Mark that new 2017 calendar! Plan to join History Center members and friends for a special evening to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the landmark Douglas Old School House!
~September 23, 2017~

Your Membership

In late 2015, the SDHC board modified the annual membership renewal date from January 1 to April 1st. All dues-current members remain current throughout the winter and can look for their membership renewal announcement as the snow begins to melt. No dues payment is due at this time.

Membership questions? Contact the Executive Director at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

What You Missed

This year's annual Holiday Party was a well attended festive affair at a new location - the Saugatuck Yacht Club. Guests were treated to delicious food by Shanahan Catering Co. and aural delights by the sounds of the Blue Coast Trio with a guest vocal appearance by Steve Mottram. Thanks to the planning committee for putting together a memorable evening and to everyone who dug deep and found some cash to throw in Judi's fundraising jar - over $500 was raised to support the Old School House painting project!

Member John Peters captured the images below of just a few of the night's guests. (Thank you John!)
Our goal is 100% participation - every dollar makes a difference in the quantity and quality of programs we provide. Thank you for your support!

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Mid-Century Memories:
Mr. Chap and the Lakeshore Patrol

[Editor's Note: We've been soliciting recollections from members and residents about Saugatuck-Douglas during the 1950s, 60s and 70s for the new exhibit which will open at the Museum in May, 2017. Throughout the upcoming year, we hope to feature stories from this time period in the newsletter as a compliment to the exhibit itself. If you have memories, photographs or objects you'd like to share, contact historian Jim Schmiechen at james.schmiechen@gmail.com or 269-414-9199]

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-By Heather Foderingham

I can't remember exactly how many years Mr. Chap was paid to patrol the Lakeshore, at least 2 or 3, around 1955. At any rate, I guess the Lakeshore Association ponied up the money. Mr. C. was gray haired and not very thin or fit, he drove an olive green 4-door Dodge. He made wooden signs that attached to the driver and front passenger side doors, sort of shield-like in shape, with gold lettering that said "Lakeshore Patrol". They fit like food trays at the drive in-- kind of over the door frame with the window down. He would wear a patrolman' cap, I think a dark blue shirt, maybe a badge of some sort, and carried a big flashlight. A dark jacket if it was chilly---way before global warming days. He would park facing out to the road at the Douglas Public Beach before the "beautification" of the brick building. (there is another whole story about that --- also, in the early 50's, there was an old wooden building there, and the people served hamburgers and the like, also a pinball machine).

Back to Mr. C., most evenings, his white haired wife would sit with him, as they waited for transgressions to occur. I clearly recall being at beach parties where we all were enjoying illegally obtained beer, when Mr. C. would lumber down the stairs, wave his trusty flashlight toward the sky, 

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Director's Corner

Quickly and briefly: Thanks to everyone who took the SDHC Communications Survey which was recently sent out by email. If you receive a hard-
while loudly saying he knew we had beer and were making too much noise. Then he would go back up the stairs. That was the extent of it. He knew whose parents were paying him. Probably some speeding was curtailed, though. The thing is, those shield signs on his Dodge were a temptation to some miscreants. One of them did somehow end up at our cottage (!!). Under my parents’ chagrined eyes, it was returned the next day.

I am sure he was a fine fellow, just an easy target for teenagers.

Relating to publications, one of the first changes will be a reset of the timeline in which the monthly newsletters are created and sent. No longer will it arrive right before the end of the month. This new schedule will go into effect with the combined January-February 2017 issue. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has written and supplied articles and photos for the newsletter this past year.

We've been getting some questions about the state of the paint on the exterior of the Old School House. Please know that the "patchy" paint job the building shows this winter is part of a larger plan already underway for the full repainting of this 150-year old wood sided building. More about this next newsletter.

I hope everyone has a peaceful holiday season spent with family and friends as we look ahead to a successful New Year! Your support matters to our small local-history organization….thank you!

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The former Douglas Beach House, Lakeshore Drive
(SDHS Archives, click each for full-size)

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Another house on the Douglas Beach. Can anyone identify the specific location?

In the second year of the History by Camera feature - the BILL SIMMONS SCRAPBOOK - the format...
Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center since the last newsletter!

- Peter and Ellen Cieply - Saugatuck, MI

New Lifetime Members!

With gratitude we welcome these members to our Lifetime membership circle, acknowledging their lasting commitment to the support of SDHC.

- Stelios and Leslie Dokianakis - Holland, MI

Finds in the Lorenz Collection

By Mary Voss

Last month we reported on our receipt of a large collection of historical documents and photos from the late Charles Lorenz. What fun to find such great pictures as we begin to work through the Lorenz collection! The image above is of the Philetus Purdy Landing on Riverside Dr. and 63rd. It's not often that these old pictures have the location identified.

No date is listed but I'm assuming it must have been in the heyday of logging in the 1870-1890s. An accompanying photo of the men of the Fennville Gun Club was dated 1878.

Most of what we have gone through so far is research material for Charles' book on the early history of Saugatuck. We were able to purchase a used copy on-line, privately published in 1983. It will be interesting to compare the finished product with the research when we receive the copy.

I appreciate your feedback on my captions, and the selection of these images. Please point out my good choices and my goofs by sending an email to jack.sheridan@gmail.com. I'd love to hear some feedback on my choices - how about some discussion? Subject suggestions encouraged!
Who do you think you are???

By Jack Sheridan

Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder are preparing a presentation for the October 11, 2017 SDHC "Monthly Meeting" program. Many of you have no doubt seen episodes of the popular TV series by this name. The program, which has run for the last five seasons on national TV, features a celebrity whose family history has been researched for the program. The show explains and reveals step by step what the researchers have found.

If you would like to discover who you are, here is your chance...and you don't have to be a celebrity!

We will do the research work.
You will not find out the results until the October meeting!

To get started we need SDHC member volunteers to choose from. We will first do some preliminary research on a group of volunteers and then pick one or two of them for the program. Ideally, we will look for candidates that have an interesting ancestor line[s] that extends back in this country for at least five generations.

Here are the simple requirements:

- Active SDHC membership
- You have reason to suspect [you do not need to know] that there may be an ancestral line extending back in the USA.
- We will need, at a minimum, name, birth date and place of at least one grandparent.
- The person[s] chosen must submit to an Ancestry.com DNA test - the cost is one hundred dollars. This test will reveal your ethnicity and possibly help us in our research. An interesting idea is that the chosen person can gift the DNA test and results to a child or grandchild.
- You must plan to attend the October 11, 2017 meeting.

If you are interested:

Send either of us an email or a phone call indicating your interest. We will be in contact and are anxious to start our research!
Many thanks to workers Jackie Ladwein, Brent and Doreen Tubergen, Joy Muehlenbeck, Charles Hancock and Chris Yoder. This year, no bulbs were planted at Douglas due to the limited number of bulbs contributed.

Continuing the article from last month, here are others whose graves were selected for bulbs this year:

- Addie Cook
- Peter Mason & Son of A & A Mason (Aaron Mason d. Oct7, 1886)- s/o George and Polly Coffman Mason
- Edward Arends (1862 Singapore-1898 Saugatuck) - a wheelsman on the steamer Bon Ami. Never married... no descendants

Steamer Bon Ami, courtesy Historical Collections of the Great Lakes, Bowling Green State University (click for full-size)

- Ed (1851-1890) & Alice Alvord (1857-1882)- Bedford died post childbirth- followed the next day by their son Claude, age 3, of Scarlet fever Bedford - left a 2 month old daughter Alice - who married and died in Tucson, Arizona in 1932.
- Charles Dickinson GAR (1795 Mass-1876 Saugatuck) farmer
  Parents: Elisha Dickinson, Hannah Billings
  Spouse: Sophia Gardner

More New Obituaries added to SDHC website

Thanks to the efforts of Lena Burdick, a Saugatuck-Douglas District Library employee and senior at Saugatuck High School, 284 additional Commercial Record obituaries have been scanned and added to the History Center's Online Research Center. The obits are now complete through the year 2015. To find these, go to the "Research | Collections" tab on the web site, then "Online Research Center", then "Saugatuck Area Obituaries" under the Cemeteries listing, then select "Newer Obituaries".

Michael Condron, 71

Michael Condron, member of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, passed away on Nov. 23. Click HERE for more details.
- Enoch Simpson- Mar. 2, 1872 - Note: age 60, 6TH MI INFANTRY, BROKEN GRAVESTONE- 1870 census 1 horse, 1 milk cow, 2 working oxen, 90 bushels of Rye

- Frank Snay- Aug. 13, 1889 age 11 months of cholera


- Joseph Sinclair- Born: 1828 in New York, Died: September 26, 1884 in Chicago, Illinois, Joseph served as a Private with the 13 Michigan Infantry Company-B. He enlisted on September 3, 1864 and was discharged on June 8, 1865. He also served as a member and flag holder with the GRAND ARMY of the REPUBLIC Post-460; Department-Michigan. Records also show his last name may have been spelled StClair., Tina- Gravehound Club

William "Bill" Johnson Jr., 86

William Johnson Jr., member of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, passed away on Dec. 16. Click HERE for more details.

Dining and Watering Hole Memories

We're looking for your memories, photos and recollections about dining and drinking establishments in Saugatuck and Douglas during the 1950s. Here's a few archive images to pique your memory banks (click each for full-size). If you have information you'd like to share, contact historian Jim Schmiechen at james.schmiechen@gmail.com or by phone 269-414-9199.

Gary Van Neck, 80

Gary Van Neck, member of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, passed away on Dec. 17. Click HERE for more details.

The Cabin Tavern in 1956.
Coral Gables ad from 1961.

The Walton Restaurant ca. 1953.
(gee, this weather looks familiar now doesn't it?)

**New in the Archive**

This oil painting by May Heath of roses in vase was donated by the Diffenderffer family of Fennville.
(click for full-size)

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**Postman Says...**

The USPS has recently begun returning mail to senders who do not use the proper Douglas Post Office box addresses. When sending something to us, be sure to use our proper mailing (not street) address:

**Saugatuck-Douglas History Center**
PO Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406-0617

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**ABOUT THE SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER**

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society was founded in 1986 by a group of charter members interested in preserving and sharing the unique history of Saugatuck, Douglas and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Society was renamed the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to celebrate its growth and to recognize the development of the History Museum and Old School House sites. We are a vibrant organization with
nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities, around Lake Michigan, and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood our largely volunteer organization. To join as a member, select from the following categories:

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Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. Click [HERE](#) for a printable Membership Application.

**Send in your dues payment today or click [HERE](#) to renew online.**

Send items for the newsletter to: Nathan Nietering, PO Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406 or email [info@sdhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@sdhistoricalsociety.org)

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**SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER FACILITIES**

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building. The History Museum closed at the end of October and an all-new exhibition will be constructed in the main gallery this winter and spring, due to open on May 28, 2017! Always free to the public but donations gratefully accepted.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Museum and recent past exhibits.

The Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit is located at 130 Center Street in Douglas. For group tours of the School House, please contact Nathan Nietering at 269-857-5751 or by email at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org. The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden is open to the public daily throughout the autumn. Admission is free to the public but donations gratefully accepted.

The Society's Technology Center is located in the lower level of the Old School House History Center at 130 Center Street in downtown Douglas. Open by appointment.

The Society's Archives office is located in the lower level of the Old School House and is open for research on Monday afternoons 1-4pm. Use the back stairway for easy access.

E-mail the archives directly: [archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org)

History Center main phone: 269-857-5751
Museum phone: 269-857-7900
Tech Center/Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901
[www.sdhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sdhistoricalsociety.org)

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