

Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project collection

AFC 1982/009

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
September 1982**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004695008>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af013011>

Prepared by Lucy M. Long

Finding aid encoded by Kate Stewart, December 2013
Revised July 2022

Collection Summary

Title: Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project collection

Inclusive Dates: 1977-1981

Call No.: AFC 1982/009

Creator: American Folklife Center

Creator: National Park Service

Extent: 13 linear ft.

Extent (manuscripts): 161 folders.

Extent (sound recordings): 428 sound tape reels : analog, various speeds ; 5 and 7 in.

Extent (sound recordings): 39 sound cassettes (60 and 90 min. each) : analog.

Extent (sound recordings): 2 sound discs : analog, 33 1/3 rpm ; 12 in.

Extent (graphic materials): circa 25,000 photographs : black and white, color.

Extent (graphic materials): 114 photographic prints : black and white.

Extent (moving images): 14 videocassettes (U-Matic) : sound, color ; 3/4 in.

Extent (artifacts): 1 wooden puzzle.

Language: Collection materials in English.

Location: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2004695008>

Summary: The collection consists of sound recordings, video recordings, photographs, manuscripts, sheet music, printed ephemera, artifacts, administrative records, and ethnographers' field notes related to the 1978 Blue Ridge Parkway Project field survey, conducted by the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, in cooperation with the National Park Service, in and around an area of the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Virginia and North Carolina border. The project documented old-time music, tales, hunting and hunting stories, farming, tobacco cultivation and auctions, vernacular architecture, quilting, foodways (including drying, canning, and baking), religious music and beliefs, as well as dance events featuring square dancing and flatfoot dancing. Recordings and photographs document local music (including concerts, fiddlers' contests, and music in homes), community events, church services and baptisms, local radio programs, and interviews with white and African American residents. .

Online Content: Selected interviews and images from the collection on Blue Ridge quilters and quiltmaking are presented in "Quilts and Quiltmaking in America, 1978-1996," an online resource at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/collafc.af000018>

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Adler, Thomas A.

Bryan, Mamie

Choate, Donna

Cruise, Crystal

Eiler, Lyntha Scott

Eiler, Lyntha Scott. Blue Ridge harvest: a region's folklife in photographs.

Eiler, Terry

Fleischhauer, Carl

Jabbour, Alan

Jarrell, Tommy, 1901-1985

Johnson, Geraldine Niva, 1940-2016

Marshall, Howard W.

Mullen, Patrick B., 1941-

Owen, Blanton, 1945-1998

Owen, Margaret Counts

Patton, Ila, 1905-2001

Ray, Roxie

Richardson, Larry (Banjoist)
Severt, Carrie
Shockley, Maggie
Stanley, Lura, 1906-1984
Todd, Zenna, 1916-2012
Wilson, Joe, 1938-2015
Wolfe, Charles K.
Wolfe, Charles K. Children of the heav'nly king.
Wolfe, Charles K. Selected sound recordings from the Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project

Organizations

American Folklife Center
Archive of Folk Culture (Library of Congress)
Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project.
United States. National Park Service

Subjects

African American quiltmakers--North Carolina--Interviews.
African American quilts--Blue Ridge Mountains.
African Americans--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Baptists--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Bluegrass music--1971-1980.
Community life--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Crazy quilts--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Folk dancing--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Folk music--Appalachian Region.
Folk music--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Folk songs, English--Appalachian Region.
Folklore--Appalachian Region.
Folklore--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Food habits--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Fox hunting--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Gospel music--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Holiness churches--Appalachian Region, Southern.
Hymns, English--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Material culture--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Primitive Baptists--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Quilting--Patterns.
Quiltmakers--Blue Ridge Mountains--Interviews.
Quilts--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Square dancing--Blue Ridge Mountains.
String band music--Appalachian Region.
Tales--Blue Ridge Mountains.
Tobacco farmers--Blue Ridge Mountains--Interviews.
Vernacular architecture--Blue Ridge Mountains.

Places

Appalachian Region--Religious life and customs.
Appalachian Region--Social life and customs.
Blue Ridge Mountains--Religious life and customs.
Blue Ridge Mountains--Social life and customs.
North Carolina--Social life and customs.
Virginia--Social life and customs.

Titles

Process of field research : final report on the Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project.

Form/Genre

Almanacs.
Color slides.
Ethnography.
Field notes.
Field recordings.
Interviews.
Manuscripts.
Oral histories.
Photographs.
Religious radio programs.
Sermons.
Sound recordings.
Videocassettes.

Arrangement

Organized by format into the following series: I. Manuscripts; II. Sound Recordings; III. Graphic Images; IV. Moving Images.

Acquisition

The collection was acquired as a project sponsored by the American Folklife Center and the National Park Service.

Processing History

The collection was processed by Lucy M. Long in 1982.

Location of Originals

The original sound recordings are stored at the National Audiovisual Conservation Center.

Copyright Status

Duplication of the recorded materials may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

Access and Restrictions

Access restrictions apply; some or all content stored offsite. To request materials, please contact the Folklife Reading Room at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Online Content

Selected interviews and images from the collection on Blue Ridge quilters and quiltmaking are presented in "Quilts and Quiltmaking in America, 1978-1996," an online resource at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/collafcf000018>

Preferred Citation

Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project collection (AFC 1982/009), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Publications

Eiler, Lyntha Scott; Terry Eiler; and Carl Fleischhauer, eds. *Blue Ridge Harvest : A Region's Folklife in Photographs*. Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress, 1981. Catalog record: <http://lccn.loc.gov/80607940>. Available online at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afcpub.80607940>

Wolfe, Charles K., ed. *Children of the Heav'nly King* (AFS L69/70) Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress Recording Laboratory, 1981. Catalog record: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012617636>

Wolfe, Charles K., ed. *Selected Sound Recordings from the Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project*.

Administrative History

The Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project was sponsored by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in cooperation with the National Park Service. It spanned the years 1978 to 1981 and involved three phases: pre-fieldwork, fieldwork, and post-fieldwork. The pre- fieldwork phase occurred between February and August 1978 and involved identifying the section of the Parkway to study, choosing field team members, and preparing a background research document. The fieldwork took place primarily during August and September 1978 and was conducted by ten folklorists and photographers.

This field team included the folklorists Charles K. Wolfe (Middle Tennessee State University), Geraldine Johnson (Strayer College), Patrick B. Mullen (Ohio State University), Blanton Owen (Ferrum College), Margaret Counts Owen (Ferrum College), and Thomas A. Adler (Indiana University), and photographers Terry Eiler and Lynthia Scott Eiler (Ohio University). Carl Fleischhauer and Howard W. Marshall of the American Folklife Center also assisted. The fieldwork included an intern program designed to train selected Park Service employees in folklife study. Although each team member was a specialist in some area of folklife or folklore, all members, except Margaret Owen who focused on dance traditions, acted as generalists and documented a variety of folk traditions. The materials they gathered are diverse and cover a variety of topics. The subjects best represented in the collection are religious services and music, folk narrative, folk architecture, quilting, foodways, tobacco culture, secular music, folk dance, and fox hunting.

The post-fieldwork phase lasted through 1981 and involved preparing the project's final products. A final report, *The Process of Field Research*, which summarized the project's findings and recommendations, was presented to the National Park Service. Two publications were produced: the book, *Blue Ridge Harvest*, edited by Terry Eiler, Lyntha Scott Eiler, and Carl Fleischhauer, and the two-LP album set, *Children of the Heav'nly King*, edited by Charles Wolfe. In addition, several fieldworkers wrote essays on particular topics. The collection was arranged and housed in the Archive of Folk Culture at the Library of Congress, and a large body of duplicate materials was presented to the Parkway for use as a reference archive.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of sound recordings, video recordings, photographs, manuscripts, sheet music, printed ephemera, artifacts, administrative records, and ethnographers' field notes related to the 1978 Blue Ridge Parkway Project field survey, conducted by the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, in cooperation with the National Park Service. The survey examined folklife in and around an area of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Grayson, Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick Counties in Virginia, and Alleghany, Wilkes and Surry Counties in North Carolina. The project documented old-time music, tales, hunting and hunting stories, farming, tobacco cultivation and auctions, vernacular architecture, quilting, foodways (including drying, canning, and baking), religious music and beliefs, as well as dance events featuring square dancing and flatfoot dancing. Recordings and photographs document local music (including concerts, fiddlers' contests, and music in homes), community events, church services and baptisms, local radio programs, and interviews with white and African American residents.

The field notes record the fieldworkers' activities, impressions, and interpretations of the phenomena they observed. As such, they provide a context for the project photographs, sound recordings, and moving images. The collection includes approximately 400 pages of field notes and 100 pages of interview report forms. About 500 pages of logs accompany the photographs, sound recordings, and moving images. These logs identify the subjects of photographs or outline the contents of recordings. They also provide dates, names, and places of documentation. The collection includes two American Folklife Center publications based on these materials and a final report presented to the National Park Service: *The Process of Field Research, Final Report on the Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project* by Carl Fleischhauer and Charles Wolfe (1981).

Description of Series

Container

Series

[PDF Inventory, September 1982](#)

See [PDF inventory](#).

Container List

Container

Contents

PDF Inventory, September 1982

See [PDF inventory](#).

Container List

See [PDF inventory](#) of the collection materials, prepared in September 1982.