

MAR/APR 2023



CASTLE COURIER



American Farmer | Music History Class | Kraslice Workshops

The Artifact

A MAP TO SAGINAW COUNTY HISTORY

You may have pondered: How many acres of wheat were in the ground in Saginaw County in May 1874? Or how many horses one year or older were owned by Kochville Township residents in 1877?

Thanks to this issue's artifact, we can answer these specific questions and many more.

Published in 1877, *F.W. Beers Atlas of Saginaw Co. Michigan* is certainly not rare. The museum's collection contains more than one copy. It was reprinted by the Saginaw Genealogical in a volume that includes two later Saginaw County atlases. Also, it is available online.

It is also certainly not unique. In the decades following the Civil War, the demand for county atlases boomed. Popular throughout the nation, atlases consisting of township maps detailing property ownership, statistics and images were printed for almost every county in Michigan – for some counties several were created.

The publisher of the *Saginaw County Atlas*, Frederick W. Beers:

was a prominent atlas and map publisher from the Beers family of cartographers. In 1870, Frederick joined James Botsford Beers in founding J.B. Beers & Company, in New York, the Beers family and collaborators produced atlases of more than 80 counties in 10 states, as well as city atlases, separately issued maps and county histories. F.W. Beers lived in Brooklyn, where he was also employed as head of the map division in the Brooklyn Office of Public Records for 35 years. His long career continued until his retirement at the age of 90.¹

Although the 1877 atlas may be readily available, the portrait it preserves of Saginaw County is unique and intimate. Its plat maps document Saginaw County's

post-Civil War population boom and settlement patterns. However, it is far more than a cartographic and statistical volume. Illustrations of individual farms, almost certainly were included based on the owner paying a fee, reflecting pride of ownership and more than a little vanity. (An image of one fairly modest farmhouse, includes a front lawn croquet game.)

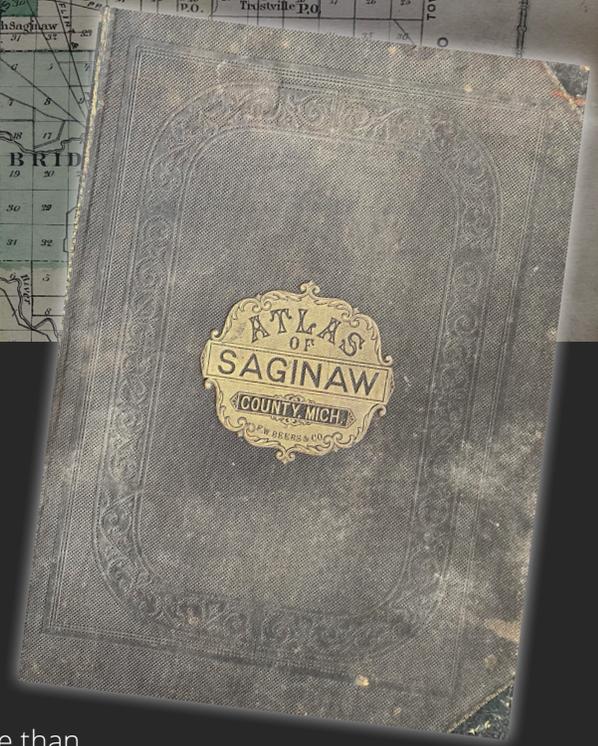
Although it is an amazing research resource, it is also a celebration of Saginaw County's agricultural heritage, and, a perfect introduction to our upcoming exhibits focusing on the continuing story of farming in our community.

The answers to the questions you may have pondered:

How many acres of wheat were in the ground in Saginaw County in May 1874? **7,070 acres**

How many horses one year or older were owned by Kochville Township residents in 1877? **406 horses**

Link to *F.W. Beers Atlas of Saginaw Co. Michigan*



1. Schlesselman, Julie. "Beers the Cartographer." August 20, 2020. Accessed February 1, 2023. <https://whitewaterpub.com/Content/Default/History/Article/Beers-the-Cartographer/-3/75/23563>

AMERICAN FARMER

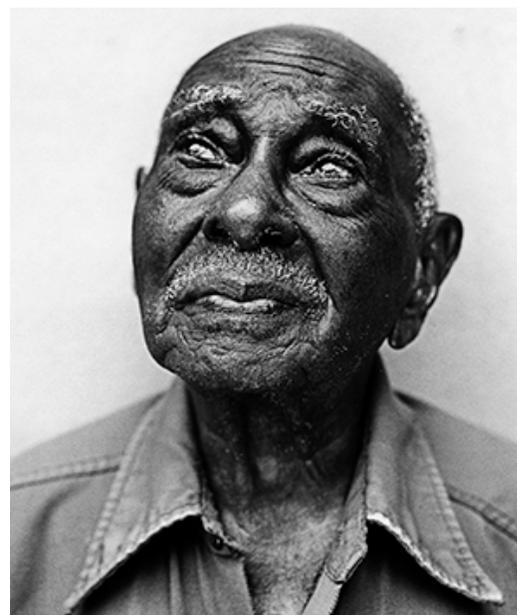
"American Farmer celebrates the living spirit of our heartland through the faces and voices of the people who keep it alive. Featuring forty-five full-color and black-and-white portraits and interviews with farmers across the United States—from cattle ranchers to strawberry growers— American Farmer tells the honest and inspiring stories of the true stewards of our land."

-ExhibitsUSA

The Castle Museum is excited to host a new traveling exhibition in Centennial Hall during the months of April and May. This exhibit, *American Farmer*, features the work of American photographer, Paul Mobley. Mobley's exploits took him across the country to "capture the soul of our country's farm communities." He focused on the risk and independence that can be associated with agricultural ventures.

Mobley's images show farmers "with a strong sense of where they belong in the universe, a close connection to the land and their day-to-day work as it affects the rest of the world." They are striking, beautiful and unforgettable.

Mobley's 200-some portraits have been distilled down in *American Farmer* to forty-five enigmatic inkjet prints showing diversity in farming, both geographically and culturally. The images are accompanied by the farmers' anecdotes and memories of this life that once defined American national identity.



Despite its necessity, farming is a dying skill.

The images reflect a simpler, yet decent world, that many of us have forgotten about. For Mobley's work, originally published in his book, *American Farmer: Portraits from the Heartland* (2008), he has won awards and accolades.

This exhibit was brought to the Castle Museum by ExhibitsUSA. After *American Farmer* leaves the Castle Museum, we will be focusing on more localized agricultural commodities and the region's centennial farms in our main galleries for the duration of 2023.

ExhibitsUSA

A SERVICE OF MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

More information can be found at www.eusa.org/exhibitions/american-farmer

EVENTS

AT THE CASTLE

March & April 2023

MARCH 2

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM
Lumbering

MUSEUM MINGLE

5-7 PM

MARCH 14

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM
Wes Reinbold, "History of Frankentrost"

MARCH 16

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM
Lumbering

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM
Chrissie De Clerck-Szilagyi, "Women in the American Civil War"

MARCH 18

HANDS ON HISTORY

10:30 AM -12:30 PM
Cooking it Up the Old Fashioned Way-Antique Cooking Gear

MARCH 21

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM
The Detroit Tigers by Tom Stanton

MARCH 27-30

KRASLICE WORKSHOPS

12:00 PM AND 6 PM (3/30 ONLY)
RSVP Required

MARCH 28

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM
Alex Mixer, "Potter Street Station Project"

APRIL 5-26 (Wednesdays)

SIT IN & SING OUT CLASS

11 AM-12:15 PM
Registration Required

APRIL 6

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM
Digging it Up

MUSEUM MINGLE

5-7 PM

APRIL 11

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM
Scott Furtaw, "Michigan Astronauts"

APRIL 15

HANDS ON HISTORY

10:30 AM-12:30 PM
Historic Farming Equipment

April 18

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM
The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers by Bridgett Davis

APRIL 20

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM
Digging it Up

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM
Jeff Sommer, "Archaeological Fieldwork at the Site of a Tittabawassee Boom Company Boarding House"

APRIL 25

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM
Larry Pruter, "Taymouth Fair"

**In collaboration with Hoyt Library*

PROGRAMS

Kraslice Workshops



There is still time to register for this year's Kraslice Workshops!

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.

You can come and learn this special technique at one of our workshops.

March 27-30 at Noon

March 30 at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$3/person. Seating is limited and **RSVP is required.**

For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Sandy at (989) 752-2861 ext. 309 or sschwan@castlemuseum.org

History Class

SIT IN & Sing Out

History class on music of social movements.

CASTLE MUSEUM
of
SAGINAW COUNTY HISTORY

Wed. April 5 - April 26
11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Cost: \$10 members/
\$15 non-members

Join Castle Museum Outreach Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Vannette for an upcoming class, **Sit In & Sing Out.**

This four-week history class focuses on the music of social movements in the 20th century. The class will take place at the Castle Museum on Wednesdays in April.

Registration is Required.

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, & 26
11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for members/\$15 for non-members

To register, contact the front desk in person or via phone at 989.752.2861

For questions, contact Jennifer Vannette: 989.752-2861 x315 or jvannette@castlemuseum.org

Sports Hall of Fame Seeking New Board Members

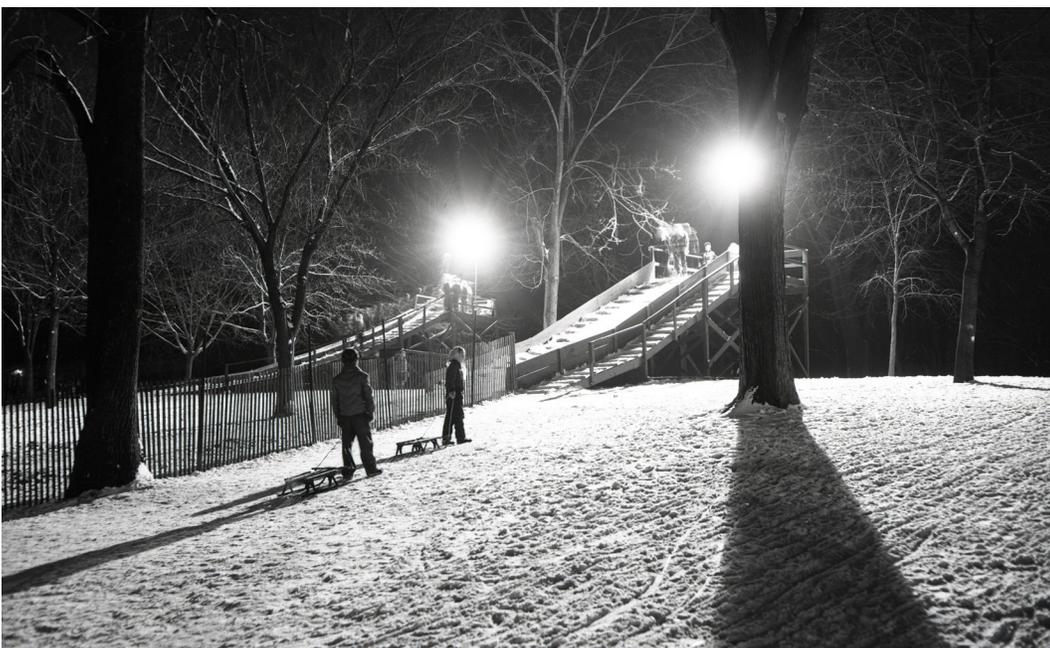


The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame is looking for qualified candidates for our board of directors. Ideal candidates would bring a passion for the athletic history of Saginaw County with a desire to serve.

Board members are required to attend functions such as the Induction Banquet and all board meetings. They are also required to participate in fundraising activities which can include banquet program ad sales, raffles, a golf outing, or other activities planned by the organization. If you would like to serve alongside us, please contact Jeffrey Cottrell at JCottrell@castlemuseum.org or 989.921.3677.

Dates have been set for multiple 2023 events:

- Our press conference announcing the Class of 2023 will be held on **Thursday, April 27th.**
- The Golf Outing will be held on **Thursday, June 15th.**
- The Class of 2023 Induction will be held at Horizons Conference Center on **Sunday, November 5th.**



*Sledding in Hoyt Park,
Saginaw, circa 1960s.*



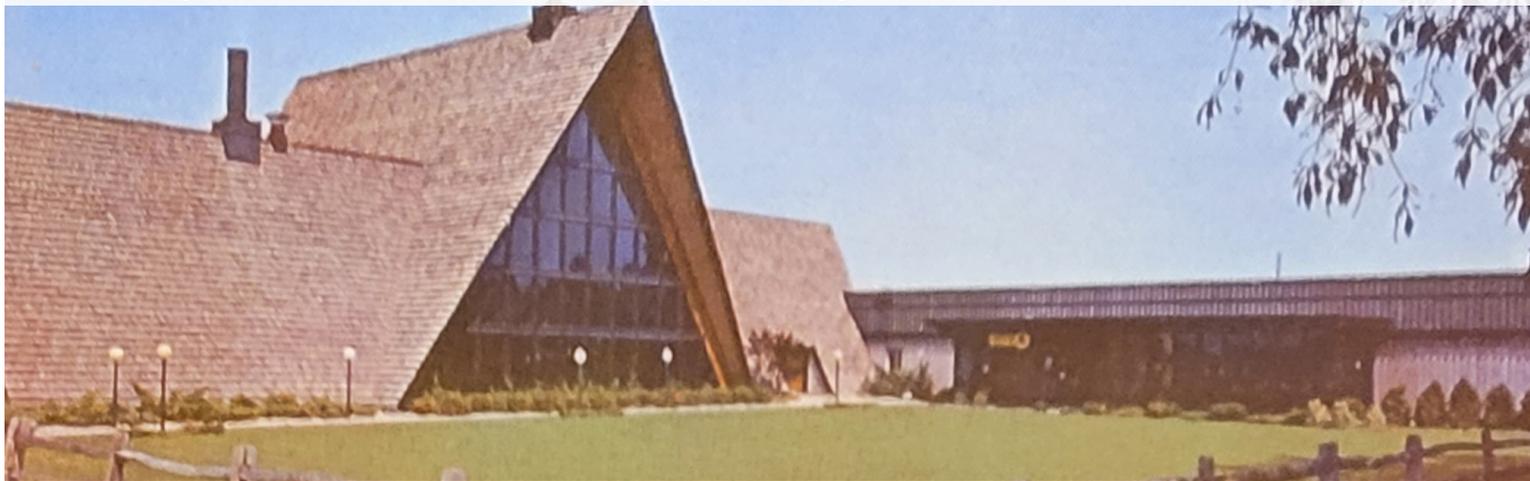
The Alcoves

Next time you stop by the museum, be sure to take a look at our alcoves between the backdoor and reception. Several of these smaller exhibits have recently changed to include displays on the Roethke greenhouses, former Saginaw Mayor Henry Marsh, and the Apple Mountain Steak House restaurant. Exhibits on the Ippel Department Store and musician Sonny Stitt are still available for viewing at this time.

The Roethke greenhouse exhibit features the fragile structures once located along M-46 in the city of Saginaw and the vivid poetry of Theodore Roethke inspired by a childhood among the greenhouses. A special feature is an 1895 Victor Safe and Lock Company safe used in one of the William Roethke Floral Company stores.

The Apple Mountain Steak House display takes visitors back to the cozy ski lodge that once featured live music and delicious culinary fare. The A-frame building was designed by the Saginaw firm of Spence, Smith and Forsythe.

Our newest alcove exhibit features Saginaw's Mayor Henry G. Marsh. Marsh was a Democrat who held the office of mayor from 1967 until 1969, serving as the first African American to hold the office. Under Marsh's tenure, the city was featured as an All-American City by *Look Magazine*.



Gifts & Memorials

Memorial in honor of Joyce Senyko

Beverly Cottrell





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CastleMuseum.org
@TheCastleMuseum



Non-Profit
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Saginaw, MI

Your Membership Just Became More Valuable!

**The Castle Museum is Now a Part of the Time Travelers Network:
Our Paid Members Can Use it to Visit More than 400 Locations Nation-wide!**

Time Travelers is a free reciprocal membership network for historical museums, sites, and societies throughout the United States.

Currently, the Time Travelers program includes over 400 organizations in more than 45 states across the country. Members of these organizations can receive a variety of exclusive benefits and privileges, such as free admission, gift shop discounts, and much, much more.



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