

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE PHILLIPS FAMILY LEGACY

Recently IVHS received several boxes of memorabilia and glass slides from the descendants of Colonel Erving L. Phillips. We plan to start cataloging the letters, documents and genealogical information stored in these containers. There are also approximately 575 glass negatives from the early 20th century.

We have decided to do a two part series on this family in our newsletter. Part 1 will be about Charles W. Phillips, the patriarch of this prominent family and Part 2 will be about his son Erving L. Phillips and will appear in the next newsletter.



[Charles W. Phillips](#) was born in Franklinville in 1837 and lived here for 17 years. He went to Allegany, New York where he learned a trade as a carpenter and millwright.

He worked in various places around the United States, including Cincinnati and Newark Ohio, Chicago, Illinois and Stillwater Minnesota. The Panic of 1857 caused the banks to suspend activity and thousands of businesses failed, including that of Mr. Phillips and his partner. This led to his learning the art of surveying and this experience helped him to achieve success.

That year he returned to Franklinville and resumed working in carpentry. In 1863, he bought the old "Hydraulics," that consisted of about 2 acres in the area of what today is Empire Street. This included a stone blacksmith shop, tannery building, and foundry. He and his partner Lewis Stillwell made wagons, sleighs and all types of agricultural implements. They ran the foundry and a grist mill with power from Ischua Creek. After a number of years he sold out the business and went to Olean where he worked in a stump pulling factory. He eventually opened a sash, door and blind factory in that city where he employed from 15 to 50 mechanics and did a thriving business.

In 1880 he sold out and returned to Franklinville. He built a fine brick home on the west side of Ischua Creek. He built the John Clements Store and the Journal Building on Elm Street. He served as an early director of the Farmers National Bank, town collector, highway commissioner and village trustee. He was also interested in the Fair Association.



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In 1863 he married Ann Riggs and they had three children: Erving L. Phillips, Minnie Llewellyn and Nellie Morgan. He passed away in 1916 and is buried at Mount Prospect Cemetery.



His elegant brick home is today the Daily Bread Bed and Breakfast on Bakerstand Road. Recently, visitors from out of the area visited the Miner's Cabin and said they stayed there and raved about the wonderful breakfast prepared by Chef Greg. They were glad that they had decided to stay 2 days and were eager to have another breakfast there.

Information on this article was from *FRANKLINVILLE, NEW YORK IN PICTURES AND STORY* by Roy W. VanHoes