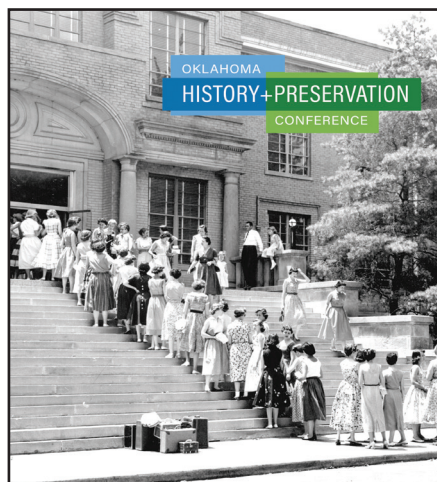




2019 Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference



The Oklahoma History Conference and the Statewide Preservation Conference are now the Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference! This new combined conference will feature 20 sessions dedicated to Oklahoma history and historic preservation. Join us April 24–26 at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha. This year's theme is "Women Who Built History," in honor of the

100th anniversary of Oklahoma women receiving the right to vote in late 1918. Many of the sessions will highlight the contributions of women to Oklahoma politics, culture, architecture, history, and preservation. Conference attendees may enjoy optional activities including two luncheons, tours, a program about Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata, and a free welcome reception and mixer with Preservation Oklahoma.

Presentation sessions begin Wednesday afternoon and continue Thursday and Friday mornings. The first plenary session will feature USAO President Dr. John Feaver and architectural historian Cynthia Savage sharing the evolution of USAO, formerly the Oklahoma College for Women.

Comanche citizen, activist, and author LaDonna Harris will be the keynote speaker for Thursday's luncheon. Harris has devoted her life to advocating for women and Native people, both in Oklahoma and in Washington, DC. For more than 30 years, Harris taught legislators a course called "Indian 101," educating them on the unique role of American Indian tribes and their relationship to the government. She was the 1980 vice presidential nominee for the Citizens Party and is the founder of Americans for Indian Opportunity, which advances the rights of Indigenous peoples in the United States and around the world.

Optional tours on Thursday include a trip to the Grady County Museum, operated by the Grady County Historical Society; an exploration of Verden and Lincoln Separate Schools; or a bus ride to Sia: The Comanche Nation Ethno-Ornithological Initiative in Cyril.

Attendees also have the option to enjoy "An Afternoon in Downtown Chickasha," a free historic preservation program.

On Thursday evening, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and other speakers will share the story of Mary Frances Thompson Fisher, better known as Te Ata (1895–1995). Her talent for performance was discovered during her years at the Oklahoma College for Women (now USAO). Te Ata, meaning "Bearer of the Morning," captivated audiences around the globe with her expressive portrayals of Native culture through storytelling, songs, and readings. This program will feature selections from the 2017 film *Te Ata*.

The Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday afternoon will honor those who have made contributions to history and preservation across the state. National Register of Historic Places certificates

and annual history awards will be presented. In addition, four individuals will be inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

Conference lodging is available in Chickasha at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Fairfield Inn and Suites, and the Hampton Inn. OHS members will receive a brochure by mail with complete information about conference sessions, events, lodging, and registration. The registration fee is \$25 for OHS members. The fee is \$50 for the general public and includes a one-year OHS individual membership. For more information or to register, please visit www.okhistory.org/conference.

Thank you to our sponsors:

- The Chickasaw Nation
- Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Main Street Center
- Grady County Historical Society
- Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
- The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma



Early-day Chickasha (2012.201.B0223.0292, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

Kite Flite Day and Vernal Equinox Walks at Spiro Mounds

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will celebrate the beginning of spring with the 32nd annual Family Kite Flite Day on Saturday, March 16, and a series of guided Vernal Equinox Walks on Wednesday, March 20.



Family Kite Flite Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 16. This event is free to attend, 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, and kite giveaways are just a few of the activities that will take place.

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.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

Through the years I have met many uniquely gifted people.

Some are creative, able to express themselves through words, images, or music. Some have the gift of storytelling rooted in memory. Others have the ability to supercharge everything they do with passion.

Steve Ripley, a friend and colleague who recently passed from this earth, possessed all of these qualities.

Steve was a multit talented guy who could express himself in many ways. He was a guitar player, singer, and songwriter who performed with his high school band, Steve Ripley and the Inn Keepers; expanded his range with his college band, Moses; and reached the charts with his country-rock band, The Tractors.

He toured with Bob Dylan. He designed and built guitars. He was sought after as a recording studio engineer. When asked to define Steve's gifts with one word, I always introduced Steve as a poet.

Steve's talent and moral strength always attracted a wide range of friends and colleagues pulled from the pages of entertainment and business history. From each friendship he captured mem-

ories that created a palette of stories that could bring tears to your eyes.

When we asked Steve to take on the Herculean task of creating a 20-part radio series on the history of rock and roll in Oklahoma, he could tap that repository of stories to add a personal touch to the songs and musical trends. When he explored the impact of rockabilly, he could call a member of Elvis Presley's band, a friend of his. When he talked about the Tulsa music scene, he could call J. J. Cale and reminisce about their shared experiences.

When Steve shared a story, he did it with a passion that transcended the limitations of notes or words. He could take us back to a time and place, filled with creative energy, and give us the gift of feeling like we were there, part of the magic of the moment.

Steve's passion was always just below the surface when he talked about Leon Russell, his mentor, friend, collaborator, and muse. Steve could speak Leon's language, a deep understanding of lyrics, sounds, and the intricacies of making music. Steve appreciated Leon's unique talent, and he did everything within his power to make sure that Leon's legacy would survive for all time. For Steve, the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) was the means for achieving that goal.

With his beloved wife, Charlene, at his side and his trusted collaborator, Jeff Moore, with him on the trail, Steve poured his heart and soul into OKPOP. And it was not just the stories and music. It was his deep belief that we are doing something important—collecting, preserving, and sharing stories that capture the spirit of creative Oklahomans.

Steve was proud of his Oklahoma heritage, even though he was born in Idaho while his parents were looking for work.

He and Charlene moved back to the family farm in Pawnee County, where he was raised. There, he was comforted by the spirit of the land, the love of his family and friends, and the music that was such an important part of his life. In body, Steve may have left us behind for a short while. In spirit, he is still with us and always will be.

Yes, through the years I have met many uniquely gifted people. Steve Ripley is at the top of the charts.

Dr. Bob

Candidates for OHS Board of Directors election

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 2019 election. To facilitate that process, the candidate names are printed below. Members will be asked to vote for one candidate from District One, one candidate from District Three, and two of the State At-Large candidates. Please return your ballot to the address listed on the form by April 19.

District One

Steve Gerkin, Tulsa
Terry Mabrey, Tulsa
Weldon Watson, Tulsa

District Three

Mary McCormick, Seminole
Ken Rainbolt, Durant
Donna Sharpe, Checotah

State At-Large

Harold Aldridge, Tahlequah
Samonia Byford, Oklahoma City
Joyce Jackson, Oklahoma City
Patricia Loughlin, Stillwater

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society and the State Historic Preservation Office are partnering this year to host the Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference, with a theme of "Women Who Built History." This joint conference will be held April 24, 25, and 26 on the campus of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha. Founded in 1908 as the Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls and later renamed the Oklahoma College for Women, USAO has a rich history. It is the first and only college in Oklahoma to have its entire campus listed as a National Register Historic District. Please join us on this historic campus as we explore remarkable women throughout Oklahoma history and celebrate the centennial anniversary of Oklahoma women gaining the right to vote. Find more information about the conference on page one of this publication. Registration is available at www.okhistory.org/conference.

I would like to express a sincere thank you to our major sponsors. USAO has been very gracious in welcoming us to their campus. The Chickasaw Nation has underwritten the "Celebrating Te Ata" program, and Preservation Oklahoma is sponsoring our opening reception and mixer. We are always looking for more sponsors! Sponsors allow us to keep our registration costs and conference fees affordable. If you would like to support the conference, please contact me at 405-522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org. I hope to see you in Chickasha on April 24-26.



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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

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

All who wish to celebrate Mardi Gras in a safe, family-friendly environment are welcome to attend the 12th annual Masopust Celebration, also known as Czech Mardi Gras. It will be held on Saturday, March 2, from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at the historic Yukon Czech Hall in **Yukon**. Beads, balloons, candy, and prizes will be distributed during this exciting event. Guests will enjoy food, dancing, and live music by the Masopust Polka Band. Costumes and festive attire are encouraged! Admission is \$5 per person, and free for children ages 10 and under. Yukon Czech Hall is located at 205 North Czech Hall Road, approximately one-quarter mile south of I-40 in Yukon. For more information please call 405-721-4396 or visit www.czechhall.com.

Celebrate the birthday of Bob Wills at Cain's Ballroom in **Tulsa** on Saturday, March 2. 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.

Plan a trip to **Bristow** on Saturday, March 9, for a special dedication ceremony at the Creek Masonic Lodge #226. The ceremony will be held at noon and dignitaries will unveil a new plaque proclaiming the building's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (added in March 2017). The Creek Masonic Lodge #226 was built in 1918, which makes it 101 years old. In addition, it has been an active lodge for 116 years. This event is open to the public and will include lunch. The Creek Masonic Lodge #226 is located at 417 North Main Street in Bristow. For more information please call 918-321-5160.

The third annual James Caster Symposium on the Civil War will be held April 2-3 at Randall University in **Moore**. This year's symposium features several engaging speakers who will address a variety of Civil War topics. On Tuesday, April 2, at 2:30 p.m. T. S. Akers, a descendant of Civil War officer Chilly McIntosh, will speak about his ancestor. On Wednesday, April 3, at 9 a.m. John Dwyer, author of the award-winning book *The Oklahomans*, will speak about Ranald

Mackenzie, Civil War officer and famed Indian fighter in Oklahoma. Next at 10 a.m., Mary Jane Warde, author of *When the Wolf Came*, will speak about the Civil War in Indian Territory. Other speakers will give presentation beginning April 2 at 1:30 p.m. and concluding with a special program at 7:30 p.m. Sessions will continue April 3 at 9 a.m. and conclude around 2 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Randall University is located at 3701 South I-35 Service Road in Moore. For more information please contact Steve Byas, symposium coordinator and history professor at Randall University, at 405-366-1125 or sbyas@ru.edu.

The Warner United Methodist Church invites those who are passionate about history, have an interest in preservation, and want to enjoy an outstanding meal to a special fundraising event in **Warner** on Saturday, April 27. The second annual Baked Potato Lunch Fundraiser will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and all proceeds will go toward the tuck-pointing of the historic 115-year-old stone church. The meal includes a large baked potato with all the toppings, dessert, and a drink for \$7.50. The church also continues its Brick and Mortar Campaign, which includes an opportunity for community members and those from the surrounding area to purchase monogrammed bricks that will be laid into a new open-air atrium. This will be a tribute to all who shaped Warner's history. Each brick costs \$50 and may include up to three lines with 18 characters each. To order a brick please visit warnerumc.org. Warner United Methodist Church is located at 401 Ninth Street in Warner. For more information please call Kerry Kratchmer 918-463-5893.

Exhibits

The Bartlesville Area History Museum in **Bartlesville** is pleased to host a new exhibit titled *Bridges of Washington County*. The county has had many bridges in various locations—some of which remain intact, some that are now gone, and others that are just a distant memory. Each bridge has a unique story with ties to Washington County and the surrounding communities. This exhibit will be on display during the months of March and April, and will educate visitors about the wide-ranging history of bridges in the area. The Bartlesville Area History Museum is located at 401 South Johnstone Avenue in Bartlesville. The museum is inside City Hall on the fifth floor. Hours

of operation are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and donations are always welcome. Please call 918-338-4294 for more information.

The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in **Oklahoma City** recently opened a new exhibit entitled *Ancient. Massive. Wild. – The Bison Exhibit*. It will be on display through Sunday, May 12. Whether painted on a tipi or an artist's canvas, minted on a nickel, or seen grazing in a field, the image of the bison stirs in us deep loyalties to the North American landscape. Wild and fundamental, the bison is a familiar part of our shared heritage. This exhibit explores the meaning and significance of this iconic creature from the Plains Indian culture of the 1800s through the commercial and national symbol of the present. The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum is located at 1700 NE 63rd Street in Oklahoma City. Please call 405-478-2250 for more information.

Announcements

The Love County Historical Society's 2019 calendars are available for sale at the Pioneer Museum in **Marietta** or by mail. Featured in the calendars are historic photographs from across Love County. This year's calendar includes Loves Valley School, 1916; Marietta street scene, 1941; Thackerville Girls' Choir, 1955; Leon Boys' Basketball Team, 1942; Greenville High School Girls' Basketball Team, 1950; Shaw Gin, 1951; and others. The calendars cost \$5 each. To order by mail, please send a check to the Love County Historical Society at PO Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448. Orders also may be placed by calling the Pioneer Museum 580-276-9020 or Laquitta Ladner at 580-276-3477. Please note that \$2 postage will be added to all orders that are mailed.



Do you want your organization's event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history- and heritage-related programming 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 Thursday, April 4.

March events

- 1-31 Living history season, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 4 Preservation Oklahoma's 2019 Most Endangered Places Unveiling, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 5 "Women of the Western Trails" presentation by Dr. Sara Jane Richter, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 6-7 Clara Barton living history presentations, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 Living History Education Day, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 9 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 9 "Spring Gardening" Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 May Lillie's 150th Birthday Celebration, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 13 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by *Weird and Wonderful* exhibit curator Amy Johnson, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 16 32nd annual Family Kite Flite Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 16 Vintage Footstool workshop with Doris Booze, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 Women's History Exhibit Gallery Tour, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18-22 Spring Break activities, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 20 Vernal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 21 *Will Work For ...* exhibit reception and program with Mike Wimmer, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 23 Oklahoma Farm-to-Table Family Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 23 *Weird and Wonderful* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 25-26 Broadway Comes to Altus: Act I, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 29 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 "Tracing Your Roots" Beginning Genealogy class, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 30 *Unsolved History: Forensic Science, Cold Cases, and Art Therapy* exhibit opening and reception, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 Spring Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson



April events

- 1-30 Living history season, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 3 *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit opens, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy



- 4 Cynthia Ann Parker living history presentation, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 6 Barn Quilt workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 6 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 6 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Regional Meeting, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 9 *Red Dirt Student Art Show* exhibit opening and reception, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Lesa Rauh, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 Lieutenant Governor's Invitational Turkey Hunt dinner and program, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 12 A Night with Our Leaders, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 "Basket Weaving" Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 13 Trappers, Traders, and Hunters of the Plains living history event, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 13 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 13 Friends Group Field Trip, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 18 Easter Egg Hunt, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 18 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20 "Major General James G. Blunt" presentation by Bart Taylor, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 20 Optimist Club Easter Egg Hunt, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 20 90th annual Easter Egg Hunt: cosponsored by the Pawnee Lions Club and Pawnee Chamber of Commerce, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee

- 21 Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast Fundraiser, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 24-26 2019 Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha
- 27 *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit closes, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 27 Spring Cleanup in Humphrey Heritage Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 27 *Red Dirt Student Art Show* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 29 Kilgen Organ performance by Donna Parker, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 Author Talk with Lou Berney, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus

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



SHPO to host workshops

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host four workshops at the Oklahoma History Center on May 8, 9, and 10. 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, but the SHPO requests that participants register by Wednesday, May 1, at 5 p.m. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

- Wednesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: The Section 106 Review Process, A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants

- Thursday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Working with the National Register of Historic Places

- Friday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. to noon: Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

- Friday, May 10, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

All workshops will be in the Musser Learning Lab at the Oklahoma History Center. To register, please call 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.



**James Martin Baggs Log Barn,
Pushmataha County**

Vintage Footstool workshop at the Sod House Museum

The Sod House Museum near Aline is excited to host a Vintage Footstool workshop on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Doris Booze of Aline will provide instruction to attendees using a footstool pattern that her grandmother once made.

Footstools are believed to date back to ancient Egyptian times, but this unique style of footstool dates to the mid-1930s. During the Great Depression, people would “upcycle” items rather than discarding them, making new items out of what might be considered junk. Since juice packaged in tin cans had become a staple, people repurposed those emp-

ty cans into footstools. These stools were used in a variety of ways—as stepstools, booster seats, or simply a place to put up one’s feet after a long day.

Due to limited space, preregistration for this workshop is required. Please call the museum to register, and a list of necessary supplies will be provided. For more information please contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441. The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8.



Rural Heritage Festival

Save the date for the Rural Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free festival will be held at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry. The museum is excited to celebrate the community’s heritage and invites everyone to enjoy a day full of fun, food, and learning!

Living history interpreters will conduct demonstrations throughout the day to help visitors understand traditional skills and lifestyles associated with agriculture and rural communities. The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. For more information please call 580-336-2405.

New Oklahoma National Register listings, added in December 2018

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce two new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma, added in December 2018. The National Register is our nation’s official list of properties significant in our past.

The Sunset-Vogue-Blue Ribbon Apartments Historic District is located in Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma. It is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. The 16-acre district contains 70 resources comprised of 38 contributing apartment buildings, 12 contributing laundry sheds, 18 noncontributing apartment buildings, 1 noncontributing office, and 1 noncontributing shed. The district contains 3 apartment complexes: the Sunset Apartments, the Vogue Apartments, and the Blue Ribbon Apartments. The Blue Ribbon Apartments are noncontributing resources due to alterations to the exterior of each apartment building, although the complex retains its historic configuration of buildings and its relationship to the other contributing buildings. All three complexes were constructed in 1952, with the noncontributing office and shed constructed in 2007.

The district is located approximately 2.3 miles northwest of Lawton’s historic central business district in a postwar residential area that reflects Lawton’s rapid growth during the mid-20th century. The district is directly associated with the rapid expansion of Lawton’s population in the early 1950s as the United States entered the Korean War. The growth and expansion of Lawton has been intertwined with the activities of Fort Sill, a US Army installation located directly north of the city.

Fort Sill’s Field Artillery School trained thousands of soldiers and officers after World War II to maintain the country’s peacetime army and to prepare the country for engagement in the Korean War

from 1950 through 1953. The nation’s postwar population boom and the training programs at Fort Sill resulted in a housing crisis in Lawton. In 1951 Lawton was declared a critical defense housing area, and as a result, private developers could rapidly construct housing with the assistance of low-interest loans. Within a year, these apartment buildings were constructed to meet that demand.

As a result, the district reflects the architectural language and the curvilinear streets characteristic of the era. The period of significance spans from 1952, when the resources were constructed to meet the needs of Lawton’s growing population, to 1967, when Lawton experienced its final population boom and housing crisis of the 20th century, which was related to Fort Sill’s role in training soldiers for the Vietnam War. The district retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to communicate its significant role in the residential development of Lawton.



Sunset-Vogue-Blue Ribbon Apartments Historic District

The Dr. W. H. Slaughter House is located at 3101 NE 50th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. The house was built in 1937 and is significant under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Wyatt Hardy Slaughter in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black History.

Slaughter was Oklahoma City’s first nonwhite doctor and one of the African American community’s most prominent

and influential medical, business, and civic leaders. As a physician, Slaughter established various medical offices and a hospital, and founded the state’s African American medical association. As a businessman, he erected numerous buildings in the segregated Deep Deuce/Northeast Second Street area of Oklahoma City and helped found the Negro Business League. As a civic leader, he campaigned for World War II bonds, public amenities such as the YMCA, and a new high school for African Americans. As an entrepreneur, he developed several residential plats in northeast Oklahoma City. He also was a trustee of Meharry Medical College. Dr. Slaughter’s house and associated resources retain a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and still transmit appropriate information about Dr. Slaughter, a significant person in Oklahoma City’s history.



Dr. W. H. Slaughter House

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. For additional information please contact the SHPO at 405-522-4478.

Hammered Aluminum Ware exhibit

The Friends of the Fred Drummond Home are pleased to announce a new *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit, to be displayed during the month of April. The exhibit will feature many examples of hand-wrought hammered aluminum. Indicative of the times, aluminum was cheaper and lighter than silver, and it never needs polishing! For more information, including admission fees and hours of operation, please call 918-885-2374. The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy.

“Major General James G. Blunt” presentation

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is excited to announce a special presentation on Saturday, April 20, at 1 p.m. Bart Taylor, park interpreter from Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in Arkansas, will give a presentation about Union Major General James G. Blunt. Taylor will speak about Blunt’s historical significance in the Trans-Mississippi West Theater of the American Civil War “from Prairie Grove to Honey Springs and everything in between.” Taylor will be dressed in period Civil War attire for the presentation. After the presentation, he will answer questions and show a few artifacts related to General Blunt from the Prairie Grove collections. This presentation is free to the public, but donations are greatly appreciated.

“James G. Blunt had several careers and titles during his lifetime, including doctor, ship’s captain, and eventually major general,” said Taylor. “When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Blunt enlisted as a private in the Third Kansas Regiment. In April 1862 he was commissioned a brigadier general and placed under command of the Department of Kansas. Blunt distinguished himself for bravery and military skill in the battles of Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, Boston Mountains, Fort Van Buren, Honey Springs, and Newtonia.”

After the presentation, visitors will have the opportunity to tour the Visitor Center’s new exhibits, gift shop, and, of course, the largest Civil War battlefield located in Oklahoma. For more information please call 918-473-5572. Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville.



From the OHS Archives: The Wiley Post Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

On August 15, 1935, after the airplane crash that claimed the lives of Wiley Post and Will Rogers near Point Barrow, Alaska, the nation went into a period of mourning normally reserved for US presidents. Flags across the country were lowered in memoriam, and 14,000 movie theater screens went dark for two minutes in tribute. Wiley Post’s tragic and public death—along with the death of Will Rogers at the height of his fame—has often overshadowed his many accomplishments in the field of aviation.

Post began his flying career as a “barnstormer,” traveling from one air show to another providing airplane rides and performing flying stunts. He later turned his attention to breaking cross-country flying records, and was the first pilot to fly solo around the world. His curiosity led him to explore high-altitude aviation, and he eventually reached 50,000 feet. He also developed the first pressure suit designed for high altitude flying.

The Wiley Post Collection (M1975.022, five boxes and ten oversize folders) includes business information, correspondence, and documents related to Post’s development of the pressurized flying suit. The collection also contains maps related to his record-breaking flights—the 1931 around-the-world flight with Harold Gatty in 8 days and 16 hours, and Post’s 1933 solo flight around the world in 7 days, 18 hours, and 48.5 minutes. Material recounting his death includes telegrams, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and the text of his eulogy. Early personal background documents from his 1921 arrest for armed robbery include fingerprint cards, sentencing, parole, and pardon information.

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

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



SHPO awards quarterly Citations of Merit

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recently presented its quarterly Citations of Merit for work in preserving the history of Oklahoma. Three citations were awarded for accomplishments in three Oklahoma communities. The award recognizes efforts to preserve Oklahoma’s historic properties through restoration, rehabilitation, research, planning, public programming, and other activities.

The January 2019 recipients of the SHPO’s Citations of Merit and their accomplishments are:

Oklahoma Affordable Housing Partners, LLC; Rosin Preservation, LLC; and Stark Wilson Duncan Architects, Inc. for the rehabilitation of the Mining Exchange Building located on Route 66 in downtown Miami

H2O Apartments of OKC, LLC, Steve McQuillin and Associates, and KKT Architects, Inc. for the rehabilitation of the Tiffany Apartments in Oklahoma City

Archer Building, LLC; Rosin Preservation, LLC; and Lilly Architects for the rehabilitation of the Archer Warehouse in downtown Tulsa

For more information about the Citation of Merit recipients or the SHPO’s awards programs, please call 405-521-6249. You also may visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm.



Clara Barton living history presentations

The Oklahoma History Center is privileged to present Mary Ann Jung, Smithsonian scholar and award-winning actress, in a living history portrayal of Clara Barton on March 6–7. Barton is



credited with founding the American Red Cross in 1881, becoming the first woman to work for the federal government, the first female federal department head, and America’s first female ambassador.

Two public performances will be offered: Wednesday, March 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and a matinee on Thursday, March 7, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Seating will be first-come, first-served, and the doors will open at the following times:

- 1:30 p.m. for the 2 p.m. performance
- 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. performance

Tickets are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for nonmembers. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 405-522-0765.

2019 Most Endangered Places Unveiling

On Monday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m. Preservation Oklahoma (POK) will host a reception and unveil its annual list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places. The event will take place at the Henry Overholser Mansion's newly renovated Carriage House. The unveiling serves as the official kickoff of statewide activities focused on the 2019 list and also raises funds that allow POK to advance its mission of promoting historic preservation statewide. Get your tickets today! Event attendees will be treated to light snacks, COOP Ale Works beer, and tours of the Overholser Mansion—a showcase of preservation in practice. For more than 25 years, POK has recognized historic sites across Oklahoma that are at risk of demolition or deterioration while raising awareness of the need to protect our state's historic resources. This year, 11 historic sites throughout the state will be recognized as Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places. While inclusion on the list does not ensure protection or funding, it is a vital component in mobilizing support for the preservation of these important sites. The Henry Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW 15th Street in Oklahoma City. Please call 405-525-5325 for more information.

Cynthia Ann Parker living history presentation

On Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m. the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will present a living history program that will chronicle the life of Cynthia Ann Parker. It will be presented as a first-person narrative by Jennie Buchanan, director of the Museum of the Western Prairie.

In 1836 during an Indian raid on Parker's Fort (near present-day Waco, Texas), nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker was kidnapped, and five members of her family were killed. Adopted into the Comanche tribe, she later married Peta Nocona and had three children: Quanah Parker, Pecos, and Topsannah (Prairie Flower). After Cynthia lived with the Comanches for 25 years, Texas Rangers recaptured her and returned her to the Parker family. Cynthia was a true pioneer of the American West, whose legacy was carried on by her son Quanah.

This program will be a part of the Western Trail Historical Society's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Museum of the Western Prairie, located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information please call 580-482-1044.

Bob Ford's *Black Cat 2-1* back in stock

During the *Helicopter Missions: Vietnam Firefight* film screening and program at the Oklahoma History Center on January 19, former Huey helicopter pilot and retired Captain Bob Ford spoke about his time in the Vietnam War. Ford's book entitled *Black Cat 2-1: The True Story of a Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and His Crew* was available for purchase at the event, but unfortunately it sold out before everyone was able to purchase a copy.

The book is now back in stock at the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store, and a special deal is available! For a limited time, all *Black Cat 2-1* book orders will receive free shipping and a free book plate autographed by the author. Please order your copy by Friday, April 12, to take advantage of this great offer. To place an order, call the Museum Store at 405-522-5214.

Unsolved History exhibit

The Oklahoma History Center is proud to announce that it will host a public opening and reception for its newest exhibit entitled *Unsolved History: Forensic Science, Cold Cases, and Art Therapy*. The reception will be Saturday, March 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. This exhibit is comprised of 11 artistic creations by Oklahoma-based artists and art therapists who work with the families of victims in cold case crimes. Led by Shannon Hazen, Tina Adams, and Kris Newlin, and connected to the Oklahoma Homicide Survivors Support Group, artists were paired with families to participate in the project.

In its collections, the Oklahoma History Center has a substantial number of artifacts that pertain to law enforcement in Oklahoma from the pre-Territorial Era to the present. Included in the collections are the tools used in investigation and evidence analysis, as well as records of court cases and prison records. However, this latest exhibit features a new tool used in the aftermath of violent crimes that has proven beneficial to the family, friends, and acquaintances of the victims. Art therapy has been used in several different areas of psychology, but only recently has it been used for this purpose. "I think this is an excellent opportunity for visitors not only to see beautiful works of art, but also to learn about art therapy and forensic science history in our state," said Lori Oden, Oklahoma History Center director of exhibits.

For more information about the project or the cases, contact Shannon Hazen at 405-219-9283. For information about the exhibit, contact Lori Oden at 405-522-0780 or loden@okhistory.org.

National Register Nomination Grants

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2019 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 at www.okhistory.org/nrgrant.

The deadline for round one applications is Friday, April 5, at 5 p.m., and the deadline for round two applications is Friday, June 7, at 5 p.m. Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. Grant recipients will use the grant funds and nonfederal match to retain an appropriately qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package for the National Register.

For more information please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo.



Certified Healthy Business recognition for the History Center

The Oklahoma History Center recently met the criteria to become a Certified Healthy Business. Certified Healthy Business recipients are recognized for promoting health and wellness where Oklahomans live, work, learn, and play.

The Certified Healthy Oklahoma Program is a free, voluntary statewide certification. The certification showcases businesses, campuses, communities, congregations, early childhood programs, restaurants, and schools that are committed to supporting healthy choices through environmental and policy change. These entities are working to improve the health of Oklahomans by implementing elements, policies, and programs that will help Oklahomans eat better, move more, and be tobacco free. This program began in 2003 as a collaborative initiative with four founding partners: Oklahoma Turning Point Council, Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, Oklahoma State Chamber, and Oklahoma State Department of Health. For more information about the Oklahoma History Center's efforts, please call 405-522-3602.

Perez Medal of Honor on display at the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center is proud to announce that the Medal of Honor awarded to Pfc. Manuel Perez Jr., a World War II soldier, is now on display. The medal is exhibited in the military section of the Kerr-McGee Gallery on the third floor of the History Center, which is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pfc. Perez was presented this award posthumously for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty on 13 February 1945.” Perez was the lead scout for Company A, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division serving in Luzon, Philippine Islands. His company was approaching enemy-held Fort McKinley and had destroyed 11 of 12 pillboxes in a strongly defended sector of the island. Pfc. Perez knew that the last emplacement must be destroyed to take control of the area. However, the pillbox was heavily manned and armed with two twin-mount, .50 caliber machine guns. He made it to within 20 yards of the site, killing four of the enemy soldiers in his advance. He threw a grenade into the pillbox, causing the crew to retreat through the rear of the emplacement. Perez shot and killed four of those who were attempting to escape before exhausting his clip. He reloaded and killed four more when an escaping Japanese soldier threw his rifle with a fixed bayonet. When Perez deflected the rifle, it knocked his own rifle to the ground. He seized the Japanese rifle and killed the remaining enemy soldiers. Single-handedly, he killed 18 of the enemy and neutralized the position.

Pfc. Perez was killed by a sniper on March 14, 1945, while still fighting on Luzon in the Philippines. In 1946, on George Washington’s birthday, his Medal of Honor was presented to his father on the International Bridge between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Perez is buried in Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. It is designated as a Blue Star Museum, offering free admission to all veterans, active duty military, and their dependents. Regular admission to the History Center is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for students, and free for children five and under. For more information please call 405-522-0765 or visit www.okhistory.org/historycenter.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

May Lillie’s 150th Birthday Celebration and Easter events at Pawnee Bill Ranch

Celebrate May Lillie’s 150th birthday at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum! A come-and-go birthday party will be held on Sunday, March 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cast members from Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show will be on hand to welcome guests and add to the festivities. Of course, Wild West performers who portray Pawnee Bill (Kevin Webb) and May Lillie (Katrina Fenton) will be in attendance. There will be cake, punch, finger foods, and fun activities for all. Guests also can view a special temporary exhibit highlighting May Lillie’s extraordinary life. This event is free and open to the public.



On Saturday, April 20, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will host its 90th annual Easter Egg Hunt. It will begin promptly at 10 a.m., signaled by Pawnee Bill (portrayed by Webb) firing his pistol. Thousands of eggs will be hidden across the grounds of the historic site, including prize eggs containing money and vouchers for treats. The ranch is pleased to continue this tradition started by Pawnee Bill and May Lillie decades ago. All are invited to attend and make memories with family in a beautiful environment. This event is cosponsored by the Pawnee Lions Club and the Pawnee Chamber of Commerce.

On Sunday, April 21, the ranch will host its annual Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast Fundraiser. The service begins at approximately 7 a.m. on Blue Hawk Peak, followed by breakfast. It will include eggs, sausage, fruit, biscuits, gravy, and a drink for \$5. Please call 918-762-2513 for more information.