

Remembering When ...

Our History

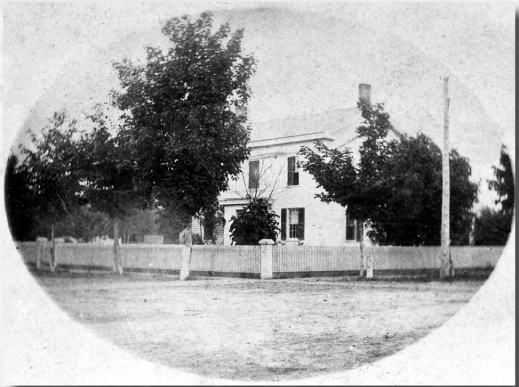
REMEMBERING BUTLER STREET

The photo banner and feature title at the top of the page is a new format starting with this issue of the Local Observer. The panoramic photograph was taken from Mt. Baldhead ca 1874. It is a remarkably clear photograph from a large glass plate. Because there were far fewer trees 130 years ago, it presents a fine view of both Saugatuck and Douglas. A schooner with sails up can be seen at the basket factory site.

During the second half of the 19th century the south end of Butler Street was home to the Morrison family. Samuel A. Morrison was an early pioneer - coming from Vermont in 1835. By 1840 Mr. Morrison had started a tannery in the area of Hotel Butler. In the next 50 years he became a successful business owner and a pillar of the community.

The Morrison family home (upper photo) - built in 1850 - was located on the northeast corner of Butler and Culver. The home was later converted to a small hotel known as Leland Lodge. It was destroyed by fire in 1978 and today the Viola Fox building occupies the lot.

The lower photo is Butler Street after a good snow in 1912. The Morrison home is just out of the picture to the right.



Morrison home ca 1874



Butler Street looking north ca 1912

The Our History feature look has changed but the responsibility for the content is the same - volunteers Jim Schmiechen and Jack Sheridan of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, split the fun of selecting topics, choosing photos, research, and writing. Utilizing the SDHS technical resources, Jack will produce the finished feature each week. Thanks to the Observer and our readers the SDHS enjoys this opportunity to exhibit the wonderful history of our area.

We welcome your comments on images and history. The SDHS would like to scan your old photos (you keep the photos and get a CD containing digitized images) for the historical database. SDHS historical images can be seen on the SDHS web site at www.sdhistory.com and are available for purchase. Call 269 857-7901, email us at sdhistory@accn.org or write to Box 617 Douglas, MI 49406.

Jack Sheridan



Jim Schmiechen