Plan to join SDHC members and friends at the Old School House 150th Anniversary Celebration benefit gala on September 23. Invitations are now in your mailbox and a limited number of tickets are available.

You won't want to miss it!

Get your tickets before they're gone!

Shuffle on Sheffield Lane
Thursday, July 13, 5-8:00PM

With summer upon us we are culminating our 2017 Dine Around summer season with a double home tour and cocktail party.

B&C Directory

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Celebrate 150 Years at the center of Community Life

With a fresh coat of paint all around, the Old School House is looking tip-top for its 150th birthday this year! To further highlight the anniversary, two new banners were mounted to the facade facing Center Street for this summer
Don't miss this opportunity for a wonderful evening at the home of Arthur Frederick and Mark Vanderlek at 2232 Sheffield Lane and the home of Eric LeJeune and Bryan Kemp at 2238 Sheffield Lane in pastoral Fennville.

Both homes are situated on a beautiful lake with fabulous views from decks and patios. Join members and friends as you stroll the grounds and gardens, take in the Koi pond, the artwork and as always the fabulous appetizers, drinks and camaraderie at both homes.

Tickets now available. $50/person. Reply to this email to reserve your place or call 269-857-5751 and we will be in touch.

Mark your Calendar!

TUESDAY TALKS
Attendance is free at all Tuesday Talk programs for current SDHC 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.
Thanks to our Series Sponsor: 
Saugatuck-Douglas Antique Market

July 11 - West Michigan Wines
Sponsored by Arthur Ashley & Darin Reiling

July 18 - Story of the West Michigan Pike
Sponsored by Mark Randall & Chris Saldivar

July 25 - Schools of Saugatuck-Douglas
Sponsored by John Thomas, a Douglas Native

August 1 - Ox-Bow in the 1950s, 60s and 70s
Sponsors: Cottage Home and Anonymous

August 8 - The Man Who Loved Saugatuck: the Reverend Joash Rice Taylor
Sponsored by Howard Rochte & Russ Lamesfield

August 15 - Value of an Historic District
Presented by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network

August 22 - Best of Bill Simmons Photos
Sponsors: Bill & Fran Myers and Steve Hutchins

August 29 - Saugatuck's Chain Ferry: Past, Present and Future?
Sponsors: Star of Saugatuck, Renee Zita, and the Bouchie Family

(Sponsor list current as of July 6, 2017)

Click HERE for a printable PDF calendar of 2017 Tuesday Talk programs

MONTHLY PROGRAMS
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.

July 12, Field Trip to the Felt Mansion,
Explore the recently renovated carriage house and learn more about the fascinating stories of Dorr Felt and the Felt family.
Sponsored by Osman Flowers & Firs and Marianne and Michael Giersch

August 9: Time TBD, Annual History Center Picnic at the Old School House, Douglas

Thank you to those above who have sponsored one of our programs! Multiple sponsors for each program are welcome and encouraged. If you would like to sponsor one of the 2017 programs, please REPLY to this

The 150th Anniversary of the Old School House will culminate over the weekend of September 23-24. On Saturday, Sept. 23, join us for a gala evening as we celebrate this community sesquicentennial. Members and friends received their invitations to this special evening in early July. The general public is also welcome to purchase tickets to the gala by calling 269-857-5751 or sending an email to director@sdhistoricalsociety.org. A limited number of tickets are available for the gala. You won't want to miss this event!

On Sunday, September 24 in the afternoon, the Old School House will play host to Family Fun Day. With its doors open to the Saugatuck-Douglas community, the Old School House property will feature old time games and crafts, the Critter Barn, musical
email and we'll be in touch. Sponsorships are $150 and help ensure we can continue our tradition of varied and interesting programming throughout the year!

Welcome New Members!

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

- Lois Bartelt, Fennville, MI
- Samuel Cummings and Janene Charlie, Douglas and Grand Rapids, MI
- David and Margaret Mason, Douglas, MI
- Matt Reilein and Lizzy Whitehorn, Douglas, MI
- Barry Spangler and Pat Cleland, Haslett, MI
- Marilyn Strobel and Don Horner, Fennville and Battle Creek, MI

New Lifetime Members!

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

- Ken Kutzel and Bill McGlone, Douglas, MI
- Chris Spencer and Charles Aschbrenner, Holland, MI

Pearl Ahnen, 90

SDHC member Pearl Ahnen passed away on June 7. Click here for more information.

David Bossert, 86

SDHC member David Bossert passed away in February. Click here for more information.

July 22nd - An American Roots Concert at the Old School House

Chris Vallillo is a singer/songwriter and roots musician who makes the people and places of "unmetropolitan" America come to life in song. Having spent the last 30 years in the rural Midwest, he
has a natural affinity for American Roots Music. Performing on six-string and bottleneck slide guitars and harmonica, Vallillo weaves original, contemporary, and traditional songs and narratives into a compelling and entertaining portrait of the history and lifestyles of the Midwest.

Since many of the traditional pieces Chris performs are songs he collected himself from the last pre-radio generation in rural Illinois, he brings a rare authenticity to his performances. In music ranging from the first pioneers through the era of steamboats, trains and early radio, today's audiences see and hear the music performed on period instruments as it was 100 years ago. From the joys of hand-cranked ice cream to the music of Stephen Foster, Jimmy Rogers and the Carter Family it's an entertaining and educational performance that will have audiences of all ages tapping their toes and singing along.

Please join us at this free concert
Saturday, July 22nd, 2:00PM, at the Old School House
Bring your lawn chair or blanket and join the SDHC in the Back-In-Time Garden (weather permitting) for this outstanding performance! (If bad weather, concert will be held indoors at the same time)

This project is funded in part by Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Book of the Month - History by Camera

This summer we are featuring a different "book of the month" from our wide list of award-winning publications. The book of the month will be highlighted online, in this newsletter and in our Museum Shop at the History Museum. Each month's book can be purchased at the Museum Shop for an additional 10% off each month!

July's book is History by Camera, by Jack Sheridan. Replete with stunning photographs chronicling the history of the Saugatuck-Douglas area, it is both a beautiful addition to a bookshelf or coffee table and also a useful research resource for delving into local history.
Through July 31, buy your copy of History by Camera at the History Museum Shop and take 10% off the sticker price. SDHC members will get this discount on top of the 10% discount they already enjoy on all store merchandise (just one benefit of SDHC membership - show your membership card to get this discount!)

If you can't get to the History Museum this month, you can still get a copy of History by Camera (or any of our other wonderful books) sent directly to your door by purchasing online - all taxes and shipping by USPS Priority Mail included in your price! Visit the SDHC online bookstore to see the full selection and start shopping today!

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**Garden Happenings**

"Garden as though you will live forever." ~William Kent

Our gardens sure have been busy this past month. With tourists, Root Camp, Socials and Seminars our gardens were able to show off their beauty to many people. It was very humbling to listen to Nikki Gallas thanking us for the recent installation of the Camp Gray sign. During the Douglas Social, she was brought to tears when she saw the sign, remembering many walks with her mother through the camp. Thanks to everyone who helped in making these events happen.

Our Golden Rain Tree fundraiser is on! For $30.00 you can purchase a little piece of the OSH garden in the form of a Golden Rain Tree sapling, complete with a certificate of authenticity and information on the care of your tree. Please contact Ruth Johnson at ruthanj@frontier.com to purchase your sapling. All proceeds will go to keeping our gardens green.

For the past week, Root Camp brought a lot of young life back to our school. With 31 campers exploring, creating, learning, and playing, the OSH felt like it did 150 years ago! Thanks to everyone to helped us with camp, especially Kayla and Nathan. We truly couldn't have done it without you both.

Until Next Month,
-The Landscape and Root Camp Committees

[Editor's Note: See some photos from this year's Root Camp below - or visit Root Camp's Facebook page to see a day-by-day visual summary of what our campers learned and did!]
During Root Camp, campers learned about chickens and eggs. (Click all for full-size)

Campers learn old-fashioned dance moves on "Big Pavilion Day."

Meanwhile, on the last day of Root Camp, the Old School House was being transformed into the venue for that evening's Douglas Social - the first one of the season! One of the largest crowds in recent memory packed the Back-In-Time Garden to socialize, tour our facilities and listen to The Schrock Brothers musical group. We look forward to hosting another Social in the future!
The first Douglas Social of the year kicked off at the OSH.

Crowds in the Garden enjoy The Schrock Brothers’ music on the back porch.

Thanks to Social sponsor Century 21 Affiliated and the City of the Village of Douglas for partnering with SDHC on this wonderful event!

High School Students Interview Area Vets

By Chris Yoder

Jeff Walker, a teacher at Saugatuck High School, put a project together for his
Advanced Placement World History Class this spring, with the help of the History Center's Nathan Nietering and Chris Yoder of the Saugatuck-Douglas Armed Forces Day Luncheon Committee, and Whitney Valentine of the Saugatuck Center for the Arts.

Jeff has always been interested in giving his kids a more hands-on, practical approach to learning history; however, finding the time to work this in, when there's so much history to cover, has always been a difficult task. Because his students took their AP Exam with 3 weeks to go in the school year, he saw an opportunity to give these kids the hands-on approach he was looking for while at the same time giving the veterans within our local community a chance to interact with young people and tell their stories.

Each of his 11 students interviewed a local veteran to try to gain some insight into the experiences and lives of these people. They were then charged with creating a visual (photographic) image that would represent the experiences of our local veterans. Each of the 11 interviewed veterans brought in artifacts from their lives. His or her student worked with Whitney on their design skills and arranged these artifacts (as well as bringing in some items of their own) in an attempt to capture the lives and experiences of these 11 fascinating veterans.

The students hosted the vets in a breakfast at Saugatuck High School on June 2nd and each unveiled the photo journal they had created for their veteran and explained the aspects of their lives which were being highlighted.

History Center members Jack Sheridan, John Upton and Dean Batchelor were among the veterans interviewed. Thank you Whitney Valentine for sharing your photos and expertise!

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**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 SDHC. What a wonderful record of the middle of the twentieth century!
Bill took a number of photos relating to a production called "SHOWBOAT" which occurred in July of 1958. The idea was novel and quite daring for the community. A special stage for the production was built between the Pavilion and the Butler Hotel - the area of Cook Park today. The photos and this article from the July 11 Commercial Record tell the story:

**Showboat Big Attraction for Villages**

The showboat production of "Steamboat Round the Bend" opens a 10-night engagement this Friday night on the outdoor stage next door to the Big Pavilion.

This is the biggest attraction Saugatuck and Douglas have had for many years. Showboat should draw more business into the two villages than they have enjoyed for a long, long time. Its format has been proven successful. The professional talent engaged for the two-hour show is first rate. A considerable sum of money has been invested in preparing for the first production. Advertising has been poured into the area for 50 miles each way.

The Associated Civic Clubs of Saugatuck and Douglas are sponsors and equal participants in the net profits. They want both both editions of the Showboat to be highly successful, for there is much they can do in both villages with their shares. They want crowds and crowds to come here to see the shows (and patronize businesses in both communities.)

"From every person in Saugatuck and Douglas and the area, we ask your cooperation," said Mrs. Theodore Maas, chairman of the club's organization. "See the show - you'll enjoy it. Tell your friends. Help us fill the grandstand nightly so that the Showboat will be successful - and profitable for everyone. Help us make Showboat the biggest vacation feature along Lake Michigan this year - and every year:"

The net proceeds went to local Civic Organizations. I am not sure if the show made money, but I do know that it was never done again.

I appreciate your feedback on my captions and selection of the images. Please point out my good choices and my goofs by sending me an email at jack.sheridan@gmail.com. Any reader comments will not be published without reader permission.
Are you interested in your family history but you are not sure where to start? Learning about family history is a personal connection to the past and you can find who your ancestors are and what they did. The SDHC Family History Group can help you get started!

Chris Yoder and I are busy researching two family histories of volunteers for our October 11 "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE" presentation. Please plan to attend the show - the October monthly presentation on Oct. 11 - this will be fun!

Not sure where to begin with your family history research? That is what we are here for! Call or email Chris Yoder or Jack Sheridan for information, and note the Family History Group's meeting schedule below:

Thursday July 6
Thursday July 20
Thursday August 3

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 current 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

From the Archives - Trash to Cash!

When it was announced a few years ago that the Presbyterian Camps were sold and that the buildings were soon going to be demolished, member John Manchester offered to go there and photograph all the buildings as a memorial for our collection. While there he made contact with several people associated with the camp and was told that the History Center could come and pick out some things for our collection.

By this time, after the camp's sale, there wasn't a whole lot left. We were able to salvage a number of their road signs which we sold in our booth at the antique mall bringing a nice profit. On a follow up visit, while the demolition was going on, John happened to check out a dumpster and saw four very old encyclopedias dated 1899. In the encyclopedias were a number of beautiful colored lithographed maps which were easily removable. The maps of surrounding states were shrink-wrapped for sale in our booth. The rest of the maps were sent to Ward Maps LLC in Boston who is selling them for us via their web site. So far, Ward Maps has sent us checks totaling almost $400! Truly these trashed items turned into cash.

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 2017 membership with 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 open daily through Labor Day, 12noon-4pm. 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 and Surfboat Exhibit are open to the public as weather permits. Admission is free but donations gratefully accepted.

The History Center'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 History Center 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.MySDHistory.org

Follow us and learn more history on Facebook! Click the logo below.

Again this year, the SDHC newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.