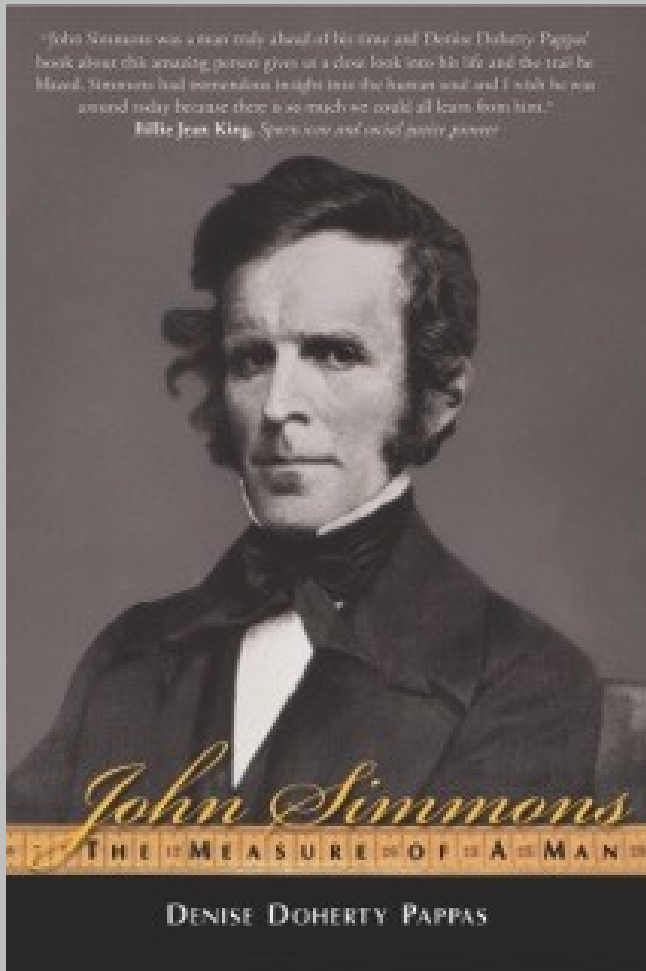


“John Simmons, The Measure of a Man”

by Winchester's own Denise Pappas

Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 7:00 pm



John Simmons' "ready-made" clothing was produced by male tailors who cut the material and female seamstresses who sewed by hand from home. He started his business in 1818, 28 years before the invention of the sewing machine. He became wealthy clothing sailors and the burgeoning industrial economy and later investing in Boston real estate. When he wrote his will in 1867, he endowed Simmons College so that women scholars "could obtain an independent livelihood"this at a time when no college in New England admitted women. Simmons College was founded in 1899 and has graduated 60,000 women, including the author, thanks to this visionary philanthropist.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, the John & Mary Murphy Educational Foundation.

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Pappas' newly-released book tells the complete story and will be available after the talk.