

Ripped from the Headlines! Wearing Masks: Not a New Issue

Covid-19 has disrupted life, changed cultural practices and patterns, and brought financial and medical uncertainty to families around the world. The most apt historical comparison to the experience of Covid-19 is the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. The world experienced four waves of the Spanish Flu, which lasted from March 1918 through March 1920.

Like today, people were unsure about how to respond to the pandemic and strove to keep their families safe. The graphic to the right evokes imagery from World War I that would have been easily recognizable to both soldiers and those at home. At the time, the danger of poison gas was known to all and clearly designated the Spanish Flu as real danger.

These two articles published in the Jefferson County Union mirrored public opinion at the time. Many people wanted to do what they could to keep their families safe with a mask, whereas others viewed masks as ineffective. Masks are recommended today as a way to prevent spread of Covid-19.

We are living through history. The Museum is recording this time by adding facemasks, along with other family and business papers, to the museum collection for future study and use.

If you are interested in learning more about the Spanish Flu, visit our website to watch a presentation by Bonnie Geyer about the Spanish Flu.

Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases



As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shells

Contagious Disease Masks

Recently, I wrote of how the army has gained control of the spit-borne contagious diseases by requiring victims to wear gauze masks. I suggested that people in civil life can profit by

the method if they are intelligent enough and care enough to use a good disease prevention method without being forced to do so at the point of a soldier's bayonet.

It is known that the common forms of contagious diseases are spread by coughing, sneezing, and spitting. This includes Spanish influenza, the epidemic which is today causing anxiety to every well informed citizen. Army surgeons realized that if they could catch the spit and destroy the germs in it before it reached uninfected persons the latter could be made absolutely safe. What the army surgeon has done, the mothers in any community can do.

The masks consist of three or four layers of rather fine mesh surgeons' gauze, cut into pieces seven inches square (adult size). Upon each corner, a piece of tape is sewed for the purpose of holding the gauze over the mouth of the wearer. The tapes from the upper corners are carried over the ears and tied comfortably behind the head. Those from the lower corners are tied behind the neck. When the mask becomes uncomfortably moistened by the breath, or by sneezing and coughing of the wearer, it is replaced by a dry mask. The wet masks should be sterilized by boiling fifteen (15) minutes, after which they can be handled and dried without danger.

MASKS JOKES, COMMISSIONER DECLARES

Doctors Should Get Away From Useless Remedies, He Tells Health Association

"Closing of theaters, moving picture houses, churches, as was done in Chicago and other cities to check the influenza epidemic is poppycock. Such measures are worse than useless, as are 'flu' masks."

This broadside, hurled at the delegates to the American Public Health Association today by Dr. James W. Inches, health commissioner of Detroit, startled his hearers and caused an excited discussion that for a time threatened to throw clinkers in the cogwheels of the meeting.

"EXPERIENCE" MEETING

The accumulated experience of the health officers of the United States from one end of the country to the other indicates that the medical profession knows that there is such a disease as the influenza, but beyond that, little, if anything.

This became apparent today at the "experience" meeting at which the delegates gave opinions and suggested remedies. Some favored the mask and the closing of places of gathering; others took the opposite stand. Some thought the flu might be an air borne disease; others, and they were in the majority, believe it was a "contact" disease.

PUBLIC WILL PARDON

"Of course, it's all right to try these things," said Dr. Inches, "and the American public will not condemn us for admitting their failure, because the public realizes that this situation is unprecedented and that we must necessarily experiment in order to discover the remedy.

"If you men will not fear to face the public with your findings, the public will respect you. As it is, I believe that many doctors stick to these remedies, knowing them to be useless, simply because they are unwilling to admit that the things so widely heralded have proved no good.

"What of the 'flu' mask you cry? And I answer, 'Worthless incumbrance!'"

All articles and images published in the
Jefferson County Union.

"Masks Jokes" December 18, 1918

"Contagious Disease Masks" November 1, 1918

"Coughs and Sneezes" October 11, 1918

401 Whitewater Avenue
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
920-563-7769
fax 920-568-3203
www.hoardmuseum.org
www.facebook.com/hoardmuseum
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays & Mondays

2020 FAHS Board of Directors

Karen Gómez, President
Loren Gray, Vice President & Treasurer
Jack Blodgett, Secretary

Elected Board Members

Jack Blodgett
Bill Camplin
Bob Cheek
Bonnie Geyer
Karen Gómez
Loren Gray
Sue Johnson
Denise Jones
John Molinaro
Marie Nelson
Joel Winn

Standing Members

Chris Scherer, City Council Rep.
Steve Larson, Nat'l Dairy Shrine Rep.
Merrilee Lee, Museum Director
Matt Trebatoski, City Manager

Emeritus Member

Milo Jones

Museum Staff Members

Merrilee Lee, Museum Director
Dana Bertelsen, Assistant Director
Tammy Doellstedt, Volunteer Coordinator
Linda Ager, Beverly Dahl & Brandon
Thornton, Operations Assistants
Alisha Bade, Collections Manager
Cody Becker, Maintenance



Merrilee's Musings

By Merrilee Lee, Museum Director



What a year! I'm guessing that none of us imagined that this is what 2020 would look like. Here at the Museum, all was normal through the middle of March. We were preparing for our 60th annual Mary Hoard Art Show and thinking ahead to Rendezvous on Memorial Day weekend and the annual summer events. Plans changed with orders from the city of Fort Atkinson to close the Museum and shelter-in-place from March 23 through May 26. While away from the building, staff worked from home as much as possible on Museum projects. We also worked to document this once-in-a-lifetime moment in history.

While the Museum has reopened, the danger has not passed. Covid-19 still looms above all the decisions we make within our community and at the Museum. This creates fear and uncertainty within us all.

As a historian, my first instinct is to turn to the past to see how people in the past handled somewhat similar situations and I didn't have to look far. In 1918, a new flu spread around the world infecting millions and eventually killing 50 million people world wide. Like today, people struggled to find ways to prevent catching the flu. There were public service announcements regarding not spitting in public, covering your mouth when you coughed, and, ironically, whether you should wear a mask in public or not.

As in 1918-1920 and today, people knew they were living through a tumultuous period. No one likes to live through tumult. We like our lives to be orderly and organized. So knowing that our lives are going to be in an uproar for some time adds stress and worry to us. But, just like in 1918-1920, we know our lives will return to normal again.

Here at the Museum, we know that we'll be able to have our normal 4th of July Ice Cream Social and Dairy Day at the MOOseum again. We know we'll host hundreds of school children for tours again. We know that someday we'll remove our (somewhat clever) social distancing signs and our hand-sanitizer stations setup throughout the building. But not yet. We're holding fast until it's safe to return to normal. And just like 1920, normal will return. We only have to look to the past to see that this is true. There is always hope for a better day.

Merrilee

In a few weeks, you'll be receiving your membership renewal letter inviting you to renew your membership with us. As always, we appreciate your continued support of our museum. This year, we're also asking that, if possible, you please consider an extra donation on top of your membership. We would be very thankful for your gift.

Women's Suffrage in Fort Atkinson



Emma Brown in the 1880s
Editor of the *Wisconsin Chief*

Women's Suffrage was the Fort Atkinson Historical Society's programming focus for 2020. Covid-19, school and business closures, and collective uncertainty has sadly shifted our focus. The women of Wisconsin and the United States fought for their right to vote for more than 60 years. It was a long, slow, and difficult process with many setbacks. By fall 1920, white women were able to vote in the United States. Women of color were technically able to vote but faced additional challenges including poll taxes, long waits, and exams. In Fort Atkinson, of the 1,000 ballots cast in the 1920 election, 302 of them were from female voters.

The campaign for women's suffrage was a political endeavor. There were formal committees, celebrity speakers and lobbyists, and it was a part of political platforms. The first nationally recognized suffrage speakers visited Wisconsin in 1855, and Wisconsin's first women's suffrage club began in Richland Center in 1856. In 1857, Fort Atkinson's own Emma Brown founded the *Wisconsin Chief* newspaper, a temperance and suffrage newspaper, with her brother, Thurlow. The Wisconsin Women Suffrage Association was organized in 1869 to give local groups a statewide structure. Although Fort Atkinson did not have a WWSA chapter, there were women in our community who believed in and fought for suffrage.

One of these women was Carrie Josephine Smith. Carrie was born in Oakland, Wisconsin, on October 11, 1860. She graduated from Fort Atkinson High School in 1877. Carrie taught in Fort Atkinson and later attended the State Normal School in River Falls, Wisconsin (now UWRF) and graduated in 1894. She returned to teach mathematics at Fort Atkinson High.

Her parents, George Cornish Smith and Lamira (Blanchard) Smith, emigrated from New York in 1847 and settled on a farm in Oakland in 1850. In 1868, the family sold their farm and moved to Fort Atkinson where George practiced law. He served in many roles, including Oakland's superintendent of schools, town clerk, and justice of the peace in Oakland and Fort Atkinson. He served as a member of the state Legislature in 1958-59. During the Civil War he was appointed a state agent to look after sick and wounded Wisconsin Soldiers in Memphis, Tenn. He was a member of the Masons, International Order of Odd Fellows, and Good Templars. George's expansive civic engagement, which was supported by Lamira, served as an example for Carrie to follow as an adult.



Carrie Smith in the Fort Atkinson
1918 Tchogeerrah Yearbook

Carrie was involved and participated in many social and civic groups. She was an active member of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as the state secretary. Locally she was a member of the Tuesday Club (which is a still active women's study club), the Music Study Club, the Congregational Church, and the Town Improvement Association. She served as a war effort committee chair during World War I. She also chaired many relief efforts including one that helped French orphans during World War I.

Professionally, she taught for decades and authored several high school texts. Her books were *Modern Business English*, *The Practical Dictionary*, *Nature and Life Readers*, and *The Story of Wisconsin*. W.D. Hoard, Wisconsin's 16th Governor and Fort Atkinson resident, wrote a compelling foreword for *The Story of Wisconsin*.

In 1884, Wisconsin gave women partial suffrage allowing them to vote on school matters. This right was rescinded in 1888. In 1886, Carrie took her right to vote one step further and put herself on the ballot when she declared her candidacy for state superintendent of schools. At the time she was a teacher in Fort Atkinson. Emma Brown and the *Wisconsin Chief* endorsed her. However, the incumbent, Robert Graham of Kenosha, was re-elected.

Carrie died on February 20, 1947, at the age of 86 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Fort Atkinson alongside her parents. Her life was spent helping others, and through her efforts our city was made better.

🌀 1st Annual Trivia Fundraiser 🌀

On February 15, the Museum hosted our first annual trivia fundraiser. Nine teams of 5-8 people tested their knowledge, with the Ager-Hart family winning the top spot. The event raised more than \$700 for museum programming. Thank you to the volunteers and participants who helped make the trivia contest a success!

🌀 Annual Meeting 🌀

On February 27, 92 members of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society met at the Hoard Historical Museum for the annual meeting. Historical Society President Bonnie Geyer and Museum Director Merrilee Lee both gave favorable reports from 2019. Highlights include:

- Visitors came from 169 Wisconsin communities, 44 states, and 17 countries.
- The Historical Society has 361 members (*but would love to welcome more! Tell your friends about the Museum!*)
- Staff and volunteers continued our ongoing collections inventory of artifacts. In 2019 they inventoried 3,384 of the nearly 20,000 artifacts in our collection.
- Our public programs were well attended! Nearly 1,000 people stopped by for a sundae on the 4th of July, 750 folks came to meet our herd in June at Dairy Day at the MOOseum, and hundreds came to Governor Hoard and Civil War Day in October, where Hoard's relationship with immigration was explored.

Board members' Don Henning and Jerry McGowan's terms ended and their contributions will be greatly missed. Bill Camplin and Marie Nelson were each elected for a three-year term. Jude Hartwick's term also ended as City Council Representative and he was succeeded by Chris Scherer. Welcome to all!

🌀 National Dairy Shrine 🌀

Dr. David Selner has retired as Executive Director of the National Dairy Shrine after 13 years of service. Dr. Selner was responsible for the Shrine's technology and display updates. Mike Oppermann, a Fort Atkinson resident with more than 30 years of experience in the dairy industry, is the new director. Welcome Mike!

Volunteer Updates



Tammy Doellstedt
Volunteer Coordinator

What a different year this is! So many things we held dear are cancelled. Sending thoughts of good health to each of you. All Volunteer Enrichment Programs, for the rest of 2020, including our Annual Volunteer Awards Reception are postponed.

What is not cancelled is our love and appreciation for each one of our volunteers!

National Volunteer Week was scheduled for April 19-25. But, as a way to show our appreciation, we welcome our volunteers to stop in for snacks anytime. We are upgrading our snacks for the rest of the year. **ALSO** Please use your certificate for a 20% discount in the Museum Gift Shop. We will honor these discounts through May 1, 2021. **We are happy to accept phone orders for the Gift Shop and arrange no-contact orders and pick ups.**

Eight new archive assistants have recently completed orientation and shadowing. They are now serving in various roles in the Archives. Welcome Adam, Fred, Jayme, Joe, Julie, Leigh, Megan, and Whitney. We also welcome back two former volunteers who find themselves back in their hometown for the summer. Thanks Clare and Aaron!

Thanks to our garden volunteers: Bonnie, Joan, Myrna, Sandy, Sue, and Vicki, who have stepped up to help our Master Gardeners stay on top of the weeds in our five gardens. We appreciate you! Many thanks to our Master Gardeners Shirley Brown, Beverly Dahl, Dianne Koehnke, Ron Langellier, and Al Vollrath for their service and leadership to our gardens and garden events. Come join us if weeding interests you. Times and days are flexible! Call Tammy, volunteer coordinator, at the Museum to help.

Thanks again to all our volunteers! We look forward to a time when we can get together face-to-face.

We had to get creative to reimagine how to present our two largest summer events with social distancing. Thankfully we were able to keep the core message of the events, even with the change in format. Both events became limited contact drive-up events on Foster Street behind the Museum. Each event featured fun activity packets, snacks, and a way to interact with the Hoard Historical Museum.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped make these events a success and to all who attended!

☛ Dairy Day at the MOOseum ☛

On Saturday, June 20, the Museum held our 6th annual Dairy Day at the MOOseum. This socially-distanced event featured take-home activity packets with crossword puzzles, Cowtail candies, coloring pages, and Fort Atkinson scavenger hunts. Visitors were also given Wisconsin dairy samples of milk and cheese courtesy of FCCU and Festival Foods. Visitors were asked to drive onto Foster Street behind the Museum and stop at each station. Volunteers got in the spirit of the day and wore cow-themed masks.

Past years featured the seven milking cow breeds, however this year we took the opportunity to feature goats and their contribution to the Wisconsin dairy industry. Wisconsin is home to more than 44,000 dairy goats that produce one to one-and-a-half gallons of milk a day, making Wisconsin the top producer of goat milk and cheese products. Visitors were able to see two milking goats named Caramel Swirl and Mocha Swirl. Hopefully the cow herd will return next year!

Thank you to the event sponsors Festival Foods and Fort Community Credit Union.

Thank you to our Business Patrons: Fireside Dinner Theatre, Fort Community Credit Union, Fort Healthcare, Jones Dairy Farm, Paddy Coughlin's Irish Pub, W.D. Hoard and Sons, and W&A Distribution.



Top: Bjorn and Linda handed out cheese and milk to visitors
Middle: Elsa and Roald show off their two milking goats
Below: Aaron welcomes the cars to Dairy Day at the MOOseum
Left: Cierra handed out "Hooray Wisconsin Dairy" balloons

☛ Annual Fourth of July Ice Cream Social ☛



The 45th Annual Ice Cream Social was different from years past, but ice cream and patriotism were still the feature of the day. Each family received ice cream sandwiches and cheese sticks, and an activity packet that included a word search and crossword, coloring page, temporary tattoos, a scavenger hunt, presidential craft, and patriotic pinwheels. Although a change from years past, we were still proud to celebrate Independence Day with more than 400 folks. Thank you for continuing the tradition with us!

Thank you to PremierBank for being this year's sponsor of the Ice Cream Social. Additionally, thank you to our Business Patrons: Abendroth Water Conditioning, Blodgett Garden Center, BKS Dental, Fireside Dinner Theatre, Fort Healthcare, Hometown Pharmacy, Jones Dairy Farm, Paddy Coughlin's Irish Pub, Sport and Spine Physical Therapy, W.D. Hoard and Sons, and W&A Distribution.

Hoard HISTORICAL MUSEUM
FORT ATKINSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NATIONAL DAIRY SHRINE MUSEUM

401 Whitewater Avenue
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

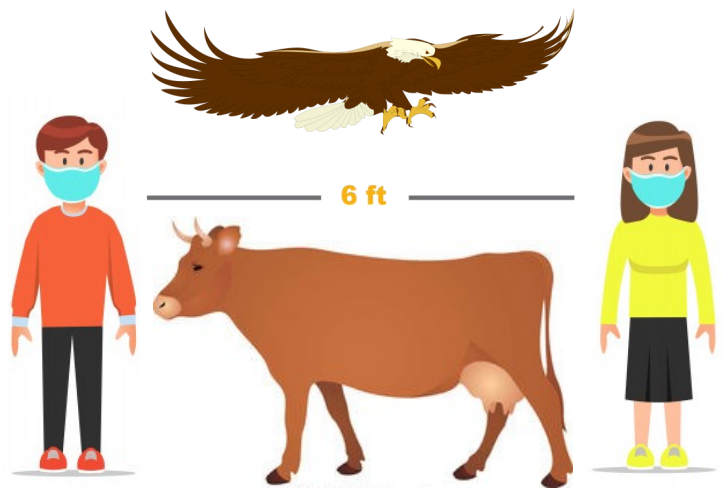


Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 94
Fort Atkinson, WI
53538

The Museum is Open!

We are working to keep all visitors, volunteers, and staff healthy.

The Hoard Historical Museum wants all visitors to be comfortable and safe during their visit to the Museum. Per the state of Wisconsin, visitors are required to wear masks during their visit to the Museum. We have disposable masks and hand sanitizer available for all to use, and we regularly disinfect surfaces. We also encourage visitors, volunteers, and staff to practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet away from others while in the building. Thank you for your cooperation during this time!



Questions about the Museum? Contact the Museum office by calling (920) 563-7769 or emailing info@hoardmuseum.org.