

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

The Butterfield National Historic Trail association is rolling! Read below for the latest news!

Restoration Work Progresses at Edwards Store



Photo by Chrissy Gray

The main roof of the Edwards Store meal stop log cabin was successfully restored in December 2025. The metal roof was removed, and evidence of two layers of earlier wood shingles were documented. A few of the original rafters, the rafter plate (top log), and some original sheathing were salvaged and reused. New rough-cut lumber was used to replicate other parts of the roof. Red cedar shingles were attached and a new four-section ridge board was installed.

The iconic front and back porches were reconstructed, also using rough-cut lumber and specialty nails which replicated original square-head nails. The original porches, determined to be unsalvageable, were demolished in 2021 to prevent damage to the cabin's log walls.

The restoration work was completed by historic log cabin artisan and craftsman William “Bill” Bailey with Historical Applications, Inc. Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the Oklahoma Historical Society Heritage Preservation Grant Program and matched by public and private donations.

The next phase of restoration will restore the porches’ native stone foundation piers, deck the porches, recreate the back porch ceiling and fascia, and restore the cabin’s gable ends. For more information on this restoration effort go to the website at www.theedwardsstore.org.



Photo by June Chubbuck



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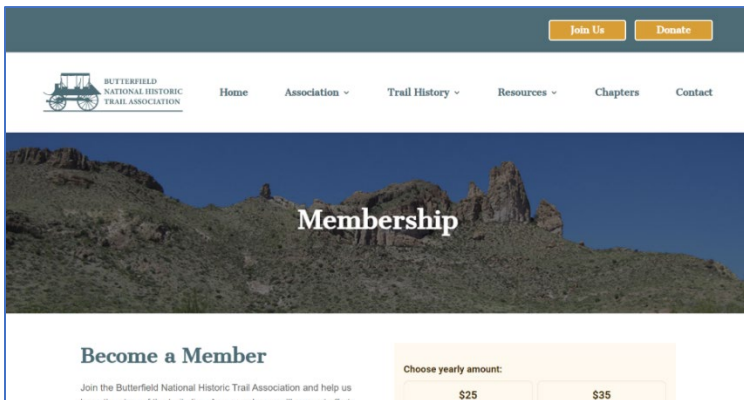
Grants Awarded by Oklahoma Historical Society

Both The Edwards Store and the Oklahoma Chapter – Butterfield National Historic Trail Association have been awarded grants under the Oklahoma Historical Society’s 2026 Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant program. The grant brings The Edwards Store closer to finishing the cabin porches, helping to fund the restoration of the front and back porch foundations and restoring the dogtrot and porch decking. The OK-BNHTA’s grant funding will be used for printing of brochures to distribute in travel stops along the trail.

Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Planning Moves Forward

In spite of delays related to government funding, the National Trails Office of the National Park Service (NPS) has continued to move forward with developing the Comprehensive Plan for the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. The plan is scheduled to be available for public comment June 20-July 17, 2026. It will be very important for stakeholders to review the document and make comments during this period, as it becomes more challenging to make corrections after that time. The final plan is scheduled to be posted to the NPS website August 17, 2026.

The trail logo is also now in draft form, and set for release this summer. State highway departments have already been contacted to allow the Butterfield NHT signs to be installed along the route. Stay tuned for more!



Renew for 2026!

It's time to renew your membership in the Butterfield National Historic Trail Association (and of course the Oklahoma chapter) for 2026! It's easy at <https://www.butterfieldtrail.org/>.

First Annual Butterfield Conference and Annual Meeting

If you missed our chapter's First Annual Butterfield Conference and Annual Meeting on October 30, 2025 or would like to refresh your memory, below are the link and password for the Zoom recording as well as a Dropbox folder containing all the materials, including Denny Spradling's performance of his original composition, "Along the Butterfield Trail," which we were not able to present live during the meeting.

Recording of 10/30/2025 meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Mkotz-5By0F84fz24JPjhWCB4naWc2EcUsIUyV4vrOCefAQR4-0YWd7guz5L-DgX.PPQnjhhVGZWJWvt6>

Passcode: @p?i85.U

Meeting Materials and Presentations:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/9rnczz18m740jtr8epys9/AOo_kRpA4XErpSf8DrxW99k?rlkey=ogisqpxhr281qx104qumvslbk&st=z08touv&dl=0

Recommended Reading

Bob Crossman of Arkansas has written a number of books about the Butterfield Trail. One of the most fascinating is *Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail PASSENGER DIARIES & STORIES Across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri 1858 – 1861*. Check it out (and his other books) on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/8cYFIF1>.

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? Contact us at oklabutterfield@gmail.com or the chapter leaders listed below:

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Kim Hinson, Vice President, kahinson@choctawnation.com, (580) 380-6901

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Resources

Butterfield National Historic Trail Association: <https://www.butterfieldtrail.org/>

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

NPS also has an app that provides a useful mapping function for the Butterfield. Go to the App Store, search for the NPS parks app and download to your phone!

Literature and other resources for the Oklahoma segment of the Butterfield Trail: <https://susandragoo.com/butterfield-oklahoma/>.