

Calendar

May 5

GPS Meeting
 Galway Town Hall

7:00-7:30
 Social Half Hour

7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Program

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Elsie Maddaus
 Jo Lord
 Recap of GPS Programs
 From 1994

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May GPS Update

By Bonnie Donnan

Happy spring! Green is again becoming part of the landscape. Bloodroot is blooming, and the daffodils are cautiously opening. The leaves are breaking bud and returning for their six month stay with us. We had a brief weather April fool joke on that morning we woke up to a landscape that was again winter white, but that day's snow was quickly gone. Just a giggle from Mother Nature.

The speaker for the April 7th meeting was Ranger Joe Craig of the Saratoga National Historical Park. Many of our people have commented on how much they enjoyed his blend of history with humor and his relaxed speaking style.

The May 5th meeting and program will be presented by Phyllis Keeler, Pricilla Marvin, and Don Carpenter. We will hear the story of the Mosher Plow Factory and Waterwheel Village, and will witness the dedication of a historical marker for the site. Our current GPS note cards, available at our table in the park on Memorial Day, contain Don Carpenter's Mosher plow drawing. Election of officers will take place at the May meeting. The slate will be presented and we will take any nominations from the floor. It is important to be there

to vote. We need a quorum for the election to be valid, and we just might nominate you for an office if you're absent.

The Schweitzers have graciously invited us to their home for our members' picnic on June 2nd. Thank you! We are seeking volunteers and will be passing sign up lists. We have opportunities to be a marcher in the Memorial Day parade, a tender of the GPS table in the park on Memorial Day, or a supplier of your favorite picnic dish for our annual picnic on June 2nd. The flower barrels in the Village, begun as memorials for late GPS members, need watering in the summer. We have jobs available for everyone.

The exhibit to come in the lobby at Town Hall in early May will be celebrating the GGCSA, The Greater Galway Community Services Association.

Local history for Galway 4th grade students, in 1994

Elsie Maddaus spoke at the May 2, 1994 meeting of the GPS. Her topic was "How to Trace Your Family Tree." The following notes about her talk were listed in the Secretary minutes for that meeting.

Why people start tracing their family tree:

- 1 – Most people wanted to join an organization like the DAR.
- 2 – Medical reasons
- 3 – Religious persuasion – Mormons
- 4 – Make a Memorial to keep name alive – give to grandchildren
- 5 – Identity crisis – builds up self-esteem – security blanket – Roots.
- 6 – Detective work – some people enjoy researching
- 7 – Certified Genealogist – can legally charge money
- 8 – Finding relationship to someone famous

Buy or borrow reference books. "My Family Register" – fill in your own family tree. Charts are very important. Going to areas to look up information, leave names at Historical Societies to get in contact with others also doing research on the same line.

Where do you start? With yourself. #2 father. All men are even numbers. #3 mother. All women are odd numbers.

When you run out of what you know – then it's time to do your work.

In NYS vital statistics were not required until 1881.

Sept. 12, 1994 minutes by Secretary Mary Anna Parish

Jo Lord told about her trips around town with 4th graders to view local sites in their history studies. Ruth Christoff also takes part. The program is well designed, going to the Waterwheel where the lady gives a lecture; then Mrs. Eaton tells them stories; Mr. Donnan tells about active working farms. They go to Top Notch for mystery – a little girl's tombstone uncovered under part of the building – a writer who had been there reported lights flickering and papers blowing askew and other times tools were missing. They also go to the cemetery at Green's Corners to look for family names and dates.

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