



“A Portrait of a President: An Evening with Lincoln”

Imagine Abraham Lincoln brought to life and reciting his eloquent speeches again. In commemoration of the Civil War, and specifically the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs, Fritz Klein will portray Abraham Lincoln relating to the Civil War through President Lincoln’s eyes. The program on Tuesday, October 8, at 7 p.m. will explore how a president perseveres while trying to reassure a nation in the midst of Civil War.

Klein has portrayed Abraham Lincoln from coast to coast, presenting educational programs for schools, civic organizations, and major living history programs for more than twenty years. He has performed at prestigious programs for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Mount Rushmore, the Pentagon, and the Oklahoma History Center. The Oklahoma Historical Society and the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield will sponsor this performance about Lincoln’s presidency and the Civil War. This event was made possible by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and will be held at the Checotah Junior High School auditorium at 320 West Jefferson in Checotah. For more information, contact Christopher Price at 918/473-5572.



Fritz Klein as Lincoln

Home School Day

The Oklahoma History Center will host the Fifth Annual Home School Day on Monday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Home School Day at the History Center is designed to offer family learners the chance to participate in a program specifically designed for mixed age groups. Activities run throughout the day, allowing participants to stop by at any time. The museum will offer a hands-on adventure into Oklahoma’s past. Visitors can explore the museum with the help of gallery guides, follow along with a scavenger hunt, take part in hands-on demonstrations, and enjoy a variety of historical interpreters. Visitors will find activities and demonstrations throughout the galleries.

Home School Day is designed for family learners and home school groups to come, experience, and do! No registration is required. Best of all, admission to the program is free. The museum offers a number of outdoor picnic areas or you can drop by the Winnie Mae Café during your visit for lunch. For more information please contact Jason Harris at jharris@okhistory.org or by phone at 405/522-0785.



Previous Homeschool Day activities included hands-on demonstrations, cowboy cooking, blacksmithing, and American Indian presentations.

Murrell Home Ghost Stories

On Friday, October 25, at 6:30 p.m. visitors will hear scary tales from storytellers in nineteenth-century costume at the George M. Murrell Home. Several stories will be told inside the house and cider and cookies will be provided in the smokehouse. Reservations are required. A donation of \$5 per person is requested. Tours will run every fifteen minutes beginning at 6:30 p.m. The last tour begins at 8:30 p.m. The Murrell Home is located at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. To make reservations or for more information call 918/456-2751.



Ghost tours at Fort Washita

From October 23 to 26 a walking tour of Fort Washita will feature ghostly tales told by veteran storyteller and historical reenactor Steve Abolt. The stories will occur at 7, 8:30, and 10 p.m. nightly. Guests will be treated to numerous stories, both old and new, while enjoying a candlelit tour of the historic site. Reservations are required and admission is \$10 per visitor. To make reservations or for questions, call 580/924-6502. Fort Washita is located at 3348 State Road in Durant.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

In a recent conversation with George Records, I was listing the qualities needed to be a leader at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

After I went through my list, which included content knowledge, people skills, marketing skills, and structure, George looked at me and calmly said I had left out the most important quality: passion.

He is right. Passion for history, whether it is preserving buildings, collecting artifacts, or sharing information, can carry the day when funding is short or forty hours are already on the books. Fortunately for us, the OHS has had a long roster of employees and volunteers who have a passion for history.

Two good examples have been on my mind the last couple of weeks. One is Whit Edwards, who is facing a real challenge in his life.

I met Whit about 1985 when I was editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. He lived in my inner-city, transitional neighborhood where a lot of us Baby Boomers were raising our families and enjoying the adventure of historic homes. I also played full-contact basketball with him at the Downtown YMCA where blood was evidence of a foul. Of course, he excelled with those rules.

When I was assigned the duty of coordinating the first reenactment at Honey Springs Battlefield, Whit came to the site to offer his help. He said he would be in the ranks during the battle, but more importantly, he wanted to work at the OHS and develop our educational programs.

In 1989, as Blake Wade and I were rebuilding the staff, I found a way to hire Whit. He reached out to the reenactor community, found partners in surprising places, and built an educational program that brought history to life for thousands of students and adults.

I could never give him adequate resources. I could never stretch the hours in a week to give him enough time. Still, Whit launched himself time after time into the projects that would open the doors of history to others. His book on the Civil War in Indian Territory sold out and will be reprinted soon. The museum at Honey Springs will open in 2015. And his legacy of education is carried on by those who recognized his talent.

The other example of passion for history is Dr. John Carmichael, who recently passed from this earth a couple of weeks ago at the age of 91.

Dr. John was a dentist in Woodward who is the godfather of Fort Supply Historic Site. From 1987 to a month ago, I enjoyed every visit with John, whether it was talking about his latest discovery or a plan to tackle a new project.

John's passion for history carried the day numerous times, whether it was convincing the Corrections Department to let prisoners march as soldiers in parades or building a replica of the log stockade at Fort Supply. John is one of my heroes.

Yes, many qualities are needed to be a leader at the OHS. First is passion for history.

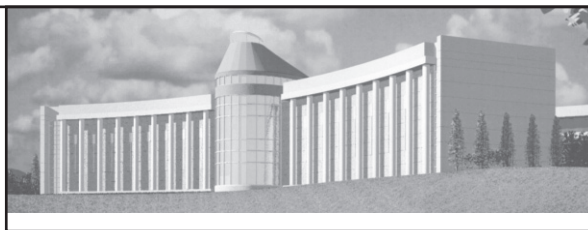
Dr. Bob

Development News

by Paul F. Lambert

Our Annual Giving Campaign materials have been mailed to all members. Please take a moment to read Executive Director Bob Blackburn's message in which he outlined the types of activities and projects funded by private donations to the OHS. As Dr. Blackburn notes, you likely have seen coverage of various OHS activities and programs in the print and electronic media during the past year. Most of these activities were made possible by private donors. The packet also includes information on recognition of donors of amounts from \$25 to \$100,000 and above. All donations and donors are important and appreciated!

In late September and into October we will be launching a new membership development campaign. Our goal is to surpass the ten thousand member mark, and current members can provide important help in a variety of ways. Renewing memberships in a timely manner, of course, is basic. In addition, members are encouraged to recommend individuals or couples who should be invited to join the OHS. In addition, we now have business membership categories and would welcome suggestions of businesses who should be invited to join. The name of a contact person at the business would be especially helpful. Please send any membership prospect recommendations to Shelly Crynes at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 or email them to her at scrynes@okhistory.org. Meanwhile, please know that we appreciate your membership and support!



New Members August, 2013

*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

Associate

Randy Buttram, Oklahoma City
*Herschel and Betty Crow, Oklahoma City

Friend

*Joe and Nancy Bradley, Nichols Hills
*Earl and Joanne Buckmaster, Oklahoma City
*Joel Cousins, Muskogee
Randy Floyd, Oklahoma City
*Walter and Melanie Roth, Nathrop, CO

Family

Floyd and Chalon Anderson, Oklahoma City
*Bill Baker, Boerne, TX
James Broiles, Oklahoma City
Robert Brown, Edmond
Sonja and Rachel Brown, Oklahoma City
Lonnie Campbell, Oklahoma City
Jerry and Judy Colwell, Blackwell
Nancy Craig, Oklahoma City
*Brenda Faust, Enid
Dianne Freeland and Les Taylor, Oklahoma City
*Barre Griffith, Lindsay
*Elizabeth Hines, Oklahoma City
Herbert and Tamara Hinton, Canadian
*E. Earl Hoffman, Wagoner
*Mattie Ivie, Hobart
Eddie Jackson, Oklahoma City
*Janet LaMotte, Oklahoma City
Curtis and Judy Long, Moore
Paulina Lopez, Del City
*David and Susan Main, Sapulpa
David and Dana Millican, Edmond
Karolyn Motte and Vera Bowen, Oklahoma City
Maria Nash, Norman
*Leah Nellis, Norman
Michael and Mary O'Brian, Edmond
Douglas Phelps, McAlester
Leona Porter and Susan Porter, Oklahoma City
Larry and Stephanie Sells, Oklahoma City
*Reta Strubhar, Piedmont
Harold and Monica Swink, Oklahoma City
Donna Thomas and Theodore Williams, Nicoma Park
Janie Thompson, Yukon
Samantha Turner, Edwardsville, KS
Patrick Twist, Oklahoma City
Vanessa Vance, Anadarko
Brian and Elizabeth Walker, Jenks
*Kenneth and Jeffrey Woodcock, Bristow
Michael Zolicofer, Oklahoma City

Individual

Gilbert Acuna, Ringling
Ann Armbruster, Oklahoma City

cont'd. on p. 6

Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office: Alma Moore
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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 "persevere 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 Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405/522-8989, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

AROUND OKLAHOMA

Awards

On Saturday, August 17, Grace Episcopal Church in **Muskogee** was presented the Historic Preservation Award by the Three Rivers Museum. The award was given in recognition of the church's significant contribution to the preservation of Muskogee's historic landmarks. Located at 218 North Sixth Street, the church was established on February 23, 1893. The current church building was completed in 1906. In the early 1920s, because of oil and railroad booms, Grace experienced an increase in attendance. The church was cut in half, moved by mules and log rollers to the other end of Sixth Street, and extended in size. This 120-year-old building is the oldest church building in Muskogee and it is the only Gothic Revival Architecture church in Muskogee. Grace is the only church in Muskogee that has been in the same building, on the same piece of property, with the same name and same religion, since prior to statehood. Moving the church building itself is considered a historic event, brought on by other historic events; however, the church itself is not eligible for placement on the State and National Register of Historic Places because its orientation was changed ninety years ago. For more information, contact Jennifer Sparks at Jennifer.Sparks1@va.gov.

Events

General meetings of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society are held on the first Monday of each month in the Chesapeake Event Center at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. Monthly programs are free for all members of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society. Non-members are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend each program. The OGS meetings begin at 6 and finish at 7:45 p.m. On October 7 Debra Spindle will present information regarding hiring a professional genealogist. For more information visit <http://okgensoc.org/>.

Visit the historic Mattie Beal Home in **Lawton**. She was a twenty-two-year-old telephone operator in Wichita, Kansas, registered for the 1901 land lottery in El Reno, Oklahoma Territory. Martha Helen "Mattie" Beal's name was the second one drawn in the Lawton Land District that July and she claimed her 160 acres. She married Charles W. Payne in July 1902, the part owner of a lumberyard in Lawton

from whom she had purchased the lumber needed to construct her small two-room house. In 1907 she and Charles began building a Neoclassical Greek Revival-style mansion. This fourteen-room house with attic and basement was completed in about 1909. In 1923 the Paynes undertook a major remodeling, reflecting a popular architectural style now known as Art Deco. Mattie Beal Payne died in 1931 and Charles Payne sold the home in 1939. During the 1940s the home was divided into apartments. By 1970 it had fallen victim to vandalism and neglect and faced demolition. In 1973 concerned citizens formed the Lawton Heritage Association (LHA) to save this historic structure. LHA purchased it and began restoration. In 1975, the Historic Mattie Beal Home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located at Fifth and Summit in Lawton, the historic Mattie Beal Home is open to the public for tours Thursday through Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. There is an admission fee. The home is also available for weddings, receptions, meetings, luncheons, group and school tours, and photo shoots. For more information, call 580/678-3156 or visit www.LawtonHeritage.org.

Bring the whole family out to Tiger Safari Zoological Park in **Tuttle** for Pumpkinville from September 21 to November 5. Visitors will see all the park has to offer including more than 170 animals and even get to take a tram ride to pick out a pumpkin to take with them. Pumpkinville is a great way to enjoy the fall weather for both children and animal lovers with opportunities to see rare animals including the Barbary lion and a royal white tiger. For more information, call 405/381-9453. (travelok.com)

Make a plan to attend Heritage Days: A Living History Festival from October 3 to 5 and step back in time to the rough and tumble territorial days of **Muskogee**. Enjoy an authentically prepared chuck wagon meal, shootouts in the street, reenactors and storytellers, music, food, Western crafts, American Indian song and dance, a kids' zone, and much more. Come to Muskogee's Heritage Days for plenty of family fun. For more information, call 918/683-2400. (travelok.com)

Warner's annual Cow Chip Day on October 5 begins with the Bull Run 5K followed by a parade downtown, and then moves to the local park where food and game vendors will be set up. Enjoy activities perfect for the entire family

including lots of games, crafts, food, and fun. Make sure to purchase a bingo ticket for Cow Chip Bingo, the festival's most popular event, featuring a real cow. Visitors to Cow Chip Day will also enjoy live music and a car show, so come to Warner to browse through the classics. For more information, call 918/463-3611. (travelok.com)

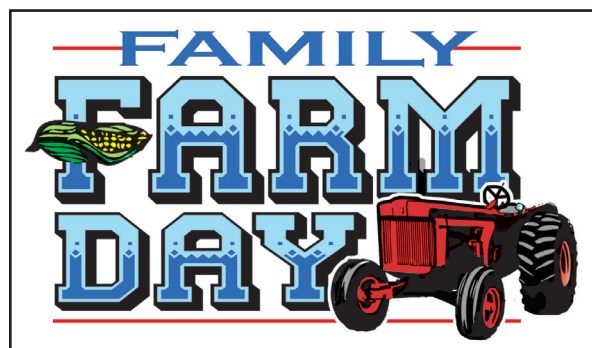
The Wild Hog Festival in **Durant** on October 11 and 12 offers two fun-filled days of events and activities. Admire vintage vehicles in the classic car, truck, and motorcycle show. A climbing wall and live entertainment will also be featured at this free event. Hunters will compete to bring in the biggest wild hogs. The Big Hog Award will be given for largest field-dressed hog, and the best buck or hog mount will win a free trophy mount. The cook-off will include cash prizes for the best ribs, pulled pork/shoulder, and smoked sausage. The Wild Hog Festival is family-friendly, complete with rides, games, and carnival treats for all ages to enjoy. For more information, call 580/924-0848. (travelok.com)

The Fall Old Home Tour in **Claremore** on October 12 features four unique homes open to the public. Take a tour of these beautiful interiors to admire their decor and antiques, as well as hear the history of each home. Tickets can be purchased before or on the day of the event at the Belvidere Mansion. Ticket price includes admission to all four homes, a map and brochure. Have lunch with friends before or after the Fall Old Home Tour in the beautiful tea room. For more information, call 918/342-1127. (travelok.com)

Do you want to have your organization's meeting, event, or exhibit featured in the "Around Oklahoma" section of the *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 Tabatha Toney, assistant editor, by email at ttoney@okhistory.org or mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, during the first week of the month before you wish a news item to appear. For example, if you wish a news item to appear in our November issue, please send it to our editors by the first week of October. Thank you for your submissions.

Family Farm Day

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is hosting a new special event—Family Farm Day. The event will be held annually during the month of October and this year will occur on October 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's event will feature the Major County Historical Society's antique tractors and farm machinery, the Southwest Dairy Farmer's Mobile Dairy Classroom, a petting farm yard, pie auction, calf roping, pumpkin carving, and a variety of hands-on agricultural activities such as grinding wheat, shelling corn, and making rope. For more information, call 580/237-1907 or email csrhcinfo@okhistory.org.



OHS digitizes historical newspapers

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a third grant of \$300,000 to the Oklahoma Historical Society to develop an internet-based, searchable database of newspapers from Oklahoma. According to Chad Williams, director of the Research Division, the OHS has placed more than 200,000 newspaper pages on the internet with the earlier NEH grants. "This rich digital resource will be maintained permanently at the Library of Congress," said Williams. "These titles reflect the state's political, cultural, and economic history from the 1850s to the 1920s."

The OHS is also digitizing all other pre-1923 Oklahoma newspapers with a grant funded by the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. Currently there are 681,474 Oklahoma newspaper pages available for viewing on the Gateway to Oklahoma History website. When completed, the two grant projects will allow the OHS to provide word-searchable, free access to all pre-1923 Oklahoma newspapers in the collections of the OHS. The newspapers are word-searchable and available at <http://gateway.okhistory.org/> and <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>. For more information contact Chad Williams at chadw@okhistory.org



William D. Fossett exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Museum

The Chisholm Trail Museum is proud to announce a unique exhibit on display. This exhibit showcases several rare artifacts related to former US Marshal William D. Fossett. The exhibit, *William D. Fossett, a Legacy*, features items and rare artifacts from the Chisholm Trail, the 1889 Land Run, and the infamous outlaw era of the Oklahoma Territorial years. William D. Fossett, a cowboy, first land claimant in Kingfisher, and US marshal for Oklahoma Territory, lived and participated in the same era in which the City of Kingfisher was founded during the Land Run of 1889 and in which the Seay Mansion in Kingfisher was built and occupied by pre-statehood Oklahoma territorial governor A. J. Seay. William D. Fossett and other cattlemen used the famous Chisholm Trail that ran through Kingfisher and Kingfisher County to drive cattle from Texas to Kansas.

Bill Fossett, the youngest son of Irish immigrants, was born in 1851 and migrated with his family at an early age to New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, and eventually Kingfisher, Oklahoma, where he made his permanent residence. As a young man Bill Fossett worked as a cowboy on the Chisholm Trail, where his fellow cowboys were shot and killed by bandits, after which he gathered a posse and eventually killed the bandits. After serving as a law man in Caldwell, Kansas, Fossett made the Land Run of 1889 in Kingfisher, where he became the first land claimant in Kingfisher's history.

Fossett's reputation as a law man elevated after he shot and killed a train robber on the Rock Island Railroad in 1884. The robber, Bob Hughes, was allegedly a former member of the infamous Jesse James gang. The exhibit showcases the original gun and holster taken from the robber at the time of his death. Visitors will observe the original bullet hole and blood stain still visible on the robber's holster from the attempted train robbery. Fossett's reputation as a fearless and courageous lawman led to his appointment as chief deputy marshal for Oklahoma Territory in 1887, and then to the top US marshal's post under appointment by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902. President Roosevelt honored Fossett in person by stating: "I've had a good deal of trouble with my marshal appointments in Oklahoma . . . but I made no mistake when I appointed Mr. Fossett."

After touring the Bill Fossett exhibit, visitors will enjoy two other new displays recently unveiled: a new American Indian exhibit showcasing rare artifacts such as beaded moccasins, vests, and photographs of the Cheyenne Arapaho tribes, and a Kingfisher Oklahoma Territorial exhibit, which showcases an original journal on loan from the Oklahoma Historical Society from the second territorial governor of Oklahoma Territory, A. J. Seay. In addition to these new exhibits, located on the museum grounds is an original log cabin that was owned by the Dalton family. Residing in this cabin was Adalene Dalton, mother of the notorious brothers of the Dalton gang. It is thought that the Dalton brothers visited their mother in this very cabin on several occasions, and possibly prior to the infamous Coffeyville, Kansas, raid in which the Dalton's were gunned down in an attempt to rob two banks at the same time.

For more information about the Kingfisher Chisholm Trail Museum and to follow upcoming events and programs, please visit www.ctokmuseum.org or like its Facebook page. The Governor Seay Mansion and Chisholm Trail Museum are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. The museum is open on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. For more information, call 405/375 -5176.



Oklahoma Blues event a full house



Dr. Harold Aldridge

On Thursday, August 29, the Oklahoma Historical Society presented an educational concert on Oklahoma and the Blues at the Oklahoma History Center. Nearly 250 OHS members watched as Dr. Harold Aldridge and Dorothy “Miss Blues” Ellis performed and discussed this American genre of music. Aldridge, originally from the all-black town of Taft, explained the roots of the Blues and how the music emerged regionally in the United States. Miss Blues began “shouting” the Blues in the 1940s. She came to Oklahoma City alone from Texas at the age of thirteen. She has sung at some of the historic venues of Oklahoma City’s Deep Deuce district. Miss Blues shared with the audience her “Texas Shout” style.

Prior to the performances a video shared music and images from Blues icons that hailed from the Sooner state. These included Jimmy Rushing, Jay McShann, Lowell Fulson, Joe Liggins, Elvin Bishop, Wayne Bennett, Jimmy Nolen, Jesse Ed Davis, and J. J. Cale.

Local barbeque establishments Leo’s, Earl’s Rib Palace, and Ned’s Catering donated samplings of their fare for attendees. Free to OHS members, this event provided well-appreciated entertainment and shared some interesting history. OHS will continue to provide its members with entertaining and educational programming tied to the history of this great state. The Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment of the Humanities also were event sponsors. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OHC or NEH.



**Left: Dorothy “Miss Blues” Ellis
Right: Joe Settlemire**

Museum Store News

By Jera Winters



The Oklahoma History Center Museum Store is happy to be your source for unique items. The holidays are rapidly approaching, and we have interesting Oklahoma history and cultural gift items and books to inform and delight.

This month we are pleased to announce the addition of vintage-style tins, from Art Deco inspired tins to cool, classic cars reminiscent of Route 66, to a far out 1950s toy robot. The

tins make perfect gift items for friends and family.

The tins are ready to be filled, and we’d suggest any of our great Made in Oklahoma products, such as delicious Bedre Chocolates, coffee from Rick’s Fine Coffee and Chocolates, jellies from Gigi’s Gourmet Goodies, or peanuts from the Texoma Peanut Inn.

For collectors, we have recently received the latest in the high-quality collector’s series of Painted Ponies. Painted Ponies are high quality equine figurines, each designed by a talented artist, and inspired by a theme related to life in the West. Come see the selection, including ponies designed specifically for the holidays!

Come in today and experience Oklahoma’s local flavor at the OHC Museum Store. As always, members receive a 15 percent discount on all regularly priced merchandise. Contact us at 405/522-5214 with any questions.

Mysteries at the Territorial Museum

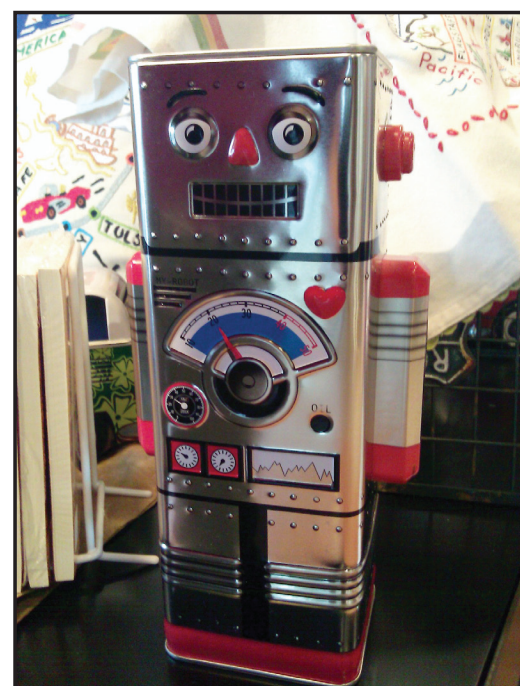
For the past several months the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie has been involved in researching the story of Elmer McCurdy, an Oklahoma outlaw turned funhouse mummy. In October an exhibit will open that coincides with an episode of *Mysteries at the Museum*, on the Travel Channel. The television show and the exhibit focus on an artifact in the collection that previously was not known to have played a role in the McCurdy story.

Producers of *Mysteries at the Museum* approached the museum in March to see if we had any artifacts associated with Elmer McCurdy. A few things were donated in the 1990s that belonged to one of the posse members, Stringer Fenton. One of the artifacts caused us to question the myths surrounding the story. Research, research, and more research led us to discover an artifact in the museum collection that . . . well, you will just have to watch “Mysteries at the Museum” this fall or come see the exhibit for yourself to find out.

For more information on the exhibit opening or the television air date you can call 405/282-1889, email guthriecomplex@okhistory.org, or like us on Facebook.

Style show at Pawnee Bill

On October 5 at 2 p.m. the Pawnee Bill Ranch is hosting a style show, “From Titanic to World War II.” The style show is narrated by Martha Ray in the Pawnee Bill Museum conference room. The fee is \$5 to attend the style show and reservations are required. To make reservations or for more information, call 918/762-2513.



The Legacy of Oklahoma's Cherokee Strip Fall Lecture Series

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is proud to announce a new Fall Lecture Series featuring four recognized Oklahoma historians presenting lectures in their particular area of expertise.

October 14—Exploration and the Cattle Drive Era, 1865-93

Speaker—Dr. Byron Price, director of Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, University of Oklahoma, will discuss the eastern United States' post-Civil War demand for beef, its economic incentives, and the use of Jesse Chisholm's trail as the principal south-to-north commercial thoroughfare.

October 21—Music and the Cowboy Culture

Speaker—Dr. Hugh Foley, Rogers State University, will discuss music of the American West, cowboy duties, character traits, ethic, work tools, music, food, culture, and historic legend.

October 28—Cherokee Strip Land Run, September 16, 1893

Speaker—Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the OHS, will lecture on the dynamics of contemporaneous economic, political, technological, and social forces; the compelling attraction for more than 100,000 homesteaders to compete for 40,000 claims; and the pioneers' contextual demographics, character traits, incentives, motivations, and dreams.

November 4—The Legacy of Determination, Depravation and Resilience

Speaker—Dr. Kenny Brown, professor of history, University of Central Oklahoma, will cover overcoming hardscrabble challenges of subsistence to develop opportunities for success; indigenous traits of friendliness, compassion, resourcefulness, resolve, heartiness, and ambition; and notable leaders in commerce, civic affairs, the arts, government, military service, and athletics.

The lectures will be held at the Northern Oklahoma College, Enid Campus in the Gantz Center, 100 South University Avenue in Enid. The Fall Lecture Series is free to the public. For more information contact the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center at 580/237-1907 or visit www.csrhc.org.

Sod House Museum to feature Jim Stout



Jim Stout will discuss a lighthearted look back at the amazing vision of Arthur Stilwell and the development of the Orient Railroad on Saturday, October 19, at 10 a.m. at the Sod House Museum. Stout's presentation will include current photos of landmarks along the route and links to the historical record.

Arthur Stilwell was a man of vision, or it might be said of many visions. One of those visions was the Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient railroad, which had a major impact on the survival and prosperity of the towns along its route, including some in Alfalfa, Major, and Blaine counties. Stilwell envisioned it to link Kansas City to the natural ports on the west coast of Mexico and, hence, to the Orient.

Known popularly in its day as the Orient, it came about as Stilwell recovered from a different kind of vision that led to being fired despite successfully completing a railroad to the Gulf of Mexico.

Few physical traces of the Orient remain but they are there if you know where to look. Other traces are historical, revealed only after a study of the record.

Jim Stout graduated from Lambert High School and Oklahoma State University, and then pursued a fifty-year career as a photographer and journalist. He was the Bentonville reporter for the *Rogers Daily News*. After National Guard training he migrated to Pacific Palisades, California, the former home of Will Rogers and the home at the time of Lawrence Welk, Mel Blanc, Peter Graves, Adam West, Sylvester Stallone, and Ronald Reagan. In 1974 he purchased a camera shop and studio from Albert Bresnik, who had been the legendary personal photographer of Amelia Earhart. Jim returned to Oklahoma in 1990 and operated a portrait/wedding business in Enid for five years before accepting the editorship of the Anthony, Kansas, newspaper for six years. He also spent a year with the Blackwell newspaper and another at Alva's *Review-Courier* and *News-gram* before becoming "semi-retired," driving a semi for Cantellay CZ Ranch, which is bisected by the old Orient route near Longdale.

He currently lives between Lambert and Yewed in the house built by his grandfather, C. T. Benefiel, in 1928—the year the Orient was purchased by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Company.

The Sod House Museum is located between Aline and Cleo Springs on State Highway 8 and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with admission. For more information call Renee Trindle at 580/463-2441 or email sodhouse@okhistory.org.

New members, cont'd.

Mark Austin, Seminole
Mindy Austin, Broken Bow
Gary Baker, Haworth
Carolyn Blackwelder, Hooker
Andrea Borman, Broken Arrow
Fancy Caldwell, Ardmore
Brittany Cloud, Idabel
Jeffrey Douglas, Kenefic
Autum Endsley, Millerton
Alicia Foreman, Anadarko
Daniel Gabbert, Enid
Larry Horton, Ada
Levi Howard, Ada
Johnny John, Idabel
Eric Johnson, Tulsa
Gail Loafman, Duncan
Andrew Locke, Duncan
Billy Manuel, Idabel
Retha McAvoy, Haworth
Mary McMaster, Mounds
Heath Mitchell, Durant
Joseph Morris, Tulsa
Roy Presley, Seguin, TX
Jerry Reid, Blackwell
Harold Ridenour, Ringling
Skylar Rude, Enid
Patrick Sessum, Duncan
Traci Steger, Porum
Chad Stief, Seminole
Stephen Taylor, McAlester
Zonzarae Thomas, Durant
Briley Van Dyke, Hurst, TX
Roxanne, Watson, Poteau
Chance Wimberley, Colbert
Wendy Woodall, Idabel

Organizational

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College Library, Moore
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Hat class at CSRHC

On Saturday, August 24, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid hosted a Victorian hat workshop. Barbara Byrd, an Oklahoma Historical Society volunteer, led the occasion with her vast knowledge of historic ladies' hats. The ladies in attendance enjoyed creating their own hats with many beautiful crafting materials, including velvet, tulle, flowers, and birds. At noon in Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church the lovely guests were served a delectable lunch of chicken salad sandwiches, green salad, fresh fruit, and iced tea all the while being fascinated by the details of historic conversational etiquette by Museum Educator Sarah Owens. A tour of the Glidewell House, another Victorian era building in the Humphrey Heritage Village, ended the splendid afternoon for the new hatmakers.



FY 2013 donor list

Below is a list of those donors who made cash donations to the Oklahoma Historical Society or to the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center during the period from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. These donors also are listed on the Annual Donor Board in the Oklahoma History Center. This list will be continued in the November issue of the *Mistletoe Leaves*.

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Twenty-year members renew in August

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in August, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated.

Harrison Townes, Tulsa, July 1, 1962
Patricia Hoig, Edmond, August 1, 1974
Mary Jo Watson, Oklahoma City, August 1, 1984
Fairfax Public Library, Fairfax, January 2, 1985
Anadarko Community Library, Anadarko, December 16, 1988
Leah Nellis, Norman, February 18, 1987
Sue Parham, Las Vegas, NM, August 17, 1987
Wanda Haggard, Shawnee, August 4, 1988
K.M. Armstrong, Fort Worth, TX, August 13, 1991
J.D. Smith, Tulsa, August 22, 1991
Carolyn Nuckolls, Oklahoma City, February 10, 1992
Doris Hays Randles, Enid, March 9, 1992
Mary Finley, Oklahoma City, July 24, 1992
Earl and Jo Hall, Oklahoma City, March 12, 1993
Lidia Hook-Gray, Liberal, KS, July 23, 1993
Jo Ann Hunt, Ada, August 3, 1993
Rick and Jean Corley, Moore, August 12, 1993

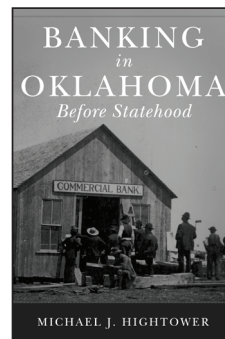
Annual quilt show at Pawnee Bill Ranch

The Pawnee Bill Ranch is hosting its annual quilt show in the museum building at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1. The event is free to the public and features beautiful works of art from the surrounding communities. The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee. For more information, call 918/762-2513.

CSRHC Brown Bag Lunch

On October 9, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center will host a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn. Richard Simunek, author of the new book *Lone Star School* will discuss his work at noon in the Humphrey Village Church. The event is free to the public. For more information, call 580/237-1907 or email csrhcinfo@okhistory.org.

Oklahoma Banking History Book



On October 15 the University of Oklahoma Press will release *Banking in Oklahoma Before Statehood*, written by Michael Hightower, researcher for the Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project.

This lively book takes Oklahoma history into the world of Wild West capitalism. It begins with a useful survey of banking from the early days of the American republic until commercial patterns coalesced in the East. It then follows the course of American expansion westward, tracing the evolution of commerce and banking in Oklahoma from their genesis to the eve of statehood in 1907.

To tell this story, the author blends documentary historical research in both public and corporate archives with his own interviews and those that WPA fieldworkers conducted with old-timers during the New Deal. The road to Oklahoma statehood was paved during the Gilded Age, when money decided elections all over the country. Bankers were never far from the main action during the territorial period, and the institutions they built were both cause and effect of Oklahoma's inclusion in national networks of banking and commerce.

Banking in Oklahoma Before Statehood (cloth, \$29.95) will be available after October 15 in the OHS Museum Store. To purchase, come to the store, call 405/522-5214 or email giftshop@okhistory.org. For more information, visit the University of Oklahoma Press at www.oupres.com and click on the fall 2013 catalog.

Publication of *Banking in Oklahoma Before Statehood* and its sequel, *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907-2000* (OU Press, 2014) coincides with the OHS's major exhibit *Crossroads of Commerce*, slated to open at the Oklahoma History Center in fall 2014. A third book, *Banking in Oklahoma by Region*, remains a work in process and will likely be completed in 2015.

Dr. Hightower plans to travel throughout the state in 2014 to discuss the historic role of banks as crossroads of communities. To schedule a visit to your community or to offer suggestions for research on banking and commerce in your part of the state, please contact him by phone at 434/249-6043 or email mhightower@okhistory.org.

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Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

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PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

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October 2013

Doaksville Candlelight Tour

Come to the Doaksville Candlelight Tour to experience southeastern Oklahoma's rich history. On October 18 and 19 experience a walking historical candlelight tour of Doaksville, the first capital of the Choctaw Nation, including a group of scenes depicting the early years of the town. Visitors will take a hayride through the historic Fort Towson/Doaksville cemetery and then be escorted on a walking tour of Doaksville, interacting with reenactors at several stops in the townsite. Each scene will entertain and inform visitors of historical events that took place at this site. This year's tour will be devoted to Doaksville's role in the Civil War. This tour is a family friendly experience. The first tours start at 6:30 p.m. and will repeat every forty-five minutes until 10 p.m. on both nights. Reservations are preferred. To make a reservation please contact Fort Towson Historic Site at 580/873-2634 or email jdavis@okhistory.org. Doaksville is located next to Fort Towson at HC 63 Box 1580 in Fort Towson, Oklahoma. Call for directions.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

"Carved in Stone: the Meaning of Gravestone Graphics" workshop

Join the Oklahoma History Center and explore the meaning behind historic gravestones on Saturday, October 26. Gravestones and cemeteries are rich in a language of symbols. Those symbols can be difficult to interpret because of changes in meaning over time. By examining grave markers one can learn more than just the person's name. This class will provide the skills necessary to investigate the past through tombstones. The class will run from 1 to 3 p.m. and is free with museum admission. Registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact Jason Harris at jharris@okhistory.org or by phone at 405/522-0785.

