



Oklahoma  
Historical  
Society

# Mistletoe Leaves

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## *Taking Flight: Oklahomans Explore the Skies* exhibit now open to the public

On March 1, the Oklahoma History Center's (OHC) newest exhibit was unveiled in the Vose Atrium Gallery on the first floor of the museum, dedicated to Oklahomans who have contributed to all aspects of aviation—a tradition that carries forward and still impacts the economy of the state.

*Taking Flight: Oklahomans Explore the Skies*, now open to the public, includes artifacts that detail the history of aviation in the state. A World War II military flight jacket, a “Mae West” life jacket belonging to US Navy pilot Harry Hannah, bomb-sighting equipment, uniforms, aviation badges, and medals are on display. Large metal panels of retired World War II bombers displaying nose art with the words “Okie,” “Oklahoma Gal,” and “Cherokee Kid” recall a pride of service when military pilots nicknamed and hand-painted custom nose art on their planes.

Everything from flight manuals to children's toy planes can be viewed in exhibit cases meant to resemble the body of an airplane. Visitors can interact with touch screens depicting planes in flight, tracing aviation history and appealing to all ages.

Since the exhibit's grand opening, two prominent exhibit participation stations are already popular with guests: a custom mural by Manuel Cruz III where visitors can stage their own selfies in the basket of a hot air balloon and the “Sky Fighter,” a children's ride (pictured below) where little ones can pretend to have a shoot-out with aliens in the seats of a stationary rocket ship.

The exhibit was made possible through the generous sponsorship of the MD and Barbara Jirous Foundation, George and Nancy Records Foundation, Inasmuch Foundation, James and Teresa K. Day Foundation, and Friends of the Oklahoma History Center. The Oklahoma History Center is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.



The two-seater “Sky Fighter” is one of the free, fun, interactive components of the exhibit, designed as a reminder of children's coin-operated rides. A metal toy rocket ship and toy Friendship 7 capsule dot the displays of *Taking Flight*.



From left to right: Trait Thompson, OHS executive director; Mallory Covington, OHS archival collections manager; Chad Williams, OHS director of research; Michael Moore, director, Affiliated Archives Program USNARA; Pamela Najar-Simpson, national preservation program officer at National Archives II; Karen Whitecotton, OHS deputy director; and Laura Martin, OHS deputy director of research.



## US National Archives and Records Administration visits the Oklahoma Historical Society

On April 5, 2023, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) welcomed an in-person visit from the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

As a National Archives affiliate, the OHS goes through a five-year preservation review by NARA administrators. The focus of Michael Moore and Pamela Najar-Simpson's on-site visit was the agency's American Indian Records, which the OHS houses for the federal government. This included an in-depth meeting regarding oversight and management of archival collections, risk assessments, conservation concerns, and environmental monitoring.

OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson and several OHS Research Division staff members welcomed the visitors to the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center. OHS Deputy Director Karen Whitecotton shared long-range plans about the progress of migrating digital collections data from OHS museums and historic sites to combine with library and archival records.

In addition, the NARA professionals toured the facility to see the areas dedicated to artifact and archival collections storage. OHC Interim Director Jeff Briley gave a separate tour of the basement storage area of the OHC, which houses approximately 130,000 artifacts.

The hybrid meeting was joined virtually by NARA's Michael Knight, branch chief, research services, Research Room Operations; Mitch Yokelson, investigative archivist, NARA archival recovery team (both of College Park, Maryland); and Michael Wright, director, archival operations, NARA at Fort Worth.





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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By Trait Thompson

July 4, 2026, will mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. While that date seems to be in the distant future from where we now find ourselves in 2023, it is only a moment away for those planning events related to our country's semiquincentennial, nationally referred to as America250. Currently, 30 states have created commissions or committees to plan events and activities commemorating this important occasion. Oklahoma is one of six states in the process of creating a commission.

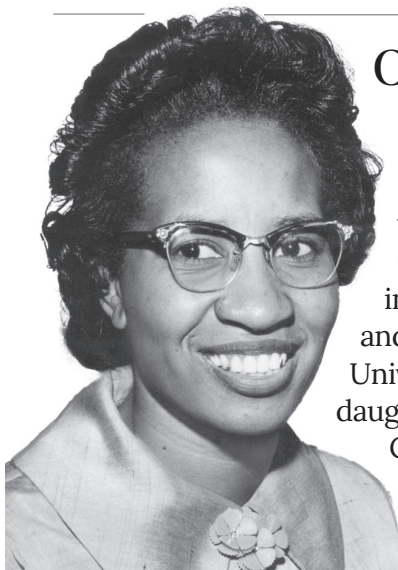
This legislative session, the Oklahoma Historical Society has requested the creation of the Oklahoma Semiquincentennial Commission through HB 1776 authored by Representative Kyle Hilbert and Senator Adam Pugh. The commission's charge will be to develop educational activities, spearhead commemorative and celebratory events, and hopefully inspire a new generation of civic engagement. There will be 25 members of the commission, with appointments by the governor, president pro tempore, and speaker of the house in addition to ex-officio members.

The bicentennial was America's last large commemoration in 1976. This was a pivotal time in American history—with the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War—that gave Americans a chance to refocus on our nation's founding values and rediscover those aspects of America that make

this country unique. America250 offers us similar opportunities. In many ways, we are as divided as we have ever been. This will be an opportunity to focus on our common purpose as Americans, determine how we can continue to enact the American values we all hold dear, and point toward the realization of the best version of the American dream for all our citizens.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend an America250 conference in Colonial Williamsburg hosted by the Virginia250 Commission. Representatives from 34 states were at the conference to exchange ideas and learn approaches for success in the planning effort. The opening speaker was Carly Fiorina, chair of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. In her remarks she said, "Our 2026 commemoration must be about far more than fireworks and tall ships. It cannot be celebrated by some, resented by others, and ignored by most. It must not be about 'red states' and 'blue states.' It must reflect our diversity while reinforcing our union. It must remind us why the privilege of American citizenship remains the cherished goal of countless people everywhere and reacquaint us with the responsibilities that come with citizenship."

In the end, the American Revolution was not so much about a war, it was about codifying a new set of ideas and infusing them into the system of government we now hold so dear. John Adams once wrote, "The radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution." In Oklahoma, we can make 2026 a time of celebration, reflection, education, inspiration, and aspiration. We have the opportunity to use the words of the founders as a measuring stick to gauge how well we have lived up to America's founding values and set a course for their full realization in the future.



## Clara Luper 100th birthday celebration

Educator and Civil Rights leader Clara Shepard Luper was born on May 3, 1923, in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. Her name is synonymous with the Civil Rights Movement in Oklahoma. On Monday, May 1, the Oklahoma History Center will host a Clara Luper Birthday Celebration in honor of her 100th birthday. The event will last from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include a discussion panel facilitated by Dr. Karlos Hill of the University of Oklahoma. Members of the panel will include Clara Luper's daughter, Marilyn Luper Hildreth, and members of the Clara Luper Legacy Committee. This event will focus on celebrating Luper's life and legacy—keeping her story alive for future generations. This event is free to attend, but registration is required as space is limited. For more information visit [okhistory.org/claraluper100](http://okhistory.org/claraluper100).



## White Hair Memorial

The eyes of the world have turned to Osage County with the publication of David Grann's book, *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, which details the gruesome true story of the murders of Osage Indians who were killed for their oil wealth and land by non-Indians. This book has now been made into a movie by Martin Scorsese that is set to be released in October 2023.

What cannot be forgotten in this Hollywood spotlight is the very real history behind the movie. One place to research that history is the White Hair Memorial. The memorial was officially opened to the public in 1987. It was the home of Lillie Morrell Burkhart, who made arrangements in her will for her home to become a center where researchers and the community could study the Osage way of life and its former chief, White Hair.

Mrs. Burkhart was a member of the Osage Nation and fluent in the Osage language. During her remarkable life, she was the first woman nominated as a candidate for Osage Tribal Council; accompanied the council to Washington, DC, as interpreter and secretary; and was a tireless advocate for education and cultural continuation. She is the only Osage to have an individual song in each of the three Ilonshka Drums. She traveled the world, acting as both an ambassador for the Osage community and the state of Oklahoma.

Collections at the White Hair Memorial include the Louis and Ruth Burns Research Library, which contains materials related to the study of Osage history and culture. These works encompass fields such as anthropology, archaeology, art, culture and folklore, genealogy, Indigenous languages, Indian law, literature by and about Osage people, government relations, geology including oil and gas mining in Osage County, and religion. Other collections include Osage oral history recordings and interviews, Osage ceremonial district songs, photographs, maps, and microfilm from the Osage Records from the National Archives and Records Administration.

To research topics related to the Osage Nation or Lillie Burkhart, schedule a visit to the White Hair Memorial. The memorial is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and appointments are encouraged. Please call 918-538-2417 to make an appointment. The White Hair Memorial is located at 4986 CR 5715, 10 miles west of Hominy.

Lillie Morrell Burkhart (Osage) was a tireless advocate for education and Osage cultural continuation.



Scott Petty, OKPOP foundation chair; Jeff Moore, OKPOP director; Charlene Ripley, wife of the late musician Steve Ripley; Blake Shelton; Abby Kurin, OKPOP Foundation managing director; and Trait Thompson, OHS executive director.

## Blake Shelton partners with OKPOP Museum

The OKPOP Museum announced that Blake Shelton partnered with the OKPOP Foundation to be an honorary campaign chairperson and the face of the OKPOP Foundation's fundraising campaign. The partnership will bring awareness about the project and encourage others to help raise the funds needed to complete the exhibit design, construction, and installation for a late 2024 opening date. Shelton got involved in the process when he heard more about OKPOP's mission to inspire and empower young Oklahoma musicians.

OKPOP also welcomed the band Journey into the museum for a press conference. Neal Schon, founder and guitarist of the band, signed a gift agreement and donated a guitar from his private collection. Deen Castronovo, the group's drummer, also gifted the museum a 50th-anniversary snare drum. After Journey's concert at the BOK Center, members of the OKPOP staff even got the opportunity to sit down with Neal Schon (pictured below) backstage for an interview to add to the OHS oral history archive. This is the beginning of an ongoing relationship, and Schon has promised to donate from his collection of 800 guitars in the future.



(Photo by Daniel Shular, Tulsa World)

Another event OKPOP was involved in was the sixth annual Will Eisner Comic Fest. OKPOP partnered with the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art to host the event, which celebrates the incredible legacy of Will Eisner, an extremely influential figure in the history of comics and graphic novels.

### UPCOMING EXHIBIT



## *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in WWII* exhibit opens

On Tuesday, May 9, the exhibit *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in WWII* opens at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid.

In the years leading up to World War II, racial segregation and discrimination were part of daily life for many in the United States. For most African Americans, even the most basic rights and services were fragmented or denied altogether. To be Black was to know the limits of freedom—excluded from the very opportunity, equality, and justice on which the country was founded.

Yet, once World War II began, thousands of African Americans rushed to enlist, intent on serving the nation that treated them as second-class citizens. They were determined to fight to preserve the freedom that they themselves had been denied. This is their story.

*Fighting for the Right to Fight* contains oral histories, profile panels, and artifacts. Visitors will discover the wartime stories of individual service members who took part in this extraordinary challenge, from unheralded heroes to famous names—including Alex Haley, author of *Roots* (US Coast Guard); Benjamin Davis Jr. (US Army Air Forces); and Medgar Evers (US Army). The exhibit will be open through the summer at the CSRHC until August 5. Call 580-237-1907 to learn more.



# OHS Calendar of Events

## May

- 1 Clara Luper 100th Birthday Celebration, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3–4 Oklahoma National History Day contest, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 Spring Agricultural Day, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 6 Blacksmithing and Wheel Setting Demonstrations with the Saltfork Craftsmen, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 6 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 8 “How to Research Your ‘Historic’ Property” (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 9 *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in WWII* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9 “How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form” (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 10 “Asian American and Pacific Islander Experiences: A Historical Journey,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 “Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act” (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 11 “Documenting Post-European Contact Archaeological Sites in Oklahoma” (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 12 Museum After Dark: Village Sounds featuring Grazzhopper, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 13 Carriage House Sit and Sew, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 13 “Chicken in the Mail: Union Army Camp Life” program, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 13 Second Saturday Sewing Circle, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 14 *Becoming Fearless* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 “Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program Overview” (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 17 “The Historic Preservation Tax Credit: A Case Study” webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 17 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Story Time at Hunter’s Home, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 20 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 Annual Picnic, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah

- 20 Kids Make History, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 23 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 25 *Built from the Fire* book discussion panel and signing with author Victor Luckerson, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 Movie Night: *The Sandlot* (1993), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 27 Scavenger Hunt, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 27 Hands-On Historic Skills, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 30–31 History Day Camp for Kids, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 31 *A. Day’s Work* art exhibit closes, Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie

## June

- 1 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit opens, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 1 History Day Camp for Kids, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 1 Hidden Oklahoma: “Geoarchaeology” presentation by Dr. Debra Green (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 3 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 3 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 Crochet a Market Bag workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 10 Carriage House Sit and Sew, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 10 Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 10 Second Saturday Sewing Circle, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 13–17 “2023 Enid Summer Chautauqua: American Aviation: Barnstorming to Mach 1,” Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 “Junteenth: Freedom Songs,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 Story Time at Hunter’s Home, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 17 “19th-Century Weapons and Tools of Survival” presentation by Seth Goff, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 17 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 Kids Make History, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 19–21 Will’s Wild West Kids Camp, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore



The Barn Quilt workshop at the Chisholm Trail Museum is back by popular demand this year with two sessions! Call 405-375-5176 to reserve your place on either June 21 or 22.

- 20 Youth Hand-Stitched Soccer Ball class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Metalsmith Spoon Ring for Teens, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Barn Quilt workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 21 “Lunch and Learn: Finding the Girls” (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 21 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 Barn Quilt workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 24 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 24 Hands-On Historic Skills, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 27 Metalsmith a Simple Ring, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 Sports Night at the OHC, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 *Wheels* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School , Perry
- 30 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit closes, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 30 Movie Night: *Sullivan’s Travels* (1941), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore



## “Chicken in the Mail: Union Army Camp Life” program

Visit Honey Springs Battlefield on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. for the come-and-go, Civil War-era program “Chicken in the Mail: Union Army Camp Life.” The program will be led by David Reed, Fort Towson Historic Site’s historical interpreter. Learn what camp life was like for Union soldiers during the four years of the American Civil War based on items that were exchanged through the mail. For more information call 918-617-7125 or email [adam.lynn@history.ok.gov](mailto:adam.lynn@history.ok.gov).





## A. Day's Work exhibit

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie opened a new art exhibition called *A. Day's Work*. It features pieces from Oklahoma-based mixed media artist Andrea Day. She is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who focuses full time on the development of acrylic and beadwork on canvas and creating new work. Her original designs are achieved in the form of acrylic and hand-sewn seed beads on canvas. They are all guided by nature and heavily influenced by her Muscogee (Creek) culture and language, Fuswalgi (Bird Clan), and ancient Southeastern Woodland designs, with a modern twist.

The art exhibit will run through Wednesday, May 31. All art will be available to purchase. The Oklahoma Territorial Museum is located at 406 E. Oklahoma Ave. in Guthrie. For more information, please call 405-282-1889.

## Revisiting the Works Progress Administration

By Mallory Covington, OHS archival collections manager, OHS Research Division

In July 1927 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the Federal Writers' Project as a part of the Works Progress Administration. The project employed authors, researchers, interviewers, and other individuals to compile a guide to Oklahoma as part of the national series of guidebooks. The project started under author William Cunningham, a former Marxian economics teacher. Writers such as Jim Thompson and Louis L'Amour worked on the project and went on to become successful authors. Zoe Tilghman, the former literary editor of *Harlow's Weekly*, eventually ousted Cunningham by accusing him of giving preference to employees with Communist Party ties. The project was taken over by Jim Thompson until the end of the federal program, when the project reopened with state funding under Angie Debo and was purged of its Communist ties. The guide was published by University of Oklahoma Press in 1942. By the time the project ended, a large amount of material had been collected and compiled into a series of topical files, narratives, oral histories, and biographical sketches.

The Federal Writers' Project (1981.105, 88 boxes) contains the administrative files as well as the material written and collected by the employees during the tenure of the project. The administrative files give a glimpse into the working conditions of the employees, pay rates, and the controversy that surrounded the project. The files also contain the assignment slips given to each employee. The collection is divided into three series: administrative files, narratives and biographies, and topical files. Included in the narratives and biographies series are the interviews conducted with formerly enslaved persons. These interviews are different from the ones housed at the Library of Congress. Within the topical files are a series of tours put together by the employees specific to towns and areas of the state. The Federal Writers' Project Collection is available for viewing at the Oklahoma Historical Society's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Appointments 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@history.ok.gov](mailto:research@history.ok.gov).



(2012.201.B1219.0408, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

### SUMMER CAMPS AND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

#### Fort Towson History Day Camp

From Tuesday, May 30, through Thursday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day Fort Towson Historic Site will open its doors to children ages 9 to 15 for a History Day Camp focused on history, archaeology, military drills, old-fashioned games, and crafts. The three-day camp will be centered on the theme "Sensing the Past." The site's staff and historical interpreters will encourage learning through experiences, sights, smells, tastes, and sounds that spark the imagination. During the camp, young people can explore the site with physical activities and experiential learning that will encourage them to see what life was like in the 1840s.



Registration is required. Call 580-873-2634 to find out more about the camp and other programs and events at Fort Towson.

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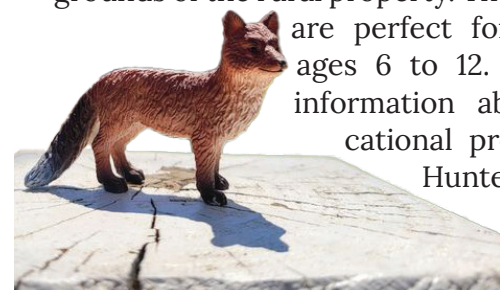


#### Will's Wild West Kids Camp

Wave your hat in the air 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. The camp will transport participants back in time to the Wild West with hands-on activities in a fun and entertaining learning environment. Nature programs, crafts, period dancing, 19th-century games, and much more are planned. 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 11. For more information please visit [www.willrogers.com](http://www.willrogers.com) or call 918-341-0719.

#### Story Times and Scavenger Hunt

Come to Hunter's Home in Park Hill for Story Time on May 18 and June 15! On May 27, children can take part in a scavenger hunt inside the historic home and on the grounds of the rural property. The activities are perfect for children ages 6 to 12. For more information about educational programs at Hunter's Home, call 918-456-2751.



#### Kids Make History!

On the third Saturday of each month, young visitors are encouraged to learn about history through fun, hands-on historical activities during the Kids Make History series at Fort Towson Historic Site. The programs will include games, cooking, historic arts and crafts, and reenacting skills. The group meets through the year. The next meetings will be on May 20 and June 17. For more information, email [fttowson@history.ok.gov](mailto:fttowson@history.ok.gov) or call 580-873-2634.





# Oklahoma Historical Society

## OHPG Program funds 39 projects across the state

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is proud to announce that 39 organizations have been awarded a grant through the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Applications were submitted in November 2022 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:

Chisholm Trail Museum, Inc.; Claremore Museum of History; Connors State College Development Foundation; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; Edmond Historical Society and Museum; El Reno Carnegie Library; Field Historical Printing Museum, Inc.; Freedom Center of Oklahoma City; Friends of Cobb School, Inc.; Friends of Fort Gibson Foundation; Guthrie Tomorrow Coalition, Inc./State Capital Publishing Museum; Hooker Historical Society; Landmark For All Generations, Inc.; Lawton Public Library; Midwest City High School Museum, Inc.; Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band; Military History Center; Noble County Genealogy Society; Oklahoma Black Living Legacy; Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society, Inc.; Old Greer County Museum and Hall of Fame, Inc.; Pawhuska Public Library; Plains Indians and Pioneers Historical Foundation; Pottawatomie County Historical Society; Prairie House Preservation Society; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Rogers County Historical Society, Inc.; Seminole Nation Museum; Southeastern Oklahoma State University Library Special Collections; Southern Nazarene Uni-

versity; Southern Prairie Library System; Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation, Inc.; Stephens County Historical Society; Stillwater History Museum at the Sheerar; Stroud Public Library; the Edwards Store, Inc.; the Friends of the Coleman Foundation; Top of Oklahoma Historical Society Museum; and Tulsa Foundation for Architecture.

The total amount of funds distributed this year is just over \$575,000, with projects ranging from collections care and strategic planning to exhibit development and educational programming.

"These grant funds continue to empower local communities to collect, preserve, and share their history for future generations of Oklahomans with over 150 projects funded to date," said Nicole Harvey, director of strategic initiatives and grants administrator for the OHS.

The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program is a grants-in-aid program offered by the Oklahoma Historical Society to encourage 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](http://www.okhistory.org/grants).



## Contest winners go the extra mile!

Congratulations to the winner of our latest #ExploreOHS Travel Contest! Intrepid travelers Bea Cummings Parker and her husband visited 24 OHS sites in the month of March. Yes, you read that correctly! They visited 24 different museums and historic sites across the state—that's simply amazing!

This spring, several people participated in the month-long contest, traveling, taking selfies, and posting them on social media with the hashtag #ExploreOHS. We enjoyed following along during their travels, and we hope that everyone had some memorable



Kelsey Perry and her family came in second place by visiting a total of 19 OHS sites!



Morgan Riggs and her family visited 10 OHS sites, placing third in the month-long contest!

## 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 will serve as tour guides on the six trails that cross the 1,100-acre Honey Springs Battlefield on Saturday, June 3, 10, and 24, as well as July 1. For more information regarding the tours and Honey Springs Battlefield, please email [honeysprings@history.ok.gov](mailto:honeysprings@history.ok.gov) or [adam.lynn@history.ok.gov](mailto:adam.lynn@history.ok.gov), or call 918-617-7125. Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Checotah.



## Quilt drawing at the Sod House

You can win a full-size, patriotic quilt made by the Sod House Museum's quilting workshop group! Tickets for the drawing are \$2 each, or three for \$5, or six for \$10. The drawing will be held at the July 8 meeting of the Sod House's Quilting workshop. Visit the museum today to purchase your chance of winning this handmade work of art! Call 580-463-2441 for more information.

## OkNHD planned in May

This year, the Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) junior division contest will be held at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) on Wednesday, May 3, and the senior division contest will be held Thursday, May 4. 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 submit student projects 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 learning and engagement, at [sarah.dumas@history.ok.gov](mailto:sarah.dumas@history.ok.gov) or 405-522-0785.



## Three historic properties added to the NHRP

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) designation for three properties in Oklahoma. The NRHP is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.



Claud Collier Chevrolet & Buick Company  
115 E. Court St., Atoka, Atoka County

Constructed in 1949, the Claud Collier Chevrolet and Buick Company is a significant, local example of a small town, post-World War II auto dealership property type. Auto showrooms took multiple forms as the car sales industry evolved during the 20th century. Early showrooms and dealerships emulated traditional commercial-styled buildings so that their association with automobiles was not readily discernable. Auto dealership designs, however, changed following World War II. With their large showroom windows, highly visible service departments, and exterior car lots, postwar auto dealerships were unmistakably properties designed to sell and service vehicles. The Claud Collier Chevrolet and Buick Company incorporates a variety of elements that auto companies considered best practices in showroom and dealership design. These include prominent showroom windows looking out to the street; well-defined service and sales departments; and a prominent location on a corner lot just outside of downtown Atoka. Such qualities make the Claud Collier Chevrolet and Buick Company an excellent example of a property type that helped define post-World War II American car culture.



John and Helen Cleary House  
45 Hillcrest Drive, Ponca City, Kay County

The John and Helen Cleary House is significant as an excellent example of the work of architect Robert Buchner in Ponca City. Built in 1951 for John and Helen Cleary on a lot that was formerly part of their large estate, Buchner designed the house in the contemporary architectural style to reflect the owners' desire for a simpler and less

formal lifestyle. The house is two stories and has a T-shaped floor plan with several distinctive exterior features. These include horizontal and vertical bands of tinted glass and plywood panels along with a sunroom enclosed with tall windows facing outward toward a secluded, wooded backyard. The design of the John and Helen Cleary House was not devoted to conveying status and affluence, unlike many of Ponca City's early 20th-century mansions. Rather, Buchner's contemporary-inspired design is unpretentious and unassuming, providing comfort and privacy for the Cleary family to live out their remaining years.



Meade and Eudora Gill House  
418 N. Second St., Ponca City, Kay County

Built circa 1926, the Meade and Eudora Gill House is architecturally significant as an example of the Prairie School architectural style as applied to an American Foursquare-type residence. The house was possibly designed by Albert and Harland Vorheis, a father-son architect duo who lived briefly in Ponca City. Meade and Eudora Gill were the proprietors of Gill Funeral Home, which was Ponca City's leading business for funeral services for many decades. Notably, Eudora Gill was Oklahoma's first licensed female embalmer. The Gill House is notable for its red brick exterior and detailing, which is uncommon for Prairie School-styled residences. The house also exhibits many elements of the Prairie School style as applied to the American Foursquare house type, including a low-pitched pyramidal roof, symmetrical window configurations, and a prominent front entry featuring a porch with heavy square columns. In all, the Gill House reflects high integrity of design, workmanship, and materials, making it an excellent local example of a classic American house type.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation.

For more information contact Dr. Matthew Pearce, National Register of Historic Places coordinator, at 405-522-4479 or [matthew.pearce@history.ok.gov](mailto:matthew.pearce@history.ok.gov).



Every year, the Enid Summer Chautauqua sets up a large white tent with outdoor seating outside of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC). That is when townspeople know they can look forward to free evening performances and daily workshops held at the museum's Humphrey Heritage Village.

This year, from Tuesday, June 13, through Saturday, June 17, a group of living history actors will advance the theme of "American Aviation: Barnstorming to Mach 1." Visitors are invited to meet some illustrious characters connected to aviation while listening to unique first-person perspectives. The program includes daily workshops at 10:30 a.m. and noon held in the Village Church building and five evening performances with local entertainers beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening of the event. Scholar performances follow at 7:30 p.m. More information about the performers and events can be found at [facebook.com/enidchautauqua](https://facebook.com/enidchautauqua) and [facebook.com/CSRHC](https://facebook.com/CSRHC). Events are free and open to the public! Please call 580-237-1907 or visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org) to learn more.

### SMAC reopens to the public with adjusted admission

The OHS is making improvements to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center (SMAC). During this time, areas of the visitor center may have limited access, but the trails are open. Admission fees are temporarily suspended while the work is carried out, but donations are always welcome.

SMAC preserves 150 acres of the site along the Arkansas River. The center offers interpretive exhibits, an introductory slide program, and a small gift shop. Visitors can explore nearly two miles of interpreted trails, including a one-half-mile nature trail. A historian is on-site to answer questions and lead tours. The mounds site, located seven miles outside of Spiro is the only pre-European contact, Native American archaeological site in Oklahoma open to the public. The mounds are one of the most important Native American sites in the nation. The Spiro people created a sophisticated culture that influenced the entire Southeast. SMAC is located northeast of Spiro, four miles north of US-271. The site is closed for state holidays.



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PERIODICALS

# Mistletoe Leaves

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## Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show

The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will celebrate the lives of Major Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie, his wife May Lillie, and their famous Wild West Shows with a one-day celebration on Saturday, June 10. Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the original historic ranch site.

Stagecoaches will roll amid thundering horse hooves while the lightning of gunfire explodes around Pawnee Bill, May, and their cohorts. The talented performers will thrill and amaze audiences. This one-day celebration will feature exhibitions of acts from the original Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West Show.

Kevin Webb will portray Pawnee Bill for the 16th time. Webb, a long-time Wild West Show cast member and Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum employee, is also a whip artist and chariot racer. Alyce Webb will portray May Lillie for the 5th time, performing her act on horseback. The Mike Pahsetopah (Osage) family will perform as the Dancing Eagles, paying tribute to Indigenous culture with their stunning Native dancing. Show cowboys and cowgirls will return this year to demonstrate their skills with reckless feats of horsemanship and entertaining races.

The museum and historic home will be open to the public during the festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Food from local food trucks will be available on-site. There will be historically accurate entertainment such as blacksmithing, chuck wagon cooking, gunfighters and sharpshooters, a magician, medicine man shows, and musicians continuously on the ranch grounds from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Pawnee Bill Original Wild West Show stagecoach will be available for photos at the arena from 4 to 6:30 p.m., along with Wild West demonstrations and games. Preshow festivities begin inside the arena at 7 p.m., with the big show beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Admission costs are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors over the age of 62, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free admission for children five and younger. Tickets are not sold in advance or online. Tickets must be purchased at the ranch entrance gate on the day of the event. Please join us in celebrating Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show and experience some of the best of historic Western entertainment. For more information, please call 918-762-2513 or email [pawneebill@history.ok.gov](mailto:pawneebill@history.ok.gov).



OHS employee and Wild West Show cast member Kevin Webb (portraying Pawnee Bill) will showcase his skill as a whip artist and chariot racer in the Wild West Show performance this June.



## AAPI Experiences: A Historical Journey

May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month. On Wednesday, May 10, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center, the Oklahoma Historical Society Multicultural Office (OHSMO) will host "AAPI Experiences: A Historical Journey" to highlight the history, heritage, and contributions of the AAPI community in Oklahoma. All ages are welcome. This is one of several AAPI events taking place across the Oklahoma City metro throughout the month of May.

"Our Multicultural Office develops programs and outreach initiatives to tell the story of Oklahoma's diverse heritage and gives voice to the historically underrepresented communities," said Saidy Orellana, OHS multicultural officer. During the ceremony several leaders of the AAPI community in Oklahoma will be honored, some posthumously. People can learn about the history of the Asian community through a cultural fashion show, dance performances, musical renditions, and hands-on activities like calligraphy and tea tasting.

The program has been developed through the OHSMO and its "People of Oklahoma" series, in partnership with the Asian District Cultural Association, the Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Japan American Society of Oklahoma, and many others. To see the full list of sponsors, look for the May 10 event on the OHS website calendar at [okhistory.org/calendar/ohs](http://okhistory.org/calendar/ohs). To learn more about this event contact Saidy Orellana at 405-522-5204.