We look forward to seeing members and friends who purchased tickets to the Old School House 150th Anniversary Gala celebration on September 23.

Everyone is invited to attend Family Fun Day at the Old School House on the afternoon of September 24!

See article below.

Join us for Family Fun Day - Sunday Sept. 24!

The 150th Anniversary of the Old School House will conclude with a special day for the whole family - Family Fun Day! Folks of all generations will enjoy an affordable afternoon at the Old School House on Sunday, September 24 from 1-4pm. The grounds will be transformed into a carnival complete with old time games, crafts, music, food, animals from the Critter Barn, and more. A modest $10 entrance fee per family gets you $10 worth of tickets to redeem at the various activities and booths! View the Fun Day poster here. Come one and all!

B&C Directory

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History Center Awards Announced

Vic Bella has received the History Center's top-honor Charles J. Lorenz Award of Achievement for 2017, and Ellen Donovan has been named the Center's Volunteer Of The Year. The awards were announced at the annual summer membership picnic on August 9.

The Lorenz Award was established in 1997 to honor the memory of Charles Lorenz, who gave...
presenter John Geisler follows up his summer Tuesday Talk presentation with additional images and stories about the West Michigan Pike, west Michigan's first paved road. Also included will be more "silly road signs," sure to get a laugh or two.

Sponsored by Joan Brigham and Mary Lou Graham

**October 11, So who do you think you are?**

Family History researchers Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder will uncover the genealogy of two pre-selected History Center members and discuss tools and resources for researching your own family lineage and stories.

Sponsored by Maury Decoster and Sunny Hill

**November 8, Documenting Summers in Saugatuck-Douglas**, a program with GVSU

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 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!

Looking ahead at the Old School House...

Bella was cited for his long-time, important contributions to the History Center's exhibitions team, tackling jobs from finding artifacts to handling logistics and assembly of exhibit components and pieces. As a leader of the Save the Barrel project, he worked with various stakeholders to see the 1950s-era Douglas Root Beer Barrel concession stand's components restored and the barrel reconstructed last year. He also serves on the History Center's Collections Committee. In addition, he until recently served as a member of the City of Saugatuck's Historic District Commission, shepherding and promoting historically-appropriate work within that municipality's local historic district.

The Volunteer Of The Year Award honors outstanding service to the History Center. Donovan's selection for this award recognizes her dedication as manager of the museum shop at the Pump House Museum, overseeing merchandise inventory and renovating the shop space in 2016-17 to be both more inviting and better organized. Her long background in non-profit administration makes her a valuable asset to the History Center's Development Committee, crafting strategy to secure the long-term stability of the organization. She also has assisted with organizing History Center events, including the upcoming Old School House 150th Anniversary Gala in September, and greets the public as a museum host at least one day each week.

Thank you both for your time, talents and dedication to Saugatuck-Douglas area history!
What does a 1930 gasoline pump ad have to do with the Old School House, you might ask? Plan to visit later this month to find out! The Old School House will generally be open Thursdays thru Saturdays until Columbus Day weekend in October. However, preparation for special event uses of the OSH facility will mean that some hours will be curtailed when facility setup is underway. Call 269-857-5751 to check ahead to see if the indoor exhibits will be open. Meanwhile, the Back-in-Time Garden and Shipwreck exhibit are open to the public daily through the end of October. The History Museum has now reverted to its fall hours, open Saturdays and Sundays 12noon-4pm through the end of October. No admission is charged at either facility although donations are gratefully accepted.

SDHC and SCA Partner to teach "Marina Life"

Eleven children ages 6-12 participated in the SCA's summer day camp "Marina Life" in early August. One day at camp included a field trip to our History Museum so the campers could learn about the history of boat design and how boats transformed Saugatuck's history. As the campers considered different boat designs, they were able to sketch and examine our own dugout canoe and leisure rowboat, and talk about other styles of watercraft (Chain Ferry, Keewatin, etc.) Then it was out to the city dock where the campers were each challenged to start constructing their own vessel out of cardboard and other materials! In the end, they were able to test their designs in "test tanks" at the SCA and talk with Jeff Zita of Tiara Yachts about how boats are actually designed. We look forward to partnering for a day camp next summer!

Welcome New Members!

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

- Raymond and Wenona Foster, Fennville, MI
- Linda Lavender, Douglas, MI
- Angela and Bob Knauss, Saugatuck, MI and Burton, TX
- Linda Martinsen, Saugatuck, MI and Bellaire, TX
- Tom and Donna Nowak, Saugatuck, MI
- Don Olendorf and Renee St. Amour, Fennville, MI
- Doug and Anne Petersen, Saugatuck, MI
- Wayne and Christine Sandford, East Haven, CT
- Norman and Barbara Steen, Douglas, MI
- Phillip Sturdevant, Saugatuck, MI
- Merijean and David Webb, Douglas, 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.

- Clark and Cathy Carmichael, Fennville, MI

Alice Haight, 83

Longtime member and volunteer Alice Haight passed away on August 10. She was remembered at a family and friends gathering at the Old School House on Aug. 18. Click [here](#) for more details.
Saugatuck HDC searching for new commissioner

The City of Saugatuck Historic District Commission (a municipal commission within the City of Saugatuck which has no relation to the History Center, a 501(c)3 non-profit), has a vacancy for commissioner. If you reside in Saugatuck and might be interested, view the Commission Vacancy Notice and download the Application. Questions? Contact Cindy Osman at the City of Saugatuck at (269) 857-2603.

Pat Sax, 89

Longtime member Pat Sax passed away on August 8. Click here for more details.

Tuesday Talks now on Youtube

Knowing that Tuesday Talks are frequently filled to capacity, we video recorded them this year and put them on Youtube for everyone to watch from the comfort of their living room. Go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC1YcGrrPyAV0Ck8tzDTbJzA to see the full season!

By Jack Sheridan

All things come to an end sooner or later. So August ends the Bill Simmons Scrapbook feature in this SDHC newsletter. But don't fret, what has appeared here in the newsletter for the last couple years will live on in the digital archives of the SDHC.

As summer turns to fall, we must turn to a new season, so in keeping, I am introducing a new feature. As you see, it is entitled ASK JACK.

Here is the plan: You "alert readers" out there will send me the starting point for a feature, "salt the claim" so to speak, with a historical question, a photo, a suggestion etc. I will consider your suggestions, pick one of interest among them and each month respond with a feature on the subject.

To produce the response, I will search and reproduce from our vast archival database a relevant and interesting monthly ASK JACK column. And believe me, we have a vast database of REMEMBERING WHEN, newsletter articles, HISTORY MYSTERY, S-D History Center books, presentations, Museum exhibit features and of course, photographs.

I plan to use in ASK JACK something right out of the can whenever possible, like a REMEMBERING WHEN feature of which there are over a hundred, or perhaps a page from RAISING THE ROOF, or news article from the COMMERCIAL RECORD, or a family history except from the big black book, HISTORY
OF WESTERN ALLEGAN COUNTY, etc.

To get things rolling, I am using a question that I got just last week, "What is the oldest grave in the cemetery?"

Just so happens that I did an interesting piece on the subject of cemeteries some eleven years ago. So, click here to enjoy this Remembering When reproduction.

And please, you alert readers, hit me with ideas for next month at jack.sheridan@gmail.com or 269-857-7144.

Legislative Awareness at the Museum

Each year we apply for competitive grant funds from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), which receives some federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in addition to allocated state funds. Accordingly, it is in our own best interest to keep our state and federal legislators informed and aware of just what we are doing to preserve local history and who benefits from our work.

We recently gave special museum tours to our U.S. Representative Fred Upton and state representative Mary Whiteford. In these tours, the legislators learned some of the
fascinating local history which makes our area so special, but also about how critical government funding is to our operations and activities. They asked good questions - about who we serve, where they are from, how they participate, etc. All this helps to shape in their minds a real picture of the impact of this cultural funding - bringing life to what may otherwise just be another line item in the budget. In addition to MCACA and NEA, in the past SDHC has also received federal funding from the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) and IMLS (Institute for Library and Museum Services). This matching grant funds generate support through local dollars and help establish our credibility amongst our cultural peers. Thank you, Reps Upton and Whiteford, for your time and interest during your tours at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum!

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Garden Fundraiser

No, this isn't a ZZ Top convention. Garden Committee members Lee Ver Schure and John Migas are pictured at the annual summer picnic selling Golden Rain Tree saplings to raise money for garden projects. What is a golden rain tree and why would you want one?

It's likely that everyone reading this newsletter has seen a golden rain tree even if they didn't realize it. In fact, there is one growing right next to the Old School House, as shown beneath the arrow in the following photo. The saplings in question were all seedlings from this very Old School House tree, carefully dug up from the front lawn and cared for in their own individual pots since last summer. Saplings are only $30 and directly support garden projects. Each comes with a numbered certificate of authenticity along with proper care information. What will the fully grown tree look like? The example beside the Old School House is mature, so that is the size and shape you can expect. Contact garden committee chair Ruth Johnson at ruthannj@frontier.com if you are interested or for more information!
Garden Happenings

"I was just sittin' here enjoyin' the company. Plants got a lot to say, if you take the time to listen."
~Eeyore

Great advice from Eeyore! This is a wonderful time of year to sit back and listen to the plants and watch the birds, bees and butterflies. They are so talkative and so busy! Speaking of Eeyore......our garden bench, which resembles the little Winnie the Pooh character, is in need of repair. His ear fell off! Marcia Perry will be fixing him up so soon, so he will be as good as new. We are starting to design and develop our two new stations in the Back-in-Time Garden, but before we mention what they will be, we would like to brainstorm a little bit more. Please be patient, the two new stations will be worth it!

In my many "thank yous" for Root Camp last month, I overlooked two very important sponsors, Michael Pcolinsky and the BASF Chemical Company. Michael has been with Root Camp since year two, teaching the campers about our friends the honey bees and the importance of science. Meanwhile BASF, Michael's employer, has been providing science back packs full of equipment needed to perform experiments for our campers to partake in. We cannot thank Michael and enough for this continued support. Root Camp wouldn't be the same without them!

Until next month,
- The Landscape and Root Camp Committees

[Editor's Note: As August was coming to a close, we were notified that the Back-In-Time Garden is the recipient of a Saugatuck Douglas Garden Club Garden Award this year! Congratulations and thank you to our tireless garden volunteers who help to keep our beautiful grounds in tip-top shape for the public and the community! The Back-In-Time Garden is open dawn to dusk daily behind the Old School House in downtown Douglas.]
Last Call - Sponsor a Barrel Stave!

Have You Seen the Douglas Root Beer Barrel Park Lately?

The combined History Center and the City of the Village of Douglas Root Beer Barrel project is approaching the final phase. Landscaping and paving of the parking areas is nearly complete. Check it out at the corner of West Center and Ferry Streets! It truly will become a local historic landmark and meeting spot in the years to come.

Only a very few of the donor sponsored staves remain. This could be your last chance to be recognized as a contributor to this one-of-a-kind structure. All it takes is a $150 check made and sent to The City of the Village of Douglas with "barrel account" on the memo line, "attention Lisa Imus". Include the name as you want listed on the acknowledgement sign. Mail or hand deliver to 86 Center Street, PO Box 757, Douglas, MI 49406.

The New Bridge - 80 Years Old

By Chris Yoder

Last month, I did an article about the roadside rest stop just south of Spectators Restaurant. It was a 1937 creation. Perhaps the biggest and most long lasting creation that year was the building of "the new bridge" between Saugatuck and Douglas by L.W. Lamb. In a past newsletter (Jun 2015) I told how two local boys, Bud Sewer and Paul Moker, rowed out to the island one night (later dredged out as fill for the new road) and took a stick of dynamite (less blasting cap) because they "wanted to make a big fire cracker".

A Commercial Record article from Mar. 5, 1937 gives some technical details of the construction work. The winter had been a mild one, and work was able to progress through December, January, and February. By early March "the substructure concrete of two abutments and
six piers" was all in place. The final concrete of the winter schedule had been poured on January 19, when the girder encasement of the last pier was completed.

"This concluded the pouring of 1960 cubic yards, or 3920 tons of concrete. In this substructure concrete was placed 3000 barrels of cement, 1500 cubic yards of gravel, and 1000 cubic yards of sand. The concrete was reinforced with 120,000 pounds of steel bars, ranging in size from ½ inch to 1 ¾ inch square.

"The substructure rests on 218 steel piles of average length of 67 feet, driven in to a bearing capacity of 60 tons each. These were driven in the period from Sept. 3 to Nov. 10. Their total weight was about 490 tons.

"The piling was shipped in lots, first coming by rail to Holland and truck to the job. The other two lots of pilings were loaded at Gary as deck cargo on freighters, and transferred to a flat scow, one load at Holland harbor and the other at Saugatuck harbor, and then towed to the job by tug.

The 800 tons of structural steel was erected during the period Nov. 24 to Feb. 9. About 650 tons of it were shipped to Holland and trucked here, the remainder of 150 tons was hauled by the contractors' own trucks, direct from the fabricating plant in Gary. There were about 450 pieces of steel in the job, but the 28 span girders and the 6 pier girders accounted for 600 tons of the weight. The pier girders each weighed 26 tons. All these large pieces were hauled from the railroad on a 50 ton capacity trailer.

"Riveting the parts of the steel superstructure together with 7/8 inch diameter rivets was started on Jan. 25, and will be completed by the end of this week. There are about 5700 rivets to be driven in the field."

The next work to be done was to be placing a nine inch concrete floor on the steel superstructure, which was to begin about April 10th.

The successor to the company operated by L. W. Lamb was established by his son, also L. W. Lamb, as "L W Lamb Inc.". Today it is managed by a grandson John C Lamb Sr from its headquarters on Blue Star Highway north of town, and has recently announced that the business will be sold later this year. John writes: "I was just a youngster when grandpa ran the business so I don't know a lot. He built a number of bridges all over the state. Many of the bridges here in Michigan have a plaque on them which gives who built them and the year. When I would go to look at bridges to replace or repair I would quite often find our company name on them. I ran into a bridge he built in Bellaire in the 1930's, another in Traverse City, a number of structures in the Houghton lake area and many in Grand Rapids. I am unsure of how many structures he built. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Engineering in 1918. He married and had 3 boys- Bill, Jim, and Jack. All followed him into the bridge building business. He passed away in the fall of 1974."
By Jack Sheridan

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!

Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder have finished reviewing family histories of volunteers for our October "Who Do You Think You Are?" presentation. We have selected Judy Anthrop and Win Ryder - very interesting family histories! Now Chris and I are busy researching the rest of the story. Plan to attend the show - Wednesday October 11 members meeting - 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, September 7
Thursday, September 21
Thursday, October 5

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

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 Saturdays and Sundays in September and October, 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 Old School House is open to the public from 11am-3pm Thursday-Saturday. The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open seven days a week throughout the early autumn. 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.