
The Washington Countian

Bartlesville Area History Museum
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BAHM Presents The Sports That Built Us: pioneering spirits, town rivalries, and the camaraderie of competitive sports in Oklahoma.

This Issue:

- 1 - BAHM Presents The Sports That Built Us
- 2 - A Day in the Life of Our Resident Registrar
- 2 - New Museum Coordinator Introduction
 - 2 - Why "The Washington Countian"?
 - 3-4 - Collection Corner
 - 5 - Summer Camps
- 6 - "A Story Worth Telling" By Nicole Hardesty, Museum Coordinator
- 7 - Calendar of Events



Each season brings something new to the Bartlesville Area History Museum's Pioneer Gallery. This summer BAHM is proud to present: "The Sports That Built Us: pioneering spirits, town rivalries, and the camaraderie of competitive sports in Oklahoma." The exhibit features the Oklahoma History Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society's traveling exhibit "Oklahoma Sports" enhanced by area sports team memorabilia, photographs, and "Bytes of History" about Washington County's fabled sports. In addition, little ones may enjoy our history of sports coloring station during their visit. This project is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

"In the world of sports, Washington County has held its own. Did you know that Bartlesville's first baseball team was in 1895 with nine area residents? The pitcher was Joseph A. Bartles, son of Jacob Bartles, namesake of Bartlesville, and founder of Dewey. Joseph Bartles also established the Dewey Roundup (1908-1949), noted as one of the top three rodeo events in the world. Did you also know, that Bartlesville was the home of the Olympic competitors and nationally known Phillips 66ers? Furthermore, did you know Bartlesville has held a firm foundation in the game of golf, football, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, and more. Take this opportunity to visit the Bartlesville Area History Museum to experience over a century of Washington County and Oklahoma athletic abilities," said Collections Manager, Debbie Neece.

The exhibit will be on display through August 26th. The Museum is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (closed holidays) at 401 S. Johnstone Avenue, 5th Floor. Admission is free, however, donations are always welcome. For more information, contact the Bartlesville Area History Museum at 918.338.4290 or history@cityofbartlesville.org. This project was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Opinions expressed in this publication or presentation do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries or IMLS and no official endorsement by those entities should be inferred.

New Museum Coordinator Introduction:

My name is Nicole Hardesty and I am the new Museum Coordinator here at the Bartlesville Area History Museum. I just wanted to take a minute to introduce myself to the BAHM supporters and community. I am a sixth-generation Caneyite, born and raised in Caney, KS. I grew up attending several different activities in and around Bartlesville and am very familiar with the rich history of this area. My husband, Adam, and I live in Caney with our two kids, Adaline and Elias.

I attended Oklahoma Wesleyan University from 2012-2015, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in History and Social Studies as well as a minor in Business. I went on to pursue my Master of Arts in History with an emphasis on Museum Studies at Pittsburg State University and graduated in the spring of 2017. During my time at Pittsburg State University, I was privileged to participate in two formative internships. The first was at Gilcrease Museum: Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art where I studied under their Chief Registrar. The second was working on The Lincoln Archives Digital Project at the National Archives in Washington D.C. Both experiences inspired and encouraged my love of all forms of museum work.

Since October 2017, I served as the Museum Curator at the Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum Complex in Caney, KS. I remain actively involved in the Historical Society and serve as a consultant for their ongoing digitization project. I am deeply committed to publicly preserving the vibrant tapestry of stories, people, and places that make Bartlesville and the surrounding areas a truly unique historical destination.

A Day in the Life of Our Resident Registrar:

One of the best parts of being the registrar is all the incredible artifacts that are donated to the museum. You never know what is going to come off the elevator. From photos over 100 years old to a Boy Scout Snake Bite Kit. My job is very interesting!



Why "The Washington Countian"?

Long before digital access, Washington County residents received their gossip and happenings from as many as 28 different newspapers. The first delivery of the Bartlesville Magnet made history when it arrived on March 8, 1895, through April 11, 1903, to detail the growth of the Indian Territory. Through time, reporters and pressmen became very creative at telling their stories years before images gave readers a visual reference to accompany their tales. On March 28, 1939, The Washington Countian rolled off the presses with a cost of \$1 per year and continued through December 30, 1949. To pay homage to over 125 years of newspaper greatness, the Bartlesville Area History Museum presents your quarterly "The Washington Countian."



Collection Corner by Debbie Neece, BAHM Collections Manager

Each quarter, the Bartlesville Area History Museum receives donations on a broad range of subjects. Collections for the second quarter of 2022 include Joan VanScoyoc, photos of the 1986 flood and Phillips building construction; Roane Fowler, Merchant’s Annual License from Starvation Corner at 14th Street and Virginia Avenue; Ivan Pfalser Estate by daughter Jane Pfalser-Herrington, collection of research books; Janice Lamb, 1919 Ramona High School Diploma; Kay Morris, Washington County Retired Educator Scrapbooks; Terry Thomason, Ochelata photos and memorabilia; Norman Nickels, Kiddie Park memorabilia; Gary Tate, Bartlesville family mementos; James Kepple, brass office door plaques for Dr. Somerville and Dr. J.V. Athey; and Bruce Robertson, 2-DVDs of B-29 history. In addition, the largest donation received this quarter was from the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Bartlesville.

Bartlesville and the First Christian Church have shared a common thread for 125 years...the thread that binds us is Bartlesville was incorporated in 1897 and the Church began in 1897. Beginning with a revival meeting on the bank of the Caney River, Reverend J.R. Chariton, a traveling preacher who often spoke at Jacob Bartles’ Fourth of July celebrations, was instrumental in organizing the Church on July 18, 1897, with 59 members and some of Bartlesville’s most notable men have served as Elders and Deacons.

The first church building was constructed at Third and Johnstone and dedicated on January 7, 1900. Eight years later, the congregation purchased their current Sixth and Osage location, and construction of their Church building began in 1910. From the original façade, the building has experienced several remodels and enlargements to include an education building, Tyler Memorial Chapel, Fellowship Hall, offices, and a library. Unfortunately, over the years, attendance slowly dwindled, and, sadly, sustaining the Church was no longer feasible. The First Christian Church congregation has found other homes of worship and the church building awaits its next chapter in history.

Bartlesville’s first Boy Scout Troop was chartered in 1912 under the wing of the First Christian Church and has been continuously chartered, without fail, at the Church, until now. Bartlesville’s Elks Lodge #1060 has stepped forward to embrace Boy Scout Troop 1 as their new charter home. The staff of the Bartlesville Area History Museum would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the staff and membership of the First Christian Church for trusting their history with our Museum. The History Museum has two climate-controlled storage areas which allow our staff to collect, protect and preserve the history of Washington County and the surrounding areas.



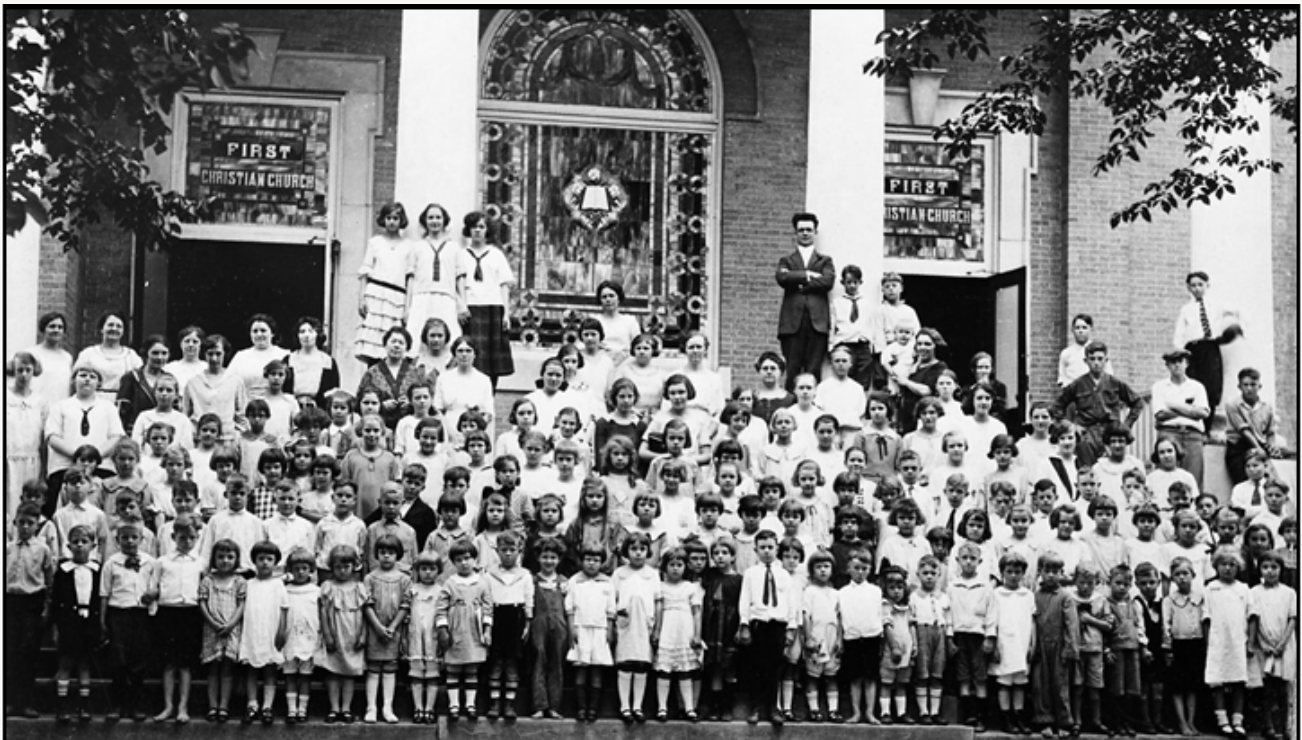
Bartlesville’s Boy Scout Troop 1, Chartered in 1912 with a home base at the First Christian Church



Are you interested in learning the complete history of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

In 1997, the congregation compiled its one-hundred-year history 1897-1997.

The 234-page book is available at the Bartlesville Area History Museum Gift Shop. FREE! Compliments of the First Christian Church of Bartlesville. Pick up your copy today.





Summer Camps by Betty Keim, BAHM Education Coordinator

The Sports Heroes Camp on June 21-23 gave the campers a chance to get to know some of our local and state athletic stars. They were ace reporters learning what makes a good newspaper article with the help of Betty Keim and Mike Tupa. They were then given scenarios to write their articles. Phillips 66ers were a very important Amateur Basketball team. They visited the Phillips 66 Museum to learn about them. The Phillips 66ers were a perennial power in AAU basketball in the 1940s and 1950s. The team won 11 national championships at the AAU National Tournaments between 1940 and 1963. They had six consecutive AAU tournament titles, from 1943 to 1948.

Some of the children's activities were playing a game comparing stats on baseball cards, and a scavenger hunt on the exhibit to figure out the meaning of sports sayings. At the end of each day, they were able to compete in tabletop games of football and basketball. At the end of the camp, they were able to take one of the games home with them. Betty Keim stated, "The children did a wonderful job and enjoyed the camp."

On July 26-28 from 1:00-3:00, the Lawmen and Scoundrels Summer Camp will take place. During Indian Territory and when the state was young, the lawmen tried to keep the peace while the outlaws were roaming the area. The children will learn about famous and obscure lawmen and scoundrels through activities, storytelling, and videos. The camp is open to 9-13 year-olds. For information contact Betty Keim at 918-338-4293. To sign up go to The Bartlesville Area History Museum on Facebook and register or pick up a form at the BAHM.



A Story Worth Telling by Nicole Hardesty, BAHM Museum Coordinator

Upon researching for the current exhibit in the Pioneer Gallery, “The Sports That Built Us: pioneering spirits, town rivalries, and the camaraderie of competitive sports in Oklahoma.” The exhibit features the Oklahoma History Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society’s traveling exhibit “Oklahoma Sports”. I discovered beneath the layers of the many greats of Oklahoma Sports history, a legend of a man that I had never heard of, Dan Hodge. Immediately I became enamored with his story, life, and legacy. I began to delve deeply into his story and discovered quickly that his strength of character is just as enduring as his physical strength was impressive.

Dan Allen Hodge was born in Perry, Oklahoma, on May 13, 1932. Dan Hodge’s life from an early age was not easy, but it contributed greatly to the development of his skills as a wrestler and a boxer. At the age of 15, he moved out of his alcoholic grandfather’s home and into the top floor of the Perry fire station. He earned his keep by washing fire trucks and other janitorial duties. All while attending Perry High School which he knew had a strong wrestling program. By the age of 19, he joined the naval reserve and it was at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center that he sharpened his wrestling skills. At the age of 20, he earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team for the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, where he finished fifth in the world.

Shortly after, Hodge decided to attend the University of Oklahoma becoming an integral part of their wrestling program, with a record of 46-0. He participated in the 1956 Olympic Games winning Silver, missing Gold only because of a controversial touch of his shoulder to the mat, giving him a pinfall loss in the final few seconds of the match. Hodge tried his hand at boxing for a bit but was quickly disillusioned with the world of professional boxing, turning instead to a career in professional wrestling which he continued for 18 years. He is the only man to win a national wrestling and boxing championship, winning the Golden Gloves title in 1958. Hodge was the first wrestler and the only amateur wrestler to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated.

Hodge’s professional wrestling career ended sooner than he intended when in 1976 he fell asleep at the wheel and his car ended up crashing off a bridge into a creek. His survival from this accident is nothing short of a miracle, he recalled hearing a voice telling him to ‘hold your neck’, stating that it was a guardian angel. He used those hands he was famous for to save his own life by gripping his neck and holding it in place while he used his other hand to punch through a window and swim ashore, where a trucker found him and radioed for help. He spent the next few decades dedicated to being involved in local area wrestling even handing out trophies at youth wrestling events. In 1976, he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Member. In 2005, he was named an Oklahoma Sports Hero. The Hodge Trophy is named after him and is one of the highest honors in collegiate wrestling. Even at age 81, he was still impressing people with his feats of otherworldly strength by crushing an apple during a session of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Dan Hodge passed away on December 24th, 2020. In his honor, his family created and runs the Dan Hodge Foundation, which awards a scholarship to a high school senior who plans to pursue wrestling in college. For more information on this impressive legend and the legacy, he has left behind check out the foundation here: <https://www.danhodgefoundation.com/>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM PRESENTS "THE SPORTS THAT BUILT US: PIONEERING SPIRITS, TOWN RIVALRIES, AND THE CAMARADERIE OF COMPETITIVE SPORTS IN OKLAHOMA.

The exhibit features the Oklahoma History Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society's traveling exhibit "Oklahoma Sports" enhanced by area sports team memorabilia, photographs, and "Bytes of History" about Washington County's fabled sports. In addition, little ones may enjoy our history of sports coloring station during their visit. This project is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with a Federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act. This special exhibit will be on display through August 26, 2022.

07/21 | SUMMER LECTURE SERIES: "BARTLESVILLE THE BRAVE: DIVIDED LOYALTIES: THE FIGHT FOR INDIAN TERRITORY." | 11:30 - 1 PM

The fun continues with a Lunch & Learn to honor our veterans and military history. On July 21, BAHM presents "Bartlesville the Brave: Divided Loyalties: The Fight for Indian Territory" with guest speaker Ken Spurgeon.

The Lunch & Learn will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. for attendees to enjoy the exhibit "The Sports That Built Us: pioneering spirits, town rivalries, and the camaraderie of competitive sports in Oklahoma." Featuring the traveling exhibit "Oklahoma Sports" from the Oklahoma History Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society. At noon, the presentation will begin. Tables and chairs will be set up for people to bring their lunches and little ones may enjoy a history of sports coloring station. This project is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with a Federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

07/18 - 07/21 | AMANDA STRATFORD PHOTOGRAPHY BACK-TO-SCHOOL MINI SESSIONS.

The Bartlesville Area History Museum would like to invite you to a special opportunity. Amanda Stratford Photography will be in the house to capture "Back to School" photos of your children in our 1910 Nelson Carr One-Room School, July 18-21. \$75 includes a mini session inside the one-room schoolhouse, a lesson from a 1900s schoolmarm, and a visit to the museum. Space is limited so schedule your appointment soon at <https://bartlesvillephotos.com>.

07/26 - 07/28 |BAHM LAWREN & SCOUNDRELS SUMMER CAMP | 1 - 3 PM

Children will discover the Lawmen and Outlaws who roamed this region. There are many tales of daring deeds. Betty Keim, our Education Coordinator, will have stories and activities that will bring the past alive. Some of the activities include an intrepid adventure through an Escape Room, role-playing as lawmen and outlaws including costumes and a fun photo op., and games. For ages 9-13. July 26th - July 28th from 1-3 PM. Please call 918-338-4290 or email history@cityofbartlesville.org with any questions. Please use the link below to sign up ASAP as space is limited. [HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/221575306416150](https://form.jotform.com/221575306416150).

08/18 | SUMMER LECTURE SERIES: "CELEBRATING 102 YEARS OF WOMEN VOTING - REMEMBERING OUR AREA SUFFRAGISTS." | 11:30 - 1 PM

This year's festivities wrap up with a Lunch & Learn presentation about the women who changed the face of history: the Suffragists! Guest speaker, Jan Dreiling will be discussing three little-known area women whose contributions to woman suffrage were great - Narcissa Owen, Anna Laskey, and Clarina Howard.

The Lunch & Learn will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., for attendees to enjoy the exhibit "The Sports That Built Us: pioneering spirits, town rivalries, and the camaraderie of competitive sports in Oklahoma." Featuring the traveling exhibit "Oklahoma Sports" from the Oklahoma History Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society. At noon, the presentation will begin. Tables and chairs will be set up for people to bring their lunches and little ones may enjoy a history of sports coloring station. This project is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with a Federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR - SHELLIE MCGILL
DAILY OPERATIONS MANAGER - DENISE GOFF
COLLECTIONS MANAGER - DEBBIE NEECE
MUSEUM COORDINATOR - NICOLE HARDESTY
REGISTRAR - KASEY WERTS
EDUCATION COORDINATOR - BETTY KEIM
MUSEUM CLERK/TEMP - TAMRA ROGERS
MUSEUM CLERK/TEMP - JENNY MILLER

VISITATION STATS

VISITORS FOR 2022: 982

STATES: AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NC, NE, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COUNTRIES: BELGIUM, CANADA, USA

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

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MUSEUM HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:30-4:00
CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND HOLIDAYS

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