

Special Order #2 - June 2005

Order of the Indian Wars Headquarters - Johnstown, Colorado

2005 OIW Assembly

Fort Sill, Oklahoma ★ August 25 - 28

Few forts can equal and none can surpass, the rich Indian Wars history of Fort Sill. The fort's site was personally selected by General Philip H. Sheridan and has been seen as it's commanding officers Benjamin Grierson, George W. Schofield, Ranald S. Mackenzie, Guy V. Henry, Frederick W. Benteen, Joseph Tilford, Theodore A. Baldwin, Charles A. Varnum - names that encompass the entire spectrum of the Indian Wars. It was a visit to this post that prompted General Sherman to remark to the press that he had never come so close to being killed so many times in his life as when he visited Fort Sill.



*Benjamin Grierson
First Commanding Officer*



Ranald S. Mackenzie

We'll stand on the spot where Sherman's near brush with death came, view the graves of the great chiefs - Geronimo, Satanta, Quanah Parker, Black Beaver and Quanah's mother, Cynthia Ann Parker at what has become known as the Indian Arling-

ton. We'll visit meticulously restored buildings and see not one, but several museums pertaining to various facets of the Indian Wars. No site exists that can compare to the broad expanse of history encompassed by Fort Sill. Included in its artillery park display are pieces from the earliest cannon to the only Atomic Annie to fire a nuclear shell.

In addition to the Sherman House, we'll see the guard house that once was home to Geronimo. It all begins at 1:00 PM Thursday, August 25th, 2005.

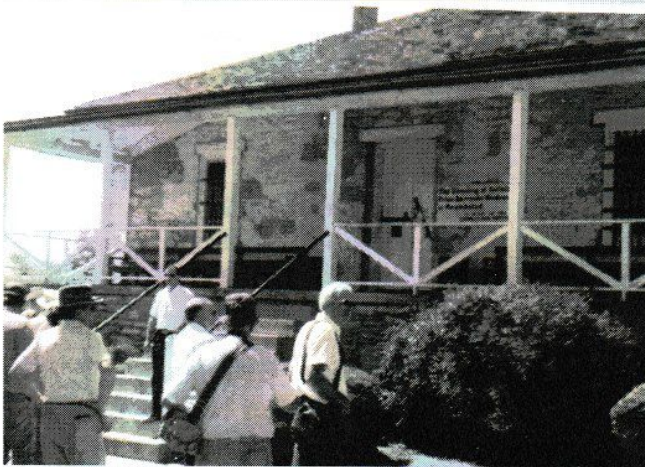


Jerry Russell reads the marker at the Geronimo guard house during the 1989 OIW meeting.

As if this isn't enough, we'll be staying right on the post. Our two banquets will be held at the officer's club. We'll spend Thursday afternoon listening to Greg Michno, author of numerous Indian Wars books including *Sand Creek: A Military Perspective* and *Encyclopedia of Indian Wars*, will relate tales of Texas Indian captives and the resulting depredation claims. Jerry Keenan, author of *The Great Sioux Uprising* and a forth-coming biography of Yellowstone Kelly, will speak on the career

of Lt. Col. Eugene B. Beaumont. Bob Rae, the director of Military Sites Department for the Oklahoma Historical Society, will speak on Ben Clark. Ron Young, three times past president of Western Outlaw - Lawman History Association, will tell us about Jack Stilwell. That's just the first afternoon! Dinner will be on your own, so those without cars need to find someone with!

Friday morning after our continental breakfast, we begin our tour of this historic



From the porch of the Sherman house, Towana Spivey enthalls the 1989 OIW group. Note Koury, Nichols, & Mundie, who obviously is not paying attention.

post. Our guide will be Towana Spivey. I don't know how long Towana has held this job, but I can tell you that he was here in 1989 when the OIW last visited this post. As a tour guide, Towana is as good as Neil Mangum, and Towana speaks English!

Friday evening after a full day on the post, we will have a banquet at the officer's club. Our speaker will be Michael Hughes. His topic will be "The time of the Taibo: Three Decades of Comanche Battles in Oklahoma." Michael's talk last year electrified the audience. We're looking for a repeat performance.

Saturday morning we will pick up our breakfast and eat on the bus. (Fort Sill calls this "grab and go") as we head to our first stop, a visit to the Anadarko Agency fight of August 22-23, 1874. Next on the list is the incredible National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum (Cowboy Hall of Fame) in Oklahoma City. Our major point of interest here will be the outstanding exhibit of Indian Wars gear in the Joe Grandee Hall. This is a relatively new exhibit, and is very well done.

There is plenty more to see here. For a quick guide go to www.nationalcowboymuseum.org. It's a great way to decide what you'd like to visit because we can't possible see it all. Lunch is on your own in the cafeteria. After lunch we head to Fort Reno State Museum and Cemetery, then finish the tour with a visit to Fort Supply. Our day ends with our second banquet, with Jerry Greene speaking on the Washita fight. It will also be at the officer's club. If you think that's a full day, you're right.

We start Sunday morning with "grab & go" and head out to the newest Indian Wars national monument - the Washita. With Jerry Greene's talk the night before, everyone will be primed and ready. Talk about experts - we'll have the two National Park Service employees most responsible for this new national monument, as well as the congressman who headed the legislation. (If you don't like what you see, you won't have far to go to complain!) We'll visit the Black Kettle (surely one of the world's unluckiest men) Museum in Cheyenne, then the battle site. Lunch on you own at an excellent Mexican restaurant, then head to Linda Lucas' father's ranch, adjoining the Washita Battlefield for refreshments. On the way home, we'll stop at the Soldier Springs Fight site (December 25, 1868).

There you have it - four days of some of the most important sites related to the Indian Wars. We'll be staying right on the post and dining at the officer's club. We'll hear from some excellent speakers and enjoy the best tour guides. You can't afford to miss this one.

Mike Koury
Chairman, OIW

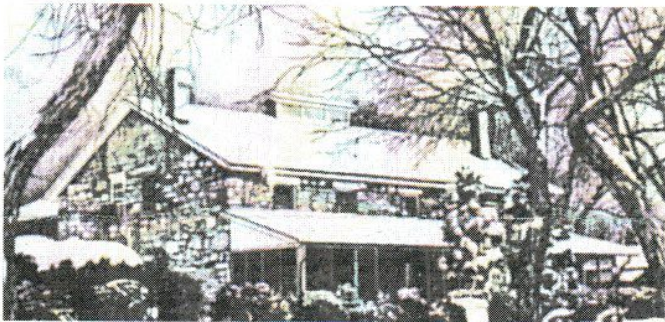


History repeats itself! Neil Mangum speaking to an OIW group, year unknown. Can anyone help?

Fort Sill Attractions

By Towana D. Spivey, Curator / Director, Fort Sill National Historic Landmark

The Fort Sill National Historic Landmark consists of 50 functioning buildings dating from the 19th century, making this possibly the most complete Indian Wars post in existence. Included are eleven officer's family quarters, three cavalry barracks, six laundresses quarters, two married NCO picket-log quarters, two Infantry barracks. Post HQs, chapel, commissary & QM warehouses, granary, forge house, guardhouse, bakery, hospital, two hospital steward's quarters, morgue, QM teamsters quarters, regimental band quarters, chaplains quarters, QM corral, wash-houses and others. The Sherman House, as the commander's quarters became known after May 1871, was the site of a battle between Kiowa warriors



Commanding Officer's quarters, nicknamed the Sherman House after that officer's close brush with death at the hands of the Kiowa..

and the entire command staff of the War Department. At least two attempts on Gen William T. Sherman's life were made during this event and another episode before arriving at Fort Sill prompted Sherman to tell the eastern press that he had never come so close to being killed so many times in his life as when he visited Fort Sill. Museum exhibit areas within the National Historic Landmark Area include: Fort Sill general history exhibits, Buffalo Soldier gallery, theatre, gift shop, etc in the visitor's center; 19th century artillery exhibit gallery in the old commissary; law & order / Native American exhibit galleries in the guardhouse; "The Warrior's Journey" Native American exhibit gallery (under construction) in one of the cavalry barracks; "Boots and Saddles" cavalry exhibit gallery (under construction) in another

barracks; furnished 1875 sergeants quarters, supply room, squad room, mess-hall and kitchen in another barracks area.

Outdoor exhibits of 90-100 artillery weapons from the 20th century are on the south edge of the National Historic Landmark Area. One of three surviving balloon hangars left in the nation is currently undergoing restoration. It now houses a large collection of wagons, artillery, aircraft, etc. Wagons include escort wagons. Apache POW hay wagon, ice wagon, chuck wagons, "Talley Ho" wagon, runabouts, cabrolets. President FDR's funeral caisson and limber, rolling kitchen, hand carts, army grain wagons, surreys and buggies, water wagons, forge carts, battery wagons, artillery caissons and limbers, etc. Also included are Civil War and Indian War field cannons, coastal artillery, Gatling gun and limber, assorted howitzers, etc. An exhibit gallery pertaining to the historic use of balloons in support of field artillery is included in this building also.

Several major collection storage areas within the museum include a substantial collection of saddles and horse equipment; uniforms, headgear and footgear; Native American clothing, weapons, tools, etc; flags - including one of the few surviving 7th Cavalry guidons from the Little Big Horn; rifles, muskets, pistols, Gatling gun and edged weapons; artillery accessories; and ENIAC the first computer. The museum's archival collections include over 200,000 documents, 60,000 photos, 12,000 books, and 600 maps.

Chief's Knoll in the post cemetery is sometimes referred to as the Indian Arlington.



Chief's Knoll, Indian Arlington

Many famous Kiowa, Comanche and Plains Apache tribal leaders such as Quanah Parker and his captive mother Cynthia Ann, Satanta, Satank, Stumbling Bear, Kicking Bird, Big Bow, etc are buried here. Black Beaver, the famous Delaware scout who led Fremont to California and later commanded a Native American unit in the Civil War (also Jesse Chisholm's business partner) is buried here. Others include the Kiowa Scout I-See-O or Plenty Fires, who distinguished himself during the Ghost Dance movement in the 1890 period; the Comanche leader Ten Bears, who was one of the central figures in the book / movie *Dances With Wolves*; several Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders who were involved in the Treaty of Medicine Lodge, Kansas in 1867, etc.

Three Apache POW cemeteries located on Beef Creek on the East Range of Fort Sill



Satanta, warrior who led the Warren Wagon Train raid and fought at Adobe Walls. He was Blue Duck in Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove.

include many famous Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apache leaders including Geronimo, Chihuahua, Olsanney, Kawaykia, and families of Mangas, Chatto, Nana, Perico, Kayitah, Kayitenny, etc. -There are 12 Apache POW village sites on the Fort Sill ranges that were occupied by Apache leaders such as Geronimo, Loco, Mangas, Chatto, Kayitah, Kayitenny, Chiricahua Tom, Noche, etc.

The Medicine Bluffs, a National Historic Site near the old post, is a sacred healing site for the Plains tribes. This 320 foot high cliff along the Medicine Bluffs Creek was first visited by Captains Randolph B. Marcy and George McClellan in 1852 during their exploration of the Red River resulting in a recommendation that a fort be located here. It was also the first stop for General Phil Sheridan and his subordinates, George A. Custer and Benjamin Grierson during their reconnaissance to establish Fort Sill in December 1868.

We also have a Native American support group made up of descendants of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache soldiers in Troop L, 7th Cavalry . The original unit of white soldiers was wiped out at the Little Big Horn in 1876 and reconstituted at Fort Sill in 1890 with all-Indian soldiers. Some of these individuals are descendants of Cochise and Geronimo, as well as other famous Comanche and Kiowa warriors and captives.

Most of the buildings shown on this 1874 plat are restored and many are open to the public. The building labeled commanding officer's quarters is the famous "Sherman House" where that general faced death twice. We'll see this and much more on our tour of historic Fort Sill.

