

THE Indians & ISSUE Cowboys

The Path Breakers

NATIVE AMERICANS AND WESTERN ICONS HAVE BEEN THE TWIN PILLARS OF OKLAHOMA'S CULTURE SINCE WELL BEFORE STATEHOOD. WE ASSEMBLED TWO PANELS OF EXPERTS TO DETERMINE WHICH BRAVE, HARDWORKING, JUSTICE-SEEKING, FRONTIER-TAMING INDIVIDUALS DESERVE A PLACE IN OKLAHOMA'S WESTERN PANTHEON. THE RESULT IS THE FOLLOWING LIST OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NATIVE AMERICANS, COWBOYS, AND COWGIRLS IN THE STATE'S HISTORY.

BY **S U S A N D R A G O O**

CHICKASAW NATION



BILL ANOATUBBY

(b. 1945)

Bill Anoatubby grew up in Tishomingo and first went to work for the Chickasaw Nation as its health services director in 1975. He was elected governor of the Chickasaws in 1987 and now is

in his eighth term and twenty-ninth year in that office. He has worked to strengthen the nation's foundation by diversifying its economy, leading the tribe into the twenty-first century as a politically and economically stable entity. The nation's success has brought prosperity: Every Chickasaw can access education benefits, scholarships, and health care.



ORVON GENE AUTRY

(1907-1998)

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" may be his most enduring contribution to pop culture, but the Christmas classic is only a small piece of the legacy of America's favorite singing cowboy. In

1929, Gene Autry was "Oklahoma's Yodeling Cowboy" on Tulsa's KVOO Radio, and by 1934, he was working in Hollywood. During his career, he appeared in 93 movies, made 640 records, and recorded major hits including "Rudolph" and his trademark, "Back in the Saddle Again." But he never forgot his Oklahoma roots: In 1941, Autry established a ranch near Ardmore, where he raised stock for the rodeo circuit. The same year, the nearby town of Berwyn changed its name to Gene Autry.

RANDY BEUTLER COLLECTION



BEUTLER FAMILY

Their stock was considered a cowboy's nightmare, but that was high praise for the Elk City-based Beutler Brothers—Elra (1896-1987), Jake (1903-1975), and Lynn (1905-1999)—who in 1929 founded a livestock

contracting company that became one of the world's largest rodeo producers. The Beutlers had an eye for bad bulls and tough broncs; one of their most famous animals, a bull named Speck, was successfully ridden only five times in more than a hundred tries. The Beutler legacy lives on in a Roger Mills County operation run by Elra's grandson Bennie and great-grandson Rhett.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

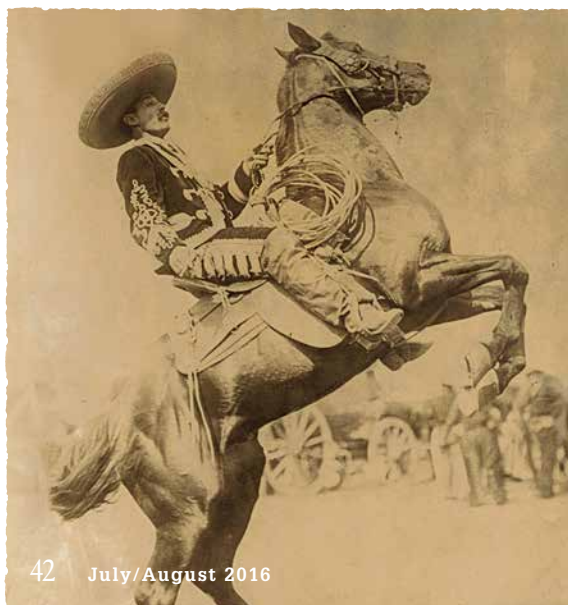


BLACK KETTLE

(c. 1812-1868)

As chief of the Southern Cheyenne, Black Kettle pursued diplomacy with the United States, moving his people multiple times to comply with treaties. But in 1868, U.S. armed

forces undertook a winter campaign against Indians who they believed were responsible for raids against settlers. George Armstrong Custer and his Seventh Cavalry tracked a Kiowa raiding party to an encampment on the Washita River. On November 27, Custer's troops charged into Black Kettle's village, killing more than a hundred people, including the chief and his wife.



Jose "Mexican Joe" Barrera

(c. 1876-1949)

"Mexican Joe's legacy as a pioneer in the Western art of roping cannot be overstated," says Erin Brown, curator of collections at the Pawnee Bill Ranch in Pawnee. Barrera joined Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie's Wild West Show in 1894 and gained worldwide fame as its star roper. He elevated the cowboy skill to an art form, performing tricks like roping six or more horses with one throw. He even caught bison and once roped a runaway elephant. A lifelong friend of Lillie, Barrera worked as foreman at the Pawnee ranch after retiring from show business in 1921.



ACEE BLUE EAGLE

(1907-1959)

Acee Blue Eagle, Muscogee (Creek) and Pawnee, was born near Anadarko and studied under Oscar Jacobson at the University of Oklahoma. He later helped establish the art department at Bacone College

in Muskogee and served as its director until 1938. That year, he showed his work at the Grand Central Art Galleries in New York City. After World War II, he joined the art staff at the Oklahoma A&M College School of Technical Training in Okmulgee. His work is in collections at Tulsa's Gilcrease and Philbrook museums and at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman.



RALPH CHAIN (b. 1927)

"It's all on loan from God, and we're here to take care of it," says Ralph Chain of the Chain Land and Cattle Company near Canton. The sixth-generation ranching operation is distinguished by its owners' stewardship of the

land: In 1893, Chain's grandfather, Oscar, traded fifty dollars and a shotgun for the original plot. Since then, those 160 acres have developed into an enterprise of more than 50,000, using farming methods that produce high-quality beef and leave the land suitable to host wildlife for hunting. Today, the Chain Ranch Sportsman's Club makes hunting and fishing adventures available to the public.



WARREN G. "FRECKLES" BROWN

(1921-1987)

At the 1967 National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, champion bull rider Freckles Brown, already legendary after a thirty-year career, drew the "unrideable"

Tornado, a bull that had thrown every one of the 220 cowboys who had tried him. In a performance immortalized in song by Red Steagall, the forty-six-year-old Brown rode out the required eight seconds in front of a crowd roaring so loudly that Brown couldn't hear the whistle. He didn't know the time had passed until the clowns moved in on the bull.



WOODROW WILSON "WOODY" CRUMBO

(1912-1989)

A painter, musician, and ceremonial dancer, Woody Crumbo was a prolific artist of Muscogee (Creek) and Potawatomi ancestry. Born in Lexington, Crumbo

studied at the University of Oklahoma with Oscar Jacobson. At twenty-one, he was appointed Bacone College's director of Indian art and in 1938 succeeded Acee Blue Eagle as the school's art director. During his career, Crumbo exhibited widely and worked in many media including silk screening, etching, and oil painting. Today, Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum owns the largest collection of Crumbo's work.



TOMMY WAYNE "T.C." CANNON

(1946-1978)

His artistic works represent a turning point in Native American painting in the mid-twentieth century. Along with Native American artists Fritz Scholder and Oscar Howe, Cannon's style

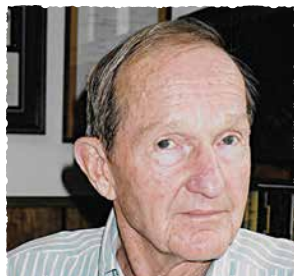
confronted stereotypes of Native American imagery. Many of his works portrayed Indians in the modern world as opposed to the past, and his signature style represents an incorporation of European, Asian, and African painting motifs with that of Indian culture. Of Caddo and Kiowa heritage, Cannon was born in Lawton, and his works are in collections across the state at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko, and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.



SAM DAUBE (1859-1946)

Sam Daube came from Germany at twenty-six to seek his fortune, settling in Ardmore in 1885 and building businesses in merchandising and ranching. Daube first registered his well-known Double O Bar (OO) brand in 1886 and in

the 1900s was one of the first ranchers to breed Hereford cattle commercially. Today, the breed is a mainstay of the Daube herd in a tradition continued by Daube's grandson Sam (b. 1945) and great-grandson Dave (b. 1975). They run 1,000 head on more than 20,000 acres in southern Oklahoma, and since they still work livestock from the saddle, they raise their own quarter horses to suit the ranch's tough Arbuckle Mountain terrain.



DRUMMOND FAMILY

The term “cattle empire” is no exaggeration when applied to the Pawhuska-based Drummond family’s enterprise. Patriarch Frederick Drummond (1864–1913) came to the United States from Scotland in 1882 and settled

in Pawhuska. The ranch began with 160 acres in Osage County and grew to encompass more than 400,000. Frederick Ford Drummond, pictured (b. 1931), grandson of the original owner, is a founding member of the Oklahoma chapter of the Nature Conservancy and helped establish the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. In 2015, the family was the nation’s nineteenth-largest land owner in terms of acres.



ETBAUER BROTHERS

For the Etbauer brothers, success means sticking together. These Goodwell-based bronc riding siblings—along with close family friend Craig Latham—shared expenses early in their careers so they could ride out the tough times.

They dominated the ranks of professional saddle bronc riding in the 1990s, winning seven titles among them. Billy (b. 1963) is the only roughstock cowboy in pro rodeo history to surpass \$3 million in a single event. The last of his five world championships came in 2004 at age forty-one, making him the oldest world champion saddle bronc rider in rodeo history. Robert (b. 1961) won two bronc riding world championships, and Dan (b. 1965) is a ten-time qualifier for the National Finals Rodeo.



ROY DUVALL (b. 1942)

Born in Hitchita and raised on the banks of the Deep Fork River, Roy Duvall was inspired by cowboys like Jim Shoulders to learn to rodeo. When he was a teenager, Duvall and his brother Bill built an arena, bought some

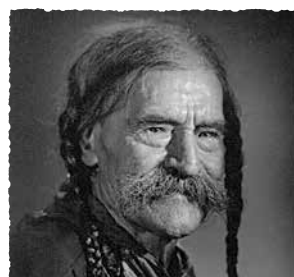
steers, and started bulldogging. By the time Duvall retired at age sixty-four, he had won three steer wrestling world championships and qualified for the National Finals Rodeo twenty-four times. Duvall now lives in Checotah, known as the “Steer Wrestling Capital of the World” for being home to six world champion bulldoggers.



THOMAS FERGUSON (b. 1950)

Constant practice and good horses were the keys to being the world’s number-one cowboy according to Tom Ferguson, who was in a position to know. The Tahlequah native began his

professional rodeo career in 1973, competing in calf roping, steer wrestling, steer roping, and team roping. He was the first cowboy to earn \$1 million in lifetime winnings, accumulating six all-around world titles in a row and seven overall.



FRANK BOARDMAN “PISTOL PETE” EATON (1860–1958)

When Frank Eaton was eight years old, he saw his father gunned down by a gang of outlaws, and a family friend urged him to avenge the death. He spent many years

hunting and killing each of the murderers, and his skill with a weapon earned him the nickname “Pistol Pete.” Settling near Perkins in 1889, Eaton worked as a blacksmith, and the quick-draw persona he cultivated so attracted students at Oklahoma A&M College—now Oklahoma State University—that in 1923, they asked him to pose as the school’s mascot. Eaton was an icon at the university until his death in 1958, and “Pistol Pete” remains the symbol of OSU.



FIVE MOONS

They were known as the Five Moons: Yvonne Chouteau (1929–2016) of Shawnee and Cherokee heritage from Vinita; Rosella Hightower (1920–2008), a Choctaw from Durwood; Moscelyne Larkin (c. 1925–2012), Shawnee

and Peoria from Miami; and Osage sisters Maria Tallchief (1925–2013) and Marjorie Tallchief (c. 1927) of Fairfax. The women grew up studying ballet and participating in powwows, eventually becoming internationally known prima ballerinas. Chouteau, Hightower, Larkin, and Marjorie Tallchief came together in 1967 for the Louis Ballard ballet *The Four Moons*, which Ballard wrote to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Oklahoma’s statehood. After years of performing, the women led dance companies in cities from Oklahoma City to Chicago to Paris.



GERONIMO (c. 1829-1909)

He fought tenaciously against those who threatened his people's way of life and arguably is the most well-known of any Native American—so much so that his name appears in the dictionary. A Chiricahua Apache, Geronimo avenged his

family's death at the hands of Mexican soldiers by conducting guerilla-like raids, resulting in his first confinement to a reservation. He continually escaped and resumed raiding, was pursued by the U.S. Army for many years, and surrendered in 1886 before ending up at Fort Sill in 1894. He appeared in Wild West shows and at expositions for decades during his confinement and rode in Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 inauguration parade.



MARK LAMOREAUX

JOHN BENNETT HERRINGTON

(b. 1958)

NASA considers Chickasaw John Bennett Herrington the first Native American astronaut to accomplish a space walk. Born in Wetumka, Herrington served in

the Navy beginning in 1983 and was selected by NASA as an astronaut in 1996. On November 23, 2002, he traveled to the International Space Station in the space shuttle *Endeavor*. During the mission, Herrington accomplished three space walks totaling nineteen hours and fifty-five minutes. On his journey, he carried eagle feathers, arrowheads, a flute, and flags of the Chickasaw and Crow nations.



GILCREASE MUSEUM

WILLIAM THOMAS GILCREASE (1890-1962)

When members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation received allotments during the late 1800s, William Thomas Gilcrease acquired 160 acres near what today is Glenpool. Discovery of oil in the area in

1905 propelled Gilcrease into success in the energy industry, and the tycoon used his wealth to develop a comprehensive collection of American Indian art and artifacts. The result is the Gilcrease Museum, which opened to the public in Tulsa in 1949 and today contains one of the world's largest collections of art and artifacts of the American West, as well as a state-of-the-art research facility.



HITCH ARCHIVES

HITCH FAMILY

No Man's Land looked like a land of opportunity to James K. Hitch (1855-1921), who in 1884 began running cattle in what became the Oklahoma Panhandle. By the early 1920s, Hitch had acquired more than 30,000 acres in Texas

County and Stevens County, Kansas. James' sons eventually assumed leadership, and over the next seventy-five years, the enterprise grew to involve extensive agribusiness operations. In 1958, James' grandson Henry "Ladd" Hitch Jr. (1918-1996) built a feedlot on the ranch, and today, the Guymon-based operation is led by Henry Jr.'s grandsons Chris and Jason.



Gordon William "Pawnee Bill" Lillie
(1860-1942)

No other Oklahoman exemplified the mythical Wild West as did Gordon William "Pawnee Bill" Lillie who, beginning in 1888, produced one of the three largest Wild West shows in the world. Pawnee Bill's Historical Wild West, Indian Museum, and Encampment traveled the United States and Europe and starred Lillie's wife May. Pawnee Bill also was involved in efforts to preserve the American bison: He established a herd on his ranch near Pawnee, which now is a historical site that is accessible to the public and recreates Pawnee Bill's original Wild West show every June.

LEE MARMON/ALLAN HOUSER INC.



ALLAN HOUSER

(1914-1994)

Allan C. Haozous, later Houser, was born near Apache to Chiricahua Apache parents. A painter in his early years, Houser began to focus on sculpture in the 1960s and founded the sculpture department

at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. He retired in 1975 to focus on his own work, producing nearly one thousand stone, wood, and bronze pieces and receiving the National Medal of Arts in 1992. His work has been exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution and in the White House, and *As Long As the Waters Flow* is outside the Oklahoma State Capitol. *Sacred Rain Arrow*, which stands at the entrance of Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum, appears on the state license plate.

JACOBSON HOUSER/DUCKWORTH



KIOWA SIX

The Kiowa Six were young artists of the Kiowa tribe: James Auchiah (1906-1974), Spencer Asah (c.1905-1954), Jack Hokeah (1902-1969), Stephen Mopope (1898-1974), Monroe Tsatoke (1904-1937), and Lois Bougetah

Smoky, pictured (1907-1981). They were encouraged in their art by Kiowa agency field matron Susie Peters, who brought them to the attention of Oscar Jacobson, director of the school of art at the University of Oklahoma. Jacobson created a special program for the group, and the six moved to Norman in 1926 and 1927. With his mentoring, they received international acclaim, and their careers provided inspiration to many Native American artists of the twentieth century and beyond.

UNITED ARTISTS CORPORATION



BEN JOHNSON, JR.

(1918-1996)

Ben Johnson Jr., born in Foraker the son of a famous roper, intended to follow his father onto the rodeo circuit. His career plans changed when he was hired by Howard Hughes to escort a load of horses

to a movie set, leading to a career in Hollywood as a stuntman and actor. He appeared in notable films like 1949's *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* and 1969's *The Wild Bunch*, and his role in 1971's *The Last Picture Show* won him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. He continued to rodeo through the years and won a world championship in 1953 for team roping.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MARY E. "MAY" MANNING LILLIE (1869-1936)

For her wedding gift in 1886, Pawnee Bill gave his bride May a pony and a Marlin .22 target rifle. In 1888, they began their Wild West show, and she became one of the premier female Wild

West performers, starring as a sharpshooter and expert rider. "As a female performer, May Lillie challenged the stereotypes of women around the turn of the century," says Erin Brown, curator of the Pawnee Bill Ranch. Lillie also was the first female bison ranch manager, taking over ranch operations while her husband traveled the country with Buffalo Bill from 1908 to 1913.



Neal McCaleb (b. 1935)

Civil engineer and politician Neal McCaleb is an Oklahoma City native with a record of advocacy for tribal economic development. A member of the Chickasaw Nation, McCaleb launched his own engineering and home-building business before embarking on a statewide and national public service career. Since then, he has served as minority leader in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, as Oklahoma's Secretary of Transportation, a Ronald Reagan appointee to the President's Commission on Indian Reservation Economies, and assistant secretary for Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior. He now serves as Ambassador at-Large for the Chickasaw Nation.

CHICKASAW NATION



THOMAS E. LOVE (b. 1937)

"Although we're proud of what we did in the first fifty-three years, we recognize yesterday's trophies are not going to win tomorrow's game," says Tom Love, Chickasaw founder and executive chairman of Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores,

which *Forbes* magazine ranked fourteenth on its list of America's largest private companies in 2015. Love and his wife Judy opened their first gas station in Watonga in 1964, and in 1981 opened their first travel stop in Amarillo, Texas. The company has grown to operate more than 370 locations in forty states. The Loves are widely known for their philanthropy in the fields of education and community development.



WILMA PEARL MANKILLER (1945-2010)

"If I am to be remembered, I want it to be because I am fortunate enough to have become my tribe's first female chief," wrote Wilma Mankiller in her autobiography *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*.

"But I also want to be remembered for emphasizing the fact that we have indigenous solutions to our problems." In 1987, Mankiller became the first woman elected chief of the Cherokee Nation, serving in the position for ten years. During the Tahlequah native's tenure, the Cherokees increased tribal membership and revenue by nearly 200 percent and established numerous social programs.



CLEM ROGERS MCSPADDEN (1925-2008)

"Clem McSpadden was bigger than life," says Don Reeves, curator at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. McSpadden's career as a rodeo announcer

spanned six decades. "His was the quintessential voice of rodeo," says Reeves. "It epitomized the heritage of the West." McSpadden also served Oklahoma as a legislator, with eighteen years in the state senate and one term in the United States House of Representatives. He also managed the National Finals Rodeo for the nineteen years it was held in Oklahoma City. McSpadden grew up near Oologah on the Dog Iron Ranch, which was the birthplace of his great uncle, Will Rogers.



WALTER MERRICK

(1911-2006)

"Walter Merrick has had a greater impact than any other human on the horse industry," says author Frank Holmes. Merrick started as a ranch hand during the Depression and became one of the

founding members of the American Quarter Horse Association. He was the first to hold a registered quarter horse sale and to breed thoroughbred genes into existing quarter horse lines. Merrick started raising quarter horses in the 1930s, and his 14 Ranch in Sayre produced some of history's top racing quarter horses, including Easy Jet, world champion in 1969.



MILLER BROTHERS

"The Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch was the wildest, wooliest, and most unusual operation of its kind in the history of the American West," says Tulsa author Michael Wallis. The 101 earned most of its notoriety from

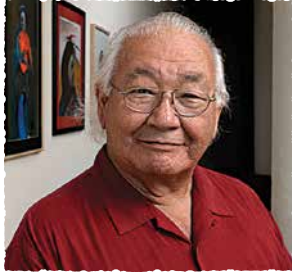
the Wild West shows it staged worldwide from 1905 into the 1930s, but it was less well-known that the show originated at an authentic working ranch. At its height, the operation in northern Oklahoma encompassed 110,000 acres and had its own train, schools, churches, store, and telephone system sprawling over parts of four counties. The traveling Wild West show helped propel performers like Will Rogers and Tom Mix into careers in the movie industry.



TOMAS "TOM" EDWIN MIX

(1880-1940)

He was king of the cowboys in Hollywood's silent film era and made more than 350 movies during his career. Tom Mix moved from Pennsylvania to Guthrie in 1902. He worked as a bartender in the Blue Belle Saloon, taught fitness, and wrangled horses before signing on with the Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch Wild West Show, where he performed as a bronc buster before appearing in his first film, *The Cowboy Millionaire*, in 1909. Known for his fancy wardrobe and daring stunts, Mix became one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood by 1928, earning \$17,000 per week.



NAVARRE SCOTT MOMADAY (b. 1934)

A Lawton native of Kiowa and Cherokee heritage, N. Scott Momaday learned to appreciate the power of story while growing up in Arizona. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for his debut novel, *House*

Made of Dawn, which is considered a breakthrough work of Native American literature. In 2007, Momaday was named Oklahoma Centennial State Poet Laureate, for what Ann Thompson, executive director of the Oklahoma Humanities Council, called his “unrivaled use of language that negotiates the way between the worlds of native America and the broader American society.”



JOSEPH OKLAHOMBI (1895-1960)

A Choctaw born amid the Kiamichi Mountains of McCurtain County, Joseph Oklahombi was one of the Army’s original Native American “Code Talkers.” During World War I, he and

other Choctaw soldiers used the tribe’s language to encrypt and decode military correspondence for the Allies. In France in the fall of 1918, Oklahombi’s badly outnumbered unit seized an enemy position and held it for four days while under attack. As a result, he was hailed as a war hero and received the Silver Star from the United States and the Croix de Guerre from France.



LUCILLE MULHALL (1885-1940)

When Lucille Mulhall was a girl, her father, Zack, told her she could have any of their ranch’s cattle if she could rope and brand them. By the time she was seven, she had claimed so many head for herself

that he had to ask her to stop. Hailed by Theodore Roosevelt as “the world’s most expert horsewoman” and by Will Rogers as the “original cowgirl,” she was among the first women to compete in roping and riding events against men and earned such titles as “Champion Lady Steer Roper of the World” at the Winnipeg Stampede in 1913. She starred in Wild West shows for her father and the Miller Brothers.



ROBERT LATHAM OWEN JR. (1856-1947)

Robert Latham Owen Jr. was one of Oklahoma’s first two United States Senators and the state’s most influential national figure in early statehood days. He was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and after his

father’s untimely death, he moved with his mother—who was part Cherokee—to Indian Territory, where she had family, in 1879. Owen quickly grasped the opportunities for personal advancement in his new home: From 1889 to 1907, he ran a newspaper, built a bank in Muskogee, and practiced law, acting as head of the United States Union agency for the Five Civilized Tribes. As a senator, Owen’s most significant accomplishment was his co-sponsorship of the 1913 legislation that created the Federal Reserve.



JOYCE LEE “DOC” TATE NEVAQUAYA (1952-1996)

Born in Fletcher to Comanche parents, Joyce Lee “Doc” Tate Nevaquaya learned to make traditional Comanche crafts and became interested in the traditional

Comanche courting flute. In the 1970s, Nevaquaya, also an artist and dancer, was considered a leader of the revival of the Indian flute tradition. He performed at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the United Nations Mission and released two recordings of Comanche flute music. His work inspired a new generation of flute players, including his son Edmond, who carries on the tradition, carving flutes that appear in museum collections and are played by Native Americans today.



QUANAH PARKER (c. 1852-1911)

A member of the Quahadi band of Comanches and the tribe’s last principal chief, Quanah Parker came with his people to Fort Sill after the Second Battle of Adobe Walls at Palo Duro. A warrior in

his youth, Parker was the son of Cynthia Ann Parker, a white captive, and Peta Nocona, a Comanche chief. Parker was so well known that even Theodore Roosevelt made it a point to go wolf hunting with him during a visit to Oklahoma. Parker’s residence near Cache, Star House, built for him by a Texas cattleman, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

U.S. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



WILLIAM "BILL" PICKETT (c. 1870-1932)

While working as a ranch hand, Bill Pickett was the first cowboy to "bulldog" a steer by taking hold of its horns, twisting its neck, and making it fall on its side by biting its nose or upper lip. This tech-

nique evolved into steer wrestling, which today is one of rodeo's most popular events. Pickett was a sought-after performer and joined the Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch Wild West Show in 1905 to show off his skills across the Americas and in England. Featured in silent films, Pickett was the first African-American cowboy movie star.

WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS/SOU



ALEXANDER LAWRENCE POSEY (1873-1908)

Muscogee (Creek) writer Alexander Posey was known throughout the world for his biting political satire. Born near Eufaula, this journalist, poet,

and humorist published the satirical "Fus Fixico" letters in the *Eufaula Indian Journal*. The letters presented the dialogues of fictional Creek characters discussing issues of the day and how they affected the tribe. Posey's poetry reflects his admiration for Henry David Thoreau and his love of nature. Many have noted that Posey's untimely drowning death while he crossed the flooded North Canadian River was eerily paralleled in his poem "My Fancy."

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM



FLORENCE HUGHES RANDOLPH (c. 1898-1977)

At the Calgary Stampede in 1919, Ardmore's Florence Hughes Randolph caused an international sensation when she bested thirteen male competitors in Roman race riding, in which performers ride

two horses while standing. Her career as a trick rider and bronc rider started when she joined a Wild West show at age fourteen, and she made more than 500 rodeo appearances and won the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer trophy at Madison Square Garden in 1927. The versatile Randolph also worked as a stunt double in movies, raced motorcycles, and produced her own Wild West show, Princess Mohawk's Wild West Hippodrome.



ROLLIE LYNN RIGGS (1899-1954)

His most well-known play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, was adapted to become the musical *Oklahoma!* A Cherokee born near Claremore, Rollie Lynn Riggs studied at the University of Oklahoma and

published his first play, *Cuckoo*, in 1920. He also wrote film scripts including *Garden of Allah* and *The Plainsman*. In all, he wrote twenty-four plays, many of which deal with Southwestern themes and depict life in Indian Territory. His 1930 play *The Cherokee Night* is a powerful series of vignettes showing the disintegration of Cherokee customs, a subject white Broadway audiences found too serious.



OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vivian White (1913-1999)

"I always figured I could do anything the boys could do," Vivian White said of her success riding a steer at age fourteen. Born near Enid, White competed as a steer rider for eight years then switched to saddle broncs. She won the ladies' saddle bronc trophy at the Texas Fat Stock Show rodeo in Fort Worth in 1937, and a week later at Madison Square Garden, she captured the first of three world titles. Over her eighteen-year rodeo career, she held the distinction of never being bucked off in the arena. After retiring from competition in 1945, White trained trick riders and stunt riders for rodeo and movies.

UNITED ARTISTS CORPORATION



DAYLE LYMOINE "DALE" ROBERTSON

(1923-2013)

Dale Robertson always said the only reason he became an actor was to make money to build a horse ranch in Oklahoma. Born in Harrah, the World War II

veteran was decidedly unaffected by Hollywood but had a long career in entertainment: He appeared in more than sixty films—most of them Westerns—and 430 episodes of television including *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *Dynasty*, and *Dallas*. Beginning in the 1940s, he bred world-champion quarter horses at his Haymaker Farm near Yukon.

CHEROKEE NATION



JOHN ROSS (1790-1866)

John Ross served as principal chief of the Cherokees for nearly forty years and was known for shepherding his people during the period leading up to the tribe's removal to Indian Territory.

As a leader of the faction of the tribe opposed to relocation, Ross worked to convince the United States government to honor the treaties they had signed guaranteeing the tribe possession of their ancestral homelands in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. His attempts ultimately were unsuccessful, and Ross led the Cherokees in their removal from the southeast to new lands in Oklahoma. As many as 4,000 died in the arduous journey that has come to be known as the Trail of Tears.



SEQUOYAH (c. 1765-1843)

He made reading and writing in the Cherokee language possible by giving it written form. Noting the European forms of written expression, Sequoyah—also known as George Guess—

believed he could create a written language for his own people, and he came up with eighty-five symbols, one for every sound in the Cherokee language. Born in the mountains of eastern Tennessee, Sequoyah came to Indian Territory in 1829 and settled near Sallisaw. His cabin still stands in the town and became the property



William Penn Adair Rogers (1879-1935)

At one time, Will Rogers—humorist, cowboy, movie star, humanitarian, aviation booster, political commentator, and voice of the common man—was the most beloved man in America. "He was a sort of unofficial prime minister of the people," says author Damon Runyon. "He reflected, in many ways, the mind, the heartbeat of America." Born in Oologah of Cherokee lineage, Rogers found work in South Africa as the "Cherokee Kid," spinning ropes in a Wild West show. He returned to the U.S. in 1904 and traveled to New York with a company of Wild West cowboys, developing a vaudeville act showcasing his roping skills. His onstage charm and humor caught people's attention. In 1915, Rogers became associated with the *Ziegfeld Follies*, and by 1919, he was acting in Hollywood films. In 1922, he published two books on topics of the day and began writing for *The New York*

of the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1936. It remains open to the public.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



EVERETT SHAW
(1908-1979)

Everett Shaw grew up on a farm near Hogshooter Creek in Washington County and was discovered by legendary rodeo cowboy Dick Truitt of

Stonewall. He entered the rodeo circuit as a calf roper in the 1920s. In 1934, 1936, and 1939, he won the calf roping competition at New York City's Madison Square Garden. When he turned his attention to steer roping, he won a record six world championships—in 1945, 1946, 1948, 1951, 1959, and 1962. But his contribution to rodeo grew beyond the arena when, in 1936, he helped found the Cowboys' Turtle Association, a union that demanded and received increased prize purses for rodeo performers. Today, it is known as the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and is the largest and oldest rodeo sanctioning body in the world. Shaw served twenty terms on the group's board of directors.

Times. He soon had a syndicated column that eventually appeared in more than 500 newspapers. His radio broadcasts in the 1920s and 1930s attracted larger audiences, and his became the country's most popular Sunday evening radio show. As a political commentator, Rogers is perhaps best known for his 1931 radio broadcast "Bacon, Beans, and Limousines," in which he criticized national leaders for failing to adequately address the plight of the unemployed, who then numbered in the millions. In 1935, at the height of his popularity, Rogers died with Wiley Post in a plane crash in Alaska. During the 1938 dedication of a memorial in Claremore, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said of Rogers, "His appeal went straight to the heart of the nation. Above all things, in a time grown too solemn and somber, he brought his countrymen back to a sense of proportion."

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM



JAMES ARTHUR "JIM" SHOULDERS (1928-2007)

At age fourteen, Jim Shoulders won eighteen dollars at his first rodeo in Oilton, and at age twenty-one, he secured the first of sixteen world titles. He competed in most professional rodeo events and dominated the sport in the 1950s. In fact, his championship record seldom has been matched: seven bull riding world titles, four in bareback riding, and five all-around world championships. After retiring from active participation in the sport, Shoulders produced rodeos, provided contract livestock—including the infamous Tornado—and ran a rodeo school at his ranch in Henryetta.



STANDING BEAR
(c. 1829-1908)

Ponca chief Standing Bear and his people were removed from their home in Nebraska to Indian Territory in the 1870s. As many as one-third of the tribe died as a result, including Standing Bear's son Bear Shield. In an effort to return the body to his homeland for burial in 1879, Standing Bear and thirty of his followers were captured and jailed. An *Omaha Daily Herald* story drew attention to the matter, and as a result, lawyers were recruited to represent the Poncas. The case was ruled in the tribe's favor and represented a landmark in civil rights for Native Americans, finding that an Indian is a person under the law and that the government had no right to imprison Standing Bear and his people.



WILLARD STONE
(1916-1985)

Cherokee sculptor Willard Stone believed every piece of wood had a story to tell, and using a pocket knife and chisel, he unveiled those stories. Born in Oktaha, he studied art at Bacone College under Acee Blue Eagle and Woody Crumbo. Later, he worked for Thomas Gilcrease and eventually established a permanent studio near Locust Grove. After 1961, he devoted himself entirely to art and gained wide recognition for his stylized human and animal figures created primarily from wood. Stone's work is preserved in public and private collections throughout the United States and abroad, including at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.





STUART FAMILY

With 45,000 acres in southern Oklahoma, the Stuart Ranch, now in its sixth generation, is one of Oklahoma's oldest continuously operated family ranches. Founded near Caddo in 1869 by Robert Clay Freeny (1812-1878), it has

developed into three major enterprises—horse, cattle, and wildlife—with outfitting services for deer, turkey, hog, and waterfowl hunting. Freeny's granddaughter married Colonel Robert Terry Stuart in 1931, giving the operation the Stuart name. Today, it is managed by Terry Stuart Forst (b. 1954) and her two sons, Robert and Clay. Forst's 7S Stuart Ranch has become one of the most profitable in the Southwest and was the first ranch to be inducted into the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.



WESLEY "WES" STUDI (b. 1947)

Powerful portrayals of Native Americans have made Nofire Hollow native Wes Studi a familiar face to film and television viewers. Studi's first language was Cherokee, and he taught the language at Rogers State College in Claremore. Although the Vietnam veteran did

not begin acting until his thirties, he has had a prolific career and is well known for his roles in *Dances with Wolves*, *Last of the Mohicans*, and as the title character in *Geronimo: An American Legend*. Through his role as a spokesperson for the Santa Fe-based Indigenous Language Institute, he works to preserve tribal languages.



JAMES FRANCIS THORPE (1888-1953)

Jim Thorpe's Sac and Fox name, Wa-tha-sko-huk, meant "Bright Path," and it was fitting considering the luminescence of his athletic career. Born near Prague,

Thorpe won gold medals in two events at the 1912 Olympics but was stripped of them following the revelation that he briefly played semiprofessional baseball. Thorpe went on to play professional sports for the next twenty years, excelling in football, baseball, and even ballroom dancing. In 1950, the Associated Press named him the greatest athlete of the first half of the twentieth century, and in 1982, the International Olympic Committee posthumously recognized Thorpe as co-winner of the 1912 pentathlon and decathlon.



CLYDE WARRIOR (1939-1968)

"We are not free. We do not make choices," said Clyde Warrior. "Our choices are made for us; we are the poor." Throughout his twenty-eight short

years, Indian rights activist Clyde Warrior continually fought against the injustice that formed much of Native Americans' reality. Born in Ponca City, Warrior grew up in a traditional Ponca household, which fostered

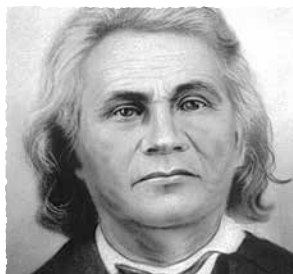
Mary Thompson "Te Ata" Fisher (1895-1995)

Chickasaw storyteller Mary Thompson Fisher, born near Tishomingo, was the first Native American woman to earn a theater degree from the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha and while there was given the name Te Ata, meaning "Bearer of the Morning." Her interpretations of Native American folklore earned her international acclaim throughout her seventy-year career. In 1933, she performed at Franklin D. Roosevelt's first state dinner and over the years appeared before other heads of state in the United States and abroad.



in him a strong belief in tribal tradition. He loathed discrimination against Native Americans, speaking out against injustice at every opportunity and becoming an important leader in the Red Power movement of the 1960s. Warrior introduced militant rhetoric to Indian advocacy and co-founded the National Indian Youth Council in 1961. It soon became a nationwide Native American political organization.

CHEROKEE NATION



STAND WATIE

(1806-1871)

Stand Watie was part of the Ridge-Watie-Boudinot faction in Cherokee politics, signing an 1835 treaty surrendering the Cherokee

homeland in the southeast for lands in Oklahoma. Watie migrated west under threat of execution—according to Cherokee law, he had forfeited his life by signing the treaty. He escaped death but was for the rest of his life considered an enemy of Cherokee chief John Ross. With the onset of the Civil War, Watie accepted a commission as a colonel in the Confederate Army, leading the First Cherokee Mounted Rifles and rising to the rank of brigadier general. He also served as the principal chief of the Southern branch of the Cherokees from 1862 to 1865. On June 23, 1865, at Fort Towson, he became the last Confederate general to surrender to the Union.



W. RICHARD WEST JR. (b. 1943)

Founding director and director emeritus of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, W. Richard West Jr. guided the successful open-

ing of the three East Coast facilities that comprise the NMAI. A citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and a member of the Southern Cheyenne Society of Peace Chiefs, he grew up in Muskogee and is the son of Native American artist W. Richard West Sr. As an attorney, he has devoted his life to advocating for Native Americans on cultural, educational, legal, and governmental issues. West now is the president and CEO of the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles.

BACONE COLLEGE



W. RICHARD "DICK" WEST SR. (1912-1996)

W. Richard "Dick" West Sr. believed education was key to Native Americans' survival both culturally and literally, and his life illustrated that belief. A Cheyenne artist and educator born in

Darlington in Canadian County, he studied art at Bacone College and the University of Oklahoma. In 1941, he was commissioned by the WPA to paint the mural *Grand Council of 1842* in the Okemah post office. From 1947 to 1970, he was the chair of Bacone's art department, influencing a generation of students while exhibiting his own work and illustrating books about native folklore. He also was popular as a lecturer and sign linguist known for wearing a Cheyenne war bonnet and buckskin leggings during his presentations, including the nightly sign-off on Tulsa station KTUL, during which he signed the Lord's Prayer.

PRODEO HALL OF FAME



TODD WHATLEY

(1920-1966)

When Todd Whatley was seventeen, he rode a wild cow at a rodeo in the southeast Oklahoma town of Battiest, and his career on the rodeo circuit began. In 1947, after a decade on the road, he won the steer wrestling world title. That year, he went on to collect more money than any other contestant in two or more events, and the Rodeo Cowboys Association awarded him the all-around title. In 1953, he won the bull riding world championship, and in 1956, he retired to his ranch east of Hugo.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JAMES ROBERT "BOB" WILLS (1905-1975)

At midnight on February 9, 1934, fiddler Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys played a one-hour trial broadcast on Tulsa's KVOO radio. Wills and his band soon had a regular show,

and their distinctive musical style became known as Western swing. In 1935, they made Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa their headquarters, and over a forty-year career, Wills was known as the "King of Western Swing," performing such classic songs as "Take Me Back to Tulsa," "Faded Love," and "San Antonio Rose."