New Hours for Archives

This Fall, the Pettus Archives has instituted extended hours to better serve our researchers. The new hours are Monday 8:00-7:30; Tuesday-Thursday 8:00-5:00; Friday 8:00-1:00; research is by appointment only on Friday afternoons from 1:00-5:00. We are also open one Saturday per month. This Fall the Saturdays are September 14, 9:00-1:00; October 5, 9:00-1:00; and November 9, 8:30-3:30. November 9 is Alumni Reunion/Homecoming and we will have a wonderful exhibit of Winthrop Uniforms in the Archives.

For further information on the Archives holdings, exhibits or hours please call (803) 323-2334 or e-mail at archives@winthrop.edu.

Quote of the Quarter

“Twenty-five years of Winthrop College! . . . Think of the thousands who have flowed in, have dwelt here a while to drink of these waters, to listen to this music, to be shaped by these master hands! Think of the same thousands going out, with deep and earnest purpose, with high resolve and perfect faith, to carry Winthrop College into every corner of this great State”

from Dr. Lawton B. Evans address at the laying of the cornerstone of Winthrop Training School on May 2, 1912. Dr. Evans [1862-1934] served as the Superintendent of Public Schools of Richmond County, Georgia [Augusta] from 1883 to 1934. He authored a number of books including Elements of English Grammar, A History of Georgia for Use in Schools, and Heroes of Israel.

Photograph of the Quarter

It would seem that David Bancroft Johnson, founder and first president of Winthrop, rarely had his photograph taken with his wife Mai Rutledge Smith Johnson. This is an exceedingly rare photograph of the two of them. The Archives has only one other of them together. This photograph was taken in the early years of their marriage, ca. 1902 to 1905. Unfortunately, the photograph is not labeled with the date or the location.
D. B. Johnson was 46 years old and Mai Smith was 24 years old when they married. They had three children.
Dr. Johnson died in 1928 at the age of 72. Mrs. Johnson died 50 years later in 1978 on her 100th birthday.
For more photographs of Winthrop’s past, check out our postings on the Dacus Library blog at **History Through the Lens.**

**Army Air Corps Cadet Visit**

In 1943 the U. S. Army established the 41st College Training Detachment at Winthrop College to train young men for assignments in the Army Air Corps. young men took classes at Winthrop, lived in “Fort Bancroft” [Bancroft Hall] and completed training at Roddey Field located just south of the city of Rock Hill off of SC Highway 72. On October 17, one of the young men returned to Winthrop. Richard Dinning paid a visit to campus to relive the memories of his experiences as a young private from Michigan stationed at a women’s college in the South for nine weeks in the Spring of 1943. He began his stint in the Army as a private and left it a captain. Capt. Dinning flew a B-17 bomber on 33 missions over Germany from 1944 to 1945. It all began with his training at Winthrop. During his brief visit this month Capt. Dinning took a tour of Winthrop remembering and recounting stories from his stay during WWII. He also gave the Pettus Archives a fascinating and delightful oral history interview in which he chronicled his time at Winthrop and his time in the Army Air Corps. Capt. Dinning turns 90 years old this month. We certainly thank Capt. Dinning for taking time to fly down to Rock Hill from his home in Massachusetts to visit us here at Winthrop and relate his story. For more information on Capt. Dinning’s interview and when it will be available or information on the Pettus Archives’ Oral History Program and how you can volunteer to help, contact our A-V Archivist Robert Ryals at ryalstr@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2334 or (803) 323-2257.

On November 13 we will honor veterans for their service with our annual Veterans Day Reception at the Pettus Archives from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The festivities will include an exhibit and refreshments. All are invited to attend.

**Manuscript Collection Spotlight**
MATT CHRISTOPHER PAPERS, 1847-2007 (Accession 1092)

Matt Christopher (1917-1997) was a prolific author of children’s books having written over 100 books as well as over 300 short stories and articles. Matt was gifted athletically and excelled in every sport as a young man and this love of sports steered him toward sports as the major theme in most of his writings. He even played professional baseball with the Smith Falls Beavers of Ontario, Canada, an affiliate of the Class C Can-Am League in 1937. Matt was the author of several mystery novels, action and adventures, as well as the “Chuck White” comic strip adventure series in Treasure Chest magazine. He also wrote screenplays geared toward a grownup audience and even dabbled in poetry.


For more manuscript collection highlights, visit our postings on the Dacus Library blog at Archives Spotlight. You can also find out more about the Manuscript Collection or the Digitized Manuscript Collection by going to these pages on our website.
Thanksgiving Day Y.W.C.A. Field Day Exercises

The Winthrop College Journal was Winthrop’s literary journal from 1902 to the 1964 when the publication became known as The Anthology. In 1902 the Journal was published eight times a year and contained poems, stories, essays, editorials, alumnae news, Y.W.C.A. news, and Winthrop events. In 1902, because students did not receive but one day off for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas, Winthrop organized events to entertain the students and keep them from becoming homesick. Following is an interesting description of the Thanksgiving Day Y.W.C.A. Field Day events from the December 1902 [Vol II, no.3] of the Journal:

“On Thanksgiving morning our annual Field Day Exercises were held from 12 to 2 o’clock. The weather was severely, cold—even a few flakes of snow falling—but this did not interfere with our plans. All the exercises went off admirably, no bones broken and no harm done. The contestants deserve much credit as they had had so little time for practicing beforehand. The results were as follows:

Potato Race—Winners: Marion Stringfellow, Pauline Whisnant.
Sack Race—Winners: Hallie Crouch, Mabel Kirkpatrick.
Three Legged Race—Winners: Isabelle Dacus and Mary Lyles, Kittie Kirkpatrick and F. Boyd.
Relay Race won by third line, with Mamie Gunter as leader.
Obstacle Race by three gentlemen of the faculty—Prof. Buist, Dr. Moncrieff, and Dr. Kinard.

Merriment prevailed on the campus and the special feature of the occasion was the Archery contest in which many took part, and zealously hit everything but the bull’s eye.”

At left is a Mill League baseball player leaping to catch a fly ball at Rock Hill’s Highland Park field ca. 1920s. This photograph is from the Mary Eva Hite Papers which are part of the Pettus Archives Manuscript Collection. For more information concerning the Hite papers please go to the finding aid on the Pettus Archives web site.

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

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Telephone: (803) 323-2334
E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu Website: www.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives/
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