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Retrospect

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

May, 2012

Volume 8, Number 2

Hats Off! Winthrop Commencement 1887 to 1940



The Archives May Exhibit chronicles Winthrop's commencement exercises and programs from June 17, 1887 when 14 students graduated at Winthrop's first commencement to the weeklong commencement festivities at the onset of World War II.

Winthrop's first commencement was a daylong event consisting of prayers, music, songs, and the reading of essays before the conferring of degrees. By the eve of WWII, commencement had expanded to an entire week called Senior Week which consisted of a Senior Dance, Senior Chapel, Movie, Treasure Hunt, Dedication of Senior Steps to the rising Seniors (Only Seniors were allowed to use the front steps of Tillman Hall. All underclassman had to use the two side entrances and would fined 25 cents if caught using the Senior Steps), Senior Vespers, Stunt Night, Alumnae Reunion, Joint Celebration of the Literary Societies, Annual Music Concert, Daisy Chain, Baccalaureate Sermon, and Graduate

exercises.

For most graduates, commencement marks the transition from life as a student to life in the working world where four years of hard work and sleepless nights culminate in an academic degree. Winthrop graduates have gone on to make a substantial mark upon the state of South Carolina and the world at large. The Winthrop commencement ceremonies have changed throughout the years, but the one constant has been the high quality and character of the Winthrop Graduate.

Please come by and celebrate our Winthrop Graduates and their legacies by perusing the May Archives' Exhibit on Winthrop's Commencement Exercises. The exhibit will be available for viewing through the end of May during regular Archives hours. (8:00-5:30, M-T, 8:00-12:00, F).

For more information on the exhibit or Winthrop Commencement, please contact the Archives at (803) 323-2334 or e-mail archives@winthrop.edu.



Quote of the Quarter

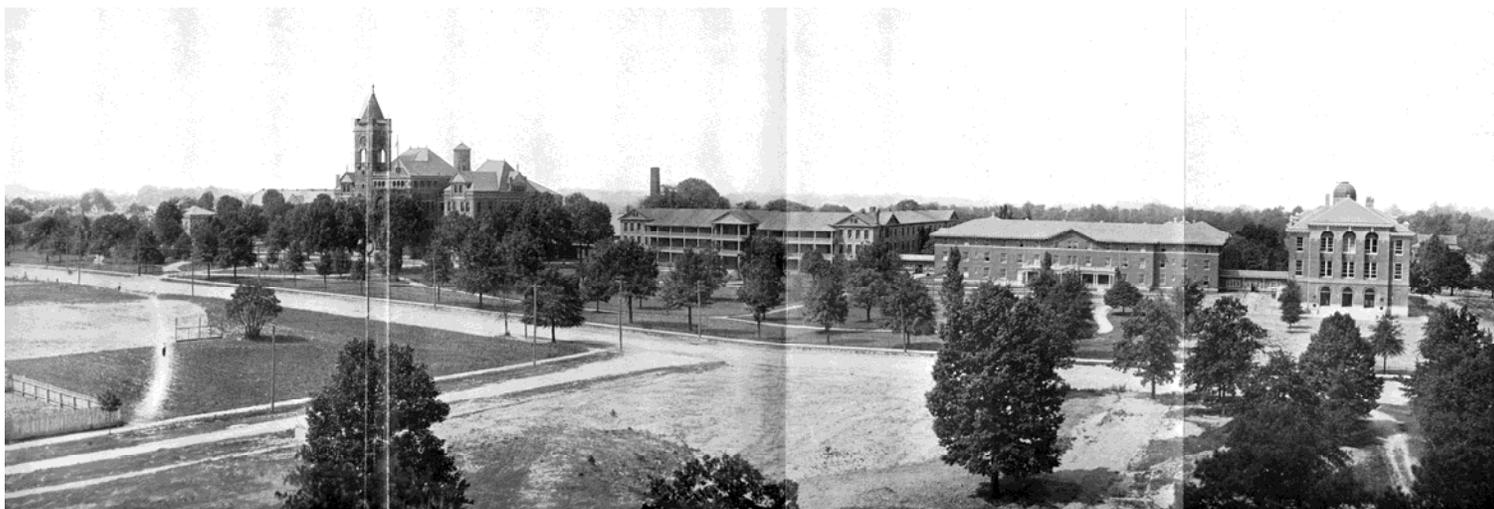


November 20, 1908 (pp. 165-166) [Paris]

"... While standing at the Arch [Arc de Triomphe], a great dirigible balloon, taking advantage of the good weather, came sailing up [to] and half way around the arch and then turned, under perfect control, and sailed away on a level, even course. It moved smoothly and rapidly with a big propeller blade going rapidly. I counted 4 or 5 people in the car under the balloon. We have surely reached the flying age. ..."

Pres. David Bancroft Johnson (Winthrop's founder and 1st president) excerpt from his travel diary to Europe Oct. to Dec. 1908

Photograph of the Quarter



Panoramic view of Winthrop's campus about one hundred years ago (ca. 1912 or 1913). The buildings shown are (l. to r.) Carnegie Library (now Rutledge), South Dormitory (now McLaurin), Main Building (now Tillman Administration), North Dormitory (now Margaret Nance), Johnson Hall (now Bancroft), and Tillman Science Building (razed in 1962). The street in front of the school is an unpaved Oakland Avenue. It was not paved until the mid 1920s. The photograph seems to have been taken from the newly constructed Winthrop Training School (Withers) which was completed in 1912.

Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop's Past

Careers in Medicine for Women-1917



The *Winthrop Weekly News* [1915-1923], Winthrop's first student newspaper, contains many articles about events, lectures, parties, sporting events—in short all things Winthrop. An interesting lecture was given to the student body on Saturday, March 31 by Dr. Sturgis of Greensboro, N.C. according to an article in the April 4, 1917 issue. Unfortunately, the article does not give Dr. Sturgis' first name. This lecture illustrates Winthrop's and Pres. Johnson's commitment to exposing women to more than just traditional career choices in a time when women in South Carolina were working toward women's suffrage.

A.B. + M.D.

By Grace S. Seabrook [Associate Editor, *Winthrop Weekly News*, Class of 1917]

On Saturday last, at 8:00 P.M., Dr. Sturgis of Greensboro, N.C., spoke before the students in the auditorium upon the profession of medicine as one for woman's consideration. Dr. Sturgis is herself a woman graduate of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. In her lecture she brought out the fact that all of the vast number of students of our great body would not be teachers. In medicine there is always a place unfilled for women, for, because of her peculiar natural endowments, women are especially adapted to this profession.

In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell, an English woman, was the first to receive the degree M.D. Miss Blackwell was a friend of that wonderful woman, Florence Nightingale. In 1828, a college of class and standard was established for women, but the early students were ostracized. Later these women students were permitted to attend operations at hospitals, but were even then subject to all manners of insults at the hands of the young men students of medicine.

The object of this brief historical sketch was to draw the attention to medicine as a part of a liberal education, and as a means of earning a livelihood. A knowledge of medicine never comes amiss—it is the most practical of all training.

Dr. Sturgis declared that the study of medicine did not either require that a woman must retain single bliss, for, said she, among her acquaintances she numbered several women who were both good doctors and good wives.

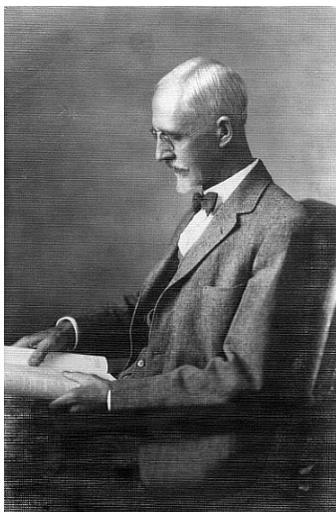
Social workers need a knowledge of medicine. Jane Addams was a student for a year in a medical college. The medical missionary has raised the standard and efficiency of work in foreign fields. Dr. Sturgis' college, mentioned above, has trained over one-quarter of the medical missionaries.

Medicine is an uncrowded profession. Colleges, schools, insurance companies, etc., are clamoring for the woman physician. The Juvenile Court opens yet another field. Salaries for this kind of work in public schools range from \$1200 to \$2500 a year—it being remembered that only a few hours work are required.

There is no difficulty in securing a congenial post. Work in cities is slow at first, but a sure and paying practice is the result. Dr. Sturgis advises, if money matters deter you from learning this profession, it would be a true investment to borrow it for the few years of training. Also, scholarships are provided by many of the colleges and deductions are made for those unable to pay. If it is your purpose to become a medical missionary, missionary societies look out for your expenses.

There are now 34 high grade medical colleges open to women. To enter Johns Hopkins, one must have a degree. This college specializes in laboratory technique. The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania specializes in practical work, and has done so for 57 years. The minimum requirement for class A colleges are: Four years accredited High School course, Freshman and Sophomore years at colleges, Physics, Chemistry (general and analytical), Biology, and two languages (one being either French or German). Catalogues may be obtained by writing to the colleges.

One of the most attractive features of Dr. Sturgis' lecture was a collection of slides from a movie entitled *The Making of a Woman Doctor*. These pictures gave some very interesting details of the life of a medical student.



AUDIO MEDIA COLLECTION, 1934-2008 (W427.7)

The Audio Media Collection consists of reel-to-reel tapes, cassette recordings, CDs, and other forms of audio recordings produced by and for Winthrop University. The recordings are an invaluable snapshot of Winthrop's history and allow a small window to listen in on Winthrop's past.

Have you ever wondered what Winthrop's Second President (1928-1934), James Pinckney Kinard's pronounced southern accent sounded like or what Mai Rutledge Smith Johnson's (wife of founder and first president of Winthrop, David Bancroft Johnson) experiences as a student in 1897 and as Winthrop's First Lady were like? The Archives can satisfy your longstanding curiosity through its digitization program that is

producing digital surrogates of these recordings, 10 of which (listed below) have been successfully transferred and are available to all interested parties. To satiate any immediate curiosity, two of these recordings (Kinard's reading of Shakespeare's 30th Sonnet and the first tape of Mrs. Johnson's Winthrop recollections) are available through the [Library blog](#) on the Library homepage.

1. Dr. Shelton J. Phelps (Winthrop's third president, 1934-1943) – Inaugural Address (1934) and Dr. James P. Kinard (Winthrop's second president, 1928-1934) Reads Shakespeare (dubbed from earlier 78 RPM recording) –Recorded July 19, 1962
2. All-State Band Concert – Originally recorded January 31, 1959, William F. Santelmann-Conductor
3. Dr. Robert Strozier's Address at the Inauguration of Dr. Charles S. Davis (Winthrop's fifth president, 1959-1973) – Originally recorded March 18, 1960
4. Mrs. David Bancroft Johnson Talks with Roy Flynn – Originally recorded August 22, 1961
5. Mrs. Shelton P. Phelps Remembers Winthrop 1934-43 – Originally recorded May 26, 1962
6. Mrs. James P. Kinard Talks with Roy Flynn (Prof. of Communications, 1961-1983) About Winthrop – Originally recorded May 26, 1962
7. Winthrop Alumnae Association Meeting – Murrells Inlet, SC – Originally recorded March 20-24, 1964
8. Recollections by Mrs. David Bancroft Johnson – Originally recorded 1964-1965
9. Dr. Charles S. Davis' Gift Presentation – Originally recorded April 30, 1973
10. Dr. Harold Gilbreth (Professor, 1935-1974) Discusses Beginnings of Coeducation with Roy Flynn – Originally recorded November 21, 1975



From the April, 1912 issue [Vol.XI, no.5] of the *Winthrop College Journal*:

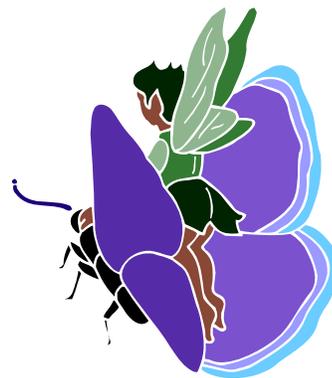
A Reverie



One day as 'neath a large oak tree I sat
And vainly tried to force my weary hand
And Wayward, wandering thoughts to do the work
That by the morrow should be finished,
I thought that life must be all work and pain—
When on the breeze was borne to me the faint,
Sweet, rippling laughter of a child again,
I with my little playmates roamed the fields,
Picked daisies, gathered berries, sang and played.
Again we found beneath the hill a spring,
And drank the clear, cool water as it ran
In merry laughter o'er a large, gray rock
Into the vale below. Beneath the trees

That sheltered this small spring, we sat and wove
Our daisies into chains. Bedecked in these,
We played that we were fairies of the wood,
And danced and sang among the trees until
The sun began to sink behind the hills.
Then I remembered who and where I was.
My work neglected lay beside me there unfinished.
But that young voice to me had brought a vision of those happy hours
Of childhood, calling me from my sad thoughts
And my surroundings, and had left with me
A brighter and a fairer view of life

BESSIE JONES, (Class of 1912)



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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