



G·A·L·W·A·Y JOURNAL

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Ice Storm

~ Bonnie Donnan

December 4th and 5th, 1964, brought an ice storm that the National Weather Service calls the worst ice storm on record. Ice accumulations of up to 1.5 inches crushed trees, wires, and poles, tearing down the power supply for much of east central New York. Electricity was out for up to two weeks for many residents. Schools were closed for up to a week. The stricken area included Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Saratoga, and Glens Falls, extended into western New York, and east to the Berkshires. More than 120,000 homes were without power at the height of the storm. Several local radio and tv stations were off the air starting on Friday the 4th. Many roads were impassable, not only because of being dangerously iced, but because trees and fallen wires and poles barred the way. Some wires, still energized, hissed and spit sparks. A result of this blast of weather was an isolation briefer than our recent virus-caused hunkering down, but bleaker. Many had no heat, no water. Businesses that had no generator were limited. No lights. No refrigeration.



The sound of the storm is my first and strongest memory of it. Friday, overnight, in the dark, a sound that I had not heard before or since. The sound of breaking trees and branches, giving way under the strain of accumulating ice, was continuous. It was a distant roar, not individual crashes. A sad chorus of destruction, the only break in the crashing roar was how far away the falling branch was, the back yard or the woods. The nearby breaks, in addition to the tearing and splitting of the wood, carried a musical tinkle of shattered ice raining down on the glazed crust beneath the tree.

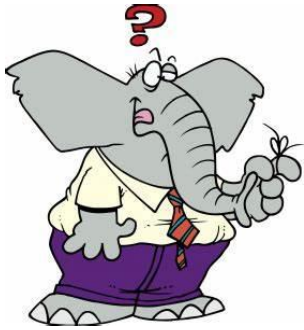
Galway Preservation Society, Post Office Box 276, Galway, NY 12074

Contact us at galwaypressociety@gmail.com or visit us at

<http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>

After the freezing rain stopped, my brother and I went for a walk to the village from our house on East Street. We stepped carefully, traveling in the middle of the road, avoiding falling twigs, chunks of breaking ice raining down from the trees, and the slick patches on the pavement. A new sound in the village was the sound of ice being chipped off cars, and the high-pitched whine of tires getting no traction in slick driveways.

The beauty of the ice sparkling on the trees was magical, but the damage and destruction were staggering.



Don't forget to renew your GPS membership! Only \$10 per family. How? You can send a check to the address on the front page. Thanks for your generosity!

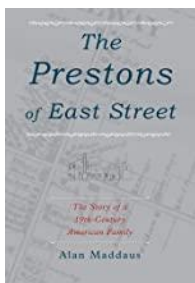
COVID-19 and GPS!

We are a historical society and what we are presently going through will be in the history books. March 9, 2020 brought about the great shutdown of our economy and being quarantined in our homes here in New York State. What about COVID-19 and GPS? We have had to put our public meetings with speakers on hold, because the Town Hall cannot handle the number



who come and still maintain social distancing. We had a Board Meeting in July and one is on the docket for October, and we were pleased with the good turnout for a Member Business Meeting which occurred on Monday, September 14th. I thank each one of you who made the effort to attend. We were able to meet the necessary quorum and were able to accomplish much needed business, such as approve the budget and vote in the next slate of officers. It was so good to see those who came, even though you were hidden by a mask. We also acknowledged Jeanne Frank for her years of mailing the GPS Journal and Evelyn Hanna for her work on the GPS website and sending the Journal by e-mail to our membership over the years. As they are stepping down, if you are interested in maintaining the GPS website, emailing or mailing the Journal please contact Wayne Brandow at wrbrandow@yahoo.com. GPS is alive and well! We will be putting out a monthly GPS Journal and will hopefully once again be meeting soon.

Wayne R. Brandow, President



Special book notice! *The Prestons of East Street: The Story of a 19th-Century American Family*, by Alan Maddaus.

A book came out earlier this year written by a Galway local, who grew up in the Preston house (next door to the Baptist church in the Village of Galway). This book tells the story of Dr. Calvin Preston and what became of his seven children. If you would like to purchase a copy, you can contact Alan at admaddaus@aol.com.