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~

Reserve Your Space Today for the annual Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 15, 6:00-9:00 PM
Saugatuck Yacht Club, 15 Park Street, Saugatuck

Tickets: $20/person
Reservations Required by December 5

Our annual holiday party is a great opportunity to catch up with fellow members and friends, enjoy tasty bites and beverages, and celebrate another successful year of bringing history alive here. You can easily make your reservation and purchase your tickets online with a major credit card by visiting http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/current/reservations/index.php, or click HERE for a printable reservation form which can be mailed to the office.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Blue Coast Trio with a special appearance by Steve Mottram. RSVP's are required and are due no later than December 5. See you there!

Old School House Store open for Small Business Saturday

Looking for the perfect gift for the historian or Saugatuck-Douglas enthusiast in your life? You don't have to look far! SDHC books, posters, hats, koozies, shirts and more will be for sale this Saturday, November 26, between 10AM and 3PM in the Old School House in downtown Douglas. It's a great chance to score that perfect item for someone special to you, and support a small business that adds value to our community!

If you can't get to Douglas on Saturday, you can still visit our online bookstore to purchase any of our beautiful publications. Items ship USPS and can typically be processed on the next business day. Shipping charges are included in the online price! Visit the online bookstore here: http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/publications/books.php

Bylaws Ballot coming to you soon

Bylaws are a set of rules that provide a framework for the operation of an organization. Our Bylaws were last amended in 2008. Since then there have been changes in the state law as well as best practices governing non-profits, for example, in the use of electronic transmission for voting and
History Center accepts Charles Lorenz archives

The History Center recently received a large (15 box) collection of archival materials belonging to the late Charles J. Lorenz. Charles was a dedicated historian who was a key force in the establishment of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society in 1986. He served in a number of board positions before his untimely death in 1994.

Charles Lorenz

Charles was born in Chicago, IL in 1941. His early introduction to the Saugatuck area occurred as a camper at Camp Gray on Lake Michigan. The sound of the waves and the foghorn blowing at night were two impressions he remembered from those days. Saugatuck would draw him back on many vacations afterwards. He returned again in 1966 and '67 to counsel at the same camp he attended as a youth. After his marriage to Helen Christine Hase in June 1969 he spent his honeymoon in Saugatuck.

After moving to this area, Charles did extensive research into early local Native Americans, who were living in western Michigan in the early 1800s along with their Congregational missionary minister, Rev. George N. Smith. Charles tediously transcribed the Rev. Smith's daily diary and papers. He ended up buying Rev. Smith's house, called the "Old Wing Mission," built in 1846 - the oldest house in Holland.

Much of his research went into the book Old Wing Mission: The Chronicles of the Reverend George N. and Arvilla Powers Smith, Missionary Teachers of Chief Waukazo's Ottawa Indian Band in Western Michigan 1838-1849. The book, edited by Robert Swierenga and William Van Appledorn, continued the work after Charles death. The dedication reads 'for Charles J. Lorenz, whose labor of love made this participating in meetings. In other instances, the Bylaws did not address certain situations, which could lead to confusion. Accordingly the Board has approved a number of amendments to the Bylaws, which were drafted by a licensed attorney member of the Board, the President, and the Executive Director.

You will soon receive a ballot asking you to vote to approve or disapprove the amendments to the Bylaws. A copy of the proposed amended Bylaws can be reviewed at this link: http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/Newsletter/2016/nov16/2016_SDHS_By-laws_Amended.pdf. A hard copy will also be available for inspection at the office in the Old School House, or you can call the Executive Director to ask that a copy be mailed to you. Please return your ballot at your earliest convenience, but no later than December 23, 2016.

Welcome New Members!

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

- Cornelius Darcy - Flint, MI
- Julianne Fletcher - Saugatuck, MI
- Wilma Schock - Saugatuck, MI
- Mike and Michelle Shaw, Fennville, MI

What You Missed

November's Monthly Meeting program was a field trip of sorts - just up a flight of stairs to the Old School House Art Gallery, where art collection manager Ken Kutzel discussed the newly-hung art exhibits presented in the space. The interested crowd learned about the details of works by Wilfred "Wally" Berg, and the assembly of art and photographs to create the new thematic Chain Ferry Exhibit. The audience was also treated to a discussion and photographs of the recently re-discovered series of Carl Hoerman murals painted during the Great Depression in the former high school in Paw Paw, Michigan (west of Kalamazoo).

Charles also self-published a small book on the history of Saugatuck titled The Early History of Saugatuck and Singapore, Michigan, 1830-1840 Newark Township. The collection of archival materials we received includes much of his research for this book and other related Saugatuck history topics including many photographs and local ship histories.

The Charles J. Lorenz Award of Achievement was established in 1997 by the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society board of directors as a way to honor the memory of Charles, who so graciously gave of his time, talent, money and energy in the formation and development of this organization. The award is given yearly, for distinguished service toward fulfilling the mission of the Society by "providing leadership in enabling the community to understand its past, and use its history to shape its future and preserve its quality of life.”

Thank you to Ken and all of our Monthly Meeting/Tuesday Talk presenters in 2016! And a thank you of equal volume to the sponsors of these wonderful programs! December's "meeting" with be the annual Holiday Party on December 15. We always take the month of January off but the Monthly Meeting series will resume with a February program - watch e-News for the most current information!

We thank the family of Charles Lorenz for this most valuable research material donation!

SMILE, and support the History Center with Amazon!

Support the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center when you shop on Black Friday, Cyber Monday or anytime throughout the year. Simply log in to your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3010564 and Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to SDHC!

2016 Cemetery Daffodils - Part One

By Chris Yoder

On Nov. 6, six volunteers meet in Riverside Cemetery to plant the annual batch of daffodil bulbs at the graves of local "orphans" (people without descendants or whose family has moved away).
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.

In the September newsletter there was an article about Frank Hayden (1858-10/10/1882) and his unusual tree shaped gravestone. Frank received bulbs this year.

In the second year of the History by Camera feature - the BILL SIMMONS SCRAPBOOK - the format has been changed to fewer photos and more historical commentary and analysis.

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 wonderful record of the middle of the twentieth century!

The photos this month record the launching of the first Island Queen on June 5, 1954. The Queen was built by Dick Hoffman for use as a Kalamazoo River excursion boat. Dick was an exceptionally talented local business man who operated an
Abigail Abbey White marker (click each for full size)

Another tree shape marker is over the grave of Abigail Abbey White (1848-1912). Born in Ireland, she came to Saugatuck as a child with her parents, Pierce and Abigail (Astle) Abbey. In 1865 she married Civil War veteran David White. They had only one child, baby Abigail who died at 11 months of age. David was promoted five times, leaving the service as a 2nd Lieutenant. He died at the Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids in 1911, and she died there the following year.

At the request of the Saugatuck Woman's Club, we also targeted the graves of Minnie Breuckman and her family. Minnie was the individual who bequeathed her family residence to be the meeting place for the club, and it remains such today (see article in last month's e-News). Minnie Breuckman (1869-1934) was born in the family home and never married. Also in the family plot are: Minnie's grandfather, Stephen Beffel (1771-1859), an immigrant from Germany; her mother Mary Beffel Breuckman (1831 Prussia-1914); her brother William Breuckman (1857-1868), who was killed in an accident at the shingle mill; and her amusement park - Anchor Park - located where Wicks Park is today. The vessel operated out of that location and made trips both up and down the river.

Actually the first Island Queen [seen below] operated for only one season, the summer of 1954, and was then sold to a Texas business man who saw the boat and made Hoffman an offer he could not refuse. Dick then built the second Island Queen which was very similar but of a slightly improved design. The Island Queen II had a profitable history of about thirty years.

Both Queens were built by Dick at a site away from the river bank and then moved by truck to the launch site, which was the ferry landing on the west side of the river.

The launching of the first Island Queen was big deal! In the large crowd were all sorts of local big wigs, a minister, and even a state senator.

She was christened with a bottle of champagne. The launch cradle was greased with fifty pounds of tallow and with the help of the Peel fishing tug she slid into the mighty Kalamazoo.

Photos by Bill Simmons tell the story!

This column is one of the SDHC PR tools used to promote the upcoming 2017 "Cold War: Hot Towns" exhibit.
Did you know that researching your family history is one of the ways people experience their most personal connection to the past? Who are my ancestors? Where did they come from? What did they do?

The SDHC 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 SDHC Family History Group:

**Thursday December 1**
**Thursday December 15**
**Thursday January 5**

These upcoming meetings are in the Old School House (use the back door) and begin at 3:30pm. Note that your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area! If you can't attend a meeting, we can still provide assistance. The only requirement to participate is a membership in the SDHC.

Questions/comments/advice/needs - contact Jack Sheridan:

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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!

#### Garden Happenings

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all."

~Stanley Horowitz

What an amazing and colorful Autumn we had! Now it's time to clean up! John and Lee will be hard at work to wrap up at the Old School House grounds and Mike will take care of the Museum. Thanks guys! Once the leaves are picked up, our garden committee will take a month off and enjoy the Holiday Season. Kudos to Lee, Nathan and Ruth for installing over 400 daffodil bulbs purchased for our Daffodil Trail. Thank you to those donors who "bought a bag" of bulbs to support this project! It will be a spectacular show next spring.

Our Root Camp committee is taking a little R and R before we start planning for next year. Please remember, we would like to focus on our Native Americans for next year's camp... their dance, art, music, construction methods etc. So, if anyone has any possible connections, please contact Ruth Johnson @ ruthannj@frontier.com.

We wish all of you, a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy and cherish the time with your family and friends.

Until next month,

-The Landscape and Root Camp Committees

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Barrel Fortification
269 857-7144
jack.sheridan@gmail.com
Chris Yoder:
269 857-4327
cyoder@tds.net

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**It's the Holiday Season!**

There's still time to shop SDHC merchandise and publications before the holidays arrive! If you have an interest in history, architecture, local genealogy or cooking, we have you covered. Or consider buying a copy of the WGVU DVD *Michigan Hometown Stories: Saugatuck/Douglas* to remind a friend (or yourself) about how wonderful our area is, even during the long winter months. Items ship USPS and shipping is included in the online price!


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*TNT Roofing finished the roof with a copper drip edge (shown). Next, a metal facia will be applied over the wooden one. Andy Krino is working on the windows; Al Weener the door. Spotlights similar to those which once protruded from the top to illuminate the exterior are next on the list, for spring. Two stainless cables will eventually encircle the staves.*

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**Communications Survey Imminent**

SDHC communicates with its members and the general public in a variety of ways: this newsletter, our website, e-blasts, Facebook, our mobile app, and press releases via local newspapers. We are considering changes to the website, newsletter, and other methods we currently use, but we want your input. The short survey will arrive via the same method as you receive newsletter - either by email or postal mail - and should take less than 10 minutes of your time. Thanks in advance for your thoughts and consideration!

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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
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

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

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

Follow us and learn more history on Facebook! Click the logo below.
Again this year, the SDHC e-News is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.