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**EARLY WATER SYSTEM & PUMP HOUSE RECALLED
AT FEBRUARY 11 HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM**

DOUGLAS (MI), JAN. 30, 2015 -- Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's first monthly program of 2015 will recall the origins of our area's public water system and pump house, starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 11, in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. Admission is free and public attendance is invited.

Presenter Richard Donovan will discuss the system's construction in 1904, looking at the state of fire-fighting at that time, the process of designing and approving the planned system and the key role of part-time resident and engineer John Alvord, all visually brought to life with images from the Society's archives. His story continues with the pump house's slide into ruin, "last-minute" rescue to become the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum, and the Society's recently initiated efforts to have the building added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Donovan and wife Ellen became full-time Fennville residents and S-DHS members in 2013, after his thirty-plus years as an attorney in New York City. He now volunteers in pursuit of National Register listings for both the Pump House and the Francis Lifeboat on display at the Old School House History Center.

For general information about the Historical Society, its History Museum in Saugatuck, Old School House History Center in Douglas, social activities and volunteer opportunities, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Dated ca. 1907, this view is believed to be the earliest photo of Saugatuck's first water system pump house, now the home of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum at the foot of Mount Baldhead.