Fellowship Progress Report

(For work completed from March 2-March 18, 2011)

MARY RUTH ISAACS

March 18, 2011
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Introduction
By the end of the day on Friday, March 18, I will have completed a total of 44 hours conducting research in Special Collections. During this time, I reviewed documents containing ballads and folklore from the Leonard Ward Roberts collection. I was specifically interested in any ballads or folktales that pertained to children and families in Appalachia. I typed several of the ballads/folktales that I reviewed with proper citations (year collected, location, accession/box number) and this information will be useful to share with future students in my “Childhood in Appalachia” course. (Please see attached journal entries).

I have begun to write a weekly newspaper article for The Jackson County Times entitled “Folks Tellin’ Tales in Appalachia.” (Please see attached newspaper articles). I also scheduled a public forum pertaining to folktales and various Appalachian topics at the Jackson County Public Library. This forum will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the library.

Upon learning about Leonard Ward Roberts’ work at Pine Mountain Settlement School, I became interested in the progressive education movement of the early 20th century. Given my dissertation research pertaining to religiously affiliated colleges and universities in Appalachia, my interest was further piqued when I thought about the Women’s Board of Domestic Missions, via the Reformed Church in America, and their involvement in establishing the Annville Institute in Jackson County, Kentucky. Since I am currently writing a newspaper article for an audience of Jackson Countians, along with preparing for a public forum regarding folktales and other Appalachian topics, I thought it would be most beneficial to compare/contrast the progressive education movement (mostly secular) with the religiously affiliated education movement (Reformed Church) in Jackson County. During my time in Special Collections, I have reviewed several sources that have been beneficial to my understanding of settlement schools and early educational efforts in Appalachia. (Although not all of the sources contained in the attached reference list have been located in Special Collections, several have been found there. Those references that have not been obtained in Special Collections have been checked out from other libraries or
they are part of my personal library. I have started consulting many of these references outside of my time in the Reading Room at Special Collections. See Reference List).

“Childhood in Appalachia” College Course
The recent Appalachian Studies Conference, conversations with Special Collections staff, Carl Lindahl, and brief meetings with Loyal Jones and George Brosi (at the ASA Conference) have enhanced my thinking regarding Leonard Ward Roberts, his folktales, and ways in which the folktales may be used as a context from which to teach the “Childhood in Appalachia” course that I am developing. Currently, I envision this course to be a special topics course in that different subjects will be covered each time it is taught. For example, my current work consists of education in Appalachia. Therefore, I plan to use Roberts’ folktales as a context from which to explain the Appalachian region and the various beliefs/events that occurred during the time when progressive educationalists and missionaries came into the region to teach children (and families). I have learned about a variety of superstitions that existed in Appalachia via Roberts’ folktales and I am curious as to how the educators (both secular and religious) came to understand the customs, traditions, and viewpoints of Appalachian people (or did they completely understand these characteristics of mountain life)?

Future research will allow me to look into topics such as the Christian Appalachian Project, Head Start, Frontier Nursing Service, public libraries, and county health departments in order to cover a variety of vocational, educational, and health-related topics pertaining to children and families in Appalachia. The use of Roberts’ folktales, and perhaps those collected from other individuals, will be a useful tool from which to help students contextualize Appalachia.

By the end of the fellowship period, I hope to be able to write a course description and outline a draft of a syllabus that could be used when teaching this course.

Plan for Remainder of Fellowship
For the remainder of this Fellowship, I plan to complete the following tasks:

- Continue writing the “Folks Tellin’ Tales in Appalachia” article for The Jackson County Times newspaper;
Host the public forum pertaining to folktales, education, etc. at the Jackson County Public Library on April 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.;

- Write a course description and outline a draft of a syllabus for the “Childhood in Appalachia” course;
- Write a manuscript for publication regarding progressive education and the missionary education movement (e.g., Annville Institute); however, I do not anticipate completing this manuscript until the end of April-beginning of May.
- Interview Loyal Jones;
- Interview George Brosi;
- Listen to various folktales in our sound archives that were collected by Leonard Ward Roberts; and,
- Submit any necessary documentation to Special Collections staff regarding Fellowship activity/scholarship.

Conclusion
I have found this Fellowship to be a rewarding experience thus far. It seems as though my work is evolving in that I have expanded my focus of the “Childhood in Appalachia” course to begin an in-depth study of early educational efforts in Appalachia and continue with various topics (e.g., health, vocational) as time progresses. I am certainly appreciative of the Fellowship opportunity and how my knowledge-base has increased. In order to complete the required hours for this month-long Fellowship, it appears that I should be finished with my research at Berea during the week of April 4–8, 2011.

(Reference List on the following pages—See attached journal entries and newspaper articles that have been published up to this point).
JOURNAL ENTRY #1 (FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 4)

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 (10:00-12:00/1:00-5:00)

Today I began my fellowship at Berea College. I am currently looking through ballads that Leonard Ward Roberts and his students collected in the 1950s-1960s. I am particularly interested in reviewing ballads and folktales that pertain to children and families in Appalachia. I spoke with Mr. Harry Rice, the sound archivist at the College. He talked about Roberts’ work in the settlement schools, such as Pine Mountain. He also mentioned the other agencies (e.g., Mountain Maternal, Frontier Nursing) that came into the region to “help” Appalachians raise their children and families. Although my original plans involved listening to the folktales of Leonard Ward Roberts, I am now trying to decide if future students in my “Childhood in Appalachia” course would be best served using his folktales as a context from which other issues regarding children and families could be examined. I have a lot to think about!

Friday, March 4, 2011 (10:00-12:00/1:00-5:00)

I continued reviewing the ballads in the Leonard Ward Roberts collection. I have learned that the ballads are fairly depressing, mainly dealing with death, coal mines, train wrecks, and disastrous marriages/courtships. I began thinking about my dissertation research, specifically my discussion of the history of education in Appalachia. Although I finished reviewing Roberts’ ballads, I began doing research on progressive education in Kentucky (e.g., Pine Mountain Settlement School, Hindman Settlement School). Mr. Rice and I discussed how the Appalachian people might have perceived these “strangers” coming in trying to educate them and their children. I began thinking about the ballads that I had reviewed and that each ballad ultimately described a situation that the people had faced (or were currently facing). I think the ballads, along with the folktales that I will listen to next week, will provide a context from which to talk about the problems that children and families were encountering in Appalachia in the late 19th-early 20th centuries. I checked out books at the library pertaining to folktales, folklore, and progressive education. I also found out that my fellowship would be approved for academic credit at the University of the Cumberlands; therefore, I organized my materials and thoughts of the best way to approach both the fellowship research and independent study. At this point, I think I will focus my attention on the folktales and the history of these folktales as they provide a context from which the lives of Appalachian people will be viewed with respect to education in the late 19th-early 20th centuries. I am really looking forward to a productive week next week!

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Total Hours This Week: 12
JOURNAL ENTRY #2 (MARCH 7–MARCH 11)

Monday, March 7, 2011 (1:00–5:00)

Today I met with Mrs. Betty Bingham, director of the Jackson County Public Library. I have scheduled a public forum about folktales at the Jackson County Public Library for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 14. I also submitted my first newspaper article to The Jackson County Times for publication this week. While at Berea this afternoon, I reviewed “Babylor” in the Leonard Ward Roberts Collection. I was not aware that so many sayings, finger rhymes, and children’s games that I was exposed to as a child were so old! I located more books and articles on folktales and progressive education. I also talked to Mr. Rice about the Reformed Church of America’s educational mission work in Jackson County, Kentucky. He told me that the Annville Institute/Southern Appalachian Collection was in microfiche form at the library. I hope to continue reviewing Roberts’ work this week and perhaps look at the Annville Institute materials next week.

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 (1:00–5:00)

Mr. Rice suggested a book by Leonard Ward Roberts, Up Cutshin and Down Greasy, that should provide me with biographical information about Roberts. I continued reviewing “Babylor” and located more books and articles on folktales and progressive education. I found a dissertation in Special Collections that was written by Rhonda George England in 1990 entitled Voices from the History of Teaching: Katherine Pettit, May Stone, and Elizabeth Watts at Hindman Settlement School, 1899-1956. I am having a hard time putting this dissertation away because it provides a lot of detailed, historical information about the progressive education movement. Although Roberts was involved in the Pine Mountain Settlement School rather than Hindman, I am learning about the origins of progressive education with respect to more secular, rather than religious principles. I think I can contrast this information with the mission work in Jackson County that originated with the Women’s Board of Domestic Missions through the Reformed Church of America. Folktales, then, will be used to contextualize the Appalachian culture and the events that people encountered while “outsiders” came in to educate both children and adults.

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 (6:00–9:00)

I finished reviewing “Babylor” in the Roberts collection. I found two more articles on progressive education in the Kentucky mountains and also continued reading England’s dissertation. Since I am attending/presenting at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference this week, I will not be back in Berea until Monday; however, during this afternoon’s meeting with Dr. Frazier at the University of the Cumberlands, he suggested that I interview Loyal Jones and George Brosi, and visit the Appalachian College Association (in Berea). I plan to schedule interviews next week.

Total Hours This Week: 11
JOURNAL ENTRY #3 (MARCH 14-18)

Monday, March 14, 2011 (1:00-5:00)

Today was a very exciting day! I spoke with Shannon Wilson and Harry Rice (Special Collections) about this past weekend’s Appalachian Studies Association Conference. I told Shannon that I was particularly interested in learning more about the work of Penny Messinger (Daemen College, Buffalo, New York) regarding to Appalachian settlement schools and he plans to send her an email to hopefully “connect” my work with what she has done. I was also introduced to Carl Lindahl, who has studied and written about folktales and Leonard Ward Roberts. Dr. Lindahl will be in Berea for the remainder of this week and he and I hope to talk more about folktales and Leonard Ward Roberts. I looked through the Southern Appalachian Archives Guide pertaining to the Annville Institute Collection and began reviewing new folktales from the Leonard Ward Roberts Folktale Collection. I also began reading Jack E. Wellner’s publication Relating the Reformed Theology to Appalachia. Wellner, also the author of Yesterday’s People, was a Presbyterian minister and I was unaware of this. I began reviewing To Make a Life: Settlement Institutions of Appalachia by Jim Stokely and Annville Institute 1909-1978. I located a masters thesis at EKU’s library, A History of Annville Institute written by William Metcalf in 1946. I plan to obtain this thesis later in the week. (Also, during the Appalachian Studies Association Conference on March 11, 12, and 13, I met Loyal Jones and George Brosi. In our brief discussions at the conference, I explained my current fellowship and research interests and I obtained the contact information from both individuals. I plan to email or call them within the next week and set up appointments to interview both Jones and Brosi. I am really looking forward to hearing of their expertise in all things Appalachian!)

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 (10:00-12:00/1:00-5:00)

Today I spoke with Shannon about John Fee and George Candee’s mission work in Jackson County. I also checked out books written by David Whisnant whom I heard a great deal about at the Appalachian Studies Conference. I finished reading Wellner’s book Relating the Reformed Theology to Appalachia and I continued reviewing folktales from the Leonard Ward Roberts collection. I began thinking about how all of this information fits into my college course, “Childhood in Appalachia.” Today has been a very productive day and I am expecting a most productive week!

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 (10:00-5:00)

I continued reviewing Leonard Ward Roberts folktales from Accession No. 57, Boxes 25-29. I asked Shannon for three additional books, Appalachian Folktales (Loyal Jones), Up Cutshin and Down Greasy (Leonard Ward Roberts), and Child Welfare in Kentucky (a 1919 publication that should be useful in planning the historical analyses of my “Childhood in Appalachia” course). I spent the lunch hour in good conversation with Carl Lindahl. He directed me to the special edition of Appalachian Heritage that contains a memorial issue pertaining to Roberts’ life and work. (I recalled that Mr. Rice mentioned this issue to me last week). Dr. Lindahl, who is currently at Berea doing research on Roberts and his folktales for a book he is writing, also told me of a journal article that he wrote for the Journal of American Folklore, published in 2010.
found this article and it should be extremely beneficial to me as I continue my research on Roberts and Appalachian folktales. Dr. Lindahl also conversed with me about my future career goals, plans for my “Childhood in Appalachia” course, and folktales, in general. I was delighted to be able to spend an hour conversing with someone who is very knowledgeable about Roberts and Appalachian folktales. He also emailed me a guide and key that he created regarding Roberts’ work. Also, I spoke with Mr. Rice and plan to provide him with a progress report of my research activities on Friday. It’s been yet another productive day in Special Collections!

**Friday, March 18, 2011 (1:00-5:00)**

Today, I completed reviewing the folktales in Boxes 25-29. I also submitted my midpoint progress report to Mr. Rice. We talked about my research up to this point as well as my dissertation research. Mr. Rice suggested that I begin listening to the 1949-50 recordings in the Roberts collection as they pertain to his earliest recording with children. At this time, it was common for adults to be recorded, not children. Mr. Rice also told me about Jane Muncy, an individual that was mentioned by Carl Lindahl earlier this week. Mrs. Muncy’s stories were recorded on several different occasions (as a teenager) and she came to Berea College a few years ago and discussed those recordings. She also talked about how she implemented stories in her professional work as a psychiatric social worker. Mr. Rice explained that I might find this information useful in my thinking about my college course, “Childhood in Appalachia.” Our discussion about my progress, future plans pertaining to my fellowship research, and next week’s research activities was very beneficial.

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Total Hours This Week: 21
JOURNAL ENTRY #4 (MARCH 21-25)

Monday, March 21, 2011 (1:30-5:00)

I watched the VHS tape entitled “Hutchins Library Folktale Workshop: Loyal Jones Speaking About Leonard Roberts and Telling ‘Raglif Jaglif Tetarif Pole’ 7-7-03.” I also listened to the cassette tape entitled “Leonard Roberts Speaking to a Berea College Class about Appalachian Folklore: His Collecting Efforts and Telling Folk Tales (January 1975): Tales Include Daniel Boone (Geese, Duck, Snake)/Raglif Jaglif Tetarif Pole/Ghost Story/Haunted House/Headless Man” {In Box 60, SAA 57}. I took extensive notes while watching the video and listening to the cassette.

Wednesday, March 23 (10:00-12:00/2:00-5:00)

Today was a day of listening to Roberts’ on cassette tape and scheduling appointments. I listened to the second half of Roberts’ folktales and took notes. I briefly toured the Appalachian Center and obtained a cassette tape of Leonard Ward Roberts’ folktales as well as the Appalachian Heritage memorial issue dedicated to Roberts. I spoke with George Brosi and scheduled an appointment to meet with him on Tuesday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m. During my brief visit with Mr. Brosi today, he told me that he remembered attending Leonard Ward Roberts’ funeral. He also remembered Roberts’ brother attending the funeral wearing bibbed overalls because that was all he had to wear. After actually hearing Roberts’ voice on tape and listening to his unique storytelling abilities (as well as his genuine laughter when something funny would take place in the story), I began to understand more about him as a common, ordinary man from up the road a piece (as Appalachian folk are likely to say). While at the Appalachian Center, I met Chad Berry and later emailed him for an appointment to talk about Appalachia at some point in the near future. I spoke with Calvin Gross, one of the staff members of Hutchins Library, about the Moore Hollow (a former coalmining camp located in Jackson County that was the home of my grandparents until their deaths). I also called Loyal Jones and scheduled an appointment to meet with him at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29. The Berea Alumnus magazine noted that Jones likes to meet with people at Berea Coffee and Tea and that is the very place he wants to meet me for our discussion next week. I am looking forward to actually talking to “Mr. Appalachia” about Roberts, folktales, and other issues pertaining to the region!

Friday, March 25 (1:30-5:00)

Today has been another productive day! I continued listening to the cassette tape of Leonard Ward Roberts speaking to Loyal Jones’ Berea College class and I also listened to another cassette tape when he spoke to Mr. Jones’ short term class on January 24, 1983. I began listening to the 7th grade children who told stories to Roberts in Leslie County, Kentucky in October of 1949 and I reviewed Appalachian Folk Tales, a book that was compiled and edited by Loyal Jones in 2010. I spoke with Mr. Rice this afternoon and he provided me with a paper written by Jenny B. Wilder in 1991 at the University of Kentucky, entitled “Pine Mountain Settlement School ‘Education for Living.’” We also discussed and scheduled a presentation regarding my fellowship that I am to give at Berea College on April 6th at 3:00 p.m. The last day of my fellowship research will be on Friday, April 8th. I cannot believe that I only have two more
weeks to spend in special collections! There are many tasks that are left to complete in a short amount of time; however, I am excited about the challenges that await me regarding the design of my college course, "Childhood in Appalachia," the preparation of two manuscripts, two presentations, and continued newspaper articles that I am writing for *The Jackson County Times*.

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Total Hours This Week: **12**
JOURNAL ENTRY #5 (MARCH 28-APRIL 1)

Monday, March 28, 2011 (1:00-5:00)

Today has been a very busy day! I talked with Jamie Bradley regarding how to properly cite Jack Weller’s self-published pamphlet (since limited bibliographic information was available). I also spoke with John Bondurant regarding my upcoming presentation at Berea and how he can assist me include sound clips in portions of my presentation. I emailed Harry Rice about the paragraph we discussed last week re: the upcoming presentation. I reviewed Chapters 1-4 of Dr. Leonard Ward Roberts’ dissertation and also found a Google e-book that was cited in the dissertation entitled Rural Life and Education: A Study of the Rural-School Problem as a Phase of the Rural-Life Problem (written in 1914 by Ellwood P. Cubberley). I finished listening to the childhood recordings in the Leonard Ward Roberts collection. Some of these stories actually captured Dr. Roberts asking the storytellers their names, where they were from, and from whom they had heard the stories. Although I listened to the CD of Dr. Roberts guest presentation in one of Loyal Jones’ courses in 1975, I began listening to it again in hopes of finding audio clips that will be useful for next week’s presentation at Berea College.

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 (9:00-12:00/1:00-5:00/6:00-9:00)

This has been one of the most eventful days that I have had re: my Fellowship experience thus far. From 9:00-10:15 I spoke with Mr. George Brosi, editor of Appalachian Heritage. Mr. Brosi knew Dr. Leonard Ward Roberts. (See summary of interview in Fellowship/Independent Study binder). I perused various issues of Mountain Life and Work in Hutchins Library, and then continued reviewing Dr. Roberts’ dissertation. I also called Dr. Janice Blythe (one of my former professors and acting chair of Child and Family Studies) to inform her of my upcoming presentation at Berea College and I sent her some information electronically to disseminate to students and faculty in the department. I spoke with Mr. Rice about locating old photos of children in Appalachia to complement my presentation. From 2:00-3:30, I spoke with Mr. Loyal Jones, also known as “Mr. Appalachia,” at his favorite meeting place, Berea Coffee and Tea located in the College Square. Like Mr. Brosi, Mr. Jones was a friend of Dr. Leonard Ward Roberts and he provided me with a lot of insight regarding Dr. Roberts, his teaching, scholarly work, and personality. (See summary of interview in Fellowship/Independent Study binder). I was honored to speak to both of these individuals and certainly hope they will be able to attend my presentation at Berea College on April 6th. This evening, I listened to some of the tapes/CD’s of Roberts’ guest speaking events during Mr. Jones’ classes at Berea College and I continued reviewing his dissertation. I also read portions of Roberts’ book, Up Cutshin and Down Greasy, and I looked at Rhonda George England’s dissertation that I originally reviewed earlier.

Wednesday, March 30, 2011 (1:30-5:00)

Today I reviewed old pictures from various collections (e.g., Annville Institute, Rural School Improvement Project, Appalachian Archives) and selected several that Mr. Rice will scan and permit me to use in my presentation. I also spoke with Shannon and Mr. Rice about how to access Berea Digital.
Friday, April 1, 2011 (9:30-12:00/1:00-4:00)

I talked with John Bondurant about the audio files that I will need for my presentation and retrieved these today. I also obtained eight of the eleven photos that I requested on Wednesday. I finished reading the dissertation written by Rhonda George England and I also finished reviewing Up Cutshin and Down Greasy by Leonard Ward Roberts. I read a paper written in 1991 by a UK student entitled “Pine Mountain Settlement School: Education for Living” (Jenny B. Wilder) and a paper that was presented at a Berea College faculty lecture in 1981 entitled “Community Based Education at Pine Mountain School” (Walter P. Oldendorf). I retrieved an article written by John Dewey in 1906 entitled “The Educational Situation” and I took notes, as usual, on everything that I read. I have had a very productive week! Next week will conclude my Fellowship at Berea College and I must say that I have had an enjoyable learning experience!

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Total Hours This Week: 23
JOURNAL ENTRY #6 (APRIL 4-8)

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 (1:00-5:00)

Today I worked with Tony Basham to finalize some technical components of the presentation that I will give tomorrow. I also watched the videotapes of Jane Muncy Fugate (SC VT 560-002: Hutchins Library Folktale Workshop: Jane Muncy Fugate Commentary and Story Telling, July 9, 2003). I also spoke with Mr. Rice regarding my plans for the remainder of this week, since my fellowship will end on Thursday.

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 (10:00-12:00/1:00-5:00)

I worked with Mr. Rice and John in preparing for my presentation. I presented my fellowship information to a group of approximately 12 individuals in Room 106 of the Hutchins Library, Berea College, from 3:00-4:00 this afternoon. In attendance were students and staff along with Mr. Loyal Jones and Mr. George Brosi. Overall, technical difficulties were solved prior to 3:00! I think the presentation was well received and I am delighted that Mr. Jones and Mr. Brosi were able to attend! The presentation was videotaped and I hope to receive a copy for my files as well as a copy for Dr. Frazier at the University of the Cumberlands.

Thursday, April 7, 2011 (10:00-11:30)

I finalized all fellowship paperwork and presented a hard copy and electronic copy of my fellowship work (up to this point) to Mr. Rice. I also reviewed materials that Dr. Roberts used in his teaching (e.g., course outlines, bibliographies, syllabi). I have certainly enjoyed my time at Berea and look forward to visiting special collections in the future for further research.

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Total Hours This Week: 11

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Total Hours for Fellowship: 90
References
(Excludes collections that have been reviewed by Leonard Ward Roberts)


Weller, J.E. (1967?). *Relating the Reformed theology to Appalachia*. (I need to obtain more bibliographic information for this source).


(ATTACHMENTS: Journal Entries and Newspaper Articles for 3/9 and 3/16)
Fellowship Final Report

Mary Ruth Isaacs, Ed.D.

April 7, 2011
Fellowship Final Report

“Childhood in Appalachia”
Berea College Fellowship
March 2, 2011-April 7, 2011

Reviewing the collection of materials from Dr. Leonard Ward Roberts, as well as materials regarding the progressive and religious/missionary education movements in Appalachia, I have been able to begin creating a course for undergraduate college students entitled “Childhood in Appalachia.” I have also learned about folktales, both as someone who enjoys a good story as well as a scholar who sees potential in using folktales in future college classes as a way to instruct students about the rich heritage of the Appalachian culture of which we are members.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to present information to undergraduates about life in the 19th and 20th centuries, specifically regarding the educational opportunities that were available to children in Appalachia. Students enrolled in the course will also have opportunities for field experiences, using folktales as a primary source from which to collect information about the region.

I believe the field experiences will be important components of student learning. Such trips to Pine Mountain Settlement School (Harlan County, KY), Hindman Settlement School (Knott County, KY), and Annville Institute (Jackson County, KY) will help students understand the “sense of place” that people in the mountains value.

Products of Fellowship

◊ Weekly newspaper column in The Jackson County Times entitled “Folks Tellin’ Tales in Appalachia”
◊ Appalachian Folktales Workshop at the Jackson County Public Library (April 14, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.)
◊ 2 manuscripts
  ◦ Progressive/missionary education in Appalachia
  ◦ Folktales in Appalachia
◊ Continuation of the development of “Childhood in Appalachia”