Annual Holiday Party was Merry and Bright

The SDHC Holiday Party was a success in its second year at the Saugatuck Yacht Club. Over 110 of your friends and neighbors gathered on December 5th to celebrate over three decades of passion for history and conviviality. A special thank you to Janet Schmidt for her work coordinating membership RSVPs and directing an army of staff and volunteers without whom we could not put on these events.

As mentioned in remarks at the welcome address, December 5th also marked the 85th anniversary of the repeal of the 21st Amendment, nullifying the 18th Amendment to

Welcome New Members!

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

- Betsy York
- Jacqueline Simpkins
- Rob Kegley
- William Leffey
- Judy Hurston

B&C Directory
Enjoy in this Edition:

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the US Constitution and bringing an immediate end to prohibition on that evening in 1933. Fortunately for us we had the good fortune of some lovely wine donated by volunteer member of the year Arthur Ashley to toast this historic occasion!

SDHC members also came through with food donations for our charity partner Christian Neighbors in Douglas. We delivered three carts of non-perishable food and a sizable cash donation to help those in need this holiday season."

For those of you unable to attend, John Peters captured the festive mood at the yacht club in a few candid photographs. Enjoy the memories as we look forward to the holidays and much excitement in the New Year 2019 to come!

Thank you to all the members of the SDHC from Katelyn VerMerris

I have been fortunate enough to get to know many of you in my work with the Saugatuck- Douglas History Center and I could not say "thank you" enough. During my time here since May, I was fortunate enough for Ken Kutzel to let me help him with the Michigan Dunes Exhibit. I gained invaluable experience through working with all the committees, working at the museum, and managing email communications and social media. My next step will be joining Resthaven in Holland as their new Fund Development Manager.

Thank you to all who imparted wisdom and assistance to me!

Sincerely,
Katelyn VerMerris
Cold War / Hot Towns Survey Provides Positive Feedback

We were given positive and helpful feedback in a survey emailed to all the visitors to the Cold War/Hot Towns exhibit who voluntarily gave their emails. We learned that over 40% of visitors learned of the museum through the visitor's guide and over 50% visited the museum for the first time.

In the comments section, many people shared how much they enjoyed the exhibit, museum, and Saugtuck. Some of the comments included:

"Learning about the social scene in the area during that era. I had no idea there were biker gangs in the area! Also liked the story of the battle for the radar installation with the Army and Saugatuck each claiming it was theirs."

"How truly fascinating the History of Saugatuck is; how rich a history!"

"[I learned the] importance of the Lake Michigan coast in war effort."

Thank you to the exhibits committee for making such a rocking exhibit and to all our members for supporting our ability to create exhibits! We look forward to seeing the new museum exhibit revealed next summer.

Daffodils For Our Dearly Departed
Contributed by: Chris Yoder

Since 2010, a small group of volunteers, loosely affiliated with the SD History Center, have planted daffodils in our local cemeteries by the graves of "orphans" (those without descendants, or with none still living locally). Normally a few dozen graves would be selected, and over time, as the bulbs have come back year after year, a larger and larger portion of the cemeteries sport spring time blooms.

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Cemetery Sexton Aaron Sheridan noticed the cumulative results, and early in the spring proposed that the township help fund the purchase of bulbs for a larger 2018 planting. He was instrumental in getting approval to order 1350 bulbs which were received in October. A FACEBOOK page "Friends of the Riverside and Douglas Cemeteries" has been established to share information about this and related cemetery projects, and to seek the support of local volunteers.

On Nov. 10th about 20 members of the Saugatuck High School Interact Club (junior Rotary) and about a dozen members of Saugatuck Boy Scout Troop 29 were joined by several more senior agriculturalists to plant bulbs in the older sections of the cemeteries, mostly adjacent to roads where they may be enjoyed by passing motorists next spring.

Many thanks to our volunteers and to the township officials who supported this effort. "Like" our FACEBOOK page to stay informed of any efforts for next fall.

Notes From the Gallery
By: Ken Kutzel, Art Collection Manager

It has become customary, as part of the budgeting process, for the Collections Committee to present the Board with a "triage list" for the art collection. This list outlines major needs for restoration and or maintenance of our paintings and objects. As the collection grows, prioritizing becomes a major difficulty toward planning.

In the past several years, we have made incredible progress toward getting our collection to a point where we can exhibit our works with pride and the assurance that they will still be here for future generations.

Below are three very high priority items on the 2019 "triage list". Those who attended the recent Holiday Party had the opportunity to view the works.

The first is a map of the settled Midwest published in 1844. It is very important to our collection because of the part of it dealing with our own area. On the map, Singapore is shown as an important "city" on Lake Michigan, as well as the never constructed town of Breeze. There is no indication of the existence of either Saugatuck or Douglas.

This map is deteriorating and desperately in need of restoration. We have already had some money donated toward this project, but hope that others in the community will come forward to help us fund the restoration and framing of this important map. Any amount is welcome.

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The second and third works are both examples created by the students of the Taylor Art School under the tutelage of beloved artist and mentor, Cora Bliss Taylor, who ran the school in Saugatuck. Our best guess is that the murals were done in the 1950s, but further research may pinpoint the dates of creation. Each of the extremely large (roughly 5 feet by 3 feet) murals was created using paint on paper. The two works are in reasonable condition but need to be mounted and framed so that they can be displayed for the community to enjoy. The overall cost for this work will be about $2000.00. We have already procured about half the funds necessary and are hoping that former students of the Taylor Art School, or other interested members, will donate whatever funds possible to help us save these murals. Donations can be made out to the Saugatuck Douglas History Center, with Art Fund in the memo line.

Skiing on Mt. Baldhead
Contributed by: Mary Voss

Enjoy this postcard-sized photograph recently donated to the History Center by Carol Peterson. Dated 1911, the notation on the back lists the skiers as "John Pear, Ivan Arends, Clarence Pear, Joe Herver with Dick Newnham on top praying for us."
The 2019-2020 Pumphouse exhibit is in the formulating process. At a recent meeting the ideas committee discussed the inclusion of Herman Simonson photo props. Great idea and interesting subject. Hmmmm ...

Skipping back in time, I am old enough to remember meeting Herman Simonson about 1950, when I was twelve years old. That was the year I started working for the studio while spending summers with my grandmother Sarah Sheridan who lived across the street from the Simonson Studio. Herman passed at age eighty two the next year and Carlton my summer employer for the next six years, carried on the photography business.

Herman had a sense of fun and of business and had a knack for doing new things that promoted the business and the bottom line. Besides the Culver St studio there was a branch studio on Water St. across the street from where Wicks Park in located. Some of the inside prop shots were done there. Post cards were created with a photo of you, the tourist, astride Dynamite the mule on one side and the address and message on the other.

A money maker was posed on Culver St across from the studio, as in this example:
Enjoy this montage of Simpson props!

Welcome from Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder, leaders of the Society Family History Group.

Please visit a regular Family History Group 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.

Questions/comments/advice/needs:

Mayflower ancestor, Revolutionary War vet, famous cousins, great grand parents, ...
Where did you come from?
Thinking about a DNA test?
Answering questions is what we are best at ...

continued on next page...
Call or email us, meetings are normally the first and third Thursday every month at 3:30 at the Old School House.

Upcoming meetings: Thursday, December 6; Thursday, December 20; Thursday, January 3.

Your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area!!!

Not sure how to get going? Let us provide a helpful jump start by recording what you know about your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents and send it along for a review by Chris Yoder or myself.

The snail mail address is SDHS Family History Box 617 Douglas, 49406, or email to either cyoder@tds.net or jack.sheridan@gmail.com

We will soon be back to you with readily found data and with suggestions on the next steps to take. Further help is always available from Chris and myself by phone and email.

The only requirement is membership in the SDHS.
Join the group and find the answers.

Contact: jack.sheridan@gmail.com, 269 857-7144 or cyoder@tds.net, 616 212-3443

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 of 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

Join as a 2019 member today! Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. Click HERE for a printable Membership Application.

Send items for the newsletter to: SDHC Attn: Newsletter, 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 season, but keep an eye out for a new exhibit announcement for the 2019 season!

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 facility manager Steve Hutchins at 269-857-5751 or by email.
admin@sdhistoricalsociety.org. The Old School House exhibits are open for summer hours Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11am-3pm. The adjoining **Back-in-Time Garden** and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily. Admission is free but donations gratefully accepted. Visit the newly opened art exhibition *Keeping an Eye on History*, showcasing 31 unique artworks of local scenes recently given to the History Center by members Kenneth Carls and James Schmiechen.

The History Center **Archives** office is on the move! In our period of transition, we ask everyone to make a research appointment in advance while we relocate our collections to new storage. To reach the archives, call 269-857-7901 or 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.