

Happy Holidays!

THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHARD C. BUTLER, SR. CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 8, Number 2

Fall/Winter 2005

A major new oral history initiative now underway at the Butler Center

Early efforts to focus on complementing CALS and Butler Center's Clinton gubernatorial and presidential campaign collections

The Butler Center, with first-year funding provided by the Darragh Foundation, is establishing a major new oral history initiative to help us in our mission to collect, interpret, and share information about the history of Arkansas.

An oral history coordinator, Jajuan Johnson, has been hired to spearhead the initiative, conducting background research and interviews with selected persons whose shared experiences can add immeasurably to our understanding and appreciation of Arkansas history.

Jajuan will be concentrating his initial interviewing efforts on complementing materials already in CALS and Butler Center collections, especially the papers currently being processed by CALS' Clinton Gubernatorial Papers Project, as well as book and archival collections of the Butler Center that deal with Clinton's gubernatorial and presidential service. Jajuan will also focus his attention on seeking out and interviewing other persons who have a direct connection to topics and themes related to the Butler Center's collections, particu-

larly those that deal with Arkansas politics and Central Arkansas non-profit organizations.

As part of this initiative, the Butler Center is also in the process of developing an innovative digital audio archive which when complete will offer researchers the opportunity to search digital archives of oral history interviews for topics or threads within the recordings that are specifically relevant to their research interests.

We are also partnering with the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center to make their oral history collection on Arkansas African-American history available through this archive. We will be bringing more information to you on this unique partnership in the next issue of the Banner, and are hopeful that we can eventually build partnerships with other Arkansas history institutions to provide digital access to their own oral history collections. Jajuan will be working with BC department head David Stricklin and special collections librarian Chris Stewart in developing this digital archive. While funding for this initiative is secured



Welcome to the Butler Center's new Oral History Coordinator!

The Butler Center is pleased to welcome Jajuan Johnson as the newest member of our staff. Jajuan is a graduate of Arkansas State University with a Bachelor

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for the first year, we intend for this effort to become a permanent and very valuable part of the Butler Center's work, and we are actively seeking ways to secure long-term funding for this venture.

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A Word From the Center

David Stricklin
Head of the Butler Center

One of the paradoxes of historical work is the constant use of the latest technology, sometimes including futuristic devices and systems, in service of understanding the past. At the Butler Center, we don't see the arrival anytime soon of the alleged "paperless" society some have predicted. We have plenty of paper—documents, books, maps, all kinds of things—and get more every day! But we're deeply involved in using new tools and methods to preserve, interpret, and share information about the history of Arkansas.

Now, get ready for an old-fogy moment here, coming from someone who did his first oral history interviews using reel-to-reel recorders back in the 1970s: We've joined the digital age. Yes, the guy who once griped about the unreliability of those newfangled cassettes has finally gone over to the wonders of digital recording of oral history interviews. I wasn't exactly dragged kicking and screaming, but it helped quite a bit to have a young new colleague, Jajuan Johnson, to inspire this move. Jajuan, about whom you can read on page 1, is our new Oral History Coordinator. He fits wonderfully into plans we've been working on this year to use some great new software to create digital access to our audio materials. I'll have more to say about that in the next *Butler Banner*. Jajuan's experiences and abilities will also help us realize our hopes of getting into some radio work. We will be doing some things in these areas that I am pretty sure one can call path breaking, with Jajuan's help and that of our other fine colleagues in the Butler Center.

All of this connects in many ways with our free online lesson plans on Arkansas history and our wonderful online project, the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*,

on track to launch in May 2006. I am continually impressed with the high level of professionalism, commitment to quality, and general sense of excitement among the staff and many (dozens of) volunteers who are working on the *Encyclopedia*. It will be a truly remarkable resource, available on the Internet at no cost to students, teachers, researchers of all kinds, and anybody just wanting to learn something about Arkansas. The *Encyclopedia* will have a great level of interactivity. Each entry will have something attached to it, either a document of some sort or an audio or video clip, made possible, of course, by the wonders of digital technology!

These media attachments, by the way, come to us by a number of means, including the Butler Center's own collections and those of private collectors and friends. But we have been the special beneficiaries of the generosity of our great colleagues at the Arkansas History Commission and its Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, various museums and agencies of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, and archives at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Ouachita Baptist University. These folks have shared their knowledge of Arkansas history and images and materials so we can share them with an audience of literally worldwide dimensions. Thanks!

Thanks also to you, for your support of the Butler Center and its various initiatives and programs, including the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. We hope you have had a good year—with your help, we certainly have—and we hope you have a great 2006!



(Continued from page 1)

of Science in Broadcast Journalism. He recently earned a Masters degree from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jajuan is a native of Osceola, Arkansas. Much of his career has been in the area of print and broadcast journalism. He has worked as an associate news producer for stations such as KJRH-TV in Tulsa and TV Guide Channel. He was introduced to the field of oral history at Arkansas State University's Delta Studies Center, and enjoyed traveling through Northeast Arkansas collecting the stories of those who made an impact on the Delta socially and economically. This opportunity allowed him to incorporate his media skills with his love for history by producing a film documentary about the Judd-Hill Plantation, capturing the stories of the plantation's descendants. Jajuan remarks, "I am excited about the convergence of history and multi-media, particularly, with the oral history program at the Butler Center."

Jajuan is also member of the Oral History Association and serves on its committee on New Media and Digital Technology. He also will be one of the key figures in our work with Frances Ross and others at UALR as we prepare to help host the 2006 meeting of the Oral History Association in Little Rock next October. We're very excited to have Jajuan with us!

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Cary Cox, Editor



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The Genealogy Department is Reeling In Microfilm!

By Linda McDowell, Genealogy Coordinator

The Butler Center has increased our African American collection by completing our set of Freedmen's Bureau Records (officially known as the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869) which now include the field office records and records of the superintendent of education. Also, when the National Archives announced they had completed some microfilming of Civil War service records for the United States Colored Troops (USCT), film was ordered for troops organized at Helena, Pine Bluff and Ft. Smith. Additional purchases have included service records for the 4th U.S. Colored Cavalry organized in New Orleans; the 5th and 6th Regiment Cavalries organized in Kentucky, the 3rd and 4th Regiment Heavy Artilleries organized in Memphis, the 1st Heavy Colored Artillery organized at Knoxville, and the 8th U.S. Colored Infantry organized at Camp William Penn, Pennsylvania. Scattered issues of African American newspapers were purchased from the Library of Congress including the *Arkansas Freeman* (Little Rock), *The Reporter* (Helena), *The American Guide* (Little Rock), and *Pine Bluff Weekly Herald* (Pine Bluff). While mainly purchased for their Arkansas content, these reels include issues of out-of-states newspapers that often carried news of Arkansans.

Earlier this year, when the National Archives announced new price increases from \$35 to \$65 on their microfilm sales per roll, we rushed to put in a sizeable order before the new prices were to take effect on October 1, 2005. A recent shipment of microfilm from NARA included 27 rolls of the following titles: *Letters and Surveying Contracts Received by the General Land Office from the Surveyor General of Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas; Letters Received by the Department of Justice From the State of Arkansas, 1871-1884; Selected Records of the National Military Cemetery at Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1867-1914; Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Arkansas, 1867-1874; Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881; Field Basic Documentation of the War Relocation Authority, 1942-1946; Correspondence of the Eastern Division Pertaining to Cherokee Removal, April-December 1838; and Select Letters and Related Documents from the Files of the Department of Justice Concerning Judge Isaac C. Parker, 1875-1896.* We have now added 234 new reels of microfilm within the last six months.

An additional 1300 reels, consisting mainly of military records, are expected to arrive in the near future. The new microfilm will add to a great collection of film already available such as the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrants, Civil War Service Records and various other related Civil War records for Arkansas, Mexican War Records for Arkansas (in which the Butler Center partnered with NARA by paying part of the filming costs), and World War I Draft Registrations.

We are also looking to begin a list of professional researchers to offer to patrons requesting more comprehensive research or look-ups. If you have extensive experience and knowledge in genealogical or historical research in Arkansas and would like to have your name added to the researchers list, please contact the Genealogy Department at (501) 918-3056.

Visit the Butler Center Online
www.butlercenter.org

2006 Butler Center Legacies and Lunch Schedule

January 11

An Arkansas Autobiography
by Alan Leveritt

February 1

Arkansas' WPA Slave Narratives
by George Lankford

March 1

Arkansas' Ghost Boats: Interpreting Early River Travel Through Archeology
by Skip Stewart-Abernathy

April 5

Telling the Story of Arkansas Through Film
by Larry Foley

May 3

A Preview of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas Website Launch
by EOA staff

June 7

Harry Miller's Vision of Arkansas
by Jo Blatti

July 5

Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley
by Wendy Richter

August 2

Arkansas Stories in Song
by Charley Sandage

September 6

Keelboating in Territorial Arkansas: Exploring the Past Through Living History
by the Early Arkansas Re-Enactors Assn.

October 4

Arkansas Education & School Consolidation
by Trey Berry

November 1

To Be Announced

December 6

The Bowie Knife in Arkansas History
by Bill Worthen

All Legacies & Lunch programs are held in the Darragh Center/Main Library

~ 12 Noon — 1:00 p.m. ~

Bring your lunch;
water & soft drinks provided.

For more information call Cary Cox at (501) 918-3049 or e-mail caryc@cals.lib.ar.us

A new home for the Butler Center!

Preliminary work on the Geyer & Adams and Budget Office Buildings has begun! East-Harding



has begun the initial work of removing all leftover debris and tearing out all interior features that will not be retained. In addition to the two existing buildings, the project will also include an addition built upon the parking lot seen here which will house gallery space and archival storage. When completed in mid-2007 the complex will house the Butler Center, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, the Clinton Gubernatorial Papers Project, UALR Special Collections, and the Arkansas Humanities Council. It will be the largest single repository dedicated to archival and manuscript materials on Arkansas history in the state.

Books and Materials

Gifts

Jeanne McDaniel
Little Rock

Amanda Saar
Little Rock

Katherine Stanick
Little Rock

Chris Skuban
Little Rock

Gertie Butler
Little Rock

Jim McDaniel
Dallas, TX

Howard Stebbins III
Little Rock

Minola Jolley
North Little Rock

Cheryl Johnson
Conway

Bobby Roberts
Little Rock

Howard Norton
Vilonia

Bobby Roberts
Little Rock

**Dr. & Mrs.
Roger B. Bost**
Little Rock

Cary Cox
Little Rock

Bob Razer
Little Rock

T. Dennis Reece
Tampa, FL

Linda Bly
Little Rock

David Baker
Little Rock

David Stricklin
Little Rock and Batesville

**Sally Browder
and David Stricklin**
Little Rock and Batesville,
in honor of *Tim Nutt*

Bill Boggess
Naples, FL

Jill Curran
Little Rock

Joyce Weiner
Ft. Pierce, FL

Virginia Wallis
Little Rock

Mike Polston
Cabot

James Huff
Little Rock

Janet Bailey Bryant
Stuttgart

**Rice Art
Conservation
Fund**

Memorials

Fred and Mimi Selz
by **Tom and
Mary Dillard**
Fayetteville

Virginia Henker
Little Rock

Jim Pledger
Little Rock

Terry Charles Peet
Binghamton, NY

by G. Grimsley and
Carol Graham, Jr.
Rogers

Annette Herrington
Little Rock

**Elizabeth Ryburn
Ferguson**
Pine Bluff

Isaac Webb, Jr.
Mabelvale

**King Solomon
Baptist Church**
North Little Rock

Bridget Hart
Wynne

Chad Mitchell
Rock Hill, SC

L.C. Brown
Hot Springs

**Arkansas
Genealogical Society**
Little Rock

Mrs. Frank Jernigan
Little Rock

**Thanks for helping
preserve Arkansas' history!**

ARKANSAS JEOPARDY!

not in jeopardy; it shall return!

Circumstances forced postponement;
re-scheduled for June, 2006.

Arkansas Jeopardy!, the Butler Center's signature fundraiser and night of frivolous fun with Arkansas history trivia, was originally scheduled to be held on October 29, but had to be postponed due to late-breaking schedule conflicts of several of the event participants. It has been tentatively re-scheduled for June 10. If you've never attended Arkansas Jeopardy!, you owe it to yourself to check it out; and if you have experienced it before you need to do so again because this year it will be bigger and better than ever! We'll still have the same great computerized, big-screen, Jeopardy game board, and Skip Rutherford will be back to serve as emcee, but the prizes and silent auction items will be the best ever, plus this year we're going to introduce a celebrity game, featuring three household-name Arkansas personalities. Watch the next Butler Banner for more details.

Butler Center to develop exhibit on desegregation of LR Public Library

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Little Rock Central High School desegregation crisis in 2007, the Butler Center is making plans to produce a traveling exhibit highlighting the Little Rock Public Library's peaceful and voluntary desegregation, its service as a resource for people involved in the struggles in and around 1957, and as a substitute for school libraries that were unavailable to students because of the crisis itself or because of poor funding for libraries from the school system.

Genealogy Assistant Rhonda Stewart will coordinate our efforts in the research and production of the exhibit. We'll be developing a research plan and collect materials over the next six months and plan to have the exhibit completed by a year from now. It will be exhibited at the Main Library and other libraries within the CALS service area during the first several months of 2007, and be available to come back downtown by the time of the general city-wide observance. We plan to have several features of the exhibit that refer viewers both to the Butler Center's collections and to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. If you have photos, newspaper clippings, or recollections of the library's desegregation that you would like to share with us for the exhibit, please contact us at (501) 918-3056.

Whether for a friend or for yourself, you can't go wrong with one of these great Butler Center/Encyclopedia of Arkansas Publications!

Big Woods Bird: An Ivory-Bill Story

A children's book that tells the story of the re-discovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by Terri Roberts Luneau, illustrated by Trevor Bennett. A book project supported by the Butler Center.

Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture 2006 Calendar

Featuring historic photos and important dates in Arkansas history!

The Crossroads of Arkansas

by John P. Gill, a brief primer on Arkansas history.

All prices listed below include tax!

Payment and mailing

Big Woods Bird _____ x \$ 9.50 = _____
EOA Calendar _____ x \$10.00 = _____
Crossroads/Ark. _____ x \$ 5.00 = _____
Shipping (up to 5 items)* + \$ 3.00
Total _____

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
Phone number _____
Check _____ Credit Card _____
Name on Card _____
Card Type & # _____
Expiration Date _____

**For orders of more than five items, please call (501) 918-3025 for shipping information.*

*Please mail completed order form to:
The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
100 Rock St., Little Rock, AR 72201*

We can accept Visa, Mastercard, and American Express.

Another interesting addition to the Butler Center's photograph collections

This photo was taken by a photographer named McHaney, whose studio was located in Paragould. It was probably taken around 1900–1910.



Often, many group portraits such as this are unidentified. Fortunately, this one is. The caption on the back reads: "The Welling family in front of their home on Poplar St. in Paragould, Ark. Reading left to right: Henry Welling, Will Welling, Jeff Raily, Joe Kirchof, Ben Welling, Mr. and Mrs. Welling." Purchased off e-Bay.

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