

Our Story: Alexander Gentry and Sarah Rhynalds

Our Story starts 16 years ago in a small town in central Pennsylvania. Alex's family moved to Huntingdon the year before I moved away. Our paths crossed for a brief moment in 9th grade and by the end of the school year our connection 'be it what it was at age 14' was set in time. After that we saw each other only a few times, each time the connection was still apparent however our lives were always separated by differing paths.

Early fall, 2008.....A mutual friend contacted me and after kindly asking about her, I quickly asked about Alex! A short time later Alex contacted me and through letters I informed him how I had wished we would have been able to get together and that maybe we would run into each other next life time. To this he responded..."why not this life time?" Our lives were still distanced by many miles, however within a month he had booked a trip to the beaches of North Carolina, from the mountains of Colorado. Our feelings for each other, that were set into motion 14 years past, renewed immediately! Over the next 6 months we fell crazy in love, rearranged our lives to be together and have now been together for 3 1/2 years. We were engaged to be married August 5th 2011.

The Gentry Family has a long history in Chautauqua. Alex's Grandparents met there in the 1940's and moved there in the 1960's. Alex was born in March, went to Chautauqua that June and then spent every summer of his childhood there. He speaks very fondly of those summers: riding bicycles, sailing the lake, going to Boys and Girls Club and making lifelong friendships. Alex's family left the North East in the 90's and he has spent little time there over the last decade. On one trip home, Alex took me to this magical place for one afternoon and we briefly spoke of getting married there but could not seriously consider it due to limited financial resources.

Alex's current job has relocated us to the Bahamas and although we live in a destination wedding location, our dream wedding destination is 'home' in the beautiful northeast. Getting married at Chautauqua would be a special beginning to 'our family' and would solidify our relationship to this wonderful place for a lifetime to come. If we could add our wedding to his families storied history, it would mean so much, not only us, but to his mother, his entire family and all of those lifelong friends.

Thanks!

Alex Gentry and Sarah Rhynalds