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Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

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# Retrospect

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

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February, 2013

Volume 9, Number 1

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



Back by popular demand is Winthrop alumna and current graduate student Alison Boulton's ('11) fascinating exhibit of clothing and other items that represent what women may have worn on a particular plantation known as Jehossee in Lowcountry South Carolina. The plantation was located on Jehossee Island south of Charleston. After extensive research, Ms. Boulton made each item of clothing in the exhibit by hand. 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. Jehossee Plantation was owned and developed by William Aiken, Jr., a former South Carolina Governor (1844-1846). 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. If you saw the exhibit last year, please come back to see it again. It has been expanded so there are items that were not a part of the original exhibit. If you haven't seen it, you are in for a treat.

Ms. Boulton will be giving a **lecture** on her research and the process she used to construct the clothing on **Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Louise Pettus Archives at 700 Cherry Road. Seating is limited so you may want to get here early to get a seat. The exhibit will be available for viewing until March 29 during regular Archives hours. (8:30-5:00, M-F). For more information contact the Archives at 803-323-2334 or [archives@winthrop.edu](mailto:archives@winthrop.edu).

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## Quote of the Quarter



“Twenty-five years of Winthrop College! . . . Think of the thousands who have flowed in, have dwelt here a while to drink of these waters, to listen to this music, to be shaped by these master hands! Think of the same thousands going out, with deep and earnest purpose, with high resolve and perfect faith, to carry Winthrop College into every corner of this great State”

from Dr. Lawton B. Evans' address at the laying of the cornerstone of Winthrop Training School on May 2, 1912. Dr. Evans [1862-1934] served as the Superintendent of Public Schools of Richmond County, Georgia [Augusta] from 1883 to 1934. He authored a number of books including *Elements of English Grammar*, *A History of Georgia for Use in Schools*, and *Heroes of Israel*.

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## Update on the Historical Preservation Fund



The Historical Preservation Fund was set up by Joyce Plyler ('80, '10) in recognition of the importance of the study of the past and of its preservation for future generations. The Historical Preservation Fund supports the full mission of the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections, especially as it relates to the history of South Carolina. The Archives has received a couple of gifts to the fund since it was set up last fall. Plans are being developed to use some of these gifts to fund a project involving the collection of Winthrop uniforms. A little later this year a graduate student will begin researching and recreating early Winthrop uniforms with the goal of an exhibit next fall. There will be more on this project in a future newsletter. Several other projects are being considered to enhance and promote the Pettus Archives collections, both those relating to Winthrop and those relating to state and local history. This fund is designed for smaller gifts (i.e. \$10 to \$1000—or more if you wish!) For more information on this fund, please see [Retrospect October 2012](#) . If you would like to make a gift to the fund or if you have questions, please contact Gina White at [whitegp@winthrop.edu](mailto:whitegp@winthrop.edu) or (803) 323-2334 or (803) 323-2210.

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## Photograph of the Quarter

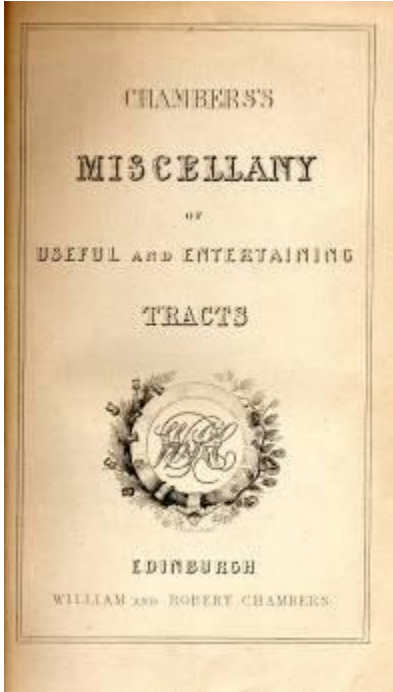


**Dillingham's Store and Filling Station on Hagins Street in Rock Hill during the energy crisis of 1973. Look at the price of a gallon of Esso gasoline! Who knew 40 years ago that the price of gasoline would now be more than 15 times the price it was during the shortage? This photograph is from the Williams Rock Hill History Collection. For more photographs of Rock Hill's past check out**

**our website [Pettus Archives](#) and of Winthrop's past, check out our postings on the Dacus Library blog at [History Through the Lens](#).**

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## Robert C. Winthrop's Gifts to Winthrop's Library



Robert C. Winthrop was an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the college which bears his name. After hearing D.B. Johnson's initial proposal in 1886, Winthrop gave Johnson \$50 to establish a library at the new school. In the ensuing 8 years, until his death in 1894, Winthrop periodically gave the college money and books from his personal library to add to their growing book collection. The Pettus Archives still has more than 2 dozen titles that were gifts of Robert Winthrop. *Retrospect* will feature some of these titles from time to time to demonstrate the diversity of Mr. Winthrop's gifts.

*Chambers's Miscellany of Useful and Entertaining Tracts.*  
Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers, 1845 – 1847. 10 vols.  
Call Number: Spec. Coll. AC1 .C62

The 10 volumes of the *Miscellany* contain numerous tracts with topics ranging from history, to tales, to gardening, to poetry, to science and many more.

Excerpt from Chambers's Miscellany Vol.V, Tract no. 49 "Select Poems On Love For Flowers"

### LET US GO TO THE WOODS

Let us go to the woods—'tis a bright sunny day:  
They are mowing the grass, and at work with the hay.  
Come over the meadow and scent the fresh air,  
For the pure mountain breezes are everywhere. . . .

Here's the low dwarf Acacia, that droops as it grows,  
And its leaves, as you gather them, tremble and close.  
And near us, I know by her breath on the gale,  
Is the tall yellow Primrose, so pretty and pale.

Here's the Pigeon-pea, fit for a fairy's bowers,  
And the purple Thrift, straightest and primmest of flowers.  
Here is privet, no prettier shrub have we met;  
And the Midsummer-daisy is hiding here yet. . . .

If we read Nature's book with a serious eye,  
Not a leaf but some precious thought on it doth lie:  
And 'tis good to go forth among scenes like these,  
Amid music and sunshine, and flowers and trees,  
If 'twere only to waken the deep love that springs  
At the sight of all lovely and innocent things.

--Anonymous

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## Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop's Past

About six months before he passed away, Winthrop's founder and first president, D. B. Johnson, fell ill with what he thought was a temporary condition. He took a leave of absence, intending to return shortly after school began in the fall of 1928. He did not return for the fall semester but still thought he might recover. At the end of November, just a month before he died, Johnson penned this letter to the Winthrop Board of Trustees:

November 30, 1928

To the Board of Trustees of Winthrop College,  
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Dear Sirs:--

On the day the College closed last June I was taken seriously sick with colitis and went for treatment to the Charlotte Sanitarium. I did not know, of course, how long I would be sick. Just as soon as there seemed to be some doubt of my not being able to resume my duties upon the opening day of the session of 1928, as President, I wrote Governor Richards, Chairman of the Board. I conferred with Mr. Roddey and Dr. Martin and upon their advice arranged for the opening and running of the College. I also had letters from Mr. Anderson advising the same. I therefore arranged for the Dean of the College, Dr. Kinard, to take charge as has been done on several previous occasions and Dr. Kinard has had charge of the College as Dean and acting President since its opening and up to this time and has managed the affairs of the College most admirably and efficiently, consulting me only when necessary upon matters of vital importance. I have asked Dr. Kinard to make a report of the work of the college during that time and to represent me as President at this meeting of the Board.

I have been considering very carefully the matter of my sickness in relation to the College. The doctors all tell me that I will, in time, fully recover and will be as well and strong as ever. The doctors have said the same thing to some of the members of the Board. However, that is all problematical and I will have to leave it entirely to the discretion and in the hands of the Board.

I take it, however, that the Board will want to have time to determine through a Committee, or otherwise, the best interests of the College and all connected with it.

Having been President of this institution for forty-two years, you can imagine how dear to my heart has become every brick and stone, every individual—the members of the Board of Trustees, the officers and faculty, the student body, in fact everything connected with this institution and how it wrenches my heart to have to write the above.

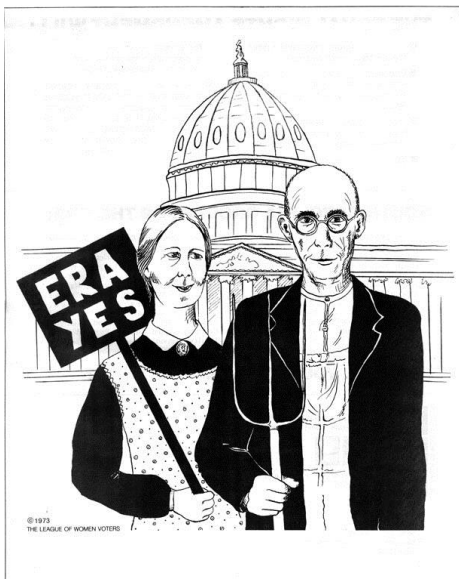
With love and gratitude,

D. B. Johnson

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## Manuscript Collection Spotlight



### **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA) SOUTH CAROLINA COALITION RECORDS, 1970-1982 (Accession 81, Accession 168, Accession 183, Accession 388, Accession 693, and Accession 1062)**

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) South Carolina Coalition was an organization created to promote the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and to get it ratified by the South Carolina State Legislature. The collection spans from 1970 to 1982 and documents the fascinating but unsuccessful struggle to ratify the amendment. Included is correspondence, minutes, memoranda, brochures, reports, newsletters, clippings, and mailing lists, financial and other records.

For more manuscript collection highlights, visit our postings on the Dacus Library blog at [Archives Spotlight](#). You

can also find out more about the [Manuscript Collection](#) or the [Digitized Manuscript Collection](#) by going to these pages on our website.

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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](mailto:archives@winthrop.edu)

Website: [www.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives/](http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives/)

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