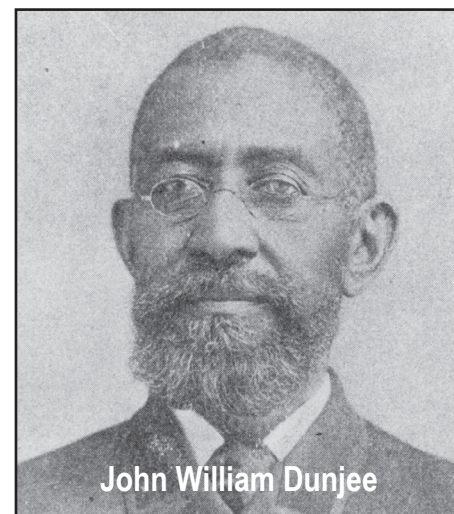




## PERSPECTIVES IN HISTORY 2022 OKLAHOMA HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Make plans to attend “Perspectives in History,” the 2022 Oklahoma History Symposium on Saturday, April 9, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society, the symposium offers six sessions devoted to Oklahoma history and three professional development sessions. To make sessions accessible to all who wish to attend, the symposium will be free and open to the public. We ask that attendees register online at [www.okhistory.org/symposium](http://www.okhistory.org/symposium).

The professional development sessions are designed for museum professionals, students, and volunteers. These sessions will share guidance on museum registration, sharing public history, and digitization. This event also will include the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society membership, an organizational OHS Board meeting, and keynote speaker Connie Cronley. During the keynote, lunch will be available for those who order in advance.



John William Dunjee

### SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

- 11–11:30 a.m. - **Meeting of the OHS Membership and Organizational Meeting of the OHS Board of Directors**
- 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. - Keynote speaker **Connie Cronley**, author of *A Life on Fire: Oklahoma's Kate Barnard*

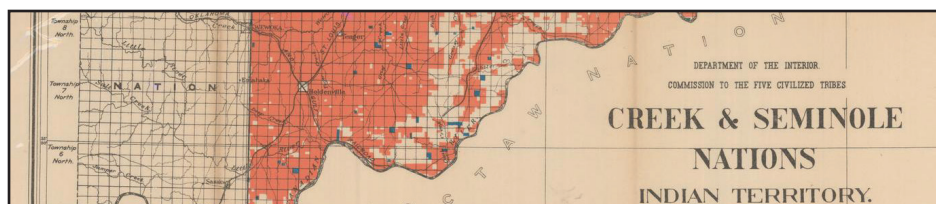
#### HISTORICAL SESSIONS

- 12:30–1 p.m. - **“Rising from the Ashes: An Archaeology of Memory, Landscape, and Racial Violence,”** Nkem Ike, doctoral candidate, University of Tulsa
- 1:10–1:40 p.m. - **“Japanese Wrestlers in a 1960s Oklahoma College Town,”** Roger Moore, doctoral student, Oklahoma State University
- 1:50–2:40 p.m. - **“Mvskoke Allotments in ‘The Oil Capital of the World’: Reflections of Tulsa’s First Landowners,”** panel discussion, the Lucinda Hickory Research Institute and Philbrook Museum of Art  
From the Lucinda Hickory Research Institute (LHRI):  
Tatianna Duncan, LHRI founder and executive director; Russell Cobb, University of Alberta, LHRI vice chair, author; Turner Hunt, Muscogee Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department, LHRI Advisory Board; Gano Perez, GIS Cultural Specialist at Muscogee Nation, LHRI Advisory Board; DeAnalisa Jones, LHRI secretary and treasurer, MD/PhD candidate, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
From the Philbrook Museum of Art:  
Christina Burke, curator of Native American art  
Susan Green, Marcia Manhart Endowed Associate Curator for Contemporary Art and Design
- 2:50–3:20 p.m. - **“The Elder Dunjee: An Examination of the Life and Influence of John William Dunjee in Early Oklahoma,”** Edith Ritt-Coulter, Doctoral Candidate, University of North Texas
- 3:30–4 p.m. - **“The Native American Culture Group: Indigenous Community Organizing and Activism at a Federal Prison in 1970s Oklahoma,”** John Truden, doctoral candidate, University of Oklahoma

- 4:10–4:40 p.m. - **“Cora Diehl Harvey and Helen Churchill Candee: An Insider, an Outsider, and the Fluidity of Power in Oklahoma,”** Chrissy Carlson and Sandi M. Colby, graduate students, University of Central Oklahoma

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

- 12:30–1:50 p.m. - **“Registration Essentials”**  
Karen Whitecotton, American Indian curator and deputy director of collections, Oklahoma History Center; Jennifer Holt, curator of collections, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch; and Erin Brown, curator, Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library
- 2–3 p.m. - **“How to Tell Your Story: A Public History Roundtable”**  
David Fowler, regional director, Oklahoma Historical Society Northeastern Region; Jennifer Frazee, director, Fort Gibson Historic Site; Nicole Harvey, director of strategic initiatives, Oklahoma Historical Society; and Jake Krumwiede, director, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center
- 3:10–4:50 p.m. - **“Is That Available Online?: Digitizing Archival Materials”**  
Sarah Biller, Newspaper Department supervisor; Jason Hadley, digital imaging specialist; Rachel Mosman, photo and digital assets manager; and Diane Wasser, film and video archivist (all staff from the OHS Research Division)



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE VISIT  
[www.okhistory.org/symposium](http://www.okhistory.org/symposium)







## Director's Column

**By Trait Thompson**  
**Executive Director**

We are now fully immersed in the 2022 legislative session, so I thought I would share some of the best advice I have ever read about working in the political arena. It is from James Baker's 2006 autobiography entitled, *Work Hard, Study... And Keep Out of Politics!* Reflecting on his time as President Ronald Reagan's chief of staff, he offered this counsel:

"Politics ain't beanbag, but there's no reason to be uncivil. Disagree agreeably. Listen respectfully. Treat everyone, allies and adversaries alike, with dignity. Return telephone calls. Count the votes. When you're ahead, call the question. When you're behind, work harder. If you can't get everything you want, get what you can. When you can't win, fall back and fight another day."

I try to keep that advice in mind as I navigate the complex political waters at the State Capitol on behalf of the OHS. I cannot say that I always follow it to the letter, but I do my best. Our legislative

agenda this year is an ambitious one, but our team has done the work during the interim to prepare for session, so I am cautiously optimistic that it will pay off.

For starters, we are requesting a \$46 million bond issue to address deferred maintenance issues and targeted improvements at 23 OHS sites across the state. We have two bills filed for this purpose: HB 4099 by Representative Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and SB 1780 by Senator Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher). This legislation is critical to reducing our maintenance backlog and ensuring we preserve these important historical assets for future generations of Oklahomans.

The OHS is also requesting a new annual appropriation of \$1.2 million to hire additional staff members throughout the state. In an effort to avoid closing historic sites and museums over the past several years, the OHS has reduced staff to combat budget cuts, leaving many of the sites with just one person to operate and maintain the site. We want to reverse this trend. We are also asking for \$60,000 to connect our sites across Oklahoma to the state's IT infrastructure in Oklahoma City, thus improving efficiency.

Our last budget request is for a one-time appropriation of \$380,000 to plan commemorative events in 2024 for the 200th anniversary of historic Fort Gibson and historic Fort Towson. Construction on these important forts started within a month of each other in 1824. Both forts were key outposts for the United States on what was then the edge of the western frontier. We are planning a year of events to showcase their importance to Oklahoma's history.

Abraham Lincoln once wrote, "With public sentiment, nothing can fail; with-

out it, nothing can succeed." I encourage all of you to reach out to your legislators and urge them to support our bond legislation and budget requests this year. By doing so, you will be helping us fulfill our mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's history.

## Vietnam-era veterans pinning ceremony at OHC

On March 29, 2022, on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will hold a special pinning ceremony to honor the service men and women who served anywhere in the world during the Vietnam War era. This includes service from November 1, 1955–April 30, 1975. The event will be held in the Devon Great Hall of the OHC from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

March 29 was designated National Vietnam War Veterans Day in 2017. The date was chosen to commemorate March 29, 1973—the day when the last US combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam.

The Oklahoma History Center is working in association with Villages OKC and Humana Market Point to make this special event possible. The ceremony will be open to the public with free admission. The OHC is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

While visiting the OHC, be sure to take in the outdoor exhibit *Tip of the Spear*, unveiled in 2021. It is centered on a Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter—better known as a Huey helicopter—one of the most recognizable icons of the Vietnam War. For additional information, call 405-522-0765 or visit [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org).

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

I want to take this opportunity to remind members that the free, one-day Oklahoma History Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, April 9. This is part of an ongoing effort to make the OHS and its activities more accessible to a broader audience. We hope students and younger history buffs will be able to come to the Oklahoma History Center to attend these free presentations on Oklahoma's past. More information on the available sessions can be found on page one of this issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*, so please share this information with anybody that you think would be interested.

As we have settled into the first few months of 2022, we have begun several other efforts to expand the OHS member base and reach new communities. Foremost among these efforts, the OHS Communications and Development Division has created a new Multicultural Office and hired a new staff member to reach out to communities whose stories are underrepresented in our collections, exhibits, and publications. Of course, the OHS has been at the forefront of digitizing and sharing our collections, and is now utilizing an NEH grant to focus on digitizing collections related to the African American experience in Oklahoma. Finally, we know that, as the weather warms up, families will want to travel. OHS museums, historic sites, and affiliates are affordable and convenient destinations. Please share with your friends that an OHS Family Membership will allow them to visit all of our sites at no additional charge. The OHS website, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org), has more information on our facilities and memberships. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 405-522-6676 or [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org).



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

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

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

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

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# OHS Calendar of Events

## March

- 3 Living History Education Day, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 4 Museum After Dark: Lantern Tours, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 Historical Travel Bag workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 5 Museum OKademy volunteer training class, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 5 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 *Making Tracks on Mars* (2021) film screening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14–18 Spring Break Activities, Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch, Claremore and Oologah
- 16 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Museum OKademy volunteer training class, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Family Kite Flite Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 19 Chuck Wagon Gathering and Fundraising Dinner, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 19 Oklahoma Farm-to-Table Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 *Wanted: Dead or Alive* exhibit closes, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 20 Vernal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 24 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring the 1979 Will Rogers Days Parade planners, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 25 Movie Night featuring *Space Cowboys* (2000), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 26 *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* exhibit opens, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 26 *Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry* exhibit opens, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 29 Vietnam War-era Pinning Ceremony, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



Please visit [www.okhistory.org/events](http://www.okhistory.org/events) for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

## April

- 1 *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit opens, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 2 Museum OKademy volunteer training class, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 2 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 6 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 8 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Museum After Dark: Village Sounds, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9 *Perspectives in History: The Oklahoma History Symposium*, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 9 Oklahoma Historical Society Meeting of the Membership, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors organizational meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 “Historic Skills and Trades Expo” Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 16 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 16 Will’s Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 16 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 16 Will Rogers Memorial Museum Easter Egg Hunt, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 16 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 17 Sunrise Service, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 20 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring author Matthew Kerns, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 23 Handcrafted Soapmaking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 25 Kilgen Organ performance featuring Ken Double, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 “Shut the Barn Door!” webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 29 Movie Night featuring *Twister* (1996), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

- 30 *Silver Selections from the USS Oklahoma* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 30 *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit closes, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy



**A train car replica in the exhibit encourages museumgoers to participate in the experiences of the orphan train.**

## All Aboard: Examining the Orphan Trains

A special exhibit entitled *All Aboard: Examining the Orphan Trains* now on display at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid explores the history of orphan trains that brought orphaned children from the overpopulated cities in the eastern United States to northwestern Oklahoma during the latter half of the 19th century.

Many of the materials in the exhibit come from the official outreach program of the National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center based in Concordia, Kansas. Their program raises awareness and preserves stories about the orphan train movement. The exhibit will be on display through June 4, 2022. For more information, call 580-237-1907.

## Follow Hunter’s Home on Facebook

Recent staffing changes have brought some new faces to Hunter’s Home. While they are planning a robust schedule of programs for later in the spring, be sure to watch for informative and educational posts on the antebellum home’s Facebook page.

In March, you can read posts and watch short videos about the the women who lived at historic site. Through videos and photos, Hunter’s Home Facebook followers can take a virtual tour of the historic home online. Visitors can also pay an in-person visit to the working farm located at 19479 East Murrell Road in Park Hill. Hunter’s Home is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 918-456-2751 for more information.



## New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the National Register of Historic Places designation for the following properties in Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

The Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Association Building located at 401 West Broadway in Enid, Garfield County, was constructed between 1964 and 1965 as the company's first freestanding building in Enid. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent example of International style architecture. Local architect Thomas "Tom" Melvin Rogers designed the bank in the popular International style by using glass curtain walls, foamed aluminum panels, and a landscaped terrace to create a building that rivaled other mid-20th-century buildings in the community. In addition to being the home of Liberty Federal Savings and Loan, the building provided an office for Rogers. Rogers's office was located on the northwest corner of the second story, with a full view of West Broadway Avenue. Rogers was hired again to design the building's remodel in 1979-80, which included designing the finished basement. The facade and interior of the building were also altered during the remodel to meet shifting architectural trends and incorporate new character-defining details popular with banks throughout the 1980s. Such details included a new drive-through canopy fully compatible stylistically with the building's original design by incorporating similar artistic detailing in the brick planter boxes and metal columns that mirrored the exterior walls and abstract railings found elsewhere on the building.



**Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Association Building**

The George and Margaret Miller House, located at 1300 South Eighth Street in Ponca City, Kay County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent local example of the French Eclectic style of architecture. The name of the property reflects the original ownership by Colonel George L. Miller, who was responsible for the house's construction, as well as the original occupancy of the house by Miller's nephew, also

named George but with a middle initial of W.; his wife Margaret; and continued Miller family ownership through 1941 by George L. Miller's daughter, also named Margaret Miller. Thus, the property name reflects the first four owners (George L. Miller, George W. and Margaret Miller, and Margaret Miller) and the first two occupants (George W. and Margaret Miller) of the house. Colonel George L. Miller was one of three brothers who operated the famed 101 Ranch and the associated 101 Ranch Wild West Show during the 1900s-1930s. George W. Miller, son of George L. Miller's older brother, Colonel Joseph Miller, worked in the family business and was a longtime city attorney for Ponca City.



**George and Margaret Miller House**

The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery near Red Oak in Latimer County was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for Commerce and Ethnic Heritage: Native American. The homestead encompasses three contributing resources: a log building known today as Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069), a stone-lined well shaft, and a cemetery. Built circa 1850, with subsequent additions in 1870 and 1889, the log building is among the oldest surviving buildings in Oklahoma. In addition, it is the only existing building in the state historically associated with the Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Road. This association with the Butterfield reflects the pivotal role that the homestead played in the commercial development of Indian Territory. Between 1859 and 1861, stage drivers and passengers on the Butterfield Overland Mail route stopped at the homestead for lunch and to rest their horses. Following the Civil War, the homestead served as the original townsite of Red Oak, for which Thomas Edwards was named postmaster in 1868. Edwards operated a store on the homestead with his wife, Nancy, and her nephew, Jesse Hardaway. The store, as well as the town of Red Oak, flourished at this location until 1889, when the townsite moved eight miles southwest to be closer to a railroad. Although the store building on the property is no longer extant, the construction of additions to the log home throughout the period of significance represent the Edwards-Hardaway family's commercial success in the region. Historic use of the site by Thomas and Nancy Ed-

wards and their descendants also associates the homestead with a prominent family in the Choctaw Nation. The site remains under family ownership and the cemetery is still in use.



**Edwards-Hardaway Homestead**

The Jurhee Apartments Building (more commonly known as the Rene Apartments), located at 1312-1316 North Francis Avenue in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Community Planning and Development and for Architecture. Historically named the Jurhee Apartments, the building was built by Ed Jensen Construction Co., and financing for the project was underwritten by the Federal Housing Administration as part of a citywide attempt to provide affordable rental housing to veterans who had returned from World War II. Although such projects were originally marketed almost exclusively toward male heads-of-household, single women employed in nursing, clerical, and teaching occupations represented the majority of tenants at the Rene Apartments during the mid-20th century. The building is also notable for its modest combination of Early Modern and Midcentury Modern Movement architectural elements. Although the building's low-pitched hipped roof, wide eaves, and red brick exterior are typical of the Prairie School architectural style, the application of steel-framed casement windows, steel columns, and steel railings indicate the growing popularity and affordability of premanufactured building materials utilized in many post-World War II housing styles.



**Jurhee Apartments**

The Pachyderm Building for the Lincoln Park Zoo, located at 2000 Remington Place in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, was listed in the National Register of Historic



## New National Register listings (cont.)

Places as the best extant example of the Midcentury Modern style of animal facility constructed at the Lincoln Park Zoo (now the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden). Designed by the Oklahoma City architectural firm of Sorey, Hill, and Sorey, the distinctive Pachyderm Building was largely erected by Walter Nashert and Sons, also of Oklahoma City. Located within the broader confines of the Oklahoma City Zoo, the Pachyderm Building is distinguished by its iconic Modern style repetition of the zigzag shape and combination flat and folded plate roof with clerestory windows. The building is a unique construction at the zoo, although it no longer provides a home for the zoo's elephants, rhinoceroses, and hippopotamuses.



**Pachyderm Building**

Constructed in 1969, Pioneer Plaza, located at 901 North Elgin Avenue in Tulsa, Tulsa County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for Social History. This apartment building was the first low-income senior housing project constructed for the Tulsa Housing Authority, which had been established in 1966. When it opened, this apartment building provided 200 units, supplying almost one-quarter of the units needed throughout the city at that time. Pioneer Plaza is a Highrise Project property type described in the "Tulsa Public Housing, 1966–1975" National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. The property's period of significance is 1969, the year the building was constructed and opened to residents. Pioneer Plaza retains a high degree of historic integrity, with few alterations since its initial construction.



**Pioneer Plaza**

Constructed in 1970, Hewgley Terrace located at 420 South Lawton Avenue in Tulsa, Tulsa County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for Social History. This apartment building, constructed

for the Tulsa Housing Authority, helped alleviate housing shortages for low-income seniors in Tulsa. It is a Highrise Project property type described in the "Tulsa Public Housing, 1966–1975" National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Construction of the apartment tower began in 1969 and was completed the following year. The building was the second public housing project completed for the elderly in Tulsa and made available an additional 150 units.



**Hewgley Terrace**

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. For more information, visit [www.okhistory.org/shpo/nationalregister](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nationalregister).



### **Hammered Aluminum Ware exhibit**

The Fred and Addie Drummond Home will host a *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit during the month of April. Visitors can view beautiful examples of hammered aluminum metal ware, such as salad dishes, cookie trays, and pitchers with matching tumblers.

During the early 1900s up to the 1950s, when most housewives were expected to entertain, many would use cheaper, lighter hammered aluminum for their card games, birthday celebrations, church events, and monthly coffee socials with the neighbors. With many metals being in short supply due to World War I and World War II, hammered aluminum became a popular alternative.

The *Hammered Aluminum Ware* exhibit is included with the regular admission fee. For more information please call 918-885-2374. The Fred and Addie Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy.



### **Learn historic skills and trades at Fort Towson**

Fort Towson Historic Site will host the "Historic Skills and Trades Expo" Second Saturday Demo on Saturday, April 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. Guests are welcome to watch and learn as craftsmen and artisans demonstrate how objects were made before industrialization. Historical interpreters will demonstrate the art of candle making, wooden bucket making, the operation of a wooden lathe, the preparation of black powder, and cooking. Living history reenactors will be on hand to explain a variety of time-honored crafts, and the Sutler's Store will be open for touring. For more information about the event, please contact John Davis at 580-873-2634 or [jdavis@okhistory.org](mailto:jdavis@okhistory.org). Fort Towson Historic Site is located north of US 70 near Fort Towson.

### **Smithsonian Crossroads exhibition coming to Pawnee Bill Ranch**

The OHS, in cooperation with Oklahoma Humanities, is pleased to announce that the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* is coming to Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum from March 26 to May 7.

Oklahomans will have a unique opportunity to consider their crossroads stories through the exhibit's themes of rural identity, community, land, perseverance, and managing change. The ranch will engage visitors in complementary programming, celebrating Pawnee's history, accomplishments, while addressing community concerns.

*Crossroads: Change in Rural America* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide.

For more information about this exhibit contact the Pawnee Bill Ranch at 918-762-2513 or [pawneebill@okhistory.org](mailto:pawneebill@okhistory.org). Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee.

*Crossroads: Change in Rural America* has been made possible by Oklahoma Humanities.



## OkNHD deadline for submissions approaching

Each year thousands of Oklahoma students, encouraged by teachers statewide, participate in the Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) program. OkNHD is a part of National History Day, a highly regarded academic program for students grades 6–12. More than 750,000 students across the country participate every year.

The OkNHD contest registration deadline is April 5, 2022. The statewide OkNHD junior division contest will be Wednesday, May 4, and the senior division contest will be Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center. Awards will be given each day at 2:30 p.m. Following the awards assembly, there will be a short mandatory meeting for students continuing on to the national contest. The Oklahoma History Center Education Department is the state's resource for information about OkNHD and National History Day. Go to [www.ok.nhd.org](http://www.ok.nhd.org), or call the OkNHD State Coordinator Sarah Dumas at 405-522-0785 with any questions.



## “Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma” webinar series

The State Historic Preservation Office will be holding a new series of webinars entitled “Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma” featuring presenters who specialize in barn history, construction, and restoration.

Presentations will be held every other month on the last Tuesday at 6 p.m. The webinars will be limited to the first 100 registrants. Class themes for the year are listed below.

- April 26 – Three-Bay and Crib Barns in Oklahoma
- June 28 – Use of Stone and Bank Barns in Oklahoma
- August 30 – Signs of Ethnicity and Adaption in Oklahoma Barns
- October 25 – Oklahoma's Special Purpose Barns and Farm Structures
- December 27 – The Significance of Barns in the Oklahoma Cultural Landscape

For further information, go to [www.okhistory.org/shpo/webinars](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/webinars), or please contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or [lozan@okhistory.org](mailto:lozan@okhistory.org).



## WRMM to host Spring Break activities

Five afternoons of fun, games, and learning about Will Rogers are in store for children ages 17 and younger during spring break, March 14–18. Activities are planned from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) in Claremore on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch (WRBR) near Oologah on Tuesday and Thursday.

On Monday at the museum, kids will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes. Visitors to the ranch on Tuesday will get to participate in a kids' tractor pull. Back at the museum on Wednesday, it will be Aviation Day, with an air evacuation helicopter landing on the grounds. Thursday at the ranch will include 19th-century games and activities. The week will end on Friday at the museum with a special movie day!

The spring break activities at WRMM and WRBR are free, thanks to a donation from Win and Kay Ingersoll. Advance registration is not required. For more information about these events, please call 918-341-0719 or visit [willrogers.com](http://willrogers.com). The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore, and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 E 380 Road in Oologah.

## Museum After Dark: Lantern Tours

On Friday, March 4, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host Lantern Tours as part of the Museum After Dark series. Costumed interpreters will host entertaining and educational vignettes in each of the four buildings of the Humphrey Heritage Village. Visitors can step back in time as living history interpreters share their unique and historic perspectives of life in northwestern Oklahoma before statehood—by the light of kerosene lanterns.

The Museum After Dark series creates opportunities for people to experience the CSRHC after regular business hours. For more information about this series, please call 580-237-1907.

## Kingfisher County Land Records

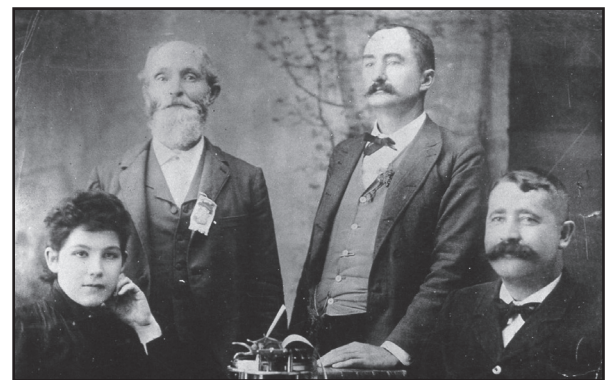
By Jan H. Richardson

“The scramble for virgin soil in Oklahoma begins at noon today,” declared the *Atchison Daily Champion* (Atchison, Kansas). At noon on April 22, 1889, an estimated 40,000 people made the mad dash to grab their 160 acres as the Unassigned Lands in Oklahoma Territory were opened to settlement. While the Land Run of 1889 was not the largest land run in our history—the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run holds that distinction—it has since become part of pioneer legend, immortalized in movies, books, and music. Whether the subject of praise or criticism, the acquisition and settlement of land by land run is an element of the Oklahoma identity. The 89ers settled all or parts of Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma, and Payne Counties, and tent cities immediately sprang up in Oklahoma City, Kingfisher, Norman, Guthrie, El Reno, and Stillwater.

The Kingfisher County Land Records Collection contains land documents from prestatehood to the late 1920s. Townsites represented are Cashion, Columbia, Dover, Hennessey, Lisbon, Kingfisher, North Kingfisher, Keil (Loyal), Okarche, Omega, and Reeding. Property records available include abstracts; warranty deeds; mortgage information; estate, divorce, and guardianship documents that affected land ownership; maps; and town plats.

The Kingfisher County Land Records Collection (2013.403, 80 legal boxes) 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. 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).

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



**First townsite board (#3) in Kingfisher. Pictured from left to right: Maud Benedict, James H. St. Clair, F. H. Kittrell, and Cash M. Cade.**



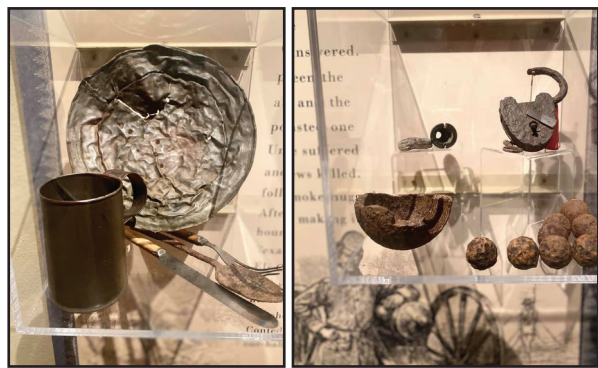
## Gifts to the OHS

(continued from page 8)

Fast forward to 2019, after I had sold the gun and retired from living history and reenacting. I was wondering what best to do with the sights to satisfy my promise. Honey Springs Battlefield, part of the OHS museums and historic sites network, seemed the logical place for them, as it was a significant artillery contest and soldiers likely had used both of the gun types represented by the sights. From the initial motivation of donating the sights, the list grew to include all of my historical artifacts, artillery library, camp equipment, and most of my uniforms and period clothes. A few uniforms and artifacts went to the Artillery Museum at Fort Sill, but most ultimately went to the OHS.

John Davis, who is the regional director for both Fort Towson and Honey Springs Battlefield, is an old friend and collaborator, so the process was easy—just give it all to John and let him sort it out. A few items are germane to Fort Towson, such as an 1833 Ames heavy artillery sword with a handmade scabbard, but most went to Honey Springs, where many of the artifacts are or will be on display in the new visitor center. The library of history books will be available to researchers, living historians, and reenactors. I hope it is not presumptuous to suggest that Honey Springs now has one of the best artillery libraries in this part of the country, second only to the Morris Swett Library at Fort Sill, home of the field artillery.

There are two motivations for the story above. One is to acquaint readers with the locations of these resources and let all know that they are available for viewing or research. The second is to urge OHS members and friends who may have historically significant items or documents to consider donating them to the OHS, so that others can enjoy and learn from or about them. This can be done by contacting one of the museums and sites, the OHS collections department, or the library at the Oklahoma History Center. Nothing earth shattering here, just a gentle reminder that sharing resources is good, especially when it comes time to part with them.



**Civil War-era artifacts on display at Honey Springs Battlefield provide an educational connection for patrons.**



**Family Kite Flite Day will feature the kites of the Tulsa Wind Riders group.**

## Vernal Equinox Walks and Family Kite Flite Day

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will celebrate the beginning of spring with the site's annual Family Kite Flite Day on Saturday, March 19, and a series of guided Vernal Equinox Walks on Sunday, March 20.

Family Kite Flite Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 19. This event is free to attend, although donations are appreciated. It will be a great day for families and folks of all ages. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, and kites to this free event. Kite flying demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors, and a children's area are just a few of the activities that will take place.

On March 20 there will be three guided Vernal Equinox Walks at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., led by archaeologist and site manager Dennis Peterson. Each walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking. Visitors will learn about the importance of spring to the Indigenous inhabitants of the area. There is a small fee for this series of tours.

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is located three miles east of Spiro on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information please call 918-962-2062 or email [spiro@okhistory.org](mailto:spiro@okhistory.org).

## OHC traveling exhibits

The Oklahoma History Center has a selection of traveling exhibits that are designed to bring Oklahoma history and culture to communities around the state and country.

In March and April, the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry will be hosting one of those exhibits called *Where They Went: A Photographic History of Oklahoma Animals*. Curated from the Oklahoma Historical Society's photographic archives, the endearing images explore the friendly relationship between humans and their animals throughout Oklahoma's history.

If you are interested in featuring an OHC traveling exhibit in your community, visit [www.okhistory.org/historycenter/rentable](http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/rentable) to learn more and to see the complete list of traveling exhibits.

## Dust to Eat documentary premiered on OETA

A new documentary produced by the OHS entitled *Dust to Eat* (2021) premiered on OETA on February 5, 2022. It will re-air on April 14, 2022, to commemorate the anniversary of one of the worst dust storms of the Dust Bowl—a day known as "Black Sunday." The film uses poignant narration and imagery to illustrate the lasting impact of one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history, 85 years after it occurred. The film was produced by historian Dr. Alvin Turner and OHS Board President Dr. Deena Fisher.

The narrative of the documentary was drawn directly from the book *Letters from the Dust Bowl* by Caroline Henderson (University of Oklahoma Press, 2001), edited by Dr. Turner, along with images from the Farm Security Administration photography program (1935–44). The documentary—years in the making—focused on the challenges of rural poverty in the United States at a time when the Dust Bowl devastated the Oklahoma Panhandle.



## Chuckwagon Gathering and Fundraising Dinner



Visit the Chisholm Trail Museum (CTM) on Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day filled with cowboy fun! Drop in and see a variety of working chuck wagons from across the region as the cooks prepare some of their favorite dishes. Activities will include live music, cooking demonstrations, gunfights, Wild West Show performers, Medicine Man shows, Annie Oakley performances, and more!

"Museum visitors will get the chance to explore life on the trail, taste some chuck wagon favorites, and interact with living history characters from across the West," said CTM Director Jason Harris. "Our Chuck Wagon Gathering allows us to help keep a part of the West alive for our visitors. We want to provide an opportunity for families to explore the West and learn through demonstrations, music, and more."

The daytime activities are free, and tickets for the delicious chuck wagon meal at noon are \$15. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to purchase tickets for the noon meal. This annual event provides the CTM with necessary funding for educational programming and events. The CTM is located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.



Oklahoma Historical Society  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

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PERIODICALS

# Mistletoe Leaves

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## Giftng to the Oklahoma Historical Society

By Dan Lawrence

It has been my privilege to be a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors since 1994. One of the contributions I was able to make to the OHS over the years was as a historical reenactor and living history participant. I was there at the first Battle of Honey Springs reenactment in 1988 when it was 105 degrees every day, for instance. The late Whit Edwards was the inspiration for the OHS reenacting and living history program, and it was my privilege to assist with support from



the board. Like many, I started with the American Civil War and, over time, drifted back through the Mexican-American War to the War of 1812, with side forays into the Indian Wars era and Texas Revolution. My centerpiece was ownership of a reproduction, full-scale 6pdr smoothbore gun and implements. We hauled it around the country to events in surrounding states for 30 years, as well as site-specific commemorative Civil War battles such as Manassas, Shiloh, Gettysburg, Stone's River (Murfreesboro), and others.

While not an avid collector, over the course of 40 years as a reenactor and living historian I did acquire a number of period items and artifacts, along with a lot of books on US history, both military and general, especially artillery. The latter collection includes personal memoirs, reprinted manuals, customs of military service, military life, treatises on the evolution of artillery from the late 1700s into the Indian Wars era, and the like. I used some of the historical items in reenacting and, more often, in "show and tell" living history and educational outings and events. Most were too fragile to be used in the field, so they remained in my display case. I further had a large collection of camp equipment, uniforms, and period clothing. Most of the uniforms were hand tailored to the regulations of the specific period they represented.

A "triggering" event happened some 15 years ago while I was participating in the Trail of Honor in Jackson, Mississippi. One of the guests approached and showed me two original brass artillery dispart gun sights stamped 1840—one for a 6pdr gun and the other for a 12pdr field howitzer, both model 1841s. He asked if I knew what they were and I assured him I did. He asked what they were worth and I told him I did not know, but they would be valuable to serious collectors and appropriate museums. He asked me what I would give him for them. I told him I could not give him what they were worth and did not want to insult him with a paltry offer. Long story short, he insisted and we settled on \$20, after I promised him that, when I was through with them, they would go to a museum and not end up on a garage sale table, which was where he had found them. As a side note, he returned to the trail the next year and gave me back the \$20, saying he did not feel right about taking it.

(story continues on page 7)

 **Smithsonian**  
Affiliate Membership Program



## OHC's Farm-to-Table Festival

On Saturday, March 19, the Oklahoma History Center will host the Farm-to-Table Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This community-wide fair highlights historic and modern farm life, with the purpose of demonstrating how food and household items travel from their sources to our homes.

Admission is free to the public, and the event will be held predominately outdoors on the OHC grounds. Call 405-522-0796 for more information.



## Pawnee Bill Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 16, the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum (PBR) will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Egg Hunt is cosponsored by the local Pawnee Lions Club and the Pawnee Chamber of Commerce. The hunt will begin promptly at 10 a.m., signaled by Pawnee Bill, portrayed by Kevin Webb, firing his pistol. Thousands of eggs will be hidden over many acres of the historic site. Pawnee Bill started an egg hunt at his ranch more than one hundred years ago, and the OHS takes pride in continuing the tradition.

The ranch is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee. For more information contact the PBR at 918-762-2513 or pawneebill@okhistory.org.

