumers and corporations before the late-20th century. Many of the records in these volumes are purchases made in the Village of Mechanicville (part of Halfmoon until 1910). The data found in these records includes name of mortgagor, name of mortgagee, date of mortgage, name of the property (car, cow, tractor, etc.), amount of mortgage, date mortgage due, filing date of mortgage, and other miscellaneous data.

Certificates of Indebtedness, 1915-1916

A folder of Town Board resolutions of certificates of indebtedness of money borrowed to pay the debts of the town, 1915; also, a list from the Saratoga County Clerk of the stock corporations that filed incorporation certificates for the Town of Halfmoon, 1916.

Cancelled Checks, etc.

A folder of cancelled checks of the Town of Halfmoon on the Manufacturer's National Bank, 1915-1916 and the First National Bank of Mechanicville, 1893-1897; also a small group of receipts for goods and services purchased by the Town of Halfmoon, 1886-1905.

Town Clerk

Record of Ordinances, 1935-1968

This is a single bound volume of Local Laws and Ordinances of the Town of Halfmoon, 1935-1968, with originals, photocopies and printed copies of various ordinances re: to dumps, tax exemptions, sewage, mobile homes, zoning and other issues of concern. The papers are not pasted in the volume.

Vital Records of the Town of Halfmoon:

New York began statewide registration of births, marriages, and deaths ("vital records") in 1880-81, under supervision of the state and local boards of health. Compliance with the law was

incomplete until 1913 or even later; therefore certificates may be lacking for many events. The records were kept at the town level and copies were also collected by the NYS Department of Health. The Town of Halfmoon's records are nearly complete from the time that the state law went into effect.

This is a large series of bound volumes and binders of the records of births, marriages and deaths of the Town of Halfmoon. The information found in the vital records varies, including more or less data. The following indicates what information is found for each volume. Most of the categories of information in the vital records is noted, with some non-essential items not noted. This is an important resource for genealogical research and for legal purposes for individuals.

Volumes 1-17 are bound. Volumes 18-42 are 3-ring binders.

Vol. 1: Register of Births, 1882-1899 (one birth 1876 and a few after 1899): Date of birth, family and given names, sex, no. of mother's previous children, how many living, color or race if other than white, place of birth, maiden and married name of mother, mother's age, mother's birthplace, father's name, father's occupation, father's age, father's birthplace, medical attendant or other attestant, when registered and registered number.

Record of Still Births, 1885-1902: Date of birth, sex, color, month of pregnancy, cause of dead birth, mother's name, nativity of mother, residence, name of person making return, undertaker, place of burial

Register of Deaths, 1882-1899: Date of death, name of deceased, age, marital status, occupation, birthplace, how long a resident, father's name and birthplace, mother's name and birthplace, place of death, cause of death, time from attack until death, medical attendant or other attestant, place of burial.

Register of Marriages, 1882-1898: Marriage date, husband's name, his residence, age, race or color, occupation, husband's birthplace, father's name, number of husband's marriage, mother's name, maiden and married name of wife, her residence, age, color or race, wife's birthplace, her father's name, her mother's name, number of wife's marriage, name and official position of person solemnizing marriage, when registered and registered number.

Vol. 2: Same information as vol. 1, Births, 1899-1913, Deaths, 1899-1913, Marriages, 1899-1907

Folder of loose documents from volumes 1-2, now filed in volume 2: Documents include:

Burial Permits, Transit Permits and Certificates for reports of Tuberculosis Deaths, ca. 1882-1900

Bills of H.B. Mace, Undertaker for burials and for procuring death certificates, 1891, 1900-01 (See also Board of Health for other bills)

Invoices of doctors for reporting births and deaths, ca. 1886-1902 (See also Board of Health for other bills)

Appointments of a Citizen Member of the Board of Health, 1908 and of Health Officer for Town of Halfmoon, 1908.

Vol. 3: Record of Marriages, 1908-1948: Separate columns for groom and bride with same questions, including: name, residence, occupation, birthplace, color, age, no. of marriage, widower, divorced, if so, when and where, father's name and his birthplace, mother's name and

her birthplace, consent by and relation, date of license, date of marriage, place of marriage, official's name, profession of official, witness(es). There is an index to the records in the volume. Also, a few photostatic and photocopied records, a few Statements from Laboratory and Physician re: Wasserman tests for applicants for marriage license and a few Affidavits for License to Marry loose in the volume.

Vol. 4: Record of Marriages, 1948-1956: Same information as vol. 3 and note about Laboratory Statement and Physician's Statement with dates; also the time as well as date of marriage ceremony; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 5: Record of Marriages, 1956-1965: Same information as vol. 4; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 6: Record of Marriages, 1965-1974: Same information as vol. 4; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 7: Record of Marriages, 1975-Aug. 1980: Same information as vol. 4; has alphabetical index of names; some loose Affidavits for License to Marry, court orders dispensing with requirement for serological tests, and physicians statements of examinations.

Vol. 8: Record of Marriages, Aug. 1980-1984: Same information as vol. 4; has alphabetical index of names; has some loose Affidavits for License to Marry.

Vol. 9: Register of Births and Register of Deaths, as follows:

Register of Births, 1914-1921: Name of child, sex, twin, triplet?, number in order of birth, legitimate?, date of birth, father's name and mother's name and their residence, color/race, birthplace, occupation, and age; for father, what preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use or if none, state reason; for mother, number of her children, number of her children living; certificate of attending physician or midwife stating time and date of birth; has alphabetical index of names; also has many loose or pasted down birth certificates.

Register of Deaths, 1914-1921: Name of deceased, sex, color or race, marital status, date of birth, age, occupation, birthplace, father's name, birthplace of father, maiden name of mother, birthplace of mother, date of death, certificate of attending doctor with cause of death, place of burial, date of burial, undertaker, address of undertaker, burial permit issued by and date of issue; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 10: Register of Births and Register of Deaths, as follows:

Register of Births, April 1921-Aug. 1927: Same information as vol. 9; has alphabetical index of names; has several birth certificates pasted in vol.

Register of Deaths. Sept. 1921-Aug. 1927: Same information as vol. 9 with additional questions: did an operation precede death? Was there an autopsy? What test confirmed diagnosis?; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 11: Register of Births and Register of Deaths, as follows:

Register of Births, Sept. 1927-Dec. 1933: Same information as vol. 9; with some loose birth certificates; has alphabetical index of names.

Register of Deaths, Aug. 1927-Dec. 1933: Same information as vol.10. has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 12: Register of Births, 1934-Feb. 1952: Same information as vol. 9 with additional occupational data re: trade or profession; industry or business where work done, and date when last engaged in this work.

Vol. 13: Register of Deaths, Dec. 1933-June 1942: Name of deceased, residence, length of residence in district where death occurred, how long in U.S. if of foreign birth, sex, color or race, marital status, wife's name if married, widowed or divorced, date of birth, occupation, industry or business name, date when last worked at occupation, time spent in occupation, birthplace, mother and father's names and birthplaces, date of death, cause of death, contributory causes, where disease or injury contracted, name of operation, if any, what lab tests, autopsy?, certification by physician, place of burial or cremation, date of burial, undertaker and address, date of burial permit; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 14: Register of Deaths, June 1942-June 1952: Same as vol.13, except slight change in occupation data and medical certification includes questions about death due to accident, suicide or homicide, has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 15: Register of Deaths, July 1952-Sept. 1965: Same as vol. 14, except father and mother's birthplaces not given, and questions whether deceased was in the U.S. armed services and social security no., has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 16: Register of Deaths, Nov. 1965-March 1968; same information as in vol. 15, has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 17: Register of Births and Deaths as follows: Same information as vol. 11 and 15.

Register of Births, Sept. 1969-Nov. 1973 (only 6 records)

Register of Deaths, April 1968-Feb. 1974

Binders begin, Vol. 18-42

Vol. 18: NYS Dept. of Health, Certificates of Live Birth, April 1977-May 2013: Name of child, sex, single or twin, date and hour of birth, mother's maiden name, age, state of birth, s.s. no., residence (town, county and state), street address, father's name, age, state of birth, s.s. no., certified by and date of filing.

Vol. 19: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1985-1986. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 20: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1987-1998. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden

name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 21: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1989-1990. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 22: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1991-1992. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 23: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1993. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 24: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1994-1995. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 25: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1996-1997. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 26: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 1998-2000. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 27: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2001-2002. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 28: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2003. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 29: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2004-2005. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden

name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 30: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2006-2007. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 31: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2008, 2009-2010. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 32: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2011-2012. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 33: Affidavit, License and Certificate of Marriage, 2013. Bride and Groom's names, residences, ages, dates of birth, occupations, place of work, father's name and mother's maiden name, number of marriages, witnesses to ceremony, date of marriage; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 34: Certificates of Death, 1976-1986. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 35: Certificates of Death, 1987-1989. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 36: Certificates of Death, 1990-1993. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 37: Certificates of Death, 1994-1998. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving

spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; name and certifications by attending physician and coroner or medical examiner; has alphabetical index of names.

Vol. 38: Certificates of Death, 1999-2002. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names as part of a Summary of Deaths Report for the Halfmoon District.

Vol. 39: Certificates of Death, 2003-2005. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names as part of a Summary of Deaths Report for the Halfmoon District.

Vol. 40: Certificates of Death, 2006-2008. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names as part of a Summary of Deaths Report for the Halfmoon District.

Vol. 41: Certificates of Death, 2009-2011. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names as part of a Summary of Deaths Report for the Halfmoon District.

Vol. 42: Certificates of Death, 2012-2013. Name of deceased, sex, date and hour of death, race/color, age, birthdate, U.S. armed services veteran, state of birth, marital status, surviving spouse, occupation, s.s. no., education level, residence, father's and mother's maiden names, burial place, informant's name, funeral home, cause of death and immediate cause of death, if accident, suicide or homicide, date and place of injury and description of how injury occurred; has alphabetical index of names as part of a Summary of Deaths Report for the Halfmoon District.

Miscellaneous Vital Records Items:

1. Red binder of typed indexes to vital records as follows: marriages, 1882-1898, marriages, 1889-1907, deaths, 1882-1899, births, 1876, births, 1899-1913, deaths, 1899. Indexes give names and page numbers, but volume is unidentified.
2. Box labeled Negative Copies of births, deaths and marriages, includes negative photostatic copies of records of births, 1876-1900 (4 folders); births, 1899-1913 (4 folders) and deaths, 1899-1913 (1 folder with no photostats).
3. Map, rolled, of Union Cemetery, Crescent, Saratoga County, NY, 1887, shows cemetery lots with family names.

Boxed Documents:

Chattel Mortgages (individual mortgage documents), 1856-1894 1 cu.ft. (1 box)

These are individual chattel mortgages held in the Town of Halfmoon, including the City of Mechanicville, of the right in personal property as security for the payment of money. The loaner owns the property until such time that buyer makes full payment for the property. Chattel mortgages were used to buy canal boats and equipment, cattle and horses, home furniture, groceries, farm equipment, farm crops, billiard tables, blacksmith tools, office furniture, pianos; also used by factories to buy tools and equipment. Chattel mortgages were used until other secured transactions (car loans, credit cards) took their place. They are important records of the types of personal property being purchased by consumers and corporations before the late-20th century. Many of the records in these volumes are purchases made in the Village of Mechanicville (part of Halfmoon until 1910). The data found in these records includes name of mortgagor, name of mortgagee, date of mortgage, name of the property (car, cow, tractor, etc.), amount of mortgage, date mortgage due, filing date of mortgage, and other miscellaneous data.

Dog Licenses:

A small booklet listing dog licenses issued in 1890. (Files in box of Oaths of Office)

Commissioners of Highways:

The first state law concerned with highways was passed in 1797 and established what was known as the Labor System, whereby property owners were assessed a number of days (corresponding to the value of their property) to work on the town roads, usually with a team of horses. By a state law passed in 1873 the towns were given the option to replace the assessment of labor by property owners with a monetary tax. The town highway commissioners would estimate the cost of maintenance of the roads and contract out the work. The need for good roads increased as the population of the town grew and new modes of transportation were introduced at the end of the 19th century (bicycles and motor cars). The town commissioners of highways were responsible for the construction of town roads, their maintenance and repair and for the purchase of equipment and supplies to maintain the roads and bridges. The 20th century brought many changes to the road system and its funding with increased state and federal funding for highway construction and maintenance.

This series includes the records of the Town of Halfmoon Highway Department and the records of the Pathmasters of the town as well as some records of Fence Viewers. The Commissioners of Highways were responsible for any new construction and major repairs to roads, bridges and highways in the town. Regular road maintenance was the duty of pathmasters. The pathmasters, who were appointees, were required to get neighbors and others along the designated road, to work their assigned days doing road work.

Box 1:**Pathmasters:**

Most of the pathmaster records are lists of inhabitants along roads who were liable to work a certain number of days maintaining the roads. The pathmaster recorded their names and number of days to work. Records of names are usually listed by road district.

The records include:

Road Warrants:

This is a series of records that are similar to the Pathmasters lists of persons assessed for road labor. They are orders from the Town of Halfmoon Commissioner of Highways to the Overseers of Highways in various road districts of the town to assess listed persons for road labor or the persons may commute their labor by payment of \$1 per day. The Overseers are also to remove weeds from the roads, to report the names of all persons who have not worked on the roads or not paid the commutation fee of \$1. They are also to report the numbers of days worked by each person or commutation paid, the number of days not worked by others, numbers of those who paid a fine for not working and all monies collected are to given to the Commissioner of Highways. The following are the years for which there are road warrants. There seem to have been as many as 50 road districts, although the number varies. The road warrants for any specific year are not complete; there are usually several road districts represented, but not all. The villages of Crescent and Mechanicville are also included in some of the years of warrants. There is a Road Warrant form that was used by most Overseers, although many Overseers sent their list of assessed workers to the Commissioner of Highways in a letter or postcard. Many of the records are entitled "Notice to Overseer of Highways of his Appointment and List of Inhabitants," though these are just another form of the road warrant.

- a. 1870-1871
- b. 1871-1872
- c. 1872
- d. 1873
- e. 1874
- f. 1875
- g. 1875-1876
- h. 1877
- i. 1878-1879
- j. 1880
- k. 1881
- l. 1882
- m. 1883
- n. 1884
- o. 1885 (These records are called "Notice to Overseer of Highways of his Appointment," but the information contained is the same as road warrants.
- p. 1887-1889

- q. 1890-1891
- r. 1892
- s. 1893
- t. 1894-1895
- u. 1895
- v. 1896-1897
- w. 1898
- x. 1899
- y. 1900

Box 2:

Road Warrants, cont.

- z. 1901
- aa. 1902
- bb. 1903

Two manuscript booklets: List of Inhabitants Assessed to do Highway Labor in Halfmoon, 1864, 44 districts, names and no. of days assessed, 1864 and same title, 1871 with 48 districts.

Loose records include:

- Names persons liable for road work and days assessed, Dist. #4, 20, 1860
- Same, Dists. #1-44, 1863
- Same, Dists., #1-42, 1864 (not all districts)
- Same, Dists. 5-42, 1865, (not all districts)
- Same, Dist.#22, 1866; Dist. #1,6,9, 22, 31, 33, 42, 1867
- Same, Dist. #1-43, 1868, (not all districts)
- Same, no district nos., property along Waterford-Halfmoon Plank Road, 1870
- Same, Dists. #1-42, (not all dists.), 1869
- Same, Dist.# 1-52, 1878 and Crescent, 1879

Pathmasters, Miscellaneous records:

Applications of 6 property owners to be assessed for highway labor, 1870

Claim of Thomas Patrick for damages to his wagon and personal injury from road bridge break, 1866. Claim of James D. Hart for damage to his land by highway, 1868.

Appeal of Mary F. Childs of New York City re: highway labor, 1869

Application of Thomas B. Badgley to discontinue a road, 1860.

Petition of Moses Clements for creation of a new road district, 1871.

List of names by district number of workers performing road work with hours worked (no date).

Miscellaneous Records:

Petition of D&H Company, 1913, requesting that a portion of highway at DeVoe's Crossing be discontinued, with map

Deed of A. and K. Solosky of small piece of land to the Town of Halfmoon, 1917.

Two notices from Town Clerk of resolutions by Town Board to highway commissioners re: to maintenance of roads and bridge, 1907; resolution requesting a report on the estimated cost of improvements to bridges and roads in 1915; two bids to rebuild bridge at Vial Avenue, Mechanicville that had been destroyed by flood; 1896; 2 notices to remove noxious weeds and brush along highways, 1906; request by Commissioners of Highways to have special audit done of the bills of erection of a bridge, 1908; order of Saratoga County Court to assess damages from road building in Stillwater, NY, 1868.

Photocopies of Pathmasters documents, 1 folder

Applications of taxpayers in Halfmoon requesting to do work on the highway, 1871-1875. These appear to be documents that taxpayers filed to do road work in order to reduce their monetary property taxes, ca. 100 items.

Appointments of Overseers of Highways by Commissioners of Highways, listing names of overseers, their district responsibility and their post office address for: 1879-1889 and 1891-1898. Also, 2 letters of resignation from post of Overseer, 1895. Also, a list of the Overseers of Highways, 1861 and a notice to the overseer of Dist. 44 to return a list of persons liable to work on roads, 1876; also printed copy of state law of 1898 re: assessment of unperformed labor on highways. Also, a list of persons employed by the town superintendent as teamsters and laborers, 191?

Oaths of office of Commissioners of Highways, 1903, 5 oaths.

Financial and Legal Records of Highway Department:

Account Book for Uniform System of Accounting, 1912, of Labor and Material furnished and machinery rented for the repair and improvement of highways; and Labor and Material furnished for the repair and construction of bridges; and For the purchase, repair and storage of machinery, tools, and implements; and for removal of obstructions caused by snow and other miscellaneous purposes with Balance on Hand and Moneys Received and Available for all the above purposes. This is chiefly a record of workers on the roads and bridges with no. of hours worked and amount paid as well as money spent for materials and rental of machinery.

Commissioner's estimates of expenses for repairs and improvements on roads and bridges, 1856, 1860, 1862, 1867, 1869 and 1894.

Legal documents re: to alteration and building of highways, including releases from damages by various people, 1869-1873, including a manuscript map of new road and highway, railroad passing Charles Hickey lot, 1873. Also, appeal to Judge of the Saratoga County Court to appoint to assess damages to Commissioners of Highways of Halfmoon re: laying out of a road, 1868 or 1860; also settlement of claim re: damages re: private road of Knowlton Haviland, 1860. Letter of A. Howland about overpayment of tax on wood lot, 1873; also, dedication of highway and release of damages of Howland and Catherine E. Baker in Mechanicville, NY, with map, 1908; also certificate for closing highway, 1909.

Contracts, including: RFP for repair of county highway #59, 1910; contract with bond of Barber Asphalt Paving Co. for road repair, 1909; contract of Owego Concrete Company to build concrete bridge over the Anthony Kill on Vial Avenue in Mechanicville, 1909.

Receipt book of payments to laborers of the Highway Dept., 1914; (unidentified but this is likely for Highway Dept. workers receipts of wages).

Deeds of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Crescent, NY to Town of Halfmoon of lands, 1970-1971 and photocopies of deeds from L. and S. Christopher to the town, 1980 and from Central School Dist. #2 to the town, 1956; also a map of the lands of St. Mary's Church, Crescent, to be conveyed to the town, 1973 (all appear to be related to the abandonment of state highway #59 to the town.

Map of Saratoga County Road No. 85, formerly a portion of state highway no. 59, Town of Halfmoon, 1957. Also, a hand-drawn map of Town of Halfmoon showing borders with Clifton Park and Waterford.

Orders (2) from Town Clerk to Commissioners of Highways communicating resolution of Town Board to do some repairs on roads and bridges, 1907.

Buses:

Petition of Joseph Purcell to Town of Halfmoon for permission to run a motor vehicle stage line (bus service) between Stillwater and Troy, NY, 1928.

Minutes of Hearing, Nov. 30, 1953, of NYS Public Service Commission re: petition of Troy Fifth Avenue Bus Co., Inc. for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for temporary operation of bus line from Mechanicville to Troy and Stillwater.

Miscellany, including: notice about laying out of a highway from the Saratoga County Court, 1868; request from Commissioners of Highways to Supervisor to convene Board of Auditors to audit expenses incurred in building of a bridge, 1908, orders (2) to landowners to cut noxious weeds and brush near highways, 1906; certificate from Superintendent of Highways about closing a highway, 1909 (Vial Avenue where it crosses Anthony Creek); dedication of a highway in Mechanicville from H. and C. Baker to the Town of Halfmoon, with map, 1908.

Bridges:

Maintenance of bridges was part of the responsibility of the highway commissioners.

Miscellaneous bridge documents:

- a. Consent of Town Supervisor to allow Dunsbach Ferry Bridge Co. to use a highway to build a bridge at Dunsbach Ferry, 1898. Same consent by Highway Commissioner and same consent by owner of land on east side of highway.
- b. Bids from 4 contractors to build the Crescent Creek Bridge, 1908. Letter from from David F. Smith, Inspector of the bridge stating that the bridge work is complete and a "first-class bridge." Also, contract, 1908, of James J. Cassidy to build a bridge over Crescent Creek.
- c. Gleason's Bridge: A petition of Nelson Overacker, 1869, to change the route of the road between Gleason's Bridge and the road between Mechanicville and Waterford because the current location is dangerous; with a survey map and description and with approval by the Commissioner of Highways. Also, a Release of the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad Co., 1870, for any costs re: to alteration of Gleason's Bridge Road in consideration of \$275 paid to Commissioners of Highways.
- d. Commissioners of Highways report, 1870, of improvements needed on bridges, including the bridges at: Gilletts Mills, Gideon Close, Callanhan's, Chriddenden's and Van Den Berg Lansing's.
- e. Claim by A.V. Smith re: work on bridges, 1896.
- f. Plan for Donaldson's Bridge, Town of Halfmoon, NY, G.A. Ensign, Aug, 1907, with cross section, longitudinal section and plan of the floor.
- g. Two bids from contractors to repair and replace a bridge at Viall Avenue wrecked in recent flood, March 1896.
- h. Plan of a bridge by Myron Hulin, contractor, May 22, 1905.

Box 3:

Railroads:

Miscellaneous documents of the Commissioners of Highways re: to railroads.

- a. Petition to Commissioners of Highways for a new highway across tracks of Fitchburg and D&H Railroad companies at west end of yard around Union Depot, 1887.
- b. Petition to Commissioners of Highways to require D&H Co. to have a flagman or gates at Fitzgerald's Crossing, 1900.
- c. Order of Supreme Courts Saratoga, Washington and Warren counties to local assessors to reduce special franchise tax vs. Hudson Valley Railway Co., 1905
- d. Assessors of Town of Halfmoon to D&H Canal Co. re: lands in Dist. #11 for school purposes, 1892.
- e. Statement of Robert J. Van Orden of Railroad Young Men's Christian Association, Mechanicville, NY, 1908, of services provided and without any profit to the YMCA.
- f. Map, rolled, of the Boston and Maine Railroad, Proposed Changes in East Bound Yard, Mechanicville, NY, July 1912, 1:200 scale, ca. 5.5 ft. long. Map shows railroad tracks in the yards and immediate area as well local roads and the Anthony Kill.

- g. Map, rolled, of the Boston and Maine Railroad, Plan of East Bound Yard, Sept. 1912, 1:200 scale, ca. 6 ft. long. Map shows railroad tracks in the yards, roundhouse and immediate area as well local roads and the Anthony Kill, lands of the DeVoe family.
- h. Partial release of mortgage of Old Colony Trust Co. to Boston and Maine RR re: lands in Halfmoon, 1960, 2 cop.; also deed for land to Town of Halfmoon, 1960.
- i. Right of Way and Track Map, D&H Co., June 1916, Glenville Jct. to Coons and Map showing D&H Railway Co., Proposed Elimination of Walsh's Grade Crossing, Town of Halfmoon, 1978.

Fence Viewers

This is a small series (4 folders) of records of the fence viewers in the Town of Halfmoon and is filed with the Highway Department records.

The Fence Viewers duties seem to have been chiefly to appraise the value of sheep killed or injured by dogs in the town. The documents are mainly certifications that the fence viewers were asked by sheep owners to appraise the value of sheep killed or injured. The fence viewers appear to also have been Commissioners of Highways because the names of commissioners are found as the appraisers throughout this series. The documents date from 1878, 1881 with most of the documents dated 1891-1909.

Some Fence Viewer documents that have been scanned, incl.: certification of fence viewer that sheep owned by Patrick H. Byrnes killed by dogs, 1887; claim of Nicholas Vischer, a fence viewer, for viewing and appraising value of sheep killed by dogs, 1887; certification of Edward McDonnell, Assessor and Nicholas Vischer, Commissioner of Highways and others that sheep owned by Edgar Holmes and others that were killed by dogs, 1876, 1883, 1884, 1885-1888, 1894-1896, 1899-1900, 1903, 1908; also claims made in 1860 and 1878.

Fence Viewer records which were not scanned include certifications of fence viewers that sheep were damaged or killed by dogs on various farms and claims for damages against town accounts. The records date mainly from 1892, though there are a few earlier (1878, 1881) and several later (1894-1908).

Highway Department Records Scanned:

This is a list of the items that were sampled for scanning in 2013. They have been kept separate from their specific series for convenience. The items include;

1. List of Inhabitants assessed for Highway Labor, 1878
2. Bill for engineering services re: arch bridge at Leland over Ensign Creek, 8/31/1879
3. List of Overseers of Highway, 1861
4. Petition to Town Board to appoint Edward C. Sickler as Highway Commissioner to fill vacancy caused by the death of Peter Weatherwax
5. Tax Book for Road Scraper, 1898
6. Oaths of Office of Commissioners of Highways, 1861
7. Oath of Overseer of Highways, 1862
8. Appointments of Leedie Woodin, 1903 and James I. Cassidy, 1900 as Commissioners of Highways.

9. Bills to Highway Dept. for stone arch bridges, bridge building and repairs and culvert repairs, 1880-1899 (2 separate groups)
10. Highway, Bridge and Miscellaneous Report, 1907
11. Bills for Purchase of machinery and repairs, 1894-1899
12. Bill of Peter S. Weatherwax, 1896-1897
13. Bill for services from Peter W. House, 1855, (photocopy only)
14. Petition to Highway Commissioners ...freeholders ...in Village of Clifton Park...to improve sidewalks, 1906.
15. Complaint of Mary F. Childs re: alteration of highway, 1869
16. Complaint about road in bad condition, 1898 (photocopy only).
17. Bill and certification by Justice of the Peace for work building a bridge at Vial Block, Mechanicville, NY, 1887
18. Assessment for taxes to Western Union Telegraph Co., 1921, and applications by the Cohoes Power and Light Corp., 1922 and Halfmoon Light, Heat and Power Co., 1917 to install, etc. poles, lines, cables, etc..
19. Petition of Overseers of Road Districts to town for purchases of a Vulcan Road Machine, 1892.
20. Certificates of Commissioners of Highways of the following improvements to roads and bridges necessary with estimated expenses, 1897-98, 1907.
21. Commissioners of Highways file of papers, including names of persons liable for road work, accounts of commissioners, receipts for material, wages paid to road workers, sidepath document, two documents re: to building stone arch bridges at River Road (1882) and on the Waterford and Whitehall Turnpike (1881); Bills for lumber, coal, cement, and other goods and services provided to the Highway Commissioners, 1870, 1889-1905. This is a large file which was filed in a box labeled Scanned. There are no target sheets with the file, but these documents may have been scanned.
22. Bills from vendors for lumber, cement, repairs, roadwork, etc. 1868-1896.

Highway Dept., Records (not scanned)

Claims, reports, checks, vouchers of Commissioners of Highways for reimbursement for services and supplies provided for road and bridge work, with receipts of payment to road workers and suppliers of gravel, cement, planking and other supplies, with statements of monies received, 1865-1867 (Edward McDonnell and Thomas Badgley), 1892-1893, 1895, 1898, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908

Receipts to Commissioners James W. Rawley and Peter S. Weatherwax for road and bridge maintenance supplies from various vendors, including for cement, wood planks, cobblestone, spikes, wagon axle, gravel, pipes, etc., 1897-1898.

Board of Health

Board of Health of the Town of Halfmoon, Minute Book, 1882-1913

Minute Book of the Board of Health of Halfmoon including organizational meeting minutes, July 5, 1882, and minutes of meetings, 1882-1913. Minutes of July 22, 1882 includes the Orders and Regulations to adopted by the Board of Health for the governance of their work, pp. 4-14; also a printed copy of the orders, pp. 79-80. Board dealt with sanitation complaints, contagious illnesses, midwives and births, and many other issues. There is also folder of loose documents found in the book including nuisance complaints, and printed copy of NYS Board of Health regulations re: illuminating oils, adulteration of food and drugs, forms for delayed certificates of vital records and letter re: to registering vital records in New York State communities. The Town Accounts series includes many bills for medical services by various physicians in the town as well as orders from the Overseers of the Poor and others to provide medical services to the poor.

Claims by Board of Health: These are folders of claims made by members of the Board of Health, 1892-1896, 1897, 1899, 1902, 1908, and 1911. The claims were made for attendance at Board of Health meetings and burials, but mainly recording marriages and issuing death certificates. The names of both partners are given in the marriage record and names of the deceased and date of the recording of the marriages and death are given. (Folder files in the box of Oaths of Office); also a report by a physician, 1904.

Overseers of the Poor:

Overseers of the Poor would judge whether persons were in need of minimal aid. They also examined whether persons were deemed settled in the town. Overseers of the Poor were local officials, like selectman or freeholders. Meeting the eligibility requirements for relief was not easy. Widows or elderly were often granted small amounts of aid at home. Within a budget from town taxes, the Overseer of the Poor could provide food, fuel, clothing or money to spend at a local store to purchase the needed supplies by the poor family. They could also order a local physician to provide medical treatment which would also be paid from the Overseer's tax-funded budget. Burials of those on relief might also be paid for by the Overseer. The Overseer is named the Poormaster in some records, mainly late 19th and early 20th century.

Record Book of the Overseer of the Poor, 1895-1914:

This record book has two sections as follows:

Names of Poor Persons, including the first and last name of the person, age, sex, native country, and cause of pauperism. This section is important as a genealogical source because of the detailed information about each person listed. Most of the native countries listed are United States, Ireland, Italy, France, Poland and Canada. The causes range from varieties of sickness, old age, unemployed, desertion by husband, children, husband in army or in prison and others.

Financial account of Overseer of the Poor, including: Moneys Paid Out, When, To Whom Paid and On What Authority (usually Overseer or Town Supervisor). This section has the names of the poor who received a variety of assistance (named in record), but does not include any other genealogical information besides the person's name. There is a folder of loose documents found in the volume, including poormaster accounts, certificates of the Overseer that relief is needed and others.

Overseers of the Poor, 1855-1916

These are orders to provide relief from the Town Supervisor to any Overseer of the Poor and from the Overseers to various physicians and others to provide services to those on relief as well as statements of claims for reimbursements for expenses for goods and services provided in the care of the poor in the Town of Halfmoon, including the City of Mechanicville. The goods included clothes and shoes and receipts for groceries. The documents include the names of the person(s) or families cared for; also orders of the Justice of the Peace or Town Supervisor to the overseers to provide temporary relief to people named in the order for amounts not to exceed variable amounts. The overseers included Thomas E. Hickey, Dorus E. Francisco, Alonso W. Grandy, Chas. H. Paris, Abram Dutcher, Thomas J. Sweeney, J.H. Cowen Jr., Charles Scouten, James H. Sickler, and A.D. Pelkey. There are also orders of the overseers to doctors to provide medical aid to named poor person(s). Also, one Annual Report of the Overseer of the Poor, 1897 that includes the name of the overseer, names of the poor with their age, sex, native country, cause of their need, and dollar amount of relief provided. Also, physicians' claims for reimbursement for services provided (mainly Dr. G.S. Murray; also Dr. J.C. Dow, Dr. Frank A. Palmer, Dr. C.W. Keefer, Dr. Wm. Van Doren, Dr. A. C. Kniskern); also physicians' bills for services in 1893 for surgery, "confinement" of women, medicines, and office visits. There are also claims for burials of those on relief from funeral directors. Also, oaths of office of Overseer of the Poor, 1862-1873, 12 oaths, and bonds (3) of the overseers, 1872.

Box 1:

Folder 1: Overseers of the Poor, Orders and Claims, 1877
Folder 1A: Claims, 1855 (1) and 1863 (1)
Folder 2: Overseers of the Poor, Orders and Claims, 1878
Folder 3: Same, 1882
Folder 4: Same, 1884
Folder 5: Same, 1886
Folder 6: Same, 1887
Folder 7: Same, 1889-1890
Folder 8: Same, 1892
Folder 9: Same, 1893
Folder 10: Same, 1896
Folder 11: Same, 1897
Folder 12: Same, 1898
Folder 13: Same, 1899

Box 2:

Folder 14-15: Same, 1900
Folder 16: Same, 1902
Folder 17-19: Same, 1903
Folder 20: Same, 1904
Folder 21: Same, 1905
Folder 22: Same, 1907-1908
Folder 23: Same, 1909
Folder 24: Same, 1911
Folder 25-27: Bills of Overseers for named persons (same type of information as above, different form), 1916

Box 3:

Folder: 28: Contracts of Doctors, 1887-1888 (Drs. Chas. H. Ingraham, Geo. S. Murray and J.C. La Dow
Folder 29: Doctors' Claims, 1892
Folder 30: Same, 1893
Folder 31-32 Claims of Dr. G(eorge) S. Murray for provision of medical services by order of the Overseer of the Poor, 1904-1905, 1909, 1911. Other claims by Dr. Murray are found in the chronological records and Doctors' Claims of the Overseer of the Poor beginning in 1887.

[Dr. George S. Murray was born in 1846, probably the son of George and Angeline Murray (Luzerne, Warren Co., NY, in 1850 census) and was married to Frances E. and had a son named George. Dr. Murray is listed in the 1900 census in Halfmoon as 54 years old with a son, George, NY. His spouse, Jennie Haight Murray, 1863-1953, is buried there also.]

Folder 33: Certificates of Admission (2) for Albany Orphan Asylum for Helen and Edward Dwyer, 1905.
Folder 34: Same, Annual Report, 1897, of Alonso W. Grandy
Folder 35-36: Statement/Reports, (semi-annual) of Overseers of the Poor including names of persons receiving aid with the type of aid (sometimes) and amount of aid given, 1904, 1905, 1909 and 1911. Overseers include A.W. Grandy, A.D. Pelkey, Judson Bowers and George W. Knights.
Folder 37: Oaths of Office of Overseers of the Poor; bond of A.W. Grandy as Overseer, 1903.
Folder 38: Opinion of the NYS Attorney General to Town of Halfmoon in re: to an enquiry about who is entitled to poor relief by the town and what is the authority of Overseers of the Poor to provide this relief, 1889 as well as a resolution by the town board about the provision of poor relief.

Overseer of the Poor, Scanned Documents: These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Folder 39: Bills from physicians for attendance on patients, 1873-1887

Folder 40: Bills from stores, etc. for food, clothing and other goods and services provided for the Overseer of the Poor, 1894-1897

Folder 41: Overseer of the Poor, incl. receipts for goods purchased for relief, and appointment of an overseer

Folder 42: Resolution for the revival of distinction of town and county poor re: poor being maintained and expensed by Saratoga County and the towns therein, Jan. 1912.

Board of Elections

The Saratoga County Board of Elections is a bipartisan department with the responsibility for administering elections in the county. The Town Clerk in Halfmoon has the responsibility of preserving election records that are either required by law to be kept permanently or are kept for historical information about the town and its residents. There are a variety of election records including names of voters, election results, names of candidates, and records of expenses of election officials.

Box 1: *Scanned Records*

Scanned Documents: This is a list of the items that were sampled for scanning in 2013. They have been kept separate from their specific series for convenience. The items include;

F. 1: Prohibition Party, nominations for town offices, 1891, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1898

F. 2: Democratic Party, nominations for town offices, 1891; Republican Party, nominations for town offices, 1897, 1898.

F. 3: Citizen's Independent Party, list of names, 1901

F. 4: Poll List of Halfmoon, 1846

F. 5: Poll List for election of state offices, 1870

F. 6: Poll Lists for Dist. 1-2, 1870 and for 1876 for election of state offices

F. 7: Poll Lists of Halfmoon for 1864, March, November and Poll List for Special Town Election for the purpose of raising money...to fill quota of the late call of the President for 300,000 men, Dec. 1864; also a resolution of the Town Board that a War Committee has been appointed to negotiate loans for raising money on the credit of the town to pay volunteers or to pay bounty for substitutes, Dec. 1864.

F. 8: Election records for March, 1863 and challenges of voters in November 1861 and November 1866

F. 9: Certified canvass of election of town offices, 1870

F. 10: Certified canvass of election of state offices, 1858

F. 11: Certified canvass of election of town offices with Poll List, 1876

F. 12: Certified canvass of election of town offices with Poll List, 1881 and Poll List for 1883

F. 13: Poll List for 1885 and Certified canvass of election for 1887

F. 14: Certified canvass of election of town offices, 1890

F. 15: Poll List for 1894

F. 16: Statement of votes for Electors of President and Vice-President, 1888.

F. 17: Oath of Office as Inspector of Elections, 1865 and claim for reimbursement of expenses as Inspector of Elections, 1872.

F. 18: Proposals for the use of voting machines, 1900.

F. 19: Candidate's Statement of Election Expenses, 1903; also bills from livery stables, 1903, for delivering ballots.

Statement of election at annual meeting, March 1863 with names of those elected to town office; also statements of voters challenged at elections, 1861 and 1866.

Letter of NYS Attorney General re: date of town annual meeting, Jan. 27, 1898.

The following are items that appear to have been scanned.

Certificates of Canvass (election returns by district elections usually held in March and November),

F. 20: Canvass (election returns by district elections held in March and November), 1857, 1858, 1862, 1868

F. 21: Canvass, 1869, 1870, 1871

F. 22: Canvass, 1873, 1875

F. 23: Canvass, 1874

F. 24: Canvass, 1877, 1878

F. 25: Canvass, 1879

F. 26: Canvass, 1880

F. 27: Canvass, 1881, 1882

F. 28: Canvass, 1883, 1884

F. 29: Canvass, 1882, 1889

F. 30: Canvass, 1884 (also Poll List for ED 2)

F. 31: Canvass, 1885

F. 32: Canvass, 1886

F. 33: Canvass, 1887

F. 34: Canvass, 1888

F. 35: Canvass, 1889

F. 36: Canvass, 1890, 1892, 1893

F. 37: Canvass, 1895, 1901, 1903

F. 38: Poll List for Halfmoon, 1960-1961

Miscellaneous election records that appear to have been scanned:

F. 39: Poll lists for 1857

F. 40: Candidates expense statements, 1898; certificates of electors, 1901; NYS Attorney General letter re: appointment of poll clerks, 1895; Citizens' Independent Party nominations, 1901.

F. 41: Ballot Return Sheets, 1899; Inspectors' Returns and Statements of Canvass for various court offices and ballot questions, 1913.

F. 42: Petition re: appointing a Board of Auditors, 1892-93 and re: changing polling places

F. 43: Democratic and Republican Party nominations, 1891-1896; nominations for No License Party, 1892-1893 for Excise Commissioner; Prohibition Party nominations, 1892.

F. 44: Affidavits of Unregistered Voters, 1862; oaths of office, 1899, 1905, 1907, 1910, 1913.

F. 45: Board of Auditors audit reports for election workers expenses, 1894, 1902

F. 46: Canvass Book (Poll List) of names of voters with party affiliation (Republican, Democratic, Doubtful), no date, (may be dated in late 1850s-1860s)

F. 47: Letter from NYS Attorney General to Wm. T. Moore, 1/27/1898, re: date for holding town meetings.

Box 2: *Election records not scanned:*

Halfmoon Election Districts:

This is a one page geographic description of the boundaries of the election districts in the Town of Halfmoon in 1914. The delineation of the election districts was done because the Town Board in 1914 changed the number of districts from 5 to 8. The document is very brittle and there are several copies of it as well as a photocopy. Also, typed description of the election districts 2-3 and 5 dated 1905 (3??cop.)

There are also resolutions to alter election district boundaries, 1859, 1877, 1880.

Poll Lists:

The Town of Halfmoon was required to keep lists of residents who were allowed to vote and these lists of voters were kept by district; Halfmoon seems to have had two districts until at least 1889; 5 districts in 1890. The poll lists include names of voters for both local and state elections and for special local and state elections. Each voter was assigned a number that would be used as his (women did not have voting rights until 1920) ballot number. The registers were compiled annually and the following is a list of the poll lists in this record series.

Poll List of:

District #2, 1858

Dist. #1, 1859

Districts #1-2, 1863; also poll lists for general election, Dist.#1-2 1863

Districts #1-2, 1864

Districts #1-2, 1865; also poll list for Special Election, 1965 re: proposed amendment in re: to the appointment of 5 Commissioners of Appeals.

District #1, 1866 and poll list for annual meeting, March 1866; also poll list for Dist. #2

Districts #1-2, 1867 and poll list for special election for Delegates to Convention (NYS Constitutional Convention of 1867)

Districts#1-2, 1868; also poll list for town election

District #1 and #2?, 1869

District #1, 1870 and Districts#1-2, 1871

District #2, 1872 and District #2, 1873; also Dist. #1, 1873; also Dist. #2, 1873

Districts #1-2, 1874 and poll list for voters at annual town meeting, March 1874

Dist. #2 and Dist. #1876

District #2, 1877; also Dist. #1

District #2, 1878

District #2, 1879; also poll lists for Dist. #1 (2)

Districts #1-2, 1880; also Dist. #1

Dist. #1, 1881

Dist. #1, 1883

Dist. #2, 1885 and Dist. #1-2, 1886

Dist. #1-2, 1887

Dist. #1, 1888

Poll Books, Dist. #1-5, Nov. 1890, 7 books

Dist. #1, 1890

Dist. #2, 1890

Dist. 1-4, 1892

Dist. 1-5, 1893

Dist. 1, 1894

Dist. 2-5, 1895

Dist. 1-4, 1896

Box 3:

Poll Books:

Poll Books, Dist. #3, 1904; Dist. #3 and 5, 1906; Dist. 1-3, 1907

Poll Lists by Address:

These are two lists, one printed and one handwritten, with names and addresses. The lists were found among the election records, so are likely poll lists. The printed list is of names and addresses in Mechanicville (pp. 59-64 only). The second list indicates names along roads in the Town of Halfmoon; this list is a crude hand-drawing of the roads and is on very brittle paper. Neither list is dated.

Poll lists, undated, 1 folder.

Poll List Books without dates. There are 18 poll list books and 2 poll lists that are undated. They appear to date from approximately 1880 to 1905.

Register of Electors:

These records are a continuation of the Poll Lists and include the name of the electors, residence (street name) date when registered, ballot number and in later years other columns were added (native country, length of time at residence, signature of voter, etc.), and were sometimes, but not always completed. The records are listed in each yearly volume by first and second meeting; i.e. times of voting.

Registers of Electors for:

District #1-5, 1890 (filed after Poll Lists)

The following Registers are filed in 3 oversized packages (not in boxes)

District #5, 1905
District #2, 1910
District #3, 1910
District #4, 1911
District #5, 1911
District #2, 1912
District #3, 1912
District #4, 1912
District #5, 1912
District #2, 1927
District #1, 1929
District #2, 1929
District #3, 1929

Candidate Statements of Election Expenses/Nomination Records:

This is a series of records of the statements of campaign expenses of candidates for various local offices in the Town of Halfmoon certifying that they have not contributed or spent any money on their campaign or if they have expended any monies they list how and to whom the money was spent for their campaign. There are records for the years 1891-1898.

Election Expenses:

This is a series of records of claims for reimbursement for expenses of services during elections made by Inspectors of Elections, Ballot Clerks, Poll Clerks, Police Constables, for building use for elections, etc.

Claims for expenses of by Inspectors of Elections, etc., 1886-1895, 1894, 1896, 1898,

Box 4:

Claims for expenses of by Inspectors of Elections, etc.: 1902, 1903, 1905, 1908, 1909.

Ballot Receipts:

This is a series of receipts of the Inspectors of Elections made to the Town Clerk upon receipt of packages of blank ballots to be used in elections. There are receipts for the years 1891-1907. (2 folders, 1891-1899, 1900-1907).

Oaths of Office of Inspectors, Poll Clerks, 1906.

Certificates of Nomination: Republican Party, 1901, 1903, for town election; also, lists of Republican Electors as Delegates to the town convention, Feb. 18, 1896, from election districts 1-3.

Declination of nomination: Letters declining nomination for various elective posts, 1891-1899; also declination of town constable candidate and certification of Democratic Party nomination of another candidate, 1897.

Affidavits of Unregistered Voters: 1862, 1864, 1867-1869, statements of voters, unregistered to vote, with the reason for not attending the registration day. Also, one Challenge Affidavit (for Charles Kirkpatrick), 1900 (questions asked of the person along with a physical description of him).

Voting Machine: United States Voting Machine Co., pamphlets and flyers along with an order from the Town of Halfmoon for voting machine, 1900.

Appointment of Inspectors of Election and Watchers: These are a few appointments by the Republican Party of Inspectors of Election, 1906, 1908, 1909, and Watchers by the Democratic Party, 1908. Appointments, 1881, 1896-97, 1908.

Election Districts: A broadside notice of division of Halfmoon into 5 election districts, 1890; Notice of Town Board of alteration of election districts no. 1 and 2, 1859; Notice of Town Board re: alteration in election districts, 1877; Notice of Town Board re: alteration in election districts, 1880.

Miscellany:

Printed circular from NYS Secretary of State, 9/25/1875, about changes in state constitution re: elections.

Subpoena to testify at a hearing of the NYS Senate, 3/5/1886, re: petition of Austin A. Yates for a seat in the Senate.

Ballot for primary election of Democratic Party, 1949

Paper bag for stubs of primary ballots of Dist. #2 for Democratic Party,

Box 5:

Election Returns/Certificates of Canvass:

This is a largest part of the election records of the Town of Halfmoon. Elections were held in March and November of each year. The records include Ballot Returns of the Ballot Clerks, Inspectors Returns of Elections and Certificates of Canvass of Elections. The Canvass and Returns of Elections include information such as the number of full sets of official ballots furnished to the election district, number of ballots cancelled, number of stubs, whole number of ballots cast, number of ballots found blank, number of ballots declared void, total number of ballots cast, total number of votes for each office and the names of candidates for each office and the number of votes they received and other data that may be added for particular years. The elections were for local, state and national offices. There are also results for special elections.

There are ballot returns, inspector returns and certificates of canvass for several years. The following years are represented by these records. Most of these records are many pages per year and have been tightly rolled for about a century. Some have been flattened, but most remain rolled and will be difficult to use until flattened.

1857, Election District 1-2, (ED)
1858, ED 1
1861, ED1-2
1862, ED 1 and Special Election
1864, March, Nov., ED 1-2; also town election, June 1864, for soldier's bounty.
1865, March, Nov., ED1-2 and town meeting election
1866, Nov., ED 1-2, March town meeting election
1867, Nov., ED 1-2; April, ED 1-2, and oath of challenged voters, and town meeting for election of inspectors of elections
1868, March, ED 2, Nov. ED 1-2, Nov. election of presidential electors, March town meeting election,
1869, March ED 1, Nov. ED 2
1870, May, ED 1-2 and 1871, Nov. ED 1 and annual town meeting election
1872, Nov. ED 1 and certificate of canvass for presidential electors.
1873, March town election,
1875, March, ED 1-2,
1876, Nov., ED 1-2 general election and ED 2 presidential electors.
1877, March, ED 1-2 and postcard, 1878, concerning election results for town office and
1882, Feb., ED 2; also March town election, 1878; also March town election, 1879; also town election, 1880.
1890, Nov., Election District (ED) 1-5; also receipts of official ballots
1891, March, ED 1 and Nov. ED 1, 4-5
1892, Nov., ED 1-5, General Election
1892, Nov. ED 1-5, State, Congress, Judiciary, County Officers and Constitutional Amendments
1892, Town Officers election, March, ED 1-3, 5
1893, March, ED 1-5 and Ballot Clerk's reports.
1894, March, ED 1-5 for town election and Nov. ED 1-4, for general election

1895, March, ED 1-5 for town election with Official Canvass (totals for all districts) and Nov., ED 1-5, for general election
1896, March, ED 1-5, for town election; also handwritten canvass
1896, Nov. ED 1-5, for general election
1897, March, ED 1-5, for town election; and Nov. ED 1-5, for general election

Box 6:

1898, March, ED 1-5, for town election; also handwritten canvass
1898, Nov. ED 1-5, for general election
1899, March, ED 1-5, for town election; and Nov. ED 1-5 for general election; also handwritten canvass.
1900, Nov. ED 1-5, for general election
1901, Nov. ED 1-5, for general election
1901, March, ED 1, 4-5, for town election
1901, March, ED 2-3, for town election

Box 7:

1902, Nov. ED 1-4, for general election
1907, Nov. ED 5 for town election and Nov. ED 4-5, for general election, and 1908, Nov. ED 5, for general election.
1909, Nov., ED 1,5 for general election
1909, Nov., ED 1-2 for town election
1909, Nov. ED 3-4 for town election
1909, Nov. ED 5 for town election; also two blank Inspectors' Returns and Statement of Canvass
1910, Nov. ED 2,4,5, for town election
1910, Nov. ED, 1,3-5 for general election
1911, Nov. ED 4-5, for town election
1911, Nov. ED 1-3, 5, for general election
1912, Nov. ED 5, for general election
1913, Nov. ED 3-5, for town election
1913, Nov. ED 1,3-4, for general election and 1914, April for Special Election, ED 1.

Ballot Return Sheets: These are statistical reports of the numbers of ballots sent to each district, those cancelled, those spoiled by voters, ballots returned as unused, no. of ballots voted, total no. of ballots, no. of detached stubs, etc. for the years 1891, 1898, 1900-1903. Also, Ticket Statements, 1895, of votes cast for each political party.

Tally Sheets: These tally sheets of ballots cast for various town elective offices, 1898, Dist. #1-5; 1899, Dist. #1-3.

Oaths of Office and Bonds

Oaths of office are affirmations that a person takes before undertaking the duties of a government office. Oaths were required by the laws of the state before the person could exercise the powers of the office. The oath of office is a statement of loyalty to the U.S. and New York State Constitutions and a statement that they will “faithfully discharge the duties of the office.” The oath also often states that the officeholder has not received any monies to influence the election. Oaths of Office in this series are for various town offices in Halfmoon and include those for Assessor, Inspector of Elections, Highway Commissioners, Constable, Excise Commissioner, Supervisor, Town Clerk, Auditor, Overseer of the Poor, Collector, Justice of the Peace, Poll Clerk, Ballot Clerk and other offices.

Most of the oaths also include the bond by the officeholder stating they will be liable for any monies paid to them as part of their duties. Some of the oaths/bonds are called “bail bonds” and some as “affidavits.” Some bonds are written separately, but filed with the oath. By about 1895 Inspectors of Elections were also required to sign an additional oath, sometimes called a “statutory oath” stating that they would not try to influence or persuade any voter or place any memorandum into a voting booth to influence the election of any person.

The oaths are usually a printed form that was completed and signed by the officeholder, though many of the oaths are completely handwritten. The bonds were signed by the officeholder usually in the presence of the Town Clerk, Supervisor or Justice of the Peace and signed by those officials.

Oaths of Office and Bonds:

Oaths of Office and Bonds records scanned. These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Oaths/Bonds for office of Constable, 1854, 1855, 1862, 1865, 1867

Oaths/Bonds for Election Inspector, 1864

Oaths/Bonds for Assessor, 1862-1873

Petition for the appointment of David F. Smith for Justice of the Peace, and Oaths for Labor and Sealer of Weights and Measures, 1872.

Oaths/Bonds for Superintendent of Common Schools, 1854, Commissioners of Highways, 1855, Town Supervisor, 1873

Oaths/Bonds for Constable and Game Constable, 1862-1873

Oaths/Bonds for Collector, 1867 and Supervisor, 1862-1872

Oaths/Bonds for Town Clerk, 1862-1873

Records not scanned:

Oaths of Office are filed chronologically, 1864-1903. The following years include oaths of office:

1. 1854, 1855, 1864, 1866, 1868
2. 1877
3. 1879
4. 1880
5. 1881
6. 1883
7. 1885
8. 1887
9. 1888
10. 1889
11. 1890
12. 1891
13. 1894
14. 1895
15. 1896
16. 1897
17. 1898
18. 1899
19. 1900: also includes Collector's Bonds for town school districts
20. 1901
21. 1902
22. 1903

Appointments, 1863-1896, 2 folders:

Appointments of individuals to town positions, such as Inspector of Elections, Deputy Town Clerk, Poll Clerk, Ballot Clerk and other positions, as needed because of vacancy in the positions or because temporary position needing to be filled; with permanent positions to be filled by election at next annual meeting election, 1890-1896; also resignations of various officials; also a

few notices of acceptance of offices, 1855-1858; also petitions of residents to Town Board to appoint various people Justices of the Peace.

Board of Excise Records

Prior to 1896, local governments in New York State had the power to license places that sold alcohol and charge a license fee. After 1896, New York State government took over this function and the towns no longer had the responsibility to charge a license fee for alcohol sales. This series dates from 1873 to 1895 and includes the following records.

Minute Book of the Board of Excise, 1885-1892. The minutes consist of statements that applications and bonds were presented for a license and whether the application was accepted and the license issued and what fee was charged. The applications were received from hotels, grocery stores, druggists and individuals (selling alcohol from their house).

Bonds of applicants for license to keep an inn, tavern or hotel and to sell "liquors, wines, ale and beer..." and to ensure that it not be "disorderly, or suffer any gambling...with the inn..." Bonds were for the penal sum of \$250; also, Applications for a License to sell "liquours, wines, ale and beer;" also, approved licenses for storekeepers; also, petitions from residents of various election districts to approve the application of particular applicants for licenses to see alcohol. The application, bond and petition are usually filed together for each applicant. There are records from the Town of Halfmoon, including the village of Mechanicville and of Crescent. The village is noted on the applications and in later years the street address of the tavern/saloon is given on the application.

Box 1:

The following are the years for which bonds, applications, petitions and approved licenses are in this series:

1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896.

Box 2:

Scanned items:

Tavern License

Applications and Bonds scanned. These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Applications for tavern license, 1870

Petitions for tavern license, 1870

Bonds of tavernkeepers, 1860, 1863, 1868, 1870, 1872, 1891

Applications of Freeholders to sell alcohol, 1870

Grocers' Bonds to sell alcohol, 1870, 1872

Innkeepers' Bonds to sell alcohol, 1860

Bills of Board of Excise for services on the board and for use of rooms for board meetings, 1895

Book (unbound) of Minutes of the Board of Excise, 1854, 7 leaves. Also, minutes of May 1868 meeting of Board of Excise.

List of names from whom money was received by the Excise Board, 1894

Report of Excise Board of names of persons who were granted licenses, 1875, 1881 and 1889

Report of the Supervisor of the Excise Fund, Feb. 1900.

Items not scanned:

Reports of the Commissioners of Excise, 1878, 1887 and oaths of office of Commissioners of Excise, 1890.

Statements made to Town of Halfmoon by holders of excise certificates of monies paid to the town (required by state Liquor Tax Law), 1908-1910.

Minute Book of Board of Excise, May 1, 1885-April 12, 1892; consists mainly of presentation of applications and bonds for licenses and approval or rejection of application; if approved, the amount of payment made.

School Records

There were school commissioners in the Town of Halfmoon as early as 1796; from 1812-1843 there were a number of school commissioners appointed and there were also many inspectors of the schools appointed. In 1844, there were about 14 school districts and the town appointed a Superintendent of the Common Schools and continued to do so until 1856 when the school districts became organized by Assembly district by state law. In 1878, there were 12 school districts in the town. Most early school records are not extant.

Regarding the records of Special Franchises in this series, the following was taken from online history of taxation in New York State and may clarify the use of these particular franchise records:

In 1899, the State Board of Tax Commissioners was authorized to assess special franchises (the right of railroads and utilities to occupy public streets and public places, including the value of tangible property located therein) and in accordance with the statute, the Board assessed the special franchises at full value. The special franchise assessments determined by the Board were certified to the local assessors who were required to enter the assessments on the assessment roll without change. Since the Board and the local assessor had no power to equalize special franchise assessments to correspond to other property in the locality, the only remedy to procure equalization was by a court proceeding. In 1912, the Legislature empowered the State Board of Tax Commissioners to equalize special franchises.

The equalization of special franchises by the State Board of Tax Commissioners (not to be confused with the State Board of Equalization) produced several factors or by-products which were most significant in the development of state equalization. In this respect any data or information secured for the purposes of equalizing special franchises was made available to the State Board of Equalization. Moreover, the State Board of Tax Commissioners published equalization rates for each city, town and village, which were to be subsequently utilized for various other purposes – such as, apportioning of grants-in-aid, apportioning of taxes among school and special districts and determining tax and debt limitations.

The following lists the school records in the Town Clerk's Office.

School Records Scanned: These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Minute Book of School District No. 2; School District No. 2, Orange; School District No. 1, Halfmoon and Joint School District, No. 1, Halfmoon and Waterford, 1813-1858. Minutes include appointments of teachers and of officers of the school board, resolutions on taxes and those exempt from school taxes, about fines to be paid by parents of students who break panes of glass, money appropriated for books for the library, and other topics. The school districts held meetings annually and semi-annually and had special meetings as well.

Transfer of property from Dist. #9 to Dist. #1, 1878 with appeal to NYS Dept. of Public Instruction, 1879.

Transfers of property from one school district to another; including requests, decisions, etc. all relating to alteration of school district boundaries, 1867-1869; also order to consolidate two school districts in order to create a union free school (in Middletown), 1877; also consolidation order for Dists. 2 and 3, 1886; also removal of Crescent school district from union district, 1888.

Equalization of assessment of Union Free School Dist. #1, 1878; and Certificate of Apportionment of Commissioners, 1895.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools to Town Board, 1855 re: various matters, but chiefly re: to creation of new school districts and alteration of district boundaries; also firing of incompetent teacher and other matters.

Apportionment of assessment for businesses in Town of Halfmoon, 1893, 1900, 1910, chiefly of electric and telephone companies and railroads.

Apportionment of assessment for businesses in Town of Halfmoon, 1872-1907, chiefly of electric and telephone companies and railroads.

Reports, 1875, of each district in town of number of children attending school, etc.

Letters from NY State Dept. of Public Instruction re: school law and appointments, 1889, 1897, 1905.

Application and appointment of Henry Shafer as attendance officer, 1907-1908 with bill for services of Shafer, 1900-1901.

List of taxable property owners in various school districts, with the warrants of the school trustees to the Collector of school taxes, 1887, 1889, 1894; includes names of property owners with amount of real and personal property and their school tax. Also for 1900-1903.

Lists of school officers and trustees for various school districts, 1867, 1872, 1877, 1878, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1886 (beginning in 1886 a form for the information began to be used though only for a few years), 1887, 1888, 1889. The lists were required to be sent to the Town Clerk each year.

Lists of school officers and trustees for various school districts, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899.

Lists of school officers and trustees for various school districts, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906.

Bills to Town Supervisor from school trustees requesting school monies, 1891, 1894; also account statement of Supervisor, 1894 listing teachers' names and amount paid, 1894.

Pay stubs and paychecks of teachers, 1899-1900; also orders from Supervisor to pay teachers, 1893-1894.

11. Check stubs from Manufacturers National Bank and First National Bank made by G.H. Whitney, GEM Pharmacy (perhaps Overseer of the Poor funds?), 1899-1900

12. Orders to pay teachers' wages, 1899

The following school records were not scanned:

1. Wage statements to Supervisor from various school trustees to pay various people for their services as teachers in the school districts. Many, (most) of the teachers are women; a good source of information for wages paid to teachers and to women at that time, 1884-1897, 1902-1903. The wage form includes the name of the teacher, amount owed, no. of the school district, dates of service as a teacher, date of statement, and name of the school trustee; also a School Moneys statement that lists teachers and amount paid in 1895.
2. School district alterations (2); for alteration of the union free school district no. 10 in Halfmoon and school district no. 8 in Stillwater, NY, 1890; for the dissolution of school district no. 4 in Clifton Park and addition to other districts in Clifton Park and Halfmoon, 1911.
3. Delinquent School Tax, Saratoga County, lists of unpaid school taxes in school districts 3,4,5, 11 in Halfmoon, 1909-1911.
4. Commissioners' Certificates of Apportionment, 1869-1889, 1908, for school districts in Halfmoon. These records include: district no., no. of children aged betw. 5 and 21, average daily attendance, apportionment for teachers wages, amount of library money and total paid to district with certification by school commissioners.
5. Receipts of State Superintendent of Public Instruction for copies of Annual Reports of the Superintendent, signed by various Halfmoon school trustees, 1891-93. Also miscellaneous receipts and orders to town supervisor from school boards to pay various amounts of apportionment, 1884-1890.
6. Statements for apportionment of assessment of various companies, all are electric, telephone or railroad companies, including: Delaware & Hudson Railway, Boston & Maine Railroad, American Telephone and Telegraph Co., Schaghticoke Power Co., Cohoes & Waterford Home Telephone Co., Postal Telegraph and Cable Co., Mechanicville Electric Light & Gas

Co., Halfmoon Light, Heat & Power Co., Hudson River Electric Co., Fitchburg Railroad Co., Western Union Telegraph Co., Hudson Valley Railway Co., New York Telephone Co., Commercial Union Telephone Co., Adirondack Electric Power Corp., Hudson River Telephone Co., Hudson River Power Transmission Co., New England Telegraph Co., 1894-1914. This is interesting particularly for the number of electric power and telephone companies with property in the Town of Halfmoon at the turn of the century.

7. Collectors' Bonds, 1887-1907. These are certifications by the collectors of school taxes to collect and account for all monies collected and to faithfully execute the duties of collector.
8. Lists of the Collectors of school taxes, 1932-33, 1937-1941.
9. Certificates of assessed valuation ...as apportioned by Assessors of School Districts, and certified by Chairman of the town board of assessors on form submitted by the New York Power and Light Corporation, 1935-1940, 1946-47, 1949-50 and same for American Telephone and Telegraph Co., 1923, 1943, 1946-1950.
10. NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance, valuation of Special Franchises property as taxable, 1900, 1901, 1903; 1935-1937, 1941-1942, 1947. The companies effected by these special franchises included NY Power and Light, Postal Telegraph-Cable Co., NY State Electric and Gas Co., D&H Co., Fitchburg Railroad, Hudson Valley Railway Co., Hudson River Power Transmission Co., Rensselaer & Hudson Railroad Co., Western Union Telegraph Co., ATT and Mechanicville Electric Light and Power Co.
11. Miscellany: claim for delivering school reports, 1905; statement of total valuation of Dist. #3, 1910; names of trustees in unknown district, 1911, transfer of farm from Dist. #9 to Dist. # 11, statement Supervisor of the School Moneys disbursed, 1895.

Justice of Peace and Court Records

In New York, the justice-of-the-peace tradition that began in England was continued in various early local courts, including justice of peace courts, magistrates' courts, police courts, and town and village courts, all of which collectively served as predecessors to New York's current town and village court system. The justices who served in these courts were, by all accounts, extremely hard-working, dedicated, and committed public servants, despite receiving little pay and virtually no assistance. Indeed, one prominent study of law enforcement in colonial New York observed that "[n]o one who has examined the now fragmentary records of how the body of [colonial New York] justices applied themselves to their duties can fail to marvel at the pains taken by so many of them to discharge their office." Like their English brethren, justices in New York's early local courts primarily exercised limited criminal jurisdiction over arraignments, non-felonies, and other similar matters. By the eighteenth century, however, New York's Justice Courts had begun to hear some civil cases, and, by the nineteenth century, these courts had risen to considerable prominence within the state. This latter fact was expressly recognized by the Court of Appeals near the end of the nineteenth century in *People ex rel. Burby v. Howland*; as the Court wrote therein, the state's Justice Court system "is regarded as of great importance to the people at large, as it opens the doors of justice near their own homes, and not only affords a

cheap and speedy remedy for minor grievances as to rights of property, but also renders substantial aid in the prevention and punishment of crime.”

The first meaningful reference to the Legislature’s authority over the Justice Courts occurred in 1846, when voters enacted a new Judiciary Article of the State Constitution that authorized the Legislature to control the manner in which town judges and judicial officers were elected. The provisions set forth in this Article remained largely unchanged through the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, though various refinements to the Justice Courts’ powers were made during this time. Included among these refinements were provisions allowing localities to establish local courts and elect judges, as well as measures formally establishing jurisdiction over arraignments, non-felony offenses, and some civil matters.

(Above paragraphs are quoted verbatim from “Justice Most Local: The Future of Town and Village Courts in New York State,” Sept. 2008)

The Town of Halfmoon Justice of the Peace system was an active part of the community with the first JPs elected in 1831. Earlier justice in the town appears to have been handled by Constables and other town officials. By statute the Justice of the Peace courts handle misdemeanors and minor grievances and appeals from JP decisions go to the Saratoga County courts. Most records in this series are for cases of public intoxication, abandonment and non-support of wife and children, vagrancy and tramps, and petit larceny. However, the records here indicate that the JPs seem to have handled some more weighty matters, including assault and battery and rape; serious cases, however, were usually transferred to the county court.

The records include warrants and subpoenas, depositions, transcripts of cases before the JPs, search warrants, statements of fines received by the JPs, claims for reimbursement of costs by various justice officials and other material.

The records were created by the work of various Constables, Justices of the Peace and Deputy Sheriffs.

Box 1:

Justice/Court Records: scanned documents: These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Names of prisoners delivered to Saratoga County Jail, 1906 by D.J. Hubbs, and list for 1912

Commissioner of Jurors Records: Certified list of jurors, 1896, 1902, 1909 1911; giving name of juror, occupation, and p.o. office. (scanned).

Bills of JPs, Constables and Deputy Sheriffs for work on particular criminal cases, 1862-1887

Claims of Heman Freeman, Administrator of estate of Wallace Freeman vs. Town of Halfmoon, 1896.

Letter from Village of Mechanicville Attorney denying the Town of Halfmoon the use of the village lockup without just compensation for its use, April 12, 1890; with letter from village to town supervisor fixing the rate of \$25 for use of the lockup.

Printed letter from Governor's Office, March 15, 1916 re: to convict labor, commutations and parole, cost of prison system and prison industries.

Justice Records not scanned:

Folders 1-2: Depositions of Constables and other officers that a person was publicly intoxicated and was arrested, 1913-1915.

Folders 3-4: Depositions of Elmer Cowen and others (Constables) about persons who were tramps, i.e. a vagrant, 1914-1915.

Folder 5: Undertaking an Adjournment; bail documents for cases to be transferred to the Court of Special Sessions of Saratoga County, for more serious cases of assault, rape, 1914-1915, 1923-1924

Folders 6-7a: Statements of Fines received by Justices of the Peace, monthly statements, 1906, 1908-1915, 1920-21

Folder 8: Search Warrants, 1914-1915 (4 items); Notice for Rent, 1915 (1 item).

Folder 9: Certificates of Conviction, 1915, 3 forms: General (for petit larceny, assault, etc.), Intoxication, and Tramp. Certificate specifies that the defendant was found guilty and gives sentences of imprisonment in county jail and fines. The Tramp certificates do not specify a sentence.

Folder 10: Criminal Subpoenas, 1914, 1922-24, orders to appear for cases before JPs and returns of Constables that they have served subpoenas. Also, Summons Returnable, 1923-1924.

Folder 11: Depositions before JPs, 1915, concerning assault, vagrancy, theft, neglect of support for spouse, disorderly runaway child, sale of pork and ham, cookies and crackers on Sunday in violation of state law, rape, carrying a revolver without a license and other crimes.

Folders 12-13: Warrants to Peace Officers of the Town of Halfmoon from JPs to arrest named persons, 1906, 1913-1915

Folders 14-15: Information forms: These are depositions signed by witnesses before JPs about various crimes, 1914-1915.

Folder 15a: Information forms: Information for Larceny forms, 1914-1925.

Folder 15b: Information forms: Information from NYS State Troopers re: traffic violations, 1925-27.

Folders 16- 17: Transcripts of questioning of defendants before JPs, 1915; all of these cases are of "State Tramps." There was a standard set of questions asked of each tramp and a card with the questions is included with these transcripts; the transcripts do not include any statement of conviction or sentence imposed.

Folder 18-23: Transcripts of questioning of defendants before JPs for various crimes, 1915, including public intoxication, vagrancy, criminal contempt, assault, disorderly conduct, selling goods without a license, and other crimes; also some transcripts of testimony of witnesses in a trial.

Folder 24: Warrants for arrest of parent under Compulsory Education Law, 1914-15, 3 items

Folder 25: Deposition of Frank Johnson that R. Fenbloom was selling goods without a license with a printed copy of the Mechanicville village ordinance re: hawking of goods and many other activities, 1915.

Folder 26: List of prisoners in County Jail, 1914-1915 sent by JPs of Halfmoon, NY. Also, receipts of receiving town prisoners in the Albany County Penitentiary, 1914;

Folder 27: Information re: to a violation of Labor Law at wagon repair facility in Mechanicville, NY, 1914.

Folder 28: Complaint of Cora Searles v. Arthur Searles, 1914. Also case of Harry D. Connor as a disorderly person, 1914.

Folder 29: Albany County Penitentiary, receipts of prisoners to the penitentiary, 1904-1906, 1914; also a list of prisoners (names, crime, amount of time, etc.) sent to Ballston Spa, 1913; also booklet of receipts of prisoners sent to Saratoga County Jail by the Stillwater Town Constable, 1904-05; also two receipts for receiving two boys at State Industrial School, Rochester, NY, 1906

Folder 30: Bail before Indictment, bail sureties by indicted persons, 1920-1925

Folder 31: Commissioner of Jurors, lists of jurors, 1868, 1872, 1874-75, 1881, 1884, 1887, 1890, 1893-94, 1899, 1921-22; also printed notice "Qualifications of Jurors."

Folder 32: Criminal Venire and Venire (orders to police or constable to summon certain persons for jury duty), 1914-1925

Folder 33: Bonds of Justice of the Peace, 1904-1905; also resignation of John W. Post as Constable, 1902.

Folder 34: Summons and Complaints, 1921, 1925

Folder 35: Brundage v. Aldrich case, 1924

Folder 36: Complaint, summons, answers, etc., ca. 1918-1925

Folder 37: Execution of judgments of the JP courts, 1914. 1922-23 and case dispositions of JP courts, 1905.

Folder 38: Justice of the Peace miscellany: resignation of a JP, vacancy in office of JP, appointment of JP, opinion of state Attorney General on an appointment to a vacancy after JP left Halfmoon because of criminal charges, 1898.

Folder 39: Miscellaneous items, incl. bills from law publishers for forms, etc..

Folder 40: Papers in the case of George Mulligan, 1887.

Box 2:

This box contains depositions and certificates of claim by Justices of the Peace, Police Justices, Constables and Deputy Sheriffs for reimbursement of their expenses.

These claims include the name of the claimant, criminals' names, crimes, places where imprisoned, mileage, food for prisoner, setting bail, swearing of witnesses, recording sentences, issuing warrants, taking depositions and statements, issuing subpoenas, swearing in juries, as member of town Board of Health and member of Canvass Board, meeting with the Town Board, attending court (Constables), conveying prisoners to penitentiary or county jail, regular salary (Constables appear to have been paid \$200 per year in 1894), receiving complaint, making arrests, meals and fare for travel (for both officer and prisoner), serving as officer at the polls, and other costs encountered in the doing their jobs.

Many of these claims have been partly unfolded and flattened, though there are many that were tightly folded and cannot be used until they have been flattened.

Folders of claims include:

1891-1892, mainly Constable

1891-1893, mainly Justice of the Peace

1893, mainly Constable and Deputy Sheriff

1892, 1894, mainly Constable

1894-1899, mainly Justice of the Peace

1897-1899, mainly Constable and Deputy Sheriff

1902-1903, mainly Justices of the Peace

1903-1906, mainly Constable and Dep. Sheriff

1903-1905, 1908, mainly Justice of the Peace

1908, Constable and Justice of the Peace

1909, (2 folders), mainly Constable

Also in this box:

Folder of 3 dockets of judgement by Justice of the Peace, 1879.

Folder of Miscellaneous documents, including: Bill for board of prisoners at county jail in Ballston, 1917; bills for use of lockup in Mechanicville, 1887, 1899; claims for salary from truant officer Henry C. Shafer, 1897-1899; resignation letter of John W. Post as Constable, 1902; part of a printed letter from NY State Governor re: prison industries, 1916; deposition of Catherine Curley, administratrix of estate of Patrick Curley, 1898; receipts for prisoners received at State Industrial School and Albany County Penitentiary, 1906.

Assessor

The function of the Assessor in the Town of Halfmoon is to maintain a fair and equitable assessment of all real property within the town. In the 19th century and early 20th century, assessors also assessed the value of personal property for taxation and the records here include some of these forms of record.

Assessor: Scanned Documents: These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Claims of net worth for taxes, 1864, 1865; examination and affidavit of persons that they have no personal property above their debts liable for taxes, 1865, also for 1873-1893, including deposition by Lemuel H. Tupper, Superintendent of the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad of the value of the company's property in Halfmoon; affidavit of Edward McDonnell re: erroneous assessment of his property; also erroneous assessment, 1891, of Clute and Waldron farm, 1878; statement of James Waldron of his personal property, 1877; order of Board of Supervisors to Collector of the Town of Halfmoon to collect various amounts for various accounts, 1854. Assessors' valuation of the property and legal documents re: to the valuation of the D&H Canal Co., Rensselaer & Saratoga Railroad, Fitchburg Railroad Co., Boston, Hoosac Tunnel and Western Railway Co., 1891-92; also manuscript map of the borders of Dist. #1 claiming less valuation by the Fitchburg Railroad Co..

Certified lists of stock corporations whose principal place of business was in Town of Halfmoon, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911.

Application and determination of school district trustees of Clifton Park and Halfmoon re: equalization of assessments, 1876.

Warrants and Tax Lists for School Dist. #2, Halfmoon, 1906, 1907.

Application to Reduce Assessment, 2 applications, 1897

Halfmoon town taxes, receipts of paid taxes, 1909, 1911; 3 letters re: taxes, 1909

Apportionment of school assessment for railroads, telegraph and other companies, ca. 1885-1912, file of accounts, receipts, property valuations, and other material.

Sworn statements about amount of personal property owned by individuals, 1869-1876, 1893, 1898.

Assessor documents not scanned:

F. 1: List of corporations in Halfmoon, June 23, 1906 (appears to be similar to the certified lists of stock corporations)

F. 2: Appointment of Samuel Fowler as Assessor, 1905; Assessors' claims for services as assessor 1906.

F.3: Affidavit of the value of the property of the Boston, Hoosac Tunnel and Western Railway Co., 1892; Affidavit of the D&H Canal Company in the Town of Halfmoon, 1891 and Report of the condition of the Manufacturers National Bank, Mechanicville, NY 1904, including a list of the shareholders in the bank.

Town Board:

These are some documents re: to corporations that were submitted to the Town Board for consideration.

Petitions to Cohoes Light and Power Co. and Halfmoon Heat, Light and Power Co. re: extension of electric lines in Village of Clifton Park and Hamlet of Crescent, 1923.

Town Board consent to allow Cohoes Light and Power Co. to construct electric and gas lines and equipment in the town, 1922 with NYS Public Service Commission approval of petition of the Cohoes Light and Power Co. to construct an electric plant extension in the town, 1923. Also, NYS PSC approval of request of Halfmoon Light, Heat and Power Co. to construct electric plant extension in Halfmoon, 1923.

Cohoes Light and Power Co., Schedules for Electric Service in the City of Cohoes and of the Halfmoon Light, Heat and Power Co. for the City of Mechanicville, Village of Stillwater, Town of Stillwater, Town of Schaghticoke, Town of Halfmoon and Town of Clifton Park, 1924.

Permits and approvals for construction of an electric plant and for installation of poles in Halfmoon by NY Power and Light Co. and NYS Electric and Gas Co., 1930, 1933.

Following petitions, etc. are all concerned with consent of the Town of Halfmoon to run a bus lines on roads in the town.

Petition of Bohl Bros., Albany, NY to run a bus line from Albany to Saratoga Springs, NY, 1930

Petition of Brownell Bros., Mechanicville, NY to run a bus line from Mechanicville to Troy and to Schuylerville and Stillwater, 1928.

NYS Dept. of Public Service, certificate of convenience and necessity amended to allow bus line to Troy, NY, 1929.

Petition of Brownell Bros., Mechanicville, NY to run a bus line from Albany to Saratoga Springs, NY 1930 with resolution of approval from Town Board

Petition of Joseph M. Purcell, Mechanicville, NY to run a bus line from Stillwater to Troy, NY, 1928.

Adirondack Stages, Inc., New York, NY petition to run a bus line from Saranac Lake to New York City thru. Town of Halfmoon, with notice of public hearing, minutes of session of NYS Dept. of Public Service and certificate of convenience, 1932-1936.

Fire Warden/Fire-Water District

Documents re: to the suppression of fires in Halfmoon that were scanned prior to this inventory.

Bills from Fire Warden for extinguishing fires and related services, 1890 and 1897. (see also Town Accounts for other such bills).

Annual Report of Co-operative Fire Insurance of the Clifton Park and Halfmoon Mutual Fire Insurance Association, 1902, 1903 and 1905.

Documents re: to the fire/water district of the town are in listed in chronological order (not scanned)

A statement of NYS municipal law re: to payments to injured volunteer firemen; order to hold public hearing re: establishment of Clifton Park/Halfmoon fire district, 1940; proposal to add part of the Jonesville Fire District to the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Fire Dist., 1945; \$1000 bond of Water Dist. #1 , 1949; deposition that notices of public hearing re: the Jonesville and Clifton Park/Halfmoon fire districts were posted, 1946, bond of insurance company for Treasurer of Clifton Park/Halfmoon Fire District, 1947; Petition, Resolution, Map and other papers re: the extension of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Fire District #1, 1960.

Statements from the National Commercial Bank and Trust Co. to the Waterford-Halfmoon Fire District #1, 1962-1964; offer to contract from the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Fire District #1 to provide fire protection for the Town of Halfmoon, 1964; title search of property of the Halfmoon Water District #2, 1966; resolution altering boundaries of Clifton Park-Halfmoon, Jonesville and Vischer Ferry fire districts, 1967; legal description of boundaries of the Waterford-Halfmoon Fire District #1, 1969; memorandum of Halfmoon re: issuing of new bonds, n.d.; town map of Halfmoon showing Halfmoon-Pruyn Hill Fire Protection District, 1963. Also, two envelopes of bond coupons for bonds dated 1962.

Town Accounts:

These records are arranged in chronological order by year. The records are chiefly of claims made to the Town of Halfmoon for payment for goods and services. In addition, other record forms may be found in this series, including bonds (aka "undertakings") of various town officers. The records are in the following order: chronological, 1861-1959. Many claims that were filed by office have been kept with that office's files.

Some of the typical claims made for payment are from the Justices of the Peace for their services, including granting orders for relief payments to the poor, Board of Health claims by physicians and by members of the Board for attendance at meetings, Auditors for services with the Auditing Board, Town Attorney for services on various town legal matters, Assessor (often for claims of erroneous assessment), Town Clerk for filing, meeting attendance, etc., Town Supervisor, official election work (Ballot Clerk, Poll Clerk, Inspector), Overseers of the Poor, Fire Warden, Constables and Deputy Sheriffs, Highway Commissioners, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise.

There are also claims for payment by vendors to the town, including for printing, surveying, building bridges, burials of the poor, and for furnishing rooms for town meetings and elections and others. There are also claims by the Village of Mechanicville for use of jail and other claims. It should be noted that while these are chiefly financial records of payments for services by various town officers and vendors, some of the records have information of use beyond the strictly financial data. For instance, the bills paid for submission of death certificates give the name of the deceased and the date, while bills submitted by Deputy Sheriffs and Constables usually include the names of prisoners and their crimes as part of the description of the officers' services. Justices of the Peace were also members of the Board of Health and had oversight of the Overseers of the Poor and their accounts may include names of abandoned children or the names of people receiving poor relief. These latter overseers also often including the country of origin of the person (America, Ireland, England, as well as the age of the person; these records may be good sources of genealogical information.

It may be assumed that each year listed below has typical claims and other records in this series. Unusual or interesting claims are mentioned where found in particular years. In addition, records in other series of the town records, such as the Overseer of the Poor have similar claim records as found in this series. Therefore, anyone researching these claim records should also look in other record series found in the town records.

As in the case of other record series in the town records, all of the records were folded for many decades and are often difficult to unfold (and will remain so until they receive conservation treatment). So, as in the other series, some of the records have been unfolded and others remain in folded.

Box 1: *Claims arranged chronologically:*

1860: Claims by election workers, Overseer of the Poor, Constables, Commissioners of Highways, medical officers, etc.

1861: Claims mainly by Overseer of the Poor, registers of voters, constables.

1862: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs etc.; also Abstract of Town Accounts allowed by Board of Auditors, Nov. 1862

1863: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, etc.

1864: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables, Overseer of the Poor, etc.; also Abstract of Town Accounts, Nov. 1864. (Overseer of the Poor account mentions relief given to “Mrs. Johnson, contraband,” who may have been an escaped slave; also lodging provided a disabled soldier.)

1865: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways; most of the claims are of the latter and from vendors for bridge building materials and labor, as there seems to have been a “freshet” i.e. flood on March 17, 1865 that damaged or destroyed several bridges in the town.

1866: Claims by election workers, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, etc. (Overseer bill notes “taking care of sick soldier;” also, a form letter from Lockwood L. Doty of the Bureau of Military Record, Sept. 14, 1865, about completing the town record books of data about Civil War soldiers.

1867: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

1868: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, etc.; including claim by Thomas Noxon for services for the Bureau of Military Record determining the cost and how paid of the soldiers from the town.

1869: Claims by election workers, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, etc., including election result of Dist. #2 of election March 1869 for local offices.

1870: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

1871: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Physicians, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

1872: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Physicians, Overseer of the Poor, etc.; also petition and request that a highway be laid out, 1872.

1873: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Commissioners of Excise, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

1874: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Physicians, Supervisor, Overseer of the Poor (including those of Charles Parris); etc.

1875: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, 1875: Claims by Overseer of the Poor, etc.; also Abstract of Town Accounts, Nov. 1875.

1876: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Fence Viewers, Overseer of the Poor, etc.; also a check made to Dr. Reed B. Bontecou, Troy, NY for medical services (Bontecou was a famous Civil War surgeon)

Box 2:

1877: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, Fence Viewers, affidavits re: personal property liable to taxation, etc.

1878: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Commissioners of Excise, Fence Viewers, Attorneys, Constables and JPs, , etc.; also list of trial jurors, July 1878,

1879: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Physicians, Overseer of the Poor, Fence Viewers, etc.

1880: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians, etc.

1881: Claims by election workers, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, Fence Viewers, Town Clerk, Physicians, etc.; medical bill of Dr. C. W. Keefer mentions "attended a colored woman at Harts Old Mill."

1882: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, , Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians, etc.

1883: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Overseer of the Poor, Fence Viewers, Town Clerk, Physicians, etc.

1884: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, , Board of Health, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians, etc.

1885: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, , Board of Health, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

1886: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, , Board of Health, Fence Viewers, Attorneys, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians,

Box 3:

1887: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, , Supervisor, Board of Health, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians.

1888: Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, , Board of Health, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians, etc.

1889-1890: (4 folders): Claims by Claims by election workers, assessor, Commissioners of Highways, Constables and JPs, Board of Health, Fence Viewers, Commissioners of Excise, Town Clerk, Physicians, undertakers, by medical officers, E.E. Ellsworth GAR chapter, constables, highway commissioners, etc.

1891: (2 folders) Claims by election officers, constables, physicians for the poor, orders from JPs to physicians to attend poor, and others; also a few claims dated 1895 and 1897.

Box 4:

1892: Claims re: elections, board of health, attorney, etc.

1893: Claims by election officials, undertaker for burial, etc., Abstract of Town Accounts, Nov.

1893: Claims by Deputy Sheriffs for arrests, trial attendance, travel, meals furnished to prisoners, custody of prisoners.

1895 (2 folders): Claims by physicians for care of the poor, Overseer of the Poor, election officers, assessors, printing, etc.

1896: Claims re: elections, board of health, attorney, etc.

1897: (2 folders) Claims re: mainly elections.

1898: Claims re: elections, auditor, vital statistics, assessor, poor, etc.; Abstract of Town Accounts, Nov. 1898.

1899: (2 folders) Claims re: mainly elections.

Box 5:

1900: (3 folders) Claims of election officers, constables, assessor, commissioner of highways, justice of the peace, board of health, etc. Also, group of Orders on Fiscal Officer for Rebate from NYS Dept. of Excise (1899)

1901: (3 folders) Claims of constables, deputy sheriffs, vendor printers of town forms, JPs, election offices, assessor, auditor, orders of town supervisor to overseers of the poor, Board of Health, physicians attending the poor, wage orders for teachers, excise rebates.

1902: Claims by Supervisor, Auditor, Fence Viewers, and others, and Abstract of the Town Accounts, Feb. and Nov. 1902; certifications by Town Clerk for payment on claims.

1902-1903: Group of certifications, made by Town Clerk, of payments owed to various persons and payable by the Supervisor.

Box 6:

1903: Claims re: to election including claims by poll and ballot clerks, inspectors as well ballot return sheets; certifications by Town Clerk for payment on claims.

1904: (2 folders) Claims re: election workers, highway commissioners, sheep killed by dogs, auditor, constable and deputy sheriff, also, certified orders of payment from Town Clerk.

1904: Claims re: elections, printing, Constable and Deputy Sheriff, etc.; also certifications of audited claims, Abstract of Town Accounts (Nov. 1904).

1905: Claims re: highway commissioners for payment for labor, tools, gravel, lumber and other material, for election workers, Board of Health, Overseer of the Poor, Orders on Fiscal Officer for Rebate from NYS Dept. of Excise, State Board of Tax Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town and other claims.

1905: (2 folders) Claims re: highway work, and other town business; also a letter from the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, Sept. 1905, listing the names of boys from Mechanicville brought to the Society in Troy and Albany.

1907-1908: Claims re: town business incl. town clerk, assessor, town board, attorney, health officer, printing and stationary supplies, etc. Also, application and consent of town board for Schaghticoke Electric Co. to maintain wires and transmission lines across streets, highways, etc., 1908: Certifications by State Board of Tax Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town.

1909: (2 folders) Claims re: printing, school truant officers, Town Clerk, Town Board members, Auditor, Assessor, and other town business; also certifications by State Board of Tax

Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town; Abstract of Town Accounts, Nov. 1909.

1910: Claims re: town business, incl. State Board of Tax Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town, annual statement of disbursements by highway superintendent, a statement of the highway law, road closings, permit to build a railroad siding, and specifications for Crescent Creek Bridge.

1911-1914: Claims re: State Board of Tax Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town, permit for Hudson Valley Railway Co. for high tension line, complaint and final order re: Fitchburg Railroad Co. assessments.

Box 7:

1917: Claims re: highways, deputy sheriff, auditor, elections, poor, etc.

1918: Claims re: mainly re: election for poll and ballot clerks, inspectors, JPs, rent of building for election, etc., and for highway, Overseer of the Poor, printing, constables, Assessor, Auditor, Town Clerk, Supervisor, and other claims; also a Transit Permit from the town Board of Health for the removal of the body of Mary Swartout, 69 years old to be buried in Cohoes, NY, also Abstract of Town Accounts, Nov., 1918.

1919: Claims re: town business incl. elections, highways, Town Clerk, printing, etc.; Abstracts of Town Accounts for May and November, 1919, Statement of Fines Received by JPs; Information for JPs,

1920: (2 folders) Claims and other papers: claims re: town business incl. elections, highways, Town Clerk, printing, etc.; Abstracts of Town Accounts for Feb., May, August; orders from Town Clerk to pay claims, State Board of Tax Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town, orders to pay wages (for teachers?), lease for road crusher from Acme Road Machinery Co., Statements of Fines collected by JPs, three Information forms for JPs.

1921: Claims re: town business, incl. highways, elections, board meetings, poormaster, etc. and Abstracts of Town Accounts for February and August, 1921.

1922: Claims re: town business, incl. highways, elections, JPs, town clerk, printing, deputy sheriffs, etc.; also incl. 4 Abstracts of Town Accounts for Feb., May, August and November; also claim for care of Soldiers' Plot at Clifton Park Cemetery Assn., claim of Judson Strang vs. town for damages to his property, also Supreme Court case of Charles S. Smith v. Edward Fletcher.

1923: Claims re: town business, incl. highways, elections, JPs, town clerk, insurance, etc.; also incl. 4 Abstracts of Town Accounts for Feb., May, August and November, 1923.

1924: Claims re: town business, incl. highways, elections, JPs, town clerk, printing, etc.; also incl. 4 Abstracts of Town Accounts for Feb., May, August and November, 1924.

Box 8:

1925: Claims re: supervisor, highways, truant officers, deputy sheriffs, election work, printing, JPs, rent, blueprint of a snow fence, abstract of town accounts, Articles of Incorporation of Grange, #1493.

1926: : Orders from Town Clerk to Supervisor to pay various claims for elections, attorney, medical attendance, printing, etc.

1927: Orders from Town Clerk to Supervisor to pay various claims for elections, attorney, printing, etc.

1936-1946: State Board of Tax Commissioners for Special Franchise valuations for various electric and telephone companies operating within the town, 1936-1940 and permit application and consent order for NY Telephone Co. to maintain telephone poles, lines, etc. in the town, 1946, 1949-1959: Serial bonds and Capital Notes for various years, 1949-1959.

1855, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1897, 1898, 1903, 1905, 1909: Certified abstract of town accounts by Board of Auditors.

1890-1893, 1894-1895, 1897, 1911-1912: Claims and accounts of Town Supervisor with various funds of the town.

1893-1907: Miscellaneous claims, mainly for stationery, typewriter, and printing.

1915-1916: Certificates of indebtedness of town

1886-1916: Cancelled checks

1856-1894: Miscellaneous claims for reimbursement from the town.

Miscellaneous items re: mainly to claims.

Town Accounts, Scanned Documents: These are records that were scanned prior to the inventory project.

Board of Town Auditors, Abstracts of Town Accounts, 1854-1867; accounts list name of the claimants, nature of the claim, amount claimed and amount allowed by the auditors

Claims for payment, 1854 (with a few dated 1853) by Commissioners of Highways, election inspectors, Town Clerk, Constables, Overseer of the Poor, etc..

Claims for payment, 1856, by Commissioners of Highways, election inspectors, Town Clerk, Overseer of the Poor, Constables, Assessor, Supervisor, Commissioner of Schools for inspecting schools and teachers.

Claims for payment, 1857, by Commissioners of Highways, election inspectors, Town Clerk, Overseer of the Poor, Constables, Supervisor, Auditor, Supervisor, Commissioner of Schools.

Claims for payment, 1858, by Physicians, election inspectors, and Constables.

Abstracts of town accounts of town officers by Board of Auditors, 1854-1867.

Accounts of the Supervisor, Board of Auditors re: school moneys, highway expenditures, assessor and other officers' claims, fence-viewers and other papers, ca. 1865-1892.

Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic:

This is a group of documents all relating to the part of Halfmoon in the Civil War, some public and some from a private organization (G.A.R.). They are kept as a separate collection within the town archives. The documents include the following:

Civil War:

Record of the Town of Halfmoon, Saratoga County ...in the War of the Rebellion, 1865. (filed with volumes of Vital Records).

This oversize volume is a record of the officers, soldiers and seamen who were part of the troops of the United States from New York State in the Civil War. The volume was compiled on request from the New York State Bureau of Military Record. It includes records of individual soldiers and officers, and officers and seamen. The information about each person includes:

- Name, residence, date and place of birth
- Rank (usually blank) and Regiment
- Company
- When enlisted, When Mustered and Rank
- Enlisted, months and years
- Place of enlistment
- White or Colored
- Bounty paid by town
- Bounty paid by County (if disbursed by Supervisor)
- Relief granted to family by the town
- Single or Married
- Names of Parents and Previous Occupation
- Promotions, Resignations, Discharges, Death, etc. with dates, causes, etc.

Includes a name index. This is an important source for the part played by the Town of Halfmoon in the Civil War.

Civil War and GAR records:

This is a group of records from Halfmoon relating to the Civil War and Halfmoon's part in the war. Many, possibly most, of the documents in this group have been scanned.

- a. Enrollment of Persons Liable to Military Duty in Company G, Regiment 29th, N.Y.S.M., Capt. W.G. Overacker, Enrolling Office, August 8, 1866. Warren Rulison, Town Clerk. This book gives the name, residence (Halfmoon), age and class (1st or 2nd) of each man. This book is post-Civil War as it is dated 1866.
- b. Names of Men Enlisted to the Credit of Town of Halfmoon, July 18, 1864 and December 1864. (July: paid by Town of Halfmoon and December paid by New York State) Gives name, date and place of enlistment, years of enlistment and total wages to be paid.
- c. Enrollment record, 1 p., Joined for Duty and Enrolled, gives name, rank, age, date enrolled, where enrolled, period of enlistment, notes ca. each person (discharged, deserted, killed, etc.), July-August 1862; also List of Volunteer Enlistments since July 2, 1862 giving name, age, volunteer, regiment (115th, 77th, 125th) and rank.
- d. Descriptive Roll of Persons Enlisted for the Town of Halfmoon, Saratoga County, 18th Cong. Dist., U.S. A detailed record giving: name, rank, birthplace, age, occupation, description of person including when, where and by whom described, enlistment period (3 yrs. or 1 yr.), hair color, eyes, complexion, height, when, where and by whom mustered into service, remarks (name of unit or company) and other columns about

clothing, bounty etc. (not filled in) except for a section of named people who were substitutes.

- e. Claims for exemption from military service, 1864 (105 claims) and 1866 (15 claims). The claims include reasons such as physical disability (hernia, bad eyesight, or hearing, sick lungs); also firemen and alien (chiefly English and Irish immigrants) not liable to serve.
- f. Affidavits (proxies) of soldiers as absent electors authorizing persons to cast their ballot, including the authorizing document and envelope that contained the soldier's ballot (only one ballot is present, the other ballots probably having been cast). The documents include the name of the soldier, regiment and company, where the soldier is located, name of the person authorized to cast ballot; 1864, 22 proxies.
- g. Minutes of special town meetings, 1864 (March, December) to count votes cast re: bounty tax for town; also minutes of annual town meeting that appointed inspectors of elections.
- h. Statement of accounts to be paid to Town Supervisor and others for work filling out quota of enlistments and for work correcting military rolls, 1864, 1865.
- i. List of Volunteer Enlistments since July 2, 1862; listing names, age, rank and regiment, mainly 115th Regt. with a few for the 125th Regt. and 77th Regt.,

Grand Army of the Republic, E.E. Ellsworth Post # 619, Mechanicville, NY, Records:

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a large multi-faceted organization (fraternal lodge, charitable society, special interest lobby, patriotic group, and political club) founded in 1866 by Union Army Surgeon Benjamin Franklin Stephenson. The organization was originally envisioned as a brotherhood of veterans who were dedicated to helping other veterans. Each post, which presided over the area of one city, town, county, etc. was set up similar to a Union Army encampment. The GAR was, without a doubt, a powerful political organization. It has been described by many as a "bloody shirt Republican club," and while this may be true, it is overshadowed by the organization's patriotic and social work. It was through the GAR, and the pension lobby, that many soldiers and their families received pensions. The GAR also promoted patriotism through parades, national encampments, placement of war memorials, and the establishment of Memorial Day as a national holiday. (The above abstracted from the NYS Archives website).

The Elmer E. Ellsworth Post No. 619 located in Mechanicville acted as a charitable organization in the Town of Halfmoon. Under the provisions of the Laws of 1909 of New York State, the Post passed a resolution to supervise the relief of poor veterans and their families and they signed a bond with the Town of Halfmoon to handle that relief within the town, April 2, 1913. The post had provided relief for several years previously as well. The largest group of GAR records here consists of several folders of recommendations for relief, orders and check stubs of the Relief Committee of the GAR Post #619 to purchase groceries and coal and for bills of doctors, hospitals and funeral expenses for named persons needing relief along with the bills from grocers, etc., all dated 1914.

GAR documents, as follows:

- j. Notice that the G.A.R. Post would provide relief to indigent soldiers, sailors and marines or the families of deceased in accordance with state law of 1887 and it names committee members including Col. E.D. Ellsworth. Also notices as above issued in 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1891. Also, bills for goods and services paid by the G.A.R. Post #619 for repairs to graves, flowers, flags, ammunition and a carriage use, etc., 1894-1901; also two petitions, 1897-1898 by GAR Post to the town asking appropriation to cover expenses of observance of Decoration Day (March 3, 1896 and March 8, 1898). Also, checks on G.A.R. account with 1st National Bank of Mechanicville, 1899.
- k. Bills for Decoration (Memorial) Day celebration, 1898, 1903, 1905, 1914, 1916-17
- l. Bond of James W. Smith, Quartermaster, Wm. L. Howland and Fred Packer of GAR Post 619 re: relief of indigent soldiers, sailors, etc., April 1912; also bond of James W. Smith, 1891.
- m. Application of the post to the Town of Halfmoon asking the town to purchase a plot of land in the Clifton Park Cemetery for the burial of military veterans, 1905.
- n. Recommendation of the GAR post that town raise \$600 for relief work.
- o. Petitions requesting that Town of Halfmoon vote to defray the expenses of Decoration Day for the GAR in 1896 and 1897.
- p. Reports of monies spent by GAR Relief Committee from Town Fund, made by James W. Smith, 1913 and 1914 and letter from J.W. Smith to S. Hayner, Town Supervisor, 1914, requesting check for \$300 to be paid to various grocers for their furnishing goods for relief.
- q. Recommendations for payment of relief, and bills, receipts, and checks, etc. for relief provided by the GAR Post #619. Relief included groceries, coal, medical care, including hospital care, payment for burials, and clothing. There are also requests from GAR Relief Committee to issue orders for the provision of relief to named persons. Grocers and others who sold food, etc. for relief included A.M. Ryan, Mechanicville, NY, N. Steenburgh, Crescent, NY, W. M. Dalton, Mechanicville, NY, James Argotsinger, Mechanicville, NY, H.F. Barrett, Clifton Park, NY, D.E. Francisco, West Crescent, NY, E. B. Schermerhorn, Mechanicville, NY; Joshua Anthony, coal dealer, Ushers, NY; hospitals that provided services included Albany Hospital for Incurables, Troy Hospital, Samaritan Hospital.

Bills, receipts, checks etc. for the following years:

1893-1894, 1912; 1913 (2 folders), 1914 (5 folders), 1916-1917 (2 folders), 1917-1918 (2 folders)

Halfmoon Town Park Archeological Investigation:

This a 4 volume collection of archeological reports on the Halfmoon Town Park, Jan. 2014 and the Hudson River Waterfront Park Kayak and Canoe Launch, June, 2010.

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc., *Phase II Site Delineation, Halfmoon Water Precontact Site, Hudson River Waterfront Park Kayak and Canoe Launch*, June 2010. The investigation was

done to delineate the pre-contact site and to prepare an avoidance plan to preserve any precontact evidence; report includes maps and photographs.

Landmark Archeology, Inc., *Phase III Archeological Investigations of the Halfmoon Town Park Prehistoric Archeological District and Nessle Site...Town of Halfmoon...Draft*, Sept. 2013 and *Phase III Archeological Investigations of the Halfmoon Town Park Prehistoric Archeological District and Nessle Site...Town of Halfmoon...Final*, January 2014 (2 cop.). These two reports include text, photographs, maps, figures, tables and charts. The text includes a project history, the environmental setting, including the paleoenvironment, the prehistoric, i.e. Native American background, history of the occupation of the site from prehistoric times to the 20th c., and detailed investigation of the Nessle site. This is perhaps the most detailed history of this part of the Town of Halfmoon ever compiled. This report also includes 2 compact disks on the project including a Non-Technical Summary and copy of the Final Report.

Clifton Park Village Cemetery Association

2 folders

The cemetery association was incorporated July 10, 1905 and is located on Cemetery Road intersecting with Old Route 146 in Clifton Park.

Pamphlet: *By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the Clifton Park Village Cemetery Association*, Waterford, R. D. Palmateer, printer, 1905.

Minute Book of minutes of annual meetings, 1908-1929, of the Association, including financial reports.

Documents formally inserted in minute book, now in folder, include: deeds and sales of lots, papers about care of the lots and several documents about a fence for the cemetery, perpetual care certificates, loose minutes are written on various scraps of paper, including election ballots, and envelopes. There is an interesting automotive item: *Firezone Oil Bulletin*, an advertising brochure of the Firezone Lubrication Company, College Point, NY 1923.

Records of the Saratoga County Town Clerks Association, 1980-2013, including, Constitution, By-Laws and Miscellaneous Records

The Saratoga County Town Clerk's Association was formed September 1980 for the "mutual exchange of methods, operating experiences, problem solution and improvement of town clerk services." The Constitution and By-Laws took effect September 15, 1980 with amendments in 1992 and 2001. This series consists of one large binder of the Constitution, By-Laws, correspondence, meeting announcements, Balance sheets of dues paid and expenses paid by Association, minutes of meetings, members' and officers' names and other papers.

Halfmoon Memorabilia: (3 boxes)

Box 1:

Folder 1 and bag: Flag, with photocard, that was flown over the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, by Larry Gniewek of the Regime Crimes Liaison Office, July 4, 2007.

Folder 2: Photo in frame of Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin, Batavia, OH, missing/captured April 9, 2004 (first U.S. serviceman captured in the Iraq War).

Folder 3: Program for memorial service for U.S. Marine Corps, Lance Corporal Anthony J. Denier of Mechanicville, NY, July 7, 1986-December 2, 2012, died in action at Marjah, Afghanistan, and a memorial card for Denier; also notes re: to memorial for Denier and Yellow Ribbon Day.

Folder 4: Large gold-colored scissors for ribbon cutting ceremony at Halfmoon Town Hall, 2007.

Folder 5: Calendar for 2008 of Butler Rowland Mays Architects (firm that designed Halfmoon Town Hall) with a view of the Town Hall, March 2008.

Folder 6: Halfmoon Mariners baseball team in the 17u AABC Don Mattingly World Series held in Flemington, NJ, Aug. 6-11, 2007, including a binder of news stories from the World Series, with a history of the Mariners and a roster; also two framed photos of the team in August 2007 when the team was the NYS 17u Don Mattingly Champions.

Folder 7: Framed issue of *Talk of the Towns Topics*, May/June 2008, with photo of Halfmoon Town Hall and an article about the geothermal heating and cooling system at the Town Hall.

Folder 8: Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike trail, Champlain Canalway trail and Mohawk Towpath trail including: a Capital District Transportation Committee report, *Regional Trail Perspectives: A Survey of Capital District Trail Facilities*, 2007; *Vistas*, the Sept/Oct. 2007 issue with article about the Mohawk Towpath Byway (2 cop.); 3 sheet Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan, 2011; maps of Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway, NYS Bike Route 9, and Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Map 2010; photo of (planning committee?) for 4th annual Canalway Trail Celebration, 2007.

Folder 9: Wooden silhouettes of firemen, 2 items

Folder 10: Rolled document: Certificate of Incorporation of the Young Men's Social Club of Clifton Park, Dec. 10, 1917.

Folder 11: Applications of Michael Burns(?) for to become a U.S. citizen, Halfmoon, July 9, 1906 and Josefe Kulinski, July 8, 1905.

Halfmoon Memorabilia, Box 2:

Items:

Plaque for Ellis D. Smith, for service to the Town of Halfmoon, Jan. 1930-Dec. 1961
2 empty wooden boxes with slide tops
Gavel and sound block
Constable's badge, Town of Halfmoon

Folder 1: Items re: to Town Historian, including correspondence and articles from Albert Corey, State Historian re: duties, etc. of town historians, 1945-48; appointment of Charles Brenn as Town Historian for Halfmoon, 1947, letter to Brenn from Mrs. Grace Vanderwerker re: some records, 1948.

Folder 2: Photographs of Town Board and other officers:

Framed photo of Town of Halfmoon, Town Board, n.d., about 1950; has a label that may name the men in the photo.

Photo of Town Hall builders (Town Board members), from Troy Record, May 11, 1946

Folder 3: Photos of: dinner guests for dinner honoring Ellis Smith for 20 years service as Town Clerk (Mar. 19, 1951); of Saratoga County Town Supervisors, (original photo and newspaper clipping), 1958; of town and county officials of Saratoga County (?), n.d., ca. 1950; photo of unidentified person receiving an award (2 cop.); matted photo of Town Supervisor, John F. Dudek; wedding photo of Carmella Disonell and Bill Lussier; photo of unknown couple; photo of two young girls and bicycles.

Folder 4: Newspaper clippings re: John Dudek, his farm as Chairman of County Board of Supervisors; new Crescent Bridge, 196?; election of town officers, Jan. ? ; growth of town, town water system, food insurance program, etc.

Folder 5: *Map of Saratoga County Highway System*, March 1963 and NYS Conservation Dept., *Syllabus of the Laws relating to Fish and Game*, 1939.

Folder 6: Crescent Boat Club items, including: newspaper article about construction of the Crescent Boat Club clubhouse on Mosquito Island in the Mohawk River at Crescent, April 16, 1961; typed lists of the officers of the club, 1965 and 1966 and officers of Ladies' Auxilliary, 1966; 20 photos of the ice damage to the club, winter 1965.

Folder 7: Group of color photos (12), of the re-enactment of the march of Genl. Knox during the Revolutionary War, Winter 1976.

Folder 8: Group of color photos (35) of various places and events in Halfmoon, 1975; most are identified, including identified homes, buildings and places.

Folder 9: Photograph of the Harris (?) house, Halfmoon, NY, ca. 1900.

Folder 10: Group of photocopies of photographs of Crescent Bridge, Dam and Spillway, n.d. (Copied from a collection at a museum?, all the photos have what appear year/accession nos.) (In a folder labeled: 1996, Copies of photos from Mr. Michon, Woodcourt).

Folder 11: Groups of mainly b&w photos of various events, places and people in Town of Halfmoon, 1980s. Groups of photos of:

Volunteer fire company buildings (7 photos)

Clearing brush in a cemetery, (5 photos)

Arco Gasoline Station closed (4 photos)

Post Office opening (5 photos)

John Dudek at opening of Senior Citizens Center (?) also with Bishop Hubbard, 1985 (6 photos)

Halfmoon Recreational Pavilion, (5 photos)

Solartown Hall construction, 1977-78 and parade for dedication, Oct. 14, 1978 (6 color photos)

Highway Dept. building, (3 photos); also road paving (4 photos)

Opening of McDonald's (1 photo)

Home and church (both 19th c. structures), unidentified; church photo dated March 1976

Postcard of Half Moon III, a reconstruction by American Legion, Mohawk Post 1450 in Halfmoon, NY, 1976.

Group of miniature photos of various buildings, etc. in Halfmoon

Miscellaneous photos, (17 photos) b&w and color, of various people and places in Halfmoon, NY, including: Shenendehowa High School, Mohawk Post 1450 building, town officers, 1985, Crescent Bridge, Mohawk River flooding, Mr. and Mrs. Sabourin with their corn plants and unidentified.

Halfmoon Memorabilia, Box 3:

This is a mixed group of printed and audio-visual items as follows:

Halfmoon Herald, Bicentennial issue, May 15, 1988, 4 copies

Halfmoon Herald, multiple copies of issues of the paper for 8/10/1988. 8/28/1989, May, 1990. Nov. 1990, August 1991, Nov. 1991, Fall 1992, Fall, 1993, Summer 1995.

Daily Gazette, 9/11/2002, special issue commemorating 1 year anniversary of the attack on the WTC in New York.

Troy Record, 9/8/1988, Halfmoon Bicentennial Days

Town of Halfmoon, Civic Directory, "Inside Halfmoon," 1986-1987, 4 cop.

League of Women Voters of Shenendehowa, *Beyond the Mohawk: A Survey of Communities in Southern Saratoga County*, 1980

League of Women Voters of Shenendehowa, *Halfmoon/Clifton Park: A Community Study*, 1973

Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, *30th Anniversary, Chamber Report*, 1997

Todd DeGarmo, *Life in a Mill Town: Schuylerville and Her Hamlets in the 1920s*, 1990.

Saratoga Bicentennial Commission, *Saratoga Bicentennial, 1791-1991*, 1991, 2 cop.

Halfmoon Bicentennial Committee, *Halfmoon, A Peaceful Passageway*, 1976, 10 cop.

VHS, Video Cassettes, 6 cassettes as follows:

Halfmoon Bicentennial Committee,, Impressions of a Changing Community, 3 cop.

Bicentennial Committee, kids tape, 2000

Agri-Post Florida, 1991 trip

Cassette with no title

Small plaques (2): Halfmoon Bicentennial Celebration, 1788-1988 and Halfmoon Day Celebration, Sept. 9, 1989.

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976, Banner.

A few photos and Christmas cards, including photos of the bank building in Crescent and the Ten Eyck house.

Two maps:

Highway Map of Saratoga County, National Survey Co., 1983

USGS Topographical Map, Cohoes Quadrangle, 1947, includes part of Town of Halfmoon and Mechanicville

Hector Ayotte Collection

This is a collection of documents and photographs of Hector Ayotte of Waterford, NY, who was killed in action in Korea in 1950. The items were used in a display at the Halfmoon Town Hall and are now part of the records of the town.

Hector Ayotte was born February 7, 1931, the son of John Ayotte and Evelyn Verner. He was a graduate of Waterford High School. During the Korean War, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, First U.S. Cavalry Division. He was killed in action on September 1, 1950 in Korea. The collection includes:

Artifacts:

Hector Ayotte's Purple Heart in its case

New Testament, Roman Catholic Version presented to members of the Armed Forces, 1941
Devotions under the Flag: A Prayer Book for Catholic Men, 1941, with inscription Hector H. Ayotte, 7th Cav. Co. A, R.F.D. #1, Sand Beach Road, Waterford, NY

Documents, including:

Copy of page from the *Fordian* (Waterford High School yearbook) for 1951 with tribute to Ayotte

Letter of Ayotte to his parents, August 29, 1950; he is at front lines, it is very hot and could they send him a package of candy and gum.

Clippings about Ayotte and others enlistment at the Cohoes Army and Air Force Station and about death of Ayotte in Korea.

Letter to Ayotte's father from Douglas MacArthur, Sept. 18, 1950, expressing his sorrow at the death of Hector Ayotte.

Telegram to Mrs. Eveline Ayotte from Major General Edward F. Witsell with news of the death of her son, Hector.

Hector Ayotte's baptismal certificate, Feb. 7, 1931

Card that came with the Purple Heart from Frank Pace, Jr., Secretary of the Army

Citation accompanying Purple Heart, Sept. 29, 1950.

Memorial certificate about Ayotte, signed by Pres. Harry Truman.

Photographs:

Portrait of Ayotte in uniform

Ayotte and soldier sitting on a cot, probably at basic training camp

Ayotte with two other soldiers

Ayotte with group of soldiers on a dock, probably in Japan (Ayotte is in the far left side of the photo)

Copy of a photo of Edward Giles, Clint Eastman and Mike Sicko

Ayotte on top of a hill in either Japan or Korea

Ayotte sitting on a wall in front of the 7th Station on a hillside

Ayotte relaxing on a trunk in camp

Photo of Town Board members (John Dudek and others) n.d.

Framed copies of most of the above-named items that were used in a display. Also, matted color photocopies of the Purple Heart citation and the memorial certificate from Pres. Truman.

Copy of a map Korea and a copy of a page history of the Korean War June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953.

Halfmoon Historical Society

This is a small miscellaneous group of items that focuses mainly on the chartering of the Halfmoon Historical Society, including:

Folder 1: Original Provisional Charter, 9/24/1993

Folder 2: Original Absolute Charter, 11/19/2013

Folder 3: Letter from IRS. 9/30/2011 with determination that HHS is a tax-exempt organization

Folder 4: Resolution of Board of Trustees and Petition for Absolute Charter made to NYS Board of Regents with correspondence, April 2011-Sept. 2012; also a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the HHS, May 28, 1991 with amendments Nov. 27, 2007.

Folder 5: Letter from NYS Education Dept. advising that Board of Regents has approved the Absolute Charter with photocopies of a newspaper article about the chartering and a photocopy of the charter.

Folder 6: Color photocopy of a multi-page map showing names of residents (property owners?) along Grooms, Dunsbach, Beach and other roads, n.d. (possibly mid-20th c.).

Folder 7: Overhead color photocopy and b&w photocopy of a view of Ruddy's Garage and Ambulance, built in 1951 with Paul and Lillian Bethel's house and Reich's Restaurant.

Folder 8: *Your Household Guide*, a booklet of household hints, sponsored by the W.S.C.S. Crescent Methodist Church, Crescent, NY, 1951 (published by Walsworth Bros., Marceline, MO) Ad on back cover of Reich's Restaurant, Rt. 9.

Folder 9: NYS Legislative Resolution proclaiming April 9, 2010 Yellow Ribbon Day and signed by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the Assembly; Proclamations for Yellow Ribbon Day dated: April 9, 2014, from the NYS Senate, Assembly (2) and special proclamation by Senator Kathleen A. Marchione, April 9, 2014.

Folder 10: HHS calendar for 2008, *Barns of Yesteryear*, 3rd ed., includes photos of individual farms with brief history of each, including the following farms: Dudek, Anthony, Adsit, Hayner, Betts, McBride, Ciepiela, Freeman, Kennedy, Johnson, Leggett, Van O'Linda, Morris and Emericks.

Folder 11: *Saratoga County Clerks 1791 to 2010*, Saratoga County Archives Project, 2010. This booklet includes brief biographies of all the county clerks, many with portraits, as well as other historical information about the County Clerk's office; (water damaged). Also, an issue of *Talk of the Towns Topics*, May/June 2008, with photo of Halfmoon Town Hall and an article about the geothermal heating and cooling system at the Town Hall.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous items, including a photocopy with a brief Halfmoon History and information about the HHS and its new building; a copy of an old photo (ca. 1890?) of a family in front of a house; exhibit label about the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. and the Anthony Baking Powder Co.

Scrapbook Collection:

This is a group of 11 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and photographs kept by the Town Historian (?) of Halfmoon for the years, 1960- 2010. The scrapbooks are in fair condition although the newspaper and scrapbook pages are not good paper and will eventually become brittle. Most (possibly all) of the newspapers have been microfilmed and may be available at local libraries. The photographs are all original and are in "magnetic" photo albums. Magnetic photo albums will eventually deteriorate the photos, most of which are color photos. The photos, if they are to be preserved, should be removed from the album and put into individual photo sleeves and indexed.

Scrapbooks dated:

1960-1963: history articles, wedding announcements, developments in Halfmoon, churches, organizations and other articles.

1964-1965: : history articles, wedding announcements, developments in Halfmoon, churches, organizations, car accidents, politics, flood, business, Waterford, and other articles

1965-1966: : history articles, wedding announcements, developments in Halfmoon, churches, organizations, Champlain Canal, weather, schools, copies of pictures of “olden times,” (pictures of named school children and others) and other articles.

1968-1971: Scrapbook is dedicated to James V. Reich, Supervisor of Halfmoon from 1968-1971 and has articles about Halfmoon development, zoning and other related topics.

1973: history articles, developments in Halfmoon, Shenendehowa schools, Waterford, library news, organizations and other articles.

1975: History articles, developments in Halfmoon, Bicentennial celebration, library, fires, politics, article about town records, organizations and other articles

1977-1978: History articles, John Dudek, Solar Town Hall, library, and other articles,

1977: Solar Town Hall album, with program for dedication of Town Hall, 1978.

1976: Photo album of color photos of Bicentennial parade in Halfmoon, 1976.

1988: Photo album of Bicentennial celebration of Halfmoon in 1988 including parade photos, winter carnival and New Years Ball photos; Halfmoon ship reproduction photo and other photos.

1976-1977: Politics, water problems in Halfmoon, developments in Halfmoon, Shen school, library and other articles.

And four folders with clipped newspaper articles for 2007-2010.