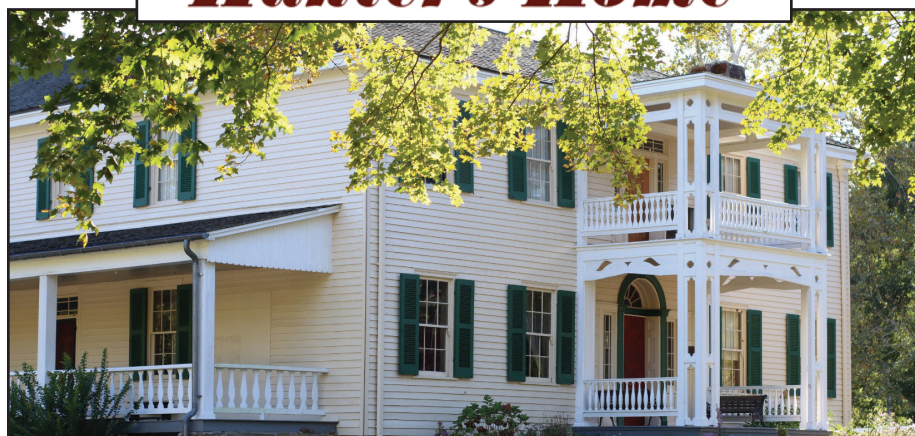




Hunter's Home



Hunter's Home reopening for tours

After more than a year of closure, Hunter's Home has resumed guided house tours Tuesday through Saturday, every hour beginning at 10 a.m. The last tour will begin at 3 p.m. For many years stantions were placed in the home but, for the first time in decades, the barriers have been removed and staff will be leading tours into the home's rooms along designated paths.

Hunter's Home staff are committed to safety procedures and greatly appreciate our visitors and supporters for helping to preserve and maintain this important site. To keep guests, staff, and artifacts safe, tours will be limited to five people per group, with time between groups to allow for social distancing inside the house. Staff will sanitize between each tour, and will conduct a detailed cleaning of the entire site after closing to the public at 4 p.m. Guests and staff are required to wear masks correctly at all times while inside the home. For those who are not quite ready to tour the house in person, the "Life at Hunter's Home" Facebook group is active, and staff regularly update the site's YouTube channel with video tours, discussions, and exhibits.



Guided tours at Honey Springs Battlefield

Honey Springs Battlefield is pleased to announce a unique tour opportunity at the site. Students from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) will serve as tour guides on the six trails that cross the 1,100-acre battlefield on two Saturdays in July—July 3 and 17. This series of tours coincides with the annual memorial of the battle on July 17. The students will point out the exact locations of military actions, highlight key aspects of the engagement, and discuss its historical importance.

Normally, the park and its six trails are self-guided with a total of 55 trail markers. Through a special historical interpretation course taught by Dr. James Finck at USAO, students will travel approximately three hours from their classroom in Chickasha to serve as tour guides at Honey Springs Battlefield. Already trained about the battle and the trails during the class, these students will add to the overall visitor experience by interpreting key elements of the engagement in the environment where the events occurred. For more information, please call 918-473-5572 or follow Honey Springs Battlefield on Facebook.

Headstrong Harvey finds a home

At Hunter's Home, visitors will see a new addition to the 19th-century authenticity in the form of a five-year-old registered Merino ram that came to Oklahoma via Ohio in May. Harvey is the first ram to live at Hunter's Home since the Civil War. The original owner of the property, George Murrell, raised Merino sheep, along with other livestock. A claim filed for the loss of 30 head of sheep, 175 cattle, 100 hogs, and 28 mules during the war is evidence that the Murrells' pre-Civil War plantation was a thriving enterprise.

Harvey is no stranger to historic homes—he was born at the Firestone homestead, originally the home of Harvey and Catherine Firestone; lived at the Henry Ford Museum in Deerfield, Michigan; and was a sire to the herd at Sauder Village, a living history farm in Ohio. He is the embodiment of an old bloodline, originally bred to have the characteristics of a Merino sheep of the 1850s.

Harvey's main jobs will be to sire offspring and to protect the herd, jobs he takes very seriously. Visitors will be able to view Harvey, but are cautioned not to attempt petting him. Even the staff have to be careful because rams can be aggressive, especially if the herd is threatened. It is common for sires in livestock breeding programs to be replaced periodically to avoid inbreeding and to keep bloodlines strong and healthy, which is why Harvey made the journey to Oklahoma.

Merinos like Harvey are known for their soft, fine quality wool. While Harvey and the future herd will be an important part of a livestock program revival at Hunter's Home, he will also be sheared on a regular basis, adding his wool coat to build the active fiber arts programming on site. In July, five young ewes from Minnesota will be joining the growing livestock family. Some of the ewes vary in their natural coloration, which will add more color choices for projects in the fiber arts program.

His planned arrival to Hunter's Home was made with great preparation by David Fowler, the museum director who recently completed the installation of a period appropriate and extensive split-rail fence enclosure. The split-rail fence built to be "hog tight, ox strong, and mule high" has already been tested by Harvey. Fowler has seen him butt his head on every bit of split rail in the enclosure.

Visitors can experience the Hunter's Home living history season from Labor Day through Memorial Day, featuring living history interpreters demonstrating 19th-century trades, chores, cooking, gardening, and crafts. To learn more about hand shearing, cleaning and washing wool, carding and spinning wool into yarn, using dyes, and the use of 19th-century looms at Hunter's Home, come for a visit to see these activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hunter's Home is located at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. For more information call 918-456-2751.



Harvey the ram finds himself in clover in the new split-rail fence enclosure at Hunter's Home.



Director's Column

By Trait Thompson
Executive Director

German sociologist Max Weber once wrote, "Politics is a strong and slow boring of hard boards." Anyone who has worked in the political arena can certainly appreciate that sentiment when it comes to realizing achievements at the Capitol. After an abbreviated legislative session in 2020, the 2021 session made up for lost time by lasting until the next-to-last day of the constitutionally prescribed term. Going into the session OHS had these priorities:

- Increase funding to cover earned revenue losses at our museums and sites across the state;
- Increase funding to cover the rising cost of information technology expenses; and
- Get a bond issue authorized in the amount of \$20 million for OKPOP and the Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Our FY 2021 base appropriation was \$11,871,018. During this session, the legislature increased that appropriation by 11 percent to \$13,192,324. Included in that appropriation increase was \$900,000 to make up for earned revenue losses due to the pandemic and \$365,000 to cover our information technology expenses. OHS also received \$300,000 in additional funding to hire a grant writer for Black towns in Oklahoma and to provide transportation grants for schools to visit historic sites around the state, such as the Freedom Center and Clara Luper

Civil Rights Center in Oklahoma City, the Greenwood Historic District in Tulsa, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

Unfortunately, our request for bond funds for OKPOP and the Will Rogers Memorial Museum ended up short of the finish line this year. With the bonds on the Oklahoma History Center expiring in 2024 and the prospect of a revenue neutral arrangement concerning the debt service payments, I was hopeful we would be successful in this endeavor, but the stars did not align for us. We will shift our strategy and continue our efforts to secure funding for these worthy institutions in another manner.

There were other pieces of legislation that have been passed and signed that impact the OHS and its employees. HB1146 sunsets the Merit Protection Commission in 2022 and places all employee positions under the Human Capital Management Division of OMES. SB650 raised the cap on the flexible benefits allowance, providing our employees with more funding for health insurance and life insurance. The legislature also appropriated funds for Microsoft Office 365, which will reduce our monthly information technology expenses in the upcoming fiscal year.

Before I sign off, I would like to thank our Appropriations Subcommittee chairmen in the legislature, Representative Carl Newton and Senator Darcy Jech. Both of these gentlemen listened to our agency needs, asked astute questions, and helped us achieve a good funding level for FY 2022. Along those lines, I would also like to give credit to Appropriations Chairmen Representative Kevin Wallace and Senator Roger Thompson. Each of these gentlemen are fine public servants and we are fortunate to have them in the legislature.

Until next time,

A new calf named Trait



When lockdowns occurred last spring, rumors began to spread about an unprecedented baby boom as a result. By our count, the bison living at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum have caused their own little baby boom, increasing the herd's numbers substantially this spring with a record nine calves born in the last few months!

The nine bison calves, all born with a characteristic orange-red color, are often called by the nickname "red dogs," which aptly describes their coloring for the first two months of life. This year's grouping has a variety of given names including Stormy, Sissy, Ash, Red, Lucky, Rosie, Stella, Goldie, and Trait.

If that last name sounds familiar, it is because one was named for the new OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson. Thompson paid a late April visit to the ranch on the day the little fellow was born, and staff named the calf after him to mark his visit.

The calves enjoyed the mild spring weather, taking walks and grazing next to their mothers for up to 11 hours a day. After a few months, the calves will begin to add to their weight—eventually growing up to 2,000 lbs. Their hair begins to change to a darker brown, and they begin growing their hump and horns. Believe it or not, these little ones will be able to run up to 40 miles per hour one day. But only one bison on the ranch will have the distinction of being (in name only) a part of the OHS administration.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

As the state begins to ease out of the pandemic this summer, OHS sites, museums, and affiliates are excited about increased visitation. The OHS is also about to launch a new Annual Giving Campaign cycle to help fund exhibits and educational programming for the coming year. As a reminder, the OHS depends on donated funds and grants for these projects. The shutdown and pandemic have made this year's campaign even more important due to the associated decrease in memberships and admissions over the previous year. We encourage you to renew your membership, visit multiple OHS sites this summer, and recruit your interested friends and family to join, visit, and give. Your support is greatly appreciated.

When you give to the OHS, you do not have to give to the general Annual Giving Campaign—you can designate the funds to a certain museum or site, the Research Center, or one of our many endowment funds. Please keep an eye out for the campaign mailing and support the OHS's mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. To give online visit okhistory.org/support/giving. Click the "Give Online" button, then leave a comment to designate how you would like to direct your donation. If you have any questions or concerns, you can 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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From the Collections exhibit at CSM

The Cherokee Strip Museum (CSM) has a new exhibit showcasing American Indian art and photographs. Included in the exhibit are original paintings from Native artists Woody Big Bow and Randall Owen Moore, as well as an original painting by Ethel Johnston, wife of former Oklahoma Governor Henry S. Johnston. Many photographs of tribal leaders taken by well-known photographers and several American Indian artifacts are also on display. This exhibit will be available at the CSM through September 2021.

Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for students, and children five and under are free. The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry.

Will Rogers Memorial Museum Thursday Night Lecture Series returns

Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore is launching a return of the Thursday Night Lecture Series! Lectures are scheduled for July 15 and September 16 in the museum theater.

The program on July 15 will take a look at the man who returned Will Rogers to Broadway. The speaker will be Tom Lindley, author and former newsman who published *To the Max: Max Weitzenhoffer's Magical Trip from Oklahoma to New York and London—And Back* (Full Circle Press, 2019). Weitzenhoffer, a University of Oklahoma graduate, was the producer of the highly successful *The Will Rogers Follies*, which opened on Broadway and was followed by several national tours, performances worldwide, and productions in regional theaters with local casts. The Broadway production closed September 5, 1993, after 981 performances.

Lindley's lecture comes the month before a related event. On August 27, the Will Rogers Memorial Museum will have a special screening of the filmed version of *The Will Rogers Follies* Broadway musical at 7 p.m.

The speaker for the September 16 Will Rogers Memorial Museum Thursday Night Lecture will be Jim Bridenstine, whose career in politics opened doors for his appointment as NASA director. Bridenstine was a navy aviator, private pilot, and one-time executive director of the Tulsa Air and Space Museum. He served as NASA director from April 2018 to January 2021.

Both programs in the lecture series will begin at 7 p.m. and will include time for questions and answers with speakers.

For more information, please call 918-341-0719.



Barn quilt workshop

The Chisholm Trail Museum is holding a summer Barn Quilt workshop on July 24 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Barn quilts, like the one seen above, are not made of fabric, but are instead square-shaped boards painted to resemble a quilt block. The colorful wooden patterns are placed on the exteriors of structures, and have evolved into a rural development initiative to boost tourism in communities. OSU Extension Educator Lindy Hoel will lead the workshop where each participant will complete their very own barn quilt to proudly display at home. The day-long class will be open to adults or teens with a parent. The class fee is \$30 per participant with lunch included. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your place.

Traditional Trades Day

If you have a hankering to discover historic occupations and heritage skills, make sure to come to the Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill in Kingfisher for Traditional Trades Day on August 21 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Traditional trades and skills were the lifeblood of the community for decades, when local craftsmen provided the items necessary for everyday life. This event is a great place to explore a variety of demonstrations including carpentry, wet plate photography, leather work, dressmaking, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, flintknapping, laundry, traditional cooking, and more. This is a family friendly event costing \$5 for adults and is free for children age 16 and under. For more information call 405-375-5176.



Vintage snack sets on display in Hominy

The Fred and Addie Drummond Home in Hominy will feature a *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit throughout the month of July. On display will be the serving dishes used when women entertained during the 1940s to 1970s by hosting teas, coffees, or church socials. The exhibit is included in the regular admission to the home. For more information, please call 918-885-2374.

National History Day Boot Camp at OHC



Teachers, would you like to bring project-based learning and critical thinking skills into your classroom? Come to National History Day Boot Camp to learn about this adaptable curriculum for students in grades 6 to 12. This program will be held Thursday, July 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC). National History Day Boot Camp is \$10 for OHS members and \$15 for nonmembers. Visit <https://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/classregistration> to register online. Registration closes on July 19.

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence

On Wednesday, July 7, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will open the exhibit *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence*, organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The poster exhibit explores women's suffrage and the fight for the 19th Amendment. The traveling exhibit will be on display in Pawnee from July 7 to September 19, 2021. It will be enhanced by artifacts from the OHS that tell the story of women's suffrage in the state of Oklahoma. This exhibit is free to the public and will be available in the museum building.

The story of women's suffrage is a story of voting rights, of inclusion in and exclusion from the franchise, and of our civic development as a nation. *Votes for Women* broadens visitors' understanding of the suffrage movement in the United States. It addresses women's political activism, explores the racism that challenged universal suffrage, and documents the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which prohibits the government from denying US citizens the right to vote on the basis of gender. It also touches upon the suffrage movement's relevance to current conversations on voting and voting rights across America.

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee.

Blacksmithing Demo

On August 7, the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry will be holding a Blacksmithing Demonstration in the blacksmith shop. The demonstration will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests can enjoy watching the craftsmen work and will have an opportunity for hands-on experiences. This educational event is free to attend, but donations are appreciated. For more information please call 580-

OHS Calendar of Events

July

- 1 "Life at Hunter's Home: Cooking and Crafts" begins (VIRTUAL), Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 1 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit opens, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 3 Guided Tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 7 *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence* exhibit opens, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 7-9 SHPO Historic Preservation Tax Incentives virtual workshop series
- 9-10 Overnight at the Chuck Wagon, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 10 Will's Barter Bash, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 10 Basket Making workshop, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 15 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring Tom Lindley, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 17 "Let's Talk About It" monthly book club series, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 17 Battle of Honey Springs Memorial Event, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 17 Guided Tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 17 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 Pawnee Bill Goes Pop: Reclaimed Art, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 19 Family Day at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 21 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 Oklahoma Summer Social Studies Conference for Teachers, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 Rocket class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 Barn Quilt workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 28 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 National History Day Boot Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 Movie Night featuring Will Rogers in *State Fair*, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 "Life at Hunter's Home: Cooking and Crafts" concludes (VIRTUAL), Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 31 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit closes, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy



August

- 7 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 7 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14 Wreath-laying ceremony and flyover, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 14 Will's Barter Bash, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 18 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 "Let's Talk About It" monthly book club series, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 21 Traditional Trades Day, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 21 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 21 Family Day at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 21 Pawnee Bill Goes Pop: Pop Culture Painting, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 24 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 Movie Night featuring the filmed version of the Broadway musical *The Will Rogers Follies*, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 28 Route 66 film, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 *In the Vernacular: Everyday Images of Oklahoma Life* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



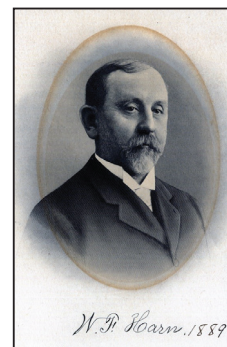
Overnight at the Chuck Wagon

Pack your sleeping bag, pajamas, toothbrush, and toothpaste for Overnight at the Chuck Wagon at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. This overnight event will take place from 6 p.m. on Friday, July 9, to 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 10, and is for children ages 5-12 accompanied by at least one adult. Participants will bed down in various parts of the museum for a night of 19th-century activities, movies, arts and crafts, games, and storytelling, with a chuck wagon dinner and breakfast.

Registration is required and is \$45 for nonmembers and \$35 for members. Both children and adults are required to pay the registration fee. Space is limited to the first 15 children. Each child will receive a Will Rogers book, and each child and parent will receive a t-shirt. Participants can register at www.willrogers.com/overnight-at-the-chuckwagon or please call 918-341-0719 for more information.

From the OHS Archives: William F. Harn Collection

By Jan H. Richardson



Oklahoma is nicknamed the "Sooner State" because, at some level, everyone loves a scoundrel. While most participants in the Land Run of 1889 were honest, hard-working people, there were groups that decided to flaunt the rules and mark homesteads early. William F. Harn, a lawyer-turned-newspaper owner from Wooster, Ohio, was tapped to be a special agent of the Land Office in the Oklahoma Territory. His mission was to prosecute these "sooners."

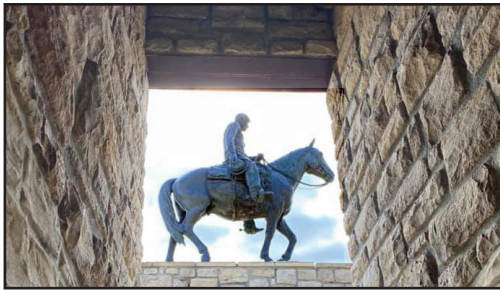
The William F. Harn Collection contains his case files consisting of court documents, affidavits, transcripts of testimony provided in court, other witness testimonies, and correspondence. Handwritten notebooks detail his thoughts on individual land dispute cases from 1891 to 1893. In 1894, he began practicing law in Oklahoma City, arguing cases related to divorce, estates, timber cutting, patent law fraud, whiskey trafficking, and murder. The collection also has documents on Harn's disbarment in 1896 by the Fourth District Court, court cases involving William and Alice Harn, the sale of a portion of the land from the Harn Homestead to the State of Oklahoma for the site of the State Capitol in Oklahoma City, and newspaper articles.

The William F. Harn Collection, 1890-1930 (32 legal boxes, 12 oversize boxes) is available for viewing in the Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please call 405-522-5225 or send an email to our attention at research@okhistory.org.

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



Tulsa Mayor G. T. Bynum takes a selfie on the rooftop of OKPOP with staff and OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson in May while touring the Tulsa Arts District.



Wreath-laying ceremony and flyover at WRMM

On Saturday, August 14, at noon the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore will host a wreath-laying ceremony and flyover to mark the anniversary of the August 15, 1935, death of Will Rogers and Wiley Post in an Alaskan plane crash. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Herb McSpadden—relatives of Will Rogers who ran the Birthplace Ranch—are invited guests. Pilot and museum Roper docent Tom Egbert will fly the plane for the flyover. The public is welcome to join in viewing the flyover and the wreath laying at the site of Will Rogers's tomb, overlooking the town of Claremore.

For more information about this event, please call 918-341-0719 or visit willrogers.com. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore.

OHC calls for performers and vendors for fall Folklife Festival

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) is seeking performers and vendors for its upcoming Folklife Festival to be held October 16, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This community-wide event will celebrate and recognize what the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has called “the everyday and intimate creativity that all of us share and pass on to the next generation.” The “creativity” mentioned will come in the form of dancing, singing, crafts, food, and much more. The Folklife Festival will be open to the public and held predominantly outdoors at the OHC, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

Already scheduled to participate are: Oklahoma Farm Bureau; Angels Modeling and Dance Studio; Eterna Primavera Folklore Guatemalteco; Southwest Dairy; “Traditional Music of the Open Prairie” with Wayne Cantwell; 3J Farms; 145th Army Band; and Thick Descriptions. Also, the Oklahoma Pork Council will be giving away a new roaster/smoker.

If you are interested in participating in the OHC's Folklife Festival as a performance act or vendor, please complete the application form found at www.okhistory.org/historycenter/folklikesignup.

SHPO accepting awards nominations

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is accepting applications for the SHPO's Citation of Merit. Nominations for projects that recognize the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage through rehabilitation/restoration, publications, archaeological site protection, field and archival research, and public programming are accepted throughout the year. Citation of Merit awards will be given quarterly in recognition of projects that impact communities of all sizes in Oklahoma.

The SHPO accepts nominations in either electronic or hard copy format. To obtain a copy of the form and instructions please visit the SHPO's website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/awards.htm. If you have any questions about the Citation of Merit or the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation, contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org.



Progress continues at OKPOP

As summer moves along, so does construction at OKPOP in Tulsa! The building is being enclosed, and large windows have been installed providing a beautiful view of historic Cain's Ballroom across the street. The “Oklahoma Gold” architectural aesthetic is really taking shape, contrasting the “grit” of the Oklahoma work ethic with the “glitz” of pop culture and show business. Take a drive by North Main Street and West Easton Street to see the progress!

OKPOP will house world-class installations and interactive exhibits telling the stories of Oklahoma's profound impact on popular culture. Its immersive facility and programming will excite, inform, and inspire by engaging guests in the remarkable stories of Oklahoma's impact on the world. Visitors expecting a traditional museum experience will be amazed to discover a pop culture playground designed to be explored in ways beyond sight and sound. Exhibits and gallery spaces will make use of technology and interactive play places to create an ever-changing museum experience that keeps guests coming back, not just to observe collected artifacts but to create and play.

Women of the Wild West Shows exhibit

At the Pioneer Woman Museum (PWM) and Statue site there are a number of exhibits that preserve the legacy of women from all races, creeds, and nationalities who have made significant contributions to the history of Oklahoma.

Museum visitors are especially attracted to the permanent exhibit *Women of the Wild West Shows* at PWM. “This is one of our most popular exhibits,” said Kelly Houston, the director of the museum located in Ponca City. Visitors enjoy the story panels that recount the history of women sharpshooters and the era in which they performed.

The exhibit looks at the subject matter from the perspective that these women were trailblazers of equality. Pioneer women of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were capable people, raised in the traditions of horsemanship, roping, and naturally developed shooting abilities. The exhibit keeps its sites on the women who worked and traveled with outfits like Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West Show, the Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch Wild West Show, and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. If this is of interest, we encourage you to saddle up and pay a visit to the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue as fast as your horse can carry you!

The museum also features an education center, craft demonstrations, special exhibits, an interactive timeline, and the Pioneer Woman Walk of Fame. For more information call 580-765-6108.

Pawnee Bill Ranch Wild West Fest coming this fall

The historic Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum (PBR) is planning to host a Pawnee Bill Wild West Fest in September of this year. Many exciting sights and sounds of the original Pawnee Bill Wild West Shows will thrill audiences. The ranch staff are hand-picking specialty acts that may include live trick riding and trick roping, staged gunfights, and even a Pony Express race. Live music will be played at the big barn, along with American Indian dancing and storytelling. Period magic and medicine shows and demonstrations of basketweaving, blacksmithing, and other frontier crafts also are planned for the Western-style festival.

The PBR is open for visitors, and has a variety of classes and events through the summer. The property is a working ranch with a private herd of bison and longhorns that roam the property. In his lifetime, Pawnee Bill was actively involved in saving the bison from extinction. For more information, please call 918-762-2513.

Bronze sculpture of Marshal McCully unveiled at the Sod House Museum



The Sod House Museum near Aline unveiled a bronze sculpture of Marshal McCully, the builder of the sod house, in May. The ceremony celebrating the 126th anniversary of the sod house was attended by Senator Roland Pederson, Representative Carl Newton, and OHS Board of Directors President Dr. Deena Fisher, who all took part in the unveiling.

Renowned sculptor and painter Burneta Venosdel created the likeness of McCully and was on-site for the unveiling of her bronze sculpture, which she donated to the museum, paying homage to settlers and her pioneer roots. In 2015, Venosdel presented a program at the museum explaining her sculpture techniques. It was then that she was inspired to create a sculpture of McCully.

“As a sculptor, my subject matter is connected to my upbringing and pioneering roots in northwestern Oklahoma,” said Venosdel. “I am driven to express myself and record these subjects in bronze.”

Venosdel experienced many challenges while casting the piece, including having to recreate the sculpture after the first clay model was damaged.

The new sculpture will take pride of place in the Sod House Museum, exemplifying the tenacity of McCully, who lived in his sod house for 15 years when average sod houses only lasted three to eight years. Thanks to the efforts of preservationists, the soddie he built is still standing after 126 years.

The Friends of the Sod House Museum provided refreshments and held a drawing for a queen-sized “Nine Patch” quilt made by the group. The Friends work behind the scenes to assist the museum with funds needed for new exhibits and necessary repairs. At this time, they are helping to support the Sod House Museum by raising funds needed for supplies to replace the exterior of the facility. To donate to the cause or for more information, contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441 or sodhouse@okhistory.org.



Will's Barter Bash

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum has come up with a clever way to clear out your closets and exchange goods and toys without spending a red cent. Think of the event as a barter-style picnic—the perfect place to trade unwanted, unused, or excess items and find other things that one may need or want. The event takes place beside the sunken gardens with lots of space for each family to set out a blanket full of treasure. Children can trade toys, games, or other fun items—no money, all bartering. This summer and fall Will's Barter Bash will take place on July 10, August 14, September 11, and October 9—all held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. No registration required. For more information please call 918-341-0719.

Basket Making at Fort Towson

Fort Towson Historic Site will host a Basket Making workshop taught by Linda Lou Alexander on Saturday, July 10, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a potluck lunch during the workshop. The cost is \$45 per person, which will cover all supplies to make your own basket. Preregistration is required. For more information about the event or to preregister, please call Linda Lou Alexander at 580-982-8632, or contact John Davis at jdavis@okhistory.org. Fort Towson Historic Site is located north of US 70 near Fort Towson.

Life at Hunter's Home Facebook group

During the month of July, Hunter's Home in Park Hill will continue its “Life at Hunter's Home” subscription Facebook page with a focus on demonstrations and crafts. “Life at Hunter's Home: Cooking and Crafts” will present video workshops with a kitchen demonstration about roasting ears of corn, and a video about making handmade fans for the warmer months.

“Life at Hunter's Home” is a paid subscription Facebook group. Each month, staff feature behind-the-scenes videos, a cooking or gardening segment, and a craft demonstration or miniworkshop.

The cost for all-access to the “Life at Hunter's Home” Facebook group for the month of July is \$10. Members have access to the demonstrations and workshops of the month as well as those from past months. Call 918-456-2751 or come by the site Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register.



Fort Towson/Doaksville walking tour

On the third weekend in May, Fort Towson, the Fort Towson Cemetery Association, and the Friends of the Fort, Inc. worked together to organize the first annual Fort Towson/Doaksville Cemetery Walking Tour. Over 200 participants took part in the hour-long tour. They followed a half mile, candle-lined path that made stops at the headstones of 10 notable, local people buried in the 180-year old Doaksville Cemetery. Scholars and reenactors stood at points along the tour to bring the names on the headstones to life through storytelling. Biographies and histories shared about of each of the subjects ranged from early settlers to the Civil War and the War of 1812 veterans. Ladies wore historical dresses and men dressed for the event complete with uniforms, boots, and hats. One reenactor went to the trouble of growing out his beard to take on the likeness of his subject.

Other important points along the tour covered the history of the cemetery chapel, headstones of the Woodsmen of the World, and a number of veterans who found their resting places at the Doaksville Cemetery. Fort Towson Cemetery Association board members were on hand to answer inquiries about relatives buried at the site, as well as questions about the cemetery itself, which is still in operation today. Friends of the Fort were also present to share how their partnership with Fort Towson Historic Site works through various volunteer programs and projects.

This will be a recurring annual event, with different featured people chosen each year. This cemetery is one of the longest continually used cemeteries in the state of Oklahoma. Some burials, as identified by their headstones, go back to the year 1840.

State preservation project applications to focus on underrepresented peoples

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archaeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archaeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$933,000 from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

The SHPO's statewide preservation plan, now available for years 2020–2024 at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan, sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are a continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples and extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's FY 2022 activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through the SHPO website (or through hard copy by request). The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year but will only be considered for the next funding cycle available (the SHPO is governed by the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1–September 30). Visit the SHPO website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion. Contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.



History Center volunteers recognized

The Oklahoma History Center celebrated National Volunteer Week April 18–24 by honoring its volunteers with a catered meal and the presentation of service awards. Thank you to all OHS volunteers!



15-Year Volunteer Service

Left to right: Barbara Byrd, Debbie Hogue-Downing, Fred Fulmer, Joyce Keel, Mike Sheriff, Diana Collinsworth, Janet Wheeler, Luann Waters



10-Year Volunteer Service

Left to right: Bill Cunningham, Bill Rice, Carol Comp, Richard Gendron



5-Year Volunteer Service

Left to right: Chris Fuller, Rita Marra, Joan Harper

In the Vernacular exhibit open through August

The Oklahoma History Center's photographic exhibit entitled *In the Vernacular: Everyday Images of Oklahoma Life* will close on Tuesday, August 31. A celebration of everyday image-making, this exhibit features photographs from the Oklahoma Historical Society's collection that are fun, quirky, and sometimes odd images of Oklahomans. Vernacular photography is a genre comprised of family and professional studio portraits as well as casual snapshots. These images are usually created by amateur photographers documenting personal history.

The exhibit is on display in the Cooper and Gladys West Atrium Wing and Gallery through the summer. For more information, please call 405-522-0765.

"Let's Talk About It" book discussion series at Pawnee Bill Ranch

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee has partnered with Oklahoma Humanities (OH) to host OH's book discussion series called "Let's Talk About It." The book club meetings will take place as monthly in-person gatherings at the museum on Blue Hawk Peak, and will feature a different book title each month from July to November.

All five of the books in the program have the overarching theme of "Many Trails, Many Tribes: American Indians in Fiction." The intention of the discussion group is to focus on the accuracies or inaccuracies found in the portrayal of American Indians depicted in works of fiction. Each month, a scholar will give a 45-minute synopsis on the chosen book of the month. After the synopsis, the scholar will lead an open forum discussion with the participants.

The dates, times, books, and scholars for the series are as follows:

- **July 17, 2021, 6 p.m.**

Featured book: James Fenimore Cooper, *Last of the Mohicans: A Narrative of 1757* (1826), with scholar Dr. Sara Richter

- **August 21, 2021, 6 p.m.**

Featured book: R. A. Lafferty, *Okla Hannali* (Doubleday, 1972), with scholar Dr. Laura Arata

- **September 11, 2021, 6 p.m.**

Featured book: Linda Hogan, *Mean Spirit* (Atheneum Books, 1990), with scholar Dr. Andrew Vassar

- **October 16, 2021, 6 p.m.**

Featured book: N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn* (Harper & Row, 1968), with scholar Dr. Patti Loughlin

- **November 13, 2021, 6 p.m.**

Featured book: Barbara Kingsolver, *Pigs in Heaven* (Harper Collins, 1993), with scholar Dr. John Coward

The museum will provide all the books, refreshments, and the venue. All participants need to bring is the desire to add to the discussion. This program is free to the public. For more information, call 918-762-2513 or come by the museum to sign up for the program and take home the latest book in the "Let's Talk About It" series.

Oklahoma Humanities (OH) is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understanding new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life through humanities disciplines such as history, literature, film studies, art criticism, and philosophy.

Honey Springs Battlefield memorial service



A memorial service marking 158 years to the day of the Civil War Battle of Honey Springs will be held outside on the lawn of the Honey Springs Battlefield visitor center on July 17. Welcome and opening remarks will be given by Adam Lynn, the Honey Springs Battlefield site manager. A presentation of colors by the color guard will precede an invocation by Reverend Mark Watson of the First United Methodist Church in Checotah. Trait Thompson, the executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) will present memorial remarks, followed by speaker David Fowler, who is the northeast regional director of the OHS.

Following the program, the color guard will retire the colors. After that, the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield will host its annual meeting. Battlefield tours will be given by students from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) at the conclusion of the program. USAO students will serve as tour guides on the six trails that cross the 1,100-acre battlefield on two Saturdays in both June and July—June 12 and 26 and July 3 and 17. The students will point out the exact locations of military actions, highlight key aspects of the engagement, and discuss its historical importance.

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 9,000 Union and Confederate troops, mostly American Indians and African Americans, were involved in the Battle of Honey Springs. Of those, approximately 200 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.

The Engagement at Honey Springs was the largest of the documented hostile encounters in Indian Territory. The engagement took place on a rainy Friday, July 17, 1863, between the First Division Army of the Frontier, commanded by Major General James G. Blunt, and the Confederate Indian Brigade led by Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper (pictured above). Cherokee and Muscogee regiments fought on both sides.

The Honey Springs Battlefield site includes more than 1,000 acres, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is a National Historic Landmark. For more information about the memorial service, please call 918-473-5572.



“Pawnee Bill Goes Pop!”

The Pawnee Bill Ranch was once the showplace of the world-renowned Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. “Pawnee Bill” Lillie, a well-known fixture of popular culture. This summer the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is offering a unique series of classes called “Pawnee Bill Goes Pop” to explore the unique ways of marketing that led to Pawnee Bill becoming a pop culture icon. Hands-on activities are planned for this creative series taking place in mid-summer.

On Saturday, July 17, the class will explore art using reclaimed items. With an aim to study the world of conservation, children and adults will be shown how to create a bison portrait from recycled items. The class will teach about how the animal became a part of our national identity and how it overcame near extinction.

On Saturday, August 21, the final class in the “Pawnee Bill Goes Pop” series will focus on the world of pop culture painting! In the mid-20th century, Pawnee Bill, as well as many other Western heroes, were featured on popular culture items in print, such as comic books and posters. The August class will delve into pop art themes, from the dotted halftone print seen in comics to the painting style of Andy Warhol. A group activity is planned to create two large-scale, Warhol-inspired portraits of Pawnee Bill and his wife, May Lillie, in full color. The completed canvases will be displayed in the museum after completion. For more information call 918-762-2513 or contact pawneebill@okhistory.org.