

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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MICHIGAN WOMEN LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS CELEBRATED AT JULY 27 "TUESDAY TALK"

JULY 16, 2021 -- "Ladies of the Lights: Michigan Women in the U.S. Lighthouse Service" will illuminate Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next "Tuesday Talk" on July 27, starting at 11 a.m. As planned before Michigan's earlier Coronavirus protective measures were later relaxed, this hour-long program will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Audience participants will need to register in advance online at tinyurl.com/SDHC-TT-7-27 in order to receive instructions for joining the Zoom program. Questions regarding online registration procedures may be e-mailed to info@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

Historian/author Patricia Majher tells the story of more than 50 women who defied the gender expectations of their time to serve the sailing communities on Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior, as well as on the Detroit River, from 1849 to 1954. (Men served from 1825 to 1983, when lighthouses became either automated or decommissioned as no longer necessary.)

Drawing from her book "Ladies of the Lights" (University of Michigan Press, 2010), she focuses on inspiring examples such as Elizabeth Whitney Williams, principal keeper at Lake Michigan's Beaver Island Harbor light and the Harbor Springs light for a combined 41 years, who chronicled her experiences in her book "A Child of the Sea"; Catherine Shook, who raised eight children while maintaining the Pointe Aux Barques light at the entrance to Saginaw Bay; Eliza Truckey, who assumed responsibility for the lighthouse in Marquette while her husband fought for four years in the Civil War; and Mary Corgan, who assisted her husband James at Gull Rock and Manitou Island in Lake Superior for 8 years and bore a child who extended the Corgan family's lighthouse-keeping service to a third generation.

Majher is a former editor of *Michigan History* magazine and museum professional who has held administrative positions at institutions including The Henry Ford and Mackinac State Historic Parks. In addition to "Ladies of the Lights," she has published "Great Girls in Michigan History" and "Bold Boys in Michigan History" with Wayne State University Press and "100 Things to Do in Ann Arbor Before You Die" with Reedy Press.

A summertime tradition since 1996, SDHC's weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life and history throughout July and August.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is supported in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about SDHC, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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TWO PHOTOS ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpegs "ElizW" and "MaryC")

Caption : Elizabeth Whitney Williams and Mary Corgan, remembered in these undated late-1800s photographs, shine among the "Ladies of the Lights" featured in SDHC's July 27 Tuesday Talk.

