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Retrospect

News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University

October, 2009

Volume 5, Number 3

James Sisters Papers Featured in October Exhibit



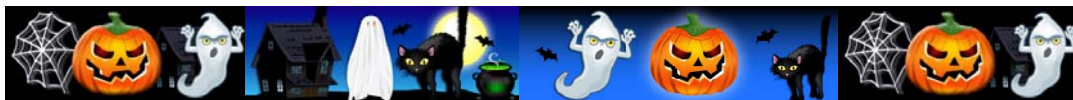
October is S.C. Archives Month. In honor of the designation, the October exhibit will feature The James Sisters Papers. The James sisters of Lee County, S.C. numbered five and all graduated from Winthrop College between 1907 and 1919. The papers consist of a fascinating collection of personal correspondence between the sisters and their parents as well as photographs and other material relating to their time at Winthrop. The sisters were Grace Dell, Class of 1907; Oline Barr, Class of 1910; Sarah Bates, Class of 1914; Myrtle, Class of 1916; and “Will” Almaree, Class of 1919. The collection is a great source of information on student life at Winthrop in

the first 20 years of the 20th century. The exhibit will include examples of letters, photographs, and various other items relating to the James’ Sisters years at Winthrop. The exhibit will run from October 14 through November 4. For more information on the exhibit or the James Sisters Papers, please contact the Archives at (803) 323-2334 or e-mail at archives@winthrop.edu.

Quote of the Quarter

From a speech given on Founder’s Day January 10, 1961:

“The spirit of service has been a Winthrop tradition from the beginning days of the college. Down through the years our graduates have become leaders in many fields of endeavor and have played vital roles in the betterment of their homes, their communities, their state and their nation.” *Dr. Charles S. Davis, Winthrop president 1959-1973*



Interested in 17th Century Ghosts, Goblins, and Witches? Halloween is near!

Sadducismus Triumphatus: Or, A Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions



In Special Collections we have a book published in 1726 by Joseph Glanvil. This book contains many stories concerning witches and ghosts during the 17th century. Following is one of the shorter ghost stories contained in the book:

“An Inhabitant of the Town of Guilford was possessed of some Copy-hold-Land [a former tenure of land in England and Ireland by right of being recorded in the court of the manor] which was to descend to his Children or in default of such Issue to his Brother. He dies having no Child born and his Wife apprehending herself not to be with Child, which her Husband’s Brother asked her immediately after his Brother’s death. She told him she believed she was not, but afterwards proved to be, which, when she knew, she went by Instigation of Neighbours, to her Brother-in-law, and told him how it was with her. He berated her, called her unfaithful to her Husband, and told her she had procured somebody to get her with Child in order to obtain the property. But, he told her, her unfaithfulness should not fool him out of that Estate. The poor Woman went home troubled, that not only her Child should lose the

Land, but which was worse, that she should be thought unfaithful. However, she quieted herself, and resolved to sit down with the Loss.

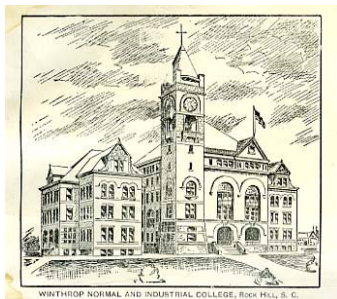
When her time came, she was delivered of a Son, and he thrived, and one Summer’s Night, as she was dressing him for bed, her Husband appeared, and bid her go to his Brother and demand the Field. She did so, but was treated very ill by him. He told her that neither she nor her Devil, (for she had told him her Husband had appeared and bid her speak to him) should make him forego his Land. Whereupon she went home again. But sometime after, as her Brother-in-law was going out of this Field homewards, the dead Man appears to him at the stile [or stile, a step or set of steps for passing over a fence or wall], and bids him give up the Land to the Child, for it was his right. The Brother, being greatly

frighted at this, runs away, and not long after, comes to her, and tells her she had sent the Devil to him, and bids her take the Land, and so gave it up, and her Son is now possessed of it.” This story is actually one of the more benign tales in this spine tingling tome. If you would like to read more, this book may be viewed in the Archives research room during regular Archives hours (which are fortunately during daylight hours—you may not want to read it after dark!)

Check Out Library News

The Louise Pettus Archives has begun participating in Dacus Library’s Library News Blog. Our contributions include historic Winthrop photographs about twice a week for the Daily Photo feature as well as the once per month Archives Collection Spotlight in which we highlight one of our manuscript or university collections. To view this site just go to the Dacus Library web site and click on [Library News](#).

Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop’s Past



In 1891 the Legislature appointed a Commission of three to investigate the cost and requirements to establish a women’s Normal and Industrial College for South Carolina. The commission, made up of David B. Johnson, Mary Yeargin, and Hannah Hemphill, made a report and the Legislature enacted legislation establishing Winthrop Training School as the Winthrop Normal and Industrial College. The act stipulated that the area in which the college should be located would be decided by competitive bids the successful bid to be chosen by the Board of Trustees. Following is a list of those bids:

Location	Money	Sites
Anderson (City and County)	\$125,000	(Out of which a desirable site can be purchased for \$5,000 to \$20,000)
Camden	\$ 50,000	(Out of which a desirable site can be purchased for \$5,000 to \$20,000)
Chester	\$ 40,000	20 to 50 acres
Greenville	\$126,000	(Out of which a desirable site can be purchased for \$10,000 to \$25,000)
Laurens	\$ 45,000	20 to 75 acres
Marion	\$ 15,000	20 to 100 acres
Rock Hill	\$ 60,000 (6% city bonds) \$ 700 (cash)	31 ¼ acres; use of brick mill, clay and brick yard; right to quarry all necessary granite
Spartanburg	\$ 51,000	30 acres
St. Matthews		3 ½ acres

After narrowing the list down to three (Spartanburg, Chester, and Rock Hill), visiting each site, and carefully examining the bids and sites offered, the Winthrop Board decided in favor of Rock Hill. Dr. Henry Sims (Winthrop president 1944-1959) wrote in February of 1949 that “This was certainly the best investment that Rock Hill ever made.”

For information on the Archives’ collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

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