The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center preserves local history and inspires learning to inform and improve our community.

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THE PUBLICATION OF THE
SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER
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SDHC website and digital collections planning

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center (SDHC) has built up a rich set of digital collections that we make available on our website and through our mobile app. Through images, video, documents, and objects these digital collections are critical to telling the story of our communities and the surrounding region.

Exciting news for history lovers: the Michigan Historical Newspaper project now allows you to search the Commercial Record from 4 January 1957 - 6 August 1970. That's over 711 issues scanned and made fully searchable through the work of the Clark Historical Library at Central Michigan University. Many of you participated in the postcard contest in January of 2018 that brought home the Michigan Digital Newspaper Grant. This winter the SDHC partnered with the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library to expand coverage.

We want to make the online experience as rewarding as possible for our members, visitors, and researchers. In an effort to do so the SDHC is inviting you to take this brief online survey. You may also access the survey directly on from the www.mySDhistory.org homepage.

Your input, feedback, and ideas will help us make strategic improvements. Thank you as always for your attention, support, and commitment to our organization.
Thanks to recent updates by Jim Cook and Dick Haight, the SDHC’s Commercial Record collection is also back online providing page images from the years 1868-1977. Visit today at http://commercialrecord.org/

Second Summer Intern Joins Team

Hello! My name is Alanna Smollen, and I am the new collections intern at the OSH. I am from Indianapolis, Indiana, and I am a recent graduate from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana with a double major in History and French. Over the next few months, you can find me in the Archives at the Old School House, where I am happy to help with research, answer questions about the OSH and History Museum, or just talk about history. In the future, I hope to attend graduate school and eventually become a curator in either History or Art History, but for now, I will be helping the History Center manage its collections. I look forward to meeting with the community and learning more about the history of Douglas and Saugatuck.

-Alanna Smollen

Tuesday Talks are Back!

Tuesdays in July & August at 11 AM at the Old School House

We are so excited to announce that Tuesday Talks are back in full swing! Christine Byron and Tom Wilson kicked off the summer with an insightful look into West Michigan in the year 1959. If you missed out, don't worry, there are plenty of other talks to attend!

July 9
Camp Gray Stories with Larry LaBine
Sponsored by Leslie Thompson

July 16
Boat Building in Holland with Geoffrey Reynolds
Sponsored by Renee Zita and Bill Underdown

July 23
Local Art: Then and Now with Mary Jo Lemanski
Sponsored by Pat Denner

July 30
Burr Tillstrom, and Kukla, Fran, and Ollie with Michael Schwabe and Larry Basgall
Sponsored by Bill Hess and Mike Mattern

August 6
Stories of the "Morgan J" with Saugatuck Fire Chief Greg Janik
Sponsored by Don and Laurie Bradley

August 13
Up Close and Wild with Michigan Wildlife presented by the Outdoor Discovery Center
Sponsored by Fran and Bill Myers

August 20
Pokagon Band of Pottawatomie with Nicole Holloway
Sponsored by Bill and Nancy Woods

August 27
Cora Bliss Taylor: The Artist, the Teacher with Ken Kutzel and friends
Sponsored by Denny and Buzzy Maurer
July Monthly Meeting: The SDHC Is Going On a Field Trip!

On July 10th, the History Center will be visiting the Summerhouse Lavender Farm. The owners, Dan McGavine and Carol Brown, will be giving us a tour of their one-acre facilities. This will include a visit through the lavender fields, a look at the fountains and zen garden, and visiting the gift shop. So come on down and join us for this multi-sensory excursion.

When: Wednesday, July 10th at 7pm
Where: 2975 65th St in Fennville

Some history on the lavender farm:

In 2013, Dan and Carol both retired from their respective jobs. Dan had spent 43 years teaching rhetoric and literature at the university level; Carol worked as a technical writer for over 30 years. It was determined early on that neither one wanted a have a sedentary retirement, so they decided to give farming a try. In 2014 they got their desired farm and began planting lavender in the hopes of

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Our Monthly Meeting presentations are open for free to members and the public and begin at 7:00pm at the Old School House at 130 Center Street in Douglas, unless otherwise indicated below.

July 10, Field trip to Summerhouse Lavender Farm in Fennville - The lavender should be in full bloom for our visit. This multi-sensory delight you will not want to miss!
Sponsored by Renee Zita

August 14, Only the River Remains: History and Memory of the Eastland Disaster in the Great Lakes Region with Caitlyn Perry Dial, PhD
Sponsored by Osman Flowers and Firs

Thank You to our sponsors. Multiple sponsors are welcome and encouraged and all will receive billing in future announcements. If you would like to sponsor one of our 2019 programs, please REPLY to this email and we will be in touch. Sponsorships are $150 and help support our high caliber of presentations and field trip activities!

Calling All Volunteers!

Your help is needed! We currently need volunteers for both the History Museum and the Old School House. Duties include opening/closing the building, recording attendance, and processing sales.

The History Museum is open 7 days a week from 12 to 4. Each shift lasts 2 hours. If you are interested in working at the museum please contact Bill Hess at wwh71@comcast.net
attracting visitors and using the oils to create aromatherapy products. These products are offered in their shop and include lavender-infused lotion, candles, and soaps.

Old School House availability is Thursday to Saturday from 12 to 4. Each shift lasts 2 hours. If you are interested in working at the OSH please contact Bill Woods at w.woods@wmich.edu

**New at the History Museum!**

Show your love for our community with these unique magnets. The museum is open daily from 12 to 4pm. Check out all new merchandise including two styles of "I Climbed Mt. Baldhead" t-shirts and "I rode the Chain Ferry" mugs. Special thanks to John Kerr and Sally Winthers for new wares at the museum store!

**Root Camp 2019**

Root Camp Has Come and Gone But There Are Plenty of Stories To Tell

Another year of Root Camp has gone by and many fond memories were made. We saw some familiar faces and some new ones as well. With a total 23 campers, there was never a dull moment. Over the course of a week the campers got to try a bunch of new activities and hopefully learned something along the way. Led by Root Camp founder Ruth Johnson and Kim Martinson with support from intern Jen Cimmarusti and student counselors, this program built on its six years of success with its first field trip.
On the first day, the campers received a visit from the Critter Barn. With a collection of chickens, rabbits, and baby goats, the kids got to learn about different types of animals, but I think the campers were more interested in petting the cute critters.

Tuesday was science day! With the help of Mr. Pcolinski, Vice President of Innovation and Technology at BASF, the kids were able to conduct their own science experiments. Campers learned about density by seeing how much salt water it would take to make an egg float. They also created their own small electric circuit using a lemon and some copper wires.

The next day, the kids were introduced to Mike and Larry from the Village Puppeteers. Along with learning about the organization, the kids had the opportunity to create their own puppets. The campers mustered up a lot of creativity to make their well designed puppets, all with unique names and stories.

Finally, on our last day of Root Camp, the children took a field trip to the Ox-Bow School of Art. There, directors Rebecca Parker and Claire Arctander, gave our kids a tour of the campus. They explored the old Ox-Bow Inn, the lagoon, and sat in on a few art classes. At the end of the day the campers painted ceramic bowls to take home to their families.

We had a wonderful group of kids this year and we hope to see them again next year! If you know any kids who love the outdoors and enjoy going on adventures, let them know about Root Camp! We always look forward to meeting new campers.

Thank you to this year's Root Camp Sponsors: the Fitz, Fan & Zelda Foundation, Joy Muelenbeck, Gary Medler, Holland Horticulture Club, Coral Gables, and BASF.
Art supporters come together to keep Robert Fort paintings in Saugatuck

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center has formally acquired three paintings by Robert "Harry" Fort (1875 - 1954) who lived and worked on Griffith Street in Saugatuck. The three works, relating to the area surrounding the Newnham House he called home, are a wonderful documentation of Saugatuck's architectural history and sense of place. Though many of the structures depicted in these creations are long gone, it is still very easy to pick out familiar landmarks. The History Center plans to mount an exhibit of Fort works this Fall at the Old School House galleries.

There are also plans to "harvest" knowledge relating to Mr. Fort and his work. If you have any information or images / paintings you would like documented, please contact Ken Kutzel at the History Center.

The History Center would like to thank the following people who made the acquisition of the Fort paintings possible: John Thomas and Ed Greene, Steve Hutchins, Kenneth Kutzel and William McGlone, Bill Hess and Mike Mattern, Cindy and Mark Peterson, Mark Barrone, Tom Slater, Tim Farmer, Cynthia Sorensen, and Joan Brigham. Thank you friends of art at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center!

Cora Bliss Taylor fans -- Save the Date -- August 10th!

A new exhibit of works by Saugatuck's favorite artist and teacher, Cora Bliss Taylor, will be opening in the Upstairs Gallery on August 10th. Please join us from 6 - 8 pm for wine and refreshment to view this exciting new display. The August 27th Tuesday Talk will augment the exhibit with information and stories about Cora Bliss Taylor.

If you have stories and or images / art to share, please watch upcoming newsletters for information on a "history harvest" to collect and document materials on Cora Bliss Taylor.
Welcome from Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder, leaders of the Society Family History Group.

Please visit a regular Family History Group meeting to see what we are all about and join the group. We share "lessons learned" about the many tools available for family history research.

Questions/comments/advice/needs:

Mayflower ancestor, Revolutionary War vet, famous cousins, great grand parents, ...
Where did you come from?
Thinking about a DNA test?
Answering questions: we are best at ....

Call or email us, meetings are normally the first and third Thursday every month at 3:30 at the Old School House.

Upcoming meetings: Thursday July 11, Thursday July 18, Thursday August 1, and Thursday August 15.

Your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area !!!

Not sure how to get going? 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 Box 617 Douglas, 49406, or email to either cyoder@tds.net 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 Chris and myself by phone and email.

The only requirement is membership in the SDHS.
Join the group and find the answers.

jack.sheridan@gmail.com 269 857-7144 or cyoder@tds.net 616 212-3443
Local School Bans Rope Jumping!

by Chris Yoder

Protective parents of each generation have come up with rules aimed at safeguarding their children from the dangerous activities which they themselves once enjoyed. Today bike riders must wear helmets. You can no longer play with mercury from broken thermometers, rolling a bubble from hand to hand. Going down a snow covered hill standing up on your sled and steering it with a rope is frowned upon. Cherry Bombs and M-80s were made illegal by an all knowing US Congress in the Child Safety Act of 1966.

In 1884 the Saugatuck-Douglas town fathers protected their children from another deadly activity by banning rope jumping by girls at the school. The Lakeshore Commercial of Apr 18th reported:

![Image: "We are glad to be able to note that the rope-jumping sport of the girls at school, has been forbidden. It is a very dangerous pastime.

The Jump Rope Institute, a current day proponent of this dangerous pastime, reports:

The first concrete evidence of jump rope activity can be seen in medieval paintings where children roll hoops and jump rope down the cobblestone streets of Europe. Although, the exact origin of jump rope activity is unclear. Some date jump roping to ancient China; however, the Western versions probably originated from 1600 A.D. Egypt.

What is known is that jump roping, in some form or another, spread through Europe to the Netherlands, and eventually to North America. Early Dutch settlers were some of the first jump roppers in America. Not surprisingly, one of the more popular jumping games is called "Double Dutch."

The Dutch origins of the activity may in part have been responsible for its insidious currency in the West Michigan of 1884.

Whether the reader is pro-jumping or anti-jumping, or favors it for medicinal purposes only, I'll leave you with a final word of moderation from The Girls' Own Book, published by Mrs. L. Maria Child in 1833:
TURNING ON THE WATER!

Jen, our new intern at the SDHC had a question the other day. She asked me if I could get the ASK JACK feature for July done this week. I answered yes, but ... I need an ASK JACK question from you.

Hmmmm, she mused for maybe ten seconds. "OK, what is the history of the Pumphouse Museum building?"

"Good question, but the answer will take more than one month to answer, even roughly. In fact, maybe three features," I replied.

So here we go with the first installment of which the title is a clue!

The Village of Saugatuck water system was designed by an expert engineer by the name of John Alvord. Mr Alvord had experience working for the City of Chicago on its water system. He also had Saugatuck connections because he built a neat cottage just south of the Chapel on Lake Shore Dr. It is still there.

I do not know the details of the inspiration for the Saugatuck water system. But here is what I do know. The key elements of the system are:

- A reservoir half way up the north slope approaching Mt Baldhead - called Lone Pine hill.
  - A well drilled near the river bank
  - Two 25 hp gasoline engines and pumps to operate the well and fill the reservoir
  - Eight inch diameter pipes from the reservoir, under the river to the village
  - Water mains in the city, fire hydrants, and piping to structures
  - Village workers to operate and maintain the system
- And last, but not least, a pump house containing the pumping equipment - see 1905 photo below

You guessed it, the pump house was the beginning of what is today the Pumphouse Museum. The project
started in the fall of 1903 and was completed a year later at a cost of about $10,000.

Stay tuned... in August much more coming!

ASK JACK is presented each issue by Jack Sheridan. This column "lives" off reader interest and inquiries. Please send your questions to jack.sheridan@gmail.com or call me at (269) 857-7144
Membership Update

We have had a great response to our membership mailing in April. Thank you to volunteer Arthur Ashley for his assistance with membership updates.

If you did not receive a form to renew your SDHC membership or update contact information, please reach out to us; we would love to hear from you!

Membership questions? Contact Executive Director Eric Gollannek: director@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

ABOUT THE SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society was founded in 1986 by a group of charter members interested in preserving and sharing the unique history of Saugatuck, Douglas, and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Society was renamed the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to celebrate its growth and to recognize the development of the History Museum and Old School House sites. We are a vibrant organization with nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities, around Lake Michigan, and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood our largely volunteer organization. To join as a member, select from the following categories:

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

Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406.

Click HERE for a printable Membership Application.

Newsletter submissions: Eric Gollannek, PO Box 617, Douglas MI 49406 or info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER FACILITIES

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building. The History Museum is open 7 days a week from 12-4.

The Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit is located at 130 Center Street in Douglas. For group tours of the School House, please contact director Eric Gollannek 269-857-5751 or by email at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily. Admission is free but donations gratefully accepted.

The History Center Archives is available for research by appointment. For more information, call 269-857-7901 or e-mail the archives directly: archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org
Again this year, the SDHC newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.