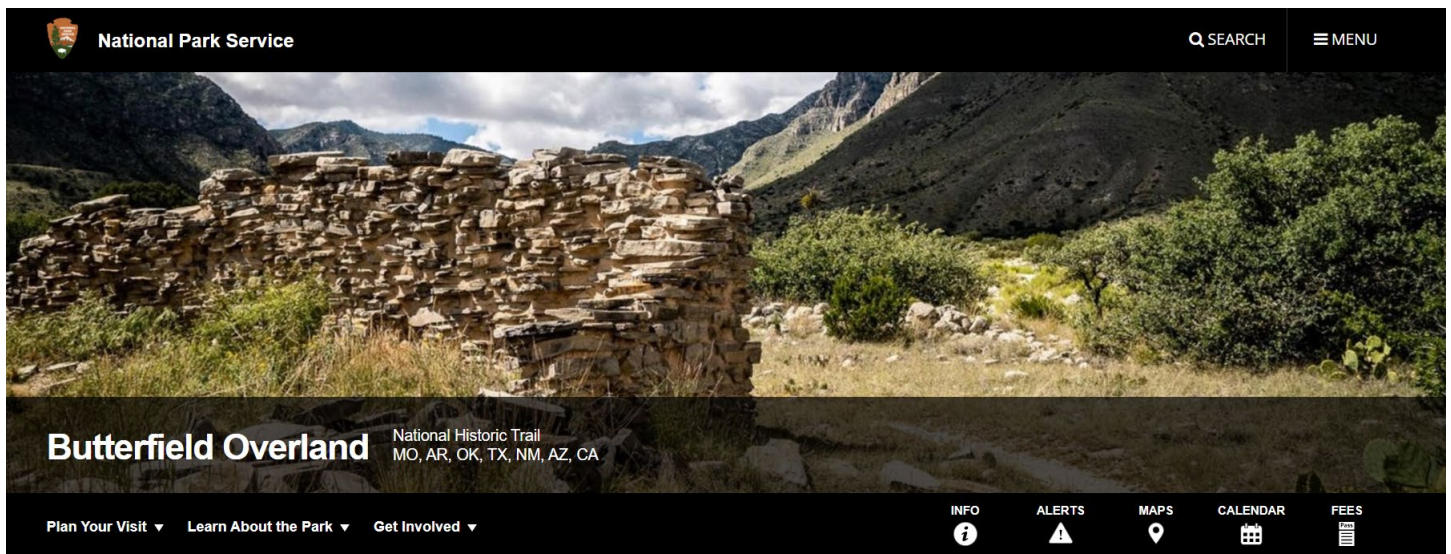


# Oklahoma Chapter – Butterfield National Historic Trail Association (OK-BNHTA)

Greetings and welcome to the first edition of our chapter's newsletter! We plan to publish quarterly to share news and other bits and pieces about the preservation of the Butterfield National Historic Trail Association in Oklahoma and other related topics.



## Have You Seen the Butterfield National Historic Trail Web Site?

The National Park Service is still in the process of developing their implementation plan for the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail, but their web site for the trail is live. It is still a work in progress as well, but has mapping and other resources. Check it out here: <https://www.nps.gov/buov/>.

## Membership Roster 2024

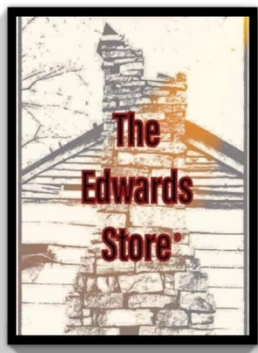
Here's a list of members for the Oklahoma Chapter of the Butterfield National Historic Trail Association for 2024. Thank you for your participation! Do you know someone else who is interested in supporting the trail's preservation? Please encourage them to join! Here is a link to the membership application: <https://susandragoo.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/butterfield-membership-application-24.pdf>

Gerald Ahnert  
Elizabeth Bowen  
June Chubbuck  
Susan Dragoo  
John Fahey  
Cecil Holcomb

Larry and Penny James  
Chenae Lippard  
Carolyn Kent  
Jane and Jack Morgan  
John Redwine  
Deloris Gray Wood

## Restoration Begins at the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead (Edwards Store)

Restoration from the ground up will begin this Fall at the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead Cabin, one of the few structures associated with John Butterfield's Overland Mail Company still standing along the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail.



Chrissy Gray, Executive Director of The Edwards Store, Inc. reports the work will focus on the dog-trot log cabin's east and west foundations. Major financial support for this project comes from the Oklahoma Historical Society's Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Gray said this is a "matching" grant and the non-profit 501c3 organization is now raising needed matching funds. The foundation work is expected to begin in November and the site will be open to visitors, Gray said. You can help TES 'make the match' with a donation at: <https://edwardsstore.com/donations-partners/>

The Butterfield meal stop cabin will be jacked up, trenches excavated, and concrete with rebar reinforcement footings poured. Concrete support pads will be formed under the chimneys which were saved from imminent collapse in 2020. The cabin's original native stone foundations will be replaced with new piers using modern construction materials and techniques.

The original stones will then "dress" the modern piers. A cap formed in the top of the piers will hold, preserve, and protect original or new replacement hand-hewn logs. Once the cabin is leveled and chimneys supported below grade, the fireplaces can be restored.

This restoration project will complete phase one of the cabin foundations work at the Edwards Store meal stop. Two future foundation phases are planned for the cabin's porches and its 1889 board and batten addition.

## Did You Know May was Preservation Month?

Quoted from the Oklahoma Historical Society's "Extra!" newsletter of May 22, 2024:

The State Historic Preservation Office works every month of the year with citizens and groups throughout the state to identify, evaluate, and protect Oklahoma's diverse range of historic, architectural, and archeological resources.

As the nation celebrates Preservation Month this May, with the theme of "People Saving Places," the SHPO is focused on the work being done by people around the state to save history. Some projects tower above us, such as the iconic Art Deco skyscraper of the First National Building, a significant tax credit project in Oklahoma City. It also resides in the natural landscape, as at Medicine Bluffs in Comanche County or the "Ringing the Wild Horse" site near Jones, where events recounted in Washington Irving's *A Tour on the Prairies* (1835) occurred. Our history is also found in archaeological sites on the ground surface or buried beneath our feet.

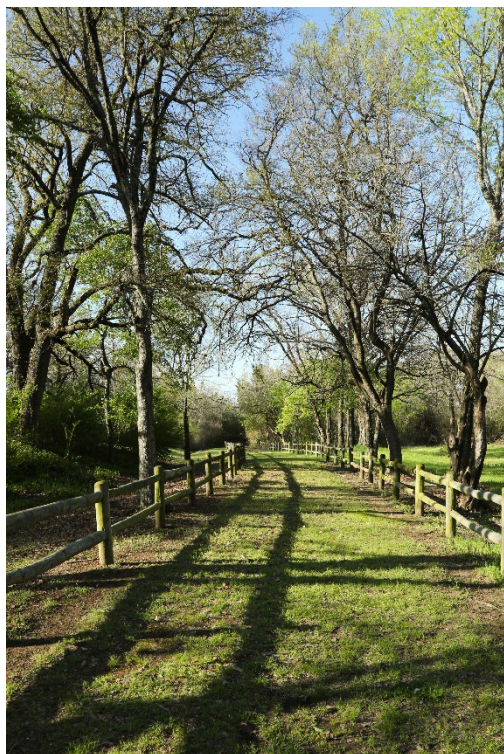
According to the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS), more than 26,000 archaeological sites have been recorded in Oklahoma. Ninety-two archaeological sites are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and another 355 have been determined eligible for inclusion but have yet to be formally nominated.

Protecting and preserving the past is everyone's responsibility. So, what can you do to help? You can report archaeological materials by contacting the State Preservation Office or a Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Visit the "Found An Artifact?" page of the OAS website for help in identifying potential archaeological materials. You can also learn about federal and state laws protecting



archaeological resources and report looting, vandalism, and trafficking to law enforcement or by submitting a tip by clicking the link below.

<https://savehistory.org/>



*Butterfield trail at Atoka Museum*

## Take a Hike on the Butterfield!

When you are in the Atoka area, there are two spots where you can easily take a walk along a trace of the old stagecoach road. One is at the Atoka County Museum, a mile north of Atoka on the east side of U.S. Highway 69. There, a short segment of the road is memorialized with a large granite marker and you can walk a well-groomed section south toward the historic crossing of the Middle (Muddy) Boggy River.

The other segment is on the eastern shore of Lake Atoka. Turn off U.S. Highway 69 at Lakeshore Drive, then take the first left on Lake Road. The trailhead is on the west side of the road at 34.46107, -96.07045 right after turning. There is room to park a vehicle on the roadside. The hike is about 1.75 miles round trip and, depending on the depth of the lake, you will end up about 1,000 feet from the inundated location of Geary's Stand, a Butterfield station on the east side of North Boggy Creek operated by A.W. Geary. The trail may be hard to follow, especially in summer, so put this one on your list for late fall and winter.

## Nail's Crossing

Here's a nice trace of the old stagecoach road at Nail's Crossing on the Blue River, running north from the station site. A number of such segments remain across Oklahoma.





In 1930, Roscoe and Margaret Conkling took the photo below of the original station house at Nail's. The individual in the photo is unidentified.



Today the site shows little evidence of the station. The 1958 historic marker sits between two piles of rubble where the house stood, with a cistern nearby.



## Resources on the Oklahoma Butterfield

Want to know more? Literature and other resources for the Oklahoma segment of the Butterfield Trail are available here: <https://susandragoo.com/butterfield-oklahoma/>.

## We Want Your Feedback!

Are there topics you would like to see covered in more depth in the newsletter? Do you have information to share about the Butterfield in Oklahoma? Write us at [oklabutterfield@gmail.com](mailto:oklabutterfield@gmail.com).

- Susan Dragoo, Editor (President, Oklahoma Chapter – Butterfield National Historic Trail Association)
- June Chubbuck, Associate Editor (Secretary/Treasurer, OK-BNHTA)