


 The logo for the Galway Journal Preservation Society. It features a crest on the left with a tree and a building. To the right, the text "G·A·L·W·A·Y" is written in a large, serif font, with "PRESERVATION SOCIETY" in a smaller font below it. To the right of this, the word "JOURNAL" is written in a very large, bold, serif font.

~ GPS Update



~ Wayne Brandow

Something Special for

Families

Can you imagine living in a day when the average person did not travel more than 12

miles from home, because that is as far as one could travel round trip by horse and wagon in a day.¹ There was a time when Indians walked through the forests of Galway, looking for game. Did you know that Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs both had the world's largest hotel (at a different time) in the past? They were the go-to place in the nation. Galway was at one time a forest untouched by humans, then it was cleared for farmland, leaving few trees standing. All the trees you see today are new growth. Clues to Galway's changing landscape are seen in the stone walls and foundations in the surrounding woods. Did you know the wealthy summered in Galway's hotels? Then the great fire came. Have you ever read *The Last of the Mohegans*? Have you been to the sites described in that great novel in Ballston Spa, Glens Falls, and Lake George? We are surrounded by battlefields of the French and Indian Wars as well as the American Revolution. Did you know young men from Galway served in the 101st Airborne and parachuted in France prior to D-Day? If you have seen the HBO series *Band of Brothers*, you get an inkling of what they experienced. Galway and the surrounding areas are rich with history.

Do you find the past fascinating? Would you like to pick the minds of historians and authors and become aware of the historical treasures all around us? Then the monthly Galway Preservation Society (GPS) meetings at the Galway Town Hall on Sacandaga Road, during the school year, open to the public and free of charge, are what you are looking for. The first meeting this year, "A Quiet Legacy of Land," is about a Galway local, Katherine Flickinger Dockstader, a naturalist, photographer, and one who climbed all 46 high peaks of the Adirondacks. It will be presented by Susan Dufel on Monday September 9th. A brief business meeting starts at 7:30 PM, preceded by refreshments. The rest of the year, meetings are on the first Monday of each month. We hope you can join us. We'd love to have you come!

¹ The 12 mile range was cited from a book review of Jeff Quinn's book *The Vagabonds: The Story of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison's Ten-Year Road Trip*, by Michael Granberry, *The Dallas Morning News*, in the Sunday Gazette (Sunday, August 18, 2019), E7.

Upcoming Dates

Sept 9 – Next Member Meeting at Town Hall

7:00 pm Social Gathering

7:30 pm Business Meeting

7:45 pm Program

October 9 – Next Board Meeting at Town Hall

7:00 pm

Contact us at galwaypressociety@gmail.com or visit us at
<http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>

~ Galway's New Library

~ Bonnie Donnan

September 21, 1:00 p.m. will be the celebration of the Grand Opening of the new Galway Public Library at 2112 East Street. It will be a great opportunity for the public to visit what promises to be a facility that will be a community center, with books and beyond. Programs and classes for children and adults, public computer availability, free wi-fi, access to databases, story times, tech assistance, research of genealogy and local history; all beyond books. Meetings of groups of common interest like Mahjong, book discussion, open art sessions, writers' group, Lego Club, bring our community members together.

The book, *Story Quilt: Poems of a Place*, was a great example of people being brought together in a successful project. Galway Preservation Society partnered with the Library in the gathering of the "quilt patches" of stories of lives and histories of local people. The Story Quilt committee, a collection of volunteers, turned the harvest of stories, interviews, and memories, these local histories, recent and long past, into a volume of poems. The popularity of this book is a gift that keeps on giving, the proceeds funding various projects at the Library.

The Galway Preservation Society book, *Galway 1900 – 1949 A Photographic History of Life in the Town of Galway, Saratoga County, New York*, grew out of "Galway 2000", a committee marking the turn of the century. Photos were gathered with the idea of publishing a book of captioned pictures that spanned the 20th century. A publisher of similar books didn't feel we had enough people who would be interested in purchasing such a volume. A rich collection of photos going back to the days of the Galway of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents was too good not to continue with their story. This was the history and memories of people who were leaving us, and their lives and images needed to be preserved and shared. This began the years of researching, interviewing, meeting, writing, editing, revising, proofing, by a committee of volunteers. Since the publication of our book in 2014, we have made enough from its publication to contribute to the Galway Public Library's construction. The Library will become the home of the Galway Preservation Society archives, with a climate-controlled storage area to protect original documents and photographs. Local history materials at the library will help people to research and explore Galway's evolution from a rural community of farms through today's commuter residents. The symbiotic, cooperative, community-centered relationship of the Galway Public Library and the Galway Preservation Society continues.

Galway Preservation Society

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