



251 E. Henri de Tonti Blvd., P.O. Box 144, Tontitown, AR 72770 ~ 479.361.9800

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report for the COW Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

The THM Board of Directors met in person on Monday, February 5, 2024.

- 1. Board of Directors Updates:** We are excited to announce we have several members of the community wanting to join our Museum Board of Directors: Allyson Bowen and Kara Jo Engle; Junior Board Members: Ashlyn Bown and Torrie Pianalto. We ask the mayor and city council to approve these appointments to the board tonight.
- 2. New Staff:** A small hiring committee interviewed candidates and hired Amanda Taylor for the part-time Museum Assistant position, Amanda is currently a graduate student in Museum Studies and has previous experience working as a registrar at The Old State House in Little Rock. We are excited about the knowledge she brings to the museum and her eagerness to learn our town's history.
- 3. University of Arkansas Italian Studies Partnership:** We have been approached in the past about partnering with the U of A to host a research intern, but the timing just hasn't worked until this spring 2024 semester. We are hosting Alessandro Palazzuoli-Bevilacqua through May, he will be conducting some Italian translations on documents from the early days of Tontitown, as well as helping put together a new exhibit in the museum which we hope to have ready by Heritage Day, June 2, 2024.
- 4. "Cries From the Cottonfield":** Dr. Larry Foley is diligently working on the documentary "Cries from the Cottonfield", he aims to have it completed and ready for premiere in early-mid April, we are currently looking at sites that the first premiere could take place, he would like the first showing to happen in Tontitown as that is the center of the documentary. We hope everyone will have a chance to view the film either at a local showing or via PBS when it is released this summer through their televised showing.

Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1 pm – 4 pm

The next THM Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 4th.

THM Board Members

Misty Piazza	President	Caroline Franco-Ceola	Member
Jennifer De Martino	Vice President	Heather Ranalli-Peachee	Member
Olivia Ward	Secretary	Riley Tessaro	Member

Bev Cortiana-McEuen Treasurer

Megan McAfee Member

Daxton Peachee Jr. Member