



10-2007

October 2007 Volume 3, Number 3

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

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Recommended Citation

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections, "October 2007 Volume 3, Number 3" (2007). *Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University*. 6.

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Retrospect

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

October, 2007

Volume 3, Number 3

“Cool Old Stuff”: Celebrating S.C. Archives Month



Daguerreotype ca. 1850s

October has been declared S.C. Archives Month and in celebration of this occasion, the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections has assembled an exhibit highlighting some of our many collections available for research. Included are clay tablets from 2300 BC, a George Washington letter, daguerreotypes and other photographs, Civil War diaries, 19th century letters, items from the papers of “Lost Generation” writer Nathan Asch, material from the papers of children’s book author Matt Christopher, Winthrop history items, books from the Eleanor Burts’ Collection, and many other items. The exhibit, which is located on the Main Floor, is available for viewing during regular library hours. The “cool old stuff” in this exhibit just barely scratches the surface of the historical treasures that await researchers in the Archives.



Thomas Belue ca. 1860s

Veterans History Project Exhibit and Reception



Victor Hemphill
USN WWII

On November 13, 2007, we will have our 4th annual reception honoring our nation’s veterans and those veterans who have participated in the Veterans History Project. In September of 2003, Winthrop University began participation in the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project as a partner institution. The goal of this project is to “honor our nation’s war veterans and those who served in support of them by creating a lasting legacy of recorded interviews and other documents chronicling veterans’ and other citizens’ wartime experiences, how those experiences affected their lives and America itself.” As a partner institution, Winthrop’s Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections will house, preserve, and make available the interviews conducted by volunteers. The basic biographical information of the veteran will be entered into a national database identifying the institution where the interview and accompanying documentation are available. Each year during the month of November, we have an exhibit highlighting the contributions of the men and women who make up this nation’s combat veterans. The project also covers the ordinary citizen’s contributions and experiences during wartime. The reception on November 13 will take place on the Main Floor of the Library from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. To volunteer or for more information, please contact the Winthrop Archives or go to our website and click Programs and Publications then [Veterans History Project](#).

Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop's Past

The Fascinating World of Scrapbooks



The Archives has a nice collection of student scrapbooks covering a large portion of Winthrop's history. Scrapbooks are indeed fascinating because the researcher sees Winthrop, or whatever the subject, through the creator's eyes. Frances Lewis, Class of 1918, created a scrapbook chronicling her student years at Winthrop. The scrapbook includes trunk tags, photographs, programs, letters,

invitations, candy wrappers, party favors and much more. One page dated October 31, 1914, when Frances was a freshman, has the following caption:

"To-night Mary, Elizabeth, Betty, Gertrude, and I gave a Halloween party in 104 North [Margaret Nance]. We had about five extra girls and served fruit salad, apples, pototoe [sic] chips, celery, peanut butter sandwiches, and cheese crackers for refreshments. The room was decorated in black cats and bats and we told ghost stories and played some Halloween games."



Lewis (r) and friends at home 1915

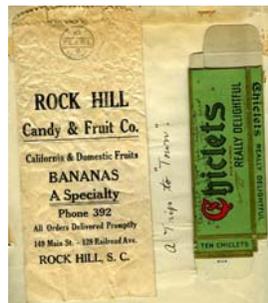
Other pages contain tickets for the Winthrop Star Course, which was the Artist Series of its time, programs from events held at Winthrop, and letters from home and friends. There are several pages of photographs. One such page chronicles a trip home that Frances took in 1915.

Home wasn't very far away—York, S.C. There are also snapshots of her professors and her friends and roommates.

Another page holds mementos from a trip to town and a few pages later a dance card from the Junior-Senior Reception 1917.



Lewis 1915



"A Trip to Town"



Dance card 1917

Although a wealth of information, scrapbooks, because of the many different types of material found in them, can be a unique preservation challenge. Our strategy is to interleave the pages with acid-free paper and scan each page to preserve the original order. If you have any questions about preservation of scrapbooks or have one you would like to donate, please contact us.

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

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