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 collections, 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 gallery.

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Quapaw Quarter Association Records Now Available

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

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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.

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 Quarter 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 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 Wessels, 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!
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, Kadesha 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 DeCample (standing, right).

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.

... 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.

Terra Vacuus by David Carr


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

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.
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

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

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):
- 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 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
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- 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
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.
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.