



FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRHS

LogMark

Fall, 2024

Board of Directors:

Keith Hudson, President; Robin Walter, Vice President & School Liaison; Jean Hudson, Secretary; Lee Beard, Treasurer;
Trustees: Judy Gager/Logmark, Larry Alman, Steve Kemp, Bill Garlick, Cory Smith, Susan McDonnell, Ryan Schlehuber, Bo Stephenson

Concluding our 2024 theme of Notable Names:

**Come join us at the Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30 pm.**

Keith Hudson will present a new program
featuring nine Greenville alumni that made
an impact on the Hollywood film industry:

Jim Blinn	Sharon Taylor Sampson
Lynn Kalbfleisch White	Peter Blinn
Geoffrey Hansen	Terry Sampson
Chris Cook	Shane Mahan
Dr. Carter Dewberry	

**GREENVILLE
GOES TO
HOLLYWOOD**



Thank you for your support for another season!

Join us if you dare!



Bring your friends!



(Last year over 500 Trick-or-Treaters visited the museum. If you're able to support this community family event with a donation of wrapped candy, please drop off at the museum during open hours Saturdays and Sundays during October, 2:00-4:30 pm)

The Museum will close for the season after Halloween.

Thank you for another successful year of bringing local history to the forefront!

*******Have you checked out our new website at flatrivermuseum.org!!! *******



Our collection of sewing machines got some TLC recently!

Darrell Johnston was raised in Greenville and graduated from GHS in 1973. When he visited the museum with his classmates in 2023, he enjoyed the new farming exhibit sponsored by the class, but was more interested in the museum's display of tired, antique sewing machines. It concerned him so much, that when he returned this summer to visit Greenville from his home in Virginia, he offered to repair and spruce up the machines. He looked them all over, cleaned and oiled where necessary, replaced aging belts and made them look ... well, almost like new! He donated his time and talents for the privilege of working on the machines! What a labor of love – we are so grateful!



Darrell retired after 35 years in the Marines and works on antique/vintage sewing machines as a hobby. He only had a short time left in town, but while he was here he cleaned and repaired two machines to put them in working order, even sewing little fabric samples on each to be sure they were okay.

One is the **Union** machine. Union operated from 1881-1891, although it appears they were still advertising the **machine** until 1894 in order to close out left- over stock. The other is our **GRIMME, NATALIS & Co.** machine, also circa 1880's. It has a boat shuttle and one very small bobbin.

Thank you, Darrell, for your loving care of our sewing machines! We appreciate it!

Some Sewing History: Things were a lot different back in 1949. With World War II finally over and manufacturing jobs picking up, men were the breadwinners once again. Many women again stayed at home and tended to the needs of the household and sewed their own clothing or at the very least did the mending. A sewing machine was a precious tool which any woman who owned one felt lucky to have.

The manuals that came with sewing machines back then sometimes were more like books than the pamphlets we usually think of. In 1949 the *Singer Sewing Book* contained within its pages a set of instructions for preparing yourself to sew. Among the astute recommendations? Make sure all the other chores are done before starting your sewing, including making the beds and doing the dishes.

The advice also tackles the reader's appearance. A clean dress, powder, lipstick, and hair done are all essential, according to author Mary Brooks Picken. What if one's husband were to come home in the middle of sewing? Any good wife would want to be prepared for that surely. While it might sound crazy for a sewing book to dole out advice on beauty and chore-keeping, for many women, especially young wives, they wouldn't have batted an eye at the sage wisdom of Picken's writings. It's just how things were for most women back then.

It will soon be time to renew your membership for 2025. Use the newsletter membership form or go online at flatrivermuseum.org. The newsletter via email gets you a full color copy, whereas a mailed copy is in black/white to save printing costs.

Another Sandy Pony Birthday Party was a big hit.



Lots of folks came and signed the card rode the pony, of course and enjoyed Meijer treats!



Playing pretend for Grandparent Day was fun for young and old alike



Fourth Graders from six area schools will visit the museum in early October to learn about the lumbering era of Greenville's history. They learn about our founder, John Green and about pulling out stumps to create farmland. They experience the difficulties of two-man saws and carrying water and they create lumber camp music. Hands-on learning is much more effective than lectures and students have fun making new discoveries! A dedicated group of volunteers makes it all run smoothly. Thanks to everyone for this unique sharing of education.

Chickens wear Glasses?

Check out our new poultry display that completes the agricultural exhibit in our lower level, sponsored by the GHS class of 1973.



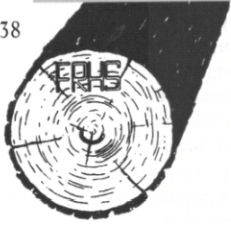
We were saddened to learn that Tom Pridgeon, a former board member of our Flat River Historical Society, died recently. Although his time on the board was brief, we appreciated his interest in the history of our community. Our condolences to his family and friends.

LOGMARK

FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 188

Greenville, MI 48838



**Museum is open
Saturdays and Sundays
from 2-4:30 pm
until November 1st,
closing after Halloween**

Flat River Historical Society

P. O. Box 188 • Greenville, MI 48838 • 616-754-5296

APPLICATION FOR NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

Dues payable at the beginning of the calendar year – pay online at flatrivermuseum.org – click “donate”

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address _____ Logmarks will be emailed unless checked: _____
(***Emailed newsletters are in color and save postage costs***)

___ Single - \$15.00 ___ Family - \$25.00 ___ Annual Business - \$50.00

___ New ___ Renewal Date _____ Additional Donation _____

Would you like to be a volunteer? _____ The Flat River Historical Society needs you!

Fill in this membership form and return it with your check to the above address or pay online at flatrivermuseum.org.
Dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year. If you have already paid your membership dues for the year 2024,
we **thank you** and want you to know that your membership is the lifeblood of the society.