



G·A·L·W·A·Y JOURNAL

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

We Are Starting Up Again

Nothing like an historical image for an historical society newsletter! We not only want you, as a member we need your help to get started once again. It is time to have a member meeting to vote upon such items as a budget for 2020/2021, and officers. This article is to announce an upcoming outdoor meeting in September.

On Wednesday, July 8th, we had our Galway Preservation Society (GPS) Board Meeting to get things moving after a lengthy period of inactivity due to the Covid19 pandemic mandate to sequester. Coming from that meeting, I feel as if we had just launched back into the water after being moored for a time. It seems good to have some forward momentum like would be had with each dip of the oars.



Lost were two scheduled programs, a picnic, and a board meeting in a time of year that GPS gets needed input from its members for the coming year. As we relaunch, we would like to hold a brief member meeting on Monday, September 14th at 6 PM at the Dockstader Pavilion in the fields opposite the bank. Please note the time and location. Under current guidelines, we ask that you bring a lawn chair, and please wear a mask to come and go; however, once you are seated outside following the social distancing guidelines you may take your mask off.

Two items to be covered at the upcoming meeting will be voting for officers for the coming year and the budget. On this year's ballot are Wayne Brandow, President; Jerry Bobar, Vice President; Martha Brandow, Secretary; and Trustee, Virginia Sawicki.

The budget will have a new line item added this year, \$250 for Brookside Museum, which serves us and the rest of Saratoga County as a much-needed history resource. This new line item will be reviewed annually as to the amount; however, the GPS Board unanimously agreed that this major repository of Saratoga County history deserves our support. The monies used to fund this line item will come from the proceeds of the GPS books we have published and which they display for sale.

Galway Preservation Society, Post Office Box 276, Galway, NY 12074
Contact us at galwaypressociety@gmail.com or visit us at
<http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>

We have a selection of good history programs on the docket. At present we do not know when it will be safe to meet as we did previously at the Town Hall. We are open to any input you may have for creative alternatives while we are under the cloud of the pandemic.



Remember to Re-Member! 😊

It is time to renew your membership. You can pay your dues at the September 14th meeting, or through the mail. Our address is on the front of this GPS Journal issue. Membership is still a bargain, only \$10 per household! Your membership goes to getting the newsletter out, helps us with speaker fees, post office box rental, and more. Thanks for your support!

We hope to see you at the meeting,
Wayne R. Brandow, President

A Sampling of Seasons - W. Brandow



There are seasons not only in each passing year and each life from childhood to advanced years, but also in town and village life. At its inception the settlement of New Galloway was carved out of a pristine wilderness. If the Baptist church records are any indication of what life was like in those early years, it was settled by young families where Dad was in his thirties, most likely had served in the American Revolution, and arriving with a handful of children that would grow to ten or more siblings. The forest would have to be opened, chopping down trees and preparing the land for the plow. Buildings such as houses, barns, churches, schoolhouses were a post and beam affair necessitating neighbors to hoist in place. Neighborliness was not just a social custom, but essential for survival. Barns and houses, mills, and stores, began to dot the countryside as the transition from woodland to farmland took place.

Then followed the season of a treelined thoroughfare with a crossroads in the center of the village. There was Village commerce, with the sounds of horse drawn wagons and carriages over dusty roads, the hammering of the blacksmith, the creaking of the shop doors, the chatter of friends and acquaintances, and the barking of dogs. Galway became a sleepy little village, a place where well-to-do city folk summered in its hotels.

In 1908, a fire broke out and the hotels and stores were gone. North Street was devastated. Gone were the city folk, but the locals rebuilt, and the factory workers in Amsterdam and Schenectady, longing for the rural life they left behind in Eastern Europe, found a new home on the small farms in the Galway countryside. Life was changing. It always does. The forest once again began to reclaim cleared ground. With electricity, indoor plumbing, paved roads, a new season had arrived, now with commuters and computers. "The times they are a changin'." The only constants are the memories and the history. This is what we love to share at the Galway Preservation Society. Join with us and be a part of the conversation. (photo: Donnan farm, Galway, NY)