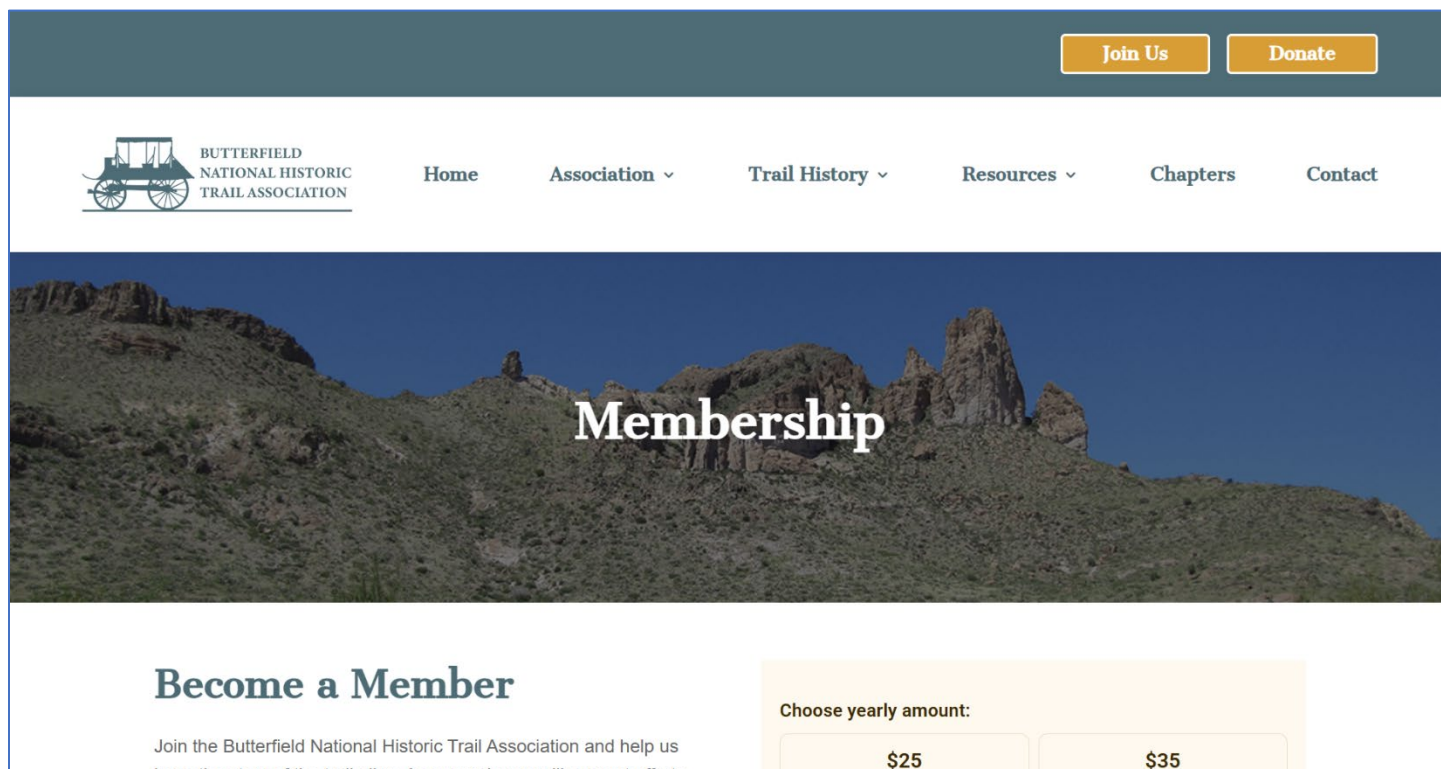


Oklahoma Chapter – Butterfield National Historic Trail Association (OK-BNHTA)

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

National Historic Trail Website Up and Running!



The web site for the Butterfield National Historic Trail Association is now live at <https://www.butterfieldtrail.org/>, with an online method for joining the Association, designate your state chapter, and make donations as well as an individual page for each chapter. This is a huge step forward and we are excited to see the increase in membership as a result. It will soon be time to renew your membership for 2026, so take the time to explore the new site.

First Annual Butterfield Conference and Annual Meeting Scheduled

On October 30 at 3 p.m. the Oklahoma chapter will debut its “First Annual” educational conference in conjunction with its annual membership meeting. Conducted online to maximize availability, the conference is free to members, who can sign up at this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6CdnCIVD42Q-Ug77jqW5zPoUMkMNRuCNA1WWrs5c8DpAVTg/viewform>

The conference schedule includes the following:

- Musical Presentation – “Along the Butterfield Trail” - Denny Spradling, Composer and Performer
- National Park Service Update – Jill Jensen, Lead Planner, National Trails Office
- National Association Update – Marilyn Heifner, President, National Historic Trail Association
- Butterfield Archaeology Report – Amanda Regnier, Ph.D., Director, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey

- Edwards Store Update – June Chubbuck, Advisor, Edwards Store
- Mystery of Fisher's Station Keeper Resolved – Susan Dragoo, Author and Researcher
- Questions and Answers/ Discussion
- Break
- Membership Meeting

Don't miss it! The Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the event. If you have questions or need more information, contact Susan Dragoo at susan.dragoo@gmail.com.

OK-BNHTA represented at Choctaw Nation's Indigenous Archaeology Day

Oklahoma chapter Vice President Kim Hinson, Tribal Archaeologist/Historic Preservation at the Choctaw Nation, brought together an impressive array of people and resources for Indigenous Archaeology Day on October 11, 2025, at the Choctaw Cultural Center in Calera, Oklahoma. Held in collaboration with the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network (OKPAN), the all-day event featured a variety of Choctaw artforms and lifeways including pottery making, textile education, weapons demos, flint knapping, stickball, and sampling of traditional foods. Guests toured the Growing Hope Garden, and attended presentations by two University of Oklahoma graduate students who shared insights into current research in Choctaw archaeology. In front of the Cultural Center, the Historic Preservation Department also held its first Bioblitz on the prairie, an event co-hosted by the Oklahoma Biological Survey and Okies for Monarchs. A bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. This event was held to raise awareness about the cultural and ecological significance of prairie landscapes. Kim, June Chubbuck, and Susan Dragoo staffed an OK-BNHTA table offering information about the Butterfield Trail in Indian Territory. All three members appreciated the opportunity to engage with attendees and promote public awareness about the trail.



Susan Dragoo and Kim Hinson at the Choctaw Nation's Indigenous Archaeology Day



Susan Dragoo and June Chubbuck at the OK-BNHTA table at Indigenous Archaeology Day

LeFlore County Government Helps Preserve History



The spring at Walker's Station after repair by LeFlore County officials.

The historic spring at Walker's Station near Spiro has been quenching the thirst of travelers along the Fort Smith-Boggy Depot and Overland Mail Road for nearly two centuries. It is still piped to the road for the refreshment of passersby. In July of 2025 the spout at the road was severely damaged. Property owner and OK-BNHTA board member Joy Rucker reached out to OK-BNHTA member John Redwine for help and was about to contact LeFlore County Commissioner Vallard Campbell on Redwine's recommendation when, Rucker says, "I was trying to find how to contact him and he shows up with a crew, a dump truck, and a culvert." Campbell said he had been contacted by the Oklahoma Historical Society about the damaged spring. The road crew installed the culvert, covered the hole and built a stone enclosure. Many thanks to Commissioner Campbell and LeFlore County for preserving this important site!



The Trahern's Station marker sits damaged but upright on the roadside after LeFlore County road crews re-set it.

We also appreciate LeFlore County's action to re-set the Trahern's Station marker at Latham. Trahern's is the second Butterfield station in Indian Territory on the westbound run and the 1958 centennial marker had been knocked down a few years ago by road equipment. OK-BNHTA board member Cecil Holcomb and John Redwine helped get the ball rolling to restore the monument, and Joy Rucker attended the LeFlore County Commissioners meeting with Holcomb to ask for help with the marker. Soon the concrete and bronze marker was standing straight again. This marker stood for 65 years and we hope it survives for many more. Thanks again to Cecil Holcomb and John Redwine for their leadership on this project.

Butterfield Trail Featured on Oklahoma City Television Station

Oklahoma City's KFOR television station recently featured the Indian Territory segment of the Butterfield Trail on its regular feature, "Is This a Great State or What?" with host Galen Culver. To view the segment, go to

<https://kfor.com/news/great-state/a-fall-road-trip-through-oklahoma-in-1858-would-have-taken-the-butterfield-trail/>



The Edwards Store Hosts Open House



Photo by Michael Duncan

It was a rainy weekend for the Edwards Store Open House but community members who attended the October 17-18 event were able to see the latest work on the historic structure. Saturday morning, October 17, was a busy morning with visitors from Poteau, Bokoshe, and McAlester, until rain dampened things around noon. Fortunately, work will begin in early November on the roof and porches of the cabin so it will soon be dried in for visitors. Stay tuned for more Edwards Store news at <https://www.facebook.com/RedOakOklahoma>.

Recommended Reading

Have you ever read *New York Herald* reporter Waterman Ormsby's first-hand account of his experience as the only through-passenger on the first westbound Butterfield stage in September-October 1858? It's a whirlwind of an adventure! Find it on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/75BPFNq>.

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:

Susan Dragoo, President, susan.dragoo@gmail.com, (405) 664-2253

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

June Chubbuck, Secretary/Treasurer, june@sellsofpurple.net, (405) 535-2839

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 very 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/>.