



FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRHS LogMark

Newsletter Spring/Summer, 2020

Board of Directors: Keith Hudson, President; Kelly Worden, V. President/Archivist; Jean Hudson, Secretary; Lee Beard, Treasurer; Larry Alman, Trustee/Webmaster; Robin Walter, Trustee/School Liaison; Judy Gager, Trustee/Logmark Editor; Trustees: Steve Kemp, Bill Garlick, Carolyn Garlick, Rae-Anne Beard, Cory Smith, Gary Hauck, Tom Pridgeon

Museum closed in 2020 due to COVID-19 virus

The board of the Flat River Historical Society and Museum had been anticipating the scheduled opening of the museum in April with many new things to see and do. ALAS - like everything else in these days, in concern for everyone's safety, we must be closed to visitors. Please follow our Facebook page to see all our timely postings on historical subjects!

1918 Spanish Flu ----- Then and Now----- 2020 Corona Virus

These present times are not so different from the times a little over a hundred years ago when people were also confined to their homes and life was very different from normal. Compare these articles from Greenville Independent newspapers of 1918 to today's news!

"The Flu."

One of the alarming situations confronting the public is the fact a person may have the flu and not know it. He may have a very insipient attack and still be able to communicate a very virulent case to another person just the same as a person with a light attack of smallpox which might have been diagnosed as chickenpox, might communicate the worst case of smallpox. Therefore persons with coughs and colds of whatever kind or nature should be extremely careful and shunned by every one who values his own life. Just how far the disease is communicable no one seems to know but it costs but little to take every precaution. A person remarked to us on Monday that "one-half the people in the city have the flu already." That don't make any difference if they have; the other half don't want it, and furthermore, he don't know but what the first half may have it again. Dr. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., admittedly one of the great medical men of the country, give as his opinion that if strong measures are not taken to stamp out the disease this year, that half a million will die from it in this country next year.

Just like now, people were warned to avoid contact especially with anyone with symptoms.

It adds: "It is especially important to beware of the person who coughs or sneezes without covering his nose or mouth. It also follows that one should keep out of crowds and stuffy places; keep homes, offices and work shops well aired. Keep your children warm and dry, both night and day, and your home free from dampness. Open your windows at night unless it rains. Put on plenty of bedding and keep warm."
Call a physician at the first symptom AND MIND WHAT HE TELLS YOU.

Very little influenza exists among school children. A large number have severe colds, particularly during the period immediately following the flu vacation, but the attendance has become fairly normal at present.

Conflicting information? Not much flu ..
...but still no holiday program:

There will be no Sunday school until further notice. The Christmas program has been cancelled on account of the flu.

Public gatherings prohibited until further notice:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prevent the spread of Spanish Influenza, all Schools, public and private, Churches, Theatres, Moving Picture Halls, Pool Rooms and other places of amusement, and Lodge meetings, are to be closed until further notice.

All public gatherings consisting of ten or more are prohibited.

Local theaters closed during the Flu Ban:

Silver's Theatre

Silver's Orchestra—
—Best in Feature Pictures

Will open when the Influenza Ban is raised, with the following FEATURE PROGRAMS BOOKED for the winter:

Being that holiday season, folks were encouraged to shop in the home town ...

It's Safer to Trade in Greenville.

Under the efficient regulations of the Greenville Health Officer and the Board of Health, there is more safety in your coming to Greenville to trade, than to go to some other town, where regulations are not as well looked after. If you yourself haven't the "flu", there's very little or no danger in coming.

...and even advertised as being safer shopping:

Our advertisers are placing before the public a splendid line of useful articles for Christmas gifts. You can buy them in Greenville with a far less liability of getting the "flu" than you can by going to Grand Rapids. Your name may not appear so often in print as a visitor to our neighboring city but you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you bought your Christmas present in your own home town, and if you get the flu there won't be the doubt in your mind as to where you got it.

Medical advice was also freely offered and was controversial- just like now:

Dr. F. A. Johnson gives it as his opinion, based upon his observations, that there is a decided improvement in the condition in the city regarding the flu, but in the country the situation is not so good. He claims that some people absolutely disregard the advice and admonition given them. They state "their opinion" that the flu in many instances is only a bad cold and deliberately go to visit the sick, and as the doctor adds: "Come away with the flu." The doctor states fearlessly "that nothing except the strictest observance of the rules laid down by the health officer will prevent another outbreak in the city, with even more alarming results."

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An Urgent Appeal to Restrict the Use of the Telephone

THE large number of operators now absent because of illness makes it necessary for us to appeal to our patrons to restrict the use of the telephone.

The thanks of the community are due to those patrons who have already restricted the use of the telephone, thus helping the service of war industries, hospitals and stricken homes in the city.

1,148 NEW CASES STATE FLU RECORD

Saginaw Reports 183 Patients—Grand Rapids 103.

Lansing.—Saturday's report issued at noon by the state board of health showed 1,148 new cases of influenza. Saginaw reported 183 new cases; Battle Creek, 19; Flint, 19; Jackson, 39; Kalamazoo, 83; Grand Rapids, 103; Manistee, 96; Marquette, 20; Menominee, 40; Pontiac, 25; Manistique, 16. The other cases were scattered throughout the country districts.

"Essential" telephone operators were becoming ill, so folks were restricted in using the few phones that were available. (How would WE have ever survived THAT?)

Like now, there were regular reports of how many persons were affected in various areas. Fifty million died in the 1918 flu epidemic!



Everyone then was wearing a mask! (Just like now!)

Anyone needing influenza masks call at Red Cross headquarters and get them—free.

A few nurses have registered to help combat the influenza epidemic and it is hoped that others will do so at once. The committee is very anxious to have a complete list of all available nurses. If you are willing to help send in your name at once, whether busy or not. Mrs. William B. Wells, Miss Reba Roell or at Red Cross headquarters.



To Prevent Influenza!

Do not take any person's breath. Keep the mouth and teeth clean. Avoid those that cough and sneeze. Don't visit poorly ventilated places. Keep warm, get fresh air and sunshine. Don't use common drinking cups, towels, etc. Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze. Avoid Worry, Fear and Fatigue. Stay at home if you have a cold. Walk to your work or office. In sick rooms wear a gauze mask like in illustration.

THANK YOU!

With the Museum closed this year, please know that we miss your visits and comments! Your annual membership helps us pay the bills and is especially vital this year without any gifts of appreciation in our donation box!

Please use the form in this newsletter to join or renew your membership in our Flat River Historical Society and Museum. Thank you for your generous support!

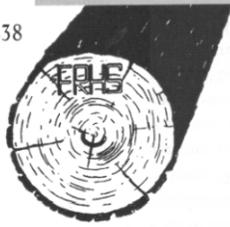
While the museum is closed to the public, we've tried to keep in touch by doing Facebook postings and enjoyed researching for them. We're glad so many have viewed them and we've appreciated your comments! During this time, we are renovating our office space to be more efficient and workable. Some display work is being done offsite to improve some of our exhibits, both inside and out. Our outdoor Victorian Garden and area has been enhanced by the addition of some artifacts and is a wonderful place to just stroll the historic brick pathway or sit and enjoy the view and waterfall sounds. The museum will open when it's safe to do so!

Thanks for your support and encouragement. It is much appreciated!

LOGMARK

FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 188
Greenville, MI 48838



**MUSEUM IS CLOSED
for the protection
and safety of visitors
and staff.**

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address _____ Logmarks will be emailed unless checked: _____

Phone _____

___ New ___ Renewal Date _____

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

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. Dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year. If you have already paid your membership dues for the year 2020, we **thank you**, and want you to know that your membership is the lifeblood of the society.