



## Ghost Stories event at Murrell Home

For the twenty-third consecutive year, the George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill will be the backdrop for storytellers spinning yarns about the “Hunter’s Ghost” and other chilling accounts. The event will be held on Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24.

“This family-oriented program will feature various storytellers in a number of rooms telling tales about the Murrell Home, the Cherokee Nation, and other local ghost stories,” said Amanda Pritchett, a historical interpreter for the OHS. “The Ghost Stories are one of our most popular events of the year. Many people return every year,” said Pritchett.

Ghost stories related to the 1845 plantation mansion are documented as early as the 1930s. One story, the “Hunter’s Ghost,” is the legend that grew out of the years George Murrell operated the mansion as his “Hunter’s Home” before the Civil War. He often hosted fox hunts in the Cherokee Nation. This and other tales related to the historic home will be recounted by storytellers in period costume.

Sessions will take place every fifteen minutes beginning at 6:30 p.m. The last session will begin at 8:15 p.m. Visitors will move through the house and listen to stories from several unique storytellers. Guests also will have a chance to sample some hot cider and cookies in the Murrell Mercantile Store.

Tickets are \$5 per person, with reservations required due to limited seating. Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are accepted. This event is not recommended for children under eight years of age. For reservations please call 918-456-2751.

The George M. Murrell Home is a National Historic Landmark, a Certified Trail of Tears Site, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the residence of two nieces of Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross and is the only remaining antebellum plantation home in Oklahoma. The home is located at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill.

## Doaksville Candlelight Tours

On Friday, October 16, and Saturday, October 17, Fort Towson will host its annual Doaksville Candlelight Tours. During this event, attendees will learn about life in the Choctaw Nation during the Civil War (1861–65).

Tours leave from the gate leading to Doaksville at the north end of the Fort Towson Cemetery. The candlelight tours begin at 6:30 p.m., with the last tour starting at 9:30 p.m. Admission for the tour is \$6 per person, and children six and under are free. The event is sponsored by the OHS, Friends of Fort Towson, and the Fort Towson Volunteer Fire Department. For more information please contact John Davis at 580-873-2634. Fort Towson is located approximately fourteen miles east of Hugo on US Highway 70 in Fort Towson, Oklahoma.



**Above and left:**  
Historic reenactors  
portray different  
Civil War-era  
characters at the  
2014 Doaksville  
Candlelight Tours  
event in Fort  
Towson, Oklahoma.

## Upcoming events at Pawnee Bill Ranch

On October 24, at 2 p.m., the Pawnee Bill Ranch will host a Black and White Style Show. The style show will feature a diverse array of local models of all ages modeling approximately seventy pieces of clothing from a golden age of American fashion—the 1920s. The 1920s were a time of great cultural change and these changes were reflected in dramatic shifts in fashion. Clothing from 1900 through 1940 also will be featured. The style show will be narrated by Martha Ray, former director of historic homes for the OHS. Ray will provide historical context for the garments and offer detailed commentary on each piece worn. The clothing in the show will be black, white, or a combination of black and white.

Many of the pieces were given to Ray by a local business when new owners started cleaning out their building and found original dresses from the time period with the price tags still on them. These original pieces in nearly perfect condition, as well as reproduction articles of clothing, will be shown. Care is taken to ensure that the fabric and styles of reproduction garments are true to the time period. Models also will wear period-appropriate accessories and other colors will be utilized as accents. Reservations are recommended for the style show. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 918-762-2513 for more information or to make a reservation.

Through the entire month of October the Pawnee Bill Ranch also will host a quilt show. Area quilters will bring in their handiwork to be exhibited during the museum’s normal hours of operation. Everything from historic family heirlooms to modern abstract works of art will be on display. The quilt show, an annual event at the ranch for more than twenty years, is a way for community members to showcase their beautiful works of fiber art. People have shared quilts that date back to the land runs and the Civil War. There will be friendship quilts and modern quilts that tell a story or that have patterns reflecting a theme. The ranch has many quilts in its collection that can be seen during the quilt show in Pawnee Bill’s mansion. This event is free. The Pawnee Bill Ranch is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday and Monday from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information please call 918-762-2513. The Pawnee Bill Ranch is located one-half mile west of Pawnee on US Highway 64.





## Director's column

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

What a difference ten years makes. Yes, it has been ten years since we opened the Oklahoma History Center and now it is time to celebrate.

During the week of November 16–20, 2015, we will host a series of events that will help us remember the many ways this incredible facility has changed our ability to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history.

On Monday, November 16, we will host a donor's reception and offer a preview of the new exhibit *Crossroads of Commerce: A History of Free Enterprise in Oklahoma*. Two nights later, on November 18, we will invite OHS members, volunteers, and staff to join us as we offer another peek at the new exhibit and recount some of the high points of the last ten years.

On Thursday night, November 19, we will offer an encore presentation of the "Rushmore Four," an incredible first-person living history event that brings to life the four presidents on Mount Rushmore: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. It is our way of saying thank you.

All of this will help us slow down for a moment and reflect on what the History Center has done for the OHS both internally and externally.

The changes are obvious from the outside looking in. We have more and better programming. We have more and better exhibits. We have a growing list of partners. And we have achieved a level of access to collections that makes the OHS one of the most progressive historical organizations in the country.

This visibility has generated more press, allowed us to raise more funding, and changed our brand from acceptable mediocrity to the highest standards as reflected in our unique affiliations with the Smithsonian, the National Archives, and the American Alliance of Museums. No other educational facility in the country shares all three.

Perhaps most importantly, the new image and reputation have improved our ability to collect the historical record of our state and people. For the last several years we have accepted on average more than a collection a day, with many collections consisting of thousands of items.

Much of that success is due to the impact of the History Center on our internal operations.

The building and grounds have helped us break down the walls that once separated the various operating divisions of the OHS. Now it is all hands on deck when needed. The new attitude is due in part to the motivated staff attracted by the increased collecting, programming, and professionalism made possible by the History Center.

Just as important is the impact of the History Center on our ability to pursue an agency-wide business plan that blends state appropriations with revenue earned and money raised. The History Center has been a laboratory for innovation, and the lessons learned are helping us maintain momentum while constantly adjusting to shrinking state appropriations.

Yes, what a difference ten years make. Let's celebrate.

*Dr. Bob*

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

It is October and the Oklahoma Historical Society has officially kicked off its 2016 Annual Giving Campaign. As a reminder, all of the OHS exhibits and projects are accomplished using donated funds, whether from individuals, companies, or foundations. Our campaign has become even more crucial as other funding has started to decline. With last year's donations we accomplished several goals, including digitizing all pre-1923 Oklahoma newspapers, planning and working on the new *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit, digitizing thousands of photos from the Oklahoma Publishing Company collection, recording oral histories, and paying the entry for students at the Oklahoma History Center. We also constructed and opened new exhibits in our Altus, Fort Towson, Fort Gibson, and Clinton facilities.

We have many projects on the horizon and need support from people who love Oklahoma and its history. These include exhibits, programs, concerts, oral histories, educational trunks, and archival processing that help the OHS share our state's history. Help the OHS continue to be one of the best historical societies in the nation. You can contact me at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org) or donate online at [www.okhistory.org/support/annualgiv](http://www.okhistory.org/support/annualgiv).



## New Members, August 2015

\*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

### Fellow

Wes and Sandy Milbourn, Oklahoma City

### Associate

\*Paula Matlock, Oklahoma City  
\*Earl and Joan Naylor, Edmond

### Friend

Brad Sullivan Tag Agency, Oklahoma City  
\*Jay Johnston, Oklahoma City  
Richard and Teresa Knapp, Oklahoma City  
Phil and Frances Macy, Edmond  
\*Alan and Jo Ratliff, Tulsa  
\*Jack and Rowanne Uselton, Livingston, TX

### Family

Craig and Maria Abbott, Oklahoma City  
Sue Albert and Olivia Pribich, Oklahoma City  
Gregory and Mary Helen Blake, Knoxville, TN  
Mickey Bottom and Justin Bottom, Anadarko  
Bryan and Linda Cox, Edmond  
Angela Culbreath, Noble  
\*Melba Dobbs, Oklahoma City  
Jerry and Ellen Duncan, Oklahoma City  
Rosemary Eskridge and Sarah Donalds, Edmond  
Ronnye and Jazmine Farmer, Moore  
Robert Fredricks and Ruben Fredricks, Edmond  
Susan Guerra, El Paso, TX  
Brent Hawkins, Edmond  
Lori Hill, Oklahoma City  
Robert Hoover, Oklahoma City  
Mike and Elizabeth Kasti, Edmond  
Brett Manis, Edmond  
\*Melinda Mayberry, Sapulpa  
Jason and Amy Milton, Oklahoma City  
Eric Morrison, Lawton  
Evelyn Otto, Ponca City  
Phillip Parrish and Ashley Parrish, Sperry  
Paul Plowman, Nichols Hills  
Truman and Laura Schrock, Thomas  
Jonathan Sparks, Yukon  
Al Whitson, Fort Smith, AR  
Orvil and Lynda Willyerd, Oklahoma City  
Mrs. David Wilson, Oklahoma City

### Individual

Alan Abbott, Moreland  
Arthur Adams, Washington  
Anne Barker, Nichols Hills  
Edward Beach, Skiatook  
Russell Bivins, Elmore City

**cont'd. on p. 7**

**Oklahoma Historical Society**  
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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.

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# AROUND OKLAHOMA

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## Meetings

The monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will be held on Monday, October 5, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. Amber Follett will be the speaker and her presentation is entitled "Southwest Genealogical Society Family History Room." The meeting and program will take place from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and experienced researchers will be available before the meeting at 5 p.m. to answer research questions. Monthly meetings are free for OGS members. Nonmembers are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend. All are invited to join, with more information available at [www.okgensoc.org](http://www.okgensoc.org). OGS meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Oklahoma History Center, which is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 for more information.

## Events

The Oklahoma City/County Historical Society will host the twenty-sixth annual Pathmaker Awards luncheon on Tuesday, October 6, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon will be held at the Jim Thorpe Association in **Oklahoma City**. This year's honorees include "Pathmakers from the Past"—John Belt, Joe Dodson, and Pen Woods; and "Pathmakers from the Present"—Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Ms. Juanita Davis, Chancellor Glen Johnson, Dr. Larry Killebrew, and Mr. John Temple. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Midtown Renaissance. Tickets to the luncheon are \$40 per person. The Jim Thorpe Association is located at 4040 North Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City. For more information please contact Bill Welge, president, at [willderfers@cox.net](mailto:willderfers@cox.net) or 405-522-5206.

Visit Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma in **Norman** for a special program on Tuesday, October 6. The guest speaker will be Dr. Elizabeth Horton, station archaeologist at Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park in Arkansas. Her presentation is entitled "Motifs and Iconography in the Sacred and Ceremonial Textiles and Basketry of Southeastern Societies." This fall speaker series is free, open to the public, and held in conjunction with the Sam Noble Museum's current exhibit, *Collision & Creation: Indigenous Arts of the Americas, 1890–2015*. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 7 p.m. This program is cosponsored by

the Sam Noble Museum and the Cleveland County Chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. It will be held in the Kerr Auditorium of the Sam Noble Museum, located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. Please call 405-325-4712 for more information.

Celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the construction of the Kansas City Southern Railway Depot in **Stilwell** on Thursday, October 8. In 1915 the railroad company built a modern, brick station that served the community until the depot's closure in 1971. Rehabilitated in 2004, the depot now serves as the headquarters for the Adair County Historical and Genealogical Association. The centennial celebration, hosted by association volunteers, will feature an open house from 3 to 6 p.m., allowing visitors to tour the historically significant building. The centennial program begins at 6 p.m. and will consist of special guest speakers, history presentations, live music, and refreshments. The celebration is free and open to the public. The depot is located at 1 South Highway 59 in Stilwell. For more information please call 918-696-2535.

Quilt enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the MOKA Quilt Study Group on Friday, October 16, and Saturday, October 17, in **Oklahoma City**. Join other members of the Quilt Study Group from Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas as the group explores "Commemorative Quilts: The Making of Meaning." This includes a rare opportunity to see some of Oklahoma's quilt treasures with an exclusive, behind-the-scenes viewing of quilts at the Oklahoma History Center. There also will be a special quilt presentation by Cindy Rennels of Clinton, Oklahoma, entitled "Cloth Treasures of the Past." The program on Friday evening will be held in a meeting room at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, located at 301 Meline Drive in Edmond. The program, tour, lunch, and meeting on Saturday will be held at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. Cost for the MOKA Quilt Study Group event is \$30 per person, with lunch included. The deadline to register is Monday, October 12. For more information please contact Martha Spark at 405-509-6880 or [mspark@frii.com](mailto:mspark@frii.com).

Step back in time as **Ponca City** presents its first IOOF Cemetery tour on Saturday, October 17, from 2 to 6 p.m. The Set in Stone Cemetery Tour offers attendees two options. For \$10 per person, local reenactors will bring Ponca City characters

to life on the Personalities Tour. For \$5 per person, a Marker/Symbolism Tour is available. Tickets may be purchased at the Ponca Playhouse, 580-765-5360, or the Pioneer Woman Museum, 580-765-6108. The IOOF Cemetery is located at 1206 South Waverly Street in Ponca City.

Experience a German tradition at Volkstrauertag on Sunday, November 15, at 2 p.m. in **El Reno**. The memorial event will be held at Fort Reno to honor the German prisoners of war who are buried at the cemetery's annex. There will be musical entertainment and a wreath laying ceremony. Fort Reno is located at 7107 West Cheyenne Street in El Reno. Please call Barbara Conrad at 918-492-3273 for more information.

## Announcements

The Will Rogers Memorial Museums in **Claremore** and **Oologah** have launched a new membership program for families, individuals, and businesses. They also added an exciting new partnership with the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). The new partnership with NARM will allow members free access to more than seven hundred museums across the country. Just a few participating NARM museums are Woolaroc in Bartlesville, Philbrook Museum of Art and Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. For a full listing of participating museums please visit [www.narmassociation.org](http://www.narmassociation.org). Gift memberships and honorariums also are accepted. For complete details about membership levels or to download a membership application, visit [www.willrogers.com/JOIN](http://www.willrogers.com/JOIN). Please call 918-343-8129 for more information.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, or exhibit included 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 Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at [eebrown@okhistory.org](mailto:eebrown@okhistory.org) or by 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 an item to appear in the November issue, you must submit by the first week of October.



## Rural Heritage Festival at Cherokee Strip Museum

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry will host its annual Rural Heritage Festival on Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a variety of reenactors depicting early life in Oklahoma, including fur trappers, settlers, and cowboys. Other demonstrations include quilting, lye soap making, basket weaving, and lace making. Guests can eat cobbler and stew cooked in old-fashioned Dutch ovens. There will be cake walks, apple bobbing, sack races, and more. Festival attendees are encouraged to bring their best carved pumpkin, as there will be a pumpkin carving contest. This is a free, fun event that the entire family can enjoy. Museum admission also will be free during the festival.

The Cherokee Strip Museum also invites guests to view its newest temporary exhibit about the 101 Ranch. This exhibit is on display now through the end of November. Festival goers can cool off and enjoy the wide variety of 101 Ranch artifacts and photographs in the exhibit. The Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School are located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. Please call 580-336-2405 for more information.



## Ghost Stories at Fort Washita

Visit Durant for walking tours of historic Fort Washita from Wednesday, October 28, through Saturday, October 31. The nightly tours feature ghostly tales as told by veteran storyteller and historical reenactor Steve Abolt. Guests will be treated to numerous stories, both old and new, while enjoying a candlelit tour of the historic site. The tours take place at 7 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 10 p.m. nightly. Reservations are required and the cost is \$10 per visitor. Fort Washita will begin taking reservations on Thursday, October 1, so call early to reserve a spot. To make a reservation or for more information, please call 580-924-6502. All proceeds benefit Fort Washita Historic Site. Fort Washita is located at 3348 State Road 199 in Durant.

## Storytelling Festival participants leave with a story to share

For the third consecutive year, the Oklahoma History Center hosted the Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival, a program produced by Arts Council Oklahoma City. The festival took place over three days, August 27–29, and featured three renowned storytellers who captured the imaginations and pulled at the heartstrings of the audience.

During the day on Friday and Saturday the tellers presented workshops for those interested in the art of storytelling. Megan Wells's workshop "Wound to Gold" spoke to ways in which a storyteller can take his or her darkest times and turn them into stories that encourage others. In his workshop, Jim May talked about how personal narrative, culture, and myth can be utilized to craft a story that provides both individual and universal meaning. Charlotte Blake Alston used her workshop to discuss music and rhythm and its effectiveness in telling an engaging story the audience is sure to remember. Finally, the tellers came together in a workshop entitled "Finding Your Own Voice," in which all three told the story of Apollo and Phaethon. Though the essence remained the same, the three stories each reflected the unique talent and personal style of its teller.

But perhaps the highlight of the daytime programming at the festival was the Saturday matinee for children and families. More than 150 participants gathered for "Crawlies! Caterpillars and Worms," a collaborative performance by Jim May and Megan Wells followed by a children's art activity. After stories full of laughter and whimsy, the children finished the morning by creating their very own caterpillars alongside family and friends.



**Pictured left to right are storytellers Jim May, Megan Wells, and Charlotte Blake Alston.**

Each evening of the festival the main performances included two performers presenting short stories before the featured teller's program. On Thursday evening, teller Jim May recounted the beautifully crafted memory of his sister's passing that managed to be humorous, elegant, and comforting all at once. He was followed on Friday night by Megan Wells, who told of friendship and brokenness, triumph and pain in her personal rendition of the story of Rapunzel as well as the story of a retired circus elephant. She concluded her performance by engaging the entire audience in singing a beautiful round of African American spirituals together. As this wonderful, enriching, and entertaining festival came to a close on its final night, the audience was granted one more story to remember. During the intermission before the final performance by Charlotte Blake Alston, an unfortunate decision by one to take a smoke break in the men's restroom caused the fire alarms to go off and the firemen to appear. Although the event was subsequently canceled, it did make for an interesting conclusion to a delightfully rich weekend exploring the art of storytelling.

## Spotlight on a Site . . .

Fort Gibson was the first US military post established in the area that became Oklahoma. Until 1824 Fort Smith, Arkansas Territory, had been the major fortification in the southwest. As the western boundary of Arkansas Territory expanded, the need for another fort further west became apparent. Thus, in 1824 Colonel Matthew Arbuckle, commander of the Seventh Infantry at Fort Smith, established Cantonment Gibson on the Grand River, near its confluence with the Arkansas River. Originally intended to keep peace on the frontier, the fort also served as a destination point when the Five Civilized Tribes were removed from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory

in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1832 the cantonment was renamed Fort Gibson, and it became a staging area for military expeditions such as the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition of 1834. During the Civil War, the fort was occupied first by Confederate troops until Fort Davis was established across the Arkansas River. Union troops then occupied Fort Gibson and temporarily renamed it Fort Blunt.

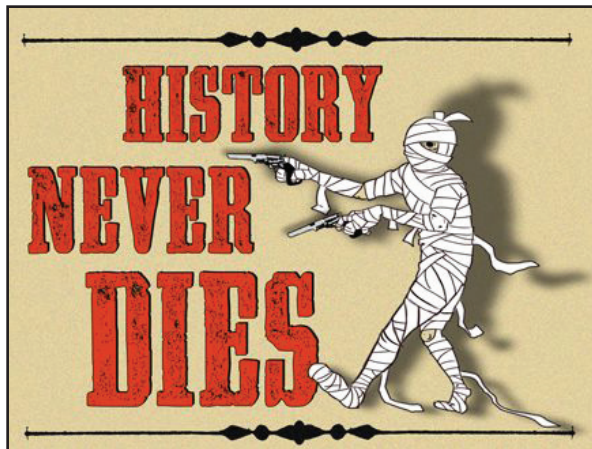
Fort Gibson's former commissary serves as the visitor center. Fort Gibson is a National Historic Landmark, open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free. Fort Gibson is located at 907 North Garrison in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma.



## History Never Dies at Oklahoma Territorial Museum

Join the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie for History Never Dies on Saturday, October 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. This free event includes carnival games, prizes, and Halloween-themed crafts. It also gives children another chance to dress up, as costumes are encouraged.

Attendees will enjoy free hot dogs, popcorn, and festive appetizers prepared by the Friends of the Oklahoma Territorial Museum. The museum exhibit galleries will be free and open to the public that evening. Staff will distribute scavenger hunts and play the "Oklahoma or Bust" game several times throughout the evening. Bring the entire family to History Never Dies. The Oklahoma Territorial Museum is located at 402 East Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie. Please call 405-282-1889 for more information.



## Oklahoma History Center to host Home School Day

The Oklahoma History Center will host its seventh annual Home School Day on Monday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Home School Day offers families an opportunity to participate in a program that is specifically designed for mixed age groups. Activities are ongoing for the duration of the event, and attendees will experience a hands-on adventure into Oklahoma's past.

Visitors can explore the museum with the help of gallery guides, complete a scavenger hunt, enjoy a variety of historical interpreters, and participate in hands-on demonstrations. Students will find activities throughout the museum exhibit galleries. No registration is required for this event, and admission to the program is free.

This program is sponsored in part by SONIC, America's Drive-in. For more information please call 405-522-3602 or email [education@okhistory.org](mailto:education@okhistory.org). The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

## OHS museums and volunteers honored

Museum professionals from across the state gathered in Woodward, Oklahoma, on September 23–25 for the 2015 annual conference of the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA). Approximately two hundred people attended, including museum staff, volunteers, board members, and students. The OMA awards luncheon was held on Friday, September 25, at the Woodward Conference Center. During the luncheon, several award winners from the OHS were announced.

The Museum of the Western Prairie's exhibit *Buffalo Hide Painting of the History of Devil's Canyon* won the award for best exhibit with a budget of \$0 to \$5,000.

*Heritage Founders*, also from the Museum of the Western Prairie, won the award for best technology media exhibit with a budget of \$5,001 to \$15,000.

Three Certificates of Recognition were presented to OHS volunteers for their exceptional service:

- Helon LaGree (posthumously), Museum of the Western Prairie
- Martha Anderson, Oklahoma History Center
- Lorraine McDonagh, Pioneer Woman Museum

Congratulations to the 2015 Oklahoma Museums Association award winners.

## Museum Store News

by Jera Winters

The Oklahoma History Center Museum Store is proud to be your source for great products that highlight the culture and history of Oklahoma. For our favorite family historians, we are happy to have archival supplies to help with the preservation of family history. These products will keep documents and photos safe for years to come, and are the same products that the Oklahoma Historical Society uses in preservation.

Keeping family photos safe is a priority for many family historians. We offer archival quality polypropylene photo envelopes in three different sizes, as well as a polypropylene binder page with four slots for preserving photos. We also have a 35mm filmstrip polypropylene binder page that holds seven different filmstrips.

Important documents, such as birth certificates, graduation announcements, and wedding invitations, can be saved for generations to come in archival folders and boxes. We have three sizes of boxes, including drop front and clam shell. We also have archival letter file folders for document organizational needs.

Do not forget the accessories, as well! Document repair tape can give life to a

## Family Farm Day at CSRHC

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host Family Farm Day on Saturday, October 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plowing a garden, shell-ing corn, and grinding wheat are just a few of the activities attendees will experience at this event. Join the CSRHC in celebrating the proud farming heritage that built northwestern Oklahoma. This interactive event harkens back to a time when the nation's food came from farms powered by animals and human muscle. The entire family can enjoy hands-on activities including leather working, broom making, fence building, pumpkin decorating, calf roping, spinning wool, weaving, quilting, and canning. At 1 p.m. a pie auction will be held to benefit Turkey Creek School. Discover the newest farming machinery from P&K Equipment and view historic tractors from the Major County Historical Society.

This event is made possible by the generous sponsorship of P&K Equipment. Family Farm Day is free with museum admission. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, military, and seniors, and children five and under are free. For more information please call 580-237-1907. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.



fragile document, and cotton gloves can help extend the life of your family's historical objects.

We are offering an additional discount of 10 percent on all archival products during the month of October. As always, members receive a discount of 15 percent on Museum Store purchases. Please contact us at 405-522-5214 with questions about these or any of our other great items.



## Call for papers and presentations for 2016 Oklahoma History Conference

The OHS is seeking papers and presentations for the 2016 Oklahoma History Conference, sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The conference will be held on April 27, 28, and 29, 2016, at the Woodward Conference Center in Woodward, Oklahoma. A total of eighteen presentation sessions will take place on Thursday, April 28, and Friday, April 29.

The theme for the 2016 conference is "Landmarks and Turning Points in Oklahoma History." From prehistory to the present, landmarks and turning points have played prominent roles in the history of Oklahoma. Landmarks may refer to geographic or man-made structures that define a locality or have played a significant role in the history of a community or geographical region. Landmark events in history also may refer to episodes or movements that are turning points in the histories of cities, towns, groups of peoples, historically significant individuals, companies or industries, regions of the state, or the state as a whole.

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 that includes the title of the proposed presentation; a one hundred-word description of the presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short vita or biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by early February 2016 if not sooner. Registration fees for presenters will be waived.

Presentation proposals are now being accepted by mail or email. Postal mail should be sent to:

Annual Conference Committee  
Attn: Paul Lambert  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Proposals also may be emailed to [plambert@okhistory.org](mailto:plambert@okhistory.org). The deadline for submitting proposals is Thursday, December 31, 2015. Please contact Paul Lambert at 405-522-5217 or the email address above with inquiries.



## History Center is all "wrapped up"

If you see the History Center cruising down one of the city streets of Oklahoma City, do not rub your eyes because you think you are seeing things. In an attempt to increase building recognition and familiarity, the marketing team of the Oklahoma History Center has entered into a contract with Transit Advertising and Embark, the company that currently manages the city transit system. A bus has been wrapped with images from the History Center and will rotate the different routes across the Oklahoma City metro.

One fully wrapped city bus generates between forty thousand and seventy thousand vehicular impressions per day. Oklahoma City is a large market with Embark routes covering 83 percent of major arterial streets. Embark has an effective mass transit system that operates on average from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Each fixed route is seventeen miles in duration and each bus repeats itself on average ten times per day. Each route has on average seventy-eight bus stops per route. So each day the moving billboard will be starting and stopping at each of these bus stops from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. The bus is rotated to a new fixed route each day for total saturation and reach of the Oklahoma City market.



## SHPO accepting awards nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting nominations for its 2016 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](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm). Submit a nomination and help the SHPO focus attention on accomplishments like these in your community.

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 4, 2015, at 5 p.m. Nomination sponsors and award recipients will receive notice of the results of the selection process in February 2016. The awards will be presented at the banquet during Oklahoma's Twenty-eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Enid on June 1-3, 2016.

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.

Nominations will be accepted in either electronic or hard copy format. To request nomination forms and instructions, please call 405-521-6249. With questions about the awards criteria please contact Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).

### 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!

Jane McConnell, Norman, August 1, 1976  
Harvey and Kathryn Nye, Norman, November 1, 1980  
Geneva Coats, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1982  
Bruce and Betty Gallie, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, August 1, 1984  
Robert Dorman, Edmond, August 14, 1986  
Anadarko Community Library, Anadarko, December 16, 1986  
Edward and Brenda Granger, Oklahoma City, July 6, 1987  
Fort Smith National Historical Society, Fort Smith, AR, July 5, 1988  
Peter Will and Gail Deaton, Edmond, August 15, 1989  
K. M. Armstrong, Fort Worth, TX, August 13, 1991  
Burns and Ann Hargis, Stillwater, March 24, 1993  
Lidia Hook-Gray, Liberal, KS, July 23, 1993  
Jo Ann Hunt, Ada, August 3, 1993  
Helen Cline, Hennessey, September 7, 1993  
David Levy, Norman, September 14, 1993  
Earl and Joan Naylor, Edmond, September 22, 1993  
Pat Yost, Baton Rouge, LA, July 11, 1994  
Jack and Rowanne Uselton, Livingston, TX, July 14, 1994  
Gregory and Mary Helen Blake, Knoxville, TN, July 28, 1994  
James Floyd, Tulsa, August 18, 1994  
Ira and Linda Seay Lieberman, New York, NY, August 25, 1994  
Jeanne Ray, Denison, TX, November 18, 1994

## Caring for Your Family Heirlooms workshop

Join OHS staff for a workshop on preserving your own family collections on Wednesday, November 4, from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Our knowledgeable staff will share tips and best practices for preserving photos, maps, textiles, paper items, and scrapbooks. Participants also will learn how to conduct and preserve oral histories. The workshop will cover the tools and supplies available for preserving your treasures for future generations. Do not miss this chance to learn how to care for your precious family mementos. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

The OHS Research Center's Caring for Your Family Heirlooms workshop will begin at 10 a.m. on November 4 in the classrooms of the Oklahoma History Center. Registration is \$45 per person and lunch is included. Preregistration is required. Call the Research Center at 405-522-5225 to register by phone, and please have your credit card ready. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



### New Members, cont'd.

#### Individual

Chayli Blackmon, Elk City  
Clayton Brown, Durham, NC  
Mikylee Burris, Prague  
Linda Bussard, Perry  
Heidi Chizmar, Grove  
Danny Chronister, Davis  
Kimberly Cooper, Ardmore  
Angela Corbitt, Pauls Valley  
Joshua Cottrell, Pauls Valley  
Beau Davis, Sterling  
Steven Dunn, Muskogee  
Nancy Fisher, Durango, CO  
Tyler Fitzsimons, Coweta  
Kendall Flowers, Idabel  
Darren Gipson, Burns Flat  
Janetta Gothard, Lone Grove  
Carl Grandstaff, Woodward  
Jenna Grant, Mannford  
Nancy Griffith, Blanchard  
Darla Guerra, Muskogee  
Jay Hall, Pauls Valley  
Rhonda Hamor, Stilwell  
Johnny Harrel, Elmore City  
Aloray Haselton, Sperry  
Ron Hawkins, Davis  
Brittany Henley, Tulsa  
Mike Hickman, Muskogee  
Brad Holt, Oklahoma City  
Emily Khalil, Tulsa  
James Klingler, Coalgate  
John Lacy, Drumright  
Joel Luevanos, Hennessey  
Rameth Manahan, Afton  
Susan Mann, Pauls Valley

## OHEHS Hall of Fame induction ceremony

The Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society (OHEHS) was established in 1991 as a nonprofit to support awareness of higher education's vital role in Oklahoma history. The OHEHS recently announced its 2015 class for induction into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. These individuals will be honored at a formal induction ceremony and banquet on Monday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The 2015 honorees were listed in the September issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*. The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to recognize and honor individuals, living and deceased, for outstanding, meritorious service to higher education in Oklahoma. This year marks the twenty-second year to honor higher education educators and administrators as well as those who support higher education with distinguished contributions.

Biographical sketches and photographs of past Higher Education Hall of Fame inductees are available on the OHEHS website at [www.ohehs.org](http://www.ohehs.org). For more information about the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame or the OHEHS, please email [ajacobs@okhistory.org](mailto:ajacobs@okhistory.org) or call 405-522-0778.



Teresa Martin, Ada  
June McClain, Lawton  
Lathan Meadows, Owasso  
Edward Mendoza, Ponca City  
Johnny Meyers, Enid  
Micah Minthron, Elgin  
Richard Mitchell, Yukon  
Shirlene Moore, Ardmore  
Wayne Moore, Ardmore  
Sheryl Munkres, Wynnewood  
Patti Neal, Oklahoma City  
Scherara Oliver, Mooreland  
Vivian Pollock, Blanco  
Larry Prins, Grove  
Jeanne Ray, Denison, TX  
Candace Reed, Apache  
Andrew Reid, Stillwater  
Clinton Renshaw, Hennessey  
Claudette Robertson, Oklahoma City  
Misty Robinson, Reydon  
Elijah Salinas, Stillwater  
Jessica Selby, Cement  
Larry Snider, Wills, TX  
Shirley Snow, Stuart  
Jeryme Stahley, Lawton  
Terral Stephenson, Healdton  
Jerry Thomas, Fitzhugh  
Joe Thomas, Ada  
Jessica Thompson, Ponca City  
Norma Washington, Gore  
Kristopher Williams, Boley  
Tim Williams, Pauls Valley

#### Organizational

Arbuckle Historical Society, Sulphur  
Gilcrease Museum Library, Tulsa

## Oktoberfest at Pioneer Woman Museum

The Pioneer Woman Museum will join the Marland Mansion in celebrating Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 3, and Sunday, October 4, in Ponca City. This event includes various pioneer learning experiences on the museum's lawn. Hands-on activities will include candle making, weaving, tatting, and traditional crafts. A rope maker, laundress, and blacksmith also will demonstrate their skills. Oktoberfest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Oktoberfest activities are free with admission. For more information please call 580-765-6108 or email [piown@okhistory.org](mailto:piown@okhistory.org).

## National History Day research opportunity

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce that it will host a research day for students interested in participating in the National History Day (NHD) competition. This event will be held on Thursday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chambers Library on the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) campus and is free for teachers and students. Attendees will have full access to the library resources, librarians, and the Oklahoma National History Day (OKNHD) staff. Registration is required and must be submitted to OKNHD Coordinator Sarah Dumas at [sdumas@okhistory.org](mailto:sdumas@okhistory.org).

National History Day is a nonprofit education organization in College Park, Maryland. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage more than half a million middle and high school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top student projects have the opportunity to advance to the national contest at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Oklahoma National History Day is part of NHD and is a highly regarded academic program for sixth through twelfth grade students. It gives teachers the opportunity to incorporate an academic program that directly addresses Common Core and Oklahoma Assessment Standards for the social studies with student-based projects. The next state OKNHD contest is scheduled for May 4-5, 2016, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Junior Division will compete on May 4, and Senior Division will compete on May 5. More information may be obtained at <http://ok.nhd.org>.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

### October events at a glance

- 3-4** Oktoberfest, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 10** Rural Heritage Festival, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 10** “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma!” book discussion group, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 10** Dutch Oven Cooking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12** Seventh annual Home School Day, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12** Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame induction ceremony, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City
- 13** Cemetery Symbols workshop, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 14** Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15** Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15** National History Day research day, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- 16-17** Doaksville Candlelight Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 17** Oklahoma Archaeology Month lecture and guided tour, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 17** Family Farm Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 23-24** Twenty-third annual Murrell Home Ghost Stories, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 24** Black and White Style Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 24** History Never Dies event, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 28-31** Fort Washita Ghost Stories, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant
- 29** Civil Rights Music program featuring The Ambassadors, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Please visit [www.okhistory.org/calendar](http://www.okhistory.org/calendar) for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

# Mistletoe Leaves

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## Celebrate Archaeology Month at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center

October is officially Archaeology Month in Oklahoma, and the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host a special event on Saturday, October 17. The event will include a lecture about the Spiro Mounds at 1 p.m. and a guided tour of the site at 2 p.m. Archaeologist and Manager Dennis Peterson will share information and answer questions. The regular exhibits will be available throughout the day as well. The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is the only prehistoric American Indian archaeological site in Oklahoma open to the public, and is the perfect place to celebrate Archaeology Month.



The Archaeology Month proclamation from the executive department of the State of Oklahoma states, “Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 2015, as ‘Archaeology Month’ in the state of Oklahoma and call on our citizens to assist in the protection of the special places that teach about our state’s unique past.” This proclamation was signed by Governor Fallin on June 4, 2015. Archaeology Month is sponsored by the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, the OHS’s State Historic Preservation Office, and the University of Oklahoma Anthropology Department, and will feature many more events across Oklahoma throughout October.

The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center also can be a great resource for school teachers and home school groups. A visit to Spiro Mounds for students can provide context to Oklahoma and American history. Peterson can give groups an introduction to a hidden past and answer questions on the region’s history, thousands of years before Columbus. Not only is this a great opportunity to learn about the most powerful group in the United States before 1492, but with up to two miles of trails in half-mile segments it is also an opportunity for students to get some outdoor exercise in a beautiful nature preserve next to the Arkansas River. All tours and activities can be crafted around the ages and time limits of each group.

There are several pretour resources that also may interest teachers. There is a video tour of the site available at [www.archaeoexplorer.com](http://www.archaeoexplorer.com). On YouTube there are several OETA videos posted about the site. Teachers can download a Teacher’s Guide on the site’s Facebook page at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. There are a number of schools already scheduling so call or email as soon as possible to schedule a tour.

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$1 for children. Spiro Mounds can invoice the admission for any schools. The center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information please contact Dennis Peterson at 918-962-2062 or [spiro@okhistory.org](mailto:spiro@okhistory.org). For more about Archaeology Month events, please visit [www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/oas](http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/oas).