John C. Campbell Folk School Fain Archives

Terry Thorp Fortner Collection (2025.2)

Overview of the Collection

Creator:	Terry Thorp Fortner
Title:	Terry Thorp Fortner Collection
Inclusive Dates:	c. 1922-2025; n.d.
Abstract:	This collection encompasses postcards gathered by Marguerite Butler Bidstrup during her international travels as well as images (primarily photographic negatives) taken by Terry Thorp Fortner at John C. Campbell Folk School, Berea College, and other locations in the early 1970s.
Accession Number:	2025.2
Quantity:	1 7” letter-sized document box (0.58 linear ft)
Language(s):	English
Repository:	Fain Archives, John C. Campbell Folk School 1 Folk School Rd. Brasstown, NC 28902
Preferred Citation:	[description of item], Terry Thorp Fortner Collection (2025.2), Box # Folder Number #, John C. Campbell Folk School Fain Archives, Brasstown, NC.

Historical Note

Terry Catherine Thorp Fortner was born in 1953 in Pinellas County, Florida, where she has lived for most of her life. She attended Berea College (Berea, KY), where she was part of the Berea Country Dancers. In 1973, she participated in John C. Campbell Folk School’s Winter Folk School program under John Ramsay and Loren Kramer. While at JCCFS, she was a working student in the dairy, kitchen, and garden; took part in community folk dance and music; and stayed on as an assistant in the tomato trellis project under Bent Teems and Bert Smith. In the summer of 1973, Terry stayed with JCCFS co-founder Marguerite Butler Bidstrup for a couple of weeks. During this time, Terry looked through photographs and postcards with Marguerite, and Marguerite gave her the postcards. When Terry donated this collection to JCCFS, she recalled, “During that summer [1973] I stayed with Marguerite Bidstrup while her housemate went on vacation. In the evenings Marguerite dictated captions which I wrote into an album with photos

documenting her years as an employee at Pinewoods [sic: Pine Mountain] Settlement School in Kentucky. I enjoyed talking with her about her life and accomplishments. When I admired a collection of postcards, Marguerite gave them to me" (see accession file for full letter).

At some point in 1973, Terry and fellow Berea/Winter Folk School student Sheila Hunt recorded an oral history interview with Marguerite about her time at Pine Mountain Settlement School (1972.1.1/1972.1.2/2021.6.730/2021.42.5/2021.42.28-30/2021.42.108).

Scope and Contents

This collection was divided into four series during processing.

Negatives consist of 700+ film strip photographic negatives dating to the early 1970s. The bulk of these date to Terry's time at John C. Campbell Folk School in 1973, especially during the 5-month Winter Folk School program. Other images were taken at Berea College in Kentucky and among her friends and family in Florida. While most of the images in this collection have been both digitized and cataloged in PastPerfect, several dozen photographs unrelated to JCCFS were digitized but not cataloged. Most images were received in labeled envelopes.

There are 41 *Photographs* in the collection, all of which were printed from negatives that are in the series above and relate to JCCFS and the Winter Folk School. All photographs have been digitized and cataloged in PastPerfect.

Postcards were given to Terry Thorp Fortner by Marguerite Butler Bidstrup in summer 1973. Most of these postcards appear to date to the Scandinavian trip taken by Marguerite Butler and Olive Dame Campbell 1922-1923. While most are blank, others contain notes on the trip or correspondence with each other and with family and acquaintances. A small number of postcards appear to date to later trips, such as to Bermuda, Egypt, Trinidad, and across the United States. Postcards arrived at the Fain Archives with no apparent order and were sorted into folders by country during processing.

The *Miscellaneous* series contains five documents: a map of the JCCFS campus; a business card for John Ramsay; article "Appalachian Folk School" by John Ramsay (1971); "A Challenge To The Modern World" pamphlet about Danish folk schools (1983); and published interview "Loyal Jones and Buell Kazee."

The *Correspondence* and *Narrative* folders contain documents donated after the initial collection was processed. *Correspondence* has three letters written by Terry to her mother in the spring and summer of 1973, as well as some explanatory notes written by Terry at the time of donation in 2025. *Narrative* includes additional memories written down by Terry following her visit to the Folk School in fall 2025.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 1 box:

Box 1. Folders 1-24

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use

None.

Index Terms

This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms:

Persons

Bidstrup, Marguerite, 1892-1982

Subjects

Appalachian Region
Berea College
Florida
Folk high schools
John C. Campbell Folk School
North Carolina--Cherokee County
North Carolina--Clay County
Scandinavia

Document Types

Photographs
Photography--Negatives
Postcards

Related Material

2021.42.5	oral history interview with Marguerite Butler Bidstrup (see Historical Note for full list of duplicate recordings/transcripts)
2021.6	Bidstrup Papers
2022.36	Loren Kramer Collection

2024.3	Internship & County Resources
2024.14	Marguerite Butler Bidstrup Papers
2025.4.12	oral history interview with Terry Thorp Fortner

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the JCCFS Fain Archives in three parts by Terry Thorp Fortner, 22 July 2024, 20 January 2025, & 3 October 2025.

Accession #(s): 2025.2

Accruals

No future accruals are expected.

Processing Information

Processing, digitization, cataloging, & finding aid: Susanna Pyatt, completed 4/30/2025 & revised 11/20/2025

Container List

BOX 1

Folder 1. Negatives, c. 1972-1974

Folder 2. Negatives, c. 1972-1974

Folder 3. Photographs, c. 1973

Folder 4. Postcards: Bermuda

Folder 5. Postcards: Crimea

Folder 6. Postcards: Denmark

Folder 7. Postcards: England

Folder 8. Postcards: Egypt

Folder 9. Postcards: Finland

Folder 10. Postcards: Germany

Folder 11. Postcards: Greenland

Folder 12. Postcards: Israel

Folder 13. Postcards: Italy

Folder 14. Postcards: Norway

Folder 15. Postcards: Poland

Folder 16. Postcards: Scotland

Folder 17. Postcards: Sweden

Folder 18. Postcards: Switzerland

Folder 19. Postcards: Trinidad

Folder 20. Postcards: United States of America

Folder 21. Postcards: unknown locations

Folder 22. Miscellaneous, 1971, 1983, n.d.

Folder 23. Correspondence, 1973

Folder 24. Narrative, 2025

References/Further Reading

Campbell, Olive Dame. 1928. *The Danish Folk School*. New York: Macmillan. https://archive.org/details/danishfolkschool00camp

The People: Marguerite Butler Bidstrup. n.d. *Craft Revival: Shaping Western North Carolina Past and Present*. Western Carolina University. https://www.wcu.edu/library/DigitalCollections/CraftRevival/people/margueritebidstrup.html

Wyckle, Helen Hayes, and Ann Angel Eberhardt. n.d. Marguerite Butler Staff. *Pine Mountain Settlement School Collections*. https://pinemountainsettlement.net/?page_id=2136