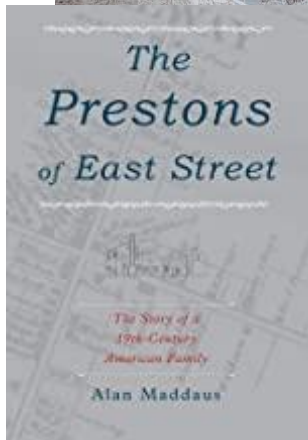




# G·A·L·W·A·Y JOURNAL

PRESERVATION SOCIETY



## *Local History as American History*

by Bonnie Donnan

I have found that my interest in history is sparked when it relates to people or places I am acquainted with. The book *The Prestons of East Street: The Story of a Nineteenth Century Family* hits both. The author, Alan Maddaus, is a member of Galway Preservation Society, and I can't remember a time when I didn't know Alan. The home where the Maddaus family lived in Galway

Village, the home of the Prestons a century earlier, was only a few houses west of my family's residence in the 1960s.

Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Preston and their seven children, Charles, James, William, Platt, Sofia, Maria, and Calvin were participants in, and influenced by, diverse social movements of the 1800s, such as the Second Great Awakening, a revival of turning to God; a missionary zeal to spread the faith; the gold rush; Manifest Destiny, the migration west from the eastern states; the bloody division of the Civil War, which in this family pitted brother against brother; the transcontinental railroad tying the continent, expediting settlement, growth, and commercial shipping; the destruction of the Galveston hurricane; and the strife of the Second Opium War.

William, after going to sea and wandering to places as diverse as New Brunswick, New Orleans, and Liverpool, briefly operated and piloted a steamboat, *The Omaha City*, along with his brother Platt. In the summer of 1857, their father and Rev. H. L. Grose of Galway traveled on their boat from Pittsburg down the Ohio River to St. Louis. Rev. Grose wrote in the *Galway Home Register* a glowing account of the trip, praising the mode of travel, his traveling companions, and the skill and character of William, the captain. For William, the west beckoned with opportunities in areas spurred on by riches of gold. He turned his business over to Platt and headed west. Eventually, the two brothers became successful operators of a mill and freight service in Washington.

Charles Preston studied at the Galway Academy, joined the Galway Presbyterian Church at 14, attended Union College, then Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1853 he was a missionary to China through the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and sailed out of New York for China.

James Preston, listed in the 1850 census as a merchant, left soon after for Texas. He landed in Galveston and worked as a bookkeeper for a cotton broker.

Contact us at [galwaypressociety@gmail.com](mailto:galwaypressociety@gmail.com) or visit us at <http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>

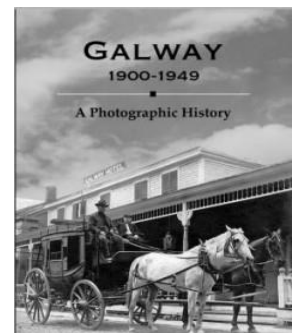
Calvin, the youngest of the brothers, enlisted in the Union Army September of 1861, at the age of 16. The fact that he was below both the age and height limits was not a barrier. Calvin's brother James was a member of the Texas army, first the Galveston Artillery Company, then Debray's Cavalry Regiment. Both survived the war, and Calvin moved to James' town of Galveston and became a successful druggist.

Maria, the youngest sister, joined her brothers William and Platt in Waitsburg, Washington. She was listed in the 1880 census as part of the Platt household and a music teacher.

I have given just the barest outline of where the Preston family were during the historical events of the middle 1800s. The book is researched with extensive notes at the end of each chapter documenting the sources of the information.

### *Need a Gift?*

Please consider purchasing the book "**Galway- 1900-1949 - A Photographic History**" as a holiday gift for friends and family. It was published by the Galway Preservation Society and can be purchased locally for \$40 a copy at the Galway and Providence Town Halls, Galway Public Library, Waterwheel Village, and Antiques at Packer Pond.



### *GPS to Resume Monthly Meeting via ZOOM!*



Priscilla Wong will be giving a lecture accompanied by a power point presentation titled "Pilgrim Mothers" on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7 pm. It will be through ZOOM, a digital medium that can be accessed by computer, I-phone or you can just call in and listen using a regular phone. If you are interested in participating please e-mail Wayne Brandow at [wrbrandow@yahoo.com](mailto:wrbrandow@yahoo.com) and he will send you an e-mail with a link, a password and meeting ID number for the Zoom meeting, or if you just want to dial in and participate by phone, he will send you the phone number to call. In the address bar please put in "GPS ZOOM," so your e-mail request does not get overlooked.

How does ZOOM work? Zoom allows the person to be present digitally. All participants, if they choose, can be seen on the computer screen, as well as the speaker and any material to be displayed. After the lecture, a question-and -answer period will follow in which you may ask the lecturer any questions you might have. This will be GPS's first try at using this electronic medium. Hopefully, it will run smoothly, and we will be able to continue using ZOOM throughout Covid19. We will forgo the usual business meeting this time and just have the presentation.

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** Priscilla Wong has a degree in English and French from York University and a Master of Theological Studies degree from Toronto Baptist Seminary. She has also taken courses from Seneca College and the University of Toronto. Living in Richmond Hill, Ontario, she is balancing home-schooling with pursuing her passion for writing. She recently contributed a chapter, "The Pilgrim Mothers" in the newly released book, *Strangers and Pilgrims on the Earth: Remembering the Mayflower Pilgrims, 1620–2020*. The courage of the Pilgrim mothers is striking, when one considers they came with their young families. Half of those who crossed the Atlantic and settled at Plymouth in the bitter cold of winter faced a devastating sickness in which half their number died. When spring came, most of the mothers were dead, leaving many children bereft of both parents. Mrs. Wong will tell the Pilgrim mother's story, from a woman's perspective.