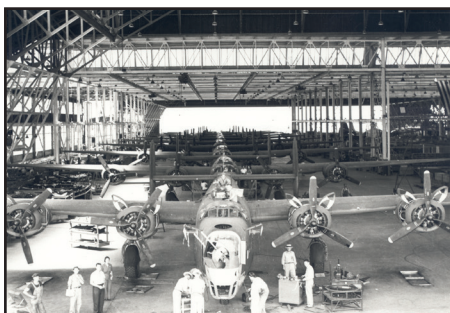




Veterans Day events in Oklahoma City and Midwest City

The Oklahoma History Center is proud to announce that it will partner with the City of Midwest City to dedicate C-47 transport aircraft no. 42-92838 to kick off the 2018 Veterans Day weekend. The C-47 is the latest addition to the Veterans Memorial located in Joe B. Barnes Regional



Park. Ceremonies for the event will take place on Friday, November 9, at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial site. Five panels detailing the iconic story of this national World War II treasure will be featured during the dedication ceremonies.

This aircraft was one of 5,354 C-47s manufactured at the Midwest City Douglas Aircraft Company Plant. From March 1943 until August 1945, the Douglas plant constructed more than half of the 10,000 C-47 Skytrain US Army cargo planes (nicknamed "Gooney Birds") that were manufactured during World War II.

Like many others, C-47 transport aircraft no. 42-92838 saw service in World War II. Most notable was its D-Day mission on June 6, 1944, during which it carried 17 infantry paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division as a part of the Allied Forces invading northern France. After its World War II military service, the airplane was sold as war surplus material in May 1946. This C-47 was then utilized as a corporate aircraft in the oil and gas industry by Phillips Petroleum and Kerr-McGee Corporation, during which time the plane logged 17,998 hours of flight time.

In September of 1976 Kerr-McGee donated the aircraft to the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds where it was a part of an elevated static display with other military planes. It became a fairground fixture for the next 30 years and then was transferred to the Metro Technology Centers Aviation Career Campus.

After being contacted by family members of a paratrooper who jumped from the plane on D-Day, former State Representative Gary Banz spearheaded an effort to have the aircraft donated to the OHS. With the cooperation of Metro Tech and the support of the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center, the exterior of the aircraft was restored to its D-Day look and moved to its current location on December 3, 2017. Joe B. Barnes Regional Park is located at 8700 East Reno Avenue in Midwest City. For more information about the dedication ceremonies, please call 405-522-0754.

The Oklahoma History Center also will host a free Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Presentations will be made by retired Major General Rita Aragon and Lieutenant Colonel Bill Schwertfeger, who was a prisoner of war (POW) during the Vietnam War.

Aragon is a retired US Air National Guard two-star general who became the first woman to hold the rank of brigadier general in the Oklahoma National Guard and the first woman commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. She retired in 2006, and her awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

On February 18, 1972, Schwertfeger and his weapons systems officer were circling a potential enemy site when their F-4 aircraft was struck by a Russian SA-2 missile, crippling the F-4. He landed his plane in what he believed to be a fairly safe area; however, he landed in the middle of a group of North Vietnamese soldiers moving forward for the launch of the 1972 Easter Offensive in South Vietnam. He and his weapons systems officer surrendered and began their 407 days as POWs in the "Hanoi Hilton."

The color guard for this event will be provided by Honoring America's Warriors, an organization formed to assist the families of those lost in the service of their country as well as retired or disabled veterans from all branches of service. This is achieved through hunting, fishing, shooting sports, family and couples gatherings, faith-based programs, service/companion dog placement, employment, and adaptive sports for veterans who are paralyzed or amputees.

Music for this ceremony will be furnished by the 145th Army Band, "The Governor's Own," which is comprised of musicians enlisted in the US Army National Guard. They have traveled across the nation for various events and are currently celebrating 100 years of service.

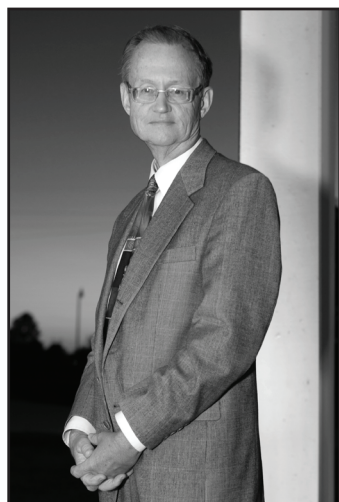
The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. The History Center is a designated Blue Star Museum, offering free admission to all veterans, active duty military, and their dependents. Guests attending the Veterans Day Ceremony will be free to tour the museum before or after the ceremony, including the special exhibit *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*. This special exhibit opened in November 2017 and will remain open through November 2019. Please call 405-522-0765 with questions.

A Designer Holiday

For decades the Henry Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City served as the place for holiday parties and festivities. The home was adorned with decorations and the rooms were filled with merriment and yuletide cheer. This year, those days return as Preservation Oklahoma presents A Designer Holiday at the Overholser Mansion.

Local designers from Scout Studios, Winter House Interiors, Notting Hill Antiques, and Calvert's Plant Interiors have been selected to decorate rooms in the Overholser Mansion in their own unique style. The home will feature holiday trees and mantles reflecting styles from modern to traditional. Freedom Lawn Care will install holiday lights, brightening the home's exterior for neighbors and motorists. The home will be open for tours throughout the holiday season during normal operating hours.

Of course, the holidays would not be complete without a dinner to kick off the event. A special preview dinner will take place in the mansion on Tuesday, December 4. The dinner will feature holiday music and a chance to meet with designers. Seating is very limited. Tickets are \$160 each and all proceeds will be used for upkeep and maintenance of the mansion, including upcoming Carriage House renovations. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.preservationok.org.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

As we approach the elections of 2018, all Oklahomans should celebrate the rights and privileges of casting a ballot. It has not always been the case in our history.

Many American Indians were denied the right to vote until the 1920s, even though every part and parcel of the state of Oklahoma at one time belonged to the tribes either through power of occupation, treaty, or fee title granted by the federal government. As their land base shrank under the assault of force, treaties, and laws, they were told to be good Americans and give up their languages, their spirituality, and their ancient governments that had bound them into diverse communities. As their world changed around them, many Indians had no place of their own, caught between two worlds. Today, with tribal sovereignty restored, American Indians can help shape their world though the rights and privileges of voting.

African Americans suffered a similar denial of voting rights for many decades. Although technically granted the right to vote by the 15th Amendment to the US

Constitution, states such as Oklahoma imposed a series of qualifications such as the Grandfather Clause and the poll tax that in effect kept them from voting. The denial of civil liberties was extended through the terrorism of lynching and the Ku Klux Klan and ingrained into daily life by Jim Crow laws of strict segregation. Not until the 1960s would universal suffrage for African Americans become a hard-fought victory.

The largest single group of Oklahomans denied the right to vote in 1907 were women. Every delegate to the state constitutional convention was a man, and all but one of our statewide officials elected in 1907 were men. The lone exception was Kate Barnard, the celebrated crusader who fought for the rights of children, American Indians, and prisoners. She could not vote for herself. In 1918, exactly 100 years ago, a woman's right to vote was on the state ballot, a ballot that was denied to women. Fortunately, a majority of men approved the issue and granted women the right to vote in all state elections. In 1920, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, suffrage was extended to women across the nation.

The right to vote, to help chart the future of our communities, should be cherished and exercised every chance we get. We should neither take it for granted nor forget that universal suffrage is a recent achievement in our shared history. This year, the centennial of women getting the right to vote in Oklahoma, should be celebrated as another stepping stone to equal opportunity for all citizens.

Dr. Bob

New database of Dawes Commission townsite records

OHS staff recently completed a searchable database of Dawes Commission townsite records—available for free at www.okhistory.org/research/townsite-dawes. The townsite records contain petitions for the removal of restrictions on land for townsite purposes. Included in the files are questionnaires, plat maps, and correspondence. Most files also include legal land descriptions. The files are organized by town within each tribal nation, including the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee (Creek) Nations. There are only a few files per town and not all towns are represented. The files date from 1903 to 1909 and can be found in the OHS Indian Archives Collection, Dawes Commission Records. For more information please call 405-522-5225.



SHPO seeking your input

"Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan" is due for an update! The statewide plan sets forth the Oklahoma preservation community's goals and objectives for the next five years. The next state plan will cover 2020–2024. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is soliciting input for the next statewide plan, and a questionnaire is available online in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Please visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm to answer a few questions and assist the SHPO in its historic preservation mission. For more information about updates to the statewide plan, please call 405-521-6249.

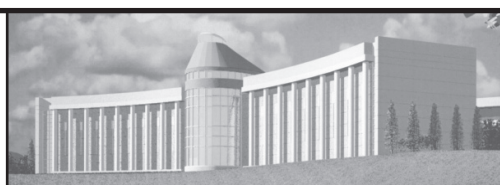
Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The holidays are here and the gift of an Oklahoma Historical Society membership makes a great stocking stuffer! From now through January 2019 you can purchase one family membership and get a second one free. These \$50 memberships include many benefits. The membership cardholder and up to twelve family members receive free admission to more than 20 OHS museums and historic sites across the state. In addition, the recipient of a gift family membership will receive a one-year subscription to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* journal and *Mistletoe Leaves* newsletter, and discounts at the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store and Research Center.

Take advantage of this limited-time offer to give the gift of history to your family and friends. This gift might be the beginning of a lifetime of interest in Oklahoma's rich history for your loved ones. You can purchase this gift membership by visiting www.okhistory.org/gift.

Another way to support the OHS this season is to participate in Giving Tuesday on November 27. Giving Tuesday is a recognized global day of giving fueled by the power of social media. A special issue of *OHS EXTRA!* will be sent on that day to remind you of this opportunity to give. Please remember us while focusing on your holiday and end-of-year charitable giving. If you have any questions you can contact me at lodell@okhistory.org or 405-522-6676. Questions also can be directed to Angela Spindle, development and membership coordinator, at aspindle@okhistory.org or 405-522-0317.



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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

The public and OHS members are encouraged to submit heritage-related items for publication. Students and teachers are invited to share studies and programs and to duplicate contents as desired. Editors are welcome to reprint materials with credit.

All Oklahoma Historical Society facilities are for the education and enjoyment of all. State and federal regulations prohibit unlawful discrimination in state and federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap.

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

The Wynnewood Historical Society is raising funds and awareness to support Wreaths Across America's efforts in Oklahoma. On Sunday, November 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. a fundraiser will be held in **Wynnewood**. A meal of smoked ham, sides, and dessert will be served in the Wynnewood High School cafeteria, located at 702 East Robert S. Kerr Boulevard. All donations will go toward the purchase of live balsam wreaths for National Wreaths Across America Day. The wreaths will be laid upon veterans' graves at cemeteries in Wynnewood. This year's National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 15. Ceremonies in Wynnewood will be held at Oak Grove Cemetery at 10:30 a.m., Hopewell Cemetery at 11:15 a.m., and Oaklawn Cemetery at noon. For those who cannot attend the fundraiser, wreaths also may be purchased at www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org. For more information please contact Luann Waters at 405-642-9232 or lsu045@aol.com.

Experience a German tradition at Volkstrauertag on Sunday, November 18, at 2 p.m. in **El Reno**. This memorial event will be held at the Fort Reno Chapel and hosted by the German-American Society of Tulsa. All are welcome to join and honor the German prisoners of war who are buried at Fort Reno Cemetery's annex. There will be musical entertainment and a wreath-laying ceremony. Fort Reno is located at 7107 West Cheyenne Street in El Reno. Please call Barbara Conrad at 918-492-3273 for more information.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in **Cheyenne** will host several commemorative events for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Washita. A selection of events include a Healing Journey Walk on Saturday, November 24; Descendants' Day on Sunday, November 25; Custer's Night Ride on Monday, November 26; and the sesquicentennial commemoration on Tuesday, November 27. These interactive history programs will help visitors understand the events of November 27, 1868, known as the Battle of the Washita or the Washita Massacre. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A in Cheyenne. For more information please call 580-497-2742 or visit www.nps.gov/waba.

Ring in the holiday season at historic Fort Reno in **El Reno** on Sunday, December 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Share in a timeless celebration from German and American

folklore, including storytelling, cannons firing, blunderbuss demonstrations, and historians in period clothing. Be sure to visit with Old World Santa! This event will truly take you back in time. Snacks will be provided in the basement of the 1944 chapel that was built by German and Italian prisoners of war who were housed at Fort Reno during World War II. This special event is free to attend, and visitors are encouraged to also visit the museum for a small admission fee. Fort Reno is located at 7107 West Cheyenne Street in El Reno. For more information please call 405-262-3987 or visit www.fortreno.org.

The Bartlesville Area History Museum in **Bartlesville** is pleased to host a quilt exhibit during the months of November and December. There will be nearly 30 quilts on display, including several full-size bed quilts, lap quilts, and other specialty quilted items. The museum also is pleased to host a special Christmas event on Wednesday, December 19, from noon to 1 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with children who want to share their last-minute Christmas wishes. The Bartlesville Area History Museum is located at 401 South Johnstone Avenue in Bartlesville. The museum is inside City Hall on the fifth floor. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and donations are always welcome. Please call 918-338-4294 for more information.

Exhibits

Step back in time and visit *The Saltworks of Sequoyah* exhibit at Sequoyah's Cabin Museum in **Sallisaw**. Learn why salt was such a hot commodity and how Sequoyah ended up running his own salt operation. The exhibit details the history of saltworks throughout early-day Cherokee Nation, including Sequoyah's operation on Lee's Creek. It will be on display through January 31, 2019. Sequoyah's Cabin Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 470288 Highway 101 in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. For more information please call 877-779-6977.

Visit Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma in **Norman** for a special exhibit to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Washita. On Thursday, November 15, an exhibit entitled *Attack Along the Washita* will open to the public. It will be on display through Saturday, December 15. The exhibit will feature a Southern Cheyenne ledger book

that contains drawings by an unknown Cheyenne artist who recorded important events. A special piece by Cheyenne Chief Whirlwind also will be showcased. Chief Whirlwind drew Cheyenne warrior Roman Nose Thunder counting coup on Major Joel Elliott's detachment. This particular drawing depicts Roman Nose Thunder charging through a hail of bullets toward the soldiers who fire at him from the tall grass where they lie. Sam Noble Museum is located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. Please call 405-325-4712 for more information.

Announcements

2018 marks the centennial of woman suffrage in Oklahoma, and in 2020 the United States will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. The Oklahoma Historical Society is celebrating these milestones by hosting programming across the state. The OHS also wants to promote events from other organizations that will recognize the importance of this anniversary. To add your event to our growing calendar of woman suffrage-related events, please email Elizabeth Bass at ebass@okhistory.org with the name of your event, the date, the time, and a contact for further information.

Celebrate the 115th anniversary of the Warner United Methodist Church by contributing to its fundraiser. The "Brick" and Mortar Campaign includes an opportunity for individuals to purchase monogrammed bricks that will be laid into a new open-air Serenity Atrium. Each brick costs \$50 and may include up to three lines with 18 characters each. To order a brick please visit warnerumc.org. Warner United Methodist Church is located at 401 Ninth Street in Warner. For more information please call 918-305-0292 or 918-463-5893.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn E. Moxley by email at emoxley@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the January/February issue, you must submit it by Monday, December 3.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

November

- 1 Red Carpet Event and Theater Fundraiser, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 1-4 Will Rogers Days events, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 2 Will Rogers Days Parade and Birthday Bash, Will Rogers Boulevard and Claremore Museum of History, Claremore
- 3 Pawnee Bill Kids Corral, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 3 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Regional Meeting, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 3 Tracing Your Roots two-session genealogy class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 *The Yellow Brick Road to Woman Suffrage* exhibit opens, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 5 *Votes for Women* exhibit opens, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 5 25th Annual Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- 9 World War II-era C-47 Aircraft Dedication Ceremony, Joe B. Barnes Regional Park, Midwest City
- 9 Veterans Day Ceremony, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 "Reenacting 101" Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 10 Fall Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 10 Tracing Your Roots two-session genealogy class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 14 Quilting workshop with holiday-themed project, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 14 "My Family's Civil War History" Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Craig McKinley, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 Southeastern Beadwork I class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 *The 1893 Land Race: A Legacy of Community* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 Battle of the Washita 150th Anniversary Symposium, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 "Legendary Women of Oklahoma Music" Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 OHC Museum Store Holiday Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah

December

- 1 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 1 Pawnee Bill Kids Corral, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 1 Pawnee Bill Ranch Association's annual meeting, meal, and silent auction, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 1 Holiday Open House, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 1 Deck the Halls, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1 OHC Museum Store Holiday Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Fifth Annual Holiday Market at the Museum, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 4 A Designer Holiday preview dinner, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 5 "Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 5 "The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 "The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 *All Things Santa: The Art of Larry Greer* exhibit opening and premiere program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 7 "Working with the National Register of Historic Places" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 8 Christmas Open House, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 8 Holiday Happening Open House, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 8 Christmas Open House and live Southern Gospel music by Gary Booze, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 8 Guthrie's Historic Homes Tour and wassail at the Carnegie Library, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 8 Holiday Open House, Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion, Kingfisher
- 9 18th Annual Christmas Open House, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 12 "Holiday Goodies" Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Melissa Thomas, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Christmas at the Fort, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 21 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro

- 29 *Enduring Legacy: Photos of the Otoe-Missouria People* exhibit closes, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City

Please visit www.okhistory.org/events for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.



Votes for Women exhibit

The Oklahoma History Center announces the opening of a new photo exhibit, *Votes for Women*, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Oklahoma women gaining the right to vote. The exhibit will feature 28 black-and-white photos from the OHS Photo Archives and the Library of Congress. These images highlight some of the key moments, events, and people that led the way for the passage of the woman suffrage amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution.

This exhibit will open on November 5, 2018, and will be available for viewing through September 2019. It will be on display in the Chesapeake Events Center, which also is utilized for meetings and events. Guests should call in advance to ensure the exhibit will be open to the public during the time of their visit. The History Center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On March 16, 1917, the Oklahoma Legislature authorized the suffrage amendment to appear on the ballot for a vote in the general election of November 1918. On November 5, 1918, the suffrage amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution was ratified by a vote of 106,909 to 81,481. Equal suffrage nationwide for white women was not granted until 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution. Black women were not guaranteed full voting rights until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For more information please call 405-522-0765.



Suffragists with flags (photo courtesy of the Library of Congress).

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce three new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma, added in August and September 2018. The National Register is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

The Tulsa Massacre, or Tulsa Race Massacre, was a 1921 attack on the Greenwood area of Tulsa, known as "Black Wall Street" by white Tulsans. In 2005 a National Park Service report concluded that the Tulsa Massacre was of "supreme national significance, perhaps the most significant race riot in the history of the United States." Most of the historic resources directly associated with Greenwood were destroyed during the massacre and many of the resources from the period of post-massacre reconstruction were destroyed by urban renewal efforts of the 1970s. Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church remains a testimony to the resilience of the Greenwood neighborhood. Located in Tulsa, Tulsa County, Vernon A. M. E. Church is significant at the state level for its role in understanding race relations in the United States under legal segregation; in community planning and development for its representation of the initiation and growth of a segregated community within the city of Tulsa as well as reconstruction after the 1921 massacre; and in social history for its depiction of racial intolerance against African Americans.



Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church

Located at 301 East Main Street in Anadarko, Caddo County, the Rock Island Passenger Station is significant as a local example of a rail transportation-related property, the only such resource extant in Anadarko. It also is significant as the town's only example of a "railroad Mission-style" depot building/passenger station as created by the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad. It is one of only a few examples of Mission Revival detailing in the city. The building is a late 19th- and early 20th-century Revival/Mission Revival-style railroad station house, which was common among transportation-related buildings in the Western states during the 1910s through the 1930s.



Rock Island Passenger Station

The Southridge Addition Historic District, located in Norman, Cleveland County, is listed in the National Register for its architectural significance. The district represents a unique collection of architecture that contributes to Norman's identity as a university city. The Southridge Addition Historic District contains a representative collection of popular architectural styles from the middle decades of the 20th century, including Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch. To maintain its architectural identity, the Southridge neighborhood is one of three in Norman that has secured a historic preservation zoning overlay.



Southridge Addition Historic District

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. Learn more at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nationalregister.htm.



Teacher of the Year

The Oklahoma History Center partners annually with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History by presenting the Oklahoma History Teacher of the Year award to the state winner. Qualified nominees are then eligible for consideration for the national award.

The 2018 state award was presented to Jane Williams, a fifth-grade teacher at Centennial Elementary School in Edmond. She is now among the 10 finalists being considered by Gilder Lehrman for the National Teacher of the Year. For more information please call 405-522-0785.

Historical marker dedication in Enid

Enid High School hosted a dedication ceremony May 22, 2018, for the school's observatory, which has been renamed in honor of a NASA astronaut with ties to the Enid community. School officials honored Nancy Currie-Gregg, an astronaut and NASA engineer. Currie-Gregg and her husband, Tim Gregg, an Enid High School graduate, are helping to improve and preserve the observatory with assistance from the community and the Friends of the Observatory campaign.

Enid Board of Education members voted last fall to name the observatory in honor of Currie-Gregg. It is Oklahoma's only high school astronomical observatory. "We are proud to dedicate the observatory in honor of Dr. Currie-Gregg," said Enid Superintendent Darrell Floyd. "Through her generosity and life's work, she is inspiring the next generation of scientists, pioneers, and innovative leaders. This partnership will greatly benefit the students of Enid High School, and we are excited about the opportunities it will provide."

Currie-Gregg currently serves as a principal engineer in the NASA Engineering and Safety Center. Selected as an astronaut in 1990, Currie-Gregg is a veteran of four space shuttle missions and has accumulated 1,000 hours in space.

At the dedication ceremony a new historical marker was unveiled. The marker describes the significance of Oklahoma's only high school observatory. The observatory was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in March 2018. For more information about the historical marker program, please contact Valerie Duncan, OHS director of museums and historic homes department, at 405-282-1889.



Christmas at the Fort

Fort Towson Historic Site will host Christmas at the Fort on Saturday, December 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be riding tours of the grounds, which will end at the sutler's store. Inside the store guests can enjoy holiday decorations and coffee, hot cocoa, and treats. Bring a camera because there will be plenty of opportunities to take photos with Santa! Fort Towson Historic Site is located approximately 14 miles east of Hugo on US Highway 70 in Fort Towson. For more information please call 580-873-2634.

From the OHS Archives: The William S. Canning Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Corporal William "Bud" Canning, an Oklahoma City native and a graduate of Putnam City High School, joined the US Army in October 1939, hoping to become a pilot. His flight and aircraft maintenance training took him across the country—from March Field in California to Chanute Field and Scott Field, both located in Illinois. On October 1, 1941, he sailed out on the USS *Holbrook* to the Philippines via Hawaii. His last piece of correspondence to his family in the collection was a Christmas card mailed from the Philippines on November 14, 1941. He was killed in the battle for Corregidor on May 5, 1942, and he is buried in Luzon. This collection of more than 100 pieces of correspondence provides a glimpse into the life of a soldier away from home for the first time. He discussed camp life, the excitement of buying his first car, aircraft training, and weekend excursions to Los Angeles and Mexico, along with the heartbreak associated with the loss of friends serving overseas. The collection also includes correspondence from Bud Canning to his parents, William and Lorena Canning, from the time of his enlistment until his death.

The William S. Canning Collection (M2006.081, one letter box, one over-size folder) is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please email research@okhistory.org or call 405-522-5225.

Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Division's Manuscript Archives.



Honor for Hunter's Home staff

Hunter's Home in Park Hill is pleased to announce that one of its own, Lisa Rutherford, has been named a Cherokee National Treasure. Rutherford was nominated for her contributions to Cherokee pottery. When creating a traditional pot, Rutherford digs up clay, cleans and processes it, hand coils the pot, and pit fires it. Her knowledge and dedication show not only in her pottery, but also in her beadwork, clothing, sculpture, and the beautiful feather capes she creates by hand. Rutherford is one of four Cherokee citizens to receive this honor in 2018. Cherokee National Treasure is an honor given by Cherokee Nation to individuals who keep the tribe's art, language, and culture alive through their crafts and work.



Devon Energy Oil and Gas Park reopens

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce that its Devon Energy Oil and Gas Park, the symbolic entry to the History Center campus, reopened on September 24, 2018. At the end of April 2017, powerful winds from a passing storm toppled two historic oil derricks and damaged several other pieces of equipment in the oil and gas park. Fortunately, despite the proximity of the park to private homes, no one was hurt and no private property was damaged. At the time, the cleanup and replacement from the destruction was estimated to take five to six weeks. Sadly, due to state budget cuts, the park remained closed for a year and a half.

With no insurance coverage available, the History Center relied on private donations to cover those costs. With the generous assistance of Devon Energy, the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board, and three private donors, some repairs became possible. The first phase of cleanup and restoration is now complete. Planning is ongoing to add new items and continue the development of the park. For more information please call 405-522-0765.

Tracing Your Roots

The OHS and Rose State College are partnering to offer a condensed version of Tracing Your Roots, a class on the basics of genealogy. This class meets for two Saturday sessions: November 3 and November 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course is designed to teach individuals the basics of genealogy. Students will learn how to search for their heritage online, how to obtain free resources that are available for research, and how to access materials located in the OHS archives. The class will conclude with a behind-the-scenes tour of the OHS Research Center. Come learn with us as we take the mystery out of our history and preserve our past for our future!

This class will meet in the Clark and Kay Musser Learning Lab, located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. The class fee is \$79 for the general public and \$69 for seniors. Please call 405-522-5225 for more information.

Holiday Market

The doors of the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will open at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4, to welcome shoppers to the fifth annual Holiday Market at the Museum. This event will showcase the talents of area artists and provide a terrific holiday shopping opportunity for guests. As an added bonus, while you browse the artists' displays, you also will have the opportunity to tour the museum. This event will be hosted by the Western Trail Historical Society. For more information please call 580-482-1044.

Christmas Open House at Fred Drummond Home

The Friends of the Fred Drummond Home in Hominy are happy to announce that its annual Christmas Open House will be held on Saturday, December 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. Every room of the house will be decorated for the Christmas season, and open house tours will be available. At the end of the tour, guests can enjoy an assortment of Christmas goodies and something yummy to drink. As a bonus, Santa Claus will be on hand to pass out treats to all the good girls and boys! This is the perfect way to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends. Regular admission fees will be taken at the door. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors ages 62 and older, \$4 for students, and free for children five and under. As always, OHS members receive free admission. For more information please call 918-885-2374.

Christmas Open House at the Sod House Museum

Celebrate Christmas the pioneer way at the Sod House Museum's Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Share in the festivities with songs, traditional decorations, and treats provided by the Friends of the Sod House. Gary Booze of Aline will share Christmas and Southern Gospel music during the event.

Southern Gospel music has been around for many years, beginning as a blend of early mountain music, cowboy music, and music from plantations of the Deep South. These songs were written to express personal or communal faith and to relate biblical teachings to everyday life.

The museum will be decorated for Christmas, while the Sod House itself will be decorated for a traditional 1890s pioneer Christmas. Enjoy cookies and hot cider provided by the Friends of the Sod House. The Friends also will sponsor a drawing for a quilt during the Open House.

The Christmas Open House is the museum's "thank you" to the community for its continued support. The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information please call 580-463-2441.

Spiro Mounds unveils new trail signs

On Wednesday, January 24, 2018, the Spiro Mounds Development Association (SMDA) received a donation from Choctaw Nation Tourism to help with interpretive and promotional development at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. On August 26, 2018, the first project using this funding—replacement of the 19 trail signs at the site—was completed.

"This donation by Choctaw Nation Tourism has really been a lifesaver after many years of budget cuts," said Dennis Peterson, archaeologist and site manager at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. "The original fiberglass embedded signage was installed more than two decades ago, and sunlight and natural corrosion had diminished the images. With the help of graphic artists at the Oklahoma Historical Society and printing done on special panels by Choctaw Printing, new signs were installed this week. This is just the first of several planned projects to enhance the visitor experience at Spiro Mounds. We are very glad that we have a partner in Choctaw Nation Tourism and a great support group like the Spiro Mounds Development Association." For additional information please call 918-962-2062.

Holiday Happening

The Pioneer Woman Museum is pleased to participate in Ponca City's citywide Holiday Happening events again this holiday season. The museum will host a Holiday Happening Open House on Saturday, December 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Activities will include Christmas stories read by Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating, and photos with the Abominable Snowman. Visitors can enjoy hot cocoa, wassail, cookies, and free gift wrapping on all store purchases! For more information please call 580-765-6108 or email piown@okhistory.org.

Call for Papers and Presentations

The OHS is seeking papers and presentations for the 2019 Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference, which will be held April 24–26, 2019, on the campus of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha. A total of 18 presentation sessions will take place Thursday morning, April 25, and Friday morning, April 26.

This year's theme is "Women Who Built History," and will celebrate the centennial of women in Oklahoma receiving the right to vote in late 1918. The USAO campus, originally the Oklahoma College for Women, is now included in the Oklahoma College for Women Historic District (NR 1000950). The OHS encourages history or preservation presentations related to women's history, but will accept proposals on all aspects of Oklahoma history and historic preservation.

Presentation sessions will be 45 minutes in length and will feature one presentation not to exceed 30 minutes. This will allow 15 minutes for an introduction and questions. Individuals interested in making a presentation should prepare a one-page proposal including the title of the proposed presentation; a 100-word description of the presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short vita or biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by early February 2019 if not sooner. Registration fees for presenters will be waived. Presentation proposals are now being accepted.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, December 28, 2018. For more information please call Larry O'Dell at 405-522-6676. Proposals may be emailed to lodell@okhistory.org or mailed to:

Annual Conference Committee
Attn: Larry O'Dell
Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The 1893 Land Race: A Legacy of Community exhibit

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid is pleased to present *The 1893 Land Race: A Legacy of Community*, a new exhibit that is on display now through November 17.

The exhibit focuses on early life and town-building efforts in the Cherokee Outlet just after the 1893 Land Run took place, from building houses to developing businesses. Join in the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Opening—the largest land run in American history! *The 1893 Land Race* will be on view in the J. E. and L. E. Mabbee Foundation Gallery. It has been made possible through the generous support of the Day Foundation. For more information please call 580-237-1907 or visit www.csrhc.org.

Fall Bake Day

Visit Fort Gibson Historic Site for Fall Bake Day on Saturday, November 10, at 10 a.m. The aroma of fresh-baked bread will fill the air on Garrison Hill as OHS staff and volunteers bring the bake house to life. Learn about one aspect of army life after the Civil War and enjoy bread making demonstrations in the original wood-fired oven from 1863. Visitors can even sample the finished product! For more information please call 918-478-4088.

New outdoor exhibit

The newest addition to the Oklahoma History Center's outdoor exhibits is the *Timeline of Oklahoma History*, chronicling the state's past from prehistory to the opening of the Oklahoma History Center in 2005. The timeline segments are located along the sidewalk adjacent to the guest parking lot, ushering guests inside the Oklahoma History Center to learn more about Oklahoma history. "Timelines and chronological thinking are important components of Oklahoma school curriculum and provide an overview of Oklahoma's history for visitors before they explore the Oklahoma History Center's vast galleries and resources," said Kathryn Grossman, curator of education at the History Center.

The *Timeline of Oklahoma History* runs adjacent to the Red River Journey and the Red River Heritage Gardens, which are made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Meinders Foundation, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma City Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Colonial Dames.

Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

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PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

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November/December 2018

Will Rogers Memorial Museums to host events in November and December

The staff and volunteers at Will Rogers Memorial Museums will be busy during the months of November and December! The Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah will host a number of events to celebrate Will Rogers's birthday on November 4 and the upcoming holiday season.

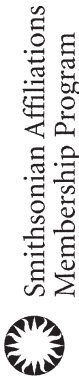
Will Rogers Days will be held November 1–4 throughout the Claremore community. The week-end of fun will begin on Thursday, November 1, with the annual Kids' Day at the Memorial Museum. Cherokee storyteller Robert Lewis and magician Doug Anderson will make special appearances to delight children at the event. The Memorial Museum also will host a Red Carpet Event on November 1 at 6 p.m. to raise money to renovate its theater. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Will's first movie, *Laughing Bill Hyde* (1918). The Will Rogers Theatre inside the museum shows Will's movies to a new audience and is in need of updated equipment and seats. Tickets to the event and theater seat sponsorships are available at squareup.com/store/wrmfoundation.

On Friday, November 2, Oscar-winning film producer and Oklahoma native Gray Frederickson will give a lecture from noon to 1 p.m. about the movies he produced, including *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*, and *The Outsiders*. Following the lecture, the Will Rogers Days Parade will begin at 3 p.m. This year, writer and Route 66 historian Michael Wallis will serve as the parade marshal.

On Saturday, November 3, at 10 a.m., festivities continue with the Indian Women's Pocahontas Club laying a wreath at the Rogers family tomb outside the Memorial Museum. This tradition began 80 years ago when the museum first opened. A reception will follow the wreath-laying with a musical tribute to Will performed by Jana Jae. Later that afternoon at 2 p.m., a Mid-Afternoon Frolic Talent Show will be held in the theater at the Memorial Museum. Talented kids ages 5 to 18 are encouraged to enter this movie-themed competition by filling out the form at www.willrogers.com/will-rogers-days.

Finally, celebrate the 139th anniversary of Will's birth on an Indian Territory ranch on November 4, 1879, by visiting the Memorial Museum for free on Sunday, November 4. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Take time to visit the Birthplace Ranch in Oologah for Will's Country Christmas on Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1, from 5 to 9 p.m. The house will be decorated much as it was when Will's parents entertained for the holidays. Be sure to bring your camera! Family-friendly entertainment will include storytelling, hayrides, Wild West shootouts, photos with Santa, crafts, 19th-century games, carriage rides, music, vendors, and food trucks. Admission and children's activities, including photos with Santa, are free. For more information about these events, please call 918-341-0719 or visit www.willrogers.com.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Battle of the Washita 150th Anniversary Symposium

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) and the National Park Service will host a one-day symposium on Tuesday, November 20, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Washita. This event will be held at the Oklahoma History Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include a plated lunch. Dr. Paul Hutton will speak about the attack as a turning point in the American West, while Dr. Donald Fixico will focus on what the battle means to the American Indian community. Congressman Frank Lucas and OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn will reflect on the creation of the battlefield as a unit of the National Park Service. A limited number of tickets are available. Tickets are \$40 per person with additional sponsorships available. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 405-522-0765.

The Battle of the Washita took place on November 27, 1868, near present-day Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and the 7th Cavalry attacked the sleeping village of Cheyenne Peace Chief Black Kettle, killing an estimated 60 people along the banks of the Washita River. Learn more about the battle in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* at goo.gl/16xTds. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, operated by the National Park Service, is located at 18555 Highway 47A in Cheyenne. For more information about the site please call 580-497-2742 or visit www.nps.gov/waba.

