

Bringing Greece Pioneer Families to Life

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the Greece Public Library



Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece, Volume 2 was published by the Greece Historical Society last December. Join co-authors **Marie Villone Poinan** and **Jo Ann Ward Snyder** for an in-depth look at their multi-year journey to discover the pioneer lives of early settlers at a presentation at the Greece Public Library on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm.

Family members who descended from these early pioneers were the foundation for and an integral part of this collaborative journey. Each family must have settled in Greece before 1872, and applicants submitted their family for inclusion in the book. Descendants then shared personal stories, as well as family documents and photos. The book includes almost 1200 photos and maps, many of which have not been previously seen outside of the family.

In their role as both researchers and genealogists, authors Marie and Jo Ann scoured newspapers, books, the web, and genealogy sites for more information. They also consulted libraries, historical societies, museums, and obscure repositories in this quest to discover each family's history. Fifty families were covered in each pioneer book, many of whom have never been written about before.

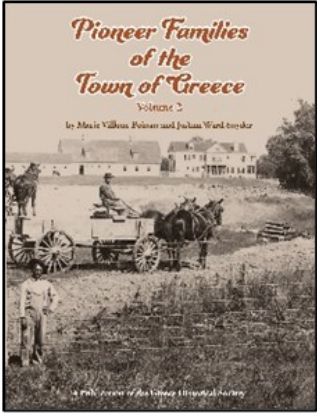


The presentation shows how Marie and Jo Ann worked from the premise that “Every Family Has a Story to Tell.” The collaboration between the authors and descendants wound up yielding a much larger picture of pioneer families than either could have achieved working independently. The result has been two volumes that provide insight into one hundred Greece pioneer families whose stories have been documented and preserved for current and future generations. Each participating family received a pioneer certificate from the Greece Historical Society.

Reservations are required. Please visit the library's website or contact them by phone: <https://greecepubliclibrary.org> (585) 225-8951, Greece Public Library, 2 Vince Tofany Blvd., Rochester, NY 14612

Fifty pioneer families covered in Volume 2: Allen, Andrews, Beattie, Beck, Benedict, Blackwell, Bonesteel, Buckman, Budd, Burger, Burns, Michael, Button, Cason, Clarke, Coffey, Combs, Cottrell/Pike, Davis/T. Mitchell, Defendorf, English, Estes, Faker, Fall, Frisbee, Glass, Hadlock, Hannahs, Hickox, Hincer, Hopper, Justice, Keene, Marchant, McShea, Meech, Phelps, Rowley, Ruggles, Sage, Sharpe/George Quinn, Vick, Weitz, Whelehan/John Quinn, Wietz, Williams, and Worboys.

Bringing Greece Pioneer Families to Life



Book Cover



Allie, Emeroy & Homer Buckman.
Buckman Road was named after
Homer's family



Bonesteel Street got its name from
the family of Laura Bonesteel, the ac-
tress known as Jessie Bonstelle

Upcoming Schedule

The museum is open on Sunday afternoons 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED MOTHER'S DAY
Closed Memorial Day weekend

Sunday, May 10 Museum Closed (*Mother's Day*)
Tuesday, May 12 Bringing Greece Pioneer Families to Life
Sunday, May 17 Erie Canal Exhibit Reception
Sunday, May 24 Museum Closed (*Memorial Day weekend*)
Monday, May 25 Memorial Day Parade
Monday, June 22 Strawberry Festival
Tuesday, September 8 How the American Revolution Created Rochester
Saturday October 17 250 Years of American Home Cooking
Tuesday, October 27 Amy Post's Sophia Street Circle (*Lakeshore School*)



Tuesday programs are held at the Greece Public Library at 7:00 p.m. Unless otherwise noted
Please check our Facebook page prior to any event for unanticipated changes



” History does not belong to us; we belong to it” *Hans-Georg Gadamer*

From the President



Membership renewal letters have been mailed. We had to make the difficult decision to raise our annual dues; so, for the first time in more than 10 years, we have increased our annual dues by \$5.00. With the raising costs of insurance and utilities for our building, we hope you understand. For those who have already sent in your membership dues you are covered until May 2027. If you received the letter and feel you already paid for the year, please call 225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com and we will check our records.

In April we hosted a garden club meeting and had visitors from Virginia. We had another full house on Tuesday April 14 at our talk about Hamlin Park by **Lara Hargrave**. She is an environmental educator at the park, and this was her first off-site public presentation.

Besides our normal GHS responsibilities, this past month Society Vice President Deborah Cole Myers attend the quarterly meeting of the Monroe County appointed Historians at Genesee Country Village and Museum, I attended two Greece Regional Chamber of Commerce events, and one of our members attended the New York State Preservation Conference in Cooperstown. For a first in many, many years GHS will be represented in the Town's Memorial Day parade.

Plans are in the works for our annual Strawberry & Dessert Tasting Festival on Monday June 22, 4:00 -7:00 p.m. at the Town Pavilion. We are seeking a few volunteers to help with set-up and take-down, selling tickets, and running our pick-a-prize raffle. If you are willing to help, please email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

History of Hamlin Beach Park

On April 14 **Lara Hargrave**, an environmental educator from New York Parks, gave an informative presentation to an enthusiastic audience of approximately 120. She spoke of how the landscape of Hamlin beach state park was changed as a result of the Ice Age and gave the park the notorious Devil's Nose in area 5. She also talked about the CCC camp that was used to house workers during the Depression to beautify the park and build infrastructure and its ultimate transition to a Prisoner of War camp during WWII.



On April 8 we hosted the Lakeview Garden Club's monthly meeting. We are so grateful for all the work the club does in keeping our front gardens beautiful all summer.

(photo by Dottie Mason)

Vay-Schleich & Meeson
Funeral and Cremation Chapels

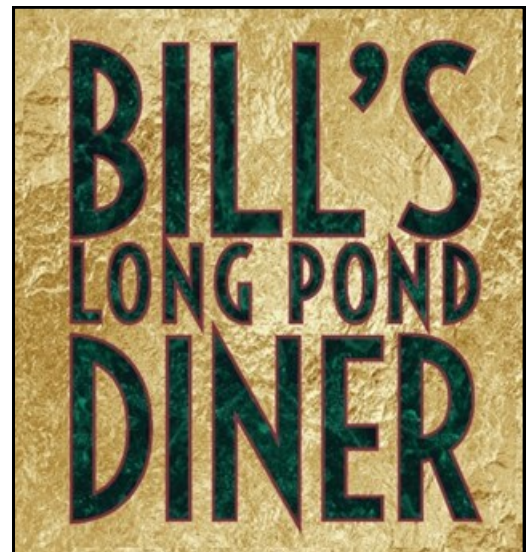
Our Family is Here for Yours
Katie, Doug & Mark Meeson

Greece Chapel 1075 Long Pond Road Rochester, NY 14626 (585) 227-2700	Hilton Chapel 38 East Avenue Hilton, NY 14468 (585) 392-1500
--	--

Celebrate life. MeesonFamily.com

GHS Board of Trustees

William M. Sauers (President)
Deborah Cole Myers (Vice President)
Gretchen Kozlowski (Secretary)
Bill Peeck (Treasurer)
Penny Cherney
Rob Cunningham
John Gilbert
Pam O'Sullivan
Bridget O'Toole
Sandy Peck
Dave Richardson
Deborah Whitt
Donald C. Newcomb
(Honorary Trustee)



Opening Reception for Erie Canal 200 Exhibit, Sunday May 17

Communities across New York State joined together in 2025 to mark the bicentennial of the opening of the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo. The Greece Historical Society held a few celebrations of its own throughout the year, culminating in a museum exhibit that opened this spring, *Four Miles Along the Towpath: South Greece and the Erie Canal*.

As the historic waterway is set to begin its 201st navigation season in May, GHS invites you to stop by the Greece Museum to experience this new exhibit. A reception will be held on Sunday, May 17 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Greece Historical Society and Museum, 595 Long Pond Road. Come check out the exhibit, learn about the history of the canal in our area and the families who settled near it, enjoy some refreshments, have your photo taken with GHS's very own Erie Canal mule Molly, and view the museum's other exhibits, including a new exhibit on Youth Groups of Greece.

If you are unable to attend the reception, the museum is open to the public from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. every Sunday (except for Mother's Day and Memorial Day Weekend).



The Greece Historical Society's latest exhibit, *Four Miles Along the Towpath: South Greece and the Erie Canal*, highlights Greece's connection to the Erie Canal.



Come meet Molly the Mule at the Greece Historical Society's opening of its Erie Canal exhibit.

**Greece Historical Society's
Annual Fundraiser
"Sweet Sensations"
Strawberry & Dessert Tasting Festival**
Monday, June 22, 2026
Wegmans Town Hall Pavilion
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Volunteers Needed

Many of our volunteers meet monthly to discuss issues, plan future activities, and develop procedures. We could surely use a few new volunteers, especially to act as docents and assist in the gift shop on Sunday afternoons. If you would like to help, call us at 585-225-7221 email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.



Ah, Those Were the Days...

Some of us—hopefully not all of us—are old enough to remember the grand old days with black-out curtains, fallout shelters, the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) and the noon siren. For those of you who missed those fun times, black-out curtains were to hide lights from any bombers passing overhead (leftover from WWII). Fallout shelters were bunkers built in backyards for a family to take refuge from a nuclear attack. The noon siren was a daily test of a town's public warning system. The EBS was a way for the government to interrupt normal radio and TV programming, presumably to tell you The End is Near.

But the all-time best precautions, designed to keep our kiddies safe, were the in-school air-raid drills. There were three scenarios:

1. A bomb is coming but we have time to leave our classrooms and get to the gym;
2. A bomb is coming but we have time to leave our classrooms and crouch in the hall;
3. A bomb is coming but there is only time to cram ourselves under our desks. Maybe some of the flying window glass will miss us.

#1 was kind of fun. It got you out of class and you got to see the rest of your friends for a few minutes.

#2 was uncomfortable, sitting with your back to the wall, head lowered and neck protected by your hands.

#3 was excruciating. I remember thinking I'd rather die of the blast than have to stay under that desk.

To put this in perspective, I was of the age of kids that stood at the bus stop worrying about those missiles in Cuba hitting us before we got home and watched the action in Vietnam every night during dinner. But I still didn't want to be under that horrible desk. My dad had refused to build the recommended backyard bunker, saying he'd rather die immediately than live in the aftermath of a nuclear war, so what was the point?

On the brighter side, helping to organize all this precaution was the Civil Defense. And they decided to throw a picnic. They called it a "test evacuation" but it ended in a park and there was food.

It worked like this: hundreds of cars full of people drove out of Rochester to a park in Palmyra, New York, and had a picnic. At one point, a man walked up to me, put a Civil Defense helmet on my head, and took my picture. I assume he then had a conversation with my parents. Next day I was in the newspaper. The year was 1955 and I was three.

—Deborah Cole Myers, April 2026

Democrat & Chronicle
July 17, 1955



Evacuation of 400 Termed Successful By Top CD Officials

Rochester's—and New York State's—first mass evacuation test yesterday was termed "successful" by state and local Civilian Defense officials, but at the same time the maneuver left many questions unanswered.

About 400 persons—volunteer refugees—were moved from the city to Palmyra in a 131-car convoy, after receipt of word the city was threatened by a theoretical hydrogen bomb attack.

The convoy formed at Red Wing Stadium, and proceeded at 9:20 to old Route 104 with police and Civil Air Patrol escort. Instructions called for speeds of 18 miles per hour in the city, and 28 miles per hour outside.

Robert N. Abbott, Monroe County CD director, said he was pleased by the orderliness of the convoy, and added: "We're grateful to the people who volunteered. This shows that people are interested in knowing what they should do in event of an emergency, and we're interested in finding out for them."

A full critique of the evacuation test will be published in the next issue of the *Democrat & Chronicle*.

explaining the purpose of the test.

Monroe County Sheriff Albert W. Skinner led the convoy to Palmyra. Old Route 104 was closed to eastbound traffic until the motorcade had reached its destination at the Palmyra Fairgrounds.

CD police, sheriff's deputies from Monroe and Wayne counties, as well as State Police, guided the convoy. Two-way communication facilities stretching from Red Wing Stadium along old Route 104 to Williamson and south through Marion to Palmyra proved to be of tremendous value.

The convoy noted only three accidents, all minor and of the tender-bumping variety. No one was injured. However, CD officials cited the need for drivers in evacuation convoys to be constantly alert.

Greece Civil Defense - Special Police 75 Years

In 1951 the Town of Greece established an auxiliary police unit consisting of volunteers trained to assist in Monroe County Civil Defense needs. In 1977 the Civil Defense unit changed to a Special Police Unit under the control of the Town Board and the Greece Police Department. At the April 2026 Town Board meeting the Greece Special Police was presented a proclamation honoring their 75th anniversary of volunteer service to the community.



1950s CD arm band



Donate to Our Collection

Do you have an historic Greece related item or photograph? We are always interested in unique items that help document the story of Greece and enhance its presentation to the public. We are a small museum with limited storage space, which forces us to be very selective in what we add to our collection. If you have an item or photographs you would like us to consider, please tell us about it. Our collections team is usually available on Monday mornings between 10:00 a.m. and noon. Give us a call 585-225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.



Deborah Ham Whitt Agcy Inc
Deborah Whitt, Agent
Rochester, NY 14616-2530
Bus: 585-663-0960 Fax: 585-663-2031
deborahwhitt.biz

Providing Insurance and Financial Services
State Farm, Bloomington, IL

Museum Shop



On your next visit, stop by our museum gift shop. We have a large collection of local history books, many of which are only available here. As a reminder we now accept nearly all major credit cards.

“History is a Greek word which means literally, just investigation”
Arnold Toynbee

Bartolomeo & Perotto
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

TELL THEIR STORY
#lifestorymovement

bartolomeo.com 585 • 720 • 6000

Gregg H. Redmond PLLC

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



We greatly value and appreciate your donations. (Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code)

How Different it Might Have Been by Bill Sauers

The fall of 1953 was a rapidly changing time for the residents of the town of Greece. The Lake Ontario State Parkway was under construction and contractors had all they could do to build new homes for Greece's growing population, as 100 people a month moved into the town. According to Roy Cole, the Town's building inspector at the time, 55 new home permits were issued in September alone.

Then there was the Northgate Plaza grand opening, a three-day event that drew crowds of up to 75,000. A new shopping complex today would cause little excitement, but back then it was to be the very first suburban shopping center in Monroe County.

Meanwhile, in October, a small group of town citizens would affect the future of Greece. A grass roots group, the Shoremont Association, headed by Mario Berardi of Edgemere Drive, was protesting the proposed construction of a factory at Dewey Avenue and Ling Road. It seemed that a 47-year-old local company with 800 employees was rapidly outgrowing their plant on Hollenbeck Street and other sites scattered around the City of Rochester.

The company had acquired an option on the land and was seeking a zoning change to build their proposed "campus type" research and production facility. The group of residents was afraid that a factory "would destroy the natural beauty of the lakeshore site, increase traffic, cause a smoke and industrial dirt nuisance and depreciate nearby property values and those of Greece as a whole."

A Democrat & Chronicle editorial praised the residents for their opposition to changing the towns zoning laws "that might allow the installation of a big factory in their neighborhood." The editorial stated that "the company was one with a conscience and a sense of civic responsibility. Its officers were public spirited, and it could be taken for granted they would not willingly ruin a great public asset". (Indeed, the president of the company had been mayor of the City only 20 years before). "The citizens were wise to move rapidly in trying to repulse an effort to change the zoning laws." Because of the residents' protest, the company pulled out of the deal and began the search for another site.

Were the right decisions made that first week in October of 1953? Certainly, it would have changed the character of the neighborhood, and we now know the site that company had chosen would have been woefully inadequate. Would they have soon abandoned the site when they ran out of room, leaving another empty building, such as the old Odenbach ship building factory that was unoccupied for many years, before being demolished, or would they have continued to expand throughout the town of Greece? We will never know.



The Town of Greece certainly did prosper over the years without that factory, but so did the community that eagerly welcomed it. In 1954, Joseph C. Wilson, the president of the Haloid Co. announced his company's plans for a new complex in the town of Webster. Several years later in 1961, the company changed its name to Xerox.

This is an edited version of a story that originally appeared in the Greece Post, Oct 16, 2003.

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



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Rochester NY
 Permit #1188



CONTACT US

GHS Office: 585-225-7221

Office Email:

greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

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

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: _____

Membership Classifications

Annual Rate

Select

Senior (62+, Each)	\$20.00	_____
Student	\$20.00	_____
Individual Adult	\$20.00	_____
Senior (62+) Couple	\$30.00	_____
Family	\$35.00	_____
Business, Professional	\$50.00	_____
Benefactor (Each)	\$100.00	_____
Senior Life (62+, Each)	\$350.00	_____
Life (Each)	\$500.00	_____
Donation	\$ _____	_____

New Application
 Renewal
 Upgrade
 Donation
 Memorial Donation
 My donation is in memory of

Memberships are tax deductible. Please pay online via PayPal or make check payable and mail to:
Greece Historical Society
P.O. Box 16249
Rochester NY 14616-0249
 You will receive your membership card and receipt by mail.