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COLES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2020 Edition

Women's Suffrage Exhibition Open to the Public

Exhibit Presents the Story of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

One hundred years ago, the climax of a seven-decade campaign to secure comprehensive voting privileges for female citizens of the United States was reaching its crescendo. The work and activism of four generations of U.S. suffragists was poised to finally payoff. The path to elective equality was not an easy tread. The sacrifices of many of the suffragettes, as the female activists were called, were monumental and life-altering, not only for their generations but for the women of the future. What started in the 1840s as polite society attempt to gain equality for women at the polling places of the U.S., had by 1920 morphed into a potent political and media savvy group of advocacy organizations, some of which adopted militant street tactics to secure their bully pulpit.

To commemorate this significant movement in U.S. social history, the Coles County Historical Society is hosting the WS100 Exhibit. The exhibition, through text, graphics, artifacts and video, examines the U.S. women's suffrage movement on the national, regional, statewide and local stages. The WS100 Exhibit is on display within the CCHS's boarding-level museum galleries in Mattoon's former ICRR Depot. The exhibit is open for viewing on Saturdays from 1-4PM and otherwise by appointment for organizational groups. For more information contact Sandy Graven of the Coles County Historical Society at (217) 273-8968 or sgraven2808@yahoo.com.

Principal partners in the WS100 project include the Mattoon-Charleston office of Wells Fargo Financial Advisors, the Coles County Historical Society and Intrepid Consulting Services, Inc. of Mattoon. Countless other local individuals and organizations have also contributed to the production of the exhibit. *



Spanish Flu and Coles County

Mattoon Journal Gazette, Oct. 28, 1918

What is it like, this Spanish Flu?
Ask me, brother, for I've been through.
It is by Misery out of Despair;
It pulls your teeth and curls your hair;
It thins your blood and brays your bones,
And fills your craw with moans and groans,
And sometimes, maybe, you get well,
Some call it Flu – I call it hell!

Journal-Gazette/Times Courier December 31, 2018

Eastern Illinois University Professor Sheila Simons recently outlined some issues with the flu for the Charleston Rotary Club.

According to a press release, Simons, a professor in EIU's College of Health and Human Services who specializes in the study of infectious human diseases, put the 1918 flu pandemic into perspective.

The so-called "Spanish Influenza" killed more people than the number of soldiers who died during World War I. About 16 million people died during the 1914-18 war.

The 1918 Spanish Flu killed about 675,000 Americans and as many as 50 million people worldwide, Simons said. With the increase in population since then, if a similar flu outbreak resulted in a similar percentage of deaths, she said, it would mean 1.5 million deaths in the United States and as many as 300 million deaths worldwide.

Flu, of course, is a concern today. The most prominent pandemics in our history have been the 1918 Spanish Flu (50 million deaths), 1957 Asian Flu (2 million deaths), 1968 Hong Kong Flu (3 million deaths) and the 2009 Swine Flu (230,000 deaths).

The movement of military personnel from training camps to other countries was a big factor in the spread of the 1918 flu.

The two best ways to keep from getting the flu, she said, are washing the hands numerous times a day and getting a flu shot.

The flu vaccine is developed in the spring, about six months before flu season, because it takes about that long to produce enough vaccine. But the Centers for Disease Control figures show that about 43 percent of adults and 60 percent of children get an annual flu shot.

Simons said hand washing, at least 15-20 seconds, numerous times a day is important because the flu germs can be transmitted by people, birds and even by touching inanimate objects that someone with the flu virus has touched. And Simons said people touch their faces about 3,000 times a day.

Other ways to reduce the chance of getting the flu are by self-quarantine, covering coughs/sneezes and wearing a mask over the mouth and nose.

* Carolyn Cloyd in period garments representing the Suffragette movement.

For more details regarding the exhibit or to contribute contact Steve Thompson 217-254-1524 or skthompson@mchsi.com. Carolyn Cloyd 217-235-4984 or ccloyd@consolidated.net

Calendar of Events

Museum at the Depot: Due to the pandemic, the museum at the Depot will be open by appointment only. You can contact Sandy Graven at 217-273-8968, or email her at sgraven2808@yahoo.com.

Santa at the Depot: Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we are unable to safely hold Santa at the Depot.

Coles County Historical Society Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting normally set for January of each year has been postponed until further notice.

Yearly Membership Renewal Form

The CCHS, incorporated in 1954, exists to preserve and interpret the history of Coles County. We take seriously the responsibility to provide multiple opportunities to discover meaning in the local past and its relation to national and international events. Your support helps to sustain programs and properties owned and administered by the society.

Please take a moment to join or renew your yearly membership and to consider an additional donation to the cause of your choice. Just complete the form below and return with a check to:

The Coles County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1398
Mattoon, IL 61938

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Membership Level (check one) ___ \$1,000 Corporate Sponsor
___ \$500 Benefactor ___ \$200 Patron ___ \$100 Sustaining ___ \$50 Sponsor
___ \$25 Friend ___ \$10 Student ___ \$ (Other)

Project Support (donation above & beyond dues): \$ ___ Greenwood School
\$ ___ Dudley House \$ ___ Museum \$ ___ Endowment Fund
\$ ___ Research Center

___ I prefer my name and contributions not be publicly acknowledged

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P.O. Box 1398
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Society Leadership

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David Schilling: Vice President

Sandra Graven: Treasurer

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