



*Collection overview draft by Megan O'Sullivan - June 30th, 2021 last updated June 10th, 2024*

This document will provide a brief overview of the current holdings of Folklore Village. Through the development of collection management and centering on the mission of Folklore Village and vision of Jane Farwell, the archive can be used for reference and inspiration to members of the community and the organization itself. The original status of the collections at Folklore Village existed in various stages of acquisition and organization. These items have been organized with the hope of future growth along a solid collection plan.

This description of the archive will cover six collections that provide background on the organization, the culture of recreation and folk dance, along with different iterations of communities founded and influenced by Jane Farwell. This includes material produced by and with some of her frequent collaborators who acted as auxiliaries to Folklore Village. Though the periodical holdings are discussed in the following documentation, they are not currently a part of the Folklore Village Community Archive; they are considered part of the library.

### *Folklore Village Community Archive Mission Statement*

The archive will support the opportunity for individuals and communities to celebrate, experience and support ethnic and traditional folklife as understood and interpreted through the life of Jane Farwell.

Above all else, Jane Farwell serves as the unifying and central figure of materials held onsite at Folklore Village.

The holdings of the collection in this archive are primarily ephemeral, with the exception of the Hirschmann Collection. The materials of the Folklore Village Community Archive are concerned with items created, developed, or annotated by Jane Farwell. There are also materials related to activities and organizations that were explicitly inspired by Jane along with materials related to some direct collaborator. These items include a focus on the recreation leadership laboratories that created a framework for Folklore Village and the Christmas Festivals. Included are materials connected to several folk dance camps established before the use of the term Folklore Village, the Christmas Festival, and the incorporation of Folklore Village. The timeline at the end of the document will help tie together some of the elements of the archive by displaying Jane as the thread.



## The Folklore Village Library and Archives Collections

Periodicals  
Jane Farwell Files  
Recreation Laboratories  
Hirschmann  
Auxiliary  
Folklore Village Ephemera

### Periodicals

The periodicals in this collection mainly exist as reference and are considered to be part of the library. These materials have been provided by friends and members of the Folklore Village community. Included are American Squares, The Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS), English Country Dance, Journal of American Folklore, Let's Dance!, Viltis, and others. Some of these publications do make references to Jane Farwell which helps establish the reputation she had beyond the work being done in Dodgeville and Mount Horeb, Wisconsin.

### Jane Farwell Files

Jane Farwell was a charismatic leader of the Folklore Village community. She was not always known for her keen organizational skills. This collection attempts to replicate, in part, the nature of materials as they were collected by the curious Farwell on nearly a daily basis. She was passionate about compiling information and teaching others. Also included are some of Farwell's early folk dance and recreation events that helped shape the future of Folklore Village.

### Recreation Laboratories

Jane Farwell was truly interested in all forms of recreation. The early part of her academic and professional life allowed her to collect materials from all different contexts and apply them to folk dance. Or take the opportunity to teach other leaders the joys of folk dance so that they could use that knowledge in their own communities. These learning opportunities were often called Rec Labs and they were offered all over the county. And Jane Farwell was often driving across the country teaching and learning and making friends along the way. These materials collected by Farwell and others create the Recreation Leadership Laboratories Collection.



## Hirschmann

The Hirschmann Collection was gifted to Folklore Village and it contains some of the personal files and correspondences of Winfred Benjamin Hirschmann. He was known to the Folklore Village members as Win. This collection is the most vital aspect of the Folklore Village Community Archive because it gives many details about the development of Folklore Village, especially the ability to have a building as a central focus of the community.

## Auxiliary

The Auxiliary Collection is materials created by and about some of the frequent collaborators of Jane Farwell. The most significant of these being Michael and Mary Ann Herman. Farwell met the Hermans in New York in the early 1940s. They worked together at the Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, West Virginia before establishing the Maine Dance Camp together. Other collaborators include Ralph Page, who often discussed Farwell in his Northern Junket, and dancer Nelda Lindsay Drury. Later in Folklore Village history Ada Dziewanowska became an important collaborator in Wisconsin.

## Folklore Village Ephemera

The Folklore Village Ephemera Collection includes several different scrapbooks created by people connected with Folklore Village. It also has newsletters and all the various mailers and pamphlets used to promote each and every event hosted by Folklore Village. These materials serve as a reminder of past festivals and occasions, especially when traditions change and take on new forms.

## Timeline

### Jane Farwell's Early Life Before Establishing a Permanent Home for Folklore Village

- 1893** - half acre of land sold to Frogtown village for the school house
- 1916** - Born on the family farm (now the location of Folklore Village)
- 1933** - Graduated from Madison Central High School (now West High School)
- 1933** - Started at Antioch College
- 1938** - Graduated Antioch College
- 1940** - Oglebay Institute employment  
First dance event
- 1941** - First dance weekend at Oglebay
- 1946** - Jane Farwell presents in Albany, New York in connection to 4-H



- 1947** - NRA leader training in Maine
- 1948** - Established Rural Recreation Service (January)  
First Texas Dance Camp (November)  
First Christmas Festival (December)
- 1949** - June, Utah  
May, First Maine Dance Camp  
Yuma  
2nd annual Texas Dance Camp (Thanksgiving)  
Dec Graham County, Arizona 4-H (southeastern Arizona)
- 1950** - Second Main Dance Camp  
July - October northern Europe  
Met future husband, Jurgen Hinrichs
- 1951(?)** - founded Down East Recreation lab
- 1952** - February Recreation for Rural Youth publication  
July present in Stockton College of the Pacific Camp
- 1953** - Jan(?) Recreation publication (Lumi sticks cover)  
Minnesota Recreation Training Schools November 1- 13  
December 6th Christmas Festival
- 1954** - Jane Farwell teaches at Texas Folk Dance Camp  
Jane Farwell teaches at Stockton Dance Camp  
First ad for book in Northern Junket
- 1955** - January 6, married at farm  
Ad for book in Northern Junket  
New Hampshire Folk Dance Camp, presented on Party Planning  
Moved to Germany
- 1956** - Six weeks in Japan
- 1965** - Jane Farwell buys the schoolhouse back (Wakefield, build in 1893)
- 1966** - Moved back to Wisconsin (December)
- 1967** - Wakefield Schoolhouse perched by Jane Farwell
- 1968** - Folklore Village incorporated and housed at the Wakefield Schoolhouse



## PERIODICALS

The periodicals in this collection mainly exist as reference and are considered to be part of the library. These materials have been provided by friends and members of the Folklore Village community. These boxes may also include various dance syllabi and compilations of reproduced materials from various publications.

American Squares  
The Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS)  
English Country Dance  
Journal of American Folklore  
Let's Dance!  
Viltis  
Miscellaneous Publications

### Journal of American Folklore (JoAF)

Periodical Box 01, 02, 03

The Journal of American Folklore is the quarterly peer-reviewed journal of the American Folklore Society published since the Society's founding in 1888. It publishes scholarly articles, essays, notes, and commentaries directed to a wide audience. The contents of the Journal reflect a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations. The Journal of American Folklore website has more information on this journal and links to subscription-based sources of recent issues.

Periodical Box 01 contains various issues from 2001 to 2020

Periodical Box 02 contains various issues from 1970 to 2000

Periodical Box 03 contains various issues from 1990 to 1998, 2002, 2003

### Viltis

Periodical Box 04, 05

Viltis is a magazine of folklore, folk music and folk dance, with the Lithuanian name that means hope. It was created by Vytautas Beliajus in the 1940s. The magazine has had different formats, but the first issue was published in May 1943. It was one of the first magazines devoted to folk customs and arts. It is illustrated and printed in English. The headquarters was in Denver, Colorado.

Periodical Box 04 contains issues starting at 1957

Periodical Box 05 contains issues ending at 1993

### The Country Dance and Song Society

Periodical Box 06

The Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) began in 1915 as a series of American chapters of the English Dance and Folk Society established by Cecil Sharp. The

organization has published a newsletter continuously since 1967 and a journal off and on since 1940. The CDSS News is a quarterly print publication for members.

Periodical Box 05 contains various issues 1974 to 2013

## Miscellaneous

## Periodical Box 07, 08

These boxes included but are not limited to periodicals and publications on square dancing and Scottish Country Dance. Of particular notes are the publication American Squares, which was also digitized at UNH (<https://library.unh.edu/>), in which there are several mentions of Jane Farwell and Folklore Village. See especially Volume 6, Numbers 8 and 9 which seem to have a letter submitted by Michael Herman from 1951 talking about a folk dance camp in Wisconsin. Also included is Let's Dance! The magazine has been published since 1944. More than 750 issues have been digitized and are available. Issues November 1952, December 1957, and October 1968 have passing mentions of Jane Farwell.

Periodical Box 07 contains issues from various publications

Periodical Box 08 contains issues from various publications



## JANE FARWELL COLLECTION

<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Jane Farwell was a charismatic leader of the Folklore Village community. This collection attempts to replicate, in part, the nature of materials as they were collected by the curious Farwell on nearly a daily basis. The standout items of this collection are the early pieces of instruction that Jane Farwell wrote early in her career. Farwell's early career took a wider understanding of recreation and narrowed it into the original folk dance event through the Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, Virginia. Jane Farwell was a curious collector of information. She tucked dance steps between pieces of discarded mail and looked for new bits of information to add to her wealth of knowledge. She directed recreation programs for more than 50 camps and conferences in Ohio, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.</p>
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1916 - 1993
<b>Quantity</b>	<p><b><u>2 Banker Boxes and 2 Document Cases</u></b></p> <p>JF - 01 - Early Syllabi JF - 02 - Miscellaneous JF Case - 03, "Jane's Closet" JF Case - 04, "Jane's Closet"</p>



## JANE FARWELL COLLECTION

### **Biographical Note**

Jane Farwell was born on January 18, 1916 in Wisconsin. After high school, where she was involved in many extracurriculars, she attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. At Antioch she created her own major exploring different methods of recreation through rural community leadership. In 1938 she began working for the Oglebay Institute in West Virginia. At Oglebay she began to put on folk dance events. She is credited as one of the founders of the modern folk dance movement and worked with many collaborators to establish different dance and recreation organizations across the country. Farwell held her first event for what would become Folklore Village in 1947. Although there is now a building available for the members of the Folklore Village community, Farwell always said that it was the individuals who were involved in the organizing and celebrating the festivals were the village. Although Farwell passed away on April 6, 1993, the legacy of her work continues.



## RECREATION LABORATORY COLLECTION

<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The recreation leadership laboratories were created for teachers and community leaders to come together to share ideas. The term can be shortened in various ways, but is most commonly referred to as RecLab. Historical information about these organizations is extremely limited. While many of these recreation camps still exist, the type of programming offered is different. Though some of the organizations still have annual retreats where people use various forms of recreation to learn and grow. This also helps leaders bring skills and ideas back to their own communities.</p> <p>Most lab booklets included in this collection provide a history of their organization, but Great Lake Recreation Leadership Laboratory does a particularly good job of documenting how the Labs connect to each other.</p> <p>The primary Recreation Leadership Labs that were connected with Jane Farwell were Black Hills and Great Lakes Recreation Leaders Lab. Also included in this collection are examples of recreation kits that were used in this type of collaborative environment. Most of the featured kits focus on music and dance.</p>
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1947 - 1999



## RECREATION LABORATORY COLLECTION

<b>Quantity/Extent</b>	<b><u>8 Banker Boxes</u></b>  Black Hills Recreation Leaders Laboratory RecLab - 01, Black Hills various 1947 - 1984 Great Lakes Recreation Leaders Lab RecLab - 02, Great Lakes 1/4 various 1956+ RecLab - 03, Great Lakes 2/4 various 1973+ RecLab - 04, Great Lakes 3/4 various RecLab - 05, Great Lakes 4/4 various up to 1999 Recreation Kit Examples Miscellaneous Recreation Labs RecLab - 06, Hawkeye, Buckeye, Northland RecLab - 07, Lab Syllabi Featuring Jane Farwell RecLab - 08, Labs Inspired by Farwell
<b>Historical Notes</b>	<p>Black Hills Recreation Leaders Laboratory (BHRL) was established in South Dakota and directed by Jane Farwell in 1947. She is explicitly discussed in the syllabi from the following years, 1949 - 1952, 1955, 1971. She attended and usually taught these years as well.</p> <p>Southwestern Recreation Leaders' Laboratory is no longer active under the same name. Jane Farwell likely attended in 1951 and 1953.</p> <p>Great Lakes Recreation Leaders Lab (GLRLL) was established in 1952 and is based out of Michigan. Some of these syllabi reference Jane Farwell and some of the materials, including the binders, were from collaborator Jack Worthington.</p>



## WIN HIRSCHMANN COLLECTION

<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Little is known about Win Hirschmann besides his loyal dedication to Folklore Village and Jane Farwell. When Farwell was living in Germany, Hirschmann was one of the members of the Christmas Festival Planning Committee and he was instrumental in raising the money for the construction of Farwell Hall.</p> <p>This collection includes personal correspondence, some of the only one currently in the Folklore Village Community Archive. Hirschmann was an avid attendee of Folklore Village events, and when he could not attend he would often request the materials that were provided at the gatherings.</p> <p>Hirschman also collected materials from other instructional engagements Jane Farwell did outside of Folklore Village. Including when the Miami Valley Folk Dancers host a Jane Farwell Weekend in 1959</p>
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1948 - 1989
<b>Creator</b>	Win B. Hirschmann, these files remain mostly intact in the order that he had them.



## WIN HIRSCHMANN COLLECTION

<b>Quantity</b>	<b><u>2 Document Cases</u></b>  Hirschmann Case 01 Hirschmann Case 02
<b>Biographical Note</b>	Winfred Benjamin Hirschmann was born in 1910 and died in 1989. He lived most of his life in the Chicagoland area. More details about this individual may be available in the documents themselves.



## AUXILIARY COLLECTION

<b>Abstract</b>	<p>In 1956 the U.S. State Department sent the Hermans, Nelda Drury, Jane Farwell, and Ralph Page on a tour of nineteen Japanese cities. These individuals form the core of the Auxiliary collection. One of the reasons why these objects have been collected together is that these individuals have such intertwined lives.</p> <p>Michael and Mary Ann Herman were frequent collaborators with Jane Farwell including Maine Folk Dance Camp and its publication the Pioneer Press. Michael Herman was a musician. He was the publisher of the Folk Dancer Magazine. A few issues are included in this collection.</p> <p>Ralph Page published the Northern Junket and was responsible for many issues of the Pioneer Press at the Maine Dance Camp. He often spoke of Jane Farwell in his publications.</p> <p>The collection also includes various material about Ada Dziewanowska and Nelda Lindsay Drury.</p>
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1930 - 1996
<b>Quantity</b>	<b><u>5 Banker Boxer</u></b>  Aux - 01, Ralph Page, Northern Junket Aux - 02, Hermans Aux - 03, Hermans Aux - 04, Hermans Aux - 05, Drury, Dziewanowska, Miscellaneous



## AUXILIARY COLLECTION

### **Biographical Note**

Michael Herman was born in 1910 and was able to use the 1939 World's Fair in New York as the opportunity to launch his vision for getting more people interested in folk dancing. In 1951 Herman created Folk Dance House with his wife. Michael Herman's Folk Dance Orchestra was a featured group on records by Sonart Records on the Folk Dancer label. The Folk Dance House closed in 1968.

Mary Ann Bodnar was born in 1912 and married Michael Herman in 1930. When Michael entered the armed forces during World War II, Mary Ann led the sessions at Folk Dance House. She was a passionate teacher who loved the world of dance.

Nelda Lindsay Drury was born in 1918. She was the founder of the San Antonio Folklife and Dance Festival, which launched in 1958. She taught Mexican and other ethnic dances all over the US, including at the Summer Graduate Seminar of Dance at Columbia University and the University of Wisconsin. She also taught in Mexico, India, and on that famed trip to Japan.



## FOLKLORE VILLAGE EPHEMERA COLLECTION

<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The ephemeral collection of the Folklore Village Community Archive consists of the syllabi and other materials produced in relation to events developed by the organization. These holdings also include promotional mailings and copies of the printed newsletter. Folklore Village produces a significant amount of ephemeral materials for each event that has been hosted both at the farm and beyond. Including screen printed invitations, special menus, event booklets, crafts, and calendars. This collection also includes several scrapbooks created by Folklore Village employees or volunteers that contain newspaper clippings and promotional materials. Two bound scrapbooks were created by Fran Sprain, the parent of a frequent member of Folklore Village events.</p>
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1947 - present
<b>Quantity/Extent</b>	<p><b><u>3 Banker Boxes and 2 Green Document Cases</u></b></p> <p>FV - 01, Sprain Scrapbook FV - 02, Sprain Scrapbook FV - 03, various organizational pamphlets FV Case - 04 FV Case - 05</p>



## FOLKLORE VILLAGE EPHEMERA COLLECTION

### **Biographical/Historical Note**

Folklore Village was established in 1947 when the first Christmas Festival was held in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. It holds events year round including concerts, dances, folk school, field trips, and festival weekends. Events are currently held in Dodgeville, Wisconsin at the Farwell Family farm. The center of which is Farwell Hall, a large building that resembles a barn with impeccable floors for dancing and spaces for teaching.

Folklore Village creates opportunities for individuals and communities to celebrate, experience and support ethnic and traditional folklife.