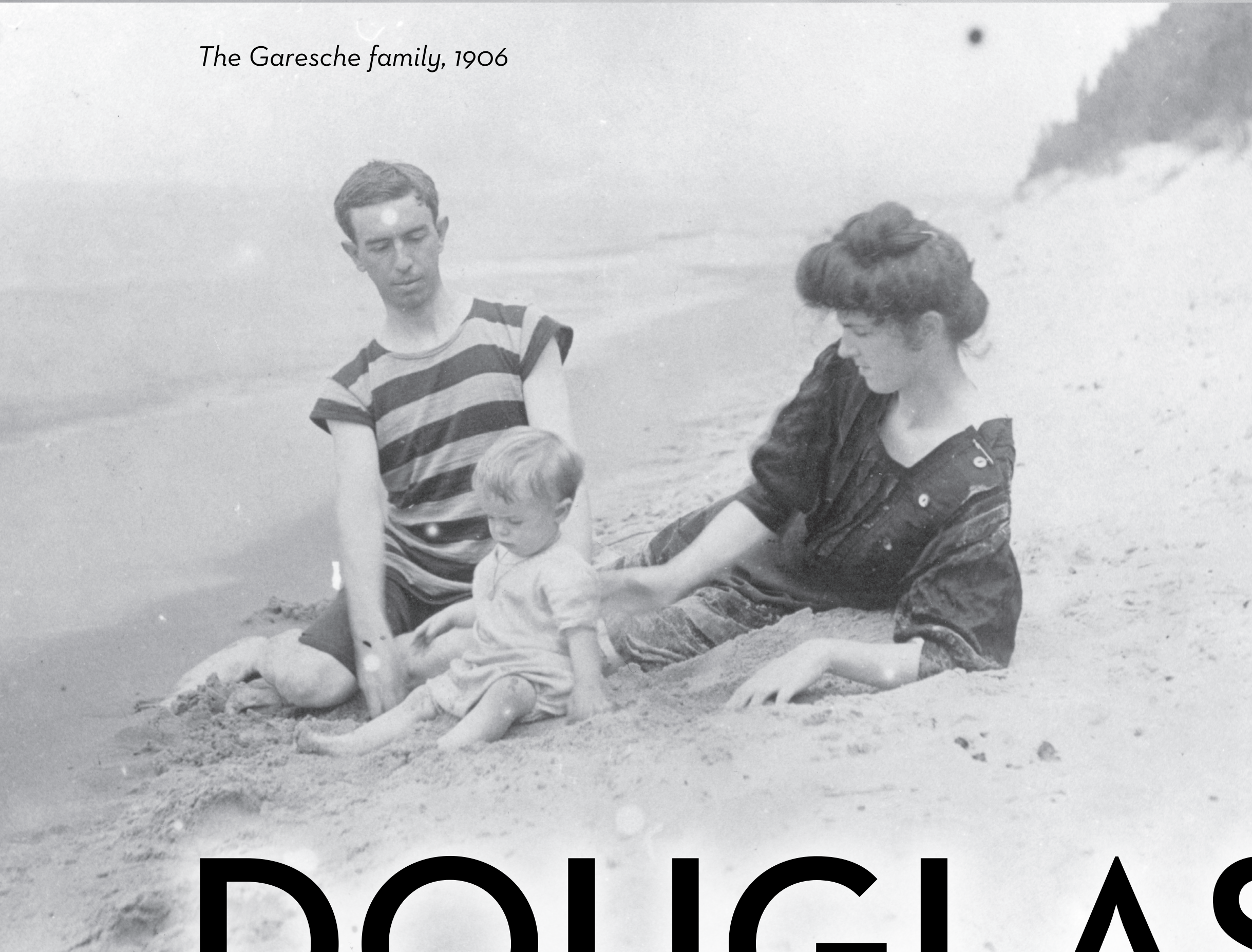




The Garesche family, 1906



"The Coming of the Storm" at Lost Rock Beach postcard

DOUGLAS BEACH



Bluffs along Lake Michigan

Since 1907, Douglas Beach has provided public beach access and recreational opportunities to residents, visitors, and summer cottagers alike. In 1904, this area of the Lakeshore was annexed by the Village of Douglas, and by 1908 an expansive 19-room bathhouse was constructed. Douglas Beach was a popular beachside gathering place long before the creation of Oval Beach in Saugatuck nearly thirty years later.

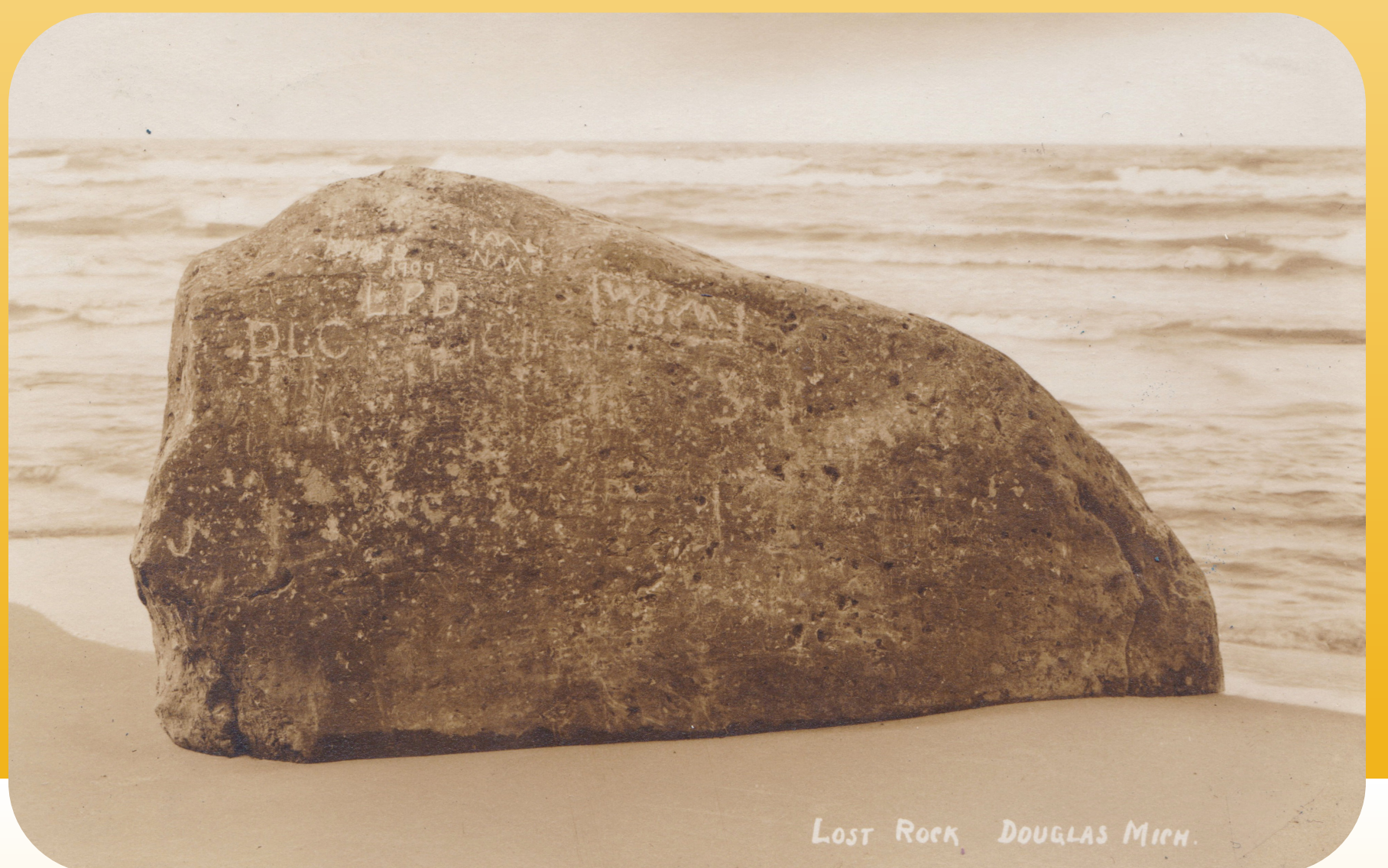
While swimwear fashions have changed over the years, people from the last century used Douglas Beach much as we do today. Swimming was a popular activity, as was rowing and other watersports. Summer cottagers would hold annual picnics near the water, and the "lost rock" made it a popular photo destination.



Bathing on the Beach at Douglas, Mich.

Where is "Lost Rock"?

Large boulders can be found along the Lake Michigan shoreline, left behind by receding glaciers nearly 10,000 years ago. "Lost Rock" is fondly captured in old postcards and tourist photography and was said to have been located here at Douglas Beach. Do you think it was one of the large rocks we can see today?



LOST ROCK DOUGLAS MICH.

By the mid-20th century, Douglas Beach came to look much as it does today. Rising waters coupled with erosion washed away the beach steps for the first time in 1960. Today, as the lakeshore continues to erode and change, new stairs give access to the water, and an overlook can be used by all visitors.

