

Fall 2014

## *Caroliniana Columns* - Fall 2014

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## LANNY AND SIDNEY PALMER ESTABLISH ENDOWMENT FUND AND CULTURAL ARTS COLLECTION AT THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

BY HENRY G. FULMER

Lanny and Sidney Palmer, well-known mainstays of the cultural life of South Carolina for the past half-century, have named the South Caroliniana Library as the repository for a massive collection of audio and video recordings, musical scores, still photographs, scrapbooks, and various ephemera associated with their lives and careers.

Established in 2014, the Lanny and Sidney Palmer Endowment Fund at the South Caroliniana Library provides support for the Lanny and Sidney Palmer Cultural Arts Collection at the South Caroliniana Library and for related collections. Funds can be used for processing, preservation, programming, and publications as well as for materials and staff to support increased use of and access to the collections.

Mary Benson Keenan, their daughter, has been instrumental in coordinating this effort.



*Lanny Palmer*



*Sidney Palmer*

*Continued on page 2*

## JOHN HAMMOND MOORE HONORED ON HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

John Hammond Moore has been a fixture at the University and in the South Caroliniana Library on and off since the mid-1960s. During that time he has written many books, about nineteen of them using the resources of the Library and in turn providing research riches for other writers. To recognize and honor Moore on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, some of his friends threw him a party. The celebration was held in the Program Room of the Hollings Library on October 20 and was attended by scores of Moore's fans and admirers. Sponsors included Kenneth L. Childs, Sam E. McCuen, John S. Rainey, William C. Schmidt Jr., and D. Reece Williams.

### A TRIBUTE TO JOHN HAMMOND MOORE

After welcoming remarks by John Rainey, the audience at the celebration was treated to a video narrated by Moore about his experiences in World War II. Final remarks were offered by Moore's long-time friend and colleague Allen Stokes, who said:

"I first became acquainted with John Hammond Moore, although indirectly, when, as a graduate student in history at USC, I began to make good use of *Research Materials in South Carolina* (1967). As far as I know, John Moore's compilation was the first statewide guide to research holdings in libraries, historical societies, historical commissions, museums, and other repositories across the state. In the years after this volume appeared, John accepted a teaching assignment in Australia at a time when many Australian graduate students were coming to South Carolina to study colonial and nineteenth-century American history. As John has always done wherever he has settled down, he made many friends and immersed himself in the history, culture, and geography of this temporary abode. Research may or may not

*Continued on page 3*

## CELEBRATING SIDNEY PALMER

Sidney Palmer is one of Columbia's most enduring creative talents, the details of whose altogether fascinating life contradict the fact that, to many, he is among the state's best-guarded secrets and least-celebrated musical superstars. Palmer will be feted with long overdue fanfare on January 22, 2015, when the USC Symphony Orchestra presents a concert program aptly titled "A Tribute to Sidney Palmer." The 7:30 p.m. event at the Koger Center for the Arts is billed as an evening devoted to the music of American pianist, conductor, and composer Sidney Palmer. Concert repertoire will feature a number of Palmer's beloved works, including *Petite Concerto Classique* (1949) for piano and orchestra, with pianist Charles Fugo, and his choral work *Two Psalms and Alleluia* (2000) performed by the Sandlapper Singers. Other compositions will include: *Royal Wedding* (1947); *Little Symphony for Strings: Fugatino, Arietta, Rondo* (1947); *Three Solo Pieces: Arioso for Solo Oboe and Strings; Elegy for Strings; and Night Piece for Solo Clarinet and Strings* (1990); *Introduction and Allegro* (1948); *A Letter to Anne* (1949); *Mary's Wedding Processional March* (1979); and *Bernie's March* (2000).

## PIANIST, CONDUCTOR, COMPOSER, TELEVISION PRODUCER

Sidney Palmer was graduated from the Houston Conservatory of Music at the age of twelve after training under such musical greats as Julliard's Olga Samaroff, Aaron Copland, and Serge Koussevitzky. Palmer later continued formal musical studies at the University of Texas, from which he holds a master's degree. A touring concert pianist from the age of seven, the prize-winning composer and conductor became associated with NBC's fledgling television network in 1947. Before entering television full time, however, he toured North America as a concert pianist and held several symphony orchestra and opera conducting positions and also served as assistant conductor for pianist Jose Iturbi.

In the early days of live television, there was a great need for those with practical experience in the performing arts to work alongside pioneering industry giants Don Gillis, Kirk Browning, Fred Coe, and Albert McCleary. Sidney Palmer was enlisted to put his talents to work on television programs ranging from the historic Toscanini broadcasts to what have become landmark small-screen dramas, operas, and dance series.

## WIS-TV AND SCETV

Richard Shafto brought Palmer to Columbia in 1960 to re-vamp WIS-TV's local commercial production efforts. After thirteen years with WIS, Sidney joined SCETV as the executive producer for public television and arts program production. In 1976, he was assigned to develop SCETV's new national and international productions wing. He also served as a network "show doctor," preparing and packaging hundreds of promising television programs and series from all over the world for broadcast both on the PBS network and abroad.

In 1982, Palmer produced and directed a landmark television event,

"Christmas Around the World," which was the very first planet-wide television satellite hookup. This program was a telecast of Christmas celebrations originating in seven countries on four continents that utilized all of the world's existing satellite facilities to broadcast a single live television program on Christmas Eve. The program, hosted by actor Raymond Burr, was seen live in thirty countries and by delayed broadcast throughout the world.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

For his accomplishments in commercial television, Palmer received two Broadcast Media Awards from San Francisco State University and five commercial television awards from the Television Bureau of Advertising and the National Retail Merchants' Association of New York. Palmer also received an Emmy nomination with Dr. Benjamin Dunlap for their series on classic films, "The Cinematic Eye," which was the first college telecourse to be so honored. He also received three Ohio State Television Excellence Awards and five international CINE awards, the equivalent of American Emmy awards for public television programming.

After his retirement from SCETV, Sidney Palmer served as Columbia College's artist-in-residence and the director of its opera program. In addition to preparing the performers and designing the lighting, sets, and costumes, he also took responsibility for staging and conducting the opera and musical theatre productions. For many years he also volunteered still photography and videography for area theatres and dance companies.

In celebration of his many accomplishments and contributions, the State of South Carolina has honored Sidney Palmer as the recipient of the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award and the Order of the Palmetto. In addition, honorary doctorates have been bestowed upon him by Columbia College, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Texas.

## LANNY PALMER, SOPRANO AND PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Lanny Palmer, for many years a Professor of Music at Columbia College, completed her undergraduate studies in Music Education and Voice at Columbia College before taking a master's degree in Voice Performance from Indiana University. She went on to pursue doctoral studies at Indiana and special studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Her principal teacher was Martha Lipton, but she completed additional operatic studies under the instruction of Boris Goldovsky, Hans Busch, Ross Allen, and John Wustman.

Lanny Palmer was active in the musical life of the Columbia area even after her retirement from Columbia College. She appeared in numerous leading operatic roles both at the college and with the Columbia Lyric Opera including *Die Fledermaus*, *La Traviata*, *Susannah*, *The Medium*, and *The Old Maid and the Thief*. She also presented many solo vocal recitals as well as joint recitals with another Columbia College voice professor, the late Richard Veale.

— Henry G. Fulmer is Director of the South Carolinana Library.



John Hammond Moore (second from left) is shown at his ninetieth birthday celebration with the friends who sponsored the event. They are, left to right, D. Reece Williams, William C. Schmidt Jr., John S. Rainey (seated), and Sam E. McCuen. Kenneth L. Childs, also a sponsor, was not present. The photo in the background shows John Hammond Moore in his office at home.

have been the focus of his tenure in Australia, but his publications included *Australians in America, 1876-1976* (1977); *Over-Sexed, Over-Paid & Over Here: Americans in Australia, 1941-1945* (1981); *The American Alliance: Australia, New Zealand, and the United States* (1970); and *The Young Errol: Flynn before Hollywood* (1975).

“When John returned to the United States, he located in Washington, D.C., where he and a friend restored a home in Georgetown. John’s research and publication on a diverse range of topics, included *Albemarle: Jefferson County, 1727-1976* (1977); *The Faustball Tunnel: German POW’s in American and Their Great Escape* (1978); and *Wiley: One Hundred and Seventy-Five Years of Publishing* (1981). John was employed for a time as a salesman for Wiley.

“My direct acquaintance with John began in 1985 when he moved to Columbia with a commission to work on two projects. As always, John finished what he started. *The South Carolina Highway Department, 1917-1987* was published in 1987, and a year later *South Carolina Newspapers* appeared. South Carolina’s participation in the United States Newspaper Project was funded for several years in the 1990s by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our participation would not have been possible without John’s work. Anyone who has been privileged to know John Moore can probably repeat many of his wonderful stories about his naval service in World War II, his time in Australia, a journey by car to Argentina, and happenings on his research journeys. His work on the history of the highway department produced more than a few.

“For many years, until a tragic accident took away his mobility, John Moore showed up on our doorstep almost every day of the

week, Monday through Saturday, wherever he was in town. I don’t know whether John or Harvey Teal has spent more hours in the Library other than staff. John gave freely of his time and knowledge to graduate students from other institutions and even provided a place to stay for some. His years in Columbia have been among the most productive of his career. John’s focus has always been on the project at hand; and when completed, he was ready to turn his attention to the next project. As a newspaper reporter in an earlier life, newspapers have often been a focus of his research. The scope of South Carolina history has been enriched by John’s scholarship as an author and editor, and those who have known and worked with John have had their lives enriched by his friendship.”

### Moore’s South Carolina Books

A few of Moore’s books related to South Carolina history include: *When South Carolina Was an Armed Camp: The Reconstruction Essays of Belton O’Neill Townsend* (2013); *The Voice of Small-Town America: The Selected Writings of Robert Quillen, 1920-1948* (2008); *Carnival of Blood: Dueling, Lynching, and Murder in South Carolina, 1880-1920* (2006); and *Southern Homefront, 1861-1865* (1998); *The Confederate Housewife: Receipts, Remedies, together with Sundry Suggestions for Garden, Farm, and Plantation* (1987); *Columbia and Richland County: A South Carolina Community, 1740-1990* (1993); and *South Carolina Newspapers* (1988).

### The John Hammond More Library Acquisitions and Conversation Fund

Many who attended the event provided donations to the John Hammond More Library Acquisitions and Conversation Fund which was established at the South Caroliniana Library in 2006 by Moore’s long-time friend, William C. Schmidt Jr.

Speaking about Moore, Schmidt said, “John has acted as a friend of, mentor and inspiration to, and resource for, a legion of individuals doing research on Southern and South Carolina history, myself included. His own extensive body of work, made available through publications, public lectures, and personal communications, has considerably advanced knowledge within various areas of South Carolina history. Since much of John’s work has drawn upon the holdings of the South Caroliniana Library, I could not think of a more fitting way to honor John than by creating a fund in his name to perpetuate and enhance the Caroliniana’s collections.”

For more information about the fund, please visit <http://library.sc.edu/develop/jhmoore.html>



# Letter from the DEAN OF LIBRARIES

As our friends, you the members of the University South Caroliniana Society, know that the South Caroliniana Library contains many of our state's personal, cultural, and artistic treasures. You also know that, although it is located on the University's historic Horseshoe, it is truly a library for the entire state.

What you may not know is that the Library and its treasures are in danger. Some of the Library's priceless collections are housed in a five-story wing of Caroliniana (called "the stacks") that was added to the historic structure in 1927. This wing still contains the wiring and infrastructure of that era. There is no fire suppression system and climate control is far from adequate.

In order to properly maintain the treasures held in trust in the Library for the people of South Carolina, the wing where they are stored must be gutted and retrofitted with premier fire suppression, humidity control, and state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems. Of primary importance in insuring the safety of the collections is the upgrading of the interior walls to provide three hours of fire protection in the event of a fire elsewhere in the building.

## Talking Points

I'd like to share with you some vital "talking points" that we will soon communicate to those who can provide funding to help us renovate the Caroliniana. Please join us in this critical mission by sharing this information with the people you know:

- The Caroliniana is the nation's oldest freestanding academic library.
- The Caroliniana houses innumerable treasures, including more than 10,000 bankers boxes of manuscripts dating from 1683 and more than a million published items, including the state's most extensive collection of original South Carolina

newspapers and maps dating from the 16th century. In addition, there are a wealth of visual materials, portraits, statues, and oral histories.

- The Caroliniana's vast collections include unique records of many notable South Carolinians. Among these are the journal kept by Henry Laurens who was imprisoned in the Tower of London, during the Revolutionary War, theorist and Vice President of the United States John C. Calhoun, and the fabled "Diary from Dixie" and photograph albums by Mary Boykin Chesnut. More modern collections include the papers of United States Army four-star general William C. Westmoreland, who commanded United States military operations in Vietnam, and of the Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, the Clarendon County minister, educator and civil rights leader who challenged school segregation.
- The Caroliniana educates South Carolinians about their state's history through public exhibits and programs. Programs are held on a regular basis on diverse topics, from the history of baseball in South Carolina to the life and contributions of Richard Theodore Greener, the University's first African-American faculty member and librarian. Scholars researching and writing about South Carolina make the Caroliniana their first stop.

Helping to keep South Carolina's history alive through this project will come at a cost—about \$5 million to be exact. We know that you, as the library's patrons and friends, will want to do everything you can to help protect our Caroliniana. Let me thank you again for your past support and in advance for the help we hope you will be able to provide for the future.

The members of the University South Caroliniana Society have cared about the collections of the Library for many years in the past; its current members have the privilege of following this example for future generations.

Tom McNally

## THE SCHUYLER & YVONNE MOORE ALCOVE

One of the alcoves in the South Caroliniana Library's historic Reading Room has recently been named in honor of Schuyler L. Moore and Yvonne R. Moore (M.Ed., '85 and Ed.D., '87) through the generosity of the Moores and also of their daughter, Deanna R. Moore (B.A., '98, and M.L.I.S., '01.) Through their gift, the donors have put into practice their wish "to preserve the architecture, structure, and dignity of this historic library."

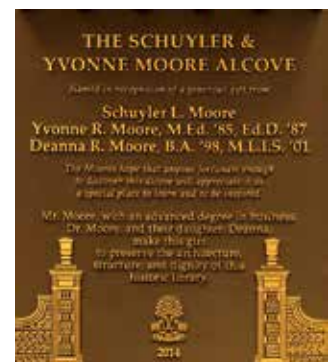
In expressing his thanks to the Moores, the Library's director, Henry Fulmer said: "The University of South Carolina, University Libraries, and the South Caroliniana Library acknowledge your generous contributions, and in particular the gift that resulted in the naming of the Schuyler and Yvonne Moore Alcove. We express our thanks for your commitment to excellence in library services and to the safeguarding of collections through the preservation of this distinguished American landmark, the oldest freestanding academic library in the United States. Your gift to this library has demonstrated your understanding that truly great library collections and truly great library buildings are inseparable.

"For one hundred and seventy-four years this building has stood silent witness to the fortunes and reversals of the state of South Carolina. It has housed one of the finest academic libraries in nineteenth-century America. It has withstood the flames of war and the ravages of occupying troops. It has benefited from the erudite leadership of one of America's most enlightened African-American minds in the years following the war that threatened to divide a nation and a people. More recently it has housed

special collections treasures as unique and rare as the building itself and has welcomed researchers from far and near engaged in the study of this state, past and present. Through its columned portico and up its gracefully curving staircase generations of this state's and this nation's leaders have passed, no doubt gazing up, as do all who enter the Reading Room, even today, to admire its lofty ceiling and grand expanses.

"Countless others have benefited from what you have so wisely pointed out to us: the sheer potential for this building, its Reading Room, the garden and grounds it overlooks, as well as the surrounding cityscape, to inspire nobler thoughts and ambitions, to provide a respite from the busy world.

"And so today, we offer our expressions of gratitude, Yvonne, Sky, and Deana, not merely for your generosity but for your heartfelt dedication to the cause of preservation and for reminding us never to overlook the transformative power that collections and libraries have to inform and educate the human mind and to improve the human condition. The entire staff of the South Caroliniana Library joins with me in thanking you and wishing you well."



# REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY HENRY G. FULMER

The months since you received the Spring 2014 issue of *Caroliniana Columns* have been extraordinarily busy ones for all of us at the South Caroliniana Library.

As Dean McNally mentions in his Letter, both the building and its contents are in danger of damage or destruction due to lack of fire protection, climate control, and adequate security. The present situation is so dire that President Harris Pastides, with the support of the entire University administration, has asked that all collection materials be withdrawn from the building for safekeeping at secure sites on and around campus. Meanwhile, a new fire detection system will be installed in the Library in an effort to forestall the necessity for round the clock fire patrol.

At the same time, coordinated efforts are being made to secure funding for a complete renovation of the building so that the Library and its collections will be preserved for the people of South Carolina for the next one hundred years.



*This lovely oil on canvas painting of the South Caroliniana Library's historic Reading Room hangs in the Director's office. The artist is unknown.*

## User Services

Starting in July, the Library staff consolidated reference services in the upstairs Reading Room, the Charles Bulfinch-inspired and architecturally distinguished interior for which the building is most celebrated. Service at this single point of reference is offered by staff members from all areas in the Library. This arrangement allows users to access published and unpublished materials, visual materials, oral histories, and the University of South Carolina archives—the whole spectrum of the Caroliniana's holdings—without having to move from one area of the building to another. Our aim is to make the user experience more seamless and to put into practice today the model of combined user services we plan to follow in the future.

This arrangement also enhances building security and allows staff members not on desk duty to concentrate without interruption on other work at hand—cataloging, processing, and preservation rehousing, in addition to packing up the collections to be moved. In conjunction with preparations to move the collections, the Library will be closed every Friday as a staff work day.

Early in 2015, professional library movers will transport the collections to three locations—the Graniteville Room and adjacent secured stacks on the mezzanine level of Thomas Cooper Library, the University Libraries Annex in Northeast Columbia, and the 1430 Senate Street facility, the former home of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Items of extreme value will find a temporary home in the vault of the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections and in the stacks of the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library.

Users may expect retrieval of materials to take a little longer than was previously the case, with deliveries made to the Library from these remote locations twice each day. Because of this new schedule, researchers need to plan ahead and notify the Library

of their needs in advance of their arrival. We advise that everyone consult the online catalog and contact the reference staff at 803-777-3132 or [scoref@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:scoref@mailbox.sc.edu) to request materials before visiting. Thank you for your patience and understanding during what will undoubtedly be a lengthy period of transition.

While all Caroliniana Library staff members are engaged in these activities, special recognition is due Visual Materials Archivist Beth Bilderback who is heading up the collection move team, working in partnership with Jody Mack, a staff person in the Acquisitions and Collection Development Department at Thomas Cooper Library. Many others from all of the University Libraries have stepped forward to engage in discussions relating to collection management, inventory control, and a host of other issues.

## The South Caroliniana Library's Heritage

The collections entrusted to the University and the Library define the very history and culture of the Palmetto State. As such, they must never be undervalued or taken for granted. Elsewhere in this issue you can read the words of American historian Drew Gilpin Faust, President of Harvard University, and a longtime researcher at and friend of the South Caroliniana Library, as she reminds us that the treasures of the Caroliniana “are among the richest and most valuable in the South, and, indeed, in the nation as a whole.”

As always, we are grateful to you, the members of the University South Caroliniana Society, for your heartfelt dedication to the Library. You recognize that the Caroliniana is truly a library for the entire state and that keeping South Carolina's history alive comes at a cost. It always has; it always will. To that end, I ask that you join us in our efforts to safeguard our state's past, present, and future for many generations to come.

“Remembering the Days...”

# Havilah Babcock

BY  
HENRY G. FULMER

December 10, 2014, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Dr. Havilah Babcock, the educator, author, and outdoorsman who is still recognized as one of the most beloved professors in the University’s history. Dr. Babcock’s course in vocabulary and semantics, popularly known as “I Want a Word,” became one of the most sought-after courses ever offered.

Born on March 6, 1898, in Appomattox, Va., Dr. Babcock earned undergraduate degrees from Elon College and his master’s from the University of Virginia before completing his doctorate at the University of South Carolina in 1927. He joined the faculty at USC in the same year, having previously taught English at Elon College and Journalism at the College of William & Mary.

Dr. Babcock served as head of the Department of English at USC for some three decades. Under his unconventional but effective leadership, the Department of English was for twenty-seven years one of the strongest departments at the University. His primary concern as an educator was excellence in writing and teaching, and he expected nothing but the best from his colleagues and his students.

Dr. Babcock also served as the school’s Director of Extension, 1927-1937. With very limited resources, he sustained the life of this service which later was to become one of the University’s major enterprises and which reflected his belief that the University’s educational opportunities should not be limited to the on-campus instructional programs.

## The Lure of the Out-of-Doors

Dr. Babcock came to USC on a year’s leave of absence from William and Mary and, as he said, found the hunting and fishing so good in South Carolina that he decided to stay.

Whether in good health or bad, Babcock could not resist the pleasures of hunting, fishing, and gardening, which occasionally came into conflict with his teaching duties. During one hunting season, Dr. Babcock’s enterprising and foresighted secretary posted on the bulletin board, “Dr. Babcock will be sick all next week.” This great love of outdoors provided the inspiration for many of his essays and short stories. He also sought to improve and conserve the state’s fish and game resources through his

service as President of the South Carolina Fish and Game Association, President of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, and as National Director of the Izaak Walton League.

## His Mighty Pen

Dr. Babcock’s interest in the profession of journalism always remained keen. Despite the pressures of teaching and his outdoor activities, he found time to write editorials for the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, *The State*, and the *Columbia Record*.

As a writer of essays and short stories, his last ten years were among the most productive and he retained his prowess as a writer and as a teacher up to within a few weeks of the end of his life. For many years, his works were featured constantly in newspapers and magazines. Among his major publications are the following books: *My Health is Better in November*, *Tales of Quails ’N Such*, *I Don’t Want to Shoot an Elephant*, *The Education of Pretty Boy*, and *Jaybirds Go to Hell on Friday*. Published in 1964, *Jaybirds* was his final work.

The papers of Havilah Babcock and the papers of his wife, educator and school administrator Alice Cheatham Babcock, are held by the South Caroliniana Library. In large part, Dr. Babcock’s papers date from the 1940s to the 1960s and contain fan letters, book orders, manuscripts, and typescripts.

—Henry G. Fulmer is Director of the South Caroliniana Library.



*Havilah Babcock in his office at USC*





## NEW FACES



Mike Berry

### Mike Berry

Mike Berry, the Library's new Curator of Published Materials, is a native Columbian who studied English at Francis Marion University for his undergraduate degree. He holds both an M.L.I.S. and an M.A. in English from USC. While a student at the University, Mike worked

as a graduate assistant in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in Thomas Cooper Library. Mike worked as Head of Public Services and University Archivist at Lander University from 2007 to 2014.

Mike is married to Buffy Berry, who also holds a degree in English from Francis Marion University. Buffy is a vision teacher, working with children from ages five to eighteen. Mike and Buffy have one son, Liam, who is a lively three-year-old. Mike enjoys book collecting, working in the yard, tinkering around the garage, and cooking.

### Sarah Pettus and David Shay

Sarah Pettus and David Shay began working for the South Caroliniana Library in October as temporary cataloging assistants. Their task is to complete the retrospective conversion of the holdings from the Library's manuscripts and published materials card catalogs so that access to these materials will be available online.



Sarah Pettus

Sarah Pettus is a graduate of the University's SLIS program. She previously worked in the USC Law Library. Sarah's office is located in Thomas Cooper Library where she is converting records of published materials, including monographs and serials.



David Shay

David Shay is a graduate of the SLIS program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Previously, he worked for the Missouri State Library

and Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library. David's office is in the South Caroliniana Library where he is working with manuscript materials.

## "Slaves of the Rebel Gen. T.F. Drayton, Hilton Head Island, S.C."

BY BETH BILDERBACK



"Slaves of the Rebel Gen. T.F. Drayton, Hilton Head Island, S.C."

The South Caroliniana Library recently purchased at auction an important photograph documenting slave life in South Carolina. Taken in 1862 by Henry P. Moore, the photograph shows slaves on the Hilton Head plantation of Thomas Fenwick Drayton as they gathered outside during the cotton ginning season.

Before the Civil War, General Drayton owned more than one hundred slaves to work the Fish Haul plantation where he grew cotton. When he accepted command of the military district at Port Royal, he used Fish Haul for his headquarters. In the Battle of Port Royal, November 3-7, 1861, General Drayton fought against his brother Captain Percival Drayton, who commanded the U.S.S. *Pocahontas*.

The photograph shows forty-four African-American men, women, and children. Most of the men are standing behind the women and children, who are seated on tarps covered with cotton bolls. Two young men are seated atop a large box, a young man carries a bucket on his head, and a young woman has a basket of cotton on her head. A Union soldier or overseer stands at the front. Among the men stands a white man who could be the photographer. The photograph captures the layout of a plantation with its outbuildings, and documents the clothing styles of the slaves.

### Henry P. Moore

Henry P. Moore (1835-1911) of Concord, N.H., photographed the men of the Third New Hampshire Volunteers during their time on Hilton Head Island. He made two or three trips to the island during 1862 and 1863, photographing soldiers in camp, at occupied houses, and on ships. Moore also captured the local African-American population at work and at home. He printed and sold many of his images to the Northern market anxious to see what was happening in the South.

During the 1880s and 1890s, Daniel Eldredge collected many of these images while writing his history of the Third New Hampshire Volunteers. Eldredge hired photographers to make new glass plate negatives of Moore's photographs. He then sold the full-size albumen copies. Few of Moore's original prints survive today. While research is still ongoing, it appears the photograph acquired by the Library is an original Moore print. The acquisition of this important visual record of slave life and Union occupation was made possible through the generosity of the Rebecca R. Hollingsworth South Caroliniana Library Endowment Fund.

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



# REPORTS FROM 2014 SUMMER SCHOLARS

## ELLISON DURANT SMITH RESEARCH AWARD: JASON RHEA KIRBY

I am delighted to have received the Ellison Durant Smith Research Award for the 2014 summer. This award has provided me with vital research assistance during my trips from Anderson, S.C., to the South Caroliniana Library. Over the course of my research, I have had a productive and enjoyable time working toward completing my dissertation on General William C. Westmoreland as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia. The helpful and friendly Library staff has played a crucial role before and during my visits to Columbia in providing me all the assistance I have needed. I would like to thank each of them for their contribution to what has truly become a labor of love as I work toward providing scholars and the general public with a deeper understanding of the life and legacy of General Westmoreland.



Jason Kirby

## WESTMORELAND'S YOUTH

During the course of the summer I was able to glean essentially all of the research I will need to complete my first chapter on General Westmoreland's life from the time of his early youth until his graduation from West Point in 1936. From the rich resources available, I will be able to address Westmoreland's South Carolina roots growing up in Spartanburg County where his father managed a local textile mill in the town of Pacolet. To supplement my research, I had the distinct honor to interview several residents of Pacolet and the surrounding Spartanburg County area who either knew the Westmoreland family or who had intimate ties to the town's history. This helped to give me a more in-depth appreciation for the environment in which the youthful Westmoreland was raised. Throughout his youth he had fierce ties to his family that remained lasting well into his adulthood. He also remained active as an outdoorsman in the Boy Scouts and via such activities as hiking expeditions and various other athletic contests, including horsemanship and basketball. Such a repertoire of activities helped hone his skills to prepare him for the arduous mental and physical tasks he confronted as a cadet at West Point.

## VIETNAM WAR: 1968-1972

This summer I also gathered a tremendous array of primary source materials covering Westmoreland's tenure as Army Chief of Staff amid troubling times for the Army during 1968-1972.

In addition to the problem of overall military recruitment the armed forces confronted, Westmoreland and other high echelon military officials had to face the ongoing predicament of declining military discipline, visible racial tensions, and the growing levels of drug and alcohol abuse among military personnel in Vietnam. Westmoreland's efforts to ameliorate racial problems clearly reflected to a great degree his attempts to grapple with multiple debilitating and unprecedented problems that plagued the military while a watchful public grew ever more exasperated with the Vietnam War's continuation. Chiefly, Westmoreland had to tackle the public fallout over the My Lai incident. As the horrific chain of events of the My Lai massacre was revealed to the public, the media firestorm brought Westmoreland once again to the center of the national discourse regarding the merits of the war because of his previous "search and destroy" policies and ideological justifications for fighting.

## A SOLDIER REPORTS

I accumulated a variety of other invaluable research materials for my prospective biography on Westmoreland. To name a few, I acquired information on the disputes regarding the historical memory of the Vietnam War after Westmoreland released his memoir, *A Soldier Reports*, in 1976. Also, I researched Westmoreland's tenure as West Point Superintendent, from 1960-1963, during which he initiated the West Point expansion plan that substantially increased enrollment and facilities over an approximately ten-year span. Furthermore, I researched veterans' association materials to determine their views about Westmoreland's leadership qualities and to ascertain their reactions to the Vietnam War during and after the conflict. For instance, many Ninth Infantry Division World War II soldiers who Westmoreland had valiantly served with refused to accept Ninth Infantry Division Vietnam War soldiers as co-equal comrades in arms after the Vietnam War. Finally, I accumulated information from many of the numerous speeches Westmoreland gave from his stint as a rising World War officer until the mid-1990s when the ailing but self-assured retired former Vietnam commander still kept a busy schedule traversing the country.

I am indebted to the South Caroliniana Library for the financial support I received from the Ellison Durant Smith Research Award to help defray my research expenses. I had a truly exceptional summer of research. Due in part to previous financial support from the Library, I have already completed chapters on Westmoreland's World War II experiences, on his tenure as commander in Vietnam, and on his political campaign for the South Carolina governorship. Although I have not yet completed the immense task before me, I am much closer to my goal of writing a powerful and memorable biography on General Westmoreland. The generous support of the Library and those affiliated with it have helped me travel a long way toward achieving this goal.

## LEWIS P. JONES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: JORDAN GRANT

In the summer of 2014, it was my pleasure to visit the South Caroliniana Library as a Lewis P. Jones Research Fellow. I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in U.S. History at American University in Washington, D.C. The research I conducted at the Library will be a critical part of my dissertation, “Catchers and Kidnappers: Slave Hunting in Early America.”



*Jordan Grant*

Although most Americans are familiar with the histories of fugitive slaves like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, very few know about the tens of thousands of bonds-people who were not able to find a pathway to freedom, those who tried but were unable to “run away.” In my project, I hope to illuminate the lives of these men and women by constructing a social, cultural, and legal history of slave-catchers, the people and institutions that worked tirelessly to carry people back into bondage.

The manuscript collections at the South Caroliniana Library offer researchers a rare glimpse into the dynamics of slave-catching in the Old South. They document the length to which slaveholders would go to recover runaway slaves, from the anxious letters they sent to friends asking for assistance to the payments they delivered to constables and jailers for apprehending suspected fugitives. Many of the diaries and plantation account books in the Library’s collections vividly document how South Carolina’s established systems for slave-catching eroded and ultimately collapsed during the Civil War.

I am greatly indebted to the South Caroliniana Library’s staff. Their expertise led me to sources I would have never discovered on my own, and their enthusiasm made every day at the Library both a pleasure and a success. I look forward to returning to Columbia for further research in the years to come.

## LEWIS P. JONES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: LINDSAY KEITER

Through the generosity of the South Caroliniana Library, I had the privilege of spending most of June 2014 as a Lewis P. Jones Research Fellow.

I conducted research for my dissertation at the College of William & Mary, entitled “Uniting Interests: The Economic Functions of Marriage in America, 1750-1860.” The South Caroliniana Library holds a number of incredible collections that shed light on what eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South Carolinians thought about marriage and about how they chose spouses. I pored over the papers of the Ball, Jones, Murchison, and Manigault families, uncovering a wealth of wonderful material.



*Lindsay Keiter*

I found a wide range of attitudes towards marriage, from John Lloyd’s stern warning to his nephew in 1796 that the “idea... that love will supply your want of fortune is romantick, idle, and ridiculous,” to Kenneth Murchison’s breathless 1840 letters to “My Love dearest of all creation.” The rich and varied material I found at the South Caroliniana Library will be an essential part of my dissertation, and I am very grateful to have had this support.

My stay was made even more enjoyable by the enthusiastic assistance of archivists Brian Cuthrell and Graham Duncan, two of the friendliest and most knowledgeable archivists I have had the pleasure of meeting. Their suggestions led me to collections I hadn’t considered that offered some of the richest insights.

## WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSOR: SEAN BUSICK

With the generous support and assistance of the South Caroliniana Library and its always helpful staff, I was able to work with the Library’s William Gilmore Simms material this past June to select and collect Simms’s advice to other authors. As the Old South’s central literary figure, and one of the most important and prolific American book reviewers, Simms was constantly being turned to by other authors who sought his advice.

Simms carried on literary correspondence with many of the leading authors of his day, including George Bancroft, William Henry Carpenter, James Fenimore Cooper, Henry B. Dawson, Elizabeth Ellet, Peter Force, Charles E. A. Gayarré, Francis Lister Hawks, Joel Tyler Headley, John Pendleton Kennedy, Benson John Lossing, Albert J. Pickett, Henry Stephens Randall, William James Rivers, Lorenzo Sabine, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, William Bacon Stevens, and William H. Trescot. With these and other writers, Simms sought and gave encouragement, shared advice, and discussed good and bad writing. He truly was the central literary figure in the Old South, if not in all of the antebellum United States.

This past summer, working at the Caroliniana Library, I was able to select and collect over three hundred manuscript pages of

Simms’s correspondence with other authors. I am now in the process of writing explanatory notes and an introduction for the collection. As this collection demonstrates, every important author writing in or on the South came to Simms for advice and/or received his encouragement. The research project and collection will help scholars to understand better the intellectual circle in which Simms moved. It also will demonstrate clearly the centrality of Simms to the study of antebellum American literature, and will provide insight into his thoughts on the profession of authorship and of literary theory and practice.

Thus, this research will be of use to both literary scholars and historians. It will also demonstrate the central role played by Simms in his intellectual circle and facilitate further studies about South Carolina literature and William Gilmore Simms.



*Sean Busick*

# Each Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words:

## *The South Caroliniana Library Portrait Collection*



*Dry-brush watercolor of Modjeska Montieth Simkins by Larry Lebbby, 1995*

The South Caroliniana Library Portrait Collection contains more than one hundred works of art collected by the University since its founding in 1801. Done in oil, pastels or watercolor, the portraits give modern-day visitors glimpses of some of the people who have been involved in the life and culture of the state since the eighteenth century. Many of the portraits are associated with manuscript and print collections about influential South Carolina families, and as such, offer enhanced value to researchers.

Itinerant portrait artists flourished in antebellum South Carolina as wealthy families sought to acquire likenesses of themselves and their children. Among the noted artists whose works are included in the Collection are Samuel F.B. Morse, James De Veaux, George Whiting Flagg, and William Harrison Scarborough.

Late nineteenth-century portraits and many from the twentieth century are also included in the Collection. Depictions of leaders in business, education, politics, and culture reflect changing styles and attitudes.

It is the goal of the Library to continue to build the Portrait Collection through gifts and purchases in the coming years. Members of the University South Caroliniana Society are cordially invited to visit the Library and seek out images of family members or historical figures of interest to themselves. In addition, members are encouraged to consider entrusting notable portraits to the Collection and to provide funds for purchasing and preserving more of these treasures.

For more information, please see <http://library.sc.edu/portraitfund>



*Oil on canvas portrait of Yates Snowden by Margaret Beverly Moore Walker, early 1930s*



*Watercolor on ivory miniature of Miranda Scarborough by William Harrison Scarborough, ca. 1838*

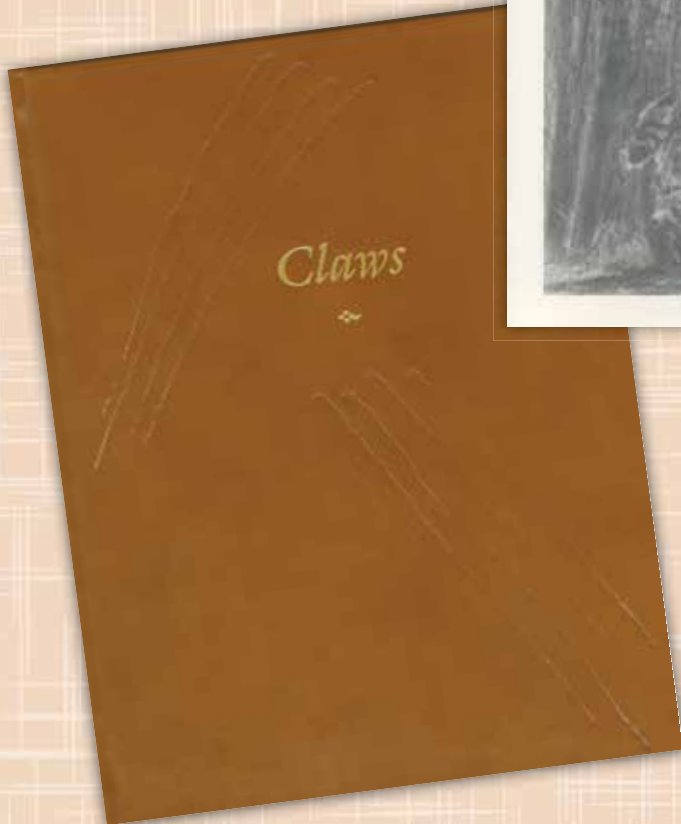


# Celebrating South Carolina's Literary Heritage: Archibald Rutledge and Julia Peterkin

BY  
NANCY H. WASHINGTON



*Claws surveys his domain.*



*Claws catches his dinner.*

Archibald Rutledge and Julia Peterkin are two of the most distinguished authors in the pantheon of South Carolina writers.

Rutledge was the state's first poet laureate, and Peterkin was the state's only winner of a Pulitzer Prize for literature. In their writings, both authors treat varying aspects of South Carolina culture. Rutledge's interest was in the natural world while Peterkin's focus was on the lives of black South Carolinians of the early twentieth century.

The South Caroliniana Library owns the largest known collection of materials in existence by and about Rutledge as well as a considerable amount of material concerning Peterkin. Both collections contain manuscript materials as well as print and visual items.

Two recent publications initiated by the South Carolina Humanities Council (*Claws* by Archibald Rutledge and *Ashes* by Julia Peterkin) offer a new look at the work of these two authors with the intent of presenting them to a new generation of readers.

These projects are demonstrative of the role the South Carolina Humanities Council seeks to play in inspiring, engaging, and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture, and heritage.

## “CLAWS” BY ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE

Rutledge's short story “Claws” was first published in an early twentieth-century boys' magazine and was collected in *Old Plantation Days* in 1913. The South Carolina Humanities Council's new edition of the story was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2014. The book features illustrations by Stephen Chesley, an Introduction by Jim Casada, and an Afterword by Ben McC. Moise.

In his Introduction, Casada writes, “Archibald Hamilton Rutledge (1883-1973) quite possibly ranks as South Carolina's most prolific literary figure ever. Even more impressive than the

# LITERARY HERITAGE

*Claws spys on the unsuspecting hunting dog.*



*Creature of the swamp: Blackbird*



*Claws confronts little Paul.*



*Creature of the swamp: Frog*



scores of books, hundreds of articles, and thousands of poems he published is the diversity of his literary output.”

Rutledge became known nationally for his short stories written particularly for boys. Many of the stories featured wild animals Rutledge had observed and hunted while growing up on Hampton Plantation near McClellanville, S.C. The rattlesnakes, sharks, alligators, wild hogs, and other wild animals were invariably larger-than-life, almost mystical creatures. The main subject of “Claws” is a large wildcat (characterized by Rutledge as “the lord and ruler of Spencer’s Swamp,”) as he encounters other swamp creatures, a pair of baying hounds, and a lost little boy.

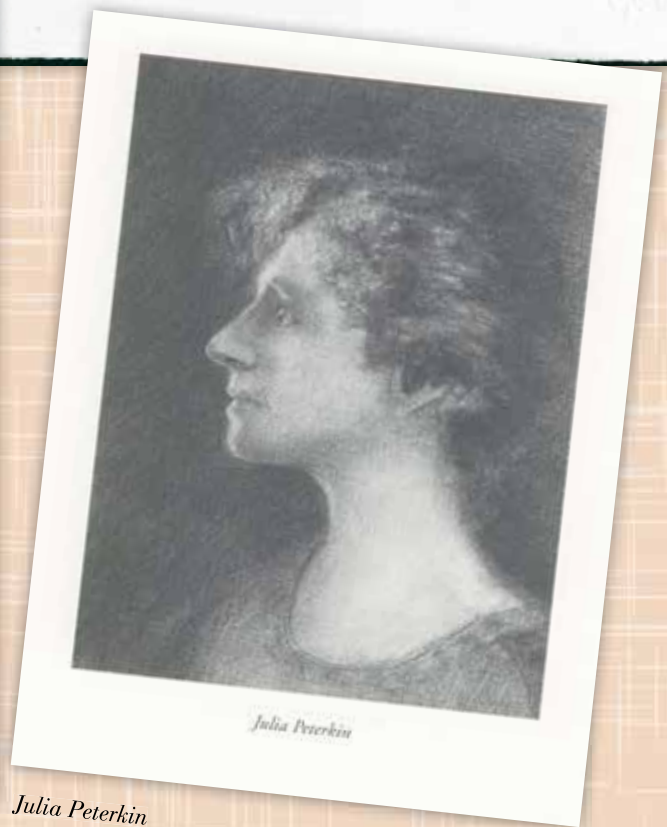
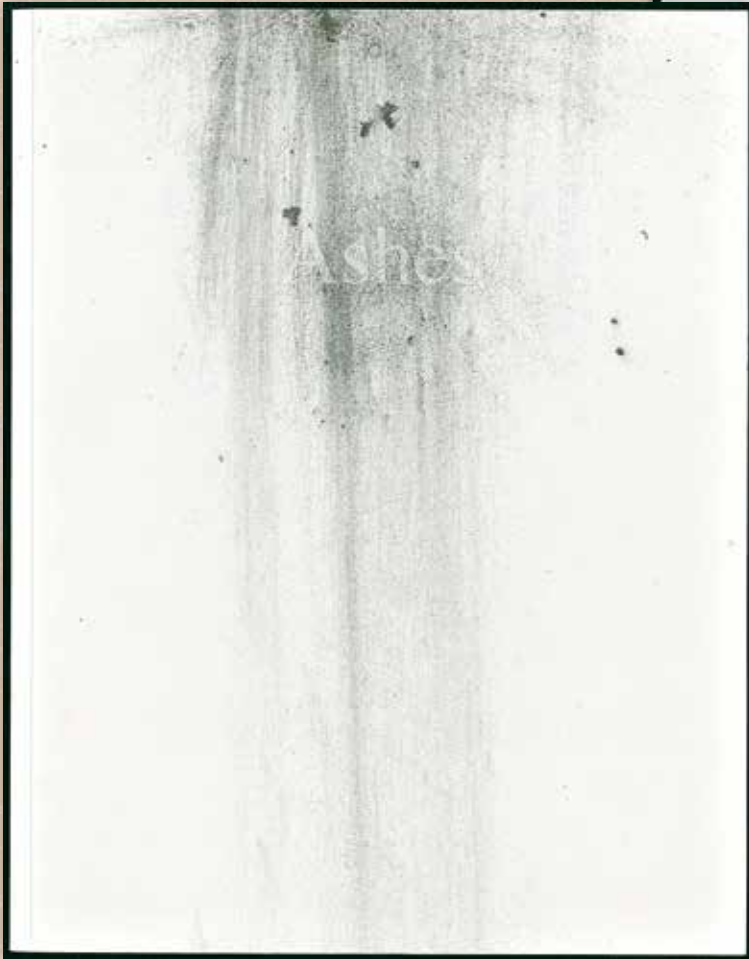
Cadasa writes that Rutledge’s stories are, “endearing and enduring and are as interesting and intriguing as they were when

originally published. The pieces reveal...a comfortable intimacy with the subject, a rare understanding of the natural world, an enviable mastery of words, and the unerring feel of a masterful storyteller. Like virtually everything Rutledge wrote, these tales of forgotten days and vanished ways belong to the ages.”

The South Carolina Humanities Council and USC Press plan to publish four additional Rutledge stories in the coming years, all with illustrations by artist Stephen Chesley. An edition of “The Doom of Ravenswood” is in preparation, and editions of “The Egret’s Plumes,” “The Ocean’s Menace,” and “The Heart of Regal” will follow.



*A storm looms.*



*Julia Peterkin*

## “ASHES” BY JULIA PETERKIN

Julia Peterkin’s story “Ashes” was first published in 1924 as the introductory story in her collection called *Green Thursday*. An edition of the book with a foreword by Charles Joyner was published in 2009. The chapbook edition of *Ashes*, with illustrations by Stephen Chesley, was published by the South Carolina Humanities Council in 2012 as a special project of the South Carolina Book Festival that year.

Julia Mood Peterkin (1880-1961) is best remembered for her novel *Scarlet Sister Mary*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1929. Her novels and short stories are characterized

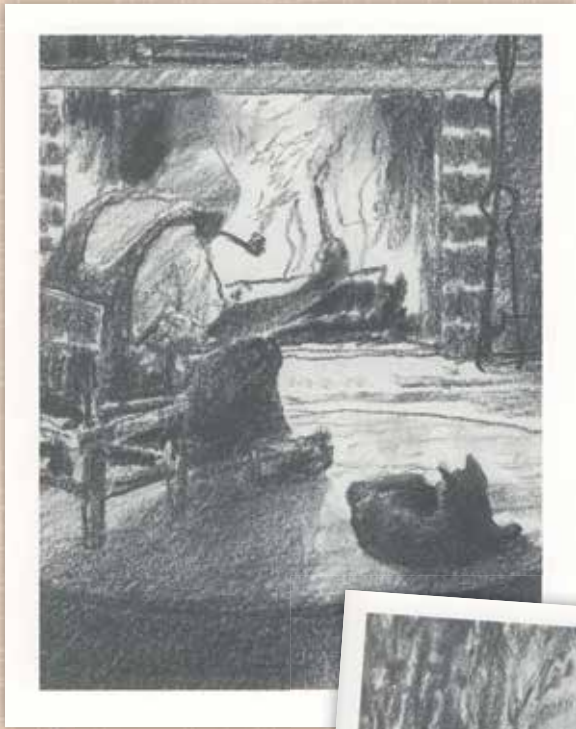
by a sensitive rendering of the lives and culture of the Gullah people and by poetic descriptions of the natural world.

“Ashes” is an exquisite gem of the story-teller’s art. It evokes a by-gone time and place inhabited by its ancient, but still strong African-American heroine, Maum Hannah. She is content with her simple life, but when it is threatened with total destruction by a merciless opportunist, she acts decisively and, just as decisively, takes responsibility for her actions.

As Charles Joyner says in his introduction to the 2009 edition of *Green Thursday*, “The story ‘Ashes’ opens with a visual tour de



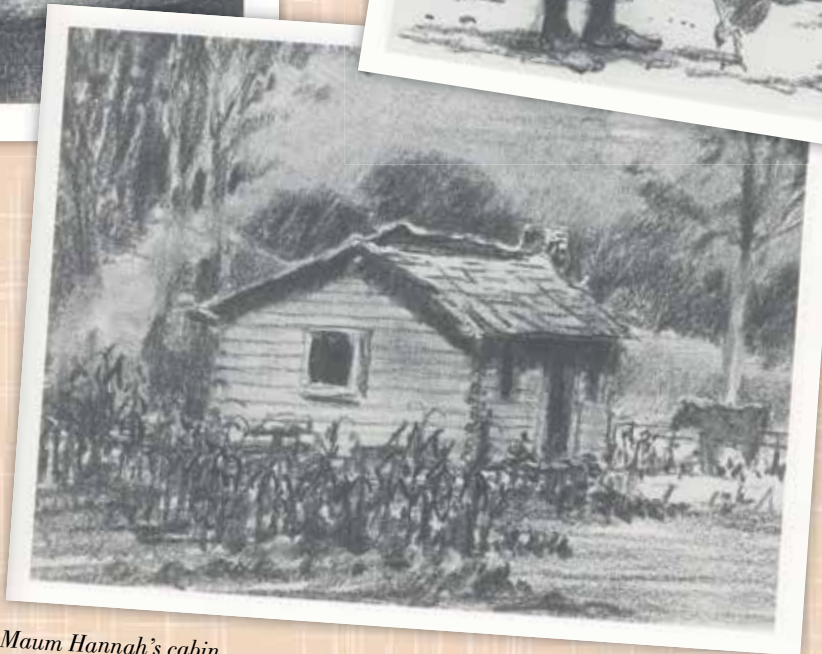
# LITERARY HERITAGE



*Maum Hannah by the fireside  
with her companion*



*Maum Hannah feeds  
her chickens.*



*Maum Hannah's cabin*

force that evokes Lang Syne Plantation, the Peterkin family estate at the junction of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers near Fort Motte in Calhoun County, South Carolina. It is tempting for the readers to feel that Peterkin's descriptions of nature are indiscriminately lavish. In fact, her skillful delineations are more than local color. They function on a deeper and more profound level than mere description. She employs the rivers as symbolic representations of the resistance of the plantation to the currents of time and change. The limits of her characters' world are marked by the merging of the two yellow-brown rivers. Within that world, life is hard and existence is precarious, punctuated with recurring violent deluges. But life—hard as it is—goes on. The land and the people endure. [For Peterkin] the social relations of everyday life in the context of a larger world of conflicts are less social and racial than universal and archetypal.

“Peterkin, like other Southern writers such as Faulkner, O'Connor, and Welty, was convinced that the best way of representing truth would be through depictions of the truths she knew best—the local and the particular. In her hands the simplicity of the land is revealed as the ground of being that sustains life. The local is elaborated and transformed until her characters, while retaining all their corporeal individuality, become mythic.”

— Nancy H. Washington retired from the University as Distinguished Librarian Emerita and is the editor of Caroliniana Columns.

# Stephen Chesley Talks about Illustrating *Claws* and *Ashes*

As an artist noted for his depictions of the natural world, Stephen Chesley was an ideal choice to illustrate the works of Rutledge and Peterkin. He often tramps the woods and swamps with his paints and his easel, seeking out the native flora and fauna in their habitats which are increasingly impacted by human development. In the January/February 2014 issue of *Jasper Magazine* (Muddy Ford Press, Chapin, S.C.) Katherine Hartvigsen writes that “Chesley has devoted much of his work to preserving images of the Earth’s landscapes and seascapes in stunning, semi-abstract majesty.... His thoughtful brushstrokes pay homage to the quiet solitude of trees and the whisper of retreating tides. They capture on canvas a sadly impermanent beauty for all time.”

Chesley, who was born in Schenectady, N.Y., grew up in Virginia Beach and came to South Carolina to pursue a master’s degree in urban regional planning within the School of Architecture at Clemson University. In 1980, Chesley elected to become a full-time artist and was recognized in 1996 with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Though he primarily works in oils, he also utilizes pastels, watercolors, etching, drawing, wood carving and welded abstract metal sculptures.

Chesley responded to questions about his work on *Claws* and *Ashes* in an interview in July 2014.

## **Question:**

**How did you decide which images to use in these books?**

**Answer:** After talks with artist and master printer Boyd Saunders, I decided that some images would come from the narrative and some from the imagination outside of the narrative. I wanted to inspire readers to evolve their own ideas and story lines parallel to the story narrative. Illustrations outside of the *Ashes* narrative reflect life outside the story as one might imagine it. For example, there is a drawing of a woman who is pregnant. It is not clear who this woman is, but she is a symbol of new life.

The illustrations in *Ashes* reflect life all around and many have a solid symbolic presence. There is a story contingent of draconian opportunists called “okras” who are symbolically countered by same page

depictions of mules. After an image of “okras” there is a humorous contrast with an image of the marshal who represents overwhelming transcendent order, intelligence and justice.

In *Claws* there is an image of an ivory-billed woodpecker. This bird existed during the time the story was written but is extinct now. I wanted to include it because it is a symbol of the irreverence mankind brings to nature. Every ecosystem is connected, so if one species becomes extinct, all species are affected. Humans are good at “extincting” (or nearly so) whole species. We’ve done it dozens of times. Bird species were wiped out for their plumage to adorn hats; the American Bison were slaughtered for sport. Indications are that the number of wildlife animals on Earth has been halved in the past forty years. The last species we will “extinct” will likely be ourselves. Perhaps we will do that with war and military weapons, but we may do it by overburdening the earth with more people than we can feed.

## **Question:**

**Why did you decide use a black and white palette in the books?**

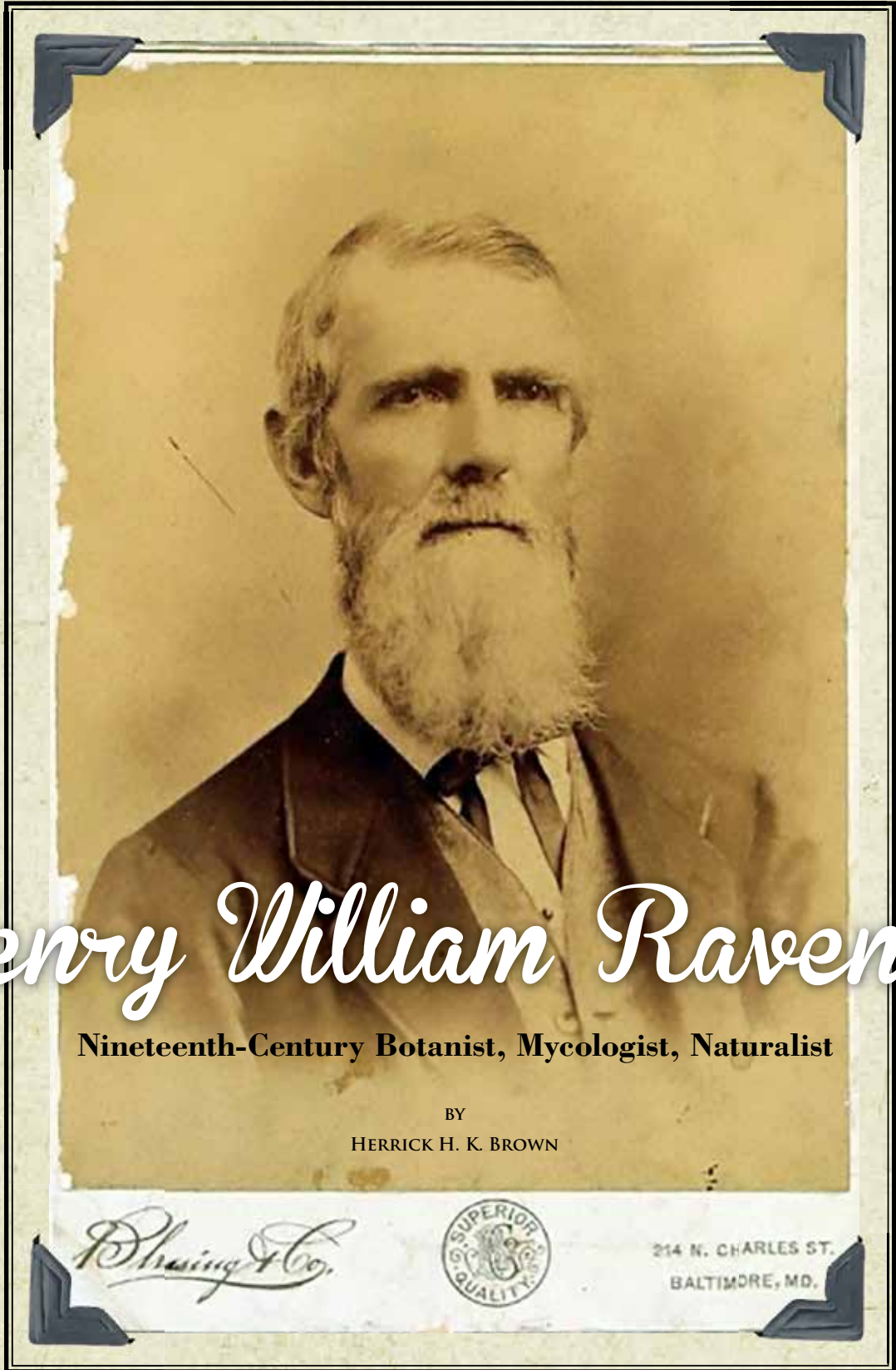
**Answer:** The illustrations were done in charcoal. I like the simplicity of black and white without the distraction of aspects of color. Viewers can then evolve their own ideas about the colors the images might evoke in their imaginations. This allows the viewer to see the autography of the artist and to evolve his or her own “self-telling” story.

## **Question:**

**How does this work compare with others projects you have worked on? Is it one of your favorites or more interesting in some way?**

**Answer:** This project is very progressive for South Carolina. The work of painters, writers, and other artists tend to be generally understated by the media. This neglect stems from an educational system which does not place a balanced emphasis on the arts and literature. One goal of creating new editions of these books is to reacquaint South Carolina readers with the riches of their literary and artistic heritage.





# Henry William Ravenel:

**Nineteenth-Century Botanist, Mycologist, Naturalist**

BY  
HERRICK H. K. BROWN

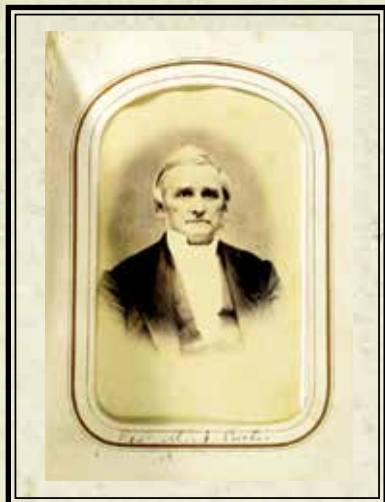


## 1814-1830: GROWING UP AND GOING TO SCHOOL

Henry William Ravenel was born May 19, 1814, to Dr. Henry Ravenel and his young bride, Catherine Stevens, at Woodville plantation in lower St. John's Parish near present-day McClellanville, S.C. He was sent to live with his grandparents at the age of two, shortly after his mother's death. At the age of four, young Henry William was thrown from a horse and suffered a serious injury to his scalp. These events were recorded by his father and later re-written by Ravenel in his own journal perhaps as a way of reminding himself of how he sustained the scar which he carried with him for the rest of his life.

Ravenel later recalled his "peculiar love" as a young boy for the lands along the upper Santee river where his Huguenot forebears had cultivated rice and indigo long before the Revolutionary War. It was in this part of the country that Francis Marion—the "Swamp Fox"—had recruited for the resistance and that the battle of Eutaw Springs was fought. These and other stories were imparted to young Ravenel by the older slaves who worked his father's lands. Ravenel evidently spent enough time conversing with slaves to become familiar with some of their spiritual beliefs. In his *Recollections of Southern Plantation Life*, he notes, "there was a general belief in the guardian spirits of water called cymbee." Thus, it is quite probable that some African botanical perspectives were shared with Ravenel as well.

In 1829, when Ravenel was of age, he enrolled in South Carolina College in Columbia, S.C. He graduated in 1832. While he did not have the opportunity at the time to engage in the formal study of botany, a field in which he would later become internationally renowned, he did benefit from several courses in the sister sciences of geology, chemistry, and natural philosophy. Further, it is reasonable to presume that years of experience in the management of large plantations and land cultivation had supplied him with the general botanical knowledge that would otherwise have been lacking. Upon graduating, Ravenel apparently thought he would simply follow in his father's footsteps and become a physician. In fact, he mentions a brief jaunt to northern states to explore the possibility of attending



*Moses Ashley Curtis from Ravenel's carte de visite "Album of Photographs of Distinguished Botanists"*

a medical college. However, his father dissuaded him from these pursuits, citing the rigorous demands on one's health incurred from making house calls at all hours and travel through difficult country. In truth, Ravenel's health and abilities to endure field conditions seem to have exceeded those of most field-oriented scientists of his time.

## 1830-1850: THE BUDDING BOTANIST

With medical school no longer on his agenda, and with his inheritance of Northampton plantation, Ravenel was faced with idle time to squander. However, by the mid-1830s, he was far from idle. A courtship lasting several years culminated in his marriage to Elizabeth Snowden on December 1, 1835. It was during this time that he became an important member of the St. John's Parish planter aristocracy, and his formal education at South Carolina College played a vital role in this transition. His knowledge of geology and chemistry prepared him well for improvements to arable land through application of fertilizers, and in 1842 he delivered an address to the Black Oak Agricultural Society on experimental agriculture. Around this time he also engaged in meteorological studies. His happiness with these pursuits was tempered in August of 1842 by the death of his first-born daughter, Catherine Stevens Ravenel, at the tender age of five.



*Asa Gray from Ravenel's carte de visite*

Ravenel began to direct his efforts toward the study of plants, spending more of his time "in the woods than in the closet." He notes in a letter to his friend Edward Tuckerman that "I love to follow them in their haunts, in the deep forests and watch their development, and then to study their ways." Later, he shared these sentiments with other influential correspondents including John Bachman, Moses Ashley Curtis, Asa Gray, and others. Thus, in the decade from about 1840 to 1850, Ravenel transformed his amateur interest in plants into that of a trained professional and became so familiar with the plants of the Santee region of South Carolina that he had amassed a collection of roughly 1,000 specimens. He presented details about this collection in an address on the natural orders of plants in the vicinity of the Santee Canal at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held in Charleston in 1850.

## 1850-1860: THE HEYDAY OF SOUTHERN SCIENCE IN THE ANTEBELLUM ERA

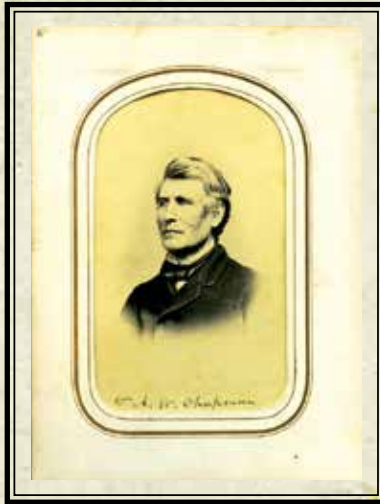
In 1853, Ravenel and his family moved to Aiken, S.C., as a means of escaping the risk of malaria which was still of concern in the Lowcountry. He had made arrangements to house his collection



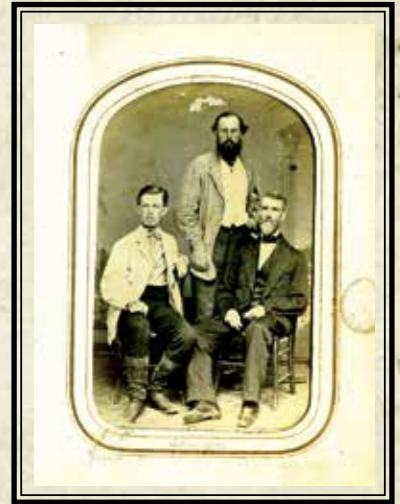
## RAVENEL



Francis Porcher from Ravenel's *carte de visite*



Alvin Wentworth Chapman from Ravenel's *carte de visite*



Left to right, Guillod, John Gamgee, and Henry William Ravenel from Ravenel's *carte de visite*

of plant specimens at the Charleston Medical College Museum (now the Charleston Museum). In Aiken, Ravenel continued his botanical study and began again developing his collection. Soon however, his interests in vascular plant study began to wane in favor of a more challenging group known then as Cryptogams (lichens and fungi). He quickly managed to master the group, and he accomplished the monumental task of publishing the *Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati Fungi of Carolina* between 1853 and 1860. This work consisted of five volumes each containing one hundred dried fungal specimens. A total of thirty sets were completed. Many of these were sent gratis to a variety of scientific correspondents Ravenel had come to know. These included Moses Ashley Curtis (Ravenel's mentor in Cryptogamic study) of Hillsboro, N.C.; Miles Joseph Berkeley of Kings Cliff, England; Elias Fries in Sweden; William Henry Harvey in Ireland; Francis "Frank" Peyer Porcher in Charleston; and the Smithsonian Institution. While Ravenel was able to sell some of the sets (for a mere \$8), he could not have gained any monetary profit for the time involved in painstakingly cutting out pre-printed labels with the scientific names of the 15,000 specimens which he then glued to the pages of the bound volumes one by

one. This was, without a doubt, a labor of love and was the only work of its kind since that of Louis David von Schweinitz earlier in the century.

In the midst of these activities, Ravenel suffered significant emotional strains. On February 5, 1855, he lost his wife of nineteen years, whom he commemorated in his journal by leaving a page blank except for the words "In Memoriam" on each anniversary of her death. She was his first love and had borne him six children, including his only son, Henry "Harry" St. Julien. Perhaps Ravenel's dedication toward completing the exsiccati provided some emotional solace, but he probably also gained needed support from the congregation at St. Thaddeus Church in Aiken, where he was a prominent member. Through this social outlet he soon took an interest in Mary Dawson, whom he wed in 1858.

While Ravenel endured significant personal losses, he continued to share the fruits of his scientific pursuits liberally amongst his colleagues during this time. Unfortunately, he could not predict the changing political climate of the country. Had he known the financial ruin his family would soon experience, he probably would have been less inclined to give so freely of his masterpiece, and science as a whole would have suffered a serious impediment to the dissemination of his knowledge. His

status as a world-renowned expert in the field of botany was further overshadowed by less than enthusiastic support from his mentor, Moses Ashley Curtis. Some of this may be attributable to Curtis's being a character of prominent status but who was purported to be devoid of compassion.

Ravenel may have also suffered some misdirected prejudice from other prominent individuals including Asa Gray of Harvard. Prior to the outbreak of the American Civil War, Ravenel's relationship with Asa Gray had been a favorable one. This is evidenced by correspondence recorded in his journal in 1860, by means of which he also forged a long-lasting relationship with his colleague in Florida, Alvan Wentworth Chapman. Ravenel had evidently sent a specimen identified as *Eriocaulon flavidulum* to Gray several years prior, and Gray had recognized similarities between that specimen and material that Chapman had collected in Florida, which he intended to describe as a new species in his *Flora of the Southern United States*. Gray suggested that Chapman write to Ravenel. In response, Ravenel sent Chapman a specimen from his original collection in South Carolina for comparison. Chapman agreed with Gray that the material from Florida was the same as that from South Carolina. Chapman then honored Ravenel with the specific epithet of the new species *Eriocaulon ravenelii* as he was the first



person to discover it. Evidently Gray took objection to Ravenel's status as a slave-owning, advocate of Southern rights and little correspondence between the two would follow.

## 1860-1870: FINANCIAL RUIN AND A BOTANIST FOR HIRE

In the aftermath of conflict and emancipation, the Southern economy collapsed. Consequently, Ravenel looked to alternative sources for income by exploiting what he knew best—botany.

By taking advantage of his vast network of correspondents, some of whom edited and published newspapers and periodicals, Ravenel began to profit from his freelance writing including providing material for a regular gardening column. His skills as a master botanist, agriculturalist, and ecologist were adapted for a popular audience. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to experiment with fruit orchards (particularly peaches) and viticulture (grapes), and he shared his successes and failures with local agricultural organizations. He further endeavored to collect seeds for local nurseries and prepared botanical and mycological samples for sale. Despite his best efforts, these enterprises eventually began to fail. Perhaps economic instability was to blame, but the inability of his colleagues to continue paying for regular gardening columns in local papers may be reflective of a more serious problem: the growing disinterest in natural history among the general populace. Further, declines occurred in the demand for scientific specimens. Ravenel was forced to consider selling portions of his lands but he had difficulty in finding buyers for a number of years.

Nevertheless, Ravenel's prowess as a botanical and mycological expert won him high acclaim with the U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture who was faced with a vexing situation regarding the health of cattle in Texas. Suspecting the adverse effects of fungal contamination in the feed, the Commissioner enlisted Ravenel to accompany a British veterinarian on an expedition to Houston via Galveston to investigate the causes of "Southern Cattle Fever" or "Milk Sick." The trip, completed

between March and May of 1869, marked the first extended period that Ravenel had spent away from his family. He took full professional advantage of this opportunity, however, and not only supplied a professional report for the Commissioner of Agriculture but also collected a multitude of botanical and mycological specimens. He sent a number of Carices (sedges of the genus *Carex*) from his Texas trip to his colleague George Engelmann in Missouri and most if all of the mycological specimens went to the Smithsonian Institution. This material along with a set of his *Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati* formed the nucleus of the National Fungus Collection.

## 1870-1880: CONTINUED PERSEVERANCE

While Ravenel's contributions to American botany were well recognized by his scientific colleagues, he continued to interact with local agricultural organizations and when possible provided popular articles for local papers. Despite his success on the Texas expedition, similar opportunities were few. He was offered a teaching position at a distant university but declined on account of his health. (He was growing especially hard of hearing.) Given Ravenel's disinclination toward wayward travel, his affection for his family, and his love of his local heritage it seems likely that he was also simply unwilling to leave home. However, his love of botany and botanical exploration did lead him on a few extended journeys through the Southeast.

Another ambitious endeavor spurred on by a British colleague, Mordecai Cubitt Cooke, put Ravenel in collaboration with other U.S. cryptogamic botanists on a mission to collect material for another exsiccati. For this project, Ravenel traveled through parts of Georgia and Florida in November and December of 1877. During this trip, he collected specimens which were ultimately included in the *Fungi Americani Exsiccati* which was published in series from 1878 through 1882.

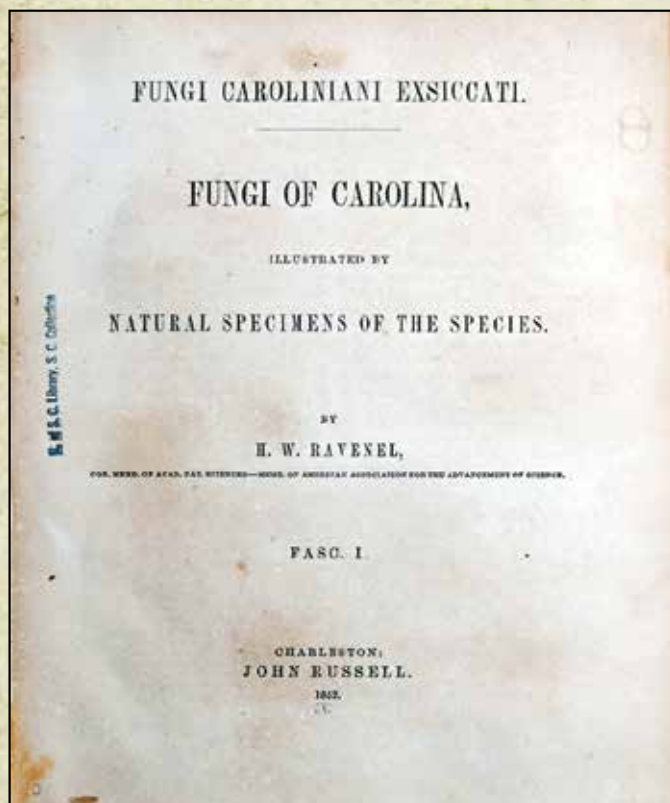
## 1880-1887: THE TARDILY SENESCENT BOTANIST AND A DYING WISH

In his later years, Ravenel continued to write short papers, participate in local

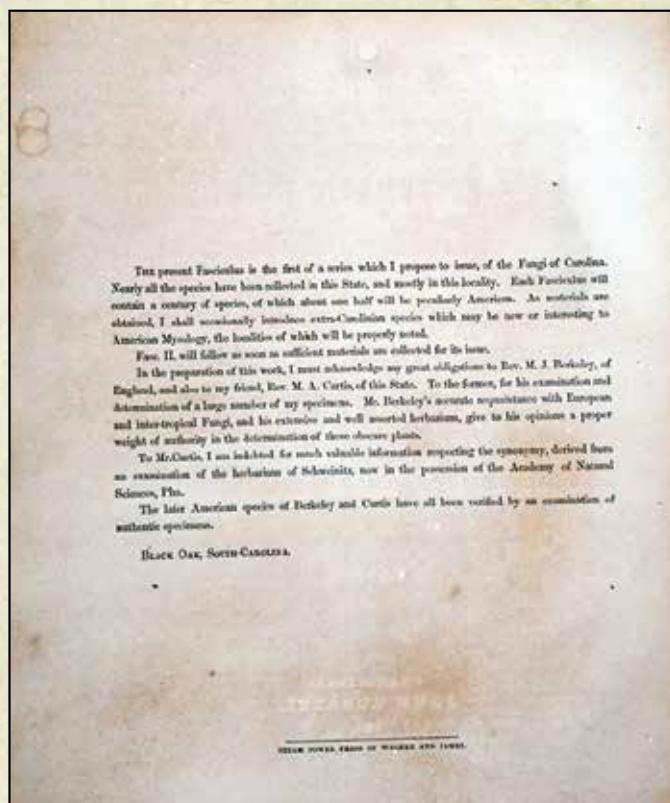
agricultural societies, and build his personal collection of specimens. His expertise in the field won him another commission, this time via the U.S. Census. Charles Sprague Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum was conducting a survey of forest trees as part of the census work and saw no better agent for making collections in the South than Ravenel. Sargent specifically requested that he seek out and collect specimens of the "Lost Franklinia" (*Franklinia alatamaha*) among other woody specimens which would be included in an exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. *Franklinia*, known only from the type locality along the Altamaha River in Georgia, had not been seen growing naturally anywhere else in the world, and it had not been seen at that locality since 1803. Nevertheless, though he had never seen the species himself, Ravenel, accompanied by his son Harry, set out to find it in the spring of 1881. Using William Bartram's *Travels* as a guide, the two attempted to reach the site mentioned by Bartram along the Altamaha River, but the combination of torrential rains and a growing uncertainty over his ability to identify a plant that he had never laid eyes on before resulted in fruitless frustration. With limited time, Ravenel returned to Aiken, leaving his son to try searching later in June. Ultimately, the elusive tree remained undiscovered.

Despite being compensated for his work for the census, Ravenel continued to struggle to cover his expenses and finally resorted to selling portions of his library. In the mid-1880s he entered into discussion with John McLaren McBryde, then president of his alma mater, South Carolina College. McBryde had an agricultural background and was interested in purchasing Ravenel's collection for the school. Ravenel offered his "whole collection & all of [his] botanical books for \$1,500" and noted that his collection represented 10,000 to 12,000 species altogether. In considering the prospect, Ravenel recorded in his journal, "I shall be glad to have my old Alma mater, to be the custodian of [the] collection—the labors of my life time." McBryde returned to the





Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati, Fungi of Carolina, 1852, title page



Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati, Fungi of Carolina, 1852, Ravenel's introduction and acknowledgements

college with this information and sought approval from the trustees to make the purchase.

However, as fate would have it, a building controversy in the South Carolina General Assembly complicated matters. The Federal Hatch Act had appropriated money to aid in the establishment of state agricultural research stations. In the first few years after the act was enacted, the funds went to South Carolina College. However, the Clemson family had recently left their estate lands to the state, and legislators took this opportunity to establish Clemson College as the state land grant institution and to divert the Hatch Act funds to the establishment of that school. Thus, South Carolina College was unable to purchase Ravenel's collection.

In the meantime, however, McBryde and Ravenel continued their correspondence. A entry in the *Catalogue of the South Carolina College, 1885-1886*, notes a donation

to the Botanical Department of "Several hundred specimens of dried plants for Herbarium: From H.W. Ravenel, Esq., Aiken, S.C." Clearly McBryde had endeavored to establish a herbarium for the purposes of teaching, even though the school was unable to purchase Ravenel's complete collection. Unfortunately, the school apparently took no measure to ensure that these specimens stay at South Carolina College, and they, together with McBryde, soon went to the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College.

In his final years, Ravenel would continue to collect plants. His indefatigable character, zeal for botanical exploration, and kind, gentle nature are perhaps best expressed in a letter sent by his daughter Susan Stevens Ravenel to Cornelius L. Shear at the Bureau of Plant Industry who was preparing a biographical sketch of her late father.

*I do appreciate so much your kind interest in my dear old father. As a child I remember tramping about with him through the woods while he was busy collecting*

*specimens & he carried his wooden press on his back to put the specimens in as he found them. He was a frail delicate man very deaf & suffered from what is now called nervous dyspepsia but was never cross or impatient & always had a smile or kind word for everyone & I adored him.*

SSR  
10 December 1919

While Ravenel was college-educated and built a vast network of scientific correspondents, he never lost his ability to effectively communicate with a lay audience. His ease of transitioning from the technical aspects of botany to the practical implications for the farmer demonstrated superior command of the subject and all its related disciplines. Indeed, he had mastered his subject so thoroughly that his colleague W.G. Farlow would later write, "There was not a group of plants, no matter how small, which escaped his observation. It is doubtful whether any other American botanist has ever covered so wide a range of plants"



In his time, Ravenel had studied and collected everything from mosses, lichens, algae and fungi to all manner of vascular plant species. Farlow further notes, "He was a most accurate observer, and always noted the habits and peculiarities of what he collected.... He was one of the pioneers of cryptogamic botany in this country. May those who follow be guided by the same spirit."

## THE HISTORY AND CURRENT DISPOSITION OF THE HERBARIUM OF HENRY WILLIAM RAVENEL

*I shall be glad to have my old Alma mater, to be the custodian of [the] collection—the labors of my life time.*

HWR

Th. 23 July 1885

Following the financial hardships wrought in the post-war American South, the herbarium of Henry William Ravenel was not immune to potential liquidation. In later life, Ravenel's family probably would have reaped more benefit from the sale of his herbarium than to have retained it. Further, it is apparent that Ravenel realized the immense research potential of his collection and considered its purpose best served by a more able-bodied steward or a research institution. The trustees of then South Carolina College declined to

purchase the collection in 1885. Two years later, Ravenel died with his herbarium still in his possession. The task of its sale then fell to his widow, Mary, who knew little of its contents or value and sought assistance from family and some of her late husband's botanical correspondents. After its sale, the great collection of "some 10 to 12 thousand species" would eventually be divided against Ravenel's stated wishes.

Initially though, the collection in its entirety apparently was purchased by a distant relation, Henry Edmund Ravenel, a local attorney. He then gave the collection to Converse College, a woman's college in Spartanburg, S.C., which he had played a critical role in founding. Later, the trustees of Converse College sought to secure much-needed revenue and began to liquidate elements of the collection first through the sale of the cryptogamous (fungi) portion, containing approximately 14,000 specimens, to a representative of the British Museum for \$600. Later, the school sold a portion of the phanerogamous (vascular) plant collection to George Vanderbilt, in whose possession it met an untimely end due to a flood at Biltmore Estate near Asheville, N.C. Continued threats of its disarticulation and this latest disaster spurred a Converse College biology teacher, Miss Elizabeth Williams, to cloister the remaining portion of the collection in her attic for safe keeping.

Under the care of Miss Williams, the remaining collection apparently enjoyed

a secret life of improvement and was scrutinized by botanical researchers fortunate enough to have learned of its existence. However, the details of exchange programs with taxonomic experts which Miss Williams had established for the collection would not become evident until many years later. While the collection remained a mystery to most, by the mid-1960s Converse College had a well-established biology department whose faculty soon began to investigate the whereabouts of Ravenel's herbarium. With Miss Williams' health failing, faculty members located the collection in her attic and, after verifying its ownership, removed the specimens to proper herbarium cases at the college. Despite the best intentions for its continued use, other commitments prevented any major work on the collection, and it was essentially held in protective custody for the next forty years.

Growing concern for the ability of faculty and staff to care for the specimens prompted the Board of Trustees of Converse College to seek a more suitable environment for the collection. Eventually, an agreement was reached with the University of South Carolina's A.C. Moore Herbarium (USCH) to transfer the collection there. While USCH would provide modern curatorial protocol and much needed restorative measures for the specimens, a memorandum of understanding



*Specimen of Irpex pallescens, from Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati, Fungi of Carolina, 1852*



*Specimen of Stereum supbilleatum from Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati, Fungi of Carolina, 1852*



# RAVENEL

ensures that the collection will always belong to Converse College.

## CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Ongoing efforts to conserve and restore the collection at USCH involve carefully transferring the specimens from the acidic sheets on which they were mounted by Ravenel to archival-quality, standard-sized herbarium sheets. This procedure ensures that acidic compounds will not degrade the fragile plant material over time and that the sheets will fit in standard-sized herbarium cabinets. During the process of transferring specimens, staff from USCH began to notice evidence of previous attempts to preserve the collection. The suspected early conservator was Elizabeth Williams.

Although Miss Williams had joined the Converse College faculty in 1918, she had apparently only begun working on the collection around 1940. Miss Williams' efforts to preserve the collection are evident in the presence of numerous taxonomic annotations from contemporary experts affixed to many specimens. This suggests an active exchange program in which specimens were shipped to a variety of institutions for expert scrutiny and updated species determinations. While the dates of these determinations and some scant correspondence filed amongst the specimens provides ample indication that Miss Williams actively sought to improve the collection and advertised its availability to the research community, a more mysterious condition is the presence of cellophane tape which was used to affix some specimens and labels to sheets. The tape has obviously aged and it is uncertain whether this material was original to Ravenel's methods or if it is an artifact of later curatorial efforts. As finding a precise date for the invention of cellophane tape and its relative availability at that time is riddled with nuance, it is difficult to determine who used it. However, given that some of the annotation labels obviously obtained during Miss Williams' time have been affixed with this same material, she is probably responsible for the use of at least some portion of the tape.

Other challenges that the Ravenel collection presents to USCH staff involve the assignment of catalog numbers. Typically a single specimen, representing a single collecting event, is affixed to an 11.5 X 16.5-inch herbarium sheet and stamped with a unique, non-repeating number. However, in the case of Ravenel specimens, occasionally several specimens of the same species may be affixed to the same sheet. Given the scarcity and expense of materials during Ravenel's career, it is suspected that this practice was employed as a matter of frugality and may have helped better serve the use of his collection as a comparative taxonomic record. Further, the information that would generally be found on a specimen label (a separate piece of paper which is then glued to the sheet) is frequently handwritten directly on the sheet. This requires that a portion of the acidic paper be cut out and glued to the new sheet. Occasionally the reverse side of "formal" specimen labels may contain scraps of information from recycled letters as well as portions of the unused proofs of Ravenel's *Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati* which appear as lists of scientific names of fungi. In these cases, fragment envelopes are used to permit viewing of both sides without loss of material.

As USCH staff, student workers and volunteers continue the restoration process, completed taxonomic groups are cued for loans and sent out for critical review and annotation. Genera that have received such scrutiny to date include, but are not limited to: *Celtis*, *Crataegus*, *Fraxinus*, *Juncus*, *Nymphoides*, *Paspalum*, *Poa*, *Pycnanthemum*, *Salix*, and *Sisyrinchium*. With nearly fifty percent of the collection restored (3,750 of approximately 6,200 specimens), these groups represent only a portion of the material that is available for loans. Other projects have involved students who received academic credit for independent studies. One such study identified and characterized all materials collected by Ravenel during his trip to Texas as part of his contribution to the investigation of Texas Cattle Fever. Another independent study assigned modern taxonomic annotations to all specimens in the Asteraceae and entered these records in the collection's database. This effort was accompanied by a report detailing the collection's coverage of this important group of plants.

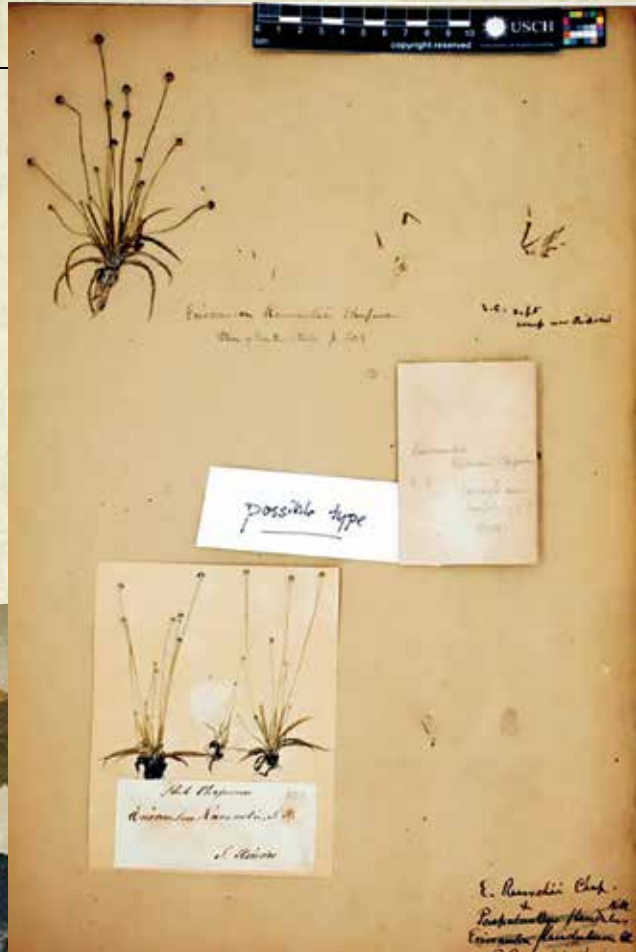
One of the most significant challenges in conserving the last remaining intact portion of Henry William Ravenel's herbarium involves unlocking its hidden treasures. Given Ravenel's prestige amongst his botanical colleagues and the important relationships he formed with them, there is ample evidence to suggest that he may have collected (or received through exchange) type specimen material. Such specimens may be considered "lost" or "forgotten" and are only discovered on a case by case basis which involves extensive queries of primary literature and species' descriptions. Even then, specimens of interest may only be deemed "probable" types at best. Regardless, these efforts serve to assign greater research value to the collection and increase its contribution to science.

The staff of USCH aims to continue these efforts to restore the collection and successfully integrate its use in the modern scientific community. Accessibility to the collection will be extended to a worldwide audience through digital initiatives to publish a specimen database, replete with specimen images, on the internet. Further, a cooperative effort at the University of South Carolina involving the Center for Digital Humanities and Thomas Cooper Library Digital Collections staff will create a rich, interactive cyber environment that links Ravenel's journals (currently held at the South Caroliniana Library) with his botanical collection.

In addition, a project funded in 2014 by the National Endowment for the Humanities, "Plants and Planter: Henry William Ravenel and the Convergence of Science and Agriculture in the 19th-Century South," will not only provide an interesting public portal for interdisciplinary investigation, it will also serve as a useful tool for augmenting the metadata associated with the specimens. Since Ravenel was "often delinquent in giving clues as to the habitat of the specimens", linking the more detailed and dated journal entries with corresponding specimens will facilitate geo-referencing, help pinpoint collection dates and identify associated species and habitats. In addition to fulfilling the primary objective of preserving Ravenel's specimens, this combined work will place the collection in its proper historic context and make it available for the scientific scrutiny of a contemporary audience.



—Herrick H. K. Brown is Assistant Botanist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Heritage Trust Program. He also serves as Assistant Curator of the University's A. C. Moore Herbarium in the Department of Biological Sciences and is a consultant on the NEH funded project "Plants and Planter: Henry William Ravenel and the Convergence of Science and Agriculture in the 19th-Century South."

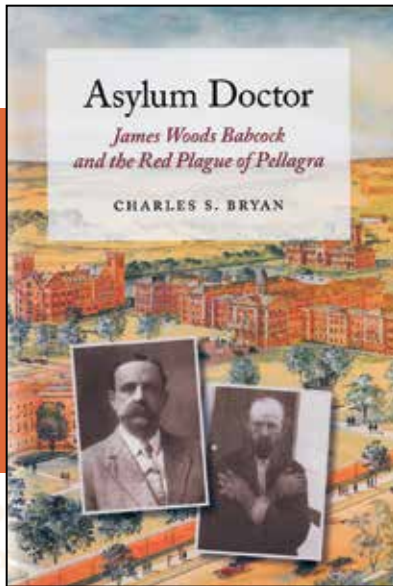


Specimen of *Eriocaulon ravenelii* Chapman from Ravenel's collection



Specimen of *Franklinia alatamaha* Bartram ex Marshall from Elliott Collection at the Charleston Museum





# JAMES WOODS BABCOCK AND THE RED PLAGUE OF PELLAGRA

BY  
CHARLES S. BRYAN

James Woods Babcock became superintendent of the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum in 1891 and resigned in 1914 under pressure from Governor Cole L. Blease. His public service overlaps the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era of U.S. history, but critics found nothing gilded or progressive about his asylum. To be sure, public asylums everywhere had devolved into convenient places to warehouse inconvenient people as families increasingly sought institutional alternatives to home care. Yet the Columbia asylum, renamed the State Hospital for the Insane at Babcock's insistence, constituted an extreme case of overcrowding and underfunding. In 1899, for example, the daily per capita budget of \$7.81 in today's currency ranked lowest among forty-two U.S. asylums. A fellow asylum superintendent called it "a disgrace to the commonwealth" resulting from the state legislature's indifference to the mentally ill. And Babcock, although a much-admired public servant with many fine qualities, may have inadvertently made it worse by being in some ways the wrong person for the job.



*Dr. James Woods Babcock (1854-1922) with Dr. Robert Wilson Jr. (center) and Colonel Elbert H. Aull (right), in 1912, during a meeting of the State Hospital Commission that planned a new facility at State Park, near the site of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. (Courtesy: South Caroliniana Library)*

Babcock's education could not have been better. Born in Chester and subjected to what he later called "the wretched school system of that town," he hitched his wagon to a star after a friend suggested he go to Phillips Exeter Academy for a year. He

stayed at Exeter four years and then went successively to Harvard College, Harvard Medical School, and McLean Asylum, the nation's premier psychiatric facility. At each stop he was popular with peers and admired by superiors. He resolved to be an "asylum doctor" while working as a medical student at the State Infirmary in Tewksbury, Mass. The seventy-five patients on his ward deeply regretted his departure and signed a letter attesting "to the many great qualities you possess as a sober, honest, punctual, orderly, patient, and cheerful man, kind to all, partial to none." Members of the Board of Trustees at McLean likewise lamented his departure; an administrator confided that Babcock "had one characteristic that he had never seen equaled in the McLean Asylum, that of knowing all about the patients you were asked about" and of seeming to be "acquainted with them personally." He returned to South Carolina at age thirty-five and soon made his mark as one of the Southeast's leading psychiatrists, or "alienists" to use the then-current term.

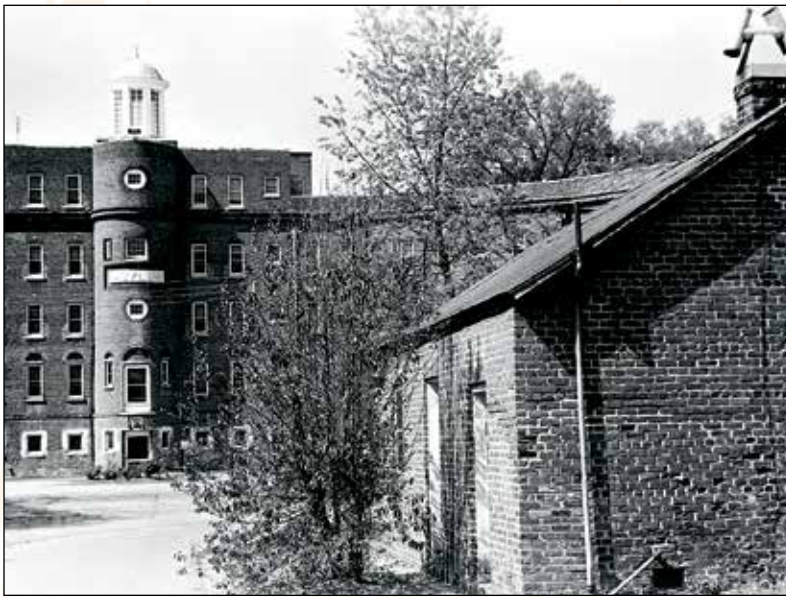
Babcock possessed in abundance qualities most people would want in their public servants. His humanitarian impulse ran strong. When his name was first mentioned as a possible candidate for the position as superintendent at the South Carolina Asylum, his father expressed concern that "you would worry yourself to death over the miserable [African Americans]." A Charleston black physician opined that the state was "fortunate in having at the head of this institution a physician who has all the elements that make the good physician and humanitarian." Babcock was also an early champion for women in medicine. He gave South Carolina's first licensed woman physician, Sarah Allan, her first job, and he ultimately fell on his sword rather than bow to political pressure to dismiss his colleague at the Asylum, Eleanor Bennette Saunders, who was probably the first woman in the U.S. to graduate from medical school at the top of her class. He was scrupulously honest, refusing to accept so much as a bunch of radishes that belonged to the state and declining proposals to increase his modest salary. He was generous, giving away his books almost as fast as he bought them and seldom saying no to colleagues who wanted his time for their own patients. His physical courage showed on the occasion when he climbed onto a fourth-story roof to coax a suicidal patient into coming down. He drew his close friends mainly from the intelligentsia but, like most of history's great humanitarians, strove to treat everyone alike. He



had a high energy level, immense charm, a near-photographic memory, and a strong desire to make things better at the beleaguered South Carolina asylum.

What, then, went wrong?

Babcock's career as asylum superintendent serves up a cautionary tale for anyone aspiring to senior management without suitable training and temperament. He accepted the job against better judgment—his own and that of Governor Benjamin Ryan Tillman. Babcock's supervisor at McLean told Tillman that while Babcock had "ability of a high order associated with conscientiousness and modesty that are marked traits of his character," he had "decided for himself, without my advice, that he does not possess certain of the qualifications you seek and need in the head of your institution, viz:—business and executive experience." After looking over the annual reports of the South Carolina asylum, Babcock saw "many sides of the problem that appeal to me strongly—the building of a new asylum for the Negroes, a better nursing service, etc. But my training here has not yet fully prepared me for the business management of an institution." Tillman offered him the job perhaps because he had no better option and, like others, was awed by Babcock's impeccable academic credentials. Babcock, recognizing a perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference in his native state, reluctantly took it.



*Rear elevation of the original building of the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum, known as the Old Building during Babcock's era and now as the Mills Building, circa 1900. (Courtesy: Records of the State Department of Mental Health, South Carolina Department of Archives and History)*

His taking the job was, moreover, a triumph of hope over institutional experience. The six previous superintendents had all been dismissed, forced to resign, or resigned under pressure. The job description made him, in today's terms, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, and chief medical officer of a large, complicated medical center. The South Carolina Lunatic Asylum was in many ways typical of the vast mental institutions found in nearly every state, their spacious grounds and cupolaed dormitories now suggesting abandoned college campuses. It was the state's only real hospital west of Charleston, a big-ticket item in the state budget, and a political football. The superintendent

answered to a board of regents whose members were likewise appointed by the governor. Assistant physicians were appointed by the regents rather than by the superintendent, who therefore had no real power over the doctors who were nominally his subordinates. The regents could go into executive session without the superintendent, who had to seek the board's permission for just about everything. Babcock saw it as the regents' responsibility, not his, to lobby the legislature for money. Alas, Babcock, who was shy, self-effacing, non-confrontational, highly sensitive, and easily stung by criticism, was poorly suited for the murky waters of South Carolina politics.

Within a few years of his arrival Babcock established himself as a Young Turk among American asylum superintendents by publishing major papers on "The Prevention of Tuberculosis in Hospitals for the Insane" and "The Colored Insane." He was among the first to grasp that the spread of tuberculosis within institutions was largely a housing issue, and he pointed out that the Old Building—now celebrated as Robert Mills's architectural gem with its massive Doric columns, rooftop gardens, spiral staircase, resistance to fire, central heating, and timeless visual appeal—had become a death trap, "typical, both architecturally and hygienically, of what a hospital should not be." He was among the first to urge better facilities for African Americans with mental illness. Still, the housing situation got worse on his watch.

Meager state appropriations could not keep up with the steady influx of patients, whose diagnoses commonly included such conditions as alcoholism, epilepsy, imbecility (mental retardation), senility, and terminal illness of any kind. Babcock's idealism, intellectuality, energy, and vision could not compensate for his lack of administrative experience and his reluctance to press the legislature for more money. His reports to the regents read like a running jeremiad against overcrowding, especially for African Americans; for example: "The old cry of overcrowding applies with especial force to the wards for colored patients." In 1909 things came to a head.

An investigation began after Columbia attorney A. Hunter Gibbs was hired by a young man who had been jailed for fraud, was committed to the asylum, and then was unable to get out. After snooping around, Gibbs petitioned the legislature to look into the "lack of general efficiency." Patients became de facto prisoners to the extent that "all who enter here leave hope behind." The resulting Committee to Investigate the State Hospital

for the Insane produced a comprehensive report confirming that conditions were every bit as bad as Gibbs alleged. Babcock's lack of executive ability ultimately became the focus, leading to a recommendation that he and also the regents be dismissed.

Senator Niels Christensen Jr., who was selected to chair the Senate Committee to investigate the State Hospital for the Insane



*State Senator Niels Christensen Jr. (1876-1939) chaired the Committee to Investigate the State Hospital for the Insane. (Courtesy: South Caroliniana Library)*





*New Building (now, the Babcock Building), fourth ward for white men, was photographed during the 1909-10 legislative investigation of the South Carolina State Hospital for the Insane. (Courtesy: South Caroliniana Library)*

in 1909 averred, “It is quite possible that the gentleman at the head of this institution is an excellent gentleman, and at the same time it is quite possible that the superintendent is inefficient. However lovable this man may be, whatever fine traits he may have, we must not...take that into consideration.” It is doubtful that most senators took the young progressive seriously. The comprehensive investigation, although largely for naught, had one positive result: a commission to plan a new campus for black patients, which became State Park.

Babcock survived the investigation but not without further erosion of what little power he had over his assistant physicians. Less than four years later, they ganged up on him because of his ardent support for his young assistant physician Eleanora Bennette Saunders, who by the standards of any time and place was an exceptionally capable and dedicated doctor. They resented the extent to which Saunders had become, as the nurses put it, “the soul of our undertakings here.” They drew most of the regents into a conspiracy designed to secure Saunders’s dismissal. The ensuing public hearing established that Nora Saunders would have made a fine trial lawyer. She humiliated her critics and also Governor Blease, who could not intimidate her. The press portrayed Blease, the other staff physicians, and most of the regents as epitomes of pettiness. Yet Babcock and Saunders found their state-salaried positions no longer viable. They left the asylum and started a private practice.

The extent to which blame for deplorable conditions at the State Hospital for the Insane should be apportioned among Babcock, the regents, the legislators, and the state’s reigning philosophy that the least expensive government was the best government becomes a matter of personal opinion. Still, Babcock secured a permanent place in the history of medicine through his leadership in the initial American response to a now-largely-forgotten disease: pellagra.

Pellagra (“Pel-LAY-gra,” “pel-LAG-ra,” and “pel-LAH-gra” are all acceptable pronunciations) affected some 250,000 Americans at its peak and caused about 7,000 deaths each year in the fifteen Southern states. Its conquest is usually associated



*After ten days of testimony about her alleged “interference” with the work of the other staff physicians at the asylum, Dr. Eleanora Bennette Saunders (1883-1933) was completely exonerated and her critics humiliated by the press (The State, February 26, 1914).*



*Pellagra is known as the “disease of the four D’s”—dermatitis, diarrhea, dementia, and death.” This photograph, taken by Dr. Joseph Jenkins Watson (1872-1924) of Columbia, is perhaps the most frequently reproduced illustration of a victim of pellagra. Pellagrins, wrote Dr. Harvey E. McConnell of Chester, S. C., “almost always have a frown of their foreheads” and the “erythematous eruption on the hands...the most constant and diagnostic sign... needs to be seen only once to be recognized, and if you ever shake hands with one of these patients, you never forget the sensation.” (Courtesy: Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C.)*

with a single name, that of Dr. Joseph Goldberger of the U.S. Public Health Service. In February 1914—the same month that Babcock retired from public life—Surgeon General Rupert Blue made Goldberger his chief pellagra investigator. Goldberger concluded within four months that the cause was inadequate, monotonous diet, not infection as many people thought. By the fall of 1915, Goldberger had both prevented and produced pellagra by dietary manipulation alone. Public health officials, politicians, and others rejected the dietary explanation, especially because it indicted Southern poverty. Goldberger devoted the rest of his life to pellagra and, before his death from cancer in 1929, found an inexpensive way to prevent and treat the disease: brewer’s yeast. It was not until 1937 that the cause was pin-pointed to deficiency of vitamin B3 (niacin). Sadly, both major forms of niacin—nicotinic acid and nicotinamide—were well-known in 1907 when epidemic pellagra was first recognized in the United States.



The story as commonly told slights the extent to which Americans, beginning in 1907, quickly established for the first time an English-language competence in pellagra, fleshed out the competing hypotheses, and set the stage for Goldberger. At the forefront was James Woods Babcock.

In December 1907, Babcock recognized a symptom complex consistent with pellagra at the State Hospital. He was unaware that Dr. George H. Searcy had made the same observation earlier that year at the State Hospital for the Colored Insane at Mount Vernon, Ala. In mid-1908 Babcock went abroad and verified that pellagra in the United States was “identical with the disease described as pellagra by the physicians and writers of Italy.” In October 1908, he convened on short notice a conference on pellagra at the Columbia asylum. This was the first conference on the disease to be held in an English-speaking country, and the resulting symposium issue of the *Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association* was likewise the first English-language compendium of articles on the subject. In November 1909, Babcock also convened the first National Conference on Pellagra at the Columbia asylum. Perhaps nothing of comparable national and indeed international significance had taken place in Columbia since William Tecumseh Sherman came through forty-four years earlier. The event was attended by 394 physicians and an untold number of laypersons; featured speakers or submitted papers from twelve states, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and six nations besides the U.S.; and shared local headlines with the first of fifty-one consecutive “Big Thursday” football games between the University of South Carolina and Clemson. The delegates resolved to form a National Association for the Study of Pellagra and elected Babcock president.

In pellagra Babcock found a cause célèbre, a welcome sublimation from the cares and conflicts of an asylum superintendent. He sounded the call for federal assistance, which the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service answered by assigning Dr. Claude Hervey Lavinder to work with Babcock. Lavinder, Babcock, and Dr. Charles Frederick Williams of the South Carolina State Board of Health publicized the extent to which pellagra posed a public health problem, mainly in the Southeast but also elsewhere. In 1910, Babcock and Lavinder brought out the first English-language monograph on pellagra. Doctors throughout the U.S. and especially in the Southeast took notice. Americans soon surpassed Italians in the number of papers published on pellagra, at least as catalogued in *Index Medicus*. Contemporaries hailed Babcock as the “founder of the movement.”

Babcock became a diligent student of the disease. He translated, or had translated for him, numerous papers from the European literature. For nearly two centuries the Europeans had associated pellagra with a monotonous diet based mainly on corn and had treated the disease with a variety of vegetables, grains, milk, cheese, eggs, and meat. In 1810, an Italian had proposed that corn might lack something necessary for good health—that pellagra might be a deficiency disease. Babcock and others recognized that pellagra—which especially affected inmates of asylums and orphanages, textile workers, and the rural poor—should be treated with a more generous diet. However, they were distracted by two late nineteenth-century hypotheses based on the germ theory. The first of these hypotheses was that pellagra was caused by corn that had been spoiled by one or another germ or fungus. The second hypothesis held that pellagra was a specific infectious disease transmitted by an insect. These hypotheses ultimately required massive expenditures of time, effort, and money to disprove.

The 1909 conference in Columbia was the first of three triennial meetings of the National Association of the Study of Pellagra, all of which took place at the South Carolina State Hospital for the Insane. Each of these conferences became a turning point in the eventual conquest of the disease. The 1909 conference called attention to the disease as a national problem, not just a Southern problem, and focused especially on the spoiled-corn hypothesis. The 1912 conference included the suggestion by Dr. Fleming Sandwith of London that pellagra might result from deficiency of an as yet-undiscovered “vitamine”—a term coined earlier that year by Dr. Casimir Funk. Some attendees bought into the insect-vector hypothesis proffered by a charismatic (but now-discredited) European, Dr. Louis Westerna Sambon, but most suspended judgment. The 1915 conference featured Goldberger’s breakthrough announcement. Tragically, the cooperation and goodwill that had characterized the pre-Goldberger era vaporized as many people, especially Southerners, refused to blame such a terrible disease on poverty and backwardness. It is perhaps unfortunate that Babcock left public life just as Goldberger began his heroic odyssey.



*In February 1914, Dr. Joseph Goldberger (1874–1929) became chief pellagra investigator for the U.S. Public Health Service. He quickly concluded that faulty diet was the likely cause. (Courtesy: National Library of Medicine)*

Goldberger’s 1914 conclusion that monotonous diet caused pellagra is often depicted as an “ah-ha” moment—a sudden, brilliant flash of insight. Goldberger, the story goes, was expected to identify the causative germ. He went south and, the story continues, observed at asylum after asylum, orphanage after orphanage, that inmates’ diets were monotonous and that none of the staff ever got pellagra. The answer was therefore in what people ate or did not eat, and the root cause was poverty. It is also stated, erroneously, that Goldberger had no previous experience with pellagra and knew nothing about it. In fact, in 1911, he and Dr. John F. Anderson of the Hygienic Laboratory in Washington, D.C. (now the National Institutes of Health) reported an unsuccessful attempt (one of many) to transmit pellagra from humans to rhesus monkeys. When Goldberger went south in 1914, there were many competing hypotheses on the cause of pellagra but the smart money was betting on just two: the infection hypothesis and the dietary-deficiency hypothesis. It is highly likely that Surgeon General Rupert Blue, who tapped Goldberger for the assignment, favored dietary-deficiency. There was ample reason to believe that pellagra was not an infectious disease.





In 1914, federal legislation—supported by Senator Benjamin Tillman probably at Babcock’s instigation—helped create a Pellagra Hospital in Spartanburg, S. C. (Courtesy: National Library of Medicine)

Much of Goldberger’s subsequent work was done in South Carolina. Studies in the upstate disproved a previous claim that pellagra among textile workers correlated with outdoor privies that attracted swarms of stable flies. The privies were merely surrogate markers of poverty, which doomed the workers and their families to rely on degerminated cornmeal. Studies in Columbia’s Epworth Orphanage confirmed that pellagra was entirely preventable by better diet. One of Goldberger’s best-known experiments, possibly his most famous, took place in April 1916 at the South Carolina State Hospital for the Insane. To obtain further evidence that pellagra was not infectious, he took skin scales, urine, and liquid feces from patients with pellagra. He added wheat flour, rolled the mixture into pill-sized pellets—and swallowed the pellets, feces and all. The only side-effect was a self-limited case of diarrhea. Despite Goldberger’s efforts, pellagra remained a significant problem in the Southeast for many years and surged again between 1925 and 1928, probably due to some combination of declining cotton prices and the boll weevil.



The rural poor often planted cotton right up to their front doors as shown in this photograph of a South Carolina sharecropper’s house. Replacement of vegetable gardens with cotton contributed to pellagra in the South. (Courtesy: South Caroliniana Library.)

Babcock spent his last years practicing medicine and teaching medical students at the Medical College in Charleston, where he was the first professor of psychiatry. Despite success in both endeavors, as one of his daughters reminisced, “Doctor Babcock

never concealed the fact that private practice brought him none of the satisfaction he had felt as a public servant.” He remained a diligent student of pellagra and psychiatry until shortly before his death in 1922 from complications of a heart attack. Newspapers and medical journals throughout the United States noted his passing. *The Boston Herald*, for example, observed that “such men as Dr. Babcock are an asset for the welfare of the race.” *The Revista Pellagologica Italiana* praised him as a “pioneer and humanitarian, whose fame will grow with time.” *The American Journal of Psychiatry* called him “the alienist of South Carolina,” “the man who identified pellagra in the United States,” and a “close observer and accurate diagnostician... [who was] the sympathetic friend and adviser of every physician with a difficult mental case through a large part of the Southland, and after a consultation, was quite apt to send a reprint covering the case... . Generous to a fault, public spirited, kind, the friend of every one in trouble, irrespective of race, color, creed, or position in society, a man whom other men loved.” *The Harvard Graduates Magazine* reported: “Few Harvard men in the South have attained greater distinction or done more useful work.” A patient wrote that he “was one of those great hearted and forward looking men who see the needs of those around them and delights in lending a helping hand and in working for the uplift of the community.”

During the 1910 legislative hearings a farmer-legislator called Babcock “one of the great men of South Carolina,” predicting “time will see a monument erected commemorating his goodness.” During those same hearings a Columbian wrote to the newspaper that while “the clergymen of this city are most excellent men... I believe Dr. Babcock has done more good for humanity than all of them together.” Governor Duncan Clinch Heyward called him “the most useful citizen of South Carolina.” Years later August Kohn, himself one of the great South Carolinians of that era, told his daughter that “Dr. Babcock was one of South Carolina’s truly great men, and if had been left to him [Kohn], the people of this state would have given him every honor they had to bestow.” Whether Babcock deserves remembrance as a great man is a matter of judgment, but in many ways he was clearly a great example of what a good man should be.

No monument has been erected to Babcock, but his legacy remains palpable. During his lifetime he donated an extensive collection of books and other materials pertaining to the state’s history to the University of South Carolina. He encouraged his close friend August Kohn to make book collecting a hobby and to specialize in Caroliniana, culminating in the recent acquisition of the Kohn-Hennig collection by the University. One of his daughters, Margaret Babcock Meriwether, placed an extensive collection of letters pertaining to Babcock and his times in the South Caroliniana Library, which was catalogued during the course of the present author’s research. In 1969, the Midlands Association for Retarded Children was renamed the Babcock Center in honor of James and Katherine Babcock and another of their daughters, Ferebe. The “Main Building” or “New Building” of the State Hospital was renamed the Babcock Building. It currently awaits renovation.

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# “EVERY GARDEN A VOLUME OF NATURE’S POETRY:”

*The Pomaria Nursery and the Summer Family Heritage*

BY

JAMES EVERETT KIBLER JR.



*“Rosa Parviflora,” offered for sale by the Pomaria Nursery; hand-colored lithograph by Pierre Joseph Redouté, 1821 (Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina)*

“EVERY GARDEN IS A VOLUME OF NATURE’S POETRY.”— JOHN P. BARRATT



*Pomaria Plantation House*

In 1752, King George III granted property west of the Broad River in what is now Newberry County in central South Carolina (where the Pomaria Nursery was to be founded) to Johannes Adam Sommer, an immigrant from Germany. By 1828, his grandson John Adam Summer III had Anglicized his name, established a plantation and constructed the house that stands there today. The Summer family was soon to play a significant role in the economic and cultural life of the state.

### Establishing the Pomaria Nursery

William Summer, a self-educated horticulturist, began grafting and selling apple trees and grape vines in the mid-1830s. In 1840, he and his brother Adam transformed the family’s estate into the first major nursery in the region. Along with their other siblings, Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Catherine, William and Adam expanded this business into a cluster of plantations, naming it the Pomaria Nursery (after pomus, the Latin word for “fruit”).

The Pomaria Nursery thrived for four decades, specializing in a wide variety of fruit trees and ornamental plants. Records of the nursery show that the Summer brothers’ business shipped plants to and received plants from France, Belgium and England, and that in the years from 1859 to 1861 they served customers in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and New York.

Pomaria Nursery was an immense operation where vast areas were devoted to such typical crops as corn, cotton, oats, turnips, sweet potatoes, and wheat. For example, wheat occupied more than one hundred fifty acres. At its peak, the Pomaria Nursery offered more than fifteen hundred varieties of fruit trees, including pears, apples, peaches, cherries, plums, nectarines, apricots, figs, pomegranates, different berries, and nuts. In the early 1860s, the Summer brothers advertised one hundred fifty varieties of apple trees “of rare excellence,” eight hundred varieties of pear, more than three hundred of peaches, one hundred of plums, seventy of cherries, fifteen of apricots and the same of nectarines. William Summer was an expert pomologist. He created thirty-three varieties of apples, nine of which became widely-known throughout the South. These varieties included Carolina Red June, Aromatic Carolina, Augustine, Epting’s Premium, Epting’s Red Winter, Lever, Maverick, Sweet, Cook’s Red Winter, Hoover, Hammond, Ferdinand, the Greening Pomaria, the Fixlin, Susannah, and Anderson. His famous pears included the Rev. Bachman and the Hebe, both of which were known internationally.

### WILLIAM SUMMER (1815-1878)



*William Summer (Collection of Tom and Beth Evers, Pomaria House Plantation)*

William Summer began learning such advanced horticultural techniques as plant grafting and seed selection at an early age from his father and from Jacob Epting, an elderly neighbor. Crippled as a boy, William required crutches all his life. For this reason, he was unable to attend college as his brothers did. Nevertheless, he reasoned that, despite his disability, he would try to be useful. He became well-read and took an early interest in collecting and studying plant life. By 1834, when he was only nineteen, William was selling trees, apples, and grape vines. In later years he wrote, “From the humblest cottage

enclosure to the most extensive pleasure grounds, nothing more conspicuously bespeaks the good taste of the possessor, than a well cultivated flower garden. ... Flowers are, of all embellishments, the most beautiful. ... The love of them commences with infancy, remains the delight of youth, increases with our years, and becomes the quiet amusement of our declining days.”

For William Summer Pomaria Nursery was an experiment station for fruit trees adapted to the South. He developed and introduced many varieties of apples, peaches and pears. Also active in agricultural societies, William was a gifted nature writer and the editor of several periodicals, including *Southern Agriculturalist* and *The Farmer and Planter*. Through these various endeavors he corresponded with some of the leading horticulturalists, botanists, and landscape designers of his time, including A.J. Downing, Lewis and Robert Gibbes, Joel Poinsett, John Bachman, John Drayton, and Henry William Ravenel.

Of his life with plants, William wrote that his vocation relieved what would have otherwise been an unbearably painful existence.

### HENRY SUMMER (1809-1869)



*Henry Summer (Collection of Tom and Beth Evers, Pomaria House Plantation)*

Henry Summer graduated from South Carolina College in 1827. His chief passion was book collecting, and his library included natural science, geology, anthropology, and horticulture texts purchased on yearly visits to bookstores in Boston, Charleston, and New York. Among his library’s chief treasures were John James Audubon’s *Birds of America* and John Bachman’s *Viviparous Quadrupeds*. Henry was a close friend of the naturalist, social activist, and Lutheran minister

John Bachman, who often visited Pomaria. As fellow Lutherans, in 1858, they were key founders of Newberry College for which Bachman served as the trustees’ first president and Henry the first secretary.

Henry also participated in agriculture societies as did his brothers William and Adam. As head of the Newberry Immigration Society, he provided work for Irish immigrants both at Pomaria and for the construction of the Columbia-Greenville Rail Road. Henry also became a respected lawyer and later served in the state legislature.





### ADAM SUMMER (1818-1866)

Known for his sense of humor and high style, Adam Summer's interest in botany began on nature walks while he was a student at St. John's Academy at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pomaria.

After spending two years at South Carolina College, Adam left to pursue interests in law, writing, publishing, farming, and animal breeding. From the 1840s to 1857, Adam ran his own plantation, Ravenscroft, located at Spring Hill near Pomaria. The enterprise included a saw mill, blacksmith

*Adam Summer (Collection of Tom and Beth Evers, Pomaria House Plantation)*

shop, and stock-breeding farm. He sold native plants there—live oak, hemlock, magnolias, coastal redwood, torrey, stewartia, native azaleas (“of all colors”), and watermelons (which he called “Pomaria” and “Ravenscroft”).

Adam was also a specialist in ornamental flowers and made a large contribution to this aspect of the Pomaria Nursery business. He was assisted at Ravenscroft by James Crammond, a Scotsman, whose specialties were roses and ornamental landscape.

Both Adam and William advocated planting the coastal native *Magnolia grandiflora* “at every home in the state.” The tree was not common in the Upcountry in the early 1850s, but in this decade it became the nursery's best-selling ornamental. Today the magnolia is thought of as a standard in central and Upcountry South Carolina. No doubt many of these old specimens originated at Pomaria. The same may be said for deodar cedar. Two deodars from Pomaria are among the national champion big trees.

Adam's wide-ranging interests led him to found state and national agricultural societies and to serve in the South Carolina legislature. He was also official state printer from 1846 to 1848. In addition, Adam edited four periodicals—the *Palmetto State Banner*, *South Carolinian* (the paper of legislative record), *Southern Agriculturist*, and *South Carolina Agriculturist*—during the 1840s and 1850s. His contemporaries considered him a versatile genius—a talented story and essay writer, editor, publisher, planter, lawyer, agricultural experimenter, horticulturist, nurseryman, stock breeder, traveler, bibliophile, and adventurer.

In 1857, Adam sold Ravenscroft to his brother William and moved to Ocala, Fla., to breed cattle and grow cotton. Calling his new plantation Enterprise, Adam continued in agriculture until he volunteered for service with the Confederacy. Just prior to his death in 1866, he was planning to breed cattle in the Amazon region of South America which he called “the garden spot of the world.”

### THOMAS JEFFERSON SUMMER (1826-1852)

After a year as a cadet at West Point, Thomas Jefferson Summer rejected military life for the study of agriculture or, as he wrote, “the noblest of all professions.” The youngest of the Summer family siblings, Thomas travelled to Germany to study agricultural chemistry—a newly-established field—at Geissen University. He studied with the pioneer in this field, Justus Liebig, and his chemical analysis of the cotton plant under Liebig's direction was published and widely distributed in 1848. Thomas also contributed essays to his brother Adam's newspaper, *South Carolinian*.



*Thomas Jefferson Summer (Collection of James E. Kibler, Ballylee Nature Conservancy)*

After returning from Germany, Thomas bought 155 acres of depleted soil and set about his life's work of soil restoration, experimenting for four years with different cover crops to manage soil fertility, various manures to enrich the land and crop rotation. For this endeavor, he won medals from the South Carolina Institute.

Thomas died at the early age of twenty-five—“a modest young gentleman of character and untiring industry.” Adam Summer took up his brother's labor and worked tirelessly in tribute to his memory. Adam had written that he wished Thomas would one day occupy a professorship in agricultural chemistry at South Carolina College, but this was not to be.

### CATHERINE SUMMER (1823-1906)



*Catherine Summer (Collection of Tom and Beth Evers, Pomaria House Plantation)*

As was the case with most women on Upcountry plantations, Catherine Summer managed the house affairs at Pomaria Nursery. She also oversaw the poultry yard. “Miss Katie,” as the neighbors called her, raised a large number of different breed of fowl—Dorkings, Plymouth Rocks, Polish Top Knots, bronze turkeys, wild turkeys, rare bantams, Hong Kong geese, guinea fowl, peacocks, Dauphin, White Spanish, Hamburg, Red Shanghai, and Sumatra fowl, as well as White Aylsbury,

and Black Java ducks. Perhaps her most unusual animals were “ostrich fowl” and some prize Mexican gamecocks she received as a gift from United States Congressman and Minister to Mexico, Waddy Thompson Jr. Thompson had received the gamecocks from the President of Mexico, Santa Anna.

Catherine was also in charge of the large kitchen and herb garden, where she experimented with Pomaria Nursery's many unusual vegetables. At the Newberry and State Agricultural Fairs, she won prizes for her fowl, catsup, blackberry wine, canned delicacies, dried apples, homemade fans, sewing silk, and other entries. She also made quilts and superintended the plantation's flower garden. According to records, the garden had peonies, roman hyacinths, lilies, gardenias, dahlias, and chrysanthemums. There was also a rustic summer house covered with woodbine, roses, and yellow jessamine, which the children used as a playhouse.

Catherine's favorite plant was the tea olive, the dried blossoms of which she used to add fragrance to her tea.

Family accounts say that, as Catherine was the youngest of the children and a girl in a house full of boys, her brothers spoiled her. Extant books, with hand-colored illustrations, presented to her by her brothers support this claim.



*Order ledger, Pomaria Nurseries, 1858-1859  
(Collection of Tom and Beth Evers, Pomaria  
House Plantation)*



*Descriptive Catalogue from  
the Pomaria Nurseries, 1872  
(Summer Family Papers, South  
Caroliniana Library)*



*Letters from William Summer and a ledger  
from Ravenscroft Mills (Summer Family  
Papers, South Caroliniana Library)*

The plantation also sold more than a thousand ornamentals grown mostly at Adam's plantation at Ravenscroft. From 1852 to 1857, Adam shifted the nursery's emphasis toward ornamentals, making roses one of the foremost products—even creating a separate catalog just for them. Included in the listings were repeat-blooming roses and Bourbons, damask perpetuals, hybrid perpetuals, teas, Chinas, Noisettes, and the popular Lady Banks' rose. In 1854, the nursery offered more than three hundred varieties of Southern-acclimated roses for sale.

### **The Work Force**

A vast enterprise like the Pomaria Nursery, with its huge crop and plant production, would not have been possible without a large work force. Included among these workers over time were both free and enslaved blacks, such neighboring white families as the Chapmans and the Perrys, and newly-arrived Irish immigrants. One aspect of the Pomaria Nursery's business in particular, the field testing of plants using new horticultural techniques, required detailed work on a very large scale.

According to Summer family records, eighty-six free and enslaved blacks worked on the Pomaria Plantation and Nursery between 1809 and 1901, performing a variety of jobs including wagoner, blacksmith, carpenter, stableman, groom, washer woman, housemaid, nursemaid, carriage driver, cook, and house servant. The Irish immigrants worked at the nursery transplanting trees.

### **Sustainable Farming, Agricultural Societies and Nursery as Research Station**

The Summer brothers all brought distinct skills to the nursery. They focused on research fields that complemented one another and contributed to advancing the business. William concentrated on developing fruit trees. He field-tested varieties from all over the world in the hot southern climate. Adam worked with ornamentals, particularly roses, and he also raised livestock. Henry farmed on land near his brother Adam's plantation and helped with the nursery. Thomas experimented with soil, updating new studies in chemistry to the challenges of fertilization, especially the newly-

found benefits of nitrogen and cover crops.

The brothers also promoted such sustainable farming techniques as succession-planting to build soil, changing (or diversifying) their crops from year to year, using fruit and root vegetables to feed their livestock in winter, and stabling livestock to generate manure for fertilizer. They applied natural compounds—wood ash, lime shells, bones, guano, dung, and urine—to their soils. To combat weevil infestations, they released chickens into the fields.

These innovations were based on the brothers' experimentation, their insistence on the application of scientific principles, and their commitment to sharing knowledge with the broader planting community. They did so through the editing of three agricultural journals and through their work in agricultural societies.

As founders of the National Agricultural Society, American Pomological Society, Southern Central Agricultural Society, Agricultural Society of the Planting States, and the reorganized South Carolina State Agricultural Society, the brothers were close associates of agriculturists and horticulturists throughout the country and abroad. These included Louis Van Houtte of Belgium, A.J. Duinning, B.F. Johnson, and J.S. Skinner of New York, Jarvis Van Buren of Georgia, William Brinkle of Philadelphia, Jared Kirkland of Cleveland, and M.W. Phillips of Natchez. Among their South Carolina friends were Joel Poinsett, R.F.B. Allston of Chicora Wood, the Wade Hamptons, Waddy Thompson Jr. (Minister to Mexico), James Henry Hammond, Henry William Ravenel, James B. Davis, John Perkins Barratt, Robert and Lewis Gibbes, and the Reverend John Drayton of Magnolia. Poinsett was William's early friend and mentor who taught him methods of plant propagation. Until his death in 1851, Poinsett sent Pomaria seeds and plants from his extensive travels in Mexico, South America, and the Orient. (Poinsett's most widely-known discovery was America's universally-popular Christmas plant, the Poinsettia.)

Thus, the Summer brothers turned the Pomaria Nursery into an agricultural research station long before universities and other formal experimentation stations were established.



## A Green House Department in Columbia

Building on the success of the family's enterprise, William Summer announced the opening of a new branch of his nursery in Columbia in April 1861. It was located on Elmwood Avenue next to the State Agricultural Society Fair Grounds and Elmwood Cemetery. It featured a "range of glass houses" that measured 22 by 200 feet. As William wrote, these provided "an extensive Green House department with everything new and desirable from Europe," and it offered "all the choicest and rarest Exotics." William had appointed William Bergholz, a European specialist in ornamentals, as his "agent" to run the new business. He replaced Pomaria's first European gardener, James Crammond, a Scot.

At the front of the nursery, along the street, were thirty additional acres of park and arboretum. This was laid out "in the Natural, or Modern English Landscape Style: containing the rarest and finest Conifers & other Ornamental Evergreens, Deciduous Trees, & Flowering Shrubs, Roses, Herbaceous Plants, etc." Indicating his international ties, William Summer enlisted Louis Van Houtte, a Belgian horticulturalist, and purchased plants from European nurseries.

## Disaster in 1865

In 1865, Pomaria Nursery was severely damaged by Union troops and both Henry Summer's house and Ravenscroft were completely destroyed as were the glass houses of Pomaria's Columbia branch. William reported extensive losses in Columbia and he declared bankruptcy in 1868.

## The Road to Rediscovery: Pomaria's Living Legacy

An adjustment to American horticultural history is currently taking place. The story of the Pomaria Nursery and the important work of its founders is coming to light after a century-and-a-half of obscurity.

The remarkable story of Pomaria and its founders could not be told without the collection of materials at the South Caroliniana Library. This archive contains the largest extant collection of

Pomaria Nursery catalogues dating from 1852 to 1878 (several of which are the only copies known), and the only known copy of Summer and Crammond's rose list broadside of 1852. The archive has two of the four remaining Pomaria Nursery order ledgers, including the ledger for Pomaria's Columbia branch from 1859 to 1862.

The South Caroliniana Library houses a collection of eighteen long letters of William Summer to Gilbert Fike (1843-1867). They are key documents in recording the ups and downs of the nursery, as well as the story of the operations and innovative techniques used at Pomaria. The Library collection also has other Summer brothers correspondence, including letters of the Reverend John Bachman to them.

## Essays for Yesterday and Today

One of the most important sources for Pomaria study is the Library's collection of the periodicals Adam and William edited from 1846 to 1861. These include the *Southern Agriculturist*, the *South Carolina Agriculturist*, and *The Farmer and Planter*. In their pages is a detailed history of South Carolina's innovative agricultural scene as well as specific essays on orchards, vegetable gardening, landscape gardening, roses, dahlias, newly-imported plants, and ornamental trees and shrubs.

The quality of their essays is high. The subject matter of most is not dated. In fact, with the sustainability, locavore, and small farms movements gaining increasing popularity today, the essays sound current. They are in turn remarkably wise, practical, philosophical, common-sensical, humorous, charming, poetic, eloquent, gritty, down-to-earth, and always entertaining. Both men had engaging writing styles. Adam's tended more to the dramatic and poetic; William's to the quiet and reflective. As editors, they had learned to gain and keep the attention of readers. They were mindful of being readable, interesting, and informative. A few of the best of their essays measure up to the high standards set by the best of the English Romantic personal essayists Charles Lamb and Thomas DeQuincey, whom the Summer brothers read, collected and admired.



William Summer's desk and Thomas Jefferson Summer's chair  
(Collection of Tom and Beth Evers, Pomaria House Plantation)



Irish Chain Quilt, attributed to Catherine Summer (Collection of  
James E. Kibler, Ballylee Nature Conservancy)

## Correcting Horticultural History

Perhaps the most significant rewriting of horticultural history will be in the difficult area of dating plant introductions. Records document certain of Pomaria's ornamentals (including Japanese cryptomeria and Chinese funebral cypress) as being planted a decade or more before their accepted introductions to the United States listed in standard plant histories. This new information will significantly alter researchers' conception of the American antebellum landscape. It will also correct a number of errors, misinformation now becoming embedded by constant repeating. For one recent example, *Augusta Magazine* of April 2014 had a lead article entitled "Fruitland Nurseries: The Birthplace of the Southern Landscape," which extols what it calls "the first large scale horticultural venture in the Southeast," despite Fruitland's stated founding date as 1853-1859, more than a decade after Pomaria's. Potentially even more serious is the claim that Augusta National Golf Course (which took over the nursery site) has the first planting of Chinese wisteria in America. Chinese wisteria was being sold across South Carolina before the opening of Fruitland, as proved by the Pomaria documents. Augusta National's claim to be the location of the first introduction of the Spanish cork oak is equally spurious. Pomaria listed it for sale in the catalogue of 1852.

As for the South Caroliniana Library archive, I am aware of no similar extensive antebellum horticultural collection in America.

Order ledgers, letters, and catalogues alone would make it a formidable archive that would put the Library on the horticultural map. My own work on Pomaria, intermittent now for thirty years, would not have been possible without the South Caroliniana collection. Now that Pomaria's importance is being realized and the details of the Summer brothers' lives are being recorded, perhaps other supporting items will come to light. The South Caroliniana collection will no doubt grow.

## "Taking Root: The History of the Summer Brothers and Pomaria Nursery"

"Taking Root: The History of the Summer Brothers and Pomaria Nursery," the McKissick Museum exhibit of June-September 2014 was the second on the subject and the first in South Carolina. It has generated much interest. One notable result is the founding of the Pomaria Society. The goal of this society is to carry on the agricultural and horticultural excellence of William and Adam Summer. The McKissick exhibit laid the foundation for forming the Society.

Most of the materials in the exhibit were brought together from across the University of South Carolina campus. These included William Henry Ravenel's nineteenth-century herbarium (USCH) specimens housed at the A.C. Moore Herbarium as well as Audubon, Pierre Redoute and other botanicals from the Thomas Cooper Library. The incomparable collection at the

"Anderson Apple," described by William Summer as originating in Pomaria; watercolor and pencil on paper by Jarvis Van Buren, ca. 1850 (James C. Bonner Collection, Georgia College, Milledgeville, Ga.)



"Camellia Imbricata Alba" listed in the 1860-61 Pomaria catalogue; hand-colored engraving by Pierre Joseph Redouté, 1843 (Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina)





The native *Stewartia*, was listed in the Pomaria catalogue of 1852-1853 as *Stuartia Marylandica*, a more historically accurate spelling because the plant was named for John Stuart, patron of English horticulture. This herbarium specimen was collected by Henry William Ravenel and is preserved at the A.C. Moore Herbarium (USCH) at the University of South Carolina.



Untitled (*Cotswold Sheep*), an oil on canvas painted by Eliza Kirby in about 1855, hung at Pomaria plantation. (Collection of James E. Kibler, Ballylee Nature Conservancy)

South Caroliniana Library, however, supplied the archival heart of the exhibit. As exhibit co-curator, I have been able to deposit exhibit plans, correspondence, early unabridged drafts of panels, uncut biographies and unabridged supporting materials at the Caroliniana for use by future scholars.

The plant possibilities for the Southern garden were made much richer and more sophisticated owing to Pomaria. As a result of reclaiming the knowledge of what it contributed, the period of antebellum agricultural and garden history in the South is likely to become so as well.

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#### Online Resources:

South Caroliniana Library ([library.sc.edu/socar](http://library.sc.edu/socar))

Champion Trees of South Carolina ([www.clemson.edu/public/champtree](http://www.clemson.edu/public/champtree))

A.C. Moore Herbarium ([herbarium.ciol.sc.edu](http://herbarium.ciol.sc.edu))

Southern Garden History ([www.southerngradenhistory.org](http://www.southerngradenhistory.org))

—James Everett Kibler Jr., a native of Prosperity, S.C., is a scholar, teacher, and an author of poetry, novels, and numerous other works. Dr. Kibler received his doctorate from the University of South Carolina and was for many years a professor of English at the University of Georgia. An avid preservationist, much of his spare time has been spent tending to the restoration of an upstate plantation home and the reforestation of the surrounding acreage. This property, originally the Hardy family plantation, served as the subject of Dr. Kibler's book *Our Fathers' Fields: A Southern Story*, for which he was awarded the prestigious Fellowship of Southern Writers Award for Nonfiction in 1999 and the Southern Heritage Society's Award for Literary Achievement. Dr. Kibler enjoys gardening, organic farming, and research into Southern history and culture. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Southern Garden History Society, the League of the South, and the William Gilmore Simms Society. He is listed in *Contemporary Writers*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the World*.

# “...The Richest and Most Valuable in the South...”

BY  
HENRY G. FULMER AND LYNN ROBERTSON

“The collections at South Caroliniana are among the richest and most valuable in the South, and, indeed, in the nation as a whole. From Nullification to civil rights, South Carolina has played a role in national history disproportionate to its size and population, and it has thus attracted considerable scholarly attention. In my own field of nineteenth-century southern history, it has been the subject of some of the most important work of the past generation. Because its history includes a rich variety of ethnic groups—Native American, African American, Euro American—it also offers an important window into the larger variety of American cultural and social life.”

—*Drew Gilpin Faust, American historian, President of Harvard University*

It is a dreary Sunday afternoon, February 26, 1865, and a refined, intellectually astute middle-aged woman sits writing at a rosewood lap desk. Outside the rain has been falling for what seems like endless days. The grey atmosphere of her surroundings matches the deep gloom of her spirit. She is far from home, living first in an unfamiliar hotel, then in rented rooms, and facing what seems like the end of her life, her hopes, and her dreams of the future. One of the few outlets that allows her to try and make any sense of what is happening to her is her diary.

“Mrs. Munro sent me overshoes and an umbrella with the message ‘Come over’—and I went. As well drown in the streets as hang myself at home to my bedpost. Oh, this dismal lonely hole!”

So wrote Mary Boykin Chesnut, an exile in Lincolnton, N.C., trying to escape the violence of the last days of the Civil War. On that day she not only confronts her own deep personal crisis but also muses on politics, weather, the importance of friends and relations, and the possibility of looming hunger due to what will soon be worthless paper money. She is sure that it is only logical that France and England will look at history and recognize the threat that the Union will pose to them and step in to save the faltering Confederacy. But at the same time she questions her own wisdom in supporting Confederate martyrs.

## A “Meaning-making Species”

Like Mary Chesnut, all human beings are driven to make sense of things, from their physical and social environments to their inner

lives. Humans are a “meaning-making” species, and much of what they draw upon to make that meaning comprises not only their own experiences but also the thoughts and narratives conveyed by other humans.

From the early colonial period, Americans have understood the importance of recording and conveying their thoughts and experiences. They wrote about their experiences formally in novels, speeches, memoirs, and essays. In a more private realm, they recorded their thoughts in dairies, letters, and wills. Some of their stories are rendered without their conscious intervention and are only teased out from censuses, maps, business ledgers,

court documents, and tax rolls. All of these priceless bits of paper are our predecessors’ gifts to us. They help us to understand the by-gone world and, maybe more importantly, our own.

## Repositories of Thoughts and Stories

Archives and libraries are the important repositories of human thoughts and stories. They preserve some of the most important resources for understanding the human experience in its political, religious, personal, and economic contexts.

The original documents and other primary resources housed at the South Caroliniana Library are essential to this process of making sense of the history and culture of the state. The past, through its physical presence in these paper remnants,

is always relevant to present-day lives. These collections help answer questions, inform views, and guide the way to new thinking about the present and the past. While the Library’s collections are rich in “official” documents, from census and probate records to maps, the real heart of the Caroliniana’s collections resides in materials which convey the private voice of the many individuals whose thoughts and observations are preserved in their own words.

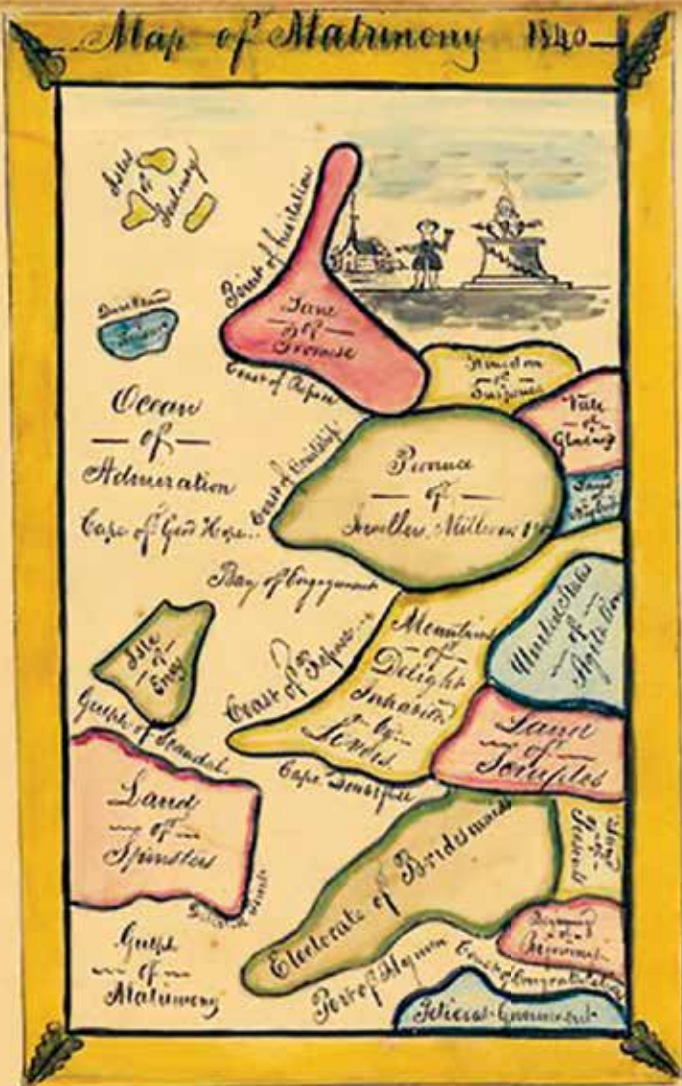
## “This Little Triangle on the Map”

The Library’s materials are important not only for revealing the humanity of their authors. They also provide a way to understand South Carolina’s history from the granting of “Carolana” to Sir Robert Heath by Charles I of England in 1629, through the Civil War and Reconstruction, and on to the Civil Rights Movement and the present. In addition, they demonstrate that the collective



*In about 1843, Matthew Brady began making cases for daguerreotypes, jewelry, and miniatures in New York City. There are fewer than ten known cases made by Brady. This case is embossed “M.B. Brady/Case Maker, N.Y.”*





“Map of Matrimony” created by William Marshall Young, Esqr. in 1840 demonstrates the artist’s fanciful imagination and possibly some wry personal observations as he depicts such geographical features as “Ocean of Admiration, Kingdom of Suspense, Cape of Good Hope, Land of Promise, Coast of Repose, Electorate of Bridesmaids, Coast of Congratulations, Bay of Engagement, Coast of Refuse..., Mountains of Delight Inhabited by Lovers, United States of Agitation, Province of Jewellers, Milliners, etc., Isles of Jealousy, Quicksand of Sensure, Point of Hesitation, Gulf of Scandal, Land of Spinsters, Cape Doubtfull, and Bay of Gladness.”

A figure (which may be assumed to be a self-portrait of the artist) is posed between a church and a monument topped by two hearts pierced by a single arrow.

William  
Marshall  
Young  
Esq.

individual endeavors that make up the story of South Carolina have had an immeasurable impact on the history of the entire country. Indeed, the notable African-American educator and poet Benjamin Brawley has said, “This little triangle on the map known as South Carolina represents a portion of our country whose influence has been incalculable.”

At the early end of the historical spectrum is correspondence from Louis Thibou, a Huguenot settler in Carolina. In a 1683 letter, the earliest among the Caroliniana collections, he writes to persuade other Huguenots, persecuted in France, to seek a haven in a bountiful and safe Carolina. His effusive descriptions of the landscape, wild animals, crops, and life styles are exaggerated in order to ameliorate any fears held by his intended audience. In his letter, Thibou writes, “...I shall give you details about this country and its mode of life, and first of all I shall describe to you that it is a wooded country with lovely savannahs or plains crossed by fine rivers very full of fish in which every one who likes can fish and with enough oysters to feed a kingdom. ...It is a fine climate very temperate and very healthy, where one feels very fit. ...Any man... can live very happily and that is something a man can have in this country at small outlay. ...As for the rattle-snake, of which there has been so much talk in England, you can easily kill it for it does not move more than a tuft of grass; a child could kill one with a switch. ...all that has been said of this kind of animal is just a lot of fairy-tales. ...I believe there are lots of French in England who have taken refuge there on account of the persecutions. If they want to live in peace they need merely to come to this country.”

Personal letters, their content entrusted to their recipients, were immensely influential in enticing immigrants to undertake

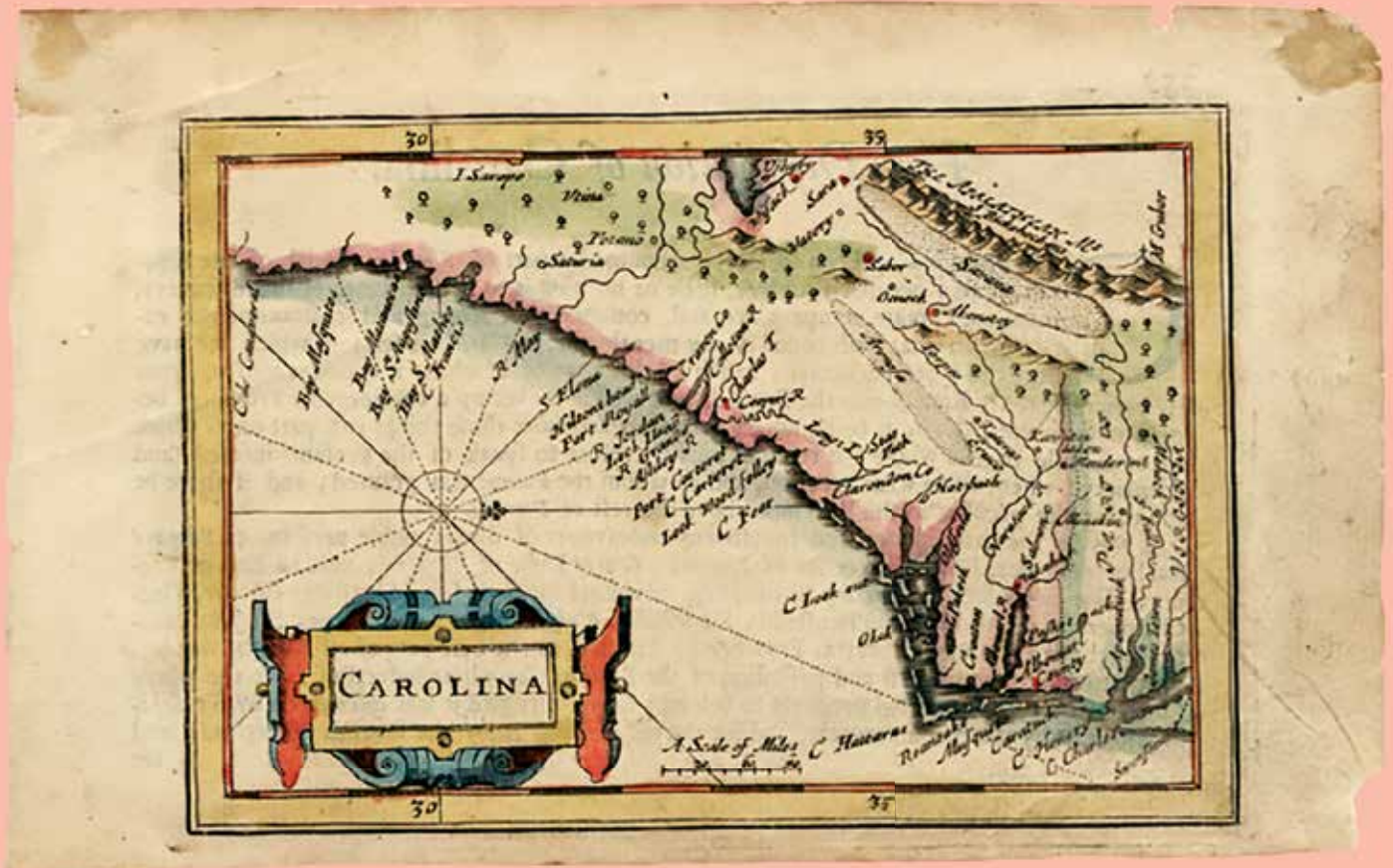
the arduous journey and take up a new life in the colony. In his postscript, Thibou states, “...the country is becoming a great traffic center. ...I have no doubt that a number of others will follow shortly, people arrive every day from all parts to inhabit this country. That will make Carolina powerful and flourishing in a very short time.” This letter shows that the emergence of the distinctively American boosterism that also characterized the move westward in the nineteenth century and the belief in a “New South” in the twentieth had an early start in Carolina.

### “Under a Terrible Sun”

The Civil War still remains an unequalled tragedy in our past and an event of ongoing interest and contested interpretation. While often presented in terms of military maneuvers or political decisions, its full impact and meaning are best understood through the lives of those who directly experienced the event, including those left at home. These thoughts and descriptions reveal that in neither the North nor the South was there an overwhelmingly uniform point of view on the events of the day.

In a letter written by William Sidney Mullins to Edgar Welles Charles on August 6, 1861, Mullins describes in detail the activities of the Eighth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, during the battle of First Manassas and relays his own opinions of the event and its outcomes. Describing the entry of the Regiment, of which he was adjutant, into the battle, Mullins records that they “...immediately started under a terrible sun to the battlefield at the double quick: it was a terrible thing to run four miles at midday. ... as we started...our drums beat: this informed the enemy exactly

“Carolina” was published in Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World in London in 1675. The cartographer was John Speed (1552?-1629) and the printer was William Garrett (died 1674 or 1675).









*Shown in about 1875 are students and faculty of the State Normal School where public school teachers were trained. This image documents the first time African-American women were allowed to attend classes on the campus of the University of South Carolina, although they were not enrolled in the University itself.*

### “Situations Not of Their Own Making”

Just as is true of today’s current events, history does not speak with one human voice. While the letters of both Mullins and Palmer convey their deep-felt responses to an environment and events imposed upon them, and over which they had no control, we are challenged to think of the countless enslaved Africans whose entire lives were dictated by situations not of their own making. Because of the many restraints placed on their literacy, few records remain to give any sense of their voice. The papers that survive carry with them an added poignancy.

In 1862, a fugitive slave named Philip managed to send a letter to his owner appealing for clemency. “I am very sorry to inform you of this but duty bound me to tell you that I have left Mr Smalls,” Philip begins. He then weaves together a narrative of abuse at the hands of the Charleston baker to whom he has been hired out when he writes, “...on last thursday evening one of his workmen forgot to make some particular bread for one of his customers I was serving the man at the time and after the bread wasnt made I thought it was no use to stay so therefore I did not the man came to him in the morning and ask him why did he not send the bread he then ask me why and I told him why and he then struck me in the face I then told him it was not my fault he took a tremendous large cowhide and cut me all about the face I wrote you this to tell you that I dont calculate to stay with him any longer I would willingly stay any wheres else and I wish you would come down and see him yourself before I go any wheres else I would have come to you my self but my face is so bad I would not go out any wheres....”

### After the War

The war years finally ended but the personal challenges individuals faced in negotiating a new world that promised both more and less freedom come through clearly in their letters and diaries. In the collection is a letter written to Governor Wade Hampton, who had just come to office in violently contested, and certainly corrupt, balloting. It comes from Benjamin Babbitt,

a former faculty member at South Carolina College, who asks permission to use temporarily vacant rooms at the closed college for opening a day school for local “boys and girls.” He deferentially puts his case before the conservative Democrat and former Confederate officer, saying, “My chief aim in this is to gather in those whom the recent changes have scattered and to show them that there is no intention to deprive them of their educational privileges especially those of a higher order. I believe that such a course as this, on your part, would have a very marked tendency to quiet the minds of the colored people and to silence the enemies of Peace. I desire to open the school by the first of September at the farthest and would in every way conform to any regulations which you may make.”

Babbitt clearly shows his hesitancy and lack of comfort with the new power structure as he closes his letter, “...I have no desire to embarrass you by this request. ...I desire that all things may be as if I had not made the request, if the granting of it will embarrass you.”

### The “New South”

It is not surprising that it took some years for the state to come to a point where it could once again look toward attracting new residents. By the twentieth century, railroads and textiles began to bring a little prosperity, and the term “New South” was used by this new wave of boosters to promote civic and business investment. As in Thibou’s earlier letter, a flyer from the Columbia Board of Trade issued by N.G. Gonzales depicts the city as a place of natural bounty and personal advancement for all who may come. “Columbia is a place of...unsurpassed healthfulness; provided with every appliance of modern civilization for its population of 15,000. Columbia challenges the attention of all seekers of homes and investments.” One can sense the writer’s willed optimism toward a new beginning. “There is room, however, for its infinite expansion, and pleasure and profit for those who will join its people in making it a great city. Come to Columbia!”





His Excellency JOHN Lord GRANVILLE

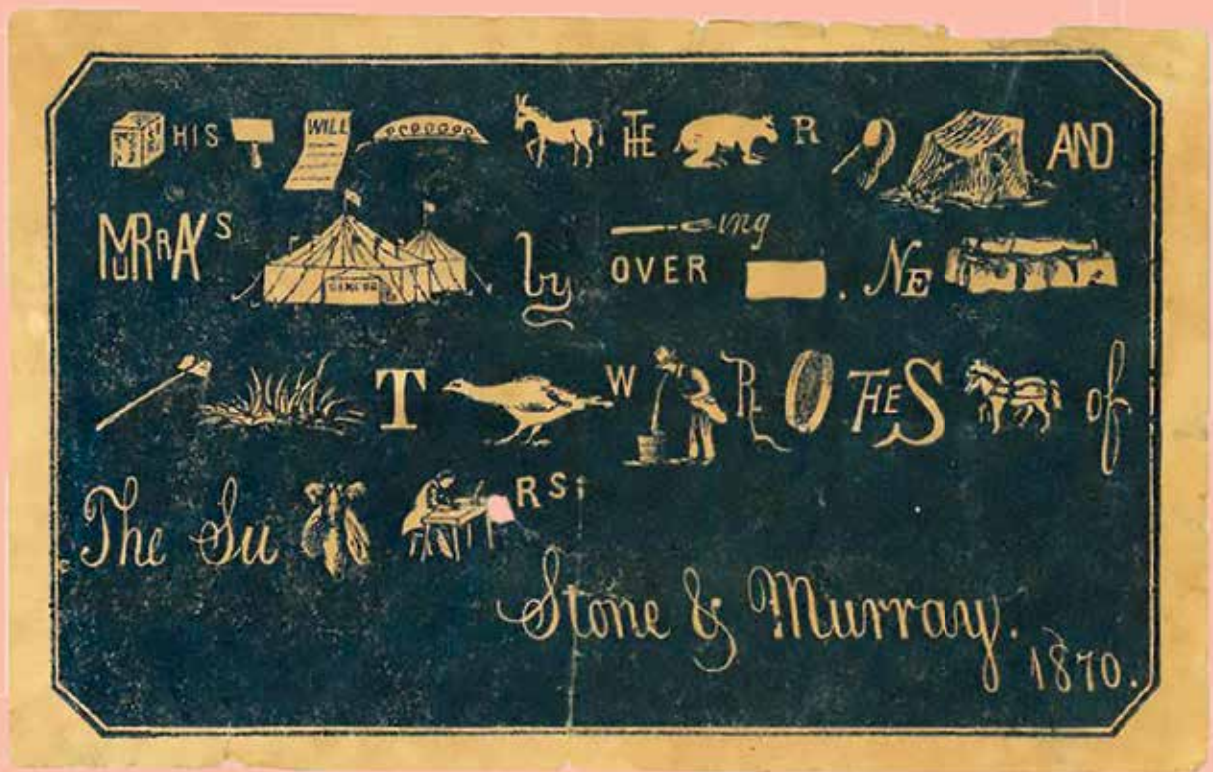
Palatine, The Right Hon.<sup>ble</sup> WILLIAM Lord Craven, The Right Hon.<sup>ble</sup> John Lord Carteret, the Right Hon.<sup>ble</sup> Maurice Ashley Esq.<sup>r</sup>, the Right Hon.<sup>ble</sup> Sir John Colleton Baronet, and the rest of the true and absolute Lords Proprietors of the Province of Carolina. To Laurence Crompt Esq.<sup>r</sup> of York, Heretofore of Arms, Greeting W<sup>ILL</sup>E<sup>L</sup>E<sup>M</sup> R<sup>E</sup>A<sup>S</sup> our late Sovereign Lord Charles the second King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland and the Dominion therunto belonging, of his special Grace and Favour did give and grant unto Edward Earl of Clarendon, George Duke of Albemarle, William Earl of Craven, John Lord Berkeley, Anthony Lord Ashley, Sir George Carteret, Sir John Colleton Kn<sup>t</sup> and Sir and Sir William Berkeley Kn<sup>t</sup>, our Predecessors and to their Heirs and Successors for ever, together with the Province of Carolina, Power, State, Dignities and Honours, there to be held and set up as of men well deserving the same Degrees to bear, and with such Titles to be Honour'd and Adorn'd, And M<sup>AN</sup>NERS by our form of Government It was by our said Predecessors Established and Constituted, and is by us and our Heirs and Successors for ever to be observed, That there be a certain Number of Landgraves and Cassiques who may be and are the perpetual and Hereditary Nobles and Best of our said Province of Carolina, and to the End that due Rank and Order of Honour may be Established and Settled in our said Province. Well knowing the said John Lord Granville Palatine and the rest of the Lord Proprietors of the said Province Carolina being well Satisfied of the great Integrity Skill and Liberty of you the said Laurence Crompt, Do hereby make, constitute and appoint, and hereby have made, constituted and appointed you the said Laurence Crompt to be President of our Court, Honor and principal Herald of our whole Province of Carolina, by the Name of Carolina Herald, To hold the same during the Term of your Natural Life with such Fees, Perquisites and Profitts as shall be approved on and Settled by us, and as perpetual Monument of our Favour towards our Landgraves and Cassiques and their Merits, We do hereby authorize, Impower and direct you the said Laurence Crompt Carolina Herald, to devise, give, grant and assign to the said Landgraves and Cassiques of our S<sup>aid</sup> Province upon the Face of the Sun in its GLORY such Arms and Crests as you shall think most proper, Upon the Edge here of the said Arms a Landgraves & Cassiques Cap of Honor, which said Badges or Distinctions of Honor they are not to make We will assign'd by you, and to invest our said Landgraves & Cassiques that are already made & to be made, in Robes of Scarlet Interlaced with Gold, to be by them worn on all great Solemn Occasions, Falco to invest them with a Purple Ribbon or Gold Chain, with the Sun in its Glory Pendant at the same, with this Motto about the Face of the said Sun *WIDESTRORDEUS H. ANE. LUCEM ESSE BEVAM*, which said Gold Chain and Purple Ribbon when We Injoyne and require them also to appear with Draughts of all which are deposited in the Margin here of. We do hereby grant & confirm to the said Landgraves & Cassiques of our said Province and their Heirs for ever all the above mentioned Honorable Distinctions of Nobility, and We do hereby further direct, grant & impower you under your hand Seal to devise, give, grant and assign upon the Face of the Sun in its GLORY such Arms & Crests as you shall think most fit & proper to all such Inhabitants of our said Province, that to you shall appear deserving the same as an everlasting Monument to their Posterity of their Birth & Descent from our S<sup>aid</sup> Province of Carolina, and We likewise impower you to hold a Court of Honor & to sit & have to appear before you all such Penmen, Demons, as shall presume to use any Coat of Arms that they can make out their own Device to deface the same where necessary or to buy & make publick Proclamations thereof, and also we require, that all the Inhabitants aforesaid duly observe the Rules & Orders of your said Court, and you are also hereby obliged to keep a Register of all such Arms, Crests or Alterations & Assignments of Arms as shall by you be granted or assigned to any persons Inhabitants of our said Province, and you are to regulate all Publick & Private Proceedings & Meetings shall singular the premises aforesaid, We do hereby Impower you by your self or your sufficient Deputy or Deputies to perform, execute, & to do & perform all singular other Inmatters & Things that shall occur which to your Office shall belong or appertaine. Given under our Hand the great Seal of our Province June 1705

Drawn from the Original in the custody of Peter de la Roche Esq.<sup>r</sup> Secretary General in the custody of Mr. Higgins of the Clerk's Office at the City of New-Lancaster

Signed by Granville Palatine Craven Granville for Carteret M. Ashley Colleton

"The Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina," drawn up by John Locke in 1669, provided for hereditary nobility consisting of one landgrave and two cassiques from each of the colony's 25 provinces. The "Grand Model of Government" stipulated that the dignity of the proprietors, landgraves, and cassiques be supported by grants of large estates. In order to furnish these nobles with the outward and visible signs of their status, the Lords Proprietors in 1705 appointed Laurence Crompt, Esq., of Worcester to the position of Carolina Herald, with power to grant arms to the landgraves and cassiques.





*This rebus advertisement promotes the appearance in Charleston, S.C. of the Stone & Murray Circus in December of 1870. Its cryptic message is expressed using pictures and letters. A rough translation is: "This card will point the bearer to Stone and Murray's Circus by forking over money. Anybody who shows up then will receive the esteem of the Subscribers." (Editor's Note: Maybe folks were smarter in the nineteenth century.)*

## World War II and a Broader World

A deeper understanding of international events also emerges from the holdings of the South Caroliniana Library. A number of letters and documents address various experiences of the Second World War. The POW logbook of Columbia resident Samuel Eugene Lawrence Jr. reveals the experiences of this airman who was shot down over Africa in 1942 and held as a prisoner of war for two and a half years. Among the many intriguing things recorded in Lawrence's wartime log are his list of "Books I'd Like to Have for My Library" and a "Record of a four-way cooperative by persons in four sections of the country to procure best foods" set up by Lawrence "in accordance with my policy of never having to go hungry again." The logbook also contains cartoon drawings executed in colored pencil and the names of participants in a "rotating pool made up of twenty five individuals, each betting one hundred dollars, to continue until cessation of hostilities of war between Allied powers & Germany." The winner was to be determined "by the person holding the date of the effective signing of the armistice." Ultimately, General George S. Patton's Fourth Armored Division liberated the POWs, including Lawrence, in 1945.

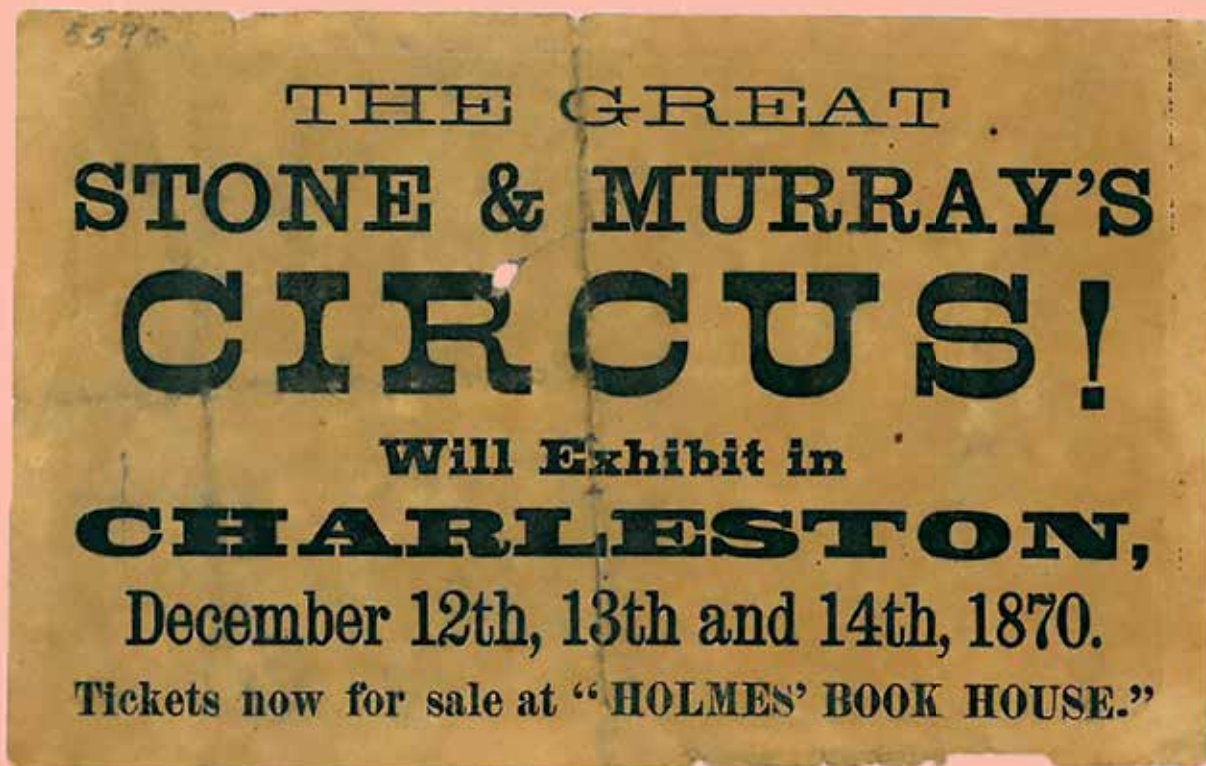


*The Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine is shown with his family beside the burned-out remains of their home in Summerton, S.C. DeLaine had been threatened because of his actions in support of school integration in South Carolina in the 1940s and 1950s.*

A view of the Pacific War experience from a female perspective is found in the papers of Mary Walther, a native Midwesterner, who later called South Carolina her home. Walther, a professional librarian, served as a civilian with the Army Library Service from 1943 to 1946. Her experiences are recounted in a body of letters which give an honest view not only of the organization of wartime military services but also of the psychological dynamics of men and women far from home. After serving a year in Nebraska, Walther accepted a transfer to the Hawaiian Islands and quickly discovered the social and professional demands associated with being a single woman among so many men. She volunteered for transfer to Guam as soon as it was safe for female civilian employees to go there. Her determination to face the risks of life on an island still harboring Japanese soldiers and the hardships of the job that included establishing libraries for the 70,000 troops preparing for the invasion of Japan, as well as the unpleasantness of daily life amidst heat, humidity, insects, and latrines surprised Mary and those who knew her.

In her letter of June 7, 1945, describing the work of those on the base to establish the library, there is a clear sense of the importance this facility held. "We put in a dayroom which they





*This flyer for "The Great Stone & Murray's Circus!" invites attendance in a clearer manner than does the rebus poster.*

had built themselves from scraps of lumber and woven bamboo mats. Six of them went into the jungle and braved ambush by Japs everyday for three weeks to cut the bamboo, which some of the natives wove for them." In July of the same year (along with complaining about the terrible food) she proudly tells of putting in "another library...for the bombardment group. The fellows had just come in from a mission to Tokyo, and the place was jammed right after we opened it. We didn't have half enough books...."

#### **After the War—Redux**

The end of the Second World War saw the return of young veterans. Many wanted to change South Carolina, and black Carolinians in particular were no longer willing to live under the pre-war status quo dominated by the state's elites. Access to quality education became a focus for both blacks and whites. The proposition that the state provided separate but equal facilities and instruction was discredited but conservatives still defended segregated institutions. In Clarendon County the Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, a pastor and teacher, encouraged black parents to speak up. As a result he and his family lost jobs and even their home. His recollections reveal his personal desires when he says, "I am a simple A.M.E. Minister....Most of my adult life has been spent preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ. I regarded it as my Christian duty to resist by peaceful means the attempts to terrorize my home and family."

Many of the materials of this era illuminate a time of dramatic change in the ways in which people lived and worked with each other. During the final restrictive days of Jim Crow, there was a time of transition from a localized and agriculture-based economy

to a more urban-centered one which depended on manufacturing and commercial interests in order to serve an increasingly diverse and affluent population. Then, as now, society grappled with the issues of educational equality and racial justice.

Many of the individuals whose papers are in the Library recorded a personal journey and philosophical evolution as they confronted the limitations of society. In so doing, they help tell the human story behind the major shifts in twentieth-century Southern history.

#### **Past as Prologue**

In the face of modern institutions, the voices of individuals provide a sense of immediacy and authenticity. This small sampling of items from the South Caroliniana Library's holdings reveals the many ways in which the past is less clear-cut and more influenced by the human experience than is often depicted in textbooks. While the past cannot predict the future, it can offer an understanding of patterns in human nature. The Library's collected materials are essential for encouraging a more nuanced understanding of the past and for envisioning a more rational look toward the future.

*—Henry G. Fulmer is Director of the South Caroliniana Library. Lynn Robertson retired as Director of McKissick Museum and is a member of the University South Caroliniana Society Executive Council.*

## HOME OF THE PALMETTO: SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS STATE TREE

An exhibit entitled “Home of the Palmetto: South Carolina and Its State Tree” is currently on display in the Lumpkin Foyer of the South Caroliniana Library, marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Sabal Palmetto as the official state tree for South Carolina in 1939.



According to the exhibit’s curator, Laura Douglass Marion, a student in the master’s program in library and information science with a concentration in archives and preservation, “The exhibit highlights the palmetto’s role in South Carolina history and culture, as well as its use as the primary symbol of the state and tells the story of the palmetto in three areas: The Palmetto in Literature, Our State Symbol, and Art of the Palmetto.”

### University South Caroliniana Society CAROLINIANA COLUMNS

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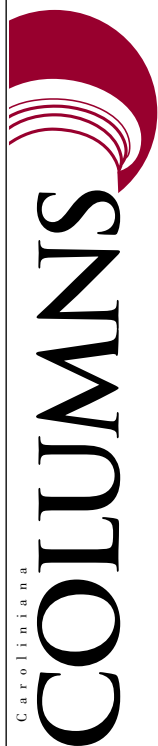
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