



February is Black History Month

“From Tulsa to Beyond” virtual presentation



Roscoe Dunjee 2021 OKHOF inductee

On Thursday, November 18, 2021, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame posthumously recognized Roscoe Dunjee, who tirelessly worked to advance the civil rights of Black Americans.

Dunjee was born in 1883, coming to Oklahoma with his family in 1892. He was the editor of Oklahoma City's only Black newspaper, the *Black Dispatch*. He published the first issue in November 1914 and served as editor of the newspaper for 40 years, writing articles that led the way in the struggle for civil rights.

In his own words, he endeavored “to interpret the mind, the aspiration, the object, and longing of his people.” Blessed with tremendous natural ability, he possessed an analytical mind. He wrote clearly and was a great orator. The *Black Dispatch* anchored his leadership in the Oklahoma City Black community.

Dunjee played an integral role in court cases that would affect and change segregation laws in Oklahoma, including fights for equal access to higher education by Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and George McLaurin. He also served on the National Board of Directors of the NAACP and was president of the Oklahoma State Conference of Branches for 16 years.

To read more about the life of Roscoe Dunjee, visit *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* at www.okhistory.org and explore the full article by John H. L. Thompson.



Nicka Smith, a specialist in African American genealogy, will present a virtual program in February.

To celebrate Black History Month, the Oklahoma Historical Society will host a free, virtual presentation on Thursday, February 10, at noon (CST). Tune in on Zoom to hear from guest speaker Nicka Smith (citizen of the Cherokee Nation). Smith will present “From Tulsa to Beyond: African American Genealogy in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma.”

Attendees will learn how to research the lives of their ancestors using tribal records (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole), federal records, newspapers, college/university collections, historical society records, and more! Smith's understanding of these records will help those researching family trees to discover deep roots in the Sooner State. Register to attend this virtual presentation at www.okhistory.org/nickasmith.

Nicka Smith is a professional photographer, speaker, host, consultant, and

documentarian. With more than 20 years of experience as a genealogist, Smith has extensive knowledge of African ancestral genealogy and reverse genealogy, and is also an expert in genealogical research in the northeastern Louisiana area and in researching enslaved communities.

Smith has diverse and varied experience in media, with a background in audio, video, and written communications. She has appeared on the *Today* show, CNN, MSNBC, on the series *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and has been interviewed by the *Oakland Tribune*, the *Undefeated*, *National Geographic*, and *TIME* magazine. She is the host of *BlackProGen LIVE*, an innovative web show with more than 125 episodes focused on people of color genealogy and family history.

Smith is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She is a member of two lineage societies: Sons and Daughters of the Middle Passage and National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. She has been a past board member of the California Genealogical Society and the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC). Smith served as the chair of the Outreach and Education Committee for AAGSNC, and is the former project manager for the Alameda County Youth Ancestral Project in California, a program in which more than 325 children were taught the value of family history.

OHS receives NEH grant

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded the OHS \$93,000 to identify and digitize overlooked African American collections in the OHS archives. Priority will be given to the most historically significant materials, such as those related to the Tulsa Race Massacre, ex-slave narratives, and Oklahoma Civil Rights leaders' collections. Award funds will be used to hire a project coordinator and an imaging specialist, and to purchase a 25-inch flatbed scanner. This grant is funded through the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP), a program to preserve humanities jobs and support the reopening and rebuilding of humanities programs.

PERSPECTIVES IN HISTORY THE OKLAHOMA HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTED BY THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY | APRIL 9, 2022 | OKLAHOMA CITY

The Oklahoma History Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

This one-day symposium offers scholars, historians, authors, and museum professionals from across the state and

country a forum to share their work with history enthusiasts. Professional development sessions will be offered for museum professionals, volunteers, and students.

Please visit www.okhistory.org/about/symposium to learn more.



Director's Column

**By Trait Thompson
Executive Director**

Sometimes life rewards you with some of the most unique and pleasant moments just when you least expect them. In this case, it happened on an impromptu road trip to Fredericksburg when we were visiting my family in Texas for Thanksgiving.

On our way to Fredericksburg my wife, Sara, and I decided to stop at the Hill Top Café just north of town. There were music posters tacked up all around the room, and after a bit of conversation I found out our waitress, Katie Shore, is one of the fiddle players for the western swing band Asleep at the Wheel. I couldn't believe it! Asleep at the Wheel is one of my all-time



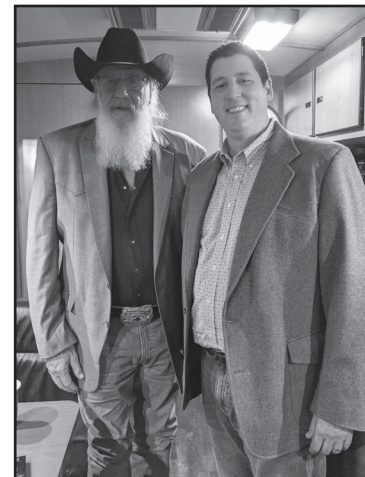
Thompson and fiddle player Katie Shore.

favorite bands. I introduced myself and proceeded to tell her how much I loved the band, and that I had tickets to their show in a couple of weeks at the Tower Theater in Oklahoma City.

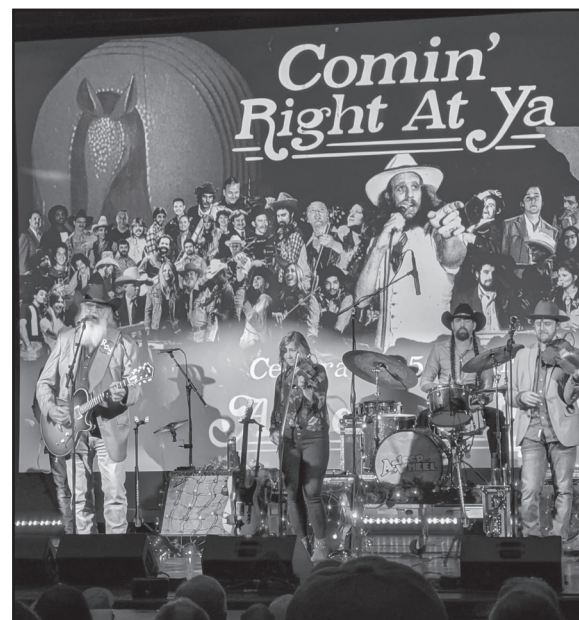
I told her about my position with the OHS and described OKPOP, the museum we are building in Tulsa. I talked about how Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys will be featured prominently in the music section of the museum, and our efforts to restore his 1948 tour bus. Then I asked her if she would be able to help me secure an interview for our OKPOP archives with Ray Benson, the band's founder and lead singer, when they came through Oklahoma City. She promised to see what she could do.

Asleep at the Wheel was formed in 1970 in West Virginia and eventually ended up in Texas at the urging of Willie Nelson. Inspired by Merle Haggard's tribute album to Bob Wills, they started playing western swing music. 51 years and 8 Grammy awards later, they are almost single-handedly responsible for keeping the legacy of Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys alive for new generations to discover.

On December 9, the evening of the show in Oklahoma City, Larry O'Dell, Ryan Green, and I boarded the band's tour bus and sat down with Ray Benson for a conversation. We discussed how Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys revolutionized the music industry and why their work continues to be important today. Benson talked in glowing terms about Cain's Ballroom, and said it is one of the few venues still around that remains much the same as it was in Bob Wills's day. When I asked him what drew a fellow like him from Pennsylvania to start playing western swing music, he discussed the incredible skill it takes to play that style of music, and said that he wanted to work with the best musicians. Benson also spoke about the influences of important Black Oklahoma musicians on the band, such as Charlie Christian and Stoney Edwards.



Ray Benson, Asleep at the Wheel's founder, and Trait Thompson sat down for an interview in December 2021 aboard Benson's tour bus.



I closed out the interview by asking Benson about the future of western swing music. He remarked that, aside from him at age 70, all the musicians in Asleep at the Wheel are under 40 years old. He said the future of western swing is in good hands. Thanks to an impromptu road trip and a happenstance meeting, visitors to OKPOP will soon know that too.

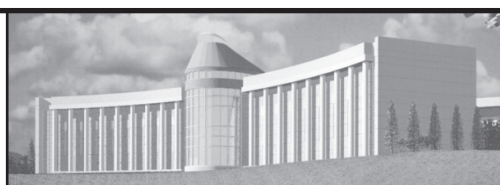
Trait

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. On that night, we will honor four new Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductees: Dr. Bob Blackburn, Dr. Theda Perdue, Dr. Davis Joyce, and Justice Yvonne Kauger. We will also present several OHS awards for 2021, including the William D. Pennington Teacher Award, the Joseph B. Thoburn Student Award, the Bruce T. Fisher Oklahoma History Project Award, and the Linda Williams Reese Dissertation/Thesis Award. The OHS also will bestow the Muriel H. Wright Award for outstanding article in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and the E. E. Dale Oklahoma History Book Award.

In previous years this ceremony was part of the Oklahoma History Conference. In this inaugural year as a stand-alone event, Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt will be the keynote speaker and Tulsa County Commissioner and OHS Board Member Karen Keith will serve as emcee. All proceeds will benefit the Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment Fund, which provides funds for collections care and acquisition. You can register at okhistory.org/awardsbanquet or donate to the endowment at okhistory.org/blackburnfund. And save the date for the Oklahoma History Symposium, a free, one-day symposium with several scholarly presentations on Oklahoma's rich history scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022. If you have any questions about the banquet or the symposium, please contact me at 405-522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org



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

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New executive director traverses the state

By our calculations, in his first year as executive director Trait Thompson has traveled over 12,866 miles to visit all of the Oklahoma Historical Society's (OHS) many museums and sites since January 4, 2021. Thompson has made a point to visit historic homes, military sites, and museums while being a consistent cheerleader for peer museums in local communities. His energy is infectious, and his enthusiasm for his new role and the history of the state shows in his travels.

There are 24 OHS sites across Oklahoma and Thompson has seen them all in his first year, some of them two and three times. In January alone, even with the COVID concerns, record low temperatures, and snow falling, he and Dr. Bob Blackburn visited 13 sites, clocking over 1,800 miles between them.

As the year progressed, Thompson made regular visits to the Oklahoma State Capitol with Deputy Director Terry Howard, but many may not realize that he traversed the state many times in his first year. He accompanied state representatives and senators to see everything from the Pioneer Woman Statue and Museum in Ponca City to the Spiro Mounds site in far eastern Oklahoma. On his regular trips to Tulsa, he accompanied Mayor G. T. Bynum, the Tulsa County commissioners, and even Governor Stitt in checking up on OKPOP building construction.

In January he fired the cannon at Fort Towson, and by March he had traveled to 20 of the 24 OHS sites. He celebrated his birthday at the Pawnee Bill Ranch in April and met with Chief Standing Bear

of the Osage Nation in his visit to the White Hair Memorial in June. This summer he hosted Governor and Mrs. Stitt at the Oklahoma History Center, held a staff retreat near Tulsa, and held Roy Clark's Grammy award in his hand when he was invited to support a local city museum at the grand reopening of the Wagoner City Historical Museum featuring *Jim Halsey's Legends of Country Music* exhibit. He made a speech at the Honey Springs Battlefield to mark the 158th anniversary of the Civil War battle in July and participated in the reenactment in November.

He and his family have attended Pawnee Bill's Wild West Fest and the Annual Fly-In at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch. Even though it was 200 miles away from his office, Thompson made the trip in March to be a part of the Spring Equinox walks at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. He was there for the ribbon cutting at the Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School in Perry for the dedication of the Barbara and Marvin Jirous Gallery and exhibit in September, and met the great-granddaughter of Will Rogers in Claremore at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum a few days later.

Thompson has not only spent time traveling across the state to OHS sites and museums, he has also been busy at the home office in Oklahoma City. He has supported an effort to develop a Multicultural Office and once again made his way to the State Capitol with Larry O'Dell to help in the promotion of cultural tourism in Oklahoma's All-Black towns. When the centennial for the Tulsa Race Massacre occurred this year, Thompson was present for OKPOP's panel discussion of the *Bitter Root* comic book series at the Greenwood Cultural Center. Then it was back to Oklahoma City to see the long-awaited dedication of the Clara Luper Post Office.

Working alongside Dan Provo and the Oklahoma History Center staff, he has hosted many different groups through the exhibits and collections areas of the OHC. Thompson was also the guest on the first remote episode of OMES's *Get Stuff Done* podcast, during which they toured the collections spaces in the basement of the Oklahoma History Center.

It has been no small feat to meet OHS staff members working in all capacities at multiple locations across the state, and somehow he finds time to speak with them and, document his travels on social media in the process. His Twitter reveals his visits with the SHPO staff to view the progress of the First National Bank Building restoration and his time at the OHS Oklahoma State Fair booth to thank volunteers. He has taken time to author



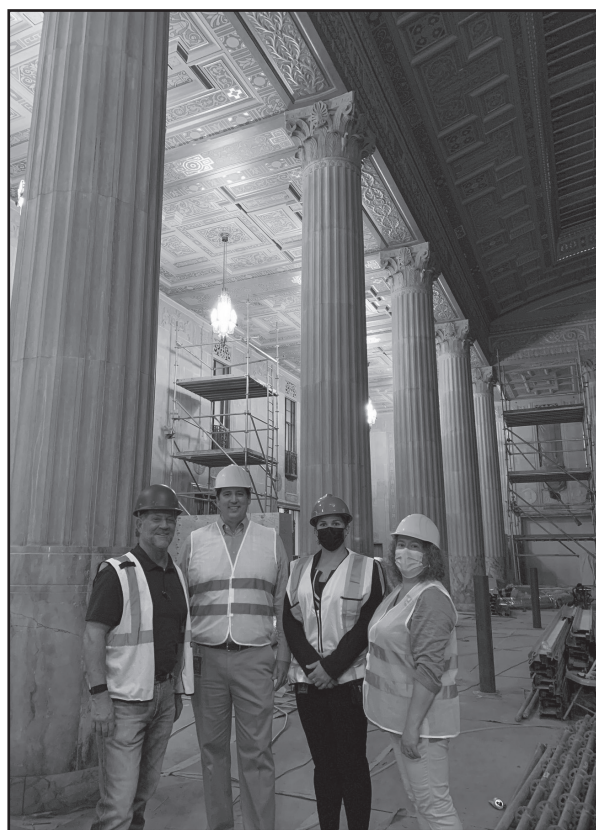
From left to right: Jake Krumweide, Rillis Howard, Representative Caldwell, Senator Pederson, and Trait Thompson at the CSRHC in Enid.

his column and give interviews, tours, and presentations wherever he goes.

Connections with the Capitol Restoration Project are a point of pride in his career. He has a personal goal to see every state capitol building in the United States (this year he saw his 10th!). This May he accepted the gift of the scissors used at the ribbon cutting ceremony in the fall of 2019 for the new visitor entrance at the Capitol on behalf of the OHS. He has also been active in the completion of the new museum in the Oklahoma State Capitol, which will explore the legislative process of the state. He made time to celebrate the 75th anniversary of FSB, the architectural firm so integral to the success of the restoration.

In addition, Thompson rebooted the OHS podcast, *A Very OK Podcast*, which he coanchors with former Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn on a monthly basis. He has also collaborated with John Erling to form a meaningful partnership with the Voices of Oklahoma project.

As he begins his second year with the OHS, Thompson's energy and enthusiasm will no doubt continue to translate into connections with legislators, community groups, and the public—wherever the miles may take him.



From left to right: Gary Brooks, Trait Thompson, Sara Werneke, and Lynda Ozan at the First National Bank Building in Oklahoma City.

The Jefferson Highway presentation by Jonita Mullins

On Saturday, January 29, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. author and historian Jonita Mullins will be presenting an author's review of her book *The Jefferson Highway in Oklahoma: The Historic Osage Trace* (American Heritage, 2016) at the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center. In her book, Mullins recalls some of Oklahoma's most important history, celebrates some of its most fascinating characters, and presents the story of the old road that was the location of the Battle of Honey Springs near Checotah.

Jonita Mullins is an award-winning author, educator, speaker, and preservationist. She has written 14 books, both fiction and nonfiction, and more than 800 articles focused on Oklahoma history. Mullins writes a weekly column on area history for the *Muskogee Phoenix* newspaper for which she received the Distinguished Editorial Award from the Oklahoma Heritage Association. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.



Historical Travel Bag workshop in early March

On Sunday, March 5, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Chisholm Trail Museum will host a Historical Travel Bag workshop. Participants will each create a 19th-century travel bag under the guidance of Marna Davis, known as the "Domestic Lady's Dressmaker."

The bag (pictured above) will be made from a pattern fashioned after measurements from a period original found repeatedly in fashion magazines and Butterick catalogs from the 1870s through the 1890s.

The cost for the class is \$75, with materials and lunch provided. This class occurs in the first week of March, and preregistration is required in late February. Please plan to bring your own sewing machine if possible. Please notify the staff when you are registering for the workshop if you will be unable to bring a machine. Contact the Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill at 405-375-5176 or info@ctmok.com to register.

Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt guest speaker for OHS Awards Banquet



The 2022 Oklahoma Historical Society Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, February 24, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center.

The OHS is pleased to welcome Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt as the guest speaker at the evening event. Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith will emcee the event.

A cocktail reception will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner and the awards program will follow at 6:30 p.m. Cocktail attire is requested.

At this annual ceremony, the OHS will make presentations to OHS annual award recipients, SHPO annual award recipients, Guardians of History honorees, and will induct individuals into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

Individual tickets are available for \$100 (1 ticket to reception and banquet). Sponsor tables include eight reception tickets, a banquet table for eight, and the sponsor name listed on the printed program and OHS website. Donation levels are Silver \$1,000; Gold \$2,500; and Platinum \$5,000. Tickets will be available beginning January 14, 2022, and guests should RSVP by February 15, 2022.

Proceeds from this event will be matched by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund and will go toward the Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment Fund. This endowment provides the OHS with funds to collect and preserve archival collections and artifacts that tell the story of Oklahoma. To reserve your tickets, please contact Angela Spindle at 405-522-0317 or aspindle@okhistory.org.



Just over one year ago, the official groundbreaking took place for the OKPOP Museum in Tulsa. Nabholz Construction has nearly completed the build, showing incredible progress in the last 12 months.

January events

- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 13 Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project presentation by Trait Thompson, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 *Wanted: Dead or Alive* exhibit opens, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 22 Weaving class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 Kilgen Organ performance featuring Clark Wilson, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28 Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 29 *The Jefferson Highway in Oklahoma: The Historic Osage Trace* author's review by Jonita Mullins, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 31 *Silver Selections from the USS Oklahoma* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

February events

- 2 Antique Doll exhibit opens, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 5 *Seizing Justice: The Greensboro 4* Smithsonian film screening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 "From Tulsa to Beyond: African American Genealogy in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma" presentation by Nicka Smith, Oklahoma History Center (VIRTUAL), Oklahoma City
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 2022 Oklahoma Historical Society Awards Banquet, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 "The First Indian Home Guard" presentation by Dr. M. Jane Johansson, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 27 Antique Doll exhibit closes, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 25 Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

Please visit www.okhistory.org/events for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.



Due to the possibility of inclement weather and COVID concerns, please call ahead to the site you plan to visit to confirm current hours of operation.

Fort Gibson announces a new director



Beginning in January 2022, Jennifer Frazee, the current living history interpreter at Hunter's Home, will be assuming the duty of director at Fort Gibson Historic Site upon the retirement of Director Omar Reed. She has been with the OHS since 2013, working as a historical interpreter for the antebellum plantation in Park Hill. Her work to uncover the history of the enslaved people of Hunter's Home has been evident through educational programming, exhibits, and custom tours she has given from that perspective. Working alongside OHS Regional Director Dave Fowler, they have continued to build the site into an award-winning living history farm. Frazee has been a part of building the living history programs, including demonstrating 19th-century trades, performing chores, cooking, gardening, creating crafts, and leading demonstrations about the work at Hunter's Home. Those who follow the historic home's Facebook page are familiar with her creative posts that highlight the location's activities through the seasons.

As she transitions to the position of director for the Fort Gibson location, Frazee would like to reestablish the volunteer presence at the site, develop internship opportunities, and build on programs that will highlight the many aspects of the fort's history. She will also be busy making plans for Fort Gibson's 200th anniversary in 2024.



Fort Gibson's former director, Omar Reed, had been with the OHS since 2004, and holds the distinction of being the first Black site director for the OHS. He started as a historical interpreter at Fort Gibson, becoming director in 2019.

Despite budget cuts, Reed continued to oversee the fort's hospital renovation and worked to build programs on the diverse history of Fort Gibson, including popular programming about Buffalo Soldiers, the First Kansas Colored Infantry, Bass Reeves, and Indian Removals.

Reed acted in the film *The Battle of Honey Springs* (2021), now being shown at the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center. He was featured in the film in the role of a Union soldier of the First Kansas Colored Infantry.



Edwards Store restoration proceeding

The Edwards Store Inc. has big plans to restore the 170-year-old structure with help in part from OHS's Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant (OHPG) program. The building is the only original structure remaining on the 192-mile segment of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Road in Oklahoma. The Butterfield was used to transport passengers and mail from St. Louis to San Francisco from 1858 to 1861. It was built on the original location of the town of Red Oak. The Edwards Store stands about eight miles northeast of present-day Red Oak. It was constructed of handhewn logs from the nearby forest in a distinctive "dog-trot" design, built with a breezeway in the center.

The important first step of the project was to stabilize the dry-stacked, native stone chimneys. The Edwards Store Inc. used 2019/2020 OHPG funds for the protection of those chimneys through stabilization techniques. They employed a log cabin restoration expert who encased the chimneys in industrial shrink-wrap embedded with wooden lathes.

Grant funds that the Edwards Store Inc. received in the 2020/2021 cycle are currently being used to develop a Historic Architecture Documentation with hands-on interventions to the historic Edwards Store. This project will allow the organization to inspect and make notations about damage to the building and help prevent further damage while a comprehensive preservation plan for restoration is developed.

Assessments of the roof, foundations, footings, and the original plank floors are underway. William Bailey, a qualified cabin preservationist, has recently been focused on the back porches of the structure.

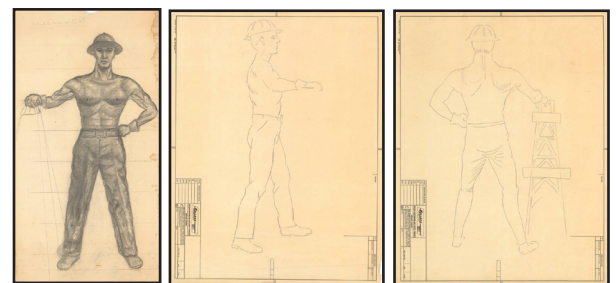
The Edwards Store Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation to protect, preserve, restore, rehabilitate, reuse, and maintain the historic Edwards Store, its 1850s log cabin, and grounds.



Weaving class at Oklahoma History Center

On Saturday, January 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. the Oklahoma History Center will hold a Weaving class, which will teach participants how to create basic weaving patterns with a lap loom. The class, open for ages 12 and above, is offered by the Oklahoma History Center's Education Department and will also cover a brief history of weaving traditions. All materials are provided and participants will be able to take projects created in the class home with them. The cost for the class is \$15 for OHS members and \$20 for nonmembers. Preregistration is required to attend, and registration is limited. The registration deadline is January 15, 2022.

This class will take place in the Musser Learning Lab at the Oklahoma History Center. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. For more information about the class or to register, please contact Torie Taylor at ttaylor@okhistory.org or 405-522-0793.



New to OHS collections

Drawings of the *Golden Driller* were recently donated to the OHS by the family of designer George S. "Grecco" Hondron-astas.

The drawings represent the 75-foot tall, 43,500-pound statue of an oil worker originally built in 1952 by the Mid-Continent Supply Company. After several redesigns, the statue was permanently installed in front of the Tulsa Expo Center in 1966.

An inscription at the base of the statue is dedicated to the "men of the petroleum industry who by their vision and daring have created from God's abundance a better life for mankind."

The drawings are significant addition to the OHS collections because in 1979, the *Golden Driller* was adopted by the Oklahoma Legislature as the official state monument.

The figure rests its right hand on an oil derrick from the Seminole oil field, and is the sixth tallest statue in the United States.



SHPO announces HPRC's 2022 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 2022. 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 2022 meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20. 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. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the HPRC and the SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend via the virtual meeting option. Meeting agendas, log in details, and NRHP nominations under consideration will be available at 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. 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.

Dust to Eat documentary to air on OETA

Dust to Eat, a documentary about the Dust Bowl era based on the writings of Caroline Henderson, will air on OETA in February. The film was directed by OHS Video Production Specialist Ryan Green and produced by historian Dr. Alvin Turner and OHS Board President Dr. Deena Fisher.

Utilizing Henderson's voice through excerpts from her writing for national magazines and letters to her friends and daughter, as well as photographs from the Farm Security Administration, the documentary portrays the struggles and small joys of life in western Oklahoma in the 1930s, where Henderson looked for fulfillment on the land but instead found "dust to eat."



From the OHS Archives: the OAAEHOF Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

The post-Civil War emancipation of persons formerly enslaved by Native Americans initiated a period of increasing opportunities for freedmen in Indian Territory, including the opportunity to own land either through purchase or allotment. In addition, formerly enslaved people left other states and territories to seek opportunity in the Oklahoma and Indian Territories.

From 1865 to the 1920s, formerly enslaved African Americans looking for a new beginning established more than 50 All-Black towns in what is now Oklahoma. The influx of new residents led to an increase in the need for public services, especially schools. The tribal governments constituting the Five Tribes bore the costs for the school systems located in Indian Territory prior to statehood; in 1904 total enrollment in Indian Territory reached 10,041 Native Americans, 11,556 African Americans, and 54,853 whites. As African Americans became increasingly better educated, there arose a need for a separate school of higher learning under a system that segregated African American students. In 1897 Langston University was established—the only historically Black college or university in Oklahoma.

Over 100 years later the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame (OAAEHOF) was founded to posthumously recognize the influence of early education pioneers in Oklahoma, and to celebrate the service of current educators. Each year since 2011, the OAAEHOF has chosen 10 individuals—to both honor their achievements and showcase their work.

The Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Collection (M2013.415, 1 legal box) includes programs from induction ceremonies and biographical and career information on inductees. Oral histories are also available for many of the recipients. The collection is available for viewing at the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org.

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

Program Director Damron featured on CNN

One of our OHS staff members was recently interviewed for the CNN original series *This is Life with Lisa Ling*. Tara Damron, program director at the White Hair Memorial, appeared in the episode entitled "Osage: Reign of Terror," which aired in late November. In the episode, Ling investigated the murders of wealthy Osage citizens during the 1920s oil boom and witnessed how the descendants are fighting to revive what was nearly lost forever. Learn more at www.cnncreative-marketing.com/project/thisislife.

The White Hair Memorial is a repository for Osage artifacts and documents, including resources such as maps, annuity rolls, oral histories, and photographs that are kept at the site. The Louis F. Burns and Ruth B. Burns Osage Research Library, also found at the learning center, is a treasure of Osage history, genealogical information, and culture.



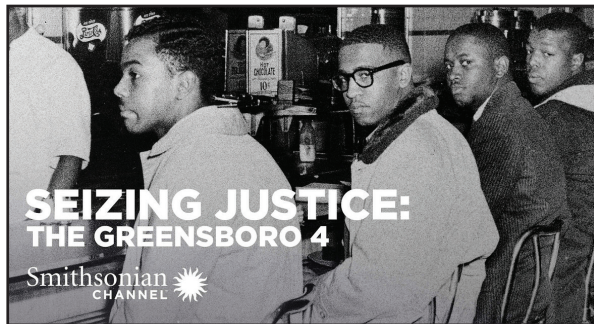
Marjorie Tallchief, last of the Five Moons, passes away at 95

Marjorie Tallchief, the last of the Five Moons, passed away on November 30 at her home in Florida. She was 95 years old.

Tallchief was a ballerina of Osage descent and the first Native American to become *premiere danseuse étoile* in the Paris Opera. She performed with the American Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas, Ruth Page's Chicago Opera Ballet, and the Harkness Ballet. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in November 1991.

Marjorie, her sister Maria Tallchief, Moscelyne Larkin, Yvonne Chouteau, and Rosella Hightower were known as the Five Moons—five Native American ballerinas who were born or raised in Oklahoma and who left lasting impacts on the world of dance. The Five Moons were named Oklahoma Treasures at the Governor's Arts Awards in 1997. They are featured in the mural *Flight of Spirit* by Mike Larsen, which appears in the Great Rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Learn more about Marjorie Tallchief and the Five Moons in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* at www.okhistory.org/marjorie.

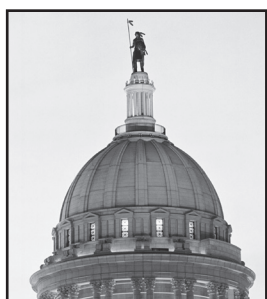


Seizing Justice: The Greensboro 4 film

To celebrate Black History Month, the Oklahoma History Center and the Smithsonian Channel are excited to present a screening of *Seizing Justice: The Greensboro 4*, followed by a panel discussion about the Oklahoma sit-in movement. This screening will be held on Saturday, February 5, from 1 to 3 p.m., and is included with paid admission to the Oklahoma History Center.

Witness the story of four young men who stood up to racism and social injustice by taking a seat through photographs, archival footage, and interviews. These include interviews with Joseph McNeil, David Richmond, Franklin McCain, and Jibreel Khazan, three of the four men who began the sit-in at Woolworth's in 1960 to protest segregation practices, as well as interviews from historians from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and late Civil Rights leader and US Congressman John Lewis. This film screening is for ages 12 and over and will take place in the Musser Learning Lab. Admission to the Oklahoma History Center is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. Admission is free for OHS members, and active-duty military, veterans, and dependents (with ID). Call 405-522-0765 for more information.

Capitol Restoration Project presentation



On Thursday, January 13, from 1 to 3 p.m., the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center at the Oklahoma History Center will host a special program presented by Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Director Trait Thompson. Before becoming executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Thompson was the project manager of the Oklahoma State Capitol Restoration Project. He will discuss the history of the Oklahoma State Capitol and how this monumental restoration project was achieved.

Please call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org to make your reservation in advance.

2022 NRHP Nomination Grants available

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 2022 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 a qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package for the NRHP. Applicants must be aware that \$1,700 (federal grant + 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 catalogue 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 go to www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant. You may also contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249.

Antique dolls on exhibit in February

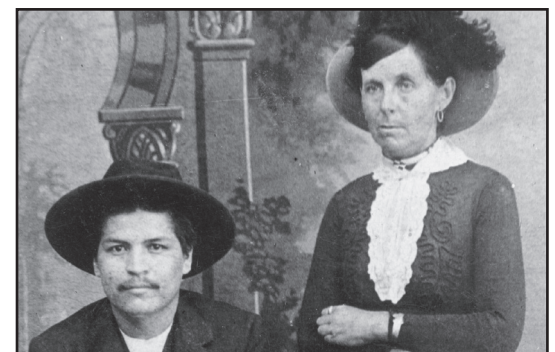
The Fred and Addie Drummond Home in Hominy will host an exhibit of antique dolls throughout the month of February. The exhibit will feature a wide array of German-made dolls, including dolls by Armand Marseille, Kestner, and Koppelsdorf. There also will be a large group of china and porcelain dolls. If you are a doll collector, an avid doll lover, or a mother or grandmother with a special little girl or girls who love dolls, this exhibit is sure to delight. The antique doll exhibit is included with the regular admission fee. For more information, please call 918-885-2374.

First IT newspaper available on The Gateway

The *Cherokee Advocate* was published by the Cherokee Nation at Tahlequah, Indian Territory. The Cherokee National Council authorized the creation of the newspaper on October 25, 1843, and the first issue appeared on September 26, 1844, with the motto "Our Rights, Our Country, Our Race." The paper was printed weekly in both Cherokee and English to provide tribal members with information on the proceedings of the national council and its negotiations with the US government, messages of the principal chiefs, reports of the commissioner of Indian Affairs, missionary activities, temperance campaigns, and other local news. William Potter Ross, who would later be elected principal chief of the nation, served as the first publisher of the *Advocate*. When it started publication, Ross's newspaper became the first published in Indian Territory and the only tribal paper in the country.

The *Cherokee Advocate* is now available on The Gateway at gateway.okhistory.org/explore/collections/CHRAD/.

At this time, only the English version of the newspaper archive is searchable.



Outlaws Blue Duck and Belle Starr

Wanted: Dead or Alive exhibit opens

On Saturday, January 22, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will open its newest exhibit, *Wanted: Dead or Alive*. This photography exhibit is comprised of images of some of Oklahoma's most infamous criminals and will be on display until March 20, 2022.

Images in the exhibit are from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the University of Oklahoma Western History Collections, the National Archives, the vast photographic archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and private lenders. The 38 black-and-white images on display consist of mugshots, crime scene locations, and group shots with criminals and law enforcement officers. They span more than 70 years, starting before statehood in 1907 and reaching into the late 1950s. For information about the exhibit call 918-762-2513.

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PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

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Andy Hogan retiring from WRMM

If you have visited the Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) in the last 17 years, it is likely that you have met Andy Hogan. Over that time, he has served as a WRMM guide and as the site's resident Will Rogers living history interpreter. In that role, he hosted a variety of visitors from bus tours to school groups, and anyone who came through the doors of the popular museum. Always dressed in a blue shirt and jeans, with a rope in hand, along with his personable and friendly demeanor, he looks and sounds very much like Will Rogers himself. He will be remembered by guests for the stories he has shared over the years of the American legend born in Oologah, Indian Territory.

Hogan is retiring from the WRMM at the age of 80. His first career as an educator for more than 30 years, including a stint as Claremont Elementary School principal, served him well as he taught visitors from around the world about Will Rogers. He has actively honored the life of the famed humorist, acquainting himself with the chatty ways of Rogers while giving tours through the rooms of the museum and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch. Whether he has served as the emissary of the museums in his travels across the United States or in greeting former students from Claremore, Hogan has truly dedicated his life to serving his community. He also has officiated local football and basketball games for 40 years. After retirement, he plans to focus on family, grandchildren, long-distance running, and hunting on his acreage outside Claremore.

While no one can replace Hogan, Bart Taylor will join WRMM as the creative curator in 2022. He once served at the museum as an intern during his college days, working with the WRMM collections, doing data entry, and helping with exhibit installation. His internship eventually grew into a paid position, in which he became interested in developing a learning program for sixth to eighth grade students. At that time, he also created several programs including Will Rogers's Wild West Kids Camp, Will's Country Christmas, and Family Day at the Museum. "Bart will make an excellent historical interpreter. We know he will invent creative ways to share Will's story with others through social media and programs," said Tad Jones, WRMM executive director.

Taylor's return to Claremore coincides with the release of his children's book, *Will Rogers and the Great White House Sleepover* (2021), illustrated by Greg White. The book follows the true events of Will Rogers's visit to the White House and overnight stay in 1926. The forward to the book was written by Jennifer Rogers- Etcheverry, the great-granddaughter of Will Rogers.



First Kilgen Organ performance of 2022 will feature Clark Wilson



The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce the first Kilgen theater organ performance of 2022, featuring widely recognized organist Clark Wilson. He will provide the accompanying music and sound effects to the Harold Lloyd silent movie *Girl Shy*. The performance will be Monday, January 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Silent movie icon Harold Lloyd, the star of *Girl Shy*, was recognized not only for his daredevil talents but also for his trade-mark horn-rimmed glasses. Of all the silent film comedians, Lloyd was the most profitable. His films out-grossed the movies of both Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, and he made more films than both of them together.

In his previous performance at the Oklahoma History Center in October 2017, Wilson played two sold-out concerts accompanying the silent movie classic *Nosferatu*. A resident of Ohio, Wilson began his musical training at age nine and has received hundreds of accolades and awards over the course of his career.

Tickets are \$10 for Oklahoma Historical Society members and \$20 for non-members, and may be reserved by calling 405-522-0765. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

