

Orson Schofield Phelps

AK2016.0002

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Orson Schofield Phelps **1878-1973****AK2016.0002**

**QUANTITY:** 1 box  
**ACCESS:** Open to research  
**ACQUISITION:** Purchased from Helen Chase 5/27/16  
**PROCESSED BY:** Margie Amodeo

**Biographical Note:** Orson Schofield Phelps (1816-1905), or “Old Mountain Phelps” as he became known was one of the most notable of all Adirondack guides. He became the first white man to ascend Mount Marcy in August, 1849, bushed out the “Round Trip” trail in 1874 and brought over 500 tourists to its peak. Among the prominent figures that hired Phelps were Verplanck Colvin and Seneca Ray Stoddard.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection includes genealogy of the Phelps family as well as photographs and family documents. The majority of the papers are Phelps’ essays on nature and philosophy. They also include weather data from the High Peaks, a collection of poems on nature and publications referring to Phelps. The items were collected by descendant Shirley Putzig.

**Box and Folder List:**

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Genealogy
	2	Family Documents
	3	Photographs, General
	4	Photographs, Envelope marked “For Annie, 11/30/1888-11/11/73”
	5	Photographs, Stoddard portrait of Phelps
	6	Publications, Books, copies of references to Phelps in books
	7	Publications, Articles and Pamphlets
	8	Publications, Bound, <i>Wilmington</i> self-published by Oliver W. Winch, 1970
	9	Publications, Poems “The Growth of a Tree”(by Phelps), “Religions,” “They Glide Away,” “Mountain Song”(by Phelps), “Over the Way,” “New Neighbors,” “Home,” “Twilight Hours,” “Passing Sails,” “The Singer,” “Nightfall,” “Waking,” “Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening,” “Things that Happen Where There Aren’t Any People,” “Man Alone,” “With Eyes Closed,” “Golden Lotuses” and “Daybreak”
	10	Correspondence, four handwritten letters dating from 1897-1958, the letter from Horace Greeley is clearly marked “copy”  Names found: Horace Greeley, Betsy Harpers, Inuis Harpers, Mrs. W.B. Pever (niece of Phelps), F.S. Perkins, Orson Phelps (Esq.), D.D.

		Trumbuilt,
	11	Manuscripts, Weather Data I, pages 27-160 handwritten weather notes from March 28, 1878- September 13, 1879 no location found, but Tahawus (Marcy) mentioned among others
	12	Manuscripts, Weather Data II, "Record of galvanized rain gauge beginning with beginning at September 13, 7 a.m." (1878- February 6, 1879, no location)
	13	Manuscript, "Baptism of Fire"
	14	Manuscripts, "Can Anyone Believe Without Evidence?"
	15	Manuscripts, "Got in There and Couldn't Get Out," "Driving Cats," "The Canary Bedstead," "How Jim Rules His Own House," "A Good Time to Pay for the Potatoes," "Drowning Out a Chipmunk," "A Frightened Dog at Meeting" and "Hunting Bears in the Night"
	16	Manuscripts, "I Could Not Stand Up"
	17	Manuscripts, "Natural and Supernatural"
	18	Manuscripts, "Nature Can Teach God's Wisdom"
	19	Manuscripts, "The Adirondack Mountains"
	20	Manuscripts, "The Elements and Minerals, as Material Matter"
	21	Manuscripts, "The First Lawsuit at Long Lake"
	22	Manuscripts, "The Love of God"
	23	Manuscripts, "The Rivers Brooks and Lakes of the Adirondack"
	24	Manuscripts, "We Find in Reading," two copies of
	25	Manuscripts, "What is Faith?"
	26	Sundry I, small pad of paper with phone numbers (seven digit), "15 Large Framing-Size Photographic Reproductions, Scenic Adirondack Mt. Attractions, in Natural Color," knitting instructions for Slipper Socks, "Animal's Confidence in Human Beings" (not in his handwriting), postcard of "New England Birch Road"
	27	Sundry II, Silver Certificate from 1899
	28	Shirley Putzig Materials