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Caroliniana Columns - Spring 2001

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Caroliniana Columns

University South Caroliniana Society

Spring 2001



THE HENRY P. KENDALL COLLECTION AND THE KOHN-HENNIG LIBRARY FIND NEW HOMES AT THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

When the University of South Carolina formally received the Henry P. Kendall Collection of maps, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and newspapers on October 29, 1961, it marked the most extensive and important research collection received by the University Libraries to that point. The occasion was also the second time that Henry P. Kendall's map collection had been exhibited at the South Caroliniana Library. The first public display, in what was then known as College Library Hall, was held in 1930. University of Michigan cartographer Louis Karpinski, Mr. Kendall's friend and fellow collector, compiled a catalogue of the collection entitled *Early Maps of Carolina and Adjoining Regions: Together with Early Prints of Charleston from the Collection of Henry P. Kendall*. Mr. Kendall continued to collect Caroliniana until his death in 1959.

Not long after Mr. Kendall's death, his widow acquired the William Gilmore Simms Collection of the papers of Henry and John Laurens from the Long Island Historical Society when it was determined that the collection did not fall within the scope of that organization's collecting policy. In subsequent years, Mrs. Kendall

See Kendall Collection on page 8



*An image from the 1771 edition of Mark Catesby's
Natural History of South Carolina.*



August Kohn and daughter Helen Kohn Hennig, 1922.

The South Caroliniana Library hosted approximately 275 guests on the evening of Friday, March 9. The reception followed a program at Drayton Hall Theatre during which Julian Hennig Jr. and the Hennig family were honored for the gift of the Kohn-Hennig Library to the University. South Caroliniana Library Director Allen Stokes discussed the development of the collection by August Kohn and Helen Kohn Hennig and its preservation in the Hennig home at 811 Woodland Drive since Mrs. Hennig's death in 1961. Dr. Belinda Gergel, Chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Columbia College, reviewed the lives of August Kohn and his daughter Helen and cited their many contributions to Columbia's business, civic, cultural, and religious life, especially their involvement with the Tree of Life Synagogue and such events as the celebration of Columbia's Sesquicentennial.

The Kohn-Hennig Library will be housed in a dedicated space in the Reading Room of the South Caroliniana Library. The collection is to be given over

See Kohn-Hennig on page 2

Kohn-Hennig continued from page 1

a period of years. The initial gift was received in 1999, and subsequent gifts have been made in 2000 and 2001. It consists of approximately 4,000 books and pamphlets covering a broad range of subjects and types of materials, including the following: the Revolutionary War; Confederate imprints, regimental histories, and recollections; antebellum politics and government, agriculture, and labor; natural history; literature; the textile industry; journalism; biography; serials; and local history. Both August Kohn and his daughter Helen were interested in collecting pamphlets. In

fact, August Kohn's first publication, *A Sketch of Orangeburg, City and County, South Carolina* (1888), written while he was a student at the University of South Carolina, was issued as a pamphlet.

The dictionary describes a pamphlet as "generally a small, thin, unbound book made up of sheets of paper stapled or stitched together and usually having a paper cover." Thousands of pamphlets were published in South Carolina beginning in the eighteenth century. Throughout the eighteenth century and continuing into the twentieth century, pamphlets were one of the chief venues for airing political views. In the several decades before the

Civil War, railroads and manufacturing companies issued annual reports in pamphlet format. Cities and towns promoted the advantages of their particular climates and locales in

countless "booster" pamphlets. Typical of the latter is *A Story of Spartan Push. The Greatest Cotton Manufacturing Centre in the South. Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Its Resources* (1890). The text of the pamphlet originally appeared in the July 28, 1890, issue of the *News and Courier*. Many booster pamphlets were reprints of articles that appeared in newspapers. From the earliest promotional literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries until recent times, South Carolinians have sought to promote, inform, educate, and indoctrinate through pamphlets.

Because of the fragile method of putting pamphlets together, they often bear the marks of wear and tear. It is fortunate that there were collectors in South Carolina like August Kohn and Helen Kohn Hennig who recognized the importance of saving such items, which comprise more than half of the Kohn-Hennig Library. There are more than a thousand loose pamphlets and eighty-three bound volumes containing nearly 1,300 pamphlets. Most of the bound volumes are arranged by subject such as "Agriculture," "Railroads," and "Confederate." There are also volumes that can be characterized as miscellaneous groupings. Among the titles, many are new to the South Caroliniana Library's holdings, and a few have never been reported to any national database.

Among the unique titles are: *The Looking*

*Presented to his esteemed Niece
Ann Bartram.
by
William Bartram
Decemb 2
1807.*

Shown from the top: examples of recently acquired pamphlets in the Kohn-Hennig Library. At right: the inscription found within Bartram's *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida to his niece Ann*.

Glass: In Which the Disorganizing Tendency of the Doctrine of Nullification is Fully Exposed, by its Own Acts, to the Comprehension of Every Common Sense Reader (1833); *Proceedings of a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Hamburg, South Carolina: to Celebrate the Victories of the Army in Mexico. Held on the 15th September 1847*; and *Robert Barnwell Rhett, Speech of the Hon. R. Barnwell Rhett: on the Western Harbor and River Bill, in the House of Representatives, April 1844*. As the work of cataloging the Kohn-Hennig Library proceeds, no doubt many more titles will be identified that are new to the holdings of the South Caroliniana Library and perhaps new as well to the national database to which we report.

In addition to the pamphlets, there are titles among the books and serials which represent significant additions to the Library's holdings. Two very important titles are separated by almost two centuries in date of publication. Samuel Urlsperger's *Der ausführlichen nachrichten von der königlich-gross-britannischen colonie saltzburgischer emigranten in America...* ([1735]-1752) reports on the Salzburger emigrants who settled in America, including the colonies of Georgia and

South Carolina. *Modern Cotton Mill Engineering* (W. B. Smith Whaley & Co., 1903) provides architectural, engineering, and historical information about the role of the Whaley company in constructing mills. Additionally, the nearly complete set of *De Bow's Review* is a title that any library with holdings in southern history would want to have on its shelves.

The Kohn-Hennig Library as a whole reveals much about the interests of its creators. There are important presentation copies such as William Gregg's presentation of *Essays on Domestic*

Industry... to F. W. Pickens

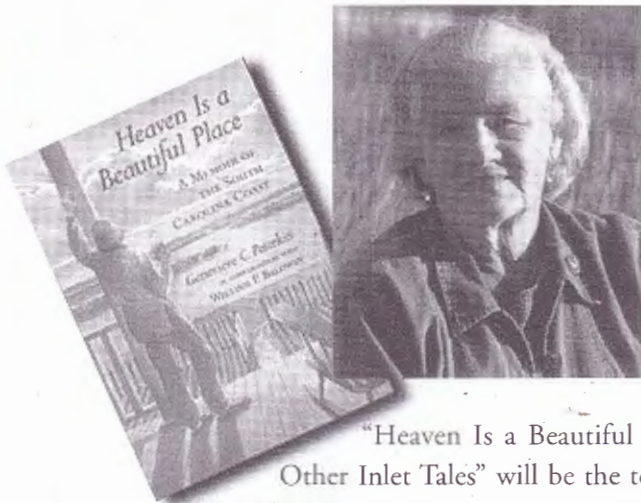
and William Bartram's presentation of *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida...* to his niece Ann. The collection also includes many presentation copies to August Kohn and Helen Kohn Hennig. Furthermore, a number of the books and pamphlets that were purchased

still contain the dealers' prices, and for others, invoices are enclosed.

The program and reception on Friday, March 9, brought together three elements at the core of a great library: generous donors (Julian Hennig Jr. and the Hennig family); collections that encourage and inspire scholarly research (the Kohn-Hennig Library); and patrons (friends of the Hennigs and members of the University South Caroliniana Society) who came to show their appreciation for the donors and for an exceptional gift that preserves our state's history, literature, and culture.

-Dr. Allen H. Stokes Jr.

Scenes from the evening. Shown from the top: a view of the reception at the Library; the Hennig family (from left to right: Helen Kohn Hennig Kluiters, Virginia Hennig, Julian Hennig Jr., and Julian Hennig III); Dr. Belinda Gergel addressing the audience at Drayton Hall; Library Director Dr. Allen Stokes and Vice Provost and Dean of Libraries and Instructional Services Dr. George Terry with Julian Hennig Jr.



GENEVIEVE CHANDLER PETERKIN TO DELIVER ADDRESS
AT THE 65TH ANNUAL
SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY MEETING

"Heaven Is a Beautiful Place and Other Inlet Tales" will be the topic when Genevieve Chandler Peterkin addresses the sixty-fifth annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society in Columbia on May 19.

"Sister" Peterkin, as she is known to family and friends, is a former librarian who has lived for most of her life in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, where for many years she has been identified as a vitally engaged – and engaging – historian and environmental activist. "I've been called the 'unofficial mayor of Murrells Inlet,'" she has written, "and that hasn't always been meant as a compliment. I don't mind."

Last year the University of South Carolina Press published her book, *Heaven Is a Beautiful Place: a Memoir of the South Carolina Coast* written in collaboration with Lowcountry novelist William P. Baldwin, who tape recorded and edited the dialog that comprises this unusual volume.

Published to wide popular and critical acclaim, the book entertains its readers with an insider's knowledge of Lowcountry plantations, gardens, and beaches, as well as her childhood memories of family and friends, including those of the African-American community which has been so essential to her existence. Her stories, along with the folk tales and interviews her mother, Genevieve Willcox Chandler, collected for the Works Progress Administration, celebrate resiliency and wisdom.

The book also reveals another, deeper story – a multi-layered story that deals with the struggle for racial equality in

the South, with the sometimes painful adventures of marriage and parenthood, and with the inner struggles for faith and acceptance of God's mysterious ways.

In her upcoming talk at the annual meeting, Peterkin plans to focus upon the women who most influenced her life. One of these was her mother, Genevieve Willcox Chandler (1890-1980), the well-known Murrells Inlet author, folklorist, historian and artist who, in the 1930s, became a nationally published story writer and the principal gatherer in Horry and Georgetown counties of local folklore and myth for the WPA Writer's Project. And in 1964 her watercolor paintings became the subject of a one-woman exhibition at the Columbia Museum of Art.

"What I hope we inherited from Mama," Mrs. Peterkin has written, "was [her] pride in being what she was and what she expected each of us children to become – a brave and loving adult human being."

Another great influence was Lillie Knox, the "warm and sweet and loving" black woman who was Peterkin's "other mother." Lillie and Mama, Peterkin says, taught her "about faith, courage, and love."

Genevieve Peterkin has had a long and direct association with the South Caroliniana Library. Dozens of her mother's interviews are part of the Library's permanent collections in the WPA records, and in the early 1990s, Mrs. Peterkin and R. Kincaid Mills compiled an index of these interviews which continues to be an essential finding aid for the invaluable collection.

—Dr. Thomas L. Johnson

*Mama . . . started a job collecting folklore for Roosevelt's Writer's Project,
and each day I would go with her.*

—Genevieve C. Peterkin



Modern Political Collections is working to expand its presence on the web by developing online exhibits featuring individuals and topics encompassed in its collections. The first of these exhibits is *A Good Man – A Life in Service* which highlights the life and career of Kershaw County native John Carl West, whose public service included terms as a state senator, the governor of South Carolina, and a United States ambassador to Saudi Arabia under President Jimmy Carter.

The electronic project was adapted from a physical exhibit previously on display at the South Caroliniana Library. Photographs were scanned and converted to an electronic format compatible with webpage use, and the original exhibit text was edited and arranged to facilitate navigation as part of the Library's website.

The exhibit is divided into six sections: The Early Years, Service to South Carolina, Service to the Nation, "Elect a Good Man Governor," Accomplishments, and the West Fam-

ily. Links to a John West timeline and examples of slogans he considered for his 1970 gubernatorial campaign are included in the online presentation. Please refer to the webpage of the South Caroliniana Library (www.sc.edu/library/socar/index.html) in the upcoming weeks for the debut of the John West online exhibit.

The West Collection housed at the Modern Political Collections is comprised of more than thirty feet of material that includes correspondence, memoranda, reports, audio-visual, electronic, and other records. Of particular interest is a diary begun by West during his campaign for lieutenant governor and which he resumed during his terms as governor and ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Anticipated future online exhibits will spotlight Congressman Floyd Spence and former South Carolina Governor Robert McNair.

-Kate Moore

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICES TO ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS: THE PAPERS OF MARK SANFORD AND RICHARD W. RILEY

A positive working relationship between archivist and donor helps ensure the smooth transition of materials from public office to archives. Modern Political Collections recently worked with the Washington, D.C., offices of South Carolina Congressman Mark Sanford and Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley to coordinate the transfers of their materials to the Library.

Mark Sanford was elected to South Carolina's First District seat in the United States House of Representatives as part of the historic "class of 1994." Central to his campaign was a commitment to limit his time in Congress and serve no more than three terms; keeping his promise, he retired at the expiration of his third term in January 2001.

In 1999 Sanford pledged his papers to Modern Political Collections; since then Library staff members have made several

trips to Washington to meet with Sanford and key members of his staff to discuss the kinds of records the Library hoped to acquire at his term's end. The Library also provided Sanford's staff with a brochure, *Closing a Congressional Office: A Guide to the Disposition of Official Papers and Records*, as an aid to determining which records have long-term historical value. As a result of this partnership, the congressman's staff sent periodic shipments of material to the Library during the year 2000 and in January of 2001. The staff of Modern Political Collections inventoried the material as it was received, and this inventory now forms the basis of the collection's finding aid. The Sanford Collection stands at more than 110 linear feet and comprises legislative topical files, constituent mail, travel and scheduling files, clippings, campaign materials, and personal

records. Formats include textual files, audio and videotapes, and photographs.

A similar procedure was followed regarding the papers of Richard W. Riley as he closed out his distinguished eight-year tenure as Secretary of Education in January 2001. In this case, the materials received were additions to an established Library collection that includes records from Riley's service in the South Carolina General Assembly and as governor of South Carolina, as well as campaign and other personal papers.

The Riley and Sanford Collections are a key part of the holdings of Modern Political Collections. When processed, they certainly will prove to be important resources for researchers in years to come.

-Kate Moore

BENJAMIN ABNEY: SCENES FROM A COURTROOM

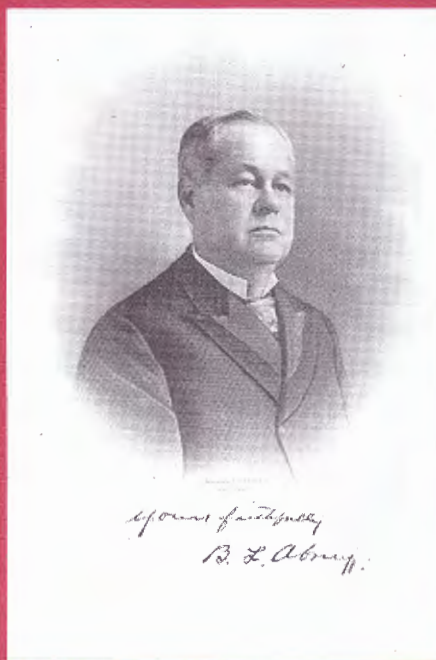
Benjamin Abney may not be a name that jumps out of the South Carolina history books; however, he certainly played a significant role behind the scenes in much of Columbia's history from around 1880, when he was admitted to the South Carolina bar, until his death in 1921.

Abney represented numerous Columbia-area municipal enterprises including Columbia Water Power Company, the Columbia Canal, the early incarnations of South Carolina Electric and Gas, the Commission to Wind Up the Affairs of the State Dispensary, Southern Railway Company, and many textile mills throughout South Carolina. He worked with some of the city's most powerful and, at times, infamous businessmen including local mill magnates W. B. S. Whaley and Lewis Parker; northern industrialists and mill financiers William Sprague, Aretas Blood, and Charles K. Oliver; prominent Columbia banker and investor Edwin R. Robertson; Governor Cole Blease; and South Carolina Attorney General J. Fraser Lyon. In addition, Abney maintained a successful private practice through which he represented clients in cases pertaining to insurance claims, bankruptcy proceedings, divorce proceedings, estate settlement, and property law.

Abney practiced law during a particularly interesting time in Columbia's history. He played a significant role in the community's shift from a more agrarian way of life to industrialized urbanization through his involvement in the utility companies, mills, and railroad industry.

Born near the Saluda River in Edgefield County on February 25, 1859, Abney attended Newberry College (the

school's catalog shows that he entered as a freshman in 1872 and was no longer in attendance by 1876) and the University of Virginia (circa 1877-79). After admission to the South Carolina bar in December 1880, Abney briefly practiced law in Edgefield County at his older brother John's firm, but after only one year, he followed his brother to Colum-



One of the few existing photographs of Benjamin Abney (from Abney's copy of J. C. Hemphill's Men of Mark in South Carolina, Volume IV, 1909).

bia. John Abney moved to New York in 1893, and Benjamin Abney continued to practice law in Columbia.

Early in his career, Abney was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives (Richland County) for three terms from 1886-1891. While he never sought political office beyond this position, he remained politically active during his professional life by the very na-

ture of the cases he tried and his participation on special committees.

In the 1890s Abney was involved in some of the most significant cases to cross the South Carolina bench. He dealt with some of the most pressing issues of the day and made a name for himself as one of the more adept and facile lawyers in the state. Abney, not always on the "right" side of the law, addressed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, monopolies, interstate commerce, the South Carolina Dispensary System, insurance fraud, child labor in textile mills, and the development and expansion of electrical power utility companies.

Abney's first real challenge as an attorney came when he agreed to represent the state's newly formed utility companies. Central to the effective use of the Columbia Canal was the operation and management of the utility companies that endeavored to harness and sell its power. Numerous individuals and corporations tried, most unsuccessfully, to incorporate power and utility companies in Columbia; Abney was directly involved in several of the more successful ventures. He played a prominent role in shepherding the Congaree Gas and Electric Company, the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company, and the Columbia Water Power Company through their various mergers, assuring their growth and the use of the Columbia Canal.

In December 1887, William H. Gibbes, John P. Thomas Jr., John T. Sloan Jr., Dr. T. T. Moore, and Benjamin Abney incorporated the Congaree Gas and Electric Company, the first Columbia company whose charter authorized the generation and distribution of electricity. In 1891 the company built a steam

plant on Gates Street powered by the canal to furnish power for the first electric lights on Columbia's streets.

That same year, Abney, as the company's attorney, helped the organization merge with the Columbia Electric Street and Suburban Railway and Electric Power Company to become the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company.

Although the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company utilized the power of the Columbia Canal, it did not have any controlling interest in it. Rather, in 1891 George Wallace of Boston, Massachusetts, and Aretas Blood of Manchester, New Hampshire, formed the Columbia Water Power Company for the purpose of purchasing the canal from the state. Wallace and Blood, through the Columbia Water Power Company, intended to utilize power from the canal to operate the textile mills along the river. Abney acted as counsel for the Columbia Water Power Company. The organization met with success; in 1894 the canal and the Water Power Company provided the water power to the country's first electrically operated mill, Columbia Mills.

Meanwhile, the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company, with Abney as its counsel, began the gradual process of absorbing small, local companies formed to generate power or furnish gas or transportation services. And in 1905 it acquired the Columbia Water Power Company, thus giving the organization a controlling interest in the canal.

Abney also represented a number of the mills in the state, many of which were controlled by the same northern interests that controlled the canal, the Columbia Water Power Company, and other

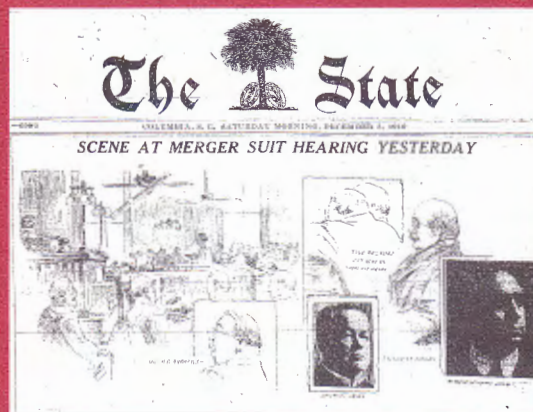
utility companies. Among the mills Abney represented were Columbia Mills and its holding company Mount Vernon Cotton Duck Company, Granby Mills, Olympia Mills, Palmetto Mills, Parker Mills, Richland Mills, Saxe Gotha Mills, Union Mills, Pelzer Manufacturing Company, and Saluda Manufacturing Company.

Abney represented the organizations at a time when child labor opponents started to become vocal, and mill management had to respond. The response was almost always to resist. Several mill presidents fought labor regulations such as the child labor law of 1903 and the

Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad Company, South Carolina and Georgia Railway Extension Company, Carolina Midland Railway Company, and the Southern Railway (Carolina Division).

This was one of the most publicized cases of Abney's career, and its reach extended beyond South Carolina as it directly addressed issues such as monopolies, competition, and the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The State of South Carolina (its case argued by Attorney General J. Fraser Lyon) claimed that the 1902 acquisition by Southern Railway of the Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad Company, the South Carolina and Georgia Railway Extension Company, and the Carolina Midland Railway Company was illegal and gave Southern Railway an unfair competitive advantage and a monopoly over the rail industry in the state. Lyon asserted that the company absorbed competing and parallel lines of rail, an act forbidden by the state's constitution. As a result, Southern Railway acquired a monopoly and controlled the freight rates across the state.

Abney argued that the result of the merger was positive: the fact that short rail lines had been tied or united into longer ones gave an advantage to shippers in that they no longer had to pay separate rates for each leg of a journey, that goods could be shipped more effectively and quickly, and that it was more cost effective. Additionally, the merger opened up trade throughout South Carolina and made the port of Charleston far more accessible from the inland areas than it ever had been before. *The State* newspaper covered the trial extensively and gave it front page coverage on almost every day of the



Front-page headline from The State, Saturday, December 3, 1910. The Merger Suit garnered first-page press nearly every day of the trial.

1907 law reducing the workweek hours to sixty. Abney represented the mills in their fight to continue to employ children.

In 1897 Abney was appointed Division Counsel for the Southern Railway in South Carolina. His duties included appointing local attorneys in other counties and handling litigation throughout the state. Of great significance was the role Abney played in the seminal 1910 "Merger Suit," that of the *State of South Carolina v. The Southern Railway*,

See Abney on page 10

and her sons Henry and John acquired additional letters of Henry and John Laurens and also added significant books, pamphlets, and manuscripts of South Carolina interest. Two of the more recent acquisitions include a 1779 letter of John Adams to Henry Laurens and a 1780 letter of the Marquis de LaFayette to John Laurens. However, the Laurens Papers were not included with Mr. Kendall's gift to the University of South Carolina, and the family also retained some printed and manuscript Caroliniana.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology microfilmed the Laurens Papers in 1961 and made copies available to the South Caroliniana Library and the Henry Laurens Project. The Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon, Massachusetts, housed the originals to which the editors of the Laurens Papers Project have been allowed access. Dr. James Taylor, one of the current co-editors, has made six trips to this museum over a period of almost twenty years.

The history of collections is often fascinating and intriguing. During his lifetime, William Gilmore Simms was a prolific writer, but he was also a collector of books and historical documents. When his Woodlands plantation home burned for the second time in the final months of the Civil War, Simms lost the bulk of his library which he estimated at 10,000 volumes. Fortunately, his Revolutionary War document collection was not at Woodlands. Simms had apparently acquired an extensive collection of documents by the mid-1840s. In a letter dated February 11, 1845, to Evert A. Duyckinck, Simms noted that he possessed manuscripts of Henry and John Laurens, John Rutledge, Horatio Gates, William Heath, Arthur Lee, and Patrick Henry. With his home destroyed and his health impaired, Simms continued writing and sought to restore his home and agricultural holdings. In order to begin

rebuilding at Woodlands, Simms sought assistance from Duyckinck and John Jacob Bochee to dispose of his large collection of Revolutionary War documents. The Long Island Historical Society paid Simms \$1,500 for the collection in 1867.

The Long Island Historical Society maintained custody of the collection for over ninety years until 1959 at which time Mrs. Kendall acquired it. Mr. and Mrs.



Above: Brian Cuthrell of the South Caroliniana Library and James Taylor of the Laurens Papers Project display a plate from Catesby's Natural History of South Carolina.

Below: A selection of manuscripts from the Kendall Collection.



Kendall initially became acquainted with South Carolina when the Kendall Company purchased the Wateree Mill in Camden in 1916. The Kendalls acquired a home, The Sycamores, there in 1924.

And in the year 2001, the Henry W. Kendall Collection of Laurens Papers and the remainder of the Kendall Collection of Early Caroliniana will return to South

Carolina through the generosity of the Kendall family and, in large measure, as a result of the cordial working relationship established over many years between Stuart Frank, the curator of the Kendall Whaling Museum, and those associated with the Laurens Papers Project in South Carolina including James Taylor, George Rogers Jr., and others.

Although many of the letters of Henry Laurens have been published in *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, it is gratifying that the South Caroliniana Library is receiving a collection that features approximately 350 original letters of Henry and John Laurens; Henry Laurens' letter book (August 19, 1783 - July 6, 1785); and letters of such Revolutionary War-era figures as Baron deKalb, Lachlan McIntosh, Richard Henry Lee, Rawlins Lowndes, John Jay, John Lewis Gervais, John Rutledge, and William Moultrie. Many other contemporaries also are among the correspondents. In addition to correspondence, the collection contains papers concerning affairs of Congress, relations with various Indian tribes, and petitions and memorials.

The Kendall Collection of the papers of Henry Laurens represents a major documentation of the Revolutionary War generation and of South Carolina's role in the events of that time. The Kendall Book Collection includes eighteenth- and nineteenth-century pamphlets and documents, a bound volume of the *South Carolina Gazette* (1737), and a third edition (1771) of Mark Catesby's *Natural History of South Carolina*.

-Dr. Allen H. Stokes Jr.

USC'S CONSERVATION FACILITY: PREPARED FOR THE NEW CENTURY

It has been a year and a half since the University constructed the Library Annex and Conservation Facility. During that time, Head Conservator and Librarian for Preservation Services Holly Herro has taken great strides to establish the University Libraries Conservation Facility as one of the best in the Southeast. In order to assist Herro, the University recently hired Carol Crawford as Senior Conservator and Lab Director and Darrick Hart as Conservation and Preservation Specialist.

The staff is currently developing a comprehensive program that will both establish the facility as a leader in conservation and preservation work and ensure the University's reputation as a respected institution of learning in the field of preservation services. The program's components include preserving and performing conservation treatments on valuable collections, establishing and maintaining a Graduate Internship in Library and Archival Preservation through the College of Library and Information Science, recruiting graduate student volunteers from a variety of colleges on campus, and applying for grant funding.

The department is involved in several ongoing projects to help preserve the collections throughout the University Libraries' holdings. One of the larger projects is the rehousing of valuable maps, photographs, and architectural drawings in protective polyester sleeves. This encapsulation process is a vital part of preserving an institution's holdings. The relatively simple process prolongs the life of the collection and saves the institution money. The department has also begun the production of more elaborate protective enclosures known as "clamshell" boxes. These custom-made enclosures that take up to four hours to construct provide excellent support and protection for particularly fragile rare books, journals, and diaries. To date, the department has produced more than 150 clamshell boxes for Thomas Cooper Library's Special Collections, the South Caroliniana Library, and the Music Library. In addition to these projects, Preservation Services has conserved items for Special Collections and is currently conserving the University's original char-

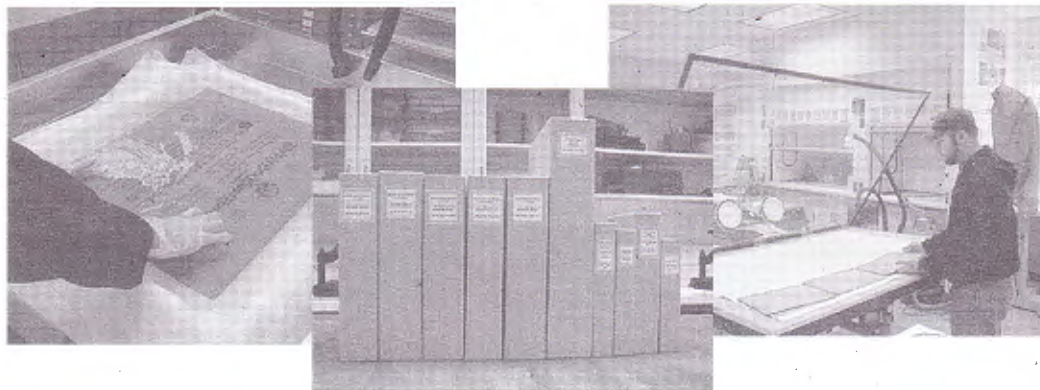
ter for its chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

The Graduate Internship in Library and Archival Preservation is designed to instruct students in preservation theory and practices and to provide a basic introduction to conservation. The program consists of lectures and hands-on projects such as box-making, encapsulation, rehousing, and the preparation of fragile materials for relocation to off-site storage. The lab has acquired the services of several graduate student interns who assist Crawford in making polyester sleeves for books.

In addition to assistance from interns, the conservation facility has the services of graduate assistant Brian Fahey. The graduate assistantship is generously sponsored by the South Caroliniana Society. Currently, Fahey is assisting in the conservation of the Butler Family Scrapbook. Under the supervision of a conservator, Fahey will unbind the scrapbook and then neutralize the acid in each page using a buffering agent. After this process is completed, Fahey will humidify, flatten, and encapsulate each page; construct a post binding; and house the scrapbook in a clamshell box.

In addition to maintaining and supervising these projects, the department has been awarded a National Leadership Grant by the Institute of Museums and Library Services to fund a program entitled *Preservation Training Initiative for Small Libraries and Museums in South Carolina*. South Carolina conservators will utilize video broadcasts, Internet streaming, and face-to-face instruction to assist small local libraries, museums, and related organizations learn proper preservation and collection care techniques. This initiative will also help establish a statewide digital community dedicated to the development of sound preservation practices and quality collection maintenance. The initiative is a joint venture developed by the Preservation Services Department, McKissick Museum, the College of Library and Information Science, and Distance Education and Instructional Services. The success of the project will have a significant impact on the state, and establish the University of South Carolina's conservation facility as one of the leading southeastern institutions in preservation services.

-Darrick Hart



Scenes from the Preservation Services Department (shown, from left to right): a conservator "float washing" the University's Phi Beta Kappa charter; an assortment of "clamshell" boxes; graduate assistant Brian Fahey using the humidification chamber and suction table to conserve pages from the Butler Family Scrapbook.

month-long trial. In the end it was a victory for Southern Railway, Abney, and commerce.

Abney took on another significant client during the first decade of the twentieth century: the State of South Carolina. In 1907, following the repeal of the infamous Dispensary System, Abney was appointed to the State Dispensary Commission (or the Commission to Wind Up the Affairs of the State Dispensary). The group was charged with closing out the business and property of the State Dispensary by disposing of goods and property, collecting all debts, and by paying from said debts any money owed. Abney worked extensively with Attorney General J. Fraser Lyon between 1907 and 1913. He represented the state in cases against the Carolina Glass Company, the Richland Distilling Company, and the Wilson Distributing Company among others.

Abney never married; although he tried some of the state's more sensational cases, he remained out of the limelight in his personal life. To many of his associates he seemed singularly focused on his career. Abney had his passions, though. Throughout his life, he compiled what was considered one of the finest private libraries in South Carolina, particularly on legal matters. The collection consisted of many volumes pertaining to South Carolina, business, and the legal system. At the time of his death, it may have contained around 10,000 volumes. After his brother's death, John Abney donated the remaining contents of the library to the University of South Carolina where it was divided between the law school and the South Caroliniana Library. Many of the books can still be found on the shelves, including a bound volume of pamphlets pertaining to transportation, railroad law, and other miscellaneous topics.

In a strange and seemingly inexplicable

twist to his life, Abney lived for many years with Coleman L. Blease and his wife Lillie. Abney and Blease were cousins; however, the two seemed to share a contentious kinship. It appeared that Abney was closer to Lillie Blease than to his cousin. Despite the obvious tension, Abney moved in with the couple—into the governor's mansion—in 1911 at the start of Blease's first term as governor of South Carolina. Curiously, Lillie Blease charged Abney for rent and other expenses.

In 1912 Abney deeded a property in Columbia to Lillie, and in 1915 the Bleases and Abney moved into it. Abney continued to pay rent despite the fact that he owned an estate on the outskirts of Columbia as well as several properties downtown.

There is little in Abney's personal papers that reveals his reasoning behind living with the Bleases and entering into any sort of financial agreement with Lillie Blease. All of this information came to a strange culmination shortly after Abney's death in November of 1921 when Lillie Blease sued Abney's estate. She claimed that she had taken special care of Abney for many years, that she nursed him through illnesses and prepared elaborate meals to his specifications—acted as his nursemaid, servant, and sometimes almost as a wife.

Mrs. Blease claimed that Abney stated that he would provide for her in his will and compensate her for her efforts and that she would never have to worry (a peculiar statement given the fact that she was married and ostensibly "taken care of" by Cole Blease). She felt that she deserved, and claimed that Abney had promised her, \$100,000 (despite the fact that Abney had included her in his will, and that, over the years, he had loaned her money and presented her with many gifts—especially expensive jewelry). She presented John Abney, the estate's executor, with a bill for that

amount a few months after Abney's death. When John Abney refused to pay, Lillie Blease held up the probaton of the will and brought forth a lawsuit.

Over the course of the trial, many Columbians testified to the fact that Abney was a difficult and curmudgeonly man, prone to much profanity and hostility, and that this was the least Lillie Blease deserved for the years of harassment she endured. Cole Blease testified and claimed that Abney had never even been invited to live with them; rather, "he came to my home one day to dine and never did leave." Ultimately, the court ruled in Lillie Blease's favor and, while it did not award her \$100,000, on April 27, 1923, the judge ordered the Abney estate to compensate Lillie Blease \$25,000.

Ironically, *Lillie Blease v. the Estate of Benjamin Abney* posthumously pulled the very private man into the limelight. As an attorney, Abney had won countless cases for his clients through the use of skill, force, and cunning. He was a man who had lived out his life in the courtroom. Yet probably even he could not have envisioned that his most controversial and sensational case would be one in which he assumed the role of hapless defendant.

-Meg Moughan



Benjamin Abney's bookplate, featuring his family crest.

MYSTERY PHOTO CLOSER TO A SOLUTION

The Fall 2000 issue of *Caroliniana Columns* featured a photograph of five early-twentieth-century soldiers and solicited reader suggestions as to the identity of the individuals. The names of the soldiers and the precise date and location of the image have yet to be determined; however, thanks to reader input, the photographic mystery is closer to a solution.

Edward Sloan of Greenville, South Carolina, established that the jacket shown was a blue, five-button military jacket identical to those worn by South Carolina Volunteer soldiers in 1898. Virgil Lawrence, a graduate student assistant at the South Caroliniana Library, suggested that the Maltese Cross insignia might have a connection to the St. John Ambulance, a foundation under the Order of the Hospital of St. John.

Around the time period of the pho-

tograph, the international humanitarian aid organization provided medical assistance and charitable relief to countries affected by war. This proved a shrewd guess, since it turned out that



the insignia was the St. John's Cross, and in the early twentieth century, the symbol was used as the United States Army Hospital Corps' insignia.

Walter Budd, a military history enthusiast from Durham, North Carolina, claimed that the soldiers were United States Army Hospital corps-

men, probably photographed in Puerto Rico or the Philippines early in the twentieth century, but after 1904. Their "Hospitalers" cap insignia was the one adopted by the United States

Army for its medics in 1901. Their caps and waist belts are standard United States Army issue circa 1902; however, their blue, five-button coats are out of date and were possibly issued from the Army's overstock. The additional strap worn under their equipment harnesses is a litter-carrier, and attached to the waistbelts are hospital corps pouches probably containing scissors, bandages, and other first-aid essentials. The oversized, curved blades at their sides are examples of a 1904 model Hospital Corps knife.

The Library thanks readers for their input.

-Joe Long

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The South Caroliniana Library seeks volunteers to assist in transcribing recordings made by former University Librarian Kenneth E. Toombs. Included in the tapes to be transcribed are oral history interviews with leading South Carolina civil rights figures Alice Spearman Wright and James T. McCain, *Time/Life Fortune* magazine editor John Shaw Billings, author Grace Lumpkin, and the recordings of special South Carolina Library Association events from 1971-1972.

The work will be conducted at the Pearle Building (720 College Street at the corner of Gadsden Street, with plenty of parking available) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. The work will be intellectually stimulating, and transcribers will help the Library greatly.

UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

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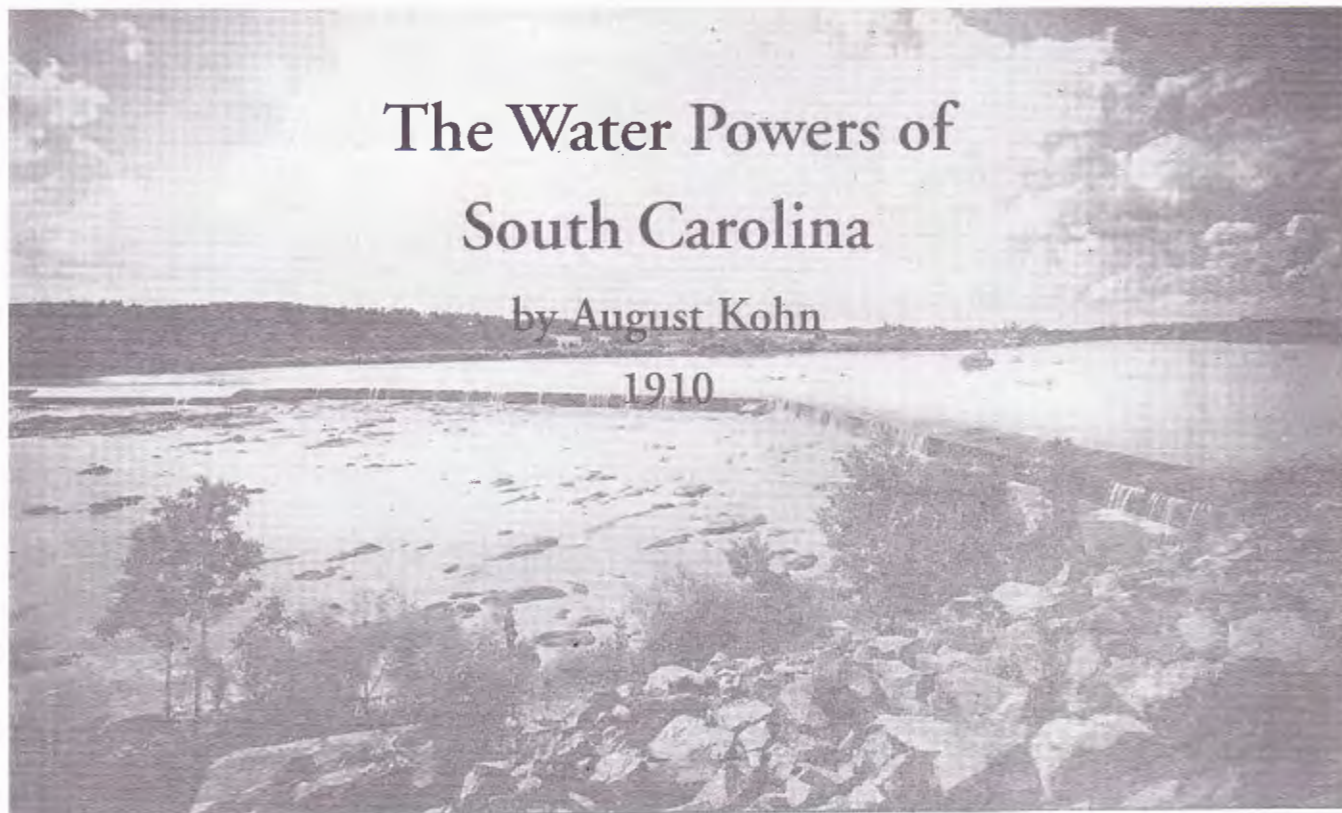
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The Water Powers of South Carolina

by August Kohn

1910



Dam for Columbia Canal.—Plant of the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company.

August Kohn originally published "The Water Powers of South Carolina" in the *Charleston News & Courier* in 1910. The State Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries republished the volume in 1911. Kohn addressed the history of the development of water power in Columbia in Chapter XXXII, "The Columbia Canal." At the time, Kohn's associate, neighbor, and fellow book collector Benjamin Abney was the attorney for the Columbia Canal and the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company. For further information on August Kohn and Benjamin Abney, please refer to pages one and six.

Memorials

In Memory of	From	In Memory of	From
Mrs. Anne Lowndes McKay Chalgren	Mr. Edward Chalgren	Mr. John C Hungerpillar	Mrs. Sloan Brittain
Dr. Richard L. Childers	Mrs. Richard L. Childers	Mr. Robert E. Kneece	Mr. E. Crosby Lewis
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