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Caroliniana Columns - Fall 1997

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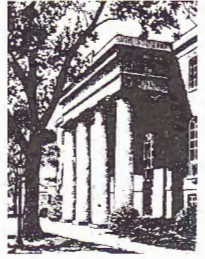


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Caroliniana Columns

University South Caroliniana Society

Fall 1997

From the President's Pen

Looking Forward, Over Our Shoulder!

by Harvey S. Teal

As the University South Caroliniana Society approaches its sixty-second year, a mature status is being achieved. As we consider future plans, directions and programs, a backward glance seems in order. By "Looking Forward, Over Our Shoulder!" the Society seeks to gain an historical perspective. Since we are dedicated to the preservation of our state's history and heritage, it is incumbent upon us to always know and appreciate from whence we came.

Today, as we consider our past, we see a society numbering 2,500 members with an endowment valued at more than a million dollars. We see a collection at the South Caroliniana Library, built largely with our dues and contributions, that has no equal in the United States. Each year through our endowment the Society continues to contribute thirty to fifty thousand dollars to acquire more South Carolina manuscripts, books, pamphlets, newspapers, photographs, sheet music and other Caroliniana.

As we examine the Society membership we find an exceptional record of yearly contributions of Caroliniana to the library. In the past we have developed a membership that emphasized the contribution of material (Caroliniana) more than

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money to the endowment. We certainly do not need to lessen our efforts to acquire Caroliniana, but due to three factors we need to contribute more money to our endowment: we have developed a Caroliniana collection that has grown in geometric proportions over the years; our collections are getting older and require more conservation; and some conservation practices of the past, quite appropriate at the time, have been superseded by much more archivally sound ones.

Today, we have an exhibit case in the reading room of the Book Division containing a scrapbook of William Gilmore Simms in The Charles Carroll Simms Collection and

See Looking Forward on page 8

Saturday's Annual Meeting A Great Success

by Allen Stokes

The University South Caroliniana Society held its 61st annual meeting on Saturday, May 17, 1997. Members attended a morning reception at the library on the university's historic Horseshoe. The exhibit of manuscripts and printed and pictorial material acquired by the South Caroliniana Library in 1996 through gifts of the membership and by the use of dues and other income highlighted the reception. Among the collections on exhibit are the papers of Modjeska Simkins and Townsend Mikell and an extensive collection of early photographs of



Dr. Carol Bleser addresses Society members at the 61st Annual Meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society.

Harbison Agricultural College. On exhibit in the Book Division Reading Room are J. Rion McKissick's copy of Dalcho's *Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina* which has been conserved with funds from the Arthur Elliott Holman, Jr. Preservation and Acquisition Endowment, and a scrapbook of William Gilmore Simms which has been restored through a fund established by Simms's descendants. The exhibit of materials at the annual meeting will remain on display through the summer.

See Meeting on page 4

The Brunson Builder, Vincent Joseph Fontaine by Julia Youmans

From an early age I knew our home on Railroad Avenue in Brunson, South Carolina, was built by Vincent Joseph Fontaine for my grandfather, Judson Hannerhan Lightsey. In those early years of my life I knew very little about Mr. Fontaine, but as time passed I learned about his early life, his coming to America from France, and his building and construction activities in our section of South Carolina.

Due to hardships suffered in France following the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, Mr. Fontaine decided to seek opportunities in America. I was not able to determine how he happened to reach what was then Beaufort County, Prince Williams Parish, South Carolina, near St. Nicholas Lutheran Church in a section known as Jennys. The present address would be R. F. D., Fairfax, Allendale County, South Carolina.

I learned that Mr. Fontaine's father was Bernard Eugene Fontaine, but could not determine his mother's name. Vincent, born between 1849 and 1850, was one of six children. He had a brother named Eugene, another brother (name unknown) and three sisters, Jeanette, Scesarene and Josephine.

In 1878 at the age of twenty-nine Vincent married Amanda Loadholt who lived near Brunson, South Carolina. To Vincent and Amanda were born three children, Scesarene in 1879, followed by Josephine and Charles Bernard a few

years later.

The 1880 United States Census recorded that Vincent lived in the Jennys section, married Amanda Loadholt, had a daughter named Scesarene, a French mother, an Italian father, and most noteworthy for the thrust of this story, attended architectural school in Italy.



This home at 107 Main St. North was built before 1880 by Vincent J. Fontaine for Legatsy Caroline Brunson, daughter of town founder, when she married T. W. Williams. Owned and lived in today by Mrs. J. W. Preacher, their granddaughter.

About this time my grandfather, Judson Hannerhan Lightsey, married a sister of Amanda Fontaine whose name was Hasseltine Christina Loadholt. A brother of my grandfather, John Frederick Lightsey, married Amanda's other sister, Sarah Loadholt. Not only was our home built by Vincent Fontaine, but we were further connected to him since my grandfather and uncle married his wife's two sisters.

Vincent Fontaine designed and constructed our home on Railroad Avenue in 1886. I learned from a deed in the Hampton County Court House

that Mr. Fontaine owned the land, built the house and sold it to my grandfather. Although valued at \$1,000.00, no money changed hands, but an exchange of property took place. My grandfather signed over to Fontaine his share and that of his daughter to Loadholt property in the county for the house.

After learning that Mr. Fontaine owned property in Brunson where he was designing, building and selling houses, we further checked records and found that a very dear friend of his, Frank Brunson, had given him some land in the town of Brunson in exchange for their friendship and a mortgage on the Loadholt property near Jennys. Frank Brunson was a son of the founder of Brunson, and his home, built by Mr. Fontaine, was just across the railroad from the Fontaine home. It has been torn down and another home built there now.

Today as you travel through Brunson and the surrounding area, look at the homes and remember many owe their origin to the transplanted French architect and builder, Vincent Joseph Fontaine. ■

Editor's Note: Caroliniana Columns may print articles of special interest to our members on topics related to South Carolina history or the collections of the South Caroliniana Library. The papers of the Youmans and Manker families are available for research in the collections of the South Caroliniana Library.

Summer Researchers Flock to the Caroliniana

by Allen Stokes

The months of June through August are hardly the lazy, hazy days of summer at the South Caroliniana Library. They are, in fact, a little crazy sometimes. Although summer is customarily the season for vacations, it is also a time for researchers to travel. This summer began with an Elder Hostel at the University of South Carolina. The focus of this Elder Hostel was genealogy with visitors coming from many states to explore some South Carolina family connections.

The Institute for Southern Studies always has a full complement of Research Fellows over the summer, many of whom pass each other every day as they move between the South Caroliniana Library and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Among this year's Fellows, those researching South Carolina topics include Edmund Drago, College

See Summer on page 8

University South Caroliniana Society

Executive Council

Mr. Harvey S. Teal, president (1999)

Col. Frank K. Babbitt, vice-president (2000)

Mrs. Katherine Richardson, vice-president (1999)

Dr. Allen Stokes, secretary/treasurer

Ms. Susan E. Dick, editor

The University South Caroliniana Society newsletter is published biannually for members and friends of the University South Caroliniana Society. No part of this publication may be used without written permission.

The University and the Great War

by Elizabeth Cassidy

The University Archives is sponsoring an exhibit, "The University and the Great War" to be located in the main lobby of the Thomas Cooper Library. The Archives will exhibit photographs, publications, and other documents from its collection to illustrate the immediate and prolonged effects of the Great War on the University of South Carolina, from its students to its faculty to the campus itself. One highlight is the life of John S. Reynolds ('07), a respected news editor and journalist for *The State* newspaper, which published his reports from the front. He died in one of the last actions of the war.

As the shadows of war touched America in 1917, patriotic fervor raced through the University and swept aside President William S. Currell's previously strong opposition to the establishment of a military unit on campus. The establishment of a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at USC had a greater impact than anyone anticipated. At the beginning of the academic year 1917-18, three-fourths of the student body enlisted in the ROTC program. War-related articles, editorials, and poems

filled the student publications. USC enrollment declined substantially as a steady stream of students left school to enlist. Maintaining a large enough faculty was a problem as many took leaves of absence to enlist or perform war work for the government. USC's physical plant also suffered due to lack of funds for repairs and improvements.

"The University and the Great War," November 1, 1997, through the end of December, will be on display in conjunction with two other exhibits on the Great War. Thomas Cooper Library will display books and posters loaned from the University of Virginia's Joseph M. Brucoli Collection and the South Caroliniana Library will mount an exhibit

on South Carolina and her citizens during World War I. To mark the opening of the exhibits, Thomas Cooper Library is hosting a Great War conference on November 11, 1997, with both specialist sessions and public lectures.

For more information about the exhibit or the lectures contact Elizabeth Cassidy, University Archives, SCL Annex (803)777-0580. ☐



Liberty lends her strength to a son of Carolina. Garnet and Black, 1919

I long to stand today where life and death

Are met as one, where from the boundless sky

On unseen wings war's eagles scream and sweep...

"April-1917", by H.C.

Brearley, Class of 1920

World War I veteran

61st Annual Meeting, May 17, 1997

Meeting Continued

Following the exhibit and reception, the meeting adjourned to the Russell House for the luncheon and business session presided over by President Harvey Teal. Dr. Constance Schulz, Mrs. Patsie McLeod, and Mr. Wade Fairey were recognized for their service on the Society's Executive Council and their successors elected: Col. Frank Babbitt, of Liberty Hill, vice-president; and Dr. Charles Lesser, of Columbia and Mrs. Ann Bowen, of

USCS Newsletter. At its April meeting the Council selected *Caroliniana Columns* which was submitted by Mrs. Marshall Mays, Dr. John Hammond Moore, and Mr. Del Roberts.

The Secretary-Treasurer

re-

ported that in 1996 the Society received \$23,480 in dues and endowment contributions and \$36,548 in interest and dividend income. The fund's balance at the end of the year was \$561,957, an increase of \$31,750 since 1995. The market value stood at \$1,172,656, an increase of \$96,210. The Secretary-Treasurer spent \$43,785

of

accumu-



President Harvey Teal and Lewis P. Jones examine the collections on display in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Greenwood, as Council members. President Teal reviewed the initiatives taken by the Executive Council over the past year. Council has studied the geographical distribution of membership in the Society and is formulating plans to promote membership during the current year. Publications have included a membership directory and the initial issue of a newsletter. President Teal announced that the Executive Council had received numerous suggestions for an official name for the

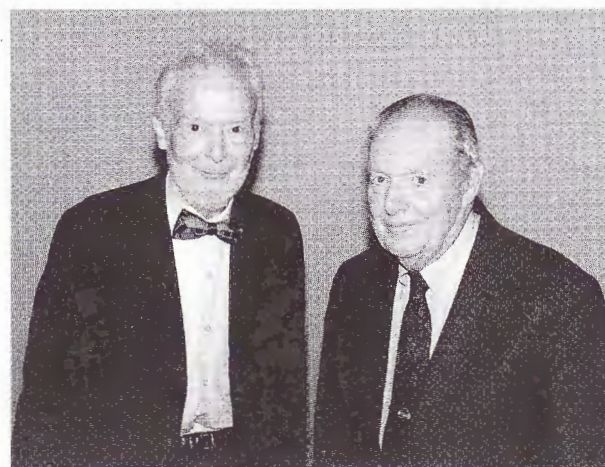
lated dues and investment income to acquire printed, pictorial, and manuscript *Caroliniana* for the library. The Society continued its financial support of two nationally recognized editorial projects at the University of South Carolina — *The Papers of Henry Laurens*



Elliott Holman III with parents Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Holman, Jr.

and *The Papers of John C. Calhoun* — with contributions of \$1,500 to each.

Dr. William F. Bagwell, who will be conducting research at the South Caroliniana Library over the summer, was recognized as the first recipient of the Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History. The 61st annual meeting was also an occasion for honoring and recognizing Elliott Holman III and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Elliott Holman, Jr. On his father's 80th birthday, Elliott Holman established the Arthur Elliott Holman,

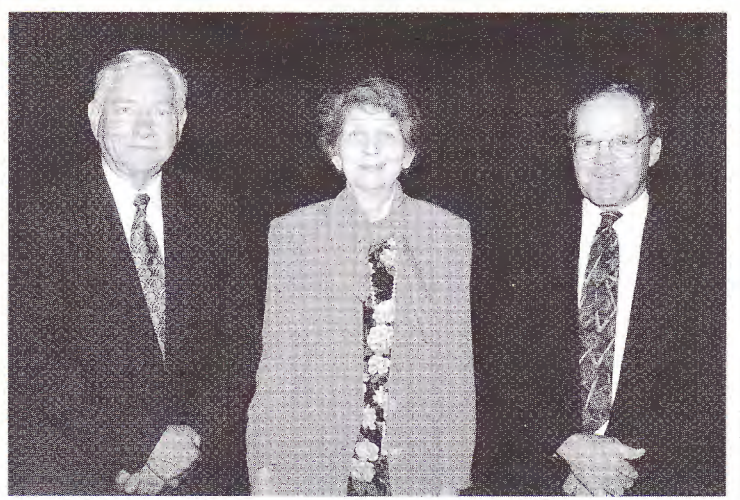


Lewis P. Jones (r) with Dr. William Bagwell, first recipient of the Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History.

Jr. Preservation and Acquisition Endowment. This generous gift will enable the South Caroliniana Library to acquire and conserve materials in the areas of Mr. Holman's interests which include the Episcopal church, music and the arts, and the history of Anderson County and the state.

The speaker for the 61st annual meeting was Dr. Carol K. Bleser, the Kathryn and Calhoun Lemon Distinguished Professor of United States History at Clemson University. Her address entitled "Treasures from the South Caroliniana Library: The Letters of a Planter's Daughter" was based upon the correspondence of Maria Bryan which is in the library's collection of papers of the Hammond, Bryan, and Cumming families. Although she died at the age of thirty-six in January 1844, for almost two decades Maria Bryan corresponded regularly with her family, principally with her sister Julia who married Augusta lawyer Henry Harford Cumming. Maria's letters

depict life in a slave-holding family whose plantation was located in a remote frontier community seventy-five miles from Augusta. In Maria Bryan, Dr. Bleser discovered a "woman of remarkable education and taste." Her correspondence reveals that while "supported by the labor of her family's slaves and benefited by her rank and privilege," she "works at housekeeping, tends the sick at home and in the neighborhood...cuts out and sews clothing of the family's slaves...tutors her younger siblings, grades papers for teachers at the local academy, entertains a continuous procession of visiting ministers,



President Harvey S. Teal, Dr. Carol K. Bleser and Director Allen Stokes

teachers, relatives, and friends, regularly attends church and revivals, makes countless social calls to friends and acquaintances in nearby towns, and still finds time to copiously devour novels, biographies, and autobiographies."

When the eventual donor of the collection discovered the letters of his great-great-aunt in the family archives at Redcliffe in the 1930s, John Shaw Bilings became so intrigued with her correspondence and with the person who wrote the letters that on many a night he hurried home from his office at Time Inc. to study the letters of Maria Bryan. Dr. Bleser's edition of Maria's correspondence has been published by the University of Georgia Press and is entitled *Tokens of Affection: The Letters of a Planter's Daughter in the Old South*.

The 62nd annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society is scheduled for May 16, 1998. The speaker will be Dr. Christine Heyrman, author of *The Southern Cross: the Beginnings of the Bible Belt* (New York: Knopf, 1997). ❏



The family of Modjeska Monteith Simkins poses with her portrait on display in the Manuscripts Reading Room. Mrs. Simkins's papers are open for research at the Modern Political Collections division of the library.

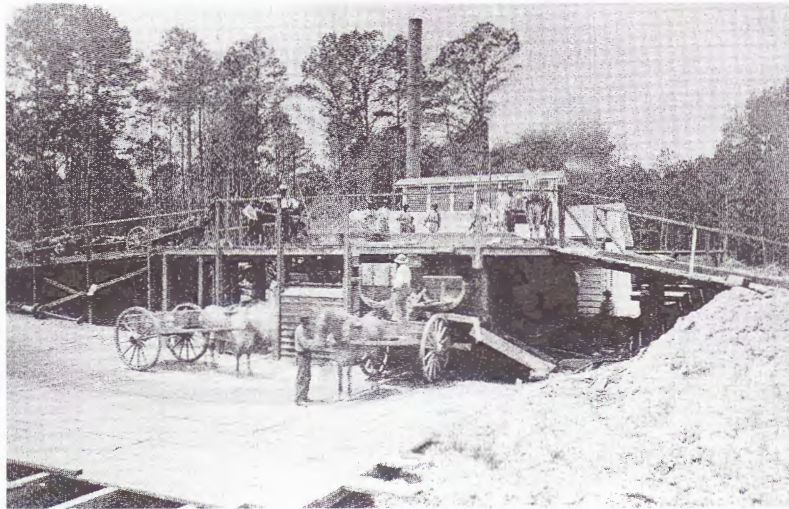
Photographic Finds in the Caroliniana by Beth Bilderback

These past few months have provided a bit of excitement in the library for those of us interested in photography. Usually "finds" come to us from outside sources such as donors, collectors, or auction houses. Lately, however, treasures have come to light from within our own collections.

One of the most recent discoveries was made in the Books Division where a bound volume of pamphlets on the phosphate industry in South Carolina held two photographs. Taken about 1869-1870, one photograph shows men digging in a phosphate field and the other shows a mill in the Charleston area. The latter is such a clear image that one can see how the phosphate went into the mill and how it came out. Any back marks or notes are covered by the pages to which they are glued, but judging by dates and quality of images, we believe they may have been taken by George N. Barnard who was working for Quinby & Co. in Charleston. Whoever the photographer, these images are some of the few known photographic images of the phosphate industry in South Carolina.

Recently, Henry Fulmer from the Manuscripts Division brought to my attention a box of Sams family photographs filed with the papers of that collection. Harvey Teal and I went through the box and found an uncased ambrotype with "Jeffers" stamped on

the metal mat. A native of Troy, N.C., George A. Jeffers came to Georgetown in 1856 and worked with a photographer named Doty. He moved to Charleston that same year and worked as Jeffers & Co. until spring of 1857. It was probably there that the ambrotype was made. This image, as far as Harvey knows, is the only known example of Jeffers's work.



Photograph of a phosphate mill in Charleston, S.C. believed to be taken by George N. Barnard of Quinby & Co., c. 1869-1870

The Photograph Collection itself has yielded some nice surprises. While working with the cased images, I found a daguerreotype by J. T. Zealy, bringing to three the number of Zealy images in the collection. Zealy worked in Columbia and was well known for the quality of his photography. Arguably his most famous photographs were commissioned as part of an anthropological study and consist of a series of daguerreotypes showing various body features of slaves from a plantation near Columbia. These daguerreotypes, some of the earliest photographic images of slaves, are

owned by Harvard University.

At the same time I found the Zealy, I also noted a case marked "M.B. Brady, Casemaker, N.Y." It was not until Harvey showed me a recent article on Brady cases, however, that the significance of this find was fully understood. According to the author, Matthew Brady was about 16 years old when photography was invented, yet

he did not immediately enter the profession. Instead he learned the art of miniature casemaking, which by 1840 was a highly desirable trade due to demand from daguerreotypists. Brady opened a case shop in 1843 in New York City and continued in this work until about 1845. He used two different motifs on his cases: a lyre and a decagon; he also signed his cases,

which was unusual at the time. The case in our collection has a lyre design and Brady's signature mark and is for a single image sixth-plate daguerreotype. At the time of the article's publication, the author had found only ten Brady cases held privately or by institutions; thus, ours is number eleven. Brady's interest in photography grew through his business dealings with photographers, and by 1844 Brady opened a daguerreotype gallery near his case shop and his well-known career as a photographer began.

See Photographs on page 8

Grants Projects Funded by Henry G. Fulmer

In February and April 1997, the South Caroliniana Library received notification of funding for two grant proposals submitted in 1996 to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Both eighteen-month projects will be directed by Manuscripts Librarian Henry G. Fulmer. Three full-time employees and four part-time graduate student assistants will staff the projects on which work is anticipated to begin by late summer.

"Cultural Crossroads: 18th- and 19th-Century Plantation Systems and Social Order in South Carolina, A Project to Preserve and Enhance Access to Manuscript Collections" was funded by the NEH's Division of Preservation and Access and will focus on the library's most heavily used materials documenting the origins and development of the state's plantation-based social and economic system and the institution of slavery that supported it.

The project has three goals: to stabilize the micro-environment by rehousing collections in archival storage containers; to enhance intellectual control through the revision or production of collection inventories

and descriptions which will be accessible electronically via the library's website; and to increase access by loading collection-level descriptions to USCAN, the University of South Carolina's online catalog, and OCLC, a national bibliographic utility. Moreover, the project will allow the staff to develop a comprehensive preservation plan for manuscript holdings, including prioritized schedules for preservation microfilming and treatment by a professional paper conservator.

The \$84,227 NEH award is eligible to be supplemented by \$10,000 in federal matching funds. Society members or others willing to assist the library in raising the money needed to qualify for the matching funds should contact Library Director Allen Stokes or Manuscripts Librarian Henry Fulmer. The NEH will match third-party contributions up to \$10,000. Outside donations will be used to underwrite urgently needed stabilization of materials by a professional conservation lab.

Funded by the NHPRC, "Accessing the Emerging South: A Project to Enhance Access to Unprocessed Manuscript Collections in the

South Caroliniana Library" will provide appropriate physical and intellectual access to fifteen large collections held in the library's backlog of unprocessed manuscript materials. The papers identified for this project require too much time to be arranged and described by the library staff without outside assistance. Among the collections to be processed are the papers of novelist Elizabeth Boatwright Coker, Georgetown businessman W.D. Morgan, artist Blondelle Malone, newspaper editor Samuel Latimer, and Columbia entrepreneur James H. Hammond.

Project goals call for materials to be sorted to the file or item level and physically rehoused in archival folders and boxes. Detailed inventories will be prepared and collection-level machine-readable catalog records will be loaded to USCAN and the OCLC database. The NHPRC award totals \$69,353. In addition to the NEH and NHPRC grants awarded the Manuscripts Division, the Books Division will participate in a SOLINET/ASERL Cooperative Preservation Microfilming Project which has been funded by the NEH. The project will make possible preservation microfilming of catalogs from South Carolina colleges and academies plus 19th-century language and literature monographs from the University's South Carolina College collection. ■

Members Solve Photograph Mystery

Our thanks to the Society members who responded to our call for assistance in identifying some mislabeled photographs which appeared in the first issue of the newsletter. Several members recognized the pictures of the relic room in the armory of the Washington Light Infantry in Charleston, ca.

1907. After some more digging, we found a description of the room, its display cases, and relics as they were housed in the WLI's armory at 240 King Street (the old Calhoun Hotel). The photographs and the description matched, thus solving the mystery.

Caroliniana Columns is now online at the webpage of the South Caroliniana Library at: <http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/>

Photographs Continued

One final treasure I want to mention is a daguerreotype the library recently purchased with Society funds. It is a beautiful image of two young men, "Hazard and Sisson," taken by W.A. Wellman, 1 December 1862. This is a particularly important addition to the collection because it is the only known work by Wellman. Research needs to be done yet to try to determine the identity of the individuals. Look for a full description in next year's program. ■

Looking Forward Continued

J. Rion McKissick's copy of Frederick Dalcho's *Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina* both of which have been conserved at a cost of approximately \$5,000. If you were not at the annual reception and dinner and have not seen this exhibit, we invite you to visit the library to do so. Actually, to conserve an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of manuscript paper costs on the average a minimum of \$1.00. When you consider the volume of our collection, our conservation needs come into sharper focus. The Society has supported the efforts of the library to secure grants to process, rehouse, and conserve our collections. A recent grant offers a

Summer Continued

of Charleston, "The Impact of Civil War and Reconstruction on Children in S.C."; Douglas Eckberg, Winthrop University, "The S.C. Murder Project: Tracing Homicides from the End of Reconstruction through 1916"; Bruce Eelman, University of Maryland, "Relationship Between Local Government & People in Spartanburg, S.C."; Liese Perrin, University of Birmingham (England), "Female Slaves on S.C. Plantations"; Alexander Moore, University of South Carolina Press, "Early S.C. Travel Journals"; and Zach

match of \$10,000 in federal funds for an equal amount of private support for conservation expenditures. (See page 7 for article on the recent grants)

There are many individuals who are not members of our Society who should be sharing in our efforts to preserve the history and heritage of our state. You will find a form below for nominating individuals for membership in the Society. For those who are nominated, we will send them an invitation and a brochure containing information about the Society. As your president, I encourage you to extend our outreach and involve others in this most noble of efforts, the preservation of our history and heritage. ■

Rice, Clemson University, "African-American Architects and Builders". Dr. William F. Bagwell of Donalds, S.C., is in residence on campus this summer as the first Lewis P. Jones Fellow in South Carolina history.

More than twenty public-school geography teachers attended the South Carolina Geographic Alliance Summer Institute organized by Dr. Charles Kovacik. The teachers received an introduction to resources in the South Caroliniana Library for Newberry and Laurens counties prior to a Saturday field trip to these counties which included a stopover at Wise's barbecue in Joanna.

In addition to our usual summer influx of genealogical researchers, we currently have scholars from the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Columbia, Emory, Wright State University, the National University of Colombia, and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, studying such subjects as hunting in the antebellum South, slave-holding widows, African-American commemorative celebrations, the South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute at Barhamville, and Gothic revival church architecture in late-19th century North and South Carolina. ■

Membership Nomination Form

Membership in the Society is by invitation. Any officer or member of the Society may nominate persons interested in the Society's work. Please submit nominee's name and address.

Name _____

Address _____

Member's
name and signature _____

Mail to Allen Stokes, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208