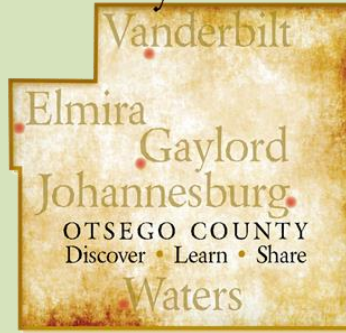


History Matters



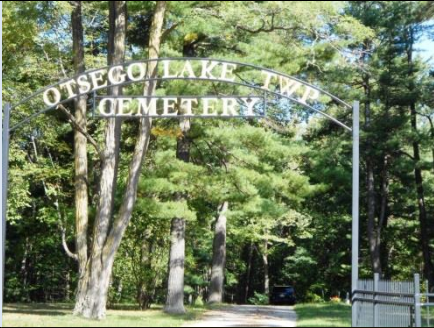
Update # 39

September 29, 2018

Phil Alexander
History Matters Detective

Cemeteries are great sources of local historical information. They are tangible memorials to the people who were here before us. Reading the names on the headstones remind us of days gone by and those responsible for creating our present world. We recognize family names still familiar today as well as those that have faded into history. A valuable lesson in the circle of life.

It's interesting to see the various sizes and styles of headstones. How they've changed over time may help explain shifts in values, beliefs, and economic conditions. The way in which people choose to leave their legacy for future generations continues to evolve.



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[Find A Grave](#) is a convenient web site to look up burials in Otsego County. Other sources of information include the archives at the Otsego County History Museum, and the Otsego County Library. Numerous publications have been produced that contain the inscription of each head stone. However, not all graves have head stones or may have one that is no longer legible. To locate a specific burial site, it will be helpful to have the plot number, designated section, and a map of the cemetery.

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Even though names and dates are “etched in stone” it’s still necessary to verify the information found on grave markers. For example, Jane Brink’s head stone (photo below) shows 1899 as the year she died. However she was listed in the 1900 Census.

As revealed in our History Matters Update #30, Jane’s obituary showed she died on April 22, 1900. Mistakes can happen – even with our county’s first female pioneer – so be sure to double check the facts and verify all information with multiple sources.



Local Cemeteries

Gaylord

**Bagley Township Cemetery
Fairview Cemetery
Saint Mary Cemetery**

Hayes Township Cemetery

Elmira

**Maple Hill Cemetery
Saint Thomas Cemetery
Hallock or Green Cemetery**

Johannesburg

**Meridian Line Cemetery
Mount Hope Cemetery**

Vanderbilt

**Evergreen Hill Cemetery
Resurrection Cemetery**

Otsego Lake Township Cemetery

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A unique opportunity to **discover** and **learn** about 10 early residents of Otsego County takes place today with the 2nd Annual Cemetery Stroll. Cast members of the Gaylord Community Productions will portray the lives of noted citizens such as State Representative Earl Bolton, Mary Mead Smith, Dr. James Fox, John Brodie, John Covert, Dr. Levi Harris, and Samuel Qua our county’s last Civil War veteran.

Join us for the noon or 4 pm stroll. Tickets are available at the Otsego County Historical Museum. [Link](#)