

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

GROWING A LEGACY



CASTLE MUSEUM | SAGINAW
of COUNTY
| HISTORY

500 Federal Avenue | Saginaw, Michigan 48607 | 989.752.2861 | CastleMuseum.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CASTLE MUSEUM STAFF

We are eternally grateful for the support of our Board of Directors and efforts of our staff for continuing our mission of sharing Saginaw County history and working to expand our community connections. We are growing a legacy.

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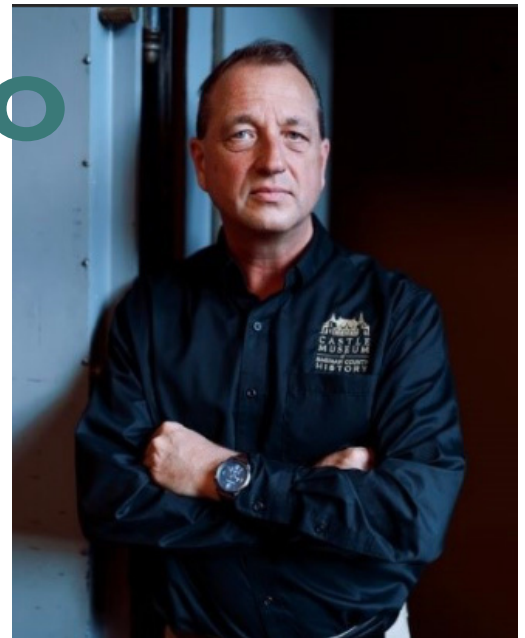
OUR MISSION

The Historical Society of Saginaw County is committed to serving the community by telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region through exploration, preservation, and presentation of their historical and cultural heritage.

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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

“Our goal at the Historical Society is to demonstrate every day the value of understanding and using history to guide our path into the future.”



Hello Members and Friends of the Historical Society of Saginaw County and the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.

We have navigated another very rewarding year and would like to express our appreciation to the citizens of Saginaw County who continue to support us with their hard-earned funds, volunteer hours, and visits, both online and in person.

At our Annual Meeting last year, I took the opportunity to introduce our staff to the membership and to express how proud I am of their hard work and accomplishments. They are the catalysts for all the wonderful things emanating from this organization. I will echo that sentiment again right now. My greatest accomplishment as the leader of this organization is the assembly of this incredibly qualified and dedicated team. We have learned how to push each other to new heights, and the results are evident in the quality and number of new exhibits, programming, and research.

Our 15-member Board of Directors, under the leadership of Bryan Konieczka, is a diverse group of Saginaw County's finest, providing strategic guidance and supervision of our operations. They have opened so many doors for us through their affiliations with local universities, school districts, government agencies, media outlets, non-profits and more. Bryan, while remaining on the board, is

handing the Chairman reins to Dr. Brad Jarvis, who will most certainly continue the stellar leadership we've come to expect from our Board.

Our goal at the Historical Society is to demonstrate every day the value of understanding and using history to guide our path into the future. As we prepare for the next millage vote in 2026, we hope you will spread the word and help us ensure we can continue providing the valuable services that are so important to our community. A team is only successful when every team member understands their role and is willing to contribute for the betterment of all. For this willingness, I again thank our staff and board as well as all our local supporters, for making the Historical Society of Saginaw County the go-to resource for the preservation and exploration of our common history.

Jonathan Webb



“Living on purpose requires us to find what we love fiercely, give it all we’ve got and then pass it on, as if it were a torch, to those who follow.”

-Dawna Markova



A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

It's time to pass the metaphorical torch.

Since February 2020, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Board Chair of the Historical Society of Saginaw County and the time has come for me to step down from this position. I never intended to stay in this role for an extended period and four years seems just about right. I truly feel honored to have led such a phenomenal group of board members who all share a passion for the history of Saginaw County and all its stories.

In my tenure as Board Chair, I am proud of the work the Board of Directors has accomplished – most importantly passing the millage renewal in 2020 during a global pandemic. The entire Board worked tirelessly to make sure the millage would pass. Not only did it pass, but it passed with record-high support across the county. A true testament of just how important the Castle Museum is to the residents of Saginaw County.

Working with the Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, and Jonathan Webb, we have increased the diversity of the Board of Directors to better represent the residents of Saginaw County, making sure this organization is a museum for all. I am excited to see where this board guides the museum in the future.

Board meetings were also reimagined over the last four years to include participation from the museum staff. Part of our regular meetings, staff members deliver a report about the happenings in their area of responsibility allowing board members an opportunity to hear first-hand updates and to ask any questions. I believe this change helps board members be better engaged in what is happening at the museum and what is coming soon. Also, it helps build a connection between the board and the staff, which I believe is very beneficial to all.

I am not going very far. While I am stepping down as Board Chair as of February 2024, I will be remaining a part of the Board of Directors for the foreseeable future. Under the leadership of Dr. Brad Jarvis as Board Chair, I know that the organization is in great hands and that together we will continue to support the mission of this organization: serving the community by telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region through exploration, preservation, and presentation of their historical and cultural heritage.

Bryan Konieczka



“One of the most compelling artifacts recovered during the 2023 field season is the sole of a caulk boot ”

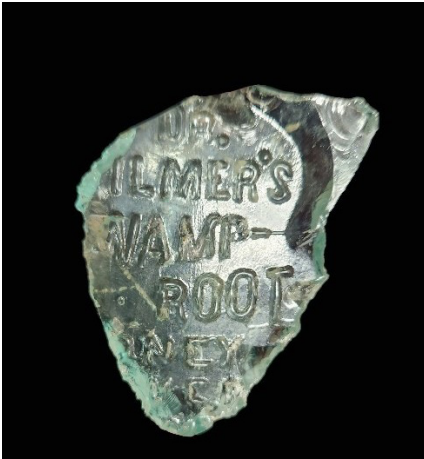
In 2023, the Castle Museum Archaeology program enjoyed another busy and productive year. We were fortunate to have two students join our team for the summer: Lydia Roope, an Early College student from Saginaw Valley State University, and Joseph Senk, a Museum Studies intern from Central Michigan University. Our fieldwork activities in 2023 included surface survey in Swan Creek Township, survey and monitoring archaeological sites in the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, a return to a boarding house location for the Tittabawassee Boom Company, where we conducted test excavations, and shovel-testing at a possible location for a second boom company boarding house. In the lab, we have been busy processing and cataloguing artifacts resulting from our fieldwork.

Our surface survey in Swan Creek Township was at the invitation of a local avocational archaeologist who was aware of our ongoing research in the area and wanted to show us a location that may be of interest. Unfortunately, the surface at the time of our visit was mostly obscured by vegetation and we were unable to complete a thorough survey. However, we were able to confirm the presence of both prehistoric and 19th century occupations and we look forward to returning to the site under better field conditions.

***This Page:* Lydia Roope, Joseph Senk, and Brad Jarvis processing flotation samples from the boarding house site.**

***Opposite Page:* Evening view near the mouth of the Cass River.**

ARCHAEOLOGY



"DR. KILMER'S SWAMP-ROOT - KIDNEY LIVER & BLADDER REMEDY" bottle fragment found during our survey in Swan Creek Twp.

Most of our field time was spent investigating the location of a boarding house constructed for use by employees of the Tittabawassee Boom Company. During 2023, our third year of work at the site, our efforts consisted of expanding our test excavations, which have revealed an abundance of artifacts including structural material such as brick, plaster/mortar, nails, and window glass; domestic/kitchen-related material including glass and ceramic dishes, eating and serving utensils, bottles, cans, oil lamps and lamp chimneys, eggshells, and butchered animal bones; and a few personal items including buttons, buckles, footwear, pipe fragments, and even a harmonica! One of the most compelling artifacts recovered during the 2023 field season is the sole of a caulk boot. Caulk boots are the spiked boots that the boom company workers wore to help get traction on the slippery wet logs. This artifact, more than any other from the excavation, clearly links the site with boom company employees. The leather and corroded iron that comprise the caulk boot sole require special treatment to ensure long-term preservation. It is currently undergoing conservation treatment by specialists at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory.

We wrapped up the field season by beginning a shovel-test survey near the mouth of the Cass River in an area reported to be the location of a boom house operated by the Huron Boom Company. Shovel-testing involved digging a series of small holes, spaced 10 meters apart, across the area where the boom house is thought to have been located. Although we found no convincing evidence for a boom house, or any other structure, we are just getting started. Additional testing is planned for 2024.



Caulk boot sole.



Goodridge Brothers Photograph of the First Ambulance of the Saginaws

COLLECTIONS & ACCESSIONS

“Collections are the heart of a museum. They provide tangible connections to stories and help bring history to life. But they need careful management to reach their full potential.”

—Developing and Caring for Collections, Museum Galleries Scotland, www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

We collect things to preserve the stories of the people of Saginaw County. Collecting, maintaining and interpreting objects is central to the museum’s operation.

Try to imagine the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History without any artifacts - you need to exclude the Castle building as it is the largest artifact in the collection. Fortunately, we don’t have to imagine a museum without objects.

Each year hundreds of artifacts are offered to the Museum. Only those items which connect us with the stories of our county are accepted and

added to the collection. The diversity and range of objects is amazing. This is just a glimpse of the numerous objects that were donated in 2023 to the museum and the stories we are entrusted to preserve and interpret.

Coin Silver Forks from the Rust Family: At first glance these handsome coin silver forks seem quite ordinary and unremarkable; however, their engravings and markings tie them directly to Saginaw families and businesses. Marked “H & S,” for Hotchkiss & Schreuder of Syracuse, New York. A second stamp, “D.R. Brown & Co.,” is the marking of East Saginaw jeweler, Demetrius Brown. His Genesee Avenue jewelry store was long a fixture of East Genesee. Recognized for his engraving skill, these carry the monogram and names for Louise Miller Rust and son Amasa.



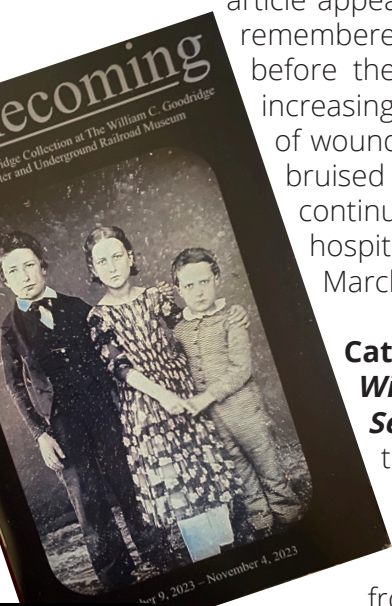


Items from Saginaw High and Arthur Hill High Schools: With the construction of the Saginaw United High School, the Castle Museum has received a collection of archival material, ephemera and objects that uniquely document the histories of Saginaw High School and Arthur Hill High School. These join materials already in the collection which afford us an opportunity to preserve and interpret the rich and diverse histories of these schools.

Brooks Manufacturing Company Catalog: One of the last donations to arrive was this Brooks catalog. It has long been on our list of items that we need to help us chronicle and more fully interpret the story of what was made in Saginaw and who made it.

Goodridge Brothers Photograph of the First Ambulance in the Saginaws:

The photograph was taken on March 1, 1887, the same day this article appeared in the newspaper: "It will be remembered that THE NEWS has brought before the public from time to time with increasing persistency, the urgent need there was for a city ambulance. The large number of wounded men brought by rail from the various [logging] camps with broken limbs and bruised forms, victims to falling monarchs of the woods, besides the many accidents continually happening in our mills, necessitated a conveyance through our streets to the hospital, etc., of more humane conveyance than those in use." The Saginaw Evening News, March 1, 1887.



Catalog, Exhibit: Homecoming: The Glenalvin Goodridge Collection at the William C. Goodridge Freedom Center and Underground railroad Museum, September 9, 2013 - November 4, 2023. Although newly published, it provides a tangible reminder - Saginaw's history is intertwined with a much larger story.

Ledger with a Split Leather Binding:

Starting in 1877, transactions related to Newell Barnard's numerous business ventures were recorded in it. They range from timberland purchases to the Uncle Henry Coal Mine. It includes information about his commercial properties. Also, notations, quite unrelated to its original purpose, document its time behind stage at Pit & Balcony.

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Uncle Henry Mine Daily Report

Date	Description	Sump Tons	Coal Hoisted Pounds
1901 May 20	Were shooting once per day on account of air & stopped at noon	56	250
21	Worked full day	102	600
22	Shut down on account of too many cars in yard		
23	" " - Railroad short of cars.		
24	" " " " " "		

not billed out.

April 1980 Issue of Ebony Magazine: While readily available - even in a digitized version on the New York Public Library website, the feature article, "The Secret Life of Stevie Wonder" is what makes it a worthy addition to our collection. Stevie Wonder was born in Saginaw on May 13, 1950.

We could easily continue: a radio with a cabinet manufactured in Saginaw's Sonra plant, a chair from the Saginaw County Court House...

"Around 1910, Brooks' company--renamed Brooks Manufacturing Company--began to diversify, applying the concept of knock-down construction to a wide variety of products. The first venture beyond boats was Mission-style furniture. In 1911, Brooks Aeroplane Company was incorporated to build knock-down airplanes. Months later, Brooks Motor Wagon Company formed to build automobiles."

-Scott Peters, *Piece by Piece: The Knock-Down Boat-Building Industry in the Saginaw Valley*



THE COLLECTION AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

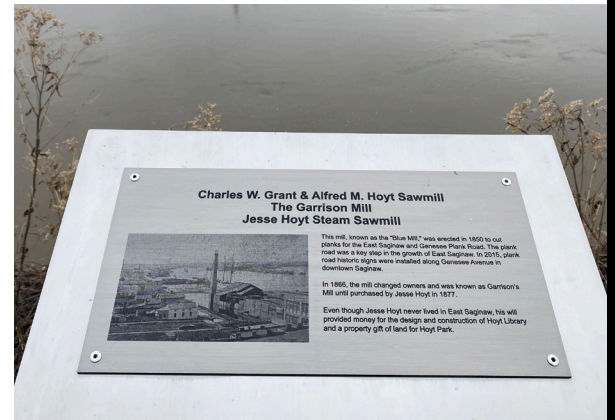
The museum's collection is far from simply a resource for museum exhibits, it is a resource for the community and it is Saginaw's legacy. Throughout the year, we answer numerous research requests and supply images to businesses, organizations, and individuals. The following projects are examples of unique partnerships that utilized the museum's collection and engaged the community.

Riverwalk Mill Markers:

We supplied images for the Riverfront Development Commission's project to mark sawmill locations along the Saginaw Riverwalk. In addition, the Museum staff assisted the committee with research.

Saginaw River Headwaters REC Area:

The Museum staff worked with the Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission to research, design and develop interpretive signage showcasing the industrial history of the site. Since the early 20th century the area housed General Motors operations, including the Saginaw Malleable Iron Plant. Following GM's bankruptcy, RACER Trust took ownership of the land in 2011 and passed it on to the State.



Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve:

Images and artifacts from the Museum collection were used and Museum staff assisted with research for the center, the former location of Hidden Hollow Lounge, Restaurant and Golf Course that was built in 1968, and later the Heritage Insurance Agency building.



CHRONICLING OUR PAST

In 2023 **Chronicling Our Past** visited the western side of Saginaw County in a continued effort to create a digital archive of historical images currently held in private collections throughout Saginaw County.

The focus of our project this year was in Hemlock (Richland Township) where Chief Curator Sandy Schwan worked for a week at the J.W. Fordney Schoolhouse scanning slides and photographs from the Hemlock Area Historical Society's collection.

This effort not only engaged one of our small local historical societies and their surrounding community, but revealed several interesting items, such as a new Goodrich Brothers image and several images of rural women working, of which the Castle Museum does not have many in its own collection.



Hemlock Horse Show on M-46 in front of Thomas Hardware, early 20th century. Original photo owned by Hemlock Area Historical Society, Richland Township.

7,443 New Artifacts
Were Entered into PastPerfect in 2023

131 donors donated individual artifacts as well as collections of artifacts in 2023.

EXHIBITS

The year 2023 focused on sharing the legacy of farming in the country and locally in Saginaw County. We introduced the agricultural theme with the national traveling exhibit *American Farmer*, and then created our own exhibits reflecting the diversity of farming, laborer experiences, and related economic development in our region. We also shared the story of winter-related activities, first with professional hockey in Saginaw at the start of the year, and then closing the year out with a look back at our snowy past in *Winter Wonderland* and *Ice Skating in Hoyt Park*.

Centennial Hall:

Home Ice: Saginaw Scores Professional Hockey

American Farmer

Growing Saginaw County: Agriculture & Enterprise

Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster 1844-2012

West Gallery:

Cultivating a Legacy: Sesquicentennial & Centennial Farms of Saginaw County

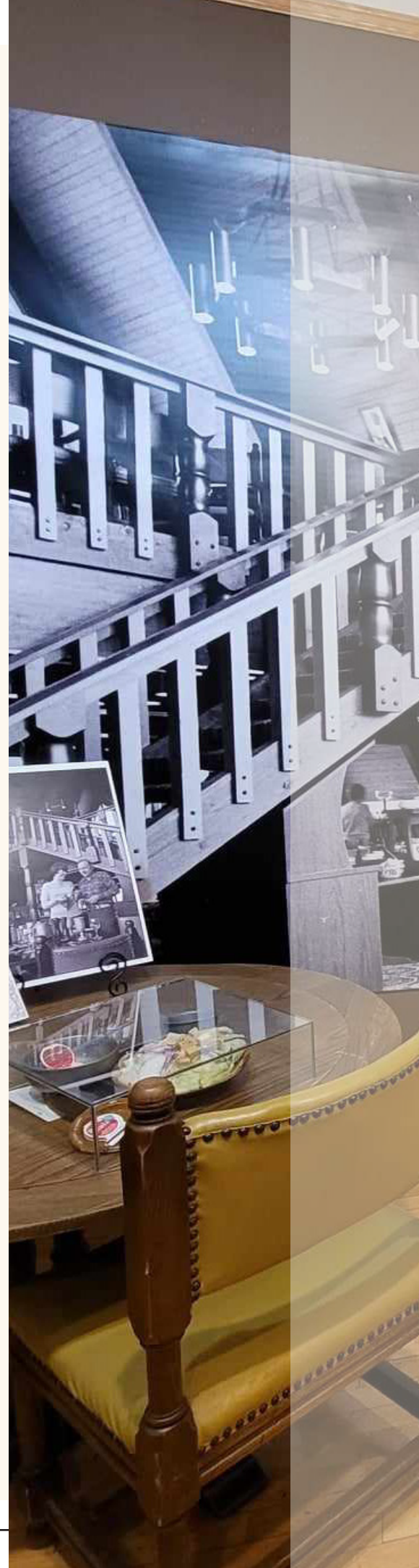
Winter Wonderland

Alcoves:

Bintz' Apple Mountain Steakhouse

Henry Marsh

Friday Night LIVE!





Lobby:

Rookie: Remembering Badge No. 131

Hoyt Park Ice Skating

Arthur Hill Class Horn

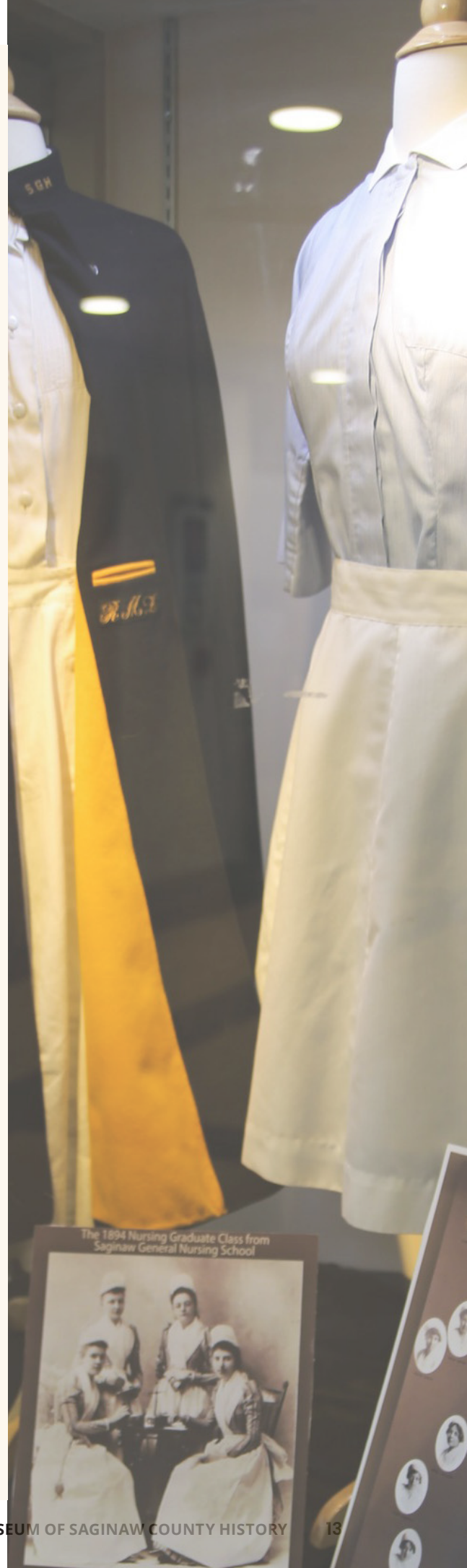
Covenant Healthcare (Offsite):

Saginaw General Nursing School

Other Installations:

Morley Room Portrait Configuration

Hosted Phi Delta Kappa Exhibit



EDUCATION THE TIME MACHINE & MORE


OUR 2023 ADVENTURES

2023 brought continued growth to our educational programming as we visited several new schools and tested out a new lesson on how Saginaw became a county, utilizing timeline and mapping skills. At the museum we began offering regular Hands on History programs that allowed guests to learn about and touch historic items.

We continue to experience rave reviews from classroom teachers and students alike across the county and beyond on our presentation of Saginaw history topics.



Working on campaign posters during the STEM Winter Staycation, where the Museum partnered with Delta College Learning Channel. This correlated to the *Sign of the Times* exhibit.



Enjoying summer camp in the Morley Room with Mid-Michigan Children's Museum partners.



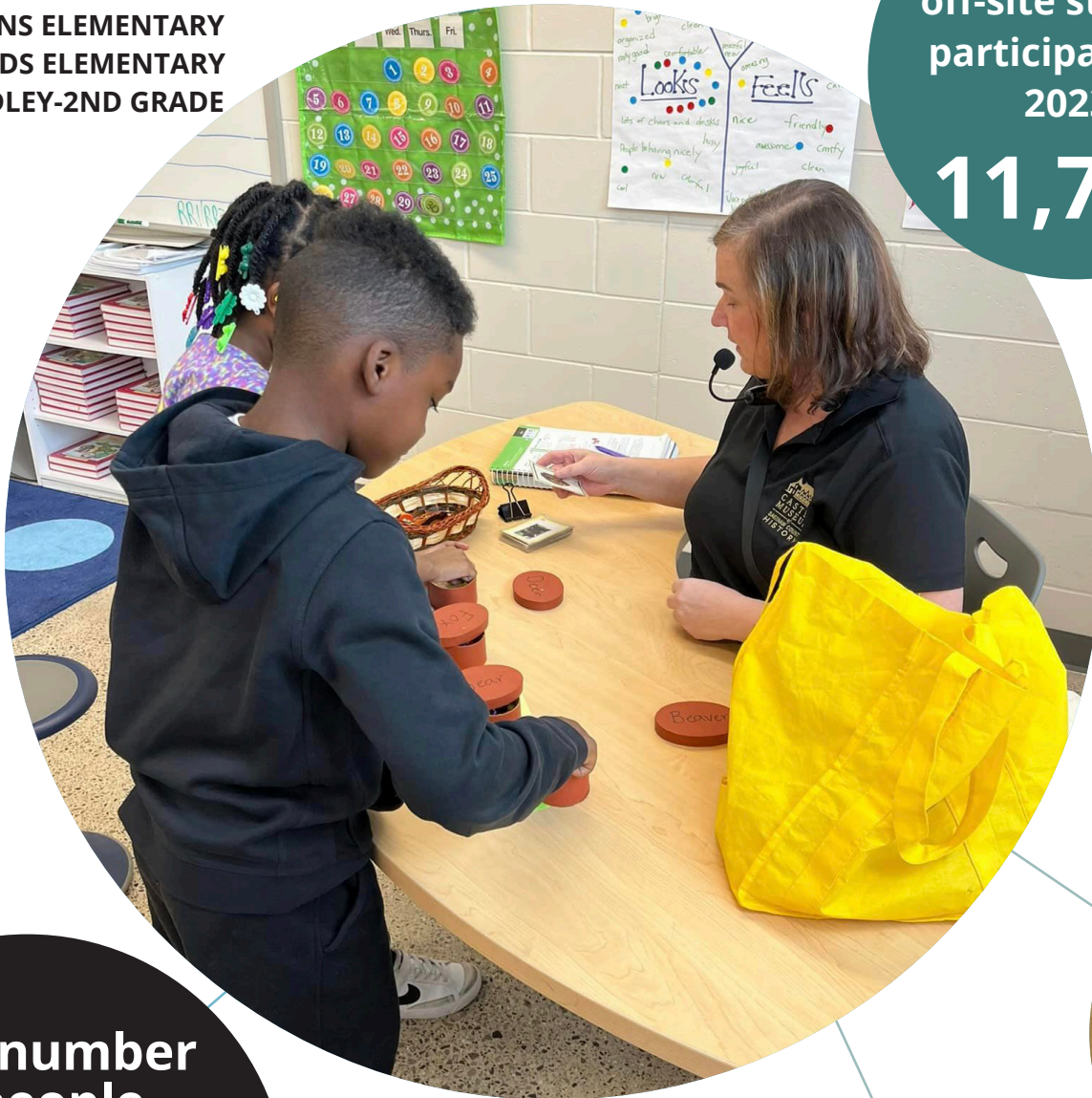
Exploring a fire truck at the Annual Summer Kickoff Event with community partners during touch-a-truck. Each year the Museum teams up with Hoyt Library and Delta College Learning Channel to start Summer FUN.

NEW SCHOOLS VISITED:

CHESTER MILLER
 HAVENS ELEMENTARY
 SHIELDS ELEMENTARY
 HANDLEY-2ND GRADE

Total number of
 off-site student
 participants in
 2023

11,748



Total number
 of people
 impacted by
 Time Machine
 tours & events:
71,147



THIS YEAR'S PARTNERS IN FUN:



OUTREACH: ONE SAGINAW, MANY VOICES

The Castle Museum has been Growing a Legacy through community outreach by centering programs and events on Saginaw County's diverse voices.

Lunch & Learn speaker series remained strong, and our attendance grew to 640 audience members over 24 presentations, an increase of nearly 200 visitors for Lunch & Learn from last year. We hosted a wide variety of topics including Frederick Douglass, the history and progress of the Potter Street Station project, Greek Festival and immigration history, and Rosie the Riveter. We featured several programs that tied into our agricultural exhibits including Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association's urban gardening program, how to save and share seeds, and a "Grow and Tell" opportunity for visitors to share their own gardening and farming stories.

History After Hours has drawn a regular audience and also had agricultural exhibit tie-ins including Samatha Engel who spoke about the legacy of Herbert Dow's gardens, and SVSU professor Dr. Jennifer Stinson who spoke about the role of race in farming. Other memorable presentations include Dr. Andrew Wehrman from Central Michigan University, who shared his book about the role of smallpox vaccinations in the Revolutionary War period, Dr. Brad Jarvis on the failed Saginaw Canal project, and Dr. Nathan Seely on Frankenmuth and World War II. Over nine sessions, we hosted 106 visitors, an increase of 40 people since last year.

We hosted many **community groups** this year who used the space in different ways. **Great Lakes Bay Pride LGBTQIA+ Support Group** of approximately 20 people met in the museum monthly. SCC Graphics Class learned the art of portraiture with models from Beauty In Me modeling group. The **Saginaw Youth Ambassadors** learned the community's history by touring and speaking with museum educators. Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Vannette participated in SYA's "Saginawesome" video. Other partner groups continued to use the museum for meeting space including the Pages of History Book Club, the Origami Club, the Miniatures Group (who provide our beautiful Fairy Doors), and the Frankenmuth-Saginaw Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 251.



In addition to our **Museum Mingle** evenings where visitors can wander the exhibits while listening to live music provided by SVSU music majors, we also hosted the **Choral Society's Jazz Unplugged concert**. The museum lobby was filled with (electric) candles, and over 100 guests listened to several singers perform jazz standards. It was a magical experience. We also had a **historical party** with a swinging big band this summer as we partied like it was 1942, USO-style. Forty-two people attended.

We hosted youth **STEM Days** presented by the **Delta Learning Channel** and **Mid-Michigan Children's Museum**. For all ages, **SVSU Physics** offered a STEM Day on forces to pair with the Home Ice: Saginaw

Scores Professional Hockey exhibit. We also brought table displays to many community events including: the International Peace Walk, Juneteenth, the Saginaw County Fair, and the Mid Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association (MMOGTA). Several staff and docents returned to MMOGTA to help with Rural Education Days.

The Great Lakes Loons became a major partner during the summer months. We helped them gather oral histories of local Latino baseball players, which they shared on the big screen at games when the team played as their Latino alter ego **Los Pepinillos Picantes del Norte**. For each game, the Time Machine was positioned on the main concourse behind home plate and staff shared local history. Representatives of the museum also got to throw out the first pitch at each game! We attended three games, each averaging about 3,000 attendees.

Adult and teen tours picked up this year, and Tom Trombley also offered walking tours and cemetery tours. We served over 400 adults on tours this year (this does not include school field trip tours).

Our staff got out into the community and were treated to **tours at Nexteer and the Japanese Cultural Center**. Visiting our neighbors is a great way to build relationships. Jon Webb and Jennifer Vannette traveled to Denver to represent the museum at the annual meeting of the **American Alliance of Museums**. Ashley Zehnder, Katherine Ellison, and Jennifer Vannette took a **Kewpee Burger road trip** to continue our historical recipes story about Kewpee and Doyle's Hamburgs. History can be delicious!



WEBSITE AND BLOG

In 2023 we used our historic recipe blog to dig deep into Saginaw's dive scene with extended series on both 1940s cocktails and Kewpee/Doyle hamburgs. We quickly learned that our followers on social media love a post or a blog entry that makes them nostalgic for their own past. As a result, our top blog posts for 2023 included Jacobson's seven-layer salad and the Kewpee-Doyle hamburger saga in six parts, including a staff roadtrip (though we could have gone on further).

Additional series included a heated baked bean competition surrounding the county fair where we crowned our very own Bean Queen (though we are still in need of a bean caller), and artifact and recipe posts from prominent Saginaw women during National Women's History Month. Artifact posts on a variety of Goodrich Brothers photos were posted and popular during Black History Month.

One of the things we wanted to focus on in 2023 was TikTok. We were excited to have a TikTok social media intern from Cranbrook briefly this past summer, Isabella Micelli, who helped us take the plunge into more video shorts focused on exhibits and Museum staff. We will continue to grow our TikTok audience and have extended into LinkedIn for 2024.

Our website continues to highlight our exhibits and building, serving as a great first stop for potential visitors. We took care to update children's activities and educational sections of the website as our outreach continues to grow in this segment, and we also highlighted our accessibility and inclusion with a new social narrative for those on the spectrum or just looking to be more prepared before visiting. We continue to regularly update and add useful elements to our site as needed.



SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

716 Posts Published
880,256 People Reached
Top 5 Fan Cities:

Saginaw (2,022)
Shields (399)
Carollton (315)
Bay City (256)
Freeland (216)

TikTok

36 Posts Published
229 Followers
1,878 Top Video Views

Instagram

588 Posts Published
31,201 People Reached
10.7% Increase in Followers



753 Posts Published in 2023
10.2% Increase in Followers

TOP POSTS 2023

Oct. 7-9:19 a.m. Facebook

The Artifact-Photograph of a Vanished Mansion. "Edward German is to erect a beautiful home in 'The Grove.' It will cost \$30,000, and the plans are being prepared by Mason & Rice...

Read more: <http://bit.ly/49vuMlC>

Highest Reach on FB - 37,430 Reached.

Nov. 25-9:30 a.m. Instagram

The Artifact: The Circular Staircase "A handsome iron stairway winds its way about the interior of the large tower at the northeast corner of the building to the rooms over the corridor...

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3OM7jKT>

Most Liked on Insta - 279 Reached.



MARKETING

The marketing focus for 2023 has been on not only pushing the Museum's mission of telling the story of Saginaw's history and people, but on creating a separate legacy for the Castle Museum itself with consistent and persistent placement of our brand in the public eye.

We recentered who we are around a new marketing and brand guide that more clearly laid out concepts, color, font, logo, and photo use for the museum. This guide, available online at castlemuseum.org/press, will be helpful not only for media in need of stock Castle building photos or updated logos, but for anyone seeking to understand more about our museum, our standards, and our online presence—this might include potential new employees, board members, grantors, or really, any guests seeking to know more details about our operations.

Taking this to the next level, we have continued to propagate a congenial relationship with the press through

regular and appropriate press releases, quick responses to contact, and a vibrant social media presence. We have reaped the rewards of this effort with markedly increased coverage of our events and exhibits in 2023 by both MLive and WNEM as well as other online outlets focused on tourism. This has been a boon to bringing in visitors and a great recognition for the hard work of the museum staff and our partners in creating fun events and enticing exhibits.

Another media project that some museum staff took part in this year was in partnership with Delta College Public Broadcasting on the creation of their Hidden History web series. Delta chose to work with the Castle Museum on creating some pilot episodes of the series, which focuses on talking about artifacts not often seen by guests due to delicacy or simple uniqueness. This project springboarded a larger commitment by other small local historical museums to contribute to the series as well. We were excited to be the

guinea pigs for this series, which aims to help our museum associates gain exposure too. The series is supposed to be launched online in 2024.

Lastly, the museum put together new exterior signage to direct patrons more clearly both inside and to parking and added some new fun items to our gift shop. We hope to continue this overhaul of the Castle #SwagShop into 2024, so keep an eye on that corner of the lobby.



Mar. 25-10 a.m. X

The Artifact – The Saginaw Silk Garment Company

“WANTED: Experienced and inexperienced girls to work on silk waists and dresses, in the best lighted and ventilated factory in the city, (The Daylight Factory.) Saginaw Silk Garment Company. 1900 N. Michigan” The Saginaw Evening News, July 10, 1909, p. 3

Organized in 1908, the Saginaw Silk Garment Company's first factory was above the Dreamland Theater on East Genesee.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/49grTvk>

Most Liked on X.

Nov. 30-10 a.m. TikTok

Our final #ThankfulThursday video is dropping right now! Check it out. This one is a thank you to YOU for supporting the Museum! #CastleMuseum
Read more: <https://bit.ly/48f4ysv>

Most Views on TikTok-1882 Views.



JAZZ ON JEFFERSON

Even if the weather isn't perfect, Jazz on Jefferson is always a celebration of all the things that make South Jefferson Avenue a special place. And this year was no different. Although smoke from Canadian wildfires made things hazy and being outdoors less than enjoyable, it did not dampen the sense of exploration and spirits for the 18th annual Jazz on Jefferson held on June 7, 2023.

Spearheaded by the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, the event is truly a partnership with the Public Libraries of Saginaw, Kingdom Life Ministries, First Congregational Church, Team One Credit Union, Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption and other South Jefferson Avenue residents and stakeholders. The museum was an anchor of the event with live entertainment, a games area and food vendors - which include - of course - our famed strawberry shortcake.

Jazz on Jefferson is made possible by the following funders: An ArtReach Grant from the Saginaw Community Enrichment Commission, Saginaw Celebrates Summer and A Special Events Grant from the Downtown Development Authority.



GOODBYES & TRANSITIONS

In the spring of 2023, the Castle Museum said goodbye to our team member, Barry Rindhage. Barry volunteered and worked at the museum in a variety of capacities since 2006. He gave several Lunch and Learn programs over the years as well as spent time working at the reception desk. He will be greatly missed by museum staff and guests alike, but opted to retire. He has plans to work on his book covering Saginaw's theater history, spend more time gardening, and just relax with his dogs.

Another change in staffing this year involved the retirement of long-time Museum custodian Barbara Dewey. Barb decided to retire from her full time position at the Museum and transition into a part-time position at our reception desk which better fits her life and schedule. Deana Coleman took over for Barb as custodian/special arrangements.



SAGINAW COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame had a great 2023. We inducted a new class at our November banquet. The new inductees included the Nouvel girls basketball state champion teams of 2006 and 2008, Don Voorheis, Jason Richardson, Ken Tolfree, Tori Jankoska, Jenny (Rasmussen) Kammer, Alfonso Boone, Larry Graf, and Hugh Bernreuter. The new exhibit was exciting to put together.

This year's exhibits focused on the Class of 2023, county high schools, The Saginaw Old Golds vintage baseball team, world/national champions, and Saginaw County wrestling. The centerpiece of the wrestling exhibit is the plaque given to the winner of the Saginaw County wrestling meet. It had been in use for the past 50 years before being donated to the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame by the Saginaw County Wrestling Association.

This year also saw some new leadership for our organization. The organization is now led by President Jeffrey Cottrell, Vice President Sharon Bade, Secretary Jim Couture, and Treasurer Lori Trumble. Under this new 2023 leadership, the organization updated the mission statement. It went from a long eighty-seven words down to a svelte nine. The Mission Statement now reads: "Honoring excellence

for outstanding athletic contribution to Saginaw County." This reflects more of what the SCSHoF does in regard to inducting deserving people and teams as well as maintaining a museum display within the walls of the Castle Museum.

The Class of 2024 will be announced in April. All date and time information will be available through our online presence. Our 22nd Annual Induction Banquet will be held on Sunday, November 3 at Horizons Conference Center. Lastly, if you or someone you know has any Saginaw County sports pieces, the SCSHoF is always looking for artifact donations and would love to have a conversation about potential donations.



Above: Saginaw County Outstanding Athletes of 2023.
Below: 2023 SCSHoF Board.

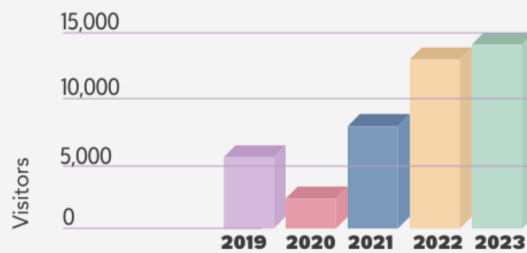


THE STATE OF MUSEUM VISITATION

post COVID-19

According to the American Alliance of Museums, on average 71% of U.S. museum attendance has recovered since the pandemic. We are pleased to share that we not only have recovered from pandemic visitation loss, but we have continued to grow.

Castle Museum Visitation at a Glance



2020

The Castle Museum only operated as normal for 3 months of the year. We pivoted to online educational opportunities, which saw tremendous growth. Due to closure, we saw a huge decline in visitation.

RECOVERY

Despite refraining from our holiday party and in-person annual meeting, 2021 saw a great rebound in visitation. We surpassed pre-pandemic visitation by 530 people! We were happy to have people back in the museum.

GROWTH

By focusing our efforts on welcoming people through expanded county stories, fresh exhibits, and learning opportunities, the Castle Museum has continued to draw new and repeat visitors.

OUTREACH

Through our Time Machine program we visit many places in the county and participate in many events. In 2023 our reach outside of the museum totaled

82,895!

TOTAL SERVED

Advice from the American Alliance of Museum includes offering extended hours (we are open late on Thursdays!) and offering more events (we have programs and special events for all ages!). Our combined museum visitation and outreach numbers jumped over 25,000 people from last year alone to

97,806!

PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

2023 Tours and Programs:

- » Step on tour of Saginaw and Castle Museum for the Great Lakes Bay Regional CVB
- » Tour of museum for Heritage Square Neighborhood Association
- » History of Saginaw's City Flower for the Art and Garden Festival
- » History of Kochville Township for Township
- » Lunchtime Tour of SVRC Marketplace
- » Downtown Saginaw Paving Brick Tour
- » Lunchtime Tour: The Architecture of Wirt Rowland
- » Tour of Nurmi Builders and Adams Boulevard, Companion to tour given by Bay County Historical Society
- » Lead Program about Goodridge Brothers for OLLI Program
- » Leadership Saginaw presentation and tour
- » Presentation at City of Saginaw Beautification Awards
- » Presentation at Historical Society of Michigan, State History Conference
- » Presentation at State Road Commission Conference
- » Tour of Forest Lawn Cemetery for DAR
- » 2 Tours for Brady Hill Cemetery for HSSC Members and public
- » Presentation at History After Hours, The Architecture of Fred Hollister
- » Presentation for Antique Collectors Society
- » You Tube Video with City of Saginaw: Researched and worked with city staff to prepare a video telling the story of why Saginaw has a city flower.
- » Saginaw Youth Ambassadors Program – Tour and History
- » Tours for SVRC clients
- » Presentation at Swan Haven Assisted Living – History of Female Rockers
- » Kraslice Class
- » German Star Class
- » Sing Out Music History Class

Community Involvement:

- » Downtown Saginaw Association
- » International Peace Walk and Expo
- » Ojibway Island Project Community Conversation host site
- » Great Lakes Bay Pride LGBTQIA+ Support Group
- » Staff tour at Nexteer
- » Staff tour at Frankenmuth Historical Museum
- » Staff tour at Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House, & Gardens
- » Partnered with Frankenmuth-Saginaw Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 251
- » Saginaw County Fair
- » Mid Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association's Annual Show and Rural Education Day
- » Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society
- » Saginaw County Agricultural Society
- » Jazz on Jefferson

Interviews and Live Broadcasts:

- » WNEM-Interviews by Jennifer Vannette, Katherine Ellison, Tom Trombley, & Jonathan Webb
- » WSGW-Interviews with Jennifer Vannette and Tom Trombley
- » MLIVE Articles
- » Review Magazine Features
- » Delta Learning Channel – Hidden History Project

Training:

- » Jon Webb and Jennifer Vannette attended the American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.



Tom Trombley as Grand Marshal of the Saginaw Holiday Parade



Jennifer Vannette Promoting Exhibits on WNEM



Partnering with Great Lakes Loons Baseball

VOLUNTEERS

Emma Abedrabo
Kaki Almirall
Rylinne Barker
Monica Brzezinski
Tamara Carter
Deana Coleman
Lillian Cottrell
Sister Kathleen Deibel
Rich DePlonty
Barb Dewey
Jim Doane
Rochelle Dula
Dr. Robert Emrich
Nicole Enderi
Anna Erhardt
Pat Evans
Judge Elian Fichtner
Amy French, Ph.D.
Lisa Furtaw
Nolan Furtaw
Scott Furtaw
Linda Geiersbach
Kathy Gonzales
Tamara Grefe
Joaquin Guerrero
Cheryl Hadsall
Anne M. Hamilton
Kathleen Haucke
Chip Hendrick
Dick Henning
Robert Heyart
Marnie Higgins
Joan Hirschenberger
Marcia Hoffman
Brad Jarvis
Stephanie John
Kennedy Kazmierski
Dan Kenny
Bryan Konieczka
Monte Lawton
Tom Lesh
Myrna Little
Marilyn Ludgin

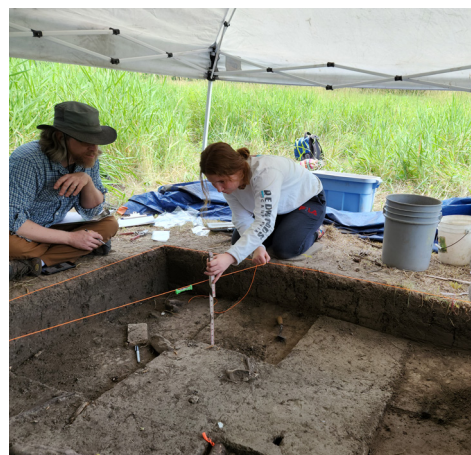
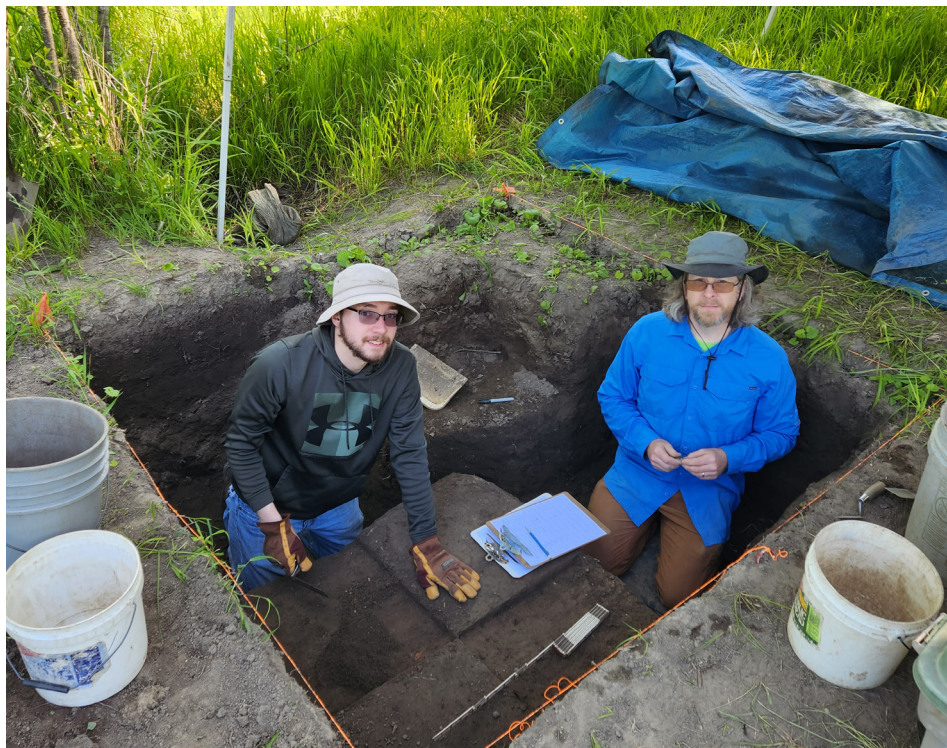
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Maria McCarville
Isabella Miceli
Lauren Mills
Craig Monahan
Debbi Monahan
Samona Perry
Stacy Priem
Thor Rasmussen
Kathy Reis
Barry M. Rindhage
Rick Rios
Larry Rodarte
Jill Rodriguez
Leo Romo
Sharon Rood
Lydia Roope
Janeen Schaeding
Art Schwan
Elaine Schwan
Kim Scofield
Joseph Senk
Claire Sherry
Joseph Stankiewicz
Jill L. Stevens
Tom Stevens
Bonnie Stewart
Kathleen Stuller
Jack Tany
Matthew Taylor
Les Tincknell
Malachi Vanette
Ricardo Verdoni
Nancy Walk
Chris Walker
Pat Washburn
Anne Webb
Pat Weslock
Della Wilder
Marsha Wilhelm
Alex Wood
Shawn Zehnder
Jazz on Jefferson Volunteers

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY INTERN

The Castle Museum has a long-standing relationship with the Museum Studies program at Central Michigan University. Students in that program are required to complete an internship at a museum, or similar institution, where they can get real-world work experience. Several students over the years have chosen the Castle Museum as an ideal location to hone their skills. This year the Museum only had one intern.

The Castle's archaeology program was fortunate to have **Joseph Senk** join the team as an intern in 2023. During his internship, from May through August, Joseph participated in our Tittabawassee Boom Company Boarding House project where he learned archaeological excavation, mapping, and recording techniques, artifact processing, and interpretation. As a bonus, he also got to sharpen his kayaking skills in the daily commute to site!

The internship is now long since completed, and Joseph is now a graduate of CMU, but he continues to contribute to the project as a volunteer in the museum's archaeology lab. Joseph has applied to graduate schools and plans to pursue a career in archaeology. We thank him for his continuing contributions at the Castle Museum and wish him the best of luck in his future career.



125 YEARS OF THE CASTLE BUILDING

In July of 2023 the Castle Building celebrated its 125th birthday. Museum staff took this as an opportunity to offer a birthday party as a fall member-event on the evening of October 5.

The evening included birthday cake (of course!), food, drinks, live music and fun with our Goodridge Brothers selfie station. A good time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to the Castle's 150th in 2048.



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GRANTS, MEMBERSHIP & ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

GRANTS

MACC

Saginaw Arts & Enrichment
Commission

Jazz on Jefferson

Saginaw Celebrates Summer

SUPPORTER LEVELS

BENEFACTOR (\$1,000+)

Jean Grey Trust

Horgan Charitable Trust

PATRON (\$500 - \$999)

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Chapter 251

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James Lewis

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Jack Tany

The Mayan Agency

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Judith Wilson

VISITORS

The museum was honored to serve a total of **97,806** people through a combination of visitors, tours, and off-site events.

Thank you to the Michigan Arts and Cultural Council

The Castle Museum of Saginaw County History has been awarded a grant for operational support totaling \$22,000 from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC). All grants are awarded through the MACC peer review process.

"It is wonderful that Saginaw's very own Castle Museum received another Michigan Arts and Culture Council grant," said **State Rep. Amos O'Neal** (D-Saginaw). "This beautiful and unique museum is a hub of learning; from student field trips to local visitors, it helps shed light on Saginaw's rich and vibrant history. I congratulate the museum on its accomplishments and the invaluable contribution it provides to our community and state."

THANK YOU MEMBERS

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAGINAW COUNTY, INC.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets – Cash Basis

Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

		2023	2022
REVENUE & SUPPORT	Contract Revenue (County Tax Allocation)	\$1,187,818	\$1,076,614
	Society Memberships	\$10,193	\$19,851
	Gifts and Grants	\$46,574	\$79,319
	Admissions and Tours	\$9,918	\$12,972
	Interest	\$53,730	\$2,588
	Museum Store	\$4,136	\$8,195
	Contributions of Nonfinancial Assets-Rent	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Change in Endowment	\$15,300	(\$1,671)
	TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT		\$1,367,669
EXPENSES	Program Services	\$1,016,908	\$1,026,804
	Management & General	\$192,385	\$178,850
	Fundraising	\$379	\$738
	Total Expenses	\$1,209,672	\$1,206,392
	Change in Net Assets	\$157,997	\$31,476
	Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,677,084	\$1,645,608
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR		\$1,835,081	\$1,677,084

*Audited by Yeo & Yeo and adopted by the HSSC Board of Directors on April 17, 2024.

THANK YOU!

