



Fort Towson to open new Visitor Center

On Saturday, June 13, Fort Towson will host the grand opening of a brand-new, 6,000-square-foot visitor center. Construction of the new building was funded, in part, with grant funds from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation through the Transportation Enhancement Program. Exhibit development was made possible by a generous donation from the Kirkpatrick Foundation and a National Park Service grant through the Maritime Heritage Grant Program.

The Fort Towson Visitor Center grand opening coincides with the annual Fort Town Homecoming Celebration. Community activities on Saturday, June 13, include a parade downtown at 10 a.m. Opening ceremonies at Fort Towson Historic Site take place at 11:30 a.m. and will commence with Union officers accepting Stand Watie's formal surrender as the last Confederate general to lay down arms. The surrender document will be read prior to the signing, thus marking the end of the sesquicentennial commemorations. Following a welcome and recognition of dignitaries will be the formal ribbon cutting. Barbecue vendors will be available at the fort and a Pony Express Race begins at 1:30 p.m.

The \$1 million construction project was recently completed at Fort Towson, funded by a partnership between the OHS and the Department of Transportation through the federal highway enhancement program. With the visitor center's completion, staff are moving operations into the new 6,000-square-foot facility. The new building includes 1,600 square feet of exhibit space, as well as collections storage, a research library, and a gift shop. Exhibit designs are in the final stages. Topics featured in the museum exhibits will include the establishment and history of Fort Towson, Choctaw removal and resettlement in Indian Territory, daily life of frontier soldiers, the Civil War in Indian Territory, Doaksville, Rose Hill plantation, and commerce in the area—how goods traveled into and out of the territory.

An exhibit highlight will be the *Heroine*, a steamboat wreck discovered in the Red River in 1999 near Swink, Oklahoma. The *Heroine* is the earliest example of a western river steamboat ever studied by archaeologists. The OHS and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University completed a multiyear project of excavation, documentation, research, and conservation of the vessel and its cargo. Low visibility, changing river currents, and hidden obstacles made dive conditions especially harsh during the excavation project.

The steamboat *Heroine* exhibit will give visitors a small sample of what the divers experienced while recovering objects from the sunken steamboat. Visitors can explore the boxes and various



areas on the broken deck and see the objects in the river bottom below. As they explore, they will trigger motion sensors that will activate spotlights and audio clips of the archaeologists highlighting the various objects they found. In the boxes, visitors will feel a small portion of the artifact as if it were buried in sand and mud. Artifacts will include hammer heads, buckles, boots, dishes, various tools, boxes, and barrels of goods. The partially reconstructed paddle wheel will give visitors a visual perspective of the size of the boat.

Located in Choctaw County, Fort Towson was established in 1824 in response to a need to quell conflicts between lawless elements, American Indian peoples, and settlers claiming the area as part of Arkansas Territory. The fort also served as an outpost on the border between the United States and Texas, which at that time was part of Mexico. Connected to the East by road, Fort Towson served as a gateway for settlers bound for Texas during the 1830s. Those passing through the area included Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, and Stephen F. Austin. When the Choctaws and Chickasaws were displaced from their lands in the southeastern United States, the fort served as a point of dispersal upon their arrival in the West. The fort also was an important staging area for US forces during the Mexican War of 1846.

Fort Towson was abandoned in 1856 when the frontier moved west. During the Civil War, however, it served for a time as headquarters for Confederate forces operating in Indian Territory. In 1865 General Stand Watie surrendered his command near the fort to become the last Confederate general to lay down arms.

When the Oklahoma Historical Society acquired the site in 1960, little remained on the surface to portray its former importance. The movement to save the remains of Fort Towson began in 1961 during the Civil War Centennial celebration. John E. Kirkpatrick served on the centennial commission and soon personally took on the task of saving the fort. In 1967 the Kirkpatrick Foundation purchased seventy-two acres of land, the core of the historic ruins. In 1968 a long-term lease executed between the OHS and the Kirkpatrick Foundation allowed the OHS to develop the property and open it to the public. That same year the OHS Board of Directors appointed Kirkpatrick to the newly formed Fort Towson Commission charged with preserving the site and overseeing operations. In 2013, the Kirkpatrick Foundation and the OHS renewed the lease for thirty-five years.

Fort Towson is located fourteen miles east of Hugo on Highway 70 in Fort Towson, Oklahoma. The address is HC 63, Box 1580. Please call 580-873-2634 for more information.



Artist rendering of exhibits inside the visitor center.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

Help is on the way.

A few weeks ago, the Oklahoma Legislature passed and the governor signed Senate Bill 297, which creates a grants-in-aid program that will accomplish a long list of goals for the historical community in our state.

Although the bill does not provide funding for grants at this time, it does allow us to start working on the rules and criteria for grants as we prepare for the day when funding is in place.

The program will provide small but significant grants to local historical societies, museums, genealogical groups, and other nonprofit organizations that "collect, preserve, and share" Oklahoma history. This includes city and county museums, tribal museums, family research centers, and historic properties open to the public.

As stated in the bill, the grants will require a small match, regularly scheduled hours of public access, and a nonprofit governing board with a constitution and bylaws. Construction of new museums or additions will not be eligible. Other eligibility requirements will be developed through the rules-making process over the coming months.

It is our hope that the grants will be used primarily for care of collections, educational programs, and exhibit development. This may take the form of consulting contracts, but in most cases the grants would be for staff support with specific outcomes based on collections, education, and exhibits. Other possible uses of the funds might be heat and air system repair or upgrades, case work, lighting, and security.

Passage of the bill has been a long-time dream of the OHS.

We first proposed a grants program in 2005, and came close to passage one year. Since then, we have requested authorization every year, but with little response.

This time, we asked Senator Ron Justice to sponsor the bill. We worked with him to draft the language, sought support from local and tribal groups interested in history, and supported the senator as he guided the bill through the committee process and onto the floor for a vote.

Representative Earl Sears signed on as the House sponsor and guided the bill through that side of the Capitol. He always has been an active supporter of the Frank Phillips Home in Bartlesville, one of our properties, so he understood what we are trying to accomplish at the grassroots level throughout the state.

I want to thank both of those gentlemen for sponsoring the bill and Governor Fallin for signing it into law. Now it is up to us to find a sustainable stream of funding to make the system work. We have ideas, but it will take a couple of years to put them in place.

In the meantime, I want to encourage all historical groups to continue building their collections, reaching out to young people, and developing exhibits.

Yes, help is on the way.

Dr. Bob

New Members, April 2015

*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

Director's Circle

*Barrie Henke, Edmond

Associate

*Phil Kliewer, Cordell

Friend

Robert Berry, Enid

*Terry and Kay Britton, Norman

*Royce and Kathlyn Caldron, Ponca City

*Joe and Donna Foote, Norman

Daniel Mahler, Fort Smith, AR

Family

Mickey and Jane Banister, Edmond

Robert and Jeannine Bennett, Oklahoma City

Charles and Penni Brady, Ardmore

Susan Cartwright and Kayla Cartwright, Durant

Kent Condray and Astrid Lee, El Reno

Ronald and Ann Davis, Oklahoma City

Charlie Dry and Anita Bryant-Dry, Edmond

Sandi Estes, Locust Grove

Barbara Hutton, Sapulpa

Yolanda Jones, Oklahoma City

Eva King and Eugene King, Oklahoma City

*Betty Jo Law, Oklahoma City

Roger Mitchell, Austin, TX

*Terry Schreiner, Duncan

Jeff and Pattie Simmons, Oklahoma City

Eddie and Donna Spaulding, Tulsa

Robert Tehan and Linda Quinlivan, Oklahoma City

*Ethel Thomas, Pawhuska

Donna Wyskup and Chinh Doan, Oklahoma City

Individual

Michael Beauchamp, Claremore

Christina Bell, Idabel

Shelly Berryman, Tulsa

Mekayla Brock, Tulsa

Shawnon Carrol, Duncan

Andrew Castleberry, Edmond

Richard Cooper, Ada

Bobby Cornelson, Weatherford

Carolyn Dewberry, Lawton

Abraham Dominguez, Tulsa

George Drianis, Mountain Iron, MN

John Francis, McAlester

Stan Galyen, Okay

Seth Graves, Sulphur

Tonya Gray, Enid

Katy Green, Tulsa

Teri Hammons, Pauls Valley

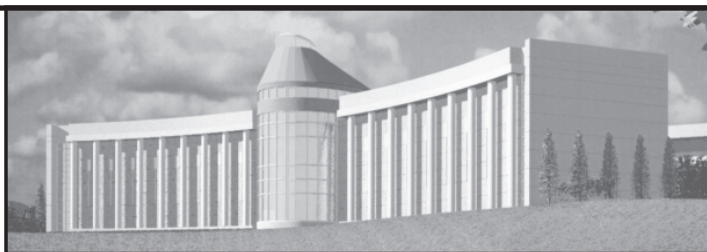
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Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society would like to thank our members for a very successful annual History Conference. For the first time we sold out the conference. The OHS also would like to recognize the Chickasaw Nation and Governor Bill Anoatubby for all of the nation's support that allowed the conference to be so appealing. If you missed it, the sessions were outstanding, as were the extra events, including bus tours and a fun concert. Sponsored by the OKPOP, the concert featured three distinct music styles: the cowboy music of Gene Autry, the 1940s pop music of Kay Starr, and the blues of Lowell Fulson and Wayne Bennett.

The OHS would like to announce that the 2016 History Conference will be held at Woodward, Oklahoma. The host city will hold the event at its new, state-of-the-art conference center. Mark your calendars for next April 27, 28, and 29 to attend. If you have any questions feel free to email lodell@okhistory.org.



Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office: Alma Moore
405-522-5242
ohsmembers@okhistory.org

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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.

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Attend the Edmond Historical Society and Museum's 2015 Heritage Awards and Thirtieth Birthday Celebration on Friday, June 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in **Edmond**. This event honors individuals in Edmond who have made outstanding contributions to the local community and have helped preserve the history of Edmond. The evening will include wine and hors d'oeuvres, the presentation of awards, and a special "Roots of Edmond" video presentation. Guest speakers will be Dwight Polson from the City of Edmond and Eric Smith from Forge Multimedia. Polson and Smith have combined efforts to produce the outstanding "Roots of Edmond" video documentaries on the history of Edmond. Their next project under production is a video on the history of the Rodkey family, Rodkey Mill, and their historic home, soon to be renovated in Stephenson Park. The master of ceremonies will be Don Reece of Edmond. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online at www.edmondhistory.org or by calling 405-340-0078. Guests also may mail a check with their contact information to 431 South Boulevard, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034. The Heritage Celebration will take place at the Edmond Historical Society and Museum, located at the aforementioned address. For more information please contact Executive Director Anita Schlaht at aschlaht@edmondhistory.org or 405-340-0078, ext. 103.

Jump on the bus for an educational tour of Oklahoma's All-Black towns, departing from **Tulsa**. On Saturday, June 13, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. learn more about the African American history of Oklahoma. Between 1865 and 1915, there were at least sixty All-Black towns settled in the United States, and Oklahoma led all other states with more than twenty within its borders. During this unique tour buses will take visitors to historically All-Black towns in Oklahoma, and local historians and citizens will speak about the history of each town and its part in Oklahoma history. Possible towns included in this tour are Boley, Clearview, Grayson, Langston, Lincoln, Redbird, Rentiesville, and Taft. Space is limited, so please purchase tickets in advance. Tickets for the annual Historic All-Black Towns Tour are available for \$40 per person, which includes meals. The tour will depart from Rudisill Regional Library at 1520 North Hartford Avenue in Tulsa. Please call 918-549-7645 for more information.

Mangum will host Wild West Days on Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20. Attendees will enjoy festivities that include an antique quilt show, pioneer reunion, fiddler contest, chuck wagon breakfast, barbecue vendors, an art show and sale, and a parade. Witness reenactments of gunfights on the main streets of Mangum and stick around for a thrilling rodeo, held both nights of the festival. Mangum's Wild West Day will be held on Saturday, while the Mangum Mountie Rodeo will be held Friday and Saturday evenings. Enjoy two nights of rodeo excitement and witness local cowboys and cowgirls, as well as those from various states, compete in events such as bareback, saddle bronc, and breakaway riding. Other events at this annual rodeo include calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, bull riding, and team roping. Competitors will demonstrate precise cowboy techniques and showmanship in timed events. There also will be celebrations of pioneer spirit and a variety of activities for children, including donkey rides. The rodeo arena will offer vendors with hamburgers, brisket sandwiches, and homemade ice cream. Take the entire family to Mangum's courthouse lawn on Saturday morning for a chuck wagon breakfast, fiddling contest, arts and crafts, and quilt show. Events will take place Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Mangum Square in downtown Mangum. Please call 580-782-2444 for more information.

Experience the annual Peoria Powwow in **Miami** on Friday, June 26, through Sunday, June 28. Celebrate American Indian culture and enjoy three days of traditional dancing and singing. This event features a wide range of contest dancing, including gourd, straight, grass, and fancy dancing. Other categories of dance are cloth, buckskin, jingle, and fancy shawl. The public is invited to attend this free event, and the master of ceremonies will be on hand to inform visitors about the various dances and events. There will be food vendors, arts and crafts booths, and free camping. Events begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. on Sunday. The powwow grounds are located at 60610 East 90 Road, on the north side of the street, in Miami. For more information please call 918-540-2535.

Bring the story of Bass Reeves to life with Bass Reeves Legacy Day on Saturday, June 27, in **Muskogee**. Reeves is believed to be the first African American to be commissioned as a Deputy US

Marshal west of the Mississippi River. He also worked for the Muskogee Police Department and is known as one of the greatest peace officers in the history of the American western frontier. Celebrate his legacy with a tour through lawman Bass Reeves's route in Muskogee. Along the way, guests will encounter different characters with whom Bass Reeves interacted, including Judge Shackelford, reporter Ora Eddleman Reed, lawman Bud Ledbetter, and Bass's family. This event will also include mock gunfights and historic reenactments. In the evening, the Three Rivers Museum will host a meal and live music at 220 Elgin in Muskogee. Please call 918-686-6624 for more information.

Meetings

The monthly meeting and program of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will be on Monday, June 1, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. This month, OGS will host Nancy Calhoun, head of genealogy and local history at the Muskogee Public Library. Calhoun will give a presentation entitled, "Native American Research." The meeting and program will take place from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and experienced researchers will be available before the meeting at 5 p.m. to answer questions. Monthly programs are free for all members of OGS. Non-members are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend each program. All are invited to join, with more information available at www.okgensoc.org. General meetings of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society are held on the first Monday of each month at the Oklahoma History Center, which is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 or visit www.okgensoc.org for more information.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, or exhibit included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of the *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 Brown, assistant editor, by email at eebrown@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, during the first week of the month before you wish a news item to appear. For example, if you wish an item to appear in the July issue, you must submit by the first week of June.

Oklahoma History Conference a success

The 2015 Oklahoma History Conference, sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society, was a sellout, according to Charles Tate, chair of the planning committee for the conference. The conference was held at the Artesian Hotel in Sulphur on April 22, 23, and 24. The Chickasaw Nation was the Presenting Sponsor for the event.

In addition to the Artesian Hotel, conference events were staged at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center and the Chickasaw Cultural Center. Eighteen presentation sessions on topics relating to the conference theme, "Land, Wood, and Water: Natural Resources in the Course of Oklahoma History," were held over a two-day period as well as a bus tour, a concert, reception, and two luncheons.

Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby was the keynote speaker for the conference, making his presentation during the Annual Conference Luncheon on April 23. The Annual Awards Luncheon was held on April 24, during which four individuals were inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. The honorees were Sally Bourne Ferrell, Chandler; Jimmie Lewis Franklin, Las Vegas, Nevada; Edwin C. McReynolds, deceased; and John Wooley, Foyil.

A variety of other individuals and organizations were recognized during the Annual Awards Luncheon for outstanding work on behalf of Oklahoma history. Tracey Hanshew of Stillwater and Alvin O. Turner of Norman each received Muriel H. Wright Awards for outstanding articles published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in 2014. Hanshew's article was titled "Rodeo in Oklahoma is Women's Business: How Lucille Mulhall's Fame Created Opportunity in Rodeo." Turner was recognized for his article "The Dust Bowl: The Blame Game, the Facts, the Problem that Remains."

Charlotte Bailey and Evelyn Culver of Oklahoma City's Classen School of Advanced Studies each received Joseph B. Thoburn Student Historian Awards for their documentary project titled "Through the Eyes of Elephants" that earned them first place at the state level as eighth grade students in the 2014 Oklahoma History Day competition. LaRadius Allen Stephens, an Oklahoma history and American history teacher at Classen SAS, received the William D. Pennington Outstanding Oklahoma History Teacher Award.

Other individual award recipients included Jennifer M. Frazee of Tahlequah and Northeastern State University, who was recognized for producing the outstanding MA degree thesis approved in 2014. It was titled "A Mansion at the Athens of Indian Territory: Hunter's Home, 1845-1991." Michael J. Hightower, Okla-

homa City, was honored as the author of the Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History published in 2014, *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907-2000*. The University of Oklahoma Press was recognized as the publisher of Hightower's book.

Two organizations also were recognized. The Friends of Fort Washita, Inc. was honored as the Outstanding Local OHS Support Group, and the Chickasaw Cultural Center was recognized at the Outstanding Regional Historical Complex.

Conference activities were concluded with a book signing featuring authors Wiley Barnes, Larry Floyd, Jimmie Lewis Franklin, Kent Frates, Joshua Hinson, Davis Joyce, Michael Lovegrove, Phillip Morgan, Vicki Penner, Rebecca Travis, Bill Welge, and John Wooley.



Inventory of collections at Pioneer Woman Museum

In January the staff and volunteers of the Pioneer Woman Museum (PWM) drew a deep breath and began a huge task—a complete inventory of objects held in the PWM archives. Four staff members from the Oklahoma Historical Society joined the two full-time staff and two PWM volunteers to assist with the inventory. For one week the staff and volunteers pored through the contents of 115 boxes and various shelves, bays, and corners to identify, log, and photograph the items.

It was hard work that was anything but tedious. The objects in the museum give such color to the details of our ancestors' lives. Kitchen and farm tools are there, and doctor's bags with the tools of the nineteenth-century medical practitioner. The museum has side-saddles that were used by the more refined ladies, as well as photos, equipment, and personal items of the skilled women sharpshooters, trick riders, and ropers of the Wild West shows. There are Edwardian gowns, nineteenth-century riding habits, house dresses and wedding dresses, and underwear split to demonstrate how a woman could go to the toilet while wrapped in corset, camisole, drawers, petticoats, and skirts.

One of the most exciting finds was a claim flag from the 1893 Land Run. The red flag with black lettering was framed and is still in very good condition, a memento of that formative event in Oklahoma history. Another discovery was a membership ledger for the Oklahoma Anti Horse Thief Association. It was a revelation to find that the vigilante posse, a staple of Hollywood western movies, was not only real but frequently organized into lodges, complete with officers, dues, and membership requirements.

TG&Y Reunion at Chisholm Trail Museum

The Chisholm Trail Museum is proud to announce that a reunion of former TG&Y employees will take place at the museum on Saturday, June 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. The reunion is open to all former employees as well as the general public. For those who either remember shopping at or working for TG&Y, this exhibit is a must see. The Chisholm Trail Museum is housing a true Oklahoma icon with items and memorabilia that have not been displayed since TG&Y's decline in the early 1980s.

The exhibit from the museum's permanent collection, *TG&Y: An Original Oklahoma Icon*, features items and artifacts from the TG&Y era including personal items on loan from the original TG&Y store in Kingfisher. Please call 405-375-5176 for more information. The Chisholm Trail Museum is located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.

In an attempt at efficient storage, a hanging system for the thirty-plus quilts in the collection was contrived and installed with a donation from a local carpet dealer and two of the OHS staff. Additional hanging storage was installed at a later date for the multitude of framed photos, portraits, and memorabilia.

The inventory information is now being entered into the museum's computer system, which will show what each artifact looks like and where it is stored in the archives. Inventory, however, will never truly be completed. New donations continue to come in and are being added to the collection of artifacts that support the Pioneer Woman Museum's mission, the pioneer and pioneering women of Oklahoma.

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 580-765-6108 for more information. Visit the museum's Facebook page for current projects, classes, and exhibits.



Lorraine McDonagh and Mary Lee inventory collections at the Pioneer Woman Museum.

Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show

The historic Pawnee Bill Ranch will host Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show on June 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. Stagecoaches will roll amid thundering horse hooves while the lightning of gunfire explodes around Pawnee Bill and his cohorts as the talented cast thrill and amaze audiences at the 2015 Wild West Show. The show will feature acts from the original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Shows. Producers and directors have combined stage and script with historical preservation to ensure that the Wild West Show is one of the most historically accurate productions to date. Kevin Webb portrays Pawnee Bill for the seventh time. Webb, a long-time Wild West Show cast member and Pawnee Bill Ranch employee, is also a whip artist and chariot racer.

The museum and mansion will be open to the public on show days from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. In addition there will be historically accurate entertainment, such as blacksmithing, gunfighters and sharp shooters, a medicine man show, and musicians, all free and held continuously on the ranch grounds from 2-7 p.m. The cast will be available for a meet and greet with the audience on the museum grounds from 5-6:30 p.m. The Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association will serve a barbecue meal in the big barn starting at 5 p.m.

Ticket prices in advance are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (over age sixty-five), \$8 for children ages ten and under, and ages three and under are free. A group rate of \$10 per ticket is available for groups of ten or more people. On the day of the show ticket prices are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors (over age sixty-five), \$10 for children ages ten and under, and ages three and under are free. Special price package bundles are available for reserved seating and that information can be found at www.pawneebillranch.com or by calling 918-762-2513. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 918-762-2513. Online tickets are not available for this show. The Pawnee Bill Ranch is located one-half mile west of Pawnee on US Highway 64.



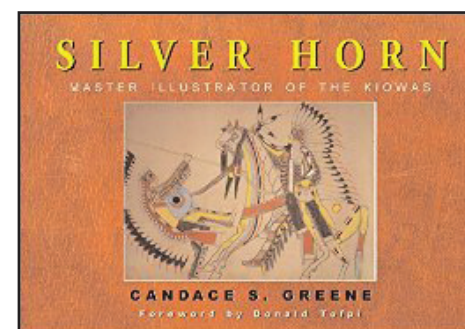
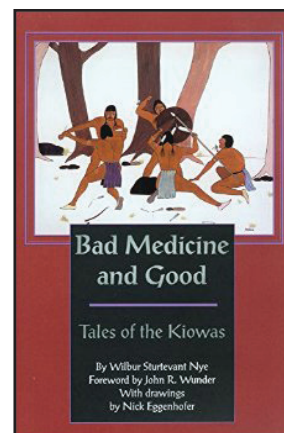
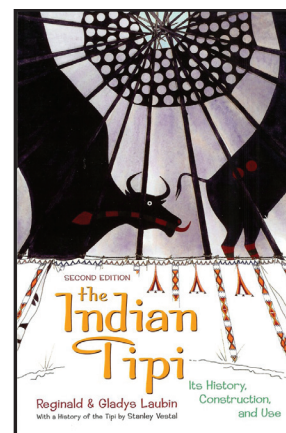
Museum Store News

by Jera Winters

The Oklahoma History Center is proud to bring its patrons and guests a unique glimpse of Oklahoma history with our latest exhibit, *Jòqigácút: Tipi With Battle Pictures*. Located in the Oklahoma Historical Society collections, this battle tipi is believed to have been created in 1833. The tipi records the history of the Kiowa people through art. The Oklahoma History Center Museum Store is pleased to offer new book titles to supplement this exciting exhibit.

The Indian Tipi: Its History, Construction, and Use, second edition, by Reginald and Gladys Laubin is an overview of the subject designed to conserve the craft. When the first edition of this book was published in 1957, the art of making a tipi was almost lost, even among American Indians. Since that time a tremendous resurgence of interest in the Indian way of life has occurred, due in part, at least, to the Laubins' life-long efforts at preservation and interpretation of Indian culture. The book is regularly priced at \$26.95, and is available to members for \$22.90.

In *Bad Medicine and Good: Tales of the Kiowas*, Wilbur Sturtevant Nye collects forty-four stories covering Kiowa history from the 1700s through the 1940s, all gleaned from interviews with Kiowas who actually took part in the events or recalled them from the accounts of their elders, and from the notes of Captain Hugh L. Scott at Fort Sill. They cover such topics as the organization and conduct of a raiding party, brave deeds of war chiefs, treatment of white captives, Grandmother gods, Kiowa Sun Dance, and problems of adjusting to white society. The book is regularly priced at \$19.95, and is available to members for \$16.95.



In *Silver Horn: Master Illustrator of the Kiowas*, Candace S. Greene explores the art and life of Silver Horn, a man of remarkable skill and talent. Working in graphite, colored pencil, crayon, pen and ink, and watercolor on hide, muslin, and paper, he produced more than one thousand illustrations between 1870 and 1920. Silver Horn created an unparalleled visual record of Kiowa culture, from traditional images of warfare and coup counting to sensitive depictions of the Sun Dance, early Peyote religion, and domestic daily life. The book is regularly priced at \$26.95, and is available to members for \$22.90.

Call or stop by for these and many other unique items that reflect the rich and diverse history of Oklahoma. As always, members receive a 15 percent discount on Museum Store purchases. Please contact us at 405-522-5214 with questions about these or any of our other great items.

OHS Research Center Lunch and Learns

The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center will present a series of Lunch and Learns, lunchtime programs on various topics pertaining to family history research. Lunch and Learns are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month from May to August.

On May 27 attendees explored family history during, "Finding Your Civil War Ancestors," with genealogist Mahlon Erickson. On Wednesday, June 24, William D. Welge, director of the OHS American Indian Culture and Preservation Office, will speak about American Indian history in his presentation, "Those Who Stayed: American Indians Who Remained on Ancestral Land." On Wednesday, July 22, Dr. Debra Osborne Spindle, OHS librarian, will teach researchers the value of obituaries in genealogical research in "Mining Obituaries for Family Research." The final program on Wednesday, August 26, will explore letters, records, and historical documents in "Secrets of the OHS Manuscript Collections," with Mallory Covington, OHS manuscripts archivist.

Research Center Lunch and Learns are held in the Oklahoma History Center classrooms from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is \$10 per person and lunch is included. Seating is limited and preregistration is required. Please call 405-522-5225 to register by phone or visit www.okhistory.org/researchcalendar for details and a printable registration form. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

Pioneer Kids summer activities at Pioneer Woman Museum

The Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City will host Pioneer Kids summer activities every Wednesday in June and July. In its second year, this summer program is intended for fourth through sixth graders.

Beginning on Wednesday, June 3, from 1 to 4 p.m., museum staff and volunteers will offer a number of fun activities for children. There will be crafts and games, with weekly themes that revolve around the pioneer spirit. The Pioneer Kids program will continue every Wednesday afternoon through July 29. The cost is \$5 per child, which includes all supplies and a snack. Preregistration is encouraged but not required, unless bringing a large group. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults will receive free admission to the museum.

Please call 580-765-6108 for more information or to make a reservation. The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.

Oklahoma's Twenty-Seventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

Tradition and Transition: Oklahoma's Twenty-Seventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held in Bartlesville on Wednesday, June 3, through Friday, June 5. All conference sessions will be at the Bartlesville Community Center at 300 South Adams Boulevard in Bartlesville.

The special places we appreciate, protect, and adapt for new uses embody our traditions. A more diverse preservation community develops; what is considered significant evolves; and new preservation methods and strategies emerge. The conference program will address these topics during two plenary sessions and three concurrent tracks of sessions. One of the nation's leading preservationists, Stephanie K. Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will present "The Future of the Past: Reconceiving Historic Preservation for the Twenty-First Century" in the opening plenary session of this year's conference. The full conference schedule can be found in the May issue of *Mistletoe Leaves* on pages six and seven.

Request a conference program, hotel information, and registration brochure from Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org. Individuals may also register online at www.downtown-bartlesvilleinc.org.

Oklahoma Indian Removal Teachers' Institute

The Oklahoma Historical Society announces the Indian Removal Teachers' Institute, set for Wednesday, July 15, through Friday, July 17, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The OHS will host the teachers' institute to explore the impact of the Trail of Tears, the removal of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee(Creek), and Seminole Nations from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory. Conference participants will visit important landmarks of the removal, including Fort Gibson Historic Site, the George M. Murrell Home, Sequoyah's Cabin, and Fort Smith. Lecture topics will include American Indian policy, the mechanics of removal, and the rebuilding and recovery process. Facilitators for the event include education staff from the OHS and Northeastern State University. Oklahoma teachers will explore non-traditional classroom experiences, including field trips and interactive activities to share with students.

Each teacher will receive an extensive resource kit with classroom activities and lesson guides. The cost for the program is \$185 per person and includes all materials. Teachers who register by June 25 will receive a \$10 discount. Most meals are provided. A limit of twenty Oklahoma teachers will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit www.okhistory.org/teachersinstitute to apply for the institute. Please contact Amanda Pritchett at 918-456-2751 or apritchett@okhistory.org for more information.

Elections results for OHS Board of Directors

The results of the election to fill four slots on the OHS Board of Directors were announced during the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, April 23.

Dr. William Corbett, Tahlequah, was elected to a three-year term representing Membership District Two. An incumbent director, Corbett has completed one year as president of the OHS and was elected by the board to serve another year in that office.

Dr. Linda Reese of Norman was elected to the board as a representative of Membership District Four. This will be her first term as a director of the OHS.

Two incumbent directors were elected at-large to serve new, three-year terms. They are Sandra Olson, Waynoka, and Barbara Thompson, Oklahoma City.

T. B. Ferguson Home to host tea party

On Sunday, June 7, at 2 p.m. the T. B. Ferguson Home will host an event entitled, "Let Us Treasure Your Memories of Jewelry." This includes a tea party and an afternoon of sharing heirloom jewelry as well as the memories associated with each piece. This event will be held in the Foley Building at the Blaine County Fairgrounds in Watonga. For more information please call Cindy Pitts at 580-623-5069. The T. B. Ferguson Home is located at 519 North Weigle Avenue in Watonga and offers free admission.

Tipi exhibit now open at the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center recently opened its newest exhibit, *Jòqígácút: Tipi With Battle Pictures*.

While doing regular upkeep on the Indian collections housed within the Oklahoma History Center, a museum curator discovered something that had been forgotten for many years. Stored on one of the shelving units was a rolled canvas tipi that no one had seen for many decades. This tipi is known as the Tipi with Battle Pictures. The tradition and history embodied by this tipi can be traced to 1833 when Little Bluff became the sole leader of the Kiowa people. The Tipi with Battle Pictures also figures prominently in another recent Oklahoma Historical Society venture: the acquisition and conservation of the 1920 silent film *Daughter of Dawn*. In fact, the tipi was authenticated using photographic stills from the movie.

This rare artifact is on display in the E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Special Exhibit Gallery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. It is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, and is an accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums. For more information please contact Steve Hawkins at 405-522-0754 or shawkins@okhistory.org.



Daughter of Dawn movie still, c. 1920 (20941.73.4.1.81, Museum of the Western Prairie Collection, OHS Research Division).

Construction underway at Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center

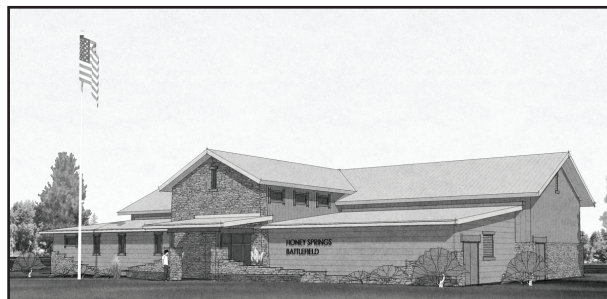
Construction of the long-anticipated Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center is now underway. “It has been a complicated process to get the project off the ground,” stated OHS Executive Director Bob Blackburn. “The center is a multi-million dollar development partnership between four federal agencies, a state agency, McIntosh County, several local businesses, and a nonprofit organization. Federal involvement includes the National Park Service, as well as all three agencies of USDA Rural Development—Rural Business Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Rural Housing Service.”

“The site offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy hiking and area wildlife, while learning about the Battle of Honey Springs and the impact of the Civil War on American Indians living in Indian Territory. The Civil War’s toll on life and property was greater per capita in what is present-day Oklahoma than any state in the country,” stated Blackburn.

The new visitor center is being built in Rentiesville, one of thirteen remaining All-Black towns of Oklahoma, populated by former slaves after the Civil War. In addition to being home to noted historian John Hope Franklin, Blues legend D. C. Minner, and Rentiesville’s annual Blues Festival, the town is home to Oklahoma’s largest military engagement. Ryan McMullen, state director of USDA Rural Development, stated, “The community has a high level of poverty, but does have some historic and cultural assets that provide opportunities for tourism, which the new center will capitalize on. In addition to exhibits, the center will offer a library space with collections focusing on Indian Territory, the Civil War, and the community. The library will also provide computers for community internet access.”

Blackburn noted, “The state, through the Oklahoma Historical Society, which owns the battlefield, has contributed over \$1 million in site development and architectural service fees. The OHS will continue to be involved providing in-kind services to monitor construction of the building and to provide design and construction services for the completion of the museum exhibits for the new center.”

All the partners have a vital role in the project, but the heart of the project, according to Blackburn, are the members of the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield. “This nonprofit membership organization is handling all the grant funding and most importantly the USDA loans to make the project happen. The OHS cannot borrow funds so the visitor center will belong to the Friends. The operation of



ADG rendering of exterior (above) and interior (right) for Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center.

the center will be through a continuing partnership between the Friends and the OHS,” continued Blackburn.

“The project is underway but we still have a lot of work to do,” stated Friends president Gary Nichols of Checotah. “We are launching our fundraising efforts to raise the funds needed for exhibit development and to possibly add some elements back to the building that were cut to bring the project into budget. We also hope to retire the debt well ahead of the forty-year term.”

The building was designed by ADG of Oklahoma City. The construction contract was awarded to Zenith Construction of Tahlequah. Company president Tyson Young was critical to getting the project underway, according to Blackburn. “The low bid was out of the money, but Young worked with the OHS construction manager, Rillis Howard, and the project architect, J. C. Witcher of ADG, to value engineer the project to get it within budget,” stated Blackburn.

According to McMullen, “Alone, USDA Rural Development could not make such a large project happen in such a small, impoverished community. But with plenty of creativity and enough partners, it’s still possible to make big things happen in small towns.”

The visitor center has been a dream since the first land was acquired to secure the battlefield in 1964. Over the years many individuals have contributed to securing the land, developing a road and walking trails through the site. The battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013.

The Battle of Honey Springs was the largest engagement of the American Civil War fought in Indian Territory, and it had far reaching impact on Indian Territory, American national development, and the future State of Oklahoma. The Battle of Honey Springs (also called Elk Creek) was the largest battle in which American Indians, Blacks, and Whites fought with and against one another.

If you would like to contribute toward the building construction, exhibit development, or to retire the building debt, contact Director of OHS Museums and Historic Sites Kathy Dickson at 405-522-5231 or kdickson@okhistory.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



New Members, cont’d.

Individual

Beth Hromas-Parker, Waukomis
Misty Johnson, Tishomingo
Donna Jones, Morrison
Crystal Jordan, Fletcher
Travis Kasper, Enid
Angela Kelsey, Brunswick, MD
Trey Knowles, Ardmore
Adrian Lay, Weatherford
Kathy Lyons, Stuart
Jake Marquez, Enid
Mary Martin, Tulsa
Rick McMullen, Clinton
Angela Meek, Alderson
Adam Milligan, Broken Arrow
Amanda Neal, Idabel
Elio Palacios, Canton
David Perry, Chandler
Rebekah Ratcliffe, Tuttle
James Ruiz, Blanchard
Donna Sanders, Broken Arrow
Dorthea Sexton, Sapulpa
Turner Silmon, Shawnee
Justin Smith, Enid
Lisa South, Lawton
Sayle Stumblingbear, Fort Cobb
Jimmie Terrel, Owasso
Timothy Vandivort, McLoud
Eric Walden, Claremore
Mayble Watson, Helena
Anne Winzenread, Edmond

Twenty-year members renew in April

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in April, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Peggy Talley, Poteau, May 1, 1981
Dola Yeager, Edmond, April 1, 1984
Ric and Francie Russell, Meeker, April 1, 1984
Van Appelman Jr., Catoosa, April 3, 1985
Kalvin Zitterkob, Moore, April 7, 1986
Rondi Ott, Enid, March 20, 1987
Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library, Durant, February 10, 1988
Bill Carter, Coweta, April 4, 1988
Will Rogers Library, Claremore, February 24, 1989
Barbara Klein and James Weaver, Oklahoma City, March 29, 1989
Ethel Thomas, Pawhuska, February 5, 1991
Daniel and Mary Ann Littlefield, North Little Rock, AR, January 8, 1992
Frances Elliott, Wichita, KS, April 2, 1992
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Weigand, Edmond, April 21, 1992
Sloan Coats, San Francisco, CA, April 24, 1992
Leroy and Marlene Boyer, Oklahoma City, April 27, 1992
Wagoner County Historical Society, Wagoner, April 23, 1993
Robert Ringo, Lincoln, CA, April 28, 1993
Laurie Williams, Ardmore, May 3, 1993
Nancy De Quevedo, Oklahoma City, April 26, 1995

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

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PERIODICALS

 Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

June events at a glance

- 3** Okietales (Wednesdays in June and July), Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3** Pioneer Kids summer activities (Wednesdays in June and July), Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 3-5** Oklahoma's Twenty-Seventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Bartlesville
- 6** *Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues* exhibit opening, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 7** "Let Us Treasure Your Memories of Jewelry" tea party with T. B. Ferguson Home, Blaine County Fairgrounds, Watonga
- 9** Lunch and Learn: Buckboard Quilts, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 9-13** Chautauqua in the Park: The Dust Bowl, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10** Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12-13** Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 13** Grand opening of Fort Towson Visitor Center, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 13** TG&Y Reunion, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 13** Quilting workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 18** Juneteenth panel discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20** Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 20** Fiber Rendezvous and Traditional Craft Day, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20** Third Saturday living history program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 20-21** Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 24** "Those Who Stayed" Lunch and Learn, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27** Family Space Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

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Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues exhibit opening at Chisholm Trail Museum

On Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m. the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will open a new exhibit about former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher Carl Mays. The exhibit is entitled *Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues*. Mays started playing baseball in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, in the early 1900s and went on to play in the major leagues for the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, Cincinnati Reds, and New York Giants.

Carl Mays was born in Liberty, Kentucky, on November 12, 1891. After the sudden passing of his father, Mays's mother moved the family to Kingfisher around 1903. Carl Mays worked on his family's farm and grew up playing baseball with other young boys out in the local pastures, often using dried cow chips for bases. In late 1909, after Kingfisher beat Hennessey with Mays at the helm as pitcher, the Hennessey Sluggers offered to pay him more money to pitch for their team. Consequently, Mays moved approximately twenty miles north to pitch for the Hennessey Sluggers in 1909, where he led the team to the title game. According to the *Hennessey Clipper* newspaper, Mays recorded a no-hitter and won every game he pitched for the Sluggers. Toward the end of his career in Major League Baseball, Mays retained his ties to the Kingfisher County area, sending letters to friends residing in Hennessey and Kingfisher. Carl Mays was one of the best MLB pitchers from 1915 to 1929; however, he most often is remembered for causing Major League Baseball's only fatality. In 1920, before batting helmets were used, Mays's submarine ball cracked the skull of Cleveland's Ray Chapman, who died the next day.

For more information about this exhibit, please contact Director Adam Lynn at 405-375-5176 or ctmus@pldi.net. The Chisholm Trail Museum and Governor A. J. Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.



Above: Carl Mays in 1915, photo courtesy Library of Congress.

Right: Carl Mays in his New York Yankees uniform c. 1920, photo courtesy Library of Congress.

