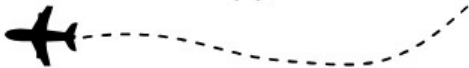


# From The Archives

Bartlesville Area History Museum

## Hot Off The Press!

We are excited to announce that BAHM former Collections Manager, Debbie Neece, has released her book, "Washington County Aviation by Barnstorming Daredevils and Aeronauts," in the Friends of BAHM giftshop! Come get yourself a copy!



## The Bartlesville Area History Museum Presents:



"Bartlesville Throughout the Decades: Part 1"

This winter, the Bartlesville Area History Museum is proud to present "Bartlesville Throughout the Decades: Part One!" Celebrating the creative spirit that has shaped Bartlesville from its earliest foundations through the present day, this exhibit guides visitors through a visual journey of the city's growth—beginning with its frontier roots, continuing through the rise of industry and innovation.

Opening January 13, in anticipation of America's 250th birthday in July, the exhibit invites guests to reflect on how our shared history captures the moments that built our foundations. As visitors move along the timeline, they will see how Bartlesville's development and celebrated heritage have contributed to our American tale. This exhibit not only honors the legacy of past creators but also inspires appreciation for the traditions that continue to thrive in Bartlesville.

THE BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM PRESENTS

### Bartlesville Throughout the Decades

**January 13- April 10**

Opening in anticipation of America's 250th birthday in July, the exhibit invites guests to reflect on how our shared history captures the moments that built our foundations. As visitors move along the timeline, they will see how Bartlesville's development and celebrated heritage, have contributed to our American tale. This exhibit not only honors the legacy of past creators but also inspires appreciation for the traditions that continue to thrive in Bartlesville.

**1823** The earliest frontier through the area and a trail of settlement was the path of the Santa Fe Trail, which brought the settlement of Bartlesville to the attention of the world.

**1812-1818** The War of 1812 saw the United States and Great Britain fight over the right to trade with the West Indies.

**1810** The US Congress passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and the Cherokee Nation was forced to relocate to the Indian Territory.

**1825** The Santa Fe Trail was opened as a major trade route between the East and West.

**1829** The first settlement in Bartlesville was established by the first settler, John Smith.

**1830-1835** The first settlement in Bartlesville was established by the first settler, John Smith.

Contact Us 918.338.4290

Visit Our Website history@cityofbartlesville.org

Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

# COLLECTIONS CORNER

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Casey Sullivan, Collections Manager

Hello readers! Usually by our quarterly newsletter writing, I am coming to you with a new project beginning in the museum. The hope is that this project is not an end all, but instead a process that we will utilize repeatedly.

When archival (meaning paperwork, documents, letters, and paper related material) collections are donated to the museum, we want to be able to exhume every word of the document to be able to quickly research subjects for patrons. "What does it say?" is the best answer we can give ourselves for a single document. When we record and scan these individual documents, it is called item-level accessioning. However, when extremely large archival collections come to the museum, say, several tubs and boxes of entire manuscripts, catalogs, and scrapbooks, we unfortunately don't have the time and resources to record every single piece or page into our database. When we archive by collections overall, we want to study bigger themes. When was it made and by whom? Are there identifiable groupings or series as we call it in archive fields? What subjects within the collection are most useful for researchers? How can we still find information we are looking for without bogging down our staff to scan every document?

Enter the process of Archival Arrangement. Worksheets of archival descriptions offer a summary of what researchers can expect of particular archival collections and their components. They transform accumulations of personal or family records into useable collections. They provide researchers a road map to the collection with content lists so they don't waste time in their efforts. It also helps staff summarize and organize collections more efficiently by being able to accession materials based on their subjects and content rather by individual documents. This is called series-level accessioning. In this sense, Archival Arrangement helps introduce intellectual arrangement, that is, context, as well as physical arrangement.

But enough of the jargon, let's look at an example. Let's say that a patron brings in a collection of personal papers of a Phillips company executive from the years 1970-1981. A typical Archival Arrangement worksheet would contain the following elements: Title, Dates of creation, Physical Description, Bio, and Scope and Content. To break it down, each element tells a researcher: what collection are they looking at (title), when was the collection put together or used (dates), how much of a collection is there to go through (physical description), who is the person I am researching (bio), and what is more specifically in the collection? (Scope and Content). So the researcher will know that John Doe, a Phillips executive had a collection of correspondence, meeting packets, and photos mostly from the mid to late-70s. Instead of scanning every document in which many may never be needed as research, we can take large groupings to quickly and effectively organize these papers for staff and researchers alike.

Archivists routinely have to make hard choices about how much descriptive labor to put into a single collection; factors in this decision will include the research value and size of the collection.

The final beauty in this system is that staff can always go back and add more detail in our database, as in, item-level accession materials if the collection proves to be worthy of it. If you made it this far, I thank you for taking the time to understand a valuable practice in the museum field.

# Three Years, Already?

By Shayla Cummins, Museum Coordinator

November marked my third year with BAHM and despite my background in environmental biology I feel more at home here than I have in any other position I have held! Every day, I have the opportunity to engage with the rich stories, artifacts, and heritage that make this community so special. The work feels meaningful, and I'm proud to play a role in keeping our region's past alive.

Using my creativity in my role is truly the most rewarding part of my "job". I enjoy finding fresh, engaging ways to present our local history

In Spring of 2025 the special exhibit, "Our Culinary Past," was a huge hit so we made the exciting decision to shrink it down and make it a part of the permanent gallery! However, despite the popularity of restaurants past, we are lacking in abundance of related artifacts which means we had to move into creative mode double time!

The term "gravy over all" hits deep in the heart of locals and we wanted to find a way to make it a part of the exhibit! We decided the best method was to use air dry modeling clay and make display items to fill the newest exhibit ourselves! This process became a wildly fun learning experience! I started with molding each food item into the proper shape, the hot hamburger was the trickiest because I wanted the fries to pile on top like they do on the plate at Murphy's Steakhouse! The bread and meat were made first. A ball of clay was then rolled into the shape of a potato and cut it into the shape of homestyle fries! Next the wet "fries" were stacked on top of the meat, allowing them to fall naturally into shape! Once the clay shapes had time to properly dry, each item was coated with a primer and painted using an air brush gun (a new skill I learned for this project). Each piece was then coated with an air dry clay glaze! Epoxy Resin and a stain were used to make the brown gravy!

I made a small version of Oklahoma's State meal (all from clay) Pecan Pie, included! Spray foam was used for the crust, epoxy resin for the filling and each of the pecans were hand shaped! The success of this project has made me excited to take on the next challenge!



## CELEBRATING HISTORY, ONE

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### October

October kicked off with a bang! Staff at BAHM have dug their heels in on finding ways to create new experiences for guest and one of those ways is creating a photo op for each exhibit! Here, our Education Coordinator poses as an outlaw!

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### October 9

Emmy-winning screenwriter, journalist, and performer, Mark Archuleta presented his book, "The Reel Thrilling Events of Bank Robber Henry Starr: From Gentleman Bandit to Movie Star and Back Again," to a packed house!



### October 15

Little Wranglers were receiving lessons in penmanship, orthography (spelling), reading and arithmetic, while using an old fashion writing quill!

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### October 17

Our third annual Halloween walk was a ghoulish good time!! Goblins 10 years or younger, were guided through BAHM where they found candy stops and won spooky prizes at game stations. Families also enjoyed our ghoulish selfie station and a craft!



## EXCITING EVENT AT A TIME!

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### November 20

In partnership with OKU, we were able to offer guests the chance to tour famous architect, Edward Delk's, La Quinta Mansion at Oklahoma Wesleyan University!

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### New Exhibit

In Spring of 2025 the special exhibit, "Our Culinary Past," was a huge hit so we made the exciting decision to shrink it down and make it a part of the permanent gallery!



### December 24

Bringing one of our biggest crowds yet, the Grinch stole the show with his furry, green, and cantankerous attitude! With his heart two sizes larger he brought joy with his playful banter!



### December 31

Staff and guests alike, rang in the New year during our second "Noon Years Eve" party with Magician Jeff Cauthen, snacks, and games!



# In the Know With Nowlin

Denise Nowlin, Education Coordinator

When Richard Rodgers composed the song, Oklahoma, for the musical by the same name, I wonder if he had ever experienced a windy Oklahoma day?

As I am writing this note, the weather here in Bartlesville has changed dramatically over the past two days, and the wind is definitely blowing a cold wintery blast across the plains. Although Rodgers was not a native of Oklahoma, he definitely got it right when he wrote that song.

Here at the History Museum, we have an interview with another interesting composer. Her name was Frances Dunn George Yates. As a child, she was considered to be somewhat of a musical prodigy, and she eventually composed a song that actually became quite famous. Mrs. Yates, however, did not become famous.

According to an interview recording conducted by Bartlesville historian Ruby Cranor in 1979, and a magazine article written in the 1980s, Frances Dunn was a young woman living in Kansas City, MO, during the 1910s, when she became acquainted with legendary music composer W.C. Handy. Mr. Handy introduced her to several people who liked her unnamed ragtime composition. She was persuaded to sell the song to a man named Larry Rosenwald for \$50. This was quite a large sum of money back in those days, and Miss Dunn knew that she would no longer have a claim to the song once she sold it. Little did she know, however, that Mr. Rosenwald would sell the song to one Euday L. Bowman, who would then publish the same song under his own name, and call the song, the 12th Street Rag. Under this name, the song became quite a success. In 1948, it was performed and recorded by a musician named Walter "Pee Wee" Hunt, who sold over 3 million copies of the recording. In more recent years, it has appeared on the popular cartoon SpongeBob SquarePants.

Miss Dunn probably never anticipated that her music would become so successful. She knew that when she sold her song, she was giving up the rights of ownership, and never made a claim to earn a single penny from its popularity. The Bartlesville Area History Museum, however, has chosen to acknowledge her contribution to history, and recognizes her in our "Little Known Facts" exhibit in our permanent gallery.

Frances Dunn went on to marry two times. In her interview with Ruby Cranor, she reminisced about her first husband, E. Leigh George, whom she met in Kansas City.

He took a job in Bartlesville in 1917, and on their first night in town, the young couple stayed at the Maire Hotel. This is the same building that currently houses the History Museum. After her first husband passed away in 1936, Frances married widow, George Van Ness Yates. They lived on Dewey Avenue until his death in 1952. During her time in Bartlesville, Frances Dunn George Yates continued to play music by serving as the organist for the First Presbyterian Church for 30 years. She was also an active member in the Downtown Kiwanis Club for over 60 years. She passed away in 1987 at the age of 91.



FRANCES DUNN GEORGE YATES, sitting, was honored by the Bartlesville Downtown Kiwanis Club at a reception and dinner held at the BANC cafeteria. Mrs. Yates was president of the club for 60 years of service in the Downtown Kiwanis. Standing to her right are: Bill Dougherty, organizer of the event, and Paul Biggs, president of the club. Yates was the accompanist of the Downtown Kiwanis for 50 years. Yates is the composer of the world-renowned rag "12th Street Rag."

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Opening of the BAHM new exhibit** from January 13, through April 10

“Bartlesville Throughout the Decades: Part One”

The exhibit invites guests to reflect on how our shared history captures the moments that built our foundations

**January 29– Debbie Neece Book signing** 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us as she discusses the release of her new book “Washington County Aviation by Barnstorming Daredevils and Aeronauts,”

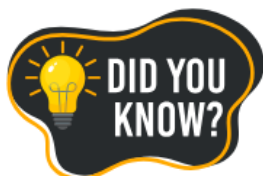
**February 12 – Valentine Dinner and Movie** 6:00 p.m.

Catered dinner and film. Details to follow.

**February 19– Richard Gorremans Book signing** 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us as he discusses the release of his newest addition to his “Ghost Town” series!

**March 28- Charcuterie-with the Easter Bunny** 10:00a.m. - 11:30 a.m Families can enjoy selfies with our favorite rabbit, an Easter-themed craft, or win a prize during a hopping sack race! Charcuterie boxes are optional and may be purchased for \$10.00, using cash or card!

For more updates on special events please follow us on social media platforms or visit our website at <https://www.bartlesvillehistory.com/events/>



*Americans eat over 150 million hot dogs on the 4th of July— that’s enough to stretch across the country and back again.*

## Day in the Registrar Life

By Kasey Werts, BAHM Registrar

These two 1890s framed portraits have been passed down from generation to generation. After being placed under a bed and forgotten about, they have made their way to the Museum. Rueben and Roxie Tyner were longtime residents of Washington County. The Tyner’s donated the land for the Tyner Cemetery and the Tyner one room school. Rueben operated a ferry that crossed the Caney River. They were married for 27 years and are buried in the Tyner cemetery located near Ochelata.



WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?  
Want to donate a family heirloom, antique find, photos or other materials?  
Please contact Kasey Werts at (918) 338-4268 or [kawerts@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:kawerts@cityofbartlesville.org)



### MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR - KILEY ROBERSON  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR- CINDY YELL  
COLLECTIONS MANAGER - CASEY SULLIVAN  
MUSEUM COORDINATOR - SHAYLA CUMMINS  
REGISTRAR - KASEY WERTS  
EDUCATION COORDINATOR - DENISE NOWLIN

### VISITATION STATS

VISITORS FOR 2025:1542

STATES: AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY

COUNTRIES: COSTA RICA, ENGLAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, MEXICO, USA.

### Bartlesville Area History Museum

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

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

**Past Perfect online database:**

[bartlesvillehistory.pastperfectonline.com](http://bartlesvillehistory.pastperfectonline.com)

### MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00-4:00

Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

# SCAN HERE!



For more information on events, exhibits and to sign up for exclusives!

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