Dr. Arnold Shankman Papers Available to Researchers

The papers of Dr. Arnold M. Shankman are now available for public use and research. Dr. Shankman (1945-1983) was a highly regarded historian whose scholarship included the Civil War, the Old South, ethnic and immigrant history, southern Jewish history, civil rights, and women’s history. A detailed finding aid to Dr. Shankman’s professional and personal papers, which contain, most notably, his notes and research, draft manuscripts, class notes, and correspondence is available online at http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/about/Archives/allmanuscripts.htm. There are also biographical sketches and digitized images available on the site as well. The organization of the collection was made possible through a generous grant from the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB).

Quote of the Quarter

From a talk given on WIS Radio on October 23, 1931:

“...no democracy can live without an educated people and no state can survive that neglects the education of its citizens.” James Pinckney Kinard, Winthrop professor, dean, and 2nd Winthrop president

The Rural Carolinian

The Rural Carolinian is an “illustrated rural magazine devoted to the interests of agriculture, horticulture and the industrial arts . . . to promote the prosperity of the country, and the intellectual improvement, virtue and happiness of our people.” The first issue states that “we have adopted a comprehensive plan, embracing a great many different modes of treatment, keeping in view in all things the interests and needs of the Rural Population of the South.” The magazine was published in Charleston, S.C. by Walker, Evans & Cogswell and D. Wyatt Aiken beginning in October 1869. The magazine has all sorts of interesting articles concerning agriculture, horticulture, the mechanical arts, and domestic economy. It is a fascinating publication to read, even 139 years later, since there is something for just about everyone. The Archives has bound copies of the publication dating from the first issue to 1874. Following are a couple of interesting tidbits from the June 1870 issue:

Artificial Ice

The most interesting of all the industrial developments of the country, to my view, is the conversion of water by artificial means into ice. In New Orleans, just on the bank of the Mississippi, where the raw material costs nothing, are situated the works where not only all the ice used in the city is made, but from which ice is now being shipped to all parts of the South, and one cargo has actually been sent to Philadelphia.

Aqua Ammonia is placed in receivers, and subjected to heat amounting to 110 lbs. to the square inch; the ammonical gas or steam thus created, passes from the receivers through tubes subjected to a flow of cold water, and in them condensed to a liquid; in this condition it escapes through small tubes into larger ones immersed in salt water, and thereby evaporation creates such a degree of cold in the salt water as to freeze, in a few hours, distilled water encased in galvanized iron cases standing in the salt water among the evaporating tubes. These cases are taken from the salt water, plunged into hot water, and inverted, when a block of ice weighing from twenty-two to twenty-five pounds slips out. The company has six of these machines constantly at work, from one end of the month to the other, never ceasing to manufacture, though the laborers that attend them are worked by reliefs. As much ice is made on Sunday as any other day in the week. Each machine is attended by six hands during the twenty-four hours, and each will make twelve tons of ice during that time. The innumerable blocks of ice are packed away in large ice
houses, and sawdust or rice chaff placed between the ends of the blocks and on top of every tenth block, so as to be able readily to get out a block weighing about 200 lbs.

A machine, warranted to make 1250 lbs. of ice every twenty-four hours, with a boiler of two-horse power for its pumps, and a similar boiler for the ice machine, a distilling apparatus, and the ammonia required, costs something over $8000. In New Orleans, where this ice is worth $15 per ton, New York commands $20 to $25 per ton. Great prejudices at one time existed against this ice as being too soft, easily melted, peculiarly tasted, etc., but all these have died away, and the artificial ice is being almost universally used. Nowhere can science be seen more beautifully utilized than in an ice manufacturing establishment.  

D. W. A. New Orleans

A Comfortable Small Cottage

This month we suggest a plan for a very simple residence, sufficient to answer the wants of a young couple, starting in life, but not sufficient to absorb all the capital they may have to start in life.

A very neat and comfortable home, embracing accompanying plan, may be fitted up for the sum of $850. The rooms are of a good size, 17’ 6” x 18’ 6”, with a large dressing or children’s room, 8’ x 13’ 6”, attached to the chamber. Should there be no occasion for the garret space, the stairway may be dispensed with, and the space now given to the stairway and dressing room be equally divided into two rooms, measuring each 8’ x 10’. By a sufficient elevation of the roof two very serviceable apartments may be made in the garret. Of course the cost of this building may be very much increased by elaborate external or internal finish. The estimate above given includes painting and plastering, and supposes all the workmanship to be in a neat but simple style.

A very pretty addition without much additional cost may be made in a large bay window in the front.

Alex. Y. Lee, Architect and Civil Engineer

Winthrop Postcards

We have quite a collection of Winthrop postcards that date from the 1890s to the 1980s. Please feel free to come by and take a look at the various views of the campus. We hope to have a digitized collection of them up soon. Below are just a few of them:

For information on the Archives’ collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

Gina Price White, Director
Archives & Special Collections
Rock Hill, S.C 29733
(803) 323-2334
E-Mail:archives@winthrop.edu
Website:www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/Archives/archivesdept.htm

Andrew Johnston
Assistant Archivist
Rock Hill, S.C. 29733
(803) 323-2302

Click here for previous issues of Retrospect