



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 9, 2021

# The OLLI UPdate

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



Greetings OLLI Friends,

DEC. 9, 2021

Hopefully you're recovering well from the holiday and all the food. Some of us gathered in person with family members for the first time in one or even two years. All that contact after lots of alone time can be exhausting, so be sure to take care of yourselves. I find that napping can cure nearly anything.

We're working on the course schedule for Spring 2022 and think you'll be happy with the offerings. If you enjoy the courses we provide, consider gifting a membership to someone. For the holidays, we're offering \$10 off the a la carte membership when purchased as a gift before Dec. 17. Call or email us in the OLLI office for more information.

Kindly,  
**ROBBIN**  
Your OLLI Director

*The OLLI office will be closed for the winter break December 24-January 2.*

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# Peanut Butter & Sweet Potato Stew

ROOTS, NUTS AND GREENS



If you have leftover sweet potatoes, here's a comfy meatless stew you can make. The video opens at the OSU garden with a brief description of how peanuts grow, but you don't have to grow your own to make this yummy dish.

To watch a demonstration of making the stew, click [here](#).

The full written recipe is [here](#).

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## Weather History at Your Fingertips

HOW MUCH HAS THE WEATHER CHANGED?

The OSU Library has digitized a collection of two handwritten volumes of weather data for the years 1893-1940. The Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station was established in 1890, the same year as Oklahoma A&M College (which became OSU). A collection of weather data began three years later.

The daily records include temperature, precipitation, wind direction, prevailing wind, state of the weather/character of day, monthly summary and remarks or notes. Temperature and precipitation data has been recorded in other reports, but these handwritten pages include more detailed and valuable information for Stillwater and Payne County. The data has been transcribed into spreadsheets that mirror the structure of the digitized pages.

Whether you want to see what the weather was like before World War II or if you want an example of how to start your own weather logging project, meteorological data for the area is available. For more info, click [here](#).

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## Divorce in Oklahoma Territory

If you thought Reno, Nev., was the only place to get a quickie divorce, you may enjoy this presentation about divorce in the 1870s and '80s in the Oklahoma Territory.

Jennifer Lynch, instructor at the University of Central Oklahoma, presented via Zoom at the Oklahoma History Conference earlier this year: "A Disgraceful Blot: Oklahoma Territory and the Victorian Divorce Crisis."

To watch the 30-minute presentation, click [here](#). It's free and can make for interesting small talk if you have more holiday parties or long hours with the in-laws.





# Archives: Where We Keep The Weird Stuff

MORE THAN JUST FINANCIAL RECORDS & MEETING NOTES

Do you have any idea what's living in the archives at OkState? The University Archives were created to preserve and protect significant records that preserve the institution's history and culture. Most of the records are paper: books, photographs, handwritten records, official decrees, the *O'Colley* and other publications. But some records are objects: cowboy boots, a collection of dolls, rusty tools and implements.

If you want to hear more about the efforts to gather history, check out *Flat, Cool & Acid-Free*, a podcast from the OSU archives. In this 13-minute episode "[The Archives is Where We Keep the Weird Stuff](#)," you will hear from David Peters, head of the Oklahoma State University Archives. He provides an overview of the archives and what's kept there and gives tips on preserving your own personal items. In another episode, "[Behind the Door](#)," he describes finding something dusty, tucked behind the door of a closet. What he found ended up in a Ken Burns documentary.

We will occasionally feature an episode here in UPdate, but if you can't wait and want to see the full list of current episodes, just click [here](#).



David Peters heads the OSU archives. You can hear him and other archive staff on the organization's podcast.



## Hidden Gems and How to Find Them on Census.gov

FREE \* ONLINE \* OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wed., Dec. 15, from 12-1:00 p.m. Register [here](#).

Have you ever tried looking at the census data online but just weren't sure what you were missing? In this free webinar you'll hear directly from U.S. Census Bureau professionals who specialize in data.

They'll show you some of the less-explored tools and resources, such as infographics, tip sheets and narrative profiles. This session will take a tour of the website and show you how to find these lesser known tools to help with your own research and exploration.

Hosted by the U.S. Government Publishing Office. The speakers: Heidi Crawford, Data Dissemination Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau, and Ileana Serrano, Data Dissemination Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau. The event is free, but registration is required.