



JAMES PENDERGRAST
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

April 18, 2008

Yvette Howard
Fairfield County Museum
P. O. Box 6
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Dear Ms. Howard:

Enclosed is information in regards to your request for biographical information on Dr. Joseph Winthrop Holley, founder and first President of Albany State University formerly Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute.

If you need further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

LaVerne L. McLaughlin
LaVerne L. McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Director of Library

LLM/kd



**FIRST PRESIDENT
J.W. HOLLEY (1903-1943)**

A HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Education must be made relevant and for more than 83 years, Albany State has been about the business of providing quality education. The 122 acre campus spans the East banks of the Flint River near beautiful downtown Albany.

One important and notable distinction of the institution is the fact that it has had only six leaders. Albany State College had its' beginning in 1903 when the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute was founded. The first president of this institution, Joseph Winthrop Holley, came to Albany seeking aid and encouragement to organize a school that would afford better advantages to disadvantaged persons.

In 1917, the State of Georgia, through an act of the general Assembly, assumed responsibility for the institution's operation and changed its name to the Georgia Normal and Agricultural College with emphasis on teacher education, agriculture and home economics.

HOLLEY, JOSEPH WINTHROP -- College President -- Clergyman

b. April 3, 1874 - d. July 15, 1958, Winnsboro, S. C.; s. George and Duskey Holley; m. Daisie Lipsey. 1900; second marriage, Esther Tate, 1926; educ. Revere Lay Coll., Revere, Mass., 1896; Philips Andover Academy, Andover, Mass., 1898; Lincoln College course, 1900; Seminary, 1902; A.B., 1900 A.M. and S.T.B., 1902; D.D., 1906; LL.D, 1916; Pastor, Washington Ave. Church, Macon, Ga., 1904-13; established Albany Bible and Manual Training Inst., Albany, Ga., 1904; Stated Clerk of Presbytery of Knox, 1904-1958; elected Moderator of the Synod of Atlantic, 1914; re-elected 1924-1958; Pres., Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, Albany, Ga.; mem. Masons; K. of P., Alpha Phi Alpha; Pi Gamma Mu; Pol. Republican; Relig. Presbyterian; Address, Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, Albany, Ga.

Dr. Holley graduated from the Revere Lay College, Revere, Mass., and went to Lincoln University and graduated from college in 1900 and the seminary in 1902.

From Lincoln he went to Georgia and became pastor of Washington Avenue Church, Macon, Ga., and established the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute at Albany, Ga., just one hundred miles South of Macon.

At Albany, the Training school has grown from a few students to nearly one thousand; and the buildings have grown from one shack to more than \$3,000,000 worth of modern school property.

In the General Assembly, at Buffalo, N. Y., 1904 he took active part in the great debate on Union and ReUnion -- the latter with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Holley represented the Church several times at the Meeting of the Alliance of the Reformed Church throughout the world, holding the Presbyterian Form of Faith or System.