



## Flat Rock Historical Society

25486 Gibraltar Road,  
Flat Rock, Michigan 48134

734.782.5220 Museum Office  
[www.FlatRockHistory.org](http://www.FlatRockHistory.org)  
[Archives@FRDigitalHistory.org](mailto:Archives@FRDigitalHistory.org)

### MUSEUM CAMPUS HOURS

Office Hours Tues, Wed, Thurs  
9am-noon  
(its always best to call ahead)

Tours by appointment or during  
scheduled Museum Open Houses

*Please note that we are closed to the  
public in January & February*

### 2024- 2025 Board of Directors

Bruce Chapin, President  
313.363.6338

Vacant, Vice-President

MargaretAnn Warden, Treasurer

Lesley Gilliland Harkai,  
Recording Secretary  
734.730.3213

Vacant,  
Corresponding Secretary

Lila Fedokovitz,  
Historical Commission Liaison  
989.786.3824

Jeff Groleau, Trustee  
Rose Chambers, Trustee  
Jean Whisler Walker, Trustee  
Dawn Bartok, Trustee

### 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.*

# The TELEGRAPH

VOLUME LI Issue 1

APRIL 2025

## A Historical District for Flat Rock

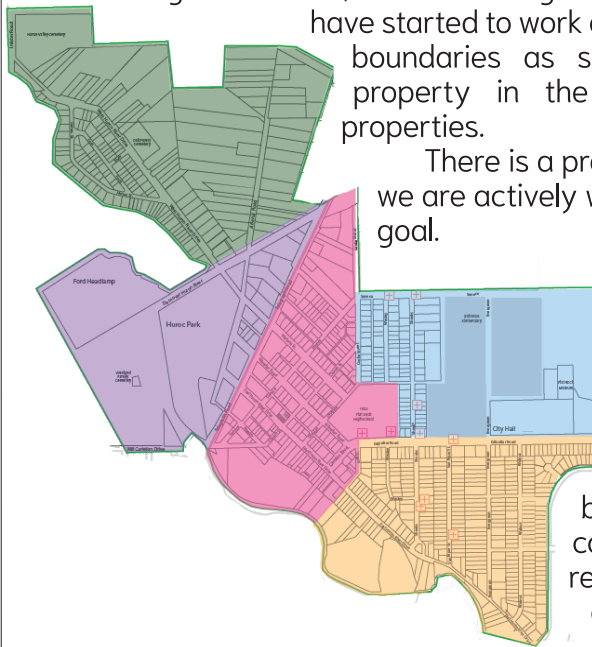
After the loss of the Reading Building, the Flat Rock Historical Commission with its newly earned Certified Local Government status, submitted a grant for training. We did not want to go through losing another historic building and feel powerless to save it from demolition.

One of the tools we learned about was Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970 which is known as the Historical District Act. By inventorying your local properties and doing some simple research, it is possible to construct an historic district and save historic resources from demolition.

Now that there is growing concern about the possibility of the Huron dam being demolished, we feel the urgency to expedite the process and have started to work out a proposed district with the boundaries as shown and photograph each property in the area. We are about 757 properties.

There is a process to make this happen and we are actively working towards making this goal.

It will take 60% of property owners within the boundaries to agree to support this endeavor and there are incentives for the owners of historic properties such as tax breaks and other perks which could help property owners restore their historic to the original and maintain them.



## SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SPRING FLEA MARKET – THE COUNTRY STORE



Our Flat Rock Historical Society Spring Flea Market will be held on May 4th at the Speedway. Dawn Bartok and Kathy Fisk, have volunteered to chair the Country Store. Please let us know if you can help by baking for the sale, monetary donations or selling baked goods during the flea market.

Members are asked to please bring their home-baked goods or monetary donations for the Country Store to the Hotel on Saturday, May 3rd between 1 and 4 pm. It would be very helpful to have items individually wrapped if possible.

If you are wondering what impact donating your home-baked goods or monies for the Country Store has on our society, please know that this bi-annual fundraising endeavor nets several thousand dollars into our annual budget! For a small historical society those funds are greatly needed and appreciated! The proceeds from the baked goods go directly to the society supporting artifact conservation and historic programming. We often run out of baked goods, so we really depend on you!

If you are going to visit the Flea Market on Sunday, please consider supporting the Historical Society's Country Store at the Speedway. Thank you in advance!

## HSM Grant Awarded to Flat Rock Historical Society to digitize the Huron Valley Sentinel Newspapers

The Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) has announced the recipients of its third annual Michigan History Alliance® Grant Program. The Society awarded grants totaling \$50,047 to 23 of its member organizations throughout Michigan. The Michigan History Alliance Grant Program is intended to provide funding for small- to medium-sized history organizations in Michigan. The Society invited its member organizations with annual operating budgets under \$250,000 to submit proposals for a maximum grant amount of \$2,500.



Newspapers have been described as "the diary of a community." In late 1919, James Mote debuted *The Huron Valley Sentinel* in Flat Rock and continued its publication into the 1940s. Historians had long believed that no copies of the newspaper survived, but in 2002, Mote's family discovered a nearly complete collection, these were extras and duplicates. The newspapers are in fragile condition, but museum volunteers are working to digitally scan them, preserving the historical texts for generations. A \$2,500 Alliance grant will allow the Flat Rock Historical Society to purchase a new computer, scanner, and storage materials for this unique collection.

Two new scanners have been purchased and we are working out the details for the scanning project. We are grateful to Mike Sollars for the technical guidance and helping to oversee this project.

We are looking for volunteers who would enjoy scanning these newspapers and other archival artifacts. If you are interested, please call the museum 734-782-5220 or send us an email at [archives@frdigitalhistory.org](mailto:archives@frdigitalhistory.org).

### *Did you Know?*

*New Furnaces/AC Units have been installed in the Flat Rock Hotel and in the Munger Store at the direction of the Flat Rock Historical Commission. Thank you City of Flat Rock!*

### Membership Rate Proposal

We have not raised our dues pricing in many years. To keep up with the economic times, we are proposing a dues increase as follows: \$5 Student, \$10 Senior (60+ years), \$15 Individual, \$25 family (same household), and \$100 Individual Lifetime. This is for notification purposes only. The membership will vote on this proposal at the annual meeting in June and take effect July 1st. Anyone paying their dues prior to the rate increase will pay the current membership rates.

### May 2025

- 4 – Flea Market @ Flat Rock Speedway
- 6 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ noon
- 14 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ 7pm
- 15 – Open House 5–8 pm
- 20 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ noon
- 26 – Memorial Day Parade 9am (American Legion)
- 28 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ noon

### June 2025

- 3 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ noon
- 11 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ 7pm
- 17 – HSM History Hounds Presentation @ noon
- 19 – Annual Meeting/Members Picnic 5pm

Thank you  
**Dan Whisler**  
for setting up the  
working Telegraph  
exhibit in the Munger  
Post Office!

Thanks to  
**Mike Sollars**  
for fixing our  
WiFi!

Thank you to  
**Mike at  
B&L Office Supply**  
in Monroe  
for fixing our Copier.

Thank you to  
**Norm McBride**  
for installing new  
handrails inside the  
Bilco staircases

### WELCOME New Members:

*Kyle J. Smith*

*John Bauman*

*Brad Booth*

*Stelios Stylianou*

### New Timeline Exhibit in Munger Store

We are excited to announce that we are installing a local history timeline on the south interior wall of Munger Store, right above the local history exhibit case. The display is made up of sixty 11x17 plexiglass wall panels and is designed to be fluid to highlight different periods and events in our historic town. We hope to have this completed in the next week or two. Please be sure to stop by and check it out.

## New Addition in the Hotel

We are pleased to announce that we have added a new 75" Samsung "The Frame" Smarttv in the hotel. It is a tv that mimicks artwork, so as to retain the hotel charm. This new setup will allow presenters to have better viewing and sound so that our guests can better enjoy the presentations. It also allows greater space for additional seating.

We are excited to offer the History Hound Presentations offered by the Historical Society of Michigan. **These presentations will be shown inside the Hotel and is free and open to the public. The schedule for May and June is below.**

We also hope to do some organic presentations on local historical topics and updates on the historic district progress. If you have a topic that you would like to see covered, please send us an email at [archives@frdigitalhistory.org](mailto:archives@frdigitalhistory.org)

*P.S. Thank you Bruce Chapin for overseeing the purchase and installation of "The Frame!"*



**Gilded Dreams: The Story of the Steam Yacht Winyah**  
Tuesday afternoon, May 6, 2025, 12-1pm

Join Michigan History Center historian Don La Barre for a fascinating program on the Winyah, a luxurious 1894 yacht built for Lucy Carnegie. La Barre will explore its design, history, and legacy, including its history in the Great Lakes.

**Chain of Title: Uncovering an Old Grist Mill**  
Wednesday evening, May 14, 2025, 7-8pm

Join us to learn how one historian teased out the fascinating tale of an old gristmill as he journeyed through three centuries of historical records, using primary, secondary, and tertiary sources in addition to entrenched oral traditions to reveal the mill's story.

**Apples, Berries, and Peaches—Oh My! A History of the Fruit Ridge**  
Tuesday afternoon, May 20, 2025, 12-1pm

Located northwest of Grand Rapids is an 8-mile swath of land ideal for growing fruit trees. Explore the ecology, technology, and people that have impacted the region over the last few centuries.

**REWIND - Restoring the Light: Saving the St. Helena Lighthouse**  
Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 12-1pm

In 1986, the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA) gathered dedicated volunteers to restore the St. Helena Island Lighthouse. Come and learn the history of the lighthouse, the toll of years of neglect and vandalism, and the remarkable restoration which will be enjoyed for generations to come.

**Dubious Delegates: Michigan Texans at the 1860 Republican Convention**  
Tuesday afternoon, June 3, 2025, 12-1pm

Most southern states sent no delegates to the 1860 Republican convention in Chicago — except Texas. But five of the six "Texas" delegates were Michiganders and one hailed from Canada. Find out how Michigan Texans tried to nominate William Seward for President and block Abraham Lincoln from the White House.

**Just Another Podunk Town: Exploring Michigan's Podunk Places**  
Wednesday evening, Jun 11 2025, 7-8pm

The term "just another podunk town" describes a village that never amounted to much. But in Michigan's case, there have been seven such towns that were actually named Podunk. This program explores the history and location of each one of them.

**Cultural Stewardship in a Changing Environment: Preserving Anishnaabek Traditions**  
Tuesday afternoon, June 17, 2025, 12-1pm

Anishinaabek people are resilient, safeguarding traditions and teachings for future generations. Preserving the age-old traditions this has been challenging as climate change and resource depletion have threatened traditional Anishinaabe art and lifeways. This program focuses on innovative approaches to maintain traditions of basketry, art, and sustenance in a changing landscape.

FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

## Flat Rock Historical Society Membership Application

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email 1 Address @ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email 2 Address @ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Landline

☐ Cell

☐ Texting

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
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  
25486 Gibraltar Road  
Flat Rock, MI 48134

For Office Use Only:

☐ Scan

☐ PastPerfect

☐ MailChimp





Postage  
Here

## *The Last Laugh:*

*Vintage Cartoons from the Hometown Paper*



"The Garden Plot" *The Huron Valley Sentinel*  
(Flat Rock), 1 April 1921, p. 1.

## HELP WANTED

We have several projects that we are working on at the museum: Huron Valley Sentinel Digitization Project, Historical District Photos, Munger Timeline Exhibit, we have several exhibit cases in the hotel that need to be updated with fresh exhibits, and there is no shortage of online cataloguing work. If you have a few hours to donate we can always use a few extra helping hands. Please call the museum for additional information.

The Executive Board of the Flat Rock Historical Society has a few board vacancies that need to be filled. Organizations and Events don't plan and execute themselves, without board members who are invested in museum planning and chairing events, we will cease to exist. Also, being an active board member for a non-profit looks great on a resume, especially for young people looking to pick up experience.

## PICTORIAL HISTORY OF FLAT ROCK

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

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are now due for the 2025-2026 year. Our membership year mirrors our fiscal year July 1st – June 30th. Dues can be mailed, brought to the museum office, or given to any board member.