Our annual meet and mingle 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 inspiring local history. 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. Space is limited; your RSVP is due no later than Dec. 6!
Our "Monthly Meeting" presentation begins at 7:00PM at the Old School House at 130 Center Street in Douglas, unless otherwise indicated below.

November 8: Growing the Collection: Documenting Summers in Saugatuck-Douglas, a joint program with Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History. The History Center's collection is the foundation from which we are able to tell the fascinating stories of local history and give them meaningful context and interpretation. Join us for this program as we discuss the current state of the SDHC collections and an exciting partnership planned for 2018, and how you can help!

Still looking for a sponsor, could it be you?

December 13: Annual SDHC Holiday Party, this year at the Saugatuck Yacht Club, 6:00-8:00PM. See announcement above for details and instructions to RSVP.

We are already planning some great programs for 2018! The schedule will be announced once topics and speakers are finalized.

It was great to see over 40 History Center volunteers at this year's volunteer appreciation event on Oct. 22. For something new, the event was held at the Museum within the Cold War | Hot Towns exhibit. If you volunteered with the History Center this year but could not attend, please know that you were both missed and thanked in your absence! We couldn't do what we do without you!
Longtime History Center life member Thomas Johnston passed away on October 25. Click here for more details.

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, the History Center has 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!

Both of these awards offer matching money - that is, we must raise at least these amounts over the course of 2018 to receive the matching funds from the State. Fundraising drives such as our annual year-end appeal (watch for it later this month) help to raise these critical dollars. Your support enables us to receive this valuable matching money. Thank you, to MCACA and to our elected legislators, for supporting these important funding mechanisms which will most certainly allow us to keep history alive here.

Support the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center when you shop for the holidays 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 dollars to SDHC! It's that easy. What could be better than that??

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**Thomas A. Johnston, 88**

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**SMILE, and support the History Center with Amazon!**

Support the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center when you shop for the holidays 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 dollars to SDHC! It's that easy. What could be better than that??

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Visit the SDHC online bookstore today: http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/publications/books.php
On Friday, October 20, the City of Douglas officially dedicated the reconstructed Douglas Root Beer Barrel, along with the recently-completed Beach to Bayou Trail along Center Street from Wade's Bayou to Lakeshore Drive. It was a beautiful fall day, and an estimate of over 300 people attended. This more or less marks the conclusion of the Barrel project, seven years in the making!

Speeches were made by Douglas Mayor Jim Wiley and Friends of the Barrel members Vic Bella and Duane Brown. The final two staves were "sold" on the spot. Then all three cut the ribbon surrounded by Douglas City Council members and other Friends of the Barrel volunteers. Root Beer Floats and hot dogs were served to all.

What comes next? The History Center's final responsibility is to design and install site signage which explains the Barrel's history and the story of its restoration, and to acknowledge the donors who sponsored a stave. Now owned by the City of Douglas, it will be up to them to determine the Barrel's future uses and potential opportunities.
This month's question comes from NN, a Douglas alert reader: "What used to be where Coughlin Park is now?"

A good question. Here is the first installment of, perhaps, a multi-issue answer. In this issue we do the Fruit Exchange part. Before reading further on this page, I advise you to browse the photo montage. CLICK IMAGE FOR FULL SIZE.

From the 1850s onward here is what used to be there: Sawmill, commercial dockage, warehouse [visible in the photo montage, aerial clip], fruit exchange, hotel with bar, fish houses with fishing boat dockage, fresh fish shop, seaplane anchorage and a pie factory. Whew!

Quite a bit of history for what is now the Coughlin Park area, right here on Culver Street. My grandmother's home was the second house in the next block [also seen in the 1907 aerial] toward the stoplight, so I have a recollection of the area over many years.

An excerpt from Jim Schmiechen's RAISING THE ROOF page 50:

“The Saugatuck Fruit Exchange was a large red barn-like building, which once stood on the SE corner of Culver and Griffith Streets, a reminder of the glorious days when local fruit orchards were important enough to the local economy that the bank nearby took the name..."
"Fruit Growers State Bank\" [now the Chemical Bank]. The exchange was operated as a factory for sorting, grading, storing and packing locally-grown fruit. It was founded as a farmers cooperative for the purpose of protecting local farmers from the big city middlemen wholesalers."

In the 40s and early 50s I remember the inside was mostly a very large room with conveyor belts moving fruit past women workers picking and grading peaches. The room had a distinct pungent fruity smell. The rejected peaches were sent down a long chute into a large spoils pile on the southwest corner of the building. Beneath this rotting fruit fly infested peach pile was composted soil from years past - the absolute best place to dig small red fishing worms!

Looking up the hard facts, I know that the building - about 50 x 150 - was built 1920 and was in business until the mid 1950s. Prior to 1928 it had Interurban freight service. There was a rail siding that connected to the Interurban turn around in the Hotel Butler area.

The peach business went south, but the Harriss Pie frozen pie business moved in and turned the building into their headquarters starting about 1958. But that is another story.

Presented each issue by Jack Sheridan. Please send your questions/suggestions to jack.sheridan@gmail.com or call me at 269 857-7144

From the Archives

While working on the restoration of a building on Butler St. in Saugatuck a few years ago, this oak baseboard was uncovered with the back side stenciled THE SAUGATUCK LBR. & C. CO. It was subsequently donated to the History Center.

LBR is most certainly for 'lumber.' The C. might stand for 'coal,' but any knowledge of the local business and location would be appreciated to add to our records! Contact archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org or 269-857-7901 if you have any information to share.

Plan to join us at the final "Monthly Meeting" program of the year on November 8 at 7PM. We'll be discussing a new partnership with Grand Valley State University for 2018 to work on our collections and will show off a few interesting items from our holdings.
Board Bio - Jim Schmiechen

[In each issue this year we continue to feature a quick bio of a member of the SDHC board of directors so that our membership may know them better.]

What is your role on the board?
As an historian by study and passion, I have served the board and the History Center in the fields of exhibitions, historical research and writing.

What other aspects of SDHC are you involved in?
I have been part of the SDHC author-curator tribe since 1990 and have been very involved in the research and creation of nearly every exhibition and publication we've produced since then. As an author, my favorite books have been Off the Record: A Pictorial History of Saugatuck in the '40s and '50s, Snapshots: A Saugatuck Album, and Raising the Roof, A History of the Buildings and Architecture of the Saugatuck Area. On the exhibits side, I have helped produce 15 (!!) major exhibitions, along with various smaller ones and several in partnership with entities such as the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and Saugatuck Public Schools. Some of the most memorable exhibits have been Tales of the Villages, A Saugatuck-Douglas Storybook (2004), Walls Talking: Stories Our Houses Tell (2007), and Summertime, A Century of Leisure at the Lake Michigan Shore (2010). I was the lead researcher-writer for this year's Cold War | Hot Towns exhibit, and over the past several years developed concept for the Old School House "Back-in-Time" Garden with history stories and the history story walkway at the SDHC museum.

What interests you most about S-D history?
How today's landscape and villages reflect amazing people of yesteryears.

What is your background?
Professor Emeritus in the history department (Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant and Strathclyde University, Glasgow, Scotland) where I taught "Western Civ" lecture and seminar courses in economic and urban history of Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries to undergrad and graduate students. I have a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and London School of Economics. I enjoy studying architecture and strongly feel that if we listen, our built environment will tell us its fascinating story.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gives their time and talents to our beautiful gardens.....you are truly appreciated every month of the year. Our Daffodil Trail will continue to be stunning next spring with the addition of over 200 bulbs. Although planting season is coming to a close, there is still time to purchase a bag of bulbs for our trail. Each bag is $30.00 and will be installed by the garden committee. Please send your check to the History Center, attn: Daffodil Trail. Thank you.
**Root Camp** and our "Back-In-Time" garden hosted the Holland Horticulture Club last month. Around 50 Club members toured the garden and got a glimpse of what Root Camp is all about. Thanks to them for visiting us and sponsoring our programs. It was a great night.

Root Camp is thinking about having a blacksmith this year, so if anyone has an idea of where we might possibly get a blacksmith, that would be awesome. Just contact Ruth Johnson at ruthannj@frontier.com.

We would like to wish you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving.

Until next month,
- The Landscape and **Root Camp** Committees

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**By Jack Sheridan**

Last month we presented the October monthly meeting: "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE" which featured research done on the families of Win Ryder and Judy Anthrop.

For those who could not attend, the program addressed how to do family history research and the resources that make it possible. This then led to what we found studying the family histories of Win and Judy. We had a great and appreciative audience with lots of questions and applause at the end.

Chris and I did considerable work and were fortunate that both Judy and Win have interesting families that have been in this country for a goodly time period. Their researched family members have been placed in trees that can be expanded with more work [what we found is but a very small part of what can be discovered] and easily passed on to current family and future generations. Here is a quick look at the history we found in total for Win and Judy:

- Surnames of grandparent ancestors, most newly discovered and some back about ten generations - 75
- Individuals with these surnames - 710
- States of birth and/or death, mostly eastern United States - 11
- Where born outside this country - England, Ireland, Switzerland and Germany

Both Win and Judy submitted DNA samples to ancestry.com and the tests provided estimated ethnicity. No surprises: Great Britain and Ireland were the largest percentages, followed by western Europe, Scandinavia and eastern Europe.
Most interesting discovery for Win - he has a Mayflower ancestor - William Brewster [1566 - 1644], who was a minister leader in the Plymouth Colony. Also he has a great uncle, Edward Winslow [1595 - 1655], a Plymouth Colony Governor who came on the Mayflower November 1620, lost his wife the first winter of 1621, then married my 9th great grandmother, Susannah White who was also on the Mayflower and had lost her husband, William White, that first winter.

Most interesting discovery for Judy - she has a very famous American first cousin [nine times removed]. His name ... Benjamin Franklin [1706 - 1790]!

YOU can see this presentation and hear some of the fascinating questions and answers by watching a recording of the show at this address: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTx_OE4S3dc

Please visit a regular Family History meeting to see what we are all about and join the group. We share "lessons learned" about the many tools available for family history research. The SDHC Family History Group can help you get started!

Note the Family History Group's upcoming meeting schedule below:

**Thursday, November 2**
**Thursday, November 16**
**Thursday, December 7**

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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**Our Casualties From 100 Years Ago**
**Lest We Forget**

*By Chris Yoder*
Since we are in the centennial of the US entry into WWI (April 1917), earlier in the year, History Center president Steve Hutchins asked me to do an article about the four men whose names are listed as local casualties of that war on the monument in the Saugatuck City Square. I already knew a bit about one of them, thanks to his family still living in the area, but the others were a mystery to me. With a little digging I learned a few facts about the others. This article is intended to introduce them to you, in the order in which they died.

Charles J. Freshe was born Oct. 13, 1893 in Chicago to Herman and Lillian (Sterzing) Frehse. He lived in Michigan City, and came to Saugatuck after his mother married Harry Morris and moved here where Harry was to operate a shoe business. Charles attended the Saugatuck school for five years, and at the time of America's entrance into the war was living at the home of his brother Russell in Chicago and working as a printer at the Rand-McNally Company, where he had been employed for six years. On April 8, 1917- two days after war was declared, he enlisted. On May 30, 1917, after six or seven weeks training at Port Royal, South Carolina, he left for France as a member of the 45th company, Fifth Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps, American Expeditionary Forces. Charles was killed Jun. 6, 1918 in the battle of Belleau Woods. On that day US Marines and German infantrymen engaged in heavy hand-to-hand fighting and the casualties sustained were the highest in Marine Corps history up to that time.

He rests in the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, Belleau, Picardie, France. His mother and brother Russell rest in the Riverside Cemetery, Saugatuck.

Frank Joseph Smith was born Jan. 12, 1889 in Saugatuck, MI to Wallace Henry Smith, a Great Lakes ship captain and Civil War veteran, and Cornelia Kinte. His parents had married in Saugatuck Jul. 1, 1872. In the 1910 Saugatuck census, Frank is listed as having been a sailor. His draft registration card, dated Jun. 5, 1917, shows him as living in Detroit where he was employed by the Detroit Taxi Cab and Transit Company, 42 Randolph St, and having been a private in the Illinois National Guard for six months. He is described as "stout, medium height, not bald, light hair, blue eyes, and single". He served as an ambulance driver (a "wagoner"- which involves Army vehicle transportation by animal consists of spring wagons, ambulances, and escort wagons) with the 306th Sanitary Trains, 81st Infantry Division. He died in service of disease on Sep. 16, 1918 and is buried in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France. His parents both rest in Riverside Cemetery, Saugatuck.
Arthur Wallace Simmons Jr. was born Aug. 29, 1895 in Chicago to Arthur Wallace Simmons Sr. and Adea Patchin. His Draft registration dated Jun. 5, 1917 shows him living in Detroit and employed by the Detroit Gear & Machine Company as a "gear cutter", and describes him as single and "slender, medium height, not bald, light brown hair, gray eyes". He served as a private with Battery D, 119th Field Artillery 32nd Division, sailing from Hoboken, NJ on Mar. 14, 1918, and he died Sep. 29, 1918. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, Lorraine, France.

Earl L. Bruner was born Jul. 6, 1887 in Allegan, MI, to George Washington Brunner and Ella R. Ash. His draft registration card shows that he was employed as a farm laborer by George Morgan of Douglas, MI, had a Douglas General Delivery address, and described him as having "red hair, short, blue eyes, not bald".

Earl departed for Europe from New York, Jul. 22, 1918 on the ship Nellus as a private with Co F 26th Inf 85 Div. Private Bruner was killed in action Oct. 7, 1918 as a part of the 26th Infantry 1 Division, and is buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, Lorraine, France. His father George Washington Bruner is buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

More photos from the 150th Celebration Gala
If we didn't see you at September's Old School House 150th Celebration evening, we missed you! Thanks to photographers Richard Donovan, John Peters and Mary Voss for sharing more photos below. Click each image for full-size.
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.

ABOUT THE SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER
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 now closed for the winter but will reopen in May, 2018. View the virtual Cold War | Hot Towns exhibit on the SDHC mobile app!

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 Old School House exhibits are open by appointment throughout the winter. The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open as autumn weather allows. 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 Social Media! Click the logos below.
Again this year, the SDHC newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.