



The TELEGRAPH

VOLUME XLVII Issue 3

July 2021

Mittlestat-Smith American Legion Post #337 Celebrates 100 years!

by Jean Whisler Walker

The Flat Rock American Legion Post No. 337 is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The post was dedicated in 1921 and named the Mittlestat-Smith post to honor Earl Mittlestat and Emory Smith, two of Flat Rock's WWI Veterans killed in action in France.

There were fifteen original charter members and the legion's membership continued to grow to as many as one hundred twenty-eight members after WWII. The Women's Auxiliary for Post 337 included another forty plus members at that time.

A house on the corner of Ypsilanti and Division Streets was purchased and remodeled in 1938 to accommodate the post clubhouse. A large celebration was planned for Memorial Weekend 1939. A crowd of 10,000 was expected to attend per *The Guardian*, featuring sixteen bands, a



Emory Smith and Earl Mittlestat, Paris 1918.



Dedication of American Legion, May 28, 1939. Governor Dickinson and Secretary of State Harry Kelly A crowd of 10,000 was expected included Charlie Cayley, Oscar Smith, Jesse Van Riper, August Bunte, Julius Konarski and Ernie Fugman.

parade, softball games, and a street dance were all planned for the celebration. This old clubhouse was eventually replaced by the brick/concrete block building housing the current post which has recently undergone renovations itself.

At the present time, Post 337 still has many members and participates with other local American Legion and VFW Posts in serving as the Honor Guard for funerals of Veterans in the Downriver area.

The Flat Rock Historical Society would like to congratulate Post 337 on their 100th anniversary and would like to thank the members and all Veterans for their service.

FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 337
FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN 48134
734.782.5220



Visit us online:
WWW.FLATROCKHISTORY.ORG

Email:
ARCHIVES@FRDIGITALHISTORY.ORG

FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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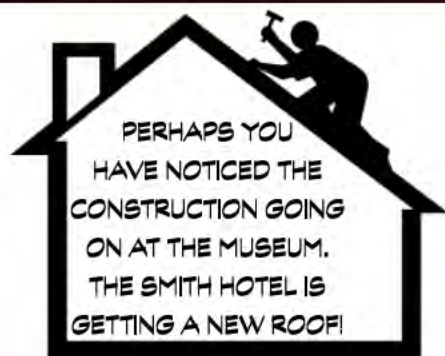
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OUR MISSION

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.



Hello Members of the FRHS,

I would like to introduce myself, I am Bruce Chapin and the current President of the Society. I am a lifelong resident of the Flat Rock mailing address. (I live just over the border in Monroe County therefore I am not technically a Flat Rock Resident.)

My family has lived in the area since the late 1800s and in the United States since 1635. I have been

a member of the Society since 1981.

It is my desire that this message to the members will be a continuing addition to the newsletter. With the purpose of highlighting various aspects of the society and bring to the attention of the membership, things I feel are important to inform and elaborate upon.

It is also my desire to grow the society and its volunteer base. To that end, my message for this newsletter is that the society is facing a bit of a crises. We are desperately in need of volunteers. There are 10 or 12 people who are involved in the day to day functioning of the society plus archiving artifacts plus planning events plus maintenance plus...It is a daunting task for just a few people. And frankly we are tired at looking at each other. We need some new faces.

It has always been my belief that members of a group should contribute time to that group if it is within their ability. As a volunteer there is no "heavy lifting" involved unless you chose to do so. People are needed to sort, catalogue, clean and properly store artifacts. This is a good way to experience some of the history of Flat Rock we have in our archives. You can help prepare and host some of the events and open houses we put on throughout the year and thus meet new people and make new friends.

Whatever you choose for your volunteer work, it will be appreciated and rewarding! To get started just call the society at 734-782-5220. Ask for Lesley or Mary. We are not open all the time, so if you get the recording just leave a number and we will call you back.

I look forward to seeing you in the future.

History is something many of the younger generation will not value until their later years. Now is the time to instill an appreciation of it.

Bruce Chapin
President

^{5th Annual} DIGGIN' UP LOCAL HISTORY WALK

WINNER OF THE 2020 STATE HISTORY AWARD - SPECIAL PROGRAM/EVENT

On the Campus of the
FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL MUSEUM

ADULTS \$20 & STUDENTS* \$12

**STUDENTS AGES 10-18 WITH PURCHASE OF ADULT TICKET*

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH
& SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH**

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED VIA
CASH/CHECK IN THE MUSEUM OFFICE:**

**25486 GIBRALTAR RD.
FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN
734.782.5220**

- OR -

**PURCHASE ONLINE VIA CREDIT CARD AT:
[HTTPS://21HISTORYWALK.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://21historywalk.eventbrite.com)**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
CABOOSE #94 RESTORATION
& EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**



**EXPLORE SPECIAL EXHIBITS
ON OUR MUSEUM CAMPUS
& ENJOY LEARNING LOCAL HISTORY
FROM THOSE WHO LIVED IT!**

2021 Calendar

Open House Schedule*

1 - 4 pm

Blue Saturday, July 10th
Ribbon Saturday, August 7th
Summer Saturday, September 11th

Home Saturday, October 2nd
for the Saturday, November 6th
Holidays Saturday, December 4th

* Some buildings and exhibits may be closed based on spacing rules and government restrictions. Schedule is subject to change.

Fall Flea Market - October 3rd
7 am-3 pm @ Speedway

Membership Meeting Dates

Thursday,
 September 16th 5pm Members Chili/Soup Off
 6pm Members Meeting
 7pm "True Crime Michigan"
 by Tobin Buhk, Author

Thursday,
 December 16th 6pm Member's Holiday Party

In Memoriam
Carol Mathews

(August 18, 1941 - May 3, 2021)

We are sorry to report the passing of Carol Mathews, age 79, an active member of the Local History Research Team. Carol grew up in Flat Rock and graduated Flat Rock High School in 1959. She was able to help with identifying many of the pictures and names of people. She helped organize the files that we obtained from Winnie Oestrike Hamilton. She spent many hours working on the school file since many in her family were teachers. Carol was born Aug. 18, 1941 and died May 3, 2021. She was the daughter of Frank Mathews and Dorothy Hermann. She was retired from DTE Energy and loved to travel. Her love of history and great sense of humor will be greatly missed.



GRATITUDE

We would like to thank the following (and hope we didn't miss anyone):

Kathy Fisk, Dawn & Jack Bartok, Bruce & Patty Chapin, Heather Beitler, Mary Washko, Kaitlyn Wrobel, Cindy Fesko and Lila Fedokovitz for all the hard work on this year's flea market.

To everyone who provided baked goods and donations for the Country Store.

To everyone who participated in this year's Memorial Day Parade.

Jean Walker and Laura Polce for cleaning and packing up after the Barn Sale.

Joe Bruce for helping to remove the leftover items from the Barn Sale.

Val Parron, Nina Spaulding's daughter, for the vintage advertisements and bolt of linen for historical costumes.

Jean Walker, Mary Washko and Lesley for conducting the Ladies Tour on June 9th.

Kevin & Jean Walker for picking up the metal shelves donated by Bob Gilbert.

Bruce and Patty Chapin for purchasing and transporting the storage shelving sets for Wagar and the hotel.

Joe Pagano for the USB drive with society past event photographs.

The Flat Rock Recreation Department for allowing use of the warming center for our Members Presentation.

Tyler Moll for his amazing presentation on Eloise.

To Kylee Murdoch for taking on the job of planting and weeding the museums grounds.

To Lila Fedokovitz for the over and above yard maintenance, clearing out trees and trimming the giant Trumpet Vine. And for painting the fence!

To Bruce Chapin for trying to fix the Windmill and working to locate parts.

To Jim & Linda Bobcean for the donation of the antique anvil.

To Theresa & Tim Walsh for the lot of bottles dredged from the river bottom.

Flat Rock Class Composite Photos Wanted

(will scan & return to you)

We are in the process of going through our school class composite collection to scan for preservation and have discovered that we are missing some years.

Listed below are the years for the High School that we are missing.

If you have a Class Composite Photo from these years, we would appreciate if you could lend it to the museum to be scanned. Also, any class photos from Flat Rock Schools would be appreciated to add to the collection.

All Photos will be returned back to their owner!
Thank you!

1900	1912	1927	1958
1901	1913	1928	1960
1902	1914	1929	1968
1903	1915	1947	1969
1904	1917	1950	1970
1905	1920	1951	1971
1906	1921	1952	1972
1907	1922	1953	1974
1908	1925	1954	1975
1909	1926	1955	1976
			1977
			1978
			1979

THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COMPILED BY LOUIS BECKLEY (1951)

Introduction by Lesley Gilliland Harkai

In 1951, The History of the Village of Flat Rock was compiled by Louis Beckley, a surveyor employed by Wayne County. This compiled work included multiple source documents and a series of articles authored by Freeland Garretson. These articles had been published by Garretson in the "Flat Rock News" in 1897 and are mostly recollections by one of the areas oldest residents.

FRHS has recently scanned the work in its entirety with Optical Character Recognition and have arrived at this digital version of this historical work. Since it has been seventy years since the original compilation, we thought we would share some of the first sections from Freeland Garretson's articles. Please keep in mind that this was written in 1897 and as such, has its historical context preserved complete with antiquated spelling and grammatical anomalies. There are some transcriber notes set-off by italics in square brackets for clarity and modern context.

FLAT ROCK OF 60 YEARS AGO

Written and Prepared by Freeland Garretson, 1897

I

Your paper a few weeks ago contained the names of residents and businessmen who lived in this place 18 years ago, which we noticed was read with much interest by the people in this vicinity. We therefore believe that a history of the Village of Flat Rock as it appeared to the writer when he first arrived in this place over 60 years ago would be still more interesting.

When I first set foot in Flat Rock I was between 13 and 14 years of age, having moved with my parents from Paterson, New Jersey, a few miles from New York City, in the year 1835. After stopping for a few months in Brooklyn and a year or two in central New York, we came to Michigan by way of the Hudson River to Albany, then by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and a four-day trip by steamer on Lake Erie, touching all points along the lake shore till finally we arrived in Michigan and our destination, Flat Rock, in the month of May 1837. Having relatives in this place who had come from the East several years before, we soon found a stopping place with an uncle of my father, Adrian Van Riper, who owned and occupied the place where Michael Tures now lives. Here the family stayed for a few days. There were no vacant houses in the place, so we moved into a small log house a few rods below the present residence of Richard Smithson on the opposite side of the road. This house is still standing.

This village was then known as Smooth Rock, named from the rock underlying the place, showing its smooth surface at the bottom of the Huron River which runs through the place. It extended from the River north to and including Ypsilanti Street, and from the mill dam on the west to Division Street, and on the east. A plat of the Village had been laid out some years before, known as the "Village of Vreeland", which consisted of eight blocks of lots extending from the upper end of the Village down to Church Street. This was the full extent of the Village when the writer first came here. The place had been settled several years before.

The excellent water power afforded by the Huron River had encouraged a few eastern parties to establish themselves here, and they had erected a flouring mill, saw mills, and a few other manufactures. The principal residents of the place were the Vreelands, Van Ripers, Van Houtens, Clarks, and others of eastern New York Knickerbocker stock. John Cooke and Hall families came from Seneca County, New York. The Gibraltar and Flat Rock

Canal Company had been organized, which proposed to build a canal from this place to Gibraltar, and several sections were partly finished between the two places. The first cut, a half a mile below the Village, was dug and utilized in furnishing water power for a fine saw mill which the company built at the lower end and about 20 rods below the Wayne County Bending Works. [A rod is equivalent to 16.5 feet.]

This mill did a good business for a short time but was burned down in a year or two. Some of the remains of the old logs may still be seen lying in the basin of the old canal. The work on the canal was stopped the year before on account of the "wildcat" times coming on and failure of the company to provide means to prosecute the work further. Along the route of the canal were nearly a score of shanties where the workmen had lived with their families and which were now deserted. Several of the officers of the company were still living in Flat Rock. [Portions of this Canal can still be seen today. One of the best viewing area is from the rear parking lot of The Roc.]

Among the manufacturing and business places in the Village when the writer came here in 1837 was the old flouring mill belonging to the Vreeland family, which stood on the land now occupied by Metler and Son's saw mill, which ground the small amount of wheat and corn brought in by the surrounding farmers, by the use of the old Burr mill stone. All grist was carried across the race on a foot bridge to the mill, then up into the hopper just as it came from the fanning mill. No patent or roller process was known in those days.

Next we notice the old saw mill, which stood on the spot where the Metler and Son flouring mill now stands. This mill was operated by Russell Ransom and Henry Woodruff. Although only a small amount of lumber could be cut in one day, yet the best clear white wood boards could be bought there for \$5 and \$4 per 1000.

The Huron Valley Mills over the river, now owned and occupied by the Diekman family, was being built that year by Jacob and Daniel C. Vreeland, the carpenter and Joiner work being done by Samuel Hendricks, John Van Riper, and others.

II

Uncle Jimmy Greaves, a Scotchman, kept a general store in the building recently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Shelenberg. He

FREE
MUSEUM
TOURS



Blue Ribbon Summer MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

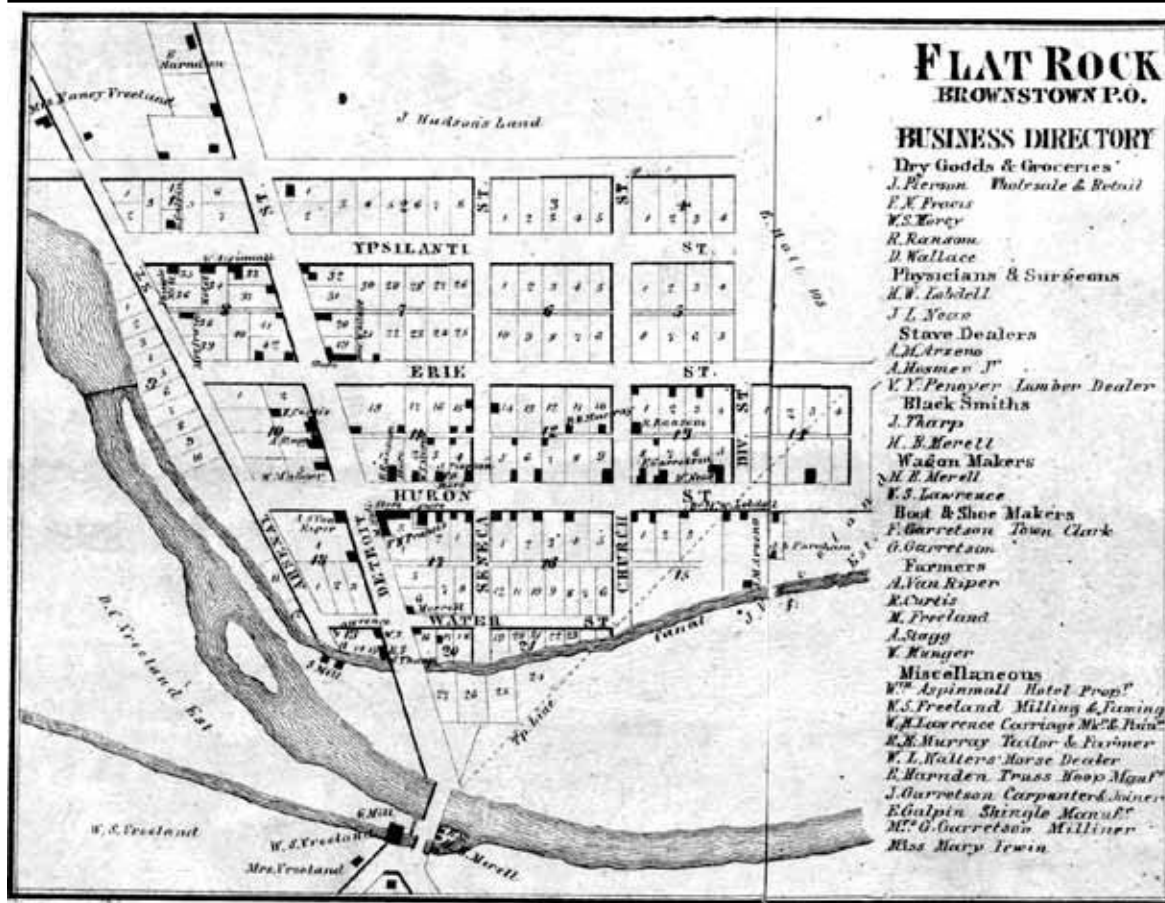
Saturdays 1 - 4 pm

July 10th 🍏 August 7th 🍏 September 11th

25486 Gibraltar Rd. Flat Rock, Michigan

734.782.5220





Geil And Jones, Geil & Harley, Isaac G Freed, Worley & Bracher, and Harley & Siverd Geil. Map of Wayne Co., Michigan. Philadelphia: Geil, Harley & Siverd, 1860. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593159/>.

Clark was clerk for his brother. This building stood on the ground now occupied by the Morey Block, corner of Huron and Detroit Streets. It was removed to make room for the Morey buildings and for several years was used by S. S. Potter as a furniture and undertaking store. Finally it was taken down to make room for the present fine structure of W. L. Potter on Huron Street.

A frame building known as the old Still House occupied the ground where the front part of David Shove's building now stands, where it was said that various kinds of liquors had been manufactured. Directly in the rear of this place on the old canal bank which has since been filled in, was an ashery, run at the time by R. Ransom.

On the southeasterly corner of Huron and Seneca Streets stood an old log house previously vacated by Daniel C. Vreeland who was now living in his new residence over the river on his farm, now owned by W. B. Stone. Dr. John L. Near then occupied the old log house which stood on the ground where Dan B. Mettler now lives while he was building his new residence on the corner of Huron and Division Streets, the same being now the residence of W. L. Potter. This building was erected in the year 1837. Part of the same building now occupied by Mrs. H. W. Lobdell stood on its present site at that time and was afterwards remodeled to its present condition. Directly on the rear of the last-named place and between there and the old canal bank stood an old brickyard, then run by Russell Ransom. Further down on the same side of the street, on the lot now owned by Henry Lautenshlager, stood a small store and dwelling where Rensalier Wallace kept a small general store.

The old log schoolhouse stood near the spot where Mrs. Katherine Huhn now lives. Here the first rudiments of an education, as far as spelling reading, writing, and a spattering of Daball's arithmetic were concerned were administered.

Returning to the head of Huron Street, Jacob Vreeland occupied the large wooden building—part frame and part log—situated near the mill race and facing down Huron Street. This building was taken down only a few years ago. Garry Vreeland, the oldest brother of the Vreeland family, owned and occupied a farm half a mile north of the Village on the Dearborn Road. Elias Vreeland lived at the point of the Vreeland farm now occupied by Charles Frank, between the railroad and Ypsilanti Road. The house then stood directly across the way from the creamery buildings. James Vreeland, youngest of the family of Vreelands owned and occupied the farm at the foot of Huron Street. The old house directly across the street from the Wayne County Bending Works, now ready to tumble down and an eyesore to that neighborhood, was once the most beautiful building in this part of Wayne County. Another Garry Vreeland, a distant relative of the Vreeland family, also owned and occupied a small piece of land half a mile north, on the west side of the Dearborn Road, at the place now known as the Aunt Fanny Place.

also ran an ashery in connection with the store, trading drygoods and groceries for ashes. We remember paying 2 shillings per pound for sugar, 20 and 40 cents for coffee, and other things in proportion. There was no established price for wheat or grain, but a bushel of wheat for a day's work in harvest or haying; no eight or ten hour system for labor, but from sunrise to sunset was the only time to which all labor was fixed.

A few rods further east on Detroit Street stood an old building then occupied by one-legged tailor George Moore, a social fellow. His place was a general rendezvous for the boys of the neighborhood.

We next come to the old red store and dwelling then occupied by Peleg T. Clark as a general store. The late F. I.

FLAT ROCK OF 60 YEARS AGO *continued from page 5*

Down the street from the Morey buildings, we next come to a frame building occupied by Emmanuel Lewis as a shoe shop and residence. This was afterwards moved to the corner of Erie and Division Streets and is now the residence of Wellington Wagar. Next was then the residence of John Cooke, Sr., and family, on the lot now owned by Gus Limbright, where Joseph A. Pierson kept a store and residence for a number of years. Mr. Cooke owned a large tract of land east of the Village, on which he had built a good barn and fine garden, directly across the road from the present residence of Thomas D. Cooke.

Henry Woodruff had a residence and tailor shop in a building which stood on the ground now occupied by W. S. Vreeland's brick building. The old house was afterwards removed, and is now a part of the present home of Lucius Lobdell on Cooke Avenue.

On the ground now occupied by the Congregational Church, then stood a hotel or tavern kept by Alexander Wallace, where whiskey and other liquors, pure and unadulterated, could at any time be purchased for three cents a drink.

We now come to the old frame church which stood on the place where the present M. E. Church stands. It was about 50 feet square and built in the old style. Elder Elias Pattee was the principal preacher in those primitive days. Ransom Curtis, the blacksmith, had a small house and home on the southeast corner of the lot where the M. E. parsonage now stands, and a blacksmith shop on the northeast corner of the lot.

III

On the lot now owned by Frank Wagar, Church Street, Russell Ransom had an office on the southwest corner where he dispensed law and justice to criminals for a number of years.

A small frame building stood on the ground where Mrs. Weltha Stoflet's residence now stands, which was used as a parsonage and select school rooms.

Abraham Clark had just built and then lived in the building on Seneca and Erie Streets lately vacated by the death of Francis I. Clark.

The few members of the Presbyterian Church of this vicinity had just put up a large frame church building on the lot near the present residence of Albert Upham and directly across the street from William L. Walters. The building was partially enclosed, but the few scattering members were unable to finish the building as the hard times came on, and the structure was finally taken down and removed.

David Wallace had a frame building put up for a store and residence on the corner where the Ferstle Hotel now stands. Here he and Sid Woolsey ran a grocery and general store.

Broadstreet S. Hicks occupied a one-story frame residence on the ground where Mrs. Conrad Pierson now lives. A small frame building stood a few rods east of the last named place, facing Erie Street, which was then used as an office by the Flat Rock and Gibraltar Canal Company, on the southeast corner of the lot now owned by Mrs. Delia Pierson, Erie and Seneca Streets. He kept the post office here at that time. His father, John Clark, Sr., lived with him.

Robert Jamison kept a small store in the old building called the Still House, which stood on the spot where Dave Shove's building now stands; and on the southeast corner of Huron and Seneca Streets was the store and residence of Charles Stockman, who came here with his family from Detroit, bringing with him a stock of general merchandise, which was shipped to this place by boat, coming around through Lake Erie and up the Huron River, where the goods were unloaded below the bridge at Flat Rock.

A fine frame dwelling on Arsenal Street, facing the river on the rear end of the lots of Mrs. Conrad Pierson, was occupied at that time by some of the officers of the Gibraltar and Flat Rock Canal Company. This building was burned down a few years ago.

Mr. Daniel Peters owned the farm three miles north, now belonging to C. D. Peters. Mr. Pierce B. Smith owned the farm two miles north, now belonging to the Rumsey family, near Maple Grove.

The Harryman and Wisdom families owned and occupied farms on the Dearborn Road three miles northwest of this village. John Forbes and family then owned the farm now occupied by Mrs. John Wagar, one mile north.

William Munger's residence was just across the railroad from the Forbes farm, one mile north.

Henry Van Riper owned the farm now occupied by the Carter family, one mile east of the Village.

A dwelling house stood on the land where John H. Peters now lives, a small dwelling on the Benjamin Hall place down the river, and a small house was standing on the south side of the highway near the river, on the farm owned by S.F. Smith one mile south of the village.

Up on the hill, this way from the residence of Jerry Van Riper, stood an old mill run by ox power, where the few farmers of the neighborhood had their corn and coarse grain chopped up for feed. This was being taken down and removed about this time.

Across the river Adrian Van Riper, Sr., and his two sons, John and Adrian, Jr., owned and occupied the farm where Michael Tures now lives. In the year 1837 a number of rods of post and rail fence was put up along the highway at this farm, some of which are still standing in good shape after so many years. The orchard on the farm connected with the place of Chet Van Riper and was set out that spring.

Returning to the Village: A carding mill, where wool carding and cloth dressing was carried on for, a few years by William Merritt and Sylvanus, did a good business in the carding mill mentioned heretofore which stood on the ground where Metler and Son's saw mill now stands.

An old log house was standing on the ground half a mile west of the Village on the county line road where Rev. Robert Parsons now lives, and half an acre of land was cleared off. An old man Daniel Kittle, occupied the place.

TRUE CRIME: MICHIGAN

The Flat Rock Historical Society
is pleased to once again welcome
Tobin Buhk, Michigan Author.

Thursday,
September 16, 2021
7:00 pm

Join Us!
PUBLIC WELCOME
FREE EVENT

Flat Rock Historical Society
25486 Gibraltar Rd.
Flat Rock, Michigan 48134
734-782-5220

The State's Most Notorious
Criminal Cases

Tobin T. Buhk

Flat Rock Yearbooks Wanted

(will scan & return to you)

We are in the process of going through our school yearbook collection to scan for preservation and have discovered that we are missing some years.

Listed below are the years we are missing.

If you have a yearbook or Green & Gold Magazine from these years, we would appreciate if you could lend it to the museum to be scanned.

All yearbooks will be returned back to their owner!
Thank you!

1925	1940	1963	1986	1998	2016
1926	1941	1965	1987	1999	2017
1927	1942	1967	1988	2001	2018
1929	1943	1968	1989	2002	2019
1930	1944	1969	1990	2004	2020
1931	1945	1970	1991	2005	2021
1932	1946	1973	1992	2007	
1933	1947	1974	1993	2008	
1934	1948	1976	1994	2009	
1935	1949	1979	1995	2012	
1939	1962	1980	1996	2013	
		1981	1997	2014	
		1985		2015	

HELP RESTORE CABOOSE #94!



"Old 94" was built in 1925 at Butler, Pennsylvania by the Standard Steel Car Co. for the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad. It was one of forty new cabooses Henry Ford commissioned for his new electrified railroad. Of these, Flat Rock's "Old 94" and the one at the HENRY FORD are believed to be the only TWO left. During the 1960's, the caboose was decorated as the Santa Car and served as "Santa's Caboose" to delight the families of the railroad workers. The caboose is 96 years old and in need of serious repairs. We need your help!

Make checks payable to:

Flat Rock Historical Society
and mail

P. O. Box 337

Flat Rock, MI 48134

or call and drop off donation at Museum office at Munger back door

MANY THANKS!

D.T.&I. Railroad was the original railroad that is now the Canadian National Railroad (CN) at the corner of Vreeland Rd. and Peters Rd.

Welcome New & Renewing Members!

Renewing Members

Darlene Sarkozi Roberta Gonyea Kate & Beau Wroble
Cindy & Milford Greutman Harkai Family Betty Whisler
Sherry Huntington Laura & Jim Polce Tracey Cooper
Tim Penrod Kelly Family Jean & Kevin Walker
Florence Brule Tim Penrod Mary Alice Dziedzic
Shaffer Family

New Members

Rose Chambers
Donna Colby
Mary Myers
Kylee Murdoch
Joe & Betty Washko
Kelly Sizemore

Lifetime Members

Sharon Newton
Neta A. Inman

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues are due for the 2021-2022 membership year. Our membership year mirrors our fiscal year July 1st - June 30th. Dues can be mailed, brought to the museum office, given to any board member or paid online. Thanks to you all!!!



FLAT ROCK OF 60 YEARS AGO *continued from page 6*

The house where Mr. Diekman now lives, across from the mill, was built about this time for a store building. Andrew Later, a young man from Philadelphia, opened a general store here under the ownership of his uncle, Mr. O'Connor, a Monroe merchant, which was run for a few years. Dr. J. L. Near and Daniel C. Vreeland afterwards purchased the goods and ran the store in connection with the mill. A former wooden bridge crossed the river several rods above the present iron bridge, and a wooden structure was built across the mill race. Between the two bridges and between the race and river stood a blacksmith and wagon shop occupied by several parties for a number of years. This was called the Island. *[This is Huroc Park.]*

To keep a hotel or tavern required no license in those days. Whiskey, the best article, entirely free from poison, cost about 20 cents per gallon, and a person could easily set himself up in business for a very small sum. Associations were formed to stop the liquor traffic, and petitions against the sale of intoxicants, but with little effect; and when laws were finally made, there were found many ways to evade them. One of the tavern keepers of the Village, who kept a place where the Congregational Church now stands, for the purpose of increasing his trade, purchased a fine young bear, which was placed in a stall in his barn. A few cents were charged for a sight at the animal, and this entitled the customer to a glass of whiskey at the bar. This scheme proved a big success and brought the proprietor a large trade.

Flat Rock Historical Society 2021-22 Membership Application

Today's Date _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Membership No. _____

Name

Street Address

City State ZIP

@ _____
Email 1 Address

@ _____
Email 2 Address

() _____
Telephone #

☐ Landline
☐ Cell
☐ Texting

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

CHOOSE ONE:

- ☐ \$10 Individual Annual Dues (July-June)
- ☐ \$15 Family Annual Dues (July-June)
- ☐ \$5 Student Membership
- ☐ \$100 Life Membership (per person)

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

Flat Rock Historical Society
PO Box 337
Flat Rock, MI 48134

For Office Use Only:
☐ Scan ☐ PastPerfect ☐ MailChimp

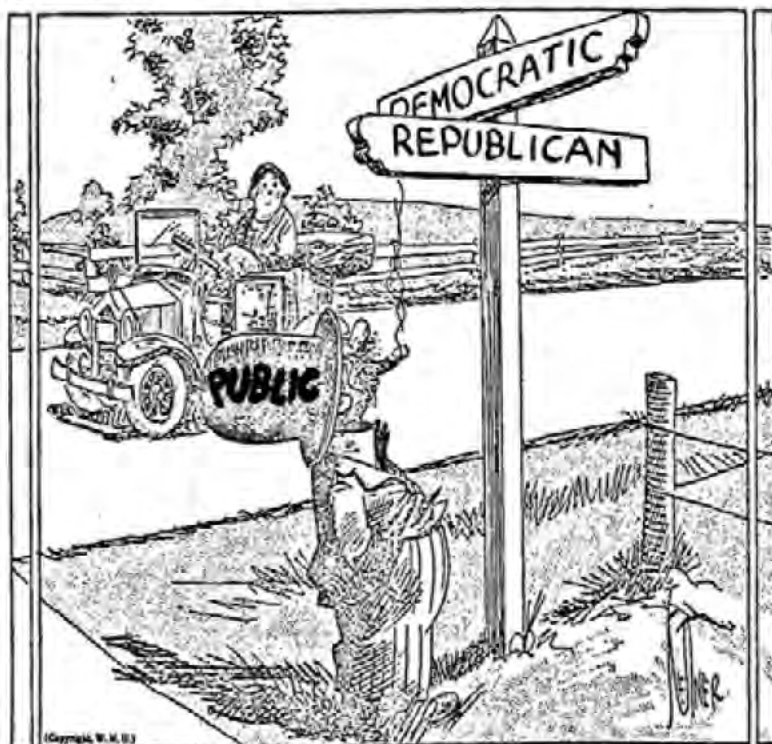


Postage
Here

The Last Laugh:

Vintage Cartoons from the Hometown Paper

At the National Cross Roads



"At the National Cross Roads" *The Huron Valley Sentinel*
(Flat Rock), 11 June 1928, p. 1.

MUSEUM UPDATES

Our Museum Office is located on the lower level of the Munger Store and (at least at this stage) is open by appointment. We have been given clearance by the city to allow for volunteers to work onsite and we have a number of major exhibit resets that we are working on.

Additionally, we are working on cataloguing items into our new web database system. This is potentially something that could be done from home if anyone has a computer and would like to volunteer their time. Please call the museum for a volunteer application and additional details.

We are currently in the planning stages for our 5th Annual Diggin' Up Local History event planned for this fall. If you would like to participate in this fun event, please call the museum, 734-782-5220.

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF FLAT ROCK

The Flat Rock book published by Arcadia Publishing is still available for \$22 from the Museum Gift Shoppe. Books are also available at the Blue Heron Trading Company in downtown Flat Rock or by calling the museum office 734.782.5220.

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