

**Review of Sutton's Ole Time Music Hour at Granville Museum
On February 21, 2009**

by Betty Westmoreland

It was beginning to rain in the late afternoon, and there were snowflakes mixed in, when my friend Gloria Griffith and I drove the winding country roads along the Smith/Jackson County line in Eastern Middle Tennessee. As we drove along near the Cumberland River, we watched for the town of Granville and the **Granville Museum**. We had heard about Sutton's old country store in Granville (now the Granville Museum), where **Sutton's Ole Time Music Hour** happens every Saturday night. We knew we wanted to try the great home cookin' there at the store, and we knew we wanted to hear some old-time string band music. We struck gold!

We entered the white-painted store/museum and paid for dinner. We were overwhelmed by the sights, the sounds of the band warming up, and the smells of something really good back in the kitchen. There were shelves, counters, and an upstairs balcony—all filled with books, calendars, jars, clocks, and canned goods. My guess is that the cans and jars were empty. Huge ledger books were open, showing thousands of transactions from 'way back when. There were feed sacks and old farm equipment by the ton. This is tobacco and cattle country, and Sutton's store met the many needs of area farmers for many a year. Lighting is provided by strings of clear Christmas lights which are hung around the ceiling. Bare light bulbs are hung from electric wires. This is a moment right out of the 1920s and it is wonderful! The museum has also collected and is still gathering genealogical and historical information about the families of Smith and Jackson Counties in Tennessee. Feel free to contribute relevant information and to visit and study the information which is already there.

Dinner was served to about 60 hungry folks in a side room which once served as the "feed room," so as I think of it now, I suppose it is still the *feed room*. Family-style seating brought us together with strangers who soon became friends, at least for the moment. The meal was a meat and three (or four or more), with rolls, tea, and dessert. It was divine!

We loosened our belts and made our way back to the room with all those shelves and counters. Several rows of chairs were set up through the middle of the room and facing the back corner of the store. The back corner is where the music happens. **The Galley Nippers** old-time string band from nearby Lebanon and Carthage, Tennessee, were warmed up and ready to perform, first just for us, then after a brief break, for a 'live radio audience who were out there listening in surrounding towns in Tennessee and southern Kentucky. Some of the many sponsors who help with the bills for this endeavor are: D. T. McCall's Appliances and Furniture, Purity Dairy, Knife Country, the Cookeville Regional Medical Center, and Coca Cola.

The Galley Nippers are led by **Buddy Ingram** on banjo and vocals. Buddy serves as the chief ranger at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, Tennessee, and he is also a recent winner of the old-time banjo competition at the annual Uncle Dave Macon Days in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Buddy dressed in his turn-of-the-century clothes, shoes, and hat. A vision to be sure! Buddy brought along his wife, **Lisa Ingram**, who handled vocals and washtub bass--also old-time washboard with horns and a cowbell or two. Her black dress, hat, and shoes were also from a time long, long ago. **Brian Vollmer** played fiddle, and **Josh Smith** played guitar. Brian and Josh helped out on vocals and they, too, were dressed for the occasion. The Galley Nippers are one terrific old-time band. Each member has researched the history of this fascinating style of music, and they know their stuff.

Let me tell you the songs that The Galley Nippers played for us on that snowy night: Rabbit in the Pea Patch, Hear Jerusalem Moan, Daisy, Down by the River, Ole Joe (*not* Ole Joe Clark), Polly Wolly Doodle, How Many Biscuits Can You Eat, Bert Anderson's Tune, All Night Long, Knoxville Rag, Brown Dream (from the Roan Mountain Hilltoppers in East Tennessee), Sail Away Ladies, Hand Me Down, Pig in a Pen, Alabama Bound, Old Grey Mare, Soldier's Joy, and Watermelon.

The Granville Museum and Sutton's Ole Time Music Hour are a must for your travel itinerary! Check out their website for future bands and activities in and around Granville, Tennessee.

*Further information about the Granville Museum:
www.granvillemuseum.com/index.htm?id=14125

*Information about old-time string band music and Breakin' Up Winter old-time string band weekend on March 6-8, 2009: www.nashvilleoldtime.org and www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW

*Information about Uncle Dave Macon Days on July 10-12, 2009:
www.uncledavemacondays.com

*Find out what a Galley Nipper is (also called Galley Napper): Just google the term!