Thank you for your involvement in the *Riverside Cemetery Comes Alive!* event hosted by the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and Saugatuck Township!

Please review the details below, including information regarding your historical figure, safety briefing, and important event reminders.

Costumes - Costumes are welcome, but not required. Remember, it's what *you* make of it to bring your character to life!

Audience - This is a family-friendly event. While we are excited to embrace the spooky Halloween spirit, please keep in mind your audience as attendees approach your assigned station. This event is designed to inform and educate our community about Saugatuck-Douglas History.

Safety - While the event will take place before dusk, we ask that you please help us keep the attendees of this event safe. If you see anyone going outside the intended tour path or cemetery grounds, please let one of the event organizers know or remind attendees to stay along the path.

Respect - Please keep in mind that while this is a fun Halloween-themed event, we are still at a sacred location where people come to visit their loved ones. The goal of this event is to bring the stories of these historical figures back to life and also honor their impact in this unique Lakeshore community. Thank you for your contribution to their legacy.

Your assigned location - Your character will be stationed at the Butler monument (pictured below) with his three wives, Mary, Eliza, & Emily. Maps will be provided for each attendee at the event.



The information on the next page is based on the research and work of Kit Lane, the creator of the original Riverside Cemetery tour in the early 2000s.

William Butler

I'm William G. Butler, the first Settler in Allegan County. My family came here from Elkhart, Indiana, in the spring of 1830. The sailing ship from St. Joseph paused near the mouth of the river long enough to send us ashore in a small boat. Then it was "Have a good settlement!" And off they sailed.

The most prominent marker in the cemetery is for William Gay Butler, born September 28, 1799, and died September 11, 1857. "He was the first settler in Allegan County." The names and dates of his three wives are around the base: Mary Wells Butler, 1805-1835; Eliza McKenna Butler, 1813-1843, and Emily Loomis Butler, 1808-1864. Erected by his only son in 1896.

The following information is from *Early Memories of Saugatuck 1830-1930* by May Francis Heath:

William G. Butler was a true pioneer, as Webster puts it, "One who goes before, as into the wilderness preparing the way for others to follow," and he was the first white man, and his wife, Emily Butler, the first white woman, to brave the wilderness in what is now beautiful Saugatuck.

William Gay Butler was born Sept. 28, 1799 in Hartford, Conn. His father was Jonathan Butler, and there were seven children, and William G. was the third born.

His father and sister, Eliza, came to see them in the thirties and in so many places were no roads at all and such sparse settlements and they had to sleep in such terrible places, that when they were only two days' journey from their destination they almost turned around, travelling was so hazardous.

The great-grad niece of W.G.'s wrote me recently giving all the information written about him. His first wife was Emily Loomis (Levi Loomis' sister), they had several children, tow born here in the wilderness before 1834, with not another white woman in the section - Emily died in 1835 and none of ther children lived long. "Lucy Butler's was the first birth and the first death in Saugatuck

[Notes: WGB's first wife was actually Mary Wells; Emily Loomis was his third wife. Mary's infant daughter - also named Mary - was the first birth and death.]

Mr. Butler's second wife's name was Eliza and she was the mother of James Gay Butler, Mr. Butler's only son to attain manhood. After his father's death in 1857, he, with the help fo Michael Spencer entered school in Ann Arbor. He was a colonel in the Civil War and after the war he located at St. Louis, Mo., engaging in the tobacco manufacturing business. He was a great philanthropist, organizing what, was known as the "Poor Man's Band" and contributed largely to "Lindenwood College" endowing it with \$250,000, and many other gifts to St. Louis were his. Colonel Butler died in 1916, his wife in 1918, and as they had no children, the direct line of William G. and Emily Butler, first pioneers in Saugatuck, is closed.

Mary Butler

I'm Mary Wells Butler, who arrived with my husband and two children on that day in 1830. For four years, I did not see another white woman. One year, William went off to Indiana for some flour. While he was gone, I had to deliver my own baby. Life was hard. I died in 1835.

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Emily Butler

I'm Emily Loomis Butler, who came to Michigan in 1837 with my father and my brother, Levi Loomis. After William died in 1857, I moved to Allegan and lived next door to Judge Littlejohn. It strikes me that this is the first time all of the wives of William G. Butler have been together (look at each other) - uummm.

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Eliza Butler

I'm Eliza McKenna Butler, William's second wife. In 1840, I gave birth to James G. Butler. There were other children, but he was the only one who lived to be an adult. He was a Civil War hero, and afterwards a wealthy merchant in St. Louis, Missouri. It was James who erected this monument to his family in 1892. But I never saw it in life. I died in 1842, when James was just a baby.

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Stephen A. Morrison & Mary Elizabeth Peckham

I'm Stephen A. Morrison, who came to what would be Saugatuck in 1835 to take over the tannery. When Butler died in 1857, I became the oldest settler in Saugatuck, and I lived until 1905, long enough the see the electric cars come to town.

I arrived here in 1834, Mary Elizabeth Peckham, the first school teacher in the area. On the frontier, single women were a precious commodity, and the Plummer boy and Stephen Morrison vied for my hand. In 1840, I married Stephen, and we lived in a beautiful house at the corner of Butler and Culver Streets, right downtown.

The following information is from *Early Memories of Saugatuck 1830-1930* by May Francis Heath:

Among the venerable and respected pioneers of Saugatuck the name of Morrison is conspicuous. S. A. Morrison came in 1835. He was the oldest son of Stephen Morrison and was born in Barre, Vermont, in 1815, and he lived to the age of ninety and resided continuously seventy years in Saugatuck. When he came there was a small settlement of whites, living in cleared spaces in the wilderness, with one room log or hewn — timbered cabins. He was a tanner by trade and the great amount of hemlock bark was what brought him hither. He at once bought out the Johonnet and Crosby tanning interests, built a frame house near the tannery and in the woods for it was thickly wooded all through the county in the thirties. After five years he obtained large tracts of land bordering on the river, and built new tannery building on the river bank between Butler and Griffith streets. The machinery was run by means of the Dutch windmills and he conducted an extensive and successful business for sixty years. He owned much property in the town as Morrison's Addition and Morrison & Densmore's Addition indicate on the village map today.

He was married to Mary E. Peckham in 1840 and of their five children only two lived to grow to womanhood, the other three dying in infancy. Mrs. Julia Francis and Mrs. Jessie Leland (both deceased). In 1857 he built the home on the corner of Culver and Butler streets, now Leland Lodge, where for many years they dispensed the widest hospitality.

Both he and Mrs. Morrison worked hard and lived economical lives, but were always generous to those less fortunate than they and they truly did much to improve the town and were so disappointed when the iron railroad which seemed so certain to make Saugatuck its terminus and at the last was influenced to go through the pine lands and through New Richmond. Mr. Morrison often said he was glad to see at least the Interurban come, and it may be said that his was an active life full of good works and his name will be revered and remembered. Mrs. Morrison was in ill health several years and passed away in 1881 and Mr. Morrison greatly missed her companionship in the years which followed.

Minnie Breuckmann

I'm the youngest daughter, Minnie Breuckmann, when I died in 1934 I gave the old Breuckmann homestead to the Woman's Club for a library with the provision that they had to build an auditorium on the back of it within two years. They scrambled, but they made it. 1869-1934

George T. Arnold (father), who was the Saugatuck postmaster, an investor in several boats, and the owner of a fishing business, married Susan Breuckmann. In the 1870s, he left for Mackinac Island, where he founded Arnold Transit Co., which still carries visitors to the island.

The following information was found online.

Born in Allegan county on a farm near Plainwell, July 12, 1846, George Thomas Arnold was the son of Dan and Betsy (Foster) Arnold, both of whom were natives of Vermont, whence they journeyed to Michigan by covered wagon and ox-team and entered government land near Plainwell where they reared a large family and on this farm George T. grew to young manhood and in 1860 he and his brother, Levi, bought the homestead, and for several years managed the farm, later selling it back to the heirs. He then came to Saugatuck, kept books for the mills and later secured a position in the Stockbridge and Johnson stores and was appointed post-master, which office he continued six years. In 1863 his sister, Betsey Arnold, was married to F. B. Stockbridge who lived in Kalamazoo and Saugatuck during the milling period. Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Susan Breuckman, daughter of a pioneer, and the two families were deeply interested in the building of the Episcopal church.

Later, Mr. Arnold was a promoter of the fishing business at Mackinac Island, being in the firm of Coates and Arnold; this paved the way for an extensive shipping and boat industry and he became the owner of several boats plying from the Island and St. Ignace to many lake ports. He died in '1921 and was buried at Saugatuck, the place where he began his successful career.

May Francis Heath

I'm May Francis Heath, buried here near the old Francis plot. My life spanned the history of this town, from my birth during real pioneer days in 1873 until my sudden death in 1961. I did some of everything Saugatuck had to offer. I took up painting when I was past 60, was active in most of the clubs and the Congregational church, and wrote not only a history of the town, but a song celebrating its natural beauty as part of the 1930 centennial celebration.

QUOTE: "I am convinced that Saugatuck would have been a much poorer place without her. She helped mold the community's sense of identity." Kit Lane

May Heath was a local entrepreneur, church and civic leader, artist and poet who broke gender barriers for women in early Saugatuck. She was a Mother, Teacher, Story Teller, Shop Owner, Author, Librarian, President of the Saugatuck Woman's Club, Realtor, Painter, Composer, Organizer, and most importantly the Local Historian.

May Francis Heath was born May 13, 1873 to Saugatuck residents John Francis and Julia Francis Morrison. She attended the old wooden school at the top of Allegan Hill.

May was hired to teach the primary department of the Ganges School in March 1892, before receiving her High School Diploma. She felt she had to delay her education to help support her impoverished family.

She later finished her high school degree and graduated as Valedictorian of the Saugatuck High School Class of 1893. She went on to teach intermediate grades in the Saugatuck Union School.

Oct. 30, 1895, May Francis at the age of 22 married Doc Heath. 29, at the Congregational Church. They had two children, Gladys born in 1895, and Francis born in 1900, both in Saugatuck.

Businesswoman

May was a hard worker and thrived in the business arena. She one wrote "When asked if I had a hobby, I replied "Yes I have two, Business and Writing, both of which I really love."

May operated the Ferry Store on the west shore of the Kalamazoo River. The Commercial Record of June 7, 1917 reported, "A concession has been opened in the Heath boat house at the west side of the ferry landing. She often told of getting up at 4am to bake her cupcakes for her customers."

"We sold the Little Handy Shop in 1920 and opened a Real Estate office and we had a most successful business for 25 years—selling the town over and over again" until the death of Doc in 1947.

After her husband Doc died in 1947, she remained "ambitious to sell real estate" and in 1949 shared that she was "working on my 3rd sale this year—pretty good for an old woman of 76."

Saugatuck's First Historian

It was natural for May Francis Heath to become Saugatuck's first historian. Her grandparents, Stephen A. and Mary Peckham Morrison, were among the first settlers and "living history" of the town. May was a young mother in her early 30s when her grandfather died, and her interest in his stories of the early days was evident. She inherited his many papers, diaries, and photo albums, as well as his dedication to the town of Saugatuck.

Writer

May Frances Heath loved to write. Her love of history and writing is represented by her book Early Memories of Saugatuck (1930); she served for 17 years as the local correspondent for the Grand Rapids Press. She took correspondence courses on writing to hone her skills. She also wrote at least three songs heralding the town she loved.

On July 14-16, 1930, Saugatuck celebrated the Centennial of the settlement by William Butler, who arrived in the fall of 1829. The Commercial Record reported that May Heath "was chosen...chairman of the Centennial...a wise choice, since she will inspire the whole corps of assistants by her own enthusiasm."

When May's husband Doc died in 1947, May sold a number of buildings Doc had built and then moved to a small home she called Heathcote at 525 Butler Street.

Later life and a legacy in Art

May began spending winters in in Florida, keeping an active club life of art and bridge. She only picked up the brush at age 78 when she took an art class in Lake Worth, Florida, where she wintered. Her paintings are still cherished and they captured her memories. May enjoyed her art experience so much at the age of 80 she organized the Saugatuck Art Club in 1953.

Never to slow down, May traveled to Paris at the age of 81. She soaked in the museums, the history, the art, and the people of Paris.

She came home to record her trip on canvasses, ...always living and breathing her philosophy of life. "Life is wonderful... people are delightful."

May died unexpectedly of a heart attack in September of 1961 at the age of 88.

The Historical Society formed a committee in 2009 to study her contributions. At the culmination of this study a program was held at The Village Square on August 10, 2010 to honor Saugatuck's first historian. A bronze plaque was installed on the water fountain and remains there today. At the same time, the Saugatuck Woman's Club named their 4 -year educational scholarship "The May Francis Heath Scholarship".

Julia Morrison Francis

I'm Julia, the oldest daughter of Stephen and Mary Elizabeth Morrison. I was married in 1870 to John Francis. We had grown up together. We are the parents of May Francis Heath, the noted area historian. [1845-1924]

Julia Morison Francis, 1845-1924, a daughter of Stephen and Mary Elisabeth Morrison, married John F. Francis, 1847-1924. They moved across the street from the Morrison home on Butler Street and lived in a home that became the Elms Hotel, later Petter Gallery.

OBITUARY

MRS. JOHN FRANCIS.

The hearts of the community were deeply saddened when it became known that Mrs. Julia Francis, oldest native resident of Saugatuck, passed away on Jan. 10, 1924, at the home of her daughter, where she was taken ill just five weeks before; her illnes being due to just the breaking down of old age. Even to those who saw her each day and so lovingly and willingly ministered to her comfort, the bereavement came as a great shock.

Julia E. Morrison, the second white child born in Saugatuck, was born July 2, 1846, the daughter of Stephen A. and Mary E. Morrison. She was united in marriage Nov. 1870 to John Francis who with one daughter, Mrs. D. A. Heath and one son, Stephen M. Francis of Oak Park, Ill., three grand children and one great grand daughter, survive. Five children were born to this union, two daughters dying in infancy and one dearly beloved son, Leo, departing this life, Nov. 11, 1895.

The early life of Mrs. Francis was that of the pioneer child, happy and care free as the birds, and being the only little white child in the settlement at that time, she was much admired by the native Indians who were always on the friendliest terms with the Morrisons and whose wigwams often surrounded their home. They always called this little girl the White Papoose, and were more than delight-ed to bring her gifts of beads and baskets. The parents never feared for her safety when the Indians were near the settlement. The first Morrison home was near the river opposite Dr. Pear's home and the whole village then was a wilderness with very clearings or houses. One day the little girl when gathering wild flowers wandered too far into the forest and was For some time the parents searched but to no avail and Indian scouts were summoned who, after several bours found little Juila happily running about from flower to flower a little way beyond our present school ground and of course there was much rejoicing.

She attended school in the first little old school house until she was fourteen years old when she was sent to the Seminary of Allegan which the elite of the county then attended and which was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Perry.

During the nearly seventy-eight years of her life she continuously resided in Saugatuck moving at the age of twelve with her parents to the Morrison home which is now known as the Leland Lodge, and when she married she and her busband settled just across the road in what is now the "Elms" and he e they resided fifty years. Thus in the passing years she has seen Saugatuck's many phases of activity, the Indians, the forests, the mills and ship building, the great peach growing era and lastly what it is today, a live She was bereft of her resort town, only sister, Mrs. Jessie Leland, about eleven years ogo.

Mrs. Francis was of a most lovable disposition and her memory will live long in the hearts of all who knew her. She was a most self sacrificing wife and mother and to ber friends as well was ever loyal, kind and true and though of a quiet undemonstrative nature, those who really knew her fine qualities ren ized that she measured up to the highest standard of pure womanhood. She was a familiar figure on our streets and it was one of her greatest pleasures to walk every day and visit a friend. She also took a great interest in the church aid work, and even in this last illness was planning some work which she could do when the dear hands could again hold a needle.

The Powell Club of the old school girls had meant so much to her and it grieved her to see that one by one the links of that beautiful friendship were being broken, and now one more link is gone from the chain.

The end came quietly and painlessly and with her loved ones around her she just gently slipped away; the dear hands are folded, their life's work is come and well done. Life's struggles are over and she has gone to join the loved ones who have just gone on before and who were waiting to welcome her to the beautiful country, beyond.

The funeral, which was held from

Carl & Chrisitana Hoerman

Carl Hoerman, 1885-1955, and his wife, Christina (Ackermann) Hoerman, 1887-1986, founded a subdivision on Silver Lake. He was a well-known artist in the Midwest, known for his dunes scenes and Grand Canyon paintings.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on Nov. 11, 1887, Christiana married artist Carl Hoerman in 1907. After settling on a farm in Saugatuck, Michigan, in 1920, she took up painting and specialized in floral still lifes. Winters were spent in Southern California with homes in Riverside and Palm Springs. She died in Saugatuck in October 1986.

Carl Hoerman is arguably Saugatuck's most famous artist. The German emigre architect and painter left an impressive artistic legacy here and across the country. Born in Babenhausen, Germany, he immigrated to Chicago in 1904, opening his own architecture office in 1909, then moving to Saguatuck in 1920.

He and his wife, Christiana, traveled to the desert in the American Southwest for the first time in 1927. They went on the live and work in Saugatuck as well as Riverside, California.

Hoerman was an eclectic architect and designer in the Arts and Crafts radiation with numerous projects in Saugatuck as well as in the California desert. Best known for his landscape paintings, Hoerman was equally at home painting the desert scenes of the American Southwest and Grand Canyon as the Lake Michigan dunescapes that speak to the sense of place along Saugtuck's "Art Coast" then and now.

Chrisiana (Akerman) Hoerman began painting in 1925 when she studied at Ox-Bow with Fredrick Fursman and Albert Krehbiel. She painted landscapes but is known for her still life paintings and flowers. Examples of their artwork are also on view from the SDHC's permanent collection. After Carl died in 1955, Christiana continued to operate the Art Gallery as she had for many years. Christiana Hoerman was also active in community organizations, including the Saugatuck Women's Club and Community Hospital.

Mrs. John Wheeler

The following information is from *Early Memories of Saugatuck 1830-1930* by May Francis Heath:

John Wheeler, a pioneer violinist in Saugatuck and Singapore, was born at Ballyhaise Castle, Ireland, in 1843, the youngest of five sons. He came to New York with his violin which was his constant companion and in 1863 returned to Ireland, returning with his bride, Anna.

They lived at Singapore in the heyday of its flourishing mill days, later moving to Saugatuck, and here for many years he was the ferryman at the old chain ferry.

They were the parents of five children, Letitia, Martha, Hattie and Abigle and one son, Johnnie, who as a young boy was drowned in the Kalamazoo. All are now deceased, the father dying in 1910.

He was a veritable character—filled with the Irish charm of music and story-telling, maker of violins and beautiful handicraft in wood. The family were among the first to open their home to summer tourists in 1893.