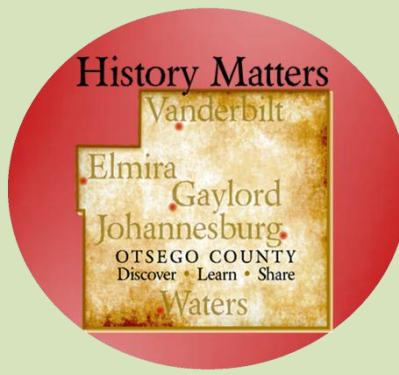


Update # 26



June 30, 2018

Please join me in welcoming Suzanne Whyte to our History Matters group of detectives! Suzanne was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and moved to Highland Park, Michigan during the war to be with her grandparents while her father was away at war. She graduated from Kingswood School Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and received her BA degree from Vassar College in New York.

Her passion for history was ignited by a college professor who brought “everything to life” while teaching. Her zest for history continues, and her greatest areas of interest for this project include:

- History of Otsego County airports
- Early development of Otsego County

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Suzanne has a wide variety of professional expertise and her work experiences include medical assistant, office manager, real estate broker and co-owner, and certified public finance administrator; assessing assistant.

Otsego County has always been her home and her family has a history of involvement in local public service. Suzanne is a member of the Zonta Club of Gaylord and has participated in many projects including the Alpenfest Home Tour. She was co-chairman of the Otsego County Community Fund and a member of the board of directors. She served as director of the Alpenfest Queen’s Pageant and was president of the Friends of Otsego County Library.

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Suzanne loves aviation and made her first solo flight from the Otsego County Airport at the age of 17. After college, Suzanne completed her training and obtained her private pilot’s license. She flew a Piper Tri Pacer and Beechcraft Bonanza. She belonged to the Ninety Nines; an international organization of women pilots.

Suzanne has flown in three Michigan Small Races and was a feature writer for two aviation newspapers. The University of Michigan Engineering magazine published her article on Super Sonic Transport (SST) and she was appointed to the Women’s Advisory Committee on Aviation by the Administrator of the FAA, Washington, D.C. She was one of only 27 women from across the country so honored!

Dance is another love of Suzanne’s. As a child she appeared on Detroit television shows. In college she was a member of the Dance Performing Group. After college, she joined the Detroit USO Troupe and earned a 5-star pin for service.

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Suzanne’s children are her pride and joy. Peter and Carolyn both graduated from Gaylord St. Mary’s. Peter received his BS from U of M in resource ecology and management. He works in golf course management at Michaywe’. Carolyn is the principal for Wayland Middle School near Grand Rapids. She received her BA from Alma College, her MA from CMU and her Education Specialist Degree from Grand Valley State University.

This week’s History Matters Update was written by Sarah Skowronski