

January/
February 2024

Souvenir of

SAGINAW MICH.

“Visitors, delegates, everybody take home with you a souvenir of Saginaw...”

RES. OF G.W. MORLEY, EAST SIDE.

CASTLE COURIER



The Artifact | Souvenir of Saginaw | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Event

The Artifact

A photograph of Dr. Eugene Ringler in Front of His South Hamilton Street Store

Often historic photographs provide a unique, tangible link between the past and present. Such is the case with this image of a prominent Saginaw City pharmacist.

Eugene Ringler, druggist, Saginaw City, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, May 5, 1824. He received his education in his native land and in 1847 came to America. He graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan in 1852, after which he went to Ohio, and practiced medicine at Fostoria until 1857. He made a visit to Germany during a few months of that year, and on his return located at Tiffin, O., where he continued to practice until the breaking out of the war in 1861. He enlisted as Assistant Surgeon and was afterward promoted to Surgeon, serving until the close of the war in 1865. He returned to Tiffin, remained there two years, and then he came to Saginaw City. After being here one year, he went into partnership with E. Epting, which relation lasted one year, when he removed into his present store on Hamilton st. His business has increased yearly, and he is one of the substantial druggists of this city. In 1857, he married Mary Kapff, a native of Germany. They have 3 children, viz: Lydia, Eugene and Annie. Eugene was engaged in the drug business at New York but at present is in Paris, France.” (M.A. Leeson and Damon Clarke, History of Saginaw County, Michigan, Chicago: C.C. Chapman & Co., 1881.)

Eugene Ringler’s store prospered at its South Hamilton Street location until 1900. In 1902, he placed an advertisement in the paper:

“Drug-shelves and Counters, for sale hardwood elegant, cheap for cash by E. Ringer 118 S Hamilton.” (The Saginaw Evening News, June 30, 1902.)

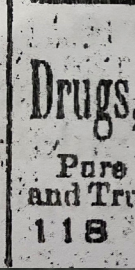
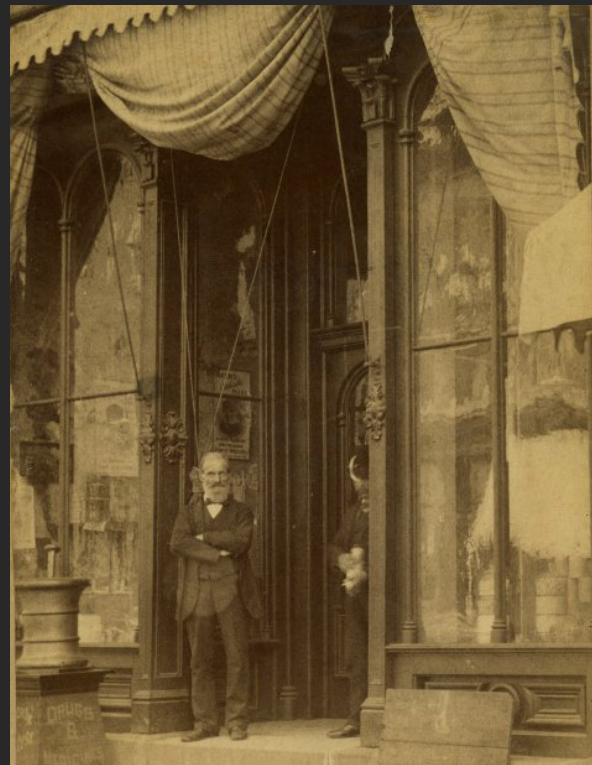
Although Ringler rented his former store to various businesses and organizations, he continued to reside above it. Dr. Ringler, passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Julius Ippel, on November 4, 1916.

If you have walked down the 100 block of South Hamilton, you may recognize something naggingly familiar in this photograph of Dr. Ringler’s store. Look carefully at the foliate decorations in the middle of the cast iron columns and pilasters – they match ones on the units framing the storefront of J.B. Meinberg and Woody O’Brien’s at 116 S. Hamilton. Eugene Ringler’s

pharmacy was located at 118 South Hamilton, immediately to the south; originally it was part of a row of stores erected about 1870. Designed to form a cohesive architectural unit, the design of each storefront was similar and incorporated identical cast iron components. In 1909, Ringler sold his property to John B. Meinberg, who owned the adjoining saloon.

Meinberg was one of the investors in a new venture – a theater. Soon the building that had housed Ringler’s pharmacy was demolished – along with another storefront—to make way for the Wolverine Theatre. A 1916 article, published at the time of Ringler’s 92nd birthday, notes his store had been located on South Hamilton “where the Wolverine theater is now located.”

Although the upper floor of the remaining portions of the row of stores was refaced in Saginaw Paving Brick, original storefront details survived, reminding us that even after more than a century of growth and change small details connect the past and the present.



Left Page: Background: Detail of 1888 Birdseye View of Area of Ringler's Store. (Ringler's Store was the SouthernHalf of the Building with the Round Arch.)
Bottom: Dr. Eugene Ringler in Front of his South Hamilton Street Store.

Right Page: Left to Right: Ringler Advertisement. Current View of South Hamilton Street. Current View of J.B. Meinberg-Ringler's Store was Just to the Right. Note the Gold Foliate Decoration.

E. RINGLER,
Medicines, and Chemicals!
Wines and Lignors, Sponges, Perfumery
Prescriptions a specialty.
SOUTH HAMILTON STREET



Souvenir of Saginaw: A Lifesize View of Yesteryear

On February 1, 2024, the Museum will begin showcasing a small item from the collection by making a supersized version into a full exhibit in Centennial Hall. The small, souvenir booklet of Saginaw images, "Souvenir of Saginaw," was published by William F. Twelvetrees in 1889, just as East Saginaw and Saginaw City were about to merge.

The promotional piece, sold on traincars, shops and in Twelvetrees' store at 215 Genesee for a mere \$0.15 was an inexpensive memento of one's trip to the booming Saginaw area, and more importantly, a promotional piece for Saginaw itself. As Michigan's third largest city at the time, Saginaw's sweeping street scenes, thriving businesses, and lavish homes were laid out across the fan-folded leaves of the booklet, giving readers a glimpse into Saginaw's prominence and importance.

The Souvenir of Saginaw exhibit will offer a similar appeal to museum visitors, giving guests a chance to walk back in time as they peruse Twelvetrees' original scenes, towering eight feet high around them on vinyl enlargements, and view the city as it was in the late 1800s.



EVENTS

AT THE CASTLE

January & February 2024

JANUARY 1

MUSEUM CLOSED
New Year's Holiday

JANUARY 9

LUNCH & LEARN
12:00 PM
Dave Slaggert, author of *Remember the Trojans & the Lumberjacks: Michigan's Greatest High School Rivalry*
*Books Available to Order

JANUARY 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY TEACH-IN
Events Throughout the Day

JANUARY 16

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*
12:00 PM
The Drummond Girls: A Story of Fierce Friendship Beyond Time and Chance by Mardi Link

JANUARY 17

MIDWEEK MATINEE
1 PM-3 PM
The Gilded Age, PBS American Experience

JANUARY 18

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
10:30 AM
Snowy Days

JANUARY 20

HANDS ON HISTORY
11 AM-1 PM
Clothing Through the Years

JANUARY 23

LUNCH & LEARN
12:00 PM
Gary Flinn, author of *Kewpee Hamburgers: A Mity Nice History*
*Books Available for Purchase

FEBRUARY 13

LUNCH & LEARN
12:00 PM
Chief Curator Sandy Schwan, "Snacks & Artifacts: Artifacts that Highlight Local Black History"

FEBRUARY 15

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
10:30 AM
Race Day at the Castle: Stories of Cars & Trucks

FEBRUARY 17

HANDS ON HISTORY
11 AM-1 PM
Kitchen Gadgets

FEBRUARY 20

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*
12:00 PM
We Kept Our Towns Going: The Gossard Girls of Michigan's Upper Peninsula by Phyllis Michael Wong

FEBRUARY 21

MIDWEEK MATINEE
1 PM-2 PM
Sawdust and Shanty Boys, Delta Public Media

FEBRUARY 27

LUNCH & LEARN
12:00 PM
Gerry Dillon, "The Beatles: A Collection"

*In collaboration with Hoyt Library

PROGRAMS

Special Events

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY TEACH IN

Join us for a special event to **engage the community** and get us thinking and doing! Enhance your celebration of MLK Day (January 15, 2024) by learning about his life and work during this one-day teach in at the Castle Museum. A day filled with learning opportunities for all ages to reflect on the theme: **It Starts with Me.**

Special activities will include **stories and crafts** to energize younger children followed by a **PBS Learning lesson on primary sources** to get older kids thinking about their role. The capstone of the day's events will be a **keynote address by noted civil rights historian and SVSU professor, Dr. Kenneth Jolly.**

Event is **FREE for all** to attend, but if able, guests are asked to join us in this day of service by bringing a **canned food donation** for our friends at Hidden Harvest.

For details, follow us on social media and visit our website at castlemuseum.org.

MIDWEEK MATINEES

Join us to learn about our storied past through national and local documentaries during our new Midweek Matinee Series. We'll provide the popcorn, and you can bring any other snacks you desire!

CASTLE | SAGINAW COUNTY MUSEUM | HISTORY

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY TEACH IN

JAN 15 2024

JOIN US
IT STARTS WITH ME:
LEARNING LEADING TO ACTION

PLEASE BRING A CANNED FOOD DONATION FOR HIDDEN HARVEST

11 AM - 12 PM STORYTELLING AND CRAFTS
IDEAL FOR K-5 GRADES

1 PM - 1:30 PM MLK: CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER PRIMARY SOURCE LESSON
IDEAL FOR 3-8 GRADES

2 PM - 3:15 PM KEYNOTE WITH HISTORIAN DR. KENNETH JOLLY, SVSU
IDEAL FOR TEENS-ADULTS

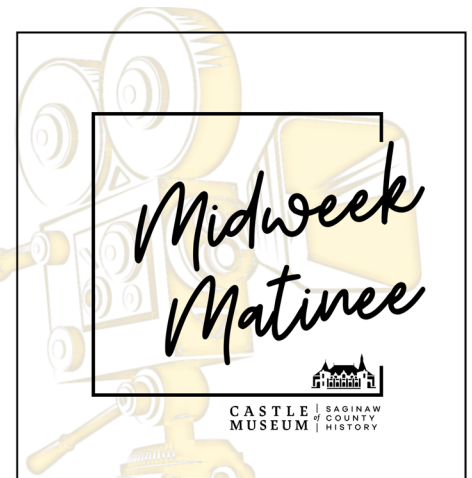
CASTLEMUSEUM.ORG @THECASTLEMUSEUM

1/15@1PM: *The Gilded Age* (2 hours)

From PBS American Experience: "In the closing decades of the nineteenth century, during what has become known as the Gilded Age, the population of the United States doubled in the span of a single generation...As national wealth expanded, two classes rose simultaneously, separated by a gulf of experience and circumstance that was unprecedented in American life. These disparities sparked passionate and violent debate over questions still being asked in our own times...*The Gilded Age* presents a compelling and complex story of one of the most convulsive and transformative eras in American history."

2/21@1PM: *Sawdust and Shanty Boys* (60 minutes)

From Delta Public Media: "Towering white pine brought settlers to the Saginaw Valley, but no one could have predicted the lasting impact the lumber industry would have."



Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame



Larry Graf
Hemlock Girls Softball
2023 Coach of the Year

Once again, November ushered in the new class of Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame inductees for 2023. The annual banquet was held at Horizon's Conference Center and had 305 in attendance to welcome in the new honorees. Those being honored were Don Voorheis, Tori Jankoska, Jenni (Rasmussen) Kammer, Larry Graf, Ken Tolfree, Hugh Bernreuter, Nouvel Girls Basketball Team for 2006-2008, Alfonso Boone, and Jason Richardson.

The new exhibit featuring the Class of 2023 is nearing completion, and we are excited for guests to see these stunning new displays. Additional focus areas for 2024 exhibits include Saginaw County wrestling, high schools, the Saginaw Old Golds, and the Valley Lutheran Carpetdome.

If you have Saginaw sports memorabilia collecting dust, consider donating it to the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame. Contact Jeff Cottrell at jcottrell@castlemuseum.org or 989-752-2861 ext. 302 for details.



Jason Richardson & Banquet Attendee
2023 Male Athlete of the Year



Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame
Board Members



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**



Gifts & Memorials

Memorial in honor of Ken Willman

- Joyce Kirkpatrick
- Kay & Marsha Wilhelm
- Dick Henning
- David & Nancy Cable
- James & Barbara Herweg
- E. Frances Siems
- John & Marty Mahar
- Gerald & Marlene Hensler
- Judith Kocks
- Howard & Carolyn Johnson
- Mary James
- Sally Boersma
- Marcy Ng

- Richard & Ruth King
- Mary Jo Scharffe
- Carol Kager
- Jane Davidson
- Richard Humphreys
- Tom Mudd
- Mike & Patty Reynolds
- Nancy Deisig
- Carole Clark
- Rosalie McFall
- Judith & Curtis Wilson
- Susan Ludwig
- Ronald & Melinda Myotte
- Nancy Stout-Purkis
- Mary Lefevre

- Tom Trombley
- Roger & Mary Reynolds
- The Antique Warehouse
- Sharon & John Wahl
- Margaret Luczak
- Keith LaVielle
- Gavin Henning

Memorial in honor of B.J. Humphries

- Julie Dorcey





500 Federal Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-2861
CastleMuseum.org
@TheCastleMuseum



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 52
Saginaw, MI



New Year! New Membership! Renew Today!

Don't Miss Out on Our Upcoming Member Events in 2024--Renew Your Membership Today!

Visit:
castlemuseum.org/become-a-member
to sign up online or
call the museum at:
989-752-2861



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