

South Carolina's Story

The making of a state



Joynes Founded

Winthrop College

To many of his contemporaries, Edward Southey Joynes was the foremost scholar of his day and region. During his long academic career which stretched over 50 years, he produced six textbooks, helped promote public education in Tennessee and South Carolina and received two honorary doctorates in recognition of his contributions.

But all was not smooth sailing for the educator. In 1878 Vanderbilt University dismissed him because his Methodist colleagues objected to his fondness for wine and beer.

By then, however, his reputation as an educator was secured. Within a month he had another job at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville whose more tolerant trustees created a chair and a title for him: "Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Letters."

Despite his zest for life, Joynes taught for more than 20 years in Virginia colleges and universities, gaining the respect of his peers. One colleague at Vanderbilt called him "one of the most popular professors that Vanderbilt ever had."

Born in 1834 on the Virginia Eastern Shore, E.S. Joynes earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in 1852 and a master's degree from the same institution two years later.

Prior to the Civil War he worked at the University of Virginia for three years, traveled extensively through Europe and then was elected chairman of Greek and German at the College of William and Mary. During the war he worked in the Confederate State War Department in Richmond, Va.

Joynes resumed his teaching career after the war, working at the Hollins Institute (1865-82). He played a role in the 1879 legislature that established Tennessee's state university and changed the institution's name from East Tennessee University to the University of Tennessee.

Joynes' work in organizing a summer school at Wofford College in Spartanburg led to permanent employment there in 1882. Actually, Joynes was not interested in coming to South Carolina at first, but friends in the state convinced him to make the move.

The University of Tennessee was sorry to see him leave and the school's trustees adopted a resolution expressing "appreciation of his service and deploring his departure."

From 1882 until his retirement in 1908, Joynes held one of the most prestigious chairs at any Southern university, the chair of modern languages and English at Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina), where his reputation as author and teacher made him a living legend.

While at Carolina, Joynes worked hard to promote the interests of public education in the state. As a member of the first board of trustees in Columbia, he was instrumental in founding the city school system and bringing to South Carolina a young Tennessean, David Bancroft Johnson, to be superintendent.

A shortage of trained teachers forced Joynes and Johnson to plan a teacher training school. With \$1,500 donated by the Peabody Board, the Winthrop Training School (now Winthrop College) opened its doors in 1886 in a one-room building borrowed from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Columbia.

The school proved successful and the two educators pushed to have the school transferred to state care. Gov. "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman agreed and moved to adopt the training school as the state's normal and industrial college.

At Tillman's invitation, Joynes visited Germany and France in the summer of 1895 to learn the latest educational advances so that Winthrop could improve its quality of education. Wherever he stopped, Joynes picked up programs, catalogs and valuable information. He took what he learned and summarized it in a report which he presented to the president and faculty of Winthrop.

After 26 years at the University of South Carolina, Joynes retired on an annual sum of \$2,110 which he received from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. On the occasion of his retirement, a New York magazine wrote that "certainly no American professor living has so widely influenced the study of modern languages in America."

On the Winthrop campus, the building which bears his name, the Joynes Center of Continuing Education, is a monument to his memory and contributions to education. In 1910 Joynes gave the property on which the building stands to Winthrop for "the service, the recreation and pleasure of the Women Teachers, the Pupils and the Alumnae of Winthrop College."

Joynes made his retirement home in Columbia where he died in 1917 at the age of 83.