

# The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 14, Number 1

Winter 2012

## Butler Center Events

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Night Butler Center Galleries

5 to 8 p.m.

Arkansas Studies Institute  
401 President Clinton Ave.

**Friday, March 9, 2012**

*Making a Place: Jewish Experience in Arkansas*

Please note that due to events associated with the Arkansas Literary Festival, the Butler Center will not participate in April's 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Night.

### Legacies & Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library  
100 Rock St.

**March 7, 2012**

Ernie Dumas will discuss his edited book *Dearest Letty: The World War II Love Letters of Sgt. Leland Duvall*.

**April 4, 2012**

Steve Teske will discuss his book *Unvarnished Arkansas: The Naked Truth about Nine Famous Arkansans*.

**May 2, 2012**

Rex Nelson—writer, reporter, and expert on Southern culture—will speak as part of our Arkansas Autobiographies series.



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

## 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 This collection contains several published and unpublished manuscripts and articles—many handwritten—about Arkansas railroad history, as well as research about the Dardanelle & Russellville (D&R) Railroad.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).



*Missouri Pacific No. 515 in North Little Rock, 1947.*

*The Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad*, written by Clifton Hull and William A. Pollard, was published by UCA Press in 1995. *Cont. on page 2*

## Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers Available



*Maxwell Lyons (center) with H. T. Thompson (right) and Curly Brent (left), ca. 1918.*

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](http://www.butlercenter.org) and follow the Contribute tab. ■

## Tom Dillard Endowment

If you would like to contribute to the Tom Dillard Endowment, please fill out the information below.

Checks should be made out to the Central Arkansas Library System.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Payment type (circle one)      Cash      Check      Credit Card

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☐ Check enclosed      ☐ Cash enclosed



*Cont. from Clifton Hull Papers, p. 1*

This collection also contains "Arkansas River: Born in the Shining Mountains," a 2,500-page history of the Arkansas River and its impact on the development of the western United States. In addition to the typed manuscript, the collection contains Hull's research materials and photographs.

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 *Railroad Stations and Trains through Arkansas and the Southwest*, *The Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad* (with William A. Pollard), 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](http://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. ■

*Cont. from Maxwell Lyons Sr. Papers, p. 1*

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.butlercenter.org) or viewed in the ASI Research Room. ■

# A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



**T**he 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 re-finance 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—

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a department of the Central Arkansas  
Library System

**Mailing address**

100 Rock St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

**Physical address**

Arkansas Studies Institute  
401 President Clinton Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501.320.5700 • [arkinfo@cals.org](mailto:arkinfo@cals.org)  
[www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org)

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Kathryn Heller: Editor

Mike Keckhaver: Design/Layout

Ali Welky: Copyeditor



BUTLER CENTER  
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 14, Number 1

Correction: The summer and fall 2011 issues were incorrectly numbered. They should have been Volume 13, Number 3 and Volume 13, Number 4.

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

**T**he 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 Af-

rican 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

*Cont. on page 5*



# 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—memora-



Scrapbook photos from the Page Family Collection.

bilia, 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 facil-

ity 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](http://www.butlercenter.org) or viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building.

## flash

## ... 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*.



Butler Center staff members unloading boxes containing a recently received manuscript collection.



Ron Robinson (left) arriving at a reception for *Ark in the Dark: An Exhibition of Vintage Movie Posters about Arkansas*.

# Literary Festival Authors, Events Announced

This year's Arkansas Literary Festival, the premier gathering of readers and writers in Arkansas, will be held April 12–15. The Festival features more than ninety-five presenters in many locations from both sides of the river.

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, po-

etry, 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](http://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

will also allow for greater interaction with local history and culture, as people will be able to reference entries on places they might be visiting or passing through.

This is part of a larger project of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas to provide more information on local history. As of January 2012, the EOA has entries on all counties, county seats, and first-class cities, as well as on about half of the state's second-class cities. The project seeks to offer a complete accounting of the incorporated communities in the state—as

well as the many unincorporated communities—to connect resident Arkansans, as well as visitors, more deeply with the state's history.

Dr. Sondra Gordy, professor from the University of Central Arkansas, will serve as the outside humanities scholar to evaluate the project through the course of its development. The evaluation committee consists of education specialists, information technology experts, and students. The mobile site is scheduled to launch at the beginning of the 2012–13 school year. ■

*Cont. from County Records, p.3*

can be traced with the records of ministerial credentials.

Most sets of the records include indi-

ces, and many have published indices available in the Butler Center's book collection. As with all our microfilm, the local government records can be viewed,

printed, or digitally copied in the ASI Research Room, and staff members are on hand to assist all researchers in accessing these valuable primary sources. ■

A graphic for the Arkansas Music Festival. It features a red outline of the state of Arkansas with a blue guitar neck and headstock inside it.

## 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 (Craighead 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)

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](mailto:mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

### **Entries Needing Authors:**

Arkansas Power and Light (AP&L)  
Boeuf River  
William H. Fuller  
Robert Moore (a.k.a. Red Hawk)  
Public Works Administration  
Winchester School for Mountain Boys

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

## 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](mailto:cmillar@cals.org).



## Making a Place: Jewish Experience in Arkansas

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

*Making a Place: Jewish Experience in Arkansas* will focus on immigration, isolation and assimilation, businesses,

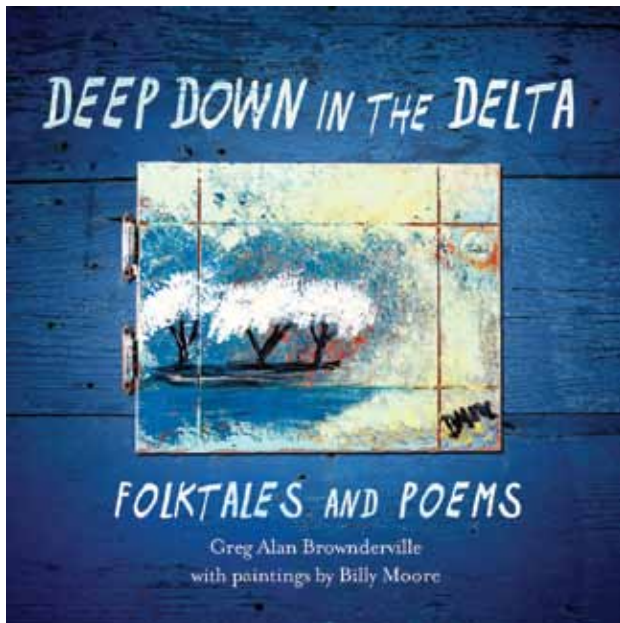
and culture.

*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. ■



# Two New Releases from Butler Center Books



## *Deep Down in the Delta*

In *Deep Down in the Delta*, tales and poems by award-winning writer Greg Alan Brownderville are paired with paintings by “outsider” artist Billy Moore to evoke the Mississippi Delta in unforgettable fashion. One of the most soulful, mysterious regions in America comes to life in words and pictures. Reminiscent of Jean Toomer’s *Cane* and the work of noted folklorist Vance Randolph, *Deep Down in the Delta* leads the reader into strange country where a buzzard the

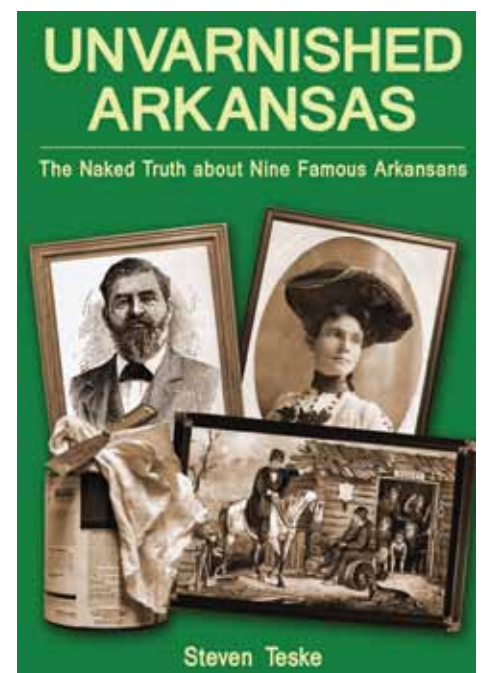
size of an airplane circles over buried Confederate treasure; an indestructible rabbit haunts a graveyard; a pool table dances across a juke joint; and a hoodoo woman treats a girl who flies around the house like a balloon losing air. The poems are folkloristic, the tales poetic, and the paintings engaging 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](http://www.uapress.com). For more information, contact Rod Lorenzen at (501) 320-5716 or at [rlorenzen@cals.org](mailto:rlorenzen@cals.org). ■



# BUTLER CENTER DONORS

## Monetary Donations

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 Lloyd McCracken  
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 David Rayman, *in memory of Miriam Rayman Solomon*  
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 Jason Reinert  
 Skip Rutherford, *in honor of Jimmie Lou Fisher*  
 John Thompson, *in support of the EOA Endowment*  
 The Edelweiss Club

## In honor of Tom Dillard

Wayne Hopper  
 Pat & John Lile  
 Ann Shackelford

## In support of the Jewish history exhibition

David Solomon, New York, NY  
 Lafe Solomon, Bethesda, MD  
 Rayman Solomon, Merion Station, PA  
 Ann Tettlebaum, California, MO

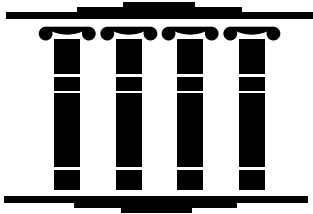
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FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES**

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## Images from Our Collection



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