

HELEN GOUGAR TIMELINE

- July 18, 1843 Helen Jackson is born near Litchfield, Michigan.
- May, 1860 Helen accepts a teaching job and moves to Lafayette, Indiana. Helen's uncle already lives in the area.
- December 10, 1863 Helen marries John Gougar, a young Lafayette attorney. John's eyesight is poor and Helen often helps with his work. Over time, Helen becomes as familiar with the law as a practicing attorney.
- 1860s-1870s Helen is involved in several benevolent organizations in Lafayette including the YMCA, Lafayette Home Association, Ladies' Benevolent Society, and her church, Second Presbyterian.
- 1877 Helen and John organize a Parlor Club to study literature with neighbors and friends.
- April 1878 Helen speaks at a Blue Ribbon Temperance Rally in Lafayette. Transcripts of the speech do not survive, but she persuades 500 attendees to sign a temperance pledge. This speech marks the beginning of Helen's deep commitment to the temperance movement.
- November 2, 1878 Helen begins writing the newspaper column "Bric-a-Brac" for the *Lafayette Daily Courier*. In less than two years, she writes almost 100 articles.
- 1881 Helen becomes the editor of a local newspaper, *Our Temperance Herald*, and renames it *Our Herald*. She acts as owner/editor after buying the paper in 1883.
- 1882 *Western Union Telegraph Company v. Gougar et al* (84 Ind. 176). The Court awards Helen \$100 in damages from the telegraph company after concluding that Western Union illegally delayed her message by sending men's messages first.
- 1883 Helen sues the Lafayette Police Chief Henry Mandler for slander in the case of *Gougar v. Mandler*. The eleven week trial features at least 133 witnesses. Helen is awarded \$5,000 in damages. There is no record that she was ever paid.
- 1884 Helen travels to Kansas and leads the drafting of a municipal suffrage bill. She unites the local Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) with the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (KESA) in Kansas' final fight for women's suffrage. The bill passes in 1887.
- 1888 Helen leaves the Republican Party and joins the Prohibition Party.
- 1892 Helen serves as a delegate to the Prohibition Party National Convention in Cincinnati.
- 1893 *Gougar v. Morse* (66 F. 702). Helen sues Congressman Elijah Morse (Mass.) and the *Attleboro Sun* for libel. A U.S. Circuit Court in Massachusetts awards Helen \$1,000 in damages. The case is retried in 1895.

- November 6, 1894 Helen attempts to vote in Tippecanoe County, but is turned away by the election board because she is a woman. She files a law suit against the election board.
- January 10, 1895 Helen is admitted as the first female member of the Tippecanoe County bar hours before delivering her four-hour argument in the case of *Gougar v. Timberlake et al.* Her argument is published as "The Constitutional Rights of the Women of Indiana." Judge Everett finds for the election board in April. Helen appeals to the Indiana Supreme Court.
- 1896 Helen is nominated for Indiana Attorney General by the National Prohibition Party. Helen and her party lose badly in the November election.
- 1897 Helen withdraws from the Prohibition Party and announces she will support Williams Jennings Bryan, a Democrat, for President in 1900.
- Helen and John move to their new home, Castle Cottage, in Lafayette (914 Columbia Street). Today, the home is the Fisher-Loy Funeral Chapel.
- February 19, 1897 *Gougar v. Timberlake* (147 Ind. 38) is argued in front of the Indiana Supreme Court. Helen argues that women are not constitutionally barred from voting in Indiana, but the Court upholds the lower court's decision. Helen is one of the first women to argue before the Indiana Supreme Court.
- 1898 Helen publishes *Matthew Peters: A Foreign Immigrant*, telling the story of a young German immigrant.
- 1900 Helen, as promised, campaigns for William Jennings Bryan, who is unsuccessful in his bid to become U.S. President.
- 1901 Helen and John take an extensive Pacific vacation, visiting Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia.
- 1902 Helen and John travel to China, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Egypt, Hungary, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Germany.
- 1905 Helen publishes a travel memoir, *Forty Thousand Miles of World Wandering*, containing commentaries on places she and John visited.
- 1906 Helen and John travel to the Caribbean.
- June 6, 1907 Helen dies unexpectedly at her home in Lafayette, most likely of a heart attack.
- 1985 Robert Kriebel publishes *Where the Saints Have Trod: The Life of Helen Gougar*.
- May 2006 *Helen* Magazine is founded in Helen's adopted hometown of Lafayette, Ind. and named for Helen Gougar.