

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library

The Architecture of Thomas W. Boyde, Jr.

Thomas W. Boyde, Jr. designed hundreds of buildings in the Rochester area that were instrumental in shaping the mid-century city and suburbs. The body of work of Rochester's first African American architect has yet to be fully appreciated, as debates over the extent of his involvement in a handful of prominent projects have overshadowed his real contributions to the built environment. This presentation explores Boyde's life and his prolific career, challenges in documenting the work of African American architects practicing in the mid-20th century, and ways to bring new appreciation to the work of this supremely talented architect who left a remarkable legacy in the greater Rochester area.



*Thomas Boyde, image courtesy of the Thomas W. Boyde Jr. collection at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.*

The presenters are part of a team working with the Greece Historical Society to explore and document Boyde's work: **Christopher Brandt**, project architect, Bero Architecture; **Katie Eggers Comeau**, Vice President for Policy and Preservation, Preservation League of New York State, previously architectural historian at Bero Architecture; and **Jeffery A. "Free" Harris**, independent historian and preservation consultant based in Hampton, VA.

RESERVATION REQUIRED <https://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/> click on "Events" then "Calendar" then April 12.

Pioneer Families on Display

We are highlighting several of our Greece pioneer families throughout this bicentennial year. Posters are on display in the dining room. Each family history will remain on display for two months. The families who are highlighted during the months of March and April are **FLEMING, BURNS, PRESTON, FARNAN, HOGAN** and **THORPE**. We hope you visit these rotating displays throughout the year to learn more about the pioneer families who settled in Greece before 1872.



Local History Sale April 10, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Two long-time GHS members and collectors of local history books and documents, **Dick Halsey** and **Rob Cunningham**, will be at our museum on Sunday, April 10 selling many items at a fair price.

There will be lots of local history books, booklets, and other paper ephemera. Included in the sale will be high school & college yearbooks, local & non-local postcards, old photos, Ralph Avery prints, Rochester newspapers from the 1800s, and old Kodak publications. Our museum gift shop will also be open. Stop by and make a purchase at this one-time sale of local memories!



**The Corinthian**

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM



## "President's Message"



Spring is here and our museum is now open on Sunday afternoons or by appointment (Closed Easter Sunday). We opened on March 6 and immediately experienced an uptick in attendance compared to last fall and nearly 60 attended our Tuesday evening program at the Greece Public Library. Seems that people are a little more comfortable going out and exploring places.

Our *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece* book is selling quite well, both through Amazon and in our museum shop, but we still need more families for volume 2. If you can trace your family back to before 1872 in the Town of Greece or know of anyone who can, please contact us. The "Immigration to New York" traveling exhibit is now on its way to the Rochester's Central Library. I hope you had a chance to see it.

To support local Girl Scout Troop 60266, we offered them the opportunity to sell their cookies on our front porch on Sunday, March 20.

We finally had our new computer server and software installed this past month. We were very pleased to receive a \$500.00 gift from Canandaigua National Bank & Trust as part of their philanthropic giving plan for 2021. Thanks to a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, I will be attending the Museum Association of New York (MANY) conference in Corning in a couple weeks. This is a great opportunity to meet other museum professionals and keep up with the latest museum trends. Like everything else, we have missed this conference for the past two years.

It's membership renewal time and letters have been mailed. If you already sent your membership in, Thank You.

Mark your calendars now and make reservations for our May 10 program. Come meet descendants of two early Greece settlers-the **Volkmar** and **Cole/Kenyon** families. Join **Jo Ann Ward Snyder** and **Marie Poinan** to hear how they interviewed these family members when researching their book- *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece*. Marie and Jo Ann will show how community engagement helped us collect and preserve the stories of our town's pioneer families.

Don't forget to check out our Local History Book Sale on April 10 and make reservations for our April 12 program about architect Thomas W. Boyde Jr.

**Bill Sauers, President**



The crowds are coming back! We had nearly 60 attend our March 9 program on the story of the Manitou Trolley by **Bill Sauers**.



**Gregg H. Redmond PLLC**

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ghredmond@yahoo.com  
www.RedmondLegal.com

**GREGG H. REDMOND, Esq.**  
*Attorney At Law*

1379 Long Pond Road  
Rochester NY 14626  
(585) 225-0520 Fax (585) 225-0145



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## "Museum Shop"



Yes, we are open. We've had a lot of visitors this month. I guess everyone is anxious to get out in the sunshine! Stop in and check out the *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece* book and the other local history books we have in stock.

As always, we'll see you on  
Sunday 1:30-4:00.  
(Closed Easter)

**Wendy Peck**  
Shop Coordinator



**Deborah Ham Whitt Agcy Inc**  
Deborah Whitt CLU LUTC, Agent  
Rochester, NY 14616  
www.deborahwhitt.biz  
Bus: 585-663-0960 Fax: 585-663-2031



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## New Bicentennial Items Available Online



We now have items with the Greece Historical Society logo celebrating our Town's Bicentennial. These items are available **ONLY ONLINE**. We do not carry them in our museum gift shop!

Order men's and women's t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies (*many colors and sizes*), pillows and mugs! All orders include **FREE SHIPPING\***

<https://www.greecehistoricalsociety.shop/>

\*Enter code: **FREESHIP** at checkout for free shipping.

## Our Calendar

The Museum is open Sundays 1:30 -4:00 p.m.

Office hours, Mondays 10am -12pm

To make an appointment send an email to:

[greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

### CLOSED Easter Sunday, Mother's Day

**Sunday April 10** 1:30-4:00 p.m., Local History Book Sale

**Tuesday, April 12**, 7:00 p.m. The Architecture of Thomas W. Boyde Jr.

**Tuesday, May 10**, 7:00 p.m. Up Close with Two Greece Pioneer Families

**Monday, June 20**, Strawberry Festival

Check our website or Facebook page prior to any event as COVID protocols may have changed.

We greatly value and appreciate your donations\*.

\*Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If you have the time, talent, and desire to help the Greece Historical Society & Museum, consider becoming a volunteer.

Call us at 225-7221 or email [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com).

We will be glad to discuss how you could contribute to the success of the Greece Historical Society.



1775 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

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## GHS Board of Trustees

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREECE, NY



On March 22, 1822, New York passed a law creating the Town of Greece, effective the first day of April 1822. **Steven Cole**, a resident of South Greece, was the surveyor who established the boundary line between Greece and Gates. It is believed that Greece received a larger portion of the land because the marshy land at the shoreline of Lake Ontario and near the ponds was considered useless land. At that time, the country of Greece had just gone through a revolution and our country felt empathy for the Greeks; we can assume that is why the name Greece was chosen for our town.

So, in this year 2022, let's join the Town of Greece and the Greece Historical Society and celebrate our Town's bicentennial, **"Happy Birthday, Greece New York!"**

CHAP. CVII.

*AN ACT to divide the Town of Gates, in the County of Monroe*

Passed March 22, 1822

*I. BE it enacted by the People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, That from and after the first day of April next, all that part of the town of Gates, in the county of Monroe, lying north of the south lines of lots number sixteen, thirty-two, one hundred seventy-two, eighty-one, one hundred and eight, one hundred and seventeen, one hundred and twenty-six, one hundred thirty five, in number one, short range of Phelps and Gorham's purchase, west of Genesee river, shall be erected into a separate town by the name of Greece, and the first town meeting shall be held at the house of Loath Eldridge, in the said town of Greece.*

### Thomas W. Boyde Jr. Historic Resource Survey Seeking Funds

The **Greece Historical Society** (GHS), the **American Institute of Architecture** (AIA), Rochester Chapter, and the **Architectural Foundation of Greater Rochester** (AFGR) are joining efforts to honor Rochester's first African American architect, **Thomas W. Boyde, Jr.** GHS is completing an Historic Resource Survey project led by Bero Architecture that thoroughly documents Thomas W. Boyde Jr.'s life, career, and legacy. While conducting research, the project team discovered additional drawings, correspondence, and interviews that were beyond the original scope of the project. They are now working to raise an additional \$5,000 to include this new information and complete the project. Please consider making a donation to further the research on Mr. Boyde.



Click here to make a donation: [https://greecehistoricalsociety.org/?page\\_id=3983](https://greecehistoricalsociety.org/?page_id=3983)

### History Quote

"History is not just something that happened long ago and far away. History happens to all of us all the time. Local history brings history home, it touches your life, the life of your family, your neighborhood, your community."

~ *Thomas J. Noel, Denver author and historian*

### Volunteers needed!

We can always use some extra help. If you have a little extra time and a skill you'd like to share, we can use your help!

Interested ? Give us a call at 225-7221 or email [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)



Greece Historical Society would like to extend its condolences to the family of **Harrison Lowden** who died on March 18. He was an active family historian and one of the most dedicated interviewees for our pioneer book. He also directed that any donations could be made to the Society in his name.



## The Bicentennial at GHS

### Apply for a Bicentennial Pioneer Certificate

If you have documentation that proves that your family was living in the Town of Greece before 1872, you can apply for a PIONEER CERTIFICATE. The certificate will be issued to you with your family name, a GHS bicentennial logo, an embossed seal, and a cover. Additional copies will be available for purchase.

If yours is one of the featured families in the *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece* book, you will automatically receive a certificate for that family and do not have to supply this paperwork. If you have another family who was in Greece before 1872, you will have to submit an application and pedigree chart for that surname.

Download the application form along with a "fillable" pedigree chart from our website. Submit those two forms and any additional documentation and e-mail your completed packet to [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com). If you do not have internet access, call us at 585-225-7221.

The Certificates will be issued during April and May. Deadline to submit your application and information is May 1, 2022 so you still have a few weeks to visit our website and fill out the two forms in order to apply for your certificate.



### Pioneer Book Project

#### Was Your Family in the Town of Greece on or before 1872?



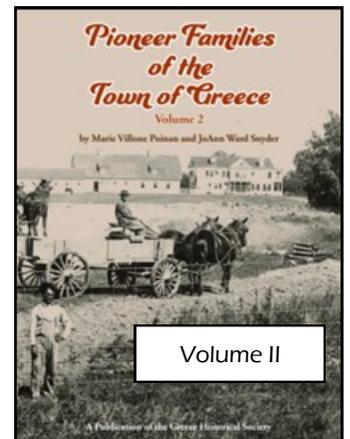
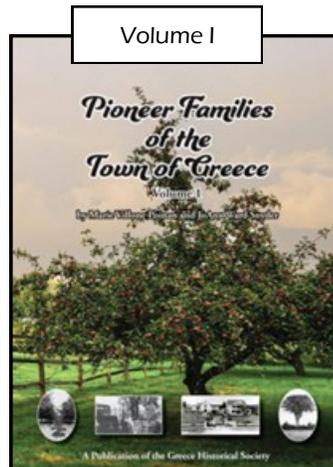
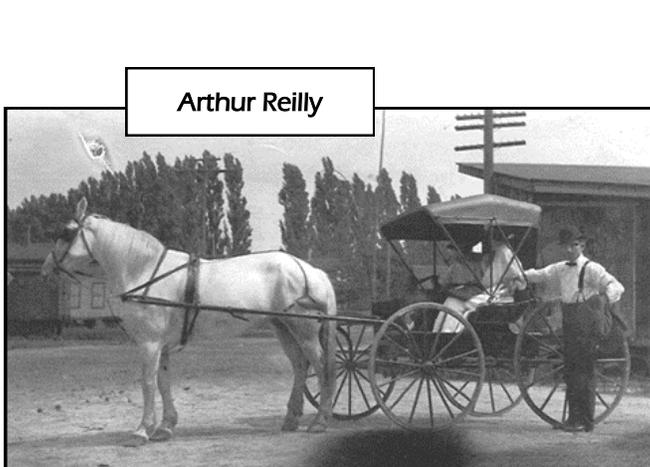
As more people are taking up the genealogy and family history hobby, why not apply what you have learned about your family and participate in the Greece Historical Society Volume 2 Pioneer Book Project? This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve and honor YOUR family's story. The only requirement is that your family was in the Town of Greece or in Charlotte on or before 1872. If you need help figuring that out, just email us and we can help.

We encourage you to submit on your own or partner with other family members. Application forms are on the Greece Historical Society website. Once the forms are completed one of the authors, **Marie Poinan** or **Jo Ann Ward Snyder** will contact you. They will then craft a story about your family for publication in our next volume in the *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece* series which we anticipate being published some time in 2023.

Be sure to look at *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece, Volume 1* which may be purchased at the Greece Historical Society Gift Shop or at Amazon.com. It may also be borrowed through the Monroe County Library system.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Jo Ann and Marie



### It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

**May 1 through April 30** is your membership year at the Greece Historical Society and Museum. For your convenience, we are mailing reminder letters along with a return envelope, or you may use the form on the back of this newsletter. Please make your check payable to **Greece Historical Society**. You may also pay your dues online with Pay Pal by going to our website at <http://greecehistoricalsociety.org/join-us/membership/>, filling out the form, and clicking on the Pay Pal button. A donation button is on the site also for those who would like to add a donation to their dues.



The Greece Historical Society truly appreciates your support, especially with the loss of our fundraising events and program donations due to the pandemic. We thank you all for your help in preserving our community's history and helping us share it through our programs, publications, museum exhibits, and social media.

We hope you will continue to support the Greece Historical Society and enjoy being a member. **When you renew, please consider upgrading your membership.** Your generosity will help us do even more when things get back to "normal."

Many of you have already sent in your membership renewals for this year. For that, we thank you. If we make a mistake and mail you a renewal letter, please ignore it or if you are uncertain about your membership status, give us a call at 225-7221 or email us at [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) and we will check our records.

Everyone who visits our museum or participates in one of our programs is expected to adhere to all stated safety protocols, which are subject to change and may be adjusted for consistency with the latest guidance.

There are many untold stories about Greece. If you have a story to tell, give us a call 585-225-7221 or email us at [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

### Write a Letter to the Future



The most popular attraction at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City was the site of a time capsule buried in 1938 (and not to be opened for 5,000 years!). Known as the Westinghouse Time Capsule, inside were housed various items thought to be representative of the era. Of historical importance, however, was the letter **Albert Einstein**, chose to write to the future in which he said: "Our time is rich in inventive minds and inventions of which could facilitate our lives considerably.... We have learned to fly, and we are able to send messages and news without any difficulty over the entire world through electric waves. However, people living in different countries kill each other at irregular time intervals, so that also for this reason anyone who thinks of the future must live in fear and terror." Einstein captures the pride and hope and fear that gripped the world on the brink of World War II.

What would you say in a letter to future generations? The Greece Historical Society invites you to participate in our time capsule project as we mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Town of Greece. We ask that you write a letter (*addressed to your future descendants if you like*) describing your lives, concerns, attitudes, and thoughts about everyday happenings or major events. Put your letters in a sealed envelope (*best to use a smaller type #8 envelope*) addressed to the future with your name on the outside of the envelope. The letters will be private and remain sealed. Drop them off at our museum during our Strawberry Festival on June 20 or mail them to the Society (*put your envelope in an envelope addressed to the Society at Greece Historical Society-Time Capsule, PO Box 16249, Greece, NY 14616*). The Society will save them in a container capsule with the intention of opening and reading the letters on the occasion of the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Happenings at GHS

### Strawberry Festival to Return!



When construction fencing for the new Community & Senior Center expansion project went up early this year, we became concerned about the future of our annual festival. We had already skipped two years because of Covid and it looked like there would be no space to hold it this year. But soon **Supervisor Bill Reilich** offered us the use of the Town pavilion on the Town Campus. We are grateful for the offer and look forward to working with the Town on this event. The date will be Monday, June 20, 2022. It is always a great time to see our friends and neighbors and welcome the first "picnic" of this Town of Greece bicentennial summer. We will have more details as time goes on. For now, mark your calendars.

On Sunday, March 20 we hosted a Girl Scout cookie sale for Troop 60266, a multi-level troop of Brownies to Seniors. The Greece Historical Society was thrilled to help the girls and offer them this opportunity again this year.



We finally had our new computer server and software installed this past month. The hardware was supplied by **LightSpeed Computers**. A big thank you to **Patrick Worboys** and **John Gilbert** for all the time and assistance they put into this project. Most of the funds came from a New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation grant that was secured for us by **State Senator Jeremy Cooney**.

On a warm and sunny day in March we hung a new sign on our building wishing the Town of Greece a Happy 200th Birthday,



Research is continuing on *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece, Volume 2*. On March 20 **Marie Poinan** spent the afternoon interviewing members of the Whelehan family, **Nancy LaPorte** and **Elizabeth Whelehan**.

Greece Historical Society  
 Greece Museum  
 595 Long Pond Road  
 P.O. Box 16249  
 Rochester NY 14616-0249



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Join or Renew Your Membership



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GHS Office: 585-225-7221

Office Email:

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Website: www.greecehistoricalsociety.org

Your tax deductible membership in the Greece Historical Society is available at several levels. To join, renew, upgrade your membership or to donate a gift, fill out and mail the form below or bring it to our next program meeting. To pay via PayPal, visit our website at [www.greecehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org)

Only your donations and memberships keep our Museum open. Thank you for your support.

**GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

Membership Application

(Please print)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Spouse, if applicable)*

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Street) (City/Town) (State) (Zip Code + 4)*

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Membership Classifications</u>	<u>Annual Rate</u>	<u>Select</u>
Senior (62+, Each) Student	\$15.00	_____
Individual Adult	\$20.00	_____
Senior (62+) Couple	\$30.00	_____
Family	\$35.00	_____
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Benefactor (Each)	\$100.00	_____
Senior Life (62+, Each)	\$350.00	_____
Life (Each)	\$500.00	_____
Donation		_____

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**P.O. Box 16249**  
**Rochester NY 14616-0249**

You will receive your membership card and receipt by mail.