

May 2020

CASTLE COURIER



History Fact of the Month: Jeffers park was dedicated with great fanfare on May 30, 1906. Located east of the Castle Museum, the small park features an elaborate drinking fountain dedicated to the memory of Michael Jeffers. During the dedication ceremony, a man ascended a ladder to place a wreath of laurel leaves the bronze bust of Michael Jeffers. To learn more about the Jeffers family and the park, visit the Castle Museum's Facebook page on May 30.

Stay Connected with Us on Social Media



Our President/CEO Jonathan Webb is the host of “**Castle Live Lunch Chat,**” which is featured on Facebook on Tuesday and Thursday at 11 a.m. This live segment features different guests from the Saginaw County community and is brought to you by the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.

Tune in on Facebook to learn how community members are confronting life amid this pandemic.

(Photographed left to right: President/CEO Jonathan Webb & Michael Webster, Chair of Saginaw County Board of Commissioners)

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Historical Society of Saginaw County is committed to serving 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.

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THE ARTIFACT



In May 1926, a new Saginaw County jail and major additions to the 1880s courthouse were under construction. Taken from the west, the jail is the four-story building in this photograph, the courthouse clock tower is visible to the left and the structure to the right of the jail is the Saginaw County Sheriff's residence. Funded by a bond approved in April 1925, Spence Brothers, the project's contractor, and architects Samuel Allen of Saginaw and Louis Kamper of Detroit, formed a partnership for this work.

The 1926 jail replaced an earlier facility located on the north side of Court Street. A large brick building, the 19th century jail was described in Chapman's 1881 *History of Saginaw County, Michigan*:

"The County Jail has many memories attached to it. . . . The stranger arriving at Saginaw may see a pretentious building, just southwest of the business center of the city. Were it not for the great display of iron bars he would never dream of this being the county jail; but would jump to the conclusion that some barbarous European had come here to re-establish feudalism and had begun his medieval work by erecting a castle fortress. Notwithstanding its antiquated style of architecture, it is a fine building, and as such is creditable to the Supervisors' Board under whose order it was constructed."

The 1926 jail was replaced in 1972 by the building that will soon be replaced by a new facility. Visit the Castle Museum's Facebook to see additional construction photographs of the 1926 jail and courthouse project.

At Home with Us

Our Castle Museum staff miss you roaming through exhibition galleries and engaging with us at our special programs. While we anticipate opening soon, we want to remind you to stay connected with us online.

- Read research & archaeology blogs and view educational resources for families at castlemuseum.org
- Like our Facebook page - Historical Society of Saginaw County
- Follow us on Instagram @thecastlemuseum
- And watch our "5 Minute History" videos on YouTube

Jazz on Jefferson

on Saginaw's Historic South Jefferson Avenue



Painting by Leslie D. Tineknell

Memorial Gifts to the Castle Museum have been made in memory of

David Hall

by

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Kermit Diggs

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Ken & Jackie Willman

His neighbors at the Country Club Condominiums

A Memorial Gift to the Castle Museum has been made in memory of

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The Castle Museum received a donation in honor of

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Saginaw Valley Humanities

Lecture Series

Memorial gifts to the Castle Museum have been made in memory of

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Please remember the Castle Museum endowment fund at the Saginaw Community Foundation in your will and estate plans.



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castlemuseum.org



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EVENT CALENDAR

Please refer to our website and Facebook page for further updates on our reopening.

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