Papers of Acclaimed Author Dee Brown Now Open

The Dee Brown Papers contain the literary and personal papers of Dorris Alexander (Dee) Brown, best known as the author of the bestselling *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*. The book, an eloquent account of the systematic destruction of Native American culture during the second half of the nineteenth century, was cited by *The New York Public Library’s Books of the Century* as one of the most significant works of the past 100 years.

Dee Brown was born in Alberta, Louisiana, on February 29, 1908, to Daniel Alexander Brown and Lulu Cranford Brown. After his father died, he moved with his mother and siblings to Stephens (Ouachita County) to be near his extended family in Arkansas. As a child, Brown was a self-described “addict of the printed word” and was encouraged in this addiction by his mother and maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Cranford, who was a retired schoolteacher.

To further her children’s education, Brown’s mother later moved the family to Little Rock, where Brown graduated from Little Rock High School. Brown spent considerable time in his “second home,” the Little Rock Public Library, as well as in his school library.

Oren Harris Papers Feature Law and Travel

A collection of papers of Oren Harris is now available to researchers. In 1940, Harris began his twenty-five-year career in the U.S. Congress, representing the Seventh District, and, after redistricting, the Fourth District. President Lyndon Johnson appointed Harris U.S. district judge in 1965. He served the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas full time for ten years, and then held senior status for many more years.

Fourteen boxes of papers, photographs, and films belonging to Harris were donated to the Butler Center. As chairman of Congress’s Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Harris traveled extensively. He was part of a small group of officials who traveled around the world by air in November 1957, crossing over the North Pole and the South Pole. A film documentary of that expedition, now digitized, is part of the collection, as are photographs and films from many other journeys Harris made while in Congress. Also in the collection are letters sent to Harris while he was in Congress, including many letters of congratulations when he was appointed U.S. district judge. Sample campaign materials are also in the collection, as well as bound copies of decisions made by Judge Harris between 1970 and 1990.

Oren Harris was born December 20, 1903, in Belton (Hempstead County). He graduated from Prescott High School in 1925, received his BA from Henderson-Brown College (now Henderson State University) in 1929, and received his LLB from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, in 1930. He entered the private practice of law in El Dorado (Union County) in 1930, served as deputy prosecuting attorney from 1933 through 1936, and was elected prosecuting attorney of the 13th Judicial District, serving from 1937 through 1940. Harris was also a member of the American Bar Association, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Lions Club, the Jaycees, and the Knights of Pythias. He was a 33rd Degree Mason.
It was the school librarian who steered him toward a three-volume set of books, *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark*, a recommendation that sparked his lifelong interest in the American West.

After graduation, Brown found a job as a printer and then news reporter for the *Daily Times* of Harrison, Arkansas. After graduating from Arkansas State Teachers College (now the University of Central Arkansas) in Conway (Faulkner County), he moved to Washington DC to complete a degree in library science. He also began submitting articles to “little magazines,” where his work came to the attention of a New York literary agent. Soon he had completed his first book, a satirical novel about Washington and New Deal bureaucracy, and the book was accepted by the publishing firm Macrae-Smith. The book was scheduled for release at the end of 1941, but the publisher decided that, with the United States entering World War II, the timing was wrong for a book that might seem unpatriotic. In its place, Brown’s first published book, *Wave High the Banner: A Novel Based on the Life of Davy Crockett*, was published by Macrae-Smith in 1942. During World War II, Brown served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Washington DC. It was there that he met fellow librarian Martin Schmitt, who became co-author of three of Brown’s books: *Fighting Indians of the West, Trail-Driving Days,* and *The Settlers’ West.*

In 1948, Brown became agricultural librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and held that position for about twenty-five years, continuing to write all the while. *Grierson’s Raid: A Cavalry Adventure of the Civil War* was published in 1954, followed by the novel *Yellowhorse* in 1956. By the end of the 1950s, he had published nine books, and by the end of the 1960s, another eight.

Using research he had accumulated for decades and writing the book from the perspective of an aged American Indian of the Plains, Brown began work on his bestselling nonfiction work, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (1971). Neither he nor his publisher anticipated the book’s popularity and were surprised when it topped the *New York Times* best-seller list in early 1971 and stayed there for most of the year. To date, the book has been translated into at least seventeen languages, and it inspired an HBO film that premiered in 2007.

Brown and his wife, Sarah (Sally) Stroud, had a daughter and a son: Linda and Mitchell. In 1973, Brown and his wife retired to Little Rock.


The Dee Brown Papers contain approximately 135 linear feet of material divided into five series. Series I has material related to his published and unpublished books, and includes holograph and typeset drafts of his most famous work, *Bury My Heart.* Series II is entirely correspondence, both personal and business. Series III is composed of articles, short stories, encyclopedia entries, reviews, and other writings by Brown, and Series IV consists of personal papers and additional book and article research. Series V contains artifacts such as an Underwood typewriter, one of several Brown used, and a drum. The papers can be accessed in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute building, and the finding aid for the collection is online [here](#).

![Butler Center Galleries](image)

**Give the gift of Arkansas Art!**

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Butler Center Galleries
401 President Clinton Ave.
Little Rock
(501) 320-5790
Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

*Oren Harris shaking hands with President Lyndon B. Johnson at a bill-signing ceremony at the White House; ca. 1965.*

and a Shriner, and was a deacon of First Baptist Church in El Dorado. Harris married Ruth Ross on May 9, 1934; they had one son and one daughter. Harris died in Little Rock on February 5, 1997.

The collection can be accessed in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute building, and the finding aid is available online [here](#).
Deep into the fall and the school year, it’s a pleasure to let you know about recent doings at the Butler Center. We’re particularly pleased to welcome George West. He’s the guy with the fiddle. George has taken over from Kay Bland, our longtime education outreach coordinator, and we are thrilled to have him join us. He is an award-winning veteran of many years in the classrooms of Arkansas, most recently at Little Rock Central High School. He’s an innovator, a teacher of teachers, and a passionate advocate of getting students involved in their own learning, especially through student-created content. I predict George will put his own brilliant stamp on our work with teachers and students, building on the great foundation we created with the fine work of Kay Bland.

In this issue, we’re happy to introduce George in a unique way. Among many other things, he is a folk fiddler and a frequent performer with the group Lark in the Morning. If you click here, you can hear George play an old fiddle tune, “Redwing.” It didn’t start out as an Arkansas tune, but George tells how he learned it, at a gas station in Green Forest. George does a fine job with the song, despite having a dodgy accompanist.

Speaking of wonderful new collections, I am especially pleased that we are able to open the papers of Dee Brown. His book Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee has been named one of the 100 most important books written by an American author in the twentieth century. Certified Archivist Frances Morgan’s labor of love in processing those papers, with special thanks to Nathania Sawyer and Jason Littleton, will enrich the study of Arkansas letters immeasurably. Mr. Brown’s family had their pick of archival institutions for this remarkable collection. We are deeply honored that they chose to place it at the Butler Center, and we look forward to sharing it with researchers. It has several items of particular interest, apart from the manuscripts described on the front page of this eBanner. We try to stick to documents and photographs in our collecting work, but when Mr. Brown’s family asked us if we wanted the typewriter he used to write Bury My Heart, I said, “We don’t ordinarily collect typewriters, but that’s one we’ll take!”

One of the photos in this edition bears a little more comment: the one on page 8 of Stephanie Bayless and me with former U.S. senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln. As the caption says, the Butler Center owns the portrait of Senator Lincoln hanging in the hearing room of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. That committee, alone among the twenty-one standing committees of the Senate, has a tradition of honoring its former chairs through these portraits, The Senate itself, however, is forbidden to own them or to spend money on them. Because we have her Senate papers, the processing of which Stephanie is in charge of, Senator Lincoln asked if we would receive the private funds that covered the cost of getting the portrait painted, framed, and sent to Washington and if we would be willing to own it. Of course, we were happy to do those things. The portrait will be on loan to the Senate for ninety-nine years. I have written my successor’s successor’s successor a note to explain why, in October of 2114, he or she may expect to receive a very nice painting of the first woman to chair the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, a daughter of the Arkansas Delta.

Finally, I’d like to honor the memory of Steven Hanley, who died in August. Steve was a tireless and incredibly knowledgeable writer on Arkansas history whose intellect and determination helped him overcome some very serious physical challenges. We saw him frequently in our research room, and we published two books he and his brother Ray wrote. We were honored to be able to assist him in his work, and we will miss him.

Please keep in mind the many ways we and our partner organizations endeavor to preserve, create access to, and interpret the many wonderful resources on Arkansas history it is our honor to hold on behalf of generations to come—ninety-nine years out and beyond.
Six EOA Entries Everyone Should Read

by Mark Christ, community outreach director for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and Arkansas Civil War expert

When asked to name six Encyclopedia of Arkansas entries everyone should read for this new eBanner feature, I willingly agreed. Then I realized there are, like, a million Encyclopedia of Arkansas entries, each with their own special value. Here, however, in no particular order, are six that I recommend. Now I have to stop, before I second-guess myself with ANOTHER six must reads.

**Route of the DeSoto Expedition**, by Jeff Mitchem. It seems like nearly every town in Arkansas lays some claim that “DeSoto slept here.” This entry narrows the list a bit.

**Civil War and Reconstruction**, by Thomas A. DeBlack. Nowhere will you find a more succinct synthesis of this complex and crucial period of Arkansas history.

**Charles McColl Portis**, by Bryan L. Moore. A detailed, fascinating account of one of the greatest Arkansas authors.

**Post Office Art**, by John Gill. Some of my earliest work in historic preservation was documenting post offices with Section art and listing them on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a good place to start to learn about this fascinating Depression-era program.

**Old Mike**, by David Sesser. One of the most bizarre—but true—Arkansas stories I have ever heard.

**Kruse Gold Mine**, by John Spurgeon. Who would have thought that Arkansas was the site of a mining operation that a psychic Minnesotan established with the altruistic goal of reconstructing the world economy to eliminate the ravages of war? And in Rogers, yet.

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**Legacies & Lunch**

**Noon-1 p.m.**

Wed., Nov. 5

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

**James Moses**—professor of history at Arkansas Tech University will discuss the life of Rabbi Ira Sanders, in honor of the Congregation B’nai Israel’s upcoming sesquicentennial in 2016; presented in partnership with the Clinton School of Public Service.

Wed., Dec. 2

Main Library’s Darragh Center

**Bill Worthy**—longtime director of the Historic Arkansas Museum will discuss the history of the museum.

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**Finding Family Facts**

A free genealogy course

Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11

3:30–5 p.m.

ASI Room 204, 401 President Clinton Ave.

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**Fall for Butler Center Books New Releases**

Join us as Butler Center Books hosts a party to celebrate its fall releases on Thurs., Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library’s Darragh Center, 100 Rock St. Authors will speak briefly about their work and sign copies of their books, which will be available for purchase at the event.
I recently completed a project that required going through all of the books in the closed stacks area of the ASI Research Room, and I came across some fun things, some wonderful things, and some things that made me go “hmm…” (The 1,600-page volume of *Defects Found in Drafted Men* fell into the final category for me.)

I also found some things that made me go “pathy letters (including one from former U.S. president William Howard Taft). The book begins with a tribute from her husband, Harmon Remmel, which includes this passage: “Her father and two brothers were Confederate soldiers. Her young life was spent amid sanguinary conflicts between Federals and Confederates, in the beautiful Valley of the Shenandoah, where war’s red carnage waged the fiercest. Her kindred wore the Grey and mine the Blue. When the Dove of Peace again hovered over the land, we met at Newport, on Arkansas soil, and were united in the holy bonds of wedlock…” Sixty-three pages later, I felt that I had more than just glimpsed into the life of this woman. Plus, I was really curious about published memorial books—was this a bygone custom that I hadn’t come across before now? I found two others in the collection: one for Logan Holt Roots (namesake of Fort Roots), and one for Walter Riddick (a federal judge from Arkansas).

One of the best things about working here is having access to the collective brain of people with great interest and deep knowledge about history in general and Arkansas in particular. I asked Bob Razer, the Butler Center’s guru of all things related to Arkansas books, and learned that memorial books are common for political people on the national level (thank you, Government Printing Office) and some governors, but not so much for other people. Perhaps Laura’s position as wife to the chairman of the state Republican committee led to her being memorialized in print.

I mentioned my find at lunch one day, which led to a discussion with fellow archival assistant Linda McDowell about African American funeral programs. She explained that, for researchers, these provide an excellent source of genealogical information, often including birth and death dates, maiden names, names of relatives, past residences, and place of burial. They are especially valuable for the years when white newspapers rarely published obituaries for African Americans.

Rhonda Stewart, the Butler Center’s genealogy and local history specialist, pointed me toward the *Archie Moore Jr. Collection of Black Americana* (MSS.03.01), which includes numerous funeral programs, and she reminded me that we have funeral programs in some of our biographical vertical files.

So, if you are stuck in your family research, don’t forget to look into these and other collections that contain funeral programs. Also, donating funeral programs that contain biographical information is a great way to help future researchers learn more about all of the amazing people of our state. If you find a stash of programs tucked away somewhere, let us know. We’d love to have them.

(Contact Butler Center senior archivist Brian Robertson about how to donate materials.)

If you find a stash of programs tucked away somewhere, let us know. We’d love to have them.
This fall, Butler Center Books published *A Captive Audience: Voices of Japanese American Youth in World War II Arkansas*, edited by Ali Welky. Aimed at young-adult readers, it features archival material from the Butler Center as well as the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and other institutions. The Butler Center also hosted the exhibition *Weaving Stories & Hope: Textile Arts from the Japanese American Internment Camp at Rohwer, Arkansas* funded in part by a grant from the NPS.

The events below are some that make up this season of remembrance:
- Thurs., Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m., Little Rock, Main Library, Darragh Center:
  Butler Center Books fall launch party; *A Captive Audience* will be featured as one of the three new titles.*
- Fri., Nov. 6, 4:10–5:30 p.m., Conway, Hendrix College, Mills Center:
  Dance/Art/Conversation, a free public event with CORE. Introductory remarks by Hendrix President Dr. Bill Tsutsui. No tickets required.
- Sat., Nov. 7, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Little Rock, Arkansas Studies Institute building, Loft Gallery:
  Last day to view *Weaving Stories & Hope* exhibition.
- Sat., Nov. 7, noon, McGehee, Municipal Building:
  CORE and Sue Schroeder, dance demonstration for the Preserve Arkansas Internment Camp Ramble participants. For information about the Ramble, click [here](#).
- Sun., Nov. 8, 2 p.m., Conway, Faulkner County Library:
  Book talk by *A Captive Audience* editor Ali Welky, with books available for purchase.*
- Mon., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m., Conway, UCA Reynolds Performance Hall:
  CORE performance of *Gaman*, with an art exhibition by Nancy Chikaraishi in the Reynolds lobby (no tickets required for exhibition) 6:30–10 p.m. *A Captive Audience* will be available for purchase in the lobby. Free tickets for the CORE performance can be reserved by calling the Reynolds Box Office at (501) 450-3265, or by clicking [here](#).
- Wed., Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Bentonville, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Great Hall:

*Gaman, CORE; tickets are $10 for nonmembers, free for members. Events can be found [here](#).
- Thurs., Nov. 12, 11 a.m. to noon, Conway, UCA McAlister Hall, Mirror Room:
  Book talk by *A Captive Audience* editor Ali Welky, with books available for purchase.*
- Fri., Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m., McGehee, McGehee Public Schools Auditorium: *Gaman, CORE*. No tickets required.*

The performances of *Gaman* and the residency activities in Arkansas are made possible by the UCA Artist in Residence program, Reynolds Performance Hall, and Crystal Bridges Museum for American Art. The Butler Center, the CALS Children’s Library and Learning Center, Conway Public Schools, Hendrix College, McGehee Public Schools, and the World War II Japanese American Internment Museum are community partners in the *Gaman* tour and residency activities in Arkansas.

The events marked with an asterisk (*) are Arkansas Department of Education–approved professional development events. Contact George West for info.
...Butler Center Events in the Spotlight

Arkansas Sounds, August, featured the John Bush Quintet.

Arkansas Sounds, September, featured Runaway Planet.

At September’s Legacies & Lunch, David Bailin discussed the importance of communities of artists.

Parker Westbrook at an August reception at the ASI celebrating the opening of the Butler Center’s Lucille and Parker Westbrook Collection, which includes correspondence, photographs, and business records.

A Prized Evening on Oct. 1 honored Guy Lancaster (recipient of the Worthen Prize) and Davis McCombs (recipient of the Porter Prize). Lancaster, editor of the EOA, is shown here receiving his award from the Butler Center’s Bob Razer.

August’s Legacies & Lunch featured Marcie Cohen Ferris, author of The Edible South, discussing Southern foodways.
... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight

Butler Center/CALS art administrator Colin Thompson oversaw the installation of two sculptures at the CALS Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library: *Imagine Peace* by Alice Guffey Miller and *Alligator Reading* by Russell Lemond; both sculptures were completed with financial help from the Horn Foundation.

October’s Legacies & Lunch was a special musical program showcasing songs about Arkansas or written by people from the state. Performers played and sang songs from the Butler Center’s Ron Robinson Sheet Music Collection.

Arkansas Sounds, October, featured a documentary and concert of the music of Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

Former U.S. senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln with the Butler Center’s David Stricklin (left) and Stephanie Bayless (right) at the unveiling of a portrait of Senator Lincoln in Washington DC. The portrait, which is owned by the Butler Center, will hang in the hearing room of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Attendees at the Butler Center’s annual Genealogy Conference in July.
Materials donations:
- Arkansas Business Publishing Group
- Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- Robert Bailey
- Kay Bland, Telulude, CO
- Mary Brown
- Noreene Chen, Agate, CO
- Sharon Cotter
- Jan Davenport
- Bill Evans, Sonoma, CA
- Burr & Diann Fancher
- Jay Fredrich
- Larry Graham
- Bill Hanks
- Bobby Huey
- Michael Klossner
- Guy Lancaster
- Lloyd Langford
- Linda McDowell
- Martha Miller
- Phyllis Mundell
- Madelyn Terry Payne
- Frank Plege
- Anita Reddig
- Philip Snodgrass
- Steve Stephens
- David Stricklin & Sally Browder
- David Thibault
- Judy White

Monetary donations:
- Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation, for Arkansas Sounds
- Arkansas Pioneers Association, in memory of Lucille Woolverton Moore
- Michael & Beth Coulson, for the Blanche Lincoln fund
- Dan Fetherolf, in memory of Shirley Fetherolf for BASE
- East Harding Construction, for Arkansas Sounds
- Roger A. Glasgow, for Butler Center Books
- Larry Graham, in memory of Betty Rice
- Lou Graham, in memory of Betty Rice
- Bob Razer, in honor of Kay Bland
- David Stricklin, in honor of Kay Bland for BASE

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):
- Alicia (Lawrence County)
- Anthonyville (Crittenden County)
- Arkadelphia Presbyterian Academy
- Arkansas Entomological Society
- Arkansas Political Science Association
- Arkansas Scholarship Lottery
- Avilla (Saline County)
- Bachman’s Warbler
- William Nelson Rector Beall
- Lasker (Pas) Bell
- Blackfish Lake Ferry Site
- Boswell School
- Walter Lee Brown
- Shawn Camp
- Campbell Cemetery
- Verlee Lee Garrison Carter
- CCC Company 749 Powder Magazine
- Clarksville Confederate Monument
- Osro Cobb
- Carl Richey “Cotton” Cordell
- Corinth (Howard County)
- Cotton Plant Academy
- Charles Sumner Duke
- Wayne Eugene Dupont
- Paul Irving Eells
- Florida Brothers Building
- Bennie Fuller
- Willard Badgett Gatewood Jr.
- Herbert Richard (H. R.) Gibson
- Frank Joseph Ginnocchio
- Greensboro (Craighead County)
- Kathryn Hall-Trujillo
- Ena Hartman
- Morris Kevin Hayes
- Helena National Guard Armory
- Lawrence Oliver Hamilton
- Alexander Travis Hawthorn
- Huff (Independence County)
- Incoming Kingdom Missionary Unit
- Indian Bay (Monroe County)
- John Hornor Jacobs
- Ricky Lane Jasper
- Billy Farrel (Bill) Johnson
- Glenn T. Johnson
- John Lawrence Markle
- Mari’s Creek Bridge
- Deborah Myers Mathis
- James McQueen McIntosh
- Clifford E. Minton
- Mitchellville (Desha County)
- Monticello Post Office (Historic)
- Jeffrey Ryan (Jeff) Nichols
- Old U.S. Highway 67
- Harold Robert Perry
- Piggott National Guard Armory
- Pocahontas Post Office (Historic)
- Pottsville Citizens Bank
- James Wesley Pruden Jr.
- Rabbit Foot Lodge
- Raggio (Lee County)
- Reed (Desha County)
- James Byron Reed
- Benjamin Franklin Rice
- William Leon Russell
- Andrew Jackson Smith
- Willis S. Smith
- Snapp (Woodruff County)
- John Stubblefield
- Sue Bailey Thurman
- Violet Cemetery
- Jack Hearn Watson Jr.
- Harold L. “Brother H” Webber
- Ira James Kohath Wells
- Lloyd Garrison Wheeler

Entries Needing Authors:
- Act 242 of 1915 (a.k.a. Blue Sky Law)
- Arkansas Press Women
- Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery
- Cavender’s Greek Seasoning
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas
- Copper Bowl [Football Game]
- Cotton in My Sack [Book]
- Erma Lee Glascio Davis
- Dixie Mafia
- “Fables of Faubus” [Song]
- Hazel Shanks Hynson
- Ernest P. Joshua
- Liberating Paris [Book]
- Edward Jr. Moore
- Mud [Movie]
- Paul Ruiz and Earl Van Denton (Crime Spree)
- Eddie Reed
- Religious Exemptions to Civil Code
- Phyllis Yvonne Stickney
- Times of North Little Rock
- Urban Farming
- USS Little Rock (LCS-9)
- Verizon Arena (a.k.a. Alltel Arena)
- Wildwood Park for the Arts
- Willow Springs Water Park

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

If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Guy Lancaster at glancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net
The Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) is hosting Sounds in the Stacks, a free fall concert series, as part of Arkansas Sounds and CALS Adult Programming. Local keyboardists with diverse musical backgrounds play different types of music on the Yamaha C6 7-foot semi concert grand piano provided by Piano Kraft for this series.

The September concert at the Dee Brown Library featured Sam Carroll, keyboardist for Rodney Block & the Real Music Lovers, and the October concert at the Thompson Library featured Chris Parker, keyboardist with Walter Henderson and the John Bush Quintet. The November concert at the Rooker Library, 11 Otter Creek Ct., will take place on Thursday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. and feature Carl Mouton, keyboardist and director of bands at Maumelle High School.

Arkansas Sounds is a project of the Butler Center, focusing on Arkansas music and musicians past and present. Piano Kraft is the exclusive piano provider for Arkansas Sounds.

Butler Center Books Make Great Gifts!

Butler Center Books are available at River Market Books & Gifts on the Main Library campus in Little Rock and other bookstores, from online retailers, and through the University of Arkansas Press (via University of Chicago Press) at (800) 621-2736. To see a complete list of Butler Center Books, visit www.butlercenter.org/publication.

And join us for Butler Center Books’ fall release party, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library’s Darragh Center!
Inside Our eCollections

This feature of our Butler eBanner invites readers to click their way into our many and varied digital resources. Featured this time are five videos from the Butler Center’s Home Movie Day Collection documenting the fraught days of the Central High School Desegregation Crisis of 1957–1959. Read more about the crisis on the EOA here. Click on each thumbnail photo to view the video.


Little Rock Central High School, September 25, 1957. The Little Rock Nine are escorted through the front entrance of Central High by the National Guard 101st Airborne.

Little Rock Central High School, September 26, 1957. The Little Rock Nine enters Central High assisted by the National Guard. Protesters and reporters surround the school.

Little Rock Central High School, August 12, 1959. A couple of blocks away from Central High, demonstrators march to police lines after hearing speeches from segregationist leaders. Little Rock Nine members Elizabeth Eckford and Jefferson Thomas enter the school without an escort but have to call a taxi to leave. The 1959–60 school year was a still-rocky but ultimately successful year for the integration of Central High.

Little Rock Central High School graduation, May 1958. Little Rock Nine member Ernest Green was the first African American graduate of Central High.

The Butler Center’s participation in the Home Movie Day project over the years has yielded some fascinating pieces of digital history. Click here to view the full collection. Home movies show the everyday and the extraordinary from a uniquely personal point-of-view. Have something you want to share? The Butler Center might be interested. Contact Anna Lancaster at (501) 320-5718 for more information.