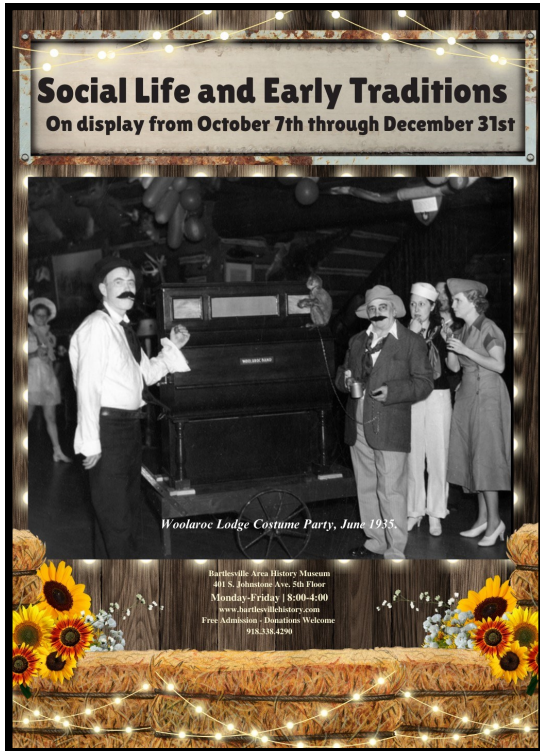


# The Washington Countian

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

PROTECT. COLLECT. PRESERVE. SHARE.



## *“Social Life and Early Traditions”*

This Fall, BAHM is proud to present: “*Social Life and Early Traditions*” on display from October 7<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, the exhibit takes visitors on a journey exploring the way in which different cultures and ethnicities have come together to create our rich and diverse culture, paving the way to our social interactions and early traditions.

The exhibit will feature various artifacts from local social clubs and early Bartlesville traditions, many we still share today! Youngsters or the “young at heart” may enjoy our history of social life coloring station and gander through BAHM’s turn of the century Nelson Carr One-Room School!

The Museum is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (closed on weekends and holidays) at 401 S. Johnstone Avenue, 5th Floor. Museum admission is free, but donations are always welcome. No reservation is necessary. If you have questions, you may reach Bartlesville Area History Museum staff at (918) 338-4290 or [history@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:history@cityofbartlesville.org).

This winter, the Bartlesville Area History Museum’s exhibit will feature topics of early traditions and social life! As a part of this exhibit, BAHM would like to ask the Washington County community to submit their favorite family recipes for the museum to use in creating a community cookbook! At the end of the exhibit, in December 2024, the cookbook will be revealed and sold in BAHM’s gift shop!

BAHM is looking to add recipes in the following categories: appetizers, beverages, breakfast, breads, side dishes, soups, sandwiches, entrees, and desserts. Submissions may be sent to the museum email at [history@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:history@cityofbartlesville.org) or may be dropped off in person.

When submitting a recipe, please provide your name, contact information, a picture of the dish if possible and a brief description of how the recipe became a part of your family’s history! Submissions are welcome from now until the end of August. Spots are limited, so send in your family recipe today!

### THE BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

## Wants Your Family Recipes

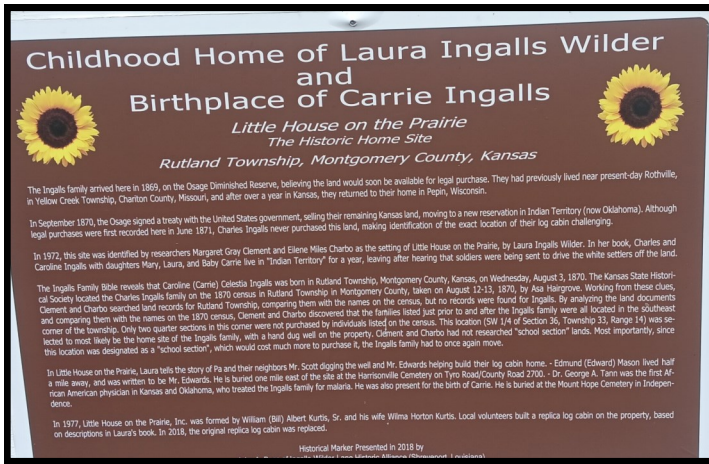
SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPES FOR A CHANCE TO BE IN OUR COMMUNITY COOKBOOK!

SUBMISSIONS MAY BE SENT TO THE MUSEUM EMAIL AT [HISTORY@CITYOFBARTLESVILLE.ORG](mailto:history@cityofbartlesville.org) OR MAY BE DROPPED OFF IN PERSON. WHEN SUBMITTING A RECIPE, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME, CONTACT INFORMATION, A PICTURE OF THE DISH IF POSSIBLE AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE RECIPE BECAME A PART OF YOUR FAMILY’S HISTORY! SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER. SPOTS ARE LIMITED, SO SEND IN YOUR FAMILY RECIPE TODAY!

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM  
401 S. JOHNSTONE AVE. 5TH FLOOR  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 10:00-4:00  
[WWW.BARTLESVILLEHISTORY.COM](http://WWW.BARTLESVILLEHISTORY.COM)  
918.338.4290

# COLLECTIONS CORNER

Casey Sullivan, Collections Manager



Writing for a newsletter is a little difficult when you are new to an area. Our previous Collections Manager, Debbie, is a walking encyclopedia, being able to spew more kernels of information quicker than you can say corn-on-the-cob. She was in this building for eighteen years studying, learning, and regurgitating this information to keep Bartlesville's rich history alive. So it is difficult to follow up without that wealth of knowledge. However, I keep being told this is a "creampuff piece". Hearing that only makes it harder though because... now I'm hungry.

Without further digression, an event of recent was my northerly travel to Kansas on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This trip brought me just south of Independence, KS and it was a very special one. For those who don't know, the famous Ingalls family made a home there in 1870. Laura Ingalls, author of Little House on the Prairie book series, had three other sisters (and a brother that passed away very young). One of these sisters, Carrie Ingalls, was born on this Kansas homestead. Now, I will admit, I never read any of the Little House books growing up. I did become a fan though later on, as my previous employment was working as a museum director in Keystone, SD, which happens to also be the location where Carrie eventually settled for thirty-five plus years. Despite the hot and dry 100 degree temperature that afternoon, I didn't mind, because it was such a full circle moment and rewarding experience to finally get to see both her beginnings of humble origins and her fulfilling and philanthropic retirement in two locations some 800 miles apart. That, and there was cake available.

As an awesome bonus, Bartlesville's own Kay Little was working as the "schoolmarm" there and we had a wonderful chat about history and the way we teach it. She also discussed some of the particulars about the homestead, the owners, and the work they did to bring it to life as a historical site.



September 2<sup>nd</sup> was an extraordinarily special day in which we invited the community and Nelson Carr family to dedicate the old Caney River bridge as the "Nelson F. Carr Memorial Bridge". The day was not only a time to honor the early and monumental pioneer but also represented an opportunity to truly realize and appreciate the role that Carr played in establishing Bartlesville. Nelson Franklin Carr, a Civil War veteran, first settled in Oswego, KS following his service and worked as the postmaster for the town. By the late 1860s, Carr and his wife, Sarah Ann Rogers, a Cherokee woman, settled in the area to operate a trading post around Black Dog Ford, near the present-day Oak Park addition. A raid on the business forced them to move further east, to the horseshoe bend in the Caney River. This is where Carr worked incessantly by cutting a millrace and building his gristmill. The same one that Jake Bartles, our town's namesake, eventually bought to convert into a flourmill. Through the years, Bartlesville gains, grows, and then booms from other business ventures but it all started from Nelson Carr.



# Lets Celebrate, A Happy Retirement!



After 35 years of service with the City of Bartlesville, staff at Bartlesville Public Library and the Bartlesville Area History Museum celebrated with Shellie McGill in July to honor her and her retirement!

McGill, has held several leadership roles with the City since she was promoted from counting clerk to Utility Billing supervisor. In 2007 she was named Human Resources director and in 2019 took on the role as director.

McGill, grew up here and in the Tulsa area and had grandparents in Bartlesville and Dewey. She graduated from Claremore Sequoyah High School and attended college at Rogers State University and Oklahoma Wesleyan where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of science with an emphasis in business and human resources.



McGill, will miss using her problem-solving skills and had loved the challenge of finding a solution that addresses a problem in an awesome way but looks forward to spending more time camping and boating with her family!

*"I feel blessed to have worked for the City of Bartlesville and appreciate the excellent leadership, peers and coworkers that I have worked with. Not many cities are as well managed as Bartlesville. It has been a fantastic career that has provided me boundless opportunities, personal satisfaction, and has allowed me to support my family well. It is rewarding to be appreciated by the community. Thank you, Bartlesville!"*

**For more information on Shellie's career and retirement visit City Beat!**





# Welcome Aboard!



Kiley Roberson was named the new Director of the Bartlesville Public library and of the Bartlesville Area History Museum, following the retirement of Shellie McGill Roberson begin her tenure with the City of Bartlesville on July 22, 2024.

Roberson has an expansive background in the library field, as well as public relations and communications. She served most recently as the chief operating officer for Tulsa City-County Library in Tulsa. Previously, she served as the chief strategy officer and communications director. She has also held positions with SemGroup Corporation in Tulsa as a corporate communications manager, in public relations for Tulsa Public Schools, and as a news producer for KOTV – The News on 6 in Tulsa!

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in broadcast journalism from Oklahoma State University, a Masters in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters of Communication Management from the University of Southern California.



*“When I’m not doing all things library and history museum, I love to spend time with my kids, read, travel, go watch live theatre and walk Charlie.”*

She has received multiple awards for her work from both the Public Relations Society of America and the International Association of Business! She was also an integral part of the team that led the Tulsa City-County Library to be selected as a Library Journal 5 Star Library Winner!

When she is not doing all things related to her successful career, Roberson is spending time with children or walking the family dog! Her hobbies include reading, traveling and watching live theatre!

*“Kiley’s knowledge, education and experience make her uniquely qualified to fill the leadership role for our cultural arts facilities. She is a proven leader and a skilled librarian, and she is passionate about her craft. I am confident Kiley will continue to ensure that our library is a thriving and necessary community space, and I look forward to seeing what new ideas she brings to both the library and history museum.”*

*-Assistant City Manager Laura Sanders.*



# Blowing Off Steam, To The Olympics!

*By Shayla Cummins, Museum Coordinator*



*Phillips 66ers Basketball Team. Circa 1950*

In the early 1900s', sports started becoming a lasting obsession in the United States, and Oklahoma was no exception! Oklahoma has always had a rich tradition in sports! Most teams only played locally, and with the help of newspapers and word of mouth, more people could hear about their favorite local teams!

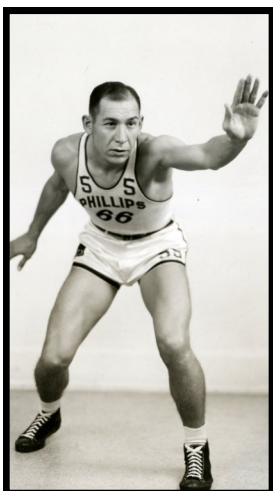
When basketball first appeared in Oklahoma, it was primarily a girls' sport. Followed by and the boys' in 1918, when they became the first sport to have a statewide playoff that led to a state championship; in 1919, girls' basketball followed.

Several of Bartlesville's local men working for the Phillips Oil Company were looking for some form of recreation after returning home from WW1. Various employees would meet after work for friendly basketball competitions. This caught the eye of Kenneth Stanley "Boots" Adams, later named President of Phillips

Petroleum Company. Boots played basketball for the University of Kansas from 1917 to 1920 and was able to convince Frank Phillips to sponsor an amateur basketball team. Boots didn't have to spend a lot of time convincing Frank, as he was an avid sports fan and was often seen attending many of Bartlesville High School games.

The Phillips 66 Basketball team began practicing and playing games in the Central High School Gym (now Central Middle School), then the Y.M.C.A. on Johnstone Avenue, and then to the Phillips Gym in the Adams Building for the 1950-1951 season. Phillips Petroleum Company supported the Phillips 66ers as a promotional tool to establish the company name as a household product. With the development and commercialization of professional basketball teams, the decision was to discontinue the Phillips 66ers. The 66ers had a solid career as a famous amateur basketball team for forty-eight years. The team survived during several wars, the Great Depression, and many highs and lows within the company. However, the 1967-1968 season brought their final competition. Defeat was rarely in the vocabulary of the Phillips 66er team, as they boasted 11 National AAU titles and two Olympic Playoff Championships, finishing their career with 1543 victories and only 272 defeats. O

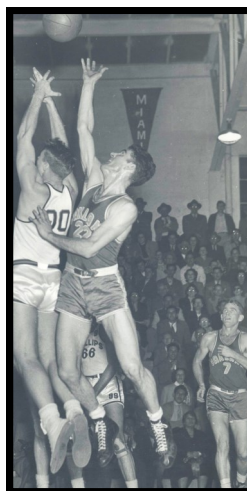
One famous 66er was Jesse "Cab" Renick. Renick was born in 1917 in Love County, Oklahoma, and grew up playing basketball. Renick, who was of Chickasaw and Choctaw descent, went on to play for Hale's Tire Shop—an Amateur Athletic Union team. Two



*Jesse "Cab" Renick. Renick*



*National AAU Champion Phillips 66ers Basketball Team - 1949-50*



*66ers game, c. 1949*



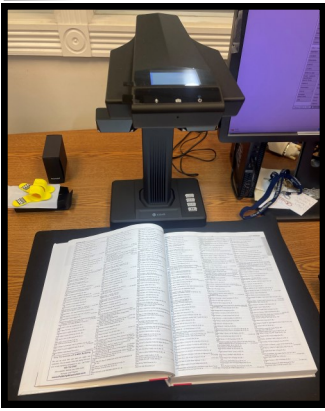
*Phillips 66ers Basketball Team, c. 1950*

years later, he was selected to play on both the Murray State College basketball and football teams in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. He ended up being named an All-Star in the Missouri Valley Conference for both sports. From there, he went on to start for the Oklahoma A&M University Aggies basketball team in Stillwater, Oklahoma (now known as Oklahoma State University). He left Oklahoma A&M to serve in the Navy during World War II. In 1945, Renick joined the Phillips 66ers basketball team to start back up his athletic career after leaving the Navy. Three years later, Renick and his teammates joined nine other players to make up the U.S. Olympic basketball team for the 1948 Olympic Games in London, England. Renick served as the team captain and led the United States to win an Olympic gold medal. Renick became the second Native American in Oklahoma history to win an Olympic gold medal. Upon returning from the Olympics, Renick coached basketball and taught at the Albuquerque Indian School. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, the American Indian Hall of Fame, and the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. He passed away on November 25, 1999, at age 82.



# THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING EXCITING HAPPENING

July 15



Big and exciting things are always happening here at BAHM! On July 15, We were excited to welcome our newest piece of equipment to help move the museum forward, the ET24 Pro computer scanner! The ET24 Pro computer scanner applies CZUR's latest technology that can flatten the 3D curved surface after pixel transformation to complete flattening of the book page. Pro has 2 Side Lights and a Head Light, illuminating from 3 angles, making less reflection on glossy papers! Pro can scan any documents up to A3 size (16.5" x 11.7") that needs to be digitized. It can Easily digitize all kinds of materials, such as books, documents, receipts, business cards, paintings, magazines, etc. Pro can scan two full pages of text in 1.5 seconds!



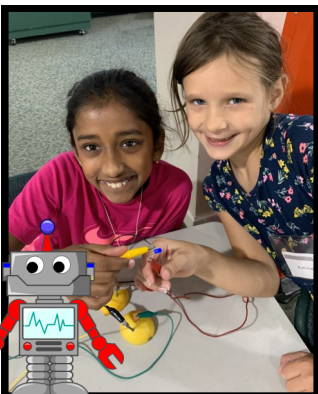
July 19

Guests kicked their boots together and enjoyed an evening with family and friends, while painting the Bartlesville cityscape! This event was hosted by "Boots and Brushes Paint Bar" in the museum's temporary gallery. Guests were give a tutorial on how to paint our city's famous sky line while light refreshments were severed and followed by tours through our main and temporary galleries!



July 30-August 1

Bartlesville's history is filled with all sorts of unique scientific facts. During our July camp we journeyed through time to learn more about the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We learned what energy is, how we use it and how it is generated in Oklahoma. While experimenting with magnets, campers learned about the Scientific method and it's importance!





# AT THE BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM!



**August 6**

God's Building Blocks Learning Center joined us for lessons in the history of Bartlesville energy industry and journeyed through time to learn more about the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



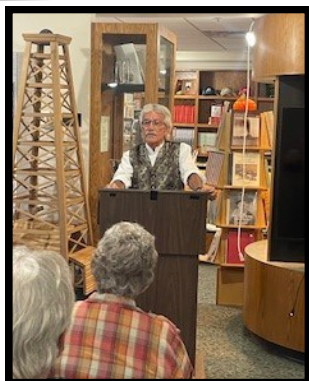
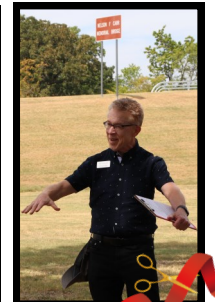
**August 8**

BAHM was a packed house as Granger Meador joined us in celebration of Bartlesville High School's 85th anniversary. Granger took us back in time, discussing the construction of the former College High, and outlined the many renovations and changes that have been made to the building in the past 85 years.



**May 10**

In collaboration of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, City of Bartlesville and Oklahoma Sen. Julie Daniels, we were able to recognize Nelson Carr, on his 180th birthday, by dedicating the new Highway 123 Caney River Bridge as the Nelson F. Carr Memorial Bridge. Carr family descendants were in attendance along with Senator Julie Daniels, local historian Debbie Neece, City Councilman Quinn Schipper and local History Heroes!, as we unveiled his state highway marker!



**September 19**

BAHM was a packed house as former CEO of the Frank Phillips Foundation, Bob Fraser, discussed oil man Frank Phillips and how he became a monument to the history of the west.





# In the Know With Nowlin

Denise Nowlin, Education Coordinator

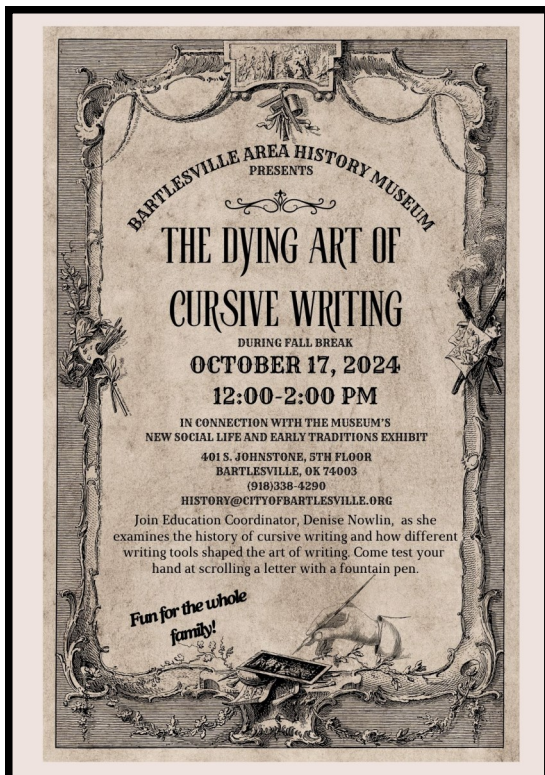
Welcome to the Museum! This is probably the most common greeting that you will hear me say here at the BAHM. It is so exciting to see people come to the museum, especially the little people that come to our special events. Our Summer of STEM activities had a great turnout, and it was so enjoyable watching kids have fun learning. This fall, we are planning more events for the whole family.

One of the things that I love about working in a museum is getting to see all of the historical artifacts that people have donated to us over the years. These artifacts come in many shapes and sizes, including photographs and clothing from the past. One of the oldest things that we have here in the museum is a copy of a letter written by Nelson Carr to his young children, dated September 23, 1883. A copy of this letter was donated to the museum by one of Nelson Carr's great-great granddaughters. Mr. Carr's handwriting was swift, but legible, showing the angled strokes of an old fashioned fountain pen. He talked about his purchase of 380 head of cattle, and how busy he was. He also reassured his children that it would be impossible for him to forget them, and encouraged them to practice their organ, so that they could play for him when they are soon reunited.



*Phyllis Waller and Gracie Myers during our virtual learning day*

I think that we can learn a lot from examining a historical document like this. It was obvious that Nelson Carr was a family man. He was a hard worker, but he also enjoyed participating in the lives of his family members. His very nature can be seen in every word of the letter, and I am sure that he was a very kind, gentle man. If you would like to learn more about Nelson Carr and his family, stop by the Bartlesville Area History Museum permanent exhibit. You will find the copy of this letter, as well as many other artifacts in the Nelson Carr Family Hallway.



Take a journey back in time as Education Coordinator, Denise Nowlin, explores the development of cursive writing, from the quill to the ballpoint pen. In connection with the Museum's new Social Life and Early Traditions exhibit, this nostalgic event will uncover the history of the dying art of cursive writing, and the writing tools that have been used throughout history. Participants will have an opportunity to test their ability to write with an old-fashioned dip pen. Stop by to scroll a letter and learn more about the past.

This event is being held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, from 12:00-2:00 PM, during the local school district's Fall Break. Bring your lunch, or enjoy light refreshments and fun activities for the whole family. For more information, email [drnowlin@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:drnowlin@cityofbartlesville.org), or call (918)338-4293. or [history@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:history@cityofbartlesville.org).



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Opening of the BAHM new exhibit from October 7 through December 31, 2024

**“Social Life and Early Traditions ”**

The exhibit explores the ever-changing social life and traditions of Bartlesville natives!

**October 17, 2024—How to Write a Letter Day Children's Camp** Take a journey back in time as Education Coordinator, Denise Nowlin, explores the development of cursive writing, from the quill to the ballpoint pen.

**October 31— Halloween Walk** 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Goblins 10 years or younger, will be guided through BAHM where they can find candy stops and win spooky prizes at game stations. Registration required.

**November 5, 2024-We Want YOU** 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To have bipartisan snacks, a kid-friendly election booth, and election trivia fun.

**November 14, 2024—Hat Bar, with The Corral** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Join us in decorating your own hat. Spots are limited and registration required.

**November 15, 2024—Dr. Michelle Martin, All the World's Sorrows: Hannah Worcester Hicks and the Civil War in the Cherokee Nation.** 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FREE Bring Your Lunch and Learn; light snacks. All age groups welcome!

**December 15, 2024—Story Time with Santa,** 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Santa will read a story and tell kids about his Christmas plans! Mrs. Claus will be making an appearance and will have a special craft for the kids! There will be a holiday-themed coloring station for little ones to enjoy and refreshments.



*Did you know that the name of the hill where the City of Bartlesville has the “Hot Warm Cold” water tanks is Toalson Hill. Why? The Toalson Dairy was at the base of that hill!*

## A DAY IN THE REGISTRAR’S LIFE

BY KASEY WERTS, BAHM REGISTRAR



During the Great Depression, Oklahoma sales tax tokens were used to pay taxes on smaller purchases. Instead of being charged a full penny tax on items, you could pay the taxes with the tokens. Common token values were the 1 mill (1/10 cent) and the 5 mill (1/2 cent). The tokens were made from various materials like cardboard, metal, fiber and plastic. A total of 12 states had tax tokens until the end of the 1930s when the token was eliminated.

Thank you to A. Howerton for donation.

### WHAT’S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Want to donate a family heirloom, antique find,  
photos or other materials?

Please contact Kasey Werts at (918) 338-4290  
or [kawerts@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:kawerts@cityofbartlesville.org)



## MUSEUM STAFF

Director, Shellie McGill

Assistant Director, Cindy Yell

Collections Manager, Casey Sullivan

Museum Coordinator, Shayla Cummins

Registrar, Kasey Werts

Education Coordinator, Denise Nowlin

Museum Clerk/Temp, Tamra Rogers

Museum Clerk/Temp, Jenny Miller

## Bartlesville Area History Museum

401 S. Johnstone Avenue, 5th Floor

Bartlesville, OK 74003

Phone (918) 338-4290

Web: [www.bartlesvillehistory.com](http://www.bartlesvillehistory.com)

Email: [history@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:history@cityofbartlesville.org)



@bartlesville\_area\_history



BartlesvilleAreaHistoryMuseum

## VISITATION STATS

**Visitors for 2024 to date: 620**

**States:** AL, AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MN, MO, MS, NC, NE, NM, NY, NV, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, TN, TX, WA, WI, WV

**Countries:** USA, Canada, France, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Uruguay, United Kingdom.

## MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00-4:00

Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays



# AASLH

American Association  
for State and Local History



The BAHM newsletter is 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!

Bartlesville Area History Museum

401 S. Johnstone Ave. - 5th Floor

Bartlesville, OK 74003

