



February 2024

~Carol Schweizer

Galway Preservation Society began the New Year with a video presented by Dave Brooks about Civil War soldiers from Saratoga County and upstate New York. Learning of the war experiences of very young soldiers, often under poor leadership at times, was enough for us to hope it was the only civil war for our country. Dave Brooks is a very informed speaker and will be back with us, in person, for our March meeting with another topic.

A highlight of the January gathering was that four new members joined GPS. We would like to think that our interesting line-up of programs (and, of course, our friendly welcome) attract members as we move through the years. Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join us. New ideas and perspectives are always welcome and keep the organization vital to the community.

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the recent passing of Galway's former Town Historian, Phyllis Keeler. A beloved elementary teacher, Phyllis brought her love for history to her students including organizing celebrations to honor the achievements of Joseph Henry. Her interest in local history involved work on Galway's 1976 Bicentennial Celebration, which evolved into the formation of GPS. Phyllis served as the organization's first President, assisted with the publication of Galway 1900-1949, A Photographic History, and served on the program committee for many years. Her dedication and positive outlook will be remembered by us all.

We acknowledge with sadness the passing of Margaret Cwiakala, a longtime member of GPS. She was a loyal and engaged member, best remembered for recruiting volunteers to bring refreshments for the group's meetings and annual picnics. The devoted wife of GPS member Tom Cwiakala, Marge supported his work with town history as well. We will remember her for her loyal support for our organization for many years. Marge led a fascinating life with many varied interests. Marge left us in November of 2022.

For the February 2024 meeting of the Galway Preservation Society, we will present the video:

Ballston Spa's Mexican War Monument: The Village honors its fallen Sons. Produced and narrated by GPS member Dave Waite, this 60-minute documentary tells the story of the monument and the year-long effort by members of the Ballston Spa community to retrieve its 175-year-old time capsule and honor the young men who gave their lives in this war. This video production takes you through the history of the war, the work of locating the time capsule, as well as providing thoughts about the war from local students and area historians.

ToArms! ToArms!
~ ***Bonnie Donnan***

Although winter weather has been fairly merciful to us, we can enjoy an online history event without venturing out. Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site is hosting, as part of the Third Thursday Lecture Series, Samantha Hall-Saladino of the Fulton County Museum. "To Arms! To Arms!" is the story of Black Civil War Veterans of Fulton County and their legacy. The program is presented Thursday, February 15th at 7 p.m. The online link is **meetny.webex.com**. The program is free and open to the public, no pre-registration is required. The link goes live 10 minutes before the program starts. If you have any questions, or would like the link sent directly to you, call or email 518-829-7516, or SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov. The next program in the Third Thursday History at Home series will be March 21st. Kayla Whitehouse will speak on "Quackery."