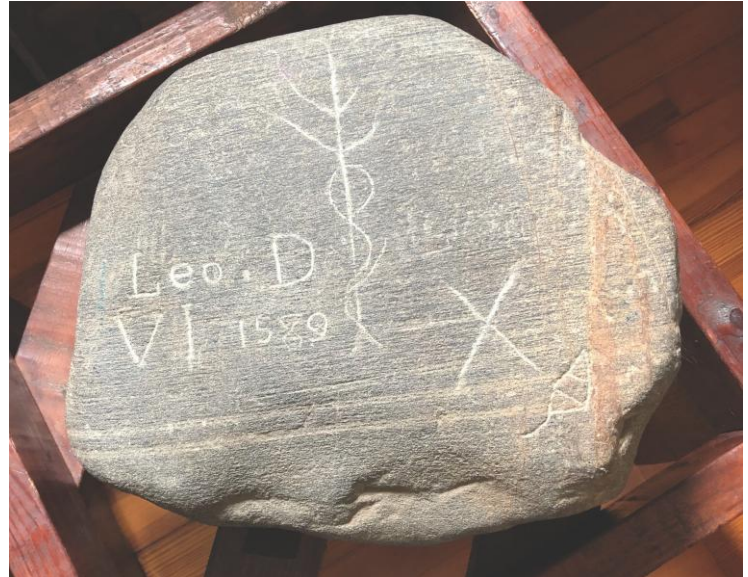
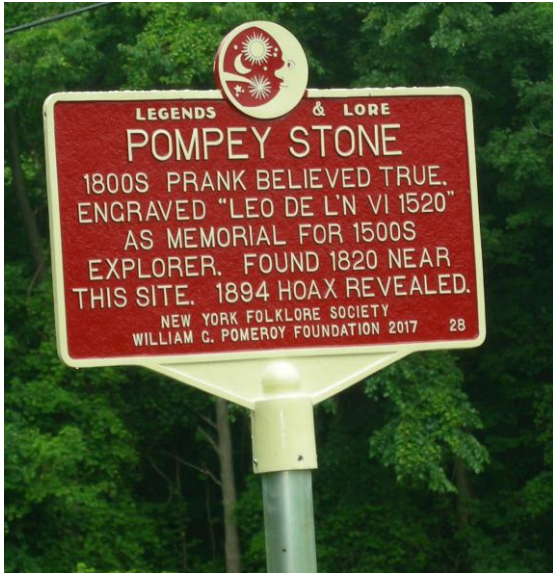


LEGENDS & LORE: THE POMPEY STONE

MARKER DEDICATION AUGUST 11, 2018



In the summer of 1820, Pompey farmer, Philo Cleveland, was removing stones from his field when he uncovered an oval stone, 14 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 8 inches thick. The **Pompey Stone** was discovered. Local interest expanded to State-wide interest. Eventually, the Stone caught the attention of experts at the Museum of the Albany Institute. Based on an analysis by State Librarian, Henry Holmes, he interpreted the Stone inscription as a reference to Pope Leo the Tenth in the year 1520. They believed the Stone to be a grave-marking headstone where the "L.S." referred to the deceased, possibly a member of a Spanish exploration group. The sign of the cross referred to the deceased as a Roman Catholic, and the inverted U was considered a sign of the Masonic Order. For 70 years, the story persisted about the origin and purpose of the Stone.

In 1894, one of Philo's nephews, Cyrus, came forward to confess that he had helped make the Stone in the Avery blacksmith shop in Oran, then buried it on the Cleveland farm. The controversy began. Real or fake? And so, to celebrate the legend of the Pompey Stone, we dedicate the first **Legends and Lore Highway Marker** in the Town of Pompey.

Since the confession of 1894, the controversy has continued. Is the Pompey Stone authentic, or is it a fake? There continue to be rigorous arguments on both sides of the question. Whatever you decide, you can visit the Pompey Stone at the Museum of Pompey Historical Society, 8347 US Route 20, at the corner of Pompey Center Road and Route 20. You can visit the marker on the highway in front of 3482 Watervale Road.