



A Saving Grace

Endangered cows gave Cynthia Creech new purpose

ONCE, SHE HAD A BIG-TIME JOB with the federal judicial system in Knoxville, Tennessee. Then, in 1986, Cynthia Creech stumbled across a tiny article about a rare breed of heritage cows from Vermont that was in danger of extinction. "I remember it like it was yesterday," Creech recalls. "The article just spoke to me." She tracked down the last 15 Randalls in the U.S. "I spent everything I had to get the cows and buy a farm," she adds. "Needless to say, it was a steep learning curve."

Eventually, Creech realized that the cows needed a cooler environment. In 2011 she bought a farm in New Lebanon, New York. She keeps about 100 head there and has sold many to breeders; the breed currently numbers around 600. Creech does all the farmwork herself. "I don't have the time or patience to teach anyone else," she says. "I know the cows, the cows know me, and we get along just fine." —*Beth Levine*

Cynthia Creech, 69, is the court clerk in New Lebanon, New York. She has been a member since 2006.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD SCHULTZ