



FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRHS LogMark

Newsletter Fall/Winter, 2021

Board of Directors: Keith Hudson, President; Kelly Whitmer, V. President/Archivist; 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

Fall Activities Promise Fun!

Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm 'til Thanksgiving.



Photo by Cory Smith

"There's no place like home"...
and the Flat River Museum is
"something to crow about!"

Come "fill your brain"
with hometown history at the
Flat River Museum!
Look for our scarecrow entry in the
Greenville Chamber of Commerce event,
take a picture and vote!

Have a ghoulish experience during
"FRIGHT NIGHTS" AT THE MUSEUM!

Fridays and Saturdays,
October 22-23 and 29-30
From 7:00 to 9:00 pm,
the upstairs will be inhabited by
ghouls and gremlins and
things that go bump in the night!
\$10 donation at the door lets you
experience it – if you dare!



TRICK OR TREAT AT THE MUSEUM OCTOBER 31, 6-8 PM

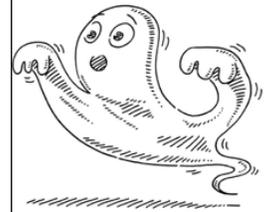
Kids and Families can go Trick-or-Treating down Greenville's Main Street without being outside! Just come to the museum Halloween night and get treats in our historic Main Street upstairs, as well as all through the museum building. Costumed characters will be on all floors with lots of treats – and you'll get a chance to see the museum exhibits as well.

Are ghostly spirits inhabiting the Flat River Museum?

Thank you to G.H.O.S.T. Paranormal for their professional investigation and to our generous donors who supported the museum through the silent auction to experience the recent paranormal investigation. We enjoyed every minute of it and hope you did too! We look forward to reading the official findings report.

Thank you also to everyone who tuned in live for an inside peek! (You can see the video on GHOST Paranormal Facebook site.)

For more ghostly fun at the museum, our Fright Night Haunted House takes place Oct. 22, 23 and 29, 30. Our "Ghosts of Greenville's Past" presentation in the Silver Theater continues also. Hope to see you there!



FUN FOR KIDS AT THE MUSEUM

SCAVENGER HUNTS are great fun for all ages, but especially for children who come to the museum.

Armed with a page of things to look for and/or experience in the museum, they have renewed interest in touring the exhibits. When they've checked off all the items, they can show their page to a museum worker and then pick out an exciting prize! We're always surprised at what they pick, from arrowhead to Danish Flag to glider plane to sheriff's badge and others! Come on in and ring the bell, blow the whistle, ride the horse!

FOURTH GRADE CLASSES from area schools are visiting to experience the lumbering era of long ago. They'll need cooperation to use a two-man saw on a log, and will enjoy the music of lumberjacks on their time off. They'll also learn how hard it was to clear the stumps after trees were cut down to create farming land.

Congratulations to the



The Tri-River Historical Museum Network, of which the Flat River Museum is a member, received the Historical Society of Michigan's State Award for 2021 in the category of Special Programs/Events for its annual "Spring Into the Past" tour. Member museums are in 5 counties and have varied public hours, but for one weekend a year in May, they're all open the same days/hours for visitors. With unique themes, a numbered map and more, the tour has grown into a large event hosted across multiple organizations. We look forward to participating April 30-May 1, 2022; watch for more info.

Montcalm County Pioneer Certificate Congratulations to Erin (Smith) Gaddy who received a Pioneer Certificate in honor of her pioneer ancestors, "**The Niels and Ane Margrethe Jensen Family**", both having been born in Bregne, Holbaek, Denmark and arriving in Montcalm County, Michigan in the 1860s.

(If your ancestor paved the way in this county when pine was king, we encourage you to apply for your Montcalm County Pioneer Family Certificate. Applicant must be a direct descendant of an individual who can be documented as living in Montcalm County prior to December 31, 1899. E-mail Kelly at frhsmuseum@gmail.com for an application.)

Haven't visited the Flat River Museum yet? See what you're missing with a virtual tour!

Thanks to Mike Pfaf for creating virtual tours of our museum. Click on these links and enjoy a tour! (Inside tour, click on blue circles to advance to new area; use mouse to look around an area or zoom in closer.)

<https://tour.labpano.com/pano/2107306103f3ce25ff9313355670> Main floor
<https://tour.labpano.com/pano/21062660d651deadf82047631950> Lower Level
<https://tour.labpano.com/pano/210831612d2285353ba821967038> Upper Level



Meet Miss Vivian Martin, Greenville's star of stage and screen in the 1900s!

At the Flat River Historical Society annual meeting in September, Keith Hudson presented a program about Vivian Martin, a talented Greenville girl who became a big stage and silent movie star and is one of the local talents featured in posters in the museum's Silver Theater. She was born in Sparta, Michigan in the late 1890s, the daughter of Charles Herbert Martin and Grace Gibbs, but the family lived on Benton Street in Greenville according to the 1900 census. Vivian's grandfather was Dr. Charles M. Martin, who practiced medicine in Greenville for 25 years in the late 1800s and also served as mayor, school board president and other groups. Vivian is mentioned in the newspaper in April of 1900 as being a ribbon bearer at the wedding of the daughter of Mr. and Mr. Henry Hamper.

In March of 1901 as a young girl, Vivian performed in a play at the Detroit Opera House. By April, she made her New York stage debut in "Cyrano de Bergerac" with Richard Mansfield. She made her Broadway debut in 1903 in "Little Lord Fauntleroy". However, Mansfield suggested she leave the stage to return to school and then come back to work for him in a few years, so at age 13 she returned to Greenville and local news articles tell about her performing in school and civic events in 1905, 1906 and 1907.

In August of 1907, she was preparing to leave school in Greenville to return to Mansfield's company when she received word of his death. Devastated by this news and perhaps thinking her career was over, she was surprised when theatrical manager Charles Frohman contacted her and requested she come to his office for an interview. "What do you want to do?" he asked.

"I used to think I wanted a dramatic part," replied the young girl, "but now I believe I would like to try musical comedy." "Why musical comedy?" asked Frohman. "Your training has been dramatic."

"But I think the chances to rise fast are greater in musical comedy," replied the ambitious girl.

Mr. Frohman thought this over and then said, "Come around tomorrow and I will see what I can do for you."

When she arrived the next day at rehearsal he asked her, "How would you like to play in Peter Pan?"

"I would like it," she answered, "how long would it be before I could hope for a leading role?"

"The part I have picked for you is the part of Peter Pan himself, which Miss Adams is now playing," answered Mr. Frohman with a sly grin. The answer nearly took away her breath, but she promptly accepted the role and Mr. Frohman was well satisfied with the result.

"Peter Pan" toured the U.S. and Canada that winter and spring with 16 year old Vivian receiving rave reviews. The show came to Grand Rapids, performing at Powers auditorium in March of 1908 and a special train carrying about 225 Greenville fans attended her thrilling performance and a following reception at St. Cecilia's. The returning train departed at midnight. In July, Vivian returned to Greenville for a local production of "Japanese Cherry Blossoms" at the local Phelps Opera House. She was described as a pretty, dainty, alluring, positively bewitching little mite of femininity with a mass of blonde hair and the spirit of youth pervading everything she does!

In 1914 she entered the film industry. Her first film was "The Wishing Ring" where she played Sally, a parson's daughter. A review said, "Vivian Martin really steals the show as Sally. Her sly performance is a delight." Unfortunately, "The Wishing Ring" is the only surviving film of 45 she starred in. Vivian achieved popularity as a rival to Mary Pickford. Her photo can be found on many movie posters and other publicity.

(NOTE: Keith Hudson knows a lot more of her history and has obtained a copy of "The Wishing Ring". He'll share it if requested.)

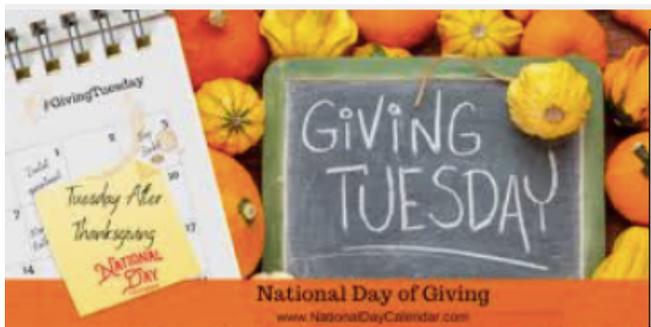
We hope you follow our Facebook page to see all our timely postings on historical subjects.



SUPPORT FRHS USING THE AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

Amazon Smile is a simple way for you to support Flat River Historical Society every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact low prices, vast selection and the same convenient shopping experience as [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com) with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FRHS. Already have an Amazon account? Use the same account on [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com) and [AmazonSmile.com](https://amazon.com), your shopping cart, wish list wedding or baby registry and other account settings are also the same. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Sign up today at AmazonSmile and specify your charitable giving be given to Flat River Historical Society. We thank you for this!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



November 30, 2021 is Giving Tuesday!

Thanks to supporters like you, we are able to:

- * present interactive exhibits
- * provide school programming for students and teachers
- * offer special events highlighting local history
- * share outdoor artifacts in the Victorian Garden.

We appreciate your continuing support!

November 30th is Giving Tuesday, a day that encourages people to show their generosity by helping others, sharing a skill or giving to causes. Your Flat River membership dues show that you support an organization that preserves and shares local history and your additional donation now shows that you believe in the importance of what we do. Besides our Logmark newsletter and other early notices of events and activities, you'll get FREE access to the many online programs offered by the Historical Society of Michigan, just because you are a member of Flat River! Visit the hsmichigan.org website to see what programs are scheduled and to sign up to watch online.

YEARBOOK REPORT: Just a few more yearbooks needed and our collection will be complete! We're still seeking yearbooks of 1920, 1934, 1942, 1972, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1997, 2013, 2019. Thanks!

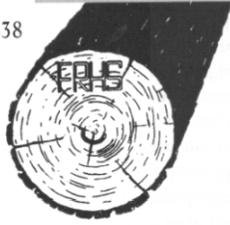
Check out our website --- Support us at www.flatrivermuseum.org

LOGMARK

FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 188

Greenville, MI 48838



**VISIT SOON!
MUSEUM IS OPEN
Sat/Sun from
2:00-4:30 pm
until Thanksgiving**

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

#Giving Tuesday - 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 2021, we **thank you**, and want you to know that your membership is the lifeblood of the society.