February's Monthly Meeting

Our first Monthly Meeting presentation of 2016 will feature a program by SDHS Art Collection Manager Ken Kutzel. Ken will trace the history of the Society's art collection, starting with some of the very first pieces acquired in the mid-1990s, around the time of the Painting the Town exhibition.

In the two decades hence, the collection has grown, now numbering to nearly 90 pieces! This has been made possible by the generous gifts of individual pieces over the years from Society members and friends, and contributions to support the proper care for this one-of-a-kind collection. Gain an appreciation for the collection, and the artists and ideas it represents, through this unique opportunity to see images from the collection, then tour the Old School House art gallery after the presentation.

Mark Your Calendar!

All upcoming Monthly Meeting presentations begin at 7:00pm in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street in downtown Douglas, unless otherwise indicated.

February 10, SDHS Art Collection, presented by SDHS Art Collection Manager Ken Kutzel
March 9, Caught in the Vortex, The Armistice Day Storm of 1940, presented by Valerie Van Heest
April 13, History of the SCA, presented by Kristin Armstrong
May 11, Field trip to the Saugatuck Woman's Club, with a presentation by Peg Sanford, Donna St. Andre, and Jim Schmiechen

The remainder of the Monthly Meeting and Tuesday Talk programming calendar is being finalized and will be published when complete!

If you would like to sponsor one of the Monthly Programs, please REPLY to this email and we'll be in touch. Sponsorships are $150.
**On the airwaves:**

'*How the largest gay resort in the Midwest is in Michigan's "Bible belt"*'

In mid-January, SDHS and the Gay History Project were proudly featured on Michigan Radio's *Community Vibe* series. Michigan Radio (the statewide NPR affiliate) spent a week featuring interesting stories about towns across the state, and ours was one they wanted to share.

The on-air story was accompanied by an online version which includes several images from the SDHS archive. A number of SDHS and community members were interviewed as part of the story to tell the development of the gay community around Saugatuck/Douglas and the founding of the Dunes Resort.

SDHS shared the story on our Facebook page and it was viewed by almost 4,500 people, with several leaving comments and sharing their own thoughts.

The Michigan Radio website and the radio story feature some different content, so if you have the time, check out both! They can be found [HERE](#).

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**Welcome New Members!**

With our most sincere apologies, we would like to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society....this time with the correct spelling!

- Catherine Dritsas and Paula Cairo, Saugatuck, MI

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**Director's Corner**

This is one of my favorite times of the year. Not that I wouldn't rather be on the beach someplace warm, but in the seasonal calendar of an organization like ours, mid-winter is the time for thinking, talking, and planning. Every week I've been meeting with volunteers and committees as we look ahead with enthusiasm to 2016 and beyond. Root Camp, programming, Dine A-rounds, the 150th Anniversary, strategic planning.... you may see references to some of these elsewhere in this newsletter. When you return from your winter beach vacation, know that it will be an exciting year full of activities!

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the Year End Appeal this year. With our goal met, we will start off the 2016 in good financial shape. Many small donations have the same value as a few larger ones, so no matter the size of your gift, it has been gratefully received. And if you haven't contributed yet but were planning to - there's still time!

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**Local History Learning**

In late January, a class of local 7th grade students traveled to Douglas Elementary to teach 2nd grade students about local history. As part of a cumulative, cooperative project between the 7th and 2nd grade classes, the younger students enjoyed

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January 20: National #MuseumSelfie Day!
presentations researched and created by the older students, which focused on the history of many famous local sites and landmarks.

The work of the seventh graders will be on exhibit at our own Old School House in May. Joining the exhibit will be nine large panels of art created collaboratively by the 7th and 2nd graders, as well as a small group of high school students.

The panels will then move over to the Saugatuck Center for the Arts where they will be exhibited as part of their planned "Easel on Down the Road" exhibit led by local artist Anne Corlett. At the conclusion, the local-history art panels will be permanently housed at the elementary and middle/high school buildings.

January 20th was National Museum Selfie Day. Guest What? "Selfie" is officially listed in the Oxford English Dictionary now, as "a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media." Across the country on the 20th, museum staff members, volunteers, and visitors posted pictures of themselves in and around museum exhibits and buildings, using the hashtag #MuseumSelfie. If you follow SDHS on Facebook, you may have seen several photos that I posted throughout the day.

The Society is planning the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Old School House. 2016 will include several different events throughout the season culminating with a weekend celebration in September. Watch for a Save the Date card in your mailbox soon!

The Society is also updating its strategic plan with a new document which will help guide the next 3-5 years. Strategic planning may not be the stuff of legend, but it is valuable to prioritize what we want to accomplish in the future, and having an approved plan is actually required for many grant opportunities now, as well. The committee (myself plus two board members and two Society members) is considering many aspects of our growing organization. Because a crucial part of this exercise is to understand how we can better serve the needs of our members, we will soon be sending you a short survey with questions about your membership, interests, and communications. It should only take less than 10 minutes of your day. Thanks in advance for your time and thoughts with this.

"If there were no tribulations, there would be no rest; if there were no winter, there would be no summer." ~ St. John Chrysostom

Although our gardens are at rest, our garden committee is not! Due to the holidays and the weather we took a couple months off and are now ready to move forward with planning this summer's work. This summer we would like to continue developing our children's garden and graphics, then move over to our rhododendron garden, including the work shop. Reminder: we are looking for some
bulbs. Both were veterans, and we thank them for their service. This month, I'll tell you a little about the people chosen at the Saugatuck Riverside Cemetery:

- Edward Starr (1897-1956), Veteran of WWI an owner of Van Starr Motel locally, and wife Marguerite Starr (1907-2003 in Sarasota, FL). Mrs. Starr was the daughter of Frederick Van Leeuwen and Marjorie (Hoadley) of Saugatuck.


- David A. Bennett (1889-1953). Owner of the Albert Verley Company (perfumes) in Chicago with far flung connections in Europe and South America. A Saugatuck visitor from his youth, in 1945 he purchased the Cook property which included the former site of Singapore. As self-styled "Mayor of Singapore" he often bestowed offices on visiting friends "such as harbor master, town clerk". This is the property later owned by the Denisons. Mr. Bennett was a Washington power broker during the Truman administration and became the subject of some controversy.

The **Root Camp** is also planning for this summer's camp. We are getting really excited for our potential "teacher" line-up this year! In addition to our favorite Bee/Science Guy, Michael Peolinsky, and a visit from some critters, we will have our favorite local chef Jim LaPierre teaching our campers how our community ancestors cooked "back in the day." We are also dedicating a lesson to the Old School House' 150th birthday!

An Early Bird Special is being offered to people that sign up for camp before March 1st. Our registration page is up and running, so please feel free to take advantage of this special offer for the children in your lives. Our camp will run on June 20 - 23, 2016, again with two sessions this year: a morning session from 9am-12noon and the afternoon session from 1-4pm. If you have any questions about Root Camp, please contact Ruth Johnson @ ruthannj@frontier.com.

Until next month,

The Garden and **Root Camp** Committees

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**Big Changes in Crayfish Corner**

*By Sally Winthers*

Cletus the Crayfish, the aquatic star of the **WATER** exhibit kid's corner, has been making some changes.

When the museum closed for the season in October, Cletus relocated to Lorrimar Lane for a warm winter break. Soon after settling in its new home, Cletus surprised caretaker Jackie Lencioni by producing a clutch of eggs. The eggs, visible below, look like wheat grains under Cletus' tail.
father and four brothers. He became a member of Company E, 60th Ohio Infantry and saw hard service in the Battle of the Wilderness and in the Siege of Petersburg and Richmond. After receiving his honorable discharge he came to Saugatuck and again entered steam boating under Capt. J. N. Upham, who had since moved here. He married the captain's daughter, Ellen Isabel Upham. Son Charles B. "Bennie" died at the age of 36 after being kicked by a horse. 

Mrs. Charles T. Smith

Click photo for a larger image

Luckily (for the Society), these eggs were not fertilized and did not hatch. North American crayfish can lay more than 100 eggs. That's potentially a lot of baby crayfish to house.

In late December, Cletus unveiled another surprise. She molted, shedding her rusty brown skin to reveal a vibrant, new blue self underneath. Note the discarded, empty shell on the left side of the photo.

Bennie Smith

What's next for Cletus? Who can say? We do know she is healthy and growing and will need a larger tank for the 2016 museum season. If you have an aquarium setup (tank, secure lid and filtration system) collecting dust in your attic or basement, please consider loaning or donating it to Team Cletus.

For more information contact Sally at swinthers@frontier.com.
• Capt. Lucian B. Upham (1869-1949) (son of Capt. J. N.) operated excursion boats from Saugatuck at the turn of the 20th century, and later was a tugboat captain.

• Albert Mead (1858-1932), wife Emma (Johnson) (1863-1919). Lived for a number of years on the New Richmond Road. Residents of Saugatuck. Also their infant son Ernest J. who died Feb. 1, 1887 at the age of 1 year and 7 months.

• George (1845-1924) and Mary (Fennert) Walz (d. 1896) - George Walz was a pioneer businessman of Douglas. Born in Waldorf, Germany, in 1845, he came to America in 1863. He lived a short time in Grand Haven, then to Saugatuck, a few years before locating in Douglas where for fifty years he ran a market in the township, mostly at Walz' Corner, Douglas. In 1869 he married Mary Fennert who died 28 years before him after being badly burned in a kitchen fire. For his second wife Mr. Walz married Mrs. Sophia Schultz Burkholz.

• Gordon B Rust (c1826-1869). Mr. Rust was a bookkeeper for the lumber firm of O. R. Johnson in Saugatuck, and died of consumption (TB) Aug. 14, 1869 at Marquette, MI where he had gone for his health. His widow Margaret died ten years later, also of consumption.

• The Stimson Family - Dr. Henry H (1824-1916), Mary (1831-1903), Dr. Charles F (1852-1879 of consumption), William H (1857-1876), Alice M (1857-1876).

• Dr. Henry H. Stimson, born 1824, in New York State, lost his parents when he was 6 and went to Vermont to live with his grandparents. In 1834 he went to Ohio, working on a farm two years, then, at the age of twelve years, he came to Allegan County. He decided at 16 that he wanted to become a

This is the fifth month of the History by Camera feature - the BILL SIMMONS SCRAPBOOK. Bill was a semi-professional photographer, originally from Chicago, who moved to Saugatuck about 1940. He had a couple of stints as the editor of the Commercial Record. Over the next twenty two years he took numerous black and white photos.

He died in 1962 and these photos went unnoticed until 1998 when some 3,000 negatives were given to the SDHS. What a record of our town in the middle of the twentieth century!

Many have appeared in SDHS books and exhibits. However, others ended up - so to speak - on the cutting room floor, because Bill often took numerous shots of a subject. We have used only the best of them and many subjects have not been published.

Please examine the images [a history mystery of the
doctor, then taught school and read medicine under Dr. E. N. Upjohn. After ten years began the practice of medicine, coming to Saugatuck in 1858 and in 1868 attended Bennett Medical College in Chicago, receiving his degree. In 1852 he was married to Miss Mary Forbes. All of their children died in their youth: Charlie, also a doctor, died at the age of twenty-five; Alice at eighteen; and Willie was drowned while on an excursion in Lake Michigan.

- James M. Pond (1833-1900). James served as a 1st Sgt and 1st Lieutenant in the Civil War, and was wounded in action at Gettysburg, PA. He came to Saugatuck after the war, marrying Helen A. Knowlton in 1866, and residing here the rest of his life. He was a carpenter and builder. He held a variety of public offices including a term as Mayor of Saugatuck.

- Andrew (1841-1932) and Augusta (1840-1920) Schuman. Both born in Germany (see the cow article and photo in the August 2015 Newsletter) May Heath in her 1930 book *Early Memories of Saugatuck* wrote of him:

"A seven week's ocean voyage brought Andrew Schumann to Saugatuck in 1865 where he has since resided, on his farm in the east village limits. He was born in Germany in 1841, entered the German Reserves at the age of 18, serving six years. Had two sisters in Allegan county, Mich., who wrote him exciting accounts of this new country, so he decided to try his fortune here. In 1867 he was married in Allegan to Augusta Eckert, native of Germany, and they came to Newark, as it was then, and Andrew found employment in the many mills. In 1871, in Henry Ebmeyer's shingle mill, Andrew was sawyer and cut 41,750 "A" shingles and 4250 "cull" shingles, which was the greatest number of shingles ever made in one day with one machine."

- Joseph Bender (1831-1898) a stonemason from Germany. He and his wife came to Saugatuck to live with their daughter and son-in-law Fritz Walz. He was the grandfather of Douglas barber Francis J. "Ky" Walz.

- Sarah "Sadie" Cline Goodman Southwell (1842-1921) - Married in 1888 to Danforth

I appreciate your feedback on my captions, and the selection of these images. Please point out my good choices, errors or omissions by sending an email at jack.sheridan@gmail.com. No feedback from last month - how about some discussion? Subject suggestions encouraged!

Any reader comments will not be published without reader permission.

By Jack Sheridan

Please visit us to see what we are all about and most importantly, share "lessons learned" about the many tools available for family history research, such as local records, Ancestry.com, and more.

Got questions on how to get going? That is what we are for! Call or email us or take note, the SDHS Family History Group's regular meeting schedule is
Southwell, Divorced in 1903.

- Edwin (1875-1958) and Celia (Gamble) (1890-1976) House - Fruit farmer, soda pop bottler of House's "Cherri-Mix", and community leader. It was he who invited Dr. George Gray to check out the Saugatuck area for what was to become his Forward Movement Camp (later named Camp Gray). A more extensive biography can be seen at: [http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/publications/NLHist/P75-76.php](http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/publications/NLHist/P75-76.php)

- Robert (1920-1996) and Ethel (Ekdahl) (1920-2006) Brackenridge - Robert was a WWII Vet, retired as VP of the Holland Motor Express, and past commander of the American Legion post. Robert and Ethel married the year after they graduated from Saugatuck High School.

Upcoming meetings at the OSH at 3:30pm in the downstairs tech room are:
Thursday February 4
Thursday February 18

**Remember, your family history does not have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area!!!**

Not sure where to begin? Let us provide a helpful jump start by recording what you know about your parents, grandparents, and great grandparents and send it along for a review by Chris Yoder or myself.

The snail mail address is SDHS Family History, PO Box 617 Douglas, MI 49406, or email a copy to cyoder@tds.net and/or jack.sheridan@gmail.com.

We will soon be back to you with readily found data and with suggestions on the next steps to take. Further help is always available from the Family History group by phone and email. The only requirement is membership in the SDHS.

Mayflower ancestor, Revolutionary War vet, great grandparents, WWII vet? Stop wondering and get the facts.

Questions/comments/advice/needs - contact
Jack Sheridan:
269 857-7144
jack.sheridan@gmail.com

Chris Yoder:
269 857-4327
cyoder@tds.net

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**Beatrice Hoski, 87**
In general membership news, watch your mailbox in March for your 2016 membership renewal statement. No payment is due at this time. At that time, you will also have the opportunity to update your contact information for the 2016 Membership Directory... the "other" phone book!

Bea Hoski, longtime member of the Society, passed away on January 18. Click HERE for more details.

Watch your (e-)Mail Box!

As part of the Strategic Planning process currently underway, the SDHS Board is looking for some critical feedback - yours! Later this month, you will receive a short survey which will have a few questions about your membership and perspective about the Society. It will take less than 10 minutes of your time and your responses will help guide the Strategic Plan which will help to set organization priorities for the next 3-5 years. You will receive the survey via the same method you get this e-Newsletter, either by e-mail or U.S. Mail. We thank you in advance for your time and thoughts!

From the Archives: Difference in Decades

Part of the fun of being in the archives is finding older references to places and spaces we still know and
love today. This is the Congregational Church in Saugatuck - in fact, the area's oldest church building, which was under construction in the early 1860s at the onset of the Civil War. Additions of a new wing, chancel, and the bell tower, along with the center stained glass window at left in 1896, gave it this look as seen on January 27, 1943. Penned on the reverse side reads "Jan. 27, 1943, "Our Beloved Church," Snow drifts as high as 12 feet in places. It snowed 110 days, the worst winter in years ~ Mrs. Heath." 73 years and two days later, there's a little less snow on the ground this winter, but a place that many know and love in the community looks much the same; its significance stated proudly on the Michigan Historical Marker placed in the front lawn. Click each image for a larger version.
COME JOIN US FOR

ROOT CAMP!

An Interactive history and nature day camp for children ages 6 - 11

LEARN ABOUT: LAKE MICHIGAN SHIPWRECKS, NATURE AND SCIENCE, ANIMALS, NATIVE AMERICANS.

JUNE 20TH - 23RD

Two sessions available!

9am - 12pm OR 1pm - 4pm

SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP EARLY. REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SAUGATUCK/DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S WEBSITE AT:

HTTP://SDOIStORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Scholarships available

Click the Root Camp image above for camp information and to register!

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

To become a member of the Society, select from the following categories:

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td>Household</td>
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<td>Senior Household</td>
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Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. You can also click HERE for a Society Membership Application.

Membership renewal notices will be sent in March, 2016. No payment is due at this time.

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

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY FACILITIES

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building. The History Museum is closed for the winter season. WATER, our feature exhibit, will reopen, with some new elements, over Memorial Day 2016. 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 History Center and Lifeboat Display 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 Lifeboat Display and Back-in-Time Garden are open to the public as weather permits.

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: archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Society Main Phone: 269-857-5751  
Museum Phone: 269-857-7900  
Tech Center/Archives Phone: 269-857-7901  
[www.sdhistoricalociety.org](http://www.sdhistoricalociety.org)  
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Again this year, the Society's Newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.