

PHILOMONT GENERAL

Semi-Quincentennial Social Media Series

*Part III of III – The Latest Chapter – Philomont General at 200 Years
(July 4th 2026 via Facebook and Instagram)*

Today – on the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America – we share the latest chapter of the story of Philomont General. If you have followed along this week, you know how far this business has traveled. If you are joining us for the first time, we encourage you to start at the beginning of this three-part series. It is a story worth understanding.

When the Granger and Lickey partnership concluded in 2003, it was the Skinner family who stepped forward to sustain Philomont General through the next fifteen years. Through the financial crisis of 2008, and the steady pressures facing small community businesses across the country, the Skinners kept the community Philomont General serves as the focus.

In 2018, Drew and Brandi Bishop - along with their children, Grayson and Evelyn - assumed responsibility for Philomont General, as both the stewards of its property and the operators of its business. What followed has been everything a stewardship of this kind should be – demanding, rewarding, and deeply meaningful. The most significant public health crisis in a century tested every small business in America, and Philomont General was no exception. Supply chains faltered, and the rhythms of daily life were disrupted in ways which felt, at times, without precedent. Yet, we were guided by the consistency of this story – and by the community which has always defined it.

Philomont General is the first stop on a Saturday morning, and the last errand of a long afternoon. It is where the mail is sorted and where news travels the old way – person to person, unhurried, with context and care. It is where a farmer stops in before the fields, and again after. Where a parent picks up what the week ran short of, with a child in tow who will remember this place long after they leave home. Where the unfamiliar find themselves standing at the same counter - and unintentionally discover they have a great deal in common. Where a familiar face behind the counter knows your name, your order, and, on the harder days, when to simply listen. Where a conversation started on Tuesday gets picked up on Friday, as though no time has passed. Where the names of neighbors are still tucked neatly into a drawer of local credit ‘tabs’ – a quiet trust, extended and honored across generations. Where friends may be found, hardship and loss can be carried together, and where the rhythm of the year feels, in some way, more honest than most anywhere else. It is where the community of western Loudoun has come, for nearly two hundred years, to be together.

What the Bishops did not fully anticipate - when they assumed responsibility of this remarkable institution - was the extraordinary family they would gain in the process. The customers, neighbors, and deeply caring and committed staff, who became friends. The children who grew up coming through the front door, and the older hands and hearts who have become extended family. The stories shared across a worn counter have been among the great gifts of our lives. The friendships are ones they will carry and cherish always.

It has been the honor of a lifetime. Which is precisely why the next chapter matters so much.

The Bishops are so pleased to announce the Carr family - a multi-generational Philomont family, with an abiding appreciation for everything this place has come to represent – will soon assume stewardship of Philomont General, as it enters its 200th year of continuous operation. The Carrs understand Philomont General, and bring to this role not only the capability to carry it forward - but the character to do so with the care and commitment this institution deserves. We could not be more pleased and excited for their family's chapter in this great American story.

Finally, to the community of Philomont – and to the extended family we have had the privilege of serving – we will be present and engaged in the weeks and months ahead, working closely with the Carr family to ensure this transition is everything this institution deserves. We will remain in Philomont, and look forward to supporting Philomont General - as loyal customers - for many years to come.

The Bishops

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