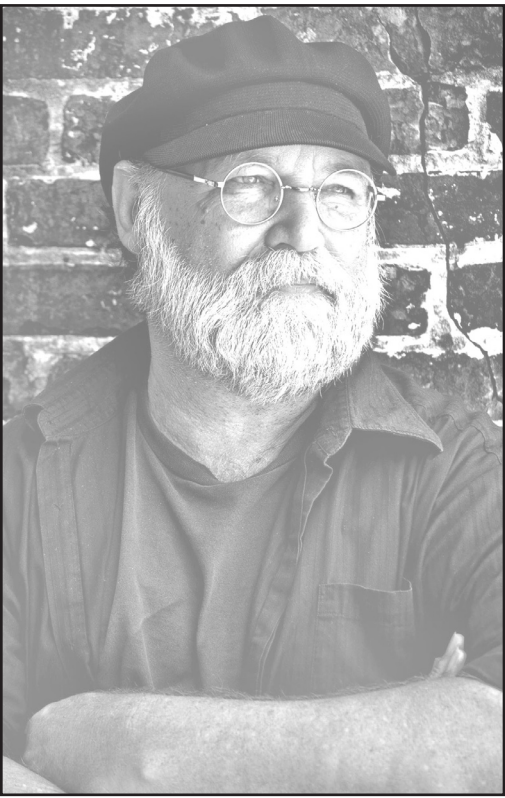


# Former Estill Countian Releases Another CD



**Kenneth Baldwin**

A former Estill County resident who lives in South Carolina has just released his latest project, an CD of instrumentals with 13 original compositions for acoustic guitar.

Kenneth Baldwin of Columbia, South Carolina, formerly lived in Estill County and is the son of Lee and Synnove "Cindy" Baldwin. She was a native of Norway, and the couple lived all over the United States until they moved to Ravenna in 1970 after Lee retired from the Air Force.

Ken graduated from the "new" Estill County High School in its first year, 1971. He is a brother to Debbie Sparks who is a beautician at her shop, Shear

Creations, on Broadway in Irvine. He also has three other sisters, Tina, Eileen and Terri.

Baldwin says his latest project, "A Strange Brew," would be considered "contemporary guitar instrumentals," which came about after he made the decision to make an album of just guitar instrumental compositions.

"These past two years gave me seven new compositions out of the blue," said Ken. "I had five older compositions that I never had recorded before, so I revived them for the project. I also included a tune and composition from my music collaborator Igor Agafonov, to make it a baker's dozen."

Acoustic guitars, steel and nylon string, were used for the project, and Ken got help from four others including his son, Logan Baldwin, and Agafonov. Three of the five have roots in Hodgenville, Kentucky.

The project was engineered in Hodgenville, and past recordings have had air play on NPR affiliates and some cable television programming. Musical support comes with violin, mandolin and bass. "The percussion from my son Logan," says Baldwin.

Logan's the percussionist who lives in Los Angeles now; the drummer for the band 'The Score.' He did his recordings in Brooklyn and LA and would send the tracks to Jerry for the mix. "I'm so fortunate to have his talent available as a professional drummer," said Baldwin. "It made all the difference. I feel as if I'm riding on his coat-tails as a musician."

Jerry Williams is "the engineer driv-

ing this train. Jerry does everything from all the audio engineering, mixing, editing, recording, mastering. And then he's on all the bass guitar tracks," says Ken. "I'd have little to show for my work without Jerry. He has quite a portfolio of recording projects under his belt as a producer and studio audio engineer these days. A real talent."

David Wilson is "our Missouri connection for 25 years. If it has a string, he is a master of it. David traveled to Hodgenville and adds so much with his musicianship on the violin and mandolin, live or in the studio. He has a long history as a musician and studio musician with probably well over 200 musical projects with his credits on them.

"I was fortunate to include one of Agafonov's compositions with the project," said Ken. "We've been composing and performing together for eight or nine years now. A very talented guitarist and composer living in South Carolina."

Ken said "the title came from the way we assembled all these musical pieces together. Recordings sent from four different states by five different musicians just seemed like a 'strange brew.' The cover is from an older piece of artwork, a self-portrait I did when I was still in art school. It just seemed to fit and was available."

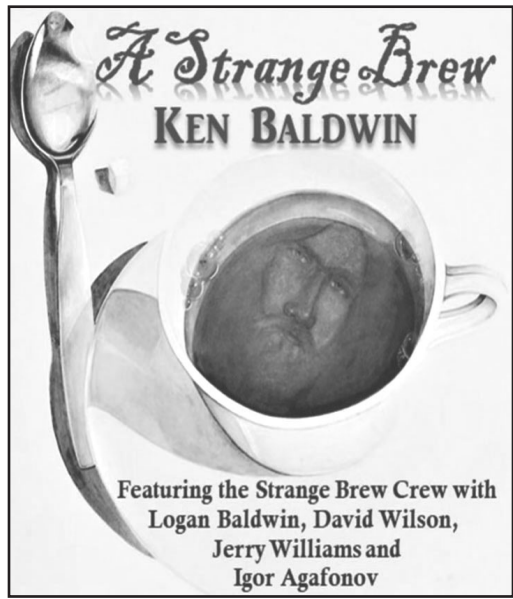
The group put the project out as a CD ... even as the times are a-changing as to how people listen to music today. "Since we're on the cusp of technology changes these days," says Baldwin, "it will also be available on-line with 150+ streaming and download services around the

world, including Spotify, Apple Music, Tic Tok, Amazon, Pandora, You Tube and Deezer." CDs are available for \$10. Those living in the Estill County area can contact Debbie Sparks at Shear Creations at 518 Broadway in Irvine if anyone would like to have a copy.

Baldwin says he has about 15 albums under his belt as a musician now, several as his projects and the others as a supporting musician.

Some of them include *Bones of A Saint* (2006), *Strings and Bows* (2010), *Hard-tack & Saddlesores* (2011), and *A Dreamer's Intuition* (2014). Some of these may still be available.

The next project will be a collection of songs with the theme of Childhood Memories as a compilation of the band mates. "It should be finished this year," adds Baldwin.



The CD "A Strange Brew" is available from various sources.

## "Looking Into The Past" by Estill County Historian Ellen Rogers

*The following is part one from a two-part, hand-written manuscript produced around 1975 by one of Estill County's foremost historians and genealogists, Ellen Rogers, who lived on the Doe Creek Road at South Irvine, several years ago. She was raised at Mountain Springs and taught school at numerous places throughout Estill County.*

If you were in your golden "senior citizen" years, and lived alone (not far from Irvine and very close to the neighboring South Irvine) you might catch yourself reminiscing your early childhood, and naturally you can expect some nostalgic memories of some sixty-six years to creep into your line of thoughts. These earliest memories of past experiences are the fondest recollections of the human mind.

I, Lou Ellen Rogers, was born on the Sabbath Day on the second of May, 1909 to John W. Rogers Jr. and Mary Manerva (Rogers) Rogers. Already present to welcome one more to the clan were the following siblings: Della, Warren and Dorothy. Then following my arrival came Floyd, Gamaliel, Lydia, Eula and Irene. (Three still-births had occurred before I arrived).

To this little plot of earth, a history rich in describing the environment in which I grew up and the enjoyment I get out of digging back into the past.

*"He who careth not from whence he cometh, careth little wither he goeth."*

-- Daniel Webster

We grew up on a mountain farm in the vicinity of Mountain Springs. We did not have a rose petal life nor did we eat from a silver spoon, but we did have love. I can honestly and truthfully say we never laid down hungry or cold.

*"Happy he who remembers his progenitors with pride, who relates with pleasure to the listener the story of their greatness, of their deeds, and, silently rejoicing, sees himself linked to*

*the end of this goodly chain!"*

-- Goethe

We were taught from an early age to work and be able to maintain self-efficiency in our livelihood. Each one had a responsibility for performing our own chores on the farm. We were made to be responsible as well as reliable for the tasks we had been assigned to do the best of our ability. Our motto: *"If a task is once begun, never leave it 'till it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all."*

-- Author Unknown.

We mostly grew everything we needed on the farm. We only had to purchase necessities. An early lesson well-learned was to buy only the things you can afford or pay for. No charging, please!

Clothing and school books were handed down from the oldest to the next in line. You can be assured they had all evidence of being used by the time they arrived at the end to number nine.

Mama would practically make everything we had to wear. She was a very unique mender and "patch-er upper." She could sew, weave, card and spin, knit, quilt; and above all, fix something delicious to eat from a little bit of this and that. To me, her food was matchless. To me, no way can I find words of comparison. No wonder that we grew up to be "hail and hardy." We never questioned our menu. We were to partake of the foods that were placed on our table before us. I realize now that we were taught some good table manners and also how fortunate we were to have the parents we had.

What ever you do, do it with all your might. For things that are half done, are never done right.

Papa was a fairly good (or great to me) carpenter. He could make and mend so many things around home. He was considered a good blacksmith, too. He could take care of his farm tools by sharpening saws,

plow points; or wagon tongues, handles for any tools, sleds, etc.

One thing that I want to especially mention that stands out in my early life was seeing and hearing him make "coffins" at our home. I recall in the flu epidemic of 1917-18 of him having six bodies waiting and depending upon him to commit this task. He planed, sawed, hammered, banged and nailed all night, trying to accommodate his neighbors through this terrible tragedy of disease. Mama would be right by his side, assisting in whatever she could do. Helping with covering, lining, padding and making little pillows for the head to rest on. Not one penny was ever accepted for this service. It was merely their way of helping out in a time of great need.

They were never too busy to lend a helping hand in time of need, such as sickness or death. They would both go far and near to assist. A few times, I know he took his own lumber for these sad occasions when the family did not have. There never was a charge made. That was a time when they could help out and they never failed to do so.

Their faith was dedicated to the Mountain Springs Christian Church. I cannot find the original date, but I do know it goes back to great, great grandpa "Preacher Billy" William Rogers, born 1 August 1797 and died 8 January 1869, ordained to preach October 1834, according to Lewis Collins. He had preached forty years, had baptized 2052 persons; the grandfather of 207 children, the father of 22 children by one union with Abigail Larrison Rogers.

Going back one step farther, Tarleton Powell was indicted on 5 February 1844 for "disturbing a congregation of good people assembled together for religious worship, by loud talking, quarreling, criminary and recriminary" at a meeting house called the Mountain Springs Meeting House.

Witnesses were Samuel Cobb and Jesse Adams. Tis a fact Jesse Adams died 12 June 1851. His grave has the oldest store-bought tombstone in the Moun-

tain Springs Graveyard.

*Part 2 will be continued next week in The Estill County Tribune.*



The old photo above (actually a sketch) created quite a firestorm of activity last week when it was posted on Facebook's Estill County Memories. It read, "Francis Marion McKinney 1834-1902 and Lory Estes McKinney. Wall-snapped with James Crowe in the early 1980's at Barnes Mountain. Not my family, just had a snap of it. Some of James' ancestors."

True, these are not my family, but apparently they are the ancestors of hundreds, maybe thousands of people whose family originated in the Barnes Mountain area.

**Some of the unedited comments include:**

*"My dad is Wyth Willoughby McKinney, his dad was George Washington McKinney & his dad was Francis Marion Mckinney Jr & of course his dad was Francis Marion Sr."*

*"My people are from Barnes Mtn. My grandfather was Buell McKinney I wonder if we are related to the people in the picture."*

*"Are you a 1st cousin to Alliefair Noland & Ina Metcalf? I used to work with those two...when Alliefair retired I bid on her job & got it. I loved that job in Repair."*

*"I Am not sure , i think Francis Marion McKinney Baptized my Grandpa , Marion Lucas Estes in KY River at Buck creek about 1943"*

Former Irvine police chief James Crowe was one of those who accompanied me while visiting Estill County cemeteries in the early 1980's. The job doesn't come easy. Some of us once had a gun pointed at us, got run off by a polecat, and another friend nearly fell into a sunk-in grave. At Barnes Mountain, threats once came from a man who didn't even own the land where there was a cemetery we wanted to visit.

At some time during this era, James and I visited a home at Barnes Mountain where this photo was hanging on the wall. The best we could do was snap a picture of it, and nearly forty years later I found the photo in my files and shared it with others. Apparently, many family members have been very happy to see it even though there are other photos of the couple available. If you have old photos, scan them, snap them with your camera and share them with others.

Tracy Randall Patrick