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

June 2020

THE PUBLICATION OF THE
SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER
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B&C Directory

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- Meet our SDHC interns
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Tuesday Talks in 2020

This year the SDHC will offer a blend of virtual and socially-distanced programs held outdoors. Please watch your inbox for more information on how to participate and check our Facebook and website for updates.

Online Program -- Tuesday, July 7
Michigan Places in the Motorist Green Book: African-Americans and Travel with Christine Byron

History Center News

As of June 8th, Michigan's Stay Home, Stay Safe orders have allowed nonessential work to resume at museums and libraries. While the History Center's buildings may be temporarily closed, volunteers and staff have resumed working on site on plans for this summer and beyond.

- Summer programs look different this year. The SDHC's Reopening Team has placed a priority on staying active outdoors. Read more in this newsletter about how the History Center is taking to the streets in July as well as offering a series of dynamic programs all summer long.
Have you attended one of the SDHC's virtual programs yet? The May and June Monthly meetings took place virtually through Zoom meetings. If you missed them, you can stream them through the SDHC's YouTube page. Based on the success of this program, we are planning many additional Zoom programs. Please watch your email and our sites for the latest offerings.

The Family History Group with Chris Yoder and Jack Sheridan has met online through Zoom and will host meetings on their "regular" schedule (read more in this newsletter here!)

The SDHC #3CShutdown project continues and we invite you to help document life in the Saugatuck-Douglas area. The Saugatuck-Douglas District Library has also partnered with us to spread the word. (Read more here.) You can participate and see the results on Facebook and Instagram

Stay tuned for more online events and programs in the weeks ahead. As always, please reach out to share how you're doing.

Eric Gollannek
Executive Director

Visit this link for more information and to register: tinyurl.com/SDHC-TT

Garden Program -- Tuesday, July 14
Conservation in West Michigan with the Outdoor Discovery Center.

Field Trip -- Tuesday, July 21
Boating and the History of the Saugatuck Yacht Club with Andrew Zolper.

Online Program -- Tuesday, July 28
Getting the Vote: Michigan Women and the Path to Suffrage with Ruth Stevens from the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Field Trip -- Tuesday, August 4
The Saugatuck Center for the Arts: A Reprise with Kristin Armstrong.

Details to be announced -- August 11
Land Conservancy of West Michigan: Planning for the Future with Justin Heslinga

Online Program -- August 18
Re-Painting the Town: Looking Back on the 1997 SDHC Art Exhibition with Ken Kutzel.

Outdoor Program -- August 25
Caught in the Act: Making Art with Maryjo Lemanski.

Become a sponsor! Would you or your organization like to sponsor a Tuesday Talk? This directly supports the cost of SDHC programs and you get acknowledged in all program publicity for the event. We also encourage multiple sponsors! Please contact us at info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Family History Meeting
Thursday, 7/2
The SDHC Family History Group invites you to an online meeting this Thursday, July 2 at 3:30 PM. This Zoom session features a demonstration of how to use US Census records in your research. The short program titled: "Truths and 3/4 Truths of the Census" will be led by Merijean Webb. Call or email more information.
Welcome History Center Interns!

Thanks to the generosity of SDHC Internship supporters from the 150th Gala we had the ability to support two interns for the 2020 season again this year. Given the uncertainties around Covid-19 this spring, the interns will be working remotely for part of the season. Both are working on public history programs and archives projects. Expect exciting things in the Back-in-Time Garden and with our oral history collections in the archives. Be sure to say hello when you see them at our virtual programs as well as in-person at events later this summer!

Hello everyone, my name is Anna Minnebo, and I am one of the new Archives and Collections interns! In this time of many new changes, I am very happy to be back in West Michigan, the place I call home.

I am from Holland, Michigan, and I attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 2019 with a double major in anthropology and American culture, and a minor in museum studies. I currently am a student at the Cooperstown Graduate Program, in Cooperstown, New York, where I am pursuing a master's degree in history museum studies.

I love Michigan history! I spent the past three summers working on Mackinac Island, where I shared the past to visitors as a historic, costumed interpreter. I have also worked at Windmill Island Gardens and spent time as a collections technician at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology. I am excited to embrace this opportunity to become more involved with the community of Saugatuck-Douglas, and that of the SDHC. I look forward to meeting many of you through virtual and socially distanced programing soon!

Hello everyone, my name is Erik Livingston and I am one of the Archives and Collections Intern at the SDHC this summer! I am from Grand Rapids but have lived in Grand Haven most of my life. I am a rising Junior at the College of Wooster in Wooster, OH majoring in Art History and minoring in Russian Studies.

At school I am a library assistant in our Special Collections and Archives, a department assistant for our German and Russian Studies Departments, and this past semester was a research assistant for a Russian Studies professor. I am also a DJ for our college radio WOO91, Co-President of the Russian Club, and live in our Russian Suite. Some of my interests include reading, skateboarding, writing, and music.
I plan to pursue an MA in museum studies, curatorship, or object preservation. I hope to spend the rest of my life around archives, collections, and museums. I am thrilled to work with the SDHC this summer so that I can explore local art and history and gain meaningful experience in an area I love. I am excited to learn everything the SDHC has to offer. When we can, I would love to talk to you about my experiences, interests, and hopes for the future!

**Window Shop and History Hop coming to Saugatuck-Douglas!**

As you're making plans to enjoy downtown Saugatuck and Douglas during the July 4th weekend (Friday through Sunday) take note of an extra treat waiting among ten storefronts specially dressed with "pop-up" exhibits celebrating our community's rich history.

Dubbed the towns' first "History Hop," created and placed by Saugatuck-Douglas History Center in partnership with Saugatuck-Douglas Area Business Association (SDABA), the displays draw documentation and photos from SDHC archives to highlight events and attractions that offer both residents and visitors a stronger sense of how local cultural character and vacation appeal have evolved.

Viewers are invited to discover each display as they stroll, shop and dine in both Saugatuck and Douglas. For added adventure, they may download the SDHC's mobile app by scanning QR (quick response) barcodes from display posters, to discover more about the area's history and follow self-guided walking tours through the twin cities.

This new, volunteer-powered effort took shape in response to the shutdown of businesses and public venues that was instituted statewide to combat the spread of Covid-19. Given recent polling that suggested some may still be wary of visiting indoor spaces, an SDHC team proposed engaging the SDABA business development association in a public history partnership. Their plan focussed on reinvigorating currently unoccupied business shopfronts as focal points of historical interest, using existing materials from past exhibits at SDHC's Pump-House Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in downtown Douglas.

During the History Hop weekend, from Noon to 4pm each day, SDHC volunteers will present a pop-up history display on the Old School House front lawn at 130 Center St. in Douglas. The public is invited to stop by, grab a free cold water bottle, stroll the grounds of the Back-in-Time Garden, and explore the Boat House shipwreck exhibit. Guests also will be encouraged to submit ideas for planned and potential future exhibits.
The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center recently received a gift of lithographs done by Ox-Bow artist, Emily Parks Cooper (1906-1968). Cooper, born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, attended Kalamazoo College and Columbia University. She received her Master of Arts degrees from the Chicago Art Institute. According to Kit Lane in *Painting the Town*, Parks spent most of her summers at Ox-Bow 1930 to 1960. She was known as a painter and lithographer and taught in the lithography shop.

This lithograph (left) captures a familiar scene of Saugatuck in the mid-20th century. It also gives insight into the medium and how images are made. A lithograph must be drawn backward in order for the image to print with the correct orientation. This was not done in this case so the Big Pavilion appears to be on the opposite side of the Kalamazoo River from where it stood before 1960.

This image (right) depicts the west shore of the Kalamazoo River where chain ferry passengers arrived at the Ferry Store. The Saugatuck's waterfront and hotels appear in the background. Again, because the artist did not reverse the drawing on the printing stone, orientation of the buildings is reversed.

The works were presented to us by the Estate of Robert and Martha Carey, who were longtime area residents. Mr. Carey was a graphic artist and writer who is probably best known locally for his book, *Historic Saugatuck, An Illustrated History*. The lithographs are part of a larger archive of Mr. Carey’s research on area history now housed at the SDHC.
Douglas Origins by Jack Sheridan

Eric Gollannek reminded a group of SDHC program planners, that the City of the Village of Douglas celebrates its 150th anniversary this year in October. That took my historical memory back to 1870 and what was going on then. Hmmm, what could ASK JACK feature to commemorate the anniversary?

How about the naming story? The name - DOUGLAS - the source of that name is interesting and leads into an account of the early history, for a follow up. In our SDHC archive there is a Douglas history account, written about 1880 for an Allegan newspaper, by William A. May.

The story includes details of the origin of the name DOUGLAS. Mr. May was the grandson of one of the Douglas founding fathers, William F. Dutcher. Here are excerpts as written by William May in his newspaper story:

The beginning of the story of the founding and settlement of the village of Douglas, is across the sea, more than two hundred years ago, and concerns the history of the three families, all of English, Holland, or English-Holland origins, namely, May, Dietrich and Dutcher.

In 1688, when William of Orange crossed the waters from the Continent to England leading English and Holland troops with him, were some men named May, who afterwards became prominent and influential in Devonshire, England, and there, about 1790, was born Edmund May, who later located at Douglas, Isle of Man, (midway between England, Ireland and Scotland in the Irish sea) and became the father of Fredric Henry May.

Later while engaged in constructing the Kalamazoo, Allegan and Grand Rapids Railroad, resided in Allegan, he was known as Colonel Fred H. May, and it was he who in due time gave to the Village of Douglas its name.

Colonel Fred H. May was the father of William A. May who wrote the 1880 history. The story goes on to recount more details on the history and the naming:

Some time in 1838 this May family came to America, locating at Milford, Pike
county, Pennsylvania. In that section of the state, at or near Lackawaxen was a family named Dietrich of "Pennsylvania Dutch" stock. One of the daughters was named Lucinda.

Then came a young man from out of the western New York by the name of Dutcher. He was of Holland descent, the ones who had occupied Nieuw Amsterdam under the Patroons. This man, William Fuller Dutcher, married Lucinda Dietrich. Their oldest daughter, Mary Anne, married young Frederic Henry May in the year 1848, and their oldest son, William Augustus May, was the original boy of Douglas, Michigan, as the Dutcher and May families, going to Chicago about 1853, found lodgement in 1855 on the present site of Douglas village. Mr. Dutcher having purchased from Jonathan Wade the land contained in the square bounded by Centre street from the riverside west to the corner where stands the Masonic hall, and hence north on a line leading straight to Kalamazoo lake, from there on the lake and river shore to the place of beginning.

The story goes on and is rich in many details of the early settlement, the mills, the settlers, and includes details of Dudleyville, an adjoining settlement. That must await another ASK JACK in a month or so. Here is the naming story end:

About 1860 it was decided to lay out the Dutcher property into village lots, and Mr. Dutcher's son-in-law, Fredric H. May, was commissioned to survey, plat and record the same. He accepted on condition of being permitted to name the town, which he called Douglas, after his birth-town on the Isle of Man.

The name Douglas, in the Manx tongue, is from "Dhoo" (dark) and "Glass" (gray), "dark gray" from two rivers of those names which unite near the city of Douglas, Isle of Man. When one remembers the colors of the Kalamazoo it is to find an additional reason for naming the Michigan village "Douglas."

Manx is the name of the original language spoken on the Isle of Man going back thousands of years. The island, located midway in the Irish Sea, between England and Ireland is thirty miles long by about ten miles long and has a population of 85,000. Douglas is the largest city with a population of 27,000. The Isle is a very interesting and unique place, governed by it's own system of government but closely related and dependant on the English Government.
This is what Douglas Isle of Man looks like. I suggest you click on this Wikipedia link for more on life there: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Man

**SDHC Tri-Community Shutdown Project Ongoing**

IF you missed the May Monthly Meeting on "Rapid Response Collecting" and Covid-19, you can stream the recording on the SDHC's YouTube page. [Click here to visit and subscribe for updates!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=video_id)

The SDHC's project to document our community's experience in the Covid-19 era continues as we cautiously move into reopening.

With the support of the [Saugatuck-Douglas District Library](https://www.saugatucklibrary.org), the SDHC is also collecting written accounts from across the community. You can share your reflections and thoughts online here: [https://tinyurl.com/3cshutdown](https://tinyurl.com/3cshutdown)

The #3CShutdown project began in April and seeks
to create a photographic documentary of the many ways life in our tri-community area of Saugatuck, Douglas, and Saugatuck Township is changing under Michigan's directives for slowing the viral spread of COVID-19. The History Center project, "Tri-Community Shutdown - A small community's response to a global pandemic" invites community members to document the history that's unfolding in real time all around us, changing our lives in ways great and small.

Images may be posted to Instagram where you can tag @sd_historycenter or on Facebook using @sdhistorycenter. Please use hashtags #3CShutdown and #MySDHistory with your posts.

You may also email photographs to 3CShutdown@SDHistoricalSociety.org where SDHC volunteers will review submissions. All need to provide the name of the photographer and a brief description of the image.

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 ....

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

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

Update on virtual meetings this spring:

Meetings are 3:30 the first and third Thursday of the month. Currently due to the Corona Virus regimen, meetings are held only on line utilizing ZOOM.

Upcoming meetings: July 2 and 16

Please email or call Chris or Jack for login information for the online meetings. We look forward to "seeing you" there!
The snail mail address is SDHS Family History Box 617 Douglas, 49406, or email to jack.sheridan@gmail.com 269 857-7144 or cyoder@tds.net 616 212-3443

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.

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**New Project Launch:**

**Trace Your Family History the Easy Way**

**Do Surprises Await in Your Family Tree?**

Not every one of has a Mayflower ancestor, but an estimated 35 million Americans living today do have one. Perhaps you have a Civil War or Revolutionary War soldier in your tree, or a butcher, a baker, candlestick maker, or an Indian chief?

Did you ever want to explore your ancestry but did not know how to start?

Well, volunteers from the History Center Family History group stand ready to get you started in this adventure. If you want to test the ancestral waters, all you have to do is print off and fill out as much of the tree chart below as you are able, with names, places, dates (if possible) and send it in to Jack Sheridan at either snail mail: P.O. Box 731, Douglas, MI 49406 or scan and email it to him at: jack.sheridan@gmail.com

He will assign it to one of our team members. They will NOT do a full family tree for you, but they will find, sample and share information about your ancestry which should be of interest...perhaps taking one line all the way back to immigrant, or finding a photo of a long lost ancestor. Who knows what treasures exist in the history of your family, just waiting to be revealed to you?? Give it a try!!!
In Memoriam

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center Lifetime Member John Schmitt passed away on May 3, 2020.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center Lifetime Member Bob Gaunt passed away on June 2, 2020.

Pauline Brockington, longtime friend of the SDHC passed away on June 3, 2020.

Kenneth Nietering, History Center supporter and father of past director, Nathan Nietering, passed away on May 28, 2020.

Bernard McPherson, History Center member passed on September 2019.

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER FACILITIES

The SDHC indoor facilities remain closed through the month of June and into July. Please check our social media and website for updates about summer programming availability.

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building.

The History Center -- Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit are located at 130 Center Street in Douglas.

The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily.

The History Center Archives are available for research by appointment. For more information, e-mail the archives directly at archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

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

Follow us and learn more history on Social Media! Click the logos below.