



2025 Annual Report

Visit Us

251 E. Henri de Tonti Blvd.
Tontitown, AR 72770

Museum Hours

Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: By appointment only

Contact Us

P.O. Box 144, Tontitown, AR 72770
museum@tontitownar.gov
479.361.9800

Support our work, scan to donate





Student Engagement



188 students & teachers

visited the museum for a free school field trip. This year we welcomed more students than ever before from Springdale Public Schools as well as a Home School Group

at Summer Camp

students were immersed in Tontitown culture. They took Italian lessons, stomped grapes, learned to play Bocce, and made their very own Polenta.

Student-led Partnerships

We partnered with Helen Tyson Middle School's E.A.S.T. program and Walker Elementary School's G.T. program to **create 3 discovery boxes**.

These include hand crafted elements and feature videos produced, narrated and edited by the students.

Discovery Boxes help us share stories in a diverse way and can be taken into schools and the community to help tell our story



1 (uno)

"Food Culture of Tontitown" pictured above

2 (due)

"Traditions of Tontitown" coming in 2026

3 (tre)

"Veterans of Tontitown" coming in 2026



STEAM Night

at Walker Elementary, staff engaged with families to show off the students' work on their discovery box.

History Day

Staff judged students' work and hosted an interactive table for students from all over NWA.

Symbols Day

at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History where we visited with over 400 students and parents about the Cynthiana Grape.



Community Engagement



Welcoming Week

in partnership with Springdale Public Schools, we showed *Cries from the Cotton Field* and hosted a Q&A with filmmaker, Dr. Larry Foley.

OLLI Lectures

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) invited us to present a 2-session lecture featuring the biography of Father Pietro Bandini and the film *Cries from the Cotton Field*.

Social Engagement

- **2,548** followers on Facebook & **429** on Instagram
- Our followers are **from 13 different countries**
 - US, Italy, Australia, Nigeria, Canada, France, India, Philippines, Germany, Ghana, Afghanistan, Gambia, Vietnam
- **3.8%** of our Facebook followers are in Italy
- In NWA most of our followers live in Springdale, Tontitown or Fayetteville



230+

Meals Served

2

Community Events

2.5K

Followers on Socials



Polenta Smear

THM was honored to host this year's event right before Veteran's Day, to coincide with a preview of our upcoming Veterans of Tontitown exhibit. We had a great turn out and few leftovers!

Heritage Day

Our afternoon in the park is always a highlight of our year. Getting to welcome visitors into the museum while Michael Pianalto performed and guests enjoyed a sliders from Red Door and that amazing Grape Ice Cream from the Tontitown Winery!

Museum Updates



NEW Accession Spotlight

Jan Morsani Taldo donated items that belonged to a very important Tontitown couple who married in December 1926, Memo Morsani and Rose Bastianelli Morsani.

See his hat and her vase by following the QR codes or visit the special display at the museum highlighting the contributions this stellar couple made to Tontitown in the 20s, 30s, 40s, and beyond.

Inside the Museum

Every room received an update in 2025. New artifacts are now on display, while artifacts that have been on display for a while are getting a well-deserved rest.

We have published 2,290 items from our collection to **Catalogit HUB**. This new resource allows people far and near to learn more about Tontitown online.

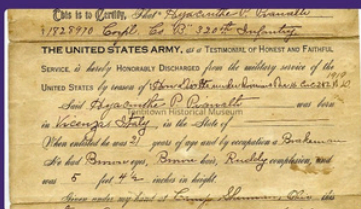
Check out our growing collection by visiting hub.catalogit.app/tontitown-historical-museum



SCAN HERE
to explore our
collection online

Item Count
2,290

Situated in the historic Bastianelli home, our museum tells the story of the 1898 settling of Tontitown, Arkansas by Italian immigrants led by their Catholic priest, Pietro Bandini. We thank community members who contributed artifacts and photos through the years, and we are working daily to photograph and upload items to make our full catalog accessible. Check back often for additions! YOU CAN HELP! If you can offer identification or context for any item, please email it to us at museum@tontitown.gov with Subject Line: "Edit" and the Entry/Object ID of the item in question.



667

Museum Visitors

169

Amici Members

28

New Artifacts Accepted

We are excited to see the museum continue to grow in 2026 through community engagement, education opportunities and expanded access to our collection. **This is all possible thanks to the support of the citizens of Tontitown and generous supporters, thank you!**

A few things to look for in the new year: our Veterans of Tontitown exhibit, new discovery boxes, re-surfaced exterior sign, and a new roof, siding and gutters on the museum.