

March/April 2024



CASTLE COURIER

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The Artifact

One Photograph and Two Stories

"[Louisa Yeoman] King believed in gardening as a force for democracy, a means of bringing people together, and, moreover, as a way for women to establish themselves professionally. An ardent suffragist, she was active in the Michigan campaign for women's suffrage, and continued her efforts for the advancement of women throughout her career. She helped found the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association in 1914 . . ."

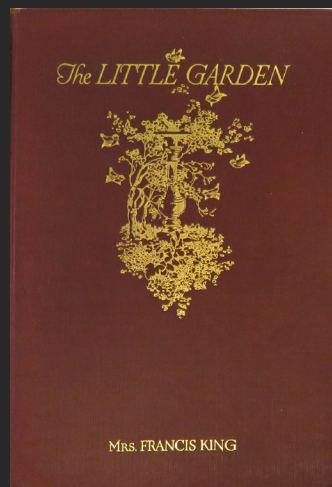
-Virginia Lopez Begg, "King, Louisa Yeomans (Mrs. Francis King)," *Pioneers of Landscape Design*.

An album of photographs in the museum's collection uniquely documents Saginaw gardening history. Taken by Florence Walz, the images illustrated an April 4, 1921, public presentation given by members of the Garden Department of the Saginaw Woman's Club. Providing a rare glimpse into now vanished landscapes, the collection is featured in an online exhibit on the museum's website.* However, there is another chapter in the life of these photographs.

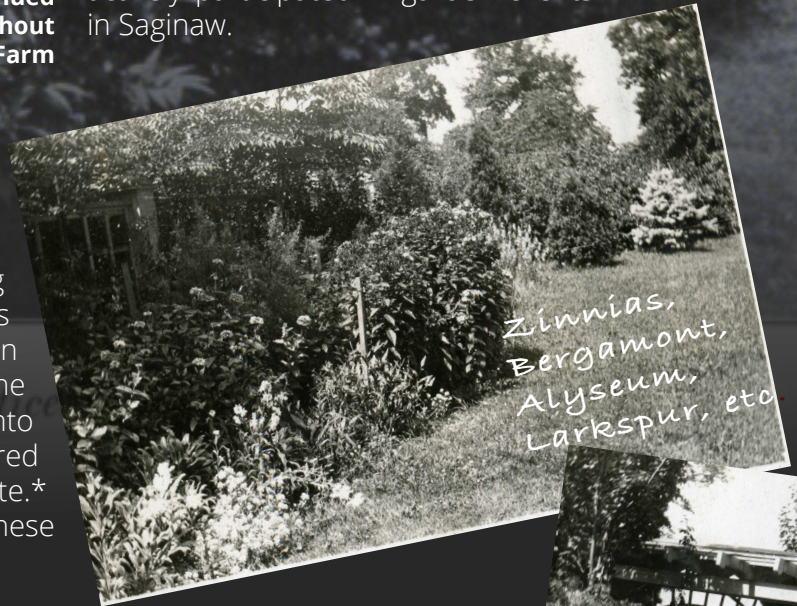
Recently, while preparing a presentation about Louisa Yeoman King and her connections to Saginaw for the Saginaw Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, we discovered this article:

"The other is a smaller book, to be called 'The Little Garden.' It will contain advice on the planning and planting of the small lot and garden. It is illustrated, not only by flower groupings from Mrs. King's Alma gardens, but also with views of flower gardens in Saginaw. 'The Little Garden,' will be issued in June." *The Saginaw News Courier*, May 1, 1921.

King was an important figure in American landscape history – an accomplished - and highly regarded - author, lecturer, advocate and much more. During the first decades of the twentieth century, her home was in Alma, Michigan. Both she and her husband, Francis King, had numerous connections and friendships with

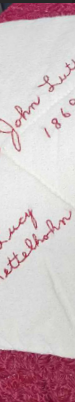


residents in Saginaw. She frequently made social calls to Saginaw, entertained at the Saginaw Country Club. She gave numerous lectures on gardening and actively participated in garden events in Saginaw.



"When Mrs. King was preparing the manuscript for 'The Little Garden,' she communicated with several members of the garden department of the Saginaw Woman's Club relative to views on local gardens and pictures taken by Miss Florece Walz were used. . ." (*The Saginaw News Courier*, September 18, 1921.) At least four of the book's illustrations are photographs from the Woman's Club Lecture. Also, the book's frontispiece is a photograph of four-year old Ann Mary Farmer in her mother's garden on Sheridan Avenue.

Although these illustrations are the most visible documentation of her Saginaw connections found in her work, she cited our community in her other pieces as well. In an article about peonies, she was quoted as saying about Saginaw:



"'Peony Growing' Mrs. King says, 'seems to have taken such hold in the city that a drive into, or out of, or through it in June, is becoming a thing to look forward to.'"

"A Fine Garden of Peonies in Michigan," *Bulletin of Peony News*, May 1919.



To view the online exhibit of the Saginaw Woman's Club Garden Department Photograph Album-- scan below:



By Hand: Textiles from the Collection

The Castle Museum has an extensive collection of textiles. Everything from quilts to wedding dresses have been collected and carefully preserved in controlled conditions, but the public rarely receives an opportunity to view these items--*until now*.

Beginning on March 1, the museum's West Gallery will be transformed into *By Hand: Textiles from the Collection* an exhibit featuring some of the finest tatted, crocheted, embroidered and quilted items in the collection along with details about their history.

Museum volunteer, Kathleen Deibold, has been working with the textile collection and curating this exhibit with Chief Curator Sandy Schwan. Deibold, "loves historical fashion" and is saddened by the fact that the techniques used on these textiles are a "lost art."

"These textiles represent art for every day objects," said Schwan, whether it is the tating added to a baby blanket or the careful alignment of buttons and snaps. It was done for a purpose and a customized look. The exhibit will run through the end of July.



EVENTS

AT THE CASTLE

March & April 2024

MARCH 7

MUSEUM MINGLE

5-7 PM

MARCH 12

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Red's Shadow-Watch the Saginaw-made film and then participate in a Q&A with the filmmakers

**Event will be 1.5 hours long*

MARCH 13

MIDWEEK MATINEE

1 PM-2 PM

Tracks Through Time: Michigan Railroads,
Delta Public Media

MARCH 14

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM

Sports Hall of Fame

MARCH 19

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM

Blood and Fire by Brian Solomon

MARCH 21

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"Misbehaving Women: Civil and Uncivil Reactions to Sexism" with Dr. Amy French

MARCH 26

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Tom Mudd, Saginaw Sign Park

MARCH 27

HANDS ON HISTORY

11 AM-1 PM

Fur Trading

MARCH 28

STEM Springcation Day

11 AM-1 PM

Various STEM Activities

APRIL 4

MUSEUM MINGLE

5-7 PM

APRIL 6

HANDS ON HISTORY

11 AM-1 PM

Antique Sports Equipment

APRIL 9

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Chief Historian Tom Trombley, "Cultivating Saginaw Connections: Garden Author Louisa Yeomans King & Her Saginaw Friendships"

APRIL 10

MIDWEEK MATINEE

1 PM-2:30 PM

Settling In: Immigrants & Cultures That Built Mid Michigan, Delta Public Media

APRIL 16

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM

Michigan Curiosities by Colleen Burcar

APRIL 18

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM

Send a Hug to Someone-Post Office History

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"Shaping their Community: Black Americans in East Saginaw" with Dr. Jennifer Vannette

APRIL 20

ANNUAL HSSC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

11 AM-2 PM

APRIL 23

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Christine Eckerle, "The Rear Range Lighthouse"

**In collaboration with Hoyt Library*

PROGRAMS

ANNUAL MEETING

All Historical Society of Saginaw County
Members
are invited to the

ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, April 20, 2024
11 a.m.

Business Meeting followed by Hors d'oeuvres

The cost is \$5.00 per person, which can be paid in advance or at the meeting. **Registration is required.** Please **register by April 12, 2024** to allow for accurate planning.

Registration Options:

- Mail:** Mail payment and attendee names to 500 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607
- Email:** Email attendee names and anticipated payment method to azehnder@castlemuseum.org
- Phone:** Contact Ashley Zehnder at 989-752-2861 ext 303

March 12, 2024
12-1:30 p.m.

Join us for an extended version of our Lunch & Learn series featuring an opportunity to watch the Saginaw-made film, *Red's Shadow*, which includes scenes filmed inside the Castle Museum building.

Guests are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy a chance to view *Red's Shadow* (2022) in full (1 hour, 13 minutes) and then enjoy a question and answer period with the filmmakers, including Director Taylor Gradowski, cast member Joaquin Guerrero, and others.

About the Film: "Rebecca 'Red' Redding is all grown up and about to embark on a new journey in life after college with the love of her life and a new career. One day, after visiting her deceased grandmother's house, prior to an estate sale, her unknown past begins to haunt her. Strange occurrences and an overwhelming curiosity press Red to face her past and unlock the mysteries of a hopeful future for her, the town and those she loves." (IMDb)

FREE.

RED'S SHADOW L&L

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame



The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame is continuing its busy schedule. With 2024 ballots going out on Valentine's Day, the next class of inductees will be chosen soon. Don't worry, there is still time to join and make your voice heard! Visit SaginawCountySports.org to join as a Lifetime Voting Member for just \$50.

The Class of 2024 will be announced at our event on Thursday, April 25, at the Castle Museum. This exciting event begins with a social hour at 5pm followed by the announcement beginning at 6 p.m. Come join us to see who has been elected!

Don't forget that we are always looking for donations of Saginaw County sports memorabilia including programs, jerseys and other related pieces. For questions about donations or Sports Hall of Fame events, please contact Jeffrey Cottrell at (989) 752-2861 ext. 302 or jcottrell@castlemuseum.org.

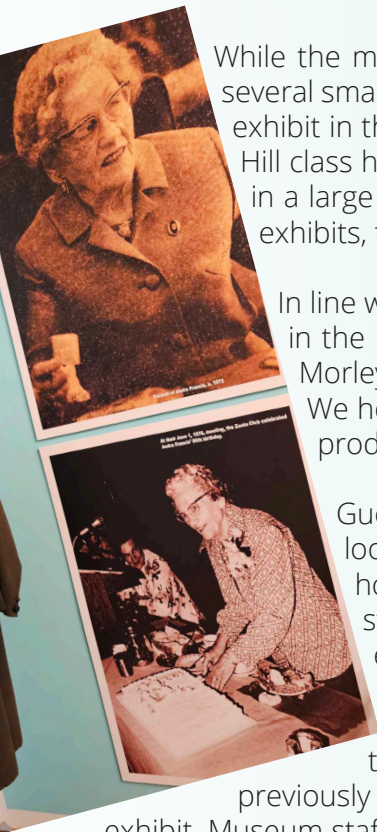


What's New: Smaller Exhibits & Fresh Spaces

While the museum has recently changed over Centennial Hall to the Souvenir of Saginaw exhibit, several smaller exhibits have also been updated in the past few weeks, including a new Audra Francis exhibit in the Alcoves, taking the place of the Friday Night Live display, the placement of the Arthur Hill class horn in the lobby case where the Loving Cup once stood, and a Hoyt Park skating exhibit in a large lobby case in place of the Rookie K9 display. With consistent updating of these smaller exhibits, the Castle Museum continues to keep things fresh and interesting for regular guests.

In line with keeping things fresh, there have also been some building updates as well. The floors in the Morley Room, used daily for events and groups, have been refinished. Just outside the Morley Room, one will also find a new look to our giftshop, now branded the "#SwagShop." We hope to continue to promote the museum and its mission with updated merchandise and products throughout the year.

Guests will also find a new look to the West Gallery, housing the *By Hand* exhibit starting on March 1. Between exhibits, this gallery was fully rehabbed, along with the adjoining hallway to Centennial Hall, which previously held the transportation exhibit. Museum staff is excited to make this area more accessible for our guests with mobility concerns and revamp a dated exhibit with a new look.



Left: Audra Francis exhibit.
Above: Arthur Hill class horn.

Gifts & Memorials

Memorials in honor of Ken Willman

Sharon & John Wahl

Margaret Luczak

Saginaw Valley Antique Society





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CastleMuseum.org
@TheCastleMuseum



Non-Profit
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Permit No. 52
Saginaw, MI

Kraslice Workshops

March 18-21, 2024

Kraslice, which means beautiful or embellished egg, is the Czech folk style of egg decorating. This technique of using wax and dyes to create the designs has been around for hundreds of years and is still to this day a cherished tradition in the Czech Republic. Once again this year, we are hosting a series of Kraslice Workshops. Now is the time to register!

You can come and learn this special technique at one of the following workshops:

March 18-21 at 11 a.m.

March 21 at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$5/person

Seating is limited and RSVP is required.

For more information or to register, please contact:

Sandy at (989) 752-2861 ext. 309 or

sschwan@castlemuseum.org



The Castle Museum is supported in part by awards from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council & the National Endowment for the Arts.