



## Castle Gets its Own App

If you own an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch you can download an app for the Castle Museum. The app name is CastleMus. Best of all? It's free! For more information, visit the Museum website at [castlemuseum.org](http://castlemuseum.org)

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**CASTLE COURIER**  
Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County  
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# UNDER THE **BIG** TOP

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls:* What you are about to see on Friday, August 5th will amaze and astound you, as the Castle Museum is proud to announce the opening of *Under the Big Top*, an exhibit featuring 1,200 hand-carved miniatures that portray the life and times of the circus. In addition, the Museum will tell the story of several of Saginaw's most famous circus families, such as the Flying Melzoras. Bring the entire family to see this delightful exhibit, which will be on display until October 30th.

**On Sunday, August 28th, stop by the Castle Museum for our stupendous Circus Extravaganza!**

**Games, entertainment and treats - fun for the entire family. The event will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is free with Museum admission.**



## Public Invited to Watch Archaeology Team in Action

In the fall of 2010, the Castle Museum's archaeology team discovered what appears to be the remains of a home that was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1893. The fire, which began on Ojibway Island, spread to the east bank of the river and destroyed more than 257 buildings.

Beginning Tuesday, August 23rd, Museum Archaeologist Jeff Sommer will continue digging at the site of the home, which is located at the corner of Holden and Jefferson near St. Mary's of Michigan. Jeff will be at the site on Tuesdays and Thursdays - weather permitting - for the remainder of August and throughout September.

The general public is invited to stop by and watch Jeff and archaeology volunteers as they hope to find more artifacts from this historic fire. Jeff will be available to answer questions at the site from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## AUGUST CALENDAR

- Tues., August 2:** **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *African American Women: Fashion, Hats and Faith* featuring Saginaw Township Hat Maker Yvonne Ellison. Free with Museum admission. Reservations are required. Please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Thurs. August 4:** **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Soul Food from the Soul Presented by Dorothy's Diner and Catering.* Free with Museum admission. Reservations are required. Please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Tues., August 9:** **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Talking Sticks: What They Are, What They mean and How to Make Your Own.* Dessert & beverage will be provided. Free with Museum admission. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**
- Thurs., August 11:** **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *The Red Road Singers.* Native American drumming. Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**
- Tues., August 16:** **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *The History of Saginaw's Japanese Tea House. Help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the tea house.* Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**
- Pages of History Book Club.** The group will discuss "Bold Women in Michigan History" by Virginia Law Burns. This event is co-sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **11:00 a.m.**
- Thurs., August 18:** **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Learn How to Make Origami.* Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**
- Gallery Tour:** Saginaw's Back Yard Oil Boom. See story on page two. **1:30 p.m.**
- Friday, August 19:** **Automotive History Tour:** Come learn about Saginaw's contribution to the automotive industry. This informal tour will explore Saginaw's development as an automotive manufacturing center and will provide a unique opportunity to explore the Museum after hours. Pre-registration is required. Limited to 10 people. Please call Tom Trombley at 752-2861, Ext. 304. Free for members and their guest. \$5.00 per person for non members. **5:15 p.m.**
- Tues., August 23:** **NO LUNCH AND LEARN**
- Sun., August 28:** **CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA PARTY at the CASTLE MUSEUM. Games, Entertainment and Treats. Free with Museum Admission. 1-3 p.m.**
- Tues., August 30:** **Lunch and Learn:** *My Life as a Circus Performer...Was Very Short.* While Saginaw Township resident Ricardo Verdoni did not stay in the circus business for very long, his family has been performing for more than 100 years. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**

### Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### General Admission

Adults \$1.00  
Children .50¢  
Members FREE

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.

# Castle Museum Welcomes College Students For Summer Internships

Many new faces could be found roaming the halls of the Castle Museum this summer as college students from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana either completed internships at the Museum or volunteered for a variety of tasks.

● Ashley Johnson, pictured at right, developed an exhibit on Saginaw's backyard oil boom, which occurred during the 1920s. Ashley is a student at Saginaw Valley State University.

● Heather deBari is a senior at Albion College where she studies History and Anthropology. Her concentration is in the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service. This summer, Heather completed her Ford Internship at the Castle where she has been hard at work cataloguing the Franz and Spence architectural drawings.

● Jennifer Wilson spent her summer internship cataloguing the Museum's vast collection of framed objects. Jennifer, who is attending Central Michigan University, photographed and entered more than 400 items into the Museum's computer system.

● Rebecca Roper, a history major at the College of Wooster, is working on cataloguing the Hansen Snyder collection of architectural drawings.



College students Eilis and Kieran Wasserman have volunteered at the Museum by conducting research on Saginaw's involvement in the coal mining industry while SVSU student Chiara Genovese, pictured at left, has assisted with *History on the Move*, and preparing crafts for school children touring the Museum. She also is training to be a docent.

Deputy Director Tom Trombley has worked closely with many of the students and says their efforts have been a tremendous help to the Museum as it strives to catalog all of its artifacts on the Museum's computer system.

"These projects give the students real-life exposure to working in a Museum while also helping us make our collection more accessible," says Tom. "We hope to see more students working at the Museum in the future."

**Saginaw's history in oil exploration is the focus of a gallery tour set for Thursday, August 18th at 1:30 p.m. The talk will take place near the exhibit, Saginaw's Backyard Oil Boom, and will be led by SVSU student Ashley Johnson who created the exhibit during a summer internship. The event is free with paid admission to the Museum.**

## Memorials

A Memorial Gift to the Castle Museum Endowment Fund has been made by *David and Jackie Hall* in memory of **Henry Marsh**

## The Artifact

Autographed Roosevelt Poster

A rare autographed poster in the Museum's collection directly connects Saginaw to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's victory over Herbert Hoover to become the 32nd President in 1932. Roosevelt presented some of the delegates to the 1932 Democratic National Convention with portrait sketches as a "thank you" for their efforts and continued support. One of those recipients was a delegate from Saginaw, Miss Evelyn S. Mershon, who had met the future President during the 1928 Democratic National Convention.

Evelyn Mershon was born in Saginaw on July 21, 1870 to John Henry Mershon and Sarah Elvira Dolbeer. Evelyn graduated from Saginaw High School in 1888 and went on to become a tireless activist for the woman's suffrage movement and the Democratic Party. She served as a member of the Democratic National Committee for eight years and was fondly known as "Miss Ev" to Democratic leaders throughout the country. In addition, Miss Ev was appointed Michigan's welfare director and the state's librarian in the early 1930s. Miss Mershon died on April 17th, 1960 at the age of 89.

This poster is one of several hundred framed objects catalogued by Jennifer Wilson during her museum internship. It will be on display for two weeks beginning Tuesday, August 16th.



## Culture Celebrations Coming to a Close

Don't be sad if you missed this year's Ice Cream Social as part of the Museum's summer long Cultural Celebrations. We still have six more events scheduled for August. Check out the calendar on the back of this newsletter and call today to make your reservation. You don't want to miss these entertaining programs! On tap for this month is African American, Native American and Japanese cultures.

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