

Greece Historical Society's Annual Fundraiser Strawberry & Dessert Tasting Festival



Monday, June 22, 2026
Greece Town Hall Pavilion
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Admission \$10.00

Wegmans



\$5.00 Children 6-12, Free 5 & Under
Includes Strawberry Shortcake from Wegmans and dessert
samples from Great American Diner, Special T Cakes & Desserts,
Grove House, and Mayer's Lake Ontario Winery.



hots, burgers, sausage, etc. will also be available for purchase from Barton's Parkside Hots
water & soda will be available for purchase from Boy Scout Troop 197

ALL WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



Door
Prizes

"Pick a Prize"
Raffle



DJ Tony Star - Tones Entertainment
Children's activities - Clowns - Community Displays
Square Dance Demo
Free Parking on the Town Hall Campus



Thank you to Our Event Sponsors



Vay-Schleich & Meeson
Funeral and Cremation Chapels



Where people make the difference.



From the President

The weather seems to be turning into summer. It was a long, cool and wet spring until May 18 when the temperature reached nearly 90.



This past month, the Greece Historical Society was represented at the Museum Association of New York annual conference in Albany. Some of us also attended a Greece Regional Chamber of Commerce event held at the Town Hall, and the Parma Hilton Historical Society annual banquet along with other area Town Historians. We were able to assist a graduate student with a question and assist several others with their questions. Pat Worboys had an unusual experience with an Uber passenger and some middle school students learned about a phone book.

We have started some of our long-awaited painting projects and had an outside broken faucet replaced so our gardens can be watered. Hope at least some of you got to see GHS volunteers in the Greece Memorial Day parade. It was the first time in many years we have participated in that parade.

We are all set for our Strawberry & Dessert Tasting Festival; a new business offering dessert tasting this year will be the Grove House. The event is only \$10.00, and although we prefer cash, charge cards will also be accepted. Tickets will be available at the door. You can also pre-order tickets on our website and your tickets will be waiting for you at the ticket table on June 22. (<http://greecehistoricalsociety.org>, click on Gift Shop, ticket information at top left.)

Upcoming Schedule

The museum is open on Sunday afternoons 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

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, November 10 - The True Story of Thanksgiving

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



Lakeview Garden Club

Lakeview Garden Club members: **Katie Amato, Sharon Kubiak, Joanne Ristuccia, Debbie Merklein**, on a spring day, preparing one of our gardens for the summer. We greatly appreciate their work keeping our museum gardens looking great.

Vay-Schleich & Meeson
Funeral and Cremation Chapels

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

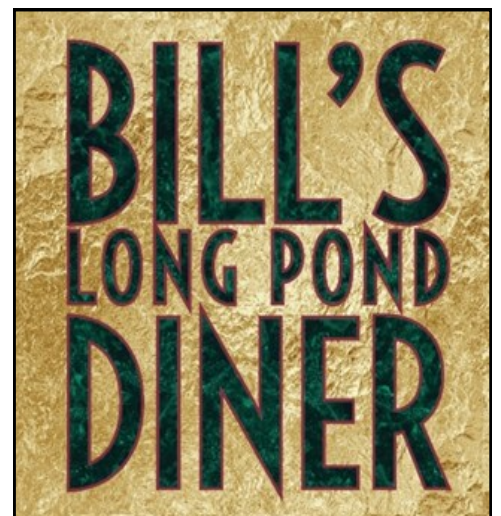
Greece Chapel
1075 Long Pond Road
Rochester, NY 14626
(585) 227-2700

Hilton Chapel
38 East Avenue
Hilton, NY 14468
(585) 392-1500

Celebrate life. MeesonFamily.com

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An Uber Ride Becomes a Journey Through Greece History

By Pat Worboys



Sometimes history reaches people in the most unexpected ways. As an Uber driver, occasionally I experience unusual requests. Recently, what began as a routine Uber ride turned into a memorable experience that highlighted the power of local history and community connection.

One evening, I accepted a ride request through Uber from a passenger named Jonathan. His destination was the Greece Town Hall, but he really wanted to take a photograph near a familiar “Welcome to Greece” sign and I found a good one. After Jonathan entered my SUV, he made an unusual request: he wondered if there might be time to see a little bit of local history while he was in town (he was from Brooklyn). I gladly accepted the side request.

Instead of simply driving directly to Town Hall, Jonathan received an impromptu five-minute tour of our museum, where he took photographs in front of the museum sign. Inside he posed beside the life-sized figure dressed as Gordon A. Howe, I shared a few stories about the town’s past and pointed out several historical artifacts, including the museum’s 1890s fire wagon. Jonathan listened with genuine curiosity as we discussed some of the people and events that helped shape the Greece community over the years.

The tour then continued along Lake Avenue, where I showed him the resting place of George Eastman and explained Eastman’s lasting influence on the Rochester region and beyond.



Jonathan and our “Gordon Howe”

What started as a simple transportation request quickly became something much more meaningful, a reminder that history can connect with people anywhere and at any time, even during an ordinary car ride.

Before the evening ended, Jonathan shared that he hoped to return someday for a full museum tour. In a generous gesture of support, he also donated \$150 and offered additional funds in appreciation for the historical tour experience beyond the original Uber fare.

Encounters like this remind us that local history is not confined to books, exhibits, or lecture halls. Sometimes it begins with a conversation, a photograph, or a spontaneous stop along the way. The Greece Historical Society is grateful for visitors like Jonathan who help keep the community’s stories alive and who remind us that the history of Greece continues to inspire new audiences every day.

National Historic Marker Weekend



The last weekend in April is designated as National Historic Marker Weekend by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, a promotional event that encourages volunteers to clean and care for historical markers. This year, Catherine Blind, of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Irondequoit Chapter, and a GHS member volunteered to clean three makers in the Town of Greece.

“Teaching is the highest form of understanding” *Aristotle*

What's a Phone Book?

Most everyone reading this knows what a phone book is and there is no need to explain what it is or was. After all, until about 20 years ago, every single household had one next to their telephone. The internet and the smart phone diminished the use of landlines and caused the demise of the trusted phone book.

Anyone who has visited our museum, and especially the younger generation, is always intrigued by our 60-year-old dial telephone that still works. They are fascinated when we teach them the complex and time-consuming task of dialing a number.



One day several weeks ago a middle school class was visiting and as always, they gravitated to the dial telephone. While explaining the workings of the phone we happened to mention looking up a number in the phone book. When nearly all of them said "what's a phone book?"

After a brief explanation, they could not believe that there was actually a book that every household had that listed everyone's name, phone number, AND address. The concept of publishing all that information was just unbelievable to these young students. So, we pulled out a 10-year-old Rochester phone book. You'd think we uncovered an ancient artifact, they were so enamored; meanwhile one student was so excited when he found their teacher's phone number and address. We never did get around to tell them the difference between the white and yellow pages or what a phone booth was.



This experience has taught us docents a lesson that we need to be careful how we describe what we think are everyday items, when we might not realize that a younger person has no idea what we are talking about.

The first Rochester telephone phone book was published in 1879 with 32 pages; by 1980 there were over 900 pages. Throughout the 20th century the phone book was an essential daily tool in every household and business for finding residents and businesses. It was also occasionally used as a booster seat for kids and in pinch, a door stop. The books were phased out in 2017.



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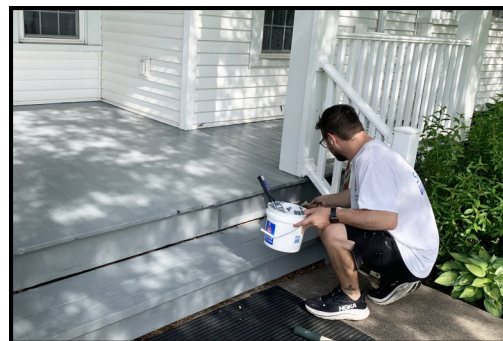
State Farm, Bloomington, IL



Spring Maintenance



Spring maintenance projects have continued here at 595 Long Pond Road. This past month we have had the back porch railing and the front porch floor professionally painted. We also hired a plumber to replace an outside faucet so the garden club could keep the flowers watered.



Town of Greece Memorial Day Parade

Greece Historical Society members marched in the town's Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026!



Members dressed in historical period costumes and even Molly and Millie the Mules participated!



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 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.



Bringing Greece Pioneer Families to Life

On May 12, nearly 85 guests joined co-authors **Marie Villone Poinan** and **Jo Ann Ward Snyder** at the Greece Public Library for an in-depth look at their multi-year journey to publish a two-volume set of books on the lives of early settlers of the Town of Greece.

Family members who descended from these early pioneers were the foundation for the stories and an integral part of their collaborative journey. Each family must have settled in Greece before 1872. 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.

The presentation showed 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.

The program was recorded and is available on our website.



GHS Holds Opening Reception for its Erie Canal 200 Exhibit

Four Miles Along the Towpath: South Greece and the Erie Canal

GHS hosted a reception on Sunday, May 17 to celebrate the opening of its latest exhibit *Four Miles Along the Towpath: South Greece and the Erie Canal*. Visitors were able to explore the exhibit, which focuses on the history of the canal in our area and the families who settled nearby. They also enjoyed refreshments, had photos taken with Molly, our very own Erie Canal mule, and explored our historic house and other museum exhibits.

Maureen Whalen, who researched and wrote the exhibit, greeted visitors with background on the Erie Canal and GHS's involvement in the canal's bicentennial. Additional research on Greece families was provided by Jo Ann Ward Snyder and Deborah Cole Myers. Exhibit panels were designed by Gina DiBella and printed by the Greece Central School District's Print Shop.

If you missed the opening reception, the exhibit can be viewed any Sunday through the summer and fall from 1:30 to 4:00 PM (except holiday weekends).



Strawberry & Dessert Tasting Festival – Monday, June 22, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Town Pavilion on the Town Hall Campus.



This year, strawberry short cake will be offered by **Wegmans**, as well as dessert samples from **Special T Cakes & Desserts**, **the Grove House**, **Great American Diner**, and **Mayer's Lake Ontario Winery**. In addition, grilled foods will be available for purchase from local grilling experts, **Barton's Parkside Hots**. **Grease Paint Alley Clowns** will be there to entertain children of all ages, and we expect **R2D2** and a friend to make an appearance. During the course of the festival, there will be a square dance demonstration, and we will be announcing the winner of our **Warren C. Crandell scholarship**. Returning this year is DJ **Tony Star** of Tones Entertainment.

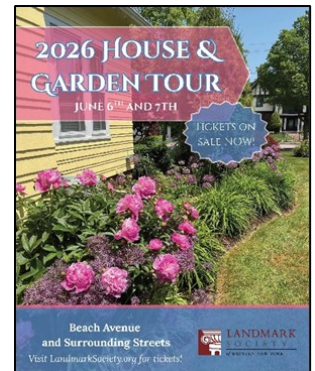
Cost is only \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12, and free for children ages 5 and under. Although we prefer cash, tickets can also be purchased using your personal charge card. Tickets will be sold at the event and are available for advanced purchase at our museum gift shop, 595 Long Pond Road on Sundays 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. You can also pre-order tickets on our website and your tickets will be waiting for you at the ticket table on June 22. (<http://greecehistoricalsociety.org>, click on Gift Shop, ticket information at top left.) Purchasing tickets in advance will save time waiting in line at the festival.

Landmark Society's House & Garden Tour Heads to Charlotte Lakeside Neighborhood

The Landmark Society of Western New York's 2026 House & Garden Tour will be held Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For the first time in the event's more than 50-year history it will feature the scenic and historic Charlotte Lakeside neighborhood.

Attendees can tour homes and gardens along Lake Ontario and the surrounding streets, while also enjoying docent-led explorations of community landmarks such as the "Secret Sidewalk," Hose 22 Firehouse, and Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church. The tour will also feature exclusive access to the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse and the historic Dentzel Menagerie Carousel.

Tickets are \$38 (general admission), \$32 (Landmark Society members), and are on sale at: <https://www.landmarksociety.org>.



MANY Conference



I recently attended the Museum Association of New York's annual conference in Albany. On the first day of the conference we had the afternoon free to visit local museums and I chose the tours of the Capitol building, the Albany Institute of Art, and the USS Slater Navy ship.

I met many people from around the state during the three-day event, including a couple from near Auburn who are turning their homestead into a working museum to introduce visitors to the ways of the past. One session that was interesting was about podcasts, moderated in part by a curator from the Buffalo Museum of History. That podcast is entitled, "The Buffalo History Museum Podcast." Another podcast entitled "A NY Minute in History" is also worthwhile.

I am grateful to have had this experience and bring ideas back to the Greece Historical Society.

Penny Cherny, GHS Trustee

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CONTACT US

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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

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	\$ _____	_____

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You will receive your membership
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