Fort Washita to host Fur Trade Rendezvous

Fort Washita in Durant will host a Fur Trade Rendezvous from Wednesday, March 30, through Sunday, April 3. This is a living history event reminiscent of a fur trade rendezvous that was the center of commerce on the early western frontier. Visitors can expect to see trappers representing the far northwest mountain areas to the desert southwest, as well as traders with French and Spanish influence. Visit Fort Washita and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of history.

The rendezvous will include instructive programs in customs, survival skills, and lifestyles of the period. "School Days" are scheduled for Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1. Students will travel through the camps where re-enactors will explain life on the frontier in the early nineteenth century. There is no charge for school buses. There is a $5 per car fee for others visiting the Fur Trade Rendezvous, with all proceeds benefitting preservation projects at Fort Washita.

Please call 580-924-6502 for more information. Fort Washita was established in 1842 in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, as the southwestern-most military post of the United States. A National Historic Landmark, Fort Washita is located at 3348 State Road 199 in Durant.

Spring Bake Day at Fort Gibson

Fort Gibson Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Gibson will host Spring Bake Day on Saturday, March 26, beginning at 10 a.m. Bake Day is a fundraiser and educational event that depicts one aspect of army life during and after the Civil War.

The aroma of fresh baked bread will fill the air on Garrison Hill as Fort Gibson staff and volunteers bring a bake house to life. This living history presentation details the bread making process, with Rory Montgomery explaining how to bake bread in an old wood-fired stone oven. Guests can enjoy bread baking demonstrations and sample the finished product. Visitors also may bring their own bread to bake in the oven at Fort Gibson, then spend the day viewing a reconstruction of the early log fort as well as original buildings from the 1840s through 1870s. Exhibits detailing the history of the fort are located in the Commissary Visitor Center on Garrison Hill. For more information please contact Omar Reed at 918-478-4088 or oreed@okhistory.org.

Fourth annual Trappings of the Cherokee Strip exhibit at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host its fourth annual Trappings of the Cherokee Strip exhibit of fine Western art and custom cowboy gear. This year, the Trappings show will feature fifteen of Oklahoma’s best Western artists and craftsmen. The show will include some new artists as well as Trappings favorites who have been in one or all of the shows.

Trappings of the Cherokee Strip opens to the public on Saturday, February 27, and remains open through Saturday, March 26. This invitational show brings together an impressive collection of fine works of Western art and handmade cowboy gear. The show is expertly exhibited to showcase the beauty of each item. All works are for purchase, deliverable following the close of the show.

On display this year will be paintings, drawings, sculpture, works of silver, cowboy boots, rawhide works, decorative gourds, pottery, and furniture. "The Trappings show is one of the Heritage Center’s most popular events of the year," said Andi Holland, director of the CSRHC. "We are pleased to promote our proud Western heritage in this way and provide these remarkable Oklahoma artists with an opportunity to showcase their amazing works of art."

Featured artists are DeWayne Colwell, Doug Cook, Brenda Dewald, Mikel Donahue, Ray Dorwart, Patty Ferguson, Harland Hackett, Barbara Jacques, Stephen Jones, Heather Kaiser, Joe Lamerton, Kathryn Leitner, Bob Rae, John Rule, and Marshall Rule. Each participating artist can exhibit up to three works of art or gear. These works are of fine quality, integrity, and craftsmanship that will provide years of enjoyment and become treasured collectables.

On Wednesday, March 9, at noon, the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program will feature one of the Trappings show artists, Joe Lamerton. Lamerton is a talented furniture maker from Enid. He will be sharing information about his techniques, what inspires his work, and how he got started making furniture. The presentation will be held in the CSRHC’s Village Church and is free to the public.

The Trappings of the Cherokee Strip exhibit is included with museum admission. Admission is $5 for adults, $3 for students, military, and seniors, and children five and under are free. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the fine art and gear show or other CSRHC programs, please call 580-237-1907 or visit www.csrhc.org. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.
So how has this proposed change in latitude affected our attitude?
First, we are neither giving in nor giving up. The board of directors, the staff, the volunteers, the membership, and the constituencies we serve value efforts to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. All of us are committed to adjusting as needed, but even more, we are committed to our key practices of higher standards, greater efficiencies, and growing partnerships. So how do we adjust without compromising our future effectiveness?
On the positive side, we have to continue our long-term strategies to maximize revenue and seek partners willing to help with collections, exhibits, and programs. We need to keep looking for technologies that allow us to do more with less while opening new doors of opportunity. We must continue adjusting organizational structure, job assignments, and priorities.
On the negative side, we have to prioritize program areas and accept that we will be losing colleagues and shrinking programs. Over the past seven years most of our cuts have been at the Oklahoma History Center, but this coming year the only place to find substantial savings will be around the state. That means closing museums and historic sites.
The average savings from eliminating all state support from a field location is about $100,000. If the cut is $1 million as projected, we could lose ten facilities. If the cut is $2.6 million as recommended by the governor, we could close up to twenty or more facilities. I do not look forward to visiting those communities where we can no longer honor our pledge to work with them to save our shared history.

The governor’s budget book is only a recommendation. The legislature drafts and approves a budget, which takes time and careful deliberation. They will make a decision sometime in April or May, so we have time to examine the consequences of a major cut.

Yes, we might be sailing into new latitudes, but we should not compromise our attitudes. We cannot sink back into acceptable mediocrity.

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

If you are a Jimmy Buffett fan, you know the lyrics “changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes.” That describes what has been happening at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The first part of that lyric, “changes in latitudes,” could describe the external forces that have shaped the landscape of challenges and opportunities.

High on the list of opportunities have been new partnerships with tribes, foundations, associations, and families; the digital revolution and efforts to unlock access to collections; and a growing interest in cultural tourism, popular culture, and genealogy. We have taken advantage of each opportunity.

High on the list of challenges would be deferred maintenance at museums and sites due to lack of funds, no inflation-adjusted pay raises for our workforce in 2009. All of this, however, is dwarfed by the recommendations made by Governor Fallin in her current executive budget.

Even more devastating would be what she called “Apportionment Reform,” a clever name that means there would be another $1.6 million taken from the OHS. This permanent reduction in sales tax revenue, combined with the recommended budget cut, would mean a 25 percent budget cut in one year. That has never happened in more than 123 years of community support. Not even close.

By Larry O’Dell
Development News

The Oklahoma Historical Society continues to sell leaves as part of the Oklahoma Family Tree project. A new feature included with the Oklahoma Family Tree display is a touch-screen kiosk at which individuals can view family histories associated with the tree leaves. Individuals or families may sponsor leaves for $1,000 each, with the option of paying throughout a two-year pledge period. The Oklahoma Family Tree is located just outside the Research Center Reading Room in the West Family Wing at the Oklahoma History Center. To order a leaf on the family tree, please call 405-522-0317, email lodell@okhistory.org, or visit www.okhistory.org/support/familytree.php.

New Members, January

*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

Director’s Circle
Winters Family Foundation, Oklahoma City

Fellow
Ed Barth, Oklahoma City
*Douglas and Theresa Gardner, Altus

Associate
*Mrs. Warren Pixley, Claremore

Family
Betty Belt, El Reno
Tori Benedix and Bailey Romeo, Harrah
*Kim Bishop, Edmond
*Klee and Sally Black, Oklahoma City
Betty Jean Brannan and Jo Ann Brannan, Oklahoma City
Ronald and Helen Cannafax, Midwest City
Jeff and Ruth Claybrooks, Oklahoma City
Jack Daglian and Diana Bedwell, Oklahoma City
Kristin Davis and Jonathan Hayman, Edmond
*Michael Dollar, Oklahoma City
Daniel Fields, Oklahoma City
Don and Helen Finley, Yukon
*Eva Gerard-Baker, Denison, TX
*Wight and Joyce Jones, Edmond
Marilyn Kesler, Lawton
Patricia Likowski and Robert Hatcher, Oklahoma City
Hannah and Candace Magruder, Norman
Donald and Shirley Margruder, Round Rock, TX
Teresa McChung and Elizabeth McChung, Claremore
Oresa McKnight, Marland
Ginny Murphy, Oklahoma City
Timothy and Margaret O’Connor, Oklahoma City
Barbara Piland and Valerie Oakley, Oklahoma City
Chris Salyer, Oklahoma City
*Blaine and Peggy Shafer, Omaha, NE
Jerry Stephens, Edmond
Howard and Carolyn Thomas, Fort Towsen
Chris Wifong, Washington

Cont’d. on p. 7

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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society’s purpose “to preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge.” The public and OHS members are encouraged to submit heritage-related items for publication. Students and teachers are invited to share studies and programs and to duplicate contents as desired. Editors are welcome to reprint materials with credit.

All Oklahoma Historical Society facilities are for the education and enjoyment of all. State and federal regulations prohibit unlawful discrimination in state and federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap. Anyone denied benefits should contact the grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 North Duthi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK. 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5204, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.
Events

Join the Cleveland County chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society for its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. The meeting is free, open to the public, and will be held at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. As part of its Spring Speaker Series, the meeting will include a guest speaker. Alesha Marcum-Heiman, University of Oklahoma graduate student, will give a presentation entitled “Life on the Edge: Recent Research in the Black Mesa Ecotone of Oklahoma.” The Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma is located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. For more information please call Elsbeth Dowd at 405-325-1035.

Celebrate the birthday of Bob Wills at Cain’s Ballroom in Tulsa on Saturday, March 5. Bob Wills, known as “the King of Western Swing,” was born on March 6, 1905. By 1935 Wills and his band were playing shows at Cain’s Ballroom, making it the perfect setting to honor this legendary musician. Join the celebration and enjoy live music and dancing. Cain’s Ballroom is located at 423 North Main Street in Tulsa. Please call 918-584-2306 for more information.

As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial, one of its goals is to reintroduce the National Parks to all citizens. To do this, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in Cheyenne will host many activities throughout 2016. Two programs will take place during the month of March and the public is encouraged to attend. On Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m., enjoy an installment of the “Find Your Park” lecture series. A park ranger will share personal experiences of another National Park Service unit in which he or she worked. On Saturday, March 19, Movie Night will be held at 6:30 p.m., which includes a family film followed by a park ranger leading a discussion about the film’s relevance to the Washita Battlefield. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A near Cheyenne. For more information please contact Kevin Bowles Mohr at 580-497-2742, ext. 3003 or Kevin_Bowles_Mohr@nps.gov.

The Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) District Four meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2-4 p.m., at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman. This event includes tours, group discussions, and networking. The OMA District Four meeting is free to attend, but OMA asks that you complete a registration form on its website at www.okmuseums.org. The deadline to register is February 29. Questions or comments about this event may be directed to Stephanie Allen, OMA District Four representative, at 405-325-5481 or stephanie.allen@ou.edu. The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma is located at 555 Elm Avenue in Norman.

Learn about the life of Will Rogers during a week full of fun Spring Break activities on Monday, March 14, through Friday, March 18, from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Spring Break activities will take place at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah. Throughout the week, a variety of activities and programs will be held, including behind-the-scenes tours for families, an exhibit making workshop, a poster design workshop, a creative writing workshop, a talent show, and a living history day for visitors to experience life as Will Rogers did in the 1800s. For a schedule of Spring Break activities or to sign up for select programs, please visit www.willrogers.com. Admission to the museum in Claremore is free for children seventeen and under and for museum members. Admission to the ranch in Oologah is by donation. Please call 918-343-8129 with questions. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore. The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 East 380 Road in Oologah.

Visit the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in Woodward and enjoy its annual Paul Laure Memorial Art Competition for high school students. The exhibit is on display from Saturday, February 20, through Wednesday, March 16. This juried show includes paintings, watercolor, sculpture, and photography, among other categories that will all be judged and awarded. A reception with refreshments will be held on Wednesday, March 16, at 11 a.m. At noon, Bruce Benbrook of the Stock Exchange Bank and representatives from the Woodward Artisans League will present awards to the winners from each category. The artists, their families, and the general public are invited to attend. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or pipm@swbell.net for more information.

Announcements

The second edition of Nichols Hills: A Residential Community, by Konrad Keesee and Ann Taylor, is now available for sale. This updated book features additional social photographs, including those of early debutantes and the 1960 Best Dressed Ladies. It also features the history of the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, many of the earliest houses that have since been demolished, and interior photographs of the G. A. Nichols estate, the Fred Jones mansion, and the John A. Brown residence. The book is available for sale at Nichols Hills Town Hall, located at 6407 Avondale Drive in Nichols Hills. All proceeds will benefit Nichols Hills parks. For more information please call 405-843-6637.

The Love County Historical Society’s 2016 calendars are available for sale from its offices in Marietta. Featured in the calendars are historic photographs from across Love County, including photos of the Greenville boys basketball team in 1941, First Baptist Church in 1910, McGeehee corn picker in 1947, Nipp family in 1956, Thackerville fifth grade in 1954, Orr mechanics in 1938, Leon girls basketball team in 1956, Burneyville juniors in 1941, bread delivery in 1950, Enville School in 1924, Meadowbrook seniors in 1946, and Belleville baseball team in 1947. The calendars cost $5 each and may be purchased by visiting the Pioneer Museum in Marietta. Several Love County businesses will sell the calendars, with a list available by calling the Love County Historical Society at 580-276-9020. Orders also may be placed by mailing a check to the society at PO Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448, or by calling LaQuitta Laddner at 580-276-3477. Please note that $1.75 postage and handling will be added to all orders that are mailed.

Do you want your organization’s meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the “Around Oklahoma” section of Mistletoe Leaves? The “Around Oklahoma” section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at eebrown@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the April issue, you must submit it by Friday, March 4, 2016.
OHS members will receive election ballots, candidate biographies, and related materials by mail. We hope that members will take time to consider the candidates and participate in the 2016 election. To facilitate that process, the candidate biographies are printed below. Members will be asked to vote for one candidate from District One, one candidate from District Three, and two of the At-Large candidates.

District One
P. Mitchell Adwon (Tulsa)
Mitch Adwon is a native Tulsan and a graduate of the University of Tulsa. He is president of Adwon Properties, Inc. and managing member of Polly Properties, LLC and its affiliated entities, which are engaged in regional commercial real estate investments. He is active in the Tulsa community and currently serves on the boards of directors of Cherokee Nation Businesses, Salvation Army, and Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts. Adwon serves on the Rogers State University Constitution Day Board of Governors and is president of the Tulsa Historical Society. He is also active at the University of Tulsa in its College of Arts and Sciences and McFarlin Library. Adwon previously served on the boards of the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority, Holland Hall School, Family and Children’s Services, the Oklahoma Film Commission, Leadership Oklahoma, and Leadership Tulsa. Adwon and his family, through their mother’s side, still farm their original allotment of land granted at the time of statehood. His father’s family immigrated to Oklahoma prior to statehood. Adwon has been a member of the OHS since 1987.

Carole Bender (Tulsa)
Carole and Jack Bender are the only husband-wife team involved in producing an internationally syndicated cartoon strip, Alley Oop. While United Media lists Jack as the artist and Carole as the writer, they actually are a seamless team in every level of production of the strip. The loveable caveman and his friends are featured in six hundred newspapers as well as online, and the strip is read by an estimated 26 million people daily. Bender was born in Stillwater, raised in Ponca City, and is an Oklahoma State University graduate who has lived in Tulsa since 1978. She is the author of a book titled Bob Gibson: I Come For to Sing, a biography of the renowned folk singer. Bender also is an accomplished painter in oils. Bender has been a member of the OHS since 2010, and she is a strong supporter of the OHS’s Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture to be built in Tulsa’s Brady District.

Guy William Logsdon (Tulsa)
Dr. Guy Logsdon is an Ada native with degrees from East Central State University and the University of Oklahoma. He served as reference librarian at Oklahoma State University (1964–67), director of libraries at the University of Tulsa (1967–81), and professor of Education and Folklore, (1981–89). A nationally recognized authority on the life and music of Woody Guthrie and western and cowboy music, poetry, and musicians, Logsdon also is known for his expertise on the Dust Bowl and its migrants and western swing music. He has authored or coauthored six books, including the award-winning The Whorehouse Bells Were Ringing and Other Songs Cowboys Sing. His latest book is Woody’s Road and is marked with the story of Woody Guthrie’s sister Mary Jo Guthrie Edgmon. Logsdon has published more than 150 articles, essays, encyclopedia entries, and book introductions. He also has produced recording compilations, anthologies, or single books that are among bluegrass record albums or CDs involving musicians such as Woody Guthrie, Lead Belly, Pete Seeger, Jack Guthrie, Marty Robbins, Tex Ritter, and Johnnie Lee Willis. Logsdon worked extensively with the Smithsonian Institution to document the life and music of Woody Guthrie, and he has received major awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Western History Association, Academy of Western Art, Westerners International, and the Oklahoma Heritage Association. A lecturer and performer, he has presented hundreds of programs to audiences nationwide. Logsdon joined the OHS in 1964 and presently serves on the OHS board’s Research and Publications Committees.

District Three
Teresa Black Bradway (Clayton)
An OHS member since 1987, Teresa Bradway often volunteers at history events and reenactments. During Education Days at OHS sites, she brings nineteenth-century songs to school children, wearing a calico dress and playing a banjo or guitar. She is a cast member of the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show and sings songs of the Old West at the annual event. Bradway served as an assistant United States attorney in Oklahoma City after almost thirty-eight years of service. She moved to Clayton in 2013. Her news stories and photographs appear in Clayton Today and the Antlers American. At OHS events, she has portrayed an abolitionist, a Civil War refugee, and a tavern singer. She has given talks on Civil War topics at the Honey Springs Battlefield and other Civil War sites. A reenactor since 1993, Bradway has appeared at Fort Gibson, the Murrell Home, Fort Reno, Fort Washita, Honey Springs, Fort Towson, and national parks. She has sung ballad singing, minstrel, and spirituals such as the Alamo and the Battle of New Orleans site. Bradway was born in Oklahoma City. Her father’s family came to Oklahoma in the Land Run of 1889. She has a law degree from the University of Oklahoma and is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. She also serves as purchasing agent and the “Friend of Social Studies” Award (2014). He received the Teaching Excellence in Civic Education Award from the Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies presented Earsom the Outstanding Service Award (2004) and the “Friend of Social Studies” Award (2014). He was inducted into the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Alumni Hall of Fame (2010). He currently serves on the boards of New Hope Christian Church, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame. In 2014–15 he chaired the Resolutions Committee of the National Council for the Social Studies and is a member of the Council of State Social Studies Specialists. Earsom serves as secretary for the OHS Black Heritage Committee. He was a contributing editor for the Oklahoma Blue: A History of the State. He has a bachelor’s degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, his master’s from Northeastern, and his PhD from the University of Oklahoma in 1979. He was one of the first African American professors to teach at Northeastern after desegregation. He was also one of the first to desegregate Tulsa Memorial High School in Tulsa. A licensed behavioral practitioner, he also is a member of the OHS since 1992 and a director since 2013. She presently serves on the Historic Preservation and Museums and Sites Committees for the OHS.

State At-Large
Harold Aldridge (Tahlequah)
Aldridge grew up in the historic black town of Taft, Oklahoma. He is an emeritus professor of psychology at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, where he taught from 1971 to 1997. Dr. Aldridge earned his bachelor’s degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, his master’s from Northeastern, and his PhD from the University of Oklahoma in 1979. He was one of the first African American professors to teach at Northeastern after desegregation. He also served on a variety of committees of the board of the Three Valley Museum in Durant. An active community leader, Rainbolt is vice chairman of the board of the Three Valley Museum in Durant. An active community leader, Rainbolt is vice chairman of the board of the Three Valley Museum in Durant. An active community leader, Rainbolt is vice chairman of the board of the Three Valley Museum in Durant. An active community leader, Rainbolt is vice chairman of the board of the Three Valley Museum in Durant. 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2016 Statewide Preservation Conference

Save the dates June 1–3, 2016, for Oklahoma’s Twenty-Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference to be held in Enid, Oklahoma. The full conference schedule will appear in a future issue of Mistletoe Leaves.

Museum Store News
By Jera Winters

Celebrate the women of Oklahoma for Women’s History Month with the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store.

One Woman’s Political Journey: Kate Barnard and Social Reform, 1875–1930, by Lynn Musslewhite and Suzanne Jones Crawford, is the story of a complex Oklahoman who believed that women were valuable contributors to society and politics. Kate Barnard went on to be the first female elected as a state official in the nation. Barnard was a champion for women, children, and the downtrodden, and considered one of the most influential people in the history of Oklahoma. This book is regularly $34.95, available to OHS members for $29.71.

Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel H. Wright, Angie Debo, and Alice Marriott, by Patricia Loughlin, traces the paths of three extraordinary female intellectuals of the 1930s and 1940s. The author explains how these women revolutionized the field of history in Oklahoma as well as the American West. This book is regularly $25.85, available to OHS members for $21.97.

Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure, by Richard Green, details the life and career of Te Ata, a collector and performer of Chickasaw and other American Indian tales. Throughout her long and varied career, she performed for audiences all over the world, and here Green examines her experiences through the artist’s own personal papers and letters. This book is regularly $24.00, available to OHS members for $20.40.

Come to the OHC Museum Store for these and other wonderful books about famous and influential Oklahomans. As always, members receive a 15 percent discount on all purchases in the OHC Museum Store. Please call us at 405-522-5214 with questions or to place an order.

Call for nominations for the twenty-third annual Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society (OHEHS), established in 1991 as a nonprofit to support awareness of higher education’s vital role in Oklahoma history, has inducted more than two hundred individuals into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame since its establishment in 1994.

The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor individuals, living and deceased, for outstanding, meritorious service to higher education in Oklahoma. This year, 2016, represents the twenty-third year that OHEHS will honor higher education educators and administrators, as well as those who support higher education with distinguished contributions.

To be eligible for induction, an individual must have been employed by one or more institutions of public or private higher education in Oklahoma on a full-time basis for a minimum of ten years. Individuals not so employed, but who have performed outstanding service to higher education in the state, or organizations or institutions that have performed such service, also are eligible for consideration, such service to be above and beyond financial contributions. Individuals employed by an institution of higher education in Oklahoma in an area of infrastructure and support services on a full-time basis for a minimum of ten years also may be considered for induction.

Nominations must be submitted by March 18, 2016. A nomination form can be downloaded from the OHEHS website or requested by emailing Amanda Jacobs, OHEHS executive secretary, at ajacobs@okhistory.org. The twenty-third annual formal induction ceremony and banquet will be held on October 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Biographical sketches and photos of past hall of fame inductees are available on the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society website, www.ohehs.org, as well as the Higher Education kiosk in the Education exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center. For more information about the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame or the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, visit www.ohehs.org or contact Amanda Jacobs at 405-522-0778 or ajacobs@okhistory.org.
2016 Oklahoma History Conference
Woodward, Oklahoma

Landmarks and Turning Points in Oklahoma History

Presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society

General Information
The 2016 Oklahoma History Conference will be held in Woodward, Oklahoma, at the Woodward Conference Center on April 27, 28, and 29, 2016. The conference will feature program sessions with presentations related to the theme “Landmarks and Turning Points in Oklahoma History,” two luncheons, three bus tours, a reception, dinner, and concert. A list of sponsors for the conference will be published in the April Mistletoe Leaves newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 4.

Arrangements have been made by the OHS to have hotel rooms blocked and special rates made available. Detailed information regarding conference hotels was provided on page six of the February Mistletoe Leaves newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 2. Hotels offering discounts for conference attendees include Candlewood Suites, Holiday Inn Express, La Quinta Inn, Northwest Inn, Sands Inn and Suites, and Wayfarer Inn.

An invitation to the conference, registration forms, and detailed hotel information have been mailed to all members of the OHS. The registration fee is $15 for OHS members and $20 for nonmembers. There also will be charges for the optional events, including the reception, luncheons, bus tours, dinner, and concert. Please complete the form and return it with payment in the envelope provided. Registration forms also may be obtained by contacting Paul Lambert at 405-522-5217 or plambert@okhistory.org or Shelly Crynes at 405-522-0317 or scrynes@okhistory.org.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Board of Directors Meeting Meeting Room One, Woodward Conference Center 3401 Centennial Drive 11 a.m.

Registration Concourse, Conference Center 1 – 4 p.m.

Bus Tour Retracing Custer’s route to the Battle of the Washita and tour of site 1:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Reception honoring preservationists of historic Fort Supply Concourse, Conference Center 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Registration Concourse, Conference Center 8 – 11:45 a.m.

Presentation Sessions Meeting Rooms and Exhibit Halls, Conference Center 9 – 9:45 a.m.

Session 1
James Madison in Oklahoma
Presenter: Quentin P. Taylor, professor of History and Politics, Rogers State University, Claremore
Moderator: Kathy Dickson, director, Museums and Historic Sites Division, OHS, Oklahoma City

Session 2
Homesteading in Oklahoma: Diverse Examples of Fortitude Applied on the Frontier
Presenters: Auburn P. Mitchell, attorney, Austin, Texas
Lyman McDonald, cofounder, West, Inc., Laramie, Wyoming
Moderator: Eric Schmalz, professor, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva

Session 3
November 17–18, 1910: Oklahoma City’s First Public Art Exhibit
Presenter: Margaret Flansburg, emeritus professor of Humanities and Philosophy, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
Moderator: Heather Lunsford, director, Art in Public Places, Oklahoma City

Session 4
Along the Arkansas with Oklahoma’s First Scientist
Presenter: Susan Dragoo, author and photographer, Norman
Moderator: Bill Corbett, president, OHS Board of Directors, Tahlequah
10 – 10:45 a.m.

Session 5
Topography Determines Turning Points in Oklahoma History: The Battle of the Washita
Presenter: Kevin Bowles Mohr, chief of interpretation, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne
Moderator: Charles Tate, member, OHS Board of Directors, Ardmore

Session 6
1965: Governor Henry Bellmon Signs the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council into Law
Presenters: Christiane Faris, emeritus professor of Humanities and former chair of the Modern Languages Department, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City
Ann Thompson, executive director, Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma City
Moderator: Chris Carroll, marketing and development officer, Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma City

Session 7
Pioneer Woman Statue: Confident Icon of Past, Present, and Future
Presenters: Robbin Davis, director, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
Keith Fagan, historical interpreter, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
Moderator: Patti Loughlin, chair, Department of History, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
11 – 11:45 a.m.

Session 8
Landmark Legislation and the Turning Point in Oklahoma’s Historic Preservation Movement
Presenters: Melvena Heisch, deputy state historic preservation officer, OHS, Oklahoma City
Glen Roberson, coordinator, Certified Local Governments Program, OHS, Oklahoma City
Moderator: David Pettyjohn, executive director, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., Oklahoma City

Session 9 (Plenary Session)
The Love’s Story
Presenters: Bob Blackburn, executive director, OHS, Oklahoma City
Tom Love, cofounder, Love’s Travel Stops and Country Stores, Oklahoma City
Moderator: Deena Fisher, dean of Woodward campus, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward

Annual Conference Luncheon Exhibit Halls, Conference Center Noon – 1:40 p.m.
Keynote speaker: Jay Hannah, Cherokee historian and executive vice president for financial services, BancFirst, Oklahoma City

Annual OHS Membership Meeting Exhibit Halls, Conference Center 1:50 p.m.

OHS Board of Directors Meeting Exhibit Hall, Conference Center 2:05 p.m.

Bus Tour Fort Supply and Modern Wind Farm 2:45 – 5:30 p.m.
**Session 15**

**Sandtown: The North Canadian River and Oklahoma City’s Oldest Neighborhood**

Presenter: Sam Stalcup, independent historian, Oklahoma City
Moderator: Shirley Nero, member, OHS Board of Directors, Clearview

11 – 11:45 a.m.

**Session 16**

**The Establishment of the First US Dragoon Regiment in Oklahoma**

Presenter: Bill Jordan, independent historian and reenactor, Red Oak, Iowa
Moderator: Matt Reed, curator of American Indian collections and military history, Oklahoma History Center, OHS, Oklahoma City

**Session 17**

**Hitler’s Corpse, Scrap Metal, and War Bonds: The Patriotic Endeavors of World War II Tulsans**

Presenter: Arly R. Ward, PhD candidate, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Moderator: Karen Keith, member, OHS Board of Directors, Tulsa

**Session 18**

**The Mouse that Roared: The Rise and Fall of Penn Square Bank**

Presenter: Michael Hightower, independent historian, Moore

**Unveiling of Temple Houston statue**

Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum
2009 Williams Avenue, Woodward
2:15 p.m.

Following the statue unveiling, guests are welcome to tour the museum.

**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!

- Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, January 8, 1967
- University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX, October 1, 1972
- Kenny and Diane Brown, Edmond, May 1, 1976
- Maris Ward, Stillwater, November 1, 1977
- Woodward Public Library, Woodward, June 1, 1979
- Suzanne Crawford, Lawton, November 1, 1982
- David Stevens, Noble, January 2, 1984
- Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, January 1, 1986
- David and Jean Kelsay, Meeker, August 25, 1986
- Nancy Davies, Enid, October 31, 1986
- Eva Gerard-Baker, Denison, TX, February 9, 1987
- Charles Jones, Oklahoma City, January 8, 1988
- Gene Ratcliff, Edmond, November 8, 1988
- Lois Batey, Oklahoma City, December 15, 1988
- John Heisch, Oklahoma City, January 31, 1989
- Choctaw Library, Choctaw, December 1, 1990
- George Verstraete, Oklahoma City, November 25, 1991
- Nella Martin, Tulsa, December 3, 1991
- Wendell and Rebecca Morton, Stillwater, December 13, 1991
- Tulsa City County Library, Tulsa, January 3, 1992
- Claire Martin, Springfield, IL, January 28, 1992
- David Moore, Columbia, MO, September 2, 1992
- Spire State Bank, Spire, December 23, 1992
- Joanna Chafinlin and Shawnee Brittan, Oklahoma City, April 20, 1993
- Larry Wingo, Yukon, May 10, 1993
- Mary Foster, Stillwater, February 22, 1994
- John McCandless, Edmond, December 9, 1994
- G. A. Rymer, Edmond, September 2, 1992
- Haskell Indian Nation University Library, Lawrence, KS, February 28, 1995
Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center announces donation and upcoming events

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center recently received a late Christmas gift, a new four-seater golf cart. The golf cart was a donation from Astellas Pharma Technologies in Norman, Oklahoma. For many years Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center had a golf cart that helped physically challenged individuals access the two miles of trails around the prehistoric mound site. However, when that cart became unrepairable and funding was not available due to continued state budget cuts, accessibility was limited to a donated wheelchair. Now all visitors will have an opportunity to experience Oklahoma’s only prehistoric American Indian archaeological site that is open to the public. This is a great example of public and private cooperation, providing a better experience for all guests.

During the month of March, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center has three days of exciting events and invites the public to attend. Celebrate the beginning of spring at the twenty-ninth annual Family Kite Flite Day on Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Family Kite Flite Day is a free admission day, but donations are appreciated. Each year since 1987, Spiro Mounds has hosted a day of spring fun and learning. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, and kites to this free event. Kite flying demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors, a children’s area, bubble making, a sandbox where visitors can dig for treasures, and kite giveaways are just a few of the activities that will take place. The OHS, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, and the Spiro Mounds Development Association with help from the Fort Coffee Fire Department and the scout troops of Spiro sponsor this event.

On March 20 and 21, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host a series of guided Vernal Equinox Walks. Each day there will be three walks at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., led by archaeologist and manager Dennis Peterson. Each Vernal Equinox Walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking. Attendees will learn about the importance of spring to American Indians. Peterson will tell about this unique, prehistoric American Indian mound site, the types of mounds, why they were created, and why some of the mounds are lined up for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes. He will discuss the history of the excavations, American Indian ceremonies and stories, tales of the unusual happenings associated with the mounds and answer your questions. There is a small fee for this series of tours of $3 for adults and $2 for children, in addition to the daily admission fee. No reservations are required except for large groups. Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information please contact Dennis Peterson at spiro@okhistory.org or 918-962-2062.

March events at a glance

1-26 Fourth annual Trappings of the Cherokee Strip exhibit of fine Western art and custom cowboy gear, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
5 First Saturday Hands-on History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
11 T. B. Ferguson Home annual chicken noodle dinner, Blaine County Fairgrounds, Watonga
12 Second annual Scout Spring Fling, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
12 Beginning soap making class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
19 “Campfire Cooking” Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
19 Sixth annual Cowboy Roundup, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
19 Twenty-ninth annual Family Kite Flite Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
20-21 Vernal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
24 Susan B. Anthony presentation for Women’s History Month, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
26 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
26 Spring Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
26 “Searching for Pioneers: Native Women Writers of Oklahoma in Urban Homelands” lecture by Dr. Lindsey Claire Smith, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
26 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
27 Easter Sunrise Service and Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association Easter Breakfast Fundraiser, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
30-31 Fur Trade Rendezvous, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant

Please visit www.okhistory.org/calendar for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.