



Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share are the 3 main tenets of History Matters. First we explore the many photos, artifacts, documents, stories, and historic sites from our community's past. Our curiosity is piqued and we wonder when and how things happened. Who did it and why. These inquiries lead us to the learning phase. We search the archives, ask lots of questions to lots of people, and seek answers to solve the mystery. Now comes the really important part – sharing all those interesting stories. Initially, I called this “Spreading the Gospel”, but some people didn't think that was PC – however, I think you get the idea. Let's make sure we make it easy for people to enjoy learning about our county's rich heritage AND make sure future generations are prepared to **Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share**.

Discover - here are a few more things to explore in January

1. The Rotary Club of Gaylord recently installed 10 historical markers in downtown Gaylord. Each plaque lists a few interesting facts and includes a photo of the building from years gone by. See photo to the left. Take a step back in time as you stroll down Main Street and **discover** how the central business district has changed. More details and photos are on our web site. [Link](#)
2. Historical photos of the Waters area are on display at the Otsego Lake Township Hall in downtown Waters. Also, be sure to take a look at the replica bottle fence exhibit on the north lawn to **discover** the story behind this famous landmark.
3. Seeking Michigan is an on-line resource from the Michigan Historical Center and includes the State Archives. You can access state and county maps, death records for doing genealogy research, Civil War records, original GLO survey maps from 1850, township plat maps from 1935, and so much more. Take a look – here's the [Link](#)

Learn – there are so many interesting things to learn about our past...

1. “Early Life in the Johannesburg Area” by Wayne B. Welch in 1988 provides a great overview of our county's youngest community – it was established in 1901. Read the book and **learn** about the town's first 85 years of history.
2. Did you know that Elmira had its own newspaper in the 1880s? The only known copy of the Elmira Sentry is on exhibit at the Otsego County History Museum. [Link](#)
3. What happened to Sawyer Township? **Learn** about its short existence on page 5 of our [Timeline](#).

Share

1. Our exhibit “5 Things You Should Know About Otsego County History” is now on display at the Otsego County Library. See photo to the right. Topics highlighted are Ski Resorts, Potatoes, Native Americans, Elk, and the Gaylord Car.
2. Chris is looking for a photo of the ice skating rink when it was on South Center. Current site of Little Village.
3. Eight downhill ski hills have operated in Otsego County. They are included on the web site Michigan Lost Ski Areas Project ([MILSAP](#)). Join in the conversation and **share** your memories of our local ski industry's history.

