



November Meeting

~Carol Schweizer

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Our November GPS meeting will **NOT** be on the first Monday of the month. Due to Election Day being the next day, we will not be able to use our meeting room on the first Monday (they will be setting up voting machines, etc.) Instead, we will meet on November 13 at our regular meeting spot. The topic will be “Local Dairy Industry” presented by John Greenwood. Hope to see you on November 13th.

The October speaker was Kevin Barkley, former Galway Fire Chief. He gave a very thorough history of the Galway Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. Our local fire protection has come a long since the day in 1908 when a large portion of the village burned, including a hotel and store. At the time there was little more than a “bucket brigade” to put out fires. It was in 1922 that the Fire Company was organized. We are fortunate to have good fire equipment today as well as willing volunteers to protect us. Many thanks to all the volunteers of the past and to our current well-trained volunteers who serve our community today.

Galway also has caring volunteers who have organized to provide gifts for less fortunate neighbors at holiday time. A program was begun years ago for providing gifts and food to be distributed to residents in need living in the Galway School District. GPS members have helped in the past by bringing gifts to be included in the baskets. We suggest personal products such as shampoo, soaps, deodorant, lotions, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. If you wish to participate, please bring your gifts to the November meeting.

In closing I would like to thank member Ralph Dennison who wrote the article for the October GPS Journal, “Memories of Growing Up at My Father’s Full-Service Station.” Having lived in this area my entire life, I was filled with nostalgia as I read Ralph’s memories. I would to encourage all of you to consider sharing similar memories of our area. You don’t need to be an accomplished writer to simply share treasurers of your own background. Please give it some thought!

In Memory of Ray David, Herb Kopper and Alice Feulner



With great sadness we mark the recent passing of three long-time GPS members, Ray David, Herb Kopper and Alice Feulner. Acknowledging and celebrating their contributions to our Society provides a brief history of the projects GPS has created to preserve the history of our town.

Ray David and his wife Ann joined GPS soon after they retired and moved to the former home of Ray's parents on Lake Road in 1995. Ray soon joined the archives committee and began working with others to accession photographs and documents pertaining to Galway history, something he continued to do for the next 25 years. In 1999 Ray joined the Year 2000 Book Committee whose aim was to publish a photographic history of the Town of Galway. The book *Galway 1900-1949, A Photographic History* was published 15 years later in 2014. Ray took on the role of project co-leader with Arlene Rhodes. He scanned all

photographs and entered final drafts of the text into files which were passed along to the graphic designer Lucille Millarson. The book committee met every two weeks and the homework was never-ending. So much time and so much work, but the book has been a grand success with nearly 900 copies sold.

After the publication of the book, Ray continued to serve on the archives committee until just two years ago, about the time he turned 95. He devoted many, many hours to entering the entire GPS archival collection of photographs and documents into a database that can be searched today from the websites of GPS or the Galway Public Library. Lastly, he created a surname file and had begun indexing some of our publications. Ray also served on the GPS Board for six years and created the bookplates for memorial books presented to the library. In all these efforts Ray was diligent, precise, and patient, preferring to work quietly in the background. His contributions to our Society and especially to researchers, near and far, are huge and long-lasting.

In addition to his work on archives, Ray played a key role in the restoration of the watering trough in the Village Park, completed in 2008. Among other problems, the finial on top of the trough had been missing for decades. Tom Cwiakala reported that the creation of a pattern for the foundry to make a replacement casting was going to be a difficult, costly part of the project. Ray said "Will this do?" He then pulled out of a sack a precisely measured and styled wood pattern he had turned on a lathe.

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The photographic history book was the one project on which Ray David and Herb Kopper worked together. Beginning in 2012, Herb served as design and production consultant with graphic designer Lucille Millarson of Leonard Design, a collaboration that elevated the publication to professional quality. Herb and Lucille had worked together on projects at the military museum in Saratoga. Much credit goes to Herb for encouraging Lucille to be a part of our project.

But in the 1980s, long before the photographic history book dominated GPS activities, Herb Kopper and his wife Mary Lynn moved to Galway and joined our Society. Over the next 30 years they shared their energy and talents in the creation of many successful projects and events. Herb served as GPS president for four years, 1988-1990 and 1999-2001. GPS was granted its provisional charter on February 17, 1989, during Herb's first term of office. He is one of five members named in the incorporation papers. In March of 1989 Volume 1, No. 1 of the GPS Journal was published under Herb's direction.

As a talented graphic artist, Herb provided the design work for many projects: the GPS logo, which depicts a piece of Galway pottery and appears on GPS stationery and all GPS publications; the masthead for the GPS Journal; illustrations on GPS notepaper. He also designed two hand stamp cancellations approved by the U.S. Postal Service, the first for the May 21, 1988 Galway Village Sesquicentennial Celebration and a second one to commemorate the 200th birthday of Joseph Henry in 1997. Two publications which included his design work, *Galway Yesterday and Today*, 1988, and the *Delia Denison Diary*, 1992, received the Federation of Historical Services Heritage Awards Program Award of Merit. Herb illustrated the Joseph Henry Coloring Book in 1997, and Mary Lynn wrote the text. The production and printing of publications were arranged by Herb.

In 1990 leading up to the bicentennial celebration, Mary Lynn and Herb visited Marc Rothenberg, editor of the Joseph Henry Papers at the Smithsonian Institution. They wanted to explore possible ways to recognize the work of Joseph Henry. The result was an effort by GPS and led by Herb to urge the U. S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp in honor of Joseph Henry. A design created by Herb was submitted and referred to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. Support was sought from U.S. Senators D'Amato and Moynihan. In the end the proposal failed, but Herb's efforts to bring wider recognition to the important contributions of Joseph Henry must be applauded.

Herb served as co-chair of the Galway 1992 Bicentennial Committee. He designed the Galway 200 logo and arranged for the production of all promotional materials including T-shirts, bumper stickers, and printed materials. A truly special endeavor was Herb's creation of the Town of Galway seal which is now prominently displayed on the front wall of the meeting room at the Galway Town Hall. The seal incorporates a thistle representing the Town's Scottish heritage, a plow like those produced in Mosherville, a heron for the wetlands and lakes, a crock like ones produced by the Hodgson/Hudson bumper family, and a bust of Joseph Henry, 19th century scientist and first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution who spent some of his boyhood years in Galway. How grateful we are to Herb Kopper for sharing his artistic skills and his keen interest in history for the benefit of our Society and our community. What a difference he has made!

Alice Feulner and her husband Ron regularly attended meetings for many years. Although Alice did not hold an office or work on major GPS projects, she was a valued member. She treated us to

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delicious baked confections and gladdened us with her warm smile and friendly ways. Alice was the kind of member who serves as a thread, connecting us in friendship and a shared interest in local history.

May the contributions of Ray and Herb and Alice serve as an inspiration to all of us as we continue the work of preserving the history of the Town of Galway. Whatever part each of us chooses to play, whether large or small, together we can ensure the continuing success of the Galway Preservation Society.

~Arlene Rhodes

This Month at the Archives.

~Co-Chairs: Arlene Rhodes and Pat Sanders

Our recently accessioned items of interest include the following.

The June Blowers Michelfelder 1930s photographic collection, donated by her daughter, Carol Michelfelder Schweizer, and described in the October newsletter, has been accessioned and housed.

Copies of pages in the Galway Piper yearbook, donated by Carol Schweizer, show the Yorker club at Galway High School from 1953 through 1963. The names of students are listed below all the photographs except for the years 1962 and 1963.

The *Galway School Alumni Directory, Homecoming Day July 17, 1982* lists the graduates from 1900 to 1982. It was compiled by Mildred Hathaway, GPS president at the time. This is a valuable resource for any researcher.

Story Quilt-Poems of Place, donated by Arlene Rhodes, brings to life recollections of community members who have memorialized their favorite places in Galway in poetic form.

Our own historic building surveys of three beautiful homes in Galway capture the essence of these homes in photographs and narratives. The Kelly farm, built by the descendants of one of the original settlers, is the last home built on the site just one mile south of Galway Village and exhibits the Greek Revival style c. 1830s. The Burr house, built c. 1854 by the Burr family, has an interesting and unique family history. Its structure exhibits the Italianate style popular between the 1850s and 1880s. The Johnston house, reputed to be built by William Ashley, is a wonderful example of the late Georgian and early Federal style home c. 1800s and has a massive central chimney. The home also has beautiful original fireplaces, mantels, and woodwork.

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