

Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

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

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Spring 2012

Deep and Wide

The 2011 meeting took place in Ste Genevieve Thursday, November 3 through Saturday, November 5. Musician and historian Dennis Stroughmatt

was the keynote speaker at the event, which focused on the area's French heritage. Jan Caudle and Liz Faries organized the conference.



Presentations included French Colonial Agriculture in Missouri, a sampling of traditional foods of the French and German colonial populations, segregation in Dr. Sappington's landmark cemetery, and Missouri placenames. *Les Petit Chanteurs* gave a return performance, and the society was treated to reminiscences of the WWII Prisoner of War camp in Weingarten.

**Lucile Morris Upton papers
at the State Historical Society,
University of Missouri-Columbia**



Lucile Morris both embraced and defied the “hillbilly” stereotype. The journalist was born in Dadeville, Missouri, in 1898. She graduated from Greenfield High School in 1915 and attended Southwest Missouri State and Drury Colleges, though she did not graduate from either school. She taught school for a few years in Missouri and New Mexico. In 1923 Lucile decided to try her hand at journalism. After two and one-half years on the Denver Express and the El Paso Times, she returned to Missouri where she spent the rest of her life. In the early 1930s she became the first woman reporter in Springfield assigned to the courthouse beat. There she met her future husband Eugene V. Upton, a court reporter.

She was a reporter, feature writer, and columnist for the Springfield News and Leader. She officially retired in 1963, but she continued writing her "Good Old Days" column for another 20 years, and became known as the authority on Springfield history. With her love of history and the Ozarks, and collecting folklore, old songs, and other historical tidbits of the region, she was in demand for lectures and speeches.

Mrs. Upton tried her hand at fiction writing throughout her career. With the exception of two short stories in 1926 and 1937, she remained unpublished in that field. She did publish a non-fiction book, Bald Knobbers, about the Ozark vigilante group in 1939. She was also president of the Missouri Writers' Guild, a Springfield councilwoman, and taught in the Drury College adult education program.

Her nephew, John Morris of Jefferson city, donated her papers to the SHS upon her death.

(adapted from the State Historical Society website:
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/invent/3869.html>)

The Folklore Colloquium at Truman State University



Among other opportunities, students in the folklore minor at Truman (Kirksville) attend monthly presentations by local, national and international scholars, as well as fellow students.

Academic year 2011/2012 began with grads Courtney Dowdall and Ryan Klotz returning to campus to discuss their doctoral fieldwork among the Maya. MFS is happy to congratulate Courtney on the successful defense of her dissertation at FIU in April.



In October, Dr. Sara Orel introduced a new course in basic museum studies, discussing collection, curation and display.



In November, seniors Brockell Briddle and Alex McKamie presented original work on ethnomusicology. Both did their work with support from the TruScholars grant program.



As we entered 2012, Professor Julie Flowerday updated her fieldwork in northern Pakistan, interviewing residents of the former State of Jammu and Kashmir,

British Colonial India on their reactions to, and memories of, scenes depicted in a series of photographs taken in the 1930s.

Our February presenter was graduate Alison Meadows, now a curatorial fellow at Harvard's Peabody Museum, who spoke about material culture of Native Americans and issues of repatriation.



The Spring showcase included outstanding work by current students Bobby Williamson (*How Legends Are Made: An Examination of Storytelling Within Humans vs. Zombies at Truman*) and Holly Fling (*Christmas Traditions: From Germany to Bethel*).



The year closed with a talk by Jerrold Hirsch, of Truman's History department, reflecting on the history of representation and scholarship of slave songs.





In April, the Missouri Humanities Council's 2011 Exemplary Community Achievement awards recognized Cathy Barton and David Para for their contribution to Missouri Cultural History and Folk Music.

(Jefferson City, April 18, 2012)

*Photo courtesy Dak Dillon
photography*



Watch Facebook for groups of interest to Missouri Folklorists. The **Digital Hobo** features a daily “digital moniker.” The **Missouri Folk Arts Program** is obviously of interest to us, as is the **Missouri Humanities Council** and **Missouri Barns**. And of course there’s a presence for the **Missouri Folklore Society**.

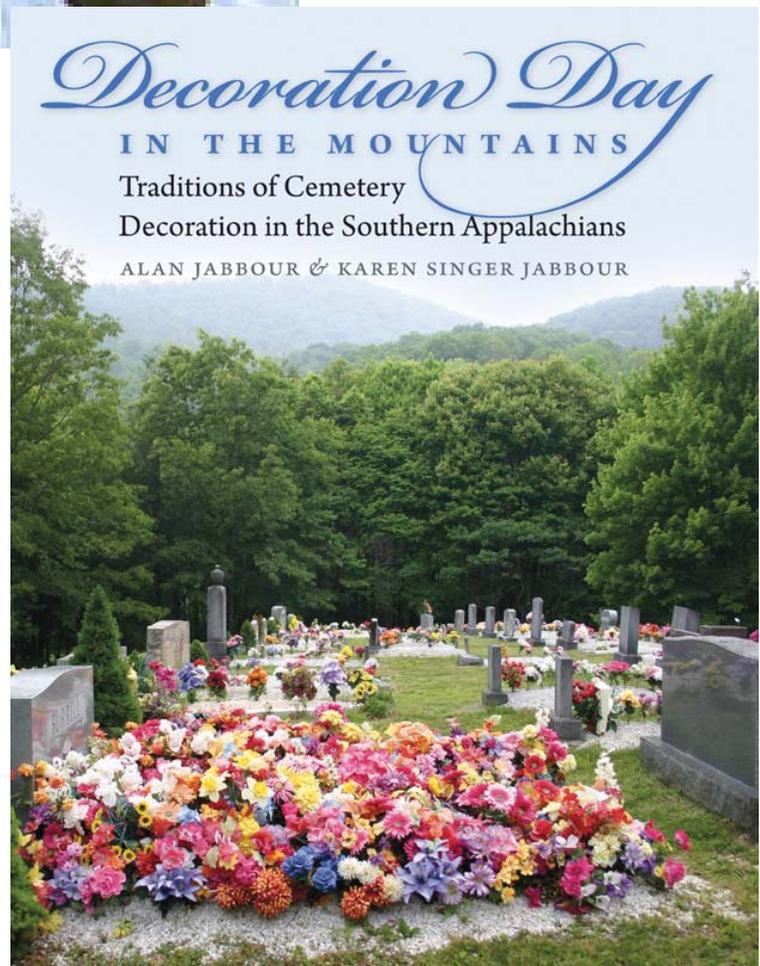




Digital Folk

Alan Jabbour was in Columbia at the University of Missouri and the State Historical Society April 16 and 17. Along with his wife, photographer Karen Singer Jabbour, he presented on the digital preservation and presentation of folklore. With claw-hammer banjoist Ken Perlman, he gave a

lecture and performance. Jabbour was born in 1942 in Jacksonville, Florida. A violinist by early training, he put himself through college at the University of Miami playing classical music. While a graduate student at Duke University in the 1960s, he began documenting oldtime fiddlers in the Upper South. Documentation turned to apprenticeship, and he relearned the fiddle in the style of the Upper South from musicians like Henry Reed of Glen Lyn, Virginia, and Tommy Jarrell of Toast, North Carolina. He taught a repertory of oldtime fiddle tunes to his band, the Hollow

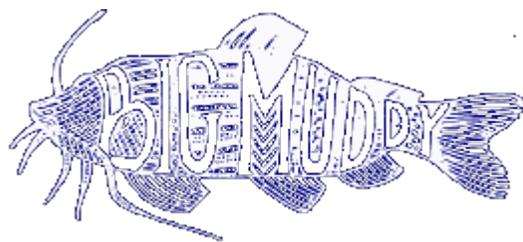


The big event for Missouri folk music is Boonville's **Big Muddy**, held this year April 13 and 14. Old friends Dave and Cathy headlined, as did Leela and Ella Grace. Alan Jabbour, appeared with Ken Perlman (see profile, this issue). A special treat: Les Petetits Chanteurs,

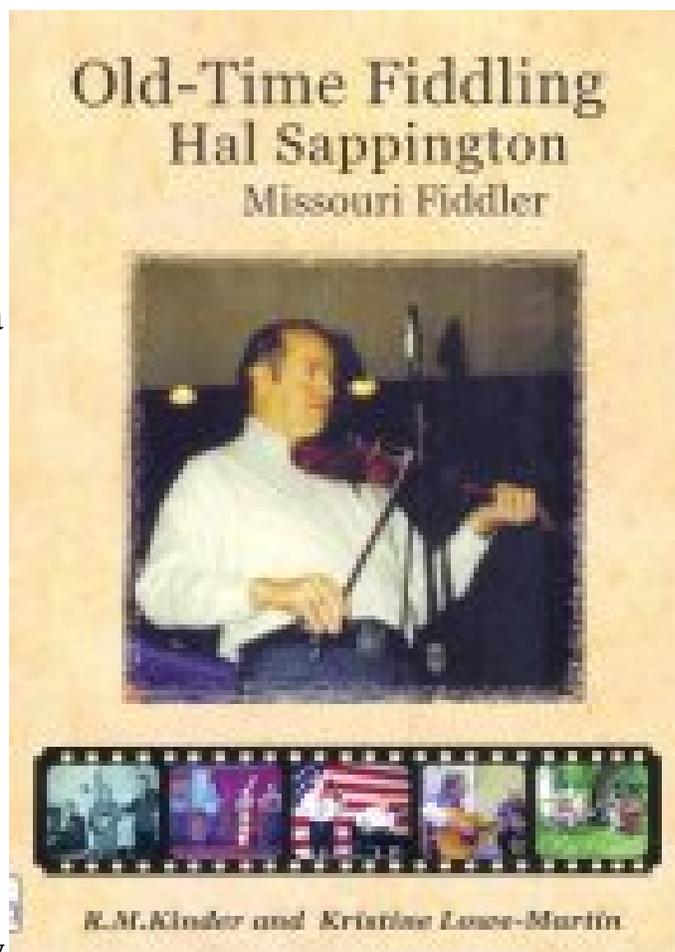


who have entertained the Society a number of times in the Old Mines dis-

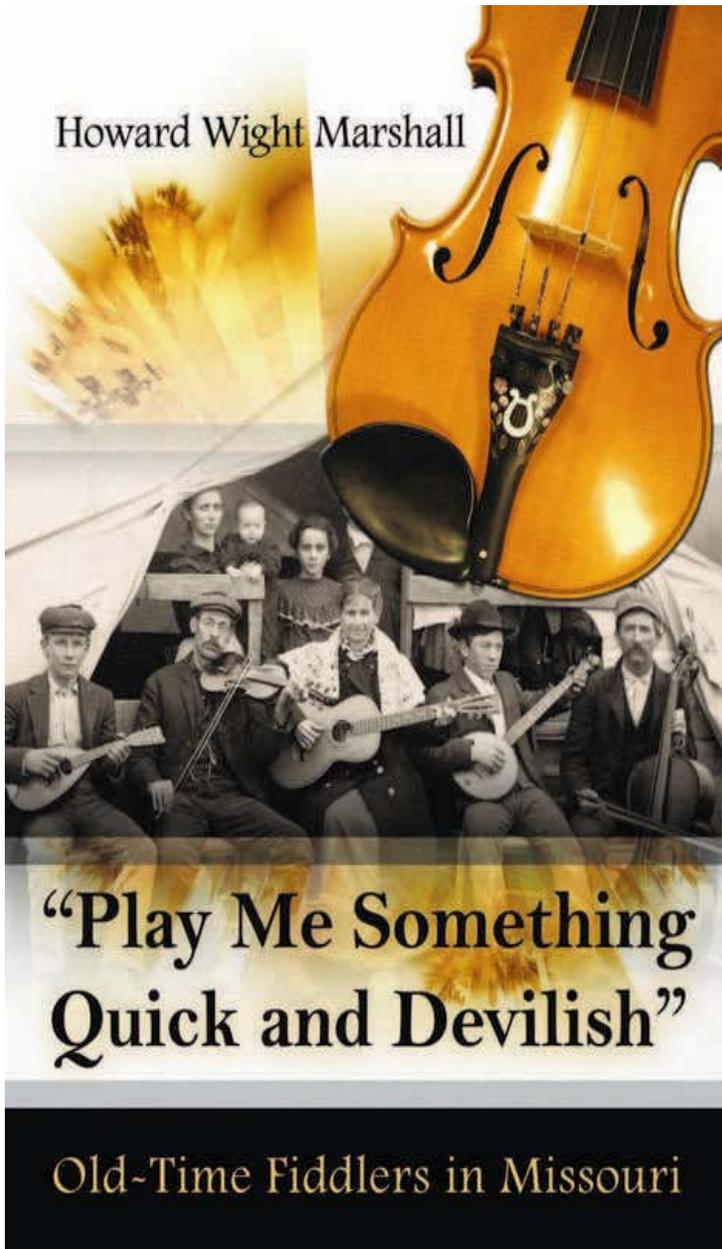
trict.



Announcing the inaugural book of the Johnson County Historical Society. **Old Time Fiddling: Hal Sappington, Missouri Fiddler** by **R.M. Kinder and Kristine Lowe-Martin** is a tribute to a Missouri music community. Interviews tell the story of a man, his instruments and his fellow players. The book can also function as a learning tool, a tutorial for fledgling and accomplished musicians, thanks to the accompanying DVD. Fifty-six heritage fiddle tunes with guitar accompaniment are intimately illustrated in a searchable formatted video. With publication partially provided by a Brownlee Fund grant from the State Historical



Johnson County
Historical Society Press
302 North Main St.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
ISBN: 978-0-9848094-0
\$25.00
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Howard Marshall reports progress on his new book: “Said fiddle book is finally in production at the University of Missouri Press – see attachment for the jacket. Comes out Fall 2012. This volume focuses on themes relevant to early times (late 19th century to World War I and 1920s). Hope you like it!



Watch for announcements about the 2012 meeting in St. Charles!