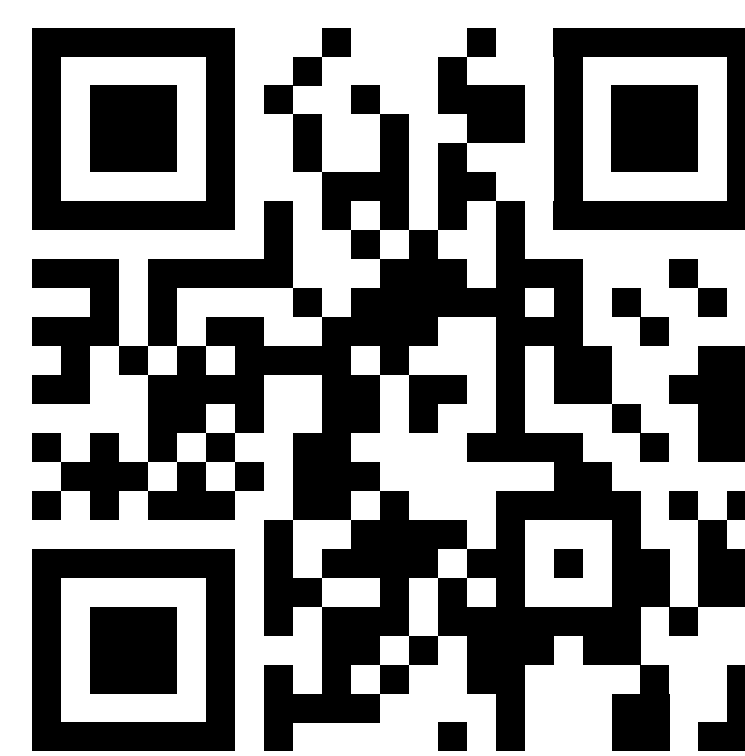


Timeline of Eddie Bowles's Life

1884-1913

Eddie Bowles was born April 16, 1884 in Lafayette, Louisiana and spent most of his childhood in New Orleans. Growing up, Bowles always had a passion for playing music, even if it was just with kids around the neighborhood. That small ragtag group of kids blossomed into a real band in 1902 and played alongside renowned musicians. The band continued to play in front of larger audiences, but Bowles stopped performing around 1912 when he married Sarah.

Look for more on “Eddie Bowles’s New Orleans” and “Eddie Bowles’s Guitar Playing Style.”



Scan here to listen to hear Eddie Bowles talk about playing music for other people (0:43).

1924-1975

As Bowles settled into life in Cedar Falls, he worked variety of manual labor jobs, including 22 years doing foundry work for John Deere and running his own wood cutting and tree trimming operation. He also picked up the guitar again (after having not played for over 25 years) and began strumming for friends. Bowles performed several times at the Cedar Falls Folk festival in the 1970s.

Displays on these topics include “Eddie and Sarah,” “The Blues Revival” and “Cedar Falls as a Sundown Town.”

1914-1923

Bowles moved to Cedar Falls to begin paving roads in 1914. He also held a variety of other jobs during this time, including tree trimming. It was between 1914 and 1918 when Bowles worked in that capacity for James Hearst’s family, and in the 1923 Cedar Falls City Directory his profession was listed as a wood sawer. During this period of time, Eddie Bowles had stopped playing guitar with no intention to pick it up again.

Other displays on these topics include “The Many Jobs of Eddie Bowles,” “The Saw” and “Eddie Bowles and James Hearst.”

1976-1984

All recordings of Eddie Bowles discovered to date were made between 1976 and 1982, when friends and admirers documented his talents (including several original blues compositions). In April 1984 he turned 100 years old, an event that was celebrated and reported on. A few months later, he passed away. Though no Eddie Bowles recordings were released during his lifetime, the song “Bowles Blues” was included in the 2008 Grammy award winning album, *The Art of Field Recording, Vol. I* by Art Rosenbaum.

For more, see “Eddie’s Original Blues,” “Living Legend” and “The Wisdom of Eddie Bowles.”

