

The Butler eBanner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Winter 2015

Butler Center Events

Art Exhibitions

Feb. 13–May 30

Captured Images: Photographs from the Collection

Butler Center Underground Gallery
Photographs from the Central
Arkansas Library System's
permanent collection

March 13–June 27

An Exhibition by the Arkansas Society of Printmakers

Butler Center Loft Gallery
A collection of prints by the
Arkansas Society of Printmakers

April 10–July 25

White River Memoirs

Butler Center Concordia Hall
A collection of paintings and
photographs documenting the
culture of the White River

Exhibitions open during each month's
Second Friday Art Night (2FAN), 5–8
p.m. in the ASI building.

Arkansas Sounds

Fri., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Charley Sandage & Harmony

CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Historical folk played with
traditional instruments—FREE

Mon., Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m.

Bill Frisell & Kenny Wollesen

CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Progressive jazz guitar &
percussion duo—\$20

Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m.

Celtic Cultural Celebration

featuring Lyon College Pipe Band

CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Celtic music and dancing in honor
of St. Patrick's Day—FREE

Fri., April 17, 7:00 p.m.

Brian Nahlen

CALS Hillcrest Hall
Singer/songwriter performs
original and Beatles music—\$5
Ticket info. available at
www.ArkansasSounds.org

Legacies & Lunch

Noon – 1 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 4

Black History Month Panel Discussion

Featuring John Graves, Cherisse
Jones-Branch, Freeman
McKindra Sr., and Rhonda
Stewart (co-hosted by the Clinton
School of Public Service)
CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Cont. on page 2

Arkansas Forestry Commission Collection Open to Researchers

Can you tell the difference between various species of tree seedlings? Did you know that “Smokey Bear” rather than “Smokey the Bear” is the proper way to refer to that beloved foe of forest fires? Are you surprised to learn that Arkansas's first Miss America, [Donna Axum](#), had her first pageant triumph when she was crowned Arkansas Forestry Queen in 1961? Have you ever seen photos of men at work in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps of the 1930s?

You can learn about these topics and more by perusing the materials in the [Arkansas Forestry Commission](#) Collection (BC. MSS.10.17) now available in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute



Men preparing to release wild turkeys to start the Moccasin Gap Game Refuge; July 1927.

(ASI) building. If you hear that collection name and think, “Trees, trees, trees—how boring,” you couldn't be more wrong.

Nearly one hundred years in the making, this
Cont. on page 2

Collection of Kirst-Hoffman Family Photos and Documents Now Available

This family collection contains more than 300 photographs, along with a small number of related documents. Images include the Little Rock High School 1919 championship football team; a family trip to the top of Pikes Peak in 1902; and Confederate Hall, built in Memphis, Tennessee, especially for that year's Confederate Veterans' Reunion.

The collection was donated to the Butler Center by Charles E. Hoffman Jr., grandson of Charles L. Hoffman and Emma Kirst Hoffman. Charles and Emma were married in 1900; they had two children: Charles Emmett Hoffman and Roslyn Hoffman Pritchett. The photographs span 100 years of the Kirst-Hoffman family.

Charles L. Hoffman was the son of Sebastian and Eustina Hoffman, who moved to Little Rock from California in 1880, when Charles was an infant. Sebastian, a native of

Germany, operated a number of hotels in Little Rock. A small number of photographs in this collection are of the Hoffman family.

Charles's wife, Emma Kirst Hoffman, was the daughter of Michael Kirst and Alvina Geyer Kirst. Michael emigrated from Germany to Wisconsin in 1856. He met Alvina while serving in Arkansas with the 27th Wisconsin Infantry and made his home in Little Rock after the war. He opened a grocery store in 1866 and later operated M. Kirst and Sons Grocery at Ninth and Main in partnership with his sons Walter and Fred.

The [Kirst-Hoffman Family Collection](#) contains photographs of Michael and Alvina and their family, of the Civil War veterans' organizations Michael belonged to, and also of the Kirst family businesses and related business organizations. Other events depicted include a firemen's picnic, the ladies' aid of First Lutheran Church, and a gathering of the Arkansaw Travelers Cycle Club.

Cont. on page 2

Wed., March 4

Aretha Dodson

Author of *That's the Way It "Wuz" Back Then*, a personal look at education desegregation in Arkansas
Main Library's Darragh Center

Wed., April 1

Brian Mitchell

Creator of a new database and narrative history of free blacks expelled by the Arkansas legislature in 1860
Main Library's Darragh Center

Finding Family Facts

A free genealogy course
Feb. 9, March 9, April 13
3:30 – 5 p.m.
ASI Room 204, 401 President Clinton Ave.



Cont. from Forestry Commission, p. 1
collection contains tens of thousands of images and some documents related to forestry and the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC), which was established in 1931 by Arkansas Act 234. The AFC's original responsibilities for forest management and fire control/education have expanded over the years to include oversight of rural and volunteer fire departments, tree nurseries, urban forestry, and numerous educational programs. Today's AFC is tremendously active in Arkansas, and the Butler Center is pleased to help preserve its rich history.

The core of this collection consists of more than 75,000 photographs, negatives, and slides representing the history

of forestry of Arkansas. These images cover myriad subjects including AFC personnel, seedling nurseries, fairs and festivals, educational resources, volunteer fire departments, and urban forestry projects. Of particular interest are the more than 300 images of forestry-related activities of the CCC in Arkansas.

Containing material from 1909 to 2003 (with the bulk focusing on 1920–1970), the collection also includes official reports, maps, newsletters, and children's educational programming materials.

For more information, view a complete listing of the collection's contents online at [by clicking here](#) or visit the ASI Research Room to explore this one-of-a-kind collection. ■

Cont. from Kirst-Hoffman, p. 1

In addition to their two sons, Michael and Alvina Kirst had five daughters: Alvina Ida Kirst Reichardt, Lillie Kirst Gloeckler, Annie Kirst Leiser, Josephine Kirst Bell, and Emma Kirst Hoffman. The Kirsts made frequent trips to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to visit Michael's family. The collection contains many casual photographs from these trips, as well as other family excursions. A large portion of this collection is made up of photographs of the Kirst daughters and their husbands, including their in-laws, such as the Gloeckler and Leiser families.

Charles Emmett Hoffman and his cousin Alvin Bell attended Little Rock High School at the same time and both played football. The collection includes both group and individual portraits by Shrader Photography of the 1918 and 1919 football teams. The families lived in the area near City Park (now [MacArthur Park](#)) in Little Rock, and many photographs depict time spent in the park.



Arkansas Travelers Cycle Club, with Will Bell, Walter Kirst, and others posed with bicycles behind the Arsenal building at City Park, Little Rock; circa 1900.

The Kirst-Hoffman Family Collection provides a window, through documents and photographs, into one of Arkansas's German American families, beginning at the time of the Civil War, showing how they came together from various parts of

the country and made strong contributions to the business and social communities in Little Rock.

For more information, visit the ASI Research Room or view the [finding aid online](#). ■



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A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Manager of the Butler Center

We're very excited to offer this first "born-digital" Butler Center newsletter. For quite a while we've been sending out a digital version of the print newsletter, the *Butler Banner*. This new *eBanner* gives you a lot more to work with, especially the live links to some of our fabulous digital resources. Please click on those links (which appear in blue) and check out some of the wonders of Arkansas history our fine staff members (pictured here) have made available.

This time of year always involves a lot of wrapping-up from the previous year. I won't go on and on with a lot of statistical evidence of the great year we had in 2014, but I want to pay special tribute to folks in a couple of areas. Our Research Services Division, which is where our archivists work, processed and made publicly available a staggering 75 manuscript collections. I spent all of 2014 bragging about the fact that they completed 57 collections in 2013. I'm almost embarrassed to go around reporting this latest news. Almost, but not quite. So, hats off to this excellent group of professionals, led by our chief archivist Brian Robertson and his first colleague Stephanie Bayless. Led by Colin Thompson and Shannon Holmes, our Butler Center Gal-

leries staff also had a great year, setting all-time records for sales of the work of about 60 Arkansas artists we represent. We sell that art on consignment and fund a lot of the rest of our art operations with our part of the sales proceeds. I'm very proud of the work of our art staff. There were lots of other great things from last year, but that's a little for now.



Our 2014 Butler Center Volunteer of the Year was Kate Buck, who has been working with our [Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture](#) project for about eight years. When she got the award, she said she felt a little uneasy about accepting it, in light of how enjoyable she finds working with the people on the EOA staff and the Butler Center as a whole. The direct quote was, "It's a little like getting an award for eating chocolate." Thanks, Kate, for your wonderful work and equally wonderful attitude.

And the rest of you, come see us, both in person and online! ■

The *Butler eBanner* is the quarterly electronic newsletter of the

Butler Center
for Arkansas Studies,
a department of the [Central Arkansas Library System](#)

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Winter 2015

This Winter 2015 issue is the first of the quarterly *eBanner*, a version of our longtime newsletter the *Butler Banner* that is optimized for digital use. We hope you enjoy the digital enhancements. Those who receive a print version of our newsletter will receive the *Butler Banner* in the mail twice a year, combining content from two issues of the *eBanner*. The next print issue will be Volume 17 no. 1 (Winter/Spring). Please email me with any questions or concerns: awelky@cals.org
—Ali Welky, editor

2014 Summer Seminar Makes Fall Appearance for Educators

Content related to the Trail of Tears portion of the 2014 "Trail of Tears to Train of Tears" summer seminar, co-sponsored by the [Arkansas Humanities Council](#) and the Butler Center, provided the basis for a four-hour workshop conducted by Butler Center K-12 educator Kay Bland as part of the fall Arkansas Education Association (AEA) conference in Little Rock.

K-12 educators attending the fall workshop in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building were shown a presentation that had been prepared by Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas's state archeologist, and they also visited the *Echoes of the Ancestors: Native American Objects from*



Kay Bland at AEA conference.

the University of Arkansas Museum exhibit in Concordia Hall in the ASI. After viewing the exhibit, the participants completed an artifact analysis worksheet to model the use of primary source materials teachers are required to utilize in classroom instruction. As primary source-

es can also be in a digital format, workshop attendees learned about digital resources available through the [Butler Center's website](#), including the [Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture](#).

Bland also showed attendees a recording of the Butler Center's November 5 [Legacies & Lunch lecture by Troy Poteete](#), director of the National Trail of Tears Association and Cherokee Nation Supreme Court justice. Following the viewing of the lecture, workshop attendees ended the workshop by participating in a "close reading" activity in which they were presented multiple pieces of authentic text pertaining to the Trail of Tears historical timeframe. ■

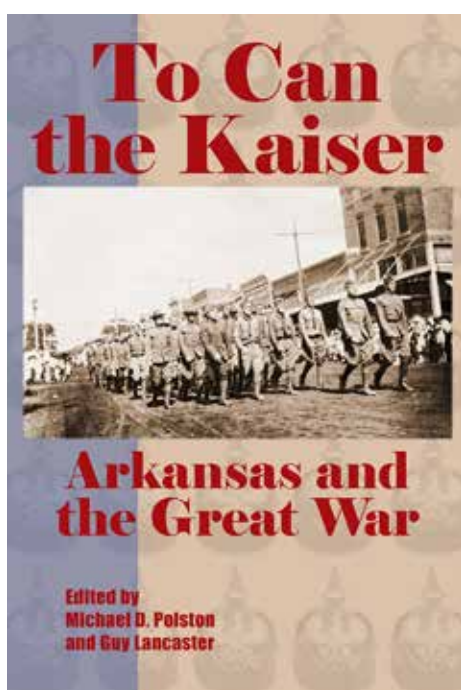


Butler Center Books is pleased to announce the publication of three new titles for Spring 2015. *To Can the Kaiser: Arkansas and the Great War*, edited by Michael D. Polston and Guy Lancaster, will come out in May. Ray and Steven Hanley's *Arky: The Saga of the USS Arkansas* will be published in March, as will our reissue of Calvin Collier's classic study of the Third Arkansas Regiment "*They'll Do to Tie To!*": *The Story of Hood's Arkansas Toothpicks*.

and [African Americans](#) in Arkansas, but war production proved a boon to the state in the form of greater demand for the state's cotton, minerals, and timber. [World War I](#) connected Arkansas to the world in ways that changed the state and its people forever.

Michael Polston is staff historian for the online [Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture \(EOA\)](#), a project of the Butler Center. Guy Lancaster is editor of the EOA.

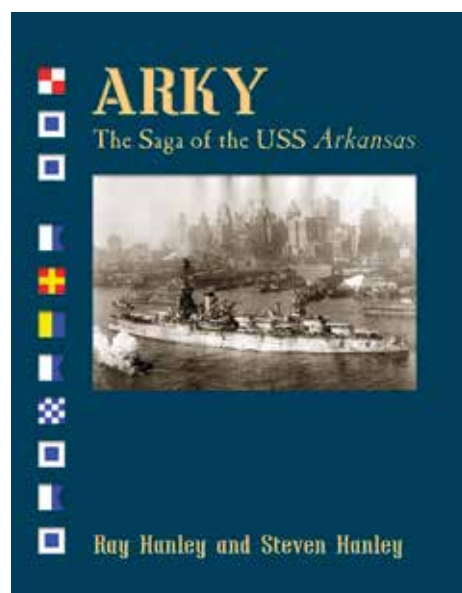
Ray Hanley and Steven Hanley of Little Rock have published numerous books based on their research of Arkansas history through vintage postcards and photographs, including *Main Street Arkansas* (Butler Center Books, 2009).



To Can the Kaiser: Arkansas and the Great War

On April 2, 1917, the United States officially entered a war that had been raging for nearly three years in Europe. Even though American involvement in the "Great War" lasted little more than a year and half, the changes it wrought were profound. More than 70,000 Arkansans served as soldiers during the war.

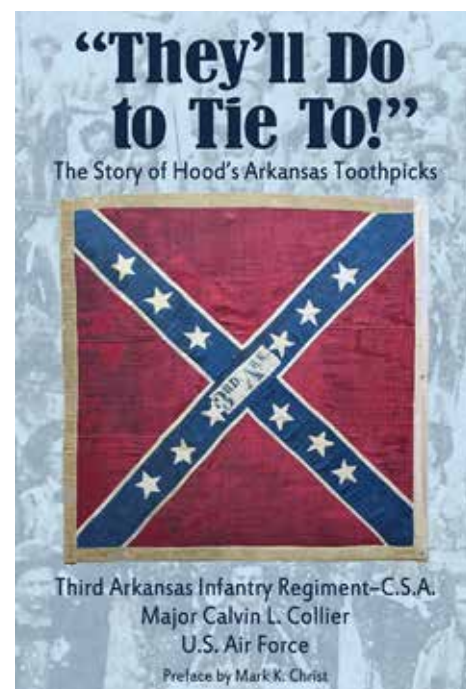
On the homefront, military bases such as [Camp Pike](#) and [Eberts Field](#) were built to train soldiers in the new technologies of warfare, while the [American Red Cross](#) provided civilians, especially women, with a way to support the troops. War-time propaganda led to suspicions directed against [Germans](#), [Jehovah's Witnesses](#),



Arky: The Saga of the USS Arkansas

While little has been written about the [USS Arkansas](#), this battleship carried the state's name through two world wars, a Mexican invasion, and into the dawn of the atomic age. The *Arkansas*, or "Arky," which measured almost the length of two football fields, went to sea in 1911 and sailed the world until 1946, when it served as a target for the postwar atomic bomb tests in the South Pacific.

During its long service, the ship participated in the invasion of Vera Cruz, Mexico; served in World War I; helped Arkansas get an [official flag](#); and assisted in the [World War II](#) battles at Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Highlighting the narrative with previously unpublished photos, the authors tell the ship's unique story by referencing handwritten journals penciled in the midst of combat.



"They'll Do to Tie To!": The Story of Hood's Arkansas Toothpicks

The [Third Arkansas](#) was one of the most distinguished and well-respected Confederate regiments of the Civil War. It was the only Arkansas regiment to serve the entire war in the east, where most of the major battles were fought. The men of the Third Arkansas acquired a reputation as tenacious fighters and were known for the long knives—"Arkansas toothpicks"—they carried. They found themselves in some of the fiercest fighting in the war in places such as the famous "sunken road" at Antietam and the Battle of Gettysburg. "*They'll Do to Tie To*" was originally published in 1965.

Calvin L. Collier, a native of Surry County, Virginia, was a major in the U.S. Air Force and served at the [Little Rock Air Force Base](#). His other books on the Civil War include *The War Child's Children* and *First In—Last Out*.

For more info., visit our [webpage](#). ■

flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



For November's Legacies & Lunch (in the Ron Robinson Theater in partnership with the Clinton School of Public Service), [Troy Poteete](#) spoke about how his years in tribal government have illuminated the threats to Cherokee sovereignty in the current political landscape.



Lyon College Pipe Band—[Arkansas Sounds](#) concert series, October.



Big Piph & Tomorrow Maybe—[Arkansas Sounds](#) concert series, November.



January's Legacies & Lunch offered the "Arkansas Autobiography" of former U.S. congressman [Ed Bethune](#).



Meshugga Klezmer Band—[Arkansas Sounds](#) concert series, December holiday concert.



Velvet Kente Arkestra—[Arkansas Sounds](#) concert series, January.



December's Legacies & Lunch featured Jim Ross and Deb Crow discussing the history of the [Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show](#).

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Church Records for the Butler Center



Pictured here are Steven Teske (*left*), pastor of Immanuel [Lutheran](#) Church and archival assistant at the Butler Center; Judy Prange Smith, recording secretary of Immanuel Lutheran Church; and Bill Kling, president of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Judy and her brother Jim Prange visited the Butler Center this summer to look at photographs of their hometown, [DeWitt, Arkansas](#), in the [Anna Grace Bow-](#)

[ers Brown Collection](#). Their positive experience in the research room led them to suggest to the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church that the congregation's records might be donated to the Butler Center for future researchers. Members have been searching corners and storage areas in the church, finding various records, the earliest of which are written in German. Immanuel Lutheran Church was established in [Alexander, Arkansas](#), in 1880 by German settlers living south of Little Rock. ■



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA

We need entries, photographs, documents, videos, maps, and audio clips to help make the EOA the most comprehensive and engaging resource on Arkansas history.

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):

Arkadelphia Presbyterian Academy
Osro Cobb
Carl Richey "Cotton" Cordell
Corinth (Howard County)
Cotton Plant Academy
Incoming Kingdom Missionary Unit
Indian Bay (Monroe County)
Mitchellville (Desha County)
Raggio (Lee County)
Reed (Desha County)
James Byron Reed
Benjamin Franklin Rice

Yancopin (Desha County)
Yellowhammer

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

Entries Needing Authors:

Association of Arkansas Counties
Peggy S. Bossmeyer
Evangeline K. Brown
Bureau of Legislative Research
Come Early Morning [Movie]
Crossett Strike of 1985

Easter Seals Arkansas
Franke's Cafeteria

Gladys McFadden and the Loving Sisters
Ernest Joshua
Labor Day Bombing of 1959
Carolyn LeMaster
Jennie Carr Pittman
Woman's Christian Temperance
Union (WCTU)
Rufus King Young

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

Congressional Roll Call at the Encyclopedia of Arkansas

If pressed to name some historic Arkansas senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress, most people will probably reach for a handful of twentieth-century Arkansas notables with such names as [Joe T. Robinson](#), [Hattie Caraway](#), [Bill Fulbright](#), [John McClellan](#), [Wilbur Mills](#), [Dale Bumpers](#), and [David Pryor](#). Those were some of the big names, after all.

However, Arkansas has been represented by any number of figures whose careers have been less robust. At the extreme end, we have [Lewis Ernest Sawyer](#). He proved himself Arkansas's answer to President William Henry Harrison when he went to work in Congress on March 4, 1923, only to die two months later. But even that record of short service was beaten by [Thomas Willoughby Newton](#), a [Whig](#) congressman, who served less than a month, February 6, 1847, to March 3, 1847, having been elected solely to finish the term of [Archibald Yell](#).

This is not to say that Arkansas's less well-known members of Congress have been ineffective. [Robert Minor Wallace](#) (1903–1911) worked to open the Red River to greater steamboat traffic, something that arguably helped Arkansas's economy, while [William Fadjo Cravens](#) (1939–1949) managed, despite his low seniority, to direct some war-time federal spending to Arkansas in the form of ordnance plants. They may not be well remembered, but their accomplishments stand.

The [Encyclopedia of Arkansas](#) has been resolutely developing entries on

all of Arkansas's federal representatives and senators, without exception. Even the story of our more obscure members of Congress helps to illuminate the workings of government and allows us to understand the nature of citizenship all the more.

Also, as 2014 marked the 225th anniversary of the First Federal Congress, the Butler Center developed a [list of the members](#) of the House of Representatives and of the Senate from Arkansas, with links to all the available resources on each, including the EOA entry. ■

Call me Ishmael. I write this sitting in the kitchen sink. A screaming comes across the sky. Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. I am an invisible man. The sun shone, having no alternative, on the nothing new. This is the saddest story I have ever heard. It was a dark and stormy night. When Dick Gibson was a little boy he was not Dick Gibson. Mother died today. Money... in a voice that rustled. I am a sick man, I am a spiteful man. It was like so, but wasn't. In a sense, I am Jacob Hornet. They shoot the white girl first. For a long time, I went to bed early. It was love at first sight. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four Privet Drive were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. Where's Papa going with that axe?

It began as a mistake. It was the day my grandmother exploded. In the beginning, sometimes I left messages in the street. Elmer Gantry was drunk. I have never begun a novel with more misgiving. You better not never tell nobody but God. officials prick! What's it going to be then, eh? This is my favorite book in all the world, though I have never read it. Take my camel, dear. Someone was looking at me, a disturbing sensation if you're dead. The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there. It was a pleasure to burn. All this happened, more or less.

ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

APRIL 23-26, 2015

FREE! • panel discussions • children's activities • author sessions • much more!
Main Library campus and downtown Little Rock

and

FOCAL Used Book Sale

Friday • Saturday • Sunday
Main Library Basement and River Market Books & Gifts

The Arkansas Literary Festival is a program of the Central Arkansas Library System

www.ArkansasLiteraryFestival.org

Inside Our eCollections



[Forgotten: The Arkansas Korean War Project](#)

Pak Kyong Saw and an unidentified Korean boy, unidentified location, Korea, ca. 1951–52; from the collection of Korean War veteran Lavern Penn, a native of Lynn, Arkansas



[A Nation Divided: Arkansas and the Civil War](#)

United Confederate Veterans Reunion Parade, Little Rock, May 18, 1911



This feature of our *Butler eBanner* invites readers to click their way into our many and varied digital resources. Featured this time are the Butler Center's [online collections](#) of military history, which contain digitized photos, letters, and other historical material, much of it donated by veterans of the wars. Click on the link below the photo to view the corresponding digital collection.



[The Arkansas Vietnam War Project](#)

Eddie Pannell, in Vietnam



[Arkansas and the Great War](#)

Bakery at base hospital, Camp Pike, ca. 1918