Carolinina Columns - Spring 2011

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NEW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS OFFER LIBRARY TREASURES TO RESEARCHERS WORLDWIDE

The University Libraries’ Digital Collections Department, now located in the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, has made many of the South Caroliniana Library’s book, manuscript, and visual image treasures available online in the past few months. Some of these are:

**Eleanor Phelps’ Cruise Around the World**—In the winter of 1922, Aiken, S.C., resident Eleanor Phelps boarded the S.S. Laconia in New York City and embarked on the inaugural American Express Company Cruise Around the World. The photographs, diary entries, and souvenirs that comprise this collection document Eleanor’s visits to the Panama Canal, India’s Taj Mahal, and Egypt’s Valley of the Kings, as well as dozens of cities and other historic sites all over the globe.

**The Poetical Remains of the Late Mary Elizabeth Lee** (1813–1849) with a biographical memoir, published in Charleston in 1851 by Walker and Richards, 224 pages

**The Palmetto Riflemen**, Company B., Fourth Regiment S.C. Vols.; Company C., Palmetto Sharp Shooters, historical sketch and an address delivered by James A. Hoyt, a former member of the company, on July 21, 1885, together with a roll of the company and other information, published by Hoyt and Keys, printers, 1886

**Charleston Earthquake, 1886**—On Aug. 31, 1886, Charleston and surrounding towns suffered extensive damage from the largest earthquake ever to hit the southeast. The earthquake lasted less than a minute, but it caused millions of dollars in damage and many deaths and injuries. The photographs in this collection show the aftermath of the earthquake shortly after it occurred. George LaGrange Cook, a prominent Charleston photographer, created the series “Cook’s Earthquake Views of Charleston and Vicinity,” which featured a total of 200 photographs that could be purchased as souvenirs. The collection contains a portion of this series, along with earthquake photographs from photographers William Wilson, W.H. Fairchild, J.H. Wisser, and Joseph Hall.

**E. Don Herd Photograph Collection**—Herd created these negatives while a student at Belton High School, Belton, S.C., and at Erskine College. Subjects include Belton and Easley high schools’ athletic teams, clubs, class officers, and homecoming celebrations. Also included are views

*From “Eleanor Phelps’ Cruise Around the World,” a watercolor of Naples, Italy*
of community life via negatives of the Belton City Council, businesses, churches, weddings, reunions, portraits, Christmas parades, scout troops, and a trip to Cuba.

**The Historical Commission of South Carolina Pamphlet Collection**—Included are 45 artificially bound volumes of separately published South Carolina imprints from the 19th and early 20th centuries covering agriculture, Civil War regimental histories, education and schools, geology, industry, medicine, Native American tribes, nature, nullification, the Revolutionary War, the Reconstruction Era (1865–1877), and the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition (1901–1902), as well as miscellaneous issues of several farmers’ almanacs, sermons, and speeches, and the annual reports of the Historical Commission.

**Colonial History**—
1) “Memorial Presented to His Grace, my Lord the Duke of Newcastle … upon the Present Condition of Carolina, and the Means of its Amelioration”; privately printed by Purry, Jean Pierre, fl. 1718–1731

**Native Americans**—“History and Condition of the Catawba Indians of South Carolina,” Scaife, Hazel Lewis, 1872–1939

**Revolutionary War**—
1) “Massachusetts and South Carolina in the Revolution,” speech of Hon. Benjamin R. Tillman (1847–1918), of South Carolina, in the Senate of the United States, Thursday, Jan. 30, 1902
2) “Fort Moultrie Centennial; Being an Illustrated Account of the Doings at Fort Moultrie, Sullivan’s island, Charleston (S. C.) Harbor,” 1876
3) “The names, as far as can be ascertained, of the officers who served in the South Carolina regiments on the continental establishment, of the officers who served in the militia, of what troops were upon the continental establishment, and of what militia organizations served, together with some miscellaneous information,” DeSaussure, Wilmot G. (Wilmot Gibbes), 1822–1886
5) Extracts from the letter-books of Lieutenant Enos Reeves [d. 1807], of the Pennsylvania line, contributed by John B. Reeves

**The David Wyatt Aiken Papers, 1849–1976**—This collection contains letters and other materials surrounding the life of five-term U.S. Congressman David Wyatt Aiken (1828–1887), whom biographers have styled “South Carolina’s Militant Agrarian.” Aiken served as a colonel in the Confederate Army and in the S.C. House of Representatives. He was a member of the Agricultural and Mechanical Society of South Carolina and served on the executive committee of the National Grange. From 1877 until 1887, he represented South Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives. The collection consists in large part of letters to his second wife, Virginia Carolina Smith Aiken (1831–1900), as well as a handwritten autobiography and other materials surrounding his life.

**Stereographic Views of South Carolina**—This group of 74 stereographs utilizes photographs taken during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras by photographers Samuel A. Cooley and John P. Soule. Included are images of damage to forts, churches, hospitals, and other buildings in Charleston and on Folly and Port Royal Islands.

**Papers of the Smith and Wells Families, 1856–1914**—This collection consists primarily of the Civil War letters of Edward Laight Wells, reflecting on the mood in Charleston during the secession crisis in 1860, fighting with the Hampton’s Legion 1864–
In this issue of Caroliniana Columns, you will read a great deal about digitization. You can hardly talk with a librarian without hearing something about digitization these days.

So what is it, and why is it so important?

Digitization involves scanning original material and preserving it in a digital format. This allows people to view it on a computer and share it electronically through e-mail or the Internet.

For the second part of the question, the answer is fairly simple. As librarians, we believe in sharing. In fact, we have entire departments that are devoted to lending and borrowing. The beauty of digitization is it is neither lending nor borrowing. Our unique collections never actually leave our hands, and yet we can share them with the world in a digitized format. By the same token, our students and researchers can study visual and literary treasures housed in other libraries that they otherwise would never have access to.

Let’s say you want to examine a medieval manuscript. Once it is digitized, not only can you look at it from anywhere in the world but you can zoom in and look at it closer than the human eye allows. Researchers can now simultaneously compare manuscripts held in libraries that are continents apart without even leaving their offices.

Take our National Endowment for the Humanities newspaper digitization project. When it is completed, you will be able to search the full text of a selection of pre-1922 S.C. newspapers as well as other newspapers from around the country. What once involved the painstaking process of scrolling through reels of microfilm can now be done in a few simple searches.

In reality, there is no substitute for holding paper in your hands and sharing something across the span of time. But digital copies and original documents will share the spotlight from now on. Neither is going away, and each will have a unique role to play in the spread of information and the furthering of research.

Tom McNally
Spring brings beautiful flowers, pollen, and baseball. (Two out of three isn't bad and is more than acceptable in baseball.) Being a fan of the latter, I determined to explore the South Caroliniana Library's holdings for documentation of the game of baseball in South Carolina.

When I was a young kid in the 1950s, I would ride my bicycle from Ben Avon, S.C., to watch mill teams play on the fields at Draper Corporation and in Glendale, S.C., both of which were located only a few miles from my home. Glendale featured wooden bleachers; there were no bleachers at Draper, and like the companies that sponsored teams, the fields are distant memories.

Among the library’s visual holdings are group photographs of teams from Harbison Agricultural College, which was located in Irmo, S.C., taken by African American photographer Richard S. Roberts, and an 1896 photograph of the University of South Carolina team.

Other college, high school, and town teams photographed between around 1900 and 1920 include Erskine and Newberry Colleges; Sumter, S.C., and Columbia, S.C., high schools; and teams representing Shelton, S.C., and Greer, S.C. A postcard presents a view of the bleachers on the field in Cheraw, S.C. Textile-mill baseball in Clinton, S.C., in the 1950s is featured in the scrapbooks of Clinton and Lydia Mills executive Putsy Silas Bailey.
NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are an invaluable source for researching baseball history. The Aug. 1, 1899, issue of the Piedmont Messenger has a photograph on the front page of the Piedmont team, “Champions of South Carolina,” winners of 19 of 25 games. Several of Sam Latimer’s “From the Editor’s Desk” columns in The State were devoted to baseball. His column of Feb. 5, 1956, concerned “Red” McMahon and the early days of the South Atlantic Baseball League. A Sept. 20, 1959, column discussed the evolution of an Elmwood property from the State Fair, to a football field, to a baseball field, and eventually to Logan School. (As an aside, on the day that I am writing, March 17, there appeared a notice yesterday of the death of Marty Marion, at the age of 93. Marion, a native of Richburg, S.C., played shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals.)

RECORDS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, STATISTICS, LETTERS

Among published materials related to baseball are a Columbia Base Ball Souvenir Book ca. 1919 or 1920 and Constitution, By-Laws, General Rules, 1928, for the Charleston Amateur Baseball League in the George C. Rogers Papers.

Judge Mendel L. Smith played on the University of Virginia baseball team that competed in a tournament at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. Between 1907 and 1910 Smith served as president of the South Carolina State League of Baseball, which he founded. Wilbur E. Taylor, of Prosperity, S.C., formed the Dutch Fork baseball league around 1933. Records for 1935, 1939–1940, and 1946 include printed rules and regulations, team rosters, statistics, schedules, and standings. The papers of USC faculty member Edwin L. Green (1870–1948) contain correspondence and financial records of the South Carolina Athletic Association, which oversaw football and baseball.

Baseball was often the focus of community social activities and rivalries. Charles Elisha Spencer, a native of Bishopville, S.C., who was courting Ada Emmaline McCall in 1877, told her of the excitement generated by baseball games played between the local Bishopville club and those from surrounding communities. In a letter of Oct. 14, 1877, he related a report that “Bishopville is made somewhat lively by match-games of Base Ball now … think if I were some of the young men, I would have some excuse not to play, and would have a pleasant time with the ladies.” A game between Allendale, S.C., and Varnville, S.C., is reported in an 1887 letter of Laurens Burton O’Bryan.

The sources mentioned above are a sampling, but perhaps enough to whet someone’s appetite to undertake more extensive research on the game of baseball in South Carolina.

BOOKS ON BASEBALL IN THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

Bryant, Mark, Baseball in Columbia (2004)
Higbe, Kirby, The High Hard One (1998)
Moore, Joseph Thomas, Pride Against Prejudice: The Biography of Larry Doby (1988)
Thompson, Joe, Growing Up with “Shoeless Joe”: The Greatest Natural Player in Baseball History (1997)

The University of South Carolina baseball team of 1896
From the earliest times, mankind has dreamed of taking to the air as birds do. With the development of the balloon by the Montgolfier brothers in France in 1783, this dream was partially realized, but, in contrast to a bird which can control most aspects of its flight, man’s flight at that time was at the mercy of the winds since powered flight was more than a century into the future.

Many balloonists theorized that altitudes above the earth could be identified where the winds were uniformly blowing in a given direction, west to east, for example, thus permitting a balloonist some modest control over the balloon’s direction. One such individual was Thaddeus Sobieski Constantine Lowe (1832–1913), well known by the late 1850s for his theories in meteorology and his ballooning activities.

By Bill Schmidt
Going South by Heading East

In April 1861, Lowe was in Cincinnati to test out his theory that air currents in the upper atmosphere moved from west to east. On the evening of April 19, Lowe, dressed in evening clothes, a tall silk hat, and a Prince Albert waistcoat, arrived at a formal banquet honoring a prominent member of the community. Shortly after arriving, Lowe was notified that the winds had become favorable for his test and he hurriedly left the banquet. At 4 a.m. on April 20, still in his evening clothes, he took off in the direction of Washington, D.C., in his balloon, the *Enterprise*, with water, coffee, foodstuffs, blankets, navigational and scientific equipment, and many copies of a special edition of the *Cincinnati Daily Commercial*, which had been hurriedly printed announcing his flight.

As Lowe’s balloon moved eastward, it encountered the Allegheny mountains, which caused the balloon to drift in a far more southerly direction than Lowe had intended. While passing over Virginia, Lowe heard cannonading as Virginians were celebrating their secession from the Union. After a nine-hour flight during which the balloon rose to height of ca. 24,000 feet, Lowe landed in a very rural area of South Carolina, a bit outside of Unionville (now Union).

Space Alien, Yankee Spy, the Devil?

Shortly, a crowd of unfriendly, armed locals surrounded Lowe. Since none of those in the crowd had ever seen a balloon, some thought Lowe was a devil or a creature from outer space. Others were certain that he was a Yankee spy with skills too dangerous to be turned loose who thus should be killed. Calmer heads prevailed, however, and Lowe, along with his balloon, its wicker basket, and its contents were taken into Unionville. In town, the hotel landlord, a Mr. Black, recognized Lowe, whom he had seen doing balloon experiments in Charleston the year before, and confirmed Lowe’s identity. Showing the crowd the Cincinnati newspaper that had been printed at 3 a.m. that morning further convinced the crowd of Lowe’s amazing journey, and he was treated as a celebrity. He was wined and dined, shown off around town, and, the next day, placed on a train for Columbia, S.C., from which point he planned to board a train for the North.

Upon arriving in Columbia, however, Lowe was again accused of being a Yankee spy and taken to jail. Brought before the mayor and several councilmen a short time later, Lowe explained the scientific nature of his work. Given that the mayor and his colleagues were still skeptical, Lowe was brought before the president and several faculty members of South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) who were familiar with his work and who vouched for him. All apologized to Lowe for the harsh treatment that he had received, and it was unanimously agreed that he should both be freed at once and given a passport to ensure his safety on his trip north. Due to the chaos that the war had created, it took Lowe five days to make his way back to Cincinnati.

Commenting in the May 16, 1861, issue of the *Carolina Spartan* about the “success” of his flight, Lowe asserted that, had his balloon had a capacity of 10,000 more cubic feet, he would have been able to fly a mile higher than he did and thus would have avoided “the influence of the mountains and local currents” and thus “could have landed on the sea coast in a due east direction from my starting point in less than six hours.”
Shortly after his arrival in Cincinnati, Lowe’s supporters arranged for him to travel to Washington, D.C., where he met in the White House with President Lincoln and Smithsonian Secretary Professor Joseph Henry. Henry, a Lowe supporter, forcefully told the president that he considered Lowe the country’s leading authority on aeronautics. In the days following the meeting, Lowe gave numerous demonstrations of balloon capabilities, including a balloon ascension from the White House lawn from which Lowe sent Lincoln a telegram, the first telegram ever sent from a balloon. Convinced of the military usefulness of balloon reconnaissance, Lincoln personally escorted Lowe to the War Department offices and oversaw the creation of the Balloon Corps with Lowe as its director. Lincoln remained in the office while the general of the armies, Winfield Scott, dictated Lincoln’s instructions to the appropriate military personnel.

With the Balloon Corps established, Lowe’s attention turned to its implementation. In the days before trucks and pressurized helium canisters, large, horse-drawn wagons were used to transport the items comprising the corps: the balloons and passenger baskets; barrels of sulfuric acid and iron filings, the mixing of which produced the hydrogen gas used to inflate the balloons; the hydrogen generators in which the acid and filings were mixed to produce the gas; the personnel assigned to the corps; and the supplies for the men and “balloon train” horses.
“Most Shot at Man in the Civil War”

During the war, Lowe performed many ascensions for the military, thus providing much important information to the commanders on the ground. Given the Balloon Corps’ now-recognized contribution to the war effort, it is considered to be the first incarnation of the U.S. Air Force. While aloft, Lowe was out of range of Confederate cannons, but he was within range during ascent and descent, and thus a target of Confederate cannon fire. In this context, Lowe is considered to be “the most shot at man in the Civil War.”

Lowe was always anxious to try out new ideas. During the Peninsula campaign (May–June, 1862) he made some observations from balloons that he had installed on a coal barge, the George Washington Park Custis, on the James River. Therefore it could be said that he created the world’s first aircraft carrier.

For reasons beyond Lowe’s control, the Balloon Corps was not terribly successful. In effect, it ceased to exist after the battle of Chancellorsville in early May of 1863. Shortly after that, Lowe left government service. There were numerous reasons for the Corps’ failure and Lowe’s departure, chief among them the resistance of the Army’s “old guard” to new ideas, an attitude which largely contributed to Lowe’s inability to procure the manpower and materiel needed to truly be successful.

Postwar Successes

Many foreign governments took notice of the aerial reconnaissance techniques Lowe developed, and soon after his departure from the Union Balloon Corps, several countries, including France and Great Britain, offered him a military commission if he would create a balloon corps for them. He declined all such offers. Rather, he went on to a distinguished career in science and business, building on his work and achievements prior to the Civil War. Developing products based on the ideas in his many patents, Lowe became a very successful and wealthy businessman. Living in the Pasadena, Calif., area during his last years, Lowe was the principal in the construction of a popular electric traction railway and resort area on Echo Mountain, renamed Mt. Lowe, a peak within the Sierra Madres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the railway and associated buildings experienced a series of natural disasters, and the enterprise was abandoned completely in 1938.

—Bill Schmidt is a longtime supporter of the University Libraries who has designated the libraries in his will to receive the majority of his estate, including all items from his extensive collection of books and historical documents.
PROFESSOR LOWE’S BALLOON VOYAGE

HE FRIGHTENS THE CHIVALRY OUT OF THEIR WITS!
THE PROFESSOR ARRESTED FOR A SPY

Prof. T.S.C. Lowe made a balloon ascension from Cincinnati on the 20th of April, starting about 5 o’clock in the morning. He passed over parts of Kentucky, the Cumberland Mountains, and part of Virginia. He thus describes the latter part of his trip:

Feeling uneasy, lest I should get into South Carolina before I could get out of the current formed by the mountains, I discharged a quantity of ballast and again ascended, with the hope of clearing them to the North. I continued to discharge weight and let off gas until I attained an elevation of 25,500 feet above the sea. Here the thermometer fell to 10 degrees below zero; the water, fruit, and other things froze, and it required all the clothing and blankets I had to keep me warm.

It was now 12 o’clock, and I could distinguish the blue ocean in the Eastern horizon. Not having sufficient ballast to remain at that great altitude, the balloon gradually sank down to within twelve thousand feet of earth. Here, the current was a little South of East, again, and knowing that the coast in that direction was an uninhabitable swamp, and being desirous of landing near a railroad, I concluded to descend and look out a good place. I heard the firing of cannon, and concluded I was near some village; and on nearing the earth, over a plantation, caused great consternation among the inhabitants, who seemed to be entirely unacquainted with such a scene, and it was some minutes before any one could be persuaded to approach; and when they did they would not render me any assistance but threatened destruction to the “hellish” contrivance that had frightened them so; but I learned of them that I was in the township of Spartanburg, near the line of North and South Carolina. They would not believe that I had sailed from the State of Ohio that morning and informed that they would be very thankful if I would leave, and ordered the negroes to let go of the ropes they were holding.

Being desirous of getting near a Railroad, I threw out a bag of sand and commenced to ascend. At that moment one of the bystanders, seeing the bag of sand fall, sang out, “Hello, stranger, come back; I reckon you have lost your baggage.” I arose 7,000 feet, and there remained until I was wafted some twenty miles further to the east, which occupied about half an hour more, during which time I heard many discharges of what I took to be muskets. Not knowing, but being apprehensive that the globe over my head was the object of the fire, I prepared for making all the signals possible when I should again near the earth, but while I was thus elevated I had no fear, for it was impossible to send a ball within a mile of me.

When within half of mile of the earth, I head loud cries of terror, and saw people running in all directions; but I was determined to land for good this time, let come what would, and in five minutes more the anchor took a firm hold in a short scrub oak, and the car gently touched the ground. Thus fast, the globe, gently swinging to and fro, presented a very life-like appearance. I soon noticed some heads peeping around the corner of a log hut that stood near by, and in which there seemed to be persons in great distress. I called to them to come and assist me, at which they took no notice, until I threatened to cut loose and run over them, after which two white boys, three old ladies, and three negroes, in a body, ventured within twenty feet of me in company with a stalwart-looking young woman, six feet high and well proportioned, and took hold of the edge of the car. I inquired what was the matter in the house, and was told that several old persons were praying, as they thought the day of judgment had come.

In a few minutes men with muskets began to collect, but seeing women, children and negroes surrounding the air traveler, there seemed to be no use for firearms; so I discharged the gas unmolested, and packed up the machine ready to leave. By this time several more rough looking fellows arrived and threatened destruction to the “devil” that could travel through the air—one adding that he had followed it ten miles, and had shot at it six times without any effect.

The tall young woman aforesaid assured me that there was no danger, for all the men then in the neighborhood were cowards, as all the brave ones had gone to the wars, notwithstanding they all declared they were not afraid; however, promising to give myself up when I arrived at the village, they consented I should leave under a guard of nine men. Procuring a team we started for Unionville, a village nine miles distant, and arrived that evening, halting in front of a stone building with a small checkered window. A council was then held with the jailer, who positively refused to allow any such animal as they described to come into the building.

I was then taken to a hotel, and soon found persons of intelligence, who assured me that I was among friends. Here I remained over the Sabbath, and was called upon by many persons of fine education, who informed that of all the places in the South, at the spot where I landed the inhabitants were the most ignorant for they could neither read or write.

The next morning I started on route for home, but news had reached Columbus, the capital of South Carolina, that a man had brought papers from Cincinnati, Ohio, only nine hours old. I was therefore at first arrested on suspicion of being a bearer of dispatches.

This brought together a number of learned and scientific gentlemen, who at once knew me by reputation, and saw my position, and I was immediately released and furnished with a passport by the Mayor of Columbia. From this time until I reached Cincinnati, no more impediments were placed in my way.
A GOSPEL OF HEALTH

Hilla Sheriff’s Crusade Against MALNUTRITION in South Carolina

BY KATHARINE THOMPSON

An exhibit titled “A Gospel of Health: Hilla Sheriff’s Crusade Against Malnutrition in South Carolina” was on display at the South Caroliniana Library in the fall semester of 2010. The exhibit told the story of one of the few women physicians in South Carolina in the early 20th century. Dr. Sheriff was a pioneer in implementing public health services in the state. Her innovative programs served as models for other Southern states and garnered national attention.

Beginnings of a Life of Service

Hilla Sheriff was born in 1903 in Orangeburg, S.C., to a respected middle-class family.

Growing up, she often visited the rural areas of the Piedmont, where she first became aware of the poverty affecting many of the region’s residents. After attending the College of Charleston, she enrolled in the Medical College of South Carolina, where she was one of three women in her class. She graduated in 1926.

“The prevention and cure of pellagra the only medicine we have is food.”

—HILLA SHERIFF

After completing an internship at the Hospital of the Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania and residencies in Washington, D.C., and New York, Sheriff returned to South Carolina. In 1929, she established a private pediatrics practice in rural Spartanburg, where she was the only doctor within miles. During this time she became aware of the reemergence of pellagra as a major public health crisis in the South.

Pellagra in the South

In the early 20th century, widespread malnutrition manifested itself in the nutritional disorder called pellagra. Cases appeared predominately in rural parts of the South. Pellagra’s symptoms were known as the four Ds: diarrhea, dermatitis, dementia, and death.

Doctors originally believed that spoiled corn, bacteria, or an insect-borne disease caused pellagra. However by 1916 epidemiologist Dr. Joseph Goldberger had gathered data, largely from South Carolina’s Piedmont mill villages, linking the illness to prolonged malnutrition resulting from an unbalanced diet. By 1926 Goldberger pinpointed Vitamin B deficiency as the determining factor. Goldberger’s case studies also highlighted pellagra’s link to impoverished communities, specifically those of mill workers, poor rural farmers, and African Americans. Their economic circumstances manifested in their diets, which consisted of cornmeal, molasses, and fatback pork. These foods were staples because they needed little preparation and were inexpensive. Foodstuffs needed to create a balanced diet, including milk, beef, and fresh fruit and vegetables were too expensive or not readily available.

Pellagra afflicted women and children particularly, especially mothers who did not work outside the home, pregnant and nursing women, and young children. These family members received smaller portions during food rationing necessitated by harsh economic times. Pellagra cases also tended to appear in greater numbers during the late spring and summer months after families had gone without fresh fruits or vegetables all winter.
Some members of the scientific community remained skeptical of Goldberger’s data, and the public remained uninformed of the link between diet and pellagra. Also, the World War I economic boom led to increased wages and a decline in pellagra cases. These factors led to a lack of public interest in the continued study and treatment of the disorder.

During the inter-war years, Southerners faced both an agricultural depression and the Great Depression, causing workers’ wages to fall dramatically. Widespread economic hardship impacted the diets of Southerners, causing them to return to cheap foodstuffs, including large amounts of cornmeal. Diagnosed cases of pellagra in the South eventually rose to more than 100,000 per year, and in 1929, pellagra was the second leading cause of death in South Carolina.

**Sheriff and the American Women’s Hospitals**

In 1931, after witnessing the widespread plight of poor families in her home state, especially those with pellagra, Sheriff left her private practice to pursue a career in public health, beginning with the American Women’s Hospital (AWH) Domestic Program in South Carolina. The AWH often partnered with county officials in community outreach, education, and treatment. Both agencies recognized the socioeconomic disparities in health care: rural farmers did not have immediate access to doctors, and mill workers and African Americans were often refused treatment. Diseases such as pellagra, tuberculosis, and typhoid were more prevalent among these groups and carried significantly higher mortality rates.

The Jackson Mill Health Center was opened in 1931 through the combined efforts of the Spartanburg County Department of Health and AWH. The center provided a permanent place to administer care to mill workers. Staff provided immunizations and held workshops, including “Little Mothers’ Classes.” These classes taught proper hygiene and nutrition to girls, or “little mothers,” who took care of their siblings while their mothers worked in the mill.

**“Health Mobile”**

As director of the AWH units in South Carolina, Sheriff organized clinics on pellagra, diphtheria, typhoid, and tuberculosis for these disenfranchised communities. These units faced many obstacles, including the isolated location of affected communities and the wariness of potential patients.

Sheriff’s solution was the use of a trailer, or “health mobile.” It functioned as a mobile clinic, a novelty that generated interest among the communities it visited. To raise awareness of the trailer’s impending arrival, Sheriff created flyers explaining the mission of AWH and the purpose of the trailer itself: to help people fight disease and malnutrition. The trailer provided seating, an examination room, and an area for cooking demonstrations. It also provided many services, including clinic examinations, treatment, and vaccinations.

The organization was unique in its willingness to serve African Americans. This group experienced a rate of tuberculosis and a fatality rate double that of Caucasians. Malnutrition played a large role in African Americans’ susceptibility to TB, as did a lack of access to adequate health care. AWH organized segregated immunization and treatment clinics for African Americans, providing them with care when few others would.

Families in rural and poor areas were familiar with the purpose of vaccines, but pellagra proved more difficult to treat because families remained unaware of the link between nutrition and the disease. Nutritional education became an important aspect of pellagra clinics. AWH pellagra clinics, held in the health mobile, raised awareness of the disease and focused on preventative measures in addition to treatment. For example, families were taught to recognize what vegetables grow wild during winter, and how to prepare these foods in a manner that retains their nutritional value.

AWH and the Spartanburg County Department of Health distributed additional flyers on the causes and treatment of pellagra, organized visits to local schools, and presented exhibits at fairs. Public outreach, combined with the work of pellagra clinics, proved instrumental in lowering the number of new cases of pellagra diagnosed each year.

**Sheriff at the Spartanburg County Department of Health**

In 1933, Sheriff became the assistant director of the Spartanburg County Department of Health; four years later she became its director. She continued to focus on the needs of poor women and children. Alarmed at the high maternal death rate in South Carolina, especially among women after a large number of pregnancies, she advocated overturning laws that banned the dissemination of contraceptive devices and information about their use. Under her direction South Carolina made birth control one of its official public health services, becoming the second state to do so.

Sheriff also established the first family-planning clinic associated with a county health department in the United States. She established
maternity shelters and continued her work with well-baby clinics, which provided medical supervision and care to infants of indigent parents. She also continued the fight against pellagra. Sheriff’s efforts are reflected in both the decline of the infant mortality rate and of newly diagnosed pellagra cases.

At the Parker District Maternity Shelter, Sheriff and her colleagues served women from the mill district who could not afford to pay for hospitalization. The staff delivered babies and kept both mother and infant for 10 days. Mothers learned proper nutrition to keep themselves and their babies healthy. According to Sheriff, “The babies’ beds are boxes covered with gingham. Mothers [are] given boxes and the gingham covers if they [do] not have a special little bed for the new baby.” Four thousand babies were delivered over the span of 21 years.

**Statewide Responsibilities**

Sheriff served one year as the new assistant director in the Maternal and Child Health Division before being promoted to director in 1941. She was promoted once more in 1967 to deputy commissioner of the State Board of Health and chief of the Bureau of Community Health Services. She stressed the importance of training midwives and pushed for mortality studies of maternal and infant deaths. During this time prenatal clinics and well-baby clinics were established in almost every county in South Carolina. She advocated the training and licensing of midwives, who were especially important in the segregated South, as many African American women would otherwise have no access to medical care during childbirth.

In her later years, Sheriff became an advocate for child abuse victims and lobbied for tougher state and national laws on reporting abuse. Throughout her career she received numerous accolades, including the William Weston Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Pediatrics and the Order of the Palmetto. She was also the first recipient of the Ross Award, given for outstanding service in areas of maternal and child health.

Sheriff retired in 1974 after serving in public health for more than 40 years. She died in 1988.

**Selected Resources on Hilla Sheriff and Public Health in South Carolina**

Hilla Sheriff Papers, 1903–1989. South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.


—Katharine Thompson is the William Davis Melton Graduate Assistant in the University Archives and curator of the Hilla Sheriff exhibit. She is pursuing her master’s degree in the joint public history/library and information science program.
One of my strongest childhood memories is of sleeping at my grandparents’ house and hearing the whistle of the train as it went through town. It was so reassuring because the train always came and the whistle was like a lullaby.

Ben Roberts, who lived in Marietta, Ga., until his death in January, had a lifelong love affair with steam-powered train engines. He was employed by Southern Railway as a pipefitter from 1939 to 1956, working at Spencer Shops near Salisbury, N.C., and in Virginia and Georgia. By 1956 Southern Railway had changed from steam locomotives to diesel, and Roberts’ skills were no longer needed. Roberts then worked for the U.S. Army at installations such as Fort Jackson and Fort Belvoir.

Roberts never forgot his trains though, and he gave the South Caroliniana Library the S.C. portion of his large collection of railroad memorabilia, which is mainly in the form of photographic negatives. He wanted to make sure his collection was preserved for future research, and it is due in large part to people like Roberts that the library can provide such wonderful resources for researchers.

The Boy Who Chased Trains
When talking with Roberts about his collection, I could see the young boy who chased trains for fun. He talked about chasing trains again as an adult, but this time with sound recording equipment. He wanted to capture the unique sounds of steam engine whistles because he realized they would soon be silenced. He also photographed and purchased negatives of engines, rolling stock, stations, rail yards, and other edifices related to railroads and industrial lines.

I have been working with Kate Boyd and her staff in the University Libraries Digital Activities Center to scan the Roberts negatives in order to provide access to the collection. The 600 scans have been added to the library’s South Carolina Railroads virtual collection because they complement our existing images of stations and engines. The collection can be accessed at www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/Railroads.htm.

Virtual Railroads Collection
Tom Fetters, a noted railroad historian, has been working with us to improve our information in the virtual railroads collection. He was excited to see the Ben Roberts images and has provided additional information on railroads and stations. He identified some unique images, such as the Argent Lumber Company water car. Fetters says the history of Argent does not mention it. He also points out the over-running steel truss bridge of the Blue Ridge Railroad crossing Twenty Mile Creek at La France, which was mentioned in a Ripley’s Believe it or Not cartoon as a place where four forms of transportation cross: train, car, boat, and airplane.
Unlike other stations in South Carolina, the Anderson Union Station was built facing Main Street and with the platform below the station. Our images show the Union station as well as the Piedmont & Northern station a block away, whose platform was behind and below the station and accessed by stairs. A series of images shows the construction of the Spartanburg Tunnel, from site preparation to completion. The tunnel was built to get freight trains from the Clinchfield Railroad across the Southern Railway line to the Charleston & Western Carolina, as well as the Piedmont & Northern Railroad. Until then, Southern Railway charged the smaller railroads transfer fees to move freight the few blocks across their main line, when the Southern schedule allowed.

There are three views of Northwestern Railroad of S.C. It ran from Davis Junction through Summerton to Sumter and up to Camden. These views were probably taken in Summerton. Two views are of the nominally operated Pickens Railroad. J.F. Pickens, who owned the Pickens Railroad, bought a New York Central lightweight train and a boat-tail observation car to be used on football excursions. The 1917 Porter 0-4-0T was purchased by Edgemoor & Manetta in 1941. It ran as engine #5 but failed a boiler inspection in 1975. It was the last 100 percent steam-powered railroad in the state.

Better Access, Increased Use
The Ben Roberts Southern Railway Photograph Collection has benefited from technologies such as scanning and Web sites. In the not-too-distant past, collections of negatives were difficult for researchers to use. Not only was a light box needed to view the images, but researchers had to mentally reverse the polarity to imagine what the positive would look like. The Digital Activities Center has done the scanning, written most of the metadata (accompanying information), and constructed the Web site for the library’s railroad collections, allowing a greater audience to view and enjoy them.

―Beth Bilderback is head of the Visual Materials Collections at the South Caroliniana Library.
In 1911, Professor George A. Wauchope, head of the University’s Department of English, wrote a poem titled “A Health to Carolina” which was subsequently adopted as the USC alma mater. The music to which Wauchope’s text was sung was composed in 1837 by Jonathan E. Spilman, a Kentucky lawyer and minister, for Robert Burns’ poem “Sweet Afton.”

In 1959, Dr. John Herr came to the University to teach biology. As he says, “From the time I first heard the alma mater, I thought that this very special poem should be set to its own music. Professor Wauchope wrote new words for an existing tune; I have written a new tune for existing words.”

Using Dr. Herr’s 2005 manuscript, Tim Pape, a graduate of USC Columbia School of Music, wrote an arrangement of the tune for voice and piano in 2007, which was recorded by Richard Conant, bass, and Greg Boatwright, accompanist. In 2009, music student John Maynard won a School of Music contest to compose a choral arrangement for the tune, which was recorded by the USC Concert Choir.

With a modest smile, Dr. Herr remarked, “Please keep in mind that we have no expectations that this new tune would become the official one, although if students and alumni take to it, that outcome is possible.

“I was in the stadium when ‘Cocky’ was first introduced as the replacement for ‘Big Spur,’ the stately, erudite rooster-mascot. Cocky received only polite applause largely unheard above the noise of ‘boos.’ The fans at that time could not accept comic Cocky as a replacement for Big Spur. Interestingly, Cocky since has been named best university mascot in the United States.”

A link to the recorded versions of Dr. Herr’s music can be accessed from the College of Arts and Sciences Web site at www.cas.sc.edu/dean/news/2010/0514-herr.html.
THE JAMES McBRIDE DABBS COLLECTION:
WINDOW ON AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN

BY CRAIG KEENEY

In 2010, the South Caroliniana Library’s Published Materials Division received a collection of books, journals, legal transcripts, and newsletters from the library of author, poet, and public intellectual James McBride Dabbs (1896–1970).

The majority of titles are new to the library’s holdings, and a significant number are entirely new to the University Libraries system. The collection offers a window into Dabbs’ career, research interests, and perspectives on the moral and social issues confronting Americans in the mid-20th century.

A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

James McBride Dabbs wore many hats over the course of his lifetime—farmer, lay theologian, scholar, and civil rights advocate. At an early age, Dabbs showed a knack for writing, publishing his first essay in the July 6, 1912, issue of Progressive Farmer when he was just 16. While a student at the University of South Carolina, he was actively involved with student publications including the Carolinian, The Gamecock, and the Garnet and Black.

Between 1921 and 1937, Dabbs taught English composition and literature at the University and at Coker College for Women in Hartsville, S.C., before returning to his ancestral homestead, Rip Raps Plantation, to work the land. In his later years, he provided leadership to the South Carolina Council on Human Relations (a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing the cause of equal rights for African Americans), served as a guest columnist for the periodicals Christian Century and Presbyterian Outlook, and authored several books, including The Southern Heritage (1958) and Who Speaks for the South? (1964).

THE DABBS COLLECTION

The collection contains both the souvenirs of Dabbs’ life and the raw materials that fueled his intellectual curiosity and informed his thinking. Examples include: the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions study prospectus for 1915–1916, which Dabbs likely consulted when he briefly considered becoming a missionary; the field artillery manuals he consulted as a field artillery officer during the First World War, 1917–1919; and the heavily annotated textbooks he used as an English professor. The collection also contains articles, pamphlets, and periodicals distributed by progressive social organizations such as the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, and the Southern Regional Council regarding the issues of civil rights, free speech rights, international relations, and the role of religion in a democracy—all issues of interest to Dabbs.

Between 1951 and 1968, Dabbs contributed more than 60 essays to the Presbyterian Outlook, many on the issue of civil rights as it challenged the faith of Christians. These essays stand as a testament to his moral courage and forward-looking social vision for the South. In “Last Call for Preachers” (Sept. 20, 1954), Dabbs decried an anonymous man’s assertion that maintaining segregation was “more important than anything but a man’s relation to his God” as the “prostitution of truth.” In “The Wicked Flee …” (Nov. 14, 1955), Dabbs observed that whites “aren’t really concerned about racial purity. What they’re concerned about is economic privilege and social status … and undoubtedly segregation is an aid in maintaining these privileges.” He urged ministers and laypersons to recognize civil rights as a moral and religious, as well as an economic, issue.

The James McBride Dabbs Collection may be accessed through the University Libraries catalog using the author phrase “James McBride Dabbs Collection.” The entire collection will complement the James McBride Dabbs research files and the records of the South Carolina Council on Human Relations, both held by the Manuscripts Division.

— Craig Keeney is the cataloging librarian for the Published Materials Division of the South Caroliniana Library.
This August the South Carolina Digital Newspaper Program (SCDNP) will wrap up a two-year grant that supported the digitization of 100,000 historic newspaper pages dated from 1860 to 1922 that are owned by the South Caroliniana Library.

The South Carolina program is part of the larger National Endowment for the Humanities’ National Digital Newspaper Program, which makes the newspapers freely available and fully searchable via the Library of Congress’ Web site “Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.” The site currently has 3.3 million pages.

The time span covered in this first grant cycle includes such major topics as the Civil War, Reconstruction, woman suffrage, the Progressive era, and World War I.

“I’d say that the biggest users of these digitized newspapers are probably genealogists, looking for information about early family members in local newspapers,” said Santi Thompson, SCDNP project manager.

“The newspapers are a valuable primary source for local news. They also allow you to see the progression of newspapers—and their communities—over time.”
The absence of a newspaper can also tell a tale. “One editor closed down his newspaper, went to serve in the Civil War, then came back and reopened the paper,” said Virginia Pierce, the project’s metadata and outreach specialist. She recently gave a conference presentation based on patented medicine advertisements she came across in some of those historic newspapers.

Since its founding, South Carolina has produced hundreds of newspaper titles in every region of the state—far too many to be included in any one grant cycle of the National Digital Newspaper Program. To select newspapers for inclusion in this cycle, library staff assembled an advisory board and documented their recommendations. The final list of titles represents a process that accounted for advisory board recommendations, preservation issues, and copyright restrictions.

Three newspapers of the 20 titles digitized during this first grant cycle include the Columbia Phoenix (1865–1878), Charleston Daily News (1865–1873), and Anderson Intelligencer (1860–1914). Also in the pipeline are Kiskiass Courier (1849–present), Orangeburg News/Times/Times and Democrat (1867–present), and Sumter Watchman/Watchman and Southron (1861–1930), as well as a number of short-lived African American newspapers, including the Afro-American Citizen (1867–1868) and Charleston Advocate (1899–ca. 1902).

The SCDNP program has applied for a grant extension, which would fund another two years and extend the newspaper dates to 1836 through 1922.

For updates on SCDNP, including the latest additions of South Carolina newspapers to the Chronicling America database, go to www.sc.edu/library/digital/newspaper/index.html.

—Kathy Dowell is a communications associate with the University Libraries.
In commemoration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the American Civil War (1861–65), the University Libraries’ Digital Collections is creating a new virtual collection called “South Carolina and the Civil War.”

The collection, which will be enlarged regularly during the next five years, will present eyewitness views and accounts of the Civil War as well as glimpses of everyday life during exceptional times gleaned from books, diaries, sheet music, maps, letters, photographs, and illustrations. These primary sources, which come from the South Caroliniana Library and the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, provide information about Confederate and Union soldiers, women, African Americans, and others who lived in camps and on battlefields, in urban and rural areas, at the home front, and on both sides of the blockade during the bloodiest conflict in the nation’s history.

Future items will document antebellum sectional tensions, the coming of secession, the progress of the Civil War, and the impact of Reconstruction in South Carolina and the United States.

In her introduction to the collection, Dr. Dorothy Pratt of the Department of History says, “This collection provides a rich trove for delving into the minds of South Carolinians of the period, yet one should be aware of the inherent pitfalls. No historian can work without the opportunity to dig into primary sources of the period, but those of us in the present age have an advantage. Historians work with perspective: We know the end of the story. Primary sources derive from those people who do not know what is going to happen; their notations characterize the facts as they saw them, in their own lives. These materials, therefore, depict people who are writing with hope, frustration, melancholy, and fear. The items also represent only those that were written, saved, cherished, and donated. For instance, few materials are included from 1864 and 1865, years at the end of the war when there was little good news for the writers represented here. Hence, a good part of the very large narrative about the war is missing. In addition, one should remember three other facts about the circumstances in which these items arose: first, there were 10 other states in the confederacy; second, within the state there were also those who supported the union; and third, there were African Americans, whose voice is scarcely represented here.”