



## About the Rogers Historical Museum

The mission of the Rogers Historical Museum is to enrich lives through education, experience, and exploration of the heritage of Northwest Arkansas. The Museum is an American Alliance of Museums accredited institution and is proud to be a department of the City of Rogers and pleased to be able to serve all of the people of Northwest Arkansas.

For forty years, the Rogers Historical Museum has been dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural history of this area. The Museum was created by local citizens who were concerned about the loss of their heritage. They recognized that Rogers was growing and changing rapidly and that the tangible record of its past was being destroyed. In 1974, at the suggestion of councilwoman Opal Beck, the Rogers City Council chose the creation of a museum as Rogers' Bicentennial project to address this need.

The Rogers Historical Museum currently offers six permanent exhibits on site. In addition, the Museum offers temporary exhibits that explore topics of local interest such as the current *Rebels, Federals and Bushwhackers*, which presents stirring stories of the Civil War in Northwest Arkansas. Community residents can also find Museum exhibits on display throughout local cities in locations such as public libraries, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport and the Pinnacle Hills Promenade.

Nearly 40,000 objects have been entrusted to the care of the Museum, and the Museum maintains five types of collections which are used for research, education, and/or exhibition purposes. In 2014, the Museum interacted with more than 100,000 people and is on track to surpass that number in 2015. The Museum engages people of all ages through such programs as *Finders Keepers*—an antiques roundtable for adults, and children's programs including *Summer Story Times* and *Art with Ashley*. Events such as the Museum's Holiday Open House and the Museum's annual Family Day provide opportunities for families to have fun together while learning of the area's unique history.

The Rogers Historical Museum is supported by two outstanding nonprofit organizations—the Friends of the Rogers Historical Museum and the Rogers Museum Foundation. The Museum is governed by a 5-member commission, which is appointed by the city council and is responsible for making and maintaining policies, standards, and operational continuity. Daily operations are managed by our 10 member staff, with support from a loyal group of 20 volunteers.

Given the Museum's ever-growing collection and its development as an organization over the last four decades, it is now in a position to serve the community on an even larger scale. Plans are underway to expand the Museum's facilities and offerings over the next several years. The vision for the Rogers Historical Museum both now and after its expansion is for it to be the premier history museum in Northwest Arkansas, with collections facilities, exhibitions, research assistance, and programs on par with those of history museums in larger cities. At the same time, The Museum must remain an accessible, inclusive, family-friendly facility promoting life-long learning for all, as well as a center for community engagement and a strong partner in community development.