



## *~ January Meeting*

*~ J.B. Sanders*

Our next meeting will be held at 7 pm on January 3, 2022 at the Galway Town Hall. No refreshments will be provided and social time will be limited due to Covid concerns. Anyone who has not been vaccinated is required to wear a mask and social distancing should be observed. The January meeting will start promptly at 7 pm with the program for the evening. The topic for January 3<sup>rd</sup> is "A Time to Share" Hosted by Arlene Rhodes & Pat Sanders. Please join us and share your stories of Galway.

We are working to jointly present the program live at the town hall and via Zoom for those who may wish to view the program remotely. Anyone wishing to join our meeting via Zoom should sign-in to the waiting room about 6:50 pm as the presentation should start promptly at 7:00 pm. The Zoom meeting number is 294 161 5132. Logging into this meeting number will admit you to a waiting room until I connect you to the meeting. I will send an email to everyone that I have email addresses for with a reminder of the upcoming Zoom meeting the day before the meeting. If you would like information about accessing the Zoom meeting you can go to <https://www.seniorsguide.com/technology/a-step-by-step-guide-to-zoom-meeting/> or the Zoom website. The free version of the Zoom application will allow you to attend any Zoom meeting. The Zoom Pro and higher versions are only necessary if you are hosting a group for more than 40 minutes or for more than 100 participants. If you still have questions or need additional information, please contact me on 518-698-3295

## *~ A Time to Share*

*~ Bonnie Donnan*

Our January meeting theme of Stories of Galway puts all of us in the role of presenters. Don't be bashful or intimidated. All of us have memories of Galway experiences from family, school, community events and activities.

We have all known memorable family members, favorite teachers, businesses where you could walk in and know everyone, proprietors and customers. *Continued on page 2*

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<http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>

We have belonged to groups. Some we paid dues and had a membership card, some who met once a month for breakfast, some a congregation gathering to worship.

We have experienced Galway weather. The comfort of feeling summer temperature subtly dropping on the commute home from jobs in the land of concrete and asphalt. The discomfort of winter, from a farmer going out to chop the ice so the stock can drink, to the commuter wondering how the weather seems to recognize the Schenectady/Saratoga County line.

My own story of a family member I miss is my Aunt Agnes. She was the first child of my grandparents, James G. Donnan and Agnes Bunyan Donnan. My grandmother was a young farmwife, 18. Her January 1920 mid-winter wedding was followed by a summer pregnancy and her first baby, Agnes, in October. I can only imagine, not being a mother myself, the anxiety of new bride, new mother, new farmwife, new residence. I knew my grandmother's talent of coming up with all the possible scenarios of what could go wrong in any time or situation, and a first child of hers could well have been in an imaginary, suppressing, bubble. My Aunt Agnes started school later than some of her classmates because the trip from the farm on Donnan Road, to the school on East Street, as the crow flies or child trudges, was up the hill and through the fields, headed north, about a mile. There was initially no one to walk with her. A daunting trip for a shy and protected child. Agnes' grandparents, James A. and Flora Davis Donnan, moved from the farm on Donnan Road to the Mead place, the two farms located back-to-back. The farm is now the home of Seth and Kylie Gregory, who reassuringly carry on with equine and bovine occupants as well. Agnes could make her grandparents' home as the target of her trip cross-lots. Sometimes, her grandfather would come out to meet her to accompany her for part of the journey. Later, Newell Moy, who had spent time living with his Grandfather Harvey at what is known as the Gere House, lived at the Donnan farm. Newell told me about walking to school with Agnes, packing her school orchestra cello on his back.

Many years later, Aunt Agnes and I took any imaginary tour, on the phone, of the house where her grandparents had lived. My point of reference was the 1960s, when it was the home of Richard and Ann Rice and family. We went room by room, describing each room and how it was used. When I mentioned a guest room, I was surprised to hear Agnes say it was the kitchen. In the 1920s, piped in water in kitchen sinks was not universal. Water was carried in and tossed out. In the 1920s water was carried from a pump in the woodshed. The Rices kept the pump connection when they added most of the woodshed to the kitchen in the 1960s. It was incorporated as a pitcher pump in an accessory sink, across the big kitchen from a fire burning kitchen cooking range, all very handy in power failures we all are too familiar with to this day.