



# Mistletoe Leaves



Vol. 42, No. 3

Published monthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving since 1893

March 2011

## Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center to open April 1

All is in order, now is the time, and the date is set! The public is invited to celebrate the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center's grand opening on Friday, April 1, at 11 a.m. The Enid community working in partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society created the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center to tell the extraordinary stories of settling the Cherokee Strip and to share the inspiring lessons of leadership with future generations.

"Enid has a history that reflects the courage and tenacity of American pioneers," said Lew Ward, board chairman of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Friends group. "The Center's collection shares these stories and the history of the area through engaging exhibits and a Smithsonian-quality experience."

At the center visitors will learn about the 1893 Land Run—the largest land run in U.S. history opening six million acres to settlement. Visitors also will explore how the Cherokee Strip was formed; life on the prairie; the Dust Bowl; area railroads; agricultural development; the discovery and development of the oil industry; and Phillips University, the first private university in the state.

A property of the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Heritage Center itself is a magnificent twenty-four-thousand-square-foot facility featuring five exhibit galleries, two thousand square feet of exhibit



**Workers put up a mural created by Patrick Sawyer of Stillwater, a wildlife artist commissioned to produce the mural for the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center.**



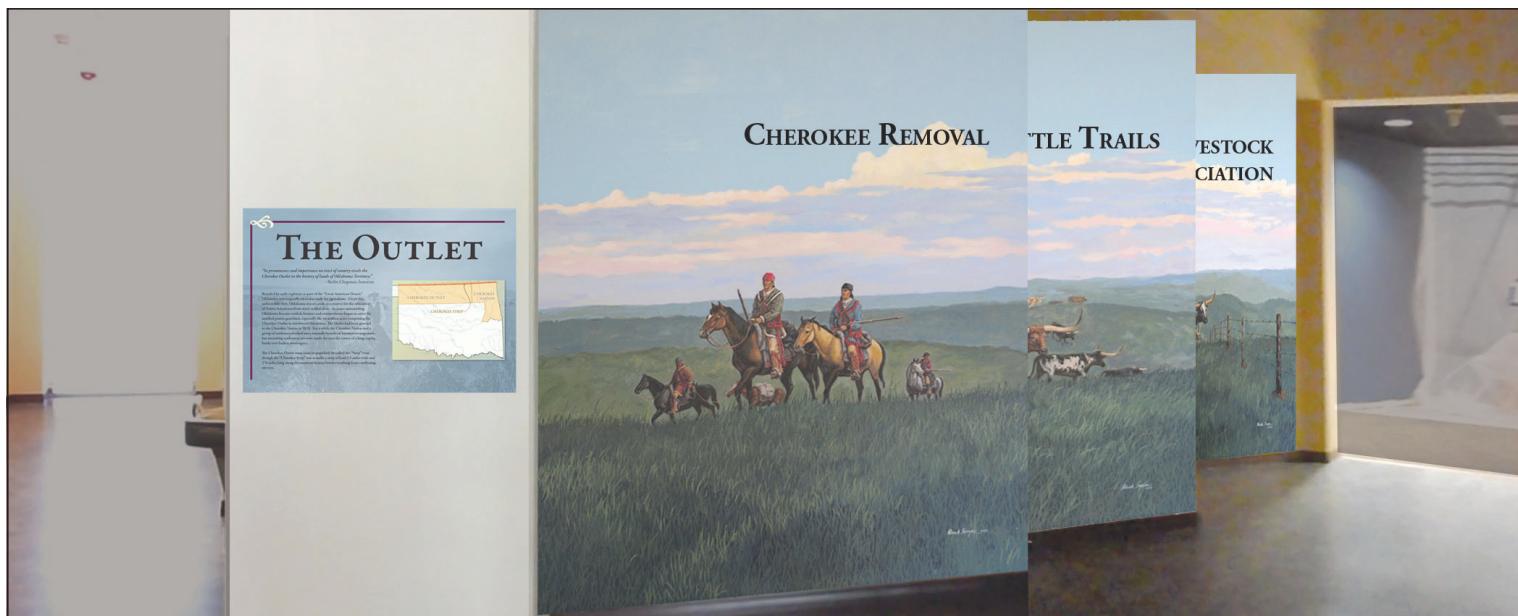
space, a theater, a research center, a visitor center, and a regionally-inspired gift shop featuring items ranging from local artisans' products to Hollywood films about the pioneer experience.

In 2005 community leaders began an \$8 million capital campaign to create a regional attraction to equal the amazing story to be told. To date the campaign has raised more than \$10 million through strong community support for the project.

"Individuals, companies, and organizations throughout the state contributed to the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center campaign," said April Danahy, chair of the Community Relations Committee. "This has been a collaborative effort from the start, and we are thrilled to celebrate the Heritage Center's opening with the public."

Admission costs are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages six to twelve, and free for ages five and younger.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Enid. For more information, go to [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org) or call 580/237-1907.



**Projected view of the finished mural.**



## Director's Column

**By Bob L. Blackburn**  
Executive Director

You probably have heard the old saying, "The only thing that never changes is change itself."

In any organization, whether it is a business or a non-profit, the ability to deal with change is the key to long-term success. Here at the OHS, we try to deal with change from two different directions.

One is to deal with change by confronting potentially damaging challenges such as budget cuts, miscalculations, and bad luck. The latter includes disasters both natural and man-made, from ice storms to arson.

The other way to deal with change is to look for opportunities. Like Russell Westbrook of the Oklahoma City Thunder dribbling the basketball at full speed down the court, we have to keep our eyes open, calculate every option, and make the right move at the right time.

A good example of dealing with both challenges and opportunities is the current plan to reconfigure our oral history program.

The OHS has been involved with oral histories since the 1930s when the WPA Writers Project worked out of our building to interview twenty-five thousand pioneers

who had made land runs, came west on the Trail of Tears, and built the state from the ground up.

The collection grew from 1965 to 1982 as Penn Woods, one of my heroes, built the Living Legends Program with reel-to-reel interviews. For the past thirty years, the OHS and other collectors have added to that total. Today, we have about ten thousand interviews on tape.

The mounting challenges threatening this program have included preserving those tapes and making them accessible to the public. In the big picture we have done a good job of collection but a poor job in preservation and sharing.

The OHS Board of Directors recently approved a plan to deal with that challenge by taking advantage of several opportunities.

To cover the collecting impulse, we now have an active museum exhibit schedule that is generating more focused oral history collecting. To save the data before it is lost, young staff members have set up an entire room with transfer equipment that runs day and night on multiple machines. And to make the information more accessible, we are exploring voice-recognition software and opportunities of reaching out to the public through radio programs and web-based access.

Another opportunity is a growing partnership with the Oklahoma State University Library to survey oral history collections across the state and coordinate collecting activities to set priorities and avoid duplication.

Yes, the only thing that never changes is change itself. We must be ready to confront the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.



## Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

Made possible by the generosity of more than five hundred donors, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) will have its grand opening on April 1 at 11 a.m.

Led by Lew and Myra Ward, the Friends of the CSRHC raised more than \$10 million to build the museum, to furnish it with Smithsonian-quality exhibits, and to endow its operations. Endowment funds continue to be secured. Our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma's history will be achieved to a much greater degree with the opening of this remarkable facility.

Private support indeed is vital to enhancing the quality of OHS museums and programs. Without it the Oklahoma History Center would not be an affiliate of both the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives. Tax-deductible contributions may be made directly to the OHS, to one of its thirty museums and sites, or to one of our friends support groups. The friends organizations are managed by dedicated volunteers focused on improving our museums and education programs.

At the History Center, for example, we are beginning a cycle of refurbishing, replacing, or creating new exhibits throughout the entire museum, starting with the Oil & Gas, Steamboat *Heroine*, and African American exhibits. We are relying on private donors to help us continue our record of excellence as we maintain Smithsonian standards with these new exhibits. In addition to contributions in support of special projects, other donations such as annual memberships, memorial contributions, endowment gifts, and in-kind donations are vitally important. Thanks to all who have supported the OHS in these various ways!

## New Members, January 2011

\*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

### Director's Circle

\*Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Moran, Seminole  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Phil Scaramucci, Oklahoma City

### Fellow

\*Lloyd Noble, Tulsa

### Associate

\*Rita Benischek, Oklahoma City  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill, Oklahoma City  
\*Dr. and Mrs. J.V.D. Hough, Oklahoma City  
\*Karen Keith, Tulsa  
\*Max Nichols, New York City, NY  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Norton, Oklahoma City

### Friend

\*Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Barnett, Mustang  
Karen Beckman, Oklahoma City  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Walter Chapman, Stigler  
\*Linda Clark, Oklahoma City  
\*Mr. and Mrs. William Bedford Clark, Bryan, TX  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Mark Darrah, Tulsa  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Davis, Edmond  
\*John Garber, Ada  
\*Marlene Helsel, Oklahoma City  
\*Cheryl Jackson, Sapulpa  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kitchell, Oklahoma City  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marvel, Oklahoma City  
\*Bobbie Robbins, Oklahoma City  
Theodore Ruff, Edmond  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vaughan, Drummond  
Harold Worrell & Margaret Wirrekk, Altus

### Family

Mr. and Mrs. Clint Allison, Goldsby  
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Artus, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Beson III, Oklahoma City  
\*Beverly Blum, Cambria, CA  
Jan Breeding, Newalla  
Jesse Carroll, Marlow  
\*Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Christopher, Norman  
Karen Crampton, Purcell  
Scott Davis, Oklahoma City  
\*William Isaac Davis Jr., Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goins, Norman  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hancock, Hobart  
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Heaverin, Oklahoma City  
Charles Jeffery, Midwest City  
\*Willa Johnson, Oklahoma City  
\*Robert Key, Mustang  
\*Wilma Lambeth, Okemah  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry LoBough  
Brett Manis III, Edmond  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCoy, Jones  
Alex and Kim Miller, Norman  
Justin Pappan, Edmond  
\*Mr. and Mrs. George Ratliff, Owasso  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ross, Oklahoma City  
\*Victor Slavick, Georgetown, TX  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Don Sterne, Edmond

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

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

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, 6,000 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,302.72 each month. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

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

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

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

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## Meetings

The Oklahoma Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting Monday, March 7, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Event Center at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. The program for the evening is entitled "I'm Goin' to Tell You Something: The Oral History Collection at the Oklahoma Historical Society" and will be presented by Dr. Mary Jane Warde. The presentation will cover the contents and uses of the oral history collection in the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Historical Society began collecting oral histories in 1938, preserving first-hand accounts of the events, experiences, and lives of Oklahomans. These accounts are used by genealogists, curators, researchers, and writers for books, museum exhibits, and family histories, among other projects. Dr. Mary Jane Warde was the American Indian historian and archivist in the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division from 1998 to 2006.

The Oklahoma Railway Museum chronicles Oklahoma's railroad history and is open for visitors Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on major holidays. It also sponsors train rides on the first and third Saturdays of April through October at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. The Oklahoma Railway Museum board of directors meets the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the museum, located at 3400 NE Grand Boulevard in **Oklahoma City**.

## Programs

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Building in **Oklahoma City** makes materials available for Oklahoma students in need of assistance through their Accessible Instructional Materials Center (AIM). AIM is a central repository for large print and Braille textbooks, as well as a myriad of educational materials and products for students from birth to twelfth grade. Formerly known as Educational Services, the AIM Center was created as a result of a study that confirmed a lack of Braille instructional materials existed in Oklahoma. Assistance materials such as mini-lite boxes and Book Port Plus are also available. For more information about the program, please visit its website at [www.library.state.ok.us](http://www.library.state.ok.us) or contact 1-800-523-0288.

## Events

The Pioneer Room in the City Hall complex of **Woodward** will be the scene of the Northwest Oklahoma Square Dance Festival on March 12. Sashay on down to see dancers do-si-do to traditional folk and square dance music as the callers keep the festivities rolling. Vendors will be on hand selling a variety of wares. Spectators are welcome. For information on the Oklahoma Square Dance Federation, please visit [www.squaredancing.com/osdf](http://www.squaredancing.com/osdf).

Get ready to celebrate! Cain's Ballroom in **Tulsa** will throw the Bob Wills Birthday Bash on March 5. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a concert featuring The Texas Playboys with Leon Rausch and Tommy Allsup. Bob Wills made his debut at Cain's Ballroom in 1935, and soon the venue became identified with the "King of Western Swing." Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys broadcasted radio programs from Cain's Ballroom as well as performing dances. Wills was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1978 and into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999. Let the Bob Wills Birthday Bash take you back to Tulsa. For ticket information, contact the Cain's Ballroom at [www.cainsballroom.com](http://www.cainsballroom.com) or by phone at 918/584-2306.

**Tahlequah**'s Cherokee Heritage Center is gearing up for Indian Territory Days March 24 and 25, two days of living history activities focusing on school-aged children but open to the public. The event runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. While at Indian Territory Days, visitors will experience historical interpreters at nine different cultural stations including activities such as storytelling, blowgun shooting, Cherokee marbles, and Cherokee language lessons. Indian Territory Days will take place in the Adams Corner Rural Village area of the Cherokee Heritage Center. There is a small admission charge for students, but adult chaperones are admitted free. Please call ahead for reservations and pricing at 918/456-6007 or toll free 888-999-6007.

The 101 Ranch Collectors Western Memorabilia Show will be held on Saturday, March 26, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hutchins Memorial Auditorium in **Ponca City**. This annual event is a buy-sell-or-trade show that features collectibles from the 101 Ranch and beyond, including cinema collectibles, saddles, boots,

pocket watches, early military memorabilia, and more. Along with purchasing items, visitors can hear stories of the 101 Ranch and peruse more than thirty vendor booths of western goods. For more information, contact Orville Wilks at 580/765-2727.

The Cherokee Nation Tourism office has put together the Will Rogers History Tour, a tour that celebrates the life and work of Oklahoma's favorite son, on Saturday, March 26. Visitors will have a chance to tour the Will Rogers Museum in **Claremore** and the Will Rogers Birthplace in **Oologah**. Along with these tours, guests can shop in historic downtown Claremore. They will also have the chance to visit the J.M. Davis Arms and Historical Museum. The tour begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. with lunch included. For information and reservations, please contact the Cherokee Nation Tourism office at 877/779-6977 or on the web at [www.cherokeenationtravel.com](http://www.cherokeenationtravel.com) under the "Book a Scheduled Tour" tab.

The Heart of America Youth Rodeo in **Elk City** on March 5 and 6 at the Cross T Arena showcases future cowboys and cowgirls in events like barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying, ribbon roping, calf tie-downs, and breakaway events. The event will also feature team roping and goat "undecorating" for contestants younger than six. The Heart of America Youth Rodeo is a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) sanctioned event for children younger than six years old up to age eighteen. Contact Jami Radacy at 405/834-4528 for information on this two-day event.

An evening of beautiful music awaits at the Armstrong Auditorium in **Edmond** as the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation's performing arts series presents Opole, the National Philharmonic of Poland, on Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. Opole will perform its popular "Vienna Gala" program, which includes the works of Mozart, Lehar, and the Strauss family. Spend an evening lost in the waltzes, polkas, and marches of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For ticket information, visit the auditorium website [www.armstrongauditorium.org](http://www.armstrongauditorium.org).



## Hightower pens book on Oklahoma banking history

Michael J. Hightower, principal researcher for the OHS Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project, has written a book entitled *Frontier Families*, a history of the Records and Johnston families and their role in Oklahoma banking.

Dr. Hightower weaves the Records and Johnstons into the rich tapestry of U.S. and Oklahoma history. From the Pennsylvania and Kentucky frontiers to Scotch-Irish settlements in New York State and on to Oklahoma, these pioneering families did their part to settle a continent. Their legacy survives in MidFirst Bank and is a reminder of what it took to prosper on the frontier.

Copies of *Frontier Families* can be purchased in the Oklahoma History Center gift shop by calling 405/522-5214 or by emailing [giftshop@okhistory.org](mailto:giftshop@okhistory.org).



## Brandon Allshouse named 2010 Volunteer of the Year for OHS Research Division



Brandon Allshouse was honored at the OHS Research Division's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet by receiving the Bill Pennington Volunteer of the Year Award for 2010. Brandon began his service as a volunteer in March 2009 and has provided assistance to several departments in the OHS Research Division. The annual banquet was held at Cattlemen's Steak House in Oklahoma City with 107 volunteers and staff attending.



## New Hat Exhibit at Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry



The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry has opened a new exhibit on hats. On display are hats from the museum's collection and photographs of women wearing hats.

In fashion terms, hats are a very noticeable accessory because the onlooker's attention is first drawn to the face. The hat is the most noticeable fashion item anyone can wear.

Hats have been an important item in fashion history. During the first half of the nineteenth century the bonnet dominated women's fashion, becoming very large with many ribbons, flowers, feathers, and gauze trims, giving an appearance of even greater size. Although bonnets were still prevalent by the end of the century, many other styles were to be found, including wide brims with flat crowns, the flower pot, and the toque. Feathers and veils abounded.

Early in the 1900s most hats were enormous and adorned with flowers, feathers, ribbons, and tulle, but by the mid 1920s women's hair had become much shorter with the shingle cut, and the cloche, which hugged the head like a helmet with a very small brim, had come into fashion. Also after World War I there was suddenly such a proliferation of styles and materials that many women had to rely on the advice of milliners.

During the 1930's and 1940's the tendency was for hats to have higher crowns with smaller brims, and once again it was wartime during which it was mainly the trims that were changed with women making do with turbans made from pre-war materials.

Since their invention, hats have come and gone as status symbols, uniforms, and fashion statements, and their place in fashion history is significant and secure.

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry is located at 2617 West Fir Street. For more information on the exhibit, hours of operation, or admission, please call 580/336-2405 or email [csmuseum@ohistory.org](mailto:csmuseum@ohistory.org).



## Scholarships available for Oklahoma's 2011 Statewide Preservation Conference: Special opportunities for university students and architects

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to offer special opportunities to college and university students and architects who attend *Wide Open for Preservation: Oklahoma's 23rd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference* to be held June 8-10 in downtown Guymon (full conference registration and program details available in late April).

The SHPO encourages college and university students planning preservation-related careers to attend the conference. So, SHPO is offering twenty (20) scholarships on a first-come basis to qualified Oklahoma college and university students. The scholarship covers the conference registration fee, and the application deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, May 2. For details and an application form contact Melvena Heisch, deputy state historic preservation officer, at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org), or visit the SHPO's website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/conference.htm>.

The SHPO believes that the conference program includes many beneficial sessions for architects and encourages them to take advantage of the conference for professional development purposes. Registered architects can earn American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning unit hours for their attendance, and they will only be charged the conference registration fee. Architects can self report attendance at <http://www.aia.org/education/index.htm>. The SHPO will provide written learning objectives and a certificate of attendance.

The three concurrent tracks of sessions include:

TRACK A: *Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces*, featuring the archaeological and historic resources of the Great Plains and efforts to preserve them.

TRACK B: *Old is the New Green*, addressing how rehabilitation work is good for the environment and how new technology can be used in preservation projects. (Track B title used with permission of Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.)

TRACK C: *The Local Preservation Environment*, focusing on the development of successful community preservation programs and how they support community revitalization efforts.

The plenary session will feature J. Paul Loether, chief, National Historic Landmarks/National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service. He will discuss historic landscapes, the importance of historic setting, and the challenges in balancing needs for alternative energy sources and protection of historic places. His national perspective will help guide Oklahoma's preservation community as it focuses on this complex, new issue.

For general conference information or questions, contact Melvena Heisch at the above telephone number or email address.



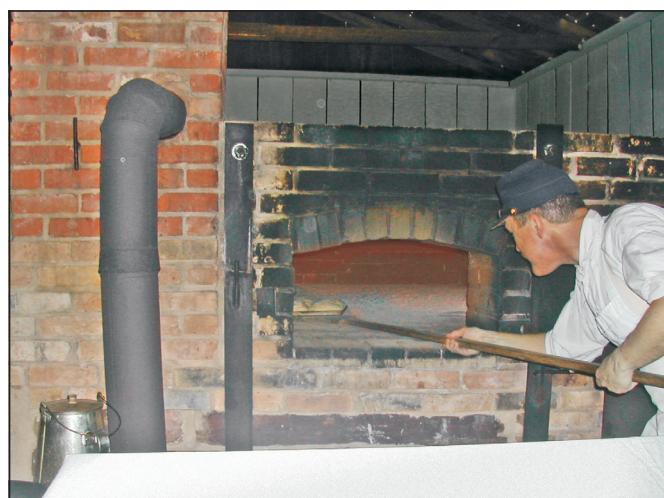
## Public Bake Day at Fort Gibson



Fort Gibson Historic Site will heat up its big stone oven for a Public Bake Day on Saturday, March 26, to give visitors a chance to see how bread was baked at the fort in the 1800s. For a nominal donation to the Friends of Fort Gibson, visitors may take home a loaf of bread baked in the oven. Donations to the friends group will support activities that benefit Fort Gibson Historic Site.

Visitors are also welcome to bring their favorite bread recipes to bake. Chief baker Rory Montgomery advises everyone to bring their oldest pans, since they will be placed directly on the floor of the oven.

The post bake house is near the Visitors Center at Fort Gibson Historic Site. It will be open for visitors to view the baking process from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 26. Fort Gibson Historic Site is located on State Highway 80 in Fort Gibson and is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. For more information call 918/478-4088 or email [fortgibson@okhistory.org](mailto:fortgibson@okhistory.org).



## Third Thursday program at History Center March 17

Join Mike Morgan, KFOR News Channel 4 meteorologist, for a look at Oklahoma and the weather on Thursday, March 17, at the Oklahoma History Center. Oklahoma is home to the extremes of weather and has played a unique role in the development of modern forecasting and meteorology.

History Center doors will open at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

## Dutch Oven Cooking Class offered March 26

Want to learn a new outdoor cooking skill? Then join the next Dutch oven cooking class that is set for 1 to 5 p.m., March 26, at the Oklahoma History Center. This is a hands-on class and is open to adults and teens. In the class you will learn a variety of recipes while you create a dish and discover how to use the Dutch oven in your backyard. During the class you also will learn the fundamentals of Dutch oven cooking. The majority of this class is spent outdoors.

Class cost is \$10 per person; all materials are provided. Registration is required. For more information, contact Jason Harris at 405/522-0785 or [jharris@okhistory.org](mailto:jharris@okhistory.org).

## **Committee names candidates for 2011 Board Election**

Dr. Bill Corbett, chair of the OHS Nominating Committee, has announced the names of individuals who will stand for election to the OHS Board of Directors this April.

The constitution and by-laws of the OHS provide that thirteen of the twenty-five members of the Board are elected by the membership on a rotating basis. This year the membership will elect one director from District 5, one director from District 6, and three directors from the state at-large.

Ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to the membership in March. Completed ballots may be cast in person or by mail and must be received in the executive director's office by Friday, noon, April 22, 2011.

Biographical sketches of the nominees appear below by district and in alphabetical order.

### **District 5**

#### **Jack D. Baker (Oklahoma City)**

Baker is an eighth-generation Oklahoman and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He was born on his grandfather's Cherokee allotment at Chewey in Adair County. He is a graduate of Westville High School and of Oklahoma State University. He retired from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company after twenty-nine years. Baker is involved in a number of civic and historical activities. Currently, he is president of the National Trail of Tears Association, treasurer of the Cherokee National Historical Society, Inc., president of Goingsnake District Heritage Association, board member of the Cherokee-Moravian Historical Association, and a member of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council. He has served as a member of the Cherokee Nation Constitutional Convention and the Design Planning Committee for Native American exhibits for the Oklahoma History Center and has contributed to the Oklahoma Encyclopedia project. He has written numerous articles and books related to Cherokee history and genealogy. Baker has been a life member of the OHS since 1973. Elected to the OHS Board in 2002, he has served on the Research, Indian Heritage, Nominating, and Annual Meeting committees.

#### **Page Dobson (Oklahoma City)**

Dobson is an Oklahoma City native. A graduate of Classen High School, he is a past president and present board member of the school's alumni association. He attended the University of Oklahoma where he received a bachelor's degree in political science with a history minor and a law degree from the university's College of Law. Following two duty tours, he retired as a captain in the United States Army Reserves after which he joined the trial law firm of Holloway Dobson & Bachman in Oklahoma City where he was an active litigator and served as its managing partner for thirty years before assuming "Of Counsel" status. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Bar Association. He is past president of the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City (Club 29) and is a past governor of its Rotary district. He has just completed an historical project of writing short biographies of the past one hundred Rotary club presidents. He is past president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, is the current president of the Men's Dinner Club of Oklahoma City, and is a board member and president-nominee of The Committee of 100 supporting the fire and law enforcement communities. He is a founding member and elder of New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center, a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and is a volunteer reception and gallery guide at the Oklahoma History Center.

### **District 6**

#### **Bill Bryans (Stillwater)**

Bryans has been a member of the Oklahoma State University History Department since 1987. His primary responsibility is directing its master of arts Public History Program, which prepares students for careers as professional historians in museums and the field of historic preservation. Some of his former students have worked, or are currently working, for various divisions of OHS. He also has been a subgrantee of the State Historic Preservation Office, conducting historic resource surveys, authoring historic contexts, and preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. On the OSU campus, in addition to mentoring more than forty students to completion of their graduate degrees, he served for many years on the Old Central Committee, has taught Oklahoma history, and recently prepared an exhibit on William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray for the newly reopened building bearing the name of this complex figure in Oklahoma history. Currently, he is working on an administrative history of the Oklahoma City National Memorial for the National Park Service. Bryans also is active in many professional organizations at the local, state, and national level. These include the Stillwater Museum Association, Payne County Historical Society, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma Museums Association, Preservation Oklahoma, Oklahoma Humanities Council, and the National Council on Public History. Bryans welcomes working to make the past accessible to a wide public audience because he believes history has value and applicability to everyone in our contemporary society.

#### **Deena K. Fisher (Woodward)**

Fisher, dean of the Woodward Campus of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and associate professor of history, holds an Ed.D. in higher education administration (OSU) and a M.Ed. in history education and school counseling (SWOSU). In 2006 Fisher attended the "Institute for Management and Leadership in Higher Education" at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is a contributing editor and developed the teacher/student material for the history textbook *Oklahoma—Land of Contrast* (Clairmont Press, 2006). She coordinates a week-long Oklahoma History Summer Institute sponsored by Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Museum of the Cherokee Strip in Enid, and Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in Woodward. She serves on several boards including the Oklahoma Historical Society, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Advisory Council, Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum, Rotary, William S. Key Correctional Citizen Advisory Board, Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies, Woodward Industrial Foundation, Woodward Chamber of Commerce, Psi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, and advisory member for the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women. She is married and has four children and four grandchildren. She enjoys visiting historical sites and museums. An OHS Board member since 2004, Fisher currently serves on the Museums & Sites Committee and is chair of the Publications Committee.

### **State At-Large**

#### **Bob Burke (Oklahoma City)**

Burke has written more historical non-fiction books (102) than anyone else in history. A Broken Bow native, he now practices law and writes books in Oklahoma City. Burke graduated with a journalism degree from OU and a law degree from OCU. He was director of the Department of Economic and Community Affairs (now the Department of Commerce) in the administration of Governor David Boren. Burke has served on the governing boards of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, the Jim Thorpe Association, the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, Red Earth, the Wiley Post Commission, and executive committees at OCU and OU, where he is an adjunct professor in the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. In 2004 he received the Governor's Art Award for Excellence in the Arts in Oklahoma and was named to the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. In 2006

he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Oklahoma Center for the Book. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2006 and received the OU School of Journalism Alumni Award in 2007. Burke was named as one of the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation's Treasures for Tomorrow honorees in 2008 and was selected to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 2010.

#### **Billie Stone Fogarty (Oklahoma City)**

Serving on the OHS Board of Directors since 2008, Fogarty is on the Research Committee and the Publications Committee and is a strong advocate for the Research Library. She is past president of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society and has been active in the genealogical community of the county, state, and nation for more than thirty years. She is president of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and recently completed a term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is an active member of the International Society of Genealogical Writers and Editors, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, Daughters of 1812, the 1889er Society, First Families of the Twin Territories, and numerous genealogical societies. A former public school history teacher with a B.S. degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and a M.Ed. degree from OU, she currently teaches family history research to adults and is a frequent lecturer on genealogical topics. She has been selected to speak at National Genealogical Society Family History conferences, including 2011. She has been active in historic preservation, serving on Historical Preservation, Inc., and as Heritage Hills Associate Board president and Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour chair. Her Oklahoma roots run deep, being the descendant of 1889ers and claiming ancestry from eighteen pioneers for membership in First Families of the Twin Territories. She became an OHS Life Member in 2007.

#### **George Henderson (Norman)**

Henderson is the Sylvan N. Goldman Professor Emeritus, David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus, and Regents' Professor Emeritus of Human Relations, Education, and Sociology at OU, where he founded the Human Relations Program and served as dean of the College of Liberal Studies. He was the third African American appointed to a full-time faculty position at OU. Henderson created the university's Human Relations Program. The Henderson-Tolson Cultural Center bears his name. A civil rights scholar and lecturer, Dr. Henderson has taught cultural diversity workshops and seminars throughout the United States and internationally. He has served as a consultant to dozens of state and national organizations and has presented papers at more than one hundred professional conferences. Henderson has authored or coauthored thirty-three books and fifty articles. His books include *Cultural Diversity in the Workplace* (1994); *Social Work Interventions: Helping People of Color* (1994); *Migrants, Immigrants and Slaves* (1995); *Human Relations Issues in Management* (1996); *Our Souls to Keep: Black/White Relations in America* (1999); and *Ethnicity and Substance Abuse* (2002), and *Race and the University* (2010). His Ph.D. in educational sociology is from Wayne State University in Detroit. His numerous honors and awards include the State of Oklahoma Black Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, both in 2003.

#### **Lisa Watt Melchior (Pryor)**

Melchior was born and raised in Mayes County, Oklahoma. She holds the position of assessor for Mayes County in Northeast Oklahoma. She has worked in the Assessor's Office since January 1997. As a founding member, Lisa has served as president for the Saline Preservation Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit, since 2003. The association's mission is to promote historic preservation throughout the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The organization was instrumental in getting the first national park designation by the Cherokee Nation, The Saline National Park, and partnered with the Cherokee Nation in the restoration of the 1885 Saline District Courthouse and grounds. She also serves as vice president of the board for Preservation Oklahoma and has served on the board since 2008. She currently chairs the

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## Candidate Biographies, cont'd.

2010-2011 Programming Committee. Community involvement has included serving as past president and past vice president for the Cherokee Women's Pocahontas Club; current memberships in the Oklahoma Historical Society, National Trail of Tears Association, Cherokee Historical Society, lifetime membership in the Mayes County Historical Society, Friends of Will Rogers, Friends of the Murrell Home, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Roger's County Cherokee Association. In 2004 Lisa was selected to participate in the National Trust's Preservation Leadership Training program in Astoria, Oregon.

### Betty Price (Oklahoma City)

Price has served as executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, a state agency, for twenty-four years. Her life has been dedicated to bringing the arts to adults and children across the state of Oklahoma. Part of her work included managing the commissions of sculpture, murals, and paintings for the State Capitol and the dome in behalf of the Capitol Preservation Commission. The State Art Collection Gallery at the capitol has been named for her. After retirement, she has remained as emeritus on the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum board and the Mid-America Arts Alliance board. She is advisor to Red Earth and was named Red Earth Ambassador in 2006. She is on the Board of Visitors of the Weitzenhoffer College of Fine Arts and Dance Partners at the University of Oklahoma. She was recently honored by the Oklahoma Israel Exchange. Price is a member of downtown Rotary Club 29 and is an advisor to the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum in Seminole. Price is a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society and has been recognized with the President's Award for Community Service at Northeastern State University.

## Heirloom Care Class: Historic Documents

Have you ever wondered why museums keep the lights low or the galleries dark? Do you know in what type of box or materials your great grandmother's wedding dress should be stored? The Oklahoma History Center is excited to offer a new series of classes to answer questions like these. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history for all. Now is a chance for our curators to help you! Beginning on March 26 the museum will offer a number of heirloom care classes to help individuals learn to better care for their personal collections.

Our first class will focus on historic documents. It will help you learn how to handle, store, or display documents. The class will also cover how to properly prepare documents for reproduction and will include information on threats to paper items and how to protect your documents from them. Join us and learn information you can use on proper storage techniques for your family treasures.

The cost for each class is \$10 per person. Registration is required and seating is limited. To sign up, please contact Jason Harris at [jharris@okhistory.org](mailto:jharris@okhistory.org) or 405/522-0785.

### Emmy Scott Stidham (Checotah)

Stidham grew up in Edmond and Checotah and attended OU. She served as board member of Checotah Main Street for eight years, serves as secretary for the Checotah Chamber of Commerce, and was named the chamber's Member of the Year in 1996 and 2003. She is founding director of Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield. As founding president and current projects chairman of Checotah Landmark Preservation Society, she was instrumental in saving and relocating the local 1890 Katy depot and placing it, the Methodist Church, and downtown business district on the National Register of Historic Places. She was named McIntosh County Democrat's Outstanding Citizen of Year (1986) and McIntosh County Citizen of Year (1992) and received the Oklahoma Heritage Association's Distinguished Service Award for Preservation of State and Local History (1996). Her service includes Oklahoma Methodism's Conference Committee on Archives and History (member), P.E.O. International (present delegate), Checotah's Jim Lucas Library (past president), and the Centennial Heartland Heritage Center (trustee). An OHS life member since 1985, Stidham was elected to the OHS Board in 1988. She has served the OHS as treasurer, vice president, and as a member of the Annual Meeting, Budget/Endowment, Sites, Historic Preservation, Nominating, Evaluation, Executive, and Burkhart Trustees committees.

## New Members, cont'd.

Dale Tate, Oklahoma City  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomas, Norman  
Gary Thomas, Yukon  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Thomas, Stillwater  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael White, Stillwater  
Randy Witcke, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Nick York, Stillwater

### Individual

Carole Hardeman, Oklahoma City  
La Donna Harris, Albuquerque, NM  
Henrietta Hicks, Boley  
Richard James, Stroud  
Orhan Kucukosman, Oklahoma City  
Jeff Lensman, South Ogden, UT  
Emily Morris, Burke, VA  
Wanda Raper, Stillwater  
Rhonda Robinson, Norman  
Lynne Rostochil, Oklahoma City  
Elaine Scott, Healdton  
Walter Smith, Spencer  
Jack Vann, Inola  
Diane Walker, Muskogee

## Mike Klemme to speak at Annual Luncheon

Internationally renowned photographer Mike Klemme of Enid will be the keynote speaker during the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society at Enid. His presentation "Western Oklahoma: A Photographic Survey" will highlight the Annual Membership Luncheon on Thursday, April 28, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cherokee Strip Conference Center.

Klemme has specialized in photographing golf courses throughout the world and is regarded by many golf marketing professionals as the finest golf course landscape photographer working today. He has visited more than fourteen hundred golf courses in forty-five countries as a result of his work, and he has contributed images to numerous golf magazines and six major books.

Despite his world travels Klemme has kept Oklahoma in his view finder. He traveled throughout the state over two years taking photographs for his book *Celebrating Oklahoma!*, which was published in 2007 as an official Oklahoma Centennial project. In addition, he recently published *Celebrating Enid!* This book contains 250 color photographs.

The Annual Luncheon is just one event of many that are scheduled during the Annual Meeting. Outstanding historical presentations will take place in thirteen different program sessions, various tours will be available, a concert by Michael Martin Murphey will be staged, and the Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 29. Detailed information on the Annual Meeting, including a registration form with costs of luncheons and other activities, will be mailed to all members.



## Family Saturday at History Center March 19

Come along now to the Oklahoma History Center on March 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the Family Saturday program "Cowboy Round-up." History Center staff will pull out all the stops in setting up an 1870s cowboy camp.

Children are encouraged to dress as cowboys and cowgirls and compete in a costume contest. The winner will receive an OHS family membership! Activities will include roping, branding, cowboy cooking, coloring, and more. Bring the family for a day of educational fun!

Admission to the History Center for Family Saturday is free for children accompanied by a parent. Adults pay regular admission. For more information, call 405/522-0785 or email [jharris@okhistory.org](mailto:jharris@okhistory.org).



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

## Twenty-year Members Renew in January

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Steven Cole, Oklahoma City, January 26, 1966               | Betty Kemp, Norman, November 4, 1986                          |
| Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, January 8, 1967        | K.A. Klopfenstein, Fort Smith, AR, December 9, 1986           |
| OSU-Oklmulgee, Okmulgee, October 1, 1972                   | Christine Hansen, Oklahoma City, December 23, 1986            |
| State Univ. of NY at Albany, Albany, NY, October 1, 1972   | Felice Calhoon, Beaver, January 22, 1987                      |
| Lulu Boggs, Muskogee, November 21, 1973                    | Teresa Black, Oklahoma City, October 6, 1987                  |
| Erma Hunter, Fairview, October 1, 1974                     | Jean Tomassi, Tulsa, November 16, 1987                        |
| Old Greer County Museum, Mangum, June 1, 1977              | Charles Edwin Jones, Oklahoma City, January 8, 1988           |
| Wilma Lambeth, Okemah, November 1, 1977                    | Tyrone Public School, Tyrone, April 21, 1988                  |
| Laura Evalyn Stevens, Woodward, January 2, 1980            | Sandy Garrett, Oklahoma City, September 13, 1988              |
| Robert Leveridge, Norman, January 1, 1983                  | Walter and Nancy Chapman, Stigler, September 21, 1988         |
| Carl Cochrane, Asheville, NC, January 1, 1983              | Seymour Rodke, Pauls Valley, October 3, 1988                  |
| Rose State College Library, Midwest City, December 1, 1984 | Sybil Mayes, Mustang, December 22, 1988                       |
| Evelyn Hart, Weatherford, May 1, 1985                      | Van and Liz Hughes, Edmond, November 22, 1989                 |
| William and Mae Butler, Quinton, February 1, 1986          | Bill Boyer, Dallas, TX, December 12, 1989                     |
| Museum of the Red River, Idabel, February 6, 1986          | Floriene Fitzgerald, Sebastopol, CA, December 19, 1989        |
| Joseph Scheller, Oklahoma City, March 31, 1986             | Lloyd Noble, Tulsa, December 26, 1989                         |
| Stephen Parker, Oklahoma City, September 22, 1986          | Bernie Mayer, Merrifield, VA, January 10, 1990                |
| Nancy Davies, Enid, October 31, 1986                       | Sequoah County Historical Society, Sallisaw, February 7, 1990 |
|  | Charles Smith, Yukon, June 20, 1990                           |
|  | Choctaw Library, Choctaw, December 1, 1990                    |
|  | Roger Hardaway, Alva, December 17, 1990                       |
|  | Jerry and Nancy Cotton, Edmond, January 30, 1991              |



## Oklahoma begins commemoration of Civil War sesquicentennial

The Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will begin commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War this year and has events and programs planned from 2011 to 2015. The commission will focus on education, discussion, and preservation efforts to ensure history is remembered today and preserved for the future.

The keynote event in 2011 will be a special reenactment of the Battle of Honey Springs. During the weekend of April 29-May 1, the original battlefield will once again shake with the roar of cannon and volley fire from thousands of muskets and ring with the clash of saber to saber combat. Several thousand reenactors and spectators are expected to attend this event. Honey Spring Battlefield is located just north of Checotah.

Preservation efforts will be the focus at the five historic sites owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society that are associated with the Civil War. They include Honey Springs Battlefield, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Washita Historic Site, and the George Murrell Home.

Additionally, the commission is developing projects to preserve artifacts and archives, including photos, letters, documents, and other objects. Future press releases with details of these projects are forthcoming.

The members of Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission include: Senator Brian Crain, Tulsa (chair); John Bryant, Tulsa; Glenn Coffee, Oklahoma City; Mark Edwards, Del City; Ernest L. Holloway, Langston; Cal Kinzer, Beggs; Mike McGee, Bethany; Ryan McMullen, Stillwater; Frank Siltman, Fort Sill; Charles Smith, Yukon; and Mike Stidham, Checotah.

The commission is supported by an advisory council and the CW150 Task Force Team of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Members are: Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director, Oklahoma Historical Society; James Waldo, president, Oklahoma Historical Society; Deby Snodgrass, director, Department of Tourism and Recreation; Gena Timberman, director, Native American Cultural and Educational Authority; Beau Cantrell, curator, Confederate and Union Memorial Hall; and John Davis, director, Honey Springs Battlefield and Fort Towson Historic Site.

The Civil War Task Force of the Oklahoma Historical Society includes the following: Cody Jolliff, coordinator, Civil War Sesquicentennial; Bob Rea, director, Historic Sites Department; David Fowler, director, George Murrell Home; John Davis, director, Honey Springs Battlefield and Fort Towson Historic Site; Matt Reed, curator, American Indian Collections, Oklahoma History Center; Jason Harris, education director, Oklahoma History Center; Chad Williams, deputy director, Research Division; Jennifer Towry, webmaster; and Michael Dean, public relations director.

The web address to follow all of the events and programming associated with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Oklahoma is [www.okcivilwar.org](http://www.okcivilwar.org). You also can track activities on Twitter at "OKCivilWar150."