Caroliniana Columns - Fall 2008

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University of South Carolina Football Vault™: The History of the Gamecocks, written by University Archivist Elizabeth Cassidy West, was published last summer by Whitman Publishing of Atlanta.

The book provides an illustrated history of football at the University from the 1890s to the present. In addition to the narrative and a multitude of historic pictures, the book also provides replicas of unique memorabilia such as tickets, pennants, bumper stickers, schedules, and programs from some of South Carolina’s most memorable games. The effect is much like looking through a personal scrapbook. West says people “will have to hold it in their hands to realize how it’s really different from your usual history book.”

According to the publisher, “Few schools in the country have such a devoted fan base as the University of South Carolina, and no other book captures the history of their beloved Gamecocks like this one. As much a scrapbook as it is a history book, opening the vault is like getting a guided tour through your own personal South Carolina football museum. Elizabeth Cassidy West cut her teeth on Gamecock football from an early age by attending games with her father, Joel Cassidy. She mixes great game coverage with behind-the-scenes anecdotes and personal stories to present a view of South Carolina football that you won’t find anywhere else.”

“I’m hoping the book will not only give people a deeper appreciation of the history of Gamecock football with all of its rich characters and thrilling moments,” West said, “but also that the book will make them aware that a lot of the memorabilia they might have is important to keep. I hope they’ll think of the archives if they consider disposing of it. There is a great benefit to donating materials to a public institution like the University because then a variety of different people can have access to it for research, or use it for a publication or project.”

Copies of the book are available at the Russell House Bookstore and other Columbia bookstores.

Mullins Family Donates Civil War Letter to South Caroliniana Library

More than 30 descendants of Civil War soldier William Sidney Mullins gathered at a reception at the South Caroliniana Library on March 20 to present the library with a letter Mullins wrote while serving with a South Carolina regiment in Virginia. The letter, which gives a detailed account of Mullins’ and his unit’s participation in the battle of First Manassas on July 21, 1861, was presented by Ed Mullins to the University’s former president, Dr. Andrew A. Sorensen.

Of particular interest in the letter are Mullins’ critical comments about President Jefferson Davis, Confederate commanders, and the inadequate resources for treating the sick and wounded. Mullins’ enthusiasm over the military success of the battle was tempered the following day when he observed in a heavy rain the cries of the wounded, some of whom implored “the passers-by to kill them to relieve..."
MULLINS FAMILY Continued from page 1

their agony.” Mullins declared, “If it please God, to stop this war, I will unfeignedly thank him.”

According to director of the South Caroliniana Library Allen Stokes, “The Mullins letter will take its place alongside many other letters, manuscripts, logbooks, and other records provided to the South Caroliniana Library over the years by faithful donors. Some items are purchased at auction; others have been handed down and cherished through several generations before being entrusted to the library. Students, researchers, and the cause of scholarship itself are the beneficiaries of these materials. Library staff members would be pleased to discuss possible donations with families who have papers they may consider to be of historical value.”

William Sidney Mullins was born in 1824 in Fayetteville, N.C. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in that state. At some point in the 1840s, Mullins moved to Marion, S.C., where he married Susan Hodges, the daughter of Dr. Samuel Hodges. Mullins’ occupation turned from the law to planting as he inherited extensive land holdings upon the death of his father-in-law.

Mullins was a prominent voice during the secession crisis of 1851 and was credited with carrying the Marion District for those who favored cooperation over separate state action. In 1852, he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where he served until 1866. Mullins was a stockholder in the Wilmington and Manchester Rail Road Company and served as its president in 1857 and 1858.

During the Civil War, Mullins served as adjutant with the 8th Regiment, South Carolina infantry. After the war, Mullins attempted unsuccessfully to restore his agricultural holdings. He was elected to the state senate in 1872 but did not serve as the results of the election were overturned.

Mullins was in declining health for several years and died on Dec. 6, 1878, two years after the death of his wife.

The library’s Web site has images of the Mullins letter, background information, an annotated transcription, and a bibliography at www.sc.edu/library/socar/manuscripts/mull/mullins1861.html.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY ROBERT K. ACKERMAN

I am pleased and honored to be serving as the president of the University South Caroliniana Society. My appreciation extends from the recent past, the superb service of Steve Griffith, and to the distant past, the founding of the Caroliniana Library and the society through the foresight and dedication of the late Robert Meriwether. These years of service have resulted in an excellent resource for the understanding of who we South Carolinians are.

You are probably aware that the speaker for the annual meeting scheduled for May 9, 2009, will be Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University. Having such an esteemed speaker will honor the society. With some justice I believe that she will be here because she understands that the South Caroliniana Library is worthy of support and because she herself had the benefit of doing research in the Caroliniana. In the acknowledgments in her book James H. Hammond and the Old South, A Design for Mastery, she wrote: “I am especially grateful to Les Inabinett, director of the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina and his staff for the many courtesies shown me during my visits there.” Her appreciation extended to the present director: “I owe a very special debt to Allen Stokes. Anyone who has ever worked in the South Caroliniana knows what an extraordinary manuscript librarian he is.”

The membership has reason to be pleased with recent acquisitions. Securing of the additional papers of Robert Barnwell Rhett, probably the chief architect of the secession movement, and his family is of immense importance. The society’s funds made this purchase possible. Also important is the acquisition of materials pertaining to the recent past, for example, the papers of Hayes Mizell, many of which pertain to the civil rights era.

All of the above means that we the membership can be assured that the Caroliniana fares well. That thought leads me to indicate that, as stewards of this remarkable institution, we are responsible for continuing and extending the support of the Caroliniana collection. The society’s constitution states that the membership is to assist the library through “service, materials, and money to build up, preserve, and provide access to the collection.” Obviously, we are to seek gifts of materials pertaining to this state, to encourage use of the collection, and to assist by financial gifts. Our dues are immensely important. I want, however, to suggest that we consider extending the effectiveness of the annual dues. My family has established a modest endowment for the support of the South Caroliniana Library. We are making annual additions to the fund, and, probably more important, we have made provisions for a bequest to increase the effectiveness of the endowment. I ask that the membership consider the possibility of bequests to continue and enhance the good work of this wonderful library. Obviously, larger endowments have a greater effect (and we can hope for those!), but the accumulation of a number of modest funds also can assist in providing the means for the library’s prospering beyond us. I simply ask that the membership give this some thought. I am sure that the library’s development officers, Pam Cowart and Carol Benfield, will be glad to assist with details. Call them at 803-777-3142.

My good wishes to all.
Benjamin Franklin V, author of *Jazz and Blues Musicians of South Carolina: Interviews with Jabbo, Dizzy, Drink, and Others*, was honored on Sept. 9 at a reception sponsored by the South Caroliniana Library and the University of South Carolina Press. The event featured a jazz performance by the Dick Goodwin Quartet and a blues set by Columbian Drink Small.

Franklin is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University and hosted the well-known radio show *Jazz in Retrospect* on the South Carolina Educational Radio Network and NPR. The idea for the book took shape from interviews Franklin conducted while he was broadcasting during the 1980s. With help from the Oral History Program of the South Caroliniana Library, Franklin completed the book, which includes interviews with 19 musicians whose work helped define the Palmetto State’s contributions to jazz and blues.

As reviewer James A. Miller of George Washington University commented, “South Carolina has been the birthplace for a wide range of distinguished blues and jazz musicians.” Miller praised Franklin as “a well-informed guide to the musical history of the state, an amiable and engaging conversationalist, and a careful listener. His thoughtful questions and observations always elicit illuminating responses. These candid conversations are a wonderful contribution to the oral history of South Carolina and to the broader literature of blues and jazz studies.”
The wonders of the South Caroliniana Library have made possible the deluge of titles in Southern history over the past several decades,” said W. Scott Poole in Never Surrender: Confederate Memory and Conservatism in the South Carolina Upcountry (2004). A similar sentiment was expressed in the May 20, 2007, Wofford College Commencement Program concerning the awarding of an honorary degree to the library’s director, Dr. Allen Stokes: “Within the past 20 years, virtually no major work on the history of the South, and especially the history of South Carolina, has been accomplished without major praise for Stokes in contributing significantly to the making of each of these books. He is recognized nationally as one of the best archivists and directors of research collections in the state.”

The South Caroliniana Library began with impetus from the University’s history department as the South Carolina Collection. Concerted efforts were made to keep South Carolina’s historical manuscripts and published materials in a central location, safely housed where researchers would always have access to these treasures of the past.

Through the outstanding leadership of Robert Meriwether, Les Inabinett, and Allen Stokes, the collection and services have grown to such an extent that Tom Downey was prompted to write in his 2006 Planting of a Capitalist South: “The South Caroliniana Library is undoubtedly one of the finest research facilities in the Southeast, due in large measure to the skill and dedication of its wonderful staff.”

Statements such as this are to be found in myriad books published about the South and South Carolina over the last 20 years.

“A STOREHOUSE OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION”

From ghost stories to historical monographs, the library is “a storehouse of important information,” as Nancy Rhyne says in her 2007 Tales from the South Carolina Upstate. It is the place, according to William Freeling’s handwritten dedication on the flyleaf of Volume Two of The Road to Disunion (2007), where he “first learned the joy of historical research. If the state’s dramatic past undoubtedly provides one of the attractions, another lies in the hospitality and helpfulness extended to visiting researchers. Much of the credit goes to the staffs of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina. My thanks especially go to Allen Stokes, Henry Fulmer, and Robin Copp of the South Caroliniana.”

In the acknowledgments for her 1982 publication, James Henry Hammond and the Old South: A Design for Mastery, Drew Gilpin Faust praises both Les Inabinett and Allen Stokes, former and present directors of the library. Fourteen years later, in Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War, Faust again credits “Allen Stokes of the South Caroliniana Library … [who] drew my attention to materials that proved invaluable.”

In her most recent publication, this year’s This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War, Faust reiterates her appreciation: “I am deeply indebted to … Allen Stokes.”

“WILLING TO ASSIST A WRITER IN HIS QUEST”

All three recent biographies of Wade Hampton III contain kudos to the South Caroliniana Library. “I appreciate all those willing to assist a writer in his quest,” reiterates her appreciation: “I am deeply indebted to … Allen Stokes.”

Confederate Warrior, Conservative Statesman, published in 2004. Robert K. Ackerman’s 2007 publication, Wade Hampton III, acknowledges the author’s gratitude to “the able staff of the South Caroliniana Library, especially Allen Stokes and Robin Copp.” And the most recent, Wade Hampton: Confederate Warrior to Southern Redeemer (2008) by Rod Andrew Jr., declares “many thanks are due to dozens of librarians and archivists. . . . I regret it is impossible to list them all, but I especially thank Henry Fulmer and Allen Stokes of the South Caroliniana Library.”

In 1998, Walter B. Edgar published South Carolina: A History. His acknowledgements stated in part, “South Caroliniana Library is without question, the most user-friendly research facility in the United States thanks to Allen Stokes and his staff: Tom Johnson, Henry Fulmer, Herb Hartsook, Beth Bilderback, Thelma Hayes, Mae Jones, Robin Copp, Laura Castello, and John Heiting.”

Even though many of the staff members mentioned in these acknowledgments remain at the library, others have moved to new positions or retired. But the dedication to service they have displayed over the years will continue as new researchers pass between the Caroliniana’s white columns seeking new insights into the history and culture of the region and the state.
The South Caroliniana Library is known internationally for its visual and other materials about South Carolina. Images from the library's holdings have appeared in books, journals, newspapers, documentaries, television shows, Web sites, and movies. As more researchers rely on the Internet for resources, the library is responding with an increasing number of online collections. All of the University Libraries' digital collections may be accessed at http://sc.edu/library/digital/index.php.

The Joseph Winter Photograph Collection contains 3,287 photographs, 207 negatives, and 638 slides (including four panoramic photographs) reflecting the career of Joseph E. Winter (1920–1992), who was housing inspector for the Columbia Rehabilitation Commission from 1955 to 1965 and its director from 1965 to 1980.

The images show many of the streets and buildings of Columbia, S.C., as they appeared in the 1960s. The home page offers a presentation of the panoramic photographs and a list of streets for users to view.

The Winter collection has been one of the most frequently used online collections. History and African American studies professor Bobby Donaldson uses the Winter collection in his classes that look at changing African-American neighborhoods in Columbia. History Professor Bob Weyeneth is using the collection for research into the effects of Jim Crow laws on the built environment in South Carolina. Weyeneth also explored the Lafaye and Lafaye Architects collection to see how architects planned segregated areas in a building’s design.

The Berkeley County Photograph Collection contains 66 photographs showing plantations, African-American workers, horses, hunting parties, rice threshing, wagons, and carts, as well as churches in Berkeley County, S.C., in about 1900.

Some featured landmarks are Medway, Wappahoola, Mulberry Castle, Dean Hall, Dockon, Bushy Park, Exeter, Cote Bas, Bippy, Lewisfield, Strawberry Chapel, Strawberry Ferry, and a pine land house. People who are identified in the photographs include Col. James Petigru Carson, Samuel P. Stoney, and other members of the Stoney family.

The Beulah Glover Photograph Collection features 110 photographs taken by Miss Glover (1887–1991), who operated a studio in Walterboro, S.C. Included are historical scenes from the Lowcountry. She created postcards from some images and used others to illustrate articles and books on the history of Colleton County, and in her work as a photojournalist for a newspaper in Walterboro. The digital collection includes prints, negatives, and covers from 1941 to 1952.

The E.E. Burson Photograph Collection includes 253 glass plate negatives with contact prints taken by the Denmark, S.C., photographer in Bamberg County between 1905 and 1920. Burson took studio photographs as well as exterior shots of the townspeople of Denmark and the students and buildings at nearby Voorhees College.

The E.T. Start Photograph Collection of 200 photographs includes images of people, animals, and houses in Camden, S.C., in the first half of the 20th century. Start came to Camden from New York State in 1903 as photographer at the Kirkwood Hotel. Until about 1945, he shot Winter Colony and local scenes, including horse-drawn vehicles, horseback riding, polo, and an impressive house called Bohemia.

The South Carolina Railroads Photograph Collection is a virtual collection bringing together photographs of trains, train stations, depots, and rail yards in South Carolina. New images will be added on a regular basis.

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Many of the more than 700 photographs by Kenneth Frederick Marsh (d. 1968) available in the Kenneth Frederick Marsh Photograph Collection have not been published. Some were used to illustrate books by photographer Marsh and his wife, Blanche. The photographs and negatives depict historic and modern homes, public buildings, textile mills, churches, and scenes of South Carolina and Flat Rock, N.C. Included are views of the Allison and Brookwood plantations in York County, Erwin plantation in Chester County, Hillside plantation in Union County, and Ainsley Hall [Robert Mills] House in Columbia.

The William Ancrum Letter Book housed in the library’s Manuscripts Division is a volume of 171 pages bound in vellum that was formerly owned by the wealthy merchant who lived in Charleston from 1722 to 1808. The book, compiled between 1776 and 1789, contains letters and financial accounts that reflect the economic impact of the American Revolution on Ancrum’s life as a businessman and planter, including communications with merchants in Camden, S.C., and with plantation overseers as well as details about his personal expenses.


DeLaine was instrumental in leading the efforts of African-American parents in Clarendon County who sued the local school board over unequal education in the desegregation case known as Briggs v. Elliott. This case was one of those that led ultimately to the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, in which the United States Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools were unconstitutional.

The South Carolina and the Civil War virtual collection contains materials from different collections in the University Libraries. Included are photographs taken by Columbian Richard Wearn after Sherman’s visit to Columbia in 1865, a photograph album of Sue Sparks Keitt (Mrs. Lawrence Keitt) with Confederate officers and friends, and a photograph album of Haas and Peale images of the Union occupation of Beaufort and Port Royal.

With the approaching sesquicentennial of the Civil War, this virtual collection will grow to include letters, diaries, maps, sheet music, and other primary research materials related to the war. It will serve as a unique resource for students of all ages.

Above, shown at a 1955 Civil Rights rally in Madison Square Garden in New York City are, right to left, Talulah Bankhead, Autherine Lucy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rev. Joseph A. DeLaine, Roy Wilkins, and two unidentified men, from the Rev. Joseph A. DeLaine Papers
ARMY LIBRARIAN IN WORLD WAR II

By Henry Fulmer

The Army Library Service, an organization that employed an estimated 1,200 professional librarians worldwide between 1941 and 1946, carried out the work of making books available to help boost the morale of American soldiers during World War II. Mary Walther, a native Midwesterner who later called South Carolina home, was one of those civilian employees of the Army. A collection of her letters and photographs recently acquired by the South Caroliniana Library offers users a unique vista into the world of library services extended to military personnel. Her mother and sisters carefully preserved more than 200 of her letters written between 1943 and 1947. They impart a singularly feminine perspective of the world at war in the South Pacific.

A CAREER INTERRUPTED

Mary Walther was born in LeSueur, Minn., and attended the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis), where she received an undergraduate degree in English in 1931. She returned to the University of Minnesota during the summer of 1935 and began working toward a degree in library science, later pursuing additional studies at the University of Washington (Seattle) and the University of Illinois (Urbana), from which she was awarded her library degree. Between her studies, Mary taught school in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

In 1943 the 33-year-old single schoolteacher took a job as librarian at Alliance Army Air Field located in Alliance, Neb. After staying about a year at Alliance, where American paratroopers were being prepared for the invasion of Europe, she accepted a transfer to a similar position in the Hawaiian Islands. The reserved, diminutive Midwesterner quickly discovered that life as one of the few women among hundreds of men away from home could be socially demanding and very exciting. Her days, which revolved around libraries and bookmobiles, were balanced by nightly parties, dances, and dinners at various officers’ clubs, with the biggest decision of the day sometimes being the selection of her escort for the evening.

For Mary and others, wartime friendships were all too temporary. Connections were constantly being made or lost. Death, transfer, and discharge from service made relationships transitory at best. Among her circle of special friends from the stint at Alliance was Bogdan Baynert, a talented young artist with a penchant for bowling, books, art museums, and classical music. The pages of several of this Michigan native’s letters to Walther are illustrated with cartoons caricaturing his fellow GIs. After learning of Mary’s determination to go to Hawaii, Corporal Baynert wrote in amazement on March 4, 1944, “Why you want to leave the good old United States is something I can’t understand.” He feared she would soon realize that “Hawaii is not the playground of the world.” And, after all, he noted, “there are no bowling alleys in Hawaii—isn’t that a good enough reason for not going there!”

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“LIKE TAKING A VACATION”

Mary departed San Francisco May 13, 1944, on board a hospital ship destined for the Hawaiian Islands. Part of her time in Hawaii was spent on Oahu, where bookmobile service provided abundant sightseeing opportunities, so much so that she exclaimed in a letter home, “Each time we go out with our books, it is like taking a vacation.” Trips around the island were not without incident, however, including one where she and her male driver had two flat tires but only one spare. Within several months, the old vehicle was replaced with a new half-ton truck, “with shelves built on the back facing out. It hauls over three hundred books, and several portable libraries.” The more remote camps were supplied with “portable libraries with 50 books, which we change every four weeks.”

Mary was sometimes tasked with more demanding challenges, including that of setting up “a field station in a prisoner of war camp,” but her time in Hawaii was not all business, nor was it without its social pleasures. Her letters home abound with details of dinners, dances, and parties, descriptions of her clothes and bouquets for each of those occasions, and banter about the seemingly limitless possibilities of escorts.

FROM HAWAII TO GUAM

By April 1945, she began to write about the likelihood of transfer to an advance location.

She volunteered for transfer to Guam as soon as it was deemed reasonably safe for female civilian employees to go there. Her determination to endure the risks of the transfer (not all Japanese had been removed from the island), the hardships of the job (establishing libraries for 70,000 troops preparing for the invasion of Japan), and the unpleasantness of daily life (huts, cots, latrines, heat and humidity, and lots of Spam) surprised Mary and those who knew her best. “This Island isn’t so bad,” she wrote soon after arriving, noting that “only part of it was destroyed by the fighting, and there are still plenty of jungle and native villages left.” She found it amazing to see “how fast the service is building things up,” noted that highways were being paved in areas with heavy military traffic, and was proud to boast, “Libraries are to become an essential feature in demobilization.”

Living conditions on Guam were primitive at best, and Mary was unable at first to find “even an orange crate to supplement my two pieces of furniture—a bed and an ironing board,” which doubled as a writing table until a packing box could be fashioned into combination dressing table and writing table. With her demanding social schedule, Mary spoke often of the constant struggle to maintain personal cleanliness. When the damp climate and rainy season necessitated, she improvised an electric light in her wardrobe and kept it burning to prevent mildew. “The only animals out here are the men, commonly referred to as wolves,” she joked. “It is funny how all the girls out here go thru it,” she added while telling about one colleague who “fell hard for a lieutenant colonel who is married and has two children” and had requested a transfer to the Philippines so that she could be near him. “I had mine early ... and so learned to accept the others as married men even when they tried to deny it. The wives should hear some of the good stories they can tell.”

Instituting library facilities and services demanded much of Walther’s attention, and these responsibilities increased steadily over time. In July 1945, she proudly told of having put in “another library ... for the bombardment group. The fellows had just come in from a mission to Tokyo, and the place was jammed right after we opened it. We didn’t have half enough books. ... Our library buildings are just about up now, and soon we will be moving. I’ll be glad because right now we are in an area by ourselves and have to be guarded all day. The boys carry guns all the time. The other area is quite well populated.”

Everything carried out on Guam by the Army Library Service was done “directly or indirectly for the fellows who bombed Japan,” she later wrote. “All the Army there existed to keep the B-29s going out nite and day, and all our books and libraries were governed by that purpose. ... We had good patronage, especially when we gave twenty-four hour service just before the end of the war. Many of the
raids went out at night or in early morning. The trip was a long one … and the boys liked to read in the long hours it took to get to and from the objective. We always hated to lose a book … but we never minded when we were told it was left in a plane after a raid when the borrower was too tired to remember he had started the trip with it.”

Photographs picturing Mary Walther, her colleagues, and others, both in the Hawaiian Islands and on Guam, bring to life in a more immediate manner the work of those who labored to make available books to the military. They include representative images of the interiors and exteriors of the libraries established in the Pacific, the GI’s who frequented them, both whites and African Americans, and the library outreach services extended via bookmobiles and visits to hospital wards.

HOME AT LAST
Involved as she was with the war effort and the once-in-a-lifetime experiences in the Pacific, Mary greeted news of the end of the war with joy, but also some measure of uncertainty as to her own future. There was some talk of her transfer to Tokyo or Manila, but she seemed pleased by September 1945 to speculate that if “all except regular army people are home in six months, that should mean that we can be too.” She remained busy with library openings and the completion of new buildings, and, with the nearby hospital closing, some extra beds were becoming available. “Civilization is comfortable,” she noted, “when you have had to do without it for a while.”

Mary’s adventure of a lifetime came to an end in mid-1946 when she decided to return to the States to appease her mother. Getting home proved another obstacle, however, for, as she observed, “not many ships carry women.” Moreover, Mary feared she would have a hard time “adjusting to school library work after this active life.” After waiting months for her departure date to be determined, she wrote in exasperation in late April, “This is developing into a real struggle—trying to get off the island. From all appearances I picked the lowest ebb in shipping since the war ended, and all I can do is sit and wait until something comes along to take me. The Cape Mendocino finally came in … but it was infested with some kind of black pox which had been brought in from China, and now we are having to wait until it is completely fumigated and declared safe for passengers.” A note appended to the end of the same letter states simply, “Guess this is it. We board ship at 12:30 today. I’ll send you a cable when I reach Oahu.” After an additional six-day layover on Saipan, the trip back to Hawaii took 12 days.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONNECTION
After the war, Mary Walther married fellow librarian James Lawton Oswald, a native of Allendale, S.C., and in 1952 the couple moved to Aiken, S.C., when Oswald became associated with the technical library at the Savannah River Site.

The Oswalds enjoyed a special relationship with the University of South Carolina Aiken, where they actively participated in the Academy for Lifelong Learning, a learning-in-retirement program for mature adults offered through the USC Aiken Continuing Education Office. They frequently attended cultural events at the Etheredge Center, and they served on a committee to develop an endowment fund to cover operating expenses for the center. Their common love of language and literature, developed during long careers as librarians, led them in 1994 to endow the James and Mary Oswald Distinguished Writers Series at the campus. This series brings some of the best novelists, poets, and writers in the country to the campus for readings and interaction with students and the community.

Mary Walther Oswald passed away in 1996, and James Oswald died in 2005.
Pickens-Salley House
TO BE FEATURED IN DOCUMENTARY
BY DIEDRE MARTIN

“If these walls could talk...” is the theme behind a new documentary project to bring to life the many stories of the historic Pickens-Salley House, an edifice that embodies the history of the Edgefield-Aiken area for a period of more than 180 years.

FRANCIS AND LUCY PICKENS
The Pickens-Salley House, originally located in Edgefield, S.C., was built in 1829 by secessionist governor of South Carolina Francis W. Pickens. The house, known as Edgewood at the time, was a center of social activity during the antebellum era when Pickens and his third wife, the former Lucy Holcombe, entertained many leaders of the Confederacy in their home. Both Lucy and Francis lived at the home until their deaths in the late 1800s. Lucy was known as the “Queen of the Confederacy” and was the only woman to be featured on Confederate currency and to have an army unit named after her. Within the historic collection of slave narratives housed at the Library of Congress, several former slaves of the Pickens family recalled their life in the house. “Over in old Edgefield where I was raised we had plenty to eat: plenty peas, corn bread, turnips and other things. We hunted wild game, too. I was a slave, ...” recalled Henry Ryan in 1937. These “house stories” of life in black and white South Carolina will be collected and combined within the documentary in order to leave a historic record illustrating the richness of life in the region.
Julian and Eulalie Salley

The antebellum era is not the only era of “house stories” that will be uncovered in the documentary. Edgewood was exactly 100 years old when Julian and Eulalie Salley acquired the home. Julian was a prominent attorney in the area, and his outspoken wife was one of the most notable women of the new South. The Salleys moved Edgewood to Aiken, S.C., reconstructing the home board-by-board and adding on a number of improvements and alterations, yet still preserving the historic frame. Mrs. Salley lived at the house until her death in 1975. She advocated a number of causes, with her most ardent support going toward woman suffrage. She was an active, if somewhat unconventional, citizen. Her biography, *Eulalie*, researched and written by Emily Bull in 1973, documents Mrs. Salley’s many activities to influence and change the political and social life of the area. Many people remember their encounters with Eulalie at her real estate office, in line at the voting booth, and at civic events around town. Everyone agrees she was a “real character” who could make you reconsider your stance on different issues.—Dr. Deidre Martin is vice chancellor for advancement at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

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**Pickens-Salley Symposium on Southern Women**

The Pickens-Salley House today bears the name of the two women who lived in the house during its more than 200-year history—Lucy Pickens and Eulalie Salley. Both women were unique for their time in history, and their memory is honored every year with an event during Women’s History Month titled the Pickens-Salley Symposium on Southern Women. Over the years, topics for the symposium have covered a wide range of subjects related to women in the South from the antebellum period, to the suffrage movement, to women and race, to the World War II era.

“As we worked on plans for the 2008 symposium on Southern Women and World War II, we decided to create a short video featuring the oral histories of local women and their World War II experiences and memories,” said Dr. Maggi Morehouse, USC Aiken history professor. “As our excitement grew from uncovering these great stories through oral histories, we began to formulate a plan to do a more major oral history project that would encompass the families of the Pickens-Salley House. With the strong degree of interest in Southern history in this region and the aging of many of the people associated with the house, we felt that it was important to begin this project while we could still capture the stories and memories of people associated with the house.”

“We are still in the early phases of the project. However, it has been very exciting,” said Dr. Deidre Martin, USC Aiken vice chancellor for advancement. “I have been in the process of contacting individuals whose family history has been linked with the house. I have found all of them to be enthusiastic about the project, from descendants of the Pickens and Salley families to descendants of the slaves when the house was part of the plantation in Edgefield. We have also been so pleased to have the staff of the South Caroliniana Library work with us as partners in doing the early research for this project.” Plans for the documentary project include collecting oral histories that will be given to the South Caroliniana Library to benefit future researchers.
THE F.W. PICKENS PAPERS

The South Caroliniana Library’s holdings of the personal papers of Francis Wilkinson Pickens (1805–1869) document the life and times of the U.S. Representative, minister to Russia, state legislator, state senator, and governor.

The 100+ items date from the 1830s through the end of the 19th century and consist largely of political correspondence and business papers reflecting the sale of cotton and plantation supplies. Pickens’ letters to members of his family discuss plantation affairs and family and social life.

Correspondence between 1855 and 1859 is chiefly that of Pickens’ wife, Lucy Holcombe Pickens, with her family and friends. Also included in the library’s holdings of portraits and other art are busts of Francis and Lucy Pickens and a portrait of F.W. Pickens painted by William Harrison Scarborough.

THE EULALIE CHAFFEE SALLEY PAPERS

The South Caroliniana Library holds the Eulalie Chaffee Salley Papers, 1914–1922, which reveal Salley’s participation as an outspoken activist in the woman suffrage movement in South Carolina and the nation.

According to the University South Caroliniana Society’s Annual Report of 1976, “The letters begin with Mrs. Salley’s first involvement with the Aiken County Equal Suffrage League, which she organized in 1916 and climaxed in 1920 when the 36th state ratified the 19th amendment. The S.C. Equal Suffrage League elected Mrs. Salley its auditor in 1917, second vice president in 1918, and president in 1919. Following reorganization of the Women’s Equal Suffrage League into the League of Women Voters in 1920, Mrs. Salley was named vice-chair, Second Congressional District, and director of the Third Region in the National League of Women Voters.

“The historic adoption of the 19th amendment by Tennessee took place on Aug. 20, 1920, and six days later it was the law of the land. Thus ended weeks of suspense and, in Mrs. Salley’s words, a ‘struggle that has lasted for 70 years.’”
BY ALLEN STOKES

Another cycle of the academic calendar at the University of South Carolina has begun. The arrival of thousands of students brings energy and life to the campus and represents quite a change from the so-called lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

But for those of us at the South Caroliniana Library, the days of summer are anything but lazy. We have been visited by a number of scholars who have used the summer months to continue research on various projects. Four of the researchers were the recipients of research awards made possible by the generosity of individuals who have established named endowments to encourage and promote scholarly research in the collections of the South Caroliniana Library.

WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS SCHOLARS

This summer, the South Caroliniana Library hosted two distinguished William Gilmore Simms scholars, Dr. David W. Newton, a professor at the University of West Georgia, and John W. Miller, who is completing his dissertation at the College of William and Mary.

William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professor David W. Newton pursued several projects while at the library, but he focused primarily on an unpublished manuscript from the Charles Carroll Simms Collection titled “Sir Will O’ Wisp,” a 188-page novel fragment that Simms worked on following the Civil War. A fascinating story of an encounter between a writer and a gentleman demon, the novel is, in Newton’s words, “part philosophical treatise, part social commentary on human foibles,” which presents Simms “at his Wittiest and most irreverent best.”

Newton’s two other projects included completing research comparing Simms and Edgar Allan Poe for an essay slated for publication in spring 2009 in Studies in the Literary Imagination, and work on an unpublished collection of Simms’ poetry known as the Grandfather Gander poems. This remarkable collection of several hundred unpublished nursery rhymes and fragments represent Simms’ effort to create nursery rhymes featuring Southern themes. “Many of the poems include themes, locales, plant and animal life, characters, and folklore that would have been familiar to Southern readers,” Newton explained. He presented a paper on his research at the biannual meeting of the William Gilmore Simms Society, held at the T. R. R. Cobb House in Athens, Ga., in September.

John W. Miller’s primary focus as William Gilmore Simms Research Fellow was editing and annotating a selection of Simms’ criticism. “Simms was a frequent editor of periodicals and one of antebellum America’s prominent public intellectuals,” Miller commented, and his research found that the Caroliniana’s collections offered new insights into Simms’ centrality to his times. Simms’ essays show him to be representative of the political sentiments of Jacksonian Democrats, the priorities of the nativist cultural movement known as Young America, the later disaffection of Southern secessionists, and the fitful reintegration of the South into the United States following the Civil War. As Miller put it, “Simms’ criticism is an indicator of the intellectual and cultural development of the mid-19th century United States, illustrating how he was participating and shaping these national discussions.”

Both Simms scholars offered high praise for their time at the Caroliniana. Miller wrote that “I can think of no other library that has such a concentration of a single author’s manuscripts, published works, and complete runs of antebellum periodicals. Every resource I needed, no matter how obscure, was available to me.” Newton concurred. “I was continually amazed at how much the staff knew about the collection and where to locate difficult to find sources. In everything they do, you can really tell how deeply invested they are in the mission of the library.” Both cited the congeniality of the library staff as well. “The entire staff at the Caroliniana was incredibly gracious,” Newton enthused. “They really made me feel as though I was not simply working there but part of an extended family, something that is very important when you are spending several months away from home.” Miller agreed. “Few places are as gracious and as hospitable to a visiting researcher as the South Caroliniana.”

Both scholars plan to return and continue their work and to encourage colleagues to do so as well. As Newton explained, “Those that support the work and mission of the Caroliniana are making a significant contribution to our understanding of South Carolina and the American South past, present, and future.”

ELLISON DURANT SMITH RESEARCH AWARD

The Ellison Durant Smith Research Award went to Jason Kirby, a graduate student at the University of Georgia. Kirby worked with the William C. Westmoreland collection to assess Westmoreland as the first commander in American history to lead a fully integrated military force during his tenure as commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968.

LEWIS P. JONES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORY

The Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History went to Emily Bruchko, a Ph.D. candidate in American history at Emory University, to continue research on her dissertation, “Slave Traffic: The Informal Economy, the Law, and the Social Order of South Carolina Cotton Country.”

THE SOCIETY’S 72ND ANNUAL MEETING

The University South Caroliniana Society celebrated the organization’s 72nd annual meeting on April 26. President Steve Griffith delivered the annual address, “Two South Carolinians Worthy of Remembrance: Joel Roberts Poinsett and Walker Gill Wylie.” At the meeting Dr. Robert K. Ackerman succeeded Steve Griffith as president, Sam Howell was

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The Society’s 73rd Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 2009
Reception and Exhibits at the library at 11 a.m.
Followed by lunch at the Capstone House
Campus Room at 1 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University. Faust is author of several books, including A Sacred Circle: Dilemma of the Intellectual in the Old South, 1840–1860 (1977), James Henry Hammond and The Old South: A Design for Mastery (1982), Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War (1996), and This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War (2008). Faust has used the South Caroliniana Library’s collections in researching many of her publications.

Preserving the Library’s Visual Treasures

By Beth Bilderback

This spring as I was filling in at the reference desk, a young couple came into the Manuscripts Division. The young man was a distant relation to Peter Samuel Bacot and wanted to see Bacot’s papers and the diary of Ada Bacot. Being an archivist, I could understand his desire to connect with his past and to touch and read a personal part of his history. He and his wife looked through several boxes of papers and volumes of the diary and quickly realized they did not have time that afternoon to go through it all.

As we were talking, I pointed out three portraits hanging at the end of the room. The portraits were of Anna Jane White, who married Peter Samuel Bacot; Mary Hart Brockinton, with Peter Brockinton Bacot; and Richard Brockinton. The portraits were restored over the past few years and now hang in a family group. The young man said the boy looked just like his great-uncle, who is in his 90s and is full of family stories. The couple left determined to return and spend more time with the papers.

Library staff members daily enjoy the beauty of these paintings by William Harrison Scarborough and marvel at the details such as the beaded purse on Mrs. Brockinton’s arm, and the bird plumes in Anna Jane’s hat, and the fact that Mr. Brockinton is holding a crutch. So it was with great pleasure that, one day in May, I showed the 90-year-old great-grandson of Scarborough and his four children these and other portraits painted by Scarborough. It meant a great deal to them to see the portraits and to know we are committed to their preservation.

The library’s Portrait Conservation Project Fund made treatment of these paintings possible, and we are grateful for contributions to this fund to continue the important work of preserving our visual materials. Staff members are looking at condition and priorities to determine the next painting to benefit from conservation treatment. The library still has a number of portraits and frames in need of treatment, and the fund is limited, so setting priorities is important. If you are interested in helping to preserve the library’s unique visual treasures, you may want to provide support for the Portrait Conservation Project Fund or the Portrait Conservation Endowment Fund. To do so, please contact Pam Cowart, the libraries’ director of advancement, or development officer Carol Benfield at 803-777-3142.
The South Caroliniana Library has acquired papers of the Rhett family, including 110 letters of Robert Barnwell Rhett (1800–1876) to his son Robert Barnwell Rhett Jr. (1828–1905), as well as correspondence of other family members. Another major component of the collection is the extensive correspondence between Rhett Jr. and his first wife, Josephine Horton (1830–1860). After Josephine’s death, Rhett married Harriet Moore Barnard (1834–1902) in 1867. She was the daughter of Dr. David Moore and Martha Harrison Moore, of Huntsville, Ala. It was this union that eventually brought the Rhett papers to the Moore-Rhett house in Huntsville, where they remained until July 2008, at which time they were returned to South Carolina.

The Rhett family papers also include 18th-century correspondence between an uncle in Scotland and a nephew in America. Both correspondents were named Andrew Burnet, and the nephew was the father of Robert Barnwell Rhett’s first wife, Elizabeth. Several letters of Sabina Burnet concern the operation of her plantation on Black Mingo River, including one discussing the sale of slaves. Robert Barnwell Rhett’s interest in the genealogy of the Rhett, Smith, and Barnwell families is documented by correspondence, copies of wills and other documents, and family charts.

Correspondence between the Rhetts, Sr. and Jr., spans the 1840s to the 1870s and reveals the close personal relationship between father and son. Their correspondence provides commentary on the political issues of the time, family relations, and business interests, especially the fortunes of the Charleston Mercury during the Civil War and the postwar financial problems that eventually caused the paper to cease publication in 1868.

Other correspondents in the collection include Rhett Jr. and Confederate Congressman William Porcher Miles; Alfred Rhett, commander of Fort Sumter, and Gen. Thomas Jordan; Rhett Jr. and brother Edmund concerning the Confederate Secretary of State; and Rhett Jr. and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. An exchange of letters between Alfred Rhett and Francis Dawson concerns Rhett’s reaction to Dawson’s critical comments in the Charleston Daily News.

The support of the officers and members of the Executive Council of the University South Caroliniana Society enabled the acquisition of the Rhett family collection.

Former Archivist to Preserve South Carolina Writers’ Works with Gift

By Larry DiGiovanni

Tom Johnson, South Caroliniana Library’s former field archivist, has executed two planned gifts to benefit the library whose historical collections he helped build. Combined, the gifts will one day establish an endowment to develop research collections on South Carolina writers and authors, living and deceased. Such collections could include book manuscripts, journals, diaries, letters, sketchbooks, photographs, exhibit catalogs, and miscellaneous items.

Johnson, who now resides in Spartanburg, S.C., says he loved working as field archivist at the South Caroliniana Library for 29 years. “The outstanding leadership of library director Allen Stokes influenced my decision to help keep the library’s research legacy intact in this way,” Johnson says. “This gift allows what interests me to go on, the continuation of an archival commitment that I hope will be beneficial to the South Caroliniana Library. I still honor the institution that I worked for because I think it’s so important.”

The South Caroliniana Library houses such works by Johnson as A True Likeness: The Black South of Richard Samuel Roberts, coedited with Carolina art professor Philip C. Dunn, the book features photographic portraits of middle-class African Americans taken by Roberts in Columbia during the 1920s and 1930s. The book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won the Southern Regional Council’s Lillian Smith Book Award in 1986. University Libraries staff members are currently working with the Roberts family to retain as many as 3,000 glass negatives.

Important items associated with South Carolina artists and authors—their exhibit catalogs, journals, notebooks, and sketchbooks—are all valuable and potentially opportune for acquisition, Johnson says. For deceased subjects, the library staff must complete the kind of detective work on which Johnson built his career.
locating and determining which archival materials should be preserved.

Though he retired in 2002, Johnson remains active in one of his other passions—fine art. He served as curator for a fine-art exhibit, “People Reading: Selections from the Collection of Donald and Patricia Oresman,” on display at the Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach this fall. Johnson worked for several years with Donald Oresman, a Manhattan lawyer, to bring the exhibit items to South Carolina.

Also active with a poetry-writing group in Spartanburg, Johnson serves on several boards and is currently chair of the South Carolina Academy of Authors. He holds life membership in the South Caroliniana Society, the nonprofit patron organization of the South Caroliniana Library.

—Reprinted from the Aug. 28, 2008, issue of , publication for faculty, staff, and friends of the University of South Carolina

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

An endowment established to support the University Libraries will generate funds to enhance the holdings or services the donor wishes to support for years to come. Endowments may be established with gifts over a multiyear period or through a legacy. For more information please contact Pam Cowart or Carol Benfield at 803-777-3142.