HOME ECONOMICS
HERITAGE

Prepared by a Committee of the
Home Economics faculty: Mary E. Creswell,
Matilda Callaway, Irma Hicks and Catherine L. Newton
June 1953    Sketches by Jean Flanigen
HOME ECONOMICS HERITAGE

"To get wisdom is better than gold; to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." Proverbs 16:16

We who are primarily interested in the School of Home Economics, students, alumnae, faculty and other staff members, have many things for which to be grateful: the beautiful building, Dawson Hall, made possible by funds from the Dawson estate; the four beautiful home management houses where home life is experienced by each student for a three months period; the Nursery School and Infant Laboratory, where small children and their parents also are students; the college dining hall where students majoring in dietetics and institution management learn to cook for large groups of people; the dormitories and sorority houses where lifetime friendships are started. We are grateful also for the many advantages this great University affords in other schools and colleges to Home Economics students.

So great and so widespread is this precious Home Economics heritage that it may take a student many years to reach a full appreciation of its value. That our students may not slip through the years of residence without realizing some of the gifts designed to give them lasting pleasure and inspiration, this leaflet has been prepared to tell them of seven of the treasures that are significant and memorable:

1. Martha Atalanta Lumpkin’s Spinning Wheel
2. The Woman’s Building
3. The Morton Ellis Judd Nutrition Laboratory
4. The Dawson Bequests
5. The Beginning of a Home Economics Museum Collection
6. The Mary E. Creswell Portrait
7. The President’s Chair
MARTHA ATALANTA LUMPKIN'S SPINNING WHEEL

The University of Georgia was one hundred and thirty-three years old before it gave to women the privilege of study toward a degree. Graduate study was granted in 1916 in the six weeks Summer School only. On February 23, 1918 the first degree course for women (B.S.H.E. in the College of Agriculture) was approved, opening the University to women. Immediately plans were made to house the new Division of Home Economics to be opened in September 1918. No building was available, but the Dairy Division gave space for food laboratories and a cafeteria on the ground floor of Connor Hall. Space for a clothing laboratory and a room for rest and study were found on the second floor of Lumpkin Hall. This building was the one time home of Wilson Lumpkin who was Governor of Georgia 1831-1835, and all around this substantial granite house was the Lumpkin plantation, now the college campus.

One of the locked upper rooms of this old house contained some of the original furniture belonging to the late Martha Atalanta Lumpkin Compton, Governor Lumpkin's daughter, for whom the city of Atlanta was named Marthasville. (When the city became too large for this village-like name, it was changed to Atlanta—a modification of the mythical Atalanta.)

On a warm spring day in 1918, Chancellor Barrow walked from his office in Academic Building and slowly climbing up Cedar Street came to claim his Aunt Mattie's furniture from the upper room which was to become a Home Economics laboratory. Presently the Chancellor came to Miss Creswell's office in Connor Hall. "We are moving some of Aunt Mattie's furniture to make way for Home Economics", he said. "Would you like to have Aunt Mattie's spinning wheel?" So it was that in the spring of 1918 the spinning wheel of Martha Atalanta Lumpkin presented by the beloved Chancellor Barrow became the first gift to the new Division of Home Economics. From the little laboratory housed in Martha's childhood home, this spinning wheel has been brought to Dawson Hall, the building entirely devoted to Home Economics, where it is a treasured museum piece.
EARLY EVENTS AROUND THE
WOMAN'S BUILDING

For two years while laboratories and lectures in Home Economics were being conducted in Connor and Lumpkin Halls, women students were housed in “The Student Cottage” a rented home on Lumpkin Street at the Cedar Street entrance to the campus. Here the first twelve began their co-ed careers. It was war time and the chief problem of comfort was that of heating by means of some eight or ten fireplaces. No janitor service was available and kindling was hard to secure. Shortly the girls called for an axe. Soon the “Co-ed Axe” was wielded by boys who regularly stacked the rear hall with seasoned kindling to meet any degree of winter cold.

Small wonder then that during the second year many ceremonies accompanied the war-time erection of the Woman's Building. In the midst of a lush alfalfa field Chancellor Barrow, President Soule, friendly professors who had only recently (if at all) given up their reluctance to teaching women, the new women of the faculty and the “First Twelve” co-eds met to break ground. By request the first twelve were dressed in white—Yes, and a fringe of R.O.T.C. boys
stood curiously around while the Chancellor turned the first spade full of earth.

The boys grew bolder upon seeing how little earth had been broken by the dignitaries. A leader boldly said, "Come on into no man's land!" Jumping over the barricades the boys dug a really big hole signifying (so the co-eds felt) their approval of the building and its site.

To the First Twelve war time delays were most disappointing, for they hoped to move into the new building before graduation. Assembled one day in their English Literature course under Professor Park, who had graciously volunteered to cross the campus to teach their segregated class, these students gazed from Connor Hall upon the slowly rising walls of the Woman's Building. "Young ladies," said the professor, "I cannot help regretting that this building will not be more centrally located on the old campus." "But, Professor", the girls asked, "do you know where Leavitt placed the Women's Unit?" "No", was the reply, "but Leavitt was a fine landscape architect and his plans should be followed." There must have been almost a chorus in the reply—"Leavitt placed the Woman's Unit in the old graveyard!" So he had. It was indeed a one time hope that the University could acquire this old and neglected cemetery, but Georgia laws are strict and the protest of some Athens citizens had quickly shown that this could not be done.
On June 13, 1919 the cornerstone laying took place with appropriate ceremonies. Go read its inscription: *Commemorating the Admission of Women to the University of Georgia 1918*. In a stout metal box are appropriate records: the poem written in Red and Black by Edith Robertson featuring the first attendance of women at a University faculty meeting; a co-ed chemistry examination paper graded 100% by a professor, his first in eleven years; a copy of the Red and Black with an editorial "Give Us Back Our University!"; and the college catalogue of the year. To these President Hardeman of the Board of Trustees added a crisp new one dollar bill. College Editor Henry Maddox prepared a leaflet on Co-education to be distributed and wrote for "Glory to Old Georgia" a special version which was sung by the assembly. It has on occasion been used since by Homecon Club and goes as follows:

**GLORY, GLORY TO OLD GEORGIA**

Higher education was not meant for men alone,
Higher education was not meant for men alone,
Higher education was not meant for men alone,

The world is marching on.

**CHORUS:**

Glory, glory to "Old Georgia,"
Glory, glory to "Old Georgia,"
Glory, glory to "Old Georgia,"

G-E-O-R-G-I-A.

Educate our women and they'll educate our sons,
Educate our women and they'll educate our sons,
Educate our women and they'll educate our sons,

As we go marching on.

Bury the co-ed hatchet underneath this corner stone,
Bury the co-ed hatchet underneath this corner stone,
Bury the co-ed hatchet underneath this corner stone,

As Georgia marches on.

*Henry Maddox*
When the Woman’s Building (now Soule Hall) was planned in 1919, the north wing ground floor was given over to Home Economics laboratories. Larger space provided for foods, gave room for the laboratory to be moved from Connor Hall and added the important nutrition laboratory. No State appropriation was available for furnishing the new building. The teaching of nutrition in its scientific and applied aspects demanded an expensive laboratory and a gift was sought.

A generous and understanding friend was found in Mrs. M. E. Judd of Dalton, Georgia, who was strongly supporting many civic and cultural movements in Whitfield County. She was active in the Woman’s Club, aided in promoting the county fair and home demonstration work and was the only woman representative on the State Farm Bureau Board.

The Judds from Oneonta, New York, had visited the South in search of a mild climate and one time on a bicycle trip through North Georgia had found in Dalton the ideal place to settle and build “Oneonta”. Here in a setting including a mountain spring they developed a lake, charming gardens and a home of great beauty. Mrs. Judd’s husband had been a semi-invalid. After his death her understanding of the hazards of fatigue and the need of busy people for rest doubtless inspired her to use her hospitality frequently to give brief retreat to teachers and others in public life. It was on such a visit that a member of the home economics group received assurance of aid. Mrs. Judd, a regular visitor to the annual Farm and Home Week of the College of Agriculture, was keenly interested in the new Woman’s Building and in 1919 in memory of her late husband gave $3,000.00 to equip the Morton Ellis Judd Nutrition Laboratory which was moved in 1932 to Dawson Hall.
THE DAWSON BEQUESTS

When the Division of Home Economics was twelve years old, in 1930, there were 304 students enrolled and laboratories had been expanded. In addition to laboratories in the Woman's Building (now Soule Hall) there were a nine-room Home Management House, a cottage Nursery School, and a small art building especially equipped for pottery. Borrowed space provided a Cafeteria in Connor Hall, a nutrition research laboratory in Hardman Hall, one for art in the Physical Education Building, and one for electrical home equipment in Barrow Hall.

Further need was shown in the 1931 annual report: "Every department is crying for an increase in laboratory rooms and for new and more efficient equipment to replace that worn by constant use since 1918."

Fortunately President Soule found a way to solve this problem by making available part of a gift of the Dawson Trust of 1925. In that year the death of Dr. William Terrell Dawson brought his bequest of an estate of about $150,000 to the College of Agriculture to be available in 1927. Dr. Dawson was a native of Georgia, the son of Edgar Gilmer Dawson, a graduate of the University of Georgia in 1849, in whose honor the fund was named. Dr. Dawson was the grandson and namesake of Dr. William Terrell whose gift to the Chemistry Department many years earlier had been memorialized in the naming of Terrell Hall. Dr. Dawson's interest in farming and agricultural education in his native state continued even though he had become a citizen of Daytona Beach, Florida. It was in recognition of the leadership of the Georgia State College of Agriculture and in honor of his father that this bequest was made.

Dawson Hall was first occupied in the spring of 1932. All the borrowed space in the four campus buildings was released and Home Economics, due to the generosity of Dr. Dawson and the foresight of President Soule, received a hall still adequate for its expanding needs.

As a part of this bequest there came also the collection of Dawson silver and china from the Florida home of this generous friend. It occupies a cabinet in the Foods Department and is of constant interest to Home Economics students and visitors.
THE BEGINNING OF A HOME ECONOMICS MUSEUM COLLECTION

As a part of the celebration of the silver anniversary of the admission of women to the University, plans were evolved for securing historic records and objects relating to home life in Georgia for exhibition during the celebration. The Library Committee was formed for the purpose of doing this job.

Members of this committee wrote to former Home Economics Alumnae of the University asking for a loan of historic objects that would be suitable for the exhibition. The results were so successful that they inspired the idea of a permanent collection. The Library Committee became the Museum Committee and plans for a museum collection were made.

Home Economics Alumnae were given opportunity for making the first contributions to the museum. Historic costumes, textiles, crafts, handiwork, documents, books and other articles used in early American homes were donated to the collection. The response was enthusiastic and rewarding, and already a number of articles have been donated by alumnae as well as by interested friends.

The purpose now is to make an outstanding and noteworthy collection that will be of great historic value to everyone concerned with the history of Georgia homes. There is also a great desire to have these articles permanently housed in suitable surroundings. Would there be any more suitable place for a Home Economics museum collection than Lumpkin Hall from whence came the Martha Atalanta Lumpkin spinning wheel?
The portrait of Mary E. Creswell hanging in the lobby of Dawson Hall was made possible by the gifts of alumnae of the School of Home Economics. It was formally presented to the University on June 5, 1944, as a part of the celebration of the Silver Anniversary of the admission of women to the University.

In 1919 Miss Creswell received the first baccalaureate degree granted by the University to a woman. Already distinguished in the field of Home Economics, she served as Director of the Department of Home Economics when it was first established here in the College of Agriculture in 1918 and later as Dean of the School of Home Economics until 1945. From 1945 to 1949 she continued to teach in the school.

Her high ideals of scholarship, her kind personal interest in teachers and students, and her vision of service to home, to state, and to nation through Home Economics trained women have had an immeasurable influence. The artist, Wilford O. Conrow, has suggested this valiant strength of character.

Fortunate are the women who worked with Miss Creswell and felt the inspiration of her life. Fortunate, too, are those who coming after her retirement can through this portrait, the gift of women who love and honor both her and the University, realize something of her force and the significance of her life.
THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR

In the lobby of Dawson Hall there is a chair made famous by its use. It was from this chair, on a rostrum erected in the center of Sanford Stadium, that President Franklin D. Roosevelt stood to accept the degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon him by the University of Georgia. The graduation exercises had been moved up three weeks, and on August 11, 1938 Mr. Roosevelt received the degree and acknowledged in his memorable voice to a large assembly his living interest in the welfare of Georgia.

The chair was marked and set aside by Mrs. Jennie Belle Myers, for many years house mother in Soule Hall, as a tangible reminder of the great occasion.

Rest not in this chair without a thought of him who fills the chair of the Presidency of our United States of America, and a prayer unto Him who is able to keep him from falling that he may be kept so true to our country and to our God that he may be remembered with thanksgiving.
These stories of our heritage stir us with renewed hope of service to mankind born of an appreciation of our inheritance, a new faith in life, and a reverence for it. Knowledge of the past helps to keep clear the perspective for the future.

A look ahead—points to a marked increase in enrollment by 1960. Dawson Hall, so adequate in the forties, is used to capacity in the fifties, and will need to be expanded by the sixties. Keeping up with the plans for a greater University, The School of Home Economics also has plans drawn for additional laboratories, class rooms and modern facilities for expanding our services.

More and more graduates of the University are taking positions of leadership not only in Georgia but also in other states and even in other nations. Georgia's heritage is enriching the world. Shall we not do what we can to maintain and strengthen that heritage?