

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY
CENTER

Information Contacts:

Nathan Nietering
269.857.5751
director@sdhistoricalsociety.org

John Peters
269.857.2967
jppubrel@gmail.com

WHY STEAM RAILROADS *DIDN'T* COME TO SAUGATUCK
ANSWERED AT HISTORY CENTER "TUESDAY TALK" JULY 17

JULY 6, 2018 -- Back in 1871, as the Pere Marquette Railroad was setting up routes from St. Joseph to up-lakeshore towns in West Michigan, it managed to miss Saugatuck. How that happened is the focus of Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's July 17 "Tuesday Talk" 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 to enrich the discussion.

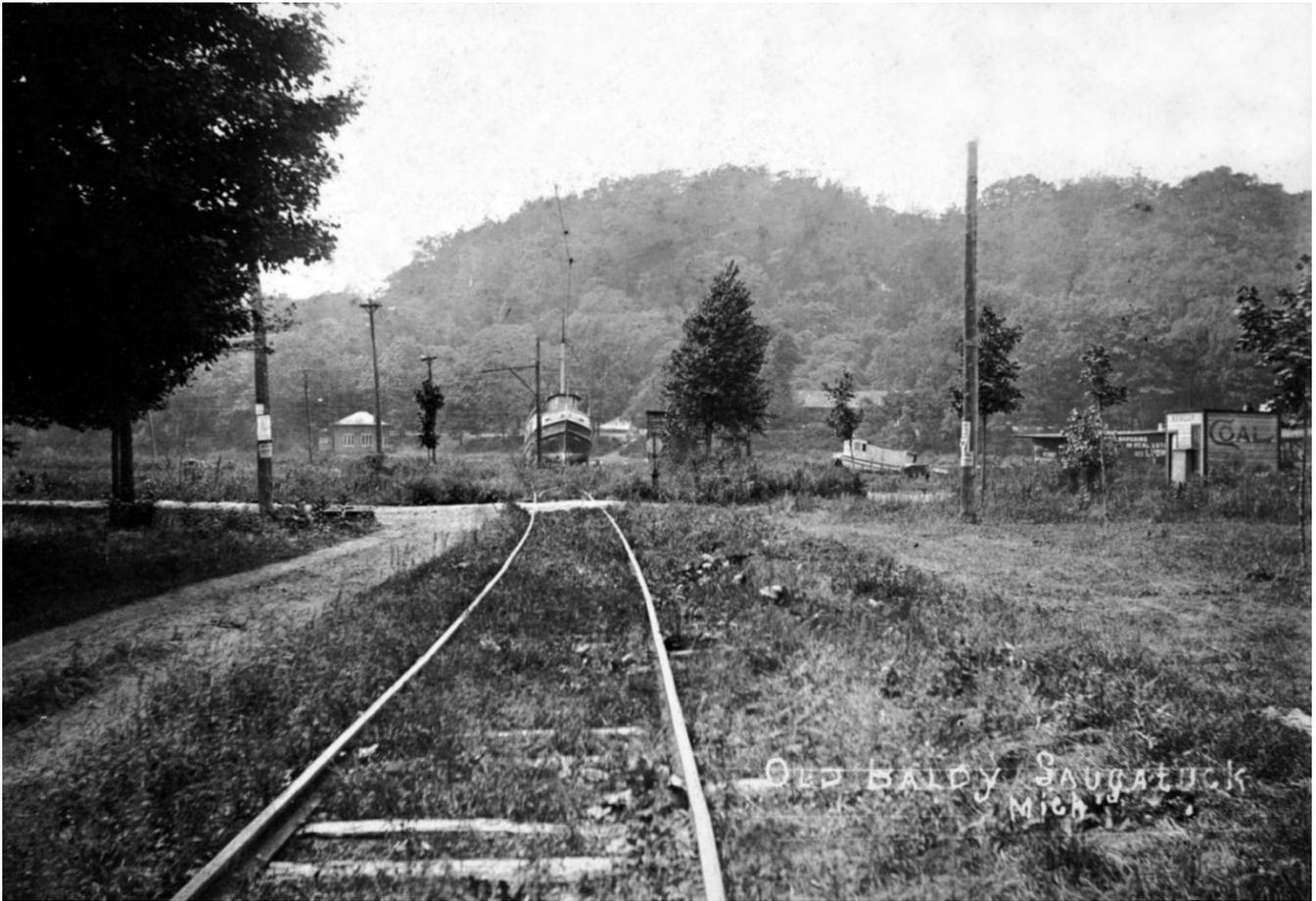
Presenter Nathan Nietering, SDHC executive director, will revisit early efforts to bring steam railroad service here and why it ended up in New Richmond instead. Illustrated with historical photos and maps from the SDHC archives, he also will discuss the electric interurban rail line that provided what steam trains didn't, coordinating with steamship schedules and linking Saugatuck to Holland and the West Michigan-Chicago transportation route from 1899 to 1926.

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 jointly by Merijean B. Webb - RE/MAX Saugatuck-Douglas, Star of Saugatuck, plus SDHC members Doug & Bonnie Lowe, Maury Decoster & Sunny Hill.

Tuesday Talks' increasing popularity has put limited seating at the Old School House on a "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 throughout the year, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

###



Where is this?

This 1906 view of the Holland Interurban rail route entering Saugatuck, with a distant Mt. Baldhead offering a clue to the scene's street location, helps visualize SDHC's July 17 Tuesday Talk about why the steam railroads didn't come to town.