

Otsego County Historical Society Newsletter



April 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring must be on the way as I just saw a Robin fly by my window as I write this! And not far behind that will be our Grand Re-Opening of the Museum on June 1st.

Now to you that may seem like quite a ways down the line but to the Museum staff it will be here before we now it. We have lots of work to do yet before June 1st!

Our Museum Board of Directors have been busy working on ideas for upcoming events, such as the Alpenfest Parade, the Antique Appraisal Event, rearrangement of artifacts, the 2010 Museum Calendar and fund-raisers, just for starters. We do stay busy all year! We certainly can use all the members help and ideas!!

We are looking forward to seeing you in June at our Grand Re-Opening event. Lots of good things are planned for that day.

Ginny Brozowski

MUSEUM CALENDARS

The Museum 2009 calendars are going fast and we will not be doing a reprint of them. You may still buy them at the Library or if you care to come in via the back door at the Museum on Wednesdays from 10 - 12 you can still purchase one at the sale price of \$7.00. But you must hurry as our supply is dwindling. If you have not seen one yet, it features our local models, such as Mayor Solokis, Court Administrator Rudi Edel, Judge Patricia Morse and former Chief of Police John Jenkins, to name just a few!

Endowment Fund News

The Endowment Fund committee has been busy working, planning and discussion plans for meeting their goal for 2009-2011.

The committee consists of regular members Phil Alexander, Susan Smethurst, Chris Grosser and Pat Sepura. Just recently Mary Fox and Dianne Newman have joined our ranks. Also Larry Higgins has agreed to share his experience and expertise in our fund-raising.

The Al Kassuba family has made a generous contribution of \$1,000.00 to the Fund which we do appreciate and thank them. We will continue to look for donors and fund-raising activities to add to the fund.

The Endowment Fund committee has joined with the Otsego County Commission on Aging, The Community Foundation and the Otsego County Historical Society to sponsor an informational workshop on Estate Planning & Endowments. Bill Fury, local attorney, has generously agreed to present the program on Estate Planning. The purpose of this workshop is to provide information to local residents to enable them to make informed decisions about estate planning. This workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 20th from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon at the University Center. There is no charge for this program, but pre-registration is required. Please call Kathy at the Community Foundation (731-0597) or Phil Alexander (732-3292) to register.

There will be a follow-up program in September especially for the Otsego County Historical Society members. If anyone has any questions about their estate planning, this is the program to listen to and ask about your concerns.

*Pat Sepura, Liaison
The Endowment Fund*

CONTACT US AT: 989-732-4568 (Please leave a message)

Condolences

Michael Vinecki

The Otsego County Historical Society Board of Directors offers condolences to fellow Board member Judi Estelle and her family in the passing of son-in-law Michael Vinecki.

Shirley Glidden

Mrs. Glidden, who wrote "Saturday in Gaylord," will be greatly missed by all of us at the Museum. Shirley was a wonderful person to work with and she helped us so much with her wealth of information about Gaylord. She also contributed many artifacts to the Museum for which we are grateful. The family will be holding a Memorial for Shirley on April 18, 2009. Our condolences go out to her family.

Jerry Myers

Jerry Myers is another of our friends and benefactors that will be greatly missed by all of us at the Museum as well as by his many friends and family. Jerry was a friend to all who met him and he was a wealth of so much information about the area. He was one of our special greeters as he could relate so much of the Otsego County history to our visitors at the Museum. Our condolences go out to his family

Museum Gift Shoppe

Ginny Brozowski, Gift Shoppe Manager is replenishing the Gift Shoppe with some new items along with the Museum cookbook, Tim's note cards, Wally's log banks, stone banks, lighthouses and birdhouses, wooden tractors by Ray, Ginny's Gems and maple syrup by HEFCO Farms to name just a few of our locally made items we will have for sale this year.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ginny Brozowski - President
- Sherry Johnson - Vice President
- Cleveann Wolf - Secretary
- Maureen Ballenger - Treasurer
- Bea Axford • Judi Estelle • Rhoda Kelso
- Barb Fleming • John Jenkins • Roseann Kujawa
- Pat Separa • Jackie Skinner • Joann Skowronski
- Ann Wright - Coordinator

GLEN'S MARKET

Recently Glen's Market redecorated the interior of their Gaylord store. When they decided to include historical pictures they approached us for copies of pictures taken in the early 1900's. Many of these pictures are now hanging in large frames throughout the store. They generously donated \$200.00 to the OCHS to thank us for the help we provided with this project.

Glen's Market has been a tradition in Gaylord since 1951. C. Glen Catt opened his store on Main Street in what had been Vincent's Market. This building was located on what is now the parking lot between the Brother Coffee business and the VFW hall. By 1954 a new building was built next door on the corner of Indiana and Main St.



Then, in 1967, Glen's Market built its present store on an empty field by I-75. We know this as the Alpine Plaza. Continual growth of business allowed Glen's Market to expand in 1983, turning the store into 45,000 square feet supermarket.

The generosity of the Catt family to the community has been widely felt. One popular program was the Glen's Save-Share program. This allowed non profit organizations to redeem grocery slips for 1 percent of qualified purchases. Many events and schools benefited from this program. They also supported numerous community efforts through direct donations and discounts. One could always count on them to help with worthy community causes.

At this time Glen's Markets are owned by Spartan Stores. However, part of the Catt family is still involved in the local grocery business through the Save-A-Lot store in Gaylord.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Museum is opening.....let's Celebrate!

OPEN HOUSE

Monday, June 1
10:00-4:00 p.m.

Music, prizes, lots of fun...Mark your calendars!
Museum will be open from
June 1 to the end of October

The Yuill Family

One of the names almost synonymous with the lumbering days of yore in Otsego County is Yuill. The firm of the Yuill Brothers of Vanderbilt consisted of the brothers, John and Thomas. From the last 1800's to the late 1930's they operated a flourishing lumbering business.

They immigrated from Scotland by way of Ontario, Canada. They set up a home on 160 acres of dense hardwood forest just west of Vanderbilt. They were later joined by two younger brothers, James and Samuel at their log cabin. James soon settled on land east of Vanderbilt and Samuel worked in his brothers' wood business.

When the railroad line was extended from Gaylord to Vanderbilt the brothers worked clearing and grading the right-of-way. They also worked in lumber camps and later started contracting for logs. This marked the beginning of their prosperous lumbering business.

By 1900 the brothers were operating a number of logging camps. The timber was shipped to mills at Bay City and Saginaw and fuel wood was shipped to Detroit. In 1905 the Yuill firm purchased the saw mill and logging railroad of the Rogers-Allison Lumber Company south of Vanderbilt along with their timber holdings. This area was called Logan. It grew to include a post office, stores, one room school and potato warehouse. It is now a ghost town and there is little evidence left of its former life.

By 1910 the firm was producing around 20 million board feet annually. In addition to their logging operations



large quantities of railroad ties, line poles, posts and pulpwood, and hemlock bark, used in the tanning process, was shipped.

They bought the John Berry general merchandise store in Vanderbilt in 1916 and operated it until 1940. They also went into the farming and livestock business.

The next generations of the Yuill family included many professionals, businessmen, and community leaders. Among them was J. Richard, plant manager of Higgins in Vanderbilt, who was known to many in the county as a county commissioner and county chairman of the Board of Commissioners. When the Alpine Center was re-opened as a governmental center it was dedicated to J. Richard Yuill in recognition of his many years of service to the community.

WEB PAGE

To access the web page type in
www.otsego.org/ochs

What can you find on the Web Page? Lots of interesting features! The Gaylord Story, The Walking Tour, Barn Pictures, One Room Schoolhouse pictures, The History of the Extension Service in Otsego County, our last newsletter, the Endowment Fund and lots more. And.... Our Web Page will be getting a facelift soon thanks to Mike Burrington, Jackie Skinner and Phil Alexander.

Our new email address is OCHS@charter.com



NOTICE TO GREETERS

Don't forget to keep your calendars handy as I will be contacting you to volunteer at the Museum as a "Greeter" for either the 10-1 or 1-4 shift during the months of June to October. We need just a few hours from everyone to keep the Museum running smoothly for our visitors to enjoy what we have in the Museum. If you have never been a greeter, feel free to call me if you think you might want to do this.

Thanks to all of you who have greeted in the past. I am looking forward to working with you again.

PAT SEPURA - 705-7329

SCANNING PICTURES

The volunteers who are scanning in our picture files so they will be stored on the computer as well as available on our web page met with the Grand Traverse Historical Museum which undertook a similar project. Since this meeting they have met several times at the Museum and have sorted out the picture files, made a new index key and are now scanning pictures. Soon we will be able to see some of our county pictures over the internet! ! Our thanks to them for taking on this huge project! Jacque Korn, Marilyn Kaczanowski, Rudi Edel and Phil Alexander, you are super volunteers!

Otsego County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1223
Gaylord, MI 49735

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Mailed from Zip Code 49735
Permit No. 2

Return Service Requested

Annual Meeting

**Wednesday
May 27th, 2009
10:30 a.m.**

**Congregational Church Parish House
South Otsego and Second St.**

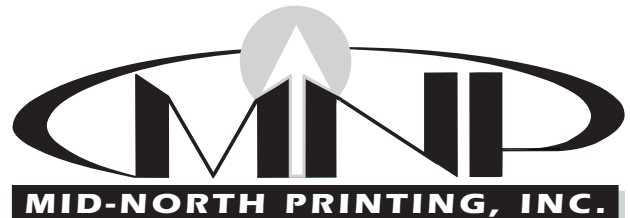
The purpose of the meeting is to vote for seats on the Board of Directors who will serve from June 2009 to May 2011. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Please plan to join us!

Thank You To Glen's Market

We wish to thank Glen's Market for using some of our Otsego County Historical Society file pictures to place in their newly remodeled store here in Gaylord. Please check them out on the wall near the cash registers next time you visit the store.

FULL COLOR PRINTING



Business Cards • Letterhead • Envelopes • Business Forms
Specialty Items • Graduation & Wedding Invitations

316 W. Second St.
Gaylord, MI 49735

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