LINGERING MYSTERY OF WALKER’S LANDING PROBED AT SDHC’s AUG. 21 “TUESDAY TALK”

AUG. 10, 2018 -- A look at what’s known and unknown about a “forgotten” resort called Walker’s Landing -- and a hopeful appeal for community input -- highlights Saugatuck-Douglas History Center’s next “Tuesday Talk” on August 21 in the Old School House, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed, especially from anyone with knowledge or photos of the Landing.

Fading into history as a remnant of our area’s early tradition of “African-American-Friendly” resorts, Walker’s Landing is dimly recalled as a very successful, mid-late 1900s enterprise along Riverside Road fronting on the Kalamazoo River east of Douglas, in the vicinity of today’s Deep Harbor Marina.

Originally owned by one Alyce Walker of Gary, Indiana, it was eventually sold by her estate, and details of its existence have since evaporated away. With SDHC’s History Harvest program initiated earlier this year, interest has been rekindled in gathering as many stories as possible to piece together a more complete understanding of this part of our area’s past.

Presenter Ken Kutzel, SDHC’s volunteer Art Collection Manager, will explore the location, share anecdotes that lend insight to the operation of the resort and look at what remains, extending an open invitation for the property’s current owner to participate (or e-mail kkutzel@yahoo.com). “This one has been an absolute beast to research”, Kutzel says, “and I can only wonder why.”

A summer tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August. This week’s Talk is sponsored by SDHC members Shirley & Larry Akins.

Tuesday Talks’ increasing popularity puts limited seating on “first-come, first-served” basis. While admission is free for current SDHC members, non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or to become new members at the Talk.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for 2018, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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Caption: Mysteries of Walker’s Landing Resort, shown here as it looked from the air in the late 1900s, to be probed in SDHC Tuesday Talk on August 21.