

The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 13, Number 2

Spring 2011

Butler Center Events

Legacies & Lunch

June 1, 2011, noon - 1 p.m.
William D. Downs Jr. will discuss his book *Stories of Survival: Arkansas Farmers During the Great Depression*.

July 6, 2011, noon - 1 p.m.
Josh Jenkins of the Department of Arkansas Heritage will discuss a new Web resource for teachers called the *Arkansas History Hub*.

August 3, 2011, noon - 1 p.m.
George Lankford will discuss his play based on Civil War-era journals and letters found in Independence County.

Art News

Join us on the second Friday of each month as the Arkansas Studies Institute galleries participate in 2nd Friday Art Night, when galleries, museums, and businesses in downtown Little Rock are open from 5 to 8 p.m. for an after-hours gallery walk.

Upcoming Exhibition Openings

Friday, June 10, 2011
Robin Tucker

Friday, July 8, 2011
Renee Williams: *New Works*

Friday, August 12, 2011
Woodworkers from the Arkansas Arts Center



Visit www.butlercenter.org for more information.

New Civil War Website Launched

On May 1, the Butler Center launched *A Nation Divided: Arkansas and the Civil War*, a new website devoted to Arkansas's Civil War history. The site presents a wealth of information on our state's role in its most trying conflict. The site, which has been sanctioned by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, provides easy accessibility to the Butler Center's vast Civil War-related holdings.

Of primary interest to researchers will be the site's large number of manuscript collection finding aids. These aids, which serve as gateways to the collections, are divided between Union and Confederate sources and provide detailed descriptions as to the contents of each collection. Within the col-



Homepage for the new Butler Center Civil War website

lections, researchers will find hundreds of letters, diaries, official documents, and photographs.

A number of the primary materials have been digitized and placed in the site's digital gal-

Cont. on page 2

Quapaw Quarter Association Records Now Available



Photograph of Capitol Ave. from Quapaw Quarter Records

The Butler Center is pleased to announce the opening of the Quapaw Quarter Association Records, a comprehensive 196-box collection and the product of many years of historic preservation efforts. It features research, documents,

and more than 11,000 images focused on the historic neighborhoods of Little Rock, the architects who designed many of the recognizable homes, and the well-known families who inhabited the area.

The Quapaw Quarter Association, one of the oldest preservation groups in the nation, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic Little Rock buildings and neighborhoods. According to the association's website, "All

of Little Rock's history ... is encompassed by the Quapaw Quarter, a nine-square-mile area which includes Little Rock's central business district and adjacent residential neighborhoods. ... Although it actually encompasses a much wider

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from Civil War Site, p.1

lery. Now, Arkansans and people from around the world can quickly and easily view historical documents and photographs related to Arkansas's role in the Civil War. Two of the first collections digitized provide information on greatly neglected topics of the war: African American involvement and Arkansas's Unionists.

In conjunction with the annual themes

developed by the Sesquicentennial Commission, some of the materials relate to the remembrance of the war in Arkansas. Other Civil War-focused resources on the site include lesson plans for teachers; lists of books, photographs, and microfilm available in the ASI research room; and information on the numerous online databases that the Butler Center subscribes to. The website will not only spur research into new areas of

Arkansas's past, but it will also broaden the overall understanding of the war and its effect on Arkansas. The Butler Center recognizes that we can understand where we are going as a people only when we understand where we have been. Please join the Butler Center—and the rest of the state—in remembering, pondering, and learning about Arkansas's Civil War past during the next few months of the sesquicentennial. ■

Cont. from Quapaw Quarter, p.1

area, the Quapaw Quarter is most closely associated with the neighborhoods surrounding MacArthur Park, the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, and Central High School ... [where] Little Rock's historic preservation efforts have been concentrated for the past 40 years."

The Quapaw Quarter Association Records collection is broken into seven series:

Series I: Address research files organized by street address and containing architectural and historical information on many locations in the Quapaw Quar-

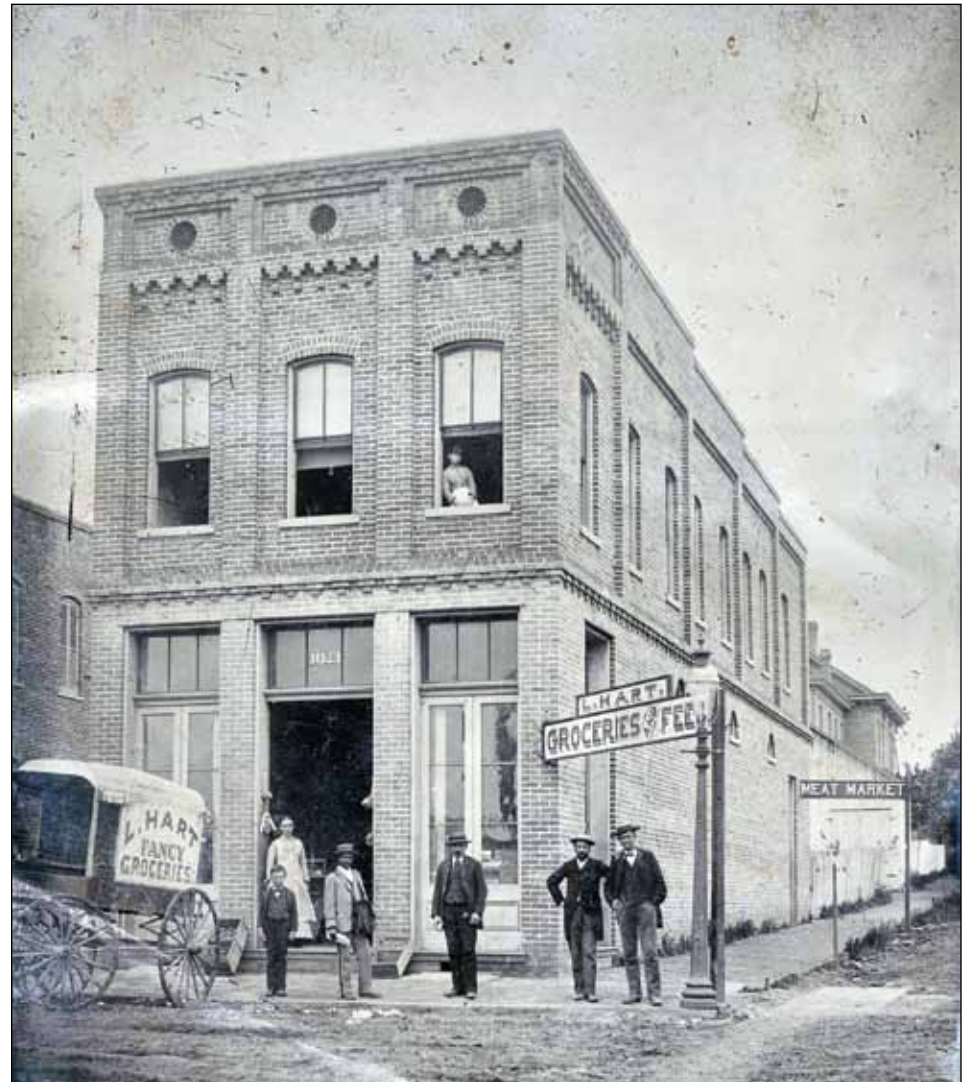
The Quapaw Quarter is most closely associated with the neighborhoods surrounding MacArthur Park, the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, and Central High School.

ter and other neighborhoods in the Little Rock metropolitan area.

Series II: Subject files of general Arkansas history including local architects, clubs, neighborhoods, and organizations, as well as miscellaneous historical documents and files related to specific families.

Series III: Files related to the operations of the association, including its popular historic home tours.

Series IV: Book proofs and research



Photograph of 1023 Markham Street from the Quapaw Quarter Records

related to *How We Lived: Little Rock as an American City* by F. Hampton Roy and Charles Witsell, with Cheryl Griffith Nichols.

Series V: Files related to historic house and neighborhood rehabilitation and preservation. This series is broken down into various subject files that range from technical restoration guides to building materials to preservation organizations.

Series VI: More than 11,000 images of historic Little Rock and Arkansas.

Series VII: Oversized materials such as maps and house plans.

The Quapaw Quarter Association Records can be accessed in the research room of the Arkansas Studies Institute. A full finding aid for the collection is also available under Manuscript Collections online at www.butlercenter.org. ■

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



We're not quite ready to report on this—seeing as how we're in the history business and the thing in question hasn't happened just

yet—but we are very pleased to give you a sneak preview of another design award the Arkansas Studies Institute has won. This one may be the biggest yet: the 2011 AIA/ALA Library Building Award, given once every other year by the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association. The ASI is one of five library buildings worldwide to receive this award, which will be presented in June at the ALA's annual meeting.

The ASI project has won national awards from design and steel organizations, but this award has special meaning for those of us who work in the facility because it is based in part on the ways the structure fits into the setting where it was created and what it means to the community where it operates. One of the jurors said the ASI is “a complex program done well—knitting together existing spaces into beautiful, elegant interiors while presenting a strong connection between old and new. This project weaves a narrative between existing structures and the current program of archive storage, the practice of collecting Arkansas's history.” We will have more in the next *Banner* about this nice recognition, but I wanted to let you know the good news. If you want to check out the five winning projects and read more about the ASI, visit the AIA's website: www.aia.org/

practicing/awards/2011/library-awards. We are alphabetically advantaged in this case. The ASI is the first thing you see!

We have been enriched during this academic year by several fantastic graduate students in the MA program in public history at UALR. We're saying goodbye to several of them for the summer and one of them for good, though we're not sure they're actually going to be able to get out the door one last time, as I know several of my colleagues will be hanging onto them by the ankles. The students are Leslie Creed, who is finishing her degree and graduating, and Jennifer Boykin. They have been working directly with us—Leslie for two very productive years. We've had a great time working as well with Amanda Whitley and Kim Wesels, who have been posted to help with several projects our colleagues from UALR are involved with, especially public history program head Charles Romney and history department chair John Kirk. One of the great things about our partnership with UALR in the ASI is the opportunity for collaboration on Arkansas history projects that the institutions can do better with each other than they might have been able to do alone. These fine students have provided a great deal of the work, both physical and intellectual, that has helped make our partnership with UALR productive and useful to a great many people who rely on the fabulous research resources we have here.

I'm also very proud of the new Civil War website several of our Butler Center staff members created with CALS web guy Scott Kirkhuff. It's fantastic, as are they. Check it out on page 1 of this *Banner*. And come see us here in the ASI! ■

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

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**BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES**

Volume 13, Number 2

The ASI
Galleries
Art & Gifts Galore

www.butlercenter.org/art

**On the Main
Library Campus
in Downtown
Little Rock's
River Market
District**



“Finding Family Facts,” a monthly genealogy course

June 13 • July 11 • August 8 • September 12
Arkansas Studies Institute, Room 204 • 401 President Clinton Ave.

The **Butler Center** is now offering a free beginners' genealogy class the second Monday of every month, taught by **Rhonda Stewart**, the Butler Center's local history and genealogy expert. Participants will learn how to use online databases and city directories, as well as how to archive family documents.





Trivia Challenge Winners

The Butler Center and the Clinton Presidential Center hosted the annual Arkansas Trivia Challenge on March 16 in which area high schools compete in a “Jeopardy”-type game related to the center’s exhibits and the online Encyclopedia of Arkansas.

Pictured is the winning team, Jacksonville High School, Pulaski County School District.

The winning students were: Brooke Irwin, Tyler Hampton, Katy Nunez, Kadeshia Brown, “JD” Jacob Dylan Harrison, Ariel McBride, Brandon Toombs, and Nicky Grandison. The teacher sponsor for the team was Lori Lachowsky (*kneeling, right*), and the emcee for the event was Matt DeCamp (*standing, right*). ■



Terra Vacuus by David Carr

UALR Student Art Donation

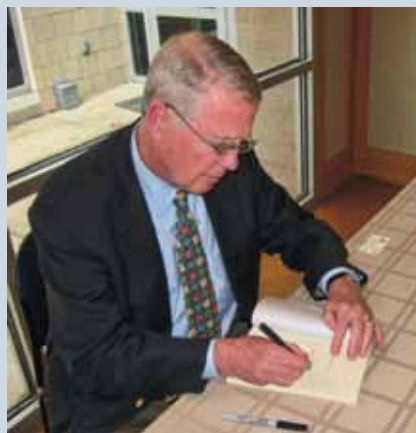
Works from the UALR student art exhibition *Blank* have been donated to the CALS permanent art collection. The Cox Creative Center, home of the library’s “gently read” bookstore, hosted the opening of the exhibition during 2nd Friday Art Night, Little Rock’s downtown art walk, on May 13. ■

flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



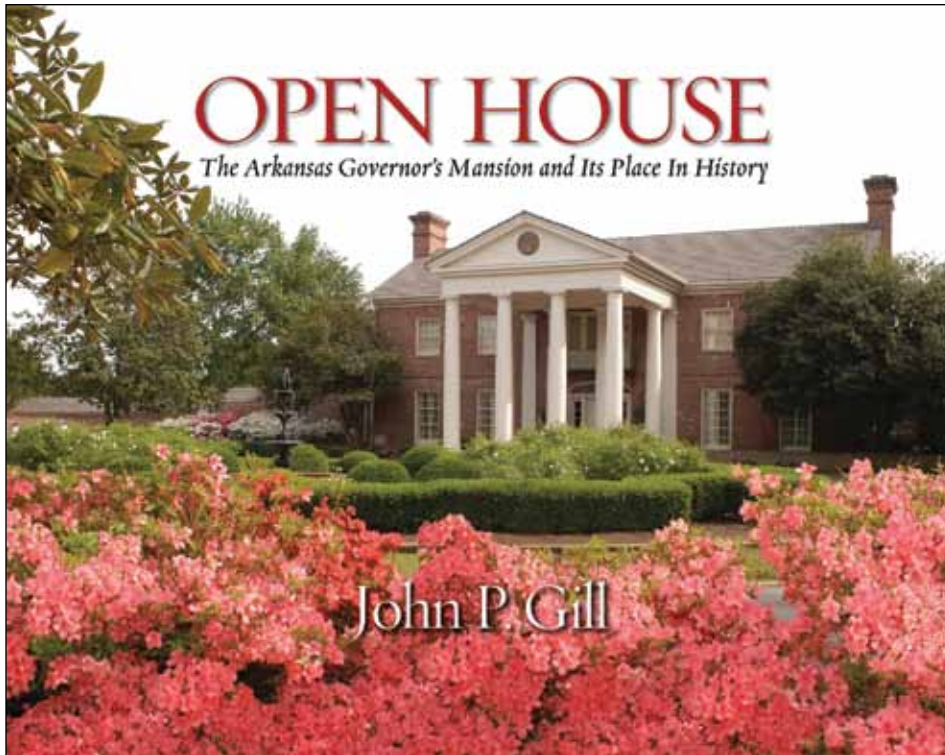
Board members of the Order of the Bookfellows, a Little Rock book club, visited the ASI to make a donation to the Butler Center. (*Left to right*) David Stricklin, Roy Smith, Sybil Smith, Allan Ward.



Judge Bob Brown signing copies of his book at the March Legacies & Lunch.

Sarah and Emma Bailin discussing their Arkansas history-related documentaries at the April Legacies & Lunch.





Launch Party at Governor's Mansion

Three former Arkansas governors—President Bill Clinton, Senator Dale Bumpers, and Senator David Pryor—were among the approximately 300 guests who attended the official launch party for *Open House: The Arkansas Governor's Mansion and Its Place in History*, written by Little Rock attorney and historian John P. Gill and published in January by Butler Center Books.

The party was hosted by the Governor's Mansion Association on Friday, April 15, at the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock. The association also commissioned a commemorative bookplate that was signed by each of Arkansas's living former governors and placed into copies of *Open House* sold during the event. Gill also signed copies of the book.

Open House is a guided tour through the six decades of the existence of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, which has played a prominent role in Arkansas history and has had its share of national attention. Through his research, Gill has opened the doors of the mansion to reveal how the building and its occupants have changed throughout the years. The book also provides a unique glimpse into the everyday lives of the governors and their families.

This colorful coffee-table book can be purchased through national and local book sellers, including River Market Books & Gifts on the CALS Main Library campus in downtown Little Rock (501) 918-3093. ■

New Arkansas History Resource for Teachers



Webmaster Josh Jenkins at an Arkansas History Hub presentation.

The Bridge Fund of the Arkansas Community Foundation recently approved a proposal submitted by the Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) in partnership with the Butler Center. Staff members from

both organizations are developing a new Web resource for teachers called the *Arkansas History Hub*. The website is being created to serve Arkansas teachers on multiple levels. The two primary functions of the site will be to provide valuable resources to instructors and to serve as a professional network. Both of these functions will allow teachers to enhance their knowledge base and improve their classroom resources to further the teaching of Arkansas history to young people throughout the state.

Josh Jenkins of the Department of Arkansas Heritage will serve as the webmaster and technical director of the *Hub*. DAH has permanently donated his time toward the *Hub's* design and maintenance. Butler Center educator Kay Bland will serve as the content quality control director and budget supervisor on a contract basis. The website will launch this summer. ■

Save Paper, Reduce Waste

The Butler Center wants to save paper and reduce 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 or (501) 320-5717 to update your information.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA

We need 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.):

Pernella Anderson
Sylvanus Blackburn
Douglas A. Blackmon
Frances Lillian (F. L.) Blaisdell
Caddo River Lumber Company
Cave Springs (Benton County)
John Cecil
Confederate Battle Flags
Delight (Pike County)
Ivan Denton
Evening Shade (Sharp County)
Bobby James Hutton
Isadore Banks (Murder of)
David Levering Lewis
Lunenburg (Izard County)
Millwood Dam and Lake
John Edward Murray
Narrow Gauge Railroads
Northern Snakehead (fish)
Okay (Howard County)
Nicholas Bartlett Pearce
Pulaski Heights (Pulaski County)
Rodeo of the Ozarks
Roller Derby

John Newton Sarber
Sloan-Hendrix Academy
Harold Raymond (Hal) Smith
St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center
St. John's Seminary
Success (Clay County)
Tomato (Mississippi County)
John Garrett Whiteside

If you have pictures or other media, please
contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net

Entries Needing Authors:

Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Blue Mountain Dam and Lake
Communist Party
Cotton Plant Academy
Geographical Center of Arkansas
Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad
Winslow Tunnel

If you would like to write one of these entries,
please contact Guy Lancaster at
glancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net

BUTLER CENTER DONORS

Material Donations

Paula Barnett
L. C. Brown
Guy Lancaster
Michael McNeely
Mike Polston
Eugene Porter
Maggie Rouby
David Stricklin
Parker Westbrook
Amanda Whitley

Monetary Donations

Arkansas Pioneers Pulaski County Assoc.,
in honor of Keith Jernigan
Dan Daugherty, in memory of Leroy Donald
Craig Douglass, in memory of Leroy Donald

Craig Garrison, in honor of the
Farkleberry Follies
Bill Glasscock, in memory of Leroy
Donald
Ken Griffin, in memory of Leroy
Donald and Bob Ginnaven
Laura Hardy, in memory of Leroy
Donald, Jerry Jones, and Bill
Rutherford
Eric Harrison, in memory of Leroy
Donald
Benjia Hollinger, in memory of Leroy
Donald
Linda House, in memory of Leroy
Donald
Stacey McBryde, Rockville, MD, in
memory of Leroy Donald

Sylvia Orton, in memory of Leroy Donald
and John Woodruff
Teresa Pistole, Saint Stephens Church,
VA, in memory of Laymon Palmer
Joe Riddle, in memory of Harry and Mary
Jo Riddle
Skip Rutherford, in honor of Bob Sells
Robert Shaw, in memory of Leroy Donald
Roy Smith
David Stricklin, in honor of the EOA's 5th
anniversary
Jessica Szenher, in memory of Leroy
Donald
John Thompson, in memory of Leroy
Donald, Bill Rutherford, and John
Woodruff
Brenda Tirey, in memory of Leroy Donald

Senior Editor's Column

Nathania Sawyer



The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture celebrated its fifth birthday on May 2. I say birthday instead of anniversary

because I always refer to the EOA as my first-born child. During the past five years, the site has grown to more than 2,500 entries and more than 3,300 pieces of media.

Anyone who has heard me talk about the encyclopedia has heard me say that the usage numbers for the website are exponentially greater than we ever imagined they would be. As of 2011, the site receives more than 3 million hits per month.

When we started the EOA project, we received a \$1.2 million grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. That grant—along with generous gifts from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the Arkansas Humanities Council, and other grant-giving organizations—provided the majority of the working capital we needed for years 2004–2010 of the project. Many people have asked about the

future of the EOA project now that we are beyond our major funding period.

Seven years ago, we thought we would spend our grant period creating 5,000 entries and pieces of media for the website, reach a stopping point, and put the EOA into maintenance mode. We thought we would have a skeleton staff to keep the website updated but cease actively pursuing additional entries past 2010.

John Lennon once sang that life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans. That happened to us. The more entries we pursued, the more ideas we had for additional entries. After we completed entries on the "big" topics, we discovered a huge demand for more entries on regional and local topics. Instead of slowing down, the staff has started several major pushes toward expanding the EOA even further. For instance, we recently received a grant from the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission that will allow us to add a significant number of entries and media related to the Civil War in Arkansas.

The Central Arkansas Library System has been most generous in making sure that the EOA remains a viable resource. Several of the staff members already have been weaned off of grant money and incorporated into the regular Butler

Center for Arkansas Studies budget—a major commitment toward seeing to the long-term needs of the EOA.

Keeping pace with developing technology is going to be one of our biggest challenges—and the reason we need to create an endowment for the EOA. Smart phones, ebook readers, cutting-edge classroom technology, social media, and GPS technology all provide new ways for us to connect the people of Arkansas with their state's history and culture.

Our current dream is to create a version of the website for mobile devices. By combining the ease of accessibility with GPS technology available on smart phones, we can create an application that will tag entries by their geographical location and allow a person to pull up a list of all entries tagged to the county in which they are standing. This opens up a whole world of possibilities for local communities to create or enhance heritage-based tourism and teaching tools focused on putting Arkansas history and culture into local perspective.

Can you tell how excited I am by these possibilities? I hope you are, too. If you would like to help us take the EOA to the next level, I encourage you to help support us financially. Send your tax-deductible gifts to:

Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Attn: Anna Lancaster
100 S. Rock Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

EOA Celebrates Its Fifth Year

The online Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) celebrated its five-year anniversary on May 2, 2011. Since its launch, the EOA has surpassed all initial goals for number of text/media entries. A project of the Butler Center at the Central Arkansas Library System, the EOA is the only state encyclopedia in the nation developed by a library system.

Senior editor Nathania Sawyer said, "Five years ago, we had a vision for what our state encyclopedia could be, but no real concept of how well it would be received. Today, we know that it is being used extensively by educators, journalists, historians, and the general public around the world—to date, EOA users

have come from 188 countries. We started the project hoping that the site would receive 50,000 hits per month. Currently, we receive more than 3 million hits each month. I find references to EOA entries on all kinds of webpages—from the *New York Times's* quote from the EOA in *The Blob* writer Kate Phillips's obituary to the Southeast Sasquatch Association's link to our entry on the Fouke Monster."

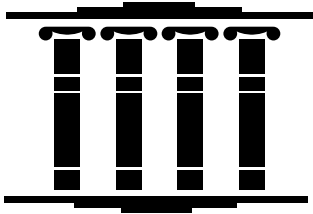
The encyclopedia collects and disseminates information on all aspects of the state's history and culture. The site launched on May 2, 2006, with approximately 750 entries and approximately 1,000 pieces of media. Today, the site has 2,545 entries and 3,336 pieces of media.

Kay Bland, Butler Center educator,

said that educators across Arkansas use the EOA as a reference for students' research, as a computer lab resource, and as a source for lesson plans and other assistance in teaching Arkansas history.

The project relies heavily on a mix of EOA staff and volunteers. While six library employees work on various aspects of the EOA from editing and fact-checking to collecting media, more than 1,000 volunteers from around the world have written entries. In planning how to cover the diverse state of Arkansas, Sawyer says she knew that the best way would be to tap into the collective knowledge of people ranging from nationally known academics to local historians and genealogists.

The EOA has entries on scores of notable people, places, and events, and adds new entries and media on a weekly basis.



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Images from Our Collection



This image was taken in 1865 during one of Helena's annual flood events. According to the information inscribed on the back of this photograph, the house in the center background was occupied by a Mrs. Honey, matron of the industrial school, and five other ladies, all of whom were teachers of freedmen at Helena. The buildings on the left were occupied by companies "B" and "I" of the 56th United States Colored Infantry.