

Arkansas



The ^ Entry

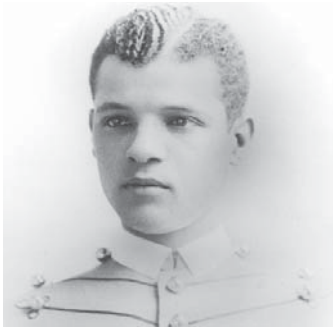
Newsletter of the
Encyclopedia of Arkansas Project

Encyclopedia Expands Search for Images, Video and Audio Clips

For Encyclopedia Multimedia Editor Frank McGarity, the past few weeks have been exciting. "Every day's search is a unique experience," he said while poring through more than three-dozen images that have been digitized and formatted for use in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. Images of Buffalo soldier John Hanks Alexander, television personality Steve Stephens, and numerous other historical figures have already been gathered. Frank said this is only a sampling of the diverse collection of media files to be included in the online Encyclopedia. "Eventually we hope to have more than 5,000 media files on the website version of the Encyclopedia."

Frank recently acquired permission to use photographs of Johnny Cash from New York photographer Don Hunstein. During his time as CBS Records Head of Studio Photography, Mr. Hunstein took hundreds of photographs of Johnny Cash, and many other CBS recording artists. "Mr. Hunstein has graciously donated images from his collection for the Encyclopedia to use," said Frank. "He has given us access to some very important photographs." The *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* relies heavily on donations from individuals, and media donations are no exception.

The media search doesn't stop with photographic images. Video and audio clips are also on Frank's search list. "We plan to present song samples for musicians' entries, and short movie samples of feature films and documentaries filmed in Arkansas," said Frank. While some of these are relatively easy to come by, Frank sets his focus on the obscure and hard to find items that represent Arkansas history and culture. "I am currently searching for a copy of Jimmie Driftwood singing "Beautiful Buffalo River," a song that he recorded as a fundraiser," Frank said.



John Hanks Alexander of Helena, second African-American graduate of West Point. (1887)

A recent conversation with a co-worker led to the donation of a cassette tape featuring poet John Gould Fletcher reading his own poetry. "I believe while we are searching for media to accompany our text entries, we are going to discover some real gems of history," Frank said, "images, video, and audio clips that may have never been displayed for the public to enjoy." Frank also hopes that people will come forward with home movies of significant Arkansas people and events.

Frank's list of media files he is searching for ranges from the specific to the general, including:

- ◆ Video or audio of John F. Kennedy dedicating Greers Ferry Dam
- ◆ Audio clips of baseball legend and broadcaster Dizzy Dean
- ◆ Images of the Flood of 1927
- ◆ Japanese internment camp media
- ◆ Letters from important figures, or describing significant events that shaped Arkansas
- ◆ Video and audio clips of stage shows, musicians, and public speakers
- ◆ Video and audio clips of former governors and public figures
- ◆ Photographs of famous (and infamous) events and people that shaped Arkansas history

"The search list grows daily, but with every donated image, movie clip, and sound recording we come closer to our goal of having media to associate with every text entry in the Encyclopedia," Frank concluded.



If you have media items that you think might be of interest to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, you are urged to contact Frank McGarity via email at fmcgarity@encyclopediaofarkansas.net or phone at (501)-918-3018. You may also write to him at the Encyclopedia address.

Coordinator's Column

Jill Curran



Some of the other Encyclopedia staff might challenge me on this, but I think I have the greatest job in the world. It's the greatest because I get to spread the word about the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* Project and talk to people about all the ways they can get involved. These ways include writing entries, fact checking, letting us include items from their collections, volunteering for office work, making a donation, and helping with publicity.

One of my favorite things to do is open the Encyclopedia mail every morning. Will it be an entry, perhaps about some small town in Arkansas I've never heard of but can't wait to learn about? Will it be a newsletter reply form from a new volunteer, or a donation from someone who read about the project and wants to contribute?

Some replies come with handwritten notes that say things like, "I think the Encyclopedia is a great idea!" and "We've needed this for a long time." Those really make my day

because they express the enthusiasm and support of Arkansans for this project. And they're right. The Encyclopedia is a great idea, and we have needed it for a long time.

Everyone who writes an entry, volunteers their time, or makes a donation of \$100 or more will get one of our new Encyclopedia lapel pins. It's a small token of our appreciation in every sense, but I'm excited that we are able to give something back to all of our authors, volunteers, and supporters. I hope you will join the Encyclopedia effort and then wear your pin with pride.

This is truly the state's encyclopedia, and we need your help to make it the best it can be. All Arkansans, especially our young people, deserve nothing less than our greatest effort. Thank you for your support of the Encyclopedia Project and for making my job the greatest in the world.



Have you seen newspaper articles about the Encyclopedia of Arkansas?

Please send copies of articles that appear in your local newspaper to:

Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
CALs
100 Rock Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

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Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
Central Arkansas Library System
100 Rock Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 918-3016
info@encyclopediaofarkansas.net
www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net

Individual Contributors to Date

Dolores M. Bruce, Little Rock
Gertrude R. Butler, Little Rock

David and Victoria Harrison,
Little Rock

Celia Storey, Little Rock

Mrs. Lucette D. White,
Gloucester, Mass.

Jean and Don Riley,
North Little Rock

Thomas O. Duncan, Arkadelphia

Susan Pfeifer, Little Rock

B. A. Routon, Hope

Jessie Ehlers, Little Rock

Henry A. Wilks, Marianna

Robert S. McCord,
North Little Rock

Paul Greenberg, Little Rock

Mary Sue Reagan, Rogers

Orlan and Joan Roper, England

Freed S. Little, Houston, Texas

Dr. A. Cleveland Harrison,
Auburn, Ala.

Bob and Jo Ann Pugh, Portland

Ellen and James Kane, Little Rock

Shirley and Sam Strauss,
Little Rock

Don and Janet Zimmerman,
Little Rock

Davis and Ida Ellis, Fort Smith

Rose Hogan, Little Rock

James H. Fribourgh, Little Rock

Edward M. Penick, Little Rock

Betty Lynn Reagan, Rogers

Peggy Vining, Little Rock

Mary Frances Hodges, Little Rock

Dick and Bonnie Clough,
North Little Rock

J. B. and Fern D. Cross,
Little Rock

Susan P. Veal, Hot Springs Village

Bill Norman, Crossett

Senior Editor's Column

Nathania Sawyer



Volkswagen ran a series of advertisements with the slogan “Drivers Wanted.” The gist of the commercials was that people who love to drive should want to drive a Volkswagen. I’m going to adapt that slogan for my needs and use “Writers Wanted” as my theme for this column.

Please share your expertise and knowledge by writing for us! Just like Volkswagen wants passionate drivers, we want passionate authors—people who can share their love of a topic in writing.

One note of caution: writing entries for the Encyclopedia is a little like writing haiku. The entries not only must follow a strict structural format so the Encyclopedia maintains a single voice but also must convey a lot of information in a small space. Writing in this style is an art form just like rhetorical or expository writing, and I’m sure some of our authors will struggle with the desire to write an essay versus the need to write in encyclopedia style. Here are a few tips that will make the editing

process less painful:

*** Pick the most useful information.** Our colleagues at the *Encyclopedia of New York State* have an interesting line in their project manual, “...an encyclopedia is a crowded lifeboat, and you must not hesitate to throw excess words overboard. Only the most important facts and statements have the right to survive.”

*** Stay within your assigned word count.** I have to confess that I am the biggest offender when it comes to exceeding word counts. To quote Bruce Plopper, my graduate school adviser, who—I think—coined this phrase in self-defense during my comprehensive project, “Save it for the book.” Please stay within your word count; if you don’t cut the copy, we will have to.

*** Focus on functional writing instead of impressive writing.** The Encyclopedia must be usable by serious researchers as well as school children and the casual browser. The only way we can achieve this goal is to make the language easily digestible: short sentences, clear writing, and insightful abridging of information.

Writers Wanted! Please share your expertise and knowledge by writing for us.

Foundation and Business Contributors to Date

- Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
- Department of Arkansas Heritage
- Arkansas Humanities Council
- Elizabeth Fletcher Dishongh Charitable Trust
- Ross Foundation
- Carl H. Miller, Jr. Foundation
- Bank of England
- Arkansas State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution

Mission of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

The mission of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* is to collect and disseminate information on all aspects of Arkansas history and culture and to provide a comprehensive reference work for historians, teachers, students, and individuals for the purpose of promoting the study, understanding, and appreciation of the state's heritage.

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas Response Form

Yes, I would like to make the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* the definitive reference on all things Arkansas. I would like to help in the following ways:

Name _____

Tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.

Address _____

Tax-deductible pledge of \$ _____ payable in installments. Please contact me so we can set up a payment plan.

City/State/Zip _____

I would like to volunteer my time and/or expertise. Please contact me.

Phone (_____) _____

Add my name to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* mailing list.

Email _____

Return to:

Encyclopedia of Arkansas, Butler Center, CALS, 100 Rock St., Little Rock, AR 72201

“I Didn’t Know That About Arkansas”

Guest contributor: Conor Hennelly, Encyclopedia volunteer



“Strawberry picking in the summer is a fun activity. This fruit, which originally came from Europe and North and South America, has been a favorite with people all over the country, who have grown strawberries since about 1835. Did you know that on May 8, 1946, the first reported commercial strawberry shipment by airplane in the U.S. was flown from Springdale, Arkansas to New York City? I didn’t! Volunteering at the Encyclopedia has been a very rewarding experience. Working here, I’ve learned more about Arkansas than anywhere else.”

Conor Hennelly, 14, is a home-school student who volunteers at the Encyclopedia two afternoons a week. He has been compiling a database on significant events in Arkansas history, organized by date. This database will become the feature “This Day in Arkansas History” on the Encyclopedia website. Eventually it will list thousands of snippets from the state’s past. Visitors to the website will be able to learn about an event that happened on that month and day many years ago, thanks in part to Conor’s work.



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Central Arkansas Library System
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