

Spring 1998

Caroliniana Columns - Spring 1998

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Caroliniana Columns

University South Caroliniana Society

Spring 1998

From the President's Pen

Our Society's Business

by Harvey S. Teal

Sections of our constitution define the purpose of the University South Caroliniana Society, the governing structure, the duties and responsibilities of officers, etc. From just reading a constitution, however, sometimes one does not come away with a clear understanding of how this organization conducts its business, either on a day-to-day basis or a long term one. For the benefits of our members and other interested parties I will attempt to describe in more detail the business of the Society, the responsibilities each of us has to the society, and how the Society operates both annually and day-to-day.

Put simply, the business of the University South Caroliniana Society is to assist the South Caroliniana Library in collecting, preserving, and publishing Caroliniana. Society members, as "Friends of the Library," are responsible for the contribution of historical materials and/or funds for the benefit of the library. Each society member is encouraged to recruit others to become Society members and join our efforts to assist the library in its mission.

Beyond these responsibilities Society members may become more deeply involved in the program of the

Researching African-American History at the South Caroliniana Library

by Brian J. Cuthrell

Although Black History Month is celebrated every February, the South Caroliniana Library offers extensive materials for researching African-American history throughout the year. The library's holdings are justly renowned for a strong concentration in materials documenting the antebellum period and the Reconstruction era. Less familiar to many are the collections reflecting more recent aspects of the African-American experience in South Carolina. Scholars may approach these topics via manuscript collections, the "Black History Collection" verticle files, newspapers published by the African-American press and countless books, pamphlets, and other publications, all of which are available at the library.

The library holds collections documenting

the work of various leaders of the black community, including educator and activist Modjeska M. Simkins (1899-1992), newspaper editor John Henry McCray (1910-1987), and businessman Arthur J. Clement, Jr. (1908-1986). Accomplishments of Simkins and McCray include the founding of the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) which was formed in May 1944

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Baseball Team, undated, Harbison Agricultural College Collection, Irmo, S.C.

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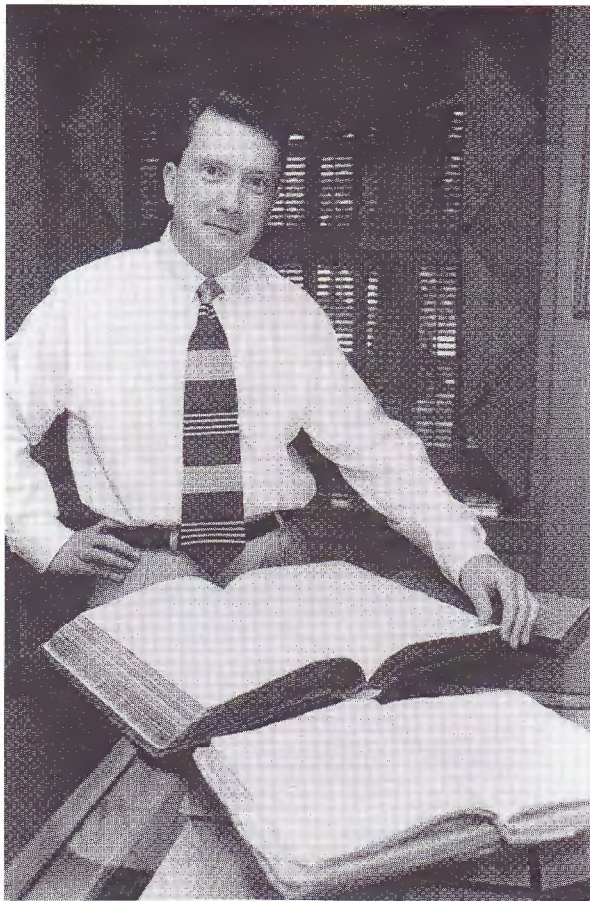
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Manuscripts Librarian Henry G. Fulmer with James Henry Hammond's Silver Bluff Plantation Journal (1831-1855).

Conserving South Carolina's Past for its Future by Henry G. Fulmer

The South Caroliniana Library has been engaged in collecting and preserving books, newspapers, manuscripts, visual images, and other ephemera — materials that together comprise a goodly part of the Palmetto State's documentary heritage — for well over half a century. Succeeding generations of library staff have done their best not only to provide access to a burgeoning collection that fills every nook and cranny of the building but also to store and handle these treasures in a way that ensures their availability to

future generations of researchers.

Even before the old library building was designated the South

Caroliniana Library in 1940, W.P.A. workers bound pamphlets, fabricated document boxes, and painstakingly repaired manuscripts and newspapers. In more recent years, student assistants have worked to clean, flatten, silk, encapsulate, or otherwise stabilize incoming collections. While these in-house efforts went a long way toward guaranteeing that materials could be handled by researchers, they fell short of solving the long-term preservation needs of an aging collection that was receiving increasingly heavier research usage.

Only within the last few years has funding become available to underwrite the professional restoration of a few deteriorating but critically important items. Befitting its significance as the first manuscript acquired by the South Carolina College library

_____ See Conservation on page 4

Endowments Enrich the Holdings of the South Caroliniana Library

Orin F. Crow Endowment for Acquisition and Preservation

Former USC Professor and Dean of the College of Education Orin F. Crow has been honored by the naming of an endowment in his memory at the South Caroliniana Library. The Orin F. Crow Endowment for Acquisition and Preservation was established by his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Crow and James R.D. Anderson, of Columbia, who are, themselves, among the loyal sons and daughters of Carolina.

Orin Crow (1896-1955) was a multi-faceted and beloved scholar, friend, and gentleman, with a multitude of interests and accomplishments. It is

appropriate that Professor Crow, a long-time member of the University South Caroliniana Society, Dean of the College of Education, Dean of the Faculty, and an active citizen of the community at large, is recognized in such a wide-ranging and thoughtful manner.

Funds generated from the Orin F. Crow Endowment for Acquisition and Preservation will provide for the purchase of new materials for the South Caroliniana Library and for the preservation and conservation of deteriorating documents.

This endowment fund is an open one to which additional contributions may be made through the USC Educational Foundation.

The Jane Crayton Davis Preservation Endowment

To assure the health and preservation of

irreplaceable historical documents, the Jane Crayton Davis Preservation Endowment has been established at the South Caroliniana Library. Proceeds from the endowment will fund the restoration of selected printed documents and visual materials held by the South Caroliniana Library.

This endowment honors its namesake, Jane Crayton Davis, who is active in local historical pursuits in her home county of Aiken and on a statewide level. Having served as President of the South Carolina Confederation of Local Historical Societies and as President of the University South Caroliniana Society, Mrs. Davis is keenly aware of the obligation of the library to preserve the historical documents of our state.

Toward that end, Mrs. Davis

_____ See Endowments on page 10

Photographic Finds

by Beth Bilderback

The library has been fortunate in acquiring several impressive cased images for its collection over the last several months. Of particular note is a daguerreotype of a painting of Thomas Bennett. The painting shows a young Bennett, probably done when he was Governor of South Carolina, 1820-1822. As far as can be determined at this point, although there is a painting of Bennett later in life by William H. Scarborough, there is no record of this early portrait. It is known that Samuel F.B. Morse painted Bennett's mother while Morse was in Charleston in 1818. Although Morse's papers make no mention of painting Governor Bennett, Morse made several visits to Charleston, with the last being in 1821. Therefore it is possible that Morse made the painting captured in the daguerreotype.

It is also possible that Morse made the daguerreotype. Morse was in France when Daguerre revealed his photographic process and had a private

interview with him and viewing of Daguerre's work. Morse brought the news of the invention of photography and the process itself back to America before newspapers could publish accounts of the process. It is believed that South Carolina College Professor William Ellet at saw Morse demonstrate the process in New York and began experiments of his own, being one of the earliest to make a documented photograph using Daguerre's process.

Regarding the Wellman daguerreotype of Hazzard and Sisson discussed in the previous newsletter, the date listed was incorrect. That daguerreotype was made in 1852 not 1862. Photographers stopped using the daguerreian process about 1856, making instead the much simpler ambrotype. Although the



Daguerreotype of South Carolina Governor Thomas Bennett thought to have been made from a portrait painted c. 1820-22 while Bennett was in office.

ambrotype did not have the pristine clarity found in daguerreotypes, it was a safer process for the photographer. Like a hatter, a daguerreotypist used

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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.

Grants Projects Underway by Meg M. Moughan

The staff of the South Caroliniana Library expanded in December 1997 when work on two long-anticipated grant projects officially commenced. Newly hired project archivists Scott French and Meg Moughan, along with the assistance of a third full-time archivist and four graduate student assistants, will work on "Cultural Crossroads: 18th- and 19th-Century Plantation Systems and Social Order in South Carolina, A Project to Enhance Access to Manuscript Collections" and "Accessing the Emerging South: A Project to Enhance Access to Unproc-

essed Manuscript Collections in the South Caroliniana Library".

As the archivist for the NEH's "Cultural Crossroads" project, Scott French will focus on providing enhanced access to the library's most heavily used materials — collections that document the origins and development of South Carolina's plantation-based social and economic system and the institution of slavery. Working with the assistance of graduate students Darrick Hart and Aimee Berry, French will stabilize the micro-environment of

See Grants on page 12

in 1807, John Drayton's botanical work "The Carolinian Florist" was the first item from the Caroliniana collection to undergo full-scale professional treatment. Subsequent manuscripts professionally restored by conservators Don Etherington, of Brown Summit, N.C., and Pamela Randolph, of Williamsburg, Va., have included plantation journals of James Henry Hammond and Davison McDowell, the Robert Nesbitt medical account book, and the John Izard Middleton sketchbook. Treatments have ranged from washing, deacidification, and mending or guarding of leaves with Japanese tissue to the restoration of original bindings and the construction of clamshell boxes in which the originals are now housed. In addition, archival photocopies of several of these volumes have been made to serve as

reference copies.

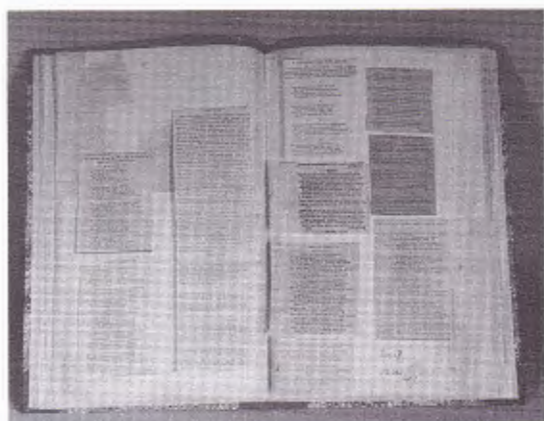
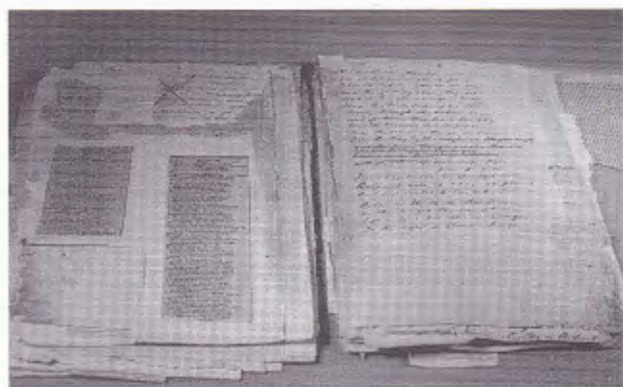
Perhaps the most extreme example of a manuscript volume crying out for professional help was the Alexander Keith commonplace book, ca. 1730-1740. Purchased by the library in 1950, the volume had suffered from well intended repair efforts gone awry. The topmost signature had been reinforced with silk at the binding edge, most likely in an effort to hold the leaves intact within the binding. But the water soluble starch paste and South Carolina humidity had combined to stick together the remainder of the textblock. Since at-

tempts to turn any page would have proven fatal to the whole, long before the volume could be conserved it had to be withdrawn from research use. Now washed, properly mended, and re sewn, the pages of the restored volume are supple and turn freely, much as they must have two and a half centuries ago.

Endowment funds established by friends of the library through the University Libraries Development Office have made possible the preservation treatment of several other significant items. The William



John Drayton's "The Carolinian Florist" was the first item from the collections to undergo full-scale professional conservation.



Before and after photographs of the William Gilmore Simms Scrapbook.

Gilmore Simms Endowment made possible the restoration of one of the author's scrapbooks in which are mounted both original manuscripts and newspaper clippings of his published verse. The Arthur Elliott Holman, Jr., Acquisition and Preservation Endowment funded the repair of J. Rion McKissick's personal copy of Frederick Dalcho's *An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina*.

Most recently, a generous gift from Simms Oliphant underwrote the restoration of William Gilmore Simms's *Don Carlos* manuscript, and Philadelphia researcher Scott Wilds funded the much needed conservation of a Brockington family plantation journal among the library's holdings of Bacot family papers. Much like the

See Conservation on page 11

Civil War History in the Wateree Swamp

by Dr. E. Cantey Haile, Jr.

In 1989, following the devastation of Hurricane Hugo, two friends of mine who are interested in history, were searching an area in the Wateree swamp along the South Carolina Railroad roadbed that was used during the Civil War. Gen. Edward Potter's United States troops, including the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, had been sent from Georgetown to locate and eliminate a number of boxcars loaded with munitions on the tracks of the South Carolina Railroad. Their raid was successful as Potter's troops destroyed the Confederate munitions. Knowing the approximate location of these boxcars, my

friends dug into the side of the trestle and uncovered the remains of a wooden box that contained test tubes. Inside these test tubes were small hermetically sealed vials of a clear

liquid which were protected on each end by a wad of cotton. Although they had no idea what the nature of the liquid inside these vials was, because of where they came from, they were certainly curious as to the possible contents.

Knowing my connection with the University, my friends called and asked if I could find anyone who would help identify the liquid. I knew that if anyone could get to the bottom of this mystery, it would be Dr. David Rembert, a professor at the University, who might know chemists interested in analyzing the liquid. I took Dr. Rembert one of the vials, and about two weeks later he called back to relate

a wonderful story of how they had approached this unknown liquid which could have been anything from a high explosive such as nitro glycerin to an early form of biological warfare or perhaps chloroform.

The chemists knew immediately that the cotton in the test tubes indicated explosiveness. Nitro glycerin was an unlikely option as it will explode at the slightest vibrations. The chemists felt the best way to render the liquid inert was to subject it to super cooling which they did in a special chamber. When it did not freeze, the chemists scored the vial and broke it open. In order to determine if the liquid was organic or inorganic, a small amount was put in water. Since

... this unknown liquid which could have been anything from a high explosive such as nitro glycerin to an early form of biological warfare ..."

organic materials usually don't mix with water and the substance did not dissolve immediately, it was concluded that the substance was organic. During the test the tube got almost too hot to hold. After the next test

determined the material was extremely acidic, the chemists were able to determine that what they were dealing with was concentrated sulphuric acid.

Now that we knew what it was, the next mystery to solve was why on earth these vials were on a Confederate munitions train? Again, our imaginations went wild. The answer came like a bolt out of the blue. I was reading an account of the Confederate torpedo service in an 1898 *Century Magazine* by R.O. Crowley. He discussed the potential use of "torpedoes" or mines as offensive instead of defensive weapons. The first problem was to prepare a fuse that was "not dangerous to handle but would

explode quickly on contact with any substance." They made some sheetlead tubes about three inches long and one inch in diameter with one end being very thin. "Into this tube was inserted a small glass tube of similar shape filled with sulphuric acid, and hermetically sealed. The vacant space about the glass tube was tightly packed with a mixture of chlorate of potash and pulverized white sugar and the mouth of the tube was closed by fastening a strip of muslin over it. Now, if the rounded end of the leaden tube is brought into contact with any hard substance, the thin lead will be mashed, the interior glass tube broken, and the sulphuric acid becoming mixed with the preparation of chlorate of potash and sugar, an immediate explosion is the result. We then prepared a copper cylinder containing about fifty pounds of powder, and placed several of the leaden fuses in the head, so that no matter what angle the butt struck the hull of the ship, one of the fuses would be smashed in and

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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.

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

to:

**Dr. Allen Stokes
South Caroliniana Library
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208**

to ensure a voice in the electoral process for black South Carolinians. Other community leaders active in the PDP included Dr. Annie Bell Ranzy Weston, a professor at Benedict College beginning in the 1930s, who served as State Secretary of the Progressive Democratic Party, and attended several Democratic National Conventions with her PDP colleagues. Unlike Simkins and McCray, Weston did not leave her papers to a library, so her contributions might be overlooked by researchers and forgotten by the current generation. Luckily, the African-American press documented her work in such newspapers as the *Palmetto Leader* (Columbia, S.C.). Researchers interested in Weston or her contemporaries may browse these newspapers in the Books Division of the library, or more conveniently read the ready-reference file maintained in the "Black History Collection" of vertical files held by the Manuscripts Division.

Unpublished collections held in Manuscripts Division preserve a wealth of information about the lives of generations of South Carolina families. Thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant project entitled the "Cultural Crossroads," subject access to materials significant for the study of African Americans, women, labor, agriculture, and other topics of interest in the social history of recent decades will be improved through enhanced and expanded collection description. Of

interest for scholars of black history, including academic researchers and the increasing number of visitors interested in African-American genealogy, the "Cultural Crossroads" project will describe such documents as labor agreements of the antebellum or Reconstruction era and note which records identify African Americans by name, age, occupation, or location.



"Juggling Board" at the Laing School in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. from the Abby D. Munro Papers (1869-1926).

The library holds published and unpublished material documenting the educational opportunities available during the early twentieth century and the civil rights movement of subsequent decades. The library holds several manuscript collections documenting schools founded for the freedmen in the lowcountry, including materials found in the papers of the Christensen family, ca. 1850-1920. This collection represents one of fifteen large collections slated for processing thanks to a project entitled, "Accessing the Emerging South," made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Papers of the Christensen family document efforts of Abbie

Christensen to establish the Port Royal Agricultural and Industrial School in Beaufort County, S.C., an institution modeled after Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute.

The Papers of Abby D. Munro (1837-1913), administrator of the Laing School in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., and founder of the Mt. Pleasant Home for Destitute Children include many photographs as well as correspondence. Munro's papers (1869-1926) include photographs of students made, ca. 1900, by Arthur L. MacBeth, an African-American photographer of Charleston, S.C. Researchers will find another extensive collection of photographs preserved among the records of the Harbison Agricultural College (Irmo, S.C.), which date to ca. 1911-1956.

Other collections document the African-American presence in the upstate, such as the papers of Edgar Wallace Biggs (1880-1932), a graduate of Tuskegee who operated Biggs Mortuary in Greenville, Greer, and Greenwood, S.C. A portion of the collection documents business interests of Biggs and his many organizational affiliations, such as the Knights of Pythias and the Republican Party, including a letter to his wife Lydia Washington Biggs reporting his attendance at the June 1932 Republican convention in Chicago, Ill.

Collections of more recent vintage document political activism at the local and state levels, as found in

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The Year in Review: 1997 at the South Caroliniana Library by Allen Stokes

As I reflect upon the past year at the South Caroliniana Library, I am impressed at the quality of acquisitions which continue to come to the library, its Modern Political Collections division, and the University Archives. The bulk of what we acquire comes as a result of gifts of members of the University South Caroliniana Society and through the expenditure of dues and investment income. These recent acquisitions will be described in the program that will be distributed directly to those members who attend the Society's 62nd annual meeting on Saturday, May 16, and by mail to those who cannot attend. The speaker is Dr. Christine L. Heyrman, professor of history at the University of Delaware and the author *Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1997). The title of her talk is "Holy Wars in the Old South: or, The Battle among Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians." Her book, *Southern Cross*, is a study of religion in the South in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Professor Heyrman did extensive research at the South Caroliniana Library and other institutions. Her other publications include *A Model of Christian Charity: The Rich and Poor in New England, 1630-1730* and *Commerce and Culture: The Maritime Communities of Colonial Massachusetts, 1690-1750*.

With input from library staff and the able editorial skills of Susan Dick, we published the first two issues of a newsletter, the first one bearing the title *USCS Newsletter* and the second bearing the name given it by three members of the Society, *Caroliniana Columns*. Library staff also have

contributed articles to *Ex Libris*, an annual publication of the university libraries highlighting special collections. *Caroliniana Columns* will not feature acquisitions as does the program for the annual meeting. It will feature staff activities, grants, unusual photographs in the collection, and news about Modern Political Collections and the University Archives. We have also published contributions from Society members about historical architecture in the community of Brunson and the remnants of an earlier era in the Wateree Swamp.

During 1997 the library received two grants: one from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These grants will enable us to rehouse over 500 collections in archival file folders and boxes, prepare online descriptions of these collections, and to process and prepare findings aids for fifteen large

collections documenting the late-19th and 20th centuries in South Carolina.

The South Caroliniana Library was selected to participate in a preservation microfilming project sponsored by the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET). Over 700 catalogs of educational institutions in the state will be microfilmed by SOLINET.

Library staff attended meetings of the Society of American Archivists, the American Association for State and Local History, the Southern Historical Association, the Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies, the Society of Georgia Archivists, the South Carolina Library Association, and the South Carolina Historical Association. Several staff members presented papers at these meetings, and one staff member served as a judge at the National History Day competition.

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Memorials

In Honor of:

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bleser

From:

Dr. Carol K. Bleser

In Memory of:

**Miss Nancy Jane Day
Mrs. Ambrose G. Hampton
Dr. George C. Hart, Jr.
Dr. Henry Lumpkin
Dr. William H. Patterson
Mrs. Loulie Latimer
Owens-Pettigrew**

From:

**Mrs. Esther K. Witherspoon
Mrs. J. Willis Cantey
Mrs. J. Willis Cantey
Mr. Bobby S. Clark
Mrs. William H. Patterson

Dr. Walter B. Edgar
Mrs. Nancy V.A. Cooper
Dr. & Mrs. Julian H. Fincher
Dr. Thomas L. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Cantey, Jr.
Mrs. Craig Carson
Mrs. Nancy V.A. Cooper
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Johnson
Dr. Jessica Kross
Dr. & Mrs. Selden K. Smith
Mr. Thomas M. Coleman**

**Mrs. Swannanoa K. Phillips
Dr. Darrell Richardson
Dr. George C. Rogers, Jr.**

Mr. Arthur S. Tompkins

the papers of Arthur John Howard Clement, Jr. (1908-1986), a Charleston businessman and political activist. In 1950, Clement opposed incumbent L. Mendel Rivers as congressional representative from the First District, becoming the first African American in the history of South Carolina to run for Congress as a Democrat. For a more complete description, see the 1995 Annual Program.

Political action groups also broke new ground during the civil rights movement. The library's holdings of the records of the South Carolina Council on Human Relations document efforts to improve social conditions ca. 1934-1976. A similar collection, the records of the Christian Action Council, documents a religious approach to various social problems. This collection, 1923-1985, spans the long period of time when the Council served as South Carolina's only ecumenical, interracial church agency of its day.

During the mid-1930s, in addition to their efforts to interview and preserve the oral history of former slaves, Works Projects Administration agents visited churches to record church histories and to document the existence of any records preserved by the church at that time. The library does not hold copies of the actual church records, but the multi-page surveys available in Manuscripts Division preserve extensive information about founders, leaders, locations, and structures associated with various churches.

A good example of the type of survey available are the papers documenting the First African Baptist Church, of Beaufort, S.C. The survey reports that the Rev. Arthur Waddell, of the Second African Baptist Church of Savannah, Ga., founded the church in Beaufort on December 6, 1865, and

served as minister of the congregation for thirty-one years, 1865-1896. This entry includes a three-page historical sketch written by J.I. Washington on the occasion of the church's fiftieth anniversary.

The Library's Books Division holds many published materials that may interest those researching the African-American presence beyond the well-documented lowcountry and urban areas. The library holds many

published catalogues for academies, normal schools and colleges, including many that were founded for African Americans. The library has incomplete holdings for most of these

titles, but hopefully many of these gaps will be bridged thanks to a grant funded by Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), which is currently collecting and microfilming all known catalogues of South Carolina schools, including many historically black colleges, such as Seneca Junior College in Oconee County and Friendship Institute in Rock Hill, S.C.



"Playing in the Yard" at the Laing School in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. from the Abby D. Munro Papers (1869-1926).

Many of these historically black colleges were founded by national religious denominations and provided coeducational instruction for children from the first grade up to college level. In addition to announcing the curriculum to prospective students, these catalogues were mailed to benefactors. The school catalogues of the period typically included a complete listing of students enrolled and their hometowns, which may interest persons researching family history, the segregated educational system, or other topics.

Another resource available in the Books Division is newspapers which provide an invaluable sense of what people knew and when they knew it. John Hammond Moore's book, *South Carolina Newspapers*, offers a list for each county of all known newspapers and dates, including the intended constituency or agenda of the editor, i.e. Federalist, religious, German, or pro-labor. Moore identifies newspapers written by the African-American press, such as John McCray's *Lighthouse and Informer* (Columbia, S.C., published ca. 1941-1954), or the *Palmetto Leader* (Colum-

"... subject access to materials significant for the study of African Americans, women, labor, agriculture, and other topics of interest in the social history of recent decades will be improved..."

African-American Collections in the South Caroliniana Library

E.A. Adams
Bettis Academy
E.W. Biggs
John Wesley Carr
Richard Carroll
Arthur J.H. Clement, Jr.
Bonds Conway
J.A. DeLaine
Ellison Family
Nick Aaron Ford
Freddie Green
Harbison Agricultural College
Photographic Collection

Minnie Walker Johnson
Jones-Young Families
James T. "Nooker" McCain
Arthenia J.B. Millican
Annie Green Nelson
Roberts Family
Robinson Family
John H. McCray
Modjeska Simkins
Cladys "Jabbo" Smith
Armstrong Williams

In addition, many of the photographs and glass negatives of Columbia photographer Richard S. Roberts are on deposit at the library. They served as the basis for a beautiful publication: *A True Likeness: The Black South of Richard Samuel Roberts: 1920-1936*, edited by Thomas L. Johnson and Phillip C. Dunn (Bruccoli Clark/Algonquin Press, 1986).

The library has an ongoing acquisitions program which seeks out the papers and significant documents of African-American citizens. Dr. Thomas L. Johnson, assistant director of the South Caroliniana Library, has said that these holdings expand the South Caroliniana's importance as one of the "pre-eminent research centers in the South for the study of the region's African-American history and culture."

bia, S.C., published ca. 1925-1966).

Available in the Manuscripts Division, the "Black History Collection" vertical file provides a ready-reference collection of approximately 16 cubic feet. The "Persons/Family" portion of the collection, boxes 1-5, include material on college professor Dr. Annie Bell Weston, football player William "Refrigerator" Perry, state senator Kay Patterson, and Berkeley County nurse and midwife Maude Callen, to name a few.

"Subject" files address such topics as African-American businesses, social clubs and organizations, professions, politics, and race relations. Many topics represented document the

realities of a segregated world, such as the file for "Colored Fairs," which describes entertainment available at the segregated state fair. News accounts from the *Palmetto Leader*, promised that October 26-31, 1926, the "Colored Fair" would offer various sporting events, including two days of baseball games between men from Charlotte, N.C., and an unnamed local team; football games pitting Allen University against Benedict College as well as Booker T. Washington High of Columbia versus Wilson High of Florence, S.C.

The library maintains other vertical file collections which include folders devoted to the African-Ameri-

can experience in South Carolina. In addition to the "Black History Collection," the library holds other ready-reference vertical files on such subjects as artists, churches, colleges, counties, jazz musicians, Indians, and others, many of which contain information on black history topics.

Researchers can consult the books, newspapers, and collections of personal papers to study the activities of community leaders. The activities of prominent individuals can be documented in the personal papers generated during their lives. By consulting several under-utilized resources at the library, researchers may learn more about the contributions and the lives of African Americans in the Palmetto State who might otherwise be forgotten. ■

Civil War Continued

flame from the potash and sugar ignite the powder." There we had it, the complete answer to our mystery. Mr. Crowley goes on to discuss the field trials of the device and how they blew a wharf below Richmond on the James River to smithereens with rockets loaded with only twenty-five pounds of powder. One can only wonder if this was the very mechanism used by the Confederate submarine *Hunley* in sinking the *Housatonic* in Charleston harbor. Maybe this was the very reason these vials were on the train in the middle of a South Carolina swamp. Of course, we may never know if the answer is affirmative as to the type of fuse and explosive device used to sink

See Civil War on page 12

library and Society by serving on our Executive Council, serving on a working committee, volunteering to help process a collection, or hosting a local meeting to recruit Society members, to name a few. A call to me or to Allen Stokes will result in as much (or maybe more) involvement than you wish.

The Society holds its annual meeting of the membership in the spring and devotes a portion of the meeting to conducting business. During the remainder of the year the Society's Executive Council, composed of Society officers and elected Council members, meets twice a year, usually in the fall and early spring, to address Society business matters and activities. The last meeting of the Executive Council on November 17, 1997, serves as a good example of business conducted at a meeting.

At this Executive Council meeting Mrs. Ann Bowen of Greenwood, S. C., was appointed to chair a membership committee, to organize the committee, to develop plans to increase membership, and to report these plans to the April Council meeting. A life membership in the Society was awarded to Mrs. Carolyn Morse for her donation to the Library of the Stanley Fletcher Morse collection of 32.50 linear feet of manuscripts, pamphlets, books, magazines, photographs, and other materials dating from the early 1900s to the 1950s. We agreed to continue funding the publication of the papers of John C. Calhoun and Henry Laurens at the same levels of the past year. The Council approved the sending of an appropriate memorial when a library staff member experiences a death in the

generously established at the South Caroliniana Library the Jane Crayton Davis Preservation Endowment to which individuals may contribute.

William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professorship Endowment Fund

William Gilmore Simms, noted nineteenth-century American literary giant, is recognized and honored by the establishment of a permanently endowed research fund at the South Caroliniana Library. Through this fund scholars are able to study the extensive collection of Simms's published and manuscript works held at the library.

Mary C. Simms Oliphant, of Greenville, originated the fund to honor her grandfather, William Gilmore Simms. Contributions from her daughter, Mrs.

immediate family. We approved the inclusion of a form for giving a Society membership with the dues notice which has already yielded twenty new Society members. Reports were received on investments, progress on the construction of an off-site storage facility and conservation lab, and progress on conservation work financed by grants.

From time to time the Society employs ad hoc committees to study a particular matter and report the findings to the Executive Council. Over the years these committee reports have resulted in amending the constitution, changing the membership fee structure, etc.

The Society has only one standing committee, an Investment Committee, which meets quarterly with our secretary, Dr. Allen Stokes, for the purpose of supervising the investment of Society funds. The work of

Alester G. Furman III, and other family and friends made possible the inaugural presentation of the William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professorship in 1995 and 1996 to Professor John C. Guilds, a Simms scholar at the University of Arkansas. In 1997 the funds were used to restore Simms's personal scrapbook which was among the papers from Simms's personal library which were donated to the library by Mrs. Furman in 1997.

The endowment funds an annual award for research during the summer months; interested applicants may contact the Director of the South Caroliniana Library the preceding fall.

The William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professorship Endowment Fund is open for ongoing contributions which may be made through the USC Educational Foundation. ■

this committee is reported to the Executive Council at its meetings and is subject to its review.

On a daily basis our secretary, Dr. Stokes, who is also the Director of the South Caroliniana Library, attends to routine matters concerning Society membership, donations, purchase of Caroliniana, investment of our funds, etc. He is ably assisted in many of these endeavors by Ann B. Troyer of the library staff who maintains the Society membership files and other records. On a regular basis Dr. Stokes briefs your president about routine Society business and appropriately refers items to the president or the Executive Council when action by them is needed.

I hope this brief explanation provides you with a better understanding of your Society and its operation. ■

mercury which affects both mental and physical capacities over time. Surprisingly enough, there are few stories of mad shutter-bugs!

In other news, 1998 is the Arts Council of Great Britain's Year of Photography and hundreds of events connected with photography are being held all over the country. For more information visit the website: <http://www.photo98.com> or email photo98@photo98.com ■

Review Continued

Herb Hartsook, Carol Benfield, and Allen Stokes presented a program on the library's collections at the Chamber of Commerce in Johnston. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Derrick hosted the program. The University Archives mounted an exhibit on the university and World War I for a World War I symposium organized by Special Collections. An exhibit at the home of Modjeska Simkins in support of a fund-raising event was arranged by the library.

The library staff was saddened by the deaths of two former staff members. Loulie Latimer Owens-Pettigrew worked in the Manuscripts Division, and Martha Workman provided reference services in the Books Division.

We look forward to 1998: the 62nd annual meeting, new acquisitions, our conservation lab becoming operational, and the preparation of some of our overflow collections for transfer to the university libraries remote storage facility. We also congratulate the South Carolina Department of Archives and History as they prepare to move to the South Carolina History Center which will officially open in May. ■

Alexander Keith commonplace book, deterioration of the Simms literary manuscript and the Brockington plantation journal was so far advanced that neither could be handled without causing further irreparable damage.

The library staff and society membership are indeed grateful to those persons whose financial support is making possible the preservation of these and other archival treasures. We look forward to expanded preservation efforts in the near future, in particular a close working association with Holly Herro, the University's new librarian for preservation services, who will head a fully equipped and staffed conservation lab at the University's remote storage facility. Outside funding remains another crucial part of the library's overall preservation and access strategy. A federal grant funded in 1997 by the National Endowment for the Humanities is making possible the rehousing of more than five hundred manuscript collections, among them the library's most frequently used antebellum plantation papers. As collections are rehoused in archival folders and boxes and their contents re-examined for expanded subject content, preservation needs are being assessed. This assessment will allow the staff to identify materials requiring simple in-house treatments, those needing to be routed to the remote storage conservation lab, and those requiring more extensive treatment. Efforts to secure similar federal funds for the rehousing and preservation of the library's photographic and visual images collection continue.

The archival holdings of the South Caroliniana Library are today one of the most important sources for the documentation of South Carolina

history and culture, and even more broadly for the study of the American South and the United States. While our ever expanding influx of researchers attests to the significance of the library's holdings, the stress placed upon materials through research use is of increasing concern. Whether they survive intact for future generations depends largely upon our commitment to preservation. Library staff and society members must work together to do everything within our power to ensure that the scholars of tomorrow and the day after are not shortchanged of the riches we hold within our storehouse. ■

University Archives Exhibit

The University Archives is presenting an exhibit during the month of March entitled, *The "Monstrous Regiment," the Establishment of Coeducation at USC*, in celebration of Women's History Month. Located in the main lobby of Thomas Cooper Library, the exhibit examines how USC became a coeducational institution, the reaction of the male students and faculty members, and the difficulties faced by the first women to enroll at Carolina. Several of these pioneering women are profiled, including Frances Guignard Gibbes, the first woman to enroll, and Mattie Jean Adams, who became the first female graduate a century ago in 1898. The Archives also hopes to bring attention to the need for more personal memorabilia from Carolina's alumnae, as the majority of memorabilia in the Archives' collections were donated by male graduates.

