



Battle of Honey Springs Memorial Service

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is pleased to announce a memorial service honoring the 154th anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs near Checotah, Oklahoma, on Saturday, July 15, at 10:30 a.m. The memorial service is open to all visitors. Special guest speaker Dr. James Finck, professor of history at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, will give a talk on the significance of the Civil War in Indian Territory inside the new Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center immediately following a presentation of colors outside.

The service commemorates the largest of approximately 107 documented Civil War military engagements throughout Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma. The engagement took place on July 17, 1863, just two weeks after the famous Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Approximately nine thousand Union and Confederate troops, mostly American Indians and African Americans, were involved in the Battle of Honey Springs. Of those, approximately two hundred total casualties were suffered. After a decisive Union victory, Confederates lost control of Indian Territory north of the Arkansas River. The Union victory also ensured federal control of Fort Gibson in Indian Territory and Fort Smith in Arkansas.

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. For more information please email Adam Lynn at alynn@okhistory.org.



The Art of Speed: Oklahomans and Fast Cars exhibit

The Oklahoma History Center will open its newest exhibit, *The Art of Speed: Oklahomans and Fast Cars*, on Saturday, July 1. This six-week exhibit will feature twenty-two unique and, in some cases, one-of-a-kind automobiles from the private collections of several Oklahomans.

The exhibit will be organized by eras and will include cars dating from 1900 to modern times. Among the cars on display will be a Mercer, Franklin, Cord, Pontiac, Corvette, Ferrari, Porsche, and Jaguar.

The Art of Speed will be on display for a limited time, through August 15. The Oklahoma History Center is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.

Pioneer Family Fun Days

The Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City will continue its summer program series for families on Saturdays in July. Pioneer Family Fun Days will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 8, 15, 22, and 29. Visitors will enjoy a variety of hands-on, family-friendly activities indoors and outdoors.

The cost is minimal, with families of up to five people joining the fun for only \$5. All activities are come-and-go and appropriate for ages six and up, though everyone is welcome! Each week's activities are preplanned and more information can be found at www.facebook.com/pioneerwomanmuseum.

Program themes include vintage cartoons and popcorn, frontier life, quilts, nature, pioneer school days, Native games and lore, and the annual Happy Trails event on July 29. "Happy Trails has come to mean a lot to us. It is our end of the summer salute and this year should be a blast. Family teams will load their wagons and race to the finish. We have a whole list of activities and a few surprises in store for this year," said Pioneer Woman Museum Director Robbin Davis.

"This is our fourth year to offer summer programs for families and we think this may be our best year yet," continued Davis. "Every week will bring new hands-on and interactive programs specifically designed to engage the entire family and we think that our local families will enjoy the opportunity to play together."

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City. For more information please visit www.facebook.com/pioneerwomanmuseum, call 580-765-6108, or email piown@okhistory.org.

A Night with Our Leaders

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center near Enid is pleased to host a new event entitled A Night with Our Leaders on Friday, July 14. The museum will come to life after dark as guests are introduced to significant community leaders who shaped northwest Oklahoma. Six of the community leaders featured on the "Lessons of Leadership" panels sprinkled throughout the main exhibit gallery will be brought to life. Attendees will enjoy portrayals of Henry Bass, Laura Crews, Angie Debo, Marquis James, Lewis Umstead, and Lieutenant Colonel Leon Vance. Tours take place every fifteen minutes, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A limited number of tickets are now on sale. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes the tour and wine and hors d'oeuvres on the museum's beautiful outdoor plaza. For more information please call 580-237-1907 or visit www.csrhc.org. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.





Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

You never know when opportunity might knock on your door.

For the past few years, OHS team members in the Research Division have been climbing the Mount Everest of digital conversion. We have digitized and placed online several million pages of micro-filmed newspapers, more than a million photographs, and several million micro-filmed documents in the Indian Archives. The OHS is recognized across the country for our aggressive innovation.

At the same time, we have embraced the online world of genealogical research. Only a few years ago, researchers had to crank through clunky rolls of microfilm to find little nuggets of information, while today we use computer-based search engines not only to find those nuggets but also to pull them up for instant access.

One result of this success is the availability of precious floor space that once was needed for rows and rows of micro-film cabinets and readers.

While that transformation was evolving, we recognized that our research staff was increasingly being tapped to teach genealogical research classes at several campuses across central Oklahoma. We asked ourselves, how could we more effectively satisfy the public demand for instruction and at the same time generate a stream of revenue to compensate for the 40 percent budget cuts we have suffered since 2008?

As these two trends converged, one creating new space and the other creating new opportunities, a friend called me. The friend was Clark Musser, an attorney, businessman, community leader, and closet historian whose specialty is the legacy of George Washington.

Clark said he and his wife, Kay, wanted to make a major gift to the Oklahoma History Center, and they wanted to do something that would have a lasting impact and improve sustainability. They wanted a plan.

After several conversations, we suggested using their gift to convert half of the old microfilm reading room into a learning laboratory where we could offer hands-on genealogical instruction and present speakers for specialized history courses. It would be totally enclosed with state-of-the-art audio/visual features and seating for 122 theater-style or 75 at tables.

Although the cost exceeded their original intent, the Mussers liked the concept and said they would underwrite the entire project.

As we go to press, Laura Martin has already booked seventeen courses and classes for the Clark and Kay Musser Learning Laboratory. Along with teach-

ing opportunities comes a stream of revenue that can be used to keep the OHS Research Center staffed.

For the Mussers, their gift will net a 20 percent return on their investment every year. That return will go to the Oklahoma History Center for collecting, preserving, and sharing history. For us, it is a vote of confidence that we can deal with challenges and seize opportunities.

Yes, you never know when opportunity might knock on your door.

Dr. Bob



A new OHS podcast is coming soon

We are excited to announce that a new OHS podcast is coming soon. A recent online fundraising effort resulted in numerous donations and we met our goal. The OHS now will be able to purchase microphones and audio equipment, pay hosting fees, and begin production on the podcast.

The new podcast will be available for free on the OHS website and on iTunes. It will give listeners a fresh take on Oklahoma history and culture, covering a variety of topics. The two podcast hosts will be OHS staff members Angela Spindle and Corey Ayers. Stay tuned for updates as the project develops.

The generosity of our community and OHS members like you enables us to continue collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history. We truly appreciate the recent contributions and we are excited to get started! For more information and to follow the podcast's development, visit www.okhistory.org/about/podcasts.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society, with the generous support of the Kimmell Family Foundation, has renovated the historic WKY Kilgen organ. In April the Oklahoma History Center held its inaugural event featuring the instrument, which was its first public concert in nearly twenty years. The History Center plans to host at least four Kilgen concerts each year.

To help make these events as high quality as the Kilgen deserves, the OHS wants to create a dedicated fund for maintenance and performances, through both sponsorships and the opportunity to create an endowment. We have developed four yearly sponsorship levels for donors:

- \$5,000 Presenting Sponsors will receive six VIP seats at the concerts, recognition in all advertising and publications in conjunction with the concerts, and a possible dinner (two seats) with the artist.
- \$2,500 Title Sponsors will receive four VIP seats at the concerts, recognition in the concert programs, and a possible dinner (two seats) with the artist.
- \$1,000 Sustaining Sponsors will receive four VIP seats at the concerts and recognition in the concert programs.
- \$500 Partner Sponsors will receive two VIP seats at the concerts and recognition in the concert programs.

If you are interested in helping with an endowment gift, we would like to invite you to the Oklahoma History Center. OHS Executive Director Bob Blackburn will give you a behind-the-scenes look at the Kilgen and what the OHS has planned. If you are interested, you can contact me at 405-522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org.



Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office: Alma Moore
405-522-5242
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's Board of Directors, 6,000 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,276.80 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 Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

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

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

Visit **Stroud** for the Sac and Fox Nation Powwow on Thursday, July 6, through Sunday, July 9. Experience this annual American Indian event featuring dancing, singing, dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, and camping. The powwow will be held at Jim Thorpe Memorial Park, located at 920883 South State Highway 99 in Stroud. For more information please contact Kathy Platt at 918-968-3526, ext. 2020 or kathy.platt@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov.

Experience American Indian heritage at the 136th annual Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment in **Red Rock**. From Thursday, July 20, through Sunday, July 23, one of the most important gatherings for the Otoe-Missouria people will take place. It is free, open to the public, and activities will include gourd dancing, contest dancing, singing, fellowship, and crowning the 2017 Otoe-Missouria Princess. Arts and crafts vendors and food concessions will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs. The Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds are near 7 Clans Paradise Casino, located at 7500 Highway 177 in Red Rock. Please call 918-636-8231 for more information.

Three Rivers Museum in **Muskogee** will host its annual Bass Reeves Western History Conference on Friday, July 21, and Saturday, July 22. Celebrate the life and legacy of one of the greatest heroes of the American West. Bass Reeves was the longest-serving US deputy marshal on the frontier and spent the final years of his life in Muskogee. His career in law enforcement spanned more than thirty-two years at a dangerous time when the average marshal served less than five years. Guests will be immersed in the world of Bass Reeves, including lectures, trolley tours, reenactments, and great western grub. For tickets and to view the full conference schedule please visit www.bassreeveslegacytour.com. Three Rivers Museum is located at 220 Elgin Avenue in Muskogee. Please call 918-686-6624 for more information.

Beat the heat and spend the day indoors at the annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration in **Duncan**. This free event will be held on Saturday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Attendees can rope a longhorn, ride a bucking bronc, and even create their own brand. Learn something new about life as a cowboy or cowgirl, enjoy the museum exhibits, visit the 4-D

Experience Theater, and help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. Bring the whole family out for a fun-filled day of celebrating the life and times of the cowboy, past and present. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is located at 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan. Please call 580-252-6692 for more information.

Step back in time at the *USS Batfish* Living History Day on Saturday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in **Muskogee**. Attendees will experience what it was like to be aboard the *USS Batfish* submarine during World War II. The Batfish Living History Association will be on hand to provide demonstrations. There will be tours of the *USS Batfish*, guided by historians dressed in 1940s naval regalia. This authentic living history experience will be held at War Memorial Park, located at 3500 Batfish Road in Muskogee. Please call 918-682-6294 for more information.

Learn a new skill during a Flat-Reed Basketry class on Saturday, August 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in **Park Hill**. The Cherokee Heritage Center hosts a series of classes designed to promote traditional Cherokee art. Classes are designed to pique the interest of attendees and to provide historical and practical information about the art form. The unique patterns of flat-reed weaving will be the focus of this particular class in August, and the registration fee is \$40. The Cherokee Heritage Center is located at 21192 South Keeler Drive in Park Hill. For more information please call 918-456-6007 or email chc@cherokee.org.

Join the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) for the annual OMA Conference in **Lawton** on Wednesday, September 20, through Friday, September 22, at the Lawton-Fort Sill Hilton Garden Inn. The conference theme is "Museums As Community Catalysts," and includes eighteen sessions, three workshops, an awards ceremony, and other special events. Join OMA staff, museum professionals, volunteers, and board members in Lawton to learn, discuss, network, and have some plain fun this year. To register online visit www.okmuseums.org/conference. Early bird registration is available through August 4. Also included on the website is information about preconference workshops, session topics, exhibitors, hosts, sponsors, scholarships, and lodging. The Lawton-Fort Sill Hilton Garden Inn is located at 135 NW Second Street in Lawton. For more information please call 405-424-7757 or visit www.okmuseums.org/conference.

Exhibits

Experience the Smithsonian in Oklahoma! The traveling exhibit *The Way We Worked* chronicles 150 years of change in the American workforce. It explores how work became central to the American dream and uses videos, photos, interactive materials, and artifacts to illustrate the impact of work on American culture. The exhibit traces the many changes that have affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years. See this national exhibit and discover how work shaped each local community along the tour. The five Oklahoma host sites for this exhibit also feature complementary programs and exhibits that highlight the history of work in their own hometowns. Following the exhibit's debut in Perry, it traveled to Grove, and currently is on display in Broken Arrow. *The Way We Worked* is free and open to all ages.

- Broken Arrow Historical Society Museum, 400 South Main, **Broken Arrow**—Now through July 7
- Waurika Public Library, 203 South Meridian, **Waurika**—July 22 through September 8
- The Historic Hotel Lowrey, 303 Dewey Avenue, **Poteau**—September 15 through November 11

The Way We Worked, an exhibit created by the National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Oklahoma Humanities. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the US Congress. Oklahoma programming is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and local sponsors: the Gelvin Foundation, the Jerome Westheimer Family Foundation, and Beaver Express Service.



Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley, assistant editor, by email at emoxley@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the September/October 2017 issue, you must submit it by Friday, August 4.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

July 2017

- 1-31 *The Art of Speed: Oklahomans and Fast Cars* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1-31 *Quilts of the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries* exhibit, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 1-31 *Bridging the Chisholm Trail through Indian Territory* exhibit, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 1-31 *Pieces of a Collection: Selected Quilts of the Pioneer Woman Museum* exhibit, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1-31 *Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1-4 Annual Fourth of July flag decorations, Frank Phillips Home, Bartlesville
- 1 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 4 Fourth at the Fort, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 5 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Pioneer Family Fun Days, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 8 Primitive Fishing Techniques demonstration, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Memoir Writing workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 12 “Chisholm Trail Movies” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Don Reeves, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12-14 Antique Agriculture Teachers’ Institute, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 14 A Night with Our Leaders, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14-15 Summer Sale at the OHC Museum Store, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 Battle of Honey Springs Memorial Service, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 15 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 15 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 15 Pioneer Family Fun Days, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 17-21 History Pioneers Junior Curator Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 “Mysteries of the Manuscripts” Lunch and Learn program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20 Milam Lecture Series presentation by Bill Keith, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 20 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

- 20 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 22 “The Simpson Brothers” Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 22 Pioneer Family Fun Days, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 25 Memoir Writing workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 26 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 Pioneer Family Fun Days, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 31 Kilgen Organ performance by Mark Herman, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

August 2017

- 1-31 *Pieces of a Collection: Selected Quilts of the Pioneer Woman Museum* exhibit, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1-31 *Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1-31 *Quilts of the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries* exhibit, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 1-31 *Bridging the Chisholm Trail through Indian Territory* exhibit, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 1-15 *The Art of Speed: Oklahomans and Fast Cars* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2-5 OHS Research Center Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 5 Aunt Jane’s Ice Cream Social, Frank Phillips Home, Bartlesville
- 5 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 5 “Back to School” First Saturday Hands-On History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 “History of Feed Sacks” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Renee Trindle, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 12 “Tracks and Tracking” program, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 “Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office Records” Lunch and Learn program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 19 “Chisholm Trail” Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 19 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher

Oklahoma National History Day winners selected to showcase film on national platform

Two students from St. Philip Neri Catholic School in Midwest City were chosen to present their winning Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) entry at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC. Baylee Melot and Judith Suarez were awarded first place in the Junior Division for their Group Documentary entitled “Clara Luper: Her Stand in the Civil Rights Movement.” The film was shown on Wednesday, June 14, in the Oprah Winfrey Theater at the NMAAHC.

The Junior Division competition for Oklahoma National History Day was held on May 3. More than three hundred students presented their exhibits, documentaries, performances, research papers, and websites at the Oklahoma History Center for the opportunity to advance to the National History Day contest held each summer at the University of Maryland at College Park. After winning first place in the Group Documentary category, Melot and Suarez and their teacher, Amanda Herron, submitted the entry to the Education Department at the NMAAHC for consideration for the showcase. On June 5, they were notified by a National History Day representative that they had been chosen for one of the twenty-four slots from a group of sixty submissions.

State competitors were identified from a pool of contestants at regional contests throughout the state. First- and second-place winners at the state competition advanced to the National History Day contest on June 11-15 in College Park, Maryland. Prizes were awarded at all levels, including more than \$150,000 in scholarships for national winners. For more information about OkNHD please call 405-522-0785.



Baylee Melot and Judith Suarez receive first-place medals from Dan Provo, director of the Oklahoma History Center, at the OkNHD competition on May 3.

Mysteries of the Mansion tours

Visit the Henry Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City for Mysteries of the Mansion tours on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Upcoming tours will be held on July 20 and August 17. This extended tour allows guests to tour the mansion at night, examine archival materials, and hear some amazing stories. Guests are asked to RSVP in advance and the cost is \$20 per person. Tours during regular hours are free to OHS members.

To make a reservation for this special tour, please call 405-525-5325 or email overholsermansion@preservationok.org. The Henry Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW Fifteenth Street in Oklahoma City. The home is owned by the OHS and managed by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.



Workshops at Chisholm Trail Museum

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher is pleased to host Memoir Writing workshops and Tatting workshops in July and August.

From 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, and Tuesday, July 25, author Andrea Foster will present Memoir Writing workshops. Foster will provide instruction on how to write a memoir, edit your finished work, publish your work, and preserve your stories for posterity. The Chisholm Trail Museum is pleased to host this workshop and help share the importance of written first-hand accounts, biographies, and autobiographies in piecing together our history.

Visitors also are invited to learn the tatting technique for handcrafting lace with a series of loops and knots at Tatting workshops on Saturday, July 15, and Saturday, August 19. The workshops will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the museum. These programs are open to the public and free to attend. For more information please email ctokmuseum@gmail.com or call 405-375-5176. The Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.

History Pioneers Junior Curator Camp

The Education Department at the Oklahoma History Center will host the fourth annual History Pioneers Junior Curator Camp Monday, July 17, through Friday, July 21. Each day's session will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the final presentations being displayed at 2 p.m. on Friday. This year's theme will be "Oklahomans in Space" and will concentrate on the process of creating an exhibit with that topic in mind.

The course fee is \$100, which includes materials and lunch. Participants must be eight to twelve years of age and may register online at www.okhistory.org/historycenter/classregistration. For more information please call 405-522-0785. Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited and the class fills quickly. The History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



Murrell Home to host Antique Agriculture Teachers' Institute

The OHS is pleased to announce the Antique Agriculture Teachers' Institute, set for July 12-14, in Tahlequah. The teachers' institute will explore agricultural history and the preservation of heritage skills and techniques. Participants will learn about plantation agriculture in the mid-nineteenth century in Indian Territory, including horticulture, animal husbandry, food preservation and preparation, and plant uses. Teachers will then receive information on how to incorporate lessons into the classroom. Multiple subjects will be covered including science, history, economics, and more. Education staff from the OHS will facilitate the program. The teachers' institute will feature nontraditional classroom activities, field trips, and interactive experiences.

The program will be held at the George Murrell Home, the only remaining antebellum plantation home in Oklahoma. The institute is limited to fifteen educators who will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is open to all public, private, and home school teachers. Each educator will receive an extensive resource kit with classroom activities and lesson guides. The cost for the program is \$250 per person and includes all materials, plus some transportation and meals. The deadline for registration was June 30. For more information or to apply for the institute, visit www.antiqueag.org.

Family Day at the Ranch

Experience life on a nineteenth-century ranch near Oologah! Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch will host Family Day at the Ranch on the first Saturday of each month through October. This program is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to attend. Upcoming dates include July 1 and August 5, featuring nineteenth-century agriculture and domestic life. Hands-on activities and demonstrations will give visitors a glimpse of everyday life on the ranch during Will Rogers's childhood. Visitors also can enjoy a scenic stroll through the expansive property, with beautiful views of Oologah Lake, a longhorn herd, and many shade trees—perfect for picnicking. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 East 380 Road near Oologah. Please call 918-341-0719 for more information.

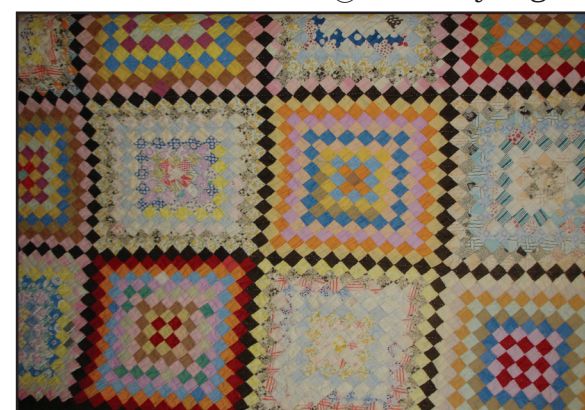


Quilting workshops and quilt exhibit at the Sod House Museum

Visit the Sod House Museum southeast of Aline for free quilting workshops on the second Saturday of each month through November. The workshops will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. with instructor Martha Ray. Upcoming workshop dates are July 8 and August 12.

The museum also has a special exhibit on display featuring twenty-five quilts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By this time quilts were made for more than just warmth, allowing quilters to express their creativity.

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



Book Sale and Lunch and Learns

The OHS Research Center will host its annual book sale on Wednesday, August 2, through Saturday, August 5. The sale is open 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. It will include rare and out-of-print books, genealogical materials, prints of maps and photographs, periodicals, and more!

The Research Center also is pleased to continue its Lunch and Learn programs this summer. All Lunch and Learns will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the classrooms at the Oklahoma History Center, and preregistration is required. Registration is \$15 per program and lunch is included. Learn about “Mysteries of the Manuscripts” on July 19 and enjoy a presentation entitled “Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office Records” on August 16. Please call 405-522-5225 to register.

OHS, UNT, and TSHA release free ebooks on Oklahoma and Texas history

The University of North Texas (UNT), in collaboration with the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) and the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), has released more than one hundred free ebooks thanks to a \$95,599 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities under the Humanities Open Book Program.

The ebooks, relating to the history of Oklahoma and Texas, are available through the Gateway to Oklahoma History and through the UNT Portal to Texas History. They were created from scans of out-of-print books contributed by the OHS, UNT Libraries, UNT Press, and TSHA, which are also available through the Gateway to Oklahoma History and the Portal to Texas History. They will give a new generation of scholars, teachers, students, and communities access to knowledge no longer in wide circulation. Among these titles are:

The Oklahoma Series—This series, published by the OHS in the 1970s and 1980s, includes books on topics such as American Indian tribes, military forts, farming and ranching, railroads, and the oil patch.

Life and Adventures of Sam Bass, The Notorious Union Pacific and Texas Train Robber—Published in 1878, the book provides a “graphic account” of the life and capture of the infamous thief.

The Karankawa Indians, The Coast People of Texas—With more than twenty-two thousand uses, the book is one of the most popular on the Portal to Texas History.

SHPO seeks input for FY 2018 program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting on Friday, September 15, at 10:30 a.m. in the classrooms of the Oklahoma History Center. SHPO staff will provide information about the National Historic Preservation Act and how it supports the statewide preservation program. During the meeting, the SHPO will receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2018 Historic Preservation Fund application to the US Department of the Interior. Participation in this meeting is one important way to help the SHPO advance Oklahoma’s preservation goals. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. Complete the SHPO’s “Project Suggestion Form” and return it by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 15. Please call the SHPO at 405-521-6249 for more information.

History of Negro Soldiers in the Spanish-American War, and other items of interest—Published just before the turn of the twentieth century with themes of civil rights and prejudice, this book provides details on the causes of the Spanish-American War, African Americans in the Navy, and the acclaimed Buffalo Soldiers.

Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825–1916—This five-volume set, drawn from original copies in the Texas State Archives, provides invaluable source material on Native American affairs in Texas and surrounding states.

Many of the books are in the public domain, meaning copyright protection has expired on them. The rest have been released under various Creative Commons licenses, allowing them to be freely redistributed and, in some cases, modified by others as long as the creator of the work is acknowledged.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. More information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this press release and these ebooks do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

From the OHS Archives

By Jan H. Richardson

Researchers interested in the history of trading posts in Indian Territory are encouraged to consult the Corwin Boake, Jr. Collection (2011.225, 1.5 cubic feet), which was recently indexed and is available for review.

Prior to statehood, operators of trading posts provided critical services to the residents of the territories. Collectively, these establishments could be considered the Amazon.com of their day. They were able to source almost anything that their customers needed to live and thrive in the remote region, everything from shotgun shells, saddles, and farm implements to food staples like bacon, beans, flour, and coffee. Some items sold may be surprising to modern researchers. For example, trading posts conducted an active trade in dry mustard. In addition to being a center of the retail trade, the trading post also acted as a market facilitator, financial service provider, and business incubator in the community. Receipts included in the collection show how the trading post facilitated transactions between different individuals in the area, with instructions like, “Mr. Boake give old lady \$1.50 in trade,” or “Please give the bearer \$8.00 and charge to my account.”

The Boake trading post was initially the enterprise of Frank L. (F. L.) Fred and was not far from present-day Anadarko. The F. L. Fred Company established the trading post in 1861 and materials included in the collection show that the post traded with the American Indians in the region and with the Kiowa Indian agents. The store was purchased by the Boake family in the 1880s and remained open until 1935. Items in the collection include business correspondence and receipts from the time of Frank L. Fred (1861–83), and business correspondence, receipts, and ledgers (1892–98) from the time of ownership by the Boake family.

The Corwin Boake, Jr. Collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. 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 Manuscripts Department.



Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office presents 2017 Citations of Merit

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) presented its 2017 Citations of Merit during a banquet on Thursday, June 8, at the Oklahoma History Center. The banquet was a highlight of Preservation Future Tense: Oklahoma's Twenty-Ninth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, held June 7-9 in Oklahoma City.

Thirty-nine citations were presented for accomplishments in seventeen Oklahoma communities. The award recognizes efforts to preserve Oklahoma's historic properties through restoration, rehabilitation, research, planning, public programming, and other activities. The 2017 recipients of the SHPO's Citations of Merit and their accomplishments include:

Museum of the Western Prairie; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Southern Prairie Library System; and the **Western Trail Historical Society** for sponsorship of Tombstone Restoration Workshops and Presentations conducted by Tombstone Conservator Jonathan Appell, Altus

McCoy Building, LLC and **Keleher Architects** for rehabilitation of the McCoy Building, located in the Bartlesville Downtown Historic District, Bartlesville

Bartlesville 125, LLC; Lilly Architects; and **Rosin Preservation, LLC** for rehabilitation of the Sharp's Pawn Shop, located in the Bartlesville Downtown Historic District, Bartlesville

DH Housing Limited Partnership; Strategic Realty; The Hill Firm; Big Five Community Services, Inc.; and **Mike Kertok, Architect** for rehabilitation of the Bryan Hotel, located in the Durant Downtown Historic District, Durant

Cherokee Terrace, LP and **Rosin Preservation, LLC** for rehabilitation of Enid's historic Cherokee Terrace Apartments, Enid

Main Street Enid, Inc.; City of Enid; Visit Enid; Park Avenue Thrift; and **Wymer Brownlee** for sponsorship of Preservation is Golden: Oklahoma's Twenty-Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, held on June 1-3, 2016, Enid

Fort Sill for rehabilitation of the Fort Sill Artillery Bowl, a WPA-constructed stadium for formal ceremonies, entertainment, and recreational events, Fort Sill

David and Patsy Anderson, Margo Hoover, and **Erin Turner** for the historic Ed Galloway Totem Pole Park preservation project, Foyil

Dale Housing Partners, LP and **Preservation and Design Studio** for rehabilitation of downtown Guymon's historic Hotel Dale, Guymon

Jonita Mullins for publication of *The Jefferson Highway in Oklahoma: The Historic Osage Trace*, Muskogee

Muskogee Historic Preservation Commission and **Okie Heritage** for publication of *Muskogee's Colorful History* coloring book, Muskogee

Muskogee Arts District Homes, LP and **Preservation and Design Studio** for rehabilitation of Muskogee's Severs Block, located in the Pre-Statehood Commercial District, Muskogee

Richard Drass for his career of service in the study and protection of Oklahoma's archaeological heritage, Noble

Robert Bartlett for his career of service in the study and preservation of Oklahoma's archaeological heritage, Norman

Marjorie Duncan for her career of service in the study and protection of Oklahoma's archaeological heritage, Norman

Uptown Redevelopment Group, LLC and **Preservation and Design Studio** for The 424 rehabilitation project, located in Oklahoma City's Jefferson Park Historic District, Oklahoma City

Midtown-1100 Broadway, LLC; Fitzsimmons Architects; and **Preservation and Design Studio** for rehabilitation of the Chieftain Pontiac Building in Oklahoma City's Automobile Alley Historic District, Oklahoma City

Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church; Noble Jackson; Linda Tillman; and **Fall 2015 Historic Buildings of Oklahoma/Historic Preservation Planning Class, University of Oklahoma (OU)** for documenting and sharing the history of the historic John Sinopoulo House (Sundial), Oklahoma City

Lindsey Deatsch for her volunteer service to maintain the blog for Oklahoma's Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Oklahoma City

Susan Allen Kline (formerly of Oklahoma City, now of Fort Worth, Texas) for her research and publications contributing to the preservation of historic properties in Oklahoma, Oklahoma City

Land Run Commercial Real Estate; 23rd Street Equity LLC; Pump Libations LLC; Chris Lower and **Kathryn Mathis; TAP Architecture; David Ledbetter; Sam Gresham;** and **Jeluxa Construction** for their redevelopment of Oklahoma City's NW Twenty-Third Street, Oklahoma City

Midtown Renaissance for requesting City of Oklahoma City historic landmark status for the Marion Hotel, located in the Automobile Alley Historic District, Oklahoma City

Elise Kilpatrick for requesting City of Oklahoma City historic landmark status for the Milk Bottle Grocery on North Classen, Oklahoma City

Teresa A. Rendon for rehabilitation of 720 NE Fifteenth Street in Oklahoma City's Lincoln Terrace East Historic District, Oklahoma City

21c OKC, LLC; Hornbeek-Blatt Architects; and **Rosin Preservation, LLC** for the adaptive reuse of the historic Oklahoma City Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant as the 21c Museum Hotel at 900 West Main Street, Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City Metropolitan Association of Realtors and **City of Oklahoma City Planning Department** for providing training and continuing education credit opportunities in historic preservation for real estate professionals, Oklahoma City

Sieber Holdings LLC for requesting City of Oklahoma City historic landmark status for the Sieber Grocery and Apartment Hotel on North Hudson, Oklahoma City

Park on the Square, LLC; Ron Drake Consulting; and **J Square Construction** for rehabilitation of the Parkinson-Trent Company Building, located in the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District, Okmulgee

United States Postal Service; GH2 Architects, LLC; and **Ed A. Wilson, Inc.** for the exemplary window replacement project for the historic United States Post Office in Ponca City, Ponca City

City of Sand Springs; Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum; GH2 Architects, LLC; and **VOY Construction** for the exterior rehabilitation of the historic Page Memorial Library, now home of the Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum, Sand Springs

Historic Shawnee Alliance, Inc. for leadership and public educational programming that contribute to the preservation of Shawnee's historic built environment, Shawnee

Cheri Killam-Bomhard and **Ken Ruhnke; Chickasaw National Recreation Area;** and **Spring 2016 Environmental Design Capstone Class, Environmental Design Program, OU College of Architecture** for collaboration on the design of the historic Panther Falls Comfort Station and the Cold Springs Campground upgrade project in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Sulphur

Larson Development; Rosin Preservation, LLC; and **Walter Parks Architects** for rehabilitation of Tulsa's Bill White Chevrolet Complex, located in the Blue Dome Historic District, Tulsa

Universal Ford Building, LLC; Lilly Architects; and **Cathy Ambler** (posthumous) for rehabilitation of Tulsa's E. L. Fox Building and Fox Block, located in the Brady Historic District, Tulsa

IH Landlord, LLC; Rosin Preservation, LLC; and **Selser Schaefer Architects** for rehabilitation of Tulsa's International Harvester Building, located in the Blue Dome Historic District, Tulsa

Pershing Project, LLC and **Sikes Abernathie Architects** for rehabilitation of Tulsa's J. J. Pershing School, located in the Owen Park Historic District, Tulsa

Tulsa Foundation for Architecture for commissioning "The Oklahoma Historic Tax Credit: Impact on the Oklahoma Economy" study, Tulsa

Universal Ford Building, LLC; Lilly Architects; and **Cathy Ambler** (posthumous) for rehabilitation of Tulsa's Universal Ford Motor Company, located in the Brady Historic District, Tulsa

TDL NOW II, LLC; PreserveLandmarks, LLC; and **Phillips Slaughter Rose** for rehabilitation of Tulsa's Vandever's Department Store, located in the Oil Capital Historic District, Tulsa

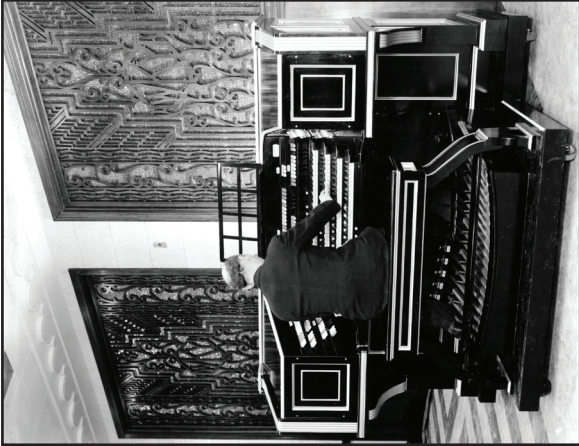
For more information about the 2017 Citation of Merit recipients or the SHPO's awards programs, contact Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org. You also may visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm.

Kilgen Organ performance at the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce the second in a series of performances of the Kilgen theatre organ scheduled for Monday, July 31. The performance will take place in the Devon Great Hall at 7 p.m. and will feature award-winning organist Mark Herman. The theme for this performance will be “Summertime,” with the song selection chosen from a variety of seasonal compositions. Tickets are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for the general public, and may be reserved by calling 405-522-0765.

Herman resides in Los Angeles, where he is president and tonal director of the Los Angeles Organ Company, the Allen Organ dealer for the Greater Los Angeles area. He is in demand as a voicing specialist and tonal consultant for Allen Organs and is proud to be an Allen Artist, showcasing new Allen Organs in the United States and beyond. In 2012 he was named the American Theatre Organ Society’s Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor. Previously, he was overall winner of the society’s Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2004.

The Kilgen Opus 5281, a four-manual, fourteen-rank theatre-style pipe organ was purchased by E. K. Gaylord for live WKY radio broadcasts in 1934. The performance history of this Kilgen organ dates back to April 13, 1936, when it premiered to the radio audience of WKY, broadcasting from the Skirvin Tower in downtown Oklahoma City. When WKY moved to its new location on East Britton Road, the Kilgen did not make the move to the new studio. Instead, the Kilgen was sold to the City of Oklahoma City and moved to the Municipal Auditorium (now the Civic Center Music Hall). For the next forty-seven years the organ remained in the Civic Center and was used for a variety of programs and concerts. Renovations to the Civic Center in the summer of 1998 did not include a place for the Kilgen organ, leaving the City of Oklahoma City to consider its fate. Dr. Bob Blackburn, then deputy executive director of the OHS, made a plea to keep the organ in Oklahoma. His intention was to make the Kilgen organ a featured part of the new Oklahoma History Center to open in November 2005. The city council agreed to donate the organ to the OHS. After more than two years of repair and restoration by the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma, one of Oklahoma’s most interesting and complex musical instruments is now preserved for years to come. The Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City, is a division of the OHS and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, and is an accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums.



Kilgen Opus 5281 organ at the Skirvin Tower studios (19630.63.11, WKY Radio and Television Collection, OHS).



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In

On Saturday, August 12, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch near Oologah will host the annual Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In. Gates open at 7:30 a.m. with free admission, though donations are appreciated. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the two-thousand-foot grass strip adjacent to Oologah Lake. Pilots will fly the Oklahoma skies and land on the grass strip, a few yards from the home in which Will Rogers was born on November 4, 1879. Tours of the home will be available.

The annual fly-in commemorates the date that Will Rogers and Wiley Post died in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, on August 15, 1935. It also celebrates their dedication to the aviation industry. Pilots of antique aircraft, vintage warplanes, new and late model small aircraft, helicopters, and powered parachute planes will gather to showcase their aircraft and reminisce with fellow flyers. Visitors can get a close-up view of the planes and meet the pilots. There also will be a classic car and motorcycle show, Cherokee storytelling, activities for children, and food vendors. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

During the past three decades, families have enjoyed the fly-in event. Among the most popular guests are Will and Wiley, who roll down the runway and up to the front gate around 10:30 a.m. to cheers of adults and children alike. Lester Lurk of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri, portrays Will Rogers, and Joe Bacon, pilot and Will Rogers Memorial Museum docent, portrays Wiley Post.

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, also called Dog Iron Ranch, is located at 9501 East 380 Road near Oologah. The Dog Iron Ranch Airport’s FAA identifier is OK37; CTAF: 122.9. For more information please call 918-341-0719 or visit www.willrogers.com.

