

THE HISTORY CURRENT

News & highlights from the Bossier Parish Libraries History Center

Preserving the history and memories of Bossier Parish, Louisiana

This issue:

Historian's Note
PAGE 01

Story Behind
Hutchison Drive
PAGE 02

Barksdale's First Air Show
PAGE 03

Book Releases - Nonfiction
PAGE 04

Book Releases -
Historical Fiction
PAGE 05

Curator's Corner
PAGE 06

Monthly Event
PAGE 07

History Center Presentations
& Contact Us
PAGE 08



WELCOME SPRINGTIME

BY PAM CARLISLE, OUTREACH HISTORIAN

It's our first Spring in our new building! Read about our building's new address on page 2. Please come visit and see our rotating exhibits or use our research area.

A great thing about our new location in the Central Library Complex is having exhibit space available outside the History Center gallery. The atrium that connects all areas of the library – adult, teen, children's and History Center - has ample wall space and a special system for hanging art. Currently that space has beautiful portraits of women from Bossier's history. These portraits will grace this hallway through March (Women's History Month), and possibly longer.

Inside the History Center, check out the exhibit cases featuring the early days of Barksdale Field, later Barksdale Air Force Base, and its first air show. The show is older than you might think! Read the article on page 3 to learn more, then attend this year's airshow on March 29th and 30th and be a part of this proud local tradition! Visit the Bossier Parish Libraries table in the children's activities hangar and say hi!



7204 Hutchison Drive: An Address With a Mission



By now you may know that in July (2024) the Bossier Parish Libraries History Center moved across Beckett Street into the shiny new Bossier Parish Libraries Central Complex at 850 City Hall Drive. You might not know that our address has changed again, but this time we did not have to carefully wrap and box our hundreds of artifacts (or in my case 20 years' worth of research and program files!) In November 2024, Bossier City Police and the City of Bossier memorialized fallen Bossier City Police officer Trey Hutchison by renaming the street that connects Texas and Beckett streets.

Hutchison was killed on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2004. He was shot while answering a 911 domestic violence hang-up call at a residence. Hutchison, age 27 and a 1995 graduate of Airline High School in Bossier City, had been an officer with the Bossier Police Department for 11 months after working for the Lufkin, Texas, police department for 5 1/2 years.

With the approval of Mayor Chandler and the Bossier City Council, Police Chief Daniel Haugen followed through on his commitment to rename City Hall Drive "Hutchison Drive." The Hutchison family was present for the occasion of mounting the new street sign. The Central Library location further memorializes Trey Hutchison with our street number, 7204. 7204 was Officer Hutchison's badge number.

In 2005, Louisiana signed the "Trey Hutchinson Act," which requires any offender who commits violent crimes against peace officers to register with the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, with the hope that it may prevent future deadly situations for law enforcement officers. Other memorials created to honor his memory are the Trey Hutchison Memorial Award, presented at an annual banquet by the Caddo/Bossier Domestic Violence Task Force, recognizing law enforcement officers in Caddo or Bossier who show commitment to victims and their families as they overcome struggles in facing domestic violence and champion justice for them.



VISIT US AT
7204
HUTCHISON
DRIVE, AND
REMEMBER THE
BRAVERY AND
SACRIFICE OF
TREY
HUTCHISON
WHEN YOU
TURN ONTO
OUR STREET.



Barksdale's Air Show: Thrilling Crowds Since Aviation's Early Days

by Kevin Flowers

Look for the History Center's newspaper column in the *Bossier Press-Tribune* every Wednesday!

When the Wright brothers' Wright Flyer first took flight on December 17, 1903, one of the onlookers – John T. Daniels – was left in awe. Historian David McCullough, in his book "The Wright Brothers," wrote that Daniels gave an interview years later about the historic event and said that the aircraft " ... sailed off in the air ... as pretty as any bird you ever laid your eyes on. I don't think I ever saw a prettier sight in my life." It was he who captured a photo of the Flyer's successful launch from the sands of Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina. Thirty years later, that same sense of wonder may have prevailed among the thousands of people who attended the first air show at Barksdale Air Force Base.

That first show was part of the ceremonies celebrating the dedication of Barksdale Field, as the base was then known, on February 2, 1933. According to the book "A History of Barksdale Air Force Base," published in 1971, Barksdale was born of the need for a new airfield to accommodate the U.S. Army Air Corps' expanding 3rd Air Attack Group. Despite eight other cities bidding to get this new airfield, Barksdale's present site won out, after what the book describes as "a monumental task that literally encompassed ten years of intensive, determined and dedicated effort."

A crowd estimated to number 50,000 people attended the dedication, including the mother and other family members of the airfield's namesake, Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale. Although there were no Air Force Thunderbirds or Navy Blue Angels to headline that day's



Boeing P-12, one of the aircraft that flew at the first Barksdale air show in 1933.

Photo from History Center collection

air show, newspaper accounts say the exhibition did not disappoint.

Coverage in the February 3, 1933 edition of The Shreveport Times states, "Uncle Sam's fleet of planes roared skyward for an hour and a half, sending an air-minded crowd home happy." Demonstrations included "ground strafing," in which the planes "dived to within almost 25 feet of targets ... with two forward machine guns pelting leaden slugs," and acrobatic maneuvers that "entertained the crowd with ... loops, power dives, snap rolls," and "every stunt in the varied and death-defying repertoire of a pursuit pilot." For those attendees who had perhaps never seen an airplane, this spectacle must have been quite a sight to witness.

Holding the audience's attention were aircraft such as the Boeing P-12, a prop-driven bi-plane having a design little changed from the World War One era, with a maximum speed of 189 miles per hour. Fast forward to the 1940s, when the U.S. military transitioned to jets that could attain speeds of nearly 600 miles per hour. As engines and airframes improved, those speeds continued to climb.

At this year's Barksdale Defenders of Liberty Air Show, Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, the Air Force Thunderbirds will perform, showcasing not only precision flying skills, but also an exceptional aircraft in the F-16 Fighting Falcon. Originally developed by General Dynamics, the Falcon is capable of reaching Mach 2 or 1,500 miles per hour, according to the plane's fact sheet on the Air Force website af.mil. Other performers will include Red Bull Aviation, the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, and the Titan Aerobic Team. Historic aircraft like the P-51 Mustang and B-25 will also be part of the show. For more information, visit defendersoflibertyairshow.com.



NEWLY RELEASED HISTORY READS

EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS

Signed Edition

THE HISTORY AND PERSISTENCE OF OUR DEADLIEST INFECTION

JOHN GREEN

#1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE ANTHROPOCENE REVIEWED

Everything is Tuberculosis

by John Green

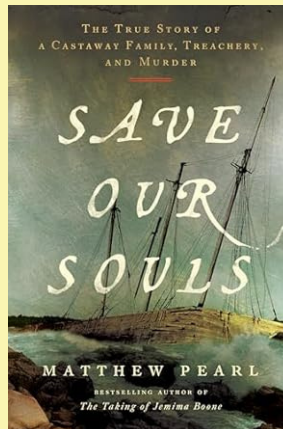
Tuberculosis has been entwined with humanity for millennia. Once romanticized as a malady of poets, today tuberculosis is seen as a disease of poverty that walks the trails of injustice and inequity we blazed for it.

In 2019, author John Green met Henry Reider, a young tuberculosis patient at Lakka Government Hospital in Sierra Leone. In **Everything Is Tuberculosis**, John tells Henry's story, woven through with the scientific and social histories of how tuberculosis has shaped our world—and how our choices will shape the future of tuberculosis.

Save Our Souls: The True Story of a Castaway Family, Treachery, and Murder

by Matthew Pearl

the unbelievable true story of a real-life Swiss Family Robinson (and their dog) who faced sharks, shipwreck, and betrayal. Matthew Pearl unveils one of the most incredible yet little-known historical true stories, and the only known instance in history of an actual family of castaways. **Save Our Souls** asks us to consider who we might become if we found ourselves trapped on a deserted island.

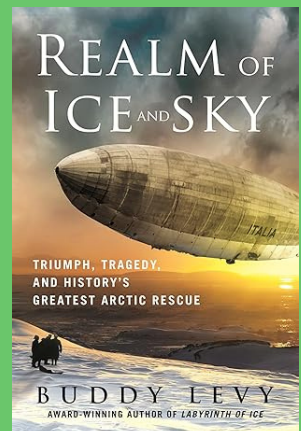
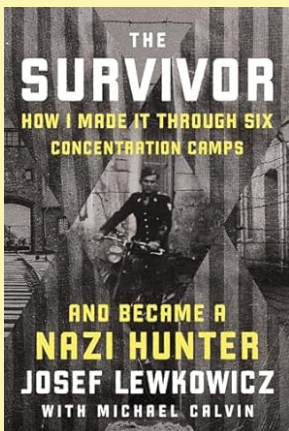


The Survivor: How I Made it Through Six Concentration Camps and Became a Nazi Hunter

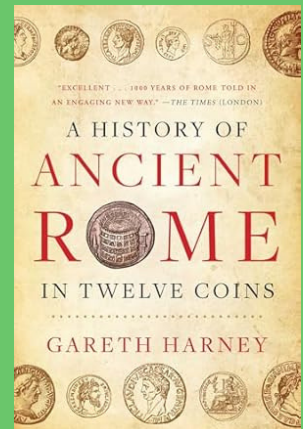
by Josef Lewkowicz

In this memoir, Josef Lewkowicz shares a poignant and gripping account of his life, capturing the indomitable spirit and enduring soul—the neshama—of the survivor. It is a testament of the resilience of the human spirit and a tribute to those who defied the darkest moments of our history.

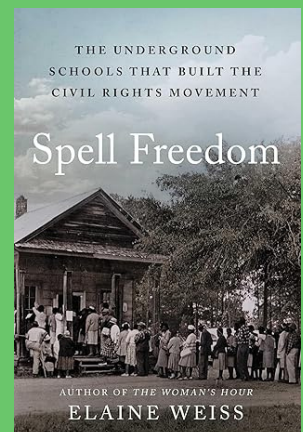
A harrowing but ultimately uplifting glimpse into a pivotal moment in history, **The Survivor** is the story of one man's survival and pursuit of justice against all odds. The story of resilience and tenacity, and a desire for revenge redirected as a yearning to build a better future for humanity.



Realm of Ice and Sky: Triumph, Tragedy, and History's Greatest Arctic Rescue by Buddy Levy - A thrilling narrative of polar exploration via airship—and the men who sacrificed everything to make history.



A History of Ancient Rome in Twelve Coins by Gareth Harney

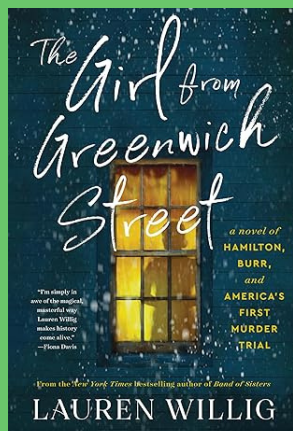


Spell Freedom: The Underground Schools that Built the Civil Rights Movement by Elaine Weiss

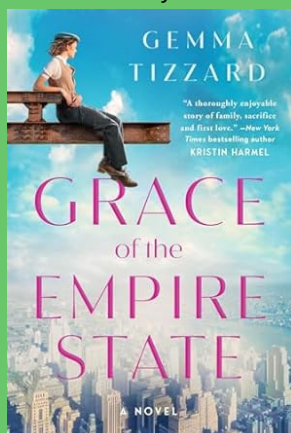


THE HISTORY CURRENT

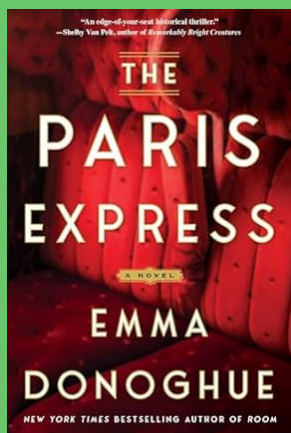
BOSSIER PARISH LIBRARIES



The Girl from Greenwich Street: A Novel of Hamilton, Burr, and America's First Murder Trial by Lauren Willig

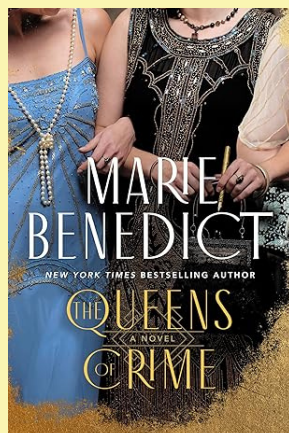


Grace of the Empire State by Gemma Tizzard
A daring dancer takes her twin brother's place as a riveter high atop the in-progress Empire State Building to save her family from ruin.



The Paris Express by Emma Donoghue
A sweeping historical novel about an infamous 1895 disaster at the Paris Montparnasse train station.

HISTORICAL FICTION RELEASES



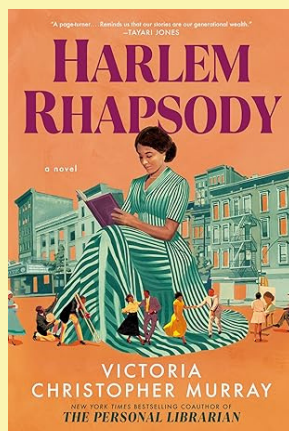
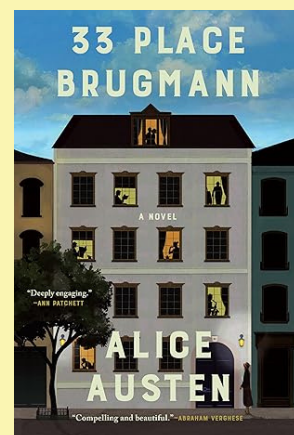
The Queens of Crime
by Marie Benedict

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie*—a thrilling story of the five greatest women writers of the Golden Age of Mystery and their bid to solve a real-life murder. London, 1930. The five greatest women crime writers (Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, Margery Allingham and Baroness Emma Orczy) have banded together to form a secret society with a single goal: to show they are no longer willing to be treated as second class citizens by their male counterparts in the legendary Detection Club. Their plan? Solve an actual murder, that of a young woman found strangled in a park in France who may have connections leading to the highest levels of the British establishment.

Head to the Libby app for both the ebook and the audiobook!

33 Place Brugmann
by Alice Austen

An outstanding debut novel—a love story, mystery, and philosophical puzzle, told in the singular voices of the residents of a Beaux Arts apartment house in Belgium during World War II. On the eve of the Nazi occupation, in the heart of Brussels, life for the residents of 33 Place Brugmann is about to change forever. A propulsive and exquisitely written tour de force, **33 Place Brugmann** champions the restorative power of love, courage, and art in times of great threat.



Harlem Rhapsody
by Victoria Christopher Murray

She found the literary voices that would inspire the world.... The extraordinary story of the woman who ignited the Harlem Renaissance, written by Victoria Christopher Murray, New York Times bestselling coauthor of **The Personal Librarian**.

In 1919, a high school teacher from Washington, D.C arrives in Harlem excited to realize her lifelong dream. Jessie Redmon Fauset has been named the literary editor of *The Crisis*. The first Black woman to hold this position at a preeminent Negro magazine, Jessie is poised to achieve literary greatness. But she holds a secret that jeopardizes it all.

LEAVING A LEGACY IN PLAIN DEALING

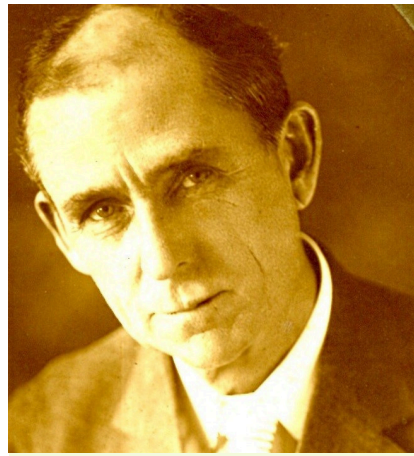
In this edition of "Curator's Corner," the Bossier Parish Libraries History Center presents the archival collection of Dr. Thomas Nehemiah Keoun. As a devoted physician, respected civic leader, and influential figure in the Plain Dealing community, Dr. Keoun left an unforgettable mark on local history. This collection was generously donated by Connie Boggs Rountree, a descendant of Dr. Keoun.

Dr. Keoun was born in Arkansas on February 7, 1868. His early education was in Welcome and Magnolia, Arkansas. After graduating from the Memphis Medical College in 1890, he established his first medical practice in Red Land in Bossier Parish. In 1891, he married Lulah Edens. By 1906, the Keoun family moved to Plain Dealing, where Dr. Keoun purchased the residence and drugstore of Dr. R.H. Blackman.

Dr. Keoun's services went beyond the walls of his medical clinic. He often traveled into the countryside, delivering babies and mending injuries late into the night. At first, he did this by horse and buggy and later in a Model T.

However, his interests were not only limited to medicine. As a landowner with extensive farm holdings in Bossier and Caddo Parishes, he cultivated crops like corn, cotton, and cane. The Plain Dealing drugstore he owned boasted the area's finest soda fountain in 1910, as reported by the Bossier Banner-Progress. Dr. Keoun's collection includes his medical bag, a syringe kit, framed diploma from the Memphis Hospital and Medical Center (dated March 28, 1890), and a small ledger listing patients he visited in 1929.

He served as Bossier Parish coroner for eight years and was a steward of Plain Dealing Methodist Church for 35 years.



Dr. Thomas N. Keoun

His tenure as president of the Plain Dealing School Board of Directors saw him advocating passionately for his community.

This passion for community was on full display during the 1908 Plain Dealing

High School disciplinary scandal. While serving as president of the Plain Dealing School Board, Dr. Keoun clashed with Bossier Parish Superintendent Joseph E. Johnston over a widely publicized disciplinary issue at the high school. After Johnston revoked Principal E.D. Burgess' teaching license amid teacher and student disputes, tensions escalated. Dr. Keoun supported Burgess, leading to a confrontation with Johnston and the resignation of Keoun and other local board members. Their disagreement played out publicly in the Bossier Banner newspaper.

The Keoun collection also includes several photographs of Dr. Keoun and his family, offering a glimpse into his personal life. His daughter-in-law Rita Sanders Keoun made great contributions to Plain Dealing's library system and civic organizations. Known affectionately as "Miss Rita," she served on the Bossier Parish Library Board for 37 years, missing only one meeting and acting as president for many years. The remodeled Plain Dealing Library was dedicated in her honor in 1987, a testament to her devotion to literacy and learning.

Dr. Keoun's impact, however, continues to resonate through the stories and artifacts preserved in his collection. From his framed diploma to his medical tools, these items bring to life the story of a man who was not only a skilled physician but also a cornerstone of his community.

WORLD WAR II'S-DAYS

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us at the History Center on the second Tuesday of every month. Chat about a variety of World War II topics in a friendly and informal environment.

We'll have "java and sidearms" and "sinkers" for your refreshment. That's WWII-era slang for coffee & fixings (milk and sugar) and donuts!



DATES: APRIL 8, MAY 13, JUNE 10



Bossier Parish Libraries History Center

7204 Hutchison Drive
Bossier City, LA 71111



BOSSIER PARISH
LIBRARIES

318.746.7717

history-center@bossierlibrary.org

www.bossierlibrary.org



Contact us to join our email list!

HISTORY CENTER PRESENTATIONS

The Bossier Parish Libraries History Center offers fun and informative presentations on a variety of local history, archaeology and genealogy-related topics, for a variety of age groups, here at the History Center or in your class room or meeting place.



Selections include:



A Music History of Bossier Parish, (Photo, Left)
Caddo Indians, Early Inventors
Jewish Pioneers of Bossier Parish
Memorial Day Remembrances
The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Bossier Parish
How Historians Work: Using Primary Sources (Photo, Above)
and many more...
See the full list: [CLICK HERE](#)
OR go to www.bossierlibrary.org, then choose **Resources**, then **History and Genealogy** then **Presentations List**

Contact Pam Carlisle, Outreach Historian at 318-746-7717 or pcarlisle@bossierlibrary.org to schedule.
Please try to make request at least one month in advance.



THE HISTORY CURRENT

PAGE 08