

Calendar

November 7

GPS Meeting
Galway Town Hall
7-7:30 Social Half Hour
7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Program

November 11

Veteran's Day

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Mary Packer remembered.

Kurt Johnston, Editor
5140 Bliss Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
johnstonswinery
@nycap.rr.com

<http://www.galwaypreservationsociety.org>

November GPS Update

From Virginia Sawicki and Bonnie Donnan

Aughhh! Snow! Already! Maybe this is a brief, temporary interruption of cool, crisp, not frigid, autumn days. Days free of mosquitoes and deer flies, days of leaves that crackle underfoot, not sodden leaves compressed under snow.

Our October meeting was an interesting presentation by Kate Jeanson and Charles Fazer of the Saratoga County Clerk's Office. The program was "Treasures of the Past" and "Museums of Saratoga County".

The November 7 meeting will feature Paul Perreault speaking on "Elmer Ellsworth: The Most Talked About Man in the Country". Elmer Ellsworth, said to be the first Union officer killed in the Civil War, was born in Malta and grew up in Mechanicville. He went on to study law in Abraham Lincoln's office, and worked on Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the death of founding and long-time GPS member Mary Packer on October 19th at age 99. Mary served as Town of Providence Historian from 1957 to 2010 and was a member of many local organizations. She was an invaluable source of information on life in our community during the first half of the twentieth century and will be greatly missed.

Our new display in Galway Town Hall was set up on October 19th and is entitled "Brookside Museum: A Galway Retrospective". It contains artifacts, documents and photos that depict various aspects of Galway life through the years that were provided by the Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa. We are very grateful to Joy Houle –

Director, Kathleen Coleman – Curator and Samantha Strevy –Administrative Assistant of the Museum for all the time and effort they put forth in bringing this exhibit to fruition. Patty Kay of our Display Committee did an outstanding job of printing copies of the historical documents and photographs from scans provided by Brookside and arranging the items in the display cases. Members are encouraged to view this interesting and informative exhibit.

Dues are overdue. If we have heard from you, thank you. If not, and you still receive the newsletter by mail, you will find an **X on the outside of this newsletter.** \$10 per household will continue your membership, payable by mail or at the November meeting. If we hear from you, you will continue to hear from us. If your membership lapses, this is the last newsletter you will receive, by mail or online.

The Galway Public Library has a couple programs of historical interest coming up. "Union Civil War Ironclad USS Monitor" with Steve Muller, Wednesday November 9, 7-8 p.m. at the library, and "Father Abraham's Boys: When We Sent Our Children to War" with Michael Aikey, Director of the New York State Military Museum, Tuesday November 15th, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Just for fun, try this! Richie Phillips of radio station WGNA 107.7 has created a "theme song" for Galway. To see what he has to say about Galway, read the lyrics to the song, and listen to it, you can go to the following link: <http://wgna.com/category/your-town-thursday/>

Dreaming in Barkersville

Story by Mary Packer, poem by Mary Cuffe Perez

"Mary!" My mother calls from downstairs.

"What are you doing? Bob is almost here!"

I know I must be dreaming this.

A January morning in Barkersville.

Snow to the top of the henhouse.

Too late to check the pond.

The cutter waits at the end of my road.

Bill holds the reins and waves to me.

In back, Bob and Sophie, bundled in buffalo robes,
lift one for me to climb under.

Six miles to Galway School.

Down Parkis Mills and Mack Roads.

The cutter sways, lurches over snow drifts.

Cold bites everywhere it can reach.

"I wonder if the pond is frozen," I whisper to Sophie.

I bury my head in the buffalo robe.

When I look out, I am in school, warmed by the stove.

My friends all around me, heads bent over desks.

I look outside, draw circles on the fogged-up windows.

When I turn back again,

we're bundled in the backseat of the cutter.

Lantern light sweeps over the snow.

If the pond is frozen, I think, we'll have to shovel for
hours.

It is almost dark when I jump from the cutter, wave good-
bye

and hurry down the road toward the farmhouse.

The house breathes warmth and baking bread.

Mother's face is flushed from the heat of the stove.

"I'm glad you're home," she says, her voice soft with relief.

Then she puts down the bread, picks up her usual briskness.

"Now change your clothes and see if your father needs
help."

Father, framed in a circle of lantern light, milks the last
cow.

Cats mill around him, waiting for a squirt of steaming milk.

Later, I sneak out to the pond.

If it is frozen there will be bonfires, singing and hockey
on Saturday night.

I dig through the snow to the ice,
turn back to the farmhouse, but awaken instead

in another house, 80 years later

and smile at the words I brought all the way back with me.

"The pond is frozen!"



Mary Packer

Photograph by Patricia Kay
Who are you? Galway New York?

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Galway Preservation Society

P.O. Box 276

Galway, New York 12074