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John C. Campbell Folk School - Brasstown, North Carolina (FA 1377)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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Descriptive Inventory

FA 1377 JOHN C. Campbell Folk School – Brasstown, North Carolina

2 boxes. 30 folders. 399 items. 1924-1980. Originals, photocopies.

SC2020.79.1

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of research collected by Dr. James M. Gifford of Morehead State University for a history of the John C. Campbell Folk School, established in 1925 in Brasstown, North Carolina. The school grew out of the Appalachian studies of John C. Campbell (1867-1919) and his wife Olive Dame Campbell (1882-1954) and was modeled on the folk schools that had long been part of rural life in Denmark. After John died in 1919, Olive and school co-founder Marguerite Butler (later Marguerite Butler Bidstrup) visited Europe to learn more about the folk school movement. Upon their return they selected a location for the school in southwestern North Carolina. They built the school with the enthusiastic help of local citizens, who donated labor and building materials. The John C. Campbell Folk School offers no credits or grades, but rather seeks to offer an alternative to higher education that preserves the unique history, crafts and folklife of the Appalachian region and its people.

Box 1 contains research material on the school and on John C. Campbell and Olive Dame Campbell. Much of the material consists of articles and speeches about the school and related topics by Olive Dame Campbell and Marguerite Butler; also included are feature articles and reports on the school, its curriculum and activities that appeared in publications such as *Southern Mountain Life and Work* (soon renamed *Mountain Life and Work*), as well as in the school's own bulletins.

Box 2 contains additional research material on the school and its administrators, including correspondence (which begins in 1924, as Olive Dame Campbell explores the possibility of establishing the school), a World War II-era newsletter giving news of many alumni in military service, and calendars. Also included is more general research on the folk school movement, festivals, conferences, and rural life and work; much of this research is again collected from articles in publications such as *Mountain Life and Work*. A few materials on the Brasstown Women's Community Club detail its work and its relationship with the school. Notes and local history research gathered from members of the community, apparently in the 1930s, feature some genealogy and folklore.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	John C. Campbell Folk School	1925-1975	184 items
Folder 1	Inventory and bibliographies		7 items
Folder 2	John C. Campbell – Biographical articles	1928-1937	2 items
Folder 3	Olive Dame Campbell – Biographical data	1954, n.d.	8 items
Folder 4	Olive Dame Campbell – Writings, speeches	1925-1943	17 items
Folder 5	Olive Dame Campbell – <i>The Danish Folk School</i> – Correspondence, reviews, related material	1928-1942	27 items
Folder 6	Research on school	1936-1933	19 items
Folder 7	Research on school	1934-1939	24 items
Folder 8	Research on school	1940-1949	13 items
Folder 9	Research on school	1950-1961	18 items
Folder 10	Research on school	1971-1975	5 items
Folder 11	Research on school	n.d.	27 items
Folder 12	Research on school	n.d.	13 items
Folder 13	Articles of incorporation	1925	1 item
Folder 14	Dedicatory addresses	1927	3 items
BOX 2	John C. Campbell Folk School	1924-1980	215 items
Folder 1	Correspondence	1924-1928	43 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1933-1980	55 items
Folder 3	Correspondence – Tennessee Valley Authority	1934-1941	16 items
Folder 4	Georg Bidstrup	1952-1971	5 items
Folder 5	Solvejg Bording	1957-1958	3 items

Folder 6	<i>The Blotter</i> (school newsletter)	1943-1945	5 items
Folder 7	Calendars	1977-1979	3 items
Folder 8	General research	1930-1937	10 items
Folder 9	General research	1938-1948	12 items
Folder 10	General research	n.d.	3 items
Folder 11	Brasstown Women's Community Club	1928, n.d	5 items
Folder 12	Notes on local families, history and folkways	1932-1938	39 items
Folder 13	Folk College Association of America – Newsletter	1976-1977	6 items
Folder 14	James M. Gifford – Proposal for history; outline; abstracts, etc.	1977, n.d.	4 items
Folder 15	Dora Blalock, "The John C. Campbell Folk School . . . Revisited"	n.d.	2 items
Folder 16	James M. Gifford – Miscellaneous writings	n.d.	4 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

FA 1377 JOHN C. Campbell Folk School – 1924-1980
Brasstown, North Carolina

Research materials for a history of the John C. Campbell Folk School, compiled by Dr. James M. Gifford.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Agricultural education

Appalachian Region, Southern – Social life and customs

Bidstrup, Georg, 1902-1971

Bidstrup, Marguerite (Butler), 1892-1982

Blalock, Dora (Stewart), 1929-2010 B2,F15

Bording, Solvejg, 1907-1970

Campbell, John Charles, 1867-1919
 Campbell, Olive (Dame), 1882-1954
 Dancing
Danish Folk School, The (Book) – Relating to B1,F5
 Folk-College Association of America B2,F13
 Folk festivals
 Folk high schools – Denmark – Relating to B1,F5
 Gifford, James M.
 Handicrafts
 Plays – John C. Campbell Folk School B1,F7
 Rural conditions – North Carolina
 Rural education – North Carolina
 Rural life – North Carolina
 Slavery – Georgia – Relating to B1,F16
 Tennessee Valley Authority – Relating to B2,F3
 Women – Societies and clubs – North Carolina B2,F11
 Wood-carving – John C. Campbell Folk School – Relating to B1,F8-12

SEE or SEE ALSO

Butler, Marguerite, 1892-1982
 See
 Bidstrup, Marguerite (Butler)

Niedermeier 11/09/2020