

# Otsego County Historical Society Newsletter

May 2008



*You are invited*  
*to the*  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
*of the*  
*Otsego County Historical*  
*Society*

**MAY 21, 2008**

**10:30 a.m. Refreshments**

**11:00 Business Meeting**

CONTACT US AT: 989-732-4568 (Please leave a message)

## The Civilian Conservation Corps



Mr. Bill Jamerson

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CCC Mr. Bill Jamerson, author and storyteller, presented a program, "The Life of a CCC Boy" at the Methodist Church on April 29th. Over eighty people attended. They were treated to an hour of historical-based entertainment and a wealth of information..

On March 31, 1933 the Emergency Work Progress bill was enacted into law. This bill spawned numerous federal agencies, including the CCC. There were about 5,000 camps of 200 enrollees set up across the country.

One of those camps was in Otsego County on Cornwall Lake in what is now the Pigeon River State Forest. For 1.00 per day the CCC boys replanted more than 19,000 acres of forest that had been lumbered off or destroyed by fires.

Mr. Jamerson is the author of Big Shoulders, a historical novel inspired by the recollections of former CCC members. This book and his other works, including documentary films, can be obtained through our local library.

A huge thank you goes to Maureen Derenzy from the Otsego Library who wrote a grant to the Michigan Center for the Book to help underwrite the expenses of having Mr. Jamerson's program here. Thank you, Maureen!



Maureen Derenzy, Bill Jamerson,  
Janet Fleckinger-Bonarski, Ann Wright, and Ginny Brozowski

## Scanning Project

Jerry and Suzanne Stewart have been scanning our post-card collection so we can pull these pictures off the computer. Again our thanks to them! Eventually we hope to have all our postcards and pictures available on the computer!

## The Great Depression and the CCC Camps

Our new display this year will be on the Great Depression and on the CCC camps. Anyone with information on these or artifacts to donate are asked to contact the Museum. We also want to conduct interviews of residents who will share what they remember about this time. Again we ask that you contact the Museum if you are willing to be interviewed. Perhaps two or more will wish to be interviewed at the same time.

## Centennial FarmWorkshop

Many of the farms in the county have remained within the family for 100 years or more. This qualifies them for the designation of Centennial Farm. In an effort to help families apply for a Centennial Farm status we offered a workshop on how to fill out the rather lengthy application.

At the session, Barb Fleming of Fleming Farms, which recently successfully applied for this designation, explained the application process. Jackie Skinner from the

Library and Susan Defeyer from the Register of Deeds explained the resources and services they could provide. Our thanks to them and to Phil Alexander for making this program a success!



Jackie Skinner



## Volunteer Orientation

One hour orientation sessions for greeters will be held on Tuesday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and again on Wednesday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m. We are asking all greeters to attend one of these sessions, if at all possible.

## Trip to Lansing

Ann Wright, Roseann Kujawa, Bea Axford, Maureen Ballenger, Barbara Fleming, Becky Jacobs and Sherry Johnson will be visiting the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing on May 13th. They will be spending the afternoon on a guided tour and will be bringing back lots of ideas for our Museum!



## Ginny's Gems...

*The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places!*

## Museum Gift Shoppe

The Gift Shoppe has undergone some remodeling giving us more shelf space.

Wait until you see some of the new items on display! We have found some new artists in our area who have supplied us with some very neat items for sale.



The Museum Gift Shoppe hours are the same as the Museum and we do need volunteers in the Gift Shoppe as cashiers. If you are interested, call Ginny, Gift Shoppe Manager at 732-9406.

## Donations

We received a donation of a new printer, scanner and fax machine from Robin Petruska. This is a nice asset for the Museum. We appreciate Robin thinking of us.

We also appreciate Judy Koronka's donation of two digital recorders. These will be used for recording interviews of residents this summer.

## 2008 Calendars

The 2008 Museum Calendars will be on sale when the Museum re-opens June 2nd. If you haven't bought yours yet, now is the time!

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL



## & OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday, June 4**

we are having an  
**Open House**

to mark the 2008 season.

**Time is from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

We will have an ice cream social during this time with some yummy toppings! Mike Reling from the radio station, who adds charm to every occasion, will be with us. The lucky winners of give aways and door prizes will receive items out of the Gift Shoppe.



## Cataloging Artifacts

A huge thank you goes to Anita Wadsworth, and Suzanne Stewart for all the computer work they did over the winter months on cataloging artifacts into our new inventory system. They are now joined by Jacque Korn who will help on this project for the coming months. This project represents many, many hours of time but it will be a tremendous help to the Museum once we have it completed.

## Fond Farewell

*We are sorry to lose Judy Kucharek as President of the Board of Directors of the Otsego County Historical Society. She has had to resign because of personal reasons and we are going to miss her smile and upbeat nature. Ginny Brozowski has agreed to take over the position to finish out Judy's term until June 1st.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ginny Brozowski - President  
Sherry Johnson - Vice President  
Cleveann Wolf - Secretary  
Maureen Ballenger - Treasurer  
Bea Axford  
Rudi Edel • Barb Fleming  
John Jenkins • Rhoda Kelso  
Judy Koronka • Roseann Kujawa  
Sue Smethurst  
Ann Wright - Coordinator

*Otsego County Historical Society*  
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