

Missouri
Folklore
Society
newsletter

PO Box 1757,
Columbia MO
65202

Volume 37, nos 3-4

Fall 2013

The 2013 annual meeting was held November 7-9 at the YMCA's Trout Lodge, near Potosi.

Co-presidents



Liz Faries, Carol Fisher and Jan Caudle organized a full program, beginning with a tour of the petroglyphs at Washington State Park...

And a welcome by **Mary Caudle and Sharon Brock**



The evening was launched by an introductory address from Potosi Mayor **T.R. Dudley**, followed by **Dianne Moran's** stirring one-woman show portraying her great grandmother, "Through Immigrant Eyes"

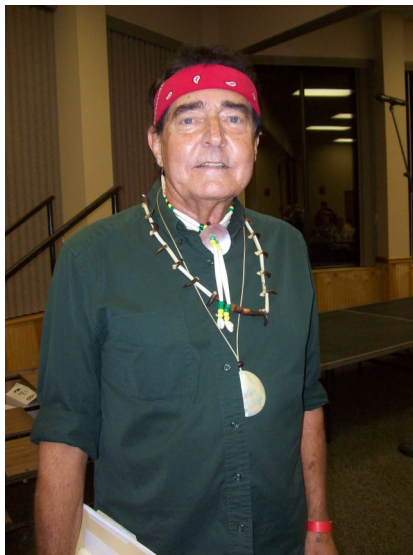


Rosa Eastman, born in Poland in the 1860's, married a charming dancer, Louis Brown, much against her parents' wishes. Distraught over the poverty that led to the death of their son, he sought a better life for his family in America — but then ceased communicating. After seven years, dauntless Rosa followed him over the ocean in 1893. She caught up with him in Missouri, eventually settling in St. Louis — where Dianne knew her in old age.

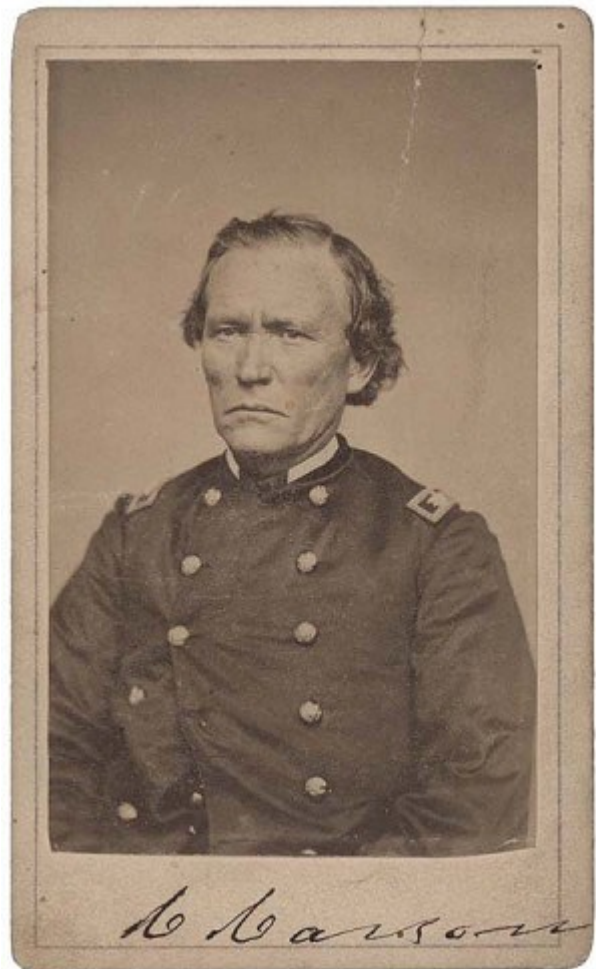
The first evening wound up with a moving tribute to members we lost this last year, especially **Dolph Schroeder** and **Claude Barton** (see last newsletter for obituaries). There was a musical tribute by **Gerald and Sandy Calhoun**, of the St. Louis Caledonian Pipe Band .



Manford Paul Smith, aka “Chief White Eagle,” shared stories of his AnNiYvWiYa group, headquartered in Bollinger County.



Saturday’s program of presentations was headlined by **Jim Duncan’s** keynote address on the Mountain Men — and their perhaps surprising connection to our own area, along with his personal collection of related artifacts. Now living in St. Louis, Duncan is a historian, educator, and past director of the Missouri State Museum.





Katie Gill, co-owner of Steelville's **Peaceful Bend Winery**, offered an informative talk with the Friday afternoon winetasting. Her video chats on winemaking and culture are available at the website: <http://peacefulbend.com/pics/> (scroll to the bottom of the page)





As always, thanks for the special help of **Sam Griffin** with sound and recording, **Jim Vandergriff** and **Donna Jurich** in Book/Media Sales Room, and auctioneer extraordinaire **Judy Domeny Bowen**, ably assisted by **Irwin Rice** and **Gary Buxton**.

Though **Cecil and Ruth Williams** were unable to attend, **Clyde and Liz Faries** with heroic effort, were able to track them down at home, and present them with the society's heartfelt certificate of appreciation, which was read aloud at the meeting.



ON BEHALF OF THE
NEVADIAN SENIORS SOCIETY
I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR
APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
WE WISH YOU WELL
AND WE WILL REMAIN
"ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE"
198807

The last event was the **Pilot Knob Mountain Boys** from Iron County, performing songs from their first album, just out, *A Civil War Tribute*. The group consists of **Tyler Sappington**, **Grant McAdams** and **Morgan McAdams** — Grant and vocalist Morgan are brother & sister; the group never changed its name to reflect the altered lineup. They have performed at area festivals for several years, and play traditional songs as well as those from the Civil War era



Presentations at the 2013 meeting:

LONNY THIE'LE
HOW THE MULE SAVED THE SOUTH



This presentation will discuss how the mule was instrumental in cotton production prior to 1950. Mr. Thie'le's home is in Poplar Bluff.

KENT BEAULNE
CULTURAL REMNANTS OF THE OLD
POST-LOUISIANA PURCHASE POP-
ULATION

A carpenter by trade, folklorist and historian by default, Mr. Beaulne is documenting the surviving cultural remnants of this population. He will focus on the iron crosses as cemetery markers at Old Mines, and compare these with those located throughout north America. Examples of crosses will be on display.



JOHN ROBINSON PANEL: CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY

This year marks the 200th anniversary of settlement in the county. Mr. Robinson is the president of the Caledonia Historical Society and Chairman of the 2013 Celebration Committee. The group also spoke at the 2013 French Heritage Seminar.



JOHN C. FISHER BOOTHEEL NIGHTRIDERS

At the beginning of the twentieth century, much of the Missouri Bootheel was covered with either hardwood forests or cut-over forest land. Conflict developed between timber workers, laborers clearing land, tenant farmers, large landowners and lumber companies. White workers wanted landowners not to hire African American workers. The conflict erupted into violence in 1915 when vigilante groups known as “night riders” beat and shot a landowner. This session focuses on the violence, the investigation, the trial and the results. Mr. Fisher is from Kennett.

CHRISTOPHER OTTO

REMEMBERING THE 1939 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ROADSIDE
DEMONSTRATION

Many are not aware of the significance of this demonstration, often called the “share-croppers' strike.” This may be the first time that black workers and white workers joined to call attention to their plight: hunger, homelessness, and unemployment. The federal government, due in part to the influence of Eleanor Roosevelt, assisted in helping some of the displaced workers.

GARY BUXTON

THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN COWBOY:
A PERSPECTIVE ON A NATIONAL ICON

From shortly after the Civil War to the 1890's, the cowboy received much attention—some good and some bad. The focus of a “national myth-making process” blurred the cowboy’s image. The West contains a mixture of romantic belief and cold fact; an escape from civilization to a place of strength and freedom. The legendary cowboy continues to promote these ideas. The latter part of this presentation will document a 2002 export of cattle headed to Russia to teach them how to manage a ranch. Mr. Buxton comes to us from Pocahontas, Arkansas.

PHILLIP HOWERTON

PUBLISHING MISSOURI FOLKLORE

Dr. Howerton, associate professor of English at Missouri State University-West Plains, serves as associate editor of two journals and a website that publishes writings about the Ozarks. He will introduce the two journals, *Cave Region Review*, and *Elder Mountain*, both in their sixth year of publication, and will read selections related to Missouri folklore. The website, *The Encyclopedia of Ozarks Literature*, is currently under construction at his university, the site of the annual Ozark Studies Symposium.

KEN BURCH

CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY AT RIVER BEND

Ken Burch has worked with the New Madrid Historical Museum to help commemorate New Madrid's role in the Civil War, emphasizing the Artillery Battle of New Madrid in March and April of 1862. He will share what he has learned about Civil War artillery. His replica cannons mark points of interest along a tour route. Mr. Burch lives in Sikeston.

DEBRA F. GREENE, Ph.D.

THE NATCHEZ, MS FIRE IN HISTORY AND MEMORY



Some 198 negroes were burned to death at Natchez, Miss., when flames racing through decorations of dry Spanish moss trapped them in a one-exit dance hall. Some victims are shown in the foreground and scores of others are piled up in the rear. Hundreds of dancers were in the hall when the fire flared suddenly.

The Natchez fire, also known as the Rhythm Night Club fire of April 23, 1940, killed 209 people and injured many others. It was memorialized in songs by the Lewis Brownville Five, Cab Calloway, Howlin Wolf, and others. This presentation is part of a longer work on the fire in history and memory in the era before modern civil rights activism. Dr. Green is a faculty member at Lincoln University, Jefferson City.

CAROL FISHER, JANELLE BURCH,
& MARY RECHENBERG
SNAKES TRAILS, CRAZY QUILTS, CHEATER QUILTS,
AND WINDMILLS IN A BASKET: HOW ABOUT A BED
TURNING?

Bed Turnings have their roots on the American frontier. Women would invite friends to their homes to show new quilts that they had completed and displayed on a bed.



The trio will tell the stories of favorite quilts, and share tidbits of quilt lore during the Bed Turning. Quilts often connect us to past generations in our family. Marie D. Webster, the author of the first book (1915) about American quilts, notes that “History, politics, religion, nature, poetry, and romance are all stitched into quilt blocks.” She believed that every quilt has a story. All the quilt enthusiasts are from southeast Missouri, from Sikeston to Kennett.

CHRIS SUTTON, VICTORIA MEADOR, LAURA HASTINGS,
CHRIS ROLL

LEGENDS IN MEDIA

The presenters on this panel, students from the University of Missouri -Columbia, combine folkloristics with film and media in order to examine contemporary legend performance, transmission, and cultural meaning in context. The speakers will illustrate some of the ways mass media impacts these legends, and how they have traveled farther and faster.



Chris Sutton explores traits of the folkloric Windigo as portrayed in the film *Ravenous*, where characters take on aspects of the Windigo in traditional Algonquian folklore. Windigo is an agent that brings or disrupts inner balance to the characters.

Victoria Meador covers the ancestry of modern witches in *Charmed*. Some neo-pagans claim to be ancestral descendants of women killed during the Early Modern era witch trials. Some also claim that women killed during the trials have similar beliefs and ideologies as themselves. *Charmed's* use of legends about neo-pagans' ancestral connections reflects the influence of neo-pagan identity and feminist theory but also contains historical inaccuracies.

Laura Hasting's paper explores the folkloric tradition of Santa Claus and how parents and teachers deal with transmitting the story. Research has been done on how adults help their children navigate this important yet complicated belief complex as well as how children go about believing and subsequently discovering the truth about Santa. This paper discusses how these two viewpoints work together to continue the tradition of Santa Claus in modern society.

Chris Roll's paper examines “The Hook” as a cautionary tale, and how it has remained relevant even as social mores change. The legend of “The Hook” has been popular since its inception in the 1940's, passed down from oral tradition to literature in film and television. Notable uses in popular culture will be surveyed before going into an in-depth examination of the legend in the 1997 film, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

**JON JONES
MAKING AND PLAYING THE
HURDY-GURDY**

Mr. Jones enjoys old-time instruments. He will illustrate the process involved in making this instrument, and then play a tune. At local music festivals, you might find him sitting underneath a tree, demonstrating one of his creations. He also plays the bagpipe.



RITA E. BECK
THE STRANGE CASE OF PATIENCE WORTH



This program, modeled after a Chautauqua performance, will feature Pearl Pollard Curran. As a young child, she lived about ten miles south of Potosi. While she and a neighbor engaged in a parlor game with an Ouija Board, she seems to have contacted a “spirit” who called herself Patience Worth. Through Patience, Pearl Curran produced a large volume of fiction. Both Mrs. Curran and Patience Worth have remained an enigma, confounding linguists and other scholars. The strange case is curious indeed, and considered an unsolved mystery.

IRVIN RICE
JINGLING

Jingling was a practice at social gatherings where dancing was not approved. It was used at least 100 years ago in Missouri. Participants form a circle and compose jingles (rhymes) about each other.



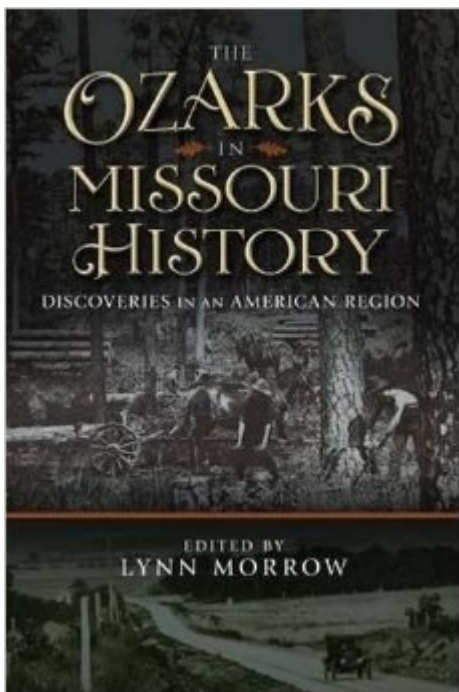
In Other News:

Mizzou's **LuAnne Roth** was a judge for Missouri's National History Day competition — among the winners, **Lauren Kramer** of Queen city Missouri: "My winning website, "Dust to Diamonds to Dust: The William P. Hall Story," is about a man from Schuyler County, Missouri. In the late 1800's William P. Hall began building his herd



in

of horses in Lancaster, Missouri, eventually providing approximately 200,000 horses to the British during the Boer War in South Africa. William P. Hall was also unique in his involvement with circuses. He would buy circus animals and equipment from circuses as they went bankrupt and began the first known rental service of circus animals and equipment. He also had the largest herd of elephants in the western hemisphere. You can find more about William P. Hall, the self-proclaimed "Horse King of the World" and circus entrepreneur at my website, 59781931.nhd.weebly.com."

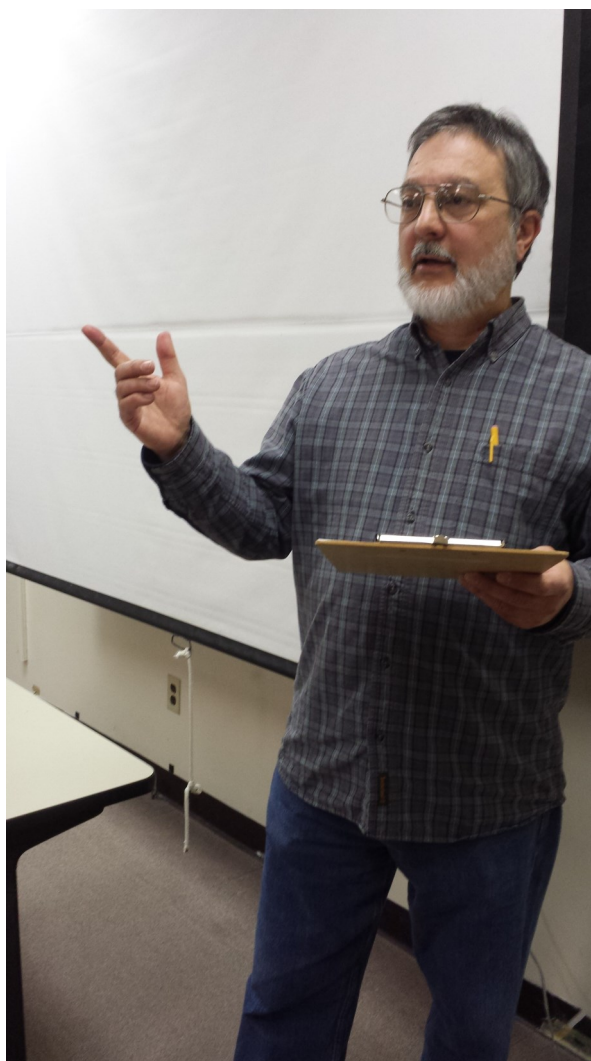


Lynn Morrow writes: "The University of Missouri Press will publish my fourth volume on Ozarks history in fall 2013; it is an anthology of 15 essays edited by me & titled, *The Ozarks in Missouri History: Discoveries in an American Region*, and will come out in paperback. <http://www.amazon.com/The-Ozarks-Missouri-History-Discoveries/dp/0826220061>



Evelyn Trickel went the extra mile — literally — to deliver a trunkful of books and papers donated by **Terry Critten**, niece of **Donna and Richard Ashenfelter** — longtime society members and professional storytellers. Donna passed away recently, and Richard moved into assisted living. Evelyn, a longtime colleague, volunteered to see their legacy into the proper hands.

Dr. Antonio Scuderi, a specialist in oral traditions and drama, particularly the Nobel-winning Italian dramatist Dario Fo, gave the semester’s final talk in Truman State University’s folklore symposium series. On December 3, he presented “The Oral Tradition in Western Comedy.”



**Missouri Folklore Society
Potosi MO
November 7, 2013
Financial Statement Jan.1 to Oct. 31, 2013**

INCOME

	2012	2013
Membership Dues	\$1,130.00	\$1,380.00
Annual Meeting	\$4,065.00	\$1,270.00
Donations, Grants	\$470.00	\$260.00
Sales	\$127.65	\$151.00
Interest	\$83.39	\$41.53
Miscellaneous Refund		
Total	\$5,876.54	\$3,102.53

EXPENSES

Journal Printing		
Newsletter Printing		
Annual Meeting	\$2,681.29	
Refunds	\$25.00	
Postage	\$67.88	\$58.53
Awards		
Supplies		
Miscellaneous	\$10.00	\$10.00
Total	\$2,759.17	\$93.53

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2012	\$25,726.00
CD 12-31-2012	\$18,837.18
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,553.54
Total Account Balance 12-31-2012	\$59,116.72

Checking Account Balance 10-31-2013	\$28,110.00	
CD 10-31-2013	\$18,860.00	.15% til 10-25-13
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,571.71	.15% til 3-7-14
Total Account Balance 10-31-2013	\$61,542.25	

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Para

THE MISSOURI FOLKLORE SOCIETY 2012-2015

P. O. Box 1757

Columbia, MO 65205-1757

(phone 660.882.7821)

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**Missouri Folklore Society Board Meeting
Saturday November 9 2013
Trout Lodge**

Call to order 11:35 am, with expression of thanks to all conference organizers: Clyde & Liz Faries, Jim & Jan Caudle, John & Carol Fisher

Minutes from March at Lenoir Center submitted, approved as read.

Treasurer: final bills for this conference still be paid. One new life membership; Schroeder endowment growing slowly. We're over the \$60K mark. Looks like we'll break even on this meeting, except for \$934 approved for digital projectors. Report moved and approved.

The headcount: 85 attendees; the auction raised \$844.50

Announcements regarding Boonville Meeting (Barton, Para) The venue will again be the Isle of Capri casino. November 6-8. Possible theme would be a Native American focus; Ioway and Missouri experts being lined up; American Folk Art could also be a push.

Plans for Meeting in 2015: Roger Jungmeyer and Debra Greene are stepping up for Jefferson City/ Lincoln University

Publications reports:

- a) journals: Lyn Wolz has the journal mockup 2005-6 (approx 240 pps) The Fishers are producing a triple issue – 2007-9. Index issues will be 2010-11 “Best of MFSJ” will be a triple issue, as will the much more challenging “Guide to Missouri Folklore” (Jim and Adam – in process).
- b) Newsletter – proceedings of this meeting; in process
- c) MFS website – some files lost in server migration
- d) digitized journals (Vandergriff) reminder of a number of venues for making these files available; at some point we will have to decide if we want the access free or paywalled.

Committee Reports

- a) Schroeder endowment fund
- b) long term communication group (Wolz, Vandergriff, Rogers, Para, etc) Hasn't met

New Business:

Discussion of what to do with/about rather large cash surplus. We want to use some for scholarships. Let's use to sponsor young people to attend and present – lodging, food, conference fee. Details to be worked out at March meeting. Formal proposal to come.

Certificate in honor of Cecil and Ruth Williams read aloud by Cathy Barton.

Appreciation of Jan and Liz for all their hard work in organizing, Sam Griffin as always.

Now officers and board members, slate elected.

Cathy Barton accepted gavel.

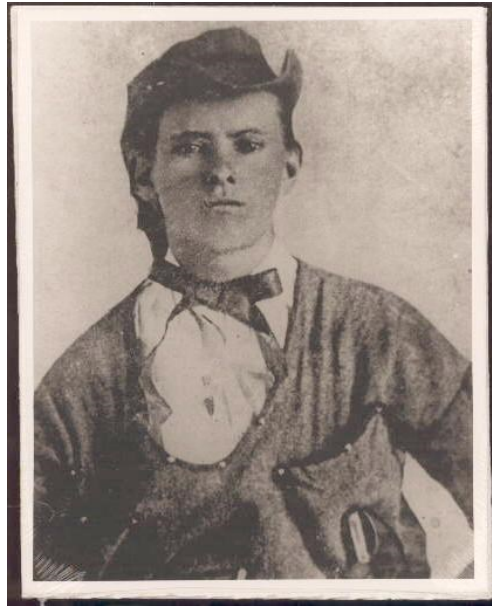
Adjourn 12:05n

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

Reminiscences of Jesse James from Center, MO

My great-grandfather, Dr. R. Cole, wanted to go where he could buy land for his children. They had lived in Carrolton Illinois, [...] Dr. Cole brought his family to Ralls County Missouri and settled about six and one-half miles southwest of Center, Missouri on the place now owned by O.R. Jackson. Dr. Cole was a physician and Baptist minister who preached around all through this part of the country.



Perhaps one of the most interesting events of Dr. Cole's life in Ralls County occurred during the time when he was holding a revival meeting at Adiel church, a small country Baptist church located east of Madisonville, between Madisonville and Elk Lick. During this meeting the notorious Jesse James was in attendance at the service. He came to the Adiel neighborhood under an assumed name to find work. He worked at various farm homes never molesting anyone. Mr. Duncan Ellis, of LaJunta Colorado, tells an interesting story of him working for his father and himself. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis had gone to his father's house for a visit, Jesse James came there that night and asked to spend the night. They did not know at the time that he was Jesse James. Mr. Ellis was kind of behind in his spring work and this stranger offered to cut spouts and help him get started. He worked for him about a month and then left and went to work for neighbor by the name of George Fisher. He worked there about a month and left. He told Mrs. Fisher he was going to leave, but would not tell where to nor why.

He had been going under the name of Henry Hammond. When he left, he said that Frank Beavers, a circuit rider, also a relative of Cash and Claude Beavers, north of Vandalia, would be there that night and would know him by the name John O. Franklin. They did not know how he knew Mr. Beavers was coming that night, but he did come. When told that John O. Franklin had worked with him, Mr. Beavers looked as if he had been shot. Mr. Beavers said that Franklin had worked with him in a Sunday school in South Missouri. The detectives got after him and he was forced to leave. They later found he was Jesse James.

Mr. Ellis second daughter was a little baby, when Jesse James worked there. He was good to take care of her. One day he asked Mrs. Ellis if he might name her. He said he wanted to call her Lerah Morris for a girl he knew by that name. They called her that until she died.

Jesse James then disappeared from this part of the country.

Both my grandmother and grandfather have seen many changes in the time that they have been in Missouri and they think there will still be many changes. Landmarks that were here then are now gone and the things that have added since they have been are many.

Written by Mrs. Chas. Hawkinson around 1915; published in the Center *Herald*, August 11, 1955. Republished by the Ralls County Historical Society. Visit them at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~morchs>

***Save the date:
Board of Directors meeting at Lenoir Center (Columbia
March 15, 2014
(tentative)
Watch for email updates!***



See you next year in Boonville!

