



# Perspectives in History

Oklahoma History Conference  
presented by the  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
April 22–23, 2021 | Virtual

# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Thank you for joining the OHS for “Perspectives in History,” the 2021 Oklahoma History Conference. This year’s lineup includes 11 live sessions, 2 programs, and 11 on-demand sessions. The entire conference will be online. We are proud to welcome celebrated poet, author, musician, and current US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, who will present the keynote address on Thursday.

## “Perspectives in History”

The 2021 theme is “Perspectives in History.” This theme was designed to encourage presentations sharing the stories of underrepresented groups, lesser-known topics, and new points of view.

## Professional Development

This year we have expanded conference offerings to include professional development. These presentations will be of particular interest to museum and archive professionals, historical and genealogical societies, students, and educators. Look for this symbol  indicating professional development sessions.

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## How to Attend

All conference sessions and activities are online this year. Visit [www.okhistory.org/conference](http://www.okhistory.org/conference) to participate in the virtual conference. You can join the live sessions at their scheduled time by clicking the link next to the session name. Live sessions will include an opportunity for the online audience to submit questions via the chat function. The on-demand sessions will be available during the entire conference, beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, so that you can enjoy these presentations at your convenience.

## Exhibitor & Sponsor Hall

Look for the Exhibitor & Sponsor Hall link to find out more about our supporters, exhibitors, and resources.

## Programs

The conference will include a musical tribute to the late Steve Ripley by the Red Dirt Rangers and the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony. These programs will be available at a scheduled time as a YouTube Premiere. Look for more information on page 12.



# THANK YOU

The Oklahoma Historical Society would like to express our gratitude to our supporters.

Thanks to the generosity of numerous individuals and organizations, we are able to make this year's conference available free of charge.

## Exhibitor & Sponsor Hall

During the virtual conference, be sure to visit the Exhibitor & Sponsor Hall. This webpage will feature our supporters and exhibitors, OHS programs, publications, and more. Look for the Exhibitor & Sponsor Hall link, and take a moment to learn about our supporters and explore our resources.



ANN & BURNS HARGIS

JUDGE RALPH  
& BARBARA THOMPSON

JAMES R. WALDO

DR. DEENA K. FISHER

NEAL LEADER



THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION



KAREN KEITH      DAN LAWRENCE

CHARLES & PATRICIA TATE

This program is sponsored in part by Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

The keynote presentation is supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# LIVE SESSIONS AND PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Live sessions will be available at a specific time, and the virtual audience will have the opportunity to ask the speaker questions after the presentation. Look for this symbol  indicating professional development sessions.

The tribute to Steve Ripley and Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony are prerecorded programs, which will be available to watch at the time listed. All sessions and programs are listed in central time.

## Thursday, April 22

9:30–9:40 a.m. **Welcome, Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Executive Director Trait Thompson**

10–10:50 a.m. **“Endurance Strategies: Indigenous People in Central Oklahoma During the ‘Orgy of Exploitation,’”**  
John Truden, history doctoral graduate student, University of Oklahoma

11–11:50 a.m. **“The Tulsa Council of Defense v. Andrew J. Smitherman,”** Randy Hopkins, attorney (retired)

12–12:50 p.m. **Keynote Speaker Joy Harjo**  
Poet, author, and musician Joy Harjo is the US Poet Laureate. A Muscogee (Creek) citizen, she is the first Native American to hold the title and the second person to serve three terms.

1–1:50 p.m.  **“Project VOICE: Visions of Inclusion, Culture, and Empathy,”** Savanna Payne and Jamie Hinds Blank, English language learner instructional facilitators, Oklahoma City Public Schools

2–2:50 p.m.  **“Good, Better, and Best Practices for Collections Care,”** OHS staff Jeff Briley, deputy director the Oklahoma History Center; Mallory Covington, CA, archival collections manager; Jennifer Holt, curator at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum; and Karen Whitecotton, director of collections for OKPOP

3–3:50 p.m.  **“Developing a Strategic Plan for Your Historical Organization,”** Kathy Dickson, director of Museums and Historic Sites Division, OHS

7 p.m. **Red Dirt Rangers Musical Tribute to Steve Ripley**

## Friday, April 23

9–9:50 a.m. **“The Misremembered ‘Uncle’ Wallace and ‘Aunt’ Minerva: Establishing Father-Daughter Kinship,”**  
Shelby Ward, attorney and genealogist

10–10:50 a.m. **“Historical Considerations in the Creek Nation Reservation Cases,”** Susan Work, attorney and author

11–11:50 a.m. **“The Ghosts of Creek County: Revisiting Oil and Indigenous Sovereignty,”** Russell Cobb, author and associate professor, University of Alberta

12–12:50 p.m. **“A Conversation with Hannibal B. Johnson: The Tulsa Race Massacre and Greenwood Rising,”**  
Hannibal B. Johnson, esquire, is the chair of the Education Committee for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission and local curator of Greenwood Rising.

1 p.m. **Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony**

# ON-DEMAND SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

On-demand sessions will be available online beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 22. Conference attendees can watch these sessions at their convenience. Videos will be available throughout the entire conference. Look for this symbol  indicating professional development sessions.

 **"Acquisitions as Activism: Preserving and Celebrating Creative and Cultural Legacies Through Collection Development,"** Todd Fuller, curator, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma

**"A Disgraceful Blot: Oklahoma Territory and the Victorian Divorce Crisis,"** Jennifer Lynch, instructor, University of Central Oklahoma

**"Finding Isaac Rogers,"** Nicka Sewell-Smith, genealogist

**"Fluid Resistance: A Queer Analysis of Art and Politics in Oklahoma,"** B Hinesley and Arlowe Matthews, public history graduate students; Macy Jennings and Jacie Earwood, art history graduate students; and moderator Dr. Laura Arata, assistant professor, history department; all of Oklahoma State University

**"The Legend of Cora Youngblood: Oklahoma's Forgotten Prodigy,"** James P. Gregory Jr., doctoral graduate student, University of Oklahoma

**"A Mexican Oklahoman History,"** Jorge Luis Chavez, public history graduate student, Oklahoma State University, and assistant curator of education, Oklahoma History Center, OHS

**"Telling the Stories of Creek Allottees of Tvlse,"** The Lucinda Hickory Research Institute

 **"Uncovering Oral History Perspectives in Oklahoma,"** Karen Neurohr, professor, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, Oklahoma State University; and Mallory Covington, CA, archival collections manager, OHS

**"Washita Love Child: The Life and Times of Jesse Ed Davis,"** Douglas K. Miller, author and assistant professor, history department, Oklahoma State University

**"William Faulkner Was Right: Why How We Talk About History Matters,"** Dr. Amber J. Godwin, assistant clinical professor, Sam Houston State University

**"Women of Washita,"** Kate Roesch, education ranger, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**Thursday, April 22**

**9:30–9:40 a.m.**

**Welcome, Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS)  
Executive Director Trait Thompson**

**Thursday, 10–10:50 a.m.**

**“Endurance Strategies: Indigenous People in Central Oklahoma During the ‘Orgy of Exploitation,’” John Truden**

In 1940, Angie Debo wrote about the “orgy of exploitation,” a period between 1898 and 1934 in which corrupt politicians and lawyers descended on and dismembered the territories of the Five Tribes. This session will examine the strategies of Indigenous people during this period. Topics include Sauk trader Moses Keokuk, who battled the Lincoln County treasurer’s office in territorial court; Citizen Pottawatomie urban planner Catherine Burnett, who used her husband’s capital and her allotment to construct a successful trading center that did not fall under territorial jurisdiction; Chickasaw businessman E. B. Johnson’s use of a grafting firm to help him swindle Native people in eastern Oklahoma; and Absentee Shawnee Chief Big Jim’s decision to move his people to a remote area in hopes of being left alone.

John Truden is a PhD student at the University of Oklahoma. His dissertation will explore Indigenous-settler relationships in Oklahoma between Reconstruction and the early Cold War. He has collaborated with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Kanza Nation, and the Metropolitan Library System.

**Thursday, 11–11:50 a.m.**

**“The Tulsa Council of Defense v. Andrew J. Smitherman,” Randy Hopkins**

In October 1918, the Tulsa Council of Defense summoned Andrew J. Smitherman, editor and publisher of the *Tulsa Star*. The council was the most vigorous arm of Governor Robert Lee Williams’s State Council of Defense, the wholly extralegal “supreme law of the land” in Oklahoma during the World War. The summons grew out of the *Tulsa Star* headline, “Whites Adopted Slavery Methods,” and an accompanying article “Let Us Have Democracy,” which reported an instance of peonage in Tulsa and its dramatic resolution.

This presentation will review events reported in “Let Us Have Democracy,” including underappreciated instances of interracial cooperation and respect for the rule of law. The session will also explore the historiography and failure of Oklahoma historians to preserve the extensive documentation of the State Council of Defense, and conclude with the confrontation between the Tulsa Council and the newsman.

Randy Hopkins is a retired trial lawyer residing in Portland, Oregon. Born and raised in Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and the University of Texas School of Law. His article “Birthday of the Klan: The Tulsa Outrage of 1917,” was published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*.



**Thursday, Noon–12:50 p.m.**

**Keynote Speaker Joy Harjo**

Joy Harjo’s nine books of poetry include *An American Sunrise*, *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*, and *She Had Some Horses*. Harjo’s memoir *Crazy Brave* won several awards, including the PEN USA Literary Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the American Book Award. She co-edited two anthologies of contemporary Native women’s writing: *When the Light of the World was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through* and *Reinventing the Enemy’s Language: Native Women’s Writing of North America*, one of the *London Observer’s Best Books of 1997*. She is the recipient of the Ruth Lilly Prize from the Poetry Foundation for Lifetime Achievement, the 2015 Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets for proven mastery in the art of poetry, a Guggenheim Fel-

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

lowship, the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the United States Artist Fellowship. In 2014 she was inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame.

A renowned musician, Harjo performs with her saxophone nationally and internationally, solo and with her band, the Arrow Dynamics. She has five award-winning CDs of music including the award-winning album *Red Dreams, A Trail Beyond Tears and Winding Through the Milky Way*, which won a Native American Music Award for Best Female Artist of the Year in 2009. Harjo's latest is a book of poetry from Norton, *An American Sunrise*. In 2019, Joy Harjo was appointed the 23rd United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold the position. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### Thursday, 1-1:50 p.m.

#### **"Project VOICE: Visions of Inclusion, Culture, and Empathy," Savanna Payne and Jamie Hinds Blank**

ProjectVOICE attempts to introduce individuals in our community to the lives and stories of newcomers and English language learners served within the Oklahoma City Public School District. Through careful selection of mentor texts, students design and craft multiple stories reflecting their lives, settling on one for inclusion in a collection of personal narratives. With the partnership of the Oklahoma History Center, this published anthology of student-led work will become one of Oklahoma history's primary resources focusing on the experiences, challenges, and opportunities faced by individuals new to the English language and the state of Oklahoma.

Savanna Payne and Jamie Hinds Blank both hold master's degrees in Education and work in Oklahoma City Public Schools with English Learners and teachers. They develop and create curriculum, provide professional development, and advocate through ProjectVOICE.

### Thursday, 2-2:50 p.m.

#### **"Good, Better, and Best Practices for Collections Care," Jeff Briley, Mallory Covington, Jennifer Holt, and Karen Whitecotton**

For collecting historical organizations, collections care is an essential but often overwhelming responsibility. Financial, facility, and staffing limitations can make it difficult for organizations to follow the "best practices" expect-

ed for collections care. This session will examine how organizations can make small but significant changes to collections care. While best practices are always the goal, this program will explore ways to mitigate issues until long-term solutions can be found. This roundtable will be an opportunity to learn from some of the best collection specialists and archivists in the state. Participants will be able to engage with panelists and ask questions.

This session will be presented by Oklahoma Historical Society staff members: Jeff Briley, deputy director of the Oklahoma History Center; Mallory Covington, CA, archival collections manager; Jennifer Holt, curator at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum; and Karen Whitecotton, director of collections for OKPOP.

### Thursday, 3-3:50 p.m.

#### **"Developing a Strategic Plan for Your Historical Organization," Kathy Dickson**

Strategic plans are a vital core document for any organization. Not only are strategic plans necessary for setting goals and long-term plans, but many grants, including the Oklahoma Historical Society's Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program, require organizations to have a strategic plan. While developing a strategic plan might seem overwhelming, it doesn't have to be. Kathy Dickson has helped create numerous strategic plans for historical organizations of varying sizes and needs across the state. This program will help organizations by providing a roadmap for developing a strategic plan in-house.

Kathy Dickson is director of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Museums and Historic Sites Division.

## Friday, April 23

### Friday, 9-9:50 a.m.

#### **"The Misremembered 'Uncle' Wallace and 'Aunt' Minerva: Establishing Father-Daughter Kinship," Shelby Ward**

"Uncle" Wallace and "Aunt" Minerva Willis contributed to the musical legacy of Oklahoma and beyond. They performed Negro spirituals during the antebellum Indian Territory period. The Fisk University Jubilee Singers popularized some of their songs in the 1870s. In 2011 the State of Oklahoma designated a song credited to them, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," the state gospel song. While their talent has not been forgotten, the na-

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ture of their relationship has been misremembered. The mainstream history of Wallace and Minerva incorrectly defines them as a married couple. Upon examining primary sources, it is established that they were parent and child. Understanding their relationship sheds light on why Wallace may have received more credit and disrupts relationally-based slave stereotypes. The session will share how this research journey unfolded and the formation of a manuscript documenting this research. Ward will demonstrate how kinship relationships can be documented for the enslaved inhabitants of Indian Territory.

Shelby B. Ward is an attorney, Choctaw Freedman, community historian, and genealogist. She is a co-founder of the Beck Genealogical Society and the Oklahoma Freedmen Collective. Shelby has trained Knoxville Family History Center staff on the subject of African Diaspora genealogy, history, and culture.

### Friday, 10–10:50 a.m.

#### **“Historical Considerations in the Creek Nation Reservation Cases,” Susan Work**

Notable scholars, such as Angie Debo, have described the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century histories of the Five Tribes in well-researched treatises. However, these scholarly works did not analyze the detailed text of the many complex federal laws relevant to convenient, but false, popular assumptions advanced by state officials for decades: the ideas that Congress terminated the Five Tribes’ governments and disestablished their reservations, and that Five Tribes citizens disappeared into a great melting pot in the new state.

In finding that the Muscogee (Creek) Reservation continues to exist, the 2020 Supreme Court majority opinion in *McGirt* and the 2017 Tenth Circuit opinion in *Murphy* (affirmed by the Supreme Court in 2020) interpreted relevant federal treaties and statutes without accepting past assumptions. This presentation will discuss some of the more important historical perspectives discussed by the parties, amici, and the Court in these cases.

Susan Work, an attorney and a Choctaw Nation citizen, has represented several Oklahoma tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, and Seminole Nations. Now semi-retired, she served as co-counsel on amicus curiae briefs on behalf of historians and legal scholars in

the Murphy and McGirt Creek Reservation cases decided by the Supreme Court last year. She is the author of *The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, A Legal History* (OU Press, 2010).

### Friday, 11–11:50 a.m.

#### **“The Ghosts of Creek County: Revisiting Oil and Indigenous Sovereignty,” Russell Cobb**

The discovery, extraction, and production of oil have played a central role in the story Oklahoma tells about itself. From the icons of Tulsa’s *Golden Driller* to the names of sports teams (Drillers, Barons, Energy), oil is central to Oklahoma’s identity. Behind the celebration of oil as a symbol of progress, however, lies a darker story. This story concerns the legalized theft and swindles of land allotments granted to citizens of the Five Tribes. This presentation will examine two cases that exemplify the crosscurrents of Indigenous sovereignty, oil production, and cultural relations between American Indians, African Americans, and white settlers between 1907 and 1922. Speaker Russell Cobb will tell the stories of two Muscogee (Creek) women: Millie Neharkey and Minnie Atkins. Expanding on the work of Angie Debo, Cobb will reveal the machinations by which oil barons took possession of tribal lands through Oklahoma’s unique guardianship laws. This presentation will consider the larger implications of how this historical period affects Oklahoma’s petro-cultures after the Supreme Court’s *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision.

Russell Cobb is an associate professor at the University of Alberta. He is the author of *The Great Oklahoma Swindle: Race, Class, and Lies in America’s Weirdest State* (Bison Books, 2020) and editor of *The Paradox of Authenticity in a Globalized World* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). His journalism has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Slate*, and the *Nation*, and on NPR.

### Friday, Noon–12:50 p.m.

#### **“A Conversation with Hannibal B. Johnson: The Tulsa Race Massacre and Greenwood Rising,” Hannibal B. Johnson and Larry O’Dell**

Larry O’Dell will discuss the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre with historian and author Hannibal Johnson, who serves as the education chair for the current 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Commission. The session will examine the atmosphere and events leading to the massacre, the aftermath and rebuilding of Tulsa’s Greenwood District, urban

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renewal and its effects on North Tulsa, the activities of the new commission, and the events planned for the anniversary. The presentation will also share information about the new Greenwood Rising Museum that is slated to open on Greenwood Avenue.

Hannibal B. Johnson is a Harvard Law School graduate and attorney in Tulsa. He has authored eight books, four of which focus on the topic of North Tulsa. He has received numerous awards for his writing, community work, and through his law practice. Johnson's latest publication is *Black Wall Street 100: An American City Grapples with its Historical Racial Trauma* (Eakin Press, 2020). Johnson is a member of the federal 400 Years of African-American History Commission.

### On-Demand Sessions

On-demand sessions will be available online beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 22. Conference attendees can watch these sessions at their convenience. Videos will be available throughout the entire conference. Look for this symbol  indicating professional development sessions.

#### ON-DEMAND

#### "Acquisitions as Activism: Preserving and Celebrating Creative and Cultural Legacies Through Collection Development," Todd Fuller

This session will explore the history and motivations of creating archives devoted to the American West, especially for collecting Native or tribal nation-related materials and documents in the early- to mid-twentieth century. Fuller will also share reasons for establishing new archives of color at the Western History Collections (WHC), University of Oklahoma Libraries.

In the spring of 2019, the WHC began implementing a new collection initiative, the Contemporary Native American Authors Collection. Initially, the thrust of the initiative will focus on authors and creatives with connections to Oklahoma. The WHC seeks to celebrate the literary legacies of contemporary American Indian authors, thereby expanding the collections' representative voices and increasing perspectives beyond the prevailing/dominant narrative.

Todd Fuller is curator of the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma Libraries. He is also the au-

thor of two books, *60 Feet Six Inches and Other Distances from Home: The (Baseball) Life of Mose YellowHorse* (Holy Cow! Press, 2002) and *To the Disappearance* (Mongrel Empire Press, 2015). His poems, stories, and essays have appeared in numerous regional and national publications, including the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *American Literary Review*, and *Cimarron Review*.

#### ON-DEMAND

#### "A Disgraceful Blot: Oklahoma Territory and the Victorian Divorce Crisis," Jennifer Lynch

This session will explore Oklahoma Territory's role as the last divorce mill in the broader Victorian Divorce Crisis of the 1890s. The mill that thrived in Guthrie from 1891 to 1897 gained national notoriety and led to the creation of a moral congress to address the growing panic, with Oklahoma Territory used as a public example of the phenomenon and need for federal change in territorial divorce policy. This session is an extension of Lynch's MA thesis research that studies not only the history of divorce in the US, but historical perspectives of divorce and the misremembrance of it as a modern cultural event. Lynch also explores the significance of the Victorian divorce-seekers in creating an avenue for discussions of gender and legal protection in domestic partnerships that is echoed today.

Jennifer Lynch is a historian and educator. She has served as an associate education curator at the Oklahoma History Center and is an instructor at the University of Central Oklahoma.

#### ON-DEMAND

#### "Finding Isaac Rogers," Nicka Sewell-Smith

Isaac Rogers was a well-known US Civil War veteran and deputy marshal who met his demise on a platform in Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, on April 21, 1897—but who was he outside of those titles and that singular event? This is the story of how oral history, traditional genealogy, and genetic genealogy collided to reveal the presenter's ties to Rogers and their shared family origins and connections to the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. This intimate and rarely seen account of a Five Tribes Freedmen family will share what can be found once ancestors are located on the Dawes Rolls and applications and how the information within those documents lead to mapping out a family history spanning more than ten generations. Sewell-Smith will discuss the use of additional record sets such as the US

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Civil War pension files, Cherokee rolls, state and federal census records, Freedmen rolls such as the Wallace and Kern-Clifton Rolls, congressional records, newspapers, and more.

Nicka Sewell-Smith is a professional genealogist and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She is a charter member of the Sons and Daughters of the Middle Passage, host of BlackProGen LIVE, and serves on the Oklahoma Freedmen Collective leadership team. Sewell-Smith is also on the faculty of the Midwest African American Genealogy Institute.

### ON-DEMAND

**“Fluid Resistance: A Queer Analysis of Art and Politics in Oklahoma,” B Hinesley, Arlowe Clementine, Macy Jennings, Jacie Earwood, and Dr. Laura Arata**

This discussion session sits at the intersection of queer protest art and activist initiatives in Oklahoma since the 1980s. Oklahoma State University graduate students from the Public History and Art History Departments provide historical and visual evidence of queer protest movements from Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Where possible, the panel will expand beyond the urban-normative into rural locations and include the importance of place within the examination of the historical shifts created through queer activist art. Additionally, examples from the AIDS crisis to modern artists working in queer aesthetics will demonstrate recurring themes that shift over time: funding streams, placement of art, political actions, and community building initiatives. This session will discuss the power and implications of art and protest in Oklahoma through thoughtful historical evidence and queer theories as a tool to combat the erasure of queer Oklahoman’s voices.

B Hinesley and Arlowe Clementine are public history graduate students, Macy Jennings and Jacie Earwood are art history graduate students, and moderator Dr. Laura Arata is an assistant professor in the history department, all of Oklahoma State University. The panel members have recently completed work on *Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes*, an exhibit at the Stillwater History Museum at the Sheerar. This exhibit was toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

### ON-DEMAND

**“The Legend of Cora Youngblood: Oklahoma’s Forgotten Prodigy,” James P. Gregory Jr.**

Cora Youngblood Corson was born in Republic, Missouri, on January 19, 1886. Her father purchased a plot in Anadarko, Oklahoma Territory, on August 6, 1901. There Corson formed the first band in the town with her sisters and friends. From this humble beginning, she became one of the most famous women in vaudeville. However, her career has been largely forgotten. Corson earned the moniker “Oklahoma’s Prodigy” and sold out theaters across the world. She created the Cora Youngblood Corson Sextette, which performed extravagant shows and garnered national acclaim. During her illustrious career, she picketed against the trusts that ran the theaters, was arrested, and subsequently blacklisted. This presentation will illuminate this extraordinary woman’s career and legacy.

James Gregory Jr. is a doctoral graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of *The Story of One Marine: The World War I Letters and Photos of Pvt. Thomas L. Stewart* (Hellgate Press, 2017) and editor of *A Poet At War: The Story of a World War I Marine* (Hellgate Press, 2018). Gregory’s focus is World War I, the Cold War, American Indian history, and digital humanities.

### ON-DEMAND

**“A Mexican Oklahoman History,” Jorge Luis Chavez**

Community building can take many forms, but at its core, the goal is to bring unity among individuals. That unity among families, friends, and neighbors brought recognition, strength, and a lasting legacy within Oklahoma. This legacy is often omitted from Oklahoma’s historical narratives. The Mexican and Mexican American community has existed since Oklahoma’s statehood. People of Mexican descent have been active participants in the state’s development since the beginning. The overarching civil rights movements seen across the United States in the 1950s and 1960s influenced and empowered those in Oklahoma to do the same. From then on, the Mexican and Mexican American communities displayed a great deal of unity and has continued to influence and impact the state. Modern Mexican and Mexican American community building has been studied throughout the US; however, there is still a considerable gap in the historiography of these communities outside of the American southwestern borderlands. This session

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provides perspective into Mexican and Mexican American community building and development in Oklahoma.

Jorge Luis Chavez is a graduate student studying public history at Oklahoma State University. He is also an associate curator of education at the Oklahoma History Center.

### ON-DEMAND

#### **“Telling the Stories of Creek Allottees of Tvlse,” The Lucinda Hickory Research Institute**

This session is part of The Lucinda Hickory Research Institute’s efforts to educate, promote, and preserve the allotment experience of our Mvskoke Creek ancestors. Tulsa’s Muscogee (Creek) past has been obscured by its mythology as the erstwhile “Oil Capital of the World.” This session aims to correct that narrative by telling the stories of allottees whose lands held the riches that made the city famous. In particular, we will raise awareness about Tuckabache, a central figure in removal, the Civil War, and Tvlse tribal town’s reconstruction. Tuckabache’s story reflects the tragedy of Oklahoma guardianship, which tore families apart and dispossessed Indigenous people from their land and wealth as oil was discovered. Part of the new Gathering Place park sits on Tuckabache’s land. There is no public acknowledgment of the original allottee, nor any public discussion of how his grandchildren were divested of that land to make way for Maple Ridge, Tulsa’s first suburb. The speakers will aim to understand how oil industry tycoons such as Charles Page dispossessed American Indians of their land and then consolidated their reputations as philanthropists. We do this in the hopes of providing a framework for truth-telling and reconciliation.

Tatianna Duncan is founder and owner of the Lucinda Hickory Research Institute. Russell Cobb is an associate professor at the University of Alberta and author of *The Great Oklahoma Swindle: Race, Class, and Lies in America’s Weirdest State* (Bison Books, 2020).

### ON-DEMAND

#### **“Uncovering Oral History Perspectives in Oklahoma,” Karen Neurohr and Mallory Covington**

Oral history collections exist throughout Oklahoma in local museums, heritage centers, county historical societies and libraries, and academic institutions. Existing oral history collections, which may date back several decades,

pose concerns for preservation and access. A new outreach effort in Oklahoma is ListenOK, a statewide guide to oral history collections. Developed by the Oklahoma State University Library, the guide identifies and describes thousands of oral history interviews and their locations and provides a centralized searching point for these unique collections. ListenOK offers researchers and the general public information about Oklahoma’s rich culture and history through the voices of those who lived it.

The library partners with institutions that provide information about their collections. Dr. Neurohr will demonstrate ListenOK, share stories about project outcomes, and offer information about how to participate. Mallory Covington will discuss her ongoing work conducting an inventory of the Oklahoma Historical Society oral history collections. Together, the speakers hope to inspire participants to uncover and preserve existing collections or undertake new oral histories.

Dr. Karen Neurohr is a Professor in the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University Library. In addition to conducting oral history research for the projects “Remembering Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel: Okie Poet and Dust Bowl Emigrant,” “O-STATE Stories,” and “Spotlighting Oklahoma,” she coordinates ListenOK. Mallory Covington, CA, is the archival collections manager for the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division. In addition to assisting patrons with historical research, she is conducting a thorough inventory of oral histories in the collection and sharing inventory lists for ListenOK.

### ON-DEMAND

#### **“Washita Love Child: The Life and Times of Jesse Ed Davis,” Douglas K. Miller**

Beginning in the 1960s, Kiowa-Comanche guitar slinger Jesse Ed Davis rose to great prominence in the music business. Born in Norman and raised in Oklahoma City, Davis first honed his chops with country star Conway Twitty and blues icon Taj Mahal before becoming a major studio and live performer representing the Tulsa Sound from his new home in California. His work with fellow Oklahoman Leon Russell led to gigs with Bob Dylan, John Lennon, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, and other rock and roll legends. Yet, there are no elaborate scholarly histories of Jesse Ed Davis, his iconic con-

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

tributions to popular music, or his career that both reflected and transcended his Native background. Indeed, Davis's success first stemmed from his incredible musical talent. But if his musical reputation kept his phone ringing, then his identity as an Indigenous artist infused his experiences with deeper meaning. Through an exploration of this principal theme, this session will celebrate an underappreciated musician whose remarkable life can be simultaneously and uniquely told as music history, American Indian history, and Oklahoma history.

Douglas K. Miller's first book, *Indians on the Move: Native American Mobility and Urbanization in the Twentieth Century* (UNC Press, 2019), discusses how and why Native peoples imagined cities as places for new Indigenous futures in the twentieth century. He has two new book projects underway: one about Jesse Ed Davis's remarkable life and career and one on histories of American Indian incarceration from the colonial period to the present.

### ON-DEMAND

#### **"William Faulkner Was Right: Why How We Talk About History Matters," Dr. Amber J. Godwin**

Schools in the United States tend to be framed upon Eurocentric ideologies (Abela & Dague, 2020), thereby silencing the many voices and experiences that create the fabric of the United States. By creating classrooms where students either acclimate to the colonial mindset—or do not—teachers force students to choose between being included (Brayboy, 2014) or ostracizing themselves in favor of a subjective, sometimes standards-based truth. However, our country's very nature as a gumbo-style melting pot means instruction must be based on more than only European ideologies. Recent attention to civil unrest has highlighted an underlying issue in public schools: equal education does not mean equal representation in school curricula. Adding other voices in instruction to Social Studies coursework, particularly through storytelling, can provide a more robust understanding of the communities in which schools exist. This session will explore strategies to offer inclusive instruction and ways to encourage Social Studies instruction that focuses not only on content-based instructional methodologies but skill-building activities that can help develop better-informed citizens of tomorrow.

Dr. Amber J. Godwin is an assistant clinical professor at Sam Houston State University. Her research aims to develop critical thinking experiences for learners and explore interventions that enhance social studies education. She was previously employed in Florida and Texas school systems as a teacher. She has served as an essay scorer for AP College Board, a contractor for McGraw-Hill, and a question writer.

### ON-DEMAND

#### **"Women of Washita," Kate Roesch**

When people talk about the Battle of the Washita, they typically discuss heavy hitters like George Custer, Black Kettle, and Joel Elliott. What many do not realize is that women played a significant role in the Battle of the Washita. For instance, had Southern Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle listened to his wife Medicine Woman Later on the night of November 26, the events may have played out much differently. This session will discuss the perspectives of women from settlers to Cheyenne, and even the military, shedding light on a topic that is usually overlooked.

Kate Roesch is the education ranger at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, where she works with local teachers and facilitates student-centered education programs. Roesch has also worked on the National Mall in Washington, DC, at Ford's Theatre and Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, as well as in Virginia at Manassas National Battlefield Park and George Washington Memorial Parkway.

# PROGRAMS

## Programs

These programs will be available online as a YouTube Premiere. Viewers will watch and these programs online together, and can share thoughts and comments using the YouTube chat.

### Thursday, 7 p.m.

#### Red Dirt Rangers Musical Tribute to Steve Ripley

Join us online for a special tribute to the late Steve Ripley. A renowned musician, Ripley was a pioneer in Red Dirt music, a guitarist for JJ Cale and Bob Dylan, a founder of the band The Tractors, a recording engineer, and a music historian. He was a 2020 Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductee. The Red Dirt Rangers, who have been making music since 1988, worked closely with Ripley. This tribute was filmed at Steve Ripley's home studio in Pawnee County.



### Friday, 1 p.m.

#### Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony

Each year, the Oklahoma Historical Society recognizes authors, students, educators, historians, and organizations making significant contributions to the preservation and sharing of Oklahoma history. This year's online program will honor Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductees for 2020 and 2021 as well as annual award recipients.

#### Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Inductees, 2020

Cassandra Gaines  
Melvena Heisch  
Gaston Litton  
Steve Ripley

#### Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Inductees, 2021

Bruce Fisher  
Jack Frank

#### Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History

*Breaking Down Barriers: George McLaurin and the Struggle to End Segregated Education* by David W. Levy, University of Oklahoma Press

#### Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History

"Culture on the Prairie: Celebrating Oklahoma's Art Museums and Their Contributors in the Twentieth Century" by Bradley Fritch, University of Central Oklahoma

#### Muriel H. Wright Award

"An Appeal to Reason": Women's Suffrage in Oklahoma and Indian Territories, 1890–1907" by Linda Wilson  
*The Chronicles of Oklahoma* (Volume 98, No. 2)

#### Joseph B. Thoburn Student Historian Award

Priya George, Jenks High School

#### William D. Pennington Teacher Award

Greg Oppel, Edmond Memorial High School

#### Outstanding Regional Historical Museum

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

#### Outstanding Local OHS Support Group

Oklahoma Genealogical Society

# ABOUT OHS

**The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.**

Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites, and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs, and publications the OHS chronicles the rich history of our state. Visit [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org) to learn more.

## Museums and Historic Sites

Atoka Museum and Civil War Cemetery, Atoka  
Cabin Creek Battlefield, Big Cabin  
Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry  
Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid  
Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher  
Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson  
Fort Supply Historic Site, Fort Supply  
Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson  
Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy  
Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City  
Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah  
Hunter's Home, Park Hill  
Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus  
Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City  
Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton  
Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie  
Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee  
Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, Ponca City  
Sod House Museum, Aline  
Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro  
Tom Mix Museum, Dewey  
White Hair Memorial, Hominy  
Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

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