



Pawnee Bill Ranch named Top Museum by *True West* magazine



Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum has been named the Top Museum in the category “Cowboys, Indians, Lawmen, and Outlaws” by *True West* magazine. The September 2019 issue of the magazine contains its Annual Guide to the Best Western Museums, and Pawnee Bill Ranch is honored to be included as the number one attraction in its category!

There is also other exciting news out of Pawnee: the mansion at Pawnee Bill Ranch reopened on Friday, July 26, after nearly one year of stabilization work to address damage from recent earthquakes. The impressive Arts and Crafts-style home was completed in 1910, and features the family’s original furnishings. Plan your visit soon and take a tour of the mansion, or stop in the museum during the month of October for the Annual Quilt Show. Other upcoming events are the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19, and Ghost Stories on October 25–26.

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

Farmstead Cafe at OHC now open

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) is pleased to announce the opening of its new in-house restaurant, Farmstead Cafe at OHC. Patrons may be familiar with its parent restaurant in Luther, Farmstead Cafe at 116 South Main Street, which is a Made in Oklahoma location that features locally sourced products and scratch-made menu favorites like biscuits and gravy for breakfast, house-made chicken salad for lunch, and more.

Located on the third floor of the OHC with a stunning view of the Oklahoma State Capitol, Farmstead Cafe at OHC offers fresh baked goods including gluten-friendly items, soups, salads, sandwiches, and locally roasted coffees Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cafe is accessible to the public as well as museum guests and has ample parking. Farmstead Cafe is also available to cater meetings, events, and other gatherings at the museum.

The Oklahoma History Center is located in the State Capitol Complex at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. To reach Farmstead Cafe at OHC, please call 405-522-2321 or email events@farmsteadcafe.com.



OHS presents A Night in the Life: The Swinging Sixties



Join the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) for an immersive evening in the 1960s with drinks, food, music, live entertainment, and more on Friday, October 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. A Night in the Life: The Swinging Sixties will be held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Tickets for this annual fundraising gala will be \$65 for OHS members and \$75 for the general public, and go on sale September 1. For information about sponsorships,

please contact Angela Spindle, development and membership coordinator, at 405-522-0317 or aspindle@okhistory.org. More information about this event can be found in the “Development News” column by Larry O’Dell on page two of this newsletter or at www.okhistory.org/gala.

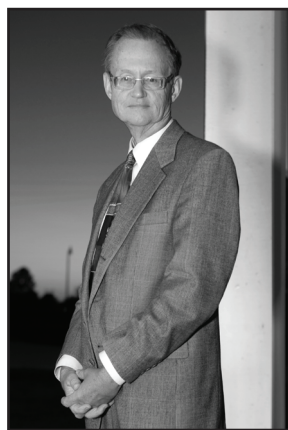
Antique Agriculture Festival

Hunter’s Home in Park Hill will host its fourth annual Antique Agriculture Festival on October 4–6. This event will highlight 19th-century agricultural practices and will feature activities for the entire family. The three-day festival focuses on the end of the growing season and will include ongoing living history demonstrations, harvesting, food preparation, live entertainment, games, shopping, and food vendors. There will also be tours of the 1845 home.



On Friday, October 4, and Saturday, October 5, the festival will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sunday, October 6, the festival will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The admission gate closes 30 minutes prior to the event end time each day. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (ages 62+), \$4 for students (ages 6–18), and free for children ages 5 and under. Parking is free.

If you have ever wanted to venture back to a simpler time or are curious to see how 19th-century folk carried out their day-to-day activities, then this is the festival for you! Spend a day or the entire weekend with living historians as they prepare for the fall harvest and ready the farm for winter. There will be draft horses plowing, campfire cooking, apple preservation, woodworking, soap making, and much more. All demonstrations and activities will be performed utilizing 19th-century methods. Do not miss out on the family fun! Hunter’s Home, built in 1845, is the last remaining 19th-century plantation in Oklahoma. It is located at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. For more information please call 918-456-2751 or visit www.antiqueag.org.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

Persistence usually pays off, especially when the goal is a game changer.

In this case the goal has long been the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program, a program that can help local museums, tribes, and historical societies increase capacity to collect, preserve, and share their own history in communities scattered across the state. The persistence is an 11-year effort to secure state funding for the program.

Thanks to the goal and the persistence, the OHS is launching its first grants cycle this fall.

The Oklahoma Legislature, with leadership from Representative Carl Newton and Senator Darcy Jech, worked with the OHS to set aside \$500,000 in our last appropriation to award approximately 25 to 40 competitive grants that range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. All will be spent on collections, exhibits, and programs.

After 40 years working with community leaders in towns from Atoka to Woodward and Frederick to Wagoner, I know the collections are there that can help preserve the history of families, farms, businesses, schools, tribes, and the events that have shaped our state. I also am well aware of the passion for community history that can be tapped to leverage and add to the impact of small grants.

I anticipate that many grants will be used to properly store and catalog artifacts, which will encourage people and organizations to donate prized heirlooms. Other grants will fund the digitization of photographs, documents, and diaries, which in turn will encourage scholars to dig deeper into local history to find the larger trends and patterns of history.

I look forward to a new generation of museum exhibits that explore local stories set against the backdrop of state and tribal history. Educational programs, from tours of historic downtowns to teaching tools used in classrooms, will foster an appreciation of the history that binds us together as a community.

All of these efforts will create a new dynamic that encourages the sharing of resources and expertise across the state. We hope to add more digitized collections to The Gateway to Oklahoma History, an online repository that shares Oklahoma's rich history through archival collections. We hope to create a catalog of exhibits that can travel to other communities at little cost. And we hope to create partnerships that will live well beyond the funded projects and encourage an awareness of what all of us share as Oklahomans.

Leading this new program is Grants Administrator Nicole Harvey, who completed her undergraduate history degree at Oklahoma City University and her master's degree in history at the University of York in England. She has worked on the OHS executive director's leadership team for seven years, so she understands the potential for tapping the energy and resources of local communities.

Yes, persistence pays off, and the reward will be a new era of collaboration to collect, preserve, and share family, community, and tribal history.

Dr. Bob

SHPO awards quarterly Citations of Merit

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recently presented its quarterly Citations of Merit for work in preserving the history of Oklahoma. The award recognizes efforts to preserve Oklahoma's historic properties through restoration, rehabilitation, research, planning, public programming, and other activities. Five citations were awarded for accomplishments in four Oklahoma communities.

The July 2019 recipients of the SHPO's Citations of Merit and their accomplishments are:

- **Enid Main Street** for its History Makers Campaign that raises funds for a grant program to help restore historically accurate improvements to commercial façades in the district

- **Rite Development, Inc.; Rosin Preservation, LLC; and Wallace Architects, LLC** for the rehabilitation of the Harrison School in Enid

- **Boulder Office, LLC; Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC; and KKT Architects, Inc.** for the rehabilitation of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma Building in downtown Tulsa

- **Villa Lofts of Vinita, LP; Rosin Preservation, LLC; and Baron Design and Associates, LLC** for the rehabilitation of the Hotel Vinita in Vinita

- **Wewoka Affordable Housing Partners, LP; Building Preservation, LLC; and Heiple+Wiedower Architects, PLLC** for the rehabilitation of the Aldridge Hotel in Wewoka

For more information about the Citation of Merit recipients or the SHPO's awards programs, please call 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpoawards.

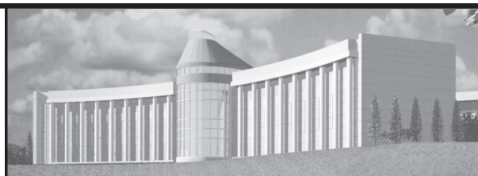


Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Fall brings an exciting opportunity to participate in the OHS Annual Giving Campaign. All of the funds raised through this special effort support OHS exhibits, events, educational programming, and collections care. One of the most fun ways to be involved in this campaign is through the OHS's annual gala. This year's event, A Night in the Life: The Swinging Sixties, will take place Friday, October 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center. Oklahoma City radio icon Ronnie Kaye will be the emcee for this evening of music, dancing, and live entertainment that will take you back in time! The event will also include heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks from the time period, a dress-up station, a photo booth, vignettes, and a raffle. Grab your love beads or polish your go-go boots and get ready for a great evening!

Tickets go on sale September 1. OHS member tickets are \$65 and nonmember tickets are \$75. Sponsorships start at \$500 for a half-table. To learn more about A Night in the Life: The Swinging Sixties, please visit www.okhistory.org/gala or contact me at 405-522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org. For more information about sponsorships, please contact Angela Spindle, development and membership coordinator, at 405-522-0317 or aspindle@okhistory.org.



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

Mistletoe Leaves (USPS 018-315) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors, 5,400 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,170.57 bimonthly. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the United States Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by either organization.

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

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

All Oklahoma Historical Society facilities are for the education and enjoyment of all. State and federal regulations prohibit unlawful discrimination in state and federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap.

Anyone denied benefits should contact the grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5299, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Join the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) for the 2019 OMA Annual Conference on September 18–20 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in **Durant**. This year's theme is "Museums Rock: The Best of Oklahoma Museums." The conference will showcase great programs, collections practices, fundraising, and more. Session topics include accessibility, careers and midlife crisis, homeschoolers, community museum experience, collaborations, STEM in museums, edutainment, digital media, and board governance. New this year will be intentional networking and friendship building. To register online visit www.okmuseums.org/conference. The Choctaw Casino Resort is located at 4216 South Highway 69/75 in Durant. For more information please call 405-424-7757.

Experience early-day farm life at the Threshing Bee and Two Cylinder Show in **Fairview** on September 27–28. This celebration will feature demonstrations of threshing, shelling, milling, and more! Attendees can also enjoy a steam engine show, antique farm equipment, arts and crafts, musical entertainment, special children's activities, and tours of the Major County Historical Society's museum facilities. The event is held on the Major County Historical Society grounds, located one and one-half miles east of Fairview on Highway 58. Please call 580-227-2265 for more information.

Plan a trip to **Tahlequah** for "Paving the Way: Green Country's Cultural and Historical Preservation Initiative" on Friday, September 27, and Saturday, September 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Individuals can reconnect with the area's rich heritage during this special event at Northeastern State University. This two-day event will feature digital preservation and oral history stations, presentations, and workshops—all showcasing the region's top resources for preserving, restoring, and sharing historical items including documents, photographs, heirlooms, and artifacts. The event is free and open to the public. "Paving the Way" is a cooperative effort with state, tribal, and regional entities made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information please contact Brenda Bradford at 918-444-3220.

Visit **Wewoka** for the 44th annual Wewoka Sorghum Festival on Saturday, October 26, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This free festival

will take place in downtown Wewoka and at the Seminole Nation Museum. It is a community celebration of sweet sorghum and honors Wewoka's rich history and diverse cultures. The event will feature more than 100 craft and food vendors, a parade, car show, art and photography show, 5K run, live music, free children's activities, and more! The Seminole Nation Museum is located at 524 South Wewoka Avenue in Wewoka. For more information please call 405-257-5580 or visit www.sorghumfestivalok.org.

Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) continue their free workshop series on Saturday, October 26. Visit the Moore-Lindsay Historic House Museum in **Norman** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an interactive workshop presented by research faculty from the OAS. Visitors can also view the 2019 *Most Endangered Places* traveling exhibit. The event will feature a simulated archaeological dig, hands-on activities with Oklahoma artifacts, and a chance for children to try reconstructing pottery. For adults, there will be a brief presentation about pre-European contact Oklahoma and what someone should do if they find an archaeological site. In addition, an archaeologist will be available to help identify artifacts that you bring to the event! This program is free and open to the public. The Moore-Lindsay Historic House Museum is located at 508 North Peters Avenue in Norman. For more information please call 405-525-5325 or visit www.preservationok.org.

Exhibits

The Seminole Nation Museum in **Wewoka** recently welcomed a national traveling exhibition entitled *Altars of Reconciliation*. The exhibition, which includes more than 30 works of contemporary American Indian art, explores themes of Christianity through the eyes of Natives of Southeastern origin. Each "altar" depicts ongoing personal reconciliation, awareness of the complex history of Christianity among Southeastern tribes, and the mystery of faith that transcends it. The exhibition will be on display through December 31, 2019. During the course of the exhibit's residence in Wewoka, the museum will offer several activities related to the artwork including a "Walk and Talk" opportunity to view the exhibit with the artists during the Wewoka Sorghum Festival on Saturday, October 26. Other programming will include a "Print Action" event where the public can screen print their own art,

also to be held during the festival. The exhibition is being sponsored in Wewoka by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please contact Seminole Nation Museum Executive Director Richard Ellwanger at 405-257-5580 or director@seminolenationmuseum.org.

The Bartlesville Area History Museum in **Bartlesville** is pleased to announce that its latest exhibit, *Remembering the Mystery and Appeal of Shin'en Kan*, is now on display. Shin'en Kan was an architecturally unique home designed by Bruce Goff that once stood in Bartlesville. Unfortunately the home was destroyed by fire in 1996. The exhibit explores the legacy of Shin'en Kan and will be on display through November. The Bartlesville Area History Museum is located at 401 South Johnstone Avenue in Bartlesville. The museum is inside City Hall on the fifth floor. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and donations are always welcome. Please call 918-338-4290 for more information.

Announcements

On August 8, 2019, Cherokee Nation held a ribbon cutting ceremony and officially opened the Cherokee National History Museum in **Tahlequah**. The museum is located inside the historic Cherokee National Capitol, which was built in 1869. The building is one of only 22 National Historic Landmarks in Oklahoma. Visit this new museum to learn more about Cherokee history and culture through unique artifacts, beautiful artwork, fascinating exhibits, and even augmented reality! Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission fees apply. More information is available at www.visitcherokeeknation.com. The Cherokee National History Museum is located at 101 South Muskogee Avenue in Tahlequah. For more information please call 877-779-6977.

Do you want your organization's event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history- and heritage-related programming sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley by email at emoxley@okhistory.org. If you wish a news item to appear in the November/December issue, you must submit it by Friday, October 4.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

September

- 3 *Child Labor in Oklahoma: Photographs by Lewis Hine, 1916–1917* exhibit opens, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 3 *Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry* exhibit opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 3 Living History Season begins, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 3 “Woody Poets” presentation, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 5 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program presentation by Nicole Harvey, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program application period opens at www.okhistory.org/grants (deadline is November 8)
- 11 Brown Bag Luncheon Lecture, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 “USO Show” Cherokee Strip Days Gala, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 14 “The Land Run of 1893” presentation by Barbara Byrd, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 14 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 16–17 Broadway Comes to Altus: Act III, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 19 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20–21 Urban Campout, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 21 Oklahoma Archeological Survey workshop and *2019 Most Endangered Places* exhibit, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 21 “More Than a Spit Bath” presentation by Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 21 Canning and Preserving class, Oklahoma County OSU Extension Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 “Harvesting Hay with Draft Horses” Demonstrations, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 21 *Smithsonian Magazine's* 15th Annual Museum Day, various OHS museums and historic sites
- 23 Autumnal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 25 “Pioneer Life” Home School Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 26 Claremore Museum Night and Open House, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 26 Prairie to Palate outdoor dining experience and fundraiser, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City

- 27 Will Rogers Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 27–28 Mexican-American War Days, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 28 “Pioneer Soup” Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 28 *Oklahoma Landscapes: Watercolors by Derald Swineford* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 28–29 15th Annual Western Heritage Weekend and Tom Mix Festival, Tom Mix Museum, Dewey
- 30 “The Dust Bowl Years in Southwest Oklahoma: Told in Living Histories, Song, and Lecture” presentation by Dr. Sterling Evans, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 30 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry

October

- 1–31 Annual Quilt Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 1–31 Oklahoma Archaeology Month events and programs, various sites across Oklahoma
- 1 *Pioneers and Musical Instruments* exhibit opens, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 1 Beginning Genealogy five-session class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1 “The Dust Bowl Years in Southwest Oklahoma: Told in Living Histories, Song, and Lecture” presentation by Dr. Sterling Evans, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 3 History Alive!: Eleanor Roosevelt, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4–6 Antique Agriculture Festival, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 5 Chuck Wagon Gathering and Dinner, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 5 Family Farm Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Regional Meeting, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 5–6 53rd Annual Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour, Henry Overholser Mansion and Heritage Hills, Oklahoma City
- 8 Beginning Genealogy five-session class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 *Reflections of the Wichitas: An Interpretive Art Exhibition* opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 9 Brown Bag Luncheon Lecture, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9–12 OHS Research Center Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

- 11–12 Doaksville Candlelight Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 11–12 Discovering DNA Secrets workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 15 Beginning Genealogy five-session class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 *Reflections of the Wichitas: An Interpretive Art Exhibition* premiere program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 18 A Night in the Life: The Swinging Sixties, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Oral History workshop with Joe Todd, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Archaeology Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 19 Fall Festival, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 19 Edwardian Hat and Hat Pin workshop with Barbara Byrd, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 19 “Carnival of Animals” Kilgen Organ Family Program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 “History Never Dies” Halloween Carnival, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 21 *The Phantom of the Opera* Kilgen Organ performance by Bernie Anderson, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 Beginning Genealogy five-session class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24–26 Scary Tales and Twilight Tours, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 25 Will Rogers Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 25–26 27th Annual Ghost Stories, Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 25–26 Ghost Stories, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 26 “Tracing Your Roots” Advanced Genealogy class, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 26 “Mask Making” Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 28 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 29 Beginning Genealogy five-session class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival opening night, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 31 Halloween Night at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

October (cont.)

- 31 Claremore Museum Night and Open House, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 "Mysterious Oklahoma" program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 *Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus

Please visit www.okhistory.org/events for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

Save the dates for these events in early November

- 1 Battle of Honey Springs Education Day, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah
- 1 Living History Lantern Tours, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1-4 Will Rogers Days events, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 2 Preserving Your Family Heirlooms workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Regional Meeting, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 2 *LaDonna Harris: Indian 101* film screening and discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2-3 Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah



Teacher of the Year

The Oklahoma History Center partners annually with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History by presenting the Oklahoma History Teacher of the Year award to the state winner. Qualified nominees are then eligible for consideration for the national award.

The 2019 state award was presented to Sarah Morehead, a teacher at Tinker Elementary in the Mid-Del School District. In addition to a \$1,000 honorarium, Tinker Elementary School will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials. For more information please call 405-522-0785.

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce five new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma, added in July and August. The National Register is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past. Five additional properties (also listed in August) will be featured in the November/December 2019 issue of *Mistletoe Leaves* (vol. 50, no. 6).

The Hotel Muskogee opened in 1923 and is located at 26 West Broadway Avenue in Muskogee, Muskogee County. It is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for the years 1923 through 1969. It represents a pattern of development in providing services to a specific group of people—commercial travelers—as a socially stratified lodging industry developed within the American economy from the early 20th century into the post-World War II era.



Hotel Muskogee

The 1923 First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 302 North Seventh Street in Muskogee, Muskogee County, is listed in the National Register for its architectural significance. Built in 1912 and altered in 1923, it is an excellent local example of a late 19th- to early 20th-century Revival/Mission Revival building.



First Church of Christ, Scientist

The Enid Downtown Historic District (update and boundary increase) is a commercial district in Enid, Garfield County. Covering portions of 21 blocks in the central business district, the Enid Downtown Historic District contains the majority of historic commercial development in Enid that retains its integrity of feeling and association. The vast majority of downtown buildings date to a period from 1900 to 1968 and echo the styles and trends of those time periods. The Enid Downtown Historic District is significant in the role of commerce in Enid as well as for its significant architectural styles.



Enid Downtown Historic District

The Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District is a district in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, located approximately one-half mile south of the North Canadian River (often called the Oklahoma River as it passes through Oklahoma City). The Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of community planning and development from 1910 to 1974.



Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District

Stonegate Elementary School is located at 2525 NW 112th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Stonegate Elementary School is significant for its association with educational development in Oklahoma City and as an example of the Modern Movement style of architecture as applied to a public school.



Stonegate Elementary School

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, please fill out the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form at www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm. For more information contact National Register of Historic Places Coordinator Sara Werneke at swerneke@okhistory.org 405-522-4478.

OHS Historical Marker Program

The OHS Historical Marker Program officially launched following World War II. State Representative John E. Wagner met with Dr. Charles Evans, secretary of the OHS, to make plans for the OHS and the Oklahoma Department of Highways to establish a historical marker program. With the help of General William S. Key, an OHS board member, the Oklahoma Legislature authorized \$10,000 for as many markers as possible. The OHS was directed to select 100 people, places, or events important in state history.

The number of historical markers increased dramatically after the state's semicentennial celebration in 1957. By the mid-1970s, with anticipation of the celebration of the bicentennial of the United States, there were more than 250 roadside and on-site markers in the state. Today there are records for more than 660 markers, but keeping an exact count is difficult.

Many markers no longer exist; they were either stolen, destroyed by vandals or automobile accidents, or removed for roadwork and lost. We have only the written record of these markers. Unfortunately, no funding has ever been authorized for maintenance of the markers. In the mid-1980s, a \$1.2 million federal highway matching-fund grant program helped replace selected damaged and missing markers, and improved the safety and attractiveness of many roadside markers.

The OHS does not have funding available to support the historical marker program, so all markers must be paid for by the applicant. The OHS accepts applications for the historical marker program twice yearly. The next deadline is Tuesday, October 15, at 5 p.m. Applications received after a deadline will be held for consideration in the following round (next deadline will be Friday, May 15, 2020). Incomplete applications will be returned with a list of deficiencies. Applicants will be notified within 60 days of the approval or rejection of their application.

Complete applications will consist of: 1) the completed application form; 2) a narrative history including documentation; 3) written approval of the land owner if applicable; 4) photograph(s) of the recommended placement location; 5) United States Geological Survey map with the proposed location marked; 6) suggested wording for the marker; and 7) image, if applicable, for etching into a granite marker.

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Duncan at 405-282-1889 or vduncan@okhistory.org. More information can also be found online at www.okhistory.org/markers.

Floodwater update and events at Spiro Mounds

At 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 24, the manager of Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Dennis Peterson, was informed by the US Army Corps of Engineers at the W. D. Mayo Lock and Dam, located about one-half mile from the center, that a historic amount of floodwater was on its way toward the area and a mandatory six-hour evacuation order was issued for the center and the manager's house nearby. Over the next few days, water crept into the site from the Arkansas River and covered the lower portions of the site until Wednesday, May 29, when the water was just 50 feet from the center. At this time the river crested and then started to fall. By June 3 the water was out of the Spiro Mounds impound area and still receding.

It looked as if the center and this important archaeological site were saved. However, a little after 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, the Fort Coffee and Spiro area was hit by an intense rain, dumping several inches in less than an hour on

already soaked ground, creating a flash flood. Water flooded the bottomland and ran through Spiro Mounds, overwhelming the layer of sandbags at the doors and covering the floor of the center with about 1.5 inches of water. This left the floor with a thin layer of mud, and soaked insulation and walls. Although the water was not very deep, the damage to the structure was significant. Read the full story at bit.ly/SpiroFlood.

Despite the challenges, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is pleased to host two upcoming events as planned. On Monday, September 23, Autumnal Equinox Walks will be held at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. On Saturday, October 19, the site will host Archaeology Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spiro Mounds is Oklahoma's only prehistoric American Indian site open to the public. For more information please email spiro@okhistory.org or call 918-962-2062.

Oklahoma students take honors at National History Day

Fourteen students representing five Oklahoma school systems received recognition for their projects during the 2019 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 2019 National History Day Contest was held June 9–13, 2019, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Every year NHD frames students' research within a historical theme. This year's theme was "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

The Oklahoma students who earned honors at the 2019 National History Day competition are as follows:

- First Place in Junior Group Website: Gavin Johnson, Graham Williams, Lawson Veit, Mason Harris, and Wyatt Coffey for their website "After the Dust Settles: Saving the Soil." Their teacher at Morrison Public Schools is Patty Sanders.

- Second Place in Junior Individual Documentary: Sydney Brown for her documentary "By Chance: The Story of the First Code Talkers." Her teacher at All Saints Catholic School in Norman is Pam Brown. She will also have the opportunity to return to Washington, DC, in October to participate in a documentary event with Ken Burns.

- State Exhibit Showcase, Senior Group Documentary: Johnathan Owen, Hannah Owen, Matthew Fleming, and Trinity Fleming for their documentary "Blessed Stanley Rother: An Oklahoman Martyr." This documentary was shown at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History during a special showcase on Wednesday, June 12. Their homeschool teacher is Hope Owen.

- Student Documentary Showcase, Senior Group Documentary: Amelia Peoples, Kate Schein, and Laurel Mossman for their documentary "Fighting for the Right to Love: The Triumph and Tragedy of *Loving v. Virginia*." Their teacher at Classen School of Advanced Studies in Oklahoma City is LaRadius Stephens. The documentary was shown at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on Loving Day, which is the celebration of the anniversary of the June 12, 1967, US Supreme Court decision in *Loving v. Virginia* that made it illegal for states to ban interracial marriages.

- Top 10 Junior Individual Documentary: Kealan Hamilton-Youngbird for his documentary "The Oklahoma Tax Commission vs. the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma: A Fight for Tribal Sovereignty and the Triumph of a Nation's Right to Self-Govern." His teacher at Grove Public Schools in Shawnee is Kim Jones.

For more information about National History Day, please contact Sarah Dumas at 405-522-0785.

SHPO seeking project suggestions

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), under the National Historic Preservation Act, administers the federal historic preservation program for the state of Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit.

Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan, prepared by the SHPO and currently in draft form for years 2020–2024, sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are a continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples and extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs.

The SHPO welcomes project ideas and recommended priorities from the public for its fiscal year 2020 activities to help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma. Starting September 15, 2019, the Project Suggestion Form will be available online through the SHPO website, or in hard copy format by request. The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year, but will only be considered for the next funding cycle that is available. At this time, you may submit suggestions for the fiscal year 2020 funding cycle. To view the Project Suggestion Form, please visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion.

The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archaeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the NRHP; comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archaeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$879,000 from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

For more information or to request a hard copy of the Project Suggestion Form, please contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org. Additional information is always available at www.okhistory.org/shpo.

From the OHS Archives: Oklahoma Territory vs. T. P. Queenan Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Oklahoma's colorful history includes fascinating characters on both sides of the law. The case of T. P. Queenan had many twists and turns—including three interventions by governors of Oklahoma—that belie the conventional story of justice meted out swiftly and ruthlessly in the territory. Tom Queenan ended up on the wrong side of the law when he was convicted of killing his wife, Ella Housh Queenan, after she refused to pay his gambling debts. The incident occurred on January 27, 1900. He shot her twice, jumped out of a two-story window after the shooting, and declared that he had killed her and their child. The child survived. Queenan was convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Queenan's legal counsel appealed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court and, in 1903, the court affirmed the lower territorial court's decision. In January 1904 Territorial Governor T. B. Ferguson stepped in and commuted Queenan's death sentence to life in prison with the provision that neither the prisoner nor any of his friends or family ever again lobby for a pardon. In 1908 Lieutenant Governor George W. Bellamy, acting in place of Governor Haskell, commuted Queenan's sentence from life in prison to 15 years in prison after relatives started a petition for his release. In 1910 he was released from prison by Governor Charles N. Haskell after serving 10 years of a life sentence.

The Oklahoma Territory vs. T. P. Queenan Collection (M1995.041, one legal box) includes the 1,500-page transcript of Queenan's original murder trial. It provides an interesting look into the life and culture of middle-class Oklahomans at the turn of the century.

The collection 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.



Photo of Charles N. Haskell, the state of Oklahoma's first governor. Governor Haskell commuted Queenan's prison sentence in 1910.

Call for Papers and Presentations for 2020 Oklahoma History Conference

The OHS is seeking papers and presentations for the 2020 Oklahoma History Conference, which will be held April 22–24, 2020, at The Lodge at Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner. A total of 14 presentation sessions will take place Thursday morning, April 23, and Friday morning, April 24.

This year's theme is "Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks." The Three Forks is the area of present-day Oklahoma where the Verdigris River and the Neosho (Grand) River merge into the Arkansas River. Trade was important in this region prior to European contact and later as French explorers exchanged goods with the Caddo and Wichita. Prominent early traders included Auguste Pierre Chouteau and Sam Houston.

It is also where the United States built Indian Territory's first military outpost, Fort Gibson, in 1824. The region was the terminus of the Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee Trail of Tears, and eventually became part of the Osage, Muscogee (Creek), and Cherokee Nations. The Texas Road and the Arkansas River served as main arteries for travel, serving explorers, traders, immigrants, and the military. The OHS encourages presentations related to the theme, but will accept proposals on all aspects of Oklahoma history.

Presentation sessions will be 45 minutes in length and will feature one presentation not to exceed 30 minutes. This will allow 15 minutes for an introduction and questions. Individuals interested in making a presentation should prepare a one-page proposal including the title and a 100-word description of the proposed presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short vita or biographical sketch.

Presentation proposals are now being accepted. The deadline is Friday, December 27, 2019. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by early February 2020 if not sooner. Registration fees for presenters will be waived. For more information please call Larry O'Dell at 405-522-6676. Proposals may be emailed to lodell@okhistory.org or mailed to:

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



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

OHS Unveils New Grant Program



The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is proud to announce the creation of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. This new grants-in-aid program will set aside \$500,000 to award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 to municipal, county, or tribal governments or nonprofit historical organizations registered with the Oklahoma Secretary of State. The grants will be specific to three categories: collections, exhibits, and programs. The online applications will open on Monday, September 9, 2019, and close on Friday, November 8, 2019, at 5 p.m., with award announcements being made in late January 2020.

“After 40 years working with community leaders in towns from Atoka to Woodward and Frederick to Wagoner, I know the collections are there that can help preserve the history of families, farms, businesses, schools, tribes, and the events that have shaped our state,” said OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn. “I am well aware of the passion for community history that can be tapped to leverage and add to the impact of small grants.”

Administering the new grant program will be Nicole Harvey, a historian who has worked in the OHS administrative offices for seven years.

Through this program, the OHS hopes to encourage improvement in the care of collections, create a higher quality of exhibits, and expand Oklahoma history programs at the local level, where a sense of community and the spirit of volunteerism are assets that can be tapped for historical purposes. The program will also foster a learning process that brings together trained, experienced museum and archival professionals with avocational volunteers and part-time employees who want to improve care of collections, learn techniques of preservation, and expand educational programs. Lastly, the program will allow for a statewide, online database that identifies collections, programs, and exhibits that will encourage the sharing of resources between institutions.

Projects that will be eligible for funding include storage, management, and/or care of collections; conducting, transcribing, or cataloging oral histories; digital conversion of historical collections; preservation assessments; emergency preparedness efforts; environmental assessments and monitoring systems; exhibit research, writing, graphic design, fabrication, mounting, and installation; production or installation of audio/visual components of exhibits; governance capacity building, including board development, constitution and bylaws, or policies and procedures; strategic plan/succession planning; board, staff, and volunteer training; public programs, such as guided tours, classes, or lectures; publications; historical markers; website development; regional workshops; and acquisition of collections.

Regional presentations are being planned in various locations throughout the state to inform the public about this program. Please visit www.okhistory.org/events for a complete list of upcoming presentations. The official rules for the program may be found at www.okhistory.org/grants. For more information please contact Nicole Harvey, grants administrator, at grants@okhistory.org or 405-522-5202.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Reproduction Civil War-Era Quilt to be Raffled

The Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield are excited to announce that they are selling raffle tickets for the chance to win a one-of-a-kind quilt! This hand-sewn reproduction of a United States Sanitary Commission quilt was made by Kathy Dickson, OHS director of museums and historic sites. Learn more about how she created the quilt at bit.ly/HSBquilt.

“I have always wanted to make one, and it should be a good fundraiser for the battlefield leading up to the reenactment the first weekend in November,” said Dickson. “The quilt is made from all-cotton fabric, and the patterns date to the early 1860s or before. Some of the fabric patterns are reproductions from the Sturbridge Village Museum in Massachusetts so they date to the 1830s. The ladies would have used whatever they could find to make quilts, but would have avoided fine fabrics like silk since these do not take rough handling well.”

If you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket, please contact Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center at 918-473-5572. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. The drawing will be held after the Battle of Honey Springs Reenactment on Saturday, November 2, and you do not need to be present to win. Be sure to save the dates for the Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3.



Kathy Dickson and Preston Ware showcase the hand-sewn quilt.