Stories of Summer is HERE

The Stories of Summer exhibit has officially opened at the Old School House! It is the culmination of 40 hours of oral history interviews with stories ranging from the 1930's to 70's. Our goal was to not only to preserve an important part of Saugatuck/Douglas but to share the stories of our past. The exhibit includes interpretive panels made by GVSU staff and students as well as select artifacts and artwork that evoke themes and topics including beach life, Ox-Bow, the Red Barn Theater, "youth invasion" and LGBTQ history.

Tuesday Talks

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

July is closer than you think! When planning your summer get aways be sure to check out our Tuesday Talks. Happening every Tuesday starting July 2nd, with a wide variety of speakers and topics.

July 2
Retro Road Trip 1959: Tour West Michigan with Christine Byron and Tom Wilson

Sponsored by Bill Hess and Mike Mattern
Take a tour through West Michigan as it was in 1959 with Tom and Chris

**July 9**
*Camp Gray Stories* with Larry LaBine and others
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**
*Kalamazoo Lake Water and Sewer Authority* with Barry Johnson

**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

Would you or your organization like to sponsor a Tuesday Talk? We encourage multiple sponsors! Please contact us at info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Come See What Our Participants Had to Share!

Reception made possible by Bill Underdown and the Century 21 Affiliated Douglas group with support from West Michigan Blue Star Chamber of Commerce. Thank you!

Pictures of the opening were taken by Kristina Bird of Bird+Bird Studios

**Beauty of Summer**

Summer is the best time to go outside and enjoy the sun, beach, and waves. But it also comes with intense heat. Be sure to stop at our air conditioned facilities to cool off!
Newest Exhibit in Full Swing

With the summer crowd starting to come back to Saugatuck Then & Now has been receiving quite a number of visitors. As of Saturday, June 8th, this year the museum has had a total of 593 guests! 31 more people than we had at this same time this last year. So if you haven’t done so already, come visit us! Enjoy the beautiful view of the Kalamazoo River, stroll through our gardens, and take some pics on your photobooth. It is sure to be a good time for the whole family!

SDHC members Mark Neidlinger, Jim Schmiechen, and Lynn McClure at the Members Opening party.

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. A 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!
Shakespeare coming to the History Center

The SDHC will host a short performance of the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company in connection with Saugatuck Expo on Sunday, June 30th at noon. Join us for this FREE fun-filled performance of scenes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The performance will take place in the Back in Time garden at the Old School House location.

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.

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 Summer Intern

Hello Everyone! You may have seen me around the Old School House or maybe we have already met at an event. If we have not, let me introduce myself. My name is Jen, I grew up in the Chicago area (Elmhurst specifically). I attended Hope College and graduated in 2018. There I received my BA in History with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. My hope is to continue on to graduate school and obtain a Masters in Museum Studies or Public History. I am currently working for the SDHC as their communication and events intern. If you want to learn more about me or ask me about this picture (it's interesting I promise) come find me at the OSH or at the History Museum. I look forward to meeting you.

- Jen Cimmarusti
Root Camp 2019

It's not too late to sign up!

We're excited to announce registration is now open for our 6th year of Root Camp: a summer program for our youngest community members age 6-11 right here at the Old School House in Douglas.

This hands-on camp offers Root Campers new ways to look at their surroundings while having fun outdoors and making new friends. This year will include: visits with animals from the Critter Barn, learning about Saugatuck's Burr Tillstrom and building your own puppet with the Village Puppeteers, and visiting the Ox-Bow School of art to explore the Kalamazoo River and the Lagoon.

Thanks to Jim Cook, registration is now up and running. Please share the gift of camp with young ones in your lives and sign them up. Click the image below to learn more about this year's camp and to register online! Be sure to follow our Root Camp Facebook page to keep up to date on what's happening!
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 June 27, Thursday July 11 [date changed], Thursday July 18.**

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

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**Saugatuck/Douglas Marks An Early Stop On Lecture Tour**

*by Chris Yoder*

In the long ago days before television (or radio, or movies), adult education by means of lecture circuits, such as the Chautauqua, provided an important source of entertainment in America. One such lecture coming to our community was reported in the Lakeshore Commercial of May 7, 1880:

Col. L. F. Copeland of South Bend, Ind., delivered his famous lecture, "Snobs and Snobbery," to a large and appreciative audience last Monday evening. The lecture is one of the best it has ever been
our good fortune to hear; it bubbles over with wit and satire, and withal contains good sound sense.

Col. Copeland strikes us as being eminently fitted for the lecture field. He holds his audience through two and a half hours, their interest unflagging, and they are sorry to hear him stop even then, and leaves the impression that he could have gone on an indefinite length on the same subject. His lecture, "Mistakes of Bob", we listened to at the M. E. Church, in Douglas on Saturday evening, and in our estimation it is deserving of all the eulogiums it has received. We hear both lectures highly applauded by all who attended, and Saugatuck will give Col. Copeland's name a prominent place upon future lecture courses.

Lucius Frederick Copeland (born in 1841 in NY) was drafted from Parma, NY to serve in the Civil War as a "harness maker". We know nothing of his service record. In 1878 he married Miss Emma C. Mead of Oronoko, Berrien Co, MI. As of 1880, 40 year old Lucius and 33 year old Emma lived in South Bend, but by 1883, when their second child was born, they had moved to Pennsylvania. The 1900 census shows them in Harrisburg, with a teenage son and a daughter. It seems that "Col. Copeland" was a great success on the lecture circuit, as he was still making a living on it up to the time of his death. A 1904 advertising booklet by the White Entertainment Bureau of Boston, Mass. proclaims Copeland as the "King of the Platform" and announces that they were his exclusive agent for New England and New York. "Snobs and Snobbery," so warmly received in Saugatuck, was still on his 1904 lecture list. The brochure goes on to say:

"Col. Copeland is one of the veterans of the platform, having been before the public as a lecturer twenty years. In that time he has lectured more than four thousand times to delighted audiences and never yet proved a disappointment. He has lectured in every State of the Union and in Canada and has a reputation as wide as the continent as a most brilliant and accomplished orator and wit."

The same brochure goes on to list on many pages the locations he had lectured at least 3 or 4 times. Neither Saugatuck nor Douglas is included on that list. Copeland passed away that same year (1904), but his wife survived until 1933. Both are buried in the Harrisburg Cemetery, Dauphin Co, PA.
A friend at Rotary had a question for this month's ASK Jack. He asked "What used to be where the library is going in?"

The Tara Restaurant

A new building is about to be built on the old Tara site on Center Street across from the bowling alley in downtown Douglas. The question prompts an interesting history story.

Surfing through my archives turned up the following written fifteen years ago by Jim Schmiechen for a piece we did on the Tara Restaurant.

In 1933 Charles Koning bought an old farmhouse sitting near the corner with the Blue Star with a great view of the harbor and the bridge area. The house, built in 1861, had been the home of a Saugatuck mill owner, Michael Spencer. This was the same family that donated property for the Union Schoolhouse built next door in 1866. The Spencer daughter was married to Daniel Gerber [of the same Douglas family that was into baby food] and lived across the street in a big house next to present Douglas Library.

Charles Koning turned the house into the Tara Restaurant. After Prohibition ended the Tara was one of the few establishments allowed to sell liquor. The food with music was also much in demand. Over time, ownership switched from Charles to Fred Koning and then to Del Herrold.

In the history of the area as a big place for music and dance, the Tara became one of the hottest night spots - a bit of a rival for the more famous Big Pavilion Dock Bar and the Hotel Saugatuck Crow Bar in Saugatuck.

The original Tara burned in 1975 but was rebuilt to remain a landmark restaurant until it's demise to make room for condo's about ten years ago. Now a portion of the historical site will be the home of a grand new Douglas Library.
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:

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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

History Center main phone: 269-857-5751
Museum phone: 269-857-7900
Tech Center/Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901

Again this year, the SDHC newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.