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Winoca serves up a tasty first book

A new publishing house makes its formal debut next week with a down-home flavored cookbook.

Winoca Press is the brainchild of Barbara Brannon, a former managing editor with the University of South Carolina Press, who now teaches at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and helps run its Publishing Lab.

Dr. Brannon – who holds a Ph.D. in English from USC – said the new mini-press has been in the works since spring. It will issue history, genealogy and non-fiction books of regional interest.

The press' name, incidentally, is a condensation of Wilmington, North Carolina. It derives from Winoca Terrace, the “streetcar suburb” north of Market Street where Dr. Brannon lives. Winoca's first book is Aunt Mag's Recipe Book: Heritage Cooking from a Carolina Kitchen by Carolyn Rawls Booth.

Although she now lives in Cary, Mrs. Booth originally hails from Bladen County and traces her family heritage back to the Black River area of Bladen and Pender counties.

She used some of her family stories (somewhat altered) for her historical novel *Between the Rivers*, published in 2001 by Coastal Carolina Press.

“Aunt Mag” was one of the key characters in *Between the Rivers*, based on one of Mrs. Booth's relatives, a legendary cook. “She was so good,” the author told Dr. Brannon, “she could make gravy out of squirrel's tracks.”

In addition to traditional recipes – including Oyster Stew, Collards and Corn Meal Dumplings, buttermilk biscuits and Deep-Dish Blueberry Cobbler – the book contains family stories with some of Mrs. Booth's own illustrations.

Mrs. Booth will show up in costume, as Aunt Mag, for a “tea” to mark the book's launching, at 4 p.m. Sept. 26 at Bristol Books, 1908 Eastwood Road. Refreshments will be served.

For more information on Winoca Press, visit www.winocapress.com or e-mail info@winocapress.com.