

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE PHILLIPS FAMILY LEGACY -- PART 2

In the January newsletter we discussed the wonderful donation from the descendants of the Phillips Family. We received boxes of documents, letters and over 500 glass plates. They were an early prominent family in Franklinville. If you missed the first article, it will be available April 1st on our website at www.ischuavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.



Our present article is about Colonel Ervin L. Phillips. Bill Watkins, the Machias Historian discovered his obituary and shared it with us. [Colonel Ervin L. Phillips](#), U.S. Army retired, civic leader and descendant of pioneer settlers died Saturday morning, January 16th, 1954 at his home on 29 Maple Ave. after a brief illness.

He was born in Franklinville on May 16th, 1866, the son of [Charles W.](#) and [Ann Riggs Phillips](#). His grandparents [Peter](#) and [Lucy Carpenter Phillips](#) were among the first Settlers in this area.

At the age of 4 his family moved to Olean. They returned when he was 9 and he entered Ten Broeck Academy. He graduated in 1887 and was the senior class president that year.

He won a scholarship to Cornell and became interested in military work. He received an appointment as an officer in the Army. He became commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry and served in the Puerto Rican campaign during the Spanish American War. This was followed by assignments in the Philippines during and after the insurrection there.

In 1906 he returned to Cornell University where he was a Professor of Military Science and Tactics for 3 years. He later served on the Mexican border while the raids of Pancho Villa were occurring. He later served under General John J. Pershing during World War I. Colonel Phillips' last assignment before retirement was as Inspector General of the 9 Corps and included a tour of all posts in Alaska. He retired in 1923 and returned to Franklinville.

He was interested in civic activities and this included leadership in the Franklinville Men's Club as well as being a member of many special and advisory committees especially in the fields of public health and public works. He served many years as an officer of the Mount Prospect Cemetery Association.

He was a member of the American Legion and was particularly active in local Memorial Day observances. His surveys of local property lines aided materially in bringing more order to the definitions of properties in deeds. He showed continuous interest in the committee work of the Society of Professional Engineers.

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He was married on June 16, 1897 to [Jane Harris Chapman](#) at Green Bay, Wisconsin. She died March 11, 1938. He was survived by 4 daughters: [Miss Helen Phillips](#), Mrs. Daphne Strong, Mrs. [Alleine Chrestensen](#) and Mrs. Josephine Finch. His 2 sons were: [Marion](#) and [E. Louis Phillips](#). There were 7 grandsons and 7 granddaughters.

Colonel Phillips attended the First Presbyterian Church and services were conducted by Rev. Ralph Sundquist, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. At the grave military honors were provided by Franklinville Memorial Post 526 with a bugler and firing squad.