

*Dedication of the*  
**LETITIA PATE EVANS**  
*Dining Hall*

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE , *Decatur, Georgia*



LETITIA PATE EVANS

*An attractive girl, an inspiring wife and mother,  
a delightful home-maker, a patriotic leader, a loyal churchwoman,  
a generous donor to Agnes Scott and other good causes,  
in all things showing a genius for friendship  
and a humble faith in God.*

**T**HE BUILDING and its equipment have been given by Mrs. Letitia Pate Evans, Hot Springs, Virginia, and by her friends.

The whole building is bright and cheerful, with large Gothic windows and light, colorful furnishings. It is a large structure, containing 584,072 cubic feet and consisting of four separate dining rooms. The Main Hall, used by students from day to day, will seat four hundred ninety-six. The Faculty Room, adjacent to the Main Hall, will provide for sixty. The Guest Room will seat twenty-five to thirty. The Banquet Room, which is on the ground floor below the Main Hall, will accommodate two hundred and forty guests. The last-named room is ordinarily used for recreation or for vespers.

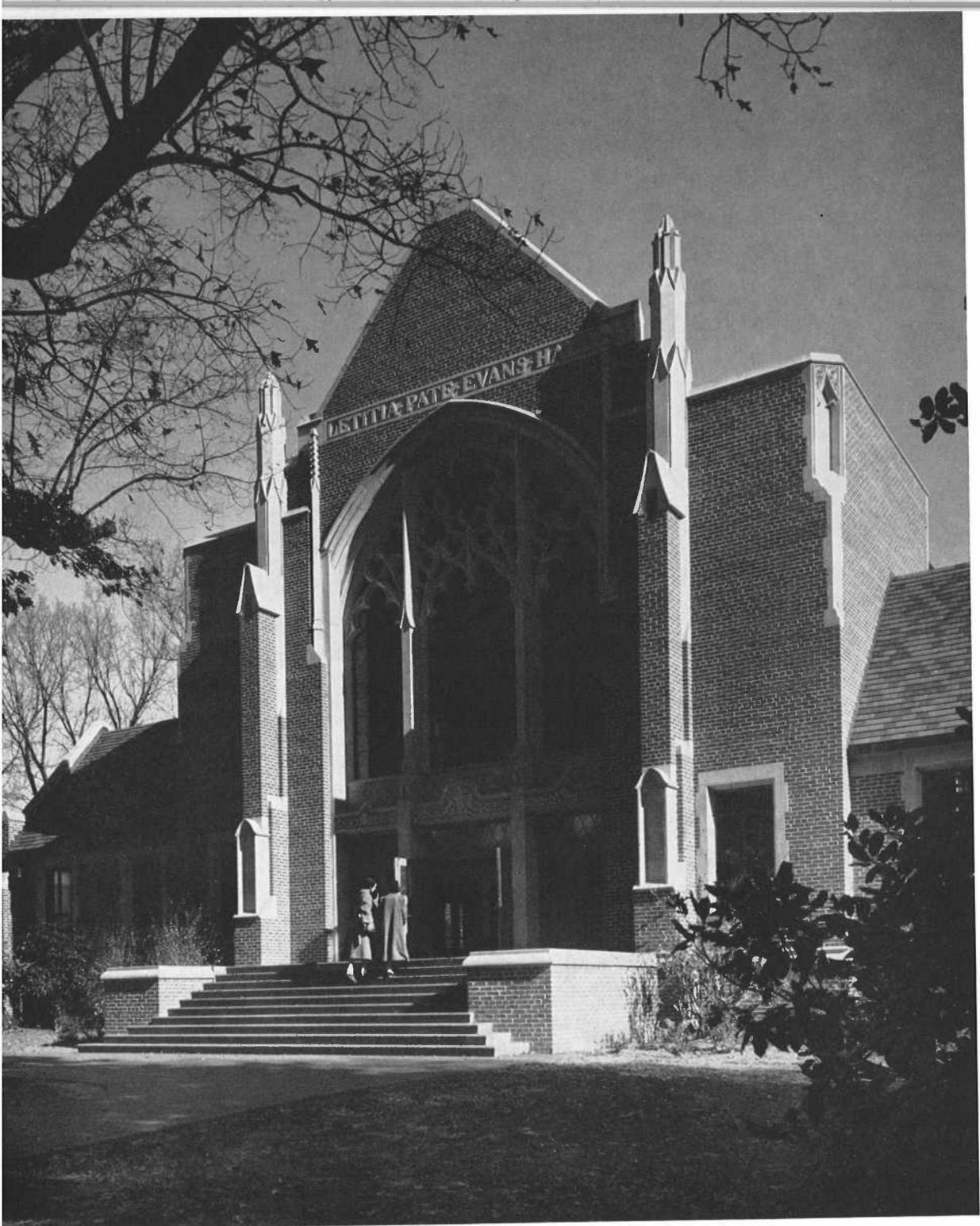
One notable feature of the construction is the fact that the lofty ceiling is supported entirely by continuous concrete arches.

Stainless steel is used for most of the kitchen and service apparatus. Six large built-in refrigerators, some with temperatures below zero, provide excellent conditions for food storage.

The cost of the building and its equipment is in excess of \$525,000. Its operations are in charge of Mrs. Ethel J. Hatfield, with the aid of two other dietitians, Mrs. Helen Hooper and Mrs. Clara Skelton, and thirty servants.

The architects for the hall were Logan and Williams; the general contractors, Barge-Thompson Company; and the superintendent of construction, Mr. A. J. North.





LETITIA PATE EVANS DINING HALL

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INVOCATION

*George Winship*

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. As we are gathered here today, we give thanks and ask for Thy continued blessing. This institution was conceived in the minds of Christian men and women and its leaders have always looked to Thee for guidance. We want to thank Thee for the faith of those who came forward and helped when help was needed. We give thanks for the Christian leadership it has had until this day. We thank Thee for the faculty members that have guided the lives of the thousands of young women who have passed through its doors. God bless these daughters of Agnes Scott, their homes and loved ones in this time of trouble for so many. At this time, we especially want to ask Thy blessing on the one who, with her friends, has made this building possible. May it be used for many years in Thy service. We ask that Thou will bless those who will guide this institution in the future and may all realize that their first duty is to honor Thee. We ask this in Christ's name.

AMEN.

*Introductory remarks by the Chairman:*

*Dr. F. Phinizy Calhoun*

Mrs. Evans, Dr. McCain, Ladies and Gentlemen . . .

I have been asked the question, how does one go about getting a building for a university or a college.

I am no authority, but my answer was that first of all, the person who makes the approach (usually the president) must be honest. He should state the facts and needs, and stick to them. The institution must be well established and should have the confidence of the public. Funds must be available, and the individual for whom the building is to be named should be worthy of the honor. It really is that simple!

About two years ago, Dr. McCain presented a problem to a small group of close friends, explaining to them the great and urgent need for a modern dining hall at Agnes Scott College. This group thought favorably of the idea, because they knew Dr. McCain to be an able executive and a conscientious man. Agnes Scott College was nationally known as one of the few great colleges for women in America, as its curriculum was high and its faculty outstanding and, besides, its resources were ably managed by a splendid board of trustees.

Then when Dr. McCain suggested that it would be appropriate to name this building for Mrs. Evans, he, in good crap-shooting parlance, threw a natural!

Mrs. Evans was consulted and she approved.

The plans that had been drawn were changed to conform to her ideas. Finances were arranged. The building (the most modern and beautiful of its kind on any campus in America) has been completed and is now in use and today we are here to dedicate

#### THE LETITIA PATE EVANS DINING HALL.

I do not know who is enjoying the occasion the most, Dr. McCain, this small group of friends or our friends of the audience.

It is not the function of the Chairman to make a speech on an

occasion of this sort, but to introduce his speakers and let them do the talking. But I cannot miss this opportunity to say a brief word of praise to our honored guest—a lovely lady.

Her life has been devoted to the loving care and interest of others. Despite her many benevolences, she has never sought publicity or asked for special favors, but in return, only love, appreciation and affection. Her queenly dignity has never been in conflict with her keen sense of humor and her chuckle at a good story is contagious. Calm and soft spoken, reserved, almost shy, she has endeared herself to her thousands of friends for her kindness and sympathetic understanding. She is generous almost to a fault, and this beautiful building appropriately named for her will for all time stand as a symbol and a living memorial to her sterling character.

I think of her as the most beautiful rose that blooms in our garden. In early morn, when the bees and humming birds flit and flirt about, asking for a drink of dew or a sip of nectar, this lovely flower raises its head to the morning sun, opens wide its petals in welcome, smiles and nods its head in consent.

What a wonderful person! What a beautiful flower!

## THE BUILDING AND ITS USES

*J. R. McCain*

WE ARE very happy to welcome this afternoon the friends of Mrs. Evans and of Agnes Scott for the purpose of sharing with us in the dedication of this wonderful building. During the past 25 years we have erected several educational units of our total program, but we are coming just now to the dedication of a dining hall which we hope will really please you and those who will be using it in the years to come.

For more than 10 years we have had general plans and specifications for such a building, but the possibility of naming it for our friend Mrs. Evans led us to make certain definite revisions in the plans.

Instead of having it just another college building to serve a special purpose, we thought it ought to be a really distinguished hall in recognition of the name it bears.

The friends of Mrs. Evans made possible many of the special refinements which you see. The lofty ceiling, the Gothic windows, the decorative inscriptions, the carving of the family coats-of-arms of Mrs. Evans over four of our doorways, the providing of smaller dining rooms for special purposes—all these were valuable additions which were made possible by special gifts. There is a big difference between a really distinguished building and just another structure.

The Gothic style of architecture which has been used ties this hall with many of the notable buildings of the ages. Most Gothic is dark. We wanted this room to have light, warmth, and cheerfulness. We have felt that the color and decorative work are particularly appropriate for a college for women.

This will of course be a place where the college community may eat, but we would like to emphasize much more friendship and good fellowship on the part of those who will be dining together.

We wish for our students through the years to come to symbolize good taste and good breeding. We hope that they will ever have a sense of Christian hospitality.

And so the building as a whole may be a symbol of steadfastness and dependability in the best of all the past, combined with the freshness and up-to-dateness of tomorrow's youth.

One of the most interesting and the most valuable features of the building is the portrait of Mrs. Evans, which you will presently see. It was with much persuasion that she was willing to have one in the building. She permitted me to have the choice of the portrait to be used, and I selected one painted by Mr. William Steene from a photograph of Mrs. Evans when she lived in Atlanta. When you see it, I think you will agree with me that at the very entrance to the hall this portrait sets a high standard of dignity and gracious hospitality, for which our friend Mrs. Evans has always stood.

We are grateful to those who have made the building possible; to the architects and builders who dreamed and wrought it; and we are ever thankful that it bears the name of Letitia Pate Evans! We hope that we can make it worthy of the name it bears.



## MRS. EVANS AND ATLANTA

*Hughes Spalding*

A NUMBER of years ago a charming and accomplished young woman—the former Miss Letitia Pate, a native of Bedford County, Virginia, moved with her family from the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, to the City of Atlanta, Georgia, to make her home in this community.

Her husband was Joseph Brown Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead had a vision. He believed that Coca-Cola could be put up in bottles and distributed everywhere in the same manner as food. Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead had two children, both boys. The elder was Joseph Brown Whitehead, Jr., the younger was Conkey Pate Whitehead.

In the course of time Mr. Whitehead's vision became a reality. He proved his thesis and laid the foundation for a great fortune. Unfortunately, Mr. Whitehead died in 1906, in the flower of his manhood, and his widow and sons set about the business of doing good in this needy world.

Perhaps their first benefaction was the Georgia Baptist Orphans Home at Hapeville—the largest institution of its kind in this section of the country. Then they established the Joseph Brown Whitehead Infirmary at Georgia Institute of Technology.

In 1935 Joseph Brown Whitehead, Jr., died. By the terms of his will he created the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation in memory of his father. His entire fortune is devoted to charity and education—with particular emphasis upon orphan children.

In 1940 Conkey Pate Whitehead died. By the terms of his will he created the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation in honor of his

mother. Conkey's fortune will be devoted to the education of young women in the Southeast who would not otherwise be able to go to school and college, and to the further purpose of caring for elderly women who have fallen upon evil days.

These noble deeds—these great works of Christian charity do not come out of the blue like a stroke of lightning. They require the inspiration of a guiding and gentle hand. They require the tender touch of charity and of goodness, implanted in their hearts by a deep sense of obligation to our neighbor and by the love of the Lord.

These virtues were instilled into these young men by their mother—she possesses all of them and all privileged to know her are better men and women.

Women are the noblest work of God, and among women Mrs. Evans is the best. She makes it her business to go about the world doing good. She believes in seeing the result of her material benefactions and in feeling the pulsation of the intangible ones.

All admire the Conkey Pate Whitehead Surgical Pavilion and the beautiful front entrance at Emory University Hospital—majestic and imposing—and a fitting memorial to Mrs. Evans' son Conkey.

Surgical science and skill and the power of saving valuable lives are advanced daily at Emory University School of Medicine through the Joseph B. Whitehead Endowment for Surgery—a fitting memorial to Mrs. Evans' son Joseph.

And now Agnes Scott College, generally recognized as one of the leading institutions of its kind in America, is today dedicating Letitia Pate Evans Hall—truly a beautiful and magnificent structure—a fitting tribute to Mrs. Evans.

Thus far I have dealt mostly with material things, but what concerns us most in these unsettled times are spiritual values. Mrs. Evans possesses these in a marked degree—as a matter of fact, no one surpasses her and I know of no one who equals her.

She is deeply religious and a devoted member of the Episcopal Church—many are her benefactions to this great Christian religion—perhaps the most notable was her restoration and preservation of Bruton Parish Church at Williamsburg, Virginia, which was established in 1633. Its Rector, Dr. F. H. Craighill, and Mrs. Craighill, are honoring Mrs. Evans today by attending this dedication.

She also restored the Customs House at Yorktown, Virginia, and is deeply interested in the College of William and Mary in Virginia, in Battle Abbey and in the Museum of Art at Richmond.

She loves her native Virginia and her adopted Georgia, and especially, I believe, the Atlanta community and all of us who reside here.

She is kind and sweet, thoughtful, self-effacing and modest. She is generous almost to a fault. She always eagerly extends her heart and her sympathies to her friends. She is not class conscious. She is devoted to the poor, the underprivileged and the unfortunate. They feel at home with her. They know that no deserving person ever appealed to her in vain.

Mrs. Evans believes and practices the belief, that when you die all you take with you is what you have given away.

I am aware of the fact that it is a great privilege to take part in this tribute to this wonderful lady. It is one I will never forget.

## AGNES SCOTT AND ITS SERVICE

*John A. Sibley*

Mrs. Evans, Dr. Calhoun, Dr. McCain, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been asked to say a few words about Agnes Scott College. I must, however, depart from my subject for a moment to pay tribute to the great Virginia lady who is honored here today. I have known her long and intimately. In fact it has been my good fortune to know well several of the remarkable women of Georgia.

Among them was Mrs. Rebecca Felton. She spent a long life in Georgia and was noted for her courage and her ability as a writer. She became famous as the first woman in the United States to hold the high office of Senator. She was my dear friend. I represented her in an important law suit and I doubt if she ever came to Atlanta in the latter years of her life that she did not honor me with a visit.

I was closely associated with Miss Martha Berry, the Founder of the great Berry Schools. The doors of presidents and kings were open to her. Her splendid work and reputation were known throughout the world. Her fame will never diminish.

Taking rank with such notable Georgia women is our honored guest, who although born in Virginia and descended from one of that State's distinguished families, was a Georgian by adoption for many years. We still claim her. Her kind heart, her unusual ability, her ample fortune have all been dedicated to the service of those things that are good and true. Quietly and modestly she has gone about doing good. No one is more loved or admired than she and I consider it a privilege and an honor to participate in this occasion.

When I examine the life of a person or an institution I always like to look at the beginning.

*Agnes Scott is a child of the Church.*

Educational opportunities were quite meager in this part of the country in the 1880's. Some of the officers of the Decatur Presbyterian Church felt the need for better educational facilities. Nothing was done about it, however, until Dr. Frank H. Gaines was called to the pastorate of that Church. Dr. Gaines came from the Falling Springs Church, Rockbridge County, Virginia. He too was thinking in terms of Christian education, especially the education of girls and young women.

He said: "To educate a man is to educate one person, but to educate a woman is to educate a whole family."

Soon after he came to Decatur he discussed with the officers of his Church the desirability of starting a girls' academy. He received the full backing of these officers, including his leading Elder, Mr. George W. Scott.

To head the school, Dr. Gaines sought out a young minister who, though unable to take the position, recommended Miss Nannette Hopkins of Hot Springs, Virginia.

Miss Hopkins became Principal of the Girls' Academy and later Dean of Women, in which capacity she served for a period of fifty years.

Miss Louise McKinney of Farmington, Virginia, was then named as a member of the faculty and served actively for almost a half century.

Mrs. Evans' home is Hot Springs, Virginia. Dr. Gaines came from



the adjoining county. Miss Nannette Hopkins came from Hot Springs and Miss Louise McKinney within a hundred miles.

In honoring this great Virginia lady, also from Hot Springs, I feel that in a very small way Agnes Scott is paying the debt that she owes Virginia for the three splendid people, without whom there would have been no Agnes Scott.

I said in the beginning that I always like to examine the foundation and principles upon which an institution is founded. This enables me to separate the temporary from the permanent.

Many institutions flourish for a time for their principles are adapted to a short era and when the era is passed, the institution becomes a relic of history. Other institutions are based upon values that are permanent, and as long as the institution fulfills the conditions of its existence its life and usefulness are assured.

Dr. Gaines and his associates established Agnes Scott upon enduring principles. In a few simple sentences these principles were set forth. They are:

1. *A liberal curriculum, fully abreast of the best institutions of this country.*

The first principle is meritorious and excellent work.

2. *The Bible a textbook.*

The teaching of the Bible is barred from our public schools. That means we cannot teach in our public education the greatest book of all times—the book in which the best poetry, philosophy, history, wisdom and finally the pathway to God are found. Many crackpot theories of overstimulated mentalities are welcomed as courses in our educational system, but not the Bible.

How fortunate for Agnes Scott that a foundation stone of its educational system requires that this great book should be taught.

3. *Thoroughly qualified and consecrated teachers.*

This foundation stone is most important, for here the things of the mind and the things of the spirit are recognized as being in harmony and must be found in those who teach at Agnes Scott. Many schools have driven out the things of the spirit under the guise of exercising academic freedom. That is to say, the things of the mind are held to be antagonistic to the things of the spirit.

In the lives of our teachers here at Agnes Scott there is no conflict between academic freedom and religious truth. All truth can be taught: the truth of history, the truth of science, the spiritual truth that is found in the Bible.

4. *A high standard of scholarship.*

We sometimes find that under the cloak of good intentions standards of work are lowered. This is very often true in institutions that are closely associated with religious purposes. That has not occurred at Agnes Scott. Her scholarship commands respect.

The 5th and 6th principles of the School require that all the influences and purposes of the School are for the formation and development of Christian character and to the end that God may be glorified.

Dr. McCain, Agnes Scott has lived up to these principles throughout the administration of Dr. Gaines and throughout your administration; and we believe during the administration of your successor, Dr. Alston, after your retirement next year, these enduring principles will be continued unimpaired.

Of the many splendid things that you have done for Agnes Scott, none has greater significance than your selection of Dr. Alston to carry on the work of this great college upon your retirement.

## DEDICATORY PRAYER

*Wallace M. Alston*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

We bow before thee, the Father of all mankind, the Source of all good, our Friend, and our God. We acknowledge with joy our complete dependence upon Thee. Thou art the giver of every good gift. All that is meaningful in our experience has come from Thee.

We thank Thee for Thy providential dealings with this college through the years: for Thy care and nurture in the day of beginnings, for the many evidences of Thy blessing through the period of past development, and for Thy goodness so apparent in these recent months. We offer the gratitude of our hearts for the friends whom Thou hast given us, through whose generosity and encouragement material, intellectual and spiritual progress has been made possible.

We have come before Thee just now to dedicate to Thy glory this beautiful building. We offer our thanksgiving for the men and women whose gifts have brought this dream to realization. Particularly, do we thank Thee for Thy servant, Letitia Pate Evans, whose benevolence has blessed so many lives. May this dining hall that is to bear her name contribute richly to the well-being of growing personalities. May the influence of Thy servant perpetually summon and inspire us to devote our lives in useful service.

Accept, we pray Thee, this building that we dedicate to Thy holy purposes. Give us the wisdom and grace to use it always as a sacred trust from Thee. Grant us Thy continued favor and guide us in all the tasks and ventures of the future, we humbly pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE ✓ DECATUR, GEORGIA ✓ NOVEMBER 20, 1950