

# The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 14, Number 2

Spring 2012

## Butler Center Events

### 2nd Friday Art Night

5 to 8 p.m.  
Arkansas Studies Institute  
401 President Clinton Ave.

**Friday, May 11, 2012**

The Arkansas Art Educators  
State Youth Art Show 2012  
Plus:

*Small Town: Portraits of a  
Disappearing America*

**Friday, June 8, 2012**

*Pattern in Perspective: Recent  
Work by Carly Dahl and Dustyn  
Bork*

**Friday, July 13, 2012**

*The Civil War in Arkansas*

### Legacies & Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m.  
Darragh Center, Main Library  
100 Rock St.

Please note that Legacies &  
Lunch in June and July will take  
place the second Wednesday of  
those months instead of the first.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2012**

James Willis will discuss the  
history of Southern Arkansas  
University in Magnolia

**Wednesday, July 11, 2012**

Ruth Hawkins will discuss  
her latest book, *Unbelievable  
Happiness and Final Sorrow: The  
Hemingway-Pfeiffer Marriage*

### Finding Family Facts

A monthly genealogy course  
3:30 to 5 p.m.  
Room 204  
401 President Clinton Ave.  
This free class takes place the  
second Monday of every month.



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

## Little Rock Fire Dept. Collection



*Ladies Auxiliary Drill Team in front of Central Station in Little Rock. The group is preparing for a trip to the Arkansas State Firefighters Convention; 1933.*

The Little Rock Fire Department Collection is now available to the public for research. This unique six-box collection contains many fire department records dating back to 1868, showing the development of this very important institution

in a growing city. Items of interest to researchers include early ledger books, member and purchase lists, correspondence, and numerous rarely seen photographs.

The early history of Little Rock's fire department  
*Cont. on page 2*

## Aviation Historical Society Collection

The Butler Center is pleased to announce the opening of the Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Collection. This comprehensive research collection, which highlights the history of Arkansas aviation and aviators, is the product of many years of work on the part of the society. It is a unique collection with subject files—such as the 154<sup>th</sup> Ob-

*Cont. on page 2*



*Officers of the 154th Observation Squadron; May 1931.*

*Cont. from Fire Department, p.1*  
 ment is documented in this collection. The department started as an all-volunteer operation in 1839 with the formation of the city's first fire company and purchase of a fire engine. This earliest fire company faced mighty challenges, as it was difficult to maintain the engine and to get enough water to fight the dangerous fires. In 1847, the Little Rock Fire Company was formed to replace this unorganized and ineffectual original company.

By 1867, four volunteer fire companies operated in Little Rock, including

a hook-and-ladder company. It was also around this time that the city purchased its first steam engine and employed an engineer to operate it. The first salaried position was officially added to the department in 1885, and in 1888, a salaried chief engineer position was also added. Finally, in 1892, the city passed an ordinance to create the fully paid Little Rock Fire Department.

The finding aid for the Little Rock Fire Department Collection can be accessed at [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org) or viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building.

122 WALL ST. N.Y.  
**THE PAT CLEBURNE**  
 STEAM FIRE ENGINE CO.  
 1890-1892

*Little Rock, Ark.*

Pat. Cleburne	5.00	Pat. Jones	3.00
John. Allen	2.00	Ed. Jones	2.00
W. Bond	1.00	George. Baker	2.00
H. H. Brown	2.00	Sam. Shumaker	1.00
G. Brown	2.00	C. H. Shumaker	2.00
W. Brown	1.00	J. H. Jones	2.00
J. Brown	2.00	Frank. Walker	2.00
Ed. Anderson	2.00	H. Whitman	2.00
W. C. Dady		Wm. Ollendamer	2.00
H. F. Dady	2.00	C. S. Payne	2.00
George. Dady	2.00	Frank. Baker	2.00
W. F. Dady	2.00	James. Scott	2.00
Robert. Alden	2.00	Robert. Stillwell	2.00

*Document from the Pat Cleburne Steam Fire Engine Co.; ca. 1890s.*

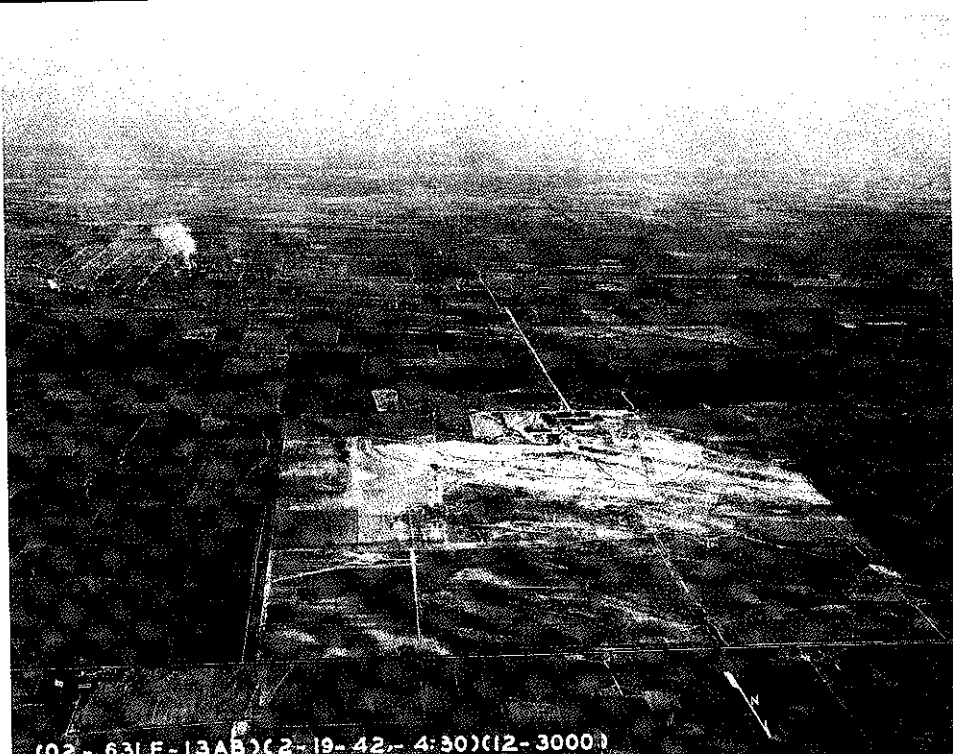
*Cont. from Aviation, p.1*

servation Squadron, Command-Aire, and Grider Army Air Field—full of research information and historical documents. The Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Collection is unlike anything previously available.

A large portion of the collection contains files on inductees to the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame from 1981 to 2010, as well as other submitted nominations. The contents of each file vary from person to person, but the information offers a glimpse into the careers of notable Arkansas aviators and others who influenced this state's rich aviation history.

A particular item of note is an album with 420 photographs related to Eberts Field in Lonoke (Lonoke County), a leading World War I training center. Although the war ended before the first class graduated, Eberts Field had approximately 1,000 cadets enlisted in its training programs.

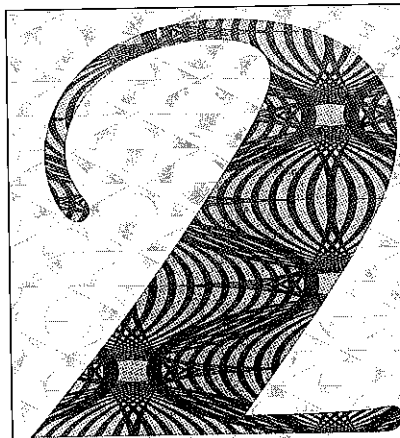
The Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Collection can be accessed in the



*Aerial view of Helena Aero Tech under construction, Helena; February 1942.*

Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building. A full finding aid for

the collection is available online at [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org).



**Join the Butler Center Galleries for refreshments, live music, and ART!**

2nd Friday Art Night is a once-a-month opportunity to visit downtown Little Rock's galleries, museums, and businesses after hours.

**2nd Friday Art Night**

## A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



Last time you had the *Banner* in your hands, we were coming up on the election to refinance some construction bonds for our parent organization, the Central Arkansas Library System. The initiative would provide additional funding for books, computers, and other materials, and funding for the whole system, including the Butler Center. But it would also enable us to create additional space for our growing collections and services, build a 350+-seat mixed-use auditorium for our events, and add 250 parking spaces to the Main Library campus.

Well, I'm very pleased to say that the initiative passed with eighty-seven percent of the vote! So the meetings have begun for the planning of the new structures. I'll keep you posted on the progress. It will be pretty exciting.

Also exciting is the work being done on our inaugural music festival, Arkan-

sas Sounds, which you can read about on page 5. John Miller is doing a wonderful job getting ready for what promises to be a great event this fall, and we are talking about ways to spread the celebration of Arkansas's contributions to the world of music with events throughout the year and throughout the state. More about that soon.

Along with countless people around the world, we were saddened by the recent death of famed musician and Arkansas native Levon Helm. He was exactly the kind of person we want to celebrate in the music festival, someone who gave voice to his Arkansas upbringing and point of view, creating in the process a vast reservoir of goodwill both for himself and for the state. More also about that soon.

We are busily at work on quite an array of projects, partnerships, and productions. As always, it is gratifying to see the response to our efforts, especially the kind words offered by people who appreciate the work of our great staff.

Come see us soon in the Butler Center!

The *Butler Banner* is the quarterly newsletter of the **Butler Center for Arkansas Studies**, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System

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**BUTLER CENTER**  
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

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## Arkansas Civil War Exhibit

A Civil War exhibit built around the theme of "occupied Arkansas" will open in the Butler Center's Concordia Hall on Friday, July 13, 2012, during 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Night. *Invasion or Liberation? The Civil War in Arkansas* will provide a provocative look at the war in Arkansas. Through the use of letters, diaries, photographs, and artifacts, the exhibit will examine the multi-faceted

history of Arkansans caught up in the conflict. For example, contrary to popular opinion, not all Arkansans supported the Confederacy. Considerable attention will also be devoted to the perceptions and experiences of outsiders who found themselves in Arkansas during the war.

The Butler Center maintains an extensive collection of Arkansas-related Civil War material, and many of these unique

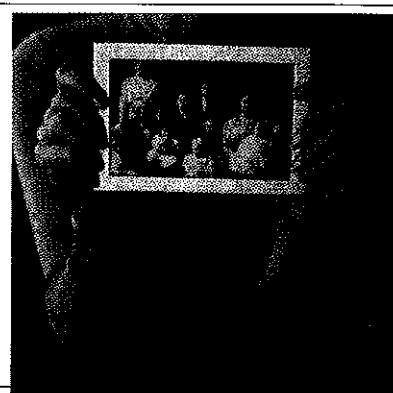
items will be part of the exhibit. Additional items, especially three-dimensional artifacts, will be borrowed from local museums to supplement the exhibit. *Invasion or Liberation?* will tell the full story of life in Arkansas during the war to provide visitors with a greater understanding of the American Civil War and its impact on our state. The exhibit will run through October 27, 2012. ■

## Finding Family Facts

Monday, May 14 • 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

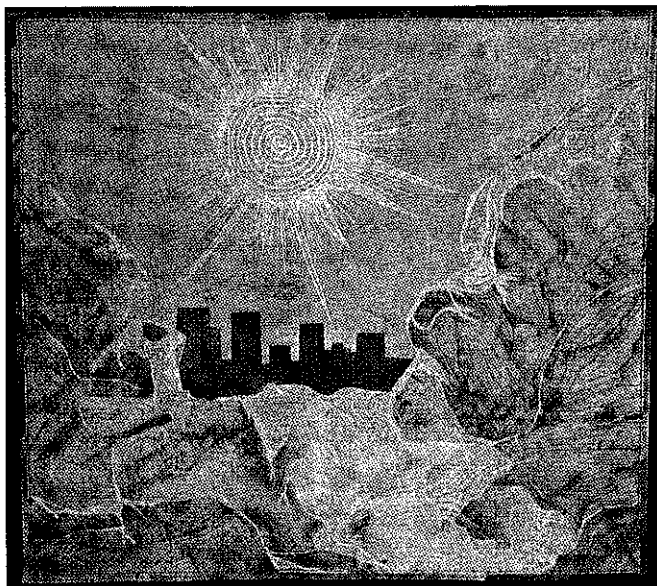
401 President Clinton Ave. • Room 204

The Butler Center offers a free beginners' genealogy class on the second Monday of every month. Rhonda Stewart, local history and genealogy expert, will teach participants how to use online databases and city directories, as well as how to archive family documents. This class is free and open to the public.



# New Donation for CALS Art Collection

Artist Ruth Anne Yax recently donated a quilt to the CALS permanent art collection. The quilt, made from mixed-media fabrics and titled *Winter in Little Rock*,



depicts the winter sun shining brilliantly over downtown Little Rock. It was inspired by a photograph Yax had seen in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

# Annual Genealogy Workshop

This year's genealogy workshop will take place on Saturday, July 21, in the Darragh Center of the Main Library. The annual Butler Center event will feature Jim Edgar with Little Rock's Latter-day Saints Center and Lisa McKinney, an award-winning writer and genealogist. Edgar will discuss what is available through FamilySearch.org (a new Butler Center resource) while McKinney's workshop sessions will include "Coming to Understand Sources: A Case Study in Proper Genealogy," "The 1940 Census," and "Your Cemetery Visit."

This workshop is free and open to the public; registration is required. For more information, visit [www.butlercenter.org/conference](http://www.butlercenter.org/conference).

# flash

## ... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight

Guest exhibition curator Amanda Ferguson takes a group on a private tour of *Making a Place: The Jewish Experience in Arkansas*.



Actor and activist George Takei, along with a film crew and a team from *Arkansas Life* magazine, viewed items from the Butler Center's Mabel Rose Jamison Vogel/Rosalie Santine Gould Rohwer Relocation Center Collection.



Adrianne Hoar with C-SPAN interviews Nathania Sawyer on the Rohwer Relocation Center collection.

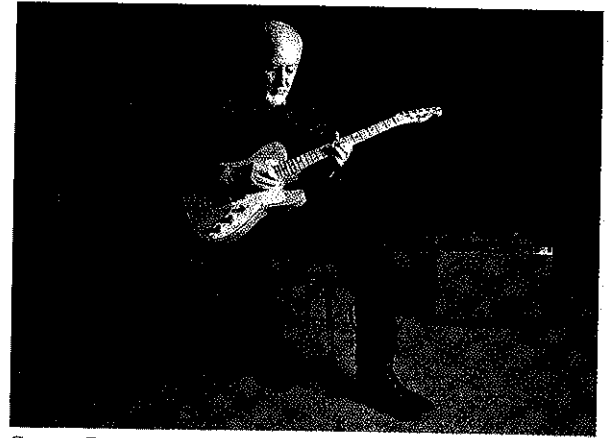
# Name and Acts Announced for Music Festival

**A**rkansas Sounds is the name of our new music festival, which will take place on September 28 and 29 at the Riverfest Amphitheatre and the River Market Pavilions.

Two notable musical acts, Sleepy LaBeef and Sonny Burgess (appearing with his band the Legendary Pacers), have been confirmed as headliners for the fall festival. LaBeef is from Smackover, and Sonny Burgess is from Jackson County. Both are legendary rockabilly musicians and early rock and roll pioneers. Sonny Burgess was one of the

original artists with record label Sun Records, while Sleepy LaBeef has shared the stage with musicians such as Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, and Wanda Jackson. Both have been instrumental in shaping the world's perception of Arkansas music.

For more information on Arkansas Sounds, contact John Miller, music festival coordinator, at [jmiller@cals.org](mailto:jmiller@cals.org) or (501) 320-5728. ■



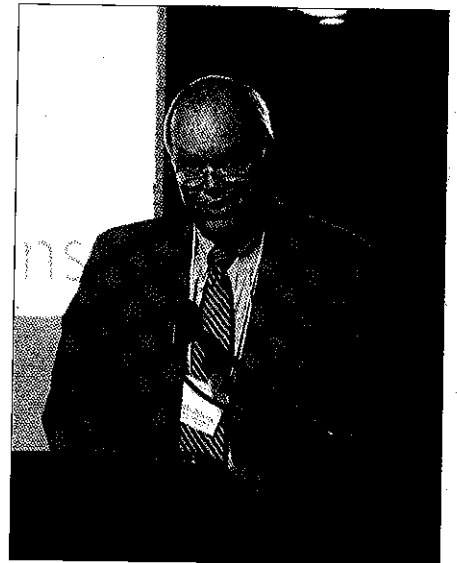
*Sonny Burgess*



*Sleepy LaBeef*

## Roberts Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from History Community

**B**obby Roberts, director of the Central Arkansas Library System, was a recipient of this year's Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Roberts, one of five recipients this year, received the award for his career of service to the general public and scholars in promoting the study and preservation of Arkansas history. The AHA recognizes individuals each year for their achievement and contributions. Past lifetime achievement recipients include John and Dora "DeDe" Ragsdale, Tom Dillard, Curtis Sykes (posthumous), Michael B. Dougan, C. Fred Williams, Margaret Ross, and Cy Sutherland. ■



*CALS director Bobby Roberts*

## Arkansans at Work in May at CALS

**I**n May, each branch of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) will feature unique Arkansas events and programs as part of Arkansas Heritage Month. This year's theme is *Dreams & Determination: Arkansans at Work*.

Arkansans work in many different ways, from shaping our political landscape to providing food and goods for the state and nation. The CALS branches will feature programs that highlight the different occupations of Arkansans, as well as interactive programs that invite patrons to bring in their photographs—

historical and modern—of the businesses and people of Arkansas. Additionally, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will produce a special image panel guide that reflects the theme of *Arkansans at Work* throughout the decades. Images include nurses at Arkansas Children's Hospital, workers at the Portia Lumber Company in 1894, and coal miners in 1939. These images are part of a collection of more than 100 image panels displayed throughout the interior and exterior of the Arkansas Studies Institute building on the Main Library campus.

The Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) sets aside the month of May each year as a time for Arkansans to recognize and appreciate their cultural and natural heritage. DAH started this tradition in 1982, and Arkansas Heritage Month has grown and become more meaningful each year, serving as an opportunity to highlight a particular aspect of our state's history and defining features.

For more information on CALS's *Arkansans at Work* programs, visit [www.cals.org](http://www.cals.org). ■





# 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.):**

Marion Matthew Blackwell  
Malcolm Cleaburne Bowman  
Sidney Burris  
Mamie Katherine Phipps Clark  
William Allen Clark  
Dr. Smith's Champion Hoss-Hair Pullers  
Sonora Louise Smart Dodd  
Glenn Ward Dresbach  
Jim Ferguson Sr.  
Edward W. Gantt  
Elizabeth Ward Gracen  
Ozro Amander Hadley  
Donald Harington  
Joan Edmiston Hess  
Keith Jerome Jackson  
James Buel Lile  
Eugene Aloysius (Gene) Lyons  
Lillian Estes Eichenberger Mickel  
Speer Morgan  
Rebecca Newth  
Irene Robertson  
Hester Buck Robinson  
Hardy Alton "Spider" Rowland  
Ronald Gene Simmons

Frank Stanford  
Henry Morton Stanley  
Reece "Goose" Tatum  
Jermain Taylor  
William Alvin Whitworth  
Charles Kemmons Wilson  
James Lee Witt  
John Quincy Wolf Jr.  
Richard Nathaniel Wright

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

### **Entries Needing Authors:**

Brown, Fountain  
Searcy Male and Female College  
Little Portion Hermitage  
Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project  
Pig Trail Scenic Byway  
M. M. Cohn [Business]

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

## FamilySearch at the Butler Center

The Butler Center is now a designated FamilySearch affiliate library. Through our Research Room (located on the second floor of the Arkansas Studies Institute building), patrons can order microfilm from the world's largest repository of genealogical records. The records are sent to the Butler Center and viewed in the Research Room. FamilySearch is a service provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

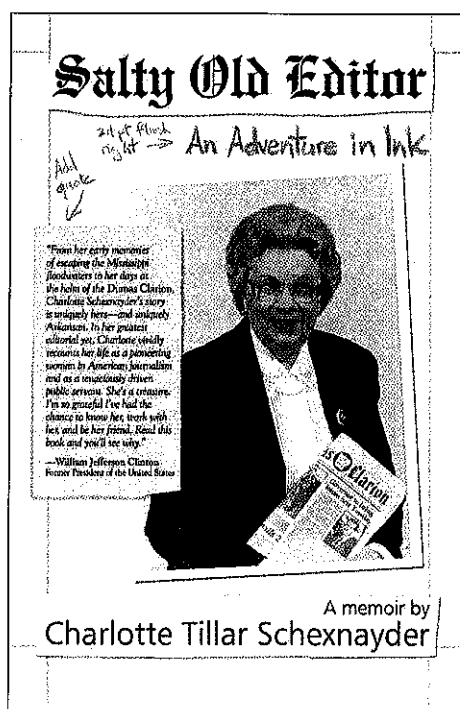
FamilySearch home page.



## 50-Year Career in Media and Politics Explored in New Memoir

Charlotte Tillar Schexnayder began her lifelong enchantment with journalism in the seventh grade when she tackled a class assignment to design and write a newspaper. She would pursue the career for more than a half-century as she and her husband, Melvin Schexnayder, worked side by side in southeast Arkansas to build the *Dumas Clarion* newspaper into an influential voice in the life and politics of the Arkansas Delta. Now, Schexnayder's story is told in her own words in a new book—*Salty Old Editor: An Adventure in Ink*, published this spring by Butler Center Books.

Schexnayder's work on the award-winning Dumas newspaper also helped prepare her for a life of public service. Always fascinated by politics, she sat on numerous state boards and served for 14 years in the Arkansas House of Representatives. "Look in the dictionary under 'multi-tasking' and you will find Charlotte's picture," said Jimmie Lou Fisher, former Arkansas state treasurer. "One day, she is helping a bereaved man



get a suit to bury his brother in and the next, she and her husband are guests of the Clintons, sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom in the White House. *Salty Old Editor* is a 'must read' for anyone who

loves Arkansas and the real history of the state."

A devoted wife and mother, Schexnayder was also a pioneer in helping to open the professions of politics and journalism to women. *Salty Old Editor* is the compelling story of how Schexnayder overcame the many challenges she faced with abundant humor and grace—and with ink stains on her fingers.

"Charlotte Schexnayder is one of those too rare people who not only cares about what's right and wrong in the world, but spends a lifetime trying to do something about it," said former Arkansas governor and U.S. senator Dale Bumpers. "Together, she and late husband Melvin were the bedrock of their community, the Delta, and the entire state. Charlotte has a lot of experience and wisdom, and I'm glad she's sharing it with us in this book."

*Salty Old Editor* is available from local and national book sellers or through the distributor, the University of Arkansas Press in Fayetteville, at (800) 626-0090 or online at [www.uapress.com](http://www.uapress.com).

## BUTLER CENTER DONORS

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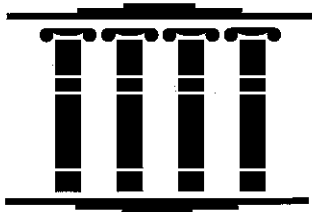
#### In honor of David Stricklin Evergreen Club

#### In support of Making a Place

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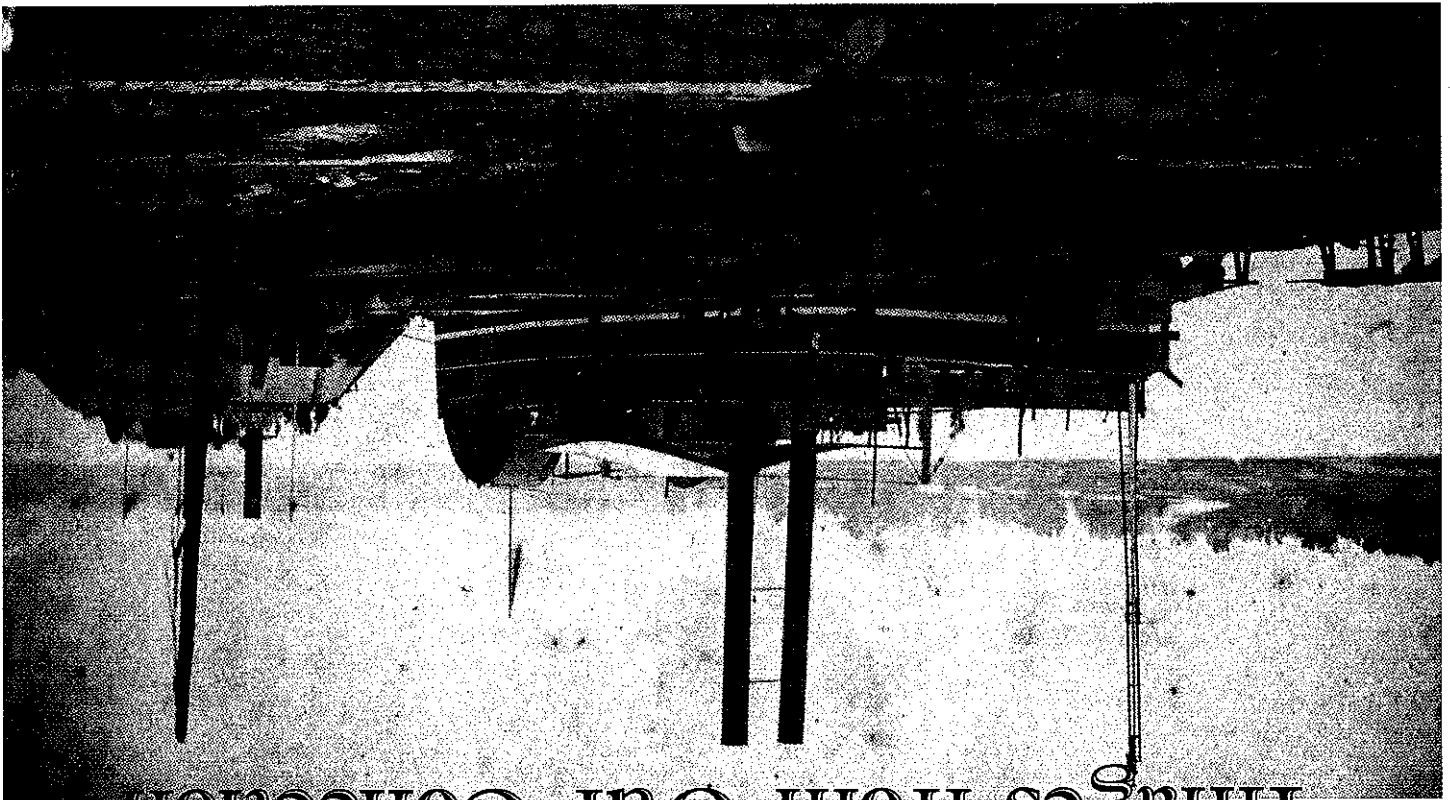


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Central Arkansas Library System  
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*The USS Tyler was one of several Federal gunboats that operated in Arkansas during the Civil War. These riverine forces, often referred to as the brown-water navy, allowed the federal government to project its power into various areas of the southern Confederacy. The Tyler played an active role in repelling the Confederate attack on Helena on July 4, 1863. It spent much of its time in Arkansas patrolling the White River.*



Images from Our Collection