Spring Encampment at Fort Gibson Historic Site

Fort Gibson Historic Site will host the Spring Encampment (formerly known as Heritage Days) on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. The 2011 event will include military and civilian reenactors from the pre-Civil War, Civil War, and Indian Wars periods. Also planned for this year are American Indian and African American portrayals. Visitors on Education Day, April 15, will get to see a military musician, blacksmith, cook, baker, carpenter, and a frontier explorer and scientist as well as soldiers guarding the frontier.

Saturday will see a “Day in the Life” presentation in the log fort where the garrison will carry out the daily routine of the frontier post. The post bake oven will be operating on Garrison Hill, and bread will be available for a donation to the Friends of Fort Gibson. Donations will be used to support activities that benefit the site. The museum and bookshop will also be open.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The Spring Encampment is presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Friends of Fort Gibson, and the Sixth Infantry Living History Association. Fort Gibson Historic Site is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society and is located on State Highway 80 in Fort Gibson. For more information call 918/478-4088 or e-mail fortgibson@okhistory.org.

Battle of Honey Springs
Reenactment set for April 29-May 1

Hear the clarion bugle calls, the roar of cannon, the din of volley fire from muskets, and the ring of saber clashes at the Battle of Honey Springs Reenactment during the weekend of April 29 through May 1. Over the weekend the historic battlefield will once again come to life as hundreds of reenactors converge on the site to fight the battle that was significant to the Civil War in the West.

The original Battle of Honey Springs was fought in July 1863 when the Federal forces of Major General James G. Blunt clashed into the advancing Confederate army of Brigadier General Douglas Cooper. African American, American Indian, and white soldiers fought this battle to decide the fate of the control of Indian Territory.

The reenactment of the Battle of Honey Springs is a sanctioned event of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Civil War, and many reenactors are expected to participate, including African American and American Indian troops as well as soldiers of the artillery and cavalry.

Speakers on Saturday will make presentations throughout the day on topics relating to the Civil War in Indian Territory. Vendors will also be set up and selling their wares including period reproductions.

For more information on the reenactment weekend, contact 918/473-5572 or honeysprings@okhistory.org. Honey Springs Battlefield is located just north of Checotah.

For more information on the Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial, visit www.okcivilwar.org.

The Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War from 2011 to 2015. The commission will focus on education, discussion, and preservation efforts to ensure history is remembered today and preserved for the future.

Family Saturday at History Center April 16

The Oklahoma History Center will hold its monthly Family Saturday program on April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The April program will be “Pioneer Day.”

Admission to the History Center for Family Saturday is free for children accompanied by a parent. Adults pay regular admission. If you have questions about this event, call 405/522-0785 or email jharris@okhistory.org.
Streetcars are no longer just a subject for historical study at the Blackburn household.

My wife, Debbie, is a member of a citizen task force appointed by Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett to consider how and where to lay up to six miles of streetcar tracks in downtown Oklahoma City. Her passion for light rail, and the role it will play in the city’s future, reminds me daily how important streetcars have been in Oklahoma history.

The first streetcar tracks in the Twin Territories were laid in Oklahoma City in late 1902 and early 1903. The incentive for that investment was not the revenue from nickel fares; the motivation was the potential profit in converting land on the edge of the city from agriculture to housing subdivisions.

Anton Classen, an ’89er who settled first in Edmond, had been purchasing farmland on the outskirts of Oklahoma City since 1898 when the population still hovered around six thousand people. The average price he paid was $100 an acre.

Classen platted his first housing addition in 1900, but it was too far downtown, “out in the country” north of Thirteenth Street. He sold only a few lots in town, “out in the country” north of Thirteenth Street. He sold only a few lots in town, but it was too far from downtown. The average price he paid was $100 an acre.

The end of the streetcar tracks was due not just to declining ridership. It was the separation of real estate development from the steel rails. In 1928 G. A. Nichols built his country club addition not at the end of the tracks, but out in the country almost three miles from the nearest development. By the 1940s and the great housing boom, streetcars were no longer part of the formula for making money in development.

From my perspective, the incentives for investing in a streetcar system are once again important. The impact on the inner city is easy to see, but there is also long-term importance for the suburbs through commuter rail.

Yes, streetcars are no longer just a subject for historical study. They are part of our future.
Meetings

The Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 4, at 6 p.m. Nona Thompson, past president of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society and member of the First Families of the Twin Territories, will present a lecture on “Collecting Your Medical Heritage.” In her presentation, Thompson will give tips for charting the medical information collected in genealogical research, including such conditions as heart disease, diabetes, depression, cancer, and alcoholism. She will also talk about the value of verifying family oral history with death certificates to collect information for your medical pedigree. The OGS meets in the Chesapeake Event Center of the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Workshop

Historic Mount Vernon is proud to announce the extension of its highly successful Oklahoma George Washington Teaching Ambassador program. As a part of this program, it will offer a free workshop entitled “George Washington’s Trunk—Full of Revolutionary Ideas” to Oklahoma teachers on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The hands-on workshop will show teachers new, innovative ways to teach the Revolutionary War through George Washington. The workshop will also be the premiere of one of the George Washington history trunks, which includes a uniform and equipment for students to explore. The Teaching Ambassador program also offers an online mentoring program through the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. For more information on the workshop or to register, please contact Jan McClaren at jmlaren@mountvernon.org.

Exhibit

Tulsa’s Gilcrease Museum has launched a major exhibition celebrating the enduring spirit of western women entitled Home Lands: How Women Made the West. The exhibit was organized by the Autry National Center in Los Angeles and was curated by Carolyn Brucken, associate curator of women’s history at the Autry, and Virginia Scharff, Women of the West Chair at the Institute for the Study of the American West at the Autry. Home Lands focuses on three regions: northern New Mexico, the Colorado Front Range, and Puget Sound. It shows the cultural diversity of the West, the environment’s impact on the lives of women, and the ways women have shaped their environments. The stories of American Indian women are told to illustrate these points. Items featured in the exhibit include textiles and clothing, pottery, paintings, photography, sculpture, books, and other ephemera. The exhibit runs now through May 15. Contact 918/596-2700 for more information.

Events

The Apache Rattlesnake Festival will be held Thursday through Sunday, April 14 to April 17, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. Visitors can get up close and personal with rattlesnakes during guided snake hunts that begin at 10 a.m. each morning. If you prefer to remain a bit more removed from danger, you can also view the snakes from behind glass or eat rattlesnake meat as a tasty treat. Prizes will be awarded for the most and the largest rattlesnakes captured. There will be a carnival area for the kids and flea market shopping for the more faint-hearted. The Apache Rattlesnake Festival has been a tradition for more than twenty-five years and also includes live music and an annual powwow following. Call Ron Orf at 580/588-2880 or 580/588-3440 for more information.

Remember using sidewalk chalk on your parents’ driveway? Come to Chickasha to see it elevated to an artform. The annual Montmartre Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival on April 7 features artists of all ages creating art on the sidewalks of the city. Artists have a six-foot by six-foot square of pavement in which to create their original artwork. Up to four artists may collaborate on one work, using only waterbased, temporary chalk. Registration for the festival begins at 7:30 a.m. and judging begins at noon. Cash awards will be presented at 1:30 p.m. Live music and vendors will also be on hand for the event. For details, please contact Jacquelyn Knapp at 405/574-1303 or 405/574-1302.

Honor Heights Park in Muskogee is home to the annual Azalea Festival during the month of April. Visitors to the forty acre park drive along paved roadways through more than thirty thousand blooming azaleas of more than 625 varieties. Enjoy a walk along one of the park’s five lakes, through its butterfly sanctuary, or its arboretum. The park will hold a Party in the Park Wine and Food Tasting on April 16 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Local Oklahoma wines and food vendors will be featured, a live jazz band will be on hand, and artwork from the Muskogee Art Guild will be displayed. For more information, please call 918/684-6302.

Tour

Trace Civil War history in what was Indian Territory on the Cherokee Civil War History Tour, presented by the Cherokee Nation tourism office. The tour begins in Tahlequah at the historic Capitol Square with tales of Confederate Brigadier General Stand Watie’s march through town and the burning of Cherokee buildings. Guests will then visit the Murrell Home in Park Hill, the only remaining antebellum plantation house in Oklahoma. After a visit at the plantation, the bus will proceed to Fort Gibson Historic Site to learn about the Civil War history of the fort. The final stop will be a visit to the Honey Springs Battle Field Site near Checotah, the location of the largest battle in Indian Territory, where the Union defeated the Confederate forces. Reenactors will be on hand to depict scenes from events. Visit www.cherokeenationtravel.com for more information.

Contest

Do you have a historically important, humorous, or just interesting family story? You can share it and win with the Oklahoma Genealogical Society’s Family History Writing Contest. The contest gives researchers the opportunity to communicate these stories of immigration, struggle, love, or other family events not only to the judges but also to preserve them for their families. There is no entry fee for the competition, and membership in the OGS is not required. To be eligible, the story should have some connection to Oklahoma, either through the author’s residence or the story itself. Both an adult and a student division are available for entries. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2011. For complete rules, prizes, and submission details, please visit www.okgensoc.org.
General Information

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held on April 27, 28, and 29 in Enid, Oklahoma, at the Cherokee Strip Conference Center, 123 West Maine Avenue.

Arrangements have been made by the OHS Annual Meeting Committee consisting of Bob Klemme (Chair), Deena Fisher, Patricia Loughlin, Samonia Meredith, and Jan Vassar. The committee was assisted by OHS staff members Paul F. Lambert (Annual Meeting Coordinator), Bob Blackburn, Elizabeth Bass, Shelly Crynes, Geneva Little, Alma Moore, and Tim Zwink.

Lodging

Three hotels in Enid have been selected as OHS convention hotels: the Baymont Inn and Suites, Comfort Inn Midwestern Square, and Holiday Inn Express. When calling one of these hotels to make a reservation, please tell them you are attending the OHS Annual Meeting in order to receive the room rates noted below.

The rate at the Baymont Inn and Suites will be $72. The rooms will be held until March 30. The Baymont is located at 3614 West Owen K. Garriott. Reservations may be made by calling 800/992-2694 or 580/234-6800.

The rate at the Comfort Inn Midwestern Square will be $89.50. Rooms will be held until April 6. Located at 210 North Van Buren, reservations may be made by calling 800/424-6423 or 580/234-1200.

Rooms at the Holiday Inn Express, located at 4702 West Owen K. Garriott, will be available at $81.03. Rooms will be held until April 6. Reservations may be made by calling 800/345-6982 or 580/237-7722.

Rooms likely will be available after the dates specified but perhaps not for the rates quoted. Also, there are numerous other lodging options available in Enid.

Registration

A letter of invitation with registration form has been mailed to all members of the Society. Please complete it and return it to the address shown on the form as soon as possible. Printed programs and name tags with colored dots for each of the events that individuals register to attend will be available beginning at 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, in the lobby of the Cherokee Strip Conference Center.

Early registration is encouraged as space limitations will limit the size of the audiences for certain events. The pre-registration deadline is April 21. The registration fee is $15 for OHS members and $20 for non-members. The registration fee is required regardless of the number of events you are planning to attend. No refunds will be made after April 21.

Reception

On Wednesday evening, April 27, a reception for registered individuals will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center at 507 South 4th Street in Enid. Light hors d’oeuvres will be served. The new facility, scheduled to open April 1, was made possible by the donation of more than $9 million by more than 500 donors. The cost of the reception is $8.

Presentation Sessions

Thirteen presentation sessions are scheduled for 8:45 a.m. to noon on both Thursday, April 28, and Friday, April 29. Presentation topics and speakers are listed below. There is no charge to attend these sessions for those who have registered for the Annual Meeting.

Exhibit Area

On Thursday and Friday an exhibitors’ area will be located in the lobby of the Cherokee Strip Conference Center.

Coffee Breaks

Coffee and water will be available in the lobby of the Cherokee Strip Conference Center on Thursday and Friday beginning at 8 a.m.

Annual Membership Luncheon

At 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, members and guests will gather in the Cattlemans Room of the Cherokee Strip Conference Center. The featured speaker will be by Mike Klemme of Enid, an internationally renowned photographer who will conduct a visual tour of western Oklahoma. The cost of the luncheon is $15.

Annual Membership Meeting

After the luncheon at approximately 2:15 p.m. members will remain in the Cattlemans Room for the Annual Meeting of the Membership. OHS President James Waldo will speak on the state of the Society, followed by the announcement and swearing in of new board members.

Waverly Historic Neighborhood Homes Tour

Beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, all who register and present their name tags will be able to tour the first-floor foyers, parlors, and dining rooms of six homes in the Waverly Historic District. More details about the tour will be announced later. The tour is free of charge for registrants with name tags.

Enid’s Historic Downtown Square

Individuals also may walk around Enid’s historic downtown square. Historical markers present the stories of many of the historic building in the district.

Michael Martin Murphey Concert

A highlight of the Annual Meeting will be a concert by recording artist Michael Martin Murphey. The concert will be held at the Briggs Auditorium on the campus of Northern Oklahoma College in Enid at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

Stage by the OHS to thank the donors who made possible the creation of the new Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid, the concert is an invitation only event. Those donors and their families will be provided concert tickets.

In addition, OHS members who register to attend the Annual Meeting will be invited. There will be no charge for the concert, but individuals must have a ticket to attend. Annual Meeting presenters, session moderators, OHS employees, and volunteers who work at the Annual Meeting also will be invited to the concert.

Murphey is the best-selling singer/songwriter of American cowboy music who also has enjoyed success as a singer/songwriter in the pop and country-western fields. Murphey is considered to be the world’s most prominent musical representative of the western horseman, the horse rancher, cattle rancher, and cowboy.

Annual Awards Luncheon

The Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 29, will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the Cattlemans’ Room of the Cherokee Strip Conference Center. Presentations will include the Murriel H. Wright Award; Joseph B. Thoburn Award; William D. Pennington Award; Outstanding Historical Society/Museum; Outstanding OHS Support Group; awards for the best book, dissertation, and thesis on Oklahoma history; and the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. The price of the luncheon is $18.

Bus Tour to Waynoka

A bus tour to Waynoka, conducted by Sandie Olsen and Paul Lambert, will depart the Cherokee Strip Conference at 2:15 p.m. The group will travel through the scenic Glass Mountains to Waynoka where they will enjoy the historic rail depot, Harvey House, and other facilities once involved in transcontinental air travel. The cost of the tour is $24.

Winds of Change: Life on the Southern Plains

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

Registration

Cherokee Strip Conference Center
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Reception

Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

Registration

Cherokee Strip Conference Center
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Program Sessions

Cherokee Strip Conference Center
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Session 1 – Chisholm Trail Room

Plains Indian Cultures
Moderator – Ron McCoy, Professor of History, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
“Testing the Limits of Tradition: Female Fancy Feather Dancers on the Southern Plains, 1940-2010,” Clyde Ellis, Professor of History, Elon University, Elon, North Carolina
“The Daughter of Dawn and the Tipi with Battle Pictures,” Matt Reed, Curator of American Indian Collections, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
Reorganizational Board Meeting
Cattlemans Room, Exhibit Hall
2:45 p.m.

Tour Homes in Waverley Historic District or explore Enid’s downtown square
3:30 pm – 5:30 p.m.

Michael Martin Murphey Concert
Briggs Auditorium, 2428 E. Maine, Enid
7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

Registration
Cherokee Strip Conference Center
8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Program Sessions
Cherokee Strip Conference Center
8:45 am – 10:15 am

Session 6 – Prairie/Buckskin Room
Civil War Part 1
Moderator – Ralph Jones, Retired Site Supervisor, Honey Springs Battlefield Historic Site, Checotah
“Confederate Diplomatic Relations with the Plains Tribes,” Mark Lea “Beau” Cantrell – Attorney and Independent Historian, El Reno
“Forgotten Sentinel: Camp Nichols, Oklahoma’s Outpost on the Santa Fe Trail, June-September 1865,” Amanda Hudson, Special Collections Manager, Department of Libraries, Archives and Collections, Chickasaw Nation, Ada

Session 7 – Cimarron Room
Farming and Ranching on the Southern Plains
Moderator – Eric J. Schmaltz, Associate Professor of History, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
“Winds of Change: The Centennial Farm and Ranch Program and the Transformation of Oklahoma Agriculture,” Glen Roberson, Coordinator, Certified Local Governments Program, Preserve America Program, Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
“For the Love of the Prairie: A Selman Family Legacy,” Sue Selman, Owner, Selman Ranch Hunting Lodge and Preserve, Buffalo
“Extreme Necessity: Cotton Farmers and the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938,” Amanda B. Biles, Master’s Degree Candidate, Department of History and Geography, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond

Session 8 – Springs Room
“Showbiz” and Culture
Moderator – Patti Loughlin, Professor of History, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
“Oklahoma’s Image: The Influence of Wild West Shows, Colorful Characters, and Silent Movies,” Warren Rieger, Professor, Department of History, Humanities & Government, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa
“The Legacy Lives On: The Pawnee Bill Ranch,” Alcy Vigil, Undergraduate Student, Department of History and Geography, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond

Session 9 – Chisholm Trail Room
Plains Institutions
Moderator – Deena Fisher, Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, Woodward
“The Carmen 100F Home,” Dr. Joyce Bender, Professor, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Enid
“Waynokas Harvey House: Jewel of the Plains,” Sandra Olson, President, Waynoka Historical Society, Waynoka

Program Sessions
Cherokee Strip Conference Center
10:30 am – noon

Session 10 – Prairie-Buckskin Room
Oil and Gas Entrepreneurs
Moderator – Bob L. Blackburn, Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
“Plains Pioneers in Law and Literature,” Alcye Vigil, Undergraduate Student, Department of History, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa
“Enid’s Own Marquis James: From Tramp Reporter to Pulitzer Prize Winner,” Paul S. Vickery, Professor, Department of History, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa

Session 11 – Chisholm Trail Room
Diverse Influences
Moderator – Shirley Nero, Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, Warner
“Oklahoma’s African American Rodeo Performers,” Roger Hardaway, Professor of History, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
“Oklahoma City’s James E. ‘Jimmy’ Stewart: Twentieth Century Race Progress in the Sooner State and Beyond,” Stacy M. Reikowsky, Master’s Degree Candidate, Department of History and Geography, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
“The Latino Impress in Tulsa,” by Jeffrey M. Widenener, Ph.D. Degree Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Oklahoma, Norman

Session 13 – Cimarron Room
Plains Pioneers in Law and Literature
Moderator – Bill Corbett, Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, Tahlequah
“Jack Stillwell: Frontier Scout, Hunter, Lawman, Judge,” Clint Chambers, Board Member and Past President, West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas
“Enid’s Own Marquis James: From Tramp Reporter to Pulitzer Prize Winner,” Paul S. Vickery, Professor, Department of History, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa

Annual Awards Luncheon
Cattlemans Room, Exhibit Hall
12:15 p.m.

Bus Tour to Waynoka
departs from Cherokee Strip Conference Center
2:15 p.m.
SHPO to hold May 2011 preservation workshops in Guthrie

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office has announced its May workshop series. The sessions will be held May 4-6 in the Red Bud Room of the Elks Hotel (connected to the Victor Building) at 208 W. Harrison in Guthrie. The workshops are free and open to the public, but registration should be made by 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 27. Space is limited and will be available on a first-come basis. To register, contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org. Online registration is available at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.php.

Registered architects who attend these workshops can qualify for American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning units. Simply register for the workshop(s). After the workshops, self-report attendance at www.aia.org/education/index.htm. The SHPO will provide written learning objectives and a certificate of attendance the week of May 9.

May 4 (9:30a.m. - 12:00 noon) - The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview

Provides the basics about Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and how the process works in Oklahoma. Specific topics include who is responsible for Section 106 compliance, when does Section 106 apply, what is the State Historic Preservation Office’s role in the process, what other agencies are involved, what is a historic property, and what happens when a project will affect a historic property. Designed as a stand-alone session and as a companion to the Determination of Eligibility under Section 106 workshop. Participants should also consider attending The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings workshop.

May 4 (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) - Determination of Eligibility under Section 106

How to document standing structures for the State Historic Preservation Office’s review. Discusses the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation, completing the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form, photograph requirements, determination of eligibility, resolving differences of opinion about eligibility, and using consultants in preparing documentation. Designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview workshop. Participants should also consider attending The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings workshop.

May 5 (9:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) - Working with the National Register of Historic Places

Provides detailed information about the National Register criteria, what listing means, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more. The National Register is the foundation of the SHPO’s programs, and a basic understanding of the register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector.

May 6 (9:30 a.m. -12:00 noon) - Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

Discusses federal and state investment tax credits for certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. A detailed discussion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will guide owners and developers in successfully preparing the information needed for the State Historic Preservation Office to review the project and for the National Park Service to certify it. Designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to the Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings workshop.

May 6 (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) – The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

Features a thorough discussion of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Generally referred to as The Standards, these commonsense principles are widely used in the historic preservation field. Whether you are involved in a rehabilitation project for the 20 percent federal and 20 percent state tax credits, planning a rehabilitation project funded with federal assistance, serving on a local historic preservation commission, or just wanting to know the best approach to rehabilitate your historic private home, participants will find this session invaluable. Designed as a stand-alone workshop and as a companion to Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation workshop.

For additional information, contact Melvena Heisch, deputy SHPO, at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org.

Pinhole camera class at History Center

Join us at the Oklahoma History Center for an exciting look at photography through pinhole cameras on Saturday, May 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Each participant will have the opportunity to build a pinhole camera. The class will include instruction on constructing the cameras and their use. The class members then will venture out and try creating their own photos.

All class materials are provided. Registration is required, and participation is limited to adults and teens with an accompanying adult. The cost for the class is $35. For more information or to register, contact Jason Harris at jharris@okhistory.org or 405/522-0785.

New Members, cont'd. from page 2

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Altus
*Laura Waters, Mountain Home, AR
Mary Whittington, Oklahoma City
Phillip and Shirlene Wiley, Altus
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Wilmes, Altus

Individual

Judy Angely, Pittsburg, PA
Joy Avery, Tulsa
Nathaniel Batchelder, Oklahoma City
Wasingue A.K. BelMende, Columbus, OH
James Foliart, Altus

Laurence Pinkerton, Tulsa
Grayson Schuering, Checotah

Constance Smiley, Midwest City
Grayson Schuering, Checotah

Kerry Weaver, El Reno
Dennis Wiedman, Miami, FL

Cimarron River program

The Sod House Museum will feature a program about the Cimarron River on Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m. Professor Kathleen O’Halleran of Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) will give a presentation entitled “The Cimarron—A River’s Journey.” Join Professor O’Halleran in an exploration of this unique, dynamic, and living symbol of our culture and our land.

The iconic Cimarron River, from its prehistoric beginnings through the churning and tumultuous settlement of the West and beyond, has had a dramatic impact on its environment over the years. As Professor O’Halleran explains, “the Cimarron provides a unifying and striking symbol that personifies this region and its people.”

Professor O’Halleran is in her fourth year of teaching at NWOSU in Alva. Prior to that she served as an adjunct faculty member in the History Department at Cameron University in Lawton. She has also taught at Comanche Nation College and at Fort Sill, both in Lawton. In addition to serving as NWOSU’s social sciences secondary education program director and full-time instructor of geography, political science, and sociology, O’Halleran’s has a scholarly background that includes research on the history and environment of the West.

The Sod House Museum is located south of Aline on State Highway 8 and is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The site is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for adults is $4 and for students is $2. For more information, call Renee Mitchell at 580/463-2441 or email the Sod House museum at sodhouse@okhistory.org.

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Chisholm Trail Museum to host Living History Event

The Chisholm Trail Museum will host its annual Living History event on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come see how life on the frontier during the late-nineteenth century was both hard and exciting. Admission is $2 per person but is free for children five and under.

Numerous reenactors will camp on the museum grounds, demonstrating the lives of lawmen, washerwomen, gunfighters, soldiers, and settlers. All will have stories to tell.

Annie Oakley will be present, and a gunfight can be witnessed. Capstone, the magician, will be on hand, and Diablo, a movie horse, will be available for kids to sit on. Overall, more than twenty-five individuals and groups will show life in the 1800s, offering activities to see and experience.

In addition, on April 15 a Student Living History program will be held at the museum site. This is always an educational day for both students and teachers as well as for staff and volunteers. Teachers interested in bringing their students to this activity should call in advance to make arrangements.

Remember to mark your calendars for these fun and educational events!

The Chisholm Trail Museum is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society and is located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. Please call 405/375-5176 for more information.

Pawnee Bill Ranch events in April

On Tuesday, April 12, Pawnee Bill Ranch will host its monthly Quilt Block Class at 6:30 p.m. Martha Ray will teach the class in the site’s conference room. Registration fee is $5.

On Saturday, April 23, Pawnee Bill Ranch will host the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Hundreds of area children will flock to the ranch to race for prize eggs. This tradition was started more than one hundred years ago when Pawnee Bill hosted the event at his ranch. The Pawnee Bill staff is proud to continue the tradition of providing a wonderful place for families to gather together and make meaningful memories.

On Sunday, April 24, the Pawnee Bill Ranch will host its annual Easter Sunrise Service and Fundraiser Breakfast. This beautiful, non-denominational, community-led service will be immediately followed by the Friends of Pawnee Bill Ranch Association’s biggest fundraiser of the year. For $5, supporters can enjoy a breakfast of eggs, ham, biscuits, gravy, and a beverage. The breakfast will be served in the museum conference room.

For information, call 918/762-2513 or email pawnee@okhistory.org.

Writers Workshop at Oklahoma History Center on May 8

The Oklahoma Historical Society and the History Matters Foundation will sponsor a Writers Workshop at the Oklahoma History Center on Sunday, May 8, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. The workshop, “Lessons from a Best Seller,” will feature New York Times best-selling author Steve Berry.

Berry will instruct participants on the craft of writing, including story structure, effective dialogue, point of view, and other important rules of writing. The workshop is structured into three, fifty-minute sessions. A question and answer session concludes the class.

Steve Berry is author of The Emperor’s Tomb, The Balkan Escape, The Paris Vendetta, and many more. He has more than eleven million books in print, which have been translated into thirty-three languages and have been sold in fifty countries.

During his writing career, Berry has received many rejection letters, so he understands both the dismay of failure and the excitement of success. He is skilled at sharing his experiences and has taught writing concepts to audiences around the world.

A registration fee is required for participation. The Early Bird registration fee of $85 ends March 31. The registration fee becomes $100 on April 1. Walk-in registration the day of the event will be accepted as space permits.

To register, send registration fee to the Oklahoma History Center Gift Shop, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or call 405/522-5214 to register and pay with credit card.

All proceeds from the workshop go to benefit the Oklahoma History Center.

For more information about the workshop, contact Paul Lambert at 405/522-5217 or plambert@okhistory.org.

Twenty-year Members Renew in February

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in February, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

James and Betty Kemm, Tulsa, February 1, 1963
Leo Demmer, Union City, February 1, 1969
Jerry Anduss, Piedmont, February 17, 1970
Barbara Knizer, Jenks, January 1, 1971
Bill Settle, Muskogee, February 1, 1973
Jere Roberson, Edmond, January 2, 1974
Shirley Rider, Adair, February 1, 1974
East Texas Baptist University Library, Marshall, TX, December 1, 1974
Kenny and Diane Brown, Edmond, May 1, 1976
Marjorie Breidenbach, Broken Arrow, December 1, 1976
Harvey Yost II, Stillwater, February 1, 1977
Phil and Gayle Roberts, Edmond, February 1, 1977
Broken Bow Public Library, Broken Bow, March 1, 1978
Stigler Public Library, Stigler, June 1, 1978
Allen and Linda Hicks, Kenton, May 1, 1980
Floyd Stephens Jr., Bixby, January 2, 1981
George Pendleton Jr., Dallas, TX, January 2, 1981

Buckley Public Library, Poteau, April 1, 1981
Richard Mullins, Edmond, January 2, 1982
Blaine Shaffer, Omaha, NE, February 1, 1983
Rolland Haus, Saint Louis, MO, January 1, 1984
Timothy Palmien, Aklapaa, PA, January 2, 1984
David Stevens, Noble, January 2, 1984
Robert and Mary Brown, Bumeyville, February 1, 1984
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, March 1, 1984
Bonne Bolding, Midwest City, OK, January 18, 1985
Frank and Loreece Dennis, Oklahoma City, February 1, 1985
Peter Rollins, Stillwater, November 1, 1985
Idabel Public Libraries, Idabel, December 1, 1985
David Kelsay, Meeker, August 25, 1986
Harold and Ann Sinclair, Oklahoma City, October 6, 1986
Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton, October 6, 1986
K.A. Klipsenstein, Fort Smith, AR, December 9, 1986
J.L. Fletcher, Imnalee Uribe 6, Spain, January 5, 1987
James Mohon, Norman, January 20, 1987
Sapulpa Historical Society, Sapulpa, January 21, 1987
Kenneth and Conie Delashaw, Marietta, November 3, 1987
Carol King, Waynoka, December 2, 1987
John Heisch, Oklahoma City, January 31, 1989
Amy Sparks, Pryor, February 6, 1989
Harthouse Public Library, Hartshorne, March 6, 1989
Southern Prairie Library System, Altus, October 16, 1989
Ann Lemert, Cedar Vale, KS, December 4, 1989
Linda Horn, Edmond, January 2, 1990
Dick and Teri Shifrite, Oklahoma City, February 20, 1991
Tina Parsons, Ft. Worth, TX, February 26, 1991

Tangible History series at Frank Phillips Home

Have you ever looked at an old item and wondered about its history? Over the next few months the Frank Phillips Home and the Nellie Johnstone Questers will welcome the general public and other Questers to attend presentations of Tangible History. These programs will focus on the history of clothing, toys, household, or decorative items and on how they were created or used.

The Nellie Johnstone Questers embody the excitement of searching for that perfect treasure, the love of learning about antiques, the interest in history, and the joy of working on preservation and restoration projects. They take special pride in aiding in the education of preservationists and conservators who will professionally care for our history, artifacts, and sites. The goals of this organization are to educate by research and study of antiques and to donate funds to the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historic buildings, landmarks, and educational purposes.

The first Tangible History presentation is scheduled for Friday, April 22, from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m. and will focus on antique pincushions and buttons. Barbara Williams is the presenter. Subsequent presentations include:

June 24 – “Aunt Helen’s Pressed Glass,” Presenter: Mary Alice Sigmon
July 22 – “Antique Dolls,” Presenter: Martha Ray
August 26 – “Courting Objects and Customs of the 1800s,” Presenter: Martha Ray
October 21 – “In Mourning: Customs and Objects of the mid-1800s,” Presenter: Martha Ray

For more information about the Tangible History programs, contact Kim Goss at 918/336-2491, ext. 104 or fphome@sbcglobal.net.
Easter Egg Run at Pioneer Woman Museum

Pioneer Woman Museum will host its third annual Easter Egg Run on Saturday, April 23, at 2 p.m. Museum staff currently is accepting donations to support the event. Individuals may drop off empty, plastic Easter eggs and individually wrapped candies at the museum Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Easter Egg Run is free to the public, and the Easter Bunny will be on hand for Easter photos to help raise funds. Every dollar raised will stay in Ponca City to help defray costs at the museum.

Put on your best spring sunbonnet, ladies, and children bring your own baskets. No sooners, please!

The museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City, just east of the intersection of 14th and Highland/Lake Road. Please call 580/765-6108 for details.

Four selected for induction into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame

The Awards Committee of the Oklahoma Historical Society has selected four individuals to be inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. They are Jim Argo, Edmond; Sandie Olson, Waynoka; Juanita Jeanette Keel Tate, Ardmore; and Al Turner, Norman.

The induction ceremony will be held during the OHS Annual Awards Luncheon at the Cherokee Strip Conference Center in Enid at 12:15 p.m., Friday, April 29. The cost of the luncheon is $18, and reservations for the luncheon must be made in advance. A letter of invitation and registration form has been sent to each member of the OHS. Non-members may purchase luncheon reservations by contacting Alma Moore at 405/522-5242 or Shelly Crynes at 405/522-0317.

Argo moved from Texas to Oklahoma in 1963 where he became a nationally renowned photojournalist with the Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times. During the next forty years he captured thousands of historically important images, including his photos of the aftermath of the bombing of the Murrah Building that were published worldwide. He also authored or coauthored five books on Oklahoma history. Argo has donated his massive personal photo collection of thousands of photos to the archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society and has prepared an index to the images.

As president of the Waynoka Historical Society, Olson has worked tirelessly to preserve and share the history of Waynoka. She has raised more than $2.5 million for projects undertaken by the society, including restoration of the one-hundred-year-old Harvey House, the Santa Fe Depot, and the Waynoka Air-Rail Museum. The Waynoka railroad complex also features a railroad water tower, a diesel locomotive, a scale house, a 1904 pioneer log cabin, and a 1918 railroad section foreman’s house.

Born in Ardmore in 1910, Tate is a revered Chickasaw elder who has devoted a lifetime to the preservation of Chickasaw and family history. As a child she became a custodian of family memorabilia and as an adult used her skills as an artist to paint portraits of leading Chickasaw and Choctaw men and women and historic Chickasaw structures. She became renowned as a researcher of Chickasaw family history, and at age ninety-eight published her book Edmund Pickens (Okchantulbby): First Elected Chickasaw Chief, His Life and Times.

Turner earned his Ph. D. in history from Oklahoma State University in 1977 and has had a remarkable career as a history professor, an administrator, author, and public speaker. He retired from the position of dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences and professor of history at East Central University, Ada, in 2006. He is the author or coauthor of seven books and monographs and has written chapters in eleven books. He has authored twenty-one articles in historical publications and has spoken on historical subjects throughout Oklahoma.