



~ GPS Update ~ Carol Schweizer

Welcome to the Merry Month of May! Our membership will be voting on three important items at the May meeting. The new slate of officers will be voted on at the May meeting and step into office in June. Many thanks to Mary Lynn Kopper and her nominating committee for this new slate: President Rev. Wayne Brandow, Vice President Gerald Bobar, Co-Secretaries Martha Brandow and Mary Lynn Kopper, Trustee Linda Bobar.

You have been hearing much about the plan to relocate our GPS Archives in the new library. It will be necessary for new equipment and storage furniture to be purchased for the archives at the new location. The Archive Committee will bring a proposal for those costs for approval by the membership. The GPS Board of Trustees will bring a proposal for a gift to the Galway Public Library Building Fund. *Galway 1900-1949: A Photographic History* was published in 2014 with the stated goal of using the proceeds from the sale of the book “to develop and maintain a secure and accessible location for the archives of the Galway Preservation Society (acknowledgement. P 283.) The intent of the proceeds will be met as we use the “Book Funds” for an ideal location for secure housing of the archives.

David Davidson, a former resident of Galway and currently serving as Historian of the Town of Day, presented an interesting program at the April meeting. He used slides to show the building of the Conklinville Dam in the late 1920s and early 1930s. That dam is what holds the Great Sacandaga. We all think of it as a beautiful place for recreation but it was actually built as a regulatory mechanism to control flooding downstream.

Arlene Rhodes reported for the Archives Committee. The committee meets most Wednesday afternoons to accession materials and prepare the collection for the upcoming move to the library. The committee recently produced a new form to be used when requests come in to use materials from the archives. The form covers how and why materials will be used. Arlene stressed that permission must always be given for any use of our archives or periodicals.

Upcoming events include GPS participation in Memorial Day, May 27. Ron and Sue Surdyka have agreed to decorate the Gazebo in the park. GPS will have a spot in the Park with periodicals for sale and information about our organization. GPS will also have a position in the parade to carry our banner. All members are welcome to take part. Won't you join us? The last meeting of the year will be our picnic on June 3 at Town Hall. Members can sign up to bring a dish to share, at the May meeting. A fun activity is planned which will give us all an opportunity to get to know our members better and have some laughs. This is always a pleasant way for members to end our program year. The program for May 6th will be presented by Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian. The topic will be “Women's Suffrage Movement in Saratoga County.” Hope to see you there.

In closing, we wish to recognize the 100th birthday of former GPS member, Elsie Maddaus on April 27th. Elsie lived on East Street for many years with her husband and four sons. She was very involved with community activities. She contributed to several of the local history publications including GPS publications. We wish Elsie a very Happy 100th Birthday!

May 6 – Next Member Meeting at Town Hall
 7:00 pm Social Gathering
 7:30 pm Business Meeting
 7:45 pm Program



Sacandaga Road ~ Excerpts from a website, *Hoxie.org*, Story by Carl Johnson, and former Glenville Town Historian Percy Van Epps.

Here's what Glenville's first town historian, Percy Van Epps, had to say about this marker – which, after all, he selected and wrote. In fact, there were two of these – one at Beukendaal, the other at the point Sacandaga Road leaves Glenville for Charlton.

“As told on the markers, the present road closely follows the course of an old Indian trail leading northward from Schenectady. Indeed, in certain places in lands yet wooded [in 1936], where the road now runs somewhat apart, it is said that the old path, deeply rutted, can yet be traced. At the time of the Battle of the Beukendaal, in 1748, practically all the area north of that place was yet a dense wilderness, known only to the Indian and a few adventurous white hunters and trappers. Then part of the borough or township of Schenectady, the boundaries only of our township had been surveyed, and it was not until some few years after, that certain families of Dutch and Huguenot extraction ventured to chop out and widen this old Sacandaga path, choosing alongside sites for their homes.

“Before the close of the century the Sacandaga Road became an important and busy thoroughfare, serving as an outlet for the country to the north. Countless loads of grain and other products from the fertile farms of ‘Scotch Street,’ and from Galway were drawn over this road, to the markets of Schenectady and those of Albany. Lumber, charcoal and tan bark were brought from the hills north of Galway and from the Sacandaga region. And it was along this road that, during the War of 1813, troops and military supplies, even heavy guns, were taken from Albany and Schenectady, up and through the wilderness of the Adirondacks, to Sacketts Harbor. The late Anson B. Hamlin often related seeing in his boyhood days long strings of sleighs loaded with soldiers being taken northward. He said, ‘Looking from my father’s house, the road was black with sleighs.’”

Galway Preservation Society

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