

Backintyme Printable Press Kit

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Biographical Information

Backintyme uses the art of storytelling and the emotion of music to illuminate Florida's history and folklore. The stories tell what people thought. The music shows what they felt. As they weave the story and the music together,



Backintyme reveals a tapestry of Florida's past. The banjo, guitar and folk percussion instruments playing 19th century music transport audiences back to another time when life was different.

Mary Lee Sweet is a retired teacher and library media specialist. She grew up in Virginia listening to her Scots-Irish father and his brothers telling tales. They never let the truth interfere with a good story. The songs they taught her were from their own childhood. Froggy Went A Courting, Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night, Oh, Susanna, Camptown Races, and Cindy are just a few of the songs she learned.

She graduated from high school in Teheran, Iran, where the stories from the thousand and one nights became very real, when turbaned, longrobed men of the desert stopped traffic as they guided their sheep herds or camel trains through the narrow streets. Today, the stories of history are as fascinating to her as those of fable. So Mary Lee began to use the storytelling techniques she learned from her father to spin tales about the folklore and history of Florida.

She enjoys collecting and playing the percussion instruments of the 19th century. Her gigantic carpet bag is home to an Irish bodhran drum with four tippers, the jawbone of a Peruvian donkey, a limber toy frog named Paddy Whack, two tambourines, a Canadian catpaws, a train whistle, two sets of cow horn spoons, six sets of rhythm bones, and one mouse puppet named Miss Lizzie.

Frank W. Sweet is a retired electrical engineer. He was raised in both Puerto Rican and American cultures. Stories, songs and performances with guitar or cuatro (a sort of Puerto Rican mandolin) were part of the traditional family gatherings. He began to learn the guitar at an early age and learned stories of Puerto Rico as well as of New York and New Jersey. Although he plays both the banjo and the guitar, Frank prefers the banjo when telling nineteenth century stories.

His keen interest in history has led him to a master's degree in history, and he has been accepted to Ph.D. candidacy in American history at the University of Florida, where he has completed all but his dissertation defense. Research for academic studies has uncovered interesting anecdotes from original documents, which Frank crafts into stories that both entertain and inform. His nineteenth-century classical style of playing the banjo adds authenticity and a sense of 'being there' to performances. Period clothing, music from the time and historical anecdotes add a unique perspective for telling the story. Frank is also a prolific author with two major books in print, as well as with ten historical booklets that are sold in Florida museum and state park gift shops.

Where Backintyme Has Performed

Florida Storytelling Camp Featured Performers March 2002
Folk Village concert participant in Glencolumkille, Ireland July 2001
Ocala Storytelling Festival Featured Performers April 2001
Brandeiss University Women's Association
American University Women's Association
School performances K – 12, Florida and Georgia
Suwannee Storytelling Festival
Coquina Crossing Community Center
St. Augustine Limelight Theatre
Florida Trail Association
Florida Free Wheelers Association
Daytona USA Bill France Room wedding reception
Fort Clinch State Park civil war weddings
Political Campaign Rallies
Nursing Homes
Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach
Marywood Retreat Center elder hostel programs, Jacksonville, Florida
Barberville Pioneer Village Hands Multicultural Festival
Harvest Festival, White Springs
Azalea Festival, White Springs

Each year Backintyme performs in Florida at the following events

Barberville Pioneer Village Jamboree
Ocala Cracker Days, Silver River State Park (by invitation six days for schools and public)
Stephen Foster Day Celebration at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park
Washington Oaks State Park Earth Day
Washington Oaks State Park Christmas in the Park
Florida Folk Festival 1995-2002
Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park Christmas Program
Benefit for St. Augustine Lutheran Church Christmas food drive
Cracker Coffee House participants at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center (several times a year)
Living history interpretation Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park (Volunteers)

Backintyme can also be seen at the following Civil War events (In Sutlers' Row, they perform the songs of the era and tell some stories.)

Olustee Expo, Florida

Horse Landing Civil War re-enactment, Florida

Brooksville Civil War re-enactment, Florida

Olustee Civil War re-enactment, Florida

Aiken, SC, Civil War re-enactment, South Carolina

Spring Garden Civil War re-enactment, Florida

Resaca Civil War Reenactment, Georgia

Backintyme Programs

Frank and Mary Lee, as **Backintyme**, are available to perform for private events and public events, in clubs, schools, libraries, churches, and museums and at festivals.


Civil War anecdotes and stories taken from the pages of history are told to entertain and to inform.

The humor of Florida Folktales and the Stephen Foster song, Glendy Burk, will paint a picture of life during the days of steamboats. The music and songs of the nineteenth century are performed with introductory stories of the composers and the times.



America's Palatka Adventure: War Service of a Racing Yacht – This is the story of the world's most famous sailboat. She gave her name to the America's Cup Regatta, then became a Confederate blockade runner in the war. She was sunk in Dunn's Creek, near Palatka, Florida, but then refloated to become a

Union blockader.

Hardtack – Minstrelsy was a unique American art that began about 1840,  peaked around 1860, and continued as the most popular theater in America until about 1895. Our story of Hardtack is a minstrel show routine that is about army food.



Yulee's Railroad – Florida's first railroad and the men who built and ran it are revealed in this story. For four years, the Union held both ends; the Confederates held the middle. The Battle of Olustee was fought over it. Rosewood's survivors owed their lives to it.

Join us for these and other stories from the past.

Backintyme also performs parlor stories for children that include:



folktales,



fables,



tall tales,



and popular children's songs
from the nineteenth century.

Backintyme Photos

At the Florida Folk Festival

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2002

Local & State

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The Gainesville Sun

IN BUSINESS
Goodwill of grand opening in the North
Page 9B

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By LISE FISHER
Sun staff writer

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Frank and MaryLee Sweet, performing as Backintyme, entertain the audience with musical tales of Old Florida on Friday at the 50th Annual Florida Folk Festival at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs. BELOW: Melinda Swindle of Tampa spins yarn from wool with her 9-year-old daughter, Erin, at the festival.

Photo by JOHN MORAN/The Gainesville Sun

Backintyme Performance with Mary Lee playing the rhythm bones and Frank on banjo.



Florida Storytelling Camp 2002 Feature Tellers



Elementary School Performance



Backintyme Songs

Music we perform with stories and without stories

Stephen Foster Songs

- _ Camptown Races
- _ Nelly Bly
- _ Glendy Burk
- _ Old Folks at Home
- _ Old Kentucky Home
- _ Oh Susanna
- _ Angelina Baker
- _ Nelly was a Lady
- _ and many, many more ...

Civil War Era Songs

- _ Bonnie Blue Flag
- _ Goober Peas
- _ Battle Cry of Freedom
- _ Wake Nicodemus
- _ Home Sweet Home
- _ I Wish I was in Dixie's Land
- _ Marching Through Georgia
- _ and many, many more ...

Folk Songs, Hymns and Other Music from 1500s to 1880s

- _ Bury Me Beneath the Willow
- _ Cindy
- _ Froggy went a Courting
- _ Fox went out on a Chilly Night
- _ Grandfather's clock
- _ Amazing Grace
- _ Nearer my God to Thee
- _ I'll Fly Away
- _ Golden Slippers
- _ Green Grow the Lilacs
- _ Angel Band
- _ and many, many more ...

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