

Historical Center Retrospective



Bossier Parish Library Historical Center News

Volume 7, Issue 2

Summer 2016

The Director's Chair

By Ann Middleton, Director



that needs a speaker, please contact us.

Dixon Line (see p. 3). We also have a blog which can be accessed from the home page of Bossier Parish Library's website.

Summer is upon us once again and the History Center has lots of good news for you.



Especially good news comes in the form of 240 reels of microfilm of the Shreveport Times. We now have 1971-1979, filling in a large gap in our microfilm collection of the newspaper. We will continue to add more microfilm in the future.

Pam has added two new presentations to the History Center's list of programs that we present to groups that request them. They are "Education in Bossier Parish—An Illustrated History" and "Andre Cailloux—Free Person of Color, Civil War Captain." The latter is a case study of a long-term genealogy project. If you belong to an organization

We were recently contacted by a museum in Ferndale, California. The museum had acquired from a donor a small notebook with a Bossier Parish connection. The notebook had belonged to J. A. Snider, a Bellevue resident who served two terms in the State Legislature beginning in 1863. Well into the late 1800s he was an important figure in legal and political affairs in Bossier Parish.

The Ferndale Museum staff hoped to solve the mystery of how the notebook came to be in California. I did some research but was able to find only slight evidence of how it might have ended up in California. Happily for us the Ferndale Museum donated the notebook to the History Center and it has been added to the archives.

Bossier Parish Library Historical Center has a Facebook page where the local history articles we submit to the the Bossier Press-Tribune

each week are posted. In addition, Pam, and now new staff member Amy Robertson (see p. 4), locates a photograph from our collection that relates to the article. Be sure to check out the photograph of Giddens' Castle which once stood in Fillmore and in 1929 housed the first television station below the Mason-

Maps make up an important part of the History Center's archival collections. Of special mention are two sets of aerial maps of Bossier Parish—one set for 1939 and one for 1955. The maps are used frequently by patrons to locate properties in the parish.

Marisa's Mystery Object Exhibit has attracted quite a lot of attention. Four museum cases contain long ago objects from the History Center's collection. Our visitors enjoy trying to identify the objects, including the teens from the library's E-80 branch's Summer Reading Program race. Plan to visit the History Center to see how many of the objects you can identify.

Inside this issue:

From the Director
Mystery Photo

Spotlight on: Collections & Exhibits
"Giddens Castle" - Special Feature
Labor Day closure and photo

Staff Spotlight
Local Authors of Local History

Spotlight on: Outreach—History Center
program list, new reading series - Rising Tide
Bossier High School centennial

Bossier Central Library Special Events:
Open House and STEAM Expo

1
2
3
4
5
6

MYSTERY PHOTO—1998.047.280

Can you identify the men in this photo from our Bossier Chamber of Commerce collection? If so please, fill us in: 318-746-7717 or pcaarlisle@bossierlibrary.org



Spotlight on: COLLECTIONS



By Marisa Richardson, Curator

We've had some great donations coming in to the Historical Center this summer! We are excited to add such a variety of items to our collection, from photographs to maps to antique pens!

Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker brought some original photographs from the 1950s, when Burgess McCranie was mayor. McCranie's obituary from *The Shreveport Times* gives a good synopsis of his public service: A Plain Dealing native, Mr. McCranie had lived in Bossier City most of his life. He was the sixth mayor of Bossier City and the first mayor to serve under the city's former commission form of government.

Mr. McCranie was elected mayor in 1953 and served one four-year term. He had been executive director of the Federal Housing Commis-



sion in Bossier Parish since 1961 and was a member of the First Baptist Church. Mr. McCranie was a former Bossier police chief, city marshal, Bossier Parish police juror and a member of the Bossier Sheriff's department.

2016.019.030 – In this May 5, 1956 photo, Mayor McCranie (middle) stands with actor Roy Rogers (left) and Shreveport Mayor James Gardner (right). The two mayors are presenting Roy Rogers, famous for his roles in western movies, with a key to the city. Rogers made a stop in Shreveport during his springtime excursion down the Red River. Rogers and Richard A. "Mac" McDerby, the owner of the Yellow Jacket Boat Manufacturing Plant in Denison, TX, spent 9 days traveling down the Red River from the Denison Dam to New Orleans

in Yellow Jacket boats. Rogers made stops at towns along the way for publicity purposes.

All of the images from this collection can be viewed at our online database. Just go to <http://bossier.pastperfectonline.com/> and search for its identifying number – **2016.019.030**

Spotlight on: EXHIBITS



By Marisa Richardson, Curator

You'll be seeing some changes around the Historical Center soon. We are in the process of updating some of our exhibit spaces with new paint colors. The Gym-Dandy surrey is now in a bright blue nook in our research area. New labels and photos will soon accompany this fantastic piece of Bossier City history! At the end of August, our World War I exhibit will come down and a

display devoted to farming in Bossier Parish will take its place. The walls in that exhibit case will be painted a vibrant green color. It will feature photographs and antique farming equipment.

A photograph display featuring early local schools will be ready for September. These photographs are always fun to see! The exhibit will also contain vintage school books and materials (including report cards!) So students, keep your grades up, because you never know if your report card may one day appear in

a museum or historical center collection! This 1943 report card was from a student at Bossier Elementary School.



HC Staff Laurie Dyche steering the surrey to its new place of honor

REPORT ON STUDIES											REPORT ON ATTENDANCE							
Elementary Studies	1	2	3	Exam	Sem	4	5	6	Exam	Sem	Final	Days Present	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reading	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	30	20	29	29	29	29	29
Pennmanship	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	0	3	0	1	1	0	0
Spelling	100	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	B				*			
Arithmetic	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	Report on Standard Achievement Tests						
Language	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Subject	Score	Grade Norm.	Class Score	Parish Score	Date	
Geography	B	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B							
His. and Civics	B	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B							
Hyg. and H'th	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C							
Music	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B							
Art	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B							
Conduct	B	A	B						B	B	B							
High School Studies	1	2	3	Exam	Sem	4	5	6	Exam	Sem	Final	Needed Improvement						
English												Better school work would probably follow if attention were given to the matters checked below:						
Mathematics												1	2	3	4	5	6	
History												Home study						
Science	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Study habits						
For. Language												Effort						
Home Econ.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Accuracy in work						
Agriculture												Attention in class						
Commerce												Orderliness						
Music												Promptness						
Art												Courtesy						
(List Subjects)												Honesty in school work						
												Attendance						
												Health habits						
												Conduct	B	A	B			
												Recreation						
												If the pupil is failing in one or more subjects, indicate the probable cause by checking with the asterisk *.						



Special Feature: "A BEAUTY SPOT AND SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE FOR BOSSIER"

By Ann Middleton, Director

In the 1920s Tandy Key Giddens built an observation tower that resembled a castle. In its 75th anniversary edition of June 28, 1934 *The Bossier Banner* published the following story written by Agathine H. Goldstein about this unusual former Bossier landmark. This is the first of the two-part story.

"Because of its diversified interests, Giddens' Castle is one of the totally different edifices in all of Louisiana. Fourteen miles east of Shreveport, and a quarter of a mile south of the Dixie-Overland Highway, U. S. Route No. 80, it towers above all the surrounding territory, on the highest point of the Fillmore hills."

"There are influences from the last three centuries to attract the visitor. Too, there are the attributes of all of the twentieth century, in the most modern of forms, to warrant a lengthy stay within its bounds. In no other single section is such a wealth of art, history and modernities [sic] fused into one atmosphere. All told, it is a place in which to revel, to look and to be impressed."

"A number of years ago, T. K. Giddens, of Shreveport, selected this high spot of ground on which he built an observation tower, similar in architecture to a mediaeval castle. In due time he erected a number of cottages on this picturesque hill, and therein placed his collection of relics, valued at several hundred thousands of dollars. Mr. Giddens stated that the purpose of his tower was that 'people from all over the country could gather and enjoy the scenery.' He brought his priceless artistic master pieces to this site as well; and it is a rare treat indeed to be afforded a minute inspection of all that this unique museum contains."

"The 'Castle' stands as a beacon for all of the surrounding countryside. It is the

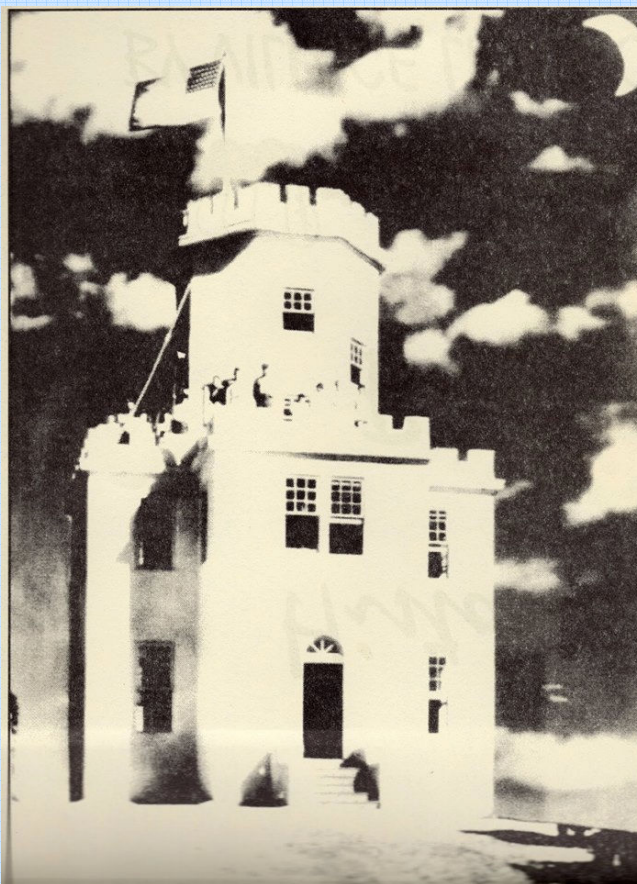


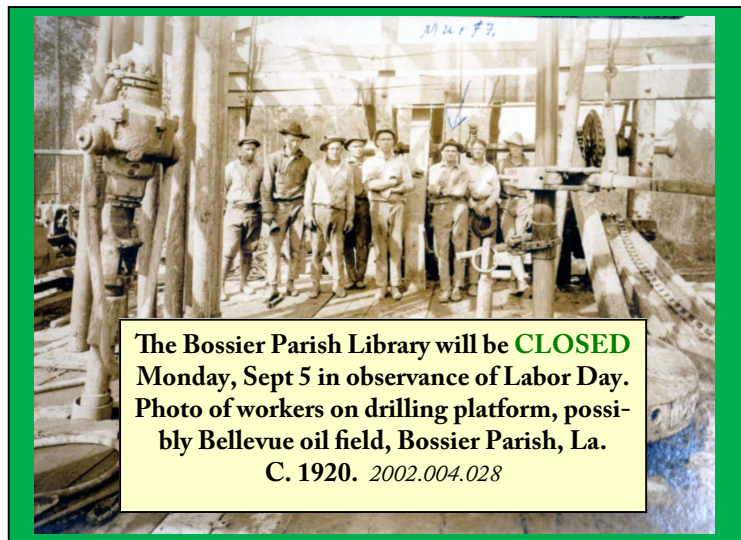
Photo of "Giddens Castle", Fillmore, LA (Houghton area), with fake sky and moon. Postcard image c. 1930 that was used in the 2003 Historic Calendar of Bossier Parish by Village Lions Club & Sponsors 2007.094.001. Giddens Castle was located in the hilly area off of Hwy 80 near Houghton.

show place for many miles around. But, the original structure has received a recent addition—and the result is a night club, which tends to create an impression entirely new in a setting originally intended for other purposes. It is amusing to note that the entrance to the 'Castle,' now the foyer of the night club, with its gorgeous Grecian mirror, pasted with telegrams from such

celebrities as Mae West, Clark Gable, Guy Lombardo, Ben Bernie and a host of other screen and radio stars, extending their best wishes for the success of this playground to the proprietor, Buddy Fisher. Chandeliers from the court of Louis XVI grace the ballroom, and a wealth of imported rugs and draperies, from the famed Giddens' collection, are to be noted in the clubhouse."

"But the truly intriguing sights, on this highest point in northwest Louisiana, are outside the 'Castle'—the scenes which Nature has contributed, and in the art collections which are housed on the hill. All of Shreveport, with its woodlands and streams, might be viewed with advantage from this spot. A gorgeous panorama it is—sylvan dells and verdant ravines—worthy of the brush of the most gifted painter. Industrial enterprises working at full blast, flying fields and fertile farmlands, all of these attributes and more, lend their presence to the sight."

The description of Giddens' Castle will continue in the Fall issue of the newsletter. Or go to the Historical Center's Facebook page if you can't wait!



The Bossier Parish Library will be CLOSED Monday, Sept 5 in observance of Labor Day.
Photo of workers on drilling platform, possibly Bellevue oil field, Bossier Parish, La.
C. 1920. 2002.004.028

Staff Spotlight:

WELCOME: HISTORICAL CENTER ASSISTANT Amy Robertson FAREWELL Tina Williamson



Amy M.H. Robertson was recently announced as the latest addition to the staff at the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center. She readily admits to a life-long love of anything history-related, so she is a perfect match for the historical center. In addition to her other interests in gardening and photography, she reports a special fondness for researching and genealogy.

Born in Gadsden, Alabama; Amy moved to Shreveport in 1987 from Huntsville, Alabama. She proudly revealed that she is also part of a "local living history moment" by being a member of the first graduating 8th grade class at Keithville Elementary Middle School.

Amy obtained an Associate Degree in General Studies in May 2016. This fall, she will be actively pursuing a bachelor's degree in



General Studies with a concentration in Applied Sciences. One of her goals is to obtain a master's degree in Library Science.

Amy and her spouse, Randy, have three children and four grandchildren. They currently reside in Caddo parish with their "fur baby" Abbey Rue, a Catahoula leopard dog. Amy carries on the tradition of animal lovers, as well as history lovers, working at the Bossier Parish Historical Center.

IT'S WHAT WE DO Ann Toellner removing photos from acidic scrapbook of WWII-era mementos



Happy Retirement, Ms. Tina. We Miss You!



Longtime Historical Center Night and Weekend Assistant Tina Williamson retired on May 19th.



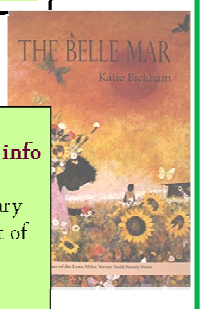
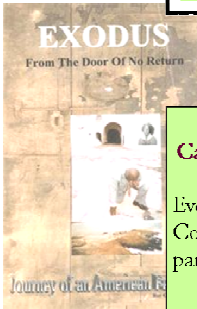
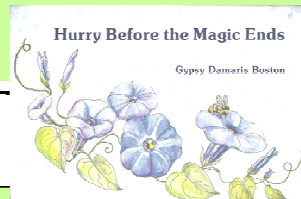
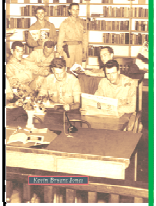
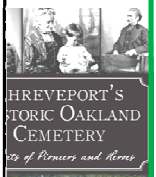
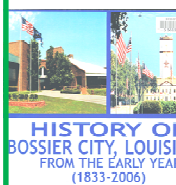
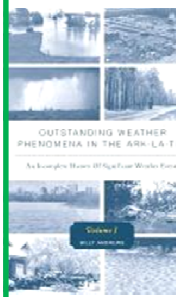
Bossier Parish Library Historical Center

Local Authors of Local History

Book Sale & Book Signing Event

**Tues. August 9, 2016
5:00-7:00 pm**

2206 Beckett St. Bossier City, La.
in the History Center meeting room

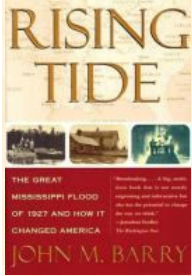


Call Pam Carlisle at (318) 746-7717 for more info
Event will be held during the Bossier Central Library Complex Open House. To see the most current list of participating authors, visit bpl-hc.blogspot.com or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bpl-hc)

Spotlight on: OUTREACH



By Pam Carlisle, History and Outreach Specialist



Save the Dates! For those of you who remember the RELIC (Readings in Literature and Culture) that the Louisiana Endowment for Humanities used to provide libraries across the state, including the History Center where they proved very popular, pay attention. And those of you who did not get to experience a RELIC, also pay attention—and ask a former attendee how great they were. Though the LEH has ceased providing these programs due to budget cuts, the History Center will be offering a similar scholar-facilitated reading and cultural discussion series on Thursday evenings, Jan. 19—Feb. 9 at 6:00 – 7:30 pm. We will be reading the highly acclaimed and timely book by John M. Barry, Rising Tide: the great Mississippi flood of 1927 and how it changed America. The discussions will be led by historian and local history teacher Rusty Beckham. Registration details will be in our Fall newsletter.

Bossier Parish Library Historical Center PRESENTATIONS

Presentations can be at the Historical Center (with a tour, if desired) or may be at your classroom or meeting place. Programs are scheduled according to presenter availability. Contact Pam Carlisle at the Historical Center at 318-746-7717 or pcarlisle@bossierlibrary.org to schedule a program. Please make your request at least four weeks in advance. It may be possible to arrange for other presentation topics not on this list. Additional notice could be required for custom programs.

Any Age - Adult, Child or Teen

- ◆ “Pierre’s Parish: A History of Bossier Parish”
- ◆ “Building a Dream: Rosenwald Schools for African-American Children C. 1915-1930”
- ◆ “Pre-Historic Toolbox: Paleo-Indians and Caddo Indians, Early Inventors” (with model tools)

Adult or Teen

- ◆ “Family Who, Where, When:” Introductory Genealogy (Also available - “Genealogy and Family Reunions”)
- ◆ “Do You Own a Radio Set? - What the U.S. Census Takers Need to Know 1790-1930”
- ◆ “Bossier in Slices - Bossier People, Places, and Things” - A collection of stories from Bossier Parish’s past
- ◆ “Practical Preservation: Making Family Mementos Last”
- ◆ “Sacred to the Memory: Bossier Parish Headstones—Photos and Symbols”
- ◆ “Women Who Made a Difference in Bossier Parish”
- ◆ “Homemade and Home-raised: Bossier Parish Food 1910’s - 1960’s”
- ◆ “Education in Bossier Parish - An Illustrated History” ←
- ◆ “Andre Cailloux - Free Person of Color, Civil War Captain” ←
- ◆ For teachers especially: “A Hidden History Resource: The Bossier Parish Library Historical Center”

As a reminder, here is the list of programs the HC can provide to your class or group, in the HC or within reason we can come to you. We have added two new programs that we think you will enjoy.

Teen or Child

- ◆ “How Historians Work” (Includes Using Primary Sources)
- ◆ “How Archaeologists Work”
- ◆ “Careers About the Past” (teen)

Child

- ◆ “The Future is Now” (technological advances)
- ◆ Caddo Indian program with various themes and crafts available, such as *Tsa Ch’ayah – How the Turtle Got Its Squares* Caddo Indian Children’s book or dugout canoe stories and craft



BOSSIER HIGH at 100

Request from Bossier High School Alumni Association president Carolyn Grimsley:

Bossier High School (BHS) will be 100 years old in 2017 and together the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center and the Bossier High School Alumni Association are creating a one-of-a-kind year-long exhibit at the History Center. It will celebrate the last ten decades of history as seen through the eyes of BHS graduates.

Do you have toys or items of any of the past 10 decades that will help tell the story of Bossier City or that are ‘emblematic’ of a particular decade? You do not have to be a Bossier High graduate to loan an item for the exhibit.

Examples of the types of iconic items we would like are: green plastic army men, an Easy Bake Oven, early Barbie or GI Joe dolls, board games, a hula hoop, early Transformers figures, Atari or Nintendo video games, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, old telephones, 78 RPM vinyl records as well as the latest music platforms, and books and favorite TV or movie items. We are particularly looking for fun items that many parents, grandparents and others will enjoy sharing with their families.

Or, do you have any stories or memorabilia about what it was like to live here as a teenager or any early photos of teenagers in Bossier? And who has the BHS State championship football cup from 1948? If so, or for more info, please contact me, Carolyn Grimsley at 318-219-6258.

BOSSIER PARISH LIBRARY HISTORICAL CENTER NEWS

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We're on the Web!
Go to
www.bossierlibrary.org
Look for the "Services" drop
down menu at top of page
then choose "History and
Genealogy"

Do you want to be on our mailing list? Know someone who would like to receive our newsletter? Let Pam know: 318-746-7717 or pcarlisle@bossierlibrary.org Please specify if you want to receive the newsletter via email or postal mail. Thanks!

**SPECIAL LIBRARY EVENTS:
OPEN HOUSE AND "STEAM" EXPO**

COME SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!



OPEN HOUSE

@ BOSSIER CENTRAL

**AUGUST 9, 2016
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

SIGN UP FOR A LIBRARY CARD!

**ENJOY A BLAST TO THE PAST!
VISIT OUR HISTORICAL CENTER.**

**GET INTO
OverDrive
AND OTHER ONLINE
COLLECTIONS.**



MAKES EVERYTHING BETTER!

**CHANCE TO WIN :
I-PAD MINI
KINDLE FIRE
AND MORE!**



SPONSORED BY:



**Sat. Sept. 24, 1—4 pm in
the History Center**

This expo will be a collection of various organizations and businesses from the Shreveport/Bossier area and will be an opportunity for them to showcase and demonstrate processes that directly correlate with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math