



Phelps Community Historical Society

February 2023 Volume 31 Issue 270



Howe House Museum

66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532
(315) 548-4940

E-mail:

histsoc2@gmail.com

Website:

phelpsnhistory.com

Find us on

Facebook

Museum Hours:

Currently Closed

Reopen:

March 15, 2023

President

Mart VanKirk

Vice President

Sarah Landschoot

Treasurer

Tom Cheney

Trustees

Billee Altman

Marilyn DeRuyter

Ron Grube -

PCHS Historian

Gary Jones

Len Kataskas

Dennis King

Barry Lee

Cory Maslyn

Jane Pedersen

Student Rep

Anna Lightfoote

Director

Diane Goodman

Administrative Assistant

Heather Olander



From the Director's Desk... *A Month in Review*

In the past several weeks we have checked off items on our "To Do" list, given tours to two memorable groups, received generous donations, worked on exhibits in three rooms, completed six research requests, and two volunteers have started working on new projects.

The first group to visit the Howe House was a delegation from the American Legion. PCHS member Bruce Ruthven, Adjutant Sons of the American Legion Squadron 457, had requested the tour. We were more than happy to oblige (see photos page 3).

On a recent Monday evening, 10 scouts from Phelps Troop #46 and their leaders came to the museum to lend a helping hand and take a tour. Heather Olander, our Administrative Assistant, gave the tour for the group that included her son, scout Eli (see Time and Talent on page 2, photos page 3).

Research requests have included a cobblestone barn, ancestry, cemeteries, a bridge, and the Garlock Opera House. We were able to provide information and/or photos for each request. At the same time we acquired information through our research that we didn't know!

Last month we asked for help in transcribing old letters from Oaks Corners. Thank you to PCHS member Cathy Scott for taking on the challenge! (see page 4). There are four boxes to go through, so additional volunteers are welcome, just contact our office.

PCHS newsletters from the past 20 years will soon be available at the Phelps Library. The newsletters have been collected by Doris Spink who is indexing the articles of interest.

A special thank you goes to Frank Allen, *Framing by Frank*, for doing a great job on three custom framings. One was a donation from Frank Allen and the other two a donation from a PCHS member. Photos that are part of the Pleasant Street train station history are now on display. A picture of Lewis Peck with information is with the Lincoln document appointing him Tax Assessor in its new display location.

Thank you to all who support our organization!

Diane Goodman

Phelps Citizen, Phelps NY

February 1953

Leaning far out the third floor window of the Phelps Electric building, the Citizen photographer – Ellis Stratford, caught this view of Main Street during Monday afternoon's snow flurries. It was not pleasant outside and not many people were about the street.



Welcome New Members!

Kirsten Nagel– Sunnyvale, CA
Eric Reed– Phelps, NY

Monetary Donations

Anonymous
Otis & Vivian Davis

Membership Renewals

David Bloom
Charles Conklin
Otis & Vivian Davis
Barbara DeCook
Bonnie Detro
Julie Files
Mary Ann Gilman
Gary & Karen Jones
Len Kataskas
Dennis King
Roberta Leu
Minerva Milliman
Andrew & Carole Oaks
Michael Priebe
Robert Quigley
Marcia Scherbyn
Sharon Scherbyn
Robert & Doris Spink
Nancy A. Turner
Mart VanKirk
Richard Ver Bridge
Jean Westfall

Memorial Donations

Kirsten Nagel
in memory of
Grove and Chrissie Nagel
Robert Nagel Janet Schultz

Douglas and Cynthia Brown
June Darling
Tom and Cheryl Darling
Richard and Katherine Henrie
Jack and Virginia Kellogg
James & Phyllis Kommer
William Taney
International Association of
Machinists & Aerospace Workers
in memory of
Betty Taney

Rebecca Bennett
in memory of
Pat Bennett

Robert Quigley
in memory of
Judge Robert M. & Patricia Ruth Quigley

Time and Talent

Bonnie Dixon - *Newsletter*
Barb Gillespie – *Secretarial & Scrapbooking*
Dana Mark– *Transfer Station*

Community Service **Howe House Basement Clean up**

Boy Scouts Troop #46
and
Robin Grube
Ron Grube
Gary Jones
Cliff Olander
Mart VanKirk



In Memoriam

Irene P .Copper
May 4, 1938-February 2, 2023

PCHS Member
Phelps Croquet Club Member

From our Inbox...



Thank you Tom Cheney for that article as it brought back many memories of that day. Remember it vividly although I wasn't one that walked out of school. Also really liked the picture used as that was my fathers store and building and the place I learned the trade that carried me through my lifetime. Phelps was a wonderful place to be brought up in and it will always be my hometown.

Best wishes,
Ed Maslyn



Military Exhibit in the East Room.

American Legion Delegation Visits Howe House Museum

January 30, 2023

On a snowy Monday morning, 11 members of the American Legion, from the New York State, Ontario County and local levels, enjoyed a tour of the Howe House Museum conducted by PCHS Director Diane Goodman. This fun group was the first to view our new Military Exhibit in the East Room and our updated General Store Exhibit.

The PCHS would like to thank the Seeley B. Parish Post #457 for their continued support since 1969 when our first museum was in the downstairs of their building.



Viewing the 1924 Essex in the Carriage House.



American Legion NYS Commander David R. Riley, Sr. presents Diane Goodman with a challenge coin, given to raise awareness of the organization and its mission.

Boy Scout Troop #46

Phelps, NY

February 9, 2023

Phelps Boy Scout Troop #46 contributed towards their community service hours by assisting with the basement clean up and some rearranging of items in the museum. They made quick work of it and had extra time left over to enjoy a tour. The scouts were entertained by the Kitchen Exhibit with the water pump and ice box, model trains in the Children's Room Exhibit, and of course the two-story brick attached outhouse!

Photos on this page by *Heather Olander*



Pres. Mark VanKirk showing how the water pump works.



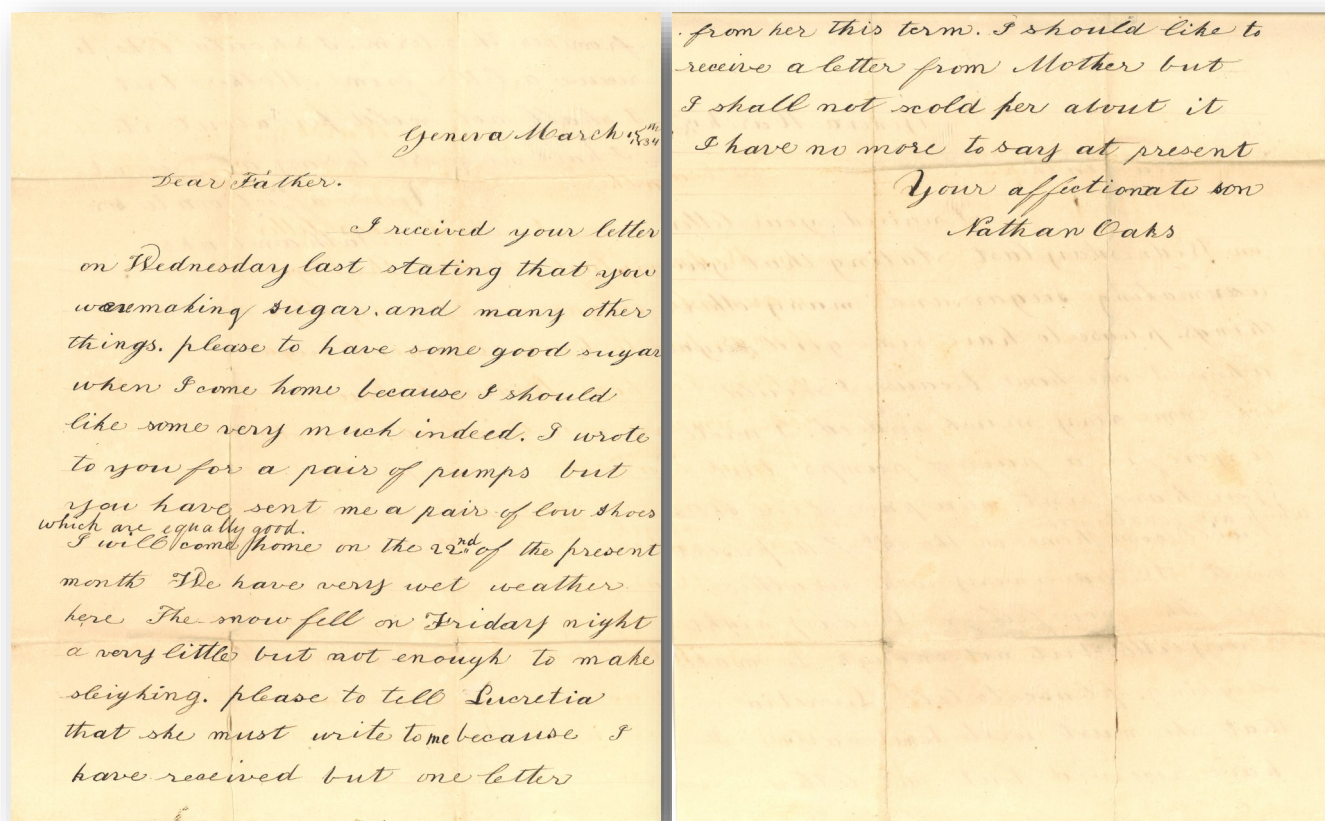
Phelps Boy Scout Troup #46



Volunteer Robin Grube demonstrating the trains .

Transcribing the Past...transcription performed by Cathy Scott

From: Nathan Oaks dated March 15, 1834



Geneva March 15, 1834

Dear Father,

I received your letter on Wednesday last stating that you were making sugar and many other things. Please to have some good sugar when I come home because I should like some very much indeed. I wrote to you for a pair of pumps but you have sent me a pair of low shoes which are equally good. I will come home on the 22nd of the present month. We have very wet weather here. The snow fell on Friday night a very little but not enough to make sleighing. Please to tell Lucretia that she must write to me because I have received but one letter from her this term. I should like to receive a letter from Mother but I shall not scold her about it. I have no more to say at the present.

Your affectionate son
Nathan Oaks



Letter addressed to: Col. Elias Cost (P.M.) (Postmaster)
Oaks Corners Ontario Co. N.Y.

Oaks Family Genealogy by Doris Spink

Author of Letter: Nathan Oaks Sr. (b.1821- d.1905)

Parents Thaddeus Oaks (1774- d.1824) and
Fanny Dickinson

Letter Recipient: Elias Cost (b.1777- d.1851)

Stepfather to Nathan Oaks Sr. and
first Postmaster of Oaks Corners.

Fanny Dickinson Bannister-Oaks-Cost (b.1786- d.1850)
Mother to Nathan Oaks Sr. and second wife of Elias Cost.

Mary Lucretia Oaks (b.1824 -d.1855) sister to Nathan Sr.

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.

Dues may be paid by: check to PCHS or online at phelpsnyhistory.com

Application: New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____ Send membership card _____ For Office use:

Individual: \$20.00 _____ Family: \$30.00 _____ Business: \$50.00 _____ Member #: _____

Name: _____ Date Rcvd: _____

Address: _____ Check #: _____

Winter Address: (if different from above): _____ Amt. Rcvd: _____

_____ Exp. Date: _____

Dates Winter Address in effect: _____ Computer: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Index Card: _____

Member Card: _____

DONATION: Amount _____

_____ In memory of (Optional): _____

_____ In honor of (Optional): _____

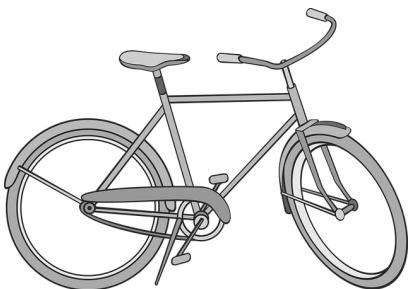
_____ Allocate funds to (Optional): _____

WHAT WILL YOU FIND WHEN SPRING CLEANING ?

As you come across various items during your spring cleaning this year, please consider a donation or loan to the PCHS. We are interested in items from the recent decades that fit our criteria: in good condition and tell a story of Phelps history or way of life.

In particular we are looking for: Midlakes High School yearbooks for the years 1969 (PCS), 1978, 1980, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2007, 2010, 2015, and 2016, but any from 1970 to the present are welcome; promotional items from Phelps businesses; and a bicycle for the Transportation Exhibit.

If you have an item(s) to be considered for donation please contact our office.



Thank you!
PCHS Collections Committee

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Phelps, NY 14532

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Main Street Phelps
February 3, 1925

