

# CARTHAGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION, Inc.



A non-profit, community-based membership organization focusing on historic preservation.

CHP Newsletter Issue No. 24

4th Quarter 2021

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you to everyone who attended the CHP annual Lobster Boil. Once again, CHP board member Judy Goff orchestrated a wonderful event with assistance from board members, family, and friends. It takes a small village to make this event happen! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with ticket sales, set-up, check-in, food preparation, cooking, serving, providing desserts and cleanup. Thanks also to **Dr. G and the Tall Man** for the great music and to **Murphy's Bar** for providing bar service. CHP is grateful to everyone who came out and supported this fundraiser.

The CHP Board would like to thank Wendi Douglas for all her hard work and contributions as the Phelps House Manager for the past two-plus years. Wendi stepped in to help CHP during a critical time and contributed greatly to the day-to-day

operations of CHP and Phelps House. Wendi has taken a full-time position and will be missed.

CHP is pleased to introduce Tomasita Baldwin as the new House Manager for Phelps House. Tommie is a long-time Carthage resident with great affection for Phelps House as she and her husband Jim were married there. Tommie is the person to speak to for tours and rentals of the Phelps House.

Speaking of tours, did you know that you can schedule a private tour online by going to the CHP [website](#)? Tours are available 10-4:00 any day except when an event is scheduled and last approximately 45-60 minutes. Take a tour and enjoy the beauty of this 1895 historic mansion.

As always, CHP appreciates your support.

~Betsy Flanigan

## CHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Honorary

Pat and Carolyn Phelps

### President

Betsy Flanigan

### Vice President

Van Bennett

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Jules Adams

### Treasurer

Ron Petersen, Jr.

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Mark Elliff

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Rob Holmes

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Lora Phelps

Tia Strait

Steve Wagner

Alicia Withers

House Manager: Tommie Baldwin

## Phelps House Porcelain Ornament



**Special Holiday Price**  
**\$10.00 (+ tax)**

To order, call 417-358-1776  
or email

[info@carthagehistoricpreservation.org/contact](mailto:info@carthagehistoricpreservation.org/contact)

## HOST YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT PHELPS HOUSE



The Phelps House is available to rent for your holiday event; office or club parties, family celebrations, holiday luncheons, etc.

The decorations and simple elegance of the Phelps House are sure to bring Joy to your World!

## JOIN CHP!

<https://www.carthagehistoricpreservation.org/membership>

## HALLOWEEN AT THE PHELPS HOUSE



MRS. MARIAN WRIGHT POWERS

An excerpt from a letter written by Marian Powers to her mother describes a Halloween Ragtime Ball hosted by the Phelps family on October 31, 1900:

"This is fancy dress, only you must not 'dress up,' but were told to wear old duds...

The morning after: The party was a great success. It was, in fact, the nicest affair of the kind that I ever attended...

The details of the affair as well as I can remember: we were divested of our wraps and immediately taken to the ballroom where all was rather dark. All over the house there was not a single bonafide light – all were jack-o-lanterns, some cut from meat paper with red tissue paper underneath. In the ballroom two old brooms were crossed on the chandelier with a stuffed black cat on one handle. There were wires stretched crossing the room at different heights on which were large bats cut from black with a wire run through to make them stand out. ...we were taken downstairs... marched through three pairs of folding doors from which of which were hung strings of apples, pickles,

slices of bologna...which everyone tried to bite as they marched under. In the large hall a big log fire was burning and on the hearth an immense crock of chestnuts by which we might try our fortunes. In one corner was a large pile of hay and a pile of pumpkins.

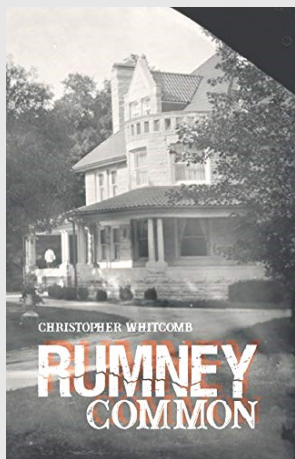
Then we all sat on the floor and held a sheet on which was placed a feather. The first one who blew – no, who had it blown on their face...was blindfolded and made to put their fingers in one of the three bowls of who knows what, had to duck for apples, etc. etc.

Then we went into the dining room and on the big round table was a chopping bowl full of popcorn, two immense platters of taffy, eight or ten big pumpkin pies, nuts, doughnuts, etc. In the conservatory was a keg of cider on a dry goods box with a tin cup.... Then we were taken in Mr. Phelps den where a corner was curtained off and a gypsy told your fortune.... After that we went into the library and lined up blindfolded before twelve candles which we tried to blowout. Then we went up and danced 'til twelve. At that dreadful hour we descended once more to the dining room where the largest chocolate or spice cake I ever saw...was filled with nuts and had an inch-thick caramel icing with nuts on it.

But if I wrote all day, I could not tell you all we did and had, but you can well know we had a fine time."



## THE PHELPS HOUSE IS FEATURED ON A BOOK COVER



Featured on the cover of author Christopher Whitcomb's latest book is the **Phelps House**! Southwest Missouri artist Paige Whitcomb (Whitcomb's daughter-in-law) took the photo.

Christopher Whitcomb is a former FBI Special Agent, consultant to foreign and domestic intelligence agencies, advisor to several news programs, and the best-selling author of three books: ***Cold Zero: Inside the FBI Hostage Rescue Team***, ***Black***, and ***White***.

His latest book, ***Rumney Common***, takes place in a "big old Victorian, which seemed to go on forever—a surprisingly airy maze of hallways and wings that dwarfed anything she had lived in."

***Rumney Common*** is available at Amazon and other leading booksellers.



## SCENES FROM THE LOBSTER BOIL

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE LOBSTER BOIL!





## JASPER COUNTY COURTHOUSE



An extensive rehabilitation of the Jasper County Courthouse has recently been completed. Beautiful flooring on the first floor showcases a new Jasper County Seal inlaid in the tile. In addition to cosmetic changes such as painting and new flooring, much of the infrastructure was updated including electrical, plumbing, and internet capabilities. The second and third floors underwent more extensive work. Windows were uncovered and some walls on the second floor were removed to show off the archways leading to the tax assessor's office. On the third floor, three courtrooms were overhauled and modernized and a fourth courtroom was added. The restrooms were completely redone with beautiful sink areas designed to fit the curved walls of the courthouse.

Of course, you will still find iconic and historic pieces in the courthouse: benches from the Webb City Trolley, Lowell Davis' "Forged in Fire" mural, and the wonderful old elevator, among many others.





## RENT THE PHELPS HOUSE



The Phelps family loved to entertain at the Phelps House. Be like the Phelps family and have your holiday party at the Phelps House!

For rental information, email  
<https://www.carthagehistoricpreservation.org/contact>  
or call 417-358-1776

### **A Informal Dance.**

A pleasant little informal dance was given Saturday evening at the home of W. H. Phelps on Grand avenue. The affair was gotten up by a crowd of young men. The hall was appropriately decorated with holly and mistletoe and the large punch bowl usually filled with frappe was on this occasion filled with macaroons and lady fingers.

Enjoy the timeless beauty of the Phelps House at your next event.



## TOUR THE PHELPS HOUSE

Schedule a **personal tour** of Phelps House **online** at the CHP website.  
For more info and to schedule a tour go to:  
<https://www.carthagehistoricpreservation.org/tours> or call 417-358-1776



**CHP is committed to providing a safe environment for your next event. We are following all CDC and county and state health department recommendations regarding social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting.**

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS

Jules Adams, Josh and Elizabeth Anderson, Sally Armstrong, James and Tomasita Baldwin, Richard and Pamela Barlet, Michael J. Batchelder, Steve and Mary Beimdiek, Van and Terri Bennett, Nancy Brewer, Judy Brown, Carrie Campbell, Don and Lynn Campbell, Elizabeth Creighton, Chad and Amy Cole, Darren and Heather Collier, Leann Cole, B Doyle Conrow, Harry M. Cornell Jr., Jane Crawford, Larry and Liz Deffenbaugh, Sandra Dickey, Louis Drackert, Dee Eigenmann, Bren and Betsy Flanigan, Paul and Patricia Forman, Pat and Judy Goff, Alice Lynn Greenwood-Mathé, Lana Griffiths, Gloria Gubser, Jon and Serena Haffner, Carolyn Hamilton, Lonnie and Terri Heckmaster, Danny and Stephanie Hensley, Karen Herzog, Sandy Higgins, Jim and Deloris Honey, Georgia Kesterson, Judith Rogers Knight, Danny and Mary Pat Lambeth, Ted and Lola Law, Ray and Lana Mathis, Sam Morrow, John and Nancy Mouton, Bonham and Lida Oney, Jason and Ceri Otero, Charles Pauly, Ron and Louise Petersen, Ronald L Petersen Jr., Bill Putnam, Richard and Rhonda Ralston, Jan Reid, Paula Richardson, Phyllis Riley, Jack and Mareese Robbins, Tom Rogler, Ron and Susan Ross, Jim Seitz, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Shipman, Beth and Doug Simmons, Neal and Sharon Smith, Dan and Jane Trogon, Allan and Jane Van Den Berg, Steven Wagner, Dan and Pat Wakefield, Herbert and Donna Winslow, Keith Zoromski

## SUPPORT PRESERVATION IN CARTHAGE

### Membership Levels

Individual	\$35
Family	\$60
Associate	\$125
Contributing	\$200

To join, click [here](#) or mail a check to:

CHP  
P.O. Box 375  
Carthage, MO 64836

### Member Benefits

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Annual Members Event
- Discount on Phelps House Porcelain Ornament
- That good feeling that comes from supporting CHP preservation efforts!

**"A CONCERTED EFFORT TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE IS A VITAL LINK TO OUR CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AESTHETIC, INSPIRATIONAL, AND ECONOMIC LEGACIES - ALL OF THE THINGS THAT QUITE LITERALLY MAKE US WHO WE ARE."**

STEVE BERRY



Thank you to Lori Palmer of The Glass Turtle for repairing an entry door window at the Phelps House.

Visit The Glass Turtle website for product and class information. Look for The Glass Turtle at Grace Episcopal Church's Olde World Market in December.



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