

The Gravy Infusion

Special Issue from our Readers!

2018 Picture of
Loyal Jones
shared by First
Friday Levitt
Amp

We've received some wonderful responses to our past Gravy Infusions and so we thought we'd make a special issue to share our readers' responses, pictures, songs, and stories.

“Where I am From” Poems

In Issue 3, we invited our readers to create their own [Where I am From](#) poems inspired by George Ella Lyons. In response Melissa Strobel, Berea College's Director of Founding Relations and Family Philanthropy, sent the prompt to her family scattered all across the country who are currently isolated from each other. They then got together and shared their poems over Zoom and reminisced over old stories.

Teaching Artist, Tammy Clemons, shared that she and Judy Sizemore helped coordinate a project through [Our Creative Promise](#) that features young several students from multiple Kentucky counties sharing their “Where I am From” poems through digital stories. You can view these stories [here](#).

Libby Jones, former Berea College professor of English Studies, shared that she collaborated with two other professors in 2015 to encourage their classes to compose “Where I am From” poems and perform them through videos/dances/designs which can be found through this [link](#) about 4 pages down.

Photo Credit
Erica Chambers



Berea College Students performing their poems in 2015.

Family Heirlooms

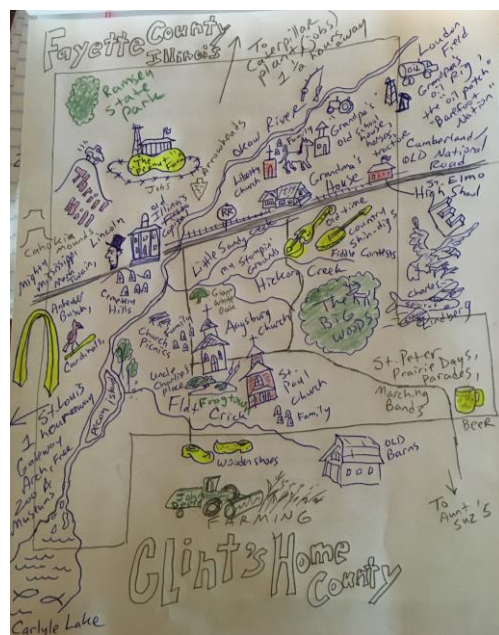


In response to our challenge to write about a family heirloom in Issue 2, Heather McNew Schill, from Berea College Continuous Improvement, shared this beautiful memory about her Great-Grandmother, Granny Stella French, who made doll furniture out of used spam and vegetable cans. She was a seamstress in Wildie, Ky., and passed away when Heather was only 6 years old, but she remembers she loved to play with this doll furniture and that Granny Stella French love to watch her play.

Map Your Own Appalachia

Inspired by the [Mappalachia](#) project, we encouraged our readers to map their own hometowns and places they grew up. This map is by Clint Patterson from Berea College Forestry Outreach Center. Clint writes,

“I’m not from Appalachia, but even in south-central Illinois there is a strong ‘Greater Appalachia’ influence. On one side of the family, ancestors came to America before the Revolution, settled in Virginia, moved through the Cumberland Gap, settled near Corbin and then Covington, KY, before ending up there. Many others did as well, or came from other Appalachian diaspora via Texas when the oil boom brought oilfield workers up in the 30’s and 40’s. My other side of the family emigrated from Germany in the 1880’s, as most of the rest of the inhabitants did, hence the strong mix if both German and Appalachian culture.”



Celebrate Your Favorite Appalachian Music



Berea College professor Jeff Richey plays “Banish Misfortune,” a traditional jig, on his mandolin in response to our challenge in Issue 4 to pick a favorite folk song and share it in some way. You can listen to watch him play [here](#)

I spent my childhood among people who laughed and cried rather often, who wrote songs, laboriously drawing notes on homemade staff paper, who worried about predestination and could not stand to see a good walnut go to waste. They showed me humbly without ever talking about it, the necessity of such activities.

~ Anne Shelby, from her essay “Pidlin”

