



Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show



Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the re-creation of Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show at the Pawnee Bill Ranch by experiencing this piece of Oklahoma history. Shows will be held on Friday, June 8, and Saturday, June 9, with preshow entertainment beginning at 7 p.m. and Wild West Shows beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The 2018 show will feature reenactments of acts from

the original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Shows and new attractions to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the show. Producers and directors have combined stage and script with historical preservation to ensure that the Wild West Show is the most historically accurate production to date. Kevin Webb portrays Pawnee Bill for the 10th time. Webb, a long-time Wild West Show cast member and Pawnee Bill Ranch employee, is also a whip artist and chariot racer. Katrina Fenton will portray May Lillie, performing her shooting act on horseback. Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill also will make appearances at this year's show.

Trick rider and long-time show performer Windy Ratchford Lattin will perform some of the wildest stunts ever seen. Performer Calvin Cook, also known as "Kowboy Kal," is in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the largest wedding ring roping loop at 100 feet. The Mike Pahsetopah Family will dance as the Dancing Eagles, demonstrating tributes to American Indian culture with stunning Native dancing. The Cossacks are returning this year to display their unbelievable and reckless feats of horsemanship and military maneuvers. Producers invite past performers, show directors, and behind-the-scenes cast members to attend and join in celebrating the show's 30th year.

The museum and mansion will be open to the public on show days from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Saturday, June 9, there will be historically accurate entertainment such as blacksmithing, gunfighters and sharp shooters, a medicine man show, and musicians, all free and held continuously on the ranch grounds from 2 to 7 p.m. The cast will be available for a meet and greet with the audience on the museum grounds starting at 4 p.m. The Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association will serve a delicious barbecue meal in the big barn starting at 5 p.m.

Ticket prices in advance are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors over age 65, \$10 for children ages 10 and under, and free for children ages three and under. A group rate of \$12 per ticket is available for groups of 20 or more people. On the day of the show ticket prices are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, \$12 for children ages 10 and under, and free for children ages three and under. Specially priced packages are available for reserved seating with more information available at www.pawnee-bill-wildwest.com. Please call 918-762-2513 to purchase tickets or for more information. Online tickets are not available for this show. The Pawnee Bill Ranch is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road, which is a half-mile west of Pawnee on US Highway 64.

"History of World War II" program

On Wednesday, June 6, the OHS Research Center will host a one-day program exploring the history of World War II from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historian Joe Todd will speak about D-Day, women in World War II, the USS *Oklahoma*, and share the story of "The Man Who Never Was."

Oklahoma native Joe Todd served in the armed forces in Vietnam, and in Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. He has received numerous awards and honors including the Bronze Star, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Service and Presidential Unit Citation. Todd has worked at the Oklahoma Historical Society and the 45th Infantry Division Museum preserving documents and conducting oral histories. He currently volunteers at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library interviewing World War II veterans. Todd has conducted more than 1,400 interviews to date. Todd is the author of *USS Oklahoma, Remembrance of a Great Lady*, *Robert Huston: Oklahoma Rough Rider*, and numerous articles.

Preregistration for the "History of World War II" program is required, so please call 405-522-5225 to reserve your seat. The cost is \$45 per person and lunch is included. This program will be held in the Musser Learning Lab inside the OHS Research Center, located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

Chautauqua in the Park

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host its annual Chautauqua in the Park on June 12-16. This year's theme is "The Modern Age: Moving Forward from World War I" with feature presentations by John Anderson as Ernest Hemingway, Vanessa Adams-Harris as Josephine Baker, Doug Mishler as John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing, Debra Conner as Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, and Michael Hughes as Acee Blue Eagle. Each scholar's feature presentation begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by a question and answer session. There will be local entertainment and dinner for purchase each evening preceding the feature presentations.

Workshops are held daily in the Humphrey Heritage Village Church at 10:30 a.m. and noon. Each of the five scholars will lead two workshops during the week. For a full schedule of presentations and workshops, please visit www.facebook.com/enidchautauqua. Please call 580-237-1907 with any questions. The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.





Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

As a historian, I often look through the lens of history to gain a deeper understanding of what is happening around us today.

This year, to gain a deeper understanding of the roles women have played in our history, the Oklahoma Historical Society is sponsoring a series of events and publications to commemorate the centennial of the constitutional amendment that gave women in Oklahoma the right to vote. That is correct. Until a 1918 amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution, women in Oklahoma could only vote in local school elections. In 1920 Oklahoma became the 21st state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Those achievements, the basic rights of citizens to have their voice heard in public affairs, were won by activists who were willing to stand up, demand change, and work together with a sense of solidarity. It had taken years, even decades, but their voices were heard. The law of the land was changed.

In the 1970s women again demanded change, this time in the work place, in politics, and in the halls of justice. The Equal Rights Amendment may have failed passage, but it succeeded in binding together a wide coalition of women and men to demand action. Things have never been the same.

Now we are witnessing another chapter of that history outside our windows here at the Oklahoma History Center. As I write this column, it is the seventh day of demonstrations around the State Capitol.

From the headlines and newscasts, it would seem that the demonstrations are simply a demand for restoration of education funding that has been lost over the past decade. A secondary story from the headlines is the overwhelming turnout of teachers, students, and others who are expressing their views in historic numbers. Not since the 1970s has Oklahoma seen this kind of public protest.

The question that historians will consider in the future is "why?" Why now and why such a sense of solidarity?

As a historian, I think the issue is not just underfunding for education, which has been a chronic problem in Oklahoma. Not even the 28 percent effective decrease in funding over the past ten years, alone, could generate such a sustained public outburst that cuts across economic, political, and geographical divisions.

Looking through the long lens of history, I think a more plausible underlying cause of action stems from the frustration of women responding to the rhetoric and public policies at the local, state, and especially, the national levels. The glass ceiling, although cracked in the 1970s, is still there and the level of frustration has now found an outlet through the binding issue of education.

I have no facts to quote, but I have observed first hand that probably 90 percent of the protestors are women. The men, although eager to show their support for education in general and their coworkers in particular, are responding to the women who demand change.

Yes, I often look at current events and connect the dots of history. I predict the teacher walkout will someday be described as much more than a demand for better funding. Change is coming.

Dr. Bob

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society is committed to its mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing the state's history. We are heading into the last few months of our annual giving campaign. The money raised in this fundraising effort supports the acquisition and care of collections, exhibits, programming, and other endeavors for which the OHS does not use state funds. The goal is \$200,000 and our members have made it about three-quarters of the way there. You can donate at www.okhistory.org/support/annualgiv. As 2018 is the 125th anniversary of the OHS, there are plenty of projects that need your help.

At the end of April the OHS lost a key contributor to its organization when the membership and development coordinator took a new job at World Neighbors. Shelly Crynes, with whom many of you have had contact, will be sorely missed and hard to replace. I want to thank her for her efficiency and commitment to the OHS membership and raising the needed funds for the OHS. As always if you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at lodell@okhistory.org or 405-522-6676.



New research guide focuses on researching land in Oklahoma

The OHS is excited to announce that "A Guide to Researching Land in Oklahoma at the Oklahoma Historical Society" by Katie Bush is now available to purchase in the OHS Research Center at the Oklahoma History Center. The guide provides information for researching land records and explains Oklahoma history by settlement region through the homestead and allotment processes.

Researchers and genealogists often visit the OHS Research Center seeking information about their ancestors' land. This guide helps readers to understand legal land descriptions and how they relate to present-day locations. Readers will learn about the homesteading process in Oklahoma Territory, and how to interpret legal land descriptions to find the amount of land a homesteader received and the location of the homestead. The guide also outlines the rules and regulations for homesteading in Oklahoma and how they differed for tribal allotment recipients.

The author re-created historic maps for each settlement region. These maps provide a wealth of information including present-day county boundaries, township and range, original county boundaries in Oklahoma Territory, district and county lines in Indian Territory, and tribal reservation boundaries. The maps of tribal nations also can be used to research records in the OHS American Indian Archives Collection.

"A Guide to Researching Land in Oklahoma at the Oklahoma Historical Society" by Katie Bush is available to purchase in the OHS Research Center, located inside the Oklahoma History Center. The cost is \$15. For more information please call 405-522-5225.

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Mistletoe Leaves (USPS 018-315) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, 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 Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors, 5,400 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,170.57 bimonthly. 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 OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

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

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

The Osage Nation Museum in **Pawhuska** is turning 80 and a birthday celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 2, from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will include refreshments, birthday cake, door prizes, and the opening of a new exhibit entitled *Wedding Clothes and the Osage Community: A Giving Heritage*. This exhibit is in partnership with the Sam Noble Museum. Guests can enjoy the debut of objects on loan from the OHS as well as a cultural trunk demonstration by the Wahzhazhe Cultural Center at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. The Osage Nation Museum is located at 819 Grandview Avenue in Pawhuska. For more information please call 918-287-5441.

Step back in time at the Cowboy Way May Fest to be held May 3–6 in **Gene Autry**. Enjoy four days full of live music, cinema, storytelling, poetry, chuck wagon cooking, and a variety of Western vendors. Attendees are sure to learn something new about the American West during this fun-filled event. Festivities will be held at the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum, located at 47 Prairie Street in Gene Autry. Please call 580-294-3335 for more information.

Visit **Pawnee** for the 52nd annual Oklahoma Steam and Gas Engine Show on Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6. Marvel at the steam-powered saw mill, stop by the blacksmith shop, and do not miss the tractor demonstrations. Many of the featured tractors will be pre-1930, offering an exciting glimpse into the past. The event is held at Steam Engine Park, located at 401 East Beck Drive in Pawnee. Please call 918-762-2105 for more information.

The W. T. Foreman Prairie House in **Duncan** will host “Sip and See: A Vintage Spring Tea” on Saturday, May 5. There will be two seatings: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Three beautifully presented courses will include delectable tea sandwiches, seasonal fruit, handcrafted petit fours, British-style scones, local jam, and Devonshire cream. Choose the perfect steaming pot of tea for your table from three carefully curated selections. Sip and see the home! Built in 1918, it is the former residence of W. T. Foreman, a banker and pharmacist who was one of Duncan’s earliest and most prominent citizens. The home is located at 814 West Oak Avenue in Duncan. For more information please call 580-512-9153 or visit www.prairiehouseok.com.

Celebrate Founders’ Day in **Lindsay** on Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Enjoy a variety of activities throughout the day, including craft booths, demonstrations by the Marlow Gunfighters, inflatables for children, buggy rides, games, contests, and food vendors. The parade will begin at 4 p.m. with cash prizes awarded for the best floats. Bring the entire family to the Founders’ Day Celebration on South Main Street in Lindsay. For more information please call 405-756-4312.

Learn something new at the “Working in Indian Country: Building Successful Business Relationships with American Indian Tribes” workshop on Wednesday, May 9, in **Oklahoma City**. This one-day professional development workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is intended for local, state, and federal government officials and business leaders who wish to work with American Indian tribes. Registration fees apply and the workshop is limited to 30 participants to enhance opportunities for discussion and dialogue. The workshop will be held at the OSU-OKC campus, located at 900 North Portland Avenue in Oklahoma City. For more information or to register, please email Larry Keown at lkeown@workinginindiancountry.com or visit www.workinginindiancountry.com.

Trace your American Indian roots at the Five Tribes Ancestry Conference June 7–9 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in **Sulphur**. The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes will gather for a collaborative genealogy conference cohosted by the Cherokee Family Research Center. Attendees will learn what it means to be American Indian, how to research one’s family tree using historical records, and how to decipher various documents. The conference will feature presentations by noted genealogists, including keynote speaker Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. The Chickasaw Cultural Center is located at 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Road in Sulphur. For more information or to register, please call 918-456-6007, ext. 6162.

Announcements

The Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame in **Clearview** is now accepting nominations for its 2018 induction class. The hall of fame recognizes and honors African American educators, administrators, and support personnel who have made a significant contribution

in the state of Oklahoma. Any individual, specifically those who taught or served during the early statehood era and beyond, will be considered for this honor. Eligibility requirements and nomination forms are available at www.oaahof.org. The deadline for nominations is Monday, June 18. For more information please contact Shirley Nero at 918-698-6037 or annnero@aol.com.

Plan your visit to the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Museum in **Oklahoma City**. The museum recently moved from its location on North Lincoln Boulevard to its new home at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in April to celebrate the grand opening. Visitors can enjoy 13,000 square feet of exhibit space and learn how the museum preserves the state’s sports heritage while building pride in Oklahoma in the spirit of Jim Thorpe. Admission is free and museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark is located at 2 South Mickey Mantle Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information please visit www.oklahomasportshalloffame.org or call 405-427-1400.

Join local historian Jonita Mullins and Okie Heritage Tours for guided walking tours in and around historic **Muskogee**. Tours will be held on Saturdays in May and June and will focus on history, cultural diversity, architecture, and parks and gardens. Lace up your comfortable shoes and don your weather-appropriate clothing for a stroll through one of the most historic downtown areas in Oklahoma. Explore Muskogee and learn about its legacy from 1870s Indian Territory to the present day. Tours start in front of the Muskogee Civic Center, located at 425 Boston Street. For more information please call 918-682-0312.



Do you want your organization’s meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the “Around Oklahoma” section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The “Around Oklahoma” section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley by email at emoxley@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the July/August issue, you must submit it by Friday, June 1.

May events

- 1 *Women in Mourning* exhibit opens, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 1 *The Art of Clifford "Who" Davis* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 1 *Challengers of the Dust* book review and presentation by author William Bernhardt, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 2–3 Oklahoma National History Day contest, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3–4 "Gravestone Conservation" workshop, Tahlequah City Cemetery, Tahlequah
- 4–5 Urban Campout, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 4 Eighth annual Living History Education Day, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 5 May Day Celebration, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 6 Annual T. B. Ferguson Spring Tea and "Hanging Baskets" presentation, Watonga First Baptist Church, Watonga
- 7 Preservation Oklahoma's 2018 Most Endangered Places unveiling, The Douglass at Page Woodson, Oklahoma City
- 9 "Certified Local Governments Program, From Inquiry to Application: How to Apply for Designation" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 "Introduction to Section 106 and Determination of Eligibility for the National Register" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 "Preservation of Photographic Materials" workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 "Oklahoma's Medal of Honor Recipients" Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Jody Turner, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 "Working with the National Register of Historic Places" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 "Preservation of Audiovisual Materials" workshop, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City
- 10 "Preservation of Textiles" workshop, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City
- 11 "Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 "The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 "Preservation of Photographic Materials" workshop, Museum Broken Arrow, Broken Arrow
- 12 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 12 Indian Women's Pocahontas Club Picnic, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah

- 12 13th annual Archaeology Day and 40th Birthday Bash, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 12 Cast-Iron Cooking demonstration, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 17 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 19 Third Saturday Living History program, Hunter's Home, Park Hill



June events

- 2 "Nature and Animals" Pioneer Family Fun Day, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 6 "History of World War II" program by Joe Todd, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6, 13, 20, 27 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6–8 Preservation in Progress: Oklahoma's 30th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Tulsa
- 7 *Oklahoma's Vernacular Architecture from the Easel of John Womack* exhibit opening and premiere program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 8–9 Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 9 Homecoming activities and Basket Weaving demonstration, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 9 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12–16 "The Modern Age: Moving Forward from World War I" Chautauqua in the Park, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 16 Preservation Oklahoma's third annual White Party, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 16 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 16 Third Saturday Living History program, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 16 "Pioneer School Days" Pioneer Family Fun Day, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 16 *Spirited: Prohibition in America* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 Concert in the Courtyard with Rhonda (Milton) Hampton and Friends, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 21 Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 21 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 25–27 Frontier Days Kids' Camp, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah

Visit www.okhistory.org/calendar/ohs or subscribe to OHS EXTRA! for more information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

Frontier Days Kids' Camp at Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

Children can experience the hard work of life on a 19th-century ranch in a fun learning environment June 25–27 at Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch near Oologah. Children ages 5–12 can enjoy interactive learning, old-fashioned games, and hands-on activities between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., ending the day with lunch under the shade trees at the ranch house where Will Rogers was born.

Activities will include hayrides around the ranch, Cherokee storytelling, a cowboy magician, fence building, nature programs, leather working, rope making, blacksmithing demonstrations, historical interpreters with several unique presentations, and more. Each participant will take home a cowboy hat, t-shirt, bandana, a rope they will make, and other crafts. Participants must be registered to attend and can do so at www.willrogers.com/frontier-days-kids-camp or by calling 918-343-8118. The fee is \$45 for nonmembers and \$30 for members, and lunch is included. Space is limited. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 E 380 Road near Oologah.



Challengers of the Dust presentation at Museum of the Western Prairie

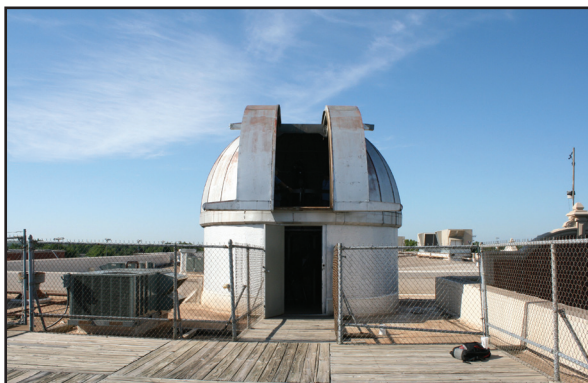
The Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will host a review talk on the book *Challengers of the Dust* (This Land Press, 2016) with author William Bernhardt on Tuesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

In the Depression-era tale *Challengers of the Dust*, nationally recognized author William Bernhardt creates cliffhanger episodes as the protagonist travels from Guymon to Cleveland and back, encountering a whole gallery of heroes and villains, with appearances by celebrities like Woody Guthrie, Amelia Earhart, and Pretty Boy Floyd. This event is hosted by the Western Trail Historical Society. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus. Please call 580-482-1044 for more information.

Oklahoma National Register listings, added in March and April 2018

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

The Enid High School Observatory is located at 311 West Wabash Avenue in Enid, Garfield County. Known as the Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg Observatory, the observatory illustrates one school district's unique response to opportunities for improving science education through federal funding as a result of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) of 1958. Enacted at a time of national insecurity following the Soviet Union's launch of the earth-orbiting satellite Sputnik, the NDEA was intended to address perceived weaknesses in science, mathematics, and modern foreign language instruction, and insufficient technological training in the nation's schools. As a result, the Enid High School Observatory was the state's only high school observatory during this period and retains that distinction to date. Incorporating the observatory into the school's curriculum brought national attention to its physics program and state recognition to students.



Enid High School Observatory

Three properties in Oklahoma City also were added to the National Register. Dunbar Elementary School is located at 1432 NE Seventh Street. The school is significant for its Classical Revival style as well as for its association with education as Oklahoma City's only extant historically "separate" elementary school.



Dunbar Elementary School

The 1210-1212-1214 North Hudson Historic District in Oklahoma City is significant for its association with Commerce and Health/Medicine in an area that evolved through time from a commercial street to a street primarily of medical providers in the urban core.



1210-1212-1214 North Hudson Historic District

The First National Bank and Trust Company Building is located at 120 North Robinson/111 North Broadway Avenue in Oklahoma City. It is significant in the area of Commerce as it was Oklahoma's largest bank for most of the 20th century as well as for its architectural styles of Art Deco and International.



First National Bank and Trust Company Building

The Okmulgee Country Club and Golf Course is located at 1400 South Mission Lane in Okmulgee. It opened in 1920 with a clubhouse, golf course, and tennis and croquet courts. The facility was designed by Leon Senter and features an exceptional example of a Bungalow/Craftsman style clubhouse. When the country club opened in 1920, no other facilities existed in the Okmulgee area.



Okmulgee Country Club and Golf Course

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

The SHPO also reminds readers of the availability of its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2018 Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. The funds are equally divided for awards in two grant rounds, with funds remaining from round one carried over for round two. The deadline for round two applications is 5 p.m. on Friday, June 1. Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. Applications and detailed instructions are available at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm. For more information please call 405-521-6249.



Archaeology Day at Spiro Mounds

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host its 13th annual Archaeology Day on Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event also will celebrate the site's 40th year of increasing awareness of Oklahoma archaeology. The celebration will feature demonstrations, lectures, a guided tour of the site at 2 p.m., prize drawings, and birthday cake! Archaeology Day is a free admission day, though donations are gratefully accepted.

Guests are invited to enjoy blowgun, stickball, and chunky demonstrations as well as lectures about local history and prehistory. Flint knappers Dave and Raydele Klostermeier will be showcasing their stone tool-making skills. Attendees can bring artifacts, such as arrowheads or pottery, and an archaeologist will be available to help identify up to 10 items per person. Do not miss the museum exhibits and a special guided tour of the site. For more information about Archaeology Day events or to learn how you can help, please contact Dennis Peterson at 918-962-2062 or spiro@okhistory.org.

CSRHC to host *Spirited: Prohibition in America* exhibit

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host a new traveling exhibit entitled *Spirited: Prohibition in America* this summer. The exhibit will be on display from June 16 through August 11. Organized by the National Constitution Center in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance, *Spirited: Prohibition in America* explores the era of Prohibition, when America went “dry.” Visitors will learn about the complex issues that led America to adopt Prohibition through the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1919 until its repeal through the 21st Amendment in 1933. Guests also will learn about the amendment process, the changing role of liquor in American culture, Prohibition’s impact on the roaring 1920s, the role of women, and how current liquor laws vary from state to state. For more information please call 580-237-1907. The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.

T. B. Ferguson Home transferred to the City of Watonga

At the regular meeting of the Watonga City Council on Tuesday, March 20, the council approved the real estate transfer that places the T. B. Ferguson Home under the ownership of the city. Dr. Bob Blackburn, OHS executive director, was on hand to sign the transfer documents following the council’s unanimous vote.

The OHS and the City of Watonga had been working toward this transfer for many years, but until the 2016 legislative session the legal means did not exist to make this happen. Title 53-5.2b now authorizes the OHS to transfer real estate to other entities of government and non-profits for cash value or in-kind contributions in the form of investment in the property. “As with most state agencies, the OHS has been faced with budgetary challenges over the past 10 years. These challenges led to the difficult decision that some of our properties might be better cared for under new ownership,” said Blackburn.

Other recent OHS real estate transfers include the transfer of Fort Washita near Madill to the Chickasaw Nation and the transfer of Sequoyah’s Cabin near Sallisaw to the Cherokee Nation. In August the Frank Phillips Home in Bartlesville reverted to the City of Bartlesville under the terms of the donation to the State of Oklahoma. The City of Bartlesville then transferred the home to the Frank Phillips Foundation, which also owns and operates Woolaroc, the museum and wildlife preserve on the Phillips ranch.

“The decision to transfer any property is a difficult one and each transfer was approved by the OHS board of directors before negotiations began,” continued Blackburn. “Each of these properties is owned by entities that will continue to preserve them for future generations.”

“The City of Watonga and the Friends of T. B. Ferguson Home have done an excellent job of caring for and operating the historic home with very little financial support from the state over the past 10 years,” Blackburn said. “It was time

to make the transfer official so work can continue on the home free from the contracting requirements imposed by state regulations.”

“The Ferguson Home is an important part of our community, and we are pleased to have it under local control,” said Mayor Gary Olsen. “The city looks to continue the close working relationship with the Friends of the Ferguson Home to keep the home open to the public. Some much needed renovation work will be starting soon on the front porch.”

Thompson Benton Ferguson was born in 1857 near Des Moines, Iowa. Although he was trained as a teacher and Methodist minister, Ferguson began writing occasional articles for a local newspaper and developed an interest in journalism. After the 1892 Land Run, Ferguson brought his family to Watonga, Oklahoma Territory, where he established the *Watonga Republican*. He remained the publisher of the newspaper until his death in 1921.

Ferguson was governor of Oklahoma Territory from November 1901 until January 1906, longer than any other territorial governor. After Governor Ferguson’s death in 1921 his wife, Elva, managed the newspaper until 1930. In 1927 the famous novelist Edna Ferber stayed in the Ferguson home, where she found much of the material for her novel *Cimarron*.

The T. B. Ferguson home is a three-story Victorian-style house built in 1901. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is located at 519 North Weigle Avenue in Watonga. This property is managed by the Friends of T. B. Ferguson Home and the group will continue to host its annual events. On Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. the home will host its annual T. B. Ferguson Spring Tea. This year’s event will feature a “Hanging Baskets” presentation by Pottery World of Oklahoma. Preregistration is required. This event will be held at Watonga First Baptist Church, located at 301 North Noble in Watonga. For more information please call 580-623-5069.

Women in Mourning exhibit at the Sod House Museum

The Sod House Museum near Aline will be opening a new exhibit, *Women in Mourning*, on May 1. The central feature of this exhibit will be a black dress trimmed in purple, along with a black lace shawl and accessories. These items date from around the early 1900s, and the dress was worn in the third stage of mourning known as half mourning. The exhibit also will include items from the home and changes made to them until the deceased family member was buried.

The length of time mourners were expected to wear black garments was based on culture, gender, and relationship to the deceased. Western societies marked a loved one’s death by wearing funeral clothes for months, even years. For example, a 19th- or early 20th-century widow would mourn for two and a half years.

Full mourning lasted a full year and a day. During this stage, crepe covered the whole body and every inch of skin. Only black was appropriate. Secondary mourning lasted nine months, and only partial crepe and additional fancier fabrics, such as velvet and silk, trimmings, adornments, and fringe were used. Half mourning lasted six months, with ordinary clothes of grey, white, purple, violet, soft mauve, and black. A widow was finally able to wear jewelry, belts, and clothes with buttons.

For specific periods of time a widow would not leave her home nor receive any visitors, and social events were not permitted during the first two stages of mourning.

In the home anything reflective or shiny would be covered, such as mirrors and glass of any kind. Crepe also would be draped over fireplace mantels, windows, shelves, and other household items. Clocks would be stopped at the time of death and would not be restarted until the burial was over. Window curtains and shades were drawn and shutters closed. These standards were strictly maintained through the Civil War period and even into the beginning of the 20th century in high society.

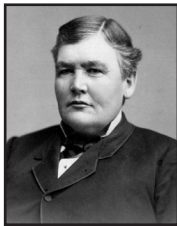
Today, few people wear black clothing during bereavement. Expectations and demands were lowered and a quiet kind of sympathy now is offered.

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

From the OHS Archives: The Abraham Jefferson Seay Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Abraham Jefferson Seay (1832–1915) had a distinguished career long before he was appointed the third governor of Oklahoma Territory. A. J. Seay was born in Virginia, but his family moved to Missouri when he was three years old. At the age of 21, he worked on a construction crew of the Missouri Pacific Railroad to pay for his education. Later, he taught school and studied law, and was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1861. Shortly after passing the bar and beginning his law practice, he joined the Union Army as a private to fight in the Civil War, ultimately attaining the rank of colonel.



After the war, he returned to the legal profession and he entered politics as a Republican. He served as a county attorney and as a circuit judge, operated a private law firm, and later became a bank president. When the territorial government for Oklahoma was being established in 1890, Seay was appointed associate justice on the Territorial Supreme Court by President Benjamin Harrison. On February 1, 1892, Seay resigned his position on the supreme court and was inaugurated as the third governor of Oklahoma Territory. Seay's tenure lasted only 16 months with one of his most significant achievements being the opening of the Cheyenne and Arapaho district to settlement. Seay was an enthusiastic advocate for the territory. To promote business investment and settlement, he encouraged the legislature to fund an exhibit for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. On leaving office in 1893, he returned to his home in Kingfisher where he remained active in business and Republican politics.

The Abraham Jefferson Seay Collection (M2012.236, two legal boxes and one oversize folder) contains his war diary from 1864 along with a transcript and index, copies of correspondence, his last will and testament, and Seay family genealogy. Also available from the Microfilm Reading Room are the Governor Abraham Jefferson Seay Papers, 1862–1916 (Roll OHS-100). These collections are available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is located on the first floor of the History Center. For more information please email research@okhistory.org or call 405-522-5225.

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

Urban Campout at Overholser Mansion

Join Preservation Oklahoma for a fun evening under the stars on the grounds of the Henry Overholser Mansion! An Urban Campout will be held in May as a fundraiser for the mansion. The event begins on Friday, May 4, at 4:30 p.m. and continues until Saturday, May 5, at 11:30 a.m.

The evening will feature outdoor activities, a tour of the mansion, and sleeping under the beautiful Oklahoma sky! On-site security is provided. The cost is \$85 per campsite, which includes space for up to six people or a six-person tent (or smaller). Staff will provide all the fixings for your favorite campfire foods including hot dogs and s'mores, along with donuts and juice in the morning.

All funds raised from the Urban Campout will go toward maintenance and upkeep of the Overholser Mansion. Reserve your spot today! Please call 405-525-5325 for more information. The Henry Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW 15th Street in Oklahoma City.



Living History Education Day at Hunter's Home

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

New exhibit at Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry

An exhibit of the art of Clifford "Who" Davis will be on display at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry during the months of May and June. Davis was a self-taught artist whose paintings reflect African American folk themes. Visitors also are invited to explore the newly remodeled museum building.

The Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School are located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information please call 580-336-2405 or visit www.okhistory.org/cherokeestrip.

Oklahoma! pictorial exhibit at the History Center

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce its latest pictorial exhibit, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! Musical Theatre at 75*. The exhibit opened on March 31, the 75th anniversary of the musical's opening on Broadway. The exhibit features 21 images, mostly black-and-white with some full-color posters also included. The photos range from the Broadway production of the play *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Lynn Riggs, which was the inspiration for *Oklahoma!*, through the original production of the musical in 1943, and images from the movie. The most recent photo is from a Discoveryland production in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, designated "The National Home of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*"

This exhibit may be viewed in the Chesapeake Events Center at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. Regular hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Since the Chesapeake Events Center also is utilized for banquets, meetings, and performances, it is advised that patrons call ahead to ensure that it is open to the public at the time of a planned visit.

The pictorial exhibit will serve as the precursor for a larger exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of *Oklahoma!* that will open on July 12. This full exhibit will be entitled *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! The Origin of Modern Musical Theatre*. For more information please call 405-522-0765.



Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

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PERIODICALS

George M. Murrell Home reclaims the name “Hunter’s Home”

The George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill is embracing its past and reclaiming its original name: “Hunter’s Home.” Since the State of Oklahoma acquired this historic resource in 1945, the property has been known as the George M. Murrell Home. This name change is restoring a piece of the home’s history. Historical records confirm that family, friends, and area residents referred to the property as Hunter’s Home—the name given to the property by George Murrell and his first wife, Minerva Ross. This shift to the name Hunter’s Home coincides with new and exciting things at the site as it transitions into an 1850s Cherokee farm.

The Murrells followed the southern custom of naming their properties. George Murrell was an avid fox hunter, so the name Hunter’s Home was bestowed upon the Park Hill property. The family property in Louisiana was named Tally Ho, and their Virginia property was named Rose Hill. “We feel that restoring the name the family gave to the home is reconnecting it to an important piece of the past,” said Dr. Bob Blackburn, OHS executive director. “The Murrell family always referred to the home as Hunter’s Home, and the descendants continue to do so.”

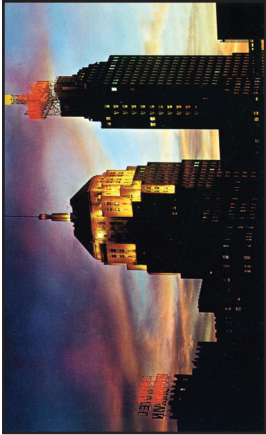
According to David Fowler, OHS regional director of museums and sites, a plan has been developed to transform the site into a living history farm. “The home was part of a working plantation when the Murrells lived here, and we are working to bring this part of the history back to life,” Fowler said. Through research OHS staff members have identified the livestock types and the crops the Murrells raised, and are taking steps to make this part of the interpretation at the site.

George Murrell was born to a prominent family in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1808. He moved to the Athens, Tennessee, area as a young man to pursue mercantile interests with his brother, Onslow Glenmore Murrell, and future father-in-law, Lewis Ross. There, in 1834, George Murrell met and married Minerva Ross. Minerva was the oldest daughter of Lewis and Fannie (Holt) Ross, members of a wealthy and influential Cherokee family. Lewis was a merchant, planter, and national treasurer of the Cherokee Nation. His brother, John, was principal chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1828 until his death in 1866.

When the Cherokees were forced to leave their homes during the Trail of Tears in 1838–39, Murrell chose to move with his wife’s family to the new nation in the West. In Park Hill, Indian Territory, he established a plantation and built Hunter’s Home. Murrell and his father-in-law also established a mercantile business in Park Hill, later moving it to Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. For more information about Hunter’s Home, please call 918-456-2751 or visit www.okhistory.org/huntershome.



State Historic Preservation Office to host workshops



(211)75.222, Frank Parman Collection, OHS)

will be reserved on a first-come basis. The workshops will include:

- Wednesday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. to noon: Certified Local Governments Program, From Inquiry to Application: How to Apply for Designation
 - Wednesday, May 9, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Introduction to Section 106 and Determination of Eligibility for the National Register
 - Thursday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Working with the National Register of Historic Places
 - Friday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon: Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
 - Friday, May 11, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
- All workshops will be held in the Musser Learning Lab at the Oklahoma History Center. For more information or to register, please contact Jesse Matthews at jmatthews@okhistory.org or 405-521-6249. You also may register online by visiting www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.