Clifton Hull Papers Open to Public

The Butler Center announces the opening of the Clifton Hull Papers, a research collection rich in Arkansas history, to the public. This collection contains several published and unpublished manuscripts and articles—many handwritten—about Arkansas railroad history, as well as research about the Dardanelle & Russellville (D&R) Railroad. The D&R Railroad opened on August 15, 1883, and continued regular passenger service until 1950. Currently, the D&R handles freight from a Union Pacific connection at Russellville to Dardanelle (4.8 miles).

Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers Available

The Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers are now available to the public through the Research Room in the Arkansas Studies Institute building. This collection contains documents related to the military service of Maxwell J. Lyons Sr., including numerous letters written by Lyons during World War I. The collection also includes other related correspondence and military documents, several photographs, and a scrapbook.

Maxwell Joseph Lyons Sr. was born in Little Rock, on May 30, 1896. After the outbreak of World War I, he left Princeton University to enlist in the U.S. Army but was turned away twice for being overweight for his height. He then tried to enlist in the National Guard, with the same result. He moved on to the U.S. Marine Corps, and although he faced the same weight regulations with the USMC, the examining physician did not believe his weight should stop Lyons from service and encouraged him to continue to push for acceptance. Eventually, Lyons traveled to Washington DC and

Cont. on page 2
Tom Dillard Endowment to Support EOA

Tom Dillard, founding editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, was instrumental in making the EOA the resource it is today. His vision laid the groundwork for a website that attracts thousands of readers around the world. In 2011, more than two million people across 200 countries visited the EOA for information on all aspects of Arkansas history. In the same year, the EOA added more than 300 new entries covering cities, towns, notable Arkansans, and many more fascinating topics. The EOA truly has become an authoritative resource on our state’s history and culture.

Last month, Dillard retired from his position as head of special collections at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. One way you can honor his contributions to Arkansas history is to make a donation to the Tom Dillard Endowment that the Butler Center created in 2011. Money raised through this endowment will ensure that the EOA will remain an up-to-date, free resource on Arkansas history and culture for this generation and those to come. In addition to keeping the site current, the endowment will also help the EOA become available through emerging technologies (see mobile site article on page 5).

“Tom has often said that helping establish the EOA is one of his proudest accomplishments,” said Nathania Sawyer, senior editor for the EOA. “I believe the best gift you can send Tom is a gift to this endowment because Tom has always looked to the future and has been committed to providing long-term resources for our state.”

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in Dillard’s honor, fill out the form below or go to www.butlercenter.org and follow the Contribute tab.

---

Clifton Eugene (Gene) Hull was born on June 8, 1920, in North Little Rock. He worked as a draftsman and outdoor recreational planner with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, where he was instrumental in the development of the Arkansas River for commercial navigation. He was a member of the National Railway Historical Society and a charter member of the Arkansas Railroad Club. Hull authored "Arkansas and the Southwest, The Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad" (with William A. Polland), and "Shortline Railroads of Arkansas," as well as numerous historical articles on railroading in Arkansas and other similar subjects. Clifton Hull died on December 2, 2011, at the age of ninety-one.

The finding aid for the Clifton Hull Papers can be accessed at www.butlercenter.org or viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building. The Butler Center also holds the Clifton Hull photograph collection, which is a rich source of visual imagery and is particularly strong in documenting the architectural history of central Arkansas.

---

Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers

Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers sought the help of Congressman Henderson M. Jacoway to reach the military officials. In December 1917, he finally succeeded. Soon after enlisting, Lyons was sent to France with the 6th Marines. He received the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross, as well as the Croix de Guerre and Fors a Guerre from France. After the armistice was signed, Lyons remained in Germany with the Army of Occupation before returning to the United States in April 1919.

Lyons was president of the Lyons Machinery Company, a family business. He was involved with the Marine Corps League and served as state commandant during World War II. He died in October 1978 in Little Rock.

Most of the correspondence in this collection is from Lyons while he was stationed in France and Germany to his family in Little Rock. He writes of the war and his condition, as well as of his impressions of Europe and the local people. Other correspondence of note in the collection is a series of letters from Joseph Lyons (Maxwell’s father) seeking a speedy discharge of his son due to the poor health of a family member. The collection also contains eight editions from April 1919 of "The Charleston Daily Roll," a newspaper printed at sea on the USS Charleston.

The finding aid for the Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers can be accessed at www.butlercenter.org or viewed in the ASI Research Room.
A Word from the Center
David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center

The Butler Center has benefited in a vast number of ways from being a part of the Central Arkansas Library System, not the least of which is our presence in CALS’s wonderful Arkansas Studies Institute building on the Main Library campus. When I started working here, a little over seven years ago, I was astonished to learn that the construction bond issue to finance the creation of this building had passed with more than eighty percent of the vote. I don’t think I’d ever been part of any organization up to that moment that had an eighty percent approval rating. I’m not sure I would have gotten that in my own family! But as CALS Director Bobby Roberts often says, the voters have declared they want a first-class library system and have voted to provide the resources to build it.

On March 13, voters in Little Rock will be asked to approve an issue to refinance those library construction bonds. If they do, a few things will happen: the millage rate for library services in Little Rock will actually be lowered by 1/10 of a mil, the lower millage will be applied for about five more years, the higher interest rates that the library is currently paying will be lowered, and CALS will net enough money to do several important things for the system. Two of those things have special interest to the Butler Center: additional funding for books and computers and such materials, as well as funding for a new structure on the Main Library campus.

This new structure will have additional space to accommodate our expanding collections and services. We are not out of room, but we are in stage two of a three-stage storage-management plan. We have been fortunate to receive many wonderful collections of Arkansas documents and photographs, and we want to be sure we can give them the proper storage space they deserve. Plus, from time to time, we get external funding to add positions for special projects, including processing of archival materials, and we need some additional space for those folks. The new structure will also have a 350-seat mixed-use auditorium where we can hold our popular Legacies & Lunch lectures and other programs, including events for the new music festival we will begin this fall. A second structure will add about 250 parking spaces to the Main Library campus.

As you can see, the Butler Center will benefit directly from refinancing these bonds. Tens of thousands of people use our services every year. They tell us in many ways that CALS is a highly regarded institution and that the Butler Center is a valued part of it. They also tell us they want us to continue to increase our ability to offer first-class services to people who want to know about Arkansas—people in Little Rock, in other parts of the state and nation, and from all around the globe through our digital services. Refinancing our old bonds is the cheapest way to provide CALS with funds to increase services to a public that clearly wants them. If you have a question about the election or what we hope to do with the funds it could generate for us, please get in touch with me. And come see us soon in the Butler Center!

Complete Set of County Records Now Available to Researchers

The Butler Center has made available more than 3,400 reels of microfilmed local government records. These administrative documents—which are found in the offices of county clerks and local courts, such as justices of the peace and chancery, county, circuit, and probate courts—are from all seventy-five counties in Arkansas and span the early 1800s to the 1950s. The sets of microfilm were purchased from the Genealogical Society of Utah, which filmed the records by visiting every county in the state. This new acquisition will complement the existing collection of county marriage records on microfilm already made available by the Butler Center.

Local government records provide a rich source of historical information to many types of researchers. For example, genealogists can use the records to draft biographical portraits of family members by documenting their interactions with local governments. Of interest to all genealogists are deeds of sale that record the buying and selling of real property and probate records that trace the distribution of estates and guardianships of children. Researchers of African American history can use the local government records to identify the transfers of slaves between slave-owners. Individual sales of slaves are documented in county deed records, and the inheritance of slave ownership can be discovered in the wills that are part of probate court records. The records can also be used to provide composite views of the evolution of streets and neighborhoods by combining sets of records, such as land surveys, tax records, and municipal annexations. Aspects of congregational histories...
Page Family Collection

The Butler Center is pleased to announce the opening of the Page Family Collection. This small and very interesting collection contains scrapbooks, photographs, and other memorabilia documenting portions of the history of the Page family of Malvern and Little Rock. Most of the collection was created by Fla (pronounced Flay) Page Hill, born in 1906, and chronicles her struggle with tuberculosis. Other Page-Lunn family members represented in the collection are Fla’s parents, James Marshall Page and Lydia Marinda C. Harris Page; Fla’s sister, Camella Page Lunn, and her husband, J. P. Lunn; Fla’s brother, James Everett Page; and a cousin of Camella Page Lunn, Bernice Brooks.

Fla Page Hill was twice a patient at the Arkansas State Tuberculosis Sanatorium: from 1926 to 1927 and again from 1928 to 1930 or 1931. Her “Memories” album in box 2 is particularly interesting and contains very poignant items—memorabilia, letters, and photographs—detailing her two stays at the sanatorium.

The Tuberculosis Sanatorium was located near Booneville so that patients could take advantage of the pine-scented mountain air (a combination that was believed to be beneficial to tuberculosis patients). A typical stay at the facility lasted from ten months to two years. Established in 1909, the sanatorium was the confinement center for all white Arkansans with tuberculosis. In 1924, the facility expanded in order to treat and educate children afflicted with the disease. By the time the facility was closed in 1973, it had treated more than 70,000 patients, and in time, its main hospital, the Nyberg Building, became known worldwide for its tuberculosis treatment.

The finding aid for the Page Family Collection can be accessed at www.butlercenter.org or viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building.

Butler Center Events in the Spotlight

Senator Mark Pryor adding his stitch of good luck to the senninbari at the Butler Center exhibition The Art of Living: Japanese American Creative Experience at Rohwer.

Ron Robinson (left) arriving at a reception for Ark in the Dark: An Exhibition of Vintage Movie Posters about Arkansas.
The Butler Center’s Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) has received a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council for the development of a mobile website. This mobile website will provide an easy and friendly interface for users aiming to connect with the Encyclopedia of Arkansas on their mobile phones.

The Central Arkansas Library System’s Main Library campus and other venues in the River Market and Argenta Arts districts are the sites for a stimulating mix of sessions, panels, special events, performances, workshops, and presentations. Most events are free and open to the public, and there will be opportunities to meet authors, buy books, and have books signed by authors.

Festival authors include Roy Blount Jr., Diana Southwood Kennedy, George Dohrmann, Deborah Crombie, Trenton Lee Stewart, Mary Monroe, Justin Torres, Greil Marcus, and many more. Special events during the Festival include a cocktail reception with the authors, a book fiesta for children, cooking workshops, two films, and a street fair featuring area musicians. Panels and workshops will feature topics such as graphic novels, poetry, memoirs, romance, craft activism, electronic books and publishing trends, magazine editing, and pencil sharpening. Children’s special events include storytime on the lawn of the Governor’s Mansion, a reading of a children’s story with illustrations and musical accompaniment at the Clinton Presidential Center, two plays, a magic show, a puppet show, and a concert by the Kinders.

Through the Writers In The Schools (WITS) initiative, the Festival will offer presentations by seventeen authors for Pulaski County elementary, middle, and senior high schools and area colleges.

For more information about the 2012 Arkansas Literary Festival, visit www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org or call Brad Mooy at (501) 918-3098. For information on volunteering at the Festival, call Angela Colford at (501) 918-3095.

EOA Receives Grant for Mobile Site

The Butler Center’s Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) has received a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council for the development of a mobile website. This mobile website will provide an easy and friendly interface for users aiming to connect with the Encyclopedia of Arkansas on their mobile phones.

As more and more people access Internet resources through hand-held devices, it is imperative that Arkansas’s premier resource on state history and culture provide easy access for its users. This mobile site is scheduled to launch at the beginning of the 2012–13 school year.

Cont. from County Records, p.3

New Arkansas Music Festival

The Butler Center is launching an annual Arkansas music festival in the fall of this year. The festival will start off as a small event and focus on Arkansas music and musicians. Stay tuned for more 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.):
- Bay (Craighed Head County)
- Joseph Aloysius Bruhin
- Bryant (Saline County)
- Samuel Thompson Busey
- Cedarville (Crawford County)
- Dover (Pope County)
- Florence Clyde Chandler
- John Carroll Cone
- Hilda Cornish
- William Emmet Davis
- James Kelly Hampson
- M. R. Harrington
- Mary Dengler Hudgins
- Timothy Joseph Hursley
- Helen Martin King
- Theodore Lafayette Lamb
- Burwell Lee
- Evan Leroy Lindquist
- Maberry (Woodruff County)
- Mansfield (Sebastian and Scott Counties)
- Mary Elizabeth Smith Massey
- Mayflower (Faulkner County)
- Carl Avriette Moosberg
- Napoleon (Desha County)

Entries Needing Authors:
- William Pratt “Buck” Parks
- Helen Ann Evans Phillips
- John Daniel Rust
- Irene Gaston Samuel
- Tom Slaughter
- Jane Rita Ellenbogen Stern
- Trumann (Poinsett County)
- White Hall (Jefferson County)
- Virginia Anne Rice Williams

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

Entries Needing Media:
- Bay (Craighed Head County)
- Joseph Aloysius Bruhin
- Bryant (Saline County)
- Samuel Thompson Busey
- Cedarville (Crawford County)
- Dover (Pope County)
- Florence Clyde Chandler
- John Carroll Cone
- Hilda Cornish
- William Emmet Davis
- James Kelly Hampson
- M. R. Harrington
- Mary Dengler Hudgins
- Timothy Joseph Hursley
- Helen Martin King
- Theodore Lafayette Lamb
- Burwell Lee
- Evan Leroy Lindquist
- Maberry (Woodruff County)
- Mansfield (Sebastian and Scott Counties)
- Mary Elizabeth Smith Massey
- Mayflower (Faulkner County)
- Carl Avriette Moosberg
- Napoleon (Desha County)

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

Making a Place: Jewish Experience in Arkansas

An exhibition exploring the development of the Jewish community in Arkansas will open March 9, 2012, during 2nd Friday Art Night in the Butler Center’s Concordia Hall (409 President Clinton Ave.).

Making a Place is part of the Butler Center’s larger effort to create interactive historical exhibitions that visually tell the story of Arkansas’s history and culture, past and present.

Join us on opening night to explore this new exhibition highlighting a unique culture that has helped shape our state.

Call for Volunteers
The Butler Center needs volunteers to lead tours of special exhibitions. Gallery guides are trained to show exhibitions on Arkansas history and art to visitors of all ages.

This is a fun and meaningful way to communicate the value of Arkansas culture to the thousands of visitors who come through our galleries each year. We are located in a beautiful historic building in the River Market District. No previous experience is required.

For more information, contact Caroline Millar at (501) 320-5793 or cmillar@cals.org.
The poems are folkloristic, the tales poetic, and the paintings engaging and evocative.

**Unvarnished Arkansas: The Naked Truth about Nine Famous Arkansans**

A man squanders his family fortune until he is penniless, loses every time he runs for public office, and yet is so admired by the people of Arkansas that the General Assembly names a county in his honor. A renowned writer makes her home in the basement of a museum until she is sued by some of the most prominent women of the state regarding the use of the rooms upstairs. A supposedly murdered man shows up at the trial to testify for the defense. Author and Butler Center staff member Steven Teske has rummaged through Arkansas’s colorful past to find some of the state’s most controversial figures for his new book, *Unvarnished Arkansas: The Naked Truth about Nine Famous Arkansans*.

Both books will be released in early 2012. Butler Center Books are available through 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. For more information, contact Rod Lorenzen at (501) 320-5716 or at rlorenzen@cals.org.
Images from Our Collection

*Front Street in Dardanelle (Yell County); circa 1910. From the Butler Center’s general photograph collection.*