

OTSEGO COUNTY HERALD
Gaylord of Today - Souvenir Edition
September 15, 1905

OUR SPECIAL EDITION

It is not our purpose to magnify nor misrepresent Gaylord and Otsego County or persons or things or conditions in this edition, but to present county, town, industries and people as they actually have been and now are – just a truthful portrayal of facts. By the assistance of the artist and the engraver we are enabled to present an artistic edition, and from the older inhabitants and a very little printed history, we are enabled to give you a picture of the past. Our town is not so old nor as large as others we know of, but it has the distinction of furnishing the men of brains that have and are now helping run the county and government. Besides, Gaylord has men that are recognized as giants in the business world. It is from such towns as ours and our farms that the men who possess the clearest intellects and keenest intuition of moral sense, are furnished as the backbone of our nation. We are aware that many imperfections have been overlooked in this write-up, and feel that a second attempt would be crowned with greater success and many more improvements. However, we are sure of this, that this is the best edition of the kind ever printed in Gaylord. It's the first. As you turn its pages and you are met by familiar faces and scenes we believe you will find much to interest as well as instruct you, and believe that you will say with us that it is a fair representation of our county and town, its industries, its homes and its people. There are many beautiful homes in the town that are not pictured in this edition, but enough are here presented to convey to the stranger a good impression of our little city. There are few, if any industries not mentioned. We know that you will realize that it has taken much time and hard work to accomplish what we have and keep up other necessary work. The various obstacles we met were either overcome or walked around.

Herald Publishers

The publishers of the Herald desire to express their sincere thanks to the business men and citizens of Gaylord and Otsego County whose hearty cooperation has made this issue possible. This publication is in no way the work of paid boomers, but is a truthful setting forth of facts by representative citizens who hold the interests of town and county above self. The idea sought is to attract the attention of persons in other communities who are desirous of making a change in residence, and to this end we hope this number will be given the widest possible circulation and publicity. If you, the reader, be not personally interested in it, after reading please hand to some one whom you think will be, and request them to do likewise. To the writers of the leading articles is due especial thanks.

DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF BUSINESS IN GAYLORD

Banks.....2	Groceries, shoes & clothing...1	Photograph galleries.....2
Barber shops.....3	Hardware.....3	Potato buyers.....3
Bazaars.....2	Harness.....2	Restaurants.....6
Blacksmith shops.....3	Hotels.....2	Repair shop.....1
Clothing and shoes.....2	House mover.....1	Sale stable.....1
Cigar factories.....2	Ice and coal.....1	Saloons.....7
Confectioner.....1	Insurance agencies.....2	Shoe store.....1
Department stores.....3	Jewelry.....1	Shoe shops.....2
Dray lines.....3	Jewelry and racket goods...1	Wood dealers.....2
Dressmaking shops.....2	Laundry.....1	Wood turner.....1
Dry goods and millinery..1	Liveries.....3	
Drug stores.....3	Manufacturing industries...7	Professional
Drugs and groceries.....2	Meat markets.....2	Music teachers.....4
Florist.....1	Merchant tailors.....2	Lawyers.....5
Furniture.....1	Milkmen.....3	Physicians.....7
Groceries.....6	Millinery.....2	Veterinary surgeons.....2
Groceries and bakery.....1	Newspapers.....3	

Facts In Regard To Gaylord

The county seat of Otsego County.

Population (estimated) 2,000.

Altitude of 700 feet higher than Lake Michigan.

Municipal ownership of water works.

Municipal ownership of electric light plant.

Independent telephone system with state connections.

Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, M. E., Advent churches and Salvation Army.

Best public schools in Michigan; on university list.

Wide streets and cement walks.

Beautiful homes and substantial business blocks.

A number of manufacturing industries; room for more.

Another railroad now building – will be in operation by October.

Secret and fraternal orders of all kinds in a flourishing condition.

The largest potato market in northern Michigan.

An ideal town in which to make a home.

There is no boom in Gaylord – never has been – just a steady healthy growth by desirable people who know and appreciate a good town with inviting surroundings.

WANTED!!!! – 5,000 young men of good moral character and a healthy ambition for work to come and locate on the fertile and productive farming lands of Otsego County, where the climate is delightful, rainfall abundant, the harvest sure and plenteous markets at your door, good schools and churches for the family, and where life is worth living.

With eggs at 20¢ a dozen at this season of the year, we are thinking that the poultry business is not overdone in Otsego County, and that the man who operates a hennery will soon wax rich.

Plenty of room in Gaylord for more manufacturing enterprises.

Gaylord real estate will never be any cheaper than at the present time. Now is the time to invest. The value of property is steadily increasing each year.

Cost of Living

There is probably no important village or small city in Michigan where most of the necessities of life are more reasonable in price than in Gaylord. Groceries and provisions, dry goods and clothing are reasonable in price, rents are low, and wood, the chief fuel, is much less in price here, than in most places. Gaylord furnishes a good market for what the farmers raise, and in addition imports large quantities of eatables and wearable to meet the ever increasing demand of our fast growing village and surrounding country. Gaylord has the name of being one of the smartest and best business towns of its inches in the state; has over a hundred business firms and a tributary population of more than 8,000 people.

Business Men's' Association of Gaylord

Like all well regulated towns, Gaylord has a Business Men's Association, and from time to time when business of import to the village is discussed and ways and means devised for public improvement and the betterment of the community, the efficient Secretary W. S. Carpenter notifies members, and the meeting is presided over with dignity and decorum by its able president, Dr. N. L. Parmater. All letters of inquiry to the secretary will receive prompt answers.

Healthfulness of Gaylord and Otsego County

Situated as we are, upon the highest land in the lower peninsula, we have an abundance of good dry, clear atmosphere.

Our winters, though somewhat long, are of a healthy nature, due probably to the fact that when snow first covers the ground in the fall with its mantle of beauty we do not, as a rule, again see the bare earth until late in the spring when nature sheds her raiment of snowy robes and causes to come froth the beautiful spring in all its fragrance and glory.

We are not molested as other sections of the state with disagreeable changes in the temperature within the space of twenty-four hours, but have even, cold healthy winters which, to persons suffering from the effects of febrile or constitutional diseases, make an ideal climate. Our spring and summer weather proves a panacea for those troubled with asthmatic or nasal affections, the atmosphere being light and dry, therefore causing less effort on the part of nature assisting to overcome the depression and ravages of those diseases. Nearly every season scores of people from southern Michigan come to our county for climatic treatment and return to their homes greatly benefited by their sojourn here.

Our city water is furnished to all persons desiring it at a very nominal rate per annum, our village pumping station being as good if not better than the majority generally found in villages of our size in the state. Our water mains through which the water to the consumer is supplied are of iron and wood, the wooden ones however are fast being duplicated and iron laid in their stead. Our engines are of the latest improved pattern capable of pumping 250 gallons of water per minute, pumping the water from a rock-bottom well 110 feet deep, supplying the consumer with as pure and uncontaminated water as is possible to secure. A sample of the water which comes through our village mains having been sent to Ann Arbor and Detroit for analysis came back to us with the statement that it was free from disease germs and exceptionally free from taint of surface refuse, the only negative point in the analysis was that it was impregnated with a trifle more lime salts than usual, but aside from this we have as fine drinking water as can anywhere be found.

The general health of our village and vicinity is above the average. This year we have been exceptionally free from all contagious diseases, such as small pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, spinal meningitis and typhoid fever and what few contagious diseases we do have are immediately quarantined, isolated and alter disinfected with the greatest care, thus keeping the cases at a minimum percent. The sanitary laws of our village and townships are very strict and are enforced to the limit. When complaints come in to the health officials, they are immediately attended to and the proper course is taken in having the nuisance abated.

Our county as a whole forms a very healthy and clean community; the healthiness due probably to the fact that many lakes and shady woods, the trout streams and wooded groves form and abundance of places to which families may go for an airing and a little recreation, thus giving stimulus to the over taxed systems, providing pure fresh air which is invigorating to those who have to remain indoors a greater share of the time.

Otsego Lake, a body of water 5 miles long and over a mile wide, only a few minutes ride from Gaylord, is a spring water lake of great natural beauty, abounding in numerous specimens of the finny tribe, surrounded on all sides by beautiful forestal growths, making the very choicest of summer camping grounds where many people from larger cities may come during the summer months and recreate under the soothing influences of the balmy breezes that are so characteristic of Gaylord and its vicinity.

Anent the Early Days

Prior to 1875 the wilderness comprising Otsego county was attached to Antrim county for judicial purposes. The county was organized in 1875, and the Otsego Lake hamlet was the county seat. The town contained a saw mill, post office, barber shop, hotel and saloon and a couple of stores and some fifty or sixty people. They were rich in timber, ambitious and anxious to grow, and reached out after a printing office, and in response the Herald was established that year by Chas. L. Fuller, coming from Owosso. In 1873 the railroad was pushed north 8 miles and Gaylord was located and settled, with Wm. H. Smith as merchant prince and pioneer postmaster. His store and office and dwelling was a log camp that stood for a time just south of the present Schuyler house opposite the depot, and even that was shared with another family. With the railroad came more people and the town grew and in four years aspired to county seat honors, and in a heated contest won out in the spring election of 1878. Having wrested that prize away from Otsego Lake, the Herald editor moved to Gaylord with his outfit and set up shop. At this juncture the present owner of the paper arrived on the scene and took a hand in the business and has thus seen the town and county grow and expand to present proportions. In the early days when a new man or family appeared it was the talk of the country for days, but now they come in bunches and nothing is thought of it. The pioneer days are over. Modern ways and methods and quick transit have revolutionized business and we are no longer in the woods but an integral part of the great pulsating busy world, and Gaylord is putting on city airs, and the surrounding country blossoming as the rose.