



# G·A·L·W·A·Y JOURNAL

PRESERVATION SOCIETY



## HISTORY SLEUTHING!

Wayne R. Brandow

Did you ever wonder why, in 1804, plans were underway to start a Presbyterian Church in the Village of Galway, when the Presbyterian Church formed by the original Scotch settlers of Galway was just two miles south of the Village of Galway? Could it be that it was not originally started as a Presbyterian church? The evidence leads to it being a Congregational church. If so, how could it be a part of the Albany Synod of the Presbyterian Church? Did you know the great revival in 1820 that flooded the Galway churches (both Baptist and Presbyterian) and added to the Methodists was started in the public school

in the village among the young students? Did you know that the Methodist church came into existence through prayer meetings held in the public school in the Village of Galway? Where was that public school? Did you know that a nearby local Presbyterian church (Charlton Freehold) was started with members who came from the famous Tennent church in New Jersey? William Tennent was the well-known Presbyterian minister of the First Great Awakening, who started the Log College which became Princeton. The Charlton Freehold church's pastor, Rev. Sweetman, who was baptized by William Tennent, was present in the revival. It broke out in Charlton just before Galway and 84 members were added to the Charlton Freehold Presbyterian Church. Did you know that the Catholic church building on East Street has a window in it dedicated to a Methodist minister who was pastor there?



### 1820 REVIVAL IN GALWAY

A very special series of meetings are going to be held in the first week of March in celebration of a Saratoga County-wide revival that reached the Village of Galway in the first week of March 1820. Dr. Nott of Union College was preaching in what was to become the Presbyterian Church in the village in 1837, (the present Galway United Methodist Church) and Rev Asahel Nettleton, a well-known Congregational revivalist came to labor in the revival. (photo: Nettleton).

### Upcoming Dates

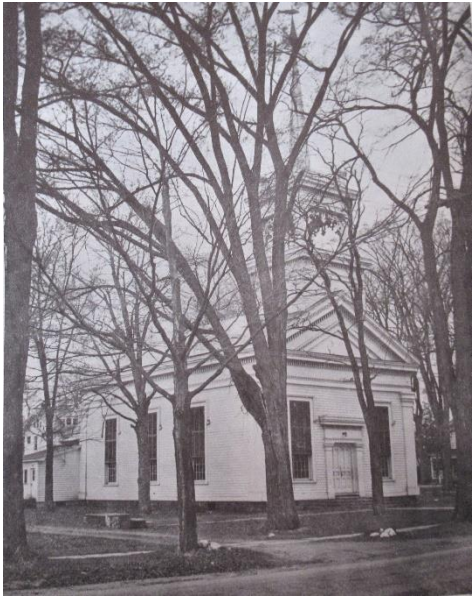
**Mar 2 -Next Member Meeting at Town m Hall**  
7:00 pm Social Gathering  
7:30 pm Business Meeting  
7:45 pm Program

**Apr 8- Next Board Meeting at Town Hall**  
7:00 pm

Galway Preservation Society, Post Office Box 276, Galway, NY 12074

Contact us at [galwaypressociety@gmail.com](mailto:galwaypressociety@gmail.com) or visit us at

<http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>



**Special meetings: Monday, March 2.** During the Galway Preservation Society's March meeting at 7 PM at the Galway Town Hall, 5910 Sacandaga Road, Galway, NY, Mr. J. James Mancuso will present a power-point lecture highlighting the scope of the entire revival throughout Saratoga County, including Galway so that one can get a bird's eye view of what was happening.

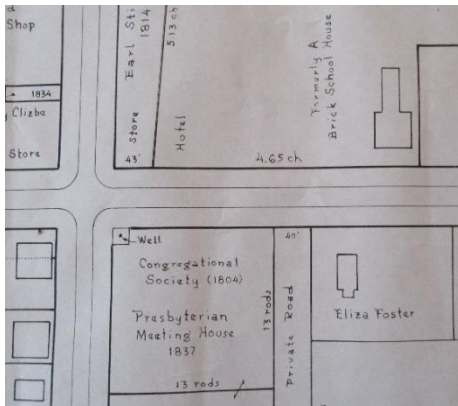
**Saturday, March 7.** The Bible Baptist Church of Galway, 2095 East Street, Galway will host a day of meetings from 10 AM to 2:30 PM. Speakers: Rev. Steven Graham – "The Life of Nettleton," Rev. Wayne Brandow – "The 1820 Revival in the Village of Galway," and Rev. David Bissett – "The Preaching of Nettleton." Dr. Mark Dunn (First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady), Rev. Thomas Gregg (West Charlton Presbyterian Church), and Pastor David Routh (Galway United Methodist Church) will also be participating. Pizza will be provided for lunch free of charge. Help us prepare to get a head count for the lunch by calling or texting

Pastor Brandow at (518) 488-4153 or e-mail: [wrbrandow@yahoo.com](mailto:wrbrandow@yahoo.com). (Photo: Presbyterian church in the Village of Galway, prior to the 1948 fire, site of the Congregational church at the time of the revival, now a Methodist church).

In Rev. Brandow's lecture the setting of the revival will give answers to all the above sleuthing questions and more. This lecture is more than a description of the revival. It will also explain what life was like in Galway in the early 1800s.

#### ANOTHER SPECIAL HISTORY OPPORTUNITY

Join local author and GPS member **Alan Maddaus on March 5th at 7:00 at Galway Public Library** as he discusses his book, *The Prestons of East Street: The Story of a 19th-Century American Family*. The seven children of Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Preston--Charles, James, William, Platt, Sophia, Maria and Calvin--were raised in rural Galway, New York, their lives to be influenced by major events of the latter part of the 19th century including Manifest Destiny, the Second Great Awakening, Gold Rushes, Civil War, the Transcontinental Railroad, Galveston Hurricane and the Second Opium War. Their intertwined stories, from the time they departed Galway for destinations far away to the passing of the last sibling were researched in detail and provide an interesting saga of that time period. *The first week in March will be a week of Galway history!*



**Finding the Parent Source.** "When organized as a church, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1807, the body assumed the Congregational form of Church government, but was allowed to become attached to the Albany presbytery." (Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, *History of Saratoga County*, 1878, page 364; copied by Bronson Taylor, *Stories and Pictures of Galway*, 1966, page 22; and by Elsie M. Maddaus, *Brief History of the Galway United Methodist Church to 1978*, page 10). The Presbyterians and Methodist churches in Galway united in 1939.

Map of the Village of Galway in 1838 by Galway cartographer, Donald Carpenter, Jr. (May 17, 1988). Notice the "Congregational Society," which becomes Presbyterian in 1837.