



A PUBLICATION OF THE
SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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DECEMBER 2015

Again this year, the Society's Newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.



The
*Saugatuck-Douglas
Historical Society*
wishes you Happy
Holidays this season!

We have mailed our end-of-year appeal by U.S. Mail. The theme highlights our many accomplishments from 2015 and looks ahead to what's in store for 2016 - a palate of exciting SDHS programs and activities! These can only be accomplished through the generous contributions of our supporters. Please consider what you learned at a presentation, the fun you had at one of our social functions, and the value you find in having a history museum - both professional and local - as a place for learning and growth in our community. Then please make a gift, as generous as you are able, to support this work in the coming year. Please send your check or credit card information, or donate online through our secure PayPal page by going to www.sdhistoricalsociety.org and clicking the blue donate now button on the left, or the image below.



Thank you for your

Your Membership

In order to minimize paperwork and clutter during the busy end-of-year season, SDHS is moving its membership renewal cycle to March for the upcoming year. All dues-current members will continue to be current through the winter and should look for a membership renewal announcement as the snow begins to melt. No dues payment is due at this time. Membership questions? Contact the museum director at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society since the last newsletter!

- Catherine Dritsas and Paula Carlo, Saugatuck, MI
- Beth and Fred Egge, Holland, MI

From the President

The Society is starting 2016 with a new Director, Secretary, Board Member, and President. Fortunately we have a continuing group of board members and, most importantly, experienced leaders of the Museum, Garden, Archives, and Communications groups.

continued support!

Don't forget to Smile!



Did you know if you shop on Amazon - at anytime of the year - a small percentage of your purchase can be donated to SDHS? When it's time to go shopping, go to smile.amazon.com, use your regular Amazon login credentials, and then select that you wish to support the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. That's it! Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the Society. [Click here](#) to get started.

Also, don't forget that the Society maintains a booth at the Saugatuck Antique Pavilion on the Blue Star Highway. The booth features some of our selection of award-winning publications along with a host of actual antiques and other treasures donated for this purpose. Proceeds from the sales of booth items benefit the operating expenses of the Society.

Coming Your Way Soon



Under the leadership of Vice President Bill Hess, a group is being formed to draft a five-year Strategic Plan for the Society. This plan will cover all aspects of our collections, facilities, administration, and programming. Our goal is to preserve the Society's outstanding reputation and assets for the next generation of our community.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Membership Chairman Ed Kelly for his service in that role and as a board member for the past several years. Ed recently made a move to Virginia, and will be missed, although we expect at least an occasional visit from this good friend to the Society. We'd also like to say a special *welcome aboard* to Richard Donovan, who joined the board this fall.

We are excited about celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Old School House in 2016. To help do that our historians and design team will develop an exhibit for the main room of the OSH and we will greatly expand the hours that the building is open for visitors.

I would like to thank our Past President Sharon Kelly for her leadership in hiring Nathan Nietering as the Director. She was also instrumental in adopting a new accounting system and raising our financial discipline to an effective level. She left the Society much better off due to her initiatives.

- SDHS Board President Steve Hutchins

Garden Happenings

*"I will honor Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year."*

~ Charles Dickens

What a wonderful time of year we are in! It is nice to put our gardens to bed and let ourselves be part of this beautiful season. We would like to thank all of you for your continued help, support and trust in our committees to do what we do to help make our society so successful.

Couple of great gift ideas.....how about buying your loved ones a one-of-a-kind, hand crafted

*SDHS Art Collection conservation
and storage*

One of the first *Monthly Meeting* presentations of 2016 will focus on the Society's art collection. Art Collection Manager Ken Kutzel will talk about the collection as a whole and recent additions. Open to the public - watch for a date and time in the next SDHS e-News!

Annual Daffodil Planting for Cemetery Orphans

By Chris Yoder

On Nov. 29th our crew of hardy bulb planters assembled at the Riverside Cemetery in Saugatuck to begin the process of placing a dozen daffodils at the gravesites of selected local "orphans". Joy Muhlenbeck, Brett Tubergen, Charles Hancock and Chris Yoder next proceeded to the Douglas Cemetery and placed 34 dozen between the two local cemeteries. This tradition began in 2010, and year after year the beautiful bright yellow results expand and reveal themselves. "Orphans" consist of occupants who either died without any descendants to remember them, or those whose families have moved away. This month, we'll highlight the folks selected in the Douglas Cemetery. If any of our readers have biographical more information to share, please send to cyoder@tds.net.



ANDREW AND JANE HABERER

- Andrew (Nov. 28, 1850-Feb. 19, 1936) and Jane Haberer (Apr. 23, 1869-Feb. 19, 1935) born in the walled city of Rothenberg, Germany, came to America in

bench placed lovingly in our School House garden? Or how about the gift of camp.....**Root Camp** that is! If you would like any information on either or both of these unique gift ideas, please contact Ruth Johnson at ruthannj@frontier.com. Planning for 2016 Root Camp sessions is already underway!

We would sincerely like to wish you and all of your loved ones a blessed and safe holiday season.

Until next year!

The Garden and Root Camp Committees

HISTORY by CAMERA

The Bill Simmons Scrapbook

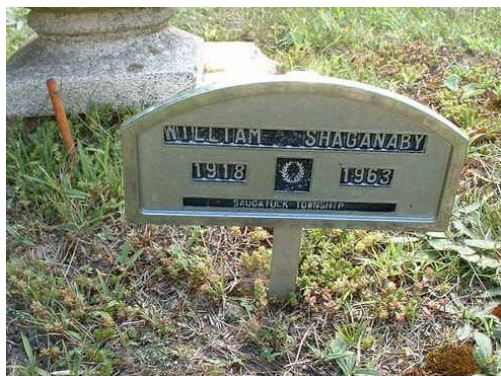
By Jack Sheridan



Bill Simmons

1870 and spent two years in Allegan before coming to the Douglas area where he worked as a mason. They were the grandparents of the late Bud Sewers.

- John S. Syversen- (1901-Jul. 22, 1950) of age 49, of MYOCARDITIS died at CALIFORNIA, little more is known.
- John V. Seckel (Aug. 18, 1897-Jun. 29, 1972) WWI Veteran serving as a corporal. Moved to Douglas in 1945 where he owned and operated the Douglas Tavern for 17 years until his retirement. A member of the Dutcher Lodge, he was survived by his wife.
- Peter J. Conley (Jul. 31, 1891 in Pa.-Jul. 15, 1967). Served in WWI as PFC CO F 55 INFANTRY.
- Kenneth M Farley-Private C Co 309th Inf., (1897-1939 died in Grand Rapids)



WILLIAM SHAGONOBY

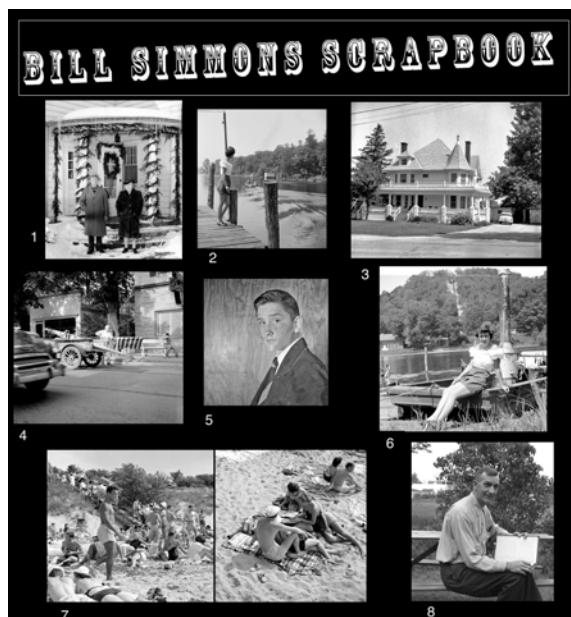
- William Shagonoby (Shaganaby)- (1881-1963) member of the Indian Mission at Salem, MI. One of 8 members of this surname in the Douglas cemetery. Only William has a simple marker, the others are not marked.
- Ed Gutches (c1850-1919) found dead in a field at the farm of J W Prentice where he worked, reportedly a victim of the heat.
- Charles W. (1866-1917) and Mrs. Emma Jane Overton Etherton (1868-1942) both originally from Nebraska.
- Alonzo W. Dart- (1870-Jun. 7, 1958)- born in MO. Father of Dorothy (Mrs. Lowell) Martin, (Lowell was a past Commander Saugatuck Am Legion), both also buried at Douglas.

This is the fourth month of the *History by Camera* feature - the BILL SIMMONS SCRAPBOOK. Bill was a semi-professional photographer, originally from Chicago, who moved to Saugatuck about 1940. He had a couple of stints as the editor of the *Commercial Record*. Over the next twenty two years he took numerous black and white photos.

He died in 1962 and these photos went unnoticed until 1998 when some 3,000 negatives were given to the SDHS. What a record of our town in the middle of the twentieth century!

Many have appeared in SDHS books and exhibits. However, others ended up - so to speak - on the cutting room floor, because Bill often took numerous shots of a subject. We have used only the best of them and many subjects have not been published.

Please examine the images [a history mystery of the mind] to see what you can identify before reading my brief captions. This is a form of my History Mystery series exercise, without hints. Many of subjects are still here, right in front of us. Have fun.



When you feel confident, click on the image above to reveal the answers!

I appreciate your feedback on my captions, and the selection of these images. Please point out my good choices, errors or omissions by sending an email at jack.sheridan@gmail.com. No feedback



ELIZABETH REID DEMPSTER CURRAN

- Hugh Dempster (1839-1880) / Elizabeth Dempster Curran (1847-1911) - Hugh Dempster was an immigrant from the Ards Peninsula in Northern Ireland to Amherst Island, Canada where he met Eliza Reid, He was a sailor who died when he fell off a bridge at Chicago. Widow remarried Archie Curran.
- Thomas Gray (1820-1895) and wife Lucy Ann Collins (1820-1908) - Thomas and his brother came to Michigan by foot from Connecticut in about 1836. In Douglas he engaged in lumbering, farming, operated the "Dutcher Store" in Douglas, and served multiple terms as Saugatuck Township Supervisor,
- Thomas C. Gray (1853-1920) / Annette Hewett Gray (1856-1931)- son of Thomas G Gray
- Elias M. Dibble (c. 1823 NY-May 13, 1870) - Maria A - d. Apr. 20, 1855 age 2/Clark H- d. Feb. 9, 1859 age 4, Elias was born NY c. 1823, laborer in 1850 census, by 1852 Elias M. Dibble was a justice of the peace, Township Supervisor in 1853 and 1854, coroner in 1855. His wife Charlotte Sue Barr m2. John Ryan and is also buried in Douglas.

from last month - how about some discussion? Subject suggestions encouraged!

Any reader comments will not be published without reader permission.



By Jack Sheridan

Please visit us to see what we are all about and most importantly, share "lessons learned" about the many tools available for family history research, such as local records, Ancestry.com, and more.

Got questions on how to get going? That is what we are for! Call or email us or take note, the SDHS Family History Group's regular meeting schedule is the first and third Thursday of every month at the Old School House.

Upcoming meetings at the OSH at 3:30pm in the downstairs tech room are:

Thursday January 7
Thursday January 21

Remember, your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area!!!

Not sure where to begin? Let us provide a helpful jump start by recording what you know about your parents, grandparents, and great grandparents and send it along for a review by Chris Yoder or myself.

The snail mail address is SDHS Family History, PO Box 617 Douglas, MI 49406, or email a copy to cyoder@tds.net and/or jack.sheridan@gmail.com.

We will soon be back to you with readily found data and with suggestions on the next steps to take. Further help is always available from the Family History group by phone and email. The



only requirement is membership in the SDHS.

Mayflower ancestor, Revolutionary War vet, great grandparents, WWII vet? Stop wondering and get the facts.

Questions/comments/advice/needs - contact

Jack Sheridan:

269 857-7144

jack.sheridan@gmail.com

Chris Yoder:

269 857-4327

cyoder@tds.net

DIRECTOR'S POST SCRIPT

-By Nathan Nietering

My "Corner" is short this time around, and at the end, as an exclamation point of another wonderful e-News newsletter! I've only been here a few months, but already I've established some great contacts, gotten to know many of our members and volunteers, and built a solid working relationship with your Board of Directors. 2015 has been a year of great growth for the Society, and I look forward to continuing the exciting momentum in 2016. Whether you are an active volunteer, a donor, or regular visitor (or all 3!), I hope we can count on your continued support in the New Year. Thank you for making the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society a critical piece of our community's cultural and educational infrastructure. The next issue of e-News will be a combined January-February issue.

Stay tuned, and Happy Holidays!



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

To become a member of the Society, select from the following categories:

Individual	\$50
Household	\$70
Premium	\$300
Corporate	\$500
Life	\$1,000
Senior (65+)	\$30
Senior Household	\$45

Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. You can also click [HERE](#) for a Society Membership Application.

Membership renewal notices will be sent in March, 2016. No payment is due at this time.

Send items for the newsletter to: Nathan Nietering, PO Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406 or email info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY FACILITIES

The Saugatuck-Douglas **History Museum** is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Pump House building. The History Museum closed for the winter season on October 25. **WATER**, our feature exhibit, will reopen, with some new elements, over Memorial Day 2016. Always free to the public but donations gratefully accepted.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Museum and recent past exhibits.

The Old School House **History Center** and **Lifeboat Display** is located at 130 Center Street in Douglas. For group tours of the School House, please contact Nathan Nietering at 269-857-5751 or by email at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org. The Lifeboat Display and **Back-in-Time Garden** are open to the public as weather permits.

The Society's **Technology Center** is located in the lower level of the Old School House History Center at 130 Center Street in downtown Douglas. Open by appointment.

The Society's **Archives** office is located in the lower level of the Old School House and is open for research on Monday afternoons 1-4pm. Use the back stairway for easy access.

E-mail: archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Society Main Phone: 269-857-5751

Museum Phone: 269-857-7900

Tech Center/Archives Phone: 269-857-7901

www.sdhistoricalociety.org

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