

Membership Application

Please enroll me in the Friends of Pharis Farm. I want to be a part of the restoration, preservation and promotion of this historic site.

Membership Levels

- Individual \$15
- Family (same household) \$25
- Supporting member \$50
- Benefactor \$100
- Partnership or corporation \$100

Lifetime Membership

- Individual \$150
- Family (same household) \$250

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please send this form, along with your payment to...

Friends of Pharis Farm
P.O. Box 1454
Liberty, MO 64069

The Friends of Pharis Farm



*People are trapped in history,
and history is trapped in them.*

*~ James Baldwin,
Notes of a Native Son*

Donald Pharis' Dream

As an agricultural educator, Donald Pharis began his career as a teacher in Harrisonville, and later Richmond, Missouri. In 1927 he purchased a farm and left teaching

formally, but in his heart, he never gave up his teaching profession. He taught fellow farmers about the importance of soil and water conservation and was the first farmer in Clay County to terrace his fields. He was a founding member of the Clay County Soil Conservation District and assisted farmers in other counties throughout the Midwest start their own soil conservation districts.

Mr. Pharis was active in FFA and 4H and often loaned his animals for 4H projects. In the 1970s and 80s Donald and his wife, Laura welcomed school children on their farm and taught them about historical and modern farming practices, the importance of soil and water conservation, and pioneer life. His wish was that the farm, home and cabin be used to educate children.



Historic Pharis Farm

1824 160 acres was purchased by Fielding Bell. Mr. Bell, his wife and eight children built a log cabin on the property and began clearing the land for farming. When Mr. Bell passes, his son Daniel assumes control of the farm.

1858 Daniel Bell, with the help of local mason John Morrison, constructed a Greek Revival home, built with walnut and brick, harvested & prepared on site.

1927 Donald Pharis, a vocational agriculture teacher, and his wife Helen purchased the home & the surrounding 160 acres.

1934 Mr. and Mrs. Pharis began restoration on the home.

1957 Helen Pharis passes.

1958 Donald marries Laura West.

1965 Mr. Pharis disassembled and moved a log cabin built in 1821 from neighboring Ray County to his property.

1970 Mr. Pharis completes the restoration of the log cabin. He & Laura fill it with antique tools, farming equipment, and items from everyday pioneer life, then began welcoming school children for field trips.

1992 Mr. Pharis passes and bequeaths his home and land to Clay County.

2002 Clay County commissioners formally accepted Mr. Pharis' gift.

2005 The Friends of Pharis formed.



Country Carousel



Daffodil planting



Historic Homes tour

Historic Pharis Farm is located at
20611 EE Highway
Liberty, MO 64068

www.claycountymo.gov/Historic_Sites/Get_Involved

The Friends of Pharis Farm

A not-for-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the Donald C. Pharis Historic Farm by preserving and demonstrating all aspects of farm life in the early 1900's for future generations.

*"A generation which ignores
history has no past and no
future." - Robert Heinlein*

"Why should I become a Friend?"

As a member of the Friends of Pharis Farm, you will be part of a community oriented team, creating awareness about Pharis Farm and educating the public about Mr. Pharis' vision of sustainability and agriculture. You get to be on the inside, planning and participating in events, helping to steer the course of the historic site's future.