

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

Quarterly newsletter of the
Bartlesville Area History
Museum

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

Medical History of Washington County exhibit to open in September

The Bartlesville Area History Museum proudly presents "A Medical History of Washington County" beginning Monday, September 14. The free exhibit is open to the public through the end of November. "This exhibit covers the medical history of the Bartlesville area," said Heather Hutto, museum coordinator for the Bartlesville Area History Museum. "It examines the area's first doctors, the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, and how the evolution of modern medicine took place in Bartlesville."

The museum is exploring new ways to host exhibits online. "Using a new, free app called Artsteps, we will be able to capture our panels and exhibits pieces, and portray them in a museum-like setting," said Hutto. "We realized early we would need to find alternative methods of hosting an exhibit during these challenging times. Essentially, we are giving our patrons a museum experience from the safety of their own home," she explained. The *Medical History of Washington County* opens virtually on September 14th on the museum's Facebook page.

The exhibit is also (physically) open to the public, ten persons at a time. Current Hours are M-F 8:30 AM - Noon; 1 - 3:30 PM.



Nurses stand outside Bartlesville's first city hospital, ca. 1909.



Washington County Memorial Hospital, ca. 1930.



Maternity ward nurses at the Washington County Memorial Hospital, ca. 1930.

Zoom Day Camp, Masked Tours: Educational Programs Modified.

Education Coordinator Betty Keim

Education Coordinator Betty Keim has been diversifying her methods of outreach during these challenging times. "Its extremely important to be adaptable. To be able to bring the history to the students and adults where they are at - whether that is on site at their socially distanced turf, or online" said Education Coordinator Betty Keim.

"You know, after teaching 33 years you just sort of learn that you must be adaptable. But these challenges (during this pandemic) are different that those I have encountered before," said Keim.

From July 21-23, Keim gave online presentations to area kids via Zoom. "Cooweescowee Kids was still successful, even with a few hiccups in Zoom," she said. "The kids really enjoyed it and their parents were really pretty grateful that their children were safe at home."

In addition to hosting the online day camp, Keim has provided in-person outreach as well - although modified for Covid-era restrictions. On August 6th, Keim gave an educational museum tour to kids from the Rhema



Education Coordinator Betty Keim gives a tour to visitors from Rhema Child Development Center.

Child Development Center in Broken Arrow. This was made possible by splitting the classes into smaller groups in order to meet current Covid restrictions. "We simply split the kids and their teachers up into two groups," Keim said. "One group would tour here while the other toured the Phillips Petroleum Co. Museum, then we switched."

On September 3rd, Betty gave a one-room schoolhouse presentation to fourth graders at Bartlesville Wesleyan School. This allowed the students to received educational programming while also following the Covid restrictions set in place by their school.

"They really enjoyed the presentation," Keim said. "They do not get to take field trips and many have been at home for months, so having the extra curricular visit seemed to be pretty excellent for them. One student said, 'I want to do this everyday!'"



Keim reads *The First Strawberry*, a Cherokee story, to children via Zoom.



Keim teaches children about one-room schoolhouses to students at Wesleyan Christian School.



Collections Corner

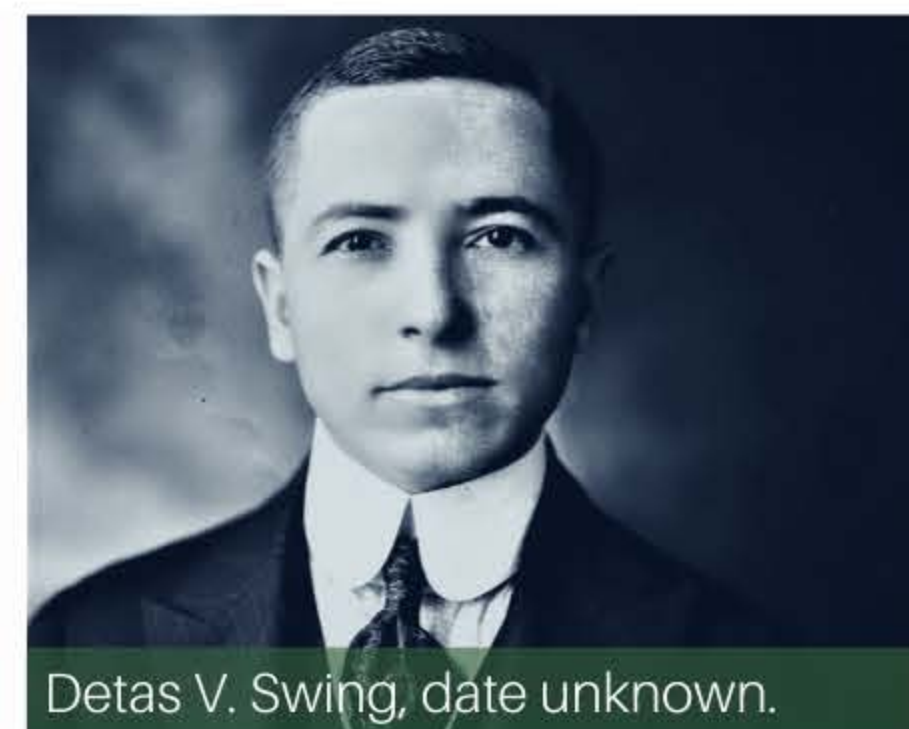
Collections Manager,
Debbie Neece

Welcome to Collections Corner. This quarter, we would like to thank Mr. Jim Kepple of Colorado Springs, CO for donating his photo of Swing's Footwear. Detas Vernon Swing opened a shoe and hat-blocking store in Bartlesville in 1913 with his first store at 328 S. Johnstone, in the Gray Brother's Coliseum Building. He married Rae Somerville, daughter of one of Bartlesville's prominent doctors. Mrs. Swing often entertained the Bartlesville Chapter of D.A.R. of which she was a charter member.

About 1917, Mr. Swing moved his store to 108 E. 3rd as the Swing's Walk-Over Boot Shop. Then, in 1930, the store moved to 307 S. Johnstone Avenue and his Swing's Footwear remained at that location until his death in 1977. His wife died six months later and both rest in the White Rose Mausoleum. At that time, James Pruitt moved the store to 325½ S. Dewey for a short time.



Swing's Footwear at their 307 S. Johnstone location.



Detas V. Swing, date unknown.

Have old photos, documents, or other items that you would like to preserve? Contact Debbie Neece, Collections Manager 918-338-4292

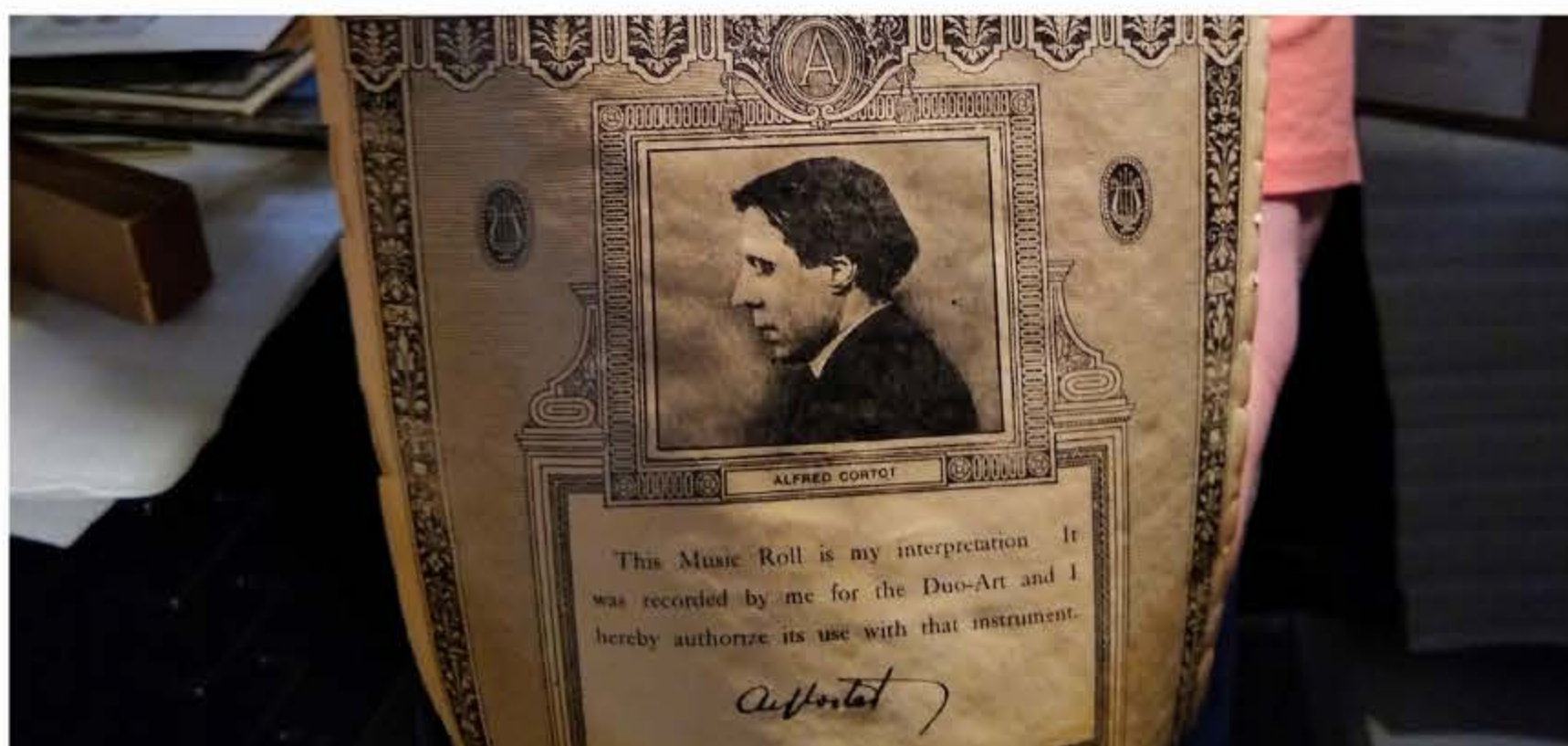
Historic Book Sees Fresh Print



Margaret Withers Teague, from *History of Washington County and the Surrounding Area*.

Local historians know the name Margaret Teague, and for good reason. Margaret W. Teague (1910 - 1994) authored *History of Washington County and the Surrounding Area*, a two-volume set of books brimming with recorded local history. Teague boasted a journalism career spanning five decades and various institutions: The El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso Police Department, the International Petroleum Exposition, Bartlesville Examiner Enterprise, and KWON Radio. In 1964 she became the curator of the History Room at the Bartlesville Public Library.

As Covid restrictions forced museum staff to work from home this spring, BAHM staff transcribed the original text in preparation for reprint. This is a history room work product with authorization to reprint. Only 100 copies of the original first volume were printed in 1967; 250 copies followed in a printing of the second volume 1968. BAHM is honored to reprint this valuable historical resource, and aims to sell it in the gift shop this holiday season.



Photos from top: a donation of local pin buttons, a National Zinc Co. bottle donated to the museum, Collections Manager Debbie Neece holds a sheet of player piano music while searching collections for medical exhibit pieces.

BTS: Behind the scenes at the museum

Museum Registrar, Kasey (Koester) Wertz, has accessioned the WWII newspaper collection for digitization -- a task she completed September 1st. "There were 1,699 Washington County military men and women WWII articles completed, it feels pretty great to have them done," Wertz said. By digitizing these articles, BAHM patrons can access the records online, and conduct their research from the safety of their own homes. See these records and more

at: http://www.bartlesvillehistory.com/pages/online_collections_database.

Our Martha Jane Starr Field of Interest grant facilitators Naomi Seavers and Tamra Rogers are have accomplished their digitization goals, and more. Tamra Rogers has digitized the Morning Examiner from 1918 through 1921 and Naomi Seaver is digitizing the Museum's research files in preparation of being uploaded to PastPerfect Online.

During their time working from home, the grant-facilitators had other accomplishments: re-sleeving photographs from 1959 through 1980. "I went through approximately 25 large archival boxes of photos. I was busy every day for ten weeks," said Grant Facilitator Tamra Rogers. "We accomplished so much preparing these items for digitization -- these tasks always fall to the back burner behind everything else -- without doing this work at home I don't think it would have gotten done otherwise," she said.



MEDICAL HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
Bartlesville Area History Museum







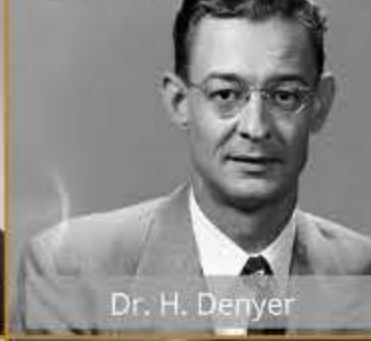
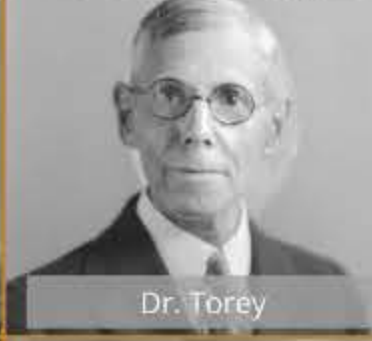

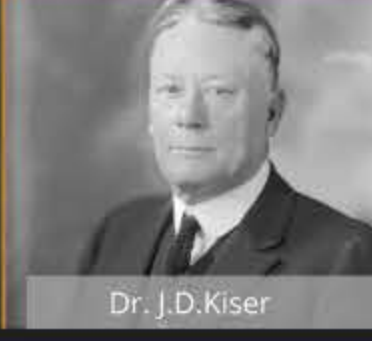


The history of medical personnel in Washington County area nearly begins with the history of Bartlesville itself. From pioneer practitioners applying early and eclectic forms of medicine to state board trained and certified professionals. The medical history of Washington County spans roughly 140 years.



TWENTIETH-CENTURY BARTLESVILLE DOCTORS

| | |
|--|--|
|  Dr. Joe G. Smith |  Dr. Merle D. Fox |
|  Dr. Vandrizer |  Dr. H.C. Weber |
|  Dr. E.E. Beechwood |  Dr. Virginia Shipman |
|  Dr. O.S. Somerville |  Dr. H. Denyer |
|  Dr. S.J. Bradfield |  Dr. J.D. Kiser |

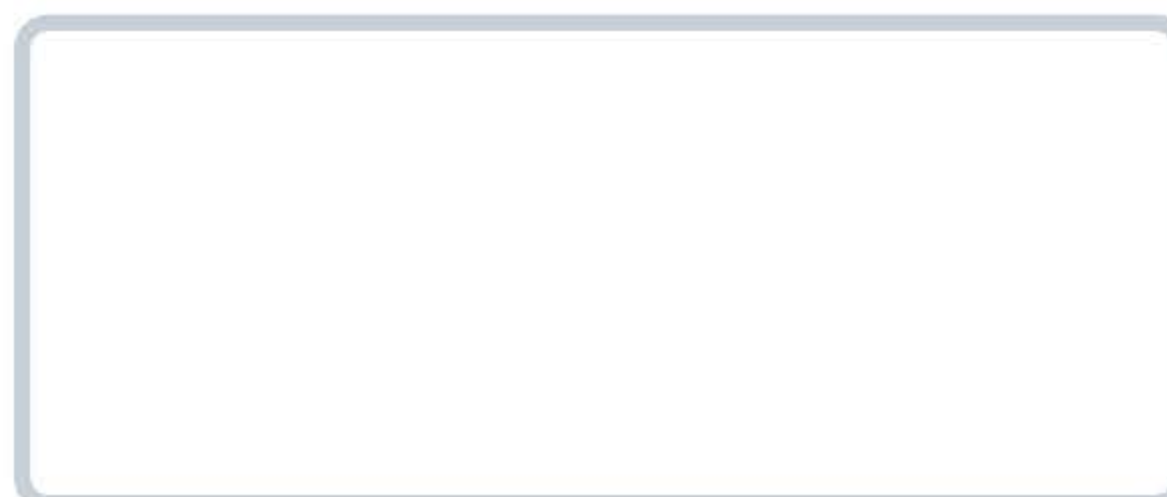
Area doctors saved more than lives, they helped build communities. Dr. L.D. Hudson served as the first president of the Medical Club in 1922. Dr. J.B. Atney was a founding member of the American Legion Post 105. Doctors Joseph G. Smith, J.B. Atney, and others were members of the 1947 Washington & Nowata County Medical Society. Nearly all area doctors were active in social groups, churches, and local organizations: the Methodist Church, American Legion, Woodmen of the World, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Washington-Nowata County Medical Society, Oklahoma Medical Association, and other social and professional groups.

Sneak Peak: Medical History of Washington County

Check out these snapshots of the exhibit, Medical History of Washington County, now at the Bartlesville Area History Museum. The exhibit has images, documents, and artifacts detailing the area's first doctors, hospitals, nurses and how the 1918 Influenza Pandemic affected Bartlesville.

Not able to visit the museum? We've got you covered. Go to <https://www.artsteps.com/view/5f5a2483af2c7829f37b8f16> and hit the play button to start a guided tour.

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



Bartlesville Area History Museum

HOURS

M-F 8:30 AM - NOON; 1 PM - 3:30 PM

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Past Perfect Records Online:

http://www.bartlesvillehistory.com/pages/online_collections_database

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Education Coordinator, Betty Keim

Museum Clerk/Temp, Tamra Rogers

Museum Clerk/Temp, Naomi Seaver



AASLH

American Association
for State and Local History