Dale Sullivan and the Missouri Town Band  Dale Sullivan has played music for the Lloyd Shaw Foundation, an international dance group at its week long dance workshop in Colorado for over 10 years playing Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Waltzes, and English Country dance music for Square dances, Contra dances, English Dances, and other historic and ethnic dances. In the early 1980’s, Dale formed The Missouri Town Band, which has provided music for the Missouri Town Dancers for 30 years. The band has played for the Village Cloggers for 15 years. The band provided music at the Missouri State Fair for about four years for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The members of the band are Dale Sullivan, fiddle, Harvey Heidbreder, bass violin, Bill Barker, Banjo, and Doug Morgan, guitar. Our specialty is playing for Contra Dancers and Square Dancers

James Thaxter  Jim Thaxter has been calling contra and square dances for over sixteen years. When asked what his favorite dance he replied, “The favorite dance changes with the situation. I have some that I really like to call for beginners. The dancers usually "get" the dance and I can see the understanding in their faces as they realize how the dance fits together and fits with the music. For groups that dance regularly I like to call a few dances that challenge them. The dancers may start off hesitantly into the dance, but find the key to making it work for them. Then they take off and dance.

Bluegrass Missourians  The Bluegrass Missourians have many years of experience playing for audiences in a variety of venues in 7 states. They have performed at several major mid-west bluegrass festivals, & Silver Dollar City& Shepherd of the Hills near Branson. They have opened for such bluegrass greats as Bill Monroe, Sonny & Bobby Osborn, Jim & Jesse McReynolds, J.D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson, & Ricky Skaggs. Rhonda Vincent & Valerie Smith have performed with them on stage. The band members are Randy Denney - instruments - banjo/guitar/bass - vocals(lead, baritone, tenor); Ed Sellers - instruments - fiddle/guitar - vocals(lead, bass); Dave Batson - instruments - bass/guitar/banjo - vocals(lead, tenor, baritone); Bob White - instruments - guitar/mandolin/banjo - vocals(lead, bass); and Brian McCarty - instruments - mandolin/guitar/banjo - vocals(lead, tenor). The BLUEGRASS MISSOURIANS have produced 15 commercial albums, which include a total of 207 recorded songs of which 19 are original. They have consistently received nomination and received awards from the Society for the Preservation of Blue Grass Music of America (SPBGMA) as individuals and the band. Most recent and significant, The Band - 2014, 2013 SPBGMA Midwest nominee - Vocal Group of the Year and The Band - 2014, 2013 SPBGMA Midwest nominee - Entertaining Group of the Year.

Barbara Hughes  Barbara Hughes taught American History for 26 years and is now retired. She is a professional historian and serves on the board of The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri. Barbara is an active member of The Blue Springs Historical Society, The Jackson County Historical Society, and The Lone Jack Historical Society. She is listed on the Speakers’ Bureau of The Jackson County Historical Society. Barbara loves bringing historical women and their times to life for people of all ages to enjoy. She does this through, reflections -historical vignette performances that involve first person story-telling, historic replicas, and music.

With twelve different programs in her repertoire, she will perform “Women in Missouri during the Civil War” a character study of five different women of that era who lived in the Mid-west, most within in forty miles of the 1864 Battle of Plattsburg. Words shared in testimonial attest to her in-depth historical research in developing her characters and her ability to engage the audience into living history.
150th Commemorative of the 1864 Battle of Plattsburg
LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL
April 25, 26, & 27

“She creatively used...pictures, music, drama, and artifacts to...draw an engaging and thought provoking picture of the people and time of the Civil War. I was especially moved by a story of a woman who lost her husband and brother. I made a personal connection with the people of that time period.”  Debbie C., teacher, graduate student

“Barbara Hughes is an accomplished historian and actress. She combines those skills and talents to take us back in history as she transforms herself to Narcissa Whitman or others to tell stories of historical significance. Barbara’s performances are both informative and entertaining. Don’t miss the opportunity to witness living history.”  Tom M., retiree

Missouri Humanities Show Me Speakers

Gladys Caines-Coggswell, master storyteller of Missouri, Frankford

Adeline  The story of Adeline, a slave in Savannah, Missouri, will be performed. Adeline was present to hear Abraham Lincoln debate political opponent Stephen Douglas; with the North’s victory in the Civil War, she became free, but chose to stay on with the family to which she had been sold.

Joe Louis Mattox, independent scholar, Kansas City

Blacks in Blue  One of the often forgotten heroes of the Civil War is the African American soldier. Many of those who fought in Missouri for the Union were former slaves. The first African American unit to engage in combat was the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, whose men “fought like tigers” at the Battle of Island Mound, near Butler, Missouri. This presentation will share the stories of selected African Americans who fought in Missouri at Island Mound and Westport. Joe Louis Mattox is an independent scholar at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and State Museum in Kansas City, where he serves as the volunteer resident historian. A retired public housing official and freelance writer specializing in topics of interest to African Americans, he serves on the board of the directors of the Historic Kansas City Foundation. He is also a historian for the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition, a volunteer at the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum, and is honored to be a “Living Historian.”