



The purpose of History Matters is to engage and empower a team of volunteers who will conduct research, answer questions, and share information related to Otsego County's past, about:

- * People & **Communities**
- * Business & Industry
- * Events & Activities

This Update focuses on the **community** of Gaylord. The town was originally named Barnes but later changed to honor railroad attorney Augustine S. Gaylord (photo). Gaylord became a village in 1881 and then a city in 1922. More information and photos are posted on our web page. [Link](#)



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1. The historical marker shown to the left is on the courthouse lawn. It gives a brief description of Augustine S. Gaylord for whom the town was named. It is believed that Mr. Gaylord never visited the town that was named for him. He died in 1877 while serving as Undersecretary of the Interior.
2. [Gaylord Illustrated](#) was published in 1905 to encourage people to move here as the lumbering era was drawing to a close. The booklet features photos of community leaders, businesses, schools, and churches. It provides a glimpse into our past and is a fantastic historical resource. Take a look.
3. The Otsego County Herald ran a 12 page [Souvenir Edition](#) to compliment the above described Gaylord Illustrated. Recently, volunteers typed up the individual stories for easy access and are available on our web site. This reference piece should be in every history buff's tool box.



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1. Sanborn Map Company produced maps of Gaylord in 1898, 1907, 1916, 1927, and 1948. These are incredible! They show the name and location of most businesses/manufacturers as well as the "foot print" of many homes. Very helpful when researching house histories or **discovering** street names have changed over time. See [Library of Congress](#) web site.
2. In 1981, when Gaylord celebrated its Centennial, the Herald Times published a 56 page supplement filled with lots of interesting photos and historical accounts. You can read and/or download the 27MB .pdf from this [link](#).
3. Robinson's Gaylord City Directory is like an expanded telephone book. It includes residents' occupation and year of birth for their children. Lists both alphabetically and geographically. The County Library has some copies from the 1970s.

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1. ["You Know You're From Gaylord MI IF..."](#) is a popular Facebook public page to enjoy memories and connections.
2. Lifelong resident Tony Mankowski recently **shared** his many interesting memories of Gaylord. It's now on video.
3. Look at all the people at Gaylord's Homecoming in 1926. This is another oversized photo we had scanned at Dunn's.

