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Retrospect

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

February, 2012

Volume 8, Number 1

The Archives is Open for Researchers in our New Home



The Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections is up and running in our new location at 700 Cherry Road. We have been open for just over a month and are really enjoying our great new facility. Currently our hours are 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. To gain entry to the building, simply push the button on the intercom which is on the wall to the right of the front door. The button will summon a staff member and we will let you in. Although it is not required, we would appreciate researchers giving us a call or send us an e-mail before they come by so that we will be expecting them. It will also give us a chance to pull some material so that it will be ready for the researcher when they arrive.

The photograph shows some of our staff (with D.B. Johnson) manning an exhibit we put together for Alumni Reunion Weekend on November 12, 2011.

Our staff now numbers 6 people—Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist; Charlene Drummond, Archivist; Andrew Johnston, Assistant Director; Brittany Pigford, Archivist; Robert Ryals, A-V Archivist; and Gina Price White, Director. Please let us know if you would like to come by to do research or if you have a question for us. Our telephone number is (803) 323-2334 and our e-mail address is archives@winthrop.edu.

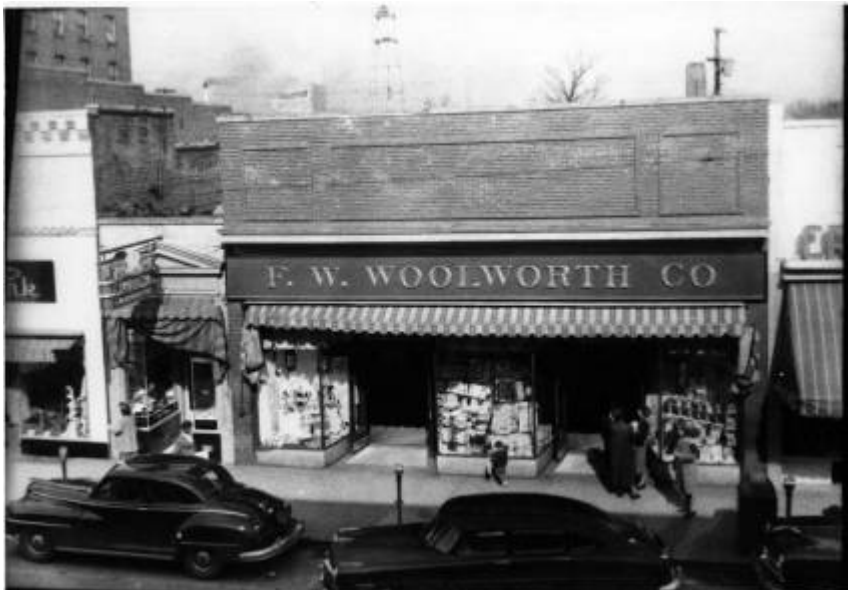
Quote of the Quarter



“For the educational process, money, buildings, and recreation are necessary, but there can be no substitute for the teacher (a scholar, we hope) in the classroom and the student eager to learn!”

Pres. Henry Radcliffe Sims (Winthrop’s 4th president) in a column written for the *Alumnae News* June 17, 1959

Photograph of the Quarter



F. W. Woolworth Company on Main Street in downtown Rock Hill in the early 1940s. About 20 years later on February 12, 1960, Woolworth’s was one of the places where a group of Rock Hill African-Americans engaged in a sit-in to protest segregation and to promote civil rights. This photograph is part of the Robert Ward photograph collection. The collection contains hundreds of photographs of Rock Hill and its citizens during the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s.

Basketball



In this issue, we are featuring more articles from Winthrop's first newspaper, the *Winthrop Weekly News*. The following articles and editorial concern basketball and how Winthrop students played the game as well as the description of a Valentine Party. The date of issue of the basketball articles is February 9, 1916.

"Basketball is an American winter game that has in recent years come into great popularity with both sexes, in their gymnastics. The girls especially take a great interest in this game. The most fun of all is when they meet with their neighbors in the gymnasium for a game. Each team is composed of seven people, two known as forwards, two as guards, one as center, and two as helping centers. The game is played in two halves of limited time, each opposing team defending one of the baskets. The object of the game is for members of one team to throw the ball into their basket.

Each time a 'basket' is thrown during actual play two points are scored. In case a 'foul' is called by the referee against any member of a team, a player from the other side may have what is called a 'free throw.' At the beginning of the game, the centers from the opposing teams stand within the central circle each facing her opponents' basket. The referee takes the ball and tosses it into the air, so it will come down between the centers. Each of them tries to strike or obtain possession of the ball. From the moment the ball is thrown, play is begun. The girls follow the ball over the field, all trying to get possession of the ball, so as to throw it to a forward on their team who has the opportunity to make the basket. If the basket is made it goes back to center, and this is repeated over and over until time is up. The team scoring the greatest number of points wins the game. This game is one of the best possible for a girl, for it not only makes her strong, but develops quickness, endurance, and rapidity of thought. No girl can be a good basketball player who does not throw her whole soul into the sport."

Editorial

"It is, indeed, a glorious feeling to see the basketball court once more alive. Surely nothing makes one feel better than the contest over a hard-fought game. If there is any girl in school who has not tried such a game, let her come out and play, whether she is playing for the team or not. Be an all-round girl, neglecting no phase of College life, not even a race on the tennis court or a 'jostle' in the basketball game."

Valentine Party



From the *Winthrop Weekly News* February 16, 1916:

"The Gymnasium was a scene of much merriment on the afternoon of St. Valentine's Day. Just as the bell was ringing for the close of classes, a crowd of happy students and teachers gathered there in the basement to enjoy the fun that had been planned for them by the Social Committee of the Y.W.C.A.

After the guests had spent a few minutes in lively chatter, they were told to choose sides for a contest; one side was to represent boys, the other girls. Then four members were selected from each side to be the champion players in a game of hearts. The game consisted in tossing sand bags through a big red heart, suspended in the center of the room by a rope. Thus amid loud cheers from their respective sides, the contestants began. As this is leap year, those present were not surprised to find that the girls proved more skillful in winning the hearts.

Other interesting games, from the number so abundantly suggested by good old St. Valentine, followed. In one of these, the guests were pleasantly surprised when they found by pulling the string from a little red heart, a handful of kisses dropped at their feet. This ended the games for a while and every one then seated themselves around to enjoy the kisses.

As the afternoon was rapidly passing away, the hostess bid the guests remain seated as they were, while a number of girls served tea and cakes. In a few minutes the crowd had to hurry away, for the 6 o'clock bell reminded them that supper time had come.

A-Dressing Jehossee: Everyday Clothing of An Antebellum Island Plantation

The Archives first exhibit in the new space consists of a wonderful collection of clothing and other items that represent what women may have worn on a particular plantation in low country South Carolina. Alison Boulton, Winthrop December 2011 graduate, completed this project to partially fulfill her requirements toward a History degree. The exhibit will be available for viewing until the end of March during regular Archives hours. (8:30-5:00, M-F). The following description is from Alison's notes relating to the project:



“The items included in this exhibit are meant to demonstrate the common clothing associated with the female inhabitants of Jehossee Plantation in the year 1850. This population would have occasionally included members of the William Aiken family and their personal servants as well as Jehossee Island's massive enslaved work force, native to the island. In 1850, Jehossee Island hosted the second largest slave population in South Carolina on an innovative rice plantation that engulfed the entirety of the island itself. Jehossee Plantation was owned and developed by William Aiken, Jr., a former South Carolina Governor (1844-1846) who inherited much of what became the plantation from his father, William Aiken, Sr., president of the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company.

William Aiken's vision for Jehossee Plantation was radically different from any comparably sized plantation in the state. At the height of production under Aiken's ownership, nearly 900 slaves cultivated the rice fields and worked in the adjacent mills and production buildings. The complex and unique community that he built upon the island belies much modern perception of plantation life in the Antebellum South. In addition to a nursery for infants and small children, Jehossee Island boasted at least two steam-powered rice mills, several dozen storage buildings, a hospital for the sick, and a chapel used for Sunday church services as well as weddings and baptisms. Each of these edifices was maintained, operated and staffed by slaves who lived on Jehossee Island. Perhaps most remarkable of all were the two slave villages built at the far east and west of the island, respectively. These sites were created to act as seasonal housing for the bulk of the native slave population, to allow for greater access to the areas of immediate rice cultivation. Considered an engineering marvel in the middle of the nineteenth century, the elaborate yet effective series of canals that served to refresh the rice fields were without equal.

All of the clothing created for this exhibit is intended to represent specific persons, or occupations associated with the plantation on a day when the Aiken family was in residence. However, only the names of the Aiken family itself and their French immigrant servant Pauline Boudet are known. William Aiken's family lived for much of the year at their elaborate home in Charleston, South Carolina, only retreating to Jehossee in the hottest summer months, when the heat made city life unbearable. The female slaves represented in the project are based on the 1850 census of Jehossee Island and Charleston 'Aiken-Rhett House' (as it is now known) with regard to the ages of the unnamed women and children. The occupations of the adult women are based upon the speculative needs of the plantation and Aiken family. Consequently, no names are used for the individuals represented in this project besides Harriet and Henrietta Aiken, and Miss Boudet.

While sewing machines existed by 1845 in America, they were a scarce, erratically produced novelty until the late 1850s. With this in mind, every item of clothing created for this exhibit was entirely hand-sewn. (Some of the supporting artifacts are later in date and include machine stitching or finishing.)”



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

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections
Telephone: (803) 323-2334
E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu Website: www.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives/
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