



Omena Historical Society Timelines

Volume 5

Fall, 2009

No. 2

OHS CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

A HISTORY OF OMENA POSTMASTERS THE FIRST 100 YEARS, 1859 - 1959 (The first of a two-part series) by Debbie Disch

When Mark Frank retired as the fourteenth person to hold the title of Omena Postmaster, in June, 2009, it marked the 150th anniversary of the appointment of Omena's first postmaster. Aaron B. Page was appointed on June 21, 1859. Prior to that, in 1856, he was named first postmaster in Northport. The appointment of a postmaster sounds very civilized, but, in fact, Omena was still a wilderness.

The first white settlers in Omena - Rev. Peter Dougherty, along with George A. Craker and Lewis Miller, had just arrived in Omena in 1852, and started building the New Mission Indian School on Omena Heights. No buildings were completed until 1853. As recently as 1851, there were no roads in the area. Travel was largely on foot or by water. The Omena Presbyterian Church was built in 1858. The original building is still in that location and is the oldest church in Leelanau County. The manse, which was the Dougherty's home, was also built in 1858, but further east than the current manse. It eventually became the Omena Inn, and part of that building was restored by Walter and Beverly Gaudette in 1970 for their home.

In 1854, Aaron Page arrived in Northport, then named Wakazooville after Chief Wakazoo. He married Almira Dame, and they had a son, Charles. The Page family came to Omena in 1858 and built a home on the hill just west of Omena, which also served as Page's Rooming and Boarding House for LumbeRmen. The house was situated across from the current Sunset Lodge. Page was in the first contingent from this area to volunteer for the Civil War. He was apparently able to retain the position of Postmaster during that period, as the records indicate that he was Postmaster continuously from 1859-1881. In the early 1850s, mail came only every three or four months,

often by way of Mackinaw, brought by Indians or messengers passing through.

The account of the Northport Post Office in *A History of Leelanau Township*, published in 1982, states that up until 1872, the mail "straggled" in about three times a month by messenger or by sailing vessels entering Grand Traverse Bay. Not until a postal route was established did it come as frequently as once a week. In the early days, the job of postmaster was not full time. Until the appointment of Aaron Page, mail was dropped in the parlor of the Dougherty home in the manse, and people came and found their own mail. During his twenty-two-year tenure, Aaron Page located the post office in his home. Some of the handmade mailboxes from his house are still stored in the back of the post office.



John F. Anderson was the second postmaster, but served only briefly, from February, 1881, to September, 1881. He had a general store in Omena, but it is not clear whether the post office moved at that time or not. John Anderson came to the Omena area from Bleking, Sweden in the
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Timelines

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OHS Timelines Mission Statement:

*Our purpose is to showcase Omena's
past as we chronicle the present,
with an understanding that today's news
becomes tomorrow's history.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time this issue of Timelines reaches your doorstep, the vivid autumn colors of Omena's woods will be subdued and perhaps a gentle dusting of white will surround us. We will be relishing stark November days and the unique beauty of bare trees, empty beaches and open waters as our peaceful little bend in the road quietly prepares for winter.

But we will miss many of you, our "snowbird" friends, as we will miss the songbirds that filled our summer. And we will remember the fine OHS programs and events we shared - and all the fun and frivolity of the Mayor's Inauguration and Parade. What a joyous gathering for our special community!

The Board especially wants to thank the Archives and Museum Committee for the outstanding agricultural exhibit, which drew so many grateful visitors to our doors - and our docents who greeted and guided them with such aplomb.

We are happy so many of you attended our Annual Meeting when we acknowledged the enormous contributions of three retiring Board members: Dave Pohlod, Mary Stanton and Bob Krist, and were delighted to welcome Linda Kemper, Bob Smart and Ellie Stephenson to our ranks. Caryn DeVries' talk about the history of Shady Trails was a rare treat and a real history lesson for us all and, again, we thank her.

You will be hearing from us through our new and exciting email connection, Constant Contact. If we do not have your email address now, please be sure Judy Knorp gets it and includes you among OHS Crier subscribers.

Dick and I have long wanted to spend a Christmas in Colonial Williamsburg and this year we are going to do it! We hope this holiday finds all of you in that one special place you most want to be, surrounded by the love of family and friends. We wish you merriment and warmth and will toast each one of you on New Year's Eve, with happy hopes for next summer's gatherings in Omena



ALWAYS TRYING TO IMPROVE

Jim Miller

We hope you have noticed that we have joined the ranks of our contemporary counterparts by adding a touch of color with this issue. A special thanks goes to our president, Nana Kennedy, for suggesting and supporting the idea. Our goal is to provide you with an attractive, informative and entertaining newsletter. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Our staff wishes you the happiest of holiday seasons. We hope you like our "new look" and that you will offer us your comments and suggestions. ❖

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CORRECTED VERSION OF THE PRINT EDITION YOU RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER. YOU WILL FIND THREE UNDERLINED CORRECTIONS ON PAGE 7.

THE SCOTT/HOLMES FARM**Kathy Miller**

When Jim and I found ourselves buying property in Omena in 2003, we knew no one here. One of our first social outings as newcomers was to take part in a “privy dig”. Our new friends, Amanda and Dan Stewart, had actually organized this archaeological adventure, which probably didn’t have much historical relevance, but it led us to an appreciation of the history of this area we now call home.



Amanda and Dan now live at the old farm bought by her parents, Herbert and Dorothy Holmes, in 1983. It is a beautiful old place, and the sunny day we participated in the “dig” along with several others, we got a tour of the farmhouse, barn, outbuildings, and fields. Among the trees, orchards, and berry bushes, we had a wonderful outdoor lunch prepared by our privy hosts. It did make me wonder about days gone by. Amanda provided me with pictures and narrative for this article.

John (Ed) and Alice Scott first established a home at this site on Overlook Road in the early 1890s on land purchased from George Craker. Their son, Russell Scott, provided several letters to Amanda from his Long Beach, CA, home in the 1980s after Amanda’s folks had moved in.

He wrote that not everyone was suited for farming; even then, young people wanted to become independent and move away. His family had a love for the land. They always had plenty to eat and good clothes to wear. He remembered having ham, steak and eggs with pancakes often for breakfast. They grew their own fruit and vegetables and usually had a surplus. They often traded with their neighbors. He remembered families raising “yearling beef animals” and during the winter the animals were butchered, quartered, and sold. Most farmers had a smokehouse to cure hams and bacon. During the summers, fresh fish on ice would be driven through the countryside. His mother put up hundreds of cans of fruits and, until 1910, cut up thin slices of apple and sun-dried

them for the best tasting pies he remembered.

Much of the county was wooded when he was a boy in the early 1900s, although Scott knew them to be second growth as the prime trees had been lumbered off for the rebuilding of Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871. Streams and creeks hadn’t dried up and had been turned into drainage ditches. Brook trout were plentiful. The summer provided wild strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and pin cherries and he often picked them at the family farm. I can vouch for those berry patches. Last summer my young nephew, Will, visiting from California, learned up-close the importance of wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants while berrying. The cobbler made from those blackberries didn’t even make it to the table; my brother and I stood at the stove eating the warm cobbler right out of the pan. The rest of the family didn’t stand a chance.

Russ Scott’s letter in 1984 to Amanda tells an interesting story about his family’s relationship with the local native Americans. “.....We had a country school in those days located on the south-west corner of the crossroad north of where your folks live. The site is now covered with brush. Both my sister and I went to that school. There was about 15 white and about the same number of Indians. I grew up with them. They were Chippewas and I learned their language fairly well. We played together at school and I went fishing and hunting with them. I played baseball on their team in Omena. I even had a little Indian girl friend when I was about 8 years old. Her name was Anna Neongaby. They were my friends and I was one of theirs. Basically they were honest. It usually was the whites that made them otherwise.

"Around 1905 my father was made Justice of the Peace. The sheriff lived in Leland, the county seat. He had a good deputy sheriff in Northport. Occasionally he would arrest an Indian usually for being drunk and disorderly. The deputy would pick up old chief Agosa and they would bring the culprit to Dad. A few times Dad held court in the living room until mother put the kibosh to that, then they went to the barn. Dad usually gave the Indian a sentence of two days work on the county road. Try to get by with that kind of a court order today. Once the old chief and Dad disagreed. Dad had given the young Indian a sentence of two days of work on the road. Old Chief Agosa said, "Ed, give um three days, he pretty bad boy." *Editor's note: Russ's father was Russell (Ed) Scott.*

"Back in those days potatoes were planted and harvested by hand. Dad relied on the Indians to plant and harvest. He could always get a crew for that and even to work on the road. They would bring their squaws and small children. On several occasions I saw papooses (babies) tied to their boards swinging happily from the low limbs of trees. The Indians were a lot like the Hawaiian natives.

cont'd on next page...

SCOTT/HOLMES FARM *cont'd from page 3*

You could not depend on them as steady employees. I could tell a lot about our Indians. Our government has made a horrible mess of their lives. The answer, they have been badly misunderstood.”

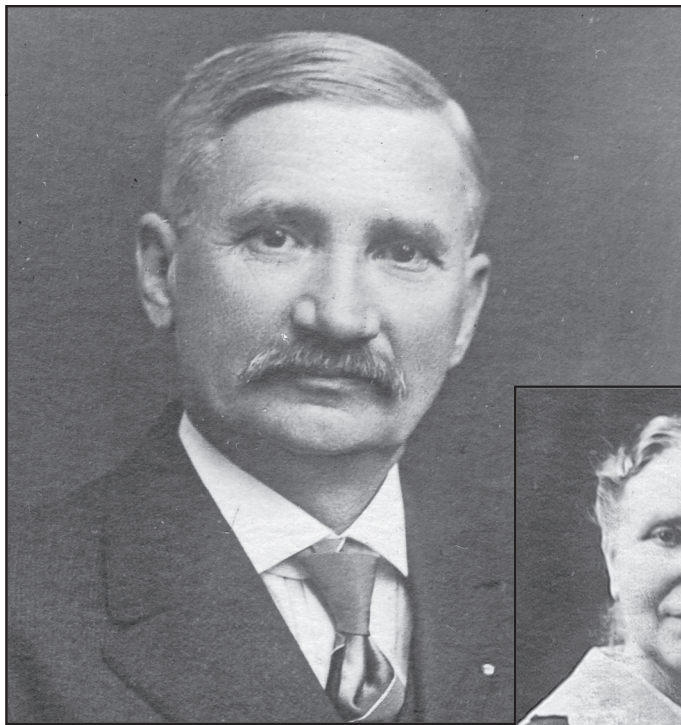
The school referred to in Russ Scott's account is the Craker School, built in 1860, Omena's first school. No trace is left of the school, once located at the southwest corner of Overlook and Davis roads. Many of us learned of its existence and location this past summer when we participated in the OHS road rally and treasure hunt, its location being one of our “goals”. It seems there is always something to learn about our little village. ❖

POSTMASTERS *cont'd from page 1*

... 1860's with his second wife. His son, Andrew, by his first wife did not accompany them. John was Annette Deibel and George Anderson's great-grandfather.

Sidney A. Keyes was appointed postmaster in 1881. He was born in Coldwater, Michigan, spent most of his youth in Iowa, and came to the Omena area with his parents in 1868, when he was 29 years old. In 1870, he bought an eighty acre farm on the west side of Omena Bay. He was also involved in the lumbering business. As postmaster, he moved the post office into his home.

He served as postmaster until 1887, when Andrew F. Anderson, the son of John Anderson, was appointed.



Andrew F. and Maret Bahle Anderson

Andrew had come to the United States in 1869 by himself at the age of 12. He had

not joined his father in Omena, but had gone to relatives in Galesburg, IL. He came to Omena in 1880 and worked for about a year with his father in his store in Omena. He returned to Illinois, but came back shortly after that and worked for a while for W. S. Johnson in Suttons Bay. In 1883, he built his own store in Omena, and the post office moved into his store in 1887. That building is now the site of Tamarack Gallery.

While working in Suttons Bay, Andrew met and married Maret Bahle, who was originally from Norway. He and Maret had five sons: Louis, George, Frank, Oscar and Carl. Oscar was the father of Omena resident and OHS member, Annette Deibel. Louis was the father of OHS member, George Anderson of Northport.

Until fairly recent times, the appointment of postmasters was very political. In 1894, Sidney Keyes was again appointed postmaster, and the post office moved back into his house. That was likely related to the fact that Andrew Anderson was a prominent Republican, and Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, had been elected President in 1892. In the intervening years, Keyes had married Jeanette Ballard in 1889. Keyes was 50 years old and this was his first marriage. Mrs. Ballard was widowed. For some period of time, they operated the Hotel Leelanau on Omena Heights.

This experience, and the boom in the resort business in the Grand Traverse region, led Mr. Keyes to building The Clovers resort on his property south of Omena. It grew to include four buildings and could accommodate 75 guests. He continued his farming on the remainder of the property, and its produce also supplied the resort. The 1903 Sprague's History of Grand Traverse and Leelanaw Counties called The Clovers one of the “best resorts on Grand Traverse Bay”.

William McKinley, a Republican, was elected in 1896, and in 1898, the same year that Sidney Keyes opened The Clovers, Andrew Anderson was re-appointed

postmaster. The post office moved back to Anderson's Store, and he continued in the post until 1914. During that time, in 1906, rural delivery began in Omena. Harry Doe delivered letters and packages from a special wooden box on his wagon. His box is on display in our museum.

Delivery continued until 1955 and served an average of 120 patrons. Ed Egeler was the rural delivery carrier for 29 of those 50 years. Fred Putnam recalls how important the mail was when he was a child. The once-a-year purchase of new school clothes was done from catalogs, and the arrival of the

purchases was eagerly anticipated. When the Omena route was discontinued, patrons had to change their mailing addresses to either the Northport or Suttons Bay route, but delivery service continued..

In 1914, Andrew was succeeded by his son, Louis Anderson, who served as postmaster until 1929. Louis was also involved in running the store with his father and eventually bought it from him. *Omena – A Place in Time*, tells us that, when Louis pursued a political career in addition to being postmaster, government regulations required that the Post Office must have a separate entrance from his business interests. So, in 1926, he added an addition to the west side of the store, to the left of the front entrance.

After buying the Anderson Store in Omena from his father, Louis opened a store in Northport. He took on a partner, Adolph Jacobson, who succeeded him as postmaster, serving from 1929 to 1940. Adolph managed the Omena store, and Louis moved to Northport.

Homer Fouts became postmaster in 1940. He and his wife, Myrtle, and four sons had come to Omena in 1932 to live with their daughter, Florence, and son-in-law, Horace Wheeler, at Sunset Lodge. He and his sons were hard workers and were instrumental in maintaining Sunset Lodge. Homer also had a quick wit and was a talented writer. For several years, he published a column "*Omena Omens*" in the Cherryland Review. Bert Wheeler, Horace's nephew, remembers Homer coming to the Lodge for lunch from the post office in the store.

Until 1947, when the Kimmerlys bought the general store, the post office had a 'summer location' down the street from Anderson's Store in what was then the ice cream parlor and is now our Omena Post Office. According to *Omena – A Place in Time*, they were thus able to sell merchandise, such as post cards, rugs and Indian baskets, to the crowds of summer people without disturbing the regular customers. George Anderson has great memories of the annual move and the activity in the ice cream parlor.

Homer Fouts died just before Myles 'Mike' and Bea Kimmerly moved to Omena in 1947 and bought Anderson's Store. Bea Kimmerly stepped in and was the acting postmaster for almost two years, from 1947 to 1949. She and Geneva Smith and Horace Wheeler all sat for the exam in 1949, but Horace was a veteran, and received extra points for that and received the job. Horace Wheeler served as postmaster until 1965. When Mike Kimmerly was appointed probate judge in 1969, Kimmerly's Store was closed, and the post office moved to its current location – one hundred years after postal service was established in Omena. ❖

EYAAWING CULTURAL CENTER OPENS

Jim Miller

A long time vision of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has become a reality. On May 30, 2009, the ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened the Eyaawing Museum & Cultural Center in Peshawbestown. The new center functions as a museum, visitor center and community archive for tribal members, and those interested in learning more about the Anishinaabek people, of which the Grand Traverse Band is a part. In the language of the Anishinaabek, "Eyaawing" translates as "who we are."



Eyaawing's graceful roofline, overlooking the bay.

Eyaawing's mission is to gather, interpret, and maintain a record of the history of the Grand Traverse Band. Their story is told within the context of the Anishinaabek's respect for the circle of life, honor for their families, and the telling of their true heritage.

The Grand Traverse Band has gone to great lengths to provide this window into their culture and heritage. We urge all to visit this wonderful new center to learn more about our country's Native American people and their culture. You will find it fascinating and informative, from the ancient battle canoe to the preserved pair of bald eagles suspended, with talons entwined, from the ceiling of the main hall. You will admire fine craftsmanship and learn of the band's long tribal history. I was surprised to learn that the men deliberately weighted their dugout canoes with stones and sank them when not in use, thus preventing the wood from drying out and splitting.

It's a short trip from Omena to Peshawbestown, and you will enjoy an hour or two learning about our Native American neighbors in Peshawbestown. The Center is open all year. For winter hours, call 231-534-7764 or 231-534-7768. Admission free; donations welcome. ❖

OHS MEMBER'S FIRST NOVEL RELEASED

The following is excerpted from a recent article in the Leelanau Enterprise.

Congratulations to Omena author and OHS member, Donald Lystra, on the release of his debut novel, *Season of Water and Ice*, a coming-of-age story set in Northern Michigan. It takes place in 1957, and the narrator is a fourteen-year-old boy. It was published by the Northern Illinois University Press imprint subsidiary, Switchgrass Books, which was created to be its fiction division.

Lystra started writing about ten years ago, while he was still working as an engineer in Ann Arbor. He received a fellowship from the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire about a year ago, and spent five weeks there finishing his revisions of this book. *Season of Water and Ice* is available at Dog Ears Books in Northport and Brilliant Books in Suttons Bay. Don is currently working on his second novel. ❖

Be on the lookout! Book-signing events are being scheduled for this Spring and will be announced soon.

A DOGGONE GREAT DAY IN OMENA

Ed Oberndorf

It was a cold February night when Nana Kennedy saw a TV piece about a dog recently elected mayor of a small town in Kentucky. Her husband, Dick, thought this might be an exciting fund-raising event for OHS, and, with much organization, time and preparation, his many committees put together a most successful election campaign and inauguration celebration that captured the interest of Omena residents, our neighboring communities and an amazing number of tourists.

The candidates (22 canines, 1 equine, 1 feline, 1 snail and a worm) utilized banners, roadside signs and a unique program/brochure with slogans, candidate photos, and political "promos."

The Winner was Tucker Joyce, a well-qualified and statesman-like Golden Retriever owned by Bob, Diane and Jack Joyce. His inauguration followed a colorful parade featuring an antique car, several floats and the Northport Oompah Band. Their music brought smiles to a great turnout. Following the impressive inauguration ceremony and presentation of the new mayor and his village council, an Ice Cream Social further sweetened an already perfect day.

The Omena Historical Society sponsored this history-making event, and is most appreciative of all those who participated. Our expectations were greatly exceeded. One observer asked, "Who would ever believe that a bunch of animals could bring Omena so much camaraderie, excitement and fun?" ❖

ANSWERS TO THE MAY TRIVIA CONTEST

1. The water system that served eight early cottages on Omena Point, until 2001, was dubbed The Omena Point Authority. p. 179
2. The last regular pastor of the Omena Presbyterian Church was Rev. Joseph M. Rodgers. p. 254
3. The Kalchik family purchased the old Oaks Hotel in 1913 from the agent for Gen. Grierson's estate. p. 76
4. Joey and Larry Bensley now own the farmhouse built in 1866 by George Craker. p. 31
5. Chief Aghosa was given the Christian name, Addison Potts, in 1843, when he was baptized at Old Mission. p. 5
6. Until the mid-'50s, local schools closed for a week each fall, so children could help with the potato harvest. The week was known as the "Potato Vacation" p. 37
7. When the railroad reached Omena in 1903, Omena farmers could replace their oxen with horses.. p. 34
8. During the 1930s, the Anderson Store provided advice and advertisements on printed flyers called BARN-E-GRAMS. p. 44
9. "Old Chet's Dinner Bell" referred to the bell at The Craker (Brown) Schoolhouse. p. 45
10. Shady Trails was a speech camp, operated by the University of Michigan.. p. 246

OHS SUMMER PROGRAMS IN REVIEW

Kathy Miller

Our efforts for the summer of '09 were fun and informative. Beginning with the July 1 program on the "Three Civil War Generals from Omena," presented by Larry Bensley, our PCTH venue was SRO. As always, Larry, the consummate teacher, knows how to work a crowd.

On July 18, the mood changed when over twenty people gathered at the Blounts' home and were assigned to a team with a captain/driver to participate in a rally and historical treasure hunt. From the site of Omena's first school to Aaron Page's boarding house we "raced" (legally, of course) to find the clues at the eight historical sites. We ended up at the Blounts for a hot dog picnic and lots of laughs as team strategies were revealed. We'd definitely like to do this again! Our thanks to Joan and Dale Blount for hosting this fun event.

Our annual meeting at Shady Trails included the history of the camp. Our speaker, Caryn DeVries, opened with her own early involvement; being kicked off the tennis courts many years ago. From that auspicious beginning, she segued into the University of Michigan's involvement when they owned and operated it as a camp for boys who

had disabilities, mainly speech-related. Caryn, being a speech pathologist herself, was able to relate and inform the rest of us of those early years, beginning in 1932. In the audience was a former camper and counselor and his wife, who had met at the camp and who contributed to this program. The camp is now owned by OHS member, Laura Deibel, and is used as a summer day camp for young children and meeting venue for non-profit organizations such as ours. Ed Oberndorf ended the program by recognizing the 15th anniversary of OHS.

The season ended with the program about Omena's agricultural history held on August 15. Local farming families, represented by Ole Kiersey, Janet Novak and Deb Disch interacted with the audience about their families' experiences. Early farming utensils and artifacts were used and memories were shared.

As program chair, I'd like to thank committee members, George Anderson, Ed Oberndorf, Joan Blount, Joey and Larry Bensley, and Jim Miller. Now we will begin "brainstorming" during the cold winter months to come up with programs for you to enjoy next summer. ❖

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alice Littlefield, Treasurer

I am happy to report that the OHS is in good fiscal condition for 2009-2010. We are extremely appreciative for the support of our many generous contributors and fundraising volunteers.

The end of last fiscal year (Sept 1, 2008-Aug, 31, 2009) found us with balances of \$8,927 in the checking account and \$26,534 in CDs, for a total of \$35,561. Our receipts came to \$21,631, with the largest amounts coming from the annual Caretaker drive (\$6,375), fundraising events (6,817), and surney contributions (\$2,100). Our very successful and highly entertaining mayoral contest was a major contributor to fundraising. Disbursements totaled \$14,929, including \$5000 to purchase the surney, \$1,614 for utilities and building maintenance, and \$1,493 for retail items.

Contributions from our current OHS Caretaker Membership drive have been coming in for the past several weeks at about the same levels as last year. We remind Caretakers who have not yet responded to do so soon. ❖

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that The Oaks Lodge burned down under suspicious circumstances and the cause remains a mystery to this day?

... that Mougey's Lake was the most reliable and primary source for Kimmerly's store's ice supply?

MILESTONES

DEBUT NOVEL RELEASED: On October 1, 2009, *Season of Winter and Ice*, by Omenaite **Donald Lystra**, was released by Switchgrass Books, a division of Northern Illinois University Press.

GRAND OPENING: The **Eyaawing Museum & Cultural Center** in Peshawbestown celebrated it's Grand Opening on May 30, 2009. (*see article on page5*)

DECEASED: **Jack Frohman**, long-time Omena summer resident; died August 9, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Bercie Mack Frohman, his children, Jan (Bob) Atallo, David Nathan (Pam) Frohman, Robert Barnet Frohman Thomas M. Cynthia) Frohman and eight grandchildren. Mr. Frohman had a long career with Northwest Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio.

DECEASED: **Robert Jay DeVrou**, resident of Omena; born March 16, 1941; died on August 5, 2010 at his home on West Bayshore Drive. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and his children, Tom (Deb) of Holland, Rev. Wayne (Amy) of Wisconsin, and Pamela (Jim) Smith of Suttons Bay. Nine grandchildren also survive.

DECEASED: **Frank C. Kalchik**, life-long Omena resident; born July 2, 1911 to Joseph and Anna Mary Kropp Kalchik; died September 9, 2009. He was a local businessman, cherry farmer and processor and is survived by his children, Ralph (Nancy) Kalchik, Patricia (Marlin) Bussey, Joanne (Allan) Dalzell and Gerald (Nancy) Kalchik, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife and a son, Ronald.

MARRIED: **Jennifer Buehler**, daughter of Thomas and Marsha Buehler of Omena, on September 26, 2009, to Amar Shabbir, of Portland, OR, at the Cherry Basket Farm in Omena.

DECEASED: **Mary Aler Smith**, born in Cincinnati, OH, December 24, 1921; died October 8, 2009. In 1973, she married Tom Smith (now deceased) of Omena and joined him in his cherry orchard operation on Omena Heights. She is survived by five step-children: Debby (Les) Disch of Omena, Rink (Karon) Smith of Big Rapids, Josephine (Carl) Robertson of Cromwell, CT, Stewart (Jill) of Butte, Montana, and Marian Electa (Mark) Powell of Mukilteo, WA. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Carolin (Bill) Renz, of Cincinnati and Omena, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

WEBSITE RENOVATION COMPLETE!

Please visit www.omenahistoricalsociety.org or www.omenahistoricalsociety.com to admire the exciting changes. Our renovation has come a long way this year, thanks to the gifts of time and talent donated by "webmeisters," Jim and Judy.

You'll find a "For Sale" page offering collectible all-new decorator tiles, holiday tree decorations, greeting cards, coffee cups and, our exciting Guest Book. And, yes, we still have a few *Omena, A Place in Time* coffee table books available. We also provide event information, many photographs, comments and much, much more. You'll love the Guest Book, where you may even find a note from an old friend! ❖

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THE WINTER MONTHS
CALL JOEY BENSLEY
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OH COME, ALL YE HELPFUL!

Bundle up and help deck the Village
for the holidays.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ 3:00

Then enjoy hors'douevres & wine
and the friendship of neighbors.

Omena Historical Society

P. O Box 125, Omena, Michigan 49674

OHS TIMELINES

Fall, 2009

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