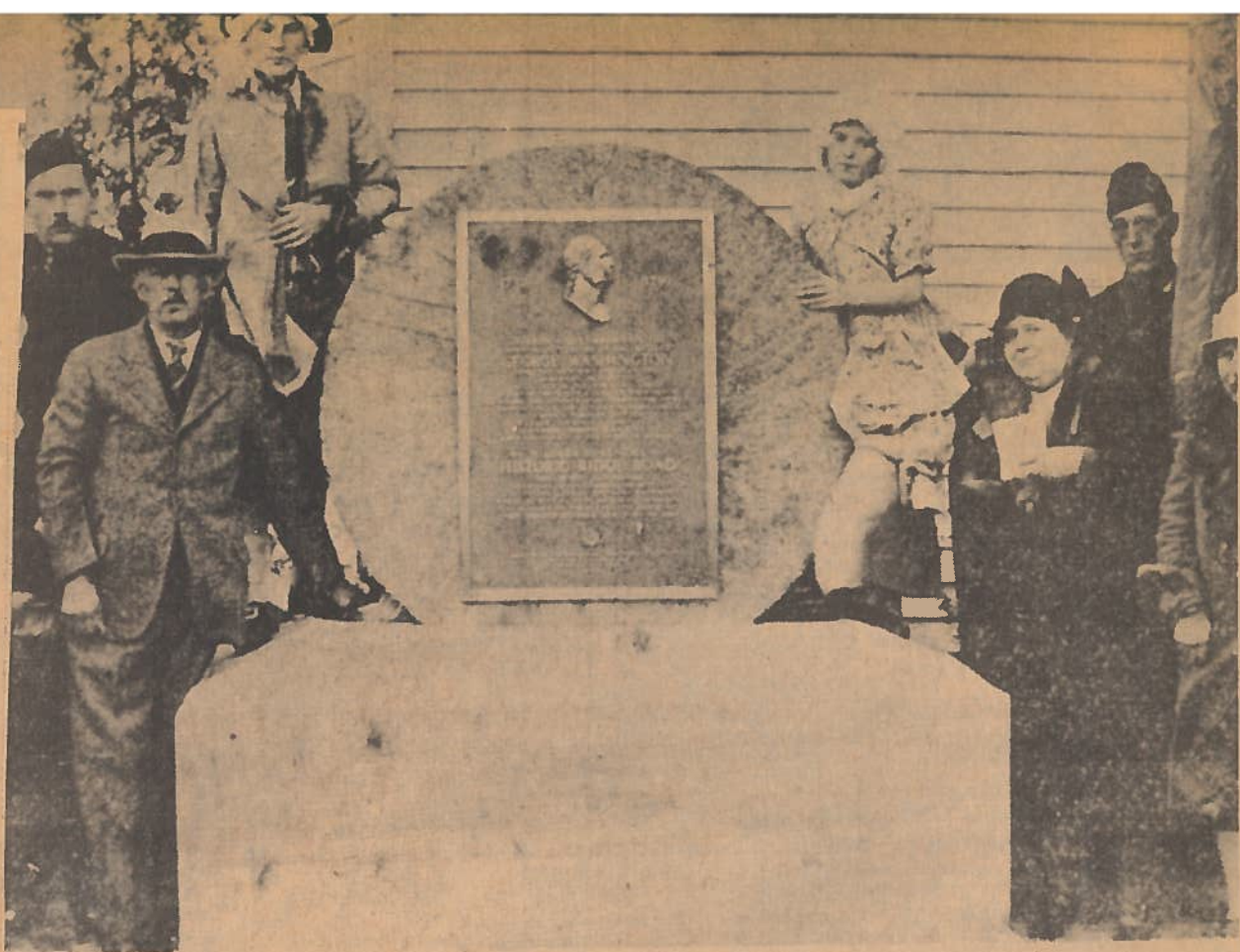


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin

County

Historian
5-31-84



(L. Monacelli Photo Copy)

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THE MURRAY MARKER

No. 22

Association and Orleans Chapter DAR
State Of New York
1932

Located at the junction of Ridge Road (Route 04) and 237 in Murray is a bronze marker set on a millstone. The accompanying photo was taken on October 12, 1932, the day it was dedicated. Shown re: Eben Copp, Roy Downey, Mildred Downey, Katherine Rowley and two members of the Jewell Buckman American Legion Post in Holley.

A bas-relief profile portrait of Washington dominates the upper portion of the marker with the dates 1732-1799. The inscription is as follows:

To Honor And Commemorate The
200 Anniversary of the Birth of
GEORGE WASHINGTON
And the Men Who Fought In The
American Revolution
And Sleep In The Town Of Murray
Robinson Smith, Life Guard of Washington
Asa Clark, The Courier Who Carried The News
To Washington Of The Attack On Throg's Neck
Capt. Timothy Ruggles
William Jennings, Amos Frink And
Capt. Aaron Warren Who Built The
First Grist Mill In The Town Of Murray
-Niagara To Genesee-
HISTORIC RIDGE ROAD
Trek - DeWitt Clinton 1810
Near This Spot Stood The Primitive
Log Tavern Kept By Epaphras Mattison
Where DeWitt Clinton And His Companions
Spent A Night On Their Eventful Horse Back
Trip Through Western New York In 1810
Erected By The Ridge Road Improvement

Over the past fifty years or so this bronze marker became extremely oxidized and fell victim to vandals. Eventually the portrait head of Washington came up missing and the monument became more difficult to read. This state of affairs concerned a number of people, yet nobody did anything until a new resident moved to Murray this past Fall. His name is Michael Lesco. Upon passing the historic marker a number of times he became interested in what it said and its state of condition. Proud of his new community, he sought to have it refurbished and generously volunteered to complete the work on behalf of the Orleans Chapter DAR. Fortunately he was able to retrieve the portrait relief of Washington from a neighbor who had found it on the ground. During the winter the marker was removed from the millstone for cleaning and buffing. To remove the oxidation, he used lemon juice, salt and baking soda on all raised portions. The background was sanded and painted while the entire marker was then covered several times with verithane. On Mother's Day Michael Lesco remounted the bronze marker on the millstone complete with Washington's portrait. Mr. Lesco is to be commended for his innumerable hours of volunteer labor and his superior job of restoration work. What a pleasure to see how it now sparkles and glitters in the sun. The Orleans Chapter DAR and the Orleans County Department of History applaud Michael Lesco for seeing a job which needed doing and having the incentive to do it.