



“Chilly McIntosh and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation: 1800–1875” presentation

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is honored to announce a special presentation, “Chilly McIntosh and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation: 1800–1875,” to be held at the battlefield’s new Visitor Center on Saturday, March 24, at 1 p.m.

T. S. Akers, the fourth great-grandson of Chilly McIntosh, who was colonel of the Second Regiment of Creek Mounted Volunteers C.S.A. during the Battle of Honey Springs, will talk about his ancestor’s importance to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the tumultuous Civil War years in Indian Territory. The program is free to the public, but donations are appreciated.

“At the onset of the American Civil War, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation found itself suffering from a division that had existed for fifty years prior to the United States being pulled apart. Creek leaders sought the best course for their tribe that would ensure their future survival,” said Akers. “One such leader that worked to guide the Muscogee (Creek) Nation through the travails that awaited in the Indian Territory was Chilly McIntosh: a chief, a minister, and a soldier.” Mr. Akers will be available for questions immediately following the presentation.

After the presentation and questions, visitors will have the opportunity to tour the battlefield and learn about key aspects of the engagement and those who fought at Honey Springs. Visitors also will be able to tour the new Visitor Center building, purchase items from the gift shop, and learn about the new exhibits that will open in the near future.

T. S. Akers is a resident of Oklahoma City who graduated from Eufaula High School in 2003. He earned his bachelor of arts in American history in 2007 and his master of arts in museum studies in 2015, both from the University of Oklahoma. He is a member of the First Families of the Twin Territories and of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He is the author of the books *Knights on the Prairie: A History of Templary in Oklahoma*, *Masonic Generals of the Oklahoma National Guard, 1894–1965*, and numerous articles on the history of Freemasonry in Oklahoma. Akers serves as the curator of Masonic collections for the McAlester Scottish Rite Temple.

For more information regarding the presentation and the Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, please contact Director Adam Lynn at alynn@okhistory.org or 918-473-5572. Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The Visitor Center is located on a hill within close proximity to the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame in Rentiesville, Oklahoma. Driving from the west, take the second left after reaching the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame.



Living History Education Day at Fort Towson

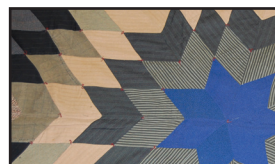


On Thursday, March 8, Fort Towson Historic Site will host Living History Education Day. Educational stations will include reenactors portraying time periods from the fort’s beginning in 1824 through the 1860s. Participants can expect to see soldiers in full gear and civilians who

dealt with the soldiers at the fort. The reenactors will teach students about the uniforms, weapons, and lifestyles of soldiers, trappers, storekeepers, and other people around the region who were connected to the fort. Visitors will move from station to station to see demonstrations about military life.

There is no charge for this opportunity to learn about our state’s history, but reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations, please contact John Davis at jdavis@okhistory.org or 580-873-2634. Teachers must accompany each group, and a ratio of one adult for every eight students is recommended. Individuals who make a reservation will be met upon their arrival and instructed to proceed to the many educational stations. Fort Towson Historic Site is located one mile east of the town of Fort Towson and three-quarters of a mile north on Highway 70E.

“Old-Fashioned Bed Turning” presentation at the Sod House Museum



Ready for an old-fashioned bed turning? Martha Ray of Pawnee, Oklahoma, will be at the Sod House Museum to present just that on Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m.

What is an old-fashioned bed turning? In a time when pioneer women did not have much of a social life, they would bring their quilts when they got together and enjoy the spotlight while telling the story of making the quilt, the fabric used, the patterns, and the challenges faced when creating it. With several women in one house there was not a proper place to display all the quilts out in the open, so they would place them in layers on the bed and each woman would take her turn in telling her story. This was the origin of the name “bed turning.”

Martha Ray has extensive knowledge about the history of antique and vintage quilts, and has presented workshops and seminars on the history of quilts. She will present this program in first person, telling stories from the perspective of pioneer women who wrote about their quilts in their letters and diaries. Ray also will explain that a young girl would make quilts for her dowry and in the “bed turning” she would show all the quilts she made from her first quilt up to her wedding quilt, allowing her some well-deserved bragging rights.

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



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

If you follow the trail of success in the history of any organization, you usually end up in the footprints of leaders who invested their time and talents in a shared vision. Since the beginning of 2018, the Oklahoma Historical Society has lost three such leaders who made a difference in our rise from acceptable mediocrity to Smithsonian standards of excellence.

Dr. Lewis Stiles, who lived most of his life in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, passed away in January. Lewis joined the OHS Board of Directors in 1984 and served as president in the early 1990s. Although in poor health, he attended his last board meeting in October 2017.

Lewis was fearless once he was on the trail. I will never forget a board meeting in 1992 when we were challenged by a budget cut of 18 percent. Our plan included either closing or withdrawing some support from fourteen sites and museums. To me, a young executive without much legislative experience, it was intimidating when a dozen legislators came to the board meeting and threatened to retaliate if we made the cuts.

After I made the presentation, Dr. Stiles politely let the legislators speak in turn, then led the discussion among the board

members. They voted unanimously to adopt the staff's plan, which was a significant display of faith, but more importantly, it showed the legislative members that the OHS was setting its own path to the future. I will never forget his steady hand at the tiller.

Dr. Guy Logsdon was another longtime friend and mentor who led with his creativity and curiosity. Guy, who passed away on February 5, had a talent for connecting the dots of history with the expressive output of singers, writers, performers, and folk artists. Before we even dreamed of OKPOP, Guy was an advocate for collecting and sharing the stories of pioneers such as Woody Guthrie, Bob and Johnnie Lee Wills, and lesser known artists who never made the big time.

Guy, with his wife Phyllis usually singing harmony, was a performer as well. Every time I called them and asked them to share their music, stories, and poetry with a group, they were as generous with their time as they were with their talent. Guy was a living conduit to the ancient skill of storytelling, and he dedicated a big part of his life to collecting those stories expressed in a variety of ways.

If there is a father of the modern Oklahoma Historical Society, it is Denzil D. Garrison, who recently passed away at the age of ninety-one.

Denny was on the leadership team in 1981 that drafted and adopted a new OHS Constitution that served as the major turning point from a nineteenth-century antiquarian society to a progressive public/private organization that added "sharing" to the existing goals of "collecting" and "preserving."

Denny was involved in every step forward thereafter, with one eye on the effectiveness of the leadership team and the other eye on the planning, execution, and completion of our mission. And as we claimed our independence from external dominance, Denny was the political strat-

egist who helped us stay one step ahead of the next challenge.

Denny was my mentor, my friend, and my sounding board. For the past twenty-eight years I have talked to Denny at least once a week, sharing the challenges and opportunities, seeking advice about the twists and turns of the political world, and sorting the important from the interesting.

I visited with Denny for the last time in Bartlesville a week before he passed away. Every question was either about my family or the OHS. To Denny, they went together. The OHS family was his family. He cared about us, fretted about us, and threw his support to us when needed. He will be missed.

All three of these leaders set examples that we must follow in the future. Yes, we are walking in their footsteps.

OHS announces the release of *Just in Time*

The OHS is proud to announce the recent release of *Just in Time*, a book chronicling the Oklahoma Honor Flights (OHF) Program. This work was written by former State Representative Gary W. Banz with a foreword by OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob L. Blackburn. The book describes the hard work and determination of thousands of individuals as they honored Oklahoma's World War II veterans with a pilgrimage to see the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. *Just in Time* may be purchased from the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store for \$29.95. OHS membership discounts will apply.

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Development News

By Larry O'Dell

One of the exciting things that the Oklahoma Historical Society does to fulfill its mission is host its annual history conference. This year's theme is "OHS125: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing for the Next Generation." There are plenty of activities associated with the conference, including a reception, luncheons, tours, and a concert to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Broadway musical *Oklahoma!* Central to the conference is fulfilling our mission to share Oklahoma history as we present eighteen educational sessions.

This year the sessions will feature diverse subjects including a discussion of Oklahoma's literary history with current Oklahoma State Poet Laureate Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, and a presentation on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Washita by NPS Park Ranger Sydney Stover. On Thursday, April 26, the luncheon speaker will be David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. Sharing research and stories about Oklahoma history is why the OHS is here and why our conference is important. I hope you will attend the Oklahoma History Conference April 25-27 in Oklahoma City. You can register at www.okhistory.org/conference. Please call 405-522-6676 or email me at lodell@okhistory.org with any questions.



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

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.

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Celebrate the birthday of Bob Wills at Cain's Ballroom in **Tulsa** on Saturday, March 3. Bob Wills, known as "the King of Western Swing," was born on March 6, 1905. By 1935 Wills and his band were playing shows at Cain's Ballroom, making it the perfect setting to honor this legendary musician. Join the celebration and enjoy live music and dancing. Cain's Ballroom is located at 423 North Main Street in Tulsa. For more information please visit www.cainsballroom.com.

In honor of Women's History Month at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in **Cheyenne**, Dr. Henrietta Mann and Emma Standingwater Brewer will speak for the Owa Chita Sundays series on March 25 at 2 p.m. These two modern members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes will describe what women's history means to them as they share their experience and knowledge with visitors at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Visitor Center. Owa Chita Sundays will take place on the last Sunday of each month leading up to the sesquicentennial commemoration in November 2018. The program includes free activities and crafts to engage all ages in the history and cultures that enrich the historic site located within the Black Kettle National Grasslands. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A in Cheyenne. For more information please call 580-497-2742 or visit www.nps.gov/waba.

Announcements

In January the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center in **Shawnee** opened its doors to the public for the first time since it experienced extensive flood damage in March 2014. The renovation features ten new exhibits as well as interactive and digital displays that tell the story of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation chronologically. The exhibits were redesigned to be more immersive and to tell deeper, more accurate stories of Potawatomi history. One of the exhibits features a nearly ceiling-tall display of eighty-six pairs of moccasins, handmade by Citizen Potawatomi Nation members. Each pair represents 10 of the 859 Potawatomis who walked the Trail of Death during the tribe's removal from their homes in the Great Lakes region to reservation lands. Additional exhibits and displays include original documents and replicas

of treaties and legal papers, a traditional Potawatomi wedding dress, and other artifacts. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center exists to educate tribal members, the greater American Indian community, and other visitors about the historical and contemporary aspects of the tribe. It is located at 1899 South Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee. Regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information please visit www.potawatomi.org.

The Round Barn in **Arcadia** is in need of volunteers to keep the nonprofit, Route 66 attraction open seven days a week. Volunteers work three-hour morning shifts or four-hour afternoon shifts, greeting visitors from across the world and working in the gift shop. The barn was built in 1898 by pioneer farmer William Odor, who later founded the town of Arcadia. It was restored in 1992 by a group of volunteers led by Luke Robison. The barn is owned and operated by the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society. Its loft, an architectural gem, is the venue for the Round Barn Rendezvous, a free acoustic music concert from noon to 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month. The loft also can be rented for weddings and other special events. For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Burk at burkkimberly1@gmail.com or 405-651-0240.

After three and one-half months of renovations, Phase II of the City of **Edmond** Capital Improvements to the 1936 building that houses the Edmond Historical Society and Museum is now complete. This round of improvements includes new LED lighting throughout the building and renovations to the restrooms to meet ADA standards. While permanent exhibits are being reinstalled, the museum is pleased to host *Once Upon a Playground*, a traveling exhibit from Mid-America Arts Alliance, with partial funding from Oklahoma Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit features photographs and artifacts from historic parks and playgrounds across the United States. It invites visitors to walk down memory lane and remember times from their childhoods when they visited some of these historic landmarks. A companion local exhibit entitled *Monkey Bars and Walking Trails: 100 Years of Edmond Parks* is also open. The Children's Learning Center has also reopened for the youngest visitors to the museum. Other museum programs have continued

through the closure. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. The Edmond Historical Society and Museum is located at 431 South Boulevard in Edmond. For more information please visit www.edmondhistory.org or contact Executive Director Anita Schlaht at 405-340-0078 or aschlaht@edmondhistory.org.

The Love County Historical Society's 2018 calendars are available for sale at the Pioneer Museum in **Marietta**. Featured in the calendars are historic photos, including Westheimer Department Store, 1906 on the cover; Reid's Filling Station, 1927; Leon High School Basketball Team, 1956; Oil Springs Saw Mill, 1900; Burneyville Boy, 1938; Meadowbrook Seniors, 1946; Marietta Sandlot Baseball Team, 1951; Norton Jewelry, 1956; Thackerville Fifth Grade, 1957; Jimtown Young Ladies, 1944; Greenville First and Second Grades, 1930; Marietta School Bus, 1943; and Bond Brothers, 1929. The calendars can be ordered from the Love County Historical Society, PO Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448. The cost is \$5, plus \$2 for postage and handling. For more information please call Laquitta Ladner at 580-276-3477.

Celebrate the centennial of the W. T. Foreman Prairie House in **Duncan**. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the home was built in 1918. It is the former residence of W. T. Foreman, a banker and pharmacist who was one of Duncan's earliest and most prominent citizens. The home is architecturally significant as an early example of the Prairie School architectural style. All are welcome for tours of the home with knowledgeable docents on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The home is also available for private events, so please call for additional details. The W. T. Foreman Prairie House is located at 814 West Oak Avenue in Duncan. For more information call 580-512-9153.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley by email at emoxley@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the May/June issue, you must submit it by Monday, April 2.

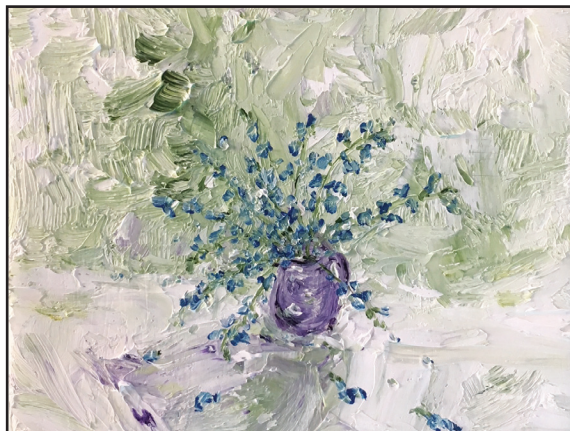
March events

- 1-24 Sixth annual *Trappings of the Cherokee Strip* exhibit of fine Western art and custom cowboy gear, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 2 *Bound to Please: The History of Corsets* exhibit opens, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 3 “Women’s History” Family Activity Saturday program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6, 13, 20, 27 Tracing Your Roots genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 8 Living History Education Day, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 *The Art and Life of Don Blanding* exhibit opens, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by featured *Trappings* artist, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 16 T. B. Ferguson Home’s annual Chicken Noodle Dinner, Blaine County Fairgrounds, Watonga
- 17 31st annual Family Kite Flite Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 17 “Old-Fashioned Bed Turning” presentation by Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 17 Will Rogers Memorial 5K and Fun Run, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Rogers State University, Claremore
- 17 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 19-23 Spring Break activities, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 20 Vernal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 24 “Chilly McIntosh and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation: 1800-1875” presentation by T. S. Akers, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 24 Eighth annual Cowboy Round-Up, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 Spring Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 31 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 31 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 31 Optimist Club Easter Egg Hunt, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 89th Annual Easter Egg Hunt—cosponsored by the Pawnee Lion’s Club and Pawnee Chamber of Commerce, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee

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

April events

- 1 Easter Sunrise Service and Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association Easter Breakfast Fundraiser, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 3 *Lone Star School* book review and presentation by Richard Simunek, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 3, 10, 17 Tracing Your Roots genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 7 Preserving Your Family Memories class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10-28 *Red Dirt Student Art Show* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 “Women of the Western Cattle Trails” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Dr. Sara Jane Richter, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 19 Milam Lecture Series presentation by Steve Warren, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 19 *Wee Winsome Wildflowers* art exhibit opening and premiere program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus



Native wildflower art by Sandra Dunn

- 19 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20 *Ponca City Portraits, People, and Places* exhibit opens, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 20-21 Living History Days, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 21 “GEDmatch.com for DNA Analysis” class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 25-27 Oklahoma History Conference, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28 Frontier Festival, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 30 “Music of the Big Band Era” Kilgen Organ performance by Ken Double, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Save the dates for two conferences in June

Save the dates for two upcoming conferences cosponsored by the OHS.

• June 1-5, 2018: The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums Annual Conference to be held in Tahlequah

• June 6-8, 2018: Oklahoma’s Thirtieth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference to be held in Tulsa

Both conferences will feature presentation sessions, workshops, banquets, tours, and special events. Registration fees apply. More information will be published in the May/June 2018 issue of *Mistletoe Leaves* (vol. 49, no. 3).



Living History Education Day at the Murrell Home

The George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill will host its eighth annual Living History Education Day on Friday, May 4, with two sessions: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Registration is now open. Teachers are invited to bring their students and experience life in nineteenth-century Indian Territory through exciting hands-on presentations by OHS staff and costumed living historians. School groups will enjoy lawn games, live music, animals of the plantation, gardening, food preparation, fiber arts, and blacksmithing demonstrations. Tours of the 1845 mansion also will be available. The public picnic area and playground will be reserved exclusively for Living History Education Day participants. The event is open to public, private, and home school groups. The cost is \$4 per student, with free admission for teachers, adult chaperones, and bus drivers. To register a class or group, please email murrellhome@okhistory.org or call 918-456-2751. The Murrell Home is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill.



Living History Days at the Chisholm Trail Museum

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will host Living History Days on Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21. This lively annual event features some of the best Western reenactors the country has to offer. Chuck wagons will provide cowboy dinner favorites such as chili and biscuits. While waiting for a fresh-cooked meal, visitors can take in the sights and sounds of a pioneer village by watching the flint knapper, magician, gunfighters, and farm animals. The Chisholm Trail Museum is located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. Please call 405-375-5176 for more information.

Oklahoma National Register listings added in January 2018

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce two new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma. The National Register is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

"Spirit of the American Doughboy," a statue located at the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee, was listed in the National Register for its association with Native Americans. Though the Viquesney statue design is common, this statue achieves significance as a representation of the pride held by members of the Five Tribes in their wartime service. Given its dedication to Native American veterans, the statue's placement on the grounds of a veterans' hospital is particularly appropriate and enhances the monument's significance.



"Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue

The United States Post Office in Purcell is significant for its association with the Works Progress Administration. When built in 1938-39, the post office became another product of the New Deal public works program and it was targeted to receive artwork through the Section of Fine Arts, a Depression-era program that commissioned artists to create artworks for the decoration of public buildings.



United States Post Office in Purcell

Frederick E. Conway received the commission for the Purcell post office mural. The mural designed and painted by Conway constitutes an integral part of the building and is a great example of the work available through the Section. This post office also is an excellent example of the importance of New Deal-era policies in Oklahoma.

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. If you believe a property in your area is eligible, fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form located at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm.

The SHPO also announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2018 Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for awards in two grant rounds, with any funds remaining from round one carried over for round two. Applications and detailed instructions are now available from the SHPO. The deadline for round one applications is 5 p.m. on April 6, and the deadline for round two applications is 5 p.m. on June 1. Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. Please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 with any questions.

Spiro Mounds receives donation from the Choctaw Nation

On January 24, Spiro Mounds Development Association (SMDA) received a donation from Choctaw Nation Tourism to help with interpretive and promotional development at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. This donation is part of a multiyear development process by Choctaw Nation Tourism to promote tourism destinations and develop a better travel experience throughout the southeastern part of Oklahoma.

Choctaw Nation representatives Erin McDaniel and Jo McDaniel, both of Durant, presented the check to SMDA President David Hedges. "This donation is the result of an evaluation of the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center and the recognition of its importance in the history and cultural tourism of our area. The Choctaw Nation, through Choctaw Nation Tourism, is happy to help Spiro Mounds update the site for a better experience of visitors to the Choctaw region," said Erin McDaniel, tourism director for the Choctaw Nation.

Dennis Peterson, manager and archaeologist at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, said, "The areas that Choctaw Nation Tourism had identified as areas in need of improvement also were identified by the OHS as needs. Although work on the trail signage and other projects have been started, the continuing state budget and personnel cuts placed those projects on hold. Now we can finish the planning and implement them. We are very glad that we have a partner in Choctaw Nation Tourism and a great support group like the Spiro Mounds Development Association."

Spiro Mounds Development Association, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization that helps promote and develop Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. Memberships and information are available by contacting Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center at spiro@okhistory.org or writing SMDA at PO Box 624, Spiro, OK 74959.



Erin McDaniel and Jo McDaniel from the Choctaw Nation presented a check to David Hedges, president of the Spiro Mounds Development Association.

Candidates for election to the OHS Board of Directors announced

OHS members will receive election ballots, candidate biographies, and related materials by mail. We hope that members will take time to consider the candidates and participate in the 2018 election. To facilitate that process, the candidate names are printed below. Members will be asked to vote for one candidate from District Two, one candidate from District Four, and two of the State At-Large candidates. Please return your ballots to the address listed on the form by April 20.

District Two

William Corbett, Vinita
Jonita Mullins, Muskogee
Jimmie White, Warner

District Four

Robert L. Brooks, Norman
Neal Leader, Norman

State At-Large

P. Mitchell Adwon, Tulsa
R. Eugene Earsom, Oklahoma City
Dallas Mayer, Hooker
Barbara Thompson, Oklahoma City

Huey helicopter flight simulator added to exhibit at History Center

In the fall of 2017, the Oklahoma History Center opened its newest exhibit, *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*. A new attraction has been added that heightens the interactive aspect of the exhibit. Digital Design of Green Bay, Wisconsin, a company specializing in interactive multimedia applications and exhibits, has produced a helicopter flight simulator that puts visitors in the pilot's seat of a Huey helicopter.

With a widescreen monitor displaying the flight path, the operator has the task of leaving a landing pad and flying over a tropical jungle to a site to rescue their fellow soldiers and return them to safety.

Welcome Home looks at more than the historic events that occurred during the war. It explores the impact of the war on Oklahoma families, as told through the stories of the young men and women who served their country in the armed services and the immigrant families who fled Vietnam and came to Oklahoma seeking freedom and opportunity. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be on display for two years in the Gaylord Special Exhibits Gallery. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.

From the OHS Archives: The Patience Latting Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Patience Sewell Latting (1918–2012) has the distinction of being the first and only female mayor of the City of Oklahoma City. She was born in Texhoma, and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and later from Columbia University with a master's degree in economics and statistics.



In 1961, while working for the League of Women Voters, she began to see that the legislative districts in Oklahoma were skewed toward rural voters and the cities were being underrepresented. In 1964, the outcome of the 1964 election was challenged in federal court, and Latting was a key witness during the proceedings. Her political career began with her election to the Oklahoma City Council in 1967, and as mayor in 1971. At the time of her 1971 inauguration she was the first female leader for a city of more than 200,000 people. She was lauded in the *New York Times* with, "Although she looks a bit like Claudette Colbert, she handles politics like Franklin D. Roosevelt." The Patience Latting Collection (M2013.017, six legal boxes and two oversize folders) is a collection tightly focused on Latting's years in public service, from her election to the Oklahoma City Council in 1967 to her three mayoral terms from 1971 to 1983. Items in the collection range from campaign items, political cartoons featuring Latting, business correspondence as mayor, memos of Council Actions, resolutions for city projects, and annual reports.

The Patience Latting Collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is located inside the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org.

Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Division's Manuscripts Department.



T. B. Ferguson Home to host annual Chicken Noodle Dinner

On Friday, March 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. the T. B. Ferguson Home will host its annual Chicken Noodle Dinner in celebration of T. B. Ferguson's birthday. This fundraising event will be held in the Foley Building at the Blaine County Fairgrounds in Watonga.

Built in 1901, this Victorian-style house was home to Oklahoma's sixth territorial governor and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is located at 519 North Weigle Avenue in Watonga. This property is managed by the Friends of T. B. Ferguson Home and offers free admission. For more information please call 580-623-5069.

CSRHC Endowment Campaign hits milestone

The \$5 million Endowment Campaign of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) has reached a major milestone. More than \$2.3 million has been donated and pledged, and more than \$2 million of that has been received. The amount received to date consists of gifts of various sizes, including the \$1 million matching gift challenge from the Lew Ward Family.

January 2018 ushered in the critical second phase of the campaign effort. Continuing success of the CSRHC Endowment Campaign will secure the enduring excellence of the center including the Smithsonian-quality museum exhibits, the outstanding Humphrey Heritage Village, and the exceptional public programming. The endowment will ensure that the CSRHC continues to thrive while collecting, preserving, and sharing the extraordinary heritage of northwestern Oklahoma, and entertaining and inspiring this and future generations.

Since the 2011 opening of the CSRHC, more than eighty thousand visitors from across the United States and from other countries have made their way through the doors. They have experienced numerous exhibits, public programs, and community events that are made possible because of the local support of Enid and the surrounding regional communities and leaders.

Those interested in making a contribution to the legacy of the CSRHC either through the endowment, as a volunteer, or as a museum member are encouraged to contact Robbin Davis, director of the CSRHC, at rdavis@okhistory.org or 580-237-1907. The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.

OHS announces the release of *Just in Time*

(continued from page 2)

The National World War II Memorial was dedicated on May 29, 2004. After it was dedicated, the dilemma facing World War II veterans was that most were physically unable to make the trip or afford the expense. The first effort to get a group of WWII veterans to the memorial was accomplished by Earl Morse, a physician's assistant and retired Air Force captain from Springfield, Ohio. In May 2005, he arranged six small planes to carry twelve WWII veterans to the visit the memorial in Washington, DC. With that, other state and local leaders began to collect donations and gifts that would ensure other veterans willing and able to travel the opportunity to see their memorial. The Oklahoma Honor Flights (OHF) Program was established in 2009, and its first flight took place in 2010.

Just in Time reflects the sentiment of thousands of individuals who were directly and indirectly affected by the Oklahoma Honor Flights program. These stories are told through logistical details, personal testimonies, remembrances of friends and relatives and heartwarming and heartbreaking recollections from OHF staff and associates. The goal of OHF was to honor as many World War II veterans as possible, even if it was "just in time."

Author Gary Banz was the cofounder and executive director of Oklahoma Honor Flights. He served in the US Army from 1968 to 1970 and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal in 1970. He served in the US Army Reserve from 1982 to 1988 and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal in 1985. In 2004 Banz was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives from House District 101. He was given the Oklahoma Medal of Freedom from the National Guard Association of Oklahoma in 2014 and the Douglas O. Dollar Distinguished Community Service Award from the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2016.

OHS members may purchase *Just in Time* at a 15 percent discount, \$25.46 plus shipping. Please contact the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store at museumstore@okhistory.org or 405-522-5214.



Spring Bake Day at Fort Gibson

Fort Gibson Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Gibson will host Spring Bake Day on Saturday, March 31, beginning at 10 a.m. The aroma of fresh-baked bread will fill the air on Garrison Hill as OHS staff and volunteers bring Fort Gibson's bake house to life. Enjoy bread making demonstrations in the original wood-fired oven from 1863. Visitors can even sample the finished product! Bake Day is a fundraiser and educational event that depicts one aspect of army life during and after the Civil War. Guests are welcome to bring their own bread to bake in the oven at Fort Gibson. Experience Bake Day and see what the eighty-seven acres of Fort Gibson Historic Site have to offer. For more information please call 918-478-4088. Fort Gibson is a National Historic Landmark and is located at 907 North Garrison in Fort Gibson.



SHPO to host workshops

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host five workshops at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City May 9–11. Each workshop is devoted to one of the SHPO's federal preservation programs and is designed for preservation professionals, government agency representatives, and concerned citizens. All workshops are free and open to the public; however the SHPO requests that participants register no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

- Wednesday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. to noon: Certified Local Governments Program—From Inquiry to Application: How to Apply for Designation
- Wednesday, May 9, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Introduction to Section 106 and Determination of Eligibility for the National Register
- Thursday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Working with the National Register of Historic Places
- Friday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon: Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
- Friday, May 11, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

All workshops will be held in the Musser Learning Lab at the History Center. For more information or to register, please contact Jesse Matthews at jmatthews@okhistory.org or 405-521-6249. You also may register online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Will Rogers's Movie Career

Will Rogers gave up a lucrative New York stage career and uprooted his family to move to California. And for what?



One hundred years ago Will signed a contract with Samuel Goldwyn to become one of the most successful and highest paid movie stars in early film history. After moving from Long Island to what he called the "Celluloid Coast," he starred in seventy-one movies—fifty silents and twenty-one "talkies"—before his untimely death in 1935.

The Will Rogers Memorial Museums will highlight Will's movie career during the 100th anniversary of the beginning of his celebrated motion picture career. "The theme of the 2018 Will Rogers Birthday Bash in November, the 139th anniversary of his birth on an Indian Territory Ranch, will be 'Will Rogers the Movie Star,'" said Tad Jones, executive director of the Will Rogers Memorial Museums.

In the small theater at the Memorial Museum, sixteen of Will's movies play continuously, a different one each day. Occasionally one of Will's movies plays on PBS, AMC, or TNT television channels. Some of his movies are available for purchase in the Museum Store.

Will Rogers began his stage career in 1902 when he performed with Texas Jack's Wild West Show in South Africa and continued when he returned to the United States. He had a home in Long Island and a long career with the Ziegfeld Follies in New York. It was after making his first movie, *Laughing Bill Hyde*, filmed in New Jersey in 1918, that he took the plunge into a new career and headed west with the promise of a big salary.

Laughing Bill Hyde opened to rave reviews at the Rivoli Theatre in New York City. He signed with Goldwyn to star in six-reel comedies during 1920–21, with the first made while he was still working on the summer follies.

The rest is history. He made his first sound film, *They Had to See Paris*, in 1929 and filmed *Steamboat Round the Bend* in 1935, released after his death on August 15, 1935. He was the top male motion picture box office star in 1933, 1934, and 1935 as selected by *Motion Picture Herald*.

Learn more about Will Rogers at www.willrogers.com. Be sure to visit the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore, and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, located at 9501 East 380 Road in Oologah.

2018 Oklahoma History Conference celebrates the 125th anniversary of the OHS



You are cordially invited to make a reservation to attend the 2018 Oklahoma History Conference, Wednesday through Friday, April 25-27, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. This annual conference is presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

This year's theme is "OHS125: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing for the Next Generation" in honor of the 125th anniversary of the OHS. The conference will include eighteen sessions on a range of topics devoted to Oklahoma history.

The opening plenary session will feature Ted Chapin, president of The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, discussing the legacy of the Broadway musical *Oklahoma!* Presentation sessions will continue Thursday morning, April 26, and Friday morning, April 27.

Attendees also are invited to attend optional conference activities, including a reception, tours, two luncheons, and a musical program.

Enjoy a Wednesday evening reception at the Oklahoma Judicial Center, formerly the home of the OHS, hosted by Justice Yvonne Kauger. Eat, drink, mingle, and enjoy tours of this historic building.

On Thursday the Annual Conference Luncheon will feature keynote speaker David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*.

Choose from three tours on Thursday afternoon: Tour One is a bus tour with Chuck Wiggin featuring '89er Landmarks of Oklahoma City. Tour Two is a Capitol Restoration walking tour with Capitol Project Manager Trait Thompson. Tour Three is a behind-the-scenes tour of the Oklahoma History Center's collections and archives.

A Thursday evening program and performance will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the musical *Oklahoma!*, featuring students from the Oklahoma City University Wanda L. Bass School of Music.

On Friday afternoon the Annual Awards Luncheon will honor four new Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductees and other award recipients.

The conference hotel is the Embassy Suites Downtown/Medical Center, located at 741 North Phillips Avenue in Oklahoma City. To reserve a room call 405-239-3900 or visit www.okhistory.org/hotel. The attendee code is "Oklahoma Historical Society" and the room rate is \$129. Make your reservation by April 5 to qualify for this special rate. Rates are good for the nights of April 25-27. A free shuttle from the hotel to the History Center will be available for conference attendees.

Registration forms and a detailed schedule will be mailed to OHS members. The full conference schedule also can be found at www.okhistory.org/conference. The cost is \$15 for OHS members and \$25 for nonmembers. Optional activities are available for an additional fee. The registration deadline is April 20. To register by phone please call 405-522-0317. Thank you to Advocate Level conference sponsors Sherry and Lee Beasley and Jim Waldo.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Kite Flight Day and Vernal Equinox Walks



Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will celebrate the beginning of spring with the 31st annual Family Kite Flite Day on Saturday, March 17, and a series of guided Vernal Equinox Walks on Tuesday, March 20.

Family Kite Flite Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 17. This will be a free admission day, although donations are appreciated. It will be a great day for families and folks of all ages. Each year since 1987, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center has hosted a day of spring fun and learning. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, and kites to this free event. Kite flying demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors, a children's area, bubble making, a sandbox where visitors can dig for treasures, and kite giveaways are just a few of the activities that will take place. The OHS, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, and Spiro Mounds Development Association sponsor this event.

On March 20 there will be three guided Vernal Equinox Walks at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., led by archaeologist and manager Dennis Peterson. Each walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking. Visitors will learn about the importance of spring to American Indians. There is a small fee for this series of tours. Learn more at www.okhistory.org/spiro.

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is the only prehistoric American Indian site open to the public in Oklahoma. It is located three miles east of Spiro on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information please contact Director Dennis Peterson at spiro@okhistory.org or 918-962-2062.