

ARKANSIAN

Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department

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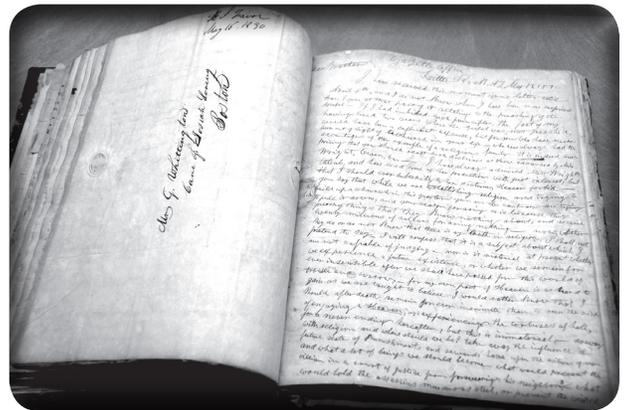
Whittington Letters Depict Life in Territorial Arkansas

By Diane F. Worrell

One of the great manuscript collections from early Arkansas has found a home at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Hiram Whittington was a mere lad when he arrived in territorial Little Rock in 1824. Despite his youth, he wrote richly descriptive letters back home to his brother Granville in Massachusetts. The Special Collections Department acquired this important collection of letters written by Hiram Whittington to his brother during the period of 1824 to 1834. “Nothing else in the surviving literature of early Arkansas is comparable to the Whittington letters,” said John L. Ferguson in 1997 during his term as Arkansas’s State Historian.

Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard is head-over-heels excited, as he had been trying to acquire the Hiram and Granville Whittington correspondence since he was head of the University of Central Arkansas archives in the 1980s. Whittington descendant Ellen Elders graciously donated the letters to Special Collections last spring. Hiram Whittington, a printer by trade, wrote the letters to Granville

Whittington, who eventually relocated from Massachusetts to Mount Ida, Arkansas. Granville, a book binder, bound the letters sometime before the Civil War, making a pivotal move toward their preservation. During the demolition of Granville’s Mount Ida home in the early 20th century, the bound letters were found in



A Whittington letter addressed on the back side; envelopes were not yet in common use. Photograph by Tim Nutt.

the attic and retained by his descendants. When Dillard, who grew up near Mount Ida, first became aware of the letters, they were in the possession of Mount Ida resident Richard “Dick” Whittington, a pharmacist and local history enthusiast.

Dick Whittington had an interesting history himself. As a medic in World War II, he helped save the life of continued on page 14

Leadership Report

From the Desk of Tom W. Dillard

The year 2009 has been a momentous one for the Special Collections Department. We are happy to share news on some of our activities through the *Arkansian*.

First, the fall semester is always a busy time for Special Collections. We have new and returning students on campus, and a surprising number of them have an interest in Arkansas and its history. Recently, I have been advising a student who is doing an in-depth analysis of the iconic painting of antebellum Arkansas, the “Arkansas Traveler.” The young woman doing this work is opening up a whole new way of interpreting the painting, and it is such a pleasure to work with her.

THE ARKANSIAN

The Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries collects, preserves, organizes and provides access to research materials documenting the state of Arkansas and its role in the regional, national, and international communities. *Arkansian* is an old name by which our early ancestors called themselves, as well as the name of an antebellum newspaper in Fayetteville. *The Arkansian* is published twice a year.

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The *Arkansian* is available online at:
<http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/news/arkansian/>

Information about the Special Collections Department is available online at:
<http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/>

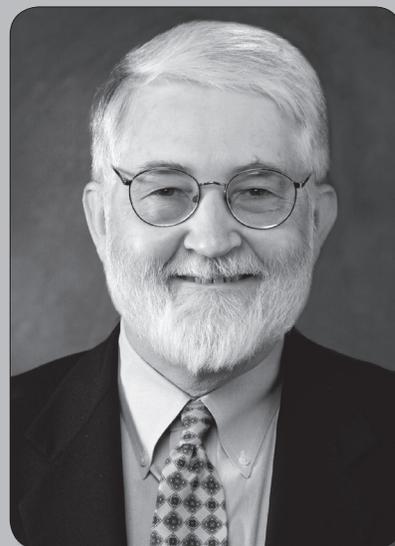
Diane F. Worrell, editor
Joy Caffrey, designer

I have also been helping a local educator who is working on a play dealing with the prominent Arkansas artists, Elsie and Louis Freund of Eureka Springs. It is always energizing to work with researchers such as these students and teachers. They often bring new perspectives and ways of interpreting historical information.

This is an exciting time because we are making progress in processing some large manuscript collections. Work is winding down on processing the largest collection in our holdings, the papers of former U.S. Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt of Harrison. We have begun work on processing the papers of former U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers. Mary Dunn, a library science student at Indiana University, served as an intern in Special Collections this past summer—doing preliminary processing of the Bumpers Papers.

Acquiring the correspondence of early Arkansas pioneers Hiram and Granville Whittington has been a source of celebration in Special Collections. Everyone active in Arkansas history circles knows about the Whittington letters, which were exchanged between Hiram, living in 1820s Little Rock and Hot Springs, and his brother back in Massachusetts—who would soon relocate to Arkansas, too. I hope you read the front page article on this major gift to the University Libraries. These letters provide extraordinary local color on territorial Arkansas.

Sharing our collections is as important to Special Collections as acquiring them. We want our materials to be used! This is the motivation behind our new digital collection “A Calm Voice in a Strident World: Senator J.W. Fulbright Speaks.” Consisting of 50 speeches and other materials spanning Fulbright’s long congressional career, this collection will enable students and other researchers to read



Tom W. Dillard

Fulbright’s annotated speeches.

I hope you enjoy the historical photographs that appear in each issue of *The Arkansian*. Photos are important historical resources, and we are always searching for good pictures to add to our holdings. Please get in touch with me if you know of photographic collections that need a home.

Included in this issue is a listing of individuals, organizations, and businesses who have contributed to the Special Collections Department over the past several months. Special Collections would not exist without the interest and support of people across the Natural State. We need and seek your encouragement and support.

Tom W. Dillard

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Chivarees, Poundings, and Mules

Topics of Conversation for the Arkansas History Discussion Group

By Diane F. Worrell



Mary Dillard, wife of Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard, jokes that many of Tom's pastimes are "nerd fun," a description that greatly delights Tom. A good source of nerd fun for Arkansas history enthusiasts is the online Arkansas History Discussion Group, sponsored by the Special Collections Department.

Participants in the discussion group range from professional historians to school teachers, librarians, undergraduate and graduate students, university professors, genealogists, journalists and local history buffs.

Many of the postings to the online list are from people seeking information for professional purposes. However, an equal number of participants monitor the discussions out of simple curiosity and a love of Arkansas history. A teacher may post a query concerning materials for teaching Arkansas history and get replies ranging from suggested readings to contact information for subject experts, scholars, archival agencies, libraries, or museums.

Two recent topics of discussion were "chivarees" and "poundings." According to the discussants, a chivaree was a visitation by neighbors to the home of newlyweds on the night of their marriage. Around bedtime, the visitors would sneak up to the house and begin shouting, beating on pots and pans, ringing cowbells, and generally making noise until the newlyweds came outside. The visitors were often served refreshments as they wished the newlyweds a happy life together. Occasionally chivarees included trickery and pranks, especially if the newlyweds failed to serve refreshments to the visitors. Several discussants remembered chivarees taking place as recently as the 1960s and the 1970s.

"Pounding" parties were sometimes given for newlyweds. Friends and

neighbors brought "pounds" of goods—such as flour and sugar—to stock their household. Pounding parties were also held for housewarmings and to help people new to a community. One discussant recalled going to a pounding party for a new minister and his family five years ago.

Last summer, while researching his "Remembering Arkansas" column for the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, Tom Dillard posted a request for information about the use of mules in Arkansas history. He received referrals and contact information for Arkansas mule farmers, the Plantation Agriculture State Museum, the Historic Washington State Park (whose mules Mattie and Jane have their own *MySpace* page), plus a number of interesting anecdotes.

Mules are known for their personalities and tempers, according to one of the discussants; like elephants, they never forget slights. An interesting story contributed by another member of the group was that in 1864, a dead mule belonging to a Memphis resident was discovered in Fort Smith. A bayonet thrust revealed that the carcass contained 60,000 percussion caps, ammunition, and other contraband which a rebel sympathizer was attempting to smuggle. Another discussant noted the irony that today human "mules" are used to smuggle drugs.

When his research was finished Dillard informed the group, "One of the remarkable realizations I've made is that mules did not play a major role in American life until the 19th century. George Washington was one of the original American breeders of

mules—even importing jacks from Spain. Mules played such an important part in the Civil War that it would be easy to assume they had been around forever, but such was not the case. Horses, and especially oxen, did the heavy lifting before mules became commonly available about the mid-nineteenth century."

Shay Hopper, educator and author of the 2008 textbook *An Arkansas History for Young People*, said, "I benefit every day just from reading and learning information from the discussion group. I teach eighth grade

Occasionally chivarees included trickery and pranks, especially if the newlyweds failed to serve refreshments to the visitors.

Arkansas history and the more I know, the better off my students will be. It is reassuring to know there are so many out there who love Arkansas as I do and think that this state's history is as valuable as that of the U.S., world, and so on."

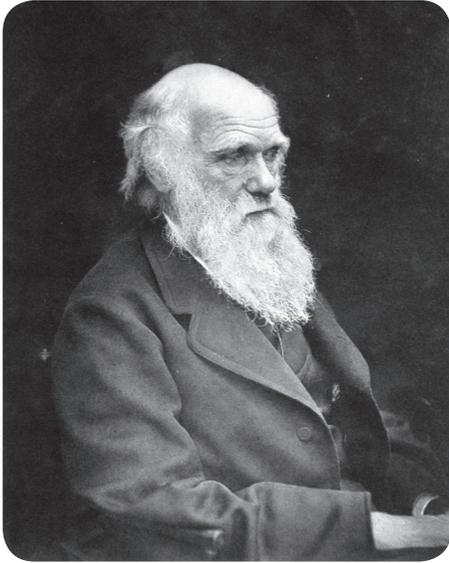
Arkansas Democrat Gazette journalist Evin Demirel occasionally asks the group about various topics for newspaper stories. Demirel recently thanked the group for their help, saying, "This is a tremendously helpful resource for journalists."

To subscribe to the discussion group, send a plain text e-mail message to listserv@listserv.uark.edu with no subject and with the following message text contained on one line: **SUBSCRIBE ARHIST-L [Your First Name] [Your Last Name]** Example: SUBSCRIBE ARHIST-L BILL SMITH. Further information may be obtained by contacting Timothy G. Nutt, timn@uark.edu.

Treasures From the Vault

Rare Darwin First Edition

By Ethel C. Simpson



Charles Darwin, ca. 1868. Image courtesy of the History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries.

November 24, 2009, is a notable anniversary in the history of science, marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. It was a groundbreaking work arguing a scientific position that came to be identified as "evolution." In the book, Darwin (1809–1882) presented evidence that all species of life have evolved over time from common ancestors, and that the survival or extinction of an organism is determined by its ability to adapt to its environment. The University Libraries own a copy of the first edition (1859) of this book. It is held in the Rare Books collection, maintained in the Special Collections Department.

The Libraries' copy of *The Origin of Species* was accessioned—the formal process of adding material to the libraries' holdings—on Dec. 27, 1952. The accession record, inscribed in the book by the cataloger, indicates it was purchased from H.G. Fiedler for \$60 with funds from the account of

the zoology department. Samuel Dellinger, zoology department head, was a vigorous defender of evolution, teaching it in his classes in defiance of a 1928 Arkansas law against it. H.G. Fiedler (1862–1945), who sold the book to the library, was a professor of German at Oxford University and a tutor to the Prince of Wales from 1912–1914. In addition to works on German literature, he wrote several textbooks of scientific German. It is exciting to think that this might have been his personal copy.

As a publishing venture, the book was immensely successful. The first edition of 1859, consisting of 1250 copies, sold out immediately. The Libraries' copy has the original green cloth binding with gilt lettering on the spine. The book was second-hand when purchased by the library in 1952, and it probably started out in the circulating collection. Despite its less than pristine condition, it has its original foldout diagram; the cover is reasonably intact; and the pages are all still tightly bound. In June 2009 a copy of this book, possibly in no better condition though more attractively preserved in a velvet box, was offered for sale for \$175,000. Especially in this anniversary year, Darwin's *Origin* is hot in both science and book collecting.

Cambridge University holds the Charles Darwin papers, including more than 14,000 letters. In April of 1859 Darwin wrote his publisher John Murray accepting Murray's offer to publish the book, adding:

But I feel bound for your sake (& my own) to say in clearest terms, that if after looking over part of M.S. you do not think it likely to have a remunerative sale, I completely & explicitly free you from your offer.

But you will see that it would be a stigma on my work for you to advertise it, & then not publish it. My volume cannot be mere light reading, & some parts must be dry & some rather abstruse; yet — as far I can judge — perhaps very falsely —, it will be interesting to all (& they are many) who care for the curious problem of the origin of all animate forms. —

A few weeks before the book's appearance, Darwin wrote again:

I have received your kind note & the copy: I am infinitely pleased & proud at the appearance of my child. — I quite agree to all you propose about price. But you are really too generous about the, to me, scandalously heavy corrections. Are you not acting unfairly towards yourself? ... I had no business to send, though quite unintentionally & unexpectedly, such badly composed M.S. to the printers.

... I am so glad that you were so good as to undertake the publication of my Book.—

P.S. Please do not forget to let me hear about 2 days before the copies are distributed.

And when they were distributed, what an event! According to *Heirs of Hippocrates*, a bibliographic reference book for medicine, "What the dropping of the first atomic bomb was to the twentieth century, the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* was to the nineteenth century." The ensuing controversy wrecked Darwin's health and destroyed his religious faith. Yet he was buried in Westminster Abbey after his 1882 death, and his ideas still remain central to accepted evolutionary theory.

Now On-Line

Selected Speeches of Senator J.W. Fulbright

By Diane F. Worrell

Researchers now have instant access to the text of 50 speeches by Senator J.W. Fulbright, available on the University of Arkansas Libraries' Web site. The speeches range from comments he made regarding his dismissal as president of the University of Arkansas in 1941, to remarks censuring Senator Joseph McCarthy's Communist witch-hunt investigations, and criticisms of U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam.

The Special Collections Department digitized the speeches, which comprise a small portion of the J. William Fulbright Papers held by the department. The digital library collection is titled "A Calm Voice in a Strident World: Senator J.W. Fulbright Speaks." The Fulbright speeches, as well as other digital collections, are available at <http://scipio.uark.edu/>. Additional information, including photographs, a biography and detailed time line of Fulbright's life, and a bibliography of materials both by and about Fulbright, provide historical context. While these speeches represent only a fraction of the J.W. Fulbright materials held by the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department, the Web site offers a link to the finding aid for the entire collection of Fulbright Papers.

A strong advocate for international cooperation, James William Fulbright (1905–1995) is one of the best-known Arkansans in the world. He represented Arkansas in the Congress of the United States for three decades following World War II. During his one term in the House of Representatives and four terms in the Senate, Fulbright was a voice of calmness in the halls of Congress,



Sen. J.W. Fulbright (left) with architect Edward Durell Stone at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Fulbright helped Stone, a native Arkansan, win the commission to design the Kennedy Center.

counseling international cooperation, the exchange of information, and support for the United Nations.

Although Fulbright attracted national attention by challenging and putting an end to Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigative subcommittee, he was best known for his leadership in challenging the wisdom of U.S. policy toward Southeast Asia and his work in dismantling support for the Vietnam war.

Today Fulbright's name is associated with the educational exchange program he created in the aftermath of World War II. In 1946 he sponsored legislation creating the Fulbright Exchange Program, intended to help

people appreciate other nations and cultures. The Fulbright program currently operates in more than 155 countries and has provided over 285,000 participants the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, and exchange ideas with people in other countries. Through a program of grants to students, scholars, educators, and professionals, it is designed to increase international mutual understanding, in order to avoid war and human rights violations.

Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard noted that, "J.W. Fulbright was not hesitant to confront those who disagreed with him." One of the speeches available on the Web site features Fulbright giving his first speech as a freshman in the House of Representatives in 1943. His remarks refuted the flamboyant and conservative Rep. Clare Boothe Luce, who gave a speech regarding U.S. air policy or "sovereignty of the skies." He said, "...I am not unconscious of the sparkling beauty and suavity of manner of the Honorable Lady from Connecticut, yet I find that I am not as susceptible to her logic and her persuasion ... as some of my colleagues appear to have been." The speech ends with a plea for world peace and avoidance of another world war.

After losing his senate seat to Dale Bumpers in 1974, Fulbright assumed the role of elder statesman. In 1981 the University of Arkansas named its College of Arts and Sciences for Fulbright. He received the Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1993. Fulbright died in 1995 at his Washington, D.C. home; he is buried in Fayetteville.

Arkansauce

Arkansas Foodways and Cookbooks

Home Demonstration Clubs in Arkansas History

By Andrea Cantrell

Among the treasures in the Special Collections Department are a large number of records documenting home demonstration clubs in Arkansas. Early women's home demonstration club activities offered opportunities for Arkansas women to learn new skills in food preservation, cooking, sewing, mattress making, and other homemaking areas, and provided them opportunities for social interaction, friendship, and development of leadership skills. The clubs grew out of the efforts of the U.S. Agricultural Extension Service to teach rural women skills in food production, preparation, and preservation.

In addition to participating in numerous local community improvement efforts, home demonstration clubs also took part in national initiatives like the Better Baby Program, the National Better Home Program in 1932, Victory Gardens, the National Clothing Drive in 1945, and in the promotion of rural electrification.

Special Collections holds 33 manuscript collections pertaining to home demonstration and extension homemakers' clubs, including records for the Mabelvale Home Demonstration Club in Pulaski County. This club is the oldest home demonstration club in the nation, with a record of continuous meetings since its organization. It became affiliated with the Agricultural Extension Service in March 1914, but it was first organized as a tomato canning club in the summer of 1912.

Preparation of club cookbooks provided a means for club members to share recipes and to gain experience in collaboration while collecting and compiling the recipes as well as publishing and selling the cookbooks.



Index Arkansas Grows

By Joan Watkins



The Arkansas Cookbook Collection in Special Collections includes 1,096 cookbooks, of which 36 were published by home demonstration clubs. The two oldest of these were published in 1944 by the Carroll County Home Demonstration Club and by the Hempstead County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Above: Improved food preservation methods resulted in many well-stocked pantries. Photograph from “A History of the Agricultural Extension Service in Arkansas” by Mena Hogan (Thesis, M.S., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1942), page 44.

Top Left: A well equipped kitchen for home canning in northeast Arkansas. Photograph from the Dorris Vick Collection, MC 961, Box 2, folder 6.

Middle Left: Arkansas Canning Club Agents and Equipment, 1915, photograph by Burch Grabill, Special Collections Image Collection.

Bottom Left: County Agricultural Committee meeting in Jefferson County, ca. 1937, photograph from “A History of the Agricultural Extension Service in Arkansas” by Mena Hogan, (Thesis, M.S., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1942), page 159.

The *Index Arkansas* project welcomed two additional assistants with the support of a two-year \$58,500 grant from the Happy Hollow Foundation of Fayetteville. The *Index* now includes Arkansas-related biographical and historical books, Arkansas periodicals, county historical journals, as well as state-wide and regional newspapers from the 1930s through 1986. The team is processing and indexing back issues of publications through 2008, adding 22 years of coverage. *Index Arkansas* is available at no cost at <http://arkindex.uark.edu/>. New staff members include

Krista Casada, indexing assistant, brings important experience as a translator in the University Libraries’ Serials Department since 2005, where her foreign language skills in Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, and French are central to her work. That assignment also includes experience with the software that supports *Index Arkansas*. In 2008, Casada earned a doctorate at the University of Arkansas in comparative literature and cultural studies, gaining a valuable understanding about how researchers approach their work.

Casada holds a master’s degree of fine arts in literary translation, a master’s in Spanish, and a bachelor’s in Spanish, with high honors and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Her community volunteer activities include providing translating and interpreting services at the Baldwin Church of Christ Tract Ministry and Jail Ministry.

Jim Wilhelm, indexing assistant, also brings special skills to the *Index* because of his experience with researchers studying Arkansas history. In addition to his work on the *Index*, since 2006 Wilhelm has been a reading room assistant in the Special Collections Department, where he assists researchers by helping them narrow and refine research questions and by retrieving materials from the collections. He also assists with the maintenance and creation of vertical files related to subjects of historical significance to Arkansas.

Wilhelm is a native of Oklahoma and received his bachelor’s degree in history from Oklahoma State University in 2006. His master’s degree in history, awarded in July 2009, is from the University of Arkansas. He is a contributor to the on-line *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* and the author of an article, “The Forgotten Razorbacks,” in the spring 2007 issue of *Flashback*, the journal of the Washington County Historical Society. The article title refers to the 1944 basketball team’s path to the national championship that was thwarted by a car accident, resulting in the death of one starting player and serious injuries to two other players.

Arkansas Images

Children at Play

Selected and Annotated by Todd E. Lewis



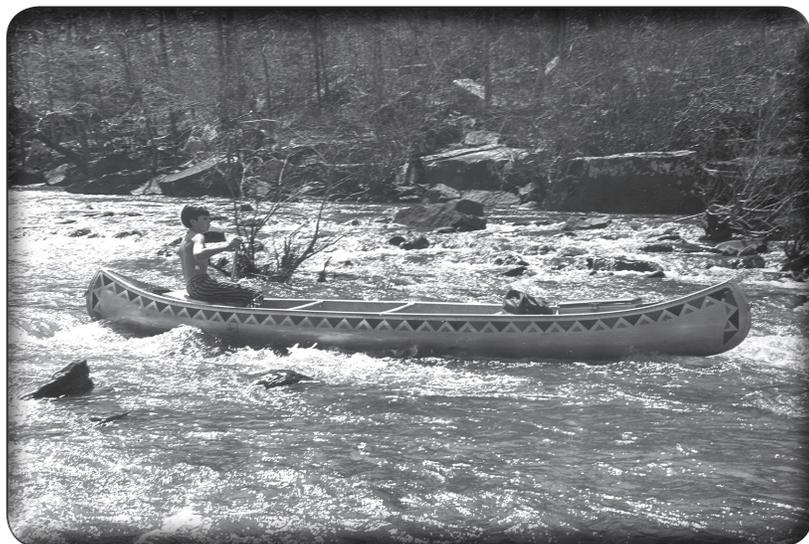
Above Left: East Side School pet show, 1954, Hot Springs, Arkansas, from MC 534, the Mary D. Hudgins Collection.

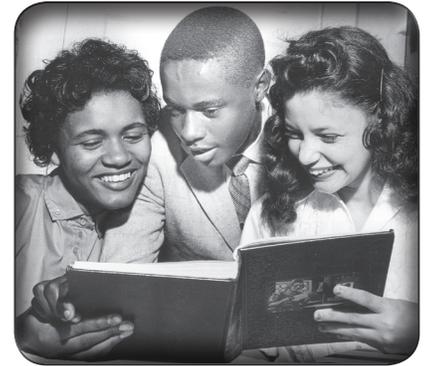
Below Left: Blanche Maud Campbell Hight boxing with her brother, ca. 1914, Fayetteville, Arkansas, from MC 1427, the William Simeon Campbell Photograph Albums and Papers, 1896–1960.



Above Right: Michael (“Davy Crockett”) Grice and friend, 1957, photograph by Geleve Grice, from the Geleve Grice Photograph Collection.

Below Right: Scott Patterson canoeing on the Mulberry River in Franklin County, Arkansas, April 1971, from MC 1091, the Neil Compton Papers.





Top left: St. Gabriels Junior Band, at the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Heart of Mary, an African American Catholic school in Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1955, from MC 534, the Mary D. Hudgins Collection.

Top right: Jefferson Thomas of the Little Rock Nine, reading with friends, ca. 1958, from MC 582, the Daisy Bates Papers.

Middle left: School girls playing croquet at Southland College, a Quaker school for African Americans, near Helena in Phillips County, ca. 1920, from MC 577, the Southland College Papers.

Middle right: Children at Happy Hollow, Hot Springs, Arkansas, ca. 1900, from MC 534, the Mary D. Hudgins Collection.

Bottom left: Madalene (with frog) and Dorothy Jones, ca. 1923–1924, Stuttgart, Arkansas, from MC 1380, the Core Family Papers.

Researcher Profile

Interview with Rebecca Brueckmann



Rebecca Brueckmann doing research in Special Collections. Photograph by Valerie Robertson, 2009

Berlin, Germany resident **Rebecca Brueckmann** spent four weeks in the Special Collections Department last summer, doing research for her master's thesis.

Please tell our readers a bit about yourself.

I am 25 years old and a master's student of contemporary history at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany.

Can you describe your research?

I am researching historical sources for my thesis on the 1957 desegregation crisis of Little Rock Central High School. I concentrate on "massive resistance," i.e., segregationists' resistance to the civil rights movement, with a particular interest in gender-specific aspects and historical discourse analysis.

My main focus is the segregationist group, the Mothers' League of Central High School. After reading the research of Phoebe Godfrey and Graeme Cope, I wanted to learn more about the Mothers' League and their significance in the escalation of the 1957 desegregation crisis. I am trying to analyze the role of women in the segregationist movement and the ties of the Mothers' League to the Capital Citizens' Council of Little Rock. Of particular interest is the women's rhetoric, politics, and forms of protest, in light of the traditional roles of most women in the 1950s. The role of the Mothers' League is sometimes overlooked in the history of the 1957 desegregation crisis.

I have been looking at a number of collections. The most important were the Sara A. Murphy Papers, the Little Rock Central High Integration Crisis Records of the FBI, the Arkansas Council on Human Relations Papers, the

Virgil T. Blossom Papers, the Orval Eugene Faubus Papers, the Citizens Councils of America Collection, the Elizabeth Huckaby Papers, as well as the *Southern School News*. Upon completion of my work in Fayetteville, I went to the Arkansas History Commission/State Archives in Little Rock to look at the Justice Jim Johnson Collection and more newspaper articles from the *Arkansas Gazette* and the *Arkansas Democrat*.

What were your impressions of Fayetteville and the University?

My visit to the Special Collections was a wonderful experience. The staff was kind, helpful, professional and skilled. Employees helped me a lot with my research and made me feel at home. This made everything so much easier. I finished earlier than expected, which gave me an opportunity to explore Fayetteville.

My research visit to the University and Fayetteville was not only a very educational and enriching experience for my studies, it was also a great vacation in lovely, natural surroundings. I love Berlin. It is an amazing city, but it can be a bit "too much" at times. I enjoyed the summer weather in Fayetteville; it was the best I have experienced in many years.

Gift Enables Purchase of Civil War Era Letters

Dr. William H. Cobb, retired history professor at East Carolina University in Greenville, N. C., recently made a generous gift to Special Collections in honor of Dr. Walter L. Brown, University of Arkansas emeritus professor of history. Cobb studied with Brown while he was a graduate student in the 1960s.

Cobb wanted his gift to be used for the purchase of materials documenting the history of Arkansas. The gift was used to purchase Civil War era letters written from Helena by an officer in the occupying Federal army.

Brown, who started teaching in 1954, retired from the University in 1990. He was editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* from 1958 until his retirement. In May of this year, the University dedicated the foyer in Old Main in honor of Brown.

Tom W. Dillard noted, "Individual gifts such as this are absolutely critical to the functioning of Special Collections."

Anyone wishing to honor a living person or memorialize the deceased may do so by contributing to the department's Arkansas materials acquisition account. Interested persons should contact Tom W. Dillard, Head of Special Collections at tdillar@uark.edu or at 479-575-5576.

Staff Profiles



Vera Ekechukwu

Fulbright Papers Research Assistant **Vera Ekechukwu** is the go-to person in Special Collections for language questions. She speaks Russian, Czech, English, and Spanish plus a bit of German, Polish, and Ukrainian. Ekechukwu was born in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia but later moved with her family to Prague.

Although Ekechukwu hoped to become a physician, her educational and occupational opportunities were limited by the

fact that her family did not belong to the Communist Party. Instead she studied medical lab technology at Charles University in Prague, where she met future husband Theo, a Nigerian student studying sociology. They married in Prague, where their daughter was born. Then they moved to Nigeria, where they had a son and lived for 12 years. Due to economic and safety concerns, the family moved to Fayetteville in 1987, feeling that it was a better place to raise their children.

After several years working as the departmental secretary for Special Collections, Ekechukwu was promoted to Manuscripts Processor in 1993 and to Fulbright Papers Research Assistant in 2004. In her current position she provides research assistance and processes collections related to Senator J. William Fulbright.

Ekechukwu earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish and is currently working toward a master's degree in Spanish. In addition to the study of languages, she enjoys gardening, interior decorating, reading, traveling, visiting museums and art galleries, and spending time with her children and two grandchildren. Her husband Theo is a professor at Northwest Arkansas Community College. Her daughter Martina is an internal medicine physician in Ohio, while her son Chilaka is a marketing manager in Texas.



Janet Parsch

Janet Parsch, assistant to the head of the Special Collections Department, develops grant and other funding applications, deals with budgetary and personnel matters, and provides operational support for the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, a unit of the Special Collections Department.

Parsch has worked in a number of positions in the University of Arkansas Libraries—in the Reference

Department, in the Serials Department, as Director for Technical Services and Systems, and as Director for Organizational Development. She helped develop the InfoLinks integrated online catalog in 1992 and was a founding co-chair of the ARKLink Consortium of Arkansas's Academic Libraries. Parsch believes librarians are "intellectual nurturers."

In addition to earning a B.A. degree in German and art history and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Wisconsin, Parsch earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Arkansas. She and husband Luke, a professor in the Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences, spent more than two years in the U.S. Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa. Parsch worked with local women on nutrition, gardening, child care, maternal health, hygiene, and handwork projects.

Parsch has served as a board member for the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County; she is currently on the board of the Ozark Society Foundation. Parsch sings alto and is the treasurer of the University of Arkansas Master Chorale. When she is not spending a weekend day hiking and bushwhacking with the Ozark Society in north Arkansas, she is gardening or traveling. Recent trips include China, Indochina, and a 60-mile hiking trip through national parks in Chile and Argentina. One of Parsch's philosophies of life is expressed by a poster in her office, "Global Reach. Local touch. Connect @ The Library."

In Appreciation



This newsletter and other operational funding for the Special Collections Department are provided through the generosity of the late Elizabeth Morris Walker and Robert Morris.

Did You Know?

In 2008-2009, 60 manuscript collections, totaling 433 linear feet, were added to the Special Collections Department's holdings, bringing the number of collections to 1,824. The Department's research services unit served 3,099 researchers, who used 8,233 items from our collections.

News from the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History Innovative Web Site Launched

By Kris Katrosh

The screenshot shows the website for The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. The header includes the center's name and navigation links: COLLECT, PRESERVE, and CONNECT. Below the header, there are tabs for Home, Projects, and Interviews A - Z, along with a search bar. The main content area is for an interview with Al Witte, recorded on April 4, 2008, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It features a video player with a list of clips (1-9 and 10-18) and a list of topics such as 'First Two Days in Fayetteville', 'Leflar in the 1950s', and 'Greatest Athlete'. A 'Listen' button is also present. Below the video player is a map of Arkansas with a star indicating the interviewee's birthplace. A text box provides biographical information about Albert Matthew Francis Witte, including his birth date (Oct. 25, 1923), education (Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Chicago, and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin), and his role as president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) from 1987 to 1990. The footer contains contact information for the University of Arkansas Libraries, including the address (365 N. McIlroy Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701-4002), phone (479-575-4104), toll-free (866-818-8115), and fax (479-575-6656).

The Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History made a quantum leap on Wednesday June 24, with the launching of its new Web site.

The previous Web site contained written transcripts for about 150 oral history projects. The new site added a number of features rarely seen in an oral history Web site: streaming and downloadable audio, still images, and streaming video clips of high definition video interviews. Additionally, the site now contains over 275 oral interviews, including the recently completed *Arkansas Democrat* project.

While many researchers use written transcripts, younger researchers are especially drawn to images and video. In-depth video interviews, typically around 6 hours in length, are high-definition video, with audio recordings, that cover the entire life and career of the interviewee.

Once drawn into a particular interview or topic by the video or the photographs, researchers may read the transcript or listen to the complete audio recording, or do both at the same time. The transcript is available as an Adobe

PDF file, while the audio recording is posted in the MP3 file format, both of which can be downloaded from the site at no charge.

Video interviews are selected from the “Featured Interviews” menu on the Center’s Web site. Each video interview has a home page containing a slide show of photographs from the interviewee’s family life and career, a short biography, and a map of Arkansas marked with the interviewee’s birthplace or home town.

The home page for the interviewee contains links to streaming video “highlight” clips, the complete audio recording (available as streaming or downloadable files), and the complete written transcript, which can be viewed onscreen or downloaded.

In addition to the research content, the Web site offers visitors the chance to learn more about the Center’s programs, including a form to nominate interviewees, a list of partnerships, and a link to make a donation. The Web site is available at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/pryorcenter/>.

The Pryor Center Welcomes Two Staff Members To Its Ranks



Joy Endicott

Production Coordinator **Joy Endicott** grew up near the Missouri/Kansas state line, attending school in Frontenac, Kansas. She attended Pittsburg State University for two years before transferring to the University of Arkansas, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

During college Endicott held a work-study position in Media Services at the University of Arkansas School of Continuing Education, where she learned the basics of multi-media production. She focused on audio recording and editing audio for post production, as well as designing and installing public address systems for live events. She freelanced as an audio engineer for several years, working on live sporting event broadcasts of basketball, football, track, baseball, volleyball, and dirt track car races.

During her employment at Vista Productions, Endicott worked up from audio/video technician to production manager. She supervised and managed crews of up to 150 persons, for the installation, operation, and tear-down of various events across the U.S. for audiences of up to 9,000.

In her spare time Endicott enjoys canoeing, hiking, swimming, playing Ultimate Frisbee and riding roller coasters with her long-time beau Wayne Ramsey, an elementary school teacher.



Susan Kendrick-Perry

Susan Kendrick-Perry, oral history coordinator for the Pryor Center, grew up in North Little Rock but now calls northwest Arkansas home. She worked several years for accounting firms in Little Rock and Fayetteville before starting classes at the University of Arkansas. Kendrick-Perry earned her bachelor's degree with a major in classical studies and a minor in ancient history. While a student at the University, she also attended a summer session at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. Kendrick-Perry, her husband Bruce Perry, and their six cats moved to Athens, Ga., where she did her graduate studies in Latin and secondary education at the University of Georgia.

Kendrick-Perry taught high school special education English and reading resource classes at Dickinson, Texas and worked as a technical writer, editor, and Web site administrator at Pearson Education in Mesa, Arizona. She and her husband moved back to northwest Arkansas in 2006. "I feel I've come full circle. I'm back on the University campus, which I love. My involvement with the Pryor Center and Special Collections allows me to be a student once again—this time of the not-so-ancient history, culture, and language of the people of Arkansas," she said. In her leisure time she enjoys gardening, camping, antiquing, and watching deer and raccoons from her back patio.

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Ellen Elders presents the Whittington Letters to Department Head Tom W. Dillard. Photograph by Valerie Robertson.

Whittington Letters

continued from front page

Imperial Japanese Army General and Prime Minister Hideki Tojo, who attempted suicide during his capture by the U.S. Army after Japan's 1945 surrender. Tojo was ultimately tried by the International Military Tribunal and executed in 1948 for war crimes.

Hiram Whittington was an eager adventurer from an old Massachusetts Puritan family. After stints in Nantucket and New York, he was hired to print the *Arkansas Gazette* by its founder William E. Woodruff. In his letter of April 21, 1827 during his first days in Arkansas, Whittington described Little Rock as a sparsely settled lawless frontier territory with no roads; five uninhibited frontier women who were “ugly as sin and mean as the devil;” and an abundance of murder, vice, and immorality among the men. Little Rock, he wrote his brother, “was inhabited by the dregs of Kentucky, Georgia, and Louisiana,” and “a more drunken, good for nothing set of fellows never got together.”

In later letters, Whittington described Little Rock as a city with churches and a more civilized populace. He promoted Arkansas to his brother in a letter of June 25, 1831, saying that the state “is the best place in the world for farmers. If the Yankees only knew this country; that they can purchase the best land for a dollar and a quarter per acre; that corn grows without hoeing, all you have to do is plant it and plow it a little; you can build a good log cabin for 10 dollars; [and] firewood you never have to buy...”

The letters reveal Hiram Whittington's sense of humor and his difficulties in finding a wife. He wrote to Granville on December 6, 1827 that his employer, the *Gazette's* Woodruff, “took the last girl in the place,” and she was about 15. The situation had improved by May 13, 1830 when he wrote that “I have had several excursions with the ladies since I last wrote... We have some beauties here, [even] if they are raised in the weeds, and most of my leisure time is devoted to the dear creatures.” Whittington also described his time among the Quakers in Nantucket and his visit to New Orleans en route to Little Rock.

Since envelopes were not in use at the time, the letters were folded, sealed and addressed on the back page. Some of the letters were sent through the post office; others traveled by privately owned stagecoaches, messengers or coastal sailing vessels. When letters were sent through the postal service, stamps were not used; postage was collected upon delivery. Some of the letters were previously

published by the Pulaski County Historical Society in 1956 and by the Garland County Historical Society in 1997.

Tom W. Dillard says the Whittington letters “comprise one of the premier collections of information on Arkansas's territorial period.” He also expressed gratitude to the Whittington descendants “for lovingly preserving the letters and for donating them to the University of Arkansas Libraries.”

NEWS from the Manuscripts Unit

Felicia Thomas, former archivist for the John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers, left the University of Arkansas Libraries in August to pursue a master's degree in library and information studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La. Thomas held a number of work-study and full-time positions at the University of Arkansas Libraries, beginning in 2000. She was hired to work in Special Collections as the Asa Hutchinson Papers archivist in July 2005. Upon completion of that project, she became the John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers archivist in August 2006.

Case Miner made a smooth transition from processor with the Hammerschmidt project to acting archivist of the project upon Thomas's departure. Miner earned his master's degree in history from the University of Arkansas in 2008.

Jennifer Koenig, assistant to Vera Ekechukwu in the Fulbright Papers and associated collections, also recently left her position to pursue a master's degree in library and information studies at Louisiana State University. Jennifer had worked in Special Collections since 2005.

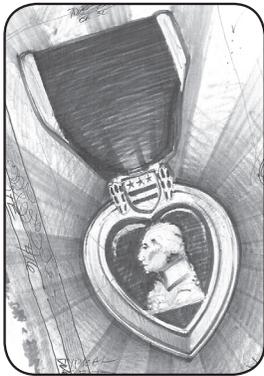
The manuscripts unit has a number of new student employees, including **Jared Bludworth** and **Jordan Frankenburger**. **Sterlyn Gately**, **Lori Neumeier**, **John Poe**, **Darby Gerienger**, and **Alex Gough** returned as student employees/interns.

NEWS from Research Services

Research Services participated in a regional digital project, “Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks.” Twelve other institutions participated in the project and the resulting Web site is hosted at the Springfield Greene County Library in Springfield, Missouri (<http://www.ozarkscivilwar.org/>). Research Services staff digitized ninety-five items from three manuscript collections: Minos Miller Letters, Rebecca Stirman Davidson Papers, and Sarah Jane Smith Collection. The materials may be viewed at <http://www.ozarkscivilwar.org/category/contributing-institution/university-of-arkansas-fayetteville-special-collections>.

Man Receives Purple Heart Medal, Again!

By Felicia Thomas

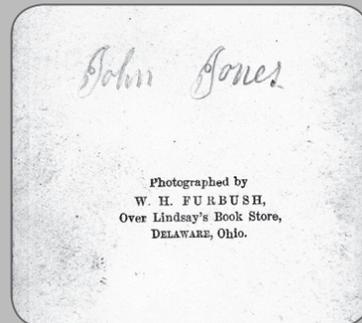


As she sorted veterans' casework correspondence, Olivia Meeks, honors intern and processor for the John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers, found a Purple Heart medal in its original case tucked away in a manila envelope. Upon reading the attached correspondence, the processing team quickly discovered that the medal had been sent to Congressman Hammerschmidt after a veteran had been denied veterans' disability benefits. The veteran asked Congressman Hammerschmidt to "throw the medal out the back door," as he felt the government had done the same to him.

Twenty-five years after the original correspondence was received by Congressman Hammerschmidt's office, Felicia Thomas, the Hammerschmidt Papers archivist, contacted the veteran, who still resides in his Arkansas hometown. When asked if he would be interested in having his medal returned, he said he had thought of that medal many times over the years and would be thrilled to have it to share with his family again. As it turned out, this veteran received three Purple Heart medals during the time he served in the military during World War II.

It is not every day that a congressional archival processor runs across such a poignant reminder of our history. Being able to return the Purple Heart medal to the person who earned it more than 60 years ago was an exciting event!

Rare Photos by African American Photographer Acquired



Above: Photographer's stamp on the reverse side of the John Jones portrait.

Left: Furbush portrait of John Jones, ca. 1864.

Below: W.H. Furbush, ca. 1873.

Special Collections acquired 10 photographs attributed to African American photographer W. H. Furbush, who operated photography businesses in Ohio and Arkansas during the 1860s and 1870s. Furbush led an interesting life, which included service in the Forty-Second Colored Infantry during the Civil War; immigration to Liberia in 1866 on an American Colonization Society ship; election to the Arkansas General Assembly in 1872; winning the only known victory under Arkansas's 1873 Civil Rights Act in a lawsuit against a Little Rock saloon; and serving a six-year stint as the first sheriff of Lee County, a county he was instrumental in establishing. The images are portraits of Civil War Union soldiers.



Are You Arkansas-Literate?

- 1. Which of the following was the first European to explore Arkansas?**
(A) La Salle (B) Laffitte (C) De Soto (D) Father Marquette
- 2. Cherokee Indian George Guess was better known as**
(A) Saracin (B) Elias Boudinot (C) Stand Watie (D) Sequoyah
- 3. Which town is known as the Quartz Crystal Capital of the World?**
(A) Mt. Ida (B) Hot Springs (C) Mena (D) DeQueen
- 4. The first Republican governor of Arkansas was**
(A) Frederick Steele (B) Stephen Dorsey (C) Joseph Brooks (D) Powell Clayton
- 5. The “Boy Hero of the Confederacy” was**
(A) David O. Dodd (B) Thomas C. Hindman (C) Buford Suffridge (D) Nathan B. Forrest
- 6. Quakers founded this black college near Helena after the Civil War**
(A) Branch Normal College (B) Arkansas College (C) Shorter College (D) Southland College
- 7. Until the 1960s, many east Arkansas school districts followed a “split calendar” to facilitate**
(A) hunting season (B) harvesting crops (C) butchering hogs (D) athletic competitions
- 8. Which animal served as the mascot of the University of Arkansas before the Razorback hog?**
(A) lion (B) cardinal (C) cougar (D) chickadee
- 9. John Gould Fletcher won the Pulitzer Prize in 1939 for his work in**
(A) biography (B) history (C) film (D) poetry
- 10. WWII Medal of Honor recipient Maurice L. “Footsie” Britt served as lieutenant governor under Governor**
(A) Sid McMath (B) Orval Faubus (C) Winthrop Rockefeller (D) Dale Bumpers



ANSWERS: 1 (C); 2 (D); 3 (A); 4 (D);
5 (A); 6 (D); 7 (B); 8 (B); 9 (D); 10 (C)

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