



Mistletoe Leaves



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Artifacts now available to view on OHS website

Artifacts housed at the Oklahoma History Center are now available to view from the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) website. Approximately one thousand artifacts were selected by the curatorial staff to feature in the initial launch. Over the course of almost a year, staff meticulously cleaned and photographed objects, updated database records, and researched biographical information to include in the new online catalog. Visitors can click on five different icons to see items in the museum's American Indian, military, photographs, textiles, and historical collections.

"This project has been on our wish list for several years," said Sherry Massey, senior registrar at the History Center. "The most difficult task was to limit the initial launch to only one thousand artifacts. Seeing the project come to fruition was possible only through a focused team effort. We hope to be able to include artifacts from OHS historic sites and museums across the state in the future."

Photographs available to view include a large collection of rarely seen Wiley Post images, portraits of 89ers, Tom Mix movie stills, and train images captured by renowned railroad photographer Preston George. Military artifacts cover the Civil War era through present day. The textiles section features everyday clothes, evening wear, and a fun assortment of children's clothing, as well as a sampling of the extensive hat collection. The historical icon links the visitor to records that run the gamut of art, furniture, Merci Train objects, clocks, and Depression glass. The American Indian link highlights the collections for which the OHS is best known, including a wide selection of moccasins, baskets, pottery, and clothing. New artifacts will be added to the online catalog frequently as new collections are accepted at the museum and old favorites are resurrected.

To view this new method of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma's rich history, visit okhistory.pastperfectonline.com or click on the "Museum Collections" link under the Oklahoma History Center tab on the OHS website, www.okhistory.org.

"Cooking in Cast Iron" at Fort Towson



On Saturday, November 12, from 1 to 3 p.m., Fort Towson Historic Site will host "Cooking in Cast Iron." This Second Saturday Living History demonstration will feature Robert Wallace cooking over an open fire.

Wallace will demonstrate how food is cooked using cast iron, and attendees can sample some delicious fare. Do not miss this exciting and educational experience. Fort Towson Historic Site is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers free admission. The fort is located fourteen miles east of Hugo on Highway 70. For more information please call 580-873-2634 or visit Fort Towson Historic Site's Facebook page.

Pioneer Woman Museum to host Holiday Happening

The Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City will host an open house Holiday Happening on Saturday, December 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Paula Denson will present a "Christmas on the Prairie" program at 10 a.m. The museum is offering free admission, free gift wrap on all purchases, and complimentary holiday refreshments during the open house. Additionally, several local attractions and downtown retailers will host holiday open houses with special events and programs, discounts, gift wrap, and refreshments on that day. For more information please contact Pioneer Woman Museum Director Robbin Davis at 580-765-6108 or piown@okhistory.org. You can find updates on events at the Pioneer Woman Museum by liking "Pioneer Woman Statue & Museum" on Facebook. The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.

Holiday Market at the Museum of the Western Prairie

The doors of the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will open at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, to welcome shoppers to the third annual Holiday Market at the Museum hosted by the board members of the Western Trail Historical Society (WTHS).

The event will showcase the talents of twelve area artists and provide a terrific holiday shopping opportunity for the members of the WTHS as well as the general public. Artists were carefully selected to ensure high quality, wide variety, and uniqueness. As an added bonus, shoppers also will have the opportunity to tour the museum while they browse the artists' displays.

"The Market provides an outlet for our area artists, gives our members and guests the opportunity to purchase unique Christmas gifts, and supports the efforts of the WTHS to ensure the success of the museum," said Museum Director Jennie Buchanan. "In addition, the Museum Gift Shop will be open and is freshly stocked with new books for children and adults on topics related to the history of this area."

This year's Holiday Market will showcase paintings by Brian Nichols and Sue Messerly from Altus; works in wood by Joe Harkins and Don Proctor from Altus; pottery by Norma Williams from Mangum and Ronald Kuykendall from Petersburg, Texas; welded art and drawings by Laura Gillis from Iowa Park, Texas; jewelry by Jerry Foster, formerly from Altus; mosaics by Jenny Perry of Frederick; and more unique works of art.

For more information please call 580-482-1044 or email muswestpr@okhistory.org. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus.





Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

When people ask me how we have survived the deep budget cuts of the past six years, I admit we are wounded, but I quickly say that we are still moving forward under the power of our dedicated staff and volunteers, our higher standards, and our partners.

Partnerships, like higher standards and a motivated work force, take years to cultivate. And it is not a one-way street, with our hands held out asking for help when a crisis hits. Partnerships come from shared interests, good faith commitments, and constant communication.

Let me provide an example of one set of long-term partnerships and our ability to maintain high standards despite reduced appropriations.

In the early 1990s, as we saw the political winds beginning to shift, we reached out to a new set of partners who were just beginning to spread their wings. Those potential partners were the tribal governments that had earned self-rule in the 1970s and were expanding their powers of self-determination through tribal enterprise.

In 1995 senior assistant attorney general Neal Leader helped me write legislation that authorized the OHS to transfer real estate and historic properties to local governments, nonprofit organizations, and American Indian tribes. We still had to get "fair market value" for the properties, but the bill allowed us to negotiate for "in-kind" compensation in the form of

future operational support, repairs, and improvements. It became law.

In 1996, when budget cuts hit, we reached out to tribal leaders to find solutions that served both their long-term goals and our mission to keep historic sites open to the public. I was lucky with the timing.

I met and worked with Wilma Mankiller, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, and Bill Anoatubby, governor of the Chickasaw Nation. Through shared interests, good faith negotiations, and new channels of communication, the OHS transferred several properties to both tribes. We saved operational expenses and the sites remained open with tribal support.

Since that auspicious beginning, we have expanded our relationship with the tribes through shared use of collections, heritage tourism efforts, historic preservation agreements, and joint programming. When the recent budget crisis reached a tipping point, we did not have to look for partners because we already had working relationships.

Although both transfers are still pending, we have reached agreements to transfer two properties to the tribes. Sequoyah's Cabin and interpretive center will be transferred to the Cherokee Nation. Fort Washita will be transferred to the Chickasaw Nation. In the process, the OHS will save money to meet the budget cuts and two important sites will be returned to Indian people.

We are not walking away from these historic properties. We are not giving up on our mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. We are simply finding new strategies to accomplish our mission, cultivate meaningful partnerships, and keep historic sites open to the public. Both of these transfers accomplish all the above.

Yes, we are wounded, but we are still moving ahead. The power of partnerships should not be underestimated.

Dr. Bob

New member and twenty-year member lists to appear in *The Chronicles*

Most readers of the *Mistletoe Leaves* are accustomed to finding the list of new members of the Oklahoma Historical Society in this space. As mentioned by Dr. Blackburn in the September 2016 issue, recent budget cuts have prompted the OHS to move to bimonthly publication of this newsletter. OHS members will receive the *Mistletoe Leaves* in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Each issue will cover information about exhibits and events happening in two months instead of one. For more frequent updates on programming and the work of the OHS, please subscribe to our email newsletter, *OHS EXTRA!*, at www.okhistory.org in the lower right corner of the page.

To conserve space in the newsletter, new member and twenty-year member lists will now be published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* quarterly journal. Membership lists had been printed in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* from volume three (1925) through volume sixty-three (1985), so this change is not without precedent. New member and twenty-year member lists will once again be recorded in the pages following the minutes of the quarterly OHS Board of Directors meeting, a more permanent place to recognize the members who support the OHS and its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of Oklahoma.

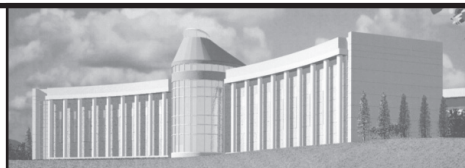


Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society is a strong organization thanks to our members. Although existing as a state agency lately has its challenges, the OHS continues to expand and offer first-rate exhibits, events, educational opportunities, and programming. This would not be possible without our strong membership base. A recent example of the OHS's ability to provide new ways to share Oklahoma history is the digital publication *Crossroads*. Released monthly, it is an innovative mixture of text, video, audio, and photographs that tells the story of an interesting aspect of the state's history. You can access it at www.okhistory.org/crossroads.

This holiday season the OHS would like to emphasize how important it is to grow our base, and OHS memberships make great holiday gifts. The hope is that the benefits of membership persuade members to renew and spread the word. Gift memberships can be obtained by calling 405-522-5242 or emailing ohsmembers@okhistory.org. You can purchase and renew memberships, as well as procure gift memberships, online at www.okhistory.org/support/membership.



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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

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, D.C. 20240.

AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Visit Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma in **Norman** for the “New to yOU” fall 2016 speaker series. Both lectures are free, open to the public, and will take place at 7 p.m. On Tuesday, November 1, Dr. Asa Randall will give a presentation about southeastern archaeology. On Tuesday, December 6, Dr. Matt Pailles will give a presentation about southwestern archaeology. This speaker series is cosponsored by the Sam Noble Museum and the Cleveland County Chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. It will be held at Sam Noble Museum, located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. Please email okla.anthro.society@gmail.com for more information.

The Spencer Historical Society will host its fourteenth annual Salute to Veterans ceremony in **Spencer** on Friday, 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, 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 Northeast 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 12. The sixty-fifth 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 13, 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 7, 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.

Meetings

Join the Oklahoma Postal History Society for its upcoming monthly meetings at Saint Luke’s Methodist Church in **Oklahoma City**. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and the general public is encouraged to attend. On Tuesday, November 8, Charles Wallis will provide a presentation about historical postcards that feature real photographs. Members will also bring similar postcards from their personal collections. On Tuesday, December 13, the program will feature James Weigant of Bartlesville talking about the 1957 Oklahoma semi-centennial stamp. The Oklahoma Postal History Society holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in Room 207 at Saint Luke’s Methodist Church. It is located at Northwest Fifteenth Street and Harvey Avenue in Oklahoma City. For more information please contact Joe Crosby at joecrosby@cox.net or 405-990-2389.

The monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will be held on Monday, December 5, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. Billie Stone Fogarty will be the speaker and the presentation is entitled “Unlocking the Treasures in the National Archives.” 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. Meetings are free for OGS members. Nonmembers are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend. OGS meetings are held at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 for more information.

Exhibits

Step back in time and learn something new at the Claremore Museum of History in **Claremore**. Located in the former Will Rogers Library building, the town’s past is brought to life through exciting exhibits. The museum tells the story of Claremore even before Oklahoma was a state, from 1802 to the present. Learn more about the people who called Claremore home, including Lynn Riggs, Patti Page, Stuart Roosa, John M. Bayless, and Will Rogers. Other exhibits feature American Indian artifacts and the story of Claremore’s famous radium water. The museum is located at 121 North Weenonah Avenue and is open every Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$2 per person donation is appreciated. Groups may arrange for special tours by calling 918-341-5630 or emailing soonerwildcat@att.net.

Visit the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward** to enjoy a new Christmas tree exhibit, featuring the works of local schoolchildren. The exhibit will be on display from Saturday, December 10, through Saturday, January 7, 2017. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or pipm@swbell.net for more information.

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 2017 issue, you must submit it by Monday, December 5, 2016.

November events

- 3 Curator's Talk for *Child Labor in Oklahoma: Photographs by Lewis Hine, 1916-1917* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3-6 Will Rogers Days, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 4 Genealogy on the Web class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 5 "Preparing for Christmas" Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 "American Indian Heritage Month" First Saturday Hands-on History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 5 "History of Big V Ranch" presentation with Rex Ackerson, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 6 Will Rogers Days parade, Will Rogers Boulevard, Claremore
- 8 Alexander Hamilton presentations, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn lecture by panel of veterans from Vance Air Force Base, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 *Keep 'em Flying: 75th Anniversary of Vance Air Force Base* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 "Cooking in Cast Iron" Second Saturday Living History demonstration, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 12 Dutch Oven Cooking demonstrations, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant
- 12 Southeastern Beadwork II class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 Fall Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 17 Annual Village Auction, dinner, and meeting, A. J. Seay Mansion and Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 17 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 19 "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!" book discussion—*Lonesome Dove*, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 19 Gourd-Stitch Beadwork class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 19 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 26 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore



Please visit www.okhistory.org/calendar for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

December events

- 2 Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 3 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 3 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 3 Deck the Halls, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Gift Givers from Around the World Tour, A. J. Seay Mansion, Kingfisher
- 6 Third annual Holiday Market at the Museum, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 7 "Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 "The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 "The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 "Working with the National Register of Historic Places" SHPO workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 Christmas Hayride, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 Holiday Happening, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 10 Christmas at the Drummond Home, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 10 Candlelight Tour, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 10 Christmas Open House and Santas from Around the World, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 10 Christmas at Fort Washita, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant
- 10 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 11 Santa's Cottage tours, Frank Phillips Home, Bartlesville
- 11 Sixteenth annual Christmas Open House, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 14 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn lecture by Dr. Sara J. Richter, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 17 Holiday Open House and Santas of the World Tour, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 17 Christmas Open House with Santa, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 17 Photos with Santa, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 17 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 17 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 21 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro

Murrell Home to host Christmas Open House

The George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill will host its sixteenth annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors are invited to tour the 1845 mansion and learn about Christmas customs from the mid-Victorian period. The halls will be decked in Christmas fashions of the 1800s, and live music will fill the air. Each room in the home will have a unique Victorian Christmas theme. The Friends of the Murrell Home will sponsor a reception with refreshments. This event is free and open to the public, but donations are encouraged.

The Murrell Home is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. The 1845 plantation home was the residence of George and Minerva (Ross) Murrell, and it is a National Historic Landmark. For more information please call 918-456-2751 or email murrellhome@okhistory.org.



Fall Bake Day at Fort Gibson

On Saturday, November 12, at 10 a.m. Fort Gibson will host Fall Bake Day. Partnering with the Friends of Fort Gibson, Bake Day is a fundraiser and educational event that depicts one aspect of army life after the Civil War. The aroma of fresh baked bread will fill the air on Garrison Hill as Fort Gibson staff and volunteers bring a bake house to life. This living history presentation details the bread making process, with Rory Montgomery explaining how to bake bread in an old wood-fired stone oven. Guests can enjoy bread baking demonstrations and sample the finished product. Visitors also may bring their own bread to bake in the oven at Fort Gibson, then spend the day viewing a reconstruction of the early log fort as well as original buildings from the 1840s through 1870s. Exhibits detailing the history of the fort are located in the Commissary Visitor Center on Garrison Hill. For more information please contact Omar Reed at 918-478-4088 or oreed@okhistory.org. Fort Gibson is a National Historic Landmark and is located at 907 North Garrison Avenue in Fort Gibson.

OTM collecting artifacts and stories relating to the African American experience

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum (OTM) in Guthrie tells the story of the determined people who laid the foundation for the future state of Oklahoma. On the museum grounds stands the Carnegie Library where the first state governor was sworn in. Preserved by the OHS, this library, as well as the museum, serve as a visible link between Oklahoma's territorial period and the present. The OTM currently is working to collect artifacts and stories relating to the African American experience in territorial Oklahoma.

Recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, the Excelsior Library in Guthrie was built during the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, which some hoped would end segregation of public facilities. Even after separate but equal was outlawed and a new integrated library was built, the Excelsior Library remained vital to the African American community as a community center and symbol of its heritage.

Now is a great time to visit Guthrie, as the town celebrates the 150th birthday of the Excelsior Library's founder, Judith Ann Carter Horton. She is best known for helping to establish Guthrie's first separate but equal library for African Americans. After her husband was denied membership to the Carnegie Library in 1907, Horton worked tirelessly to bring educational opportunities to all citizens of Guthrie.

The OTM wishes to take this opportunity to commemorate the life of Judith Carter Horton, and hopes to collect, preserve, and share more stories like this. The Oklahoma Territorial Museum is located at 406 East Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie. If you are interested in donating objects or sharing stories relating to the African American experience in territorial Oklahoma, please contact Michael Williams at 405-282-1889 or mwilliams@okhistory.org.



Above: Excelsior Library, 323 South Second Street
Right: Carnegie Library, 406 East Oklahoma Avenue



To commemorate the November 4, 1879, birth of Will Rogers, the Will Rogers Memorial Museums in Claremore and Oologah have many events planned. The Will Rogers Days celebration will take place November 3-6 throughout Rogers County. For the full listing of events and activities please visit www.willrogers.com/will-rogers-days.

Improvements at Honey Springs Battlefield

Honey Springs Battlefield is temporarily closed to the public as many improvements are underway. Lisa Mensah, undersecretary for rural development for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) made a visit to Honey Springs Battlefield on September 15, 2016, to dedicate the new visitor center building. Tyson Young, owner of Zenith Construction of Tahlequah, officially handed over the keys to the building to Gary Nichols, president of the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield (Friends).

According to Mensah, "This is an impressive, multimillion dollar partnership between four federal agencies, two state agencies, McIntosh County, Chickasaw Nation, several local businesses, and a nonprofit organization, and it is all taking place in Rentiesville, a historic community founded as a 'black town.' This is a great example of what small communities can accomplish." Rentiesville is one of fifty rural All-Black towns that emerged in Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma, in the post-Civil War era as African Americans sought to escape persecution and build new lives. Today, Rentiesville is a very small rural community of about 130 people.

Though the building construction work is completed, the project is far from finished. Now that the building has been turned over to the Friends, work will begin on exhibit construction and completion of the library, which will include free community internet access. Community members will be able to access Ancestry.com in the library to research their individual family histories. Two Civil War and military history book collections have already been donated to the new library, which will be named in honor of the late Dr. LeRoy Fischer, Oklahoma State University history professor and long-time OHS board member. "Dr. Fischer was one of the individuals in the fight from the very beginning in the 1960s to

The Will Rogers Days finale will be the November 6 parade down Will Rogers Boulevard, the street in Claremore named for him in 1948, and the American Cowboys Rodeo Association Finals at the Claremore Expo Center. The Palomino Horse Breeders Heritage Foundation, with Todd Branson riding a palomino, will lead the Sunday afternoon parade. Comanche, one of Will's favorite mounts, was a palomino. Branson and members of the Indian Women's Pocahontas Club will place a wreath at the tomb of Will Rogers prior to the parade. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore. Please call 918-343-8129 for more information.

preserve this site. Given his dedication to the site and his love of historical research it seemed fitting to name the library in his honor," said Dr. Bob Blackburn, OHS executive director.

Nichols announced a fundraising goal of \$600,000. According to Nichols, "The funds are necessary to complete the exhibit construction, and there are important aspects of the building that had to be cut due to budget. The building is designed for a large patio off the back to serve as event space. We hope to be able to add this back to the project at some point. To date we have a TAP grant for \$280,000 and a \$100,000 donation from the Chickasaw Nation in recognition of the sacrifices of the brave men of the Chickasaw Nation who fought here. We have not yet set the opening date for the new center, but we will announce the date as we move into the exhibit construction phase."

The Battle of Honey Springs was the largest of 107 documented hostile encounters in Indian Territory during the Civil War, and the nation's largest battle in which African American, American Indian, and Anglo American soldiers engaged. The heroics of the Civil War's first African American regiment, the First Kansas Colored, were largely responsible for the Union's victory there. The Confederate defeat at Honey Springs opened the way for Union occupation of Fort Smith and later Union victories in the Red River Valley.

Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The physical address is 101601 South 4232 Road in Checotah. In early October, the county was resurfacing Honey Springs Battlefield Road and replacing the bridge by the monuments. Construction on the visitor center is complete, and work is beginning on the exhibits. For more information please visit www.okhistory.org/sites/honeysprings.

Sequoyah's Cabin to remain open through partnership

Sequoyah's Cabin Historic Site, owned and maintained by the OHS since the 1930s, will remain open through a partnership with the Cherokee Nation.

"Over the past eight years, the state appropriation to the Oklahoma Historical Society has been cut by 40 percent," said Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the OHS. "Fortunately for us and the legacy of Sequoyah, the Cherokee Nation is willing to assume ownership and keep the site open."

The transfer of ownership was authorized by legislation approved this past session and action taken by the OHS Board of Directors in July.

"On behalf of the Cherokee people, I am pleased we can help preserve the historic cabin that Sequoyah built with his own two hands," said Cherokee Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "This partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society is a major step forward in our efforts to preserve our language, our historic resources, and our sense of community."

Sequoyah is known around the world for creating the only original syllabary or alphabet in the Western Hemisphere. Through his syllabary, the Cherokees have had their own written language since the 1820s.

Sequoyah's Cabin Historic Site includes Sequoyah's original cabin, a cover building built by the Works Progress Administration during the 1930s, exhibits, a new parking lot funded by the Cherokee Nation, and more than one hundred acres of land that serves as a buffer against development.

Senator Mark Allen, who represents the Sallisaw area, sees the transfer as a positive development.

"I am pleased that the Cherokee Nation will carry on the good work that the state has done since the 1930s to preserve a site associated with Sequoyah," said Senator Allen. "I am also pleased that the Oklahoma Historical Society has found a long-term solution to what we hope is a short-term problem."

Dr. Blackburn sees another advantage in the transfer. "Since 1902 and federal enforcement of allotment, the Cherokee people have suffered a gradual loss of their homeland," he said. "In one small way, the Oklahoma Historical Society is returning an important part of that land patrimony to the Cherokee people. I want to thank Chief Baker and his staff for working with us in such a cooperative manner, state to nation."

For more information about the history of the site or the transfer, please call Kathy Dickson, OHS director of museums and sites, at 405-522-5231.

Celebrate the Winter Solstice at Spiro Mounds

Visit Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center on Wednesday, December 21, for guided walks to learn about the winter solstice and how prehistoric American Indians dealt with the changes in the seasons. 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.

Archaeologist and manager Dennis Peterson will lead guided tours starting at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. Each walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking. Peterson will tell about this unique prehistoric American Indian mound site, the types of mounds, why they were created, and why some of the mounds are lined up for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes. He will discuss the history of the excavations, American Indian ceremonies, and tales of the unusual happenings associated with the mounds. For those wishing to see the sunset, 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 \$3 for adults and \$2 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. Please 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 call 918-962-2062 or email spiro@okhistory.org.

History Center staff thanks volunteers

The Oklahoma History Center can always count on its volunteers to make a substantial showing and help make events safe and exciting successes. This year's Septemberfest was no different, with twenty-six faithful and committed volunteers giving their time and energy to thousands of kids and adults. From hospitality to chuck wagons to the Museum Store to sitting with a clicker counting guests, these generous individuals did their tasks with a smile. They made every effort to make all visitors to the History Center feel welcome and comfortable. Thank you, History Center volunteers, for your dedication to sharing Oklahoma history!

Santas from around the world to visit the Sod House Museum

The Sod House Museum will host Santas from around the world on Saturday, December 10, as a part of its Christmas Open House celebration from 1 to 3 p.m. Martha Ray of Pawnee and other reenactors will portray the Santas and counterparts from around the world. Visitors can meet these Santas while visiting the museum. After photos with these jolly souls, guests are invited to have cookies and hot cider provided by the Friends of the Sod House Museum. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information please contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441 or sodhouse@okhistory.org.



SHPO to host workshops at OHC

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host four workshops at the Oklahoma History Center. 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. The sessions will be held Wednesday, December 7, through Friday, December 9. All workshops are free and open to the public, but the SHPO requests that participants register by Wednesday, November 30, at 5 p.m. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

- Wednesday, December 7, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. — Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

- Wednesday, December 7, 1:30–4:30 p.m. — The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

- Thursday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. — The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants

- Friday, December 9, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. — Working with the National Register of Historic Places

All sessions will be held in the classroom at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information or to register, please contact Jesse Matthews at jmatthews@okhistory.org or 405-521-6249. You also may register online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.

Call for papers and presentations for 2017 Oklahoma History Conference

The OHS is seeking papers and presentations for the 2017 Annual Oklahoma History Conference, which will be held April 26, 27, and 28, 2017, at the Hard Rock Hotel in Catoosa, Oklahoma. A total of fourteen presentation sessions will take place on Thursday morning, April 27, and Friday morning, April 28.

The theme for the conference is "Tall Tales and Blue Whales: The Cultural Influence of Northeastern Oklahoma." Museums and landmarks in northeastern Oklahoma celebrate three of the state's icons: Will Rogers at the Will Rogers Memorial Museums, Bob Wills at Cain's Ballroom, and Woody Guthrie at the Woody Guthrie Center. The area's legendary Route 66 destinations include Catoosa's Blue Whale and Foyil's Totem Pole Park. Topics related to the theme include the contributions of people, places, and ideas that have roots in this region. Examples of subjects include the pre-historic mound builders and their influential trade routes, and the impact in the twentieth century of Tulsa's International Petroleum Exposition on the world's oil industry.

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 its status by early February 2017 if not sooner. Registration fees for presenters will be waived.

Presentation proposals are now being accepted. The deadline for submitting proposals is Saturday, December 31, 2016. Please send presentation proposals to:

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

Proposals also may be emailed to Larry O'Dell at lodell@okhistory.org. For more information please call 405-522-6676.



Christmas festivities at the Fred Drummond Home

The Friends of the Fred Drummond Home are happy to announce that their annual Christmas festivities will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. This year the band Finnegans Awake will be playing music in the parlor, entertaining guests with many new folk tunes as well as some old favorites. Santa Claus will be on hand to pass out treats to all the good girls and boys. The house will be decorated in every room for the Christmas season, and open house tours of the home will be available. Regular admission fees will be taken at the door. At the end of the tours, there will be a table set up with an assortment of Christmas goodies and something yummy to drink. This is the perfect way to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors ages sixty-five and older, \$1 for children ages six to eighteen, and free for children five and under. The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy. For more information please call 918-885-2374.



New American Indian Nations of Oklahoma education trunk

The Oklahoma History Center Education Department is proud to present its newest traveling trunk. The American Indian Nations of Oklahoma trunk is ready to visit classrooms. This hands-on trunk contains flags, artwork, and books from twenty-three different tribes. It also contains information on all thirty-nine federally recognized tribes and tribal towns of Oklahoma. The curriculum guide includes background information on each tribe, as well as several activities that will allow students to connect with American Indian history and culture. For more information about the American Indian Nations of Oklahoma trunk, including contents of the trunk and how to reserve it, please visit www.okhistory.org/historycenter/trunks. Please contact Kimberly Hagan at 405-522-0791 or khagan@okhistory.org with questions.

Christmas in the Village at CSRHC

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host Christmas in the Village on Friday, December 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. This community event is sponsored by Humphrey Abstract Co. A holiday favorite, festivities will be held in the CSRHC's Humphrey Heritage Village. Tickets are \$6 each, with free admission for CSRHC members. To order tickets please call 580-237-1907. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.

SHPO accepting awards nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting nominations for its 2017 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. Previous award recipients are featured on the SHPO's website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm. Submit a nomination and help the SHPO celebrate accomplishments like these and the many ways the National Historic Preservation Act impacts communities of all sizes.

The SHPO's awards program includes the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 2, 2016, at 5 p.m. Nomination sponsors and award recipients will receive notice of the selection process results in February 2017. The awards will be presented at the banquet during Oklahoma's Twenty-Ninth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Oklahoma City on June 7-9, 2017.

The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation 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. Please contact Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org with questions about the awards criteria.

Nominations will be accepted in either electronic or hard copy format. To request nomination forms and instructions, please contact Jesse Matthews at 405-521-6249 or jmatthews@okhistory.org. Interested parties may also obtain the information at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm.

Chisholm Trail Museum opens new exhibit

Kingfisher College: Ivy League School on the Prairie

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher is proud to announce a new exhibit focusing on the history of a small but influential local college entitled *Kingfisher College: Ivy League School on the Prairie*. Through artifacts, original photographs, oral histories, and narrative, the exhibit reveals the story of how the small college established just five years after the Land Run of 1889 in the small prairie town of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, attained the highest standards, taking its place among the ranks of other institutions founded by the Congregational Church including Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth.

Although Kingfisher College only existed in Kingfisher for twenty-eight years (1894–1922) and graduated only 117 students in those years, the school’s standard for excellence was second to none, exemplified by the achievements of Kingfisher College graduates. Some examples include Harriet Parker Camden, who composed the first Oklahoma state song, *Oklahoma—A Toast*; Ernest Burgess, who innovated in the field of sociology and introduced a sociological method named for him; and Joyce Stearns, a physicist who was an administrator for the Manhattan Project. Kingfisher College also had three Rhodes Scholars, Ray L. Lange, Charles D. Mahaffie, and William Claude Vogt. Other graduates distinguished themselves through military service, and several students were prominent in athletics.

By 1922 Kingfisher College closed its doors for good. Although Kingfisher College no longer exists in the town of Kingfisher, it is still alive in Norman as a part of the University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department, where the university maintains the Kingfisher College Chair of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics.

For more information about the Kingfisher Chisholm Trail Museum and for updates on programs and events, please call 405-375-5176, visit www.ctokmuseum.org, or follow the museum on Facebook. The Chisholm Trail Museum and Governor Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. Regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on major holidays. Admission to the museum is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children.



Postcard from Kingfisher College
(22140.83.198.1, Oklahoma Territorial
Museum Collection, OHS).



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Child Labor in Oklahoma exhibit and curator’s talk



The Oklahoma History Center recently opened a new photography exhibit entitled *Child Labor in Oklahoma: Photographs by Lewis Hine, 1916–1917*, sponsored by Oklahoma Humanities. Curated by Theresa Bragg, Jim Meeks, and Lori Oden, this exhibit highlights a collection of twenty-five powerful photographs taken by Lewis Hine while he was in Oklahoma one hundred years ago.

Lewis Hine was able to capture the soul of the child laborer in North America in the early 1900s. He mainly focused on major cities, but took brief trips to other parts of the country to document child labor, including Oklahoma. Hine photographed in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Lawton, Shawnee, Okmulgee, Sulphur, and a few other small communities in the state. Although his photographs moved the nation to create child labor laws, Hine died in poverty and unrecognized in 1940. Decades later his life’s work would become synonymous with social reform documentary photography. Lewis Hine once said, “If I could tell the story in words, I wouldn’t need to lug a camera.”

A Curator’s Talk is planned for Thursday, November 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Attendees will learn more about Lewis Hine, the art and history of documentary photography, and see parts of a film made about Hine. This event is free and open to the public.

The exhibit is on display in the Chesapeake Events Center, and visitors should call 405-522-0765 in advance to make sure the exhibit is open. An exhibit catalog is available for free while supplies last. After the exhibit closes in April 2017 it will become a traveling exhibit. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.