



## OKPOP Groundbreaking Ceremony

On October 23, 2019, OKPOP held its official groundbreaking ceremony in Tulsa. OHS Board Member and Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith was the master of ceremonies and speakers included Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, Tulsa Mayor G. T. Bynum, Tulsa musician Taylor Hanson, Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn, OKPOP Executive Director Jeffrey Moore, Nabholz Construction Vice President Shane Fernandez, and members from the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

Governor Stitt remarked that it was “an honor to be here on Tulsa’s North Main Street in front of the historic Cain’s Ballroom where one of Oklahoma’s first national stars, Bob Wills, made his debut and eventually became famously known as the ‘King of Western Swing.’ We also are only standing a few blocks away from the streets of Greenwood, Archer, and Pine where the GAP Band and three brothers, Charlie, Ronnie, and Robert Wilson brought American R&B to life and the funk sound to Tulsa.” He recounted the many accomplishments of Oklahoma creatives, stating, “Oklahomans have sold over one billion records, been nominated for an Emmy every year since 1962, and produced some of the most iconic stories ever told on stage and screen.”

Lieutenant Governor Pinnell commented on the importance of cultural tourism as an economic driver in the state. “OKPOP is an obvious game-changer for Tulsa. It enhances our tourism landscape and elevates our brand as an incubator for the creative class and a destination for travelers and tourists from all over the world. Tulsa’s cool factor and place-making strategies continue to rise to new heights, giving us a chance to be visionary and more competitive as a vibrant visitor destination.”

Mayor Bynum applauded the efforts of Dr. Blackburn and the OHS for pushing to make OKPOP a reality. He stated that the museum will inspire future generations of young people to pursue creativity through music, art, and storytelling. He also praised the efforts of Jim Halsey, who has worked for decades representing the biggest stars in country music, and Danny O’Connor, who restored the house used during the filming of *The Outsiders* based on the novel written by S. E. Hinton. He said

that he looked “forward to returning soon for construction tours and watching Nabholz Construction bring to life the design by Lilly Architects and the vision of the OKPOP creative team.”

Dr. Blackburn thanked the crowd of 350 for attending the event, as well as the numerous state and city leaders who have supported the project over the last five years. “OKPOP will be more than a hall of fame, it will share with visitors the impact that the Oklahoma experience has had on these creatives,” said Blackburn.

Taylor Hanson, vocalist and keyboard player for the band HANSON, spoke of the rich legacy of Oklahoma’s musical history. He specifically mentioned Leon Russell, Roy Clark, and Steve Ripley as musicians who had recently passed away but whose stories will be preserved for future generations at OKPOP.

OKPOP Executive Director Jeffrey Moore then invited the dignitaries to step down from the stage to take hard hats and shovels to perform the ceremonial groundbreaking. Moore noted that the gold hard hats were an homage to Tulsa’s Golden Driller, and that the golden shovels were custom made by Nabholz Construction.

The gold guitar shovels, designed by former OKPOP Creative Director Cameron Eagle, were inspired by Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. Guitar maker Leo Fender used Wills and his band to road test his new designs of guitars and amps beginning in the 1940s. In 1954 when Fender introduced the Fender Stratocaster, Leo made a special gold “Strat” and presented it to Texas Playboys guitarist Eldon Shamblin at Cain’s Ballroom.

Among those in attendance were members of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors, the OKPOP Foundation Board of Directors, Bob Wills’s daughter Carolyn Wills, Roy Clark’s wife Barbara Clark, Steve Ripley’s wife Charlene Ripley, Tulsa Sound drummer Jamie Oldaker, former Tulsa Mayors Kathy Taylor and Dewey Bartlett, Cain’s Ballroom manager Chad Rodgers, Tulsa comic book writer Archie Goodwin’s son Seth Goodwin, and Vicki Frederick, who along with her late husband Loren donated Bob Wills’s 1948 Flxible Tour Bus to OKPOP.

A division of the Oklahoma Historical Society, OKPOP will collect, preserve, and share the state’s pop culture artifacts and collections through four core programs: the visitor experience, community outreach, research archives, and education. OKPOP will be a 60,000-square-foot experience with 25,000 square feet of world-class installations and interactive exhibits telling the stories of Oklahoma’s impact on popular culture around the world. For more information about OKPOP, please visit [www.okpop.org](http://www.okpop.org) or [www.facebook.com/OKPOPTulsa](http://www.facebook.com/OKPOPTulsa).



Photograph courtesy of Phil Clarkin



Photograph courtesy of Phil Clarkin





## Director's column

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

Thirty years ago the OHS started down a path seeking higher standards, greater efficiencies, and expanded partnerships. We eventually called it our “entrepreneurial business plan.”

Proof that the first two parts of that plan have been accomplished is the success of the third—expanded partnerships. Today, with the marketability of higher standards and public confidence in our ability to leverage resources in the most efficient ways, we increasingly find ourselves strengthened by partnerships to keep the wheels of progress turning.

To be fair, partnerships were not new to the OHS thirty years ago. From the very beginning in 1893, the vigor of the organization depended on a partnership with the Oklahoma Press Association. Then came a failed partnership with OU, a long-lasting partnership with state government, and periodic partnerships with the Works Progress Administration Writers’ Project and various departments of history across the state. Other than state funding, none of these partnerships were sustainable.

Today, sustainable partnerships can be found in every OHS program and most are based on formal relationships em-

bedded in memoranda of understanding, better known as MOUs.

Two of the most enduring long-term partnerships are with the Oklahoma Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Benefits of those partnerships include growing collections, programs, volunteers, fundraising, and grassroots activism.

Other bedrock associations with formal ties include the National Archives, co-curators of the Indian Archives since 1930; the National Park Service, a partner in historic preservation since 1966; and the Smithsonian Institution, with which the History Center has been affiliated since 2005. All reflect the higher standards charting our path today.

In the 1990s, with legislative financial support hitting a plateau, we launched a new effort to create a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit support group for every program. Not only did community-based volunteers raise money for programs, but they also offered greater efficiencies for funding collections, building exhibits, and upgrading facilities outside the limitations of government bureaucracy. Every museum and historic site has a vital friends group, as does the Research Center, State Historic Preservation Office, History Center, Will Rogers Memorial Museums, and OKPOP.

While we were building those critical relationships, we reached out with proper respect to tribal governments just as sovereignty was gaining momentum in the 1990s. It started with new legislation authorizing the OHS to transfer land and buildings to the tribes without going through the traditional surplus property process. By accepting in-kind considerations in lieu of cash, we found ways to return sacred properties to tribal people. In return, our tribal partners have contributed money, staff time, and other re-

sources to our efforts where we have a shared mission.

Now we are writing the next chapter in our book of partnerships through the new Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. In January we will make our first grants to city, county, tribal, and nonprofit museums and historical societies to undertake our core mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. Our money and expertise, leveraged through their volunteers and local relationships, will add new vitality to the benefits of partnerships.

Yes, our entrepreneurial business plan is based on higher standards and greater efficiencies, but it is putting wind in our sails through partnerships.

*Dr. Bob*

## Kilgen Organ performance to be held in January

The Oklahoma History Center is proud to present its first Kilgen Organ performance of the 2020 season, featuring organist Tedde Gibson. The program will be held Monday, January 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and seating is first come, first served.

Gibson will perform selections related to the theme “From Gospel to Jazz and Beyond.” He is one of only a few organists comfortable playing such a wide range of musical styles on a theater organ. Gibson began playing piano at age four, and over the years studied voice as well as pipe and theater organ with several world-renowned organists.

Tickets are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for the general public. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 405-522-0765.

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Please join the Oklahoma Historical Society on April 22–24 at The Lodge at Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner for its annual history conference. This year the theme is “Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks.” The Three Forks is the area of present-day Oklahoma where the Verdigris and Neosho (Grand) Rivers merge into the Arkansas. Trade was important in this region prior to European contact and later as French explorers exchanged goods with the Caddo and Wichita. Prominent early traders included Auguste Pierre Chouteau and Sam Houston. It is also where the United States in 1824 built Fort Gibson, Indian Territory’s first military outpost. The Texas Road and the Arkansas River served as main arteries for travel, serving explorers, traders, emigrants, and the military.

Reservations are now open. Please call the reservation line at 918-772-2545 or 800-368-1486. To book online, visit [www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com), then search for Sequoyah Lodge and use code 1558. Concurrent sessions will feature Oklahoma historians, authors, scholars, and museum professionals from around the state and country. Special events include the opening reception, tour options, and an awards luncheon. This year one track will be geared toward museum practices and information on OHS’s new Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. More details will be coming soon. More information can be found at [www.okhistory.org/conference](http://www.okhistory.org/conference). If you have questions contact Larry O'Dell at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org) or 405-522-6676.



**Oklahoma Historical Society**  
**Membership Office**  
**405-522-5242**  
**[ohsmembers@okhistory.org](mailto:ohsmembers@okhistory.org)**

*Mistletoe Leaves* (USPS 018-315) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors, 4,800 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,038.77 bimonthly. 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 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

Peek behind the eyepatch at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in **Oklahoma City** for its presentation of dinner and a movie featuring *True Grit* on January 10, 2020, from 6 to 9 p.m. In conjunction with the exhibition *Two Grits—A Peek Behind the Eyepatch*, watch the original *True Grit* film. Following the movie, enjoy a walk through the featured exhibit with curator Michael R. Grauer, McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture/curator of Cowboy Collections and Western Art. A cash bar and scrumptious buffet will be offered by the Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City. Tickets are \$40 for museum members and \$45 for the general public. Reservations are required by January 7. The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum is located at 1700 NE 63rd Street in Oklahoma City. Register online at [www.nationalcowboymuseum.org](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org) or call 405-478-2250 for more information.

The fourth annual Dr. James G. Caster Symposium on the Civil War will be held February 25, 2020, beginning at 9 a.m., in Mabee Auditorium of Randall University in **Moore**. Award-winning author John Dwyer will discuss the content of his book *The Oklahomans*, as well as his second volume that he is currently writing, *The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War*. Other presenters include Dan DeKab with his multimedia presentation of "The Unconditional Surrender of Fort Donelson." Norman attorney Ben Odom, president of the OKC Civil War Roundtable, will discuss Confederate Grand Strategy. Oklahoma County Assistant Attorney Jeff Massey will present the material "Frienemies and the Forging of a World Power, 1866-1917." Carroll Wilson, the treasurer of the OKC Civil War Roundtable, will speak on the interconnections between Union and Confederate generals going back to the Mexican War of 1846-48. Beau Cantrell, an attorney and renowned Civil War scholar, will discuss the Indian Territory Congressmen in the Confederate Congress. Craig McKinley will close the symposium with a discussion of Union General Thomas J. Wood at the Battle of Chickamauga, and the "fatal order" that resulted in a Confederate victory. The event is free and open to the public, including students in area schools. Professor Steve Byas will serve as director of the symposium. Contact him by email at [sbyas@ru.edu](mailto:sbyas@ru.edu) or call 405-912-9009. Please contact by February 15 for meal accommodations.

Some of the finest vintage and antique dealers in the nation are headed to **Tulsa** Expo Square to present their wares at the Vintage Tulsa Show February 14 to 16, 2020. More than 55,000 square feet of merchandise will be set up at this show to the delight of antique and vintage lovers. Browse row after row of unique goods in a climate-controlled space with concessions available. Antique pickers will find it all, from antique furniture and collectibles to vintage clothing and linens. The Tulsa Expo Square is located at 4145 East 21st Street in Tulsa. For more information, please call 918-619-2875.

Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 20, 2020, at 10 a.m. in downtown **Ardmore** with a parade starting at P Street and ending at the HFV Wilson Community Center at 625 East Main Street. After the family-friendly parade, visit the HFV Wilson Community Center for a celebration of Dr. King, who valued courage, justice, compassion and humility. For more information, or to register to be in the parade, please call 580-223-0136.

## Exhibits

Visit the **Oklahoma City** Museum of Art to view *Renewing the American Spirit: The Art of the Great Depression*. This exhibit explores the physical and social landscape of the United States during that era through paintings, prints, photographs, and other media. The exhibit will be on display through April 26, 2020. A large-scale, monumental mural by Gardner Hale will be exhibited publicly for the first time since the First President's bicentennial exhibition in 1932, celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The exhibition examines the diverse responses of artists to the social upheaval and economic distress that characterized American life in the 1930s. Together, the aesthetically and politically varied works produced in the 1930s paint a revealing portrait of the nation's evolving psyche as it sought to move ahead through one of the country's most challenging periods. Public exhibition tours featuring a museum tour guide will provide conversation-based insights. The Oklahoma City Museum of Art is located at 415 Couch Drive in Oklahoma City.

The **Edmond** Historical Society and Museum presents a photographic exhibit *Snapshots in Time: 100 Years of Photographs & Cameras in Edmond*, on dis-

play through March 10, 2020. The exhibit highlights the fact that people have been taking photographs in Edmond for nearly 130 years. *Snapshots in Time* features photographs and cameras from Edmond's first century, including more than 20 vintage cameras dating from the 1920s to the 1990s. Photographs of Edmond and its citizens will also be on display from the period shortly after the Land Run of 1889 and throughout the 20th century. Be sure to stop by and see the changes in camera design and technology and the photographs that document Edmond. The EHSM is located at 431 South Boulevard in Edmond. Please visit [www.edmondhistory.org](http://www.edmondhistory.org) for more information.

## Announcements

The Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum is soliciting entries for its 19th annual Student Essay Contest. Do you feel hopeful? The essay committee at the **Oklahoma City** National Memorial and Museum is deeply interested in what you, the young people of the United States, think about the state of your community, especially in comparison to your perception of how things have changed in the past 25 years. The year 2020 will mark 25 years since the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Since then, much has changed in the United States and the world, yet much is still the same. The contest is open to all public, private, parochial, or homeschool students in grades 5-12. All student essays must be accompanied by a student release and teacher registration form. All entries must be received online no later than February 21, 2020. Visit [www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org](http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org) for complete rules and regulations.



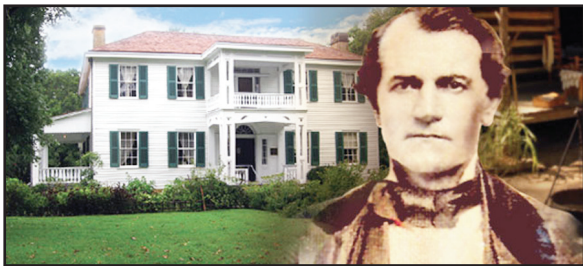
Do you want your organization's event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of Mistletoe Leaves? This section features Oklahoma history- and heritage-related programming sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Nina Hager by email at [nhager@okhistory.org](mailto:nhager@okhistory.org). If you wish a news item to appear in the March/April 2020 issue, you must submit it by Tuesday, February 4.



# OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

## January

- 2-31 Living History Season with demonstrations every Thursday through Saturday, Hunter's Home, Park Hill



- 4 History Alive! living history experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7-31 Minerva Ross Murrell weekly exhibits and programs, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 8 Brown Bag Lecture Series, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 History Alive! living history experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 18 "Life on the Water" living history program, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 18 *100th Anniversary of Prohibition* film screening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 *Red Dust Poetry* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 21 *Reflections of the Wichitas: Oils and Watercolors by Katherine Lontas-Warren* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus



- 25 Knitting class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 "From Gospel to Jazz and Beyond" Kilgen Organ performance by Tedde Gibson, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 Will Rogers Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

## February

- 1-29 Living History Season with demonstrations every Thursday through Saturday, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 1 History Alive! living history experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1 *Photographing the Plains: Farm Security Administration, 1935-1945* exhibit opens, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 1 *Voices of Hunter's Home: Enslaved People* exhibit opens, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 1 Antique Doll exhibit opens, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 4 *The Buffalo Train Ride* author presentation by Desiree Morrison Webber, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 6 Colonial-themed History Alive! program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Basket Making workshop, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 Brown Bag Lecture Series, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 *Water/Ways* exhibit closes, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson



- 14 Date Night at the Museum, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Second annual Black History Month Film Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 History Alive! living history experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 18 *Water/Ways* exhibit opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 22 Southeastern Beadwork class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 28 Will Rogers Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 29 Civil War Surgeon living history program, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 29 Antique Doll exhibit closes, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy

## "Life on the Water" living history program

Fort Towson Historic Site will host "Life on the Water" on Saturday, January 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This living history program will be held in conjunction with the special exhibit *Water/Ways*, which will be on display at the fort's Visitor Center through February 13.

*Water/Ways* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Oklahoma Humanities. Guests can learn about the importance of water and the vital role it has played in society—both past and present.

The "Life on the Water" program will feature six educational stations: Commerce, Music, Food, Women, Navigation, and Excavations. Visitors can enjoy hands-on experiences related to various aspects of life on a steamboat in the 19th century.

Fort Towson Historic Site is located approximately 14 miles east of Hugo on US Highway 70 in Fort Towson. For more information please call 580-873-2634.



## 2019 Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the OHC

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) served as a new venue for the Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 9, 2019. This annual tradition, which normally takes place at the State Capitol, was moved to the OHC due to the ongoing construction at the Capitol.

During the afternoon before the ceremony, children from 25 elementary schools from across the state used creative themes to decorate Christmas trees on the first floor of the OHC. While the children decorated trees, student performing groups filled the Devon Great Hall with the sounds of the season and entertained visitors with holiday dance numbers.

Governor and First Lady Stitt, along with State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister and Santa Claus himself, spent time visiting with the students and viewing their decorated trees. In return, the Stitts, Hofmeister, and Santa were treated to an offering of Christmas carols by the schoolchildren. All of these activities culminated outside at sunset with the lighting of the Governor's Christmas Tree, which took place in chilly temperatures with a crowd of more than 300 attendees.



Please visit [www.okhistory.org/events](http://www.okhistory.org/events) for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.



## Sighting In

By Dr. Dan Lawrence

About 15 years ago my faithful Sergeant Gerald Krows, his wife Jean (L-1, company laundress), and I were on our annual pilgrimage to the Trail of Honor in Jackson, Mississippi, which still hosts the Vietnam Veterans' southern leg of the Ride to the Wall in Washington, DC. It consists of a military timeline that spanned from the French and Indian War to Desert Storm. We portrayed the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, during our time there. Our display consisted of tents, artifacts, reproduction gear, and weapons of the time, including my M-1841, full-scale 6pdr gun (a smooth-bore field artillery piece). I eventually sold the gun and equipment to the Jackson Harley Davidson dealership that hosted the event and there it still is.

During the course of the day, a man named Albert came by our display and showed me two M-1840 sheet brass dispart sights for a 6pdr gun and a 12pdr field howitzer—not to be confused with either a Napoleon or Mountain Howitzer, all three of which were of 12pdr designation with 4.62-inch bores. Albert asked what they were worth and how much I would give him for them. I said I did not know what they were worth, but could not afford them with what I had brought with me and did not want to insult him with a meager offer, as I knew they definitely had value, just did not know what it was.

As we talked back and forth, Albert asked me what I would do with them if I had them and I told him that they would go with me to history “show and tells,” like this one, and when I was not able to do them anymore, they would go to a museum where they would be cared for and displayed. He thought that was good enough, as he had gotten them off a garage sale table and did not want them to end up back on one again. Long story short, he sold them to me for \$20. I tried to give him more, but he would not take it. The next year he showed up at our sta-



tion to chat, and I suspect to see if I was keeping my word, and returned the \$20, saying he did not feel right about accepting it.

Fast forward to today. It has come time to move the sights on to what I hope will be their permanent home, as I have retired from the active part of reenacting. I determined that the new Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center would be the ideal place for them, as both types of guns represented by the sights, I believe, fought at the battle. As I packed them and a few other artifacts and related manuals and books to take to John Davis at Fort Towson, the list kept growing. Eventually, I decided it all needed to go. So, on September 28 I set off for Fort Towson and the Mexican-American War weekend there, and delivered all of my original artifacts and complete artillery library to John. Most of the material will go to Honey Springs and be displayed at the new Visitor Center when it and the display cases are ready. The library should be on display soon.

I am excited about sharing these things with our visitors and encourage you to visit Honey Springs Battlefield. Stop by the Visitor Center to view the library and artifacts that might have made it to display by then and after. I further encourage any collectors or reenactors who are looking for a good home for related and appropriate books, artifacts, material culture items, and the like to consider donating them to the OHS at one of its outstanding museums and sites.

*Dr. Dan Lawrence is a member of the OHS Board of Directors.*

## Civil War Surgeon living history program



Jason Harris

Visitors to Honey Springs Battlefield will have the opportunity to listen to firsthand accounts of a Union Civil War surgeon serving in Indian Territory on Saturday, February 29, at 1 p.m. Jason Harris, a living historian and the director of the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher, will provide a hands-on program about life in the field, Civil War medicine, treatment of soldiers, and care for refugees. A number of medical instruments from the period will be on display during the presentation. This will be a fun and educational day for students and adults alike. For more information please call 918-473-5572.



## Red Dust Poetry exhibit at Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

The *Red Dust Poetry* exhibit is now open at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC). This exhibit will be open through January 18, 2020.

The exhibit is on loan from the University of Oklahoma's Western History Collections, and features the work of Oklahoma poets exploring Oklahoma history from the late 19th century through World War II. Artifacts from the collection of the Heritage Center are on display to supplement the poetry. Dr. M. Todd Fuller and Dr. Crag A. Hill from the University of Oklahoma developed and researched the exhibit.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid. For more information about the CSRHC, please call 580-237-1907 or visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org).



## Blacksmithing Demonstrations

Visit the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry on Monday, February 29, for Blacksmithing Demonstrations in the blacksmith shop. The demonstrations will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Guests can enjoy watching the craftsmen work and will have an opportunity for hands-on experiences. This educational event is free to attend, but donations are appreciated. For more information please call 580-336-2405.



Blacksmith shop at the Cherokee Strip  
Museum in Perry



## NRHP Nomination Grants available from the State Historic Preservation Office

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 (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2020 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. Applications are accepted February 1 through April 30. 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 catalog 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 an application form, please visit [www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant). To contact the SHPO call 405-521-6249.

## Historic Preservation Review Committee 2020 meeting schedule

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee's (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2020. 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 2020 meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, April 16, July 16, and October 15.

The meetings will be held in the LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom on the third floor of the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. The meetings are open to the pub-

lic. The HPRC and SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend. The meeting agendas and NRHP nominations under consideration will be available at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/hprc](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/hprc).

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, call 405-521-6249.

## From the OHS Archives: Sibyl Jones Collection

By Jan H. Richardson



During World War II written correspondence was the main form of communication between those who were serving overseas during the war and families back home. Sibyl Iris Jones of Bromide, Oklahoma, was one of many Oklahomans serving abroad during this time. Her letters to her family show a different side of the war, as she served well behind the lines overseas. A 1937 graduate of the Oklahoma College for Women with a degree in commerce, Jones served in the Office of War Information (OWI) for the European Theater of Operations in London from June 1943 to December 1944 before her transfer to the office in Paris, France, where she remained until shipping home in June 1945.

The Sibyl Jones Collection (M2019.164, one thin letter box) contains much of Jones's correspondence to her family in Oklahoma from June 1942 to June 1945. Highlights of the collection are her observations on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and thoughts on Adolph Hitler, his death by suicide, and the German occupation of France. A memo from the United States OWI from June 16, 1944, cautions family members of OWI personnel to ignore rumors of a German Secret Weapon.

The collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please email [research@okhistory.org](mailto:research@okhistory.org) or call 405-522-5225.

*Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Center's Manuscript Archives.*



## Antique Doll exhibit at historic Drummond Home

The historic Fred Drummond Home in Hominy—a three-story, Victorian-style house built in 1905—will host an exhibit of antique dolls during the month of February. The exhibit will feature a wide array of German-made dolls, including dolls by Armand Marseille, Kestner, and Koppelsdorf. There also will be a large group of china and porcelain dolls, along with a collection of paper dolls. This exhibit makes the perfect outing for doll collectors, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and granddaughters who love dolls. During your visit, you are encouraged to tour the rest of the beautiful Drummond Home. The antique doll exhibit is included with the regular admission fee. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors ages 62 and older, \$4 for students, and free for children five and under. As always, OHS members receive free admission. For more information please call 918-885-2374. The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy.





Scan this QR code with your smartphone to link to the audio tour home page.

## Oklahoma History Center announces new audio tour available in four languages

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) has introduced a new, easily accessible audio tour that is available in four languages: English, French, German and Spanish. The tour is made possible by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities (OH). Visitors can use the camera on their phones to scan a unique QR code that will link them to an online audio point. There are 30 new audio points that help lead guests through the museum and read the label text about the object featured, as well as providing additional information. Guests can pick and choose which points to listen to with this version of the audio tour. Earphones, iPads, and iPod Touches will be available for visitors who may not have access to a personal device.

The audio tour is also available on the Oklahoma Historical Society website at [www.okhistory.org/audiotour](http://www.okhistory.org/audiotour), making it accessible to people even if they cannot visit the Oklahoma History Center. In the near future the OHC plans to add historic photographs and oral histories that pertain to the featured audio point artifacts. The goal is to continue to grow this program, so visitors are encouraged to leave their feedback.

Director of Exhibits Lori Oden and other OHC staff have made this new audio tour a priority over the past year. "As our audiences grow to include people from all over the world, it is important that we welcome them in their own language. It is my hope that we continue to add languages and content over the next few years," said Oden. "Also, we were honored to work with three language professors from the University of Central Oklahoma and establish these important institutional relationships. We are very grateful for their support, as well as Oklahoma Humanities," Oden continued.

Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this audio tour do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.



OKLAHOMA  
HUMANITIES



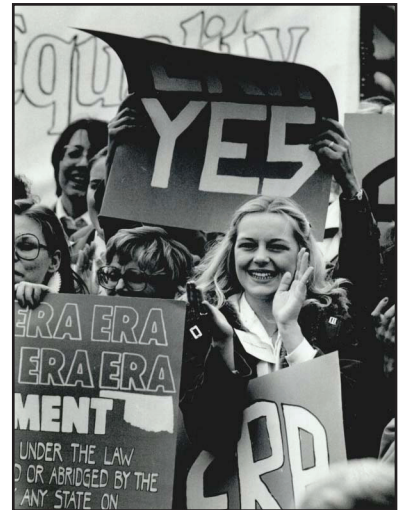
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
Humanities

## Until We Organize: The Struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment photographic exhibit opens at OHC

The Oklahoma History Center announces the opening of its newest photographic exhibit, *Until We Organize: The Struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment*, featuring 23 photographs, both local and national, from activists for and against the ERA. The exhibit focuses on the most tumultuous years of Oklahoma's battle over the amendment, from the late 1970s to the early 1980s. It is currently open and will run through November 2020.

The fight for an amendment to the US Constitution stating gender equality has been ongoing since the 1920s. The effort to pass the ERA heated up in the late 1970s when the ratification process made its way to individual states, including Oklahoma. The struggle to ratify the ERA failed when the deadline for passage expired in 1982, only three states short of the required 38 states needed for approval. Efforts to pass the ERA continue to this day.

The exhibit is on display in the Chesapeake Event Center and Gallery, which also is utilized for meetings and events. Patrons should call in advance to make sure the exhibit is open to the public during the time of their visit. The Oklahoma History Center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information, please call 405-522-0765 or visit [www.okhistory.org/historycenter](http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter).

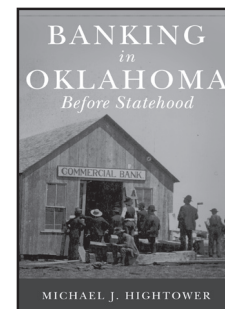


## SHPO announces updated preservation plan *Sooner Rather Than Later*

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the availability of its updated historic preservation plan, *Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past*. The plan sets forth the goals and objectives for Oklahoma's preservation community from January 1, 2020–December 31, 2024. The update was completed over 12 months with input from preservation professionals and the public, and it was approved by the National Park Service in August 2019. A list of the goals and objectives will be available online at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan), and the SHPO will be using this list as a way to document completed projects to increase transparency. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the updated state plan, provide your name and complete mailing address to the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or [tdarata@okhistory.org](mailto:tdarata@okhistory.org).

Additionally, the SHPO website will undergo a transformation in the first part of 2020. With a goal of increasing access to available information for consultants, preservation professionals, and the public, the website will include updated forms, program checklists, preservation videos, and guidelines for all of the SHPO program areas.

## 2019 Oklahoma Bankers Association Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



At the Oklahoma Banker's Association's 2019 Hall of Fame Luncheon and Induction Ceremony, held at the Oklahoma History Center on December 5, independent historian and biographer Michael J. Hightower spoke about

the importance of recording and honoring bank history. Inductees included John V. Anderson, F&M Bank of Crescent; Clark and Wanda Bass, First National Bank of McAlester; Mick Thompson, Oklahoma state banking commissioner; and Morrison Tucker, longtime Oklahoma banker.

Hightower is the author of two books that tell the story of Oklahoma banking from the days of Wild West capitalism to the modern era of interstate branching, online banking, and global capital flows. His titles include *Banking in Oklahoma before Statehood* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2013) and *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907–2000* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2014).

Hightower's presentations to business and community groups support the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center. To schedule a presentation in your area, contact Dr. Hightower at [mhightower@okhistory.org](mailto:mhightower@okhistory.org) or 434-249-6043. For more information, please visit his website at [www.michaelfhightower.com](http://www.michaelfhightower.com).



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

# Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 51, No. 1

January/February 2020

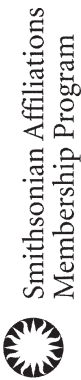
## Living history programs at Hunter’s Home celebrate the life of Minerva Ross Murrell



During the month of January 2020, Hunter’s Home will present programming centered on the lady of the house, Minerva Ross Murrell. From January 7–11, programs will focus on medicine. Because Minerva suffered the effects of malaria for much of the last five years of her life, museum staff will discuss commonly prescribed treatments for the disease and medicines of the mid-1800s. Notes from the physician who cared for Minerva reveal that she received many of these treatments under his care.

Beginning January 14 and ending January 18, the home will present its “Mourning Minerva” programming, through which visitors will learn the different processes 19th-century people had for dealing with death. The mansion will come out of mourning January 21–25 to discuss the different stages of Victorian mourning. Last, but certainly not least, Hunter’s Home will close out the month on a high note from January 28–31 with discussions about period birthday celebrations in honor of the 201st anniversary of Minerva’s birth.

Living History Season at Hunter’s Home is also in full swing. Visitors to the historic site Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will find dressed interpreters carrying out a variety of 19th-century crafts and trades.



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

## Exhibition brings photographs of the Great Depression into focus

From February 1 to May 30, 2020, the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will host *Photographing the Plains: Farm Security Administration, 1935–1945*, a traveling exhibit from the Oklahoma History Center, curated by Curator of Exhibits Jim Meeks.

This exhibit highlights a collection of black and white photographs taken by six Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographers who visited Oklahoma or photographed displaced Oklahomans looking for work during the Great Depression. The FSA formed in 1937 under the Department of Agriculture and continued the work of photographing rural conditions. Approximately 175,000 black-and-white negatives and 1,600 color transparencies were produced during the run of the project. The photographs in this exhibit represent a sampling of work that date from 1936 to 1943. The Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. For more information please call 405-375-5176.



## Voices of Hunter’s Home: Enslaved People exhibit opens at Hunter’s Home

Hunter’s Home will commemorate Black History Month with new exhibits opening in February 2020. *Voices of Hunter’s Home: Enslaved People* will feature the enslaved people of Hunter’s Home—bringing their contributions to the forefront as never before. During the month of February, visitors to the site will see exhibits featuring many of the people who lived and performed slave labor on the plantation, such as Susan, Ike, Nelson, Eliza, and many others who made their lives there in the years before the Civil War. The exhibits will highlight the level of skill shown by the enslaved people of Hunter’s Home, and will also take a look at how they may have defined their work and lives.

Also in February, Living History Season continues at Hunter’s Home, with interpreters in period dress demonstrating 19th-century crafts and skills Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hunter’s Home is located at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please call 918-456-2751.

