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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2021

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Letters from a Tug Hill Logger Winter 2021 Webinar Series

Watertown, NY - The Tug Hill Commission is excited to offer a historical and entertaining series of webinars called ***“Letters from a Tug Hill Logger.”*** We hope you will join us for this three-part series narrated by Leona and Peter Chereshnoski, the granddaughter and great-grandson of John Clemens and keepers of his treasured scrapbooks of memories. They will read letters, share stories, show off artifacts and photos and “spin yarns” of Tug Hill logging in its hey-day, all through the eyes of two remarkable personalities, one who wrote the stories and the other that broadcast them over the radio for the masses to hear.

A cache of letters exchanged between John “Old Lard” Clemens and Robert “Deacon” Doubleday, a popular early morning Syracuse radio announcer in the middle 1900s, provide the backdrop for this historical and entertaining series. Each page-long letter, written by Clemens and read over the air by the Deacon, tells some tale of the Tug Hill woods or some character who could be found there. In the slang of the woods, using comical nicknames, and with a flavor all his own, Clemens “spun the yarns” for about ten years. These letters and radio exchanges, along with artifacts kept by the Clemens family, provide us a peek into Tug Hill’s history and hey-day and promises to educate and entertain!

Registration links at www.tughill.org, or as follows:

Letters from a Tug Hill Logger - Part 1

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Register in advance at: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_km0oVByPRImsBgJvAFbfcQ

Letters from a Tug Hill Logger - Part 2

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 07:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Register in advance at: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7FQt7HgTpmUVADeB7gTDg

Letters from a Tug Hill Logger - Part 3

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Register in advance at: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SglXM7TJSSCQccG2uv6eSw

Leona Clemens was born and raised on a small farm in Osceola, NY where she attended the one room schoolhouse in the hamlet and later attended 7-12th grade in Camden. After working in Syracuse for two

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.

years, she married Ray Chereshnoski and moved back to the Tug Hill town of Lorraine. After raising three children and working as a Library Clerk, Leona attended Empire State College and Syracuse University where she earned her master's degree in Library Science. She worked as a Library Clerk and School Librarian at South Jefferson for a total of 27 years before retiring in 2006. In retirement she works part time as director at the Osceola Public Library and her family owns and operates a bed and breakfast on the family farm. She is an active volunteer for a few non-profit groups and in full disclosure, is a 36-year veteran commissioner of the Tug Hill Commission.

Peter Chereshnoski made his early trips around the sun on the northwestern slope of Tug Hill in the town of Lorraine on the weekdays and on the southwestern slope of Tug Hill in the town of Osceola on most weekends. A good share of the rest of his days have been spent driving back and forth between the two. After high school there was some time spent in college, followed by 4 years on the U.S.S. Atlanta SSN-712, a fast attack submarine stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1992 Peter was back on Tug Hill to take a position at the Regional Landfill, 28 years later he continues to work for the Development Authority of the North Country as the Safety and Environmental Coordinator. Peter's interests and hobbies revolve around nature and the outdoors, he and his wife Mary enjoy walks in the gulfs near their home in Rodman, kayaking and learning about the world around them.

The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.

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