



The Round Tower

A Quarterly Publication of the Cleveland County Historical Society

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Cleveland County Historical Society

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Save the Date!

Christmas Open House
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Cash and Check Donations Gratefully Accepted)

Friday, December 14th: 6-10pm

The Moore-Lindsay Historical House
508 N. Peters Ave.
Norman, OK 73069
405-321-0156

Free carriage rides to 2nd Friday Art Walk on Main Street!
Free holiday food!
Live music by local musicians!
Local vendors!
Gift raffle!

Have questions about this event?
Please contact Erin Smith at catdiva83@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

**Christmas Open
House:
December 14th
6-10pm**

Street Names of Norman

DeBARR AVENUE: This avenue is named for Dr. Edwin DeBarr, M.S., PhD., who was one of the first five men composing the faculty of the University of Oklahoma. He was an eminent teacher of chemistry, an author of many papers, and later taught physics, biology, and pharmacy.



Oklahoma Pioneer Holiday Recipes



White Hot Chocolate: from Gooseberry Patch Christmas (Gooseberry Patch 1999)

Serve in thick mugs with whipped cream, a dash of cinnamon or cocoa powder and a candy cane.

3 c. half-and-half, divided
2/3 c. vanilla chips
3-inch cinnamon stick
1/8 t. nutmeg
1 t. vanilla extract
1/4 t. almond extract
Ground cinnamon



“In a saucepan, combine 1/4 cup of the half-and-half, vanilla chips, cinnamon stick and nutmeg. Whisk over low heat until vanilla chips are melted. Remove cinnamon stick. Add remaining half-and-half. Whisk until heated throughout. Remove from heat and add vanilla and almond extract. Makes 4 or 5 servings.” –Jeanine English, TX



Mrs. Street's Rich Oyster Soup: from Pioneer Cookery Around Oklahoma (Bobwhite Publications 1978)

1 quart milk
3 T. butter
1 pint oysters
Salt and pepper to taste

“Heat milk, butter, and seasonings. While heating, butter a skillet, turn in the oyster liquid and bring to a boil. Pour in 1/2 teacupful of the hot milk liquid, turn the oysters into this and stir them for a few seconds. Throw the contents of the skillet into the hot milk and serve immediately.”



Pioneer Fruit Candy from Pioneer Cookery Around Oklahoma (Bobwhite Publications 1978)

1 lb. raisins
1/2 lb. figs
1/2 lb. dates
1 cup stoned prunes
Juice and whole rind of 1 orange
1 cup walnuts, broken

“Grind together fruits and orange rind and nuts. Shape into balls or into flat bars. Candy should be allowed to stand for 24 hours in order to ripen before eating . Dipping these fruit candies in melted milk chocolate makes them exceptionally tasty.”

Territorial Norman: Settler Story



James Robert Holland

By: Blanch Holland

“James Robert Holland, 27 years of age, married Viola Elizabeth Robinson, 22 years of age, in Red Bud, Texas, on December 14, 1884. James R. Holland was born near Nashville, Tennessee in 1862. When he was 19 years old, he moved to Montague County, Texas with his father, mother, one sister and nine brothers. Viola Robinson’s parents came from Virginia and Louisiana into East Texas. She was born in 1867 in Melrose, four miles from Nacogdoches on a plantation where she lived until her family moved to Montague County in North Central Texas. Her father was a planter. Mr. Holland’s father was a Methodist Minister and a farmer. Viola Robinson met James R. Holland when he became the teacher in the school district in which her family lived. He was a minister of the South Methodist Church and was teaching to pay his way in a Texas college. In about 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Holland lived in Norman, Oklahoma Territory in a four room white square house near the Methodist Boarding School for Girls at the east end of Main Street which was later sold by the Conference and became a private hospital for mental patients. Later still, the hospital was purchased by the State and is now known as Central State Griffin Memorial Hospital. At this time, Reverend Holland bought the lots on North Peters Avenue where the present family home is located. His plan was to return to Norman someday and build his home on these lots. Methodist ministers were required to move every four years. In Burneyville, he supplemented his income as a Methodist pastor by partnership and book-keeping in a general store. With nine children whom he desired should receive a college education, he left the Conference for the mercantile business in Gainesville, Texas and then in Marietta, Oklahoma.

After sending the two eldest, a son and a daughter, away to college for one year, Mr. Holland decided to move to a college town. Norman was chosen and in 1904 he bought the W.N. Rucker Dry Goods Store. A year later he bought the E.A. Foster home which had been built in 1904 on the lots he formerly owned for 25 years and which he had sold while living in Gainesville, Texas. He was owner and manager of Holland’s Cash Dry Goods Store until failing health forced his retirement. He died in 1916. The Methodist Church membership for 1916 shows his family as the largest one on the rolls.

The Holland children are Houston, a Norman resident one year before he became a business man in oil in Oklahoma City and Enid. His three children grew up in Enid. Ora Elizabeth, who married E.F. Sherman of Lexington, Oklahoma, established a home in Norman and their three children live in Norman. Oscar B. married Nadine Lowther, daughter of Dr. R.D. Lowther and granddaughter of Norman’s first physician Dr. Chesney. Oscar was well known as owner of his shoe store and was a golf enthusiast. Of his three children, two live in Norman, a daughter and a son, and the other son lives in Oklahoma City.”

Keeping the Past Alive in Norman's Old Silk Stocking Row: The Robbins Family Interview Conducted by Erin Smith

Currently residing in the former Peters Street home of the Holland family is the Robbins family. Their love and fascination with history is evident as Rocky Robbins describes their decision to maintain the classical ambiance of the era in which the house was built. According to Robbins, he and his family have lived in the 721 N. Peters home since



Rocky Robbins in front of his house at 721 N. Peters Ave

2007 and they had originally planned to purchase the building to open a psychology practice. They had very little previous knowledge about the house regarding the Holland family and their role as early Norman settlers. However, Robbins recalls a recurring dream that he had of living in an old house and he has always loved Victorian architecture. As stated by Robbins, "When we first saw the house, I began to imagine how to playfully interact with the past."

Robbins "poetic imagination" and enthusiasm for historical research gave him an adventurous project as he worked to find more information about the history of the house that was not readily available. This allowed him to "connect to another time in a concrete way and imagine what the neighborhood would have been like." Robbins "could almost hear the clomping of horses as they carried people in carriages through these streets."

Thankfully, due to much previous upkeep of the house, the Robbins family did not have to plan for any major renovations with the exception of replacing all 29 of the windows at a cost of approximately \$9,000. "We had to do something about our \$700 monthly heating bill", said Robbins about the decision to replace the windows. As true collectors and lovers of design, the old window frames were kept and used as frames for art work.

The family is also planning to paint the house in multiple colors to further authenticate the house as a true "painted lady" of Norman's Old Silk Stocking Row. A few of the home's exterior gingerbread and lattice-work pieces will also be replaced. A few features of the grounds, including the back brick patio made from the old bricks that were removed from Main Street and the original carriage house, have been maintained.

When asked about any of his favorite stories about the Holland family, Robbins describes his fascination with Blanche Holland, who had lived part of her life as a quadriplegic and was a teacher in Oklahoma City. "She was one of the only people in Norman to be given extra rations of gasoline so that she could be taken back and forth to teach", said Robbins. "She also had a Masters Degree in History, which was so unheard of for a woman at that time." Blanche also made frequent trips to Columbia's Teachers College in New York where she received training. This was an interesting coincidence to Robbins because he has also made many trips to this same location for training. According to Robbins, the Holland family was also known for being avid Sooner football fans and they even had a rule that visitors were not allowed to call on them in later years when they were watching games on television.

In keeping with traditional Christmas festivities, the Robbins family hosts an annual Victorian Christmas feast with other neighbors from Old Silk Stocking Row where they dine on venison and duck. The guests are also treated to a glimpse of antique nutcrackers collected by the family. The house is indeed the perfect setting for a Victorian Christmas complete with lovely fine art prints of Pre-Raphaelite paintings by notable artists such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti adorning the walls. The home is also furnished with many other antique items such as an 1870 grandfather clock and flower chandelier rescued from New Orleans during a post-Hurricane Katrina auction.



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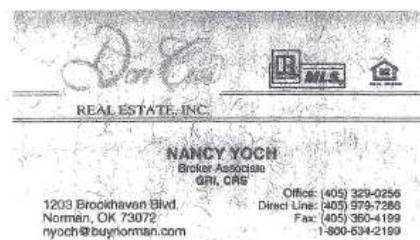
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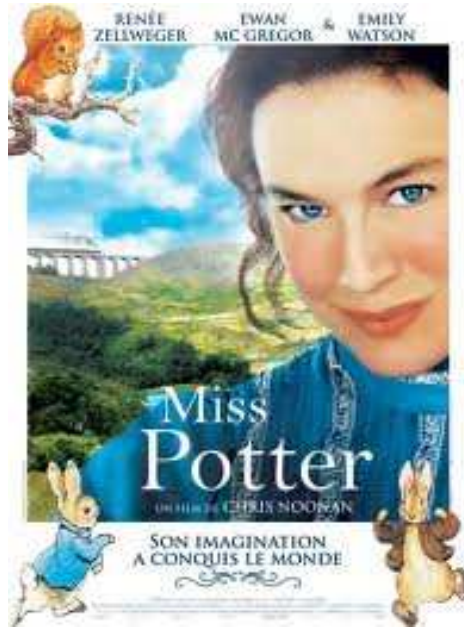
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The Victorian Era Represented in Film



Miss Potter (2006)

- Rated as 7.0 on the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com)
- Run Time: 92 minutes



“The true story of the woman who created some of the most beloved characters in children's literature comes to the screen in this drama leavened with elements of comedy and romance. Beatrix Potter (Renée Zellweger) is an imaginative but gently eccentric woman living in the socially and intellectually confining circumstances of Victorian England. Potter's wealthy parents are eager for her to marry a successful man and settle down, but she has ideas of her own, and has been writing and illustrating a series of stories for children centered around a character she calls Peter Rabbit. Potter's efforts to find a publisher for her stories prove difficult, but in time she finds a firm who agrees to give her book a chance, and Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor) is put in charge of the project. While Warne is new to the publishing game, he believes Potter has great talent and potential, and throws himself into the work with enthusiasm. A strong personal bond grows between Potter and Warne, and in time he asks her to marry him; however, Beatrix's parents do not approve of Norman, and she is forced to choose between her mother and father and the man she loves. Norman's sister Mille (Emily Watson) urges Beatrix to follow her heart, and she accepts Norman's proposal, but fate has other plans. Miss Potter was directed by Chris Noonan, who created an international sensation with his first feature film, Babe.” ~ Mark Deming, Rovi : http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/miss_potter/

“Stories don't always end where their authors intended. But there is joy in following them, wherever they take us.”



Gaslight (1944)

- Rated as a 7.8 on the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com)
- Run Time: 114 minutes



“Ingrid Bergman won her first of three Oscars for this suspense thriller, crafted with surprising tautness by normally genteel "women's picture" director George Cukor. Bergman stars as Paula Alquist, a late 19th century English singer studying music in Italy. However, Paula abandons her studies because she's fallen in love with dapper, handsome Gregory Anton (Charles Boyer). The couple marries and returns to the U.K. and a home inherited by Paula from her aunt, herself a famous singer, who was mysteriously murdered in the house ten years before. Once they have moved in, Gregory, who is in reality a jewel thief and the murderer of Paula's aunt, launches a campaign of terror designed to drive his new bride insane. Though Paula is certain that she sees the house's gaslights dim every evening and that there are strange noises coming from the attic, Gregory convinces Paula that she's imagining things. Gregory's efforts to make Paula unstable are aided by an impertinent maid, Nancy (teenager Angela Lansbury in her feature film debut). Meanwhile, a Scotland Yard inspector, Brian Cameron (Joseph Cotten), becomes suspicious of Gregory and sympathetic to Paula's plight.” ~ Karl Williams, Rovi : <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1008138-gaslight/>

Pioneer remedies

Taken from the cook book of
Nettie Elizabeth Spriggins, Born on
November 12, 1879
(<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohjeffer/ODDSnENDS/REM.html>)

“FOR COUGH: Juice of one lemon, the same amount of glycerin, mixed. Dose for adult: one teaspoon every twenty minutes until relieved.

FOR TOOTHACHE: Mix salt with the yolk of an egg until consistency of mustard, use same as mustard plaster.

LINIMENT FOR RHEUMATISM: Take one pint good cider vinegar, add heaping teaspoon each of salt and pepper, boil down to half pint and use.

CURE FOR TONSILITIS: Cut up lovage root and fry in lard. Apply as poultice (rubbing ointment).

FOR SPRAINS: Apply a poultice made of equal parts of salt and lard. This will give instant relief and reduce swelling. There is nothing better” .



How well do you know Norman?

How many square miles is Norman?

- A) 44
- B) 125
- C) 20
- D) 1,89.5

What is one of Norman's nick-names?

- A) Soonerville
- B) City of Festivals
- C) City of Smiles
- D) Little OKC

Which famous Norman actor made a name for himself in the popular T.V. show Maverick ?

- A) Justin Nimmo
- B) James Garner
- C) Ben Johnson
- D) Dennis Weaver

When was the city of Norman officially incorporated?

- A) September 10, 1907
- B) January 31, 1889
- C) May 13, 1891
- D) March 25, 1890

What was the population of Norman in 2010?

- A) 110,925
- B) 44,290
- C) 220,430
- D) 80,950

Answers: D, B, B,C, A



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History of the Nutcracker



"According to German folklore, nutcrackers were given as keepsakes to bring good luck to your family and protect your home. The legend says that a nutcracker represents power and strength and serves like a trusty watch dog guarding your family from evil spirits and danger. A fierce protector, the nutcracker bares its teeth to the evil spirits and serves as the traditional messenger of good luck and goodwill. Nutcrackers embody the 'Cycle of Life', As the seed of a nut falls to the ground, it grows into a strong tree, living over hundreds of years nourishing the woodcutters and woodcrafters. The legends tell of a feast celebrated just before harvesting the logs of the Elder trees, where nuts and fruits were eaten as if to pass on the magic and mystery of this eternal cycle . . . and so on to the collectors of these exquisite wooden nutcrackers. Writers, composers and artists sang and danced the praises of the legend of the Nutcracker beginning with the novel "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice," written sometime between 1776 and 1822, by E.T. Amadeus Hoffman. This novel became the basis for Tchaikovsky's magnificent "Nutcracker Suite", which debuted as a ballet in St. Petersburg in 1892 and lives on as a holiday tradition throughout the world."

How Nutcrackers Came to America

"The practice of collecting nutcrackers in the United States began in the early 1950's. Many of the GI's who were in Germany during World War II visited "Kristkrinle Markt", which were open air fairs or markets. It was there that they discovered a sturdy and intriguing companion in the nutcracker. When the soldiers returned home after the war, a new comrade accompanied them. Strengthened by the nutcracker's ability to ward off evil from its owners, the soldiers brought a figure of power and protection to their families and loved ones. And so, the nutcrackers with their rich heritage had arrived in the United States, and were here to stay. When Tchaikovsky's ballet, The Nutcracker Suite premiered in St. Petersburg in 1892, the popularity of nutcrackers spurted tremendously. The ballet became very popular in the United States in the early 1950's and ignited the passion for these fascinating creatures. The magic and mystery of the ballet has intrigued and enchanted audiences year after year. The strong following of this classic production greatly increased the popularity of collecting nutcrackers in America. The role of the Steinbach family in contributing to the rising popularity of nutcrackers can not be overemphasized. The first nutcrackers, created mainly in the Erzgebirge, depicted images of kings, military officers, and other prominent members of the upper classes. Herr Steinbach, in his own unique way, altered this tradition and raised the nutcrackers to a different level. The subjects of the nutcrackers were expanded to depict characters from German folklore and legend. Introducing nutcrackers representing characters from different areas of the globe was another Steinbach innovation. Herr Steinbach's vast choice of subjects and superb quality and craftsmanship helped strengthen the perception of the nutcracker as a treasured collector's piece."

(<http://www.magicofnutcrackers.com/Nutcrackers/HistoryofNutcrackers.htm>)

Legends of the Christmas Stocking



“Although there are many different cultural takes on this tradition around the globe, there are two stories that are believed to be the source of the tradition: the story of a poor old man and his three daughters, and the Norse legend of Odin.”

An Old Man and His Three Daughters

“One of the first stories about the Christmas stocking centers around a poor old man and his three daughters. Since his family had lost all of its money, the old man feared for the future of his three daughters because he had no money to give for their dowries. As the story goes, Saint Nicholas heard about the old man and decided to help him secretly. When the family was fast asleep, Saint Nicholas went inside their home and placed one bag of gold in each of the washed stockings his three daughters had hung above the fireplace to dry. The next morning, the family was ecstatic to find the gold and the daughters of the old man were finally able to get married.

It is said that this story inspired other children to hang their stocking near the fireplace mantle, hoping that Saint Nicholas would visit them and place gifts in their stockings. In some cultures, oranges were placed inside the stockings as a symbol of the bags of gold that St. Nicholas gave to the daughters of the old man.”

The Norse Legend of Odin

“Another story that commonly comes up when researching the history of the Christmas stocking is the Norse legend of Norse god Odin and his flying horse. Children would put carrots, straw and even sugar in their boots as food for Sleipnir, Odin’s flying horse, and as a way to repay the gratitude, Odin would replace the stocking stuffers of children with treats such as candies.

In Holland, people still follow the tradition and fill their shoes with hay or a carrots as food for the horse. In Hungary, they practice the same tradition, except that they put their shoes beside the door or the window sill.”

(<http://www.christmasstocking.com/history-of-christmas-stockings/>)



A Page from the Past



First Administration Building, OU Campus (date unknown, no longer standing)



Get Involved!



Volunteer:

The Moore-Lindsay Historical house is looking for docents and capable volunteers to assist with preservation, record-keeping, publicity, events, and museum operations



Donate:

The Cleveland County Historical Society needs your donations of artifacts, photographs, and books to help us bring the stories of our region's past to the present generation. We also need your financial support, so that we may continue to preserve the collections entrusted to us, and to share the stories they tell with our community now and into the future.



Exhibit:

As a member of the Norman Arts Council, The Moore-Lindsay Historical House looks for artists and collectors to exhibit original artwork throughout the year.



Contact Us:

Contact Erin Smith at (405) 321-0156 or by email at catdiva83@yahoo.com
www.normanhistorichouse.org.
We are also on FACEBOOK!



Join the Cleveland County Historical Society

The Cleveland County Historical Society's goal is to collect, research, and preserve the history of Cleveland County. As a member, you become a part of a network of individuals and organizations helping to preserve the history of our community.

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Thank you!!!!

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