

Douglas' collection featured at State Museum gala celebration

By Kathleen Lewis Sloan
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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 life-long 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

*file for people
Laura Glenn Douglas
Golden*