



The cornerstone laying masonic ceremony, over the the construction of the Noble County Courthouse.

CORNERSTONES OF PROGRESS

It is a pleasure to be writing this note to our members as my second year with the Cherokee Strip Historical Society has concluded. This organization has taught me many things, and along the way I have been supported and guided by board members, employees, and past board members alike. It has become clear to me that the thoughtful effort behind how we continue to put our best foot forward in accomplishing our mission is truly a collective one. With that in mind, I would like to share a few areas where we will be focusing our collective efforts in the year ahead.

If you plan to attend our Annual Meeting in March, you will be receiving more details soon.

First, we will begin the process of reassessing a scholarship fund to be offered to future collegiate students. Next, we will take on the important task of preparing a new five-year strategic plan. We are proud to report that many initiatives outlined in our current strategic plan have been successfully accomplished as it approaches its expiration at the end of 2026.

Behind the scenes, we continue to work diligently on long-term exhibit planning

full property development, and identifying future grant opportunities.

As a loyal member, your voice plays an important role in shaping our direction, and we welcome you to share any common goals or ideas you wish to express. We look forward to developing new goals together while continuing to embrace our enduring mission: to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of the Cherokee Outlet.

Warm Regards,
Madison Flores
Director

Wagon & Buggy Show: Rural Heritage Festival



*Generously sponsored by:
First Bank & Trust, Tractor Supply Co. and Homeland Stores*



Pictured above is Downtown Perry, Southeast corner, on Cedar Street, this image was taken during the early 20's. Photo belongs to the Cherokee Strip Historical Society Franklin Collection archive.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear CSHS members,

Happy New Year to you! This newsletter is full of news about the museum and plans for the coming year. Please come to our Annual Meeting on March 3, 2026 for a full update. You will receive an invitation in the mail with more details. A couple of months ago, Maddie posted a photo on the museum Facebook page of the laying of the cornerstone for the Noble County Courthouse. It generated great interest,

and triggered a wave of nostalgia in me for the happy times I spent in my childhood around the Square. My cousin, Sherri Musick Schieffer, and I would roam the downtown visiting various sites. We would pop into Vawter's Paint Shop and look at the gift items. If we had money, we would stop for a chocolate soda at Foster's Corner Drug. We would peek through the swinging doors at Joe's Smokehouse.

We might go into Shaw's Music Store and check out the latest 45's. Then on to McClellan's 5 & 10 to see what was new on the toy aisle. The day wasn't fully successful, however, until we paid a visit to the Courthouse to ride the elevator. It was my first experience with this marvel and the ride up and down the 3 floors felt like an adventure. Then on to the bandstand to put on a show for an imaginary audience. Such simple times and pleasures! I look forward to seeing all of you in March. There are exciting times ahead of us!

Carol Steichen
CSHS Board President

*Where the past,
meets the present.*

“A Day at Rose Hill School, 1910”

2025 Review

The 2025 Rose Hill Schoolhouse program was another rewarding and successful year. Our schoolmarms continue to be the backbone of the program, consistently receiving positive feedback from parents and teachers for their engaging performances and meaningful educational impact.

In August, we expanded the program to operate Monday through Friday, rather than Tuesday through Friday, allowing more schools to participate after years of waiting lists. This change has resulted in noticeable growth. In 2025, the program welcomed 2,106 scholars, an increase from 2024, and we look forward to continued growth in 2026.

2,106 SCHOLARS



cherokee-strip-museum.org

A special thank you to our valued members

LIFETIME

Dan & Denise Allen, Rose Mary Bezdicek, Karen Bigbee, Bob Bolay, Elise & Mason Bolay, Kay & Howard Bond, April & Kevin Bond, Cindy & John Boone, Marilyn Branen, Bart Brorsen, Alanna Brown, Gloria Brown, Dolly & Lloyd Brown, Paula & Eldon Cinnamon, Earline Cockrum, Ethel & Jerry Cook, Kelly Cunningham & Pete Hudson, Melanie & Gerald Davidson, Cheryl & Bill DeJager, Karen & Gerald Demory, Marvin Dement, Ed Dolezal, Ann Dunagan, Rakhima & Dale Dunivan, Carol & Scott Dvorak, Gwen & Blaine Easter, Jeannie & Sam Ebersole, Jay Eby, Bettye Kay Evans, Mary Lou Foltz, Tom Frailey, Virginia Gengler, Susie & Eric Goldsberry, Lucille Graham, Amy and Charles Hall, Juana Hall, Carrie & Zack Hall, Peggy Haxton, Sherrie Henry, Ann Hight, Dave Hoffman, Heather & Clint Hughes, Loyd Hughes, Mabel Hughes, Marilyn & Ernest Inselman, Norma & Lyle Jerome, Barbara Jirous, Gwen Johnson, Elizabeth Kastl, Ruby & Craig Kemnitz, Denise & Steve Kienholz, Mindy & Kelly Kiser, Janet Klingaman, Becky & Jim Knecht, Clarence Koch, Mary & JD Koch, Deloris Layne, Kathy Lewis, Patty & Dannie Luter, Linda Luthye & Jim Franklin, Rita Park, Lois & David Malget, John Malget, Sandra Malget, Ray Malget, Marjorie Martin, George McGuire, Janet & Robert Mildfelt, Glenda & Dennis Mittasch, Myra Moore, Claudia & Steven Mornhinweg, Nancy & Tom Nelson, Karen Niles, Reta & Ron Norton, Larry Pannell, Robert Park, Melissa & Grady Parmley, Donna & Randy Parrish, Deloris & George

Patak, Charithah Pricer, Linda & Larry Raynes, Megan & Danny Ripley, Darlene Roads, Carla & Rusty Robbins, Cindy & Randy Rupp, Stephanie & Mark Rupp, Gloria & David Sarser, Sherry & Weldon Shieffer, Marilyn & George Seagraves, Janet & Mike Shannon, Kim & Willie Sheets, Diana & Bill Simon, Lorene & Chuck Smith, Sandy & James Soulek, Evelyn & Jimmie Spillman, A.F. Stehno, Carol & Dennis Steichen, Nancy & Rod Stirman, Marilyn & John Stroup, Tanner Beverly, Shirley & Bill Tearney, Dee Ann & Mark Thomas, Carolyn & Dennis Thompson, Hulda & Thomas Trumbula, Sylvia Valuikas, Barbara VanCoevering, Michelle Vann, Marilyn Voise, Jeannie Wade, Myr-Lou Rollins, Marianne & Kirk Ward, Betty & Bill Warner, Rena & Scott Wheatley, Karen Wilcox, Melanie & Dennis Williams, Crystal & Marty Williams, Donna & Harvey Yost, Laural Zavodny, Madison & Ruben Flores, Pip & Claire Sarser, Barbara Seedorf, Debbie & Bruce Donahue, Sasha & Curt Leich, Alice & Ron Dwyer, Shelbi & Stephen Duke, Elfrieda Wagner, Dallas Robbins, Kay McCarthy, Beverly Coldiron, Nancy & John Deken, April Smith, Alan Hall, Karen & John Severe, Kristen & Stephen Cummings, Joy Eby, Maya Boschee, Staci Tressler

ANNUAL

Sharon & Dean Courtright, Tory & Sam Bluntzer, Denise Lovely, Donna Kapka, Marilee Macias

NEW

Lynn Atterberry

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Site Aide/Schoolmarm: Janel Vaughan

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Nancy Deken
Shelly Capehart

Maintenance:
Steve Wheatley

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our generous volunteers, including the Ditch Witch Maintenance crew.

CSHS HIGHLIGHTS



Employee Spotlight

Denise Lovely has been a valued member of the Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School team since 2018, and this August will mark her eighth year with our organization. What began as just a few hours a day as a site aide has grown into a role that now includes many hats—and an impressive range of responsibilities.

On any given day, Denise may be assisting patrons with research inquiries, helping create exhibit layouts, or keeping pace with the busy schedule at the Rose Hill Schoolhouse. By 2024, Denise transitioned into a full-day position, working from open to close and contributing across several areas of the museum. No two days are ever quite the same, and that variety keeps her on the hop!

When asked what she enjoys most about her position, Denise doesn't hesitate: "I love everything about my job." While it's hard for her to narrow it down to just one thing, she especially enjoys the conversations she has with visitors. "I love talking with interesting people who come in—whether they're from in-state or from out of the country. It's always so interesting to talk with them." We are truly fortunate to have Denise as part of our team.

Congratulations, Denise, on eight years with the Cherokee Strip Historical Society—and thank you for all you do to support our mission.

CSHS Annual Meeting

The Cherokee Strip Historical Society will host its Annual Meeting, Meal, and Program on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the First Bank Event Center. You may recall that just a few newsletters ago, the Cherokee Strip Historical Society explored the story of the Oklahoma Rough Riders, featuring an account of an 18-year-old Perry native, Dick Shanafelt, who wrote directly to Theodore Roosevelt requesting the opportunity to join his volunteer cavalry. Shanafelt was soon accepted into the troop, becoming part of one of the most storied military units of the Spanish-American War. That story sparked considerable interest and discussion among our members and readers. This year's program will combine a special emphasis on the Oklahoma Rough Riders troop with an exploration of the regalia and time-period style of warfare associated with President Theodore Roosevelt's volunteer cavalry. The program will be presented by co-speakers Albert Stehno and Jay Eby, both of whom bring extensive knowledge and experience to the subject. Their expertise ranges from historical research and authorship, including the book *Oklahoma Rough Riders*, to first-hand experience participating in a History Channel reenactment focused on the Rough Riders. Through discussion, visual elements, and period materials, the presenters will offer attendees an understanding and informative look into this chapter of American and Oklahoma history.

Non-members of the Cherokee Strip Historical Society are welcome to attend the program. Additional information regarding meal ticket costs will be included with mailed invitation. For more information, please contact the Cherokee Strip Historical Society at 580-336-2405 or by email at director@cherokee-strip-museum.org.

From the Archives

Most artifacts tell a story, and this is especially true of our quilt collection. Vast in size, age, appliqué, and the techniques of their time, these quilts represent purposeful meaning and everyday use. Each piece reflects the hands that made it and the lives it was created to serve. Our newest temporary exhibit, Mother's Sewing Room, brings these stories to life. The exhibit imagines a quiet domestic moment, a mother seated beside her newborn baby, swaddled in a gifted quilt, while she works nearby on her own quilt piece. Featured in this exhibit is the quilt shown below, Made for Baby Elta, created in 1872. Sized for a small child, the quilt is designed with wild roses and displays a combination of detailed needlework and sewing techniques. To see this quilt and learn more about our collection, visit Mother's Sewing Room, on display through June 2026.



Preserving, collecting, and interpreting the history of the Cherokee Outlet

Sponsorships

Your support enables us to continue showcasing captivating exhibits, offering engaging educational programs, and fostering a deeper appreciation for our shared heritage. Together, let's ensure that future generations can explore and cherish the stories that define us. Become a sponsor today and make a lasting impact on our cultural legacy

Levels of Giving

- \$20 - Donor
- \$20-99 - Supporter
- \$100-\$499 - Range Rider
- \$500-\$999 - Cowpoke
- \$1,000-\$4,999 - Stake Claimer
- \$5,000-\$9,999 - Covered Wagon
- \$10,000-\$19,000 - Pioneer
- \$20,000 & Over - Homesteader

The CSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code. You will receive a letter confirming your tax deductible donation.



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Perry, Ok 73077

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Oklahoma Historical Society



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Special thanks to our partnerships and sponsors

October	November	December
<p>Blacksmith Demonstrations Saturday, October 11, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Museum Work Day Sunday, October 12, 2025 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. All members, staff, and community volunteers are requested to lend a hand with projects around the museum. Please email director@cherokee-strip-museum.org or call 580-336-2405 if you are able to help!</p>	<p>Wagon & Buggy Show: A Rural Heritage Festival Saturday, November 8, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Enjoy authentic wagons, buggies, and even a stagecoach on display across the museum grounds. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working chuck wagon with a chili meal and all the fixins' • Live blacksmithing • Petting zoo • Sit on Howdy the Longhorn • “A Day at Rose Hill School, 1910” sessions at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. • crafts, old-fashioned games & more! 	<p>Christmas Tea Sunday, December 7, 2025 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. In conjunction with the Tour of Homes, join us for hot tea and cider, light refreshments, and special live holiday music.</p>