

Welge presents January 27 talk on Methodism in I.T.

William D. Welge will be the guest speaker at the January 27 meeting of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society. The meeting and a soup and sides luncheon will begin at 12 noon in the Southeast Room of Muskogee Public Library. Welge will speak at 1 p.m. on *The History of Methodism in Indian Territory*.

Welge, a Certified Archivist, is currently the Director of American Indian Culture and Preservation, a new office at the Oklahoma History Center. Formerly, he was the Director of the Research Division for the Oklahoma Historical Society at the Oklahoma History Center. He holds a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and a M.A. with honors in History from Central State University.

He holds certifications in Disaster Preparedness from the National Archives and Preservation and Restoration of Photographic Images from Rochester Institute of Technology. Mr. Welge is a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

He is active in various organizations having to do with history and preservation. In addition, Welge has authored numerous articles and has published four books regarding local and state history.

The program is made possible by Warner United Methodist Church as part of a grant. Its distinctive current rock building was erected in 1903 and is one of the oldest churches in Oklahoma. The congregation is currently conducting a drive to preserve the structure. Jeremy Jones, a member of the Muskogee Public Library staff, serves as its pastor.

Any interested persons are invited to attend the meeting. Those attending usually bring refreshments to share during the meeting.

The February 24 meeting will be a talk by Ron Graham. Graham is a favorite speaker on research regarding the Freedmen of the Five Tribes. The Okmulgee native has spent many years researching his own Creek heritage as well as that of others. Jere Harris, long time member of the library's Genealogy and Local History Department staff, will teach her popular "Beginning Genealogy" class at 1:30 p.m. in the Genealogy and Local History Department. Staff and volunteers will be present to provide assistance to those starting their genealogy research. The society meeting will begin at 3 p.m. in the Grant Foreman room with Graham's talk as the program.

Other Black History Month programs at the library include: Black History Trivia Night, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1, and Hollywood to Indiewood at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 10. Shiron Butterfly Ray, Bare Bones Film Festival co-founder, will present *History and Legends of Film, Hollywood to Indiewood*, featuring the Legacy of Black Film Pioneers.

