



## ~ GPS Update

~ Richard English

Due to the cancellation of last month's meeting, we will elect our new officers and trustees during the annual picnic on June 5<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, the Nominating Committee proposed the following names for consideration: Carol Schweizer (president), Pat Sanders (vice president), Richard English (treasurer), Martha Brandow and Mary Lynn Kopper (co-secretaries), and Virginia Sawicki and Ray David (trustees). We need a quorum of 20 members for the vote to be valid (which shouldn't be a problem given the usual turnout at the picnic). Many thanks to the individuals who agreed to serve in these positions for the benefit of all our members.

### Upcoming Dates

#### **June 5 – Annual Member Picnic at Town Hall**

6:00 pm Dinner  
7:30 pm Business Meeting  
7:45 pm Group Activity

#### **July 12 – Next Board Meeting at Town Hall**

7:00 pm

Thanks are also in order for everyone who participated in Memorial Day activities, including decorating the gazebo, marching in the parade, and selling publications in the bandstand. Let's also give thanks to the Display Committee for arranging all the items celebrating "Artists of Galway." Plenty of talent exists in our community and we are grateful that Town Hall has given us a place to showcase it. Make sure to check out the new display when you come to the picnic.

Speaking of the picnic, we will hold it on June 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 pm at Town Hall to insulate us from the vagaries of the weather and give us plenty of room to spread out and socialize. If you haven't yet signed up, please contact Larry Eagle at 842-1049 or Sue Surdyka at 882-9248. They are coordinating the food and refreshments and need to know what everyone is bringing to avoid duplication. Cups, plates, and flatware will be provided so there is no need to bring your own.

Our group activity during the picnic will be an interactive game based on the TV show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" For anyone unfamiliar with the show, contestants are asked a wide range of questions with multiple-choice answers. Questions for our version of the game were drawn primarily from *Galway 1900-1949: A Photographic History*, which contains a wealth of interesting local information. Those who enjoyed last year's "GPS Jeopardy!" should find this event equally entertaining.

After the picnic, GPS will take a two-month break and return in the fall with our first meeting on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. During the summer, the program committee will develop a schedule of new programs spanning a wide range of topics. We will publish a newsletter in late August with more details about the September program and a reminder about the meeting date.

See you at the picnic!

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

## *Seabury Mills in Galway*



*One of the oldest in Galway, this barn at the former Seabury complex on Jockey Street is being restored by its current owners, Mike and Alyson Bingham.*



*The historical marker to the left will soon be installed to commemorate the Seabury farm and mill.*

## *Neighbors, Then and Now*

~ by *Mary J. Packer*

*The following article is one of many written by Mary Packer for the Town of Providence magazine during her years as Providence Town Historian. Mary, who lived to be 99, had much to reflect on. She and her parents emigrated from the Ukraine through Ellis Island when Mary was two years old. She lived her entire life in Barkersville, where she and her husband, Blaine, ran a country store next to their home for many years. Mary was recognized by the Governor of New York for her many years of service as Providence Town Historian from 1957 to 2010.*



*Mary Packer*

In today's society where man is against man, even neighbor against neighbor, my mind goes back to when things were different and neighbors were kind and thoughtful to each other. When my parents came here, the neighbors were the Shaw family. They helped in numerous ways. My father, being a carpenter, also helped them in numerous ways, repairing the many buildings on their farm.

Mrs. Shaw taught my mother much in country ways such as canning and making her super pies. When they butchered, they always shared meat, both beef and pork and what great dinners we shared around the big table with Grandpa and Grandma and all the children.

Mrs. Hunter and her husband lived by the church in an old historic house built in the late 1770s. She sewed on gloves and Jim, her husband, ran the farm and made butter which was sold in Gloversville.

I, being a sickly child, had bronchial troubles and Mrs. Hunter would come down and bring her remedies. When I had a spell, she would hold my nose and make me take it. Sulfur and molasses sure had a lousy taste, but made me better, being so kind to me I did what she said and loved her.

The Matteson's were other neighbors here. I learned to sew and make Mrs. Matteson's special cookies. She loved flowers, some of which are still in my garden. Mr. Matteson had a saw mill and we always could use the slabs and make a house. It was fun walking in the saw mill sawdust and swimming in the creek.

I can't forget the church dinners that were held for over 30 years at the Packer's Homestead, given by the Barkersville Church Ladies and their friends to help fund church repairs and pay the minister. People came from all over to these dinners, visiting and sitting around the stove. They also voted in the old parsonage upstairs and the old garage until the new one was built in the 50s. We still vote there and at Hagadorn Mills, never going home until they found out who was elected. The ladies were tired when the dinners were done and without running water it was a real chore, but everyone was happy with what they made for the church.

Our country has been so kind to all that have come to our shores that one can't believe what happened on September 11, 2001. Perhaps things will reverse themselves and we will reunite with our wonderful past in order to leave a living heritage to our children. We hope and pray so.

## *~ The Packer Cellar Hole*

Galway and the town of Providence are blessed with many natural treasures, among them the nature preserves that have been donated to PLAN through the foresight and generosity of residents. Henning Preserve on Centerline Road in Providence is one of the largest, with 606 acres and over ten miles of trails. Donated by the Henning family in 2010, the land was used primarily for subsistence farming, logging, charcoal-making, and maple syrup production, among other things. A portion of the preserve was the site of the homestead of the Packer family, who bought 100 acres in 1832 and built a house on the north side of the road, then known as Packer Road. You can see the remains of the foundation and the cellar hole, a short detour from the green trail.

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## *~ Announcements*

**Mohawk Valley Conference on the American Revolutionary War, June 6 – 10** at the Fort Plain Museum in Fort Plain, NY. Many programs and tours. To register or for more information visit the website [www.fortplainmuseum.com](http://www.fortplainmuseum.com), email [info@fortplainmuseum.com](mailto:info@fortplainmuseum.com), or call 774-5669.

**The Brookside Museum has many events planned for the summer and fall, among them:**

- **Brookside Digs, July 31 – August 4.** A hands-on archeological experience for ages 10 – 16 (ages 8-10 welcome with an adult companion). Campers will work with a professional archeologist to uncover artifacts on the Brookside Museum grounds.
- On August 19 is the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Jailhouse Rock 5K**. Race begins at the Brookside Museum. On-line registration is available at <http://jailhouserock5k.itsyourrace.com>. More information can be found at [www.brooksidemuseum.org](http://www.brooksidemuseum.org) or by calling 885-4000.

### **Galway Preservation Society**

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