



Information Contacts:

Sharon Kelly
734.730.2048
smkelly@comcast.net

John Peters
269.857.2967
jppubrel@gmail.com

**NATHAN H. NIETERING HIRED AS FIRST DIRECTOR
FOR SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

AUG. 28, 2015 -- Nathan H. Nietering, 30, has been named first full-time director for the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, also becoming the Society's first employee. In this new salaried position, with office in the Old School House History Center in Douglas, his multi-focused priorities will include organizational development through fund-raising, programming and outreach, customer service to members and visitors, and helping the Society coordinate and communicate more effectively.

"We've been moving toward hiring a professional director for the last two years", says Society President Sharon Kelly. "The Society's programs, community outreach and mission have grown to the point where our cast of capable volunteers simply cannot coordinate everything and still maintain focus on careers and/or family life, so we feel very fortunate to have found such a highly qualified person for this position."

Raised in Dearborn, MI and in youth a frequent visitor to nearby Greenfield Village, Nietering's early interest in history led to a Bachelor's Degree in Public History from Western Michigan University, followed by a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. While in graduate school, he was an intern in the State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing. His graduate project was to write a National Register of Historic Places nomination, which succeeded in gaining addition to the Register.

While at Eastern, he met his now-wife Kristen, from Guilford, Connecticut. After graduating, they relocated to Connecticut where Kristen had been offered a position with Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and Nathan worked as consultant to that organization. He also obtained a part-time position with East Haven's Shore Line Trolley Museum, which soon named him full-time director.

Listed on the National Register, the Trolley Museum features a 1.5-mile segment of authentic trolley car line dating to the golden era of the streetcar, and a collection of nearly 100 vintage transit vehicles, many of which are the only remaining examples of their kind. While there, that museum was hard-hit by Hurricane Irene in 2011, and Nietering oversaw the disbursement of a \$1.3 million FEMA remediation award to help restore damaged equipment.

Nietering's move to S-DHS brings him close to where his Dutch ancestors settled more than 150 years ago; his wife will join him here when her contract with CT Trust ends later this year.

The Historical Society is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organization with membership open to all. For more information about the organization, its Old School House History Center in Douglas and History Museum in Saugatuck, upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.



Nathan H. Nietering becomes Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's first employee as full-time director.