



### Castle-Cam (continued from Page One)

This exciting technology will allow students to learn about the Museum and its artifacts and exhibits. Students can even ask questions during the program.

"The acquisition of this videoconferencing equipment takes the Castle Museum to the next level," says Executive Director Ken Santa. "It makes us more interactive and enables us to reach more students than ever before."

With this equipment, the Museum also can connect with speakers from other parts of the country, such as curators from Museums from which we have traveling exhibitions.

The possibilities are endless and the Museum is excited to offer another way to bring the Castle to the people of Saginaw County.

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JANUARY 2011

# CASTLE COURIER

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County

500 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
(989) 752-2861

www.castlemuseum.org



## "Castle-Cam" Opens Museum to the World

Students in Saginaw County can now visit the Castle Museum without ever having to leave their classrooms.

The Museum has acquired videoconferencing equipment similar to what is owned by school districts, governments, and other museums throughout the world, however very few museums in Michigan have it.

It's called "distance learning" and it uses the Internet to deliver virtual field trips and instructional events, such as the Museum's Lunch and Learn series.

Castle-Cam (continued on Back Page)



## Hundreds Pay Tribute to Judge William Crane

More than 600 people stopped by the Castle Museum on December 19th for a fantastic "Farewell to the Judgeship" party. Great food and great music were enjoyed by all. Pictured below, Judge Crane's long-time mentor, Dr. James Chandler, gives a poignant speech about his colleague.



## All Invited to Annual Meeting

2010 was an incredible year for the Castle Museum and the Historical Society of Saginaw County. In August, Saginaw County voters passed a millage to secure funding for the Museum for the next 10 years.

The Museum also reached its highest attendance ever - with more than 15,500 people visiting the Castle in 2010. We have much to celebrate and we hope you will join in on the festivities at the historical society's annual meeting on **Saturday, January 29th at 12:00 Noon** at the Castle. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person.

A reservation form can be found inside this issue of the Courier. It is important to make your reservation by Friday, January 21st to assist us in planning the event.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, Jan. 4:** **Lunch and Learn:** *Selections from the Saginaw Hall of Fame.* Museum staff will share the stories of some of Saginaw's most famous citizens. Dessert and beverage provided. **12:00 Noon.**
- Thursday, Jan. 6:** **Michigan Archaeological Society - Saginaw Valley Chapter meeting.** Morley Room. **7:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 11:** **Lunch and Learn:** *Protecting our Heritage: Historic Preservation in Michigan.* Brenna Moloney, a Preservation Specialist from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, is our featured speaker. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **12:00 Noon.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 18:** **Pages of History Book Club:** "Beyond Hope? One Cop's Fight for Survival in a Dying City" by Michael East. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. Co-Sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. **12:00 Noon.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 25:** **Lunch and Learn:** *Piano Manufacturing in Saginaw County.* Deputy Director Tom Trombley will take us on a gallery tour of the Museum's newest exhibit featuring historic pianos built in Saginaw County. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **12:00 Noon.**
- Saturday, Jan. 29:** **Annual Meeting - Historical Society of Saginaw County.** All HSSC members are invited. \$10 per person, which includes lunch. Meeting to be held in Centennial Hall. Reservations are required. See related story on Page One. **12:00 Noon.**

Have your renewed your  
Historical Society membership?

### 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 serve 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.

# Polar Express at the Castle Museum



Dozens of children were enthralled this holiday season with Museum Volunteer Bill Falkenberg's stunning replica of The Polar Express. Bill spent countless hours creating the train and the attention to detail is amazing. The Museum hosted five Polar Express pajama parties in December where youngsters listened to the story "The Polar Express" while enjoying cookies and milk. They all had a great time watching Bill's trains. Thank you Bill, for creating this magical memory at the Castle! More than 4,000 people visited the model railroad exhibit this year - a new record .

## castle connections Tom Trombley

Trying to get Tom Trombley to talk about himself can be difficult, but ask him a question or two about local history and he is happy to share his passion with anyone who will listen.

It is evident that Tom has found his niche as Deputy Director of the Castle Museum. After working for the Museum in the 1980s, Tom left to become a construction specialist for Neighborhood Renewal Services. He came back to the Museum one year ago to take on his current role.

Tom's family history in Saginaw County dates back to the 1870s. It was growing up listening to his grandparents' stories about farming and working in lumber camps that helped Tom to fall in love with his community.

"We are about things here at the Museum, but what it's really about are the stories that connect people to a place," Tom says. "I find it fascinating to learn about where people live and what they do, from random chances to deliberate choices which led us to where we are today."

Sometimes, Tom notes, people forget how meaningful it is to look back at the forces that shaped what our community is today.

"Why streets and buildings are where they are and what happened to them is important to understand," he adds.

When Tom isn't working on the Museum's collection of artifacts, whether through preservation or exhibitions, he also coordinates the volunteer program and spends much of his time sharing his knowledge of local history with area schools and other organizations.

In his spare time, of which he has little, Tom enjoys running, reading and historic preservation on his home and homes of friends.



## The Artifact

Published by the Calvert Lithography Company of Detroit, this circa 1889 advertising poster for Edward Germain's company documents the firm's history and provides unique connections to Saginaw's heritage, as well as ties to exhibits at the Castle.

The factory depicted in the image was destroyed on May 20, 1893, the day of the Great Saginaw Fire. It was located near East Genesee between Remington and Holland, about a mile from the main fire.

The destruction of this complex would prove to be the largest single loss from fire on that day. The newspaper records that "Mr. Germain's loss is \$325,000, with only \$81,000 insurance on the building." The paper also records that Mr. Germain ignored his own losses and put his energy into making provisions to house children from St. Vincent's Orphanage, also destroyed in the fire.

Mr. Germain would almost immediately rebuild the plant. In 1896 he expanded his operation to include the production of pianos. **Four of these pianos will be featured in the Castle's exhibit chronicling Saginaw's piano manufacturing companies.**



The poster was donated by Dr. Camille McKinley. It will be on display in the piano exhibit, which opens January 15, 2011.

## ANNUAL MEETING RSVP FORM

Please respond by Friday, January 21, 2011

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

Seeking election to the Historical Society of Saginaw County's Board of Directors are:  
Margaret E. Clark, David M. Hall, Sarah Jury, Jonathan Webb and Gerry Enszer

*The By-Laws of the Historical Society of Saginaw County state, in ARTICLE IV, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 4.3 that: A member can submit at-large nominations to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Saginaw County at least seven (7) days prior to the annual meeting. Such nomination shall be in writing by the member offering the nomination and shall contain the support of two additional members of the Corporation. The submitted nomination shall be signed by the nominee and shall acknowledge his or her willingness to quality and serve as a Director.*

### Proposed Changes to the By-Laws of the Historical Society of Saginaw County, Inc.:

#### ARTICLE IV:

4.1c The Directors have the duty to employ a President for the operation of the Historical Society of Saginaw. This election requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

4.4c. Special Meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President or the Chairman of the Board of Directors at the written request of five (5) Directors...

#### ARTICLE V:

5.1.a The Principle Officers of the Corporation shall be Chairman of the Board, Vice-Chairman of the Board, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers must be Directors. The Board from time to time may appoint such additional Officers as it deems appropriate.

5.4 Chairman of the Board: The Chairman of the Board shall be the official spokesperson for the Board unless that duty is delegated to another Board member.

5.5 Vice-Chairman of the Board: The Vice-Chairman of the Board shall, in the absence of the President...

#### ARTICLE VI:

6.1 President: The Board may hire a President as may be required for the performance of its purposes, and who shall be an at-will employee. The President shall be an exofficio non-voting member of the Board, the Executive Committee, all Corporation Committees and Associate Organizations. The President shall be governed by these By-Laws.

6.2 a. It shall be the responsibility of the President...

6.2.d Change Executive Director to President.

### HSSC Board of Directors & Staff

President	David Hall	<i>Directors-At-Large</i>	
Vice President	Michael Emmenecker	Raymond F. Bartels	Fred L. Borchard
Treasurer	Sarah Jury	Morrall Claramunt	Margaret Clark
Secretary	William Crane	Anne Marks-Gaertner	Larry Rodarte
Executive Committee	Robert Stroebel	William Scharffe	Robert Thaler
	Ken Willman	Larry Toft	

*Staff:* Ken Santa, Tom Trombley, Sherri Greene, Sandy Schwan, Jeff Cottrell, Geoff Pelkey, Jeff Sommer, Ruth Mancina, Barb Dewey, Dick Henning, Herman Rindhage, and Morgan Robinson