

# The Artifact

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Saginaw's Goodridge brothers were masters at taking stereoviews and captured East Saginaw with precision and artistry. Taken from atop the roof of the Bancroft House, shortly after a disastrous May 26, 1873 fire that destroyed the Jackson Hall Building and other structures in the 100 block of South Washington Avenue, this view captures the growing community and its landmarks. Visible in the center, with a tiered tower, is the Valley City fire station located on Cass and Germania [Baum and Federal].

At the Society's Annual Meeting, we will have a stereoscope with a copy of this image and you will have a chance to experience East Saginaw in 1873 – in 3D.

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Saginaw, MI

JANUARY 2012

# CASTLE COURIER

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County  
500 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
(989) 752-2861



www.castlemuseum.org

## Hill House Q & A by Ken Santa Castle Museum President & CEO

### What is Hill House and why is it important?

Hill House, a Queen Anne style home located at 523 South Jefferson in Saginaw, is one of the last of Saginaw's great wood frame lumbering mansions. It was built for Clarence and Susie R. Hill...hence the name Hill House. The home is a testament to the major role that the lumbering industry played in Saginaw's development. Historically, it is very significant.



### Does the Historical Society of Saginaw County now own Hill House?

Yes. On December 12, the deed to Hill House was handed over to the Historical Society from Neighborhood Renewal Services. The deed now belongs to the Historical Society for which it paid the symbolic sum of \$1.00.

**Why did the Historical Society agree to take the deed?** The Historical Society agreed to become the deed holder in order to keep the home from being demolished while a totally separate group, the Friends of Hill House, conducts a fundraising campaign to restore the home and to establish an endowment to ensure its future upkeep.



### Will Historical Society funds be used in this endeavor?

No, absolutely no Historical Society or Castle Museum funds will be used in regard to Hill House. When Neighborhood Renewal Services turned over the deed to the Historical Society, it also contributed \$10,000 which is restricted to the care and stabilization of the home until the money is raised to begin restoration.

### How can I become involved in the effort to save and restore Hill House?

Just call us here at the Castle Museum, 752-2861, ext. 301. We will put you in touch with Friends of Hill House and they will be glad to accept your help.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, Jan. 3:** **NO LUNCH AND LEARN**
- Thursday, Jan. 5:** **MEETING:** Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society. **7:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 10:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** *The History of Rock and Roll in Saginaw.* Speaker Bo White will give a 90-minute multi-media presentation that includes photos, videos and audio. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Saturday, Jan. 14:** **PALEO JOE AT THE CASTLE MUSEUM!** *Dinosaur Bone Cleaning Demonstrations.* **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 17:** **PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB:** The group will discuss "The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry" by Don Farber. This event is co-sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 24:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** *Dinosaur Day with Paleo Joe.* Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**  
**PALEO JOE AT THE CASTLE MUSEUM!** *Dinosaur Bone Cleaning Demonstrations.* **10 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, Jan. 28:** **Annual Meeting (See Details on Page 2)**
- Tuesday, Jan. 31:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** *The History of the U.S. Census, Redistricting and Politics.* Speaker Jim Lewis will take us through the U.S. Census and its impact on elections in our community. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**

<b>Museum Hours</b>	<b>General Admission</b>	
Tuesday - Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Adults \$1.00
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	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.

## Memorials/Gifts

A Memorial Gift to the Castle Museum has been made by the following people in memory of **John Bueker**

Marilyn Dust  
Sharon & Larry Rood  
Doris Kennard  
Judy Yeo  
Ken & Jackie Willman  
Bob & Jean Richardson  
Dave Bueker  
Tom & Becky Hoff  
Irene Bronner  
Dr. & Mrs. Galileo Sarmiento  
John Cammin  
Harold Hare  
Bob & Tish Stroebel  
Carol Stanley  
Gerald & Janice Langley  
Margaret Balesky

A Gift to the Castle Museum has been made by **Ken & Jackie Willman** in honor of **Dick & Judy Henning**

## Historical Society's Annual Meeting January 28, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Saginaw County is set for **Noon on Saturday, January 28, 2012**. All members are encouraged to attend. **A reservation form is on the bottom of this page.**

In addition to a great lunch, guests will receive an annual report and find out about all the exciting things that took place in 2011. We had another outstanding year in large part due to the support of our members.

Also on the agenda is re-election of five people to the Board of Directors. Seeking election are: Robert Stroebel, Gerald Enszer, Fred L. Borchard, Larry Rodarte, and Robert Thaler.

Please mail your reservation form and payment by Friday, January 20. We hope to see you there!

### Would you like to receive the Courier by email?

**It's easy and it saves the Museum printing costs. Just call Marketing Coordinator Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315 and she will put you on the Courier email list. You will get it delivered each month, as always, but you will find it in your inbox instead of your mailbox!**

## The Artifact

## East Saginaw Looking South From the Bancroft



Study these almost identical double images carefully. Are you able to identify the difference? They were created to be used with a stereoscope, a special optical device perfected in the mid-19th century. This device allows viewers to take advantage of an optical illusion and see two almost identical images as one three-dimensional scene.  
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## Castle Museum Hits Record Attendance

When the Castle Museum reached its highest attendance ever in 2010 with more than 16,000 people having visited that year, there was a little bit of trepidation that we could repeat that number again in 2011. But, never afraid of a good challenge, the Museum and its staff set a goal of 17,000 for 2011. We worked hard to create engaging exhibits, plan interesting programs and offer unique educational opportunities for our school children.

By early December we had reached our goal - three weeks ahead of schedule! We will close out the year with more than 1,000 visitors than last year.

Other exciting news is that our membership is at an all-time high. We are very grateful to our members and their support. Without it, we would not enjoy the success that we do. The Castle Museum is fortunate to have the backing of Saginaw County residents. We take that very seriously and want to offer all of the people in Saginaw County a wonderful cultural experience every time they visit the Museum.

Thank you for helping us to make 2011 a great year. We don't know if we can beat those numbers in 2012, but with your help, we're sure going to try!



**An example of a great event for the community: Youngsters flocked to the Castle in early December to see Ronald McDonald.**

## ANNUAL MEETING RSVP FORM

Please respond by Friday, January 20, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 per person)

Make check payable to HSSC. Mail check and this form to:

Castle Museum, 500 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607

For more information, contact Sherri Greene at 752-2861, Ext. 303

### HSSC Board of Directors & Staff

Chairperson  
Vice Chairperson  
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Secretary  
Executive Committee

David M. Hall  
Michael Emmenecker  
Sarah Jury  
William Crane  
Robert Stroebel  
Ken Willman

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Gerald Enszer  
Larry Rodarte  
Robert Thaler  
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