



# News

Nashville Old-Time String Band Association : NOTSBA

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

january 2010

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

## BREAKIN' UP WINTER XV IS ONLY TWO MONTHS AWAY!

We hope you're making plans to join us with Alan Jabbour, Paul Smith, Lester McCumbers, Charlie Acuff (health permitting), Andy Cohen, Ken Perlman, Bob White, Jim Holland and more! Same great Cedars of Lebanon State Park, same wonderful caterer, same intimate festival with a slightly shifted schedule to have us playing each day! No waiting in lines to compete in contests! Enjoy the company of your friends and play 'til you can't do even one more tune!

Ed and Mary Alice have been busy; check our Website for information, their updates and extras!

## Jam Schedule and Venue Changes

While the three Thursday NOTSBA jams have been running as they do for a couple of years now, this season brings change.

First, we are pleased to have accepted an offer of space for one jam each month starting in January 2010 from Mansker's Station, the historic site within Moss Wright Park, a facility of the City of Goodlettsville. See Laura's welcome letter to us on the next page. Mansker's, while a bit of a trek for those living south of Nashville, being just beyond Rivergate Mall and close to I-65 at the Long Hollow Pike exit, is in an area of town that compliments the Buchanan Log House in the eastern part of Davidson County.

Since Mansker's is developing a music program, we've decided to place our Learning Jam/ Slow Jam there. The somewhat earlier music that is already being played by the folks at Mansker's is complimentary to much of the later old-time music NOTSBA does, and, in fact, there are many tunes that were played in those earlier days that are already part of our repertoire.

Then, because NOTSBA has been having two of its regular jams back to back only one week apart, we'd like to give more equal space between them and will now have them on the second and fourth Thursdays. We hope this schedule will also compliment the regular old-time jams held at the Fiddle and Pick on the first and third Tuesdays.

Also, each month the NOTSBA newsletter contains the jam schedule with information about how the Learning Jam is expected to go, who will be teaching, tunes to be taught, sometimes a Tune of the Month that relates to that Learning Jam. It will be good to have the Learning Jam later in the month, on the third Thursday, so there is some time between delivery of the information via the *News* and the jam itself. Though the *News* has not yet been held up beyond the first of the month, we know that the possibility does exist and this jam move will safeguard the timely delivery of Learning Jam information to you.

Finally, the NOTSBA performance group has a monthly practice and that is moving to the first Thursday and will continue to be held at BLH.

We will try this Thursday jam schedule starting in January 2010 and see how it goes:

**1st Thursday - Performance Group Practice at Buchanan Log House**

**2nd Thursday - Regular Jam at Buchanan Log House**

**3rd Thursday - Slow Jam / Learn-a-Tune / Repertoire Session ( You get the idea!) at Mansker's**

**4th Thursday - Regular Jam at Buchanan Log House**

Meanwhile, it is good for us to search for an-at-least-once-a-month site slightly to the south or west of the center of Nashville for geographic equity for players coming to jams. Though we remain hopeful that the Metro Parks and Recreation Department will at some point have a good jam space for us in return for performances at their events, we are pursuing other options as well. We'd like to invite anyone with an interest, altruistic or otherwise, to step up and join this endeavor. It would be a fun research task for someone living in one of those areas who has the inclination to get a jam happening down the street from home. Please email me (mldurham1@juno.com) if you have interest in helping out or a lead you'd like to share.

Last, with winter's arrival we can expect snow at any time and we remind you that if Metro Schools close we will, too. If there is some doubt, call or email an officer to see if folks can make it to the jam site. Wishing you a safe and happy tune-filled 2010!

~Mary Lou

# Welcome to Mansker's Station for NOTSBA's Third Thursday Jam



Photos of Mansker's Station by Mary Laine Scott above, The Visitor's Center at Moss Wright Park. Note the circular room extension at the right side of the building; that's where our jam will be held.

Historic Mansker's Station Frontier Life Center is pleased to be the new host for NOTSBA's third Thursday learning jam. We hope both members and guests of NOTSBA will find our site to be a comfortable and pleasing location. The theater of the Welcome Center will be the setting for the Thursday jams, but we will also be offering additional settings and times for string band musicians to play.

We plan to continue our own Mansker's second Monday jam (we're taking a hiatus in January, but this will start back up in February the second Monday of each month, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm). Our historic site is primarily a 1780's-based attraction, however beginning in March with the opening of our 2010 season, we will be featuring an 1830's physician's office and, at certain times, a special 1862 portrayal. In accordance with our time settings, our second Monday jam will concentrate on eighteenth

century tunes with some thrown in from the nineteenth. Our site does living history and any musician willing to dress in costume is welcome to join our music program and play for the station's encampments and special events. This would be both playing for the public and sometimes playing for the re-enactors after hours (re-enactors like to dance!). And if you have an interest in history that goes beyond music, you'll want to consider joining our volunteer program and helping us by dressing out and being a settler from the past. Please visit our website, [www.manskersstation.org](http://www.manskersstation.org) for more information about what we do or call us at 859-FORT (3678).

If dressing in odd clothing is not for you, remember that in addition to the third Thursday NOTSBA jam, we hope to host another 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday jam this year. We did so last year and everyone seemed to have a good time. Also, we have asked NOTSBA to help us out a little by playing in the park. Mansker's Station is at the edge of Moss-Wright Park in Goodlettsville. We would like to have an informal "music in the park" type program with NOTSBA playing music on some Saturday afternoons as an added attraction



above, Inside the Fort; left, Bowen House



for park patrons and a bit of advertisement for our site. This would not be done in costume and would be a leisurely presentation done perhaps once a month during the three summer months. We would most likely be doing this in the yard of the 1787 Bowen House or near our reproduction 1780 log station.

So please join us at Mansker's Station Frontier Life Center, 705 Caldwell Drive in Goodlettsville!

~Laura Blankenship, Historic Interpreter

# NOTSBA Group Performs at Benefit for The Lost Boys Center and Foundation

~Ron Whitlow

A group of NOTSBA members played at a fundraiser on Saturday, December 5, to benefit the Lost Boys Foundation of Nashville. The Lost Boys are a group of thousands of native Sudanese boys who were displaced during the 1980's and 1990's during the Sudanese Civil War and came to America in 2001. A group of about 200 of these lost boys found their way to Nashville and live here now.

The Lost Boys Center and Foundation of Nashville, a 501(c)3 non profit, is located on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Through the Center, many of the lost boys create traditional art for sale; others can receive emergency help through the center.

Phil Sparks arranged for the NOTSBA folks to play. Performing traditional old-time tunes were Mary Alice Bernal on fiddle, Mike Baugh on guitar, Phil Sparks on banjo, Ron Whitlow on mandolin, and Cynthia Whitlow on bass. We played for approximately one hour and the audience was very enthusiastic, even breaking into dance at times.

It was a fun and wonderful benefit and one that allowed the NOTSBA group to use the old-time music traditional to our culture to benefit the young men at the center that helps them create and sell their traditional art.

See their website and learn more about this group, the horrific plight that they have endured and how you can contribute to their cause, [www.thelostboysfoundation.org](http://www.thelostboysfoundation.org). These are striving people, need everything from employment through art supplies through mentoring and if you have something useful you might contribute, they probably can use it and are happy to put it to work.



Photograph by Jack Spencer, founder of The Lost Boys Foundation

the  
**LOST BOYS FOUNDATION**  
of nashville

535 4th Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37210  
615-256-8302

## New Photographic Tribute to Franklin George Published



Last year brought Frank George to Breakin' Up Winter and we appreciated and enjoyed his company as he played his way through part of his vast repertoire and charmed us with his stories and anecdotes.

Now, a book of photographs and quotes from his and his wife Jane's dual career has emerged.

Larry Dent, Franklin's friend, founder of the Franklin George Festival and the person who brought Franklin to us, has published the work. In a coffee table format, the book has photos from Franklin's early years, his partnership with Jane, and the later years and awards as well. Larry's wife, the graphic designer, Bojidara, collaborated with him, doing all the production work and digitally restoring some early photos for the book.

Franklin George can be previewed at, <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1049053>. ~MLD

**The Newsletter** {the fine print} Please send any newsworthy information by the 20th of the month for next month's edition to **Mary Lou - [mldurham1@juno.com](mailto:mldurham1@juno.com)**. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the **Nashville Old-Time String Band Association**. NOTSBA is a volunteer organization and the **News** publishes material from members and others who wish to contribute. While we strive for accuracy, we do not label "official" any content found here. We appreciate the generosity of our contributors! ~MLD

# Scheduled Open Jams



PLEASE NOTE JAM CHANGES

**2ND THURSDAY REGULAR JAM - January 14th**, 6:30-8:30 pm, **Buchanan Log House**, 2910 Elm Hill Pike. Come on out and have a tune up-to-speed. All are welcome and this is the time to play the tunes and take home the titles.

**3RD THURSDAY SLOW JAM/LEARN-A-TUNE – JANUARY 21st**, 6:30—8:30 pm.

**Mansker's Station Frontier Life Center**, 705 Caldwell Drive in Goodlettsville.

Ron talks about what he'll do at this jam:

"I've been a student of the Civil War (or the War of Northern Aggression, if you prefer) for some time, and would like to see us add more Civil War related tunes to the NOTSBA tune list, so for the last of the Learn-a-Tune series I'm doing, I'd like to teach a couple of Civil War era tunes. First though, I'd like to teach one that has its roots in my home town of Rocky Mount, Virginia - Shooting Creek.

**Shooting Creek (A)** - During the depression in the 1930's, making moonshine was a way to survive and even prosper. Franklin County, Virginia had its share of moonshiners, even being labeled "The Wettest County in the World." In a book by that title, Matt Bondurant relates the story of the Bondurant brothers who were moonshiners by day but like many, enjoyed the music and dancing of local fiddlers and banjo players. The tune "Shooting Creek" refers to a creek running through Franklin County that was the source of most of the water for moonshine operations. It is akin to "Cripple Creek" in both its title and subject, but also in its simplicity. Although it has two parts, both parts carry the same theme. It plays very well on the banjo as well as the fiddle, and it's a one chord tune (with an optional quick change to D), so the rhythm players have it easy. Like other tunes of the era however, it's a fun tune to play as well as to dance to.

**Battle of Bull Run (Am)** - The first of two civil war tunes I'll cover, it refers to the Union title of the first major battle of the war; the Confederates called this the Battle of Manassas, but rather than referring to the title by that name, it's also called "**Abe's Retreat**". I have found several versions of this tune in more than one key; the one I'll be teaching I learned from David Bromberg's recording. He is well known as a guitarist but also plays the fiddle and has a large fiddle restoration and retail store in Delaware. This tune as well as the next one I'll teach, "Gary Owen" are rooted in Irish music and are both from the perspective of the Irish immigrants who fought largely on the Union side during the war.

**Gary Owen (G)** - This tune has its origins in Irish folk music. It was used as the regimental march for the Royal Irish Regiment, and was adopted as a marching air by Irish immigrants who came to the United States after the potato famine. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Irish Volunteers chose it as their marching song and they saw much duty during the war. The tune later was adopted as the official tune of the 1st Cavalry Division of the US Army."

**Keep these tunes in mind taught at previous recent slow jams to request or offer to lead after we've covered the new material.**

D—West Fork Gals, Lady of the Lake, Over the Waterfall, Needle Case, New Five Cent Piece, Shoo! Fly, Martha Campbell, Year of Jubilo, Cherokee Shuffle, Country Waltz, The Cigarette Reel, South Missouri, The Calhoun Swing and Star of Bethlehem

A—Booth Shot Lincoln, Hunting the Buffalo, Little Dutch Girl, Red Rocking Chair, June Apple

G—Nail That Catfish to a Tree, Seneca Square Dance (Waiting for the Federals), Shove that Pig's Foot a Little Further in the Fire, Garfield's March, Georgia Railroad, Old Yeller Dog, Cora Dye, Sweet Jenny, Meriwether, Jake's Got a Bellyache, Josie Girl, West Virginia Rag, Jenny Lind Polka, Stoney Point

C —Billy in the Lowground, Black River, Old Malinda, Tennessee Wagoner, The Darker the Night (also in G), Texas Gales, East Tennessee, Hell Broke Loose In Georgia

Am—Cold Frosty Morning, Campbell's Farewell to Red Gap

GDGD—cross-tunes in G: Old Gray Cat, Hunting the Buffalo, Georgia Railroad, Huldy in the Sinkhole, and Sally Coming Through the Rye

**4TH SUNDAY JAM—January 24th**, from 2 PM until around 5:30 or 6. Julie Mavity Hudson and Eddy Hudson welcome us again to their home, where they have lots of interesting projects going on. There is always something to capture your interest beyond the tunes we'll be playing. Parking is tight, so carpooling makes a lot of sense. Bring a dish to share, a bunch of tunes you want to play, your instruments, maybe a chair, and you're set.

**Directions:** From Nashville Take I-24 West, exit New Hope Road.

At the bottom of the ramp, turn left, go straight through the 1<sup>st</sup> stop sign/flashing red light (a 4-way) which is Clarksville Pike (or maybe Road or Hwy).

Go to the next stop sign/flashing red light (a 2-way this time) at Old Clarksville, turn left.

Go to the second street on the left, Park Lane, turn left and we are the 3<sup>rd</sup> mailbox on the left, 1015 Park Lane, Joelton, 37080 for your GPS, phone is 615-746-3532, or Julie's Cell is 615-364-8459

**4TH THURSDAY REGULAR JAM—January 28th**, 6:30-8:30 pm, **Buchanan Log House**, 2910 Elm Hill Pike. Come on out and have a tune. This jam is like the Second Thursday Jam.

# Star of Bethlehem

Transcribed by Mary Alice Bernal  
(as played by James Bryan)

The musical score for "Star of Bethlehem" is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a D chord and a repeat sign. The second staff has A and D chords. The third staff features G and A chords, followed by a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.'). The fourth staff has a D chord and an A chord. The fifth staff has D and G chords. The sixth staff has D, A, and D chords, with first and second endings. The piece concludes with a final D chord.

I learned this tune from the James Bryan album "The First of May". It's included in both the [Phillips Collection of American Fiddle Tunes](#) and Gene Silverberg's [The Complete Tunes I Either Did or Didn't Learn at the Tractor Tavern](#). It seems to be related to Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine.

~Mary Alice Bernal