



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members:

This newsletter is as different as everything that has happened to each and every one of us thus far in 2020.

Our museum has been closed to the public since March when Governor Murphy ordered the state-wide shutdown. The Executive Board has opted to keep it closed since interior space for any activities would not accommodate social distancing and we do not want to risk anyone's personal safety.

The shutdown of the museum has meant that we did not host our annual History Day open house. The shutdown of town-wide activities resulted in the cancellation of the St. Patrick's and Memorial Day parades in which we normally participate. The History Expo that has been held every April at the Masonic Lodge in Washington and hosted by the Washington Historical Society had to be cancelled this year. The town-wide yard sale was also cancelled - another lost opportunity for us along with everyone else who might have participated.

Our monthly meeting place, the American Legion Hall, closed down in March and remains closed until further notice meaning I have had to cancel our Spring meetings and speakers and our normal meetings for September, October and November are cancelled as well.

We have cancelled any plans for a Lantern Tour that would normally take place on the Friday and Saturday nearest Halloween. Looking further ahead, no information has been released about the Main Street shopping event that is sponsored annually by the Hackettstown Business Improvement District officials. Our annual Holiday Open House is normally tied in with that event and at this point is extremely doubtful that it will take place this year.

However, having delivered all of this bad news, I am optimistic that 2021 will see us bounce back better and stronger than ever. We look forward to again participating in the events previously mentioned that have been or will be cancelled this year.

The Display Committee has been busy planning changes at the museum and some have been implemented. So far this year over five-hundred items have been accessioned and added to the museum collection.

I mentioned the anticipation to bounce back better and stronger than ever. That effort can and hopefully will involve more members and possibly new members. Please consider participating in some Society event or museum project. Please contact us at info@hackettstownhistory.com so we can arrange to meet when the time comes and discover what event or project would be a best fit for you.

Gwen Chaar, President