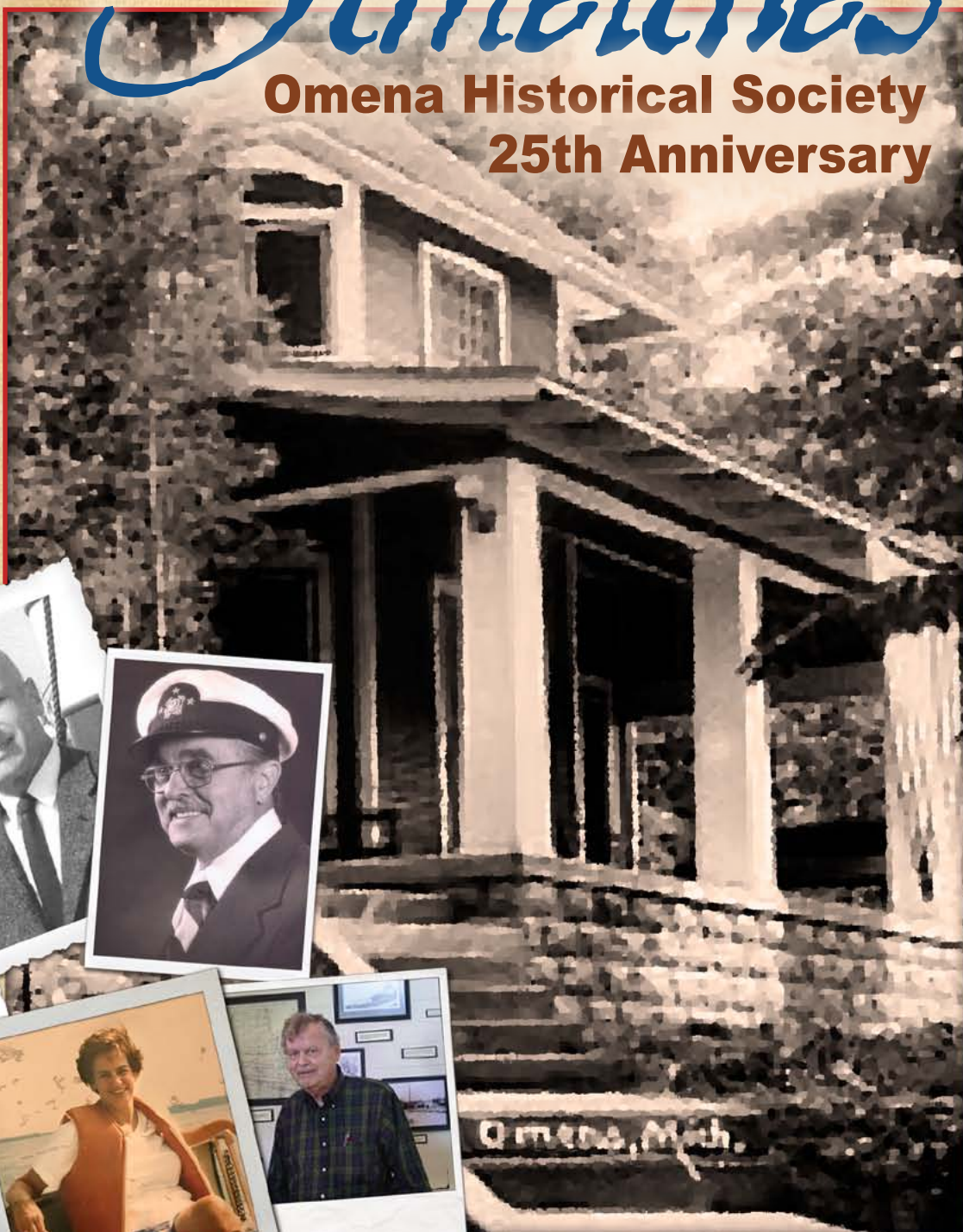


OMENA

Timelines

**Omena Historical Society
25th Anniversary**



From the Editor

Editor: Keith Disselkoen

This issue of the OHS Timelines features a summary of the 40+ years of the existence of the society – first as an informal gathering of stories and information on our beautiful community and then in 1994 the formal recognition of the Society. The faithful collecting of the information making up the vast majority of our history goes to the dedicated hunter/gatherers among us including Ed Oberndorf, Suzy Mulligan, Bill Marbach and Joey Bensley.

Following up on previous issues, we have also included stories about ongoing programs of the society, interesting details of our museum and more background to the two previous editions on the Omena Historic District and the company it keeps in our region.

Of particular assistance in producing this Timelines version, great credit goes to Debby Disch and Joey Bensley.

We trust you will find this edition as interesting and timely as past editions.

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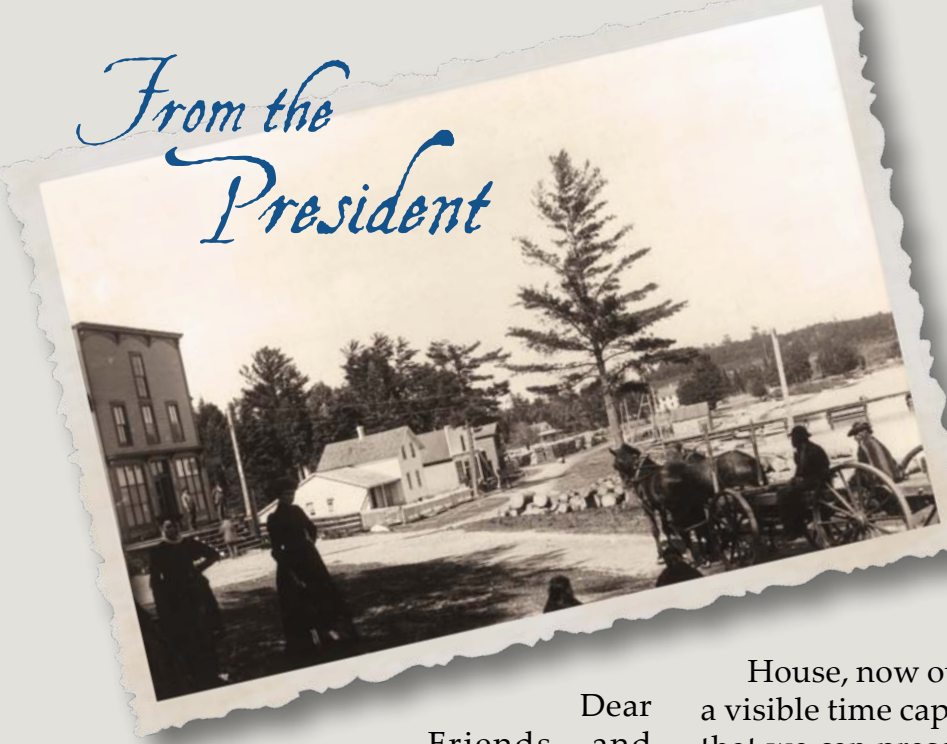
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Timelines Mission Statement

To showcase Omena’s past as
we chronicle the present, with an
understanding that today’s news is
tomorrow’s history.
www.OmenaHistoricalSociety.org

From the President



Reverend Dougherty had a vision for Omena when he sailed into and settled in the area in 1858. OHS did as well. To educate the people, to create a foundation for a thriving community and, as the local resorts did 100 years ago, offer a service to all in a very special place on a sparkling, deep bay.

The Putnam-Cloud Tower House, now our beautiful museum, became a visible time capsule that captures our past so that we can preserve it for future generations.

As we look to the next 25 years, my hope is that we can continue to offer free admission to the public based on financial security. Maintaining a 165 year old home in 2044 seems daunting now. We are dedicated to spending the next quarter century uncovering more history and documenting new stories that are current events to us but may one day be included in a future Timelines as history.

It has been my privilege to serve as your 2019 President.

Sally Shapiro, President

Front Cover

During the summer of 1978, a small group met on the Gorham Cottage porch. (Pictured on the cover.)

There they started what would become the Omena Historical Society. The five founders were, clockwise from top, Jack Kemble, Vernon Keye, Ed Oberndorf, Mary Helen Ray and Fred Gorham.

Dear Friends and Colleagues of OHS
As we reflect over the past 25 years, our family of the Omena Historical Society has helped us to become a vital part of the Omena Community. The foundation for OHS actually began as a discussion in the 1970’s. Many knew then about the rich history of the area and wanted to preserve it. Work began to interview and record memories of key individuals and collect and store photos and key documents. Finally, on a summer day in ’94, their conversation became the motivation resulting in a commitment for that group of people to take action. A plan was formed, registration papers filed and money raised. We now celebrate their dedication.

Raising money in 2004 to move an historic, crumbling house from the Jesuit retreat of Villa Marquette was the largest challenge that we faced. With the assistance of the Omena Village Preservation Association, land was acquired to move the 125 year old home up M-22 to its final location.

History of the Omena Historical Society

by Debby Disch

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Omena Historical Society (OHS), but its origins actually go back more than 50 years. In the late 1960's, Ed Oberndorf approached his mother-in-law, Mary Louise Vail, with a concern that the Omena community was losing its more senior members, and, with them, much of the first-hand knowledge of the history of the area. Out of that discussion came an organized effort to tape record interviews with some of the older residents about their memories of Omena. These tapes, and their transcriptions, are still part of the OHS archives and have been an important source of information over the years.

Dr. John (Jack) Kemble did the first tape recording of his own recollections in 1978. Following that, many other interviews were done in the late 1970's through the 1990's, and some interviewing continues even into the present day.



Fred Gorham's Cottage

In 1978, over forty years ago, the idea of forming an historical society was initiated at a meeting held at Fred Gorham's cottage.

Attending the meeting were Ed Oberndorf, Jack Kemble, Mary Helen Ray, and Vernon Keye.

Vin Moore joined the founding committee after he retired from his medical practice in the mid-1980's, and turned out to be a "walking filing cabinet" of early Omena memories.

Bill Marbach was another major factor in the formation of the OHS, serving as archivist and doing all of the paperwork necessary to become an official 501(c)(3). Mary Louise Vail continued to support the efforts of the committee. Although it was not an official organization until 1994, the OHS founding members began



1994: Celebration for receipt of the IRS certification.

Ed Oberndorf left, first president of OHS and Bill Marbach, first OHS archivist and preparer of paperwork for OHS to become an official organization

meeting regularly twice a year after that first meeting in 1978. Suzie Mulligan and Jonnie Hodgson also joined the group in those early years. Suzie provided a tremendous service by storing all of the documents and pictures that were donated. Attaining official status as a non-profit organization in 1994 was the culmination of years of work by the committee. Appropriately, its first visionary, Ed Oberndorf, was the first president of the OHS. Bill Marbach continued for 10 years as the first archivist.

While it's hard to summarize what the OHS has meant to the Omena community over the past 25, and really 40, years, its accomplishments fall into three major categories.

Archiving the History of Omena

Ed Oberndorf's vision of capturing and saving the memories and history of Omena have been greatly realized now after 40 years of collecting documents, pictures and memorabilia from residents, both year-round and seasonal. The first request from the committee appeared in the Omena Traverse Yacht Club newsletter, *The Breeze*, in December, 1978. Then, in July, 1989, the committee sent a letter out to many people throughout the Omena community asking for donations or loans of historical documents - photos, diaries, letters, news clippings, etc. The committee spent the next year copying and archiving all of these documents.

General Benjamin Grierson Cottage named "The Garrison" with two story "widows watch" observation tower to watch and catalogue passing ships (towers long gone - "The Rule Cottage")



As mentioned above, Suzie Mulligan initially stored all of the archives. Subsequently, OHS was able to use the Omena Community Room in the firehall as a location for its files and where they held their board meetings.

"Omena - A Place in Time"

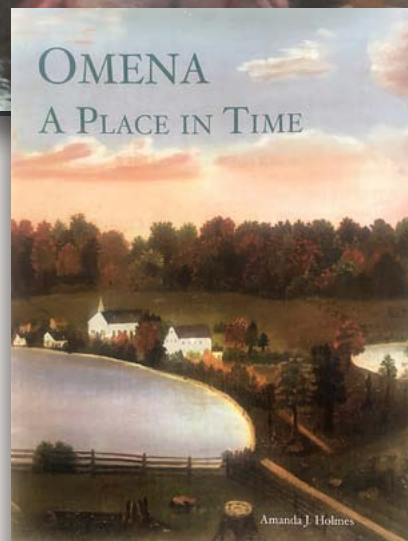
One of the great legacies of the Omena Historical Society is the book, *Omena - A Place in Time: A Sesquicentennial History, 1852 - 2002*, researched and written by historian Amanda J. Holmes, assisted by the OHS book committee, and published in 2003. In her preface, Amanda traces the origins of the book back to a conversation on the Oberndorf porch in 1979. Subsequently, Larry Bensley took up the charge to make such a book possible.

In her acknowledgements, Amanda says, "Firm foundations for this work came from Larry Bensley, whose ceaseless energy raising money and finding a publisher made the dream of a book on Omena a reality."

Dale Blount was the Editor and the hard-working Editorial Board was comprised of Joey Bensley, Joan Blount, Bill Marbach and Ed Oberndorf. Amanda also acknowledges many other important community resources, including Vin Moore, Carolyn Marbach, Tom and Marsha Buehler, and Ginny Johnstone, who owned Sunset Lodge at that time.

The book is available at the OHS Museum and is a must-have book for anyone with a connection to Omena.

Once the OHS was organized, and the archives were growing exponentially, it became apparent that the organization would benefit greatly from a permanent home, and especially one where the archives could be protected.



Members of the Editorial Committee for "Omena - A Place in Time". Front row: Ed Oberndorf, Joey Bensley and Mary Helen Ray; Back row: Bill Marbach, Joan Blount, author Amanda Holmes, Larry Bensley and Dale Blount

The Putnam-Cloud Tower House and Omena Historical Society Museum

The Putnam-Cloud Tower House in downtown Omena is now both home to the history of the area and part of that history.

In 1871, Rinaldo and Mary Donovan Putnam left Canada and came to Omena by boat. They purchased land from General George Custer and his wife Libby one mile south of Omena, where the Villa Marquette is now located. In 1876 they built a frame house to accommodate their growing family.

In 1893, Frank and Julia Cloud, from Cincinnati, purchased the farmhouse and the surrounding land. They expanded the house to be their summer home. Crown-ing the addition was a low, broad tower, and the family referred to it as the "Tower House". When Julia Cloud died in 1936, she bequeathed the family properties to her children, one of whom was the Rev. Charles H. Cloud of the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus. He subsequently donated 130 acres of the Omena farm, including the Tower House, to the Society. Marsha Buehler and Jim Centner are Cloud family descendants.

In the fall of 2003, Mary Hallett Stanton, whose father and brother had been caretakers at the Villa, learned that the Tower House was going to be demolished. Mary approached the Omena Historical Society (OHS) with the idea of OHS saving and relocating the structure. Working through Fr. Jerome Odbert, SJ, the head of the Jesuit Order in Detroit, the owners of the Villa Marquette Complex, the Jesuits agreed to donate the building. The order also made a generous



Members of the Putnam Cloud Tower House committee, from left: Marsha Buehler, David Viskochil, Joey Bensley, Gordon from H.D. Movers LLC, Sally Viskochil and Mary Stanton

Larry Bensley holds the ladder while Joey works at the top



Walter Gaudette did much of the electrical work in the restoration.

contribution of the funds they had allocated for demolition to help with the cost of the move. A committee consisting of Mary Stanton, Marsha Buehler, David and Sally Viskochil, Jim Centner, Joey Bensley, who was then president of OHS, and then County Commissioner Mary Tonneberger began the task of researching how to move a house of this size.

On June 24, 2004, downtown Omena was crowded with spectators who were treated to an exciting spectacle of a house perched on top of a mammoth trailer. It was skillfully backed into a portion of land that looked like it would

never accommodate the size of the structure. But it did, and comfortably.

Funds needed to be raised, not only to move the building, but then to do the restoration work. The restoration was completed in just over two years. The project would not have been possible without the hard work and generosity of many people in and around the Omena community.

Over \$35,000 in grant money was received, including grants from Rotary Charities, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Leelanau Township Community Foundation, and the Oleson Foundation. The support of Sally Viskochil and her late husband David was key to the project's success.

Jim Miller and Larry Bensley work on restoration inside

Ed Oberndorf worked for those entire two years raising money from individuals. Joey and Larry Bensley worked tirelessly from the inception of the idea, including uncountable hours donated to the restoration work. An amazing 4,000 hours of volunteer work from many community members went into the move and restoration.

An On-going Legacy

Thanks to vision and commitment of a handful of residents, the Omena Historical Society became a reality, and its existence continues to bring in more visionaries, volunteers, and contributors to chronicling the on-going history of Omena.



The Putnam-Cloud Tower House and Omena Historical Society Museum

OHS Record Keeping

by Keith Disselkoen

Gathering together documents, photographs and memories captured on tape is a tireless and extremely time consuming task. The total number of archived items of the Society numbers into the tens of thousands. The process began very informally in Omena in the 1970s and has been instrumental in forming the history so rich in detail about the Village of Omena and its cast of characters. When the Society was formally established in 1994, we already had over 25 years of document collection. Since our formation, we have had three archivists, Bill Marbach, Amanda Holmes (briefly) and Joey Bensley.

Bill Marbach had a lifelong love of Omena beginning in August of 1928 at the age of 6 when his father, Rev. Dr. William H. Marbach, became the first month long summer minister at the Omena Presbyterian Church. For the rest of his life, Bill and his family returned to Omena and treasured the friendships they made over the years. In 1990 Bill, along with his wife Carolyn began collecting Omena history. They thought it was important to chronicle events to pass on to future generations. Bill felt people reflecting on the history of a place need to understand events in the context of the past, not the lens of the present.

From the Early 2000's Joey Bensley, assumed the role of archivist and she has continued to compile documents and historical details not contained in Amanda's book published in 2003. Joey's constant vigilance and massive collection and cataloging of information stands as a testimony to our rich history and her unwavering diligence. Her volunteer hours and meticulous documentation forms the basis of all our exhibit displays, both permanent and changing.

With the publication of "Omena, A Place in Time", by Amanda Holmes all our written and oral history up to that time was collected in a single place. Since 2003 and in recognition of the 25th year history of the Omena Historical Society Joey has prepared three scrapbooks detailing key events in our community history.

The first binder includes the earliest period when a few people on Omena began interviewing some of the most senior citizens and collecting photographs and documents. This tradition which occurred on various screened porches and shaded back yards was recorded and written down and forms the basis of much of our historical

background. The process continued at annual meetings, programs, and in preparation for the celebration of The Omena Sesquicentennial in 2002. Formal recording of the documentation was included in the development of the book, "Omena a Place in Time".

The second scrapbook begins with 2005 and features moving of the Putnam Cloud Tower House and converting it into the OHS Museum. Photos and logs of volunteer hours detail all the work on restoring the house to its original grandeur and details various events, open houses, and programs.

The final scrapbook is devoted to the exhibits through the years beginning with the first two in 2006-2007 that featured the paintings of Emily Nash Smith in the Education room. The central hall displays cases and photos related to moving and restoring the house were. In addition, a small area was devoted to Peter Dougherty and the Aghosa Indians.

Those who have an interest in the history of OHS will enjoy perusing the three scrapbooks with the many photos and documents and gain some appreciation for all the society has done during its twenty-five-year history. They will be on display and are available for viewing in the Museum.

Joey Bensley reviewing Historical Record Binders



Growing up in Omena

By Debby Disch from *Conversations with Fred Putnam*

Fred Putnam was born in Omena in 1944, the son of Rennie and Esther Putnam and the oldest of four children. Omena was a lot less populated in the 1940's, and, while a few families lived "in town", most lived on farms, large and small, in the surrounding countryside.

One of Fred's most significant early memories is when he was deemed old enough, and tall enough, to drive the tractor. Because he was tall for his age, he was 10 years old when his father let him be at the steering wheel for the hay harvest that June. It was really a big responsibility as there were two men who worked on the deck of the wagon while it went through the field, one of whom was his father. It was important to make gentle stops and starts so that the men wouldn't fall, or, worse yet, fall off.

With experience, jobs and responsibilities grew larger. Cultivating corn with a John Deere row crop tractor demanded close attention

to avoid damage or uprooting the small corn plants that were emerging. Ground engaging shovels on the tractor threw dirt in between the plants to just cover the weeds that emerged every couple of days. Moving only a few inches off course could result in four rows of corn being pulled out of the ground. Fred said his father never said anything about the missing spots. If Fred somehow drove the tractor off line and destroyed some plants, he assumed his father had probably had the same experience as he learned.

Winter was not a time to relax, either. The home furnace fire had to be fed with wood every few hours. Fred's mother was the one who got up several times during the night to stoke the furnace. Winter firewood was cut and split the winter before so that it would cure before use in order to burn most efficiently. For fun, the snow drifts around the house provided lots of places to dig tunnels and build forts for snowball fights.

The morning and evening barn chores included feeding the cows, hogs and horses, plus climbing up the silo chute to pitch out silage and pitching out hay from the mow for two feedings. Pruning the orchards was usually done in January and February. The crusty snow on the ground supported them so that they could reach higher up limbs.



And, there was school in Northport. Time was set aside for homework. Practice on the musical instruments used in the school band filled the home with squeaky notes and irregular tempo. They had hopes that their practice would result in pleasing music - and, no doubt, so did the band teacher. School sports were also an important part of life, both for the players and for the family members who turned out to cheer their team on.

Most importantly, it was a happy time; a time for learning and growing; and a time and a place to get to know and appreciate nature. Fred's career took him downstate, but he returns often to work around the farm. His children, and now grandchildren, also love to come to Omena.



Housing a History

By Ed Oberndorf

When OHS held its first meeting at the Township Fire Hall in June 1994, who would ever believe that a decade later OHS would be blessed with an opportunity to renovate a farm house built in 1876 to become a museum. It was the Cloud family who purchased the home from Rinaldo Putnam in 1893 and in 1936 donated it to the Province of the Society of Jesuits, Villa Marquette. The Jesuits used the house as a summer retreat. 68 years later the house was in complete disrepair; scheduled for demolition. Through Mary Stanton's initiative the OHS board immediately appealed to the Jesuits to consider gifting it to OHS along with a \$10,000 donation they had budgeted to demolish the home. They agreed. Restoring the home and acquiring the needed fund to do so took the following two years resulting in the Putnam-Cloud House Museum. An astounding \$215,000 was raised and over 4000 hours of volunteer labor provided critical resources at just the right time to keep work going. The commitment and support of our Omena residents - The Viskochil, Rule and Woolford families, hundreds of volunteer hours from the Benlsey, Gaudette and McDonald families resulted in a completely renovated and durable building to serve the Omena community for decades to come. Our Putnam-Cloud House Museum stands today as a gem in the long and cherished history from 1852 to the present. The grand opening for the Museum was June 6, 2006.

Milestones

by MaryTonneberger

Adele Shepherd Tate

July 1949 – October 2018

Adele lived most of her life in Memphis TN and spent many years at her family's cottage on Ingalls Bay Road. Her mother Janet often held a neighborhood treasure hunt and beach party to celebrate Adele's birthday. Adele was a walker and she enjoyed many hours along Omena Point Road looking at the wildflowers and carrying treats for dogs along the road. She is survived by her brother Shep Tate and sister Janet Walker and their families. Her father Shep survived her but he passed away this spring. (see Milestone below)

Charles H. Melville

January 1937 – November 2018

Charlie was a long-term resident of Omena Point Road whose parents purchased a cottage on the bay at the foot of Fire Lane 7. He spent many summers here with his family on the water sailing and golfing. He grew up in Cincinnati, went to Princeton University and graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law; he continued practice in the city for most of his career. He is survived by his wife Linda and children Jeffrey, Francie, and Tom along with four grandchildren.

Elizabeth Schleef

October 1922 – December 2018

Elizabeth grew up in a small Ohio town and attended Miami University concentrating in secretarial sciences. After college, Liz worked for the Cincinnati Bell Telephone company where she made lifelong friends. She and her husband Dan who preceded her in death spent many happy years in Omena with their two daughters Joan, Katy and a son-in-law. Some of her favorite interests were cooking and caring for her West Highland white terriers. Her other interests were the Lutheran churches to which she belonged and singing in the choir.

Carolyn D. Marbach

August 1928 – January 2019

Carolyn, widow of William Marbach, was a long-term summer resident, daughter of Beryl and Donald Dickerson and sister to Charles Dickerson (Janet). She is survived by three children, William D, Jr., Elizabeth and Margaret, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Born in Pontiac, MI, Carolyn attended Michigan State University and majored in journalism. She spent many years recording her memories that have become a family treasure. She started coming to Omena in the late 1940s and served as Commodore of the Omena Traverse Yacht Club. She was very active in the Elmhurst and Omena Presbyterian Churches and several historical societies, including The Omena Historical Society.

James B. Smiley

January 1934 – March 2019

James grew up in Westchester County, NY and later lived near his sister Charlotte Read in Alexandria, VA who survives him. He worked in mail room administration for both a private company and the federal government. His family built the Smiley cottage on Singing Sands and James spent 47 summers in that cottage until it sold and then returned to summer at Sunrise Landing, a total of 70 years. His interests were walking around the point, OTYC potlucks, collecting coins, and supporting the New York Yankees. He followed his mother's tradition of picking, pitting, canning cherries and baking cherry pies.

Bea Kimmerly

July 9, 1912 – May 2019

Bea was the oldest resident of Omena and lived here for 72 years. She was a noted resident whose car could almost daily be seen coming up M-22 from her Freeland Road home and making a U turn at the Omena curve to go to the Post Office. Bea and her late husband, Myles came to Omena in 1947 when they purchased the Anderson Store (now the Tamarack Gallery) and proceeded to live above the store with their three children. Her husband became the county probate judge (he served 1957-73) at which point they closed the store. She was a long-term member of Club 21 of which she served many years as treasurer. In 2002, she was the honorary Queen of Omena during its sesquicentennial. Bea traveled extensively and wintered in Utah with her daughter Karol. She is survived by her daughter, five grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. One of her proudest possessions was the sign posted above the grocery store misspelling the "Kimmerley" name. The photo of the store was featured on the cover of last year's Timelines. She retained the sign posted prominently on her porch of her home.

S. Shepherd “Shep” Tate, Sr.

December 1917 – May 2019

Shep was a long-term summer resident of Omena where he and his family spent many years on Ingalls Bay. Shep grew up in Memphis and lived with his grandfather (his family had moved to Mississippi in the Depression). He attended Southwestern in Memphis where he played tennis, a lifelong sport for him. He earned his law degree at the University of Virginia and received high honors. He entered the Navy and was stationed in China as an intelligence officer. He married his wife Janet Graf in 1947 with whom he raised a family. His life was devoted outside of his law practice to many organizations, among them the Boy Scouts, the Episcopal Church, his college, multiple bar associations, and Rotary International. He was predeceased by his wife Janet and daughter Adele. He is survived by his son Shepherd and daughter Janet along with five grandchildren.

Ingrid “Sonny” Colling

December 1935 – May 2019

Sonny with her husband moved to Omena in 1978 where they bought and managed the Omena Bay Country Store, a hub of the village. She was born in Highland Park, MI and married Richard in 1962 (he passed away in 1989). She was a 65-year member of the Sons of Norway (her maiden name was Mathisen) and was gifted in the art of Norwegian painting known as rosemaling. She also was a long-time member of the Lutheran Church. Among her other talents were breadmaking, sewing, and gardening plus making homemade jam. She also raised three leader dogs for the blind. She is survived by her four children David, Cheryl, Diane and Richard, spouses, ten grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mary H. Anderson

August 1932 – May 2019

Mary was born in Chicago and married Andrew Anderson in 1958. He was a longtime Omena family member associated with the Anderson Orchards. He preceded her in death in 2000. Mary was a talented musician who acquired an honorary Doctor of Music from the University of Louisville. She played for many years in the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra and taught flute at several universities. One of her passions was golden retrievers and summering in Omena on Ingalls Bay. She is survived by four children- Bruce, Eric, Ashley, and Susan- and their spouses/partners, three grandchildren, and four step grandchildren.



OMENA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Designation in Good Company

By Kathy Schaeffer

When Omena became listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017, it joined nine other Leelanau Peninsula historic districts on the Register.

The nine other Leelanau Peninsula historic districts listed on the National Register are:

Leland Historic District, also known as Fishtown.

Designated in 1975, the district includes 16 late-1800s buildings, such as the fishing shanties, ice and smoke houses along the fishing pier, plus lumber and iron smelting industry structures.



Fountain Point Photo Courtesy
of Fountain Point Resort

Background Art Image, "Leland Fishtown"
by Ken Krantz

Fountain Point Historic District.

Fountain Point Resort on Lake Leelanau is Michigan's second-oldest resort, after the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, and still operates today. The Fountain Point name came when French fur trader Aymar De Belloy drilled for oil in 1867 and found artesian spring water instead. This district comprises 25 buildings, which date back to the late 1800s.

Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

With 121 mostly farm buildings on five sites, plus 20 other structures, a cemetery, and orchards, this district is the largest physical district listed on the Peninsula. It is part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and bounded by Lake Michigan, Shell Lake, Bass Lake and Tucker Lake.

Glen Haven Village Historic District.

Like Omena, the village of Glen Haven is unincorporated. It lies within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The district, on M-209, preserves a 19th century lumber town, with a 10-foot-wide, narrow-gauge railroad connecting the town and sawmill.

Lake Leelanau Narrows Bridge.

The bridge on M-204 over the narrows between North and South Lake Leelanau was built in 1939 as part of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, which provided jobs in the Great Depression by funding public infrastructure projects. The bridge replaced an earlier failing bridge on the road that is a main east-west passage across the peninsula.

3 Districts on North and South Manitou Islands.

The two islands off the western shore of the Leelanau Peninsula boast three separate historic districts. On South Manitou Island are the 13-building South Manitou Island Lighthouse Complex and Lifesaving Station District and the seven-building George Conrad Hutzler Farm. On the eastern shore of North Manitou Island is the six-building North Manitou Island Lifesaving Station District, which also is part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Leelanau Transit Co. Depot.

This building, also known as the Suttons Bay Railroad Depot, sits at the curve in M-22 in Suttons Bay. It was part of a railroad built in 1903 by the Traverse City, Leelanau, and Manistique Railroad, to serve a car ferry between Northport and Manistique.

South Manitou Lighthouse

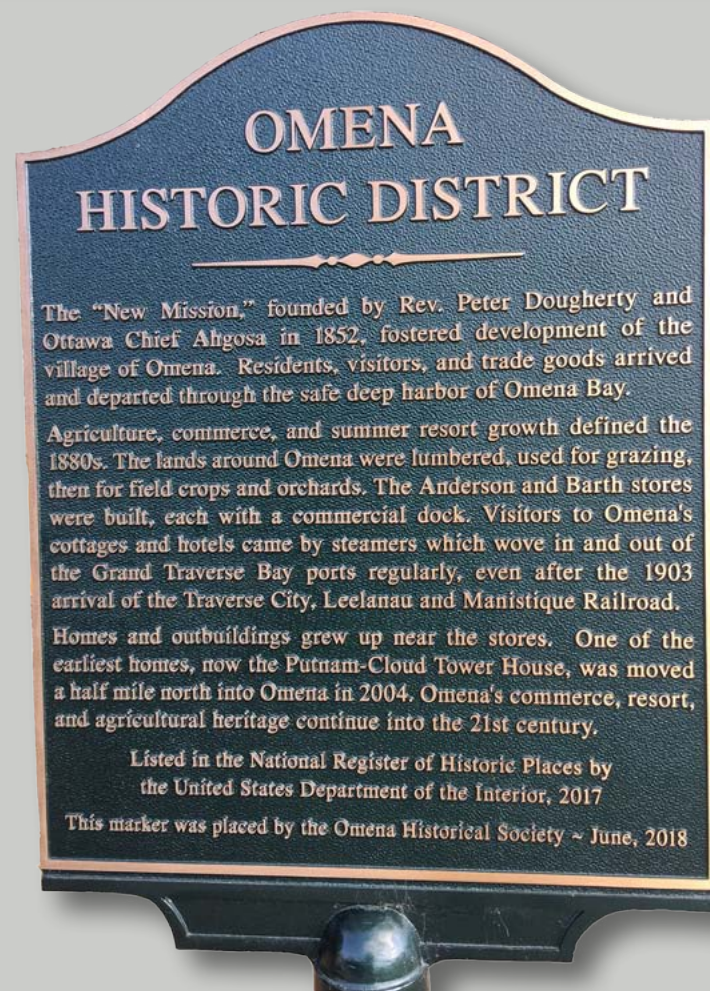




Grove Hill New Mission Church aka
Omena Presbyterian Church

Grove Hill New Mission Church, Omena.

The church, also known as the Omena Presbyterian Church, was built in 1858 a few years after the Rev. Peter Dougherty had moved his mission church from Old Mission to Omena. The church became listed on the Michigan Historic Site in 1972. Today, it is an anchor of the Omena Historic District, which was listed 45 years later in 2017.



Grand Traverse Light Station

Grand Traverse Light Station.

The U.S. Coast Guard lighthouse and light station within Leelanau State Park at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula are listed. The lighthouse was built in 1858. The museum there showcases life as a lightkeeper in the 1920s and 1930s.

OHS Lecture Series 2019

By Gayle Madison

Building on last years' lecture series done by JoAnne Cook on the Anishinaabe Life and Culture, this years' series featured three lectures and one traditional music performance. As in previous years, the venue for the talks was the historic Omena Presbyterian Church from July to September.

The first featured a power-point presentation by the husband and wife team of co-authors M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson on their book, *Historic Leelanau: Recognized Sites and Places of Historical Significance*. The book is part of a series on the history of Michigan tourism and featured locations throughout Leelanau County that were either on Michigan Historic Sites Registry or the National Register of Historic Places.

The second presentation - The Leelanau Peninsula and the Civil War - was by Omena author, John Mitchell. John's award-winning book, *Grand Traverse, the Civil War Era* has secured him as a local authority on the history of the Native American Company K of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, an all Native, one-of-a-kind unit in the Union Army.



John Mitchell, author of award-winning book, "*Grand Traverse, the Civil War Era*"

John's talk covered many interesting historical facts about the topic. One example John discovered during his research for his book while reviewing the journal of Reverend George Smith, John discovered proof that had, up until now, only been speculated. The journal had an entry on July 23, 1864 that confirmed General George Custer actually visited Omena exactly 155 years to the day that John was giving a speech. It was a great discovery only previously rumored and put to rest the question of Custer ever visiting Omena.

The third in the series featured John Petoskey, long time General Counsel for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians presented the third talk entitled The Treaty of 1855. The Treaty of Detroit of 1855 was between United States Government and the Ottawa and Chippewa Nations of Michigan and includes important aspects of the history of the Leelanau Peninsula. John went extensively into how the Treaty and the 1872 Statute enshrining the treaty into law on the parceling out of land in Leelanau County and the massive reduction of Indian tribal land holdings that resulted.

The series concluded with an afternoon of delightful fiddle music played by Ruby John (fiddler) and John Warstler (guitarist) and graciously hosted at the historic Omena Cherry Basket Farm. Ruby's Metis-style of music is based on an early mix of French and Native music that arose out of a combined culture that began in the late 1500's in northeastern Canada. A lot of American music shows Indian influence which was joyously celebrated in the final OHS summer educational event.



Omena Inn II owner's grandson, Lenny Newman speaks about reminiscent times

Reminiscences

A Boat Ride to Remember

By Jim Miller

Omena's Omena's history is colorful and chock full of interesting bits of information. We share that information to nourish our community's colorful past and to enlighten others to the things that brought us all here. If not documented and shared, it may well be lost forever. One of our best sharing experiences took place on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. The Omena Historical Society hosted its second Omena Historical Bay Cruise event.

Prior to launching the Cruise the community was enthralled with informative and reminiscent talks given by Lenny Newman the grandson of the Omena Inn II owners, Harold and Wynn Landis from the perspective of a boy of 3-7 years old growing up and enjoying life at a summer resort.

He spoke of how his parents who were still performing their vaudeville acts while resident at a retirement community in Florida, were surprised to be contacted by us more than 50 years in 2008. This after all their years earlier opening and performing in "The Omena Playhouse" in the 1950's. The phone call re-awakened their memories of Omena and pushed them into action. At the time, Harold had said, "We thought Omena had forgotten us."

Arrangements were made and the Landis family hit the road back to Omena. As a special treat while here in 2008, Harold and Wynn gave their last Omena concert in the Putnam-Cloud Tower House museum. Lenny's reminiscences carried us back to an earlier era. Sadly, Harold and Wynn have since passed away.

The one-hour boat cruise followed Lenny's briefing and was well attended with over 50 passengers learning about Omena's past. Volunteer skippers manned their pontoon boats and, with the help of onboard docents, toured Omena Bay, allowing guests an opportunity to see historical places only able to be seen from the water. Many pictures, maps and written materials were handed out to demonstrate what Omena looked like when the resorts were in full swing at the turn of the century and between the first and second World Wars and for a short time thereafter.

At the end of what started out as a rather cold and cloudy day, the sun shone through and put a fitting end to another beautiful day in little Omena, Michigan. People went home with piqued interest and a little more knowledge than they had earlier in the day.



Captian Jim loading and instructing passengers



M. Jackson
"Omena Post Office"

Andy Bero
"Holmes Barn
on Overlook
Road"



Ken Krantz
"Omena Village"
Background Art Image

Rule Exhibit Hall Artwork Collection

By Joey Bensley

Each year the Exhibits Committee is challenged to put together an exhibit. Through a series of meetings taking place throughout the winter and early spring, the OHS exhibit committee meets to discuss ideas for the exhibit. This year's features artists and their original artwork of scenes in and around Omena. This being the 25th year of the Society, we wanted to showcase the history in unique and interesting ways.

The Rule Exhibit Hall for 2019-20 seasons features original artwork, some reproductions and original photography from artists who lived and painted in the greater Omena area. This collection was gathered from local homes and cottages and represents artwork where the subject of the artist was Omena, the Bay and surrounding landscapes and buildings. Some of the artwork was done by Omena artists over the years and some was purchased by Omena residents from artists at galleries, art shows and from individual artists. Artwork dating to the founding of the Village of Omena in 1852 is included.

A visit to this important exhibit is delightful. Last year's exhibit featuring post cards is still an amazing collection of delightful correspondence over the generations sent from Omena. The Museum is open weekends and a not-to-be-missed look into Omena's past.



Jim Miller "Bensley - Craker Farm"

Count of the Holy Roman Empire

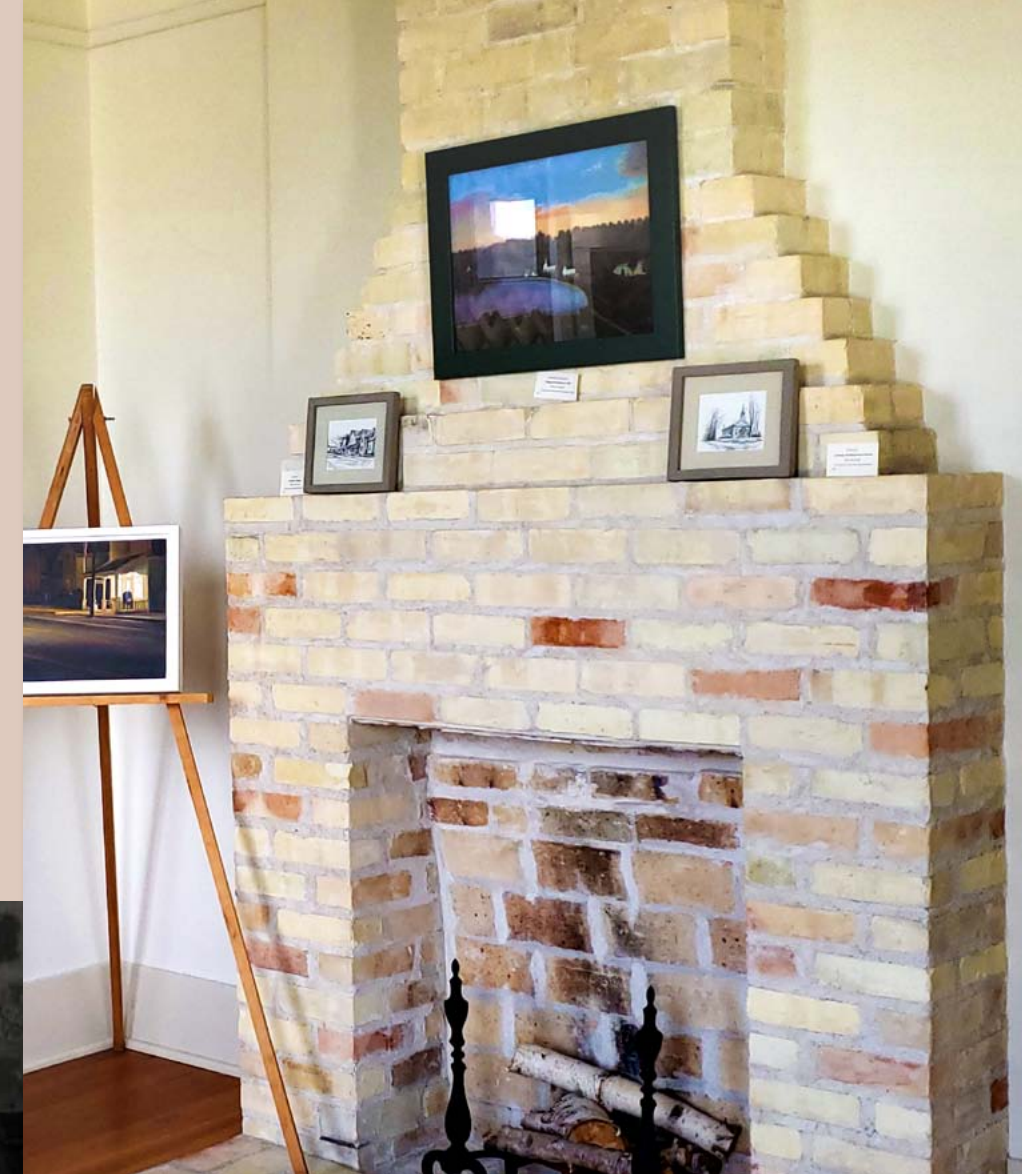
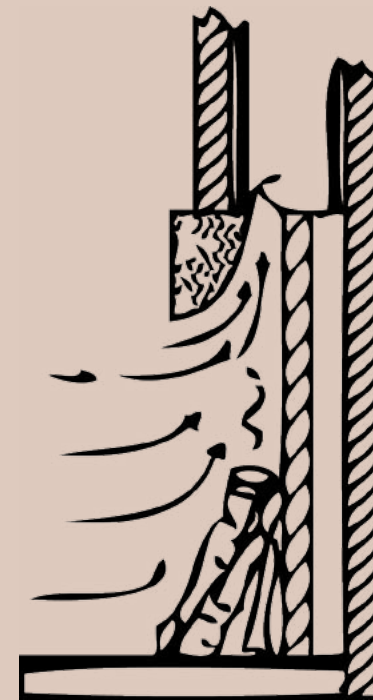
By David Leitner

The Omena Historical Society is the proud owner of two fireplaces at the Putnam-Cloud Tower Museum designed with the principle of heat exchange incorporated in and perfected by Count Rumford. Thomas Jefferson used this design in his home at Monticello and Henry David Thoreau notes in his book *Walden*, "Rumford fireplaces, plaster walls and Venetian blinds are among the comforts taken for granted by civilized men." By the 1790's a Count Rumford fireplace was considered state of the art.

Count Rumford, born Benjamin Thompson in Woburn, Massachusetts in 1753 was a British loyalist who left abruptly in 1776 after their defeat. He was employed for most of his life by the Bavarian Government who gave him the title "Count of The Holy Roman Empire" and is best known for his research and work on the nature of heat. For centuries houses were heated with fireplaces inefficient in the burning of wood, consuming more than the heat they produced. The majority of the heat traveled up the chimney rather than radiating into the house. Rumford applied his knowledge of the three types of heat transfer; **conductive, convective and radiant** heat to improve fireplaces.

He redesigned the fireplace to be tall and shallow working with the ratio of the firebox to be one third deep to two thirds high. Rumford reduced the size of the throat and chimney to carry the smoke up, but kept the heat radiating back into the room. By rounding the throat above the smoke chamber and damper area the smoke flowed up the chimney rather than collecting on squared off masonry surfaces. This may have been his greatest stroke of genius. Many fireplaces from the period of 1795 through 1850 were influenced by the Rumford design.

In the last thirty-five years with Historic Restoration on the rise, an increasing number of architects and builders are rediscovering the Count's proven principles of fireplace building. Today there are several companies now producing pre-made concrete parts for a Rumford Fireplace. Omena resident Ron Tonneberger built a new home in 1994 incorporating the Rumford design in his fireplace. It turned out to be a good decision and Ron attests to it's ability to warm his living room and reduce the use of his heating system considerably.

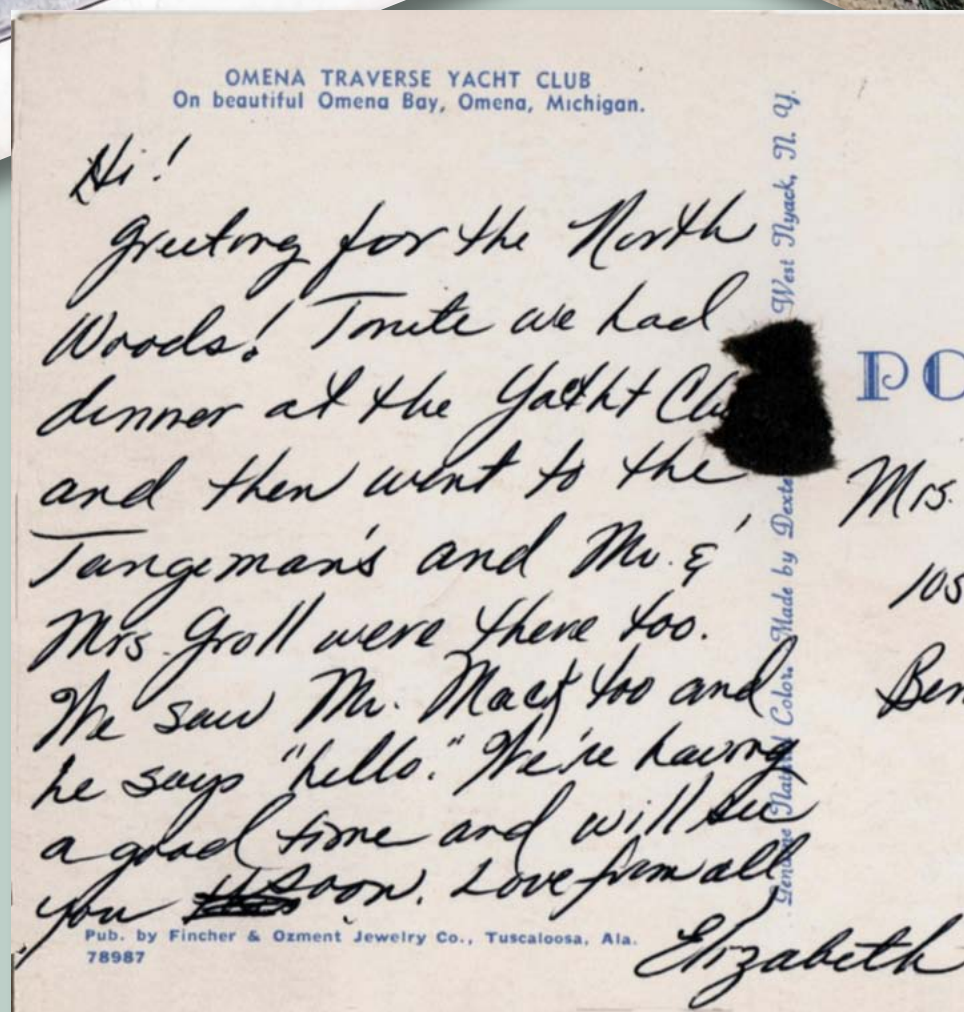




Editor's Note:

"The rear display room of the Putnam-Cloud Tower House Museum continues to display postcards from Omena's past. This was by far one of the most well attended exhibits in its first year and continues to charm those who visit the museum.

If you have a moment to take a look at the past both artistry and notes from Omena you will be transformed to another era and will find it truly engaging."



Are you going to the bar?

knot tonight!

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View from Summer House, Sunset Lodge, Omena, Mich.



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