

JOHN F. BLAIR, PUBLISHER

Donald Davis, author of *Tales from a Free-Range Childhood*

If you ask Donald Davis how long he has been a storyteller, he will answer, “Forever.”

Donald Davis grew up near Waynesville, N.C., in a family of traditional storytellers that has lived on the same western North Carolina land since 1781. Davis has remarked that he “didn’t learn stories, I just absorbed them.”

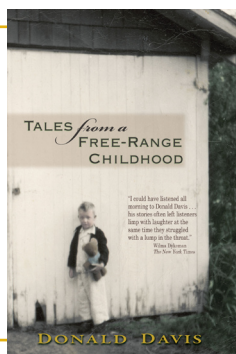
After earning a B.A. in English at Davidson College, Davis graduated from Duke University Divinity School. For more than 20 years, he was a minister in the United Methodist Church. In 1989, he became a full-time storyteller. He now tours the country 10 months a year, making approximately 300 storytelling presentations annually.

Davis is a regular headliner at the 37-year-old National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, and at the 21-year-old Timpanogos Storytelling Festival in Orem, Utah—the largest such festival in the West, attracting more than 25,000 people. In Orem and on Ocracoke Island, N.C., he conducts weeklong workshops on the creation and performance of personal and family stories. His workshops were

the subject of a documentary film that premiered on public television in Utah in August 2010.

Davis has been a featured storyteller at the Smithsonian Institution and the World’s Fair and a guest host for National Public Radio’s *Good Evening* program. He received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Storytelling Network and was selected for the “Circle of Excellence” by the National Storytelling Association. He also served for six years as the chairman of the board of the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling.

When he’s not traveling, Davis makes his home on Ocracoke Island.



Tales from a Free-Range Childhood

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