



Phelps Community Historical Society Newsletter

March 2021 Volume 29 Issue 249

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:

Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
or by appointment



President

Mart VanKirk

Board of Trustees

Ron Grube, Vice President
Barbara Gillespie, Secretary
Tom Cheney, Treasurer
Marilyn DeRuyter, Trustee
Nicole Fess, Trustee
Gary Jones, Trustee
Len Kataskas, Trustee
Sarah Landschoot, Trustee
Ann Oaks, Trustee
Jane Pedersen, Trustee



Director

Diane Goodman



President's Message

Mart VanKirk

The PCHS is attempting to improve our outreach to and engagement with, not only our membership, but also with the members of the Phelps community, both local and afar. To accomplish this we have launched our new website (www.phelpsnhistory.com) and are working toward improving our social media presence on Facebook (Phelps Community Historical Society), Instagram (@PhelpsNYHistory), Twitter (@PhelpsNYHistory) and YouTube (Phelps Community Historical Society). The PCHS hopes that expanding our presence on social media will allow us to better fulfill our mission of gathering and telling the stories of Phelps, while creating interest among the upcoming generations, our future members.

To remain safe during the COVID-19 pandemic we have not held any programs or events. As much as we miss socializing with the membership and community during those events we remain hesitant to schedule anything yet. An increased social media presence provides a safe and more accessible method to tell our stories. In the coming months, we hope to give you videos, presentations, articles, and more, through these digital platforms.

Among other topics the website covers: the Phelps Historical Society, the Howe House Museum, the Carriage House, the Country Lawyer's Office, research materials, archives, collections, and Phelps history. But we are not just trying to tell the stories of Phelps. We are also trying to collect the stories. There are forms on the web pages you can submit to ask questions, make suggestions, offer corrections, request research, or offer to volunteer. You can also renew or purchase a membership, donate to the PCHS, and purchase items from the gift shop online. The website is a living document - it will never be complete because today's happenings are tomorrow's stories.

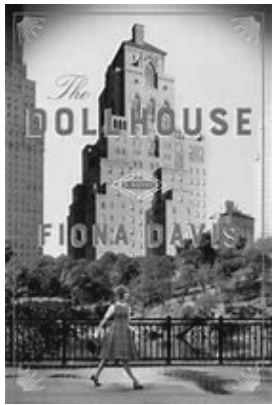
Thank you to Bob Quigley, Nicole Fess, and Ron Grube for working on these social media projects.

Gift Shoppe items can be purchased online at www.phelpsnhistory.com by clicking on "Gift Shop" in the menu. PCHS members can obtain their 10% discount by entering a digital coupon on the first checkout page. Click on "+ Add a coupon code" (blue text). The coupon code for April is **2238H**.



Country Lawyer's Office

The Dollhouse by Fiona Davis



An interesting name for a historical novel, "The Dollhouse" is referencing the Barbizon Hotel built in 1927 in New York City. It is a 23 story steel frame building originally built for young women who came to the city for professional opportunities, but still wanted a safe retreat that felt like home. This lively and fast paced book tells the story of several of these women who lived in the Barbizon Hotel in the 1950s and still resided there 60 years later.

Our main character is Darby, who was going for training as a secretary. She is a shy, timid young woman, just out of high school, from a small town in Ohio. The rooms at the hotel were assigned according to the profession you were training for so that you would be with other women of similar studies. It was to make getting acquainted easier. It was a rough start and Darby was extremely homesick, but a few new friends introduced her to some of the big city life and how it was the "best place to be". There is so much to do and see in the city. Studies were important, but from what she was learning from the other young women the city was a fascinating place to explore. They told Darby to "take advantage of your time here, where you can observe the big bad world from the safety of the Barbizon".

There is a second story in this novel that is of modern day: the Barbizon has been remodeled into condos but the fourth floor

Book Review by Marcia Maslyn

and lounge have been left original, and this is where the octogenarians had their apartments. Rose is a journalist with her own life's ups and downs. She is working for an online news magazine and suggested to her editor a story about the women who moved into the hotel in the 1950s. She could set up interviews with them and learn about why they came and how NYC was, plus the many changes they have seen through the years.

Getting into research of the hotel, Rose comes across an article about an accidental death that took place in the 1950s, so along with interviewing the long-term tenants of the former hotel, she tries to piece together just what happened. Suspense, drama and mystery along with a supply of interesting informative details on the lives of those living in the 1950s.

Darby's friend Esme, a Barbizon Hotel maid, introduced her to the downtown jazz clubs, where music is addictive, and the startling sounds of bebop. Stella, a model in training invited Darby to the Hotel Solarium for a fashion show.

The more information Rose obtains about Darby during her research, the more her obsession deepens, and the ethics of her investigation become increasingly murky. Neither woman will remain unchanged when the shocking truth is revealed. The chapters alternate between present day and the 1950s; the stories of Darby and Rose are well interwoven providing the reader with two parallel lives that ultimately converge into one.

The points of view were clear and concise, holding my attention. I loved the descriptions of the hotel and wonderful snapshots of the time period.

From Our Collection.....

In April of 2008, John I. Mosher was asked to do a writeup about the duffel bag and overseas bag that he donated to the PCHS. They were carried by his brother-in-law, Harry C. Marshall, while in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II, 1943-1946. Below is the story from John of two well traveled items that settled down in our collection.

Harry was on several stations in the U.S. Marine Corps in the South Pacific, and ended up as a gun captain on Okinawa Island. He was in charge of anti-aircraft guns to shoot down Japanese kamikaze planes attempting to destroy U.S. Navy ships.

While on Okinawa Harry experienced a typhoon. As the typhoon struck he and other Marines took refuge from the high winds in Japanese burial caves. The wind blew so hard that when one of the Marines pushed away the boulder blocking the entrance to the cave to check on the wind, his watch was blown off from his wrist. In another day the wind finally subsided and the Marines left the cave to return to their completely flattened and blown away tents. Harry was sure he had lost all of his gear. When he looked along the beach close to where his tent was he saw something dark lying on the bottom of the sea just a few yards off the beach. He waded out to check on it and to his great surprise it was his duffel bag and near by was his overseas bag. The duffel bag and overseas bag contained most of his gear. It

seemed impossible that after a few days of pounding seas and high winds that his duffel bag and overseas bag were only a few yards out in the sea. Very wet but intact. He retrieved his bags and used them for the duration of the war.

Upon his return he eventually gave those bags to me to use in the Boy Scouts and the overseas bag for a gym bag. Those bags served me well as they had him. These are the same bags that are now with the PCHS at the Howe House 63 years after their ordeal with a typhoon on the shores of Okinawa Island.



Overseas bag

Philetus Swift Another Phelps Pioneer

by F. Lee Johnson 2021

Phelps was blessed with many industrious hardworking early pioneers. Philetus Swift was one that stands out. He came into this section early in 1789.

Philetus was one of 10 children. He was born in Kent, Litchfield County, Connecticut, 26 June 1763. His parents were Elisha Swift b.16 May 1731 and Mary Ransom b.4 December 1737. Siblings were: Herman b.5 Nov.1757 Kent d. 26 Feb. 1813 Junius, Seneca County; John L. b.17 June 1761 Kent d.12 July 1814 Canada; Rockeelane b.25 Aug.1765 Kent d.5 Feb.1767; Alice b.19 July 1765 Kent d.17 Jan.1813 Palmyra, NY; Phile b.1 Aug.1767 Kent d.12 Jan.1813 Palmyra, NY; Jabez b.20 July 1769 Kent d.9 Sept.1795; Severus b.15 Sept.1773 d.19 Feb.1823 Junius, Seneca Co.; Lewis b.12 Nov.1774 d.15 June 1813; Captain Elisha Jr. b. 6 April 1777 d.23 Jan.1812.

John L. Swift, Philetus's older brother, served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Elmore's Regiment, Connecticut Line. His first wife was Rhoda Sawyer, 1766-1806, married 6 March 1784, and they had 4 children. They came to the Palmyra section in 1788. Palmyra was first called Swift's Landing. John married a second time to Hepsibah Treat Davidson; they had three children. John entered the War of 1812 as Brigadier General, and fought at the Niagara Frontier. He was assassinated by a captured British soldier. He died 12 July 1814 at Queenston, Niagara, Ontario, Canada. He was re-interred at Palmyra, NY.

Philetus served as a sergeant from the state of Connecticut in the Revolutionary War. He again served his country as a Lieutenant Colonel in the War of 1812, Niagara Frontier. Governor Daniel Tompkins ordered drafts from the New York militia, of 600 volunteers, to promptly set out for the frontier under command of Lt. Col. Philetus. The book, *Battle of Chippewa*, by H. Charles Mc Barron Jr., US Army Collection, tells that Lt. Col. Philetus Swift brought his Battalion of 600 New York volunteers as reinforcements to General Brown's Regiment's Left Division, at Queenston Heights, later in the battle of Fort George. We are not sure if he and his brothers, Brigadier General John L. Swift and Captain Elisha Swift Jr., ever crossed paths at the frontier.

Philetus was married three times. His first wife was Electra Goodrich, married 4 April 1786 in Sharon, Connecticut. Second wife was Sally Deane, b.1774 d.1823? (Seth Deane's daughter), married 27 Nov. 1793. They had one son Deane Swift, b. 1794 d.1818. The third and final wife was Fawnia "Fanny" Cole b.1792 d.8 Jan.1880, married 26 Nov.1823 (with the approval of Sally who was very ill). They had one daughter, Electra Jane Swift, 1825-1904.

Philetus, in 1789, bought Lot 1 of 320 acres east of Unionville and bordering the old Pre-Emption line. He built a log cabin near the point of now Rte. 96 and County Rd.#6. In 1817, he built a grist, a flour mill and a sawmill on the Canandaigua outlet. His nephew Henry Swift ran them until 1858. We will discuss more of his permanent home later.

Philetus first took a job in 1790 chopping timber on the south part of John D. Robison's farm. Dr. Caleb Bannister describes his toiling in his 1852 "Address Pamphlet on Phelps Agricultural Society", pages 4 & 5 as follows:

'There that Mr. Swift labored with such zealous ambition that he was under the necessity often of divesting himself of his body

linen for the purpose of wringing out the water with which it was saturated from the pores of his body. I mention not by way of disparagement, but as highly to his credit. His persevering industry in subsequence years, was crowned with the most flattering success in accumulation of wealth; his sound common sense was equally successful, in securing the confidence of his fellow citizens; he was promoted to office of high honor and trust, both civil and military, he became judge of the county court, a member of the state senate 1810-1815 and from 1816-1818, and at one time discharged the duties of Lieutenant Governor, as president pro-tempore of the Senate, and he commanded a regiment in the army of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier. So here I would take the liberty to say to every young man of our town never despise manual labor, place the standard of your ambition at an elevated grade, as did this our veteran and highly respected pioneer townsman, and go thou and do likewise, and thou too shall be promoted to stations high and honorable. "

Philetus was elected at the first town meeting as assessor along with two others. He served as the 8th Phelps Town Supervisor from 1818-1822. He was also the Presidential Elector in 1820 voting for James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins. He was originally buried in the Pioneer Cemetery, however in 1905, his granddaughter had his remains re-interred in the Webster Rural Cemetery in Webster, New York, on 01-01-1905, Grave location DD RO5 G42. Why?? Was she from Webster? There is a grave stone in our Pioneer Cemetery marking where he was originally buried.

Philetus built his stately, two story, Federal-style, limestone home east of Unionville on the north side of now State Rte. 96. It was built in two stages, started in 1792 and completed in 1816. There are two accompanying barns behind the home. Philetus' home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. My cousins Katy (Raes) and Marinus (Zeke) Lockemeyer were caretakers of this home for many years. I am sure that many of you have driven by the stately home and probably never knew who built it! I didn't!



Philetus Swift House

Some sources are cited throughout the article. Others used include: History of Phelps, Family Search, Find a Grave, Wikitrel and Dr Caleb Bannister's 1852 Pamphlet

Dr. Ina Vanderhoof Burt

written by Dr. Ronald Grube

Ina Vanderhoof was born in 1867 to Frederick D. Vanderhoof and Armeda R. Hyde. Her father was a medical doctor who practiced for 55 years in Phelps. At the age of 21, F.D. Vanderhoof was a surgeon in the Civil War and had the distinction of being the youngest surgeon in the war. Once home from the war, he married Armeda Hyde of Newark. They had four children (Ina, Fred, Neva, and Bertram). Dr. Vanderhoof practiced on Main Street above Edmonston's Groceries and Wisewell Drugs in the Gibson Block. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Jul 30, 1921 and 1892 map of Phelps)

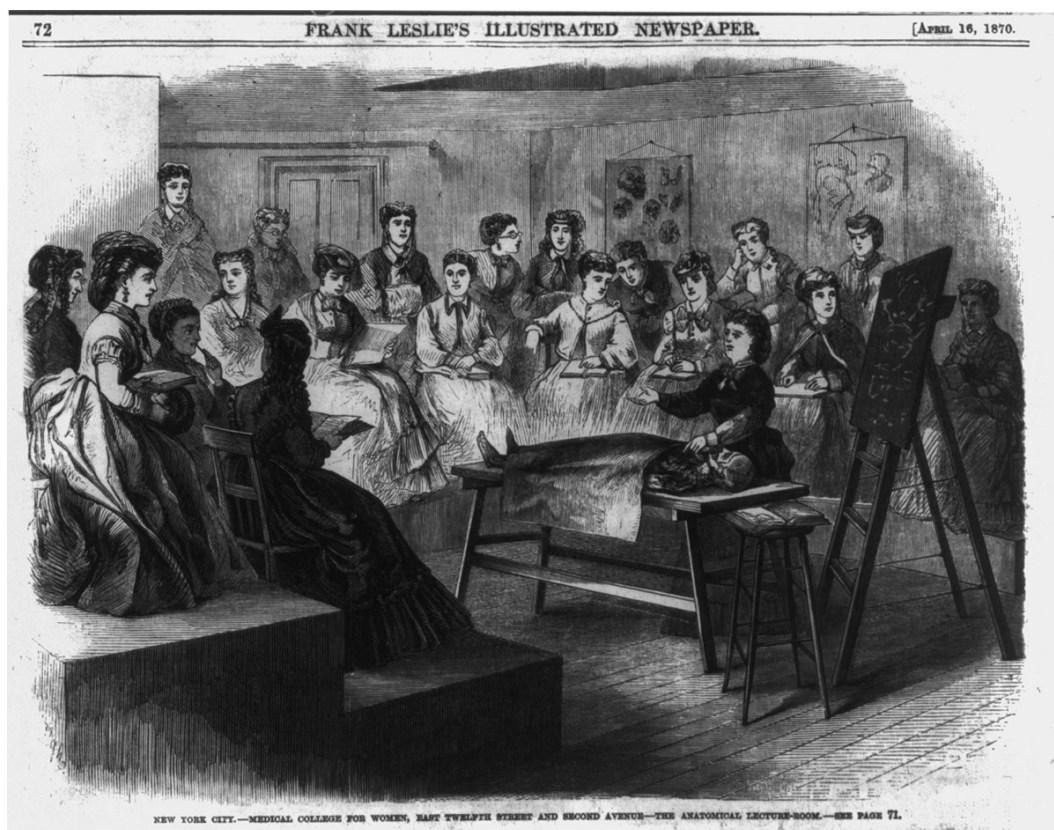
Ina and her siblings were graduates of the Phelps Union and Classical School. In that regard, she had a fairly typical early education. However, that is as far as it went for a "typical" upbringing in Phelps. She had opportunities that most young women in Phelps did not share. Being the daughter of a respected medical doctor, Ina developed an interest in medicine and surgery. Her father had acquired a medical library rated as the best and most valuable in Western New York. (Democrat and Chronicle, July 30, 1921) She undoubtedly enjoyed both the medical library and her father's encouragement. Although we do not know the degree to which Armeda encouraged Ina, it is probably safe to conclude that Ina's mother was a proponent of women's education and equality. Ina was the oldest child.

Following Ina's graduation from the Union and Classical School in Phelps, she attended the Clifton Springs Female Seminary. Her desire to become a medical doctor led her to the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. At the time, it was extremely rare for women to attend a medical school and almost all of their educations were

in medical schools for women. Most of these schools were short-lived and graduates were frequently met with a bias against women. The prospects of inclusion in the male dominated profession were bleak. That Ina was convinced that she would have a practice in Phelps upon graduation is a testimony to her upbringing. Newly married, she and her husband Charles Burt (also of Phelps) moved to New York City for the three years of her education. Her graduating class of 1896 consisted of 26 women. (Democrat and Chronicle, Jan 4, 1949)

Doctor Ina Vanderhoof Burt received her New York State medical license in 1895. She and her husband Charles moved back to Phelps after her graduation. Her practice was on East Main Street. During her 26 years of serving patients from Phelps, Ina became Health Officer of the Town for one term and the Village of Phelps for two terms. She was the Ontario County Chairman of the A.M.A. Public Health Education Committee, and a member of the Monroe Medical Society and the Blackwell Medical Society of New York. Dr. Burt was also Vice-President of the Women's Medical Association of New York State.

It is obvious that Dr. Burt was a strong woman concerned about her community. In 1908, Ina was encouraged by the women of Phelps to run for a seat on the school board. Remember this was twelve years before women got the right to vote in a general election. They could, however, run for local positions. In an article about that election in the Democrat and Chronicle, Dr. Burt lost the election 90 to 69 to W.D. Hewes. Apparently, as the article said, the women of Phelps "made a gallant attempt to elect" her. (Democrat and Chronicle August 6, 1908)



She developed a civic interest in Phelps similar to her father's. F.D. Vanderhoof was the health officer of both the village and the town of Phelps. In her 26-year career in Phelps, Ina also served as the health officer in the village and town. She was a lecturer for the State Health Department. She was one of eleven women physicians appointed by the State Commissioner of Health to lecture on hygiene. (Star-Gazette, May 3, 1913) Think about this. She gave a lecture in the parlors of the Clyde Presbyterian Church on 'Sex Hygiene.' She apparently gave many speeches around the State on the same subject. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle April 26, 1913.)

"The anatomy lecture room at the Women's Medical College of New York Infirmary"
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, April 16, 1870. Library of Congress.

(continued on page 5)

Dr. Ina Vanderhoof Burt

(continued from page 4)



**Dr. Ina Vanderhoof Burt
1867-1949**

As the Health Officer of Phelps, Ina helped the community through the pandemic of 1918. Little is known about how Phelps responded to the pandemic. On two occasions the Democrat and Chronicle gives a hint about the Spanish Flu in Phelps and Dr. Burt's role dealing with it. Like the pandemics of 2020 and 2021, people and communities were quarantined in Phelps. Like the pandemics in 2020 and 2021, people desired to get back to normal before herd immunity.

Apparently, in October of 1918 the schools and churches in Phelps were closed to contain the spread of the flu. On November 8, 1918 the village Board of Health, at a special meeting, lifted the ban on public gatherings which had been effect for three weeks. Since no new cases were reported for several days, according to Dr. Ina Burt, the Health Officer, the ban was lifted. The schools and churches could reopen. She reported that there had been 200 cases in the town. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle Nov. 9, 1918)

Like the pandemics of 2020 and 2021, the decision to lift the quarantine in Phelps was premature. A second wave hit the community and the ban on public gatherings was reimposed. According to Dr. Burt, 45 new cases occurred, and the churches and schools were again closed. On December 8, the ban was again lifted. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle December 9, 1918) A review of the Phelps newspaper obituaries during the period of the Spanish Flu showed many deaths due to respiratory illness, but none were described as due to the pandemic. Clearly the newspaper and Dr. Burt's report on the pandemic were not in

agreement. By the way, over a half a million Americans died of Spanish Flu – perhaps even more had the reports attempted to cover causes of death accurately.

On September 17, 1922, Dr. Burt received notice from New York State's Department of Education of her appointment as health director of the State Normal School at Fredonia. This was the first such appointment in New York State. There, as Medical Director, she had supervision over the health of 700 students and faculty. This move to Fredonia ended her practice in Phelps. She stayed at Fredonia until her retirement fifteen years later. (The Daily Messenger, September 18, 1922)

Dr. Ina Burt retired in 1937 and spent her winters at her home in Miami, Florida and her summers at her cottage on Lake Bluff, New York. She maintained a home in and ties to Phelps. She died at Geneva General Hospital on January 2, 1949. The funeral was held at the home of Ina Burt's daughter Mae Celehar of 80 East Main Street, Phelps. The Rev. Charles Dayton, pastor of the Phelps Presbyterian Church presided. (Democrat and Chronicle, Jan 4, 1949)



**1894 Graduates of the Women's Medical College
Permission from the Hastings Historical Society
Ina Burt was a 1896 Graduate**

Did You Know??

Miscellaneous facts collected by Mabel E. Oaks 1977

In the 17th century America, householders with eight or more windows had to pay a special tax. Their extra sunlight and fresh air were considered unnecessary and a luxury. Today's picture windows would have been unthinkable.

An 1816 law was not declared obsolete and repealed by our State Assembly until 1961. Then Flint Creek for the first time "was made a public highway for navigation". (from the Geneva Times "Days of Yore"). Early farmers had the right to fence in certain sections for their livestock.

In 1860 Phelps Village had 12 physicians. Some of the dozen doctors had other occupations, too.

Tobacco was once a quite common Phelps crop. In the 1904 County Atlas, three tobacco sheds were marked as still standing on the Horning-Salisbury farm, on now Route 488.

Mail carrier service for Phelps Village began in 1920. Ed Lynch was the first and only mailman. His daily route of fifteen miles covered the entire village; his salary was \$1200 a year. Today there are three carriers. (Information from Jim Cuddebac, former Postmaster).

Water Side Wine Bar Update

Less than three months after Christmas morning, when the entire retaining wall collapsed, taking with it a corner of the lower side of the building (under the dining area), and a chunk of the parking lot that fell into the creek, the Waterside Wine Bar reopened on Thursday, March 18. In addition to the work shown in the photos below, the interior needed some repair and cleaning. The first grist mill was built on the site in 1792 by Seth Deane.

In an email to the PCHS, owner Don Miller said "A lot of moving parts have to come together for the rebuilding of the retaining wall. JoEllen and I would like to thank to community for the outpouring of support."



Words of Affirmation

In a recent phone conversation with Diane Goodman, PCHS Director, PCHS member Eleanore Ridley, wife of the late Floyd Ridley, spoke about PCHS benefactor, Mary Hicks Preston (1908-2005). Floyd and Eleanore Ridley were close friends of Mary's. Floyd was one of the founders of the Mary Hicks Preston Foundation, which makes grants available to non-profit organizations who support Mary's vision to improve the social, recreational and educational opportunities available to Phelps. Eleanore said Mary Preston was all about volunteering and that she would be very proud and appreciative to see how things are at the historical society and Howe House Museum.



The Oak Room at the Howe House Museum

Time and Talent

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew

**Barb Brennessel
Tom Cheney
Carol Conklin
Bonnie Dixon
Nicole Fess
Wendy Gaylord
Barb Gillespie
Ron Grube
Rosa Grube**

**Gary Jones
Lee Johnson
Len Kataskas
Barry Lee
Dana Mark
Marcia Maslyn
Ann Oaks
Curt Petzoldt
Mart Van Kirk**

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 #: _____
Name: _____				Date Rcvd: _____
Address: _____				Check #: _____
Summer/Winter Address: _____				Amt. Rcvd: _____
(If different from above)				Exp. Date: _____
Dates in effect: _____				Computer: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____				Index Card: _____
				Member Card: _____

DONATION: Amount _____

_____ In memory of (Optional): _____

_____ In honor of (Optional): _____

**Thank you to the following for your support of the
*Phelps Community Historical Society***

Memorials	Monetary Donations		
Emme Cortelyou in memory of Shirley Filiatreau	Eleanore Ridley Charles Woolever		
Otis & Vivian Davis in memory of Jack DeBoover Shirley Filiatreau	Welcome New Member!		
DeBoover Family Farms LLC in loving memory of John "Jack" F. DeBoover	Edward McManus Washington, D.C. <i>Birthday gift membership from sister Eleanore Ridley</i>		
Ann Oaks in memory of Mabel E. Oaks Nathan Oaks	Membership Renewals		
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> Arlene Copeland Emme Cortelyou Bruce & Sharon Croucher Ernest & Lisa Day Bonnie Detro DeBoover Family Farms Frank Filiatreau </td><td> Mary Ann Gilman Jack & BJ Hicks Virginia Konz Pat M Jones Ann Oaks Betty Silver Robert & Doris Spink Joanne Winburn </td></tr> </table>	Arlene Copeland Emme Cortelyou Bruce & Sharon Croucher Ernest & Lisa Day Bonnie Detro DeBoover Family Farms Frank Filiatreau	Mary Ann Gilman Jack & BJ Hicks Virginia Konz Pat M Jones Ann Oaks Betty Silver Robert & Doris Spink Joanne Winburn
Arlene Copeland Emme Cortelyou Bruce & Sharon Croucher Ernest & Lisa Day Bonnie Detro DeBoover Family Farms Frank Filiatreau	Mary Ann Gilman Jack & BJ Hicks Virginia Konz Pat M Jones Ann Oaks Betty Silver Robert & Doris Spink Joanne Winburn		

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

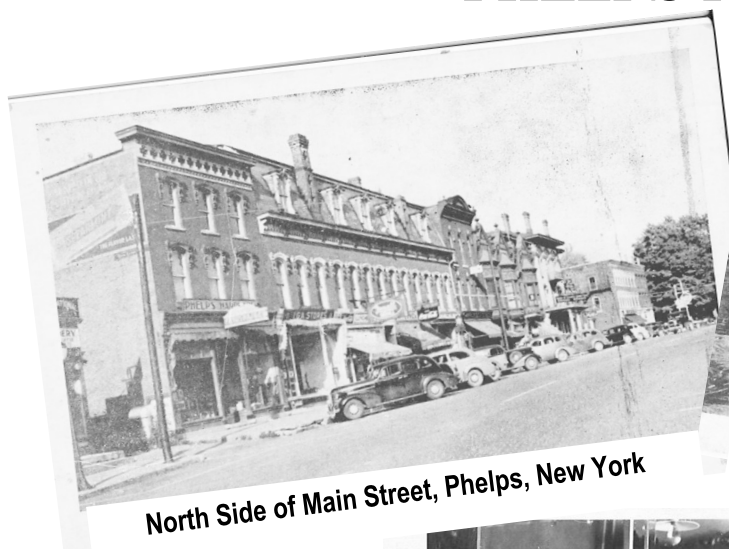
66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532

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

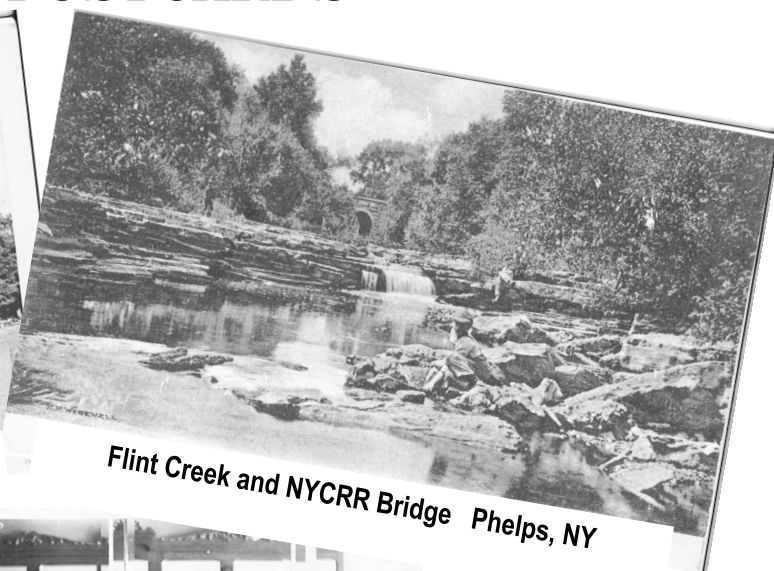


Like us on
Facebook

PHELPS POSTCARDS



North Side of Main Street, Phelps, New York



Flint Creek and NYCRR Bridge Phelps, NY



**Scott Partridge Judge Cornford
in Ed Fairman's Barber Shop Church St.**