Mark your Calendar:  
Winter and spring programs announced!

Our "Monthly Meeting" presentations are open for free to members and the public and begin at 7:00PM at the Old School House at 130 Center Street in Douglas, unless otherwise indicated below.

February 8, Field trip to the Holland Museum for a behind the scenes tour of their collections storage areas and current exhibits with presentations by Holland Museum staff. Due to limited space, advance reservations are required. See following article.

Sponsored by Bob and Bobbie Gaunt

March 22**, Haunted Lighthouses of Michigan, presented by Dianna Stampfler of Promote Michigan

Sponsored by Laura and Bob Godfrey

April 12, Field trip to the Judson-Heath House, with a presentation about the history and renovation of this Butler Street landmark by owners Jennifer Davenport and Steve Boyd

Sponsored by Lynne Snyder and the Bouchie Family

May 24**, To the Garden!, a walk and talk field trip through the Back-in-Time Gardens at the Old School House with a presentation by the SDHC Landscape Committee during the height of azalea and rhododendron season!

Sponsored by Tom and Donna Farrington

** indicates this program has been pushed back 2 weeks from the traditional "2nd Wednesday" date

Thank you to those folks listed above who have sponsored one of our upcoming programs! Multiple sponsors for each program are welcome and encouraged and will receive

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.
February's Monthly Meeting: A Special Holland Field Trip

SDHC members and friends have been afforded a special opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Holland Museum's collections storage areas and current exhibits. The tour will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 8 beginning promptly at 7:00pm.

In a walking tour guided by Holland Museum Manager of Education and Outreach Connie Locker and Museum Registrar Rick Jenkins, program guests will view rarely seen artifacts up close, including historical items from The Netherlands, Dutch East Indies and the Holland/West Michigan area, highlighting items with Saugatuck/Douglas relevance. Guests then will be invited to visit the Museum's permanent exhibit of significant artifacts, documents and photographs depicting Holland-area history, and will have time to tour either the Dutch Art Galleries or the Museum's current rotating exhibit For the Future Peace: WWII and Holland on the Homefront.

Total time for all program activities is estimated at 90 minutes. The Museum's exhibit and collections storage areas are handicap-accessible and barrier free, with limited seating in the exhibit areas and none along the walking-tour route through the collections facilities.

Due to space limitations in the collections area, reservations for program attendance must be made in advance by e-mail to info@sdhistoricalsociety.org or by phone call to the SDHC office at 269-857-5751. Accepted reservations will be confirmed.

The Holland Museum is located at 31 W. 10th Street (at S. River Ave.) in downtown Holland, with free parking available in the city lot at the Museum entrance.

On September 23, 2017, join us for a gala evening in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Old School House. Watch your mailbox this spring and forthcoming issues of this newsletter for more details.

Welcome New Members!

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

- David Bohn and Bradley Hopkins - Chicago, IL
- Jef and Kathy Kurfess - Westlake Village, CA
- Charles Mason and Hannah Nendick-Mason - Douglas, MI
- Darren Messing - Fennville, MI
- James Skinner - Holland, MI

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e-News tries Something New

We received a lot of helpful feedback as part of...
Limited space is available for this tour. You must RSVP if you plan to attend. All accepted reservations will be confirmed.

Thank You!

A special THANK YOU is in order for everyone who contributed to our year-end campaign this year! Adequate year-end funds allow us to start the new season off on a strong note and enable us to plan the wide variety of programming, exhibits, and more in the new year. If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time to add your support! Just click the donate button below. All contributions receive a written acknowledgement statement.

Dine Around celebrates Winter's Demise!

Lucy's little Kitchen, Saugatuck
Thursday, February 23, 6:00PM
$50 per person

Join us for a new approach to the ever-popular Dine Around series! Matt Balmer, our incredibly talented local chef, is opening his newest establishment, Lucy's little Kitchen, for a special History Center evening on February 23. He has developed a fabulous menu of apps and entrees such as conch fritters, seared mahi mahi, a memorable meatloaf, and more.

Click here for the full menu. A cash bar will be available. We expect this to be a popular event with the local diehards who "tough it out" during the long winter months. Enjoy this opportunity to escape our gray doldrums and connect with friends through food and laughter!
Tickets now available. Reservations must be received by February 18. Reply to this email to reserve your place or call 269-857-5751 and we will be in touch.

Double the Fun
Friday, April 28, 5:00-8:00PM
$50 per person

We will be welcoming spring in downtown Douglas at the homes of Scott Habermah (8 Wall Street) and Rick Bradley and Ken Welsh (41 Spring Street) in late April! They have each completed amazing projects in the past year that have expanded their residences in unusually creative and very different ways. You have the opportunity that evening to stroll from one to the other, and back again, to indulge in appetizers, desserts, and various libations.

To reserve your space for Double the Fun, simply reply to this email and we will be in touch.

HISTORY by CAMERA

The Bill Simmons Scrapbook

By Jack Sheridan

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 Saugatuck ferry has it all ... history, the setting, action, young ladies, a most memorable uniqueness! In the summer of 1956, fresh out of high school, I worked as one of the two ferrymen. The ferry job was a continuation of a family tradition as
My father and my uncle were ferrymen thirty years before me. In those days they had to both row the boat and crank the chain driven scow.

By 1950 the chain driven scow was in the history books and the crossing was only by nine passenger double ended rowboat.

Stan [last name lost] and I worked seven days a week, eight hour rotating shifts, from eight in the morning until midnight, fifty cents an hour plus tips. The passenger fare was ten cents each way. In those days there was a lot of traffic - especially on nice days - from folks walking to the Oval. It was the greatest job for meeting girls! Some great 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. 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!

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**Family Fun for Everyone!**

**March 4: Ready, Set, MUSH!**

On Saturday, March 4 from 1:00-3:00PM sled dogs are coming to Douglas! This FREE event coincides with the first day of the Iditarod Sled Race in Alaska. Bring the kids and grandkids to join in Iditarod-themed fun for all ages. Presenters Dan and Lynda Anderson of Tun-Dra Kennels will give a short interactive presentation at 1 p.m. and again at 2 p.m. about the history, rewards and challenges of sled-dog racing in the frozen north. Then it's time to meet the stars of the show - their real-life Siberian Huskies. Harness up a team for a sled race around the History Center garden, make a huskie-themed craft and join a scavenger hunt around the library to track down a very literary team of dogs.

This event takes place in and around the Old School House and Saugatuck-Douglas District Library. In case of rain, activities will relocate to the Douglas Elementary School. Call 269-8578241 or check the library website for details.

Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library, Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, Team Wellness of Saugatuck-Douglas and DES PTO.

**September 24: Family Fun Day**

It is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to celebrating the 150th year of the Old School House this year.
On Sunday, September 24th, we will host a Family Fun Day on the grounds of the Old School House!

Judi Vanderbeck, Christina Lewis and Kayla Britten are co-chairing the event and are seeking out those amongst you who have or know someone who has any hidden talents. Talents sought after include those who can juggle, make balloon animals, are skilled in face painting, can walk on stilts, act as clowns or have clown costumes, etc. etc.

Family Fun Day will have a carnival theme; with games, snacks and prizes, and also old-fashioned schoolyard games and activities held in the Back-in-Time Garden behind the Old School House. If you have any crafting skills, outdoor games, jump ropes, etc. that we could potentially use to make Family Fun Day a success, please contact Judi Vanderbeck at hj.vanderbeck@comcast.net or at 239-218-4597.

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**Patchy Paint**

**part of the 2017 Plan**

Many folks have noticed that the Old School House is looking a bit worse for wear this winter. It may seem hard to believe, but SDHC's purchase and rehabilitation of the former Douglas Union School began 10 years ago with a conversation between then-building owner Nancy Budd and SDHC leadership. The property's transformation over the ensuing decade has created a beautiful campus in the heart of downtown Douglas, a place for learning, growing, relaxing and reconnecting. It is a major asset to the Saugatuck-Douglas community.

The Old School House received a new coat of traditional white paint while the renovation was underway in the summer of 2008. The average lifespan of a paint job applied to wood siding is 8-10 years, depending on the type of paint, the species of wood and factors such as prolonged sun exposure. By 2016, it was evident that the 2008 paint job was reaching its life expectancy.

In late 2016, a contract was signed for the exterior of this Douglas landmark to be fully repainted during early 2017. The painter has assured us there will be no adverse effect from exposing the wood surfaces to one season of winter weather. As soon as the spring weather allows, expect to see progress on this repainting project, which will be complete by summer and the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of this historic union school. SDHC is presently pursuing grant opportunities which may help fund portions of the painting expense.

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**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!

Jack Sheridan:
269 857-7144  
jack.sheridan@gmail.com

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

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*By Jack Sheridan*

**FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE!**
**LEARN MORE IN THE ARTICLE ABOVE**

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 February 16**
Thursday March 2  
Thursday March 16

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-Douglass area! If you can't attend a meeting, we can still provide assistance. The only requirement to participate is an active membership in the SDHC.

Questions/comments/advice/needs - contact
Jack Sheridan:
269 857-7144
jack.sheridan@gmail.com
Chris Yoder:
269 857-4327
cyoder@tds.net

2016 Cemetery Daffodils - Part Two (Updated)

By Chris Yoder

[Apologies to our readers for my submitting an old version of the draft last month...This one includes details which were intended to be included at that time.]

Others whose Riverside Cemetery graves were selected for bulbs this year include:

Just to the left of the Brueckman stones (mentioned in Part One, November 2016) lies Addie Cook, wife of Jay W. Cook. Adelaide (nee Hutchinson) married Jay on Apr 21, 1867. Jay's parents, Dr. James B. Cook and Catherine Beadle were divorced in 1868. "Addie" apparently died in childbirth March 15, 1868. In the 1870 census, Jay and 2 year old son Eugene are shown living in the household of his uncle Warren Cook with his occupation shown as "warehouse keeper". Uncle Warren was a Justice of the Peace at that time and also is known to have become one of the original trustees of the village of Saugatuck when the first election was held in 1868. Jay remarried, had more children, and moved to Lansing where he died in 1924. We don't know what happened to their son Eugene.

George Jr Hall- (1926-1947) veteran of the US Navy, WWII. Died of a skull fracture at age 21. Application for a military marker was signed by H. S. Hall of Kendallville, IN.

Edward Arends was born at Singapore in 1862 and died 1898 in Saugatuck. He was the son of Arend S. Arends and Atta Huringa/Heeringa, both born in Europe. He served as a "wheelsman" on the steamer Bon Ami. He was taken sick from "congestion of the bowels" and carried to the Saugatuck home of his brother Seaton Arends, where he died the following day. He never married and had no descendants.

Ed Bedford (1851-1890) & his wife Alice Alvord (1857-1882). Alice died in Mar. 10, 1882, two months after having given birth to a daughter also named Alice. The following day their 3 year old son Claude died of scarlet fever. Daughter Alice married and died in Tucson, Arizona in 1932.

Charles Dickinson age 80, (1795 Mass-1876 Saugatuck) occupation: farmer. He was the son of Elisha Dickinson who served in the Revolutionary War and Hannah
Billings of Hampshire County, Mass. Although there is a marker by his stone saying he was a Civil War veteran, it seems unlikely due to his age at that time.

Hames Infants - d 1880 1881- hard to read details. George Hames was born in Rochester, NY, in 1834. He was orphaned in Battle Creek at age 11 and learned the carpenter trade. He first came to Saugatuck to help build the Saugatuck House. In 1859 he married Miss Martha Barnes and they resided in the village sixty years as man and wife, living in the home which still stands, directly beside the Congregational church. Seven children were born, two sons dying in infancy, and these are the ones getting bulbs.

Enoch Simpson, born 1812 in England, married Mary Jane Riheldaffar and they came to Michigan in 1858. In the 1870 census he is shown as a farmer with "1 horse, 1 milk cow, 2 working oxen, 90 bushels of Rye". Their son Enoch T Simpson died in the prison camp at Andersonville, GA on 18 Jul 1864 and is buried in the National Cemetery there. Enoch senior died at Saugatuck Mar. 2, 1872. Mary Jane m2. William Dornan of Plummerville. Daughter Annie Marie married and moved to Marshalltown, IA.

Frank Snay died on Aug. 13, 1889 age 11 months of cholera. He was the son of Great Lakes Capt. Joseph Snay and his wife Mary Spoores. Joseph was a son of the French Indian trader/guide Fabien Snay who rests in an unmarked grave in the Douglas cemetery.

Joseph Sinclair died as a result of being crushed by an elevator in Chicago on Sept 26, 1884, leaving a wife and three children. His body was brought home to Saugatuck by steamer for burial. During the Civil War, he served in Co B, 13th Regt Mich Inf, enlisting Sep. 3, 1864 and being discharged Jun 8, 1865. The 1870 Saugatuck census showed him working in the saw mill. He was a member and "flag holder" of GAR post 460.

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**Board Bio**

**Steve Hutchins, president**

[Another suggestion from the Communications Survey was to better introduce readers to the leadership of the organization. In each issue this year, we'll feature a quick bio of a member of the SDHC board of directors.]

**What is your role on the board?** I have been the Board President since the fall of 2015.

**What other aspects of SDHC are you involved in?** My main involvement is as the Facilities Chairman, in charge of cleaning and maintaining the Museum and Old School House. I also take care of the building rentals and set up for events.
What interests you most about Saugatuck-Douglas history?
My main interest is the economic and demographic transformation of Saugatuck and Douglas over the last 150 years. This is what is so fascinating about our photo archives. We can get a glimpse of what happened at any specific location over nearly that entire time period.

What is your background? I am a retired American Airlines Captain, who flew to a numerous international destinations in Europe and South America. I also served 26 years in the Navy Reserve as a fighter pilot and retired as a Captain. Over the years I lived in a lot of places including Japan and Germany, and came to Saugatuck as a year round resident in 2000.

Helen "Chris" Lorenz, 72
Saugatuck-Douglas History Center charter member Chris Lorenz, wife of the late charter member Charles Lorenz, passed away on December 23, 2016. Like her husband, Chris has a strong interest and passion for learning about local history. Click here for more details.

Jane (Bird) Van Dis, 95
Saugatuck-Douglas History Center charter member Jane Van Dis, passed away on January 11. Jane was the founder of the Saugatuck/Douglas Art Club and passionately supported the History Center and its collection. Click here for more details.

Garden Happenings
"Always maintain a kind of summer even in the middle of winter." ~Thoreau

Snow….rain….ice….fog….50 degree days! what else can we expect from this January? Although a number of people have taken advantage of this mild weather by working in their yards, the landscape committee is still in planning mode. Our goals for this year are to add graphics in the Rhododendron Station and improve the layout the Old Schoolyard area. We are still hoping someone has some cool, old garden tools they would like to donate, so we can display them in our potting shed. If anyone has any tools to help us out, please contact Ruth Johnson @ ruthannj@frontier.com. Thank you.

We are so excited to announce that Root Camp is set for June 26-29!!! Like the past years, we will have a morning session and an afternoon session. Please stay tuned for more information on
the different topics our campers will be exploring this year. Follow Root Camp on its own Facebook Page for the latest information!

Until next month,
The Garden and Root Camp Committees

New in the Archives

Thanks to SDHC member Chris T. Spencer, a trove of documents from the former Saugatuck Chamber of Commerce was recently donated to our archive. Amongst the brochures, flyers and more was a series of images taken around Saugatuck Winterfest ca. 1980. Click each photo below for a full-size version. If you have any information about Winterfest or can identify any of the people are in the photos, please send us an email at archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org or call 269-857-7901 as we'd love to get better information. It may not be the Blizzard of '78 but it looks like these sure were good snow years!

Any idea who these winners are?

Winner of the 1981 snow-carving competition was this 5-foot tall bunny rabbit!

This looks like a serious match of snow-baseball!

Based on the steel trash barrel....Oscar the Grouch?
If you can identify any familiar faces, we'd love to know who they are!

Still just as relevant today as ever; Star Wars droid R2-D2 makes an appearance in 1979.

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:

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

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 is closed for the winter season. It will re-open with an all-new exhibition 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 as weather permits. 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.