

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

Greetings and welcome to the third issue of our chapter's quarterly newsletter! There's been a lot going on this fall on the Butterfield trail in Oklahoma and surrounding states.



From left, Adam Salazar and Grant Stauffer of the Choctaw Nation; June Chubbuck of the Edwards Store; Susan Dragoo, OK-BNHTA; Kristina Wyckoff and Lynda Ozan of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office; and Jill Jensen, Nick Myers and Brian Deaton of the National Park Service during their site survey at Edwards Store.

National Park Service Assesses Station Sites in Oklahoma

A three-person team from the National Park Service's National Trails Office traveled the length of the Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoach route through Oklahoma December 10-11, 2024, assessing station sites. Jill Jensen, Nicholas Myers and Brian Deaton, trail planners from the NPS' Santa Fe office, made a stop at eleven of the twelve official Butterfield stations (excluding the inundated Geary's Station) as well as Edwards Store, Mountain Station, and the Atoka Confederate Cemetery. The team's objective was to evaluate locations with high potential for interpretation and public access as part of development of the implementation

plan for the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. Prior to their stop in Oklahoma, the trail planners toured Missouri and Arkansas, and after completing their review in Oklahoma went on to Texas, traveling as far as Fort Stockton. They planned to return to Texas after the first of the year to continue their westward journey to assess the entire trail. Accompanying the NPS staff through Oklahoma at one time or another were representatives of the Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, State Historic Preservation Office, Edwards Store, and Oklahoma Chapter of the Butterfield National Historic Trail Association. According to the trail planning team they will return to Oklahoma next winter to assess segments of the trail.

Renew Your Membership for 2025!

Continue your support for preserving the Indian Territory segment of the Butterfield trail by renewing your membership in OK-BNHTA! See page 4 of this newsletter for a copy of the membership renewal application.

New Slate of Officers

At the October 3, 2024 membership meeting, the Oklahoma Chapter of the Butterfield National Historic Trail Association elected a new slate of officers, including Kim Hinson, tribal archeologist for the Choctaw Nation, who was elected to serve as Vice President of the chapter. Officers re-elected include Susan Dragoo, President; June Chubbuck, Secretary/Treasurer; Marilyn Heifner, Immediate Past President; and board members Penny Adams, Chenae Lippard, and Cecil Holcomb.

Archaeological Investigations at Butterfield Properties Begin

Non-invasive archaeological investigations have now been completed at two station sites along the Indian Territory segment of the Butterfield Overland Mail route. The Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) is completing the work under a grant from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Surveys at Walker's and Holloway's Stations were completed in October and December under the auspices of the OAS with Drs. Amanda Regnier and Scott Hammerstedt overseeing the work, which has included high precision mapping of artifacts and features on the ground surface and various geophysical investigations in selected areas. Surveys at three more Butterfield stations in the state are planned for the winter of 2025.

The SHPO will use the information acquired through this project to update National Register nominations for multiple Butterfield Overland Mail Route-related properties. For more information, contact Kristina Wyckoff, Historical Archaeologist with the OKSHPO, at 405-521-6381 or kristina.wyckoff@history.ok.gov.



Edwards Store Foundation Work Completed



Work to restore the foundation at the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead (Edwards Store) took place in November, 2024 at the site, northeast of Red Oak, Oklahoma. The foundation corners on the east and west ends of the cabin were restored by constructing reinforced concrete footings, preserving the original 1850s cabin's bottom logs and repairing the original foundation piers. Rotten wall logs were replaced at both ends, the cabin floor was leveled and the severely damaged 1850s fireplace lintel was saved and restored.

The structure is one of the few associated with the Butterfield Overland Mail Company still standing along the route. Major financial support for this project comes from the Oklahoma Historical Society's Heritage Preservation Grant Program, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and individual donations.

This project will complete the first phase of the cabin foundations work. Two future foundation phases are planned for the cabin's porches and its 1889 board and batten addition. Stay abreast of developments at the Edwards Store on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RedOakOklahoma>.

Recommended Reading

At the onset of the Civil War, U.S. Army Lieutenant William W. Averell traveled in disguise to Indian Territory to deliver to Lieutenant Colonel William H. Emory orders to withdraw from the territory ahead of Confederate forces. Much of his trip took place along the Butterfield Overland Mail route, which had just been abandoned for the more northern Central Route the month before. Read about Averell's harrowing ride through Indian Territory in the 1961 *Chronicles of Oklahoma* article by Muriel Wright, "Lieutenant Averell's Ride at the Outbreak of the Civil War" here: <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc2123780/>

Resources

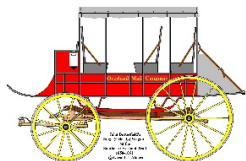
National Park Service site for Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail: <https://www.nps.gov/buov/>.

Literature and other resources for the Oklahoma segment of the Butterfield Trail: <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.

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



**BUTTERFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION
RENEWAL/MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(January 1, 2025 -December 31, 2025)**

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Levels

Basic Individual \$25-\$99

Sponsor \$100-\$499

Patron \$500-\$999

Benefactor \$1000+

Student \$10 (enclose copy of college ID
or for minor's birth certificate)

PLEASE FILL OUT

Membership Level:

\$25 + \$ _____ * = \$ _____ (determines membership level) \$ _____

Extra donation*

(All levels of membership include one state chapter affiliation. Each additional chapter is \$10 each).

Name Primary state chapter affiliation - _____ \$ FREE

Please circle additional state chapter(s) affiliation @ \$10 each

AR AZ CA MO OK TX NM \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Please mail to Butterfield National Historic Trail Association, 6700 Western Trails Drive, Springdale, AR 72762. Questions call Marilyn Heifner 479-530-0676.

BNHTA Office Use Only: Receipt Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Check Number _____ Amount Paid _____ State Chapter(s) AR AZ CA MO OK TX NM

Received by _____ Date Processed _____ Past Member # _____