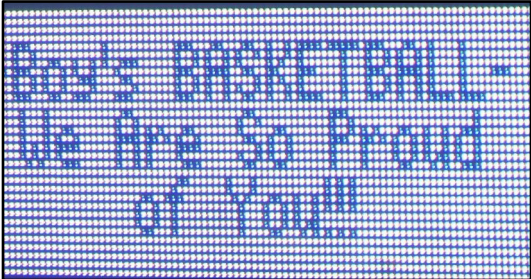
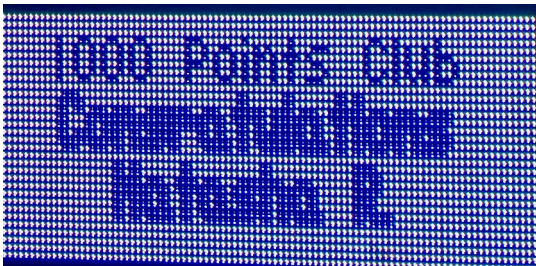
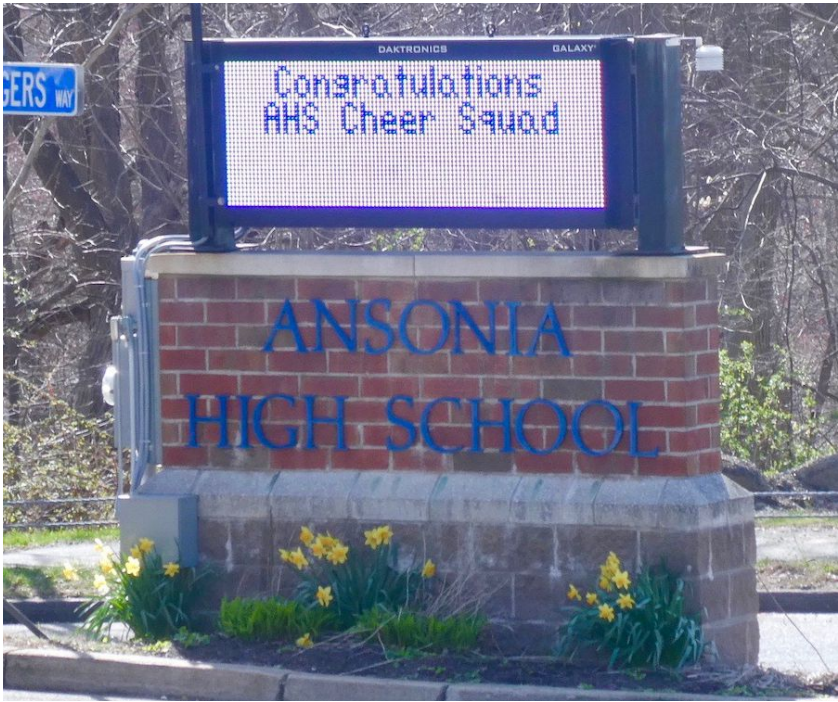


## AHS sign reminds passersby of pre-COVID-19 days as we look forward to getting back to normal routines

By Ralph Villers

ANSONIA -In these days of ‘social distancing’, we miss what was normal and usual - before March 16 that is. What was normal to most of us who traversed Pulaski Highway was the entrance to Ansonia High School is its message sign with not just the date and time, but also achievements, upcoming events and more. We miss that. We also miss the seasonal splendor of the dogwoods in bloom on the drive to the school. So here are a few photos from across the street as a reminder of a time not so long ago. Relax, these photos were taken by one person alone without an entourage, Pulaski Highway devoid of activity. We can only hope the COVID-19 calamity ends at the earliest.

*Stay safe and healthy!*





## Photos depict then and now of Civil War monument on Derby Green

By Daniel Bosques  
Exec. Director, Derby Historical Society  
and Dr. Joseph Dirienzo

*Additional photos by Patricia Villers*

DERBY - Perhaps you have seen the impressive Soldier's Monument on the Derby Green. Facing Elizabeth Street, it honors the soldiers from Derby and Huntington who sacrificed their lives during the Civil War.

Featuring a bronze statue of a Union soldier flanked by four Parrott cannons, it had fallen into disrepair and funding was solicited to restore the stately monument in 2016.

The degradation of the monument can be seen in the 2014 photo before the restoration took place.

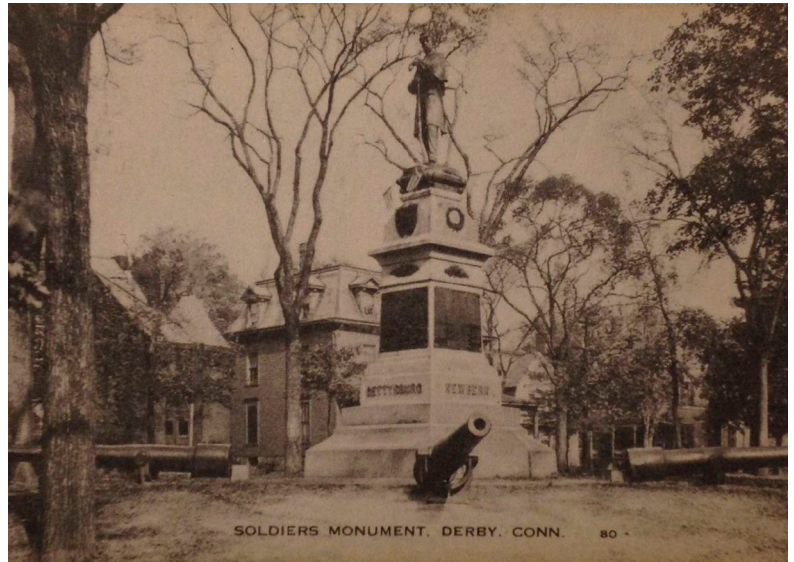
The restored monument was dedicated on Memorial Day 2018 (see the Valley-Voice article [HERE](#)). Its magnificence can be readily seen in the 2018 view at sunset.

The monument has an interesting backstory which can be told by the old pictures shown at right. Here are a few interesting historical facts:

- In 1875 a committee formed by the Birmingham Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) collected \$1,475 in donations to build a civil war monument on the Derby Green.
- The project was a joint venture between Birmingham and Huntington (Shelton)
- The tall pedestal, constructed of Quincy granite, was erected in 1878. (first photo).
- In 1883, \$3,200 in additional funds were raised so the granite base was enlarged, three bronze plaques and the bronze statue of a Union soldier were added.
- A bronze plaque on the East side contains the names of those soldiers who either died in battle or later died of wounds received in the fighting.

Plaques on two sides of the recently-renovated monument list local soldiers who had fallen in four Civil War battles: Atlanta, Chancellorsville (Va.), New Bern (N.C.), and Gettysburg.

- Between 2016 and its dedication, over \$71,000 was donated to preserve this piece of Valley history.



1883



1878



2013

