



Fort Gibson excavation uncovers new details of historic site

More of the archaeological resources of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Fort Gibson Historic Site were revealed through trowel and screen in excavations on November 2 through 5, 2007, according to Bob Rea, OHS Military Sites director. Previous investigations at the WPA-built replica stockade site, using the historic record, coring, geophysical survey, and excavations, had located remnants of the original Fort Gibson stockade. That dig, conducted on March 26-29, 2007 (see *Mistletoe Leaves*, May 2007), had uncovered stone foundations at two locations that supported the stockade's log-walled buildings. "Those discoveries were the culmination of many years of speculation and research that settled the long-standing debate over the original site," said Rea. With that knowledge in hand, more extensive investigative efforts were developed to expand the knowledge and understanding of history at Fort Gibson.

A plan for further testing came together November 2-5, 2007, as volunteers and staff expanded on the work started in March. According to Rea, this time the project was a cooperative effort between the Oklahoma Historical Society, Dr. Leland Bement, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, and volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. Bement supervised staff and the OAS membership that consisted of people from all backgrounds with an intense interest in Oklahoma archaeology. With about thirty participants working alternately over the four-day period, the trowel and screen work proceeded at a steady pace. "The volunteers' combined years of experience, their perseverance in boring through layers of rock, and their plain old hard work were essential to the success of the project," Rea added.

The areas adjacent to the two locations uncovered in March were extended to learn more about the structure. At the first location, a grid series of test units revealed two parallel lines of dressed-stone foundations that supported the log walls with the remains of a fireplace hearth between them. The second area revealed similar information. Additional finds from the November work were that of two separate remnants of stone foundations located on private property. With these two additional sites, the general size and extent of the original stockade can now be determined. A good deal of the stockade had been destroyed over the years by the construction of a railroad bed, roads, residences, and the WPA stockade itself.



Although the purpose of excavations and the project's most significant finds were the locating of the stone foundations, the emergence of material culture items from the units provided more verification of the archaeological timeline. Military and civilian artifacts included items from the early nineteenth century through the later WPA stockade construction. "As is often the case in archaeology, questions resolved often lead to more questions that beg for answers. Although a good deal of what remains has been located, more work at the site is needed to identify additional resources in order to better protect them," noted Rea.

Project participants were Dr. Leland Bement, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, as supervising archaeologist, OHS Military Sites Director Bob Rea, and Fort Towson site supervisor John Davis. The Fort Gibson staff included David Fowler, Omar Reed, and Chris Morgan. The members of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society are due a large thank-you for making the project a success.



(Photos by Bob Rea).



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

As a historian, I have been trained to recognize the ebb and flow of good times, bad times, the right decisions, and the wrong directions. Whether it is the history of a person, an institution, or a city, each story is structured around those turning points.

The story of the Oklahoma Historical Society is no different.

Birth came in 1893 when a group of pioneers gathered in Kingfisher and decided to create an organization to collect newspapers and other materials documenting the drama they were experiencing.

Adolescence came with the stature of territorial and state status, a move to the campus in Norman, and the shift back to the nonacademic world in 1902 with the move to the Carnegie Library in Oklahoma City.

The organization entered its young adulthood in 1930 when it moved into the Wiley Post Historical Building at Northeast Twenty-first and Lincoln Blvd. Experience was gained through aggressive collecting, especially the Indian Archives, the growing newspaper collection, and genealogical materials tracing the collective experiences of Oklahoma families.

In 1964 the collecting impulse expanded into museums and sites scattered across the state. In addition to the financial and organizational demands of a mini-empire, the role of employer and community leadership in rural areas pulled the Oklahoma Historical Society into the orbit of the legislature.

New opportunities surfaced in the 1970s and 1980s as federal grants opened doors and raised standards. As the staff expanded with a new generation of ambitious baby boomers, the internal demands for expanded programs matched the external expectations for something other than collecting.

That long and winding road led to the Oklahoma History Center, a reorganization of the staff, and higher standards in all programs. The results are evident everywhere, from museums and historic sites to the digital revolution and the aggressive marketing of services and programs.

So where does the story go now?

The Oklahoma Historical Society is poised for another turn in the road. We have the leadership with the best board in state government. We have a strong staff of dedicated public servants who are not afraid to push and pull a heavy load. And we have a public that is ready to support our efforts.

While in the heat of battle, we must step back a little and look at the distant horizon. We must check our priorities, list our assets, and recognize obstacles in our way.

As a historian, it is my pleasure to both observe and be part of that story as it unfolds into the future. To me, it is a bright and promising future.

Development News

By Tim Zwick

I am very pleased to announce that we recently received notification that the trustees of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund have awarded two grants to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The first is a matching grant in the amount of \$8,000 to create an endowment fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to provide support for the Guthrie Carnegie Library. The match amount for this grant is \$12,000. Proceeds from this endowment will be used for regular maintenance and repairs for the Carnegie Library, the second of its kind built in Oklahoma and the oldest still in existence in the state. This Carnegie Library was completed in 1902, using funds donated by Andrew Carnegie to cover the \$25,000 construction costs. Charles N. Haskell, Oklahoma's first governor, was inaugurated on the building's south steps one hundred years ago.

The second is another matching grant in the amount of \$20,000 to establish an endowment fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to provide support for the Cross S Ranch House. The match amount for this grant is \$60,000. Proceeds from this endowment will be used for regular maintenance and repairs for the historic Cross S Ranch House, built of stone in the early 1890s as ranch headquarters. The Cross S Ranch House is the oldest extant structure in southwestern Oklahoma and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We are most grateful to the trustees of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for their generous support of these OHS projects. The establishment of the endowment funds for the Guthrie Carnegie Library and the Cross S Ranch House will go far to ensure that both of these historic buildings will be preserved for future generations. For information on other OHS fundraising projects, please contact me at 405/522-5217 or at <tzwick@okhistory.org>.



New Members, December 2007

* Indicates renewed memberships in a higher category.

Director's Circle

M. Stanley Lee, Oklahoma City
*Tom and Phyllis McCasland, Dallas, TX
J. B. and Patti Saunders, Edmond

Fellow

Mike and Julie Ann Wiley, Edmond

Associate

Norman and Sue Ann Duckworth, Tulsa
Randy Floyd, Oklahoma City

Friend

Lester and Marilyn Branch, Guthrie
*Mike and Susan Edwards, Oklahoma City
*Jerry and Donna Goodman, Tulsa
*Tom Klos, Oklahoma City
Mrs. Monir Mohmadi, Nichols Hills
*Elizabeth Rasmussen, Edmond
*Spiro State Bank, Spiro

Family

Carolyn Abernathy, Tulsa
John and Catherine Armitage, Oklahoma City
Dr. and Mrs. Glenn A. Ashmore, Oklahoma City
Brian and Amanda Bell, Yukon
Sheila Brecht, Ardmore
Ashley Cagle and Kathy Cagle, Lawton
Dana Cesar, Oklahoma City
Robert and Kathy Crout, Mustang
Charles and Christine Dettlaff, Yukon
Carolyn DuBois, Anadarko
Joe and Eunice Ellis, Oklahoma City
Bill Frosch, Oklahoma City
Richard and Janice Goforth, Welling
Margie Hamilton, Anadarko
Lawrence and Gay Hellman, Oklahoma City
Kay Herman, Raleigh, NC
*Van and Liz Hughes, Edmond
Brenda Jindra, Cashion
Lorne Johnson, Clinton
Peggy King, Edmond
Rosemary Kramme, Oklahoma City
Sherry Kueffler, Midwest City
Donisha Lane, Tulsa
Joyce Lasley, Shawnee
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Lippert, Oklahoma City
Jeanne Love, Anadarko
Bobby and Ann McDonald, Oklahoma City
Donald L. Miller, Edmond
Saralin Mitchell, Enid
*Albert and Linda Myers, Pryor
*Thomas and Martha Jane Nash, Dallas, TX
*Jimmy and Freda Owens, Vian
DeAnn Parham, Oklahoma City

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Mistletoe Leaves (USPS 018-315) is published monthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK. (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, 5,100 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,025.00 each month. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the United States Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by either organization.

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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Meetings

In **Oklahoma City** the Oklahoma Genealogical Society's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, 2008, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Special Events Center at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave. Eileen Krause of FamilyTreeDNA of Houston will present a program entitled "Demystifying DNA Testing for the Genealogist." She will highlight both the limitations and benefits of DNA testing and will translate the scientific jargon into everyday English. The presentation will cover: When to consider DNA testing; What you can expect to learn from the testing; Differences between results obtained from testing males versus females; DNA databases that currently exist; and What is on the horizon. The OHS Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. (Special to ML)

Events

Yale's Jim Thorpe Park, located on S.H. 51, will be the venue for the 14th Annual Winter Encampment Battle of Round Mountain on February 22-24, 2008. A living history lesson will be presented for students on Friday, February 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24, the public can view Confederate and Union encampments from 9 a.m. to 4

p.m. Battle demonstrations will occur at 2 p.m. on Saturday and at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission is \$5 for adults. Children, ages 12 and under, are free. A grand ball is free to the public on February 23, from 7-10 p.m., at the elementary school gym. While in Yale, visit the Jim Thorpe House, located at 706 East Boston. The former home of 1912 Olympian Jim Thorpe offers artifacts from Thorpe and his family. For more, contact Lou Hensley at 918/387-2525. (Special to ML)

Miami's Coleman Theatre will host the Miami Little Theater's performance of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Shows will occur on four dates. On February 21 through 23 the curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. A Sunday matinee will begin at 2 p.m. on February 24. The Coleman Theatre is located at 103 North Main, Miami, Oklahoma. For more info go to <www.colemantheatre.org> or telephone 918/540-2425. (*Friends of the Coleman Newsletter*, Winter 2007-08)

Oklahoma City's Harn Museum is offering winter craft and Victorian valentine-making classes on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon during the months of February and March. Volunteer instructors will teach the lessons in the heated, one-room schoolhouse. Cost of each class is \$15, which includes supplies. Advanced registration is required. A minimum of five participants will be needed to host each class. Call Sha Buchanan at 405/235-4058 for more information. (Special to ML)

Exhibits

Tulsa's Air and Space Museum recently added a new exhibit, *Survivors*, that features video histories of survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor as well as POWs from World War II to the present. Oral histories will continue to be added as they become available. Call 918/834-9900. (*MuseNews*, Winter 2008)

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, located at 1700 Northeast 63rd St. in **Oklahoma City**, is the venue for several exhibits that will be showing from February 9 through May 4, 2008. They are *Real Western Wear: Beaded Gauntlets from the William Healey Collection*, *Stomp Dance and Stickball: Southeastern Imagery from the Silberman Collection*, and *Rodeo Photography of Louise Serpa*. For more information call 405/478-2250 or visit the web site at <www.nationalcowboymuseum.org>. (Special to ML)

Workshops

The **Oklahoma Museums Association** is offering regional workshops in April to educate staff, board members, and volunteers on the legal and ethical responsibilities of board members. The workshop will cover such topics as duty of care, duty of loyalty, and duty of obedience. Other items to be discussed will include state statutes, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Auditor, and Internal Revenue Service requirements. Workshops will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The workshop will be offered on April 7 in **Oklahoma City** at the Downtown Metropolitan Library, on April 8 in **Tulsa** at the Sherwin Miller Jewish Museum of Art/Tulsa Jewish Community Center, and on April 9 in **Ardmore** at the Ardmore Convention Center. Registration deadline is March 28, and the fee is \$30 for OMA members and \$40 for non-members. For more information, visit OMA's web site <www.okmuseums.org>. (*MuseNews*, Winter 2008)

Writings, Etc.

Love County Historical Society's 2008 Calendar, featuring vintage pictures, is now available for purchase. Images included are: Marietta Main Street Parade (1940s), Straughn Grocery and Station (1927), Marietta High School Boys Basketball Team (1948), Mule Riders (1914), Abner School (1941), Orr School Bus and Driver (1940), Chambers Family (1942), Thackerville Freshman Class (1934), Burneyville Girls Quartette (1938), Loves Valley First and Second Grades (1934), Moore Family Farmers (1940), Courtney Senior Class (1941), and Jess Montgomery and Sons (1925). Calendars can be ordered from Love County Historical Society, P.O. Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448. The cost for the calendar is \$5 plus \$1.50 for shipping. The postage will vary if more than one calendar is ordered. Contact Laquitta Ladner at 580/276-3477 for more information. (Special to ML)

Writer and columnist Jonita Mullins has released a new book entitled *Glimpses of Our Past*. The 200-page book is a compilation of more than eighty articles that she has written about the Three Forks region for a history column published in Sunday issues of the *Muskogee Phoenix*. The time period covered ranges from the arrival of the first American Indians in the Three Forks area to 1907 Oklahoma statehood. The work costs \$12 plus \$3 for shipping and can be ordered from Jonita Mullins, P.O. Box 3827, Muskogee, OK 74402. (Special to ML)

New Members, cont'd.

Toni Perry, Ponca City
 *Vernon and Linda Pierce, Harrah
 Berta F. Rex, Oklahoma City
 Elaine Scott, Healdton
 Stacy Sefconvic, Shawnee
 Bill Sims, Oklahoma City
 Cheryl Tucker, Muskogee
 *Phillip Washburn, Guthrie
 *Ray and Mary Logan Wolf, Oklahoma City

Individual

Kim Edd Carter, Oklahoma City
 Richard Chapman, Oklahoma City
 David Earles, Oklahoma City
 Mead Ferguson, Woodward
 Jerry Fraley, Oklahoma City
 Michael Givel, Norman
 Shellee Graham, Chandler
 Judith Grove, Oklahoma City
 Dr. Mary Kay Gumerlock, Oklahoma City
 Carl Hohmann, Deer Creek
 Dana Lawhon, Oklahoma City
 Mrs. J. Duke Logan, Vinita
 Linda Lowe, Oklahoma City
 Cheryl A. Mann, Oklahoma City
 Lorece Marriott, Norman
 Dorothy Mayfield, Oklahoma City
 Donald P. McCanless, Austin, TX
 Kay I. McConathy, Oklahoma City
 Barbara McEndree, Norman
 Janet Neely, Seminole
 Aneta Newton, Shawnee
 Brenda Newton, Edmond
 John Orr, Oklahoma City
 Jim Ross, Arcadia
 Hazel Spotts, Haskell
 Jackie Wall, Edmond
 D. B. Wright, Cabot, AR



***New Chance Cities* to reprise in February for Black History Month**

New Chance Cities, an original theatrical performance by Sharon Fisher, will be presented on Sunday, February 24 in commemoration of Black History Month. The play, which portrays African Americans' views of statehood, will take place at 3 p.m. in the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. According to Bruce Fisher of OHS, "Statehood meant a new opportunity for Oklahomans to establish social, political, and judicial institutions. Some ideologies were carried over from territorial government, but changing social and political attitudes meant radically new challenges for Oklahoma's African Americans. The lectures, and the play, will illuminate the critical issues that left a major impact on our present state." Preceding the play, noted scholars will give lectures.

At 1 p.m. Larry O'Dell (OHS) will speak on the "All-Black Towns of Oklahoma." At 1:30 p.m. Jimmie White (Connors State College) will speak on "Blacks and the Constitutional Convention." At 2 p.m. Bruce T. Fisher (OHS) will speak on "The Impact of Statehood on Black Americans." The lectures and performance are free and open to the public.

The play and lectures are sponsored by the OHS Black Heritage Committee, Shirley Nero, Chair. Pictured above: Bottom: Payton Ford V. Front row: Sharon Fisher, Paula Duffy, Brenda Perry, Kathleen Watkins, Cynthia Callaway, and Felecia Nero. Back row: Eugene Jones III, Bruce Fisher, Reggie Smith, Winston Berryhill, and Jerry Walker.

Hidden Collections . . .

Tulsa Race Riot Commission Collection

By Larry O'Dell

Beginning in 1997 the Oklahoma Historical Society spearheaded the research for the Tulsa Race Riot Commission. After the final report appeared in 2001, the society retained many of the records that the commission collected. This collection (2006.18) includes seven cubic-foot boxes and over-size maps. Several copies of the final document, *Tulsa Race Riot: A Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921*, are kept in the Research Division, as well as a PDF of the study on the OHS website.

Partnering with several institutions and scholars, the commission attempted to create a state-sanctioned study to clear up this infamous and relatively unknown event in Oklahoma's history. The compiled records included original research from scholars, pictures, newspaper articles both historic and contemporary, books, warranty deed records, building permits, Tulsa County District Court Records filed between 1921 and 1923, and other material. A database taken from Tulsa City Directories, the 1920 Census, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, files of court cases, and Mary Parrish's *Events of the Tulsa Disaster*, help create a picture of the African American community before and after the riot. The white mobs destroyed more than thirty-five blocks of north Tulsa, with the death toll,



on both sides, estimated to be between fifty and three hundred persons.

Some of the scholars participating in the writing of the final report included historian Scott Ellsworth, premier African American scholar John Hope Franklin, renowned anthropologist Clyde Snow, Oklahoma State Archaeologist Robert Brooks, anthropologist Lesley Rankin-Hill, attorney Alfred Brophy, and the late Oklahoma historian Danney Goble.

The commission also sanctioned Tulsa resident Eddie Faye Gates to video interviews with riot survivors. The Oklahoma Historical Society holds copies of these interviews. These are the "Survivor Stories," and they can be viewed inside the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center in the Oklahoma History Center. The archival commission records have been microfilmed (rolls OHS 201-OHS 207) and can also be examined at the library.

Be an Oklahoma History Center volunteer !

Have you ever wanted a hands-on experience with artifacts? Would you like to help children and adults learn about Oklahoma's fascinating history? Come out to the Oklahoma History Center on Saturday, February 23 for an Open House and visit with dozens of current volunteers and staff. They'll explain the experiences you can have that will really help Oklahoma's citizens learn from the History Center's exhibits and activities. From 1 to 4 p.m. staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and give tours of the OHC to prospective volunteers.

A short presentation will be made on the Volunteer Services Program at 1:30 p.m., followed by Q & A and mini-tours. Volunteers assist the museum staff on a daily basis with greeting guests, giving tours, and sharing information about the state's history and her artifacts. If you have a love of history, enjoy interacting with the public, and want to share the stories of Oklahoma, you are encouraged to apply to the program. New volunteer training is scheduled for March 8.

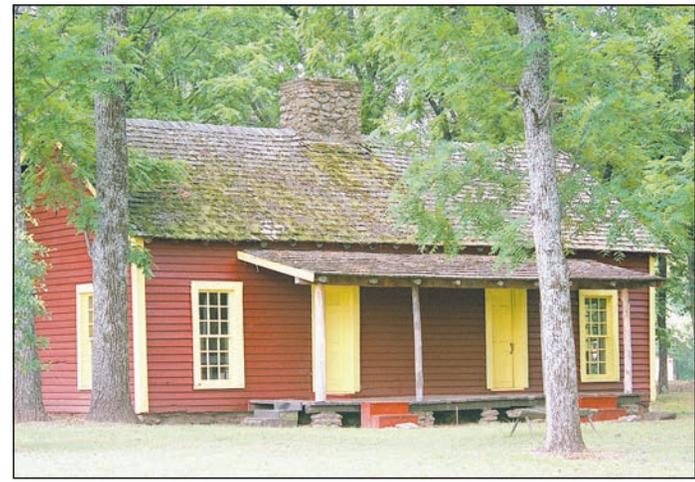
Registration is encouraged but not required. Prospective volunteers may contact Oklahoma History Center Volunteer Coordinator Robbin Davis at 405/522-0754 or visit <www.okhistory.org> for more information about the volunteer program.

Be there! The Oklahoma Historical Society needs you!

OHS Places . . .

Fort Towson

HC 63, Box 1580
Fort Towson, OK 74735-9273
Phone: 580/873-2634
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat.-Sun., 1-5 p.m.
Admission: Free; donations accepted.
Directions: Fort Towson, in southeastern Oklahoma, is located approximately 14 miles east of Hugo on U.S. Highway 70.



Situated in far southeastern Choctaw County of Oklahoma, Fort Towson is one of five military sites operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Fort Towson served intermittently as an important frontier bastion from 1824 to 1865. Named for Col. Nathan Towson, a hero of the War of 1812, the site was originally known as Cantonment Towson when Col. Matthew Arbuckle and two companies of men of the Seventh Infantry cleared the area for a small garrison in May 1824. For five years the soldiers tried to remove settlers who believed the area was part of Miller County, Arkansas. The troops also constructed roads to connect the site with Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Fort Jesup, Louisiana. Considered unsuccessful, the post was abandoned in June 1829, and Miller County settlers burned it to the ground.

In preparation for the removal of the Choctaw from the southeastern part of the United States to Indian Territory, the post was ordered reopened on the same site in November 1831. On February 8, 1832, it was designated as Fort Towson. In addition to serving as a terminal point for the Choctaw, the fort was a staging area for troops during the Mexican War (1846-48). The site was again abandoned in 1854 only to be resurrected during the Civil War (1861-65). On June 23, 1865, Cherokee Brig. Gen. Stand Watie surrendered at Doaksville, near the fort.

A visitor center and a period sutler's store are open to the public. The Oklahoma Historical Society acquired the property in 1967, and Fort Towson was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 (NR 70000531). Those interested in learning more about the fort should consult "Bulwark of the American Frontier: A History of Fort Towson," by Patrick B. McGuigan, in *Early Military Forts and Posts in Oklahoma*, edited by Odie B. Faulk, Kenny A. Franks, and Paul F. Lambert and published by the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1978.

It Takes More Than Money . . .

. . . to create collections and exhibits that fulfill the Historical Society's goals. It takes the donations of an artifact, an art work, a document, or a whole collection of those things that help us tell Oklahoma's story. It also takes people—volunteers who put their time where others put their money or their artifacts. Here are the names of some of your friends and associates who understand those needs:

Research Division Donors, Oct.-Dec. 2007

Apt, Brent, Olympia, WA
Arbogast, Bonnie M., Newberg, OR
Beard, Elly B., Oklahoma City
Berd, Jackie, Oklahoma City
Boeger, Grace, Ada
Bohrer, Estate of Helen Adair, Bellevue, WA
Bradley, Louis C., Oklahoma City
Brown, Marquette, Oklahoma City
Clark, Letha Channell, Tishomingo
Coopriider, Lois, Yukon
Cox, Barbara, North Richland Hills, TX
Currier, Phillip J., Henniker, NH
Davis, Robbin, Oklahoma City
Fennell, Patricia B., Oklahoma City
First National Bank & Trust Co. of McAlester
Fisher, Bruce, Oklahoma City
Fleming, Paul, Oklahoma City
Freeny, John Ellis, Edmond
Gaston, Virginia, Norman
George, Cybil, Bethany
Glass, Pat, Oklahoma City
Groendyke, John D., Enid
Grunsted, Shelly, Norman
Hall, William, Burlington, ON, Canada

Hampton, Barbara, Oklahoma City
Hart, David M., Oklahoma City
Henry B. Plant Museum, Tampa, FL
John, Ellen, Lawton
Jones, Richard D., Choctaw
Keeler, Robert W., Portland, OR
Kellner-Cross, Linda, Oklahoma City
Kintsel, Joel, Oklahoma City
Lister, Geraldine, Pauls Valley
Matthews, Stan, Tucson, AZ
Maxwell, Ann M., Edmond
McGinnis, Marilyn, Glendale, CA
McPherson, Linda, Watonga
Meadows, Gayle, Enid
Moedt, Margaret Landrum, Cashiers, NC
Moon, Willie R., Jr., Oklahoma City
Nathmon, Barbara, Vian
Oklahoma Coaches Association, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Oklahoma City
Parent, Tandi, Checotah
Phillips, Bob, Flagstaff, AZ
Phillips, Dr. Edward, Sherman, TX
Plockot, Carol, Oklahoma City
Ponca City Library, Ponca City
Pushkar, Jan Burge, Southwest Ranches, FL
Reed, Nell, Midwest City
Reser, Betty, Lawton
Richardson, Estate of Louis Jr., Silver Spring, MD
Seikel, Robert, Shawnee
Shoemaker, Arthur, Hominy
Shurden, Frank and Kathryn, Henryetta
Stedman, Jon, Denton, TX
Stone, June, Oklahoma City
Tate, Jerod Impichchaachaahá, Longmont, CO
Taylor, Jo Ann, Nichols Hills
Tinsley, Winfred, Seminole
Turner, Alvin, Norman
Voss, Betty J., Oklahoma City
Welge, William D., Oklahoma City
Welsh, James R. and Dorothy D., Noble
Wilson, Duane E., Naperville, IL

Chinese brush painting donated

In October 2007 Ms. Kristie Ming Tan donated her painting *Homeward Bound* to the Oklahoma Historical Society to be featured in the special exhibit *A Scissortail Returns: The Chinese Experience in Oklahoma*, on display in the Oklahoma Museum of History at the Oklahoma History Center. The Chinese brush painting is an original piece and uses watercolors on matte board. Ms. Tan has been an Artist-in-Residence since 1993 and has instructed art classes at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art since 2002.



Dr. Blackburn, Chinese artist Ms. Kristie Ming Tan, and OHS Board President Leonard Logan (OHS staff photo).

Endowment funded for Carnegie Library in Guthrie

Guthrie's Historic Carnegie Library, the site of the 1907 Statehood Ceremonies and of the 2007 reenactment, has received three major donations toward the establishment of an endowment fund. The fund will provide for future maintenance and upkeep, announced Guthrie Museum Complex Director Valerie Haynes. "These donations have been given to the Carnegie Library, with the stipulation that the money be invested, and the principle remain intact. This allows for the donation to have a much greater impact over a longer period of time than if it were spent all at once," Haynes noted.

Donations from the Davis family, formerly of Guthrie, and Jeff and Carol Hirzel of Guthrie were received, as well as a grant from the Kirkpatrick Foundation. The Davis and Hirzel families were rec-

ognized at a reception held in November at the Carnegie Library to announce the establishment of the endowment.

"Oklahoma's centennial celebration focused much attention on the historic significance of the building and allowed us to raise funds to make much-needed repairs. This endowment, if it is added to with future donations, will ensure that the building will continue to be cared for as it should be," said Haynes. The staff of the Guthrie Museum Complex will continue fund-raising efforts to increase the Carnegie Library endowment.

The historic Carnegie Library is open to the public, free of charge, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information contact Haynes at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum at 405/282-1889.

Drummond Home to host antique doll exhibit

The Fred Drummond Home will host its annual doll and valentine exhibit during the entire month of February. For the Victorians, dolls were more than just play toys.

The exhibit will demonstrate the interesting history of dolls. The display will also demonstrate how they were used in the advertising world as well as for teaching tools. For the child, however, dolls were playthings and just something to love.

The exhibit will offer an array of china, bisque, paper, cloth, and composition dolls, all loaned by local doll aficionados.

The Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price St. in Hominy. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information call the staff at 918/885-2375.

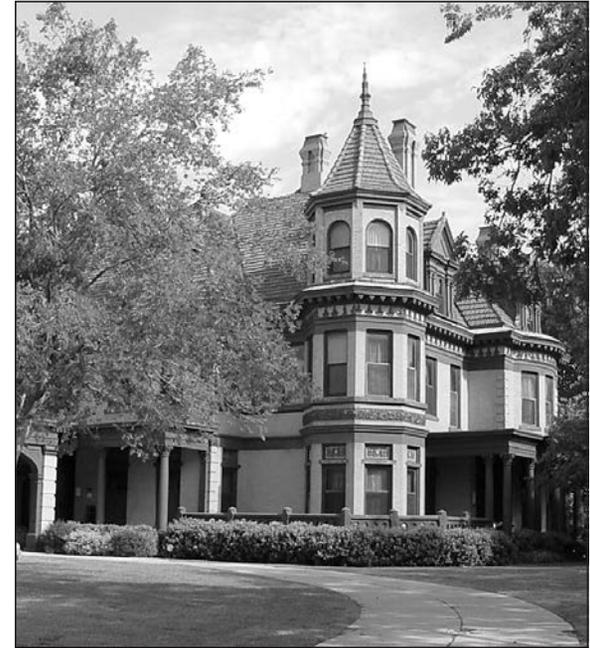
Historic Overholser Mansion restoration receives \$250,000 donation

Devon Energy has provided a contribution of \$250,000 for the restoration of the Overholser House, an Oklahoma Historical Society property managed by Preservation Oklahoma.

Built in 1903 in Oklahoma City at 405 Northwest Fifteenth by Henry and Anna Overholser, the mansion was among the first to be constructed in the Heritage Hills neighborhood.

The Devon grant comes as part of a fund-raising campaign that has brought in funding from Leslie and Cliff Hudson and the Insasmuch Foundation.

One of the city's social centers in the early twentieth century, the mansion was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 (NR 70000536).



OHS FACES . . .

Martha Ray

Historic Homes Director, Outreach Division

Snip, snip, stitch, stitch, and a dosey do. The energetic and vivacious Martha Ray started working at the Oklahoma Historical Society as a temporary in 1988. Her first job involved giving tours at Pawnee Bill Ranch and cleaning bathrooms. She became a permanent employee in 1990 and now serves as director of historic homes for the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Prior to her employment with the OHS Ray taught speech, drama, and art for twenty-two years at the Choctaw, Boise City, and Pawnee high schools. She has a teaching degree from Central State University (now the University of Central Oklahoma) in Edmond.

Speaking of applying her experience, education, and talents, Ray told *Mistletoe Leaves* that she loves "everything about her job. Every day is different." Because



she likes drama, she can play dress-up for a day but then return to modern-day conveniences such as taking a hot shower. She said, "I have the best of both worlds."

She has always enjoyed art and crafts. She does oil painting and claims that there are only two crafts cannot do, macramé and tatting.

With the variety of duties that Ray accomplishes, every day can be different. She directs the operation of OHS's nine historic

homes. On any day she may be teaching a class on hat making or the art of crafting Victorian Valentines using ribbon, lace, and flowers. On New Year's Eve 2007 and 2008 she called dances at the Centennial Ball and the Centennial Remembrance Ball held at the History Center.

Ray restores textiles, makes clothing patterns, and photographs artifacts. She gives instructions on the construction and sewing of historically accurate clothing and emcees the many fashion shows that OHS offers to the public.

She can cleverly and proficiently make faux food, as evidenced by her husband's experience of trying to bite into a pecan and remarking, "Oh, that's not real!" Ray gives visitors to her home fair warning not to eat anything from her refrigerator and freezer.

Martha Ray is an ambassador for OHS and serves the agency well with her many talents and her positive, always-upbeat and can-do attitude.



National Register Nomination Grants available from SHPO

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2008 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for award in two grant rounds with any funds remaining from Round 1 carried over for Round 2. Applications and detailed instructions will be available from the SHPO on February 1. The deadline for Round 1 applications is 5 p.m. on April 1, and the deadline for Round 2 applications is 5 p.m. on June 2.

Each grant is limited to \$900, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$600. Grant recipients will use the funds to retain an appropriately qualified professional to complete preparation of an individual property nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the catalogue of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing in the National Register is not a guarantee of preservation or of 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 and state tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded.

To obtain a National Register Nomination Grant Application or further information about the National Register, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249.

Visit the SHPO's web site at <www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm> (select "Programs" and then "National Register").

Simply Red!

A new exhibit, *Simply Red: A Fashion Statement*, will open at the Oklahoma History Center on February 14, 2008 in the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Gallery. The exhibit will showcase red fashions from the collections including dresses, hats, and shoes. The history and impact of the color red will be addressed and will be illustrated further with numerous photographs. Two "Red Hat Saturday" events are scheduled for May and October 2008. More news will follow in future editions of *Mistletoe Leaves*. Stay tuned!

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

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PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

OHS sponsors kids' nature photography contest

If your child has a knack for photography, encourage him or her to participate in the new OHS kids' photography contest. The subject is "the great outdoors in Oklahoma," and will be along the same lines as the upcoming *Field, Forest, and Stream* exhibit. Camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, scenic landscapes, plants, and animals are suggested topics, but the possibilities are endless.

The contest will be divided into three age groups: Grades 1-5; Grades 6-8; and Grades 9-12. The competition officially starts on February 1, and **all entries must be postmarked by March 21**. Entries should be submitted as **8x10 prints** (no e-mails), and there is a limit of two entries per person.

Photos will be judged on creativity, photographic technique, and originality.

Winners will be announced on April 14, 2008, on the OHS Kids web page at the OHS web site, <www.okhistory.org/kids>. Visit that page now for additional requirements and other information about the contest.

First, second, and third prizes will be awarded in each category. The winners will be exhibited in the Oklahoma History Center.

N. Scott Momaday to receive Oklahoma Humanities Award February 12

The Oklahoma Humanities Council has named N. Scott Momaday, Pulitzer Prize winner and Oklahoma Centennial State Poet Laureate, as the 2008 recipient of the Oklahoma Humanities Award. The annual award is presented by the Council to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the understanding of the humanities in Oklahoma. The public is invited to a free presentation and book signing at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12.

A ticketed reception to meet Momaday will begin at 5:30 p.m., and a dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the reception and dinner are \$100; for dinner only, \$75. Reception and dinner attendees will receive preferred seating for the public presentation. Call the Oklahoma Humanities Council at 405/235-0280 for further information or visit <www.okhumanitiescouncil.org>.

Momaday, a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, is a poet, novelist, playwright, artist, and storyteller. He received the Ph.D. from Stanford University and has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work *House Made of Dawn*, among many other prizes. In 2003 UNESCO named him an Artist for Peace. In July 2007 Gov. Brad Henry named Momaday the Oklahoma Centennial State Poet Laureate.

Correction

In the January 2008 *Mistletoe Leaves* article on the 2008 OHS Annual Meeting at Ardmore, the room rate at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott was listed in error as \$70 plus tax. **The correct room rate is \$94 plus tax.** We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions, contact Tim Zwink at 405/522-5217 or at <tzwink@okhistory.org>.