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**CIVIL WAR CAMP REENACTMENT, KIDS' PROGRAM
ADD FREE ACTIVITIES TO AUG. 13 DOUGLAS SOCIAL**

JULY 31, 2015 -- A free, public kids' program amidst a Civil War Camp reenactment, featuring crafts, games and food of that era on the grounds of The Old School House, 130 Center St. in Douglas, will enhance the Douglas Social on Thursday, August 13. Open from 5 to 8 p.m., the program welcomes both resident and visiting families to arrive and leave on their own schedules.

Sponsored jointly by the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library and Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, this special program is built around an encampment by 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company F, a Grand Rapids group dedicated to educating the public about military and civilian life during the Civil War era.

In addition to costumes, artifacts and demonstrations presented by the re-enactors, Library and Historical Society volunteers will host a variety of hands-on activities for boys and girls of all ages, including a "soldier school", games of the era such as "clothespin soldiers", "ball and cup", and "hoop rolling", and tastes of "soldier food" such as hardtack.

The Historical Society's traditional Douglas Trolley Tour will shuttle visitors to and from the Social and Old School House, while local history expert and Museum Curator Jim Schmiechen will provide narration focusing on local Civil War soldiers' homes and other Douglas buildings remaining from that era.

At the encampment, the Historical Society will be offering complementary copies of its publication *Lincoln's Ready-Made Soldiers: Saugatuck Area Men in the Civil War*, authored by local historian Kit Lane.

Built in 1866, The Old School House is listed on both the Michigan and National Registers of Historic Places. It is one of the oldest multi-classroom school buildings in Michigan and considered one of the finest examples of 19th century school architecture in America.

The Historical Society, a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organization with membership open to all, acquired the landmark building in 2007 with a commitment to preserve and refurbish it as a community History Center. Currently open Tuesdays 10 a.m. to Noon, Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Center offers a place to explore the area's genealogy, history, culture, ecology and architecture, and to access the Society's growing archive of local artifacts, photos, records and newspapers.

To learn more about this event's Civil War reenactment group, visit www.3rdmichigan.com. For more information about the Historical Society, its Old School House History Center in Douglas and History Museum in Saugatuck, upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities, visit



Civil War reenactment group 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company F, will camp at the Old School House for a kids' program during the Douglas Social on August 13.