Throughout the month of July, the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center conducted a first of its kind survey to gather feedback on the SDHC website and our digital collections. We heard from both members and the public and learned how we can make improvements for accessing information on our site. Some highlights from the survey include:

1. The website is most important to the community for keeping up with our calendar of events, learning about the museum and the old schoolhouse, and generally staying up on news and recent publications.

Have you picked up your copy of the Historical Chronicle yet? Read the new and exciting articles about the Kodak camera and road-tripping through West Michigan!

Copies can be found at the Old School House, the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum, and at "newstands" all along the Lakeshore.

Special thanks to many helping hands in writing, editing, and distributing the newspaper:
Christine Byron, Jen Cimmarusti, Steve Hutchins, Bill Kelleher, Ken Kutzel, Lynn McClure, Gayle Taub, Tom Wilson, and Sally Winthers
2. Researchers visit the digital collections to learn about area history, the history of their homes, conduct genealogy research, and study agriculture and architecture, among other topics.

3. Respondents found the History Center App interesting and helpful but suggested that more could be done to connect exhibits and site visits.

These are just a few of the interesting things we are learning. Thank you to everyone who took the survey. Building on the results of the survey the SDHC will follow-up by holding focus group discussions in August with interested stakeholders. We expect to learn even more, and will look forward to sharing a full report later this Summer. Stay tuned and thanks for your participation.

If you would like to be a part of a focus group we will be contacting participants soon to set up a time to meet. Please reach out if you have not already indicated your interest to us.

**New Art Gallery Exhibit**

Join us on Saturday, August 10 for the opening of *Cody's World: A Look At the Art of Cora Bliss Taylor, Artist and Teacher*. Saugatuck’s most beloved artist, Cora “Cody” Taylor painted and taught at her Taylor Art School from 1931 through the 1980s.

**Upcoming Monthly Meetings**

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.

**August 14, Only the River Remains: History and Memory of the Eastland Disaster in the Great Lakes Region** with Caitlyn Perry Dial, PhD

*Sponsored by Osman Flowers and Firs*

**September 11, Member Picnic**

**October 9, Inside Saugatuck's Christian Science Church -- Field Trip**

Thank you to our sponsors. Multiple sponsors are welcome and encouraged and all will receive billing in future announcements. If you would like to sponsor one of our 2019 programs, please REPLY to this email and we will be in touch. Sponsorships are $150 and help support our high caliber of presentations and field trip activities!
Come and share in her legacy at this new exhibit featuring her paintings and works made by her students.

When: Saturday, August 10th from 6 - 7:30
Where: History Center/Old School House
Refreshments and food will be served.

Tuesday Talks Continue

Tuesdays in July & August at 11 AM at the Old School House

August 6
Stories of the "Morgan J"
with Saugatuck Fire Chief Greg Janik
Sponsored by Don and Laurie Bradley

August 13
Up Close and Wild with Michigan Wildlife with the Outdoor Discovery Center
Sponsored by Fran and Bill Myers

August 20
Pokagon Band of Pottawatomie with Nicole Holloway
Sponsored by Bill and Nancy Woods

August 27
Cora Bliss Taylor: The Artist, the Teacher with Ken Kutzel and friends
Sponsored by Denny and Buzzy Maurer

Special thanks to member-volunteer John Peters for his care in promoting ALL of the SDHC’s programs. You can find a library of his press releases at http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/Newsletter/releases.php

Seeking bibliophiles and librarians!

Do you love books? Do you enjoy working independently on projects? Are you wondering if there's a way you can make a lasting contribution to the SDHC without committing to hundreds of hours of time or money? Here's a possibility for you.

The History Center cares for a collection of hundreds of books in need of improved organization and cataloging. Some are rare and valuable, all have special use for historical researchers.

The History Center also regularly receives donations of books. Are they worth keeping? A possible item for sale at our antique booth? Maybe even worth selling on eBay? One recently donated book was found to be worth over $500!

We would love to have your help caring for our library. No previous library experience required, but love of books essential! Please consider making the books in our archives, and those donated to us, your special project. Your work and passion are sorely needed!

For more information contact: Eric Gollannek at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Museum Shop Open

Show your love for our community with these unique magnets. The museum is open daily from 12 to 4pm. Special thanks to John Kerr and Sally Winthers for new wares at the museum store!
Our Volunteers

As the summer draws to an end, we would like to acknowledge our many volunteers. They have been working hard all summer running the museums and greeting every visitor that comes in. Our volunteers do so much for the organization and we don't know what we would do without them. We had the chance to interview some volunteers to understand how they got started and what it's like to be a volunteer with the History Center. Jim Muir and Ellie Dietrich shared their experience at the History Museum, while Julie Bizzis and Laura Peterson talked about their time at the History Center/Old School House.

Q: How long have you lived in Saugatuck?

Jim Muir: For 11 years. My wife and I moved in after we retired in 2007. But we have been visiting the area for longer than that, for about 16 years. Betsy, my wife, is from Michigan so she has family in the area, and I came here as a kid. One year we decided to invest and build a house here for the summer. But then as we got closer to retirement we decided to settle here and built our house in 2005.

Q: How did you hear about the SDHC?

Jim Muir: Bill Hess, our neighbor, told me about the planning commission and the Historical Society. From there I joined the commission after my first year in town. My wife and I were committed to being volunteers during our retirement, we both like to get out and do things. While she joined the Garden Club, I started volunteering at the museum and doing walking tours.

Q: What made you want to volunteer?

Ellie Dietrich: I just love talking to and meeting new people. My previous job, before I moved to Saugatuck, I was in higher education as a fundraiser. So I'm used to meeting lots of people and I used to manage a whole group of volunteers. Being at the History Museum, I get to talk to people from all over the country, all over the world even! And I you get such a variety of people, some people have lived here their whole lives and know a lot about the area while for others this is their first time and had never heard of the History Center or Saugatuck before. Then you get all the people in between.

Q: Any interesting stories to tell from your time here at the SDHC?

Julie Bizzis & Laura Peterson: One day we had this guy watching the Kukla and Ollie show and he was standing there, arms crossed, looking so upset. Come to find out that Burr Tillstrom replaced his childhood favorite puppeteer on TV! His wife was standing there chuckling and we couldn't help but laugh a little. Just this grown man standing there so upset about something that happened in his childhood.

Q: Lastly, how do you think we can improve the experience, for you and our guests?

Julie Bizzis & Laura Peterson: There has been a problem getting people into the building. We have no street presence and few people know we're open. We'll tell friends about the Old School House and they'll be so surprised the building is actually open. What the building needs is more signage in the front to let people know we're open.

Q: What exhibit would you like to see next?
Ellie Dietrich: If I had to pick I think it would be interesting to see an exhibit on the geology of the area. You know, like looking at the water and land of the area. And the eroding environment. There have been a lot of concerns with the rising lake levels and shore lines disappearing, so looking at why some places seem unaffected by the water and other are wiped out. I think people would be interested and it touches on current environmental concerns.

Thank you to Julie, Laura, Ellie, and Jim for their wonderful insight into the life of a volunteer. If you have any recommendations on we can improve or want to share your story as a volunteer, please let us know!

**Thank you to all of the volunteers inspiring our community**

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**And Special Thanks to our Volunteer Coordinators:**
Bill Hess at the History Museum
Bill Woods at the History Center-Old School House

**By Jack Sheridan**

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: we are best at ....

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 August 15, Thursday September 5, and Thursday September 19.

Your family history does not have to have any previous 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 SDHC.
Join the group and find the answers!

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

New Family History Guest Writer

For this month's edition of the Ball and Chain, Chris Yoder has a guest writer, Karen Lehrer, sharing her family's stories of life in Saugatuck on Spear Street from the 1950s.

Saugatuck Memories
by Karen Kartky Lehrer

The anticipation of going to Saugatuck then arriving in a state of awe and almost melting from joy, is shared by so many. And no matter how long one stays in Saugatuck/Douglas, each moment is cherished and dearly held. One may say that time stands still here and they are right, because it does.

Loyal tourists and locals have the distinct pleasure of knowing Saugatuck/Douglas are like a well preserved vintage postcard. You can reach out and tangibly touch a childhood memory years later. Perhaps it is an ice cream cone, that special chocolate soda at the Saugatuck Drug Store fountain, a delicious meal at The Old Rail Grill, maybe a foot long at the Barrel, or simply a red cannon or marry-go-round that children play on in the town square. All of these things connect us to our memories of this jewel of villages.

We seem to receive great comfort from time spent here, like a refreshing and a refueling of our souls.

My family has been part of Saugatuck/Douglas since the late 1800's. I personally came aboard in 1959, and members of our family still make the trip with great excitement for the journey. Our family once owned a home on the beautiful Spear Street on the hill. My Father spent a year painstakingly restoring the 440
Spear Street two story house, which is an arts and crafts home built in 1869, and Dad truly worked to keep its integrity and historical value. Our home was just down the street from Burr Tillstrom's place, which resembled the old Red Barn Summer Theatre. The memories just from our Spear Street home and our friendship with Burr are solidly implanted and I visit them often. Time passed, our home sold several times and history will show that subsequent owners Steve Masterson and Tim Spooner truly loved their 440 Spear Street home too and worked diligently to keep and increase its historical beauty and value.

Our Spear Street home

There are so very many stories and memories we have of the years spent here, and it is wonderful how locals and visitors enjoy reading and sharing others' writings depicting their history. Hopefully I can share with you more specifics in the near future because every adventure and memory is just waiting to be written down.

The SDHC holds and documents so many memories and dreams that created this unique and beautiful area. We are fortunate having them preserve all of our histories, and allow us to know there is a place where time stands still.

Tune in next month to hear more stories about Karen and the Lehrer family!

By Jack Sheridan

TURNING ON THE LIGHTS!

Jen, our new intern at the SDHC had a question for ASK JACK in July - she wanted to know the history of the Pumphouse Museum Building. I replied, "Good question, but the answer will take more than the July
newsletter to answer, even roughly. In fact, maybe three features,"

Check out the July newsletter if you haven't seen the ASK JACK feature titled TURNING ON THE WATER! It is the early history story of the Saugatuck municipal water system.

Now here is the Pumphouse history, second installment. After flowing water in 1905, came flowing electricity in 1912. Pumping water and generating electricity had something in common. Both needed an internal combustion engine to make the process work. Why not combine the two in the Pumphouse ... so went the pitch from the Lakeshore Electrical Co. in February 1912. Electric household lighting was of course highly desired by the Village residents. Add to that street lights and power to pump water to the reservoir and you had a money making deal for Lakeshore Electric. And lights for Saugatuck!

History buffs might ask, What about the Big Pavilion 3000 lights the "brightest spot on the Great Lakes"? The answer is that the Pavilion had it's own steam powered generator. And the electric train? The Interurban got it's power from the Holland power plant.

**ASK JACK** is presented each issue by Jack Sheridan. This column "lives" off reader interest and inquiries. Please send your questions to jack.sheridan@gmail.com or call me at (269) 857-7144
In Memoriam
We take this time to remember our members who gave so much to the community and to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. Please click on the photographs for links to full obituaries.

Connie Deam, passed away on July 20, 2019 and survived by husband Norm Deam

David Mauger, passed on July 11, 2019

Herbert Upton, Jr, passed on April 3, 2019, survived by wife Anne

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.

Newsletter submissions: Eric Gollannek, PO Box 617, Douglas MI 49406 or 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 7 days a week from 12-4.

The **History Center -- Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit** are located at 130 Center Street in Douglas. Volunteers open the History Center from noon-4 PM Thursday-Saturday. For group tours of the School House, please contact director Eric Gollannek 269-857-5751 or by email at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

The adjoining **Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit** are open daily. Admission is free but donations gratefully accepted.

The **History Center Archives** are available for research by appointment. For more information, 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


**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.