



Phelps Community Historical Society

August 2021 Volume 29 Issue 254



An Eventful Summer at the Howe House

In addition to numerous house tours and research visits this summer, the PCHS has had three events within 10 days! The Howe House Museum was open the last Saturday in July for the PCS Alumni Reunion attendees, the first Saturday in August, Sauerkraut Festival and the following Monday for a special visit.

The Phelps Central School alumni reunion, held at the Phelps American Legion, brought people home to Phelps from as far away as California. Over 40 visitors to the museum took the opportunity to reminisce about the good times growing up in Phelps, NY. Bonnie, from Dallas, Texas, and Jackie from Liverpool, New York, childhood friends, have kept in touch over the years and went to the reunion together. Both are PCHS members and it was a pleasure to meet them and be able to put faces with the names on our mailing list. We hope the photo displays and exhibits brought back a lot of good memories! While the following Saturday was relatively quiet, due in part to the fact that there was no parking allowed on Main Street in preparation for the parade at 4pm, we did have

visitors. The volunteers, joined by family, stayed to watch the parade from the front porch. The 1924 Essex, on a trailer, pulled out of the driveway and joined the lineup!

Generating interest for Phelps history in the up and coming generations is the key to the future success of our organization. On the Monday following the Sauerkraut weekend festivities, the PCHS hosted 50 children and 7 adults from the Phelps Community Center Childcare Program. They came in small groups at 15 minute intervals. Tours were given to the Carriage House Transportation display and the outhouse. Highlights were the model train layout, scooter rides, and the infamous outhouse. Bottled water was given out for the walk back up the hill.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit us this summer. We are excited to have had these opportunities to interact with the community. An autumn event is in the planning stages. Visit us at phelpsnyhistory.com.

Diane Goodman
PCHS Director



SCHOOL DISTRICTS NUMBER 3, 4 AND 5

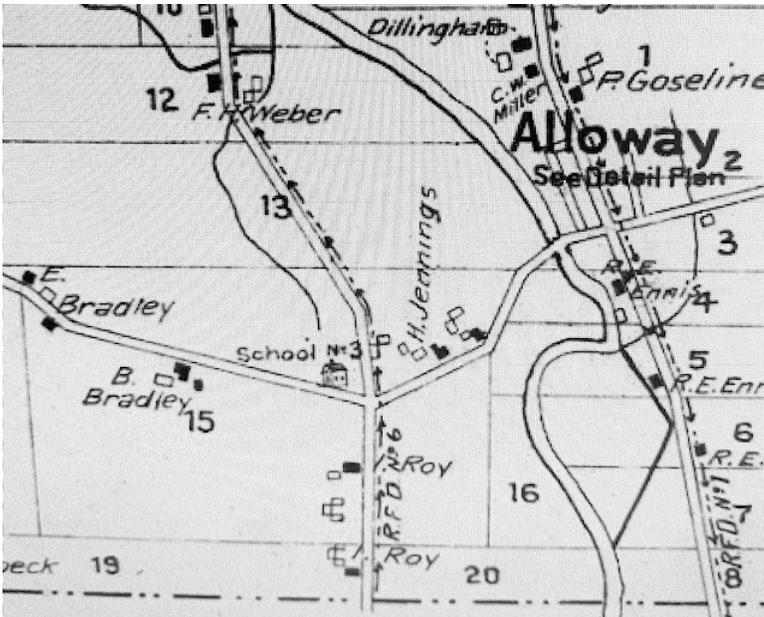
THE JOINT DISTRICTS

Dr. Ronald Grube

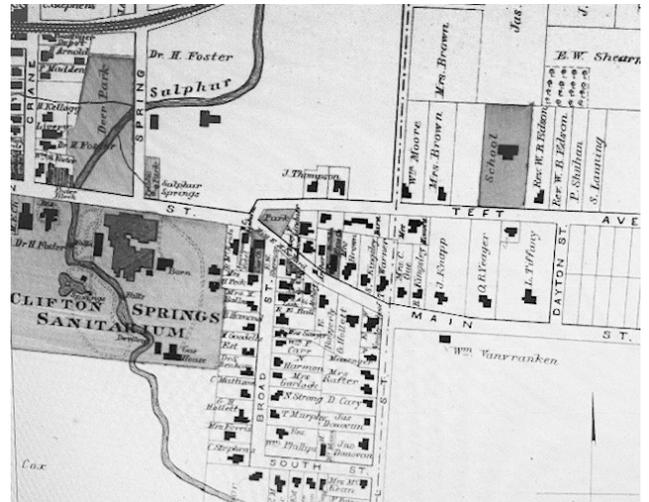
In 1927, the University of the State of New York developed guidelines for consolidation of local school districts into centralized school districts. Phelps had 24 school districts but did not jump at the chance to develop a centralized school at that time. A sunset clause in a Works Progress Administration grant most likely encouraged the creation of Phelps Central School. That clause stated that if construction on a centralized school building was under way by no later than January 1, 1940, a grant of \$74,250 would be awarded to the project.

A 1939 proposal to create Phelps Central School, including a building project, had to be voted on by each of the 24 school districts. They did not all have to agree to join. Any school district that chose not to join the centralized school was free to opt out. They would not suffer any loss of funding as a result. Some of the outlying schools, called joint school districts, chose not to join the centralized school. Joint Districts numbers 3, 4 and 5 did not join. They, instead, chose to join other centralized school districts that made more sense politically and geographically.

Joint District # 3, also known as the Alloway School, joined the Lyons Central School District. The school was located near the corner of Alloway Road and Leach Road. The location is in the Town of Lyons. The 1874 map of Phelps shows District number three in the northeast corner of the township but does not show the school as it was in Lyons. Sadly, we do not have a picture of this school. Maybe you do. If so, we would love to scan it and add it to our collection.



Left: District #3 Alloway School. Wayne County Atlas 1904 – the school is located near center of the map.



Above: District #4 Union Free School of Clifton Springs. The school is located on the north side of Teft Avenue. Ontario County Atlas 1874

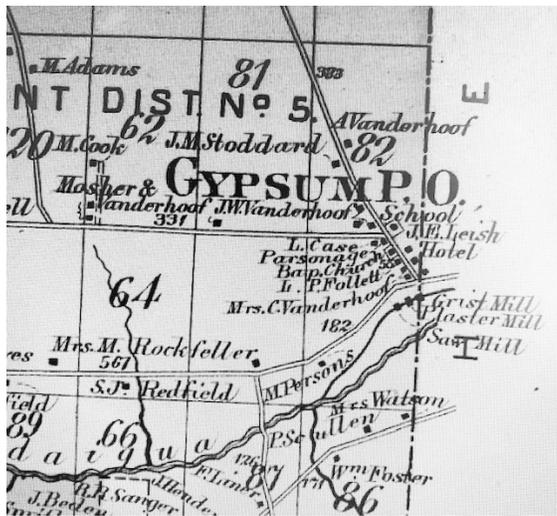
Joint District # 4 was eventually known as the Union Free School of Clifton Springs. It became a centralized school and was located on Teft Avenue. Much more needs to be said about this important school. The Phelps Historical Society does not have a photo of the school, but I am confident that our members from Clifton Springs will provide us whatever history they have to add to our current meager historical file. Certainly, all persons from the pre-Midlakes era will remember the great rivalry between the Clifton Springs and Phelps Union and Centralized Schools. This would make an interesting story – especially the sports rivalries over the years. Any volunteers to write this one?



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Joint District # 5 was known as the Gypsum School. The building still stands just west of the township of Phelps. It is on the east side of County Road 27 and across from the east end of Bunker Hill Road. After the school closed, children from District # 5 joined either the Manchester, Clifton Springs or Phelps Central Schools. The school was a beautiful cobblestone building. My great-grandfather, John Grube, remodeled this building shortly after it closed, turning it into a private residence. By the way, it is located just across the road from what once was the Gypsum Baptist Church on Co. Rd #27 in the Town of Manchester. The Gypsum history will be included at some later time.

It is very important that the PCHS collects as many stories and historical images as possible. We encourage you to write for us. We will edit your work and will place it on our website (phelpsnyhistory.com), in our newsletter or both.



Information used in this article came from "Important Facts About the Proposed PHELPS CENTRAL RURAL SCHOOL, 1939" and material in our collection at the Phelps historical society. Photos Barry Lee and PCHS files.

Volunteers Get the Job Done!

BJ Hicks and Nancy Roth lent a hand in putting together displays for the PCS alumni.

Marilyn DeRuyter and Jane Pedersen spruced up the house for our events.

Billee Altman and Dorothy Colvin keep our garden looking beautiful!

Dana Mark mows the lawn at the Country Lawyers Office, makes weekly trips to the transfer station and does odd chores.

PCS Alumni Reunion and Sauerkraut Festival Saturdays:
Marilyn DeRuyter, Nicole Fess, Ron Grube, Rosa Grube, Gary Jones,
Sarah Landschoot, Jane Pedersen, Mart VanKirk

Phelps Community Center Children Visit to Carriage House:
Nicole Fess contact person with Holly at the PCC, Ron Grube, Gary Jones and Mart VanKirk

Time and Talent
Carol Conklin Bonnie Dixon Barb Gillespie
Dennis King Chris Malchoff Kym Maslyn Marcia Maslyn Ann Oaks

Special Thank You to...

Pete and Jean Empson for making it possible for the PCHS to participate in the Sauerkraut Festival parade. We were not sure the 1924 Essex was up to the demands of being driven in the parade (she is almost 100 years old!). Pete provided a trailer and towed it with his pickup truck, joining the parade from the Howe House driveway.

Phelps Central School Exhibits



Stained glass panes from PCS auditorium doors



PCS Class of 1969 senior trip to Washington, DC



Yearbooks were available for reminiscing



FFA photos from the 50s and 60s, sports memorabilia



Photo display - sports, graduations, school building



Remembering Mr. Nagel

54th Sauerkraut Festival Parade



***Thank you to the following for their support of
the PCHS and Howe House Museum***

Welcome New Members!

Rebecca Gifford Bennett
Montrose, PA

Beth Newell
Phelps, NY

Margaret and Scott Rishel (PCS 1969)
Queensbury, NY

Geoffrey Whiting (PCS 1970)
Mechanicville, NY

Membership Renewals

Fritz Aude

Janice Blackman

Ann Bohner

Bill and Pam Caroscio

Charles and Nancy Case

Jackie Dyke Farrington

Kent and Linda Fisher

Scott Gifford

Lawrence and Barbara Howe

Mark and Linda Leight

Lois A. Main

Dick and Jean McDonald

Barbara Middlebrook & family

Walt and Jane Pedersen

Chris and Alicia Tiffany

Kenny Sontheim

Sue Van Camp

Marty Weigel

Leon Willson

Mark and Sally Zelonis

Memorial Donations

Rebecca Gifford Bennett
in memory of her sister
Joanne Gifford Allen

Dick and Jean McDonald
in memory of
Jean's twin brother
Jack Lundgard
and her parents
Martha and Henry Lundgard

Ann R Kirkpatrick
in memory of
Robert Westfall

Item Donations

Nancy Sheehan Case
PCS Class 1969 class trip photo

Bonnie Dixon
1979 Self guided tour of library
1989 Bicentennial envelope

Ed McManus
Folk art painting by Laretta Ridley

Dianne Prentice
Books and map

John Strawway
Documents on Phelps properties

Sally Zelonis
Homespun linens

Windy Hill Flower Farm, Phelps
Flower baskets for Carriage House

Monetary Donations

Lawrence and Barbara Howe

Fred Kirch
in honor of the PCS Class of 1955

Lois A. Main
Continue doing what you do!

John Raczenski

Mark and Sally Zelonis

MEMBERSHIP and DONATION FORM

*If "Reminder" is highlighted please renew your membership.
If "Final Notice" is highlighted this will be your last newsletter if dues are not paid.*

Application: New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____ Send membership card _____ **For Office use:**
Individual: \$20.00 _____ Family: \$30.00 _____ Business: \$50.00 _____ Member #: _____
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Dates in effect: _____ Computer: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Index Card: _____
Member Card: _____

DONATION: Amount _____
_____ In memory of (Optional): _____
_____ In honor of (Optional): _____

Pay your membership dues or visit our Gift Shoppe online at phelpsnhistory.com
PCHS members can obtain their **10% Gift Shoppe discount** by entering a digital coupon on the first checkout page.
Click on "+ Add a coupon code" (blue text). **Coupon code for September 1949f**

From our mail box...



Dear Diane,

Maureen Quigley's story about the MULS Enterprise (*June newsletter*) brought back many memories. We lived next door to the McLellans while Kenny, or Mac as he was called by our neighbors, was in high school. I remember the jam sessions on the porch.

After we became snow birds, I was reading the Palm Beach Post (the local newspaper). There was an ad that said TG Sheppard was playing at the South Florida Fair. Tim and I went to hear him. TG was a last minute replacement for another country artist. We had a great time, met TG, got to reminisce with Kenny and got a CD by TG and signed by him. I kept that CD until I moved to Florida.

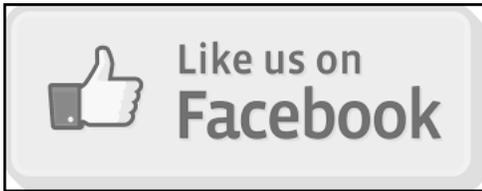
Thanks for bringing back the happy memories.

Take care
Emme Cortelyou

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Website: phelpsnhistory.com

Find us on Facebook



Museum Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday and

Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

or by appointment



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Diane Goodman