



2023

## James Thomas Faris Papers- Accession 1475

James Thomas Faris

Faris Family

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**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY  
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION**

**ACCESSION 1475**

**JAMES THOMAS FARIS PAPERS**

1875-1989

2 Boxes, 12 Folders

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY  
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACC. NO.: 1475  
ADDITIONS: \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_

PROCESSED BY: Rebecca Nave  
DATE: January 27, 2014  
NO. OF SECTIONS: 3

JAMES THOMAS FARIS PAPERS

I

The correspondence of John Thomas Faris was purchased from Mr. John T. MissKelley in May of 2013 by the Louise Pettus Archives.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: .50 linear feet  
Approximate number of pieces: 1,000 pieces

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Scope and Content Note: **The John Thomas Faris Papers consist mainly of personal correspondence between Mr. James Thomas Faris and his friends, co-workers, love interests, and children. There is also documentation concerning Faris' finances and legal matters. There are several documents concerning his life insurance through Aetna Life Insurance Company, documents listing sold stock, uniform tickets from William C. Rowland Company, and correspondence between Mr. Faris and W.C Hurt Tobacco Company. There are also several documents from colleges in South Carolina including a letter from Clemson Agricultural College concerning Faris' son and one from Winthrop College concerning Faris' daughter. James Thomas Faris and the Faris Family are longtime residences of Catawba, SC. James T. Faris was the son of John A. Faris who purchased the historic Faris Family Home (built in ca. 1844) from William D. Dunlap in 1873 and the family has lived there since.**

Transfer of items: No items were transferred

## II

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Based on the context of letters it is hard to determine the relationships of the Faris Family. There are other collections at the archives that pertain to the Faris Family. Based on context of the letters there are several generations of James, John, Franklin or Thomas Faris.

**J.T. Faris/ J.F Faris:** there is documentation in the collection to support that he worked for a railroad company at Catwaba. There is also a J.T or J.F Faris that is a teacher and is writing letters hiring professors. Also there is documentation to say that he was hired by W.C Hurt Tobacco Company.

**Elizabeth Faris:** there are several letters from her in the family series of the collection. She signs her letters as sister or Liza. She is either the sister of the first or second generation of James Thomas Faris.

**John Franklin Faris:** There are only two pieces concerning this individual, but he is the son of John Thomas Faris. The father of Mary Elizabeth Faris. And possibly the recipient of letters found from female writers.

**Mary Elizabeth Faris:** She is the daughter of John Franklin Faris. She writes several letters and there is documentation on her college education and her wedding in 1971 to Paul Coker Watson.

**Bessie Giles:** There is one note from this woman and it is addressed to Uncle J.T. She is the niece of one of the generations of John Thomas Faris. She is possibly the daughter of Elizabeth Faris.

**E.M Faris:** One piece in the collection is signed E.M Faris and based on context he is the nephew of Faris. Not much documentation to say which generation he is in.

**W.L Faris/ Smith:** There are several pieces from the man who signs this way. He could be a member of the family, but the relationship is unclear. He talks of childhood so he and J.T Faris grew up together. There is also a Will that later writes saying he changed his name due to being wanted in South Carolina. He moves to Texas and there is some correspondence between them. From the context the one who changed his name is an African American run away who knew Faris in South Carolina. He signs W.L.F, Will Faris, or just W.L. These could be two different people or the same one, but their initials are the same.

**S.A Mathias:** There were three pieces signed this way. They are in the family collection. Based on context they write as if they are his parents. Two different people sign this way. In one letter it appears to be his father asking about girls his son has met and informing his son of his illness. The illness is controversial and following this letter is another. The next letter signed from S.A Mathias seems to be from the wife of the man with the illness and the mother of Faris. She comments on his father's illness and its embarrassment. The third piece is from the father figure asking to hear a response from his son. The relationship and generation are unclear.

## II

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA (cont.)

The following names are the most frequent writers to J.T Faris. They span over several decades so the generation of Faris to whom they speak is unclear. These women have dated or been courted by Faris. Some also write about growing up together in school.

**Cara Rogers, Maude, Laura Etheridge, M.E Doig, Rose Patterson, Sallie C., Hattie Herrktis (Hansters)**

The following companies are frequently in the collection. They will be found in the Records series. **W.C Hurt Tobacco** employed Faris at some time. **Aetna Life Insurance** is the insurance carrier for Faris, the dates seem to support a later generation of Faris. **Clemson Agricultural College** shows Franklin Faris is the son of J.T Faris and notifies the father of his son's acceptance. **Winthrop College** shows that Mary Faris is the daughter of Faris and shows her classes and grades for the year 1968. There are several receipts from **Glenn-ABell Motor Company** to J.F Faris and **William C. Rowland**. William C. Rowland is a company that produces uniforms for employees. The dates support it was uniforms for the Faris that worked in Catawba.

### III

#### DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
1	1	<b>FAMILY LETTERS</b> This series includes letters from members of J.T Faris' Family. There are letters from his father, mother, sister, nephew, and niece. In this series there are letters concerning family visits, a medical condition of Faris' father, and letters inquiring about friends of the family. See biographical data to understand relationship to Faris. Letters in this series are arranged chronologically. Letters that are illegible or not dated are located in the back of the folder. <b>Common names that appear are: Mary Faris, Elizabeth Faris, S.A Mathias, and W.L Smith/Faris.</b>	1880-1969
1	2	<b>LETTERS FROM MALE FRIENDS</b> This series includes letters from James Thomas Faris' male colleagues, coworkers and childhood friends. In some of these letters jobs are offered or inquired about. Usually the jobs are concerning sales or teaching. In these letters there are also questions about childhood friends and their well-being, sickness, weather, crop success, and relationships. A common theme in these letters is catching up on the gossip concerning women and dating relationships. Letters that are illegible or not dated are located in the back of the folder. <b>Common names that appear are: Furman Brodie, W.L.S, W.L Smith, R.F McMillian, and May (based on content this is a male).</b>	1875-1904

### III

#### DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
1	3-6	<b>LETTERS FROM FEMALE FRIENDS</b> This series includes letters from James Thomas Faris' female colleagues, girlfriends, and calling cards/telegrams. The time span is very long and the collection is primarily made up of this series. Some are only addressed as J. Faris or T. Faris or J.T so it is difficult to see which Faris they are writing to. The letters from female acquaintances usually involve dating, picnics, events in town, family members, and being very busy. Some of the women send Faris tokens of their feelings such as a locket of hair and a Christmas card with a special note. Some women are angry with Faris because of failed promises and mishaps with the postal service. Mostly, the women talk about memories or hopes for the future with Faris. There are also some women who write as just friends and talk mainly about weather or funny stories about people they know or people Faris would know. Letters are arranged chronologically. Letters that are illegible or not dated are located in the back of the folder. <b>Common names that appear are: Cara Rogers, Maude, Laura Etheridge, M.E Doig, Rose Patterson, Sallie C., Hattie Herrktis (Hansters)</b>	1887-1984
2	7	<b>DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING HEALTH</b> This series contains letters or other documentation about health. One piece is a letter about a member of the family that possibly has consumption. In the back of the folder is a pamphlet on the dangers of coughs and how to diagnose and treat different types of coughs. There are also advertisements for prescriptions that cure coughs. Also in this series are two letters from C.C Gaives who is Faris' doctor. He is treating Faris for something and gives him a home remedy. Letters are arranged chronologically and documents that are not dated are in the back.	1888-1893
2	8	<b>WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> This series has two wedding announcements. One is Hattie Ferguson's marriage to Edward Simpson in 1894. She frequently wrote Faris. The other is announcing the wedding of Mary Elizabeth Faris to Paul Coker Watson in 1971. These are arranged chronologically.	1894-1971

### III

#### DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
2	9	<b>INFORMATION ABOUT TIME PERIOD</b> This series contains artifacts found in the collection that were not letters, but were important to the time period. There is a pamphlet about the cotton gin and newspaper clippings about its success. There are newspaper clippings about soil testing and agricultural concerns. There is a booklet from Erskine College and a year book from the Upper South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church from 1930. These are arranged chronologically with no dates in the back of the folder.	1878-1930
2	10	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b> This folder contains miscellaneous information. There are political cartons, a old pocket notebook, telegraph messages from Western Union, and scraps of paper with quotes or names doodled on them. There is also a voter's ballot in this folder. this folder also contains uniform receipts, laundry tags, and a poem. The poem is hand written and signed "Rev" but it is about a man who has a lot of female admirers. He specifically talks about girls in Chester and about receiving locks of their hair. The context and hand writing seems to prove that Fairs is writing under the name of "Rev" in the poem. The poem is located in the back of the folder.	nd
2	11	<b>PERSONAL RECORDS</b> This series contains records of John T. and John F. Faris. There are receipts from Glenn-ABell Motor Company in 1929, an acceptance letter from Clemson to J.T Faris Concerning his son in 1926, a document from Central Union Bank to J.T Faris in 1931, and a grade report from Winthrop College in 1968 concerning Mary Elizabeth Faris. These records are arranged in chronological order with no dates in the back of the folder.	1926-1968
2	12	<b>LIFE INSURANCE</b> This series contains life insurance information from Aetna Life Insurance Company. Letters are written to: J.T Faris, James T. Faris, and J.F Faris. The documents are arranged in chronological order with documents containing no dates are located in the back.	1924-1937



### III

#### DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
2	13	<b>WORK RELATED RECORDS</b> This folder contains records involving the hiring or information of occupations for J. T Faris. There is documentation concerning W.C Hurt Tobacco Company with their request and confirmation of Faris' employment.	1889-1989
2	14	<b>POST CARDS</b> This series contains post cards found in the collection. They are hard to make out and some of them are blank cards. They have pictures on their backs and contain information about family and visiting. They are arranged in chronological order with no dates or empty postcards being in the back.	1888, 1903, 1931-1932
2	15	<b>ENVELOPES</b> This series contains envelopes that could not be matched to letters or that were separated from letters on their arrival to the archives. They can be used to see locations of letters sent and from who. They may add help to the researcher. They are arranged in chronological order with no dates or illegible envelopes located in the back.	1883-1926

## APPENDIX #1

### LIST OF CORRESPONDENDENTS

J.T Faris  
J.F Faris  
James Thomas Faris  
John Franklin Faris

**Family Members:**

Mary Elizabeth Faris  
Elizabeth Faris  
S.A Mathias  
W.L Smith/Faris  
Bessie Giles  
E.M Faris

**Female Friends:**

Cara Rogers  
Maude  
Laura Etheridge  
M.E Doig  
Rose Patterson  
Sallie C.  
Hattie Herrktis (Hansters)

**Male Friends:**

Furman Brodie  
R.F McMillian  
May (based on content this is a male).

**Doctor:** C.C Gaives

**Life Insurance:** Aetna Life Insurance

**Work:** W.C Hurt Tobacco Company, railroad service, and teaching.

**Schools:** Winthrop College and Clemson College