



11-2018

November 2018, Volume 14, Number 3

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect>



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections, "November 2018, Volume 14, Number 3" (2018).
Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University. 41.
<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect/41>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Dacus Library Publications at Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@mailbox.winthrop.edu.

Retrospect

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

November 2018



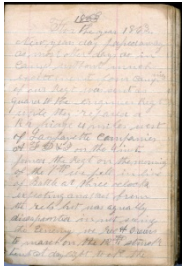
Volume 14, Number 3



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

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

FROM THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TO SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE



We all grew up hearing family legends and the stories of the exploits of family members. These stories often feel more a fable than a reality, but nothing brings them to life or makes them feel more real than researching primary documents. The personal connection to those that preceded you comes alive when you hold your great-great grandfathers Civil War diary that accompanied him through the battlefield, or find your grandfather's love letters to your grandmother, or come across a letter that proves your father wasn't joking when he said he had hitchhiked from University of Illinois to Montana to work on a dude ranch the summer before his Junior year. This journey through the past is an exciting puzzle that pieces together your family history and ultimately helps define who you are.

Quite often this research awakens a new sense of pride due to the accomplishments and exploits of your predecessors and forebears, but always offers perspective. When I began my journey through the papers and memorabilia my father kept I did not know I would somehow be led through one hundred and fifty years' worth of documentation that took me from the Underground Railroad to Saturday Night Live.

Your journey awaits! Visit the Pettus Archives and hopefully we can help you make connections as well.

A few of the noteworthy finds discovered during my journey (please pardon my bragging!):

- **Underground Railroad:** My Johnston Family ancestors were ardently opposed to slavery and relocated from Tennessee to Iowa to escape the pervasiveness of the institution. While living in Louisa County, Iowa in the 1850s, they built a sturdy brick house with a stone room in the basement which was used to care for runaway slaves as part of the Underground Railroad.



- **Great-Great Grandfather:** Thomas Jefferson Johnston, fought in Company C, 11th Regiment Iowa Infantry Volunteers, Union Army during the American Civil War. (Johnston's [Civil War Journal](#) is in the Archives)
- **1st Cousin Twice Removed:** I found that I am related to famous actress and Broadway singer Martha Wright (born Martha Lucile Wiederrecht). She is most well-known for replacing Mary Martin in both *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music*. She also starred in her own TV show titled *The Martha Wright Show*. ([link](#) to YouTube clip, Martha sings at 1:05 mark)

- **Grandfather:** Burdette (B.F.) Francis Johnston was a Theatre Professor at the College of DuPage where he taught both John and Jim Belushi in the 1970s before their famous stints on Saturday Night Live. Jim Belushi stated "I can't begin to tell you what I learned from that man" when talking about what he learned from my grandfather's Improvisation class. Jim also, gives credit to "B.F." for getting him enrolled in the same article.

As my great grandmother Daisy ended all her letters....

Nuf sed.

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



Dr. James Pinckney Kinard was a Winthrop professor and Dean of the College 1895-1928. He served as Winthrop's 2nd President 1929-1934. His wife, Lee Wicker Kinard served as an instructor of history at Winthrop 1895- Dec 1896. Lee left Winthrop in January 1897 because her engagement to James Kinard was announced. Because Dr. Kinard was the chair of the Department of History and English, Lee had to leave Winthrop's employment. They were married in June 1899. Lee worked to save money for their honeymoon bicycling through England the 2 ½ years between. "Jim" saved his money for the house and furniture. The Kinards were "exact opposites" –she, intelligent, vivacious, and a rebel; --he, intelligent, quiet, and gentle. On December 24, 1897 Jim wrote to Lee:

My own love, your letter came to me this afternoon and brought me a real breath of Christmas air. . . . As I sit here and write to you tonight—this blessed night—I am filled with the spirit of Peace. When I compare my feelings tonight to what I have usually felt at this season, I thank God for the restfulness that your love has brought to me. Last year had its love, but its restlessness too: this year there is all peace. Christmas greetings to my love, my sweetheart. James P. Kinard

You may look at the finding aid at this link: [Kinard Papers](#)

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 provide a wealth of information on Lancaster County, South Carolina. There is a significant concentration of materials in the collection including information on topics such as the Lancaster County Courthouse, the Native American Studies Center, Andrew Jackson, The Village of Osceola, Lancaster in the American Revolution, and other items of similar interest. The collection, consisting of not only original documents but photocopies of older documents, is 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 a total of five boxes and fifteen folders concerning Lancaster County and its history. This means that there are approximately 2,500 sheets of paper for researchers to peruse. Though the arrangement and description of the Louise Pettus Papers is not yet fully finished, the section on Lancaster County has been completed so do not hesitate to come in if you are interested in this area. There are even a few articles that Louise wrote concerning happenings in Lancaster such as "Images of Camp Meetings are as Clear Today as in 1912," "Lancaster County Origins," and "Mural, Mural, On the Wall."



There are 579 results in a search of the term Lancaster County, S.C. in the Pettus Archives collections in addition to what is in the Louise Pettus Papers. The results of the search may be seen by [clicking here](#).

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



Holidays Past



David Epting served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. The Pettus Archives houses his war correspondence with his parents, friends, and family. Mr. Epting's mother, Annie Davis Epting, whose papers are also housed at Pettus, graduated from Winthrop in 1909. It is unusual to have an entire set of letters from the family because the sailor or soldier did not often have the ability to keep all of the letters sent to him. On December 21, 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Epting wrote this to their son:

Well, darling, I must stop as I want to get this off by air mail. It won't be the same for us with you away but we shall be thinking of you, loving you and praying for you. It just isn't possible to tell you how much you mean to us, how much pride and joy you have given us and how thankful we are that God sent you to us as the most wonderful Christmas present anyone ever had. May His blessing rest richly upon you every moment of your life and, if it be His will, we may celebrate next Christmas together.

**With all our love to the best son on earth,
Devotedly yours,**

Dad & Mother



Recently Processed Collections

Rebecca Wilson Clark Snyder Papers – Accession 1622

Inclusive Dates: 1841 – 1990, nd Pieces: ~5,000

By Drew Russell, Student Intern



The Rebecca W. Clark Snyder Papers consists of journals from Ms. Snyder's years at Winthrop College as well as her well-documented travels throughout the world. Ms. Snyder graduated from Winthrop College in 1919 and took courses in education at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, as well as classes at Columbia College in New York. Ms. Snyder taught in Laurens, SC, Columbia, SC, Gastonia, NC, and finally found a career teaching in Walhalla, SC from 1942 until her retirement in 1977.

The collection of Snyder's papers holds many historical newspaper articles, such as the newspaper from the end of WWII, the Assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Moon Landing, and the Nixon Scandal. Also included in this collection are letters from family and friends from both WWI and WWII.

https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/manuscriptcollection_findingsaids/1047/

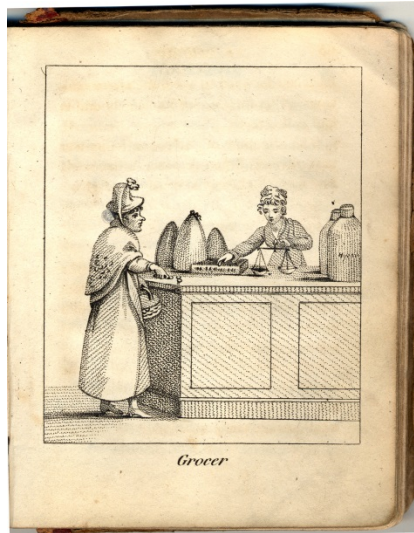
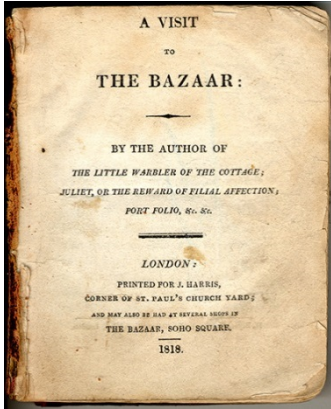
For more information on the Rebecca Clark Snyder Papers contact archives@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2334.



Rare Book Collection Spotlight

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

Eleanor Burts [1916-1998] was a 1937 graduate of Winthrop College and a lifelong educator. She collected children's books and amassed a large collection that she graciously gave to Winthrop. The collection is a fabulous assortment of books ranging in date from the 18th century through the 20th century, featuring books that are miniature, rare, elaborately illustrated, international, and unusual. One of particular interest is *A Visit to The Bazaar* printed in London in 1818. The nicely illustrated book has 92 pages, 32 illustrations and measures 4.25 inches by 5.25 inches. It chronicles the Durnford family's visit to the Soho-square Bazaar. The four Durnford children receive an extensive tour of the facility from their parents including visits to the Jeweller, the Optician, the Bookseller, the Grocer, the Pastry Cook and many more booths. Only 14 libraries worldwide have a copy of this book so the Pettus Archives is indeed fortunate that Miss Burts gave her collection to Winthrop. A complete list of material in the Burts collection may be found here ([Eleanor Burts Collection Acc.845](#)). Please visit the Pettus Archives to look at this amazing collection of children's material.



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.



Winthrop's
Kwanzaa Celebration
1993



News Flash from the Past

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

From [The Johnsonian December 3, 1943](#) p 5

Senior Class Swings Out In Dorm Dec. 11



A senior formal with music by the Swanks, will be held in the lobby of Senior Hall Saturday, December 11, from 8:30 to 11:45 pm in honor of Winthrop's first large mid-term graduating class who are scheduled to receive their diplomas December 19.

Christmas Theme

Creating the effect of the traditional Christmas, the Senior Hall lobby will be decorated with wreathes, holly and mistletoe, and refreshments are to carry out Christmas colors of red and green. Plans for the event are under the management of Wilma Carter and her committee chairmen Mary Harper, decorations; Dora Purvis, favors; Kitty Harrison,

floor management; Margaret McClam, refreshments; and Jewel Bannister, music.

All Seniors Invited

All seniors and their dates are invited, and special guests will include Mrs. Kate Glenn Hardin, Dr. Mowat G. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Graham and the 41st College Training Detachment officers.

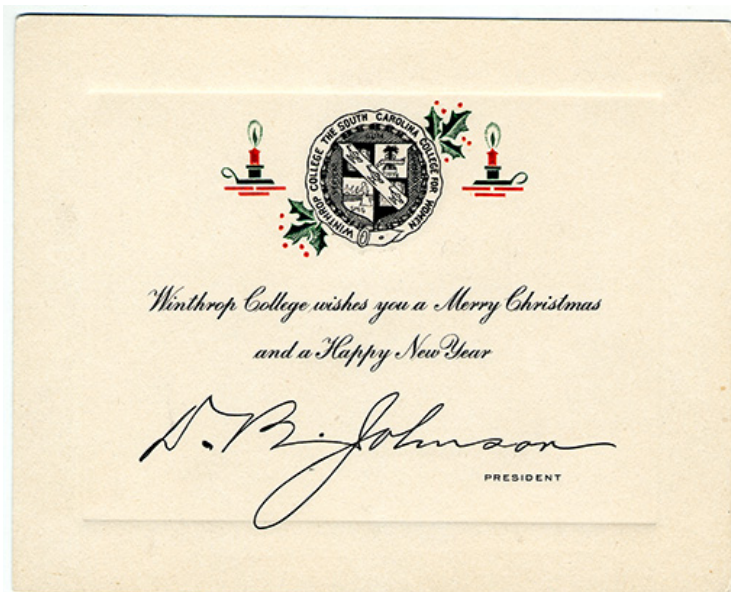


For more information

--Winthrop's swing band "The Swanks" click here for the Johnsonian, October 8, 1942 page 1 "[Swanks Give Out Solid And Smooth For Big Dance Debut](#)"

--41st College Training Detachment: [Administrative Records](#), [Cadet Records](#), [Winthrop Business Records](#), [Oral History interview](#).

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.



Winthrop Christmas Card circa 1920



Exhibit Spotlight

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

As the holidays approach, we often reminisce about our own family traditions of the past and how these traditions have shaped our lives today.



At the Louise Pettus Archives, we get to view the past every day, and explore the traditions that have shaped our university, community, and the lives of those around us. In the spirit of that exploration, we hope you will join us for our newest exhibit, *Woven in Our Roots: Agricultural and Domestic Arts in South Carolina*. In this exhibit, you will find a Winthrop centric view of the timeless arts of weaving and sewing and farming, as well as the early innovative educational programs that Winthrop established to prepare its students and community members to thrive. Throughout Winthrop's early years, founder and first president, David Bancroft

Johnson believed in the importance of training every student not only to be equipped with professional skills, but also to be adept at running a home. Students learned to cook, sew, clean, grow a garden, and manage a home, no matter which major they pursued.

On display, you can see examples of students' sewing books, handmade dresses, a loom, a spinning wheel, and other domestic items that would have been used to learn home science. You can explore the role Winthrop played in home demonstration work across South Carolina; helping form and inform women's groups and teachers in rural communities about the contemporary domestic and agricultural practices of the time to improve the quality of life in these communities. You can follow the empowering story about one of the only female cotton ginner in the South, who happens to be a distinguished Winthrop alumna and retired faculty member, a foremost historian, and also, our namesake, Ms. Louise Pettus. You can even try your hand at weaving! So please come by to see *Woven in Our Roots: Agricultural and Domestic Arts in South Carolina*, which will be on exhibit until February 2019. Thank you for reading and have a wonderful holiday season!



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



From the Chester, S.C. [*Semi-Weekly News* December 21, 1915](#)

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy just 5 years old. I want you to go to Murphy's and get that little tricycle and bring to me. I have done tried it and please bring some candy and one all-day sucker and anything else you have for little boys. Merry Christmas to you, John Frank Chick

P.S. We have a new baby next door to us. Her name is Margaret Elizabeth James. Don't forget her. She wasn't here last Christmas.



Photograph of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist



Many think that the ghost of Ida Jane Dacus haunts the current library and that the eyes of her portrait follow you wherever you go, but did you know that Ms. Dacus died in 1964, years before the current library was built. Here is a little history of Ms. Dacus, who was by all counts quite a remarkable woman.

Ida Jane Dacus began her time at Winthrop as a student in 1896. She was one of three students to receive a scholarship to keep the study hall/ library. At the end of her Junior year, Winthrop President D.B. Johnson asked Ida Jane to take over the library full time, at this time the library only had about 200 books. Three years later Ms. Dacus was one of only 20 applicants in the nation to receive a scholarship to study library science at Drexel University. When she received her certificate she became the very first professionally trained librarian in South Carolina. She returned to Winthrop to a library with 5,184 books and 5,000 government publications.

Ms. Dacus remained at Winthrop until she retired in 1945. She was known for her beautiful rose garden, quotes such as "To make friends, you must be friendly" and yes for holding her fingers to her lips and saying "shhhhhh" to those in her library.





From the Echo Chamber

By Emily Cranwell Deinert, A/V Archivist

The Veterans History Project Commemorates the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day

November 11th marked the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, or the end of World War I. To commemorate, the Veterans History Project at the Louise Pettus Archives held a lecture on World War I alongside its World War I exhibit. Dr. Fritz Hamer, Director of the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum and a WWI scholar, gave a lecture on South Carolina's involvement in WWI and focused specifically on extraordinary South Carolinians who served during the war. The lecture was well received and followed by a reception, which featured "War Bread" -- a recipe for bread from 1917 that used graham flour, nuts, and dates to save on white flour, sugar, and butter so that those food items could be sent to the front lines for the soldiers.

Audiovisual Archivist Emily Deinert curated the exhibit showcasing the Archives' World War I materials. The exhibit includes a variety of materials, from a WWI Navy uniform, letters written by American soldiers at the war front, German postcards, and an oral history interview with a World War I veteran.



The oral history interview with the WWI veteran is of particular interest as it provides a first-hand account of what WWI was like on the front lines. The interview, conducted in 1978 by Joe Bixler, is with Col. Francis Murray Mack, who was a local resident of Fort Mill, SC. He served in the National Guard before WWI, and then served in the US Army when the National Guard was drafted into the Army at the beginning of America's involvement in the war. Mack served on the Front in France throughout most of 1918 and did not return home until 1919. He recalls every stage of his war experience, from training to his return home, and speaks candidly about how he felt on the front lines. At one point, Mack says he was "Scared to death all the time! Scared to death....A man that isn't scared in the battle line is either too dumb to know what danger is or he's crazy."

Col. Mack's interview is available for listening at the Louise Pettus Archives. The World War I exhibit will run until February 2019.

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

Snowflakes

By Theodora Taylor, Class of 1926

The tiny snowflakes glistening bright
Are fairy lamps that glow at night.
Each one a ray of radiance throws,
And each one sparkles, changes, glows.



The trees take on a lovely air,
Because the lamps are fastened there;
And as at night they softly sway,
The wee lights chase the shades away.



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: <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>

Click here for previous issues of [Retrospect](#)