

# ARKANSIAN

Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department

## CONTENTS

- *Arkansauce* Journal..... 1
- Leadership Report..... 2
- Brooks Hays Project..... 3
- Featured Manuscript  
Collection..... 4
- Fay Jones House Project ..... 5
- Images of Arkansas ..... 6-7
- Staff Profiles ..... 8
- Ragsdales Win Award..... 9
- Research Services News.... 10
- *Index Arkansas* News ..... 10
- Mark Your Calendar ..... 11
- Are You Arkansas  
Literate? ..... back page

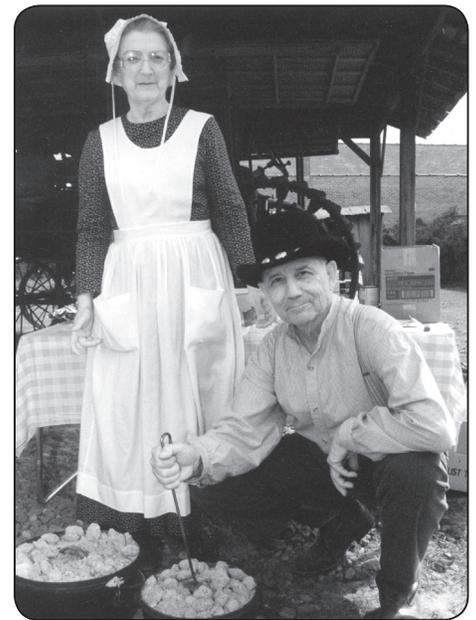
## Department to Launch *Arkansauce* Foodways Journal

By Diane F. Worrell

Special Collections is launching a new publication—a journal, titled *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways*. John G. and Dora J. “DeDe” Ragsdale of Little Rock, long-time supporters of Special Collections and Arkansas history, are underwriting this project. The journal will explore food history, customs, and traditions in the Natural State.

The term “foodways” refers to everyday, conventional food-related practices and traditions among a group of people. Examples include the kinds of foods prepared and eaten on a regular basis as well as the types of foods prepared for holidays and special occasions. Current practices of bringing casseroles to a bereaved family, preparing chicken soup for a sick person, roasting a turkey at Thanksgiving, and grilling hamburgers or hotdogs on the fourth of July—all represent foodways.

*Arkansauce* will be a mix of popular and semi-scholarly articles, heavily illustrated with original documents, drawings, and photographs. It will focus on subjects such as food history, nutrition, cooking, customs, table manners, chefs, food producers and production, restaurants, cookbooks, recipes, menus for both ordinary and special occasions, the culinary heritage of minority groups, immigrants, and specific geographic regions of



*Arkansauce* benefactors John G. and DeDe Ragsdale enjoying dutch oven cooking, from the John G. Ragsdale Papers.

Arkansas, as well as food-related poetry, mythology and literature.

Rex Nelson, author of *Rex Nelson's Southern Fried* blog (“Ruminations on barbeque, politicking, football, frog gigging, trotlining, blues playing, horse racing, boxing, bird hunting, movie watching, crappie eating and other major issues of the day”) will serve as guest editor for the inaugural issue, which will be published before Christmas 2010. Nelson is a veteran journalist, one-time top assistant to former Arkansas  
*continued on page 9*

# Leadership Report

From the Desk of Tom W. Dillard

Another school year is underway, and Special Collections is busy welcoming new and returning students, faculty, and the general public. We are also welcoming a new group of student employees, and this year we will have three interns from the University Honors College. As you will see in reading this issue of the *Arkansian*, Special Collections has embarked on a number of processing projects, we are bidding farewell to two veteran employees, and we are welcoming some new folks to our team.

Ellen Compton and Andrea Cantrell are two valued senior employees in Special Collections, and they both retired in August. Ellen will continue in Special Collections as a part-time employee, but Andrea is looking forward to having

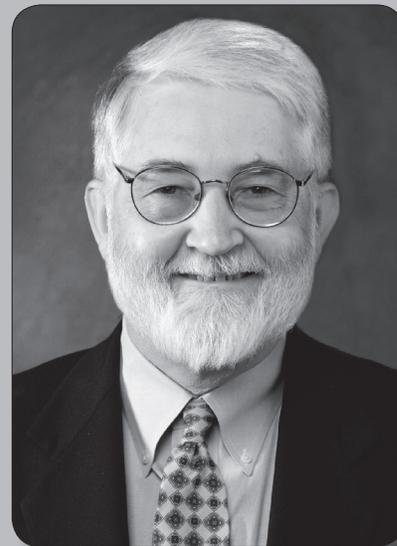
the time that retirement gives for family, travel, and projects. Be sure to read the article about Andrea in this issue.

It is with great honor and pleasure that we announce the creation of a new magazine that Special Collections will be publishing. As you might guess from its title—*Arkansauce*—this new magazine deals with the food history and culture of Arkansas. *Arkansauce* was made possible by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. John G. Ragsdale of Little Rock. Assistant Department Head and Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian Tim Nutt coined the name of the journal. Rex Nelson, a Little Rock public relations executive and author of a blog that features Arkansas foodways, is guest editing the inaugural issue of *Arkansauce*. While it will begin as an annual publication, hopes are to expand the frequency of publication soon. Be sure to let us know if you want to receive a copy of this free publication.

Special Collections is making progress in processing the papers of former U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers. Work has increased dramatically with the hiring of Cody Hackett and Britton Burnett. Case Miner, who cut his processing teeth on the papers of Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, is heading up the Bumpers project. Alex Gough, who worked on the Hammerschmidt team as an Honors College Intern, is lending assistance to the Bumpers project. We are lucky in Special Collections to attract and keep good employees.

Annie Dowling, who has been hired recently as the Department's digitization technical coordinator, is another example of our ability to recruit outstanding employees. Annie's careful attention to detail, along with her sensitivity to historical matters, helps position Special Collections to create and manage its digital assets with an eye toward both preservation and improving access.

The featured manuscript collection in this issue of the *Arkansian* is the Lighton Family Papers. The Lighton family, which came to Fayetteville about a



Tom W. Dillard

century ago, contributed mightily to the city of Fayetteville and northwest Arkansas in general. William R. Lighton was a journalist from Nebraska when he joined the “back to the land” movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and bought a small farm just outside Fayetteville. Lighton's daughters, Dorothy, Suzanne and Betty, brought leadership to a wide variety of cultural, governmental, and quality of life matters in northwest Arkansas.

I hope you enjoy the photographs in our “centerfold spread.” In this issue, we are featuring a few of the images from our photo collections, with the theme of “Arkansians at work.” The Special Collections Department has impressive photograph collections, and it is always fun to share those images.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department. Working together, we can fulfill our mission of documenting our state and region and sharing that information with Arkansas and the world.

## Tom W. Dillard

Head of Special Collections  
University of Arkansas Libraries  
365 N. McIlroy Avenue  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Phone: (479) 575-5577  
E-mail: tdillar@uark.edu

## 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.

Inquiries should be directed to:  
Diane F. Worrell, editor  
University of Arkansas Libraries  
365 N. McIlroy Avenue  
Fayetteville, AR. 72701-4002  
telephone 479/575-5577  
fax 479/575-3472  
e-mail dfworrel@uark.edu

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

# Brooks Hays

## Digitization Project Begins

By Diane F. Worrell

Special Collections recently launched a major project to digitize portions of the Brooks Hays Papers, enabling on-line access to highlights of this important collection. Hays (1898–1981) was a political, civic, and religious leader from Pope County, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from Arkansas's Fifth District. He was a leading Democratic legislator for eight terms, from 1942 to 1959.

The project committee selected the materials to be digitized—chiefly correspondence, essays, speeches, writings on church-state relations, newspaper and magazine clippings, and photographs—that best represent Hays's life and public service career. Since Hays was a cartoonist, some of his drawings will also be included in the digital collection.

Hays grew up in Russellville, where his values were shaped by his involvement with the Democratic Party and the Southern Baptist Church. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a B.A. degree in 1919. After earning his law degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 1922,

---

*Hays was active in numerous Little Rock civic organizations and became a leading layman of the Second Baptist Church, where his popular Sunday school class became famous as the "Brooks Hays Class."*

---

he returned to Arkansas and joined his father's Russellville law practice. He was appointed assistant state attorney general in 1925. Hays was active in numerous Little Rock civic organizations and became a leading layman of the Second Baptist Church, where his popular Sunday school class became famous as the "Brooks Hays Class."

Hays met his wife, Marion, while attending the University of Arkansas.



Brooks Hays, 1968, from MS H334S-423 BH Supp.

They married in 1922 and had two children, a son and a daughter. Marion was quoted as saying she felt the label that best described her husband was "Arkansas social worker."

Hays formally entered politics by running for and losing two close races for governor of Arkansas in 1928 and 1930. He served as Democratic National Committeeman for Arkansas from 1932–1939 and held several federal government positions from 1934–1942. In 1932 Hays ran for the U.S. House of Representatives from the Fifth District. Although he won a plurality of the votes in the runoff election, his victory was stolen from him due to political chicanery in Yell County, resulting in the election of his opponent. After losing a legal protest in Federal court, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to be legal counsel to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he represented sharecroppers in the Delta and worked on behalf of labor and welfare issues.

Hays finally won the Fifth District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives seat in 1942. During his

legislative career, he inspected Allied-held territory in Europe after D-Day. He co-sponsored the GI Bill of Rights and the International Exchange Program created by Sen. J. William Fulbright. Hays, a ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, also served as a delegate to the United Nations.

Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard noted that Hays worked to mediate the escalating civil rights debates during the 1950s. "Congressman Hays, who had always been a racial moderate, refused to join Gov. Orval Faubus in his efforts to prevent the integration of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. In retribution, Faubus's political machine organized opposition to Hays in his 1958 campaign for re-election to Congress. Little Rock physician Dale Alford, the Faubus candidate, defeated Hays as a write-in candidate. Hays graciously retired from Congress and devoted his considerable energies to a variety of causes," said Dillard.

After leaving Congress, Hays served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1957–1958, being one of the few laymen elected to that position. He then served in a series of presidential appointments: as board member of the Tennessee Valley Authority, as undersecretary of state for congressional

---

*Some of the materials to be featured in the digitization project include a letter to his parents in which he comments, "I was asked to join the Ku Klux Klan . . . their very existence stirs up antagonisms."*

---

affairs, and as special assistant to presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Hays directed the Ecumenical Institute at Wake Forest University, formed to facilitate Christian dialogue between Protestants and Catholics, and

*continued on page 9*

# Featured Manuscript Collection

## Back to the Land in Arkansas, Then On To Hollywood: William R. Lighton and The Lighton Family Papers

By Diane F. Worrell



The Lighton family at their Happy Hollow Farm home, ca. 1910, photograph by J.H. Field, MC 779, Box 25, Folder 7.

The adventurous and progressive family of William Rheem “Will” Lighton (1866-1923) made their mark on the history of Washington County and beyond—ultimately finding success in the Hollywood film industry. Lighton grew up mostly in Nebraska. A voracious reader, he worked in various capacities in his early years: as an office worker, stenographer, lawyer, newspaperman, typing and shorthand teacher, and court reporter.

By the turn of the century, Lighton was an established freelance writer. He wrote short stories, especially western fiction featuring “Billy Fortune,” a tall red-haired hero who feared no man and defended all women. In 1906 he reported on the San Francisco earthquake for the *Boston Evening Transcript*. In letters to his Nebraska family Will gave this account: “Far as I could see in every direction lay desolation—nothing but an awful tangle of blackened and tottering walls and heaps of crumbled junk—not a green thing, not an unwrecked building over a full dozen square miles. And beneath the ruins lay countless dead.”

For eighteen years Will Lighton and wife Laura dreamed of owning a small farm, but farms in their home state of Nebraska were beyond their means. By coincidence Lighton obtained a list of farms for sale in Washington County, Arkansas. One listing particularly intrigued him: “120 acres, 2 ½ miles from town, part cleared, no improvements, \$2400. Part cash.”

The Lightons bought train tickets to Fayetteville, despite the fact that, “we didn’t know a blessed thing about Arkansas, indeed we shared a very common prejudice against her.” In Fayetteville they traveled the old Huntsville Road to a run-down farm, where they “fell in love with the light and the misty blue hills of the Boston Range.” Enthralled with the “acres of raw, untamed beauty” of the farm, they

immediately purchased it, even though the house itself was occupied by renters.

Despite starting their Arkansas life living in a tent, Lighton said, “We both felt right from that first hour that we had come to the end of our rainbow.”

Before coming to Fayetteville, the Lightons were not farmers nor even “distantly related to a farmer.” But they had their dream. Lighton wrote, “We were used to keeping a cow and a few hens; our town garden had always been the envy of the neighbors . . . . For years we had been tireless readers of the literature of modern farming. We knew a lot of theory . . . . We can learn.”

Lighton was interested in new developments in agriculture. He practiced “scientific agriculture” with advice from the College of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas. The stone and log house Lighton built on the land was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The land is east of Mt. Sequoyah in the area of what is now the Cliffs Apartments. The house still stands.

Lighton’s tale about his family’s adventures, “The Story of An Arkansas Farm,” appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*  
*continued on page 11*

# Department Supports Award-Winning Study of Fay Jones House

By Diane F. Worrell

Special Collections worked with students from the Fay Jones School of Architecture recently on a project to document the home of renowned architect Fay Jones and his wife Mary Elizabeth (“Gus”). Although the Fayetteville house is on the National Register of Historic Places, little archival documentation existed concerning the original structure.

Jones built the house in 1956 with the help of several craftsmen, who created the house as they went along, without formal drawings. Jones later made drawings of his house after receiving requests for plans from architectural magazines and awards committees.

The project, which involved coordination between the Special Collections Department and the Fay Jones School of Architecture, combined both archival research and hands-on investigation. Students conducted research in the Fay Jones Collection, which holds the drawings Jones created after the home’s construction—approximately 50 sheets of rough sketches, construction drawings, drawings of various schemes, and two sheets of finely crafted drawings of the house as it was built. The students also analyzed records of material purchases, invoices, and other items providing clues to the make-up of the original house.

The project was initiated by Architecture Professors Greg Herman and Marlon Blackwell, to document the house for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). Greg Herman developed an architecture course for the purposes of documenting the house as it stands today and recreating the deteriorating upper terrace balustrade. Builder and furniture maker Tim Latourette, also of the Fay Jones School of Architecture, was brought in because of his expertise in construction and craft. The students measured every inch of the house and documented every significant feature in order to create a set of plans to fulfill the requirements of the HABS, which is administered through the National Park Service.

Students presented the results of the project on May 25 at the architecture school, with a summary of



Architecture students Joseph Weishaar (left) and Micah Szabo (right) measure the Fay Jones House. Students in the class used archival materials from Special Collections in combination with on-site investigation to create the prize-winning documentation of the Jones house. Photograph by Greg Herman.

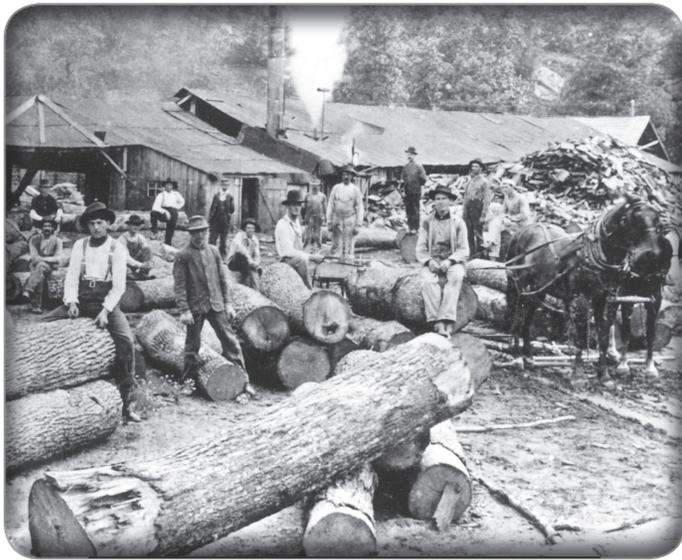
existing documents, interviews conducted by the students, paper drawings, and a demonstration of three-dimensional digital drawings. The group’s photographer presented a unique photographic record of surprising details of joinery, stone-laying, and glass as a construction element. Architectural Archivist Ellen Compton, of the Special Collections Department, remarked, “The presentation revealed the students’ obvious enthusiasm and reverence for Fay Jones and his house.”

The Jones House project won first place in the HABS competition for the 2010 Charles E. Peterson Prize for best documentation of an important American building. The award will be conferred at a ceremony in Denver in October. It is the first entry from the University of Arkansas in over 20 years. The results of the project will be archived in the Department’s Fay Jones Collection, as well as in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. An exhibit of the work will be hung later this fall in the Vol Walker Gallery at the Fay Jones School of Architecture.

# Images of Arkansas

## Arkansans at Work

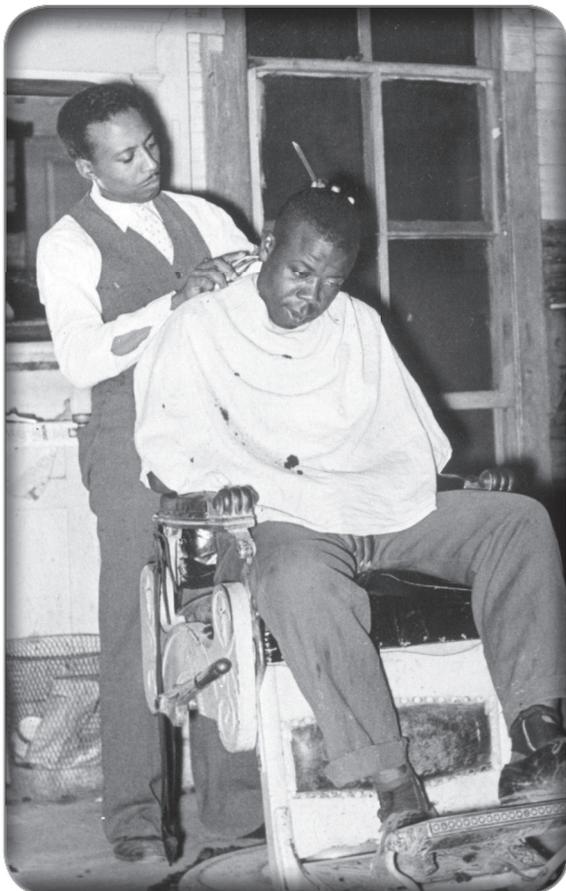
Selected and Annotated by Todd E. Lewis



Workers labor at the J.C. Meyers sawmill in Washington County, 1889, Kent Brown Photographs, Bayles #5.



Bookkeepers check records in the offices of the Arkansas Lumber Company near Warren, Bradley County, ca. 1906-1907, MC 600, Arkansas Lumber Company, Box 1, Image 34.



Operators staff the switchboards in Harrison, Boone County, ca. 1930, MC 786, Harrison Businesses, 1930s, Box 1, Image 1.

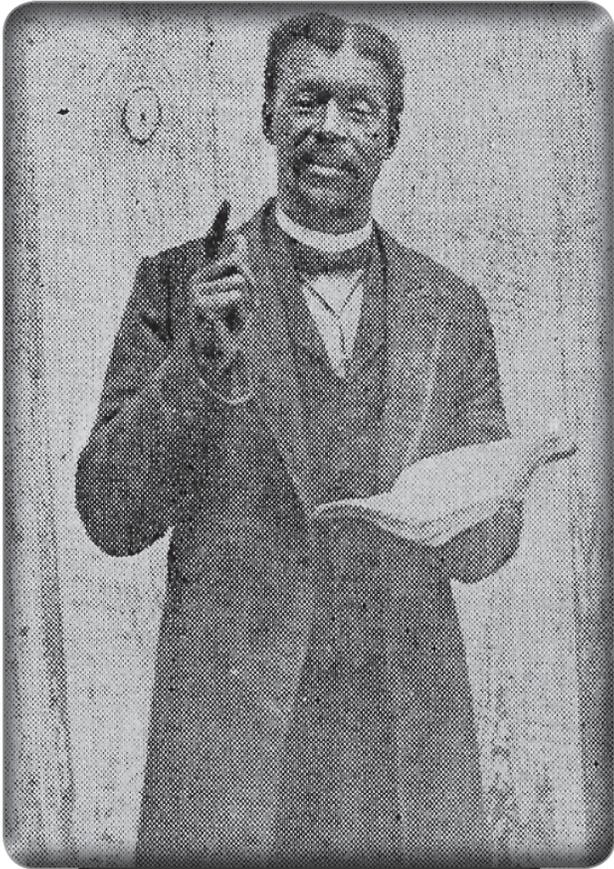
Left: A Mississippi County barber gives a haircut, ca. 1940, Picture Collection, Image 4032.



Librarian Mary D. Hudgins attends to her duties in Hot Springs, Garland County, ca. 1950, MC 534, Mary D. Hudgins Collection, Box 105, Image 1880.



Workers make molasses at Commonwealth College in Polk County, ca. 1925, Picture Collection, Image 2902.



J. Lathan, pastor of the Mabelvale Circuit of the C.M.E. Church in Pulaski County, expounds upon the gospel, ca. 1907, E.M. Woods, *Blue Book of Little Rock and Argenta, Arkansas*, 1900.



University of Arkansas employee Joseph Wilkes demonstrates space-age computer technology, ca. 1964, Picture Collection, Image 2413.

# Staff Profiles



Britton Burnett, assistant archivist with the Dale Bumpers project

**Britton Burnett** joined Special Collections in May 2010 as assistant archivist for the Sen. Dale Bumpers Papers processing project.

He was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Edmond, Oklahoma. Britton considers himself an Arkansan, however, since his parents grew up in Arkansas and graduated from Arkansas Tech University. He moved to Fayetteville in 2005 and earned his B.A. in history from the University of Arkansas in 2009.

Britton previously worked as an assistant call center supervisor, a legal assistant for a Russellville law firm, and a process server for Arkansas's 5th Judicial District. In May of 2006 he began working in the circulation department at Mullins Library and was subsequently promoted to library support assistant.

After the Bumpers project is completed, Britton hopes to obtain both a law degree and a master's degree in librarianship. His ultimate goal is to become a law librarian.

In addition to his love of Razorback baseball, football, and basketball, Britton enjoys following and participating in Arkansas politics. In July, he was a delegate to the Arkansas Democratic Convention.

Of his work with the Bumpers Papers, Britton says, "Although processing work is occasionally tedious, knowing our project will ensure that a significant piece of Arkansas history will be preserved for future generations is very gratifying."



Cody Hackett, manuscript processor with the Dale Bumpers project

**Cody Hackett** began his job as a manuscript processor with the Sen. Dale Bumpers Papers project in June 2010. After successfully defending his Honors College thesis, "Salvation in the Soil: Free Men, The Freedmen's Bureau, and the Southern Homestead Act in Arkansas," he graduated *summa cum laude* in the summer of 2008 with B.A. degrees in both history and English. Cody is no stranger to Special Collections. He previously worked as a processor and Honors College intern in the Department.

After a year of graduate study in American southern history and a teaching assistantship at the University of Mississippi, Cody decided to return to Arkansas. He is considering applying to graduate school in either library science or public history after the Bumpers Project is finished.

In the summer of 2009, Cody worked as an intern with the National Council for Preservation Education in the National Park Service in Omaha, Nebraska. His duties included development of an online National Register Travel Itinerary for the Scotts Bluff Region of Nebraska, a prominent stop along the Oregon Trail.

Because of his love for American history, Cody thoroughly enjoys working with the manuscript collections in the Special Collections Department. He says, "Touching these documents, holding these people's correspondence in my hands, gives me a deep reverence for the complex humanity that lies at the root of history."



Annie Dowling, Special Collections digitization technical coordinator

**Annie Dowling** came on board in the spring of 2010 as the Department's digitization technical coordinator. She scans documents and images for both researchers and for Special Collections projects. Annie is currently digitizing the Brooks Hays Papers by scanning selected materials and developing an online exhibit.

Because she grew up in an Air Force family, Annie is well-traveled, having lived in seven states. She moved to Fayetteville in 2008.

Annie earned her B.A. in French literature from the University of Arizona in Tucson and her M.S. in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University. She has worked as a legal assistant, a program coordinator, an architectural historian, and an administrative assistant for a cultural landscape conservancy.

A lover of outdoor activities, Annie enjoys biking, swimming, kayaking and gardening, as well as yoga. Husband Ashley is an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology at the University. They have three cats and an Irish Terrier dog. In her travels around the U.S. and the world, Annie enjoys seeing architecture, museums, and gardens. She serves on the Fayetteville Historic District Commission and is a member of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Alliance.

Annie loves doing historical research. In her spare time she is reviewing the Warren Segraves papers and researching Noah Drake and the Wilson Park neighborhood addition he developed in the 1920s.

## Arkansas Foodways Journal

continued from front page

Governor Mike Huckabee, and currently the senior vice president for governmental relations and public outreach for The Communications Group in Little Rock.

The first issue of *Arkansauce* will be distributed to everyone on the Special Collections mailing list. Thereafter, it will be mailed free of charge to subscribers. The journal will initially be published annually, but the Department plans to increase the publication frequency later.

Department Head Tom W. Dillard said, "The Special Collections Department has made Arkansas culinary history one of its documentation priorities, and I believe *Arkansauce* is a natural extension of that work. We are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Ragsdale for their support of our work in foodways, especially in providing support for this new journal. Arkansas foodways have received very little study in the past, so there are many interesting stories to be told. I want to invite all readers to share their ideas on how *Arkansauce* can become a major contributor to documenting the Arkansas experience."

Persons interested in serving as guest editor, submitting an article, suggesting article topics, or subscribing to the publication should contact Diane Worrell, email: [dfworrel@uark.edu](mailto:dfworrel@uark.edu), phone: 479-575-5330, University of Arkansas Libraries, 365 N. McIlroy Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

## Thanks to Our Supporters

Gifts to the Special Collections Department  
January 1 - June 30, 2010

Arkansas Community Foundation, Inc., Little Rock  
Arkansas Historical Association  
Robert Bailey, Little Rock  
Betty H. Bell, Sterling, VA  
Richard K. Bollinger, West Memphis  
William Richard Bullard, Stuttgart  
Evan Bukey, Fayetteville  
Rita Caver, Fayetteville  
Ellen Compton, Fayetteville  
Margaret Cunningham, Roanoke, VA  
Tom W. Dillard, Farmington  
Martha Estes, Fayetteville  
William and Joyce Feldman, Fayetteville  
Guy and Shelby Fenter, Charleston  
Foundation for International Exchange of Students, Fayetteville  
James R. and Melissa Gatlin, III, Fayetteville  
G. David Gearhart, Fayetteville  
Orville and Susan D. Hall, Jr., Fayetteville  
Donna and Mike Hammond, Beebe  
Happy Hollow Foundation, Fayetteville  
A. Cleveland Harrison, Auburn, AL  
The Hon. Steele and Peggy Wall Hays, Conway  
Mary E. Hazel, Mountain Home

Joan Hess, Fayetteville  
Richard Hudson, Fayetteville  
Carroll W. and Linda K. Hughes, Jr., Duncanville, TX  
Cami Jones, Austin, TX  
Mary Elizabeth "Gus" Jones, Fayetteville  
Carolyn Kent, Jacksonville  
Louis Krupp, Boulder, CO  
The Hon. David R. Malone and Deborah Thomas, Fayetteville  
Sallye Martin, Fayetteville  
Thomas F. and Donna McLarty, III, Little Rock  
The McLarty Companies, Inc., Conway  
John A. and Radine Trees Nehring, Gravette  
John G. and Dora J. Ragsdale, Little Rock  
Diann Sutherland Smith, Little Rock  
SPEARS, Inc., West Fork  
James Stice, Austin, TX  
Robert A. Sukovich, Van Buren  
Nancy Talburt, Fayetteville  
Barbara G. Taylor, Fayetteville  
Tyson Foods, Inc., Springdale  
Elizabeth C. Vonalt, Rolla, MO  
Thelma Mothershed Wair, Little Rock  
C.D. Wright, Barrington, RI  
Warren Wright, Harrison

## Brooks Hays Project

continued from page 3

he founded the Former Members of Congress, a lobbying organization based in Washington, D.C. In his later years he worked as a writer and lecturer. Brooks Hays died in 1981.

Some of the materials to be featured in the digitization project include a letter to his parents in which he comments, "I was asked to join the Ku Klux Klan . . . their very existence stirs up antagonisms." A clipping from *Life Magazine*, "The Gentleman from Pennsylvania Belittles and the Gentleman from Arkansas Defends," features Brooks Hays's response to Rep. Chester Gross's disparaging remarks about Arkansas.

Dillard noted, "Special Collections is indebted to the Honorable Steele Hays and to Betty Hays Bell for supporting the digitization of their father's papers." The project should be finished in early 2011, at which time the materials will be posted on the Libraries' Web site.

## Journal Benefactors Win History Award



John G. Ragsdale (right) receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Laura Miller, president of the Arkansas Historical Association, photograph by Tom W. Dillard.

John G. and Dora J. "DeDe" Ragsdale, *Arkansauce's* benefactors, are fans of Arkansas history and connoisseurs of dutch oven and camp cooking. The Ragsdales received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arkansas Historical Association in March. A retired petroleum engineer from El Dorado, Mr. Ragsdale first became interested in dutch oven cooking during his years as a Boy Scout leader. He published his first book, *Dutch Oven Cooking*, in 1973. His other books include *Camper's Guide to Outdoor Cooking: Everything from Fires to Fixin's* (1998), *Camper's Guide to Outdoor Cooking: Tips, Techniques, and Delicious Eats* (1989), and *Dutch Ovens Chronicled: Their Use in the United States* (1991). Ragsdale also authored *Shuler Field, Arkansas: A Historical Summary of Fifty Years of Oil Production 1937-1987* (1987), *As We Were in South Arkansas* (1994), and *Growing Up in Union County* (1994). Mr. Ragsdale's partner in life and in gastronomy, wife DeDe, is a retired English teacher.

## NEWS from Research Services

### Andrea Cantrell Retires



Andrea Cantrell, 2008

**Andrea Cantrell**, librarian/professor and head of research services in the Special Collections Department, retired August 16, 2010, after nearly twenty-six years of service to the University of Arkansas. Andrea received a B.A. degree in English and history in 1970 at American Uni-

versity and a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Maryland—College Park in 1971. A Missouri native, Andrea began her career in the Special Collections Department in 1985 with the rank of assistant librarian/assistant professor. She received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate librarian/associate professor in 1990, and was then promoted to librarian/professor in 1995.

Before coming to the University of Arkansas, Andrea was director of the library division at the Oklahoma Historical Society, director of the Joplin, Missouri Public Library, and head of consultant services at the Washington State Library in Olympia, Washington.

Throughout her career, Andrea provided valuable expertise in assisting hundreds of students, faculty, outside researchers, and donors; she authored several scholarly articles as well as the useful guide, *Manuscript Resources for Women's Studies*, within Special Collections. She was assistant editor of the online *Arkansas Periodicals Index* (now titled *Index Arkansas*), for which she and her co-editor, Elizabeth McKee, received the Gale Research Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Library Services. Andrea created and designed many exhibits in the Libraries. She earned a distinguished reputation both within and outside the Libraries as a meticulous and courteous researcher, who resolved many a thorny issue related to researcher and donor requests.

Andrea was a respected colleague held in high regard by students, faculty, guest researchers, and donors. She was committed to serving on library and campus committees and to promoting public awareness of the Libraries' resources and services. Upon her retirement, the University Libraries recommended that Andrea receive the title of librarian/professor emeritus. Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, noted, "Andrea is a real pro. She contributed mightily to Special Collections for more than a quarter of a century."

During her career, Andrea witnessed the transformation of archival repositories from traditional, paper-based,

relatively low-budget operations to high-technology research centers requiring considerable resources to implement the kinds of digital projects researchers have come to expect. In her retirement Andrea plans to catch up on her reading and spend more time with family. She is married to University of Arkansas Reference Librarian Steve Chism.

## NEWS from *Index Arkansas*

### Experiences of an Indexer

By Keith Webb, Honors College Intern  
*Index Arkansas* Project

From the fall of 2008 through the spring of 2010, I worked as an indexer for *Index Arkansas*, an online database of Arkansas historical journals. I indexed articles from three county journals, the *Faulkner County Facts and Fiddlings*, the *Benton County Pioneer* and the *Craighead County Historical Quarterly*. The indexing process is straightforward. First I reviewed each article, gathering information about the author, time period, illustrations, locations, and specific individuals or groups. I then entered this descriptive information for each article into the online database. Next I checked for errors and/or additional information I felt would help a researcher find the article. Finally, I saved the citation and descriptive information and moved on to the next article.

All my work was edited. If the editor noticed that I was consistently making errors, she told me about them, and I corrected them. Most of the feedback I got from the editor came from slight changes in indexing procedures or different styles of indexing. It was reassuring to know there was someone checking my work.

Working for *Index Arkansas* was an enlightening and beneficial experience. For example, I learned how the search engine for the library's online catalog worked. This helped me do library research for my own class assignments. (Previously, not knowing how the search engine worked, I conducted only basic searches, often with disappointing results.) I also sharpened my ability to quickly review material for the most important information. This was very helpful in my history classes that required a large amount of reading. Finally, I learned to appreciate good writing. While indexing the three journals, I read articles written by dozens of authors. The best writers presented the subject clearly and in an organized manner, which made my job easier.

I doubt many researchers fully appreciate good indexing, which involves assigning the most appropriate and accurate information to the descriptive fields for each article citation. Good indexing maximizes researcher success.



Will Lighton, ca. 1900, MC 779, Box 25, Folder 1.

## Lighton Papers

*continued from page 4*

on January 22, 1910. The article was popular and attracted a stream of curious visitors. He expanded the article into a book, *Happy Hollow Farm* (New York: George H. Doran, 1914), which drew more than two hundred “back to the land” settlers to Washington County.

Although his “Billy Fortune” stories declined in popularity, Lighton contin-

ued to write. He edited a magazine, *Back to the Land*, printed in Fort Smith. Shortly after the start of World War I, the movie business beckoned. Lighton sold the farm and moved his family to Los Angeles to try his hand at screenwriting.

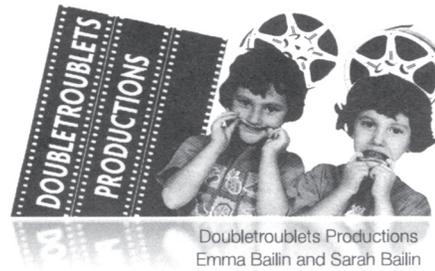
Lighton wrote the screenplay for one of Will Rogers’s early movies, *Water, Water Everywhere*, in which Rogers played Billy Fortune. Although Will Lighton had limited success in the movie business, his son Louis D. “Bud” Lighton eventually became a successful producer and writer. Among the movies Bud produced was *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.

While making preparations to move the family back to Fayetteville, Will Lighton became ill and died on January 25, 1923. Although wife Laura was unsuccessful in her attempts to re-purchase Happy Hollow Farm, she bought land nearby. Laura’s business acumen enabled her to support her three daughters: Dorothy, Suzanne (“Peg”), and Marjorie (“Betty”). For several years daughter Dorothy (1893-1967) served as assistant to the registrar at the University of Arkansas. Peg (1905-1978), the first female lawyer in Northwest Arkansas, had a long career in law, public service, and philanthropy.

Betty Lighton (1912-2007) had a successful career in social work and community services, including positions with the Red Cross, the Girl Scouts, and the YWCA in several U.S. cities. Upon her retirement in the 1960s, she moved back to Fayetteville, became involved in numerous community projects, and established the Happy Hollow Foundation. Special Collections enjoys a special relationship with the Foundation, which supported *Index Arkansas*, an index to Arkansas history journals, and “Shared History,” the first digital image project undertaken by the Department.

The materials in the collection span more than a century. Highlights include family correspondence dating from 1828 to 1987, documentation of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, plus photographs of and correspondence from famous individuals such as Thomas Edison, Will Rogers, and Jimmy Durante. Galleys, scripts, clippings, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, professional documents, and personal mementos are also included in the collection.

## Mark Your Calendar



### Discover Arkansas in the Archives!

Please join us for our annual Archives Month open house featuring award-winning teenaged film makers, Emma and Sarah Bailin of Little Rock. The twin sisters, proprietors of Doubletroublets Productions, will share their experiences and screen one of their amazing documentaries.

**Wednesday, October 27, 2010**

**Reception at 3:00, Program at 3:30**

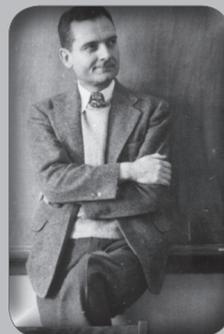
University of Arkansas Libraries  
Special Collections Department

**Mullins Library**

**Room 130, Lower Level**

Call 575-5577 for information  
or parking suggestions

## 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.

**THE**

# ARKANSIAN

Special Collections Department  
University of Arkansas Libraries  
365 North McIlroy Avenue  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

## Are You Arkansas-Literate? (Cities)

- 1. Bath House Row is located in which Arkansas city?**  
(A) Blytheville (B) Little Rock (C) Dardanelle (D) Hot Springs.
- 2. Before Little Rock became the state capital, which town served that purpose?**  
(A) Encore Fabri, (B) Cadron (C) Arkansas Post (D) Crystal Hill.
- 3. Which small south Arkansas town was a center of education in antebellum Arkansas?**  
(A) Maumelle (B) Tulip (C) Lonoke (D) Rose Bud.
- 4. When Little Rock was evacuated during the Civil War, which town became the Confederate state capital?**  
(A) Washington (B) Pine Bluff (C) Malvern (D) Fort Smith.
- 5. The town of Oil Trough took its name from which type of oil?**  
(A) Bear (B) Buffalo (C) Hogs (D) Petroleum.
- 6. Which Arkansas city was named for two early railroad entrepreneurs?**  
Hint: located in northeast Arkansas. (A) Walcott (B) Paragould (C) Marked Tree (D) Marianna.
- 7. Which Arkansas city was named for a prominent U.S. Senator from neighboring Missouri?**  
(A) Benton (B) Eagle City (C) Huntsville (D) Yellville.
- 8. Which Arkansas city is known as the “Duck Capital of Arkansas?”**  
(A) Weiner (B) Mena (C) Prescott (D) Stuttgart.
- 9. Lyon College is located in which historic county seat?**  
(A) Batesville (B) Fordyce (C) Helena (D) Bentonville.
- 10. Novelist Donald Harington created the mythical town of?**  
(A) Parthenon (B) Mount Judy (C) Stay More (D) Drakes Creek.



ANSWERS: 1 (D); 2 (C); 3 (B);  
4 (A); 5 (A—rendered bear oil);  
6 (B—for James Paramore and Jay  
Gould); 7 (A); 8 (D); 9 (A); 10 (C)