



U.S. Colored Infan  
Port Hudson La July 18

# LONG ROAD TO LIBERTY

OKLAHOMA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE





**THIS GUIDE WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS IN OKLAHOMA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND THE LUMINARY LEADERS BEHIND THEM.**

We'll show you the rich influence Black communities have had, and continue to have, on our history and culture, and the best places to celebrate this living, vibrant heritage. To the right, we've outlined the information you will find in these pages, and the chapters in which it is presented.







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# MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

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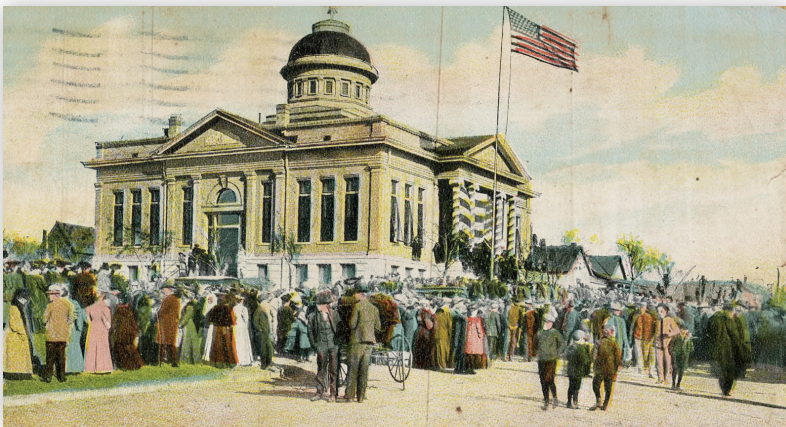
## ▶ BLACK HISTORY IN OKLAHOMA

# MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

**OF THE 125,000 PEOPLE WHO WALKED THE TRAGIC TRAIL OF TEARS BETWEEN 1830 AND 1842,** several thousand were African Americans enslaved by Native Americans. The grueling, and often deadly, journey of more than 1,000 miles from the various areas in the southeastern United States ended in a place known as Indian Territory, or present-day Oklahoma.

Some who survived remained enslaved until treaties were ratified between the United States and the Indian tribes, several years after emancipation. In Indian Territory, freedom was coupled with the prospect of land.

**FINALLY, AFRICAN AMERICANS WERE ABLE TO GIVE ROOT TO THEIR DREAMS IN THE RED DIRT THAT WOULD BECOME AMERICA'S 46TH STATE.**



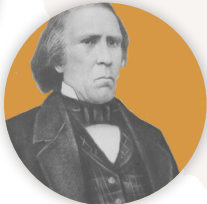


▶ TRAIL OF TEARS

# AN AGONIZING JOURNEY TO OKLAHOMA, 1,200 MILES OVER LAND AND WATER TAKING ONLY WHAT THEY COULD CARRY.



CHEROKEE



CHICKASAW



CHOCTAW



CREEK



SEMINOLE

**THE TRAIL OF TEARS IS A NAME GIVEN TO THE FORCED RELOCATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS FROM SOUTHEASTERN PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830.** The removal included many members of the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations, among others in the United States, from their homelands to Indian Territory in eastern sections of the present-day state of Oklahoma.







▶ **BRAVERY, HONOR, AND MILITARY VALOR:  
TAKING UP ARMS FOR  
THE NATION**



**WITH THE CIVIL WAR STILL RAGING, MANY FREED BLACKS JOINED FORCES WITH THE UNION ARMY IN INDIAN TERRITORY** as they did in the existing states. Seven months after emancipation, in July of 1863, African American, Native American, and Caucasian soldiers fought side by side for one of the first times in history at the Battle of Honey Springs. The largest Civil War engagement to take place in Indian Territory, the Union triumph at Honey Springs changed the tide of the war, marking the end of Confederate dominance in the West.

**MOREOVER, AFRICAN AMERICANS MADE ONE OF THEIR FIRST UNEQUIVOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED STATES HISTORY AS FREE CITIZENS, RIGHT HERE IN OKLAHOMA.**








▶ **SEPARATE SOCIETIES AND THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE:  
BLACK TOWNSHIPS**

**DESPITE THE FALL OF SLAVERY, AND THE BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE OF THE BLACK MEN WHO WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS "BUFFALO SOLDIERS," RACISM PERSISTED.** With the availability of cheap land in Indian Territory, enterprising Blacks escaped repression by creating their own communities apart from whites. As these prospered, Black leaders successfully recruited freedmen from former slave states by advertising a "promised land" of business, wealth, and safety.

Between 1865 and 1920, African Americans founded more than 50 Black settlements in Oklahoma, more than any other state. Although the townships declined precipitously after the Great Depression, 13 of these remarkable pieces of living history survived, and can be visited today. Find out where in the  **GO. SEE. DO** foldout section on page 60.



## ▶ THE WILD WEST, CIVIL RIGHTS AND CULTURAL ICONS

**BY THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR, OKLAHOMA'S EMERGING BLACK COWBOY CULTURE WAS TRANSFORMING THE OLD WEST.**

The legendary United States deputy marshal, Bass Reeves, became one of the most feared lawmen in Indian Territory, and claimed to have arrested more than 3,000 outlaws during his 32 years as a federal peace keeper. Bulldogging or steer wrestling, now a standard rodeo event, was invented by African American cowboy, Bill Pickett.

**WITH THIS KIND OF HERITAGE, IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, TOO, BLACKS PRODUCED INFLUENTIAL LEADERS.**

One was Roscoe Dunjee, editor of Oklahoma City's first Black newspaper from 1915 to 1954; another was Clara Luper, one of Oklahoma's most prominent anti-segregationists. In the arts, the state was no less fertile: author Ralph Ellison and jazz greats Charlie Christian and Jimmy Rushing all hail from here.



*Bass Reeves*



*Bill Pickett*



*Roscoe Dunjee*



*Clara Luper*



*Ralph Ellison*



*Charlie Christian*



*Jimmy Rushing*





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**AFRICAN AMERICANS  
HELPED SETTLE ONE OF  
AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIERS,  
AND BUILT LANDMARKS, TOWNS, AND A  
LUSH CULTURAL LEGACY THAT IS WOVEN  
INTO THE FABRIC OF OKLAHOMA.**

**COME WITH US ON A JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE STRUGGLE AND TRIUMPH  
THAT IS THEIR STORY, AND DISCOVER  
THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS  
THAT CARRY IT FORWARD.**









# FINDING THE FRONTIER

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## ► CIVILIZED TRIBES

# FINDING THE FRONTIER

**FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THE 1830 INDIAN REMOVAL ACT**, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole tribes were forcibly driven from their homelands in the southeastern United States over the course of the next two decades, traveling hundreds of miles on foot to reach Indian Territory. These Five Civilized Tribes, as they came to be known, were agricultural societies, and between them brought at least 3,000 enslaved Blacks on the treacherous journey to present-day Oklahoma. The infamous Cherokee Trail of Tears claimed the lives of an estimated 4,000 people, many of whom succumbed to the wind, ice, and freezing temperatures during the harsh winter of 1838-1839.

**NOT ALL BLACKS ARRIVING IN OKLAHOMA, HOWEVER, WERE ENSLAVED.**









Hon. J. R. Poinsett, Secretary of War,  
Washington City, July 6th, 1838

On the 24th of March, I detached Halatoochee, Justenuck-cocha-conce, and the negro chief Abraham, to General Taylor. They were sent out with messages to the Seminoles west of the Okechobee and Pahai-okee; and prevailed upon Alligator, with thirty and sixty Indians and negroes, of whom a hundred were... Colonel Smith and General Taylor..

The chiefs, Coc-Hayo, Justenuck-cocho-conce, and many others, have declared that the Cherokee deputations were to remain in the country; and that I was carrying the president's information received through the... This accords with the... and the negro Auguste, in February.

From the time I commenced operations on the 5th of September, 1837, the number of Indians and negroes... of the army, was equal to... about four hundred...

If our operations have fallen short of... which no other army... command, were not only... into an unex... them...





## ▶ THE BLACK SEMINOLES

# A PEOPLE UNCONQUERABLE

**WORKING ON RICE PLANTATIONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA, A PEOPLE KNOWN AS THE GULLAH MANAGED TO PRESERVE MUCH OF THEIR WEST AFRICAN CULTURE AND TRADITIONS.** With their cultural identity intact, some of these enslaved Africans escaped to Spanish-owned Florida and established free settlements there.

Florida in the eighteenth century was a wild and untamed wilderness frontier, and the Spanish gave refuge to escaped Gullahs and renegade Indians to keep a hostile buffer zone between the United States and their territories farther south. These Florida Gullahs lived side by side with refugee Seminoles, sharing customs and antipathy for American settlers and slave owners. Called “Indian Negroes” by whites of that period, modern historians refer to this subgroup of Gullahs as “Black Seminoles.”

After two campaigns in the early 1800s to claim Florida, the United States Army finally prevailed. The second Seminole War, from 1835 to 1842, cost the United States 1,500 soldiers, and spurred one congressman to remark that the Black guerillas were “contending against the whole military power of the United States.” The military recognized that delivering Black Seminoles—a people well-acquainted with freedom as well as guerilla warfare— to be enslaved on southern plantations would be folly.

**INSTEAD, IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR FREEDOM, MORE THAN 500 AGREED TO MOVE TO INDIAN TERRITORY WITH THEIR SEMINOLE NEIGHBORS.**



## ▶ STAKING THEIR CLAIM: **BLACK EIGHTY-NINERS**

**THE NEW TERRITORY DID NOT LONG REMAIN A SAFE REFUGE FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AND FORMER ENSLAVED BLACKS.** Ceding to pressure from “Boomers,” on March 23, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison amended the Homestead Act of 1862, opening Indian Territory for settlement. One month later, on April 22, approximately 50,000 settlers lined up for the Oklahoma Land Run. Among those hoping to claim their piece of the new frontier and earn the moniker “eighty-niner” were African Americans.

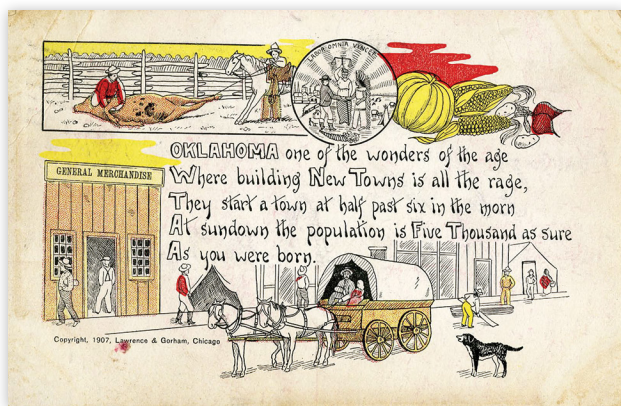
**ALTHOUGH THEY WERE FORCED TO THE BACK OF THE CROWDS, CLAIMING ONLY WHAT THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS DID NOT, MANY BLACKS BUILT HOMESTEADS ON THE NEW FRONTIER.**



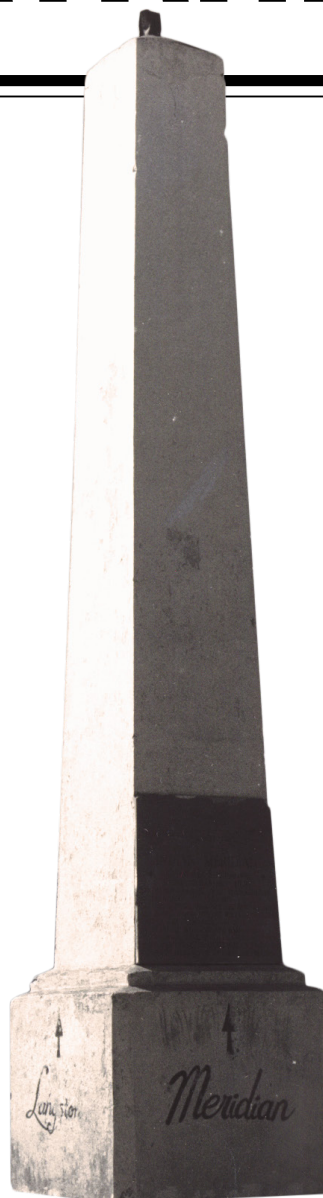


# EXTRA, EXTRA!

**OKLAHOMA'S 50 PLUS BLACK TOWNSHIPS, SOME OF WHICH, LIKE LANGSTON, WERE DIRECT RESULTS OF THE LAND RUNS, SERVED AS BEACONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS SEEKING A SECURE, FREE FUTURE.** Through advertising, promotions, and word of mouth, these exclusively All-Black settlements attracted freedmen and women from across the young nation to cash in on the promise of true emancipation. Read more about these historic hamlets, beginning on page 43.



*The Indian Meridian obelisk stands in the middle of a Langston intersection. It marks the Ozark trail, which settlers traveled more than 100 years ago, and is the point in Oklahoma from which all distances are measured.*





# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TOWNSHIPS, MUSEUMS AND EVENTS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

## ► THE SEMINOLE NATION MUSEUM

THE SEMINOLE NATION MUSEUM CHRONICLES THE STORY OF THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE INDIAN TERRITORY home of the Seminoles since its creation following the Civil War. Within its nearly 4,000 square feet of exhibit space, research library, arts and crafts center and art gallery, visitors can discover the social, cultural, economic and education heritage of these early day pioneers.

Peruse a comprehensive collection of all published work on Seminole freedmen at the Seminole Nation Museum's research library, where photographs and maps of original land allotments are also kept on record.

**524 S. Wewoka Ave.  
Wewoka, OK 74884  
(405) 257-5580  
[seminolenationmuseum.org](http://seminolenationmuseum.org)**





► **OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER**

**SEE THE PAST COME TO LIFE AT THE OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER**, a 215,000 square-foot learning center offering a self-guided exploration of Oklahoma's rich and adventurous history. Located on 18 acres across from the Capitol building, the History Center features Smithsonian-quality exhibits, more than 200 hands-on interactives and 2000 artifacts, as well as exterior exhibits and a ¼ mile Red River Journey walking tour.

Discover the extraordinary journey of Oklahoma's African American citizens in the newly-renovated Kerr-McGee Gallery Exhibit, *Realizing the Dream*. Highlighting the inspiring individuals, places, and artifacts significant to African American history in Oklahoma, it is a comprehensive and insightful journey into Oklahoma's formative history.

**800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 522-0765  
okhistory.org**

► **OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER**

**LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE HISTORY CENTER IS THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER**, the state's preeminent research facility for genealogy studies. Open to the public, the OHS Research Center houses an extensive collection of records, including birth, death and marriage indexes, published volumes and microfilm,

census records, over 2,000 rare and unpublished family histories, and the oldest, largest and most complete collection of newspapers in the state. Trained research staff and computers are available onsite to assist visitors at no charge.

**(405) 522-5225  
okhistory.org/research/index**











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# MILITARY METTLE

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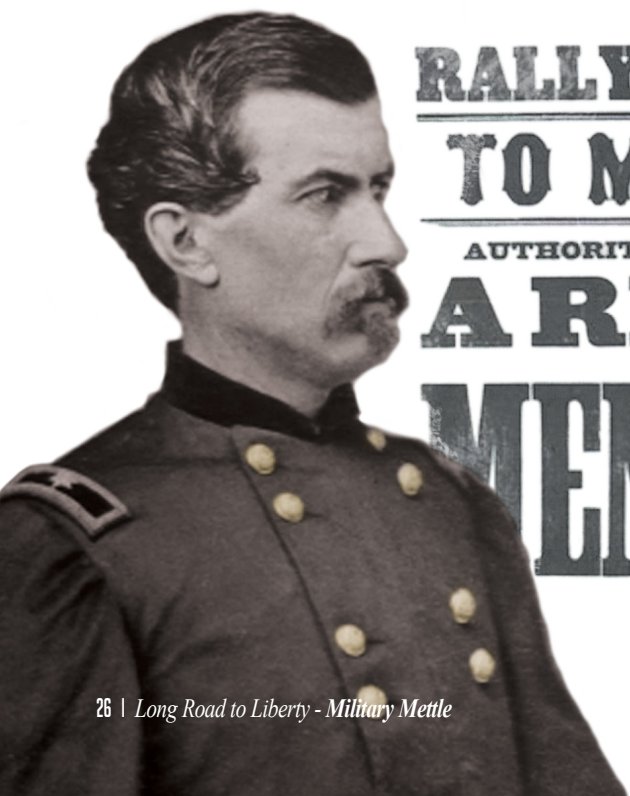


# ▶ MILITARY METTLE

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 17, 1863, APPROXIMATELY 9,000 SOLDIERS GATHERED AT HONEY SPRINGS, NEAR RENTIESVILLE, in what would be the bloodiest Civil War battle fought in Indian Territory. History would also remember them for another reason. The majority of the men who fought that day—for both the North and the South—were either African American or Native American.

The year before, in October of 1862, the abolitionist Senator James Lane called upon freedmen and escaped Blacks from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to form the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry, the first Black regiment in the Union Army.

**IN ITS FIRST BATTLE ON OCTOBER 29, THE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT PROVED ITS METTLE BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT: 225 BLACK SOLDIERS DEFEATED 500 CONFEDERATES AT THE BATTLE AT ISLAND MOUND IN BATES COUNTY, MISSOURI.**



**RALLY! RALLY! RALLY!**  
**TO MEN OF COLOR!**

**AUTHORITY HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO RAISE**  
**A REGIMENT**  
**OF**  
**MEN OF COLOR**







# ▶ TRUE GRIT

**THE FOLLOWING SUMMER, ON THAT RAINY JULY DAY AT HONEY SPRINGS, THE BLACK INFANTRY AGAIN DISPLAYED EXTRAORDINARY GRIT AND COURAGE WHEN 3,000 UNION SOLDIERS FACED TWICE AS MANY CONFEDERATES.** The commanding officer of the First Kansas unit, Colonel James M. Williams, received orders to capture the four-gun Confederate artillery battery supporting the Twentieth and Twenty-Ninth Texas Cavalry Regiments. Although Black soldiers could expect no quarter if captured by Confederates, the First Kansas fixed their bayonets and marched forward in formation as gun smoke filled the air above the battleground.

The battle raged back and forth until one ill-fated move. The Confederates approached within 25 paces of the Union Army and were met with the deadly accuracy of the First Kansas's firepower. The Southern forces retreated to the bridge over Elk Creek, but the Union Army pursued and brought them to their knees.

**THE BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS WAS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR THE UNION, TURNING THE TIDE DECIDEDLY IN THEIR FAVOR IN INDIAN TERRITORY.**

But it also marked one of the first times in the Civil War that white soldiers fought together with minorities. The color of their skin didn't matter; everyone bled red, and "colored" fighters were critical in bringing an end to organized Confederate military activity in the region.









# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TOWNSHIPS, MUSEUMS AND EVENTS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

## ► HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

EXPLORE AFRICAN AMERICANS' ROLE IN THE BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS, THE LARGEST OF THE 107 DOCUMENTED HOSTILE ENCOUNTERS OF THE CIVIL WAR THAT OCCURRED IN INDIAN TERRITORY. Today, the well-preserved 1,100-acre Oklahoma Civil War battle site includes six walking trails with 55 interpretive signs. See where Black soldiers rallied at the Union Army's camp area and battle lines, walk the once-bloodied ground by Elk Creek bridge, and see the site of the final action that earned these men their badges of courage. Re-enactments of the battle offer an exciting portal into the past and take place every odd-numbered year.

A \$2 MILLION, 6,000 SQUARE-FOOT VISITORS' CENTER at the battle site features exhibits that tell the story of the battle.

**1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Rd.  
Checotah, OK 74426  
(918) 473-5572  
[okhistory.org/sites/honeysprings](http://okhistory.org/sites/honeysprings)**















# GUARDIANS OF THE FRONTIER

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▢ **GO. SEE. DO** ..... 38







# ▶ GUARDIANS OF THE FRONTIER

**THE MILITARY INVOLVEMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS CONTINUED AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, WHEN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FORMED THE ALL-BLACK NINTH AND TENTH CAVALRIES AND TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRIES.** During the latter half of the nineteenth century, 10 percent of the Army's forces in the West, including Oklahoma, were made up of these "buffalo soldiers," so-named by the Plains Indians for their dark skin and the fierceness of their fight. In many western commands, African American soldiers made up more than half of the available military forces.

Buffalo soldiers served in some of the most inhospitable terrain, receiving assignments no one else in the Army wanted. Often thanked with little more than prejudice and resentment, these Black regiments laid hundreds of miles of telegraph lines, escorted stagecoaches, protected railroad workers, mapped uncharted territory, and held outlaws, rustlers, Boomers, Mexican revolutionaries, and Indians at bay. In Oklahoma, they performed many of these duties from Fort Cobb, Arbuckle, Sill, Reno, Gibson, and Supply.

**THE PROTECTION AFFORDED BY BUFFALO SOLDIERS WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST, AND THE BRAVERY OF MANY WAS ULTIMATELY RECOGNIZED. ALL TOLD, 18 BLACK SOLDIERS EARNED THE MEDAL OF HONOR—THE UNITED STATES MILITARY'S HIGHEST DISTINCTION—FOR THEIR SERVICE IN THE INDIAN WARS, AND ANOTHER FIVE EARNED THE DECORATION FOR THEIR VALOR DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.**

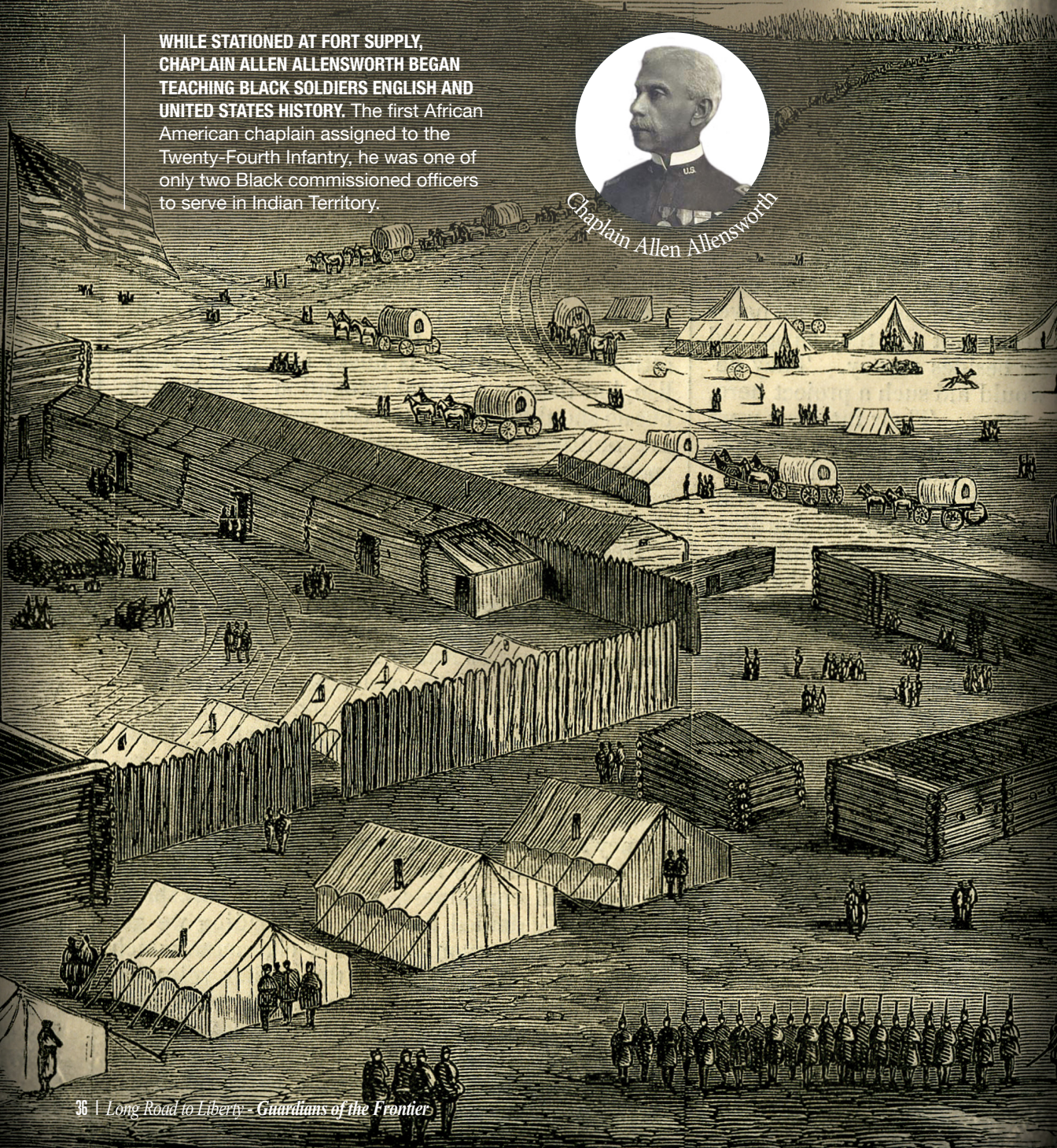


# ▶ PROMINENT PEOPLE

**WHILE STATIONED AT FORT SUPPLY, CHAPLAIN ALLEN ALLENSWORTH BEGAN TEACHING BLACK SOLDIERS ENGLISH AND UNITED STATES HISTORY.** The first African American chaplain assigned to the Twenty-Fourth Infantry, he was one of only two Black commissioned officers to serve in Indian Territory.



*Chaplain Allen Allensworth*





## SECOND LIEUTENANT

# ► HENRY OSSIAN FLIPPER

The second was Henry O. Flipper, a man of mixed Caucasian, African American, and Cherokee descent who nonetheless was recognized as the first Black graduate and first Black officer of West Point.

Flipper was assigned to the Tenth Cavalry stationed at Fort Sill, where he suffered a severe attack of malaria. By redesigning the fort's drainage system to eliminate stagnant water, Flipper eradicated the parasite that causes malaria. "Flipper's Ditch" also helped control flooding and erosion, and was used by Fort Sill and the surrounding community for almost a century.





# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TOWNSHIPS, MUSEUMS AND EVENTS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

## ► FORT SILL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK & MUSEUM

A 19TH CENTURY FRONTIER ARMY POST FEATURING 142 ACRES IN THE HISTORIC LANDMARK AREA, 38 buildings with 144,514 square feet of exhibit and storage space, and a collection of 235,000 historic objects.

Learn more about the renowned buffalo soldiers stationed at Fort Sill in the 1870s with a walk through the special exhibit established in their honor.

**435 Quanah Rd.  
Fort Sill, OK 73503  
(580) 442-5123  
sill-www.army.mil/museum**



## ► BUFFALO SOLDIER STATUE, "ANSWERING THE CALL"

VISIT THE 9-FOOT, 800-POUND BRONZE STATUE HONORING THE HERITAGE, HISTORY, AND BRAVE SERVICE OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS who served in the frontier Army. Sculpted by Dr. Gary Gardner and on display in the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Plaza in downtown Lawton, the statue features a Buffalo Soldier with a rifle in hand, ready to saddle up for a mission.

**Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Plaza  
16 N.W. 2nd St.  
Lawton, OK 73507**

## ► FORT GIBSON HISTORIC SITE & INTERPRETIVE CENTER

ESTABLISHED IN 1824, FORT GIBSON WAS THE FIRST ARMY POST BUILT IN INDIAN TERRITORY, created to serve military expeditions exploring the west as well as peacekeeping efforts among regional tribes. Reactivated as an army post during the Civil War, Buffalo soldiers served at Fort Gibson from 1867 to 1869 and again from 1872 to 1873, when the post became the headquarters of the All-Black Tenth Cavalry.

Today, visitors can explore the onsite Fort Gibson Historic Site and Interpretive Center, which encompasses 80 acres with 29 historic buildings and archaeological ruins, as well as enjoy living history events throughout the year.

**907 N. Garrison Ave.  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434  
(918) 478-4088  
okhistory.org/sites/fortgibson**



► **HISTORIC FORT RENO**

**EL RENO'S HISTORIC FORT RENO WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1874 TO PROTECT THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES.** The site has more than 25 historically significant buildings and several exhibits and displays. Visitors can also see the Post Cemetery, the final resting place of many brave buffalo soldiers and Indian scouts. Historic re-enactors bring these and other characters of the Old West to life.

Visitors can also enjoy the monthly Ghosts of Fort Reno Tour where museum guides share by lantern light stories of the unsolved mysteries, urban legends, murderous tales, and restless spirits said to still inhabit the old fort.

**7107 W. Cheyenne St.  
El Reno, OK 73036  
(405) 262-3987  
fortreno.org**



► **FORT SUPPLY HISTORIC SITE**

**ESTABLISHED AS CAMP SUPPLY IN 1868, THE BASE SERVED AS GENERAL PHILIP SHERIDAN'S WINTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOSTILE INDIAN TRIBES** as well as a source of protection for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservations and travelers. During the famous Battle of Camp Supply, the garrison was joined by troops from the buffalo soldier All-Black Tenth Cavalry, making the fort a unique resource in Oklahoma's African American history.

Visit the Fort Supply Historic Site to enjoy living history events and programs, frontier architecture, a replica stockade, and five restored buildings from the military period.

**1 William S. Key Blvd.  
Fort Supply, OK 73841  
(580) 766-3767  
okhistory.org/sites/fortsupply**











# WINNING THE WEST

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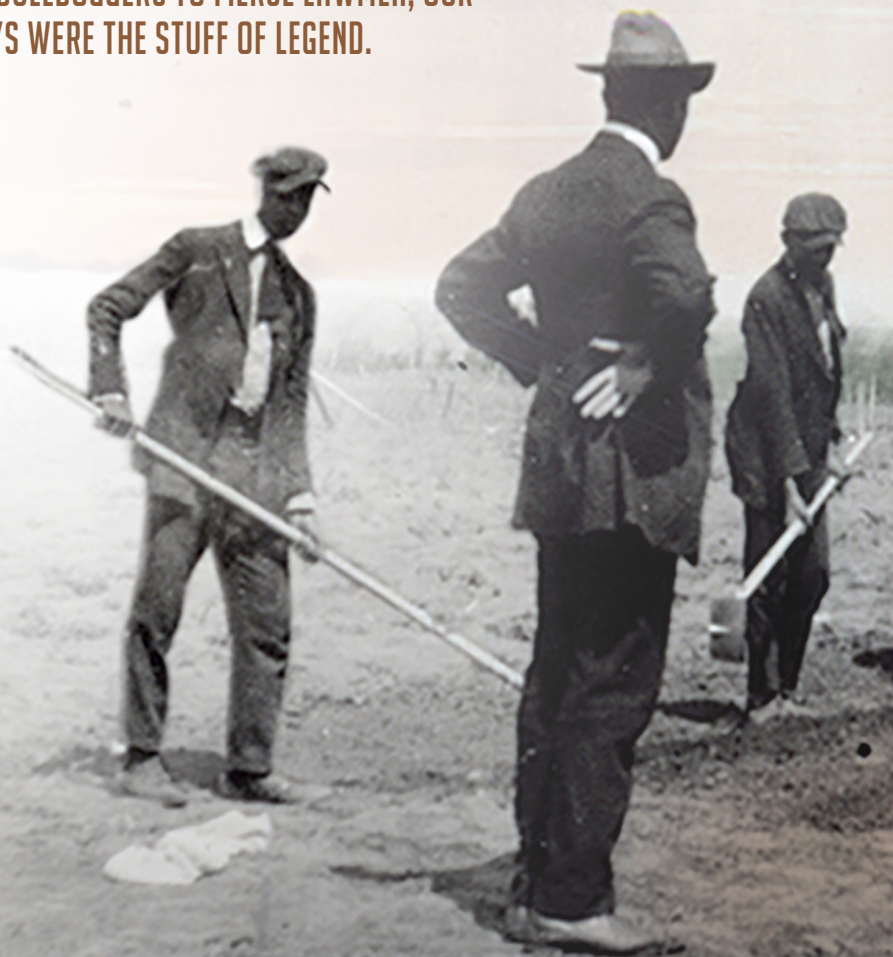
# ▶ WINNING THE WEST

**AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, INDIAN TERRITORY WAS UNTAMED COUNTRY WHERE FEARLESS OUTLAWS, SETTLERS, AND LAWMEN MADE NAMES FOR THEMSELVES.**

The country swooned as accounts of their swagger spread through word of mouth, Wild West shows, and newspapers.

Farming and ranching were booming business in this Territory crisscrossed with cattle trails, and African Americans owned more land here than anywhere else in the country. Becoming cowhands and merchants, bankers and bandits, they were as much a part of Western culture as any other pioneer.

**FROM FAMOUS BULLDOGGERS TO FIERCE LAWMEN, OUR BLACK COWBOYS WERE THE STUFF OF LEGEND.**









# ▶ BASS REEVES: CELEBRITY DEPUTY

*THREE OUTLAWS CROUCHED IN THE DUSTY HEAT TO WAIT FOR THEIR LONE PURSUER. THE INFAMOUS MURDERING, THIEVING, AND RAPING BRUNTER BROTHERS WERE AMONG INDIAN TERRITORY'S NASTIEST BAD GUYS.*

*Deputy US Marshal Bass Reeves, a Black man, tracked the three fugitives until they came face to face. The brothers pulled their revolvers and rifles, but Reeves stood his ground. He cut an imposing figure - more than six feet tall and solid, with a brass star on his breast that told everyone he upheld the law.*

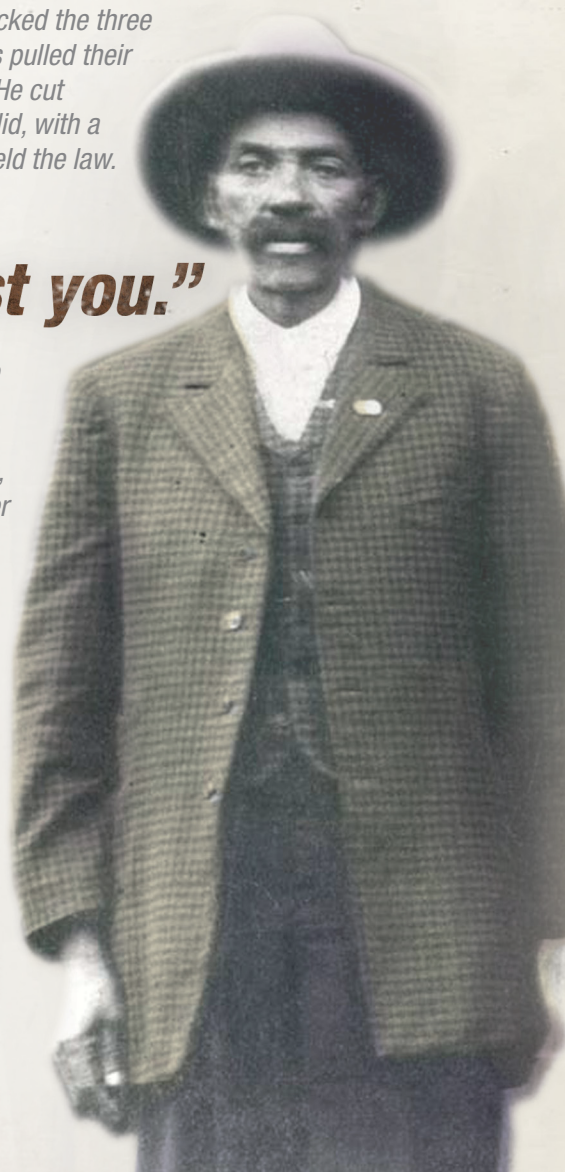
*As legend has it, Reeves said simply,*

***“I’ve come to arrest you.”***

*The Brunters laughed. One brother reached for the folded warrant Reeves tendered.*

*As the brothers’ eyes dropped to read their crimes, Reeves plucked up his .45 caliber Colt Peacemaker and popped off two shots, dropping as many men. Still clutching the warrant, the eldest Brunter fumbled for his gun. Reeves pistol-whipped him unconscious.*

*Reeves had taken out three of the Wild West’s most wanted men in less than a minute.*





**BASS REEVES WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN ARKANSAS IN 1838, BUT DURING THE CIVIL WAR ESCAPED TO INDIAN TERRITORY WHERE HE LIVED AMONG THE TRIBES,** learning to track animals, live off the land, and speak several Native American languages. He once quipped that he knew the Territory “like a cook knows her kitchen.”

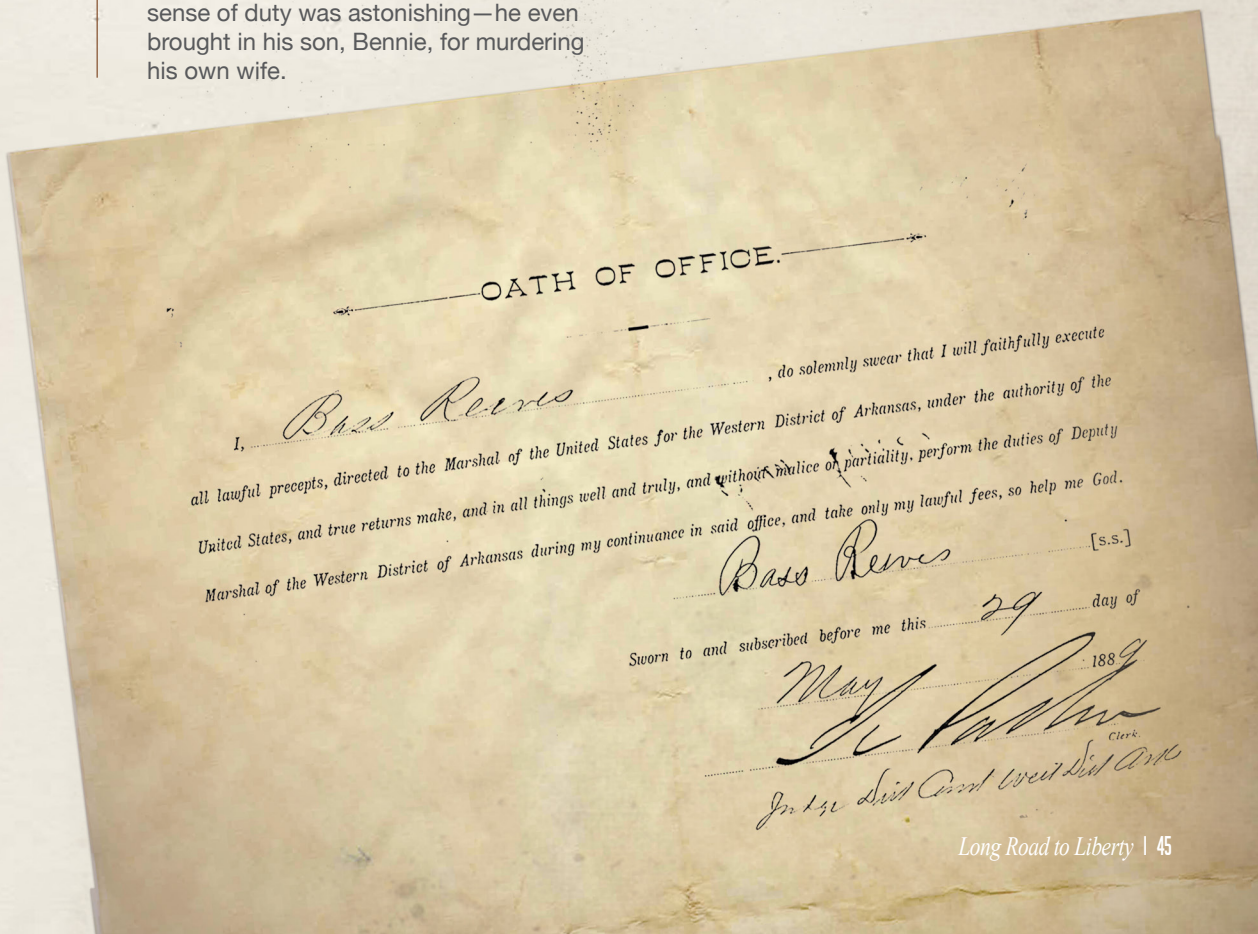
After the war, Reeves returned to Arkansas as a farmer. Word of his expertise brought him to the attention of Judge Isaac C. Parker, whom President Grant had charged with cleaning up the violent and lawless region adjacent. Indian Territory was treacherous—more than 120 federal peacekeepers would die in service there. In 1875, Judge Parker enlisted Reeves, and nearly 200 other deputy US marshals, to execute the president’s orders.

An illiterate man, Reeves memorized his lists of crimes and criminals. In 32 years on the job with more than 3,000 arrests, he never once apprehended the wrong person. His sense of duty was astonishing—he even brought in his son, Bennie, for murdering his own wife.

Reeves was a genuine tough guy, backed up by a 6-foot 2-inch, 180-pound frame. In one trip, he singlehandedly captured 17 prisoners, and over his career killed 14 men in shootouts—more than Doc Holliday or Wyatt Earp—without a wound or conviction of bribery or unlawful use of force. Reeves is said to be the inspiration for the main characters of *The Lone Ranger*, *True Grit*, and *Django Unchained*.

After Oklahoma’s statehood, the 69-year-old Reeves joined the Muskogee Police Department. Three years later, in January 1910, he succumbed to kidney disease.

**ALTHOUGH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WERE SAID TO HAVE ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL, NO RECORD EXISTS OF HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE.**



OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Bass Reeves, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute all lawful precepts, directed to the Marshal of the United States for the Western District of Arkansas, under the authority of the United States, and true returns make, and in all things well and truly, and without malice or partiality, perform the duties of Deputy Marshal of the Western District of Arkansas during my continuance in said office, and take only my lawful fees, so help me God.

Bass Reeves [s.s.]  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of

May 1889  
J. C. Parker  
Clerk  
Jr. 1st Dist Court West Dist Ark



# A BLOODTHIRSTY MAD DOG

# ▶ CHEROKEE BILL

**BORN IN FORT CONCHO, TEXAS, IN 1876, CRAWFORD GOLDSBY'S PARENTS WERE OF MIXED, BUT PRIMARILY BLACK, DESCENT: HIS FATHER WAS A BUFFALO SOLDIER IN THE TENTH CAVALRY, AND HIS MOTHER A CHEROKEE FREEDMAN.** They separated when Goldsby was a boy, and he moved to the Territory with a sister as a teenager.

Goldsby made his foray into violence at age 18 when he shot a man twice after a scuffle at a dance. Although the wounds weren't fatal, the episode propelled Goldsby into a life of crime. That summer in 1894, he joined up with the Cook Gang and together, the bandits robbed trains, banks, and stagecoaches from Claremore to Coffeyville, Kansas, gunning down anyone in their path. Goldsby, now known as "Cherokee Bill," murdered as many as 13 people. One was his own brother-in-law, who made the mistake of bickering with Bill over some hogs.

Cherokee Bill's spree was cut short when authorities set a hefty \$1,300

bounty on his head for the murder of an innocent bystander during a November robbery. He was captured January 30, 1895, and brought before the same man who'd hired Bass Reeves 20 years before—"Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker. Parker would sentence 160 people to death during his tenure.

**CALLING HIM A "BLOODTHIRSTY MAD DOG WHO KILLED FOR THE LOVE OF KILLING" AND THE "MOST VICIOUS" OUTLAW OF THE TERRITORY,**

Judge Parker sentenced Cherokee Bill to death by hanging. True to Parker's assessment, Bill managed one final murder from the confines of his cell in July, shooting a prison guard during an attempted escape. On March 17, 1896, the 20-year-old was led to the gallows at Fort Smith. As the story goes, Cherokee Bill's last words to the crowd were as coldhearted as his string of crimes.

***"I came here to die,  
not to make a speech."***



# WANTED

FOR MURDER



CRAWFORD "CHEROKEE BILL" GOLDSBY  
**\$1,300 REWARD**

Wanted for numerous murders, train robberies, and bank robberies.  
Known to run with the Cook Gang and other outlaws of the Nations.

Contact U.S. Marshal, Oklahoma Territory



AS COWBOY AS THEY COME

# ▶ BILL PICKETT

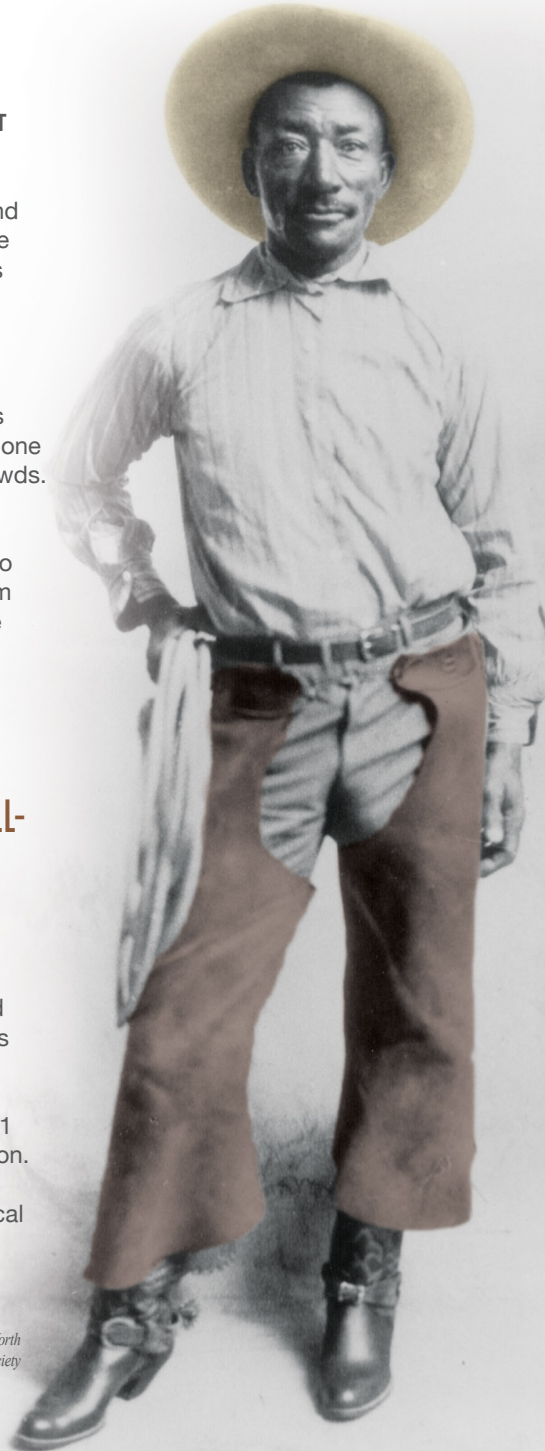
**BORN OF BLACK AND INDIAN DESCENT, WILLIAM “BILL” PICKETT ROSE TO NATIONAL RENOWN SOUTH OF PONCA CITY AT THE MILLER BROTHERS’ 101 RANCH WILD WEST SHOW.** Featuring reenactments of Indian skirmishes, shooting displays, and races, Wild West shows celebrated the conquering of the frontier with patriotic fervor, capturing the awe of settlers and easterners alike. Pickett performed as the “Dusky Demon” in the rodeo portion of the show the entire time it ran, from 1905 to 1931.

Off season, Pickett kept his skills sharp at rodeos across the West, where he showed off his signature move—the one that got him the job with the Miller Brothers—for the crowds. Pickett grew up a cowboy, watching dogs herd cattle by nipping the steers in the mouth. By all accounts, he was the first man to imitate the canine tactic. The precursor to today’s steer wrestling, “bulldogging” meant leaping from a horse onto the head of a steer, twisting its horns to the ground, and biting its lips or nose to subdue it.

**PICKETT IS ALSO CREDITED WITH BEING THE FIRST BLACK COWBOY MOVIE STAR, APPEARING IN THE SILENT FILMS CRIMSON SKULL (1921) AND THE BULL-DOGGER (1922), BOTH OF WHICH WERE SHOT IN OKLAHOMA BY A BLACK PRODUCTION COMPANY.**

Pickett died in 1932 after being kicked in the head by a horse at the 101 Ranch. Famous Western stars mourned his loss, and Oklahoman social commentator Will Rogers announced Pickett’s funeral on his national radio show.

Like so many other enterprises across the nation, the 101 Ranch crumbled under the weight of the Great Depression. Its demise marked the end of a wild attraction that had toured Europe, Russia, and Latin America, and which local newspapers deemed “Oklahoma’s best publicity organ.”



*Photo by North Fort Worth  
Historical Society*

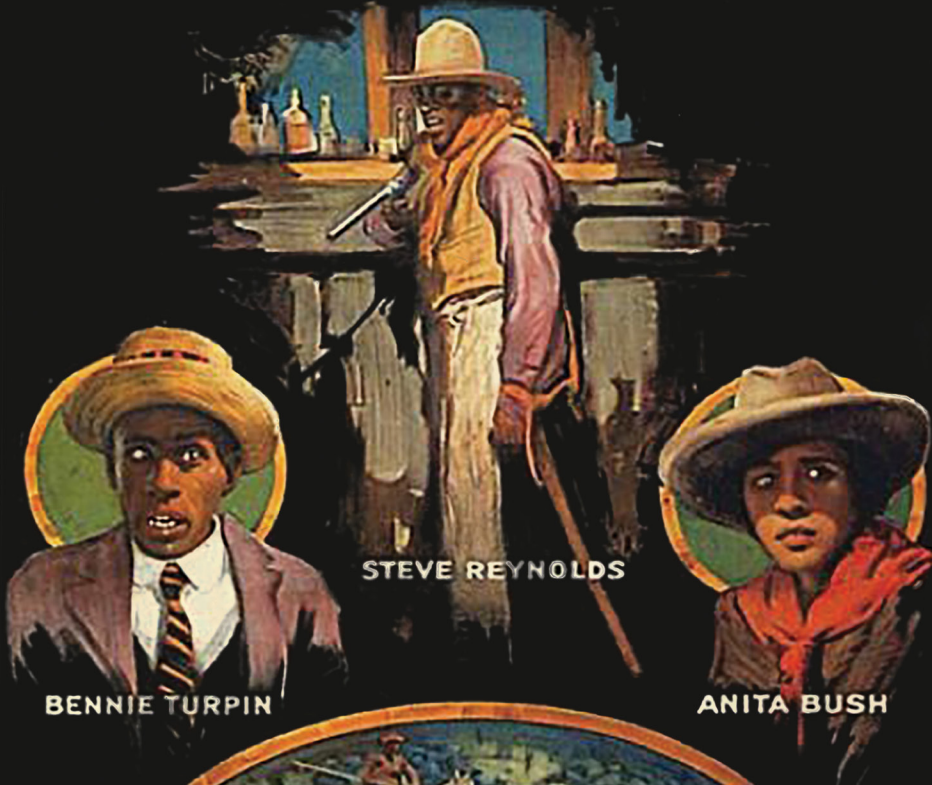


THE NORMAN FILM MFG. CO.  
PRESENTS

# BILL PICKETT

World's Colored Champion

# THE BULL-DOGGER



BENNIE TURPIN

STEVE REYNOLDS

ANITA BUSH



BILL PICKETT FIGHTING A WILD MEXICAN BULL  
Death Defying Feats of Courage and Skill  
**THRILLS ! LAUGHS TOO !**

D istributed by NORMAN FILM MFG. CO. Jacksonville, Fla.



Long Road to Liberty | 49



# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TOWNSHIPS, MUSEUMS AND EVENTS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

## ► THREE RIVERS MUSEUM

VISIT THE THREE RIVERS MUSEUM TO EXPLORE THE MULTI-ETHNIC HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER IN THE THREE RIVERS AREA OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA. Located in the restored Midland Valley Depot in Muskogee, visitors can tour an African American one-room schoolhouse where classes were held from 1916-1950, a 1940s-era diesel switch engine, and numerous exhibits throughout the museum.

Plan your trip in July and see the story of Bass Reeves come to life on the annual Bass Reeves Legacy Lawmen and Outlaw Day. Walk his beat through the streets of downtown Muskogee while re-enactors tell the story of how he protected the American West for three decades, chasing murderers, thieves and whiskey smugglers.

**220 Elgin  
Muskogee, OK 74401  
(918) 686-6624  
3riversmuseum.com**

## ► WILLIAM "BILL" PICKETT'S GRAVESITE – MONUMENT HILL

TAKE A TRIP TO PONCA CITY TO SEE THE BURIAL SITE OF THE FAMOUS WILLIAM "BILL" PICKETT – LEGENDARY COWBOY, RODEO STAR AND WILD WEST SHOW PERFORMER. The first African American cowboy to be inducted into the National Cowboy & Rodeo Hall of Fame, Pickett tragically lost his life in 1932 after being kicked in the head by a wild bronco during a rodeo. His headstone is beside the graves of the Miller Brothers at the Cowboy Hill Cemetery, but he is buried near the 14-foot White Eagle Monument just north of Marland.

**Bill Pickett's Grave Site  
White Eagle Monument  
Marland, OK 74644**







► **NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM**

**SPEND AN AFTERNOON AT THE NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM FOR ALL THINGS COWBOY AND WESTERN.**

Home of the Rodeo Hall of Fame, Hall of Great Western Performers, the Western Heritage Awards and the Prix de West, to name a few, the museum is America's premier institution for Western history, art and culture. During your visit, be sure to seek out the life-sized African American cavalry bugler frozen in full gallop in the Joe Grandee Museum of the West Frontier Gallery.

**1700 N.E. 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
(405) 478-2250  
[nationalcowboymuseum.org](http://nationalcowboymuseum.org)**









# OKLAHOMA'S BLACK TOWNS

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# THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE ▶ **BLACK TOWNSHIPS**

*“TO OUR COLORED FRIENDS  
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES,  
WE SEND YOU GREETING. THE INDIAN  
TERRITORY AND OKLAHOMA ARE NOW  
A NEW STATE. THOUSANDS OF OUR  
NATIVE PEOPLE ARE LAND HOLDERS,  
AND HAVE THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF  
RICH LANDS TO RENT AND LEASE. WE  
PREFER TO RENT AND TO LEASE OUR  
LANDS TO COLORED PEOPLE. OUR  
TERMS WILL BE FOUND REASONABLE  
... YOU ARE INVITED TO COME AND  
SHARE AND ENJOY OUR LANDS AND  
OUR PROSPERITY IN THE NEW STATE  
OF OKLAHOMA.”*

*(The Muskogee Cimeter, Nov. 15, 1907)*

The day before Oklahoma achieved statehood, this advertisement in Muskogee’s Black newspaper trumpeted excitement and hope. Indeed, African Americans created more settlements here than in any other state, with more than 50 All-Black towns and settlements founded within Oklahoma’s present borders between 1865 and 1920. These prosperous farming communities cultivated thriving

businesses, schools, churches, newspapers and colleges, free from the discrimination and abuse found in mixed communities.

**BY 1905, AFRICAN AMERICAN FARMERS IN OKLAHOMA OWNED ABOUT 1.5 MILLION ACRES VALUED AT \$11 MILLION, MORE LAND THAN WAS OWNED IN TOTAL BY AFRICAN AMERICANS ACROSS THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES.**

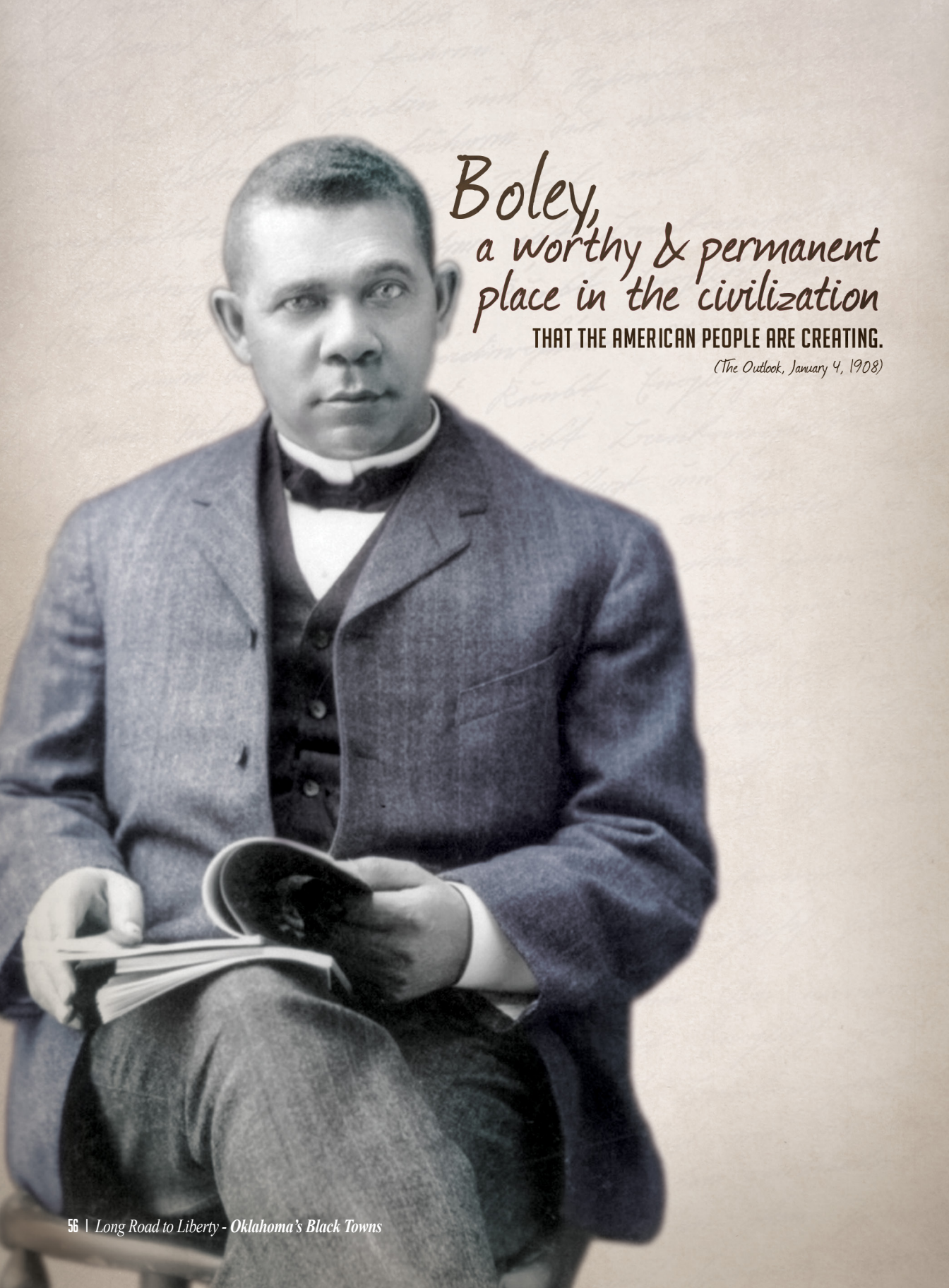
In the 1920s and ‘30s, however, the land turned to dust and spelled doom for communities all across the lower Plains. Oklahoma’s black towns were no exception.

The Great Depression drove most of them to extinction, but the few that survived are an ongoing tribute to the freedom and economic strides that African Americans made here at the turn of the century.









*Boley,*  
*a worthy & permanent*  
*place in the civilization*  
**THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CREATING.**

*(The Outlook, January 4, 1908)*



# ▶ BOLEY

## A SOCIAL SUCCESS

**RENOWNED AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATOR AND FOUNDER OF THE TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, VISITED BOLEY IN 1905.**

Published in one of New York's top weekly newspapers, his essay "Boley: A Negro Town in the West," brims with the anticipation and excitement such towns inspired.

Curiously, Boley was the brainchild of two white men seeking to demonstrate that African Americans were capable of self-government. Railroad officials Lake Moore and J. B. Boley determined that to prove their hypothesis, a Black town should be established along the Fort Smith and Western Railroads.

In 1905, Boley was incorporated on 160 acres of land and a Black man, T. M. Haynes, advertised the new town all over the southwest as a place governed exclusively by African Americans.

**MOORE AND BOLEY'S SOCIAL EXPERIMENT SUCCEEDED SO ADMIRABLY THAT AFTER HIS VISIT, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON CALLED THE SETTLEMENT "THE MOST ENTERPRISING, AND IN MANY WAYS, THE MOST INTERESTING OF THE NEGRO TOWNS IN THE UNITED STATES."**

Boley's population reached 1,334 by 1910, and a decade later, dozens of businesses had been established. The first Black-owned bank to receive a national charter, which enabled it to operate on the same level as white banks, was founded in the township during this period, as well as the first Black-owned telephone and electric companies.





# ▶ RENTIESVILLE

## A BLUES BEACON

**RENTIESVILLE WAS FOUNDED IN 1903 BY WILLIAM RENTIE, A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER AND LAWYER OF MIXED MUSCOGEE (CREEK) AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN DESCENT, WHO ALSO SERVED IN THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) LEGISLATURE.**

With his legal background, Rentie understood land policies after the Dawes Commission began breaking up tribal lands, allotting 160 acres to both freedmen and tribal members. As such, he became one of the leaders of the Black town movement, placing notices in newspapers to promote the plan to provide African Americans a place to prosper, like this 1907 ad in *The Muskogee Cimeter*:

*[RENTIESVILLE IS] THE PICK OF THE TERRITORY. NO TOWN TO COMPARE WITH IT THAT IS BEING PROMOTED FOR COLORED PEOPLE. IT'S YOURS, AN IDEAL LOCATION ON THE MAIN LINE OF THE M. K. & T. RAILWAY, THE BEST RAILWAY SERVICE IN THE SOUTH WEST; NO BETTER SITE ANYWHERE, AND BACKED BY A SECTION RICH [IN] INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES.*

Formed within the borders of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Rentiesville became an oasis for freed Blacks and mixed races to blossom in business, music and culture. In the years following its

founding, Rentiesville grew to include a post office, railway passenger stop, two churches, and a school house.

As the town grew and word spread, more people of African descent moved to Rentiesville. Black attorney B.C. Franklin was one of those who made Rentiesville his home after leaving what he considered racist attitudes in Ardmore. Franklin's wife gave birth to a son, who would become Dr. John Hope Franklin, the premier African American historian of the twentieth century.

From his grandmother's grocery, where locals congregated to listen to music, sip on corn liquor, dance, and talk, D.C. Minner created the Down Home Blues Club, now host to one of the largest blues festivals in Oklahoma.

**IN 1989, THE MINNERS STARTED THE BLUES IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM THROUGH THE OKLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL, AND D.C. WAS INDUCTED INTO THE OKLAHOMA JAZZ HALL OF FAME AND THE OKLAHOMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC, EDUCATION, AND BLUES HISTORY.**





TULSA UNION DEPOT







# ▶ LANGSTON

## A LASTING LEGACY IN EDUCATION

**LANGSTON OPENED FOR SETTLEMENT ON APRIL 22, 1890, AND WAS NAMED AFTER JOHN MERCER LANGSTON, THE FIRST BLACK VIRGINIAN TO SERVE IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

The town was founded by a Black man and former Kansas state auditor, Edward P. McCabe, and Charles W. Robbins, a white land speculator. The men were ardent supporters of bringing African American migrants to Oklahoma Territory, and McCabe took on the role as Langston's chief promoter. He sought out African Americans who were financially self-sufficient, attracting 251 settlers in Langston's first year.

Several grocery stores, feed stores, blacksmith shops, and saloons soon followed, and a newspaper edited by McCabe, the *Langston City Herald*, touted the town's blessings: "Here the negro can rest from mob law, and here he can be secure from every ill of the Southern policies." Within two years of its founding, Langston had 25 businesses, from ice cream parlors to lending institutions.

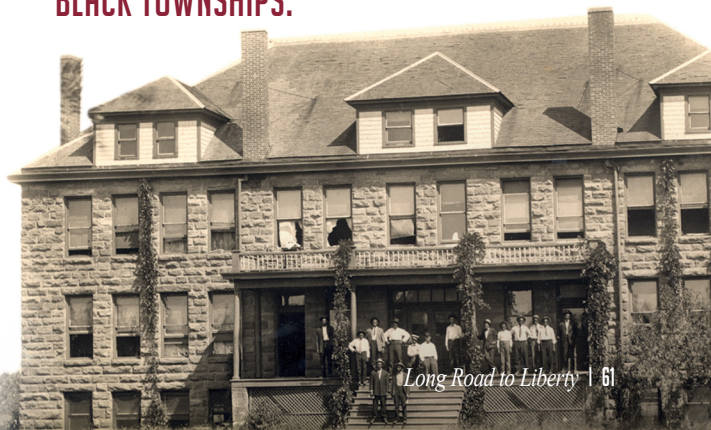
Leveraging the second Morrill Act of 1890, which required states to either admit Black students to land-grant colleges established under the first Act or to provide separate but equal agricultural education, the townspeople of Langston lobbied for an educational institution for Black

men and women. In 1897, the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal College was established.

By 1915, attendance at what would later be called Langston University ballooned to 639 students. Activity at the school stabilized Langston's economy during the Great Depression, a time when many of Oklahoma's nascent townships, Black or otherwise, were crushed.

Langston University alumna include civil rights activist Clara Luper; Ada Lois Fisher, the first Black student accepted to the University of Oklahoma school of law; and Marques Haynes, a basketball player with The Harlem Globetrotters.

**NOW OPEN TO STUDENTS OF ALL ETHNICITIES, THE UNIVERSITY'S MORE THAN 1,700 STUDENTS SWELL LANGSTON'S POPULATION TO APPROXIMATELY 3,400 PEOPLE, MAKING IT THE LARGEST OF OKLAHOMA'S REMAINING BLACK TOWNSHIPS.**





# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TOWNSHIPS, MUSEUMS AND EVENTS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

OF THE 50+ ALL-BLACK TOWNSHIPS ESTABLISHED IN OKLAHOMA THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY, ONLY 13 REMAIN IN EXISTENCE TODAY. For detailed information about each town, past and present, visit the Oklahoma History Center's online exhibit, All-Black Towns of Oklahoma, at [okhistory.org](http://okhistory.org)

## ► BOLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

BOLEY, THE LARGEST AND MOST WELL KNOWN OF THE ALL-BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN OKLAHOMA, is a must-visit opportunity to explore Oklahoma's rich African American history. While you're there, be sure to check out the following events and attractions:

Inaugurated in 1903 and held every Memorial Day weekend, the **Boley Rodeo and BBQ Festival** is a time-honored tradition in Boley. The opening BBQ Cook-Off and parade gives

way to the excitement of live rodeo action like bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, a pony express, barrel racing, bull riding, and mutton bustin.'

**Main Street & Rodeo Grounds**  
Boley, OK 74829  
(918) 667-3612

Now abandoned, the **Farmers & Merchants Bank** was the scene of a robbery and violent shootout at the hands of members of Pretty Boy Floyd's gang in 1932. The bank's president D. J. Turner, was shot and killed, as were the robbers. Visitors can peer through the windows of this building to see the ornate fixtures of the once-prosperous bank, and imagine how the classic gangster scene played out.

**2nd Ave. and Pecan St.**  
Boley, OK 74829





The **Boley Historical Museum** is a rich repository of artifacts related to the town's history. View a diorama of the attempted robbery of Farmers & Merchants Bank and be sure to check out the wall of newspaper articles detailing the small town's crowning moments – everything from the visit by comedian Flip Wilson of 1970s television fame to Boley's first police car.

**10 W Grant St.  
Boley, OK 74829  
(918) 667-9790, By Appointment Only**

► **LANGSTON UNIVERSITY**

**THE ONLY HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE**

**IN OKLAHOMA**, Langston University welcomes visitors throughout the year. While you're in town, be sure to visit the following attractions:

The **Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center**, dedicated to the American Modernist poet, educator, columnist, politician and former Langston University professor, houses over 7,000 volumes of work, several Black newspapers and periodicals, and numerous African artifacts. The center is also the national repository for the National Association for the Study and Performance of African and African American Music.

**Langston University, Sanford Hall  
Langston, OK 73050  
(405) 466-3346**

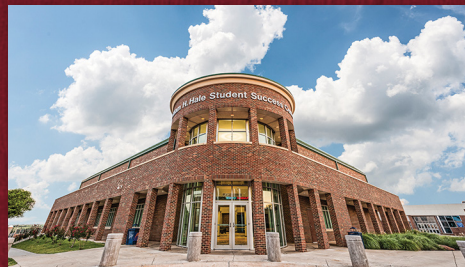
The **Beulah Land Cemetery** is the final resting place for Civil War soldiers,



★ **BLACK TOWNSHIPS STILL INCORPORATED TODAY.**

formerly enslaved African Americans, and the founders of Langston who helped establish it as one of the earliest All-Black Townships.

**St. Hwy. 33  
Langston, OK 73050  
(405) 466-2271**











# LONG ROAD TO LIBERTY

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# THE LONG ROAD TO LIBERTY

**BEGINNING IN THE 1870S AND CONTINUING WELL INTO THE 1960S, MANY STATES, INCLUDING OKLAHOMA,** operated under the racial caste system held in place by what were known as Jim Crow laws. Passed at the state and local level, and effectively condoned by the federal government, these measures guaranteed white dominance across all social and civil spheres through “separate but equal” segregation. Common etiquette during this period forbid African Americans from publicly demonstrating affection towards each other, commenting on the appearance of a white female, or displaying any sign of disrespect towards a white person. White motorists were even given the right of way at intersections.

## REACHING CRITICAL MASS

**IN 1954, JIM CROW SUFFERED ITS FIRST MAJOR DEFEAT WITH THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CASE BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION,** which ruled segregation in public schools unconstitutional. A year later, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and in 1960, a week of lunch counter sit-ins across Greensboro, North Carolina, culminated in approximately 1,400 students joining the protest.







Freedom-Now!

Freedom-Now!



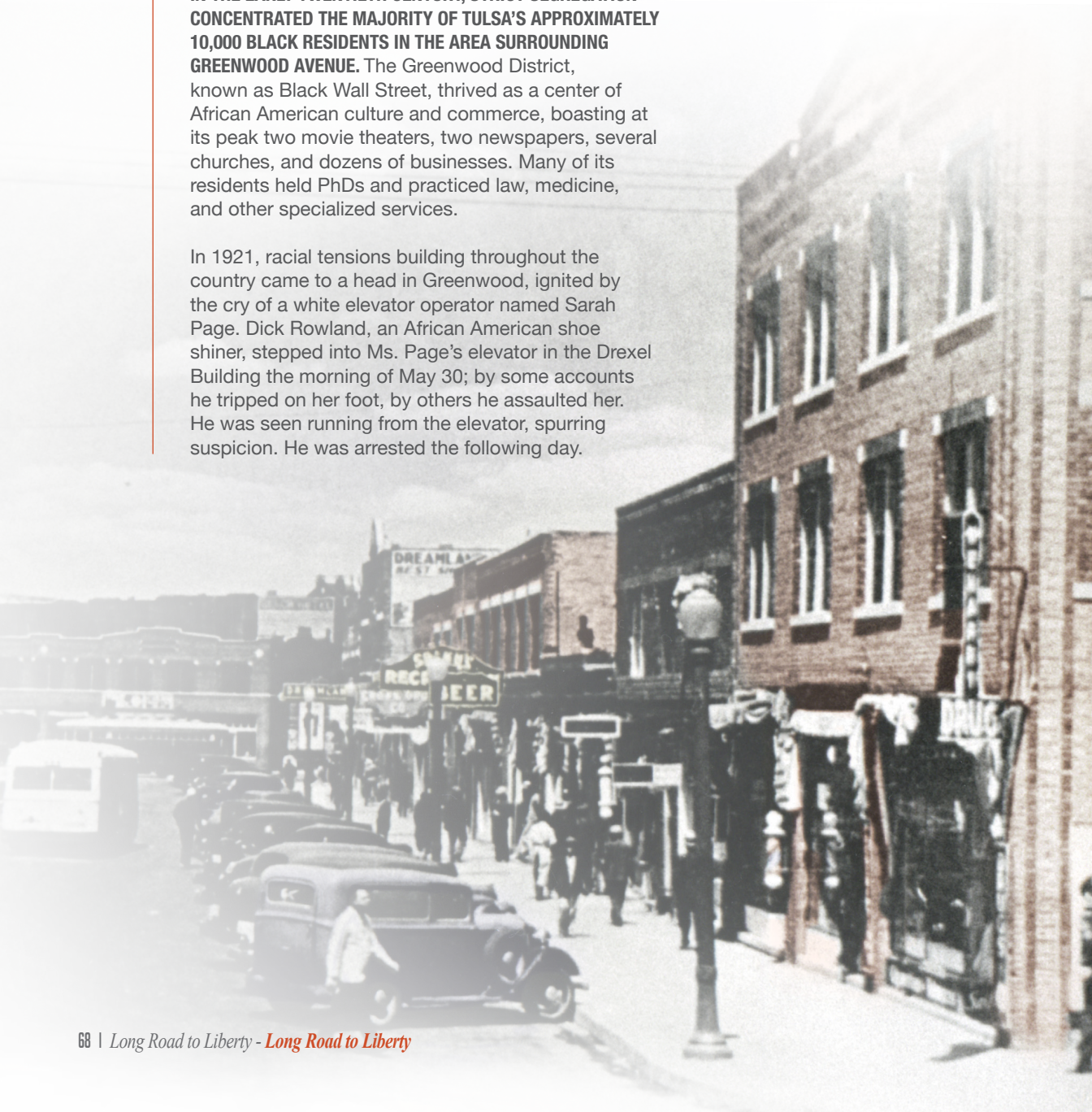
# ▶ GREENWOOD

## TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

**IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, STRICT SEGREGATION CONCENTRATED THE MAJORITY OF TULSA'S APPROXIMATELY 10,000 BLACK RESIDENTS IN THE AREA SURROUNDING GREENWOOD AVENUE.**

The Greenwood District, known as Black Wall Street, thrived as a center of African American culture and commerce, boasting at its peak two movie theaters, two newspapers, several churches, and dozens of businesses. Many of its residents held PhDs and practiced law, medicine, and other specialized services.

In 1921, racial tensions building throughout the country came to a head in Greenwood, ignited by the cry of a white elevator operator named Sarah Page. Dick Rowland, an African American shoe shiner, stepped into Ms. Page's elevator in the Drexel Building the morning of May 30; by some accounts he tripped on her foot, by others he assaulted her. He was seen running from the elevator, spurring suspicion. He was arrested the following day.





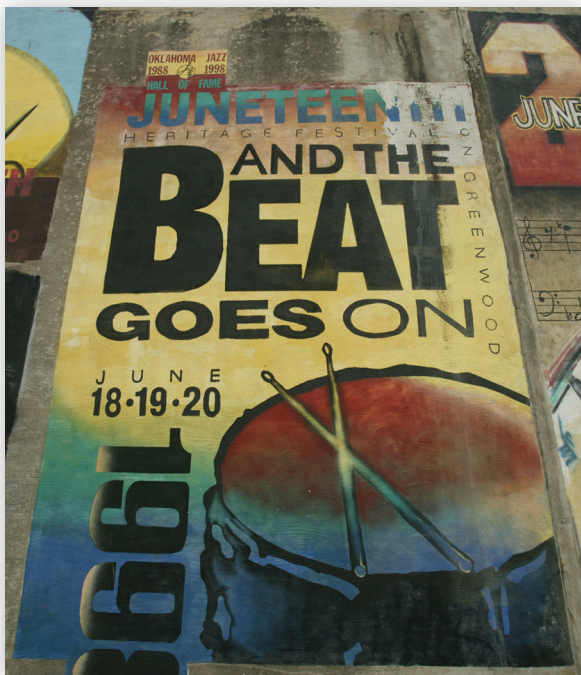
The daily *Tulsa Tribune* newspaper fanned the flames, reporting the incident as an attempted rape and calling for a lynching in an editorial. Hundreds of white men gathered outside the courthouse where Rowland was held, and several dozen African American men, many of whom were WWI veterans, rushed to protect Rowland from the mob. There was a scuffle, and a shot was fired. One of the worst race riots in United States history erupted.

Tulsa police deputized members of the lynch mob. Veterans of the Great War drew battle lines, digging trenches through residential streets. Homes were looted, businesses were burned, and drive-by shootings reported. By the time martial law was declared the morning of June 1, Greenwood's approximately 40 square blocks were little more than ashes and rubble. As many as 300 people were killed; thousands of residents lived in tents through the following winter.

The people of Greenwood showed remarkable resilience in the face of ruin.

## **BY 1926, THE DISTRICT HAD BECOME A HUB FOR JAZZ AND BLUES, AND BY 1941, 600 BUSINESSES WERE OPERATING.**

When segregation eased in the 1950s, opening the rest of Tulsa to African Americans, Greenwood's central role in the Black community declined. A recent resurgence and cooperative efforts with the adjacent Tulsa Arts District are bringing attention to this historic area, and its people, once again.



**IN 2021, TULSA WILL OBSERVE THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THIS TRAGIC EVENT. VISIT [TULSA2021.ORG](https://tulsa2021.org) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND EVENTS THAT ARE BEING PLANNED BY THE 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE AND INFORM.**



PATIENT, PERSISTENT AND PEACEFUL

# CLARA LUPER

**MANY BLACK LEADERS IN OKLAHOMA FUELED THE NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. A HISTORY TEACHER AT OKLAHOMA CITY'S DUNJEE HIGH SCHOOL, CLARA LUPER, LED ONE OF THE FIRST SIT-INS IN THE NATION AND WAS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE NAACP FOR HER GROUNDBREAKING ADVOCACY EFFORTS.**

In August 1958, Luper and a dozen members of the NAACP youth council took seats at the counter of Katz Drug Store, formerly at the corner of Main and Robinson Streets, and ordered Coca-Colas.

“People that had known us for years began to curse us,” Luper recalled. “They called the police. Policemen came from all directions, but we were just sitting at the counter.”

**LUPER AND HER STUDENTS WERE DENIED SERVICE, BUT THEY SAT PATIENTLY UNTIL CLOSING, AND RETURNED EVERY SATURDAY FOR WEEKS.**

Ultimately, the Katz chain relented, opening its lunch counters to Blacks in 38 stores across four states. The success galvanized the local NAACP, which launched a six-year campaign of sit-ins that opened nearly every eating

establishment in Oklahoma's capital to Black patrons.

The achievement carried personal significance for Luper, who wrote that her father had not once eaten a meal in a decent restaurant. “I remembered how he used to tell us that someday he would take us to dinner and to parks and zoos,” she recalled in her book, *Behold the Walls*. “And when I asked him when was someday, he would always say, ‘Someday will be real soon,’ as tears ran down his cheeks.”

In 2005, the stretch of Northeast Twenty-Third Street between the State Capitol and the historically African American neighborhoods of northeast Oklahoma City was designated the Clara Luper Corridor.







POWERFUL, PERSUASIVE AND PASSIONATE

# ▶ ROSCOE DUNJEE

**CLARA LUPER HELPED BRING ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF SEGREGATION, BUT MANY YEARS BEFORE, ROSCOE DUNJEE - FOR WHOM THE HIGH SCHOOL WHERE LUPER TAUGHT WAS NAMED - FOUGHT AGAINST ITS VERY ESTABLISHMENT.**

A largely self-taught man with little more than an elementary education, Dunjee founded Oklahoma City's first Black newspaper in 1915, the weekly *Black Dispatch*. He exacted high journalistic standards from his reporters, many of whom he trained in the trade.

At the time, an oil-boom economy was affording Oklahoma City's Black population the means to leave poorer areas for more desirable, and primarily white, neighborhoods. Increasing integration heightened racial friction. Dunjee's candor and calls to action via the *Black Dispatch* quickly established him as an influential activist.

Boldly urging Blacks to take up homes outside "Negro residential areas," Dunjee paid bail for at least two residents who were arrested repeatedly for moving into their own homes. Together, their tenacity reached the courts, which ruled in favor of the African American homeowners.

Dunjee was as resolute in his criticism of his own people as he was of discrimination perpetuated by whites, marshaling them to resist oppression. In a 1917 editorial titled, "The Jolt We Need; Oklahoma City Negroes Asleep While Race Passes Thru [sic] Most Crucial Moment Of Citizenship," Dunjee lambastes their lack of solidarity: "... there is just about one chance in one million that you could gather ten Negroes together out of the eight thousand now in Oklahoma City who would really understand one another."

Through the *Black Dispatch*, which had a circulation of 26,000 at its height, Dunjee sustained a dialogue concerning equality and civil rights, influencing and projecting the African American voice.

**AN AUDACIOUS CRUSADER AHEAD OF HIS TIME, HIS FERVOR AGAIN REACHED THE COURTS IN 1948, WHEN HE THREW HIS WEIGHT BEHIND A YOUNG WOMAN DETERMINED TO OVERTURN SEGREGATION IN OKLAHOMA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM.**







ADA LOIS

# ▶ SIPUEL FISHER

**WHEN LANGSTON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ADA LOIS SIPUEL (LATER FISHER) APPLIED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA'S LAW SCHOOL IN 1946, SHE WAS PREPARED FOR A FIRST-HAND LESSON IN**

**LITIGATION.** Not only were African Americans prohibited from attending Oklahoma's white universities, even sitting next to them was a misdemeanor: white students attending a class with a Black student could be fined \$20 a day.

Backed by *Black Dispatch* editor Roscoe Dunjee and the NAACP, Fisher applied to OU and was denied on the basis of race. With Thurgood Marshall, the man who would become the first African American United States Supreme Court Justice, as her legal counsel, Fisher filed a lawsuit demanding Oklahoma provide her access to pursue her legal degree. In 1948, the United States Supreme Court ruled in her favor.

Rather than admitting Fisher to OU, the state legislature created in five days a separate law school, Langston University School of Law, exclusively for Fisher in the State Capitol Senate Rooms. She and Marshall returned to the courtroom, this time challenging the entire premise that a separate education was an equal education. After another set of appeals, the state declined to present their argument to the same nine justices at the United States Supreme Court who'd already supported Fisher, and ceded victory. Her admittance to OU in June 1949 paved the way for 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which Marshall successfully argued for integration in schools across the country.

**FORTY-THREE YEARS LATER, FISHER'S TRIUMPH CAME FULL CIRCLE. SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THE VERY GOVERNING BODY THAT ATTEMPTED TO BAN HER FROM THE SCHOOL, THE OU BOARD OF REGENTS.**





RECORD  
STATE OF ALABAMA  
COURT HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY  
No. 17

STATE OF ALABAMA  
COURT HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY



# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TOWNSHIPS, MUSEUMS AND EVENTS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

## ► THE GREENWOOD DISTRICT

DUBBED AMERICA'S "BLACK WALL STREET" BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, the 35-block Greenwood District was a prosperous center for Black commerce in the early 1900s. Enjoy a tour of this historic area, including the following must-see attractions. And while you're ambling along Greenwood Avenue, be sure to look down often to find sidewalk plaques demarcating former businesses, places of interest, and the people who owned them.

The **Greenwood Cultural Center** opened in 1995 as a tribute to Greenwood's history and a symbol of hope for the community. Today, visitors can enjoy the museum and African American art gallery, as well as year-round education and cultural events dedicated to preserving African American history.

**322 N. Greenwood Ave.**  
**Tulsa, OK 74120**  
**(918) 596-1020**  
[greenwoodculturalcenter.com](http://greenwoodculturalcenter.com)

Named for the preeminent scholar and African American historian, **John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park** radiates from a 27-foot bronze sculpture at its center. The **Tower of Reconciliation** depicts Oklahoma's Black history from slavery to the rebuilding of Greenwood after the Tulsa Race Riots of 1921.

**321 N. Detroit Ave.**  
**Tulsa, OK 74103**  
**(918) 295-5009**  
[jhcenter.org](http://jhcenter.org)

In 1926, Sam and Lucy Mackey built a two-story home that encouraged other Greenwood residents to rebuild in the aftermath of the riot. The **Mabel B. Little Heritage House** is the only 1920s home built in Greenwood that can be visited today, and its original furnishings give visitors a glimpse into the lifestyle of some African Americans prior to and following the riot.

**322 N. Greenwood Ave.**  
**Tulsa, OK 74120**  
**(918) 596-1020**  
[greenwoodculturalcenter.com](http://greenwoodculturalcenter.com)





# FETEENTH FESTIVAL











# TWO DEEP: HEART & SOUL

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# ▶ TWO DEEP: HEART & SOUL TAKE ROOT

**AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC, LITERATURE, AND CUISINE COURSE THROUGH OKLAHOMA'S BLOOD.** That pulse throbbed in All-Black Townships across the state, Tulsa's Greenwood District, and an intimate enclave in Oklahoma City.

As with Tulsa's Greenwood District, racism and segregation ruled most of Oklahoma City off-limits to its Black denizens. They clustered around Northeast Second Street, which became known as Deep Second, or Deep Deuce. By the 1940s, the district was a hot spot for night life, attracting jazz and blues musicians from across the South and producing home-grown greats like Charlie Christian and Jimmy Rushing.

Activist editor Roscoe Dunjee headquartered his newspaper, *Black Dispatch*, in the Deuce, and the Jewel Theatre on Northeast Fourth Street gave segregation-era Blacks access to feature films.

**NOVELIST RALPH ELLISON GREW UP IN THE DISTRICT, AND WORKED HIS FIRST JOB AS A SODA JERK AT THE LOCAL DRUG STORE.**

After the Civil Rights movement, the area fell into decline as opportunities opened up for African Americans in other parts of the city. In the late 1980s, much of the sector's historic architecture was demolished to make way for Interstate 235, but several remaining structures invite a stroll through this historic seat.

## ▶ FOOD FOR THE SOUL

**DURING SLAVERY, BLACK LABORERS ATE CUTS OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, AND EVEN WEEDS PASSED OVER BY PLANTATION OWNERS.** From these paltry ingredients evolved a cuisine revered for its hearty sustenance, whose name bears the character of the people who created it: soul food.













# ▶ CAPTAINS OF CULTURE

**EXCLUDED FROM CIVICS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, AFRICAN AMERICANS DEPENDED ON MUSIC TO KEEP THEIR HISTORICAL RECORD.** Toward the end of the nineteenth century, a sound that came to be known as the blues grew from field hollers and work songs of the deep South, and spread across the nation.

**“BLUES IS THE FOUNDATION OF VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR AMERICAN MUSIC FORM BORN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, INCLUDING JAZZ, RHYTHM AND BLUES, ROCK AND ROLL, AND HIP HOP,” WRITE HISTORIANS AT PBS’S BLUES CLASSROOM.**

Early jazz, almost an instrumental variant to the vocal improvisations that characterized blues, grew its roots from the same soil – Black communities in the Mississippi Delta. Two musicians who cut their teeth in Deep Deuce’s jazz and blues scene would have a profound impact on both.









HEART OF BLUES & VOICE OF JAZZ

# JIMMY RUSHING

**BORN AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY IN OKLAHOMA CITY, BLUES SHOUTER AND JAZZ SINGER JAMES ANDREW RUSHING WAS RAISED IN A FAMILY OF MUSICIANS.** Although his father, trumpeter Andrew Rushing, pressured him to learn the violin, the more popular appeal of the piano proved irresistible. However, it was Rushing's voice that caught the attention of legendary big band leader William "Count" Basie of the Count Basie Orchestra, who heard Rushing performing in the night clubs of Deep Deuce.

"In 1929, we picked up a blues singer in Oklahoma City," Basie later recounted. "That was Jimmy Rushing, who for my money has never had an equal when it comes to the blues."

Rushing was nicknamed "Mr. Five by Five" by a 1942 R&B hit of the same name, which playfully illustrated the singer's portly figure: "He don't measure no more from head to toe than he do from side to side."

The voice that bellowed from Rushing's big frame was a key to his early success. In the days before singers were provided with microphones, blues "shouters" did exactly that. "You had to have good pair of lungs—strong—to reach out over the band and the people in those big dance halls," Rushing said.

**THOSE HALLS HEARD RUSHING SING THAT BIG BAND, OR SWING JAZZ, STYLE WITH THE COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA FOR 15 YEARS, UNTIL HE WENT SOLO IN 1950.**

The year after the release of his final album, "The You and Me That Used to Be," Rushing lost a struggle with leukemia. He died on June 8, 1972, and was buried in Queens, New York.







A REVOLUTIONARY TALENT

# ▶ CHARLIE CHRISTIAN

**BORN IN 1916, GUITAR LEGEND CHARLIE CHRISTIAN MOVED TO DEEP DEUCE AS A SMALL CHILD, WHERE HE AND HIS BROTHERS SANG AND DANCED ON THE STREETS OF NEARBY WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR MONEY.**

Between these humble beginnings and his untimely death at 25 years old, Christian would change the face of music forever.

Author Ralph Ellison remembers Christian's early infatuation with the guitar from their days together at Douglass High School. "[He] would amuse and amaze us at school with his first guitar—one that he made from a cigar box—he would be playing his own riffs," Ellison wrote. "But they were based on sophisticated chords and progressions that [blues performer] Blind Lemon Jefferson never knew."

Before Christian's arrival on the scene, the guitar was a rhythm instrument that took a back seat to louder, sassier trumpets and saxophones. Christian's single-string technique broke with all convention, developing a solo style that catapulted the newly electric—and therefore easily audible—guitar into the jazz spotlight.

Christian's break came in 1939, when he landed an impromptu audition with "King of Swing" bandleader Benny Goodman. With the Benny Goodman

Sextet, Christian became the first major big band guitar soloist, developing a style that would influence powerhouse performers like the blues's B.B. King, and rock and roll pioneer Chuck Berry.

Credited as an architect of jazz's later bebop progression, Christian didn't live to hear the style that would be popularized by musicians like Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk. His blossoming career was cut short by tuberculosis, to which he succumbed on March 2, 1942.

**CHRISTIAN HAS SINCE BEEN INDUCTED INTO EVERY MAJOR MUSIC HALL OF FAME IN THE NATION.**





RENAISSANCE WRITER

# ▶ RALPH ELLISON

WRITER RALPH WALDO ELLISON'S 1952 NOVEL, *INVISIBLE MAN*, BROKE WITH THE PARADIGM OF PRESENTING THE BLACK AMERICAN AS ANGRY AND UNEDUCATED, introducing an articulate and self-aware protagonist. Remaining unnamed throughout the novel, the narrator continually finds himself restricted by the expectations of both Caucasians and African Americans, with prejudice preventing anyone from seeing him in his entirety. Thus, he comes to call himself an invisible man.

It has been suggested that growing up in Oklahoma afforded Ellison a broader experience than that available to Southern Blacks of his time, which was the background of many leading Black Protest writers. Although

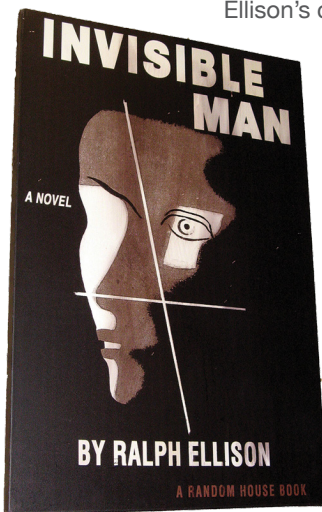
Ellison's circumstances were humble—his mother worked as a servant in white homes, and his father, who died when Ellison was three years old, delivered coal—he attended a good school and observed successful

Black enterprises right outside his door, in Deep Deuce.

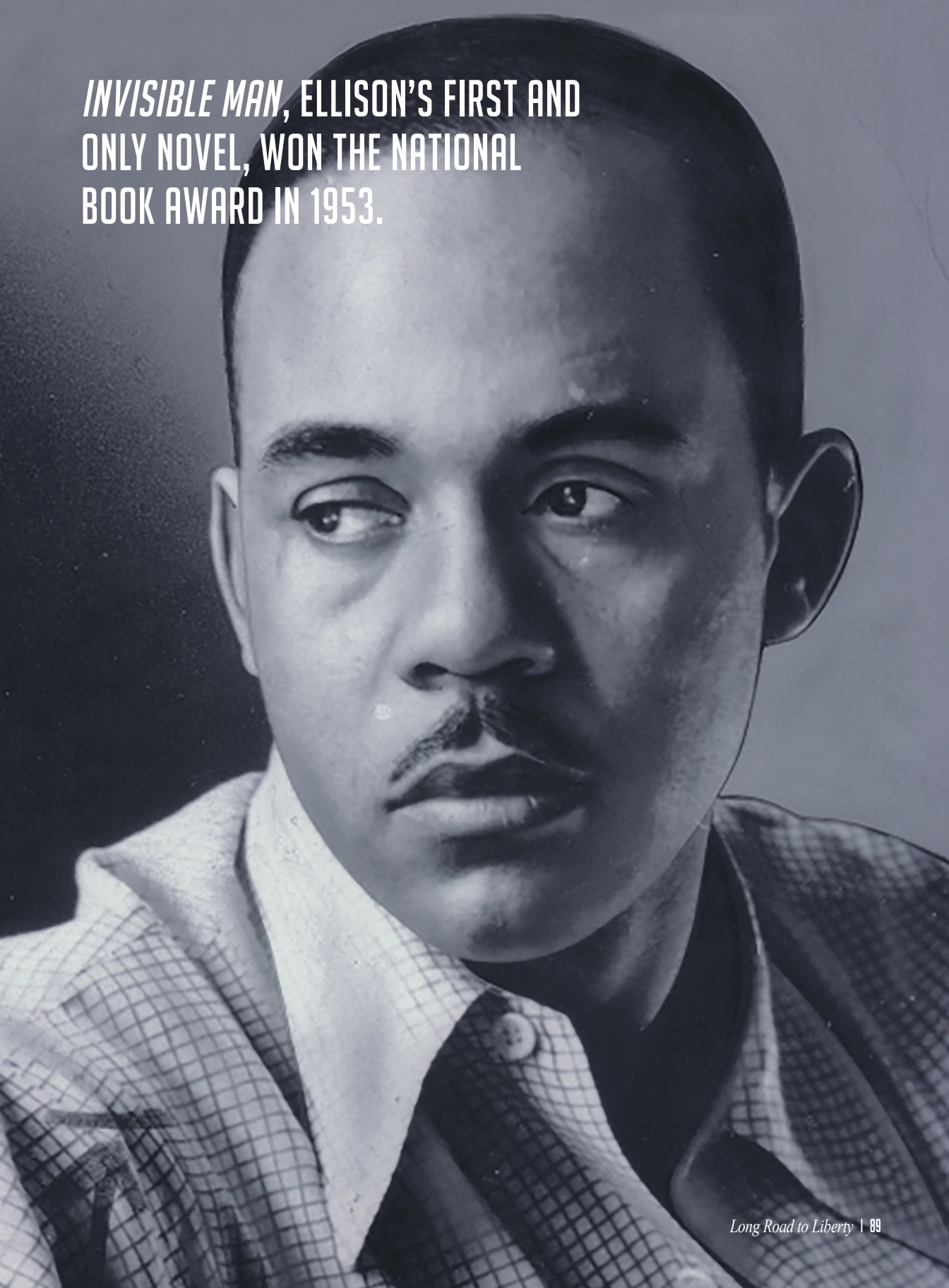
Ellison, who was named by his book-loving father for poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, described himself as a young Renaissance man. His literary muse was awakened in 1936 during a summer away from Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, where he was studying on a music scholarship. A research position in New York City introduced him to writer-mentors Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, and Alain Locke, and Ellison began publishing essays and short stories exploring themes of Black Nationalism and race relations.

In an interview during his European travel and lecture tour following the success of *Invisible Man*, Ellison explained the perspective that shaped his writing, and ultimately reshaped the discussion of Black identity in America.

Too many books by Negro writers are addressed to a white audience. By doing this the authors run the risk of limiting themselves to the audience's presumptions of what a Negro is or should be; the tendency is to become involved in polemics, to plead the Negro's humanity. You know, many white people question that humanity, but I don't think that Negroes can afford to indulge in such a false issue. (*The Paris Review*, Spring 1955).





A black and white close-up portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a checkered shirt and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of his face.

***INVISIBLE MAN*, ELLISON'S FIRST AND ONLY NOVEL, WON THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN 1953.**



# GO. SEE. DO.

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## ► OKLAHOMA BLACK MUSEUM & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND ART** by viewing contemporary work by local artists at the Oklahoma Black Museum & Performing Arts Center. Established in 2008, the museum rotates exhibits roughly every month and features different mediums of art including photography, painting, sculpture and more. There is always something new and exciting on display, plus the museum celebrates diversity as well as African American heritage with events held throughout the year.

**4701 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 213-8077 / (405) 521-8114**

► **OKLAHOMA JAZZ HALL OF FAME**  
HOUSED IN THE HISTORIC TULSA UNION DEPOT, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame chronicles the history, evolution and influence of jazz in Oklahoma. The on-site music library holds video, audio and photographic materials about featured artists, photographs of jazz greats line the walls and an art gallery completes the museum with sculptures depicting musical themes and performers. The Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame also features on-going concerts, classes and cultural events to help raise new awareness and appreciation of jazz, blues and gospel music.

**111 E. First St., Upper Level  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 281-8600  
okjazz.org**





► **RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY**

**NAMED IN HONOR OF ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AND OKLAHOMA CITY NATIVE RALPH ELLISON**, this library is home to a sculpture of Ellison crafted by artist David Phelps. Entitled “The Invisible Royalty,” the bronze-and-fabricated steel piece features a young Ellison’s likeness emerging from a typed page of Ellison’s novel “The Invisible Man.” The page is sitting atop a typewriter that rests on a pile of Ellison’s books. Above the sculpture are two pages that appear to be floating out of the typewriter. The library is also home to a Black history collection and often hosts film screenings, musical performances and other special programming during Black History Month in February.

2000 N.E. 23rd St.,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
(405) 424-1437  
metrolibrary.org

► **THREATT FILLING STATION**

**BUILT IN 1915, THIS GAS STATION IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE FIRST BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS ALONG ROUTE 66.** It offered a place where travelers of any race could get a tank of gas, grab a snack or even camp out on the grounds. While the gas station has long been closed, travelers are welcome to stop by during daytime hours to look at the historic sandstone building.

State Highway 66 & N. Pottawatomí Rd.  
Luther, OK 73054  
nps.gov/nr/travel/route66





# GO. SEE. DO.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE VIBRANT CULTURAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS THAT BRING TO LIFE OKLAHOMA'S RICH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE.

## ► CHARLIE CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

FOR A FUN-FILLED, SIX-DAY EVENT CELEBRATING THE MUSICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF WORLD-RENOWNED JAZZ GUITAR LEGEND CHARLIE CHRISTIAN, plan to attend the Charlie Christian International Music Festival held annually in Oklahoma City each May. The event, established in 1985, features jazz, blues, contemporary, Western and old-school gospel music performed by musical greats, as well as jam sessions, a battle of the bands, great food, arts and crafts, and more.

### Multiple Venues

Oklahoma City, OK

(405) 524-3800

[charliechristianfestival.com](http://charliechristianfestival.com)

## ► COWBOYS OF COLOR RODEO

HELD ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY IN

OKLAHOMA CITY, this event features all the popular rodeo events—including bull riding, bronc busting and barrel racing—along with musical performances and a kids' play area.

The rodeo events feature a group of more than 200 culturally diverse cowboys and cowgirls competing for prize money. The rodeo is designed to also be educational, teaching attendees about diverse cultural contributions to rodeo history.

Jim Norick Arena at State Fair Park

333 Gordon Cooper Blvd.,

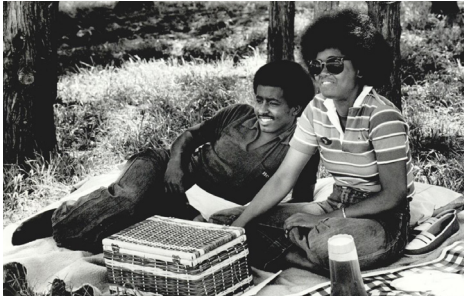
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 425-4100

[cowboysofcolorrodeo.com](http://cowboysofcolorrodeo.com)







### ► JUNETEENTH

**FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, TULSANS HAVE BEEN COMING TOGETHER FOR JUNETEENTH EVENTS.** The mission of Tulsa's Juneteenth is to bring all Americans together to celebrate a common bond of freedom. The three-day event features musical performances, dancing, a kids' zone, food trucks and other vendors. Several other Oklahoma cities and towns host events on or around Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865.

**OSU Lawn, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.,  
Tulsa, OK 74120  
(918) 764-8833  
tulsajuneteenth.org**

### ► OKMULGEE ROY LE BLANC INVITATIONAL RODEO & FESTIVAL

**STARTED IN 1956**, this is the nation's oldest continuously running African American rodeo. It's held on the second weekend of August and also features a parade and a festival with food, refreshments and arts and crafts booths.

**Creek Nation Omniplex Arena,  
U.S. Highway 75 & State Highway 66,  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 758-7044**

### ► DUSK 'TIL DAWN BLUES FESTIVAL

**CELEBRATE OKLAHOMA'S UNIQUE BLUES HERITAGE WITH THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS OF OKLAHOMA, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BLUES AT THE ANNUAL DUSK 'TIL DAWN BLUES FESTIVAL** in Rentiesville. Held every autumn at the Rentiesville Museum & Blues Club and childhood home of famed blues guitarist, D.C. Minner, the festival features 30 bands with over 200 musicians on three stages, workshops, and a kid's village with arts and music activities. While you're there, be sure to check out the Rentiesville Museum & Blues Club, a series of photographs celebrating lesser-known Oklahoma blues musicians.

**Rentiesville Museum & Blues Club  
422978 John Hope Franklin Blvd.,  
Rentiesville, OK 74459  
(918) 855-0978  
dcminnerblues.com**



READ ALL ABOUT IT

# ▶ OKLAHOMA TRAVEL BROCHURES

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OKLAHOMA TRAVEL DESTINATIONS?

The Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department has many guides and brochures filled with tourism attractions and accommodations around the state.

The yearly **OKLAHOMA TRAVEL GUIDE** contains nearly 200 pages of Oklahoma vacation destination ideas and gorgeous photography from the state's most beautiful places. The **OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS & OUTDOOR GUIDE** has tons of information on each state park and other outdoor adventure destinations around the state.

The **OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 GUIDE** features places along Oklahoma's 400-plus mile stretch of the Mother Road, while the **DISCOVER OKLAHOMA DESTINATION DINING GUIDE** highlights more than 200 only-in-Oklahoma dining experiences.

All guides can be ordered free of charge at [TRAVELOK.COM/BROCHURES](http://TRAVELOK.COM/BROCHURES) or by calling (800) 652-6552. More than 80 other free brochures, including the official Oklahoma state map, are also available for order.

**TRAVELERS CAN ALSO PICK UP THE GUIDES AT TOURISM INFORMATION CENTERS, OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS AND MANY OTHER HOTELS AND TOURISM DESTINATIONS AROUND THE STATE.**

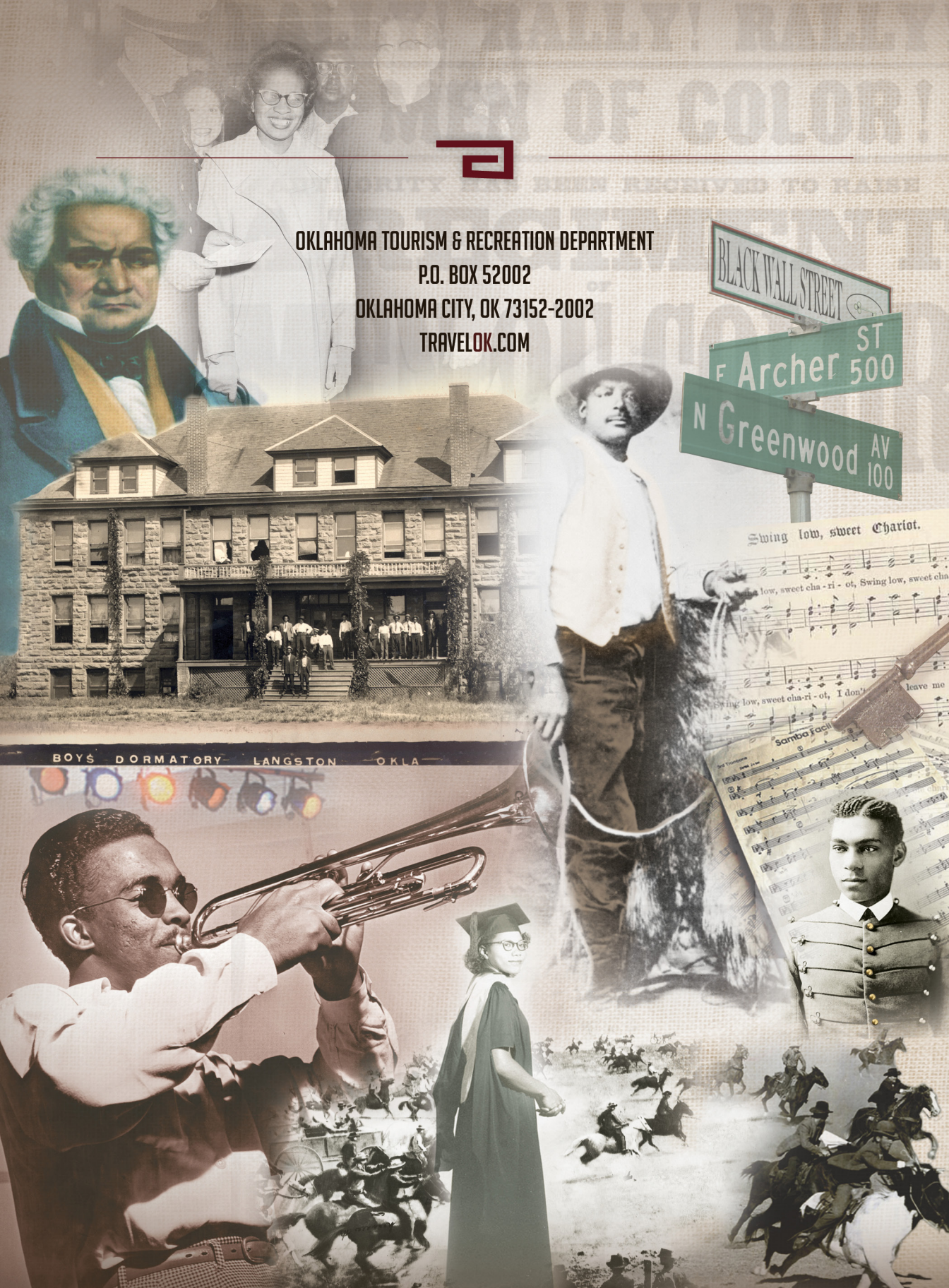




THIS BROCHURE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER, AND  
TULSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM.







OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
P.O. BOX 52002  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73152-2002  
TRAVELOK.COM

BLACK WALL STREET  
Archer ST  
Greenwood AV

BOYS DORMATORY LANGSTON OKLA

Swing low, sweet Chariot.

Swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot, Swing low, sweet cha

Swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot, I don't leave me

Sambo fac!

