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Retrospect

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

July 2018

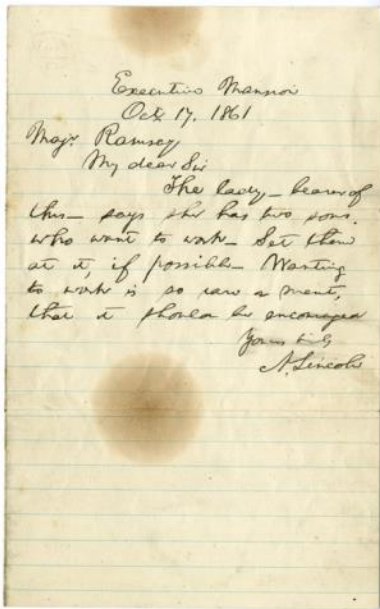
Volume 14, Number 2



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Andrew Johnston, Asst. Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

Abraham Lincoln “Wanting to Work” Letter – Accession 1399 – M691 (747)



Does the Archives have one of the most iconic letters ever written by Abraham Lincoln? The letter in question is dated October 17, 1861 and was written by President Lincoln to Major George D. Ramsey. This letter would become known as the “[Wanting to Work Letter](#).” This letter offers a window into what Lincoln valued most, which is a strong work ethic. He valued hard work more than any other quality and this is demonstrated in the “Wanting to Work” letter when he states, “Wanting to work is so rare a merit that it should be encouraged.”

Lincoln wrote thousands of letters and this one is one his most important and quoted ones which make it a likely target of forgers. So is the one in the Pettus Archives the real “Wanting to Work” Letter or just a good forgery? Former Winthrop Archivist and current curator/archivist of the White Homestead in Ft. Mill, SC, Ann Y. Evans, attempted to determine just that in the early 1980s. She found that the original letter was believed to be part of the Oliver R. Barrett private collection up until it was sold at auction in the 1952 after his passing in 1950. The letter was later believed to have been sold to Forbes Magazine in 1978 or 1979.

The copy that is in the Pettus Archives arrived via Carolyn Yelvington of York, SC in 1983. The letter had come into her possession from her sister, Dr. Alta Y. Forbess and her husband, who were in turn given the “Wanting to Work” letter in the 1950s from a man as payment for a debt who said he had previously purchased it at an auction. The timing fits since the letter was sold at auction in 1952.

This all begs the question, “Does the Pettus Archives have the original “Wanting to Work” letter and the one sold at auction to the Forbes Magazine in the 1970s the fake or is it simply that the one in the Pettus Archives’s a good example of a forgery?” We may never know.

For more information on the Manuscript Collection, contact Andrew Johnston, Asst. Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Quote of the Quarter

In a February 19, 1921 letter to Prof. Nancy Campbell, head of Winthrop’s Music Department concerning the history of music in South Carolina, State Archivist A. S. Salley noted the following concerning people’s insistence on calling him the State Historian:

I am not “State Historian”, as people insist on dubbing me, and I am not writing history. I am preserving, in a feeble way, almost alone, the records of the state—the material for history, the builders’ material for historians.

--A.S. Salley—February 19, 1921 [\[Salley Letters—Acc. 45 M20 \(30\)\]](#)

For more information concerning the *Quote of the Quarter* please contact Gina White at (803) 323-2334 or whitegp@winthrop.edu.



Louise Pettus Papers

By Carson Cope, Processing Archivist, Louise Pettus Papers



The Louise Pettus Papers are very close to being completely arranged and described. There is a wealth of information on local history in the collection. Of course, there is one person for whom there is a significant concentration of materials in the collection—Louise Pettus. There are many documents included that tell about her life, her work, and her legacy. Contents of this portion of the collection include but are not limited to five small diaries, short biographies, and newspaper articles all enlightening the reader about Louise, her research and her writings. Louise's publications include *Leasing Away a Nation*, *The Palmetto State: Stories from the Making of South Carolina*, *The Springs' Story*, *Lancaster County: A Pictorial History*, and *The Waxhaws*. The collection also contains documents concerning the Pettus Ginning Company; photographs of Louise, her friends, and family; newspaper articles concerning her honors and awards; and information pertaining to Louise's time working at Douglas High School in Arizona. The contents of this collection are arranged in chronological order with non-dated items placed at the end of each folder. This makes it very easy for researchers to scan through them. There are over 1,000 items relating to the life and career of Louise Pettus for researchers to peruse. Though the finding aid for the Louise Pettus Papers is not yet finished, the section on her life and career has been completed so do not hesitate to come in if you are interested in this remarkable woman, her life, and her legacy.

For more information on the Louise Pettus Papers contact Carson Cope at archives@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2334.



A Century Ago...

A century ago, the world was embroiled in a "Great War"—a war to end all wars. Europe had been fighting since 1914. The United States had entered the fray in April, 1917. The U.S. army was segregated. It did not integrate for another 30 years—1948. There were training camps for white soldiers and training camps for black soldiers. Local newspapers would often list the names of soldiers who were going off to the training camps. These articles can be a good source of information for genealogical research projects. The following is from *The Chester News*, July 26, 1918, p. 4:

More Negroes To Camp Wadsworth

The following is a list of the negroes who have been called by the Local Board to report on August 2nd. These men will be sent to Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, for military service:

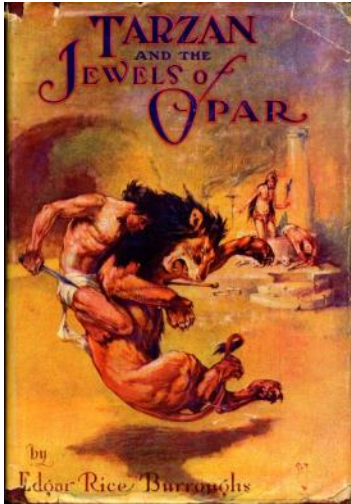
George Young, Chester RFD 1; Theodore Blake, Chester RFD 5; Johnnie Jones, Edgemoor; Davis Smith, New York City; Ed Burris, Lowryville; Johnnie Lynn, Richburg; William Neeley, Chester; Charles Gregory, Chester RFD 1; Frazer McLure, Chester, RFD 6; Will Gaines, Great Falls; Bill McCullough, Bascomville; Josh Talford, Cornwell RFD 1; John L. Ferguson, Catawba; Oscar Woods, Leeds; Cloud Thompson, Bullocks Creek; James Caldwell, Chester RFD 5; William Mobley, Chester, RFD 2; James Brown, Fort Lawn RFD 1; William Cherry, Catawba; Quit Howard, Richburg; Sanders Young, Richburg; John Holley, Chester RFD 2; Colfax Baccus, Lewis Turnout; Otis Ferguson, Edgemoor; James Crockett, Catawba; James Stewart, Chester RFD 5; Will Kee, Lando; Winbush White, Leeds; William McCrorey, Blackstock; James Green, Richburg RFD 1; James Dunlap, Jersey City, NJ; Curtis Brown, Chester RFD 1; James Harris, Chester RFD 1; John H. Westbrook, Richburg RFD 1; John F. Wylie, Chester RFD 4; George Parrot, Chester RFD 6; Leander Weir, Chester RFD 4; Crockett Ferguson, Richburg RFD 1; Clarence Simpson, Chester RFD 2; Henry Gray, Rock Hill RFD 1; Frazer Wood, Chester, RFD 2.



Rare Book Collection Spotlight

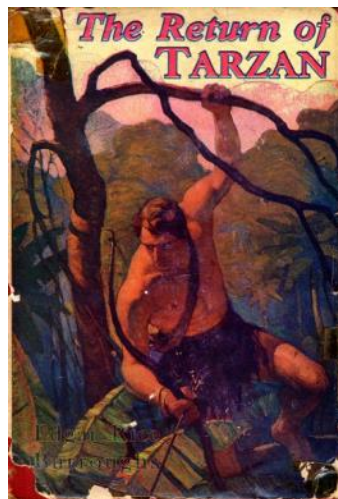
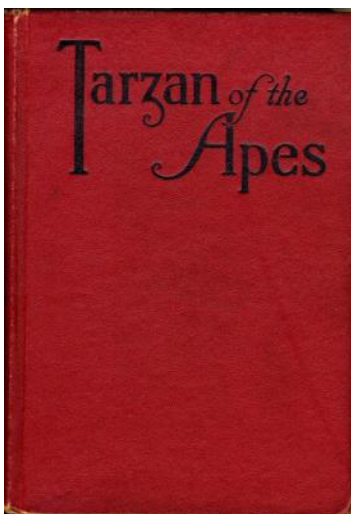
By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

Dr. Lockett Davis, Professor Emeritus of Biology recently gave the Pettus Archives his wonderful collection of Tarzan novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs. The twenty-two novels date from 1914 to 1945 and are in good condition.



Born in 1875 in Chicago, Illinois, the author, Edgar Rice Burroughs, was the fourth son of Maj. George T. Burroughs, a businessman and Civil War veteran, and his wife, Mary E. Zieger Burroughs. After early education in a number of Chicago schools, he attended Phillips Academy in Massachusetts and Michigan Military Academy. Upon graduation in 1895, Burroughs intended to enter West Point but failed the entrance examination. He became an enlisted soldier in the cavalry but was discharged in 1897 due to a heart problem. He worked several different jobs over the next several years including on his brother's ranch as a cowboy, at his father's Chicago battery factory, managing his brothers' unsuccessful mining operation, with the Oregon Short Line Railroad and finally a number of years as a low wage pencil-sharpener wholesaler. Burroughs had married Emma Hulbert in January 1900 and by 1911 they had two children—the year he began to write fiction. He read pulp-fiction magazines and concluded that if people were paid for some of the bad stories in these publications, he could surely write more entertaining stories and get paid to do it. *The All-Story* serialized his first story titled *Under the Moons of Mars* from February to July 1912 under the name Norman Bean. He became a full-time writer and had completed two novels by mid-1912 including *Tarzan of the Apes*. *Tarzan* was published in October 1912 in *The All-Story*. The first book was published in 1914. *Tarzan* was a cultural sensation from the beginning and Burroughs capitalized upon it in every way possible. Over 100 years later, *Tarzan* remains one of the most successful fictional characters in history.

The titles include [*Tarzan of the Apes*](#), [*The Return of Tarzan*](#), [*Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar*](#), [*Jungle Tales of Tarzan*](#), [*Tarzan the Untamed*](#) and 17 others. Dr. Davis collected these novels as a boy between the ages of 11 and 16 from 1943 to 1948.



For more information on the Rare Book Collection, contact Gina White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



News Flash from the Past

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

From [The Johnsonian September 22, 1933](#)

At Last! Television! It's Used in "Men Must Fight"

Saturday night at 7:30 is another chance to see Diana Wynyard!—that girl that you saw in *Cavalcade*.

This time you'll see her in "Men Must Fight," a so called "problem play"—one where the play asks a question and you give the answer. The problem lies between her and her husband (Lewis Stone), whose love cannot over-ride his patriotism. The son (Phillips Holmes) is tossed between the two views [pacifism and patriotism] when war suddenly breaks out.

Lewis Stone used a television telephone in the 1940 sequences of "Men Must Fight." And in a picture, noted as one of the best of the month, "Adrian, the [costume] designer" presents what he thinks will be worn in the near future.



The above notice is for the weekly film shown to Winthrop students in 1933-1934 academic school year. [Men Must Fight](#) is a 1933 American film starring Diana Wynyard, Lewis Stone, and Phillips Holmes based on the 1932 Broadway play of the same name by Reginald Lawrence and S.K. Lauren. Set mainly in the near future of 1940, (remember the film was made in 1933) Wynyard plays WWI nurse Laura Mattson who falls for army pilot Lt. Geoffrey Aiken (Robert Young) after only a few days acquaintance. After he dies on his first mission, Edward Seward (Lewis Stone) persuades the pregnant Laura to marry him and raise the child as his. Laura raises her son to be a pacifist. By 1940, Edward is U.S. Secretary of State and negotiates a peace treaty that will seemingly make it impossible for any country to go to war again. When the U.S. ambassador to a country referred to as the Eurasian States is assassinated, the U.S. demands an apology. Euraisa refuses, war breaks out, and a conflict of ideologies between father and stepson ensues. The film predicts the forthcoming worldwide hostilities that occur in less than a decade and foretells the future popularity and pervasiveness of television.



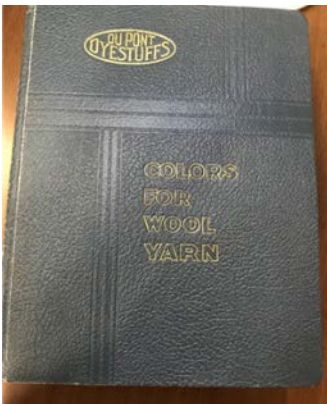
For more information on the Winthrop newspaper files in the Archives contact Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



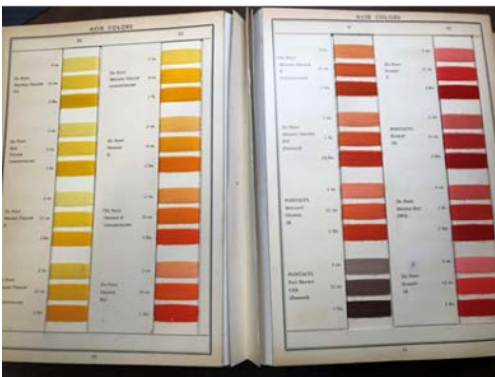
New Collection Spotlight

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

Colorful Collections



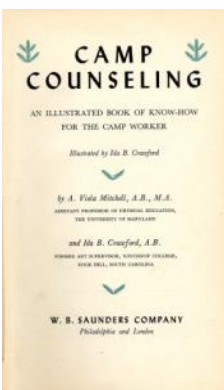
Have you ever said to yourself, “I wonder what colors of yarn were offered in the late 1930s?” Okay, probably not; however, should you find yourself in need of this particular information; the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections has a book to interest you. Among our new additions to the Special and Rare Book Collection, we recently added a book titled, [*Colors for Wool Yarn*](#). This book is a collection of the varieties and colors of yarn offered by E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company in the late 1930s. What makes this book so interesting are the actual wool yarn swatches in every color range that are set into the book. Here is a look:



Along with the swatches, the book contains the methods of dyeing and color treatments used on yarns at Du Pont during this time. *Colors for Wool Yarn* is just one of the many delightfully different books in our Special and Rare Book Collection. For more information on this book or offerings in this collection, please contact the Archives or take a peek at our website and Digital Commons. Thank you for reading.

For further information, please contact Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

From [The Johnsonian March 10, 1950](#):



Misses A. Viola Mitchell and Ida B. Crawford, former Winthrop College faculty members, are co-authors of a book, *Camp Counseling*, which was recently published by W. B. Saunders Company, N.Y. The publication is an illustrated book of suggestions for the camp worker. It is being used by Winthrop students in camp leadership classes. Miss Crawford is a former art supervisor at Winthrop. She has continued her study of art. Miss Mitchell was an instructor in the Physical Education Department here. She is now assistant professor of physical education at the University of Maryland.

Crawford (now Stewart) is a 1943 graduate of Winthrop. She was an art teacher at Winthrop Training School 1946-1949 and Winthrop Alumnae Director 1966. She served as vice-president for Estee Lauder, Inc. 1966 until her retirement. Mitchell served as Winthrop assistant professor of physical education 1946-1948.



Photograph of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist

Class Mascots and Blankets

Did you know that each Winthrop class used to have its own mascot? There were the bulldogs, the wildcats, the tigers and the panthers, just to name a few. The mascot would be specific to each class and would be used and displayed in various ways. One way was on Class Blankets. These blankets, with the mascots, would be displayed proudly at events such as Classes Night. Classes Night was an annual event where each class would write and perform a skit that went along with the theme for that year. Bragging rights and a loving cup were the grand prize for the winning class. Although classes do not still have mascots and class blankets, at Alumni Weekend you will often see these items on display. If you are a graduate of Winthrop and your class had a mascot, we would love to hear from you about what your mascot was and see any photographs you may have of your class mascot or blanket.



For more information on the Photograph Collection, contact Brittany Pigford, Archivist at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



From the Echo Chamber

By Emily Cranwell Deinert, A/V Archivist

Oral History Interview with W. T. “Dub” Massey



The past month has been one of celebration of independence of all people, with Juneteenth in June and Independence Day in July, so this newsletter seemed like the perfect time to highlight a Civil Rights interview from our Oral History collection!

The Louise Pettus Archives owns an oral history from W.T. “Dub” Massey, who was one of the Friendship Nine. The Friendship Nine is the name given to a group of African-American students from Friendship College who conducted a sit-in protest at [McCrorry’s](#) lunch counter in Rock Hill. Massey’s oral history interview recounts the environment and events that led to the [McCrorry’s lunch counter](#)

[protest](#), as well as the aftermath of the sit-in.

Massey starts his 1981 interview by recalling his time as a freshman at Friendship College in 1960 and how he got involved in the Civil Rights Movement. He remembers that around this time, the NAACP chapter in Rock Hill had successfully staged a bus boycott, but Massey believed the NAACP had not made significant progress for the African-American population in Rock Hill. A group of about 50-70 students were interested in making changes, so they organized a meeting where Thomas Gaither (field secretary of the Congress of Racial Equality) came and talked about breaking down barriers of Jim Crow laws and how to use the strategies of non-violence protests that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was forwarding at the time.

This meeting led to Friendship College students protesting in front of stores on Main Street. Massey says part of the reasoning behind their protests was that Friendship College students didn’t like the food on campus, and there was only one restaurant for black people in town; the students wanted to be able to have variety, and “couldn’t understand why [they] couldn’t go in and order a hamburger at McCrorry’s and sit down at the counter” on Main Street. That was their motive, and thus they began protesting in front of the Main Street stores, many of which had lunch counters.

Massey and the student group picketed for several weeks through November and December of 1960. They had been trained for non-violent protests, “[they] did not respond to the hecklers, [they] were not easily harassed, [they] just marched outside. The police would come and tell [them] to get off the streets, and people would come by and spit on [them]” but the students kept protesting anyway. They felt they weren’t being very effective though, because while they got some attention, nothing really changed. Finally, somebody suggested they go sit at the counter and order food as protest. At the beginning of January, the student protestors sat down at McCrorry’s lunch counter; the owner asked them to leave and they did. Then they did the same thing at other lunch counters throughout January. But the tactic of going in and leaving when asked wasn’t working either, so the protestors decided the next time they wouldn’t leave the lunch counter when asked.

Lots of people told the students to stop protesting, even some members of the NAACP who were concerned about the effects of the protests. This was especially because, according to Massey, the students weren’t the only ones experiencing intimidation, but rather the whole black community, including the students’ parents. But the students thought the protests were important, and so they continued which resulted in the ground-breaking Friendship Nine sit-in. On the last day of January, the students went into McCrorry’s lunch counter, sat down and ordered lunch, and refused to leave when asked. Massey explained that there weren’t actually any signs on the counter that said it was “whites only,” but that it was assumed and people had kept the status quo and weren’t comfortable with it changing. Thus, the owner of McCrorry’s called the police who took the protestors away and pressed charges. They were taken to jail, charged with trespassing and breach of peace, and were told they could pay a \$100 bail or go to jail for 30 days.



Parents, pastors, and NAACP leaders came with the money for bail, but “they didn’t know that [the students] had had a meeting and [they] said, ‘We are not coming out. We’ll go to prison first... We are here to prove something.’” NAACP leaders did not approve of their going to jail as they were “concerned and frightened for the students’ well-being and welfare.” Regardless, the young men decided to go through with the trial and jail sentence, and inadvertently started the “jail-no-bail” tactic of the Civil Rights Movement.

After their trial, they were taken to prison where they were made to do hard labor all day. Massey recalls the way they were treated in prison and describes the incident that led to the Friendship Nine being put in solitary confinement; he says they had worked about a week when one of the Friendship Nine pulled a muscle and couldn’t pick up a shovel to work. The captain yelled at him and said he’d put him in solitary confinement if he didn’t work; Massey recalls that the Friendship Nine responded to this threat by saying, “‘fine, put us all in there,’ and we threw our shovels down.” They were in solitary confinement for 72 hours in a 9x9 room, with no chair or bed and only bread and water to eat and drink.

After the Friendship Nine completed their prison sentence, Massey recalls that they continued protesting the segregation of the Main Street stores, and more Friendship College students joined in. He and others were arrested on other occasions, but they felt that their protests were important. As Massey explains, “we did have a great feeling of importance...that we were doing something, we’re making contributions to society.”

You can find and listen to Dub Massey’s oral history interview on the Louise Pettus Archive’s Digital Commons page [[click here W.T. Massey](#)]

Please contact Emily C. Deinert at deinertv@winthrop.edu, 803-323-2257 or 803-323-2334 and she will be happy to discuss how to participate or donate materials.



Collegiate Contemplations

By Gina Price White, Dir., Archives and Special Collections

From [The Anthology](#), Spring 1968



To Lost Love

Waters silver rippling running
Over folded hands held tightly
Thoughts sent streaming wildly after
Running running green and fertile
Tender aching peaceful longing
Love come back for I am dying.

Terry Jarrard (Class of 1969)

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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