



Phelps Community Historical Society

January 2024 Volume 32 Issue 280



55th Anniversary of Collecting and Sharing

In October of 1968 an organizational meeting of the Phelps Historical Society was held. The members of the committee were: Henry Smith, chairman; Mabel Oaks, Town Historian; Herbert Parmelee and Dora Rathbun. Clyde Maffin, Ontario County Historian, spoke on the preliminaries of organizing a Historical Society.

On November 24, 1968 about 25 Phelps and Clifton Springs residents met in the Phelps Library, located at that time in the corner store of the Crothers Block (now the DeBaere Block) where the 99 Main Barber Co. is now. Before the first annual meeting on January 27, 1969, a Constitution and By-laws were drawn up and a nominating committee was appointed to present a slate of officers for the year. The officers elected were: President Russell Hicks, 1st Vice President Mabel Oaks, 2nd Vice President John Salisbury, Recording Secretary Mary Preston, Corresponding Secretary Betty Darrow, Treasurer Gladys Caves. The Trustees elected were: Dora Rathbun, Henry Smith, Vivian Parmelee, Nellie VanNostrand, Charles Eacker, Mabel Oaks, Arthur Adams, Adelbert Hildreth and Robert Quigley.

There were 59 charter members that first year in 1969. On June 23, 1978 the New York Board of Regents, on behalf of the New York State Education Department, officially granted our charter.

The first few years the society met in the library and larger public programs were held in the Presbyterian Church. In 1976 the American Legion built their building on East Main Street (Route 96) and were kind enough to include a room for the society to use as a meeting room and museum, free of charge. Cabinets that were in the upstairs Sunday School rooms in the Methodist Church before it was torn down were installed to provide storage for clothing, maps, etc. Some items were stored in Mary Preston's barn. Dick and Dora Rathbun were charter members of the Phelps Community Historical Society. Dick was curator for 25 years and Dora one of the first Trustees. They developed a system to manage the society's collection, installed exhibits, and solicited donations and volunteers. Dick accessioned and recorded 1500 items. On November 19, 1987, at the 84th annual meeting of the Ontario County Historical Society, the Rathbuns received the Herbert and Helen Ellis History Award for their work with the PCHS.

In 1999 an anonymous benefactor, who we now know was Mary Hicks Preston, provided the funds for the PCHS to purchase the building for sale at 66 Main Street (it had been sold in 1985 by the Howe family to Bob and Beth Burns, and in 1991 to Alan and Patricia Taylor).

After a successful fundraiser and over a year of renovations by mostly volunteers, the PCHS opened the doors to its new home.

As a note of interest, it should be mentioned that the Rathbun family rented the Howe House from 1915-1937 while Dr. William Howe and his family were living in Albany (Dr Howe was the first NYS Health Deputy and served as Medical Inspector of Schools for the New York State Health Commission). Dick and Dora lived here after they were married.

Long time Phelps resident and retired school librarian Doris Spink began volunteering for the historical society in 1997 when it was in the space at the American Legion. When the move was made to the Howe House, Doris took on the responsibilities of director and curator and continued to do so as a volunteer for the following seven years.

In May of 2003, Doris was recognized as the Ontario County Senior Citizen of the Year. In January of 2013 she was the recipient of the Mary Hicks Preston Foundation Award for Community Service. Bob Spink was active in the renovations of the building and served on the PCHS Board as a Trustee and President.

In 2005 a bequest from Mary Hicks Preston was put into an investment account that generates income to help finance the society's operations.

The historical society has seen many changes over the years but continues to thrive thanks to the selfless dedication of its volunteers and the support of its membership, community members and the Town and Village government.

We can only wonder what the next 55 years will bring!

Compiled by Diane Goodman

Sources: John Parmelee, PCHS files

Phelp News

After 18 years as supervisor for the Town of Phelps Norm Teed retired January 1.

"I will be needing to travel more frequently to family in Missouri," said Teed, 76

Norm Teed was elected town supervisor in 2005 and reelected most recently in 2021.

Bill Wellman, the town's deputy supervisor and a retired county sheriff's office investigator, has been appointed interim supervisor.

Town Clerk Linda Nieskes retired January 3.

Amy Sitterley has been appointed interim clerk/tax collector. Special elections will be held in November.

Source: fingerlaketimestimes.com

Welcome New Members!

Goodman Enterprises - Stanley, NY
Donna Nellis - Newark, NY

Membership Renewals

Terry Atkinson
Janet Bankert
Debra Bennett
Gary & Dorothy Colvin
Jacqueline Darrow
Joseph DeRuyter
Anne Marie Devendorf
Charlie & Debbie Dhalle
DeBoover Family Farms
Janet Fremouw
Loren Gifford
Joan Griswold
Linda Guest
Ramon & Charlotte Howard
Gary & Karen Jones
Elizabeth Meath
Ed McManus
Mary Narum
Roger Peck
Eleanore Ridley
Randolph & Kim Ridley Family
Gib & Cathy Scott
Nancy Turner
Pamela Wheadon
Doris H. Wells

Annual Appeal Donors

Marion Donnelly
Nickolas Harris
James & Pamela Heffron
Barbara Hildebrant
Phelps American Legion Seeley B. Parish
Beth Newell
Robert Seago
Muriel (Nickie) Shannon
Kathryn Tubbs
Richard VerBridge

Monetary Donations

Charles & Debbie Dhalle
ExxonMobil Grant
Doris Spink volunteer hours
Loren Gifford
F. Lawrence Howe
Dennis King - *Clock repair*

CLGA Donations

Lucia Marshall
Kathy Ann Morris
Pat Lyon Jones



In Memoriam

F. Lee Walters

November 5, 1933-January 9, 2024

Memorial Donations

Terry Atkinson
Eleanore Ridley
Robert and Doris Spink
In memory of
Paula Atkinson

Margaret Neilson
In memory of
Rick Hoven

Gary & Brenda Mosher
In memory of
Bob Hussar

Eleanore Ridley
In memory of
Mary Hicks Preston
Floyd Ridley

Christine Brightman
DeBoover Family Farms
Richard & Mary Ann Gilman
Glen & Ann Webster
In memory of
Beverly Tiffany

Robert & Arlene Clark
In memory of
Don & Bev Tiffany

Mark & Tracy Falkey
In memory of
Ron VanCamp

Linda Guest
In memory of
Ron VanCamp & Jerry VanCamp

Donated Items

F. Lee Johnson
1960s Troop 46 Cub Scout Uniform &
JJ Associates Polo

Driveway Extension

One of our projects from 2023 was adding an extension to the existing driveway. This new extension allows for additional parking and the option to use the pass through to access North Wayne Street. The extension makes for safer coming and goes to and from the Howe House Museum!

Please see the map below of the driveway extension.



Aerial view of the Howe House from OnCor Property Map



Ron Grube digging out the driveway extension



Town of Phelps delivering the gravel for the driveway extension



Patrick O'Neill tampering the gravel

Storage Shed Eagle Scout Project

Matthew Cannan from Phelps Boy Scout Troop 46 has completed all the requirements needed to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout. To achieve the highest rank and honor; a scout should have all the necessary merit badges and must also plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project that benefits an organization and the community.

Matthew chose to take on the challenge of building a much needed storage shed for the PCHS! The construction of the shed began in September of last year and was completed the following November. Matthew, along with a group of volunteers, dedicated many of their weekends and spare time towards the completion of the shed. The total volunteer hours accumulated from start to finish was 334.5!



Matthew Cannan at his Board of Review for Eagle Scout rank advancement.
Congratulations Matthew!

***We would like to thank the following
for their much appreciated time and talent!***

Matthew, Scott, Melissa & Brian Cannan

Phelps Troop 46

Bill Cannan

Scott Fulmer

Dave Gruschow

Gary Jones

Dennis King

Cliff & Heather Olander

Patrick O'Neill

Mikki Snadeker

Mart VanKirk



Matthew Cannan with his brother Brian Cannan during the construction of the shed.



Scott Cannan , Brian Cannan & crew putting up first wall.



Mikki Snadeker, Melissa Cannan, Brian Cannan,
Danny Snadeker priming siding.

*Look for the follow up to this article in
the April or May issue of our newsletter.*

2023 Annual Christmas Program



The week of December 11 the Midlakes first and second graders visited the Howe House for our annual program. They learned about holiday traditions of the past and what would be found in a kitchen during the 1920s and 1930s, enjoyed watching the model trains run, were told the story of the 1924 Essex and gathered on the front porch for a photo on the bobsled. The volunteers had as much fun as the kids!



Rosa Grube talks about Christmas traditions of the past in the Oak Room.



Gary Jones talks with students about trains.



Nancy Denisi talks about the Hoosier cabinet and how other items in the Kitchen Exhibit were used.



All smiles for a class photo on the bobsled displayed on the Howe House front porch.



Ron Grube showing students the interior of the 1924 Essex .



L-R: Nancy Denisi, Gary Jones, Ron Grube, Rosa Grube Robin Grube, Billee Altman, Cathy Scott, Heather Olander

Phelps Community Historical Society 2023 Annual Report

The PCHS Annual Meeting and Elections will be held in April

STAFF

Diane Goodman *Director*

Heather Olander *Administrative Assistant*

2023 Financials

INCOME

Membership Dues.....	\$5,712.00
Rental of Property.....	\$400.00
Merchandise Sales.....	\$478.00
NYS Sales Tax.....	\$23.00
Fund Raisers/Wreath Sale.....	\$1,052.00
Annual Fund Drive.....	\$10,293.00
Gifts & Donations	\$13,856.00
Memorial Donations.....	\$4,271.00
Government Support.....	\$14,000.00
Grant Income.....	\$500.00
Other (Transfers).....	\$36,980.00
Indirect Misc. Income.....	\$2,483
Interest Income	\$7.00
Total Income	\$90,055.00

INVESTMENTS

Unrealized Gain (2023)	\$69,375.00
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MEMBERSHIP

New Individual/Family **22** Total memberships **262**

VOLUNTEERS

Recorded volunteer hours **1440**

Board of Trustees -meetings hours **179.75**

TOURS AND RESEARCH

Tours **99** with **180** visitors

Other visitors - approx. **29**

Research Requests In person/online - **46**

EVENTS

Midlakes Music and Art

Annual Meeting

EXPENSES

Program Supplies	\$86.00
Professional Contracted Services.....	\$2,296.00
Advertising.....	\$623.00
Website.....	\$144.00
Bulk Mail/Postage.....	\$579.00
Utilities/Telephone.....	\$9084.00
Printing/Copier Lease.....	\$4119.00
Supplies/equipment.....	\$1793.00
Maintenance/Repairs.....	\$10815.00
Memberships/subscriptions.....	\$977.00
Insurance.....	\$4,425.00
Payroll Expenses.....	\$50,516.00
Special Projects.....	\$1,653.00
Fundraising Expense.....	\$2230.00
Security System Monitoring.....	\$1,184.00
Indirect/Unbudgeted Expenses.....	\$15,927.00
Other Expenses.....	\$494.00
Total Expenses	\$106,945.00

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Midlakes 1st and 2nd Graders

December 11th-15th

156 Students **28** Adults

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Carriage House ceiling painted

Carriage House Transportation Exhibit

Country Lawyer Office repurposed
as exhibit room and art gallery

Driveway and parking area extended

Storage shed built as part of Eagle Scout project

Howe House front porch railings repaired

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 66 Main St Phelps, NY 14532 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): _____

Time and Talent

Christmas Program

Billee Altman

Marilyn DeRuyter

Nancy Denisi

Ron, Rosa and Robin Grube

Gary Jones

Heather Olander

Jane Petersen

Cathy Scott

Housekeeping

Alyssa Olander

Human Resources Committee

Ron & Rosa Grube

Jane Petersen

Sarah Landschoot - Riegel

Cathy Scott

Mart VanKirk

Miscellaneous

Billee Altman

Barb Gillespie

Dana Mark

Transcribing William A. Howe Letter

Cathy Scott

Special Thank You

Long-serving PCHS Treasurer

Tom Cheney

has retired from the

PCHS Board of Trustees.

We would like to

express our thanks for his

17 years of volunteer service.

Like so many volunteer "jobs", being Treasurer involves giving up personal time on a weekly basis.

In addition to overseeing all aspects of the organization's finances, Tom has also provided assistance with the PCHS technology.

Tom is involved with several community organizations. We greatly appreciate the time and effort he dedicated to the PCHS.

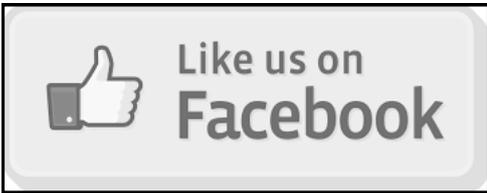
Thank you Tom

The PCHS Board of Trustees

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532

NON-PROFIT ORG
PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No 31
Newark, NY 14513



February 3, 1925 Snowed in on Main Street

PCHS President
Mart VanKirk

Vice President/Historian
Ron Grube

Treasurer
Len Kataskas

Secretary
Sarah Landschoot-Riegel

Trustees

Billee Altman
Gary Jones
Dennis King
Barry Lee
Patrick O'Neill
Jane Pedersen
Cathy Scott

Staff

Director
Diane Goodman

Administrative Assistant
Heather Olander

Howe House Museum
66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532
(315) 548-4940
E-mail:
histsoc2@gmail.com
Website:
phelpsnyhistory.com

Museum Hours:
Closed
Dec 23, 2023 -
March 12, 2024

**Country Lawyer
Gallery of the Arts**
7 Church Street
Phelps, NY 14532

Director
Michael Nash
(585)-789-0017

Gallery Hours:
Thursday 5-7pm
Friday 3-7pm
Saturday noon-7pm
or by appointment