John C. Campbell Folk School Fain Archives

Marian Hunter Collection (2026.15)

Overview of the Collection

Creator:	Marian Hunter
Title:	Marian Hunter Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1927-1929; n.d.
Abstract:	A collection of correspondence, essays, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other documents related to Marian Hunter's time at the John C. Campbell Folk School and the Brasstown Farmers Association in the late 1920s.
Accession Number:	2026.15
Quantity:	1 2.5" document box (0.21 linear feet)
Language(s):	English
Repository:	Fain Archives, John C. Campbell Folk School 1 Folk School Rd. Brasstown, NC 28902
Preferred Citation:	[description of item], Marian Hunter Collection (2026.15), Folder [#], John C. Campbell Folk School Fain Archives, Brasstown, NC.

Historical Note

Marian Lucinda Hunter Shutt (c. 1910-unknown) was a student at Wellesley College who spent the summer of 1927 at the John C. Campbell Folk School (JCCFS) and returned in the summer of 1928 to work with the Brasstown Farmers Association. According to her descendants, Marian grew up in Brooklyn, NY. She married Joe Shutt, and the family later moved to Henryville, PA.

The Brasstown Farmers Association was founded in 1928 as one of several cooperatives formed by JCCFS staff and residents of Brasstown, NC. It was primarily a consumers' cooperative for purchasing agricultural supplies, such as feed and fertilizer. A grist mill and community hatchery were soon added to the co-op's activities. The Association merged with the Mountain Valley Creamery in 1935 to form the Mountain Valley Cooperative. Mountain Valley went bankrupt and ceased operations in 1952.

Scope and Contents

The Marian Hunter Collection consists of correspondence, essays, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other documents related to Marian's time at JCCFS and the Brasstown Farmers Association cooperative in the late 1920s.

Folder 1 contains documents from the Brasstown Farmers Association, including a composition book titled "Notes for Business of The Brasstown Farmers Association, Inc. Kept by Marian L. Hunter, Official Agent." This is an account book tracking shares, labor, and materials for 1928. Other documents in this folder include livestock grain calculations and data for the Brasstown Hatchery.

Folder 2 contains several original newspaper clippings as well as photocopies and transcriptions of clippings. One article comes from an unnamed source related to agriculture and cooperatives in North Carolina. The remaining articles are from Wellesley College or submitted by the college to other newspapers. These articles give brief accounts of Marian's work in Brasstown and credit her with much of the organizing work to create the Brasstown Farmers Association, especially financing and supervising construction of the grist mill.

Folder 3 contains several pages of correspondence related to the organizing of the Brasstown Farmers Association and several personal letters between Marian and people in Brasstown, including JCCFS staff member Georg Bidstrup.

Folder 4 contains a single pamphlet, "The Theory of the Danish Folk High School" by Olive Dame Campbell.

Folder 5 contains 34 black-and-white photographs (not counting duplicates). Though unlabeled, these are presumably images of people and places around JCCFS and Brasstown during the late 1920s. All images have been digitized and cataloged in the Fain Archives' PastPerfect software.

Folder 6 contains two handwritten essays by Marian Hunter. "Let Me Present the Danish Folk School Plan" was submitted for Marian's English Composition class on January 25, 1927. Partial typed transcriptions of this piece were created and included by the collection donor. This essay discusses both the traditional Danish folk school model and the Pocono People's College of Henryville, PA. "Brasstown: A Mountain Community Developing under the Influence of a School" was submitted by Marian for an Economics class on May 1, 1929.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 1 box:

Box 1. Folders 1-6

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

Subjects

Agricultural, Cooperative
Cooperative societies
Folk high schools
John C. Campbell Folk School
Wellesley College

Document Types

Account books
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Essays
Pamphlets
Personal correspondence
Photographs

Related Material

2023.62 Mountain Valley Creamery/Mountain Valley Cooperative

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the JCCFS Fain Archives by Barbara Shutt Beckwith, 20 April 2026. Barb is the daughter of Marian Hunter Shutt.

Accession #(s): 2026.15

Accruals

No future accruals are expected.

Processing Information

Processing and finding aid completed by Susanna Pyatt, spring 2026

Container List

BOX 1

Folder 1. Brasstown Farmers Association, 1928, n.d.

Folder 2. Clippings, 1928-1929, n.d.

Folder 3. Correspondence, 1927-1928, n.d.

Folder 4. Pamphlet, "The Theory of the Danish Folk High School" (Olive Dame Campbell), n.d.

Folder 5. Photographs, n.d.

Folder 6. Writings, 1927, 1929

References/Further Reading

Pyatt, Susanna. 2025. The Early Cooperative History of John C. Campbell Folk School. Unpublished paper. See Fain Archives server for digital copy; recording of 12 November 2025 presentation at JCCFS available on server and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSdEAib7wng&t=17s).