

OKLAHOMA BINGO HISTORY

More information can be found on these topics in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. It is available in a two-volume set from the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store at www.okhistory.org/OHS and online at www.okhistory.org/encyclopedia.

TE ATA - A member of the Chickasaw Nation, Mary Frances Thompson (known as Te Ata) was celebrated for her American Indian storytelling, and her career spanned sixty years. She was born in Emet, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, in 1895. Te Ata performed at the first state dinner given by Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 and wrote a children's book, *Baby Rattlesnake*. She was also named Oklahoma's first State Treasure in 1987.

HANNAH ATKINS - Hannah Atkins was born in North Carolina in 1923. Atkins was the first African American woman to be elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where she served from 1968 to 1980. Atkins has served with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the General Assembly of the Thirty-fifth Session of the United Nations, and was the Oklahoma Secretary of State. She has also taught at multiple Oklahoma universities.

GENE AUTRY - Gene Autry, born on September 29, 1907, in Texas, moved with his family to Ravia in the 1920s. Autry became "Oklahoma's Yodeling Cowboy" on local radio in 1928, and in 1931 he signed his first recording deal with Columbia Records. In 1934 he was discovered by a film producer and became the first of the singing cowboys. Autry also created the "Cowboy Code" for those young kids who wanted to be like him. Gene Autry died in 1998.

BANNING and ALLEN - In 1932 aviators J. Herman Banning and Thomas C. Allen became the first African Americans to fly across North America in a plane. Their journey began in Los Angeles and ended in New York. The aviators made many stops along the way to raise money for gas and tell people about their trip. Banning had experience as a pilot and did most of the flying. Allen knew how to repair the airplane and kept it running throughout the trip.

KATE BARNARD - Born on May 23, 1875, Catherine Ann "Kate" Barnard became the first woman elected as a state official in Oklahoma in 1907. She served as the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections—the only position available for a woman to hold in Oklahoma—for eight years. She is known for her humanitarian work and legislation leading to the regulation of child labor and the creation of a juvenile justice system. Kate is often referred to as "Our Good Angel."

HENRY BELLMON - Henry Bellmon was the first Republican governor of the state of Oklahoma. He was in office from 1963 to 1967 and again from 1987 to 1991. Bellmon also served in the US Senate, where he sat on committees for Labor and Public Welfare, Post Office and Civil Service, and the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. Henry Bellmon retired from politics in 1991 and lived his remaining years on his farm in Billings, Oklahoma, which is listed as an Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch property.

JOHNNY BENCH - Born in Oklahoma City on December 7, 1947, Johnny Bench grew up in Binger. He achieved his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player in 1968 when he was moved up "the bigs" to the Cincinnati Reds. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989, and received

numerous other awards, such as National League Rookie of the Year (1968), World Series MVP (1976), and a fourteen-time All-Star.

BLACK SWALLOWTAIL – The Black Swallowtail butterfly is mostly black, with a row of colored spots. Males have yellow markings, while females have yellow and blue accents. The Black Swallowtail became the state butterfly of Oklahoma in 1996.

ACEE BLUE EAGLE - Acee Blue Eagle was a Creek-Pawnee artist and teacher who was born Alex McIntosh in 1909. He graduated from Chilocco and studied under renowned artist Oscar B. Jacobson. He served during World War II and went on to teach at the Oklahoma State University Technological School in Okmulgee, where he remained until death in 1959. His art can be found at the Gilcrease and Philbrook museums in Tulsa and the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City, as well as in New Mexico and Washington, DC.

BOSTON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH - The Boston Avenue Methodist Church was designed by a team of architects, including Bruce Goff and Adah Robinson. Constructed from 1924 to 1929, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1999 for its architectural significance. It is an example of Art Deco, a form of Modernism made popular in the US 1920-40, although rarely applied to religious buildings.

ZELIA BREAUX - Zelia Breaux, born in 1880, was the musical director for Oklahoma City's black public schools and head of the music department at Douglass High School where she was instrumental in turning Charlie Christian onto music. She organized the Douglass High School band, which became known nationwide and performed at Chicago's World Fair. Breaux also owned the Aldridge Theater on Second Street that hosted such big names as Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith. She passed away in October 1956 in Guthrie.

GARTH BROOKS - Troyal Garth Brooks, born February 7, 1962, in Tulsa, became the fastest-selling solo artist in music history when he sold in excess of 100 million albums in ten years. Garth is the only solo artist in Record Industry Association of America (RIAA) history to have four albums top the 10 million mark. The RIAA lists Garth Brooks as the top-selling solo artist of the twentieth century.

BISON - The bison was adopted as the state animal in 1972. Bison are large mammals with a brown coat, a large hump, and shaggy hair around the head. They can reach up to 2,000 pounds and stand almost six feet tall. Bison were an important source of food for the American Indians.

CHEROKEE FEMALE SEMINARY - The Cherokee Female Seminary was proposed by Chief John Ross in 1846 and was the center of the educational program of the Cherokee Nation after removal. It opened in the spring of 1851. The original building was destroyed by a fire in 1887, but the seminary was rebuilt in Tahlequah two years later. The last degrees earned from the Cherokee Female Seminary were in 1910.

CHILOCCO - The Chilocco Indian Agricultural School opened in 1884 in a single, two-story stone building on the open prairie south of Arkansas City, Kansas. Native children, initially from the plains tribes but eventually from across the United States, came to live and learn at the place known as "Prairie Light." Changes in educational philosophy and government policy led to Chilocco's closing in 1980.

CHISHOLM TRAIL - Once the greatest cattle trail in the world, the Chisholm Trail served to move Texas cattle north to the Kansas railheads from which they were shipped to the other parts of the country. The main stem of the Chisholm Trail ran along what is now US Highway 81. Cattle were first moved over the trail in 1867. In the ten years from 1867 to 1877, more than three million head of cattle passed through Oklahoma to Kansas. The trail blazed was named after Jesse Chisholm, a mixed-blood Cherokee guide and trader. Chisholm had moved trade goods over a part of the route, and travelers began referring to it as Chisholm's Trail. In Kingfisher County, all three parts of the trail can be seen. The Chisholm Trail Museum is located directly on this famous trail.

CHARLIE CHRISTIAN - Charlie Christian was born on July 29, 1916, in Bonham, Texas, but was raised in Oklahoma City. During his time at Douglass High School, he studied under respected teacher Zelia Breaux and eventually began playing in Oklahoma City's Deep Deuce neighborhood. In 1939 Christian joined the famous Benny Goodman band and gained national attention. Christian's talented life was cut short when he died at the age of twenty-five. Charlie Christian was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990, and his influence is still celebrated with Oklahoma City's yearly Charlie Christian Jazz Festival.

COAL MINING - In its early days coal mining in Indian Territory was one of the most dangerous of jobs, primarily held by immigrants looking to make money. Coal was first commercially mined in 1873. The development of the coal mining industry can be mostly attributed to James McAlester, who married into the Choctaw tribe in order to legally gain access to the coal deposits on his property. During the Indian Territory period, there were ten major mining disasters, including those in Savanna, Krebs, and McCurtain. Safety reforms eventually improved the safety of the mines, but they remained a dangerous place to work.

CRAZY SNAKE UPRISING - Led by Chitto Harjo, a Creek *heneha* or spokesman, the Crazy Snake Uprising peaked in 1901 at Hickory Ground, a Creek tribal ground. After leading a delegation to Washington, DC, to persuade President Theodore Roosevelt to recognize the Treaty of 1832, Harjo returned to Indian Territory and urged the tribal towns not to participate in *E-kun wath-ka* or allotment. The resisters to allotment were called "Snakes" after Harjo, whose name translated to snake. After the Snakes began punishing those tribal members who supported allotment Troop A of the Eighth US Cavalry arrived; Chitto Harjo was arrested. The Crazy Snake Uprising ended without a single shot being fired.

THE DAUGHTER OF DAWN - *The Daughter of Dawn* is an eighty-minute, six-reel silent film shot in May, June, and July of 1920 in the Wichita Mountains of southwest Oklahoma. The story, played by an all-Indian cast of three hundred Kiowas and Comanches, includes a four-way love story, two buffalo hunt scenes, a battle scene, village scenes, dances, deceit, courage, hand to hand combat, love scenes, and a happy ending. The lead actor is White Parker, the son of the great Comanche leader Quanah Parker. The script for the movie was developed by Norbert Myles, an actor, writer, and director.

DAWES COMMISSION - The allotment era was ushered in by the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887, drafted by Senator Henry Dawes of Massachusetts. The act did not pertain to the Five Tribes when drafted. In 1893 Henry Dawes was appointed to head a three-member commission to the Five Tribes to negotiate agreements for ending tribal ownership and portioning out tribal lands. The Dawes Commission was housed in Muskogee and eventually became a five-member commission.

ANGIE DEBO - Angie Debo traveled with her parents to the place that would become Marshall, Oklahoma in 1889 via covered wagon. She obtained her teaching certificate at age sixteen and went on to obtain a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate. She wrote *And Still the Waters Run* in 1936. Though it was initially refused publication because it dealt with the theft of Indian lands by the white man and represented Oklahoma in a less than favorable light, it was finally published in 1940. Debo went on to write eight more books completing her last when she was eighty-five.

DITCH WITCH - Carl Malzahn moved to Perry, Oklahoma, in 1902 and opened a blacksmith shop with his sons, Charlie and Gus. During the oil boom, the shop came to be known as Charlie's Machine Shop. Charlie's son Ed graduated from college with a degree in engineering. Ed had an idea for a mechanical trencher that would put an end to the "pick and shovel" era. He perfected the idea in 1949, calling the device the "Ditch Witch." Charlie's Machine Shop became Charlie's Machine Works, Inc. That was many years ago. It is stronger than ever today, employing 1,300 in Perry. The Ditch Witch line has expanded to include horizontal drilling equipment and other devices.

DUGOUT - A dugout was a type of shelter that was fully or partially below ground. Dugouts were often carved into the sides of hills, banks, or ravines and were enclosed by a front wall built of sod or logs. In Oklahoma dugouts were utilized in the central and western portions of the state. After the land openings, some homesteaders built dugouts as a way of validating their claim. In numerous instances, dugout schools and dugout churches were also built. As dwellings, dugouts were affordable and practical. They provided refuge from tornadoes, a warm hearth in the winter, and a cool retreat in the summer. Problems with ventilation, lighting, insects, flooding or seepage, and the stigma of living underground, like prairie dogs, contributed to the perception of the dugout as an expedient but temporary solution to a housing problem.

DUST BOWL - The Dust Bowl was a period that occurred during the drought years across the Great Plains and is still considered to be the most severe on record. It began in the early 1930s and didn't end for some areas until the early 1940s. The worst of those years occurred in 1934 and 1936. Due to the erosion of the topsoil from farming and a lack of rain, dust storms raged, the most severe being in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles, western Kansas, eastern Colorado, and northeastern New Mexico. It was reported that the dust was so thick that even in a building with the doors and windows closed, the dust would be so thick you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. The dust storms were referred to as "Oklahoma rain."

RALPH ELLISON - Ralph Waldo Ellison was born in Oklahoma on March 1, 1913. Early on, he studied trumpet and piano and for a time lived with several jazz musicians in Oklahoma City. *Invisible Man* won the National Book Award in 1953. He died on April 16, 1994, of pancreatic cancer. His second, unfinished novel, *Juneteenth*, was published (in condensed form) five years after his death.

MARY FALLIN - Governor Mary Fallin was elected November 2, 2010, during a historic election in which she became the first female governor of Oklahoma. She was inaugurated on the steps of the Oklahoma Capitol as the state's twenty-seventh governor on January 10, 2011. Fallin made her first foray into public service in 1990 when she was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives. In 1994 Fallin would first make history by becoming the first woman and first Republican to be elected lieutenant governor of Oklahoma, an office she would hold for twelve years.

ADA SIPUEL FISHER - Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, born on February 8, 1924, in Chickasha, took her battle over segregation and OU's refusal to let her attend its law school to the US Supreme Court in 1948 (*Sipuel v. Board of Regents of Univ. of Okla.*). Ms. Fisher graduated in 1951 with her law degree. In 1992 she was appointed by Governor David Walters to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, the same entity that had once denied her entrance to its law school.

HENRY FLIPPER - Henry Ossian Flipper was the first African American to graduate from West Point. Flipper was born in Georgia in 1856. During his military service Flipper was sent to Ft. Sill, which was in Indian Territory. During his time at Fort Sill many of the soldiers were suffering from malaria. Flipper was put in charge of engineering a drainage system that would prevent the spread of the disease. This became known as "Flipper's Ditch." Henry Flipper's autobiography, *The Colored Cadet at West Point (1878)*, tells about his life as an African American soldier on the western frontier.

FORT RENO - Starting as a military camp in 1874 during the Indian Wars era, Fort Reno was established to pacify and protect the Cheyenne & Arapaho. In 1876 it was officially named Fort Reno by General Phil Sheridan in honor of his friend who was killed in the Civil War. Troops from Fort Reno were prominent in the Indian Wars of the 1870s and helped supervise the Land Run of 1889. Fort Reno served as a German prisoner of war camp in WWII and many of its buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many people, including POWs, Buffalo Soldiers, and Indian scouts are buried in its cemetery.

FORT SILL - In January 1869 General Philip Sheridan began building a permanent base in Indian Territory known as Fort Sill. It was named after Brigadier General Joshua Sill, a West Point classmate of Sheridan's who was killed at the battle of Stones River, Tennessee. Fort Sill has long been known as the home of the US Army's Field Artillery. In the nineteenth century, the soldiers of Fort Sill served as peacekeepers, police of the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889 and protection for settlers and American Indians, including Apache chief Geronimo. Today it is home to the US Army Field Artillery Training Center.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN - John Hope Franklin, author of the preeminent source on African American history, was born in Rentiesville on January 2, 1915, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa. He earned his doctorate in history from Harvard University in 1941. His book, *From Slavery to Freedom*, was originally published in 1947 and is continually updated. In 1995 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his lifelong fight for civil rights.

GERONIMO - A Chiricahua Apache chief Geronimo was born in Arizona in the 1820s and named Goyahkla (meaning One Who Yawns). The origin of his name, which is Spanish for Jerome, was most likely from the way he fought in battle against Mexican soldiers who called upon St. Jerome to help them. After being forced onto the San Carlos Reservation in the 1870s, Geronimo found this life unacceptable and escaped, resuming his raiding activities in Mexico and the United States. After being pursued for several years, Geronimo finally surrendered and ended up as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill. His fame grew after he was sent to Fort Sill, and he was highly sought after on the speaking circuits and even rode in President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration parade. He died in 1909 and is buried at the Fort Sill Apache cemetery.

GOLD DOME - Citizens State Bank, also known as the Gold Dome, was constructed in 1958 as a geodesic dome. Located on historic Route 66, the Gold Dome was designed by Buckminster Fuller and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. In 2001 the "Citizens for the Gold Dome"

campaign was mounted that helped save the Gold Dome from demolition, but it once again is in danger of demolition in 2013.

GOLDEN DRILLER - The *Golden Driller* is a 76-foot tall statue of an oil worker that was originally built for the 1953 International Petroleum Exposition. In 1979, the *Golden Driller* was adopted as the state monument.

CHESTER GOULD - It took Chester Gould nearly a decade to create a comic strip that was successful, but when he did it was *Dick Tracy*, one of the most famous strips of all time. Gould was born in Pawnee before Oklahoma became a state. In 1923 he began working at the *Chicago American* where he drew comic strips, including *Fillum Fables*, and caricatures. In 1928 he moved on to the *Chicago Daily News*, where he drew *The Girl Friends* along with other artwork. After sixty rejections, he submitted *Plainclothes Tracy* to Col. Patterson. This was accepted and became *Dick Tracy*.

GUTHRIE - Guthrie officially became a town with the establishment of a post office on April 4, 1889, just weeks before the Land Run of 1889. Named for John Guthrie, a jurist, it became the capital of Oklahoma Territory and later the first capital of the state of Oklahoma. In 1910 a special election was held to determine the location of the capital of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City became the new capital. Guthrie Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1999.

HANSON - The trio of brothers known as the pop group Hanson - Isaac, Taylor and Zac Hanson - skyrocketed to fame with their hit song "MMMBop" in 1997. At the time of their hit, drummer Zac Hanson became the youngest-ever Grammy-nominated songwriter at twelve years old. Hanson still continues to have a successful music career, having eleven albums with the release of their June 2013 album *Anthem*.

CHARLES HASKELL - Charles Nathaniel Haskell was Oklahoma's first governor from 1907-11. Haskell earlier served as a delegate to the Sequoyah Constitutional Convention in 1905 and was elected vice president, later becoming the majority floor leader of the Democratic Party. Governor Haskell is best known for moving the state capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City amid much controversy. He also established the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the State Department of Public Health.

S. E. HINTON - Susan Eloise Hinton was born July 22, 1948, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She started writing while still a student at Will Rogers High School, and her most popular book, *The Outsiders*, was based on the divided groups in that school. Published in 1967, *The Outsiders* became the second-best-selling young adult book in publishing history. She also wrote *Rumble Fish*; *That Was Then, This Is Now*; and many more.

HONEY SPRINGS - The Battle of Honey Springs was the largest of more than 107 documented hostile encounters in the Indian Territory. The engagement took place on a rainy Friday, July 17, 1863, between the 1st Division, Army of the Frontier, commanded by Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt and the Confederate Indian Brigade led by Brig. Gen. Douglas H. Cooper. Cherokee and Muscogee (Creek) regiments fought on both sides. There were approximately 9,000 men involved, including other American Indians, veteran Texas regiments, and the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers (the first black regiment in the Union Army).

HENRY IBA - Henry "Hank" Iba began coaching at Oklahoma State University (then Oklahoma A&M) in 1934. He was selected as Coach of the Year in 1945 and 1946. He is the only person to have coached

three Olympic basketball teams, winning in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo and the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. His career as a professional coach at OSU continued until his retirement in 1970.

INDIAN BLANKET - The Indian Blanket, or Blanket Flower, is a daisy-shaped flower with red petals tipped with yellow. It was designated as the Oklahoma state wildflower in 1986.

INDIAN TERRITORY - Indian Territory originally encompassed the present states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and part of Iowa. Although the geographical location commonly known as the Indian Territory existed, it never had a formal government and was not a territory. An 1889 measure enclosed the boundaries of Indian Territory to an area bounded by Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and New Mexico. This area was reduced again in 1890 with the creation of Oklahoma Territory, leaving it to just larger than the eastern half of the present state.

KATZ DRUG STORE SIT-IN - In August 1958 Clara Luper, along with children from the NAACP Youth Council, walked into Oklahoma City's Katz Drugstore and sat down at the lunch counter. Being African American, they were refused service and told to leave. The protesters refused to leave, however, until they were served. This action led the way to the desegregation of all thirty-eight Katz lunch counter outlets, and before Luper ever had to set foot in Veazy's Drugstore across the street, they changed their policy, too. The sit-in began in August of 1958 and continued without stopping until June of 1961.

ROBERT S. KERR - Robert Samuel Kerr was elected Oklahoma's first native-born governor in 1942. He was born in a log cabin in the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, in 1896 near present-day Ada. In the 1930s Kerr partnered with Phillips Petroleum Company, where he met Dean McGee and established the Kerr-McGee Oil Industries. In 1948 after serving as governor of Oklahoma until 1947, Robert Kerr went on to serve in the US Senate until his death in 1963.

LAND RUNS - Before statehood Oklahoma was comprised of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. Although Indian Territory was supposed to be for Indians only, more and more whites were moving into the area. These white settlers were known as "boomers." In 1889 an area known as the Unassigned Lands was opened for settlement. This was the first, and most well known of the land runs. Thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds turned out to stake their claim. Some people, known as "sooners," tried to sneak out and claim land early. Homesteaders could claim 160 acres of land. To officially own the land, they had to live on the land for five years. In the next few years, more land runs were held as tribal lands were opened for white settlement.

CLARA LUPER - Clara Luper had a very important role in the Civil Rights Movement. She was the first African American student in the University of Oklahoma history department. She became a sponsor for the Oklahoma City NAACP Youth Council, and in 1958 led her students in a protest. The Katz Drugstore "sit-in" gained national attention, and led to other successful demonstrations around the country. Luper served in many positions in the public school system and led the fight for public school integration. During her participation in demonstrations, marches and sit-ins, she was arrested twenty-six times. Clara Luper is known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

CHRIS MADSEN - Chris Madsen was born Chris Madsen Rormose in Denmark in 1851 and immigrated to the United States in 1876. He enlisted in the US Army and was assigned to the 5th Cavalry. After leaving the army, Madsen moved to Oklahoma Territory, where he served two years as a deputy US marshal. He served with Bill Tilghman and Heck Thomas, where the three of them were called "The

Three Guardsmen.” When the Spanish-American War broke out, Madsen joined the 1st Volunteer Cavalry under Theodore Roosevelt. This unit was known as the Rough Riders, and Madsen served as the quartermaster sergeant.

CARL MAGEE - Carl C. Magee of Oklahoma City invented and patented the “coin controlled parking meter” on May 13, 1935. Patent No. 2,118,318 issued on May 24, 1938. The first meter was installed in Oklahoma City on July 16, 1935. The stated purpose was “to control on-street parking,” but it was obvious from the beginning that another purpose was to generate revenue for the city. Currently, parking meters in the US generate about \$1.25M per day in revenue.

WILMA MANKILLER - Wilma Mankiller became the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1985. Mankiller was born on November 18, 1945, in Tahlequah. Though up against the male-dominated world of the Cherokee Nation when she became principal chief, she managed to create a sense of community within the nation and assisted in providing the help it needed to become self-sufficient. She is also the author of many books, including *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*.

MICKEY MANTLE - Mickey Mantle, born on October 20, 1931, in Spavinaw, grew up in Commerce. Though the Yankees wanted to sign Mantle in 1948, they had to wait until he graduated, and on his graduation day, Mickey Mantle became a member of the Yankees Class D team in Kansas. In 1951 Mantle became a New York Yankee, playing in his first World Series. He still holds a World Series record with 18 home runs, 42 runs, 40 RBIs, and 43 bases on balls. Mickey Mantle died after a liver transplant in 1995.

TOM MIX - Thomas Mix was born in Mix Run, Pennsylvania, and moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, after his time in the army. Tom eventually joined Selig and began his movie career. His movie career spanned twenty-six years, and he made 336 feature films. Mix and his horse, Tony, performed their own stunts.

MK&T RAILROAD - Congress stipulated that the first railroad to reach a certain point on the Kansas border was to have the right of way to cross through Oklahoma. The MK&T (Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway Company, also known as Katy) won the competition with the Kansas and Neosho Valley company. The Katy line reached the Red River border of Oklahoma-Texas in 1872. Eventually more railroads came into Oklahoma, including the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway (Frisco), the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe (Santa Fe), and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific (Rock Island).

N. SCOTT MOMADAY - Navarre Scott Momaday was born on February 27, 1934, in Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1969 Momaday brought American Indian literature into the mainstream with his novel, *House Made of Dawn*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Momaday was named Oklahoma’s sixteenth Poet Laureate, and his term ran through 2008.

MYRIAD GARDENS - Designed by architect I. M. Pei, the Myriad Botanical Gardens have been a center point of downtown Oklahoma City. The effort to bring a garden to downtown Oklahoma City began with Dean A. McGee in 1964. In 1977 the city officially broke ground and began construction of the Gardens. The Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory was constructed from 1983-85 and opened its doors to the public in 1988. Dean A. McGee was able to see his vision realized before passing away in 1989. The Myriad Gardens continues to be one of the most-visited places in downtown Oklahoma City, having a grand reopening in 2011 after a multi-million dollar makeover.

NELLIE JOHNSTONE NO. 1 - The Nellie Johnstone Number One was the first commercial oil well in Indian Territory. Drilled on April 15, 1897, in Bartlesville, the Nellie Johnstone Number One was named for William Johnstone's daughter. The well produced over 100,000 barrels of crude oil before it was closed in 1948.

GEORGE NIGH - George Nigh was born in McAlester in 1927 and served more terms as governor than anyone else in Oklahoma history. He became the youngest member of the state legislature when in 1950, at the age of twenty-three, he was elected to the House of Representatives from Pittsburg County. Nigh also introduced the bill that made "Oklahoma!" the official state song.

OIL AND GAS - Even before the oil booms early inhabitants of Oklahoma benefited from the natural oil and gas seeps throughout the state. Robert Darden organized the Chickasaw Oil Company, Oklahoma's first petroleum enterprise, in 1872. The first commercially successful oil well was the Nellie Johnstone Number One, which produced fifty barrels a day in 1897. Oklahoma is home to many oil fields including the Oklahoma City Field, the Ponca City Field, and the Haldon-Hewitt Field. Oklahoma also was home of many oil and gas companies including Marland Oil Company (the forerunner to Conoco and founded by E. W. Marland) and Phillips Petroleum (founded by Frank Phillips).

OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO - Beginning with a deer donated to Wheeler Park in 1902, the Oklahoma City Zoo began as Wheeler Park Zoo, billed as the first official zoo in the Southwest. After significant flooding left the zoo ten feet underwater in 1923, the zoo reopened in Lincoln Park in 1924. The name changed from Lincoln Park Zoo to the Oklahoma City Zoo around 1960 and was renamed the Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Gardens in 2001. The zoo is well-known for its ZooZeum that was built as a WPA project in 1935, Judy the elephant, and its Great EscApe ape habitat.

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER - Originally the Seattle Supersonics, the team relocated to Oklahoma City in 2008 and became the Oklahoma City Thunder. The team is owned by Clay Bennett and made it to the 2012 NBA finals, led by Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook, Serge Ibaka, and James Harden.

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER - The Oklahoma History Center is your opportunity to experience Oklahoma's inspiring and adventurous past. The History Center is a beautifully designed, self-guided exploration of Oklahoma past to present. The Oklahoma History Center is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute.

OKLAHOMA TERRITORY - The Oklahoma Territory existed for seventeen years, and its rapid expansion and development made it unique. More settlers than were necessary for creating a territorial government were available after the Land Run of 1889; however, the citizens waited for one year before Congress took action. On May 2, 1890, the Organic Act for the Territory of Oklahoma provided the framework for a territorial government. George W. Steele became the first governor of the territory.

OKLAHOMA WEATHER - From dust bowls to tornadoes to flooding, Oklahoma is known for its extreme weather. In the 1920s historic floods that left much of western Oklahoma cut off from outside contact had surges of water rushing toward Oklahoma City rising to 25 feet tall. In the 1930s the Oklahoma panhandle experienced massive dust storms produced by a decade-long drought. Oklahoma is most known, however, for its devastating F5 tornadoes. In April 1947, an F5 tornado devastated the city of Woodward, killing more than one hundred people and destroying more than one hundred city

blocks. On May 3, 1999, an F5 tornado was recorded after it devastated the town of Moore and still holds the record for wind speeds at more than three hundred miles per hour. On May 20, 2013, another F5 tornado took an almost identical path through the city of Moore. Within eleven days on May 31, 2013, another F5 tornado went through Union City and El Reno and became the widest tornado in recorded history at 2.6 miles wide.

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU) COWBOYS - The Cowboys are the official team of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. The Cowboys football team has had one Heisman Trophy winner (Barry Sanders) and numerous players who have gone on to NFL careers, including Thurman Thomas, Dez Bryant, and Justin Blackmon. The Cowboys basketball team has won two NCAA national championships. Their biggest rivalry against the Oklahoma Sooners is known as Bedlam.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) SOONERS - The Sooners are the official team of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The OU Sooners football team has won forty-four championship titles and seven national championships, has had five Heisman trophy winners (Billy Vessels, Steve Owens, Billy Sims, Jason White, and Sam Bradford), and has produced numerous NFL players, including Adrian Peterson, Brian Bosworth, Spencer Tillman, and Keith Jackson. Their two biggest rivalries are Bedlam with the OSU Cowboys and the Red River Rivalry with the University of Texas at Austin. The OU Sooners basketball team has produced many NBA players, including Wayman Tisdale, Stacey King, and Blake Griffin. In June 2013 the OU Women's Softball Team won the national championship.

PATTI PAGE - Born Clara Ann Fowler on November 8, 1927, in Claremore, Patti Page became one of the biggest selling female artists in recording history. Page has fifteen certified gold records. Her recording of "Tennessee Waltz" remains the biggest selling single ever recorded by a female artist. Patti Page passed away on January 1, 2013.

BILL PICKETT - A rodeo pioneer, Bill Pickett was the originator of bulldogging, or steer wrestling. Pickett entered his first rodeo in 1888 and was a popular rodeo performer by the early 1900s. He joined the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch and Wild West show in 1905 and was known as the "Dusky Demon." He was often identified as an Indian instead of African American so he could enter rodeo events. Pickett also appeared in motion pictures and is credited as the first black cowboy star. He passed away from injuries sustained by a rogue horse in 1932 at the 101 Ranch.

QUANAH PARKER - A Comanche warrior and political leader, Quanah Parker served as the last official principal chief of his tribe. Although little is known of him prior to 1875, he became better known after his surrender at Fort Sill following the Red River War. Parker was known to have walked a fine line between being progressive and living within Comanche culture. He died in February 1911 and is buried at Fort Sill. His residence, the Star House in Cache, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

PAWNEE BILL - Gordon W. Lillie, known as "Pawnee Bill," started his wild west show in 1888. "Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West" featured Indians from several tribes, demonstrations of marksmanship, horseback riding, and races. Pawnee Bill's wife, May Lillie, was also a star in the show. In 1908 Pawnee Bill's show joined with Buffalo Bill's production to become "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Great Far East." This massive show included exotic performers from around the world, in addition to the popular western characters." Today you can visit Pawnee Bill's ranch in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

DAVID L. PAYNE - David L. Payne pushed to open the Unassigned Lands to non-Indian homesteaders and was head of the Boomer Movement.

PENN SQUARE BANK - The collapse of Penn Square Bank led to a devastating effect in the US banking system in the 1980s. The bank was opened in 1960 in a shopping mall and was bought by William Jennings in 1975. He began to finance oil exploration and drilling, ultimately originating over \$2 billion worth of investments through oil loan shares and leaving Penn Square Bank overextended. In May 1982 \$50 million was withdrawn from the bank, and the bank was closed on July 5, 1982. The oil loan shares led to the failure of multiple banks, including Seattle First National Bank in Washington and Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company in Chicago.

PIONEER WOMAN - Unveiled on April 22, 1930, *Pioneer Woman* was the vision of E. W. Marland, a Ponca City philanthropist and Oklahoma's tenth governor. The statue was the winning design of Bryant Baker and is a bronze statue of a young pioneer mother leading her son by the hand, confident and with her head held high. It carries the inscription "In appreciation of the heroic character of the women who braved the dangers and endured the hardships incident to daily life of the pioneer and homesteader in this country."

WILEY POST - Wiley Post was born on November 22, 1898, in Texas but moved with his family to Garvin County, Oklahoma, when he was eleven. After losing his left eye in an oil field accident, he used his settlement money to buy his first plane. Eventually, while flying the *Winnie Mae*, Post set the record not once, but twice, for flying around the world. In June 1931 he flew with navigator, Harold Gatty, for eight days, sixteen hours. In June 1933 he flew solo in seven days, nineteen hours. Ironically, he died in a plane crash, along with Will Rogers, on August 15, 1935.

PRAIRIE SCHOONER - The prairie schooner, or covered wagon, is a cultural icon of the American West and was used to transport goods. The wagons were often pulled by horses or oxen. The prairie schooner was used by many families during the land runs in Oklahoma to carry all their worldly possessions as they tried to stake their claims for land to begin their new life.

ALICE ROBERTSON - Alice Robertson was the first woman ever elected to Congress from Oklahoma and the first female postmaster of a first-class post office in the United States. She was appointed postmaster at Muskogee by Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 and remained in that position until 1913. Miss Alice, as she was known, became the first woman to preside over the House of Representatives.

ROCK CAFE - The Rock Cafe is a restaurant located on historic Route 66 in Stroud. Its name was taken from the local sandstone that was used in its construction. The cafe was originally opened in 1939 by Roy Rieves during the Great Depression. The Rock Cafe was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001, and the character of Sally Carrera in the film *Cars* was based on Dawn Welch, the long-time proprietor of the Rock Cafe. In 2007 the café was the focus of an episode of the Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*.

RUFINO RODRIGUES - Rufino Rodrigues was born in February 1890 in Mexico and eventually settled in Lehigh where he worked in the coal mines. On February 22, 1912, the twenty-two-year-old Rodrigues discovered a fire in the mines. Instead of escaping alone, he ran one-and-a-half miles through the mines to warn the miners of the danger. He had to be pulled from the mine after being affected by smoke inhalation, but Rodrigues managed to save more than 150 men; only nine miners did not survive the

fire. For his heroism, Rufino Rodrigues was presented with the Carnegie Hero Fund bronze medal in 1914.

WILL ROGERS - Known as Oklahoma's "native son," Will Rogers was born near Oologah in Indian Territory in 1879. He was a well-known humorist and actor, appearing in seventy-one movies in his career, including *A Connecticut Yankee* and *Steamboat Round the Bend*. As well as being an actor, Will Rogers was the author of many books such as *There's Not a Bathing Suit in Russia* and *Never Met a Man I Didn't Like*. Will Rogers died suddenly in a plane crash, along with his good friend Wiley Post in August 1935.

ROSE ROCK - Rose rocks, sometimes called "Cherokee Roses," are found in Oklahoma; other similar rosettes are found in Kansas and as far away as Egypt. Their red coloring and petal-like shape resemble a rose. The Rose Rock was designated the state rock of Oklahoma in 1968.

CHIEF JOHN ROSS - Chief John Ross was the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation for nearly forty years and was their leader during the debates over relocation to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Ross led the tribe from their homelands to the new Cherokee lands in Indian Territory; as many as one-fourth of the tribe's members died during the Trail of Tears.

ROUTE 66 - To the unfamiliar, US Highway Route 66 is simply a highway spanning the country from Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California. The highway was established in 1926, fully paved in 1937, and finally supplanted by the interstate highway system in 1984. Route 66 crossed eight states and covered more than 2,400 miles of America. Route 66 was an important component in the development of an effective system of roads in the United States. The cultural and romantic impact of what author John Steinbeck termed the "Mother Road" is what the highway is most remembered for and has fostered much commemoration long after the road lost its utility. It is the role of the highway as a window into the geography and character of the population of this large nation that continues to engage the public.

BARRY SANDERS - Barry Sanders was born in Wichita, Kansas, on July 16, 1968. He played for Oklahoma State University, where he won the Heisman Trophy and set twenty-four collegiate records in 1988. In 1989 Barry joined the Detroit Lions and was named Rookie of the Year. He currently holds the number three spot for Most Career Rushing Yards Gained, surpassed only by Walter Payton and Emmitt Smith.

SEQUOYAH - Sequoyah, a Cherokee silversmith, created a Cherokee syllabary, which made it possible to read and write in Cherokee. The Cherokee Nation adopted his syllabary officially in 1825. Sequoyah moved to Indian Territory in 1829.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - The scissor-tailed flycatcher was adopted as the state bird in 1951. The scissortail has a mostly gray body with a long forked tail.

SKIRVIN HILTON HOTEL - The Skirvin Hotel was built in Oklahoma City in 1911 and is named for its founder, William Skirvin. The building was designed by architect Solomon Layton. It closed in 1988 and sat abandoned for seventeen years until it was successfully renovated in 2007. It reopened on February 26, 2007, as part of the Hilton chain of hotels. Rumors of a haunting in the hotel have persisted for years, including reports from the players of the New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls of slamming doors

and other strange noises outside their rooms. The Skirvin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

GENERAL THOMAS STAFFORD - Thomas Stafford was born on September 17, 1930, in Weatherford. He graduated from Weatherford High School and from the US Naval Academy, where he graduated with honors in 1952. General Stafford commanded the Apollo 10 in 1969, which was the first flight of the lunar module to the moon and performed the entire lunar landing mission except the actual landing. He also commanded the Apollo for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) mission in July 1975, the joint space meeting between American Astronauts and Soviet Cosmonauts.

STATE FLAG - The State flag features an Osage warrior's shield on a blue background. An olive branch and a calumet, or peace pipe, lay across the shield. Seven eagle feathers decorate the shield. The olive branch and eagle feathers are symbols of peace. The design was officially adopted as Oklahoma's flag in 1925. In 1941 the word "Oklahoma" was added beneath the shield.

STATE OF SEQUOYAH - Prior to statehood Oklahoma was separated into two parts: Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory. In 1902 at a convention of representatives from the Five Tribes, the push for gaining statehood for Indian Territory began. In August 1905 the Sequoyah Constitutional Convention met and drafted a constitution and elected men to go to Congress to petition for statehood for the State of Sequoyah. Unfortunately, the US Government was against the idea of two states and agreed only to statehood for a combined state of Indian and Oklahoma Territories. The already drafted Sequoyah Constitution was used as a basis for the constitution of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma became a state in 1907.

STATE SEAL - The state seal features a five-pointed star. In the center of the star is the state motto, *Labor Omnia Vincit*. Columbia, a symbol of justice, stands between a pioneer and an American Indian clasping hands. Inside each point is an emblem of one of the Five Tribes. In the background of the seal are forty-five stars, representing the forty-five states in the Union. Oklahoma was the forty-sixth state.

BARRY SWITZER - Barry Switzer was head coach of the Oklahoma Sooners from 1973-89. He was well-known for perfecting the wishbone offense and led the Sooners to undefeated seasons in 1973 and 1974. The Sooners, under his direction, won three national championships. Switzer went on to coach the Dallas Cowboys from 1994-97, winning Super Bowl XXX over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

BILL TILGHMAN - Bill Tilghman was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on July 4, 1854. In 1889 Tilghman moved to Oklahoma City and was appointed a deputy United States marshal. He rarely resorted to violence and only killed two criminals. He, along with Heck Thomas and Chris Madsen, became known as the Three Guardsmen. They were responsible for the capture of Bill Doolin and his gang. In 1924 at the age of seventy, Tilghman was appointed marshal of Cromwell. On November 1 of that same year, he was killed while trying to arrest a corrupt prohibition officer.

CLARENCE TINKER - Clarence Tinker was the first American Indian in the history of the United States Army to attain the rank of major general. He was one-eighth Osage and was born in the Osage Nation in former Indian Territory in 1887. He was given command of the Hawaii Department following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and in 1942 was promoted to major general. Clarence Tinker led four bombing attacks on Wake Island on June 5, 1942; upon leaving Midway Island on June 6, his plane crashed at sea, killing all on board. Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City is named after him.

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE - One of the largest military installations in the United States, Tinker Air Force Base was named for Clarence Tinker, an Osage from Pawhuska who lost his life in WWII. Originally selected in a depot competition in 1941, the citizens of Oklahoma City passed a bond issue to build the Midwest Air Depot. The base has been involved in all wars in which the United States has been involved since WWII. In 1948 the first official tornado warning in American history was issued from Tinker.

TULSA ART DECO - Tulsa and Art Deco came of age together. The young city was experiencing unprecedented growth and prosperity in the Roaring Twenties, just as the Art Deco movement came into vogue. Flush with oil money, prominent Tulsans started building the skyscrapers that would spur one of the preeminent Art Deco collections in the United States. As Tulsa boomed and the Art Deco aesthetic evolved through the thirties and into World War II, examples of Zigzag, WPA, and Streamline buildings popped up all over town, including the sky-piercing spire of the Boston Avenue Methodist Church; the impressive mass of Will Rogers High School; and the countless service stations, theaters, industrial buildings, private homes, and grand office buildings in between.

TURNER TURNPIKE - The Turner Turnpike was authorized in 1947 by the Oklahoma Legislature and opened in 1953, connecting Oklahoma City and Tulsa. It was named for Governor Roy J. Turner who pushed to build the toll road. It is the oldest of all Oklahoma's turnpikes.

USS OKLAHOMA - The USS *Oklahoma* was launched in 1914 and was commissioned in 1916. The ship saw service in Ireland during World War I and escorted President Wilson home from the Versailles Conference in 1919. The *Oklahoma* was sent to Spain at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War with orders to evacuate American citizens. The ship rescued more than four hundred people. On December 7, 1941, at the beginning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the ship was moored outboard of the USS *Maryland*. The *Oklahoma*, hit by as many as seven torpedoes, rolled over and sank in a few minutes. The USS *Oklahoma* was raised in 1943, decommissioned in 1944, and sank while being towed to the United States in 1947.

WILD MARY SUDIK - On March 26, 1930, the Wild Mary Sudik Number One was drilled by the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil company near Bryant Avenue and I-240 in Oklahoma City. Because the crew failed to mud the hole properly, the well blew out, spewing approximately twenty thousand barrels of oil on a daily basis for eleven days. Oil was carried by the winds as far as Norman and Nicoma Park. It was finally capped on April 6, 1930.

WINNIE MAE - The *Winnie Mae* was the modified Lockheed 5C Vega flown by Wiley Post when he became the first to fly around the world solo in 1933. Named after Winnie Mae, the daughter of F. C. Hall, the original owner, this plane was flown into the stratosphere in 1935 by Post who wore the world's first pressurized suit. The *Winnie Mae* reached 547 kilometers (340 miles) and cruised in the jet stream, proving the importance of using the east-west jet stream.