



## Missouri River Folk History Project (C4793)

**Collection Number:** C4793

**Collection Title:** Missouri River Folk History Project

**Dates:** November 2004 – November 2005

**Creator:** Ludwig, Meredith

**Abstract:** Oral history interviews of Missourians who have lived and worked along the Missouri River. Meredith Ludwig conducted the interviews.

**Collection Size:** 0.1 cubic foot, 38 DVDs  
(1 folder)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials. **[No release form for interviewee Jerry Curry, October 20, 2005]**

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Missouri River Folk History Project* (C4793); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Meredith Ludwig on March 22, 2006 (Accession No. CA6109).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Missouri River Folk History Project can be found in the following collections:

[Missouri River Cultural Conservancy Cooper-Wheeler Collection](#), (C4603)

**Processed by:** Autumn Cuddy, April 24, 2026

**Historical Note:**

The Missouri River Folk History Project is a collection of oral histories conducted by Meredith Ludwig, originally called the “Save Our Stories” project. Ludwig worked with Americorps videographer Kate Gorman and Missouri River Communities Network executive director, Steve Johnson, to complete the project goal of interviewing citizens born before 1930 and record their stories of growing up and living along the Missouri River.

After completion, the interviews were donated for preservation at the State Historical Society of Missouri and formed the inspiration basis of a musical, “Gumbo Bottoms,” written by Ludwig and Boonville folk musician, Cathy Barton.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Papers  
Audiovisual

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Papers**

This series contains one folder of documentation, press, and promotional materials on the Missouri River Folk History Project. Also included is one photograph of Opal Davis Meyer.

**Audiovisual**

This series consists of DVD recordings of oral history interviews conducted by Meredith Ludwig in 2005.

**Container List:**

**Papers**

f. 1                      Project papers, press, November 2004 – November 2005

**Audiovisual**

DVD 1	Fred Oerly, January 20, 2005
DVD 2	Lela May, March 8, 2005
DVD 3	Doris Brizendine, March 10, 2005
DVD 4	Blank Stevens, March 16, 2005
DVD 5	Joe Reeder, March 20, 2005
DVD 6	Joe Reeder, March 22, 2005
DVD 7	Scharlotte Klein, March 23, 2005
DVD 8	James Peeler, April 1, 2005
DVD 9	Naomi Burns, April 8, 2005
DVD 10	Albert Burns, April 8, 2005
DVD 11	Harold Gentsch, April 19, 2005
DVD 12	Norm Nivens, May 18, 2005
DVD 13	Wayne Hilgedick, May 19, 2005
DVD 14	Vernon Ashley, May 23, 2005
DVD 15	Royal Tate, June 7, 2005
DVD 16-16a	Bob Dyer, June 9, 2005 <b>[16a is Patron Use Copy]</b>
DVD 17	Bennie Harbour, June 17, 2005
DVD 18	Bennie Harbour, June 17, 2005
DVD 19	Quentin Wade, July 5, 2005
DVD 20	Lucy Coleman, July 11, 2005
DVD 21	James Buzz Fitzgerald, July 16, 2005
DVD 22	Dan Burnett, July 20, 2005
DVD 23	Rodney Garnett, July 21, 2005
DVD 24	Andree Peterson, July 22, 2005
DVD 25	Anna Struttmann, August 30, 2005
DVD 26	Mildred Wright, September 1, 2005
DVD 27	Earl Lybarger, September 2, 2005
DVD 28	Opal Meyer, September 16, 2005
DVD 29	Forest Daily, September 30, 2005
DVD 30	Kelly Crump, October 4, 2005
DVD 31	Raymond Curry, October 7, 2005
DVD 32	Ralph J. Gregory, October 11, 2005
DVD 33	Steve Lochirco, October 11, 2005
DVD 34	Mary Burge, October 19, 2005
DVD 35	Jerry Curry, Janette Sue Grindstaff Sapp, October 20, 2005
DVD 36	Army Corps – Walter “Sonny” Kimberling, Jr. David Meyer, Don White, October 23, 2005
DVD 37	Cecil Amick, October 25, 2005

**Index:**

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Missouri River	1	DVD 1-37	
Meyer, Opal Davis	1		Yes
Oral histories	1	DVD 1-37	