

# Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1757, Columbia MO 65202  
<http://missourifolkloresociety.truman.edu>

Volume 40, Nos. 3-4

Fall 2016

## MFS Meets in the ‘Ville

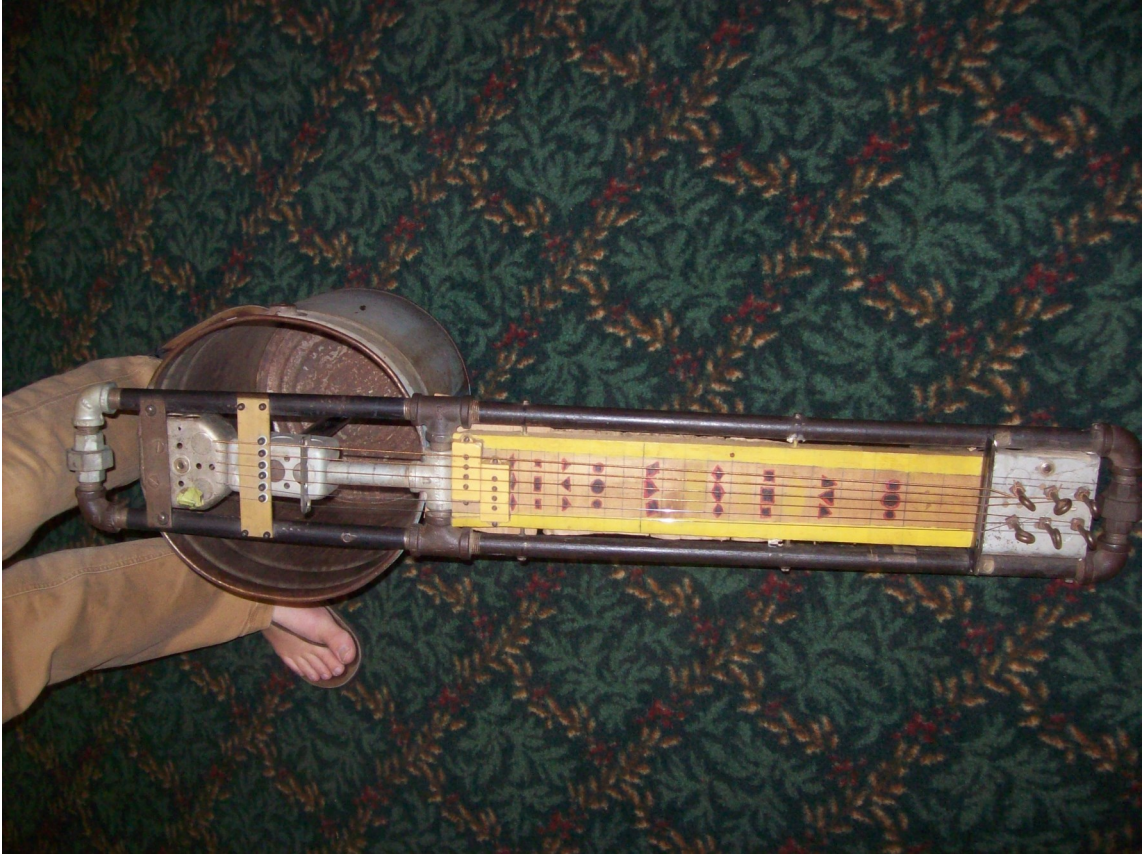
The Society held its annual meeting November 3-5 in Kirksville. Conference organizer Betsy Delmonico was at work the previous summer, lining up speakers, exhibits and performers to showcase Missouri’s increasingly diverse folk populations – along with the necessary funding and other support, plus logistics. With the generous assistance of the Missouri Arts Council and the Missouri Humanities Council, as well as Truman State University’s School of Arts & Letters and Department of English and Linguistics, visitors were able to choose from a variety of opportunities at nearly all times. Highlights included the launch of Loretta Washington’s book, *My Corner of the Porch* – her memoirs of growing up in the Bootheel during the 1950s, published as *MFSJ* vol 32. Illustrations were provided by Don Carlson. Washington read selections to an appreciative audience in Truman’s Georgian Room on Thursday evening, before the usual jam began.

Another unforgettable event was the appearance of Chief Bokulaka Kasenge, a Congolese musician, drummer, civil war survivor and ambassador for peace. There were panels on foodways, and on folklore in film. Ryan Spearman gave the keynote address on sustainable instrument-making, displaying and playing a marvelous collection of music-machines created from scavenged materials.



Missouri Arts Council  
*The State of the Arts*

The Society extends special thanks to the Multicultural Affairs Center at Truman State University for their generous support. Among other endeavors, they collaborated with the Missouri Arts Council and Missouri Humanities Council in funding the month-long exhibit at the Kirksville Arts Association: "Celebrating Missouri's Diverse Folk." We are grateful to the Show-Me Missouri Speakers series' making it possible for Ken Winn to speak on Dr. McDowell, and the travelling exhibit on the Sac and Fox.



There were demonstrations of Guatemalan and African cookery, soap-making, basketweaving, making of musical instruments, discussions of heritage vegetables and mule-culture, the traditions of anvil firing and the sanitary fairs of the American Civil War, and the reception of minstrelsy among Missouri's black residents. Scholarly presentations covered murder ballads, ghostlore, contemporary online fandoms and folk architecture, with presentations as well by Jason Haxton, the owner of the Dybbuk Box (which inspired the film *The Possession*) and John Smelcer, custodian of the personal effects of Thomas Merton, who is likely to be proposed for sainthood one of these days.

Saturday morning was for the energetic, with participatory sessions on Guatemalan and Congolese dance, as well as more local forms, plus a reader's theater adaptation off Russian folktales. Three Missouri poets presented original work.

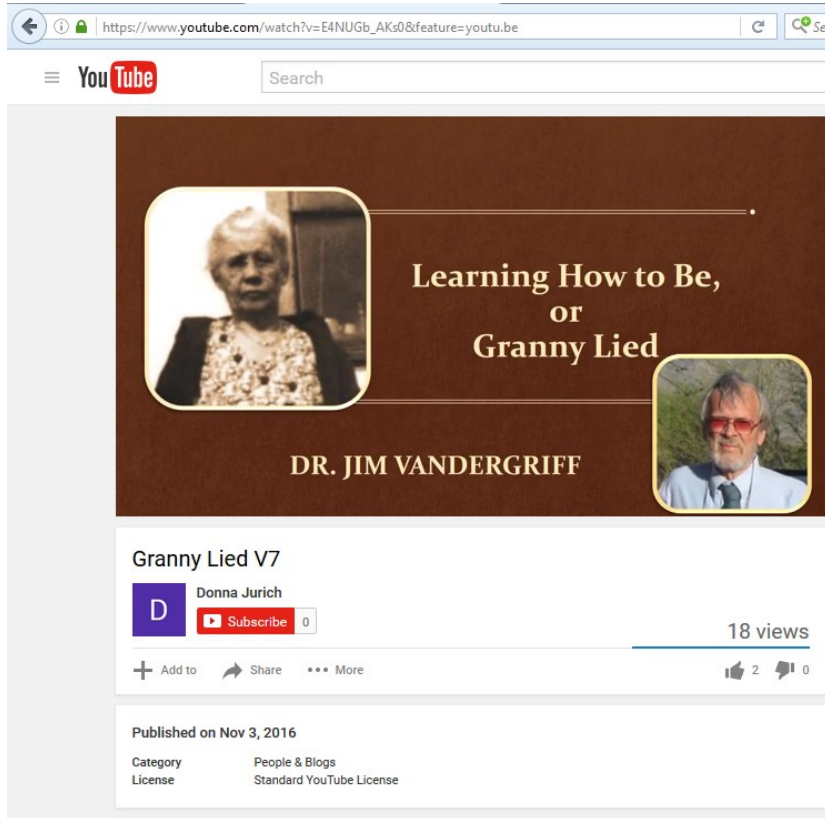
Next year, we meet in Sikeston, where the meeting will be organized by John and Carol Fisher with Ken and Janelle Burch.



The Dolf and Becky Schroeder prize was won by Lewis Dunham of Truman State University, who presented his paper on the form and structure of coming-out narratives at the meeting.



A special highlight was our first distance-presentation, by the faithful Jim Vandergriff. Illness prevented him from being physically present this year, so he sent his 42-minute talk on the purposes of folklore via YouTube.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4NUGb\_AKs0&feature=youtu.be

YouTube Search

**Learning How to Be, or Granny Lied**

**DR. JIM VANDERGRIFF**

Granny Lied V7

Donna Jurich

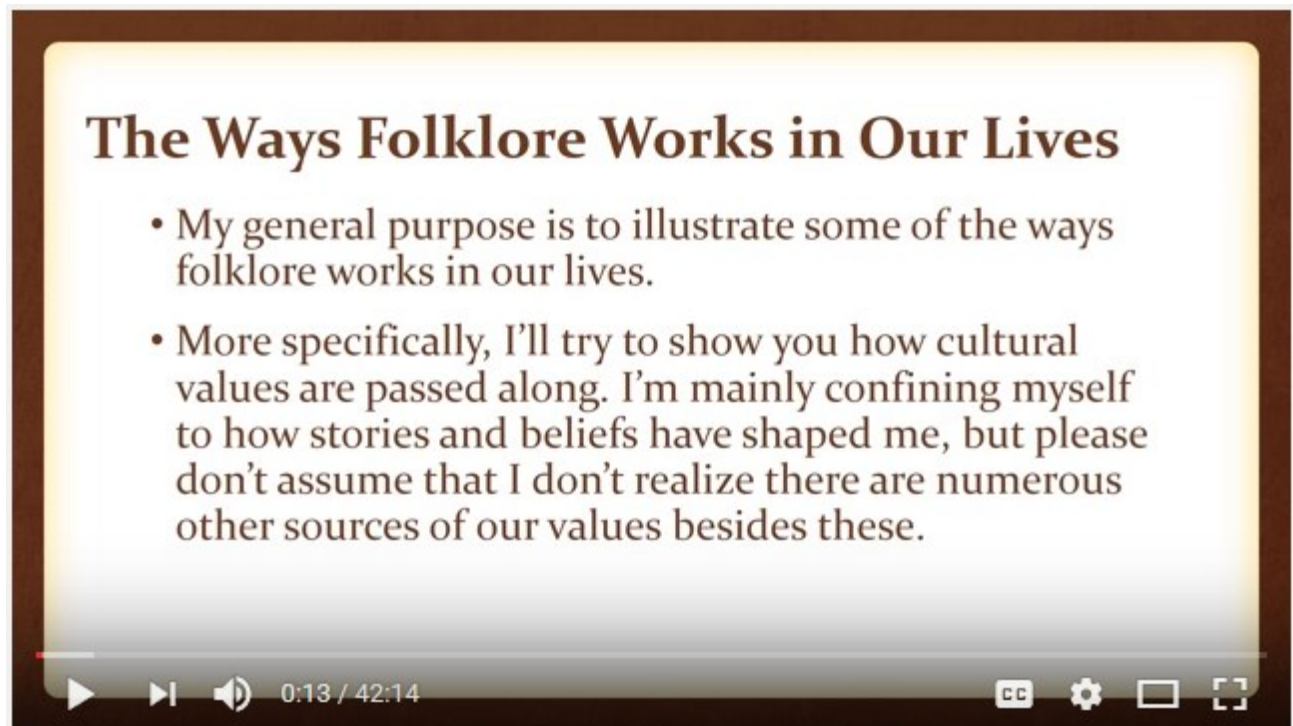
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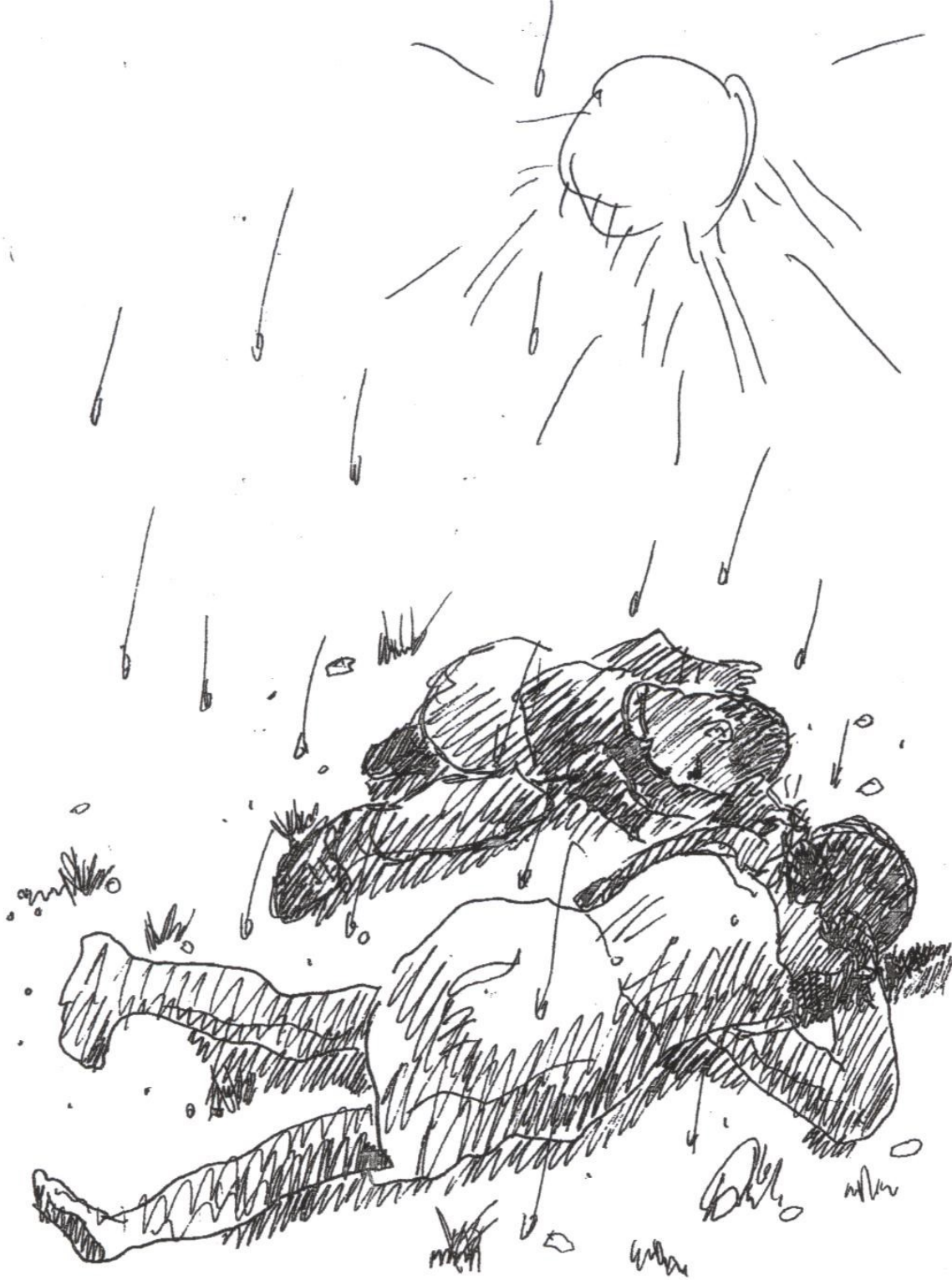


## The Ways Folklore Works in Our Lives

- My general purpose is to illustrate some of the ways folklore works in our lives.
- More specifically, I'll try to show you how cultural values are passed along. I'm mainly confining myself to how stories and beliefs have shaped me, but please don't assume that I don't realize there are numerous other sources of our values besides these.

0:13 / 42:14

Granny Lied V7



Don Carlson's illustration for Loretta Washington's story "The Devil Beating His Wife." When rain falls and the sun's shining, old timers used to say "The Devil's beating his wife," or "the Devil's getting married." Additional copies of *My Corner of the Porch* are available from Golden Antelope PPress. Email [ndelmoni@gmail.com](mailto:ndelmoni@gmail.com)

**Missouri Folklore Society**  
 Kirksville, MO  
 Nov. 3, 2016  
 Financial Statement Jan.1 to Oct. 31, 2016

	<b>INCOME</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Membership Dues	\$1,355.00	\$1,105.00
Annual Meeting	\$6,519.50	\$2,845.00
Donations, Grants	\$18.00	\$2,925.00
Sales	\$690.00	\$393.00
Interest	\$50.08	\$42.01
Miscellaneous Refund		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,612.58</b>	<b>\$7,310.01</b>

	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Journal Printing	\$4,869.71	\$3,681.97
Newsletter Printing		
Annual Meeting	\$5,446.39	\$271.90
Refunds		
Postage	\$639.17	\$889.43
Awards		
Supplies		
Miscellaneous		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,955.27</b>	<b>\$4,843.30</b>

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2015	\$23,613.20
CD 12-31-2015	\$18,921.86
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,618.96
Total Account Balance 12-31-2015	\$57,154.02

Checking Account Balance 10-31-2016	\$23,809.42
CD 10-31-2016	\$18,945.56
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,637.27
Total Account Balance 10-31-2016	\$57,392.25

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Para

## THE MISSOURI FOLKLORE SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1757  
Columbia, MO 65205-1757  
(phone 660.882.7821)

### *Officers and Board of Directors*

#### President:

Carol and John Fisher  
Ken and Janelle Burch

#### Vice President:

Meredith Rau  
Annie Fuller

#### Executive Secretary:

Adam Davis

#### Treasurer:

Dave Para

#### Corresponding Secretary:

#### Archivist:

Rebecca B. Schroeder

### *2015-2018*

Jeanelle Ash, Kimberling City  
Ray Brassieur, Lafayette LA  
Carol Bening, Jefferson City  
Sharon Brock, Columbia  
Adam Davis, Kirksville  
Betsy Delmonico, Kirksville  
Neil Delmonico, Kirksville  
Clyde Faries, Terre du Lac  
Liz Faries, Terre du Lac  
Rachel Gholson, Springfield  
Debra Greene, Jefferson City  
Sam Griffin, Columbia  
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Roger Jungmeyer, Jefferson City  
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Linda McCollum, Sedalia  
Carla Waal Johns, Columbia  
Hester Wise, Rolla  
Lu Ann Roth, Columbia  
Meredith Rau, St. Charles  
Annie Fuller, St. Louis  
Andrea Davis, Kirksville

### *2016-2019*

Jean Brand, Columbia  
Don Carlson, Leavenworth KS  
Mim Carlson, Leavenworth KS  
Truman Coggsell, Frankford  
Howard W. Marshall, Fulton  
Margot McMillen, Fulton  
Cathy Barton Para, Boonville  
Dave Para, Boonville  
Carol Rice, Louisville KY  
Irvin Rice, Louisville KY  
Debra Thompson, Harrisburg  
Susan Bryson, Lenexa, KS  
Barbara Price, Kirksville  
Ken Burch, Sikeston  
Janelle Burch, Sikeston  
Bruce Scovill, Jefferson City  
Norma Cantu, Kansas City  
Scott White, Belleville, IL

### *2014-2017*

Gladys Coggsell, Frankford  
Judy Domeny Bowen, Springfield  
Jim Caudle, Bonne Terre  
George Caudle, Bonne Terre  
Gene Edson, Richmond  
John Fisher, Kennett  
Carol Fisher, Kennett  
Betty Henderson, Monett  
Antonio F. Holland, Kansas City  
Gordon McCann, Springfield  
Mettazee Morris, St. Louis  
Lynn Morrow, Jefferson City  
Frank Nickell, Cape Girardeau  
Brett Rogers, Boonville  
Paul Schwartzkopf, Quincy IL  
Rebecca B. Schroeder, Columbia  
Evelyn Trickle, Trenton  
Jim Vandergriff, Tucson AZ  
Lyn Wolz, Lenexa KS  
Annette Richter, Moorhead, MN  
Donna Jurich, Tucson AZ  
Jan Caudle, Bonne Terre  
Gary Buxton, Pocahontas AR

Missouri Folklore Society Board Meeting  
Thursday November 3, 2016  
Days Inn, Kirksville

Agenda:

Call to order: 4:13, President Betsy Delmonico.

Reports of Secretary and Treasurer (Davis and Para)

Meeting finances -- Many unknowns at this point. Betsy got a lot of grants for the meeting that will defray many expenses from the meeting. CD interest amounts to \$42 on \$30K. Significant mailing expenses for the meeting and journal. Loretta Washington's memoirs, Lyn Wolz's index forthcoming, Lisa Higgins' collection of essays on public folklore in preparation. For future mailings, insist on duplex printing to save weight.

Announcements regarding Kirksville Meeting (Betsy Delmonico):

Promoting carpooling to the evening event. We're using tomato gravy, chocolate gravy from Carol's book, plus Latinx and Congolese specialties. Mentioned Kirksville Arts Association exhibit.

Grants from MHC (\$1500, requiring matching from English and MAC), sponsorship of Sac & Fox Exhibit, MAC touring grant for Ryan Spearman (whose wife is with the St Louis Folk School), Ken Winn is the Show-Me Speaker.

Schroeder contest winner to be announced.

Plans for meetings in 2017 and 2018:

John and Carol Fisher, Sikeston, with Ken and Janelle Burch, who live there. Suggest America's Best Value Inn – has worked for writers' conferences, with three meeting rooms plus a "library" room for books, etc. Large dining room. Continental breakfast, affordable rooms. First weekend of November. Deer hunters squeeze us out for the second. Price \$1900 We're spending \$600/day (\$300 if we meet our room-quota) here in Kirksville. Attractions for Sikeston include Hunter-Dawson historical site, w/ Civil War uniforms, New Madrid site, SE MO Ag Museum, 20 miles west (Bloomfield) Dulcimer group, dulcimer makers. Beekeeper, Elaine Lawless was involved in a film about the destruction of the Pin Hook community. Joe Rhodes did a book on Lewis Howk (sp?) Long drive, but it's on interstate, and you go past Lambert's for "threwed rolls."

Concern about poor attendance at Thursday afternoon events – start later? Make it a tour afternoon? Staying later on Saturday hasn't worked out well.

How many rooms to block? This year, we blocked 40 and filled 30.

Barb Price was talking about Marshall as a possibility. Washington MO is inviting us, and Lyn's cousin might be willing. Annie & Meredith are not far. Adam will help with recruiting papers. World headquarters for corncob pipes.

Marshall was part of our "back to the center" policy. Barb went to HS there, and they have a good community center which is partly an early aviation museum. There isn't a hotel with meeting rooms. Arrow Rock is close, Cathy & Dave are close. Doing things from a distance is hard. We need to recruit \*people\* there if we're going to do this.

Pulaski Co is interested.



#### Publications reports

MFS Journal (Wolz, Davis, Neal Delmonico)

Open Folklore's proposal to archive the MFS website: "gray literature" – Indiana U and AFS are archiving websites.

Update on the status of the Hathi Trust's digitization project. They can't add in items to the collection very easily. Meantime, there's EBSCO's proposal to make current and future MFS Journal articles available through their version of the MLA International Bibliography with Full Text. This will make our journals more widely available than through the Hathi Trust (primarily via academic collections). It's a nonexclusive contract. The royalties contract is convoluted.

Newsletter (Davis): it will be primarily about the meeting.  
MFS website: we're updating

#### Committee Reports

Schroeder endowment fund: LuAnne Roth is now the chair. Lewis Dunham is this year's winner.  
long term communication group (Wolz, Betsy Delmonico, Neal Delmonico, Brett Rogers, Cathy Barton, Dave Para, etc)

#### New Business

Information: Discussion Items for Ad Hoc Communications Committee Meeting

We need to meet someplace other than Lenoir in the Spring. Propose the Friends Room at the Columbia Public library on Broadway. Shared Becky Schroeder's email address for warm wishes.

-The condition of the MFS archives at the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center in Columbia. Nothing in the archived tapes is catalogued or indexed. It would be a long-term project requiring grant support. Lyn proposes to discuss this at the membership meeting or with the communications group. This came out of the proposed CD of music and tales performed by MFS members, which we would still like to create. Somebody has to take point on this project.

-Updating / redesigning / relocating the website:

-outreach targets: Folk Alliance (KC), Folk School (StL), Bethel, Sugar Creek, others.

Dave pointed out that we need to move Carol & John Fisher to be new presidents, with Ken & Janelle Burch. We'll leave VP in suspense. Some retirements from the board for people no longer able to attend.

Adjourn 5:28

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

## **Missouri Folklore Society General Meeting**

Saturday November 5, 2016

Days Inn, Kirksville

Agenda:

Call to order 12:13

John & Carol Fisher, Adam Davis, Dave Para, Betsy Delmonico, Neal Delmonico, Judy Domeny, Howard Marshall, Scott White, Annie Fuller, Meredith Rau, LuAnne Roth, Evelyn Rogers, Brett Rogers, Rachel Gholson, Sue Bryson, Lyn Wolz, Barb Price, Cathy Barton.

### Reports

Treasurer reports no changes since Thursday; meeting balance not available. \$546.50 from auction. We will have significant journal, printing, mailing expenses this year, but we have a large balance. Took in total of approximately \$3525 in grants. 64 paid registrants with a lot more on the program. Last year 96 paid registrants, 2014 (Boonville) 71, 2013 about 100 (Trout Lodge), 2012 Defiance 70).

Schroeder winner: Lewis Dunham.

We'll look into bringing out two volumes of proceedings, documentation and scholarship, to get started in the next few weeks.

Publications: newsletter being built now, Lisa Higgins volume in preparation.

Jim's video to be posted.

### Announcements

Plans for meetings in 2017 and 2018. Plans for Sikeston underway. Emphasis on moving things back to the center, to the western half of the state.

### New Business

2018-- two possibilities --

Washington: Lyn's Cousin Amy taught there for 25 years. Meredith volunteers as well, so does Annie, so does Adam.

Barb talked about Marshall, upsides and downsides.

Margot moved Washington 2018, leaving Marshall as an option for 2019. Second Barb. Passed.

Incoming presidents John & Carol Fisher, Vice President Meredith Rau. Delete Genevieve Valentine, Peter & Belia Nichols, adding Scott White. "LuAnne" Roth needs corrected spelling.

Need a date for the spring meeting. Propose April 1 at the Daniel Boone library in Columbia.

Neal raised question of royalties policy. Sent to exec comm.

Adjourn 1:12 Those who are hungry and sociable to meet at Colton's.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

## Presenters, Titles and/or Abstracts from the 2016 Missouri Folklore Society meeting: Papers, Readings, Presentations

*(not all participants' abstracts were available at press time.)*

Cara Alexander, Missouri House of Representatives. (See also Sean Alexandria Roberts and LuAnne Roth.)

Alexander leads and presents within this specialized session Close Encounters with the Paranormal in Missouri (& beyond). At the end of the 19th century, people predicted that the world would enter a period of enlightenment. As technology developed, and humans conquered problems through science, we would reject “superstitions” in favor of scientific reason. This prediction was grossly inaccurate. The presenters on this panel explore contemporary reports of hauntings and the paranormal. The first presenter, Sean Roberts, describes legend trips seeking close encounters with the “spook lights” of Joplin, MO. The second, Cara Alexander, examines stories of a ghostly woman in a red rocking chair who foreshadows death for nursing home residents in Linn, MO. The last presenter, LuAnne Roth, compares cinematic haunt-narratives with those of students.

Together, the presenters on this panel interrogate the performance and cultural meaning of paranormal legends in context. Alexander’s paper, “A Haunting Osage County: The Angel Of Death Revisited,” tells of a local nursing home in Linn, MO, that fostered an interesting legend complex including intrigue, ghosts, and death. A visit from a woman in a red rocking chair, wearing a white dress, is the foreshadowing sign of death for the residents living with dementia. The structure of this legend is very reminiscent of an Angel of Death complex. People often associate haunting with fear, anxiety and panic, but in this oral narrative, we have an example of a haunting that brings comfort and familiarity. Although the lady in the white dress with the red rocker brings death, she also brings comfort to those left behind, as well as a sense of familiarity for residents who have already lost so much.



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Elaine Aubuchon, Truman State University and Faith Lutheran School. “Folkdance Fun for Everyone!” This session is for anyone of any age and ability to come together and share in the joy of folk dancing. All dances are simple and will be taught and learned quickly so we can share in the communal joy of music making and dancing. No spectators, please. Only participants!



Kay Beach, Kirksville, MO (with Rose Marie Smith and Andrea O'Brien). “Hands of Friendship Quilters Guild Trunk Show.” We talk about the history of quilting, our life adventures in quilting, and the newer adaptations of this traditional art form. We use an abundance of quilts to illustrate our points.



Bokulaka, St. Louis, MO. “African Drum and Dance Class.” Chief Bokulaka is an accomplished world traveler, artist, storyteller, and performer. He shares the culture of Central Africa through dance, songs, and stories. Attendees will learn to dance vibrant Soukous dances and feel the pulse of drumming styles from Bokulaka’s home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Linda Colton, Leawood, KS. "History Woven into Baskets." From the time of the earliest cultures and on down through the history of our country, handwoven baskets have played an important role in everyday life.

Allison Cundiff, Lindenwood University in St. Louis, Parkway Schools. "Readings from Otherings and In Short, A Memory of the Other on a Good Day." These two collections of poems by the St. Louis teacher and poet, capture some of her experiences as she grows up in Climax Springs, Missouri, and then as she extends her reach out into the world at large. The poems gathered here are expressions of wonder and wisdom, love and heartbreak, close encounters with death and the blossoming of new life in birth. The poems are accompanied by photographs taken by Allison and her friends, adding graphic reinforcements to her musings in words.



Neal Delmonico, Blazing Sapphire Press, Kirksville. "Dogs for Dinner: Dogs and Food in Sac and Fox and Ancient Vedic Cultures." This paper explores the sacred position of dogs as providers of power and food in two native cultures widely separated in space and time, that of the Sac and Fox Indians of Iowa-Missouri-Oklahoma and that of ancient Vedic India as preserved in the Chandogya Upanisad of the singer-sages of the Sama Veda.

Sarah Denton, community scholar, MFAP (Missouri Folk Arts Program). "Sink or Swim." Attending twenty-six schools in thirteen states spanning eight years during the 1960's as a pipeliner's daughter, I offer this glimpse into the unique social structure of pipeline community and the nomadic life our family led as we moved along pipeline routes. With his sink or swim attitude Kenneth Blevins joined the ongoing Ozark outmigration in 1960. After his first grueling day of work on the pipeline, he recognized the burgeoning economic possibilities now open to him that changed our lives forever.

Lewis N. Dunham, Truman State University. "Folklore of Coming Out Stories." Dunham presents a structural and functional analysis of coming out stories of LGBT+ college students.

Lisa Erhart, Missouri State University. "Folk Music: There's More than Tradition." An examination of how contemporary local music both reflects and influences the modern folklore of an area. This particular presentation focuses specifically on the local music scene in Springfield, Missouri and surrounding areas. The presentation discusses how traditional Ozarkian folk music has been modernized to contemporary music standards, and what this could mean for the future of folk music study.



Carol Fisher, Kennett, MO. “Fair Mania’: The Great Civil War Sanitary Fairs in the North.” “Fair Mania” swept across the North as the Civil War progressed. Men and women worked at home to provide, among other items, hospital supplies and special food items for soldiers on the battlefields and in military hospitals. What started out as family and friends sending simple items such as jars of jellies, cakes and meats evolved into a collection network that became the great festive Civil War Sanitary Fairs. According to Beverly Gordon, these grand events, located in several large cities, raised over five million dollars – a sum she estimated in 1998 would be about seventy five million. All but one of the great Sanitary Fairs were connected with the U.S. Sanitary Commission. The great Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, held in St. Louis, was organized by the

Western Sanitary Commission. Fisher’s discussion will focus on this fair.

John C. Fisher, Kennett, MO.  
“Anvil Firing: Revival of an Old Tradition.” A look at an old celebratory tradition that nearly vanished but is now seeing renewed interest.



Leyda Flores, Kirksville, MO. “Making Pupusas—El Salvador's National Dish.” Flores will demonstrate the making of pupusas, a traditional food made of cornmeal dough, and stuffed with a variety of spiced vegetables, cheeses, meats.

Axel Fuentes, Kirksville, MO. “Three Guatemalan Dances.” Fuentes explains the symbols incorporated into three traditional Guatemalan dances. He joins with seven other dancers from the Milan Rural Community Workers Alliance to demonstrate the costumes, sounds, and movements of each dance.



Annie Fuller, Kirkwood, MO (with Meredith Rau). "Lies about Lye Soap: Exploring Soap-making Past & Present." Explore the folklore and history of lye soap and soap-making while learning more about the process itself.

Rachel Gholson, Missouri State University. "Christmas Symbolism: From Trees to Black Peter, A Merry Conversation." An inside look at the importance of symbols, their use and meaning for individuals and communities. The focus will be on two specific Christmas displays at Missouri State University in 2007. One Christmas tree was removed from public display for several days and then replaced with a winter holiday display. Across campus, another was a gift from secretaries to their department and prompted an intriguing discussion of symbols and their meanings.

Laura Hastings, University of Missouri, St. Louis (with Elizabeth Miller). "Murder Ballads of Missouri." Much as people are drawn to crime scenes, true crime novels and television shows, and podcasts about murder, there is a long-standing folk tradition of writing songs about murders. In this panel, we will examine that tradition using murder ballads of Missouri and the stories that inspired them, situating these songs in the shared cultural memory surrounding the murders and getting at what inspires people to mix murder and music.

Jason Haxton – Director, A.T. Still University Museum. "The Dibbuk Box - Jewish Mysticism and Hollywood Collide at Kirksville!" Dibbuk Box as an artifact - Kirksville local Harry H. Laughlin and Hitler - Hollywood's fascination! Presentation explains how a simple Jewish Prayer Box connects Kirksville to the Holocaust and in turn became a hundred million dollar box office success for Lionsgate Pictures. It is all too weird to be false. Questions encouraged.







Jerrold Hirsch, Department of History, Truman State University. "Pete Seeger, Internet Eulogies, and His Folk Community." "This paper will examine the internet Pete Seeger obituaries and eulogies and the making of a folk legend and his folk community."

Phillip Howerton, Missouri State University-West Plains. "The History of Tree Roots: Poems, Photographs, and Artifacts." These poems engage several elements of Ozarks folklore and explore a number of themes re-

lated to rural lifestyles of the past.

Allison Kelly, Truman State University. "The University Swingers Do Swing Dancing." Members of Truman's University Swingers demonstrate the art of swing dancing.

Mariah Marsden, University of Missouri-Kansas City. "The Three Stages of Ritual: An Ozark Storyteller and Creative Nonfiction." Excerpts from a creative nonfiction piece exploring the material and imaginative elements of rural life in southwestern Missouri. Marsden examines the narrative practices of a modern Ozark storyteller, using ritual stages to explore how these stories have shaped a family's perception of land, history and heritage.

Howard Marshall, Fulton & Columbia. "Themes in Traditional Violin Music." (Session chair. See Scherer and Shewmaker.) There are many elements in today's "fiddle scene" that are grounded in history and custom. Two of these elements that continue to be vital in Missouri are the old-time-style Saturday-night basket dinner and dance (which many people consider moribund); and the young person committed to learning to make and repair violins through time-honored path of apprenticeship. The session will welcome two new faces to the MFS program, Richard Shewmaker (Columbia and Kirksville) and Will Scherer (Columbia).



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Patrick McGlasson, Eldred, IL. "Dividing the Delta: How Geographic Terminology Still Divides the Deep South." This paper looks at the de facto segregation of towns in the Mississippi Delta with particular interest in how it affects the language of the communities. For nearly 150 years the Mississippi Delta has been a segregated place. The clearest example of this are the railroad tracks that ran through the center of most Delta towns. The majority of these have long since been torn up and replaced with walking paths, but for many citizens they still serve as a line demarking the segregation that has withstood the test of time here.

Dave Malone, West Plains, MO. Author of two novels, a play, and seven books of poetry, Malone selects poems related to Ozark folklore for this reading.

Elizabeth Miller, University of Missouri, St. Louis. "Murder Ballads of Missouri" (with Laura Hastings). Much as people are drawn to crime scenes, true crime novels and television shows, and podcasts about murder, there is a long-standing folk tradition of writing songs about murders. In this panel, we will examine that tradition using murder ballads of Missouri and the stories that inspired them, situating these songs in the shared cultural memory surrounding the murders and getting at what inspires people to mix murder and music.

LYONS WILLIAM		1329 GAY ST.	
Deceased		Residence	
738	12-26-95	31	M
Case No.	Date	Age	Sex
GUNSHOT WOUND ABDOMEN		P. M.	
Cause of Death		Source	
C. A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Undertaker	
Y	N		
SHELTON LEE ALIAS LEE STACK 513 S. 6 <sup>TH</sup> ST.			
Defendant			
HOMICIDE		12-27-95	
Disposition		Date	
Shot by dept. in saloon at 11 <sup>PM</sup>			
Remark			
Morgan - 12-25-95			

Form 397-M

Celeste Nyemba, Kirksville, MO. "Congolese Cuisine." What is special about Congolese cooking? What tastes are prized? There is much to learn.

O'Brien, Andrea, Kirksville, MO (with Rose Marie Smith and Kay Beach). "Hands of Friendship Quilters Guild Trunk Show." We talk about the history of quilting, our life adventures in quilting, and the newer adaptations of this traditional art form. We use an abundance of quilts to illustrate our points.

Paul Parker, Truman State University. "Outside-In: The Metal Work of Bob Smithy and the Mental Work of Robert Smith." A discussion of several works collected from two Missouri self-taught artists.

Meredith Rau, Historic Daniel Boone Home (with Annie Fuller). "Lies about Lye Soap: Exploring Soap-making Past & Present." Explore the folklore and history of lye soap and soap-making while learning more about the process itself.

Marc Rice, Truman State University. "Representations of Minstrelsy in the Black Missouri Press." The topic of minstrelsy is covered in the black press of Kansas City from the turn of the century to the 1930s. I was always curious about African American reactions to stage shows featuring folks in black face. A chapter in a book written during a recent sabbatical.

Priscilla Riggle, Truman State University. "Online Fanfiction Communities and Theory of Fic-Gate." Internet fanfiction communities intentionally create and preserve a strong sense of camaraderie and positive reinforcement for all fannish behavior. In the context of fanfiction, this means that even stories that wouldn't be considered especially well-written by conventional literary standards may receive hundreds of positive responses.

Priscilla Riggle, Truman State University. When a student-run fanfiction course at UC-Berkeley last year assigned students to post online critiques of fanfiction, the authors of these works and their readers were so dismayed that one Tumblr post outing the students for not being "real fans" generated nearly 10,000 reblogs and comments. The incident came to be known as "Theory of Fic Gate." Studying fanfiction has much to teach us about communal amateur art-making and sharing. However, a respectful, ethical approach to fanfiction paces is not easy to craft; my talk will explore whether and to what extent we can responsibly approach internet fanfiction communities as folklorists.

Sean Alexandria Roberts, University of Missouri. "The Spook Light: An Unexplained Light Phenomenon." (See Cara Alexander for session description.) The Joplin Lights have fascinated and frightened locals of southwest Missouri for years. Often referred to as "spook lights" (orbs of light in isolated areas), the rare phenomenon tends to occur at night and in quiet situations. Explanations for the lights vary based on the culture in which they exist. In this paper, I describe people engaging in legend tripping to see the lights and a variety of different explanations offered for the phenomenon, whether ghosts, dragons, or aliens, and discuss how most cultures are inclined to believe the explanation of the phenomenon as something of supernatural origin (aka cultural source hypotheses). I then parallel some of this information with broader commonalities spook lights have with general ghost legends, detailing what scientists have to say on the subject.

Brett Rogers, William Woods University. "The Last Shotgun in Glasgow." *The Last Shotgun in Glasgow--A Tale of Vanishing Culture*. On a hill in the southeast corner of Glasgow, Missouri, stands a shotgun house built in the early 1920s by Homer Vivian, the son of local slaves. Long abandoned and beyond recovery, the dwelling is one of only a handful of shotgun houses that have survived in the region, a dilapidated remnant of a once vibrant African American community. As a vernacular type, the shotgun house is a Southern transplant, its origins traceable to the Caribbean and the black South, moving northward in the early decades of the twentieth century, everywhere a symbol for black marginality. Although the shotgun house manifested in relatively profuse numbers in cities like St. Louis with its narrow, constrictive plan and porch conducive to tight rows and communal focus, it soon became a part of the architectural vocabulary of small-town Missouri as well. With the demise of both urban and rural black communities in the last half-century, shotguns have all but disappeared from Missouri's architectural landscape. The Homer Vivian house is the last shotgun in the city of Glasgow, one of only two known examples in the county, and one of no more than about three dozen still standing in a roughly sixteen-county area of central and east-central Missouri. But beyond its rarity and architectural significance, the Vivian house tells the story of a single African-American family and a lost community.



Scott Rossi, Missouri State University. "Medic! A Brief Ethnography of Street and Protest Medics." Presentation explores the training, motivation, social roles and activities of those providing basic first aid services during demonstrations.

LuAnne Roth, University of Missouri. "'I don't believe in ghosts, but I have had some unexplainable experiences': Finding Meaning in the Context of Performance." (See Cara Alexander for session description.) According to Bill Ellis, one-fifth of Americans have experienced paranormal events (2001). Stories about their experiences are best not seen as just "texts," but as processes, strategies of naming marginal experiences. This presentation compares haunting narratives in select films (*The Others*, *The Sixth Sense*, *The Awakening*, *The Conjuring*) with those reported by students in my American folklore courses. Through an examination of the performative elements of these narratives—which invite interpretation, exploration, debate, and discussion—I attend in particular to the self-conscious negotiation of belief. As such, I argue that the cultural meaning of paranormal legends can only be found in the context of their performance.

Jana Russon, Goldsberry, MO. "'Comments on Life in Rural Missouri': A Blog." Russon will select, project, and read a few of her more folklorish blog post pieces.

Steve Salt, Green Valley Farm, Kirksville. "Bitter Melons and Cleopatra's Beauty Secret: Heritage, Ethnicity and Vegetables in Missouri." Distinctive foods and foodways are some of the most enduring characteristics of ethnic heritage. This presentation will explore a pot-pourri of vegetables grown in Missouri that represent the diverse ethnicities present in the state, ranging from Native Americans and early nineteenth century Irish and German settlers through recent Middle Eastern and Central African arrivals.

Will Scherer, Columbia MO. "The Path to Becoming a Violin Maker." (See Howard Marshall.) We live in an automated world where factories produce the majority of "things" we use and consume and yet there is still a demand for hand crafted violins. The craft of violin making can be traced back almost 400 years and remains virtually unchanged. Violins are valued as objects and honored in our collective memory as magical instruments. They sing songs, show us how to dance and love to hide out in our closets or attics. Having recently participated in the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program to apprentice with violin-maker Tom Verdote in Columbia, I think a great deal about these ideals as well as craftsmanship and the long journey toward perfection. The path to becoming a violinmaker has required that I shift my understanding of what it means to make something. It's been a transformation in thought as well as routine. Like many of fiddle tunes, violin making is very much a live traditional art passed from person to person. Our world is built around consumption, mass production and automation; quick turn-arounds and outcomes. In contrast, as I slowly develop skills and expertise using 400 year old tools and techniques I realize I'm not learning to make a violin; I'm learning to make my first. Throughout the presentation, I will be discussing some of the tools and techniques which are used in violin making, repair and restoration. Most importantly, I will encourage the panel and audience to join the conversation.

George Schramm, University of Missouri. "Cooking Up the Feels with Chef: An Analysis of the Cultural, Familial, and Sexual Functions of Food in Jon Favreau's 2014 film." Through his 2014 film *Chef*, Jon Favreau brought to the screen a late-in-life, coming-of-age tale that is dominated through Cuban-inspired foods. The film follows the story of a chef. After losing his wife and his restaurant job, he starts his own business and, in doing so, ends up growing closer to his family. Throughout the film, food serves as a catalyst that facilitates communication, admiration, and reconciliation. Food takes the place of sex between coworkers, it represents change through having to adapt and it represents connectivity with people.

Bruce Scovill, Lincoln University. "Uncovering Itinerant Folk Art in Ralls County." Discusses the Bell-Blatty mural and whether a second painting is still intact behind the sheetrock of another home.



Antonio Scuderi, Truman State University. "Building a Breadboard Psaltery (Zither) on the Cheap." An Italianist with interests in music and folklore, Scuderi takes the audience through the process of making (and playing) a zither from found materials, including pitfalls and lessons learned.

Justin Semahoro, St. Louis, MO. "Plenary Session on African Arts and Culture." (See Yampanya and Bokulaka.) A frequent speaker on human rights issues, he was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a leader of the Banymulenge community and speaks of his first hand experiences as a stateless person.

Stephen Shapiro, Rutledge, MO. "Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage." Sustainable living in this folk community.

Richard Shewmaker, Kirksville MO. "Hallsville: Conserving Traditional Missouri Music and Dance." (See Howard Marshall.) As one of the few remaining locations for traditional Missouri fiddle music and square dancing today, the once-a-month gathering in Hallsville, Missouri (northern Boone County), stands as a unique opportunity for beginners to become immersed in traditional music and dance. The jam session, pot-luck dinner, and square dance layout to the event allows for the building of a community of dancers and musicians, and often times brings in a mix of social groups. Although, in the face of bluegrass and Texas "contest style" fiddling, as well as mainstream country music, traditional Missouri fiddling and dancing has deteriorated, and the community at Hallsville has struggled to rekindle the fire of tradition. This research will investigate how Hallsville began, its unique community, and how it has shaped and continues to shape the new tradition bearers of old-time music and dance.

John Smelcer, Kirksville, MO. "Finding Thomas Merton" In the summer of 2015, Kirksville member of the Missouri Folklore Society John Smelcer was given custody of the worldly possessions of Thomas Merton—objects which had been preserved for decades by an ex-nun in Kansas City. Merton was one of the most influential thinkers, philosophers, writers, poets, mystics, and social rights and peace activists of the 20th century. He helped inform Martin Luther King, Jr. how to practice non-violent protest. Along with the Berrigan Brothers, Merton was one of the most vocal critics of the war in Vietnam. Lawrence Ferlinghetti included Merton's poems in a proto-Beat anthology with Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. His writing influenced the Beats, Bob Dylan, and even the Beatles. In his September 24, 2015 address to the US Congress, Pope Francis mentioned Merton eight times, calling him one of the greatest Americans, alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, and Abraham Lincoln. The relics/objects have been donated to the Smithsonian Museum of American History, the Vatican, and Thomas Merton Center in Louisville, KY. Hear the incredible story.



Smith, Rose Marie, Kirksville, MO (with Kay Beach and Andrea O'Brien). "Hands of Friendship Quilters Guild Trunk Show." We talk about the history of quilting, our life adventures in quilting, and the newer adaptations of this traditional art form, using an abundance of quilts to illustrate our points.

Ryan Spearman, St. Louis, MO. "Green Strum: Sustainable Traditions in Folk Instrument Building." A brief introduction to the use of sustainably-built instruments in folk music traditions followed by a hands-on demonstration of stringed instruments built from recycled and repurposed materials.

Lonny Thiele, Poplar Bluff, MO. "Mules in the Mud." Narratives of the men and women who farmed the Bootheel with mules, prior to the 1950s.

Jim Vandergriff, Tucson, AZ. "Learning to Be, or Granny Lied." A study of how folklore – in this case stories -- helps acculturate us. It looks at several stories, purported to be truthful, told to the author by his great grandmother and other family members, which taught him, as a child, how to believe and act. Recounted as truth, many of the stories have a basis in fact, but often have proved to be less than completely factual. The presentation is formatted as a video.

Michael Walden, University of Missouri. "All Aboard the 'Chew Chew' Train: A Look at Food and Character Development in the Film *Snowpiercer*." *Snowpiercer* (Bong Joon-ho 2013) is a dystopian science fiction film set in the not-so-distant future. The story begins after the world is destroyed from attempts to counteract global warming, creating perpetual winter that kills all life on the planet except for a lucky few who board a massive luxury train. Powered by a perpetual-motion engine ("the eternal engine"), the closed ecological system on the train travels continuously around the globe. Not surprisingly, a class system is established, with elites inhabiting the front of the train (where they enjoy a life of luxury and leisure), and the poor inhabiting the tail (where they are forced to eat filth). As the film comments on climate change and humans' destructive behavior, food is central to the plot and becomes the ultimate metaphor for the train's social structure on both micro and macro levels. Food also serves an important role in the protagonist's development and his realization of the true nature and power structure of the train.

Loretta Washington, Florissant, MO. "My Corner of the Porch." As keynote speaker at the Thursday night dinner, master storyteller and author Loretta Washington will be reading and performing stories from *My Corner of the Porch*, fifteen tales about her childhood in Wardell, MO. The book is being launched on November 4 as a special issue of the *Journal of the Missouri Folklore Society*. It will be available for purchase and for signing.



Ken Winn, Jefferson City, MO. “Mark Twain, Joseph McDowell, and Body Snatching in Nineteenth-Century Missouri.” Nineteenth-century medical educators needed human bodies for their students to practice on, but that was illegal. The result was midnight graveyard raids, student high jinx, and intrigue. Before the Civil War Dr. Joseph McDowell was Missouri's foremost medical educator. He was also Missouri's foremost body snatcher. Mark Twain thought him both amusing and brilliant and put him in his books and stories. Others were not as amused, and riot ensued when people suspected that his ghoulish students turned to murder to obtain bodies. McDowell's college was the state's first medical school, and both Washington University and the University of Missouri of Missouri claim him as their medical school's founder. “Show Me Missouri” speaker, Kenneth Winn, is the former state archivist of Missouri. He has taught history at Washington University, the University of Missouri—Columbia, and Lincoln University. He has written on topics ranging from the breach of promise of marriage to anti-Mormon violence to the rise of unelected government bureaucrats. His most recent book is an edited work entitled, *Missouri Law and the American Conscience: Historical Right and Wrongs* (2016). His talk on Mark Twain and Joseph McDowell is derived from a book length interpretative study of McDowell and nineteenth century medicine.

Deloris Gray Wood, Salem MO. “Saltpeter Cave on Ashley Creek that Flows into Current River.” The MFAP (Missouri Folk Arts Program) Community Scholar and Dent County Historical Society president introduces Volume III of the Ozark Heritage Dent County Cemeteries and Families series, containing poems, photographs and maps – and a discussion of the challenges of bringing such a work to press.



Cole Woodcox, Truman State University. “The Lincoln School: Kirksville's Last Black-Only School.” Art historian and English professor Woodcox discusses the institution, open from 1914 until the *Brown v Board of Education* decision ended legal segregation in education.

Wyatt Wu, University of Missouri. “Dining with the Spirits: An Analysis of the Significance of Food within *Spirited Away*.” In the award-winning Japanese fantasy film *Spirited Away* (2001), written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki, the story's protagonist is 10-year-old Chihiro. When Chihiro and her parents stumble upon a seemingly abandoned amusement park, her mother and father turn into giant pigs, after they eat gluttonously from a buffet of food. While the food that appears in most scenes may be difficult for American audiences to fully comprehend, this presentation offers analysis of the social and symbolic significance of such scenes. I show that, in some cases, food is used to assimilate and befriend foreigners as well as to develop characters. In other scenes, food stands as metaphor and reveals aspects of characters, sometimes in quite literal ways.

Richard Yampanya, Kirksville, MO. “Plenary Session on African Arts.” (Session organizer. See Bokulaka and Semahoro.)

### Special presentations:

*The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* by Meg Miroshnik; Directed by Ann Acklen Brown;  
Sponsored by Truman State University and the Theatre Department

Characters - Actors

Masha - Julie Amuedo

Katya - Kitty Corum

Baba Yaga - Kaitlin Chotrow

Nastya - Carolyn Ticktin



Winner of the Keneda Graduate Playwriting Competition, this dark comedy is set in 2005 post-Soviet Russia. The world is presented where women are called devushka, girl, until they are 70 and have to deal with strange occurrences just to survive. There are no such things as fairies in Russian skazka, but magic certainly exists. The show follows Anya, or Annie-like-the-orphan, as she returns to Russia for the first time since she was a child in the hopes of learning business Russian and eliminating her American accent. She lives with her aunt who is not really an aunt, Yaroslava, and meets several other devouski who teach her about Russian lives.



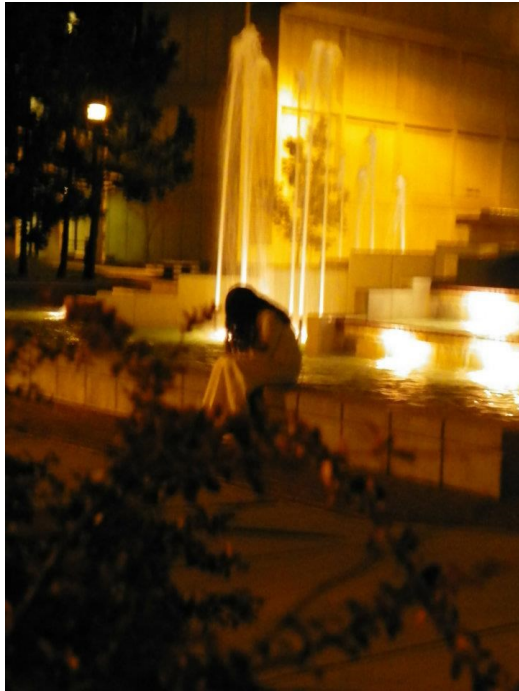
“I Am An American Too”: a special exhibition in the Ophelia Parrish Hall art gallery (see campus map). A collection of photographs taken by fast food workers in the Kansas City Area on exhibition in the University Art

Gallery, Ophelia Parrish 1114 through Friday, December 2.. Originally shown last May in Kansas City’s Talk Shop gallery, this exhibition received national media attention (<http://nyti.ms/1GDn5Ld>) for capturing the everyday occurrences, the working conditions, and the common struggles of urban low-income workers as captured from their own perspective. The photographs explore major topics in our contemporary society including income inequality, race and gender discrimination, workers’ rights, and the working poor.

*Above: Dallas Winters, Church’s Chicken: “Eviction”*



*Folklore students at **Missouri State University** revived (heh-heh-heh) the “Haunted Tour” event for Hallowe’en.*





## *Update on Max Hunter Research from Sarah Jane Nelson*

August 30, 2016

Dear Missouri Folklore Society Members:

As many of you are aware I am now in my second year of writing about the life of Max Hunter and his informants. And just as this budding biographer was forewarned, the research never ends, even once the real writing begins!

At the end of June my daughter and I flew out to Max's hometown of Springfield and it was a very productive trip. One of the most important things we did was to meet with Max's eldest daughter, Linda Bangs, who spent several hours speaking with me, and even brought Max's guitar along with her! After our visit she mailed me some photographs of the Hunter family.



As expected, we spent much of our time at the Springfield-Greene District Library where we made some exciting discoveries—chief among them: several letters between Hunter and both Vance and Mary Randolph; many an often miffed correspondence with festival organizers; a beautiful version of the ballad “Blackest Crow,” which I had never before encountered; a drawing of Max by Laura Cansler; and perhaps—most exciting to this New Englander—mention of a man named Fred Danker who came out to Missouri to meet with Max. Danker—yet another English professor—was particularly interested in Ollie Gilbert (Max's most prolific contributor).

When I returned home it took some sleuthing, but I discovered that Dr. Danker was a professor at UMass Boston. To make a long story rather short, Prof. Danker had collected about sixty hours of audio-taped songs and interviews with “Aunt Ollie” and had also participated in the “Rackensack” interviews. Sadly, Prof. Danker just passed away, and although I did not get to meet him I did meet with his wonderful family. All of this lead me to look more closely at the life of Arkansas singer and musician Ollie Gilbert, and I now know a great deal about the trials that she endured as well as her remarkable “memory bank.” She was an incredibly complex character, and I just wrote a draft chapter on her life which I sent out to an editor for review.

I am about to apply for some grants in the hopes of drumming up some more funds to pay for re-production of several photographic materials which are scattered from Wichita, Kansas to the University of Central Arkansas, (among other places); I will also be securing permissions for these materials. It is now the school year once again, and so I will be writing “around the edges” of my day and night jobs—but much progress has indeed been made. Included here is a link to my very necessary fundraiser, <https://www.gofundme.com/hunterbiography> The fundraiser CD, which consists of songs from the Max Hunter Collection as well as Missouri fiddle tunes, is almost complete. As always, I would greatly welcome hearing from anyone who is interested in this project, or who has information to share. In all of the connections I've made over this past summer, I've yet to learn anything about the mysterious Kris Ann Parker, so if anyone knows anything about her, do let me know! Thank you “for listening.”

Sarah Jane Nelson  
Londonderry, New Hampshire

# Kirksville, 2016























See you in Sikeston, November 2-4, 2017. It's not too early to let John and Carol Fisher, Ken and Janelle Burch know about your ideas for a presentation, panel performance, demonstration, sharing – remembrance- or storytelling session:  
FisherJohnC@yahoo.com



The Spring meeting is tentatively planned for April 1, 2017, in the meeting room of the Boone County Public Library on Broadway in Columbia. Watch your mailbox for updates.