



OKPOP and Greenwood Cultural Center to host panel discussion on Image Comics's *Bitter Root* to commemorate centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre

To commemorate the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) and the Greenwood Cultural Center are partnering to host a panel discussion focusing on the award-winning *Bitter Root* comic book series on Wednesday, June 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The program will begin with words from Dr. Stevie Johnson, educator with the Bob Dylan Archive, and Mechelle Brown, program director for the Greenwood Cultural Center. The panelists will include the writers, artist, and editor of *Bitter Root*, published by Image Comics.

This free event will be held virtually, as well as open to a limited number of in-person attendees at the Greenwood Cultural Center, located at 322 North Greenwood Avenue in Tulsa. Due to the limited in-person seating, we strongly recommend attending online. To reserve an in-person seat, please call Mechelle Brown at 918-596-1026. Visit www.okpop.org or follow OKPOP on Facebook at @OKPOPTulsa for more details on how to watch this panel discussion online.

Created by David F. Walker, Chuck Brown, Sanford Greene, and edited by John Jennings, *Bitter Root* exists in a fictional world that merges Afrofuturism, steampunk, historical narrative, and horror. The series follows the Sangerye family as they hunt monsters transformed by hate, fear, and racism. The comic book series has won numerous awards including the 2019 Ringo Award, Entertainment Weekly's Best New Series of 2019, and the 2020 Eisner Award for Best New Series. The Eisner Award is one of the highest accolades in the comic book industry. In 2019, Legendary Studios purchased the rights to a film

adaptation of the comic book. *Black Panther* and *Creed* director Ryan Coogler is slated to direct the project.

Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.



Bitter Root covers featuring the art of Mike Mignola

OKPOP unveils new website

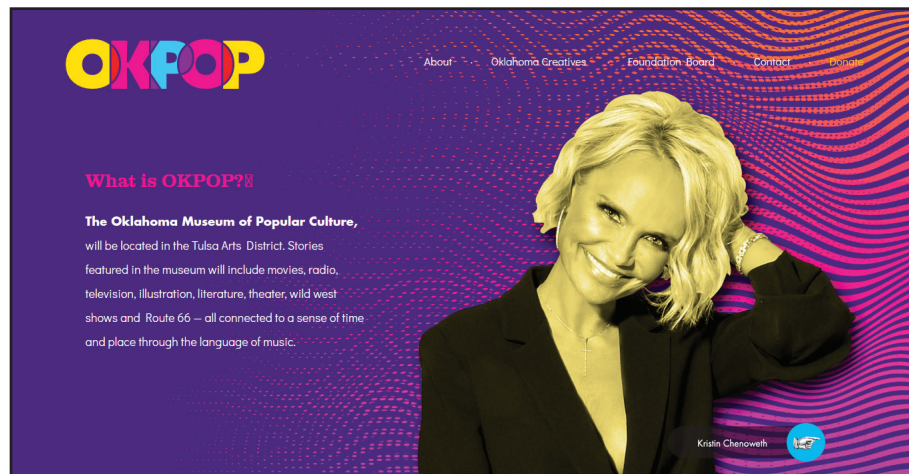
The Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) recently launched a colorful and interactive website that allows visitors to see, hear, and read about Oklahoma creatives. Through this new website, users can learn about some of the incredible, creative people connected to Oklahoma who have contributed to pop culture around the world. Every category of entertainment included on the website carries a convenient, alphabetical listing of featured artists. Whether looking for a movie star or a musician, artist biographies on the new website come to life

through portraits of the individuals and images of artifacts that help to tell their story. Groovy graphics and interactive maps direct users to discover fascinating Oklahoma connections to pop culture.

As an added bonus, the website also has a sneak peak of architectural renderings of what the three floors of the museum will contain. Visitors expecting a traditional museum experience will be amazed to discover the plan for this pop culture playground has been designed to be explored in ways beyond sight and sound. OKPOP exhibits and gallery spaces will make use of modern technology along with interactive play places to create an ever-changing museum experience that encourages guest participation and return visits.

OKPOP collects, preserves, and shares the state's pop culture artifacts and collections through four core programs: the OKPOP experience, community outreach, research archives, and education. The mission of OKPOP is to inspire new generations of artists, musicians, and storytellers to impact the world through the powerful force of creative expression by showcasing the legacy of Oklahoma artists and their influence on popular culture. OKPOP carries out its mission under the direction of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

OKPOP will be located in the Tulsa Arts District.





Director's Column

**By Trait Thompson
Executive Director**

As I sat down to contemplate this month's column, the first thing that came to mind was how welcoming everyone has been to me in the past few months. Many of our OHS members, volunteers, and staff have gone out of their way to voice their support and encourage me. I relish the new responsibility I have been given and look forward to leading this illustrious organization into its next era. To that end, I thought it would be beneficial to explain some of my priorities for the OHS, both in the short and long term.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we cannot rely solely on people walking onto our property to learn Oklahoma history. We must find new ways to share Oklahoma's fascinating story with people beyond our walls and even beyond our borders. This is the reason I have initiated a project to enhance our social media presence across all of our OHS sites. By creating engaging content that educates, edifies, and entertains, we will draw more people into our orbit. In today's world, social media is the platform many people turn to first to plan trips, interact with people of similar interests, and learn new subjects.

Along those lines, we have relaunched our podcast, *A Very OK Podcast*. In future episodes, we will explore the underreported and underrepresented history of Oklahoma in a fun and engaging way.

I was quite pleased when Dr. Bob Blackburn agreed to be my cohost on this new venture. We had a great time recording our first episode, "Women in Broadcasting," in which we interviewed Joyce Jackson, the first Black woman to host a local television show in Oklahoma.

Since I came on board, I have been working extensively with the staff at the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP). OKPOP is our most high-profile project, and ensuring a successful opening in 2022 is among my highest priorities. While OKPOP Executive Director Jeff Moore and his staff have been collecting artifacts, planning the exhibit areas, and developing the future operations and programming elements, I have been working with legislators on authorizing a \$13-million bond issue to allow us to finish construction of the building, install the exhibits, and provide operating funds after it has opened. Thankfully, with the bond obligation for the Oklahoma History Center expiring in 2024, we can assume the debt service payments on the new bonds in a revenue-neutral manner.

As we take a long-term view of the OHS, I will be focusing on addressing our deferred maintenance issues across our many sites. We currently have almost \$21 million in maintenance needs. Having spent six years on the restoration of the State Capitol, I am aware of the impact unaddressed maintenance issues can have on our many properties. To put our best foot forward and ensure the longevity of our resources, it is imperative that we act now. I am committed to working with our partners in the legislature to ensure that this does not become a beast we cannot tame.

I want to thank you again for the warm welcome and words of encouragement. The continued support means so much as we tackle the tasks before us.



OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson and former OHS Executive Director Bob Blackburn

Oklahoma Historical Society reboots *A Very OK Podcast*

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) has released the first two episodes of its reboot of *A Very OK Podcast*. In this fresh version of the podcast, new OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson and former Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn explore the interesting stories and fascinating personalities that make up Oklahoma's unique history.

In honor of Women's History Month in March, the first episode in this reboot—"Women in Broadcasting"—explored the early days of television broadcasting in Oklahoma with a special focus on the role of women. The hosts welcomed Joyce Jackson into the studio for an in-depth discussion about her experiences as the first Black woman on one of Oklahoma's local television stations. The second episode, released in April, focused on Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center.

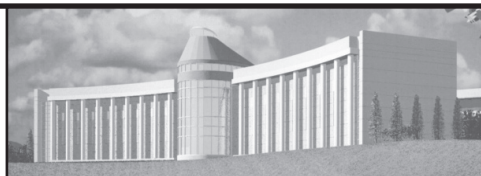
A new episode of *A Very OK Podcast* will be released monthly. Listeners can subscribe and download episodes from Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon. It is also available on the OHS website at www.okhistory.org/podcast.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, interest in Oklahoma's Black history is increasing. Tulsa will be opening the Greenwood Rising museum to tell the story of the state's African American history, focusing on the North Tulsa community. Oklahoma City voters approved funding for the Clara Luper Freedom Center, which will share Oklahoma's Civil Rights struggle. The majority of Oklahoma's remaining All-Black towns can be found between these two cities. They are in the unique position to capitalize on this increased tourism, but they need resources to take advantage of the opportunity.

The OHS has an opportunity for donors to direct their gifts to this cause. The Shirley Ballard Nero Endowment Fund is an endowment held at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation that was created to benefit Oklahoma's 13 remaining All-Black towns. Please consider contributing to the endowment to create exhibits, programming, and enhancements for these towns to attract tourism. In turn, the towns will benefit from this opportunity to share Black history and collect tourist revenue. You can donate online at www.okhistory.org/support/endowment or send a check to us at the Oklahoma History Center. If you have any questions, call me at 405-522-6676 or email lodell@okhistory.org.



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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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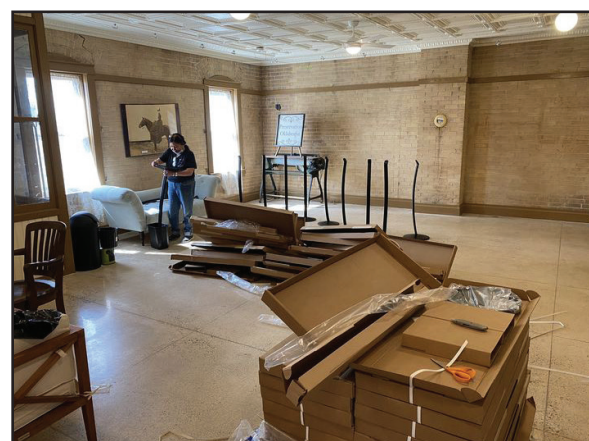
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May events

- 1 Milliner (hat-making) class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1 Natural Dye workshop, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 8 Will's Barter Bash, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 11 "Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act" SHPO workshop (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office
- 12 "Oklahoma Archeological Survey and Section 106" SHPO workshop (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office
- 13 "Archaeological Survey Forms and Field Work" SHPO workshop (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office
- 14 "Section 106 and Tribal Consultation" SHPO workshop (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office
- 15 Family Day at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 15 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Tea and Talk at Horizon Hill: Women and the Wild West Shows, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 18 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring John Wooley, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 28 Movie Night featuring Will Rogers in *Doubting Thomas*, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 *A Place for All People: Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture* exhibit closes, Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie

Preservation Oklahoma receives grant

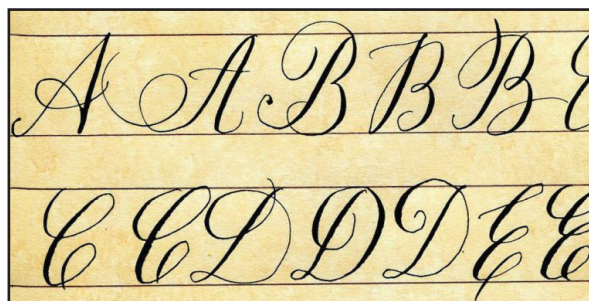
Preservation Oklahoma received an Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant from the OHS. The grant will be used for exhibit improvements at the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion. As the opulent property, first built in 1903, approaches its 120th year, these funds will be used to help enhance the visitor experience, including the addition of new informational signage. The new panels will allow greater access to rooms and will give visitors the option to take a self-guided tour. For more information about the mansion visit www.preservationok.org or www.overholsermansion.org.



Overholser Mansion Museum Coordinator Lisa Escalon prepares new sign holders.

June events

- 5 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 Pioneer Family Fun Day, Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, Ponca City
- 12 Will's Barter Bash, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 16 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring Mike Martin, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 19 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Family Day at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 21-23 Will's Wild West Kids Camp, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 23 *Smoke Over Oklahoma: The Railroad Photographs of Preston George* exhibit closes, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 23 Movie Night featuring Laurel and Hardy in silent movie shorts by director Hal Roach, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 26 Brush Calligraphy class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



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



Will's Wild West Kids Camp

Grab your lasso and join the fun at Will's Wild West Kids Camp June 21-23 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) in Claremore.

Will's Wild West Kids Camp will transport participants back in time to the Wild West with hands-on activities in a fun and entertaining learning environment. Kids will have the opportunity to participate in nature programs, crafts, period dancing, 19th-century games, and much more. A chuck wagon lunch is included.

The camp is for ages 5-12, and preregistration is required. The cost for the camp is \$30 for WRMM members and \$45 for nonmembers. The deadline for registration is June 13.

For more information or to register for the camp, please visit www.willrogers.com. The WRMM is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore.



Sod House Museum unveils McCully bronze

The Sod House Museum near Aline will host a celebration to unveil a bronze sculpture of the sod house builder, Marshal McCully, at an Open House on Saturday, May 15, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Renowned sculptor and painter Burneta Venosdel created the likeness of McCully and will be on-site for the unveiling of her bronze sculpture, which she is donating to the museum to pay homage to local settlers and her own pioneer roots. In 2015 she presented a program at the museum explaining the techniques of her sculptural process. It was then that she was inspired to create the sculpture of McCully. "As a sculptor, my subject matter is connected to my upbringing and pioneering roots in northwestern Oklahoma," said Venosdel. "I am driven to express myself and record these subjects in bronze." A portion of the sales from Venosdel's recent exhibit of sculptures at the museum benefitted the Friends of the Sod Museum.

Marshal McCully lived in his sod house for 15 years, although most sod houses did not last as long. Thanks to the efforts of preservationists, the "soddie" is still standing after 127 years. The Friends of the Sod House Museum will celebrate this milestone with refreshments, door prizes, and a quilt giveaway. For more information contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441.

Family of Jennie Ross Cobb donates photographic glass plates to OHS's Hunter's Home



Hunter's Home, a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) located in Park Hill, recently received a donation of 37 photographic glass plates from turn-of-the-20th-century Indian Territory.

"What makes this donation so special is that they were created by Jennie Ross Cobb, a noted Cherokee photographer and our first caretaker," said Shirley Pettengill, former director of Hunter's Home and a current volunteer at the site.

"Jennie lived in the home and developed many of her glass plates in one of the closets," said David Fowler, director of Hunter's Home. "Some of the images were already in

the Oklahoma Historical Society collections, but some are new to us. Jennie started taking photographs around 1896 and continued until around 1903, leaving a showcase of what life was like for affluent Cherokees in the late 19th and early 20th centuries."

Jennie's nephew, Robert Bruce Ross IV, donated these plates, returning Jennie's glass plates to the place of their origin. Assisting in facilitating this wonderful donation were Jennie's grandson, Cliff Biggers, and a cousin, Gayle Ross. As a child, Biggers lived on-site with his grandmother. He also donated a ledger used by Jennie at Hunter's Home.

Jennie lived with her family at Hunter's Home from 1894 until 1900, when she graduated from the Cherokee Female Seminary and became a teacher at various rural schools. She married in 1905 and moved to Texas, where she ran a floral shop and her husband, Jesse Clifton "J. C." Cobb, worked as an oil field engineer. Jennie and J. C. had one daughter, Jenevieve, in 1906. J. C. died in 1940, and when Jenevieve died in 1945, Jennie took her two grandchildren, Jennifer and Cliff Biggers, to raise. In 1952 Jennie left Texas with her grandchildren and returned to Park Hill and Hunter's Home. The State of Oklahoma had purchased the home with plans to restore it and open it to the public. Jennie served as the caretaker for the Murrell Home, as the State of Oklahoma named it, from 1952 until her death in 1959.

Using the photographic images taken during her family's years at Hunter's Home, Jennie guided the restoration work. The images documented how the house and grounds looked when she lived there, as well as the original furnishings that remained.

"Jennie's images have been invaluable as we work to re-create life in the 1850s at Hunter's Home," said Fowler.

"We are especially excited that this donation came to us during March—Women's History Month," said Trait Thompson, executive director of the OHS. "Jennie Ross Cobb was among a select few amateur and professional women photographers who recorded life in Indian and Oklahoma Territories. The advent of dry-plating and lighter equipment starting in 1888 attracted more women to the hobby that no longer required noxious chemicals and heavy equipment," continued Thompson.

Pioneer Family Fun Day

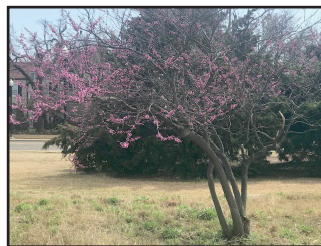
Join the fun this year as the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue celebrate the old-fashioned way with Pioneer Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is family friendly event will include old-fashioned games and crafts, Dutch oven cooking, hands-on activities, and more.

The museum's education center features craft demonstrations, special exhibits, an interactive timeline, and the Pioneer Woman Walk of Fame.

For more information about any of the upcoming events at the Pioneer Museum and Statue, please call 580-765-6108 or visit www.pioneerwomanmuseum.com. The Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue are located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.

Volunteer efforts beautify OHC exterior exhibits

The Oklahoma History Center Red River Journey and Meinders Foundation Heritage Gardens compose a relaxing, one-quarter-mile walking tour that replicates the Red River Valley along Oklahoma's southern boundary. A wonderful exploration of our state's historical landmarks, the Red River Journey offers visitors a sample of Oklahoma's diverse terrains as well as its indigenous trees, flowers, and plants. The garden is tended by incredible volunteers supervised by Jeanetta Cooper with her primary assistant, Sandy Johnson.



Friends of Rentiesville Blues Inc. to preserve rich musical heritage

The Oklahoma Historical Society is proud to announce that the Friends of Rentiesville Blues Inc. has been awarded a grant through the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

"I am thrilled that the Friends of Rentiesville Blues Inc. will be receiving funding through the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program," said Senator Roger Thompson of Okemah. "With this grant, they will be able to move forward in preserving the rich history of Oklahoma."

The Friends of Rentiesville Blues Inc. has been awarded \$7,500 that will be used to identify, copyright, digitize, create lyric and cord sheets, and make publicly accessible the music archive of Oklahoma blues legend D. C. Minner. The organization, which hosts both the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame and the annual Rentiesville Dusk 'Til Dawn Blues Festival, hopes to educate current and future generations about the history of blues music.

"The D. C. Minner Rentiesville Museum/Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame are thrilled to be recipients of an Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant," said Selby Minner, head of staff. "Thank you to the Oklahoma Historical Society and the legislature. As a museum and hall of fame, and having presented 30 years of festivals in the historic Black township of Rentiesville, we have an extensive music and photo archive. Accessibility to people in these difficult times with the isolation of COVID-19 makes digitizing very important."

A total of just over \$460,000 in grant funds will be distributed, with projects ranging from collections care and exhibit development to strategic planning and educational programming. The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program is a grants-in-aid program offered by the Oklahoma Historical Society with a goal of encouraging the collection, preservation, and sharing of Oklahoma history at the grassroots level in all parts of the state. Open to tribal and municipal governments and not-for-profit historical organizations located in Oklahoma and registered with the Oklahoma secretary of state, this grants program offers funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for projects focused on collections, exhibits, and programming. Applications for this annual program open in the fall and award announcements are made in January. For more information visit www.okhistory.org/grants.



New Oklahoma National Register listing



Brockway Community Center

May is Preservation Month, and to celebrate the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce an additional National Register of Historic Places listing for Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

The Brockway Community Center was listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance for its connection to the area's Black history. Its period of significance—beginning in the year 1968—aligns with the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs' purchase of the building at 1440 North Everest Avenue in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, to serve as its new permanent home. This recognized the ongoing work of the group and its continuing importance to the African American community. The purchase of this substantial property represented the culmination of significant efforts begun in 1911 with the formation of the Oklahoma City chapter of the organization. Operating under the statewide organization's slogan "Lifting as We Climb," the club used the Brockway Community Center as its headquarters to provide valuable services to young Black women and children, improve the quality of life in local Black neighborhoods, and advocate for racial equality. The 1968 purchase provided the club with a base for its important activities, which continued in the building until its sale in 2011. The Brockway Community Center remains the only extant building in Oklahoma City directly affiliated with the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

The State Historic Preservation Office is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society.



CSRHC reaches 10-year milestone

On April 1, 2021, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid celebrated 10 years of telling the fascinating story of the Cherokee Outlet. Thousands of visitors have been through the doors of the museum to learn more about the development of northwest Oklahoma, both before and after the Land Run of 1893.

Through interactive exhibits, events, programs, and research resources, the CSRHC makes learning a fun and engaging experience for all ages. At the museum, five state-of-the-art galleries explore the history and development of the Cherokee Outlet. On the grounds, visitors can explore the Humphrey Heritage Village, a group of historic buildings including an 1893 US land office, the 1896 Turkey Creek School, a 1902 church, and the 1905 Glidewell House. These historic structures are used for living history programs, like the History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip living history series. The museum has many in-person and virtual programs—such as Ask the Archivist—that allow guests to look inside the various jobs and operations of a working museum while learning more about the history of the area.

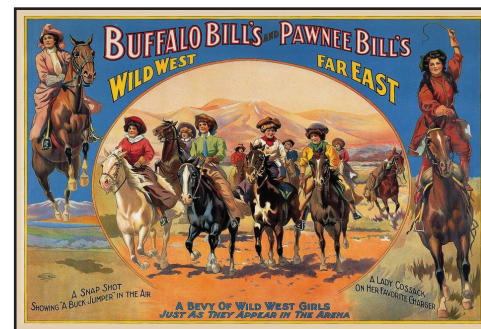
The CSRHC is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid. Visit, join, and connect to the CSRHC at www.csrhc.org and on social media (Facebook and Twitter @CSRHC, and Instagram @cherokeestriprhc).



CSRHC's History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip living history reenactor Katherine Staerkel portrays a pioneer in a period kitchen on the Cherokee Outlet.

Mask-wearing policy

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, all visitors, staff, volunteers, contractors, and vendors are required to wear face masks in public areas of OHS museums and sites. We still recommend calling the OHS museum, site, or affiliate you are planning to visit to confirm opening hours and event times. Please consult the OHS website at www.okhistory.org for any changes to this policy.



Chisholm Trail Museum to host Tea and Talk

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will host Tea and Talk at historic Horizon Hill on Saturday, April 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guests will be treated to a variety of traditional teas and snacks in the parlor of Horizon Hill, Territorial Governor A. J. Seay's home. During the event, Dr. Alyce Webb will speak on the topic of women and Wild West shows. Webb is a professor of history at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa.

The cost for this event is \$15 per person. Preregistration is required, and space is limited. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your place. The Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.

Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief aids collection efforts

When annual revenues for the Museum of the Western Prairie (MWP) in Altus went down 30 percent over the past year due to the global pandemic, the museum was glad to receive an Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grant thanks to Governor Stitt and the Oklahoma Arts Council. With this assistance, the staff will be able to continue serving the community through special arts programs and much-needed collections care. The grant has made it possible for staff, volunteers, and board members to rehouse artifacts in archival-quality materials and expand database records. Follow the MWP on Facebook at @MuseumWesternPrairieAltusOK to see unique artifacts uncovered in this new venture.



Staff members Melissa Sims and Tianna Fish and Board Member Kathy Bayers of the MWP say "Thank You!" for the grant.



Smoke Over Oklahoma exhibit at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will host a traveling exhibit, *Smoke Over Oklahoma: The Railroad Photographs of Preston George*, from April 23 to June 23, 2021. This collection of 25 black-and-white images represents the railroad photographs taken by Preston George during the 1930s and 1940s.

George photographed trains in his spare time while working as a civil engineer in Colorado and Oklahoma. Born in 1906 in Indian Territory, George's interest in trains began at an early age but did not culminate into a full-fledged pastime until the 1930s.

"I ran across a copy of *Railroad Stories*, later renamed *Railroad Magazine*, and saw the many photos of locomotives and trains," said George in an interview during his lifetime. "This started me on a new hobby. . . . Soon, I was snapping still pictures of locomotives with a cheap Kodak camera and trading them far and wide with other fans."

Smoke Over Oklahoma will be on display at the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum during Pawnee's annual Oklahoma Steam Threshing and Gas Engine Show, scheduled for May 7–9. Visitors to the ranch can see the power of the steam locomotives in George's images, then attend the show to witness a working steam traction engine and steam sawmill in person. For more information, please call 918-762-2513 or email pawneebill@okhistory.org.

Will's Barter Bash

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) has come up with a great reason for you to clear out your closets and spend an afternoon enjoying the museum grounds! On the second Saturday of each month beginning May 10 and ending October 9, the museum will host Will's Barter Bash, a free event where children can trade toys, games, or other fun items without spending a penny. Set up a blanket next to the sunken gardens and start bartering! No registration is required. The WRMM is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore.

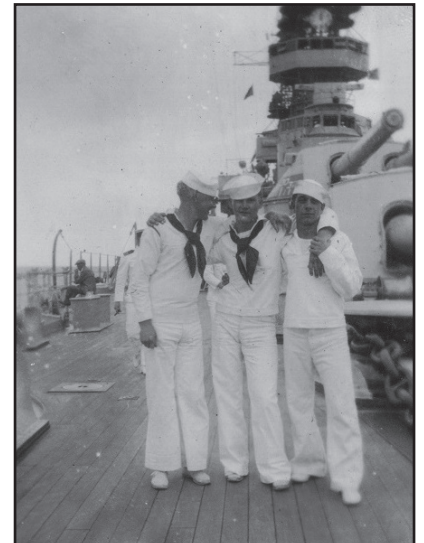
From the OHS Archives: Oklahoma War Memorial Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

1940 was a pivotal year in US history. The lingering effects of the Great Depression were felt keenly by the tens of thousands of Americans who remained unemployed. France fell to Nazi Germany in June. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt viewed with alarm the unrest abroad and the economic struggles at home. A solution to both problems was the peacetime conscription, or draft, of soldiers for the US military. On September 16, 1940, the US government enacted the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940. This act required men between the ages of 21 and 36 to register with their regional draft boards. After the bombing at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and entry of the United States into World War II, Congress amended the act, expanding the criteria for possible military duty to include men between the ages of 18 and 45 years old, and requiring all men to register who had not yet turned 65. Eventually more than 500,000 of Oklahoma's men and women served in uniform, and 5,474 gave their lives in service to their country.

The Oklahoma War Memorial Collection contains material on Oklahomans killed during World War II. The collection, arranged by name, has newspaper clippings, obituaries, and personal information provided by families. Another portion of the collection contains newspaper clippings arranged by county with articles about soldiers who were missing in action, descriptions of war bond drives, and a small number of US government press releases and books. The Oklahoma War Memorial Collection (M2004.001, 29 boxes, 28 boxes of card files) is available for viewing at the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Please note that all visitors are required to wear masks. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, an appointment is required. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org. (Photo: USS *Oklahoma* crew members on deck, left to right: C. L. Cates, E. Mican, and W. L. Ives)

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



SHPO to host workshops

Join the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS), and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Tuesday through Friday, May 11–14, 2021, as they share information about submitting a successful Section 106 project for review.

May's workshops are two-hour sessions that will run from 10 a.m. to noon. The entire workshop series will be online, and the live sessions will have ample opportunity for questions and discussion. To register for these virtual workshops, visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshopregistration.

The workshops are as follows:

- Tuesday, May 11, "Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act": SHPO staff will review the basics of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This review also will include a summary of how to submit projects for review. This program will be presented by Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Lynda Ozan.

- Wednesday, May 12, "Oklahoma Archeological Survey and Section 106": Oklahoma Archeological Survey staff will review how to submit archaeological data to OAS, as well as how to utilize its research. This workshop will be presented by State Archaeologist Dr. Kary Stackelbeck.

- Thursday, May 13, "Archaeological Survey Forms and Field Work": OAS staff will discuss how to complete the survey form and lead a discussion on field work. This workshop will be presented by Assistant State Archaeologist Dr. Deb Green.

- Friday, May 14, "Section 106 and Tribal Consultation": The Oklahoma Department of Transportation will lead a discussion on how to complete tribal coordination for Section 106 purposes. This discussion is specific to the ODOT approach and includes some of its best practices. This workshop will be presented by ODOT Tribal Coordinator Dr. Rhonda Fair.

Contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo for more information about these workshops and other offerings from the SHPO.



A woman's place

A new landing page on the Oklahoma Historical Society website that focuses on women in Oklahoma's history is now available to the public.

The rich resource delves into the topic of women from prestatehood to the present. Equipped with online tools for research, this feature of the OHS website makes it easy to locate biographies of notable women and women's organizations of various eras. The webpage tells the captivating stories of female civic leaders, politicians, and trailblazers of the territorial era and early Oklahoma.

Many women are central to the stories of OHS museums and historic sites. Multiple sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places and historical markers that tell the story of women in the state's history are offered as useful links. A long list of audio and video productions and many articles from *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* featuring women are also a part of this collection. The public can also explore the deep contributions of female musicians, poets, authors, actors, artists, and performers who came from the state of Oklahoma. Visit www.okhistory.org/womenshistory to learn more.

Will Rogers Memorial Museum Roper graduates

The group of folks pictured below recently passed through the intensive docent training program at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) in Claremore to become official museum "Ropers." Ropers are the elite volunteer staff of the WRMM who welcome visitors, serve as museum tour guides, point out places of interest, and answer questions about the exhibits and Will Rogers.

After 14 training sessions, this group and other seasoned volunteers are ready to provide visitors with the resources they need to enjoy a visit to the museum. If you possess an eagerness to meet, greet, and chat with people from all over the world, join the fun and meet new people by entering the Roper program at the WRMM.



Thompson and Blackburn road trip to sites

When Trait Thompson left his position restoring the Oklahoma State Capitol and began as executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society in January, he never could have imagined his transition into the position would begin with a road trip with retiring director Dr. Bob Blackburn, who served the OHS for 41 years.

The two spent one month traveling by car to visit many of the museums and historic sites under OHS management. With an idea to continue the work of shepherding these historic properties into the future, Thompson could not have been in better company for the ride. Equipped with a keen understanding of Oklahoma's history, Dr. Blackburn told the story of each site's unique history and background. While they exchanged information, the two made their way across Oklahoma's landscape to meet with a number of directors, volunteers, and board members connected to each facility.

"It was amazing to be with Dr. Blackburn for a whole month," said Thompson, noting that few agency directors are fortunate enough to have such a long period of transition. Oklahoma is Thompson's adopted home, and his new position overseeing the direction of the Oklahoma Historical Society will allow him to explore the state with deep interest.



Trait Thompson, pictured the with resident schoolmarm of Rose Hill School at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry.

OK National History Day

This year, the Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) junior division contest will be held Wednesday, May 5, and the senior division contest will be held Thursday, May 6, 2021.

The OkNHD program not only teaches students about history, it encourages them to participate in history! The student projects are entered into competitions in the spring at regional, state, and national contests where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. Each May students from across Oklahoma compete in the state finals. The program culminates in the National History Day Contest held at the University of Maryland at College Park each June.

Oklahoma Centennial Farm and Ranch Program

In 1989 the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry established the Oklahoma Centennial Farm and Ranch Program to recognize those families that have continuously occupied their land and carried out farming or ranching operations for at least 100 years. More than 1,600 families have received recognition through the program. Additionally, historic structures awards are given if four or more buildings or structures more than 50 years old remain on the land. This award helps identify historic buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects associated with Oklahoma's farming and ranching industries and has led to the listing of farms and ranches in the National Register of Historic Places.

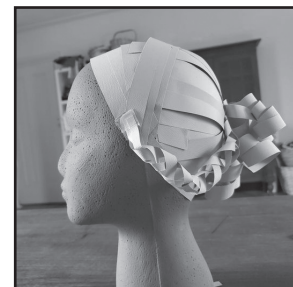
To establish if your family may have a historic property, the State Historic Preservation Office has property and genealogy questionnaires to assist you. Those eligible can consider becoming a part of the Centennial Farm Families Oral History Project. An interactive map of Centennial Farms and Ranches can be found on the SHPO's page on the OHS website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/frsearch.php.

The Oklahoma Historical Society receives and reviews program applications throughout the year. For further information, contact Shea Otley at 405-522-4485 or sjotley@okhistory.org.

Virtual offerings bring 19th century to life

If you are not able to visit Hunter's Home in person, the next best thing might be a virtual visit! While staff members are busy with tasks on-site, they also have an

active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube that offers a variety of fun and educational material online. Informative videos, location tours, and seasonal activities are just a part of the online offerings at Oklahoma's only remaining antebellum plantation home. If you have ever wanted a behind-the-scenes tour, or to deepen your understanding of 19th-century life, this content is available online to be viewed at your convenience. The staff is using modern technology to help you imagine what life was like on this Cherokee Nation plantation of the 1850s. Follow @huntershomeok on Facebook, @hunters_home_ok on Instagram, and search Hunter's Home Historic Site on YouTube.



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Mistletoe Leaves

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Tip of the Spear dedication at the OHC

In observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) hosted a ceremony to honor those who served in the US Armed Forces during the Vietnam War on Monday, March 29, 2021. Governor Kevin Stitt spoke at the event, along with Major General Michael Thompson, retired Major General Rita Aragon, retired Brigadier General Pete Costilow, and Michael Do, representing the Vietnamese American community. Vietnam veterans were in attendance to view the opening of *Tip of the Spear*, a new outdoor exhibit featuring a Huey helicopter. Retired US Army Captain Bob Ford, donor of the Huey and a former Huey pilot, dedicated the new exhibit.

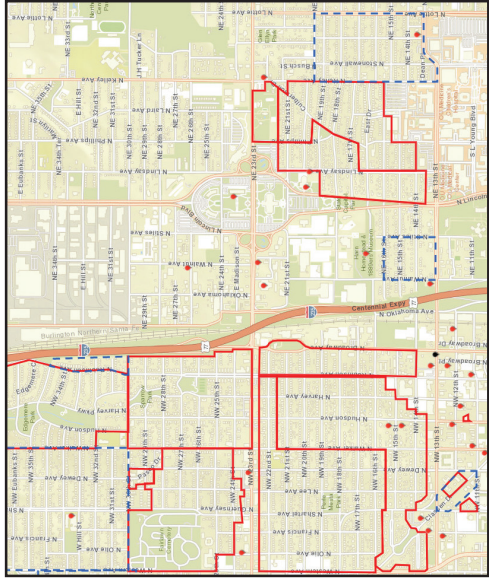


Governor Kevin Stitt and retired US Army captain Bob Ford joined a large crowd for the dedication.

March 29 was designated National Vietnam War Veterans Day in 2017. The date was chosen to commemorate March 29, 1973—the day when the last US combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam. *Tip of the Spear* is an outdoor exhibit is centered on a Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter—better known as a Huey helicopter—one of the most recognizable icons of the Vietnam War. This Huey was featured in the recent OHC exhibit *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*, and has now been moved outside for permanent display.



ArcGIS specialist develops new maps to show information in SHPO’s collection



In 2019 the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) hired its first full-time ArcGIS specialist, Marcus Young. Young manages and analyzes geographical information, including developing and maintaining GIS databases based on existing and incoming data. He refines the SHPO data through the use of quarter-section maps, plat maps, aerial imagery, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. Young’s work is an excellent way to visually represent the information in the SHPO’s collection.

Most recently Young used data from the Oklahoma Main Street program to overlay those designated communities on the existing online mapping (found on our interactive map at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nationalregister.htm). He will soon also be adding a layer to the map that denotes the historically All-Black town locations. Along with the All-Black towns layer, Young is also working, in conjunction with many others throughout the agency, on a GIS storyboard for the historically All-Black towns that will be unveiled soon. Keep an eye out on the SHPO social media announcing its availability.