

Our History, Our Heritage, Our Home



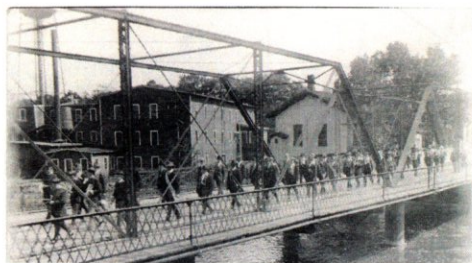
OTSEGO - A Brief History

Otsego is one of the earliest multi-family pioneer settlements in Allegan County. Dr. Samuel Foster and his family arrived from New England to this area in the fall of 1831, building his home on the South bank of the Kalamazoo River in today's downtown.

Much of the platted lands in this area were purchased for development by New Yorker, Horace Comstock, in 1832. Comstock was married to the niece of American author James Fennimore Cooper, and it was Horace who named our town after the Otsego region in upstate New York.

The year 1887 was a landmark date for Otsego. The Bardeen Paper Mill established itself on the North banks of the river and quickly changed the complexion of the town. The commerce of paper production thrived here and by the early 1900s the small town of 3,000 had seven paper mills in operation.

The local history of Michigan's pioneers and manufacturing remains a vital link to our heritage that needs to be remembered and preserved.



OTSEGO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Otsego Area Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting the history and heritage of the area of Otsego, Michigan. Through the generous support of Otsego's Downtown Development Authority, the historic 1907 Waterworks building was rehabilitated as the Otsego Area Historical Museum. The museum actively secures the history of Otsego through public exhibits, programs, research corner, and Saturday morning fun, informal sharing of ideas and history. In order to continue its mission, the OAHS seeks your help with a Sponsor Membership. As a sponsor, you will receive the quarterly Historical Society newsletter and the added benefit of knowing that your dollars will go directly toward supporting programming, exhibits, and the museum's yearly operation.

Otsego Area Historical Society

218 North Farmer
Otsego MI 49078

(269) 692-3775

Email: oahs@otsegohistory.org

SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP

___ Individual	\$10.00
___ Couple	\$15.00
___ Family	\$25.00
___ Individual Lifetime	\$150.00

Name: _____

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Make checks payable to OAHS and mail to:

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I am interested in helping in the following area(s):

- Fundraising
- Volunteer Host
- Maintenance Projects
- Program Refreshments
- Creating Displays
- Archiving Collections
- Cleaning Tombstones
- Historical Demonstrations
- Other _____