



Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grants awarded

The Oklahoma Historical Society is proud to announce that 43 historical organizations have been awarded a grant through the new Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. The inaugural year of this new grants-in-aid program saw 87 historical organizations apply for funding. Applications were due in November 2019 and, following a review by both an OHS staff committee and a subcommittee of the OHS Board of Directors, the following organizations were approved for funding by the OHS Board of Directors at the January quarterly board meeting:

Atoka County Historical Society, Bristow Historical Society Inc., Cherokee Heritage Center, Chisholm Trail Museum, Choctaw County Genealogical Society, City of Wagoner, Claremore Museum of History, Cleveland County Historical Society and Moore-Lindsay Historic House Museum, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Drumright Historical Society, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Edmond Historical Society and Museum, Fort Sill Chiricahua/Warm Springs Apache Tribe, Friends of Historic Fort Supply, Friends of the Murrell Home, Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association, Goingsnake District Heritage Association, Grady County Historical Society, Historical Society of the US District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, Landmark for All Generations, McLoud Historical Society Museum and Heritage Center, Mid-Continent Geological Library, Modoc Nation, Muskogee Historical and Cultural Foundation, Okeene Historic Preservation Group, Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inc., Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society Inc., Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center, Oklahoma Ge-

nealogical Society, Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum, Rogers County Historical Society, Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum, Seminole Nation Museum, Southern Nazarene University Archives, Stephens County Genealogy Library, Stillwater History Museum at the Sheerar, Stillwater Public Library, Stroud Public Library, Talbot Library and Museum Association, The Edwards Store Inc., Three Rivers Museum of Muskogee, Western Trail Historical Society, and Wilson Historical Society Inc.

A total of just over \$410,000 in grant funds will be distributed, with projects ranging from collections care and exhibit development to strategic planning and educational programming. "We are very pleased with how well this first cycle of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program has gone," said Nicole Harvey, grants administrator. "Both the variety of projects and the number of applications submitted show that this program is not only necessary, but a game changer for the future of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history in local communities across the state."

The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program is a grants-in-aid program offered by the Oklahoma Historical Society with a goal of encouraging the collection, preservation, and sharing of Oklahoma history at the grassroots level in all parts of the state. Open to tribal and municipal governments and not-for-profit historical organizations located in Oklahoma and registered with the Oklahoma secretary of state, this grants program offers funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for projects focused on collections, exhibits, and programming. Applications for this annual program open in the fall and award announcements are made in January. For more information please visit www.okhistory.org/grants.

Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam exhibit will live on



On Saturday, November 30, 2019, the Oklahoma History Center curatorial staff began dismantling one of its most popular exhibits, *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*. This tribute to returning veterans, as well as the fallen, ran for more than two years and was seen by thousands of visitors.

One of the main components of the exhibit was a display entitled *All Gave Some; Some Gave All*. This portion of the exhibit listed the names of those Oklahomans who were killed or missing in action in Vietnam during the war. In addition to those names being printed on a large background panel, each name was embossed on an actual dog tag typically worn around the neck of those who served.

To ensure that the impact of this exhibit will be ongoing, it has been transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). Shane Faulkner, public information officer for ODVA, said of the plans for the exhibit, "In our seven state vet-

eran centers, Vietnam veterans make up the majority of heroes currently in our care. We cannot thank the Oklahoma History Center enough for this exhibit that not only memorializes the ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice, but honors their brothers and sisters who continue to show they did not die in vain."

ODVA provides long-term care to nearly 1,400 veterans across the state. The cost of care is free to qualifying veterans. For more information on this agency and these facilities, visit okvets.ok.gov.





Director's Column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

A few weeks ago I gave a speech at the Veterans Center in Norman to dedicate the installation of a memorial that had been part of an exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center. The exhibit was called *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*. Of the 300 or more people there, a majority were veterans of the War in Vietnam.

As I looked out over the audience, I realized more than ever the impact that our exhibit has had and will have in drawing attention to a time when our country was so divided that we failed as a community to honor those who had served in the armed forces.

I started my speech by recounting the many ways that our community had previously honored veterans returning from war.

When an Osage, Kiowa, or Cherokee warrior returned from battle, the community honored them with feasts and dancing, artwork on shields and teepees to recall their courage, and stories that would be told and retold from generation to generation.

After the ashes of the Civil War had long been scattered, the people of Oklahoma granted old-age pensions to Confederate veterans, created battlefield parks and museum exhibits to remember their ser-

vice, and used their stories to make films and documentaries.

Even Spanish-American War veterans were greeted as heroes in the Twin Territories. In 1900 Theodore Roosevelt led a parade of his Rough Riders down Main Street in Oklahoma City as the community celebrated their victories.

After World War I, seen as a holy war to save democracy, Frank Phillips donated money to create three emotionally charged murals installed on the south walls of the State Capitol. World War II and Korea veterans, my father and five uncles among them, were welcomed home with shared conviction that they had saved the world from imperial expansion and the evil forces of Nazi aggression. A museum dedicated to their memory, the 45th Infantry Division Museum, was created to share the story.

Then came the War in Vietnam.

Anyone who lived through the late 1960s and early 1970s remembers a community divided, but once again, young Oklahoma men and women answered the call to serve their country. Almost 1,000 of them did not come home. When those who did survive came home, there were no parades, no murals, no museums built to share their story.

In 2016, inspired by a book written by Bob Ford (a helicopter pilot who flew more than a thousand missions in Vietnam), we decided it was time to honor the service, courage, and sacrifice of Bob and his fellow veterans. At one of the planning meetings Jim Waldo, a veteran of the war and a member of the OHS Board of Directors, suggested we use the code words that veterans used to greet each other when they returned stateside. They were "Welcome Home."

When the exhibit was nearing completion, the design crew suggested that a large mural be placed near the entrance to the exhibit that listed the Oklahomans who lost their lives in Vietnam. An OHS

volunteer and veteran of the war, Tom Galbraith, then made dog tags for every one of those listed. They were suspended above the list, to serve as a memorial to each person.

When the exhibit came down in November 2019, we offered the memorial with the names and dog tags to our partners at the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. They put together a plan for a tour of the memorial to all seven of their veterans centers. My speech was part of the first stop.

When I returned to the History Center, I asked Dan Provo if it might be possible to replicate the memorial so other veterans did not have to wait. Within an hour, he called back and said he and his staff would devote the time to make six more versions of the memorial, complete with dog tags, while the Department of Veterans Affairs would pay for the printing and materials.

I am looking forward to saying to other veterans, "Welcome Home."

Dr. Bob

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum recognized

The editors of *True West* magazine voted the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum the "Best Preservation Effort of the West" for 2020. The honor was published in the January 2020 issue of the magazine, lauding the "hard work and tenacity" of the museum and its staff for preserving the 500-acre ranch and hosting Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show each summer. J. Bommerbach of *True West* praised the museum's exhibits, historic photographs, artwork, and memorabilia, writing that the museum helps to "keep the spirit of the Old West alive and thriving for today and tomorrow."

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The OHS will host the 2020 Oklahoma History Conference April 22-24 at Sequoyah Lodge at Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner, Oklahoma. The theme is "Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks." The Three Forks is the area where the Neosho (Grand) River and Verdigris River flow into the Arkansas River. Many important events in Oklahoma history occurred in this region. Please join us in celebrating our state's history through informative sessions, guest speakers, and tours of important sites and museums. You can find more information about the conference in this publication.

Thursday night's entertainment will be singer/songwriter Becky Hobbs. She will perform some of her hits, such as "Angels Among Us" and "Let's Get Over Them Together." She will also perform songs from *Nanyehi*, the musical she wrote about her Cherokee ancestor Nancy Ward. I would like to express a sincere thank you to our sponsors BancFirst, the City of Wagoner, and the Cherokee Nation. Sponsors allow us to keep our registration costs and conference fees affordable. We are always looking for more sponsors! If you have any questions or would like to support the conference, call me at 405-522-6676 or email me at lodell@okhistory.org. You can register for the 2020 Oklahoma History Conference at www.okhistory.org/conference.



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

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Experience living history at its best at the Spring Mountain Man Encampment at Woolaroc in **Bartlesville** April 18 and 19, 2020. Approximately 125 tents and teepees will be set up for this annual western heritage event formerly known as the Spring Traders Encampment. Join participants from all over the United States as they recreate the rugged pioneer life of the men and women who trapped and traded in 1840s-era Indian Territory. Visitors can step back in time at the Spring Mountain Man Encampment and observe their lifestyle, learn about their backgrounds and interests, watch their craft demonstrations, and check out their wares. Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve is located at 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Road in Bartlesville. Call 918-336-0307 for more information.

Woolly Weekend is a “sheep to shawl” festival held at Shepherd’s Cross, an authentic working sheep farm, just north of **Claremore** on scenic Route 66, April 23–25, 2020. Participants can watch wool processed on-site—combed, spun, and woven into a finished product. Sheep shearing occurs throughout the day and visitors are invited to watch as the sheep are shorn. One finished shawl will be available for purchase through a silent auction. Children’s activities will include weaving, games, making a wool project, and a coloring contest. Families can also visit the Farm Animal Barn and pet the barnyard animals, or tour the educational and interactive Farm Museum and Educational Silo. This event will also feature drop spindling or needle felting classes. Shepherd’s Cross is located at 16792 E 450 Road in Claremore. Call 918-342-5911 for more information.

Announcements

The Oklahoma Leopold Education Project (OKLEP), Wynnewood Public Library, and Wynnewood Historical Society will be showing the movie *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time* on Saturday, March 7, 2020. The showing will take place at the historic Eskridge Hotel Museum located at 114 East Robert S. Kerr Boulevard in **Wynnewood**. Seating is limited, so arrive early. A display about Aldo Leopold and the Leopold Education Project will be available for viewing, and there will be door prizes and refreshments. Admission is free and open to the public.

“Making Sense of the Census” will be the topic for the Wynnewood Historical Society at its meeting on March 12 at 5 p.m. in the Eskridge Hotel Museum, located at 114 East Robert S. Kerr Boulevard in **Wynnewood**. Nancy Calhoun, a staff member of the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center, will present the “whys, hows, and wheres” as the group explores the US Census and other forms of enumeration. The US Census is the foundation many genealogists use for their research, plus this is a census year. Calhoun will discuss why the census exists, what is available, what information it provides, and how the census has evolved. Participants will discover other types of census records, including state, territorial, agricultural, and tribal. For more information call 405-238-4567.

The Indian Territory Posse of the Oklahoma Westerners International (ITPOWI) will host guest speaker Kathy Gibbs on March 6, 2020, to discuss her book *Cheyenne Warriors*. On April 3, 2020, ITPOWI will welcome Dale Wade as he presents a historical discussion of the “Saloon Towns of Violet Springs and Corners,” which were notorious communities in southeastern Pottawatomie County. ITPOWI is a group of Oklahomans that investigate, study, and perpetuate all phases of the culture, history, and development of the American West with special emphasis on Oklahoma. Its monthly meetings are the first Friday of the month except January, July, and August. Meetings are held in the historic Hart Building, located at 726 West Sheridan in **Oklahoma City**. For more information, contact Dale Wade at 405-513-2376.

Symposium

The 48th Annual Symposium on the American Indian with the theme “Visionaries of Indian Country” will be held April 8–13 in **Tahlequah** at the Northeastern State University (NSU) University Center. This symposium brings renowned scholars and tribal traditionalists together in a university venue to educate and offer discourse on sovereignty, scholarship, creative works, tribal issues, and cultural diversity. The symposium will feature scholarly and cultural presentations along with workshops on American Indian traditions, short films, and an ongoing film series. Additionally, traditional art vendor booths and an array of speakers, live performances, stickball exhibitions, and a variety of American Indian games

will take place. This event concludes with the NSU powwow, featuring traditional tribal dances performed to the electrifying beat of drums. The symposium is open to the public and free of charge. The NSU University Center is located on the campus of NSU in Tahlequah. For more information visit www.nsuok.edu/centerfortribalstudies.

Arts and Culture

The Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce welcomes filmmakers and movie fans to enjoy a weekend of unique short films during the Tonkawa Film Festival at the Wilkin Hall theater at Northern Oklahoma College. This event features a charming, small-town experience, complete with a parade through downtown **Tonkawa**, as well as an array of exciting, film-related events. Opening night is Friday, March 6, beginning with student shorts, documentary shorts, a special feature screening, chilling horror shorts, and ending with an after party. The film festival will continue on Saturday, March 7, when participants will view diverse short films and take part in special events. Wilkin Hall is located at 1220 East Grand Avenue in Tonkawa. Please call 580-628-2220 for more information.

Art Under the Oaks Competitive Art Show will take place April 4–30 at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in **Muskogee**. This annual show celebrates culture and traditions through fine and cultural art. Artists exhibit paintings, sculptures, baskets, pottery, beadwork, textiles, and other cultural-related crafts. Visitors have a chance to purchase some of the artwork entered. The Five Civilized Tribes Museum is dedicated to preserving the culture and history of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muskogee (Creek), and Seminole tribes for future generations. It is located at 1101 Honor Heights Drive in Muskogee. Call 918-683-1701 for more information.

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 Nina Hager by email at nhager@okhistory.org. If you wish a news item to appear in the May/June 2020 issue, you must submit it by Wednesday, April 1.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

March

- 2 *Bacone College School of Indian Art* exhibit opens, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 *Kemnitz Sinclair Service Station* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 3 *Voices of Hunter's Home: Women* exhibit opens, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 3 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 5 Living History Education Day, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 5-28 Living History Season celebrating Women's History Month, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 6 Living History Lantern Tours, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7 Women's History Month exhibit gallery tour, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 11 "When the Country Was New" Brown Bag Luncheon Lecture by Jenny Entsminger, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Bacone College Art Gala and Fundraiser, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 14 Quilting Workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 "Women During the Civil War" presentation by Kelly Houston, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 16-20 Spring Break activities, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 19 "Water Conservation Efforts" presentation by Tom Buchanan, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 19 Vernal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 20 *Bacone College School of Indian Art* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 33rd annual Family Kite Flite Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 21 Oklahoma Farm-to-Table Family Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 "Genealogy of Marshal McCully" presentation by Jana Brown, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 21 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 23 *Wanted: Dead or Alive* exhibit opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 24 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City

- 24 *BISON* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 26 Mysteries of the Mansion Tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 28 "Freemasonry Among the Five Tribes" presentation by T. S. Akers, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 28 Spring Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 30 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 31 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 31 "Oklahoma's Most Notorious Cases" presentation by Kent Frates, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 31 *Voices of Hunter's Home: Women* exhibit closes, Hunter's Home, Park Hill



April

- 1 *Voices of Hunter's Home: The Artists* exhibit opens, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 1 *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit opens, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 2-30 Living History Season celebrating 175th Anniversary of the Home, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 4 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 4 "The Civil War and Reconstruction in Indian Territory" presentation by Dr. Bradley Clappitt, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 4 *Smithsonian* magazine's annual Museum Day, various OHS museums and sites
- 4 American Battlefield Trust's annual Park Day, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 7 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 8 "Policing Our Borders: 19th-Century North American Immigration" Brown Bag Luncheon Lecture by Dr. Holly Karibo, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 8-9 "The Life of Lide Doan" Living History Presentations, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 9 Easter Egg Hunt, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 9 History Alive! Cesar Chavez, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 91st annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 11 Village Market, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 Quilting Workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline

- 11 *Water/Ways* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 11 Optimist Club Easter Egg Hunt, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 11 "Gardening at the Fort" Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 12 Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast Fundraiser, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 14 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 16 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 Cherokee Strip Street Fest, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17-18 Red Dirt Art Show, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 18 "Blacksmithing" Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 18 Brush Calligraphy Class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Rural Heritage Festival, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 18 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 "Hello to Hollywood" Kilgen Organ Performance featuring Rob Richards, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 "Tracing Your Roots" seven-week genealogy class, Rose State College, Midwest City
- 22-24 "Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks" Oklahoma History Conference, Sequoyah State Park, Hulbert
- 24 Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 25 *Pioneer Woman* Statue's 90th Anniversary Celebration, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 25 Village Market, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 25 Tea and Talk at Horizon Hill: Women and Wild West Shows, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 26 "Three Sonatas by Beethoven" Concert featuring Dr. Hyunsoon Whang, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 27 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 30 *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit closes, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 30 *Voices of Hunter's Home: The Artists* exhibit closes, Hunter's Home, Park Hill



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

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce six new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma, added in November and December 2019. The National Register is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.



Ponca City Municipal Airport Hangar

The Ponca City Municipal Airport Hangar, located at 2231 Waverly Street in Ponca City, Kay County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in the areas of Economics and Military. The construction of the hangar between 1930 and 1932 symbolized the strong economic relationship between a burgeoning aviation sector and Oklahoma's oil industry. The City of Ponca City acquired the land upon which the hangar was built in 1930, but managers and engineers from Continental Oil Company (Conoco) oversaw construction until its completion in 1932. In 1941 the hangar comprised a key facet of British Flying Training School Number 6, overseen by Darr School of Aeronautics. Between 1941 and 1944, the school trained more than 1,000 British airmen and more than 100 American aviators for military service in World War II. In 1953 the hangar was rendered obsolete after the completion of an expanded runway system and the construction of a new terminal and administrative building.

Constructed between 1934 and 1936, the Holy City of the Wichitas Historic District in Comanche County is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance associated with the work relief and public works programs of the New Deal in Oklahoma, and its importance as a public recreational area. The district is also significant as an outstanding example of National Park Service Rustic architecture and landscape design as applied to a federal wildlife refuge. The Holy City has been in continuous use in its present



Holy City of the Wichitas Historic District

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge site since the first phase of Works Progress Administration construction was completed in 1935.

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory, located at 200 NE 23rd Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its role in Military and Economics, as well as for its Streamline Moderne style. Commonly understood as a federal New Deal project, the armory is, in fact, a symbol of Governor Ernest Whitworth Marland's "Little New Deal" and was financed solely by state funds. Adjutant General Charles Franklin Barrett and Major General William Shaffer Key, two leading figures in the Oklahoma National Guard, had long argued for the necessity of armories in Oklahoma. The crisis of the Great Depression transformed their arguments into action as state leaders recognized that the construction of armories could provide economic relief and opportunity for Oklahomans. Upon its completion in 1938, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory in Oklahoma City provided a valuable training site for members of the 45th Infantry Division and served as a public meeting space for Oklahomans.



Oklahoma National Guard Armory

The State Highway Department Testing Laboratory, located at 2311 North Central Avenue in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its role in Politics/Government and its Art Deco style. The Testing Laboratory played a key role in the evolution of the State Highway Department as a centralized authority for the construction, maintenance, and administration of Oklahoma's roads and bridges. The Testing Laboratory was described as one of the most modern facilities of its time upon its construction in 1934. By the mid-20th century, state engineers and chemists conducted approximately 16,000 tests per month on all materials utilized in road building and upkeep. These tests ensured that Oklahoma's highways adhered to federal standards and guidelines. It was a lynchpin for the bureaucratic, regulatory framework that endeavored to provide safe and dependable roadways for drivers throughout Oklahoma.

Built by W. J. Hoover in 1928, the Iroquois Apartments building, located at



State Highway Department Testing Laboratory

900 NW 13th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its role in Community Planning and Development, and for its Tudor Revival style. The building is among 25 "brick box" apartment buildings constructed by various developers between 1910 and 1935 in an area of Oklahoma City known today as Midtown. The Iroquois Apartments historically catered to single, working-class tenants, with W. J. Hoover advertising affordable rents and the building's proximity to an interurban railway station. The building harkens to a period when development in Midtown boomed, the residential population steadily increased, and demands for affordable housing were at an all-time high.



Iroquois Apartments

Harmony School, located at 1537 NE 24th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its role in Education and Ethnic Heritage as well as for its Classical Revival style. The school, which was first placed into service in 1928, was built in three phases. The first two were designed by the architectural firm of Layton, Hicks, and Forsyth, and it reached its current form around 1949 with an auditorium wing designed by architects Bailey and Bozalis. Harmony Elementary School originally served white students only. Located in a transitional neighborhood, it was one of the first elementary schools in Oklahoma City to be the subject of a challenge to the Oklahoma City Board of Education's discriminatory transfer policies. The transfer policy benefited white students by allowing them to transfer to a predominately white school outside of their district, but denied African American students the same transfer options. Although that initial challenge

New National Register listings (cont.)

proved to be unsuccessful, it helped set the stage for future legal actions that led to the desegregation of the entire public school system in Oklahoma City.



Harmony School

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, please fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm. For more information contact National Register of Historic Places Coordinator Sara Werneke at swerneke@okhistory.org or 405-522-4478.

SHPO to host workshops

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host three workshops in May at the Oklahoma History Center. 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. The sessions will be held May 20 and 21, 2020. 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 13. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

- **Wednesday, May 20**, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.: Working with the National Register of Historic Places
- **Thursday, May 21**, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
- **Thursday, May 21**, 1:30–4:30 p.m.: The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

All sessions will be held in the Musser Learning Lab at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information or to register for classes, please contact Tifani Darata at tdarata@okhistory.org or 405-521-6249. You may also register online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.

“Indian Territory’s Involvement in the Civil War”

The OHS Research Center and the Oklahoma Genealogical Society will host a special living history presentation at the Oklahoma History Center on Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m. Historian Mike Sheriff will present “Indian Territory’s Involvement in the Civil War.” Attendees are sure to learn something new during this informative presentation! The cost is \$15 per person and registration is required. The registration deadline is April 24. For more information or to register, please visit www.okgensoc.org.



Rural Heritage Festival at Cherokee Strip Museum

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry will host its Rural Heritage Festival on Saturday, April 18, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Rural Heritage Festival provides an educational and fun experience to the public that will increase awareness of the rural heritage of Oklahoma. Living history interpreters will conduct demonstrations throughout the day to help visitors understand traditional skills and lifestyles associated with agriculture and rural communities. Admission to this annual event is free.

Historical interpreters and reenactors will be on hand to demonstrate Dutch oven cooking, blacksmithing, and basket weaving. Guests also will be able to see what a cowboy camp would have looked like, and might encounter some Old West gunfighters. Rooster Cogburn and his sidekick are also scheduled to appear! Visitors can enjoy a craft show with only handmade items for sale, and food trucks will be available on-site.

There will be hands-on activities such as cakewalks and apple bobbing and peeling. Music from a variety of stringed instruments will be provided by the Dulcimers. At 11:30 a.m. students of all ages can attend a session at Rose Hill School. The events held at the Cherokee Strip Museum are designed for families and for people of all ages. The museum celebrates the community's heritage and welcomes everyone back in time for a day full of fun, food, and learning!

The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. Call 580-336-2405 for more information.

Candidates for OHS Board of Directors election

OHS members will receive election ballots, candidate biographies, and related materials by mail for the 2020 OHS Board of Directors election. We hope that members will take time to consider the candidates and participate in the 2020 election. To facilitate that process, the candidate names are printed below. Members will be asked to vote for one candidate from District Five, one candidate from District Six, and three of the State At-Large candidates. Please return your ballot to the address listed on the form by April 17.

District Five

T. S. Akers, Oklahoma City
Jack Baker, Oklahoma City
Rita Benischek, Oklahoma City

District Six

Jerry Blankenship, Enid
Deena Fisher, Woodward
Sunu Kodumthara, Yukon

State At-Large

Randy Beutler, Weatherford
Teresa Black Bradway, Clayton
Billie Fogarty, Oklahoma City
Joyce Jackson, Oklahoma City
Linda Ryan, Fort Gibson
Kenny Sivard, Idabel

Spring Break events at Will Rogers sites

Five afternoons of fun, games, and learning about Will Rogers are in store for children ages 17 and younger during Spring Break, March 16–20. Activities are planned from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch near Oologah on Tuesday and Thursday.

On Monday at the museum, kids will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes and see demonstrations of 19th-century crafts. Visitors to the ranch on Tuesday will get a behind-the-scenes tour and participate in kid tractor pulling. Back at the museum on Wednesday it will be Aviation Day, with an air evacuation helicopter landing on the grounds. Thursday at the ranch will include stick pony races and polo on foot with junior mallets. The week will end on Friday with a focus on movies and movie posters. Sunshine Smith, Will Rogers Film Festival Dog Iron award winner, will be on-site to demonstrate the making of a film.

The Spring Break activities at Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch are free, thanks to a donation from Win and Kay Ingersoll. Advance registration is not required. For more information, please call 918-341-0719 or visit www.willrogers.com.

Cherokee Strip Museum unveils Kemnitz Sinclair Service Station exhibit

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry will present a special exhibit on the Kemnitz Sinclair Service Station opening on March 3. The exhibit will include original items from the station, including signs, gas pumps, globes, and a hand-carved “Dino”—the Sinclair mascot.

The Kemnitz Sinclair Service Station in Perry is located at the southeast corner of the downtown square. It was first built in 1937 by Mid-Continent Petroleum Company as a Diamond D-X Service Station. The station has never ceased to be in business since it was built, and has been operated by the Kemnitz family since 1955. It is one of the few gas stations that still offers full service, where customers can remain in their automobile while their windows are washed, tires and oil are checked, and gas is pumped by an attendant.

Charles and Laura Kemnitz scraped together the money to buy the service station for \$3,500 in 1955, with Charles borrowing \$1,500 from a local farmer. Their boys, Craig and Brent, grew up doing everything around the service station and helping out with the other family business, Kemnitz Oil Co. Inc. Craig took over the family business in 2005 and continues his love of collecting gas station memorabilia, some of which is included in this exhibit.



Kemnitz Sinclair Service Station

Tea and Talk: Women and Wild West Shows

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will host a Tea and Talk at Horizon Hill on Saturday, April 25. Guests will be treated to a variety of traditional teas and snacks in the parlors of Horizon Hill, Territorial Governor A. J. Seay’s home. During the event, Dr. Alyce Webb will speak on “Women and Wild West Shows.” Registration is required and space is limited. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your place.

From the OHS Archives: The Lynn R. Pinson Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

With 384 public and private airports currently in operation, the history and impact of aviation in Oklahoma is a long one. As early as 1911 Clyde Cessna, founder of the Cessna Aircraft Company that is still in operation today, began designing and testing airplanes on the Great Salt Plains in Alfalfa County. By 1929 Paul Revere Braniff was launching his first flight from Tulsa for Paul R. Braniff, Inc., which would go on to become Braniff Airways. By the early 1930s Wiley Post was breaking cross-country and around-the-world speed records, and helped solidify the mystique of aviation in the American psyche.

The Lynn R. Pinson Collection (M2019.129, 4 legal boxes) is a focused look at airports, airparks, heliports, and helipads in Oklahoma from the 1980s to 2009. The collection contains airport master records for public and private airports and helipads in Oklahoma, including inspection reports with photographs. Old and abandoned airports are also documented, as well as name changes for facilities. The collection was compiled and donated by Lynn R. Pinson of Tipton, an airport inspector for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.

The Lynn R. Pinson Collection is available for viewing at the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org.

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



Braniff airliner ready for flight, 1939 (17939.A, Kirkpatrick Science and Air Space Museum Collections, OHS).



“Heirloom Care: Caring for Family Photos” at Chisholm Trail Museum

Visit the Chisholm Trail Museum on Saturday, May 2, from 10:30 a.m. to noon for “Heirloom Care: Caring for Family Photos,” an introductory class on caring for family photographs and documents. Rachel Mosman, photo and digital assets manager for the Oklahoma Historical Society, will introduce methods for organizing and preserving your own family photographic treasures and discuss resources available to participants.

The cost for this class is \$15. Space is limited, so please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your seat. The Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.

“Gardening at the Fort” at Fort Towson Historic Site

Fort Towson Historic Site will host “Gardening at the Fort,” the next in its Second Saturday Demo series, on Saturday, April 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. This program will cover the three main gardens of the fort from 1824–1854: the hospital garden, the officers’ garden, and the company garden. Participants will learn why certain crops were chosen and how they were grown without commercial chemicals. Visitors will have the opportunity to help the staff to plant the fort’s educational garden while the staff answers questions about the process.

For more information about the event, please contact John Davis at 580-873-2634 or jdavis@okhistory.org. Fort Towson Historic Site is located north of US 70 near Fort Towson.



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PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

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Oklahoma History Conference

Join the Oklahoma Historical Society for the Oklahoma History Conference April 22–24 at Sequoyah Lodge near Wagoner. This year’s theme is “Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks.”

Three Forks is the area of present-day Oklahoma where the Neosho (Grand) and Verdigris Rivers merge into the Arkansas River. The region was a hub for European trade and settlement, and was later the site of Indian Territory’s first military outpost, Fort Gibson. It was the terminus of the Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee Trail of Tears, and eventually became part of the Osage, Muscogee (Creek), and Cherokee Nations.

Conference activities begin with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening at Parrish Hall in Wagoner. This reception is free to conference attendees, thanks to support from BancFirst.



Thursday and Friday mornings will include 15 sessions exploring the region’s history and other Oklahoma-related topics. This year the OHS will offer a special track on Friday with presentations designed for museum professionals. Thursday’s plenary speaker will be author Hannibal B. Johnson, who will discuss the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission and Anniversary. OHS Executive Director Bob L. Blackburn will present Friday’s plenary about the evolution of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

On Thursday afternoon, there will be three optional tours. Tour 1 will explore Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson National Cemetery, and the site of Sam Houston’s Wigwam Neosho. Tour 2 will visit historic Hunter’s Home living history farm in Park Hill and the Cherokee National Capitol Building in Tahlequah. Tour 3 includes the newly renovated Wagoner City Historical Museum and historic homes in Wagoner.

Thursday evening’s entertainment will be a musical program at the Wagoner Civic Center featuring Becky Hobbs. Attendees will hear highlights from her decades-long career as a country music singer/songwriter. Hobbs will also perform selections from *Nanyehi—The Story of Nancy Ward*, a musical created by Hobbs and Nick Sweet. Nancy Ward was a Beloved Woman of the Cherokee and is Hobbs’s fifth great-grandmother.

Conference registration is \$25 for OHS members and \$50 for the general public. OHS members will receive a packet with a registration form and more information in the mail. Our conference hotel is Sequoyah Lodge at Sequoyah State Park in Hulbert. For more information on conference events, lodging, and registration, please visit www.okhistory.org/conference.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Spiro Mounds to host family-friendly events

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will celebrate the beginning of spring with a series of guided Vernal Equinox Walks on Thursday, March 19, and the 33rd annual Family Kite Flite Day on Saturday, March 21.

On March 19 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.

Family Kite Flite Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 21. 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.

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 call 918-962-2062 or email spiro@okhistory.org.

