

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

Protect. Collect. Preserve. Share.

MUSEUM PRESENTS EXHIBIT HONORING GRIGGS

Delaney Williams-Chidester, Museum Coordinator



When you think of historical figures, who do you think of? I'll bet you think of founding fathers and royalty, CEOs and socialites. Maybe you'd even think of musicians and politicians. As we look back on historical photos and films, we do not often pause to consider the people who gave us these precious gifts: the humble photographers. As Bartians, we are so fortunate to have such a rich and well-recorded history. We must stop and give credit to a man who devoted his life to preserving so much of that history. BAHM does just that with our newest special exhibit: "Bartlesville's History, Griggs's Legacy."

In 1908, at the age of 20, Frank Griggs arrived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma for the first time. He had traveled by canoe and by train to get here after being told that Bartlesville was a "land of opportunity." Over his 70+ year career as a photographer, Griggs took thousands of images. He did not discriminate. He photographed everything

from presidents to parades to street scenes and the Dewey Roundup. Griggs would climb to the tops of oil derricks and dodged bucking broncos to get the perfect shot. He documented everything from the amazing to the mundane. We have Griggs to thank for how well our city's history is preserved.

It would be impossible to display even half of Griggs's photographs in the Museum, however, a cross-section of his work is proudly on display. There is even a section of the gallery set up to look like Griggs's photo counter. You can see his inventive advertisement photos, the photographic equipment he had for sale, and lots of examples of his studio photography. Four cases of vintage equipment belonging to Griggs are on display including one of his original logbooks and plenty of early cameras. This exhibit is a must-see for anyone interested in the history of photography or the history of Bartlesville.

"Bartlesville's History, Griggs's Legacy" will be on display in the Pioneer Gallery until the last week of August. The Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:30-3:30.

COLLECTIONS CORNER

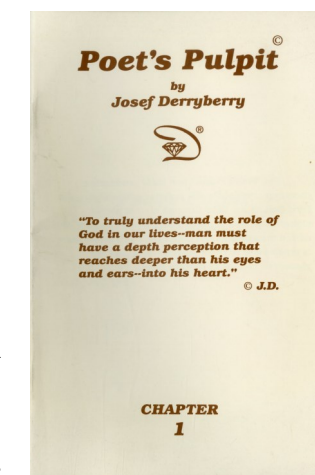
Debbie Neece, Collections Manager

If you have items of historic significance to Washington County, or the surrounding area, and would like to preserve your item(s) for future generations to enjoy, please consider donating the item(s) to the Bartlesville Area History Museum. We have two separate temperature and humidity controlled archive areas - an archive for physical items and documents and another archive for photographs and artwork. If you have photos that document the progress of Washington County growth please consider our Museum for archiving. If you are not prepared to donate the photo or negative to the Museum, please consider allowing us to scan the image for our digital collection. This process allows you to maintain the photo while allowing the Museum and the public to enjoy your treasure.



Just a few of our first quarter donations:

- Larry Thrash - Crystal Creamery/Top Hand Dairy Order Form
- Suzan Bennett - small book collection belonging to Martha Jane Phillips, daughter of Mr. L.E. Phillips, co-founder of Phillips Petroleum Company, Gunter Rexall Drug Store metal telephone index, bathroom scales belonging to L.E. Phillips and a dressing stool.
- Daughters of the Confederacy Scrapbook Collection (1921-2013)
- AbilityWorks - Collection of Medical Containers
- Alice Gibbons - 1941 Dewey Bulldogger Yearbook
- Ron Adams - College High School Spirit Ribbons (pictured)
- Mutual Girls Club - Large photo of a Service League Dance (pictured)
- Jo Crabtree - Dewey Bank Deposit Bag
- Erin Lively - Collection of Newspapers including Sooner High School Spartan Shield School Papers
- Mary Alice Sigmon - 12 Volume Set of Josef Derryberry's Poet Pulpit (pictured)



The Bartlesville Area History Museum is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 3:30.

Want to donate a family heirloom, antique find, photos or other materials?
Please contact Debbie Neece, (918) 338-4292.

MUSEUM SPECIAL VISITORS

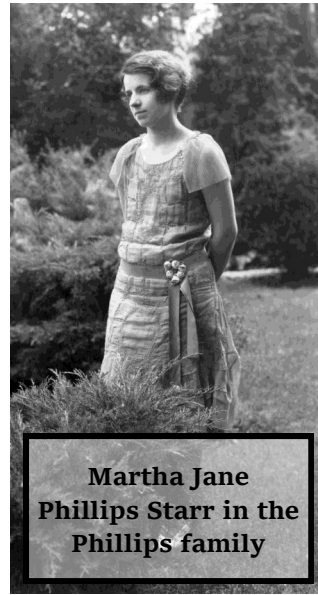
Debbie Neece, Collections Manager

Ethan Starr and his sister Emma Starr with her husband Nicholas Tymkiw visited the Bartlesville Area History Museum in January. Emma and Ethan are grandchildren of Martha Jane Phillips Starr, daughter of Mr. L.E. Phillips, co-founder of Phillips Petroleum Company.

Martha Jane was born and educated in Bartlesville. After graduation, she continued her education at the Erskine School in Boston. She married John Wilbur “Twink” Starr who worked as a geologist at Phillips Petroleum Company. The couple lived in Bartlesville when WWII called John overseas and Martha Jane volunteered as the Chairman of Nurse’s Aides during the war.

Upon John’s return, the couple moved to Kansas City in 1933 and added two children to their family: John Phillips Starr and James Lee Starr. Martha Jane was an exceptional philanthropist and the Ambassador of Goodwill, a title bestowed upon her by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, W.W. Keeler, who later became the CEO of Phillips Petroleum Company.

In 2000, Martha Jane was highly invested in the establishment of the Bartlesville Area History Museum through monetary and artifact donations and she continues to support our Museum through grant opportunities.



Martha Jane Phillips Starr in the Phillips family



(L-R) David Starrett, Sue Reynolds, Carol Starrett, Claudean Stotts, Larry Banks, Janice Banks, and Suzanne Brurud



(L-R) Ethan Starr, Emma Starr, and Nicholas Tymlow

Starrett Family Visit

Washington County history is much more than events and buildings, it is about the people who left their mark and touched the hearts of others. In March of last year, the story of John Delbert “J.D.” Starrett III’s Vietnam War experience was donated to the History Museum. J.D. was seeking his Bachelor of Science degree at OSU when he was drafted just short of completing his degree. Just four months into his service, he became the 9th Washington County casualty. To recognize his service, 15 medals were presented. To recognize his hopes and dreams, the OSU Regents posthumously presented his degree to his family during a ceremony on Friday, March 12th.

The family celebrated a remembrance at the History Museum, Thursday, March 11th. Present were: David Starrett, Sue Reynolds, Carol Starrett, Claudean Stotts, Larry Banks, Janice Banks, and Suzanne Brurud.

You can read about J.D. Starrett’s experiences in the May 2020 Bartlesville Monthly Magazine, available on their website www.bartlesvillemonthly.com (pages 38-40).



J.D. during the Vietnam War

BAHM WELCOMES NEW MUSEUM COORDINATOR

The Bartlesville Area History Museum welcomed a new staff member at the beginning of February, Museum Coordinator Delaney Williams-Chidester.



“We are extremely pleased to have Delaney come on board our staff. She has a wealth of knowledge in a variety of areas and is eager to learn about our Museum and the history of this area. With Delaney's friendliness and creativity she will be a great asset to our Museum,” says Director Shellie McGill.

Delaney graduated from Northeastern State University in 2015 with a B.A. in English Education and a minor in art/graphic design. She spent the next 5 1/2 years teaching, first in Tulsa and then here in Bartlesville at Central Middle School.

“We are excited to add Delaney to our Museum staff. She has a love for literature, history, and museums. She is a master researcher, writer, and graphic designer, and she is goal-driven and technically gifted, and has a fun, engaging professional style. Welcome, Delaney! So glad you joined our work family!” says Education Coordinator Betty Keim.

In her free time, Delaney enjoys reading, fiber arts, gardening, and spending time with her pets. She is passionate about education, preserving history, and cold brew coffee.

“Everyone holds a passion and drive within themselves. It has been fun to watch Delaney settle into her new position, learn the history of this area and most of all bring a new dimension to the Museum’s social media outreach. She has already brought many new ideas to the Museum and our staff is excited for future opportunities as Bartlesville history becomes one of her personal passions. Please stop by the Museum and introduce yourself to Delaney, our new Museum Coordinator,” says Collections Manager Debbie Neece.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT BAHM

APRIL – AUGUST

“Bartlesville’s History, Griggs’s Legacy” Special Exhibit on display until the last week of August

MAY & JUNE

Finding Frank Scavenger Hunt

Beat summer break boredom and challenge your kiddos to learn all about Bartlesville photographer Frank Griggs in this scavenger hunt all around our in-house special exhibit. All kids who participate will receive a fun surprise! Visit us anytime the Museum is open from May 31st to June 30th the participate in this challenge.

JUNE & JULY

Hometown History Book Club Presents: Killers of the Flower Moon

Join us for the very first meeting of the Hometown History Book Club as we read David Grann’s bestseller *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The club will meet at the City Center Pavilion (the corner of Hensley and Cherokee) at 7 PM.

- June 15—Chronicle One: The Marked Woman
- June 29—Chronicle Two: The Evidence Man
- July 13—Chronicle Three: The Reporter
- July 27—Wrap Up Event

JUNE 22– 7 PM

BAHM Summer Lecture Series: Family Box Supper Social

Join us in Unity Square for the inaugural event of our Summer Lecture Series. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and listen to speakers Betty Keim and Kay Little tell about the history of toys and games, Little House on the Prairie, and pioneer schools in Washington Co. Don’t forget to bring your appetite because what’s a history party without food trucks? Sit back and enjoy learning about local history on a summer night.

SAVE THE DATE!
Our summer lecture series continues
July 20th and August 10th.

INTRODUCING: SEARCH THE 'VILLE

Betty Keim, Education Coordinator

The Bartlesville Area History Museum is excited to present "Search the 'Ville" a new series of history-based scavenger hunts and challenges. The inaugural event, "Search the 'Ville: Spring Break" took place in March.

Participants took part in a socially distanced scavenger hunt around downtown and the surrounding area. The goal was to match images of specific architectural elements to the buildings they belonged to. Participants accessed these clues and the link to submit their answers through an event page on Facebook. Delaney, our new Museum Coordinator, did a great job of setting up the technical aspects of this first event.

All participants who submitted correct answers by March 30th at 3:00 PM were entered into a drawing for a \$50 prize. Prizes were awarded in two age categories: ages 17 and younger and age 18 and older.

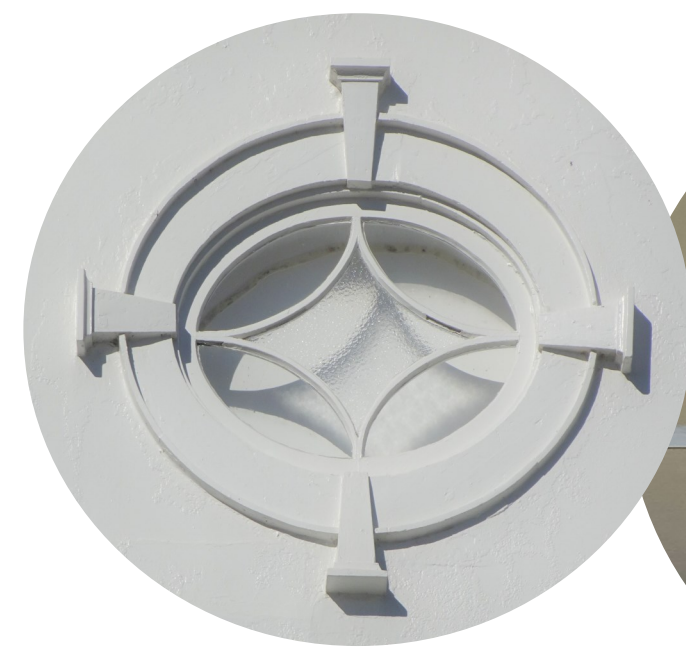
Congratulations to our winners: Mary Ann Kinkade & Grant Featherby!



We appreciate everyone who went out searching for all the locations. We hope that the "Search the 'Ville" series will help our community learn more about our rich history and come to love it as much as we do here at the Museum.

We would like to thank Joe Todd for his donation of the prize money and pictures. He has been a long-time supporter of the Museum and a board member of the Friends of the Bartlesville Area History Museum. We also wanted to thank Lime Scooters of Bartlesville for providing three free unlocks to anyone who was participating in Search the 'Ville.

Follow us on Facebook for our daily history posts as well as future contests and programs.



The BAHM newsletter is going virtual! Join our mailing list to stay up to date on what's happening at the Museum. Scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to be taken to a form to sign up for the E-Newsletter. You'll get reminders about special events, guest speakers, and much more!

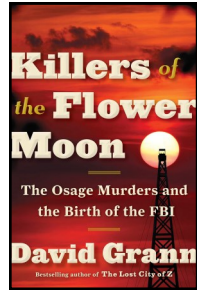
[Click here to sign up for the E-Newsletter.](#)



SPRINGTIME READS AVAILABLE IN THE BAHM GIFT SHOP

Delaney Williams-Chidester, Museum Coordinator

It is officially spring and the weather is warming up. We don't know about you, but we love curling up with a good book on the porch and enjoying the beautiful Oklahoma springtime weather while it lasts. Our bookshop features many great books of local interest. Please allow us to recommend some of our new and favorite titles.



Killers of the Flower Moon

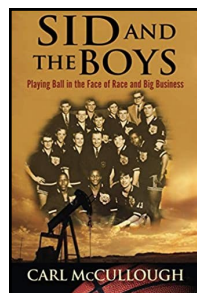
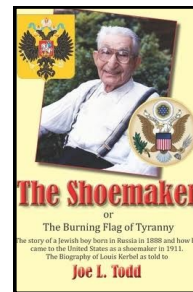
by David Grann

You might have heard the exciting news that filming is about to begin for a movie based on the bestselling book by David Grann, *Killers of the Flower Moon* here in our part of the state. The book centers around a dark period in Oklahoma history called the Osage Reign of Terror. This book will be featured as our first book club selection.

The Shoemaker

by Joe Todd

Louis Kerbel's own words tell the story of his life as a young Jewish boy in Czarist Russia living through unimaginable violence and his journey to the United States to start a new life. His story provides a unique understanding of a time and place long ago: the tragedy experienced by the Jewish people and the remarkable strength of the human spirit. His stories are compiled by none other than Bartlesville's own Joe Todd.



Sid and the Boys: Playing Ball in the Face of Race and Big Business

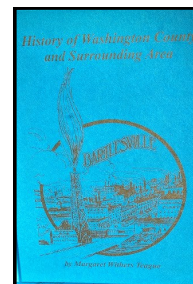
by Carl McCullough

In the late fall of 1966, the College High School basketball team was posed to begin their season. This book tells the story of unity and loyalty between a team and their coach, taking them all the way to the state play-offs, where they faced some of the state's largest schools. This is the heartwarming tale of that coach, his team, and the lasting impact of their remarkable relationship.

History of Washington County and Surrounding Area

by Margaret Withers Teague

The long-awaited reprint is finally here! After being out of print, you can finally purchase your own copy of Margaret Withers Teague's *History of Washington County and Surrounding Area*. This book combines both volumes of Teague's history and has been reformatted with new images to enhance your reading experience. Get your copy today.



The BAHM Gift Shop has an assortment of Bartlesville and Oklahoma goodies. You'll find jewelry, toys, soap, mugs, hats, postcards, and a collection of books about our community and state! In addition to our large assortment of cards for all occasions, we now offer gift-wrapping! Please consider us for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, and all your other gift-giving needs.

The BAHM Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 3:30.
[Click here to enter the online gift shop.](#)

MUSEUM STAFF

Director, Shellie McGill
 Daily Operations Manager, Denise Goff
 Collections Manager, Debbie Neece
 Museum Coordinator, Delaney Williams-Chidester
 Registrar, Kasey Werts
 Education Coordinator, Betty Keim
 Museum Clerk/Temp, Tamra Rogers
 Museum Clerk/Temp, Naomi Seaver

VISITATION STATS

Visitors for 2021 so far: 231

States: CO, GA, KS, MO, OK, TX, UT

Bartlesville Area History Museum
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 Bartlesville, OK 74003

Phone (918) 338-4290
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 Email: history@cityofbartlesville.org
 Past Perfect online database:
bartlesvillehistory.pastperfectonline.com

@bartlesville_area_history
 BartlesvilleAreaHistoryMuseum

MUSEUM HOURS

- Monday - Friday: 8:30-3:30
- Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays



AASLH
 American Association
 for State and Local History

Bartlesville Area History Museum
 401 S. Johnstone Ave. - 5th Floor
 Bartlesville, OK 74003

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