



# LYJ-AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Verden Separate Schoolhouse  
**CELEBRATING**  
**100 YEARS**  
1910-2010

## LYJ-AAHS to Host 10th Annual *Country School Association of America* Conference

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Plans are already underway for the *Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society (LYJ-AAHS)* to host the 2010 *Country School Association of America (CSAA)* Conference. CSAA is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the country school experience for those who are involved in one-room school preservation, history or re-enactment.

The CSAA national conference will take place on the campus of *The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma* in Chickasha, Oklahoma, near the site of the restored Allen Toles' Verden Separate One Room Schoolhouse on June 21st and 22nd. An optional bus tour to several one-room schools in the Oklahoma City area on June 23rd will be



Photo by Brent Fuchs

Verden Separate School, built by Allen Toles, in Chickasha, Ok



Courtesy of Karen Brady

The Verden Separate One Room School is a project of interest to a team from the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and of Commerce, which is involved in telling the unique stories of Africans Americans in Oklahoma. At right, from left, discussing the project are Bruce Fisher, Melyn Johnson, Department of Tourism, Cynthia Anderson, team member and Alice Johnson of the Department of Commerce.

available.

The CSAA board members, Dr. Lucy Townsend of DeKalb, Illinois, and Richard Lewis of League City, Texas, will be assisting Loretta Y. Jackson, LYJ-AAHS founder, in planning the groundwork

and details for the 2 day conference consisting of concurrent sessions, as well as the optional 3rd day bus tour of the Verden Separate Schoolhouse and other one-room schools in the Oklahoma City area.



Janie Roberts (l.) and Edna Irby (r.), Chickasha, relive their childhood memories of attending the Verden Separate One Room Schoolhouse with storyteller W. Jerome Stevenson.

## Storytelling and Soul Food Evening Planned

The 1910 Verden Separate Schoolhouse and Bailey, Oklahoma, an All Black "ghost town" that was located near Chickasha, will have their stories told during a "Storyteller Evening" at 6:30pm on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at the University of

Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. A Soul Food dinner will also be served. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department has launched this new initiative, based on the African tradition of storytelling, known as "Soulful Stories", to develop a tourism

product for individual visitors. W. Jerome Stevenson will be the featured storyteller and Hardy Watkins, Oklahoma Tourism Director, will kickoff the evening's event. Donation ticket is \$15 (includes meal). For tickets call Cynthia W. Anderson at 580.704.9545.



Richard Jackson (l.) donates \$100 to LYJ-AAHS Project.



Jean (formerly of Chickasha) & Eugene Bently of Washington, D.C. donate books & newspapers to LYJ-AAHS.

**"To make our way, we must have firm resolve, persistence, tenacity. We must gear ourselves to work hard all the way. We can never let up."  
—Ralph Bunche**



LYJ-AAHS board member and retired principal of Hugh Bish Elementary School, Cynthia W. Anderson, with Mary Beth Hardy (r), former secretary of Lawton Public Schools Superintendent, the late Hugh Bish, is the present manager of Dining on Persimmon Hill Restaurant at the National Cowboy Heritage Museum in Okla. City, OK.

# LYJ Presentations at National Cowboy Heritage Museum & Central Middle School

The National Cowboy Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, and Central Middle School, Lawton, invited LYJ-AAHS to present information about the Verden Separate One Room School restoration project and the future

plans for a museum/ history center to be built next to the one room schoolhouse.

Loretta Y. Jackson, Founder, assisted by Cynthia W. Anderson, made a 20 minute

powerpoint presentation and answered questions at the National Cowboy Heritage Museum on February 2, 2009. Mrs. Jackson also provided a powerpoint presentation at Central Middle School's Black History Program on February 20, 2009. Other special program guest speakers included



Gracie Anderson (l), counselor at Lawton's Central Middle School, and Loretta Y. Jackson

State Representative T.W. Shannon of Lawton.



Schoolhouse restoration pictures shown by Loretta Y. Jackson at National Cowboy Heritage Museum

## DID YOU KNOW?



\*At one time, Oklahoma's Grady County had five Separate Black Schools: *Allen Toles'*



Verden Separate School (in 2002), only known remaining in Grady County

*Separate School* and *Walnut Grove* in Verden; *Pleasant*

*Hill* in Rush Springs; *Oak Nail* and *Norge School* in Norge.

\*LYJ-AAHS founder, Loretta Y. Jackson, was the first woman and first African American to be appointed to the State Banking Board (1980-94) by both Democrat Governor George Nigh



Jackson, along side other past Banking Board members during April 2009 new Banking Board building Open House and sculpture dedication event.

and Republican Governor Henry Bellmon.

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

LYJ-AAHS recognized volunteers during an *Appreciation Dinner* held Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at the Regents' Room on the campus of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. The featured keynote speaker was Bruce T. Fisher, a native of Chickasha and currently an Administrative Program Director and curator for the development of the new African American exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center in Okla-

homa City. Jacqueline Jackson read Governor Brad Henry's Proclamation naming April 19-25 as National Volunteer Week. Proclamations were also presented by Chickasha's Mayor Greg Elliott and Oklahoma Senator Ron Justice. Recognizing the

Verden Separate School, Fisher said *"What you've got here is the real deal. It is the blood, sweat and tears of a man who wanted to see to his kid's education."* Fisher also recognized the importance of volunteers stating that *"we are all in this together"*.



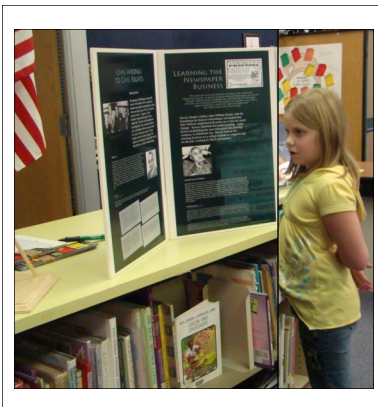
Bruce T. Fisher, Keynote Speaker

# The Travels of “Early Oklahoma: Black Dreams/Black Hope” Exhibit

“Early Oklahoma: Black Dreams/Black Hope”, traveling exhibit was displayed at several Lawton schools during February, 2009. The exhibit highlights three African American individuals who contributed to the history of Oklahoma, each in a unique way. *E.P. McCabe* recruited blacks to Oklahoma Territory with his hope for a black state. *Roscoe Dungee* was publisher of the “Black Dispatch” newspaper in Oklahoma City. *Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher*, born in Chickasha, Oklahoma, was the first African American to be accepted into the OU School of Law. This exhibit was made

possible in part by the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibit traveled to: Pat Henry Elementary (Bill Ingram, principal), Pioneer Park Elementary (Sally Greenlee, principal), Crosby Park Elementary (Resa Harvick, principal), Almor West Elementary (Kerry Malakosky, principal), Woodland Hills Elementary (Cheryl Adams, principal), Park Lane Elementary (Calvin Prince, principal), Wilson Elementary (Phil Smith, principal), and Sullivan Village (Jeanie Alldredge, principal).



Almor West student, Gabriel Barber, study the Traveling Exhibit that was displayed in her school's library in February, 2009.

Requests to display this exhibit can be made by contacting Loretta Y. Jackson at 405.224.5297.



Traveling Exhibit on display at Lawton's Wilson Elementary School library.



Mr. Joel Bradford, top l., donates to LYJ-AAHS Project on behalf of the Jersuleum Church Community's Annual Celebration in Washington, OK. Also celebrating, Dr. Nina Jones (native of Chickasha), her son, and her father, Mr. O.D. Darrington of Chickasha.

## LYJ-AAHS: A Look Ahead.....

January 13, 2010: Verden School Restoration Presentation, Garvin County OHCE Council Mtg, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

February 2010: Black History Month/Traveling Exhibit (loan)

February 11, 2010: Storytelling Evening—6:30pm, USAO, Chickasha, Oklahoma

June 21-23, 2010: 10th Annual Country School Association of America Conference - USAO, Chickasha, Oklahoma



Lillian Boland (L), JoAnn Parman (R.), LYJ-AAHS Presentation attendees, at National Cowboy Heritage Museum, Okla. City.

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

— Langston Hughes

## WHAT'S NEW?



The new *Traveling Exhibit* will focus on early African American pioneers in Grady County who applied for and received a patent to own land from President Abraham Lincoln's Homestead Act of 1862. Allen Toles (1909), W.H. Draper, Annie

Wimberly (widow of Primous Wimberly), and Millie Barry (formerly Millie Frasier). Data shows that less than half of all who applied actually re-



President Abraham Lincoln

ceived this patent. The new *Traveling Exhibit* will be available for “on loan” display in the near future. For more information, contact Loretta Y. Jackson at 405.224.5297.



Susan G. Routh, County Extension Dir. & members of SW Dist Oklahoma Home & Community Education visit the Verden Separate School.

Loretta Y. Jackson-African  
American Historical Society

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*"Preserving yesterday, today,  
for tomorrow"*



Verden Separate School built  
by Allen Toles, circa 1910,  
near Verden, Oklahoma



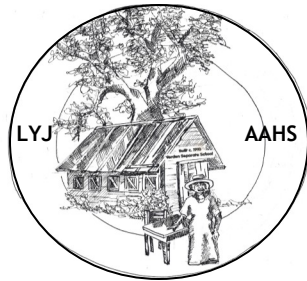
Verden Separate School moved  
to Chickasha, Oklahoma, 2004



Verden Separate School at 315  
Sipuel Ave., Chickasha, OK



Verden Separate School  
Restored, 2007



## LYJ-AAHS PROJECT

*How you can help.....*

The Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of items pertaining to the rich African American heritage, culture and education. The 'Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society Museum and One Room School Project' is an approved Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Project and was funded in part through a grant made possible by the Oklahoma Legislature.

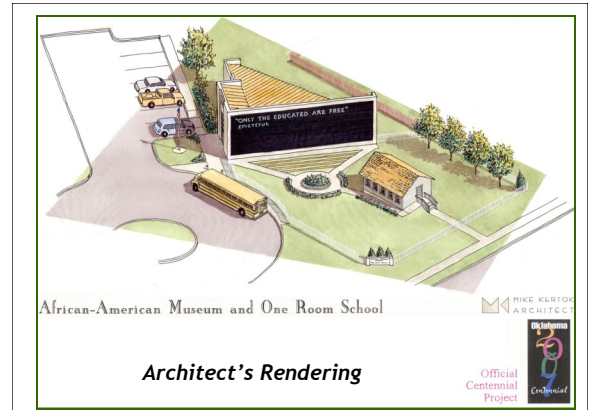
We appreciate your generous support of  
PHASE IV: Museum and Partial Parking.  
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\*Friend up to \$100

Mail donations to: LYJ-AAHS  
P.O. Box 2044

Chickasha, Oklahoma 73023



Secure online donation: [www.lyjaahs.org](http://www.lyjaahs.org)