# Ickesburg identified with refurbished sign

Another small but important part of Perry County history is looking good in Ickesburg. The historic cast iron town name sign has been repainted by a local volunteer with help from members of the community.

It is one of thousands of such markers that once graced the entrances to hundreds of Pennsylvania towns and villages. Unfortunately many have been lost, either as towns expanded or through neglect.
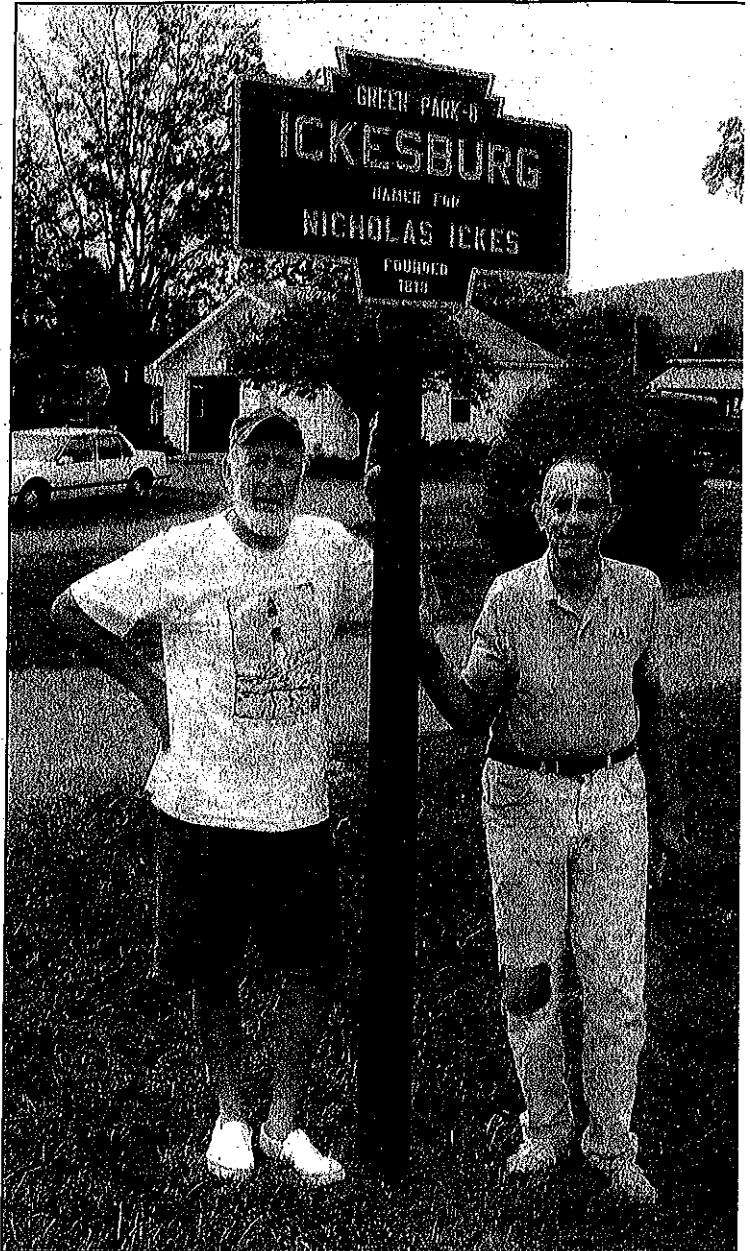
Installed by the former state Department of Highways beginning in the 1920s, two such markers were at each town, one at either end to greet residents and travelers. Officially owned by today's PennDOT, that agency encourages local adoption of the markers. Without such local assistance, those that remain also will disappear over time.

Only one Ickesburg marker remains. Last painted by Dale Beaston of New Bloomfield some 15 years ago, it was repainted by Jack and Tobi Graham of Elliottsburg. Perry Petroleum Equipment of Ickesburg removed the rusted marker from the post. Paint was donated by Miller Auto Parts of New Bloomfield. Richard Kriebel of Ickesburg, in whose yard the marker is located, helped remount the marker on the ornate cast iron post.

One or more markers remain at several other Perry County towns — Blain, Duncannon, New Bloomfield, New Germantown, Landisburg, Liverpool, Loysville and Millerstown. Those that once stood in Newport and Marysville are gone.

The Grahams are members of a volunteer group, the Keystone Marker Trust (www.keystonemarkertrust.org) that works to preserve existing markers and replicate those long lost.



SIGNING THEIR WORK — Jack Graham (left) and Richard Kriebel stand with th repainted Ickesburg marker.