Curtis L. Metler was born in 1848 in Lockport, New York, and later relocated to Michigan like many of Flat Rock’s prominent, founding families. He settled down in the Village of Flat Rock and opened up a grist mill in 1872 with George Washington Metler. Together they purchased a plot of land to the east of the Huron River with an old sawmill on it, formerly owned and operated by Russell Ransom and Henry Woodruff. Curtis and George demolished the sawmill and built their own saw and grist mills where it once stood. This was an important development, as it provided the local farmers with a place to grind up their corn and wheat into feed and flour, which was essential to keeping their livestock fed and the farm running. Farmers would load their wagons up and travel from all around the surrounding area, in many cases as long as a day’s trip, to use the services that the Metler mill offered. They would drop their grain off to be ground up and would spend their day at the tavern or around town, while their children had fun and swam in the river. His regular customers were locals like the VanRipers, Mungers to whom he sold grain to for $1.80 per pound.

Soon after his business took off Curtis married to Virginia C. Carson on September 9, 1878, in Brownstown, and they had a son named Carson Metler - named after his mother’s side of the family. Though the Metler family was blessed with success for a time, unfortunately the mill eventually caught fire and burned. The blaze was visible from as far away as Grosse Ile - over 9 miles away. The ashes were cleared and a new one was built in 1882, and once again Curtis resumed his work. Curtis and George operated the town’s mills for decades, and were very well known in the community. On one fateful day in 1917 at the sawmill, Curtis sadly met his demise. He stood on an upper level floor overlooking the workers and slipped in the sawdust that littered the ground. He was sent over the rail and to the floor below where he fell on a blade, splitting his heart in half. He was declared dead on the spot. A funeral procession in his honor rode through the town, filled with his workers and family who absolutely adored him, and were beside themselves with grief. His body was laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery on the Metler family plot.

The following year the gristmill was acquired by Henry Ford during the first World War, and leased to a man by the name of Frank Cornwell. Operations at the facility ceased after 1921 and the machinery gathered whatever dust and debris managed to wander in and settle down. It changed hands again in 1950 when it was purchased by Andrew Bodary who became the owner, and it still churned out a sack of grain every now and again. The canal and gear holes were filled in some time later, and the mill lay dormant. Like the first one nearly a hundred years prior, it burned to the ground in November of 1965.

Carson’s home at the corner of Evergreen and Gibraltar stood empty after his passing in 1971 and was acquired by two local businessmen, who wished for it to remain in the area. They attempted to lobby the Flat Rock School Board to relocate the home a few blocks away onto school owned lands which would form the city’s first historical museum. Citing a need to prioritize spending on the schools instead, the proposal was denied. Had they been successful, the Flat Rock Historical Campus might have looked quite different! Carson Metler’s house was eventually demolished, and a doctor’s office now stands where the Metler home was.

Though the mills no longer stand, one home still remains in the area to mark their presence in Flat Rock. The home formerly owned by Curtis is inhabited and well kept, tucked away on the quiet corner of Atwater and Seneca, just beyond the Masonic Temple building.
FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
25486 GIBRALTAR ROAD  
P.O. Box 337  
FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN 48134

734.782.5220 Museum Office  
www.FlatRockHistory.org  
Archives@FRDigitalHistory.org

2017–18  
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OUR MISSION

The Flat Rock Historical Society seeks to preserve and communicate to residents and visitors the history and spirit of those who have lived in and near the City of Flat Rock from the beginning of human habitation, or its vision, to bring our community together for the enjoyment, discovery, and learning our past to create our future.

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

April - A Formal Affair  
8 - Open House @ 1-4 pm  
12 - Board Meeting @ 7pm  
19 - General Membership Meeting/Program Cindy Melotti  
24 - Behind The Scenes Tour/Lecture

May - A Formal Affair  
6 - Flea Market  
10 - Board Meeting @ 7 pm  
12 - Open House (NOTE: Saturday due to Mother’s Day) @ 9-1 pm  
19th & 20th - Yard Sale in Wagar House  
27 - Spring Tea (subject to cancellation if no chair)

June - A Formal Affair  
3 - Victory Gardens  
8th, 9th, 10th - Summer Blast at Huroc Park  
10 - Open House @ 1-4 pm  
14 - Board Meeting @ 7 pm  
21 - General Membership Dinner/Election (Speaker TBD)

July - Summer Vacation  
8 - Open House @ 1-4 pm  
12 - Board Meeting @ 7 pm  
21 - Picnic and Lawn Games  
25 - Teacher Open House  
? - Soroptimist Baby Shower

August - Summer Vacation  
9 - Board Meeting @ 7 pm  
12 - Open House @ 1-4 pm  
17 - Paint Party

September - Summer Vacation  
8 - Garage Sale  
9 - Open House @ 1-4 pm  
13 - Board Meeting @ 7 pm  
14th, 15th, 16th - Riverfest  
20 - General Membership Meeting Program (Speaker TBD)  
23 - Historic Cooking Class

October - Home for the Holidays  
7 - Flea Market  
11 - Board Meeting @ 7pm  
13 - Ghost Hunt  
14 - Open House @ 1-4pm  
20 - Cemetery Walk

November - Home for the Holidays  
? - Euchre Tournament  
8 - Board Meeting @ 7pm  
11 - Open House @ 1-4pm  
15 - Genealogy Crash Course

December - Home for the Holidays  
9 - Open House @ 1-4pm  
13 - Board Meeting @ 7pm  
16 - Holiday Tea
**VOLUNTEER CONNECTION:**

Judi Lowe McNair

Judi McNair has served on the Flat Rock Historical Society’s Executive Board for many years. She has been a member and volunteer of the Society since the early 1990’s and has a passion for local history. A soft spoken lady, Judi remembers many historical events, which took place in Flat Rock and people who have lived here.

She remembers the days of volunteering at the Munger Store during the annual school visits, watching all the bright-eyed children coming in with such enthusiasm and curiosity. It was great fun telling them stories about local folks and the importance of the Munger General Store in our community. The kids enjoyed hearing her stories and some still come back to the museum to remember their elementary school field trip.

Judi Lowe McNair, born in 1945, is the daughter of Clarence and Virginia (nee Bird) Lowe. Clarence and Virginia met at the Lowes Boarding House and fell in love. Together they had three children Carole (1939-2009), Judi and son Frank (born 1948). Judi’s brother Frank still resides in Flat Rock. The Lowe Family lived in the apartment house behind Bobcean’s Funeral home until Judi was three years old. She has fond memories of attending Reading School from second to fifth grade, continuing on to Flat Rock High School.

The Lowe Family attended the Flat Rock First Congregational Church, where Judi and Jim, her husband, still attend. Judi spoke of the soup kitchen that she and her husband helped to start many years ago and how the kitchen still exists. Judi and Jim have five children and four grandchildren who they adore.

Judi’s grandparents were Frank Bird and Ella (nee Wagar) Bird. The Wagar Family, dairy farmers from New York, came to Michigan by way of the Erie Canal about 1850. They claimed their homesteads on land recently vacated by the Wyandots, when the native peoples were forced west to Oklahoma in 1843. Their land was fertile, near the river and the Wagar family farm thrived in Flat Rock.

Frank Bird met Ella Wagar at a picnic, where Frank purchased lunch for Ella. They sat together to eat their lunches and became a couple. They had two children, a son Warren Bird and a daughter Virginia Bird (born 1921) later married Clarence Lowe. Clarence worked as an Engineer for the railroad, his mother Bertha Greenwald Lowe owned a boarding house, which housed employees of the rail road.

Judi misses being at the Society and hopes to once again be a part of something so near and dear to her heart. We miss you too Judi, and look forward to your return.

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**A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

I would like to thank everyone who has helped and is helping the Society to move forward in a positive direction. I know that I have asked many of you to do things that are out of your comfort zone, but you have and are continuing to do extraordinary things to help our Society to move forward! Without each of you being willing to help, we could not accomplish the goals we have been meeting.

We are a Society whose mission is “to preserve and communicate, to residents and visitors, the history and spirit of those who have lived in and near the City of Flat Rock from the beginning of human habitation or its vision as well as to bring our community together for the enjoyment, discovery, and learning of our past to create our future.”

We are like a family. We share laughter and tears…and yes, we even get upset with each other. But we forgive and go on so that our mission might be fulfilled. I am honored to be your President and really appreciate the way each and every one of you show your support of your Society!

I would also like to personally thank Lesley Harkai, Melissa Murdoch and Nicholas Cotter for stepping up and getting this newsletter out in a timely fashion. I especially appreciate Lesley and the city commission’s patience with the society as we attempt to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps and take hold of more society responsibilities so that our Curator is able to allocate more time to preserving our artifacts, cataloging them and exhibiting our ever-expanding collection!

- MargaretAnn Cooper, President
ALLEGED POISONING.

Mrs. Newington, of Flat Rock, Arrested for the Murder of Her Stepson.

SHE IS INTERVIEWED AND ASSERTS HER ENTIRE INNOCENCE OF THE CHARGE.

Mrs. Elizabeth Newington, of Flat Rock, was lodged in the County Jail yesterday morning on a charge of murder. The complaint, which was issued by Justice Garretson, of the above place, alleges that she poisoned a 9-year old stepson named Amza J. Newington with strychnine. The boy died a week ago yesterday under suspicious circumstances and an inquest was ordered, which resulted in a verdict that he died from the effects of poison administered by parties unknown. The local authorities made an investigation, which resulted in the arrest of the stepmother, whose examination is set down for Friday morning.

The prisoner has been married three times, her previous husbands being James Dewitt and Charles Wills. She was a sister-in-law of Newington, and married him on the decease of his wife. The boy had only been living with them for four weeks and had not been complaining until the day before he died. The prisoner did not live happily with her husband, but claims that she always treated the boy during the time he was in the house as a mother and that she cannot account for his death. The case has created considerable talk in Flat Rock, especially on account of the finding of the Coroner's Jury.

Mrs. Newington was interviewed in the County Jail last night by a reporter of The Free Press, when she protested her innocence. She was found in the company of two other female prisoners, one of whom urged her to tell all she knew of the case, saying that the facts would get out any way. Mrs. Newington said that she could neither read nor write, but she had no fears as to the results of the case, as she knew no more of it than her infant child. She said that Amza went with her a week ago last Saturday, while she was on the way to Wyandotte, and left her on the road to go to his cousins'. He returned on Sunday and complained of feeling chilly. That night he slept with his father and on Monday morning he asked for potatoes. He was still complaining. His father made a sling, of which he partook, and wanted to get near the store as he felt cold. A lounge was procured and a bed made on it by her, and the boy lay on it. He had two severe spasms and the father was urged to go to Flat Rock for a physician and particularly told not to return without one. He went, but came back alone, only bringing medicine with him. The boy had another spasm and expired about 5 p.m. She said she prepared him some tea during the day, which he drank, and she made him comfortable otherwise.

"What do you know about the strychnine?" asked the reporter.

"It is true," was the reply, "that I purchased some poison; but it was two weeks ago. I wanted to get rid of a dog, and went to Lobbett's drug store, where I asked for the poison. I told what I wanted it for and got five cents' worth of it. When I came home I cut off a piece of salt pork and put the strychnine on it; I laid the pork on a pile of shingles and returned to the house. I burned up the box which had contained the poison. This was in the presence of my husband. I cannot say whether the dog died or not. I was as particular about the box after it was empty as before."

LOCAL HISTORY

by Lila Fedokovitz

The Historical Commission had the area between the bike trail and the Vreeland Cemetery clear cut of underbrush in hopes of eliminating more vandalism. They will be putting up more signage and the Society will be having the markers restored again. There are still monies left for restoration.

OAK FOREST CEMETERY

One of the oldest cemeteries in the area, Oak Forest is located on West Huron River Drive between Arsenal and Inkster Roads. Records show that in 1835 Elias and his wife Nancy (Stolet) Vreeland designated the land as a public burial ground. In the early 1900s Brownstown Township took over control of the cemetery and unfortunately, all records were lost. In 1968, when Flat Rock voted to become a city, ownership of the cemetery was divided 46% Brownstown and Flat Rock 54%.

The cemetery is approximately one acre and the west side of the cemetery is an open field where we do not believe there are any burials. The Daughters of the American Revolution recorded the information on the tombstones in the mid 1950s and there are approximately 400 burials.

We are continually doing research on the Veteran’s buried in the cemetery. We have three War of 1812 and over 20 Civil War Veterans buried here. We have a list of at least 10 other veterans that need to be documented.

James T. Newington, a resident of Oakforest Cemetery, is a mystery. The Newington Family has a newer marker with names but no dates engraved. James is from Huron Township, was born in 1835 and served in the MI 24th during the Civil War. The marker shows two wives and three children. However, we know he was married three times and had at least five children. His first wife was Sarah Harris. His second wife was her sister Elizabeth Harris Willis. There is a possibility Elizabeth murdered both her sister Sarah and her husband Charles Willis so she could marry James. Then she tried to poison her nephew. A mystery to be solved.

We are in the process of starting paperwork to get Michigan designation as a Historical Site for Oak Forest Cemetery.
I came across a very interesting find recently in our collection of artifacts. This is a Monopoly board personalized for the City of Flat Rock.

Several businesses, either still in existence or long gone, are listed around the board.

The four corners feature Flat Rock Community Schools, Huroc Park, City Hall and Pebblebrook subdivision. Some of the businesses featured are Lillo Fiorelli’s Restaurant and Catering, Adolf Towing and Service, Smith Hotel, Hair 1, Scheels Concrete and People’s Bank and Trust.

This gameboard was commissioned by the Flat Rock Jaycees in 1980. It was produced by the Michael Glenn Productions Company in 1980.

The game board is encased in a recessed card table surrounded by wine corks and topped with plexiglass. Barb Fedon, late President of the Flat Rock Historical Society and former city council member, encased the board so that future generations could enjoy it. Currently, it is in storage at the Museum, but it is a very unique piece of Flat Rock’s local history worth noting.

Did you enjoy last year’s Cemetery Walk? We are in the process of planning the 2018 Cemetery Walk. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, April 25th at the Smith Hotel at 7pm.

If you would like to participate, please join us!
**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**
Fred & Tamara Monteleone    Marcus Ochalek
Jeff Groleau                   Robert Almaguer
Sue Vreeland Sander          Kathy Schafer

**THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP**
Ralph Olsen                 Sharon Gonyea

**MUSEUM OFFICE HOURS**
Our Museum Office is located on the lower level of the Munger Store and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon-4pm and by appointment. Occasionally, we are out for training or donation pick-up, so call ahead to be sure someone is available 734.730.3213.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**
Do you like history? The Flat Rock Historical Museum is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for new museum volunteers. The Volunteer Application is available on our website. Also, we utilize volunteermatch.com to post our volunteer opportunities and training information.

**PICTORIAL HISTORY OF FLAT ROCK**
The Flat Rock book published by Arcadia Publishing is still available for $22 from the Museum. It makes a wonderful gift. Books are also available at the Blue Heron Trading Company in downtown Flat Rock or by calling the museum.

**ANNUAL DUES**
Annual dues collection will start in May 2018 for the 2018-2019 membership year. Our membership year mirrors our fiscal year of July 1st - June 30th. Dues can be mailed, brought to the museum office, given to any board member or paid online via using paypal at:
http://flatrockhistory.org/about/membership/

**2018 Spring Flea Market Date**
**SUNDAY, MAY 6**

Our 89th Bi-Annual Flat Rock Historical Society Spring Flea Market will be held on May 6th at the Speedway. As always we need your help. Dawn Bartok, has volunteered to manage the Country Store during the Flea Market.

Please let us know if you can help sell baked goods that day. We often run out of baked goods, so we depend on you! Bring your baked goods for the Country Store to the Library Local History Room on Saturday, May 5th between 12 and 4 pm. If you are going to visit the Flea Market on Sunday, please consider stopping at the Historical Society’s Country Store Booth at the Speedway.

**Flat Rock Historical Society**
**2018-2019 Membership Application**

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Please tell us a little about your connection to Flat Rock or interests on the lines above.

**CHOOSE ONE:**

$_______ $10 Individual Annual Dues (July-June) w/Electronic Delivery of Newsletter

$_______ $15 Family Annual Dues (July-June) w/Electronic Delivery of Newsletter

$_______ $5 Student Membership

$_______ $100 Life Membership

$_______ TOTAL

Make checks payable to: “FRHS”
Mail application & check/money order to:

**Flat Rock Historical Society**
**PO Box 337**
**Flat Rock, MI 48134**
REMINDER!
General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 19th

5:30 pm
Members Dinner

6 pm
General Membership
Business Meeting

7 pm
“History in a World of Innovation”
Cindy Melotti, Historical Presenter at The Henry Ford

“Sprouting,” (Flat Rock) The Huron Valley Sentinel, 27 April 1934, p. 1, center top.

Flat Rock Historical Museum Campus
25486 Gibraltar Road,
P.O. Box 337
Flat Rock, Michigan 48134
734-782-5220
archives@frdigitalhistory.org
SPECIAL NEWSLETTER INSERT

PROPOSED CHANGES
TO THE
BYLAWS
OF THE
FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TO BE VOTED ON BY THE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
ON
JUNE 21, 2018
FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BY-LAWS

Article I
NAME

The name of this organization is the Flat Rock Historical Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. It is recognized as a 501(C)(3) corporation by the IRS, United States Department of Treasury.

Article II
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this Society shall be to preserve and communicate, to residents and visitors, the history and spirit of those who have lived in and near the City of Flat Rock from the beginning of human habitation or its vision as well as to bring our community together for the enjoyment, discovery, and learning of our past to create our future.

Article III
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is open to all persons and groups who are interested in history and the Society’s purposes. Any person who desires to become a member shall complete an application form and present it to any member of the Executive Board, submit online through the Society’s website, or mail to the Society’s address with the required dues.

Section 2. There shall be seven membership classifications as follows:

   a. Individual Membership: Upon payment of annual dues, individuals over the age of eighteen may become members of the Society with all the rights of Membership, including one email subscription to the Society newsletter.

   b. Student Membership – An individual who has not yet graduated from high school may purchase a student membership annually, for one-half the individual rate if not part of a family member household and will include an email copy of the newsletter. A Student must be at least 17 years of age to vote.

   c. Family Membership: Two named adults, plus any additional members of the household under the age of eighteen, residing at the same address, paying an additional one-half the individual rate may become Family Associate Members; includes multiple email subscriptions to the Society newsletter.

   d. Lifetime Membership: Any person who meets the requirements to become an Individual Member and pays one lump sum fee equal to ten times the annual membership fee shall be a Life Member. There are no spouse or family lifetime memberships.
e. Honorary Membership: Upon nomination by a Board Member and two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Honorary Membership may be conferred upon an individual in recognition of outstanding service to the Society. Honorary Members are non-voting, exempt from paying dues, and includes an email subscription to the Society newsletter.

f. Patron Membership: Upon nomination by a Board Member and two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Patron Membership may be conferred upon an individual in recognition of significant donation to the Society. Patron Members are non-voting, exempt from paying dues, and includes an email subscription to the Society newsletter.

g. Associate Membership: Upon nomination by a Board Member and two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Associate Membership may be conferred upon an organization or business in recognition of significant donation to the Society. Associate Members are non-voting, exempt from paying dues, and includes an email subscription to the Society newsletter.

Section 3. Determination of amount dues:

a. The Executive Board shall annually recommend the dues of the Society and shall publish its recommendations no later than the third quarter of the fiscal year in an issue of the Society newsletter.

b. Any increase in dues must be approved by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

c. Dues are payable annually on or before July 1st and considered delinquent by August 31.

d. Members admitted after June 1 shall be credited with dues paid for the following year.

e. The Chairperson shall notify the Executive Board, in writing, by August 31 of those members who are delinquent.

f. Membership will be terminated if annual dues are not received by September 30.

g. Only paid members may hold office or be members of a committee.

Section 4. Disciplinary Action


b. Offenses not addressed in the Disciplinary Action Procedure will be addressed according to Roberts Rules of Order.
Article IV
OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Society - also known as the Executive Board - shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Historical Commission Liaison, a Treasurer, four Trustees and the Immediate Past President.

Section 2.
   a. Elected officers shall have been active members of the Society for a minimum of six months.

   b. The President shall have previously served at least one term in another position on the Executive Board.

Section 3. Members of the Executive Board shall affirm annually, the Society Code of Ethics.

Section 4. TERMS OF OFFICE
   a. The officers shall be elected in at the Annual Meeting in June for a term of one year to begin in July except for the Trustees.
   b. The Trustees will be elected for alternating terms of two years. If necessary, the first year (July 2018), one or two Trustees, as needed, will be elected for one year to better facilitate the rotation.

Section 5. Within fifteen days after retiring from office, all officers shall deliver to their successors all monies, accounts, records, books, papers, and other property belonging to the Society.

Section 6. VACANCIES
   a. Vacancies in any elected office (other than the President) shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the President with the approval of the majority Executive Board.

   b. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Vice-President to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 7. NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS
   a. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of three members, at least sixty days prior to the election meeting.

   b. Nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting.

   c. All nominees must be at least 17 years of age.

   1) Nominees under the age of 18 can only hold the office of trustee.

   d. No nominee shall be named, either by the Nominating Committee or from the floor, without having consented to serve as an officer.

   e. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote.
f. Only members in good standing for thirty days before the date of the annual or special meeting of members may vote at a meeting.

g. Members must be at least 17 years of age to vote.

Article V
DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall:
   a. preside at all meetings of the general membership and the Executive Board.
   b. appoint all chairpersons of standing and special committees with the approval of the Executive Board.
   c. sign all contracts and documents authorized by the Executive Board.
   d. appoint the chair of the Finance Committee.
   e. Be the official representative of the Society, authorized to act on behalf of the Society; and be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall:
   a. assume the duties of the President in the absence of or at the request of the President.
   b. assume the duties of the President for the remaining term of office in the event of a vacancy in that office.
   c. arrange for programs for regular meetings.
   d. provide information about future programs in a timely manner to the Public Relations Committee.
   e. present an annual report to the President at the July Board meeting.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall:
   a. record minutes of the proceedings of the Society;
   b. keep and have available at all meetings the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Membership List and Committee List.
Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

a. conduct the written and electronic correspondence of the Society.

b. maintain monthly record of the Society’s correspondence.

c. send meeting notification to membership.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall:

a. maintain the records of all funds of the Society.

b. pick up the Society's mail.

c. be responsible for depositing all monies in the name of the Society in a federally insured depository designated by the Executive Board.

d. pay designated line items in the annual budget when due and non-designated line items as approved by the Executive Board.

e. present a financial report and budget status report at each meeting of the Executive Board and a summary of the reports at each general membership meeting.

f. serve on the Finance Committee.

g. prepare and present the financial records for audit after the end of the fiscal year and before the first Executive Board Meeting of the new fiscal year.

h. present an annual report to the President at the July Board meeting.

i. Ensure that all financial paperwork is completed, and when necessary, delivered to the CPA in a timely fashion.

Section 6. The Trustees shall:

a. act as trustees of the organization’s assets and must exercise due diligence to oversee that the organization is well-managed and that its financial situation remains sound.

b. participate in at least one standing committee.

Article VI
SCHEDULE AND QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings
a. Regular meetings of the general membership will occur at least every quarter and will be held on the third Thursday of September, February, April, and June.

b. The Annual Meeting being in June for election of officers.

c. Notice of general membership meetings shall be published on the Society webpage, Society Newsletter, social media, and via email.

Section 2. Special meetings of the members may be called by the President or by the Executive Board or by nine (9) members of the Society upon three days advance notice to the membership, which notice shall specify the special purpose of the meeting.

Section 3. Twelve voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general membership meeting.

Article VII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board shall meet at least nine times annually.

Section 2. The Board shall:
   a. transact the business of the Society between general membership meetings.
   
   b. direct committees.
   
   c. approve the Society Calendar.
   
   d. approve the Operating Budget.

Section 4. Any member of the Board who fails to attend three consecutive meeting without an excuse acceptable to the Board shall be considered to have resigned.

Section 5. A member of the Executive Board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or other means of remote communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this subsection constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

Section 6. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or four members of the Board upon 24 hours notice.

Article VIII
COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Society may have the following standing committees:
a. The Membership Committee -
   1. shall be responsible for membership drives and processing new candidates for membership.
   2. shall establish a program to encourage new members to join the Society.
   3. shall create an atmosphere of welcome for both members and guests at the general membership meeting.

b. The Friends Of The Flat Rock Historical Society Committee -
   1. shall be responsible for planning projects to raise funds for the treasury.

c. The Education Planning Committee -
   1. shall organize and present to members, the general public, or both, instructional classes and short orientation tours that pertain to the purposes of the Society as well as set the time, place, and date of the meetings.

d. The Nominating Committee -
   1. shall prepare a single slate of officers to be voted on by the membership at the election meeting; and
   2. shall report to the membership prior to the election meeting.

e. The Public Relations Committee -
   1. shall be responsible for all publicity and public relations for the Society and shall determine and oversee the direction, tone, and content of all Society publications.
   2. shall be composed of the editor of the Society newsletter, the editor of the Society bulletin, a member of the Education Committee, and a member of the Friends of the Flat Rock Historical Society Committee.

f. The Finance Committee -
   1. shall propose the annual operating budget for approval at the annual meeting in June
   2. shall audit the accounts of the treasurer and any and all trust funds belonging to the Society; and
   3. shall maintain a Capital Equipment inventory; and
   4. shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board.

g. The Research Committee -
   1. shall be responsible for researching and securing historical materials in keeping with the objectives of the Society.
Section 2. Committees, standing or special, shall consist of Trustees and volunteer members.

Article IX
FISCAL POLICY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Society shall be July 1 to June 30.

Section 2. Non-budgeted Monetary decisions over $100 require approval by the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Society shall be funded by the collection of dues, donations, sales of publications, fund-raisers and such additional functions as the membership may authorize.

Article X
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order that the Society may adopt.

Section 2. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian advises the President and the Society at the meetings as needed and insures that the Societies rules are followed.

Article XI
AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any general membership meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote, provided that proposed amendments; a. have been submitted in writing at the previous meeting; and b. at least 10 days prior to that meeting, the proposed bylaws were 1) published on the Society webpage, in the Society Newsletter, on social media, and via email. 2) mailed to hard copy members.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed for accuracy and possible revision at least every three years. The fiscal year 2017-18 being the starting point.