



## OBU Students Write for the Encyclopedia

During the summer of 2004, Wendy Richter—an assistant professor at Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) and Encyclopedia of Arkansas Editorial Board member—approached the Project about incorporating a class research assignment with the Encyclopedia. The result? Sixteen of Richter’s students researched topics and submitted entries for consideration to the Encyclopedia.

Nathania Sawyer, senior editor for the Project, created a schedule that meshed with the fall academic semester, and Richter compiled a list of local history topics that could be researched using materials from the OBU archives. “We wanted to create an opportunity for the students to complete a usable entry, gain experience in researching history using primary documents, and see their work used beyond the classroom,” said Sawyer.

The subjects included traditional research topics such as Arkansas oil magnate O. C. Bailey and the town of Greenville, as well as folklore and landmarks such as the Gurdon Light and the Southern Club.

Katharine Ross, an education major who researched O. C. Bailey, said that research sources relating to her major typically consist of what other people have written, so she enjoyed working with primary documents. “You get to see the real documents... his real handwriting,” said Ross.

“Wendy’s role as archivist for the OBU library was especially helpful,” said Sawyer. “She is a terrific historian and was able to guide the students through the research process, make them aware of the resources available to them, and provide feedback on their research before the entries were submitted to the Encyclopedia.”

Richter thinks the project ignited an interest in Arkansas history in several of the students. “Rachel Bridges became our resident expert on the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, and I may have to refer questions about John Conger [president of Ouachita College] to Beth Cooper now,” said Richter. (See page 4 for Rachel Bridges’s entry.) She added, “Doing the project made them more aware of the history of things they see every day. As they listened to each other make their presentations in class, it was like light bulbs went on in their minds.”

The participating students were: Kyle Armstrong, Russell Bowlin, Rachel Bridges, Emily Carter, Beth Cooper, Jill Hensarling, Rachel Jespersen, Amy Kidwell, Staci Morrow, Christin Northern, Amanda Phillips, Brooke Pierce, Lori Pinkston, Katharine Ross, Irina Sadovova, and Eric Segovis.

### Encyclopedia Project Welcomes Two New Interns from Hendrix

Lacy Allen and Lindsey Clark have joined the Encyclopedia of Arkansas Project as interns for the Spring 2005 semester. Both are from Hendrix College in Conway, but they bring different experiences and goals to their work with the Encyclopedia.



Lindsey Clark, intern

Allen, a recent graduate, came to Arkansas from Sedan, Kansas. According to Allen, her small-town roots and education gave her “an appreciation for strong bonds within the community and an understanding that everyday people have value.” While studying psychology at Hendrix, she participated in a research project that built on this foundation, titled “The Social Construction of Emotion in the American South.” The usefulness of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* to that project convinced her that the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* will be an invaluable research tool. Allen plans to pursue a graduate degree in conflict resolution, with an emphasis on applying psychological principles to social and cultural events.



Lacy Allen, intern

Clark, a Fort Smith native, is a junior history major and gender studies minor. After she graduates in May 2006, she plans to pursue a doctorate in history and a university teaching career that she hopes will give her the opportunity to publish. “The Encyclopedia of Arkansas Project,” said Clark, “will give me experience in the steps of publishing, including writing, fact checking, and the editorial process.” Clark is pleased to be part of an effort she feels “is going to make a huge difference in the materials available to and used by students, educators, and many others.”

(See “Interns” on page 5)

## Coordinator's Column

Jill Curran



While I don't consider myself a technological whiz, I am excited about the future capabilities of the Internet and computers in general. If it's true that it will soon

be common for home thermostats and light switches to "talk" to home computers, then it's surely not too far-fetched to think of different states' online encyclopedias "talking" to each other as well.

Eventually, it will be possible to search not only Arkansas's encyclopedia on the Web, but also Georgia's, Alabama's, Oklahoma's... you get the picture. You will be able to go to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas site to learn about, say, James Bowie's Arkansas connections, and, with a few clicks, display the full Texas and Louisiana entries on him too. And while we will focus on the impact of the Flood of 1927 on Arkansas, other states affected by the flood will focus on its impact on them. Readers will have the option to limit their search to Arkansas or broaden it to get a fuller picture of people and events that crossed state lines.

These possibilities for linking encyclopedia projects are not too many years away. In fact, we are already talking with the encyclopedia projects in Georgia and Alabama about how to accomplish "interoperability"—

a twenty-dollar word for the simple concept of being able to share information.

Think back to 1995 and how different the Internet was then; it will give you some idea of the magnitude of the changes coming in the next ten years, especially for students. Our

**We are already talking with the encyclopedia projects in Georgia and Alabama about how to accomplish "interoperability"—a twenty-dollar word for the simple concept of being able to share information.**

webmaster, Jonathan Lovett, is researching new technologies (all of which seem to need acronyms to keep them "affordable": XML, RSS, etc.) to keep the Encyclopedia website current while preparing it to remain useful to future users.

I remember when microwaves and remote-controlled TVs were new and amazing, and I remember searching the Internet for the first time in graduate school. (I was thoroughly unimpressed; no graphics at all!) Now my son can't imagine having to walk over to the TV to change the channel, and he marvels that the world was once without DVDs. I truly cannot imagine what technological wonders the next generation will accomplish, and what my grandchildren will consider quaint and old-fashioned.

Yet amidst all this change, two of the constants are the importance of history and the need to teach it. The Encyclopedia of Arkansas staff is committed to bringing Arkansas's past to the students of tomorrow, using the latest technology.

### *The Arkansas Entry*

is the quarterly newsletter of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture Project.

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

### **Needed: Office Work Volunteers**

If you can give a few hours of your time, please call (501) 918-3022 or email [jcurran@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:jcurran@encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

## Multimedia Notes

Tim Nutt

I love my new job with the Encyclopedia of Arkansas Project. I enjoy seeking out photographs, audio, video, and other media to accompany Encyclopedia articles. Many times I do not have to seek—the media finds me. This not only makes my job easier, but it also shows how much support the Encyclopedia has around the state.

Brooks Blevins, director of the Regional Studies Center at Lyon College in Batesville, recently contacted me regarding a recording of a singing class from the Brockwell School of Gospel Music. The school has operated in north central Arkansas for over 50 years teaching the fine art of shape-note singing. Participants, who often do not know how to read music, are taught using shapes—each note is assigned a different shape. For example, the note "fa" (think "a long, long way to run") is assigned a triangle shape.

The recording from Dr. Blevins will accompany an entry on the Brockwell School, which is being written by David Stricklin, the new head of the Butler Center. It runs approximately four minutes. Because of size limitations, we will be unable to have the entire audio file on the Encyclopedia website, so I will choose from 45 to 60 seconds to use. Researchers accessing the website will be able to hear an actual class singing.

The file from the music school is only one example of audiovisual materials we have received for the Encyclopedia Project. Steve Stephens (himself an entry in the Encyclopedia) recently loaned us a video that includes an interview he conducted with former governor Orval Faubus in 1986. There was also a great response from the last newsletter regarding video of the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena. Thank you all!

This does not mean that we have all the media we need. We are far from that perfect scenario! If you have any video or audio you feel would be appropriate, please contact me at (501) 918-3055 or [tim@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:tim@encyclopediaofarkansas.net). If your materials are used, you will receive a digital copy and be credited in the Encyclopedia.

# Senior Editor's Column

Nathania Sawyer



I recently celebrated my first “official” anniversary with the Encyclopedia Project. Maybe it’s not a coincidence that the traditional first anniversary gift is

paper; I definitely have been showered with plenty of paper during the past year.

Looking back to where we were at the beginning of 2004 and seeing where we are at the beginning of 2005 is amazing. The thing that stands out most in my mind is how many decisions we have had to make. Before the Project was official, we had a solid foundation for what we wanted to accomplish and how we planned to do it, but many of the details had to be decided. If Mies van der Rohe was correct in asserting “God is in the details,” then I have truly walked with the Lord.

Some of the most difficult decisions dealt with evaluating a nominated entry’s merit. We have set a goal to complete 5,000 entries during the next five years. That means we have to complete approximately four entries per day for the life of the project. Four entries a day doesn’t sound like much until you consider that from solicitation through completion, each entry goes through approximately 30 steps. So we’re talking about completing 120 steps per day, which is no small accomplishment.

That was the simple math; the next part is tougher. How do we divide 5,000 entries among our various subject categories? How do we make sure we have a good blend of entries that cover people, places, things, groups, and events? How do we cover all those categories for the various time periods in Arkansas history? How do we divide coverage among entries with international, national, statewide, regional, county, and local significance? How many aspirin can you take a day before

the dosage is considered lethal?

Some of the answers are simple. We know we want an entry on every governor of Arkansas, every county, and every county seat. By the end of the project, we would like to have an entry on every town in Arkansas, but for now, we are concentrating on towns with populations of 1,000 or more. We want to include events, organizations, historic landmarks, and distinguished

**We just have to make tough decisions to ensure that the Encyclopedia covers the full scope of Arkansas history and culture.**

persons. In our perfect-world scenario, we would like to include every historic person, place, and thing as well as our cultural icons. In the real world, we know we are limited to what we can physically (and fiscally) do. So we have to make choices and set guidelines. Believe me, those choices aren’t simple.

For example, at one point we wanted to include biographies on all the people who served in the state legislature. That seemed to be a good qualifier because those people would be significant at the very least on a local level. I was shocked when I did some research and discovered that more than 4,000 individuals have served in the Arkansas legislature. We can’t possibly have 80 percent of the Encyclopedia’s content devoted to the Politics category (or the even the People category), so we have to narrow the criteria. The same is true for town founders. We would have to have more than 1,500 biographies just to cover the founders of all the towns in Arkansas’s history.

We also wanted to include all historic locations, but Arkansas has more than 2,000 National Register of Historic Places locations. Of course, we can’t devote 40 percent of the Encyclopedia to descriptions of each.

One of the biggest debates was the question of whether or not to include biographies of living people. Because

it will be an online encyclopedia that has to stay up to date, entries on living persons present a problem. We know we have to include some people who are still alive; we have to have Bill Clinton, for example. However, we don’t have the resources to keep up with all of the prominent living people who are important to the state, especially those who are most significant regionally or locally.

We are now looking for a person’s unique contribution to the nation, state, region, or locality. What sets a founder of a town apart from the founder of every other town? Recently, we considered Charles McDermott, founder of Dermott. At first glance, he didn’t stand out

from other notable founders. When the nominator provided additional information, we saw that he patented a flying device that, although unsuccessful in flight, was exhibited nationally and incorporated new aerodynamic principles that were later proved sound by the Wright Brothers. He also was a physician and early advocate of the germ theory of disease origin. When we looked at him as a whole, we decided to include him.

Please understand that we never mean to imply that your topic suggestions are insignificant. We, as a state, need to capture as much of our history and culture as possible, and I encourage everyone to research aspects of our history and get them published. Most local historical societies are seeking authors for articles, and their journals are great resources for researchers. We just have to make tough decisions to ensure that the Encyclopedia covers the full scope of Arkansas history and culture. To quote a popular pithy saying, “Like Mason said to Dixon, you gotta draw the line somewhere.”

P.S. Send money! Our goal of 5,000 entries is based on what we can produce with our current budget goal. We would love to have the funding to cover the cost of soliciting, editing, and processing more.

# Sample Entry: Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo

Founded in 1892, the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo is a fraternal organization of lumbermen and those in trades related to the lumber industry. Hoo-Hoo is the oldest industrial fraternal organization in the United States. At the height of the organization's popularity, membership totaled more than 13,000. The headquarters of the Order and its museum are located in Gurdon (Clark County), the town where Hoo-Hoo originated. The Order had more than 3,500 members in 2004.

The Order was established on January 21, 1892, when six men saw a need for an organization to promote unity and fellowship among lumbermen and to combat a possible split brought on by the lumbermen's broad range of pursuits. These six men—Bolling Arthur Johnson, a journalist for *Timberman* in Chicago; George Washington Schwarz of Vandalia Railroad in St. Louis; William Starr Mitchell of the *Arkansas Democrat*; William Eddy Barns of the *St. Louis Lumberman*; George Kimball Smith, secretary of Southern Lumber Manufacturers' Association; and Ludolph O. D. Adalbert Strauss of the Malvern Lumber Company—began discussing the idea of an organization for lumbermen.

In Hotel Hall in Gurdon, the men set up the basic tenets of the Order. Hoo-Hoo was to be an organization comprising men with high ideals, and the Order's motto became "health, happiness, and long life." The group (led by Johnson) decided that the board of directors would be called the "Supreme Nine." The names of the directors were: Snark of the Universe (president), Bojum (chaplain), Scrivenoter (secretary), Gurdon (sergeant-at-arms), Senior Hoo-Hoo, Junior Hoo-Hoo, Custocacian, Arcanoper, and Bandersnatch (later changed to Jabberwock). Some of these names were derived from Lewis Carroll's *Hunting*

*of the Snark*, which one of the founders had recently read. The name "Hoo-Hoo" also had a unique origin. In Kansas City, about a month before the founding of the Order, Johnson had used the term "hoo-hoo" to refer to an unusual tuft of hair on the head of Charles McCarer. McCarer became the first Snark of the Universe and was given membership number one.

Consistent with their unconventionality, the group chose as its mascot a black cat with its tail curved into the number nine. Originally, membership in Hoo-Hoo was to be limited to 9,999 members. As the Order increased in popularity, this number was changed to 99,999. Meetings were held on the ninth day of the ninth month at nine minutes after the ninth hour. Annual dues were \$9.99, and the initiation fee was \$0.99.

After its humble beginnings in Gurdon, the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo grew tremendously. The first club established outside the United States was founded in Canada in 1924, and other groups sprouted up in places as far away as Australia. Though the Hoo-Hoo experienced a slump from 1929 to 1938 when membership dropped to around 700, they recovered and membership began to rise again.

Two U.S. presidents have had membership in Hoo-Hoo. Theodore Roosevelt was given the reserved membership number 999 for his work promoting the importance of forests. Warren G. Harding, membership number 14945, was "concatenated" in 1905.

In 1909, the organization erected a bronze plaque at Hotel Hall in Gurdon to commemorate the founding of the Order and state the organization's objectives. In 1927, the plaque was moved to the train depot in Gurdon. In 1981, Hoo-Hoo moved its international headquarters from Boston

(where it had been since 1970) to Gurdon and dedicated the Hoo-Hoo museum that same year.

## For additional information:

Newberry, Farrar. "The Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 20 (Spring–Winter 1963): 301-310.

Syler, Allen B., et al., eds. *Through the Eyes of Farrar Newberry*. Arkadelphia, AR: Clark County Historical Association, 2002.

Tarpley, Billy. *Log & Tally, Centennial Edition, 1892-1992. A Century of Fraternalism*. International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo.


Rachel Bridges  
Ouachita Baptist University



## 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  
 History & Culture  
 2005 Calendar

**WE STILL HAVE CALENDARS LEFT!**

**2005 Encyclopedia of Arkansas calendars are now \$5.00 each with free shipping.**

*Mail your check to:*  
 Encyclopedia of Arkansas  
 CALS  
 100 Rock St.  
 Little Rock, AR 72201

**Recent Donors**

Bob Razer  
Little Rock

Paul Greenberg  
Little Rock

Shirley and Sam Strauss  
Little Rock

Dr. A. Cleveland Harrison  
Auburn, Ala.

Hildie and Mick Terry  
Little Rock

Meredith L. Oakley  
Little Rock

Elizabeth B. Benton  
Conway

Rose Hogan  
Little Rock

Mary M. Lucas  
Bowling Green, Ky.

Friends of the Conway County  
Library, Morrilton

Bill Norman  
Crossett

(“Interns” cont. from page 1)

“Both Lacy and Lindsey bring unique skills and talents to the Encyclopedia,” said Project Coordinator Jill Curran. “They also demonstrate that, both in its development and as a finished product, the Encyclopedia will be valuable to a wide variety of people. I hope other students—and not just history majors—will be encouraged

by their work to become Encyclopedia interns in the future.”

*The Encyclopedia will offer two paid student internships in the summer of 2005. The deadline for applications is April 1. An application form can be printed from the Encyclopedia’s website: [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).*

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

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

Return to:

Encyclopedia of Arkansas, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock St., Little Rock, AR 72201  
 or email: [info@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:info@encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

# “I Didn’t Know That About Arkansas”

Guest contributor: Donna Jackson



*Encyclopedia of Arkansas* author Donna Jackson writes, “I didn’t know Arkansas was home to a women’s professional basketball team. The All American Red Heads played from 1936 to 1986, and were the longest-lived and best-known women’s team in the country. Orwell Moore of Caraway (Craighead County) began coaching the All American Red Heads in 1948. His wife, Lorene “Butch” Moore, played for the Red Heads for 12 years, scoring over 35,000 points during her career. The Moores bought the team and moved its headquarters from Missouri to Caraway in 1955.

“The Red Heads appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, *What’s My Line*, and *I’ve Got a Secret*, and were featured in *Life* magazine. Hazel Walker played three seasons with the Red Heads before forming her own barnstorming

squad, Hazel Walker’s Arkansas Travelers, in 1949. More exhibit space at the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee is dedicated to the Red Heads than to any other team or individual.”

Jackson lives in Manila (Mississippi County) and works with her husband, son, and daughter at their family-owned pharmacy. She has a master’s degree in history and taught at Mississippi County Community College in Blytheville. Jackson has been hooked on Arkansas history since grade school and continues to research and write on a variety of topics. She wrote a history of Manila for the town’s centennial in 2001, and is writing the *Encyclopedia* entries on Manila, Caraway, Herman Davis, Milligan Ridge, drainage districts, and the All American Red Heads.

*We invite you to share information about Arkansas that has surprised you. Part of our vision for the Encyclopedia is that it will provide many such “light-bulb” moments for readers. If you would like to be a guest contributor to “I Didn’t Know That About Arkansas,” please send your ideas to Jill Curran at [jcurran@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:jcurran@encyclopediaofarkansas.net) or write to her at the address below.*



## The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies  
Central Arkansas Library System  
100 Rock Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Little Rock, AR  
Permit No. 183