

1855



2005

## *A day in Flint History*



### **1856: Lumber baron and future Governor Henry Crapo arrives in Flint**

Flint's major industry in the first 25 years after it became a city in 1855 was lumbering, and the giant of the lumber business was Henry Howland Crapo. Crapo left New Bedford, MA and headed for Michigan in late December, 1855. He arrived in Flint in early January, 1856 and quickly decided that Flint would be where he would manufacture his timber into lumber. He bought one sawmill, then another the next year. He decided that the operations needed his personal supervision, so in 1858 he moved his family to Flint.

Crapo was an astute businessman and had unusual leadership qualities. He was elected mayor of Flint in 1860. Two years later he was a state senator and in 1864 ran for governor and won. Although his health began to decline in 1866, he still found time to operate his lumber business, develop an exotic garden behind his home in Flint where Willson Park is situated and begin a farm near Swartz Creek.

**THE FLINT JOURNAL**

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Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint