



Mistletoe Leaves



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August 2009

That's Bold Talk!

True Grit to be screened at Oklahoma History Center on August 7



The Oklahoma History Center and Forty-sixth Star Press invite the OHS membership to a special screening of *True Grit* on Friday, August 7, at 7 p.m. This special night at the movies is offered in conjunction with the release of Forty-sixth Star Press's new book *Sooner Cinema: Oklahoma Goes to the Movies*. Paul Varner, author of the book's essay "Getting In and Getting Out: *True Grit* and Oklahoma," and Larry Van Meter, the book's editor, will introduce the film. Following the screening the hosts will conduct a public discussion of the movie and will autograph copies of *Sooner Cinema*.

Released by Paramount Pictures in 1969, *True Grit* is a Western directed by Henry Hathaway and produced by Hal B. Wallis. The film stars John Wayne as U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn, Kim Darby as Mattie Ross, and Glen Campbell as La Boeuf. John Wayne won an Oscar for his portrayal of Rooster Cogburn, a hefty, one-eyed, often inebriated lawman recruited by a teenaged girl to seek revenge for her father's murder.

The Oklahoma History Center will open its doors at 6 p.m. The first-floor museum galleries will be open for the visitors to enjoy. Seating is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Paul Varner is a professor of English at Abilene Christian University, but before moving to Texas he lived for more than twenty years in Edmond, Oklahoma. In 2008 he published *Historical Dictionary of Westerns in Cinema* (Scarecrow Press) and *Westerns: Paperback Novels and Movies from Hollywood* (Cambridge Scholars Press). His forthcoming *Historical Dictionary of Westerns in Literature* will also be released by Scarecrow Press.

Forty-sixth Star Press, founded in 2008, is located in Oklahoma City at 5030 North May Ave. **For information on admission** visit the OHS web site at <www.okhistory.org>, call Jason Harris at 405/522-0785, or e-mail at <jharris@okhistory.org>. That's a wrap!

Public Radio series features Oklahoma rock and roll history

The Oklahoma Historical Society, in partnership with the state's public radio stations, is sponsoring a weekly radio show that features the history of rock and roll.

Oklahoma Rock and Roll with Steve Ripley is produced and narrated by noted Oklahoma recording artist and record producer Steve Ripley.

The show is a twenty-part radio series that explores the music of Oklahoma artists and songwriters and their influence on rock and roll. "We will look at not just rock and roll in Oklahoma," said Ripley, "but also the roots of rock and roll such as Woody Guthrie, Bob Wills, and Charlie Christian."

The radio show is being produced in conjunction with the Oklahoma History Center's major museum exhibition titled *Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock and Roll Exhibit*.

"We gave the show a trial run on two public radio stations, KOSU at Oklahoma State University and KGOU at the University of Oklahoma," said Bob L. Blackburn, Executive Director of the OHS. "The public response was overwhelmingly positive."

Over the July 4 weekend KOSU and KGOU restarted the show beginning with the first hour. The same show aired on KCCU at Cameron University and KWGS at the University of Tulsa.

The first two episodes, titled "Home Sweet Oklahoma" (parts 1 and 2), comprise an Oklahoma music revue that sets the stage. Ripley guides the listener through the music of Oklahomans such as Leon Russell and J. J. Cale and their direct links to people such as Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, and Joe Cocker. Ripley explores the roots of rockabilly and Oklahomans such as Wanda Jackson and the Collins Kids.

"The picture starts to emerge of an art form that owes its heart to a mixture of hill-billy, gospel, blues, rhythm & blues, and jazz," said Ripley. "Interwoven are Native American and African American influences. This is America's music, Oklahoma rock and roll."

"We really appreciate the support the public radio stations have given us," said Blackburn. "This is the first time all four of the stations have aired an Oklahoma-produced program on a continuing basis. This shows their support for Oklahoma history, music, and programming."

KOSU, based at Oklahoma State University, offers the shows on Fridays at 7 p.m. KOSU broadcasts on 91.7 in Stillwater and Oklahoma City, on 107.5 in Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma, and on 101.9 in Okmulgee.

KCCU, based at Cameron University, broadcasts the shows at 9 p.m. on Fridays on 89.3 in Lawton and Fort Sill, on 95.9 in

Woodward and northwestern Oklahoma, on 88.7 in Wichita Falls, on 90.3 in Ardmore, on 90.1 in Altus, on 89.3 in Duncan, on 100.1 in Chickasha, and on 89.1 in Weatherford, Clinton, and Elk City.

KWGS, based at the University of Tulsa, airs the show on Sundays at 6 p.m. and broadcasts on 89.5 in Tulsa.

KGOU, based at the University of Oklahoma, airs the shows on Sunday afternoons at 12 p.m. on 106.3 in Norman, Moore, and Oklahoma City and on KROU (a repeater station) on 105.7 in Spencer and Oklahoma City, on 103.1 in Seminole, and on 97.9 in Ada. For information call Michael Dean at 405/522-5341. (All days and times are subject to change.)

Mark the Calendar!
Ronnie Kaye's "The Scene" is back!
Rock and Roll at the History Center
Friday, September 4, 2009
7 p.m.
cosponsored by KOMA
The Five Americans will perform



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

For more than thirty years, I have been fascinated by the various forms of communication that we can use to share history with the general public.

When I was in graduate school, I learned how to write articles, book reviews, and encyclopedia entries. With the help of mentors such as Odie B. Faulk and LeRoy Fischer, I learned how to write books.

From 1979 to 1989 I had the privilege of being editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and *Mistletoe Leaves*, which honed my skills at sharing history with other people through the written word. Mary Ann Blochowiak and Dianna Everett have taken that invaluable repository of published work to new heights of quality and depth.

I have focused on public relations, not only for the OHS but also for the entire historical community. With no advertising budget, that meant countless speeches (I quit counting at six hundred in the early 1990s), hundreds of interviews on radio and television, and accessibility to newspaper reporters from Mary Jo Nelson and Jim Argo to Ed Montgomery to Randy Krehbiel.

Max Nichols, our first public information director, used his journalistic skills to spread the word through the newspaper community even more. Today, he is still writing a monthly feature for us, "One for the History Book," which touches the entire state.

During the last ten years, we have found new forms of communication useful for sharing history.

With the entrepreneurial creativity and hard work of Bill Moore, we produced two television shows, one on KSBI-TV and the other on statewide Cox Cable. Some of those shows are still appearing on OETA digital channels.

Michael Dean, our public information director, brought with him an intuitive knowledge of radio. Since he joined the staff the OHS and history are regular features across the state, from all four NPR affiliates to *Oklahoma Moments* on a number of commercial stations.

Starting on the Fourth of July weekend, we began sponsoring a radio series on KOSU, KGOU, KWGS, and KCCU. In it, we share with the public the fascinating history of rock and roll in Oklahoma. Steve Ripley, a creative genius, is the on-air personality and guides us through that musical history.

More recently, we have tapped the world wide web as a new tool to reach the public. Jennifer Towry, our web master, is working with our staff and volunteers to post a constantly changing variety of information on day-to-day activities, historical events, interpretation, and resources.

On our website, you can find more than 60,000 photographs, lists of books and manuscript collections, data bases for family research, and interesting features that range from listings in the National Register of Historic Places to articles about folk lore.

Now we are working on virtual tours of exhibits, expanded access to the new *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, and podcasts of interviews, videos, and music. As technology changes, we will be on the cutting edge of innovation thanks to the talents of our young and technologically gifted staff members.

Yes, I have long been fascinated by the various forms of communication that we can use to share history. It is gratifying to watch the entire staff reaching out and using every tool at their disposal.

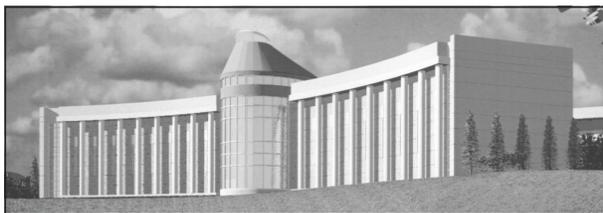
Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

In an effort to enhance our ability to communicate with OHS members, we have decided to begin using e-mail to supplement our newsletter and other mailings. Members who use e-mail are encouraged to give us their e-mail addresses so we can e-mail invitations to special events and exhibit openings as well as provide timely information about the OHS and its museums, sites, and activities statewide. Examples would include reminders about Lunch and Learn programs, Rock and Roll Saturdays, or special book sales.

Using e-mail will enable us to reduce our expenses on postage, printing, and mail preparation while getting useful information to you. However, if you do not use e-mail, or don't want to be included on our list, you still will receive all the communications by mail that you are accustomed to receiving. We will control our list and will not sell or trade it to any other party. Moreover, members will be able to opt out of the list at any time.

To add your name to the OHS e-mail list, please e-mail me at <plambert@okhistory.org>. Thank you for your help!



New Members, June

*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

Benefactor

*George and Nancy Records, Oklahoma City

Fellow

Daniel and Cynthia Holmes, Sand Springs

Associate

Scott Booker, Edmond

Friend

*Howard and Sue Bowen, Edmond

Trent Bridgeman, Oklahoma City

Larry and Joyce Hopper, Oklahoma City

*Michael and Lucinda Kiser, Edmond

*David and Cathlene Mattix, Jenks

*David and Judith Thompson, Oklahoma City

*William & Joan Yinger, Oklahoma City

Family

Ancel & Linda Airington, Oklahoma City

Reha and Margaret Aktas, Tulsa

Sharman Barghols, Edmond

Patti Bessen, Oklahoma City

*Gordon and Mary Brown, Oklahoma City

Teresa Burnett, Shawnee

Wesley Dean, Norman

Fran Earles, Oklahoma City

*James A. Embry, Oklahoma City

James and Miki Farris, Oklahoma City

Richard and Janice Goforth, Tahlequah

Kenneth and Judy Hill, Oklahoma City

Jane Jenkins, Oklahoma City

Larry Johnson, Oklahoma City

Ernest Leonard, Edmond

Maria Mason, McLoud

*C. D. Northcutt, Ponca City

Rev. Ouida Parks-Person, Oklahoma City

Greg Renoff, Tulsa

Mike and Marcia Starchman, Purcell

Lee Webb, Oklahoma City

Richard Wilson, Oklahoma City

Institutional

*Collinsville Public Schools, Collinsville

Individual

Bill R. Baker, Boerne, TX

Ted Bonham, Oklahoma City

Janice Colvin, Oklahoma City

Shelby Cook, Bainsbridge Island, WA

Dennie Hall, Edmond

Jerry Jennings, Oklahoma City

Carolyn Leonard, Oklahoma City

D. J. McIntyre, Norman

Randall Moss, Catoosa

Rodney G. Smith, Spencer

Christopher Stofel, Oklahoma City

John Williams, Maysville

Arlene Williamson, Ponca City

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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.

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Anyone denied benefits should contact the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914, telephone 405/521-2491, and/or the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.



Meetings

The **Oklahoma Genealogical Society** will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 3, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center inside the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave., in Oklahoma City. Pat Jurey, honorary regent of the Ardmore Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Oklahoma DAR staff speaker, will present a program entitled "A Titanic Family Connection." The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. that evening. The meeting is free to OGS members, and a \$3 donation is suggested from nonmembers. (Special to ML)

Events

The OK Blues Hall of Fame, located at 701 DC Minner St. in **Rentiesville**, is the venue for the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival planned for August 28-30. Enjoy Oklahoma, regional, and national blues performed by thirty bands on three stages. This is a family event with activities for children. Rentiesville was the birthplace and home of Oklahoma blues legend DC Minner. For more info contact Selby Minner at 918/473-2411. (Special to ML)

August is fair month. Take the kids out for a fun day before school starts. Some of the free fairs around the state include **Mountain View Free Fair** at Tolbert Park on August 6 through 8. Contact Larry Hancock at 580/347-3213 for more info. The **Texas County Free Fair** is scheduled from August 12 through 15 at the county fair grounds in Guymon. Call 580/338-5446 for additional information. Check your local listings for a fair in your vicinity. (Special to ML)

The **Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center**, located in Monnet Hall on the University of Oklahoma campus, is the venue for a new exhibit entitled *Putting Oklahoma Back to Work*. On display now through September 1, 2009, the exhibit relates how President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs helped employ Oklahomans during the Great Depression. FDR's programs such as the Farm Security Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Works Progress Administration provided jobs, relief, education, and loans for thousands in Oklahoma. This exhibit and others are featured on the first and second floors of Monnet Hall, which is located at 630 Parrington Oval. Hours are

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday. (Special to ML)

The annual American Indian Expo will take place at the **Anadarko Fairgrounds** from Monday through Saturday, August 3-8. The event includes parades, dances, a fry bread contest, a carnival, crafts, and concessions. For addition info call Lois Swift at 405/933-0171. (Special to ML)

Main Street in **Okarche** will come alive from 3 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, August 29, when the Okarchefest is slated. The planned festivities will include craft and food booths, live bands, and a children's area. Get in touch with Connie Henrich at 405/826-4703 or send her an e-mail at <okarchefest@pdi.net>. (Special to ML)

During the *hot* month of August enjoy *hot* air balloon festivals! The Will Rogers Downs Cherokee Casino in **Claremore** is the venue for the Gateway Hot Air Balloon Festival that will include a children's activity area, live entertainment, food, and more. This event is slated for August 7 through August 9. Contact Laquinda Davison at 918/259-1405 or e-mail her at <ldavison@gateway.org>. Not far from there, the **Tahlequah Municipal Airport** is hosting the Illinois River Balloon Fest on August 21 through 22. For more info call 918/453-9958. (Special to ML)

Hollis is planning its Black-eyed Pea Festival for Saturday, August 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come enjoy a parade, a tractor pull, the Harmon County Opry, a quilt show, food vendors, and hourly drawings for prizes. Admission is free. Telephone Sue Harris at 580/688-9545 or e-mail <harcomuseum@pdi.net>. (Special to ML)

The **Ottawa Tribal Grounds** in Miami, Oklahoma, is the venue for the annual Ottawa Tribal Powwow scheduled nightly on August 28-30. Admission is free to the event that will include dancing and family fun. For info call 918/674-2553. (Special to ML)

Opportunities

The **Cherokee Heritage Center**, 21192 South Keeler Dr. in Park Hill (located about six miles south of Tahlequah), is seeking entries for the 14th Annual Cherokee Homecoming Art Show and Sale. Participation in this show is limited to artists who have citizenship in a federally recognized Cherokee tribe (Cherokee Nation, United Keetoowah Band, or Eastern

Band of the Cherokee Indians). A copy of the artist's tribal citizenship card must accompany their entry. All artwork must be delivered to the Cherokee Heritage Center no later than 4 p.m. on August 7. For a copy of the official rules and instructions, send an e-mail to <exhibits@cherokeeheritage.org>. Staff can be reached at 918/456-6007 or toll free at 888/999-6007. This show is made possible in part through grants from the Thalden-Boyd Group and from Cherokee Nation Entertainment. (Special to ML)

Happenings

On June 25, 2009, the **Cherokee Nation** announced the completion of a restoration project at the historic Ross Cemetery, established in 1842 and located at Park Hill. Builders Unlimited of Tulsa completed the work, which included the removal and reconstruction of the limestone wall and columns surrounding the burial area. The existing wrought-iron fence was removed, cleaned and straightened, and repainted to its original color. A new concrete foundation and footings were poured for the stone wall and fence. The Ross Cemetery is significant as the resting place of many Cherokee leaders, diplomats, Trail of Tears survivors, community members, and ancestors. Adjacent to the Ross family burial plot is the grave of Chief John Ross. In 2002 the Ross Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A second project will include interpretive signage, a trail system, a scenic overlook, enhanced parking, and upgraded pedestrian access in the cemetery. Also, the Cherokee Nation recently completed a stabilization project for Rural School 51, a public school building erected in 1913 near the Ross Cemetery. (Special to ML)

The **Love County Historical Society** celebrated its thirtieth birthday in June. During Love County's Frontier Days, society members served birthday cake at the society's new location at 409 West Chickasaw in Marietta. The historical society was chartered in 1979 and opened the Pioneer Museum in the Santa Fe Depot in 1984. In 2006 the organization had a grand opening of its museum in a new building situated on West Chickasaw. For more information about the Love County Historical Society or the museum, contact Laquitta Ladner at 580/276-3477. The museum's telephone number is 580/276-9020 and its mailing address is P.O. Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448. (Special to ML)

OHS Places . . .

Fred Drummond House

305 North Price Ave.
Hominy, OK 74035-1007
Phone: 918/885-2374
Open: Wed.-Sat., 9-5; Sunday, 1-5
Closed: Mondays, Tuesdays, and legal holidays.
Admission: Free; donations are accepted.

With the dog days of summer upon us take a short trip to the Fred Drummond House, located at 305 North Price Ave., in Hominy. The three-story, late Victorian eclectic-style house was completed in 1905. Opened to the public in December 1986, the home is furnished with original family furniture and heirlooms, including a three-piece, bird's-eye maple bedroom suite. The first floor features a parlor, dining room, kitchen, and pantry. The second floor has four bedrooms, and two rooms on the third floor are reached by a narrow, steep stairway. A second-story sleeping porch was added in 1914.

On the exterior the first floor is constructed of sandstone blocks from a quarry located a few miles west of Hominy. The second and third stories are a frame structure, faced with shingles that were originally painted green and white. The steps to the front porch are covered by a circular section of the second-floor balcony. A square turret extends from the roof above the second-story door that opens onto the balcony.

The house was the home of the Frederick Drummond family. Drummond (1864-1913) immigrated from Scotland in 1884 and lived briefly in New York City before heading west to Texas. Unsuccessful at ranching in Texas, he relocated to St. Louis and worked in a wholesale dry-goods store. There he met a customer named John R. Skinner, who owned the Osage Mercantile Company in Pawhuska, Indian Territory. Skinner hired Drummond to clerk in his Pawhuska store. Shortly after arriving in Indian Territory Drummond met Addie Gentner of Coffeyville, Kansas, and they married in 1890.

In 1903 the couple moved from Pawhuska to Hominy where Drummond organized the Hominy Trading Company, a mercantile outlet frequented by the Osage. They raised their four children, Roy Cecil, Frederick Gentner, Blanche, and Alfred Alexander "Jack," in the three-story house. Drummond expanded his economic base to include ranching, banking, and real estate.

In November 1980 the Drummond Family Home Trust deeded the Fred Drummond House to the Oklahoma Historical Society. Because of its architectural significance as well as the Drummonds' social and economic role in the Hominy community, the house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.



(Jim Argo photo)

Dr. Alvin Turner to complete summer Brown Bag Lecture series in Enid

At 12 noon on Wednesday, August 19, a lecture by Dr. Alvin O. Turner, Professor Emeritus of History and former Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at East Central University in Ada, will complete the summer programs offered by the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center.

Turner's presentation, titled "Churching the Strip," will place the development of churches in Enid in the larger context of their growth in Oklahoma and the Cherokee Outlet. That story, according to Turner, is very different from the one assumed by most and repeated by some historians about the strength of the settlers' church commitments.

In fact, Oklahoma needed encouragement to be "churched." The special pressures of instant settlement, poverty, and other challenges of frontier life played major roles in defining which denominations would attract and keep the largest numbers of adherents.

Turner's lecture takes place in the Humphrey Heritage Center Village Church, at the Heritage Center site at 507 South Fourth St. in Enid. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center construction update!

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid is moving closer and closer to its grand reopening.

Roofing on the Heritage Center building is nearing completion, and drywall construction is under way. Installation of the sprinkler system is complete, and work has begun on the exterior finish of the building.

Once the interior is finished, the collections will be moved from the storage building behind the Heritage Center into the new, six-thousand-square-foot collections storage area. The storage building will then be removed, providing a beautiful outdoor view of Government Springs Park.

In the front of the building the frame for the glass atrium entrance is now in place, as is the atrium's glass-dome roof. Each day the Heritage Center structure becomes more impressive.

While in Enid to hear Dr. Al Turner's lecture, take a look at the Heritage Center (from a distance) and note the progress!



Mystery Quilt Workshop

The Sod House Museum in Aline is once again hosting its monthly Mystery Quilt Workshop. The event is slated for Saturday, August 15.

The mystery quilt was selected as the beginning quilt. Martha Ray will be the host and teacher. Following her directions, each participant has purchased his or her own fabric. Each month, each participant discusses the progress of the quilt. There is a \$5 charge each session to cover the cost of handouts.

For more information call 580/463-2441 or e-mail <sodhouse@okhistory.org>.

Quilt Block of the Month

Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site is offering its Quilt Block of the Month Class on August 4.

The classes are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

Fee for the workshop is \$5. The crowd of happy quilters convene every week in the museum's conference room.

Those who regularly participate will have completed two quilts by the end of the year-long series, which ends December 1!

Call the ranch at 918/762-2513 or drop in to see for yourself at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road, Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Sod House offers “Germans from Russia” lecture in August

Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz will speak on the topic of “Germans from Russia” at the Sod House Museum in Aline, Oklahoma, on Saturday, August 8, 2009, at 10 a.m.

Schmaltz is an assistant professor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, where he teaches Modern European and World History. Both sides of his family claim some Black Sea German ancestry, and their odyssey across half the globe from the Ukrainian steppes to the Dakota prairies influenced him to pursue the history profession. He earned a B.A. in history and German language with honors at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. After receiving his M.A. in history at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, he completed a Ph.D. in history at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He specializes in Modern Germany and Modern Russia. He has contributed a variety of articles and translations to the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, North Dakota, and the North Dakota State University Libraries’ Germans from Russia Heritage Collection in Fargo. He serves as an editorial board member of the *AHSGR Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia* and as a contributing editor of the *GRHS Heritage Review*. He is also a member of the Board of Academic Advisors at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon.

The Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas reminded the ethnic German settlers of the Russian and Ukrainian steppes. Often Germans from Russia, especially Mennonites, sent out advance scouts to survey prospective lands for purchase. As the remaining lands that had opened under the 1862 Homestead Act were filled, the plains of western Oklahoma beckoned these people from the realm of the tsars. Land hunger drove them southward into Kansas and the Indian Territory in the 1880s, 1890s, and 1900s, including the Cherokee Outlet in September 1893 in the northwestern part of what became Oklahoma.

According to the 1920 U.S. Census, more than 120,000 Germans from Russia (or more than 300,000 if counting the second generation) lived in the United States. Oklahoma achieved statehood in 1907. More than ten thousand Germans from

Russia lived in Oklahoma by 1920 (counting the second generation), many of them coming from Russia’s Volga region. More than four thousand of these Russian immigrants in Oklahoma included Mennonites, while other German groups from Ukraine and Volynia also settled in the new



state. Today, their descendants run into the hundreds of thousands and have become an integral part of the region. The counties of Blaine, Ellis, Kingfisher, Major, Noble, Washita, and Woodward in Oklahoma all experienced a significant German-Russian influx, including the communities of Arnett, Corn, Fairview, Meno, Shattuck, and Woodward.

The Germans from Russia made significant contributions to the emergence and growth of the wheat and grain production segment of Oklahoma’s agricultural industry. Further, it should be noted that the Mennonites introduced the hardy Russian (Turkey) red winter wheat to the Great Plains. Many communities in northwestern Oklahoma have realized tremendous benefits from the accomplishments of the Germans from Russia. Their culture, religious practices, and work ethic have brought prosperity and opportunity to the Southern Plains.

Schmaltz will present an overview of Germans from Russia history and migratory patterns in the context of world history, and more specifically the group’s arrival in Oklahoma after the 1880s.

For details telephone 580/463-2441 or e-mail <sodhouse@okhistory.org>.

Lunch & Learn Lecture for August

This month’s Lunch & Learn Lecture, to be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, in the OHS Research Center (inside the History Center), will teach you how to get organized in your quest to find your ancestors.

Sue Tolbert will share tips for planning and organizing your genealogical research.

The program fee is \$10, but lunch is included.

Pre-registration is required and may be accomplished by calling 405/522-5225 or by visiting the OHS web site to download a printable registration form.

Get it together and get to work!

OHS receives NEH digital newspaper grant

The Oklahoma Historical Society has received a grant award of \$307,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), according to Bob Blackburn, OHS Executive Director. The award will support OHS participation in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership of the NEH and the Library of Congress. The mission of the initiative is to digitize previously microfilmed newspapers and provide enhanced access to them on the Internet in a searchable database.

Through NDNP, NEH intends to fund the digitization of historically significant newspapers from fifty states and U.S. territories published from 1836 to 1922. Currently, the NDNP has twenty-two state partners. Most recently, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, and South Carolina received grant awards for their projects and joined NDNP in June 2009.

In 2007 the NEH and the Library of Congress unveiled the program’s web resource, *Chronicling America*. Maintained by the Library of Congress, *Chronicling America*, which may be accessed on the Internet at (<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>>), is a searchable online database that currently contains more than one million pages published between 1880 and 1922 from eleven states and the District of Columbia and represents the news from more than seventy-five different cities and towns across the nation. NDNP state partners identify historically important newspapers published in their respective states and then select the microfilmed pages to digitize and add to the *Chronicling America* web site. The Library of Congress has contributed pages from its own collection of District of Columbia newspapers, as well.

Participating institutions now include: Arizona Department of Libraries, University of California at Riverside, University of Florida Libraries, University of Hawaii, University of Illinois, Kansas State Historical Society, University of Kentucky Libraries, Louisiana State University, Minnesota Historical Society, State Historical Society of Missouri, Montana Historical Society, University of Nebraska, New York Public Library, Ohio Historical Society, Oklahoma Historical Society, University of Oregon, Pennsylvania State University, University of South Carolina, University of North Texas, University of Utah, Library of Virginia, and Washington State Library.

NDNP builds on the foundation established by an earlier NEH initiative, the United States Newspaper Program, in which the Oklahoma Historical Society also participated during the 1990s. NEH has funded newspaper projects in all fifty states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Directors of the OHS grant project are Deputy Director of the Research Center Chad Williams and Director of Manuscript Collections Larry O’Dell.

Celebrate Aunt Jane's birthday on August 8 at Frank Phillips Historic Home

Jane Phillips, wife of oil baron Frank Phillips, loved jigsaw puzzles. Guests who walked into the library of her home on Cherokee Avenue in Bartlesville would usually find a jigsaw puzzle being assembled on a bridge table close to a comfortable chair.

"I would drop by to see Granny almost every day after school," says Marcus Low, Jr., the Phillips's grandson. "It seemed like she always had a puzzle she was working on." This year, as part of the Frank Phillips Home's centennial celebration, Jane's puzzle collection is on exhibit for the first time.

"The puzzles are not only beautiful but also record the events and attitudes of their time," notes Jim Goss, the Phillips Home's director/curator. Jigsaw puzzles for adults were first seen in the early 1900s and were quite a challenge. Puzzles were cut along color lines and were not interlocking. There was no picture on the box, and the title of the puzzle was very nonspecific. At the time the Phillips home was built (1908-09), Parker Brothers introduced their Pastime Puzzles, which featured figural pieces in recognizable shapes. These were so popular that Parker Brothers stopped making games and devoted its entire factory to puzzle production in 1909. Following this craze puzzles continued as a regular adult diversion for the next two decades.

It is not known when "Aunt Jane" became interested in jigsaw puzzles or how many she had. She was known to give puzzles away to friends and employees. Most of her twenty-six puzzles were of the Pastime Puzzle brand. Their themes reflect her interests and the current events of the time. The Frank Phillips Home Docents began the project of putting the puzzles together more than two years ago. Money was raised to fit the puzzles with museum-quality frames. The last to be framed is a two-layer puzzle given to Jane as a Christmas present. The puzzle exhibit's designer is Karen Smith Woods, and the exhibit framer is Pat Kerbs.

The exhibit will be on display to commemorate "Aunt Jane's" birthday on Saturday, August 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Puzzle enthusiasts and children will have a "hands-on" opportunity to work with a genuine Pastime Puzzle from the 1930s. For more information regarding this exhibit, please call 918/336-2491, ext. 103.

SHPO seeks public input for FY 2010 program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO, a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, September 11, 2009, in the Oklahoma History Center Classroom at 2401 North Laird Ave. (just northeast of the Capitol building), in Oklahoma City. The session provides information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2010 Historic Preservation Fund application. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior's FY 2010 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out its programs and operations. Ten percent of this award is reserved for distribution via pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

Under the National Historic Preservation Act the SHPO has responsibility for administration of the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. In brief, the purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. Specific activities directed toward this goal include identification of properties important in history, architecture, culture, and archaeology; evaluation and registration of significant properties; formal review of federal and federally assisted projects that could affect archaeological and historic resources; development and implementation of the statewide historic preservation plan; administration of the CLG program; ad-

ministration of the federal and state investment tax credits program for certified historic structures; and public outreach activities.

Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (2005), available in hardcopy or e-version from the SHPO or at <www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm> sets forth the goals and objectives for historic preservation efforts in the state, including the SHPO's programs listed above. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are: continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program to document property types underrepresented in the state's inventory and to extend survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of nominations for the National Register of Historic Places; and provision of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your comments will help the SHPO determine its specific projects and activities for FY 2010 to address these priorities.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may complete the SHPO's "Project Suggestion Form" and return it by 5 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2009. Just call the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or send an e-mail message to Betty Harris at <harris@okhistory.org> to have the form sent to you. You may also obtain it at <www.okhistory.org/shpo/events.htm>.

Oklahoma Historical Society

Annual Meeting

April 28, 29, 30, 2010

CALL FOR PAPERS

"Old Cultures in a New Land: A Sense of Community in Oklahoma"

The Oklahoma Historical Society is seeking papers and presentations for the OHS Annual Meeting, which will be held April 28, 29, and 30, 2010, at the Choctaw Nation Conference Center, Durant, Oklahoma. A total of ten concurrent paper sessions will be held on Thursday, April 29, and Friday, April 30.

The theme for the Annual Meeting is "Old Cultures in a New Land: A Sense of Community in Oklahoma." This is a very broad theme that is relevant to all parts of Oklahoma. Old cultures can pertain to a wide range of groups including, but not limited to, American Indians, non-Indian pioneers, religious groups, and ethnic or racial communities. Military history, arts and crafts, music, and many other topics as they relate to cultural groups and identities would be relevant subjects for presentations.

These suggestions are not meant to be exclusive; the program committee welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics. Each presentation should be limited to 20 or 30 minutes in length, depending on the number of participants in each session.

One-page proposals should include the presentation's title; a 100-word description of the presentation; the presenter's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address; and a one-page curriculum vitae or a brief biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status in late November.

Please submit proposals as early as possible, with the deadline for submissions being Friday, October 9, 2009, to: Annual Meeting Committee, Attn.: Paul Lambert, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 North Laird Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Proposals may also be sent as e-mails to <plambert@okhistory.org>.

Direct inquiries to 405/522-5217 or <plambert@okhistory.org>.

It Takes More

Than Money . . .

. . . to create collections and exhibits that can achieve the Oklahoma Historical Society's goals of educating the public and providing research opportunities. It takes the donation of an artifact, an art work, a book, a document, or a whole collection of those things that help us tell Oklahoma's story. It also takes loyal, dedicated volunteers and docents. Here are the contributions of some of your friends and associates who understand those needs:

Research Division Donors April, May, June 2009

Ashton, Sharron Standifer, Norman
Barton County Historical Society, Great Bend, KS
Basore, Brian, Oklahoma City
Brandywine Crucible, Inc., San Marcos, TX
Cantrell, Carolyn, Oklahoma City
Cantu, Joyce, Oklahoma City
Carson, Gayle, Oklahoma City
Colonial Dames XVII Century, Taylor, TX
Courtney, J. L., Oklahoma City
Crane, Harold, no address given
Curt Teich Postcard Archives, Lake County Discovery Museum, Wauconda, IL
Demmitt, Tristan, Shawnee
Dennison-Harmon, Sammie, Cleveland
DeVore, Jim, Oklahoma City
Flowers, Jill, Warr Acres
Folk, Mary B., Midwest City
Glass, Linda, Sherman, TX
Gregath Publishing Company, Wyandotte
Hardy, Robert, Oklahoma City
Harpster, Robert E., Nichols Hills
Hendon, William S., Akron, OH
Henry, W. Craig, Oklahoma City
Hoig, Stan, Edmond
Jones, Charles E., Oklahoma City
Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS
Keeran, Rosa Mary, Bethany
Kitz, William H., Oklahoma City
Kroeker, Marvin, Ada
Landskov, Faye A., University Place, WA
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Archives, Boston
Maysville Local History Class, Maysville
Moore, Alma, Oklahoma City
Nelson, Robin D., Casper, WY
Nowlin, Mary K., Midwest City
Oklahoma Centennial Commission, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Oklahoma City
Pennington, Martha, Ada
Penrod, Kim, Hinton
Prior, Sharon M., Oklahoma City
Reed, Joseph M., Guthrie
Reid, Etta Skaggs, Summerfield, NC
Reyburn, Jean, Watonga
Roloff, Patty Cox, Guthrie
Roloff, Robert B., Guthrie
Speizer, Gayle, Boise, ID
Taylor, John A., Nichols Hills
Thompson, June, Oklahoma City
Timmons, Pam, Guthrie
Todd, Joe L., Bartlesville
Underwood, Ted, Seminole



Left: Howard McKinnis, historical interpreter at Honey Springs Battlefield Historic Park, congratulates Ben Corbett on his promotion to Eagle Scout, the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America. A community service project is required to earn this award. Ben led a crew of scouts who cleared ice storm-downed trees and limbs from trails at Honey Springs Battlefield. Howard and Ben planned the project, and Howard operated power equipment as the scouts cleared the trails. Ben is a member of BSA Troop 743 of Tahlequah.

“Just say thank you.”

This was Bob Smith's immediate response when asked why he volunteers for the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Bob has been volunteering in Photo Archives for the last six months. He goes on to say that, early in his retirement, he discovered he needed some sort of challenge that was interesting as well as time consuming. “I don't need the money; I just need something to do.” His answer is not unique.

Retirees make up approximately 90 percent of the Research Center's volunteer work force and “donate” their time to most of the separate departments of the Research Division. These areas are: Library, Photo Archives, Manuscript Archives, Oral History, Video Archives, and Technical Services.

However, with the current economic environment in downswing, that additional 10 percent of nonretirees is increasing. Jeff Hand, an out-of-work insurance attorney, goes a little more into detail about why he and others in the same situation step into volunteering: “Volunteers are inherently active people who need to be occupied in some sort of project, whether it's a day-to-day routine or a task with a beginning and an endpoint. Volunteers are also the type of people that, no matter whether they're being paid or not, they like to be appreciated.”

The Research Division currently utilizes forty active volunteers. “Active” means the volunteer serves a minimum of one hour a month; there is no minimum requirement for service. The majority of volunteers, however, give more than sixteen hours per week. Any donated time is welcomed.

Steve Hawkins, the Research Center's volunteer coordinator, notes that “one of the things that we have discovered is that there are some people that because of physical, logistical, and time constraints, are unable to come to the History Center to participate in the volunteer program. At the beginning of the year, we instituted the INH (I'm-Not-Here) Volunteer Program. These folks are involved in projects that can be accomplished in their own home or office such as indexing, cataloging, and filing. There's something for everyone.”

The Historical Society staff appreciate all of the volunteers and the work they do. So, the next time you visit the Research Center and see a person wearing a yellow badge, just say, “Thank you.”

Twenty-year Members Renew in June

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that had been members for twenty or more years when they renewed their memberships in June.

Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Vernon and Linda Pierce, Harrah, November 1, 1966
James Tilly, Tulsa, June 1, 1969
Patricia Smith, Tulsa, April 1, 1972
Russell Newville, Lexington, June 1, 1979
Lewis Culver, Little Rock, AR, May 1, 1980
Dennie Hall, Edmond, March 1, 1981
Dola J. Yeager, Edmond, April 1, 1984
Fort Sill Historic Landmark & Museum, Fort Sill, October 1, 1985
Carol Jordan, Oklahoma City, June 24, 1986
Lee Holder, Yukon, April 20, 1987
Neal Leader, Norman, May 7, 1987
Molly Levite Griffis, Norman, June 2, 1987
Alice A. Coffman, Harrah, April 28, 1988
Lonnie and Susan Smith, Fort Towson, May 31, 1988
Towana Spivey, Duncan, November 21, 1988
Nancy B. Samuelson, Sacramento, CA, May 12, 1989

OHS MUSEUMS AND SITES

Cherokee Strip Museum/Rose Hill School , 2617 W Fir, Perry, 580/336-2405	National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians US 62 east, Anadarko 405/247-5555
Chisholm Trail Museum/Seay Mansion , 605 Zellers Ave., Kingfisher 405/375-5176	No Man's Land Museum PSU Campus, Goodwell 580/349-2670
Confederate Memorial Museum , US 69, ½ mi. N of Atoka, 580/889-7192	Oklahoma Museum of History , 2401N Laird Ave., OKC 405/522-5248
Fort Gibson Historic Site 907 N. Garrison, SH 80 in Fort Gibson, 918/478-4088	Oklahoma Route 66 Museum , 2229 W Gary Blvd. Clinton, 580/323-7866
Fort Supply Historic Site Campus of W.S. Key Corr. Center, Fort Supply 580/766-3767	Oklahoma Territorial Museum/Carnegie Library 402 E Oklahoma, Guthrie 405/282-1889
Fort Towson Historic Site NE of Fort Towson off US 70 580/873-2634	Pawnee Bill Ranch ½ mi. W on US 64, Pawnee 918/762-2513
Fort Washita Historic Site SH 199, 13 mi. E of Madill 580/924-6502	Peter Conser House 4 mi. S of Heavener on US 59, 3½ mi. W of Hodgen 918/653-2493
Frank Phillips House 1107 Cherokee Ave. Bartlesville, 918/336-2491	Pioneer Woman Museum 701 Monument Rd., Ponca City, 580/765-6108
Fred Drummond House 305 N Price, Hominy 918/885-2374	Robert S. Kerr Museum 6 mi. SW of Poteau, US 270 at Kerr Conference Center 918/647-9579
Frederick Pioneer Village , 201 N 9th St., Frederick, 580/335-5844	Sequoyah's Cabin SH 101, 11 mi. NE of Sallisaw, 918/775-2413
George M. Murrell House 19479 East Murrell Home Rd 3 mi. S of SH 82, Park Hill 918/456-2751	Sod House Museum SH 8, 5½ mi. N of Cleo Springs, 580/463-2441
Healdton Oil Museum 315 E Main, Healdton 580/229-0900	Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center , 3 mi. E and 4 mi. N of Spiro 918/962-2062
Henry Overholser House 405 NW 15th St., OKC 405/528-8485	State Capital Publishing Museum , 301 W Harrison Guthrie, 405/282-4123
Honey Springs Battlefield 1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Rd., E of US 69, near Rentiesville, 918/473-5572	T. B. Ferguson House 519 N Weigle, Watonga 580/623-5069
Jim Thorpe House 706 E Boston, Yale 918/387-2815	Tom Mix Museum 721 N Delaware, Dewey 918/534-1555
Museum of the Cherokee Strip , 507 S 4th, Enid 580/237-1907	White Hair Memorial ½ mi. S of SH 20 on Blackburn Rd., Ralston 918/538-2417
Museum of the Western Prairie , 1100 N Memorial Dr. Altus, 580/482-1044	State Historic Preservation Office , OKC, 405/521-6249

Oklahoma Historical Society
2401 N. Laird Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Party on! Ponca City museum to launch pioneer women of rock 'n' roll exhibit

The Pioneer Woman Museum's new exhibit is under construction! *Let's Have a Party! Oklahoma's Women of Rock 'n' Roll* will open on Saturday, September 19, 2009.

Until the exhibit is in place, the Southwest Gallery is closed. However, during construction, visitors to the Pioneer Woman Museum will receive a coupon for a 50 percent discount of the normal entry fee on a future visit. The coupon will be valid until September 2010, which will give coupon-holders a full year to return and view the new exhibit at half-cost after it opens.

In the meantime, exhibits in the Pioneer Gallery, Foyer, North Hallway, and Education Room, are all open and available for full viewing Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 until 5 p.m.

For additional information contact Rosalie Dawson, Historical Interpreter, Pioneer Woman Museum, 701 Monument Road, Ponca City or call 580/765-6108. Party on!



Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 40, No. 8

August 2009

History Center exhibit receives Frontier Country Marketing Association award

Frontier Country Marketing Association presented awards to twenty-three members and two media outlets during its 2009 Annual Awards Luncheon at Frontier City on June 25.

The annual awards, which were voted by Frontier Country members, recognize outstanding tourist attractions, exhibits, events, and businesses in central Oklahoma's promotion organization. The event recognized the accomplishments of Frontier Country members and media support in twelve award categories.

"There were so many strong nominees in each category this year and the voting response by our membership was fantastic," said Sherri Rogers, executive director of Frontier Country Marketing Association. "We could not have asked for a better day as we had the largest turn out in our organization's history! It makes it so special when the recipients are present to accept these much deserved awards." The winners are:

Outstanding Event: Okemah Chamber of Commerce for "Woody Guthrie Folk Festival"

Outstanding Attraction: Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum

Outstanding Tourism Community: Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau for Oklahoma City

Outstanding Web site: Oklahoma City's Adventure District

Outstanding Cultural Tourism: Red Earth Inc., for "Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival"

Outstanding Media Support: KWTN News 9

Outstanding Exhibition: Oklahoma History Center for "Another Hot Oklahoma Night! A Rock & Roll Exhibit"

Outstanding Outdoor Activity: Festival of Light

Outstanding Children's Attraction/Event: Oklahoma City Zoo for "Dinosaurs Unearthed"

Outstanding Hospitality: Sooner Legends Inn & Suites

Outstanding Food Festival: Harn Homestead & 1889ers Museum for "Fondue Fondango"

Outstanding Sporting Event: National Softball Hall of Fame, "NCAA Women's College World Series"

Frontier Country Marketing Association, a 501(c)(6) organization, promotes the economic growth of the tourism industry in the twelve central counties of Oklahoma. For more information about Frontier Country, visit <www.oktourism.com>.

History Center new volunteer training is August 15

The Historical Society needs you! Volunteer training will be conducted on Saturday, August 15, at the Oklahoma History Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone interested should contact Robbin Davis at <rdavis@okhistory.org> or call her at 405/522-0754. Volunteers are needed on a daily basis to assist visitors of the OHC and with a variety of activities throughout the building. Some are tour guides, some greet visitors, some assist in the Gift Shop. Prior application to the program must be made to attend the training. More information and an application form can be found on the Internet at <www.okhistorycenter.org>.

"Behind-the-scenes" volunteers provide a variety of support services to the other areas of the Oklahoma Museum of History and to the Research Division. On-the-job training is provided. BTS volunteers will arrange their work schedule through the Volunteer Coordinator and the department to which they are assigned.