



Stabilization Work at Pawnee Bill Mansion

On August 13, 2018, Pawnee Bill Mansion closed to the public to begin work to stabilize the foundation. “When the 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck Pawnee on September 3, 2016, plans were already underway to stabilize the mansion’s foundation,” said Kathy Dickson, director of museums and historic sites at the OHS.

“Prior to the earthquake, the engineering firm of Kirkpatrick Forest Curtis had been investigating foundation issues at the mansion for about two years to determine the cause and develop plans for the best corrective action,” said Rillis Howard, director of construction and maintenance at the OHS. “The plans were nearing completion and being prepared for bid when the earthquake hit. As a result the project had to be pulled back for re-evaluation due to the extensive earthquake damage.”

The OHS received funding for the initial envelope and foundation restoration project through the state’s Long-Range Capital Planning Commission. The commission recognized the critical need to complete this work to save the mansion for future generations of Oklahomans. With the additional earthquake damage the state’s insurance agency, Risk Management, was brought into the project to assist with evaluating the earthquake damage and to coordinate insurance coverage.

“This is quite a complicated project with no room for error, so it has taken a long time to get it underway,” said Howard. “Bids have now closed on the project and final contract terms are being developed. We are not yet certain the exact date the contractor will mobilize on site, but there is a lot of work to do before the contractor starts work,” continued Howard.

“Staff at Pawnee Bill Ranch, with help from OHS staff at other facilities, will be packing and securing items in the mansion to protect them from damage during the construction work,” said Ron Brown, director of Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum. “If you have toured the mansion you have an idea of what a big job this is. We are sad to have to close the mansion, but we are very excited to move forward with the stabilization work. We have been observing the movement and deterioration at the mansion for some time and will be relieved when the work is finished so we can feel confident the mansion will be here for our great-great-grandchildren,” continued Brown.

The reopening date for the mansion has not yet been set. OHS staff anticipates reopening by mid-April 2019. “Once the construction crew has finished, we will have a lot of cleaning and unpacking to do to get ready for visitors once again,” said Brown.

“The mansion is not the only building to receive attention after the earthquake,” said Howard. “The big barn, blacksmith shop, museum, and picnic pavilion also sustained damage that will be repaired. These buildings also will be closed as work moves there, but the needed work on each of these, while considerable, is not as extensive as the mansion.”

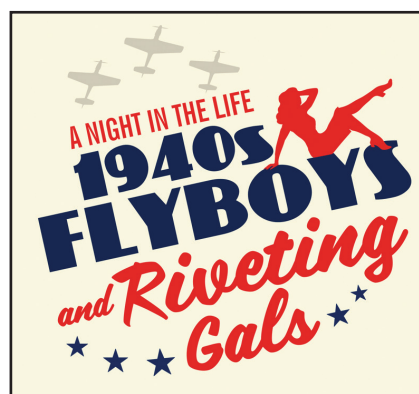
“We ask for the public’s patience as we work,” said Brown. “Admission fees for the historic site will be suspended while the mansion is closed. We do hope visitors will consider a donation to help with the operations and many projects at the site. There is still much to see and do at Pawnee Bill Ranch, and we hope to continue to see many visitors.” The OHS will provide updates as they become available.

Pawnee Bill Ranch was once home to world-renowned Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. “Pawnee Bill” Lillie and his wife, May. Their 14-room mansion, completed in 1910, is fully furnished with their original belongings. The ranch property also houses a museum with exhibits related to Pawnee Bill, Wild West Shows, and the Pawnee tribe. The 500-acre grounds include the original ranch blacksmith shop, a 1903 log cabin, a large barn built in 1926, and an Indian Flower Shrine—all available to the public. A herd of bison, longhorn cattle, and several draft horses call Pawnee Bill Ranch home and can often be found grazing in the drive-through exhibit pasture.

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



A Night in the Life: 1940s Flyboys and Riveting Gals



Join the Oklahoma Historical Society for A Night in the Life: 1940s Flyboys and Riveting Gals, an immersive evening in the 1940s on Friday, October 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. Held at the Oklahoma History Center, this annual fundraising event will entertain guests with a USO Show complete with dancing and live entertainment, featuring the Andrews Sisters, Bob

Hope, swing dancing, war bonds, and Spam! There also will be an Officers’ Club with a more relaxed atmosphere where guests can mingle. The photo booth will be back, allowing guests to insert themselves into some of history’s most memorable World War II propaganda posters. The evening will include heavy hors d’oeuvres and drinks from the time period, dance lessons, vignettes, and plenty of fun! For information about ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities, contact Angela Spindle at 405-522-0317 or aspindle@okhistory.org, or visit www.okhistory.org/gala.



Director's column

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

This coming November 20, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center, I will be part of a one-day symposium to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Washita. The day will have special significance to me for two reasons.

One is the opportunity to reflect on the significance of that fateful day when Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and the 7th Cavalry attacked the sleeping village of Cheyenne Peace Chief Black Kettle and killed an estimated 60 people along the banks of the Washita River in what is now Roger Mills County. The second is the chance to remember the people who fought to preserve the site so the story can be told to future generations.

Two scholars will join us and our co-host, the National Park Service, to provide two perspectives on the significance of that single event in our shared history.

Dr. Paul Hutton, a decorated historian at the University of New Mexico who has received numerous awards for his books, will talk about the attack as a turning point in the history of the American West. Was it a blood-thirsty act of terrorism or was it a painful but necessary act to

pacify the frontier? Dr. Hutton, a regular source of insightful perspectives on the History Channel, will add his magic to the message.

The other scholar will be Dr. Donald Fixico, a faculty member at Arizona State University with Shawnee, Sac and Fox, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole heritage who has authored or coauthored more than 20 books. Through the lens of his tribal descent, Dr. Fixico will place his focus on what the battle means to the American Indian community. This fall, Dr. Fixico will complete his one-year term as president of the Western History Association, an honor that recognizes his many achievements as a research historian, professor, and speaker.

The third part of the symposium will have special significance for me. I will join Congressman Frank Lucas as we reflect on the creation of the battlefield as a unit of the National Park Service. Hopefully we will be joined by former US Senator Don Nickles, who was a partner in that seemingly improbable task.

It was 25 years ago, in the fall of 1993, that the three of us and the entire Oklahoma congressional delegation agreed to work together to create the park as a memorial to the Cheyenne people killed and captured that day, and as a place to explore the historical significance of a turning point in the history of the West.

Congressman Lucas had just been elected to Congress and Senator Nickles was a ranking member in the Senate majority. They said they would work a bill through Congress if I would lead an effort in the state to buy the land, involve the Cheyenne people in the effort, and work with the National Park Service to complete each step of the planning process. Randy Beutler, now president at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, was a key member of the Oklahoma Legislature on our team.

One person who will not be able to add his part of the story is Lawrence Hart, a minister, peace chief, and Cheyenne community leader who was my personal guide throughout the effort. In my opinion, without his spiritual strength and sage advice, the battlefield would not be a park today.

We will be seeking table sponsors for the event, especially in the tribal community. Individual tickets also will be available, but we are limited to seating only 220 people. For more information please call 405-522-0765. It should be a remarkable program, fitting for the 150th anniversary of a major event in frontier history.

Yes, the day will have special significance to me. It should mean something special to everyone.

Dr. Bob



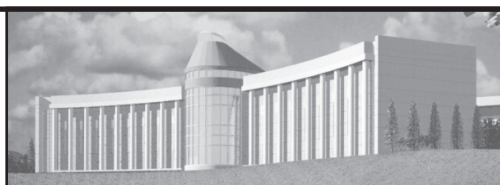
The Battle of the Washita took place on November 27, 1868, near present-day Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Learn more about the battle in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* at goo.gl/16xTds. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, operated by the National Park Service, is located at 18555 Highway 47A in Cheyenne. For more information call 580-497-2742 or visit www.nps.gov/waba.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society's development office began a new tradition last October with a fundraising gala that celebrated Oklahoma in the 1920s. The second annual gala will be Friday, October 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center. This year's gala is titled A Night in the Life: 1940s Flyboys and Riveting Gals. The event will include a USO Show with dancing and live entertainment from Talk of the Town Orchestra, featuring Jay Hannah as the evening's emcee. Several surprise guests will join the band throughout the evening. The Chesapeake Events Center will be transformed into an Officers' Club with a more relaxed atmosphere where guests can mingle. The evening will include heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks from the time period, a dress-up station, a photo booth, swing dance lessons, and a war bond drive.

Early bird and member priced tickets are \$80 for "Officer" access and \$40 for "Enlisted" access. Sponsorships and tables are also available. All monies raised will go toward our Annual Giving Campaign, which funds OHS exhibits, events, educational programming, and collections care. For more information visit www.okhistory.org/gala, email me at lodell@okhistory.org, or call me at 405-522-6676. Questions also can be directed to Angela Spindle, development and membership coordinator, at aspindle@okhistory.org or 405-522-0317.



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

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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

Events

Visit **Rentiesville** for the 28th Annual Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival featuring a variety of local, regional, national, and international blues artists. The event will be held Friday, August 31, through Sunday, September 2, and will include blues music performed by 30 bands on three stages. This is a family-friendly event with activities for children, plenty of vendors, and primitive camping available. Rentiesville was the birthplace and home of Oklahoma blues legend D. C. Minner. The Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame is located at 103020 D. C. Minner Street in Rentiesville, five miles northeast of the intersection of I-40 and US Highway 69. For more information please call 918-855-0978 or visit www.dcminnerblues.com.

Step back in time during a special presentation about American Revolutionary War General Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee III and his family at the Daughters of the American Revolution (Ebenezer Fletcher Chapter) meeting in **Midwest City**. The program will be held on Tuesday, October 9, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. with guest speaker Bill Federer. Doors will open at 7 p.m. Attendees will learn about "Light-Horse Harry," his son Robert E. Lee, and other family members. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located at 700 North Air Depot Boulevard in Midwest City. For more information please call 405-769-1600.

Experience American Indian culture at the 13th Annual Cherokee Art Market in **Catoosa**. The event will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on Saturday, October 13, and Sunday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more than a decade, the Cherokee Art Market has brought the best in American Indian art to Oklahoma. This year's event will feature 150 elite American Indian artists representing 50 different tribes from across North America. Visitors are welcome to browse and purchase artwork of unrivaled quality, including basketry, jewelry, pottery, textiles, paintings, and sculptures. There also will be cultural demonstrations on both days, featuring traditional basket weaving, flute playing, jewelry making, and storytelling. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 12 and under. The Sequoyah Convention Center is located inside the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino at 777 West Cherokee Street in Catoosa. For more information please call 918-384-6990 or visit www.cherokeeartmarket.com.

The Oklahoma City/County Historical Society will host its 29th annual Pathmaker Awards Gala on Friday, October 26, from 6 to 11 p.m. The gala will be held at the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel in **Oklahoma City**. This is the society's annual fundraiser and tickets are \$100 per person. Tickets must be purchased by October 15. The Skirvin Hilton Hotel is located at 1 Park Avenue in Oklahoma City. For more information please email okchistoricalociety@gmail.com.

Celebrate the 115th anniversary of the Warner United Methodist Church at a special event in **Warner** on Sunday, October 28. The celebration will include a barbecue dinner and music. All are welcome to attend. The church was built in 1903 from locally quarried stone. Campbell Russell led the team as they constructed the original building that still stands today. Presently the stonework is in desperate need of restoration. As the church celebrates its anniversary, a fundraising campaign also has been launched. The "Brick" and Mortar Campaign includes an opportunity for community members and those from the surrounding area to purchase monogrammed bricks that will be laid into a new open-air "Serenity Atrium." Each brick costs \$50 and may include up to three lines with 18 characters each. To order a brick please visit warnerumc.org. Warner United Methodist Church is located at 401 Ninth Street in Warner. For more information please call 918-305-0292 or 918-463-5893.

Announcements

In June the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2018, an annual list that spotlights important examples of our nation's architectural and cultural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. Almost 300 places have been on the list over its 31-year history, and in that time, fewer than 5 percent of listed sites have been lost. The National Trust's 31st annual list includes a diverse mix of historic places across America facing a range of challenges and threats. This year **Route 66** was included on the list of endangered places. Known as America's "Mother Road," Route 66 is an internationally significant symbol of our nation's romance with the open road. While Congress has taken important steps to designate Route 66 a permanent National Historic Trail, which would bring national recognition

and economic development to the route's historic sites, legislation must be passed by the US Senate and signed by the president before the end of 2018. Otherwise, a vital preservation opportunity may be lost. Learn more and show your support for designating Route 66 as a National Historic Trail at www.savingplaces.org/preserve-route-66.

Plan a visit to the new Wichita Tribal History Center (WTHC) in **Anadarko**. The WTHC recently held its grand opening on April 21, 2018. It showcases the history and culture of the Kitikiti'sh (Wichita) people, from the village farming societies 12 centuries ago to the present day. Visitors can view an introductory film and explore museum exhibits that tell the story of the Wichita people. The centerpiece of the exhibit gallery is the frame of a Wichita grass lodge. Just outside the WTHC, guests can step inside a full-size replica grass lodge and summer arbor. The WTHC is also home to a research library and language archive, open by appointment only. Regular hours for the museum are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The Wichita Tribal History Center's address is 32210 County Street 2670. It is located approximately one mile north of Anadarko on US Highway 281. For more information please call 405-247-2425.

Dr. Michael J. Hightower regularly makes presentations on business and banking history in Oklahoma. His presentations are based on his two-volume history of Oklahoma banking. To schedule a presentation in your area, please contact him at mhightower@okhistory.org or 434-249-6043. Dr. Hightower also will discuss his new book, *1889: The Boomer Movement, the Land Run, and Early Oklahoma City* (University of Oklahoma Press, October 2018) at the first annual Oklahoma Book Festival, slated for Saturday, October 20, in **Oklahoma City's** Boathouse District. Learn more at www.okbookfest.org.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn E. Moxley 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 November/December issue, you must submit it by Tuesday, October 2.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

September

- 1 *Art of Warren Little* exhibit opens, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 1-2 Cherokee National Holiday activities, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 4 *The 1893 Land Race: A Legacy of Community* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 4 *Poke a Stick At It: Unexpected True Stories* presentation by author Connie Cronley, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 7 Blacksmith Shop Grand Opening and Museum Reopening, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 8 Saving Your Seeds presentation, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 8 Septemberfest, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 History OffCenter Heritage Hills Bike Tour, Henry Overholser Mansion and Heritage Hills, Oklahoma City
- 8 "Harvest Party" Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Dr. Sterling Evans, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14 CSRHC presents Homesteaders' Hoedown, The Home Place Country Estate, Meno
- 14 Public meeting for the SHPO's FY 2019 Historic Preservation Fund grant application, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 15 Civil War-era Wooden Bench workshop, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 15-16 Wood Window Restoration workshop, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 22 *Smithsonian Magazine's* 14th Annual Museum Day, various OHS museums and sites
- 22 Autumnal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 22 Drummond Home's Style Show, Osage County Co-Op, Hominy
- 22 Artist presentation by Warren Little, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 22-23 14th Annual Western Heritage Weekend and Tom Mix Festival, Tom Mix Museum, Dewey
- 25 Tracing Your Roots genealogy class, Rose State College Community Learning Center, Midwest City

- 27 Prairie to Palate outdoor dining experience and fundraiser, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 28 Living History Lantern Tours, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 28-30 A Long Walk in the Sun: Mexican-American War Days, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 29 *A Sense of Time and Place: Work by Greg Burns* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

October

- 1-31 Annual Quilt Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 1-31 Oklahoma Archaeology Month events and programs, various sites across Oklahoma
- 2 *Bound in Twine* presentation by author Dr. Sterling Evans, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Tracing Your Roots genealogy class, Rose State College Community Learning Center, Midwest City
- 3-4 "Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase" living history presentations, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Movie Night at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 5-6 Doaksville Candlelight Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 5-7 Third Annual Antique Agriculture Festival, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 10 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Aaron Preston, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Twilight Tour, Henry Overholser Mansion and Heritage Hills, Oklahoma City
- 13 "Chuck Wagon Cooking" Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 13 "1893 Land Run" Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 13-14 52nd Annual Heritage Hills Historic Homes and Gardens Tour, Henry Overholser Mansion and Heritage Hills, Oklahoma City
- 15 Finding Family: Traditional Resources and Genetic Genealogy class, Rose State College Community Learning Center, Midwest City
- 18 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 19 OHS Presents A Night in the Life: 1940s Flyboys and Riveting Gals, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

- 20 Archaeology Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 20 Sixth Annual "History Never Dies" Halloween Carnival, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 20 Chuck Wagon Gathering and Fundraiser Dinner, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 20 "Fall in Love with Pawnee Bill Ranch" Festival, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 20 Pawnee Bill Ranch Association's annual meeting and meal, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 22 *The General* Kilgen Organ performance by Walt Strony, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26-27 26th Annual Ghost Stories, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 27 Ladies' Aid Societies, the Civil War, and Quilts workshop, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 31 Halloween Night at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore



Otoe-Missouria exhibit at Pioneer Woman Museum

The Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City is pleased to host a traveling exhibit entitled *Enduring Legacy: Photos of the Otoe-Missouria People*. It is on display now through December 29, 2018. The exhibit features historic photographs and artifacts from the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

The exhibit began in 2011 as an outreach project of the Otoe-Missouria Public Information Office. The items on display were either donated by tribal members or included following agreements with museums and archives across the United States. Visit www.omtribe.org to learn more about the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City. For more information please visit www.facebook.com/pioneerwomanmuseum, email piown@okhistory.org, or call 580-765-6108.



(21884.1.8, Scotty Howard and Carl Graham Collection, OHS)

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce four new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma, added in June and July 2018. The National Register is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

The Altus Downtown Historic District is significant for its association with commerce and government in the downtown core of Altus, Jackson County. The area has functioned as the central business district since the town's founding in 1891. The district is an excellent example of a compact and cohesive commercial core surrounding the county courthouse. This district illustrates the commercial and governmental development of Altus from a small town in the 19th century into a thriving county seat in the late 20th century.



Altus Downtown Historic District

The All-Black towns of Oklahoma represent a unique chapter in American history. Nowhere else did so many African American men and women come together to create and govern their own communities. Reverend L. W. Thomas arrived in Summit, Oklahoma, in July of 1922 where he envisioned creating a model community, sustained and governed by African Americans. Reverend Thomas's home located along Oktaha Road in Summit, Muskogee County, is significant for its association with community planning and development for the formation of Summit as well as for its association with Reverend Thomas.



Reverend L. W. Thomas Homestead



Located at 1-13 NE Sixth Street in Oklahoma City is the Pioneer Telephone Company Warehouse and Garage. The property is significant for its association with developments in communication between 1909 and 1917. The construction of the buildings corresponds to the expansion of telephone technology in the state of Oklahoma as well as the consolidation of telephone exchanges into a centralized location.



Pioneer Telephone Company Warehouse and Garage

The Cheairs Furniture Company Building, located at 537 South Kenosha Avenue in Tulsa, is significant for its association with commercial growth and development in downtown Tulsa. It also is associated with the rise of the furniture industry in Tulsa. The Cheairs Furniture Company was founded during the middle of the Great Depression when many other furniture companies were closing. The building is an excellent tribute to 1930s commercial growth in downtown Tulsa and is one of the surviving buildings in the area.



Cheairs Furniture Company Building

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. If you believe a property in your area is eligible, fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form located at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm.

From the OHS Archives: The Lisa Kay Adam Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

While the historical record may often focus on the American men who served in the US military during World War II, an astounding 84,000 US women also served in the US Navy during this period. In July 1942, Public Law 689 was passed to create the Women's Reserve of the US Navy known as the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).

In August 1942 Julia Mae Corbin Commons, a Konawa High School graduate, joined the WAVES and was sent to boot camp at Hunter College in the Bronx, New York. Upon completing her training in New York, she was transferred to Stillwater for Yeoman training at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) where she studied naval procedures, the Navy's filing system, typing, shorthand, punctuation, and grammar.

During World War II, Yeoman Corbin was stationed in Washington, DC, at the Bureau of Naval Personnel Annex, and Corpus Christi, Texas. After the war, Corbin went to school on the GI Bill, graduating from Oklahoma A&M College in 1949 with a degree in education. Corbin's niece, Lisa Kay Adam, donated her papers to the OHS. The collection includes original essays written during Julia Mae Corbin Commons's retirement about her family, Oklahoma history, and her time in the Navy, along with scrapbooks highlighting her military career.

The Lisa Kay Adam Collection (2018.094, one letter thin box and one over-size box) is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please email research@okhistory.org or call 405-522-5225.

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



Julia Mae Corbin Commons

Gemini VI space capsule relocated

In collaboration with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, three Smithsonian Affiliates—the Stafford Air and Space Museum, the Kansas Cosmosphere, and the Oklahoma History Center (OHC)—are pleased to announce that the Gemini VI space capsule is now on display at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford. The space capsule was moved on July 25, 2018.

The Stafford Museum, founded by and dedicated in honor of Oklahoma native, test pilot, and astronaut Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford, exhibits thousands of items that display the worldwide progression of aviation and space flight.

After months of discussions with the Stafford Museum, the OHC made the request to the National Air and Space Museum and recommended that the space capsule be moved to the Stafford. "While we greatly value the opportunity to interpret the Gemini VI and have created a highly visible role for the spacecraft at the History Center, we have concluded that the Stafford Museum could provide a scope and depth of education focus that would further maximize the impact and preservation of this historic space artifact and its unique story," said Dan Provo, director of the OHC.

The Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas, provided the logistical and installation support for the move. One of the first facilities to become a Smithsonian Affiliate, the Cosmosphere was responsible for the conservation and initial relocation of the Gemini VI to the OHC, and built the custom exhibit case that now houses the spacecraft.

"We are delighted that three Smithsonian Affiliates have come together to find the best place to share the story of the Gemini VI for generations of learners," said Myriam Springuel, director of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations. "This collaboration demonstrates the strength of our Affiliate network and our collective dedication to making an impact in local communities with enriching artifacts and educational programs."

The Gemini VI mission, manned by General Stafford and Captain Walter M. "Wally" Schirra Jr., achieved the first space rendezvous, keeping the Gemini VI spacecraft within one foot of the sister Gemini VII spacecraft in December 1965. After the mission was completed, NASA transferred the spacecraft to the Smithsonian in 1968. Shortly thereafter, the Saint Louis Science Center, also a Smithsonian Affiliate, exhibited the capsule until it was transferred on a long-term loan to the OHC, coinciding with the opening of the museum on November 16, 2005.

Oklahoma State Symbols

How many Oklahoma State Symbols can you name? OHS staff recently created an up-to-date list of our state's official symbols, found at www.okhistory.org/symbols. It features more than 50 state symbols, complete with fun facts, images, and links to learn more in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. We invite you to browse the list and learn something new! The Oklahoma State Symbols page is one of the many free educational resources provided on the OHS website for both children and adults.



Two author presentations at Museum of the Western Prairie

The Museum of the Western Prairie will host two special author presentations in September and October.

On Tuesday, September 4, at 7 p.m. author Connie Cronley will discuss her book *Poke a Stick At It: Unexpected True Stories*. In this collection of true stories, Connie Cronley pokes fun at everything—including herself—as she delights in the world around her. With her trademark down-home humor, Cronley takes on a range of subjects as broad as the Oklahoma prairies. No subject is off-limits as the author casts her curious eye on the story of a gangland funeral, a status report on an ex-husband, a meditation on cats and gardens, a retrospection about Native American fry bread, and a thoughtful musing on old women and books.

On Tuesday, October 2, at 7 p.m. Dr. Sterling Evans will discuss his book *Bound in Twine: The History and Ecology of the Henequen-Wheat Complex for Mexico and the American and Canadian Plains, 1880–1950*. Evans will speak about the many facets and aspects of wheat harvesting, especially on the development of grain binders that were used before most farmers switched to combines later in the 20th century. Binders required twine and the best source of fiber came from plants in Mexico and the Philippines. The presentation will cover "the rest of the story," including information about how the fiber was discovered, how it was developed, labor practices, competitive markets, and its effect on the environment.

These programs are free to the public and will be hosted by the Western Trail Historical Society. For more information please call 580-482-1044.

Civil War-era Wooden Bench workshop

Visit Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center on Saturday, September 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. for a hands-on, Civil War-era Wooden Bench workshop. Children and adults alike will have the opportunity to construct their very own Civil War-era, five-board bench. The workshop fee is \$10 and includes all supplies, woodworking tools, and light refreshments. Participants will get to take home their very own bench! The workshop will be taught by Jacob Krumwiede, assistant director of Will Rogers Memorial Museums. For more information please call 918-473-5572.

Oklahoma students take honors at National History Day

Ten students representing three Oklahoma schools received recognition for their projects during the national competition for the 2018 National History Day (NHD) contest. The national contest is the final stage in a series of contests at local and state/affiliate levels. Students begin their journey by presenting their projects in classrooms, schools, and districts across the country. Top entries are invited to the state/affiliate level contests. The top two entries in every category at the state/affiliate level are then invited to the national contest. The 2018 National History Day Contest was held June 10–14, 2018, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Every year NHD frames students' research within a historical theme. This year's theme was "Conflict and Compromise in History."

Braxton Thompson, Kenzi Nix, and Kylie Nix of Canton Elementary School received the African American History Special Prize for their exhibit "Governor Raymond Gary and the Better Schools Amendment." Their teacher is Penny Heath. Kasidee Pope, also of Canton Elementary School, received the History of Agricultural and Rural Life Special Prize for her exhibit "A Conflict of Nature." Her teacher is Dora Fuqua. Audrey Thiesen, Isabella Butzer, and Mailee Reavis of Classen School of Advanced Studies earned the Outstanding Oklahoma Entry, Junior Division Award for their exhibit "The Textile Strike of 1934." Their teacher is LaRadius Stephens. Kasen Cooper, Nathaniel Masters, and Brendan Raper of Morrison High School earned the Outstanding Oklahoma Entry, Senior Division Award for their documentary "From Turmoil to Truce: The Irish Troubles." Their teacher is Patty Sanders.

Art of Warren Little exhibit and presentation

The Sod House Museum near Aline will host a special exhibit of art and photography by Warren Little during the month of September. The exhibit will feature 25 pieces of art and photography.

On Saturday, September 22, at 10 a.m. Little will be at the museum to give a presentation about his art and the techniques he uses. For more information please call 580-463-2441.

Homesteaders' Hoedown

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) will host its annual fundraiser on Friday, September 14, from 6 to 10 p.m. This year's event will be a Homesteaders' Hoedown at The Home Place Country Estate near Meno. Join in the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Opening—the largest land run in American history! The event will feature carnival games, turn-of-the-century drinks, whiskey tastings, saloon girls, square dancing, cow chip Bingo, a photo booth, and live and silent auctions. Proceeds will benefit Humphrey Heritage Village and the educational programs of the CSRHC. Tickets are now on sale for \$50 per person, and additional sponsorships are available. This event is for ages 21 and up. For more information please visit www.facebook.com/CSRHC or call 580-237-1907, ext. 221.

Heritage Hills Bike Tour

Join History OffCenter on Saturday, September 8, for a bike tour of the Heritage Hills neighborhood in Oklahoma City. The group will meet at the Henry Overholser Mansion at 10 a.m. and ride approximately four miles at a leisurely pace, exploring the history of Heritage Hills with historian Dr. Bob Blackburn. The tour will end at the Overholser Mansion around 11:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to pack a picnic lunch and enjoy lawn games on the mansion grounds after the tour.

Bring your own bike or get a discount when you use Ride OKC. Just enter the code OKHISTORY at www.rideokc.com/bike-rentals to get a three-hour bike rental (helmet included) for only \$10. Ride OKC bikes will be available for pickup at the Overholser Mansion. The bike tour is free, but participants must preregister at www.okhistory.org/offcenter. This event is cosponsored by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. For more information please call 405-522-5202.

Chuck Wagon Gathering

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will host its first Chuck Wagon Gathering and Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, October 20. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. visitors can check out a variety of working chuck wagons from across the region and enjoy cast iron cooking demonstrations. Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. and will include chicken-fried steak, potatoes, beans, biscuits, and cobbler prepared on the chuck wagons. Guests also will be treated to live musical entertainment featuring Cowboy Jim Garling. Daytime activities are free with museum admission. Evening meal tickets are \$20 for adults and children ages 12 and older, and \$12 for children ages 5–11. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your place.

Kilgen Organ performance by Walt Strony

The Oklahoma History Center is honored to announce its fall installment of the ongoing series of Kilgen Organ performances. Organist Walt Strony will accompany the classic Buster Keaton silent film *The General* (1926). The performance will be Monday, October 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Devon Great Hall at the History Center. Tickets are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for the general public. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 405-522-0765.

Archaeology Day at Spiro Mounds

October is Archaeology Month in Oklahoma, and to celebrate Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host a special Archaeology Day event on Saturday, October 20. Lectures about the prehistory and history of the region will begin at 11 a.m. There will be a guided tour of the site at 2 p.m. led by site manager Dennis Peterson. The regular museum exhibits will be available to self-tour throughout the day as well. Several expert flintknappers, or stone tool makers, will be on hand to showcase their skills from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees can bring artifacts, such as arrowheads or pottery, and an archaeologist will be available to help identify up to 10 items per person. 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. For more information please call 918-962-2062.

New additions to The Gateway to Oklahoma History website

The Gateway to Oklahoma History is an online repository of Oklahoma history, brought to you by the OHS and available free to the public. New collections of newspapers, photographs, maps, and other historical resources are regularly added to The Gateway. Recent additions in June 2018 include several newspapers from across the state.

These newspaper titles and the total number of issues now available on The Gateway are: *The Billings News* (457), *The Collinsville News* (136), *The Freedom Express* (203), *The Geary Journal* (1,215), *The Greenfield Hustler* (322), *The Hitchcock Clarion* (488), *The Kiowa County News* (429), *The Okeene Eagle* (843), *The Okeene Leader* (287), *The Oklahoma Post* (149), *The Osage Journal* (289), *The Republican News Journal* (426), *The Stillwater Advance-Democrat* (440), *Tonkawa Chieftain* (318), *The Tulsa Chief* (354), and *Tulsa Daily Legal News* (459).

View these newspapers and learn more at gateway.okhistory.org. Please call 405-522-5225 with questions.



SHPO seeks input for FY 2019 program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting on Friday, September 14, at 10:30 a.m. in the classrooms of the Oklahoma History Center. SHPO staff will provide information about the National Historic Preservation Act and how it supports the statewide preservation program. During the meeting, the SHPO will receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2019 Historic Preservation Fund application to the US Department of the Interior. Participation in this meeting is one important way to help the SHPO advance Oklahoma's preservation goals. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. Complete the SHPO's "Project Suggestion Form" and return it by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 14. Please call the SHPO at 405-521-6249 for more information.

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

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PERIODICALS

Blacksmith Shop Grand Opening and Cherokee Strip Museum Reopening

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new blacksmith shop and the grand reopening of its recently renovated museum building on Friday, September 7, from 1 to 6 p.m. Museum admission is free on this date.

The new blacksmith shop consists of a 24-by-30-foot display area with restrooms and a 36-by-30-foot live demonstration area. The renovated museum building boasts new exhibits, a new gallery room where local and regional artists will display their art, a hands-on farmyard exhibit for children, and a large gift shop. To celebrate the new blacksmith shop, there will be live blacksmithing demonstrations during the event. Inside the museum building, the new gallery room will feature the work of photographer Teri Garvie James.

The museum complex sits on five acres and consists of five buildings: the main museum building, the blacksmith shop, a homestead-style house, a large implement building, and Rose Hill School, an original one-room schoolhouse. Other outdoor exhibits include an old jailhouse, an antique threshing machine, an antique sorghum mill, and a flying jenny merry-go-round for the kids. All of the exhibits are intended to portray life from the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run through the 1930s.

During the school year, museum staff and volunteers host “A Day at Rose Hill School” for third- and fourth-grade students from across Oklahoma. The schoolmarm is attired in period clothing and the students are encouraged to do so as well. They do real schoolwork much as it was done in 1910. The students are escorted from the main museum building across the “Time Bridge”—traveling back to the year 1910 as they enter the schoolhouse. Classes are booked a full year in advance. This year the museum celebrates the 30th anniversary of conducting “A Day at Rose Hill School” classes.

Additional information about the Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School can be found at www.cherokee-strip-museum.org. The Cherokee Strip Museum complex is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call 580-336-2405 for more information.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Design rendering for OKPOP revealed

On Monday, July 16, at Cain’s Ballroom, the OHS unveiled the design rendering for OKPOP, a museum that will be located at 422 North Main Street in Tulsa. Groundbreaking will take place this fall. OKPOP will be dedicated to the creative spirit of Oklahoma’s people and the influence of Oklahoma artists on popular culture around the world. OKPOP will feature a number of famous Oklahomans, including Gene Autry, Garth Brooks, Kristin Chenoweth, Joan Crawford, S. E. Hinton, Ron Howard, James Marsden, Reba McEntire, Will Rogers, Leon Russell, Wes Studi, Carrie Underwood, Bob Wills, Alfre Woodard, and many others. Learn more at www.okpop.org or www.facebook.com/okpoptulsa.

