



Phelps Community Historical Society

March 2022 Volume 30 Issue 260



75 Years Ago: The Aftermath of World War II

While passing out meager rations of powdered milk during the Spanish Civil War, Dan West, a Midwest farmer, was distraught when the supply of milk ran out with children still waiting in line. He realized that they needed “not a cup, but a cow.” Families did not need short-term relief, but a continual source of food and income. Heifer International was born from that simple idea. “When they stopped fighting, we started feeding”. In 1944, the first cows sent abroad were donated by West’s neighbors and distributed in Puerto Rico.

But there were other wars to be won, as well. As World War II came to a haunting end, huge portions of Europe and Asia were reduced to ruins, with populations diminished, farmland demolished and hunger running rampant. Heifer International became active in revitalizing these war-torn countries, including refugee resettlement centers. Groups of farmers, who dubbed themselves the Seagoing Cowboys, began escorting livestock overseas, making about 360 trips on 73 different ships.

Some animals were also distributed to U.S. farmers, who too were suffering from the after-effects of the war. Because not all recipients were experienced farmers, Heifer added a training component before sending animals. Source: heifer.org/history

Bonney Phelps

The photo below was taken 75 years ago, in March 1947. Reverend Dayton (far right) stands with members of the congregation in front of the Phelps Presbyterian Church (now the United Church of Phelps) on Main Street. Among the congregation were Bernice Filiatreau, Jim Caves, Margaret Harland, Mary Rathbun, Dr. Kenfield, Alice Robinson and John Harland. The cow, Bonney Phelps, was sent by the young people of the church to Holland to help replenish dairies.



School District #11—The Humphrey School (also known as the Peck School in part of the 19th Century)

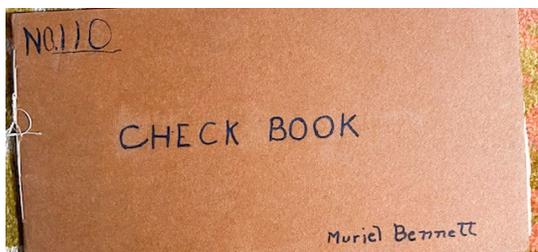
Dr. Ronald Grube

The school was a cobblestone building just west of Route 14 and is now a private residence at 252 Fisher Road, Phelps. Last month, I knocked on Muriel Goodman's door and was invited in to the former schoolhouse. The photos from the late 1930s and the items are from her school days. Thank you Muriel Bennett Goodman for sharing your story!

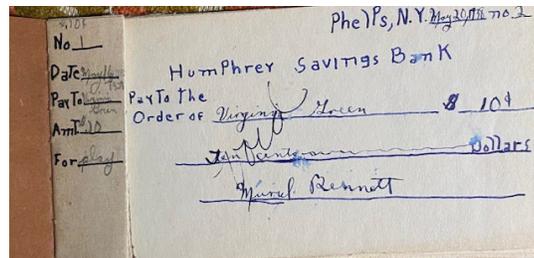


Miss Lois Pike gave her students at Phelps Central School in the 1950s one of the most useful or practical parts of our math education. I am not sure if it was built into the curriculum but the instruction on how to write checks and manage your money and savings, was very helpful. Even if it wasn't built into the curriculum it certainly wasn't a novel idea. Check out the bank that Flossie Derr created for her students at the Humphrey School two decades earlier.

Photo dated June 1938.



Muriel and her fellow students learned how to write checks and keep track of their savings.



According to the minutes of the school district, the Humphrey School was built in 1827. These records name George Auken as the builder but do not indicate whether he was contractor, mason or both. Originally a one story schoolhouse, it was converted to a two story residence. The roof was jacked up and reinstalled on the new second floor. Over 65 years ago it became the home of the late Gerald Goodman and his wife Muriel Bennett Goodman.

Photo at right taken before the school closed in 1939.



School District # 11 - the Humphrey School

QUARTERLY REPORT OF PROGRESS
1937-38.

Muriel Bennett

Group *B*

School Dist. No. *11*

Town of *Phelps*

Flossie Derr
Teacher.

SECOND SUPERVISORY DISTRICT,
ONTARIO COUNTY,
H. S. G. LOVELESS,
District Superintendent.

TO THE PARENTS:

This is a report based on the teacher's observations during each quarter of the term. The best cooperation of home and school is essential to the best progress in habits of health, citizenship and school work.

Please sign and return this report as soon as possible. Your signature does not mean that you approve or disapprove the report. It is our only means of knowing that you have inspected it. Permit us to ask if it is satisfactory to you. If it is not, may we assure you that with your help we shall endeavor to make it better for the next period.

WE URGE YOU TO VISIT THE SCHOOL.

RATING PLAN: E—Excellent
G—Good
S—Satisfactory
U—Unsatisfactory
F—Failed

PARENT'S SIGNATURE
1st Quar. *Elsie M. Bennett*
2nd Quar. *Elsie M. Bennett*
3rd Quar. *Elsie M. Bennett*

Application	E	E	E
Spelling	E	E	E
Writing	E	E	E
Reading	E	E	E
English	E	E	E
Social Studies	E	E	E
Arithmetic	E	E	E
Skills	E	E	E
Problems	E	E	E
Elementary Science	E	E	E
Health	E	E	E
Music	E	E	E
Art	E	E	E
ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK			
Interested	E	E	E
Indifferent	E	E	E
Prepares Work	E	E	E
Wastes Time	E	E	E
Depends on Others	E	E	E
Shows Improvement	E	E	E
Promptness	E	E	E
Careless	E	E	E
Capable of Doing Better	E	E	E
CITIZENSHIP ATTITUDE			
Treats Others	E	E	E
Avoids Improper Talk	E	E	E
Keeps Temper	E	E	E
Cooperative	E	E	E
Obeys Cheerfully	E	E	E
Works and Plays Fairly	E	E	E
Helps to Keep Grounds and Building Clean	E	E	E
Washes School Dishes and Responsibilities	E	E	E



Muriel Bennett's Quarterly Report of Progress for the year 1937-1938

Teacher Mrs. Florence Derr



In the 1938 photo above, Muriel (in dress with white collar) is standing next to her teacher, Flossie Derr.

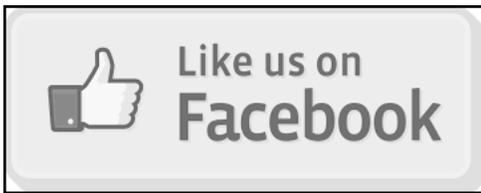


If you recognize one of the students or are curious as to who they may be, please contact the PCHS office. A few of the photos have names on the back.

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532

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Howe House Museum

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(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

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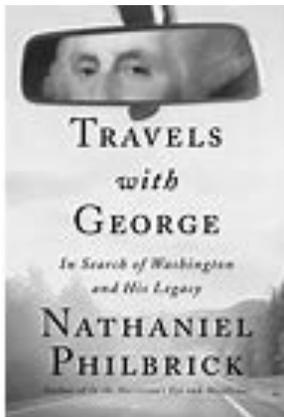
Director

Diane Goodman

TRAVELS WITH GEORGE: *In Search of Washington and His Legacy*

by Nathaniel Philbrick

Book review by Marcia Maslyn



I found this book extremely interesting and learned more about the human side of George Washington than I ever knew. The author retraces several tours George Washington took the first year or so of being President. Washington's purpose was to familiarize himself with the inhabitants and conditions in the nation as a whole. Philbrick contacted public libraries and town historians in advance about what his

mission was, and he also just wanted to get the feel of everyday life such as Washington had led.

We often forget that people traveled a lot in the 18th century. Following Washington's footsteps offers a fresh take on how Washington got to his position and stayed there, traveling throughout the new nation in an effort to unite the population.

Bits and pieces of notes were sprinkled throughout the novel. George Washington tried unsuccessfully to breed a new strain of mule. Knowing how important a mule will be as the country grows, and expands westward, Spain and France had the monopoly on quality donkeys and were reluctant to share. Until the King of Spain sent a pair with hope to gain favor of the newly independent United States and Lafayette followed up with a pair

from France. As Washington traveled to New York City for the inauguration, he feared he was not worthy of the title. He chose a brown suit (made in America) for the ceremony rather than his military uniform. From New York City, Washington traveled northward to see the country and its people, staying at taverns as any other traveler would, learning from the people what they thought of this new emerging nation. Seeing mills and manufacturing people working together to build something better. Washington knew this young nation needed to be self-sufficient to survive. The travel and pressure to see and learn as much as possible took a toll on his health. He also worried about Martha with his being away for so long. Washington traveled a large loop around the southern colonies after a bit of a rest. This travel was different in that taverns were few and far between. The author also covers the slavery issue very well and from a different direction than other novels I have read.

The star of the narrative is not really Washington or Philbrick. It is the growing country, the fledgling states becoming united, the reunions of Washington with his soldiers, the little town that preserved mementos of the visit, the young people who remembered seeing Washington for the rest of their lives. We get to see how our founding father dealt with the issues of the day (taxation, slavery and the tension between rural and urban environments). It is these stories that make *Travels with George* memorable.

From the PCHS Board of Trustees

At the March 21st meeting, the board welcomed new Trustee Cory Maslyn. Joining Cory is her daughter, Anna Maslyn, our first Midlakes student representative. We thank them both for their willingness to serve.



The installation of a stairlift has been scheduled for the first week in April. This will allow visitors who are not able to climb the stairs to see the five exhibit rooms on the second floor. In addition to the stairlift, there is access to a vertical lift from the parking area and an ADA compliant restroom. We hope with this improved accessibility to be giving more tours of the Howe House Museum.

The Howe House reopened on March 2 and with the arrival of warmer weather we have had visitors stop in with research questions and to take tours (we have three new exhibits on display). One guest however was *not* welcome—a skunk found its way underneath the back of the house and caused a stink! As no one volunteered to attempt capturing the critter (would you?) a professional pest removal company was hired to place traps and remove the critter to be released at a distant location. They were successful!

The Phelps Community Historical Society is in the process of hiring an Administrative Assistant to the Director. An employment ad will appear in the March 25 issue of the Genesee Pennysaver and will be posted on Facebook and our website phelpsnyhistory.com. Applicants may email a cover letter and resume to histsoc2@gmail.com or call the PCHS office at 315-548-4940 for more information.

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 #: _____
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): _____

A PCHS membership is not just a monetary donation- it also shows support for the work that is done by the volunteers and staff: caring for collections, maintaining our buildings, updating cemetery records, doing research and sharing Phelps history with visitors. If you have the opportunity to share a newsletter please do so and encourage membership. Dues may be mailed to the PCHS office or online at phelpsnyhistory.com. Thank you!

Welcome New Member!

Mary Ruggles Phelps, NY

Renewals

Paul & Jane Bree	Mary R Narum
Kathy Burnett	Linda Nieskes
Paul & Velma Crouch	Andrew & Carol Oaks
Bruce & Sharon Croucher	Robert & Joan Pulver
Otis & Vivian Davis	Lucille Rockefeller
Gail DeWeaver	Betty Silver
Dennis King	Beverly Tiffany
Daniel & Jocelyn McConnon	Barbara VanKirk

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Beverly Tiffany
in memory of
Donald W. Tiffany
Mildred F. Parmelee

Nancy and Charles Bauder
in memory of
Calvin W. Treese

Grant

Mary Hicks Preston Foundation
for roof repair

Donations

Otis & Vivian Davis
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Butter Crock