

Alabama Voices Week at the Alabama Department of Archives & History

October is International Archives Month, and the Alabama Department of Archives & History is celebrating with special programs and exhibits all month long. From October 20-25, we are celebrating Alabama's rich folk life tradition with daily film screenings in the Farley Auditorium and a temporary exhibit of just outside. Join us Monday through Wednesday for a question and answer session with filmmakers or content experts following the noon showing of the day!

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10:00	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Sweet is the Day	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Sweet is the Day	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition
12:00	Sweet is the Day Q&A with Jim Carnes & Erin Kellen	Unbroken Tradition Q&A with Joey Brackner	Gandy Dancers Q&A with Kevin Nutt	Sweet is the Day	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Sweet is the Day
2:00	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Sweet is the Day	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition	Sweet is the Day	Gandy Dancers Unbroken Tradition

Sweet is the Day: A Sacred Harp Family Portrait

Running Time: 59 Minutes

Sweet Is the Day: A Sacred Harp Family Portrait tells the story of the Woottens, one of the key singing families who have helped Sacred Harp music survive and flourish for more than 150 years. Producer/Folklorist Erin Kellen and Director Jim Carnes intertwine scenes of family gatherings, singing conventions, and farm life in the Sand Mountain region of northeast Alabama with family recollections and more than a dozen songs from the revered shape-note tradition. The video explores how Sacred Harp singing is about more than just music - it is a life-shaping force, reflected by tradition, deep spiritual belief, and the community that embraces it.

On Monday, October 20, ADAH will host a Q&A with director Jim Carnes and producer Erin Kellen following the noon screening.

Unbroken Tradition

Running Time: 29 Minutes

Unbroken Tradition is a portrait of Jerry Brown, a ninth-generation potter from Hamilton, Alabama. It looks at the continuation of this family tradition since Jerry's great-great-great grandfather set up his potter's wheel in Georgia around 1800. The film takes the viewer through the steps of making a churn from digging the clay and preparing it for the wheel with a mule-powered pug mill, to the actual turning and firing of the piece. The film also includes Jerry's explanation of how he came to the potter's trade relatively late in life, and the difficulty he has had deciding whether to give up logging to become a full-time traditional potter. The film was shot in 1985 and 1986. Jerry Brown received a National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1992.

Director Joey Brackner will answer audience questions about the film following the screening at 12:00 on Tuesday, October 21.

Gandy Dancers

Running Time: 31 Minutes

Musical traditions and recollections of eight retired African-American railroad track laborers whose occupational folk songs were once heard on railroads that crisscross the South. They recount experiences in the segregated South, describe organized labor and occupational safety standards, and demonstrate railroad calls that survive today as expressions of religious faith, social protest and poetry. A film by Barry Dornfeld and folklorist Maggie Holtzberg.

On Wednesday, October 22, join ADAH Folk Life Archivist Kevin Nutt after the noon screening to discuss the film and the gandy dancer tradition in the United States.

For a full schedule of events, visit
www.archives.alabama.gov

