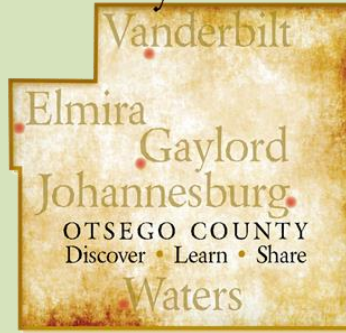


# History Matters

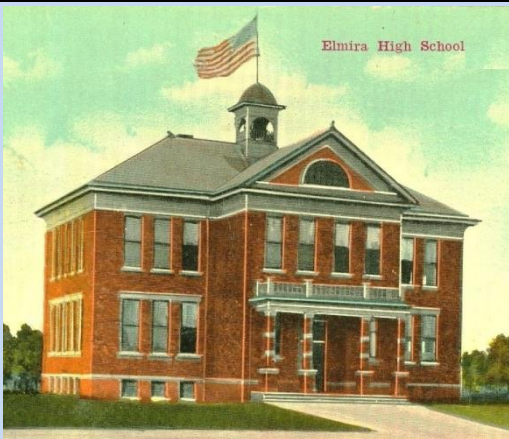


Update # 12

March 24, 2018

History is all around us. Some of it can be seen at our Museum in downtown Gaylord. There's a Civil War cannon on the courthouse lawn. The red school house (Livingston Township District #5) is at the county fairgrounds. Historic homes, churches, business buildings, and stately barns are scattered throughout Otsego County. Each has a story to help us better understand our past.

Spring is here and now is the perfect time to get out and **discover** the many gems of our rich heritage. So, if you aren't headed south for spring break, here are a few places to go and things to see close to home. Check out our self-guided driving tour for more historic sites to enjoy. Here's the [link](#).



## Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share

Explore the historic bell tower (right photo) in Elmira one block off of M-32. The cupola crowned the red brick school which was built in 1906. (left photo) The bell was later moved to the entrance of the elementary school on Ray Street. When that building was razed, the cupola received a total makeover by Rocky Wright which took 3 years to complete. The Elmira Township supervisor and clerk painted the structure and it was moved to the park in August of 2017... which is where it originally had been located over 110 years ago.



## Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share

If you find yourself in the northern part of Otsego County, be sure to take a look at the antique fire truck on exhibit in Vanderbilt. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> fire engine for the Vanderbilt / Corwith Township Fire Department. According to the informational sign, this is a 1939 Chevy chassis that was retrofitted using equipment from the 1919 Model T fire engine.



This fire engine retired in 1971 after 30 years of service. It has been renamed "Antique #1".

You can view this treasured piece of history at its glass display room on the southeast corner of the Corwith Township Hall in Vanderbilt.

## Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share

During World War II, an important meeting took place on the beach of Otsego Lake at the State Park. Dr. Arthur Compton – who camped on the west side of the lake – met with Dr. Robert Oppenheimer to discuss the development of the atomic bomb. The location was chosen because it was safe from enemy spying and so Compton would not have to leave his much needed vacation. The sign shown to the right commemorates the historic event where the two world renowned scientists met.

Related to this meeting that occurred in 1942, is the question whether Albert Einstein also was at Otsego Lake. Some say he attended the meeting with Oppenheimer and Compton and others say he visited Compton at a later date. Stay tuned as our History Matters Team of Detectives investigates those claims. **Share** your views with us.

