

July/August 2025

CASTLE COURIER



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The Artifact

Goldsmith Maid's Great Trot Against Time

**"...East Saginaw lends her sister towns
In truth, as well as rhyme.
But then she couldn't help the fact,
So pray, forgive the crime.**

**Twelve churches grace her avenues,
Her schools are fine and grand.
Seven banks, with lots of capital,
All these does she command.**

**In days gone by, her boat club,
The gallant Neptune crew,
Returned with prizes, brooms on high,
To show, what they could do.**

**Then Goldsmith Maid scored 2:16,
In those days counted fast.
It beat all previous records
That were trotted in the past."**

-From "Our Saginaw Valley", a poem written by Will F. Goldie, *The Saginaw Evening News* July 21, 1884.

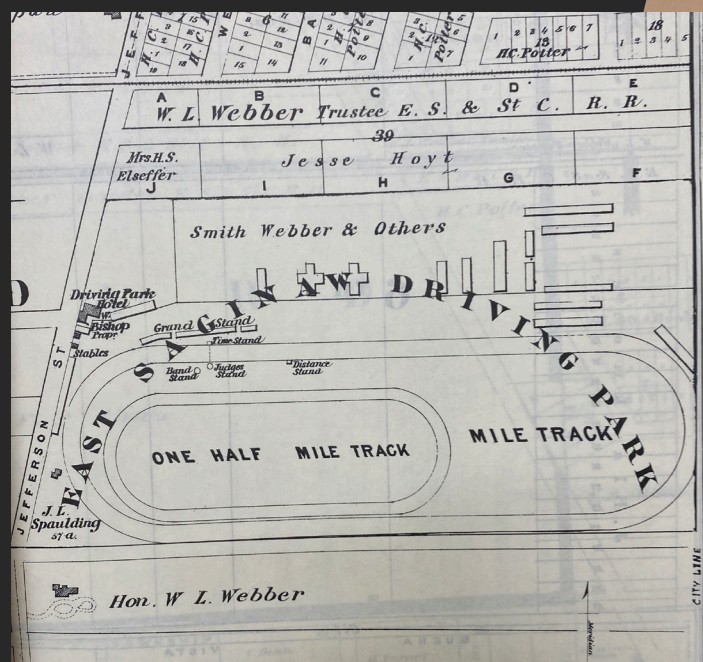
On July 17, 1874, an article on the front page of the *Detroit Free Press* proclaimed: "Goldsmith Maid's Great Trot Against Time at East Saginaw; Eight Thousand People in Attendance." "The day opened inauspiciously so far as the weather was concerned, but toward noon it cleared up bright and pleasant. The attendance was estimated at eight thousand people, and the track was in splendid condition. The trial against time was set down for three p.m. First Heat – As the horses came onto the track they were greeted with cheers and clapping of hands. . ." The article continued, detailing the event's three heats and describes the moment when Goldsmith's Maid broke the record: "as she passed under the line there was one of the most deafening shouts ever sent up from the East Saginaw Driving Park."

"This news was flashed around the world and gave East Saginaw more publicity than it had perhaps ever before enjoyed. ...Newspapers the country over as well as sporting and other journals were stirred to comment freely on the amazing feat, of the wonder horse on the Saginaw track" (*The Saginaw News Courier*, September 19, 1926.)

In its coverage, The *Free Press* noted the accuracy of the track and timing: "As to the time there can be no

question and to the distance there is no question." The publication *Field and Farm* noted, "the tracks are wonderfully fast in the northwest." Although East Saginaw and its sister Saginaw Valley cities were quickly rising to prominence as a great lumbering center, the race provided a different form of fame – one that put the fledgling city on the map for more than mere – prosaic, but highly profitable – lumber production. The record and the course on which it was set, received attention throughout the nation. If headlines weren't enough, it was memorialized by the famed firm of Currier and Ives in the form of two prints: *Judge Fullerton and Goldsmith Maid, in their Great Trot in East Saginaw, Mich. July 16th 1874* and *A third heat in two sixteen!!: Judge Fullerton and Goldsmith Maid in their great trot at East Saginaw, Mich. July 16th 1874*.

Neither Goldsmith Maid nor Judge Fullerton were owned by Saginaw Valley residents, and Goldsmith Maid would soon break her own record in another city. Although the East Saginaw Driving Park, on South Jefferson at Webber, closed and was dismantled in 1887, it was soon replaced by Union Park on the west side of the river; however, the July 16 race was seen as the city's first great sporting event. The race – and the fact that it



EAST SAGINAW
DRIVING PARKJ. Blackmon
Add.

Corporation.

B U E N A V I S T A

became an integral part of the mythology of the community. By the early twentieth century, when copies of the prints would show up in the Saginaw area, it was worthy of an article in the newspaper. A January 1, 1928, piece noted, "The picture above shows the finish of the great race in 'Saginaw July 16, 1874, that turned the eyes of the world's sportsmen toward this city.'" In 1946, *The Saginaw News* featured a copy of "A third heat in two sixteen!!" owned by John Schuch, whose career included hotel owner, sheriff, State Representative and passionate collector." The article noted:

"...Currier & Ives have the horses running the wrong way. You can take the word of Nathaniel N. Wright, 1308 South Michigan, because he was there. What's more Mr. Wright would like to know where the famed Currier & Ives got the hills behind the track, as Saginaw county doesn't have such undulating land." (*The Saginaw News*, January 27, 1946.)

The piece also included an image of Wright with a copy of the print. Wright is quoted as saying that the print "recalls many good stories of Saginaw – then a sawdust town but the real horse racing capital of the country."

Although the Castle Museum's collection includes an 1837 map of Saginaw printed by Nathaniel Currier before his partnership with Ives, our collection, until late this winter, did not contain an original copy of either of the prints. Thanks to a generous donor, a period print of the race that put East Saginaw on the map, specifically *Judge Fullerton and Goldsmith Maid, in their Great Trot in East Saginaw, Mich. July 16th 1874*, is now included in the collection and will allow us to preserve and explore Saginaw County's horse racing history.

Although slightly out of context, we cannot resist quoting from the famed song, *Sleigh Ride*:

**"It'll nearly be like a picture print by
Currier and Ives
These wonderful things are the things
We remember all through our lives!"**

For more information about the history of Currier and Ives:



EVENTS

AT THE CASTLE

July & August 2025

JULY 2

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS PAINTING

11 AM-1 PM

Presented by the Castle Museum

JULY 8

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Show and Tell: Bring Your Favorite Artifact or Memorabilia to Share

JULY 9

HANDS ON HISTORY

11 AM-NOON

Handmade Toys

JULY 10

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

11 AM-NOON

"Let's Go to the Zoo"

Presented by the Castle Museum

JULY 15

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM

Haunted Flint by Roxanne Rhoads and Joe Schipani

JULY 16

MICHIGAN ROCKS AND FOSSILS

10 AM-11 AM

Presented by Saginaw Public Libraries

JULY 17

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"The Man Who Sparked 'The War to End All Wars,'" with Jonathan Webb

JULY 22

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Kevin Rooker: "The Wolfarth House"

JULY 30

WALKING TOUR

11:30 AM

"Fred W. Hollister: Architect"

AUGUST 6

PUPPET SHOW

10 AM-11 AM

Presented by Saginaw Public Libraries

WALKING TOUR

11:30 AM

"Saginaw's Courthouse Square"

AUGUST 7

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

11 AM-NOON

It's Dino-Time

Presented by the Castle Museum

AUGUST 12

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Historian & Author Daniel Clark, *Listening to Workers: Oral Histories of Metro Detroit Autoworkers in the 1950s*

AUGUST 14

JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGY

11 AM-1 PM

Presented by The Castle Museum

AUGUST 15-17

MMOGTA TRACTOR SHOW

Mid Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association

AUGUST 19

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

AUGUST 21

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5-7 PM

"History of Cider Making," with Jeff Cottrell

AUGUST 26

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Leo Romo, "Saginaw's Black History: Pioneers of the 1800s"

*In collaboration with Hoyt Library

PROGRAMS

WALKING TOURS

In conjunction with the Castle Museum's special exhibit, *Order in the Court: The Legacy of Saginaw County's Courthouses*, we will host two lunchtime walking tours of Saginaw City on Wednesday, July 30 and Wednesday, August 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Both tours will begin in Borchard Park – the northwest corner of Court and Michigan. The tours will start promptly at 11:30 a.m. and will last approximately 45 minutes. Each tour will cover a little more than 1½ mile on city sidewalks. We will focus on the structure's exteriors--we will not be going inside buildings.

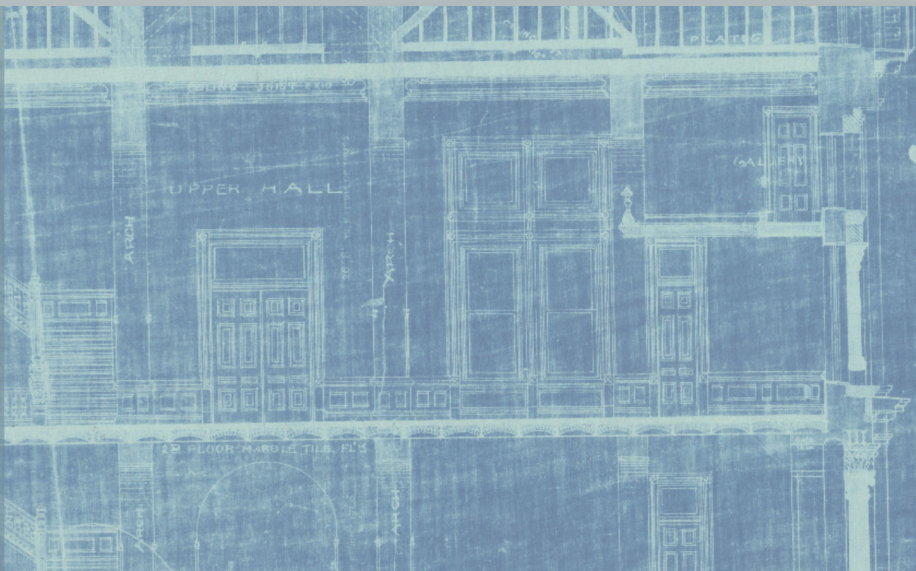
Although sidewalks have accessible curb cuts, some sidewalks may be uneven. No registration is required.

For information, contact Tom Trombley: 989-752-2861 ext. 304 or ttrombley@castlemuseum.org

FRED W. HOLLISTER: ARCHITECT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
11:30 A.M.

Fred W. Hollister designed Saginaw County's 1884 courthouse. Although the courthouse was demolished in 1972, a number of his designs still grace Old Saginaw City's streets.



SAGINAW'S COURTHOUSE SQUARE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6
11:30 A.M.

Old Saginaw City is still shaped by the plat registered in 1830. Although no buildings remain from that period, the spaces and streets still adhere to a plan created nearly 200 years ago.



Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame



Lakisha
Arthur H



Mike McFadden
Heritage HS Football

The Hall of Fame spotlight shines brightly this season as the Class of 2025 has been selected by our esteemed Lifetime Voting Members, celebrating a stellar lineup that includes legendary athletes and contributors such as Mike McFadden, Anthony Roberson, Lakisha Freeman, Katrina Grantham, Don Durrett, Dick Garber, Greg Meter, and the iconic 1992 Carrollton Girls Basketball Team. These outstanding individuals will be honored at our prestigious Induction Banquet on November 2nd, a night dedicated to recognizing excellence and dedication in our community's sports history.

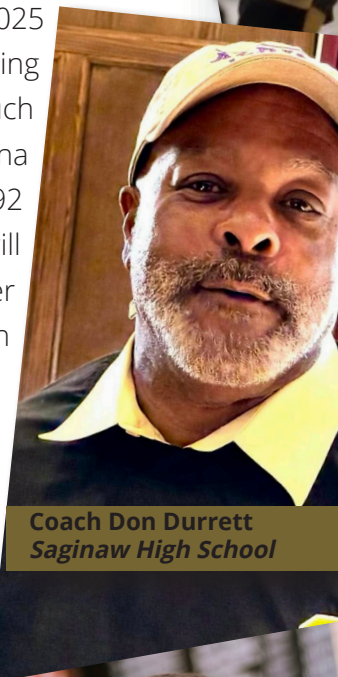
Fans and visitors are also encouraged to visit our latest exhibit at the Castle Museum, where the rich legacy of local sports heroes is on display. The newest exhibit featuring the 2025 class is already on display.

Looking ahead, our annual golf outing at Green Acres Golf Course in Bridgeport promises a day of fun, camaraderie, and competition on June 19th, while the Queen of Hearts progressive jackpot continues to build excitement, with weekly drawings every Monday at 8 p.m. at Merl's Tavern on Shattuck.

For those interested in sponsorship opportunities, artifact donations, or inquiries about the banquet, Jeffrey Cottrell, President and Curator, invites you to reach out via jcottrell@castlemuseum.org to be part of preserving and celebrating our sports heritage.



Katrina Grantham
Heritage HS Girls Basketball



Coach Don Durrett
Saginaw High School



Dick Garber
Owner, Saginaw Spirit



Carrollton Girls Basketball 1992 Team



Coach Greg Meter
Saginaw St. Stephen



Isha Freeman
Dur Hill HS Girls Basketball

Order in the Court: A New Exhibit

Conceptualized by Samuel Dexter in his original plat for Saginaw City, a town commons still controls the public space on Saginaw's west side today. Home to not one, but three courthouses over the last 200 years, the courthouse commons once showcased an elaborate brick building designed by well-known architect Fred W. Hollister, an ornamental glass fountain, and a clock tower fabricated by East Saginaw's J.C. Watts & Co. Jewelers. This place was *and is* about more than just a building, however.

In the Castle Museum's newest Centennial Hall exhibit, *Order in the Court: The Legacy of Saginaw County's Courthouses*, the history of Dexter, this place, the courthouses, their functions and some of the people who graced their rooms are on display now through March 2026. Created in-house from many of the museum's own artifacts and documents, the exhibit's highlights include rare documents, original horse watering trough from the commons, a mock courtroom selfie station and slide show of the museum's extensive courthouse photo collection.

Guests are invited to take a stroll through Old Saginaw City and stop a spell on the town commons, view the construction of the "new" courthouse, or take in a court hearing inside Honorable Judge Widget's courtroom.



Gifts & Memorials

Gifts:

Patricia Jean Kirchner Appold
Dr. Reid J. Calcott
Ritch & Lois Cushway
Ruth Ann Knapp

Mark & Debbie Mathewson
Tom Mudd
Sylvia Reimus





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@TheCastleMuseum



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Saginaw, MI

LOOK COOL
ENOUGH TO
TURN OFF
THE A.C.!



Castle Museum

#SWAGSHOP
GREAT DEALS -- EVEN BETTER LOOKS

Open During Museum Hours:

M-W: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

R: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

F-S: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1-4:30 p.m.



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