



Phelps Community Historical Society

September 2023 Volume 31 Issue 277



From the PCHS Director's Desk ...

The Phelps Tuesday Club began their 130th year by meeting at the Howe House. The topic this year is "humor". Kim Dyer was the reader, sharing "The Patron Saint of Second Chances" with the group. Next month the Newark Tuesday Club will be joining them at the Howe House for a program.

The PCHS needed a storage shed and Boy Scout Matt Cannan was looking for an Eagle Scout project. If you are familiar with the process, the scout is involved in the project from start to finish, including recruiting the workers. Construction is underway and a lot has been accomplished in two weekends! Look for photos and more details in the October PCHS newsletter.

The Country Lawyer Gallery of the Arts has now been open for three months. The next exhibits, opening Thursday September 28, are "Plein Air with a Twist" and "Walk". We hope you have a chance to visit! More information can be found on the gallery Facebook page.

Our 2023 Annual Appeal letters are being mailed out to community members, local businesses and our membership. When you receive your letter, please take a moment to think about what this organization provides for the community, how it may be a place for your family history to be preserved, and what it will mean to future generations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Happy fall y'all!!

Diane Goodman



Pump station on Lehigh Valley Railroad at Flint Creek in Orleans off of Route 488
Photo from our collection Restoration by *Barry Lee*



Ed Kieda
PCS Class of 1968

Ed Kieda grew up, and still lives on, South Wayne Street in Phelps. He was interviewed by Wendy Gaylord on June 22, 2023 at the Howe House Museum. Edited excerpts follow. (*Additional info is in italics*)

EK: My family moved here from Lyons in 1954. My father worked for New York State. He decided to move. We were renting in Lyons and he decided he wanted

to live in Phelps, where he bought the house. My father was with the New York State Department of Health. He was a sanitarian. He'd go out and inspect campgrounds for kids, kitchens and restaurants, and things like that.

WG: Where did you live in Phelps?

EK: South Wayne Street, 57 S Wayne.

WG: Did your dad build the house?

EK: No, no. It was built by a gentleman by the name of William Pease. He was a farmer and he bought the land in the early 1900s. Then he subdivided the land as he got older and the farm became too much for him to do. He built one house for his daughter, and then the other house, it was a smaller house, he built for he and his wife after they sold the bigger house to my father. They lived there until they passed on.

WG: And it's been in your family ever since.

EK: Correct. I bought it from the estate after my father passed away, in 1988. I've lived in it since.

WG: Was your mother active in town?

EK: She was more of a homemaker, but she did take a job. There used to be a doctor's office right across the street here. Doctor Grainer I believe his name was. She was a medical secretary for him for a few years, and she also was in one of the first classes at the Practical School of Nursing over in Geneva Hospital. She graduated, became a practical nurse and she used to do that on the side for a while.

WG: And you have brothers and sisters. Are they in Phelps as well?

EK: No, I've got one brother that's a year older and he's down in Arkport, down by Hornell. He's retired. He worked for the New York State Department of Transportation. My sister is seven years younger and she's out in Lawrence, Kansas, where Kansas University is. Her husband had a teaching job at the University, which is what caused them to move there. Then that came to an end after a few years and he ended up with a consulting firm in Kansas City, so they've lived out there ever since.

School

EK: My whole elementary-high school career was here in Phelps. It was Phelps Central School at the time. That was pre merger; before Midlakes. Phelps High School, which is now Vienna Gardens, was the old high school and was also the junior high.

What is now the Community Center was the elementary school. You started in front with kindergarten and you worked your way towards the back. Once you got to 6th grade you went out the back door and walked around to the junior high and the high school, which is Vienna Gardens.

WG: So do you have any strong memories of that time? Anything that made an impression on you in school; teachers you hated or liked?

EK: No, I don't think I hated anybody. But I mean, some teachers I liked better than others, and I think everybody falls into that category. No, it was pretty run-of-the-mill I think, at least elementary was a long time back. So I really don't have a lot of memories from that. More in high school. I think they're more influential at that time, in certain disciplines, like there was Jerry MacDougal, who runs Mac's Drive-in over in Waterloo. I had him for his first two years of his teaching career. He taught math, high school math, and I thought he was very good. Ted Mullen was another, he taught physics, I thought he was very good.

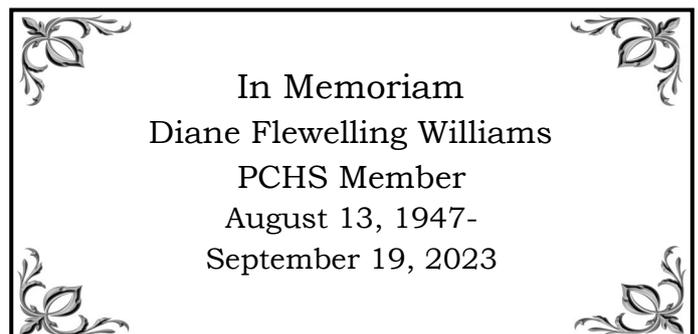
...I played sports. I started out in band, but it didn't take, so I dropped that, but I did play sports. I played three sports: football, basketball and baseball.

WG: In high school did you have a gang of friends? How big was your class?

EK: The number 72 strikes in my mind as about what we had in our class. I don't know about a gang. There was a group of us that used to get together when we were in high school to play baseball or basketball or whatever it is we would do. And some of us are still doing that today, playing volleyball.

WG: Did you have a job in high school?

EK: Not while I was going to school. I would have jobs in the summer. When I turned 14, just like a lot of the other kids in the school district, you'd go down to the office and get your working papers and head out to Salisbury's farm. You'd harvest fruit, primarily strawberries and raspberries and things like that. So it wasn't a lot of money, but it's work and you got some money, you got some spending money.



WG: Did you have a car when you were in school?

EK: No, I did not. Bicycle was a main form of transportation. Individually owned cars by the students weren't as prevalent back then. Today everybody's got a mode of transportation and can go places, we didn't have that. They generally wanted to keep a tight leash so we didn't go gallivanting all over the place.

College

WG: Where did you go to college?

EK: Back then, it was called Clarkson College of Technology (*Potsdam, NY*), and now it is Clarkson University. It is cold in the winter time. I didn't have a car for the first year, I think. I think the second year is when I got a car.

WG: So was there anybody that influenced you from here to go to Clarkson?

EK: No.

WG: How did you pick it?

EK: Well, I wanted to do something in the field of math and science and kind of gravitated towards engineering. So I went to an engineering program and I was looking for that, and I applied to Clarkson, and I applied to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy. And to Bucknell University down in Pennsylvania. I visited the three and I liked Clarkson the best, but they also gave me the best financial package, which was a big influence on going back then. We didn't have a lot of money. So I chose Clarkson. Clarkson was great. I enjoyed my time up there.

Military and Work in Alaska

EK: I graduated from Clarkson in '72. After I graduated from college, I was drafted into the Army and that's where they sent me for two years. Alaska. By then it was during Vietnam. It was central Alaska and I worked there for two years in an engineering office, it was like a city engineer and I worked at a post. They had an engineering and maintenance department that took care of all the maintenance on base, projects, and things like that. So when I got out of the Army, I came back to New York and worked for a consulting engineer here for about 18 months. Then I decided I wanted to go back to Alaska, so I quit my job and loaded up my car and drove back to Alaska, and worked up there for another five years. So a total of seven years.

WG: So did you work for the same military office or on post?

EK: Same post, same office. As a civilian. And after five years of that, I decided well, it's time to move on. Plus, my father wasn't doing well, so between the two of them, I decided it was time.

WG: And then you got your state job that you worked at for 31 years?

EK: I had a regional job. The regional office in Avon covers 11 counties. It goes to Orleans County on the west, Wayne County on the east, and then from Lake Ontario down to the Pennsylvania border. The way they had our work divided up is there were four engineers in my group and we would be assigned responsibilities for solid waste facilities in certain counties. So I wanted to do Ontario and those that are close by, with Ontario and Monroe and Orleans County, so in the northern part. Not too bad.

Hobbies and Activities

EK: I used to do some fishing when I was in Alaska. But when I came back, I really didn't take to fishing here, I had other interests. One of the things: I had learned to fly when I was up in Alaska, so when I came back, one of the things I did was, I taught people to fly over at Palmyra.

WG: Do you have an airplane?

EK: I do. The Palmyra airport is shut down. I keep it in Canandaigua. But I didn't instruct in my plane. A flying club at the airport in Palmyra was organized. They had several planes that were purchased or leased. They formed a club and the people in that club could rent those planes. Usually the cost was spread out over a number of people so they could rent more cheaply than they could if they went to, say, Rochester. I used to instruct for them.

WG: And so do you fly your own plane now?

EK: Yes.

WG: What do you do? Do you do crop dusting?

EK: No, I just go up for a little sightseeing, some practice. I don't do a lot of flying anymore. But crop dusting I've never done.

WG: Are there limits, do you have to get recertified every few years or so?

EK: I have to have what they call a flight review, which means I find the flight instructor and we go flying for an hour or two hours. So we can demonstrate that I know how to fly and he can critique what I do. If there's some areas that need work then you can work on that. But that's really the only restriction right now.

WG: What sparked your interest in planes?

EK: It was while I was in the military. Aviation is prevalent in Alaska because there's long distances between communities and sometimes there are no roads. Other places the roads aren't all that great. So it was prevalent and it was easy to learn. Easy access to learning opportunities, so I did that while I was there. Then the GI Bill that I earned while I was on active duty helped pay for the rest of my training.

Update to August newsletter: In his interview, Rick Darrow was not certain of the year when Rick and Charlie Dhalle's girlfriends were in the running for Sauerkraut Queen. Rick and Charlie were in the class of 1968. In 1969 Deborah (Deb) Bankert was Sauerkraut Queen and Jacqueline (Jackie) Goodman was first runner up. (Deb and Jackie were in the PCS class of 1969).

From Andy Bartucca: The very first ever Sauerkraut Queen was my very own sister Antoinette Bartucca Buchakjian (1967). Rosemary and I remind her of the distinction every year when festival weekend approaches. It's quite the honor to be related to such royalty.

NSDAR Quilt of Valor Awarded to Phelps Veteran



Chapter Regent Glena Larson and Navy veteran Ginny Phenes

Phelps resident and Navy veteran Mary Virginia “Ginny” Phenes, was awarded a Quilt of Valor on September 13, 2023, by the Seneca Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution – NSDAR - for her service during the Viet Nam Era. The ceremony, held at the Phelps Community Center, was attended by Ginny and her husband of 52 years, Robert; daughters, Stephanie Phenes and Christy Phenes Van Camp; and friends and the members of the local NSDAR Chapter.

Chapter Regent Glena Larson, in making the award, thanked Ginny for her service, sacrifice during the war and her continued service to the local veteran community. Ginny enlisted in the Navy as a WAVE in 1966 and served as a Seaman Yeoman in the Third Naval District, NY City; and notably was only one of two women onboard the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine before she was honorably discharged in 1969. “I loved serving my country even if for only three years. But, my desire to have a family was not in keeping with the military”, she said.

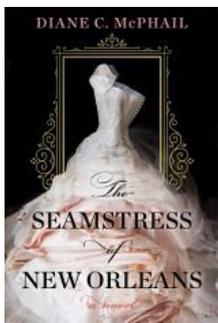
In accepting the colorful quilt, hand-made by the women of local NSDAR, and a Certificate of Honor, Ginny thanked the members of the Seneca Chapter and shared her recollections of her duties and highlights of her time in the military with the gathering. She sadly noted that the Viet Nam War was a very unpopular conflict and made returning home difficult for our veterans.

For additional information on memberships in the NSDAR please visit www.dar.org

Seamstress of New Orleans

A historical novel by Diane C. McPhail

Book review by Marcia Maslyn



This is a great historical novel set at the turn of the 20th century, taking us into the heart and culture of New Orleans. It follows two women: Constance, a mother of two little girls and part of the New Orleans society; and Alice, a seamstress who lives in Chicago.

Constance Halstead, along with many of her friends, helps at the Poydras Asylum for orphan girls. This keeps her busy while her husband, Benton, is away for work. This story makes you feel a part of New Orleans society and tells how the women worked together to make life better for the children.

Alice Butterworth grew up on a farm with her parents and two older brothers. Her mother taught her to be a good seamstress, knowing that Alice would have to make her own way in the future as her brothers will get the farm. Alice took the train to Chicago and managed to find employment with a tailor. Not great income, but enough to pay for rent and food. Alice met Howard when he commissioned a skirt to be made for his mother who lived in Memphis. Once married, she no longer worked but stayed busy keeping a nice home for Howard.

Constance's husband dies in a tragic accident, she is in mourning but is encouraged to continue her work at the Poydras Asylum.

Alice's husband has not returned from his latest travel assignment. Not sure what to do, she contacts the police.

Being penniless and recently learning she is with child how is she to pay the rent. This is Chicago in December and we experience the weather conditions as Alice walks on muddy boardwalks and roads that are slick with mud and ice. She leaves Chicago, taking the train south because her husband had mentioned family in Memphis. Alice earns her keep by teaching sewing at the orphanage, where she meets Constance who offers her a place to stay.

Constance's friend, Dorothea Richards wants her to be one of the attendants at the ball of Les Mysterious, the first ever all female krewe of the Mardi Gras (A krewe (pronounced "crew") is a social organization that stages parades and/or balls for the Carnival season). Alice, a talented seamstress is making Constance's gown and worries about her and her unborn baby's future when the dress is finished. Constance is concerned about her family's safety, Benton was in debt to the Black Hand, a sinister gang linked to organized crime.

"Constance clasped her palm over mouth at the sight of Dorothea managing the tiller of the blue horseless carriage. With scrolls of narrow brass, its patent leather fenders curving over wooden wheel spokes also trimmed with brass, Dorothea had the black landau top folded back, the carriage open to the bright air" "those box cameras, just a box with some sort of lens so the whole thing has to be shipped back to Kodak in Rochester to be developed and reloaded".

This is a story of two women bonding during terrible times when an unexpected secret brings them together.

Women's Fashion Exhibit



Currently on display in the East Exhibit Room are items pertaining to women's fashion. Included in this exhibit are coats, dress attire, gloves, hats, purses and various beauty accessories and tools such as handheld mirrors and a curling iron. Items on display range the early 1900s-60s and belonged to Phelps residents including: Elizabeth Howe Partridge, Chrissie Nagel, Mary Hicks Preston and Marion Donnelly.



Water Side Wine Bar Wall Collapse Now History



Above: December 25, 2020 Collapse of the basement wall. Some of the property's parking in front, like the basement corner, fell into the creek. Rebar was laid down all throughout the opening and took five yards of concrete to fill."

Above right: Mid-September 2023 Repairs to the retaining wall and parking lot underway. Not an easy job!

Right: Parking area paved, with boulders providing a barrier. Loose stone and rock retains the soil from being washed away. Brick work on building remains to be done.



Welcome New Members!

Brandon DeHond - Phelps, NY
Melinda Grube - Medina, NY
Rayne Hammond-Benz - Phelps, NY

Membership Renewals

Tom & Rosemary Baker
Pat & Bill Caroscio
Peter Blind & Family
Pete & Jean Empson
Kent & Linda Fisher
Brian Flood
Susan Galens
Scott Gifford
Kevin Kelley
Edwin Maslyn
Marcia Maslyn
Tim Maslyn
Chris & Alicia Tiffany
Judith Vankirk & Family
Sherry Wilkes

Donated Items

Phelps BDTC
Sauerkraut Weekend T-shirt

John & Ginny Bourke
*Arrowheads, books, kitchen funnel,
framed map of Phelps, sewing tools*

Robin Perkins
*Framed portrait of Noble sisters
Tins for kitchen display*

Boni Overslaugh
*Bookcase and Hoosier cabinet
On Loan -Victrola*

Monetary Donations

Anonymous
(Johnson & Johnson Employee Grant)
Sue Beckmann
Brian Flood
Phelps Tuesday Club
Lucia Marshall

Special Thank You

R D Clingerman Painting

Memorial Donations

Ed Maslyn
In memory of
Donald Ulmer

Phelps Croquet Club
In memory of
Betty Taney

Pat Lyon Jones
In loving memory of her siblings
*Bill Lyon Jr., Betty Lyon Davis,
Helen Lyon Phillips & Dick Lyon*

Time and Talent

PCHS Gardens
Billee Altman Nancy Turner

Newsletter
Bonnie Dixon Marcia Maslyn
Wendy Gaylord

Headstone restoration
David Bloom

Audit Committee
Len Kataskas
Cheryl Chester
Rayne Hammond - Benz
Gary Tyman

Flyer Distribution
Al & Marge Cauwels
Marilyn DeRuyter
Bonnie Dixon
Dana Mark
Jane Pedersen

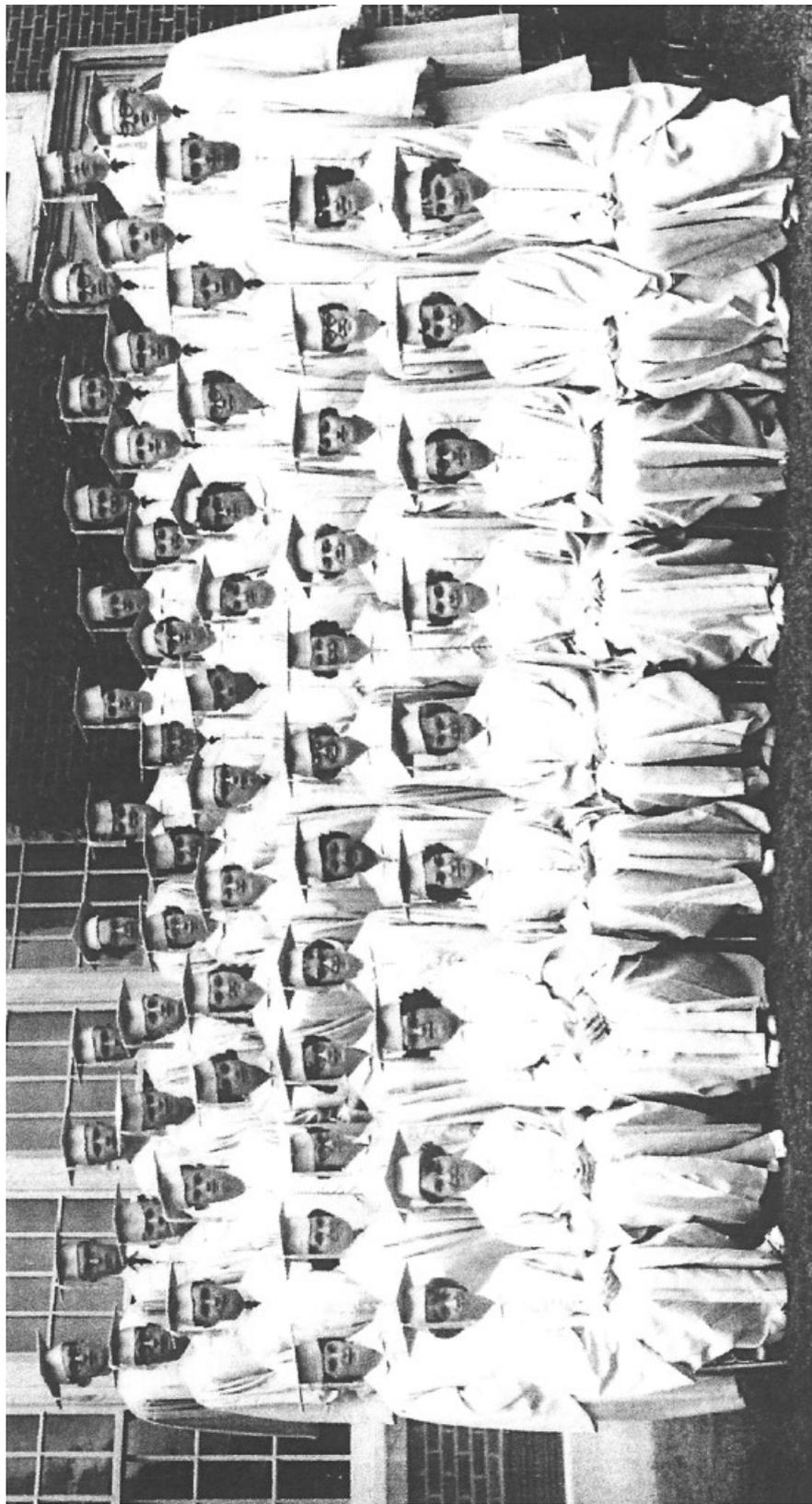
Transcribing the Past
Collette Barnard Cathy Scott

Miscellaneous

Bill Broomfield Dana Mark
Gary Jones Spencer Helstrom
Barb Gillespie Cliff Olander
Dennis King Mart VanKirk
Ron Grube

Country Lawyer Gallery of the Arts

Evie Dubois Michael Nash
Kimberly Ferguson Cathy Roe
Ron & Rosa Grube Kim Sutter
Gary Jones Mart VanKirk
Dennis King Janet Walpole
Lucia Marshall



The Phelps Central School Class of 1963 recently celebrated their 60th class reunion at Flaherty's in Macedon where an afternoon of socializing was followed by dinner.

Phelps Central Class of 1963

- Row 1:** Nancy Proper, Judi Blankenberg, Hazel Horton, Sue Hicks, Carol Penta, Nancy Facer, Carol Hughson, Kathy Phillips, Evelyn Frederick
Row 2: Pat Lyon, Linda VanCamp, Linda Van Nostrand, Dorothy Trickler, Robin Robinson, Trudy Nguyen, Merrilee Whitney, Mary Ann La Vancher, Judy Maslyn, Wanda Dorgan, Kathy Ottley, Sandy Conley
Row 3: Jim Marsa, Roger Conklin, Nancy De Vinny, Janice Sweet, Brenda Smith, Ronnie Edington, Francis Day, Kathy Travis, Peggy Albury, Linda Knauss, Ray Kenny, Curtis Kelsey
Row 4: Barry Eggleton, John Torrow, Roger VanNostrand, Ed Schoen, Jo Mollenkopf, Ann Christian, Wayne Conklin, Mary Pollot, Betty Facer, David Nieskes, Dick Opdyke, Jim Halling, Hugh Markham
Row 5: Dennis King, Marc Schroeder, Gary Gridley, Jim Malone, Marsha Butler, Faith Smolinski, Lois McCann, Joy Smith, Teddy Jones, Don Pulver, Bob Scherbyn, Loren Gifford

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532

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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

PCHS President

Mart VanKirk

Vice President

Sarah Landschoot

Treasurer

Tom Cheney

Trustees

Billee Altman

Ron Grube

Gary Jones

Len Kataskas

Dennis King

Barry Lee

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