

October GPS Update by Richard English

We have been blessed with a beautiful autumn on the heels of a summer that many have described as ideal. Those who planted gardens should be enjoying bumper crops of corn, tomatoes, beans, squash, pumpkins, and other vegetables that have struggled in other years. The cool nights remind us of what lies ahead, but the comfortable days make it possible to extend our outdoor activities as long as possible.

We enjoyed an excellent program in September presented by Kay Olan (known as Ionataiewas in the Mohawk language) on "The Iroquois Confederacy." She provided a brief history of the confederacy, described its political organization, displayed historical artifacts, and answered several questions posed by our members. As Virginia Sawicki mentioned during the introduction, an exhibit at Brookside Museum features Kay's genealogy. If you would like to learn more about our speaker, please check it out. A website that was created for the Kanatsiohareke Mohawk Community in Fonda contains other interesting information as well as links to YouTube videos. A quick Google search will provide you with the web address for this site.

We have a timely program scheduled for our next member meeting on Monday, October 5th. Dave Hubbard, the site manager of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage (a State Historic Site in the Town of Moreau), will present "Baseball and the Civil War." He will be discussing baseball's development and value during the Civil War. Since we will be heading into the post-season

shortly after our meeting, this topic is especially relevant for baseball fans

The GPS Board of Trustees will convene in October for one of its quarterly meetings. As always, board meetings are open to all GPS members. The board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Finally, just another reminder that annual membership dues must be paid by October 15th to remain in good standing. Dues remain \$10 per household as in prior years. If you received a paper copy of this newsletter in September, a membership renewal form was attached to it. For those receiving an electronic copy, simply go to <http://galwaypubliclibrary.org/gps> to download the renewal form. You can send in the form to: GPS, Box 276, Galway, New York, 12075, or bring it to the October 5 meeting.

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Those were the days. With amplification we could have featured a vocalist.

I enjoy reading these articles and comparing them with current events so I decided to share my experience with fellow GPS Member. Who knows? Maybe someone else has rum across something similar.

Calendar

October 5
GPS Meeting
Galway Town Hall
7-7 :30 Social Half Hour
7 :30 Business Meeting
8 :00 Program

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An Interesting Discovery
 By Tom Cwiakala

An Interesting Discovery

By Tom Cwiakala

While renovating an old country store located between Corinth and Sacandaga Lake, my son, Tom, found between the sub floor and finished floor some copies of "The Saratogian" newspapers. One is dated January 28, 1933. The builders back then could have run out of 15 lb. felt and decided to use newspapers between the layers of flooring for both insulation and to reduce floor "squeaking".

This January 28, 1933 newspaper, even though cut up by a saw, could be pieced together enough to make out some interesting articles. One article titled "Records Broken for Mild Winter, Birds Head North", documents a very mild winter during which sugar bushes were collecting sap, golfers were out playing golf, lakes were not frozen and fish were biting, farmers were doing their spring plowing (of soil), woodchucks were out, flowers were blooming, no ice on the Hudson River, causing two Coast Guard ice breakers sent out to keep shipping lanes open to be recalled and communities holding winter sports events had to postpone for lack of snow or ice.

Now here is news of a very mild winter of above normal temperatures 82 years ago. This past winter of 2014-15 we had extremely cold temperatures and lots of snow. A snowfall of over 7 feet in Buffalo, N.Y. caused the N.Y.S. thruway to close. We have, in the past few years, been hearing and reading a lot about "Global Warming" and "Climate Change". Are we to believe that the mild winter of 1933 was the result of those "greenhouse gases"? Coincidentally, the Daily Gazette on August 14 2015, included an article about the fact that every few years when the winds shift, the water in the Pacific Ocean becomes warmer than usual. This condition, now called El Nino, changes the weather worldwide, especially affecting the United

States in winter. What makes sense to me is this condition probably existed back in 1933, except at that time it had not yet been named "El Nino". This Gazette article points out that this year's El Nino happens to be a strong one and may cause a mild winter in this region.

Turning our attention back to the 1933 Saratogian, here are some other article titles; "Smith Will Not Accept Place in Roosevelt's Cabinet or Take Appointment to Seat in Senate". As we know, 32nd President, Franklin Roosevelt took office in January, 1933, "One Killed and Three Wounded in Harlem Speakeasy Shooting" How many people today (other than seniors) ever heard the word "speakeasy"? For those who are not familiar with the word, it is a place of business where alcoholic beverages were sold and served illegally during the prohibition days.

There is a 2 inch by 4 inch ad "Dancing Monday Night January 30 Wilton Grange Hall, Music By Original Wanderers, the Boys You Like. Dancing 9 to 1, Round and Square Dancing, There Will Be A Turkey Door Prize. Gents 50 cents Ladies 24 cents." This ad reminds me of my days playing with a band named "The Echoes" at the West Milton Grange Hall every Saturday night from 9 to 1 back in 1949, 1950 and 1951. We also had round and square dancing (polkas too). If my memory serves me right, Whitey McMillin called the squares. In other places (The Pines, and Ford's) that we played, Paul Close was our caller. One time at the Grange, Chuck Sherman sat in on the drums and another time at Ford's "Bucket" Soble sat in with his guitar. Although we had no electronic amplification when we played, we never had the problem of not being loud enough.

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Galway Preservation Society

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