



Oklahoma
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Society

Mistletoe Leaves

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Honey Springs Visitor Center Grand Opening



On Saturday, November 5, beginning at 11 a.m., Honey Springs Battlefield will celebrate the grand opening of all permanent exhibits inside its visitor center near Checotah.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience an immersive, 3-D theatrical video performance bringing to life the Battle of Honey Springs. Additionally, guests can explore the new east gallery exhibit hall featuring 14 audio players with recordings from firsthand, written accounts of soldiers who fought at the Battle of Honey Springs, as well as exhibits highlighting firearms, ammunition, and artillery used in the battle. There also will be outdoor education stations surrounding the visitor center with living history demonstrations of Civil War military drills, artillery practices, and civilian life throughout the day. A ribbon cutting and guest speakers will commemorate the special day.

"This new, interactive exhibit at the Honey Springs Visitor Center will bring the battle to life in a way that is not only educational, but impactful," said Trait Thompson, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. "This battle was the most important of the Civil War in Indian Territory and it deserves the compelling rendition we now have in place. I'm thankful for our incredible Oklahoma Historical Society staff members from Honey Springs and other sites who contributed their talents to this incredible new exhibit."

The project to build and install exhibits at the Honey Springs Battlefield site is the long range vision of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board and staff who

A family visits one of the newly opened state-of-the-art exhibit areas, complete with audio stations at the Honey Springs Visitor Center (photo by Bryan Beasley).

began making plans for this military site dating back to the 1960s. Several stages of interpretation have unfolded over the years, including the trail signage and the slow installation of interactive exhibits that has now been completed.

Ask site director Adam Lynn and he will tell you that countless individuals, communities, donors, organizations, scholars, archaeologists, curators, volunteers, construction teams, maintenance workers, and staff members have contributed greatly to making the long range plans a reality.

"The battlefield and new state-of-the-art exhibits located inside the visitor center started with a vision that will soon come full circle," said Lynn. "We are beyond thankful and excited to offer visitors, schools, and groups of all ages a complete experience equal to the size and importance of one of the most important chapters in all of Oklahoma history!"

The exhibits will include a new 3-D theater that will show the documentary film *The Battle of Honey Springs* on a regular basis for visitors to immerse themselves in the story of the historic site.

Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The site is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact the center at 918-617-7125 or honeysprings@history.ok.gov.

Perspectives in History: The 2023 Oklahoma History Symposium accepting proposals

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is seeking proposals for Perspectives in History: The 2023 Oklahoma History Symposium. This one-day event will be held on April 22, 2023, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The deadline to submit proposals is November 30, 2022.

Perspectives in History will offer scholars, historians, authors, students, and museum professionals from across the state and country a forum in which to share their work with history enthusiasts. Proposals will be considered on a wide range of topics pertaining to Oklahoma history and culture. Possible broad topics include African American history, archaeology, Civil Rights, ethnicity, immigration, folklife, genealogy, Indigenous history, the territorial era, and women's history. Session formats could include traditional presentations, research sessions, discussion sessions, or discussion panels. There also will be a museum and archival track for professional development, where topics will include collections management, outreach program development, and the social, cultural and political impact of archives and exhibits.

Proposed sessions must be either 30 or 50 minutes in length, including 10 minutes for audience questions and answers. More information and access to the submission form can be found at okhistory.org/symposium.

Civil War Christmas

Honey Springs Battlefield is excited to announce its Civil War Christmas event to be held on Saturday, December 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event will be steeped in the history of Christmases past, and full of fun for adults and children alike. Children are encouraged to bring their wish lists to the newly expanded visitor center, where they will have the opportunity see the new exhibits and take photographs with Santa. Civil War soldiers dressed in period attire will add to the festive event, along with crafts and refreshments. The program is free to the public, but donations are welcome.



Director's Column

**By Trait Thompson
Executive Director**

Since the earliest days of the Oklahoma Historical Society, collecting items of importance to the state's history has been one of our primary goals. At first, the society collected newspapers and quickly expanded to books, periodicals, and works of art. Over time, the collections expanded to include a wide array of items including saddles owned by Tom Mix, a bugle used to start the first land run in 1889, artifacts from the 39 Native nations headquartered in Oklahoma, and a letter written by Abraham Lincoln, among many others. When showing people our massive collections storage area in the basement of the Oklahoma History Center, Jeff Briley, the museum's deputy director, often announces our collection ranges from the "ridiculous to the sublime." Today, our collection includes over 180,000 physical artifacts and millions of maps, letters, photographs, newspaper pages, and other important documents.

As you can probably imagine, one of our constant challenges is maintaining an accurate record-keeping system. We must keep track of where every artifact, film reel, and architectural drawing is located, and its condition must be strictly documented. In the early days, this was done using ledgers. In more recent times, our registrars have used a massive database.

As times progress, the OHS must progress also. One of our major success initiatives for the agency has been to enhance our technological tools so that we might work more efficiently across the agency. Over the past several months, our collections team has been evaluating new, cutting-edge collections management software to determine which will best meet our needs. The software we recently selected will be web-based with data storage in the cloud. This will eliminate significant data storage expenses and allow each of our sites to view the collections at other sites, a capability we do not currently have. We also will be able to provide more in-depth documentation about the artifacts, eventually allowing the public to view and learn from the digital collections while the actual artifacts are safely conserved in storage.

Our collection continues to grow thanks to the generosity of Oklahomans who donate their precious items to us. Going forward, we have another tool at our disposal to acquire collections: the Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment. Thanks to the \$430,000 that was raised to seed the endowment, we will now have funding available each year to purchase collections that otherwise would slip through our hands. This funding is a game-changer that will allow us to bring in items that are critical to the interpretation of Oklahoma's history.

I'm proud of the OHS's history of collecting important artifacts, photographs, and documents going all the way back to our founding in 1893. Our new collections software and the Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment will ensure that we continue to fulfill this critical aspect of our mission.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

As 2022 winds down, I want to thank all OHS members for your continued support and ask you to consider an end-of-year gift. The OHS Annual Giving Campaign is an important yearly event that helps the organization raise the funds necessary to produce educational programs, exhibits, and special events. By donating to the Annual Giving Campaign, you help ensure our state's history will be preserved for future generations. To get your gift in before the end of the year, visit okhistory.org/givenow or email me at larry.odell@history.ok.gov.

Another way to support the OHS is to give the gift of history this holiday season. An OHS membership is an incredibly versatile gift, and is great for families! From now until January you can buy a \$75 family membership for the discounted price of \$50. These family memberships allow up to eight family members into all OHS museums and sites across the state. New members at the family level also will receive the *Mistletoe Leaves* and the OHS scholarly journal, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. An OHS membership permits early registration or discounted rates for certain OHS programs and events, as well as a 15 percent discount at the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store and in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center. To take advantage of this offer please visit okhistory.org/members. If you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to call me at 405-522-6676.



Cyndi Lu Daniels (left) and Audra Spencer-Russell with the Reader's Choice Award (staff photo by Evelyn Moxley).

Best wedding venue

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) has been named the best wedding venue in Oklahoma City in the *Oklahoman's* Reader's Choice Awards. This award recognizes the best the community has to offer, and is chosen by the public. To learn more about making the OHC a unique setting for your special events—from the most elegant celebration to informal gatherings—contact 405-522-0745 or events@history.ok.gov.



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

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

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

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Gilder Lehrman 2022 National History Teacher



Emily Busey, a teacher at Edmond Memorial High School in Edmond, has been named the 2022 Oklahoma History Teacher of the Year. This award is presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American

History, the nation's leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education. Busey was nominated for this honor by the Oklahoma History Center.

Emily Busey is in her eleventh year of teaching. She currently teaches Advanced Placement (AP) US history, government, and speech and debate. She has experience teaching both middle and high school. She holds a master's degree in educational administration, curriculum, and supervision and a bachelor's degree in social studies education. Voted Central Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2018-2019, Busey was also a finalist for Edmond Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She continuously learns by attending a robust program of professional development courses. She served on the drafting committee for the revisions of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. Busey also mentors teachers entering the field.

Sally Stewart, assistant principal at Edmond Memorial High School, wrote of Busey, "Our students are so fortunate to have Ms. Busey in their classroom and in their lives. Ms. Busey shines in the classroom."

In addition to a \$1,000 honorarium, Busey will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials, recognition at a local ceremony in her honor, and becomes one of 53 finalists for the 2022 National History Teacher of the Year Award.

Inaugurated in 2004, the award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school. The award honors one K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools, and US territories.

Nominations for the 2023 History Teacher of the Year Awards are now open. Students, parents, colleagues, and supervisors may nominate K-12 teachers for the award by visiting gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy. The deadline for 2023 nominations is April 30, 2023.

The announcement for the National History Teacher of the Year award will be made on October 18.



Mabel B. Little Heritage House Museum in the Greenwood Historic District, Tulsa (formerly the Sam and Lucy Mackey House)

Greenwood Historic District joins NRHP

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

The Greenwood Historic District is a discontinuous district in north Tulsa, Tulsa County, composed of the 100 block of North Greenwood Avenue, Vernon A.M.E. Church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, and the Sam and Lucy Mackey House (currently the Mabel B. Little Heritage House). The district represents major property types and architectural styles present within the larger Greenwood community during the early and mid-twentieth century. The district is locally significant for its development as a self-contained, city-within-a-city due to Tulsa's strict segregationist policies that excluded African Americans from white businesses, neighborhoods, and schools during the time period. The district is notable for its good, largely intact examples of commercial buildings, Late Gothic Revival- and Classical Revival-styled church buildings, and one Prairie School-styled brick dwelling that are representative of the level of design and construction in Greenwood at the height of its development following the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. Furthermore, the Greenwood Historic District derives national significance from its exclusive development by and for African Americans under legal segregation, its recognition by nationally-known African American leaders as a prominent community by the 1920s, its wholesale destruction in the infamous Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, and its phenomenal reconstruction in the decades that followed.

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

Vanishing cemeteries: Eufaula Memorial Library Collection

By Jan H. Richardson



Established by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in 1836, North Fork Town, situated at the fork of the Canadian and North Canadian Rivers in McIntosh County, was a hotbed of westward travel and commercial activity in the 1800s. The trading post and post office

provided an important place to rest and restock for the pioneers and miners heading west for the Gold Rush and beyond. In 1872 the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railway (nicknamed the "Katy") established a hub three miles away, and the Muscogee Nation moved businesses from North Fork Town to the depot now known as Eufaula, the Muscogee word meaning "Here they split up and went many places." While Eufaula continued to prosper, in 1956 the State of Oklahoma designed a large lake that would cover North Fork Town, including two cemeteries: Massey Cemetery and Fame Cemetery.

The Eufaula Memorial Library Collection (2011.296, 1 legal box) contains reports documenting the cemeteries displaced by Lake Eufaula and the Lake Eufaula Dam, which include information from the US Army Corp of Engineers, cemetery completion reports, specifications, and correspondence. Documentation with photographs is included for the Massey and Fame Cemeteries. A cemetery completion report is also available for the relocation of the McNak, Old Hope, Tabor, Freeman, Williams, Cathey, and McIntosh Cemeteries.

The Eufaula Memorial Library Collection is available for viewing at the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@history.ok.gov (photo above: Lake Eufaula, Jim Argo Collection, OHS).

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



OHS Calendar of Events

November

- 2-5 Will Rogers Days and Motion Picture Festival, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 5 Wheel Setting Demonstrations with Tom Nelson, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 5 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center Grand Opening, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 5 Cast-Iron Cooking class, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 6 *The Daughter of Dawn* film screening, the Poncan Theatre, Ponca City
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 *Choctaw Code Talkers* documentary film screening and discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 Rushmore Four performances, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18-19 "Hunter Trapper" living history program, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 19 Sewing Workshop: Historic Housewife Sewing Kit, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 19 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Let's Talk About It: *Lonesome Dove* (1985) by Larry McMurtry, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 28 "Holiday Special" Kilgen Organ Performance featuring Lance Luce, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

December

- 2 Museum After Dark: Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 2-3 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 2-3 Museum Store Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 *Dust to Eat* film screening and discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 Guthrie's Distinctive Homes Tour and Wassail at the Carnegie Library, Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie
- 3 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 3 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 3 Candlelight Tours, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 4 Open House, Hunter's Home, Park Hill

December (continued)

- 5 "Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 6 "Documenting Post-European Contact: Archaeological Sites in Oklahoma" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 8 "Tribal Consultation in the Section 106 Process" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 9 Friends Christmas Celebration, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 Steamboat *Heroine* discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 Breakfast with Santa and an Overholser Holiday, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 10 Pawnee Bill Ranch Open House, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 10 Christmas at the Fort, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 Civil War Christmas, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 10 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 10 Christmas Open House, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 10 Christmas Open House, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Christmas Tea, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 12 "Working with the National Register of Historic Places" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 13 "How to Research your "Historic" Property" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 14 "Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program Overview" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 15 The Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 16 "The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 17 Holiday Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 17 *Barney P. Enright, Photographer* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 17 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 21 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 "Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma: The Significance of Barns in the Oklahoma Cultural Landscape" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City

- 30 Movie Night featuring *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 *Observing With NASA*, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Please visit www.okhistory.org/calendar/ohs for additional information about OHS events, programs, exhibits, seasonal museum and site hours, and seasonal offerings.



Oklahoma History Center Museum Store sale

Come to the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) on December 2 and 3 for its annual Museum Store Holiday Sale! Every year we offer additional discounts to our best customers, the OHS's members, staff, and volunteers. Each group receives an additional 10 percent off regularly priced merchandise, including 10 percent off for the general public.

Our museum store is stocked full of unique gift items related to the history and culture of Oklahoma that your friends and family are sure to love. A variety of gifts that celebrate the state, including prints, kitchenware, toys, and decorative items, are available.

Each unique gift you buy is not only a gift for your loved ones, but also benefits the OHC. All proceeds from Museum Store sales help to support the mission and programs of the OHC.

For those hard to shop for friends and family, give the gift of history! Our associates can help you purchase a gift membership to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Our online store includes many of our selections with an easy-to-use interface. While the extra discount does not apply online, regular discounts are available. Orders are processed and shipped quickly, making your holiday shopping a breeze. Visit store.okhistory.org to see hundreds of gift ideas from the comfort of your home. Let our store associates help you to find the perfect gift for the special people in your life. Contact 405-522-5214 or museumstore@history.ok.gov to learn more.

Chisholm Trail Museum director recognized



Jason Harris, director of the Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill received the prestigious 2022 Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) Presidential Award. This award is given to someone who has recently gone above and beyond to help the Oklahoma Museums Association. In addition to his day job, Harris serves as the chair of the OMA Advocacy Committee and is always advocating for Oklahoma museums. He was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 909, which allows Oklahoma museums with budgets under \$1 million to be exempt from paying sales tax. After OMA worked on this priority for over 20 years, Harris made it happen with the help of all Oklahoma museum advocates. This is just an example of his hard work for every Oklahoma museum. Congratulations!



“It’s been quite a party ain’t it?”

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee will partner with Oklahoma Humanities (OH) to host the final installment of OH’s book discussion series “Let’s Talk About It” on November 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The book club meeting will take place in person at the museum on Blue Hawk Peak and online.

Lonesome Dove (1985) by author Larry McMurtry is the last book in the series that has explored the theme of the historical cowboy—the hired man on horseback who rode the ranges and trails of the post-Civil War West. A scholar will lead the 45-minute book discussion, which will have you saying the OH book series has—in the immortal words of Augustus McCrae—been quite a party!

This program is free to the public. The museum will provide all the books, refreshments, and the venue. All participants need to bring is the desire to add to the discussion. For more information, call 918-762-2513 or come by the museum to sign up for the program.

Holiday Bake Day at the Fort Gibson ovens

Visit Fort Gibson Historic Site for a special Holiday Bake Day on Saturday, December 17, at 10 a.m., when they will be cooking up fresh bread and batches of gingerbread cookies just in time for the holidays! Fresh batches of each will be ready at noon and again at 3 p.m., with gingerbread cookies available throughout the day starting at 11 a.m.

The smell of fresh-baked goods will fill the crisp December air on Garrison Hill as OHS staff and volunteers bring the bakehouse 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 and children can decorate their own gingerbread man to take home. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Fort Gibson Historic Site is located at 907 N. Garrison Ave. in Fort Gibson. For more information please call 918-478-4088.

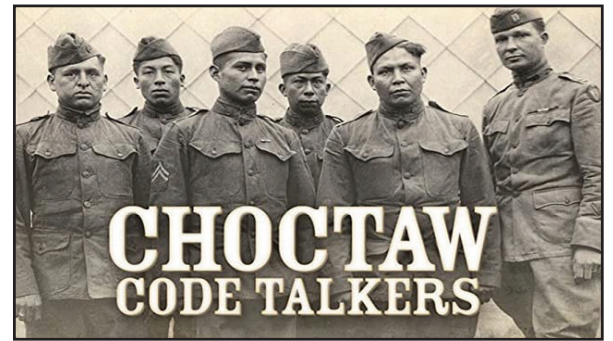
Will’s Country Christmas

Start your holiday fun early on Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah for the family-friendly Will’s Country Christmas!

The ranch house will be decorated for an Indian Territory Christmas, and outdoor lighting will be the perfect backdrop for holiday memories. The evening will include storytelling, Wild West shootouts, children’s crafts, 19th-century games, carriage rides, a shooting gallery, music, vendors, and food trucks. Guests also will have the opportunity to take a Wild West hayride by the shores of Oologah Lake. Bring your family and take a free picture with Santa! 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 please visit willrogers.com/eventsandactivities or call 918-341-0719.

Go wassailing in Guthrie

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum (OTM) and Carnegie Library will be part of Guthrie’s Distinctive Homes Tour on Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guthrie’s finest homes, churches, buildings, including the Carnegie Library, will be dressed for the season. Visitors will hear tales of the early days of Oklahoma’s first capital, and wassail will be served at to warm the hearts and hands of tour participants. To learn more, contact Guthrie’s Territorial Christmas Foundation at 405-466-7720. Call 405-282-1889 to learn more about the OTM.



Documentary screening at the OHC

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, on Saturday, November 12, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Oklahoma History Center will screen the documentary *Choctaw Code Talkers*, followed by a discussion.

In 1918 Choctaw soldiers of the US American Expeditionary Forces used the Choctaw language as a powerful tool against the German forces in World War I. Their inventiveness and courage set a precedent for code talking as an effective military weapon, establishing them as America’s original Code Talkers.

This film will be shown in the Chesapeake Event Center and Gallery on the first floor of the (OHC). The cost of the film screening is included with admission to the OHC.

The 19 Choctaw Code Talkers were Albert Billy, Mitchell Bobb, Victor Brown, Ben Carterby, Benjamin Colbert, George Davenport, Joseph Davenport, James Edwards, Tobias Frazier, Benjamin Hampton, Noel Johnson, Otis Leader, Solomon Louis, Pete Maytubby, Jeff Nelson, Joseph Oklahombi, Robert Taylor, C. Walter Veach, and Calvin Wilson. Learn more about Code Talkers at okhistory.org/codetalkers.

Rushmore Four performances

On Wednesday, November 16, at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m., the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will present the Rushmore Four, a program featuring the presidents who appear on Mount Rushmore. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt will be portrayed by four living history professionals. Each president will offer stories from his respective era and his service to the United States. Admission is free for the 2 p.m. performance, but patrons are required to reserve a seat. The 7 p.m. performance is \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for nonmembers. This program is sponsored by Inasmuch Foundation and coincides with the 17th anniversary of the opening of the current OHC building as well as Oklahoma Statehood Day on November 16, 1907. To reserve or purchase a seat, visit okhistory.org/rushmore.

Nominations for annual awards program

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is now accepting nominations for its annual awards program. Recipients of these awards will be honored at the OHS Awards Banquet to be held Thursday, March 23, 2023, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

The OHS is seeking nominations for the following awards:

• **Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame:** This honor recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions to Oklahoma history through demonstrated excellence.

• **Bruce T. Fisher Award:** This award recognizes the significant contribution of an individual or organization for history-related projects including exhibits, short-form publications, collections care, film, programming, and digital projects completed in the previous year with a budget under \$20,000.

• **Linda Williams Reese Award:** This award recognizes the outstanding dissertation or thesis on Oklahoma history completed in the previous year. It includes a \$500 prize.

• **Joseph B. Thoburn Award:** This is awarded to a junior or senior in high school who exhibits outstanding achievements in the presentation or interpretation of state and local history. It includes a \$500 scholarship.

• **William D. Pennington Award:** This award acknowledges an outstanding social studies teacher—one who makes a lasting impact on students and provides remarkable support for Oklahoma National History Day projects.

To nominate an individual or a history project, please visit okhistory.org/awards and download the nomination form specific to the award. Current members of the OHS Board of Directors and current employees of the OHS and its museums, sites, and affiliates are not eligible. **The completed form must be submitted no later than November 15, 2022,** to Larry Odell at odell@history.ok.gov or mailed to Larry O'Dell, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

**A holiday favorite
Meet Me in St.
Louis (1944)
will be shown
on Friday,
December 30, at
7 p.m. at the Will
Rogers Memorial
Museum in
Claremore.
The event is
free to attend.
Call 918-341-
0719 for more
information.**



Christmas Open House

The Sod House Museum's Christmas Open House will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Enjoy the holidays in Oklahoma's only remaining sod house, which will be decorated for the season in the style of the late 1800s. Traditional music will be performed by area musicians including the group Silver Strings from Carmen, dulcimer musician Margaret Goss, and other instrumentalists. Guests can explore exhibits, artifacts, photographs, and a root cellar surrounded by the sounds of early-day songs and Christmas music. Cookies and spiced cider will be provided by the Friends of the Sod House. The Christmas Open House is free to visitors as a "thank you" to those who continue to support the museum and its efforts to educate the public about the dwelling and lifestyle of an Oklahoma pioneer. The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information, please call 580-463-2441.

Dust to Eat film screening

On Saturday, December 3, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will screen the film *Dust to Eat* (2021), followed by a discussion. The film takes the viewer through the drought and ensuing dust storms of the 1930s from the perspective of Caroline Henderson, who, with her husband, stayed behind to save the family farm. Through poignant narration and imagery, the film explores the lasting impact of one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history 85 years after it occurred. The film was produced by historian Dr. Alvin Turner and OHS Board President Dr. Deena Fisher.

This film will be shown in the Chesapeake Event Center and Gallery on the first floor of the OHC. The screening is free with regular admission to OHC.



"Holiday Special" Kilgen Organ performance

On Monday, November 28, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Oklahoma History Center will present the 2022 late fall performance of the Kilgen theater organ series, featuring organist Lance Luce playing selections focused on the holidays. A short Laurel and Hardy film, *Big Business* (1929), will be shown and an audience sing-along are planned as a part of the performance.

Lance Luce is an internationally acclaimed theater organist. He has played hundreds of concerts all over the United States, Canada, England, and Australia. In 2014 he was awarded Organist of the Year by the American Theatre Organ Society. Most recently, he became the head organist for the Detroit Red Wings at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, Michigan.

Tickets for the performance are \$10 for Oklahoma Historical Society members and \$20 for nonmembers, and may be reserved by calling 405-522-0765. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.



Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) and Birthplace Ranch will celebrate the 143rd birthday of Oklahoma's Favorite Son with the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival. The festival will take place from Wednesday, November 2, through Saturday, November 5. Many activities are planned to honor the memory of Will Rogers (Cherokee), cowboy, philosopher, and movie actor.



Beginning November 2, the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival will feature up-and-coming filmmakers exhibiting their work at venues throughout Claremore, along with lectures, workshops, and receptions. Also included in this festival will be showings of films featuring Will Rogers. The Dog Iron Awards Ceremony will be held on November 5 at the Will Rogers Memorial Theater.

In celebration of Rogers's birthday—November 4, 1879—the WRMM in Claremore will be open and free to the public all day on Friday, November 4. Families are encouraged to visit the WRMM to learn more about the man who entertained and inspired the nation. On the same day, the Will Rogers Days Parade will be held in downtown Claremore with Barry Corbin, a cowboy movie star and festival presenter, serving as grand marshal. On Saturday, November 5, from 9 a.m. to noon, a wreath will be laid on Will Rogers's tomb, followed by the "Hats Off To Will" theater tribute. To learn more about the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival or to read a complete schedule of events please call 918-341-0719 or visit www.willrogers.com/will-rogers-days or www.dogirons.com.

SHPO winter webinars

Join the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for a series of webinars on historic preservation. December's workshops are virtual, two-hour sessions that will run from 10 a.m. to noon.

The following workshops will be available in December:

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Documenting Post-European Contact: Archaeological Sites in Oklahoma
- Tribal Consultation in the Section 106 Process
- Working with the NRHP
- How to Research your "Historic" Property
- Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program Overview
- The Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
- The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation

On December 27, the last in the "Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma" series will look at the significance of barns in the Oklahoma cultural landscape.

To register for these workshops, visit okhistory.org/shpo/workshopregistration. Contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or visit bigmarker.com/communities/oklahoma-historical-society-/conferences for more information about these workshops and to view some of the past webinars held by SHPO staff and guest presenters.

"Hunter Trapper" living history program

On Friday, November 18, and Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 1 to 3 p.m., Fort Gibson Historic Site will hold a living history program about the practices of hunters and trappers of the area. Visitors will learn about the trade through a hands-on examination of the different animal furs and by seeing the different equipment, tools, and paraphernalia involved in making a successful hunting season.

The month of November in Indian Territory was a time of readying for the cold of the winter to come. This increased business for hunters and trappers in the 19th century when furs and meat sustained people through the winter.

Demonstrations and programs are free with regular admission. Fort Gibson Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 907 N. Garrison Ave. in Fort Gibson. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$4 for students aged 5–18. Active-duty military and veterans with military ID, as well as members of the OHS with a membership card, enjoy free admission. Please call 918-478-4088 for more information.



Steamboat *Heroine* film screening at OHC

On Saturday, December 10, the Oklahoma History Center will a discussion about the excavation of the steamboat *Heroine* from the Red River and how it was transported to the Oklahoma History Center after its discovery in 1990. The excavation of *Heroine* by the Oklahoma Historical Society and Texas A&M University provided archaeologists and historians with information on the *Heroine*, how it operated, and the network of steamboats that supplied forts in the West. The discussion will take place in the Chesapeake Event Center and Gallery on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center (OHC). The cost of this event is included with admission to the OHC.

Laura Martin honored

Laura Martin, the deputy director of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Research Division, was honored in October with an award for her work to further awareness toward disability concerns in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt presented Martin with the award as a part of the Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns (MCDC/OKC), which "works to foster an environment that promotes access and inclusion to all the city's residents."

Earlier this year, Martin curated a special exhibit of selections from the OHS collections, which also included an interactive display containing a braille textbook and other items that created hands-on experiences for visitors. The opening of the exhibit, *From Institution to Inclusion: The History of disabilities in Oklahoma*, coincided with Disabilities Awareness Day on March 8, 2022. It highlighted Oklahoma's disability pioneers—institutions, legislators, and citizens who fought to break down barriers. Some of the items included ledgers from the Cherokee Insane Asylum dating to 1879, an iron lung used for treating polio, and examples of the evolution of prosthetics and assistive devices.

MCDC/OKC Inclusivity Awards were also given to Rachel McLemore with the OK Department of Rehabilitation Services and Not Your Average Joe Café.

Christmas Tea

On Sunday, December 11, The Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School in Perry will host a Christmas Tea from 1:30 to 4 p.m. This event coincides with the Tour of Homes in Perry, when the museum opens its doors to the public. The museum, gazebo, and Rose Hill School will have festive holiday decorations to set the mood for an old-fashioned style Christmas. Historical interpreters dressed in Victorian costumes and third- and fourth-grade carolers will add to the seasonal splendor. Guests can enjoy tea, hot cider, and cookies.

This event is free to the general public. Bring the family and remember to do a bit of holiday shopping at the CSM's gift shop while you visit. For more information please call 580-336-2405.

OKPOP collections and staff grow

The Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) is busy as ever as the staff gears up for fall and winter. Together with Art Processors, the exhibit consultants who collaborated with the Bob Dylan Center, the staff are working to make exhibit plans a reality. With their unique expertise, Art Processors are helping forge OKPOP's path to immersive storytelling. The team also continues to grow its collections. New faces have joined the OKPOP staff in all departments, each person bringing with them diverse experiences and perspectives, and all having a talent for jumping right into the work with a shared vision of what OKPOP can become.



Cain's Ballroom sign's shadow on OKPOP, which can only be seen at the beginning of fall (staff photo by Mary Barnes).

Christmas at the Fort

Fort Towson Historic Site will host Christmas at the Fort on Saturday, December 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. In the sutler's 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.

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

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PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

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Observing With NASA exhibit kiosk on display

Observing With NASA, an exhibit kiosk developed for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has been installed at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC). The kiosk is an authentic data experience with astronomical imaging from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory that engages visitors in the art and science of NASA imagery. *Observing With NASA* offers an introduction to the tools, data, and skills that NASA space scientists and data visualization experts use to create the images of deep space objects that we all know and love.

On display at the OHC until December 31, 2022, *Observing With NASA* features a range of NASA’s most iconic images to explore and provides opportunities for visitors to put their own artistic spin on these images through analysis and processing. This kiosk has been incorporated into the OHC’s permanent exhibit *Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space*, which highlights the achievements of all Oklahomans who have contributed to the US aerospace program from its inception. *Launch to Landing* can be found in the Gaylord Special Exhibit Gallery on the first floor of the OHC.

The OHC is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City and is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, please call 405-522-0765 or visit okhistory.org/historycenter.



Museum After Dark: Christmas in the Village

Come experience a Victorian Christmas in Humphrey Heritage Village at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid on Friday, December 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors will feel the warmth of holiday cheer throughout the beautifully decorated scene.

For just the regular cost of admission, visitors will hear Christmas carols echoing throughout the village from local choirs as they tour the Victorian-era Glidewell House. There are many other activities for the family, including ornament decorating, crafts, hot drinks, and a visit from Santa Claus!

Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance for this popular event. For more information about Christmas in the Village, please call 580-237-1907 or visit www.csrhc.org.

A local Enid choir sings carols at the decorated gazebo in the Humphrey Heritage Village as onlookers enjoy the holiday splendor (staff photo by Trait Thompson).



The interactive kiosk shows visitors NASA imagery and allows them to analyze the pictures.

Launch to Landing in the Gaylord Special Exhibit Gallery explores the work of the many Oklahomans who played a part in the US air and space program. The Skylab 4 Apollo Command Module (CM-118), seen at right, is the centerpiece of the exhibit.

