Faculty, students, and dignitaries from the University and the greater Columbia community gathered in the Reading Room of the South Caroliniana Library on October 15, 2013, to view two remarkable 19th-century documents which were returning to the campus almost 136 years after they were issued to Richard T. Greener who was the University’s first African-American professor and librarian. The presentation was an official event of the yearlong commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of USC’s desegregation in 1963.

Partnering with the University Libraries in the acquisition and preservation of the Richard T. Greener documents were the Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin, the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity/Alpha Iota Boule, and the USC School of Law.

South Caroliniana Library Receives Priceless 19th-Century Law Diploma and License of Richard T. Greener

The Documents

Of primary importance to the University’s collection is Greener’s law diploma. Written in Latin, it was issued on December 12, 1876, to Ricardo Theodoro Greener. It is signed by several professors and bears the University’s bright red seal. The diploma is of particular significance because it was one of the few issued during the four years (1873-1877) of the Reconstruction period when the University was open to African Americans.

The second document is Greener’s license to practice law in South Carolina. It was issued on December 20, 1876, by the Supreme Court of South Carolina. It bears a dark, almost black, seal of the state of South Carolina.

Celebrating the return of the Greener documents to the University are: artist Larry Lebby, University President Harris Pastides, Mayor of Columbia Stephen K. Benjamin, University Archivist Elizabeth West, USC professor of history Bobby Donaldson, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity representative James Bennett, and Dean of University Libraries Tom McNally.

Continued on page 4
Omnibus has literas perlecturis
Salutem
in Domino Sempiternam.

Sebas actum VI. Decembris, Anno MDCCCLXXVII.

Richardus Theodorus Greener

Gradus Mag. Candidate et aequo praemio approbato titulam.
Gradu magno honoris.

Baculorum diversium usque curiae juris,
privilegiis et honores sub his gradu magno genteque constantem existit pertinentia.

Iucundum docentem

Inquis rei testimonium Nos
hoc litteris universitatis
signis mundis nuncius subscripsimus. Datum ex officio academico,
decimo die Decembris, ab eoque Domino. MDCCCLXXVII.

Posuit R. H. Cunningham.

Curator


Profecto.
This oil on canvas portrait of Richard T. Greener was painted by Columbia artist Larry Lebby in 1984. It is based on a photograph taken of Greener while he was a student at Harvard University in 1870.
“A LOT OF SYMBOLIC VALUE”
Tom McNally, Dean of the University Libraries, explained the excitement he and his colleagues experienced when they learned that the Greener documents had been found in Chicago in 2009. After University Archivist Elizabeth West and USC history professor Bobby Donaldson flew to Chicago and verified the authenticity of the documents in 2012, Dean McNally recalled, “I knew the next step was to negotiate a price and find supporters who would help us secure the documents.” McNally enlisted the aid of Columbia Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin and other community leaders to help amass the purchase price so the documents could be presented to the South Caroliniana Library where Greener had served as librarian.

West explained her reasons for urging that the University acquire the documents: “It wasn’t just because of who Greener was. This filled a gap in our University’s history. We did not have a diploma from one of our African-American graduates during Reconstruction. It was my holy grail of University history. There’s not a lot of research value in a diploma, but there is a lot of symbolic value. By bringing back and filling in missing pieces in some small way we’re trying to bring attention to an important part of the University’s history. For many years that time was looked at as dark days, when it was actually four years of hope for a marginalized community. Those four short years were full of hope for freed African Americans who could get an education and fully be part of society.”

“One of the Most Extraordinary Documents... Related to University History”
Professor Donaldson called the Greener diploma “one of the most extraordinary documents I’ve seen as related to University history. Elizabeth and I had been in search of a diploma earned by a student during Reconstruction. That the diploma we have was earned by the first known African-American professor on campus makes it doubly significant.”

“1801-1963: The Long Road to Desegregation at the University of South Carolina”

“1801-1963: The Long Road to Desegregation at the University of South Carolina,” the Library takes a comprehensive look at the roles African Americans have played on the campus since its beginnings in the first days of the nineteenth century until three students desegregated the university in 1963. The exhibit includes records that show the type of duties performed by enslaved African Americans on campus, information about the African American students who attended during Reconstruction and documents and images that detail the University’s fight against integration and final plans for a peaceful desegregation. The exhibit will be on display in South Caroliniana Library’s Lumpkin Foyer through January 20, 2014.
Richard Theodore Greener was the first African-American professor at the University of South Carolina. He also served as the librarian at USC for nearly a year in 1875.

Greener was born January 30, 1844, in Philadelphia. He grew up in Boston and attended Oberlin College and Phillips Academy. In 1870, he became the first African American to graduate from Harvard University.

After teaching in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., Greener came to South Carolina in 1873. In addition to teaching philosophy, Latin, Greek, and law, Greener served as librarian and helped reorganize and catalog the library's holdings, which were in disarray after the Civil War. He earned a Bachelor of Law degree as one of the first black graduates of USC's law school. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1876. While at USC, Greener lived in Lieber College on the USC Horseshoe and worked at the University of South Carolina Library.

When the University was closed by South Carolina's government in 1877, Greener took a job as a clerk in the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. He also was a professor and dean at the Howard University Law School. He began a law career in Washington in the early 1880s. He served as secretary of the Grant Monument Association in New York in 1885 and later as U.S. commercial agent to Vladivostok, Russia.

Greener left the foreign service and settled in Chicago with relatives in 1908. He died on May 2, 1922.

Richard Greener's Legacy

Mayor Benjamin told the audience that bringing the Greener documents to the University “is one of the achievements of which I am proud to have played a role. I see myself as a legacy of Richard T. Greener. I am intrigued by his role in the early history of this republic when the country embarked on a long, often dark and often triumphant century capped off by the event ninety years after Greener when we opened the doors to [Henri] Montieth and [Robert] Anderson and [James] Solomon.

“Since then the University has seen achievement after achievement after achievement. I look forward to watching the story of Richard Greener grow and inspire other students who come here and provide a world of possibilities for one of the greatest nations in the history of the world. When people believe big and think big, when the franchise is extended to everyone and everyone has a say in where the country goes, I firmly believe that we can do incredible things in incredibly challenging times.”

Who Was Richard Greener?

In 2009, Rufus McDonald was part of crew that was demolishing a house in Chicago. An old trunk that had been left in the attic was to be destroyed along with the house. Mr. McDonald opened the trunk, and I am deeply grateful that he did so. Without his curiosity, without his realization that it contained old documents that should be saved, those materials would have been lost forever.

In March of 2012, the Chicago Sun-Times ran an article on the discovery of the Richard T. Greener materials; the reporter contacted my colleague in the Law Library, Dr. Michael Mounter, who had written his dissertation on Greener. Dr. Mounter quickly notified me of the discovery, and I just as quickly notified Dean McNally and Dr. Bobby Donaldson.

One month later, Dr. Donaldson and I were in Chicago, meeting with Mr. McDonald and examining the documents. I can't adequately express how thrilled I was to unroll Richard Greener's diploma and see the University of South Carolina seal—because this wasn't just any collection item—I was holding my holy grail of USC history.

Since joining the South Caroliniana Library in 1995, I wanted to find—above all else—the diploma of an African-American graduate from the Reconstruction University. Only twenty-one diplomas were issued during that era, and we had yet to acquire one.

The Reconstruction University is not as well documented as other eras. It was short—only four years—and some records were intentionally destroyed when the University reopened in 1880 as an all-white institution once more.

The fact that the diploma and law license belonged to Richard Greener made the discovery all the more exciting.

Bringing the Documents Home to USC

After our return from Chicago, it was up to Dean McNally to bring in the donations needed to acquire the documents. In August, Dr. Donaldson and I flew back to Chicago to bring home Greener's USC diploma and South Carolina law license. After undergoing conservation treatments, these symbols of a brief but significant era in USC history are ready to join the collections of the South Caroliniana Library.

University Archivist Elizabeth West Tells the Story of the Greener Documents

An Archivist's duty is to collect documents and other historic materials, preserve them, and make them accessible for researchers. Our collections aren't perfect—there are gaps—missing pieces—that we constantly seek in order to more fully document the history and culture of a university, a community, a state.

Sometimes these missing pieces are carefully handed down through generations until they are placed with us. Sometimes they are discovered in a grandparent's closet. And sometimes, as in this case, they appear in wonderful moments of serendipity.

Recovering a Piece of History

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The South Caroliniana Library has on many occasions over the years received improvements of one sort or another. New paint and carpeting have helped to maintain the appearance of the Reading Room and other spaces.

The time has come to upgrade the parts of the library that you do not see. We need to improve the safety, security and preservation of the library and its collections.

What would it take to do this?
It begins with a feasibility study. We have hired an architect to examine the infrastructure of the building. They have looked at heating and cooling, wiring, fire suppression and shelving. We asked them to see if space could be allocated for meetings, events, exhibits and staff offices. All of this is a fairly tall order while maintaining the historical integrity of the building.

Can we make changes and maintain the appearance of the building?
The answer is yes. The stacks area can be reconfigured for new shelving, a fire suppression system can be installed, the Kendall Room can be used for events, and the lower level can be used for exhibits. New heating and air conditioning can be installed and new wiring can be pulled throughout the building.

How much will all this cost?
The costs will be in the millions. The good news is that there are many foundations that are dedicated to renovating historically important buildings. It will take time to secure the funding and that is why we must begin immediately.

Why do this?
The answer is simple. We have to do this or we face a potential disaster. The wiring is old and is strained by the use of computers that were never imagined when the building was wired in the 1920s. The heating and air conditioning are inadequate and cannot protect the library from outbreaks of mold. If we had a fire in the building, there is nothing to slow it down or protect the collections.

The goal is a simple one. We must maintain the appearance of the South Caroliniana Library, while providing for its safety and security.

The South Caroliniana Library has many friends. Some of the most dedicated are the members of the University South Caroliniana Society. As we face the task of renovating and upgrading the Library, we urgently need and anticipate the continued support of Society members.

Tom McNally
his experiences but also to doggedly return home to South Carolina determined to buy land and assist in settling free men and women.

Ivy McIntosh continued her dissertation research begun on a previous exploratory visit to the South Caroliniana Library. “Families in Extremis: South Carolina in the Early Republic” explores the manner in which Southerners, enslaved and free, coped with family crises in the early national and antebellum periods.

Dr. John Miller, professor of English at Longwood University, Farmville, Va., this year’s recipient of the William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professorship, spent much of the summer researching Simms’s orations in preparation for his forthcoming edited collection of them to be issued by University of South Carolina Press under the title “Honorable and Brilliant Labors: Selected Orations of William Gilmore Simms.”

New Acquisitions

Longtime Director of the South Caroliniana Library Allen Stokes has written nostalgically of his days traveling the highways and byways of the Palmetto State in search of collection treasures, often finding time along the way to visit such haunts as Cassatt’s Hard Times Café.

Some collections come to us in this manner, true. Some are acquired as the result of carefully cultivated groundwork of letters, e-mails, telephone calls, and face-to-face meetings; others come to us largely through network associations; and there are others that are brought through our doors by donors eager to find a permanent home for deserving materials.

In other instances, however, it is the earnings from endowed accounts and the University South Caroliniana Society that enable us to acquire antiquarian materials for the Library. Such was the case this summer. Without the support provided by friends of the Library, we could not have considered making these purchases.

Chesnut Daguerreotype Portrait

A half-plate daguerreotype photographic portrait of James and Mary Boykin Chesnut of Mulberry Plantation, Camden, circa 1846-1848, taken at an undetermined location by an unidentified photographer, though possibly in South Carolina, as the date of the photograph, based upon physical evidence, coincides with James Chesnut’s tenure as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. It is evident, according to photographic appraiser Clifford Kranik, by the composition and physical quality of the polished plate that the daguerreotype was taken by a professional photographer of considerable artistic ability, comparable to the stature of George S. Cook of Charleston or Joseph T. Zealy of Columbia. The portrait is a gift-purchase through the Martha W. Daniels Foundation.

Alfred Ward Grayson Davis and Charles Lewis Davis

The upstate town of Greenville and the surrounding Piedmont area provided critical manpower to the Confederacy, but just as crucial were the foodstuffs, livestock, textiles, leather, and other manufactured products. In the mid-1990s, the Library acquired two letterbooks, 1862-1865, of Post Quarter Masters in Greenville, Alfred Ward Grayson Davis and son Charles Lewis Davis. This superb addition to the collection includes 198 manuscripts, a family carte-de-visite album, cased sixth- and ninth-plate tintypes, and the Greenville quarter master hand-stamp set for April 25, 1863, the last date that it was used. Although he was often referred to as General Davis, a title acquired when he was commissioned as a major general in the Mississippi militia, the elder Davis was commissioned as a major in the Confederate Quarter Master Department. After Alfred Davis resigned as Quarter Master in 1863, his son Charles Davis, a graduate of the University of Virginia and a medical doctor, who had served as an officer in the Stonewall Brigade but was not available for further field duty, succeeded his father as Post Quarter Master in Greenville, a position he held until April 25, 1865.

Charleston Harbor General and Special Orders

A rare find, this manuscript volume contains Special and General Orders 1861-1863, 1865, relating to the defense of Charleston Harbor and contains orders issued by F.W. Pickens, David Flavel Jamison, James Jonathan Lucas, Roswell S. Ripley, Johnson Hagoood, Robert E. Lee, States Rights Gist, John Clifford Pemberton, Clement H. Stevens, [George Anderson] Mercer, and William Duncan Smith. Topics discussed include fortifications around the harbor, unit commands, administrative tasks required, courts martial and punishments, and efforts to combat disease. A notation on the first page indicates that “This Book was found, in ‘Fort Pringle’ on James Island, S.C. after it was evacuated by the Rebels, Feb. 19th 1865.”

1876 Election Telegram

A rare manuscript telegram, datelined Washington, December 6, 1876, from President Ulysses S. Grant orders the commander of Federal troops to keep the Republican governor in power. Written out by an unknown telegrapher in Columbia the message is addressed to General Thomas H. Ruger. Following months of racially motivated violence, the 1876 South Carolina gubernatorial election ended in controversy. The incumbent Republican, Daniel H. Chamberlain, was recognized by the Federal government and temporarily kept in power by Federal troops under General Ruger, but Democrat challenger Wade Hampton III set up a shadow government which was eventually recognized as legitimate, bringing Reconstruction to an end. Here President Grant orders Ruger: “Do not recognize in any manner any person as Governor of South Carolina other than D.H. Chamberlain until you hear further from me.” He also enquires whether “there are armed bodies of men in Columbia...threatening the peace.”

John Bennett Letters

Seven letters, 1893-1902, added to the papers of Charleston artist, writer, and poet John Bennett, are

Continued on page 39
South Carolina College in the 1870s as Seen by Belton O’Neall Townsend

by John Hammond Moore

(Editor’s Note: The following article is an excerpt from John Hammond Moore’s book When South Carolina Was an Armed Camp: The Reconstruction Essays of Belton O’Neall Townsend published in 2013 by Home House Press. It provides a look at the young Townsend and his days at South Carolina College.

Stephen Hoffius, managing editor of Home House Press, offers the following insight into the personality and life history of Belton O’Neall Townsend:

“Belton O’Neall Townsend was a native of Bennettsville, S.C., who attended South Carolina College in the 1870s. His goal in life for years was to be a poet, but his father, with whom he often feuded, convinced him to become a lawyer. He became an active and respected community leader and orchestrated the campaign that made Florence the capital of a new county. But he is most remembered today because in the 1870s, when he was in his earlier twenties, he penned six important essays describing conditions in Reconstruction-era South Carolina. In the New York Tribune and the Atlantic Monthly he described both the corruption of the Republicans and the brutality of the Democrats with a rare honesty and frankness. His poetry collection entitled Plantation Lays, and Other Poems was published in Columbia, S.C., in 1884.”

Belton O’Neall Townsend at South Carolina College

Belton, who was small of stature, slim, and always looked younger than his years, was an avid reader. As a student, he excelled in composition and demonstrated keen interest in history and chemistry. In 1869, a few months after his fourteenth birthday, he graduated from Society Hill’s historic St. David’s Academy, but because of academic regulations concerning age, he was unable to enter the South Carolina College (today the University of South Carolina) until October 1870. Townsend was one of about fifty young men to enroll during that session.

In his first year, he completed courses in chemistry; in the second, history and rhetoric; and in the third, mathematics and Greek. Along the way Townsend received special praise (“distinguished”) for his accomplishments in rhetoric, history, natural philosophy, and ancient languages, although he struggled with mathematics. The only individual to receive a Bachelor
of Arts degree in 1873 and one of four speakers on Public Day, he delivered an essay on “The Drama.” Belton was then eighteen years old.

During these ceremonies, five other students were awarded law degrees, two more completed medical training, and honorary degrees were conferred upon five prominent citizens, among them ex-Attorney General Daniel H. Chamberlain, who soon would become governor.

Belton’s Class Notes

Copies of this young man’s class notes, now at the South Caroliniana Library, together with other personal papers reveal a rigid classroom atmosphere, lectures often closing with a professor signing off, “Respectfully, your obedient servant.” Thirty-two pages of comments on the feudal system by the Hon. Robert W. Barnwell, LL.D, close with this observation: “The great evil of the feudal system was that it encouraged individuality at the expense of sociability. Our next lesson, young gentlemen, will be Guizot—half of the lesson where we left off. The bell has rung, so good morning.” On the other hand, Townsend seems to have taken less seriously Maximilian Laborde’s course in rhetoric, and perhaps with good reason, since this professor said ten meetings and nine lectures would be spent in “nice, old-time conversation.” Townsend’s notes for the final, pre-exam session open with Laborde observing he had no doubt they “would get through” and then drift off into ten lines of “&c., &c., &c.” repeated over one hundred times, ending with “ad finitum.”

Letters Home and Student Pranks

But college was not all classwork and note taking. In a letter to his mother, written on November 4, 1870, about a month after arriving in Columbia, he reported, “I am gradually becoming familiarized with my surroundings & the novelty of college life is fast wearing away & as my freshening period is gone I am being admitted more & more to the secrets of the students, & am on the whole well satisfied.” His roommate was Frank Beard of Columbia, who graduated in history in 1871 and then studied law before launching a newspaper career. A “waiting boy” named Ben “blackened” their shoes, made up beds, swept the room, ran errands, and did “every thing” they wanted him to do; they were also served by a washerwoman named Betsey. Townsend conceded he did not know their last names. Stressing he had only $10.00 left after paying for their services, young Belton boasted a bit: “My new suit fits splendidly & none of the boys (students) recognize me when I put it on & I venture to say that if I came to the front door at home, & knocked that I would be invited into the parlor & my name asked!” He then uttered a common student plea: “I need another suit badly. All of the students have three suits, & some have six. I have to wear the suit I left home in except on Sundays & it (the suit) is getting sadly out of order. Do try & get me a new suit, & at least another long tail coat if you cannot get the rest.”

Ever the dutiful son, Townsend closed with regards to all, adding, “I am wonderfully reconciled to kerosene oil & burn it as fearlessly as you do candles . . . I am very careful,” and a few words concerning campus pranks:

The students are going on worse this session than at any time since the war. Great bomb shells are let off at night & on Thursday morning the professors got up & upon looking out of doors found all of their gates (front gates about the size of the garden gate) gone, & upon search being made discovered
them perched upon the monument in the centre of the campus!! On another occasion they discovered Merchants signs perched up before their houses, as for example Mr. [William J.] Rivers found the sign of a grocer (he lives in the same house as Mr. LaBorde) & it was marked “Rivers & Laborde [sic] Wholesale and Retail Grocers,” & Mr. Barnwell got the sign of a shoe and hat store, &c!! Several persons were fooled, & called on them to buy goods. . .!!

DEBATE TOPICS AT THE EUPHRADIAN SOCIETY

Even before Townsend wrote these lines to the folks back home, on October 16, 1870, he was elected to membership in the Euphradian Society, one of two social groups dominating student life, the other being the Clariosophic Society. The societies were essentially debating clubs. Members met each Saturday afternoon at five o'clock to ponder such weighty subjects as dueling, foreign immigration to the South, woman suffrage, Mormons, polygamy in Utah, Indian rights to the soil, and whether the minds of the sexes were equally endowed. Not surprisingly, Euphradians did not believe dueling endangered society, opposed the vote for women, thought Mormons should be expelled and polygamy abolished, were scornful of both Indian rights and the female mind, and, at least in theory, favored foreign immigrants. A question debated in November 1871—“Should seduction be capitally punished?”—apparently was too hot to handle; the minutes indicate no consensus was reached concerning this matter.

Although it is impossible to know just how Belton O’Neall Townsend viewed these topics, Euphradian Society records reveal he quickly became a very active member. Early in 1871 he was named to the finance committee and soon became a monthly orator and then vice president. The Euphradian Society had about twenty members, roughly one-third of the entire student body. During these weeks the group voted to remove the portrait of Professor Barnwell, who was also president of the college, from its hall on the third floor of Harper College. The reason for this action is unclear, but it seems a rather daring move. The members invited Jefferson Davis, who soon would visit Columbia, to attend a meeting.

By November 1871 Townsend, not quite seventeen, was president pro tem and head of a committee conferring with rival Clariosophics concerning occasional joint meetings. On February 29, 1872, following installation as president, he delivered an inaugural address entitled “The Decadence & Corruption of English Poetical Literature.” Whether he or the secretary was responsible, minutes became much fuller at this point, amid demands that, before each meeting, the hall be swept, glass shades washed, and spittoons cleaned. During the remainder of the spring term, Townsend also served as “first critic” and monthly orator, entertaining the society with “an eloquent and edifying address” on May 18.
On the debit side, it should be noted that during his freshman year this young man was fined ten cents on three occasions for “impropriety” and once had to pay $1.50 for failure to perform as monthly orator. However, these juvenile indiscretions are over-shadowed by this entry in the minutes for October 30, 1872: “It has been universally remarked that our young member Mr. B.O. Townsend has improved both his delivery and fluency very much during the present session. He displays[,] whenever he arises, both a thorough research among the classics and a sound & candid judgment whenever he occupies the societies [sic] time.” Basking in this praise, Townsend arose and delivered poetry of his own composition entitled “The Inauguration Day of 1873.”

Just a few years later Townsend would criticize such societies for their exclusiveness, suggesting that he had faced great difficulties. In The Atlantic Monthly he would claim: [T]he secret fraternities fell into the hands of aristocratic students who excluded all others. Their organizations were then used to control elections in the literary and debating societies, to which all the students belonged, and in the classes. The high offices were given to aristocrats, and aristocrats were appointed to deliver the valedictories and salutatories. If a plebeian student of talent made himself prominent, cold water was thrown on all he did, and it was not unlikely, if he gave promise of winning the first honors or other high prizes, that such a cry would be raised against him as to cause his withdrawal from the race, if not from college.

Nonetheless, Townsend continued to hold positions of importance during his senior year (1872-73) and even was chosen president once more, although, because of an internal struggle, he never took office. This fight involved re-instatement of two Republican politicians—U.S. Senator Thomas J. Robertson and Governor Franklin J. Moses Jr.—to honorary membership, both having been expelled in April 1868. This proposal, which Townsend favored, came up again and again during the spring of 1873 but always was tabled or ruled out of order. Angered by such tactics, he resigned from the society on three occasions, only to return twice and be re-admitted. Townsend and his friends stressed that, because of the changing composition of the student body, sentiment regarding Robertson and Moses fluctuated through the years; in addition, the two men had enjoyed only honorary status, and expulsion under such conditions was “utterly unwarranted.” Frustrated by repeated parliamentary maneuvers, on May 24, shortly before graduating, Townsend resigned for a third and final time. During these same weeks the Euphradians extended honorary membership to Republican stalwart R.B. Carpenter, who agreed to be the society’s annual orator.

**John Hammond Moore**

John Hammond Moore was born on his family’s farm in Houlton, Me., in October 1924. As a child, he helped pick potatoes, cared for crops and livestock, and was educated in local schools. He attended the University of Maine for one year and then volunteered for wartime duty in the United States Navy. Trained as a quartermaster, he joined the crew of the LSM-R 193, a pioneer rocket ship constructed in Charleston, S.C., which took part in the Okinawa campaign in April 1945.

With peace, Moore enrolled in Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., where he received his A.B. degree in June 1949. Three months later he joined the staff of the Daily Commercial in Bangor, Me. In the fall of 1950, he began graduate study in American history at the University of Virginia, earning an M.A. in 1953 and a Ph.D. in 1961. During these years he was also a reporter for the weekly Virginia Gazette in Williamsburg, Va., and served on the staff of the McGraw-Hill Book Company in New York City as a salesman and writer.

His teaching career included consecutive three-year stints at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S.C., Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga., and Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. These contacts led to research in various aspects of regional history as well as the tale of German and Italian POWs in America during World War II. Upon his return to the States from Australia, he lived for several years in Washington, D.C., and then moved to Columbia, S.C., where he continues his research and publication efforts.

Embracing Change; Fulfilling the Dream
Commemorating Fifty Years of USC Desegregation

BY LACY FORD

The University of South Carolina changed forever for the better in dramatic fashion on September 11, 1963, thanks to the patience, courage and dedication of the three individuals whose roles we recognize through this anniversary commemoration. Nothing the University Committee on the Desegregation Commemoration could plan would be a fully adequate tribute, but the committee was and is committed to the idea that the University community will remember the occasion with an appropriate balance of appreciation, reflection and rededication.

The opening event of USC’s commemoration was held on September 11, 2013, fifty years to the day after Henri Montieth, James Solomon, and Robert Anderson became the first African Americans to register and enroll as students in the modern history of the University. President Harris Pastides, Dr. Henri Montieth Treadwell, and Dr. James Solomon all spoke from the steps of the Osborne Building that Montieth, Solomon, and Anderson had ascended fifty years earlier as they entered the University. The University community lost one of these key pioneers when Robert Anderson died in 2009, but his family was in the audience.

“Orchestrated Calm”

The “orchestrated calm” that many observers agree prevailed at USC on September 11, 1963, paralleled

Robert Anderson, Henri Monteith, and James Solomon address the press on September 11, 1963, as they prepare to enroll as the first African-American students at USC since the Radical University was closed in 1880.
the atmosphere surrounding Harvey Gantt’s earlier desegregation of Clemson, but it stood in marked contrast to the defining desegregation moments at the University of Mississippi, where white students rioted in protest of the enrollment of James Meredith, and at the University of Alabama, where Governor George Wallace deliberately blocked a building entrance to delay the desegregation of the University until federal marshals arranged for the use of another door.

But the lack of violence and the general calm that prevailed in and around Osborne on USC’s desegregation day did not reflect widespread approval of desegregation by white South Carolinians. “Segregation and, truly, apartheid was just as ingrained in South Carolina as anywhere else,” recalled current U.S. Congressman Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., a civil rights activist in his own right. “But South Carolina displayed a certain degree of sophistication and enlightenment. South Carolina decided to take a much more measured role in its opposition to civil rights.”

*Henri Montieth and Robert Anderson on the staircase of Osborne Administration Building on September 11, 1963*

*Left to right,*
*Dr. Henri Montieth Treadwell, USC President Dr. Harris Pastides, and Dr. James Solomon address the press at the September 11, 2013, opening ceremonies to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the integration of USC on September 11, 1963.*
"The Line Between Peace and Violence"

USC President Pastides has recently reminded us that “the line between peace and violence was a thin line” and that often the difference “came down to leadership.” Representative Clyburn has agreed, attributing South Carolina’s peaceful desegregation of both Clemson and USC to the state’s having “more enlightened leadership.” At the opening event of the commemoration, President Pastides rightly labeled Montieth, Solomon, and Anderson “heroes”. In her subsequent remarks, Henri Montieth Treadwell added that behind the visible heroes stood many less visible ones in supporting roles. “So many people walked up those steps with me,” Treadwell recalled. “They carried me up those steps. I was confident. I was supported, and I am still supported.”

Commemorative Garden

After these moving remarks on the steps of Osborne, the opening ceremony moved to an open area just below a window of the President’s office, where plans were unveiled for a garden commemorating the 1963 desegregation of the University. The commemorative garden will be completed in April 2014. The garden ceremony featured remarks by community leader and former President of the South Carolina Bar I.S. Leevy Johnson who was one of the first African-American graduates of the USC Law School, nationally-celebrated topiary artist Pearl Fryar, and USC Distinguished Professor and National Book Award-winning poet Nikky Finney. Treadwell and Solomon took shovels and turned over dirt, symbolically beginning the garden’s construction. One shovel was left stationary in memory of Anderson. The day was completed with an inspirational lecture at the Koger Center by former United Nations Ambassador and civil rights activist Andrew Young.

Future Commemorative Events

The September 11 event was only the beginning of USC’s academic year-long commemoration “Embracing Change, Fulfilling the Promise,” which will also feature a number of additional events and activities, including a dance recital by the acclaimed Alvin Ailey troupe, a public school essay contest, the USC Presidential Dialogue on February 25 (with civil rights leader, strategist, and Freedom Rider Diane Nash), the completion of the...
commemorative garden in the spring, a possible documentary video, and a holistic closing ceremony in April at the Koger Center.

**Challenges to Face**

A commitment to diversity is a key component for any great university. It’s something that three pioneering “heroes” planted at USC in September 1963, and it has taken root and grown, broadening and deepening the academic, outreach and service missions of the University in ways that have made it a better institution of higher learning. The challenge of achieving greater diversity remains today. The planning committee wants USC’s commemoration to celebrate progress when and where appropriate, but also expects it to encourage a reckoning with the obstacles to that progress and to the significant obstacles to progress that have not yet been overcome.

USC’s commemoration must be a thoughtful reflection of USC’s ongoing search for true integration and greater diversity. It must include a serious look ahead, especially at how public and higher education can achieve accessibility, affordability, and excellence and take the lead in guiding the state and nation toward a more prosperous, peaceful and rewarding future.

In sum, the committee’s goal for the commemoration year is to seek a renewed dedication to securing educational access for everyone. The events of September 1963 were a big step on that journey but the University community still faces challenges that it must find the determination to meet.

—Dr. Lacy K. Ford Jr. is Co-Chair of the USC Desegregation Commemoration Committee. He is also Professor, Vice Provost, and Dean of Graduate Studies for the Department of History.
Three watercolors showing scenes from the USC campus which were painted by the late Dorothy Candy Yaghjian have recently been presented to the South Caroliniana Library. A painting of Lieber College was donated by George B. Hartness while paintings of the back of the South Caroliniana Library and of a fountain near the Osborne Administration Building were given by Dr. Ronald E. Bridwell. All of the paintings now hang in the Director’s office.

Dorothy Candy Yaghjian, a native of New Jersey who studied at the Art Students League in New York City, moved to Columbia in 1945 with her husband, Edmund Yaghjian, who had accepted a teaching position in the University’s Department of Art. Dorothy Yaghjian’s special medium was watercolor, of which she was a master. She received numerous awards for her work which is included in both corporate and private collections. She participated in several local arts organizations and exhibited her work throughout the country during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.
Osborne Building fountain
“Everybody that Was a Part of That Was Changed:”
Isaac W. “Ike” Williams Talks about the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington

(Editor’s Note: The following is a portion of an interview with Isaac W. “Ike” Williams, a native South Carolinian who was a dedicated participant in civil rights activities throughout his lifetime. The interview was conducted on February 23, 2005, by Marvin Lare as part of a series called “Tipping Points.” Mr. Lare is in the process of placing his collection of interviews with the Office of the Oral Historian at the South Caroliniana Library, where in time they will be fully curated and made accessible to researchers.)

“We were [working] in Charleston when the march at Washington took place. The line from the speech that [Martin Luther] King [Jr.] gave, in ‘I Have a Dream,’ and we’re standing right there in Washington when he said, ‘Many of the people here are fresh out of Southern jails.’ And I was one of them, because we had been released; the march was August twenty-eighth, ’63, and we had just gotten released out from jail for the so-called riots, maybe two or three days before we had to put it together to go to the March on Washington. We raised enough money to take about two hundred plus kids from Charleston on the train overnight. I’ve never seen any black community so responsive. They were with us, because we stood on the corners with cans and raised enough money to pay for everybody to get on the train.

“We raised the money right on street corners, and we all got on the train and rode it overnight, came up the ramp at Union Station, and it still remains the most wonderful sight I’ve ever seen. It seems like everybody that was coming up that ramp was there for a single purpose, and I remember the Union Station swelling with ‘We Shall Overcome.’ Just like a choir — it was almost like Judgment Day and all of the believers coming together singing a great hymn, and that hymn was ‘We Shall Overcome.’

“I don’t ever remember being tired. We went from leaving Charleston about eight o’clock that night, arriving like six something in the morning in D.C. on a Southern whatever train, and we got a nap on the train. We picked up kids in Orangeburg, and we picked up some in Florence and Greenville. Basically, it was the most impactful experience of human togetherness. I mean white people, black people. I remember seeing a bunch of clergy with their collars on, a lot of Roman Catholics. Whites, blacks. I mean—even when I’ve been a part of things that seemed to be bigger than the march in ’63, there was nothing more impactful, because somehow even the Million Man March didn’t have the same impact. It was more of the human spirit coming to a point, and people gravitating for one cause which was right. That march drove the ’64 Civil Rights Act, and it drove the passage of the Voting Rights Bill of ’65, and subsequently, Open Housing in ’68. That experience still is the majestic highlight of my whole career: that march. And it wasn’t King’s speech; it was the ambiance, the atmosphere, the singleness of purpose of why they came. It was the biggest single human statement made to date, at that point in time. That’s what made the march so—it’s almost like trying to reinvent the Holy Spirit. It just doesn’t come like that. If you want a Pentecost, you won’t have one. You just had to be there. And I think everybody that was a part of that was changed.”

Isaac W. “Ike” Williams

Isaac W. “Ike” Williams was born in Charleston, S.C., in 1946. He graduated from South Carolina State College in 1967 with a B.S. in biology.

Williams began his participation in civil rights activities while still in college. He served as President of the State NAACP Youth Division from 1963 to 1967 and as Field Director of the South Carolina NAACP, 1969-83. He was active in Jesse Jackson’s presidential campaign and the PUSH for economic justice of major corporations, 1983-85, and assisted with U.S. Representative James Clyburn’s first campaign for Congress, 1990-92. From 1992 to 2008 he served as Chief District Liaison for Congressman Clyburn.

Williams participated in civil rights demonstrations beginning in the summer of 1963 and was arrested at least seventeen times for sit-ins and other demonstrations. He participated in the 1963 March on Washington, led a student delegation to negotiate with South Carolina Governor McNair to end protests at South Carolina State College in 1967, and was active in a law suit about reapportionment issues that kept African Americans from being elected to the South Carolina General Assembly, 1982-84. He received a number of service awards from the NAACP and was listed in Who’s Who in America.

“Ike” Williams was married to Evelyn Tobin Williams and they were the parents of three children. He died in 2008 at the age of 62.

“Ike” Williams
Noted American composer Carlisle Floyd was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree at USC’s Commencement exercises held December 16, 2013, in the Colonial Life Arena. Floyd’s papers including scores of many of his compositions are housed at the South Caroliniana Library.

The citation for the degree read as follows:

For his expansive and acclaimed career as an opera composer and librettist who helped elevate America’s 20th-century stature in the genre; for his dedication to the craft of musical composition and drama; and for his devotion to teaching future generations during a half-century career in higher education; the University of South Carolina, with the approval of its Board of Trustees, presents Carlisle Floyd with the honorary degree of Doctor of Music.

LIFE AND WORK

The Commencement program gave the following information about Floyd’s life and work:

Carlisle Floyd, a renowned opera composer and librettist, was born in Latta, South Carolina, on June 11, 1926. His father was a Methodist minister, and many of Mr. Floyd’s operatic works were set in Southern venues and featured Southern themes.

Following a high school career focused on literature, graphic arts, sports, and music, Mr. Floyd began studies at Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina, in 1943. His flair for writing became evident when he took first place in a competition for one-act plays. In 1945, he followed his piano teacher to Syracuse University to continue his baccalaureate studies.

After completing a bachelor of music degree at Syracuse in 1946, Mr. Floyd accepted a piano teaching position at Florida State University, where he began a course focused on relating music and text in the composition of opera.

He remained at Florida State until 1976 when he joined the faculty at the University of Houston as a professor and co-director of the Houston Opera Studio. Mr. Floyd also became chairman of the Opera Musical Theater of the National Endowment for the Arts. Mr. Floyd retired from teaching in 1996, fifty years after accepting his first faculty appointment.

One of Mr. Floyd’s most popular operas was also one of his earliest. Susannah was penned in 1953-54 and produced at Florida State University in 1955, combining features of folk opera such as square dances and music reminiscent of hymns and folk songs. The piece received the New York Music Critics Circle Award as the best opera of 1956.


His non-operatic works include Pilgrimage (1956), Dance (1967), Flower and Hawk (1972), In Celebration (1978), Citizen of Paradise (1993), and A Time to Dance (1994).

Mr. Floyd received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1956 and, in 1983, the National Opera Institute’s Award for Service to American Opera, the highest honor which the institute bestows.

Tom Johnson, left and Henry Fulmer, far right, welcome Carlisle Floyd to a reception at the South Caroliniana Library on December 15, 2013. Johnson, retired Assistant Director and field archivist, was instrumental in facilitating the addition of Floyd’s papers to the Library’s collections.
At a time when collaboration seems to have all but disappeared, three state-wide groups recently came together to offer their members a unique opportunity to share their ideas and expertise. The South Carolina Archival Association (SCAA), the Society of Georgia Archivists, and the Society of North Carolina Archivists met together for the first Tri-State Archivists Conference at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., October 16-18, 2013.

There were 211 attendees, fifty-five of whom were from South Carolina. The conference required a lot of planning, accommodating, and cooperation, but participants agreed that it was a great success.

Shown left to right are Lifetime Achievement Award winner Mike Kohl, former Head of Special Collections at Clemson University, and Beth Bilderback. The mannequin visible over Mike Kohl’s shoulder is part of an exhibit at the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, site of the conference reception and awards ceremony. (Photograph courtesy of Robert Smith)

“COLLABORATION, RELEVANCE, AND THE RE-IMAGINED ARCHIVES”

The conference theme was “Collaboration, Relevance, and the Re-Imagined Archives.” Many of the sessions looked at working with non-traditional groups to find collections and to help with outreach. Digital collections were a central part of most sessions, from collecting, to preserving, to promoting the archives. Social media also came up often in sessions and discussions. This was advantageous for South Caroliniana Library staff, some of whom are presently developing policies for social media usage. The Library has had a Facebook page for several years and is looking into other social media outlets as outreach tools. The conference provided a tremendous opportunity to hear what colleagues in neighboring states are doing and to gather and share ideas.

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY STAFF MEMBERS AT THE CONFERENCE

South Caroliniana Library staff played important roles in the conference. Oral Historian Andrea L’Hommedieu and her graduate assistant, Marleigh Chiles, together with Dr. Jennifer Marshall from USC’s School of Library and Information Science presented papers in a session about strengthening collections through collaboration and inclusiveness. University Archivist Elizabeth West moderated a session with her former graduate assistant, Katherine Thompson Allen, and two other USC graduate students about their work to create the “Slavery at South Carolina College, 1801-1865” Website. Both sessions were well received by the attendees. Visual Materials Archivist Beth Bilderback, who is President of the SCAA, assisted with the opening remarks and presided over the business meeting of that group. Several South Caroliniana Library graduate assistants attended the conference to enhance their classroom learning and to network with active professionals.

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY AND SCAA

Library staff members have a long history of involvement with SCAA over the years. Andrea L’Hommedieu is the current Treasurer and Beth Bilderback is soon to be the Past President.

In the late 1990s, several staff members participated in meetings to discuss the need for a statewide archival group. Beth Bilderback served as treasurer during the formative year and then as the first official Treasurer. Robin Copp, former Curator of Published Materials, was the first President. Elizabeth West later served as President and Secretary. Henry Fulmer, now Director of South Caroliniana Library, served as Membership Chair. For SCAA, being President is a three-year commitment: Vice-President, President, and Past President. Other offices require two-year commitments. Over the years, South Caroliniana Library staff members have made presentations and given workshops for SCAA and have volunteered to serve on committees.

Being active in professional organizations and participating in conferences and workshops helps to spread the word about the good work done at the South Caroliniana Library. Attending professional conferences also provides continuing education for the staff, which is so important in the rapidly changing digital and preservation world.

—Beth Bilderback is Visual Materials Archivist at the South Caroliniana Library.
George Esten Cooke

George Esten Cooke and *Boy with a Book*

George Esten Cooke painted *Boy with a Book* in 1836. The sitter is unknown.

Cooke was born in St. Mary’s County, Md. His artistic talent was recognized early. By his twenties he was painting portraits as an itinerant artist, mainly in Virginia and Alabama but also in Charleston, S.C. John Gadsby Chapman, a distant cousin, was one of his pupils.

Cooke married Maria Heath in 1825. They spent six years traveling in Europe where Cooke concentrated on copying old master paintings. Upon his return to the United States in 1830, Cooke was befriended by Daniel Pratt of Alabama and eventually established a permanent art gallery in New Orleans, La., under Pratt’s patronage.

Cooke is best-known for his painting *The Interior of St. Peter’s, Rome* which hangs in the chapel at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. Cooke died of cholera in New Orleans in 1848.
John Gadsby Chapman and The Cassique of Accabee

The Cassique of Accabee was painted by John Gadsby Chapman. William Gilmore Simms knew the work of Chapman and had critiqued Chapman's The Baptism of Pocahontas in Views and Reviews in American Literature, History and Fiction, First Series. Although scholars have suggested that the painting may have inspired Simms's poem of the same name, it is likely that Chapman was inspired to paint The Cassique of Accabee in 1849 around the time Simms's book of poetry The Cassique of Accabee was being published in both Charleston and in New York. It is also likely that Simms once owned the painting and thus it came by descent to Mary Simms Furman.

John Gadsby Chapman was born in Alexandria, Va., in 1808. Following early instruction from two local artists, including his cousin George Cooke and Charles Bird King, Chapman studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1828 he traveled to Rome, where, until 1831, he copied old masters and learned classic drafting technique. He returned to America penniless, but soon he became a highly productive and well respected landscape painter and portraitist, working mainly in Alexandria and Richmond, Va., Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, Pa. It was then that Chapman was commissioned to paint The Baptism of Pocahontas, one of the four monumental murals commissioned for the rotunda in the United States Capitol building. This painting remains his most famous work of art.

— Laura Hughes, who holds a master of art history degree and a graduate certificate in museum management from USC, is assisting the Library's staff with research on the portrait collection and other fine arts holdings.
“The Sustainers: Builders and Preservers of Civil Rights Sites in the United States”

The South Caroliniana Library was the scene on October 24, 2013, of a conference called “The Sustainers: Builders and Preservers of Civil Rights Sites in the United States.” The event focused on the development and preservation of key sites related to the history of civil rights in the United States.

According to the press release for the event, “The public is often focused on the events and people connected to the site, but the stories behind the transformation of historic sites into permanent places for interpreting and understanding Civil Rights often go untold.”

Presenters at the conference included Gerald Eisterhold and D’Army Bailey of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn.; Bargara Tagger of the Selma to Montgomery Trial in Alabama and the Harriet Tubman National Monument Park in Maryland; Ray Arsenault of the Freedom Rider Bus Museum in Montgomery, Ala.; Minnie White Watson of the Medgar Evers House Museum in Jackson, Miss.; Vernon Burton, author of The Age of Lincoln; and Catherine Fleming Bruce of the Visanska-Starks House in Columbia, S.C.

Special guests included the following descendants of Harriet Tubman: Rita Daniels, Mildred Hall, and Geraldine Cope Daniels.

Major sponsors of the conference included the City of Columbia and the University South Caroliniana Society.

The Visanska-Starks House

According to a historical marker erected by the Richland Conservation Commission in 2007, “The Visanska-Starks House is located on Hampton Street between Pine and Oak Streets. This house, built after 1900, was originally a two-story frame residence with a projecting bay and wrap-around porch; a fire in 1989 destroyed the second story. Barrett Visanska (1849-1932), a jeweler, bought the house in 1913. Visanska, a native of Poland, was a leader in Columbia’s Jewish community and a founder of the Tree of Life Congregation. In 1938 Dr. John J. Starks, president of Benedict College, bought the house.

“Dr. John Jacob Starks (1876-1944), the first black president of Benedict College, lived here from 1938 until his death. Starks was president of Seneca Institute 1899-1912; Morris College 1912-1930; and Benedict College 1930-1944. After World War II this house served as the nurses’ home for Good Samaritan-Waverly Hospital, created by merger in 1939. It was later a private residence once more.”
Sustainers: Builders and Preservers of Civil Rights Sites in the United States

October 24, 2013
South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia,

This landmark event brings together builders and founders to tell the stories of how the nation’s most famed civil rights site developed. The public is often focused on the events and people connected to the site, but the stories behind the transformation of historic sites into permanent places for interpreting and understanding Civil Rights often go untold. Be a part of this unprecedented storytelling in Columbia, South Carolina in 2013!
“Shivar Spring Company and Tom McConnell: A Shared Story”

“Shivar Spring Company and Tom McConnell: A Shared Story” is an online exhibit created by Andrea L’Hommedieu of the South Caroliniana Library’s Office of Oral History in collaboration with the University Libraries Digital Collections Department. The exhibit tells the story of how a now-defunct South Carolina spring water company intertwined with the story of Tom “June” McConnell Jr., a life-long resident of the rural town of Shelton in Fairfield County and, in the fall of 2011, the last known living employee of the Shivar Spring Company.

As L’Hommedieu explains, “This exhibit is an effort to provide access to oral histories and find creative ways of showcasing interviews in the context of how they relate to, and interact with, other primary source material.”

The exhibit includes a transcript and audio recording of an interview with Tom McConnell as well as photographs of the remnants of the pump house and cisterns and of the bottles used to contain the beverages, a map of the Shelton, S.C., area, a historical timeline, postcards, business letterhead, and a booklet promoting the company’s mineral water. The booklet is viewable as a full-text searchable image gallery. In addition, the online exhibit offers a resources page for additional information about the company including advertisements, news stories, patent records, related books, and an obituary of McConnell. The digital exhibit may be viewed at http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/shivar/index.html

Cisterns at Shivar Spring
Shivar Spring Company
Shivar Spring Company was a mineral water and flavored beverage company operating in Shelton, Fairfield County, S.C., ca. 1907 to 1957. The company’s name reflects the founder, Nathaniel Frank Shivar, or N.F. Shivar, born ca. 1864 in Comfort, N.C.. In 1903, he was an established shoe salesman and Southern Agent for the Herald Shoe Company of Boston, Mass., and oversaw the wholesale department of Shivar Shoe Store located at 1550 Main Street, Columbia, Richland County, S.C. In 1905, while recuperating from illness in Shelton, he encountered the spring that would bear his name—then called the “healing springs of Broad River”.

By 1907, Shivar was advertising the production of both mineral water and ginger ale, and had built a brick plant to meet the demands of increased sales. Advertising in 1908 included postcards listing a chemical analysis of the water and, in 1910, a promotional booklet. The plant burned in 1915, and Shivar replaced it with a wooden structure. In 1917, Shivar hired William B. McDowell to assist in managing the business. In November of 1922, N.F. Shivar died at a Columbia hospital and McDowell became manager of Shivar Spring Company. Oral testimony suggests ownership changed hands a few times over the years. Other flavors of beverages were introduced in the 1940s, including root beer, grape and lemon (“lemmy”). Mr. McDowell bought the plant outright in 1941 (later acquiring a Grapette plant in Greenville also). After another fire in 1957, the company closed permanently.

Tom McConnell
Thomas Jason “Tom” “Junior” “June” McConnell Jr. was born May 7, 1926, in Shelton, S.C., about a half mile from where L’Hommedieu conducted an interview with him in 2011. He grew up there, one of eight children—four boys and four girls. He recalls having no electricity until the late 1930s, starting work at age 14, and being paid “under the desk.” The interview covers his life and work in rural South Carolina from the 1930s through 2011, including his time working at Shivar Spring Company ca. 1940–1954, playing baseball as a child, community recollections, and race relations. At the time of the interview, Mr. McConnell was 85. He passed away on March 28, 2013, just days after the exhibit’s debut online.

Andrea L’Hommedieu remembers the grateful responses to the exhibit she received from Mr. McConnell’s relatives. “His family reached out to me in the following days. His nephew Freddie McConnell Jr. wrote: ‘Thank you for everything, I am literally speechless... I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to hear and share his experiences. I know he would be very proud and humbled.’ His niece in Maryland called, said she saw the online exhibit and, almost crying, asked if there was any way she could buy a copy of the interview to listen with her family. The CD and transcript were sent to the family gladly, a small token for the rich stories we at the South Caroliniana Library can now share with the world.”

Quotes from the interview
Working at the plant: “They made about the best ginger ale, everybody said, around here. And so when I started I didn’t want nobody to know how I started. I started at fourteen years old unloading a car of coal with a shovel, that’s right, unloading a car of coal. And Uncle Milt Meadow, he had the job of unloading the coal, and Mr.

Bottle label

Crated bottles (Photograph courtesy of Tom Taylor)
Grady Wright, he was the manager of the plant.”

**Changes in Shivar Spring Company Ownership:** “You see that plant went through a heap of hands that a lot of people didn’t know about. You take old man Shivar, that’s how you get to be Shivar’s. Old man Shivar was the first hand. He sold that plant to Mr. Zimmerman Moore from Rock Hill and then it went in that hand. Okay, Mr. Mac come in there from Saluda, Mr. McDowell, man that got it out of his hand come in there as a little old bookkeeper. And then when old man Zimmerman Moore went out of business he left Mr. Roy Hudson stock in the plant.”

**Playing Ball in Shelton, S.C.:** “Dobie was the onliest man on the ball team, that’s right, got to be a round ball player, could play any position on that team: he could pitch, he could catch, he could hold any base on there and then play the outfield and almost out run a ball. All them Youngs could run. Yeah, and so they made the team. The other boys started to grumbling. Y’all bring somebody in here. Just like the major league, we made them earn the positions when they were practicing.”

About 1910, the Shivar Spring Company published a small book advertising its mineral water with dozens of testimonials. A few of these are:

“My wife says the Shivar Springs Mineral Water has helped her wonderfully. It relieved the fullness of the Stomach [and] also the Kidney trouble. She can sleep much better now.”

“Before using Shivar Spring Water I was weak and nervous and could hardly walk but am now feeling fine and take pleasure in recommending it to my friends.”

“Since drinking Shivar Spring Water for about one month I feel like a different person—rarely ever have sour belches or indigestion.”

“You will remember that I had five bottles of Shivar Spring water sent to my brother, A.M. Klugh, at Greenwood, S.C. … He has gained 10 pounds since the 15th of June, and can eat anything he wishes with impunity. He says he is now completely cured.”

“I enclose check for $2.00 for 10 gals. [of] your water for Mrs. J.B. Cook. … The water seems to be curing her. She was given up to die, and is wonderfully improved.”
Craig Keeney, cataloging librarian with the South Caroliniana Library’s Published Materials Division, is responsible for submitting background information about each newspaper included in the SCDNP project. As Keeney explains, “We are required to deliver certain ‘goods’ to the Library of Congress as part of our participation in the National Digital Newspaper Program. Laura Blair and Virginia Pierce of Digital Collections generate metadata, validate digital files, and work with our external vendor to make sure we’re staying on schedule. My job is, in part, to write concise mini-histories (called title scope notes) for each newspaper we’re digitizing. I’m limited to 500 words, but then that’s part of the challenge: how do you write an authoritative essay in less than 500 words?

“So far, I’ve contributed twenty-five essays. The essays for the African-American newspapers (Afro-American Citizen, Charleston Advocate, Free Citizen, Free Press, Georgetown Planet, People’s Recorder, Rock Hill Messenger, South Carolina Leader, and Southern Indicator) have been the most challenging to write, for a variety of reasons. Generally speaking, I’ve consulted a dozen or so primary and secondary sources for each essay. Biographical and city directories, Ayer’s and Rowell’s newspaper directories, Ancestry.com, John Hammond Moore’s South Carolina Newspapers, the United States Newspaper Program directory, and the newspapers themselves have all been tremendously useful. This past year, I’ve been able to use the Chronicling America Web resource to discover relationships between individuals and newspapers that I couldn’t have two years ago.

“I send each essay to NEH Deputy Director Ralph Canevali for his approval. He makes a few tweaks, and when we’re in agreement that they’re ready for primetime, he sends them to the good folks at the Library of Congress, who in turn make them available in Chronicling America.”

The South Carolina Digital Newspaper Program (SCDNP) has been granted another round of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The funds will allow the SCDNP, a collaborative effort by the South Caroliniana Library and the University of South Carolina Libraries Digital Collections Department, to digitize 100,000 pages of historic South Carolina newspapers over the next two years.

The program, which is currently in its fourth year, has already contributed more than 200,000 newspaper pages to a freely available, keyword-searchable Web resource, Chronicling America (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/) with the support from the NEH and the Library of Congress.

The South Carolina Digital Newspaper Program Awarded Additional Funding

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The team members have most recently finished digitizing issues of the Abbeville Press and Banner, Manning Times, Newberry Herald and News, Pickens Sentinel, and Winnsboro News and Herald published between 1836 and 1922. They will soon be conferring with the advisory board members to select new titles.
In Memoriam

Carol K. Rothrock Bleser
(1933-2013)

Three generations of American historians and documentary editors observe with sadness the demise of Carol K. Rothrock Bleser on August 20, 2013, at her home in Bellport, N.Y. Carol Bleser was a pioneer in the study of Southern history, as well as a tireless advocate for the discipline of women’s history, for equitable recognition of women in the history profession, and for the value of documentary editing. Scholar, advocate, and role model for generations of female scholars and for all practitioners of scholarly editing, she is mourned by family, friends, and former colleagues. Carol Bleser is survived by her immediate family, a son, Gerald Rothrock, his spouse, Elizabeth, and their daughter, Caroline.

Carol Bleser was born in New York City on December 30, 1933, the daughter of Charles and Florence Kaufold. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., in 1960 and undertook her graduate education at Columbia University, where she earned a doctorate in American history in 1966. Regarding her education and inspiration she stated that Professor Lillian Kibler of Converse guided her to the choice of a profession. At Columbia, Professor Eric McKitrick was a mentor. Any doubts expressed by professors and fellow students that “Miss Magnolia,” as she called herself, might not be equal to the challenges of Columbia University were dispelled in classrooms and seminars. Throughout her studies she received Woodrow Wilson Fellowships to fund her education. As a senior scholar she secured grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities to support her documentary editing projects. In 1965, while at Columbia University she wed Edward J. Bleser, a graduate student in the physics department. Ed Bleser had a distinguished career in nuclear particle physics at the University of Rochester, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois, and Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, N.Y. Their forty-seven year marriage was a partnership of equals in intellect, mutual love and respect, and conscientious public service.

Carol Bleser pursued a distinguished career as a teacher and scholar “up North” at Colgate University from 1970 to 1985. She returned to South Carolina in 1985 when she accepted the Kathryn and Calhoun Lemon Distinguished Chair in History at Clemson University. She was a founder and long-time secretary of the Historical Commission, and Carol was president of the Historical Society. Their partnership as scholars, preservation experts, and public servants concluded when Ed Bleser died in 2010.

Throughout her career Bleser labored tirelessly within the Colgate and Clemson history departments and in the discipline’s chief professional organizations, the Organization of American Historians (OAH), the American Historical Association (AHA), and her beloved Southern Historical Association. To culminate nearly thirty years of service to the SHA she was elected president in 1998. She was an early and active member of the Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH), founded in 1970. She was instrumental in establishing the SAWH Julia Cherry Spruill and Willie Lee Rose Awards for excellence in the writing of women’s history. In 1990, she was elected president of the association. Bleser also held executive posts in the OAH and Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. From 1982 until 1990 she represented the SHA on the board of the NHPRC, the federal agency that has provided funds, scholarly guidance, and public advocacy for the preservation and publication of the records of America’s past. As a commission member Bleser was both a distinguished practitioner of the documentary editor’s craft and a wise steward of the organization’s resources. The NHPRC recognized her services by awarding her its 1995 Award for Distinguished Service in Documentary Preservation and Publication. Converse College honored her with a distinguished alumnus career achievement award in 1985. All of these organizations bear the
mark of Bleser’s early and persevering labor on behalf of women in the historical professions. Whether chairing a committee to study the status of women in history departments and in history organizations or publishing scholarship on Southern history, Bleser embodied the title of a volume in her “Women’s Diaries and Letters of the South” publication series. The history profession is “grander in her daughters” when women find full acceptance as scholars and colleagues.

In 1969, Bleser published her revised Columbia University dissertation as The Promised Land: The History of the South Carolina Land Commission and then devoted most of the rest of her career to the scholarly documentary editing of letters and diaries of famous, infamous, and nearly-unknown women and men of the nineteenth-century South. Among those works were Tokens of Affection: The Letters of a Planter’s Daughter in the Old South (1996), The Hammonds of Redcliffe (1981), and the volume for which she may be most remembered, Secret and Sacred: The Diaries of James Henry Hammond, a Southern Slaveholder (1988). In the latter two volumes she revealed James Henry Hammond in his own words to readers interested in the tangled, turbulent life of that slaveholder and plantation owner.

In addition to these works Bleser was a contributing editor and co-editor of volumes of essays on Southern women’s history, some of which emerged from the conferences of the SAWH. While at Clemson she inaugurated at the University of Georgia Press a series “Southern Voices from the Past: Women’s Letters, Diaries, and Writings.” In 1997, she established the University of South Carolina Press publication series “Women’s Diaries and Letters of the South.” Under her editorship that series published twenty-seven volumes of primary source materials, ranging from women’s Civil War diaries, through letters of South Carolina artists Caroline Carson and Anna Heyward Taylor, to the letters of an Alabama woman’s World War II service in Women’s Army Air Corps. The accumulated volumes comprise the largest body of published primary source material in book form on the vast topic of American history seen through women’s eyes, personalities, and intellectual endeavor. Writing in 2007 about the transformations of American society and of the history discipline she had witnessed and, indeed, instituted, Bleser named many women historians active today. She predicted that by 2050 they would extinguish the narrow boundaries of the history profession: “There will not be a separate southern women’s culture; there will be only an American culture with no significant differences for women north or south.”

— Dr. Alexander Moore is Acquisitions Editor for University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S.C.

REBECCA MARSHALL ANDERSON CALLCOTT (1908–2013)

BY RONALD E. BRIDWELL

From the day she enrolled as a graduate student in the Department of History of the University of South Carolina in the fall of 1929 until her death in June 1929, Rebecca Anderson Callcott’s life was intertwined with her alma mater. Not only was she one of the first generation of females to win an advanced degree from the University when she earned an M.A. degree in 1931, but she was also employed to teach in the history department during World War II, one of the first women to achieve that distinction.

In July 1932, she married Wilfrid Hardy Callcott, the son born to Wilfrid’s first wife, Grace, just before her death in June 1929. For the remainder of her remarkable life, Rebecca Callcott focused much of her energy on her husband, her family, and her church, but she never abandoned the pursuit of knowledge, the quality that had first attracted her to the academic world. Her training in history, which placed great emphasis on the importance of primary sources in research, probably influenced her practice of saving her own letters and papers, as well as the letters of other family members. With the help of her historian husband, Wilfrid, and historian son, George, Rebecca preserved a large family archive that the family donated to the South Caroliniana Library in 2006. A second installment, including the courtship letters exchanged between Wilfrid and Rebecca, from the summer of 1930 until their marriage in July 1932, was added to the papers held by the Caroliniana Library in 2008. After Wilfrid’s death in 1969, Rebecca and her family established the Wilfrid Hardy Callcott Fund and designated the USC Department of History as the beneficiary of the income from the fund. The fund was later renamed the Wilfrid and Rebecca Callcott Fund to honor both husband and wife for their many years of service to the University of South Carolina.

Rebecca Marshall Anderson was born near Ninety-Six, S.C., on December 18, 1908, the daughter of Thomas Carson Anderson, Sr. (1868–1976) and his wife Nannie Polk Thomason Anderson (1877–1971). Her father had entered the University of South Carolina in February 1890, but left during his sophomore year, before he earned a degree. He pursued a career as a land surveyor, a profession he continued even after his 100th
birthday. Rebecca grew up on a farm in the country and, in her later years, fondly recalled her life there in Memories of My Childhood, published in 1998. After graduating from Ninety-Six High School, she entered Lander College, in nearby Greenwood, where she compiled a sterling academic record. While at Lander, she edited the 1927-1928 Naiad, the college yearbook. During her senior year, she edited the college literary magazine, The Erotherian. Upon graduation, she was awarded a fellowship in the Department of History at the University of South Carolina, where she worked as Dr. Callcott’s graduate assistant. He also directed her master’s thesis, “United States Relations with Nicaragua, 1913-1917.” Although she chose not to pursue a Ph.D., she had considered the possibility. “If I were a man,” she wrote in a letter to Wilfrid, dated December 2, 1931, “I’d feel in duty bound to try to get a Ph.D. and I’m afraid I couldn’t stand the pressure. I’m so glad I don’t feel called upon to get one. At times, I’ll admit, I have wanted to, even being a girl.” Rebecca was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, based upon her strong record as a graduate student and the endorsement of the History Department, in July 1931, an honor that had, she wrote Wilfrid, both “surprised” and “delighted” her. Election to Phi Beta Kappa had “always been a secret ambition, but I thought a hopeless one,” she confided to her mentor.

During World War II, the University of South Carolina experienced an increase in enrollment, primarily the result of military-related programs, including the Navy’s V-12 college training program, housed on the campus. Beginning in July 1943, the Navy’s V-12 students enrolled in colleges across the country, boosting class sizes and creating a demand for more instructors. Rebecca accepted a position teaching history at the University and continued in that role until after the war ended; however, once the war was over and the need for additional teaching staff ended, Rebecca, along with other women who had been hired during the war, found themselves without teaching jobs. Rebecca later joined the staff of Columbia High School and taught there in the 1950s.

During the last twenty years of her life, Rebecca continued to live a vibrant life. Her letters from the 1990s and 2000s continued to update family news, especially the activities of her grandchildren, and also to include comments about her own activities and reading interests. In a letter written October 18, 1998, she mentioned that her grandson “Nick [Mertwether] sent me a collection of his essays—mostly reviews of Rock-n-Roll concert which I knew so little about. However, he writes well and I’ll read most of them.” It was also during this period that she finalized plans for the disposition of the family’s books and papers. “I have not done anything about your father’s books and papers,” she wrote George Callcott on February 14, 1996. And, in another letter to George, dated March 6, 2002, she remarked, “I do have the letters of Wilfrid, written to me 1930 to 1932, which you asked about. I also have a few other things for you to sort out.” Her decision to donate the family papers to the South Caroliniana Library demonstrated that she had not forgotten her training in history and that she recognized the value of family papers to future generations of scholars.

— Dr. Ronald E. Bridwell was a student in two of Dr. Wilfrid Callcott’s graduate history classes just before Dr. Callcott retired from the University in 1968. Bridwell processed the family papers of Dr. and Mrs. Callcott for the South Caroliniana Library after they were donated in 2006 and 2008.

**In Memoriam**

**Dr. Ernest McPherson Lander**

(1915-2013)

**By Vernon Burton**

Dr. Ernest McPherson Lander died Saturday, August 17, 2013. Affectionately known as “Whitey,” Lander retired in 1983 from Clemson University, where he was Alumni Distinguished Professor of History. He had taught and coached high school before he began his career as a professional historian. He was from Calhoun Falls and descended from a well-known South Carolina family. He was the last surviving grandson of Dr. Samuel Lander, founder of Lander University in Greenwood, S.C. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a staff sergeant and an information specialist in the AAF in the India-Burma theatre. He graduated from Wofford College, and received his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Lander was one of South Carolina’s great historians, a true pioneer in many areas. He was a publishing scholar when there were few in the state. His many books were known and respected throughout the country and abroad, especially in India and Africa, where he served as Fulbright Lecturer at universities in Calcutta, 1966-1967, and Lagos, Nigeria, 1970-1971. But he is best known in his beloved South Carolina, where he wrote a history of the state in the twentieth century. None had been written before, and there were no texts and few monographs on which to draw. He had to pull the sources and the story up by the roots.

At a time when the South Carolina upcountry was supposed to be just “red hills and cotton,” Ernest Lander discovered thriving industries in textiles, gold mining, iron, and timber. Lander’s The Textile Industry in Antebellum South Carolina (1969) remains unsurpassed. His many precise and insightful essays, scattered across a host of small journals, were gathered up in the footnotes of books like Eugene Genovese’s 1965 opus, The Political Economy of Slavery. That work was path-breaking,
but there could have been no path at all without Lander’s patient, careful research. Lander’s thoughtful examination of Thomas Green Clemson and the Calhoun family, The Calhoun Family and Thomas Green Clemson: Decline of a Southern Patriarchy (1979), is a significant addition to the vast literature on John C. Calhoun and a major achievement in Southern family history. Perhaps most impressive, Lander’s decidedly anti-war study, Reluctant Imperialists: Calhoun, the South Carolinians, and the Mexican War (1980), showed that the Southern tradition bent toward peace as well as toward war. This book helped launch a broad re-examination of America’s invasion of Mexico in the late 1840s. That Lander published this work during a time when America was deeply implicated in shoring up repressive military dictatorships in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, and maintaining one-party rule in Mexico, made his book’s message all the more striking. Whitey Lander was the best kind of researcher—a thoughtful, honest reporter who did not let his own opinions get in the way of what the documents told him. He was a gracious, kind man, and a good teacher, with a great sense of humor.

Although he titled one of his autobiographical accounts Few Would Listen: A Clemson Professor’s Memoir of Dissent (1997), many did in fact listen. Lander made differences within the academic community and with the public. Whitey Lander was a progressive Southern Democrat who was not afraid to speak out on a number of issues, particularly race. He was a voice of conscience for a better South Carolina, especially during the dark days of segregation when he fought for equal rights. A frequent letter writer to the Greenville News, Lander found inspiration in history and drew upon his vast knowledge of—and also his love for—South Carolina and Southern history, always working to bring out the best in the region. Whitey Lander was an affable, Southern gentleman, but also someone who worked hard for what he thought was right, even if it wasn’t always popular or, as some of his contemporaries would have said, “polite.” He kept up the good fight all his life, and his voice of conscience is sorely missed now.

—Dr. Vernon Burton is Professor of History at Clemson University and is Director of the Clemson Cyberinstitute.
The George D. Terry and Lynn Robertson South Caroliniana Library Endowment Fund was recently established by Ms. Robertson to commemorate the devotion both she and her husband, the late George D. Terry, displayed to the University over many years of association with the University Libraries and McKissick Museum. The endowment, which will be funded after her death, will provide unrestricted support of the South Caroliniana Library at the discretion of the Library’s director.

“Lynn is so committed to the University that thinking about her legacy and what her gift can accomplish naturally led her to consider a bequest to USC,” said Tom McNally, Dean of the University Libraries. “Because of their generosity, what she and George have contributed to the institution during their lifetimes will continue to grow through many more generations.”

“Being able to provide financial resources to a great institution so that it can become even better is the best thing you can do with your hard-earned money,” said Robertson, who retired in 2011 as Director of McKissick Museum. “What a wise investment! The old saying is true: money can’t buy happiness. But it can allow you to help a university that will accomplish more than you ever could with that money.”

“The University was always George’s home: he received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees here, and he was Vice Provost and Dean of Libraries and, earlier in his career, Director of McKissick Museum,” she said. “I’m not a graduate of USC but I came here as a young woman and I’ve been here now for thirty years. So it was more than an academic institution or a job for us. It became our community and our home. Contributing in a lasting way to the University was always part of our planning. It was something we both wanted to do.”

“Since George and I were both administrators, we realized that sometimes the most needed funds are those for the unplanned opportunities that arise. Caroliniana is a collecting institution, and I learned while at McKissick Museum that when a special item that complements your collections becomes available, if you don’t move quickly you’ll miss it. In making our gift flexible, we knew it would help in a much-needed way.”

Robertson is involved in numerous community activities, including her roles as president of Columbia Green and secretary of 701 Center for Contemporary Art. On campus, she is Vice President of the Thomas Cooper Society and a board member of the University South Caroliniana Society. She is recognized through the Ex Libris Society for providing invaluable annual support to the University Libraries.

— Kathy Henry Dowell is a communications associate with the University Libraries
“Crisis in Carolina”:
REPORT FROM A 2013 LEWIS P. JONES
RESEARCH FELLOW

BY IVY MCINTYRE

This summer I had the honor and pleasure of serving as a Lewis P. Jones Visiting Research Fellow at the South Caroliniana Library. I am a native South Carolinian, and after two years of graduate school in Charleston and three in St. Louis, Mo., I sensed that yearning Southerners often feel to return to my roots and explore the past of my own state.

“Families in Extremis: South Carolina in the Early Republic”

That familiar tug inspired my dissertation, “Families in Extremis: South Carolina in the Early Republic.” My project centers on a simple question: How did Southerners, rich and poor, black and white, enslaved and free, cope with family crises in the early national and antebellum periods? Such crises disrupted the lives of many—if not all—South Carolinians in the early Republic, and examining their coping mechanisms alongside Southern ideals gives important insight into their anxieties, beliefs, and experiences. My research has since led me to examine South Carolinians suffering from isolation, scandal, abuse, insolventy, sickness, and death. Although I am still in the early stages of writing, I believe that studying families’ responses to extreme conditions provides a clearer understanding of their values than we may glean from studying them in “normative” situations.

As one of the most extensive repositories of early national and antebellum-era documents from the state, the South Caroliniana Library was a crucial location for my dissertation research. In two short months, I looked at over fifty collections of family papers and letters from the Manuscripts Division, each more interesting than the last. Thanks to the Caroliniana’s extensive holdings, I was able to examine diaries, letters, plantation logs, travel journals, medical accounts, and daybooks. Upstairs in the Published Materials collections, I focused on travel accounts and reminiscences. These rich sources gave me unparalleled insight into the challenges South Carolina families faced and the ways they coped with crisis.

Among the most helpful for my project were the Townes Family Papers. In this extensive collection of letters, written mostly between four brothers, I uncovered testaments—sometimes humorous and sometimes tragic—to the extent of family crisis and the tenacity of antebellum kinship bonds. George Franklin, a lawyer, frequently served as an advisor for his brothers. Henry, a physician, suffered the loss of a child and struggled to make a living despite his failing health and occasional accidents. John, a planter, was committed to the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum in 1835 after a bout with typhus fever. Samuel, also a planter, moved to Alabama where his brothers eventually rescued him from debt and blindness. And they all consistently fought with their brother-in-law, an outsider who they alternately called brute, beast, scoundrel, dog, and rascal. Throughout all of these trials, though, the brothers stood by each other, functioning as Henry described, as “a sort of Confederate Government, Mother the President & we the members.” Glimpses of enslaved persons also pepper their correspondence and give insight into the interconnected crises of white and black families living on plantations. Their saga, which spans nearly the entire period of my project, will surely be central to my study of South Carolinians in extremis.

The Library and the Staff

The Caroliniana has two valuable assets in Graham Duncan and Brian Cuthrell, who have extensive knowledge of the manuscript collections. Without their help I could not have completed my research. They and other Caroliniana staff members make research efficient, exciting, and extremely rewarding. The Lewis P. Jones Fellowship afforded me the opportunity to spend the summer in Columbia mining these rich resources, getting to know the invaluable staff, and collecting information for a dissertation which extends the understanding of Southern families and of South Carolina.
John Andrew Jackson: The Life of an Abolitionist

What’s remarkable about John Andrew Jackson isn’t that he was from South Carolina or that he fled from South Carolina. What’s remarkable about him is that he came back again and again. He never gave up on South Carolina for there were people there that never gave up on him. Born enslaved on a plantation near what is now Lynchburg, S.C. (back then it was in Sumter County) around the year 1825, John Andrew Jackson was forced to labor for the family of Robert English, a moderately successful planter who owned a number of properties across the state. When Jackson’s wife and little daughter were sent away to Georgia he railed at the cruelty and injustice and vowed to escape. He hoped somehow to earn money and free his family. Seizing an opportunity a few months later, he fled down the roads and backwoods of Sumter County on a pony, riding desperately for Charleston. Once there he smuggled himself aboard a Boston-bound vessel hidden between bales of cotton.

Jackson made it to Massachusetts, but pursued by the furious English family and further threatened by the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, Jackson had to escape further north to Canada and eventually journeyed overseas as a professional lecturer on abolition. In 1862, in London, he published the story of his life, The Experiences of a Slave in South Carolina.

Up to this point it all sounds so simultaneously harrowing and magnificent—and indeed it was. But what interests me most about Jackson’s story isn’t at the point when he writes his memoir, nor is it those years as he fled from bondage. It is his decision to return to the States, to purchase his master’s own property. He also tried to buy land. At a time when African Americans were barely free citizens in South Carolina and precious few had even managed to escape from the oppressive cycle of sharecropping (which in many cases was virtually continued enslavement), John Andrew Jackson returned to South Carolina determined to buy land and settle free men and women.

Many Questions and Some Answers

So what did I do this past summer as a Lewis P. Jones Fellow at the South Caroliniana Library? I am working on a biography of John Andrew Jackson to be titled A Plausible Man: The Life of John Andrew Jackson, and I found out that trying to discover the documentation of a fugitive life is tricky. I spent many hours looking over family letters from prominent citizens of Sumter County, trying to understand the complicated interplay of family relationships among the white ruling class of that region. I also spent countless hours poring over maps from different regions and periods. When Jackson fled across the Black River, where might he have crossed? He had a fateful encounter at “Shipman’s Hotel” where he stayed the night and managed to talk his way out of a near recapture. So where was it? And who was Shipman? What in his elaborate story can be traced, fact-checked and fully contextualized?

Thanks to the archival collections at the South Caroliniana Library and thanks also to the helpful and creative answers the reference staff tirelessly provided me with as I brainstormed, and pestered and peppered them with questions, I was able to learn much more about the particular culture of Sumter County life both before and after the Civil War. I was able to trace a pretty fair route that I believe John Andrew Jackson took from Lynchburg to Charleston. And thanks to various specialized newspaper databases I was guided through by the patient staff, I was also able to prove that Jackson had even tried to purchase his master’s own property. He also tried to purchase a wide swath of land outside of Charleston for investors who wanted to settle free black men and women there in some sort of Utopian communitarian scheme. This grandiose dream came to nothing, perhaps not surprisingly in the middle of fraught relations between black and white citizens of South Carolina during Reconstruction, but he did succeed in buying two acres, immediately adjacent to the bankrupt English family plantation. After having suffered terribly on that land, he had the courage, imagination, and sheer nerve to reclaim it for his community there. While I’m not yet certain, I believe he founded a church on that site.

John Andrew Jackson and Harriet Beecher Stowe

My work on Jackson has received much media attention this past year because during his escape to Canada he was hidden by the most famous author of the nineteenth-century, Harriet Beecher Stowe—several weeks before she began her best-selling novel, Uncle Tom’s Cabin. People have long known that she hid a fugitive slave in her house, but now that I’ve identified it as John Andrew Jackson who wrote of it in his memoir from his perspective, it has inspired scholars to reassess how he might have been an inspiration, if not a model, for the book. My Jackson research has now been featured on CNN, the New York Times, NPR, MSNBC, Fox News, and many local outlets as well.
The work I’ve done in the South Caroliniana Library, however, actually grounds the book in the more central questions I am pursuing. Not how did he influence Stowe necessarily, but how did he himself change the world around him? How does a man who has been told he is nothing learn that his words and his actions can empower and inspire others. How does a man born into slavery become a teacher? What were the conditions on the English family plantation? Who might he have known or encountered there? What happened to his family after the Civil War and were they reunited in South Carolina? Those questions are yet unresolved but his story is continuing to unfold. Jackson famously announced in his memoir that “I Belong to South Carolina.” There’s no man I’ve ever known of who has so proudly and against such cruel obstacles claimed the state with such love and relentless labor.

Learn More
To learn more about John Andrew Jackson and the unfolding story which is being brought to light in part thanks to the resources of the South Caroliniana Library’s collections, see A Genuine Article: Harriet Beecher Stowe and John Andrew Jackson in: www.common-place.org/vol-13/no-04/ashton/ . For a fuller story about how Jackson escaped across South Carolina, see http://theappendix.net/issues/2013/10/reclaiming-a-fugitive-landscape#supernotes-paragraph-35

ORATIONS OF WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS

BY JOHN MILLER

First delivered in ringing tones that echoed in the lecture halls and theaters of antebellum New York, Charleston, Spartanburg, and Milledgeville, today the speeches of William Gilmore Simms quietly reside on the shelves of the South Caroliniana Library. But because of the Caroliniana’s generosity, I had the privilege and the pleasure to study these addresses this past summer as the William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professor for my forthcoming edited collection of them from the University of South Carolina Press titled “Honorable and Brilliant Labors”: Selected Orations of William Gilmore Simms. Without the Library’s support and holdings, not to mention the liberality of the Caroliniana’s staff with their time and talent, Simms’s public comments—and the array of ideas, principles, and values that they represented—might still remain mute in the cacophonous narrative of antebellum history.

Simms’s Themes
One of the South’s preeminent public intellectuals, Simms was frequently invited to speak on notable occasions in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. He spoke at college commencements, Independence Day commemorations, and public dedications, not to mention on paid lecture tours. In addition to interpreting the significance of special events for his audiences, Simms’s lectures were a popular form of entertainment and an informal means of education. Consequently, he addressed a broad scope of intellectual and cultural topics, not to mention pressing political and social issues of the day. These included the evolution and future of American civilization and high culture, the origins and legacy of the American Revolution in an era of slaveholding, the tension between individual agency and divine intent, the role of women in society and education, the nature of sectional differences, and the power of beauty and memory following war.

Simms’s themes, while not always unique, did represent regional, national, and trans-Atlantic intellectual currents as well as the principles of many elite white Americans before and after the Civil War, particularly among advocates of the Young America cultural movement as well as Southern slaveholders. As a result, the orations have a value that transcends their significance to their contemporary listeners; they document for twenty-first-century scholars of antebellum literary and intellectual history the patterns of ideas that preoccupied those audiences. In other words, Simms’s addresses provide insights into what provoked, interested, and satisfied his listeners.

“Wealth of Primary Sources Complemented by Human Knowledge and Hospitality”

The significance of these addresses would have remained unacknowledged had it not been for the singular resources of the South Caroliniana Library, and not merely the financial generosity accompanying the Simms Visiting Research Professorship, which allowed me to focus on this project from May until August. The Caroliniana’s comprehensive collection of Simms materials allowed me to locate orations that hadn’t been published since the nineteenth century or, in some instances, did not exist outside of manuscript. The transcription and annotation of these addresses, as well as the new editions of and introductions to orations previously available, will enrich the understanding of Simms and his contemporaries. The staff members of the Caroliniana deserve credit for this also. Whether it be the keen eyes of the manuscripts room staff in helping to transcribe Simms’s challenging penmanship, the diligence of the published materials staff in locating obscure editions and periodical reviews, or the administration’s logistical and moral support, the Caroliniana’s wealth of primary sources is complemented by human knowledge and hospitality that is second to none.

It was thus bittersweet to depart the Caroliniana, its resources, and its people at the end of the summer—sad to have to leave such a productive environment, but also gratifying to know that the Caroliniana’s resources again enabled the revival of the voices of the past.
On December 5, 2013, South Caroliniana Library staff members welcomed guests to the annual book signing for South Carolina authors. The event took place in the Program Room of the Ernest F. Hollings Library because the South Caroliniana Library’s Reading Room was undergoing renovations.

Authors/editors and the books for which they were honored included:

John Cely, *Cowassee Basin: The Green Heart of South Carolina*


Satch Krantz and Monique Jacobs, *Riverbanks Zoo & Garden: Forty Wild Years*

Ray McManus and Charlene Spearen, contributors, *Seeking: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*

John Hammond Moore, *When South Carolina Was an Armed Camp: The Reconstruction Essays of Belton O’Neall Townsend*

Patricia Moore-Pastides, *Greek Revival from the Garden: Growing and Cooking for Life*

Aïda Rogers, editor and John Cely, contributor, *State of the Heart: South Carolina Writers on the Places They Love*

James Lowell Underwood, *Deadly Censorship: Murder, Honor, and Freedom of the Press*
In 2012, South Caroliniana Library staff members applied to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for a grant to process three important New South manuscript collections. Announcement of the NHPRC's funding of the project, at an amount up to $98,822 for supplies and two years of salary and fringe benefits for a project archivist to process the collections, came in June of 2013.

One of these collections, the papers of Elliott White Springs, deals also with Springs Mills, an iconic Southern textile business that became a national success story.

The other two collections, the papers of A.M.E. Bishop John Hurst Adams and Columbia attorney John Roy Harper, reveal much about the lives of individual leaders of the Civil Rights movement, people who both singly, and as a group, did so much to develop grass roots support for national change. Full and enhanced access to these collections will greatly improve the Library's research capacity in this area of study.

The records selected for inclusion in this project have obvious value for historians, sociologists, economists, cultural anthropologists, and many other researchers. This project will facilitate new and more advanced research on the New South, both by increasing access and by calling scholarly attention to the wealth of largely-unexplored sources in the Library’s holdings.

More About the Selected Collections

Elliott White Springs Papers (1896-1959): This collection details Springs’s experiences as a flying ace in WWI, but more importantly his Depression-era consolidation of five obsolete South Carolina textile mills into a modern industrial giant, Springs Mills. In 1958, at Springs’s retirement, Springs Mills was the most profitable textile company in the United States.

John Hurst Adams Papers (1920-2004): A friend and colleague of Martin Luther King Jr., Adams graduated from Union Theological Seminary and served at churches across the United States. He organized numerous civil rights initiatives and was a key proponent of local action, community pride and academic excellence.

John Roy Harper Papers (1939-2001): An attorney, Harper practiced law focusing on civil rights and constitutional law, counseling and representing more than 4,000 clients in important discrimination suits. He was an Earl Warren Fellow of the NAACP and the first African American elected to the Richland County (S.C.) County Council. He was the second African American to complete the University of South Carolina Law School since Reconstruction.

More complete editorial treatment of these collections will be presented in up-coming issues of Caroliniana Columns.

Continued from page 7

addressed to Bennett’s close friend Nellie Ward, a nurse. Four were written from Chillicothe, Ohio, and one from New York City, where Bennett was attending the Art Students League. The remaining two were written from Charleston. Best remembered today for his classic 1896 novel Master Skylark, John Bennett was born in Chillicothe but became a permanent resident of Charleston in 1902 upon his marriage to Susan Smythe. The first letter in this group was written when Bennett was an unknown twenty-eight-year-old Ohio journalist, free-lance writer, and illustrator. The last of the letters was written just before his marriage. In the other letters in the collection, he talks of his work on Master Skylark and his next novel, Barnaby Lee, and writes intimately of his nervous temperament and personal agonies.

Helena Wells' Letters on Subjects of Importance

Letters on Subjects of Importance to the Happiness of Young Females: Addressed by a Governess to Her Pupils, Chiefly While They Were Under Her Immediate Tuition: To Which is Added, a Few Practical Lessons on the Impropieties of Language, and Errors of Pronunciation, Which Frequently Occur in Common Conversation. London: Printed for L. Peacock, the Juvenile Library, No. 259, Oxford Street, and W. Creech, Edinburgh, [1799]. Helena Wells Whiford, novelist and educator, was born in Charleston, circa 1758, ran a school in London in the 1790s, and wrote the novels The Step-Mother (1799) and Constantia Nevelle, or, The West Indian (1800). Generally recognized as South Carolina’s first novelist, Helena Wells was the daughter of Charleston printer Robert Wells and sister of Charleston physician and scientist William Wells. She went to Britain after the Revolution but is listed as “of Charleston” by the time of this book.

Challenges for the Future

With the approach of the new year comes the University South Caroliniana Society’s annual mailing of membership dues renewal notices. We hope that each of you will take time to renew your membership and that you will consider a generous contribution to the Society or to any of the many worthy endowments and funds providing support for the South Caroliniana Library and University Libraries in general. For further information, please contact the Libraries Development Office at (803)777-1278 or libdev@mailbox.sc.edu.

Finally, please remember the challenge set before each of you to help us grow the membership of our support base. Your nominations of friends, family members, and associates who share our passion for collecting and preserving the records of our state’s history help us maintain our ability to collect and preserve important materials for scholarly research.

Please do your part. Use the card enclosed with your dues notice to send us names and addresses of those who share the common interests that bind us together in the joint mission of the South Caroliniana Library and the University South Caroliniana Society. Thank you.
Mr. Hemrick “Hink” Nathan Salley Jr. (third from left) is shown here with South Caroliniana Library staff members Allen Stokes, Andrea L’Hommedieu, and Henry Fulmer in front of the portrait of one of Mr. Salley’s forebears, the Reverend Lewis James Crum (1814-1896).

Salley visited the Library on August 13, 2013, to view the portrait of Crum, a native of Orangeburg District, S.C., and a longtime Methodist minister. Crum is remembered for his work on behalf of the religious welfare of African Americans in South Carolina. The portrait is thought to have been painted by American portraitist George W. FitzWilson, who was active in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Louisiana during the years between 1850 and 1870.

Mr. Salley is a long-time supporter of the University, having made gifts to the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, the Music Library, and McKissick Museum as well as to the South Caroliniana Library. An alcove in the Library’s Reading Room has been named for the Salley family, in recognition of their numerous contributions to the state of South Carolina.