



Mistletoe Leaves



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Artifacts including the pick axe used in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Oklahoma Capitol in 1914; an Indian Territory delegate ribbon depicting Theodore Roosevelt worn at the 1904 Republican National Convention; and a beaded, satin inaugural ball gown worn by Cathy Keating in 1995 are just a few of the items now on display at the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum.

Capitol Museum opening

This spring, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) opened the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum, a state-of-the-art gallery space created in the Oklahoma State Capitol as part of the Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project. It is located on the ground floor near the new primary public entrance on the south side of the Capitol. The Oklahoma State Capitol Museum contains 4,400 square feet of exhibit space and 13 exhibit cases, featuring more than 125 artifacts relating to the history of the Oklahoma State Capitol and the work of Oklahoma's state government.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in the ground floor rotunda of the State Capitol on March 22. OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson, Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, and Oklahoma History Center Director Dan Provo were at the proceedings to introduce the new features found within the museum. The unique story of the Oklahoma State Capitol is told through a five-minute custom animation that is projected



A family explores the interactive exhibit features of the Oklahoma Capitol Museum.

takes a special pride in the completion of the gallery, which he says "will provide a key educational component to the Capitol for visitors from around the world."

The exhibit was designed by Cameron Eagle of Ink Ranch Inc., with research, writing, and installation by staff from the OHS. Admission to the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum is free to all visitors. The museum will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Oklahoma State Capitol is located at 2300 North Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

Pawnee Bill cannon returning home

Since 1951 the cannon used by William "Buffalo Bill" Cody and Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie in their Wild West Show has been on display at the Oklahoma Historical Society headquarters in Oklahoma City. It was first displayed outside the original OHS building at 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, and then at the new Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive. After more than 70 years in Oklahoma City, the cannon will return to the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee.

According to Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum Director Ronny Brown, the Model 1861, three-inch ordnance rifle was cast in 1863 at the Phoenix Iron Company in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. The gun reportedly saw service in several Civil War battles, including Missionary Ridge, before Pawnee Bill acquired it for use in the Wild West Show. After the Wild West Show, the gun found a home on the front lawn of Pawnee Bill and May Lillie's mansion. Shortly before Pawnee Bill died in 1942, he gifted the gun to his longtime friend and publicist, Frank Stuart. The carriage was in bad shape and continued to deteriorate as the gun sat in Stuart's backyard in Oklahoma City for many years. Stuart died in 1950, and under his will the cannon was left to the OHS in 1951. The OHS had a new carriage built for the cannon, and has displayed it in Oklahoma City ever since. Now the gun is set to return home to the front lawn at the Pawnee mansion.

The OHS is providing \$15,000 in matching funds toward the \$30,000 needed to restore the carriage, build a suitable exhibit space, and move the cannon to Pawnee. "This has been a dream of the local community for many years, and we are so excited to be working on plans to make it happen," said Mona Denney, president of the Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association. "We are launching a fundraising drive to raise the \$15,000 needed to complete the project. This will be a big attraction for the ranch, and we can't wait to see it back home on the mansion lawn."



"We are very pleased to be working with the community of Pawnee to bring the cannon back to the ranch," said Trait Thompson, executive director of the OHS. "The project includes placing a flagpole near the cannon and lighting the front of the mansion and the cannon display. The cannon will be placed on a concrete pad with exhibit panels to tell the cannon's story. Also included in the project is a new sidewalk to ensure the display is accessible to everyone," continued Thompson.

The Pawnee Bill Ranch was once the showplace of the world-renowned Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie. Pawnee Bill and May Lillie's 14-room mansion, completed in 1910, is filled with Lillie family memorabilia, photographs, and original artwork. The 500-acre ranch property located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee is home to a herd of bison, longhorn, and several draft horses. If you are unable to visit, consider making a donation by calling the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum at 918-762-2513.



Director's Column

By Trait Thompson
Executive Director

In April, I gave the “State of the Oklahoma Historical Society” speech at the annual Meeting of the Membership. My perspective comes with 15 months on the job, where I have been shepherded by the members of our board and guided by an incredible staff, who have thankfully embraced me as the new leader of the organization.

While this job has been incredibly challenging, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has also been very gratifying. The future of the OHS is bright—the organization is emerging stronger after weathering years of budget cuts and the effects of a worldwide pandemic.

I am particularly encouraged by the visitation and earned revenue numbers we are seeing at OHS museums and sites across the state, which are improving in 2022. Visitation at the Oklahoma History Center is also seeing an upward trajectory.

In our State Historic Preservation Office, we are projecting to process 30 National Register of Historic Places applications this fiscal year, and have seen the completion of the restoration of the First National Building. By the end of FY 22, the Research Division will have scanned 2 million pages of newspapers for a lifetime total of 6 million pages. Our team is also projected to have a total of 1.1 million photos scanned.

Key initiatives that have been launched since last year fall into several categories.

Along with our division directors, we have created outcome-based success statements and agency goals, and introduced of a set of nine guiding principles for all OHS employees. A new onboarding process for employees was developed, and a new logo and branding will update the look of the agency. This will be reflected in agency publications and the OHS website later in the year.

Many of you may know that this past March, the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum, a state-of-the-art gallery space in the Oklahoma State Capitol, was finally completed and is now open to the public.

A new film, funded by the Inasmuch Foundation—*The Battle of Honey Springs*—premiered last July, and now is showing at the site on a daily basis. The reboot of *A Very OK Podcast* continues to draw positive feedback from new listeners and Okies alike.

This year our social media team was assembled to facilitate learning sessions at sites across our state. Seeking to connect with a more diverse group of Oklahomans, we created a new Multicultural Office to help to build relationships in communities and culture groups across the state.

At our museums and sites, Fort Gibson and Fort Towson Historic Sites will be celebrating 200th anniversaries in 2024. We are currently in the planning stages of creating commemorative and educational activities throughout that year. The OK-POP team is at work creating educational experiences and planning the installation of exhibits.

OHS has had an incredible year and I am very proud of our wonderful staff who continue to pursue excellence at every turn. Ours is an agency filled with people who are passionate about sharing Oklahoma’s unique and fascinating history.



OHS field trip grants

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) has opened applications for the Oklahoma Transportation Grant program, a new field trip transportation grant program for Oklahoma schools. The purpose of this program is to increase the accessibility of external learning opportunities for Oklahoma students so that they may form connections on subjects intrinsic to our state’s history. Funding for this program was appropriated to the Oklahoma Historical Society through Senate Bill 1081 in 2021 for the purpose of providing schools with grants to facilitate access to Black history and Civil Rights education outside of the classroom.

This program will provide funding for kindergarten through 12th grade classes to visit specific institutions in Tulsa or Oklahoma City. Locations include the Greenwood Cultural Center in Tulsa, Greenwood Rising in Tulsa, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum in Oklahoma City, the Freedom Center & Clara Luper Civil Rights Center (upon completion of renovations and construction) in Oklahoma City, and the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

All schools and teachers in the state are welcome to learn more and apply for the Oklahoma Transportation Grant by visiting www.okhistory.org/historycenter/transportation-grant.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society has many ways for its constituents to provide financial support. Each of our museums and sites accept donations to further their missions. The OHS Research Division has several programs and projects that benefit from contributions. Donors also can give to the many OHS endowments, including the newest: the Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment. These endowments earn 5 percent of the corpus every year and benefit specific programmatic areas of the OHS.

Another, relatively new, opportunity is supporting the Friends of the Multicultural Office. The OHS hired Saidy Orellana as its new multicultural officer to work in conjunction with this 501(c)(3) advisory and fundraising board to expand the OHS’s outreach to the many cultural communities throughout the state that are underrepresented in our collections and programming. This will include expanding OHS membership, building collections, conducting oral histories, and serving as a resource for all OHS museums and sites. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at lodell@okhistory.org or 405-522-6676.



Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office
405-522-5242
ohsmembers@okhistory.org

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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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OHS May events

- 6-8 Museum After Dark: Gaslight Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7 *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* exhibit closes, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 7 Birthday Bash and Archaeology Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 7 Blacksmithing and Wheel Setting Demonstrations with Tom Nelson, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 7 "Fleece to Fabric" sheep shearing event, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 7 Milliner (hat-making) class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 8 *Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry* exhibit closes, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 9-12 Section 106 workshops (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 10 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 13-14 Museum After Dark: Gaslight Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Second Saturday Demo: Herb Gardening, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 16 *Becoming Fearless* exhibit opens, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16-17 University of Oklahoma Summer Field School Excavations, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 16-17 Working with the National Register of Historic Places workshops (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 18-20 Tax Credits for Certified Rehabilitation of Historic Structures workshops (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 18 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring the Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project with Trait Thompson, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 20-21 "Beans to Bullets: Frontier Foodways" living history demonstration, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 21 Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 21 Volunteer Training Day, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 21 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid

- 21 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 27 Movie Night featuring *Field of Dreams* (1989), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 27 "History and Hops: Masonic Temples in Oklahoma" presentation by T. S. Akers, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 27-28 "Leather Footwear" living history demonstration, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson

OHS June events

- 1 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit opens, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 4 *All Aboard: Examining the Orphan Trains* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 4 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 Museum After Dark: Village Sounds, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 Pawnee Bill Days, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 11 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Homecoming activities at Fort Towson, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 18 Pioneer Family Fun Day and Craft Fair, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 18 Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 18 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 18 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch: 19th-Century Baseball Game, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 20-22 Will's Wild West Kids Camp, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 21 Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 22 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 23 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring Lynn Riggs film *A Day in Santa Fe* (1931), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 24 Movie Night featuring *Route 66: An American Odyssey* (1995), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 25 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 28 "Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma" webinar series (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 30 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit closes, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy



Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch

On the third Saturday of the month from spring through early fall, visit the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch for Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This series of events will be the place to see and purchase locally handcrafted and homemade items such as saddles, cowboy hats, tack, boots, and a variety of work created by local artisans. Admission is free. Be sure to come to Will's Cowboy Trader Days on May 24 and June 18.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at Will's Cowboy Trader Days, please visit www.willrogers.com/vendor-form to complete and submit the application. The Will Rogers staff reserves the right to refuse any vendor, and space is limited. Vendor spots for this event are \$10 per day and must be paid before the event.

For more information about Will's Cowboy Trader Days, contact the staff at 918-341-0719 or wrinfo@willrogers.com.

ARPA grant to fund Living Legends project

In 2021 the OHS secured an IMLS/ARPA grant through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for \$10,000. The funds were earmarked for the purpose of digitizing 200 reels of the OHS's Oklahoma Living Legends oral history audio archive. The majority of the collection is held on reel-to-reel audio tape recordings, which is a process of recording that is becoming obsolete. To save the recordings for posterity, each reel of the collection has to be individually digitized and enhanced with software that captures the recordings as mp3 files. With 1,700 reel-to-reel tapes and approximately 2,100 interviews in total, the work of capturing just 200 reels will take as long as a year for Archival Collections Manager Mallory Covington to oversee.

The collection of interviews originally began as an effort by Oklahoma Christian College (now Oklahoma Christian University) to preserve the voices of pioneering Oklahomans with the intention that future generations could hear directly how the state's "cities were carved from wind-swept plains." The collection was transferred to the OHS Audio and Oral History Archives in the 1980s. Those interviewed include average citizens, politicians, rodeo riders, astronauts, television personalities, merchants, industrialists, oilmen, statesmen, businessmen, and artisans.

Listen to select interviews from this collection on YouTube by visiting www.okhistory.org/livinglegends.

Oklahoma Capitol Restoration presentation

On Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m., the Will Rogers Memorial Museum will host a special program for its monthly Thursday Night Lecture series. Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Director Trait Thompson will give a talk about the Oklahoma State Capitol Restoration Project. Before becoming executive director of the OHS, Thompson was the project manager of the project. He will discuss the history of the Oklahoma State Capitol and how this monumental restoration project was achieved.

A question and answer session will take place after the lecture. For more information, please call the Will Rogers Memorial Museum at 918-341-0719.



HISTORY and HOPS

“History and Hops” at the Overholser Mansion will provide a perfect after-work gathering for you to learn about the historic architecture of Oklahoma while sipping a local brew!

On Friday, May 27, from 6 to 8 p.m., T. S. Akers will give a presentation on Masonic temples in Oklahoma. Akers is a resident of Oklahoma City and a citizen of the Muscogee Nation. He is the curator of collections for the McAlester Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, and was recently elected to the OHS Board of Directors.

Beer, water, and light snacks will be provided. This program is free for Preservation Oklahoma members and is only \$5 for nonmembers! Members and nonmembers can secure tickets online at www.preservationok.org/shop.

Homecoming activities

Visit Fort Towson Historic Site on Saturday, June 11, to celebrate the town of Fort Towson’s homecoming. The day’s activities will begin with a morning homecoming parade through downtown Fort Towson. The festivities move to Fort Towson Historic Site midday, where guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and listen to a live band. Children’s games and a pony express race will make this a fun event for the whole family. A barbecue lunch is available for purchase. The Fort Towson Homecoming will end with a street dance. Call 580-873-2634 for more information.

Oklahoma National History Day

This year, the Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) junior division contest will be held at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) on Wednesday, May 4, and the senior division contest will be held Thursday, May 5. Each year thousands of Oklahoma students participate in the OkNHD program. OkNHD is a part of National History Day and a highly regarded academic program for students grades 6–12. More than 750,000 students across the country participate every year! 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. For information about OkNHD, contact Sarah Dumas, OHC director of education, at sdumas@okhistory.org or 405-522-0785.

Guided tours begin at Honey Springs

Honey Springs Battlefield is pleased to announce a unique tour opportunity at the site. Students from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) will serve as tour guides on the six trails that cross the 1,100-acre battlefield on Saturday, June 25, as well as three Saturdays in July: July 2, 16, and 23. This series of tours coincides with the annual memorial of the battle on July 16 at 10:30 a.m. The students will point out the exact locations of military actions, highlight key aspects of the engagement, and discuss its historical importance.

Normally, the park and its six trails are self-guided with a total of 55 trail markers. Through a special historical interpretation course taught by Dr. James Finck at USAO, students will travel approximately three hours from their classroom in Chickasha to serve as tour guides at Honey Springs Battlefield. Already trained about the battle and the trails during the class, these students will add to the overall visitor experience by interpreting key elements of the engagement in the environment where the events occurred.

For more information regarding the tours and Honey Springs Battlefield, please email honeysprings@okhistory.org or alynn@okhistory.org, or call 918-617-7125. Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Checotah.



Will’s Wild West 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 or call 918-341-0719. The WRMM is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore.



Vintage Snack Sets

The Fred and Addie Drummond Home in Hominy will feature *Vintage Snack Sets*, a temporary exhibit, throughout the month of June. From the 1940s to the 1970s, women often entertained at home by hosting teas, coffees, or church socials. On these special occasions, they would wear their Sunday best and bring out pretty snack sets that included a plate with a round indentation to hold the matching cup. This exhibit will include pieces by manufacturers such as Anchor Hocking, Hazel-Atlas, the Indiana Glass Company, Royal Windsor, Queen Anne, and Royal Albert.

The *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit is included with the regular admission fee. Groups of more than eight are not being scheduled at this time. For further information, please call 918-885-2374. The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy.

OHS names new Multicultural Officer Saidy Orellana



The OHS is proud to announce that Saidy Herrera Orellana has accepted the role of OHS multicultural officer.

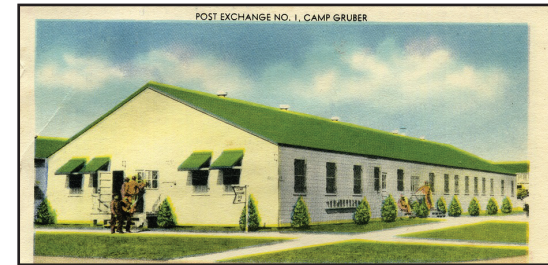
The Oklahoma Historical Society has established a Multicultural Office and a supporting Friends group to create a more diverse and inclusive state historical narrative that will fully represent and engage all Oklahomans.

As the multicultural officer, Orellana's primary responsibility will be to develop program and outreach initiatives focused on Oklahoma's diverse heritage and historically underrepresented communities. "One of my personal characteristics is inclusivity," said Orellana. "Every single experience, locally and abroad, has

equipped me with the skills to interact with various communities. Bringing people from multiple backgrounds together to highlight the attributes of their people, cultures, and traditions is one of the many ways to be inclusive. I firmly believe that all humans are created equal; therefore, having the opportunity to support or create paths where we can value each other, and include everyone in the big picture, is a dream come true. I am looking forward to identifying those individuals who share this sense of togetherness, to create a greater good," she continued.

Prior to joining the Oklahoma Historical Society, Saidy was part of the pioneering team that launched the Heritage Academy-Bilingual Program at Epic Charter Schools, later serving as the school system's Hispanic programs and services specialist.

In her new role with the OHS, Orellana recently collaborated with the Asian Youth Empowerment Conference in OKC.



From the OHS Archives: Camp Gruber Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Japanese navy launched an attack on Pearl Harbor. The next day the United States declared war on Japan. On December 11, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy declared war on the United States, and the United States issued a reciprocal declaration on the same day. Following these events, the United States accelerated efforts to prepare for full mobilization, planning to increase the number of military personnel from approximately 200,000 to 6,000,000.

The dash to establish military bases to support the war led to the construction of Camp Gruber east of Muskogee, which was built with lightning speed by 12,000 civilians and completed in May 1942. The camp had over 1,700 buildings including barracks, hospitals, mess halls, administration buildings, recreation buildings, warehouses, 12 chapels, and 4 movie theaters serving 35,000 military personnel and thousands of civilian employees. At its peak, Camp Gruber was the largest civilian employer in eastern Oklahoma. In 1943 it was announced that Camp Gruber also would house German prisoners of war, with a capacity of 5,750 men. In 1947, two years after the end of the war, the camp was deactivated, and many of the buildings were either moved or destroyed. In 1967 the Oklahoma National Guard established Camp Gruber as a training base for field exercises.

The Camp Gruber Collection (2009.075, digital only) contains scanned documents from 1942 to 1992 with the main focus on the World War II era. Newsletters, booklets, telephone directories, War Department Technical Bulletins, inventories, and manuals are available. The collection can be accessed online from the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division at www.okhistory.org/research/manuscripts or accessed at the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Appointments to view the material are encouraged. 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.

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

NEH grant award is dedicated to digitizing OHS African American collections



Recently, the Oklahoma Historical Society was awarded a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for an expansive African American collections digitization project.

Joy Tucker joined the Oklahoma Historical Society as the African American collections digitalization grant project coordinator in January 2022. She works with OHS Archival Collections Manager Mallory Covington and the OHS Multicultural Office in identifying African American archival collections and prioritizing collections to digitize. She is committed to raising awareness of Black history across the state of Oklahoma.

Tucker obtained a bachelor of arts in history/museum studies with a minor in graphic design from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2019. Before the OHS, she worked as a visitor experience associate and completed an ArtTable 2021 fellowship with Oklahoma Contemporary. Her project was related to the programming that marked the 100th Year of Remembrance of the Tulsa Race Massacre. She was also instrumental in creating a public viewing experience for Howardena Pindell's *Rope/Fire/Water*, and other curatorial tasks. Tucker interned twice with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. She aspires to incorporate Afro-diasporic

and African arts and culture within national museum institutions.

Braden Melton also was hired as a part-time imaging specialist to begin digitizing collections for the project under Tucker's supervision. Once scanned, materials will be made available free to the public on the OHS's digital portal, The Gateway to Oklahoma History (gateway.okhistory.org).

More than 20 OHS African American collections have been identified for digitization. These include collections from: Clara Luper (Civil Rights leader), Currie Ballard (historian), Lincoln County Black School Records (1918-1928), Hannah Atkins (politician and delegate to the United Nations), Kevin Cox (politician), Jake and Joan Diggs (educators), Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher (Civil Rights and community leader), Bruce Fisher (historian, community leader, and son of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher), F. D. Moon (educator), Kendrick Moore (collector), Jimmy Stewart (Civil Rights leader), St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, Tulsa Race Riot (Massacre) Commission, Zella Patterson (educator), Winner Williams (comic strip), and the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. In addition, there are portions of larger collections that relate to African American history, including the I. W. Young papers in the John Dunning Political Collection.

Tucker's goal is to make these collections more accessible and eventually to provide easier access to museums and partners across the state for loan requests and reproductions.



Wheel Setting Demonstration

Visit the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a special blacksmithing demonstration in the art of wheel setting. In addition to activities held in the blacksmith shop, the museum's resident blacksmith, Tom Nelson, will be demonstrating the advanced art of setting of a wagon wheel and a buggy wheel. The wheel setting demonstrations will be held at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The wheelwright's craft goes back thousands of years, and was essential in an age of wagon use. They were skilled in the art of building and repairing wooden wheels. There are many steps in the construction of heavy wheels, including the finishing touch of adding a metal ring or "tire" to tighten the wheel and ensure its stability. The metal piece is added when it is heated, so as it cools and shrinks, the spokes tighten and the wooden joints of the wheel come together.

This educational event is free to attend, but donations are appreciated. The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. For more information about activities and exhibits at the museum, please call 580-336-2405.



#ExploreOHS Travel Contest has a winner!

We are excited to announce that J. P. Williams of Oklahoma City is the winner of our first-ever #ExploreOHS Travel Contest! The contest took place March 10, 2022, through April 10, 2022. Participants traveled to OHS sites across the state and shared their photos on social media—competing to see who could visit the most sites. Williams visited nine OHS museums and historic sites during the month-long contest, and was declared the winner on April 11, 2022. He won a prize pack of OHS swag and got to name a baby bison at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum. The name he selected was J. P. Jr. For more info about future contests, follow us @okhistory on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

SHPO to hold virtual workshops in May

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host virtual workshops about Section 106, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures in the month of May. All sessions for each workshop in each series will take place from 10 a.m. to noon.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides that federal agencies must consider the effect of their undertakings on archaeological and historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Section 106 workshop series will have sessions from Monday, May 9, to Thursday, May 12.

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO's programs, and a basic understanding of the NRHP is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. The workshop provides detailed information about the NRHP criteria, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more. Working with the National Register of Historic Places workshops will be held on Monday, May 16, and Tuesday, May 17.

A virtual, three-session workshop series centering on tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures will be held from Wednesday, May 18, to Friday, May 20. In this series, participants will learn about the federal and state investment tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure.

For more information or to register for classes, please find these events and specific workshop content for each session on the OHS website calendar at www.okhistory.org/calendar/ohs. To register, please contact Tifani Darata at tdarata@okhistory.org or 405-521-6249. You may also register online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops. Log in information for the workshops will be sent the day before the workshop is scheduled to begin.

Interactive *From Institution to Inclusion* exhibit

A new, interactive exhibit is on display in the Kirkpatrick Research Center, located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. *From Institution to Inclusion: The History of disAbilities in Oklahoma* explores digital images of the institutions, legislators, and citizens who fought to break down barriers for the disabled; the organizations making a difference today; and self-advocates who continue to lead the charge for change.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore historical items from OHS collections, including ledgers from the Cherokee Insane Asylum dating to 1879, an iron lung used for treating polio, and examples of the evolution of prosthetics and assistive devices. The exhibit offers a unique, hands-on experience in which visitors can move their fingertips across the lines of a braille textbook, use a weighted blanket, and become acquainted with modern, daily-living assistive devices.

This exhibit was made possible through a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, and will be on display through August 31, 2022.



One of three new lambs born at Hunter's Home this spring. Mother and newly named "Ewenice" stand side by side in their split-rail fence enclosure.

"Fleece to Fabric" sheep shearing event

Hunter's Home in Park Hill will host its "Fleece to Fabric" sheep shearing event on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors can observe the Hunter's Home staff as they shear the site's flock of heritage Merino sheep from 10 a.m. to noon. Other wool fiber arts activities like dyeing, spinning, and the various techniques of processing wool also will be demonstrated throughout the day until 4 p.m.

Hunter's Home is the only remaining antebellum plantation mansion in the state of Oklahoma. Formerly the home of Minerva Murrell, niece of Chief John Ross, it was the site of an 800-acre plantation in Cherokee Nation. Today, staff members are in the process of turning it back into a 19th-century farm, utilizing period tools and techniques to maintain the site in a manner similar to farms and plantations of the 1800s. At Hunter's Home, visitors can experience living history interpreters demonstrating 19th-century trades, chores, cooking, gardening, and crafts throughout the spring and summer. A kitchen garden, field crops, orchards, animals, and a mercantile store give visitors a window into life on a pre-Civil War Cherokee plantation.

For more information about this program, please call 918-456-2751, email huntershome@okhistory.org, or follow Hunter's Home on Facebook.

Stone and bank barns

On Tuesday, June 28, at 6 p.m., Dr. Brad Bays of Oklahoma State University will make a presentation titled "Use of Stone and Bank Barns in Oklahoma." This is the third program of the 2022 "Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma" webinar series that takes place on the last Tuesday of every other month at 6 p.m. The webinars are limited to the first 100 registrants. To register online for this and other webinars taking place through the State Historic Preservation Office, visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/webinars. For further information, please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249.



Living history activities at Fort Gibson

Fort Gibson Historic Site will host two living history programs in May to educate visitors on subjects ranging from foodways to the making of footwear.

When Fort Gibson was established in 1824, it was then the westernmost military outpost of its day. With 300–500 troops stationed there, the fort was a supply point and bustling center for trade activity of settlers, fur traders, and Indian Territory nations due to its location along the old Texas Road and the steamboat traffic that passed nearby on the Arkansas River.

On May 20–21, visit the site to attend the living history demonstration "Beans to Bullets: Frontier Foodways," which will explore how soldiers, settlers, and pioneers of Oklahoma had to gather, hunt, grow, and prepare food to sustain their lives on the frontier. Guests will learn about the practice of preserving salted meats and preparing hardtack. Visitors will also tour the wood-fired bake house still in operation at the fort today.

On May 27–28, a second living history demonstration will show visitors how leather footwear was made and will display examples of other leather goods that were gathered through trade at the site.

Both of these programs will take place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The programs are free with paid admission, which can be purchased at the commissary located at 907 North Garrison Avenue or at the office located within the palisade grounds. Call 918-478-4088 for more information.

Historic Preservation Fund project suggestions

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office, under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archaeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archaeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$933,000 from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

The SHPO's Statewide Preservation Plan, now available for years 2020–2024 at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan, sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the state plan's goals are continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples, and extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's FY 2023 activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through the SHPO website (or through hard copy by request). The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year, but will only be considered for the next funding cycle that is available (the SHPO is governed by the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1–September 30). Visit the SHPO website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion. Contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.



Museum After Dark: Gaslight Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest*



In May, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) will host five special performances in partnership with the Gaslight Theatre of Enid. Players will perform an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* using all of the buildings of the CSRHC's Humphrey Heritage Village as their stage.

Wilde's classic, first performed in 1895, is a delight as Jack Worthing's double life as "Ernest" catches up with him. The problems are resolved in an extremely charming and quite unexpected way as Jack and his friend, Algernon, discover the importance of being earnest while answering to the name of Ernest.

Performances will be held on May 6–8 and 13–14. To buy tickets to the performances go to the Gaslight Theatre website at www.gaslighttheatre.org.

The Gaslight Theatre of Enid was founded in 1966. It is one of Oklahoma's oldest and most active community theatres. For more information about this partnership event between CSRHC and Gaslight Theatre, please call the CSRHC at 580-237-1907.

Family Days at the Birthplace Ranch

Now that the warmer months are upon us, the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch will once again be hosting Family Days on May 21 and June 19. Through 19th-century hands-on activities, crafts, games, and demonstrations, visitors will get a glimpse of what life was like in the early days of the ranch during Will Rogers's childhood. Families also can enjoy hayride tours and mini hikes at the Birthplace Ranch.

In May the Country Fare Quilters will be on-site to give quilting demonstrations. In June, Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch will recreate a 19th-century baseball game, where families can watch from the stands and learn about the history of baseball. In July, members of the Lacemakers Guild will be demonstrating their lacemaking skills.

All of the Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch activities are free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated. Refreshments and food will be available for the baseball game in June. Please contact the staff of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch for more information by calling 918-341-0719.

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

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PERIODICALS

Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant awardees



The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is proud to announce that 42 organizations have been awarded a grant through the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Applications were submitted in November 2021 and, following a review by both an OHS staff committee and a subcommittee of the OHS Board of Directors, the following organizations were approved for funding by the OHS Board of Directors at the January quarterly board meeting:

95th Division Foundation; Bristow Historical Society, Inc.; Chisholm Trail Museum, Inc.; Claremore Museum of History; Delaware Nation; Drumright Historical Society Museum; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma; Five Civilized Tribes Museum and Center for the Study of Indian Territory; Freedom Center of Oklahoma City; Friends of the Murrell Home; Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association; Grady County Historical Society; Greenwood Community Development Corporation/Historic Black Wall Street; Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; Hooker Historical Society; Keystone Crossroads Historical Society; Lawton Public Library; LeFlore County Historical Society; McLoud Historical Society; Military History Center; Ntu Art Association of Oklahoma; Okeene Historic Preservation Group; Oklahoma Christian University, Beam Library Special Collections; Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center; Oklahoma Genealogical Society; Oklahoma Sports Museum; Oklahoma State Firefighters Museum; Old Greer County Museum & Hall of Fame Inc.; Peoria Tribe Of Indians of Oklahoma; Plains Indians & Pioneers Historical Foundation; Pottawatomie County Historical Society; Rogers County Historical Society, Inc.; Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum; Seminole Nation Museum; Southern Nazarene University; Stillwater History Museum at the Sheerar; Stroud Public Library; The Town of Colony; Top of Oklahoma Historical Society Museum; Tulsa Foundation for Architecture; and the Wynnewood Historical Society.

The total amount of funds that will be distributed this year is just over \$554,000, with projects ranging from collections care and strategic planning to exhibit development and educational programming. “Entering our third year of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program, the OHS is thrilled with the program’s success,” said Nicole Harvey, director of strategic initiatives and grants administrator for the OHS. “To date, the program has funded over 120 projects that are aiding with collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history for local communities across the state.”

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.



Pat Reeder inducted into
Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame

Pat Riley Reeder, who is the public relations director at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, was honored as one of ten journalists inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame at its 52nd annual induction ceremony, held at the Nigh University Center at the University of Central Oklahoma in late April. Reeder was recognized for her work as a longtime journalist in the community of Claremore. Many people may not realize that she also served as a photojournalist for the local newspaper, and especially enjoyed covering the activities of local schoolchildren.

“I am humbled by this honor,” said Reeder, who for many years was a reporter for the *Claremore Daily Progress*, eventually working her way to the position of executive editor. “Of all the awards the paper was recognized for over the years, the real reward for me was that people read the paper.”

After leaving the *Progress*, she then put her writing and people skills to work as the public relations director for the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

In addition to her 36-year journalism career, Reeder, a citizen of Cherokee Nation, assumes her honor with the backing of a grateful Claremore community. She has always been a willing volunteer and serves on boards for community causes with an emphasis on health and education. She continues to promote the robust programming at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch. Congratulations to Pat for joining the ranks of the outstanding journalists honored in the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame!