

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

Information Contacts:

Hugh & Kitch Rinehart
269.329.0481
hkrinehart@msn.com

Nathan Nietering
269.857.5751
director@sdhistoricalsociety.org

John Peters
269.857.2967
jppubrel@gmail.com

VIRTUAL WALK ALONG VICKSBURG QUILT TRAIL SLATED FOR SDHC "TUESDAY TALK" ON JULY 24

JULY 13, 2018 -- A colorful look at a Michigan version of the barn quilt movement highlights Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next "Tuesday Talk" on July 24, 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 *The Vicksburg Quilt Trail: How to Build a Barn Quilt Tour*, VQT founders Hugh and Kitch Rinehart will guide a virtual trip to all 24 quilt locations in and around Vicksburg, a small agricultural community just south of Kalamazoo. Along the way, they'll talk about how the quilt trail phenomenon sprouted in Ohio in 2001, how Vicksburg came to embrace the idea, and how barn quilts are created.

A former art teacher and avid quilter, Kitch and her husband Hugh brought the idea with them when retiring from their family business in Cincinnati and moving to Michigan in 2004 to be closer to grandchildren. Impressed with the many picturesque barns around Vicksburg, she and Hugh saw a perfect palette for a strong tourist attraction and began working with the Vicksburg Historical Society to make it happen.

Today, big, boldly painted plywood quilt blocks mounted on the area's historical barns and buildings regularly lead visitors along a 45-mile path through the town and around the countryside, where they photograph and learn about the designs while absorbing the area's history. Each quilt has its own backstory, mostly reflecting traditional or modern fabric quilt patterns and some simply emerging from imagination, often inspiring quilters to replicate them in cloth.

Still gaining momentum after 17 years, Ohio's Quilt Trail movement has spawned similar trails in nearly every state, plus thousands of random "bonus" quilts adorning individual sheds, garages and porches in unexpected places.

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 Holland's Osman Flowers & Firs.

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.

###



One of the 24 barn quilts along the Vicksburg Quilt Trail, to be discussed at the SDHC Tuesday Talk on July 24.