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OKLAHOMA

MAGAZINE OF THE OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME

America's Road: The Journey of Route 66
Hominy Indians Defeat New York Giants

Oklahoma's Own Ft. Sill: Military History and Hidden Treasures
Continuing To Tell Oklahoma's Story Through Its People with a New Name

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OKLAHOMA HALL of FAME

OKLAHOMA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION PUBLISHING

OKLAHOMA'S OWN FORT SILL:

BY GINI MOORE CAMPBELL

Although Fort Sill was founded by Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan on January 8, 1869 during a campaign against the Indians, the first official visit to the area had occurred more than 30 years before when Gen. Henry Leavenworth led the First Dragoon Expedition. The peace mission of the Dragoons headed west from Fort Gibson in eastern Oklahoma to visit a village of Comanche camped below the Medicine Bluffs. Traveling with Leavenworth were George Catlin and 1st Lt. Jefferson Davis. Catlin's paintings would be the first documentation of the Indians from the southern plains and continue to be a point of historical reference today. Davis became President of the Confederate States of America.

The mission of the 1868 campaign, orchestrated by the War Department and led by Sheridan, was to force the Indians onto reservations. Included in the four regiments originally at Camp Wichita were the 7th Cavalry under the command of Lt. Col. George

A. Custer and the 10th Cavalry, a unit of African American soldiers who are forever remembered as "Buffalo Soldiers," commanded by the first post commander, Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson. All four of the Buffalo Soldier regiments—the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry—served at Fort Sill during the late 19th Century. The first Indian Agent was Col. Albert Boone, the grandson of Daniel Boone.

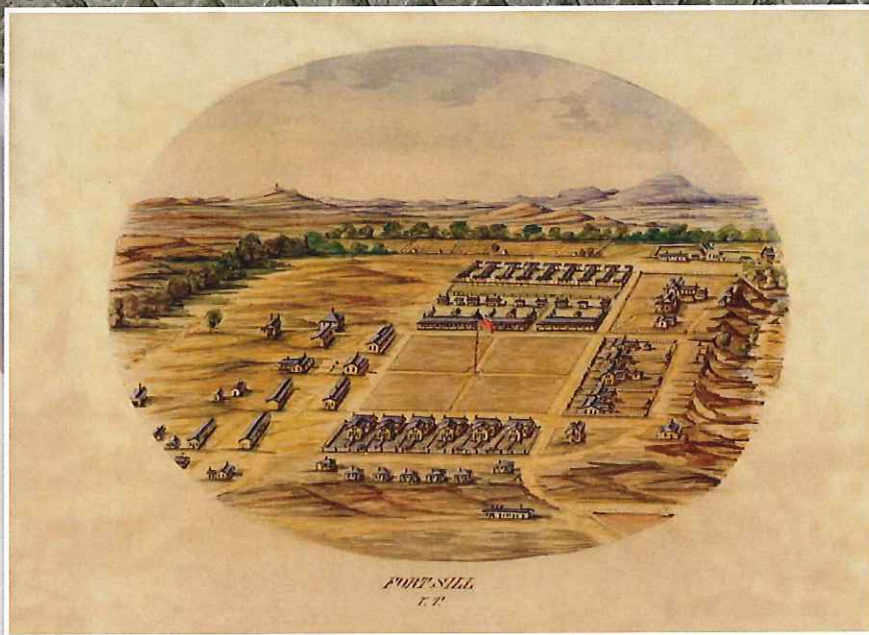
Until the creation of Fort Sill, the only other fort in the region was Fort Cobb. However, Fort Cobb was considered to be in a poor location. Camp Wichita, near the center of Fort Sill today, had been established near the Medicine Bluffs as the Indians considered them steeped with religious and cultural value. The name of the post was changed from Camp Wichita to Fort Sill by Sheridan in honor of Brig. Gen. Joshua W. Sill, a West Point classmate and friend who was killed during the Civil War.

Fort Sill was unique in that it did not have a populated town outside of its gates. It was not until 1901 when Lawton was established following a lottery opening of the Apache, Comanche, and Kiowa reservations that Fort Sill found its sister city.

Fort Sill also is home to some of the most unique Museums and one-of-a-kind exhibits in the world.

The United States Army Field Artillery & Fort Sill Museum was officially opened in January of 1935. With a dual mission of preserving the history of both the Field Artillery and of Fort Sill itself, the endeavor was guided by Capt. Harry C. Larter, a Field Artilleryman, military artist, and historian who became the Museum's first curator. Later an old artillery teaching collection of military items that had been stored in a warehouse on base for 15 years were incorporated into the museum. Compiling and writing the history of Fort Sill became the responsibility of Capt. Wilbur S. Nye. The old guardhouse, on the western side of Fort Sill, served as the first museum building.

An increase in visitors and exhibits proved the need for additional space. The Quartermaster Corral, on the southeast corner of Fort Sill, was added to the Museum complex in 1958. Exhibits included a Trader's Store replica, a Wichita grass house, and a Conestoga wagon. The Quartermaster Smokehouse was opened in the 1960s and



DID YOU KNOW ...

... anyone can visit Fort Sill? It is open to the public.

MILITARY HISTORY AND HIDDEN TREASURES

featured artillery exhibits from the Revolutionary War through 1900, while the Commissary Storehouse took exhibitory through the Korean Conflict.

Cannon Walk, an outdoor exhibit featuring U. S. and foreign artillery, was created and by the mid-1970s the Museum had acquired a number of other buildings. The School of Fire for Field Artillery was housed in the first headquarters building. The "Hall of Flags" found its home in one of the original Infantry Barracks. The museum offices and archives were located in the original Post Headquarters building that had been constructed in 1870. To protect from development, Old Post Chapel was assigned to the Museum.

The 1990s saw additional growth to the Museum's offerings with the addition of a second Infantry Barracks, three Cavalry Barracks, and the only surviving balloon hangar at the Henry Post Army Airfield, in addition to a number of other outbuild-



A reproduction model 1841 6pdr Field Gun is part of the collection at the United States Army Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. The gun still fires and school groups look forward to the demonstration.



DID YOU KNOW...

... Fort Sill is the only remaining active Army installation that was built on the South Plains during the Indian Wars?



Upon entering the Field Artillery Museum, guests experience a life-size diorama featuring the role of troops and artillery used in the Mexican American War.

ings. Because of museum standards, it was determined that the historic buildings were not suitable to display the vast artillery collection held by the Museum. That was all about to change.

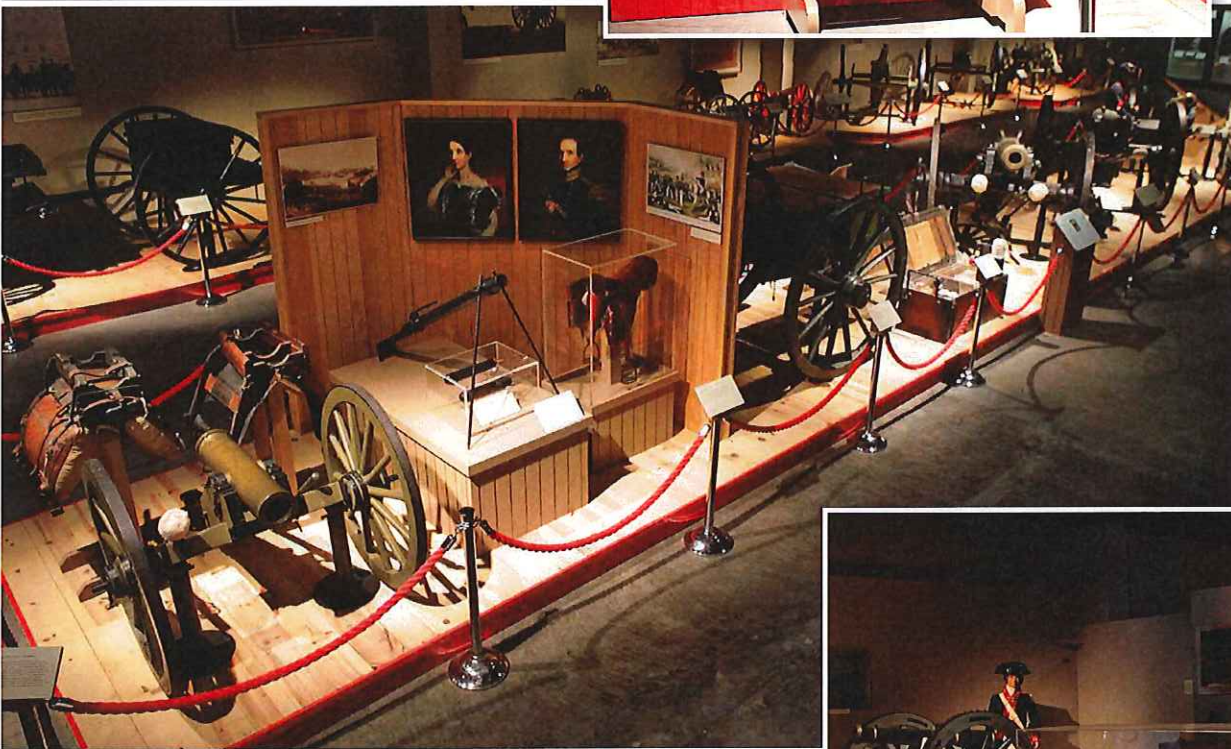
By 1998, Project Millennium was ensuring the future of the Museum by supporting its mission and by constructing a new facility to adequately house the collections of the United States Army Field Artillery Museum. The Museum was separated into two distinct areas of interest—Field Artillery and Fort Sill. This allowed the

staff of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum to focus on the historical aspect of the Fort's history.

Originally part of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum, the United States Army Field Artillery Museum opened in June of 2009. The Museum, which covers the history of Army artillery from 1775 to the present, contains more than 70 guns and artillery pieces, in addition to collections of photographs, ammunition, uniforms, and other military-related artifacts. Housed in three galleries, the Central Gallery centers on the four principle

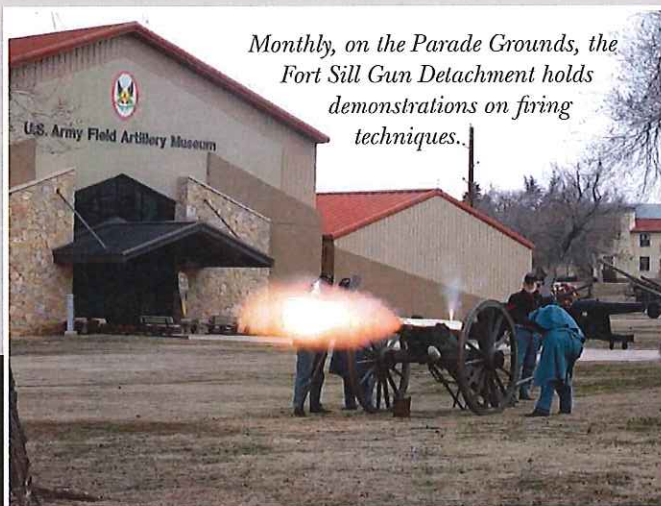


An experimental Mule Gun from the 1880s is on display at the United States Army Field Artillery Museum.



The South Gallery of the United States Army Field Artillery Museum.

Exhibits include a British 24-pdr. "Trophy" Cannon captured at the Battle of Saratoga in October, 1777.

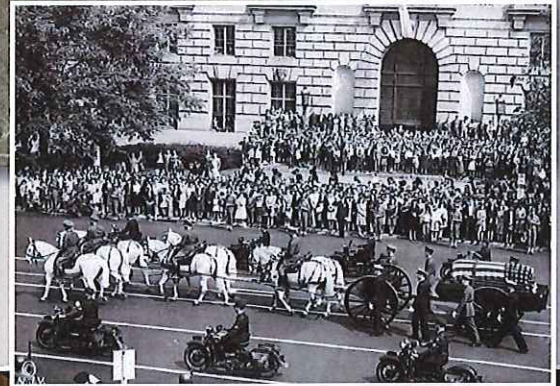
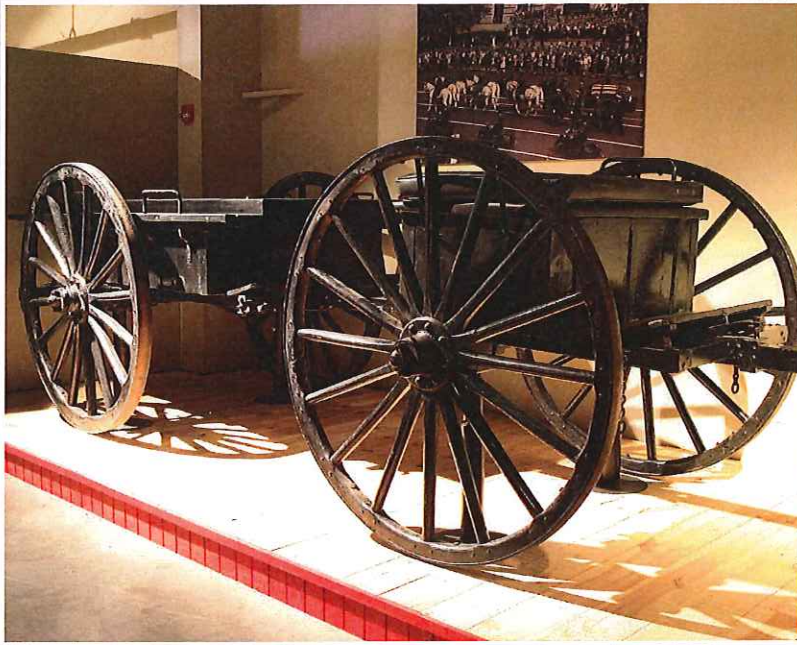


Monthly, on the Parade Grounds, the Fort Sill Gun Detachment holds demonstrations on firing techniques.

components of artillery—fire direction control, forward observation, guns, and rockets. History from the 1700s to the 1900s may be found in the South Gallery and World War II to the present is featured in the North Gallery.

The United States Army Air Defense Artillery Museum

DID YOU KNOW ... the funeral limber and caisson used in the 1945 funeral procession of President Franklin D. Roosevelt is part of the United States Field Artillery Museum's permanent collection?



Three full-size panels of the Berlin Wall were gifted from the German government in recognition of the contributions towards the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and conclusion of the Cold War.



The first 75mm Pack Howitzer, marked Experimental No. 1, 1923.



The sole surviving M12 155mm Gun Motor Carriage, the Army's heavy self-propelled gun of World War II is on exhibit in the United States Army Field Artillery Museum.



Major General John G. Rossi *Commanding General*

Major General Rossi grew up on Long Island, New York, the son of a New York City police officer. He graduated from West Point in 1983 and was commissioned in the Army as an Air Defense Artillery Officer. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Arts from Webster University and a Master of Arts from the U.S. Naval War College. He is a

graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College. Major General Rossi has served in the United States, Korea, Germany, Southwest Asia, and Iraq.

He has led at every level from platoon to his current assignment as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill at Fort Sill, OK. His prior assignment was as the Director of the Army Quadrennial Defense Review Office in the Pentagon.

MG Rossi's command assignments include Commanding General, 32d AAMDC, Fort Bliss, Texas; Commander, 35th ADA Brigade in the Republic of Korea; Commander, Task Force Lion, Southwest Asia; Commander 2-1 ADA, Fort Bliss, Texas; Commander,

C 1-6 ADA Fort Bliss, Texas; Commander, A 3-1 ADA, Fort Hood, Texas; and platoon leader 1/B 3-60 ADA, Regensburg Germany. Major General Rossi's principal staff assignments include J33 U.S. Forces Iraq, Baghdad Iraq; DCG (Fires), III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas; DCG and Chief of Staff, Fort Bliss, Texas; G3, 32d AAMDC, Fort Bliss, Texas; Chief, U.S. Central Command Air and Missile Defense Division, Tampa, Florida; Operations Officer, 1-7 ADA and 94th ADA Brigade in Germany; and Deputy Operations Officer, 3-43 ADA, Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster).



The United States Army Air Defense Artillery Museum opened in 2013.

originally was organized in 1975 at Fort Bliss in El Paso Texas. Following the Base Realignment and Closure Act it was relocated to Fort Sill in 2010 and opened to the public in 2013. With more than 50 types of towed and self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, over 20 different missile systems, radars, searchlights, and an array of other equipment, the Museum houses the largest collection of Air Defense artifacts in the world. The year 2013 also saw the completion of Air Defense Artillery Park. Representing decades of military history, the Park houses gun and missile systems used from World War II to the present.

Today, the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum occupies 38 buildings, with a total of 144,514 square feet of exhibit and storage space, a total collection of over 235,000 objects, and covers 142 acres in the Historic Landmark area. It comprises the most complete Indian Wars era frontier fort in existence in the United States.

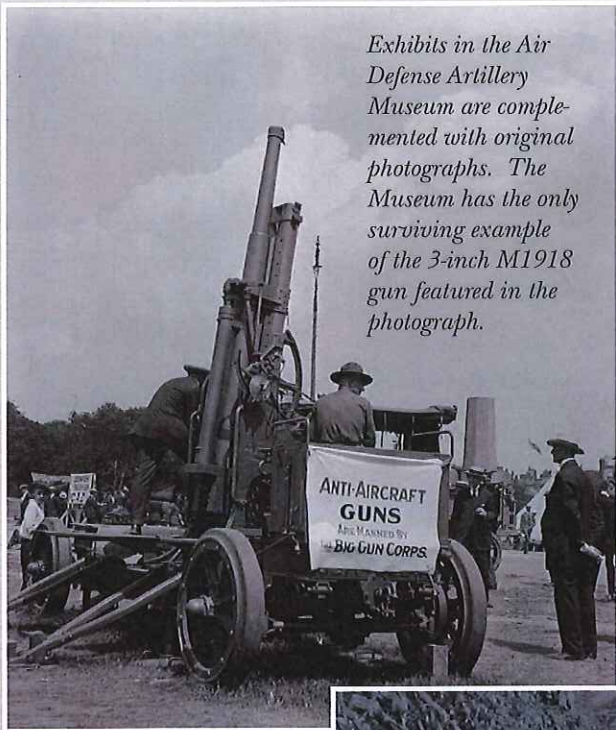


Air Defense Artillery Park was completed in 2013.



MIM-23 Hawk missile launcher, MPQ-55 I-CWAR (Improved Continuous Wave Acquisition Radar), Hawk loader model and diorama of a deployed Hawk battery in Germany are on exhibit in the Air Defense Artillery Museum.

A twin water-cooled .50 caliber anti-aircraft mount on display at the Air Defense Artillery Museum.



Exhibits in the Air Defense Artillery Museum are complemented with original photographs. The Museum has the only surviving example of the 3-inch M1918 gun featured in the photograph.

An original 1966 M151 searchlight jeep is part of the Air Defense Artillery Museum's collection.



DID YOU KNOW ...

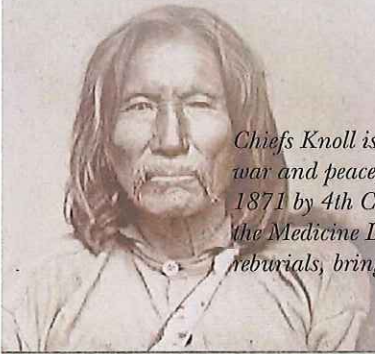
...almost 70,000 military members, civilian workers, retirees and family members create an economic impact of about \$2 billion per year to the Oklahoma economy?

DID YOU KNOW ...

... Geronimo was held prisoner and buried at Fort Sill?



Lt. Jake Wertich and Pfc. Gordon Smital keep watch down a snowy road at Trois Ponts, Belgium on 21 December 1944. Air Defenders Lt. Wertich and Corporal Stokes Taylor were both awarded posthumous Distinguished Service Crosses for their actions defending Trois Ponts on that date.



Chiefs Knoll is the final resting place for Indian chiefs of both war and peace, including Sitting Bear who was killed in 1871 by 4th Cavalry Troopers. Many interred were signers of the Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867. It is not uncommon for reburials, bringing former Indian leaders to this place of honor.

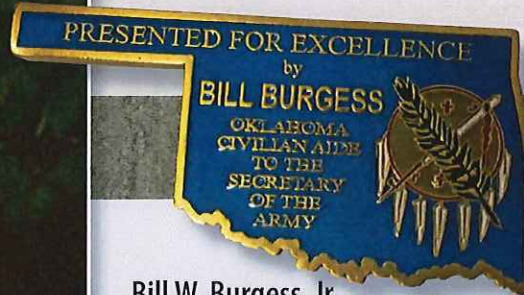


DID YOU KNOW ...

... more than 5.5-million gallons of gas is used on Fort Sill each year?

DID YOU KNOW ...

... there are 5 chapels on the grounds at Fort Sill?



Bill W. Burgess, Jr.
Oklahoma's Highest Ranking Army Civilian and 2008 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Inductee

Bill W. Burgess, Jr., of Lawton, is chairman of the board of Vortex, the owner/publisher of the *Lawton Constitution*, and the senior partner of Burgess and Hightower Law Firm. Burgess is the son of Sgt. Bill W. Burgess, Sr. and Betty Burgess. He graduated from Cameron University with a B.A. degree, received his juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and has been designated as an AV attorney.

As chairman and principal owner of Techrizon, Burgess developed the enterprise into the largest Oklahoma software engineering company. Techrizon has developed software for today's technologically advanced warfare specializing in smart weapon systems for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Burgess currently serves as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary for the Army.

He serves as a Regent for the University of Oklahoma. He has been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame, as well as being awarded the Corporate Entrepreneur of the Year by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Regent Burgess previously served 18 years as a member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

He has served as chairman of the Oklahoma State Chamber and the Oklahoma Business Roundtable as well as chairman of the Citizens' Commission on the Future of Oklahoma Higher Education. He has served as chairman of Leadership Oklahoma, being

honored as the group's 25th Anniversary Distinguished Graduate, and served as president of the Boy Scouts of America-Oklahoma Council.

Governor Mary Fallin and the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma honored Burgess by designating Interstate 44 through Lawton the "Bill W. Burgess, Jr. Highway." Cameron University has named their business center the "Bill W. Burgess, Jr. Business Center." Burgess has been named the Outstanding Philanthropist for Oklahoma by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, with this award being given to those with a proven record of generosity who, through financial support, have demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility.