



# Mistletoe Leaves



Vol. 48, No. 6 Published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving since 1893 November/December 2017

## Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam and The Wall That Heals at the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center is proud to announce the opening of its newest exhibit, *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*. The formal opening of the exhibit is scheduled for Sunday, November 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. with a reception for OHS members, donors, and dignitaries. This event will include a number of speakers as well as musical selections from the 145th Army Band. The exhibit will open to the public on Monday, November 6, and will be on display for two years.

The exhibit looks at more than the historic events that occurred during the war. It will explore the impact of the war on Oklahoma families, as told through the stories of the young men and women who served their country in the armed services and the immigrant families who fled Vietnam and came to Oklahoma seeking freedom and opportunity.

The story begins with a look at the family histories of Oklahomans who served in Vietnam. This opening section will conclude with the stories of young people from those families who volunteered to serve their country in the armed services during the War in Vietnam.

The second section will explore the roots of Vietnamese families that eventually relocated to Oklahoma. It also will follow American military personnel and Vietnamese families onto the stage of war during the 1960s and 1970s. This includes stories of those in uniform, both American and Vietnamese, as well as stories of civilians whose lives were changed forever.

The next section will tell the Vietnamese refugees' harrowing stories of escape as they left all that they had known in their homeland to obtain safety, security, and opportunity in the United States. While they left under varying circumstances, they shared the common goal of a new life.

The fourth and final section of the exhibit will bring Oklahoma-born military personnel and immigrants back to Oklahoma, where their stories continue as they deal with challenges and seize opportunities. By connecting the dots of history, the exhibit will provide a contemporary portrait of Oklahoma's diversity set against the backdrop of historic events.



**Ban Nguyen with his father and sister in South Vietnam. Ban is an operating partner of Jimmy's Egg restaurants, which is owned by his father-in-law Loc Le.**

In preparation for *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam*, the Oklahoma History Center transported a newly acquired Huey helicopter to Oklahoma City. This addition to the exhibit honors those who stepped up and served in the War in Vietnam and was donated by native Oklahoman Bob Ford, who said, "Any Army pilot or crew member who had the privilege to fly the Huey in combat loves it; it never let us down."

The aircraft came from Weatherford, Texas, on Sunday, September 24, arriving at the History Center mid-afternoon, escorted by the Oklahoma Patriot Guard Riders. The Huey was installed the following day and is suspended from the History Center atrium in the same manner as the iconic replica of the *Winnie Mae* airplane hanging in the Devon Great Hall.



**Left: First Lieutenant Bob Ford in Hue, South Vietnam, January 1968. Right: Bob Ford with a refurbished Huey at the Oklahoma History Center, September 2017.**

As an addition to the exhibit opening, the History Center will host *The Wall That Heals*, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. It is approximately 250 feet in length and lists the names of the more than 58,000 men and women killed in the war. The names are arranged chronologically by date of casualty, so that those who died together may be forever linked. To locate names on the wall, visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website at [www.vvmf.org/about-the-wall-of-faces](http://www.vvmf.org/about-the-wall-of-faces).



**The Wall That Heals**

*The Wall That Heals* and its accompanying mobile Education Center will be open to the public twenty-four hours a day from Thursday, November 9, through Sunday, November 12, at 2 p.m. This will be the first time that it has been exhibited in the State Capitol Complex. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, just northeast of the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.





## Director's column

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

We have lost another good friend of the OHS who not only collected but also made history. Jim Argo, a talented photographer and journalist, passed away in early September.

Jim's contributions to the OHS spanned four decades, a legacy that will live on through the many collections, books, friends, and images he brought to us. Every time a student uses one of his photographs, every time a reader learns something new from his books, every time someone sees the Oklahoma experience through the lens of his camera, Jim's impact on our sense of community will come alive.

I met Jim in the mid-1970s, almost a decade after he began his remarkable career as a photojournalist for the *Oklahoman* and *Oklahoma City Times*, and just as I was wading into the waters of state and local history. We became instant friends.

In retrospect, Jim and I were in two professions with the same business model. Both of us chose stories to pursue, gathered facts, interpreted meanings, and presented the stories to others. The only difference was the deadline. Jim's was immediate. Mine was long term.

Our first collaborations were a series of books, starting with the publication of books he coauthored with Kent Ruth,

a legendary journalist and travel writer, followed by several books Jim and I co-authored. In each project, I came to rely on Jim's ability to recognize the real story and to capture the spirit of a subject through both images and words.

One of those books, *Images of Oklahoma*, was a significant stepping stone to the eventual donation of the Oklahoma Publishing Company (OPUBCO) Photography Collection to the OHS. With more than one million images spanning the years from 1928 to 1998, the collection in my estimation had a market value of more than \$20 million. To us historians, including Jim Argo, it was priceless.

In addition to the print-based archival photographs in that collection, Jim donated to the OHS all of his journalistic and commercial photographs. And not only did he give us the negatives, but he also scanned and organized them by date and subject. There is not an event in Oklahoma history from 1961 to 2007 that is not captured in his collection.

One of the last projects we worked on together was a book and exhibit focused on the railroad photographs of Preston George, Jim's father-in-law. Jim and his wife, Burnis, organized the collection after Preston's death, digitized more than one thousand images, and patiently supported us until we could mount the exhibit and find a partner, the University of Oklahoma Press, to publish the book.

Jim was a fortunate man. He came along with the right skills and high standards just as photojournalism was entering a golden age. He was taught by the old masters, but he was liberated by the 35-millimeter camera and the willingness of editors and publishers to give him the tools and resources to chase stories. We are fortunate that he chose Oklahoma as his home and the subject of his curiosity and passion.

Yes, we have lost another good friend of the OHS. He will not be forgotten.

*Dr. Bob*

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

This holiday season, give the gift of Oklahoma history. The Oklahoma Historical Society is offering a buy one family membership, get one family membership free promotion. You can renew your membership and give the gift of OHS membership. A broad base helps the OHS continue to offer its interesting exhibits, events, educational programming, and publications.

A family membership includes free admission for the member and their family (up to twelve people) to all OHS museums and sites. It also includes yearly subscriptions to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, *Mistletoe Leaves*, and *OHS EXTRA!* OHS members are entrusted with the task of choosing board members for the organization. This benefit ensures that members continue to have input in the choice of leadership for the OHS. There are many other benefits to joining and you can find a full list of membership benefits at [www.okhistory.org/support/membership](http://www.okhistory.org/support/membership). If you have any questions you can call me at 405-522-6676 or email me at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org).



## New OHS podcast launched in August

The OHS is pleased to announce the recent launch of A Very OK Podcast. This free podcast is available in the iTunes store or you can stream it by visiting [www.okhistory.org/podcasts](http://www.okhistory.org/podcasts).

A Very OK Podcast gives listeners a fresh take on Oklahoma history and culture, and even has a theme song by local musician Mike Hosty! From videography and photography to microfilming and archiving, podcast hosts Corey Ayers and Angela Spindle have a combined total of nearly twenty years working for the OHS. Both Oklahoma natives, they explore the questions and topics your teacher may have left out of Oklahoma History class.

There are seven episodes currently available, so be sure to take a listen! Select a topic that interests you or enjoy them all. The next episode will go live on Wednesday, November 8, at 5 a.m.

Follow along with your podcast hosts on Facebook and Twitter @averyokpodcast. Thanks again for the donations from our community that helped make this podcast a reality.



**Oklahoma Historical Society**  
**Membership Office**  
**405-522-5242**  
**[ohsmembers@okhistory.org](mailto:ohsmembers@okhistory.org)**

*Mistletoe Leaves* (USPS 018-315) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors, 5,400 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,170.57 bimonthly. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the United States Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by either organization.

*Mistletoe Leaves* is published for the members and friends of the OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

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

All Oklahoma Historical Society facilities are for the education and enjoyment of all. State and federal regulations prohibit unlawful discrimination in state and federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap.

Anyone denied benefits should contact the grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5299, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.



---

# AROUND OKLAHOMA

---

## Events

Celebrate the agricultural roots of **Fred-erick** at the annual Cotton Festival on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors will enjoy educational displays, spinning and weaving demonstrations, crafts, children's games, and antique farm equipment displays. The grounds will feature live entertainment, food vendors, and a chili cook-off. View exhibits about cotton farming in the early twentieth century and take a tour of a local cotton gin. Activities will be held on the Tillman County Courthouse lawn, located at the intersection of Highway 183 and Highway 5 in Frederick. Please call 580-335-2126 for more information.

Step back in time to the 1830s as history comes alive at the Dripping Springs Rendezvous in **Okmulgee**. On Thursday, November 9, through Saturday, November 11, visitors can learn something new about the time period—history class was never this exciting! Witness demonstrations of blacksmithing, knife throwing, black powder shooting, flint and steel fire-starting, leather-crafting, primitive archery shooting, and more. There also will be living history reenactments by trappers, traders, and mountain men. Enjoy music and browse vendors for food and souvenirs. Dripping Springs Park is located at 16830 Dripping Springs Road in Okmulgee. Please call 918-752-4135 for more information.

The Spencer Historical Society will host its fifteenth annual Salute to Veterans ceremony in **Spencer** on Saturday, November 11, at 10:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Alta Mae Black Pavilion in Ben Black Park, just south of the Spencer Museum. All veterans, active duty military personnel, and the general public are invited to attend. The colors will be presented by the JROTC unit from Star Spencer High School. This event includes the veterans ceremony, refreshments, and the Spencer Museum will be open. The Spencer Museum and adjacent Ben Black Park are located at the corner of NE Fiftieth Street and Palmer Avenue in Spencer. Please call Linda Verges at 405-771-3561 with questions.

Spend the day at the World's Oldest Free Fly-In and Air Show in **Fairview** on Saturday, November 11. The sixty-sixth annual air show will be held at the Fairview Municipal Airport and will feature displays of antique, experimental, and classic aircrafts; a parachute jump;

and aerobatics. Free breakfast will be served for all who fly in from 7 to 10 a.m. A veterans ceremony will be held at 10:45 a.m. and the high-flying air show will begin at 12:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. The Fairview Municipal Airport is located at North Main Street and East Oklahoma in Fairview. For more information please call 580-227-3788.

Experience a German tradition at Volkstrauertag on Sunday, November 19, at 2 p.m. in **El Reno**. This memorial event will be held at the Fort Reno Chapel and hosted by the German-American Society of Tulsa. All are welcome to join and honor the German prisoners of war who are buried at Fort Reno Cemetery's annex. Representatives from the German Consulate General in Houston, members of the German Air Force stationed at Fort Sill, and the Oklahoma Honor Guard will be in attendance as these German soldiers are remembered. There will be musical entertainment and a wreath laying ceremony. Fort Reno is located at 7107 West Cheyenne Street in El Reno. Please call Barbara Conrad at 918-492-3273 for more information.

Ring in the holiday season with a festive tree lighting and living windows walk in **Tishomingo**. On Wednesday, December 6, at 6 p.m., stroll up and down Main Street, sip free coffee or hot chocolate, and enjoy living scenes of Christmas displayed in more than twenty business windows. Individuals of all ages will be in the windows depicting various Christmas activities. School and church choirs will sing carols on street corners, and visitors are encouraged to sing along. A special tree lighting will mark the beginning of the Christmas season in Tishomingo and Johnston County. For more information please call 580-371-2175.

Witness traditional American Indian dancing at the New Year's Eve Powwow in **Muskogee** on Sunday, December 31. The powwow kicks off at 1 p.m. with gourd dancing until 5 p.m., followed by a supper break. Gourd dancing resumes at 6 p.m. and the grand entry begins at 7 p.m. Dance contests that will be featured at the seventeenth annual New Year's Eve Powwow include fancy dance, straight dance, jingle dress, and fancy shawl. This free event is sure to be an exciting way to ring in 2018. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs. The powwow will be held at Bacone College's Student Life Center, located at 2412 East Shawnee Road in Muskogee. For more information please call 918-639-7999.

## Meetings

Join the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) for its monthly meeting on Monday, November 6, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. LaNell Shores will be the speaker and the presentation is entitled "Women in City Directories." The meeting and program will take place from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and experienced researchers will be available prior to the meeting at 5 p.m. to answer research questions. OGS meetings are free to attend and held the first Monday of each month at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 for more information.

Join the Oklahoma Postal History Society for its upcoming monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, at Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in **Oklahoma City**. The general public is encouraged to attend. This month's meeting will feature members sharing their Oklahoma Auxiliary Postal Markings from 1907 through present day. This will continue the study of this broad subject, which includes forwarded, returned to sender, no such address, missent, lost in abandoned mail chute, and other markings. The Oklahoma Postal History Society holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in Room 207 at Saint Luke's United Methodist Church, located at 222 NW Fifteenth Street in Oklahoma City. Visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact Joe Crosby at joecrosby@cox.net or 405-990-2389.



Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley, assistant editor, by email at emoxley@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the January/February 2018 issue, you must submit it by Monday, December 4, 2017.

# OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

## November 2017

- 1–30 *Christmas Past* art exhibit, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 1–4 *Firefighting in the Strip* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1 “Back to Our Roots: An Exploration of Roots Music” program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2–5 Will Rogers Days events, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 3 Honey Springs Education Day, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 3 Genealogy on the Web class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Will Rogers Days parade and Birthday Bash, Will Rogers Boulevard and Claremore Museum of History, Claremore
- 4 “Christmas Decorations” Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 4 First Saturday Hands-On History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Tracing Your Roots class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4–5 Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 5 *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam* exhibit opening and reception, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6–30 *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 *Christmas Past* premiere program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 8 “Preservation Oklahoma” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by David Pettyjohn, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9–12 *The Wall That Heals* outdoor exhibit and mobile Education Center, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 Military Day event, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 11 Fall Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 11 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Tracing Your Roots class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 14 Memoir Writing workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 14–25 *Preservation 50* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15–30 *Oklahoma’s Endangered Places* exhibit, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 16 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 17 Annual Village Auction and Chili Cook-Off fundraiser, A. J. Seay Mansion and Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 18 T. B. Ferguson Home presents Breakfast with Santa, Watonga Christian Church, Watonga

- 18 Southeastern Beadwork class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Third Saturday Living History program, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 18 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 18 Tracing Your Roots class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28 Memoir Writing workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 28 A Designer Holiday preview dinner, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City

## December 2017

- 1–31 *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1–31 *Christmas Past* art exhibit, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 1 Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1–2 Will’s Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 2 Christmas Bazaar with T. B. Ferguson Home staff, Blaine County Fairgrounds, Watonga
- 2 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 5 Fourth annual Holiday Market at the Museum, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 6 “Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings” SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 “The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings” SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 “The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants” SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 “Working with the National Register of Historic Places” SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8–9 OHC Museum Store Holiday Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Holiday Open House, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 9 Pawnee Bill Ranch Association’s annual meeting, meal, and silent auction, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 9 Christmas at the Fort and Photos with Santa, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 9 Christmas Open House, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 9 1950s-style Christmas event, A. J. Seay Mansion and Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 9 Christmas Open House and live music by The Silver Strings, Sod House Museum, Aline

- 9 Guthrie’s Historic Homes Tour and wassail at the Carnegie Library, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 9 Deck the Halls, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 9 Holiday Happening, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 9 “The Dust Bowl” presentation by Dr. Sterling Evans, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 10 17th annual Christmas Open House, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 12 Memoir Writing workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 13 Christmas-themed Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14 Holiday Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 16 Third Saturday Living History program, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 16 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 16 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 21 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro

## “Back to Our Roots: An Exploration of Roots Music”

The Oklahoma History Center and the American Banjo Museum have partnered to present “Back to Our Roots: An Exploration of Roots Music” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, at the History Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

This program will feature a discussion on the historical intersections of jazz, blues, and roots music as well as the influence of race, emancipation, and desegregation on the evolution of this music both in America and Oklahoma. Woven throughout the discussions will be live examples of roots music. Johnny Baier, executive director of the American Banjo Museum, will moderate the music performance and discussion with Dom Flemons and Dr. Harold Aldridge.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. You can make reservations by visiting [www.americanbanjomuseum.com/upcoming-events](http://www.americanbanjomuseum.com/upcoming-events) or by calling 405-604-2793. This event has been made possible through a generous grant from Oklahoma Humanities. Oklahoma Humanities strengthens communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. Learn more at [www.okhumanities.org](http://www.okhumanities.org).



# Oklahoma National Register listings added in September 2017

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

Beaty School, constructed in 1926 in the rural Beaty community west of Pauls Valley in Garvin County, is locally significant for its role in education. A standard State of Oklahoma two-classroom school building, Beaty School provided all of the educational amenities that were mandated by state education laws for a proper rural common school and was created as part of the State Department of Education's Model School program. This program specified standards for buildings, grounds, equipment, textbooks, and curriculum.



**Beaty School**

Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, constructed in 1916, is located at 501 South Third Street in Hartshorne, Pittsburg County. The church is significant for its social history as it was built by Slavic immigrants. The building served as an important means of sustaining their ethnic identities. It is also significant as an exceptional example of Byzantine architecture in Oklahoma. The defining characteristics of the building—its three onion domes—can be seen from miles away.



**Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church**

The Church Studio at 304 South Trenton Avenue in Tulsa, Tulsa County, is significant in the areas of performing arts and entertainment. Constructed in 1915 as the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, the building was purchased by writer, musician, and producer Leon

Russell in March 1972 and converted into a recording studio for his record label Shelter Records. The musical talent flowing through the doors of the Church Studio revitalized Tulsa's performing arts scene and kindled a second era of the Tulsa Sound, characterized by a more relaxed tempo from the distinct rhythm first developed in the 1950s. The Church Studio functioned as a recording studio until 1976 when the studio closed and Russell severed ties to Shelter Records.



**Church Studio**

The City of Enid in Garfield County added three new National Register locations to its ever-increasing inventory. The Enid Preservation Commission sponsored the three nominations, all for their modern architecture within the community and other associative histories.

Babe's Package Store at 220 South Third Street is significant as an excellent example of "Googie" architecture as well as for its association with the end of statewide prohibition and the arrival of retail liquor stores.



**Babe's Package Store**

Eugene S. Briggs Auditorium at 2450 East Maine is significant for its Modern Movement architectural style as well as its association with education at Phillips University.



**Eugene S. Briggs Auditorium**

Security National Bank at 201 West Broadway is significant as an excellent local example of Modern Movement/International style architecture.



**Security National Bank**

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



## OHC Museum Store Holiday Sale

Get ready for the holidays at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) Museum Store! The annual Holiday Sale will take place on Friday, December 8, and Saturday, December 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Museum Store to save big on the great selection of Made in Oklahoma products and other items that celebrate the history and culture of our great state.



OHS members always receive a 15 percent discount on regularly-priced purchases, and will receive an additional 10 percent discount during the two-day sale. That's 25 percent off for members!

OHS employees, volunteers, and the general public also will receive an additional 10 percent discount during the Holiday Sale. Please call 405-522-5214 with any questions. The OHC Museum Store is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.







For decades the Henry Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City served as the place for holiday parties and festivities. The home was adorned with decorations and the rooms were filled with merriment and yuletide cheer. This year, those days return as Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. presents A Designer Holiday at the Overholser Mansion.

Local designers from Interior Gilt, Winter House Interiors, A-Line Designs, Trochta's Flowers and Garden Center, and Calvert's Plant Interiors have been selected to decorate rooms in the Overholser Mansion in their own unique style. The home will feature holiday trees and mantles reflecting styles from modern to traditional. Freedom Lawn Care will install holiday lights, brightening the home's exterior for neighbors and motorists. The home will be open for tours throughout the season during normal operating hours.

Of course, the holidays would not be complete without a dinner to kick off the event. For the first time in more than a decade, a special preview dinner will take place in the mansion on Tuesday, November 28. The dinner will feature holiday music and a chance to meet with designers. Seating is very limited. Tickets are \$150 each and all proceeds will be used toward the upkeep and maintenance of the mansion.

For more information contact David Pettyjohn at 405-525-5325 or david@preservationok.org. The Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW Fifteenth Street in Oklahoma City.

## Kilgen Organ performance in January 2018

The Oklahoma History Center recently announced the date for its first Kilgen Organ performance of 2018. On Monday, January 22, R. Jelani Eddington will perform at 7 p.m. If you are interested in attending the January 22 Kilgen performance, please call 405-522-0765 for more information. Names will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Ticket prices are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for the general public.

## From the OHS Archives Red Dirt Women: The ERA Campaign in Oklahoma Collection

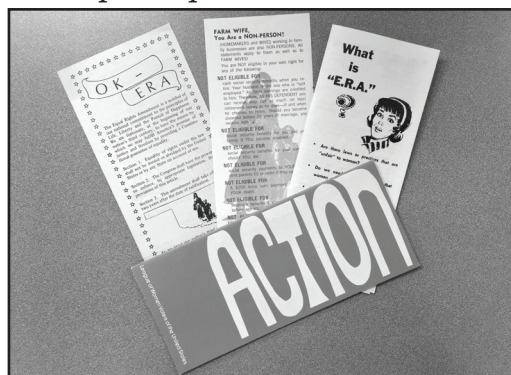
By Jan H. Richardson

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was initially proposed in Congress in 1923, but it was not until the 1970s that the movement really began to gain traction. By 1977, thirty-five states had ratified the amendment, falling three states short of the thirty-eight required by the March 22, 1979, deadline set by Congress (later extended to June 30, 1982). In spite of initial support within the state, ultimately Oklahoma did not ratify the ERA.

Red Dirt Women: The ERA Campaign in Oklahoma Collection (M2014.056, five boxes), now housed in the Manuscripts Department of the OHS, chronicles the efforts of these highly motivated women in Oklahoma to push forward the cause of equal rights for women. The collection includes interview transcripts from the University of Oklahoma Women's Studies Department project, "Red Dirt Women and Power," and specifically focuses on the participants' recollections and thoughts on the campaign in Oklahoma to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The study, conducted by Martha C. Skeeters, PhD, contains more than thirty interview transcripts providing researchers with an in-depth look into the ERA movement on a local level. The collection includes correspondence and literature both in support and against the amendment, as well as documents from other organizations involved in the women's movement. Historians who observed the Women's March on Washington in January 2017 will find a number of common threads in the work of the Red Dirt Women and the suffragists who came before them.

Red Dirt Women: The ERA Campaign in Oklahoma Collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It 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 Manuscripts Department.*



## Holiday Market at Museum of the Western Prairie

The Museum of the Western Prairie will host its fourth annual Holiday Market at the Museum on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 p.m. This free event showcases the talents of area artists and provides a terrific holiday shopping opportunity for the members of the Western Trail Historical Society as well as the general public. Artists are carefully selected to ensure high quality, wide variety, and uniqueness. As an added bonus, shoppers will have the opportunity to tour the museum while browsing the artists' displays. This event is hosted by the Western Trail Historical Society. Please call 580-482-1044 for more information. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus.

## Call for Papers and Presentations

The OHS is seeking papers and presentations for the 2018 Oklahoma History Conference, which will be held April 25, 26, and 27, 2018, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. A total of fourteen presentation sessions will take place on April 26-27.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the OHS, the theme for the conference is "OHS125: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing for the Next Generation." This year presentations on all aspects of Oklahoma history will be considered for the conference. There also will be special sessions to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Broadway musical *Oklahoma!*

Presentation sessions will be forty-five minutes in length and will feature one presentation not to exceed thirty minutes. This will allow fifteen minutes for an introduction and questions. Individuals interested in making a presentation should prepare a one-page proposal including the title of the proposed presentation; a one-hundred-word description of the presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short vita or biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by February 1, 2018. Registration fees for presenters will be waived.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, December 29, 2017. For more information please call Larry O'Dell at 405-522-6676. Proposals may be emailed to lodell@okhistory.org or mailed to:

Annual Conference Committee  
Attn: Larry O'Dell  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105



## Fort Washita transferred to the Chickasaw Nation

On July 11, 2017, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn met at the Chickasaw Nation headquarters in Ada to officially transfer ownership of Fort Washita Historic Site to the Chickasaw Nation.

“The transfer concluded negotiations that had been ongoing for about a year,” said Blackburn. “As with most state agencies, the OHS has been faced with budgetary challenges over the past ten years. These challenges led to the difficult decision that some of our properties might be better cared for under new ownership so, with the approval of our board of directors, negotiations began.”

Fort Washita has a history closely tied to the Chickasaw Nation. Established in 1842, the fort was located on the southwestern-most edge of the American frontier: to the east was the Choctaw Nation, to the west was the Chickasaw Nation, and the Republic of Texas was directly south across the Red River. The fort was constructed to promote peace between the recently removed Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations and the Plains tribes that previously called the area home. Furthermore, because Chickasaws had unsettled scores with some of the Plains tribes due to disputes concerning hunting grounds back in the Homeland, the fort was designed to resolve any new conflicts triggered from past encounters. Lastly, attacks by Texas militia seeking justice after raids by those same southern Plains tribes, and interference by unscrupulous intruders, traders, and trappers, were other reasons for the establishment of the fort.

At the start of the Civil War in 1861, the fort was abandoned by Union troops due to the proximity and vulnerability to Confederate Texas. Immediately, Fort Washita was occupied by Confederate troops and was used as a headquarters and hospital during the remainder of the Civil War. Following the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865, most of the buildings were burned. The fort was granted to the Chickasaw Nation, and later the Dawes Commission allotted the fort and surrounding land to the Charles Colbert family, a prominent Chickasaw family. It remained in the family until the state purchased the property in 1962.

“We have every confidence that the Chickasaw Nation will be excellent stewards of this important piece of Oklahoma history,” said Blackburn. “The state of Oklahoma served as caretakers of the property for over fifty years, and now it has returned to the ownership of the Chickasaw Nation where it would have remained but for allotment.”



Jim Argo, manager of Fort Washita Historic Site, remains at the site under the Chickasaw Nation and popular annual programs such as Ghost Stories and the Rendezvous will continue.

Governor Anoatubby said, “The Chickasaw Nation is very pleased to add Fort Washita to our cultural properties. It is an important historical resource not just for the Chickasaw Nation but for all of Oklahoma. We want to ensure that it continues to be available for the education and enjoyment of all.”

“The OHS and the Chickasaw Nation have enjoyed a long and successful partnership, working together to preserve and share cultural and historical resources,” continued Anoatubby.

Fort Washita Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark, is the third property to be transferred from the OHS to the Chickasaw Nation. In 1993 the Chickasaw Nation assumed operations of the Council House Museum in Tishomingo and the home of Chickasaw Governor Douglas H. Johnston in Emet, known as the Chickasaw White House. For more information please visit [www.chickasaw.net](http://www.chickasaw.net).



## Celebrate the Winter Solstice at Spiro Mounds

Visit Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center on Thursday, December 21, for guided walks to learn about the winter solstice and how prehistoric American Indians dealt with the changes in the seasons. There will be guided walks at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., led by Dennis Peterson, archaeologist and director of Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. Each walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking.

The pace of life today is so rushed and hectic that the natural rhythms of the sun, moon, and stars are often forgotten. American Indian farmers understood these rhythms. In the rhythm of the sun, the winter solstice is a period of rest, preparation, and celebration.

Peterson will discuss this unique prehistoric American Indian mound site, the

## SHPO accepting awards nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting nominations for its 2018 awards program. Individuals, businesses, government agencies, and other organizations contribute to the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage through rehabilitation/restoration projects, archaeological site protection, field and archival research, publications, and public programming. Submit a nomination and help the SHPO celebrate these accomplishments and the many ways the National Historic Preservation Act impacts communities of all sizes. Previous award recipients can be found at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm).

The SHPO's awards program includes the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The Shirk Memorial Award recognizes historic preservation programs or activities that have had statewide impact. The SHPO's Citation of Merit highlights noteworthy accomplishments in historic preservation at the state or local level.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 1, 2017, at 5 p.m. The SHPO accepts nominations in either electronic or hard copy format. Obtain the nomination forms and instructions from the SHPO's website at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm). To request hard copy forms, instructions, or to ask questions, please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or [jmatthews@okhistory.org](mailto:jmatthews@okhistory.org).

Nomination sponsors and award recipients will receive notice of the results of the selection process in February 2018. The awards will be presented at a banquet during Oklahoma's Thirtieth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, to be held June 6-8, 2018, in Tulsa.

types of mounds, why they were created, why some of the mounds are lined up for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes, and much more. The 2 p.m. walk will end just before sunset, which is when the alignment will take place. Experience this unique site as seen through the eyes of an archaeologist.

The fee for this tour is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, in addition to the daily admission fee. OHS members do not pay the daily admission fee. No reservations are required except for large groups. Be certain to dress for the weather. Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is located three miles east of Spiro on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information please email [spiro@okhistory.org](mailto:spiro@okhistory.org) or call 918-962-2062.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

## New developments for OKPOP

OKPOP is happy to report progress! New staff members are on board, and conceptual planning is underway for both building and exhibit design. OKPOP will be located at 422 North Main Street in Tulsa, across the street from the historic Cain’s Ballroom.

Several new staff members were added to assist OKPOP Director Jeff Moore. OKPOP Project Manager Tara Damron comes to her new position with fourteen years of experience with the OHS, and in-depth knowledge of archival and museum collections and exhibits. OKPOP Director of Visitor Experience Mary Beth Babcock brings with her a wealth of experience as an entrepreneur and is the founder of Dwelling Spaces in Tulsa. Curator of Comic Books and Popular Culture and Exhibits Manager Dexter Nelson II recently earned a master’s degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and has been working in the museum field for half a decade. OKPOP Collection Manager Amy Hildebrand moved to the OKPOP staff from a curatorial position with OHS’s Oklahoma Museum of History and has been working with exhibits and museum collections for twelve years.

This summer OKPOP staff and representatives from Overland Partners, Lilly Architects, and Haley Sharpe Design (HSD) traveled to Los Angeles and Seattle to consult with staff from the GRAMMY Museum, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, and the Museum of Popular Culture (MoPOP). The trip was a success both as learning and networking experiences, and as a team-building exercise for the OKPOP team and partners.

At the beginning of September, Haley Sharpe Design led the OKPOP team in a productive, week-long storyboarding session, during which the group discussed and sketched out major exhibit themes and stories. The team also spent an inspiring day at the home of Steve and Charlene Ripley, joined by Jamie Oldaker, learning about the Leon Russell Collection and enjoying true Southern hospitality. HSD staff also led an exercise putting the team in the shoes of potential visitors.

Overland Partners and Lilly Architects delivered the first conceptual design for the building in October, the site survey will be underway soon, and exhibition and collections development continues, so stay tuned for the next update! Follow OKPOP on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @okpoptulsa.



**Group photo from OKPOP storyboarding session. Left to right: Cynthia Roberts (HSD), Scott Smith (Lilly Architects), Tim Gardom (HSD), Steve Ripley (seated), Mary Beth Babcock, Chris Lilly (Lilly Architects), Tara Damron, Jeff Moore, Amy Hildebrand, Martyn Johnson (HSD), Jamie Oldaker (seated), Dexter Nelson, Larry O’Dell, Alisdair Hinshelwood (HSD), Michelle Stedman (Overland Partners), Gary Walker-Kerr (HSD), and David Donoghue (HSD).**



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

## Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments and Education Day

On Saturday, November 4, and Sunday, November 5, the Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments will be held near Checotah. There will be numerous sutlers showcasing and selling clothing, goods, and provisions. Also present will be modern-day vendors selling food and drinks. Visitors can take self-guided tours through the camps, witness various military drills, learn about Civil War-era topics, and enjoy other living history demonstrations. A battle reenactment will take place at 1 p.m. each day. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children twelve and under. For details about activities, parking, and more, visit [www.okhistory.org/sites/honeyspringsbattle](http://www.okhistory.org/sites/honeyspringsbattle).

Students and school groups are invited to attend Education Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, November 3. Education Day is free but preregistration is required. Registration forms can be found at the above web address. Students will enjoy a fun-filled day exploring the well-preserved natural setting of an actual battlefield while learning about life during the Civil War. Reenactors will portray the everyday lives of Civil War soldiers through military training, cooking demonstrations, songs, and leisure activities.

Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The new Visitor Center is located approximately one-and-one-half miles east of US Highway 69 off Gertrude Avenue. For more information please call 918-473-5572.

