

Otsego County Historical Society Newsletter



March 2006

MUSEUM WINTER HOURS
WED. 9-12 NOON

989-732-4568

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are off and running at the Museum, getting our displays in shape for our re-opening June 1st.

You will see lots of changes in our displays, working areas and the new Gift Store!

The Board of Directors met on Feb. 22 to kick off the new year. We gained lots of input and ideas for the future.

Roberta Hudson and Doris Schulz helped me with the tour of 81 high school history students on Feb. 24th. Each section of Betsy Sanders' classes are studying the history of the county. They went away with lots of information from our files for their projects. We are looking forward to seeing their final reports!

Ann Wright, Coordinator, is back from her vacation and she was welcomed with open arms as she always has many good ideas for us to implement before opening day.

More information is within the newsletter on our 2006 plans.

Ginny

DONATIONS....Please Remember Us!



Have you thought about donations to the Museum in honor of your spouse, children, parents, friends? This makes a wonderful Christmas, Birthday or "just because" gift to your loved ones. When you make a donation to the Museum in their honor, we will send a card to the honoree so they will know of your thoughtfulness! These donations can be in any amount and if the donation is \$100. or more, their name/names will be added to our Honorarium Board.

Memorial donations may also be made in memory of someone of your choosing and that name will be added to the Memorial Board.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



Greeter training will be
Monday, May 22
at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
and
Tuesday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers are asked to attend one of these training sessions. We will go over the changes at the Museum, check in and out procedures, and all other items related to being a Museum Host.

MISSION of the OTSEGO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To bring together people interested in the history of Otsego County
To discover, collect and preserve materials which helps establish and illustrate the history of the area
To preserve historical buildings and historical sites in Otsego County





RHODA KELSO

Rhoda Kelso is a long-time member of the OCHS, serves as a Board member and is in charge of the Memorials.

She is the mother of John, Marvin, Glen and Barbara Fleming. They have provided her with lots of grandchildren , great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild!

Rhoda enjoys traveling and she and her sister Jo Goodenough take many trips. Recently she went with her daughter Barbara and other family members to Hawaii, the only state Rhoda had not previously visited!

Rhoda is a wonderful addition to the Board of Directors and she brings a spot of sunshine to our meetings.

In addition to her Board duties, Rhoda volunteers as a greeter at the Museum, volunteers with RSVP and puts in lots of hours at the First United Methodist Church. She is a busy lady!!

HERITAGE COOKING CLASS

Our recent Polish/German cooking class went over very well. Participants learned to cook traditional heritage dishes as well as some history of the areas. Our thanks to Sandi and Rudi Edel for teaching this class!

More classes are to come! What would you like to learn? Do you have a favorite dish you could teach? Please let us know.



Volunteer Opportunities

The amount of time you wish to give is up to you! We will provide training for all these tasks. People are needed to work in these areas -

Files—filing
researching information for visitors



Greeters—Museum will be open M-T--The-F-Sat from 10-4 p.m. Greeters work in pair. Shifts are 10-1:00 and 1-4:00 Begins June 1.

Cataloging—We will start on our new cataloging system later this spring. We are looking for people to help with this project.



GRANT RECEIVED

Good News! We have received a grant to purchase the computer software to catalog our artifacts! We applied for the monies through the Community Foundation. They announced that we received the Gordon Everett Family Fund grant.

The software called PastPerfect is recommended by various museum groups as a excellent collection management tool. We can process artifacts, from the initial offer of a donor to taking a digital picture of the item and placing that in the computer along with the description, catalog number, etc. Artifact lists can be pulled based on a word or topic. For example “blacksmithing” typed in the program will bring up a list of all blacksmith tools, books, etc. along with a description, catalog number, location in storage, pictures of items. At a finger tip we can see what we have and where it is!

It will take some time to enter all of our artifacts but it will be worth it. We will start cataloging later in the spring. If you would like to help with this project please let me know. You can leave a message at the Museum or call my home at 231-546-3590. Thanks! Ann

MUSEUM

The Museum is a primary undertaking of the Historical Society. This is where we showcase the area's history. It also serves as the office of OCHS.

Our collection of artifacts keeps growing and we encourage people to keep us in mind when they come across photographs and items of historical significance. They do not have to be "old, old". History is both the very distant past as well as the more recent past.

The Historical files containing pictures, written accounts and newspaper clippings are popular among those searching for information. We constantly add to the files and with our new filing system it is much easier to retrieve information.

CHANGES FOR 2006



We have made a number of changes to the exhibits for 2006...they are not entirely finished at this time but will be by our opening day! Here is a brief look at what is being done....

The **office and work area** has been expanded so we have enough room to sort and catalog our artifacts. The office has been moved to this work area.

Storage cupboards were built recently to take advantage of overhead and other underused space. This has increased our storage - there never is enough!!

It's so nice to have a little more work room. And this change in the back room allowed us to use the old office as an exhibit area. This is where the Medical exhibit is!

Medical Exhibit

With the half door and a window, visitors can look in and see the items a doctor typically used

in years gone by. Our thanks to all those who donated medical items over the past years! Two doctors in Gaylord—Dr. McKillop and Dr. Fox—have their signs displayed here.

An exhibit on the **Dayton Last Block Works** will be made and placed in the "back room". Thanks to some strong hands the DLBW safe was moved so it will be part of this exhibit.. It weighs a ton!.

The **Music Display** is now in the front and looks good!

The **Laundry Display** has more room and a sharp look!

All of this was possible because we have wonderful, hard working volunteers. They have a good time as they move, rearrange and try to make the exhibits look interesting and informative. We owe them a big thank you. **THANKS, DORIS, ROBERTA, GINNY AND ALL OF YOUR HELPERS!**



GIFT STORE

The Gift Store will be in the old medical display area. It will feature all of our books, calendars and maps that we sell. In addition we hope to have books on topics related to our history on consignment from area bookstores. We will also have gift items unique to the area. We picture the gift store as being a quaint little shop that will help entice visitors to shop.

Our thanks to Sandy Allison for taking on the job of store manager. She has great ideas!

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, the Museum has gone through many good changes. All the comments about the different look of the Museum have been favorable, both from members and visitors.

