Old Kia Kima Timeline

1916 – Bolton Smith, the first President of Chickasaw Council, BSA, purchased and donated the original 160-acre Kia Kima site as a Boy Scout Camp

1928 – Last of the original 16 Stone Cabins was completed around the Quadrangle

1928 – The Thunderbird Lodge was built with funds donated by Edward M. Salomon, then President of the Chickasaw Council, BSA

1943-47 – Camp Closed due to WW II

1948 – Kia Kima re-opened after the War years

1948 – The Chickasah Lodge of the Order of the Arrow was founded at Old Kia Kima

1954 – New Dining Hall Constructed – Now used as an Activities Pavilion at Old Kia Kima

1963 – Old Kia Kima acquired by John Cooper in a land swap for 540 acres up river to establish a new BSA camp, Kia Kima Scout Reservation.

1993 – Old Kia Kima first visited by the founders of OKKPA, 30 years after it's closing as a Boy Scout camp.

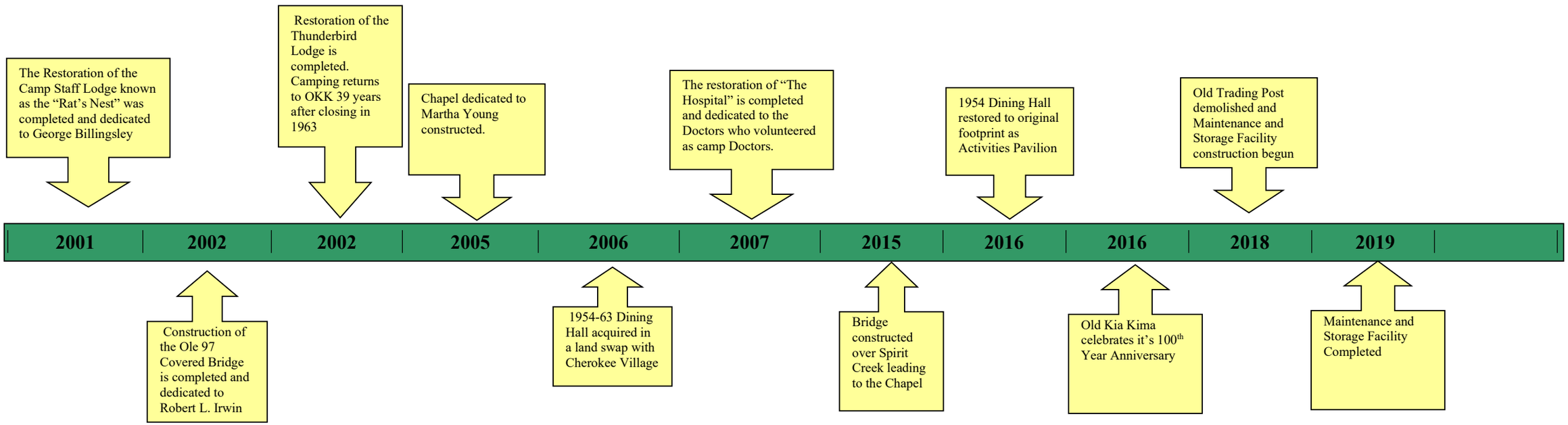
1996 – The Old Kia Kima Preservation Association, Inc. was formed, by 5 former staff members, as a 501 © 3 Public Charity

1998 – Boyce and George Billingsley purchased the original 43 acres that was the core of Old Kia Kima and donated it to OKKPA

1999 – New Bath House facilities built, and Cabin restoration began

2000 – Original 16 Stone Cabin restoration was completed, and the Thunderbird Lodge Restoration began

2001 – New Office, Cooler/Freezer, and Storage facility was built around the core of the Old Pump House. Also, a new Group Cooking & Dining Pavilion was built on the site of the original Pavilion


The Restoration of the Camp Staff Lodge known as the "Rat's Nest" was completed and dedicated to George Billingsley
Restoration of the Thunderbird Lodge is completed. Camping returns to OKK 39 years after closing in 1963
Chapel dedicated to Martha Young constructed.
The restoration of "The Hospital" is completed and dedicated to the Doctors who volunteered as camp Doctors.
1954 Dining Hall restored to original footprint as Activities Pavilion
Old Trading Post demolished and Maintenance and Storage Facility construction begun
2001
2002
2002
2005
2006
2007
2015
2016
2016
2018
2019
Construction of the Ole 97 Covered Bridge is completed and dedicated to Robert L. Irwin
1954-63 Dining Hall acquired in a land swap with Cherokee Village
Bridge constructed over Spirit Creek leading to the Chapel
Old Kia Kima celebrates it's 100th Year Anniversary
Maintenance and Storage Facility Completed