

As summer starts to wind down and we look forward to autumn, there's still time to experience lots of history related events and activities. Here's a sample of what's happening nearby for you and your friends to explore and enjoy.

1. Today and Sunday (August 25 & 26) is **Black Iron Days** at Hartwick Pines near Grayling. See, hear, and smell the labor intensive work of the blacksmiths as they demonstrate their old time craft. Another favorite attraction is the steam powered saw mill which will be running both days. [Link](#)



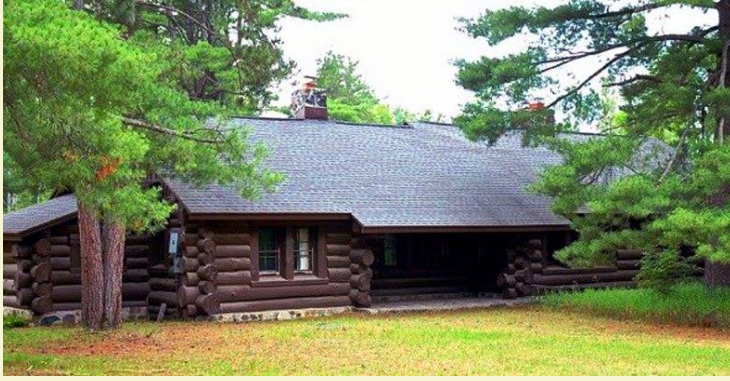
2. Be sure to visit the **Otsego County History Museum** in downtown Gaylord. Exhibits feature the lumbering era, farming, tourism, made in Otsego County, one-room schools, and much more. The museum is open in August on Tuesday thru Saturday from 11:00 am – 3 pm. After Labor Day, the museum is only opened on Fridays and Saturdays until the end of October. Admission is free and it's a great place to take a look back at our local history. [Link](#)

3. Staying close to home for the Labor Day Weekend? If so, check out the history booth at **Thunder Over Waters** on Sunday, September 2. The town of Waters once had a bottle fence, the largest dairy barn in Michigan, and a ski hill. [Link](#)



4. **Digging History!** is a hands-on learning opportunity to discover the excitement of metal detecting. A free demonstration will take place on Saturday, September 8 at Freel Park in Gaylord from 1:00 – 3:00 pm..

Some of the interesting items found have been featured in previous Updates. Recent finds include a brass button with the State of Michigan emblem by Jessica, and Ryan found coins, tokens, and a platinum pin with 4 diamonds. What will you find?



5. Did you know that 100 years ago elk were reintroduced to northern Michigan? Learn about that and lots more at the **Discovery Center** in the Pigeon River Country State Park. Get more details from their web site – here's the [link](#)

6. Another great opportunity to learn about nature and our logging history is the **Louis Groen Nature Preserve** at Johannesburg. There are nearly 800 acres to explore and enjoy all year. The Johannesburg Manufacturing Company ran a large lumbering operation on the site. Historic photos showing the saw mill in action from 1901 – 1929 can viewed on the Otsego County website. [Link](#)

7. History and Art come together for a guided **walking tour** in downtown Gaylord on Saturday, September 22. For details, contact the Gaylord Area Council for the Arts.

8. The Second Annual **Cemetery Stroll** will take place on September 29 at 1pm and 4 pm. It was a big hit last year and promises to be again. The Gaylord Community Productions actors bring history to life in a respectful and informative manner. Here's the [link](#) for ticket information and other details. Don't miss it!



### Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share

There are lots of history related events taking place in the next few weeks. It's the perfect time to get out and discover or re-discover the many gems right here in our back yard. **Share** your favorites so we can add them to our list.