

FLUSHING AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established November 28, 1973

431 W. Main Street Flushing, MI 48433 • FlushingHistorical.org • 810-487-0814
Facebook: @FlushingHistorical • info@flushinghistorical.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday ..... 9 AM - 1 PM
Sunday ..... 1 PM - 4 PM

SOCIETY LEADERSHIP & CONTACTS

Museum 810-487-0814
Museum tours & building use
Dan Anderson 810-686-6669

OFFICERS

President ..... Dan Anderson
Vice President ..... Matt Hartmann
Secretary ..... Paul Morgan
Treasurer ..... Robert Davies

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

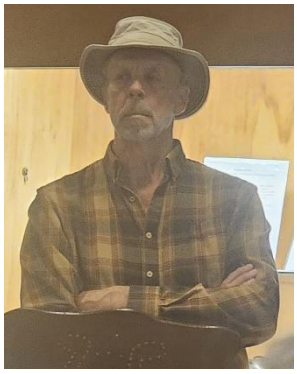
(Terms Expire Dec. 31)

Mary Mac Donald 2026
Don Wilson 2026
Dan Roman 2026
Luke Hartmann 2027
Jenny Kress 2028
Brent LaPonsey 2028

ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES

Jim Wood, Chairman 810-659-0494
Robert Davies 810-624-0278
Carl Liepmann 810-639-7075
Dan Anderson 810-686-6669
Mary E. Smith 810-223-7457

Exploring Michigan's Back Roads



On October 19th, author Ron Rademacher joined us for an engaging presentation, "Oddities and Rarities: Michigan Back Roads." Ron, author of several Michigan Back Roads books, introduced us to fascinating destinations hiding throughout our state.

From nature trails and beautiful photo opportunities to unusual architecture, natural formations, festivals, and lesser-known attractions, there is plenty to explore. Who knew so many interesting places were waiting just off the beaten path?

Looking for ideas for your next Michigan day trip or getaway? Visit www.michiganbackroads.com.

We didn't see Flushing on Ron's list, but we're sure our community has some interesting stories and oddities of its own! Know one we should hear about? Send it to info@flushinghistorical.org. We'd love to hear from you.

Coming in November: Pilot Stories & Superstitions

On Monday, November 16, David Trojan returns to FAHS to share pilots' stories and superstitions before takeoff. You may remember David from his previous presentation about the B-59 bomber that crashed in a nearby farmer's field. Join us at the Depot to hear more fascinating stories from the world of aviation.

For more information, visit flushinghistorical.org.

FAHS Elections Coming in November

November is election time for FAHS. Members will vote to elect officers and members of the Board of Directors who will help guide the Historical Society in the coming year.

Each active FAHS member is entitled to one vote, so we encourage all members to attend the November meeting and take part in the election.

Interested in becoming more involved? Serving as an officer, board member, or volunteer is a great way to help preserve and share Flushing's history.

Thank You to Our Decorating Volunteers!



The Depot got into the Halloween spirit with a "Great Pumpkin" display on the front lawn!

A special thank you to the volunteers who helped create, set up, and decorate the display and brought a little seasonal fun to the Depot. It's touches like these that make the Depot welcoming and help keep FAHS connected to the community.

We appreciate everyone who gave their time and creativity to make it happen!

Notes from Dan's Desk

Welcome to November! As we begin preparing for the holiday season, there is plenty to look forward to at the museum. Candlewalk will be held December 3rd and 4th, and our Lionel trains will once again be running. Santa will visit on Sundays, December 6th, 13th, and 20th. Be sure to stop by, take a picture with Santa, and enjoy the trains. On a personal note, this will be my final "Notes from Dan's Desk." After 18 years as President of the Historical Society, the time has come for me to step aside. I won't be going far, though. I'll still be helping at the museum and serving on the Board of Directors. It has been a privilege to serve as president, and I am grateful to everyone who has offered their time, help, and support over the years. FAHS is what it is because of the people who care about it and continue to give their time to our museum and our community.I look forward to working with our new leadership, seeing the new ideas they bring, and watching FAHS continue to grow as an engaging and welcoming place for our visitors.

So, as I close my last note from the president's desk, I simply want to say:

Happy Holidays, and thank you.

All Aboard for Christmas at the Depot!



A favorite holiday tradition returns to the Depot this December! Our Lionel train display will once again be running as part of Candlewalk, bringing a little railroad magic to the museum for visitors of all ages.

Putting this display together takes many hours of volunteer work, from setting up the trains and track to creating the scenery and getting everything ready for visitors. We're grateful to the volunteers who give their time and talents each year to make this special tradition possible.

The trains are always a popular attraction at the Depot, so be sure to stop in during Candlewalk and see them in action!

Thank you to everyone who helps keep this FAHS holiday tradition on track!

FAHS at the Fall Festival



FAHS was out and about at this year's Downtown Fall Festival! Bob Davies helped share FAHS with festival visitors, with information about the Historical Society and Flushing's history on display.

And congratulations to Board Member Brent Laponsey, who took home the honor of Longest Beard!



Thank you to everyone who represented FAHS and helped us connect with the community during the festival.

FAHS Had a Spooky Good Time Downtown!



FAHS joined the fun at Hallow's Eve in Downtown Flushing on October 27! Bob and Nancy represented the Historical Society, greeting visitors and sharing information about FAHS with the community.

A big thank you to Bob and Nancy for volunteering their time and representing FAHS! Community events like this are a great opportunity to get out of the Depot, meet our neighbors, and share what the Historical Society is all about.

Honoring Our Veterans



This Veterans Day, November 11, FAHS joins our community in honoring and thanking all who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

For generations, the people of Flushing have gathered to remember those who served. Preserving photographs, stories, letters, artifacts, and memories of our local veterans helps ensure that their experiences remain part of our community's history.

To all veterans, including those within the FAHS family, thank you for your service.

Historic photograph from the FAHS collection, believed to show the 1908 dedication of Flushing's war memorial.

Depression Thanksgiving Pies

by Bonnie Penfield

While Depression-era meals may not have included some of the ritzy and glitzy items that people in better-off economic times enjoyed, that's not to say that they weren't still tasty. In fact, there's one dessert recipe from this time period that is surprisingly delicious – Water Pie. I know, it sounds a little ridiculous, but the pie is made precisely as it sounds. It uses water as the prime ingredient. The era forced home cooks to get creative, using whatever they could to make comforting meals for the family. Commodities like sugar, eggs, and milk were challenging to obtain or too costly. Thus, many families had to make do by getting maximum mileage from the foods they already had in their pantry, fridge, and freezer. The water pie was a recipe born from this circumstance. The pie is incredibly simple and involves using pie dough, sugar, cubes of butter, some flour, vanilla extract, and water. The pie filling becomes custard-like after baking, similar to the scrumptious fillings of traditional pies!

Another Depression pie can be made with Ritz crackers, becoming a Mock Apple Pie. This pie is made by using crushed-up Ritz crackers with sugar and other ingredients and seasonings as the pie base. The result is a flakey pie with a delicious filling that oddly resembles the same consistency and flavor as actual apple pie. To this day, mock apple pie is still one of Ritz's most famous recipes. The pie is a perfect staple for any household. But, even by today's standards, it can be a cheap alternative to grace the kitchen table.

Ritz Mock Apple Pie

This classic pie, featuring Ritz crackers baked in a golden crust,

is perfect for the holidays. Prep: 45 mins – Cook: 30 mins – Cool: 3 hours

Ingredients

Pastry for two-crust 9-inch pie
36 RITZ Crackers, coarsely broken
(about 1 3/4 cups crumbs)
1 3/4 cups water
2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Grated peel of one lemon
2 tablespoons butter
½ tsp ground cinnamon

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Nov 11 Veterans Day.....

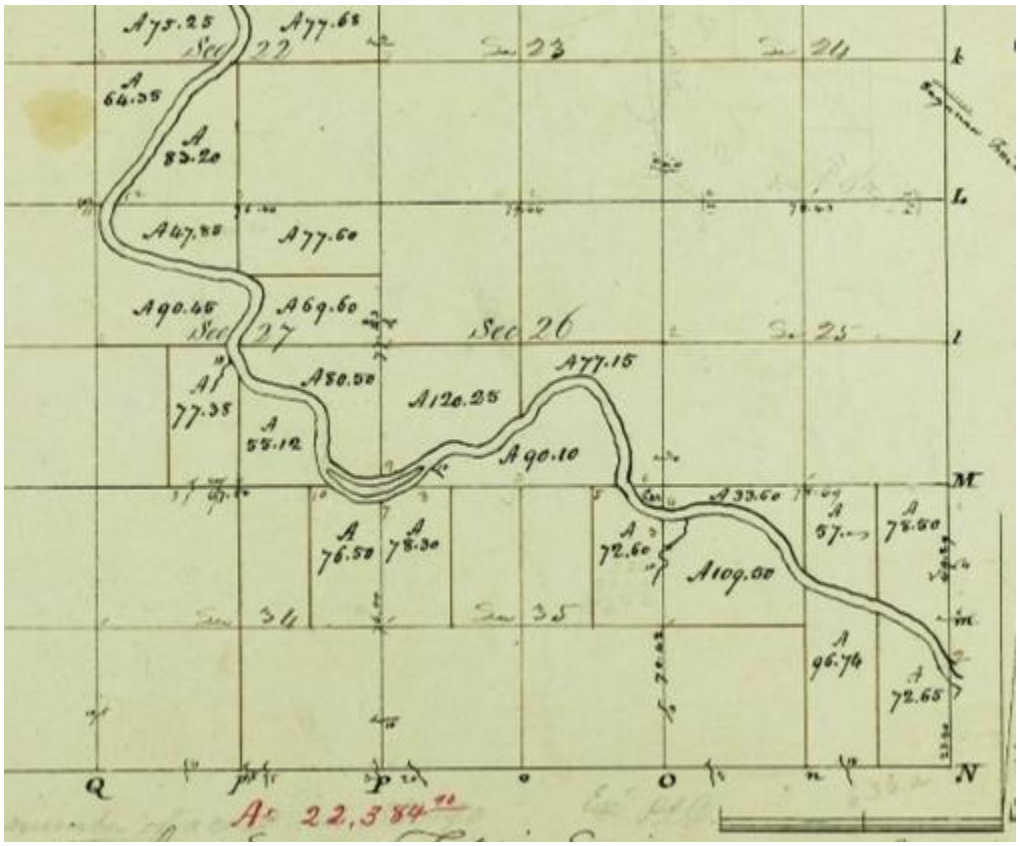
Monday Nov 16
David Trojan tells of pilot's superstitions & Board elections will be held
.....7 PM

Dec 3 & 4
Flushing Candlewalk – Model trains on display.....6 PM – 9 PM

Dec 6, 13 & 20
Visit Santa – Photo Op .....1 PM – 4 PM

1. Roll out half the pastry and line a 9-inch pie plate. Place cracker crumbs in prepared crust; set aside.
2. Heat water, sugar and cream of tartar to a boil in saucepan over high heat; simmer for 15 minutes. Add lemon juice and peel; cool.
3. Pour syrup over cracker crumbs. Dot with margarine or butter; sprinkle with cinnamon. Roll out remaining pastry; place over pie. Trim, seal and flute edges. Slit top crust to allow steam to escape.
4. Bake at 425 F for 30 to 35 minutes or until crust is crisp and golden. Cool completely. Makes 10 servings

How a National Survey Shaped Flushing, and Still Shapes It Today



The federal land survey of Flushing Township, completed in 1821–1822, gives us a remarkable look at the landscape before the community we know today took shape. In the detail shown here, the familiar pattern begins to emerge, not through streets or buildings, but through the winding Flint River, the straight lines of the federal survey, and the Saginaw Trail crossing through them.

The survey was part of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), developed by the federal government after the American Revolution. Formalized by the Land Ordinance of 1785, the system provided a standardized way to measure, describe, and eventually sell the vast public lands of the growing nation.

Under the PLSS, land was divided into townships roughly six miles square, with each township subdivided into 36 sections of approximately one square mile, or 640 acres. Those sections could then be divided into halves, quarters, and smaller parcels. Rather than relying entirely on rivers, trees, or other natural landmarks, the government created an orderly rectangular grid that could be extended across newly surveyed territory.

Federal surveyors reached what is now Genesee County in 1821. Their work was completed and certified in January 1822, fifteen years before Michigan became a state. Much of the landscape was still forested, and the familiar streets, neighborhoods, and subdivisions of Flushing did not yet exist. The survey was helping establish the framework from which later settlement and development would grow.

When the Grid Met the Landscape

As the map makes clear, however, the landscape did not always cooperate with the government's neat grid.

The Flint River winds directly through the rectangular sections. Surveyors had to account for its course, resulting in irregular parcels and acreage totals that differ from the expected 640 acres. The handwritten acreage figures visible along the river record those adjustments.

The effects of the original survey remain with us. Modern property descriptions commonly follow section and quarter-section lines established through the PLSS, while irregular boundaries can reflect the adjustments required to fit a geometric system onto the actual landscape.

Surveyors faced another problem on a much larger scale: the curvature of the Earth. A rectangular grid cannot continue indefinitely across a curved surface without developing errors. Surveying methods therefore incorporated corrections, producing variations along certain township and section boundaries.

These adjustments help explain some of the subtle irregularities still encountered today. Roads may jog unexpectedly, section lines may not align perfectly, and parcels may vary from the dimensions we might expect. What can appear to be an oddity on a modern map may have roots stretching back to the original nineteenth-century surveys.

A Trail Older Than the Grid

Perhaps the most intriguing feature in this portion of the survey is one the federal government did not create at all: the Saginaw Trail.

The trail appears crossing the eastern portion of the surveyed landscape. Its presence is particularly important because the trail existed independently of the rectangular grid being laid across the land. Historically, the Saginaw Trail was associated with an older network of travel through Michigan that preceded European-American settlement and was later used by traders and settlers.

Here, two very different ways of organizing the landscape appear together on the same document. The government survey represents a new national system of straight lines, sections, and legally defined parcels. The Saginaw Trail represents an existing route shaped by earlier travel across the landscape. Between them winds the Flint River, following neither.

That intersection of grid, trail, and river helps tell the story of how Flushing developed.

Some later roads and property boundaries would follow the survey grid. Other routes would respond to rivers, terrain, and paths already in use. The resulting community was not created from a single plan but developed from the interaction of these different influences.

Lines That Are Still with Us

That is what makes the 1821–1822 survey so fascinating today. It shows a recognizable part of Flushing before the familiar community had taken shape.

The PLSS established the framework for dividing and owning the land. The Flint River forced that orderly system to adapt to geography. The Saginaw Trail shows that people were already moving through the landscape along routes that did not conform to the newly imposed grid.

Nearly two centuries later, those influences have not entirely disappeared. They remain embedded in property boundaries, roads, and the overall shape of the community.

The faded lines, handwritten figures, river bends, and trail shown on this early map are therefore more than historical curiosities. They are part of the foundation upon which modern Flushing developed, reminding us that history is not only something preserved in documents and photographs. Sometimes, it is quite literally beneath our feet.

From the Collection

It may look a little different without a roadway, but this is Flushing's Main Street bridge under construction in 1921. The photograph captures the extensive framework used during construction over the Flint River. More than 100 years later, the completed bridge is still with us, carrying Main Street across the river today.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Help Keep the Depot Alive! The Historic Train Depot Museum is entirely volunteer-run. Everything visitors experience — the stories, the open doors, the preserved building — happens because community members give a little of their time. You don't need to be a historian. You don't need railroad experience. You just need an interest in local history and a friendly attitude.

MEMORIAL FUND

The Flushing Area Historical Society extends its sincere thanks to members and friends who make donations in memory of a loved one or friend. Contributions to the Memorial Fund are placed in trust, and the interest earned helps support the operation, maintenance, and preservation of the Depot Museum. The Flushing Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit Michigan corporation.

No memorial donations were received during the past month.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Enclosed with this newsletter is a personalized membership page showing your current membership information and renewal date. Please take a moment to review it and let us know of any corrections or updates. If your membership is due or past due, we hope you'll renew your support of FAHS. Multi-year renewals are welcome and help reduce paperwork and administrative costs. To receive future newsletters electronically, simply provide your email address on the enclosed page.

fahs@att.net and info@flushinghistorical.org

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NEW MEMBERSHIP, UPDATE, & RENEWAL

___ New member
___ Renewal
___ Membership card requested

Make Checks Payable to:
Flushing Area Historical Society
431 W. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433-2035

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS **Includes voting privileges (one vote per membership)*

***Senior**	1 year $4____	2 years $8 ____	3 years $12____
***Individual**	1 year $5____	2 years $10____	3 years $15____
***Family**	1 year $7____	2 years $14____	3 years $21____
Business	1 year $10____	2 years $20____	
***Life membership**	$150 ____		

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Supporting	1 year $10____	2 years $20____
Contributing	1 year $25____	2 years $50____
Sustaining	1 year $100 ____	
Other	$ _____	

Email: _____ ___ Email newsletter only

Flushing Area Historical Society
431 W. Main Street
Flushing, MI 48433-2035

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2026

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday.....9 AM - 1 PM
Sunday ..... 1 PM - 4 PM

431 W. Main St
Flushing, MI 48433

FlushingHistorical.org

810-487-0814

The Grand Trunk depot in Flushing, now home to the Flushing Area Historical Society Museum.



MOVING?

VACATION?

To avoid missing a newsletter, please send or e-mail your new address before you move or go on an extended vacation.

From (date)_____to (date)_____, please send to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: ___ _____State: _____ Zip: _____