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## May 2019, Volume 15, Number 2

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# Retrospect

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

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May 2019

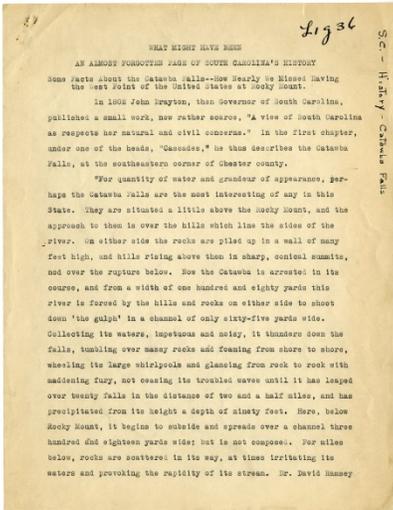
Volume 15, Number 2



## Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Gina White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

### James H. Carlisle Speech – Accession 139 M66 (81)



The Carlisle Speech consists of a typescript copy of a speech delivered by James H. Carlisle concerning the "Great Falls" of the Catawba River as well as the establishment of Mount Dearborn, a federal military arsenal in the early 1800s in Chester County, S.C. The title of the speech is "What Might Have Been: An Almost Forgotten Page of South Carolina's History." James Henry Carlisle [1825-1909] was an educator and professor at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C. from 1854 to 1875 and served as President of Wofford from 1875 to 1902. Rocky Mount, later known as Mount Dearborn, was the National Armory located on the Catawba River from 1802 to 1820. Rocky Mount was located just below the Great Falls (sometimes called Catawba Falls) on the Catawba River. After the Catawba River was dammed by Southern Power Co. (Duke) beginning in 1905, the "great falls" no longer exist due to the water being diverted, but the town by that name, founded in 1906 is a thriving community.

To view the speech please see the Pettus Archives Digital Commons Record: [Carlisle Speech](#)

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



## Quote of the Quarter

Ben Robertson [1903-1943] was a "respected and well-traveled journalist, war correspondent, and author" who was born and raised in South Carolina. His mother Mary Bowen Robertson was a graduate of Winthrop Class of 1899 and his sister Mary B. Robertson Longley was Winthrop Class of 1924. Mrs. Longley gave a copy of her brother's book *Red Hills and Cotton: An Upcountry Memoir* to Winthrop in 1949. The following is an amusing anecdote from the book concerning the Robertson siblings' Grandmother Bowen in Pickens County, SC.

**She was a real patron of peddlers. . . . Once an itinerant peddler, selling aids to the deaf, came and sat down on the piazza. My grandmother came out and sat, too. The man was embarrassed about bringing up the subject of his visit. He said it was a fine day, my grandmother said it was. He said the crops were looking mighty fine, my grandmother said they were. Suddenly the man whispered: "Can you hear what I am saying?" My grandmother leaned forward and whispered: "Yes." "Well, ma'am," said the man in a loud voice, "then you don't need what I'm peddling." My grandmother laughed and helped him make a list of everyone who was deaf in Twelve Mile valley.**

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

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## Louise Pettus Papers

By Carson Cope, Processing Archivist, Louise Pettus Papers

Are you interested in local history? If so, the Louise Pettus Papers provides a wealth of information on a variety of people, places, and events that have shaped the Catawba Region.



One subject for which there is an interesting set of materials in the collection is the Catawba River. A great deal of fascinating history has transpired in conjunction with this local landmark. In the collection, there are materials pertaining to the Katawba Valley Land Trust created by Lindsay Pettus, Louise Pettus' brother. This is a conservation organization dedicated to the protection of natural resources in the Catawba River Valley. There is also a DVD chronicling a celebration of the Catawba River Valley through the eyes of farmers, Native Americans, park rangers, and residents. Additionally, there are numerous

articles written by Louise Pettus on the history of the Catawba River. For example, the articles include topics such as ferries that have existed on the river; the Great Falls of the Catawba; Grist Mills in the Catawba River Valley; Hamilton Carhartt whose mansion was located along the bank of the river; and the history of early settlers along the Catawba. These are just a few of the topics covered in the Papers. The Pettus Papers are in the final stages of completion and the materials concerning the Catawba River are ready for public viewing, so please do not hesitate to come by if you are interested in learning more about the Catawba River.

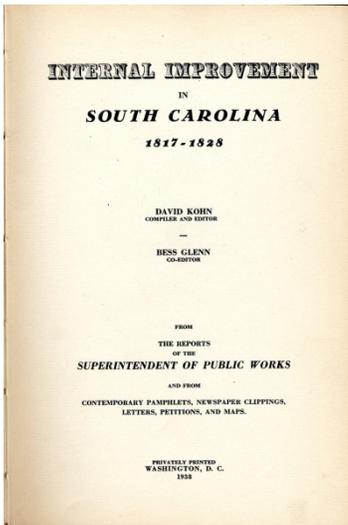
For more information on the Louise Pettus Papers contact Carson Cope at [archives@winthrop.edu](mailto:archives@winthrop.edu) or (803) 323-2334.



## Rare Book Collection Spotlight

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

### Internal Improvement in South Carolina, 1817-1828



*Internal Improvement in South Carolina* is a compilation of reports of the South Carolina Superintendent of Public Works and various pamphlets, letters, newspaper clippings, maps and other documents chronicling the condition, improvements, and fiscal reports of roads, public buildings, water systems, canals, and other public works in South Carolina from 1817 through 1828. The book amasses material that is in diverse locations and represents many years of research and gathering of historical material. David Kohn was a textile engineer in Columbia, S.C. The son of Theodore Kohn, he was born in Orangeburg, S.C. in 1880. He was married to Camille Lansburg Jacobs. He died in Columbia, S.C. in 1973 and is buried in the Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery. David Kohn's brother was August Kohn, a journalist and author. The book was privately printed in 1938 and was a limited edition. The copy in possession of the Pettus Archives is number 90 of an edition of 400 copies and is signed by David Kohn.

Researchers looking for information concerning early infrastructure in South Carolina will find this volume immensely helpful, especially those interested in trying to preserve historic sites that include remnants of these roads, canals, and buildings.

To view the table of contents, the list of maps and illustrations, and the index; please look at the Pettus Archives Digital Commons record: [Internal Improvement](#)

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](mailto:archives@winthrop.edu).

# A Century Ago...

## The Great Flood of 1916

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

Just over a hundred years ago one of the worst (if not *the* worst) natural disasters in county history struck York County in July 1916. The scene was set when a Category 4 hurricane came up through the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall on Mississippi coast on July 5, 1916. The storm made its way to North Carolina where it dumped torrential rains for a week finally leaving the state on July 11. Flood waters were already starting to reach York County when a second Category 4 hurricane came from the Atlantic and made landfall at Charleston on July 14. This storm made its way to the North Carolina mountains and dropped a record amount of rain in a three day period on the already saturated ground.

The resulting flood caused the Catawba River to crest to a record high of 47 feet above flood level. For reference, the previous record in recorded history was 29 feet in 1908. The flood waters washed away homes, businesses, and bridges while killing 80 people in the process. The bridge over the Catawba River at Fort Mill, SC was not spared and the 100 foot span of the Southern Railroad trestle connecting Fort Mill to Rock Hill was washed away. Citizens on both sides of the river found themselves stranded. They were forced to use boats and ferries to cross the river until the bridges could be repaired. The Catawba Dam, just completed in 1904, was also severely damaged and repairs were not completed until 1925. In all, the Great Flood of 1916 cost more than \$500,000,000 in damage in today's dollars.



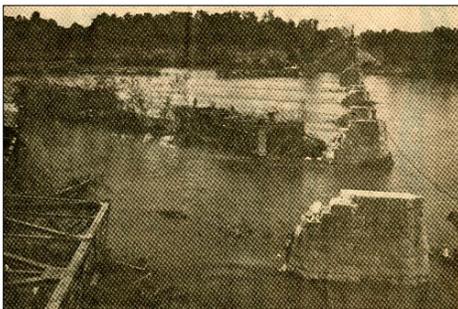
1916 - Southern Railroad Trestle looking towards Fort Mill, SC-100 ft long washed away July 17, 1916. The water level reached over 40 ft. The highest recorded previous high water mark was 29 ft in 1908



1916 - Southern Railroad Trestle looking Towards Fort Mill, SC (Image courtesy of the York County Library)



1916 - Image of Citizens crossing the Catawba by Boat after the Bridges were washed away by the flood. Published in the February 26, 1976 *The Times*.



1916 - Image of the Catawba River after the flood. Published in the February 26, 1976 *The Times*.



1916 - Catawba River at the high water mark (Image courtesy of the Duke Energy Archives)



1916 - Image of the Catawba River after the flood. Published in the February 26, 1976 *The Times*.



## News Flash from the Past

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

*The Johnsonian* is a great source for stories about student activities at Winthrop over the years. Photographs were seldom used in the early issues of the newspaper. Fortunately, a student who participated in a hike to the Catawba River in 1924 took photographs and kept a scrapbook. The Pettus Archives houses the scrapbook of Mary Miranda Stuckey Watson that is chock full of photographs and memories of the 1926 graduate. Below is an article describing the hike and some photographs from Stuckey's scrapbook.

From [May 17 1924](#) issue of *The Johnsonian*:

### Scouts Go On Hike To The Catawba River

The Scout hike on Monday, May 12, was unanimously voted the best of the season. The seven-mile tramp to the river showed the ease with which the girls, led by Miss [Mary Lee] Robertson [P.E. professor 1921-1927], had learned to walk several miles and at the same time enjoy the beauties of the outdoors. A most inviting dinner of irresistible "sisky and chee-bobs," the by-word of the Scout hikes, satisfied the keen appetites. A thrilling climb over the dam and rocky banks, followed by a boat ride across the river, was ended all too soon by the approach of leaving time. The enthusiastic accounts of the hike given by the girls, tired but supremely happy, proved that the holiday could not have been spent in a better way, and that Miss Robertson just "couldn't be beat." The hikers included the following: Miss Robertson, Elizabeth Watson, Catherine Peterman, Helen Bickley, Jeanne Gadsden, Catherine Bryant, Marian Martin, Julia Warriner, Helen Drumm, Ida Cuttino, Isabel McKinnell, Ray Stevenson, Sara King, Hilda Syfan, Mary Ellen Gaines, Blanche La Boon, Jack McMillan, Miranda Stuckey, and Marion Blackwell.



A view of the Catawba



Hikers cooking their dinner



"Thrilling climb over the dam"



"Boat ride across the river"



The faculty leader of the group



## New Collection Spotlight

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist



Introducing another exciting addition to Louise Pettus Archives holdings—Latin American Artifacts donated by Mr. Tony Salazar. The 25 piece collection consists of stone statues, tools, and several types of pottery (some possibly Mayan) from Latin America including the countries of Guatemala and Costa Rica possibly dating from the pre-Columbian period. Currently, we do not have much information about the artifacts, including the specific dates and origins; however, we are formulating a student-centered research project with the Anthropology department and Dr. Brent Woodfill to identify, date, and describe the artifacts. This thrilling upcoming venture will offer students hands-on experience with artifacts and create a collection that could be widely used by numerous departments on campus. For more information, feel free to contact us. Here are just a few images of this fascinating collection. Thank you for reading!





## Photographs of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist



Mr. Hamilton Carhartt

In 1907 Hamilton Carhartt of Detroit, Michigan, purchased Chicora Mills in Rock Hill and changed the name to Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mills. In 1907 Mr. Carhartt was the largest producer of gloves and uniform overalls in the country. Upon moving to Rock Hill he built a beautiful home on the banks of the Catawba River. The house had electric lights, running water and indoor bathrooms, which was rare at the time. The home was located on over 1,200 acres and at one time was a working farm that grew alfalfa, corn, and cotton. He bred Arabian horses and Shetland ponies, and owned hogs, sheep, cattle, poultry, pheasants, pigeons, goats, and peacocks.

Mr. Carhartt remained in Rock Hill until 1921. While in Rock Hill he opened a second cotton mill and built houses for his employees to live. He was known for giving large company barbeques, and having movie nights, and dances. He also opened a night school for his employees. After Mr. Carhartt sold the mill in 1925 it changed hands many times and is now known as The Old Cotton Factory, a retail and office space. Although, what was known as the Carhartt mansion was disassembled in the 1950s, the remains of the mansion can still be accessed from the Riverwalk: Piedmont Medical Center Trail. Ms. Pat Grant, a local historian, occasionally gives guided tours. Despite most of the house being gone one can tell from the remains that this was once a magnificent house and a rich piece of Rock Hill's history.





## From the Echo Chamber

By V. Emily Deinert, A/V Archivist



Memorial Day provides us the opportunity for reflection and remembrance of the lives of those in the Armed Forces lost in service to our country. With the celebration of Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) around the corner, this time of year brings to mind the many African American soldiers who have not always gotten the same recognition and respect. One such soldier was Sergeant Samuel Searles, Jr., an African American WWII veteran. Searles gave an oral history interview about his time in the Army in WWII as part of our Veterans History project.

Searles was drafted in 1943 at 19 requiring him to drop out of college. He was assigned to the Signal Corps, 12<sup>th</sup> Army Group and served in the European Theatre. Although he said he saw no combat, throughout the interview Searles alludes to direct personal experiences in major battles, such as the Invasion of Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Siege of Bastogne. Searles had his share of tragedy, whether or not he considered it combat, as is evident from one story he told about the death of the outfit's medic:

“There was a Corporal in my outfit named Ruben, he was our medic, and he'd never go to town – this was when we were in England – and the guys used to say, "Man, let's go to town sometime!" and he'd sit there and read, and one day he finally decided to go to town and he got caught in an air raid, a German air raid, and got killed. I'll never forget that. It's almost like we talked him into going to get killed...”

The casualties of the front were not the only hardships Searles faced. The Army was still segregated and he recounts the way he and other black servicemen were treated by their fellow white soldiers:

“I hate to bring it up, but German prisoners were treated better than some black soldiers, American soldiers – we had on the same uniform. That doesn't rub anybody right, that rubbed us wrong, but you do what you were supposed to do because of your family back home. You want them to feel proud of you and you also wanted to prove to the world that you were just as good as anybody. That was very prevalent among my fellows who were in the Army with me. They wanted to show the world that we can do as well as anybody.”

Searles' most memorable experience of the war was the day he was discharged at Fort Gordon, Georgia and got to see his family again. The language he uses to describe the moment is poetic; it is obvious this is his most important memory:

“...the guy behind me said, “Somebody's family came to see him”. And I didn't pay him any attention. Then he said, "They even brought the dog!" and that made me look. I looked out the window and I saw my family, my mother, my father, and my sister, and my dog, and that knocked me out. It was like looking at a picture in black and white and suddenly it's in color. I'll always remember that. [Laughs] Yes ma'am, I'll always remember that...November the 30<sup>th</sup>, 1945.”

Sgt. Searles ends his interview by saying, “What I experienced in the war is not something I'd want other people to experience.” His tone is heavy and seems to indicate he means the entirety of his experience – the battles, the loss of friends, and the segregation and disrespect he endured from fellow American soldiers. We thank Sgt. Searles for his service, even in the face of discrimination, and the Louise Pettus Archives is proud to keep a record of his memory and experiences for the education of future generations.

Sgt. Searles oral history interview is available on the Louise Pettus Archive's Digital Commons page. <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/276/>

If you would like to learn more about Sergeant Searles or other oral history interviews, visit our Digital Commons site or contact Emily Deinert, A/V Archivist at [deinertv@winthrop.edu](mailto:deinertv@winthrop.edu) or (803)32-2257.



## Current Exhibitions

Gina Price White, Dir., Archives and Special Collections

Dr. Laura Dufresne and Dr. Laura Gardner teach a class every other Spring semester called the Art of the Book. The class creates artwork that is inspired by their study of the creation and artistic rendering of books throughout history. Earlier in the semester, the class met in the Pettus Archives to view the numerous types of books housed in the Archives. Using the knowledge they gathered during their class, the students created beautiful, interesting, and clever art pieces which are currently on display in the Pettus Archives. Among the works are books with creative bindings, commonplace books, book plates, illustrated books, handmade papers, zines and other works. The exhibition will be available for viewing during regular Archives operating hours from May 1 through August 1. Summer hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00-5:30 and Friday 8:00-Noon

For more information, contact the Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or [archives@winthrop.edu](mailto:archives@winthrop.edu).

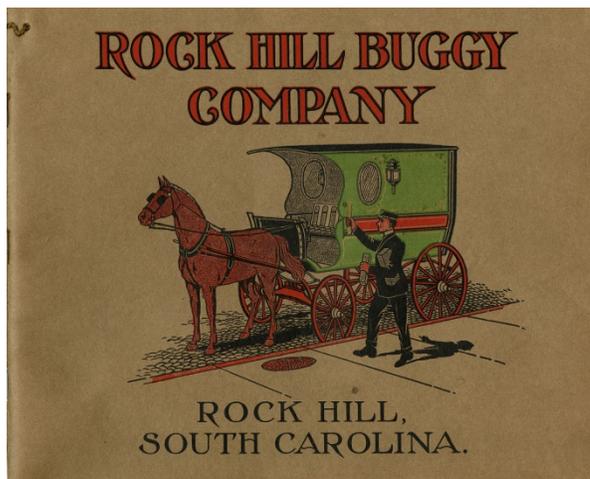




# Collegiate Contemplations

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

In 1902, the Rock Hill Buggy Company offered \$5 for the best original poem advertising their buggies. Fannie L. Creighton, Class of 1903, won the prize. Following is Miss Creighton's winning poem:



## The "Rock Hill" Buggy

I sat one day by a winding stream.  
Wrapped in the fancies of an idle dream,  
When I heard a strange voice so close to my arm,  
That I started and screamed in my sudden alarm.

"Oh! Pray, tremble not, fair maid of the earth,  
I meant you no harm, just a bit of sweet mirth.  
I'm here from the moon, a buggy to buy,  
A buggy, whose merit is known in the sky.

Though you may ride over hills and steep stony ways,

You'll speak for THIS buggy only words of great praise.  
For 'tis a "ROCK HILL" Buggy with the "BEST YET" springs,  
And a jolt to the rider it never ONCE brings.

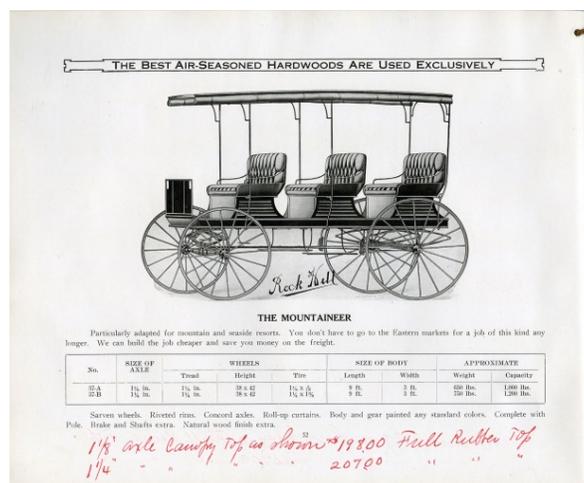
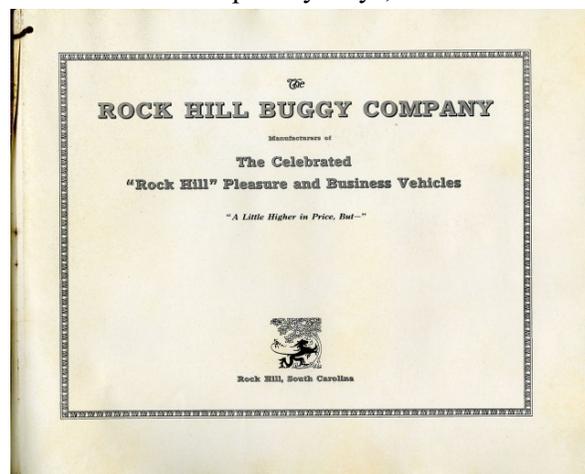
'Tis thousands of miles to the moon, you know,  
But I'll get there today ere the little stars show,  
And not a single weariness feel.  
For there's a "LONG-WINDED" Axle in each shining wheel.

The time is passing, and noon is at hand,  
I must turn again to my own native land.  
I'll make no more journeys to this scorching earth,  
For my "Rock Hill" Buggy is of lasting worth.

Tell farmers and doctors, 'tis the buggy for them.  
Alike the fields and floods it can stem;  
And, the lads, they can win any lassie fair,  
If they take her to ride in this buggy so rare.

Just say 'tis the buggy of the whole word's pride,  
The only buggy in which I would ride.  
"A Little Higher in Price But—" my!  
Its quality carries it up to the sky.

And now ere I knew it, the small man was gone,  
And henceforth be it to the whole world known  
That a "Rock Hill" Buggy by its sterling worth,  
Arose to the moon from this sordid earth.



| Size    | SIZE OF AXLES | WHEELS |         |               | SIZE OF BODY |       |          | APPROXIMATE |  |
|---------|---------------|--------|---------|---------------|--------------|-------|----------|-------------|--|
|         |               | Tread  | Height  | Tire          | Length       | Width | Weight   | Capacity    |  |
| 22 x 24 | 1 1/2 in.     | 24 in. | 38 x 42 | 1 1/2 x 3 1/2 | 9 ft.        | 2 ft. | 400 lbs. | 2,000 lbs.  |  |
| 24 x 26 | 1 3/4 in.     | 26 in. | 38 x 42 | 1 1/2 x 3 1/2 | 9 ft.        | 2 ft. | 500 lbs. | 2,500 lbs.  |  |

Particularly adapted for mountain and seaside resorts. You don't have to go to the Eastern markets for a job of this kind any longer. We can build the job cheaper and save you money on the freight.

Sevens wheels. Riveted rims. Concord axles. Roll-up curtains. Body and gear painted any standard colors. Complete with Pole. Brake and Shafts extra. Natural wood finish extra.

*1 1/2" axle country top as shown 19 x 00 Full Rubber Top 20700*

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

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