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Dewey Hill

Take the short walk to the viewing deck at Linear Park.

From this vantage point you can see Dewey Hill. In 1923 the Ku Klux Klan boasted 160 local members. Headlines in the September 17, 1923 edition of the *Grand Haven Tribune* read, *Fiery Cross Burns Here on Hilltop* and went on to state that:

The Klan has come to Grand Haven t'was in the mouth of every Havenite Saturday night with the first burning of the fiery cross, emblem of the Klan, that was witnessed on Dewey Hill across the harbor at Grand Haven. The sudden growth of the Klan has been astonishing and many laws have been enacted to work against their secret meetings and practice of wearing hoods and masks.

Enthusiasm for the Klan died after 1925. The ad from a local clothing store below was found in the July 20, 1917 edition of the *Grand Haven Tribune*. The KKK association was anything but subtle.

A black and white advertisement for the "KOOL KLAD KLAN". The text is bold and stylized. It reads: "Join the KOOL KLAD KLAN Official Outfit Suits". Below this, it lists clothing items: "Palm Beaches, Mohairs, Aerpero, Cool Cloth, and Tropical Worsteds at \$8.50, \$9.00, \$10.00, \$12.50, \$15.00." The background of the ad is a textured, grainy pattern.

Join the
KOOL KLAD KLAN
Official Outfit
Suits

Palm Beaches, Mohairs, Aerpero, Cool Cloth,
and Tropical Worsteds at \$8.50, \$9.00,
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Image courtesy of: Grand Haven Tribune

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River Road HISTORIC

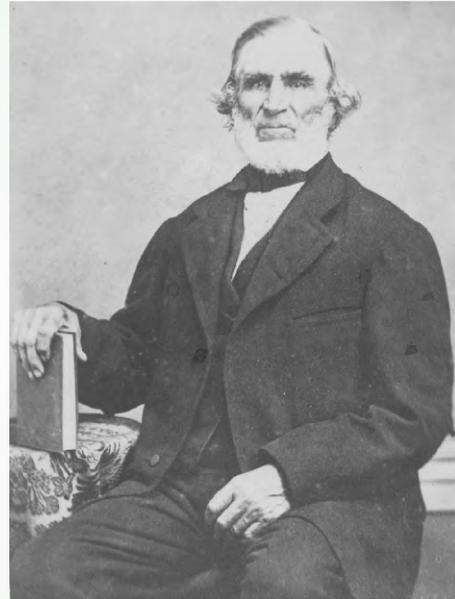
Coal Tipple

Continue on Harbor Island Drive to Jackson Street where you will turn right.

The imposing concrete structure you see before you is a coal tipple. Steam engines servicing Grand Haven needed fuel to operate. Hopper cars loaded with coal positioned themselves under the tipple's arches and emptied their load into a deep pit beneath the rails. Coal stored there was conveyed to the storage vault at the top of the tower where, as needed, gravity carried the fuel down chutes into an engine's tender. Just ahead is Steam Engine 1223, once used for hauling freight between Chicago, Saginaw, Detroit, and Toledo, it was brought to Grand Haven in 1981 and restored by local train buffs.

Rix Robinson

Photo courtesy of: Michigan Archives



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After following the curve, Jackson Street becomes Harbor Drive. Proceed to the corner of Harbor Drive and Washington Avenue, an excellent place to start exploring on foot.

This is the original site of **Rix Robinson's fur trading post** and warehouse dating to 1821. Robinson supplied over twenty posts from the Traverse Bay area to St. Joseph, but this and the Ada post were central to his business. Though William Ferry was credited with being the founder of Grand Haven, it was Rix Robinson and Robert Stuart who laid the groundwork for Ferry's move from Mackinac Island. While on this site, visit the Tri-Cities Historical Museum's Transportation annex, follow the brass course of the Grand River on the sidewalk, attend an event at Waterfront Stadium, enjoy the Musical Fountain, and stroll the famous Boardwalk.

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Harbor Avenue at Escanaba Park was the terminus of the Grand River Indian Trail, the proposed "Road from Detroit to the Mouth of the Grand River," and is nearly the end of your Historic River Road tour. All routes would have bisected today's YMCA property. At that site Indians once received payments for having ceded their land to the federal government. Alfred Bennett, a black man, purchased the property in 1856. "Bennett's Hollow" became "Mulligan's Hollow," a name that stuck when tugboat captain John Mulligan bought the parcel in the 1880s. The City of Grand Haven paid Mulligan \$100.65 for the land in 1908.

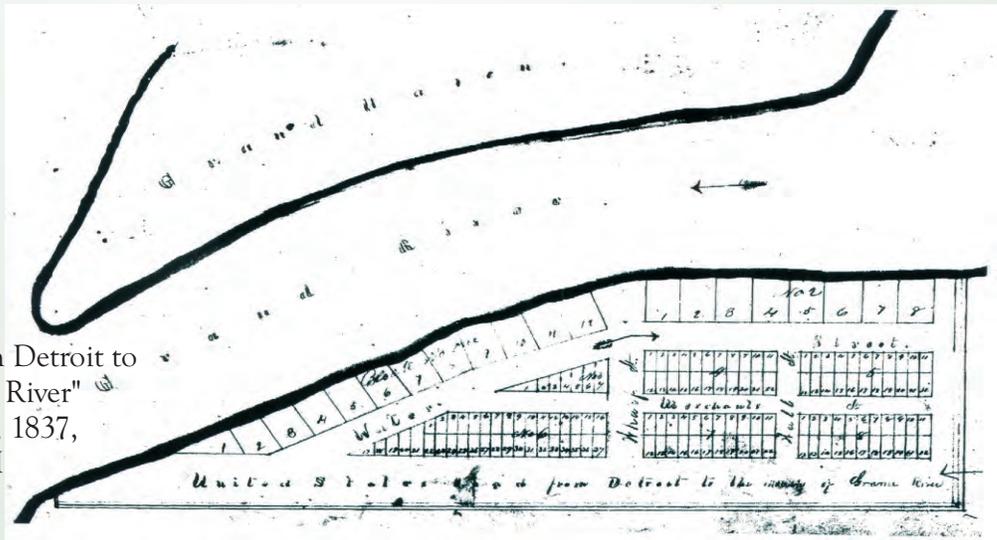


Bennett's/Mulligan's Hollow
Courtesy of Dr. Wallace Ewing

Virgil Bennett was 75 years of age and was a native of the state of New York. He came here in 1845 when a young boy, with his parents, who were among the very oldest settlers of this locality. The Bennetts were known far and wide. Their home was in Bennett Hollow, in the shadow of Five Mile Hill, and as Bennett's hollow, the great ravine is still known today.

Excerpt from Virgil Bennett's obituary
Grand Haven Tribune 6 Nov. 1915

"United States Road from Detroit to the Mouth of the Grand River"
Ottawa Co. liber #1, p. 6, 1837,
Wadsworth Addition GH



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River Road HISTORIC

Enter the Fisherman's Parking Lot off Harbor Avenue.

Grand Haven's first lighthouse, likely located where you're parked, was undermined by erosion, and a new lighthouse was built opposite the entrance to this lot. It is a privately owned cottage today. Earlier on this tour, you “met” Captain “Harry Bluff” Miller at Eastmanville Cemetery and again at the old Poor Farm. When Captain Miller ended his career on the Great Lakes, he and his second wife, Mary, became keepers of this light. Harry died in 1876, making Mary Miller the first and only female lighthouse keeper in Grand Haven. This ends your journey along Historic River Road. We hope you’ve enjoyed the ride and will share this booklet with another “time traveler.”



Image courtesy of: Dr. Wallace Ewing