



500 Federal Avenue | Saginaw, MI 48607
www.castlemuseum.org

Yesterday & Tomorrow

2019 Historical Society of Saginaw County
Annual Report

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Historical Society of
Saginaw County



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Castle Museum of
Saginaw County History

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We Recognized the 200th Anniversary of the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw

Our Foundations: Origins of Saginaw County exhibition reflects the Saginaw Valley's original inhabitants, vegetation and wildlife as well as the acquisition and development by white settlers.

The 1819 Treaty of Saginaw that ceded more than six million acres of Native American land to the United States encompassed the central portion of Michigan's lower peninsula, including Saginaw County in its entirety.

The Castle Museum staff collaborated extensively with the Ziiibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways in Mount Pleasant to document and present this important part of our shared history.





Jonathan T. Webb
President/CEO

I am so proud to be at the head of this amazing organization, with a talented team of museum professionals, incredibly selfless volunteers, a supportive membership, and a dedicated Board of Directors. It's rare to be part of something so vast, yet have everyone pulling in the same direction. Our ability to work together for the common good of the residents of Saginaw County paved the way for a very special and productive 2019.

Financially, we exceeded our goals in nearly every revenue department, while coming in well under budget in our expenses. Continued strong fiscal management gives us the strength and flexibility to meet future demands. We appreciate the efforts of all concerned in the areas of grant writing, fund raising, and financial oversight. Again, we couldn't accomplish these successes without everyone pulling in the same direction.

I'm blown away by the new permanent exhibits installed in 2019, "Mining For Prosperity: Coal Mining in the Saginaw Valley", and "Our Foundations: Origins of Saginaw County," both found in the lower level of the museum. These high quality exhibits were designed and manufactured almost entirely in-house, allowing us to realize tremendous savings while presenting our audience with interactive experiences that immerse them in a different time and location. We also highlighted a tremendous variety of artifacts from our collection in a series of beautifully done temporary exhibits that rotated through Centennial Hall and various other locations in the Castle Museum.

Our collaborative efforts with other cultural organizations stepped up to the next level this past year, highlighted by multiple projects in conjunction with the Ziibiwing Center for Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways in Mt. Pleasant. Not only were we blessed by being allowed to join in a moving repatriation of remains ceremony, but we consulted with them on many aspects of the "Our Foundations" exhibit, which debuted in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the signing of the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We were humbled to join our Anishinabe friends in a sunrise pipe ceremony and day-long events both here in Saginaw and in Mt. Pleasant. The positive energy and wisdom carried by these amazing people is truly inspiring and I am so grateful to have learned from them.

We improved our outreach by reimagining our mobile history program into the "Time Machine" a new educational program that incorporates modern technology, graphics, and hands-on learning to provide flexible free educational programs that meet Michigan curriculum standards to all schools in Saginaw County.

Despite these wonderful successes, we face the most serious of challenges in 2020... the very survival of our organization. We go on the ballot August 4, 2020 for a renewal of the current millage that provides the vast majority of our financial support. Without this millage, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, along with the museums in Frankenmuth, Bridgeport, Chesaning, and St. Charles, will cease to exist. Gone will be more than 150,000 artifacts that we carefully preserve for future generations, untold stories and photos from the *Saginaw News* archives, and the institutional history and knowledge that only an organization such as our Castle Museum of Saginaw County History can supply. Please do your part to ensure we keep our unique history alive for future generations. Thank you for your continued support.



Amy French, Ph.D.
Board Chairperson

Last year, I invited a talented historian from Detroit to visit the Castle. She wandered around our museum silently, thoughtfully taking in the exhibits. Her expression never betrayed her emotions. I wasn't sure whether she was delighted or not. When she finished her tour, she asked incredulously: Your millage vote failed last year?! She had seen institutions with far more resources who didn't tell history so engagingly. I beamed.

We often talk about our building being a gem, but the stories inside and the people who tell them are also jewels. We tell the stories of all of Saginaw County, not just the rich and famous, but average Saginawians, too. We must keep this history alive at all costs. The education and culture it brings to our region is too great to bear thinking of its loss. To that end, our millage renewal this year is essential.



As I end my stretch as chairperson of the Board of Directors, I want to take a minute to thank you all for your support over my tenure. It has been my greatest privilege to serve the Historical Society of Saginaw County. I will greatly miss this role, but I believe that continual change of leadership is necessary to keep an organization vital. I leave you in more than capable hands with our future chair—Bryan Konieczka.

Thank you for everything that you do to keep history alive in Saginaw County. May the Roaring 20s be your best decade yet!

Amy French, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

Our Heart: Our Collection

"Museums make their unique contribution to the public by collecting, preserving and interpreting the things of this world." *American Alliance of Museum Code of Ethics*

The collection is the heart of the Castle Museum. We consider the Castle Building to be the largest and most important object in the museum's collection. However, try to imagine a visit to the Castle Museum without seeing or interacting with artifacts. Imagine walking into our lumbering exhibit and picturing the gallery without seeing tools, maps, logmarks and photographs – the things that bring the story of Saginaw's past alive. It wouldn't be very engaging – in fact, it would be rather dull.

Every time you visited the museum in 2019, heard a presentation by one of the museum's team members or were assisted by the staff with your research, you were connecting with our irreplaceable collection of artifacts and archival materials.





Our Growing Collection

The museum's collection is never static. In 2019, we received over 100 accessions – groups of donations. Although it is a truly eclectic mixture of objects, each item tells a unique Saginaw County story.

Below are just a few of the numerous treasures that we accepted in 2019. Each of which will be preserved for future exhibits and researchers:



An **Oak Roll Top Desk** used by Saginaw attorney Henry Marsh. This desk connects us with the story of the City of Saginaw's first African-American mayor.

A **Packing Carton** from Farmer Peet's Meat Products, Chesaning, Michigan, helps us preserve Saginaw County's story.

A **Collection of Archival Material** documenting a home on East Holland Avenue constructed in 1922. The collection includes blueprints and specifications by the home's architects, Cowles and Mutscheller.

A **Collection of Archival Material** documenting C.L. Benjamin Undertakers. This donation enables us to preserve these records for future generations, and through our partnerships, we will share this information with researchers.

An **Archival Collection of Pit and Balcony's History** that includes newspaper clippings, advertising, photographs, newsletters and play programs. All of which uniquely document Saginaw's community theater. With this donation, we have developed a partnership with Pit and Balcony to help preserve the organization's history.



A **Refurbished Cathode-Ray Tube in Box** made by Saginaw Distributors, Inc. This piece helps to showcase the wide diversity of industries in Saginaw.

A **Miniature Commemorative Canoe Paddle** honoring Morley Brother's 100th anniversary. The poignant graphic on the paddle is an image of a Civil War Soldier and a man in a space suit.



A **Bronze Masonic Token** commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, Number 31 of the Royal Arch Mason, founded on January 12, 1864. This medal connects with the story of Saginaw's Masonic history.



A Snapshot of Stories We've Told



Portrait of a City: Goodridge Brothers Art Souvenir of Saginaw, Michigan 1902

With over 100 photographs captured by the Goodridge Brothers, this exhibit documented the vivacity of the Saginaw community in the early 1900s.



On the River: Houseboats, Yachts and Fun on Saginaw County's Rivers

This exhibit celebrated the history of recreation on Saginaw County's rivers and told the story of houseboats, amusement parks, boating and yachts.



Portrait of a County: Images of the People of Saginaw County

This exhibit told the stories of Saginaw County residents using portraits & artifacts from the Museum's collection.



2019 Exhibits & Displays

- Our Foundations: Origins of Saginaw County
- Mining for Prosperity: Coal Mining in the Saginaw Valley
- Schust Bakery and Florence Schust Knoll
- Saginaw General Hospital Memorial Bed Plaque
- Buena Vista Schools
- Saginaw General Hospital's School of Nursing
- Building a Castle
- Women's National Farm & Garden Association: Celebrating 90 Years
- Centennial Celebration: Saginaw NAACP
- United Way of Saginaw County 100th Anniversary
- Treaties of Michigan
- Artifact of the Month

Sports & Education



Since January 2011, Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame has partnered with us to showcase sports memorabilia from individuals and organizations in Saginaw County.

Referee Hogey Holtz, football players Blair White and Charlie Markey, coach Ralph Munger, basketball players Brad Redford and Jenny Ryan, pitcher Stacy (Delaney) Rohr, and 2006 and 2007 Nouvel Football state champions became a part of a long list of Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame inductees in 2019.

The SCSHOF collection improved over the past year as well. Swan Valley Athletic Department donated a collection of 173 reels of 16mm football films dating from the year the school opened in 1971.

In addition, the conservation department at The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village repaired three state championship trophies. These trophies were: 1954 Saginaw High track, 1945 Arthur Hill swim, and 1947 St. Peter and Paul basketball.

Last year, we welcomed our new Education Coordinator Kristi Furtaw to the staff. Kristi presented several diverse programs offsite at schools and other events. Additionally, she, along with our trained docents, provided museum tours for schools and other groups.



Bringing Museum History to the County

Jesse Rouse Elementary
 Handley STEAM Night & Field Day
 West Court Independent Retirement
 Nouvel Catholic Central Elementary
 North Elementary
 DEAR at the Zoo
 Back Yard Field Day
 Friday Night Live
 Saginaw County Fair

Party on McCarty
 Faith Lutheran ChildCare
 Bridgeport Historical Society
 Tittabawassee Twp. Parks
 Haithco Park
 Hemlock Sawdust Days
 Leaman's Car Show
 Rural Education Days
 BAISD Conference
 Westlund Autism Clinic
 Weiss Elementary

TOTAL PEOPLE

3,436 Children + 2,709 Adults = 6,145 People Served



In the Field

For the Castle Museum Archaeology team, 2019 proved to be a decidedly unusual year for fieldwork. Uncooperative weather in the spring and fall impacted both ends of the field season. Still, we managed to accomplish much.

The cold and wet spring kept us out of the field entirely until mid-May. Our first foray out of the lab was a guided visit to a pair of sites in Bridgeport Township (20SA604 and 20SA605) with local avocational archaeologist, Bernard Spencer. We were able to record the locations of several important finds at both sites and make a small collection of artifacts from 20SA605. Later, Mr. Spencer generously donated his collection from 20SA604 to the Castle Museum.



Also, in mid-May, we resumed our annual monitoring of archaeological sites in the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. This primarily entails walking over known site areas and noting the presence and extent of any erosion or other surface exposures, and documenting and collecting any archaeological materials that are found. Generally high water levels made this a challenging endeavor this year!

In early July, we were back in Bridgeport Township to begin the first of our two major field projects this year, a shovel-test survey of a portion of the Spencer Farm site (20SA1374).

Once again our friend, Mr. Spencer, was the catalyst for the project. Spencer's collection from this site contains artifacts spanning much of the prehistoric period including several projectile points dating from the late Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic periods (roughly 8,000-10,000 years ago!).

Intact archaeological sites from these early time periods are exceedingly rare in Michigan. Unfortunately, much of the site area where the earliest artifacts were found was destroyed by sand mining in the 1950s. The location we tested, dubbed the Spencer Woods locale, is a relatively undisturbed area on the edge of the sand mining operation. We excavated 84 shovel-test pits (50 cm square holes), on a five to ten meter grid, over approximately two acres. Although we did not find any diagnostic artifacts from the late Paleo-Indian or Early Archaic periods, we did find evidence of Early Woodland (ca. 700-200 B.C.) and early Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 600-1000) occupations.



In early September, as we were finishing up our work at the Spencer Woods locale, we learned that one of the survey locations in our Swan Creek study area had not been farmed this year due to the cold and wet spring. The survey area contains a concentration of habitation debris possibly associated



with a 19th century Methodist mission. After contacting the landowner and finding him generously amenable to our plans, we re-surveyed the area, mapping in all of the artifacts we found on the surface, and commenced working on what ended up as a two meter wide by seven meter

long excavation block. Nearly from the start, we struggled with the weather. In fact, we spent most of September, October, and early November rained out, flooded out, or, at the very least, dealing with excessively wet and muddy conditions.

Despite the difficulties, our excavations produced a wide array of 19th century material including among other things domestic debris such as dish and bottle fragments, structural materials including nails and window glass, personal items such as buttons and smoking pipes, and subsistence remains, mostly in the form of burnt animal bone fragments. Unfortunately, our hopes of locating a cellar, or other structural features, were not realized.

Looking forward, we will now settle in to a winter of lab work – washing, sorting, cataloguing, and analyzing the material recovered during the 2019 field season. And, of course, we will begin planning more archaeological adventures for 2020!



Our Impact

We're changing lives every day by **engaging** with diverse communities, **sharing** our rich collection and **creating** spaces for history enthusiasts to transform conversations.



We proudly impacted

19,414

visitors from across the state, U.S. and foreign countries when they explored three floors of Saginaw County's rich history at the Castle Museum.

We Celebrated the 16th Annual Jazz on Jefferson

Several thousand festivalgoers attended the 16th annual Jazz on Jefferson, a one-night celebration, held June 5, 2019 that featured fun, food, music and laughter.

As the manager of this popular event, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County secures necessary permits, street closures and obtains grants and funding to cover the cost of permits, carriages and the lead performers. Each participating institution arranges for programming at its venue.

The Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission and Saginaw Celebrates Summer provided grant assistance. Ascension St. Mary's, Jolt Credit Union and the Public Libraries of Saginaw provided additional financial support.

Through this unique partnership with: **Public Libraries of Saginaw, Kingdom Life Ministries, First Congregational Church, Team One Credit Union, Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption and South Jefferson Avenue residents and stakeholders**, each year we are able to showcase the Castle Museum and its neighbors to several thousand visitors.



Voyageurs

Our Saginaw Voyageurs retraced the routes of the original voyageurs during their journey around the Apostle Islands.

The Apostle Island Brigade, included a two-day encampment at the largest rendezvous of voyageurs in the Great Lakes area at Grand Portage, Minnesota. On the return to Saginaw, the Voyageurs stopped at Fort William near Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

At Grand Portage, our Voyageurs were one of 155 voyageur camps, where they had the opportunity to share stories with fellow campers and learn about the voyageur history.

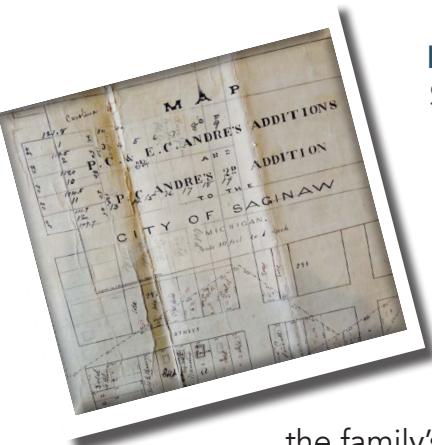
In the evenings, campers and locals were invited into the Voyageurs' camp and were given presentations on the history of the 17th century voyageurs as well as the Saginaw Voyageurs history.

The 2019 crew included:

Robin Bellinger
Gary Bublitz
Alan Ells
Mike Grabowski
Tom Jensen
Adam Kandulski
Dwight Lewis

Jim Murphy
Brad Mrozinski
Tom Nolan
Michael Sovansky
Terry Taylor
Joe Turner
Howard Yingling





Dillon Bennett – CMU Museum Studies Student

Dillon cataloged the Barnard Realty Company collection. This company traces its roots back to Saginaw City pioneer businessman and Mayor Peter C. Andre. The collection included unique early property records and materials documenting

the family's development of the Boulevard Plat, Adams Boulevard. Dillon's work included cataloging and developing a finding aid. Also, he worked on the exhibit *On the River*, researching a boat livery developed by one of P.C. Andre's grandsons.

24 interns from various colleges and Saginaw County high schools worked with our collection staff.

Sara Yasick - CMU Museum Studies Student

Sara's project focused on Myer Brothers Jewelry Store. She entered all of the objects currently on display in the store into PastPerfect and cataloged a large collection of recent donations. She reinstalled several of the cabinets and prepared groundwork for an exhibit that will be completed in 2020, which will completely immerse visitors into an experience of being in a 1914 jewelry store. Also, she worked on a detailed research question related to a local business.



Our Interns

Our Volunteers

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaki Almirall | Lilly Hough | Sharon Rood |
| Nick Bacon | Dick Humphreys | JoAnne Saari |
| Josh Badour | Brad Jarvis | Janeen Schaeuing |
| Johnnae Barney | Tom Jensen | Art Schwan |
| Michael Bauer | Stephanie John | Elaine Schwan |
| Tim Bauer | Adam Kandulski | Kim Scofield |
| Robin Bellinger | Dan Kenny | Coleen Serrato |
| Dillon Bennett | Ron Kinsman | Joe Sienko |
| Maddie Binder | Dave Klein | Jerri Sierocki |
| Judge Fred L. Borchart | Janice Knight | Sherrill Smith |
| Cal Borden | Audrey Koester | Mike Sovansky |
| Monica Brzezinski | Bryan Konieczka | Andy Stachowiak |
| Gary Bublitz | Ken Kosidlo | Jill Stevens |
| Alex Buckstiegel | Katie Kowalski | Tom Stevens |
| Tamara Carter | Shyenne Krueger | Bonnie Stewart |
| Deana Coleman | Claire Laney | KJ Summey |
| Beverly Cottrell | Patrick Lawton | Terry Taylor |
| Judge William Crane | Gabriel LeCureux | Les Tincknell |
| Ritch R. Cushway | Tom Lesh | Gail Toft |
| Olympia DeAgostino | Dwight Lewis | Larry Toft |
| Madeline Diechman | Jim Lewis | Sarah Torres |
| Jim Doane | Myrna Little | Joe Turner |
| Chris Douglas | Marilyn Ludgin | Ricardo Verdoni |
| Marilyn Dust | Susan Ludwig | Beth Walker |
| Dr. Robert Emrich | Emily Lyday | Chris Walker |
| Samantha Engel | Reilee Martin | Pat Washburn |
| Pat Evans | Vi McGarry | Sydnee Watts |
| Zachariah Fahrenbruch | Nate Moelling | Anne Webb |
| Travis Faustin | Craig Monahan | Kim White |
| Lakisha Favorite | Debbi Monahan | Della Wilder |
| Jeanne Feyedelem | Kylee Monahan | Marsha Wilhelm |
| Kiersten Frankowiak | Basilia Monsibais | Jackie Willman |
| Amy French, Ph.D. | Chase Montalvo | Ken Willman |
| Trevor Freudenstein | Brad Mrozinski | Sara Yasick |
| Lisa Furtaw | Christian Murphy | Howard Yingling |
| Nolan Furtaw | Jim Murphy | Catherine Young |
| Scott Furtaw | Anthony Niemiec | Nicholas Young |
| Sophia Garcia | G. Thomas Nolan | Shawn Zehnder |
| Garnet Glazier | Kingsley Obi | Jazz on Jefferson |
| Michael Grabowski | Marcelino Olivarez | Volunteers |
| Tamara Grefe | Leona Perry | Saginaw County High |
| Tyler Gross | Samona Perry | School Students |
| Miriam Haddad | Azharia Pratt | Saginaw Downtown Lion |
| Cheryl Hadsall | Stacy Priem | Club |
| Audrey Hammis | Benjamin Ray | Saginaw Valley Air Museum |
| Peyton Hansen | Kathy Reis | |
| Chip Hendrick | Barry M. Rindhage | |
| Dick Henning | Rick Rios | |
| Joan Hirschenberger | Sophia Roblez | |
| Zyk Hlavacek | Larry Rodarte | |
| Marcia Hoffman | Jill Rodriguez | |

Over 5,830 hours served!

Financial Summary



	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Income		
Contract Revenue	1,059,976.00	1,430,978.70
Membership	20,000.00	27,362.32
Gifts and Grants	50,000.00	90,100.85
Admissions	7,800.00	10,936.73
Miscellaneous	9,000.00	11,129.00
Interest Income	9,000.00	11,036.54
Museum Store	5,072.00	4,303.96
Total Income	1,160,848.00	1,585,848.10
Expense		
Personnel	717,135.00	701,616.19
Miscellaneous	3,000.00	2,986.21
Castle Building Operation	91,416.00	86,423.97
Museum & Society Operation	125,900.00	117,430.70
Grants to Out County Museums	105,997.00	102,977.25
Annex Location	27,000.00	26,002.46
Collections/Exhibits/Education	88,400.00	69,985.15
Museum Store Operations	2,000.00	87.00
Total Expense	1,160,848.00	1,107,508.93

***Subject to Audit**

Grants & Additional Support

- Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs
- Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission
Saginaw Celebrates Summer
- Saginaw Community Foundation
Nickless Memorial Foundation
Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation
Webster Fund
Nexteer
Partners in Philanthropy



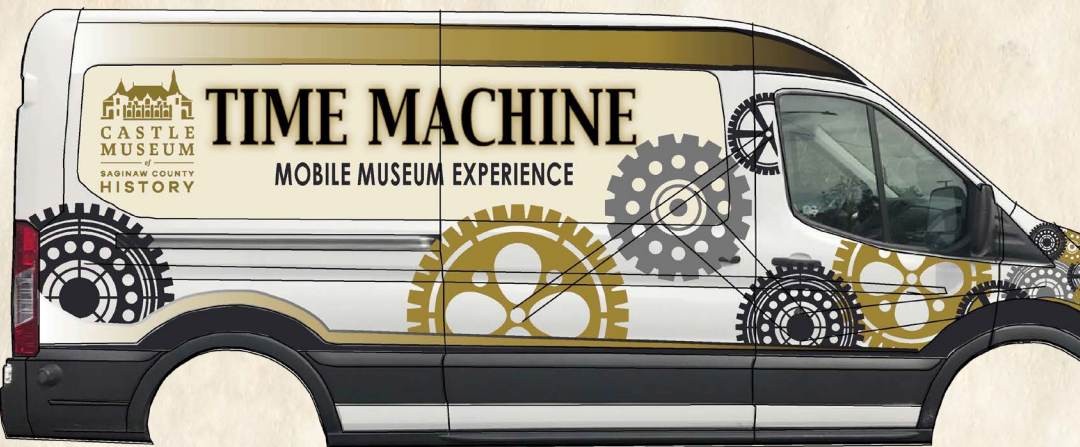
Patrons (\$500 - \$999)

- Glastender Inc.
- Valerie Guttowsky
- Harvey Memorial Foundation
- James & Henrietta Hensler
- Korean War Veterans Assoc. - Chapter 251
- Nancy MacRae
- Wallace & Irene Bronner Foundation

Benefactors (\$1,000 or more)

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- Louis & Karen Constan
- Thomas & Valerie Dieters
- Horgan Charitable Trust
- James & Emilie Kanitz
- Mary Johnson Irrevocable Trust
- Meek Charitable Trust
- Patricia & Thomas Emmenecker Charitable Foundation
- Robert E. Stark & Martin H. Stark Foundation

The Castle Museum gratefully acknowledges those donors who made financial gifts during the fiscal year in 2019.



Our new program, the *Time Machine: Mobile Museum Experience* brings the learning experiences of the museum to the classroom. This educational program is geared toward students in second through fourth grades and is free for Saginaw County schools.



The van's design graphics are highly visible and take cues from the new title. It has the look of a machine in motion with gears and pulleys, representing time and movement. The colors, black, white, and gold, are the official colors for both the Museum and the City of Saginaw.

Financial Donors

Alger, Richard & Sheryl
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Day, Joseph
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Dust, Marilyn
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Gavit, John & Annette
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Grueber, Pamela
Guttowsky, Valerie
Hall, David & Jackie
Hare, Harold
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Henne, Jim
Hensler, Gerald & Marlene
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Kaylor, Sharon
Kazuk, Elynor
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King, Richard & Ruth
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Knapp, Ruth Ann
Koehler-Brooks, Janet
Konieczka, Bryan
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Meeker, Rebecca
Moore, Hazel
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Nasser, Veda
Nelson, Sanford
Nickodemus, Rose
Ninan, Molly
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O'Neill, Terence & Ethel
Paas, R. James & Janet
Parks, Jeanne
Patricia & Thomas
Emmenecker Charitable
Priest, William
Princing, Dennis & Nancy
Ransford, Annie
Reimus, Sylvia
Reinig, Fred

Reynolds, Mike & Patty
Reynolds, Roger & Mary
Rindhage, Barry M.
Roberts, Mary
Robinson, Donna
Rood, Sharon & Larry
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Rummel, Gary & Kathy
Saginaw Valley Antique
Society
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Scharffe, William & Mary Jo
Schoenow, Nancy
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Shaikh, Maliha
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Trombley, Tom
Verdoni, Ricardo
Versteeg, Charles
Viriciglio, Paul & Deanna
Vitali, Kerry
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Wakeman, Brian & Rodney
Walker, Christopher & Beth
Wallace & Irene Bronner
Foundation
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Barbara
Webb, Anne
Weigl, Dan
Weldy, Judy & Mort
Whitman, Mary A.
Wielinski, Sherry
Williams, Pat
Willman, Ken & Jackie
Wilson, Judith
Wyatt, Kathleen
Zehnder, Bill & Karen
Zolinski, Marilyn



The Castle Museum repatriated Indigenous remains to the Ziibiwing Center in a small ceremonial gathering.

Memorial Donors

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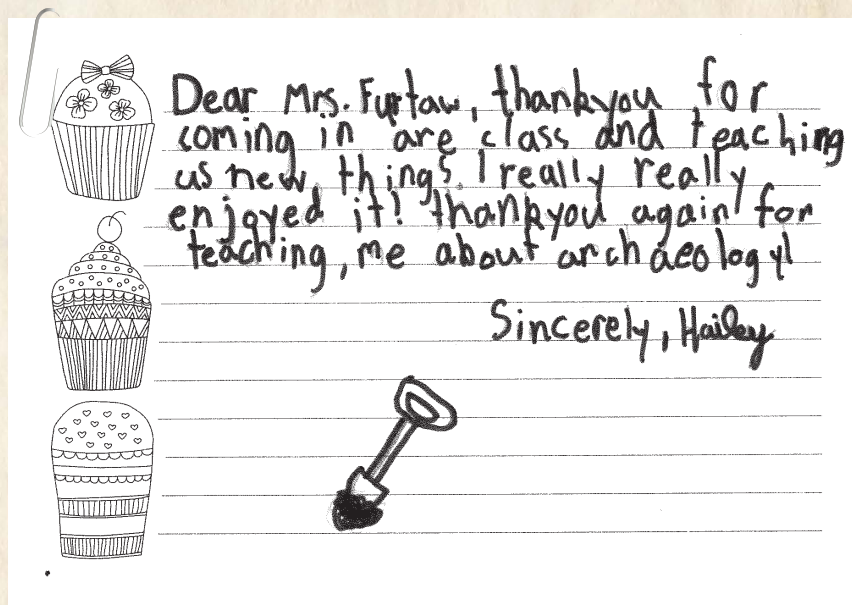
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Coal Mining Exhibit

We hope we can count on your support in August 2020!

30,517
Total People
Served in 2019



1,200
people attended
Lunch & Learn



Renovated
former retail
space into
exhibit gallery

1,157 artifacts
received from
155 donors



Our staff volunteered
monthly at the East Side
Soup Kitchen

5,005 artifacts
entered into
PastPerfect



7 Kraslice Egg Programs

 4,638
Likes
 894
Followers

Over
160
research
questions



Updated
our website

3 Summer
Cultural
Celebrations



We completed many goals in 2019, which makes the vision even clearer in 2020!