



## This Land is Herland programs examine Oklahoma women's activism



To celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage, the Oklahoma Historical Society's Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) is offering a virtual programming series entitled *This Land is Herland*. This series of three programs on women's activism in Oklahoma began in August. The remaining two programs, sponsored by Oklahoma Humanities, will take place on September 22 and November 5, both at 7 p.m. The September program will be conducted virtually, with the option to move the November program online as well.

"This Land is Herland brings together nine notable women scholars to explore the activism of Oklahoma women in a series of three public programs," said Jacob Krumwiede, director of the CSRHC, an OHS museum. "These programs are offered free of charge, but you must register to receive the program link. You can register at [www.okhistory.org/herland](http://www.okhistory.org/herland). Following the presentations, the scholars will be available to answer questions from the online audience."

"The focus is different for each program, but each takes a close look at Oklahoma women who have tried to affect change in the circumstances and environment in which they found themselves," said Dr. Sarah Eppler Janda, one of the project scholars and coeditor with Dr. Patricia Loughlin of the forthcoming book *This Land is Herland: Gendered Activism in Oklahoma, 1870s–2010s*.

The first program, "The Fluidity of Power," took place on August 13. The program explored how women in early Oklahoma found ways to wield power. Topics and speakers for the evening were: "My Heart Had Been Burdened for the Orphaned and Homeless Children": Religious Imperative and Maternalism in the Work of Mattie Mallory," by Dr. Heather Clemmer, Southern Nazarene University; "A 'Loyal Countrywoman': Rachel Caroline Eaton, Alumna of the Cherokee National

Female Seminary," by Dr. Farina King, Northeastern State University; and "An 'Intrepid Pioneer Leader': The A-Suffrage Gendered Activism of Kate Barnard," by Dr. Sunu Kodumthara, Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

The second program, "The Gendered Politics of Civil Rights," will take place online on Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m. This program looks at how Oklahoma women impacted the struggle for civil rights on several fronts. Topics and speakers for the evening are: "To Speak so Forthrightly as to Offend": The Civil Rights Activism and Confinement of Rosalyn 'Rosie' Coleman Gilchrist," by Dr. Sarah Eppler Janda, Cameron University; "Making History: Being an NAACP Plaintiff—Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher," by Cheryl Wattley, University of North Texas Dallas College of Law; and "Barbara 'Wahru' Cleveland and Herland Sister Resources," by Dr. Lindsey Churchill, University of Central Oklahoma.



Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher

The final program, "Contested Notions of Equality," will be held Thursday, November 5, at 7 p.m. This program will bring the discussion of gendered activism to the present era, with presentations covering American Indian women's activism, the Equal Rights Amendment, and the resurgence of conservative politics. The topics and speakers for the evening will be: "LaDonna Harris: Comanche Leader, Activist, Matriarch," by Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, University of Oklahoma; "Until We Organized": Wanda Jo Peltier Stapleton and the Equal Rights Amendment Debate in Oklahoma, 1972–1982," by Chelsea Ball, University of Oklahoma; and "My Children Are More Important to Me Than Any Office I Might Hold": Mary Fallin's Use of Motherhood as a Conservative Political Strategy," by Dr. Patricia Loughlin, University of Central Oklahoma.



"We are hopeful that we will be able to hold this final program of the series in person at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City, but we will make that decision based on conditions in the state as we near the date," said Krumwiede.

Each of the programs will be recorded and made available on the OHS YouTube channel at the conclusion of the project. Curriculum materials are being developed as a companion to the programs for classroom or homeschool use.

The scholars represented in the public programs are joined by four others in a forthcoming book, *This Land is Herland: Gendered Activism in Oklahoma, 1870s–2010s*, coedited by Dr. Sarah Eppler Janda and Dr. Patricia Loughlin. It is part of the new *Women and the American West* series from the University of Oklahoma Press. The anticipated publication date for the volume is October 2021.

This project is part of OKWomen100: A Century of Women's Suffrage, the Oklahoma Historical Society's initiative to celebrate the 100th anniversaries of the passage of the women's suffrage amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution in 1918 and the the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution in 1920. You can find out more about events, exhibits, and resources related to Oklahoma women's political activism at [www.okhistory.org/suffrage](http://www.okhistory.org/suffrage).

*This series of programs is made possible by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The mission of Oklahoma Humanities (OH) is to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. OH is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, we strive to stimulate discussion, encourage new perspectives, and to actively engage people in the humanities disciplines, such as history, literature, philosophy, and ethics.*



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## Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn  
Executive Director

For the last 41 years, I have increasingly relied on planning to deal with challenges, seize opportunities, and increase efficiency in the way the OHS collects, preserves, and shares Oklahoma history. An added wrinkle has been planning for my retirement.

Three years ago, as I approached the age of 66, we started planning for a transition in leadership. Working with the board of directors, donors, and the entire staff, we have since prepared a succession plan with an analysis of my typical duties, a job description reflecting those duties, position papers to focus on key issues, and a schedule for the selection process. So far, the plan is working well.

As the search for my replacement was gaining momentum, we turned our planning attention to a short list of issues that will help keep the forward momentum going during the transition. Here are a few of the most important talking points:

First, among the priorities is preservation of self-governance and independence as a hybrid private-public partnership. Similar to institutions of higher education, the OHS should have a buffer zone from the changing winds of politics. Robust community support and the membership's election of a majority of board members protects intellectual integrity and stimulates long-term planning.

Second, with declining state appropriations, it is more important than ever to invest time and resources into staff and volunteer development. As we have proven over the past 10 years and a 50 percent cut in state support, we are doing more with fewer people because of the senior leaders, a motivated staff, and a growing corps of volunteers.

Third, we need to invest even more in the digital revolution that allows us to place collections online in a searchable format, where they are accessible to anyone interested in Oklahoma history. The digitization of our 33 million pages of newspapers will be the single most important advance in historiography in OHS history.

Fourth, we must continue and even increase our commitment to diversity. Since the 1970s, after largely ignoring minority groups for decades, the OHS has tried to make amends with an emphasis on collections, programs, and accessibility that embraces diversity. While we have made strides toward inclusivity, we must recognize that we still have not done enough.

Fifth, we must make the entrepreneurial spirit an essential part of every program. The days of passively waiting for public funding to grow programs is gone forever. By putting our mission in the context of free enterprise, linking supply and demand, adding value, and taking risks, we can generate revenue when possible and attract community support when necessary.

And sixth, we have to continue building bridges to partners. That means understanding the worldview of our elected officials, recognizing the opportunities we have to assist other groups with historical projects, finding common causes with donors, and looking ahead to possible partnerships. A key link in building bridges is our Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program, which the board

of directors protected during the most recent budget cuts.

Yes, planning is critical to the transition in leadership. Planning is critical to the future of the OHS.

*Dr. Bob*

## SHPO accepting Citation of Merit award nominations

Do you know of a recently rehabilitated building in your community? Are you acquainted with someone who protected an important archaeological site on their property? Is there a dedicated group of volunteers in your community that worked to save an endangered historic landmark? The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) wants to recognize these special people and groups for preserving an important part of Oklahoma's history.

Citation of Merit awards will be given quarterly in recognition of projects that impact communities of all sizes in Oklahoma. Nominations for projects that recognize the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage through rehabilitation/restoration, publications, archaeological site protection, field and archival research, and public programming are now accepted throughout the year.

The SHPO accepts nominations in either electronic or hard copy format. To obtain a copy of the form and instructions please visit the SHPO's website at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards). If you have any questions about the Citation of Merit or the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation, please contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or [lozan@okhistory.org](mailto:lozan@okhistory.org).

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Be a part of our future by contributing to the OHS Annual Giving Campaign. Exhibits, collection care, events, and educational programming all depend on funds raised through the generosity of individuals with an affinity for Oklahoma history.

As the state and nation continue to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, OHS museums, sites, and affiliates have lost visitation and revenue. Despite these challenges, our museums and historic sites continue to fulfill their missions. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid is hosting *This Land is Herland*, a series of programs on women's activism sponsored by Oklahoma Humanities. The Oklahoma History Center is creating *Launch to Landing*, a major exhibit on Oklahomans and space, while its educators are updating the online exhibit and curriculum in preparation for the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre. This is just a small sample of the hard work OHS employees are doing across the state.

The OHS sits at a critical juncture in its history. Dr. Blackburn, our longtime executive director, will retire at the end of the year, and we continue to face the disruption of normalcy caused by COVID-19. As we prepare for the future, the OHS needs your support more than ever. Visit [www.okhistory.org/give](http://www.okhistory.org/give) now to donate online. You can also contact me at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org) or 405-522-6676 with any suggestions or questions.



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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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## **History of a One-Room School Exhibit at Sod House Museum**

In the early part of September, the Sod House Museum will open a new exhibit, *History of a One-Room School*, exploring the one-room schoolhouses in rural Oklahoma. Schoolhouse desks, books, and a washstand, among many other artifacts, will evoke memories of a bygone era when these one-room, one-teacher schools dotted the landscape. These simply built structures, supported by local farmers and merchants, served as a place to educate children, hold community meetings, and host social gatherings.

On Saturday, September 19, at 10 a.m. Brenda Dixon, a retired teacher, will give a presentation about one-room schools in conjunction with this new exhibit. Her program will examine the history of the one-room schoolhouses of the area. Dixon's great-grandfather donated land and was influential in an effort to encourage his peers to donate timber for the original log structure of the Oakdale one-room schoolhouse, known as the "Stockade School" because of the vertical placement of the logs. Following Dixon's talk there will be a question and answer session, as well as a time for audience members to share their memories of one-room schoolhouses.

The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441 or [sodhouse@okhistory.org](mailto:sodhouse@okhistory.org).

## **OHC to offer "Latinos in Oklahoma" educational traveling trunk**

The Oklahoma History Center Education Department is launching a new traveling trunk, "Latinos in Oklahoma." The trunk includes an extensive history of Latino people in Oklahoma, including the forces of migration that shaped settlement and the contributions of Latino communities throughout the state. A reader for older elementary students will introduce them to figures within the Latino community. The trunk contains personal donations from the teachers of Zarrow International School, one of two Spanish bilingual elementary schools in Tulsa, who hope to share their cultures with the students of Oklahoma. Extensive media selections from documentaries, music, and Américas Award-winning books round out the trunk.

For more information about the Traveling Trunks program or to reserve this trunk, please visit [www.okhistory.org/historycenter/trunks](http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/trunks).

## **OHC announces winners of 2020 National History Day competition**

Ten students representing five Oklahoma school systems received recognition for their projects during the 2020 National History Day (NHD) contest. The national contest is the final stage in a series of contests at local and state/affiliate levels. This event is held annually to highlight the work of middle and high school students who have prepared projects with a particular theme in mind. The theme for 2020 was "Breaking Barriers in History," and students presented their work in the form of papers, documentaries, performances, exhibits or websites. The Oklahoma History Center serves as the state sponsor for Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) and coordinates the state competition, while various local sponsors to manage regional events.

Students begin their journey by presenting their projects in classrooms, schools, and regional contests across the country. Top entries are invited to the state/affiliate level contests. The top two entries in each category at the state/affiliate level are then invited to the national contest. In past years, state winners have had the opportunity to travel to College Park, Maryland, for judging in the National History Day contest. However, the COVID-19 pandemic meant an alteration in how this event was traditionally held. This year, all presentations and entries were uploaded to the NHD registry, then downloaded and reviewed by the judges.

Virtual judging was completed between May 23 and June 6. The Oklahoma stu-

dents who earned honors at the 2020 National History Day competition are as follows:

**First Place in Senior Group Website:** Evan McCrackin, Justin Yang, and Shoaib Jamil for their website entitled "For the Rainbow Children of God: Desmond Tutu's Perilous Conquest against South African Apartheid." Their teacher at Norman Public Schools is Margaret Wadleigh.

**Special Award for Discovery or Exploration in History:** Amelia Peoples, Cate Mossman, and Kate Schein for their Senior Group Documentary entitled "The Journey to Mars: How Donna Shirley Broke Barriers for Women in Space Engineering." Their teacher at Classen School of Advanced Studies in Oklahoma City is Billy Tillman.

**Special Award for Outstanding Senior State Entry:** Jordan Mason for her Senior Individual Performance entitled "Bright Not Broken: The Barrier Between Autism and Agriculture." Her teacher at Burns Flat-Dill City Public Schools is Patsy Lyles.

**Special Award for Equality in History:** Alexa Delgado and McKayla Howerton for their Junior Group Exhibit entitled "Woman vs. Woman." Their teacher at Canton Public Schools is Penny Heath.

**Special Award for Outstanding Junior State Entry:** Zayda Sherwood for Junior Paper entitled "Love Conquers All: How *Loving v. Virginia* Helped Break Racial Barriers." Her teacher at Canton Public Schools is Penny Heath.

## **Applications open for OHPG Program**

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) will open applications for the 2020/2021 grant cycle of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program on Friday, September 11, 2020. This grants-in-aid program sets aside \$500,000 to award grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 to municipal, county, or tribal governments and not-for-profit historical organizations, as well as the support groups for these entities. All not-for-profit applicants must be registered with the Oklahoma secretary of state. The grants will be specific to four categories: collections, exhibits, programs, and capacity building. The online application process will open Friday, September 11, 2020, and close Friday, October 30, 2020, at 5 p.m.

For applicants wishing to receive optional draft application feedback, draft applications will be due October 2, 2020. Award announcements will be made in late January 2021.

The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program was launched last year,

and a total of just over \$410,000 in grant funds were awarded for the 2019/2020 grant cycle. Projects ranged from collections care and exhibit development to strategic planning and educational programming. Of the 87 organizations that applied for funding in the inaugural year of the program, 43 ultimately received grant funds.

"We were very pleased with how well the first cycle of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program went," said Nicole Harvey, OHS grants administrator. "With the economic struggles facing so many cultural organizations at the moment, the OHS is aware of how this funding will make a difference to local historical organizations."

A virtual, online workshop about this program is scheduled for September 15 at 1 p.m. To see the official rules for the program, as well as to sign up for the online workshop, visit [www.okhistory.org/grants](http://www.okhistory.org/grants) or contact Nicole Harvey at 405-522-5202 or [grants@okhistory.org](mailto:grants@okhistory.org).





## New sign at Spiro Mounds

On Wednesday, July 22, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, with the help of OHS staff from Fort Towson Historic Site, replaced the aging sign at Highway 9/271 and Lock and Dam Road that directed traffic to the site. The new sign was designed by OHS graphic designers and printed by Choctaw Printing.

"The sign project took a while to produce due to personnel cuts and the COVID-19 shutdown, but this sign will definitely help visitors find us again," said Dennis Peterson, manager and archaeologist at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center.

This project was made possible in part by a donation from Choctaw Nation Tourism and additional funds from the Spiro Mounds Development Association, the support group for the site.



## Life comes full circle for Will Rogers Roper

A lot of grass has grown on the hills of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum since 1975 when Woody Foreman was hired on as a summer hand after his graduation from Claremore High School. As a young man, he worked with Bill Kaase, Delmer Collins, and Dr. Reba Collins, who was the executive director at the time.

Foreman eventually left his museum job and enjoyed a 40-year career with Earl M. Jorgensen Steel. After his retirement he was looking for an opportunity to volunteer, and his interests led him back to the museum. It was a part of his youth that has always held a special place in his heart. There have been a few changes in the past five decades, including the Will Rogers Ropers docent program that he has now joined. Docent volunteers go through rigorous training to be ready to meet and greet visitors who come to learn about Will Rogers from all over the world, and Foreman has successfully graduated.

Back in the 1970s, Foreman spent many long hours mowing, tending flowers, and keeping the grounds of the museum in pristine shape. The baseball cleats he wore playing ball at Rogers State came in handy for extra traction guiding the mower over the grassy knolls. When he would pause to wipe his brow, he was occasionally approached by visitors with a question or two. Even then, he was preparing for his future life as a docent.

Like Will Rogers, Foreman is also three-eighths Cherokee. There is a comfort in his return to the museum, which is a place he remembers like the back of his hand.



## Oklahoma History Center offers online series

Although the doors to the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) in Oklahoma City are open to the public, many people are looking for different ways to spend their leisure hours without risk of exposure to COVID-19. In response, the OHC has developed "From the Collection," a new, on-line series that will take the community behind the scenes to see some of the fascinating artifacts in its collection storage.

The Oklahoma Historical Society has more than 130,000 artifacts in its collection, ranging from sewing needles to cars and tipis. These items are kept in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment, and many are used in exhibits at Oklahoma Historical Society sites and museums. Some items are so fragile or unique that they may never be placed on display, and can be viewed by appointment only. It is on this premise that the OHC will offer "From the Collection." Not only will this series allow viewers to see and hear the details of a particular, rarely seen artifact, but they can also do it safely from their own computer or personal device.

On each monthly episode of "From the Collection," a new artifact will be presented by a member of the curatorial staff. These installments will be available through the Oklahoma Historical Society website at [okhistory.pastperfectonline.com](http://okhistory.pastperfectonline.com), or may be accessed from the Oklahoma History Center Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/okhistorycenter](http://www.facebook.com/okhistorycenter). The first episode is now available, and stay tuned for each monthly update. For more information, please call the OHC at 405-522-0765.



Gilbert Wesley Dukes

## Gilbert Dukes Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Gilbert Wesley Dukes was born in the Choctaw Nation in 1849, one of 12 children of Joseph and Nancy Collins Dukes. He was educated at Spencer Academy, and at the age of 14 joined the Confederate army serving under Colonel Jackson McCurtain. After the war, Dukes studied law and was a fierce proponent of the individual rights of Choctaw citizens.

In 1897 he was the principal author of the Atoka Agreement, which allowed the allotment of communal tribal land to enrolled citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. It also allowed the leasing of mineral rights to support education. After contentious discussions, the agreement was approved by both tribes in August 1898. In 1900, backed by the McCurtain bloc of the Choctaw Nation, he stood for election for principal chief on the platform that he would continue to support the Atoka Agreement and the leasing of mineral rights. Dukes was elected as chief and worked the next two years to write a supplemental agreement for the equitable allotment of Choctaw lands.

The Gilbert Dukes Collection, 1897-1902, contains documents from his time crafting the Atoka Agreement to the early period of his time as principal chief. Many documents pertain to the workings of the Choctaw National Council, including school matters, taxes, legislative actions, and enrollment eligibility. Much of the correspondence is written in the Muskogean Choctaw language. The Gilbert Dukes Collection is available for viewing at the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Please note that all visitors are required to wear masks. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, an appointment is required. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email [research@okhistory.org](mailto:research@okhistory.org) to view the collection.

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



## Chisholm Trail Museum awarded CARES Act grant to respond to COVID-19



**Jason Harris, director of the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher, was the model for a new entryway sign encouraging guests to wear masks.**

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) has awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher to help the museum purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies to keep staff and visitors safer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chisholm Trail Museum is one of 64 institutions to receive a grant from ODL courtesy of the federal CARES Act and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). A total of \$60,000 was distributed by ODL to address COVID-19 concerns of public libraries, tribal libraries, tribal cultural centers, museums, and historic sites in the state.

Museum Director Jason Harris said the funding will be used to provide additional cleaning materials to meet Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Oklahoma State Department of Health guidelines, purchase personal protective equipment for the staff, help the museum convert to touchless restroom equipment, provide a sanitation station, and more.

"It looks like we may be dealing with this virus for some time, so it's very important that we follow CDC guidelines

as we remain open to the public," Harris said. "This grant will provide supplies we need to help reduce risk of exposure for our employees and customers as we all continue to learn more about COVID-19 and its health risks."

"Our mission is to serve our community and its visitors, and we want to continue that mission in the safest way we can," continued Harris.

The museum, located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher, is currently open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, occupancy is limited. The museum asks that visitors practice social distancing by staying six feet away from staff and visitors who are not in your party. The Oklahoma Historical Society currently requires face masks in all public areas of its museums, sites, and affiliates, including the Chisholm Trail Museum.

In developing the grant, ODL Director Melody Kellogg said institutions were surveyed about any hurdles they might face in returning to service during the pandemic. The top concerns of libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions were a shortage of cleaning supplies and PPE equipment, fear on the part of staff and the public, and the challenge of enforcing social distancing and other best-health practices in their facilities.

"We developed the grant proposal to help address these concerns," Kellogg said. "We were very fortunate in that we were able to provide some funding to all 64 of the eligible institutions that applied."

The PPE grant is the first of two grants that will be available from ODL, with funding from IMLS and the CARES Act. The grants were designed to help the state's important cultural institutions address two impacts of COVID-19: public

health concerns, and the need to breach the digital divide and improve digital inclusion to better serve the public.

"The pandemic has thrown a spotlight on the digital divide in our state and nation," Kellogg said. "At a time when, for safety reasons, we are depending more than ever on electronic communication, far too many of our fellow citizens don't have the tools or access needed to take advantage of important services."

A complete list of Oklahoma's 64 PPE grant recipients is available at [news.oklibshare.org/federal-funding/odl-awards-cares-act-ppe-grants-to-64-institutions](https://news.oklibshare.org/federal-funding/odl-awards-cares-act-ppe-grants-to-64-institutions). Recipients of the digital inclusion grants, totaling \$291,320, will be announced later in July.

For more information about the Chisholm Trail Museum, please call 405-375-5176 or visit [www.ctokmuseum.org](http://www.ctokmuseum.org).

## Noble County farmer directs donation to CSM

Local farmers Melanie and Dennis Williams recently directed a \$2,500 America's Farmers Grow Communities donation, sponsored by the Bayer Fund, to the Cherokee Strip Museum (CSM) in Perry.

The CSM will use the funds to install solar lighting to illuminate its sign at night and replace trash receptacles on the Rose Hill School grounds.

"The staff at the Cherokee Strip Museum would like to thank America's Farmers Grow Communities and the Bayer Fund for this wonderful donation. Donations like this help the museum to purchase items that otherwise may not be funded," said Diana Simon, site manager at the CSM.

The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry.

## CSRHC book club

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid has added a new perk to its membership program. Members are invited to join the weekly evening meetings of the Cherokee Strip Heritage Readers Book Club, a virtual group that will feature a new book each month. Those interested in joining the club need to first become at least a Pioneer, Gold Level member of the CSRHC. Once a member, the next step is to contact the museum and all the details, Zoom links, and book titles will be provided. Volunteers and staff are taking turns facilitating the book club, which is safe way to stay social in the time of COVID-19. To become a member of the CSRHC and join the book club, visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org) or call 580-237-1907.

## New trail signs installed at Honey Springs Battlefield

Honey Springs Battlefield includes more than 1,000 acres and six walking trails. New interpretive signs and graphics dot the trails with portraits, maps, and historic context of sites significant to the engagement, including the Union bivouac area; Union line of battle; the Texas regiment line of battle, which includes one-eighth of a mile of the original Texas Road; the battle at the bridge over Elk Creek; the final action; and Honey Springs and the Confederate supply depot. Visitors can enjoy hiking and seeing area wildlife while exploring the history of the Civil War in Indian Territory. After learning about the battle outdoors, step inside the Visitor Center to enjoy exhibits about this unique chapter in the history of Indian Territory.

For more information about visiting Honey Springs Battlefield, please email [honeysprings@okhistory.org](mailto:honeysprings@okhistory.org) or [alynn@okhistory.org](mailto:alynn@okhistory.org), or call 918-473-5572.





## Hunter's Home outdoor exhibits open to public

The Hunter's Home interior is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19, but staff members are working to prepare it for the time when they will be able to safely reopen that part of the historic site. Staff members are painting new floor cloths for various rooms, deep cleaning, and rearranging exhibits.

While visitors cannot enter the house, the grounds and outbuildings are open to the public. Interpretive panels from the interior are now located on the porch of the home with information about the Murrells and the enslaved people who resided there, as well as descriptions of the rooms inside the house.

Visitors are welcome to explore the smokehouse, gardens, springhouse, 1933 Daniel cabin, corn crib, apiary, poultry yard, and field crops. Daily farm work continues, and staff members are available to answer questions.

Fencing is currently being built at the site. Once perimeter fencing is complete, animal pens and shelters will be built in preparation for acquiring sheep and draft animals. Merino sheep will be part of an expanded fiber arts program that will include demonstrations of spinning, weaving, and knitting.

If you are not able to visit in person, you can still receive updates of activity, historic information, photos of the site, and information about the former inhabitants of Hunter's Home on its social media pages, including Facebook (@huntershomeok), Twitter (@Hunters\_HomeOHS), Instagram (@hunters\_home\_ok), and YouTube (Hunter's Home Historic Site).

Due to COVID-19, Hunter's Home has canceled its annual Open House, normally held Sunday during the Cherokee National Holiday.

## Drummond Home sign

Volunteers installed a new sign at the Fred Drummond Home over the summer. The new sign, directing visitors to the historic Victorian home, was generously donated by Tom Smith and the First National Bank of Hominy. The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price in Hominy.



Left to right: Cliff Hayes, Corbin Reed, and Donnie Reed built and installed the new sign for the Drummond Home.

## Eugene Meacham Collection

By Taylor Stober and Kimberly Ross

Photography has been extremely popular since its humble beginning in 1826 when Frenchman Nicephore Niepce used the sun and his attic window to create a heliograph of his courtyard. Photography is a continually evolving medium, and over the years it has become a universal language, transcending communication barriers of all kinds.

Originally an extraordinarily expensive endeavor, getting a photograph made was something you did for special occasions, as it often required sitting very still for many minutes so that the camera had time to capture your image. Photography is now so ingrained in our daily lives that many of us carry smartphones with tiny cameras in our pockets that can take hundreds of photos per minute. Still, there is a demand for professional photographers to record the especially important moments in our lives, such as weddings, graduations, and baby announcements.

For many years, the local photographer in Kingfisher County was Eugene Meacham, who recorded nearly 50 years of the lives of the residents of Kingfisher County and the surrounding areas. School pictures, weddings, passport photos, family portraits, insurance claims, crime scenes—you name it, he photographed it. After his death, his family donated his extensive collection to the Chisholm Trail Museum.

Thanks to the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board Improving Access Grant Program, which is funded in part by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, Chisholm Trail Museum staff and interns have begun digitizing the Meacham Collection to better preserve and share the history recorded in these images. Digitization is currently underway, and the Meacham Finding Aid, which lists many of the images in the collection, can now be found on the museum's website, [ctokmuseum.org/photo-collections](http://ctokmuseum.org/photo-collections). For more information regarding the Eugene Meacham Collection, please call 405-375-5176 or email [tstober@ctmok.com](mailto:tstober@ctmok.com).



## "Discovering the Unit Orchestra!" Kilgen Organ performance

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will hold its fall Kilgen Organ performance on Monday, October 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Devon Great Hall of the OHC. Organist Brett Valliant will present "Discovering the Unit Orchestra!" a performance featuring his solo musical interpretations.

Theater organs—like the Kilgen Organ—were sometimes called "a unit orchestra" because of their ability to house the sounds of multiple musical instruments, such as trumpets and saxophones, along with special effects like bells and whistles.

Brett Valliant is a native of Wichita, studying organ at Wichita State University. He has been a featured performer on National Public Radio's "Pipe Dreams," as well as on the National Bible Broadcasting Network, where his imaginative hymn arrangements are heard daily throughout the United States. He plays annually for several film festivals, including the International Film Festival hosted by the American Film Institute, and has been a featured performer at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the American Theatre Organ Society.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and seating is first come, first served. Tickets are \$10 for Oklahoma Historical Society members and \$20 for nonmembers, and may be reserved by calling 405-522-0765. Due to the unpredictability of future COVID-19 public restrictions, the October 26 Kilgen performance date may be subject to rescheduling.

## Will Rogers: ballpark figure

In addition to being one of aviation's first ambassadors, Will Rogers had a love of baseball, often donating his time sharing Western humor and trick roping stunts to promote the game. He visited and entertained ballpark crowds in cities across America where he performed with his vaudeville troupe.



Will Rogers astride Teddy the horse, twirling a rope over the Boston Red Sox baseball team, c. 1909.



## OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

### September

- 1 *History of a One-Room School* exhibit opening, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 1 *American Farmer* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9 Brown Bag Lecture Series (VIRTUAL), [www.facebook.com/CSRHC](http://www.facebook.com/CSRHC)
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 15 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program workshop (VIRTUAL), [www.okhistory.org/grants](http://www.okhistory.org/grants)
- 19 Smithsonian Channel WWII film screening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 19 "One-Room School" presentation with Brenda Dixon, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 22 Autumnal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 22 "The Gendered Politics of Civil Rights," This Land is Herland program (VIRTUAL), [www.okhistory.org/herland](http://www.okhistory.org/herland)
- 24 OkNHD Library Day, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 25 Movie Night featuring Charlie Chaplin film, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 28 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry



### Edward Curtis photogravures donated to OHS

The Oklahoma Historical Society recently acquired a collection of 156 photogravures by artist Edward Curtis from the Oklahoma State University Museum of Art. A photogravure is an image produced when a photographic negative is transferred to a metal plate and then etched into the plate.

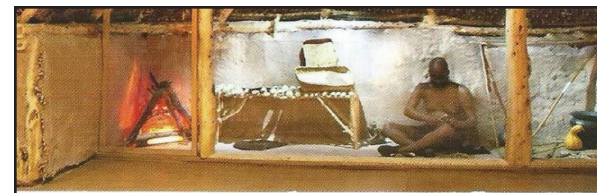
Edward Curtis was a sought-after photographer in Seattle who left his successful business in the city to pursue his passion for photographing the lives of the American Indian people of the North American West. In the era of assimilation, Curtis found financial backing from J. P. Morgan to begin work on the 20-volume *The North American Indian*, comprised of photographs of the traditional

lives of Native peoples. Ultimately, Curtis spent 30 years capturing the images of North America's Native populations, visiting nearly 100 tribes in the West. In a letter to Curtis in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "I regard the work you do as one of the most valuable works which any American could now do."

This collection spans the years 1891 to 1928, and includes a few photographs along with the photogravures. Among the images are portraits of American Indians from various tribes, scenes of tribal dances, still lifes of pottery, and representations of traditional homes. Some of the tribes represented are the Osage, Comanche, Ponca, Cheyenne, Wichita, and Otoe.

### October

- 3 Chuck Wagon Gathering and Dinner, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 3 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Brown Bag Lecture Series (VIRTUAL), [www.facebook.com/CSRHC](http://www.facebook.com/CSRHC)
- 15 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL), [www.okhistory.org/shpo/hprc](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/hprc)
- 17 International Archaeology Day celebration, Spiro Mounds Archaeology Center, Spiro
- 17 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 20 *American Farmer* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 24 Family Farm Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 26 "Discovering the Unit Orchestra!" Kilgen Organ performance with Brett Valliant, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 30 *Wanted: Dead or Alive* exhibit closes, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 30 Movie Night featuring *The Headless Horseman*, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 "Cemetery Symbols: Carved in Stone" program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 Halloween Night at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 Museum After Dark: All Hallows' Eve, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid



### Archaeology Month at Spiro Mounds

October is Archaeology Month in Oklahoma and internationally, and Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will celebrate International Archaeology Day on Saturday, October 17, 2020, with a lecture, a guided walk, and many other activities. Oklahoma Archaeology Month is sponsored and promoted by the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network, and includes many more events throughout Oklahoma during the month of October.

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.

Lectures about the prehistory and history of this region will start at 11 a.m. There also will be a guided tour of the site at 2 p.m. led by manager Dennis Peterson. Regular exhibits will be available throughout the day as well. Several expert flint knappers, or stone tool makers, will be on hand to show off their skills from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An archaeologist will be available to identify artifact collections for visitors during that same time. Educational games and activities will be available throughout the day.

If you would like to know more about Archaeology Month events, please visit [www.ou.edu/okpan](http://www.ou.edu/okpan). For more information on Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, please contact Dennis Peterson at 918-962-2062 or [spiro@okhistory.org](mailto:spiro@okhistory.org).

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for children ages 6-18, cash or check only.



*The Potter* by Edward Curtis (1906)



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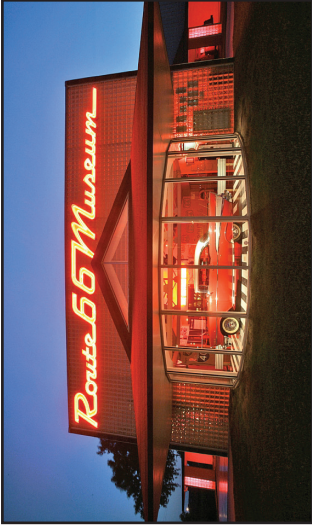
PERIODICALS

# Mistletoe Leaves

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## Oklahoma Route 66 Museum celebrates 25th anniversary



When the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton officially opened on September 23, 1995, it was the first facility in the nation dedicated to the history and culture of Route 66, the most famous historic highway in the world. It is the largest museum from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, dedicated to the history and culture of Route 66.

With over 930,000 visitors in 25 years, the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum has captivated people from around the world. Since the grand opening celebration held on September 23, 1995, the museum has proven to be a must-see for travelers—both Route 66ers and everyday vacationers.

In 2007, the accomplishments of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum played a large role in Clinton hosting the International Route 66 Festival, which brought more than 20,000 people to Clinton. The success of the 2007 festival also led to the transformation of the community’s annual Hot Dog Daze into Clinton’s Route 66 Festival.

In 2012, after 17 years, the museum completed a full renovation of all exhibit galleries, bringing the facility into the 21st century. This achievement was celebrated with a special grand opening ceremony on May 26, 2012.

The museum has hosted a plethora of special events that attract Route 66ers from around the globe. Beginning in 1996, the museum has held Route 66 anniversary celebrations every five years. These celebrations have featured premiere Route 66 historian Michael Wallis, as well as special exhibits by Route 66 artists and authors such as the late Bob Waldmire, Shellee Graham, Jim Ross, Jerry McClanahan, Kathy Anderson, and many more.

Also, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association inducts special Oklahomans into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame. Inductions are held every two years for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion and/or preservation of Route 66. The selection includes a nomination and committee process conducted by the association. The winners’ plaques are displayed in the Hall of Fame, which is located in the museum’s Wow! Room.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the cancelation of this year’s festivities, please help the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum celebrate this milestone anniversary by visiting sometime during the year. For more information about visiting the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, please contact Pat Smith at 580-323-7866 or [patsm@okhistory.org](mailto:patsm@okhistory.org), or visit [www.okhistory.org/route66](http://www.okhistory.org/route66).



### Roller coaster car donated to OHS

A roller coaster car from Springlake Amusement Park’s Big Dipper has found a new home at the Oklahoma History Center. In the spring, Metro Technology Centers donated this piece of history to the OHS. The Springlake Campus of MetroTech was built on the site of the amusement park, and for many years remnants of rides and attractions have reminded visitors of the land’s previous use.

For nearly 60 years, Oklahoma City’s young and young-at-heart found fun, thrills, and music at Springlake Amusement Park. Originally built as a swimming pool and picnic area in the 1920s, owner Roy Staton eventually bought rides, built a ballroom, and added a roller coaster—the Big Dipper—in 1929. An amphitheater was added in the 1950s, and musical acts like the Beach Boys, the Righteous Brothers, and Johnny Cash performed to throngs of fans at the park.

By the end of the 1960s, however, racial tensions were emerging, as Springlake’s owner refused to fully integrate the park. In 1971 that friction exploded into what the *Daily Oklahoman* called a “3-Hour Riot” at the park. Springlake never fully recovered from the damage to its reputation, and closed its gates following a fire in 1981. Shortly thereafter, the Oklahoma City Vo-Tech Board purchased the property and made plans to build a new campus.

In the future, the Big Dipper roller coaster car will be on display in the exhibit *Crossroads of Commerce: A History of Free Enterprise in Oklahoma*, located in the Inasmuch Foundation Gallery on the first floor.



**The Valentine Diner on display at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum was originally open for business in 1956 in Texas.**