

# The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 12, Number 1

Winter 2010

## Butler Center Events

### Legacies & Lunch

**March 3, 2010**

John Gill discusses the Depression-era works of art created for U.S. post office buildings throughout Arkansas.

**April 7, 2010**

Tom W. Dillard, Head of Special Collections for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, discusses his new book *Statesmen, Scoundrels, and Eccentrics: A Gallery of Amazing Arkansans*.

### Art News

**Feb. 12 - March 31, 2010**

Arkansas Studies Institute Galleries, Mezzanine Gallery  
*Local History Goes to School: Traveling the World with Mifflin W. Gibbs.*

**March 12 - May 29, 2010**

Arkansas Studies Institute Galleries, Main Gallery  
*David Balin: Paper Trails.*  
Opening-night reception, 2nd Friday Art Night, March 12, 2010, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**April 10 - May 29, 2010**

Arkansas Studies Institute Galleries, Concordia Hall Gallery  
*AAE State Youth Art Show 2010*, organized by the Arkansas Art Educators (AAE) and the Arkansas Department of Education. Opening reception, April 10, 2010, 2 p.m., ASI Galleries.



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Visit [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org) for more information.

## Digital Butler Center Expands

The Butler Center, along with CALS, strives to provide up-to-date onsite equipment while also continually placing selections from our holdings online, allowing patrons access to quality materials from their home, workplace, or school.

Recently, the Butler Center/UALR Special Collections Research Room

added an overhead scanner and digital microfilm reader for the public's use. The overhead scanner allows the public and staff to scan fragile and large documents. Many items that were formerly difficult or impossible to copy—including fragile and



*Digital microfilm reader in the ASI Research Room.*

over-sized books and ledgers, three-dimensional items, and other delicate archival materials—can now be scanned and saved as high-resolution digital files. Similarly, the digital microfilm reader, shown above, scans microfilm with much

*Cont. on page 7*

## Butler Center Hosts Korean War Conference

Ronald VanBuren enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 because, like so many others, he needed help paying for his education. After basic training at Fort Bliss, he was stationed at Camp Chaffee with the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. In early 1950, he joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Beppu, Japan, while the division was serving on occupation duty. After VanBuren had spent only a few months in Japan, North Korea invaded South Korea, after which he

was sent into combat with the 99<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

While in Korea, VanBuren served as an outpost gunner and medic and was part of the disastrous retreat from North Korea following Chinese entry into the war. His duties as medic ensured that he was also the official battery barber. As recounted in his interview, he did the best he could with a pair of dull squeeze clippers.

Ronald VanBuren shared his story with the Butler Center as one of the first veterans con-

tacted as part of *FORGOTTEN: The Arkansas Korean War Project*. In addition to allowing us to interview him, VanBuren donated numerous photographs and documents related to his time in Korea. Sadly, VanBuren passed away in August 2009 at the age of seventy-nine. The Butler Center is honored to

*Cont. on page 3*

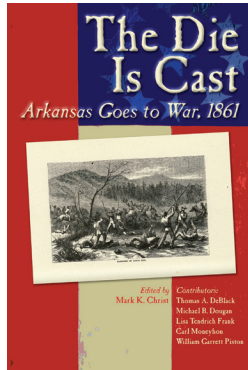


*Wire Section, 936th Field Artillery Battalion, Arkansas National Guard unit.*

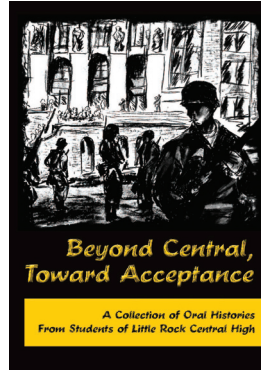
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www.butlercenter.org or 1-800-626-0090

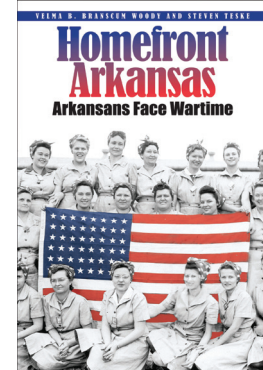
## Latest Releases



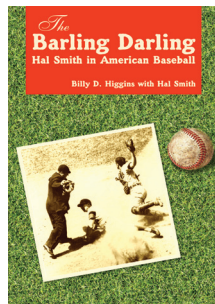
***The Die Is Cast:***  
***Arkansas Goes to War, 1861***  
edited by Mark K. Christ  
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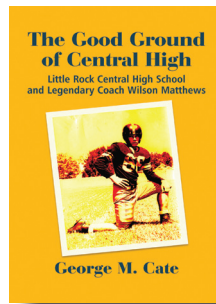
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***Students of Little Rock Central High***  
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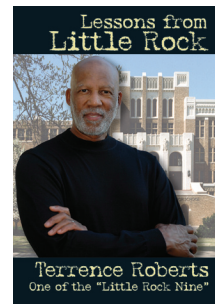
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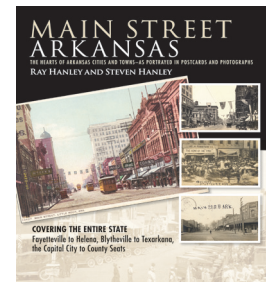
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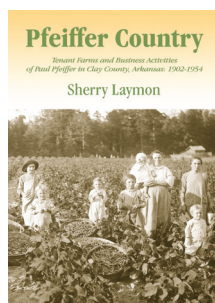
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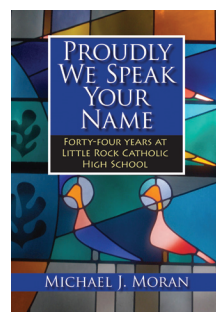
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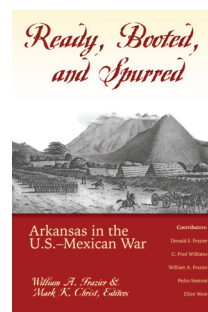
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***Towns — As Portrayed in Postcards***  
***and Photographs***  
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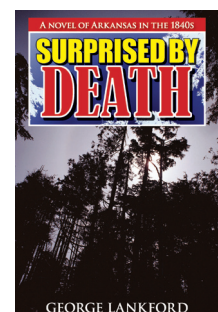
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***County, Arkansas, 1902-1954***  
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***Forty-four Years at Little Rock***  
***Catholic High School***  
by Michael J. Moran  
\$24.95 hardback



***Ready, Booted, and Spurred:***  
***Arkansas in the U.S.-Mexican War***  
edited by William A. Frazier and  
Mark K. Christ  
\$39.95 hardback \$19.95 paperback



***Surprised by Death:***  
***A Novel of Arkansas in the 1840s***  
by George Lankford  
\$14.95 paperback



# A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



In this issue of the *Butler Banner*, you can read about the half dozen design awards our still-new Arkansas Studies Institute has received.

It's been fun to get the reactions of professionals in the fields of architecture, construction, interior design, and art. You can also read about the good work of several of our fine colleagues, especially relating to our remarkable project on Arkansas veterans of the Korean War.

Our outstanding online lesson plan feature at [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org) was just recognized as a featured digital collection by OCLC, the international cooperative for library services. Our lesson plan resource exists to help teachers improve their instruction in Arkansas history and culture. The recognition from OCLC follows a similar distinction last summer for our Korean War Project site.

You can also read names of some folks who responded to my request last time to help us with the cost of mailing a print

version of this newsletter. Here's what I said last time:

On page 3, there's a little note inviting folks to receive the *Banner* by email. This is an increasingly common offer by organizations that send out newsletters. Rest assured we won't pull the plug on our paper newsletter. We want to save paper, we want to save money, and we like email. But if you'd like to help us keep mailing you a paper copy of the newsletter you could send us a check for \$10. Make it out to the Butler Center, and put "*Butler Banner*" on the memo line. Send it to me at 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

It was such a nice gift to receive these expressions of support, often accompanied by words of celebration for the work of the Butler Center. We work hard. We have high aspirations on behalf of people everywhere who seek knowledge of Arkansas's history, including people in this state, around the country, and those in the 184 countries around the world where people have used our online services. We appreciate the many ways people let us know they appreciate our work, and we thank you all for your support of the Butler Center.

Come see us in the ASI!



Butler Center  
100 S. Rock St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

The *Butler Banner* is the quarterly newsletter of the  
**Butler Center for Arkansas Studies**

Arkansas Studies Institute  
Central Arkansas Library System  
100 S. Rock St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501.320.5700 - [arkinfo@cals.org](mailto:arkinfo@cals.org)  
[www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org)  
[www.arstudies.org](http://www.arstudies.org)

Printed and distributed with private funds.

Kathryn Heller: Editor  
Mike Keckhaver: Design/Layout



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## Save Paper, Reduce Waste

The Butler Center wants to save paper and reduce its waste. If you have an active email address, help us by opting to receive email-only alerts about our programs and events. Contact Kathryn Heller at [kheller@cals.org](mailto:kheller@cals.org) or (501) 320-5717 to update your information.

*Cont. from Korean War, p.1*

be able to preserve the memories of Van-Buren and the rest of our veterans for the benefit of future generations.

As an extension of our successful project, the Butler Center will host its first conference on the Korean War on Saturday, May 22. This one-day conference will feature four sessions and will be held in the Darragh Center of the Main Library. Everyone is invited to join us to learn about this nearly forgotten war, an important part of American—and Arkansas—history.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. James I. Matray, professor of history at Califor-

nia State University, Chico. Dr. Matray's numerous publications on the Korean War include *Korea Divided: The 38th Parallel and the Demilitarized Zone* and *The Reluctant Crusade: American Foreign Policy in Korea, 1941-1950*. He is editor of *East Asia and the United States: An Encyclopedia of Relations Since 1784*, *Historical Dictionary of the Korean War*, and *Korea and the Cold War: Division, Destruction, and Disarmament*. Matray is currently working on a book about the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. His presentation at the conference will focus on the hill-fighting that characterized the later phases of the war.

In addition to the keynote speaker, the conference will feature a session providing a general overview of the war and its historical context, as well as sessions on the participation of the Arkansas National Guard and a panel of local Arkansas Korean War veterans sharing their personal experiences.

After the regular sessions have concluded, conference participants will view the premiere of a documentary about the service of Arkansans in the Korean War. Created by Butler Center staff, this documentary features photographs, documents, video footage, and excerpts of oral history interviews from *FORGOTTEN: The Arkansas Korean War Project*.

# Butler Center Acquires Leroy Donald Papers

The Butler Center has received the Leroy Donald Papers. This collection from the noted Arkansas journalist features photographs and audio and video tapes. It also includes written scripts from the *Farkleberry Follies*, his biannual musical that raised money for journalism scholarships. This collection is still being processed and the Butler Center will announce when it is available to the public. ■

## Annual Genealogy Workshop

The Butler Center presents the day-long workshop "The Genealogist's Camera" by Desmond Walls Allen, author of *First Steps in Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide to Researching Your Family History* (1998).

Desmond Walls Allen owns Arkansas Research, Inc., a publishing company devoted to making information about Arkansas history available to genealogists and historians. She has written numerous books and articles about research techniques and resources. She is a past president of

the Arkansas Genealogical Society and co-founder of Professional Genealogists of Arkansas. She appeared in the *Ancestors* series for PBS, and, in 2000, hosted AETN's special on genealogical research in Arkansas.

Saturday, July 17, 2010

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

For more information and for reservations, contact Rhonda Stewart at (501) 320-5720 or [rstewart@cals.org](mailto:rstewart@cals.org).

# flash

## ... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Butler Center graduate assistant Leslie Creed demonstrates the new digital microfilm reader in the Butler Center/UALR Special Collections Research Room.

Encyclopedia of Arkansas staff member Steven Teske spoke at January's Legacies & Lunch on the ways Arkansans contributed to the national effort in both the Spanish-American War and World War I.



Retail Gallery manager Shannon Holmes in the ASI Galleries.



# ASI Awards

**T**he Arkansas Studies Institute has received several awards that highlight its architecture, interior design, and public art.

- 2009 Decorative Project of the Year honoree for the Lower Arkansas River Valley Walking Map, awarded by Concrete Construction, a Hanley Woods publication
- Member's Choice Award for 2009, awarded by the Arkansas chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Award for Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation and an honorable mention for Outstanding New Construction in Historic Setting, both awarded by Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas
- Tie for Best Overall in South Central Region, awarded by South Central Construction
- 2009 ASID Silver Award, awarded by the American Society of Interior Designers South Central Chapter

## Butler Center Research Collections

The Butler Center has many collections to aid in specific areas of research. Listed here are several Butler Center resources for researching African American history.

- Civil War service records of the U.S. Colored Troops
- Freedmen's Bureau records for Arkansas
- Tom W. Dillard Black Arkansiana Collection
- Arkansas black cemetery, funeral home, and Masonic records



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# ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

April 8 - 11, 2010







# THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

## WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA

We seek entries, photographs, documents, videos, maps, and audio clips to help make the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* the most complete resource on Arkansas history.

### **Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):**

David Levering Lewis  
John Cecil  
Roosevelt "The Honeydrinker" Sykes  
Frances Lillian (F. L.) Blaisdell  
John Garrett Whiteside  
Grider Army Air Field  
James Howell Street  
Lorraine Albert Cranford  
Mercer Mayer  
Sidney Wallace  
Robert Nighthawk  
John Andrew Riggs  
Nimrod P. Meniffee  
Henry Merrell  
Camp Jesse Turner  
Pickens W. Black Sr.  
Alonzo "Lonnie" Clayton  
Adah Lee Pettey Roussan  
Sallie Irene Robinson-Stanfield Riley  
Dollarway Road  
Vince Walker Foster Jr.  
John Wesley Snyder  
Jesse Lee "Arkie" Shibley

James Woodson Bates  
Dorathy N. McDonald Allen  
D. D. Glover  
Stephen Brundidge Jr.  
Galloway Female College  
Alpha Rex Emmanuel Humbard  
William Fewell "Casey" Laman  
Marty Stouffer

If you have pictures or other media, please  
contact Mike Keckhaver at [mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

### **Entries Needing Authors:**

Soybean Industry  
Magnolia (Columbia County)  
*Wright v. Wright*  
Maxine Temple Jones  
Turkey Trot Festival

If you would like to write one of these entries,  
please contact Anna Lancaster at [alancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:alancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

## Explorations of Arkansas History

Guy  
Lancaster

Many towns in Arkansas exist for most of us as just tiny dots on a map, situated in that vast expanse between interstates. Consult any segment of your map and you'll find them: Enola, Williford, Cushman, Oden, Ravenden Springs, New London, Slovak, and countless others. Though too often on the margins of our consciousness, these towns possess a rich and fantastic history. For example, Ravenden Springs

had the first documented school in Arkansas, held inside a local cave. Slovak was settled by a group made up mostly of Slovakian immigrants in the late 1890s, demonstrating how, for many, Arkansas really was a land of opportunity. Cushman served as the center of Arkansas's important manganese mining industry until the late 1950s. And there is more...

All of these towns have important stories, and all have contributed to shaping

Arkansas in very meaningful ways, even if today we think of them only in passing. At the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, we are committed to telling their stories—as a matter of general interest, as a matter of scholarship, and as a matter of justice. After all, these towns have not just a past but also a present and a future, and by telling these stories, we hope to build that future, bringing a sense of community, history, and heritage to all Arkansans. ■



*Cont. from Digital Butler Center, p.1*  
more clarity and quality than a traditional microfilm reader. It is also cost efficient since the user can save scanned images to a USB drive or disk rather than printing each page.

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Researchers,  
teachers, and  
the general public  
can easily access  
lesson plans,  
digitized images,  
and documents  
online.

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In addition to the state-of-the-art equipment that is available in the research room, the Butler Center has a large selection of its holdings available through its website. The Online Collection tab and the Manuscripts, Photos, and Maps tab on the website lead to special groupings

of materials designed to provide a unique look into Arkansas history and culture.

*FORGOTTEN: The Arkansas Korean War Project* is an excellent example of the online collections that are available. In this ongoing project, Brian Robertson, Butler Center manuscripts coordinator, has collected Korean War veterans' oral histories, along with a written history of the war, a short biography of each veteran, and many digitized documents and photographs donated to the Butler Center by each veteran or the veteran's family.

Also, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas and the Butler Center's online resources for teachers provide free, comprehensive information on the state of Arkansas. Researchers, teachers, and the general public can easily access lesson plans, digitized images, and documents online. Lesson plans are grouped by age level, curriculum, and resource, while the Encyclopedia is searchable by entries, media, and key words. All of the Butler Center's resources are linked to one another.

The Butler Center has a wealth of Arkansas materials that can be explored in myriad ways. Visit us on the web at [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org) to take advantage of our free online resources or visit the research room in the Arkansas Studies Institute and let our cutting-edge equipment aid in your research. ■



## BUTLER CENTER DONORS

### **Butler Center Item Donations**

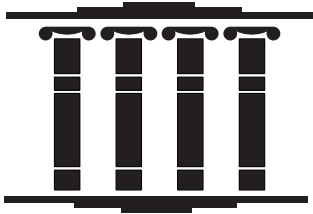
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Dorothy Morris, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Arkansas, *for the wonderful guided tour given to our group on 9/24/09*  
Izola Preston  
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Faculty and students of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 16, 1908.