

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report
for the COW Meeting August 20, 2019**

THM Board of Directors had a working meeting on August 5 to set up the Tontitown Old School temporary exhibit.

- 1 **121st Tontitown Grape Festival Museum Exhibits** -- The museum had another very successful Grape Festival, with over 80 visitors at THM and over 300 at the **Tontitown Faces and Voices** temporary exhibit at the Tontitown Old School (see attached photos).

The **Tontitown Faces and Voices** exhibit featured: photo albums developed by photographer and former THM Board member Brenda Pianalto; mounted enlargements of THM photographs donated at our Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear events; and three compilation videos by videographer Scott Davis created for the *Tontitown Oral History Video Project of 2018*. *The oral history project was made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, funded by the 1/8th cent conservation tax, Amendment 75.*

As always, the THM Board had many extra hands during the festival and we are very grateful to all! Special thanks to: Richard Ptak, David Peachee, and Blake Ceola for their help setting up at the Old School; Summer Ranalli Carter for her artful lettering skills on signage; Paul Scouten for solving video technical issues; Alice Walker for loaning free-standing air conditioners; former THM Board member Carol Walker for taking a shift at the temporary exhibit; Pat Pianalto for assisting with THM exhibits; and Annette Pianalto Drake for beautifying our front porch and railing with new grape arrangements. Also special kudos to the Tontitown Police Department for ensuring safety as visitors crossed Highway 412 to see both exhibits and to the Tontitown City Staff for making sure the museum grounds and park were in tip-top shape for the festival! It was a great time for all!

- 2 **Paolo Battaglia** -- We recently heard from Paolo Battaglia, our friend from Modena, Italy and author of *Explorers Emigrants Citizens: a visual history of the Italian American experience from the collections of the Library of Congress*. He will soon release a new multimedia project, *Italian American Country*, which includes a book and 3-episode documentary. He visited Tontitown in October 2014 as part of a 20,000 mile road trip to tour mostly rural Italian communities, interview Italian immigrants, and thus "find Italy in small-town America." He and two videographers traveled from New York to California, including both Tontitown and Lake Village in his Arkansas stops. We so enjoyed him then, and we hope to host a book-signing presentation and gathering for him this fall. Stay tuned.

Because of the Labor Day holiday, the September Board of Directors meeting will be on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Board Members

Heather Ranalli-Peachee, President	479-685-4793	Jennifer De Martino	479-435-6320
Caroline Ceola, Vice President	479-200-9980	Katherine McDaniel	817-229-2094
Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Treasurer	479-361-2609	Roger Pianalto	479-361-2207
Ashlee Bailey, Secretary	563-380-0792	Emily Pianalto-Beshears	479-799-5643
		Riley Tessaro	479-361-2607



TONTITOWN
HISTORICAL
Museum
Presents
Tontitown Faces and Voices



*THM Tontitown Old School Temporary Exhibit ~ Tontitown Faces and Voices
121st Tontitown Grape Festival ~ August 8-10, 2019*