

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

PROTECT. COLLECT. PRESERVE. SHARE.



BAHM HONORS WOMEN'S HISTORY

The days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. Each season brings something new to Pioneer Gallery. This spring the Bartlesville Area History Museum is proud to present "HERstory: A Collection of Women's Stories from Our Community, State & Nation." The exhibit features panels from the 2021 Bartlesville League of Women Voters's display on women's suffrage, the traveling exhibit "Women of Oklahoma" from the Oklahoma Historical Society, bios of local women and women's organizations who shaped our history, and a display of historical fashion and mementos.

"This exhibit is one you don't want to miss," says Collections Manager, Debbie Neece. "We are very excited to be able to bring the traveling exhibit "Oklahoma Women" to our community and put the spotlight on the women who have made Bartlesville what it is today. We would like to thank the League of Women Voters for their donation of the panels on the women's suffrage movement."

Little ones can enjoy a women's history coloring station and play pretend tea party. The museum will be featuring several events to correspond with this exhibit over the next few months.

The exhibit will be on display through May 27th. The Museum is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. For more information, contact the Museum at 918.338.4290 or history@cityofbartlesville.org.

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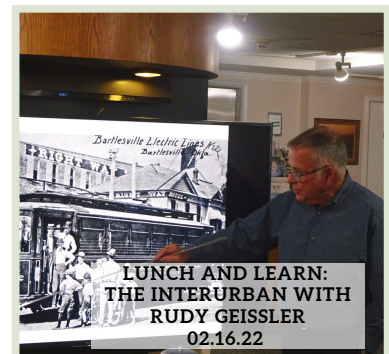
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THE QUARTERLY QUERY: HISTORICAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD

Q: Why is whistling in the theatre considered "bad luck?"

A: Modern-day productions benefit from headsets to communicate and monitors to help the crew keep things running smoothly, but historically the crew would whistle to communicate it was time to change scenery. Large set pieces would "fly" down from the ceiling using ropes. If someone whistled, they might accidentally signal a set change early, and an actor could be in the wrong spot and get injured or worse.



THE TEA PARTY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.

Afternoon tea, though not a common practice in modern society, has a long and rich history, shaped by the social norms and practices of its day.

In the mid-1800s, urbanization and industrialization brought about the spread of gas lights in England. Laborers and farmers were still tied to the sun's schedule, but wealthier members of society found their social calendar was no longer hindered by the loss of daylight and were having dinner later in the evening, starting as late as 9 PM. Anna Maria Russell, the Duchess of Bedford, is credited with the creation of afternoon tea. She found herself needing a snack in between lunch and dinner, and would ask for tea and light refreshments, like bread, butter, and cake, to be brought to her in the late afternoon. The English needed little urging to take up the practice. Adding an extra cup of tea, slice of cake, and social occasion to the daily calendar was a no-brainer. The delicate porcelain and the treats with little nutritious value were a way for the upper crust of society to flaunt their wealth. The practice quickly spread across the pond and became common practice for women of the time.

On July 9, 1848, a group of key members of the American women's suffrage movement met for tea in Waterloo, New York. A tea party was the only socially acceptable form of gathering for women at the time and provided a cover for the women to discuss their desire for change. Lucretia Mott, Martha Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were hosted by Jane Hunt, and, over tea, these women began to shape the women's suffrage movement.

On March 15 the Bartlesville Area History Museum commemorated the tea that changed the course of history with a tea party of its own. Tables were set with beautiful china and crystal and piled with sweets of every kind. "I've been collecting these pieces for years," says Education Coordinator, Betty Keim, "This tea party has been in the works for years, and we are so happy to be able to put on this event." Betty, dressed in her 1860s era costume, made a presentation on the women who shaped our local history, while attendees sipped tea and tasted traditional cucumber sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, fruit, cakes, and other sweets.



COLLECTIONS CORNER

During the first quarter of 2022, the Museum received donations from 24 donors and assisted with 50 research requests. Here are a few interesting donations:

GEORGE DURHAM PHILLIPS 66ER COLLECTION

In Bartlesville, everyone knew the name of Enid native George Durham. He attended Oklahoma A&M where he played basketball for Hall of Famer, Hank Iba, who coached three U.S.A. Olympic teams, bringing home one silver and two Olympic gold medals.

George served in the Air Force during WWII and later found a job at the Anadarko Daily News, although he was destined to do greater things. He answered a classified ad and found himself at the Bartlesville Morning Examiner as a sports editor. He often covered swimming and diving championships, but it was Phillips Petroleum Company's basketball that drew his attention.

In 1948, he accepted a position at Phillips Petroleum Company as the Publicity Director for the Phillips 66ers. He became close friends with the players and in his 20 years as Publicity Director, he traveled to the 1948 London and 1956 Melbourne Olympic games with the team. When Phillips announced the discontinuation of the Phillips 66ers, George finished his career as Phillips's Media Spokesman and retired in 1977.

His sister-in-law, Anne Ott, of Enid, donated his collection of scrapbooks, photos, and Phillips 66er memorabilia. Thank you, Anne.

BARTLESVILLE 1986 FLOOD PHOTOS

All Bartians remember the 1986 Caney River flood with great angst. With Hulah and Copan Reservoirs filled to the brim due to as much as 24 inches of October rain the week before, the Corps of Engineers made an emergency release resulting in a deluge that sliced Bartlesville in two by the swollen river. From time to time, photos of the devastation are donated to the History Museum that we have not seen before. In March, Patricia Netzer-Willard attended our March Third Thursday evening event and brought seventy-two 8x10 and six 3x5 images of the Bartlesville, Dewey, and Tulsa areas. Thank you Ms. Netzer-Willard.



BITINISVILLE BUILDING HEADER STONE

Bartlesville was a melting pot of nationalities in the early 1900s. John Demetry Bitinis was a Greek immigrant who arrived in Indian Territory in 1906 and his early employment was selling ice cream downtown from a horse-drawn wagon. He married Eunice Warehime in 1913 and the couple purchased the “Old Bartles farm” from Joe Bartles in 1923.

They had five children and were self-employed gardeners with a vegetable stand along Bartles Road. “Bitinisville” was a thriving business community with a BBQ restaurant, Bitinis Service Station, Bitinisville Night Club and the Johnstone Park Tourist Camp with cottage rental for overnight guests. Their daughter, Shela also operated a very lucrative root beer stand at that location.

After John’s death in 1958, the Bitinis “empire” fell into ruins with only the shells of the buildings remaining. Above the entrance to one stone building was a header stone with the words “Bitinis 1950.” The header has witnessed many a passerby until a late 2021 fire destroyed the building and the stone went missing. Luckily, a Dewey School bus driver saw the stone and held it in a secure place until it could be donated to the History Museum. Thank you to Ms. Bernadette Keaton and Roger Bitinis for allowing the History Museum staff to preserve this piece of Caney River and Bitinis family history.

COME SEE THE BITINIS STONE
NOW ON DISPLAY IN PIONEER
HALL AT THE BARTLESVILLE
AREA HISTORY MUSEUM!



WANT TO DONATE A FAMILY HEIRLOOM,
ANTIQUE FIND, PHOTOS, OR OTHER
MATERIALS?

PLEASE CONTACT DEBBIE NEECE AT
(918) 338-4292 OR
DKNEECE@CITYOFBARTLESVILLE.ORG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HERstory: A COLLECTION OF WOMEN'S STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY, STATE, & NATION

This special exhibit will be on display through May 27, 2022.

04/21 | THIRD THURSDAY: THE WAY WE WORE | 6 - 8 PM

Join the Bartlesville Area History Museum for our April Third Thursday event. The galleries will be open and a special presentation on the history of women's fashion will be given at 6:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

05/19 | THIRD THURSDAY: JANE PHILLIPS | 6 - 8 PM

Join the Bartlesville Area History Museum for our May Third Thursday event. The galleries will be open and guest speaker Michelle Swaney of the Frank Phillips Home and Jane Phillips Society will give a presentation on Jane Phillips and JPS at 6:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

06/21 - 6/23 | OUR HISTORY HEROS SUMMER CAMP | 1 - 3 PM

Looking for something fun for the kids to do over summer break? Sign them up for a free camp about sports history! Open to ages 9 - 13. Call 918.338.4290 or email history@cityofbartlesville.org to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE: THE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES RETURNS!

The BAHM Summer Lecture Series will return for its second year! This year's lectures will be held in Pioneer Gallery and will feature speakers on a variety of topics of local interest. Save the date! You don't want to miss out. All events will start at 6:00 PM!

- **06/16- Bartlesville at Play: A History of Sports**
- **07/21- Bartlesville the Brave: An Exploration of Our Military History**
- **08/18- Pioneers in Petticoats: The Women Who Won the Right to Vote**

FOLLOW THE MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK OR CHECK
OUR CALENDAR AT

[BARTLESVILLEHISTORY.COM/PAGES/SPECIAL-EVENTS](https://www.bartlesvillehistory.com/pages/special-events)
TO STAY UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE
BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM



SCAN ME WITH YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA
TO BE TAKEN THE
MUSEUM'S FACEBOOK



SCAN ME WITH YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA
TO BE TAKEN THE
MUSEUM'S CALENDAR

JULIA TEAGUE FIRST

Before Covid temporarily limited volunteerism at the Bartlesville Area History Museum, Julia First was the sunshine that graced the Museum each Thursday afternoon, right after her swim at the Y.M.C.A. Her knowledge of local history was astounding, but no surprise since her mother was Margaret Withers Teague, who established the History Room at the Bartlesville Public Library, which evolved into the Bartlesville Area History Museum.

It was also Margaret Teague who, with others, researched and wrote the two-volume "History of Washington County and Surrounding Area," which was republished as one book in 2021, enhanced with historic photos of the area. Julia was very pleased this was accomplished.

Saying Julia was a teacher for 38 years would be an understatement. Teachers are the molders of America and Julia had a passion for her "kids." Once she retired, she invested her time in volunteerism at the First Presbyterian Church, Jane Phillips Hospital, Meals On Wheels, and the Bartlesville Area History Museum (2000-2020). At the Museum, she received the Outstanding Volunteer Award twice and was the first recipient of the Margaret Teague Community Service Award honoring her mother. She served in various capacities on the boards of the Bartlesville Area History Museum's Trust Authority and Friends and she amassed 2,374 volunteer hours.

"I knew and loved Julia First for most of my adult life." says former staff member, Jo Crabtree. "She was the Kindergarten teacher at Southview School, nearly fifty years ago, who blessed my two children in their beginning education. She was a wonderful, nurturing, strong woman, a born teacher. It was with great joy when I became a staff member at the Bartlesville Area History Museum that Julia was part of my team as a volunteer. For me, personally, the name Julia First is synonymous with the terms, beauty, poise, and her wonderful deep soul. Julia lived the life and example of the greatest generation of our time. She was a teacher, a servant, a good citizen, a mentor, and an example of what America has always been. She will be greatly missed and never replaced. I thank God for the time I knew her, she taught me many things though I was not in her classroom. With great love and admiration, Jo."

The Staff of the Bartlesville Area History Museum is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend, Julie Teague First.



MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR - SHELLIE MCGILL
DAILY OPERATIONS MANAGER - DENISE GOFF
COLLECTIONS MANAGER - DEBBIE NEECE
DELANEY WILLIAMS - MUSEUM COORDINATOR
REGISTRAR - KASEY WERTS
EDUCATION COORDINATOR - BETTY KEIM
MUSEUM CLERK/TEMP - TAMRA ROGERS
MUSEUM CLERK/TEMP - ANGELA JEFFERS

VISITATION STATS

VISITORS FOR 2022: 327

STATES: AR, CO, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MD, MN, MO,
NM, NY, OK, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA

COUNTRIES: CANADA, USA

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

401 S. JOHNSTONE AVENUE, 5TH FLOOR
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PAST PERFECT ONLINE DATABASE:

BARTLESVILLEHISTORY.PASTPERFECTONLINE.COM

MUSEUM HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:30-4:00

CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND HOLIDAYS



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AASLH

American Association
for State and Local History

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