



Flushing Area Historical Society

810-487-0814

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

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

Fall hours, open
Tuesdays, 10 AM -1 PM
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:

President:

Dan Anderson 810-686-6669

Vice President:

Matt Hartmann 810-210-1518

Secretary: Paul Morgan

Treasurer: Robert Davies

Directors:

Term expires Dec. 31

Claudia Howe	2024
Luke Hartmann	2024
Jenny Kress	2025
Brent LaPonsey	2025
Mary MacDonald	2026
Don Wilson	2026
Jim Leszczynski	2026

Endowment Trustees:

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

Flushing Area Historical Society (The Depot)

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

7 P.M. Monday, October 21, 2024

East Michigan Native Plants

East Michigan Native Plants owner & horticulturist, Angela Nelson, received her bachelor's degree in horticulture science from Michigan State University and is also a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She has over 30 years of experience in the green industry working and volunteering with plants, gardens, and landscaping.

"I have been called 'a pioneer in the native plant industry' because I'm blending the science of horticulture with the science of ecology. I, humbly, accept that description of our operations here! I hold firm to the belief that 'non-food' plants have as much of a purpose as those grown for human consumption... and they can also be very therapeutic in many ways! Additionally, our Michigan and Canadian species are a part of the teachings, culture and lifestyle of my tribal ancestors. These plants are gifts to be used as food, fuel, fiber, shelter, and to sustain life! I hope we can increase awareness of how important our native plant species are to preserving wildlife and native ecosystems."

Angela is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians, and attributes her heritage as a reason why she has such a passion for our native Michigan flora... although she didn't realize it, at first!

Angela returned to her roots and found her love for native plants, insects and wildlife while she worked for a local nature center during her time at college. While working there, she was given the opportunity to design, install and maintain a public butterfly house. This experience broadened her knowledge of our Michigan native (and non-native) pollinators and how they tie into our local ecosystems.

While installing the butterfly house, Angela had a hard time finding the straight species plants that are needed by our native butterflies for egg-laying. When she did find native plants that weren't cultivars, she had to drive a long way, and

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that usually meant that the plants weren't grown or sourced locally. Often, the plants she found were so small that they didn't survive the season or took too long to mature. It was, also, tremendously difficult to find plants that were grown completely pesticide-free. However, these challenges pointed her in the direction of bringing strong-rooted, garden-sized, healthy, pesticide-free straight species native plants to the public in and around her home of the beautiful eastern lower peninsula of Michigan.

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Notes from Dan's Desk:

Greetings to everyone from the Board and volunteers of the Flushing Historical Society. As we move into the fall season, we're excited about getting ready for the Christmas season. Soon we'll be starting to set up the train, and there will be new displays for the season. It's a lot of work, but it's worth it to see all those happy kids and adults enjoying the Museum. As I mentioned it's a lot of work but it's fun work too, and we would love to have more people helping us. We work on Tuesdays from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. but any time you have available on Tuesday is great. To see everyone come into the Museum during CandleWalk and enjoying the displays is always heartwarming. So come and help us get ready for the Christmas season, hope to see you on Tuesday and remember we have cookies too.

Besides getting ready for Christmas, we continue to work on answering questions from the community. We continue to get phone calls and emails from people with questions about their families and their homes. People are looking for information on family members who lived in Flushing at one time. Or they have bought a house and are looking for the history of their new home. We try to answer their questions as best we can, but we don't have all the answers for them. This is another example of how our membership can help. By looking at the information we have or entered into a database you can help people find the information they want. So, think about what you can do to help your Museum and stop by on Tuesday and say hi.



“Learn to Fly”

To the left is our Halloween theme display for 2024. Close review of the signs warns customers that they “fly at your own risk”.

Note that the two participants in the front probably had good flying instructions, but apparently had less than satisfactory landing instructions.

James B. French (7/14/1858 – 7/15/1931)*

Mr. James French, a successful businessman of Flushing, was born in Flushing township June 14, 1858. His father, George A. French, was the first male white child born in Flushing township and was married to Harriet Woodruff.

James was married September 1881, to Julia Sammers, daughter of James Sammers of Flushing. They had one son, Rexford, born in 1885, and worked in his father's business.

At the age of twenty, James began working in Hart & Clark's flour mill. After the death of Mr. Clark, he took full charge of the mill. In 1891 he set up in business with Frederick W. Glass, with the sign "French & Glass", produce dealers. In a short time, they began to handle agricultural implements also. In a few years Mr. French became sole owner of the business, taking up his quarters in a building at 115 E. Main Street.

Mr. French also had a branch store at New Lothrop. He was a director and stockholder in the Peoples State Bank and owned property on Main Street. Mr. French was a member of the Masonic order.

James died in 1931 and Julia died in 1950. Their son, Rexford, died in 1940. They are buried in the Flushing Cemetery.

*(Flushing Sesquicentennial History, volume 1, page 234)



J.B. French Hardware
115 East Main St.
(1910 postcard)
2024, "Schoolgirl Style"



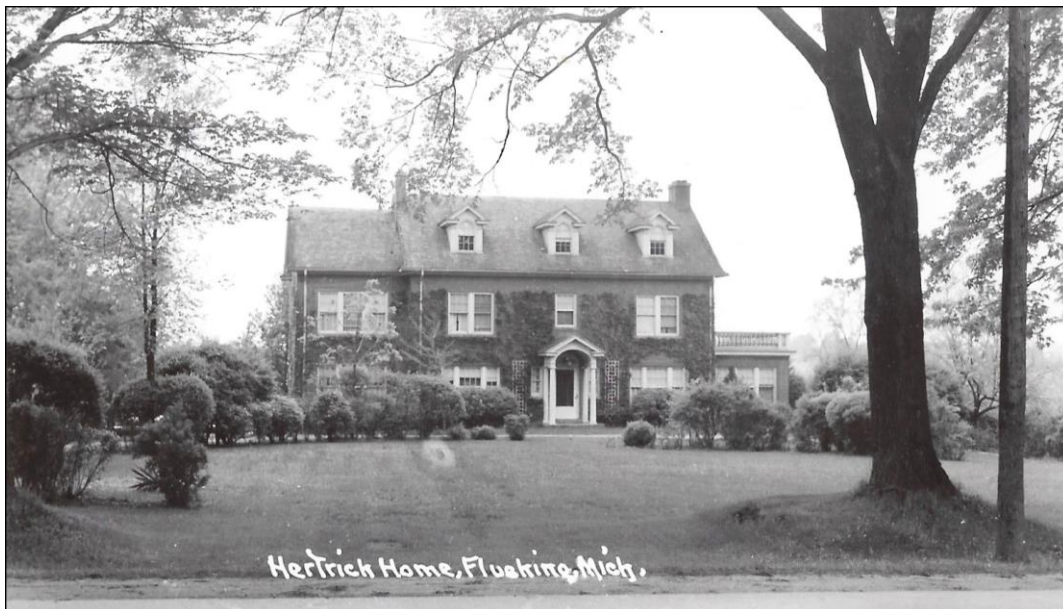
J.B. French Home
513 East Main St.
(1980's photograph)



Homes built by James B. French



Bernard (Bud) McKerring (1/10/1916 – 3/6/1958) owned the house at 704 East Main St. He once owned a Pontiac dealership in Flushing and at the time of his death, he had a Ford dealership in Flint. Now the home of Sigma Chi Fraternity.



Frederich Hertrich (1888-1959) owned the house at 720 E Main. He was Flushing Village President for several years and also President of Peoples State Bank. This is now the office of Century 21 Reality.

Help FAHS fundraise with these 2 programs

The Flushing Area Historical Society has teamed up with RaiseRight to raise funds for the museum. It is easy to use! You can purchase gift cards for things you normally use, try something new, or give as a gift. There are over 750 popular brands to choose from! RaiseRight then gives FAHS a percentage – generally 2-20%. You receive the full value for cards purchased.

- 1. Go to RaiseRight.com 2. Sign Up
3. Enter code KGIZGLZ8VUEG (this will link you with FAHS)

The mobile app is friendly to use, and you will have your cards available on your phone.

Kroger Rewards System: As a non-profit organization we are able to utilize this system for fundraising, how do you sign up? Simply visit http://www.kroger.com. Once you log into your Kroger account you can search for Flushing Area Historical Society either by name or CV016 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

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 August 25 and September 25:

Archie Bailey (1/31/1937 – 8/2/2004) from Dennis & Shirley Sanborn

Check the mailing sticker on your newsletter for your renewal date. If it is highlighted, it is now due. Thanks to those who pay for two or three years as this saves a considerable amount of paperwork. We print 8 newsletters a year: Feb. - June and Sept - Nov. 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 "spam" folder.

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___ please send membership card.
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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: _____@_____

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2024

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Vacation?

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