

From The Archives

Bartlesville Area History Museum



In honor of America's 250th birthday this July, the BAHM gift shop is proud to offer a festive selection of patriotic items for visitors of all ages. From small waving flags and classic army men to unique army men bottle openers and American flag shirt pins, these items are a fun and meaningful way to celebrate our nation's history. Whether you're looking for a keepsake or a simple way to show your patriotic spirit, we invite you to stop by the gift shop and join us in commemorating this historic milestone.



The Bartlesville Area History Museum Presents:

"Bartlesville Throughout the Decades: Part 2"

The Bartlesville Area History Museum invites the community to step into the next chapter with Part Two of our "Bartlesville Throughout the Decades" exhibit, exploring life in Bartlesville from 1954 to the present day. This new installment takes visitors on a journey through the eras that shaped modern Bartlesville—from the optimism of the 1950s and the cultural shifts of the 1960s and 70s, to the technological growth, changing industries, and community traditions that continue to define the city today.

See how national moments played out right here at home. Visitors can explore how Bartlesville families lived, worked, celebrated, and adapted through decades of change. From downtown storefronts and school memories to music, fashion, and the businesses that helped shape the local economy, the exhibit highlights how each generation left its mark on the community we know today. Whether you remember these decades firsthand or are discovering them for the first time!



COLLECTIONS CORNER

Casey Sullivan, Collections Manager

April is the month's eve of my second anniversary of arriving at BAHM and it's hard to imagine how quickly things have moved. It's been a blast to meet so many people and hear the stories that have contributed to an amazing city. I am always learning and donations are a phenomenal way for myself to learn more about Bartlesville history and in-turn, Bartlesville of today. Of recent, we

had some members from Green Country Pilot Club come in to donate decades worth of scrapbooks from the organization. Truthfully, I hadn't known what Pilot Club was. My first ignorant thought was that of airplane commandeers or maybe a group who were dedicated to local aviation history.

Turns out, according to Pilot International's website, the name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day who represented leadership and guidance. "That day" being 1921 when the organization was chartered in Macon, GA by 40+ businesswomen. So, after "righting that ship", I learned more about the Bartlesville chapter through the books donated. Pilot club of Bartlesville was sponsored by the Tulsa chapter and chartered in 1949 with 16 original members. Mrs. June Kreigh served as first president. In its 75+ years of service, Pilot Club has exhibited exceptional volunteerism and community service. Not only do they formulate and participate in many communal projects, they raise money for wonderful foundations and good causes. Specifically, the club emphasizes and engages in brain wellness initiatives, promoting brain health through safety-related activities and educational opportunities. Eventually the club turned into Green Country Pilot Club with Cindy Burks serving in the role of president for 2025-2026. We are happy to keep this history for Washington County!



Pilot International's mission is to influence positive change in communities throughout the world.

To do this, we come together in friendship and service, focusing on encouraging brain safety and health and supporting those who care for others.

Preparations for America's Semiquincentennial

By Shayla Cummins, Museum Coordinator

As we approach America's 250th birthday, I have found myself both incredibly busy and genuinely excited to be part of such a meaningful celebration. This milestone offers a rare opportunity to reflect on our nation's history while creating engaging, memorable experiences for our community.



Beyond the exhibits themselves, we are incorporating interactive and lighthearted elements to make the celebration even more engaging. Events like the beard and mustache contest at Freedom Fest, this July, and the photo booth contest are designed to bring a sense of fun and creativity while encouraging visitors to connect with history in a more personal and memorable way. These activities not only add energy to the celebration but also help create lasting impressions for those who attend.



We are also extending our presence beyond the museum by participating in Freedom Fest on the Fourth of July. Hosting a booth at such a well-attended community event allows us to reach a wider audience and share in the excitement of the holiday. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase what the museum has to offer while connecting with the community in a festive, patriotic setting.



CELEBRATING HISTORY, ONE



January 29

Guest speaker and former Collection Manager, Debbie Neece, as she presents her book "Washington County Aviation by Barnstorming Daredevils and Aeronauts!"

February 12

Guests and staff alike had a lovely time at our sold annual "Date Night," event! Dinner was catered by Price's Old Fashion Meat Market.



February 19

Our February Lunch and Learn Event hosted, guest speaker, photographer and author, Richard Gorremans. Gorremans held a book signing event and talk covering the release of his latest book "Ghost Towns In Oklahoma:Pottawtomic County."

Richard Gorremans
History of the Ghost Towns
In Oklahoma.

401 S. Johnstone Ave.
Bartlesville, OK.

February 19, 2026 - Noon

The image shows a promotional graphic for a book signing event. It features a portrait of Richard Gorremans wearing a cowboy hat, the title of his book "Ghost Towns in Oklahoma: Pottawtomic County", and the Pottawtomic County seal. The event is scheduled for February 19, 2026, at noon at 401 S. Johnstone Ave. in Bartlesville, OK.

EXCITING EVENT AT A TIME!

250th

We are proud to join communities across the country in celebrating America's 250th birthday. This historic milestone marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, an event being called the nation's Semiquincentennial. Now until July 2nd stop by the museum, snap a picture at our 250th photo "booth" and tag us on social media for your chance to be entered in a giveaway on July 3rd!!



March Camp

Our March event featured some of Bartlesville's youngest history buffs. The museum's spring break campers will be testing out their acting skills, dressing up in costumes and portraying some of Bartlesville's history heroes.

April 28

Staff and guests alike had a hoppin' good time when the Easter Bunny served up an egg-cellent Charcuterie breakfast!



In the Know With Nowlin

Denise Nowlin, Education Coordinator

This spring has been a buzz of activity here at the BAHM. We have had several groups of visitors interested in experiencing what it was like to go to school in a one-room school house. Members of the Homeschool Trecks group from Spirit Church, and the 3rd graders from Wayside Elementary School all enjoyed their visit to the museum. On top of that, we had a great Spring Break Camp. Campers got to experience being historical reenactors, portraying pioneers from Bartlesville's past. Will Newby from Woolaroc came to the Museum and talked to the kids about staying in character, and answered a ton of questions about what it is like to portray a real person. At the end of camp, the kids did a great job portraying their characters. We got to meet William Johnstone and George Keeler, early day oilmen and general store managers here in town. Irma Houchin, a teacher in a one room school house, also made a visit to the museum. In addition, Frances Yates, a local musician was here to share her life story. Betty Smith, a local Cherokee teacher and author made an appearance, as well as Dr. Virginia Shipman and Nurse Ruth came to tell us about the history of hospitals in Bartlesville.

If you missed the Living History event, do not worry. We are going to have another performance. We are hosting another kids' camp on May 26-28th from 1:00-3:00PM, where kids will learn about being historical reenactors, costumes, and staying in character. Then on May 29th at 1:00PM, campers will get to share what they have learned about Bartlesville's history in another living history event. This event is open to the public, so stop by to see the kids' performances. If you know of any kiddos between the ages of 6-12 who love theater and might want to participate, please consider registering them for this event. This camp is free to attend, but space is limited. Visit <https://www.bartlesvillehistory.com/adventures-in-education/camp/> to register your kids.

We will also be hosting two "America at 250" Camps in June and July. Kids ages 6 to 10 are invited to attend one of these camps. Our June camp will be held June 23-25, and the July camp will be July 7-9. Kids will get to take a journey back in time to see what it would have been like to be a kid in 1776. We will have lots of fun celebrating the semiquincentennial. and making fun memories. Registration for these camps is also free, but space is limited, so please use the link listed above to register your kids. We are still accepting requests for fieldtrips throughout the summer months. If you have a homeschool group or daycare group that would like to come to the museum, please contact us to set up a time to visit us. During our fieldtrips, we usually take students through a day in the one-room school house, give a tour of the museum, play a fun scavenger hunt, and watch a movie about the oil boom that started here in Bartlesville. You can also get a chance to view the newest exhibit in our temporary gallery. Stop by or call us for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Opening of the BAHM new exhibit from April 10, through July 10

"Bartlesville Throughout the Decades: Part Two"

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

May 26-28th 1:00-3:00PM- Living History Camp. Ages of 6-12 who love theater to perform as historic figures

From now to July 2nd– 250th photo "booth" Stop by the museum, snap a picture at our 250th photo "booth" and tag us on social media for your chance to be entered in a giveaway on July 3rd!

July 4 -Table at Freedom Fest 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Games, and freebies. Details to follow.

July 4- beard and mustache contest - To be held during freedom fest, details to follow

June 7-9-America at 250 Camp- Kids ages 6 to 10 are invited to take a journey back in time to see what it would have been like to be a kid in 1776.

June 23-25-America at 250 Camp Group two- Kids ages 6 to 10 are invited to take a journey back in time to see what it would have been like to be a kid in 1776.

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



In a remarkable historical coincidence three of the first five U.S. presidents passed away on Independence Day. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, while James Monroe died on July 4, 1831.

Day in the Registrar Life

By Kasey Werts, BAHM Registrar

Joe Todd, a BAHM regular, was contacted by a local antique shop owner about a photo that was believed to be one of his relatives. After some investigation, it turns out the photo is of his great-great grandmother, Sara Jackson Todd. This is the first picture Joe has ever seen of his grandmother. The photo now has a home at the museum. You never know what treasures are hiding in an antique shop.



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



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 2026:334

STATES: AK, AL, AR, CO, FL, HI,IA, IN, KS,
LA, MD, MN, NY, OK, SD, TN, TX, VA,

COUNTRIES: CANADA, PUERTO RICO

Bartlesville Area History Museum

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Web: www.bartlesvillehistory.com

Email: history@cityofbartlesville.org

Past Perfect online database:

bartlesvillehistory.pastperfectonline.com

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00-4:00

Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays



PROTECT. COLLECT. PRESERVE. SHARE.

SCAN HERE!



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

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