



Museum director Leon Natker joins the Oklahoma Historical Society family



Join us in welcoming Leon Natker as the new director at the Oklahoma Museum of History!

Natker is an artist, archaeologist, anthropologist, and historian. He began his career as an actor and singer at the age of twelve. After attending New York's famed Juilliard School, Natker's calling took him across the US and eventually Europe to study and perform opera.

Natker's adventures eventually turned to directing when he became the executive director of Lyric Opera San Diego (LOSD). He grew the organization from a

community-based group to a professional regional company during his tenure. The need for a new home for the LOSD in 2000 led Natker into the historic preservation world. He oversaw an \$8-million capital campaign to restore the historic 1928 North Park Theater.

In 2011, Natker decided to pursue a fresh course in the world of museums. He acquired degrees in archaeology and museum studies. During his graduate work, he has participated in archaeological digs at the Yangganzhai site in central China, Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, and Gila Cliff Dwellings near Silver City, New Mexico. Natker has worked on historic preservation projects at Montezuma Castle National Monument, Bandelier National Monument, and the Coronado Historic Site in New Mexico. His work experiences in New Mexico include collections management and curation of exhibits at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology in Albuquerque, Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark and Museum in Portales, and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe.

Natker has also served as executive director of the Mesa Historical Museum and the New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance Museum. He is a published author and lecturer specializing in the archaeology of the Southwest. Most recently, Natker was the director for institutional advancement at First Americans Museum.

"Oklahoma is a rich and diverse state encompassing the stories of many peoples and events," said Natker. "I am honored to be entrusted with this important position, and I look forward to working with OHS's amazing staff to tell the stories of Oklahoma's history."

Lillie golden anniversary newsreel discovered

Last year, when Anna Davis and some Pawnee Bill Museum and Ranch interns installed an exhibit about Pawnee Bill and May Lillie's 50th wedding anniversary, a newspaper clipping from 1936 caught Davis's attention. The story of the happy occasion mentioned that Fox Movietone had filmed the event.

This caused her to dive deeper into research of the Lillies and their August 31, 1936, golden anniversary, held in Taos, New Mexico. The still photograph (seen below), is part of the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum Collection, and was taken that day. Pawnee Bill is wearing a buckskin suit, and May is wearing a blue lace gown with a turban and holding pink gladiolas. The idea that footage of the occasion might have survived was downright exciting. Davis found that Fox



Movietone is still in existence, now called the Fox Archives, and is based in New York City. She contacted the archives, and a long five-month search began. Davis knew about the existence of a short 45-second clip of the anniversary, but she wanted to inquire about the possibility of the more extended reel used by Fox Movietone News.

After several years as the historical interpreter of the site, she and Ronny Brown, the site's director, had meager expectations going into the search. The staff knows all the old reels by heart, and they have been converted multiple times over the decades. But on July 13, Fox Archives found the footage of the couple's anniversary! The film clip hasn't been seen since 1936. It was filmed in Taos and only released regionally.

In September of 1936, as they attended a local celebration in Tulsa, Oklahoma, they would have viewed the footage taken in Taos. While driving home to their ranch from the event, the Lillies were involved in a car accident. Sadly, May died on September 17, 1936, due to her injuries.

The footage of the Lillie's 50th anniversary—now 87 years old—is currently being copied and will eventually be shared with the public. Plans are underway to feature the footage in the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum exhibits.



Family Farm Day celebration at CSRHC in Enid

On Saturday, October 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., celebrate Oklahoma's proud agricultural heritage at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. Family Farm Day allows families to experience different hands-on activities like shelling and grinding corn, churning butter, planting seeds, and milling wheat. In addition, guests can visit a farm animal petting zoo, participate in pumpkin decorating, watch a blacksmith at his trade, and much more!

The event will take place at the Humphrey Heritage Village. The museum will also be open to guests, with docents available to tour the galleries and teach about the area's rich agricultural traditions. To learn more about this event, call 580-237-1907.



Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office
405-522-5242
ohsmembers@history.ok.gov

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, 3,700 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,217.54 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 content 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 405-522-0011, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By Trait Thompson

Recently, I had the honor of being appointed to the US Route 66 Centennial Commission by President Biden. This appointment had been a few months in the making, so it filled me with pride when I received notice in mid-July that I would have the opportunity to serve. Earlier this year, one of Senator Mitch McConnell's staff members reached out to let me know my name had been submitted as a candidate for the honor. After completing the paperwork and going through the vetting process, my name was forwarded to the Office of the President. After another vetting procedure, I joined our other Oklahoma appointees on the commission, Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz and historian and author Michael Wallis.

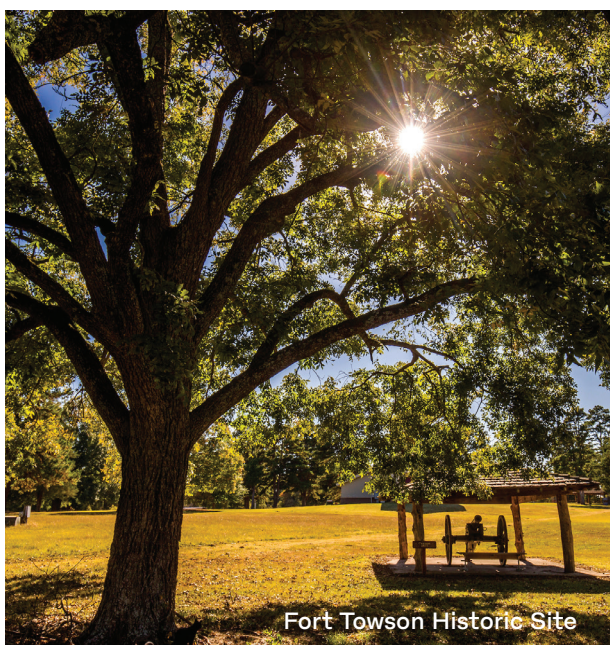
The US Route 66 Centennial Commission was established by an act of Congress and signed into law in December 2020. The commission has two primary responsibilities: 1) Study and recommend activities and events appropriate for celebrating, commemorating, and honoring Route 66 on its 100th anniversary, and 2) to recommend the federal entities it considers most appropriate to carry out its recommendations. The first meeting of the commission was held this past February, and I was able to join the commission in time for its meeting on July 27. During that meeting, the chairman, Rod

Reid of Missouri, assigned me to the National and Local Events Celebrations Committee. I have also served on Oklahoma's Route 66 Centennial Commission since joining the OHS in 2021.

By now, most Oklahomans are aware of the importance of the Mother Road to our state. We currently have over 400 drivable miles of Route 66, and the economic impact of the road on businesses and towns along the route is in the millions of dollars. According to a 2011 study by Rutgers University, 85 percent of Route 66 travelers visit historic places and museums and spend \$38 million per year. That same study revealed a national impact of \$127 million in GDP and \$37 million in tax revenues. One can expect those numbers have only risen in the intervening years.

One of our busiest OHS museums is the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton, which draws visitors worldwide. The Father of Route 66, Cyrus Avery, called Oklahoma home after moving from Missouri in 1901. His work on the Joint Board of Interstate Highways allowed for the creation of Route 66. The Threatt Filling Station near Luther was the only Black-owned filling station on the route from Chicago to Los Angeles. The highway was nicknamed for one of Oklahoma's favorite sons, Will Rogers.

I am excited about Oklahoma's role in the upcoming Route 66 centennial celebrations. I will do my best to ensure the OHS continues to have a significant role in the interpretation of the history of this important highway and is a good partner to organizations across our state with similar goals. I am exceedingly glad I now have an avenue to do this work at a national level.

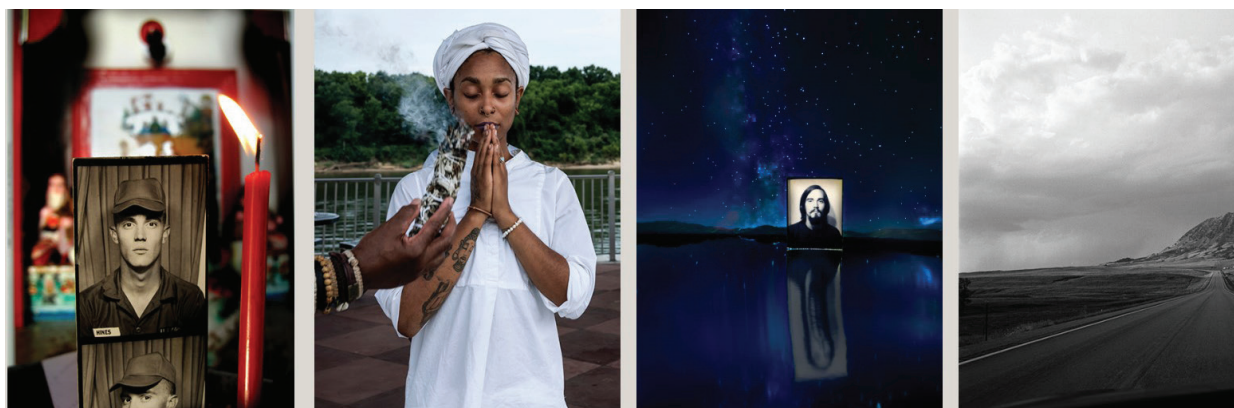


Fort Towson Historic Site

2024 Annual Giving campaign

The Annual Giving Campaign is now underway for the Oklahoma Historical Society. Donors who give to the campaign provide direct support for conservation supplies, equipment, staffing, and other crucial needs that help the OHS continue its mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's history.

Through the generosity of our donors, we can continue to celebrate our heritage and build up our community by creating new programming and exhibits while caring for the collections of our past. To make a tax-deductible contribution to the campaign, please visit okhistory.org/support.



How We Rebuild photography exhibit

On Friday, September 1, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center will open the Exhibits USA exhibit *How We Rebuild* in its galleries. This penetrating and transformative photography exhibition draws from 12 years of work created by grant winners and finalists from The Aftermath Project, a non-profit organization committed to telling the other half of war stories after the conflicts have ended—what it takes for individuals to rebuild destroyed lives and homes, to restore civil societies, and to recover the heartbeat of humanity.

How We Rebuild is organized into three sections: a prologue that features conflict and post-conflict photos from Bosnia and lays out the origin story of The Aftermath Project; a suite of images by four photographers who explore historical American

aftermaths; and an international “wall of humanity” featuring post-conflict images from around the world.

The photos selected for *How We Rebuild* have been curated as a way to center and reflect on the human stories and memories that define us with the intention to create meaningful community engagement.

This beautiful assembly of images of hope, agency, and resilience includes work by Aftermath Project founder Sara Terry, war photographer Ron Haviv, 2019 grant winner Glenna Gordon, 2016 grant winner Nina Berman, 2012 grant winner Andrew Lichtenstein, 2010 finalist Jessica Hines, and additional Aftermath Project grant winners and finalists. The exhibit will remain open through Friday, October 20. Call 580-237-1907 for more information.

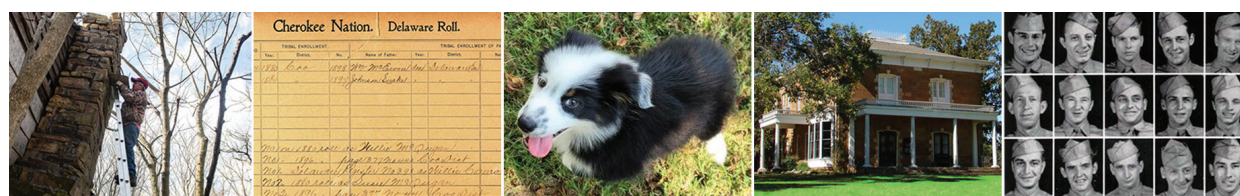
Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program will open applications in September

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) will open applications for the 2023/2024 grant cycle of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program on Friday, September 1, 2023. This grants-in-aid program will set aside \$500,000 to award grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 to municipal, county, or tribal governments, not-for-profit historical organizations, and support groups for these entities. All not-for-profit applicants must be registered and in good standing 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 1, 2023, and close on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5 p.m. For applicants wishing to receive optional draft application feedback, draft applications will be due Friday, October 6, 2023. Award announcements will be

made in late January 2024. The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program was launched in 2019. “In its fifth year of funding, this grant program continues to empower local communities to preserve and share their history”, said Nicole Harvey, director of strategic initiatives and grants administrator. “This initiative provides a remarkable opportunity for local and tribal governments and historical organizations, ensuring the preservation of Oklahoma’s invaluable heritage.”

Online workshops to inform the public about this program are scheduled for Friday, September 1, at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, September 12, at 10 a.m. To see the program’s official rules and sign up for the online workshops, please visit okhistory.org/grants or contact Nicole Harvey at 405-522-5202 or grants@history.ok.gov.



2023 Oklahoma Folklife Festival

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) is pleased to invite the public to attend the 2022 Oklahoma Folklife Festival on Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

This community-wide event will celebrate and recognize what the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has called “the everyday and intimate creativity that all of us share and pass on to the next generation.” The “creativity” mentioned will come in the form of dancing and singing performances, crafts for all ages, and much more. Some of the diverse offerings at the festival will include performances by Mexican, Venezuelan, and South and Southeast Asian dance troupes. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic American Heritage Month. To celebrate the significant contributions of Latinos in Oklahoma, the OHS will host a Lunch and Learn with the theme “Presente in Oklahoma!” This panel discussion will focus on the importance of various consulate offices in the state. The event will be held at the Oklahoma History Center on Tuesday, September 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This year’s event will explore consulate offices’ contributions to the Hispanic cultural development in the state. Representatives from Latin America will share the importance of their various services, their relationship to the immigration process, and the multilateral positive impacts of their international cooperation. Joining the discussion will be Edurne Pineda, general consul of Mexico in Oklahoma, and Enrique Villar-Gambetta, honorary consul of Peru in Oklahoma, who also serves as the Oklahoma Governor’s International Team chair.

For more details about registration for this event, please contact Saidy Orellana at 405-522-5204 or saidy.orellana@history.ok.gov.

OHS Calendar of Events

September

- 1 *How We Rebuild* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program workshop (VIRTUAL), Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
- 1–30 “A Soldier at Fort Gibson” living history program, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 2 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 *Prize for the Fire: A Novel* book presentation by author Rilla Askew, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 6 Hidden Oklahoma: “Ceramics and Community Interaction at Spiro” presentation by Dr. Shawn Lambert (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 9 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 9 Carriage House Sit and Sew, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 9 Ice Cream Social, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 9 “Introduction to Cross Stitch” workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program workshop (VIRTUAL), Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
- 13 “Restoring the Threatt Filling Station” Lunch and Learn webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 16 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 Beethoven’s Sonata concert performed by Dr. Hyunsoon Whang, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 20 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Prairie to Palate outdoor dining experience and fundraising dinner, Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, Ponca City
- 22–23 “1840s Garrison Weekend” living history program, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 23 Hands-On Historic Skills, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 23 Brushstroke Calligraphy workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 23 *Killers of the Flower Moon* lecture and panel discussion, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 23 Storytime at Hunter’s Home, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 25 “Zach Frame Plays Your Favorites” Kilgen Organ Performance, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



- 26 “Presente in Oklahoma!” Lunch and Learn, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 Movie Night featuring the filmed version of the Broadway Musical *The Will Rogers Follies: a Life in Revue* (1991), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 30 Cinnamon Roll Social, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 30 Potholder Quilt workshop, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill

October

- 1 Annual Quilt Show opens, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 3 *Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe (2022)* book review by Justin Lenhart, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 3–31 “Storekeeper and Trader” living history program, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 4 Hidden Oklahoma: “Early-Historic Wichita Sites” presentation by Dr. Richard Drass (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 6 “How to Research Allotments in Oklahoma” Lunch and Learn webinar, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 7 Family Farm Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7 Presentation by author Dr. Nyla Khan, Pioneer Woman Statue and Museum, Ponca City
- 13–14 Doaksville Candlelight Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 14 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Carriage House Sit and Sew, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 18 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18–21 Research Center Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19–22 Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20 *How We Rebuild* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 21 2023 Oklahoma Folklife Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 21 Fall Agricultural Day, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 25 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 26 “Going to Church in Old Greer County” presentation and pump organ performance, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus

- 27 Movie Night featuring *Dracula* (1931), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 28 Ghost Stories Candlelight Tours, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee



- 28 Cemetery Symbols program, Pioneer Woman Statue and Museum, Ponca City
- 29 Annual Quilt Show closes, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 31 Halloween Night at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

COMING IN EARLY NOVEMBER



EDUCATION DAY

On Friday, November 3, beginning at 9 a.m., Honey Springs Battlefield will host the Battle of Honey Springs Education Day. On this day, students from schools across the state and the public will have the opportunity to explore numerous education stations teaching topics related to the Civil War in Indian Territory and The Battle of Honey Springs Education Day is free to the public.

BIENNIAL DEMONSTRATIONS



On Saturday, November 4, and Sunday, November 5, the biennial demonstrations of the Civil War Battle of Honey Springs will take place at Honey Springs Battlefield near Checotah. Witness military drills, demonstrations, and living history programs, tour confederate, union, and civilian camps, and explore “Sutlers’ Row,” featuring vendors selling 19th-century reproduction military equipment, clothes, books, and souvenirs. For more information regarding the Reenactments of the Battle of Honey Springs, please email adam.lynn@history.ok.gov or call 918-617-7125.

MOTION PICTURE FESTIVAL

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) will celebrate the 144th birthday of Oklahoma’s Favorite Son with Will Rogers Days and Motion Picture Festival. From November 1 through 4, four days of activities will be held to honor the memory of the Cherokee cowboy, philosopher, and movie actor who starred in 50 silent movies and 21 talkies.

The multi-day event will wrap up on November 4, when organizers honor the motion picture festival’s top filmmakers at the Dog Irons Awards Ceremony. For more detailed information on the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival, please visit willrogers.com/will-rogers-days or dogirons.com/program or call 918-341-0719.

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

Chickasaw Nation, our partner in preservation

The support of the Chickasaw Nation has continued to make an impact on the Oklahoma Historical Society's Research Center. Since 2017, the Chickasaw Nation has provided support to digitize documents such as government records, township plot applications, and other records related to the Chickasaw Nation and the Five Tribes. OHS Manuscript Specialist Mason Cole has worked on the project since 2017 and scans and preserves over a thousand documents per month. "The importance of digitizing these records is accessibility," said Cole. "Some of the documents have been around for over a hundred years. There might be only one copy in existence." The Chickasaw Nation's partnership ensures that Cole can protect the documents from being lost or destroyed. "In these documents, you can see the process of people making their communities official," he said. "They are building a state in real-time." Preserving the records make it possible for future generations to access and see the story of the state unfolding. Thank you to the Chickasaw Nation for their efforts to protect the history of our state.

This article was submitted by Brittney Berling, OHS's development officer.

Humphrey Heritage Village celebrates 30 years

The Humphrey Heritage Village was dedicated 30 years ago on the grounds of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. The original 1893 Enid Land Office and three other historic buildings, including a 1902 church, the 1905 Glidewell house, and an 1896 Turkey Creek schoolhouse make up the historic buildings in the village.

The 30th anniversary of the Humphrey Heritage Village will be celebrated with the addition of another historic structure. A one-room log cabin, built after the Land Run of 1893 by the Sneed family near what is now Cleveland, will be moved to the Humphrey Heritage Village on the grounds of the CSRHC. Follow the museum on Facebook at facebook.com/CSRHC to see what it takes to move a historic cabin from Cleveland to Enid!



Everett and Mandy Sneed's log cabin.



Oklahoma students featured prominently at NHD conference

Sarah Dumas, OHS deputy director of the Oklahoma Museum of History, accompanied parents, teachers, and nearly two dozen Oklahoma students who were recognized in the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland at College Park. They were part of the 2,600 students worldwide in grades 6-12 who competed there from June 10 to 15. Amanda Schoonmaker, of Canton High School (CHS) received first place nationwide for her individual exhibit "Forged by War: World War I's Medical Legacy." CHS students Kylie Carrasco and Nadia Luna received an honorable mention for their senior group exhibit "Sylvia Earle." Noah Ross, also of CHS, received an honorable mention in senior individual performance and second place for Irish/Irish American History for "Tom Crean: The Frontier Adventures of Ireland's Iceman." Bridger Hursh and Preston Foster of Canton Elementary School received an honorable mention for their junior group website "Freedom 7: The Frontier." Brooke Pope, Brooklyn Green, and Harper Jones, also of Canton Elementary School, received an honorable mention and the WWII history prize in the junior group for their group performance "On the Homefront: How WWII Opened New Frontiers for Women." These nine award recipients have Penny Heath as a teacher.

Irilynn Jones, Keller Jones, Madison Unruh and Miley Unruh, students at Canton

Elementary School, received an honorable mention for junior group performance and outstanding junior award in Oklahoma for "There's No Crying in Baseball: The Women that Opened a Frontier of Opportunities." Their teacher is Dora Fuqua.

Wesley Horn, of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) received fifth place nationwide for his senior paper "The Christian Right in the 20th Century: Prominent Pioneers, Not Productive Policy-Makers." Adrian Pan, also of OSSM, took seventh place nationwide for his senior individual website, "The Chinese Exclusion Act: America's First Racially-Based Immigration Policy." Their teacher is Michelle McCargish.

Emmy Xiang of Stillwater Junior High School received an honorable mention for her junior paper, "The Southern Cross Expedition: How One Mission Opened Up the Frontier of Antarctica." Her teacher is Jennifer Eckel.

McKinley Robedeaux, Mollie Noyes, Sarah Simons, and Toni Williams of Morrison High School were recognized with an outstanding senior award in Oklahoma for their senior group documentary titled "Assimilation, Termination, Relocation: How the 'New Frontier' Shaped a Legacy of Violence." Patty Sanders is their teacher.

To learn more about the OkNHD and NHD programs, visit okhistory.org/historyday.

Research Center Book Sale in October



No admission is required to visit the book sale, which includes thousands of rare and out-of-print books, magazines, comics, and vinyl records. Visitors can shop for collectibles, puzzles, and historical Oklahoma playing cards. There will also be reproductions of historic posters, maps, photographs, and much more. Proceeds from the sale will support the Research Center's efforts to collect items of historical significance, provide programming for researchers and school groups, and offer resources online.

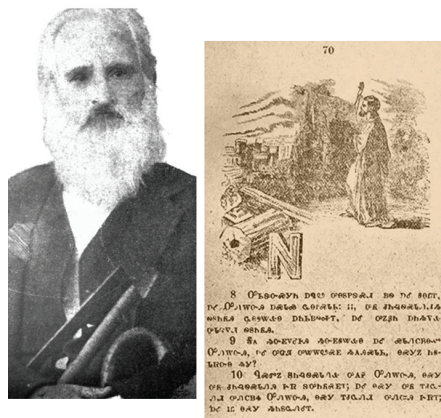
Historic Preservation Fund Project suggestions

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archaeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (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 \$933,000 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.

The SHPO's statewide preservation plan, now available for years 2020–2024 at okhistory.org/stateplan, 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 NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's FY 2023 activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through the SHPO website (or through hard copy 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 (the SHPO is governed by the federal fiscal year which runs from October 1 through September 30). Visit the SHPO website at okhistory.org/projectsuggestion.

Contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lynda.ozan@history.ok.gov with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.



Rev. A. N. Chamberlin, and a page of his pictorial translation book.

A. N. Chamberlain collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Numerous Christian missionaries in the southeastern United States actively supported the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation to Indian Territory during the 1830s. Among them was Rev. William Chamberlin, a Presbyterian minister, who was a vocal proponent of Indian removal. He passed on this belief to his son, Amory Nelson Chamberlin (1821–1894), who later followed the Cherokee to Indian Territory and settled in the Delaware and Cooweescoowee districts of the Cherokee Nation, which is now part of Craig County. In 1868, Chamberlin founded the Pheasant Hill Mission near Vinita, Oklahoma, and developed a deep interest in studying Native languages. Mastering the Cherokee language, he took up the task of translating the Bible and other religious texts into Cherokee. However, relying on the Presbytery for publishing services posed several challenges. To overcome these obstacles, Chamberlin took the initiative to establish his own printing press called The Chieftain Print to provide books for his congregation. Throughout his life in Indian Territory, Amory Chamberlin dedicated himself to writing and translating historical and religious content into Cherokee.

The A. N. Chamberlin Collection (1982.032, four boxes) contains biographical information for Amory Nelson Chamberlin, documents detailing the establishment of the Pheasant Hill Cemetery, various publications in Cherokee, and books from Chamberlin's private library. Chamberlin's translations of the Bible and research on the history of missions in the Cherokee Nation are also available.

The A. N. Chamberlin Collection is available for viewing at the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@history.ok.gov.

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

State Historic Preservation Office planning document update

Please join the State Historic Preservation Office in updating our state plan, which helps guide the activities of our office and sets forth goals for historic preservation in the state. The upcoming plan will be a ten-year plan instead of our typical five-year plan of the past; our office will conduct a mid-plan review to ensure the plan's goals are still applicable. Our first questionnaire is now available in both English and Spanish (you can change language at the top right of the form). Responses to the questionnaire submitted through August 31 will be used to help develop a second questionnaire to determine the focus of our state plan update, which will be available in September. To participate, please visit okhistory.org/stateplan.



Doaksville Candlelight Tours

Experience the history of southeastern Oklahoma at the annual Doaksville Historic Candlelight Tours. Tours will be held Friday, October 13, and Saturday, October 14, beginning at 7 p.m., with the last tour departing at 9:30 p.m. each night. A guide will take visitors on a 45-minute walking tour through the streets of this once-prominent town.

The venues on the tour will explore specific historic events in Doaksville's history. Doaksville served as the capital of the Choctaw Nation intermittently after 1850 and regularly from 1858 to 1863. Guests will learn about the history of the area from the perspective of Fort Towson Commander Josiah H. Vose.

The charge for the Doaksville Candlelight Tours is \$8 for adults. Advance registration is available by calling 580-236-0537 or emailing fttowson@history.ok.gov.

True West Magazine recognition

The September 2023 issue of *True West Magazine* placed Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in the top ten US museums in the category of "Cowboys, Indian, Lawmen, Mountain Men, and Outlaws" in the US. The historic ranch of Wild West showman Gordon W. Lillie is open from Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

“Zach Frame Plays Your Favorites” Kilgen Organ performance

The Oklahoma History Center will host its first Kilgen Organ performance of the season when Zach Frame performs on Monday, September 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the OHC’s Devon Great Hall. The concert’s theme is “Zach Frame Plays Your Favorites.”

Frame discovered the theatre pipe organ at age five when his family visited Organ Piper Pizza in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Frame excelled at his theatre organ performance and became the first recipient of the George Wright Memorial Fellowship from the American Theatre Organ Society in 2003. Zach was fortunate to become the Organ Piper’s Featured Organist, where he continues to entertain nightly at the three-manual, thirty-rank theatre pipe organ. He has also worked on several recording projects as an engineer, collaborating on Dan Minervini’s album *Where or When*. Tickets are \$10 for Oklahoma Historical Society members and \$20 for nonmembers. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets for the performance can be purchased online at okhistory.org/tickets.

Halloween Night in Claremore

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum will host Halloween Night at the Museum on Tuesday, October 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event combines trick-or-treating with an opportunity for children and their families to visit the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. Area businesses and individuals will share treats at locations outside on the spacious museum grounds. There will be a costume contest with prizes for the best costumes. Halloween Night at the Museum is free and open to all ages.

This event has attracted hundreds of costumed characters to the museum on Halloween night since the first event in 2014. The family-friendly environment provides a safe place to enjoy the holiday and has brought many people to the museum for the first time.

For more information please call 918-341-0719 or visit willrogers.com.



SPOOKY SCREENING

See the classic film *Dracula!*

Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore will be screening the 1931 film *Dracula* in its theater on Friday, October 27, at 7 p.m.



From left to right: WRMM education team members Bryan Beard, Bart Taylor, and Dani Hendrickson.

STEAM classes at WRMM

In September and October, the Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) education team will introduce a series of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education programs focused on the 1920s–30s. Dani Hendrickson, scheduling coordinator; Bryan Beard, education coordinator; and Bart Taylor, creative curator and interpreter, are developing classes that will delight schoolchildren of all ages with a bit of history thrown into the mix.

Through hands-on, creative experiences, youngsters will learn about music and dance in the Jazz Age and model the era’s clothing in a custom fashion show. In another activity, they can silently act out the plot of the silent movie *The Headless Horseman* (1922) by wearing signs with the movie character’s names.

In a class centered on art, portraits painted by artist Charles Banks Wilson will be used to introduce the practice of making quick sketches. When Wilson painted Will Rogers—a portrait that hangs at the Oklahoma State Capitol—he was only given three minutes to sketch the first painting.

Finally, Beard, a physics major in college, will overlap science with trick roping, using demonstrations and drawings. For more information, please call 918-341-0719 or visit willrogers.com.

Cemetery Symbols program

The Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue will host a presentation on the meaning of historic gravestone symbols on Saturday, October 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a lunch break, but lunch is not provided. The event will also include a guided tour of the IOOF Cemetery in Ponca City, led by the museum’s historical interpreter.

Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information or to purchase a ticket, call the Pioneer Woman Museum at 580-765-6108.

OKPOP to house *Beyond Van Gogh* exhibit

In November, OKPOP will be housing the *Beyond Van Gogh* immersive experience, which will stay open through February 1, 2024. This is a unique event that uses cutting-edge projection technology to showcase over 300 pieces of Van Gogh’s artwork.

Beyond Van Gogh is the largest immersive experience in the country, and it is North America’s favorite immersive art show. Tickets for the show are available now. For more information about dates and to purchase tickets, visit vangoghtulsa.com.

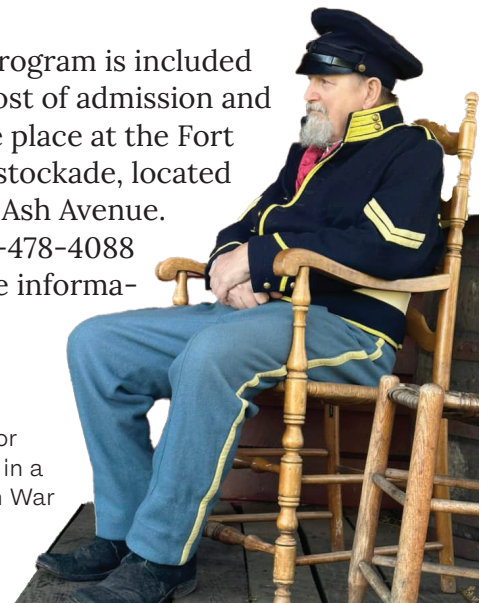


Two-day Garrison Weekend living history program

On Friday, September 22, and Saturday, September 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Fort Gibson Historic Site will hold a garrison weekend. This living history program will feature demonstrations of troop movement used in preparation for the Mexican American War. In the 1840s, Fort Gibson soldiers traveled the 123-mile distance to Fort Towson in southeastern Indian Territory. Visitors will have opportunities to interact with living historians who are experts in the Mexican War era. Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the early 19th century as soldiers conduct various daily activities at the Fort Gibson Historic Site.

This program is included in the cost of admission and will take place at the Fort Gibson stockade, located at 112 E. Ash Avenue. Call 918-478-4088 for more information.

A living history reenactor dressed in a Mexican War period soldier.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 54, No. 5

September/October 2023

UPCOMING WEBINARS | State Historic Preservation Office

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) offers a variety of free webinars throughout the year. For more information, contact the SHPO office at 405-521-6249, or visit okhistory.org/shpowebinars to register. Each webinar is limited to the first 100 registrants.



HIDDEN OKLAHOMA: “Ceramics and Community Interaction at Spiro” presentation by Dr. Shawn Lambert

On Wednesday, September 6, at 2 p.m. (Central Time), SHPO will hold a webinar on “Ceramics and Community Interaction at Spiro,” presented by Dr. Shawn Lambert of Mississippi State University.

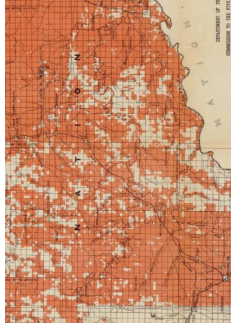
LUNCH AND LEARN: “Restoring the Threatt Filling Station”

On Wednesday, September 13, at noon (Central Time) SHPO will host a webinar entitled “Restoring the Threatt Filling Station.” It was a Black-owned and operated station along Route 66, known as a safe haven for Black travelers during the Jim Crow era. Featured presenters will include Ed Threatt, David Threatt, and Linda Fisher. Kristina Wyckoff, SHPO Section 106 coordinator and historical archaeologist, will lead the discussion.



HIDDEN OKLAHOMA: “Early-Historic Wichita Sites” presentation by Dr. Richard Drass

On Wednesday, October 4, at 2 p.m. (Central Time), SHPO will hold a webinar on “Early-Historic Wichita Sites,” presented by Dr. Richard Drass, emeritus professor at the University of Oklahoma. He will discuss archaeology at Bryson-Paddock and Longest, two early-historic Wichita sites.



LUNCH AND LEARN: “How to Research Allotments”

On Friday, October 6, at noon (Central Time) SHPO will host a webinar on how to research land allotments in Oklahoma. Nancy Calhoun, a volunteer and former research librarian for the Oklahoma Historical Society, will be the featured presenter. Allotment was the federal policy of dividing communally held Native land into individually owned private property.

Outdoor dining experience and fundraising dinner

The Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue (PWM) is excited to host its annual Prairie to Palate fundraising dinner on Thursday, September 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. The event will be held on the beautiful lawn of the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City.

Prairie to Palate is an outdoor, farm-to-table dining experience. Enjoy a night of delicious food, wine, live music, and a silent auction. Stagecoach Barbecue and Catering will provide dinner, with dessert by Banana Crate, drinks by Vortex Alley Brewing and El Patio, and live music by Ryan Burkett. All proceeds support the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue’s operating costs throughout the year.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased online at the PWM website. Bottomless drinks with a souvenir-etched Pioneer Woman Museum pint or wine glass can be purchased for an additional \$12.50. Please RSVP by Friday, September 15.

Corporate sponsorships are available for \$1,000 each. This covers eight dinners with bottomless drinks and souvenir glasses.

For more information, please call 580-765-6108 or visit their website, pioneerwomanmuseum.com.

