

## New historical marker unveiled in Huron park

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Lou Schultz, a member of the Erie County Historical Society, addresses a crowd of about 30 history buffs during the dedication of a new historical marker at Huron City Park at Main Street and Wall Street. -- Register photo/TOM JACKSON

**HURON** — In the early 19th century, America's wild and woolly western frontier was in Erie County — and trader John Baptiste Flemmond was in the middle of exciting events. The Erie County Historical Society remembered Flemmond by unveiling a new historical marker at Huron City Park Saturday, a short distance north of the Huron Boat Basin.

Flemmond (1770-1827), a French Canadian trader, opened a trading post in 1805 on the east side of the Huron River, about two miles from the river's mouth. It was at the trading post that a famous Ottawa Indian chief closely associated with Sandusky, Ogontz, killed another chief. (The killing was ruled to be self defense).

Flemmond's knowledge of Indian languages came in handy at times for local authorities. When two settlers were killed by Ottawa Indians in 1819, Flemmond was paid \$44 for his translation services when the suspects were captured and tried. Flemmond earned another \$4 for his assistance when two Indians convicted of the crime were hanged in Norwalk, near the Episcopal church, historian Lou Schultz told a crowd of about 30 who showed up late Saturday morning for the marker's unveiling.

The new marker replaces an old one on River Road that few people noticed. The Erie County Historical Society hopes the new one will be read by pedestrians strolling by on the sidewalk. The marker was made under the supervision of the Ohio History Connection and paid for by a \$2,500 grant from the Pomeroy Foundation. New York businessman William Pomeroy has paid for several historical markers in the area, including ones in Sandusky and Kelleys Island. Huron cooperated with the project by allowing the marker to be set up in a city park, said Chris Wimer, who served as chairman of the project and spent two years getting it to completion.

Information about the new marker will be posted in the next couple of days to the Erie County Historical Society's website, which tracks the local of all historical markers in the county, said John Hildebrandt, the site's webmaster.