

Author & Speaker

# Jonita Mullins

Preserving a Rich Heritage

Psa 16:6

## Still Offering Tours

For the last few years, I worked with the Muskogee Transit Authority to offer custom trolley tours. They were always great fun and well attended. But the trolleys are no longer available for custom tours or special events.

I will still be available to provide tours but only as walking tours or car caravans or as a step-on guide for buses and vans coming to the Muskogee area. If you have a group desiring a tour, please contact me at 918-682-0312.

Muskogee, Oklahoma

## Christmas Lights Tours

Bus & Van

## Step-on Guide Service

Find all the details at

[okieheritage.com](http://okieheritage.com)



with author & historian  
**Jonita Mullins**

---

*Character is not made in a crisis; it is only revealed.*

---

## Another Chapter

I enjoyed the Authors Meet & Greet at Another Chapter Bookstore in Owasso, OK. It's always good to visit with readers and meet fellow authors. Thanks to Karen Barros for inviting me to the event and kudos to this retired teacher for



creating a beautiful bookstore and coffee bar. If you live in Owasso or visit there, stop in and support a local business that supports local authors.

## 69 D'Art

I'll be set up in the Eufaula History Museum on Saturday, October 7 for the annual Eufaula Arts Festival. I'm involved with a group of individuals committed to supporting the arts and humanities along the Jefferson Highway (Route 69) called 69 D'Art. More info about D'Art can be found on their facebook page.

All my Eufaula friends, come by and see me and take a tour of this new museum.

## My Calendar

### Eufaula Arts Festival

Downtown Eufaula, OK

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

I will have a table set up in Eufaula's new history museum. Come by and see me and all the other artists who will be displaying and selling their works. I will also speak during this all day event.

### Checotah Lions Club

Church of Christ, Checotah, OK

Thursday, October 12, noon

I will share information on the Jefferson Highway, its fascinating history and its potential for tourism for towns along the route.

### Exploring the Back Roads Tour

Muskogee Public Library, Muskogee, OK

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

Make your reservation with the library for this fun exploration of some of Muskogee's little-known history.

### Whale of a Tale Arts & Crafts Fair

Catoosa Community Center ((Library), Catoosa, OK

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Catoosa is famous for its Blue Whale on Route 66. I'll be selling my book detailing the history of the Jefferson Highway which was an earlier name for a section of 66.

### Frost on the Pumpkin Craft Show

First United Methodist Church, Muskogee, OK

Saturday, November 11, 10:00 a.m.

This long-running arts & crafts festival is a great place to get much of your Christmas shopping taken care of. For the book lovers on you list, come get a book with a local focus.

Author & Speaker

# Jonita Mullins

Preserving a Rich Heritage Psa 16:6

## Alice in the Kitchen



Alice Robertson represented Oklahoma in the 67th Congress. This Harris & Ewing photograph shows her conversing with a chef in the Capitol cafeteria. Before coming to Congress, Robertson ran Sawokla Café in Muskogee so she was no amateur in a restaurant kitchen. The photo's caption said she received "a few pointers" from the male cook, but it's more likely that she was inspecting the kitchen where members of Congress ate.

After her term in Congress, Alice tried to revive her cafeteria at her farm also called Sawokla. But her health prevented her success. She was forced to sell the farm and retire to a smaller home in town. To help with the restoration of this home, please consider a donation to the Founders' Place Historical District.

Visit [savinghistorichouses.com](http://savinghistorichouses.com) for details.

## Early Residents Traveled by River, Road and Rail

Early transportation throughout the Three Rivers region naturally depended upon the rivers. With the Arkansas, Verdigris and Grand Rivers flowing together at Three Forks, this region became an early hub for traffic west of the Mississippi.

The rivers were important for the export of furs, salt and tobacco which early residents — the Wichita and Caddo Confederacy — traded with other tribes and then with Europeans at St. Louis, Arkansas Post and New Orleans.

As early as the 1780s, the Osages had begun to settle in the Three Forks region. Their principal trade partners were the Chouteau family at St. Louis. The Osage traveled overland from the Three Forks to Missouri along a trail that became known as the Osage Trace. This trail, which followed the natural contours of the land, became the basis for many roads that followed.

With the establishment of Fort Smith, Fort Gibson and Fort Towson, military roads were built connecting these posts. It was along these roads that many of the Five Tribes made the final leg of their tearful trail into their new homeland, Indian Territory.

Since this new territory was set aside for Indians only, the Three Forks region soon became a place for pioneers to simply "pass through" on

their way to settling the West. In the 1830s and '40s the Osage Trace was crowded with settlers heading out from St. Louis to Texas. The trail became known as the Texas Road.

During the Civil War, several battles were fought in Indian Territory for control of the Texas Road, including the Battle of Honey Springs. Following the Civil War, railroads began to forge into Indian Territory. The first was the Missouri-Kansas & Texas (KATY). The route chosen for this first rail line followed closely that of the Osage Trace, crossing the Arkansas River near the ford of the Texas Road. The railroad surveyors and engineers could not improve upon the instinct of the Indian and pioneer in choosing the best route.

During the decade of the cattle drives, the Texas Road became the East Shawnee Cattle Trail and hundreds of cattle were driven up from Texas to the railhead at Muskogee. In the 1910s the Jefferson Highway was built along this same route.

Today, Highway 69 crosses through Oklahoma along this very same route. It has been said that when constructing Highways 69, a roadbed did not need to be laid. The ground was rock hard from the tramp of hundreds of Texas long-horns passing over it.

Travelers along this road today may not realize it, but they are following the path of Indian fur traders, pioneer settlers, railroad entrepreneurs and singing cowboys.