



Phelps Community Historical Society

November/December 2023 Volume 31 Issue 279

**Howe House Museum**

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

E-mail:

histsoc2@gmail.com

Website:

phelpsnhistory.com

Museum Hours:

Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
10 AM-4 PM

Closed

Dec 23, 2023 -
March 12, 2024

PCHS President

Mart VanKirk

Vice President

Sarah Landschoot

Treasurer

Tom Cheney

Trustees

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

Director

Diane Goodman

**Administrative
Assistant**

Heather Olander

**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



May your days be filled with
peace, hope and joy
this holiday season.

Wishing you all good health
and good times in the New Year!

Thank you for your support!



Welcome New Members!

Bob & Ginny Phenes - Newark, NY

Donated Items

Judy Beechler
Father Simpson's bridge floor lamp
Sauerkraut Festival t-shirts
Elston Electronics promotion items

Christopher Eiben
Pulling Up Roots by Christoper Eiben
Books one & two

Marilyn DeRuyter
Candy canes for Christmas Program

John and Lee Parmelee
Phelps Bicentennial pitcher and mug
Phelps, NY afghan

Paul Salisbury
50 gallon apple barrel from
Sunnyside Farm

Bob and Doris Spink
Duplicate Bridge set made by
Herb Parmelee

Mart VanKirk
Vacuums for PCHS and CLGA

Special Thank You

Mary Ellen Darling
Darling's Tree Farm
Wreaths for annual fundraiser
Christmas tree for Oak Room

Billee Altman
Marilyn DeRuyter
Robin Grube
Ron & Rosa Grube
Sarah Landschoot
Heather Olander
Jane Pedersen
Nancy Turner
Mart VanKirk

Wreath and tree decorators

Membership Renewals

Justin & Erin Altman
Travis & Tracy Altman
Andy & Debby Bartucca
Ann Bost
Chip Britting
Dr. Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjian
Al & Marge Cauwels
Carol Conklin
Lee & Sharon DeRuyter
Nancy Edington
Denisi Flooring Inc.
Terry & Rosemary Holland
Dan & Dottie Hurdle
F. Lee Johnson
Lonnie Lincoln
Lois Main
Dana Mark
Boni Overslaugh
Phelps Hometown Pharmacy
Beverly L. Rodman
Jim Scherbyn
Barbara Squires
Rose M. Smith
Geoffrey Whiting
Thomas Zoubek

Memorial Donations

Patricia F. Bennett
PCS Class of '66
Ed VanDyne

John and Flo Britting,
Ann Britting-Sheppard
Chip Britting

Richard L. Hoven
Tom & Anna Briggs
Steve McCarrick
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Steadman

Beverly J. Tiffany
Arlene Copeland
Raymond & Carol DeRuyter
Kent & Linda Fisher
Mary Jane Frarey
Barbara Mahood
Beth Skellie
Carol & Edward Wertz

Don and Bev Tiffany
Chris & Alicia Tiffany

PCHS 2023 Annual Appeal

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to our successful annual fundraiser.
The generosity of Phelps residents—past and present - is greatly appreciated!*

Phelps Community Historical Society Members

Bob & Sandy Bankert	Janet Fremouw	David & Elaine Putnam
Judith Beechler	Robert & Diane Goodman	Kathleen Quigley
Rebecca Bennett	Joan Griswold	Lucille Rockefeller
John & Ginny Bourke	Jack & BJ Hicks	Paul Salisbury
Barbara Brennessel	Dan & Dottie Hurdle	Gib & Cathy Scott
Chip Britting	Kevin Kelley	Bill & Barbara Smith
William Broomfield	Virginia Konz	Kenneth Sonheim
Bill & Pamela Caroscio	Barry Lee	Barbara Butler Squires
Cheryl Chester	Michael & Jeanne Leonard	Tom & Margie Stallman
Gary & Dorothy Colvin	Roberta Leu	Nancy Caves & Woody Travis
Arlene Copeland	Lois Main	Marlene Treese
Emme Cortelyou	Richard & Josephine Marek	Sue Van Camp
Doug Coston	Dick & Jean McDonald	Barbara VanKirk
Jane Crosby	Ed McManus	Glen & Ann Webster
Otis & Vivian Davis	Elizabeth Meath	Marty Weigel
Marilyn DeRuyter	Andrew & Carole Oaks	Doris Wells
Gail DeWeaver	John Parmelee	Roger & Shirley Westfall
Bonnie Dixon	Mary Peake	Spencer Westfall
Nancy Edington	Jane Pedersen	Shirley Wikiera
Peter & Jean Empson	Robert Pensworth	Sherry Wilkes
		Tom Willson

Town of Phelps Community Members

Christine Azzolino	Summer Hanford	Ronald & Pamela Raes
Margaret Bentley	William Jensen	John Raes
Daniel & Elizabeth Biery	Kirk Johnson	Jeanne Raymer
Don & Lynn Bogart	Edward Kieda	Kathryn Rishel
June Capocci	Margaret Lash	Christopher Springer
Richard Ciciarelli	Chris & Debbie Malchoff	Cathy Thurston
Charoltte Cooper &	Leonard McCallum	James Tierson
William Devereaux	Martha McConnell	Stephen & Sharon Tobey
George Corda	Jeff & Cathy Melito	Charles & Deidre Vanhooft
Ned Feaster	Gerald Norsen	Russell Welser
Angela Fera	Evelyn Pardington	Carol Williams
Diane Frazier	Walter & Delores Phillips	Roderick & Sandra Witter
Jonathan Gittens	Carl Priebe	Ronald & Pamela Wyjad
		Elkannah & Cathaline Young

Phelps Community Businesses

ARK Designs-Ty and Kellie Allen	Perfection Flooring-Stephen Steele, Jr.
Big Oak Golf Course	Phelps Cement Products, Inc
Denisi Flooring (PCHS Business Member)	Phelps Hometown Pharmacy (PCHS Business Member)
Elderlee, Inc	Phelps Mercantile, Inc
Generations Bank	Phelps Veterinary Hospital
Henry's Gooney Village	Steve's Electric Co., LLC
James E. Cheney CPA	Tri-County Excavating, Inc

The Prescott and Oaks Headstones Repair by David Bloom "The Gravestone Guy"

In the early spring of this year, PCHS member David Bloom came to the PCHS office to inquire about the location of the headstone for Dr. Joel Prescott, he wasn't finding it in Joslyn Cemetery. The reason was that the headstone (in broken pieces) had been donated by Nathan and Ann Oaks in 1999 and was in the PCHS attic along with the pieces from Jonathan Oaks headstone. In the months to follow David, as a volunteer, visited once a week to work on the headstones. He carried tools, equipment and materials up and down the stairs, reporting on his progress each time before he left. Arrangements have been made to install the Prescott headstone in Joslyn Cemetery in the spring. The front half of the Oaks headstone will be fastened to the remains that are standing in Armstrong Cemetery. His work is of great significance in preserving history for generations to come.



David Bloom repairing the headstone of Jonathan Oaks

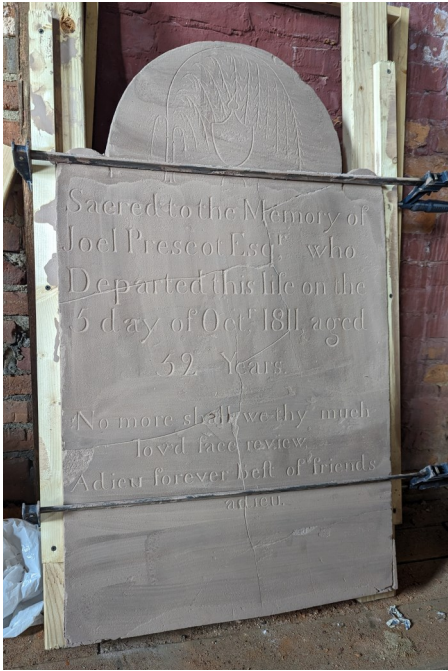
The workspace I used was a 2'x4', 3/4 inch piece of plywood, covered with plastic, set on sawhorses. The first step is to assemble all the pieces to get a look at what is there, and what is not. The main priority is to get the face as flush as possible, so each piece must be done one at a time. First, the pieces need to be cleaned, both washed and then lightly wire brushed or sanded. The pieces are then dry fitted to identify the actual contact points. The pieces are then joined together, only 1 or 2 at a time, using an extremely light coat of Akepox 5010 epoxy at the contact points. The pieces are then shimmed and clamped to maintain as flat a surface as possible. The pieces are then allowed to dry and set before attaching more pieces. The epoxy is used as a temporary binder, as the stone pieces are far too brittle to rely on the epoxy to be the sole bonding agent.

Once the pieces have all been attached and cured, it's time to flip it. Another piece of plastic covered plywood is put on top of the stone and clamped together. The two plywood boards, with the stone in the middle, are now flipped. The clamps are removed and the top board is removed, revealing the back of the headstone.

The back of the stone is now lightly wire brushed to rough it up a little, and then a foxtail brush is used to brush away the debris. Now, a two inch wooden frame is constructed around the stone. The frame includes an additional area at the base to create a section that will be used to reset the stone. The frame will now be filled with a color matched specially formulated French restoration mortar, Saint Astier Lithomex. The stone is lightly sprayed with water and then the properly mixed Lithomex is troweled onto the stone. The initial application needs to be aggressive enough to bond it to the stone. The Lithomex then needs to be properly cured, by keeping it moist for at least 3 days, and then letting it set for at least a couple weeks.

After the Lithomex has had time to cure, the frame is removed, and the now much heavier stone is once again flipped. The face of the stone can now be dressed. Any excess Lithomex on the face can be lightly sanded away. Lithomex is worked into any voids and smoothed as much as possible. It is left to cure for a week, and then it is sanded smooth. Any lettering that is missing can now be carved into the Lithomex.

Finally, the full face is color washed, by using a watery mix of Lithomex and tile sponges. The stone is then left for at least a month for final curing. Once the stone is ready, a slotted base needs to be constructed using Portland cement, of the proper dimensions. At the cemetery the slotted base is put into a prepared hole, with either a concrete foundation or crushed stone. The slotted base must remain below grade (out of sight), as the original sandstones were direct buried. The slot in the base is then prepared by partially filling with a limestone mortar. The stone is then placed in the slot and the slot is filled with mortar and dressed. The stone will remain propped by 2x4s while the mortar has a chance to properly cure. It is kept moist for at least 3 days to help the curing process. After a couple of weeks, the slotted base can be covered, but the 2x4s will remain in place. A final application of Lithomex can then be applied to any voids or other areas that may need a little dressing. The stone is bagged to let the added Lithomex cure. After a couple weeks, the bag is removed, the added Lithomex dressed, the supports are removed, and a final color wash is done, if needed.



Restored headstone of Dr. Prescott

Dr. Joel Prescott

(1759-1811)

Born in Groton, Connecticut he came to the District of Sullivan, now the Town of Phelps, in 1790.

The first physician to come to the Town of Phelps, his practice was hard and extensive for he was the only doctor for miles around. Dr. Prescott traveled the old roads and new trails for twenty years, beloved by all for his wonderful self-sacrificing life.

In 1796 he purchased a 100 acre farm on Lester Rd, one mile west of Oaks Corners where he lived with his wife Lucy. They had seven children of whom 5 lived to adult age.

At the first town meeting, Dr Prescott was elected to the office of Assessor, and also School Commissioner.

Dr. Prescott became suddenly ill with an unknown disease, and after a few days died on October 5, 1811.

Jonathan Oaks

1740-1802

One of the original Phelps settlers who came with a group of about 20 from Conway, Massachusetts in 1789.

In 1792 he was one of the highway overseers of the earliest "laid-out" road in Phelps, appointed by Oliver Phelps.

In 1794 Oaks built his tavern Oaks' Stand, in Oaks Corners on the southwest corner of the four corners there. At the time it was the best and largest tavern in Western New York and the reason so many settlers passed through there on their way west.

He also contributed much to the welfare and development of the town.



Email from David Bloom
November 20, 2023

Armstrong Visit

On Sunday, I visited the remains of Jonathan Oaks' headstone. It's in remarkable condition. I can probably fasten the stone I'm creating right to it, skipping the need for a slotted base. Really cool, can't wait for Spring!

David



Note to October newsletter: The following corrections to the Bob Nagel article were brought to our attention by Loren Gifford and Kirsten Nagel prior to "going to press" but did not get made at the time: 1) Chuck Yeager flying the X-1 was the actual first person to exceed the speed of sound in level flight (not John Glenn as was erroneously printed in the newsletter). 2) Inge is an abbreviated version of Ingeburg, Bob's wife's name.

In Memoriam



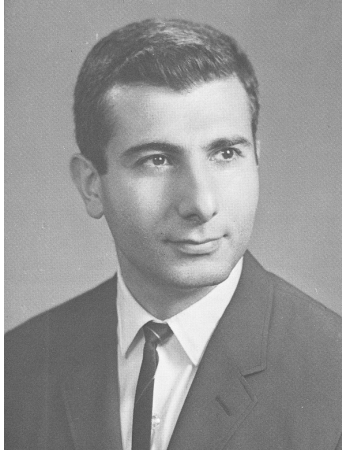
Leonard DeFrancesco

July 2, 1934

November 15, 2023

From the 1967 PCS yearbook:

We, the class of 1967, wish to dedicate our yearbook to Mr. Leonard DeFrancesco. When we were timid freshmen, Mr. De, as he is known to most students, gave us guidance and reassured us of our futures. During our sophomore and junior years, he managed to get most of us through World history. At our class meetings and activities, he has shown the utmost patience, wisdom, and a great willingness to help. He has given unsparingly of his time, energy, and enthusiasm for many extra activities. He has shown kindness toward us and understanding toward any problems we brought to him. So we, the class of 1967, would like to express our appreciation for all that Mr. De has done for our class by dedicating our yearbook to him.



Mr. DeFrancesco 1967
He retired in 1995 after
37 years in public education.

Paula Atkinson

July 19, 1961

November 14, 2023

Beth F. Burns

December 16, 1939

September 30, 2023

Richard L. Hoven

May 12, 1948

November 4, 2023

Beverly J Tiffany

December 31, 1934

November 18, 2023

Time and Talent

Audit Committee

Len Kataskas

Sarah Landschoot-Riegel

Jane Pedersen Mart Van Kirk

Driveway/parking Extension

Ron Grube Patrick O'Neill

Terry Featherly & Town of Phelps Crew

Eagle Scout Storage Shed Project

Boy Scout Troop 46

Matt Cannan Scott & Melissa Cannan

Dennis King Patrick O'Neill

Gary Jones Mart Van Kirk

Gardening / Yard cleanup

Billee Altman Nancy Turner

Miscellaneous

Dennis King Dana Mark

Newsletter

Jane Pedersen Cathy Scott

Secreterial

Barb Gillespie

Country Lawyer Gallery of the Arts

Marilyn DeRuyter

Evie Dubois

Kim Ferguson

Ron & Rosa Grube

Michael Nash

Jen Perena

Cathy Roe

Kim Sutter

Mart VanKirk

Janet Walpole

Eileen Wegman

THE PCHS OFFICE AND
HOWE HOUSE MUSEUM
WILL CLOSE

FRIDAY AFTERNOON
DECEMBER 22 AND
REOPEN WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13, 2024

EMAILS AND MESSAGES
WILL BE ANSWERD
DURING THAT TIME.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
LEND A HAND WITH
CHANGING OUT EXHIBITS
CARING FOR COLLECTIONS
INVENTORY
PLEASE GIVE US A CALL!

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): _____

From the Phelps Country Editor - December 13, 1963

When you could find everything (almost!) that you needed on Main Street

Christmas Gifts from WHITSON'S

<p>Fanny Farmer Candies</p> <p>L.P. Records</p> <p>Arch Merrill Books</p> <p>Kemp Mixed Nuts</p> <p>Electric Razors</p> <p>Musical Powder Boxes</p> <p>Jewelite Brush and Comb Sets</p>	<p>Old Spice Men's Sets</p> <p>Sheaffer Pens</p> <p>Hallmark Cards</p> <p>Yardley's Men's Sets</p> <p>Kodak Instamatic Cameras</p> <p>Whitman's Chocolates</p>
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Whitson's Pharmacy

Hours: 8:30 A.M.-8:00 P.M. Daily; 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Sunday
Main St. (Emergency No. 548-5381) Phelps, N. Y.



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