

# SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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## HAUNTED LIGHTHOUSES OF MICHIGAN SHINE AT S/D HISTORY CENTER'S MAR. 22 PROGRAM

MAR 3, 2017 -- Tales of Michigan's "haunted lighthouses" promise to spook Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next free public monthly program on Wednesday, March 22, starting at 7 p.m. in The Old School House at 130 Center St. in Douglas.

According to presenter Dianna Stampfler, founder/president of Promote Michigan, our state has 117 lighthouses built between the 1820s and 2006, more than any other state, and nearly two dozen of them of them are said to be haunted -- in most cases, by former keepers or their families.

"Lighthouse keepers were known to be extremely dedicated to their profession", she says, "and it seems that many were never able to give it up -- even after death. Although I've never experienced any of these ghostly encounters myself, I'm always delighted to share the stories that have been passed along to me by others."

As just one example from her program, she cites Seul Choix Point (pr. *Shish-Shwa*) Lighthouse, along the UP's remote Lake Michigan shore at Gulliver, east of Manistique. Keeper Captain Joseph Willy Townshend died there in 1910, and his embalmed body lay in state in the basement for an extended period of time awaiting family from far away to pay their last respects.

The Gulliver History Society maintains that lighthouse and keeps detailed records of ghostly occurrences there. More than 300 entries to date recount faces seen in mirrors, the pungent odor reminiscent of the Captain's cigar smoke, rocking chairs moving on their own, pictures with hazy figures, images in windows, and more.

A frequent magazine author and busy in many areas of Michigan tourism promotion, Stampfler is a Michigan Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA); in 2015 she received "The Best of Michigan Business" Award as a "One-Person Wonder" and in 2016 was presented "The Golden Pineapple Award" from Ferris State University's Hospitality Department.

The History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month's program is sponsored by SDHC members Laura and Bob Godfrey.

As a volunteer-based, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization with membership open to all, SDHC welcomes everyone with an interest in local history or just a desire to better connect with the unique cultural heritage of the area. Membership activities are enjoyed by long-time and seasonal residents, tourists, and those who have recently joined the greater Saugatuck-Douglas community.

For more information about SDHC, its award-winning Pump House History Museum, its Old School House, its planned activities, and its many volunteer opportunities, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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*Seul Choix Point lighthouse along the UP shore of Lake Michigan, one of nearly two dozen haunted Michigan lighthouses, is among those examined in SDHC's free public program on March 22.*

*Above photo, date and photographer unknown. Photo below by Gary Martin.*

