History of Historical Roadside Markers in Greece
by Bill Sauers

Roadside historic markers are our windows to the past. They educate us, they make us curious to investigate, or they provide a nice excuse to take a break and stretch our legs while we read what happened here.

These markers tell about historic events and locations and provide the public with knowledge about our history. In New York State they were first created to commemorate the American Revolution.

Although no longer funded by the State, historic markers are still being installed throughout New York State by individuals, town and county governments, historical organizations, and individuals. Historic markers have become a major way to inform the public and tourists about local history.

There are thousands of “official” New York State markers around the State. They were recommended by Town Historians. Because the Town of Greece did not have an historian until the mid-1940s, there are no State markers in Greece. The County of Monroe did initiate a program for a short time in the 1960s resulting in four County markers in Greece. Nearly a quarter century went by before the Canal Society installed another new one at Henpeck Park.

Nearly two decades passed until 2011 when the Town installed the Northgate marker funded by Wal-Mart. In 2014 the Greece Historical Society learned about the William Pomeroy Foundation who would fund the purchase of a marker if the information were well documented. This resulted in the first Pomeroy-funded sign in Greece noting the history of Paddy Hill School which was the Society’s gift to the School.

Since that time, the Town has received two Pomeroy grants for markers: for the Odenbach Shipbuilding plant in 2015 and for the Revolutionary War Veteran at Peck Rd Cemetery in 2019. GHS received a Pomeroy grant for the Jean Brooks Greenleaf marker in 2018 at the Lakeshore Country Club.

As time goes by there are few physical reminders of history in our community, so take a break and stretch our legs while we read what happened here.

NOTE: For a photo of each of the historical markers in Greece and all of them in Monroe County check out Dick Helsey’s web site at: https://mcnygenealogy.com/pictures/2200/