

# Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

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

Volume 43, Nos. 1-2

Spring 2019

## 2019 Meeting to be Held October 10-12 in Marshall

Mark your calendars now. Due to competition for event space, we'll be holding our meeting two weeks earlier than the usual early November slot.



The annual meeting of the Missouri Folklore Society will be in Marshall, right in the heart of the state, on October 10, 11, and 12. Please note that this is a couple of weeks earlier than our usual date. This year's date was chosen to give participants an opportunity to visit festivals in nearby Arrow Rock or Blackwater. Arrow Rock will be celebrating its 51st annual Heritage Festival on October 12 (10-5) and October 13 (10-4), and Blackwater's Fall Festival will be October 12 (8-4).

Our sessions will be held in the Martin Community Center, an easily-reached and accessible building on Marshall's south side. The building also holds the Nicholas Beazley Aviation Museum, which has excellent exhibits heralding the achievements in airplane design, pilot training, and more that took place in Marshall in the earliest years of aviation. Tours of the aviation museum will be offered during our meeting, and the facility will be open for exploration.

This year's meeting theme is "Show-Me Wonders," in recognition of one of Marshall's most famous former residents, Jim the Wonder Dog. Papers or presentations related to Jim and other dogs with miraculous abilities are particularly invited, as are papers related to any aspect of air travel, but we welcome proposals for papers relating to any aspect of Missouri or regional folk life, including local history and traditions. Storytelling performances are welcome, as are presentations and discussions of traditional crafts. Explorations of more contemporary folklore and myth-making are also invited ("Game of Thrones," anyone?), and exploration of folk music is always particularly welcome. Bring your instrument and your friends, and we'll find a space for you to jam.

Watch for a more formal call for papers and performances. In the meantime, please send inquiries or draft proposals to this year's conference organizer, Barbara Price at [bprice@truman.edu](mailto:bprice@truman.edu).

Missouri Folklore Society Meeting,  
Saturday April 13, 2018  
Lenoir Woods Meeting Room  
Columbia MO  
10:30 am

In advance of the meeting, we discussed the sad news of Cathy Barton Para's grave condition.

Call to order: Barb Price 10:45

Minutes from November meeting moved Betsy, second Annie, adopted.

Present: Brett Rogers, Andrea Davis, Annie Fuller, Sharon Brock, Carol Fisher, Jon Fisher, Neal Delmonico, Betsy Delmonico, Barb Price, Adam Davis, Lyn Wolz, Susan Bryson, Richard Shewmaker, John Shewmaker.

Barb invited us to share memories of Becky (and Dolph) prior to this afternoon's memorial. Sharon Brock shared memories of Dolph's cookies and tea. Jon recalled being recruited by Becky for the 2003 Kirksville meeting. Carol remembers Becky's coaching of her writing.

Remembrance too of recently passed members Mary McCollum, Clyde Faries

Introductions

Notes/remarks from November meeting at Washington

There had been a question about getting or deposit back from the church, but in fact it was waived. Much praise for the format of the book sale, worth repeating. A well-organized conference.

Treasurer's report: Adam Davis for Dave Para. Moved Sharon, and seconded Liz, adopted. Total account balance looks good (\$53,848.06) We are getting ready to spend on journals.

Plans for 2019 in Marshall MO– October 10-12, earlier than usual because of facility availability. Theme is "Show Me Wonders"

Nearby that weekend Arrow Rock has a wonderful crafts festival, and Blackwater has a pumpkin fest. There's an aviation museum in Marshall. Lexington is half an hour away (Civil War battlefield) Waverly has apple orchard tours, Van Meter State park has Native American archaeological sites. Jim Denny at Arrow Rock could speak, and they have a speaker series as well. Rooms reserved at Super 8 and at Comfort Inn, 22 so far... probably enough, looking at attendance trends.

Barb showed a floorplan for the community center, discussed plans for use of available spaces. A number of catering options. Concern that attendance is low, with some sessions at Washington drawing only a handful. Seems best to avoid concurrent sessions. But it's part of the larger issue of recruitment of young people. We're very aware of our mortality. We need to get local people/participants on the mailing list. Barb proposes offering any presenter locally meals and registration.

Discussion of taping portions of the meeting for YouTube; Brett knows what he's doing.

Likewise, we should comp student presenters their meals.

We continue to try networking with colleges and historical societies. Quilt guilds are also a good possibility. Annie noted spinners and weavers' organizations. Adam mentioned brewers' organizations.

We don't seem to be able to get in touch with students at Mizzou since Elaine retired and LuAnn Roth moved on. Adam will try going through the chair.

Barb wants to use postcards to contact current members. A save the date followed by a large format.

Members should use their social media accounts. Can we connect with Missouri Tourism? Missouri Life, Rural Missouri. AAA Magazine (Midwest Traveler)

Annie reminds us that we wanted to make portions of the conference available via Skype or YouTube.

Lyn Wolz will communicate with the Cross Currents folks (Irish folk in KC); Adam will contact Ryan Spearman and the St Louis Folk School.

We need to contact Mizzou, Columbia College, Stephens. Craig Albin and Phil Howerton should be contacted (maybe he'd like to have a meeting at West Plains)

Barb will contact Maggie Mahan who's engaged with the History Day program.

Is there a Marshall/Saline County genealogical or historical society?

We need to promote the Schroeder Prize

Plans for 2020 in Hannibal (Adam Davis and Andrea Davis) 1st weekend in November 2020 5th-7th  
Second weekend is deer season, might check to see if we're in conflict with AFS. 30 rooms, plenty  
of double queens, accessible

Publications report:

Hansen volume on heritage studies ... now in typesetting, hope to be finished this month ; proofreading needed.

Miscellany – articles ready to go to Neal and Betsy after the Hansen volume is done.

Emerging Folklorists – Adam needs to edit (dedicated to Dolph and Becky)

Hell's Holler – in process

Volume on McCollum toys (Susan is working on photos). Color is necessary, but will be a bit more expensive. Julie and Kevin want to remain active in the society.

Lyn suggests using the website to store supplemental materials for the journal. Video connected to the McCollum sessions for instance.

Belden volume scanned, text being keyed in. Lots of decisions to make about how to incorporate recordings, competent scholars to update the scholarship.

Business cards rather than brochures? With the logo and the website...

Betsy & Neal Delmonico, Adam Davis

Brochure – more copies? Adam will email the .pdf

Items from the floor

Lyn points out that Becky was our archivist for many years, but it's too big for one person, so we could create a committee to include Lyn, Annie, Rachel, Sharon.

We ought to be able to skype people into this meeting.

Lyn reported on their efforts to get old recordings indexed – just not a lot of progress. It's labor intensive.

Announcements: The memorial for Becky Schroeder will be this afternoon at 3pm in the Lenoir. Dave and Cathy hope to be there.

If we were to have a remembrance session for Clyde we might invite the Caudles to organize things.

Need to organize musicians for the Marshall meeting... John Shewmaker will try, and Howard Marshall might be available. Mike Watowa might be able to show up from Kansas Folklore Society. Richard Shewmaker and Anthony Bodnar will be teaching ESL in Puerto Vallarta.

Adjournment: 12:55

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

After the Spring membership meeting, the Lenoir Woods facility graciously hosted a memorial service for Becky Schroeder. Along with moving tributes from Becky's son Richard, and her daughters-in-law and other relatives and friends, musical comfort was provided by Don and Mim Carlson, Lyn Wolz, Judy Domeny, Dave Para, and in her last public appearance, Cathy Barton Para.



The space was filled with people, with laughter, with food and fellowship. Many were the lovely photos and shared memories, so many ending with Becky's insistence that whoever she was talking to, needed to write a book.



Here is Becky with her beloved Dolph, and many of the writers she mentored in the Missouri Heritage readers' series, which she envisioned to fill the void in adult literacy programs, where only books written for children were long in use.

Missouri Folklore Society  
 Columbia, MO  
 April 13, 2019  
 Financial Statement Jan.1 to Dec. 31, 2018

INCOME

	2017	2018
Membership Dues	\$855.00	\$900.00
Annual Meeting	\$3,469.00	\$3,034.00
Donations, Grants	\$300.00	\$5,325.00
Sales	\$50.00	\$213.12
Interest	\$55.69	\$237.86
Miscellaneous Refund		
Total	\$4,730.69	\$9,472.12

EXPENSES

Journal Printing	\$2,551.11	\$36.48
Newsletter Printing		
Annual Meeting	\$5,110.60	\$2,086.75
Refunds		
Postage	\$539.43	\$91.12
Awards	\$125.00	\$125.00
Supplies		
Miscellaneous	\$26.25	
Total	\$8,352.39	\$2,339.35

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2017	\$14,859.81
CD 12-31-2017	\$18,985.06
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,662.88
Total Account Balance 12-31-2017	\$48,507.75

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2018	\$19,962.26
CD 12-31-2018	\$19,193.60
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,692.20
Total Account Balance 12-31-2018	\$53,848.06

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Dave Para

## RESEARCH CENTERS

### State Historical Society Remembers Loyal Supporter, Champion of Cultural Preservation

Rebecca Boies Schroeder, an acclaimed editor and passionate advocate for the preservation of Missouri's cultural heritage, passed away in Columbia on September 14, 2018. She was 97.

Born on a farm in Richland Parish, Louisiana, Becky attended Louisiana State University to study literature with the famous poet and novelist Robert Penn Warren. At LSU she met Adolf Schroeder, a German American graduate student. She and Dolf married and had two sons, Richard and Christopher. The family lived in Ohio, Massachusetts, and Louisiana before making its permanent home in Columbia, where



Becky and Dolf Schroeder were devoted to the Show-Me State's cultural heritage, revitalizing the Missouri Folklore Society and documenting regional music across the state.

Dolf was a professor of German Studies at the University of Missouri.

Becky was well regarded for her work as a reference librarian at the Missouri State Library. Staff members in SHSMO's Columbia Research Center admired her selfless assistance and support for Missouri history scholars.

A longtime student of the state's history and culture, she never hesitated to pick up the phone or send an email on behalf of a researcher who needed help, establishing a wide

network of friends and experts on Missouri-related topics. Her wide-ranging interests also led her to serve as the volunteer editor of the University of Missouri Press's Missouri Heritage Readers series, which produced more than two dozen books for adult new readers.

During their 71 years of marriage, the Schroeders were such pair that it is hard to separate their accomplishments. Becky and Dolf spearheaded the revival of the Missouri Folklore Society, which had been dormant for half a century. The couple also shared SHSMO's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, in 1992. They were recognized for their active role in seeking, recording, and advocating for the preservation of materials that document Missouri's folk and ethnic heritage.

Their names appear in the title of 17 State Historical Society of Missouri collections, but the importance of the materials that Becky and Dolf helped safeguard is immeasurable. Their personal Folk Song and Folklore Collection (C3826) is particularly impressive in its scope, with more than

200 audio cassettes, records, audio tapes, and videos. The Schroeders' foresight in documenting regional folk music with oral histories, musical performances, and other related materials remains invaluable to those researching Missouri's cultural heritage.

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The couple also loved art and donated 24 works to the State Historical Society of Missouri's art collection over the past several decades. The artwork includes *Sunday Afternoon*, an outstanding painting by Frank Nuderscher; a number of pieces by abstract expressionist Laura Cansler; as well as works by Frank Stack, Robert Stack, Pat Behler, Brooke Cameron, Bill Helvey, Jerry Berneche, and Joanne Zucco Berneche.

In addition to their lasting influence on SHSMO's collections, Becky and Dolf were also life members of the State Historical Society and charter members of its 1898 Society, choosing to tie their personal legacies to the preservation and celebration of the Show-Me State's heritage with a planned gift.

Becky is survived by her son Richard and daughter-in-law Leah, who are also avid State Historical Society of Missouri supporters; a daughter-in-law, Betty; and two grandsons. She was preceded in death by Dolf in 2013 and a son, Christopher R. Schroeder, in 2008.

*Reprinted with the permission of the University of Missouri*



*It has been a hard year for the Society, losing some of our longest-serving, most valued members. Among them Clyde Faries,*



Clyde Faries, 90, of Terre du Lac, MO, passed away March 26, 2019 at home surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born July 8, 1928, in Rombauer, MO, to the late Darcy Orton and Inis (McIntosh) Faries. Clyde was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Hills, MO. He received his PhD in Rhetoric and Public Address from the University of Missouri, and retired as a professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at Western Illinois University. He served terms as President of the Georgia Speech Association, the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association, and the Missouri Folklore Society. Retirement allowed him to spend 1990 and 1994 in Changsha, Hunan, China, teaching at the National University of Defense Technology. His life outside the classroom included writing and directing “Mystery” plays for Elderhostels, playing British and American folk music, pickle ball, and golf.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Fred and Highlee Faries; sister, Marie Horton; and half-brothers, George and Joe Richards.

Clyde was an adoring husband to his wife Elizabeth Marie (Thomas) Faries; children, Dixie Perez and husband Efrain, Dee J. (Tom Dahl) Faries, David O. Faries and wife Carol, Doug Faries and wife Karen; grandchildren, Jason (Sara) Self, Nicole (Gunthar) Weaver, Erin (Chris) Boggs, Becky (Brad) Tipton, Evan (Kiera) Faries, Caleb Faries, James Faries, and Joe Faries; twelve great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Myracle; numerous nieces and nephews, other family members and friends.

Visitation was held at C.Z. Boyer and Son Funeral Home in Desloge, MO, Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM. The service as held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Hills, MO, Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 12:30 PM, with Pastor Jarold Rux officiating. Interment was at Hillview Memorial Gardens in Farmington, MO. Memorials may be directed to Missouri Folklore Society at P.O. Box 1757 Columbia, MO 65205 or YMCA Trout Lodge at 13528 State Highway AA, Potosi, MO 63664

**Mary Grace  
McCollum  
December 24, 1932 -  
April 03, 2019**

*Mary and her family got a chance to celebrate the long legacy of home-made toys at the Washington meeting in November, where we also remembered Homer. A special volume of the Missouri Folklore Society Journal, documenting the toys, is in preparation.*



Mary Grace (Phillips) McCollum, 86, of Paris, passed away Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at the Monroe Manor Nursing Home in Paris.

Mary was born on December 24, 1932 in Monroe County, the daughter of Bruce and Mildred (Miller) Phillips. She grew up in the Paris area, attending elementary school in Strother and graduating from Paris high school. She also taught school for one year at Strother. She attended the University of Missouri in Columbia where she met Earl Homer McCollum. They were married on April 26, 1953 and enjoyed 63 happy years together until his death in 2016. During their years together they lived in several different states due to Homer's career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They had the opportunity to see many interesting parts of the U.S. and met many interesting people along the way who became lifelong friends.

Mary enjoyed sewing, gardening, crafts and bird watching. She was very active in the Monroe County Historical Society and the Missouri Folklore Society and for many years was a member of the Friends of Florida. Together she and Homer made, demonstrated and sold a large variety of wooden folk toys. Mary was also happy to show and talk about her collection of feed sack cloth.

Mary is survived by her children, Gayle McCollum of Moberly, and Kevin (Julie) McCollum of New Haven, MO; six grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild; two brothers; Donald (Nicki) Phillips of Mexico and Carl Phillips of Paris; several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, and one granddaughter.

A Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at the Agnew Funeral Home in Paris with Reverend Donna Scott officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Monroe County Cancer Supporters or the Historical Society



The Folklore Colloquium series at Truman State University continued .

John Smelcer, one of the last living speakers Ahtna, a Native Alaskan language, performed traditional tales by simulated campfire in the Planetarium — where the Alaskan sky was projected onto the domed ceiling to very convincing effect.

Adam Brooke Davis spoke, in costume and in character, on the development of Mark Twain's persona, and specifically about what can be known and recreated of his voice.





Aaron Rooks, of the Center for Academic Excellence, gave a preview of his new interdisciplinary course on Fringe Thought, discussing the characteristics of conspiracy theories. Among them:

-The story cannot be falsified — “if there really were alien landings, they’d make sure you never hear about it.”

-They nonetheless have elaborate chains of logic and evidence, and thus owe something to the realm of academic and journalistic discourse. Urban legends, by contrast, offer the FOAF — Friend of a Friend — as a putative authentication.

Additionally, one can posit axioms of belief for the world of rumor panics and conspiracy theories:

-Nothing is as it seems.

Everything is connected.

-What seems benign is in fact evil, destructive, or tainted.

Nothing is by accident.

-Evil exists, and works through people hidden among us

-These people cooperate in secret.

Common themes include the corruption of youth and innocence, the burden of stigmatized knowledge; prominence of firsthand testimony; rituals often loom large.

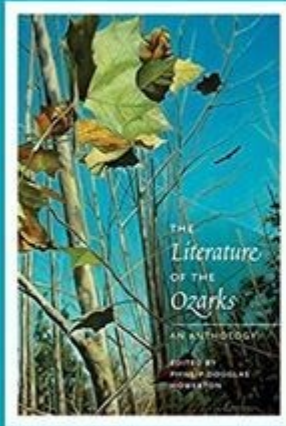




The University of Arkansas Press recently published Philip Howerton's *The Literature of the Ozarks: An Anthology*. <https://www.uapress.com/product/the-literature-of-the-ozarks/>

He is also the editor of *Elder Mountain: A Journal of Ozarks Studies*, and below is a link to the online version of Elder Mountain: <https://blogs.wp.missouristate.edu/elder-mountain/>

# AUTHOR TALK



**Dr. Phil Howerton**

Author of

“The Literature of the Ozarks:  
An Anthology (Ozark Studies)”

Thursday, 4-25-19 at 5:30 p.m.

BOONE COUNTY LIBRARY 221 W STEPHENSON HARRISON, AR  
870-741-5913

## **Henry Rowe Schoolcraft visited Crawford, Texas, Wright and Dent Counties 200 years ago**

*By Deloris Gray Wood*

*Note This story is about a very historic site and the first known place of commerce in Dent County; it is located on private property and posted: "NO Trespassing."*

The cave listed on the USGS Montauk Quadrangle Map as the Saltpeter Cave located at: NW1/4 SW 1/4, Section 32, T. 32 North., R. 7 West, in the southwest corner of Dent County with Texas County on the West and South sides of section 31. The front opening of Saltpeter Cave on Ashley Creek is like a clam shell that is more than 40 feet wide and extends into the cave about 75 feet, in Current Township, Dent County.

This cave was originally shown as Ashley Cave on the Missouri School of Mines map. Mount Olive Baptist Church and Mount Olive Cemetery on Missouri Highway VV is located about a mile and a half north of the Saltpeter Cave with what was the Wofford Farm located in between.

The cave was behind, about a mile from where my Mother, Eula Wofford Gray, 96, and her sister Marie Wofford Urban, were born and grew up. Three Wofford children, including Ernest were born at the cave and their parents Lonnie and Fannie Wofford stored the cow's milk in the Saltpeter Cave where he had a sawmill nearby and she a garden. Obe and Wayne were born up at the Wofford home place while Utah 'Buck' Wofford was born at TanVat on what was his Uncle John Kell's place (Kell had sold this farm and established Cedar Grove, both on the Current River. Now NPS Ozark National Scenic Riverways).

Mother had no idea about the history of the cave only rumors of the outlaws, The Jesse James Gang, riding up on horseback into the Cave and spending the night with their horses.

What she did not know was what a historic place that kept all its secrets, even though there was a clue with the name of the Creek -- Ashley Creek.

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and Levi Pettibone left Potosi, November 5, 1818. They arrived November 11 at the Saltpeter Cave and left the cave the morning of November 15, 1818 -- 200 years ago.



*Schoolcraft, cont'd*

Often referred to as the “Lewis and Clark of the Ozarks,” because of Schoolcraft’s Journal where he recorded the flora, fauna, trees, water sources and minerals he found as he walked through the Ozarks.

In Schoolcraft’s “Journal of a Tour into the Interior of Missouri and Arkansas” Schoolcraft referenced valleys, ridges, prairies, caves and farms on the land that they walked using rivers, creeks, springs, lakes, ponds for potential campsites that had wood and places for their pack horse to graze.

In the Cherokee Removal 20 years later, 1837-1839, the Cherokees walked in the area in eastern Crawford County that Schoolcraft recorded in his diary and Lt. B. B. Cannon recorded in his diary establishing the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Historically, the tribes known to have moved through the Dent County area are notably the Delawares, Shawnees, Choctaws and Osages.

According to Margret Vickery:

“ William Ashley, (1785- 1839) a famous fur trader and explorer, prior to the War of 1812 discovered the cave and erected a large plant for the extraction of Saltpeter. The Saltpeter was mixed with soil and wood ashes and water in large tubs with a faucet. It was concentrated by boiling the mixture in a kettle and then set aside to cool and crystalize. Old wagons pulled by oxen and mules, crawled over the hills and down the river valleys to take the mixture to Potosi, a distance of about 80 miles, where it was made into gunpowder.”

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft wrote:

“The works which have been erected by Colonel Ashley for this purpose are all situated in the mouth of the cave, so as to be completely protected from the weather. No person is, however, here at the present to attend to his business, and the works appear to have lain idle for some time. Large quantities of crude salt-petre are lying in the fore part of the cave.”

*Schoolcraft, cont'd*

William Henry Ashley holds his place in Missouri State Government as he served as our first Lieutenant Governor, Sept 18, 1820 to November 15, 1824.

Ashley, was very important to the area. Ashley and his crews were the surveyor of many of the townships in the area, many do not reference roads, like Dent County as they were done before the Missouri General Assembly required each time a road was crossed, record it and its name.

Texas County was originally named Ashley County and the cave and creek that flows into the Current River was named in his honor. Ashley had trading posts at Saltpeter Cave, Tan Vat on the Current River and just over in Wright County on Beaver Creek at the edge of Ashley (Texas) County was another of his trading posts.

Mother did not know that: In 1719, a French explorer named DuTisne passed through Dent County and discovered the Montauk Springs and Current River. French trappers operating from St. Louis in the 18th century named the stream "La Riviere Courante" because of its swift flow. Ashley Creek is upstream and to the West of the Current River and is one of the tributaries of the Upper Current River.

Saltpeter Cave has a large rock in front that has fallen from the ceiling where it is believed to be an Indian petroglyph and name of visitors who have visited in the Cave, except Mother she said she did not want her name etched on the wall of the cave.

.....

When Schoolcraft left Arkansas heading back toward Potosi he took another route, he crossed the Current River at Hicks Ferry January 25, 1819, staying at a farmer's house in Ripley County near what became Doniphan going in reverse of John Benge and the Benge Detachment that followed his movement 20 years later in the Cherokee Removal in what became the Benge Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail up to Dr. Bettie Ford crossing on his Ferry at Old Greenville.

There he left what became the Benge Route. At Fredericktown Schoolcraft crosses the Hildebrand Route. He then picks back up the Northern Route at Cooks Settlement on the Farmington Road on the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail to Farmington. Schoolcraft and Pettibone crossed over the Northern Route in 1818 in Crawford County. He goes west back to Potosi to end his 900 mile trek as he recorded Schoolcraft's "Journal of a Tour into the Interior of Missouri and Arkansas"

A side note: My birth certificate says I was born in Current Township and Mother's birth certificate says Montauk, both were born in Dent County, Missouri. Mother born four miles west of Current River at her home place and I was born four miles east of Current River at my home place.





## *In Memoriam: Cathy Barton Para*

Local musician Cathy Barton Para, 63, of Boonville, passed away gently among family and friends at home, Wednesday, April 17, 2019. A memorial service is pending at Boonville's First Christian Church.

Catherine Jean Barton Para was born June 12, 1955, in Fort Benning, Ga., to Claude D. and Mary Ruth Catlett Barton. An "Army brat," she lived in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia and Hawaii before moving to Columbia in 1967. She attended West Junior and Hickman High schools and Stephens College, from which she graduated summa cum laude in 1977. She received a master's degree in folklore from Western Kentucky University 1979. She married David Para at First Baptist Church in Columbia in 1979 and began a long and happy union with her lifelong love and fellow musician.

Cathy's active interest in music began in elementary school in Hawaii and grew during her school days in Columbia. A champion banjo player, she also was one of the first hammered dulcimer players in the region and inspired many players nationally. Her playing was vibrant and she was a generous and thoughtful teacher. She and Dave shared a musical career for more than 40 years, traveling the U.S. roads and rivers and Europe, specializing in traditional music from the Missouri – Ozark region. They were awarded by the Missouri Humanities Council, Young Audiences of Kansas City and the Folk Alliance Region Midwest. Stephens College named her a distinguished alumna in 1993. In a fruitful 20-year collaboration with the late Bob Dyer, they produced three music albums related to Missouri history which were awarded by the American Library Association. They started the Big Muddy Folk Festival for the Friends of Historic Boonville. The 28th festival was held April 5-6. The couple made 16 albums. Cathy performed as she lived, with her radiant smile, inviting laugh and unabashed joy, endearing her to the communities of home and career.

In addition to Dave, she is survived by two sisters, Claudia (Tom) Welsh and Judith (Tom) Gibbons, both in Texas, an uncle, Roy Barton in Memphis, and countless grieving and grateful friends.

Memorials are suggested to KOPN Community Radio, Friends of Historic Boonville and First Christian Church.

*Editor's note: we could not possibly print all the heartwarming tributes to Cathy, and her too-short but well-lived life. So we'll let this moving reflection from Leela Grace speak for all.*



Yesterday, at about 9pm Central Time, the world, and my world, lost a shining, guiding light. For me, Cathy Barton Para was a presence beyond compare. From the time I was in utero, she and Dave Para were a constant in my life. Words cannot begin to explain this loss (for me and for so, so many, especially Dave).

I found out she had gone into hospice while I was teaching at a music camp in California. Since I returned home, I had been trying to figure out how to make it to Missouri to see her. It wasn't meant to be, but I did call yesterday and was able to talk to her and to Dave for a few short minutes. I had the chance to tell her what she meant to me and to tell her I loved her. I didn't expect the end to come so soon, but I am forever grateful that I called yesterday... I haven't been in touch as much as I would have liked since moving to Oregon and becoming a mother, but I thought of Cathy every time I picked up the banjo, which was nearly every day of my life for the last 27-odd years.

In many ways, I know I am the person I am today because of Cathy. To say that she was a friend and musical mentor doesn't begin to do it justice. I have often called her my banjo guru and thought of myself as her musical daughter. Her musical passion/virtuosity and her joyful spirit were everything to me. As a 5 or 6 year old, my favorite song was Darby's Ram (from Dave and Cathy's 1982 record, *Ballad Of the Boonslick*). Dave and Cathy may have started out as friends of my parents, but they always treated me (and my sister, Ellie), as friends and equals, even when we were just little kids. Dave taught us how to play the bones at a windy festival in Ft. Scott, Kansas. Cathy was always making us laugh. I loved their harmonies, driving rhythm, and sense of history.

As a somewhat lonely and shy child with a penchant for melancholy and poetry, I found a light and deep encouragement in Cathy. From a young age, I simply idolized her. I learned the songs she sang. I tried out the instruments she played (which were many, but included the hammered dulcimer, the mountain dulcimer, the autoharp, the piano, the ukulele, the guitar, and, of course, the banjo). I studied traditional songs; I read the stories of folklorists and song collectors, mostly inspired by Cathy.

When she, Dave, and Bob Dyer recorded several albums focused on the Civil War, I became interested and obsessed with that time period both musically and historically. I remember jams at festivals, parties at Dave and Cathy's duplex abutting Bob Dyer's on High Street in Boonville, jams at Cathy's parents' house in Columbia, the annual caroling party, and of



course the Big Muddy Folk Festival... Their music imbedded itself deep into my subconscious. It was the soundtrack of my childhood. And despite the obvious fact that Cathy was nothing short of a musical genius and master, she was never anything but humble and welcoming about it. Never once can I remember her excluding ANYONE from a musical gathering regardless of what instrument they played, what songs they wanted to play, whether they could even really play at all. She welcomed all with enthusiasm, a sparkle in her eye and that infectious laugh. This ethic is something I carry into every class or lesson I teach: a guiding principle of inclusivity, encouragement, and the desire to make the joy of music accessible to anyone and everyone.

When I was about 13, I suddenly noticed and became deeply enamored of the frailing banjo style that Cathy played. I got a banjo and started learning that "bum ditty." I was obsessed. I played for hours. I was overjoyed when Cathy agreed to apply with me for a master apprenticeship. We didn't get it, but we tumbled forward with me as the apprentice anyway. I took as many lessons with her as I could until one day she said, "I'm not going to teach you any more; we're just going to play." Another time she claimed that I was going to surpass her on the banjo. I was probably 15 or 16 by then and I can still remember what those words meant to me. From then on, we just played. Any chance we got. I learned every tune I could learn from her. I copied her every move. She learned tunes from wonderful local Missouri fiddlers and I learned them, too. In retrospect, I likely picked up my desire to learn tunes from fiddlers (rather than banjo players) from her. When we played together, we were one big, driving sound, stomping our feet with big happy grins on our faces. I have been told that my playing sounds like hers and I can only hope that's true. I cannot imagine my life without the banjo. It is my soul as well as my livelihood. I owe all of that to Cathy.

I will forever miss her in this world but I hope that I will continue to carry her spirit and music forward and spread it far and wide. I just wish I could play one more double banjo round of John Stenson's Number 2 or show her a cool new tune that I'm learning. I love you, Cathy and Dave.

