

# Douglas' collection featured at State Museum gala celebration

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Laura Glenn Douglas was born in Winnsboro, but lived much of her life in Washington, D.C., New York, and abroad. Her lifelong ambition was to be an artist and to paint South Carolina and "the South" with vigor and creativeness, "not sentimentalism". It was also her hope that her works would eventually go to a museum. Both of her wishes came true, and her collection, except for a few pieces of art, were donated to the South Carolina Museum. To become a traveling exhibit, her paintings, sketches and other works will be in Winnsboro next spring.

Coming up October 29 is a red-letter day in the life of people in Fairfield County and all of the state, for on that date the first-ever State Museum opens its doors for a gala celebration.

The ceremony begins at 11 a.m., and that day, admission is free to the public. The ribbon will be cut by Governor Carroll Campbell, along with Guy Lipscomb, who has played a leading role in the

establishment of the museum, some South Carolina children, and others. The museum is located at 301 Gervais St., on the banks of the Congaree River and the Old Columbia Canal, not too far from the state capitol.

A gift to the state by Mt. Vernon Mills, the large brick building, which once hummed with the making of textiles, has been completely renovated, and

some parts of the interior walls, restored. Mt. Vernon Mills had been the successor to the 19th-century Cotton Duck Mill—the first in the world to have been powered by electricity.

Already being spoken of as a "miniature Smithsonian," the museum with its 368,000 square feet and nearly 40,000 artifacts, contains exhibits varied and rare. It is expected that the museum

1200-pound-weight and long snout gave him a strong resemblance to a "giant-sized armadillo," except that its shell or carapace was in one piece. From the Ice Age, the glyptodont existed on earth, it is estimated, one-and-one-half million years, leaving only his skeleton in fossil records.

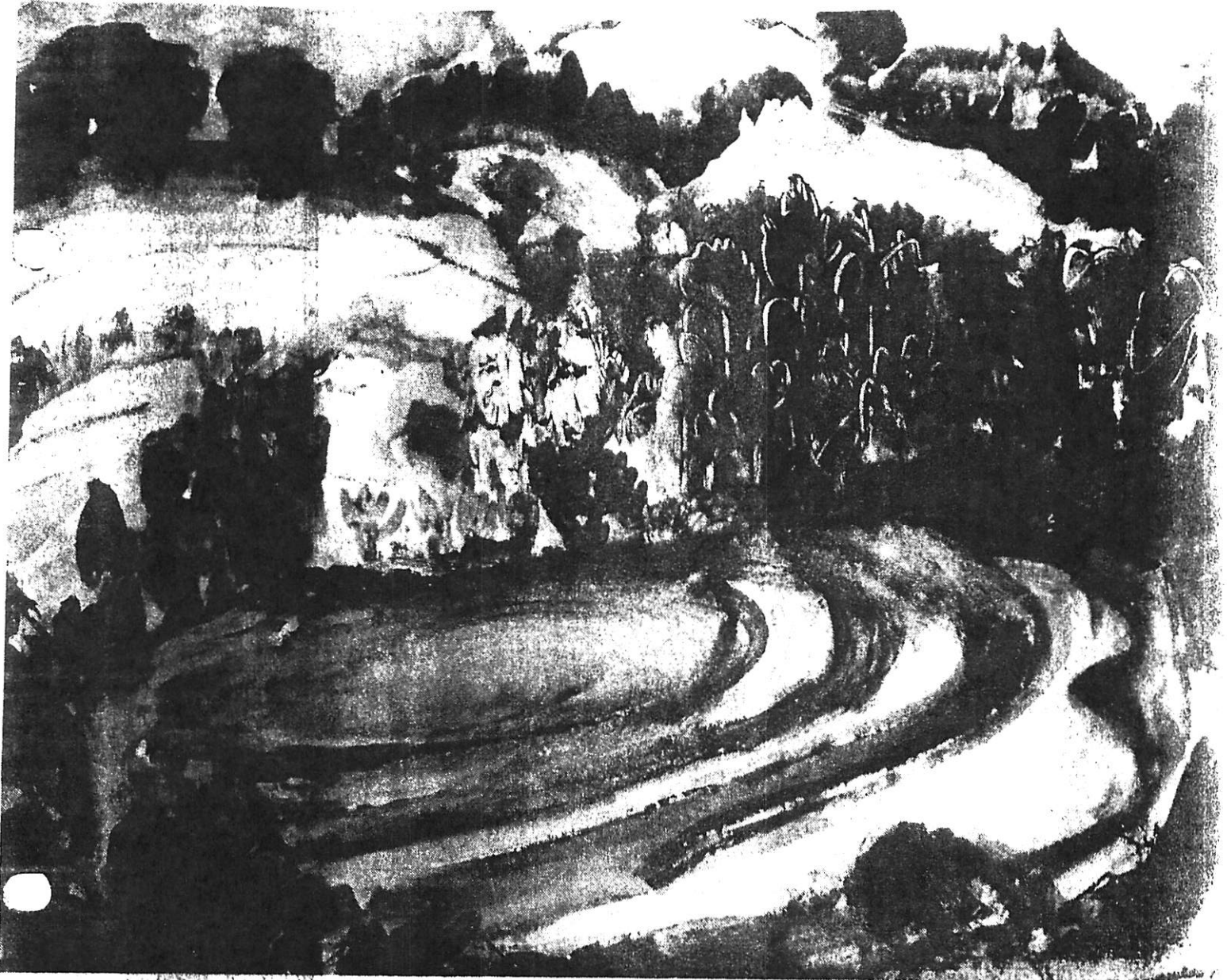
Outstanding, too, are other fascinating exhibits as the museum. Housed in a simulated observatory is a mahogany and brass telescope (ca. 1850), donated by Erskine College. On the fourth floor are the log facade of a slave cabin and a three-dimensional diorama of the work-a-day life of black Americans. Some slave-made objects are placed along the adjacent wall, illustrating the varied skills of the slave craftsmen and women, some of which

World, and much that they brought with them to this country. The Old Country Store and the 19th-early-20th Century school house will bring back memories to some visitors and surprise to those of later generations. Both of these houses are walk-ins, and the school house will be used by invited students for educational purposes, to help children learn about the educational conditions in rural South Carolina around the turn of the century, what was taught and how. In the Country Store, one may take a seat on a wooden bench, while perusing the types of merchandise of long ago, and look up to see a likeness of General and President George Washington on a wall.

of certain exhibits add touches of beauty. Upon close inspection, one may see a whimsical sprite, a jaunty leprechaun.

For children, especially, and maybe grown-ups, too, is Nature Space, a place in which specimens of the museum's vast collection of rocks and minerals may be tried out "hands on." Larger ones, also, may be examined in the Discovery Room, off the Main Lobby.

Stairs and elevators make all floors easily accessible; and in the Educational Corridor on the ground floor, there is an elevator for the handicapped or other people unable to climb stairs, such as the stairway to the museum itself.



Titled "Red Clay of Winnsboro Hills", this painting using the technique of a mixture of water colors and gum, is on loan from South Carolina National Bank, Columbia, for the State Museum's exhibits. It was painted about 1938. Unfortunately, the artist's

painting of Winnsboro's Town Clock has disappeared and have been lost among those sent to Washington, D.C. during lifetime.