



## Sequoyah's Cabin to host Cherokee Cultural Day

On Friday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sequoyah's Cabin in Sallisaw will host Cherokee Cultural Day. This event is held in cooperation with the Cherokee Heritage Center and the Oklahoma Historical Society. Presenters will demonstrate native games, blacksmithing, storytelling, and much more. There will be hands-on Cherokee crafts and other activities available for attendees of all ages. For reservations please contact Jerry Dobbs at 918-775-2413. Sequoyah's Cabin, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 470288 Highway 101 in Sallisaw.



## April events at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host three exciting events during the month of April. The CSRHC will roll out the red carpet for the winners of the Red Dirt BBQ student art competition with an exhibit of multimedia art from area school students. The winners' exhibit will be on display in the J. E. and L. E. Mabree Foundation Exhibit Gallery from April 5 through April 16.

Family Saturday will be held in Humphrey Heritage Village on Saturday, April 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. The activity of the day will be household chores in the Glidewell House. There is sure to be laundry to wash and coffee to grind in addition to other household chores that families will need to perform.

On Wednesday, April 13, at noon, the museum will host a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program entitled "The American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson," by Dr. Aaron Mason from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. The presentation will be held in the Humphrey Heritage Village on the grounds of the CSRHC. The Brown Bag programs are held on the second Wednesday of each month and are free to the public.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about CSRHC programs, please call 580-237-1907 or visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org). The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.

## 2016 Oklahoma History Conference in Woodward

The 2016 Oklahoma History Conference will be held at the Woodward Conference Center in Woodward, Oklahoma, on April 27, 28, and 29. Advanced registration is required, with the deadline to register Friday, April 22, by noon. Materials detailing the conference and registration forms have been mailed to all OHS members.

The conference will feature program sessions with presentations related to the theme "Landmarks and Turning Points in Oklahoma History." Among the activities that will be available during the conference are three bus tours, two luncheons, one dinner and concert, eighteen program sessions, vendors, Woodward area attractions, and the unveiling of a statue of Temple Houston. Please contact Paul Lambert at 405-522-5217 or [plambert@okhistory.org](mailto:plambert@okhistory.org) or Shelly Crynes at 405-522-0317 or [scrynes@okhistory.org](mailto:scrynes@okhistory.org) with any questions.

## Fur Trade Rendezvous continues at Fort Washita

Fort Washita in Durant is hosting a Fur Trade Rendezvous from Wednesday, March 30, through Sunday, April 3. This is a living history event reminiscent of a fur trade rendezvous that was the center of commerce on the early western frontier. Visitors can expect to see trappers representing the far northwest mountain areas to the desert southwest, as well as traders with French and Spanish influence. Visit Fort Washita and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of history.

The rendezvous will include instructive programs in customs, survival skills, and lifestyles of the period. "School Days" are scheduled for Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1. Students will travel through the camps where re-enactors will explain life on the frontier in the early nineteenth century. There is no charge for school buses. There is a \$5 per car fee for others visiting the Fur Trade Rendezvous, with all proceeds to benefit preservation projects at Fort Washita. Please call 580-924-6502 for more information. Fort Washita was established in 1842 in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, as the southwestern-most military post of the United States. A National Historic Landmark, Fort Washita is located at 3348 State Road 199 in Durant.







## Director's column

**By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn**  
**Executive Director**

As we go through life, we seldom know how we might affect our community both now and in the future. In the case of Aubrey McClendon, who recently passed away, we do know. His legacy is clearly visible today.

Aubrey will be remembered mostly as an innovator in the oil and gas business. As I told him many times, his willingness to take a risk, his embrace of technology, and his ability to inspire those around him reminded me of E. W. Marland, the founder of Conoco who set new standards for excellence.

Just as importantly, Aubrey will be remembered as a community leader. Most people know about his philanthropy and investments, clearly visible in the OKC Boathouse District and the many businesses he nurtured, but his generosity was shared by many organizations, including the Oklahoma Historical Society.

I met Aubrey in 2001 as we were launching plans for the Oklahoma History Center. Our project appealed to him for several reasons. First, Aubrey at heart was a historian. He was a history major at Duke and he was a voracious reader. When I loaned him one of my early books, he bought all the copies he could on the Internet and gave them to friends.

Aubrey also appreciated big dreams, which described our \$62 million project that had only \$32 million in funding. He was one of the first community leaders to see the potential of the History Center and he quickly agreed to be the first major donor with a pledge of \$600,000. Today, the Chesapeake Events Center is used daily

for special events, community meetings, and educational programs.

As we were working on the exhibits, we had a chance to acquire a major collection with more than three thousand rare items from political campaigns going back to the 1880s. We organized the collection in a large room of the old Historical Building and asked Aubrey to see it on his way home from work. He immediately recognized the value of the collection and offered a challenge grant to acquire it. We raised the match and it is now secure for all time.

I will never forget the first time I gave Aubrey a tour of the finished museum exhibits. He went through so quickly I was afraid he was not absorbing the details of our multi-leveled design. But when we finished the tour, he turned, gave me a big bear hug, and said, "Great job. . .I'm proud of you." That is a fond memory.

In 2007, as a state centennial project, I wanted to honor public service by recognizing the seven living governors of the state. I went to Aubrey to see if he could help and he said yes, but challenged me to think big. The exhibit was a smash hit, with all of the governors in attendance and a standing room only audience of 1,200 people. Aubrey did not let me drag him into the spotlight for recognition, but I publicly thanked him anyway. Typically, he was at the back of the room absorbing the historical importance of the event.

A few years later Aubrey encouraged me to write two books. One would be an updated history of oil and gas pioneers in Oklahoma. The other was a history of the Chesapeake campus. He did not want a biography of himself or the company, but he wanted to get a better picture of how the campus fit into the history of the community. I suggested a James Michener approach that would put the reader on one spot of land and watch history whiz by. He loved the idea, which reflected his sense of community over self.

Neither book has been finished, but they will be someday. Both will be a small part of Aubrey's legacy.

*Dr. Bob*

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

It is April and time again for the Oklahoma Historical Society's Annual History Conference. This event is a great opportunity to investigate the status of Oklahoma's historic scholarship. At the awards luncheon the OHS will bestow awards for publications, theses, and dissertations. The presentation sessions will reveal new or enhanced research on the state's unique story. The presenters will be historians and scholars from around Oklahoma. While the OHS is excited about young and active researchers, the organization also celebrates people who have made history their lifelong pursuit. This year we honor Arthur Tolson, Steven Gragert, Dr. L. V. and Pat Baker, and Mike Larsen.

An exciting evening event on April 28 will be a dinner and concert that will honor Western Swing Hall of Fame member Ron Hohweiler. He has put together an excellent band that will perform. OHS members and anyone interested in history should enjoy these three days in April. You can read more about the conference in Woodward throughout this issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*.



## New Members, February

\*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

### Director's Circle

\*Karen Keith, Tulsa

### Associate

\*Barbara Berry, Sapulpa

### Friend

Ken and Barbara Buettner, Edmond

\*John Clackler, Plattsburgh, NY

Barbara Cooper, Oklahoma City

\*Steve and Rachel Davis, Durant

\*Jose and Elizabeth del Pozo, Del Mar, CA

Rhea Griffin, Mira Loma, CA

\*Niles Jackson and Barbara Thornton, Edmond

\*Carlos and Pam Jackson, Oklahoma City

\*Jim and Pat Kirk, Bethany

Majors Energy, Oklahoma City

### Family

Bob and Mary Lee Allen, Oklahoma City

Vere Atkins and Clayton Lawrence, Washington, DC

Roosevelt and Cynthia Calloway, Oklahoma City

\*Donald Carnahan, Norman

George Carney, Oklahoma City

\*Martha Custer, Oklahoma City

Jack and Rachel DeHanas, Marco Island, FL

John and Pamela Fischer, Oklahoma City

Ronald and Shantele Graham, Warr Acres

Alma Harper, Eufaula

\*Charles Holcomb, Midwest City

\*Linda Horn, Edmond

\*Nadine Johnson, San Diego, CA

\*Ann Kennedy, Oklahoma City

Wayne and Linda Loftin, Checotah

Robert and Susan Markman, North Little Rock, AR

Patsy Miller, Tulsa

\*Sammie Moser, Choctaw

Alison Ogden, Prague

Victor and Teresa Sansalone, Oklahoma City

\*Grayson Schuering, Checotah

Ron and Sandra Skinner, Choctaw

Lee Wells, Yukon

### Individual

John Asher, Fort Gibson

Cherie Beauprie, Grove

Fatima Brazil, San Jose, CA

Kaitlin Caldwell, Duncan

Pat Campbell, Enid

Lorene Childers, Jenks

Loralee Cooley, Yukon

Carolyn Crofford, Tahlequah

**cont'd. on p. 7**

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**Mistletoe Leaves** is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

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

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

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# AROUND OKLAHOMA

## Events

Attend the monthly meeting of the Muskogee County Historical Society in **Muskogee** on Thursday, April 14, at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the second floor conference room at the Cherokee Nation Health Center. It includes a potluck luncheon and a presentation by Ron Boren, curator at the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. Boren will play guitar, give a summary of local music history, and talk about plans for the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame's upcoming event entitled "G Fest"—scheduled for June 16–18 in Muskogee. The Cherokee Nation Health Center is located at 1001 South Forty-First Street East in Muskogee. Please call Ellen Johnson at 918-453-9842 with any questions.

Head to the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in **Cheyenne** for Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Junior Ranger Day is a great way to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Park Service. Adults and children are invited to participate in numerous activities and programs including archery, a Cheyenne art workshop by renowned artist George Levi, the Western Plains Bookmobile, an active beehive display, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Education Trailer, the Seventh Cavalrymen camp, and a twenty-one-foot-tall tipi. Guests also can make a pollinator seed bomb, communicate through a HAM radio, and stroll the Battlefield Trail. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A near Cheyenne. For more information please contact Barbara Ford at 580-497-2742, ext. 3013.

Celebrate the Land Run of 1889 at the thirteenth annual Choctaw Frontier Days (formerly known as the Land Run Festival) on Thursday, April 21, and Friday, April 22. This educational event will be held at Choctaw Creek Park in **Choctaw**. The eastern boundary of the 1889 Land Run was the Indian Meridian. Today is it known as Indian Meridian Road, which runs through Choctaw. Choctaw Creek Park is located at 2001 North Harper Street in Choctaw. For more information please call 405-390-8198.

The Spencer Historical Society will host its annual Baked Goods Sharing and Plant Sale on Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. This event is open to the public and will be held at the Spencer Museum and Ben Black Park in **Spencer**. There will be

old fashioned cake walks every hour on the half hour, and the museum will offer free admission. The Spencer Museum and adjacent Ben Black Park are located at the corner of NE Fiftieth Street and Palmer Avenue in Spencer. For additional information please call Mary Hammon at 405-771-4472 or Linda Verges at 405-771-3561.

Visit the Talbot Library and Museum in **Colcord** for a program with Jack and Pat Fletcher, authors of the three-volume *Cherokee Trail Diaries*. The program will occur Saturday, April 30, from 2–4 p.m. in the historic Springtown Schoolhouse on the museum property. The Cherokee Trail was the name given to the two routes taken by Cherokees traveling west to the California gold fields in 1849 and 1850. The wagon train, consisting of people from the Cherokee Nation and northwest Arkansas, met at the Grand Saline Salt Works on the Grand River to start the journey. Jack and Pat Fletcher will present information on the present status of the Cherokee Trail, along with new trail evidence and the work of groups from Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming where it is designated a State Historic Trail. The Talbot Library and Museum is located at 500 South Colcord Avenue in Colcord. Regular museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. For more information please call 918-326-4532, email [talbotlibrary@earthlink.net](mailto:talbotlibrary@earthlink.net), visit [www.talbotlibrary.org](http://www.talbotlibrary.org), or find the Talbot Library and Museum on Facebook.

Celebrate the life of Temple Houston at a statue unveiling on Friday, April 29, at 2 p.m. The statue will be unveiled at the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward**. Temple Houston, along with his family, moved to Woodward after Houston participated in the land run into the Cherokee Strip on September 16, 1893. Following the statue unveiling, guests are invited to tour the museum. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or [pipm@swbell.net](mailto:pipm@swbell.net) for more information.

## Announcements

A new book entitled *Norman's Navy Years, 1942–1959* was recently released by Arcadia Publishing, which adds to its ever expanding "Images of America" series.

The book is by Sue Schrems and Vernon Maddux, on behalf of the Cleveland County Historical Society in **Norman**. It features newly uncovered black and white photographs, poised to expose a piece of World War II history. In 1944, A. L. Simon, a sailor at the Norman Naval Air Station, illustrated a booklet, "On the Beach," about Navy life in Norman, Oklahoma. The title he chose reflected the irony of the US Navy establishing two bases in a landlocked prairie town in 1942. The initial activation of the Naval bases (from 1942 to 1945) and their reactivation (from 1952 to 1959) greatly increased the employment rate and economy in Norman, offering locals a much-needed boost after the Great Depression of the 1930s. The men who influenced the Navy to choose Norman as the location for installations were T. Jack Foster of the Norman Chamber of Commerce; Joseph Brandt, president of the University of Oklahoma; and Savoie Lottinville, director of the University of Oklahoma Press. *Norman's Navy Years, 1942–1959* is available for purchase at local bookstores and [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com). For more information please contact Katie Parry at 888-313-2665, ext. 161 or [katie.parry@historypress.net](mailto:katie.parry@historypress.net).

The second edition of *Nichols Hills: A Residential Community*, by Konrad Keesee and Ann Taylor, is now available for sale. This updated book features additional social photographs, including those of early debutantes and the 1960 Best Dressed Ladies. It also features the history of the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, many of the earliest houses that have since been demolished, and interior photographs of the G. A. Nichols estate, the Fred Jones mansion, and the John A. Brown residence. The book is available for sale at **Nichols Hills** Town Hall, located at 6407 Avondale Drive in Nichols Hills. All proceeds will benefit Nichols Hills parks. For more information please call 405-843-6637.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at [eebrown@okhistory.org](mailto:eebrown@okhistory.org) or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the May issue, you must submit it by Monday, April 4, 2016.



## **T. B. Ferguson Home to present lecture**

The T. B. Ferguson Home in Watonga will present a free lecture on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m.–noon. Liz Bergey from the University of Oklahoma will present a lecture about the history of sewing machines. The lecture will be held at the Watonga Library, located at 301 North Prouty Street in Watonga. For more information please call 580-623-5069.

## **New Oklahoma National Register listing**

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce a new National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing in Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

The Balloon Hangar at Henry Post Army Airfield on the Fort Sill post is recognized nationally for its association with the evolution of Army aviation activities, particularly balloons during the years between World War I and World War II. The Balloon Hangar is also significant nationally in the area of architecture and engineering as a distinctive, eight-story, military-related, metal balloon hangar. The Balloon Hangar at Henry Post Army Airfield is one of only a few extant, eight-story, metal balloon hangars constructed by the US Army during the interwar years and is an excellent example of this unusual type of building.

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The State Historic Preservation Office identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. These nominations are made on a quarterly basis. If you believe a property in your area is eligible, please fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form located at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm). For more information about the National Register of Historic Places, please contact Lynda Ozan at [lozan@okhistory.org](mailto:lozan@okhistory.org) or 405-522-4478.



## **May Day celebration and education day at the Murrell Home**

The George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill will host a May Day celebration on Saturday, May 7, from noon to 4 p.m. Formerly called the Murrell Home Lawn Social, this free event will include dance lessons, croquet and horseshoe tournaments, music, and lawn games. Reenactors in period dress will demonstrate daily life in the mid-1800s at Oklahoma's only remaining antebellum plantation. Bring picnic basket lunches, quilts, and lawn chairs to enjoy a picnic on the lawn from noon to 1 p.m.

Experience activities all afternoon, then stay for the maypole, which will close the event and commemorate the start of the growing season on the plantation. For school groups, the May Day living history education day will be held on Friday, May 6, with two sessions: 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Teachers are invited to bring their students and experience life in nineteenth-century Indian Territory through exciting hands-on presentations by Oklahoma Historical Society staff and costumed living history presenters. Tours of the 1845 Murrell Home mansion also will be available. The May Day living history education day is open to public, private, and home school groups. To register a class or group, please call 918-456-2751 or email [apritchett@okhistory.org](mailto:apritchett@okhistory.org). The Murrell Home is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. For more information please call 918-456-2751.



## **2016 Oklahoma History Conference committee recognized**

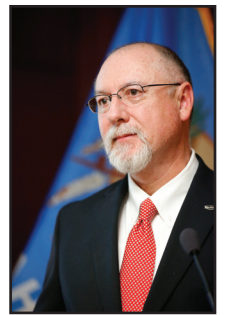
The Annual Conference Committee of OHS directors has been working hard to organize the 2016 Oklahoma History Conference, scheduled for April 27–29 at the Woodward Conference Center in Woodward.

In addition to committee chair Deena Fisher of Woodward, the committee members include Cheryl Evans, Tonkawa; Sandie Olson, Waynoka; Sherry Muchmore, Ponca City; and Charles Tate, Ardmore.

Working with the committee is the OHS Staff Coordinating Committee, consisting of Conference Coordinator Paul Lambert, Elizabeth Bass, Bob Blackburn, Evelyn Brown, Shelly Crynes, Nicole Harvey, Alma Moore, Jeff Moore, Larry O'Dell, Jennifer Towry, and Tim Zwink.

## **Keynote speaker for History Conference Luncheon announced**

Jay Hannah of Oklahoma City will be the keynote speaker of the 2016 Oklahoma History Conference. Hannah will speak during the Annual Conference Luncheon on Thursday, April 28, at noon, at the Woodward Conference Center. Hannah is executive vice president of Financial Services at BancFirst. A citizen and former tribal official of the Cherokee Nation, he is a student of Cherokee history and a renowned public speaker.



Hannah's topic will be the Beck-Hildebrand Mill. He served as treasurer of the Beck-Hildebrand Museum, a local preservation group dedicated to securing and preserving the mill site, structures, and equipment. The historic site and structures are scheduled for re-creation and preservation as a working interpretative facility of early nineteenth-century commerce.



## **“Mysteries of the Mansion” tours**

“Mysteries of the Mansion” tours at the Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City will take place at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. In April, the tour will take place on Thursday, April 21. These extended tours allow guests to tour the mansion at night, examine archival materials, and hear some amazing stories. Guests are asked to RSVP in advance. To make a reservation for this tour, please call 405-525-5325 or email [overholsermansion@preservationok.org](mailto:overholsermansion@preservationok.org). Regular hours of operation at the mansion are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. The Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW Fifteenth Street in Oklahoma City. It is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society and managed by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.





## 2016 Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame honorees and award recipients announced

Deena Fisher, chair of the 2016 Oklahoma History Conference Committee, announced that the committee has selected four individuals to be inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony and presentation of other awards will take place during the Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 29, at noon, at the Woodward Conference Center.

The honorees include Dr. L. V. and Pat Baker, Elk City; Steven K. Gragert, Stillwater; Mike Larsen, Perkins; and Arthur L. Tolson, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Bakers will be inducted as a team for their outstanding work, beginning in the 1960s, to create the museum complex in Elk City and to preserve the history of the Elk City region.

Gragert has spent his career researching and writing about Will Rogers as well as editing the Will Rogers papers and serving as the executive director of the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore.

An internationally acclaimed artist, Larsen has emphasized historical accuracy in his works of art depicting the history and culture of the Chickasaw Nation as well as other tribes. His historical research in preparation for various projects is legendary.

Tolson was the first African American to earn an MA degree in history from Oklahoma State University and a PhD degree in history from the University of Oklahoma. He authored several pioneering works on the history of African Americans in Oklahoma.

In addition to four individuals who will be inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame other individuals and organizations will be recognized for their efforts on behalf of Oklahoma history.

The Muriel H. Wright Award is presented to the author of the best article published in the previous volume of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. This year we have cowinners.

Joe Specht, collection manager of the McWhiney History Education Group and former director of the Jay-Rollins Library at McMurry University, Abilene, Texas, will receive one of the Muriel Wright Awards. His article was titled, "Turning to the Right: More Oil Patch Songs from Oklahoma," which appeared in the Winter 2015–16 issue.

Also receiving the Muriel H. Wright Award will be Frank Norris, a historian for National Trails Intermountain Region

of the National Park Service in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he assists with the congressionally designated Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. His article "The Twilight of Route 66: Transitioning from Highway to Freeway, 1956–84," was published in the Fall 2015 issue.

Recipient of the Joseph B. Thoburn Outstanding Student Award will be Kate Garner, a student at Centennial Middle School in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Among her activities has been researching and writing a paper titled "Saint Kate—Kate Barnard: The Leadership and Legacy of Oklahoma's First Commissioner of Charities and Corrections," for which she won a first place award at the state level of the 2015 Oklahoma National History Day competition.

The William D. Pennington Award will be presented to Linnett Williamson, an Oklahoma history teacher at Felt High School in Felt, Oklahoma. Williamson is being recognized for years of excellence in teaching Oklahoma history.

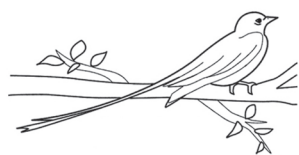
The Outstanding Local Museum Award will be presented to the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum. Located in Woodward, the museum has upheld a standard of excellence for decades.

The Outstanding Local OHS Support Group Award will be presented to the Friends of Historic Fort Supply. This group has rendered long and effective support in the effort to preserve the physical remains and the history of a historically significant military installation.

Willard Jacob "Jake" Cornwell of Tulsa, Oklahoma, will be honored as the author of the Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History. His thesis titled "Playing Between the Lines: An Examination of Negro League Baseball in Oklahoma, 1892 to 1965" was completed at Oklahoma State University in 2015.

Awards for Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History published in 2015 will be presented to author Amy M. Ware of Austin, Texas, and the University of Kansas Press for the book *The Cherokee Kid: Will Rogers, Tribal Identity, and the Making of an American Icon*.

Individuals wishing to attend the April 29 Annual Awards Luncheon without attending other conference events may do so without paying a registration fee. To make arrangements, please contact Shelly Crynes at 405-522-0317 or [scrynes@okhistory.org](mailto:scrynes@okhistory.org).



## 2016 Oklahoma History Conference sponsors

The 2016 Oklahoma History Conference experience for attendees will be significantly enhanced by the contributions of our event sponsors. The sponsors have contributed to the event in various ways, from making direct financial contribution to providing in-kind services and the donation of equipment and facilities.

Sponsors for the conference include The Stock Exchange Bank of Woodward, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, OG&E Energy Corporation, City of Woodward, Woodward Chamber of Commerce, Woodward Industrial Foundation, Woodward Convention and Visitors Bureau, Woodward Public Schools, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Mead Ferguson, Bedré Fine Chocolate, and the Chickasaw Nation.

The officers, directors, and staff of the OHS appreciate the support of these organizations and individuals.

## New Oklahoma license plate features original state flag

Oklahoma drivers have an opportunity to purchase a new license plate that features Oklahoma's first flag and its official state motto, *Labor Omnia Vincit*. This Latin phrase translates to "Labor Conquers All." Oklahoma's first state flag was adopted in 1911, four years after statehood. It consisted of a red field with a five-pointed, white star outlined in blue. The number 46, in blue, denoting Oklahoma's position as the forty-sixth state, was placed in the star's center. This new license plate is a wonderful way to celebrate Oklahoma's heritage.

The cost for the Original State Flag license plate is \$18. Please visit [www.ok.gov/tax/documents/708-E.pdf](http://www.ok.gov/tax/documents/708-E.pdf) in order to complete the Application for the 2016 Special License Plates. As the form indicates, the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) must have one hundred prepaid applications on file by May 1, 2016. If an insufficient number of applications are received by that date, all application fees will be refunded. Please call the OTC at 405-521-2468 for more information.





## **Friends of the Murrell Home to host tour of Fort Smith historic sites**

The Friends of the Murrell Home will host its thirteenth annual Friends field trip on Saturday, April 9. The chartered bus tour will explore some of the important historic sites at Fort Smith, Arkansas. The tour will start with a visit to the Fort Smith National Historic Site, its courthouse, outbuildings, and the Trail of Tears Memorial. The cost is \$6 unless you have a NPS Senior Lifetime Pass and then it is free for you and family members. For those who have visited this site before and also want to visit other nearby historic sites, the Fort Smith Museum of History (\$7) is nearby and there is a trolley ride (\$3) that tours the area. In the afternoon the group will tour the Belle Grove Historic District and National Cemetery on the bus with a local expert before visiting Miss Laura's, the famous bordello. Later the group will visit with the staff of the future US Marshals Museum, scheduled to open in 2018. They will provide a presentation and explain the scope of this national museum dedicated to all US Marshals.

The bus tour begins promptly at 8 a.m. Attendees are asked to arrive at 7:45 a.m. to load the bus. It will depart from the Murrell Home in Park Hill and will return at approximately 7 p.m. Cost for the tour program is \$38 per person, which covers the tour group's use of the Villager Bus, fee for our guide through the historic districts, and donations to our host institutions. Information packets and handouts will be provided.

The Friends tour group is planning to eat lunch downtown. There are at least six restaurants within walking distance ranging from a deli and Subway to restaurants serving barbecue, Mexican food, local brewery fare, and Central American food. Each individual will be responsible for their own meals. If you wish snacks or drinks (nonalcoholic) on the bus during the day, or to fix your own food, you should plan to bring those items with you. Before the trek home the bus will again visit that same downtown area for dinner. The bus is equipped with a restroom, water, and wireless internet (wifi) access.

Friends of the Murrell Home have been given the first opportunity to reserve a seat. On March 21, the Friends group will begin accepting reservations from all OHS members and the public. Make your reservation as soon as possible to ensure your seat. Major credit cards are accepted. All sales are final, but tickets are transferable. To reserve a seat or for more information, please call the Murrell Home at 918-456-2751.

## **Sod House Museum to host "History of Oklahoma Poets" lecture**

On Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m., a "History of Oklahoma Poets" lecture will be presented by Dr. Shawn Holliday. Holliday is a professor and associate dean of graduate studies at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He recently wrote a book entitled *The Oklahoma Poets Laureate: A Sourcebook, History, and Anthology* (Mongrel Empire Press, 2015). Holliday's presentation will include an outline of his book about the Oklahoma Poets Laureate followed by a book signing.

Holliday took on the book project when he realized that many citizens were unaware that Oklahoma had a poet laureate. The book intends to celebrate the Oklahoma poets laureate and to exhume the work of those early poets whose books have been long out of print.

The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please contact Director Renee Trindle at [sodhouse@okhistory.org](mailto:sodhouse@okhistory.org) or 580-463-2441.

## **Smithsonian's Let's Do History tour**

On February 11, educators from the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) were invited by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History to participate in their Let's Do History tour in Norman, Oklahoma. During the hour-long presentation, OHC staff shared various programs offered for teachers and students by the History Center, spending most of the time discussing the traveling trunk program. Teachers were able to engage with four different trunks and participated in two different activities, one in which they investigated history through analyzing an artifact and another during which they had to help a pioneer family pack their wagon for a trip to Oklahoma Territory. It was certainly a fun afternoon, and it seemed the teachers enjoyed themselves as well. But for the OHC Education Department staff, perhaps the best part of the afternoon was when they returned back to the museum. Waiting in their inboxes were dozens of requests for use of our resources. In fact, of the fifty teachers who attended the workshop, almost half have already made plans to participate in an OHC program. What a wonderful end to an exciting day with some fantastic teachers and the great folks from the National Museum of American History.

## **Oklahoma History Center to host April events**

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) Education Department will host two events in April. February marked the beginning of a new series of events known as First Saturday Hands-on History programs. These programs are an extension of the department's popular practice of encouraging participation in historically based crafts and activities. On the first Saturday of each month, from 1–4 p.m., the OHC Education Department will focus on a particular theme and will create learning opportunities connected to that theme. The activities will target children of all ages, but adults are welcome to participate. "One of our primary goals of First Saturday events is to engage students and families in hands-on learning, bringing Oklahoma's rich and diverse history to life through activities and exhibits," said Director of Education Sarah Dumas.

The First Saturday Hands-on History program this month will feature "Earth Day" and "Pioneer Life" themes. The program will be held on Saturday, April 2, 1–4 p.m. Attendees can make birdfeeders, stake a claim for their family homestead, and enjoy various photo opportunities.

The OHC Education Department also invites individuals to learn a new skill with a hands-on Dutch Oven Cooking class on Saturday, April 30, from 1–5 p.m. Experience a participatory class and learn to cook in a Dutch oven! Teens and adults will learn various cooking methods, discover new recipes, and create a dish to share with the group. Cost for the class is \$15 and all necessary materials will be provided. The class will begin with background information in a classroom setting, but the majority of the class will take place outdoors. A group meal will be prepared. Please remember to dress for the weather and no open-toed shoes or sandals are permitted. This class requires registration and is open to individuals ages ten and up. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information please call 405-522-3602 or email [education@okhistory.org](mailto:education@okhistory.org).



**Dutch oven cooking at the Oklahoma History Center.**



## Third Saturday Living History program at the Murrell Home

Visit the George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill on Saturday, April 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. to participate in a nineteenth-century living history activity. The Third Saturday Living History program is free and open to visitors of all ages. It is held on the third Saturday of each month, with a new topic for each program. Regular hours of operation at the home are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please call 918-456-2751, email [murrellhome@okhistory.org](mailto:murrellhome@okhistory.org), or visit [www.facebook.com/murrellhome](http://www.facebook.com/murrellhome). The Murrell Home is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. The 1845 plantation home was the residence of George and Minerva (Ross) Murrell, and is a National Historic Landmark.

## Dr. John H. Falk presented program to museum educators at the Oklahoma History Center

On Wednesday, March 23, the Oklahoma Museums Association hosted the annual Oklahoma Museum Educators (OKME) meeting at the Oklahoma History Center. This year's program featured Dr. John H. Falk. Dr. Falk is internationally recognized as a leading expert on free-choice learning and has published more than 150 works in his field. He has held many positions in the museum and learning community, spending fourteen years at the Smithsonian Institution and currently serving as the director of the Institute for Learning Innovation and the Sea Grant Professor of Free-Choice Learning at Oregon State University. He has been awarded numerous prestigious awards including the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Education Committee's highest honor, the John Cotton Dana Award for Leadership; the Distinguished Career Award for Research from NARST; and recognition by AAM as one of the one hundred most influential museum professionals of the past one hundred years. Dr. Falk spoke to attendees about assessment in museum programs. This event offered a unique opportunity for the state's educators to engage with a renowned expert in this field. We were extremely fortunate to learn from his knowledge and expertise and believe that all who attended left with exciting and practical ways to improve their respective institutions.

## Round two National Register nomination grant applications available

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting applications for round two of its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2015 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the US Department of the Interior for these grants. The deadline for round two applications is Friday, June 3, at 5 p.m.

Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. Grant recipients will use the funds to retain an appropriately qualified professional to complete an individual property nomination for the NRHP.

The NRHP is the list of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes. While listing in the NRHP is not a guarantee of preservation or financial assistance, it is one of the most important components of the preservation strategy for any significant property. The designation provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded.

To obtain a NRHP nomination grant application, please visit [www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm). Applications also may be obtained from the SHPO by calling 405-521-6249.

## 2016 Statewide Preservation Conference

Save the dates June 1-3, 2016, for Oklahoma's Twenty-Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference to be held in Enid, Oklahoma. The conference will include three concurrent tracks of sessions, one to two plenary sessions, local tours, receptions, SHPO's annual awards banquet, and Preservation Oklahoma's annual meeting and luncheon. The full conference schedule will appear in a future issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*.

### New Members, cont'd.

#### Individual

Pritam Dahal, Ada  
William Elson Jr, Tulsa  
Mary Jo Finley, Plano, TX  
Jessica Gregg, McAlester  
Geneva Hancock, Edmond  
Kris Helt, Cherryvale, KS  
Jeremy Holbert, Maysville  
Myrna Holland, Jay  
Chad Hulsey, Stratford  
Clinton Johnson, Oklahoma City  
Robert Key, Mustang  
Esther King, Warner  
Gary Kiser, Nowata  
Sheldon Knowles, Wynnewood  
Mark Lewin, Ada  
J. P. London, Arlington, VA  
Catherine Lyon, Edmond  
William McMurry, Oklahoma City  
Gwendolyn Mukes, Oklahoma City  
Bryan Niles, Moore  
Lloyd Noble, Tulsa  
Jay O'Meilie, Tulsa  
Shelly Oneal, Orlando  
Tony Poe, Pontotoc  
Jason Poundrier, Rush Springs  
Linda Price, Norman  
Sheila Seivert-Thomason, Sulphur  
Terry Snow, Lindsay  
Gilberta True, Foster  
Teresa Tyndall, Jenks  
Roy Wall, Chesterfield, MO  
Jason West, McAlester  
P. G. Wilson, Oklahoma City  
Janet Wood, Oklahoma City  
Harvey Yost II, Stillwater  
Louise Young, Wilson

#### Organizational

Beemer Books, Minneapolis, KS

### 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!

P. G. Wilson, Oklahoma City, March 1, 1967  
Jerry Anduss, Piedmont, February 17, 1970  
Shirley Rider, Adair, February 1, 1974  
Phil and Gail Roberts, Edmond, February 1, 1977  
Harvey Yost II, Stillwater, February 1, 1977  
Eugene Baade, Renton, WA, January 1, 1978  
Allen and Linda Hicks, Kenefic, May 1, 1980  
Peggy Talley, Poteau, May 1, 1981  
Bob and Mary Brown, Burneyville, February 1, 1984  
Kenneth Corder, Edmond, February 1, 1986  
Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton, October 6, 1986  
Betty Ruth Kemp and Charles Kemp, Norman, November 4, 1986  
Michael Tower, Cortez, CO, December 29, 1986  
Sapulpa Historical Society, Sapulpa, January 21, 1987

Felice Calhoon, Beaver, January 22, 1987  
Jean Tomassi, Tulsa, November 16, 1987  
Vicki Hicks, Washington, DC, September 5, 1989  
Lloyd Noble, Tulsa, December 26, 1989  
Linda Horn, Edmond, January 2, 1990  
Charles Smith, Yukon, June 20, 1990  
Eva Briley, Idabel, February 6, 1991  
Robert and Susan Markman, North Little Rock, AR, April 11, 1991  
INCOG, Tulsa, September 18, 1991  
Tom and Kathleen Hughes, Wheaton, IL, January 27, 1992  
John Lawrence, The Colony, TX, January 9, 1995  
Betty Johnston, El Reno, May 26, 1995  
Michael Higgins, Norman, September 12, 1995

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

### April events at a glance

1-3	Fur Trade Rendezvous, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant
2	First Saturday Hands-on History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
5-16	Red Dirt BBQ student art competition exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
9	Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
9	“Household Chores” Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
9	Field trip with Friends of the Murrell Home to Fort Smith, Arkansas, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
11	Tom Mix Museum annual membership meeting, Tom Mix Museum, Dewey
13	Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
15	Cherokee Cultural Day, Sequoyah’s Cabin, Sallisaw
16	T. B. Ferguson Home presents “History of Sewing Machines” lecture, Watonga Library, Watonga
16	“History of Oklahoma Poets” lecture by Shawn Holliday, Sod House Museum, Aline
16	Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
16	Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
21	“Mysteries of the Mansion” tour, Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
21	Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
22-24	Frontier Brigade Muster, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
27-29	Oklahoma History Conference, Woodward Conference Center, Woodward
30	Dutch Oven Cooking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Please visit [www.okhistory.org/calendar](http://www.okhistory.org/calendar) for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

# Mistletoe Leaves

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April 2016

## SHPO announces May workshops

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce its May workshop series. The workshops will be held on Wednesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 5. Sessions will be in the main conference room of the Bureau of Land Management’s Oklahoma Field Office, located at 7906 East Thirty-Third Street, Suite 101 in Tulsa. There is ample free parking available. Attendees must enter through security as this is a federal government facility.

The workshops are free and open to the public, but attendees are asked to register by Wednesday, April 27, at 5 p.m. Space is limited and will be available on a first-come basis. To register, please contact Jesse Dearman at 405-521-6249 or [jdearman@okhistory.org](mailto:jdearman@okhistory.org). Individuals may register online at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops). Design professionals who attend the workshops will qualify for HSW hours needed to fulfill requirements of the State of Oklahoma’s Board of Governors of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. A certificate of attendance will be emailed to participants after the workshops, then attendance must be self-reported to the board. The workshop schedule and descriptions are listed below. Please contact Melvena Heisch, deputy SHPO, at 405-522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org) with questions about any of the workshops.

### The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview

Wednesday, May 4, 10 a.m.–noon

This workshop 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 SHPO’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. This workshop is designed as a stand-alone session and as a companion to Determination of Eligibility under Section 106.

### Determination of Eligibility under Section 106

Wednesday, May 4, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

This session provides a step-by-step description of how to document standing structures for the SHPO’s review. Specific topics include a discussion of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation, how to complete the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form, photograph requirements, what a determination of eligibility means, how differences of opinion about eligibility are resolved, and when consultants may be helpful to agencies in preparing documentation for the Section 106 process. This session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview.

### Working with the National Register of Historic Places

Thursday, May 5, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO’s programs, and a basic understanding of the National Register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. This workshop 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.