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!

History Center member Exhibit Preview

For current SDHC members
Members’ Reception | 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 27, 2017
Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum
Park Street at Mt. Baldhead Park
Saugatuck

For your convenience, please park at DeMond’s parking lot and take the free shuttle to the Museum.

B&C Directory

....In this edition, enjoy

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Dine Around

A Delicious Series of Dinners and Parties
All proceeds support the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

Upcoming Dine Around events are scheduled for Friday, June 2 and Thursday, July 13. Click here for more details or turn to page 4.

Columns continue on next page
This new exhibition at the History Museum chronicles how the two small lakeshore villages of Saugatuck and Douglas reflected the contrasting worlds of fear and fun during the Cold War era of the 1950s-1970s.

Prior to World War II, the villages had a remarkably good relationship with visitors, but in the post-war years this cozy relationship was disrupted amid a rapidly changing world. New cars, superhighways, and plenty of cash drew the pre-war tourist clientele to more exotic destinations, leaving the towns ripe for invasion by wild youth in fast cars and motorcycle gangs who arrived on summer weekends by the thousands. Some were hippies, most were not. Some were locals, most were not. The streets were clogged with cars parading up and down. Ruffians zoomed through town on loud motorcycles. Bars were plentiful - from classy to trashy - and the live jazz and rock music was the best in Michigan. Add in big boats and the Oval, the marvelous "drive-in" beach, to complete a '50s scene where automobile, sand, water, and beach crowd met like nowhere else.

Looming above it all, from high atop the once-friendly old Mt. Baldhead dune, beamed a frightening message. A new Cold War U.S. Air Force radar station was built to monitor approaching Russian bombers - a scary and omnipresent threat of a nuclear attack from abroad. Dauntingly, the tower and its constantly revolving radar screen looked down upon a divided nation, ushering in an unsettling era of fallout shelters, school "duck and cover" practice, and air-raid drills, as well as assassinations, student protests, and anti-war music and culture.

Troubling, unsure, but also happy, it was a time of sharp contrasts. Local authorities, although fair and adept, found the young visitors impossible to control. The music played on, and the visitors had a blast. It was indeed the hottest town in Michigan.

Welcome to Cold War | Hot Towns. The History Museum will be open for its regular summer hours starting on Sunday, May 28, daily from 12noon-4pm.

Family Fun Day

Do you have any secret talents? The Family Fun Day committee could use you! Family Fun Day will take place on September 24, 2017 at the Old School House from 1-4pm with a carnival and old-fashioned games theme. The committee is currently searching for anyone who can juggle, walk on stilts, create balloon animals, or be a clown. If you would be willing to share your talents (or know someone who might) at our special community event to celebrate the Old School House turning 150, please contact Judi Vanderbeck at hj.vanderbeck@comcast.net.

Did you know that the blackboards in the Back in Time Garden were original to the Douglas Union School? Blackboards were a primary learning tool for all grades and covered most of the wall surface in each classroom. Students often had personal-sized black slates that they could use for their work and writing skills. Penmanship was often regarded as a necessary skill for commercial success and a key to literacy with all grade levels having a high level of focus on it. We are proud that we are able to continue the use of the blackboards, with community members able to "practice their cursive" while visiting the garden.
**Mark your Calendar!**

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.

**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**

**June 14**, **History of the Coral Gables**, a field trip to the venerable Saugatuck landmark where generations of memories have been made, presented by owner Mike Johnson.  
**Sponsored by the Button Art Gallery**

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

The summer Monthly Meeting and Tuesday Talk programming calendar is being finalized and will be announced in the June newsletter!

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**Mike Phillips**

Longtime Life Member and former SDHC membership chairman Mike Phillips passed away in late March. A future family ceremony is planned where he will be buried in Plummerville Cemetery in Fennville, where his late wife June is also interred.

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**John C. Pahl, 96**

John was not an SDHC member but was a longtime supporter and advocate for Allegan County's history. Born and raised in Fennville, he resided in Allegan for nearly all his life and was one of the founders of the Allegan County Historical Society. Click here for more details or read this remembrance here.

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**Welcome New Members!**

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

- Salvatore Sapienza and Gregg Smith, Fennville, MI
- Peter Gower, Douglas, MI

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**New Lifetime Members!**

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

- Lonnie Hannaford and Jolene Jackson, Kalamazoo, MI
- Pat Denner, Saugatuck, MI

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**Board Election Results**

Our annual election of board members concluded on April 27. Thanks to all members who returned their ballots. We welcome and thank incumbent board members Jim Cook, Steve Hutchins, Jim Schmiechen and Leslie Thompson for returning for another term of board service!
**e-News becomes the Ball and Chain**

Why Ball and Chain you may ask? It is literally the marriage of two of our communities' best known historic landmarks - the Mt. Baldhead Radar Ball and the Chain Ferry - highlighting just two of the numerous wonderful stories to be found in our legacy of local history. Of course, the colloquial "ball and chain" refers to something holding a person back that they don't enjoy. Saugatuck-Douglas, on the other hand, are places where people always want to stay a little longer and want to be held back. It seems a better representation of the unique culture which makes this place something special. While the content will remain largely the same, enjoy the new name and masthead of the History Center monthly newsletter.

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**History Center now on Instagram**

The History Center is now on Instagram! If you are on Instagram make sure to follow *sd_historycenter* to see exclusive pictures of the History Center and its activities. Posts include: behind the scenes of events, volunteers, and historical artifacts, historic photos and more! When visiting the Old School House and Museum, make sure to post your pictures on Instagram and tag yourselves at the History Center and include the hashtag *#mysdhistory* in your post. Instagram is one of the leading social media outlets and will help us create a stronger way to connect with our members and visitors to the Saugatuck-Douglas Area, especially younger generations.

You can also continue to follow the History Center on Facebook - we have over 1,200 "Likes" and generate some interesting discussion based on our posts about current events, photos from the archive, and more. Click here to visit our Facebook page!

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**Dine Around**

*A Delicious Series of Dinners and Parties*

All proceeds support the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

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**Tickets now available!**

**Experience Spear Street**

Friday, June 2, 6:00-9:00PM

Gather with friends and neighbors to hang out on Spear Street's cul-de-sac for an evening of appetizers, beverages and camaraderie. We've been invited to visit three wonderful homes.

Check in at the home of Saba and Adam Kadlec, at 550 Spear Street, who just recently moved into their beautiful, contemporary home overlooking the Peterson Preserve. Its fabulous uniqueness will be your "sight to see." Jim Sellman and David Balas, at 555 Spear Street, are anxious to greet you just across the street for conversation and laughter as you stroll through their wonderful home, its new additions and beautiful gardens. Matt Hermes and Brian Jeffords welcome you at the end of the road at 668 Spear Street. Their exquisite, warm home features expansive decks with surprise
views into the woods "beyond the hill."

If you live in or around Saugatuck, you know the phrase up on the hill. So come on "up" and enjoy a fun evening "on the hill!!"

**Tickets: $50 per person**

*To reserve your space for Experience Spear Street, simply reply to this email and we will be in touch.*

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**Shuffle on Sheffield Lane**

Thursday, July 13, 5:00-8:00PM

Come and enjoy a peaceful evening overlooking "Arthur's Lake" in Fennville with us in mid-July.

Start at the home of Arthur Frederick and Mark Vanderleek, at 2232 Sheffield Lane. From the moment you step in the front door, you will agree that it exudes such a warm feeling, you might just want to stay put! Inside, the beautiful furnishings and colorful decor are only enhanced by the fabulous artwork. Outside, you can relax with drink in hand at the edge of the bubbling Koi Pond, stroll on the pool deck or wind your way down to the gorgeous lake in the back yard.

Further down the lane you will be greeted by somewhat newer members of the community, Eric LeJeune and Bryan Kemp, at 2238 Sheffield. Eric and Bryan, originally from Louisiana, were Chicago-based for many years, and then about a year and a half ago made the decision to become full time west Michigan residents. Lake Home Builders (Doug and Jeff) took on the task of building this wonderful home. Eric wanted a modern home whereas Bryan had envisioned something more of a farmhouse, and thus the 'Modern Farmhouse' was designed by the owners and built to please them both!

**Tickets: $50 per person**

*To reserve your space for Shuffle on Sheffield Lane, simply reply to this email and we will be in touch.*
**Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity without a lot of Time Commitment?**

Looking for a way to connect with our local history while having the opportunity to meet people from all over the world? Volunteer to be a host at the Saugatuck-Douglas Museum this year!

Here's a "job description" for a Volunteer Host at the Museum:

**When Are Volunteer Hosts Needed?:** The Museum is open - Noon to 4 p.m. - daily: Sunday, May 28 to Labor Day and then Saturdays and Sundays in September and October. Hosts are scheduled for 2 hours "shifts," either Noon-2pm (Opening Shift) or 2-4pm (Closing Shift).

**What You Do As a Host:** Hosts open (or close) the Museum by following an easy "Hosts' Checklist." During the time you are hosting, you will greet visitors, introduce them to the exhibit, answer their questions and process the sales of Gift Shop merchandise.

Simplified training materials have been developed for your use.

**Training:** This year a training session will be held for new or returning volunteers. If you have not previously hosted at the Museum and cannot attend the training session, you will be given one-on-one training and can "shadow" an experienced host.

**Scheduling When You Volunteer:** Some hosts take a specific day and time each week for the entire season or you can choose to be "on call."

Each week an email listing the hosting openings for the upcoming days is sent to volunteers. You choose which day and time you would like to host.

Interested In Being a Volunteer Host?: If yes, call Bill Hess at 312.316.9567 or email Bill at wwh71@comcast.net. SDHC members who have hosted at the Museum in the past will tell you that in addition to learning the area's history, you'll talk with interesting visitors plus have a great time. Hope you can join us!

**Allegan County Community Foundation Grant Received**

SDHC was pleased to be notified in early April that we are the recipient of a $3,000 Legacy Grant from the Allegan County Community Foundation for 2017. This grant will help fund the production and technology costs of our signature new museum exhibit, *Cold War | Hot Towns: Saugatuck-Douglas in the Cold War Era.* Pictured are former ACCF board member Peg Sanford (also a charter member of SDHC and past president) presenting our check to SDHC president Steve Hutchins. Thank you to ACCF for your continued support of history and cultural education in Saugatuck-Douglas!
An 1851 Letter From Newark

By Chris Yoder

In the 1850 Federal Census for Newark (Saugatuck's original name) one of the inhabitants was listed as "Amasa Campbell" age 25 born in Maine, occupation "laborer" living in a boarding house with a large number of other residents. He apparently died the next year as the following letter was written by his brother Alvan M. Campbell, who came from Maine to Saugatuck to deal with the death. The letter was sent to their sister and her husband (Susan and Thomas D. Titcomb of Kingsbury, Maine) and tells of the difficulties of deciding how to deal with Amasa's remains and property. He discusses the travel options which existed in 1851.

From Alvan M. Campbell to Mrs. Thomas Titcomb, Kingsbury, Maine
Newark, Mich. Oct 27, 1851

Dear Thomas and Susan,

I am now waiting here for a passage to Chicago in a vessel which is ready to sail, but is waiting for a wind to carry them out of the river. The weather is now very stormy, and conveyance across the Lake Michigan to Chicago - 90 miles- is very uncertain. The distance by land out to the railroad is 50 miles - a stage from here twice a week. Mr Stockbridge is going to Chicago with me to settle our brothers matters - so I intend to go that way instead of waiting here till he could come back to settle up. Brother Amasa owned part of a seine net with a man here, who did not wish to buy out, or fix the matter in any fair terms. I could not arrange it with him until Saturday evening. That has been all the difficulty I have had. I have been to Allegan 25 miles to make the arrangements to bring him home, but could not get it done. I find that I should have to go to Chicago then back, and then home that way. It is so late that the time and uncertainty of crossing being considered; and some other things; I have thought it best for me not to do so, and that I should give it up to until I went over, and saw how the weather was & c. I have engaged a neat pretty fence to put round the grave and shall get some marble gravestones, and send back by Mr. Stockbridge; if I do not come back to bring him home. The burial ground where he rests is owned by the Town. It is a very pretty, green place, of a sandy soil, and dry. I wish it was nearer home. I feel when I go to his grave, as though I did not want it disturbed, and then when I come away I feel that I do not want to leave him so far from us all. This is the most feeling, and too the most trying situations that I was ever in. It makes no difference where our graves may be, and in this matter I hope I may not do any wrong. Here I have written you, just as circumstances are, as near as I know how, and will do as seems most consistent.

'It snowed here yesterday some, and is squally today, but not very cold. Sleighing they have but very little they say. I feel in quite a hurry to get back. I have been gone a few days over a month. Abby and I intend to come up, after we see to our things at home a while; and stay for Father and Mother to go to Bowdoinham (Maine). I send this by tomorrows mail.

Most truly yours,
Alvan M. Campbell
Monday A.M.
Francis Brown Stockbridge, mentioned prominently in the letter, in 1851 was a 25 year old owner of sawmills on the Kalamazoo River along with a partner named Carter. Stockbridge is not shown in the 1850 census, but a J. T. Carter age 23 is living in the same boarding house as Amasa. Another resident of the same boarding house was Alden Morrison who is known to have been in the employ of Carter and Stockbridge, first as a sawyer and later as the foreman for the mill. Morrison was one of several other 1850 residents who had come from Maine. Stockbridge was to make a fortune and later to be a Michigan United States Senator. He was involved in the construction of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. His brother-in-law was George Arnold, who founded the Arnold shipping line which still services Mackinac Island, which meant Stockbridge was also a brother-in-law of Minnie Brueckman who gave the family home to be the Saugatuck Woman's Club. Born in Bath, Maine, Stockbridge moved to Boston at the age of sixteen to clerk in a dry goods store. In 1847 he moved west to Chicago and opened a lumberyard in partnership with a man named Carter, moving to Saugatuck in 1851. He is buried in Kalamazoo.

We do not know the cause of Amasa Campbell's death, nor where his body was finally buried. The original town cemetery was near the city hall, and burials did not begin until around 1864. Some were moved to Riverside then. Amasa is not listed with those in the local Saugatuck cemeteries nor has he been found in the cemeteries of Maine. His parents were Samuel and Ruth (Briery) Campbell. We believe that Alvan is the Alvin M. Campbell who married Abby Church Bosworth and is buried at Bangor, ME.

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**Armed Forces Lunch: Date Correction**

The April SDHC newsletter erroneously reported the date of the 6th Annual Saugatuck-Douglas Armed Forces Day Luncheon to be held at the Community Church of Douglas. The correct date and time is Saturday, May 20 starting at 11AM. Since its inception, the History Center has been a sponsor of this annual event, originally championed by the late Judy Mauger.

Rev. Corey Stoppel will be the featured speaker this year and will discuss the Siberian Expedition of 1917 and a local Pier Cove connection. Tickets are now available and veterans eat free (but still need a ticket). See more information at this link. For information call or write, Chris Yoder, 616-212-3443, cyoder@tds.net.

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**Board Bio**: Christina Lewis

*A suggestion from the recent 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 am the board secretary, responsible for taking and organizing the minutes at each board meeting.

**What other aspects of SDHC are you involved in?** I am primarily involved in the areas of children's programming and serve as a liaison to the local schools as we work together to provide more educational opportunities for children and families. Many local school projects that have been featured at the Old School House in the recent past have been organized through my classroom, such as the Mount Baldhead exhibit, Building a Village, and Easel on Down the Road, in
collaboration with Brittany Boverhof at the elementary school. I have also worked collaboratively
with the Saugatuck-Douglas Library to organize such events as children's Halloween events, the
Civil War reenactment exhibit, and the recent WinterFest: A Day With the Dogs, among others.

**What interests you most about Saugatuck-Douglas history?**
I love living in and being involved in such a historically
significant area. From the history of the land itself to the
ever evolving lives of the people and community, there is
always something to learn and to pass on to others. I've
been told numerous times while hiking at Shore Acres
Park or on the trails of Mount Baldhead that hiking with
me is both a workout and a history lesson in one - I can't
help myself!

**What is your background?** I have taught at Saugatuck
Middle and High School since 2000, primarily in the
English department. Saugatuck was my first teaching job,
and I feel extraordinarily lucky to have landed in this
beautiful area and welcoming community. It is a fantastic
place to live, learn, and to raise my ten year old son,
Cameron.

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**Garden Happenings**

*"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!' " ~ Robin Williams*

It is so wonderful to see things come alive again! The Daffodil Trail gives the garden such a
beautiful splash of spring color. Thank you to Lee for choosing daffodils that bloom at different
times so that everyone can enjoy them for a longer period of time. The Garden Committee has
begun cleaning the gardens and preparing them for the garden 'Happenings' coming up this season.
John and Lee have been busy at the Old School House and Mike can be seen at our Museum
garden. A lot of hard work goes into the spring maintenance of the two facilities, if you are
interested in helping spring clean the garden, please let us know!

The Garden Committee will be hosting May's Monthly Meeting at the Old School House, on
Wednesday May 24th. We will be filling you in on all of our plans for the "Back-In-Time" garden.
Come and hear our ideas and ask questions of your own. On June 17th from 10 a.m. to Noon, John
and Lee will be putting on a pruning, deadheading and fertilizing seminar for all plant-loving
people to come enjoy. Join us for coffee and pastries, provided by Coral Gables, and some fantastic
garden information and techniques. Finally, the Garden Committee is having a unique fundraiser for
our gardens! We have a collection of seedlings from the Back-In-Time garden's very own Golden
Raintree and will be selling them. Each seedling will get planting instructions and a Certificate of
Authenticity! The seedlings will be on sale for $20.00 at May's monthly meeting and at the Douglas
Social being held at the Old School House in June.

New and returning campers are signing up for this year's **Root Camp**! Camp will be held June 26th
thru June 29 with a morning and an afternoon session. This year has all new teachers and crafts
creating a new exciting experience for campers. It is wonderful to be able to share our rich history
with our young people. Sign the kids in your life up for a week of learning the old fashioned way!

Until next month,
The Garden and **Root Camp** Committees
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!

A SHORT HISTORY OF FRANK WICKS AND HIS 1912 DELIVERY TRUCK

In 1951, I began living summers with my grandmother Sarah Sheridan on Culver Street [across from what is now Hercules Restaurant]. A mental image of those summers was Mr. Wicks driving around town and often up to the next door neighbors place in this ancient truck.

The neighbors were Betty and Ward Martin and their daughter Nancy. Also living with them was Betty's grandmother, Mrs. Millar. I remember her as alert and friendly but very hard of hearing. And very very old.

I know that Betty Martin was somehow related to Frank Wicks owner of the Maplewood Hotel. But the relationship has always remained a puzzle in my mind. Researching this story some sixty five years later has been especially interesting, because now besides refreshing memories of Wicks and the truck, I know the rest of the story!

Frank Herman Wicks was born in Douglas in 1883. The 1900 census tells a bit of the story. His parents were Fernando Wicks and Bertha Hutty, both emigrants from Germany. They had come to the country in 1882. The father's occupation is listed as night watchman, likely at the basket factory - the mother is a carpet weaver. They have eight children. Frank, the oldest, is sixteen and a day laborer. That fits as he appears in a photo of basket factory workers that was taken about 1900.

How was Frank Wicks related to my Grandmother Sarah's neighbors? In 1916 at age thirty three Frank married Carrie Millar Stilton. She had been married previously and by that marriage had a
son Raymond and a daughter Betty. So Betty Martin was Frank's step-daughter and Mrs Millar was his mother-in-law. Mrs Millar's husband was the long time Methodist Church minister Reverend George Millar [1850 - 1931]. Mrs Millar died in 1956 at the age of 95, Frank died in 1961 and Carrie in 1983.

Frank and Carrie bought the Maplewood Hotel in 1925, remodeled it and made their livelihood there until they sold it in 1948. The beautiful place across Mary Street - now the Wickwood B & B was built by them and was their home. In the 1930s, they purchased the property around the corner on Water Street, now Wicks Park, and later donated it to the Village.

Frank was a pillar of the community - Village President for many years, and a leader in every civic organization. And he actually did a lot of work with the 1912 Ford delivery truck. Bill Simmons took a bunch of photos - delivering refrigerators right after the WWII, putting out the flags before the fourth of July, and carrying local beauty queens in parades.

Wonder what happened to the truck?

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!

What You Missed: Shifting Sands

On Thursday, April 20, an estimated 350 members of the Saugatuck - Douglas community got to enjoy "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability," a PBS documentary about the 100+ year history of industrialization and conservation in the Indiana Dunes Region. We were so pleased to co-host, with the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, the film's producers for a screening with the students of Saugatuck Middle School, an after school hike in our own Saugatuck Dunes State Park with high school teachers and principal Tim Travis, and a free evening screening for the general public.

All told, about 200 students and teachers saw the film in the afternoon, and an estimated 150 individuals saw the evening screening at the SCA. At the conclusion of the evening event, the film's producers stayed for a discussion and Q&A session, which included several thought-provoking questions and comments. Much thanks goes to film producers Patricia Wisniewski, Tom Desch and Rana Segal, Principal Travis at Saugatuck Middle School, and our friends at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts for making this a special event.
Who do you think you are???

By Jack Sheridan

Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder are preparing a special 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 make this work we need some interested 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.

**We know that many of you have a grand parent that probably has an interesting heritage that you would love to discover! This is a great chance to do it - please help us get started.**

Here are the simple requirements:

- Active SDHC membership
- You have reason to suspect (but 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!

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By Jack Sheridan

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

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!

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

Thursday May 4
Thursday May 18
Thursday June 1

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

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Spring is here!

With warming days come new visitors to the Old School House - this year in the form of our beautiful daffodil trail, and the painting crew from Laketown Painters!

This past October, over a dozen donors generously sponsored the Old School House "Daffodil Trail," buying bags of bulbs to be planted on the OSH grounds. Over 400 new bulbs were added to the several hundred which had been planted in previous years. Thanks to these donors and to the volunteers who spent a morning planting the bulbs.

Meanwhile, painting of the 150-year-old Old School House has resumed. Priming is almost complete and soon the final coat of "school house white" will be applied, and our beautiful building will shine once again as the polished jewel of Center Street. The good news from the painting crew is that an up-close inspection of the wooden siding has revealed that it is largely in great shape, and the new paint will add another layer of protection.
The gardens are beginning to blossom at the History Museum Garden across from Mt. Baldhead as well. Earlier this spring the state historical marker commemorating the historic Saugatuck Pump House was installed at its permanent location beside the sidewalk near the water's edge, where it will now educate visitors year-round about the history of the Pump House building, no matter the weather or whether the museum is open. The History Museum will re-open for the summer on Sunday, May 28, again from 12noon-4pm each day this summer and Saturdays and Sundays after Labor Day through the end of October.

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**Peggy Boyce named Citizen of the Year**

Longtime SDHC member Peggy Boyce has been named the Tony Vettori Saugatuck Citizen of the Year for 2017. Peggy's appreciation and love of history can be best exemplified by her long term of service on the City of Saugatuck Historic District Commission, retiring in 2016. A reception in Peggy's honor will be held starting at 1pm on Tuesday, May 16 at the SCA and all are welcome to attend. Peggy (L) is shown with mayor Chris Peterson. Read the official press release [here](#). Congratulations Peggy!

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**COMING JOIN US FOR**

**ROOT CAMP!**

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

LEARN ABOUT: THE BIG PAVILION, SCIENCE AND NATURE, FARM ANIMALS, AND NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY.

**JUNE 26TH - 29TH**

Two sessions available!

9am - 12pm OR 1pm - 4pm

SPACE IS LIMITED. SIGN UP EARLY. REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER’S WEBSITE AT:

[HTTP://SDHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](http://sdhistoricalsociety.org)

Scholarships available

*Click the logo above for more information and to register for Root Camp!*

**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.

It's membership renewal season! Send in your 2017 renewal with payment today or click HERE to renewal 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 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
Again this year, the SDHC newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, P.O. Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406