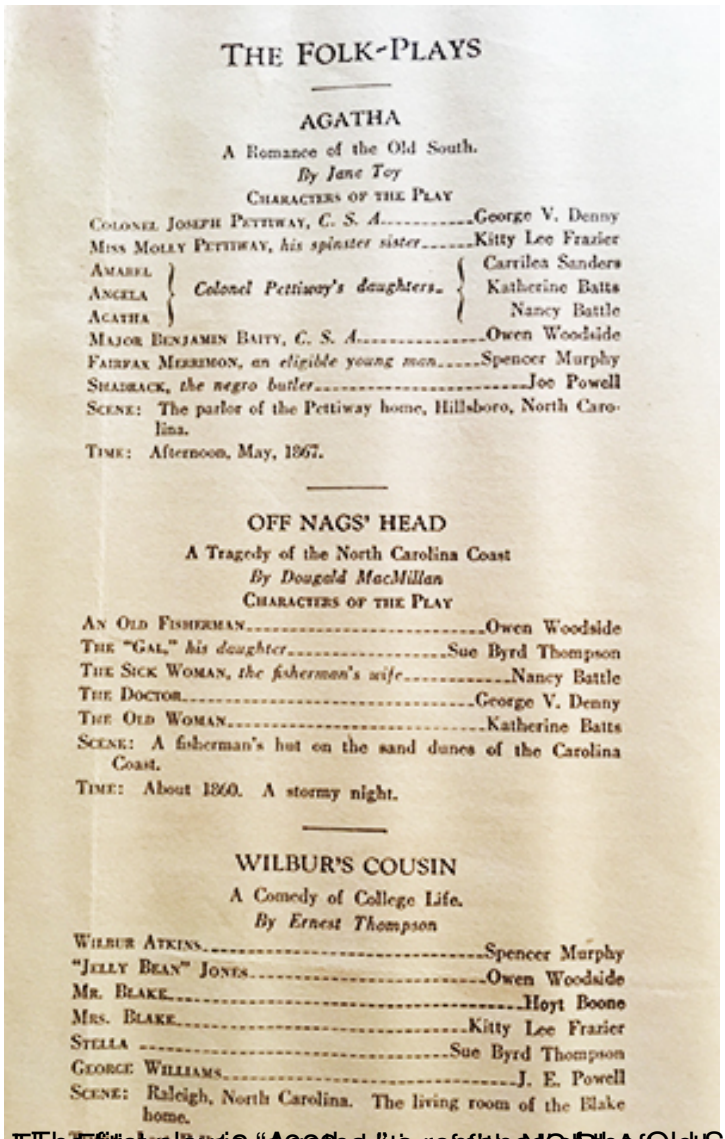
On February 12, 1923, Wilmington's Thalian Hall hosted the first performance of folk plays written by students of Frederick H. Koch, a well-known author, playwright, and professor of dramatic literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Koch founded the Carolina Playmakers in 1918 and the North Carolina Academy of Music in 1919. Koch's students wrote folk plays that were performed by the Carolina Playmakers, a theatrical troupe that toured the state. Koch's goal was to create a theatrical movement that would showcase the lives of ordinary people in North Carolina. The plays were performed in small towns and rural communities, and they were often based on local legends and folklore.





THE FOLK-PLAYS

AGATHA

A Romance of the Old South.

By Jane Toy

CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

COLONEL JOSEPH PETTIWAY, *C. S. A.*.....George V. Denny
MISS MOLLY PETTIWAY, *his spinster sister*.....Kitty Lee Frazier
AMABEL, ANGELA, AGATHA — *Colonel Pettiway's daughters*.....Carrilea Sanders, Katherine Batts, Nancy Battle
MAJOR BENJAMIN BAITY, *C. S. A.*.....Owen Woodside
FAIRFAX MERRIMON, *an eligible young man*.....Spencer Murphy
SHADRACK, *the negro butler*.....Joe Powell

SCENE: The parlor of the Pettiway home, Hillsboro, North Carolina.

TIME: Afternoon, May, 1867.

OFF NAGS' HEAD

A Tragedy of the North Carolina Coast

By Dougald MacMillan

CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

AN OLD FISHERMAN.....Owen Woodside
THE "GAL," *his daughter*.....Sue Byrd Thompson
THE SICK WOMAN, *the fisherman's wife*.....Nancy Battle
THE DOCTOR.....George V. Denny
THE OLD WOMAN.....Katherine Batts

SCENE: A fisherman's hut on the sand dunes of the Carolina Coast.

TIME: About 1860. A stormy night.

WILBUR'S COUSIN

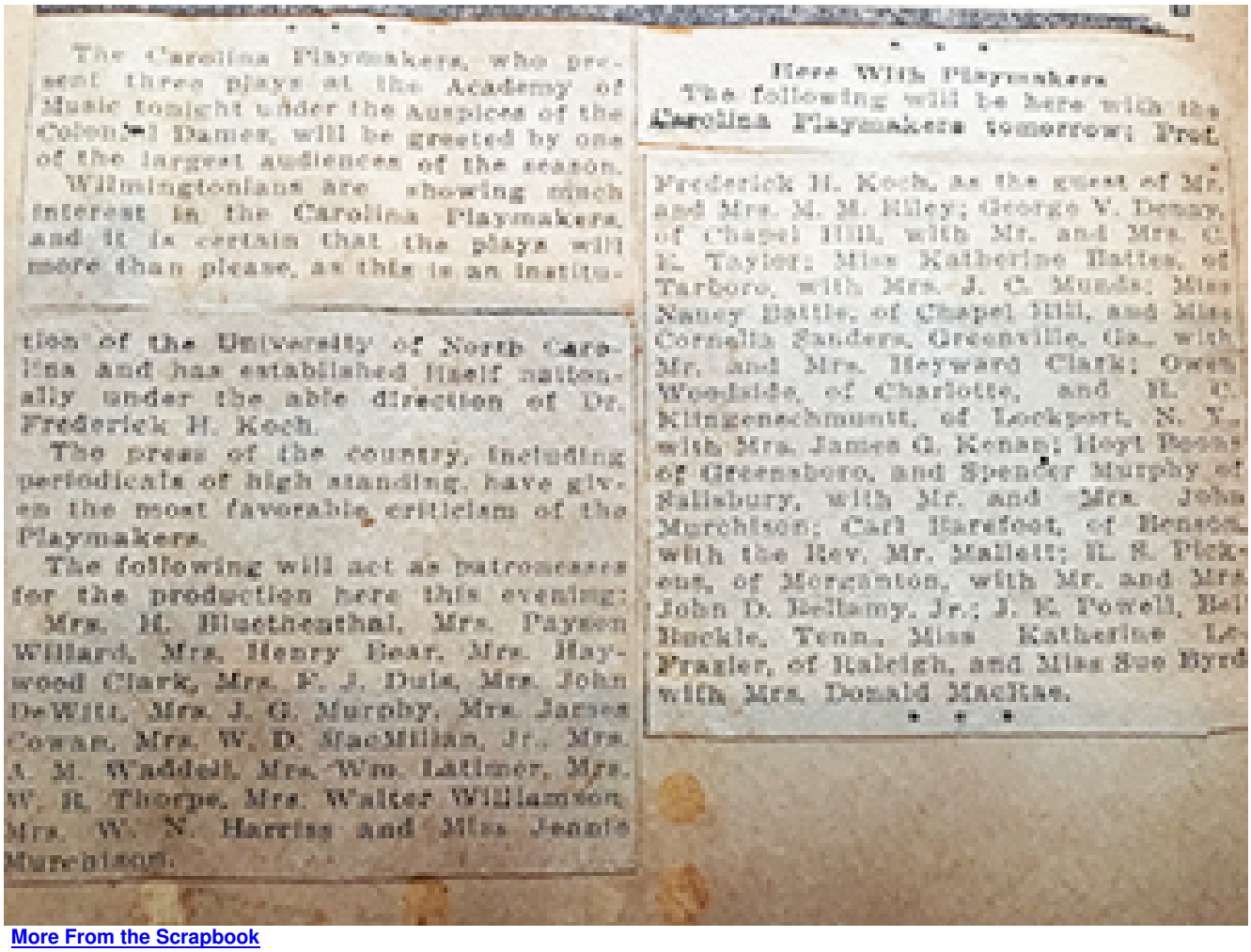
A Comedy of College Life.

By Ernest Thompson

WILBUR ATKINS.....Spencer Murphy
"JELLY BEAN" JONES.....Owen Woodside
MR. BLAKE.....Hoyt Boone
MRS. BLAKE.....Kitty Lee Frazier
STELLA.....Sue Byrd Thompson
GEORGE WILLIAMS.....J. E. Powell

SCENE: Raleigh, North Carolina. The living room of the Blake home.

The first play is "Agatha" or the Old South set in the Pettiway home during the Civil War. This



The Carolina Playmakers, who present three plays at the Academy of Music tonight under the auspices of the Colonial Dames, will be greeted by one of the largest audiences of the season.

Wilmingtonians are showing much interest in the Carolina Playmakers, and it is certain that the plays will more than please, as this is an institution of the University of North Carolina and has established itself nationally under the able direction of Dr. Frederick H. Koch.

The press of the country, including periodicals of high standing, have given the most favorable criticism of the Playmakers.

The following will act as patronesses for the production here this evening: Mrs. H. Bluethenthal, Mrs. Payson Willard, Mrs. Henry Bear, Mrs. Haywood Clark, Mrs. F. J. Duls, Mrs. John DeWitt, Mrs. J. G. Murphy, Mrs. James Cowan, Mrs. W. D. MacMillan, Jr., Mrs. A. M. Waddell, Mrs. Wm. Latimer, Mrs. W. R. Thorpe, Mrs. Walter Williamson, Mrs. W. N. Harriss and Miss Jennie Murchison.

Here With Playmakers

The following will be here with the Carolina Playmakers tomorrow: Prof. Frederick H. Koch, as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Riley; George V. Denny, of Chapel Hill, with Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Taylor; Miss Katherine Battle, of Tarboro, with Mrs. J. C. Munds; Miss Nancy Battle, of Chapel Hill, and Miss Cornelia Sanders, Greenville, Ga., with Mr. and Mrs. Heyward Clark; Owen Woodside, of Charlotte, and H. H. Klingenschmunit, of Lockport, N. Y., with Mrs. James G. Kenan; Hoyt Bonn of Greensboro, and Spencer Murphy of Salisbury, with Mr. and Mrs. John Murchison; Carl Barefoot, of Benson, with the Rev. Mr. Mallett; H. S. Pickens, of Morganton, with Mr. and Mrs. John D. Bellamy, Jr.; J. K. Powell, Bel Buckle, Tenn., Miss Katherine Le Frazier, of Raleigh, and Miss Sue Byrd with Mrs. Donald MacRae.

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