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Kidwell, Clara S.

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KIDWELL, CLARA S. (b. 1941), has been a professor and director of the American Studies Department, University of Oklahoma, since 1995, as well as a researcher in Choctaw land claims against the United States. This work followed service as an associate professor of Native American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, from 1974 to 1992, and as assistant director for cultural resources of the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution from 1992 to 1995. In that capacity, she supervised the development and conservation of collections and, when appropriate, the repatriation of specific objects to tribes.

Kidwell's professional career began in 1966. She served first as a college instructor in history and then as a publications coordinator for a university research unit. In 1970 Kidwell became an instructor and chair of the Social Science Division at Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, Kansas. She was appointed assistant professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis from 1972 to 1974.

At Berkeley, Kidwell's research and publication flourished. Her writings and lectures reflected her interest in the interaction between Europeans and Native Americans in North America, including civil rights, education, ecology, medicine, women, worldview, and the Choctaw tribe. She received fellowships from the Newberry Library, Chicago, and the Smithsonian Institution, among others. In 1980 Kidwell served as a visiting scholar and associate professor at Dartmouth College, and in 1989 became a trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian. At Berkeley she also served as chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies, associate dean in the Graduate Division, and director of the Consortium for Graduate Opportunities for American Indians.

Of Choctaw and Chippewa parentage, Kidwell was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and was raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She attended a Catholic grade school and a public high school in Muskogee. She earned her BA in letters, and her MA and PhD in history of science, at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, the latter in 1970.

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—Mark G. Thiel

KILPATRICK, ANNA GRITTS (b. 1917), was born in Echota, Oklahoma, and earned a BS from Southern Methodist University in 1958. She spent her professional life as a teacher in the Dallas, Texas, public school system, and pursued an active second career as a writer and collaborator with her husband, Jack Frederick Kilpatrick, a professor of music at Southern Methodist University.

As a result of their shared interest in ethnomusicology, the Kilpatricks investigated the relation of traditional Cherokee music patterns and tropes to symphonic music. This interest in blending the tribal and the European musical traditions led Jack Kilpatrick to compose a symphony for the Oklahoma semicentennial in 1957; at the time of his death, he was composing a symphony based on the rhythms and euphony of Native music. The Kilpatricks also brought to print many translations of Cherokee history, charms and love songs, folktales, and oral traditions. Theirs was apparently very much an intellectual and emotional partnership, one committed to both preserving and adapting the cultural heritage of the Oklahoma Cherokee. Their edited translation of *New Chota Letters* made available material from the first Native-language periodical in America, a Cherokee publication. After her husband's death in 1967, Kilpatrick continued to prepare their collaborative works on the Oklahoma Cherokee culture for publication.

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