Library Friends

NEWSLETTER

MALVERN-HOT SPRING COUNTY - 2020 FALL ISSUE

Photographer: Tom Dillard - Location: Glen Rose, November 2020

GENEALOGY GEMS

By Danna Carver

There are many hidden treasures to be found in the Jessie Ashford Genealogy Annex of the Malvern Hot Spring County Library. A patron recently requested assistance in researching the Henry Alexander Butler family who helped settle Malvern in the late 1870s. The family moved from Tulip after the civil war and became prominent merchants and bankers. H.A. Butler was the brother of Emma Butler Paisley of the memoir TULIP EVERMORE.

Mr. Butler's daughter in law, Blanche Olive Gaffney Butler was named the first female Justice of the Peace in the state and nation, not long after the ratification of the Suffrage Amendment in August of 1920. She was appointed by Governor McRae on May 31, 1921 as the Justice of the Peace for Fenter Township to succeed D. M. Noble, J.P. who had died unexpectedly. Blanche was the wife of David Coulter Butler and was in the insurance business. She was an ardent supporter of the library and a member of the Woman's Club that sponsored a library fundraising campaign in the 1920s. She was also the first female notary in the state.

John Henry Erwin of the Hot Spring County Historical Society listed Blanche as one of the "Social 10" – a group of wives of prominent Malvern businessmen and professionals. Newspapers noted marriages she officiated – one apparently done in a "ladies' restroom. The November 21 MALVERN TIMES JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE, 1, 1921

MALVERN HAS FIRST WOMAN J. P.

Mrs. Blanche Olive Butler, of Malvern, yesterday became Arkansas' first judicial officer. Governor McRae appointed her as Justice of the Peace of Fenter township, Hot Spring county, to succeed D. M. Noble, deceased. While several were recommended for the place, Mrs. Butler's recommendations were by far the strongest. Mrs Butler is in the insurance business in Malvern.—Arkansas Gazette.

The above item of news came as quite a surprise to the many friends of "Judge" Butler, in this city today and she is receiving their hearty congratulations. The Record wishes her much success in her judicial duties.

MUTT AND JEFF HAVE COME TO TOWN

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Malvern Daily Record, June 1, 1921

reports that she performed a "gretna green" marriage between "Henry P. Coston and Miss Velma Bledsoe of Hot Springs··· the youthful bride narrowly escaped her irate father who.. arrived in less than an hour after the knot had been tied."

Family records shared with the Annex, along with its collection of paper records and microfilm uncover trailblazing citizens of Hot Spring County each day. Along with the Genealogy Collections, and on-line tools, a research specialist is available to assist patrons with their discoveries, contact jessieashford2020@gmail.com or 501-229-1544.

FRIENDS ASSIST WITH LIBRARY FUNDRAISING

By Tom Dillard

The budget for the Malvern Hot Spring County Public Library does not allow for all the programming needed to take library services to our entire population. But, the Library-working through the Friends of the Library - has been able to obtain grants to help fill at least some of the void. Barry Honold, who works for the library as Bookmobile Coordinator, has volunteered to also serve as the grants liaison with the Friends. The results have been impressive.

Barry Honold inside the Malvern-Hot Spring Library Bookmobile..

Among the grants received by the Friends was a $1,500 gift from US Bank to be used to purchase a new bounce house and prizes for the library's summer reading program. Entergy has awarded a grant of $675 to be used for the Halloween Comic Fest, the Main Street Trick or Treat, and the Birthday Club. The Arkansas Humanities Council funded a grant in the amount of $1,000 to purchase studio equipment for the production of good quality programming videos.

Most recently, a grant in the amount of $2,500 has been received to help purchase a Book Sanitizer, a device which will quickly disinfect returned library books. This will enable the library to abandon the three-day quarantine in which books are now held before putting them back into circulation. The Library Board of Trustees matched the grant, and the sanitizer has been ordered.

Clif Crawford, president of the Friends of the Library, said Barry's work on behalf of the Friends

grants program is greatly appreciated. He also praised Barry for "volunteering his time in seeking grant funding sources and then writing grant applications—often a tedious process."

Barry Honold has worked at the library for more than seven years. As part of his duties as Bookmobile Coordinator, attends community festivals for various schools, and he manages the Books-by-Mail program and the Library Birthday Club.

Barry is a native of Malvern. As a child, he attended Story Time at the library—and he can recall graduating to the Hardy Boys books before finding the joys of adult fiction.

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Charlotte Smith is retiring after 45 years of service to the Malvern-Hot Spring County Library. She has been a tremendous asset to our library, always patient, kind, and professional. Our patrons were always in good hands. Her loyalty and dedication to the library has been proven again and again. We would like to wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement. She will be greatly missed.

Q&A w/ Charlotte

Q: What was your first job?

A: Part-time circulation clerk at the Malvern-Hot Spring County Library.

Q: How many years have you been with the library?

A: 45 years and 3 months

Q: What is a silly work story that you remember?

A: On my 30th birthday, when I got ready to leave for work that morning, my car was covered in shaving cream. I had to wash the car before leaving. My office was upstairs. It seemed like every time I got ready to go downstairs Mrs. Cheatham would give me something to do to keep me from leaving the office. I had started to wonder what I had done to make her keep giving me something to do. Turns out, everyone was decorating the literacy office in Halloween style and throwing me an "Over the Hills" birthday party. I didn't find out until years later that they were the ones responsible for the shaving cream.

Q: Do you have any special memories of a patron?

A: Mr. Norman Follis. He and his wife kind of adopted all of us when they moved here. He travelled a lot and would bring back to us whatever that state was known for. He made sure we had fresh vegetables and flowers from his garden at least twice a week.

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment?

A: To survive the library's first automation. To be able to say that I am still here after what was supposed to be for only my senior year of high school.

Q: What is your biggest office pet peeve?

A: Not finishing a task before starting another one.

Q: What will you miss most about the library?

A: The staff. I see them every day so they are like family.

HOT SPRING COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY

By Clare Graham

The Hot Spring County Imagination Library, founded in 2018, is an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This early-year book gifting program mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to enrolled children every month from birth until their fifth birthday. The goal of the program is to develop a love for books and family reading from an early age, while removing the barriers for accessing books.

Children from birth to age five who live in Hot Spring County are welcome to register for the Imagination Library program courtesy of The Friends of the Malvern-HSC Library and the Malvern Rotary Club. This year alone, over 7432 books were mailed to children in Hot Spring County.

Dolly Patron's Imagination Library celebrated its 25th year in 2020, gifting over 130 million books, and over a million children registered. In Hot Spring County, the program currently mails books to 720 children every month and has mailed out over 18,000 books since 2018. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to improve kindergarten readiness and family literacy habits in Hot Spring County. For more information, contact clare.graham@arkansas.gov

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Wishing all our Library Friends a very Happy Thanksgiving!
Thank you, for
Sharing a love for our local library!

Photos taken this fall in Malvern by, Jo Ellen Poynor.

www.hsclibrary.arkansas.gov - 501.332.5441 - FB: m-hsc library friends

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