History Takes Flight with Picard Collection

Those watching C-130s circle over the Little Rock area on training flights from the Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) at Jacksonville may wonder about these bulky aircraft, unaware of the important role they have played in both war and peace. For retired U.S. Air Force major Richard L. (Dick) Picard, now a Little Rock resident, sightings of the planes surely bring back sharp memories of his service as a C-130 navigator—and especially of years spent in Southeast Asia supporting U.S. troops in Vietnam.

Picard shared some of those memories in an oral history interview as part of the Butler Center’s Vietnam War Project. He spoke of the pride he and his fellow airmen felt in providing critical support to the troops on the ground. Their missions, which they referred to as “trash hauling,” took them in large circles throughout the region picking up and delivering supplies, ammunition, and often people. These circles included Taiwan, the Philippines, Okinawa, and Thailand, as well as several bases in Vietnam.

Dick Picard was born in South Carolina on December 12, 1939, to George and Evelyn Picard. He graduated from high school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and attended Northrop Institute of Technology in Inglewood, California. After graduation in 1962, with a degree in aircraft maintenance engineering, Picard was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Picard served for approximately two and a half years between 1967 and 1970 as a navigator on C-130 Hercules aircraft flying support missions to many locations in Vietnam. His first assignment was with the 50th Tactical...
Cont. from Picard Collection, p. 1

Cal Airlift Squadron based at Ching Chuan Kang Air Base in Taiwan. He was later assigned to the 21st Tactical Airlift Squadron, which flew out of Naha Air Base, Okinawa. Picard’s family was able to join him at Okinawa.

In addition to the oral history interview, Picard donated a number of documents and more than 300 photographs depicting his time in Southeast Asia. This includes photographs from the family’s time in Okinawa, as well as dramatic scenes from locations in Vietnam and Thailand.

Picard remained in the air force, serving the last seven years of his career in Arkansas at LRAFB as a C-130 instructor navigator and standardization/evaluation navigator in the training squadron. He retired in 1984 with the rank of major.

After retirement, Picard pursued a teaching certificate in physics at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and in 1986 began teaching physics at Parkview High School. He is now retired and lives in Little Rock.

Picard’s interview and a selection of photographs are available on the Vietnam War Project website. The finding aid for the collection is online here. The full collection, including the photographs and supporting documents, is available as the Richard L. (Dick) Picard Vietnam War Collection in the Research Room of the CALS Bobby L. Roberts Library of Arkansas History & Art.

Cont. from Education, p. 1

ography, visual art, spoken-word poetry, solutions-based journalism, youth media arts programs, and community organizing. The husband-and-wife team combines this professional expertise with a keen interest in Arkansas’s social justice history and a focus on training and mentoring young people to become a vocal part of their community.

The couple was introduced to the Butler Center in the spring of 2017 by Sarah Stricklin, then youth programmer and media specialist at the CALS Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center. The Abdul-Beys suggested that students in the Memory Project team combine efforts with summer high school interns in the youth radio journalism internship they were directing at the City of Little Rock’s new low-power FM community radio station, KWCP LPFM 98.9. Kwami had designed and installed KWCP’s recording studio and transmitting station, and Clarice was training the student interns to deepen their on-air personalities with solutions-based journalism approaches to their background research and live interviews on community topics.

Under their tutelage, the KWCP interns and Memory Project students recorded programs to be used with the approaching “Central High at 60” events, including two interviews with white classmates of the Little Rock Nine in the 1957–58 school year. One was with Robin Woods Loucks, who shared algebra class with Terrence Roberts. A second was with Penny Fox, who shared biology class and lab with Gloria Ray Karlmark. (Listen to interviews by scrolling down to “Oral History” here.) The KWCP interns also interviewed the Memory Project students about their newly produced audio walking tour relating the events of the failed first day attempt by the Nine to enter Central.

In another volunteer effort, the Abdul-Beys served as a liaison between the Butler Center and NPR’s Youth Radio to produce a special student commentary for NPR’s observance of the 60th anniversary of the Central High Crisis. To create the piece, Kwami recorded Memory Project junior Zia Tollette reflecting on her oral history interview with civil rights activist Phyllis Brown, who is the sister of Nine member Minnijean Brown Trickey. Clarice provided the photograph package of Zia and the Memory Project team for the web upload of the radio story. The resulting piece aired nationally on NPR’s Here and Now afternoon program on September 25, 2017.

It was the second national media posting that day. At 6 a.m., Youth Radio had launched its Twitter feed reenactment using eyewitness accounts the Memory Project students had compiled—and sent with Kwami’s technical savvy in large file transfers—from oral histories and memoirs from September 25, 1957. The feed ranked in the top 5 for interaction that day.

The Abdul-Beys have continued their volunteer efforts, helping more groups of students record and use oral history interviews in a new podcast series that will be part of the Elizabeth Eckford Commemorative Bench Project. Earlier this month, Clarice organized an interview at the Little Rock School District Superintendent’s office between Eckford and the student and adult volunteers who researched, designed, and built the historical replica of the city bus bench where she sought refuge across the street from the school over six decades ago.

Cont. on page 3
A Word from the Center
David Stricklin, Director of the Butler Center

The signs are up. The re-dedication has happened. It’s really, really official. We are in the Bobby L. Roberts Library of Arkansas History & Art in Library Square, what we used to call the Main Library Campus of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS). You can see here a painting by Little Rock artist John Kushmaul, showing the northwest corner of the Roberts Library and the new sign showing the new name of the building at our main entrance at 401 President Clinton Avenue. John is widely known as a gifted interpreter of the Little Rock streetscape, and we were pleased he agreed to do two new paintings of the building, one for the CALS permanent art collection and one as a gift for Bobby.

On April 5, CALS hosted President Bill Clinton for a two-pronged event in the CALS Ron Robinson Theater next door to us at Library Square. The president gave the inaugural Maurice Smith Distinguished Lecture and helped mark the naming of the Roberts Library. As former Clinton gubernatorial staff members, Bobby and CALS Executive Director Nate Coulter both told stories about serving the people of Arkansas and having often hair-raising experiences while traveling with then-Governor Clinton, who was famous for calmly working crossword puzzles and sipping soft drinks in small airplanes slicing through ice storms and such. It was great to have the president for the occasion, and great to have the remarkable organizational work of Sheila Bronfman, who did a million things to pull the event together. Sheila is especially famous for organizing the intrepid groups of Clinton political campaigners known as the Arkansas Travelers. I often think that if she had been around in 1943 and ‘44, Dwight Eisenhower would have outsourced the organization of D-Day to Sheila. It would have come in several days earlier, probably sometime in May, and probably under budget. And the weather would have been nicer. A lot of other people helped with our event, including especially CALS’s Cathy Sanders, Rosslyn Elliott, Madelyn Ganos, Glenn Whaley, Joey Cole, Grayson Martin, and Mary Osteen. Thanks, everyone.

Thanks also to the many people who gave money on the occasion. You can see their names on page 9 of this eBanner, and you can join the growing ranks of CALS supporters and pick out a great CALS thing to support by going to https://cals.org/ and clicking on Donate. As you can see on page 4, CALS gets funding from property taxes. The Library part of the millage paid by the average property owner is pretty small, and we do a lot to multiply the benefits of that funding for the people in our service area in Pulaski and Perry counties. It’s a great investment in the future strength and vitality of Central Arkansas, and we hope people who are able will help us stay strong and vital by giving a little extra. Use that link above and help CALS do great things!

And come see us in the Bobby L. Roberts Library of Arkansas History & Art in Library Square!
Employees from the Pulaski County Treasurer’s Office toured Library Square, including the Research Room in the Roberts Library, to find out how CALS uses part of the tax revenue collected by the County.

In March, Page Harrington gave the talk “Women’s Suffrage and Race Relations: A Divided Legacy” as the Betsey Wright Distinguished Lecture.

In April, the Galleries at Library Square presented the public premiere of the documentary State of the Art, co-presented with AETN/PBS and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Pictured here are discussion panelists (left to right) artist and gallery owner Guy W. Bell, curator Lauren Haynes, AETN executive director Courtney Pledger, filmmaker Craig Renaud, and film critic Philip Martin.

Legacies & Lunch in April featured the book launch of Raised to Serve (Butler Center Books, 2019), with Vic Snyder (left) interviewing the book’s author, Dr. Robert Griffin.

In April, Arkansas Sounds welcomed Dara Tucker (vocals and compositions) and her band: Greg Bryant on bass, Marcus Finnie on drums, and Matt Endahl on keyboard.

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February’s Sounds in the Stacks show featured the ASO Quapaw Quartet at the CALS Williams Library.

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Brian Robertson (right) of the Butler Center’s Research Services Division accepted the Walter L. Brown Award for Best Edited Document from the Arkansas Historical Association (presented by AHA president Mark Christ) for his article “Duane Swift, Conscientious Objector in WWI” in the Independence County Chronicle.
Benji de la Piedra talked about Herbert Denton Jr. and Sr. for February’s Legacies & Lunch. For March’s Legacies & Lunch, Michael Pierce explained the 1956 adoption of the city manager system in Little Rock and its effects.

Arkansas Sounds in February hosted a panel discussion about the legacy of the radio station KOKY. Arkansas Sounds presented Big Piph’s one-man show *The Glow* in March.

On March 24, Susan Southard talked about her book *Nagasaki: Life after Nuclear War* at the Darragh Center; the event was sponsored by the Butler Center and the Little Rock Central High National Historic Site.

Arkansas Sounds co-presented an April concert with Lyon College featuring the Lyon College Jazz Band (left) and their guests, the Maumelle High School Jazz Band (center) and the Bryant High School Jazz Band (right), with vocalist Leslie Oden.

Kate Askew conducted an oral history interview with her father, Phil Anderson, in the recording room in the Roberts Library.

Jason Lee Hale sang and played guitar at the CALS Thompson Library for March’s Sounds in the Stacks show.

For March’s Legacies & Lunch, Michael Pierce explained the 1956 adoption of the city manager system in Little Rock and its effects. Benji de la Piedra talked about Herbert Denton Jr. and Sr. for February’s Legacies & Lunch.

The *Part to Whole* exhibition opened in the Galleries at Library Square at March’s Second Friday Art Night (2FAN).
Arkansas Backstories: Quirks, Characters, and Curiosities of the Natural State (Volume Two), by former state tourism director Joe David Rice

The Education of Ernie Dumas: Chronicles of the Arkansas Political Mind, by journalist Ernest Dumas

The Art of Living: Japanese American Incarceration Artwork in the Collection of the CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, edited by Kimberly McDaniel Sanders

Raised to Serve, Selected to Lead: Lessons for New Military and Civilian Leaders, by retired U.S. Army surgeon and health insurance executive Robert F. Griffin

Butler Center Books is funded solely through sales of its books and donations from the public. Donations may be made through www.cals.org by clicking on the CALS Foundation tab. Butler Center Books has more than sixty titles in print and available to order. For a complete list, click here. Books are available in bookstores, including the Bookstore at Library Square in Little Rock at (501) 918-3093; in the Galleries at Library Square at (501) 320-5790; from major online retailers; and from our distributor at (800) 621-2736. Your purchases as well as your donations will help ensure that we continue to bring you the best in Arkansas history. For purchasing information, click here.

2019 Genealogy Workshop Coming Up!

This year’s speaker, Angela Y. Walton-Raji, is known nationally for her genealogical and historical research, particularly her work on African American genealogy, the Civil War west of the Mississippi, Oklahoma Native Americans, benevolent societies, and nineteenth-century women. Her book Black Indian Genealogy Research is the only one of its kind focusing on the unique record set reflecting Freedmen found within the Dawes Records. Her most recent book, Freedmen of the Frontier, highlights freed families from Indian Territory who were part of the so-called Five Civilized Tribes. She is a founding member of AfriGeneas.com, host of the weekly genealogy podcast “The African Roots,” and a founding member of the Midwest African American Genealogy Institute.

This free workshop takes place on Saturday, July 20, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the CALS Ron Robinson Theater, Library Square (doors open at 9 a.m.); no registration is required.

Schedule:
10:15 a.m.—Nurses, Matrons, Laundresses & Cooks
11:15 a.m.—Finding Indian Ancestors in African American Families
12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.—Lunch on your own.
1:15 p.m.—Using Search Engines & Databases for

African American Genealogy
2:15 p.m.—Mapping the Freedmen’s Bureau

Angela Y. Walton-Raji
Arkansas in the Movies

By Guy Lancaster, editor of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas

The recent Academy Awards celebration put me in mind of the many movies filmed in—or made about—Arkansas, if only because while the state has sent forth a number of talented people who have been nominated for—and won—Oscars, the state itself has taken home very few. Billy Bob Thornton received one for *Sling Blade*, filmed and set in central Arkansas, and John Wayne received an Oscar for his role in *True Grit*, a film that at least started out in Fort Smith, even if it went west from there.

But some Arkansas films at least had the honor of being nominated. Although coy about its Arkansas connections (being based loosely upon the 1992 presidential campaign of Bill Clinton), the film *Primary Colors* received two Academy Award nominations. Clinton also looms large in *The War Room*, a documentary about his presidential campaign that was nominated for Best Documentary. *Brubaker*, based upon a controversial book about abuse in the Arkansas prison system, received one nomination. Unlike both of these films, the movie *A Soldier’s Story* was actually filmed entirely in Arkansas and received three Academy Award nominations. There had been some early discussion among critics that the 2018 film *Boy Erased*, based upon a memoir by Garrard Conley (who grew up in northern Arkansas), might be recognized by the Academy, but it didn’t make the cut.

Granted, there are plenty of Arkansas films that were never made with a thought of competing at the Oscars, such as the Roger Corman movies *Bloody Mama*, *Boxcar Bertha*, and *Fighting Mad*, though the last two helped to launch the careers of their directors, Martin Scorsese and Jonathan Demme, respectively, who went on to take that statuette home. And we can also forgive the Academy for overlooking *The Day It Came to Earth*, *Pass the Ammo*, or *The White River Kid*. But the real snub was *A Face in the Crowd*. If ever the Academy decides to institute a “Best Picture We Overlooked at the Time” category, this one takes it home, hands down.
Cont. from Events, p. 1

**Legacies & Lunch**
(noon to 1:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, May 1
Main Library Darragh Center
Tim Nutt: “A Thing of Beauty and Convenience**: The History and Evolution of the Central Arkansas Library System—Since the opening of the single Carnegie Library in 1910, library service in Little Rock has evolved to include multiple branches in two counties. The story of the Central Arkansas Library System is filled with unique personalities, grassroots efforts, and visionary ideas. Historian, librarian, and archivist Tim Nutt will highlight the history of CALS and some of the important events and individuals that have contributed to the system’s success.

Wednesday, June 5
Main Library Darragh Center
Tommy Jameson: “Restoring the Taylor House”—Tommy Jameson, lead architect for the restoration of the Taylor House (among many other restoration works in Arkansas), will discuss the past, present, and future of the dogtrot-style home built in 1846 at Hollywood Plantation in Drew County, one of the few remaining examples of Arkansas vernacular architecture built before the Civil War. The house was donated in 2012 to the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) for historical research and interpretation, and UAM began restoring the house and adjacent grounds to how they appeared in the earliest known photographs.

Wednesday, July 3
Main Library, Darragh Center
Jay Jennings: “The Nonfiction Writings of Novelist Charles Portis”—Charles Portis is well known for his novels, such as the classic True Grit, but his journalism, travel writing, and other short works—many of them touching on his Arkansas roots—remained largely unknown until the collection Escape Velocity was published by Butler Center Books in 2013. Author/editor Jay Jennings, editor of Escape Velocity, will discuss the process of bringing together this miscellany and how it relates to Portis’s career.

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**Arkansas Sounds**

**Dances open at 7:00 p.m. for 8:00 shows**

Friday, May 10, 8:00 p.m.
CALS Ron Robinson Theater, Library Square
The Cate Brothers Band—$25
Arkansas music legends the Cate Brothers Band—featuring the signature country soul-rock of the singer-songwriter duo of twin brothers Earl and Ernie Cate—reunite for a special performance of the biggest hits and most beloved songs from their storied five-decade career.

Saturday, May 11, 8:00 p.m.
CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Jim Lauderdale—$20
Two-time Grammy-winning American icon Jim Lauderdale has recorded more than thirty albums on his own as well as with Elvis Costello, the North Mississippi Allstars, Buddy Miller, and longtime Grateful Dead collaborator Robert Hunter. The renowned Nashville singer-songwriter has also written number-one songs for George Strait, the Dixie Chicks, and others. His new album is From Another World.

Wednesday, May 22, 8:00 p.m.
CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Kari Faux—$10 in advance, $15 day of show.
Arkansas’s biggest hip-hop artist returns to her hometown of Little Rock for a special performance, making a stop on her Help Wanted tour to celebrate the release of her new EP Cry 4 Help. THIS EVENT IS ADULTS ONLY: AGES 18 & UP.

Friday, June 28, 8:00 p.m.
CALS Ron Robinson Theater
Rodney Block Collective—$15
The Rodney Block Collective continues our Spike Lee celebration with a special concert featuring music from Lee’s films.

**FINDING FAMILY FACTS**

A free genealogy course taught on the second Monday of every month by Rhonda Stewart, the Butler Center’s local history and genealogy specialist.

May 13, June 10, July 8—3:30–5:00 p.m.
RAMONA SMITH (SOUL/R&B VOCALS)—FREE

Saffron (five-piece jazz-pop band)—FREE

Correction:
It has come to our attention that we misidentified the woman on the right side of page 2 in the Winter 2019 Butler eBanner as Catherine Robertson Barnett (the identity of the woman in the photo is not known); the articles on page 2 and the photo caption on the left side of page 2 should have also used the correct spelling of her first name: Catharine. We regret the errors.

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The Butler Center has a new blog at butlercenterarkansas.wordpress.com. We invite you to follow this updated blog for in-depth, lively coverage of significant events at the Butler Center. If you sign up to follow (click on “Follow blog via email” and enter your email address), you will receive an email notification when there is a new post.
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.
Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):

- Anthonyville (Crittenden County)
- Arkansas Entomological Society
- Avilla (Saline County)
- Bachman's Warbler
- Bearden Waterworks
- Blackfish Lake Ferry Site
- Anita Blackmon
- Richard Nott Antrim
- Blue Wing No. 2 [Steamboat]
- Boswell School
- Walter Lee Brown
- Dallas Bump
- Calico Rock Museum and Visitor Center
- Shawn Camp
- Carrollton Road
- CCC Company 749 Powder Magazine
- Gilbert Georgie Collier
- Clarence Byrle Craft
- Cross Hollow (Camp)
- Dardanelle Confederate Monument
- Dover to Clarksville Road
- Wayne Eugene DuMond
- Eagle [Steamboat]
- Edward Walter Eberle
- Edmondson (Crittenden County)
- Everton (Boone County)
- Fort Lincoln
- Bennie Fuller
- Garner (White County)
- Frank Wooster Gibb
- Herbert Richard (H. R.) Gibson
- Gillham (Sevier County)
- Grand Army of the Republic Monument (Gentry)
- Gum Springs (Clark County)
- Haynes (Lee County)
- Higden (Cleburne County)
- Higginson (White County)
- Highfill (Benton County)
- Hollywood (Clark County)
- Hot Springs Confederate Monument
- House at 712 North Mill Street
- John David Howe
- Indian Bay (Monroe County)
- Helen Booker Ivey
- John Hornor Jacobs
- Billy Farrel (Bill) Johnson
- Philip Edwin Kaplan
- Kaskaskia [Steamboat]
- Reed Gresham Landis
- Ketty Lester
- Little Rock Fortifications (Civil War)
- Herbert Littleton
- Marianna Waterworks
- John Lawrence Markle
- Irven Granger McDaniel
- John Eldon Miller
- Monette Water Tower
- Monticello Confederate Monument
- Justin Cole Moore
- New Edinburg (Cleveland County)
- Esther DeWitt Nixon
- Marion Monden Noble
- Oak Grove (Carroll County)
- Old Union School
- Pocahontas Post Office (Historic)
- Ray Edison Porter
- Oley Eldon Rooker
- Amy Sanders
- Jerome Kalman Sherman
- Snapp (Woodruff County)
- James Lamar Stone
- Tuckerman Water Tower
- USS Jack Williams
- Floyd Galloway “Buddy” Villines III
- Harold L. “Brother Hal” Webber
- Henry Wheeler
- Lloyd Garrison Wheeler
- Rufus King Young

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

Entries Needing Authors:

- American Airlines Flight 1420
- Arkansas Business Publishing Group
- Arkansas Living Treasure Award
- Wes Bentley
- Big Dam Bridge
- Bill Moran School of Bladesmithing
- Broadway Bridge
- V. L. Cox
- “Fables of Faubus” [Song]
- From Slavery to Wealth [Book]
- Gideon Page Series [Book Series]
- Hot Springs Railroad (a.k.a. Diamond Jo)
- Mohja Kahf
- Kalaparusha Maurice McIntyre
- Petit Jean Park Airport
- Razorback Records
- Shotgun Stories [Movie]
- War Eagle, Arkansas [Movie]
- Townsend Wolfe
- Longua Xu

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

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The Galleries at Library Square—Spring a Surprise on Someone!

Galleries open
Mon. - Sat.
9 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for news and updates.

Galleries at Library Square
100 Rock St.
Little Rock • (501) 320-5790
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 is a recently digitized 92-page pamphlet published in December 1907 as a “review of the Manufacturing, Mechanical, Mercantile, Mineral, Climatic, Municipal, Educational, and Denominational interests of the City of Little Rock, the City of Argenta, and of Pulaski County, Arkansas,” including photographs and engravings of various public and private buildings, and other points of interest. This item (BC_MSS_0615_07_0609) is part of the Butler Center’s Quapaw Quarter Association records (BC.MSS.06.15). Take a look, and see if you think Pulaski County has changed much in a century…