

BHS Curator's Report—BHS Curator Kathy Howard

July 4th weekend is past and so is the official launch of our new exhibits. The reward of seeing people enjoy the new exhibits made the effort of assembling them worthwhile. As you've seen in this newsletter, we focused the new exhibits on a theme of local historical anniversaries. This includes biographies of six Bartlett citizens, reviewing their Revolutionary War and civic experiences. We've highlighted the 150th anniversary of the formation of the town of Livermore and remembered the 200th anniversary of the loss of the Willey family along with the impact weather events have had on our area. We even looked back at the 1990 Bartlett Bicentennial. Finally, we expanded our military and tourism exhibits. The new exhibits will be in place until year end so plan some time to stop in for a visit to the museum. There's a lot to see and learn.

We are already starting to plan for the next round of exhibits which will be launched in January 2027. We hope to present a look at how the town of Bartlett "functions" highlighting town government and major town related services past and present. We are always thinking about the next round of exhibits!

Cataloging of books, papers and other donated items always continues in the background of exhibit planning. Generous donors have provided us with additions to our military collection, photos from the Bartlett Bicentennial, a number of maps and a large collection of memorabilia related to the Evans family including one of Hattie Evans' original diaries. These items will eventually find their place in future exhibits.

A dedicated volunteer continues to catalog our postcard collection, adding new records weekly. Postcard records will be linked to descriptions or histories of the places shown on the card. Eventually a scanned image of each postcard will be added to the catalog record in our PastPerfect database and viewable on our new website.

Work continues on adding information from the Bartlett History website to our PastPerfect database, creating records with short histories on a number of topics. Photos from the website are also added to these new records creating a full written and pictorial "view". We plan to launch the new website later this year.

Another volunteer has recently completed a review of cemetery information found in a recently acquired in a 1990 compilation of cemetery records. The next step is to combine this information with current burial information to create a comprehensive and updatable record of our Bartlett cemeteries. This information will be available on our new website.

A new project involves researching the US Census records to document the lives of Bartlett residents. By studying Census records we can document the histories of families who have lived in Bartlett for generations. The long-term plan is to document residents from the early 1800's records through the 1950 published Census for Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore.

As you can see, research continues in many, many areas. We have received requests to research and document old homes and other properties, schools, and municipal organizations such as the fire and police departments and more. This takes time and people to do the task. If you have an interest in "finding out" about any of these areas or a favorite subject of your own, stop by and Museum staff can point the way to start you on your research search. Museum staff are on hand to help every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 10am-2Pm. Stop by for a visit soon!

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of taking the BHS into the future please contact us at bartletthistorynh@gmail.com or call (603) 374-5037. Better yet, come in for a visit and let us know directly that you would like to be a part of the process!