

**T. J. Farr Papers 1926 – 1961  
RG 59  
Finding Aid**

**Compiled by Brenna Edwards  
2016**



**Tennessee  
TECH**

**Archives and Special Collections  
Angelo and Jennette Volpe Library  
Cookeville, TN**

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository</b>	Tennessee Technological University Archives and Special Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Farr, T.J.
<b>Title</b>	T.J. Farr papers
<b>Dates</b>	1926 - 1961
<b>Extent</b>	5.5 linear feet, 11 boxes
<b>Location</b>	Range 16 Shelf 20-21
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>T.J. Farr (1902-1962) was a history professor at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, and was chairperson of the English and Education Departments. He was also involved with the Tennessee Folklore Society and gathered folklore from across the Upper Cumberland region, along with some East Tennessee Folklore. The materials primarily date from 1926 to 1961, with the bulk of materials dating from 1935. The materials consist of Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletins, correspondences, and membership materials; along with different folklores and superstitions he collected, and some personal attributes.</p>

## History

T.J. Farr (1902 - 1962) was a history professor at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, within the College of Education. He was also chairperson of the English and Education Departments. His wife, Lottie Farr, also taught at Tennessee Tech and both were Emeriti Faculty of the University.

Farr was heavily involved in the Tennessee Folklore Society, acting as their publications editor, treasurer, and president. He also collected different folk tales and songs from classes he taught from his students from assignments about the Cumberland region, and Tennessee in general.

## Scope and Contents

The materials primarily date from 1926 to 1961, with the bulk of materials dating from 1935.

The collection consists of two series, "Publications" and "Central Files."

The "Publications" series contains publications from the Tennessee Folklore Society from his time as a member, as well as the many active roles he took part in in his lifetime, dated from 1935 to 1961. It also contains issues of "Southern Folklore Quarterly" from 1937 to 1942, along with other folklore publications from around the region.

The second series, "Central Files," contains information regarding the Tennessee Folklore Society and its correspondences, membership directories, and their constitution. The rest of the series is made up of folklores he collected from students in his history class, and from other sources who wrote to him. The folklores cover many different topics, divided by folder, and include riddles, ghost stories, superstitions on dreams, and folk remedies. Along with folklores, there also is some articles on the role of folklores in teaching and how to incorporate them effectively. There is also an article he wrote on folklore for the *Dictionary of Folklore Mythology and Legend* in 1949 in the series.

Farr also collected folk music in his life time, from various people, including his students and newspapers. There are also some photographs taken by Farr and a personal list of quotations, along with a memorandum regarding plans and ceremony for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. There also is a clipping regarding the founding of Kingston, Tennessee and advertisements for folk dances of the Caney Fork Valley event.

## Container List

### Series I: Publications, 1935-1953

Box	Folder	Title, Date
1	1-11	"Bulletin of the Tennessee Folklore Society", 1935-1945
2	1-8	"Bulletin of the Tennessee Folklore Society", 1946-1953
2	1-8	"Bulletin of the Tennessee Folklore Society", 1954-1961
3	9-10	"Southern Folklore Quarterly", 1937-1938
4	1-4	"Southern Folklore Quarterly", 1939-1942
4	5	The Story of Tennessee Tech, Austin Wheeler Smith, undated
4	6	"This, That, and T'other in Southern Hill Country", Bewley, Irene, undated
4	7	"Folkdances of Tennessee and Other Authentic Folk Material", McDowell, Flora L., undated
4	8	"Folk Dances of Tennessee", undated
4	9	"Journal of American Folklore" : July-Sept., 1947
4	10	"American Speech" : October, 1936
4	11	"Hoosier Folklore", 1946
4	12	"Journal of American Folklore" : Oct.-Dec., 1934
4	13	"American Speech" reprints: April, 1939
4	14	"Southern Folklore Quarterly" reprints Vol.2 #3, undated
4	15	"Journal of American Folklore" reprints Vol.52 #203, undated
4	16	"Journal of American Folklore" reprints Vol.48 #190, 1935

### Series II: Central Files, 1920s-1949

Box	Folder	Title, Date
5	1	Membership - Rosters and Directories - Meeting Information, undated
5	2	Membership - Rosters and Directories - Meeting Information, undated
5	3	Minutes, undated
5	4	Treasurer's Report (Receipts and Invoices), undated
5	5	Treasurer's Report (Receipts and Invoices), undated
5	6	Memoriams, undated
5	6	Charles S. Pendleton, undated
5	6	George Pullen Jackson, undated
5	6	L.L. McDowell, undated
5	6	Charles Faulkner Bryan, undated
5	7-8	Correspondence, undated
6	1-3	Correspondence, undated
6	4	Constitution of the Tennessee Folklore Society, undated
7	1	Folk Games, undated
7	2	Riddles, undated
7	3	Plant Origins, undated
7	4	Recipes, undated
7	5	Folk Speech - Place Names, undated
7	6	Folk Speech - Idioms and Definitions, undated
7	7	Folk Speech - Idioms and Definitions, undated

- 7 8 Folk Speech - Slang and Pronunciation, undated
- 7 9 Tall Tales, undated
- 7 10 Folk Tales - Civil War Stories, undated
- 8 1 Folk Tales - Witchcraft, undated
- 8 2 Folk Tales - Ghost Stories, undated
- 8 3 Folk Tales - Humorous, undated
- 8 4 Folk Tales - Treasure Stories, undated
- 8 5 Folk Tales - Heroes, Heroines, and Hunters, undated
- 8 6 Folk Tales - True Accounts, undated
- 8 7 Folk Tales - Miscellaneous, undated
- 8 8 Articles on Folklore from the Dictionary of Folklore Mythology and Legend, 1949
- 8 9 Folklore Outlines, undated
- 8 10 Folklore's Role In Teaching, undated
- 8 11 Folklore Reports and Surveys, undated
- 9 1 Crops - Superstitions/Beliefs, undated
- 9 2 Dreams - Superstitions/Beliefs, undated
- 9 3 Death - Superstitions/Beliefs, undated
- 9 4 Children - Superstitions/Beliefs, undated
- 9 5 Good and Bad Luck Omens, undated
- 9 6 Folk Remedies, undated
- 9 7 Folk Remedies, undated
- 9 8 Moon Phases/Zodiac, undated
- 9 9 Weather Signs, undated
- 9 10 Lovers and Marriage - Superstitions/Beliefs, undated
- 9 11 Wishes, undated
- 10 1-4 Superstitions/Beliefs - Various Topics, undated
- 10 5 Composition Books# 6-7 - Thomas B. Depriest (Autobiography), undated
- 11 1-3 Folk Music, undated
- 11 4 Miscellaneous Rhymes and Poetry, undated
- 11 5 Quotations - Various Authors, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Robert Stollberg - San Francisco University, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-R. Kenneth Ingram - Superintendent, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Woman, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Elderly Woman on porch, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Charlene Willis, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Three girls in white, ca. 1920, 1920
- 11 6 Photograph-Girl in white, 1920's, 1920s
- 11 6 Photograph-One Adult, 20-30 - 2 children; Laurel, Mississippi, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Pauline Wingo - Hattiesburg, Mississippi, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Young girl on steps, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Four women and four children, undated
- 11 6 Photograph-Boys in a schoolyard - 1940's, 1940s
- 11 6 Photograph-Two young men and one young girl, 1940's - Eliz, Steven, Don, 1940s
- 11 6 Photograph-Man in swing wih baby - Jackson, Mississippi, undated

11	6	Photograph-John-older, undated
11	6	Photograph-John-younger shot, undated
11	7	Unit on Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning, undated
11	8	Unit for Geography, undated
11	9	Memorandum, undated
11	10	News Clipping - Kingston, undated
11	11	Advertisements - Folk Dances of the Caney Fork Valley, undated