



Calendar

March 7
GPS Meeting Galway
Town Hall

7:00-7:30 Social Half
Hour

7:30 -8:00 Business
Meeting

8:00 Program

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March GPS Update

By Bonnie Donnan

*"Why, what's the matter,
That you have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storm and cloudi-
ness?"*

- William Shakespeare, Much Ado
About Nothing

Greetings, fellow inhabitants of the winter-weary northeast! Retirement has given me an appreciation for the scenic side of winter. Snow, for me, is enjoyed more as a spectator rather than a participant. Skiers and snowmobilers, more power to you for making friends with winter and finding the joy in it.

Joy Houle of Brookside Museum commented during her program at our February 9th meeting that an old journal started every day's post with a record of the weather. The intrepid souls that turned out in spite of the late day snow to come to the meeting could understand how the weather is still a factor of how we plan, document, and remember our days. Joy Houle brought a few Gal-

way items from Brookside's collection to discuss and examine.

The March 7th meeting will feature Don Williams, always a good speaker, on "Tools and Tales of the Adirondacks".

Thanks again to Phyllis Ryan for sharing her beautiful Snow Village in the display cases for the winter. At the risk of beating the subject to death, I hope our winter will also depart soon. A new display on dairy farming will be in place in a couple weeks.

We will be forming a nominating committee at our next meeting. Do you have a yen to be president? Now's your chance. I've served my constitutional term limit.

As always, if weather threatens, check the web site for possible cancellation of the meeting, or call me, Bonnie Donnan, at 882-6607.

About Galway Churches

By Rebekah E. DesRoches

From *The Glowegee Scroll*

October 1992

In 1936 when we became Village residents there were four churches in the Village. On South Street was St. Mary's where the dentist's office is now and then as now the priests came from Broadalbin. On the southeast corner was a beautiful old church with a huge fish weathervane atop the steeple—the Presbyterian church with Rev. Scudder as pastor. He and his wife lived in the parsonage next door to the east. A few houses up on the north side of East Street was the Baptist Church, as it is now. Rev. John Greening and his family lived in the parsonage across the street. A couple of houses east of the Baptist church was the Methodist Church with the parsonage next door. The house is now occupied by the Roy family. This church was served by non-resident Rev. White then by Rev. Claude Haley. It was the most active and had the largest congregation.

These were Depression years and churches were having difficulty trying to survive. Finally the congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches began to talk of uniting. In 1937 agreement to unite was reached, to use the Presbyterian property and be under the Methodist Jurisdiction. So Galway was the first United Methodist Church in Troy Conference, years before the Methodists and Evangelical Churches united and all the churches became United Methodists.

When the congregation moved to the corner and became our neighbors we gradually became more involved. There was a Women's Society, a Men's Club and Junior and Senior groups for young people besides Sunday Schools. Suppers and bazaars were annual events. Suppers were served in the Session Room in the front of the Sanctuary. Stoves were set up, all stoves in the Choir Loft to keep food warm. Most of it was cooked in homes and brought in. Ba-

zaar items included quilts, aprons, afghan, crocheted items, and articles bought for resale—cards, choppers, peeler, paring knives, etc. There was great competition between the two committees. Each considered well done if each made around \$400. Soon a new kitchen was added to the east end of the Session Room and fully equipped which made serving suppers much easier.

Meantime the former Methodist Church was sold to St. Mary's and the parsonage was sold to the William Close family. There was much discussion during the next 10 years about how to make the Church building more comfortable in winter, as it was heated only by stoves. On the eighteenth day of April, 1948, the problem was solved.

About 2:30 on that Sunday there was a terrific explosion and as we all rushed to see the cause, smoke was coming from all over the Church building. It was a complete loss with only a minimum of insurance. All the community came together to help. Services were held in the Baptist Church. Fund raising activities were held in the Odd Fellows Hall. Truly then we were united. Finally at the suggestion of the Pastor, Rev. Royal Filkins, who had preached his first sermon as our minister the day of the fire, the congregation purchased the Carriage House from the Shane estate next door on the south, from Gordon and Elva Link. The building was moved to the Church grounds onto a new foundation and renovated to provide Sunday School rooms upstairs, a kitchen, 2 bathrooms and a fellowship Hall downstairs which was used for services.

The second phase of the building added enough space to the fellowship Hall to double its size with a folding door across the center. For several years these rooms were rented to the Galway Central School for classrooms.