



Mistletoe Leaves



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January/February 2018

Crochet Rag Rug workshop at the Sod House Museum

The Sod House Museum near Aline will host a Crochet Rag Rug workshop on Saturday, February 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. Instructor Nancy Hada of Cherokee, Oklahoma, will teach attendees how to crochet their own rag rug.

Rag rugs have a long history of furnishing floors. Around the later part of the eighteenth century women would crochet with fabric strips cut from old clothing. The concept for rag rugs came to the United States by way of European immigrants. When making them, women would use strips of old clothes and worn out blankets as a resourceful way to add warmth and decor to their homes.

There has been a recent resurgence in the popularity of rag rugs and the museum is pleased to welcome Hada to share her techniques with attendees. The long strips of fabric are still used, but more freedom in color and designs are now possible. These rugs are often very colorful, and today women can use new or old fabric in making the rugs; just remember to use the same type of fabric throughout the rug. Once the technique is learned, participants can make any shape of rug from round to heart-shaped, oval, or rectangular. The rag rugs are completely reversible and wear moderately well.

Attendees will be provided with a list of necessary supplies. Due to limited space, workshop participants must preregister by Tuesday, February 6.

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

Kilgen Organ performance by R. Jelani Eddington



R. Jelani Eddington
(photo courtesy of RJE Productions LLC)

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to welcome R. Jelani Eddington as the next artist in the ongoing series of Kilgen Organ performances. Eddington will perform on Monday, January 22, at 7 p.m. with a song selection theme of "Great American Composers." Tickets are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for the general public. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 405-522-0765. Eddington has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and has toured extensively. He also has produced and marketed more than thirty theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country. His 2014 performance of "Star Wars (Main Title)" composed by John Williams has received more than 2.9 million views on YouTube. To watch the video and learn more about the event, please visit www.okhistory.org/eddington.

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Eddington has been featured at numerous national and regional

Spinning, knitting, and hat making at the Oklahoma History Center

Visit the Oklahoma History Center for its upcoming education classes in January and February.

Experience the world of fiber arts on Saturday, January 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn to make handspun yarn for knitting or weaving. This class will include basic instruction on preparing the fibers, spinning with a drop spindle, and more. Attendees can then use their handspun yarn to make beautiful handmade creations by knitting or weaving. Registration is \$10 per person, which includes supplies and museum admission.

On Saturday, February 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the History Center will host a Millinery class. Learn the history of Edwardian milliners and create your own hat. Participants will receive one-on-one instruction and complete their 1890s-style Edwardian hat during the class. The cost for the class is \$50, which includes all supplies, lunch, and museum admission.

Both the Fiber Arts: Spinning and Knitting class and the Millinery class are open to individuals ages ten and older. For more information or to register, please contact Curator of Education Kathryn Grossman at education@okhistory.org or 405-522-0793. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



Oklahoma Territorial Museum to host Make and Take Valentines workshop

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie will host a Make and Take Valentines workshop for children of all ages on Saturday, February 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free event and light refreshments will be served. The workshop is a casual come-and-go activity. Supplies will be provided. The Oklahoma Territorial Museum is located at 406 East Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie. For more information please call 405-282-1889.



Children with a large Valentine heart, photo by Meyers Photo Shop (21412. M457.48, Barney Hillerman Collection, OHS)



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

As a historian, I look for trends.

To follow any trend, I search for precedents, analyze data, reconstruct chronologies, describe what happened, and summarize outcomes. I have used that same approach to produce twenty-three books, dozens of exhibits and video programs, and thousands of speeches.

Unfortunately, one of the trends I have been watching closely has been a series of budget cuts since 2009 that has battered the Oklahoma Historical Society and threatened our ability to collect, preserve, and share history.

As for precedents, there are no comparable scenarios of recurring budget cuts since the 1930s. Not even during the state's second great depression from 1985 to 1995 was there a time when we had back-to-back-to-back budget cuts. Legislators and governors usually have stepped into the breach and found ways to get public services back on track.

In this current trend, from 2009 to 2017, the data shows that the Oklahoma Legislature has cut the OHS appropriation seven times in nine years: 7% in 2009, 4.2% in 2010, 4.5% in 2011, 5.62% in 2014, 5% in 2015, 11.65% in 2016, and

4.87% in 2017. In total numbers, if you take out bond payments, which cannot be cut, the appropriation to the OHS has decreased from \$12,467,451 in 2009 to \$7,819,264 in 2017, a cut of \$4,648,187. That is a cut of 42.84%.

So, what caused these unprecedented trends as reflected in the hard data? In this case, from 2009 to 2015 the budget hole was dug through a combination of deep tax cuts, tax revenue diverted off the top for special projects, and increased use of tax credits for economic development. That deliberately dug hole was deepened by a localized recession in 2016 and 2017 linked to the rapid drop in the price of oil.

In short, the budget crisis began with deliberate policy decisions and grew through external forces and bad timing.

So, what are the results, the conclusion to our narrative history?

If the newspapers were the main source of data for a conclusion, you would think the crisis was limited to health care agencies and teachers. That would not only be bad news for people in need of care or education, but it also would be bad history.

The facts show that health care and public schools have taken the smallest cuts in all of state government. Other forms of services delivered to the people of Oklahoma, from public safety to higher education, have suffered more from the relentless series of budget cuts with little time to adjust and reload.

At the Oklahoma Historical Society, the cuts have been deep and painful. We have reduced or eliminated funding for more than a dozen museums and sites. We have transferred facilities to American Indian tribes and foundations. We have reduced hours of operation and asked surviving staff to take on more responsibilities.

Most damaging has been the erosion of our skilled work force. Since 2009, more than forty of our employees have lost

their jobs due to the budget cuts. We currently have a hiring freeze and may lose more this coming year. Each person lost, each position unfilled, reduces the ability to accomplish our mission today and creates a gap in the leadership team we will need tomorrow.

We are hanging on, doing our best, and working hard. Our mission is too critical to do otherwise.

But where is the tipping point beyond which the cuts will hamstring the OHS and limit our ability to use innovation, hard work, and partnerships to carry on the good work done since 1893? As a historian I cannot predict the future, but I can assemble the facts into a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Yes, as a historian I look for trends. Hopefully, the trend of unrelenting budget cuts will soon come to an end.

Dr. Bob

New research resources available online

Hastain's Township Plats of the Creek Nation was published by E. Hastain in Muskogee, Oklahoma, in 1910. The publication shows the location of allotments given to members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. This searchable database is available for free at www.okhistory.org/research/hastains and includes notations taken directly from the printed book. It lists the names of allottees, their roll number, and if the allotment was the location of the homestead. Many individuals received allotments in more than one location. The database is a complement to the Dawes Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes, which lists individuals who were officially recognized as citizens of one of the Five Tribes.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

2018 is a big year for the Oklahoma Historical Society—we are celebrating our 125th anniversary!

One of the many ways that the OHS will mark this important occasion is by hosting the annual Oklahoma History Conference at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The conference theme is "OHS125: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing for the Next Generation" and will be held April 25–27, 2018. The sessions will cover a broad array of topics related to the state's history. We also will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Broadway musical *Oklahoma!* Representatives from the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization will give a presentation on the significance of the production.

All OHS members and the public are invited to attend and celebrate this milestone. On Thursday, April 26, the Annual Conference Luncheon will feature a keynote address by David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. The Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 27, during which the OHS will induct new members into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame and honor other contributions to the collecting, preserving, and sharing of Oklahoma history. Later this month conference details will be available online at www.okhistory.org. If you have any questions about the Oklahoma History Conference, please call me at 405-522-6676 or email me at lodell@okhistory.org.



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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

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.

Anyone denied benefits should contact the grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5299, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Head to the thirty-ninth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in **Tulsa** on Monday, January 15, at 11 a.m. Join the Tulsa community as it honors a legend and celebrates freedom. This event grows each year and now includes hundreds of participants with impressive music and parade floats. The parade is organized by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society of Tulsa, which has been organizing events to honor Dr. King since it formed in 1979. The parade will begin at North Detroit Avenue and John Hope Franklin Boulevard, proceed east on John Hope Franklin to Greenwood, south through the Greenwood Business District to Archer Street, then west on Archer to Elgin Avenue. Please call 918-492-9495 for more information.

Step back in time at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in **Cheyenne** for Owa Chita Sundays on Sunday, January 28, and Sunday, February 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. This interactive history program will help visitors understand the events of November 27, 1868—known as the Battle of the Washita or the Washita Massacre—when Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer led the Seventh US Cavalry on a surprise dawn attack on a Cheyenne village led by Peace Chief Black Kettle. Owa Chita Sundays will take place on the last Sunday of each month, leading up to the sesquicentennial commemoration in November 2018. The program includes free activities and crafts to engage all ages in the history and cultures that enrich the historic site located within the Black Kettle National Grasslands. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A in Cheyenne. Please call 580-497-2742 for more information.

All who wish to celebrate Mardi Gras in a safe, family environment are welcome to attend the eleventh annual Masopust Celebration, also known as Czech Mardi Gras. It will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at the historic Yukon Czech Hall in **Yukon**. Beads, balloons, candy, and prizes will be distributed during this exciting event. Guests will enjoy dancing and live music by the Masopust Polka Band. Yukon Czech Hall is located at 205 North Czech Hall Road, approximately one-quarter mile south of I-40 in Yukon. For more information please call 405-721-4396 or visit www.czechhall.com.

Experience a historic battle as it comes to life on Friday, February 16, through Sunday, February 18, in **Yale**. The Battle of Round Mountain reenactment will re-create a Civil War era winter encampment. This event takes place over three days, with living history soldiers setting up opposing camps on Friday and hosting a day of educational demonstrations for schoolchildren. Sutlers' row will be set up for business, with vendors in period attire selling their wares. The battle reenactments will be held on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. All events will take place at a site west of Yale, just north of the junction of Highway 51 and Highway 18. For more information please call 405-714-8270.

Visit **Muskogee** for USS *Batfish* Living History Day on Saturday, February 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendees will experience what it was like to be aboard the USS *Batfish* submarine during World War II. The Batfish Living History Association will be on hand to provide demonstrations. There will be tours of the USS *Batfish*, guided by historians dressed in 1940s naval regalia. This authentic living history experience will be held at War Memorial Park, located at 3500 Batfish Road in Muskogee. Please call 918-682-6294 for more information.

Announcements

The Woody Guthrie Center and Archives in **Tulsa** is pleased to announce its continued partnership with the BMI Foundation to encourage and support academic research in its archives. Applications are now being accepted for the thirteenth annual BMI Woody Guthrie Fellowship. The filing period for proposals is open until Thursday, February 1. The BMI Foundation, in cooperation with the Woody Guthrie Center, will award up to \$5,000 for scholarly research at the extensive Woody Guthrie Archives, a paper-based research repository located in Tulsa. Scholars pursuing research related to Guthrie's life, historical context, creative works, and musical legacy, as well as his philosophical, political, or humanistic ideals, are encouraged to apply for this prestigious fellowship. Applications may be completed online and are available at www.woodyguthriecenter.org/archives/bmi-fellowship.

The Oklahoma Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta and the seventieth annual meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians will be hosted

by the University of Central Oklahoma in **Edmond** on March 2–3, 2018. The primary purpose of the conference is for students, history professionals, and faculty to share their research and other aspects of their work. All are invited to submit papers and panel proposals. The deadline for abstract submissions is Monday, January 15, and papers are due to judges by Friday, February 16. Attendees should register by Thursday, February 22. The University of Central Oklahoma is located at 100 North University Drive in Edmond. For more information please visit www.uco.edu/oaph.

The Love County Historical Society's 2018 calendars are available for sale at the Pioneer Museum in **Marietta**. Featured in the calendars are historic photographs from across Love County. The calendars cost \$5 each. Several Love County businesses will sell the calendars, with a list available by calling the Love County Historical Society at 580-276-9020. Orders also may be placed by mailing a check to the society at PO Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448, or by calling Laquitta Ladner at 580-276-3477. Please note that \$1.75 postage and handling will be added to all orders that are mailed.

Celebrate the centennial of the W. T. Foreman Prairie House in **Duncan**. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the home was built in 1918. It is the former residence of W. T. Foreman, a banker and pharmacist who was one of Duncan's earliest and most prominent citizens. The home is architecturally significant as an early example of the Prairie School architectural style. All are welcome for tours of the home with knowledgeable docents on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The home is also available for private events, so please call for additional details. The W. T. Foreman Prairie House is located at 814 West Oak Avenue in Duncan. For more information call 580-512-9153.

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 Moxley by email at emoxley@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the March/April issue, you must submit it by Friday, February 2.

January events

- 18 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 22 Kilgen Organ performance by R. Jelani Eddington, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 Fiber Arts: Spinning and Knitting class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

February events

- 3 Make and Take Valentines workshop, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 10 Millinery class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Crochet Rag Rug workshop with Nancy Hada, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 17 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill

Third Saturday Living History programs

The George M. Murrell Home is pleased to invite OHS members and the public to experience living history through its monthly Third Saturday Living History program. The 1845 Cherokee plantation home hosts different historical demonstrations and activities every third Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. The next two Third Saturday programs are scheduled for January 20 and February 17. The theme for January will be “Mourning Minerva” and the theme for February will be “Games and Gardens.”

Third Saturday visitors will see interpreters dressed in period clothing performing everyday plantation tasks. Guests can enjoy a variety of demonstrations, talk to historians, and even participate in some of the activities. Topics cover all aspects of Cherokee plantation life, including traditional crafts, gardening, cooking, animal demonstrations, and more. A different activity takes place each month, often related to seasonal happenings on the plantation grounds. This program is great for families and visitors of all ages. Admission to the program is free with regular site admission, and reservations are not needed. The Murrell Home is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. For specific activities each month, please visit the Murrell Home Facebook page at www.facebook.com/murrellhome and subscribe to “Events.”

T. B. Ferguson Home to host Black History Month exhibit

Plan a visit to the T. B. Ferguson Home during the month of February for a special Black History Month exhibit. Built in 1901, this Victorian-style house was home to Oklahoma’s sixth territorial governor and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is located at 519 North Weigle Avenue in Watonga, with regular hours of operation on Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This property is managed by the Friends of T. B. Ferguson Home and offers free admission. For more information please call 580-623-5069.



“It’s not the story you think you know...”

Staff at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum (OTM) in Guthrie love to share the history of Oklahoma—from community development and the first day of school in 1889 to the story of a Guthrie woman who survived the sinking of the *Titanic*. OTM collections specialists Erin Brown and Michael Williams share interesting stories about items from the museum’s collections, frequently utilizing information and photos from OTM’s archives. Want to explore their research and learn more about Oklahoma history? Follow along on Medium with Erin Brown (www.medium.com/@erinb3746) and Michael Williams (www.medium.com/@williams.williams.michael). They will tell you, “It’s not the story you think you know...”

Be sure to visit the Oklahoma Territorial Museum and 1902 Carnegie Library the next time you are in Guthrie! As always, OHS members receive free admission. The museum, located at 406 East Oklahoma Avenue, includes fascinating exhibits that tell the story of the determined people who laid the foundation for the state of Oklahoma. Please call 405-282-1889 for more information.

From the OHS Archives: The Zella Patterson Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Zella J. Black Patterson (1909–1986) was an African American author, researcher, and educator, and a prominent member of one of Oklahoma’s territorial-era families.

Her father, Thomas Black, was only twenty years old when he came to stake his claim in the Land Run of 1891. Zella Black was born on this land, near Coyle in Logan County. Thomas Black was described as a fierce worker who, in addition to working his own farm, helped build homes for other family members and neighbors. In 1897 he had the distinction of helping to dig the foundation for the first building at Langston University, the school that would end up being such a big part of Zella’s life. An outstanding student, Zella obtained degrees from both Langston University and Colorado State University before eventually becoming the head of the Home Economics Department at Langston University in 1960. The Zella Patterson Collection (M1983.009, twenty-six boxes and two oversize boxes) highlights Zella’s charitable and service work as well as her research on Langston University and the city of Langston. The collection also includes personal biographical documents that bring to life the days of early Oklahoma. A draft copy of her book *The Story of My Family* is included as well.

The Zella Patterson Collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information please email research@okhistory.org or call 405-522-5225.

Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Division’s Manuscripts Department.



Zella J. Black Patterson

Oklahoma National Register listings added in December 2017

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

The SHPO, through contracts with communities that participate in the Certified Local Governments program, contracted for the preparation of multiple National Register nominations in 2017. The City of Ponca City hired a qualified consultant to prepare four nominations for properties located within the city limits. The four new listings in Kay County include the 101 Rodeo Arena, Attucks Community Center, the James J. McGraw House, and Roosevelt Elementary School.

Significant for its role in recreation and culture, the 101 Rodeo Arena has served Ponca City since 1961 and features custom design and construction.



101 Rodeo Arena

Attucks Community Center is significant for its important role in Ponca City's African American community. The building served as the auditorium for the segregated Attucks School from 1926 to 1966.



Attucks Community Center

The James J. McGraw House in Ponca City, designed in 1910 by Solomon Layton, is an excellent local example of the Prairie style of architecture.



James J. McGraw House

Finally, Roosevelt Elementary School in Ponca City is significant both for its role in education and its Collegiate Gothic architectural style. Roosevelt Elementary School is an excellent local example of Progressive Era school design.



Roosevelt Elementary School

The First Congregational Church at 1887 Cecil Street in Waynoka is significant as an excellent local example of the late nineteenth- and twentieth-century Revival style. The church building is a subtle combination of the Mission and Late Gothic Revival styles. Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. contracted for the nomination's preparation.



First Congregational Church

Park Etude, located at 1028 Connelly Lane in Norman, is significant as an excellent local example of the Organic style. The house was designed by architect and professor Dean Bryant Vollendorf, and built from 1966 to 1967.



Park Etude

Located at 2000 West Warner Street in Guthrie, the Benedictine Heights Hospital is significant for its role in health/medicine. Constructed between 1926 and 1947, the hospital reflects the changing trends in hospital design. It is also significant for its Classical Revival design by Oklahoma architect Leon Senter.



Benedictine Heights Hospital

At the corner of US Highway 66 and Main Street in Arcadia is the Edward Richardson Building. Significant for its commercial architecture, the property is also significant for its association with the African American community in Arcadia.



Edward Richardson 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 SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. If you believe a property in your area is eligible, fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form located at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm.

The SHPO also announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2018 Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for awards in two grant rounds, with any funds remaining from round one carried over for round two. Applications and detailed instructions will be available from the SHPO on February 1. The deadline for round one applications is 5 p.m. on April 6, and the deadline for round two applications is 5 p.m. on June 1. Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. Read the full story about this year's National Register Nomination Grants on page seven of this issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*. Please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 with any questions.

The OHS Digital Archives Department

The Digital Archives Department (DAD) is a specialized unit within the OHS Research Division that handles digital projects, preservation, and conservation of electronic records. The department is composed of six full-time and four part-time employees who previously operated separately in the photo, film and video, and digitization departments.

Full-time employees of the DAD are: JA Pryse, department supervisor and project proposal coordinator; Rachel Mosman, photo and digital assets manager; Jon May, photo archivist; Diane Wasser, film and video archivist; Kaitlin Crawford, OHEHS archivist and digital imaging specialist, large-scale projects; and Brandon Grossman, large-format media specialist and imaging technician.

Part-time employees are: Jason Hadley, digital imaging specialist; Mike Dippel, multiplatform digital imaging specialist and photo print specialist; Emily Sabo, digital imaging specialist, large-scale projects; and Evelyn Cox, imaging specialist in training.

All of these staff members have been trained in digital archiving practices for photographs, audio, video, and documents. They also have received extensive training concerning operation of The Gateway to Oklahoma History, as well as training in metadata creation and best practices for digitization in the archival community. One advantage of combining these positions into one department is that each member can work in any archival medium. A strict adherence to process and controlled work flow allows the department to simultaneously work on multiple projects.

The department's goals and objectives are to provide services to agencies, organizations, and private entities that have historical documents in a state of deterioration or threat. A reputation of punctual project completion, reliability, and expertise has allowed the department to become a new funding source for the Research Division. In addition, the department provides digital imaging (scanning), digital audio, and digital video to museum exhibits teams, Research Division patrons, and media outlets.

This department was developed as a response to the emerging needs of an increasingly more digital-oriented global community, and OHS staff is committed to serving this population using the most up-to-date standards indicated by the archives profession. One ongoing project is designed to provide digital access for records of the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO). Emily Sabo and Kaitlin Crawford have digitized more than 12,000 ledger pages and have created a detailed index of searchable terms. Upon

completion, this information will be available in an online database for public research.

In addition to the intensive process of digitizing and entering data for 175,000 pages of *Senate Journals*, Mike Dippel also has digitized and indexed thirty-eight volumes for the CLO project. Each volume ranges in size from 240 to 700 pages.

Meanwhile, Jason Hadley has been working to update 50,000 photo entries from the original research catalog (Cuadra STAR) and package them for uploading to The Gateway catalog. Hadley's efforts are critical for the sharing aspect of the OHS mission, as statistically The Gateway has garnered 72 percent more hits for photos alone than CuadraSTAR has total for the same period.

Diane Wasser has been focused on repairing and digitizing film for addition to the OHSFilm and the WKY KTVY KFOR Archives YouTube channels. Some highlights from these viewable collections include footage from the 1890s, an interview with the Beach Boys, and a staff favorite: footage of Amelia Earhart landing in Oklahoma!

For more information about the Digital Archives Department, please contact Rachel Mosman at rmosman@okhistory.org or JA Pryse at japryse@okhistory.org.

***The Wall That Heals* draws more than four thousand visitors**

The Oklahoma History Center was honored to host *The Wall That Heals (TWTH)* from November 8–12, during the week of Veterans Day. *TWTH* is a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. It is approximately 250 feet in length and lists the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who sacrificed their lives during the Vietnam War.

The Wall That Heals arrived at the History Center on Wednesday, November 8, escorted by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and more than thirty Patriot Guard Riders. The Patriot Guard Riders is a national organization of men and women whose motto is "Standing For Those Who Stood For US." They provide honor guards for military burials, greet troops returning from overseas at homecoming celebrations, and perform volunteer work for veterans' organizations. In addition, the Oklahoma City Fire Department provided two ladder trucks that suspended a thirty-foot American flag between them to provide an entrance for the *TWTH* procession.

The Wall That Heals was open to the public twenty-four hours a day beginning on Wednesday, November 8, and closed at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 12. During that time, it was estimated that more than four thousand visitors viewed *TWTH*. There were several mementoes left at *TWTH* as a remembrance and memorial to friends and relatives whose names appear on it.

Created by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and introduced on Veterans Day in 1996, *TWTH* has been displayed in more than four hundred cities and towns across the United States. This was the first time *The Wall That Heals* had been displayed in the State Capitol Complex and the only time that it appeared in Oklahoma in 2017.



Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam

The Oklahoma History Center's newest exhibit offers a long overdue "Welcome Home" to all of the Oklahomans who returned to the Sooner State after the long war in Vietnam. That welcome not only is offered to the American soldiers who returned, but also to the Vietnamese refugees who came to the United States to escape the invading North Vietnamese army.

The exhibit looks at more than the historic events that occurred during the war. It will explore the impact of the war on Oklahoma families, as told through the stories of the young men and women who served their country in the armed services and the immigrant families who fled Vietnam and came to Oklahoma seeking freedom and opportunity.

The official opening of *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam* was held on Sunday, November 5, with more than three hundred invited guests in attendance. The program began with a welcome from Dan Provo, director of the Oklahoma History Center, followed by an opening prayer by Senator James Lankford. The keynote address was offered by Major General Rita Aragon (USANG-Ret.). Personal accounts from the military perspective and the Vietnamese civilian perspective were recounted by Captain Bob Ford (US Army-Ret.) and Ban Nguyen, local businessman and entrepreneur. The exhibit was officially opened by a traditional ribbon cutting with more than a dozen contributors participating.

The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be on display for two years. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.

National Register Nomination Grant applications available February 1

The 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 (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2018 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for awards in two grant rounds, with any funds remaining from round one carried over for round two.

Applications and detailed instructions will be available from the SHPO on Thursday, February 1. The deadline for round one applications is 5 p.m. on April 6, and the deadline for round two applications is 5 p.m. on June 1. 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 grant funds and nonfederal match to retain an appropriately qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package for the NRHP. Applicants must be aware that \$1,700 (federal grant plus nonfederal match) is only an estimate of the cost for such projects and that more than the minimum \$700 nonfederal match may be necessary to cover the consultant fee. Consultants must consider the nature of the property proposed for nomination and many other factors as they develop their fee proposals.

The NRHP is the official list of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, the NRHP status of a property is often critical to the strategy for its preservation. The NRHP 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 or submit an NRHP Nomination Grant application form, please visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm beginning February 1. You also can contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249. Information about the SHPO and its programs, including the NRHP, is available at www.okhistory.org/shpo.



Save the date for the 2018 Oklahoma History Conference

The annual Oklahoma History Conference, sponsored by the OHS, will be held April 25, 26, and 27, 2018, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. A total of fourteen presentation sessions will take place on Thursday morning, April 26, and Friday morning, April 27. To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the OHS, the theme for the conference is "OHS125: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing for the Next Generation." This year's presentations will feature all aspects of Oklahoma history, and there will be special sessions to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Broadway musical *Oklahoma!* Additional details regarding the 2018 conference will be published in the March/April 2018 issue of *Mistletoe Leaves* (vol. 49, no. 2). For more information please contact Larry O'Dell at 405-522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org.

Cherokee Nation receives prestigious award

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently presented the Trustees Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites to Cherokee Nation. The tribe was one of eight award winners to be honored by the National Trust during its 2017 PastForward National Preservation Conference this past November in Chicago.

The OHS nominated Cherokee Nation for this award and we are pleased they have been recognized for excellent historic and cultural preservation work and promotion.

Cherokee Nation received recognition for its careful stewardship of several properties vital to the history and culture of the Nation, as well as for contributions to the preservation of state-owned resources within its borders. For example, the 1844 building that housed the National Supreme Court, the 1875 National Prison, and the 1869 National Capitol were all in need of repair and restoration. Today, Cherokee Nation has completed or is in the process of completing repair work that returns each of these historic properties to its period of historical significance, now available for public view.

"We are pleased to receive this award from the National Trust in recognition of our passion and efforts in historic preservation. Historic preservation for the Cherokee Nation means safeguarding our heritage and culture," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "It is a responsibility that we all collectively share and a priceless investment we are making for future generations. We're committed to preserving these sites and are thankful for the opportunity to proactively share our story with the world."

When state budget cuts in 2010 threatened the OHS's ability to care for state-owned historic resources, Cherokee Nation stepped forward with a \$50,000 annual contribution to maintain operations at three OHS historic sites within the boundaries of the Nation and arranged to bring tour groups there for special programming opportunities.

When the perilous budget situation persisted, Cherokee Nation worked with leadership at the OHS to secure legislation making it possible for the state to transfer titles to historic properties to entities willing and able to ensure their long-term preservation and public availability. This enabled the Nation to acquire Sequoyah's Cabin, the home of the individual who created the Cherokee syllabary, thus making it possible for Cherokee citizens to read and write in their own language. Cherokee Nation has since expanded programming there by installing new exhibits and selling hand-crafted items in the gift shop.

"Through their careful preservation of iconic historic properties, their financial support to the state's historical society during tough economic times, and their programming and promotion of those sites, the Cherokee Nation's passion for cultural heritage is obvious," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "We commend them for their visionary stewardship and skilled leadership in ensuring that places that tell the story of Cherokee Nation and the history of our country may be experienced for generations to come."

The National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. For more information please visit www.savingplaces.org.

The OHS celebrates 125 years of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history

2018 is a landmark year for the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS)—we are celebrating 125 years of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history. Preserving Oklahoma’s history was important to its citizens and its government even before statehood. The OHS was founded by members of the Territorial Press Association on May 27, 1893, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and was incorporated as one of the original state agencies in 1907. The initial mission of the OHS was to collect newspapers throughout the territory. Today the OHS houses more than thirty million pages of newspapers dating back to 1844.

Over the years, the OHS has made several significant moves to embrace opportunities for growth. On February 25, 1929, the Oklahoma Legislature authorized the construction of a building for the OHS. This building was the first addition to the Capitol Complex since the completion of the State Capitol in 1917. Oklahoma gained a home for its archives and artifacts, and the OHS had space to attract new collections, provide educational programming, and create a legacy of collecting, preserving, and sharing. Collections also grew significantly with the addition of four million pages of American Indian records and the start of the state’s first oral history program. In 1921 the OHS launched *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. In the 1960–70s the OHS expanded to include numerous museums, historic homes, and military sites across Oklahoma. A new partnership with the National Park Service allowed the OHS to focus on the preservation of historically and architecturally important buildings statewide. The OHS took a major leap forward with the opening of the Oklahoma History Center in 2005. Offering world-class exhibits, a Research Center, and special programs, the History Center is a place where visitors can search for their roots, discover their history, and celebrate a sense of community.

Through territorial days and statehood, booms and busts, struggles for rights, cultural revivals, tragedies, and triumphs, the OHS remains committed to preserving our heritage. Thanks to the support of members and donors, the OHS has endured for 125 years!



Caretakers of the Oklahoma Historical Society’s growing collections, c. 1910
Pictured, left to right, are **Edith Knean**, file clerk; **Lon Wharton**, secretary; **Jasper Sipes**, president; and **W. P. Campbell**, custodian (20058, OHS Photograph Collection)



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

SHPO announces HPRC’s 2018 meeting schedule

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee’s (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2018. The governor appoints the members of the HPRC to advise the SHPO about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and other preservation issues. Current HPRC members include Ron Frantz (architect, Oklahoma City); John Hartley (prehistoric archaeologist, Norman); Shirley Ballard Nero (historian, Clearview); Jana Phillips (architectural historian, Stillwater); and Charles Wallis (historical archaeologist, Norman).

The HPRC’s 2018 meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, April 19, July 19, and October 18. The meetings are open to the public and will be held in the LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. The HPRC and the SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend. Meeting agendas and NRHP nominations under consideration will be available at www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm.

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO’s programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the NRHP and other SHPO programs. During each meeting, the HPRC hears presentations on NRHP nominations from SHPO staff and consultants; receives comments from owners of properties proposed for nomination; listens to public comments and concerns; and formulates recommendations to the SHPO about whether or not a property should be nominated. The HPRC and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of Oklahoma’s preservation program. For information about any of the SHPO’s programs, please call 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo.