

Forgotten Places: Foley Road (Andrews/O'Neil Cabin – Part 2 Kennerup Farm)

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This month's article continues where I left off with regard to the history of the Andrews/O'Neil farm and cabin as published in my July 2026 article. If you remember, John O'Neil had purchased the surrounding property for a total of 133 acres. A few years after his death, his property was deeded to Neil and Julia Kennerup.

The Kennerup family built their home in 1947 using the wood from the original cabin per their son Martin. He recalled going up on the hill with his siblings and father, disassembling the cabin, hauling the wood down, and then having to remove all the nails from the boards. The home they built is located at 167 Foley and the old wood is still visible in the attic. Neil and Julia ran a successful dairy farm for several years and were prominent members in the community, including being founding members of the Sherwood Valley Grange.

On June 9, 1963, they subdivided a portion of their property containing $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre for Martin Sr. and his wife, Marjorie (a/k/a Jane or Marge) to build a house next door now listed as 155 Foley Road. Originally, Martin owned a gas station that operated along Highway 17. However, he and his dad Neil made a trade: Martin ran the dairy farm and Neil maintained the gas station. Martin used to laugh and said his dad got the better deal. Martin operated the dairy farm for 42 years. The milk was hauled to the Langdon Creamery to be bottled and sold locally, as well as shipped to New York City. In 1992, Martin had major kidney surgery causing him to sell the cows to pay his medical bills. Even though the cows were gone, Marty continued haying the farm and selling it to local farms, as well as being a main supplier of hay and straw to Binghamton Agway.

Martin's wife, Jane, worked for veterinarian Dr. Allen. This connection with Dr. Allen created other jobs for the Kennerup family. Marty helped brush-hog and do maintenance work for him, and Neil was asked to build caskets for dogs that were to be buried in the pet cemetery adjacent to Dr. Allen's office on Upper Front Street in Binghamton. Although Neil had never done that before and found it to be a strange request, Neil built the caskets in the basement of his house. The custom-made caskets became so popular that Neil and his casket-making were featured in the Press & Sun Bulletin. A few unsold caskets remain today.

Neil passed away in 1983 and his wife Julia passed away in 1991. Their house was maintained by the extended family until Marty sold the house to his nephew in 2003. This sale included only the house and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre lot known as 167 Foley Road. Sadly enough, the home became part of a tax foreclosure sale and was bought at auction in 2015. Martin was extremely upset that his parents' house was no longer in the family. Fortunately, the new owners restored the house and became like family. I know this personally because my husband and I are the ones who bought the house.

Martin's parents' house is not the only property Martin and Jane sold in 2003. They also sold the upper field to Doug Harris which consisted of 78.62 acres adjacent to the Binghamton Gun Club. Doug already

owned 22.1 acres of property next to this land and it was Doug's plan was to build a house on this property for his wife, Martha Ann, because of the beautiful views. Sadly, she passed away before that happened and a memorial stone was placed on the property instead. Since a home was not going to be built, Doug allowed Martin to continue haying the field. Doug passed away on March 18, 2022, and willed his property totaling 100.72 acres to Celia Bean. The address for these two properties combined is known as 149 Quilty Hill Road.

Martin's wife, Marjorie Jane Kennerup, died on April 5, 2010, after suffering a stroke. In 2013, Martin sold the property at 165 Foley Road to Bob and Vera Main from Pennsylvania. This was the last remaining 51.55 acres of the farm (the barns and the land). Because Bob only wanted the mineral rights, he and Martin had a gentleman's agreement that allowed Martin to continue running and maintaining the farm for his personal use and income. Marty continued doing what he loved until he passed away on June 15, 2024.



Figure 1: Kennerup Dairy Farm showing Neil & Julia's house and barns circa 1980s