

# Otsego County Historical Society Newsletter

November 2008



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



October 25th ends a very successful summer at the Otsego County Historical Society Museum and Gift Shoppe. We have drawn the winning quilt raffle ticket and the winner is John Kelso of Dryden, Michigan. His mother, Rhoda Kelso, was so excited for him!

It is a bittersweet day when we close the Museum and Museum Gift Shoppe on October 25th. We will miss all the visitors and the many volunteers who have put in so many hours during the summer. We will reopen June 1st so we look forward to seeing you all then!

The staff, comprised of Maureen, Doris, Bea, Cathy, Ann and myself, will be working at the Museum each Wednesday doing all the office work, rearranging of displays, making plans for next year, etc.

Please check out the other articles in this newsletter for information you may need.

*Ginny Brozowski*

## DONATIONS OF ARTIFACTS

We appreciate all the artifacts donated to the Museum. Collecting artifacts and information related to our history is one of the primary goals of the Historical Society. We recently have received Alpenfest materials, agricultural-related records, military items, a doll, religious items and so much more. All of these were things we did not have. And that's what we continue to look for - items that we do not have that will help tell the story of Otsego County.

Recently a committee was formed to assist in our search for those items and records we do not have. Bea Axford, Joann Skowronski and Judi Estelle are on the committee. So if you hear of an estate sale, or any other event where old records or an item of historical value may be, please give one of these people a call.

## Endowment Fund News

"Keep The Story Alive" is a tri-fold pamphlet available soon for county residents. This pamphlet is published by the Otsego County Historical society to explain and promote our new participation in the Otsego County Community Foundation.

The society continues to honor the vision of Gordon & Marlene Everett by joining the Foundation. As a part of the Foundation, the Historical Society board has created our own Endowment Fund.

Donations earmarked for the Society's Endowment Fund will be invested and income earned will be used for Society projects. Our initial pledge to the Foundation is \$15,000 over the next 3 years. We will need everyone's support to reach this lofty goal!

On September 24th, the Society Board met with representatives of the Community Foundation to discuss the Endowment Fund and how it works. Several other interested persons also attended. This brainstorming session proved to be both informative and entertaining. Phil Alexander facilitated the meeting as we shared our "dreams" for the Society's future if money were no object! Everyone shared creative "dreams" for projects in the future.

Some of the "dreams" for the Otsego County Historical Society: • a larger facility • paid staff for the museum • historical plaques on main street • educational programs • demonstrations • genealogy lab • interactive displays.

COME DREAM WITH US and if we all work together we can make those dreams come true and keep the story of Otsego County alive.

*Pat Sepura, Liaison - The Endowment Fund*

## ANOTHER PROJECT!

After we collect information how do we make it easy for people to receive that information?

Part of the answer is using the Web to let people access information. As a start we will scan all the pictures we have in our files and make these pictures available on a web page. Some will be indexed so you can search for example, logging and Johannesburg. Then all the pictures identified as logging in the Johannesburg area will come up.

Perhaps some pictures will not be identified. Then we are hoping someone who sees those pictures will have information about them and will share that information with us.

Rudi Edel is leading this project. He is looking for people who are willing to scan pictures. Anyone interested would be trained on the scanner. It's Easy! You may call the Museum if you are interested and leave a message.

The OWLS have furnished the funds to make the web page possible and we appreciate their support!

## Ginny's Gems...

*Some days are like popping popcorn  
without a lid!*

## Museum Gift Shoppe

In spite of the economy, the Gift Shoppe did well this year! If you missed getting that item you were interested in, such as our 2009 calendar or one of the nice cookbooks, please stop in thru our back door on Wednesdays (9 am to 12 noon) and you may purchase anything in the Gift Shoppe then. We do have many items that make a great Christmas gift for that special someone on your list! Also, Ginny has marked down a lot of the items so. So come on in!



**2009 Historical Society Calendars  
"A Peek In Grandma's Closet"**

**\$7.00 each**

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

One of the Museum's goals this fall was to begin an Oral History Project. We know that we have many residents who have information about not only their personal lives and families but about this area in the 1940-1960's. We want to capture that history and make it available for our community.



Ann Wright, Martha Bloomfield & Jackie Skinner

Martha Bloomfield of the Michigan History Museum presented a workshop on oral history and how to conduct interviews to get us off to good start. This was held on October 3 at the library. Those attending were Joann Skowronski, Wendy Percha, Mary and Syl Tomaszewski, Mike Mang, Judy Kucharek, Jane Cheney and Margaret Albert along with Phil Alexander, Jackie Skinner and Ann Wright.

From now through spring this group will be interviewing residents. Anyone who wishes to be interviewed may call the Museum and leave a message. Someone will get back with you and pair you up with one of these interviewers.

To emphasize how much information we have to collect, a person only needs to know that the last time interviews were done on any scale was when reel to reel recorders were modern technology. All of our old interviews were recorded on reels. This time they will be recorded on digital recorders. How the world has changed!

## ANTIQUe APPRAISAL



Joseph McGee appraising an item

The 4th Antique Appraisal day on Saturday, September 20th, exceeded our expectations. Joseph McGee of Joseph's World in Petokey did appraisals for 37 individuals for a total of \$650 income - our best year yet! We are extremely grateful to Joseph for his time, expertise and graciousness. Happily, he has told us to expect him back in September of 2009. We wish to thank the members who contributed to making this event so successful - Maureen Ballenger, Ginny Brozowski, Joann Skowronski, Bettie Manier, Cleveann Wolf and, Judi Estelle for the delicious cookies.

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

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We are very pleased to welcome the following new members – a record year!

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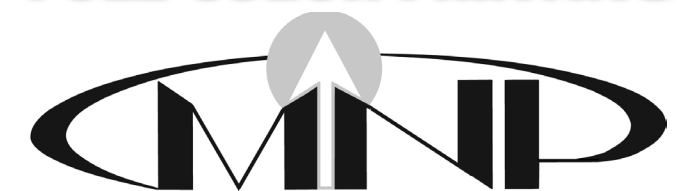
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Ann Wright - Coordinator

## PHASE I FINISHED!

Thanks to the effort of Anita Wadsworth and Suzanne Steward with help from Jacque Korn, we have all the inventory of artifacts from the old record system now in the new computer system. Four fat notebooks of information! Thank you!

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