

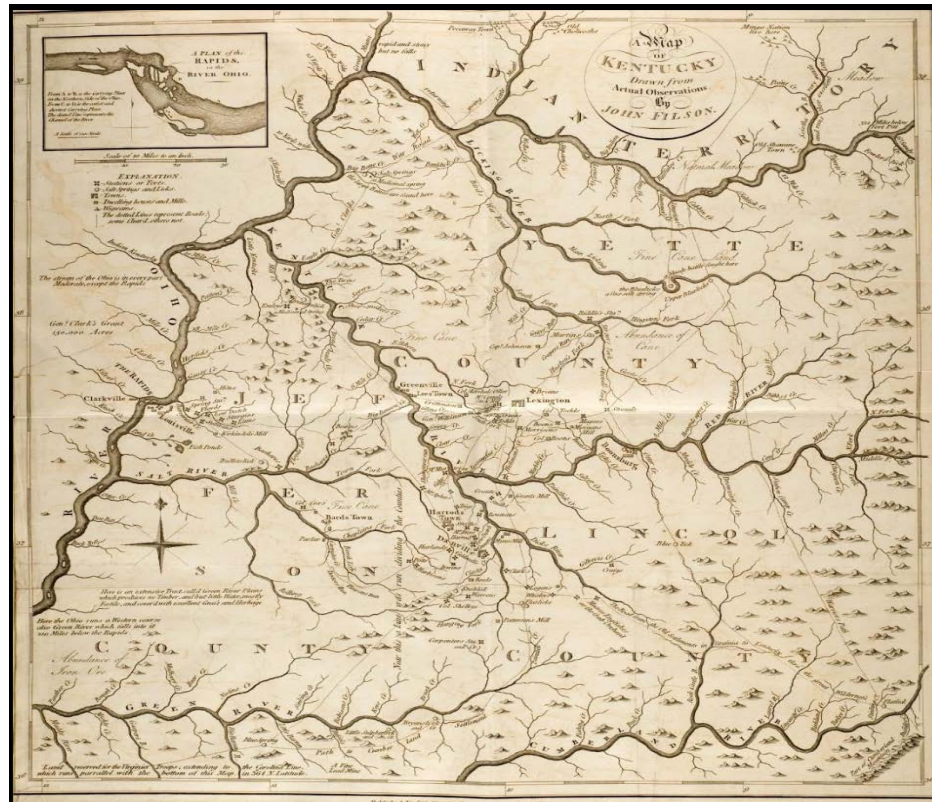


Footprints

“Every man must leave tracks and they might as well be good ones.”

Thomas Gilcrease

July 2025



A Map of Kentucky (1793)

Drawn from Actual Observations by John Filson

“Heaven must be a Kentucky kind of place.” Attributed to *Daniel Boone*

President's Message

It's the travel season, and I thought that a map would be the perfect focus for this month's *Footprints*. This one has personal meaning for me, as my brother and I were invited to be in Kentucky the first week in July for a reunion of the descendants of William Whitley on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Wilderness Road. Whitley and his wife Esther built the first brick home in Kentucky, which was completed in 1794 and dubbed the “Guardian of the Wilderness Road.” (You can see their name on the map just below the “L” in “Lincoln County.”)

Of course, I have mixed feelings about my ancestor, as he represents that “pioneer” spirit that displaced the rightful inhabitants of Kentucky, the Shawnee and others. However, he has another attribute that I admire: he was most respectful and complimentary to his wife Esther, whom he considered superior to him in many areas, including rifle shooting! You can read about Esther [here](#).

Many of the reunion activities will take place at the Whitley House, which still stands as the William Whitley House Historic Site. You can read more about the house [here](#).



Esther's initials are on the other side of the house.

Another of William and Esther's descendants has a connection with Gilcrease. Mountain man William “Bill” Sublette (my 1st cousin 5 times removed) was involved with the various rendezvouses and became part-owner of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company after the 1826 rendezvous in Cache Valley, Utah. His name came up when I was in training and we learned about the Green River rendezvous.



Green River, Oregon by Alfred Jacob Miller

According to the description of [Gilcrease's map collection](#) on the museum website, it began with individual purchases by Mr. Gilcrease, to which more recent purchases and gifts have been added. “The collection includes atlases, hand drawn maps from the manuscript collections, photocopies and Photostats of maps, single sheet maps from atlases and modern reproductions.” Archivist Charles Hilton told me that a good percentage of the map photostats come from the Grant Foreman Collection.

As you have probably heard, the maps in the Gilcrease collection will have a prominent place in the new museum. We hope to bring you more information and training about Gilcrease's maps in the following months.

Becky Hatchett

Did You Know?

- Kentucky County, **Virginia**, was established on December 31, 1776, and ceased to exist on November 1, 1780, when it was divided into three separate counties, the ones shown on this map: Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln.
- Fayette was named for the Marquis de Lafayette; Jefferson for Thomas Jefferson, who was governor of Virginia at the time of its establishment; and Lincoln County for Revolutionary War general Benjamin Lincoln.
- John Filson, who is responsible for this map, is an interesting character himself. His books and maps were significant in the settlement of Kentucky and the legend of Daniel Boone. He surveyed and planned the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, which he named Losantiville, and his design still survives in the layout of modern downtown Cincinnati. Then he disappeared in 1788, after an attack by Shawnees while on a surveying and colonizing expedition near the Great Miami River. Read more about him [here](#). In that article is this quote about the lasting contributions of John Filson: "The only prominent vestige of Filson's contribution to history that remains is The Filson Historical Society of Louisville, founded in 1884."
- Here's another of Alfred Jacob Miller's oil paintings done in 1840, *Indians on Green River*.



Gillies Cook!



This is the first recipe to be featured in this new *Footprints* series, “Gillies Cook!” Please request your favorite recipes from your fellow Gillies, and we will try to make them available!

Katharine Hepburn’s Brownies

Recipe from Alana Trisler

A little backstory: This recipe is from a circa 1970’s women’s magazine – Good Housekeeping McCalls? I can’t remember which. The article was an interview with the famous Miss Hepburn. In the middle of some answer she was giving, she stopped and said, “Oh, by the way, I make the best brownies!” and proceeded to give the recipe. After making them the first time – I have to agree with her. Enjoy!

- 1 stick (8 T) butter
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs - slightly beaten
- ½ t. vanilla
- ¼ C all-purpose flour
- ¼ t. salt
- 1 C chopped walnuts (optional)

1. Melt together 1 stick butter and 2 squares chocolate and take saucepan off the heat.
2. Stir in sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Beat the mixture well.
3. Stir in flour and salt. Add nuts, if you use them.
4. Bake in a buttered and floured 8” square pan – 325 for about 40 minutes.

Alana’s notes:

- *I have never used baking squares because I always have Hershey’s cocoa on hand. I use the recipe on the Hershey’s container to make the equivalent of 2 chocolate squares.*
- *I don’t use a full cup of sugar – a little less, but then again, I do this for all recipes requiring sugar.*
- *I never have walnuts on hand either – I use pecans.*



Trip to Pawnee

Chair: Cindy Strasheim

Twelve Gillies and spouses braved a warm day to tour Pawnee History in Pawnee, Oklahoma. Paul Westbrook, George & Jane Hill, Stephen & Nancy Campbell, Cindy and Dwayne Strasheim, Carol Stookey, Nanette Tresner, Sharon Patch, Frances Whisman and Dian Peacock.

Pawnee Bill Ranch- The tour of the mansion was more than you might have expected of a large home of the day. May Lillie and Pawnee Bill had the best of everything including electricity and running water! The collection of crystals was sparkling! Many celebrities spent time at the ranch. Buffalo Bill and Oklahoma's Native Son, Will Rogers had their own bedrooms befitting their station in Pawnee Bill's orbit. Household accoutrements of gold were given to the couple as well as Asian chairs with inlaid mother of pearl. Wild animals took over the office of Pawnee Bill, fortunately they were stuffed with the "good life." An exquisite tower, the façade of the mansion, and the caretaker's home were all made of native Oklahoma stone. Although the ranch was once Pawnee land, Blue Hawk, who was a friend and important part of the rodeo, deeded the land to Pawnee Bill. Bill was a big mover in the Boomer run, but he did not acquire any land in the runs. We did not get to the outbuildings on the property, but there are photos of the Bison on the ranch taken by Paul Westbrook and Carol Stookey.

Pawnee Historical Society and the Home of Dick Tracy

Chester Gould grew up in Pawnee. He was the son of a newspaper man. He came to drawing early in life and began his career in high school and eventually moved to Chicago where he began drawing political cartoons and then Dick Tracy took him to fame. The famous yellow trench coat is prominently displayed as are many other artifacts. The entire museum is a treasure trove of the community over time.

Click's Steakhouse was approved by all. There were a lot of diets broken.

Museum of the Pawnee Nation and Cultural Center

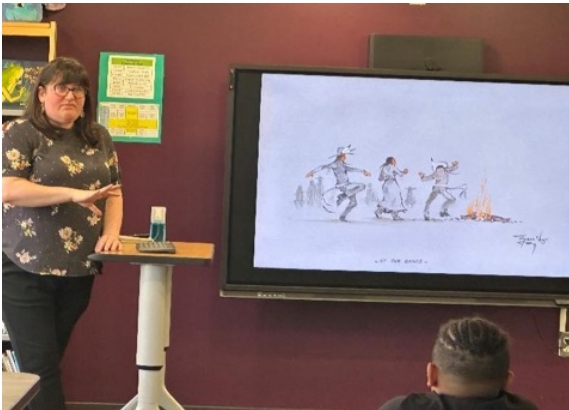
Herb Adson and Matt Reid provided us with the history of the Pawnee Nation and showed us the small museum space that has dioramas that were given to them from the Field Museum in Chicago and many pieces of art including Pawnee dresses and uniforms.



Gillies Help with TPS Indian Education Summer Camp

Gillies Becky Hatchett, Nannette Tresner, and Teresa Pena assisted Gilcrease staff members Chelsea Herr, Jenny Keller, and Mia Hoskison as they led Tulsa Public Schools' elementary-age Indian Ed students in activities based on works in the Gilcrease collection during the week of June 9-13.

The presentation to students by Chelsea Herr focused on paintings that depict dancing: *At the Dance* by Jerome Tiger; *Preparation for the Ribbon Dance* by Solomon McCombs, and *Ribbon Dance* by Ruthe Blalock Jones. Students decorated paper dolls with ribbons and jingles. Jenny Keller's topic was storytelling, and the students made rabbit ear headbands. Mia Hoskison used *Forest Scene* by Pop Chalee for two different activities, one of which was titled "We can be like Pop Chalee." Students created their own enchanted forest and storyline. The Gillies assisted the student artists with materials and encouragement.



Docents' Corner

By Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

Dear Gillies and Docents,

Please mark your calendar now for the **August 1st Gillies and Docents Meeting!** We are so pleased that *Crawford Alexander Mann III (aka Alex)* will be our featured speaker at this meeting. You may have been present for a brief introduction to Alex at an earlier meeting, but for those you haven't had a chance to meet him, *Alex is our new Director of Curatorial Affairs.*

Alex received his B.A. in Art History and Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and an M.A. in Art History and an M.Phil. in Art History from Yale University. (An M.Phil., I learned, is researched focused rather than taught courses as a basis.) Alex comes to us with 15 years of experience as a curator and administrator. He served as a Mellon Curatorial Fellow at the RISD Museum of Art, Providence, RI, Curator of American Art at the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA, and Curator of Prints and Drawings for the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC. What a score for Gilcrease!

Please join us on August 1st to learn more about our new Director of Curatorial Affairs, his vision and plans for all things curatorial.



Next Gillies/Docent Meeting

August 1st
in HCAR's PACCAR Classroom
9:30 Refreshments
10:00 Docent Meeting begins

June 6 Gillies/Docents Meeting

Laurel Benson, Anne and Henry Zarrow Director of Learning and Community Engagement, and Mia Hoskison, Community Engagement Manager, were our speakers for the June Gillies/docents meeting. They had just returned from the American Alliance of Museums conference in Los Angeles and spoke to us about topics and trends in the museum world and about upcoming events at Gilcrease. The PACCAR Classroom was almost filled to capacity with Gillies excited as always about learning something new!



AAM Key Takeaways
Mia

- Accessibility pathways
- Deaf led programming, staff and volunteer trainings for visitor interaction, understanding nuanced identities within communities
- Logic models for evaluations
- Personal and joyful experience at AAM

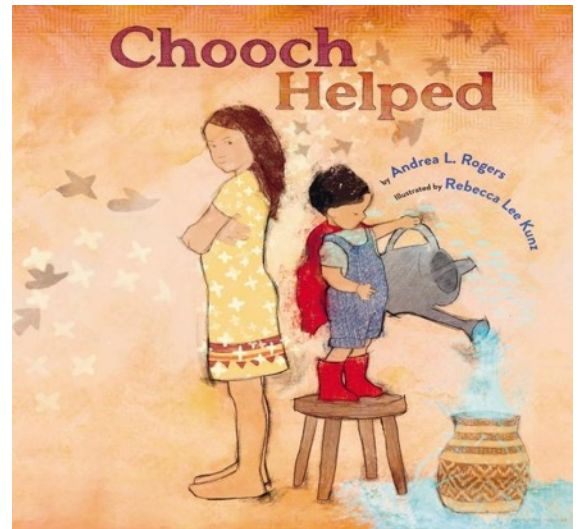


Laurel told us more about the first event in the new building, which will be the Scrollathon to be held October 6-10. Community members will have the chance to participate in creating a unique artwork that will represent Oklahoma in the national Scrollathon project. See more about Scrollathon [here](#).



Executive Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt gave us an update on building construction and ongoing planning.

Docent Chair Alana Trisler announced that the winner of the 2025 Raymond Caldecott Award for the most distinguished American picture book for children went to Rebecca Lee Kunz, a citizen of the Cherokee nation, for her illustrations for *Chooch Helped*. You can read more about the 2025 Caldecott Award winning book [here](#).



More Pics from Pawnee Trip



Bear claw necklace repatriated from Gilcrease Museum.



Pawnee beadwork



Places to Go

Museum of Tulsa History

You may have seen a sign on South Peoria Avenue reading “Museum of Tulsa History” and wondered, “What’s that?!” **That** is the new name for the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum, as historical society members found out at a recent rebranding reveal at the museum. Feeling that the “historical society” part of its name was confusing and seemed not inclusive to all community members, THSM undertook a project to rebrand. The result is a new logo that is emblematic of the Art Deco shapes and colors of Tulsa; a new slogan, “Stories Worth Telling”; and a mission to keep the museum relevant to the needs and interests of families as well as historians and academics, visitors as well as Tulsans of every community. The new look of its website is exciting too! Read more about the rebranding [here](#).

New exhibit: Visit the Museum of Tulsa History at the historic 1919 Travis Mansion at 2445 South Peoria. It’s open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. See the new exhibit of museum favorites, “Cabinet of Curiosities,” which opened the night of the rebranding reveal.



MUSEUM
of TULSA
HISTORY

Stories worth telling.



39 Restaurant at First Americans Museum

The newly reimagined 39 Restaurant reopens July 2, 2025! Consulting Chef Loretta Barrett Oden (Citizen Potawatomi Nation) and Executive Chef Benjamin Hutton share the abundance of foods Indigenous to the Americas through market-fresh ingredients and elevated cuisine. Reservations will open on June 25th at 8:00 am

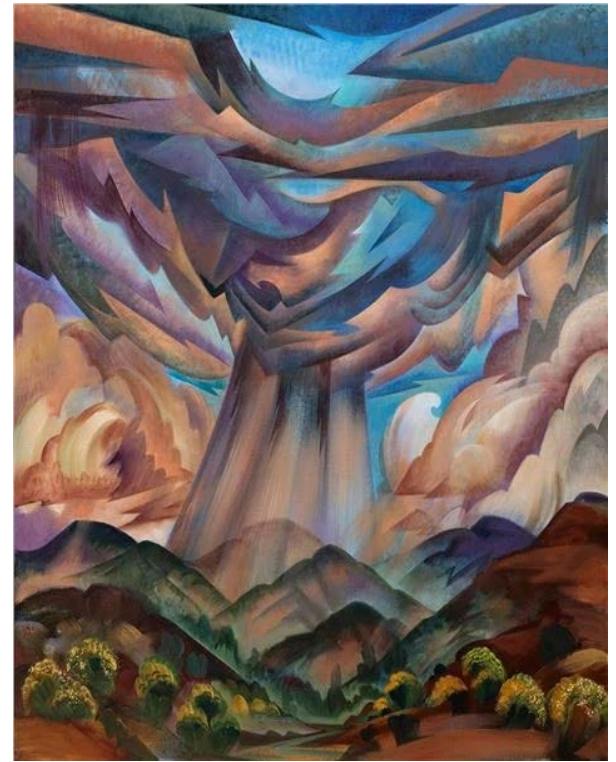


National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum



Featuring paintings and sculpture by the finest contemporary Western artists working today, the 53rd annual *Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale* at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will be on exhibit through August 3, 2025.

Prix de West is the nation's premier Western art exhibition and sale showcasing original works ranging from historical depictions of the American



West to more contemporary and impressionistic pieces. You can see the artwork for sale online [here](#).

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts



Now exhibiting at the AMFA in Little Rock is “The Long View: from Conservation to Sustainability: Works from the Bank of America Collection.” Art by John James Audubon, Thomas Hart Benton, and Grant Wood, as well as Dust Bowl photographic images by Arthur Rothstein are on view. Read about and see the exhibition online [here](#).

Today, there is a greater awareness of how environmental changes affect daily life.

Throughout history, artists have been at the forefront of this conversation, delving into issues relating to the natural world.

The Long View features photographs, paintings, prints, and sculptures by artists who used their art to advocate for the conservation and protection of the planet and the creation of sustainable habits for the future. Spanning from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, the art on view charts the evolution of how we think about and interact with nature.

Secretary's Report

The following people changed their membership status to Associate:

- Craig Bryant, Melissa Hoffman-Noble, Cathy Stiles, Angela Summers, Helen Tate, Keith Bowers, Ellen Lewis

The following people have resigned from the Gillies:

- Jane Ketchum, Bonnie Lytal, Molly Tovar, Ruth Weston, Susan Evans

A get well card was sent to Kathe Crapster. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Sandy Klein and Nancy Pfeifer.

Margaret Foster changed her address to: 15 Daisy Ave., Bristow, OK. 74010.

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillies Secretary Julie Gentz at Julie.gentz55@gmail.com

Gillies Hours for June

Service Area	Hours
Anthropology	54
Archives/HCAR	66
BOD	30
Continuing Education	115
Conservation	36
Digitization	6
Exec Comm	19
Footprints	8
Docent/Gillies Meeting	39
Public Programs	12
Route 66 Outreach	6
SOG Presentations	24
Technology	2
Travel Committee	14
Total for June	431

Mark Your Calendar

No meetings in July

Executive Committee meeting (HCAR)	Friday, August 1	8:30 a.m.
Gillies/Docents meeting (HCAR)	Friday, August 1	10:00 a.m.
	(Refreshments available at 9:30 a.m.)	

Read more about the Gillies/Docents meeting in Docent Corner.

Board of Directors meeting (Zoom)	Thursday, August 7	10:00 a.m.
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