

PROCESS PAPER

I initially heard about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in history class learning about the Progressive Era. But what sparked my curiosity was reading one of the most interesting historical fiction books I have ever read *Ashes of Roses* by Mary Jane Auch. After reading the book I was hooked on the topic and excited to learn more about the event and outcomes in a more informative way.

Due to my little previous knowledge of the event, my research began in November by reading many secondary accounts on websites and books about the fire and its effects. From there I dug deeper by finding primary newspaper articles, analyzing political cartoons and images, and reading primary testimonials and reports. Many of which can from Cornell University and the Library of Congress. Also, I reached out to Mary Anne Trasciatti the president of Remember the Triangle Fire Collation for an interview. Ms. Trasciatti was especially helpful and generously shared her years of knowledge with me. Lastly, I got in contact with the Library of Congress and they gave me an abundant amount of sources which helped extend my research.

I felt that a website was the best medium to present my research because it allows for a mixture of visual, audio, and literary information. This includes photographs, video clips, interview quotes, and more. Also, doing a website aided in the organization of my project by having different pages for separate key components of my research. I structured my project in chronological order so viewers can smoothly transition between each topic. Doing a website was a learning experience as it took time to learn the software. But overall I enjoyed the process of creating it and was pleased with how my website turned out.

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire is a great fit for this year's National History Day Theme, Breaking Barriers. While the fire came with unforgettable tragedy it put the hammer down on the standstill to start the much necessary improvements to fire safety and workers rights. The disastrous event that very well could have been prevented brought together reform-minded politicians together, sprung about new fire safety laws and inspections, and united together effective labor rights unions. Today we are still affected by the outcome of the fire which makes it hard to imagine what life would be like if the fire didn't occur breaking the fire safety and labor laws barrier.