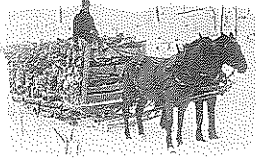


# Otsego County Historical Society Newsletter

August 2009



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wow, where did June go? The Museum is up and running and we have had quite a few interested individuals visiting our displays. The Treetops Nursery Class of 3 & 4 year olds enjoyed their visit with us, as well as several elementary classes from the Gaylord Schools.

And have you ever wondered what men collect? Men have their own peculiar tastes and interest and you would be amazed at what they like to collect and what fills their attics, workshops and living rooms. We have a nice collection of what Jerry Myers had collected during his lifetime and we have it on display in the Museum, thanks to his daughter Linda Reinhardt who donated the items to us.

We invite you in to view other new items at the Museum, such as our Maple Syrup display which is new this year. And after viewing all the work that goes into the process of making maple syrup, you can purchase a bottle of maple syrup from our Gift Shoppe that was made right here in Otsego County by HEFCO Farm owners Rocky and Ann Wright.

Shirley Glidden's family has donated much of Shirley's collection of artifacts and we will be featuring some of those in our displays as soon as they are cataloged.

There are several new items in our Gift Shoppe and I invite you in to see all that we have there for sale. The Gift Shoppe sales help us to keep our Museum up and running for your enjoyment.

Hope to see you at the Museum soon.

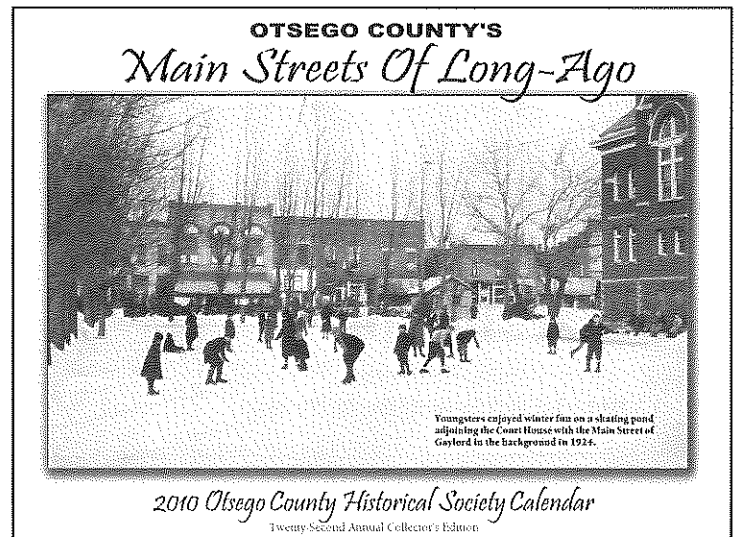
*Ginny Brozowski*

**Coming this fall...More food classes!**  
Watch the newspaper and our Web site in September for information.



## 2010 Calendars

The beautiful 2010 Otsego County Historical Society Calendar is now on sale! They feature the Main Streets of Otsego County from long-ago. The Calendars are for sale in the Museum and at many local businesses. If you would like to order a Calendar please call 732-4568. The Calendars are just \$7.00 each again this year.



## ANTIQUE APPRAISAL Returns September 19th!

We are happy to announce that Joseph McGee of Joseph's World in Petoskey will be back for the fifth year on Saturday, September 19th from 9 to 4 at the Museum. The charge is the same as last year, \$10 per item verbal and \$25 written. There will be a sign-in list to eliminate waiting time along with coffee and cookies. Now is the time to start looking through your treasures and decide what you would like to have appraised.

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

## Meet the 2009 Otsego County Historical Society Board



Ginny Brozowski  
President



Sherry Johnson  
Vice-President



Maureen Ballenger  
Treasurer



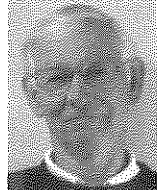
Marilyn Kacznowski  
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Bea Axford



Barb Flemming



John Jenkins



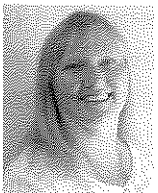
Mike Jones



Rhoda Kelso



Roseann Kujawa



Stacey Jo Schiller



Jackie Skinner



Joann Skowronski



Ann Wright  
Coordinator

## Museum Gift Shoppe

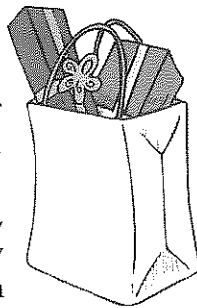
Check out the new merchandise in our Gift Shoppe. All items are made by local artists and crafts people.

Along with our Museum cookbook, written by local cooks, we have many specialty cookbooks written by Judith Bosley, and small handy cookbooks by Carole Eberly. Judith's "Tasty Taters" and "Catch of the Day" cookbooks are really nice and Carol's features the "Very Strawberry", "Very Cherry" and "Very Blueberry" cookbooks which are some of our best selling.

New this year are our wooden squirrel-shaped utensils for removing hot items from the oven. Also playing card holders for those of us who have trouble holding all the cards! And all the wonderful log and stone cabin banks, large and small stone lighthouses, log and stone birdhouses by Wally that we have always carried.

You will want to check out the new book "To The Grand Canyon and Back" which is a very exciting account of a trip back in 1929 by three local women who made the trip by themselves!

Please come in and browse and we are sure you will find something you and your family and friends will enjoy.



## Projects and More Projects!

The lilies at the back of the Museum are growing! In May, three students from the Gaylord Alternative Education Program planted the lilies to help make the back area around the parking meters look more attractive. Paving stones were added for walkways. It's looking nice!

Our thanks to **Sam Palmer, Phil Gorny and Co-rey Weaver from the GAP** and to **Phil Alexander** for the project supervision.

**Heather Johns and David Moser** are doing a great job working with the cataloging of our artifacts! They are taking pictures and measuring each item that is currently on display. All the information they are gathering will be put into the computer program and added to the information we have there on each item. The back room is done and they are now working in the "general store". Our thanks to them for all the care with which they are doing this project.

**Heather and David** are part of the youth economic program, an arm of the federal stimulus money that is flowing into communities for job training.

**Joe Sopsich**, a Vanderbilt college student, is listening to all the old interviews Mr. Granlund made with elderly residents some years ago and writing down all the pertinent information. The information will be indexed so someone doing research will know what type of information each disk holds. Thank you, Joe!

**Sue Smethurst, Patty Linguar, Linda Reinhardt and Phil Alexander** are working on a history of Main Street, Gaylord. They are researching as far back as 1957 (before the Alpine Motif came into being) to update the Gaylord Story. They will see how the businesses changed over the years at each business address. A walking tour of Main Street will be offered to the public when they are finished to be used as a fund raiser for the Historical Society's Endowment Fund.

Pictures are needed! If you have pictures of the businesses on Main Street please let us scan them for this project! We can do this in a matter of minutes and give you back your originals immediately.

Notice the empty storefronts downtown? Then you saw the historical pictures that are in the windows, a project to enhance downtown as well as to advertise the Historical Society and Museum. **Dave Fisher and Phil Alexander** are working on this project.

# Maple Syrup in Michigan

Production of maple syrup and sugar is distinctly a North American industry since maple trees are tapped for their sap only in the United States and Canada. The art of making maple syrup and sugar was first discovered by the Indians of North America and handed down to the early colonial settlers.

Maple sugar seems to have been the first kind of sugar ever produced in North America. It was an important staple to early white traders along the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and the St. Marys River as these areas were in the center of the range of the sugar maple tree. Michigan's Sugar Island in the St. Marys River near Sault Ste. Marie owes its name to the maple sugar obtained by the early traders from the Ojibway Indians who inhabited the island.

Maple sugar was the standard sweetening material until approximately 1875 when cane sugar began to under-sell the maple product. At the present time, cane and beet sugar is our standard sweetening material, and maple sugar and syrup are luxury foods.



Pettifor Sugar Operation

Michigan has long held an important place in the production of maple syrup and sugar. Since 1850, the state has never ranked below sixth place in the annual production of syrup and sugar in the United States.

How many trees does it take to make a quantity of syrup?

Here's some rough estimates based on normal sugar content in the sap.

From each tap you will get about 10 gallons of sap. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup.

How much sap does it take to make a gallon of syrup? On the average, 40 gallons.

So 4 taps equals a gallon of syrup.

In 1885 Otsego County produced 25,843 pounds of syrup, according to the agricultural census. At 11 pounds to the gallon, that's over 2300 gallons!

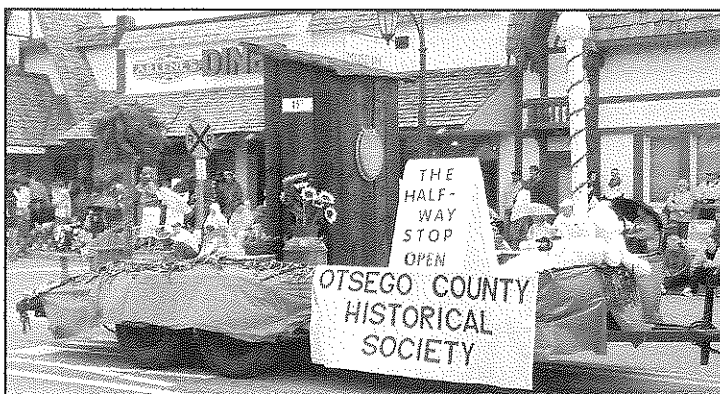
PUTNAM W. ROBBINS Forestry Department, Michigan State College.



Widger Sugar Operation

## Alpenfest Float

Thanks to Joann Skowronski and her helpers, the OCHS had an outstanding float for the Alpenfest parade, complete with an outhouse! The float won the Best Overall Award!



## VOLUNTEERS

What would we do without volunteers? They are the lifeblood of our Museum and we certainly do appreciate all that they do. We have volunteers working in the Gift Shoppe, volunteering as Greeters, and as Board Members. Volunteers do the cleaning, work on displays, scan pictures, plant and water flowers outside, run the vacuum over the carpeting, wash the front windows, sweep out the two entrances and the list goes on!

If you have some free time and could spare an hour or two, once a week or once a month, please call Ginny Brozowski at 732-9406 and she will find a place for you to volunteer at a job you will enjoy.

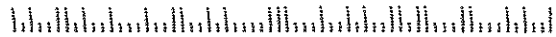
Again, thanks for all our volunteers!

*Otsego County Historical Society*

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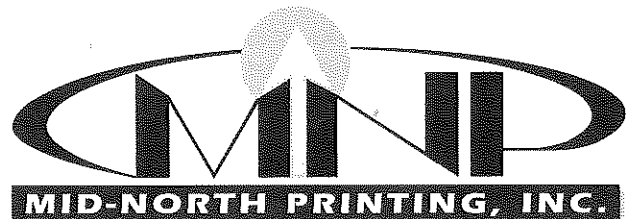
Joann Skowronski

Ann Wright - Coordinator

## **A Note Of Thanks!**

Thank you to Mattie Lee Townsend for generously giving of her time and expertise as a CPA to provide our Historical Society with a professional audit the past several years. She is currently working on the 2009 report. For many reasons, it is crucial that an audit be conducted annually. Thank you Mattie Lee!

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