

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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S-D HISTORY CENTER'S FIRST 2018 "TUESDAY TALK" ON JULY 10 HONORS HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SERVICE IN STATE GOVERNMENT

JUNE 29, 2018 -- The history of women rising to high levels of Michigan state government will kick off Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's first 2018 "Tuesday Talk" on July 10, 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.

Presenting *Capitol Women: Pioneering Women and Their Work Under The Dome*, Valerie Marvin, Michigan State Capitol Historian & Curator, highlights women who rose to key government positions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries...some even before they gained the right to vote.

"Some of these women earned national attention for their groundbreaking roles," Marvin notes with focus on Harriet Tenney, who was appointed State Librarian in 1869 to become only the second woman in the U.S. to serve in a state government at this level.

The program recalls a dozen success stories, including some who broke down multiple barriers when they came to the Capitol, such as 1925-26 State Representative Cora Reynolds Anderson. "Not only was Cora the first woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives," Marvin extols, "she was the first documented Native American to reach a state legislative role."

"In many ways," she adds, "these women weren't so different from us. Some worked because they had to support their families...others craved the independence and autonomy of a professional career...many just felt a calling to improve the lives of their sisters and daughters."

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 Karen & Herb Tews, Bobbie & Bob Gaunt, and Suzanne Dixon.

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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Harriet Tenney, Michigan's first woman State Librarian (1869), is among the pioneering women in state government celebrated in SDHC's first 2018 "Tuesday Talk" on July 10.