



Stevie Barr with Friends

Along the Crooked Road

Stevie Barr – banjo; with:

A) Eddie Bond – fiddle & vocals; Dennis Hall – guitar; Katie Golden – bass
(Recorded at Barr's Fiddle Shop in Galax, VA)

B) Jesse Lovell – vocal & guitar; Alan Maston – bass; Donald Hill – guitar; Reid Robertson – mandolin (Recorded at Alan Maston's house)

C) Martha Spencer – vocal & fiddle; Steve Spencer Strickland – mandolin; Herb Key – bass; Gerald Anderson – guitar. (Recorded at Wayne Henderson's house)

D) Wayne Henderson – guitar; Herb Key – bass; Steve Spencer Strickland – mandolin; Gerald Anderson – guitar. (Recorded at Wayne Henderson's house)

E) Congregation of the Independent Baptist Church with Rev. Ted Bartlett – guitar; Audine Lineberry – el. bass. (Recorded at the Independent Bible Baptist Church outside Galax, VA)

F) Audine Lineberry – vocal & guitar; Rev. Bartlett – guitar. (Recorded same as E)

G) Becky Barr – vocal & guitar; Tom Barr – bass. (Recorded at Tom & Becky Barr's house near Galax, VA)

H) Banjo solo – recorded by Joshua Kohn for the NCTA archives and originally issued in the book/CD: "A Guide to the Crooked Road" by Joe Wilson (John F. Blair Publisher)

I) Jeff Little – piano. (Recorded by the NCTA, at the American Folk Festival, in Bangor, Maine)

Recorded by Chris Strachwitz (except H & I) – with one stereo mic and a DAT recorder.
All photos by Chris Strachwitz except where noted.

Thanks to Stevie Barr, his family and his many friends along the Crooked Road, for making this recording possible!

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1. **LONESOME ROAD BLUES** (PD) (A)
2. **FORTUNE** (PD) (A)
3. **HE WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM** (Audine Lineberry – Tradition Music Co.) (F)
4. **SALLY ANN** (PD) (A)
5. **BYE BYE BLUES** (PD) (D)
6. **IT'S SINFUL TO FLIRT** (PD) (G)
7. **OLD JIMMY SUTTON** (PD) (A)
8. **VIAGRA BLUES** (Jesse Lovell – Tradition Music Co.) (B)
9. **NO PLACE LIKE FATHER'S HOUSE** (Audine Lineberry) (F)
10. **UNCLE JOE** (PD) (A)
11. **MARY IN THE WILD MOORE** (PD) (C)
12. **AT CALVARY** (PD) (E)
13. **DURANG'S HORNPIPE** (PD) (A)
14. **BARBARA ALLEN** (PD) (C)
15. **SWEET SUNNY SOUTH** (PD) (A)
16. **TRAIN #1262** (vocal: Herb Key) (PD) (D)
17. **DUST ON THE BIBLE** (Johnny & Walter Bailes – Sony/ATV Acuff Rose Music) (G)
18. **SHANE'S REEL** (Edward Bond – Tradition Music Co.) (A)
19. **I WONDER IF I DONE MY BEST FOR JESUS** (Jesse Lovell – Tradition Music Co.) (B)
20. **FOGGY MOUNTAIN BREAKDOWN** (Earl Scruggs – Peer Int.) (I)
21. **LEAVING GRAYSON** (Steve Barr – Tradition Music Co.) (H)

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COMMENTS BY STEVIE BARR ABOUT HIS FRIENDS:

Eddie Bond: A fiddler from the little town of Fries Va, who is incredible when it comes to traditional old time music. I remember when Eddie used to win all the dance competitions around the area before he started playing the fiddle. He has a wonderful feel for what he is singing as well as the melody that he is playing. He represents the Fries area of Grayson County very well. (Fries is locally and jokingly pronounced Freeze in the winter and Fries in the summer! – C.S.)

Dennis Hall: Dennis is one of the strongest rhythm guitar players that I know. He will keep any old time band going through his hard drive. He stays real active in the area by hunting and fishing. He also builds houses and works as hard as anybody I know. He is a member of the old time band, Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters.

Katie Golden: She comes from a wonderful family of great musicians. She knows so much about the music of this area and I am so privileged to know her. Teddy Lundy and Bobby Lundy are just a couple of her famous relatives. Teddy was considered one of the best bluegrass banjo players in the northeast. Katie lives in Galax Va. and



(l to r) Stevie Barr, Eddie Bond, Katie Golden, & Dennis Hall

continues to play the bass every week.

Jessie Lovell: I grew up listening to him play his guitar and sing. Every time I would go to a fiddler's convention, Jessie and I would sit out in the fields and play all night. When I was younger, I loved to play fast and Jessie would play however fast I wanted to. I always call him Uncle Jessie off of the Dukes of Hazzard show. He also reminds me of a real nice Santa Claus with a little shorter white beard. Jessie is a legend and one of my favorite folk singers ever.

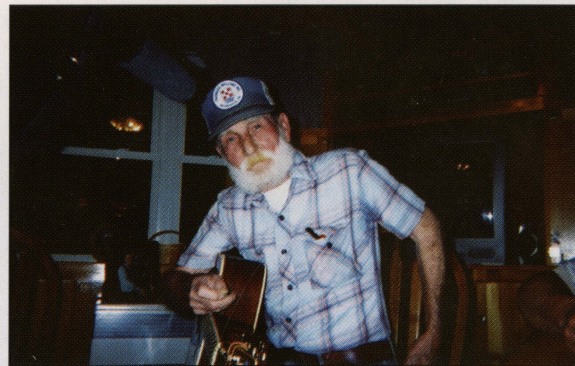


photo by Rosy Schlueter

Jesse Lovell

Alan Maston: Alan plays bass with Big Country Bluegrass. He is a super person and a great bass player. He lives in the Spring Valley section of Elk Creek Va. Elk Creek is just west of Independence, Va. and one of the prettiest valleys in Grayson County. Alan took me in at his house when I was younger and let me hang around at their farm. I got the chance to learn a lot about cattle and fencing. He taught me a lot about life and I really appreciated all of his advice. I care a lot about his whole family. I love Alan like a dad.

Donald Hill: Donald is a quiet person, but not on his guitar. He comes from Fries Va. and plays a lot with Jessie Lovell. Donald has two sons who play old time and are two of

the best musicians in Grayson County. They have a band called the Old Time Boys.

Reid Robertson: Reid played the mandolin on this project with Jessie Lovell and did a super job as well. Reid handcrafted the mandolin that he used for the recording. The mandolin was so loud we had to back him away from the microphone. (Perhaps a bit too far! – C.S.) He lives in the Spring Valley community of Grayson County.

Martha Spencer: Martha plays the fiddle, banjo, and guitar with her family up in White Top Mountain. This is near Mt. Rogers in Grayson County Va. Their family band is called the Whitetop Mountain Band (note: Arhoolie CD 522: The Whitetop Mountain Band: “Bull plus 10%”). When I was a kid my mother and father played in that band and we traveled up the mountain quite often. I remember Martha when she was in her crib. She is a real nice young lady and does very well with her music style and keeping her family’s tradition alive.

Spencer Strickland: Spencer won the Galax Oldtime and Bluegrass Fiddlers Convention on his mandolin. With over 300 entries in the category, he definitely can be considered one of the best mandolin players up and down the Crooked Road. He makes mandolins



(l to r) Spencer Strickland, Stevie Barr, Herb Key, Martha Spencer, and Gerald Anderson

and guitars along with Jerald Anderson. Spencer lives in Independence Va., in Grayson County.

Herb Key: Herb is a regular at Wayne Henderson’s guitar shop in Rugby, Va. He helps Wayne with some of the odds and ends around the shop. He sometimes travels with the Crooked Road groups helping with bass parts and vocals. He is a super nice person and can tell all kinds of tales. I am glad to know Herb.

Gerald Anderson: Gerald plays the guitar and mandolin very well. He also helps Spencer Strickland build hand made instruments. Gerald used to work with Wayne Henderson in his guitar shop for years until he and Strickland started working together a few years ago. Gerald lives in Troutdale, Va. and carries the mail every day.

Ted Bartlett: Ted used to pick me up every Sunday morning and take me to church over in the western part of Galax, Va. Ted would play his guitar and sing every Sunday morning at church along with a few other locals. After the church services, I would ride with Ted and his wife Tootsie, over to their farm and help feed the cattle. This is where I first got my chance to drive a vehicle off road and through fields. Ted



(l to r) Rev. Ted Bartlett and Audine Lineberry

is a great pastor and has a radio program at the local Galax radio station, WBRF.

Audine Lineberry: Audine sings with a whole lot of heart and soul. I believe her voice is truly unique in a way that no one else sounds anything like her. I call her the Ralph Stanley sound of bluegrass but from the sound of a woman. She sings almost every Sunday morning at Ted Bartlett's church. She also is one of the hardest working women you will ever meet. I love some of her original hymns and the way she sings them.

Wayne Henderson: Wayne builds and repairs guitars up in Rugby, Va. He is featured in a book called "Clapton's Guitar." He built Eric Clapton a guitar, along with a second one that was sold for charity up in New York City for around \$30,000. This book is really good and very interesting, especially all of Wayne's stories and tales. I

used to get Wayne to back me up at some of my first banjo competitions and he was always super nice and encouraging. Wayne hosts his own festival up on Mt. Rogers in Grayson County. One needs to take a trip there every year because it is so enjoyable just to see the beauty of



(l to r) Wayne Henderson, Herb Key, Chris Strachwitz, & Stevie

God's creation up on that mountain. Wayne will always be considered one of the best musicians and instrument builders ever to live.

Jeff Little: Jeff plays the piano with authority and power. He plays any kind of music you can think of on the piano and keeps the melody ringing no matter the difficulty. He is a professor of engineering in North Carolina. The first time I ever got to see Jeff was up at Wayne Henderson's house at a famous Henderson picking party. The recording of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," was done live in Bangor, Maine and it was the first time that Jeff and I had ever played together. Jeff is a fun guy to play music with.

Rebecca and Thomas Barr: These two people are my parents, mom and dad, mother and father, and pretty much everything to me. Without them I would have nothing and especially would have never gotten the chance to learn so much about the music of southwestern Virginia. My whole life I have been around music here in Galax, Va. and my mom and dad have stood behind me every second of each day. I can't thank them enough for everything they have done for me and all the doors that they have opened. We recorded the two songs that momma sang on this album, in the living room of their house. I wanted mom to sing "Sinful to Flirt" because it was one of my favorite songs that she sang when I was growing up. Speaking of growing up, I pretty much grew up in my dad's fiddle shop in Galax, Va. called "Barr's Fiddle Shop." This is the place where it all happens and the place where I get to meet so many nice people everyday.

Crooked Road Music Trail: I want to thank the Crooked Road, and all the people associated with it, for everything they stand for and do to keep this tradition alive. If anyone ever gets the chance to take a vacation and wants to hear the finest music ever played, then you need to take a road trip to the southern part of Virginia and travel the "Crooked Road Music Trail." Stop in Galax around the second week of August and see the world's largest and oldest fiddlers'

convention. While you are at it, stop by the Blue Ridge Music Center out on the Blue Ridge Parkway and see the exhibits at the museum about the music of this area. Say hello to Joe Wilson and Debbie Robinson while you're there. Debbie is one of the hardest working people for musicians I know. She has helped this region like no one truly knows. Don't forget to pick up the book "A Guide to the Crooked Road" by Joe Wilson because it will give you all the information you need to get acquainted with all the venues along the music trail. The book has two audio CDs for your listening enjoyment and plays for hours.

I want to thank Joe Wilson for everything he has done for me and for all the connections that he has helped me gain over the last 27 years of my musical career. Joe works for the "National Council for the Traditional Arts," so I also want to thank them for everything they have done for me as well. Joe is one of the single most knowledgeable persons I have ever met. He can tell you the history of any musician that has come from bluegrass and old time music and has one of the largest collections of music around. Joe and his wife have been so sweet to me and I appreciate everything they have done for me. Joe is truly an American hero.

I want to also thank Chris at Arhoolie Records for everything he has done for me. I hope his record company continues to produce many more recordings of traditional music for years to come. I give all my credit and glory to my savior Jesus Christ.

Stevie Barr — 2007

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PRODUCER'S NOTE:

Banjo player, teacher, composer, and band leader, Steve Barr, (everyone calls him Stevie!) was born in Galax, VA in 1975 and has been playing music in that area since the age of four. I first encountered Stevie at the 2005 National Folk Festival in Richmond, VA where I had been kindly invited by producer Joe Wilson of the NCTA. Stevie seemed to be not only the nominal leader of a young bluegrass band, **No Speed Limit**, but also their superb and tasteful banjo player. I was also overwhelmed by the group's powerful, young lead singer, Amber Collins, who belted out "Ruby" with even more drive and guts than I remembered it from the mouth of the composer, Cousin Emmy, back in the 1960s! (I returned to Galax later that year to record No Speed Limit "live" at the Blue Ridge Music Center – note: Arhoolie CD 521 "Sweet Virginia").

Film makers Maureen Gosling and Chris Simon (who are working on a film about Arhoolie Records) joined me on that trip to Richmond and then on to Galax because authentic, hard core Appalachian music had long been dear to my ears! They filmed not only in Richmond but at several memorable musical events including jams in the mountains and one Sunday night, Stevie took his banjo to radio station WBRF in Galax to play with his old mentor, Rev. Ted Bartlett. Since Rev. Bartlett had a terrible case of laryngitis, he had invited a member of his congregation, Audine Lineberry, to do the singing and what a delight she was! What I heard that night and on several other occasions, inspired me to make these recordings with a number of Stevie's musical friends, illustrating just some of his tasteful ways to accompany a variety of musical styles, neighbors and friends.

I was impressed by Stevie's patience, guidance and dedication with very

young students who regularly take lessons from him on banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and other string instruments at Barr's Fiddle Shop. He teaches over 100 of these youngsters and is obviously a guiding musical light in this community (which seems dedicated to keeping traditional music in the minds and ears of everyone). I first heard Jesse Lovell and Eddie Bond at a local jam in Fries, VA and was really taken by Jesse's song "I Wonder If I Done My Best For Jesus." The dynamic young Martha Spencer I first heard as a member of her family band: The Whitetop Mountain Band (which also includes her father and mother – note: Arhoolie CD 522 "Bull Plus 10%") at the Richmond Festival. However, I only got a better taste of her many talents when we filmed them at a school near Galax and then at a dance in Troy, NC. Besides singing and playing some fine guitar, banjo and fiddle, Martha also slaps a mean bass and is one of the best clog dancers I have ever seen! To contrast with some of the other material by Stevie's musical friends, she decided to record these two very old ballads.

I realize that most musicians today are keen to put on records only their very best performances and only with the best sound possible. However, Stevie was agreeable to making these recordings informally at various locations in contrast to a formal or controlled studio settings. I had always enjoyed recording with just one microphone but with this many musicians, it was often a challenge which required patience in getting a half-way decent balance of them around the mic, which I could only judge through my headphones! Stevie picked the people he wanted to record with, selected the best performances from the tapes, and edited and sequenced the final disc. Thanks Stevie and all your friends for making this fine music and letting me have my fun!

Chris Strachwitz — 2007



BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE
11:00 AM & 6:30 PM

WED. BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM

IF YOU'RE HEADED IN THE
WRONG DIRECTION
GOD ALLOWS U-TURNS

TED BARTLETT
PASTOR



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FILE UNDER: BLUEGRASS

