

# Bass Connections 2017

## Archives Alive: The North Carolina Jukebox Project



BASS  
CONNECTIONS

### NC JUKEBOX | INFORMATION, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE

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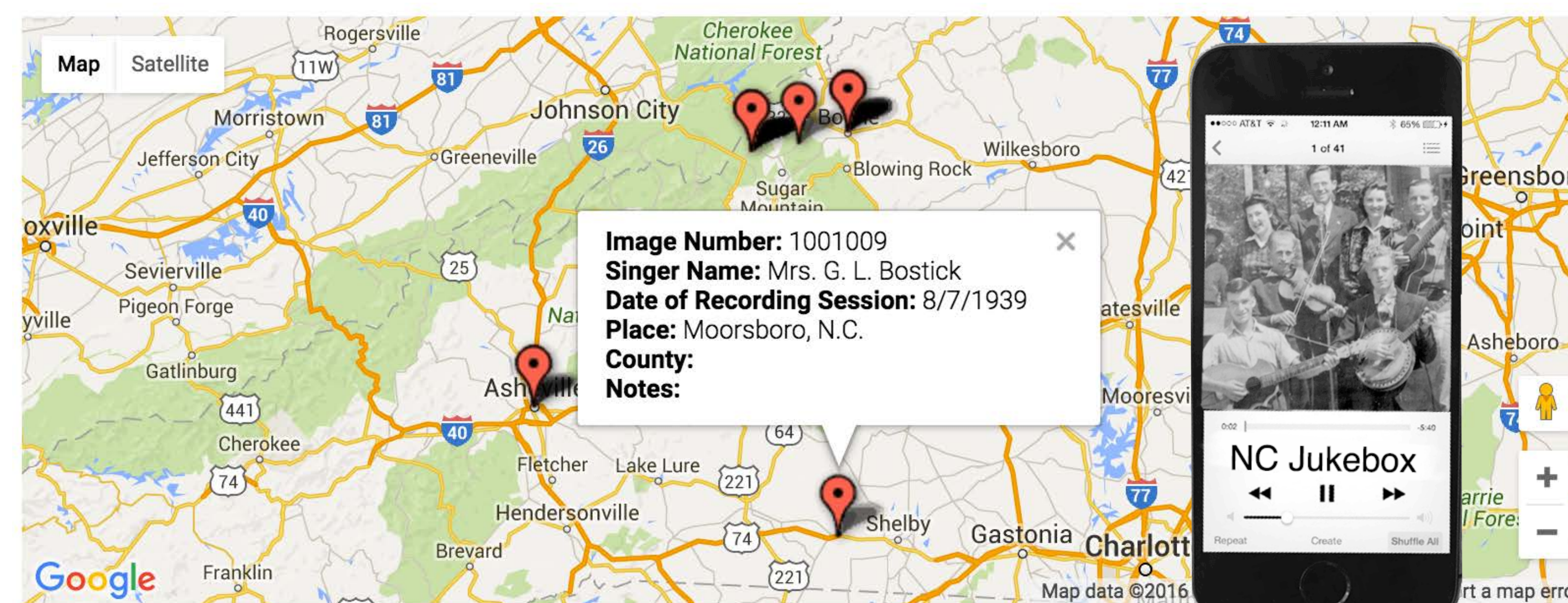
**PROJECT SUMMARY:** This project transforms an inaccessible audio archive of historic North Carolina folk music collected by Frank Clyde Brown in the 1920s-40s into a vital, publicly accessible digital archive and museum exhibition.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Explore the FCB "hidden collection" of folk music recordings
- Create media rich, sustainable archives and exhibitions for diverse audiences and purposes
- Return the music to the NC communities of origin and critically engage with the ethics of repatriation
- Engage in sustained interdisciplinary engagement in a public-facing digital humanities teaching/research project
- Investigate relationships between library archives and pedagogy



Researching with primary source materials.



Some of FCB's travels in Western NC Visualized

## METHODOLOGY

- Perform collaborative research individual singers and songs in the FCB collection of folk song performances
- Develop a data model, template and software framework for the online archive and mobile application
- Conduct a study of the archive's effectiveness with diverse audiences, including heritage musicians
- Explore techniques for "data mining" incomplete and fragmentary, audio, visual, and textual materials
- Share resulting resources with diverse communities on campus and off

*The impact of the archive will be assessed through scholarly and public responses to our research findings, digital archives, and physical and virtual exhibitions*

## CONCLUSIONS

- NC folk and popular music draws from both old and new world sources
- Primary source material engagement enhances pedagogical impact
- Collaborative digital exhibits are viable approach to critical cultural heritage research and presentation

## INSIGHTS

- Cultural history is a complex process of selection, presentation, and interpretation by multiple agents
- Bringing cultural heritage to life is a vital goal for Bass Connections as a public good



Rubenstein Exhibit

<http://ncjukebox.org>

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