



Oklahoma
Historical
Society

Mistletoe Leaves

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Perspectives in History

The Oklahoma History Symposium

Make plans to attend “Perspectives in History”: The Oklahoma History Symposium on Saturday, May 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society, this event is held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

This year’s topics include American Indian soldiers in World War I, Asian Americans in the Sooner State, Indian City USA, Black settlers’ battle for educational rights, lawmakers and activists William Wirt Hastings and Hannah Diggs Atkins, and the papers of Civil Rights leader Jimmy Stewart.

Sessions will also explore the 1976 case *Craig v. Boren*, the diaries of two Fort Gibson soldiers, cemeteries, calabooes, the 1938 Casa Grande Hotel, and archaeological investigations at the Edwards-Hardaway Store site.

Sessions for museum and archive professionals will cover internships, funding sources, and working with underrepresented communities.

The keynote speaker for this year’s Symposium will be the Consul of Mexico in Oklahoma City, Edurne Pineda, who brings 25 years of diplomatic experience, specializing in consular affairs. She was appointed to the Consulates General of Mexico in Chicago, Atlanta, and Dallas, where she served as deputy consul general for a decade before becoming head consul in Oklahoma City in October 2022. Since opening its doors on May 20, 2023, the consulate has been dedicated to serving Oklahoma’s Mexican community and enhancing bilateral relations between Mexico and Oklahoma in government, economics, culture, and tourism. With nearly half a million Mexican nationals in Oklahoma, the consulate promotes mutual understanding through cultural events, education, and diplomatic initiatives, preserving our historical ties, and fostering cooperation and respect between the two regions.

The Oklahoma History Symposium is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please note our cafe is closed, and boxed lunches will not be available for purchase on the day of the event.

To see the full schedule of events visit okhistory.org/about/symposium. Visit okhistory.org/symposium2024 to register.

Fort Towson commemorates 200 years

The Fort Towson Historic Site will host a free living history event to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the fort. The ceremony will recognize the contribution of the soldiers who manned Fort Towson when it was active while celebrating the tremendous contributions of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people.



The event will be held on May 18 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Living historians will present a glimpse into the lives of military members and civilians who lived in military outposts 200 years ago. Scheduled presentations will be held every hour between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Throughout the day, guests can explore the site and learn from living historians about period infantry, artillery, laundresses, officer’s wives, topographical engineers, 1st Choctaw mounted rifles, dragoons, historical music, and 1800s merchandise.

The event will include presentations and demonstrations about the clothing of the period, the importance of trade at the military outpost with the civilian sutler, and the connection between the fort’s establishment and the Choctaw and Chickasaw people.

An artillery demonstration will be held to show that cannon fire was a part of daily life for soldiers at Fort Towson. The bicentennial programming will also include livestock care, harnessing a team of mules, and an historical overview of the roads leading into the fort.

For more information, call 580-873-2634 or email fttowson@history.ok.gov.

ABOUT THE FORT

Situated near the Red River, Fort Towson initially served as an outpost on the border between the United States and Mexico (present-day Texas).

The Fort Towson Historic Site visitor center offers engaging exhibits that delve into the fort’s rich history from its construction in 1824, to its role in the Mexican-American War and the Civil War, to the steamboats that ferried people and supplies through the region. Visitors will hear the story of nearby Doaksville, first established as a trading post that later became a thriving commercial center and capital of the Choctaw Nation.



The Fort Towson Historic Site has several “paths to the past”—interpretive hiking trails for guests to enjoy. Ruins of the former hospital, commissary, barracks, magazine, kiln, and other buildings make exploring the grounds a unique experience.



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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.

Students and teachers are invited to share studies and programs and to duplicate content as desired. Editors are welcome to reprint materials with credit.

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Errata: In the March/April 2024 issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*, in the story "State Historic Preservation Office receives recognition," Matthew Pearce was listed as the author of the submission for the NRHP nomination for the Abe Lincoln Store. Stantec Corporation wrote the submission.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By Trait Thompson

One of my favorite pastimes is reading. I am always in the middle of a book and, on some occasions, more than one. As you might imagine, my favorite genre is non-fiction history, and I rarely deviate from it. When I was younger, I chose to read much more fiction than I do as an adult. My favorite novel—and it's not a close competition—is *Lonesome Dove* (1985). I pick that one up every so often and make the cattle drive up north with Gus and Call all over again.

I'm bringing up books because I am often asked about my favorite titles featuring Oklahoma history. I always answer with a bit of trepidation because I know I haven't read all the books on this broad topic, and I'm constantly adding new ones to my collection (used bookstores are very dangerous for me in this regard). With that caveat, I thought I'd mention a few of them.

Progressive Oklahoma: The Making of a New Kind of State (1980), by Danney Goble, is essential for understanding why we are the way we are. In a relatively short book—only 227 pages—Goble deftly explains the formation of the twin territories and the politics that shaped us as we marched toward statehood.

A Life on Fire: Oklahoma's Kate Barnard (2010), by Connie Cronley, highlights Barnard, a political force in our state long before she had the right to vote. Driven by her Catholic faith, her singular cause was improving the lives of the poor, the incar-

cerated, the laborers, and the mentally disabled. The popular biography follows Barnard to the end of her career when she adopted the cause of American Indian orphans being exploited for their resources.

Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History (2010), by S.C. Gwynne, chronicles the genesis of the Comanche Nation to their absolute domination of the Southwestern Plains due to their mastery of warfare on the horse. Later, after the tribe was banished to the reservation in Indian Territory, Quanah Parker learned the white man's business practices and used them to help his people.

This Land is Herland: Gendered Activism in Oklahoma from the 1870s to the 2010s (2021) was edited by Sarah Eppler Janda and Patricia Loughlin. This book is a compilation of chapters written by different female historians about women determined to make a difference in Oklahoma. You'll recognize some of the figures, like Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, but there are many others whom you will be meeting for the first time.

Justice for Sale: The Shocking Scandal of the Oklahoma Supreme Court (1996) was written by William A. Berry, a justice on the court who worked behind the scenes to ensure his colleagues taking bribes were held accountable. The title follows the 1965 testimony of convicted felon and former justice N. S. Corn who implicated justices Earl Welch and N. B. Johnson for taking bribes to affect the outcome of cases. The ensuing political scandal would result in an entirely new way of selecting Supreme Court justices.

I hope you'll consider a few of these books as you make your summer reading lists. You won't be disappointed.



An antique baseball glove and ball (1997.038.051, Mrs. R. A. Grantham Collection, OHS).

Take the family out to the ballgame!

On Saturday, May 18, from 2 to 5 p.m., learn the history of America's favorite pastime at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore as living history athletes conduct an 1880s-era baseball game. Bring the family and your gloves to learn about the history of baseball while watching a 19th-century-style baseball game on the grounds of the museum. The "Wayne McCombs Classic" ballgame was named for the Claremore native who followed the history of baseball from when it was played on the cow pastures of Indian Territory to the modern era. Watch heavy hitters "swing the hickory" and "put some steam on" to run the bases on May 18! Call 918-343-8127 for more information.

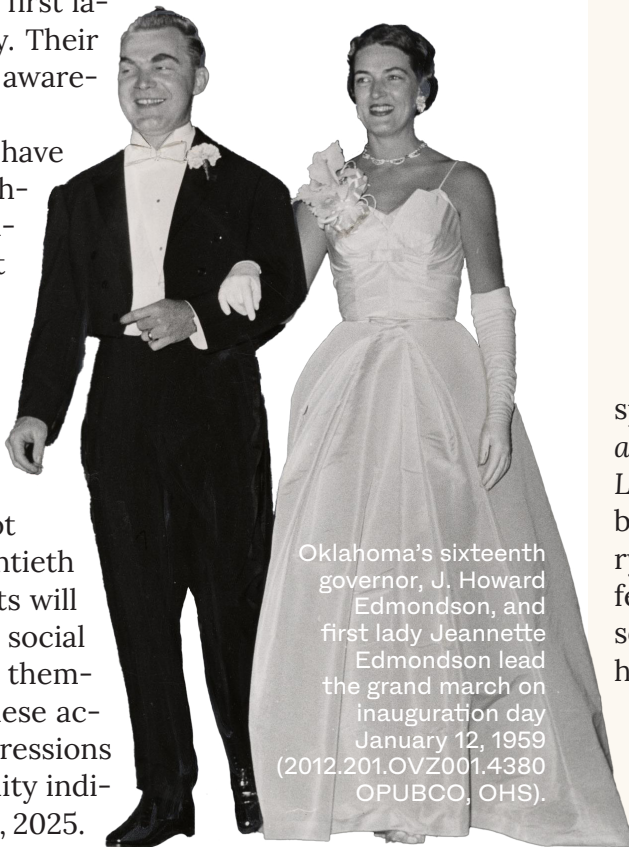
Inaugural Impressions: Oklahoma's First Ladies Go to the Ball

On June 7, the Oklahoma History Center Museum will open a new exhibit in the Sam Noble Gallery entitled *Inaugural Impressions: Oklahoma's First Ladies Go to the Ball*. This installation will feature the dresses Oklahoma's first ladies wore to the state's inaugurations. Unlike past exhibits focused on fashion, *Inaugural Impressions* will explore women's roles, accomplishments, and contributions while their husbands served as governors.

The exhibit will feature a variety of gowns from the Oklahoma Historical Society's collections. The phrase "the power behind the throne" has been used for centuries to describe the influence of leaders' spouses over their ruling mates, which is true of the first ladies of Oklahoma. Whether as dedicated homemakers and mothers, political activists, raising money, or addressing community needs, Oklahoma's first ladies have always played a leading role in our history. Their professionalism and poise have increased the public's awareness of worthy causes.

From Lillian Haskell to Sarah Stitt, our first ladies have assumed an active role in office. This exhibit highlights how our first ladies developed civic responsibility while navigating the social conventions of past eras. The exhibit follows the evolution of their roles, forged in the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and beyond. After 1979, Oklahoma's first ladies took on more active and vocal roles in response to the state's social fabric.

In addition, the exhibit content will present questions about the social conventions of past eras of Oklahoma's history, asking questions like "We do not dress today as people did at the beginning of the twentieth century. Why is that?" Interactive exhibit components will allow children and adults to explore the history of social practices, don clothing from other eras, and present themselves as if they were attending an inaugural ball. These activities will provide interpretive and educational impressions to encourage the public to interpret civic responsibility individually. The exhibit will remain open through May 30, 2025.



Oklahoma's sixteenth governor, J. Howard Edmondson, and first lady Jeannette Edmondson lead the grand march on inauguration day January 12, 1959 (2012.201.OVZ001.4380 OPUBCO, OHS).



SAVE THE DATE!

Special Members-Only Preview

Inaugural Impressions: Oklahoma's First Ladies Go to the Ball

Thursday, June 6, 5 to 7 p.m.

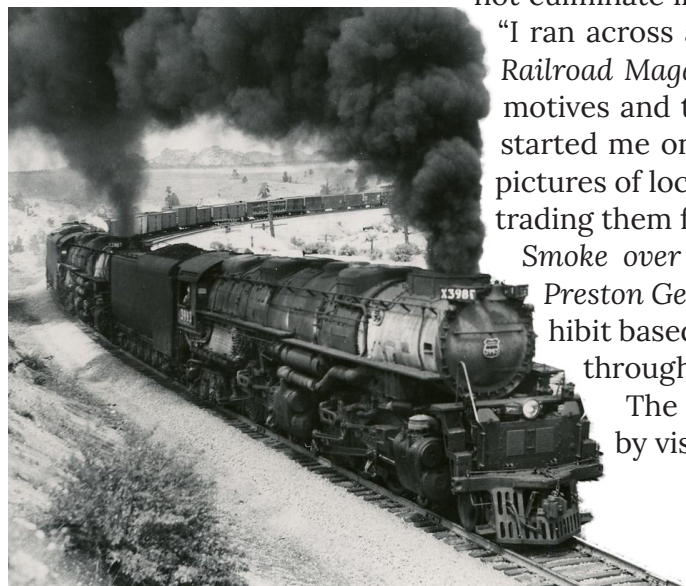
On the evening of Thursday, June 6, a special members-only reception for *Inaugural Impressions: Oklahoma's First Ladies Go to the Ball* will be sponsored by the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center Museum. The reception will feature hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and some of Oklahoma's living first ladies have promised to attend the event.

For questions or to RSVP, please email jillian.helsley@history.ok.gov or call 405-522-5820.

Preston George Collection now available on The Gateway

The Preston George Collection consisting of 7,393 items, spanning 16 decades, is now available on The Gateway to Oklahoma History. George had a lifelong interest in the railroad, photographing trains while working as a civil engineer in Colorado and Oklahoma. While the photographs George took in the 1930s and 1940s have been a part of the Oklahoma Historical Society's collection for years, the larger collection on The Gateway also includes his personal collection of railroad photographs and postcards.

Born in 1906 in Indian Territory, George's interest in trains began at an early age but did not culminate into a full-fledged pastime until the 1930s.



"I ran across a copy of *Railroad Stories*, later renamed *Railroad Magazine*, and saw the many photos of locomotives and trains," said George in an interview. "This started me on a new hobby. Soon, I was snapping still pictures of locomotives with a cheap Kodak camera and trading them far and wide with other fans."

Smoke over Oklahoma: The Railroad Photographs of Preston George was published in 2017. A traveling exhibit based on the book's images is available for loan through the Oklahoma History Center Museum.

The Preston George Collection can be viewed by visiting okhistory.org/george.

Union Pacific 3983 & 3987, steam locomotives double-heading a mixed freight (2008.008.0641, Preston George Collection, OHS).



OHCM is a Blue Star Museum

The Oklahoma History Center Museum will join the nationwide Blue

Star Museums initiative this summer. Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including the National Guard and Reserve. The Blue Star Museums program begins on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 18, 2024, and ends on Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 2024. Please call 405-522-0765 or visit okhistory.org/historycenter for admission costs and group rates.



OHS Calendar of Events

May

- 1–2 Oklahoma National History Day State Contest, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2 Boots, Beer, & BBQ Gala Dinner, The Chisholm, Kingfisher
- 3 “Hunter Trapper” Living History program begins, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 3 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 “Perspectives in History”: The Oklahoma History Symposium, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Spring on the Farm, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 4 Oklahoma Historical Society Membership Meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 4 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors Organizational Meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 6 *From Our Hands* exhibit opening, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 6 Virtual Field Trip with Dr. Theodore Gonzalves, Oklahoma History Center
- 8 Oklahoma Restaurant Roundtable, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) webinar, State Historic Preservation Office
- 9 Drafting and Executing Section 106 Agreement Documents with the OKSHPO webinar, State Historic Preservation Office
- 11 Quilting Workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Civil War-Era Music Program, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 13 OU/OAS Archaeological Field School at Spiro Mounds begins, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Site, Spiro
- 13 The Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program Overview webinar, State Historic Preservation Office
- 14 The Historic Preservation Tax Credit: A Case Study webinar, State Historic Preservation Office

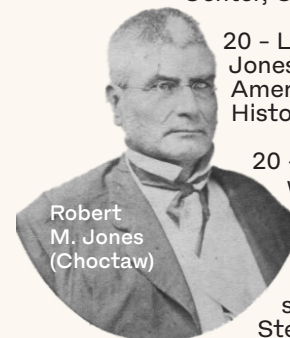


- 14 “Asian American Pacific Islander Experiences in Oklahoma: A Historical Journey,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 Summer Sounds Concert featuring Jason Scott and High Heat, The Chisholm, Kingfisher
- 18 200th Anniversary Commemoration, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 18 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 18 The Wayne McCombs Classic, 1880s-era Baseball Game, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 19 Picnic in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 22 “Cats and Cathouses” presentation, Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie
- 23 Thursday Night Lecture Series: The Will Rogers Medallion Award with Chris Enss and Preston Lewis, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 28–30 History Day Camp, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 31 “Hunter Trapper” Living History program ends, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 31 Movie Night featuring *Angels in the Outfield* (1994), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 Sneed Cabin Grand Opening, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid

June

- 1 *Clem Rogers and the Legacy of the Rogers Ranch* exhibit closes, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 1 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1 Sounds of the Prairie bluegrass performance, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 7 *Inaugural Impressions: Oklahoma’s First Ladies Go to the Ball* exhibit opens, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 Basic Barn Quilt Workshop, The Chisholm, Kingfisher
- 7 Oklahoma History Center Open House, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Quilting Workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 8 – Guided Tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 8 – Basic Barn Quilt Workshop, The Chisholm, Kingfisher
- 8 – Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 11–15 – “Lift Every Voice: 60 Years Since the Civil Rights Act” Enid Chautauqua in the Park, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 – OU/OAS Archaeological Field School concludes, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Site, Spiro

- 13 “Masonic Lodges of Oklahoma” presentation by Kenneth Sivard, State Historic Preservation Office
- 15 Guided Tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 15 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17–19 Wild West Kids Camp, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 18 Juneteenth Celebration: “Honor, Reflect, and Celebrate!,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20 – Lunch and Learn: “Robert M. Jones: A Choctaw Millionaire in the American South, 1808–1873,” State Historic Preservation Office
- 20 – Summer Sounds Concert with musical duo Jim Garling and Susanne Woolley, The Chisholm, Kingfisher
- 20 – *The Road To Will* film screening and discussion with Steve McAlphabet, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 22 Usable Block Printing class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28 Movie Night featuring *Babe* (1995), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 29 Scavenger Hunt, Hunter’s Home, Park Hill
- 29 Guided Tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah



Robert M. Jones (Choctaw)

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



Towson Tales video series

The Fort Towson Historic Site staff is generating a new video series entitled *Towson Tales* to commemorate 200 years since the establishment of the military outpost. The informative videos are set around the site’s grounds and center on first-person historical documents, letters, reports, and newspaper accounts for their content.

Each video adds to the series and helps to paint a full picture of life at the military site. Subscribe to the YouTube channel of the Fort Towson Historic Site for more videos and information about the military outpost and those who served there. Follow youtube.com/@forttowsonhistoricsite8968.

Ramona Reed “Texas Playgirl” Collection comes to OKPOP



This spring, the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) celebrated its newest acquisition, the Ramona Reed “Texas Playgirl” Collection. The memorabilia debuted at a public event in Tulsa this spring, where her son John Blair and OKPOP’s music historians hosted the first special sneak peek of the items for press members.

The items were also displayed at the annual Bob Wills Day at the Capitol in Okla-

homa City earlier this year. Reed’s performance dresses, snazzy boots, and scrapbooks were showcased at the event along with Bob Wills’s hat and fiddle, also a part of the OKPOP’s collections.

Ramona Reed (1930–2022) was a talented singer born in Talihina, Oklahoma. As a young girl with big dreams, she serenaded the animals on her farm. Listening to her parents’ records of Jimmie Rogers, she picked up the skill of yodeling, often singing for friends and neighbors. At 15 years of age, Reed had a ten-minute spot on KPMC in McAlester every Saturday, singing three songs a week on air. Reed was only 17 when she became a featured talent at the Grand Ole Opry. At 20, she auditioned to sing for Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys and finished the performance barefoot, kicking her shoes off at the end of the raucous audition. Wills loved her look and voice and dubbed her the “Texas Playgirl.” Reed toured with his band nationwide, recorded with Wills in the studio, and performed at Cain’s Ballroom for KVOO’s live radio show. She is considered a female pioneer in country music and was eventually inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2009 alongside Carrie Underwood.

This acquisition would not be possible without the OKPOP Foundation, OKPOP’s nonprofit organization that supports the museum’s mission to collect, preserve, and share the state’s pop culture history.

Early in her career, Ramona Reed was the singing representative for the Martha White Flour advertisements.



Light horsemen guarding the Cherokee Outlet Payment at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, c. 1894 (13379 W. H. Hicks Collection, OHS).

Commemoration and History

This year, the Oklahoma Historical Society commemorates the bicentennial of Fort Gibson and Fort Towson. Established in 1824, both places have histories much too long to describe in a brief newsletter column. To suffice, they embody a history that developed “with singular suddenness and vivid imagery” in Oklahoma, as historians H. Wayne and Anne Hodges Morgan once wrote.

Originally on the periphery of a fledgling American empire, Fort Gibson and Fort Towson established a military presence near the Red River, then the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. Both played central roles in the deportation of Native peoples from ancestral lands in the southeastern United States to Indian Territory. Amid forces of exploration and expulsion, Fort Gibson and Fort Towson also became sites of revitalization as new Indigenous and settler communities emerged that endure to this day.

The Oxford English Dictionary reminds us that to commemorate is “to call to remembrance, or preserve in memory” through rituals that range from quiet observance to community-wide celebrations. By the time you read this column, Fort Gibson will have hosted its 200th anniversary commemoration on April 20. Fort Towson’s is scheduled for May 18. In addition to these specific events, take note of other interpretative and educational events that each OHS site has planned throughout the year. Acts of commemoration, remembrance, and understanding need not be limited to specific days on a calendar. Such work is ongoing as Oklahoma’s history continues to unfold.

—Matthew Pearce, Ph.D.

Pearce is the state historian of the Oklahoma Historical Society

“Lift Every Voice: 60 Years since the Civil Rights Act”



Enid’s Summer Chautauqua in the Park returns for 2024 on Tuesday, June 11, through Saturday, June 15, at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC). Signs of this annual event become apparent when the big white tent takes its place on the Humphrey Heritage Village grounds at the museum every summer.

This year’s theme, “Lift Every Voice: 60 Years Since the Civil Rights Act,” will feature the histories and perspectives of characters who influenced the Civil Rights Movement through first-person scholarly presentations. During the dates of the Chautauqua, workshops will be held in the Village Church daily at 10:30 a.m. and noon. Live evening performances will begin with local entertainment at 6:30 p.m., followed by the scholar presentations at 7:30 p.m.

To learn more about the event, follow the CSRHC on Facebook, visit csrhc.org or call 580-237-1907.

Summer Sounds concerts

Join The Chisholm on the third Thursday of May, June, July, and August for a free Summer Sounds Concert series. Jason Scott and High Heat, the musical duo Jim Garling and Susanne Woolley, Mackynsie McKedy and the McKedy Band, and Travis Kidd will each be featured.

The concert series will take place outdoors with a food truck available beginning at 6 p.m. Bring a favorite blanket or set up a comfy lawn chair and enjoy live music from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Horizon Hill, the home of territorial governor A. J. Seay. The family-friendly event is free. For more information, contact the museum at 405-375-5176.

Civil War-Era music

Honey Springs Battlefield will host a Civil War-Era music program on Saturday, May 11, at 1 p.m. The Loco Focos and Shadow Ridge bands will play songs of the Civil War period as closely as possible to their original form, using period instruments. The program is free with the cost of regular admission. For more information, call 918-617-7125 or email honeysprings@history.ok.gov.



#ExploreOHS Contest winners visited every OHS site!

Congratulations to Amy and JC of Amy's Apiary, who won the 2024 #ExploreOHS Travel Contest! They visited all 24 OHS museums and historic sites during the month of March—and entered the contest by sharing their photos on social media. Amy and JC will receive a prize pack of OHS swag and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Oklahoma History Center with OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson.

Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show

The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will celebrate the lives of Major Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie, his wife May Lillie, and their famous Wild West Shows with a one-day celebration on Saturday, June 8. Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the original historic ranch site. Stagecoaches will roll amid thundering horse hooves while the lightning of gunfire explodes around Pawnee Bill, May, and their cohorts, as the talented performers thrill and amaze audiences. This celebration will feature exhibitions of acts from the original Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West Show. Join us in celebrating Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show and experience some of the best of historic western entertainment! For more information, please call 918-762-2513 or email pawneebill@history.ok.gov.



Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program funds 37 projects across the state

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) proudly announces that 37 organizations have been awarded a grant through the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Applications were submitted in November 2023, and following a review by both an OHS staff committee and a subcommittee of the OHS Board of Directors, the following organizations were approved for funding by the OHS Board of Directors at the January quarterly board meeting:

Black Liberated Arts Center (BLAC), Inc.; Bristow Historical Society, Inc.; Chelsea Area Historical Society; Claremore Museum of History; Delaware Nation; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; Edmond History Museum; El Reno Carnegie Library; Elk City Carnegie Library; Field Historical Printing Museum, Inc.; Freedom Center of Oklahoma City; Friends of Fort Gibson Foundation; Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association; Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; Jim Thorpe Memorial Foundation; Keystone Crossroads Historical Society; Lawton Public Library; M. W. Grand Lodge AF&AM of the State of Oklahoma (Museum and Library), Inc.; McLoud Historical Society; Midwest City High School Museum, Inc.; Oklahoma Black Living Legacy; Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society; Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation; Old Greer County Museum & Hall of Fame, Inc; Plains Indians & Pioneers Historical Foundation; Prairie House Preservation Society (PHPS); Rogers County Historical Society, Inc.; Seminole Nation Museum; The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; Southern Nazarene University; Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation, Inc.; Stillwater History Museum at the Sheerar; The City of Vernon Chamber of Commerce; The Edwards Store, Inc.; The Friends of the Coleman; Tulsa Foundation for Architecture; Waynoka Historical Society

This year, the total amount awarded surpasses \$520,000, funding various projects encompassing collections care, strategic planning, exhibit development, and educational programming. "Through the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program, we're not just funding projects; we're investing in the preservation of Oklahoma's rich and dynamic history," said Nicole Harvey, director of strategic initiatives for the Oklahoma Historical Society. "These grants empower communities across the state to uphold their heritage for future generations, ensuring that the stories of Oklahoma continue to inspire and educate for years to come."

The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program is a grants-in-aid program offered by the Oklahoma Historical Society to encourage the collection, preservation and sharing of Oklahoma history at the grassroots level in all parts of the state. Open to tribal and municipal governments and not-for-profit historical organizations located in Oklahoma and registered with the Oklahoma secretary of state, this grants program offers funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for projects focused on collections, exhibits and programming. Applications for this annual program open in the fall, and award announcements are made in January. For more information visit okhistory.org/grants.



Spiro archaeological digs

From May 13 to June 12, the University of Oklahoma students, faculty, and the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey staff will excavate at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center (SMAC) for a month. Visitors are welcome to observe the research and ask questions while the group works. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Hammerstedt, Dr. Amanda Regnier, and Dr. Patrick Livingood, students will be excavating areas of interest at the SMAC. Admission to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is currently free of charge while the visitor's center undergoes construction.

SHPO May workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to announce its May workshop series. The sessions will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Registration is available at okhistory.org/shpo webinars.

- May 8 - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- May 9 - Drafting and Executing Section 106 Agreement Documents
- May 13 - The Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program Overview
- May 14 - The Historic Preservation Tax Credit: A Case Study

Due to a staff vacancy, there will be no live NRHP workshops in May. See past NRHP workshops at www.youtube.com/@okshpo. For more information, please get in touch with Tifani Darata at tdarata@history.ok.gov or 405-521-6249.

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PERIODICALS

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Mistletoe Leaves

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Chisholm Trail Museum celebrates 60 years!

The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher began in 1964, and last month marked its 60th year in operation. Under the leadership of Jason Harris, the museum took the opportunity to kick off the anniversary with a new campaign dedicated to the expansion and renovation of the museum.

The history of Oklahoma's farming and ranching will continue to be shared, but the museum is making plans for the future by rebranding and refocusing its mission. The new campaign will allow the museum to combine the historical content with a sustainable future, rebranding with a new name, "The Chisholm."

"At The Chisholm, we will strive to engage, educate, and enrich our community and those who explore it by making the unique stories of Oklahoma's past relevant to today's visitors," reported Jason Harris, executive director. "We sit at the crossroads of Oklahoma's wheat belt and along the Chisholm Trail. Our location makes us an ideal place to share exhibits on topics that range from indigenous agriculture and herd management; the cattle drive era, agriculture mechanization and modernization, conservation efforts, ranch rodeo, agriculture and the environment, and more."

The museum's new exhibit designs will focus on the individuals, families, and industries shaping Oklahoma agribusiness through the decades. More than \$1.5 million has been allocated for The Chisholm out of \$46 million in Legacy Capital Financing funds given to the Oklahoma Historical Society by the legislature to make improvements across the state to more than 20 sites. The museum plans to raise additional private funds through 2026, with work beginning at the complex this summer.

This campaign will enable the museum to renovate the museum building and its mechanical systems, preserve historic structures in the heritage village, complete extensive preservation work on the territorial governor's mansion, allow for better visitor experiences, and improve the care of its collections. The new design includes creating new educational and community meeting spaces, modernizing collections storage for artifact care, providing improved ADA accessibility, installing new exhibits throughout the museum complex, and more. "It is about more than just our buildings," Harris says. "It is about transforming the museum to appeal to many of our state's citizens and visitors while helping the OHS meet its institutional goals. Our objective is to provide our community with an invaluable resource while stimulating tourism in the region." Call 405-375-5176 for more information or visit thechisholm.org.



An artist's rendering of The Chisholm's new entrance after renovations are completed.



The Oklahoma Historical Society is home to the WKY/KTVY/KFOR Archives

June 6, 1949, marks 75 years since WKY became the first television station in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Historical Society's Film and Video Archives contains a photo-journalistic record of the WKY, KTVY, and KFOR film collection spanning nearly 30 years from 1953 to 1979.

Through news footage, documentaries, and television specials, these archives capture a rare audio/visual view of Oklahoma's past. Many digitized films and videos are available to view, with historical content ranging from inaugurations, parades, tornado coverage, and past football games. Archival footage of the Freedom Riders, Tom Mix on horseback, the Dust Bowl, the 101 Ranch, and a partial segment of *The Adventures of 3-D Danny* with Foreman Scotty from 1958 are all available.

KFOR and the Oklahoma Historical Society are proud to make these films available around the clock as an online resource for the public. Visit the WKY Archives on youtube.com/kforarchives.



The WKY Television Mobile Unit, 1948 (2012.201.B2000.0207, OPUCO, OHS).