



## MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER  
UNDERWRITTEN BY:



### SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG HISTORIANS

History is for kids, too! This summer the Society will once again offer plenty of opportunities for kids to get connected with history. Many popular programs are returning, some with new, updated formats.

For the second year, two sessions of History Camp will be offered for children entering grades two to six. "Historians in Training" will learn the importance of preserving history through interactive, hands-on activities. The local history-themed sessions will include walking field trips, projects and games. Session One is June 8-12 and Session Two is July 6-10, both in the mornings from 9 a.m. until noon.

We've also added a new twist to our popular Prairie Girl programs. Renamed "Prairie Kids," we welcome boys and girls age 7 and up to partake in these fun step-back-in-time experiences. Try your hand at chores of yesteryear; make homemade goodies; learn the importance of farming, and much, much more! "Life as a Prairie Kid I & II" will be offered on July 16.

Our exciting "Science of History" program is back, as well. This STEM-based interactive program has been delighting kids the past few summers with themes such as catapults, waterwheels, log cabin- building, and rockets. This year children ages 7 and up will be exploring "Boats, Ships, and Other Things that Float." Be sure to join us for oceans of fun on the morning on July 23.



To complement our science program this year, the July 23 afternoon session will be "Crossing on the Mayflower: Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Voyage." Learn what it was like to be a kid on this famous cross-Atlantic trip. And explore what life was like in the New World when the Pilgrims finally reached land.

We're so thrilled to bring history alive for all ages here at the Mount Prospect Historical Society. We look forward to having many young historians join us this summer on our exciting adventures through time! For more information about all of our programs, visit [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org). We're right in the neighborhood. Come see what we have to offer!

## MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

# MUSEUM JOURNAL

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### PANDEMICS AND EPIDEMICS ALTER THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY BY JEAN MURPHY

*The idea of humankind being visited by a pandemic that could not be managed by modern medicine seemed ridiculous only a few months ago. Today's physicians and health care facilities can transplant organs and help the paralyzed to walk again, so they can surely cure an infection, right?*

*Apparently, our collective suppositions were incorrect.*

*COVID-19 has forever changed the way we look at our daily lives. We have had to literally isolate ourselves in our homes in order to try to save our elderly and health-compromised friends and family members from a deadly virus and many of us wonder if this is a modern apocalypse.*

*Throughout history, people have endured frightening situations like these, but not in most of our lifetimes in this country. The exception would be the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 90s. How to avoid infection was quickly evident then, so widespread panic was avoided.*

*How this pandemic will end and how many in this country will be affected is impossible to know at this point. But knowing that other devastating disease outbreaks have come and gone throughout history might be comforting.*

A 'pandemic' is an epidemic that spreads around the world or across a large region. To be a pandemic, the disease must be infectious and contagious. Cancer, for instance, cannot become a pandemic/epidemic.

Among infectious diseases, a pandemic is the worst-case scenario. That means that the infection is spreading around a large part of the planet.

The earliest recorded pandemic occurred around 430 BC in northern Africa and



Greece during the Peloponnesian War. Historians suspect that it was **typhoid fever** since symptoms were reportedly fever, thirst, red skin and lesions and bloody throats and tongues. As much as 66 percent of the population in those areas died and it helped the Spartans win the war.

The Antonine Plague occurred nearly 600 years later in 165 AD. Throughout the Roman Empire people suffered from fever, sore throat, diarrhea and eventually, pus-filled sores. Based on the descriptions that have survived, historians assume it was **smallpox**. It lasted about 15 years and eventually killed Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

Egypt was the epicenter of the Justinian Plague in 541 AD. It was an outbreak of the **bubonic plague** which is carried by rodents and their fleas and features an enlarged lymphatic gland. From Egypt the plague spread throughout the Mediterranean and eventually killed about 50 million people. This one created such a dire situation that it is credited for the rapid spread of Christianity.

**Leprosy** was the scourge of the world during the 11th century. This bacterial disease causes sores and deformities and once led to victims being isolated in leper colonies like the one on the Hawaiian island of Molokai which still existed when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Today it is known as Hansen's Disease and it can be cured by antibiotics.

The "Black Death," which killed off one-third of the world's population in about 1350, was also caused by **bubonic plague**. It came to Europe from Asia via trade caravan. Countries were so incapacitated by the disease that they were forced to end wars and the plague was one of the main reasons that the British feudal system collapsed. The Vikings were so ravaged by it that they had to stop waging war and halted their exploration of North America.

When Columbus discovered the New World in 1492,

the indigenous populations of the Americas were almost wiped out by European diseases like **smallpox, measles and bubonic plague**. In fact, 90 percent of the native populations died from diseases brought by the newcomers.

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR**



Historical Society has meant so much to me. Not only did it give me a starting point in this field, but it has taught me so much. Serving this community has been an utmost pleasure. I have met and worked with so many outstanding people, and that is why it is so hard to say goodbye. Mount Prospect is a truly unique town with a rich history and having the opportunity to connect the

On October 29, 2013, I began my first museum venture as the Executive Director of the Mount Prospect Historical Society. Now, 6.5 years later, it is time for me to step down and continue my journey down a different set of tracks. Being the Director of the Mount Prospect

community with history has been such a privilege. The Historical Society has grown so much since I started. Not only is our schoolhouse open and functioning, we have doubled our events, established educational programming and debuted the John Meyn Blacksmith

Exhibit. I am proud of all the Society has accomplished during my time here, but more importantly, I encourage all of our members to also be proud. Be proud of your history. Take ownership of it. This Society is here to help you connect with your history so that we as a whole can better understand the future.

To our members: Thank you all so much for coming to my lectures, attending our events, or even stopping by the museum just to say hello. I will never forget my time here in Mount Prospect and I will always cherish the many memories I have made.

If you ever find yourself in the St. Charles area, you can stop by and visit me at the St. Charles History Museum! I start April 1<sup>st</sup> as their new Executive Director.

With that I bid the Mount Prospect Historical Society, this beautiful Village and this amazing community farewell. - Lindsay Rice

**ANNUAL BUS TRIP SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> !**

The Society has planned its Second Annual bus trip on Saturday, August 22. This year we will be exploring historic delights on the South Side of Chicago – first, the Frank Lloyd Wright Robie House on the campus of the University of Chicago and then the Pullman



neighborhood where Pullman railroad cars were once built. The Frederick C. Robie House in the Hyde Park neighborhood was built between 1909 and 1910 and was placed on the very first National Register of Historic Places list in 1966. At the time that he commissioned Wright to design his home, Robie was only 28 years old and the assistant manager of the Excelsior Supply Company which was owned by his father. He and his wife, Lora Hieronymus Robie, a 1900 graduate of the University of Chicago, selected the property in order to remain close to the campus and the social life of the University.

After lunch on your own near the University, the tour will continue south to the Pullman neighborhood.

Historic Pullman was built in the 1880s by George Pullman as workers' housing for employees of his railroad car company, the Pullman Palace Car Company. He established behavioral standards that workers had to meet in order to live in the area and charged them rent. The distinctive rowhouses were comfortable by standards of the day, and contained such amenities as indoor plumbing, gas, and

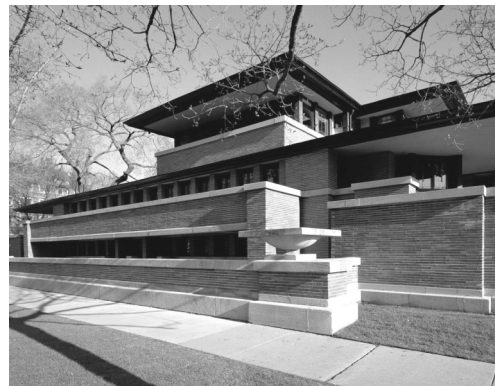
sewers.

This was the site of the two-month-long Pullman Strike in 1894 that eventually required intervention by the US government and military. After Pullman died in 1897, the Illinois Supreme Court required the company to sell

the town because operating it was outside the company's charter. In 1889, the town and other major portions of the South Side were annexed by Chicago and within ten years, the city sold the houses to their occupants.

Tickets for the trip are \$65 per person and include tour admissions and bus transportation. The tour bus will depart from the Historical Society, 101 S. Maple St., promptly at 9 a.m. and is expected to return back there by 5 p.m. Lunch will be on your own. Comfortable clothing and shoes are strongly urged.

Space is limited, so if you are interested, contact the office at 847-392-9006.



(Continued from page 1)

The **bubonic plague** returned to London in 1665, killing 20 percent of the city's population, over the following year. Some think that the Great Fire of London in 1666 finally halted the spread of the plague.

In 1793 **Yellow Fever** caused an epidemic in Philadelphia that killed about 5,000 people, roughly ten percent of that city's population at the time.

**Cholera** was the culprit of seven pandemics between 1817 and 1967. This small intestine infection began in Russia where one million residents died. Another 150,000 died when the British Navy spread it around its empire.

**Smallpox** devastated the native populations of Australia and New Zealand in the early 1800s and European diseases like measles, whooping cough and influenza killed nearly a quarter of the native population of Hawaii in the late 1840s.

During the 18th century, **tuberculosis** killed a quarter of the adult population of

Europe and another 100 million there died during the 20th century.

Fiji and Australia suffered from a **measles** outbreak in 1875. One third of Fiji's population – 40,000 people – died.

The Russian **Flu** of 1889-90 began in Siberia and made its way across Russia and into Finland, Poland, the rest of Europe and eventually to North America and Africa. It killed 360,000 by the end of 1890.

One of the worst pandemics on record – the 1918 Spanish **Flu** – eventually resulted in 50 million deaths worldwide, augmented by World War I soldiers who returned home, carrying the virus with them.

The 1957 Asian **Flu** started in Hong Kong and quickly spread throughout China, the United States and England. 1.1 million died worldwide. A vaccine eventually halted its spread.

The **HIV/AIDS** pandemic was first identified in 1981. This disease destroyed patients' immune systems. Worldwide, 35 million

people have died from AIDS, but promising treatments are now being used.

More recently, several epidemics including **SARS** (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), a type of pneumonia; the **H5N1 Avian Flu**; and the **Zika Virus** have caused health professionals to lose sleep, but, fortunately, none have caused the devastation that COVID-19 threatens.

*Challenges tend to bring out the best in people and that is happening again. Neighbors grocery shopping for elderly/sick neighbors; shipping gift cards and care packages to those far away who have been laid off in the food service industry; and so forth are the stories we are hearing. History has proven that the best comes out as folks help one another get through a crisis. So let's link arms virtually and get through this. And don't forget your neighbors, friends and family members who may be in need.*

**DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**THESE ARE THE EVENTS WE HAVE PLANNED, BUT PLEASE KNOW THEY MAY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Second Sunday at the Society**

**FREE** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**May 10** - Paper flowers

**June 14** - Old-fashioned games

**July 12** - Patriotic Crafts

**August 9** - Read in the Garden

**September 13** - Apples

**Spring Dinner - Kodak**

Saturday, April 18, 6-10 p.m.

Rob Roy (Cancelled)  
5111 Camp McDonald Rd.,  
Prospect Heights

**Five Dollar Fives: The Art of Soap Making**

**Admission: \$5**

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.

Central School

103 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect

**Movie Night at Central School: "Grease"**

**FREE**

Tuesday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Central School

103 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect

**Tea: Ellie Carlson - Women's History**

**Year: Hindsight is 2020**

**Tickets \$12**

Saturday, June 13, 1-3 p.m.

Central School

103 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect

**Register at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org)**

**Bus Tour - Pullman Neighborhood & Robie House**

Saturday, August 22: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Trip will depart from the Mount Prospect Historical Society promptly at 9 a.m.

**Register at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org)**

**Tea: Martina Mathisen - Chicago, True Stories**

**Tickets \$12**

Saturday, September 12, 1-3 p.m.

Central School

103 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect

**Register at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org)**

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS ON BACK OF NEWSLETTER**

Visit us at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org) for more information on our events!

847/392-9006

Tuesday - Thursday

10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

101 S. Maple St.