



Mistletoe Leaves



Vol. 50, No. 6

Published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving since 1893

November/December 2019

Fall Bake Day at Fort Gibson Historic Site



Visit Fort Gibson Historic Site for Fall Bake Day on Saturday, November 9, at 10 a.m. The aroma of fresh-baked bread will fill the air on Garrison Hill as OHS staff and volunteers bring the bake house to life. Learn about one aspect of army life after the Civil War and enjoy bread making demonstrations in the original wood-fired oven from 1863. Visitors can even sample the finished product! Fort Gibson Historic Site is located at 907 North Garrison Avenue in Fort Gibson. For more information please call 918-478-4088.

125th Anniversary Celebration and Open House at Sod House Museum

The Sod House Museum near Aline will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its centerpiece sod house by unveiling a sculpture of Marshal McCully, the man who built it, at an Open House on Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Open House is free to visitors as a “thank you” for continued support of the museum.

Renowned sculptor and painter Burneta Venosdel created the likeness of McCully, and will be on-site for the unveiling of her sculpture, which will later be bronzed. Venosdel presented a program about her art and techniques during a month-long showing of her work at the museum in 2015. During that time she was inspired to create a sculpture of McCully. “As a sculptor, my subject matter is connected to my upbringing and pioneering roots in northwestern Oklahoma,” said Venosdel. “I am driven to express myself and record these subjects in bronze.”

Most sod houses only lasted three to eight years, but Marshal McCully lived in his sod house for 15 years. Thanks to the efforts of preservationists, the soddie is still standing after 125 years. The Friends of the Sod House Museum will celebrate this milestone with birthday cake, cookies, and cider. The Friends will give away door prizes, and there will be a drawing for a queen-sized quilt made by the group. The Sod House will be decorated for Christmas in the traditional style of the late 1800s, while the museum facility will be decorated for Christmas to commemorate the 125th anniversary.

The Sod House Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information contact Director Renee Trindle at sodhouse@okhistory.org or 580-463-2441.



Native Women Artists panel discussion at the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma Historical Society and *First American Art Magazine* will host a panel discussion with American Indian women artists on Saturday, November 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center.

At 1 p.m. America Meredith (Cherokee Nation), publishing editor of *First American Art Magazine*, will present an introductory overview of Oklahoma Native women’s art history. At 1:45 p.m. Dr. Mary Jo Watson (Seminole) will moderate a panel discussion with artists Anita Fields (Osage/Muscogee), Sharron Ahtone Harjo (Kiowa), Ruthe Blalock Jones (Delaware/Shawnee/Peoria), and Margaret Roach Wheeler (Chickasaw/Choctaw). These artists will discuss their own artwork, issues facing Native women artists, and contributions of Native women to the arts.

Anita Fields is a ceramic and textile artist and a Tulsa Artist Fellow. Sharron Ahtone Harjo is a painter and educator based in Oklahoma City. Ruthe Blalock Jones, a printmaker and painter based in Okmulgee, was the first woman director of Bacone College’s art program. Margaret Roach Wheeler is a textile artist based in Sulphur who teaches loom weaving and recently launched Mahota Textiles, a design house bringing Southeastern tribal aesthetics to home and fashion. Dr. Mary Jo Watson, director emeritus and regents’ professor of art in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Oklahoma, wrote her dissertation on “Oklahoma Indian Women and Their Art” in 1993.

This event is free to attend. No registration is required and seating is first come, first served. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information please contact Tahnee Growingthunder at 405-522-8659.



Holiday Market at Museum of the Western Prairie

The Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will host its Sixth Annual Holiday Market at the Museum on Tuesday, December 3, 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. Patrons can bring their Christmas shopping lists and complete them with one-of-a-kind gifts. As an added bonus, visitors can tour the museum while browsing the artists’ displays. Refreshments will be served.

This event is hosted by the Western Trail Historical Society. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus. For more information please call 580-482-1044.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

On Wednesday, October 23, we hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in Tulsa for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture, better known as OKPOP. Although all eyes were on the future that day, I was thinking of the twists and turns the project has taken.

In many ways, the concept for OKPOP can be traced as far back as 1995 when we opened the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton. There, we launched a new business plan that included a combination of earned revenue, fundraising capacity, and reliance on partnerships to share the important topic of transportation history through the marketing power of popular culture. We also hired Jeff Moore to be on the project team.

We tapped into shared memory and popular culture again when we started planning the Oklahoma History Center in 1998. In addition to exhibits on sports, music, and television, we hired film historian Elizabeth Anthony to produce a 16-minute documentary on the image of Oklahoma as depicted in the movies. Through the power of popular culture, she connected movie stars, producers, and writers to the historic themes of race, gender, land runs, outlaws, and oil.

In 2007 the use of popular culture took a giant leap forward when we produced a major new exhibit on the history of rock and roll in Oklahoma. Through the lives of creative Oklahomans such as Bob Wills, Woody Guthrie, the Collins Kids, Wanda Jackson, Leon Russell, and the Gap Band, we tapped into a rich vein of shared memory that circled back to themes such as settlement patterns, mass communication, highways, free enterprise, and the stories of American Indians and African Americans.

Larry O'Dell, cocurator of the exhibit with Jeff Moore, described the convergence of creative talent and the Oklahoma experience as a place and time where Route 66 intersected Main Street. Along that journey into rock and roll, we also met and formed long-lasting partnerships with music pioneers who made history, in particular Steve Ripley, Jamie Oldaker, and Jim Halsey.

On May 15, 2008, while the rock and roll exhibit was drawing national attention, I met Ken Levit, executive director of the George Kaiser Family Foundation based in Tulsa. Ken wanted our help reaching out to the family of Woody Guthrie, but during the conversation we mentioned the exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center. He said, "Bring it to Tulsa." We responded, "We were waiting for the welcome mat."

From that meeting at Lola's Tavern, we had several meetings with George Kaiser and Ken to discuss a new partnership. Our goal was to use popular culture to draw attention to Oklahoma history. George's goal was to promote Tulsa as a center of creativity. Out of that came the concept for OKPOP, where Oklahomans' creativity in movies, television, radio, stage, literature, dance, and illustration would be featured under the umbrella of music.

The rest of the story, in the words of Tulsa native Paul Harvey, included the successful seven-year pursuit of a bond issue for the building, the donation of the perfect parcel of land across from Cain's Ballroom, and partnerships with hundreds of supporters who believe in the mission of OKPOP. That story is still being written.

Yes, the groundbreaking ceremony was a day to look into the future, but we should never forget the people and partnerships that have propelled us to this point in history.

Dr. Bob



Grant program application deadline

The application period for the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program officially opened on Monday, September 9, 2019. Eligible organizations can still apply at www.okhistory.org/grants.

The online application allows you to begin at any time and gives you a chance to review the questions. You can then save the application as a draft and return to it later. The deadline is Friday, November 8, 2019, at 5 p.m. Grant award announcements will be made in late January 2020.

This new grants-in-aid program will set aside \$500,000 to award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 to municipal, county, or tribal governments or nonprofit historical organizations registered with the Oklahoma Secretary of State. The grants will be specific to three categories: collections, exhibits, and programs. For more information please contact Nicole Harvey at grants@okhistory.org or 405-522-5202.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

In July the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors voted to update the OHS membership dues. These dues had not been increased in more than a decade, and after comparing our membership rates with those of similar organizations we decided that the time had come to update our prices. These increases will allow the OHS to continue to provide the quality exhibits, programming, and collections care that our members and the public expect from the state's flagship historical institution.

Presently our lowest rate is \$35 for an Individual membership. After January 1, 2020, this will increase to \$50, but will now admit two guests into OHS museums and historic sites. Family memberships will increase from \$50 to \$75, and will admit up to eight friends and family. All memberships will still include an annual subscription to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, *Mistletoe Leaves*, and *OHS EXTRA!*, as well as current discounts at the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store, Research Center, and on programs and events. Information about these changes is available on our website at www.okhistory.org/join.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work to maintain the standard of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma's rich history that you have come to know. If you have any questions, you can email me at lodell@okhistory.org or Angela Spindle at aspindle@okhistory.org, or call 405-522-0317.



Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office
405-522-5242
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, 4,800 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,038.77 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 the town of **Frederick** at the annual Cotton Festival on Saturday, November 2. 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 20th 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.

Experience life as it was in the 1800s at the annual Dripping Springs Rendezvous in **Okmulgee**. On Friday, November 8, and Saturday, November 9, 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 will also 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.

Visit Beavers Bend State Park north of **Broken Bow** for the 2019 Beavers Bend Folk Festival and Craft Show November 8–10. Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on opportunities to learn the art of vintage craft-making and mountain music, all amidst spectacular fall foliage. Staff members from Fort Towson Historic Site will also be on hand to demonstrate forgotten trades. This is a free event—perfect for the entire family! Festival hours are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Forest Heritage Center is located within Beavers Bend State Park, just seven miles north of Broken Bow on Hwy 259. For more information please call 580-494-6497.

Experience a German tradition at Volkstrauertag on Sunday, November 17, 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. 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.

Witness traditional American Indian dancing at the New Year's Eve Powwow in **Muskogee** on Tuesday, 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 include fancy dance, straight dance, jingle dress, and fancy shawl. This free event is sure to be an exciting way to ring in 2020. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs. The powwow will be held at the Muskogee Civic Center, located at 425 Boston Street in Muskogee. For more information please call 918-639-7999.

Exhibits

Visit Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma in **Norman** for a new exhibit titled *A Giving Heritage: Wedding Clothes and the Osage Community*. This exhibit opened on September 14 and will be on display through Sunday, December 8. *A Giving Heritage* explores the history of Osage bridal attire and features beautiful jackets based on early-19th-century military uniforms, which have a special place among the Osage. Once used as gifts from US military personnel to Osage leaders, these coats can be seen as a symbol of the interplay between two cultures, and have also come to symbolize the joining of families through marriage. Sam Noble Museum is located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. Please call 405-325-4712 for more information.

The Seminole Nation Museum in **Wewoka** is pleased to host a national traveling exhibition entitled *Altars of Reconciliation*. The exhibition, which includes more than 30 works of contemporary American Indian art, explores themes of Christianity through the eyes of Natives of Southeastern origin. Each "altar" depicts ongoing personal reconciliation, awareness of the complex history of Christianity among Southeastern tribes, and the mystery of faith that transcends it. The exhibition will be on display through December 31, 2019, and is being sponsored in Wewoka by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please contact Semi-

nole Nation Museum Executive Director Richard Ellwanger at 405-257-5580.

Step back in time and visit the newest exhibit at Sequoyah's Cabin Museum in **Sallisaw**. *Old Settler Capital at Tahlonteskee* opened on August 2 and will be displayed until January 31, 2020. The exhibit details the history of Tahlonteskee and the council grounds—an important part of the Cherokee's story before Tahlequah became the official capital of the Cherokee Nation in 1839. Sequoyah's Cabin Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 470288 Highway 101 in Sallisaw. For more information please call 877-779-6977.

The Edmond Historical Society and Museum in **Edmond** announces its latest exhibit entitled *Steeple and Stones: An Exhibit of Edmond's Architecture*. The exhibit is sponsored by Brent Gibson Classic Home Design and will be on display through February 29, 2020. Although it is impossible to represent every aspect of Edmond's architectural history, *Steeple and Stones* will give visitors a glimpse of the city's structural growth during its 130-year history. Exhibit highlights include a cornerstone from the 1907 Edmond Municipal Waterworks building, blueprints and photographs from the 1928 Clegern House, and a stained glass window from the Edmond First Church of the Nazarene. The exhibit even features interactive games and manipulatives that help visitors delve further into building design! The Edmond Historical Society and Museum is located at 431 South Boulevard in Edmond. Regular hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information please call 405-340-0078 or visit www.edmondhistory.org.



Do you want your organization's event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history- and heritage-related programming sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley by email at emoxley@okhistory.org. If you wish a news item to appear in the January/February 2020 issue, you must submit it by Wednesday, December 4.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

November

- 1 Battle of Honey Springs Education Day, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 1 Living History Lantern Tours, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1-2 Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 2 Preserving Your Family Heirlooms workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Regional Meeting, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 2 *LaDonna Harris: Indian 101* film screening and discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2 Cast-Iron Cooking workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 2-3 Tulsa Pop Culture Expo with OKPOP, Woodland Hills Mall, Tulsa
- 2-3 Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah



- 4 26th Annual Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- 4 Will Rogers's 140th Birthday Celebration, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 5 Kids' Day at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 8 Veterans Day Ceremony, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program application deadline (www.okhistory.org/grants)
- 8 *Fifty Years of Photojournalism at The Oklahoman* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9 Native Women Artists panel discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Fall Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 9 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline

- 13 Brown Bag Luncheon Lecture, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 16 Jewelry Beadwork class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 "Cold War Oklahoma" presentation by Landry Brewer, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 25 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 30 "Beaded Ornaments" Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 30 *Welcome Home: Oklahomans and the War in Vietnam* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



December

- 3 Sixth Annual Holiday Market at the Museum, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 5 Ladies' Night, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 5 "The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 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
- 6 Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid



- 6-7 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 6, 7, 9 OHC Museum Store Holiday Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 Deck the Halls, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 Guthrie's Historic Homes Tour and wassail at the Carnegie Library, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 7 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 8 19th Annual Christmas Open House, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 9 Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with Governor Kevin Stitt and First Lady Sarah Stitt, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 Brown Bag Luncheon Lecture, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 *Water/Ways* exhibit opens, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 14 125th Anniversary Celebration and Open House, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Christmas Open House, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 14 Christmas at the Fort, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 14 Pawnee Bill Ranch Association's annual meeting and meal, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 14 Holiday Open House, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 14 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore



- 14 Mingle at the Mansion, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 14 Holiday Happening Open House, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 22 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 28 "New Year's Eve" Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid

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

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce eight new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma, added in August and September 2019. The National Register is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

Ponca City in Kay County, Oklahoma, has five new additions to the National Register. These designations were funded in part by the City of Ponca City and the State Historic Preservation Office.

The Charlotte Marland House at 919 East Grand Avenue in Ponca City is recognized as an outstanding local example of early-20th-century Italian Renaissance Revival architecture. Built between 1914 and 1916, the house was designed by architect George Forsyth on land acquired by Ponca City oilman E. W. Marland. Forsyth designed the house for Marland's older sister, Charlotte.



Charlotte Marland House

The First Presbyterian Church at 200 North 14th Street in Ponca City is significant as a locally distinct example of the Modern Movement architectural style. Designed by architects Charles and John Shaver, with assistance from local architect William R. Brown, the First Presbyterian Church was dedicated in 1955.



First Presbyterian Church

Located just east of the BNSF railroad tracks near downtown Ponca City, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator dominates the skyline. The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is significant for its association with commerce in Ponca City between 1922 and 1959. Independently owned and operated by the locally prominent Donahoe family for the majority of its most productive years, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is a complex that includes a single-

story office/flour storage area, a six-story flour mill, a concrete grain elevator, and a large set of concrete, cylindrical grain storage bins. Though vacant today, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator remains the largest and best-preserved example of a flour milling and grain storage operation in the community.



Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Situated approximately one mile north of downtown Ponca City and west of the railroad tracks, the Ponca City Power Plant (also known as the Municipal Light and Power Plant) is significant for its role in community planning and development. Built in 1927 and located at 1420 North Union Street, the main building provided a reliable source of electrical power to Ponca City and the surrounding area. By making possible all aspects of daily home, work, and school life, the power plant was integral to the development of Ponca City.



Ponca City Power Plant

Temple Emanuel was designed by Ponca City architect G. Harold Kanady and was constructed in 1964. The temple represented the structural center of worship for a small but thriving Jewish community in Ponca City and the surrounding area by the mid-20th century. It is significant for its Modern architectural design.



Temple Emanuel

The Harris Palace Store Building is located at 214 East Ripley Street in Byars, McClain County. It is significant for its association with the history of commerce in Byars. Significant from 1904 to 1930, the building represents an era that was also the commercial heyday in Byars during the last years of the Chickasaw Nation and Indian Territory. The building is one of three remaining prestatehood (pre-1907) commercial resources in the downtown business section. It was one of the first brick commercial buildings, and one of the first buildings overall, erected in the small community, which was platted in April 1903.



Harris Palace Store Building

The Oklahoma City Schools Administration Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is significant for its role in education. The completion of this building established the first permanent home for the administrative offices of the Oklahoma City school system and served as a physical reminder that public education in Oklahoma City had come of age. The building is also an excellent example of Classical Revival architecture used in school construction in the early 1900s. With its brick façade, limited design elements, portico with recessed front entry, and cast stone accents, it is typical of school construction in Oklahoma City during the 1920s. The original 1919 building was designed by noted Oklahoma architect Solomon Andrew Layton, who designed 22 buildings currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 1928 addition was designed by another notable Oklahoma architect, Guy C. Reid.



OKC Schools Administration Building

(continued on p. 6)

New National Register listings (cont.)

Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is significant for its impact on and involvement with the African American community and social history. The period of significance for the church is from the founding of Creston Hills United Presbyterian Church in 1945 through the passage of national civil rights legislation in 1964, particularly 1960 when all-white Creston Hills United Presbyterian Church merged with all-black Bethany Presbyterian Church at the present location. The new, integrated congregation took the name Trinity United Presbyterian Church.



Trinity United Presbyterian Church

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, please fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm. For more information contact National Register of Historic Places Coordinator Sara Werneke at swerneke@okhistory.org or 405-522-4478.



Give the gift of OHS membership

The holidays are upon us, and an Oklahoma Historical Society membership makes a great stocking stuffer! By giving a membership, you are giving free admission to OHS museums and historic sites, subscriptions to OHS publications, and discounts on programs and events. In addition, you are supporting the mission of the OHS to collect, preserve, and share the history of Oklahoma and its people. Family memberships will be available for \$25 from now until December 31, 2019. Join online at www.okhistory.org/join. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Spindle, development and membership coordinator, at 405-522-0317 or aspindle@okhistory.org.

From the OHS Archives: Riverside Indian School Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

In 1871 the Wichita Indian Agency opened the "Wichita-Caddo School," an Indian boarding school near present-day Anadarko, Oklahoma. In 1878 the school was moved to its present location—next to the Washita River north of Anadarko—and it was renamed the Riverside Indian School. It is the oldest federally operated American Indian boarding school in the United States.

Presently, the school enrolls approximately 800 students from more than 75 American Indian tribes. The school prides itself on providing "an atmosphere of holistic development for each student and staff member through cultural, spiritual, physical, technological, and academic experiences" (Riverside Indian School, 2019). Students live and study on campus for nine months out of the year. Over the last 148 years, the curriculum has evolved from agriculture to vocational and general academics to college preparatory courses.

The Riverside Indian School Collection (M2014.174, one legal box) includes enrollment lists from 1949 to 1969, student lists from 1952 to 1967, and alumni information. The collection also includes an "In Memoriam" of Riverside students who were killed during the Vietnam War; this part of the collection was compiled in 1983.

The collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please email research@okhistory.org or call 405-522-5225.

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



Kindergarten class at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, undated (16136, Virgil Robbins Collection, OHS).

Will's Country Christmas

Visit Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch near Oologah for Will's Country Christmas on Friday, December 6, and Saturday, December 7, from 5 to 9 p.m. The house will be decorated for an Indian Territory Christmas, including photos with Santa Claus in the room where Will Rogers was born. The event will include crafts, camel and pony rides, 19th-century games, carriage rides, train rides, and food trucks. Guests can even take a Wild West hayride by the shores of Oologah Lake, where the Tri-State Gunfighters will bring the Old West to life with a gunfight between lawmen and bandits!

Admission to Will's Country Christmas is free, but there is a charge of \$5 for the hayride for guests ages 15 and older. For more information about this event, please visit www.willrogers.com or call 918-341-0719. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 E 380 Road in Oologah.



Water/Ways exhibit at Fort Towson

Fort Towson Historic Site is excited to host *Water/Ways*, a Smithsonian Institution Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit, from December 12, 2019, to February 13, 2020. This exhibit is made possible by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities.

Water is an important element in American culture. People are drawn to water for peace and contemplation. The sights and sounds of water make those who experience them feel connected to nature. Many faiths revere water as a sacred symbol. Authors and artists are inspired by the graceful ways in which water flows, but also by its unstoppable force.

Water has also played a vital role in society. Water routes made significant impacts on settlement and migration patterns. Humans use it for manufacturing and agriculture and economic planning. *Water/Ways* examines the many ways in which water is used and how it can be sustained for the future.

Water/Ways is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Oklahoma Humanities, and was adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

For more information about *Water/Ways*, please contact John Davis at 580-873-2634 or jdavis@okhistory.org. Fort Towson Historic Site's hours of operation and admission prices can be found at www.okhistory.org/forttowson.

Christmas at the Fort

Fort Towson Historic Site will host Christmas at the Fort on Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be riding tours of the grounds, which will end at the sutler's store. Inside the store guests can enjoy holiday decorations and coffee, hot cocoa, cider, and treats. Bring a camera because there will be plenty of opportunities to take photos with Santa! Fort Towson Historic Site is located approximately 14 miles east of Hugo on US Highway 70 in Fort Towson. For more information please call 580-873-2634.



Call for Papers and Presentations for 2020 Oklahoma History Conference

The OHS is seeking papers and presentations for the 2020 Oklahoma History Conference, which will be held April 22–24, 2020, at The Lodge at Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner. A total of 14 presentation sessions will take place Thursday morning, April 23, and Friday morning, April 24. This year's theme is "Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks." Presentation sessions will be 45 minutes in length and will feature one presentation not to exceed 30 minutes. This will allow 15 minutes for an introduction and questions. Individuals interested in making a presentation should prepare a one-page proposal including the title and a 100-word description of the proposed presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short vita or biographical sketch.

The deadline is Friday, December 27, 2019. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by early February 2020 if not sooner. Registration fees for presenters will be waived. 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

SHPO to host workshops

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host three workshops at the Oklahoma History Center December 5–6. Each workshop is devoted to one of the SHPO's federal preservation programs and is designed for preservation professionals, government agency representatives, and concerned citizens. All workshops are free and open to the public. The SHPO requests that participants register no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis. The workshops are:

- Thursday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: "The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants" presented by Cate Wood

- Friday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. to noon: "Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" presented by Jennifer Bailey

- Friday, December 6, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: "The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" presented by Jennifer Bailey

For more information or to register, please contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249. You also may register online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.

Christmas Open House at Fred Drummond Home

The Friends of the Fred Drummond Home are pleased to announce that the annual Christmas Open House will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. Every room of the house will be decorated for the Christmas season, and open house tours will be available. At the end of the tour, guests can enjoy an assortment of snacks, Christmas cookies, and something yummy to drink.

Live musical entertainment will be provided by Suzanne Drummond-Wooley and Jim Garling. As a special treat this year, Chuck "Pa-Pa" Drummond, the father-in-law of Pioneer Woman Ree Drummond, will be on hand to tell stories and visit with guests about the Drummond family and its history in the area. Of course Santa Claus will also make an appearance—passing out treats to all the good girls and boys! This is the perfect way to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends.

Regular admission fees will be taken at the door. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (ages 62+), \$4 for students, and free for children five and under. As always, OHS members receive free admission. For more information please call 918-885-2374.

Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Monday, December 9, Governor Kevin Stitt, First Lady Sarah Stitt, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister will welcome students from 25 schools across Oklahoma to attend the Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year, the event will take place at the Oklahoma History Center beginning at 1 p.m.

Each participating class will choose a theme and decorate an indoor, four-foot-tall Christmas tree with ornaments based on that theme. The Stitts and Hofmeister will be on hand for pictures with the students. Student performing groups will provide musical entertainment throughout the afternoon, leading up to the lighting of the outdoor Capitol Christmas Tree on the grounds of the Oklahoma History Center. The public is invited to celebrate the season at the annual tree lighting, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is sponsored by the Office of the Governor, the State Department of Education, and the Oklahoma Arts Council. For more information contact the Oklahoma History Center at 405-522-0765.

Holiday activities at Pawnee Bill Ranch

Beginning December 1, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will be beautifully transformed for the holiday season with festive decorations that will remain on display throughout the month of December. Visitors can view the decorations for free during regular hours of operation.

One great opportunity to experience the holidays at Pawnee Bill Ranch comes on Saturday, December 14, with the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association (PBRA) meeting and the Holiday Open House. The PBRA will hold its annual meeting in the Big Barn beginning at 11:30 a.m., followed by a noon meal for members. For more information or to join the PBRA, please call 918-762-2513.

Immediately following the PBRA meeting on December 14, Pawnee Bill Ranch will host its annual Holiday Open House for the public from 1 to 3 p.m. Activities will include surrey rides outside (weather permitting), a children's craft area inside the museum, a silent auction fundraiser, and hot cocoa and cookies. Money raised from the silent auction will help to fund exhibits at the museum.

Pawnee Bill Ranch is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee. For more information please call 918-762-2513, email pawneebill@okhistory.org, or visit www.pawneebillranch.org.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 50, No. 6

November/December 2019

Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments and Education Day



Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is proud to announce a fun-filled educational weekend for families and students alike. The biennial reenactments of the Battle of Honey Springs will take place at Honey Springs Battlefield near Checotah on Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3.

The weekend starts early with Education Day on Friday, November 1. Beginning at 9 a.m. on Friday, students from across the state, as well as the general public, will have the opportunity to explore numerous education stations and learn about topics related to the Civil War in Indian Territory and the battle itself. Living historians will demonstrate various military drills, cooking techniques, and other everyday activities for soldiers. There will be numerous sutlers selling 19th-century reproduction military equipment, clothing, books, and souvenirs. Food vendors will also be on-site. Education Day is free to the public.

On Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3, camps will open to the public at 10 a.m. The Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments will take place at 1 p.m. each day. There will also be special presenters each day leading up to the battle reenactments. The cost for Saturday and Sunday is \$5 for adults and free for children ages 12 and under.

The Battle of Honey Springs was the largest of approximately 107 documented Civil War military engagements in present-day Oklahoma. The engagement took place on July 17, 1863, just two weeks after the famous Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Approximately 9,000 Union and Confederate troops, mostly American Indians and African Americans, were involved in the Battle of Honey Springs. Of those, approximately 200 total casualties were suffered. Historians believe that these troops represented the most diverse group of individuals and cultures to fight in any battle of the Civil War. After a decisive Union victory, Confederates lost control of Indian Territory north of the Arkansas River. The Union victory also ensured Federal control of Fort Gibson in Indian Territory and Fort Smith in Arkansas. Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. For more information please call 918-473-5572 or visit www.okhistory.org/hsb.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Oklahoma Historical Society announces new artifact acquisition

The OHS Office of American Indian Culture and Preservation recently secured the acquisition of an important artifact related to Kiowa history in Oklahoma. The artifact is a bison hide (approximately five feet by eight feet) that was hand painted by Woodrow Wilson “Woody” Big Bow (1914–1988) and his father in the 1930s. Woody Big Bow was the grandson of Kiowa Chief Big Bow (c. 1833–1900).

The bison hide was painted in traditional ledger style. It documents the history of the Big Bow family from the 1860s through the 1930s. Also depicted on the hide are scenes from the Red River War. During the war, the US Army broke up a large encampment of Kiowa, Comanche, and Cheyenne, killing only a few American Indians but capturing and slaughtering more than 1,400 horses. The painted hide also documents the decimation of the bison herds, which was an important source of sustenance for the Kiowa Tribe.

The acquisition of the painted bison hide was made possible through funding assistance from the Friends of the OHS Archives, the Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma Westerners, and private donations. “The Big Bow family hide is an important artifact of Kiowa history relating tribal events over half a century. The collaboration of these entities, along with private individuals, to help us acquire this piece means it will stay in Oklahoma and preserve important aspects of Kiowa history,” said Bill Welge, director emeritus of the OHS Office of American Indian Culture and Preservation. For more information please call 405-522-5206.

