

BEYOND STATEHOOD

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume III, Issue II

Greeting Members,

Progress is often made slowly and with many bumps along the road. This quarter I am excited to share that our new website has already gotten over 1000 unique visitors and I am starting to get messages from people who are equally curious about exploring our county and sharing its history. Our efforts at preserving the history of the Excelsior Library are paying off and we may eventually get a new home inside. As for our home at the Sport's Museum, we have decided to part ways, but continue to wish each other well. I have spent a great amount of time researching Highland Park for this year's picnic. I have discovered many forgotten stories which I cannot wait to share, and my research has inspired new projects, including our upcoming self guided WPA tour of Logan County and a desire to collect images from our county's past. I hope you can attend this year's Picnic in Highland Park. Tickets are available on our [website](#) or by contacting me at 405-282-6000 ex 4 Keep Exploring!

Amy Loch, Executive Director

LCHS is pleased to announce the Excelsior Library has been officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 2016. The Excelsior was built in 1955 as the second African American Library in Guthrie. To learn more about the library's history check out our new [on-line exhibit](#) or you can read the [nomination document](#).



The mission of the Logan County Historical Society is to conduct its activities in a manner which shall serve to preserve and perpetuate the history of Logan county and its people.

WPA: More than Remembered

When we think about the Works Progress Administration, most picture the armories, schools, and bridges which remain. But the New Deal created hope across the country for many hit hard by the Great Depression. In 1935, the WPA alone employed over 1,200 people in Logan County. Men got jobs paving roads, improving the water filtration system, and building public buildings throughout the county. Women got jobs in sewing rooms and some were even employed as book binders at the Carnegie Library.

In 1935, the Civil Conservation Corps set up Camp Winters west of Guthrie. 200 young men lived at the camp while doing soil conservation work.



Camp Winters, Guthrie. Photo from Oklahoma Historical Society Collection

The National Youth Administration

provided part time jobs for teenagers with projects like park improvements. A new stadium for Guthrie had failed to pass a bond election, but WPA funds helped create the Jelsma Stadium we have today. WPA projects popped up across the county with schools being built in Crescent, Guthrie, Langston, Lovell, Meridian, Mulhall and Roxanna. The Crescent City Hall was built as a WPA project and the farm to market roads were paved from Meridian and Pleasant Valley.

As times changed ,many of these projects have become obsolete, but remnants remain throughout the county. In order to highlight all that the New Deal brought to Logan County, the LCHS is excited to launch our new self-guided tour of WPA sites and history in Logan County. We are working hard to finalize the tour and make it available on our website. I encourage you to take the time to check out these sites, before it's too late.

The LCHS is seeking historic photographs of Logan County from 1911-the present. We are especially interested in photographs which show how the county has changed over-time. We are interested in scanning photographs and can return the originals to their owners, if desired. Photographs help to tell the story of our county and will be used for research, programming and to enhance our new website.

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2ND ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

Highland Park

June 2nd at 6:00 pm

Learn about Highland Park's unique past

Enjoy a picnic dinner and toast marshmallows

\$10 per person for dinner

[Get your tickets](#)

or

RSVP by May 31

405-282-6000 ex 4

Rain Date June 9th

The LCHS was pleased to help with the 3rd Annual Crescent Elementary Pioneer Day at the Frontier Country Museum. LCHS's Director, Amy Loch, also



designed and launched the museum's new website www.frontiercountrymuseum.org.

Become a Member

Like what you are reading? If you haven't yet become a member, do so today. Go to www.logancountyhistoricalsociety.org/membership and become a member. Members are showing their support for the Logan County Historical Society and our activities. As a member you will also receive our quarterly newsletter and invitations to our activities.

LCHS Board Members

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Logan County Museum and Historic Activity Directory

[Drug Store Museum](#), 214 W. Oklahoma Guthrie 405-282-1895
[First Capital Trolley](#), Guthrie 405-282-6000
[Frontier Country Museum](#), 500 N. Grand Crescent 405-969-3660
[Logan County Historical Society](#), Guthrie 405-282-6000 ex 4
[Oklahoma Territorial Capital Sports Museum](#), 315 W. Oklahoma Guthrie 405-260-1342
[Oklahoma Territorial Museum](#) 406 E. Oklahoma Guthrie 282-1889
[Owens Art Place](#), 1202 E. Harrison Guthrie 405-260-0204
Scottish Masonic Rite Temple, 900 E. Oklahoma Guthrie 282-1281
[Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center](#), Langston University
405-466-3346



P.O. Box 1512
Guthrie, OK 73044