



## Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch to host “Night at the Chuck Wagon” and Frontier Days Kids Camp



**Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah.**

Pack your sleeping bag for a “Night at the Chuck Wagon” at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, an overnight event that will take place from 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, to 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 26.

This event is for children ages 5–12, accompanied by at least one adult. Participants will bed down in various parts of the museum for a night of 19th-century activities, movies, arts and crafts, games, and storytelling, with a chuck wagon dinner and breakfast.

Registration is required and is \$45 for nonmembers and \$35 for members. The

deadline for registration is May 17. Both children and adults are required to pay the registration fee. Space is limited to the first 15 children. Each child will receive a Will Rogers book, and each child and parent will receive a t-shirt. Participants can register and pay at [www.willrogers.com/overnight-at-the-chuckwagon](http://www.willrogers.com/overnight-at-the-chuckwagon).

The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch will host Frontier Days Kids Camp from June 24 to 26. The camp will be three days of fun experiences, showing children what life on the ranch was like in the 1800s.

Campers will converge on the ranch from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a chuck wagon lunch at the close of each day. Activities will include blacksmithing demonstrations, fence building, games from the time period, learning to do laundry on a washboard, leather working, rope making, and hayrides around the ranch. Special guests will be a Cherokee storyteller and cowboy magician.

Registration is \$45 per child for nonmembers and \$30 per child for members. Children must be registered to attend, and the registration deadline is Friday, June 14. Each camper will receive a cowboy hat, shirt, rope, and other crafts, as well as lunch. Participants can register and pay at [www.willrogers.com/frontier-days-kids-camp](http://www.willrogers.com/frontier-days-kids-camp).

For more information, please call 918-341-0719. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd. in Claremore, and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 E. 380 Road in Oologah.

## Jefferson Highway presentation at Honey Springs



Oklahoma author Jonita Mullins will present a program about the Jefferson Highway at Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center on Saturday, June 22, at 1 p.m.

American Indians built the first interstate roads, and the one connecting Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas was first called the Osage Trace. In the 1820s it was called the Texas Road and carried thousands of emigrants southward across Indian Territory. This road was one of the primary focuses of the Civil War in Indian Territory. In 1915 this ancient road became the Jefferson Highway before the federal system numbered portions of it as Highway 69 and Route 66.

Jonita Mullins is an award-winning author and speaker from Muskogee. She has written eleven books and more than 700 articles focused on regional history. Mullins is a passionate preservationist and serves on the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors. When she is not writing, speaking, or conducting historical tours, Mullins works on preservation projects including the restoration of the home of Alice Robertson, a missionary, teacher, and Oklahoma’s first congresswoman.

For more information regarding the presentation and Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, please email [honeysprings@okhistory.org](mailto:honeysprings@okhistory.org) or [alynn@okhistory.org](mailto:alynn@okhistory.org), or call 918-473-5572.

## Archaeology Day and Summer Solstice Walks at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will hold its 14th annual Archaeology Day/Birthday Bash on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The site will celebrate its 41st year of increasing awareness of Oklahoma archaeology. As a bonus, Archaeology Day will be a free day with no entrance fees, although donations are gratefully accepted.

All day, items will be given away by drawing and birthday cake will be served. If you have artifacts, like arrowheads or pottery, an archaeologist will be on site to identify up to 10 items per person.

Flint knappers will show off their stone tool making skills. Blowgun, stickball, and Chunkee demonstrations will be available upon request. Lectures on local history and prehistory will be featured during the day. There also will be a guided tour of the site at 2 p.m. led by manager Dennis Peterson.

On June 21 you can start your summer with a trip to Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center for a special guided tour on the summer solstice. There will be three walks led by archaeologist Dennis Peterson starting at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each walk will include one mile of easy walking and last about two hours. There is a fee of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child in addition to the normal admission cost of \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for children. Oklahoma Historical Society members, veterans, and Spiro Mounds Development Association members get free admission with their membership/ID cards.

Peterson will talk about the history of the mound site and the American Indians who built it more than 1,000 years ago. He also will talk about the reasons for the mounds and the alignment of some of the mounds to track the movement of the sun throughout the year. The 7 p.m. walk will allow the observation of twilight wildlife and a view of the sunset, which is the most important part of the event.

The center is located three miles east of Spiro on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information about Archaeology Day or the Summer Solstice Walks, please call 918-962-2062.





## Director's column

**By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn**  
**Executive Director**

For 40 years I have watched the Oklahoma Historical Society emerge from the doldrums of “acceptable mediocrity” and prosper under the business plan of “higher standards, greater efficiencies, and partnerships.”

Some of that success is due to good fortune, such as finding the right people at the right time, winning grants that come in cycles, or attracting new partners who share our goals of education, preservation, and heritage tourism.

Good fortune alone can add to positive momentum, but it rarely sustains long-term success. Success comes from good planning, teamwork, and accountability.

I trace the arc of success back to the OHS Constitution of 1981 and the fundamental structure of governance that combines private and public leadership with clearly defined roles of authority and responsibility. That governing document fostered a better balance between our public/private partnership and coordination with the legislature and governor.

Building on that foundation came a number of planning efforts in the 1990s, such as divisional budgets, action plans, and the creation of 501(c)3 support groups for each operational unit of the

OHS. One of the most important but least glamorous planning efforts was what we called the Historic Context Review, which provided a template to define success and guide future action based on the criteria of chronological time periods, geographical regions, and topical themes.

In retrospect, I can see that good fortune, tempered by bad luck, allowed us to put the planning efforts into play from 1992 to 1995.

The bad luck was an 18 percent budget cut at a time when we relied almost exclusively on appropriated funding. We cut staff at the headquarters, which allowed us to start the reorganization process, and closed 14 museums, which generated a backlash from key legislators. The good fortune was a new federal grant program. The key to success, however, was our new planning process that included the goal of self-generated revenue, partners, and an awareness that we did not adequately tell the story of transportation.

The result was the transformation of the old Western Trails Museum in Clinton to the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, made possible by a \$600,000 federal grant, a \$400,000 fundraising drive, and a project team dedicated to higher standards. Today, that museum generates more than \$400,000 per year in gross revenue and contributes to economic development through heritage tourism.

The same formula for success was used to create the Oklahoma History Center, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, and OKPOP.

Today, the planning process continues to evolve at the OHS. A new strategic plan focused on reallocating resources, building on success, and launching new ventures soon will be considered by the OHS Board of Directors. The annual Cost/Benefit Analysis links detailed allocation

of resources with production and return on investment, down to the hours spent by each employee and volunteer. And the Historic Context Review, where it all began, is updated yearly as our perception of history evolves.

Yes, for 40 years I have watched the OHS emerge from the doldrums of acceptable mediocrity. Today, with transparency and accountability, we are ready and well prepared to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history for the next 40 years.

*Dr. Bob*

## National Register Nomination Grants

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) continues to award its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2019 Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. The funds are equally divided for awards in two grant rounds, with any funds remaining from round one carried over for round two. Applications and detailed instructions are available at [www.okhistory.org/nrgrant](http://www.okhistory.org/nrgrant).

The deadline for round two applications is Friday, June 7, at 5 p.m. Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. Grant recipients will use the grant funds and nonfederal match to retain an appropriately qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package for the National Register. For more information please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or visit [www.okhistory.org/shpo](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo).

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Through a generous donation from Dr. Donnie and Shirley Nero, the Oklahoma Historical Society created the Shirley Ballard Nero endowment. This endowment funds programming, exhibits, and events that support and share African American history in Oklahoma, specifically benefitting the state's historically All-Black towns. In 2000 the OHS erected signs in each of the remaining All-Black towns to share the communities' histories, and a general history of the development of All-Black towns in the state. In the 19 years since, these signs have faded and need to be replaced. This project is an example of one use for the endowment funds.

Every June the OHS Black Heritage Committee hosts a Juneteenth event at the Oklahoma History Center, with the money raised earmarked for the Shirley Ballard Nero endowment. We are working on an educational and entertaining program for this year, so keep an eye out for an announcement.

You can donate to this endowment any time by contacting Angela Spindle at 405-522-0317 or [aspindle@okhistory.org](mailto:aspindle@okhistory.org). You also can donate online by visiting [www.okhistory.org/donate](http://www.okhistory.org/donate) and directing the donation to the Shirley Ballard Nero endowment. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org) or 405-522-6676.



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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

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## Events

Join local historian Jonita Mullins and Okie Heritage Tours for guided walking tours through historic **Muskogee**. Tours will be held on Saturday, May 11, and Saturday, June 1, at 4:30 p.m. Each tour is approximately one hour and will cover 12 blocks of level walking with frequent stops. Lace up your comfortable shoes and don your weather-appropriate clothing for an afternoon 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. Visit “dead man’s corner,” walk the police beat of US Marshal Bass Reeves, and see where Merle Haggard and Babe Ruth played. Learn about Muskogee’s place as the capital of Indian Territory and the seat of federal government from 1876 to today. The cost is \$5 per person, and can be paid in cash or with a credit card. Tours start in front of the Muskogee Civic Center, located at 425 Boston Street. For more information please visit [www.okieheritage.com](http://www.okieheritage.com).

A summer’s worth of live music is on tap at the **Arcadia** Round Barn. Oklahoma singer-songwriters will offer Morning Music from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday in the downstairs area of the barn, which was built in 1898 and has been operated as a museum since 1992 by the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society. The artists will provide acoustic Americana, bluegrass, and country music. The Round Barn Rendezvous is from noon to 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of

every month in the loft of the barn. On most months the Rendezvous is a jam session open to local musicians, but on June 9 the ukulele festival will return for a second year, featuring ukulele bands from across the state. The outdoor Round Barn Elm Tree Concerts are scheduled at least once a month through October, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays other than the second Sunday. The lineup will include the Regular Joes, Steelwind, the Brave Amigos, Gypsy Twang, and the 4-H Music Corps. Concert dates will be posted on the Arcadia Round Barn website and Facebook page. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information please call Joe Baxter at 405-833-1350.

## Exhibits

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

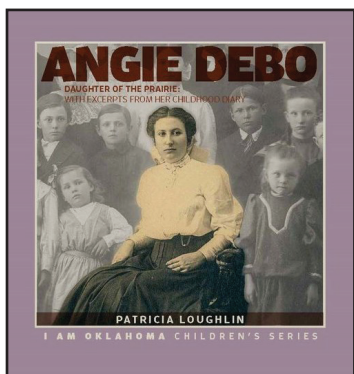
## Announcements

Historian Michael Hightower’s latest book, *1889: The Boomer Movement, the Land Run, and Early Oklahoma City*, has been selected as a finalist in the 2019 Oklahoma Book Award’s nonfiction category. Hightower frames his work within the larger history of Oklahoma, beginning in Indian Territory where displaced tribes and freedmen, wealthy cattlemen, and prospective homesteaders became embroiled in disputes over public land and federal policies. The story travels back and forth between Washington, DC, and the territory to describe the politics of settlement, public land use, and the first stirrings of urban development. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, Hightower captures the drama of the Boomer incursions, the Run of ’89, and the nascent urbanization of Oklahoma City. To schedule a book review to business and community groups in your area, contact Dr. Hightower at [mhightower@okhistory.org](mailto:mhightower@okhistory.org) or 434-249-6043.

Do you want your organization’s event, exhibit, or announcement included in the “Around Oklahoma” section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history- and heritage-related programming sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley by email at [emoxley@okhistory.org](mailto: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 Tuesday, June 4.

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### Angie Debo: Daughter of the Prairie presentation at Museum of the Western Prairie



Author and historian Patricia Loughlin will discuss her recent children’s book *Angie Debo: Daughter of the Prairie* on Tuesday, June 4, at 7 p.m., at the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus. Utilizing excerpts from Debo’s childhood diary, Loughlin provides an inspiring account of the life of Angie Debo chronicling her early years in Marshall, Oklahoma Territory, growing up on a farm with her parents and going to the local school. In the book, the author also explains the historical significance of Debo, who served as a teacher, curator, pastor, librarian, historian, and author.

Loughlin is a professor of history and director of graduate studies in the Department of History and Geography at the University of Central Oklahoma, and serves on the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors. Her book *Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel H. Wright, Angie Debo, and Alice Marriott* won the 2006 Director’s Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. She resides in Stillwater.

This presentation is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. It is hosted by the Western Trail Historical Society. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus. For more information, please call 580-482-1044.

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### Victorian Tea at Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

Just in time for Mother’s Day, celebrate the women in your life with a Mom and Me Victorian Tea at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center on Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu will include tasty finger sandwiches and sweet treats plus various flavors of tea and lemonade.

A special program will be presented. Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest, including hats and gloves. This will be a lovely soiree, not to be missed!

Cost per person is \$25 and reservations are required. To reserve seats, please call 580-237-1907 or email [csrhcinfo@okhistory.org](mailto:csrhcinfo@okhistory.org). The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 S. Fourth Street in Enid.

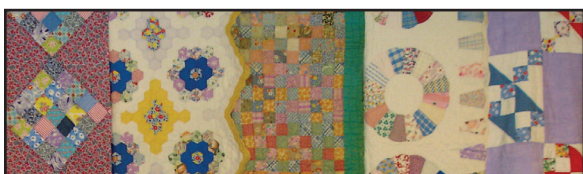


## May events

- 1-25 Living history season, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 1-2 Oklahoma National History Day contest, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2-3 Gravestone Conservation workshop, Tahlequah City Cemetery, Tahlequah
- 3 Living History Education Day, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 4 May Day Celebration, Hunter's Home, Park Hill



- 4 Community Art Day, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 4 Mom and Me Victorian Tea, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 4 "Vintage Aprons: Tie One On" presentation by Margaret Goss, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 4 Gravestone Conservation workshop, Oaklawn Cemetery, Tulsa
- 8 "126 Years and Counting: A History of the Oklahoma Historical Society" Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Kathy Dickson, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 8 "The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 "Working with the National Register of Historic Places" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 "Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 "The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 Rural Heritage Festival, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 11 14th Annual Archaeology Day and 41st Birthday Bash, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 11 "Hugo Lake and Sawyer Dam" Second Saturday Demo and Tour, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 11 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline



- 15 *Sign of the Times* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 16 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 18 "The First Indian Home Guard" presentation by Dr. Jane Johansson, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 18 Oklahoma Archeological Survey workshop and 2019 *Most Endangered Places* exhibit, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 18 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 18-19 Urban Campout, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 25 *Apron Strings: Ties to the Past* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 25 *Tour de Quartz* exhibit opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 25-26 Night at the Chuck Wagon, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 Movie Night featuring *State Fair* (1933), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 *Smoke Over Oklahoma: The Railroad Photographs of Preston George* exhibit closes, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher

## June events

- 1 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 1 *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!: The Origin of Modern Musical Theatre* exhibit opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 1 Annual Pioneer Woman Museum Golf Tournament, Lew Wentz Memorial Golf Course, Ponca City



- 4 *Angie Debo: Daughter of the Prairie* presentation by Dr. Patricia Loughlin, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 5 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7-8 Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 8 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10-11 Broadway Comes to Altus: Act II, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 11-15 Chautauqua in the Park, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

- 15 Preservation Oklahoma's Summer Soiree, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 19 "Juneteenth: Segregation and Emancipation of the African American Cowboy" Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Dr. Laura Arata, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 21 Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 22 "The Jefferson Highway" presentation by Jonita Mullins, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 22 Annual Ice Cream Social, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 22 Ice Cream Social, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 24-26 Frontier Days Kids' Camp, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah



- 26 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28 Movie Night featuring *David Harum* (1934), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 29 Tracing Your Roots intermediate genealogy class, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 29 *Tour de Quartz* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus

Please visit [www.okhistory.org/events](http://www.okhistory.org/events) for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.



## Virtual tour of the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center has increased the ability of patrons to engage and connect by introducing a free virtual tour. Anyone with a web-enabled device or computer can virtually visit our beautiful facility. Of course, the virtual tour cannot take the place of actually being in the exhibit galleries, but we hope it sparks some curiosity and you visit the History Center soon! Check out the virtual tour at [www.okhistory.org/tour](http://www.okhistory.org/tour). For more information please call 405-522-0765.



## The Campbell Pen

By Mike Bell

There is group of pens in the OHS collections that have been listed as “Pens – Pens of historic use (11)” with no other identifying information. Information has been slowly filtering in so that staff can identify some and understand what others might be. One pen in particular is one of a kind. That pen is the Campbell Pen.

The Campbell Pen is one of the more unique artifacts that the Oklahoma Historical Society possesses. W. P. Campbell made the pen from stalks of alfalfa obtained from William H. “Alfalfa Bill” Murray himself. In the 1906–07 Custodian’s Report to the Historical Society Board of Directors Campbell wrote, “President W. H. Murray of the Constitutional Convention on request sent a bunch of alfalfa from his farm near Tishomingo; stems were wound with silk and mounted with co-coons raised in the Lion Store window at Oklahoma City and furnished by the proprietor, George E. Gardner; a pen point was made by the custodian from a quill of the Oklahoma-captured eagle on exhibition at the society room. The pen and holder thus made was presented the Constitutional Convention, and duly accepted. After serving the President in signing the constitution roll voted the society, the convention voted the pen to the society and it is now here.”<sup>1</sup>

Newspapers reported that the Campbell Pen arrived at the Constitutional Convention on April 17, 1907.<sup>2</sup> Murray used the Campbell Pen to officially sign his name to the engrossed copy of the Oklahoma Constitution on April 20, 1907.<sup>3</sup> Murray then used a second pen he received from William Jennings Bryan to sign his title and list the district he represented at the convention. Murray then gave that pen to Peter Hanratty to give to Samuel Gompers.<sup>4</sup> The Campbell Pen was sent to the OHS for safe keeping and it remains in the collections.

*Mike Bell is curator of collections at the Oklahoma History Center.*

<sup>1</sup> W. P. Campbell, “Custodian’s Biennial Report 1906-07,” 7, W. P. Campbell Collection, OHS.

<sup>2</sup> “Convention is to Frame New Election Ordinance,” *Daily Oklahoman*, April 17, 1907, 3.

<sup>3</sup> “Convention is to Adjourn Today,” *Daily Oklahoman*, April 20, 1907, 1. This article discusses Murray using the pen to sign the engrossed copy of the Oklahoma Constitution and also states that the pen was sent to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

<sup>4</sup> “Delegates Affix Their ‘J. Hancock,’” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, April 20, 1907, 1. Page 1 of this newspaper has April 19, 1907, in the masthead, which is incorrect. The remaining pages have the correct date of April 20, 1907.



## USDA aerial photographs available in the OHS Archives

By Marty Alberts

Aerial photographs are taken from airplanes flying at various altitudes that can range from 5,000 to 60,000 feet. Government agencies have contracted and produced the largest number of aerial photographs, although there are commercial services that also produce and sell aerial photographs. The US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) aerial photograph program began after the Agricultural Adjustment Act farm bill was passed by Congress and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. The photographs were and are used to record land use and soil conservation practices, with soil erosion from wind and water being a primary federal concern.

Aerial photographs have been taken for three USDA agencies—the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Forest Service—since 1937.

How can the USDA aerial photographs be used?

1. To study land use and land cover change
2. To study historical land development and urban sprawl in cities
3. To aid in legal disputes over property rights
4. To research a property’s past
5. To study changes on your own property

The USDA aerial photographs held at the Oklahoma Historical Society have been inventoried and cataloged for use. The size and scale of the photographs are 24 inches by 24 inches and 1 inch equals 660 feet. We currently have more than 1,500 photographs for the following counties (dates of the flights are enclosed in parentheses):

Blaine County (1941, 1951, 1957, 1964)—photos are limited to northeastern Blaine County and are from the NRCS Okeene Office.

Kingfisher County (1937, 1951, 1964)—photos are limited to northwestern Kingfisher County and are from the NRCS Okeene Office.

Major County (1942, 1954, 1961)—photos cover most of Major County and are from the FSA Fairview Office.

Noble County (1937, 1954, 1980s)—photos cover most of Noble County and are from the FSA Perry Office.

NRCS photography includes in some cases the farm owner’s name, address, and legal description on the reverse side of the photograph.

*Marty Alberts is a technical services technician in the OHS Research Division.*



**Aerial photograph of a section of Major County.**

## Rural Heritage Festival

The Cherokee Strip Museum will host its Rural Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival provides an educational and fun experience to the public that will increase awareness of the rural heritage of Oklahoma. Living history interpreters will conduct demonstration throughout the day to help visitors understand traditional skills and lifestyles associated with agriculture and rural communities. Admission to this annual event is free.

A few new additions to this year’s festival are a craft show where only hand-made items will be sold, a heritage quilt exhibit in the new gallery room inside the museum, and food trucks for visitors to purchase food on-site.

Historical interpreters and reenactors will be on hand to demonstrate Dutch oven cooking, blacksmithing, basket weaving, quilting, and lye soap making. Guests also will be able to see what a cowboy camp would have looked like, and might encounter some Old West gunfighters. At 11:30 a.m. students of all ages can attend Rose Hill School, taught by the schoolmarm, Miss Musshafen. There will be hands-on activities such as sack races, cakewalks, and apple bobbing and peeling. Music from a variety of stringed instruments will be provided by the Dulcimers.

The events held at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry are designed for families and people of all ages. The museum celebrates the community’s heritage and welcomes everyone for a day full of fun, food, and learning!

To see an updated list of the attractions as they are added please visit [www.cherokee-strip-museum.org](http://www.cherokee-strip-museum.org) and follow the museum on Facebook at Cherokee Strip Museum. The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 W. Fir St. in Perry. For more information please call 580-336-2405.





## Historians Hall of Fame inductees

Since 1993 the Oklahoma Historical Society has annually honored up to four inductees, both professional and amateur, in its Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. Recipients are selected on the basis of their contributions to the preservation, collection, interpretation, and dissemination of Oklahoma history. In April 2018 Dianna Everett, Helen Freudenberger Holmes, Emmy Scott Stidham, and Mary Jo Watson were inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

Dianna Everett, who retired from the Oklahoma Historical Society in 2010, spearheaded the effort for the comprehensive project that became *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. A native of New Mexico, she earned her doctorate at Texas Tech University. She has authored several books, including *The Texas Cherokees: A People Between Two Fires, 1819–1840* (1990). After Everett completed the encyclopedia project, she became the editor for *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. In her semi-retirement she has returned to the OHS to keep the online version of the encyclopedia.

Born and raised near Pleasant Valley, Oklahoma, Helen Freudenberger Holmes later moved near Coyle. She graduated from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (later Oklahoma State University) with a bachelor's degree in English, then earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin. During World War II she graduated from the first WAAC officers' class and served as a public relations officer. She later was an intelligence officer in Washington, DC, and Germany. She served on Guthrie's City Council and as mayor from 1979–81. Holmes was the principle author and editor of two-volume *The Logan County History, 1889–1979* (1978 and 1980) and *Homes of Historic Guthrie* (1987). She wrote regular historical articles for the *Guthrie Daily Leader*. She donated the Helen F. Holmes Collection to the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma. In 2019 she was inducted into the US Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.

Emmy Scott Stidham was born in Edmond and raised in Checotah. She helped organize the Checotah Landmark Preservation Society to save the local Katy Depot. The organization, with Stidham as president, moved the depot, financed its renovation, and developed a long-range plan to turn it into a museum and community center for the town. In 1987 Emmy was instrumental in organizing and coordinating the volunteers for the first OHS Battle of Honey Springs reenactment. She has been helping with the event for more than 30 years. In 1988 the OHS membership elected Emmy Stidham to its board of directors.

She has served on the executive committee and as the president, and is now an emeritus member.

Mary Jo Watson earned three degrees from the University of Oklahoma (OU), including a bachelor of fine arts in art history, a master of liberal studies in Seminole aesthetics, and a doctorate in Native American art history. She recently retired from OU, where she served as the curator of Native American art at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Dr. Watson developed the current Native Art History program at the university. She has received numerous honors, including the Paseo Art Association's Lifetime Achievement Award (2010); the OU Students' Choice Faculty Award (2006); OU Outstanding Faculty, Center of Student Life-Indian Student Award (2003); Governor's Art Award for Outstanding Service (2002); OU College of Fine Arts Outstanding Faculty Award (1997); and Governor's Arts Award for significant contribution to enhance the arts in Oklahoma (1993).



## “The First Indian Home Guard” presentation

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is honored to announce a special presentation titled “The First Indian Home Guard” on Saturday, May 18, at 1 p.m. Dr. Jane Johansson, professor in the Department of History and Political Science at Rogers State University and editor of the book *Albert C. Ellithorpe, the First Indian Home Guards, and the Civil War on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier*, will speak about the regiment's unique history in relation to the Civil War in Indian Territory and the Battle of Honey Springs.

“Recruited in Kansas refugee camps in the spring of 1862, the First Indian Home Guard was a unique Civil War regiment,” said Johansson. “Comprised of whites, refugee Muscogee Creeks and Seminoles, and African Creeks, the regiment served in a variety of military operations from 1862 to 1865. Notable actions that the unit engaged in included Locust Grove, Fort Wayne, Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, Honey Springs, and many smaller encounters. This presentation will explore the regiment's background, its composition, notable personalities, military actions, relations with the federal government, and the postwar era.” For more information please call 918-473-5572. Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville.

## From the OHS Archives: The Oscar B. Jacobson Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Oscar B. Jacobson—artist, teacher, and advocate for Native American art and artists—was Director of the University of Oklahoma School of Art from 1915 to 1954. Born in Sweden in 1882, his family immigrated to Kansas in 1890. Though a noted artist in his own right, he is principally known as the mentor to the Kiowa Five group of artists. Jacobson provided studio space to the artists and helped guide and promote their careers. The Oscar B. Jacobson Collection, donated by Jacobson's daughter, Yolande Jacobson Sheppard, provides a more intimate glimpse into the life of Oscar Jacobson through the eyes of his wife, the author Jeanne d'Ucel. The collection includes an unpublished memoir by d'Ucel detailing their life and travels from their meeting at Washington State College in 1915 to his death in 1966. The collection also includes articles she wrote about Jacobson and art in general. Other items available are six oversized scrapbooks compiled by d'Ucel that include newspaper clippings and magazine articles about the couple, exhibit and event programs, and other items related to their work.

The Oscar B. Jacobson Collection (M1985.109, seven boxes) is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please email [research@okhistory.org](mailto:research@okhistory.org) or call 405-522-5225.

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



**Monroe Tsatoke, Jack Hokeah, Steven Mopope, Oscar Jacobson, Spencer Asah, and James Auchiah, c. 1930**  
(21144.4.53.0, Oscar B. Jacobson Collection, OHS).





## OHS receives grant from Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council

By Angela Spindle

The OHS is working to make the Oklahoma History Center and our OHS museums and historic sites more welcoming and inclusive environments.

The Oklahoma History Center formed an accessibility and inclusion advisory committee in 2017. Members include museum educators, developmental disability advocates, OHS Research Division staff, exhibit curators, and Visitor Services staff. The group is committed to developing strategies to make the Oklahoma History Center and our OHS museums and sites accessible to all members of our community.

An initial needs assessment of the History Center revealed a lack of support for patrons with less visible disabilities, such as mental or sensory function and hearing or visual impairments. To help alleviate some of these barriers, the OHS applied for funding from the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council. This grant was used to purchase sensory assistive items and accommodating computer software.

Staff members and volunteers are undergoing training on disability awareness and how to support our guests. Visitors to the History Center will have access to complimentary sensory bags that include noise canceling headphones, fidget toys, weighted lap blankets, and sunglasses. The bags will be available for check out at the Admissions Desk. Low vision computer software and accessories are now available in the OHS Research Center.

Soon, staff at almost all 26 OHS museums and sites will have been trained and have sensory assistive technology available for guests to use. Look for updates and details about future projects in upcoming issues of *Mistletoe Leaves*.

*Angela Spindle is the development and membership coordinator in the OHS Development and Special Projects Division.*

## Hugo Lake and Sawyer Dam tour

On Saturday, May 11, the Second Saturday Demo at Fort Towson Historic Site will take to the road. Participants will meet at 1 p.m. at Fort Towson and then proceed to the Hugo Lake Dam near Sawyer for a tour of the inner workings of this water control structure. Chris Lynch will guide visitors on this unique experience.

For more information about the event, please call John Davis at 580-873-2634 or email [jdavis@okhistory.org](mailto:jdavis@okhistory.org). Fort Towson Historic Site is located north of US 70 near Fort Towson.

## Community Art Day brings Egyptian artifacts to Chisholm Trail Museum

Visit the Chisholm Trail Museum for the first Community Art Day on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to noon. Curators from the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art will provide hands-on art fun by bringing a little bit of their museum to Kingfisher. Participants will create a metal cartouche (an ancient Egyptian nameplate) and learn how to write their names in Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Mabee-Gerrer staff also will bring Egyptian artifacts for visitors to touch. All materials will be provided, and the activity is free while supplies last.

Founded in 1919, the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee is one of the oldest museums in the state of Oklahoma. Father Gregory Gerrer, for whom the museum is named, was a Benedictine monk of considerable artistic talent. During Father Gerrer's travels to Europe, Africa, and South America, he collected objects of artistic and ethnological value.

The Chisholm Trail Museum is located at 605 Zellers Ave. in Kingfisher.



## Golf fundraiser for Pioneer Woman Museum

On Saturday, June 1, Lew Wentz Memorial Golf Course in Ponca City will be the venue for the annual Pioneer Woman Golf Tournament, a four-man scramble benefitting the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue.

Registration begins at 7 a.m., with an 8 a.m. start time. The event ends at 1 p.m. Registration is \$50 per person, \$200 per foursome, with carts and lunch included. Extra tournament contests include longest drive and closest to the pin, each for \$5 per person, and 150 yard par 5 for \$20 per team. And for those who need it, you can purchase two mulligans for \$10!

To register for the tournament, please contact Kelly Houston at the Pioneer Woman Museum at 580-765-6108 or register online at [www.pioneerwoman-museum.com](http://www.pioneerwoman-museum.com). All proceeds will be used for maintenance and programming at the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.

## May Day Celebration at Hunter's Home

It is once again time for the annual May Day Celebration at Hunter's Home! This event will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year visitors can enjoy cooking, gardening, house tours, fiber arts, and many farming activities. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$4 for students ages 6-18. Children 5 and under are free. Veterans are also free with military ID.

Hunter's Home, a National Historic Landmark, is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill.

## Tour de Quartz exhibit at Museum of the Western Prairie

From May 25 to June 30, the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will host *Tour de Quartz*, a selection of artwork created by Oklahoma high school students during the 2018 Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain. The exhibition of 20 photographs and 19 paintings will be on display in the First Gallery of the museum.

During their two-week residency at Quartz Mountain, students are immersed in one of eight artistic disciplines and taught by nationally renowned artists. Abstract painter Geoffrey Todd Smith served as drawing and painting instructor. Photojournalist and filmmaker Paul Taggart, whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *National Geographic*, led the photography students.

The Museum of the Western Prairie is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus. For more information, please call 580-482-1044.

## Okietales at Oklahoma History Center

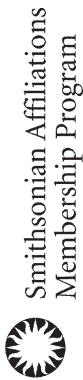
Join the Oklahoma History Center for Okietales, a storytelling and craft time for children ages five to nine, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Wednesday in June and July, except July 3. Kids will listen to a story about Oklahoma, then make a related craft. The cost for Okietales is \$4 for nonmembers and \$2 for members.

Dates for Okietales are June 5, 12, 19, and 26 and July 10, 17, 24 and 31. The program will take place in the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store. For more information contact the Oklahoma History Center Education Department at [education@okhistory.org](mailto:education@okhistory.org) or call Carrie Fox at 405-522-0791.

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

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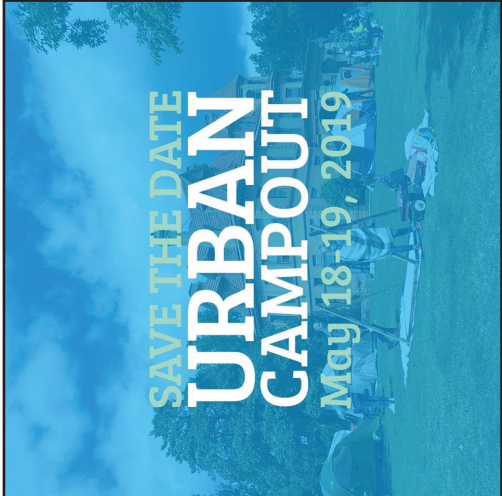
## History of aprons on display at Sod House Museum and Museum of the Western Prairie



Two OHS museums will host exhibits exploring the history of aprons. Both the Sod House Museum in Aline and the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will feature their collections of aprons and use them to tell the story of domesticity in the twentieth century. In conjunction with the Sod House Museum exhibit, Margaret Goss of Carmen will present a lecture entitled “Vintage Aprons: Tie One On” at the Sod House Museum on Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m. Goss’s lecture will draw attention to the new exhibit by discussing the history of the aprons on display. She will present a style show of aprons during the program.

“Apron Strings: Ties to the Past” will be on display through May 25 at the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus. Although taken for granted by many social and art historians, the apron is the subject of a fascinating reevaluation in this popular ExhibitsUSA exhibition. Featuring vintage and contemporary examples, the exhibition chronicles changing attitudes toward women and domestic work. It surveys the wide range of design and craft techniques apron-makers have used to express themselves, while still working within creative venues traditionally available to women.

Be sure to visit both of these wonderful exhibits! The Sod House Museum is open Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. The Museum of the Western Prairie is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus.



Join Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., for an Urban Campout on the grounds of the Henry Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, and concluding at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 19. 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 \$100 per campsite, which includes space for up to six people or a six-person tent (or smaller). Camper vans and RVs are welcome as well. Attendees will be provided with all the fixings for favorite campfire foods including hot dogs and s’mores, along with juice and donuts for the morning. If you are interested in only visiting for the evening, there is a \$50 dinner option for a family of four. All funds raised from Urban Campout will go toward the maintenance and upkeep of the Overholser Mansion.

Preservation Oklahoma also will host its fourth annual summer fundraising party, Summer Soiree, on Saturday, June 15, at 7 p.m., presented by Engel & Völkers Oklahoma City. Summer Soiree also is made possible thanks to Charleston Level sponsors Cherokee Nation and the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

Taking place on the lawn of the Overholser Mansion, the Summer Soiree will include live music by Born in November; dancing; drinks from COOP Ale Works, Prairie Wolf Spirits, and Thirst Wine Merchants; heavy hors d’oeuvres; and a raffle, as well as all the glitz and glamour of the Roaring ’20s. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased [www.preservationok.org/summer-soiree](http://www.preservationok.org/summer-soiree).

Sponsorship opportunities available. This event is co-chaired by Carissa Stevens and Sarah Jordan. For more information, please contact Cayla Lewis at 405-525-5325 or [director@preservationok.org](mailto:director@preservationok.org). All proceeds benefit the work of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., including its stewardship of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion. The Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW 15th St. in Oklahoma City.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is the state’s only private, nonprofit membership organization that is dedicated to promoting, supporting, and coordinating historic preservation activities throughout the state. More information can be found at [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org).

