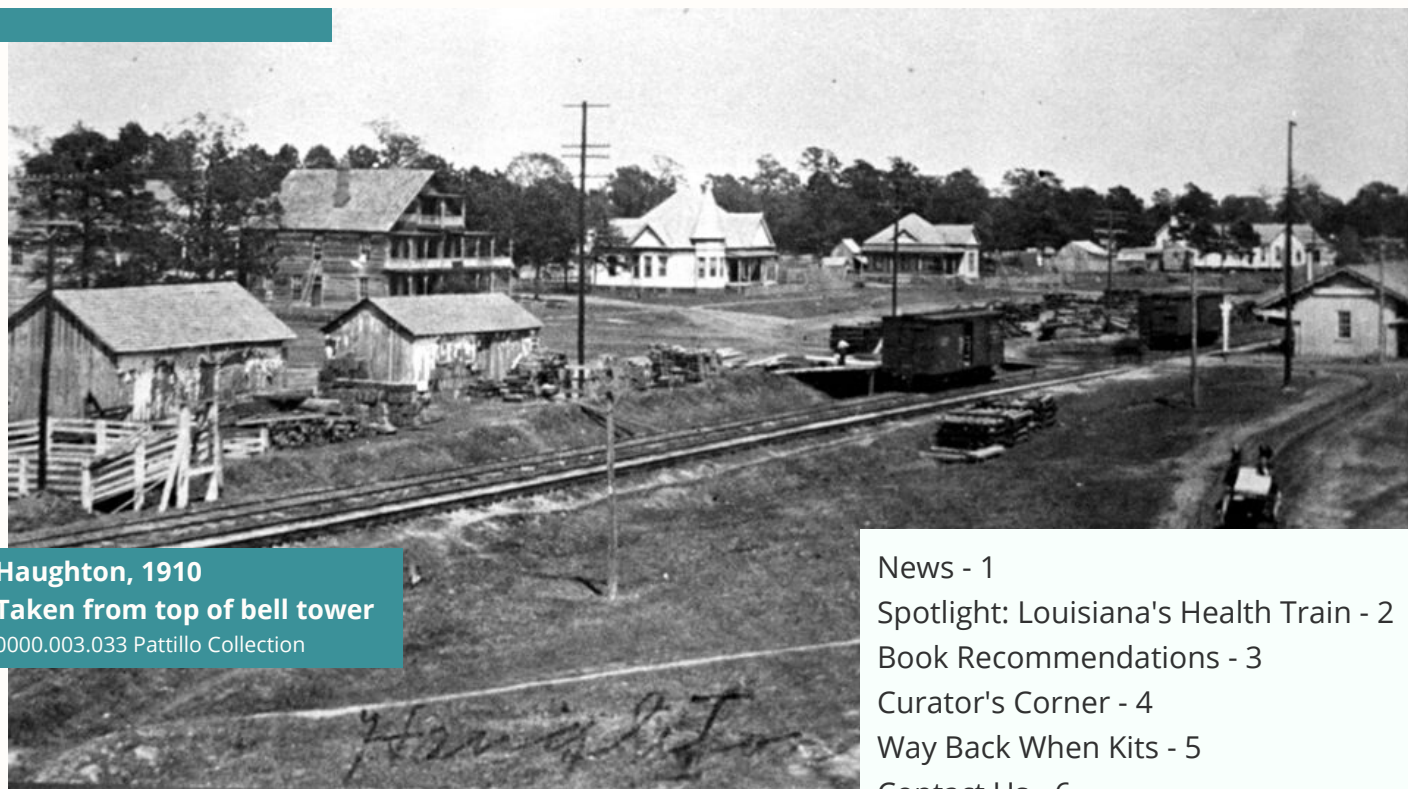




THE HISTORY CURRENT

News and highlights from the Bossier Parish Libraries History Center
Preserving the history and memories of Bossier Parish, Louisiana



Haughton, 1910
Taken from top of bell tower
0000.003.033 Pattillo Collection

News - 1
Spotlight: Louisiana's Health Train - 2
Book Recommendations - 3
Curator's Corner - 4
Way Back When Kits - 5
Contact Us - 6

HISTORY CENTER NEWS

by Marisa Richardson

Our History Center staff can assist you in genealogy research, help you access our archival documents and photos, and check out books from our new circulating book collection, which focuses on Bossier Parish and Louisiana history. We also have 2 WiFi hotspots available for checkout now, so you can work on your family tree from the comfort of home.

Have you seen our virtual programs yet? You can tune in to see behind-the-scenes tours of our storage areas and highlights from our exhibits. We will be starting a new programming series of "Bossier Biographies" in the near future to showcase some of the fascinating individuals from our parish's past. Bossier Parish trivia is also in the works! You can view these virtual programs on our Facebook page, the BPL Youtube channel, and our blog - <http://bpl-hc.blogspot.com>

We're excited to welcome our patrons back into the BPL History Center! On July 6, we reopened for Grab-and-Go services. You can visit us Monday - Saturday from 10am-5pm. If you aren't ready to come inside yet, curbside pickup is still available.

SPOTLIGHT: LOUISIANA'S HEALTH EXHIBIT TRAIN

by Amy Robertson

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

In 1910, Dr. Oscar Dowling, a prominent oculist in Shreveport, became the president of the Louisiana State Board of Health and instituted a massive campaign on public health reform. In an article in the *Times-Democrat*, 2 Sep 1910, Dowling was quoted as saying, "I shall try to make my administration of the affairs of the State Board of Health as efficient as possible. By means of an educational campaign, I hope to arouse a deeper and more popular interest in health matters the State over."

Dowling set out to teach every community in the state about personal hygiene, sanitation, mosquito control, and disease prevention. He assembled a small team of lecturers and assistants that traveled with him on the health exhibit train, which consisted of three cars; two 75-foot cars for exhibits and a Pullman car for living quarters. The Queen and Crescent Railway Company provided the train.

The health exhibit train debuted on Nov. 1, 1910, at the State Fair in Shreveport, where Dr. Dowling invited all physicians, dentists, and representatives of the press to be special guests of his "gospel of health on wheels." When the fair was over, the train was parked at the Market Street crossing for its first public viewing. According to Henry Oyen, "Every city, town or village – 256 in all – of more than 250 inhabitants was visited, inspected and lectured. Where the railroads didn't run Dowling went in motor cars or carriages. On the narrow-gauge tracks he mounted a railway hand car and pumped himself over the line. Where other methods of transportation failed, he walked; in the bayou parishes launches and rowboats were called into service."

An article in the Shreveport Journal, 7 Jan 1911, states that one of the exhibits "tells a story of prevention of disease. Arranged on a table in the center of the room are twenty glass jars. In these are sections of the human form, not of wax or composition, but actual specimens. These sections, which have been prepared by Dr. Edmond Souchon, show the progress of tuberculosis in various stages of development. Set up along the sides of the car are transparent views prepared from photographs taken by Dr. P.T. Talbot on his recent tour of inspection of the state. There is also an interesting exhibit furnished by the Louisiana Anti-tuberculosis League. A model of a sanitary closet constructed according to the plans of Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, the noted hookworm expert, is also on exhibition."

An interesting pathological exhibit of preventable diseases prepared by Dr. Charles W. Duval, by courtesy of Tulane University, is also in the car. Dr. William Ernest Walker's oral hygiene exhibit attracting much attention. Additional exhibits on blindness and milk appliances have been recently added. Quantities of literature, consisting of cards, banners, etc., calling attention to the evil of flies and spitting, and also containing statistics on various diseases, are distributed from the car.

"The daily program covers a full day's work. The car is open from 8 o'clock in the morning until 10 and sometimes 11 o'clock at night. In the mornings, Miss Morris and Dr. Porter visit and inspect the schools and talk to the children. Miss Morris also meets the ladies and organizes school improvement and civic leagues. The doctors make the sanitary inspections of the towns. At night illustrated lectures, slides and moving pictures are given. These evening entertainments are free and a cordial invitation is extended to the people in the surrounding country, as well as those in town, to attend the meetings."

In 1911, Dr. Dowling received an urgent invitation from California to bring the health train to them, which he obliged, presenting his health exhibit train at the American Medical Society Convention, making stops along the way. The popularity and effectiveness of the health train kept it going in Louisiana for well over a decade, and this method of educating citizens and improving public health quickly became adopted by other states.

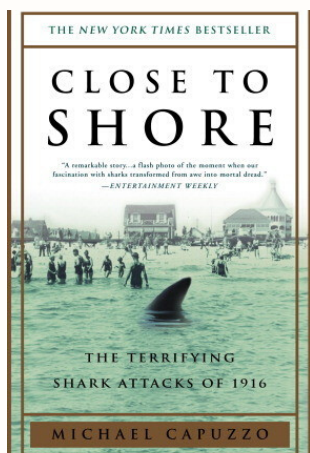
Before going to California, the health exhibit train completed its first state tour and stopped in Plain Dealing in May of 1911. John H. Allen, the local postmaster and camera enthusiast, photographed the train while it was at the Plain Dealing depot.



Health Train in Plain Dealing
1997.062.171 Turnley Collection

READ ABOUT HISTORY!

Our History Center staff recommends these nonfiction reads.



Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916

by Michael Capuzzo

Available as an eBook via Libby

Close to Shore is the perfect read for Shark Week (Aug 9 - 12). Combining rich historical detail and a harrowing, pulse-pounding narrative, Close to Shore brilliantly re-creates the summer of 1916, when a rogue Great White shark attacked swimmers along the New Jersey shore, triggering mass hysteria and launching the most extensive shark hunt in history.

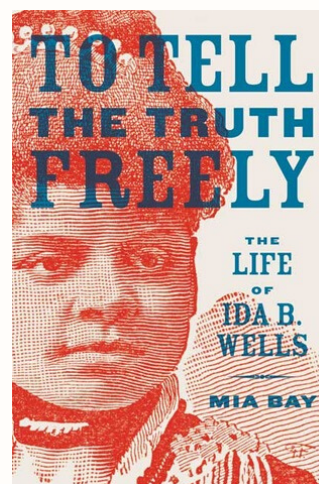
These two are book selections from our Pages Past book club. While the book club meetings are paused, you can get a head start on reading for our future meetings!

Call us at 318.746.7717 to reserve a copy.

To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells

by Mia Bay

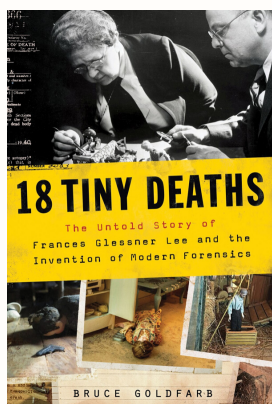
Available as an eBook via Libby



Born in 1862, Ida B. Wells became a fearless anti-lynching crusader, women's rights advocate, and journalist. Wells's refusal to accept any compromise on racial inequality caused her to be labeled a "dangerous radical" in her day but made her a model for later civil rights activists as well as a powerful witness to the troubled racial politics of her era. In **To Tell the Truth Freely**, historian Mia Bay vividly captures Wells's legacy and life, from her childhood in Mississippi to her early career in late-19th century Memphis and her later life in Progressive-era Chicago.

NEW RELEASES

Add some fascinating history to your summer reading!



18 Tiny Deaths: The Untold Story of Frances Glessner Lee and the Invention of Modern Forensics

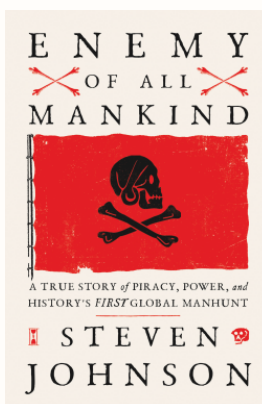
by Bruce Goldfarb

Available as an eBook on Hoopla

The Vapors: A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America's Forgotten Capital of Vice

by David Hill

Available as an eBook on Libby



Enemy of All Mankind: A True Story of Piracy, Power, and History's First Global Manhunt

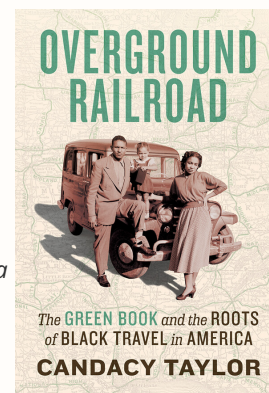
by Steven Johnson

Available as an eBook on Libby

Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America

by Candacy Taylor

Available as an eBook on Hoopla



CURATOR'S CORNER

by Randall Palmer

For this month's Curator's Corner, I wanted to highlight one of our more recent donations. Last year I received an email from the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation. The organization's archives were in the process of removing items from their collection and contacted us to see if we might want some objects relating to Bossier. Growing up, I knew Bob Hope mostly from his USO work and Johnny Carson appearances. As I got older, I learned more about him, and what a legend he was, not just in entertainment, but as an American patriot, so I was excited at the prospect of receiving this donation.

On December 15, 1979, Bob Hope attended the Independence Bowl where he was presented the "Omar N. Bradley Spirit of Independence Award". This newly created award, which recognizes outstanding American citizens, had only been given to two other recipients: General Omar Bradley in 1977 and John Wayne in 1978. During the ceremony, Mr. Hope was also given the Key to Bossier City and a plaque naming him an honorary citizen of Bossier City by former Mayor Marvin Anding. These are both on display in the History Center. In addition, this was the second time he had received a key to Bossier. The first was given to him by former Mayor George Nattin in 1966. This key was also part of the donation, but was unfortunately damaged while being shipped.

If you'd like to hear more about our Bob Hope items, you can contact us at 318-746-7717 or email me at rpalmer@bossierlibrary.org



MEMORY LANE

Images from the History Center photograph collection



Unknown baseball player from Bellevue
c. 1930
Raymond Collection
VF2015.309

*Let us know if you can identify this man!
We'd love to update our records with his name.*



Mrs. Julia Zachary on a picnic with her grandchildren
c. 1910
Beulah Findley Collection
1997.054.051



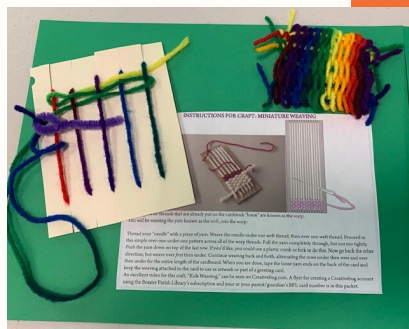
Fourth of July dance at Alden Bridge
c. 1910s
Beulah Findley Collection
1997.054.119

WAY BACK WHEN KITS

Discover crafts and games from the past

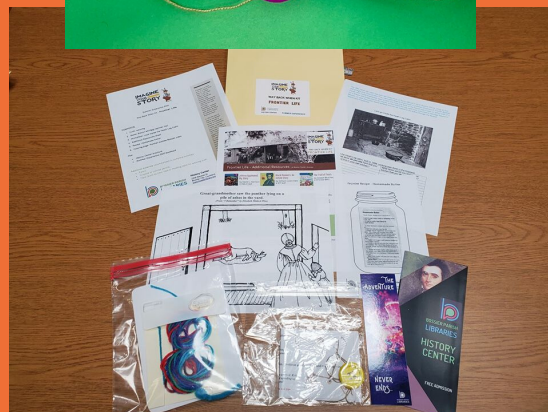
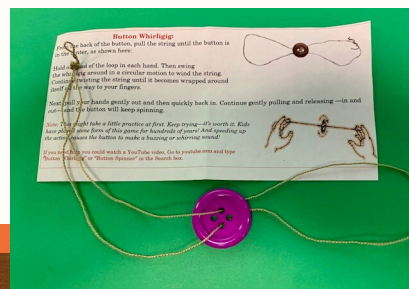


Stop in Mondays through Saturdays from 10am - 5pm to pick up a kit or call **318.746.7717** for curbside service.



Each Way Back When kit contains a craft, a game, a recipe, a coloring page, and an activity sheet, along with a list of additional resources to learn about the past.

Our first two topics are Caddo Indians and Frontier Life. These kits will be available for pickup at the History Center while supplies last. Watch for new topics to come throughout the summer!



DIGITIZING HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS

Bringing you improved access to Bossier's recorded history

The History Center has an extensive collection of newspapers available on microfilm. While microfilm is a preferred format for preservation, browsing through page after page is not easy on the eyes!

With the help of newspapers.com, our microfilmed newspapers are now available digitally. They are also fully searchable - which makes researching a name or specific topic amazingly simple.



The newly digitized Bossier Parish newspapers include *The Bossier Banner-Progress*, *The Planters Press*, *The Bossier Press*, *The Press-Tribune*, *The Bossier Times*, *The Bossier Tribune*, *The Plain Dealing Progress*, and two Barksdale Air Force Base papers: *The Observer* and *The Barksdale Bark*.

You can access these Bossier newspapers by coming into any of our Bossier Parish Libraries branches. To access other historic newspapers, go to **bossierlibrary.org/databases** to find the link for the Library Edition of Newspapers.com. You will need to enter your BPL card number to access this resource. Search by name, topic, or even look for specific newspaper issues.

**Bossier Parish Libraries
History Center**

**2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, LA 71111**



**BOSSIER PARISH
LIBRARIES**

318.746.7717

history-center@bossierlibrary.org

www.bossierlibrary.org

Contact us to join our mailing list!

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- ✓ Quick Browsing & Checkout is Available
- ✓ Reader's Advisory Services are Available
- ✓ Reference Services are Available
- ✓ Summer Experience Virtual Programs are Available
- ✓ 1-on-1 Appointments with Staff Are Available
- ✓ Computer Access is Available (limit 30 minutes)
- ✗ Study Rooms, Meeting Rooms, & Restrooms Remain Closed
- ✗ No Money is Accepted at This Time
- ✗ No Long-Term Seating is Available at This Time
- ✗ Please Limit In-Person Visits to 30 Minutes



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