



FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRHS LogMark

Newsletter- Summer, 2021

Board of Directors:

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

**Thanks to all
who have visited
the museum!**



It's Danish Festival Time - August 20-22, 2021

MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN EXTRA HOURS:

Friday Noon-4:30, Saturday 1-4:30, Sunday 2-4:30

KIDS: Ask for an "I Try" Scavenger Hunt Sheet when you visit the museum so you don't miss anything! Find museum things to try out, mark them on your scavenger page and turn it in to win a neat prize!

"**AUGUST RASMUSSEN**" - a FREE program about an early Danish pioneer will be presented by Dana Kenneth Johnson during Danish Festival: Friday and Saturday 4:30-5:30; Sunday 1:00-2:00. Seating is limited.

Could you survive a



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM?

WANT TO BE A GHOST HUNTER? If you'd like to be one of ten people to participate in a live paranormal investigation at the museum on October 2nd, come to the museum during Danish Festival and bid in our Silent Auction. A separate Auction will run and end each day of festival weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Other great prizes will also be available. Winners will be notified at end of each day and must pay their bid to claim their prize.

NOTICE: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be held Tuesday, September 21st at 7 pm. FRHS president Keith Hudson will present a special program "*A Tribute to Vivian Martin*", a Greenville girl who became a famous stage actress and then silent movie star in the early 1900s. A brief business meeting will also be held. If YOU receive the LOGMARK newsletter, then YOU are a member and are invited and encouraged to attend! **(One last chance for the paranormal experience October 2nd will be bid on at the meeting!)**

COMING SOON: "Fright Nights" at the Museum will be weekends of October 22/23 and 29/30 from 7 to 9 pm. This event is for ages 13 and older. Watch for more information on Facebook and our website. **"Trick or Treat at the Museum"** for the kids will be held in conjunction with the city-wide event. (Oct.31?)

It's always hard to say goodbye . . .

... to our special intern, **Miranda Drow** who will be leaving us after Danish Festival. She has been such a delight and efficient helper, doing tasks without being asked and stepping in to help even after putting in all her required hours! She's been on hand nearly every time we're open, so you've probably met her if you visited. We will definitely miss her and wish her well in her continuing education and move to her new home up north. Keep in touch, Miranda!

...to board member **Gary Hauck**, who is retiring from our Board of Directors. He has served the Flat River Historical Society several times in its history and always brings much enthusiasm and expertise to the group and its activities. We will miss his smiling face and willing spirit to help.

... to **Tom Pridgeon**, who joined the board just before the pandemic, so didn't get much action. Now he's moving to Charlotte, so had to resign. Thanks for your willingness, Tom! Enjoy your new town and check out the awesome museum they have there!

A NEW ACQUISITION . . .

There's a cooperative air about museums. When they have something they can't use, they offer it to other museums! A phone call from Chip Syme of the Haas Museum in Minerva, Ohio said they'd long had a piece of a shipping container from Ranney Refrigeration Co. that they couldn't use in their museum and might we want it for OUR museum since Ranney was located in Greenville? Since we're always seeking things with a unique local connection, we gladly accepted the offer – but then had to find a way to get it. Being large and heavy, shipping costs would be prohibitive. Museum board member Robin Walter and her husband, Marshall, were planning a trip out east and offered to pick up the piece on their return trip. They spruced it up a bit and it is now displayed next to a Ranney product, like it was made for it! We love it when a plan comes together – and appreciate the gift from Ohio and the friends who made it happen. You can see it downstairs when you visit the museum!



Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB) Foundation recently awarded a \$500 grant to the museum.

Flat River board member Robin Walter, who oversees the lovely Victorian Garden, applied for the grant, noting that besides the plantings, the historic artifacts and descriptions placed throughout the garden provide an educational aspect that enhances the beauty of the garden. The grant funds will be used for supplies to keep the garden in tip-top shape. We thank Robin for her green thumb and grant writing skills – and appreciate the volunteers who help us Keep Michigan Beautiful right here! Thanks to the KMB Foundation!

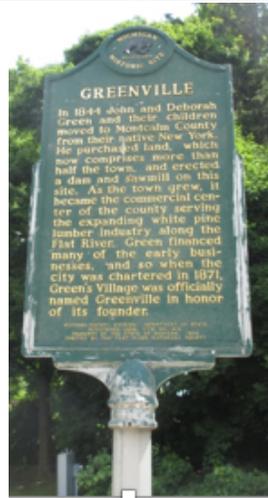


Board Member Larry Alman shows a young lad how to work the Morse Code buzzer in the Telephone and Telegraph Office in the "Main Street Greenville" exhibit upstairs. As a long-time short wave ham radio operator, Larry is proficient in Morse code! Morse code uses sounds in patterns for letters: short sounds "dots" and longer sounds "dashes". An "S" is three dots: . . . An "O" is three dashes: - - - A distress signal or "SOS" would be . . . - - - . . . (dot, dot, dot; dash, dash, dash; dot, dot, dot). An alphabet chart next to the buzzer can guide visitors to spell out names or words. This is one of the interactive exhibits scattered throughout the museum and children are encouraged to seek them out and try them. **A new "I Try" scavenger hunt sheet** can be a guide, so get one when you visit the museum, fill it out, have fun and win a prize!

VERY VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS . . . When you visit the museum, you may meet some valuable people – our volunteers! Friends of the museum who once indicated an interest in helping out were recently contacted by Charlotte Lothian, who herself volunteered to organize and schedule people to assist with museum needs. Some are working in the Victorian garden while others make visitors welcome as they enter or are being trained to guide visitors as they tour the museum. They are doing a great job in assisting board members in making the museum the best and most welcoming it can be. We thank them all for their willingness and dedication.



Original dedication 1976



Showing its age



Looking new again



Historic location for all to see

JOHN GREEN HAS RETURNED! The historic sign at the entrance of Tower Riverside Park is back - to once again proudly tell the story of the founder of Greenville! Its placement in Tower Riverside Park is near where Green first settled and established Greenville's first sawmill around 1844. This Historical Marker had stood as a sentinel there since its dedication in the Bicentennial year 1976 but was beginning to show its age! When Flat River board members learned that grant funds were available from the Michigan Historical Commission and Michigan History Center to assist with the cost of refurbishing the marker, a plan was set in action. City of Greenville workers removed the sign and packaged it as requested to be shipped to a company in Ohio that creates and refurbishes such historic signs. After several months the sign was returned and city workers remounted it on a shiny new post in its former location near the new splash pad, so parents can point it out to their children to share the history of our community. It is also located across Franklin Street from the Flat River Historical Museum which has many displays telling more of the John Green story. When you visit the museum soon, be sure and check out the sign, too. It's part of our town's rich history! This is what it says:

In 1844, John and Deborah Green and their children moved to Montcalm County from their native New York. He purchased land, which now comprises more than half the town, and erected a dam and sawmill on this site. As the town grew, it became the commercial center of the county serving the expanding white pine lumber industry along the Flat River. Green financed many of the early businesses, and so when the city was chartered in 1871, Green's Village was officially named Greenville in honor of its founder.

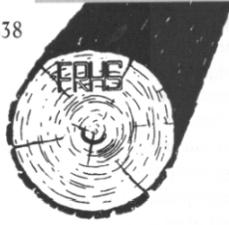
Visit our webpage at www.flatrivermuseum.org leave a message in the Contact section to let us know! When you shop on Amazon, you can also benefit us by using *Smile.Amazon* and selecting "Flat River Historical Society" as your charity to support. Thanks so much! Every little bit helps! Your membership in the Flat River Historical Society brings many benefits to you! You'll get all the first information about openings, activities, events and programs and, as a member of FRHS, you also have free access to many programs of the Historical Society of Michigan (hsmichigan.org). Join or renew today by using our website: www.flatrivermuseum.org

LOGMARK

FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 188

Greenville, MI 48838



MUSEUM IS OPEN

Fridays and Saturdays

from 2:00 – 4:30 pm

**Come and visit with
family and friends!**

**Get news at
flatrivermuseum.org
or on Facebook!**

Flat River Historical Society

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

APPLICATION FOR NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

You can now use our new website to join, renew, support or volunteer: www.flatrivermuseum.org

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 or use the form on our website. Dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year. If you have already paid your membership dues for the year 2021, we **thank you**, and want you to know that your membership is the lifeblood of the society.