



## Fort Gibson stockade reopens to the public

After three years of restoration, the OHS is pleased to announce the reopening of the stockade at Fort Gibson. "The staff of the Oklahoma Historical Society is excited to welcome the public back into the stockade at Historic Fort Gibson," said Executive Director Bob L. Blackburn. A ceremonial ribbon cutting was held on Friday, April 22, at 1 p.m. The program took place on the stockade parade grounds, located at 110 East Ash in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Activities included the presentation of colors, brief remarks, refreshments, and firing of the cannon.

According to David Fowler, OHS regional director, "The log stockade closed to the public in the spring of 2013 for extensive restoration. Restoration work ultimately took three years and totaled more than \$1.5 million. This work was critical to save this National Historic Landmark for future generations."

"Staff members from across the state have worked very hard on the restoration," said Kathy Dickson, OHS director of museums and historic sites. "While much of the work was contracted, some work, such as the necessary grading and drainage work, was taken on by staff members. We have an incredibly dedicated and talented staff. They have been digging ditches and hauling rocks to make this project possible with our limited funds." Approximately one hundred reenactors called the fort home for the weekend as the Frontier Battalion held its spring muster on April 23-24.

It is fitting that Fort Gibson once again is welcoming visitors in 2016, since this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Fort Gibson received federal designation prior to the preservation act. Fort Gibson and Fort Sill both were named National Historic Landmarks on the same day in 1960. The National Park Service (NPS) also celebrates its centennial in 2016. The "Find Your Park" promotion launched by the NPS provides an opportunity to focus attention on these important places.

"Many Oklahomans don't realize we have twenty-two National Parks and National Historic Landmarks in our state," said Blackburn. "Promotion of the 'Find Your Park' initiative can help increase public awareness of what is right in our own backyard. We hope people will visit the National Historic Landmarks that OHS owns and share their visitor experiences through social media, including [www.findyourpark.com](http://www.findyourpark.com)."

Fort Gibson served a pivotal role in the political, social, and economic upheaval that marked the westward expansion of the United States. Fort Gibson was established in 1824 to keep the peace between the Osages and Cherokees. It figured prominently in the Indian removals, and was home to many of our



nation's leaders during the 1840s and 1850s. During the Civil War it was renamed Fort Blunt and was the Union headquarters in Indian Territory. Abandoned in 1890, the fort later served as the headquarters for the Dawes Commission for



their work enrolling members of the Five Civilized Tribes. At Fort Gibson the commission members focused their attention on Cherokee Freedmen.

The stockade was reconstructed under the Works Progress Administration beginning in 1937, and since that time has been operated by the State of Oklahoma under several different agencies. In 1983 the OHS assumed operation of the stockade in addition to the properties it owned on Garrison Hill. The stockade was in poor condition when the OHS assumed management, a situation that only grew worse as the agency endured eleven budgets cuts during its thirty-three years of management. Vital repair and maintenance funds were sacrificed during these cuts, worsening the downward spiral of the structures.

A grant through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's TEA-21 program provided the biggest single source of funding. Fort Gibson was eligible for the funds due to its importance in regional transportation. Built at the critical crossroads of the Three Forks where the Arkansas, Verdigris, and Grand Rivers converge south of the Ozark Plateau, Fort Gibson was key to river navigation. It also served as an outpost on the Texas Road connecting settled Missouri with the new country of Mexico after independence from Spain in 1820. Other federal project funds included a Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service. The grants, with matching state funds, made it possible to complete what was ultimately \$1.5 million in restoration work.

Work continues on restoration at the fort. The first and second phases of restoration work on the 1872 hospital building will begin shortly. This project is made possible by funding through the Long Range Capital Planning Commission under the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. Fort Gibson is located at 907 North Garrison in Fort Gibson. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. For more information please call 918-478-4088.







## Director's column

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

As any farmer knows, if you want to harvest a crop, first you have to plant the seeds. Recent donations of several collections associated with African American history prove that point.

After too many decades of ignoring African American history, leaders at the OHS starting planting seeds of reconciliation in the 1970s. Alice Everett, a community leader in Oklahoma City, was the first chairperson of the Black Heritage Committee. She was followed by Zella Patterson, Major Rose, Rubye Hall, Eddie Faye Gates, and Shirley Nero.

As the OHS Board planted seeds and charted new directions, the staff embraced and nurtured early efforts to include African American history into OHS programs. Although lacking in collections, we had plenty of stories to share through publications and speeches.

Thanks to the generosity of the late Currie Ballard, whose family history went back to freed slaves in the Cherokee Nation, we had access to collections for early exhibits on the African American experience. I will never forget one interactive exhibit, curated in the mid-1990s by Sandy Stratton, that focused on slavery. Other exhibits made possible through Currie's collections include African American educators and the All-Black towns.

We were planting seeds.

The pace of planting accelerated in the 1990s. Thanks to the leadership of Rep-

resentative Don Ross, I served as chairman of the Tulsa Race Riot Commission, which gave us opportunities to explore the roots of racism and create dialogue about one of the most shameful moments in Oklahoma history.

We added staff members such as Bruce Fisher, a fellow historian and leader in the African American community, and Larry O'Dell, whose research skills opened new doors of opportunity. One national leader who recognized our efforts was Oklahoma's own Dr. John Hope Franklin, who participated in several programs that packed the Oklahoma History Center.

As the planted seeds sprouted and grew, the collections started coming our way and filling a gap long neglected. Donors included leaders in the civil rights movement such as Hannah Atkins, Jimmy Stewart, Frederick Moon, and the family of Roscoe Dunjee. Artifacts spanned the themes of business, schools, military service, sports, music, and associations.

The harvest accelerated when the family of Clara Luper donated her archival and artifact collection. Today, her story is the centerpiece of a new exhibit about African Americans at the Oklahoma History Center.

Last week, Larry O'Dell, Bruce Fisher, and I attended services at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. In front of his congregation, the Reverend Major Jemison announced that the church is donating its archival collection to the OHS. In addition to materials about the history of one prominent church, the collection includes the personal archives of W. K. Jackson, a leader in the civil rights movement, and Reverend Jemison, an outstanding community leader.

Yes, if you want to harvest a crop, first you have to plant the seeds. After four decades of planting seeds of reconciliation, we are harvesting the story of the African American experience.

*Dr. Bob*

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The 2016 Oklahoma History Conference in Woodward concluded at the end of April. The conference was very successful, but also bitter-sweet. Dr. Paul Lambert has been the lead organizer for this conference for nearly a decade. He is officially retiring, and the OHS will have to plan these meetings without his expertise. Paul has elevated our meetings to a first-rate history conference and will be missed.

At the conference the OHS Board of Directors announced that its members had raised enough funds to contribute to the Shirley Ann Ballard Nero endowment fund and purchase a paver in Shirley's name at the Oklahoma History Center. This endowment provides yearly money for African American programming, research, and projects that focus on Oklahoma's historic All-Black towns. It is still possible to contribute to the endowment. You can do so by calling Shelly Crynes at 405-522-0317 or emailing [scrynes@okhistory.org](mailto:scrynes@okhistory.org). You can find information about our Legacy Limestone Pavers and naming opportunities by contacting Shelly or by visiting [www.okhistory.org/support/naming](http://www.okhistory.org/support/naming).



## New Members, April

\*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

### Benefactor

\*David Russell, Enid

### Associate

Howard K. Berry Jr., Oklahoma City

\*Rosa Flipse, Del City

\*Garfield Furniture, Enid

Penny Lane, Ardmore

\*Logan and Donna Sharpe, Checotah

\*Tom Walker, Tulsa

### Friend

Penny George, Oklahoma City

\*Don and Joyce Keel, Edmond

Phil Kliewer, Cordell

Helen Lange, Oklahoma City

\*Mary Lindemann, Norman

\*Frank and Nadine McPherson, Oklahoma City

\*Rondi Ott, Enid

\*Rex and Joy Rigglesman, Midwest City

### Family

\*Don and Dot Adkins, Norman

Bob Bailey, Weatherford

Kathryn Bailey, Midwest City

Bill and Susan Bartheld, Haymarket, VA

David and Gladys Boggs, Oklahoma City

\*Jean Louise Brody, Bethany

Matt and Jenny Brunton, Edmond

\*John R. Calhoun, Windsor, ON

Melanie Carpenter, Bethany

Ashley Carter and Teresa Merrill, Midwest City

Franklin and Margaret Cullum, Sallisaw

Norman Dunagin, Nichols Hills

Shaun and Victoria Eller-Moore, Oklahoma City

Roberta Ensign and Kyle Wendling, Edmond

Amanda Forum and Lee Parmenter, Coweta

Angi and Cheryl Gavin, Oklahoma City

Elizabeth Givens and Ashley Jaques, Yukon

Matt and Shelly Glazner, Oklahoma City

Harry and Cathy Goett, Oklahoma City

Debra Hampton, Edmond

Jayne Harless and Alyson Wendling, Midwest City

Andre and Carrie Harris, Oklahoma City

Patsy Heidlage, Claremore

Darrin and Jill Hill, Edmond

Pete and Jane Holcombe, Oklahoma City

Bethany Holley-Griffith and Jennifer Brown, Del City

Kim Jensen and Kayla Dowdy, Edmond

Doug and Donna Johnston, Oklahoma City

Catherine Jones, Moore

J. T. and Brandy Langston, Luther

cont'd. on p. 7

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

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

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

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, 6,000 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,276 each month. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the United States Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by either organization.

**Mistletoe Leaves** is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

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

All Oklahoma Historical Society facilities are for the education and enjoyment of all. State and federal regulations prohibit unlawful discrimination in state and federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap.

Anyone denied benefits should contact the grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5299, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

# AROUND OKLAHOMA

## Events

The Magnolia Festival of Oklahoma in **Durant** will feature games and festivities perfect for a fun-filled family weekend on Thursday, June 2, through Saturday, June 4. As headquarters of the Choctaw Nation, the city of Durant also will showcase the history and folklore of the Choctaws with traditional dances and a Choctaw Princess Pageant. Through their colorful dance movements, the dancers will tell stories rich in American Indian heritage. This free festival will be held at the Choctaw Event Center at 3702 Choctaw Road in Durant. For more information please call 580-924-0848.

As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial, one of its goals is to reintroduce the National Parks to all citizens. To do this, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in **Cheyenne** will host many activities throughout 2016. On Saturday, June 18, Movie Night will be held at 6:30 p.m., which includes a family film followed by a park ranger leading a discussion. The discussion will include the film's relevance to the Washita Battlefield, the historical accuracies or inaccuracies, and common stereotypes found in Hollywood films. This event is held in the Visitor Center and is free to attend. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A near Cheyenne. For more information please contact Kevin Bowles Mohr at 580-497-2742, ext. 3003 or Kevin\_Bowles\_Mohr@nps.gov.

Head to Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch near **Oologah** on June 20-22 for Frontier Days Kids' Camp. This exciting camp will take youngsters back to the days before statehood and to November 4, 1879, when Will Rogers was born. Kids ages five to fourteen can experience life in the 1880s on an Indian Territory ranch. Camp hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Campers will check in each morning at 7:30 a.m. and hike to the various assigned project stations throughout the ranch grounds. Appropriate walking shoes are required. Camp cost is \$35 each for families who are members of Friends of Will Rogers or \$45 for nonmembers. The registration deadline is June 10. Registration forms are available at [www.willrogers.com](http://www.willrogers.com) or at the admissions desk. Space is limited. Please call 918-343-8129 with questions.

Experience the annual Peoria Powwow in **Miami** on Friday, June 24, through Sunday, June 26. Celebrate American Indian culture and enjoy three days of tra-

ditional 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. 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.

Explore one of the finest natural history museums in the world. The Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma in **Norman** has 50,000 square feet of exhibit space and traces over 500 million years of Oklahoma's natural and cultural history. Visit on Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and receive complimentary admission to the museum with valid library card. Pioneer Library Systems also will be available at the museum for those interested in signing up for a library card. The Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma is located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. For more information please call 405-325-4712.

## Exhibits

Visit the Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum in **Tahlequah** for a new exhibit on the extraordinary accomplishments of Cherokee women. The exhibit is entitled Cherokee Women Who Changed the World and will be on display from May 6 through November 30. This exhibit highlights the lives of Cherokee women such as Nancy Ward, Winnie Guess Perdue, Mary Golda Ross, Anna Mitchell, and Wilma Mankiller. Women always have held a special place within the Cherokee lifestyle. As the keepers of harmony and balance, women often were seated on town councils and advised on all aspects of daily tribal life. Some women were appointed as Beloved Women and held special seats of power at council meetings. As mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters and aunts, they raised their children together with love and tradition. Throughout the centuries, Cherokee women have made great contributions not only to Cherokee culture, but American culture as well. Do not miss this exclusive exhibit highlighting some of the Cherokee Nation's most inspiring women. The Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum is located at 122 East Keetoowah Street in Tahlequah. Regular hours are Tuesday

through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information please call 877-779-6977 or email [cherokee.tourism@cnet.com](mailto:cherokee.tourism@cnet.com). Details also may be found at [www.visitcherokeenation.com](http://www.visitcherokeenation.com).

Celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward** with exciting exhibitions. A new exhibit of HDR photography by Mark Lemmons is on display through June 4. There also is a new statue of Temple Houston located near the museum's entrance. In celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, the museum unveiled this new statue and recently dedicated its new, climate controlled storage room. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or [pipm@swbell.net](mailto:pipm@swbell.net) for more information.

## Meetings

The monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will be held on Monday, June 6, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. Professional genealogist Rick Fogarty will be the speaker and his presentation is entitled "Native American Genealogy and Research." The meeting and program will take place from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and experienced researchers will be available prior to the meeting at 5 p.m. to answer research questions. Monthly meetings are free for OGS members. Nonmembers are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend. All are invited to join, with more information available at [www.okgensoc.org](http://www.okgensoc.org). OGS meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 for more information.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at [eebrown@okhistory.org](mailto:eebrown@okhistory.org) or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the July issue, you must submit it by Monday, June 6.



## Chisholm Trail Museum celebrates TG&Y's eightieth anniversary with a new exhibit and reunion

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher is proud to announce a special exhibit, entitled *TG&Y is Still Alive: The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit*, celebrating the eightieth anniversary of the opening of the first TG&Y store. The grand opening of the exhibit will coincide with the TG&Y reunion group's annual visit to the Chisholm Trail Museum on Saturday, June 25, at 1 p.m. The exhibit unveiling will be open to the public, and visitors will have the opportunity to tour the exhibit and talk with numerous former TG&Y employees about the history of TG&Y. *TG&Y is Still Alive: The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit* will remain on display through September 2016.

In early March 1936 three enterprising men, R. E. Tomlinson, E. L. Gosselin, and Raymond Young merged their money and resources to co-own and open the first TG&Y store on Main Street in downtown Norman, Oklahoma. Little did these small five-and-dime store owners from central and western Oklahoma know that the opening of this store would lead to one of the largest retail chain store successes in the nation by the 1970s, boasting more than nine hundred stores and more than \$2 billion in retail profit at its peak. This year marks the eightieth anniversary of the opening of the first TG&Y store and the Chisholm Trail Museum will celebrate and honor this very special anniversary by displaying the history, culture, and spirit of TG&Y through a temporary exhibit focusing on its former owners, employees, and avid shoppers.

The museum's initial exhibit on the store, entitled *TG&Y: An Original Oklahoma Icon*, started fairly small and focused on Raymond A. Young, who opened his first five-and-dime store in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. However, when news spread about the exhibit, countless former TG&Y employees and enthusiasts came from across Oklahoma and surrounding states to remember the history of TG&Y and what it meant to them. It was through these visitors that the museum acquired numerous donations of TG&Y merchan-

dise, pins, pamphlets, magazines, and oral histories. The museum will utilize these very generous donations and memories in the upcoming exhibit. The exhibit will include more than eighty store pamphlets from the 1960s through the 1980s that include individual photographs and stories about hard-working employees from their time spent working at various TG&Y stores across Oklahoma and the nation. Photocopies of the original pamphlets will be available to any former employee who wishes to take a piece of history home from the exhibit. Binders with original store opening newspaper clippings from around the state of Oklahoma also will be available to view, in addition to numerous TG&Y related artifacts such as TG&Y branded televisions, toy trucks, pins, jackets, glasses, pencils, and countless other pieces of merchandise previously sold at TG&Y stores.

For more information about the Chisholm Trail Museum and to see updates on events and programs, please visit [www.ctokmuseum.org](http://www.ctokmuseum.org), follow the museum on Facebook, or call 405-375-5176. The Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion and are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on major holidays. Admission to the museum is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors.



## OHS Research Center Lunch and Learn

The OHS Research Center will present a Lunch and Learn lecture on Thursday, June 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mahlon Erickson will speak about military records. His program will include an overview of military records from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, which records are useful to genealogists and why, and where to find records online. The Lunch and Learn will be held in the classrooms at the Oklahoma History Center. Registration is \$10 per person and lunch is included. Attendees must preregister to be guaranteed a spot. Call 405-522-5225 to register and please have your credit card ready. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



**TG&Y managers' meeting  
February 4-5, 1941**

## Cold War workshops at the Museum of the Western Prairie

At 2 p.m. each afternoon from Tuesday, May 31, through Saturday, June 4, the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will host workshops featuring scholars involved in the annual Oklahoma Chautauqua event. These workshops will explore topics relating to this year's theme, "The Cold War: The Early Years."

Afternoon workshop attendees also will have the added benefit of exploring the Atlas Missile exhibit at the museum. This exhibit uses narrative, photographs, and graphics to detail the influence of the Altus Air Force Base as the location of the 577<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron in 1961. It explores the construction and operation of the sites and explains the reasons for phasing them out in 1965.

The exhibit showcases an actual launch control console, which is positioned so that visitors can see the front of the console as well as its "innards" reflected in a mirror situated behind the opened back of the console. Central to the exhibit is a hand-carved replica of the squadron's patch that symbolized its mission: to be on constant alert, day and night, around the world.

The workshops are free and open to the public. For more information please call 580-482-1044 or email [muswestpr@okhistory.org](mailto:muswestpr@okhistory.org). The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus.



## "Mysteries of the Mansion"

Visit the Overholser Mansion for "Mysteries of the Mansion" on Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. This extended tour allows guests to tour the mansion at night, examine archival materials, and hear some amazing stories. Guests are asked to RSVP in advance and the cost is \$20 per person. Tours during regular hours are free to OHS members. To make a reservation for this special tour, please call 405-525-5325 or email [overholsermansion@preservationok.org](mailto:overholsermansion@preservationok.org). The Henry Overholser Mansion is located at 405 Northwest Fifteenth Street in Oklahoma City. It is owned by the OHS and managed by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.



## St. Luke's Methodist Sound Collection—A Case Study in Palmitic Acid

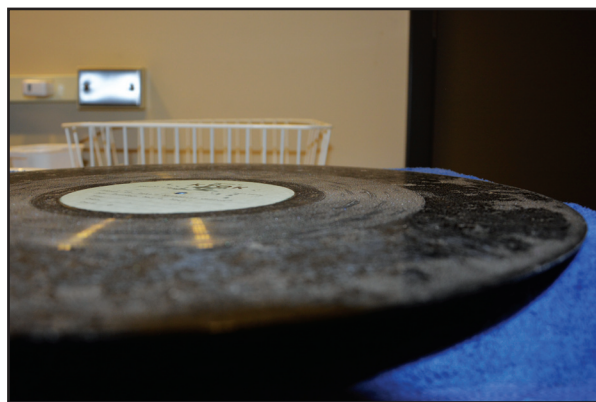
By JA Pryse, OHS digital archivist

On Monday, April 22, 1889, the Unassigned Lands in Indian Territory were opened to settlers. The following Sunday, April 28, 1889, a Methodist minister gathered a group around him in a vacant lot in what would become Oklahoma City where a shelter was erected named "Tabernacle Church." Within one month the congregation totaled 501. St. Luke's United Methodist Church has thrived since those early beginnings.

The OHS has partnered with the church to preserve their rich history. The OHS Research Division digitized thirty-seven sixteen-inch lacquer discs that date from 1946 to 1961 and three wire recordings from the same time period. The bulk of the broadcasts at St. Luke's were conducted by KTOK Radio (1000 AM), which has served the Oklahoma City area since 1927. These recordings are a living history of the church's campaigns, sermons, conversations, and music.

The lacquer transcription discs developed a coating of a white waxy or greasy substance over time, which in its early stages looks like a fine white dust or powder. This substance consists of palmitic acid and stearic acid. The early powder stage of palmitic acid formation is sometimes mistaken for mold, but under the microscope one can clearly distinguish between the two. Palmitic acid causes permanent damage to recorded sound, which in turn causes the absolute loss of the historical audio.

A remarkable video glimpse at the preservation and digitization processes of the discs and wire recordings is available on the OHS website. Please visit [www.okhistory.org/research/stlukes](http://www.okhistory.org/research/stlukes) to watch the video. Also available on the webpage is a link to the OHS Audio Department's YouTube Channel. Please email [japryse@okhistory.org](mailto:japryse@okhistory.org) with any questions.



**Recording from KTOK Radio with the presence of palmitic acid, a substance that can cause permanent damage to recorded sound.**

## Steamboat *Heroine* exhibit at OHC updated

The steamboat *Heroine* exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) has undergone recent renovations. After a great deal of research into journals, diaries, archaeological evidence, and period paintings, a second deck has been assembled. The *Heroine* consisted of two decks: the lower deck that contained the mechanical and operational components and the upper deck that maintained women's and men's living quarters and a dining area. These areas have been reconstructed to offer a vivid reproduction of a colorful chapter of our history.

Plans are in place to develop an interactive component that will give visitors the ability to walk in the shoes of a crew member or a passenger by clicking on that figure on a touchscreen. A hoist that was used to load and unload cargo will be added to the bow of the ship. Fire baskets will be installed to demonstrate how a ship maneuvered on the river in the dark. The OHC is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Altus museum to host art exhibition

On Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m., the Western Trail Historical Society will host the opening of *The Stories They Could Tell: The Landscapes and Vernacular Architecture of Southwest Oklahoma* at the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus. This interpretive art exhibition explores the landscapes of southwest Oklahoma and the vernacular structures nestled into them that have inspired the work of Altus artist Brian Nichols.

The program is free, open to the public, and will inform visitors about early day life in southwest Oklahoma through history, geography, art, and architecture. The program and art exhibition will connect visitors to the places that residents of southwest Oklahoma call home. An informational catalog will help visitors focus on the landscapes that trademark southwest Oklahoma as well as the unique personalities of the common, ordinary structures that dot the rural countryside as captured in the paintings.

*The Stories They Could Tell* will be on exhibit in the First Gallery of the Museum of the Western Prairie from June 16 through August 15. Please call 580-482-1044 or email [muswestpr@okhistory.org](mailto:muswestpr@okhistory.org) for more information. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus.



## "Tour de Museums" summer program

The T. B. Ferguson Home in Watonga is proud to announce its summer program, "Tour de Museums." Purchase a passport for \$6 at any participating museum, then get it stamped after touring each museum. The "Tour de Museums" summer program will run from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Enjoy visiting all eight participating museums across western Oklahoma and collect a stamp at each museum. When the passport is full, turn it in at the last museum that you tour and your passport will be entered into a drawing to be held on Saturday, September 26, at 1 p.m. The winner will receive a one-night stay at the Noble House Bed and Breakfast in Watonga for adults and a gift certificate for paddle boat rides at Roman Nose State Park for children.

Participating museums include Cherokee Strip Museum, Alva; Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher; Freedom Museum, Freedom; Gateway to the Panhandle Museum, Gate; Major County Historical Society, Fairview; Sod House Museum, Aline; Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford; and T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga.

"Tour de Museums" passports cannot be stamped prior to May 30, 2016, or after September 6, 2016. For more information please contact Louise Griffin at 580-623-5069 or [historic.tbferguson.home@gmail.com](mailto:historic.tbferguson.home@gmail.com).

## Chautauqua in the Park at CSRHC

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host Chautauqua in the Park on June 14–18. This year's theme is "The Cold War: The Early Years" with feature presentations by Doug Mishler as Nikita Khrushchev, Dr. J. Holmes Armstead Jr. as Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Ilene Evans as Eslanda Robeson, Dr. Kevin Radaker as Winston Churchill, and Randy Noojin as Pete Seeger. Each scholar's feature presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer session. There will be local entertainment and dinner for purchase each evening preceding the feature presentations. Workshops are held daily in the Humphrey Heritage Village Church at 10:30 a.m. and noon. Each of the five scholars will lead two workshops during the week. For a full schedule of presentations and workshops, please visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org). Please call 580-237-1907 with any questions. The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.



## **Pioneer Family Fun Days at Pioneer Woman Museum**

The Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City will host Pioneer Family Fun Days three Saturdays in June. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on June 11, June 18, and June 25, families can enjoy a variety of summer activities. A new theme will be introduced each week with come-and-go activities designed for ages five and up. There is no age restriction and all are welcome to participate. The cost is \$5 per family of up to six people. Please call 580-765-6108 for more information. The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.

## **Summer Solstice Walks at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center**

Families can begin the summer season with a trip to Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center for a special guided tour during the summer solstice. There will be three walks led by archaeologist Dennis Peterson starting at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 19, and again at the same times on Monday, June 20. Each walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking. The fee for this tour is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children, in addition to the daily admission fee.

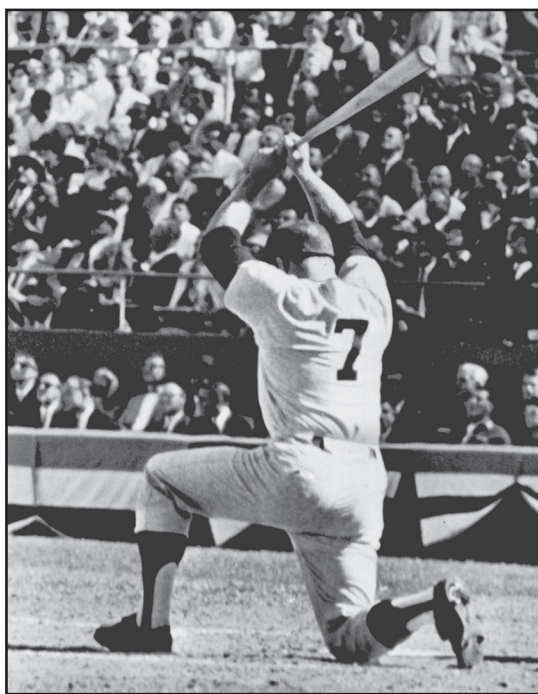
Peterson will talk about the history of the mound site and the American Indians who built it more than one thousand years ago. He also will discuss the reasons for the mounds and the alignment of some of the mounds to track the movement of the sun throughout the year. Peterson will tell the history of the excavations of the site by both archaeologists and looters. The 7 p.m. walks will allow for observation of twilight wildlife and guests can view the sunset, which is the most important part of the event.

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is the only prehistoric American Indian site open to the public in Oklahoma and is administered by the OHS. Regular hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The center closes for state holidays. Daily admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$1 for children older than six. The center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information or to schedule a group or school tour during the solstice walks or some other time, please email [spiro@okhistory.org](mailto:spiro@okhistory.org) or call 918-962-2062.

## **Mickey Mantle Day and new photography exhibit**

The Oklahoma History Center opened a new exhibit of photography in April. *Mickey Mantle: Baseball Hero in Black and White* will be on display in the Chesapeake Events Center at the History Center through September 15. The exhibit includes twenty-five black-and-white images, all originally published in the *Daily Oklahoman* newspaper. The staff of the *Daily Oklahoman* consistently covered the career of Mantle, a native Oklahoman. The photos span from 1950 to the 1960s and depict Mantle in his personal and professional life. The Mickey Mantle photo exhibit utilizes the original reporters' captions to highlight on-field and off-field milestones of the Baseball Hall of Famer. A few select artifacts also are displayed. Please note this exhibit is on display in the Chesapeake Events Center. This room also is used for meetings and special events. Visitors are encouraged to call 405-522-0765 in advance to confirm the room will be open to the public on the day of their visit.

To promote the new *Mickey Mantle: Baseball Hero in Black and White* exhibit, Mickey Mantle Day will be celebrated on Thursday, July 7 (7/7), in cooperation with Mickey Mantle's Steakhouse. Discounts on History Center admission, OHS memberships, and dinners at Mickey Mantle's Steakhouse will be offered. Online and radio trivia contests will run throughout the week of July 4 and among the prizes will be a free stay at the Bricktown Hilton and tickets to an Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball game. For more information please call 405-522-0754 or email [shawkins@okhistory.org](mailto:shawkins@okhistory.org). The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



**Mickey Mantle expressing frustration during a 1962 World Series game (2012.201.B0415B.0074, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).**

## **Oklahoma Civil War Teachers' Institute announced**

The OHS announces its upcoming Oklahoma Civil War Teachers' Institute, set for July 6–8, in Tahlequah. The teachers' institute will explore the war's impact on Indian Territory and techniques for teaching Oklahoma Civil War history in K–12 classrooms.

Oklahoma teachers will explore non-traditional classroom experiences relating to the Civil War, as well as field trips and interactive activities to share with students. Conference participants will visit important landmarks of the war, including Fort Gibson Historic Site, Honey Springs Battlefield, and the George M. Murrell Home. Facilitators for the event include education staff from the OHS and Northeastern State University.

Each teacher will receive an extensive resource kit with classroom activities and lesson guides. The cost for the teachers' institute is \$249 per person and includes all materials, plus some transportation and meals. The institute is open to public, private, and home school teachers in Oklahoma, grades K–12. A limit of fifteen Oklahoma teachers will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [www.okteachersinstitute.weebly.com](http://www.okteachersinstitute.weebly.com) to register. For more information please contact Amanda Pritchett at 918-456-2751 or [apritchett@okhistory.org](mailto:apritchett@okhistory.org).



## **Juneteenth at the Oklahoma History Center**

On Thursday, June 16, the OHS will celebrate Juneteenth at the Oklahoma History Center. This free program will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. OHS Black Heritage Committee President Shirley Nero will formally thank Reverend M. L. Jemison for the donation of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church's archival collection. Nero also will speak about the Black Heritage Committee's many projects. Musician Walter Taylor will present a program on Oklahoma City's rich African American music and cultural history. To conclude, OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob L. Blackburn will have a public conversation with "Miss Blues," Dorothy Ellis. They will discuss her lifelong career in music spanning more than sixty years and other experiences. For more information please call 405-522-5202. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



## New Members, cont'd.

### Family

Keith and Lanita Lough, Oklahoma City  
Jacob Martin, Edmond  
George and Judy McDowell, Oklahoma City  
Rick and Kandi Nagel, Norman  
\*Charles and Pamela Oliver, Waxahachie, TX  
Walter and Sara Palmer, Oklahoma City  
Cathy Peck, Oklahoma City  
Charlie and Jessica Peters, Midwest City  
Blake Podhajsky, Oklahoma City  
\*Jack and Shirley Querry, Oklahoma City  
Joe and Ali Rettedal, Edmond  
Ronda Shepherd, Okarche  
Ruth Simmons and Allison Simmons, Oklahoma City  
Michele Skidgel and Laura McConnell, Perry  
Steven Smith and Zachary Smith, Tulsa  
Tonda Stafford and Lauren Keck, Edmond  
Walter Stumpf and Emily Johnson, Yukon  
\*Leonard and Marilyn Sullivan, Oklahoma City  
David Weaver, Edmond  
Andrea Williams, Oklahoma City  
Barbara Williams-Johnson, Edmond  
Curtis and Betty Working, Checotah  
Joshua and Natalie Zantop, Oklahoma City

### Individual

Kayleigh Barton, Sulphur  
James Beauchamp, Oklahoma City  
Ida Blackburn, Oklahoma City  
Virginia Bourisseau, Prague  
Jana Brown, Cleo Springs  
Jason Cullive, Elk City  
Ryan Davenport, Paden  
Lise Deshea, Oklahoma City  
Samuel Gavia, Wayne  
Joseph Hughes, Cibolo, TX  
Cathy Kunkel, Guthrie  
Daniel Maher, Fort Smith, AR  
Jo Moore, Purcell  
David Nutter, Tulsa  
Cindy S. Schuering, Checotah  
John H. Stallings, Fairborn, OH  
Emily Storm, Shawnee  
Shelly Stuck, Oklahoma City  
Sydney Talley, Washington  
Kimberly Vessel, Kansas  
Danny Williams, Elmore City  
Barbara Yuill, Edmond

## Save the date for Storytelling Festival 2016 at the Oklahoma History Center

Arts Council Oklahoma City announces Storytelling Festival 2016 to be held on August 25–27 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Featured performers for the festival are Susan Klein, Sheila Arnold Jones, and Don White. Susan Klein, the “godmother” of storytelling, will share a portion of her substantial repertoire of folklore, myths, and love stories for adults of all ages. Sheila Arnold Jones, chief executive officer and lead performer for History’s Alive!, will offer a number of her varied character portrayals such as Ol’ Bess, an eighteenth-century tavern slave. Don White’s performance does not allow itself to be labeled. He is a story teller-comedian-troubadour-folk singer-writer and challenges categorization.

The schedule of performances and workshops will be announced soon. Additional details and ticket sales information will be provided on the Oklahoma Historical Society’s website, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org), and Arts Council Oklahoma City’s website, [www.artscouncilokc.com](http://www.artscouncilokc.com), at a later date. Please contact Steve Hawkins at [shawkins@okhistory.org](mailto:shawkins@okhistory.org) or 405-522-0754 with any questions.



## CSRHC to host History of Vance Air Force Base teachers’ workshop

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host a two-day teachers’ workshop on Wednesday, July 13, and Thursday, July 14. The workshop will provide educators with information about the seventy-five-year history of Vance Air Force Base, from World War II to present day. It includes living history presentations, primary and secondary resources, hands-on history kits, and a tour of Vance Air Force Base. Teachers also will enjoy the CSRHC’s newest exhibit entitled *Keep ’em Flying: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vance Air Force Base*, on display in the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation Exhibit Gallery through Veterans Day weekend.

Applications for the workshop are available at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center or may be downloaded by visiting [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org). The registration fee is \$40 per teacher and the application deadline is Friday, June 24. There are only a few spots left, so please return the completed application as soon as possible.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about CSRHC exhibits or programs, please call 580-237-1907 or visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org). The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.

## 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!

Duke and Linda Ligon, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1955  
Richard E. Wood, Bethany, March 1, 1977  
Jack and Shirley Querry, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1979  
Lynda E. Brown-Drabek, Oklahoma City, February 1, 1981  
Richard Mullins, Edmond, January 1, 1982  
Jim and Burnis Argo, Edmond, May 1, 1983  
Dola J. Yeager, Edmond, April 1, 1984  
Frank and Loreece Dennis, Oklahoma City, February 1, 1985  
Kalvin F. Zitterkob, Moore, April 7, 1986  
Bob Thompson, Ada, March 13, 1987  
Rondi Ott, Enid, March 20, 1987  
Tom Walker, Tulsa, March 27, 1987  
Neal Leader, Norman, May 7, 1987  
Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library, Durant, February 10, 1988  
Daryl Townley, Duncan, March 28, 1989  
Barbara Klein and James Weaver, Oklahoma City, March 29, 1989  
Daniel and Mary Ann Littlefield, North Little Rock, AR, January 1, 1992  
Don and Dot Adkins, Norman, March 11, 1992  
Frances Elliott, Wichita, KS, April 2, 1992  
James L. Showalter, Stillwater, April 2, 1992  
Logan and Donna Sharpe, Checotah, April 21, 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 B. Ringo, Lincoln, CA, April 28, 1993  
Laurie Williams, Ardmore, May 3, 1993  
Glenda Temple, Chandler, September 2, 1994  
Don and Gwen Walker, Atoka, March 7, 1995  
Garfield Furniture, Enid, March 23, 1995  
Louise Reeves, Tulsa, January 9, 1996  
Lavonne Sanders Walker, Shawnee, April 1, 1996  
Edna Spears, Pawnee, April 17, 1996

## Oklahoma’s Twenty- Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

Preservation is Golden: Oklahoma’s Twenty-Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 1, through Friday, June 3. Conference registration and all sessions will be held at the Enid Symphony Center, located at 301 West Broadway in Enid.

In 2016 the United States is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act through Preservation50. The statewide preservation conference is just one of the ways Oklahoma’s preservation partners will participate in the celebration.

The registration fee is \$50 at the door. Several optional events and tours are on the agenda and require purchase of tickets. For a program, hotel information, and registration brochure, please contact Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org). To register online, please visit [www.mainstreetenid.org/preservation](http://www.mainstreetenid.org/preservation).



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

## Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show

The historic Pawnee Bill Ranch will host Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show on Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m. Stagecoaches will roll amid thundering horse hooves while the lightnring of gunfire explodes around Pawnee Bill and his cohorts as the talented performers thrill and amaze audiences at the 2016 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 the most historically accurate production to date. Kevin Webb portrays Pawnee Bill for the eighth 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. to 7 p.m. On Saturday, June 11, 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 to 7 p.m. The cast will be available for a meet and greet with the audience on the museum grounds starting at 4 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 \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors over age sixty-five, and \$10 for children ages ten and under (ages three and under are free). A group rate of \$12 per ticket is available for groups of ten or more people. On the day of the show ticket prices are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, and \$12 for children ages ten and under (ages three and under are free). Special price package bundles are available for reserved seating and that information can be found at [www.pawneebillwildwest.com](http://www.pawneebillwildwest.com). Please call 918-762-2513 to purchase tickets or for



more information. Online tickets are not available for this show. The online tickets are for a show in Fort Worth, Texas. Pawnee Bill Ranch is not affiliated in any way with the show in Fort Worth. Pawnee Bill Ranch is located on Blue Hawk Peak on land Pawnee Bill purchased from Blue Hawk, his Pawnee friend. It is one-half mile west of Pawnee on US Highway 64.



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

### June events at a glance

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1–30       | “Tour de Museums” summer program, hosted by T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga                                |
| 1–4        | Cold War workshops, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus  |
| 1–3        | Oklahoma’s Twenty-Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Enid Symphony Center, Enid           |
| 4          | Cavalry Day, Fort Supply Historic Site, Fort Supply   |
| 10–11      | Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee  |
| 11         | Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline  |
| 11, 18, 25 | Pioneer Family Fun Days, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City   |
| 14–18      | Chautauqua in the Park—“The Cold War: The Early Years,” Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid   |
| 16         | <i>The Stories They Could Tell</i> exhibit opening and program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus    |
| 16         | Juneteenth celebration, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City  |
| 16         | “Mysteries of the Mansion” tour, Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City                                      |
| 18         | Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill                                |
| 18         | Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher   |
| 19–20      | Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro  |
| 23         | Research Center Lunch and Learn—“Military Records,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City              |
| 25         | TG&Y eightieth anniversary celebration, exhibit opening, and reunion, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher |

Please visit [www.okhistory.org/calendar](http://www.okhistory.org/calendar) for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.