

Blue and Yellow

by Lynne Belluscio

It took a while, but we finally finished painting the historic marker in front of the post office. It took a lot longer than we expected. Four of us worked on it.

Originally it was blue with grey lettering. I once asked Seely Pratt why it wasn't yellow and blue like the other state historic markers and he said that the Historical Society decided that the blue and grey looked more dignified.

As a result, three of LeRoy's historic markers were in blue and grey - the sign at the post office, the Ingham marker in front of the Woodward Library and the Keeney Farmstead on West Main Road opposite Keeney Road. I have to apologize to Seely because we painted the post office marker yellow and blue, because frankly, it stands out and is better noticed.

The problem with painting the sign was that it was cast from aluminum and the paint didn't want to adhere - - and there were a lot of little letters. We started by painting the blue background. The paint stuck pretty well on that, but the yellow could be scratched off the letters. I called and talked to the company that made them and they said that for a price we could ship the sign back to them and they would prepare it properly and then paint it. The price was too pricey. I talked with several people about the proper paint and no one could agree what was best.

Mary, who works at the Jell-O Gallery said we should look for a special paint primer just for aluminum. Sure enough Crockers had the right kind of primer and so I bought a quart. By the time we started working on the sign again, it was too cold to paint it



outside, so we brought it into the library and set it on saw horses. I was discouraged, because the bright blue background had gotten dirty from the dust kicked up from the parking lot, so I decided to clean and paint the background again. Mary worked on the letters. Tedious is the right word to describe the work, but it finally is finished and the sign has been put back up in front of the post office.

We won't redo the Ingham sign on the stone in front of the library. Several years ago, a new Ingham historic marker was put up on the corner of Wolcott and East Main. But yesterday, the guys from the Town Highway Department dropped off the Keeney Homestead sign. There's not as many letters, but it is two-sided. It will be a good winter project.

It was put up in 1967 by the Historical Society to mark the pioneer farm of Nicholas Keeney - the future site of Walmart. The sign reads:

Craigie Tract
"LeRoy Pioneer Farm
Nicholas and
Mary Bishop Keeney

Birthplace of Calvin Keeney seed grower - plant breeder originated and marketed the first stringless garden bean".

This sign needs a little more attention. First we'll power wash it then sand the surface & all the letters off so the primer will adhere. Then I suspect another power wash. Then it will get a coat of primer and a couple of coats of yellow. Then we flip the sign and do the other side.

The 1968 Annual Report of the Historical Society mentions that the historic markers are "important in that they constantly remind and in many instances, inform for the first time, LeRoyans of their community heritage. For tourists passing through they leave a lasting impression of the importance of LeRoy in the historical development of the State and the United States."

There are several other markers in LeRoy. This summer we finished repainting the Ganson Tavern sign near the golf course. On Summit Street, on a rock, is the Triangle Tract marker. Out on

Asbury Road - on another rock - is the Asbury Church marker.

In 1984, during the 150th Anniversary of the Village of LeRoy, a brass plaque was placed on the front of the Eagle Hotel to commemorate the first Village meeting held at the Eagle in 1834.

In 1997, the Historical Society posted markers on Lake Street, near the site of the first Jell-O factory owned by Pearle Wait. The other sign was erected in front of the old Jell-O factory on North Street. During the Genesee County Bicentennial a sign was placed near the site of the first school west of the Genesee River. Another sign was placed on Parmelee Road mentioning the only veteran of the French and Indian War, buried in Genesee County.

Of course there is the sign in front of LeRoy House - which was repainted about 20 years ago. The other sign is the Underground Railroad sign which eventually will be placed near Keeney Road and Route 5. It was inadvertently placed out by the Keeney Road Cemetery, but it will be moved to its correct place eventually.

There is another sign at the entrance to the Town Highway Department buildings on Asbury Road. It was erected to recognize the importance of the Donald Woodward Airport which opened in 1928. With the Bicentennial of the Town of LeRoy coming up in 2012 (or 2013, depending on how you want to figure the date. The Town of Bellona was chartered in 1812, but less than a year later, in 1813, the name was changed to LeRoy.) it might be good idea to start thinking about a marker to commemorate the Town.



Andy Klein

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