

# The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 16 Number 2

Spring 2014

## Butler Center Events

### Art Exhibitions

On view through Aug. 23, 2014  
**Drawn In: New Art from WWII Camps at Rohwer and Jerome**  
Butler Center Concordia Hall  
Artwork created by residents of Japanese American internment camps in Arkansas; these are works that have not been previously exhibited by the Butler Center.

On view through July 26, 2014  
**Detachment: Works by Robert Reep**

Butler Center Loft Gallery  
Mixed media collage.

June 13 – Aug. 30, 2014  
**An Exhibition by the Arkansas Arts Educators**

Butler Center West Gallery  
Dynamic works of art by talented students across Arkansas.

July 11 – Sept. 27, 2014  
**An Exhibition by the Arkansas Extension Homemakers**  
Butler Center Underground Gallery  
Artwork, photographs, and memorabilia celebrating 100 years of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers.

Exhibitions open during each month's Second Friday Art Night (2FAN), 5–8 p.m. in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building. Join us for art, music, and refreshments!

### Legacies & Lunch

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

**Wed., May 7, 2014**  
Mark Christ—"This Day We Marched Again": Civil War book launch and discussion

**Wed., June 4, 2014**  
George Wittenberg and Charles Witsell—"Architects of Little Rock"

**Wed., July 2, 2014**  
Nancy Hendricks—"Senator Hattie Caraway: An Arkansas Woman in the U.S. Senate"

### Finding Family Facts

A free genealogy course held the second Monday of each month  
May 12, June 9, July 14  
3:30 to 5 p.m.  
Room 204, 401 President Clinton Ave.

## Rohwer: The Art of Remembering and Preserving

**D**rawn In: *New Art from WWII Camps at Rohwer and Jerome*, an exhibition on view through August 23 in the Butler Center's Concordia Hall Gallery in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building, features artwork created by Japanese Americans held in the two internment camps in Arkansas during World War II. The exhibition showcases the Butler Center's remarkable collection of artwork, documents, and photos from the Arkansas camps at Rohwer and Jerome.

This exhibition follows the Butler Center's 2011 exhibition *The Art of Living: Japanese American Creative Experience at Rohwer*, which featured artwork and other materials collected by Rohwer art teacher Mabel Rose Jamison (Jamie) Vogel and donated by her good friend Rosalie Santine Gould of McGehee, who was mayor of McGehee and received the artwork in Vogel's will. *The Art of Living* brought considerable local and national attention to the historical importance of the art and other objects in the Butler Center's Mabel Rose Jamison Vogel/Rosalie Santine Gould Collection, and it also inspired people to donate their own materials to the Butler Center.



*Two hand-carved sculptures of a horse's head, which were created at Rohwer Relocation Camp by an unknown artist and inherited by Susan Iwata, whose grandparents lived at the camp. Ms. Iwata donated the sculptures to the Butler Center in 2013, and they are on display for the first time as part of the Drawn In exhibition.*

*Drawn In* features never-before-seen items from the Rohwer collection, as well as objects that have been donated to the Butler Center over

*Cont. on page 2*

## Curtis Jones World War I Collection Available

**S**eptember 12, 1918: "This is some old town, or at least parts of it are. [T]here are several buildings here that were built by the Romans several years before Christ was born. I'm getting picture post cards of the most interesting things but you will have to wait till I get home to see them because it's against the rules to send any pictures that would give our location away....I'm about starved for a drink of ice water. About the only thing to drink here is 'Vin, blanc et rouge' (wine, white or red) and I don't like the junk. I'd just about as soon drink a glass of vin[e]gar."

This excerpt is from a letter written by Curtis Jones of Little Rock shortly after he

arrived in France as one of the more than 4.3 million Americans who served during World War I. Jones served in the 312th Engineers, which was part of the 87th Division National Army, mostly in France and Germany. The Curtis Jones World War I Collection (MSS 14-06), which is now open to researchers, contains letters primarily between Jones and his wife, but also has correspondence with other family members and friends between 1918 and 1919. His letters contain some descriptions of his experiences in Europe.

Jones expected to return to the States shortly after the armistice was signed in November 1918, but his group remained in France rebuilding roads and working on other engineering projects. By April

*Cont. on page 2*

## Butler Center Events

### Iris DeMent in Concert



**Saturday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
**CALS Ron Robinson Theater**  
**100 River Market Ave.**

General admission tickets (\$30) are available online at [www.arkansassounds.org](http://www.arkansassounds.org) and at Butler Center Galleries.

Iris DeMent, born in Paragould as the last of fourteen children, is a contemporary folk singer and songwriter whom country legend Merle Haggard has called "the best singer I've ever heard." Influenced by gospel and country music, DeMent released her first album in 1992 and earned a Grammy nomination for her second album, *My Life*, in 1994. Her work is known for addressing political and personal themes, and her songs have been covered by artists such as David Byrne, Natalie Merchant, and Merle Haggard.

DeMent's newest album is *Sing the Delta*, described by *Rolling Stone* as a collection of "artisanal songs of love and doubt." According to *Slant Magazine*, "DeMent's fully invested performances are lived-in and soulful, heightening the intensity of the experiences she's singing about."



This concert is sponsored by **Arkansas Sounds**, a project of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System. Established in 2012 and focused on Arkansas music and musicians both past and present, Arkansas Sounds presents concerts, workshops, and other events throughout the year to showcase Arkansas's rich musical culture.

For more information, visit [www.arkansassounds.org](http://www.arkansassounds.org) or contact Arkansas Sounds Music Coordinator John Miller at [jmiller@cals.org](mailto:jmiller@cals.org) or (501) 320-5728.

**Like** Arkansas Sounds on Facebook to learn about other upcoming events.

*Cont. from Rohwer, p. 1*

the past several years.

The exhibitions, and indeed the Butler Center's expanding collection of internment camp materials, are an outgrowth of the extraordinary generosity of people who lived in the camps or who had loved ones who did. Many people with a personal connection to the camps were deeply moved by the existence of the ever-growing collection—kept all together and kept here in Arkansas—and by the Butler Center's public exhibitions of camp materials. This effort toward collection, preservation, and exhibition of these artifacts ensures that as wide an audience as possible will know about this important chapter of American history.

One such person with a personal connection to the items held in the Butler Center's internment camp materials is Lisa Hasegawa, the executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development in Washington DC. Hasegawa visited the Butler Center with her mother, Joyce Hasegawa, and her grandmother, Mary Masako Kanase. Kanase was interned at Jerome Relocation Camp shortly after Joyce was born. The three women visited the Research Room in the ASI in October 2013 to view scrapbooks and other materials related to Japanese American internment camps in Arkansas.

Frank Sata has also been a signifi-



Joyce Hasegawa (left), Lisa Hasegawa (right), and Mary Masako Kanase (seated) looking at materials in the ASI Research Room.

cant contributor of materials to the Butler Center. Sata will be the speaker for the Butler Center's August Legacies & Lunch program. He and his parents were held at Rohwer, where his father created oil paintings, charcoal drawings, and wood carvings. He has donated his father's artwork to the Butler Center, and he visited recently to discuss preservation techniques with Butler Center art administrator Colin Thompson and view other materials in our collection. Sata's family was sent to the camp at Gila, Arizona, from Rohwer, where they lived until after the war, when they relocated to California.

Finally, a documentary film titled *Relocation, Arkansas* about the Rohwer Camp and its legacy is also in the works, utilizing many materials from the Butler Center's collection. Spearheaded by novelist and filmmaker Vivienne Schiffer, who is the daughter of Rosalie Santine Gould, the film will help preserve the memory of the Japanese American experience in Arkansas. ■

*Cont. from Jones Collection, p. 1*

1919, his frustration with being detained was evident. He wrote on April 22, "Last night a Marine beat up a Frog right outside of the camp gate. He come pretty near putting him to sleep for good too. One of my corporals...beat up four Frenchies down the road the other night & believe me he did a good job. One was shy 3 teeth, two had black eyes & one had a cut in his face 4 inches long where a hob nail shoe stepped on it. We came over here to fight & as long as we couldn't get to the Germans we are

taking on the French for a few. Well Sweetie I don't want you to think that we start the arguments because we don't. If you could see how dirty we are treated you would think there would be more fights than there are."

To learn more about the Curtis Jones collection and others related to World War I, explore our *Arkansas and the Great War* online collection at [www.butlercenter.org/arkansas-and-the-great-war](http://www.butlercenter.org/arkansas-and-the-great-war) or visit the Research Room in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building. ■



## A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Manager of the Butler Center

We recently celebrated five years in our “new” building, the Arkansas Studies Institute, and sent out an email message outlining some of the achievements in those five years. In case you missed that message, I’ll



hit a few of the high points. In those five years, we started several new initiatives, such as the Arkansas Sounds music festival and—with our friends at the Department of Arkansas Heritage—the Arkansas History Hub. We have also enjoyed many benefits of our partnership with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s Center for Arkansas History and Culture.

Since March of 2009, the Butler Center has added 472 new manuscript collections and processed 297 collections for public accessibility; added more than 10,500 books to our collection, along with more than 5,400 other research resources, including records of all 75 Arkansas counties; had more than 1.2 million visits to our AV/AR online resource of audio and video materials and added more than 9,000 audio or video items to the database, along with more than 400 oral history interviews; had more than 10.2 million individual visits to our Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) website with almost 38 million page views and added more than 1,700 entries and almost 2,000 pieces

of media to the EOA; hosted 60 art exhibitions and added almost 600 pieces of art to our permanent collection; given almost 7,000 books on Arkansas (worth more than \$103,000) to public high schools and middle schools in the state through our Books for Arkansas Students’ Education (BASE) program; held more than 650 public programs, attended by more than 53,000 people, with more than 810,000 people visiting the ASI building for all purposes; and published 26 books through our Butler Center Books division, including six award winners. Our projects have won awards from the Arkansas Historical Association and from the American Association for State and Local History. The ASI building itself has won 11 major awards from local, state, regional, and national organizations.

All of this effort and productivity can only be possible with great staff members, one of whom is pictured here with me. Rhonda Stewart is a Butler Center star, someone whose knowledge of genealogy and Little Rock history and passion for increasing the knowledge of other people are nothing short of legendary. I receive a message just about every week from someone whose life Rhonda has touched through helping find ancestors previously thought to be impossible to locate or through simply awakening a need to know about family history. Rhonda completed the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in public history at the University of Arkansas at Little

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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Printed and distributed with private funds.

Ali Welky: Editor  
Mike Keckhaver: Layout



Volume 16, Number 2

Rock this spring and will receive her degree in May. She joins a big group of our staff members who have gone through UALR’s very successful public history program. I’m very proud of her for completing her degree and grateful to her for her good work on behalf of Arkansas history.

Come see us and learn first-hand about the wealth of resources we have been able to assemble—through the efforts of our fine staff members and the support of wonderful people in Arkansas and lots of other places. ■



## Spring at the Galleries

Butler Center Galleries offer:  
Paintings • Sculpture • Pottery  
Clothing • Photographs • Cards  
Purses • Gifts • Jewelry



401 President Clinton Ave. • Little Rock  
(501) 320-5790 • Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm



[www.butlercenter.org/art](http://www.butlercenter.org/art)

# Summer Seminar for Teachers—Resources on Relocation: From the Trail of Tears to the Train of Tears

**C**o-sponsored by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and the Arkansas Humanities Council, the second annual summer seminar for secondary teachers in Arkansas classrooms is scheduled for June 12–13 in Little Rock. Teachers who attend the two-day seminar will receive professional development credit, and their only expenses will be transportation to Little Rock. The seminar is led and organized by Kay Bland, Butler Center K–12 education coordinator.

At the end of the two days, teachers will be prepared to help students compare Native Americans' westward trip through Arkansas in the 1830s as part of the "Trail of Tears" to the eastward trip Japanese Americans made to Arkansas during World War II on what Bland calls the "Train of Tears."

The guest speaker for the first day of the seminar will be State Archeologist Ann Early with the Arkansas Archeological Survey based at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Dr. Early will speak at the Historic Arkansas Museum (HAM), where teachers will view HAM's permanent exhibit. In keeping with the Butler Center's emphasis on educator professional development in the areas of artifact analysis, historical thinking, and reading and writing in the content area, Bland will provide opportunities for teachers to experience resources first hand. Additionally, writing prompts will be developed that can be utilized in classrooms that have implemented the Common Core State Standards.

On the second day, educators will ex-

amine artifacts associated with the Rohwer Relocation Center in the *Drawn In* exhibition (see pp. 1–2) on display in Concordia Hall in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building through August 23. Additionally, they will hear from guest speaker Vivienne Schiffer, the author of *Camp Nine*, a novel based on Japanese American internees' experiences at the Rohwer Relocation Center. *Camp Nine* was selected as the title for If All Arkansas Read the Same Book for 2013, sponsored by the Arkansas State Library. Schiffer is also working on a documentary about Rohwer.

For more information about the seminar or to register, contact Kay Bland at (501) 320-5713 or [kbland@cals.org](mailto:kbland@cals.org). Deadline for registration is May 16. ■

flash

...Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Grace Blagdon and David Ware discussed the history of the Brinkley Academy at February's Legacies & Lunch.

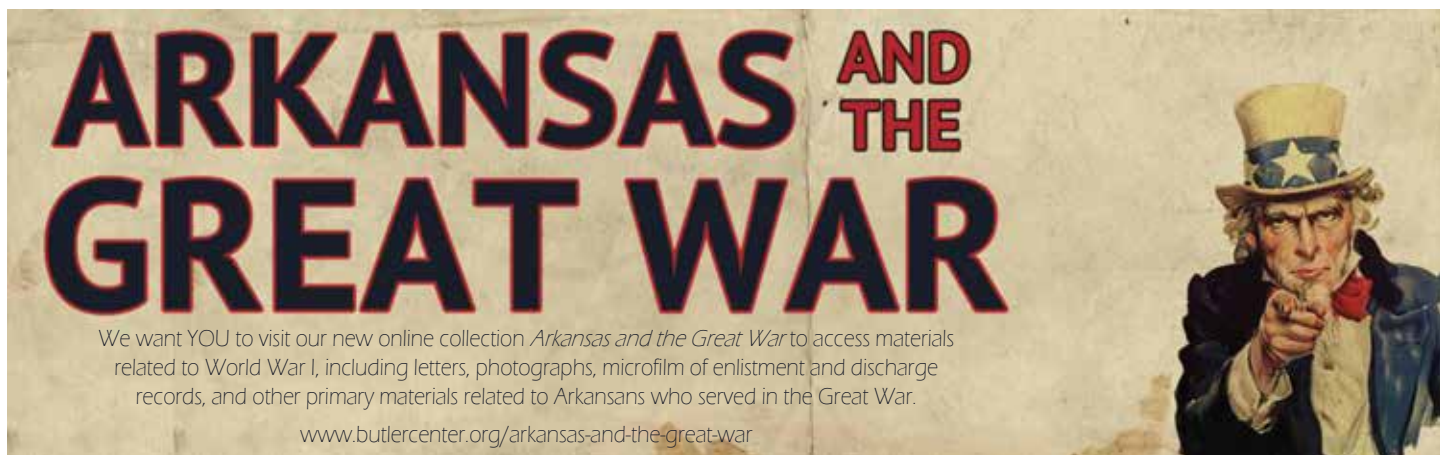


Ann Early explored archeology in Arkansas, discussing finds and issues surrounding artifacts, at March's Legacies & Lunch.



Charlotte Schexnayder was interviewed by Butler Center manager David Stricklin at April's Legacies & Lunch.





# Annual Genealogy Workshop

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will host Billie Stone Fogarty, M.Ed., of Oklahoma City as the speaker for our annual genealogy workshop, held on July 19, 2014. Her topics include the following: Land/Property: “War of 1812 Bounty Land in Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois”; Migra-

tion: “Land Runs, Lotteries, and Homesteading: Settlement American Style”; and Native American Issues: “Discovering the American Indian Archives: Repositories/Record Types—Dead Men Tell No Tales, but Their Tombstones Do.”

This day-long workshop, held at the

Main Library in Little Rock, is free and open to the public; registration is required. Visit [www.butlercenter.org/conference](http://www.butlercenter.org/conference) for more information or to register.



■ Billie Fogarty



Conevery Bolton Valencius led a professional workshop delving into how scientific evidence can be used in historical research. Attendees were from the Butler Center, the UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture, and the Arkansas History Commission.



Three retired elementary library media specialists from the Pulaski County Special School District volunteered to help Butler Center educator Kay Bland input inventory for the Butler Center's BASE program. *Left to right:* Carolyn Melton, Marsha Hamm, Susan Biggs (*seated*), and Kay Bland.





# 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.

### **ACF Tapestry Endowment for Jewish History Grant Entries Needing Authors and Media (partial list):**

A. Tenebaum Company  
Am Olam Colony  
Gustave Blass  
Concordia Club  
Conservative (Orthodox) Judaism  
Ephraim Frisch  
Paul Greenberg  
Charles Jacobson  
Carolyn LeMaster  
Julius Lester  
Lubavitch of Arkansas—Center for Jewish Life  
M. M. Cohn [Business]  
Mechanics Lumber Company  
Temple Beth-El  
Richard Thalheimer

Sam Epstein House  
Reform Judaism  
Young Men's Hebrew Association

### **Other Entries Needing Authors:**

Arkansas Writers Conference  
Corporal Punishment  
*Jeffers v. Clinton*  
Northwest Technical Institute  
Rationing (World War II)  
*The Town That Dreaded Sundown* [Movie]  
X-Ray [Newspaper]

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

## In Pursuit of Arkansas History: Deeper and Wider

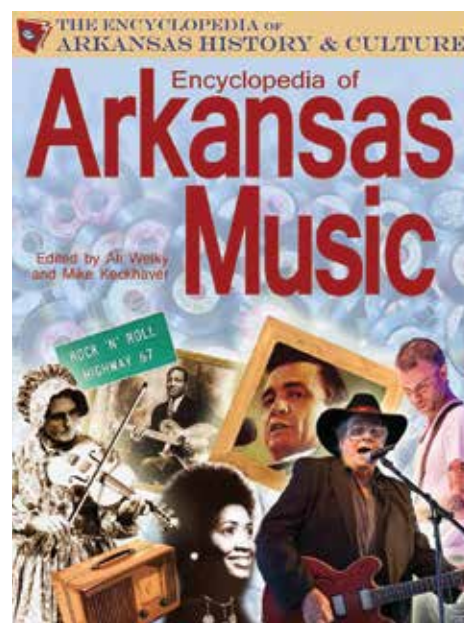
Those words could be used to describe the efforts of the Butler Center's Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA). First, with the continual addition of new entries and media, the body of information presented online grows deeper and deeper.

To that end, the EOA recently received a grant from the Arkansas Community Foundation's Tapestry Endowment for Jewish History to aid in adding more entries covering the state's rich Jewish heritage. These entries will offer stories like that of the Am Olam Colony, which was a short-lived Jewish community in Jackson County, and important business figures such as Gustave Blass. If you are interested in writing any of these entries, check out our partial listing of available entries listed above.

But the EOA is not just growing deep-

er—it's also becoming more widely read and lauded. Last year, the EOA received an award for its mobile website from the American Association for State and Local History. This year, the first-ever print volume of EOA content, the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music*, received the J. G. Ragsdale Book Award from the Arkansas Historical Association. Edited by Ali Welky and Michael Keckhaver, the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music* spans some 240 pages covering the wealth of the state's musical heritage. The *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* described the book as "authoritative and immensely entertaining."

Far from sitting upon some proverbial shelf somewhere gathering dust, Arkansas's only state encyclopedia remains a vibrant resource, ever growing, thanks to the generosity of so many people. ■



*The Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music, winner of the J. G. Ragsdale Book Award.*





# Butler Center Books: News and Honors

In the 1920s, Genevieve Sadler left her home in California for what she thought would be a short visit to the Arkansas farm where her husband grew up. The visit lasted seven years, and Sadler's life was changed indelibly in the time she spent among the cotton farms near Dardanelle in Yell County.

Sadler, an accomplished and educated woman, felt out of place in the remote

family owned land near Dardanelle, most of the people who populated the area were poor cotton farmers working on shares. Her vivid portraits of these neighbors and how they lived make *Muzzled Oxen* read like a novel. In an early review, one critic noted that "it's one of the most engaging books I've ever read on Arkansas history."

Butler Center Books' spring 2014 publication *"This Day We Marched Again": A Union Soldier's Account of War in Arkansas and the Trans-Mississippi*, edited by one of Arkansas's foremost Civil War authorities, Mark K. Christ, will be the focus of our Legacies & Lunch program on Wednesday, May 7, at noon in the Darragh Center in the Little Rock Main Library. The event also will serve as the official launch for *"This Day We Marched Again."* Christ is outreach director for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at the Department of Arkansas Heritage and has led the agency's battlefield preservation efforts since 1992. He is also the author or editor of numerous books on Arkansas Civil War history, including *The Die Is Cast: Arkansas Goes to War, 1861*.

Butler Center Books author Charles Portis of Little Rock recently was awarded the Porter Fund's Lifetime Achievement Award for his body of work, which includes *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany*, edited by Jay Jennings and published by Butler Center Books in 2012.

The award is made every five years to

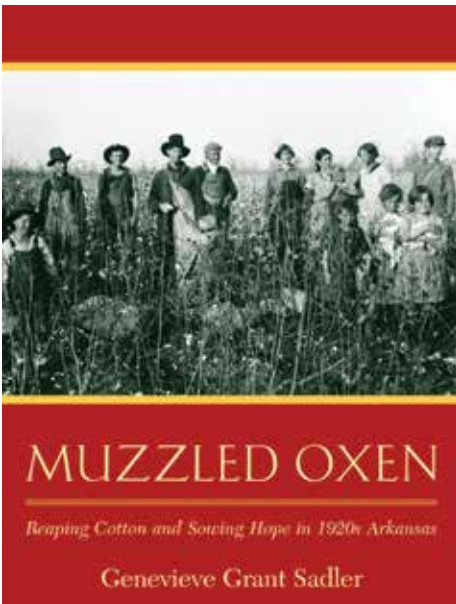
an Arkansas writer with a substantial and recognized body of work. Portis is the fourth writer to receive the award. Portis,

who is also the author of *True Grit* and four other novels, was born in El Dorado. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War and later earned a journalism degree from the University of Arkansas. Portis worked as a reporter for the *Arkansas Gazette*, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, and *New York Herald Tribune* before returning to Arkansas in

the mid-1960s to write novels.

*Escape Velocity* is a collection of Portis's reporting and also includes his short fiction and a play that was previously unpublished. It was one of the best-reviewed books in 2012 and also was named a notable selection by the *New York Times Book Review*. Get a 20% discount on *Escape Velocity* (regularly \$27.95) by ordering it from the UA Press at (800) 626-0090 before May 31.

Butler Center Books is the nonprofit publishing division of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Purchases of our books, as well as direct donations, help ensure that we will continue to publish unique and scholarly books on all aspects of Arkansas history. Our books are available at River Market Books & Gifts at 120 River Market Ave. in Little Rock at (501) 918-3093; through our distributor University of Arkansas Press at [www.uapress.com](http://www.uapress.com); and from local and online retailers. To see a complete list of Butler Center Books, visit [www.butlercenter.org/publication/](http://www.butlercenter.org/publication/).



confines of this Arkansas village. While she dutifully stayed busy keeping house and raising two boys, she also found time to write long and detailed letters back to her mother in California. When she returned home, her mother gave her the letters, which she later used as the basis for her compelling memoir, *Muzzled Oxen: Reaping Cotton and Sowing Hope in 1920s Arkansas*, out this summer from Butler Center Books (available June 1).

Although Sadler's husband and his



Civil War author  
Mark Christ

## BUTLER CENTER DONORS

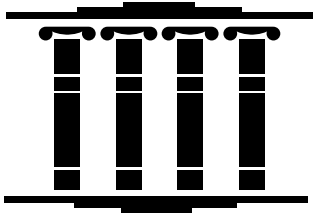
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## Images from Our Collection



*The cast of the Purim play (celebrating the story of Esther) presented by the children of Congregation Agudath Achim, the Orthodox synagogue in Little Rock, Arkansas, ca. 1920s. This photo is just one of many available in the Butler Center's Carolyn LeMaster Arkansas Jewish History Collection.*