

# THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHARD C. BUTLER, SR. CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

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Winter 2002

## Encyclopedia of Arkansas Project Announced

The Butler Center has commenced work on the largest single project it has ever undertaken, the development of an encyclopedia of Arkansas history and culture. For years Arkansans have cast covetous eyes to the southwest as we made use of the half-century old *Handbook of Texas* (and more recently the new digital version, the *Handbook of Texas Online*). The Butler Center staff believes Arkansans need and deserve a first-rate encyclopedia about the state.

Preliminary plans call for the production of a detailed encyclopedia, with entries on each county, town, city, region, and historic site in the state; brief biographies of prominent Arkansans; brief descriptive articles on hundreds of individual topics; larger essays analyzing broad subjects or time periods; bibliographic notes on sources; and photos to illustrate the text. It is anticipated entries will be arranged in alphabetical order.

Timothy G. Nutt, Butler Center Deputy Curator, and Jill Curran, a Little Rock resident who has performed contract work for the Center in the past, will serve as co-chairmen of the undertaking.

A project of this scale will take many years to complete. The goal is to post a preliminary digital version of the encyclopedia on the Internet at the end of two years, to be followed by a print edition within ten years. Fundraising is expected to commence early in the new year.

Dillard said all institutions of higher learning, museums, local historical and genealogical societies, as well as interested individuals will be asked to help produce the encyclopedia. A state-wide advisory board will be appointed to help oversee the project.

Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center Curator, said "This will be a huge venture for us. It is so big that no single agency can manage all of it, so we anticipate this will be a joint action involving many institutions and private individuals. We must all hang together on this project, or the project will hang us!"

A statewide meeting is being planned. Anyone wanting to participate in the encyclopedia project should contact the Butler Center, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201; telephone 501-918-3056 or email [arkinfo@cals.lib.ar.us](mailto:arkinfo@cals.lib.ar.us).

### Way Named Newest Butler Center Fellow

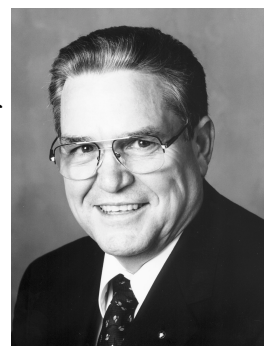
John R. Way, a ninth grade teacher at Norman Junior High School, Crossett, Arkansas, has been named the latest Butler Fellow. As a Butler Fellow, Way will prepare lesson plans on Arkansas history for use in the schools of the state. He will also present a workshop to inform teachers how to use his lesson plans.

A native of Alma, Arkansas, Way has degrees from Central Baptist College and Arkansas College as well as a graduate degree from Northeast Louisiana University.

Way is very active in a variety of educational and professional groups, including serving as district chairman for the National History Day competition. In 1999 he was honored as "Outstanding History Teacher of the Year" by the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers. He has also received recognition for excellence in teaching and promoting economic education. He is active in the Geography Bee competition, in which his students have qualified for the state bee during the last three years.

Way has traveled and studied in both Mexico and the west African country of Sierra Leone.

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## Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

These are exciting days for the Butler Center. We are especially excited to be concluding our fifth year of operation. I can so vividly recall when Library Director Bobby Roberts and I visited with Richard C. "Dick" Butler in 1997 about our goal of creating an Arkansas history department in the Library. We quickly discovered that Dick not only shared our vision, but could see possibilities and opportunities that we had not yet considered.

Dick did not live to see the Butler Center celebrate its fifth birthday, but he did get to participate in the first two years of our history. It was always such a pleasure to see Dick sitting in the audience, smiling broadly, or thinking deeply, or asking thoughtful questions of program speakers. Since his death, Dick's widow, Gertrude Rimmel Butler, has maintained a steady and encouraging interest in our work.

It is impossible to mention by name

all the hundreds of people who have helped create and sustain the Butler Center during its infancy. To all of you, however, I say *thanks!* And to folks who are just now discovering the Center, I also extend to you an invitation to become involved in our work. Here's a summary of some of our efforts:

**Planning.** We have worked from a written five year plan, which we will soon revise. If you would be interested in helping develop this plan, please let me know. I believe in planning one's work. My wife, who is given to aphorisms, always reminds me that if one does not have a map, "any old road will do."

**Publications Programs.** The Butler Center has inaugurated a publications program, and we are hard at work developing a list of books we hope to publish in the next five years. We have no desire to compete with the University of Arkansas Press, which the Butler Center not only supports but which we also assist through our work on behalf of the Friends of the UA Press. Much of our publication effort will go toward producing titles that can be used in the classroom. We are also working with others to develop an Encyclopedia of Arkansas, which would be the first comprehensive reference work of this nature.

**Fellowship Program.** A very high priority for the Butler Center is developing materials which teachers can use to improve Arkansas history education. We have worked systematically to generate lesson plans which deal with specific aspects of state and local history, and now have seventy-five plans available on our website for free use by teachers. Ultimately we hope

to generate 300 lesson plans. (See [www.cals.lib.ar.us](http://www.cals.lib.ar.us).)

**Public Programming.** One of our most successful programming initiatives is our monthly Legacies & Lunch series. Usually held the first Wednesday of each month at noon, L & L has developed a faithful following, with a goodly number of attendees from outside Pulaski County. For several years we have hosted a yearly family history workshop, the success of which has given us incentive to seek more innovative ways of offering genealogy programming.

**Internet-based Programming.** Although I am a confirmed technophobe, I do understand the importance of using the Internet to enhance our programming. Hence, we have posted a large amount of material on the Library System's website. We will soon be posting our "Arkansas Black History On-Line" on our website, a project which will make available a goodly amount of source materials on the history of African-Arkansans.

**Print Collection Development.** When the Butler Center was created, it inherited the Library System's Arkansas book and periodical collection. We have converted the collection to the Library of Congress cataloging scheme, which allows for much better control and administration of the collection. We are grateful to the hundreds of folks and organizations who donated both funds and books for our collections.

**Archival Collections.** Since the Butler Center is concerned with encouraging research in the field of Arkansas studies, we collect archival

See "Curator's Column," on next page

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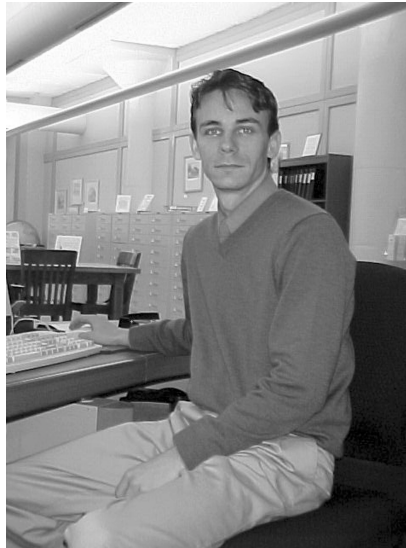
## Butler Center Welcomes New Employee

The Butler Center is proud to welcome a new employee to our staff. Michael Hopper is the new Genealogy Assistant. A native of Camden, Michael earned a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Central Arkansas in 2002. While attending UCA, Michael served on the campus police force. Prior to joining the Butler Center staff, he was Curator of Slides for the Library of Architecture, Design and Construction at Auburn University.

Michael will assist Genealogy Coordinator Linda McDowell in running the daily operations of that division.

Michael enjoys scale model building, collecting antique photographs, and studying military and Arkansas history. He is a member of the 10th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, a Civil War Living History organization which regularly performs battle reenactments.

Please join us in welcoming Michael to the staff!



"Curator's Column,"  
continued from Page 2

materials in addition to books and periodicals. Dozens of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations have donated manuscripts and records to the Center. Likewise, we have developed a collection of almost 1,000 Arkansas maps, the earliest of which date back long before Arkansas became a state. Perhaps our most success in this area has been the development of our huge photographic collections.

**Arkansas Art Division.** Within the Butler Center we have created a division to properly manage the Library's collection of Arkansas art. We have almost 500 pieces in our art collection, and our holdings are being exhibited regularly in Library System branches and in our "Showcase Arkansas Gallery."

These accomplishments are due to many factors, not the least being our outstanding staff. We are also greatly indebted to the hundreds of folks who

have donated materials and funds, attended our programs, and generally supported the Center and its work.

Dr. Bobby Roberts and the Library System board have provided leadership, support, and guidance.

All of this effort is for naught if we are not able to impact the manner in which Arkansans view ourselves, our past, and our collective future. We want to lead a charge that will result in Arkansans casting off their traditional lack of self respect as a people. A baby born in Arkansas ought to grow up with the same sense of pride, worth, and expectation as a baby born in Connecticut or California or Texas for that matter.

**The Future.** We have absolutely no intention of resting on the laurels of our first five years. With the kind of public support we have received in the past, I can see our next five years taking the Butler Center to new heights. Stay tuned, we will keep you posted.

## Bridge Fund Supports Butler Center Projects

Much of the success of the Butler Center can be attributed to support it is given by a variety of individuals, corporations, and foundations. Among the philanthropic groups supporting the Butler Center's programs is the Arkansas Community Foundation, which administers the "Bridge Fund."

The Bridge Fund was created a few years ago by an anonymous donor from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This foresighted person wanted to lend wealth to support improved Arkansas history education and improve library services through technology. The donor endowed a substantial fund at the Arkansas Community Foundation, and since 1997 the Fund has warmly supported a wide variety of projects throughout the state.

The Butler Center has received three grants from the Bridge Fund. In 1998 we received funds to underwrite the development of our Fellowship program, which generates lesson plans on Arkansas history for use in the schools. The same year we received a small grant to purchase more "server capacity" on the Library's website so we can host a large number of lesson plans.

Last year we received a grant to partly underwrite our "Arkansas Black History Online" project. Work on this project is about finished, and soon we will be unveiling on our website a huge collection of materials on the heritage of African-Americans in Arkansas, including documents and primary sources, photographs, biographies, as well as a variety of other materials.

The Arkansas Community Foundation is an independent philanthropic organization serving donors, the nonprofit sector, and the communities of Arkansas. It was established in 1976 and administers about 600 charitable funds totaling \$44 million.

To learn more or apply for a Bridge Fund grant, contact ARCF at 700 S. Rock St., Little Rock, AR 72202. Telephone 501-372-1116. The ARCF website is [www.arcf.org](http://www.arcf.org).





## Legacies & Lunch Schedule

~2003~

### January 8

"Happiness in Their Chimney Corners:  
Women in Early Arkansas"  
by Lea Flowers Baker,  
Education Coordinator, Dept. of Arkansas Heritage

### February 5

"The Murder of Green Thompson"  
by Tom W. Dillard,  
Curator, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

### March 5

"The Art and Craft of Quilting in Arkansas"  
Presenter to be Announced

### April 2

"The South Arkansas Oil Boom"  
by Jeanne Clements,  
Education Director, Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources

### May 7

"Exploring Arkansas Before the Louisiana Purchase"  
by Judge Morris S. Arnold,  
U.S. 8th Circuit Court Judge and colonial historian

### June 4

"R.E. L. Wilson: Turning Swampland Into Gold"  
by Jeannie Whayne,  
Professor of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

### July 2

"How North Little Rock Became Its Own City"  
by Timothy G. Nutt,  
Deputy Curator, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

### August 6

"The Great American Spa: Hot Springs National Park"  
by Roger Giddings,  
Superintendent, Hot Springs National Park

### September 3

"From Backyard Chicken Coop to Billion-Dollar Business:  
Chicken Farming in Arkansas"  
by Susan Young,  
Outreach Coordinator, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

### October 1

"180+ Years of Newspapers in Arkansas"  
by Michael Dougan,  
Professor of History, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro

### November 5

"Ecology Versus Economy: The Battle Over the Buffalo River"  
by Suzie Rogers,  
Historian, Buffalo National River

### December 3

"Celebrating Christmas in Arkansas"  
by Martha W. Rimmer,  
Little Rock  
historian and former editor, *Pulaski County Historical Review*

All Legacies & Lunch programs are held in the  
Darragh Center/Main Library  
12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Bring Your Lunch/Bottled Water and Soft Drinks Provided  
For more information call Cary Cox at 918-3049.

## Happy Holidays From the Butler Center Staff

Tom Dillard  
Curator

Tim Nutt  
Deputy Curator

Linda McDowell  
Genealogy Coordinator

Brian Robertson  
Manuscripts Coordinator

Cary Cox  
Programs Coordinator



Reita Miller  
Arkansas Art Coordinator

Carolyn Cash  
Manuscripts Assistant

John Lawrence Smith  
Manuscripts Assistant

Michael Hopper  
Genealogy Assistant

Jennifer Udey  
Administrative Assistant

Offie Lites  
Photographer





## Genealogically Speaking....

Linda McDowell  
Genealogy Coordinator

Those searching for Arkansas ancestors who fought in "The Great War" have a new resource to make their genealogical research easier. The Butler Center has added sixty-nine rolls of the World War I Draft Registration Cards for the state of Arkansas to our genealogical collections.

During WWI, voluntary enlistment had not produced the needed number of men to serve in the military. Therefore, on May 18, 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed authorizing President Woodrow Wilson to temporarily increase the military through a mandatory registration of all U.S. male citizens born between 1872-1900. Aliens living in the United States were also required to register, but were not subject to induction. Local Registration Boards were established in every county in the state to facilitate the process.

Three registrations periods for WWI were held: the first, held June 5, 1917, registered all men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one years old. The second, on June 5,

1918, registered men who had turned twenty-one after the first registration. The final registration period was held September 12, 1918 for men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. Of course, World War I ended on November 11, 1918 when Germany surrendered.

The WWI Draft Registration Cards are arranged alphabetically by counties. Since the registration cards are not military records, they do not contain information about a person's military service. Additionally, not all men who registered for the draft served in the military and not all men who saw active duty registered for the draft.

Although the information on each registrant differs somewhat, each card includes the full name, age at the time of registration, home address, birthdate and place of birth; occupation, employer, marital status, race, and citizenship. Also included is a personal description of the registrant such as height, weight, build, and hair and eye colors.

This set of microfilm was acquired through the generosity of Dolores M. Bruce. Since Spring, 2002, the Butler



*William H. Voss (l.) and F. Herman Voss, Fort Roots, ca1918. This photo was recently added to our collections.*

Center has added a varied selection of new genealogical materials thanks to Ms. Bruce's generosity.

The World War I Draft Registration have been labeled and are available for use in the research room of the Butler Center.



### Photograph of Hot Springs Bathhouse Acquired

The Butler Center recently acquired a photo of the Maurice Bathhouse in Hot Springs, circa 1910. Originally named the Independent Bath House, the building was purchased by W.G. Maurice in 1893 and subsequently renamed.

The building was extensively remodeled in 1911 and when the "new" Maurice Bathhouse opened on January 1, 1912 it was billed as the most complete and sanitary in the state and nation. The bathhouse was again remodeled in 1915 with George Mann, architect of the Capitol in Little Rock, heading the project. The Maurice Bathhouse is one of eight such structures on Bathhouse Row, which is a National Historic Landmark.

# Memories of a Frigid 2000 Wanted

Everyone remembers the two "Great Ice Storms" of December 2000. Even if we try to block the memories, the images of broken trees and fallen power lines come rushing back. If you think hard enough, you can even remember how cold it was (and how much colder it felt) as you huddled under piles of blankets waiting for the electricity to be restored. As much as you tried, the chill could never be warmed. For some, the restoration of power did not come until days later only to be lost again a week or so later.

Now that we have sufficiently reminded our readers of the events of

two years ago, we want to know about your own experiences. Tell us how you managed to stay warm and how long you were without power. How did the storms affect your holidays?

The Butler Center is compiling these memories as part of our ongoing mission to preserve Arkansas' history. All memories gathered will be placed in our manuscript collection.

If you need help jogging your memory, let us know. We can send someone over to your house to turn off the electricity; but, this might not be necessary given the rough forecast in this year's farmer's almanac.

"BC Fellow," continued from page 1

He is married to the former Becky Ring Way, and they are parents of a son who recently completed his degree and is working as a banker.

When asked how he became interested in Arkansas history, Way recalled that it started when he was in the sixth grade and took a course in state history. As a part of that class he was assigned to research a county, and his report on Mississippi County was judged the best in the class.

Butler Center Curator Tom W. Dillard thinks highly of Way, remarking: "With the assistance of master teachers like John Way, the Butler Center can continue to develop materials that will lift Arkansas history to a meaningful place in the schools of our state."

## My Memories of the 2000 Ice Storms Questionnaire

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies wants to preserve your memories of the ice storms that devastated Arkansas in December 2000. Please answer the following questions with as much detail as you can recall. We encourage you to submit photographs and video taken during and after the storms. We are especially interested in acquiring home video footage you have documenting the storms' impact on you and the city, such as fallen trees, power lines, etc.

Please use as many additional sheets of paper as necessary. Thank you for preserving Arkansas' (cold) history!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members (and Relationship and Ages) With You During the Storms \_\_\_\_\_

Address in 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

What Plans were Interrupted Because of the Storms? \_\_\_\_\_

When Did You Lose Electricity? \_\_\_\_\_

For How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

How Did You Stay Warm? \_\_\_\_\_

How Did You Occupy Yourself and Family? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Your Children's Reactions to the Loss of Electricity \_\_\_\_\_

Did You Lose Any Trees? \_\_\_\_\_

Was There Any Damage to House or Other Property? \_\_\_\_\_

What Is The First Thing You Did When:

1) The Electricity Was Restored \_\_\_\_\_

2) You Could Drive on the Roads \_\_\_\_\_

Please use another sheet of paper for other memories.

Please return your completed survey to Tim Nutt, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201. (All submissions will be added to the Butler Center collections.)



## All I Want for the Holidays Is INFORMATION!

by Tom W. Dillard

I must be the world's premier nerd. I admit enjoying what my wife calls "nerd fun." Gardening is nerd fun. Garden photography is nerd fun. One of my favorite nerd fun activities is to discover little known facts about Arkansas. So, for a holiday gift that will really thrill me, provide the answers to the following questions of Arkansiana.

1.) After whom was Markham Street in Little Rock named? I want details too.

2.) I have run across information on three black Arkansans from the

distant past who have reportedly obtained patents on inventions. If there are three, could not more be lost in the records?

3.) Who actually got the most legal votes in the disputed gubernatorial election of 1888?

4.) Was it completely unrealistic of Henry Fernando Buhler to start his Climber Auto Corp in Little Rock in 1919?

5.) Did DeSoto really make it to Hot Springs, or is that the work of the Spa Chamber of Commerce?

## Advisory Board Nominations Sought

The Butler Center will convene its annual advisory board meeting in January 2003. Although the board does not set policy, it does guide the Butler Center in establishing policy, assessing programs, acquiring manuscript collections, and advising the Curator on future publications, and projects.

The Advisory Board is comprised of fifteen supporters with alternating terms. Four positions are open for 2003 and the Butler Center is soliciting nominations. The board meets yearly.

If you know of someone who would be interested in a board position, please submit their name, address, phone number, and email address to Tim Nutt, Deputy Curator, Butler Center, CALS, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

## New Photo Acquisition One to Love and Cherish



*Mr. & Mrs. John Rumbach, Sr. on their Wedding Day, November 4, 1902. The Rumbachs were married in St. Edwards Catholic Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.*

## Recently Processed Manuscript Collections Available For Research

Brian Robertson, Manuscripts Coordinator, recently announced the processing of a number of manuscript collections. These collections are now available for research use in the Butler Center research room.

Arkansas Civil War Materials	MSS 00-25
Mrs. J.F. Richardson Materials	MSS 97-27
Miss Jimmie Marie Graham Memory Book	MSS 02-18
Arkansas Centennial Materials	MSS 97-45
Arkansas Theater Programs	MSS 97-44
Camp Chaffee Materials	MSS 02-12
Judge Edward McFadden Materials	MSS 97-25
<i>Baxter County Citizen</i> Newspaper	
Advertising Contracts	MSS 97-13
Galloway College Collection	MSS 97-48
Dr. Calvin B. Waller Sermons	MSS 97-46
Emmet Morris Papers	MSS 97-02
William T. Shelton Desegregation Materials	MSS 97-03
Pulaski Heights Mothers Club Records	MSS 97-29
Jerome F. Thompson Collection	MSS 99-23
Wing Shot Hunting Club Records	MSS 99-28
Arkansas History Teaching Materials	MSS 99-03
Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr Materials	MSS 99-17
Richard Pyburn Estate Materials	MSS 99-34



## In Honor Of

**Tom W. Dillard**  
Dorothy Morris  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

## General Support

**Eleanor K. Adams**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Nadyne & Loy Aikman**  
White Hall, Arkansas

**Gertrude R. Butler**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Tom & Susan DeBlack**  
Conway, Arkansas

**Greg & Susan Farque**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**E.E. Fuller**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Sherrel Johnson**  
El Dorado, Arkansas

**James & Ellen Kane**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Helen T. Leigh**  
Mason City, Iowa

**Waddy W. & Gay Moore**  
Conway, Arkansas

**Shelia Parsons**  
Conway, Arkansas

**James & Pat Phillips**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Mary Delia Prather**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Peyton & Betty Rice**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Bobby Roberts**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Nathania Sawyer**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Celeste Thurman**  
Denver, Colorado

## Books and Materials

**Arkansas Genealogical Society**  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

**R. Robert Bailey**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Emily C. Barrier**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Richard C. Butler, Jr.**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Rev. Donald Campbell**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Randall T. Crawford**  
Syracuse, New York

**Christopher A. Dorer**  
Roland, Arkansas

**Paul Y. Griffin**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Arlene LaGrone**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

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Little Rock, Arkansas

**Faye McGuire**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Archie Moore, Jr.**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Park H. Moore, Jr.**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Freddie Nixon**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Ann Presley**  
Sherwood, Arkansas

**Quapaw Quarter Association**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Bill Sayger**  
Bisbee, Arkansas



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