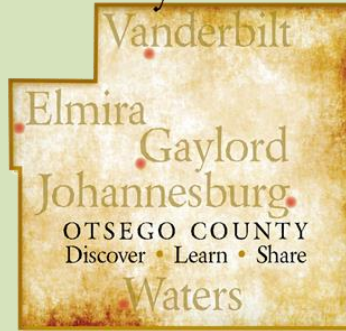


History Matters



Update # 17

April 28, 2018



Colleen Keysor

This week's History Matters Update offers an introduction to another of the group's volunteer detectives. Colleen Keysor, who you may know from the library in Gaylord, was born and raised in Iowa. After high school she attended Luther College, majoring in History and Political Science. She went on to receive her law degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

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Colleen began her law career in Kentucky working for the Social Security Administration. It was there she met and later married Jim Keysor, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Jim earned several promotions with NOAA, which took them to Cheyenne, Wyoming and eventually to Gaylord, Michigan where they have resided for the last 15 years.

The Keysors have two daughters. Elizabeth the oldest, is a freshman at Michigan Tech. currently studying mathematics and the younger, Amanda is a sophomore at Gaylord High School. The family has enjoyed their time in northern Michigan participating in outdoor activities such as biking and snow shoeing during the different seasons. Colleen is an avid museum browser, an interest not always appreciated by some members of her family.

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Six years ago, Colleen began working at the Otsego County Library in a part-time position. Her interest in local history grew from an occasion at the library. A visitor was searching for information about the settlement of Logan. Although Colleen was not familiar with the area, she assisted the woman in finding what information was available. Later Colleen realized that she had passed this community a number of times while biking on a trail between Gaylord and Vanderbilt. What was once a settlement of 20 or more houses, businesses and stores is now nothing but an abandoned railroad grade.

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Along with Otsego County's "ghost towns" Colleen has mentioned an interest in historic buildings, local politics and the Civilian Conservation Corps camps that dotted northern Michigan. She would like to be involved with the researching and writing of a book on Otsego County. She would also like to work with the group designing interactive programs for kids and programs focused on making history interesting for children. These programs can bring local children to the museum as a way to encourage parental participation. Colleen has listed a number of topics relating to these goals, including thinking like a historian and using the on-line resources we have available. With her background and professional interests, Colleen is a perfect addition for our discovery and sharing of the rich history of Otsego County.

This week's History Matters Update was written by Edith Lennox