



Mary Claire Anderson

mcandersonpcs@yahoo.com

309-682-2915

I fell in love with storytelling from being in the audience. Now I love to tell stories myself – stories that connect with the hearts, the lives, and the funny bone of the audience.

I have built up a storytelling repertoire that can suit many occasions: historical portrayals, personal stories, children's tales, holiday programs, spiritual themes, and literary works. Lately I have been focusing on developing Bibletelling programs.



Catherine Barnett

Contact Catherine through the guild phone number

309-682-2915

I have been telling stories ever since I was a little girl and my parents gave me a red plastic tape recorder.

I have always loved the electric connection between the listener and the sounds and senses of the oral narrative.

I enjoy my job as young adult librarian and program coordinator at the Chillicothe Public Library, as well as growing things in and around my home in the heart of Peoria. Other interests include singing, acting, & literature.



Cathy Breese

grtcatmac11@hotmail.com

309-695-6416

I specialize in telling historical stories and stories for children & families.

Some of my favorite stories to tell include “The Torch Murder,” and “The Chatsworth Train Wreck.”

I am especially interested in the local history of Stark County and supports her local Historical Society.



Lynn Furness

lfurness@comcast.net

309-692-0993

In my eight years as a storyteller, I have specialized in both Peoria history and the history of traditional music. My programs include live music – including the autoharp, dulcimer, guitar and vocals.

I have had the privilege of telling at the Flanagan House, Pettengill House, and the Springdale Cemetery Tour.



Mick Henneberry

henneberrylaw@yahoo.com

815-875-6561

I often include rhythmic storytelling in my programs – both through poetry and drumming. I enjoy connecting with the audience through imagination.

Some of my favorite programs include *J. T. Lighthall*, *Medicine Man*, “The Country School Bully,” and Cowboy poetry.

This season I have been a featured teller at Starved Rock State Park.



Bill Homel

whomel2012@gmail.com

309-347-6496

I am a retired power plant worker who loves to see the audience react to my stories. Gasps, tears and yelps are good, but laughs and smiles are best.

I like history and have portrayed some famous people – both good and bad – of the Midwest area.

I am also involved with movie making and participated in a Western movie produced in this area titled *The Showdown*.



Tricia L. Kelly

blarneytales@yahoo.com

815-993-4476

I am a true Irish lass who believes that “blarney” is good for you.

In addition to Irish tales, I am best known for my story, “Horace, the Not-so-Night Owl,” and scary stories for children and teens.

I am a high-energy teller who loves to thrill my audience and often include them in the story itself.



Kay Price

kayprice@prairietellers.us

309-243-7194

You may have seen me around town as the Irish Washer Woman, at the Springdale Cemetery Tour or the Erin Feis, or as a champion Liar at the Liars’ Contest.

I love watching the audience get involved in stories and often ask for their participation in telling a story, such as “The Little Boy Who Turned Himself into a Peanut.”

I provide a variety of programs suited for schools, libraries, holiday programs, and Christian Women’s groups.



Jackie Sauder

seelee3233@sbcglobal.net

I enjoy telling personal stories, as well as portraying historical characters. I tell the story of Lucy Pettingill, a member of the Underground Railroad in Peoria.

I appreciate the variety of styles among the tellers in our guild, and love to see the audience get caught up in a story.



Lee Sauder

seelee3233@sbcglobal.net

309-694-2630

I portray Robert Avery – a local man who was a Civil War prisoner, an inventor of farm machinery, and the businessman for whom the Averyville area of Peoria was named.

I myself have retired from farming, agribusiness sales and real estate.



Bonnie Swanson

ybjs89@frontier.com

309-274-4090

Although I am new to this guild, I have been telling stories all my life. As a former athlete and teacher, I love to tell stories about sports, especially those geared toward children. My grandfather was also a storyteller, and I continue the tradition by telling family stories as well.