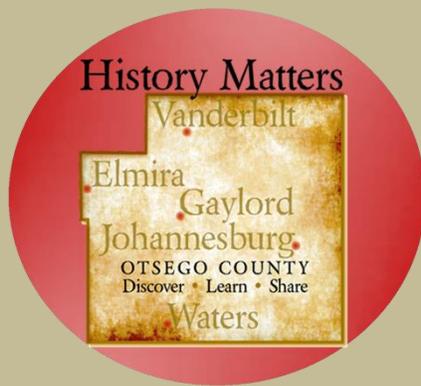


Update # 45
November 10, 2018



Phil Alexander
History Detective

Discover ♦ Learn ♦ Share

Not everyone enjoys learning about history. In fact, a common expressed sentiment is “I hated history in school! It was boring. All we did was memorize a bunch of dates.”

That’s not good news for a History Matters Update with a Timeline as its topic. Even though a Timeline consists of a bunch of dates, let’s see if we can make it less boring.

First, by having a written Timeline, we don’t have to memorize all the information. Secondly, adding photos and graphics should make it more interesting. Hopefully, you’ll **discover** things you didn’t already know about Otsego County’s history. Take a look at the Updated Version by double clicking the icon below or going to our [web page](#).



TIMELINE OF OTSEGO COUNTY HISTORY

2018 UPDATED VERSION

So, where to begin? Otsego County was established in 1875 but there was a lot of history that took place here prior to that. Last week’s Update focused on Native Americans who visited our area. However there isn’t much documentation of their activity in Otsego County to tell that part of the story.

We chose to begin our Timeline in 1837 which is the year Michigan became a state. A few milestones are noted which led up to the first settlements in Otsego County. State and national events such as government surveys and the Civil War influenced future developments. An important event occurred in

1843 when our county’s name was changed from Okkuddo to Otsego. Do you know what Okkuddo means?

Census information has been added to the Updated Version of our Timeline. The county’s population by decade is now included. The number of people living in Otsego County dropped considerably during the 1910s and 1920s. Why? What caused the steady growth that began in the 1960s?



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Knowing when things happened increases our awareness and appreciation of how the past shaped our current situation. The next step is to **learn** the “who, why, and how” so we can paint an accurate and interesting picture of our history.

Our Timeline also includes recent events. By doing so, we intentionally reinforce the concept “if it happened, it’s history”. We are reminded to actively collect and record history that is being made every day.

History is something we studied in school, with dates to memorize. Now history takes on a whole new meaning with dates in memories!
-- Betty Moore

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Please notice the comments in red such as “When did the name change from Barnes to Gaylord?” Other notes ask for more details, a specific year, or whether an event should be added to our Timeline. **Share** your thoughts and ideas – what do you think should be added? Do the descriptions provide enough information? Does our Timeline include adequate and appropriate examples related to our local economy, environment, and social / human endeavors?

Our Timeline should give a well-rounded picture of our county’s past. It should highlight those things that make us unique and sets us apart from other places. We don’t want to just list a bunch of dates. Help us make this information relevant – help us show why history matters.

Thinking Like A Historian

- **Cause and Effect** – What were the causes of past events? Were there unintended effects?
- **Change and Continuity** – Who or what made change happen? What has changed? What stayed the same?
- **Turning Points** – How did past decisions or action significantly transform people’s lives?
- **Using The Past** – How can we learn from the past? How does the past help us make sense of the present?
- **Through Their Eyes** – How did people in the past view their world? Are we telling an inclusive story?