

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

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

### National Trail Planner Visits Edwards Store

The restoration of the historic Edwards Store/Edwards-Hardaway Homestead meal stop cabin entered an exciting new chapter this spring with the laying of the front and back porch flooring. Archaeological investigation of the ground below the dogtrot breezeway combined with reinforcement of the original floor joists and reconstruction of the dogtrot flooring added to the fun. Artisan Contractor William “Bill” Bailey skillfully reconstructed the flooring using authentic 1x8x12 rough cut pine boards and 1850-1870 replica nails, echoing the cabin’s original craftsmanship.

Adding to the energy of the project, the site was honored March 18 by a special visit from Jill Jensen, Lead Planner for the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail and a trained anthropologist/archaeologist. Her hands-on participation with Oklahoma Archaeological Survey Director Amanda Regnier in the day’s excavations and screenings brought both expertise and enthusiasm to the restoration efforts. Other special guests during this phase included Deputy Director Lynda Ozan and Archaeologist Kristina Wyckoff with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

Photos by June Chubbuck



## Support the Trail

Thanks for supporting OK-BNHTA through your membership! We've now created an opportunity to make additional tax-deductible donations to support trail planning, promotion and preservation efforts. Use the link or the QR code below, and THANK YOU!

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=BPTNYVU5KW9LC](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BPTNYVU5KW9LC)

If you are not a member, please join us! Go to <https://www.butterfieldtrail.org/membership/>



## View of Original Blackburn's Plaque

Although most of the 1958-59 Butterfield historical markers across southeastern Oklahoma are intact, a couple have been damaged and among them is the marker at Blackburn's Station. In recent years, all that remains is the concrete base, as the plaque is missing (see 2023 photo below, at right). Nancy Williams Hughes found the photo below left (circa late 1970s-early 1980s) of her grandmother (kneeling at left) with the marker, showing the original plaque.



## Planning Begins for Second Annual Butterfield Conference and Annual Meeting

Our First Annual Butterfield Conference and Annual Meeting in October 2025 got us off to a good start in establishing a yearly educational event focused on the Indian Territory segment of the Butterfield Trail. Planning is now beginning for our 2026 meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for late October or early November. Let us know at [oklabutterfield@gmail.com](mailto:oklabutterfield@gmail.com) if you have suggestions for speakers and/or topics.

## Hitching Post History

The Centennial Committee of the Oklahoma Historical Society toured the Indian Territory segment of the Butterfield trail in May 1958 to identify station locations for placement of historical markers. They reported on their findings in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in the Winter 1958-59 edition, including a lengthy write-up about their visit to the Edwards Store. As the Committee approached the Edwards Store from the east, the original structure was clearly visible on the rise to the north of the county road. They parked along the road and walked up the hill to the house. “As we walked up the hill,” they wrote, “the old hitching post of bois d’arc was noted. It was probably near this old hitching post that the Overland Mail coaches would stop, while the passengers would walk up to the (Thomas and Nancy Hardaway) Edwards’ home where they were served good food. This would also give the horses a chance to blow for the pull up over The Narrows, as from here on the gradient is much steeper.”



The old hitching post is long gone, but Chrissy Gray, descendant of the Hardaway family, recently shared this photo of the post, with the historical marker right in front of it. The location of the post clarifies the basis for the location of the 1958 historical marker pictured here as well. Exact date of the photo is unknown, but all the markers were in place by 1959, so it would be 1958-59 or later. Read the full Committee report at <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc1796165/>, beginning on page 446.

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## Recommended Reading

If you have not read Waterman Ormsby’s firsthand account of his experience as the first through passenger on the Butterfield stage in 1858, it’s worth your time to pick up a copy. The book is still in print and a Kindle version is even available. Here’s the Amazon link: <https://a.co/d/01YcUUwy>

## 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](mailto:oklabutterfield@gmail.com) or chapter leaders below:

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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/>.