Did your membership just lapse?

The U.S. Mail recently brought all members a renewal statement/contact info sheet. Now is the time to renew as a member to enjoy a full season of programs, events and fun. Return the renewal statement with your payment by mail today (or download and PRINT this membership form), or click HERE to renew online and pay by PayPal or credit card. Please renew today!

Mark Your Calendar: Summer Program Series

Walk on Water
a strolling cocktail party
Saturday, June 25 from 5:00-8:00pm
$100 per person

Get a peek inside three distinctive homes on Douglas' South Water Street. Enjoy cocktails and delicious bites that reflect the varied food interests of hosts known for their culinary acumen. Experience the very personal art and style they incorporate into their living spaces.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All upcoming Monthly Meeting presentations begin at 7:00PM at the specific sites indicated below.

June 8, Field Trip - The History of the Saugatuck Yacht Club and sailing school, with a presentation by Emily Watts. This program is a field trip to the Saugatuck Yacht Club facility and is a collaborative program of SYC and the SDHS.

Presentation in memory of Ann Renaldi

July 13, Field Trip to the New Richmond Swing Bridge (Manlius Township), with a presentation by Al Weener

Sponsored by Arthur Ashley and Darin Reiling

August 10, Time TBA, Annual Society Picnic at the Old School House, Douglas

Sponsored by Jolene Jackson and Lonnie Hannaford
Orchard Cottage at 254 Water Street is owned by Chuck Arida and Christopher Lehman. This ravine-side cottage was originally built in the 1930s on the site of the second home built by Jonathan Wade, the founder of Douglas. In 2015, Chuck completely re-imagined the existing structure with a sophisticated makeover that compliments the scenic setting amidst woods and gardens. The results prove "small is indeed beautiful."

Tracey Shaforth's Left Bank at 277 Water Street takes advantage of commanding views of Wade's Bayou and the Kalamazoo River. In 2015, Tracey saw the house through an extensive remodel based on the designs of Judy Hillman. The traditional ranch-style home, built by Dean Dornan for his mother in the 1970s, has been updated to reflect the contemporary lifestyle of its current owner.

The Red House at 325 Water Street is owned by Ken Carls and Jim Schmiechen. Perched high above Wade's Bayou and the Kalamazoo River, the Red House is a mix of traditional and contemporary and includes an enclosed pool, patio and gardens. Designed by Jeff Scherer of Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle (Minneapolis) and built in 2000, the Red House is an expression of local farm vernacular and showcases Ken and Jim's many collections of art, antiques and curiosities.

Tickets for this triple treat are $100 per person.  

Tickets available now. Just REPLY to this email and we will be in touch.

TUESDAY TALKS 
(subject to change)

**July 5 - Local Native American History**  
Sponsored by Gun Lake Casino

**July 12 - Trolley Times: The Trolley Car Era**  
Sponsored by The Interurban

**July 19 - SDHS Art Collection** (back by popular demand!)  
Sponsored by Bart Webb

**July 26 - History of the Venetian Festival**  
Sponsored by Mike Mattern and Bill Hess, and Kathleen Markland

**August 2 - Saugatuck Lighthouse and Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area acquisition history**  
Sponsored by Fran and Bill Myers

**August 9 - How artists relate to water**  
Sponsored by Ken Carls

**August 16 - The Old School House and its impact on the Community**  
Sponsored by Bill and Nancy Woods

**August 23 - The Mt. Baldhead Radar Tower**  
Sponsored by Steve Hutchins

**August 30 - Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources**  
Sponsored by Sunny Hill and Maury Decoster

A NOTE ABOUT TUESDAY TALKS

New for 2016: Attendance is free at all Tuesday Talk programs for current SDHS members. Non-members and guests of members are encouraged to attend by making a suggested donation of $5. New memberships may be obtained with dues payment at any Tuesday Talk. Seating is first-come, first-served.

"Layers" of Student Art on Exhibit at the OSH

Easel on Down the Road Together  
*Layers of Paint, Layers of Lives: Art and History Along the Lower Kalamazoo River*
The full 2016 Dine Around Schedule can be found [HERE].

Welcome New Members!

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

- Jayne Glatz, Matthews, NC
- Maureen O'Rourke, Grand Rapids, MI
- Thomas Reiss, Fennville, MI
- Lauri and Jim Sullivan, Fennville, MI

New Lifetime Members!

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

- Douglas & Bonnie Lowe, Saugatuck, MI
- Greg Plowe & Steve Debbink, Saugatuck, MI

Saugatuck-Douglas LIFE

In advance of next year's exhibit at the History Museum, SDHS is looking for your photographs and memories from Saugatuck at mid-century: 1950s-1970s. This was a time of national turmoil and local transformation and we're excited to chronicle this era in "the recent past." If you have photographs you'd be interested in loaning or donating to the Society for this project, please e-mail the Society or send to PO Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406-0617. More on this in future issues!

This picture is deceiving - each of the nine panels in the exhibit measures 8 feet tall by 3 1/2 feet wide and depicts local landmarks or landscapes. The artists featured in the April e-News can be seen lower right. (click for full size)

A collaborative and semester-long project has culminated in a beautiful student art and learning exhibit on display at the Old School House through May 28.

Backed by a grant through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, local 7th and 2nd graders have been working together all year to create this exhibit, which has included writing, researching, presenting, and art. With the expertise of visiting artist Anne Corlett and through work in class with teachers Ms. Lewis, Mrs. Boverhof, Mrs. Jackson, and Mrs. Kelley, the students have been learning about important historical sites in the Saugatuck-Douglas area.

They have used this knowledge to create an exhibit which will first be on display at the Old School House in Douglas. On June 1, the art panel portion of the exhibit, Layers of Paint, Layers of Lives: Art and History along the Lower Kalamazoo River, moves to the SCA, where the nine pieces will be on display as a part of Anne Corlett's summer exhibit, Easel on Down the Road. The panels will be on permanent display post-exhibit at both the Middle School/High School and the elementary school buildings, and have also been accepted as entries in Art Prize 2016, pending a location for display.
By Chris Yoder

The graduation exercises for the Saugatuck High School Class of 1901 was held May 24, at the Congregational church atop the hill in Saugatuck. Sixteen graduates were joined by an enthusiastic crowd. Class President Jennie Veits, presented an oration entitled "Education." Class Secretary Howard Coates, gave one on "Locomotives." The other class members were Clarence Halverson, Marie Upham, Olive Ludwig, Lewis Knox, Florence Miller, Lottie Hancock, John Blink, Mame Schumacher, Clarence Winslow, Faith Kirby, Louise Walz, Robert Olson, Ethel Winslow, and Mattie Hirner (many of these Saugatuck surnames are still recognized today).

Jennie Veits was to marry James Brown and to become the mother of the late Bee Finch. Clarence Halverson was the son of a Great Lakes pilot. Clarence Winslow was to become the father-in-law of Frank Denison of Broward Marine fame. Faith

The project was conceptualized and created by art teachers Brittany Boverhof and Danielle Hanna, and local artist Anne Corlett, and fully executed and imagined by the 2nd grade, 7th grade, and the High School Painting Class of Saugatuck Public Schools. In addition to the art, students were able to participate in the growing #MichiganPlacesMatter social media campaign by taking photos of historic places and spaces in Saugatuck and Douglas that matter to them.

"Douglas" panel with local student research at the OSH.

The way the different layers of paint are brushed on the 8-foot-tall panels mimics how different layers of history are hidden in the past. These paintings were created in layers, and there are different levels to each one. The 2nd grade classes at Douglas Elementary were the first to begin on six of these large paintings. The 2nd graders did the first layer and the 7th graders added layers on top of it. The High School painting class painted three of these panels fully, following the same procedure as the others. This doesn't mean that any work was erased,
Kirby Nevins was to turn her family home into the first local hospital (today "The Kirby House"). At least seven of these folk rest in Riverside Cemetery. Two of these are the first and last class members to pass away: Marie Upham, who married John R. Moyer and died at age 37 in 1912, leaving two young daughters; Olive Ludwig, who married Ira Koning and lived to the ripe old age of 97, dying in 1981.

L: Jennie Veits Brown,
B: Olive Ludwig Koning,
LL: Mattie Hirner

In an article entitled "Honors Won at Labor's Care," the May 31st issue of THE SAUGATUCK COMMERCIAL reported

Lack of space forbids anything like a detailed account of the program each evening, and as to the orations, all that we will say is that the twentieth century class has added new laurels instead, each layer of work helped bring more depth and beauty to the finished piece.

The detail and depth of these works can only be appreciated in-person. SDHS members will be welcome to tour the exhibit during the Season Opening Party at the Old School House on Saturday, May 28. The building and exhibit will also be open to the public weekdays May 25-27 from Noon to 4PM. Come by and see them for yourself!

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**Director's Corner**

From the time I arrived at the end of last summer till now, I've been told/warned(?) about how busy both our communities and the Society will be during the coming summer months. Fortunately, having recently lived along the Connecticut shoreline and spent plenty of childhood time along the Lake Michigan shore at Grand Haven and Ludington, the crush of tourist traffic won't be a huge surprise. As for the Society's full calendar, I can't wait.

The season will begin with the Season Opening Party on May 28 which coincides with the first day the Museum will be open this year - 7 days a week through September 5. Stop by to see the refreshed exhibit and museum shop area, and check out the new merchandise for sale. In June we'll be working hard to install new exhibits in the Old School House, allowing that building to be open later in the summer with new things to see and do. And our Root Campers will be here in the second half of the month learning all about science, nature and history.

July begins our weekly Tuesday Talk presentation series, which combined with an evening field trip to New Richmond will present ten different programs this summer. You'll even find the Director giving a Tuesday Talk himself! I'll look forward to seeing and meeting members at the Annual Society Picnic in August. Throw in the student art exhibit at the OSH this month, the new tour on the SDHS phone app, a grant deadline or two, and it'll certainly be a busy season! We're trying to highlight the value of SDHS memberships this year and are instituting some new benefits. They're mentioned in the text of this issue after the words New for 2016:

Thanks to the hard work of Society Lifetime
to our high school and earned for itself well deserved honors. Prof. Latta is not to be blamed for feeling proud of this class. Each theme was handled in a manner that showed careful and well-directed thought. One amusing fact was brought out by the class historian, as follows: The oldest member of the class is Clarence, the youngest, Clarence; the tallest member Clarence; the shortest Clarence; the heaviest member Clarence, and the lightest Clarence. Of course there are two Clarences - Winslow and Halverson.

The writer continued with praise for the quality of local education, saying:

There is probably no school in Western Michigan that graduates a larger per cent of its students, and we doubt if there is another that has turned out the same proportion of successful teachers. While this is due in a large measure to the earnest work of Prof. Latta, we must not forget that the education of the pupil begins in the primary department, and if the work in that and each of the succeeding departments was not faithfully done such good results could not come from the High school.

The high ratings achieved by Saugatuck High School today show that some things don't change, even after a period of 115 years.

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**Garden Happenings**

"Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

~ Chief Sitting Bull

I think our gardens really like the rain and cooler temperatures, because they are beautiful!

This time of year is so exciting to see everything come back to life, including our Garden Keepers. Lee and John and others are working hard to get everything perfect for our upcoming season opening party. Steve Hutchins, SDHS president, always puts our cool stuff back in their places. Dick Bont is helping John with our Camp Gray sign, as well as Vince Heyser and the high school students. There is a promise of having it installed in the near future. Keep your fingers crossed! We are really excited to

member Bill Underdown, we will have the assistance of two student interns from Central Michigan University this summer. More on their backgrounds and interests in the next issue of e-News. Till then, I look forward to meeting our members and visitors at Society activities and events....thank you for your support!

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**Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity without a lot of Time Commitment?**

If you answered "Yes", then we invite you to be a volunteer host at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum this season.

You can volunteer as little or as much as you wish. You chose the date and time that fits your schedule.

If you are interested [REPLY](mailto:info@saugatuckhistory.org) to this e-mail or call Bill Hess at 269.857.1081 and you will be added to the Hosts' email listing. Each week an e-mail is sent to all Hosts listing the upcoming openings. (A "shift" at the Museum is for 2 hours: either Noon to 2pm or 2pm to 4pm). If one of the open times fits your schedule, you simply respond back to be added to the schedule. Easy and fun!

The first time you are scheduled to host, a veteran Host will meet you at the Museum to help you through your first day.

Hope you will join the more 30 SDHS members who have signed up to be Museum Hosts this season.

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**New at the Saugatuck-Douglas Museum Shop**

The beloved Saugatuck map by American illustrator Fred Stearns (1885-1967) will be available as a 24 x 18 inch, ready-to-frame reproduction. The large format reveals every charming detail of village life.
see it in place and bring more local history to our "Back In Time" garden. Dottie Lyon and the Garden Club have cleaned our entrance and continue to make it more and more beautiful. Also, many thanks to Mike Economos and all of the helpers at the museum waterfront garden. Wow! We couldn't do it without all of you. Thank you all so much!

If anyone has any garden tools they would like to donate, please let us know. We would like to have some on hand for our Green Team.

DO NOT BE AFRAID! We wanted to put that out there, because we will be placing bee homes in the Back In Time Garden this year. Thanks to Lee Ver Schure, we now have a native bee house located on our garage. And thanks to Eileen and Chris Raphael, we have a honey bee box near the orchard. We hope to have native bees in the bee house, which are NOT aggressive and will help to pollinate our gardens. However, the honey bee box will just be for human demonstration only. We want our visitors to check out the box, take it apart, stack it back up, and learn more about these amazing creatures and all the work they do!

Lots of events are being scheduled at the garden. We have an orientation meeting on June 2 from 9-11AM for people interested in being on the Green Team. We have first graders from Douglas Elementary visiting us on June 8th. John Migas will be hosting a pruning seminar on June 25 at 9AM, and of course...... Root Camp! Campers are signing up left and right.... kids that attended last year and also new campers. But there is room for plenty more, so please give the kids in your life a gift of camp. Go on-line and register your little ones ages 6-11 today. Many, many thanks to Suzanne Jenkins for sponsoring a family to come to camp, Gary Meddler for his continued support, Arthur Ashley and Darin Reiling for sponsoring our pioneer cooking program and of course our Holland Horticulture Club for their yearly scholarship support. So grateful and exciting.

Learning more and signing up for Root Camp is easy, but you need to sign up by June 1! Just click the logo below.

Meanwhile, a Terrific Tangle at the Museum...

Society members Arthur Ashley, Ellen Donovan,
Erik Kirchert and Vic Bella spread out a cotton net, a type once commonly used by local fishermen. The net, donated by the Saugatuck Township Fire District, has been waiting for an opportunity to be put on display. As part of the updates to the popular WATER exhibit, the net will grace the museum patio... if the team can get it straightened out.

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**Riverside Blooms**

*By Chris Yoder*

For the past many years, SDHS volunteers have gone out in the fall to plant daffodil bulbs at the graves of local "orphans" (those without family or whose family has moved away). The results of these efforts can now be seen at Riverside, Douglas and Taylor cemeteries. If you would like to join in the planting next fall, or contribute bulbs or bone meal to the effort, contact Chris Yoder at: cyoder@tds.net or 616-212-3443.

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**The Bill Simmons Scrapbook**

*By Jack Sheridan*

This is the eighth 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.

There is not much mystery about these shots. Too bad we cannot bring the big red barn and the dock alongside back, if just for a weekend. This presentation is just a teaser. Have fun.

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. I’d love to hear some feedback on my choices - how about some discussion? Subject suggestions encouraged!

Any reader comments will not be published without reader permission.

See you at the Party!

Interested in learning more about your family history? Many times, folks who "aren't into history"
**Saturday, May 28, 5:00PM**

**30th Anniversary & Season Opening Party**

The season opening reception will be held at the Old School House this year and will kickoff our celebration of the Society's 30th year. The fun begins at 5:00PM rain or shine.

**Explore:** the 2nd & 7th Grade art panels featuring the history of Saugatuck and Douglas, on exhibit in the Old School House (see article this issue)

**Tour:** the Francis Surfboat Exhibit, one of our highly-regarded permanent history displays

**Revel:** in the beauty of the Back-in-Time Garden, resplendent in springtime color

**Mingle:** with Society members and catch up with friends!

Your SDHS membership must be current to attend!

The Old School House will be our beautiful spring venue for the 2016 Season Opening Party. (Click for full size)

find the research and learning in tracing their ancestors back to be a truly exciting experience - especially with more resources than ever available at one's fingertips!

The Family History Group can help you in your quest, whether you are new to family history research or just want to learn more about sources and records. Got questions on how to get going? That is what we are for! Call or email us or take note of these upcoming regular meetings of the SDHS Family History Group:

- **Thursday June 2**
- **Thursday June 16**
- **Thursday July 7**

These upcoming meetings are in the Old School House in the downstairs tech room, and begin at 3:30pm. Note that your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area!

The mailing address is SDHS Family History, PO Box 617 Douglas, MI 49406, or email to the addresses below. 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 a membership in the SDHS.

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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**Difference in Decades/New in the Collection**
The structure long known as the Maplewood Hotel was built in 1860 serving the community as a furniture and grocery store and later as apartments before being converted into a hotel in 1898. In the 1920s and 1930s, a group of citizens sought to give Saugatuck a more fashionable look, and hotel owners Frank and Carrie Wicks commissioned architect George W. Maher to design a modern facade in 1923 in the classical Greek Revival style. A great period photo of the facade of the Maplewood was found in last month's *e-News* Bill Simmons Scrapbook segment.

The postcard above, from the Society's collection, also depicts this new facade and probably dates to the era when it was installed. The photo below, captured in May, 2016, shows that the classical profile and exterior of this building remains at this prominent location on Butler Street. (click each image to enlarge)

But wait! Look closely at the old postcard image above. Note the early streetlamp mounted to the telephone pole by way of a decorative goose neck arm. We know that electricity first came to Saugatuck
in 1902 when the electric interurban line was completed to Holland. In 1912, the Lake Shore Electric Company was founded in Saugatuck to generate electrical power. This resulted in the expansion of the original brick "Pump House" building when electric generators were added (today home to the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum!). Along with the new generators and expanded facility came the addition of 70 street lights in Saugatuck and 40 in Douglas. Research indicates the new electric lights were turned on on July 17, 1912. It is likely that this one pictured in the postcard view is one of those original lamps. Some were hung from span wires centered over major intersections. Others were pole-mounted to illuminate both street and sidewalk.

Recently donated to the Society's collection is an example of one of these original style Saugatuck street lights. The artifact includes wiring insulators and the socket mechanism along with the decorative fluted reflector plate. The wiring which remains would never pass inspection, but what do you know? A modern socket was at some point installed and a 100-watt bulb fits quite well.

Based on the modern photo above, the street light and the telephone pole itself are long gone from the lot beside the Maplewood. (Note that there is a tree planted almost in the same exact place, however!) But we're pleased to preserve this **illuminating** piece of Saugatuck-Douglas History from the early electrical era in our towns. Thanks to Bob Lord for donating this vintage lamp fixture!

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**Public Service Announcement**

*Have you heard of a serious condition called FOMO?*
**FOMO** is an acronym for "Fear Of Missing Out." Calm your anxiety about missing an exciting Dine-Around by reserving your tickets now!

Click here for a preview of the 2016 events.

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This is the last month to register! Do so easily by clicking the Root Camp logo above!

**ABOUT THE SOCIETY**

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

- **Individual** $50
- **Household** $70
- **Premium** $300
- **Corporate** $500
- **Lifetime** $1,000
- **Senior (65+)
- **Senior Household** $30 $45

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.

It's membership renewal season! Send in your 2016 renewal with payment today or click HERE to renew online.
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 and WATER, our feature exhibit, will reopen with some enhancements and additions on May 28, 2016. Always free to the public but donations gratefully accepted. The Museum will be open 7-days a week May 28 - September 5, 2016.

Click HERE to learn more about the Museum and recent past exhibits.

The Old School House History Center 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 Surfboat Exhibit and Back-in-Time Garden are open to the public daily throughout the spring and summer. Old School House summer hours TBD.

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.sdhistoricalsociety.org
Follow us on Facebook! Click the logo below.

Again this year, the Society's Newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.