Sam Dickinson Papers Now Available

The Samuel Dorris Dickinson Papers, now available for research, contain correspondence, draft writings, and newspaper clippings. The content of the material primarily pertains to archaeology, history, and folklore in Arkansas and the Mississippi River Valley from 1928 to 2002. The collection also contains correspondence and plans for renovations to the Arkansas Gazette building in the 1940s and 1950s as well as student papers from Dickinson’s brief time as a college instructor.

Samuel Dorris Dickinson was an archaeologist, historian, journalist, linguist, and college instructor. He was one of the early academically trained archaeologists to work and teach in Arkansas. He was a participant in the development of the field of archaeology in the United States at a time when few who worked as archaeologists had college degrees. He was an editor at the Arkansas Gazette, Arkansas Democrat, and Shreveport Journal for nearly thirty years. Dickinson published widely on his archaeological and historical research in a number of regional professional journals, and he also wrote fiction based on Arkansas folklore.

Dickinson was born on February 26, 1912, in Prescott, Arkansas, the only child of Samuel P. Dickinson and Bessie Sue Litton Dickinson. He was a fifth-generation resident of Prescott. He attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville for two years and graduated from.

Harrison-Jones Papers Now Open

The Harrison-Jones Family Papers, although they are a small collection, provide insights into a surprising variety of topics. Based on the personal papers of Eula Ruth Jones Harrison, it documents both the Jones family of Clark County, Arkansas, and the Harrison family of Howard County. Of special interest is the material documenting the military service of Lewis T. Harrison Jr. during and after World War II, his service in the Korean War, and his loss in action. The collection also has material from Eula Harrison’s business and professional life, including her time as a telephone operator.

Eula Ruth Jones was born on March 22, 1922, in Okolona, Arkansas, to James Oscar Jones and Hannah Byrd Feimster Jones. Following Eula Jones’s father’s death in 1949, Eula’s mother lived with her daughter, first in Arkadelphia and later in Little Rock. Some documents and correspondence in the collection are related to the family of Eula Jones’s mother.

Lewis Thomas (L. T.) Harrison Jr. was born on September 24, 1922, in Nashville, Arkansas, to Lewis Harrison Sr. and Matilda Smith Harrison. In December 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Pacific Theater until 1945. In September 1945, he enrolled at Henderson State Teachers College, where he served in the school’s ROTC program. During this time, he also earned his pilot’s license. The log book he kept as a student pilot is included in the collection.

Eula Ruth Jones and L. T. Harrison were married on August 9, 1947, in Arkadelphia. They
the University of Arizona in 1933 with a bachelor’s degree in archaeology. The collection features correspondence from this period.

The bulk of Dickinson’s papers covers the time period after he gave up his brief career as an archaeologist to become a journalist, working as an associate editor and feature writer at the Arkansas Gazette from 1944 to 1947, and then as associate editor at the Arkansas Democrat from 1947 to 1960. In addition to draft articles and published articles from his time at the Gazette, the collection contains information on modifications to the Arkansas Gazette building, and the Gazette’s venture into radio and television with KLRA.

After writing editorials for the Shreveport Journal during the 1960s, he retired from the paper in 1973 to travel and write. Many newspaper clippings from his writing career are featured in the collection. After retirement, Dickinson worked on translating the travel diaries of Spanish and French explorers in the southern United States. Most of the writings and notes in the collection are draft translations of the travel diaries and letters of Spanish and French explorers to the Mississippi River Valley. Dickinson’s papers also contain drafts of fictional stories based on folklore in Arkansas.

Cont. from Harrison-Jones Papers, p. 1

L. T. Harrison Jr. was wounded at Kumchon in August 1950, but he returned to his unit. On November 8, 1950, an observation aircraft he was flying was hit and exploded. Although he was initially listed as missing, a later telegram to the family confirmed his death. This collection includes letters of condolence from military and political officials, as well as records and documents relating to his military service and to his death.

Beginning as an operator in 1941, Eula Harrison worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for forty-two years, retiring as an office administrator at the Little Rock office. The bulk of the photographs in this collection date from her time as a leader in the local, state, and regional Telephone Pioneers, a service organization made up of telephone company employees. An interesting example are the images of 1972 convention-goers trying out the new technology of the Picturephone (page 1).

Throughout her life, she was active in professional and civic organizations. The collection contains documents, photographs, and publications from her service with the Pilot Club, including especially her election to leadership positions in the regional organization.

Eula Ruth Harrison died in Little Rock on July 31, 2011. She is buried along with her husband and daughter at Rose Hill Cemetery in Arkadelphia.

Thanks to these sponsors of the Butler Center’s monthly Arkansas Sounds Concert Series

The Samuel Dorris Dickinson Papers contain a wide array of materials related to the life of Sam Dickinson, as well as a breadth of research on the initial exploration of the Mississippi River Valley and folklore in Arkansas. This collection, MSS.10.47, is available in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building, and the finding aid is available online.

For more information about Sam Dickinson, see the entry on him in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture by Kathleen H. Cande of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, from which some of the biographical information for this article was taken.
A Word from the Center
David Stricklin, Director of the Butler Center

As I write, we are closing in on the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Butler Center. The official date is October 29, 1997. I was teaching U.S. history at Lyon College in Batesville then and became aware of the Butler Center through students who came to Little Rock to do research and through fans of the Center I met when I joined the board of the Arkansas Humanities Council. It was obvious that the Butler Center had some powerful things going on and that its parent organization, the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS), was a force to be reckoned with. CALS opened the current Main Library in what people now call the River Market District of Little Rock in September 1997, and we have been celebrating with CALS through a series of events in September and October. I never got to meet Mr. Butler, but I hope he would be proud of what we have done in his name. I am also mindful that the Butler Center is just one of many things that bear the names of Richard and Gertie Butler, whose generosity and vision are very much alive today.

By the time you read this, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) will have passed not only 5,000 entries but also 7,000 pieces of media. These are the photographs, maps, and other items that enhance the meaning of EOA entries. You can see some of us in a photo on page 6, though you can’t see other items that enhance the meaning of these entries. A list on page 9 shows entries for which we are seeking media. We’re proud of the EOA staff’s work.

We were proud to be part of the observance of the sixtieth anniversary of the Little Rock Central High School desegregation with the LRCH Memory Project (page 4) and a program we did with the Clinton School of Public Service, featuring the children of the Little Rock Nine (see page 7). It was fascinating to hear these young people talk about the growth of their awareness that their parents had made history. We were happy to play a role in the observance and are pleased to have connections with various Little Rock Nine members.

We’re proud of our Butler Center Books authors, including our colleague Ali Welky and Chewing the Fat with Rex and Paul podcast co-star Rex Nelson (pages 6 and 7), whose works were honored at the Arkansas Library Association conference this fall. Our five “Arkansas Gems” books (page 5) also make us proud, as does the work of our Research Services staff members, who keep making great documents and photos available (page 1) and who have created yet another fantastic web resource (page 10). We were proud to share the stage with Congressman French Hill and AETN staff at the screening we co-hosted with the Clinton School of a preview of the Ken Burns/Lynn Novick film series on the Vietnam War (page 7) and proud to share our galleries with the opening of the 2017 ACANSA Arts Festival (page 6).

That’s a lot of pride, and there’s a bunch of it I didn’t even mention. But I bring it up in part to recall Mr. Butler. I hope he would have been proud of what we’re doing, and I hope you will check out some of the great web resources that are linked to these pages and come see us in person at one of our many events, in one of our galleries, or at our research room. Anniversary thanks to all.

Zooming in on Local History: The EOA and the Next 5,000 Entries
By Guy Lancaster, editor of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

The 2008 Historical Report of the Secretary of State contains, as an appendix, an alphabetical roster of Arkansas legislators, complete with their terms in office and notes of special service (such as speaker of the house). The list spans pages 636 to 727 with just under sixty names per page, and I recently went through every name on that list, adding to our database of potential encyclopedia entries the name of any legislator who served ten years or more or was the leader of his/her chamber.

A colleague of mine likes to call this kind of labor “working in the salt mine,” and this isn’t the first time I’ve engaged in a bit of tedium. A few years back, once we had entries on all the incorporated municipalities in Arkansas, I went through a detailed atlas of the state and added every single community on the map (some 2,000 of them) to our database of potential entries. I’ve likewise gone through lists of oldest extant businesses, historical properties, minor Civil War skirmishes, and various halls of fame in search of potential entry subjects. It is, admittedly, not the most interesting activity, but the potential rewards are immense.

You may have seen news that the EOA recently posted its 5,000th entry, and while we were all excited, the challenge now comes to start planning for the next 5,000. With every step we take forward (and backward into the past), we reveal more and more that’s also worth covering. As we aim for more local history, we share stories that are being told nowhere else. Perhaps some people doubted that we would ever find 5,000 different things to say about Arkansas, but this has been just the beginning.
The Little Rock Central High Memory Project students, overseen by the Butler Center’s Education Coordinator George West, have shared their research of eyewitness accounts documenting the desegregation crisis of 1957 by performing a live tweet re-enactment for NPR’s Youth Radio, as well as the initial audio walking tour and current mobile app projects.

The live tweet was featured on the Twitter Moments page as one of the top ten most liked and re-tweeted Twitter feeds of Monday, September 25—sixty years to the day after the Little Rock Nine successfully entered Central High School for a day of school; the nine African-American students went to their classes that day guarded by soldiers. By September 28, the feed had been liked and re-tweeted by a total of 7,287 users.

Youth Radio is maintaining a permanent webpage to encourage continuing conversation throughout the 60th-year commemoration. The Twitter feed can be joined at #LR9Live and followed @youthradio. It can also be viewed at Twitter Moments. This has been an opportunity for students to think like historians and learn new ways to give voice to important stories in the history of their community and our state and nation.

The LRCH Memory Project’s activities also include the Audio Walking Tour “Words That Matter”—Voices of Civil Rights: The 1st Day at Central High (September 4th, 1957), which follows the footsteps and narrates eyewitness accounts of the Little Rock Nine’s ill-fated first attempt to attend classes during the historic desegregation crisis. The tour was researched, scripted, and recorded by students in the Memory Project. The tour is available here.

For more information, email George West or call (501) 320-5713.

O
pening on January 12, 2018, Education in Exile: Student Experience at Rohwer Relocation Center is the third in the Butler Center’s series of four exhibitions exploring the Japanese American experience in World War II Arkansas. Partially curated by students throughout the state, Education in Exile offers a unique perspective into the school systems at Rohwer and Jerome, the two Japanese American incarceration centers in Arkansas. Student-selected works of art from the Butler Center’s Rosalie Santine Gould-Mabel Jamison Vogel collection illustrate what life was like for students living behind the barbed wire at Rohwer and Jerome.

Education in Exile will be on view in the Butler Center’s Concordia Hall Gallery in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building from January 12 to July 7, 2018. For more information, email Kim Sanders, the Butler Center’s Confinement Sites Interpreter, or call her at (501) 320-5734.

From the Gould-Vogel collection, artist Terry Yokoi, 1942–45.
Five Books Chosen as 2017 Arkansas Gems

Butler Center Books, our publishing division, had five of its books included in the 2017 Arkansas Gems program, which is directed by the Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library. Each year, sixteen of the best Arkansas-related books published in the preceding year are selected to be featured on Arkansas Gems posters and bookmarks. These are distributed by the Arkansas State Library at the annual National Book Festival in Washington DC and also made available to public libraries and schools in Arkansas. The following five titles were selected from the Butler Center this year:

- Faithful to Our Tasks: Arkansas's Women and the Great War by Elizabeth Griffin Hill
- Southern Fried: Going Whole Hog in a State of Wonder by Rex Nelson
- Competing Memories: The Legacy of Arkansas’s Civil War by Mark Christ, editor
- Joseph Carter Corbin: Educator Extraordinaire and Founder of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff by Gladys Turner Finney
- Man of Vision: Arkansas Education and the Legacy of Arch Ford by Cindy Burnett Beckman

More information on the Arkansas Gems program can be found [here](#).
... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight


For CALS Spirit Day in October, the Butler Center staff wore nametags and/or dressed as their favorite historical Arkansan. Jasmine Jobe (far right), editorial assistant for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, portrayed Ray Yarnell of Yarnell Ice Cream fame.

In August, Arkansas Sounds welcomed Dazz & Brie and the Emotionalz to the CALS Ron Robinson Theater.

Robin Hanson was the featured speaker for the 2017 Genealogy Workshop held in July at the CALS Ron Robinson Theater.

Craig Thomas painting a mural outside the Arkansas Studies Institute building as part of the ACANSA Arts Festival in September.

Danielle Butler of Research Services showing her rain preparedness during a disaster preparedness training in September.

The western swing/hot jazz trio Hot Club of Cowtown performed a show for Arkansas Sounds in September.

Page 6 The Butler eBanner
For the second annual Betsey Wright Lecture, Donald A. Richie, historian emeritus of the U.S. Senate gave the talk: “Hattie Caraway’s Long Shadow: Women in the U.S. Senate.”

For CALS Spirit Day, Butler Center Confinement Sites Interpreter Kim Sanders dressed as William Woodruff, founder of the Arkansas Gazette, the state’s first newspaper.

Members of the Little Rock Nine and their families at an event held in the CALS Ron Robinson Theater on September 24 as part of the 60th anniversary commemoration of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School.

For August Legacies & Lunch, Michael Hibblen discussed the Rock Island Railroad.

Rex Nelson, co-host of the CALS podcast Chewing the Fat with Rex and Paul and author of Southern Fried: Going Whole Hog in a State of Wonder (Butler Center Books, 2016), holding his Arkansiana Award from the Arkansas Library Association.

October’s Legacies & Lunch featured a panel discussion about public media in Arkansas, in recognition of the 60th anniversary of KASU in Jonesboro and the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Arkansas Sounds brought a film and concert event from Rwake and Neurosis in September. Pictured here is a still from Rwake’s 2012 concert film A Stone, A Leaf, An Unfound Door.

A screening of selections from the new documentary series The Vietnam War and a discussion with the Butler Center’s Brian Robertson and AETN public television staff took place in September.
This new, updated version includes all of Arkansas’s official state symbols and explains how they came to be.

Profiles of women from Arkansas who have gained national prominence.

Available from 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 or www.uapress.com. View a complete list of Butler Center Books here.

An inclusive history of Arkansas’s post-war years and war’s effect on all Arkansans.

The story of how Arkansans pulled together to help the United States gain a decisive victory in World War I.

The roles of Arkansas women expanded greatly during World War I and their efforts were vital to the war effort.

From gospel and bluegrass, to blues and classical, this is the definitive work on music with Arkansas roots.

Butler Center Books Make Great Gifts!

The Butler eBanner
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.):
- William Henry Abington
- Benjamin Frank Adair
- Alicia (Lawrence County)
- Arkadelphia Confederate Monument
- Arkansas River Blues Society
- Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus
- David Love Armstrong
- Charles John Black
- William Perkins Black
- Blackfish Lake Ferry Site
- Dwight Hale Blackwood (1886–1953)
- Booker T. Washington High School (Jonesboro)
- Fay Boozman
- Boswell (Clark County)
- John Boyle
- Samuel Isaac Bratton
- Burtssel (Clark County)
- Caney Valley (Pike County)
- Joe Barry Carroll (1958–)
- Charles “Bullet” Dean Hyten House
- Arkansas Pioneers Association
- Monetary Donations:
  - Booker T. Washington High School (Jonesboro)
  - Arkansas River Blues Society
  - Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus

Entries Needing Authors:
- Arkansas WAND
- Cotton in My Sack [Book]
- Cummins Prison Strike of 1974
- Easterseals Arkansas
- Blaze Foley (a.k.a. Michael David Fuller)
- Frank W. Gibb
- Collins Hemingway
- Liberating Paris [Book]
- Little Rock New Party
- Razorback Records
- Silver Moon Club
- Treemonish [Opera]
- Upper White River Locks and Dams

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

Butler Center Donors

Monetary Donations:
- Arkansas Pioneers Association, in memory of Daniel Jostin
- Charles and Chris Field, in honor of Nate Coulter
- Willa C. Harkey, for the Tom Dillard Endowment in support of the EOA
- Bob Razer, in memory of Walter Nunn for the Tom Dillard Endowment in support of the EOA
- David Stricklin & Sally Browder, in honor of Richard Butler for the Tom Dillard Endowment in support of the EOA

Materials Donations:
- Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Kate Askew
- Susan Borné
- Alysanne Crymes
- Joel Dietz
- Daniel Hopwood
- Jay Miracle-Huie
- Mount Holly Cemetery Association
- Capri Pack
- David Stricklin
- Donald Wold
- Bill Worthen

Cynthia Scott (1951–)
- Shaw (Saline County)
- Martha Shoffner
- Christian Steiner
- Mary Stallcup
- Erasus Burton Strong
- Walter Roy Sturgis (1901–1976)
- Jerol B. Swaim
- William Talbott
- Marion Taylor
- Telephone Exchange Building
- Blanche Thebom (1915–2010)
- Sue Bailey Thurman (1903–1996)
- Vaden (Clark County)
- Van Buren Confederate Monument
- Violet Cemetery
- Waterfalls
- Doyle Webb
- Casey Bill Weldon (1901–1972)
- Ira James Kohath Wells (1898–1997)
- Billy Roy Wilson (1939–)
- John Shirley Wood (1888–1966)
- Susan Webber Wright (1948–)

If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net

The mission of the Central Arkansas Library System Foundation is to provide support for educational and cultural programming for the patrons, communities, and neighborhoods being served by the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) and its branches, including the Butler Center. Please go to cals.org to make a donation.
Inside Our eCollections

This feature of our Butler eBanner invites readers to click their way into our many and varied digital resources.

_Agriculture in Arkansas_, a new website created as one of the many digital projects undertaken by the Research Services Division of the Butler Center, is now available online. The site provides a historical overview of agriculture in the state; links to finding aids for agriculture-related collections that can be accessed in the Research Room at the ASI building; and a digital gallery containing a sampling of photographs, books, pamphlets, documents, and audio and video oral history recordings.

The historical overview is taken from entries on Arkansas agriculture in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, and it provides a helpful overview of this rich history of a practice that has provided both sustenance and income to Arkansas residents throughout its history.

The digital gallery currently contains 196 individual photos, books, pamphlets, and other documents, including fifteen full issues of the _Arkansas Farmer_ newspaper; a sixty-eight-page report on the development of the Dyess colony in Mississippi County, Arkansas; and over 130 photographs, with more to be added.

More than thirty digitized oral histories, both audio and video, are also available to view or listen to online or in the Research Room. Many of these interviews focus on rural life during the Great Depression and provide a personal context for the culture of farming in Arkansas.

For a deeper look at our agriculture-related collections, there are also links to twenty-five finding aids from the Butler Center’s manuscript collections that contain material relevant to agricultural history in Arkansas. Family, business, and organizational collections containing photographs and documents related to various agricultural pursuits are listed and are available for researchers in the Research Room at the ASI building. Click [here](#) to view the website.