



Flushing Area Historical Society

810-487-0814

431 W. Main St. • Flushing, Michigan 48433 •

Facebook: [Flushing Area Historical Society & Museum](#)

Web: www.flushinghistorical.org

Summer hours

Tuesdays, 10 AM -1 PM

Open Sundays 1-4

For information, call or e-mail:

810-487-0814 fahs@att.net

Museum 810-487-0814

Museum tours & building use:

Dan Anderson 810-686-6669

Membership,

Robert Davies 810-624-0278

Donation of artifacts:

Call Museum 810-487-0814

President,

Dan Anderson: 810-686-6669

Board of Directors:

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Dan Anderson 810-686-6669

Vice President:

Matt Hartmann 810-210-1518

Secretary: Paul Morgan

Treasurer: Robert Davies

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Term expires Dec. 31

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Flushing Area Historical Society (The Depot)

431 W. Main St. at the R.R. track

7 P.M. Monday, May 20, 2024

Azariah S. Partridge and the Patrons of Industry

Presented by Giovanni Galdoni

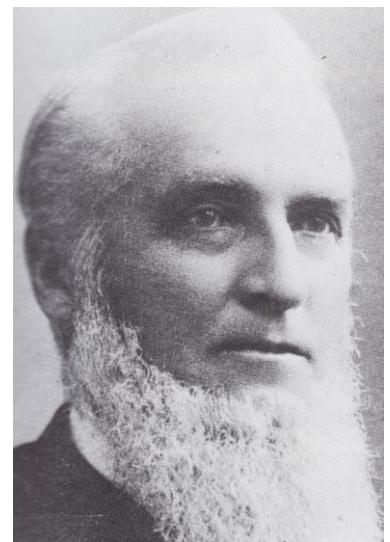
Giovanni Galdoni is an alumnus of the University of Michigan-Flint, who graduated with honors in 2022. He's lived in Flushing Township since he moved from Florida as a young child. Before earning his bachelor's in political science with a minor in history, he spoke at the 54th annual meeting of the Michigan Political Science Association, winning the 2022 award for best undergraduate paper. He, along with previous speaker Dr. Thomas Henthorn, was involved in the founding of the preservation project in the Flushing City Cemetery.

Galdoni first became acquainted with the story of Azariah S. Partridge after compiling a list of state representatives and state senators elected to the Michigan Legislature from Flushing to satisfy his own curiosity. His interest in Partridge's case specifically became heightened after he got involved in local cemetery preservation, as Partridge's grave is located in the city cemetery. It became clear Partridge's time in elected office was only a small part of a larger story.

Azariah S. Partridge was a notable man in the Flushing area in the late 19th-century, though he is relatively obscure today. Though not initially from Michigan, having been born in New England, he became a notable figure in Genesee County after marrying into a prominent local family. He was a farmer, who fought for the interests of farmers in the political sphere. Originally a Republican, he later found himself engrossed in other parties and social movements of his time, including prohibition and the agrarian populism presented by the People's Party.

Partridge gained national attention for his controversial scheme to subvert the party system of the entire state of Michigan.

The program is free and open to the public. There will be refreshments and a door prize will be drawn.



Notes from Dan's desk:

Hello and welcome to May, the temperature is getting warm out. With the warm temperature it's time to get out, and travel around. When you're out and about, stop into the Museum, we open on Mother's Day May 12th. We have a nice display of modern 1920's appliances to make life easier for you and a new display of the old Flushing Post Office letter-sorting desk.



We would like to thank the Montrose Historical & Telephone Pioneer Museum for loaning us several telephones to enhance our current display of a vintage switchboard. If you haven't visited their museum, it is well worth the short drive to Montrose to visit Michigan's only Telephone Museum.

As you can tell the Volunteers have been busy setting up and cleaning the displays for this year. Come by on a Sunday any time from 1 till 4 P.M. and see what other new displays there are.

The work of setting up and maintaining the displays is a constant process, that we need volunteers to help us with. It is not hard work; it is fun work. There is a lot of laughter that goes on when we're together, so come and join us. We start on 9:00 A.M. and are done by 2:00 P.M. on Tuesdays, but any time that fits in your schedule is welcome. If you have any questions stop by or call and ask, we are happy to answer them. This Museum has been open for over 25 years with your help and support. So come by and help out, it's your museum and your place. Remember our traditional Summer Activities too. June is Flag Day, followed by our annual Picnic. In July we have the "Model A" Car Show, so come by and enjoy summer with the Historical Society. Any questions or donations of Flushing History you have, call or e-mail us. We'll get back to you as soon as we can.

April 15, 2024 was our last Membership Meeting at the Museum. Greg Matheson was our speaker for the evening; he is the Director at the Flushing Senior Center. Greg gave the History of the Flushing Center; it was started in 1966 meeting at Central Elementary. In 1979 it moved into its current building, next to the library. The Flushing Center is 1 of 16 Senior Centers in Genesee County; anyone over the age of 50 can join. The Flushing Center is funded by a county millage, membership donations, United Way, and grants. Membership donations help with the building improvements and building upkeep. The Center also has strong support from the City of Flushing, and Township of Flushing. There has been a strong increase in daily attendance, and yearly event participation. The best way to find out what is happening at the Flushing Center is to check out their web site. The web site has over 50 events listed monthly, of which over 90% are free. Upcoming events include ongoing stories of our lives, ladies spring tea May 20, 2024, and the Mobile Secretary of State Office May 24, 2024. The Flushing Senior Center also has a Senior Resource Directory for getting information on resources. Greg also reminded everyone that the senior millage will soon be up for renewal. A prize was given out to the person who correctly guessed that the mystery picture in the Newsletter was Clara Darby. She started the Senior Center at Pegs Restaurant, and if you want to know where the restaurant was, come by the Museum and find out.

Web site: We are pleased to announce that we are in the process of restoring our long-neglected web site. To check it out, go to: www.flushinghistorical.org Just click on any of the links at the top of the page or scroll down to view older posts. There is also a link to our Facebook page, "Flushing Area Historical Society".

Azariah S. Partridge, (12/19/1834 – 4/28/1901)

A.S. Partridge owned several orchards on Partridge Flats at the east end of the city, running from the river, north, including the present cemetery. He made and sold jams, jellies and cider. He also operated ice houses. He served as drain commissioner in the township in 1874, and as assessor three years later.

In 1850, A.S. built the Octagon House at what would be 717 E. Main St., and lived there until his death. He built the First Baptist Church, furnishing the lumber from his own land.

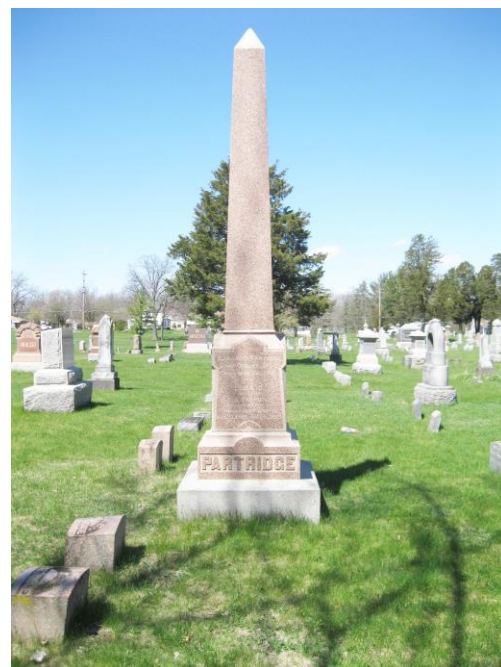
On February 7, 1862, he married Lura Penoyer. She was born May 25, 1839, the daughter of James and Nancy Freeman Penoyer, and was the first white female born in the Flushing area. They had four children. Lura died May 11, 1892.*

Note: City Hall is 725 E. Main St, so the house would have been just to the west of the present City Hall. It was torn down in 1942 and much of the lumber was used in building new homes in the new Gerald Street development. Also note that one source said he built the house in 1850 but this is unlikely as he would have only been 16 years old. Another source states that he built the house in the 1850's, which would seem to be a more logical assumption.

*Flushing Sesquicentennial History Vol. 1, pages 45-46 & 333-334.

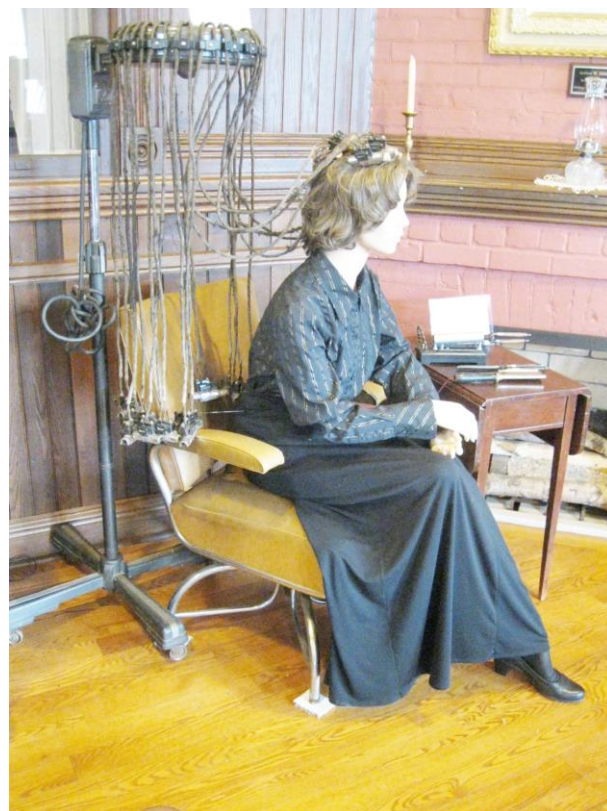


Octagon House, 717 E. Main St. Flushing
(torn down, 1942)



Partridge Monument
Section 2, Flushing Cemetery

New displays for 2024



These are just a few of our new displays for the 2024 season. As of this writing, we are still working on displays which will include “labor saving” devices from the early 1900’s.

Above, a telephone switchboard, which was donated by a Lansing company a few years ago, but this is the first time on display. The Montrose Historical & Telephone Pioneer Museum will have several items on display to show the history of the telephone.

Top right, an early permanent wave machine from the 1930’s. The machine clips heated to 200 degrees Fahrenheit. The dampened hair would then steam and curl as it heated. The process left the hair stiff, brittle, and both the customer and beautician ran the risk of serious burns.

Bottom right, Flushing Post Office mail sorting desk from the early to mid-1900’s. This has been in our collection for several years and has been used to display different items.



Short History of the Telephone

MONTROSE HISTORICAL & TELEPHONE PIONEER MUSEUM
144 E. Hickory St. • P. O. Box 577
Montrose, Michigan 48457
Website: www.montrosemuseum.com
Email: staff@montrosemuseum.com
Michigan's only Telephone Museum.
Hands-on working exhibits
Antique telephone equipment
Historical highlights of Montrose
Montrose History Gazettes available
Funded in part by the Jennings Memorial Foundation

An early String Phone was found in use by the Chimu in Peru. The gourd and stretched-hide version resides in the Smithsonian Museum collection and dates back to around the 7th century.

An Acoustic String Phone made in 1667 has been attributed to Englishman Robert Hooke.

Italian innovator Antonio Meucci is credited with inventing the first basic phone in 1849. Frenchman Charles Bourseul devised a phone in 1854. Philipp Reis in 1861, constructed the first telephone, today called the Reis telephone. Alexander Graham Bell won the first U.S. patent for the device in 1876.

Many lawsuits between Alexander Bell and Elisha Gray were filed over the U.S. patent.

Thank you: We wish to express thanks to all our members who donate money to the Flushing Area Historical Society in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is placed in a trust fund and the interest received helps with the expenses and operation of the Depot. The Historical Society is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt, non-profit Michigan Corporation. There was one memorial received between March 20 and April 25, 2024.

David LaForest (7/12/1947 - 10/17/2022) from Janet LaForest

Check the mailing sticker on your newsletter for your renewal date. If it is highlighted, it is now due. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail when renewing, fill out the "e-mail" line at the bottom of the membership form below. Make sure that fahs@att.net is in your address book so it does not end up in the "span" folder. For members who are currently paid up to date, if you would like the newsletter by e-mail just send an e-mail with your name and address and put "email newsletter" in the subject line.

-----cut here-----

___ please send membership card. Flushing Area Historical Society
___ new member 431 W. Main St.
___ renewal Flushing, MI 48433-2035

Name _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Senior 1 year \$4____, 2y \$8____, 3y \$12____ Supporting 1 year \$10____, 2y \$20____

Individual 1 year \$5____, 2y \$10____, 3y \$15____ Contributing 1 year \$25____, 2y \$50____

Family 1 year \$7____, 2y \$14____, 3y \$21____ Business 1 year \$10____, 2y \$20____

Sustaining 1 year \$100.00 ____

Life membership \$150.00 ____

Make checks payable to: "Flushing Area Historical Society"
Please send by e-mail to: _____@_____

Flushing Area Historical Society
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 Flushing MI 48433-2035
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May 2024



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Vacation?

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