Caroliniana Columns - Spring 2016

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Library’s 175th Anniversary Celebration Culminates with Visit from Cokie Roberts

After a year-long celebration of the 175th anniversary of the construction of the present-day South Caroliniana Library, friends and patrons of the Library gathered on May 12 for one last event, an address by noted journalist and author Cokie Roberts. The presentation had been scheduled for the fall semester as a kick-off event for the year’s activities, but these plans were thwarted when South Carolina was visited by the now-infamous great flood of October 2015.

A large and appreciative crowd gathered in Drayton Hall to welcome Ms. Roberts and then enjoyed a reception in the Library’s back garden.

Because many Society members were unable to attend this event, this issue of Columns includes the full text of Ms. Roberts’ speech as well as preparatory remarks by Director of the Library Henry Fulmer, President of the University Harris Pastides and SCETV personality Beryl Dakers who introduced the speaker.

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On June 11, 1932, Edgar Wallace Biggs wrote from Chicago to his wife in Greenville, S.C., about the “hard fight to be seated in the Convention.” The convention of which he spoke was the Republican National Convention, and Biggs was the leader of the black delegation from South Carolina. The South Carolina Republican Party also sent a white delegation that year, led by party stalwart J.C. Hambright. Biggs wrote that in the debates over which delegation should be seated his delegation “beat the Hambright crowd to a frazzle.” The Republican Party nevertheless seated the white delegation from South Carolina.

Biggs passed away in Greenville a few months later. Letters of condolence poured in from around the country. All the national African-American newspapers carried his obituary. Biggs was a prominent member of Greenville’s African-American community, and even Greenville’s mayor attended his funeral. He owned a number of businesses, but most knew him as the owner of Biggs Mortuary. For decades Biggs helped African-American families in Greenville close estates, coordinate funeral arrangements with extended family, and deal with insurance agents and probate judges. He did his utmost to make sure that friends and families of the deceased celebrated their loved one’s home-going with dignity and even hope.

The Edgar Wallace Biggs papers, 1875-1968, housed at the South Caroliniana Library reveal the cultural, political, and economic importance of funeral homes in African-American communities. Jim Crow had, intentionally or not, facilitated the creation of a number of African-American cultural institutions—churches, schools, and fraternal organizations being the most well-known and well-studied. Funeral homes occupy a unique place because they straddle the line between cultural institutions and businesses, and funeral home directors like E.W. Biggs often parlayed their role as respected and successful entrepreneurs into leadership positions in other institutions and fields as well.

**MINNIE WALKER JOHNSON COLLECTION**

When the Colored Funeral Home Directors’ and Embalmers’ Association was founded in 1925, its first president was Willis Johnson of Columbia, S.C. The papers of his wife, Minnie Walker Johnson, are a treasure trove of documents detailing life in Columbia from the 1930s until the 1970s. The collection touches on politics, philanthropy, education, and church life as well as the family funeral home business. The striking photographs depict the funeral home itself, as well as funeral practices. In 1970, after Willis Johnson’s death, Sumter funeral home operator Edmund Perry Palmer Jr. purchased the Johnson Funeral Home. Today it is still in operation at its 1200 Fontaine Place location in Columbia under the leadership of Lorin Peri Palmer, the third generation of Palmers in the funeral home business.

**Minnie Walker Johnson**

Minnie Walker Johnson was born Minnie Boulware Walker in Chester, S.C., on August 24, 1908. After attending high school in New York and North Carolina, she studied at Hampton Institute in Hampton, Va., and Benedict College in Columbia, S.C.

Mrs. Johnson graduated *cum laude* from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., where she majored in history and English. She also earned a graduate social science degree from New York University and furthered her education in guidance at Michigan State University. Returning to Columbia, Mrs. Johnson served as a high school teacher and guidance counselor at C.A. Johnson High School for seventeen years. She also worked as senior counselor for the South Carolina Employment Guidance Center. An active leading community member, Mrs. Johnson shared her talents with many civic and charitable organizations. Her husband, Willis Craig Johnson, was a mortician and director of Johnson’s Funeral Home for fifty-four years. Mrs. Johnson later served as president of her husband’s business and as owner and manager of the Palmetto Cemetery.

Minnie Boulware Walker Johnson was a shining example of leadership in both her local municipality and afar. She was laid to rest in April of 1988.

-Contributed by Ramona La Roche, Ph.D. candidate and Cultural Heritage Informatics Leadership Fellow at the University’s School of Library and Information Science
A.P. Williams Scrapbook

Edgar Wallace Biggs and Willis Johnson were both respected businessmen, but as the Palmer Funeral Home demonstrates, today the world of African-American funeral homes in South Carolina is no men’s club. The force behind A.P. Williams Funeral Home, founded in 1936 and located in Columbia at 1808 Washington Street, was Williams’s mother, Bessie Williams Pinckney. The A.P. Williams scrapbook at South Caroliniana Library documents not only the work of the funeral home, but also Williams’s leadership in the local NAACP chapter. Williams was instrumental in the hiring of Columbia’s first African-American police officers and in attaining equal pay for African-American city employees.

Isaac Samuel Leevy Papers

The importance of family in the funeral home world is also evident in the papers of Isaac Samuel Leevy. The Great Depression might seem a less-than-ideal time to start a business, but both the Williams family and Leevy found success in the funeral home business during the 1930s. Leevy was a native of Kershaw County. He was educated at the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Va. Like Biggs’s papers, Leevy’s papers provide a window into African-American business and politics in the early to mid-twentieth century. Leevy’s list of accomplishments is long, but the funeral home at 1831 Taylor Street in Columbia, with its well-manicured shrubbery and unique facade, still stands as a monument to his industriousness and his family’s commitment to the institution of the funeral home. From his home base at the mortuary, Leevy helped build many of Columbia’s African-American institutions—the Waverly and Booker T. Washington schools, Victory Savings Bank, and the Columbia chapter of the NAACP. He described himself “a personal friend of Vice President Richard Nixon” and as affiliated “with the Democrats through the primary and in the General election with the Republicans when they have candidates.” He was “a staunch and uncompromising advocate of a two political party system” in South Carolina. When Leevy himself passed away in 1968, his own simple funeral program testified to his influence. The list of eulogizers could double as a list of NAACP leaders in the state—Matthew McCollum, James M. Hinton, and Lincoln Jenkins Sr. Speakers that day also included Columbia mayor Lester Bates. After Leevy’s death, his daughter Ruby Leevy Johnson carried on the business with distinction, receiving numerous commendations.
Like Bessie Williams Pinckney before her, and Ruby Leevy Johnson after, Anna May Manigault presided over the Manigault-Hurley funeral home for many years. William Manigault started the funeral home in 1923 on Washington Street in Columbia in 1923. The business moved to 714 North Main Street shortly thereafter and moved again in 1959 to its Two Notch Road location before closing in 2014. The Manigault-Hurley records impart countless interesting bits of historical information. Invoices reveal that funeral services during the late 1950s cost between a hundred and just over a thousand dollars. This amount typically paid for the casket, vault, embalming, hearse, family cars, police escort, grave opening, and taxes. At times the family might want the funeral home to take the body to other parts of the state, which would incur an additional fee. Invoices for women often listed charges for a beautician as well.

Perhaps the most interesting items in the Manigault-Hurley collection are the fourteen funeral ledgers. They date from the very earliest days of the business in the 1920s. These ledgers not only record the names of the deceased but also their residence, occupation, cause of death, and immediate family. At a time when official records of death, occupation, and kinship are spotty, these ledgers are an invaluable resource for both genealogists and historians attempting to reconstruct the economic and social world of Columbia during the early twentieth century. The ledgers do not discriminate between the rich and the poor, the city dweller and the farmer. The snapshot of Columbia life that they provide is truly unique and invaluable.

Funeral programs appear with regularity in the folders of the funeral home collection and show something of the commemorative practices of fifty to sixty years ago. Funeral programs are rich historical artifacts, often listing family connections, personal accomplishments, and institutional affiliations. The choice of speakers shows who had influence in a community and also can help trace church networks. The choice of hymns reveals something of the spiritual connections that bind these communities with unseen, but nevertheless still very real, ties. Familiar hymns such as “Nearer, My God, to Thee,” “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” and “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” appear in the numerous programs in the Manigault-Hurley collection.

These documents are invaluable for African-American genealogical researchers because they often listed extended family.

The South Caroliniana Library has two collections devoted exclusively to funeral programs—the Anthony Pearson collection and the Louis Bryan Smallis collection. These are not the only collections that contain funeral programs, however. It is a testament to the importance many attach to the funeral service itself that numerous funeral programs appear in some of the most important civil rights collections. The Joseph A. De Laine papers, for example, testify not only to De Laine’s activism with respect to the Briggs v. Elliot case but also to his role as a minister. This collection contains dozens of funeral programs relating to his extended family and friends. The John Roy Harper II papers likewise contain a number of programs, including one from the funeral of well-known local attorney Lincoln Jenkins Jr.

From the funeral program from the Honorable Lincoln C. Jenkins Jr.
Collections relating to African-American funerals and funeral homes uniquely document the history and culture of South Carolinians and so play an important role in helping the South Caroliniana Library fulfill its mission. Standing at the intersection of business, culture, and politics, these funeral homes, along with their archives housed at the Library, will attest to thriving African-American communities for generations to come.

- Nathan Saunders is the South Caroliniana Library’s Curator of Manuscripts. He included the material in this article at a public presentation given on February 16, 2016, at the South Caroliniana Library in conjunction with the Library’s 175th anniversary celebration.
Our yearlong celebration of the 175th anniversary of the South Caroliniana Library is now part of the history that this venerable institution is charged with documenting for posterity. Throughout the 2015-16 academic year, University Libraries, in conjunction with the University South Caroliniana Society, sponsored eight special events to recognize the signal importance of America’s oldest separate college library building and to share with those long connected with the Library, as well as to the larger community, the vital message of its collections.

Friends and supporters were welcomed to a get-acquainted event with behind-the-scene tours and to seminar-style presentations the Library’s professional staff of curators presented at a series of four programs focusing on the different collection areas of the Library. Architectural historian Dr. John M. Bryan shared his insights, “Creating the Caroliniana,” in an illustrated program drawing upon his research for a documentary history of the Library to be published in 2017. And, in the grand culmination, acclaimed journalist and author Cokie Roberts, longtime friend of the South Caroliniana Library, wowed a near-capacity crowd assembled in Drayton Hall Theatre with a spellbinding, yet simple, message of why saving the South Caroliniana Library matters. The text of Ms. Roberts’ talk is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of *Caroliniana Columns*.

**Summer Scholars**

Now that the celebratory year has concluded, life at the South Caroliniana Library continues apace, with an entourage of five summer scholars whose research opportunities on the University of South Carolina campus are made available this year through the Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History, the Governor Thomas Gordon McLeod and First Lady Elizabeth Alford McLeod Research Fellowship, and the William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professorship. Dr. Kevin Collins, Jacob Clawson, Mandy Cooper, Lauren Haumesser, and Amanda Kleintop, representing Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Auburn University, Duke University, the University of Virginia, and Northwestern University, respectively, are studying a far-flung variety of topics: William Gilmore Simms, Frederick Jackson Turner, and the myth of American exceptionalism; violence and politics during Reconstruction; family networks and the making of the United States; Democratic gender politics and the coming of the Civil War; and conflicts over the value of slaves during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

**Recent Gifts and Purchases**

While the South Caroliniana Library’s collection is not housed presently on site, building our collection holdings is ongoing and remains critical to the mission of both the Library and the Society. We continue to benefit from direct gifts and purchase acquisitions. Recently the Library has acquired by purchase, made possible through a confluence of funds from endowed accounts, the University South Caroliniana Society, and University Libraries, a significant archive of the business transacted by Charleston merchant Jonathan Coit, originally of New London, Ct., and New York City, and his partnership with James Bulgin, a merchant in Charleston between 1796 and 1803. Thirteen letter copybooks, daybooks, and ledgers document complex business transactions associated with the expanding Southern cotton and rice trade and Yazoo Territory land deals. Coit moved to Charleston in 1803 to take over the business affairs of James Bulgin and spent some fifteen years straightening out Bulgin’s estate. He continued to develop his trade in goods in Charleston, Cheraw, and Georgetown, as well as in Augusta, Ga., running stores, acting as a commission merchant for local plantation owners, partnering as agent in the development of the Pee Dee Steam Boat Company in 1819, and eventually getting into the whaling industry in the 1830s.

Another recent acquisition is a small but historically compelling group of papers from the Marshall Frazier family of Edgefield, with a number of items relating to enslaved members...
of the plantation household. Of particular interest is a letter from Hal Frazier, a person of color born into slavery, who had belonged to Colonel Marshall Frazier. He writes that he had been accused of having the money alleged to have disappeared at the death of his former owner, Colonel Benjamin Frazier. By industry and economy, the writer asserts, he had saved enough to purchase freedom for himself and his wife and had become part owner in a mill, authorized by the Legislature of Louisiana to do business as a free man.

A recent gift, the plantation journal documenting daily activities of Asylum Plantation, in Georgetown District, from 1823 to 1826, augments the Library’s existing holdings of the papers of rice planter Davison McDowell. Like the plantation owner’s other journals, the volume details rice and corn cultivation, as well as observations on the weather and other issues relating to plantation management.

Even in times of transition, primary source materials remain the lifeblood of a repository such as the South Caroliniana Library. They ground us in the realization that the call to preserve both the building and its contents must be taken to heart.

Thank you for your involvement in preserving South Carolina history and our cherished landmark, the South Caroliniana Library.
The first in a series presented by South Caroliniana Library curators, an Oral History symposium was held last fall as part of the year-long celebration of the building’s 175th anniversary. Staff shared with the audience the various ways in which the oral history office contributes to the Library, the University and the greater South Carolina community.

Several oral history collections held by the library were described and audio excerpts from interviews played. Discussion of preservation efforts for audio materials, examples of outreach efforts to classrooms, and highlights of a conference presentation with graduate assistants were included in the presentation.

**Loretta Dunbar Oral Correspondence Collection**

One highlighted collection was the Loretta Dunbar Oral Correspondence Collection. It documents, through recordings, Loretta Dunbar’s experiences in the Peace Corps in Ghana, Africa, in the 1970s and her romance and eventual marriage to Scotland-born Hamish Dunbar.

Loretta sent oral letters on cassette tapes by mail to her mother in the United States. Her mother sent letters to Loretta in the same way.

Many years later, Loretta’s stepfather presented her with the cassette tapes she’d sent decades before. Given to the South Caroliniana Library, they are now fully cataloged, digitized and open for research.

**William Gravely Oral History Collection**

Also highlighted was the William Gravely Oral History Collection, which examines the first person recollections of those affected by the lynching of Willie Earle in 1947 in Pickens County and coverage of the subsequent trial.

This fully digitized collection includes interviews with such notable South Carolinians as John McCray and Robert Ashmore, family members of Willie Earle, and local law enforcement officials.

**Recent Interviews**

Several recent interviews conducted by the Oral History office also were featured. These included an interview with the late Rosemary Jones, when she was 103. Her family took in Congolese pygmy Ota Benga, who was famously and tragically exhibited at the Bronx Zoo in the early 20th century.

Other recent interviews featured were those with Gay Suber, former executive director of the South Carolina Republican Party; Vickie Eslinger, attorney and women’s rights advocate; and James Solomon, one of the first black students to integrate the University in 1963.

At the end of the symposium, the care and preservation of audio materials was described, with the pictured example spotlighted for the importance of removing the square plastic “record tabs” on audio cassettes before attempting to digitize sound recordings.

- Andrea L’Hommedieu is Oral Historian at the South Caroliniana Library. She included the material in this article in a public presentation given November 15, 2015, in conjunction with the Library’s 175th anniversary celebration.
The South Caroliniana Library has been collecting and preserving a group of records that few people beyond architects know about and use. These records, commonly called design records, document the significant impact of various people on the built environment. Design records include architectural, landscape, engineering, construction, and industrial drawings and the associated photographs, contracts, and correspondence. The Library has acquired eighteenth- and nineteenth-century drawings over the years, mainly as part of the manuscript collections. However, it was not until the 1980s that the first collection of design records was acquired with the gift of the Lafaye & Lafaye Associates records.
Today, the Library has fourteen collections from architectural, engineering, and landscape firms and professionals from across South Carolina. The archives of most of the firms are small, with a couple of hundred projects or fewer, while others have one or two thousand projects. These firms include: Charles C. Carson Sr.; Kaare Espedahl; G. Thomas Harmon & William Keenan; John Tabb Heyward & Associates; J. Carroll Johnson; Lafaye, Lafaye & Associates (Lafaye); William G. Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff (LBC&W); Robert E. Marvin/Howell Beach; C. Hardy Oliver; Harry Tinker Poe; Charles N. Robinson; Albert Simons; and Upshur, Riley & Bultman. The drawings of Robert Eisenschmidt came to the Library with the Espedahl collection.

Because South Carolina is a small state, none of these professionals worked in a vacuum. At times they collaborated with each other. At times they worked for each other. And at all times they let their creativity enhance where and how people live. From the early classic architectural designs of Lafaye to the Modern designs of LBC&W, architects affect the local landscape. Design records by themselves can be works of art, and certainly some of the completed buildings and landscapes definitely are.

**Robert Marvin**

Robert Marvin was a native of South Carolina who was an internationally recognized mid-twentieth-century landscape architect. He espoused a philosophy of minimally impacting the environment and using the existing landscape to improve a person’s work and home life. He helped to preserve much of South Carolina’s natural beauty despite development. For new construction, he believed the landscape architect should be involved as soon as the building architect and that the two working together could create a living space in harmony with the natural surroundings. He also felt strongly about minimizing man’s touch, from the construction staging areas to parking lots and service areas. For existing landscapes, he found ways to merge buildings and gardens to create continuous space, allowing people to keep nature in their everyday activities.

**The Lafaye and LBC&W Collections**

Over the years, the Library’s design records have been used mainly by architects working on renovation projects. Other users of the collections have been University students and faculty as well as historic preservationists. Mary Parr amore McCants did extensive research in the Lafaye collection to identify homes in the Forest Hills neighborhood in Columbia for a National Register nomination. The neighborhood was placed on the Register in 2007. Her work provided the Library with information not contained in the collection, such as street addresses, which has enhanced access to the collection.

Dr. Robert Weyeneth of the University’s Department of History also researched the Lafaye collection to document segregation in the built environment. He found plans for public and commercial buildings with separate dressing rooms, bathrooms, entrances, and other areas for blacks and whites.

Dr. Lydia Brandt, an art historian at the University, has taught several classes which used the Lafaye and the LBC&W collections. She had her students work on the architectural history of the Bull Street property in Columbia. The current redevelopment of what was once the site of the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum spurred calls for saving the historic buildings. Dr. Brandt’s class developed a website which provides a virtual tour of the property before development. The Lafaye firm designed and renovated a number of buildings on the site, and the students worked with the drawings to create the historical context. Another class focused on Modern Architecture and studied the impact of LBC&W’s work, especially in the Midlands.

**A South Carolina Architectural Archive**

The Library has been involved over the past several years in establishing a South Carolina architectural archive. Spearheaded by members of the American Institute of Architects South Carolina Chapter, this effort has brought together architects, archivists, and historic preservationists seeking a way to preserve the design records created by South Carolina architects. Various institutions around the state have been collecting records, but there had been no focused effort or central repository. Recently, Clemson University Library offered to take the initiative and has begun collecting records. South Carolina Library archivists look forward to working with the Clemson archivists to link the University’s design records finding aids with theirs to create a virtual archive of design collections in South Carolina.

Preserving design records allows researchers and others to understand why towns look like they do. The records show how or why architects responded to changes in design movements. They also reveal changes requested by owners during the planning phase as well as during construction. In all, these records are a rich resource documenting how South Carolinians present themselves to the world at large.

* - Beth Bilderback is the South Caroliniana Library’s Visual Materials Archivist. She included the material in this article at a public presentation given on January 26, 2016, at the South Caroliniana Library in conjunction with the Library’s 175th anniversary celebration.
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Administration Building, Columbia, S.C., about 1960; designed by LBC&W; photograph by Molitor, N.Y.

University of South Carolina Women’s Building Competition, undated; designed by Stork and Lyles
Psychopathic Building, South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia, S.C., about 1939; designed by Lafaye and Lafaye; later known as the Williams Building

(Credit: Robert Marvin/Howell Beach & Associates website)
Master Plan of Darlington Area Schools Property, 1974; designed by Robert E. Marvin & Associates; note the use of landscaping around athletic fields and parking areas, as well as buildings.
“Working with people, building relationships, and serving others is what excites me. My desire is to make a difference in my community and profession,” says Beth Norris Well, who has been named the University Libraries’ new Director of Development.

“Working in Development,” she continued, “allows me to meet amazing people who have a heart for our community and the magnificent collections of University Libraries. By sharing our story we offer potential donors the opportunity to partner with us in making a lifelong impact. I love the thought of working for the Libraries because they represent the past, the present and the future. Libraries are moving at a constant clip today to stay on the cutting edge of technology to acquire, preserve and digitize collections that can be seen all over the world.”

After an initial orientation period, Beth will focus much of her time on helping raise funds for the renovation of the South Caroliniana Library.

**Born a Sandlapper, Became a Gamecock**

Beth is a native South Carolinian. She was born in Myrtle Beach, moved to the Midlands in her teens and graduated from Irmo High School.

“I was raised a Gamecock fan,” says Beth, “so it was only natural for me to start college life at the University of South Carolina.” Beth majored in Hotel, Restaurant and Sports Management at Carolina, but moved to Miami, Fla., to finish her Bachelor of Science degree at Florida International University. While in Miami, Beth began a career at Marriott International, where she worked in management.

In 1990, Beth moved back to Irmo to be closer to family and her beloved Gamecocks. She was recruited to pursue a career in media and spent the next fifteen years as a Senior Account Executive in radio advertising. For five of those years she handled advertising for Gamecock sports.

In 2008, Beth embarked on a career in non-profit management as the Vice President of Stewardship and Public Relations for the Oliver Gospel Mission in Columbia. In this position, she directed all development efforts including a ten-million-dollar capital campaign to provide a new shelter for women and children. She also handled marketing, advertising and public relations for the Mission.

Beth’s husband, Brad, is a Captain for the Irmo Fire District. Her son, Jordan, is a rising sophomore at Irmo High School. Her daughter, Alexa, just graduated from Irmo High School and, following in her Mom’s footsteps, is attending the University of South Carolina this fall. She is majoring in psychology.

Beth enjoys reading, watching Netflix, supporting missionaries around the globe, attending her church and volunteering in the community.
The South Carolina College was established on December 19, 1801, as the educational institution of South Carolina, meant to bring together the future leaders of the state. It opened on January 10, 1805, with one building, two faculty members, and nine students, all male. The parcel of land that is known today as the Horseshoe was essentially the entire campus for one hundred years, with the exception of College Hall (now Longstreet Theatre) which was built at the corner of Sumter and Greene Streets in 1855. The first finished structure on the Horseshoe was Rutledge College, which opened its doors in 1805. Its twin, DeSaussure College, was constructed opposite it on the Horseshoe and opened in 1809. The practice of constructing twin buildings that mirrored each other across the Horseshoe was continued with later buildings Elliott and Pinckney Colleges (1837) and Harper and Legare Colleges (1848), and remains a key feature of the landscape. However, visitors to the Horseshoe today can see that Rutledge and DeSaussure Colleges are no longer mirror images of each other. Rutledge suffered a major fire in 1855 that nearly destroyed the building. When it was rebuilt, a lack of funding led to a much more modest structure.

Student Pranks and Faculty Woes

The early years of the College were a trying time for faculty, who struggled daily to get hedonistic students to comply with College rules and regulations. These rules, which included daily prayers in the College chapel in Rutledge College and quiet evenings studying in their rooms, were adapted from Northern institutions and seemed quite puritanical in nature to South Carolina boys. Students regularly disobeyed the College’s rules by frequenting taverns in Columbia and by engaging in drinking, horse racing, cock fighting, and stealing livestock. They also attempted to thwart the College faculty through other means, such as stealing or burning the wooden steps that led into Rutledge College in an effort to make attending class and chapel impossible. The disciplinary issues spilled over into Columbia as well. Students were not allowed to leave campus unless they had permission to do so, but they often “snuck out” anyway. They frequented boarding houses and taverns to partake of the better food, illicit drink, and illegal games available at those establishments. A popular prank to pull on the citizens of Columbia was the practice of “turkey
stealing” in which students would steal turkeys and other poultry from yards and then return them alive but completely featherless. One of the trustees’ efforts to control the students was the construction of a wall around the campus in 1835 and 1836. It was brick, stood nearly seven feet high, and enclosed the campus at Sumter, Pendleton, Bull and Greene Streets, with a single entrance off of Sumter Street. However, the young men of the College simply climbed over the wall to continue their entertainment in Columbia. During the twentieth century, the old wall became the most altered structure on campus, with portions opened, closed, lowered, and raised; a large section of the Bull Street side was demolished to make room for McKissick Library, now McKissick Museum. The University currently has a project underway to restore the wall.

Faculty Residences

The president and the faculty of South Carolina College lived on campus. The original President’s House was constructed at the head of the Horseshoe in 1807; all of the institution’s presidents lived there until 1922, when it was converted into offices. It was demolished in 1940 after McKissick Library was constructed behind it. The earliest faculty duplex on the campus was built in 1810. It became so dilapidated that it was torn down and rebuilt in 1854. When Donald Russell became President in 1952, he wanted to return to the tradition of having the President live on campus. He had the 1854 duplex renovated into the structure known today as the President’s House. It quickly became a centerpiece of activity on campus and the location of a variety of student and faculty events. Arguably its most illustrious visitor was Pope John Paul II, who came to Columbia in September 1987, as part of the University-sponsored Ecumenical Year. This event also featured visits from a number of national and international religious leaders. The Pope spoke to a crowd of students on the Horseshoe and told them that it “was wonderful to be young and a student at the University of South Carolina.” He later led a service of Christian worship at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Two other duplexes and one single residence were constructed for faculty on the original campus prior to the Civil War: McCutchen House (1813), Lieber College (1836), and Flinn Hall (1860). Faculty members were allowed to bring their slaves to care for their homes and families, and the college built structures to house these enslaved persons, as well as kitchens, behind each of the faculty residences and the President’s House. Students were never allowed to bring family slaves to campus. The College owned a small number of enslaved persons but primarily relied on a hiring-out system, in which the College paid local owners for tasks performed by their skilled slaves. These tasks included cleaning the College library’s books, serving students’ meals, cleaning students’ rooms, ringing the chapel bell, and general repair work. A “servant’s fee” was included in the tuition to help fund this system. As the campus grew, enslaved persons owned by the contractors hired to build the College’s buildings and surrounding wall played a large role in creating the built environment of the Horseshoe. Only one slave dwelling still survives on the campus, tucked away behind the President’s House. Similar structures behind Lieber College, McCutchen House, Flinn Hall and the original President’s House were demolished during the campus’s expansion in the early twentieth century. To have an extant structure that documents the role of slavery at a state institution, especially one in an urban landscape, is very unusual.

Dark Days of War

The onset of the Civil War forced the College to close its doors, although faculty were allowed to remain in their campus residences. Despite the protests of the faculty and trustees, Confederate authorities took over the academic
An eye-witness account from the College buildings that night. College grounds, it actually helped save the original purpose of keeping students on the hospital staff proved invaluable to the campus’s survival during the burning of Columbia; they spent the night of February 17, 1865, putting out the embers that sparked the rooftops of DeSaussure College, McCutchen House, Harper College, and Flinn Hall. Although the brick wall failed in its original purpose of keeping students on College grounds, it actually helped save the College buildings that night.

An eye-witness account from Emma LeConte, the daughter of one of the faculty members, describes the flames sweeping up to the very walls of the campus. LeConte also stated that the glow of the burning buildings through the windows of the College library made it appear as if that building were also on fire. That building, now the South Caroliniana Library, had been constructed in 1840 to replace the Library and Science Building, constructed in 1817. During this period it was common for colleges to house both their books and laboratory equipment in the same building, which constituted a major fire hazard. The College’s Science and Library building had fallen into poor condition, so the school constructed the nation’s first freestanding academic library. The original plans for a library submitted by South Carolina native and federal architect Robert Mills were for a much grander structure, which was to be oriented at the end of the Horseshoe on Sumter Street and would have contained an additional story that enabled visitors to pass under the building in order to enter the College grounds.

The trustees did not like the price tag that was attached to that design and so, with some modifications, the library building was constructed at its present location, completing the U shape that delineates the Horseshoe today. The Library’s columns, curving staircase, and beautiful Reading Room, which is a replica of the second Library of Congress reading room, are all elements of Mills’ design. This building served as the school’s main library for 100 years, until McKissick Library was constructed at the head of the Horseshoe in 1940. When this new library was completed, consideration was given to turning the old library building into a student union. Instead it was decided to rededicate it as a special collections library to celebrate the history and culture of South Carolina.

In 1865, South Carolina College was reorganized as the University of South Carolina. The institution went through several reorganizational and name changes during the second half of the nineteenth century before its final reorganization in 1906 when it was again named the University of South Carolina. From 1873 to 1877, during Reconstruction, the University was desegregated for the first time. By 1876 the majority of the student body was African American. Women were allowed to enroll in the State Normal School, which trained them to be teachers. They attended classes in Rutledge College and the original President’s House but were not enrolled in the University. The University’s first African-American faculty member, Richard T. Greener, was the first black graduate of Harvard University and arguably the most scholarly of the faculty hired at Carolina during Reconstruction. He also served as the University’s librarian for nearly a year, taking over when the previous librarian abruptly departed. Greener devoted that time to organizing the collections, which were in disarray. While at the University, Greener also received a law degree and was admitted to the South Carolina bar. The South Caroliniana Library recently acquired both Greener’s University diploma and his license to practice law in the state of South Carolina.

In 1877, at the end of Reconstruction, the University closed in anticipation of becoming a segregated institution once again, prompting Greener to depart for Howard University, where he became Dean of the Law Department. He later had a lengthy career in the U.S. diplomatic corps.

While on campus, Greener lived in Lieber College, located across the Horseshoe from the College Library. The building was named for Francis Lieber, who lived there shortly after it was completed. He was one of Carolina’s most illustrious nineteenth-century professors, an internationally known scholar of history and political economy and the founder of the Encyclopaedia Americana. The students called him “Old Bruin” for his hot temper. Legend has it that he once tried to have a student expelled for “stupidity.”

In 1880, the University reopened as an all-white, all-male institution again. The school was desegregated a second and final time on September 11, 1963, when Henrie Monteith, James Solomon, and Robert Anderson became the first African-American students since Reconstruction to register for classes.
Women students were allowed into state institutions beginning in 1894. Francis Guignard Gibbes was the first woman to enroll at Carolina, in 1895; Mattie Jean Adams was the first woman to graduate, in 1898. However, the University administration did not favor admitting female students, and it limited their numbers by not providing campus housing for them. That changed during World War I, when the departure of a significant portion of the male student population prompted the administration to admit more women to make up for the declining tuition revenue. One wing of DeSaussure College served as the first women’s dormitory. The percentage of female students grew steadily and, since 1981, women have comprised the majority of the University’s student population.

The Maxcy Monument

One of the most recognizable symbols of the University on the Horseshoe is the Maxcy Monument. It is a memorial to the first South Carolina College president, Jonathan Maxcy, who remains the longest-serving president at sixteen years. When Maxcy died suddenly while in office in 1820, the students of the Clariosophic Literary Society, one of the two main student organizations on campus, raised funds for a monument in his honor. They hired Robert Mills to design the monument, which was completed in 1827.

The Maxcy Monument has long served as a rendezvous point for meeting friends as well as a place for classes, tours, and student organizations to assemble. It was also a rallying point in 1970 for one of the largest protests in the University’s history. Dissatisfaction among the students began to foment during the Vietnam War era. In addition, the rapid growth of the student population during the 1960s left students feeling like numbers instead of persons. Unrest grew after the shootings at Kent State and South Carolina State Universities. In May 1970, a group of students gathered around the Maxcy Monument, marched to the Osborne Administration building just off the Horseshoe, took over the building and trapped President Thomas Jones and several Board of Trustee members in their offices. After some time, they left Osborne and gathered on the Horseshoe once again, where the National Guard dispersed them with the aid of tear gas.

Renovation, Restoration, Expansion

Throughout the University’s history, the Horseshoe has remained a vital part of campus. Today’s Horseshoe is very well cared for and maintained, although this wasn’t always the case. Many decades of neglect left the buildings in a dire state by the early 1970s, and the University received funding for a ten-year restoration project under the leadership of Vice President of Operations Hal Brunton. All of the Horseshoe buildings were in need of work, to varying degrees. McCutchen House for example, was in such poor condition that the administration considered tearing it down. In conjunction with the renovation project, vehicles were barred from driving on the Horseshoe and garden areas were created, producing the pedestrian-friendly green space the Horseshoe is today. The Horseshoe was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The University has continued to expand in all directions, but the Horseshoe remains a sanctuary for those who live, work, study, and visit the campus; it continues to set the standard for all green spaces at the University. In recent years the University has worked to maintain a balance between preserving the historic nature of its buildings and keeping them viable in an era of changing needs for its students and faculty.

As staff members celebrate the South Caroliniana Library’s 175th year, they also welcome the upcoming renovation of this building that will help it meet the needs of present and future students and researchers while protecting its priceless collections.

- Elizabeth Cassidy West and Katharine Thompson Allen are the authors of On the Horseshoe: A Guide to the Historic Campus of the University of South Carolina. They included the material in this article at a public presentation given on December 8, 2015, at the South Caroliniana Library in conjunction with the Library’s 175th anniversary celebration.
On March 15, 1952, an article entitled “125 Years After the Beginning” appeared in Columbia’s African-American newspaper Lighthouse and Informer (1941-1954). Most likely written by the newspaper’s publisher, South Carolina civil rights leader John McCray, the article states that it “pauses to pay homage” to the “father” of African-American newspapers, Freedom’s Journal. An abolitionist paper first published in 1827 New York, Freedom’s Journal’s DNA can be found in all of the African-American newspapers that have followed. As “125 Years After the Beginning” explained, all have shared the mission of “upgrading… Negroes in America… [in order] to protest unfair treatment of Negroes as human beings, and as citizens under the American Flag”.

The article acknowledges progress and notes that African Americans of 1952 experienced a “more enlightened” nation than their forbears did in the early nineteenth century. However, it says that racism in 1827 differed “in degree only” from the racism experienced in 1952, especially in the “traditionally harder and . . . more wicked South.” By then, the South was experiencing the bitter and slow end of segregation, and the author argued that African-American newspapers, backed by the necessary financial support of subscribers and advertisers, needed to continue challenging it. “No one,” it said, should “assume that because their work in America is just about over.”

Unfortunately, these early papers struggled for several reasons. Laws prohibiting the teaching of slaves to read led to high illiteracy rates. Also, shortly after emancipation, many free men and women lived without incomes, limiting revenue from subscriptions. Relying on advertisement revenue, many publishers struggled to find local businesses interested in supporting African-American newspapers shortly after the Civil War. For example, only Boston companies, most likely invested in supporting Republicanism and civil rights, paid for advertisements in The South Carolina Leader. As the largess of these Northern businesses diminished, many African-American Reconstruction newspapers were not able to find local advertisers interested in supporting their papers, and many were forced to cease publication within two or three years, often fewer. Also, as the Federal government withdrew from the South, the state’s white leaders became increasingly motivated to disenfranchise its African-American citizens.
After Reconstruction

Ironically, as Reconstruction became overshadowed by the state’s enacting of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws toward the end of the nineteenth century, African-American newspapers gained financial support through subscriptions and local advertisements, from white and black-owned businesses. Post-Reconstruction and early twentieth-century newspapers such as Bennettsville’s Pee Dee Educator (1890-1900); Columbia’s The People’s Recorder (1893-1925), The Southern Indicator (1903-1925), and The Light (1916-1928); Rock Hill’s The Rock Hill Messenger (1896-1921); Charleston’s Afro-American Citizen (1899-1902); Georgetown’s Georgetown Advocate (1902-1905); and Sumter’s The Samaritan Herald (1909-1942) contain local advertisements for clothing, local meats and vegetables, galvanized stoves, Winchester rifles, over-the-counter medicine, pianos, insurance, African-American colleges, jewelry, shoe repair, bakeries, and, especially, funeral services.

As early African-American small business owners, African-American funeral directors and suppliers relied on local African-American newspapers for advertisements. The racial division of funeral services preserved and further established funeral traditions and practices unique to the African-American community. Occasions for reunion and remembrance within the community, funeral services became an important aspect of African-American social life. In turn, African-American funeral homes developed as small businesses providing a valued service, with directors, and their families, often becoming prominent members of the community. As competition developed, advertising became a necessity. South Carolina funeral businesses, such as Snype Brothers Funeral Home (Charleston), C.A. Ferguson’s funeral home (Columbia), Johnson Funeral Home (Columbia), T.H. Pinkney’s funeral services (Columbia), Hardy and Manigault Undertakers and Suppliers (Columbia), and Isaac Samuel Leevy’s Funeral Home (Columbia) routinely placed advertisements in many of the African-American newspapers which, in turn, contributed to their business successes.
While these late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century papers evince a growing consumer class, they also illustrate some of the hardships imposed on African Americans by white South Carolinians. The papers contain articles about lynching, poor school conditions for African Americans, the inequality of the legal system, and a frustration with the white press's representation of African Americans. Unfortunately, the realities of segregation and racism in the state outlasted many African-American newspapers published in the early twentieth century. While newspapers such as The People’s Recorder, Afro-American Citizen, and The Southern Indicator lasted two decades or more, none of them survived the Great Depression.
During the Depression and After

Not many African-American papers were published during the Depression and African Americans were not adequately represented in the white newspapers of the day. In an interview, John McCray stated that he founded The Charleston Lighthouse (1939-1941), “to try to take up the cause of a people we felt had little coverage in the daily newspapers at that time other than crime. There were no negro newspapers in that community at that time.” Within two years, he merged his paper with Sumter’s The People’s Informer (1936-1941) and began the Lighthouse and Informer. McCray moved the paper to Columbia that same year, and the paper began its ascent as one of the most influential newspapers published in South Carolina. With his paper, McCray blazed a trail in addressing racism in the state and the nation. Rather than merely reporting on intolerance, he demanded change and encouraged his readers to make the same demands. In the paper’s first decade, articles like “Attention Teachers” informed African-American teachers of their rights and encouraged them to sue state and local governments for equal pay. As a response to the white outcries over the treatment of American prisoners of war, McCray wrote “Brutes—Abroad and At Home” in which he blatantly provided two disturbing recent examples of violent racism in the South and argued that “[h]ere in America we have had incidents of brutality equal to that of the Japanese.”

With revenue from advertisements and subscriptions, McCray’s paper continued to publish similar articles for fifteen years, all with the intention of using his paper to end segregation and advance civil rights. Papers such as the Carolina Contrast (1966), Charleston Chronicle (1971-1993), and Black News (1977-1984) continued the “work” McCray called for in “125 Years After the Beginning.” In them, civil rights activists in South Carolina, such as John Roy Harper, Modjeska Simkins, and the Reverend Redfern II (pronounced Redfern Deuce) wrote articles on prisoner rights, veterans’ affairs, low labor wages, discrimination in the work force and local schools, boycotting white businesses at Christmas, and Black Nationalism. As with early twentieth-century papers, advertisement revenue supported these newspapers. The ever-present funeral home advertisements appear in them along with advertisements for homes and cars, as well as political notices for white and black candidates, a sign that African Americans were participating in the electoral franchise.

Illuminating African-American Life in South Carolina

The collection of African-American newspapers at the South Caroliniana Library remains one of the best primary resources for illuminating how African-American South Carolinians used a shared medium to advance their civil rights in a state often run by those hostile to them. As the papers change in voice and tenor over time, they demonstrate how South Carolina’s African-American citizens responded to and challenged this hostility. Earlier newspapers argued for peaceful coalescing as citizens in a war-torn state while operating as political mouthpieces for the Federal government. The newspapers that followed in the post-Reconstruction era shed their Republicanism but continued advocating for civil rights while showing evidence of an emerging middle class through their articles and advertisements. In the 1940s and 1950s, newspapers such as the Lighthouse and Informer continued fighting for civil rights by spot-lighting racism and calling for civil action as segregation in the South began its decline. Newspapers published in the latter half of the twentieth century remained dedicated to opposing racism in a post-segregated South Carolina. The South Caroliniana’s African-American newspaper collection documents African Americans’ daily lives, especially through advertisements. African-American newspaper advertisements indicate their readers’ commercial interests and their successes, and advertisements for homes and political candidates demonstrate their participation in the economic and political spheres as “citizens under the American flag.”

- Mike Berry is the South Caroliniana Library’s Curator of Published Materials. He included material in this article at a public presentation given on February 16, 2016, at the South Caroliniana Library in conjunction with the Library’s 175th anniversary celebration.
Sloan Hungerpiller Brittain, a 1943 graduate of the University, passed away on May 6, 2016, in her hometown of Hartsville, S.C. She was a daughter of John C and Leland Hungerpiller and the widow of Deward B. Brittain, ’42. Mrs. Brittain studied music at Coker College as an undergraduate and was a past chairman of the board of directors of the college’s Kalmia Gardens.

Mr. and Mrs. Brittain had close ties to the University and its libraries from their student days onward. They met as journalism majors while working on The Gamecock. Mrs. Brittain was encouraged in her study of journalism and literature by her father, John C Hungerpiller, himself an author and educator.

In 1978, Mrs. Brittain undertook the monumental task of going through her late father’s personal and professional papers to select the letters, photographs, and documents that now constitute the South Caroliniana Library’s John C Hungerpiller Papers, 1872-1978. The papers are a rich source of information about the literary and educational life of South Carolina during the late nineteenth century and most of the twentieth. One item is Mr. Hungerpiller’s master’s degree thesis, a biography of Jonathan Maxcy, first president of South Carolina College.

The South Caroliniana Library also holds the Deward Belmont Brittain and Sloan Hungerpiller Brittain papers, 1941-1997.

In 2004, the Brittains established Deward B. and Sloan H. Brittain Endowment for the South Caroliniana Library. The endowment provides funds for the acquisition of appropriate published and manuscript materials and the preservation of collection items, as well as internships, assistantships, professional staff development, and outreach activities such as exhibits and publications.

The Brittains established the Deward B. and Sloan H. Brittain Charitable Gift Annuity in 2006 to benefit the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library. In recognition of this gift, the entrance gallery of the Hollings Library is called the Brittain Gallery.
“Architecture is an art and the buildings speak for themselves.”

- Julia Morgan

Harold “Hal” Brunton, U.S.C. Dean of Administration and, later, Vice-President for Business Affairs from 1963 to 1983, died on July 7, 2016. He was a native of Jersey City, N.J., and graduated with honors from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., in 1943.

The University Horseshoe and the surrounding University campus bear daily witness to Mr. Brunton’s lasting legacy. During a time of vastly increased enrollment, the University also faced the need to renovate its older buildings. Mr. Brunton was instrumental in acquiring two hundred thirty-three pieces of property which increased the University’s campus from one hundred eight acres to two hundred forty acres and in overseeing the construction of fifty-three buildings totaling more than five million square feet of space, including the Thomas Cooper Library, the Carolina Coliseum, and Williams-Brice Stadium.

One of Mr. Brunton’s favorite projects was the renovation and restoration of the historic Horseshoe which began in 1972. Major repairs and restorations were made to Rutledge College, DeSaussure College, the President’s House, McCutchen House, Lieber College, Harper/Elliott, Legare/Pinckney, and the South Caroliniana Library on the Horseshoe as well as to Longstreet Theatre on Sumter Street. He was also proud of the Pickens Street bridge which allows pedestrians to move from the older part of the campus eastward to the newer areas without needing to encounter busy city traffic. Not inappropriately, a faculty committee is said to have recommended that the walkway be dubbed “The Brunton Memorial Bridge.” From his voluminous files and personal recollections Mr. Brunton compiled Renovation & Restoration of the USC Horseshoe, A Memoir which was published with assistance from the South Caroliniana Library’s Caroline McKissick Dial Fund in 2002.
“His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him
That Nature might stand up and say to all the world,
‘This was a man.’”
- William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, Act 5, Scene 5

The University Libraries were blessed with a dear friend in Dr. John Herr and, while his contributions will never be forgotten, his presence will be sorely missed.

Dr. Herr, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biology, passed away on June 19, 2016, following a mountain hike in what was his abiding passion, the world of nature. He had served the University as a professor of botany and a researcher in flowering plant embryology for thirty-four years before his retirement in 1993, but he continued to work with students and researchers for the rest of his life. With degrees from the Universities of Virginia and North Carolina, he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and was a member of a number of learned societies, including the Linnean Society of London. He authored a number of scholarly papers, pioneered inventions in tissue processing and microscopy techniques, and received many academic awards.

VIETNAM ERA AT U.S.C.

Dr. Herr provided an interview for the South Caroliniana Library’s Oral History collection in which he talked about campus protests during the Vietnam War. He said, “I was the chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee at that time and I was meeting with the Board of Trustees when the angry students took over the whole administration building, having already taken over Russell House, and they were just very, very angry. Head of SLED was there and he told President Jones, he says, ‘We can get this settled very easily, but we have to break a lot of heads.’ And he said, ‘Well, see if you can do it otherwise.’

“And at that time President Jones was very afraid, because he thought they were going to put gas into the circulation system; that we’d all die. He was saying, ‘You know, everyone, we’re about to all die.’ I remember him saying that. But they never got through the Board of Trustees room. The police got them downstairs, but they totally trashed the place. They stopped up all the toilets and let them overflow. They wrote with spray paint all over the walls, turned over file cabinets, all typewriters, all desks. [The next day] I went through Osborne to see him [President Jones], I walked in and it was pristine. Overnight they had everybody, people there typing, everything looked like nothing had happened. Overnight they completely repaired that place. I was utterly amazed that they did that.”

Dr. Herr served the Thomas Cooper Library as President of its support group, the Thomas Cooper Society.

Dr. Herr and his wife, Lucrecia, established the annual John and Lucrecia Herr Composition Award at the School of Music. His bonds with the School of Music were fostered when he composed an original score to the University’s Alma Mater which has always been sung to the tune of “Flow Gently, Sweet Afton.” He felt that since the University’s Alma Mater had a unique text, it should also have a unique melody. Dr. Herr’s score was performed by the USC Concert choir in 2009.
IN MEMORIAM: JAMES RHETT JACKSON

“When I consider the heavens, the works of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou has ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.”

-Psalm 8:3-5

Most University and Columbia people remember Rhett Jackson as the proprietor of The Happy Bookseller, a name not inappropriate for the man himself. He passed away on May 26, 2016, and left a legacy of inspiration and giving that will remain always in the minds of those who knew him.

The South Caroliniana Library is home to the Rhett Jackson Papers, 1930-2003. The collection documents Jackson’s early life in Florence, S.C., his education, his service in the U.S. Navy, and his work in the furniture, carpet and book-selling businesses. Jackson’s stellar leadership qualities were recognized by the American Booksellers Association when he was elected president of that organization in 1986. His motivation to open a bookstore was simple. “I love books,” was a statement he made often.

The collection also provides insight into Jackson’s life-long devotion to many issues of social injustice. He was particularly concerned about South Carolina’s long history of racial discrimination, and he was involved with a number of organizations that addressed this problem. Among these were the South Carolina Parole and Community Corrections Board, the Alston Wilkes Society, the Claflin College Board of Trustees, Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, the United Methodist Church and its efforts to merge African-American and white congregations, and a citizens’ group called “United 2000” which opposed the display of the Confederate flag on public property.

RELUCTANT STEPS

In 1963, at a gathering of Methodists at Wofford College, Jackson implored his fellow Christians to remember the tenets of their faith when he said, “We are taking reluctant steps indeed in the areas of race relations, prisoner rehabilitation, alcoholic problems, economic injustices, dope addiction, and others. In these areas the church is being overtaken from the rear….These are the cutting edges of the world that Christ calls us to. But, we aren’t there! We aren’t there!”

Jackson’s personal campaign to bring down the Confederate flag from the South Carolina State House began long before the flag was actually removed from the dome and then, in 2015, from the grounds. In an editorial in The Columbia Record in 1983, Jackson wrote, “Surely, those among us who believe that all men, regardless of race or color, are equal in worth, have been offended long enough by the colors of the Confederacy flying over our state capitol…. Whatever the flag meant at the time of the war (and history has never really taught me what that was), the time to display it anywhere except in a relic room is long past.”

Rhett Jackson and his wife, Betty, gave an interview for the Library’s Oral History Collection in which they reminisced about falling in love while students at Carolina in the 1940s. Betty Jackson said, “We had a good time. College was fun. We didn’t know there was a war on except they [the students] had to be in at 6:00. The only place they could go was the library, so we did a lot of dating in the [McKissick] library, a lot of studying in the library back there in those stacks.”
“The Play’s the Thing” During a Gibbes Green Night’s Dream, 1915

BY BRIAN CUTHRELL

“All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women merely players.”

On April 14, 1915, Joseph Earle Bolt, a senior at the University, heard this and other familiar lines when he attended an outdoor performance of William Shakespeare’s As You Like It. In his English class notebook, Bolt posted the printed flyer promoting this show adjacent to his carefully recorded notes on the work. Today, both this notebook and the broadside are preserved among the collection of the South Caroliniana Library.

Ben Greet Woodland Players

When J. E. Bolt gathered with other members of the U.S.C. community on Gibbes Green for an evening of Elizabethan theatre, he joined a generation of college students from around the country who annually attended shows by the Ben Greet Woodland Players. Originally from Great Britain, this group performed on both sides of the Atlantic under various names during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although by 1915, Ben Greet himself had returned to his native London, several itinerant troupes of actors continued to perform under his name in period dress at outdoor venues around the country. For members of the audience, this meant that the “groundlings” could feel the actual ground underfoot producing an historic reenactment for all concerned.

In their 1915 visit to U.S.C., the Players staged three works in two days, allowing Columbia’s Shakespeare aficionados to also enjoy The Taming of the Shrew and Twelfth Night. Greet and his company appeared at U.S.C. multiple times prior to his death in 1936, although campus locales varied from “beneath the beautiful oaks back of DeSaussure College” in 1909 to “the terrace in front of Davis College” in 1916. In 1910, inclement weather forced a production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream to relocate to Rutledge Chapel.

Marketing for these plays at U.S.C. and elsewhere frequently boasted of the production’s affiliation with each university’s “athletic association.” During the last century, live theatre appeared to raise funds to support college athletics, or at least used this incentive to lure more customers into the seats. The write-up in The Gamecock newspaper (January 11, 1916) encouraged students to attend so that university sports teams would have more financial support: “Every student should take it as his duty to go as often as possible to enable the Athletic Association to do greater work in putting out a winning team for Carolina.” Reporting on the production seen by J.E. Bolt, The Gamecock published the headline, “Ben Greets Please Three Audiences—Athletic Association Realizes Fair Amount From Receipts,” a bounty defined in the article as “probably… between forty and fifty dollars clear profit” (April 17, 1915).

By 1915, Ben Greet (1857-1936) had returned to London to serve as director of the Old Vic Theatre. As the Great War raged across the Channel, a shortage of male actors prompted Greet to cast women in men’s roles (and in men’s beards) for his productions. Given the plots of Shakespeare’s works, it is likely that this resulted in a number of Victor/Victoria scenarios in which the production featured an actress playing the part of a man performing as a woman. Such accommodations for the duration of the war marked an ironic turn for a theatre specializing in Shakespeare, considering that during the Elizabethan era, men played all roles, male and female. In 1929, Greet was knighted as Sir Philip Ben Greet. He later returned to the Carolinas for a final appearance in Columbia on April 10, 1931, when Greet and his company presented Hamlet at the Town Theatre on Sumter Street. Special guests included South Carolina Governor and Mrs. Ibra Charles Blackwood and Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Wauchope.

George Armstrong Wauchope

Although the instructor’s name does not appear in the notebook, J.E. Bolt was probably a pupil of George Armstrong Wauchope, a professor of English at U.S.C. from 1898 to 1943. A serious advocate of theatre, Wauchope founded the Columbia Drama Club in 1909. In its early years, this town-and-gown organization met for live-reads of plays. Given the near-annual appearances of the Greet troupe in South Carolina, it is not surprising that The Gamecock identified Wauchope as “a personal friend of Mr. Greet” (March 27, 1915).

A prolific writer of articles and books during his 45 years at U.S.C., Professor Wauchope is also remembered as the lyricist of the U.S.C. Alma Mater, “We Hail Thee Carolina” (written in 1911, adopted by the University in 1912).

Following completion of his B.A. in 1915, J.E. Bolt (1894-1973) served in the United States Navy from 1917 to 1946. In later life, the native of Laurens County lived in Merced, Ca.

First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare

A century after young J.E. Bolt “brushed up his Shakespeare” on the U.S.C. campus, the Bard maintains an active fan-base among the Columbia community. The South Carolina Shakespeare Company of Columbia continues Greet’s tradition of outdoor performances in a local park. During April 2016, an original 1623 edition of Shakespeare’s first published collection of play was on view at USC as part of a special touring exhibit marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. Titled, “First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare,” and hosted by the University Libraries’ Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Columbia was the only locale where the folio was displayed in South Carolina.

Sir Ben Greet would approve.

- Brian Cuthrell is a cataloging librarian with the South Caroliniana Library.
Bolt recorded rather elaborate notes about the play, including its Keyword: Happiness.
Hollingsworth Endowment Fund Benefits Visual Materials Division

BY BETH BILDERBACK

Some years ago Becky Hollingsworth recognized the need of the Library’s Visual Materials Division to purchase and process significant materials as they became available. To help meet this need, she created the Rebecca R. Hollingsworth South Caroliniana Library Endowment Fund. The fund supports not only the purchase of visual materials for the collections but also the hiring of a graduate student to help process collections.

Daguerreotypes and Ambrotypes

Over the years, Becky also has donated a number of items to the Library, including a collection of over one hundred titles related to slavery. Recently, Visual Materials was the recipient of her continued generosity. She donated seven Charleston cased images dating from the 1840s and 1850s. These include six daguerreotypes and ambrotypes by George S. Cook, bringing the Library’s number of cased images by Cook to almost twenty. Even more significant is a daguerreotype by Charles L’Homdieu. It is the only known example of his work.

Henry P. Moore Album

In 2015, the Hollingsworth endowment fund, along with several other endowments, was tapped to purchase an important photograph album. Created by a U.S. naval officer, Emmanuel Mellach, the album documents the Port Royal area during Union occupation, 1862-1863, with photographs by New Hampshire photographer Henry P. Moore. Several of the photographs are of the William Seabrook house on Edisto Island. This album was of interest to Becky because she had a daguerreotype of a Seabrook slave in her collection. Before long, she sent the Library that daguerreotype and another of an unidentified man.

Society Members, Library Friends

Society members truly help to make the South Caroliniana Library a great repository visited by scholars from all over the world. Whether through materials or monetary gifts, members recognize and support the Library’s mission.

Like so many members, Becky Hollingsworth appreciates the untold stories and enjoys making connections so scholars can tell those stories. The Library’s collections are much richer because of this dedication and support.

Sixth-plate daguerreotype of an unidentified slave woman in the home of William Seabrook, Edisto Island, S.C., taken by George S. Cook, Charleston, S.C.

Sixth-plate daguerreotype of an unidentified man, by Charles L’Homdieu, Charleston, S.C.
Andy Chandler is a welcome volunteer with Visual Materials. His is a familiar face in Columbia, especially in historic preservation circles. He recently retired from the State Historic Preservation Office at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, where he worked as the National Register of Historic Places Coordinator for just over thirty years. In that capacity, he shepherded more than seven hundred South Carolina listings and worked to increase the number of significant African-American listings in the National Register.

The J. Carroll Johnson Collection

Andy is processing the J. Carroll Johnson Collection, which has held a special place in his heart for many years. Andy wrote his thesis on Johnson in 1993, “Dialogue with the Past: J. Carroll Johnson, Architect, and the University of South Carolina, 1912-1956.”

J. Carroll Johnson (1882-1967) was a significant South Carolina architect of the twentieth century. Many of his designs grace Columbia and other towns in South Carolina. His own home in the Hollywood-Rose Hill neighborhood of Columbia had the first attached garage in South Carolina. Johnson designed the South Caroliniana Library wings in 1926 and interior changes on the ground floor in 1928. He designed many other buildings on the campus as well.

Andy never knew Johnson but became friends with his daughters. He and Dorothy Johnson (1924-1995) were kindred spirits as Dorothy researched to learn more about her father and their family. Much of the collection is her research, which includes identification and photographs of his projects.

Andy and Dorothy kept in contact over the years, and after Dorothy’s death, Andy purchased the Johnson home. Through a contractor error, the Johnson collection and other items which had been bequeathed to South Caroliniana Library were put on the street. As soon as Andy realized this, he put up a big sign in the front yard asking people to return any materials they might have picked up. Fortunately, a neighbor and Dreher High School teacher had recognized the value of the papers. She rescued them and returned them to Andy. After re-boxing and reorganizing the materials, Andy brought the collection to the Library. Andy also is donating some items, given to him by Dorothy, to complement the collection.

The South Caroliniana Library is indeed fortunate that Andy Chandler has put this project high on his list of things to do in retirement. He brings a special understanding to the collection which will make it more accessible and inviting to scholars.

- Beth Bilderback is the South Caroliniana Library’s Visual Materials Archivist.
Library’s 175th Anniversary Celebration Culminates with Visit from Cokie Roberts

Welcome from Henry Fulmer

Good evening. My name is Henry Fulmer, and I am the Director of South Caroliniana Library.

I welcome you tonight for an event that we had planned to hold on October 6, 2015, to kick off our year-long celebration of the 175th anniversary of the historic building that houses the Caroliniana. As you know, Mother Nature had other plans and sent us an historic flood instead.

When we were preparing for the October event, Cokie Roberts was gracious in accepting our invitation, saying, “You have a stupendous institution and you have been such a wonderful help over the years that I would like to celebrate both.” It turns out she wasn’t just being nice. She didn’t hesitate to reschedule to be with us tonight as we close out our 175th anniversary celebration, and I ask you to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation for her generosity.

This year of celebration has highlighted our remarkable Caroliniana legacy, from the history of the Robert Mills’ designed building and the historic Horseshoe to examining our oral history, African-American, and architectural holdings.

Those of you have joined us throughout the year have heard about our efforts to renovate this library to protect and preserve these important collections. For those that are here for the first time, we are glad you are with us.

We hope following this lecture you will all join us across the street at the Library. We will have food, drink, and the opportunity to learn from the dedicated staff what the Library is going to become when it is renovated.

For those that have not been in the building this year, I must prepare you. When you arrive at the Library, you will not see books on the shelves or paintings on the walls. They have all been moved out. When you survive for 175 years without a fire suppression system, you are living on borrowed time. What you will see is a Library that is far from what it is going to be. But we have preliminary renderings that give you a glimpse of what areas of our renovated Library will look like and staff to tell you about our vision for the future. Our task is to maintain the historical integrity of the building while installing modern heating, air conditioning, fire detection, and fire suppression.

We are extremely proud that the citizens of the state of South Carolina through their elected representatives have recognized the need to restore and update the Caroliniana by allocating $5 million to our project. We are still pursuing our goal to raise $5 million more to get the renovation underway, and we ask that you join us in this effort.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the President of the University of South Carolina, Dr. Harris Pastides.

Welcome from President Harris Pastides

Good evening! Welcome.

Let me begin with a few facts: The South Caroliniana Library is the oldest free standing college library in the United States. It also continues to be oldest college library in continuous operation in the United States.

Indeed, our University has a rich history that is worth reading about. The concept of the state university was first introduced by Thomas Jefferson who believed that state governments should provide for the education of their citizens, especially outside of New England where there was a motley array of church-affiliated schools.

The University of South Carolina (South Carolina College), founded in 1801, was based on Jefferson’s concept. In fact, Thomas Cooper, Carolina’s second president, was one of Jefferson’s great friends.

In 1801, the South Carolina legislature appropriated approximately $50,000 to create the South Carolina College. Monies were used towards the construction of the first building on campus—the Rutledge Building located on the south side of the Horseshoe.

Shortly thereafter, University officials realized that they forgot to budget for books. A supplemental appropriation of $5,000 was provided—which was used to purchase two round-trip tickets to London; one for a professor to select and purchase books, and one for a member of the board of trustees, as a chaperone. The two traveled to Charleston by horse, to London by boat and to Oxford University by carriage. In Oxford, they interviewed an administrator to discover what the students in Oxford were reading.

After ordering several sets of books and waiting for them to be printed and bound, the duo sailed back to Charleston, journeyed to Columbia and brought the books home to the College.

While that is an amazing story, what is truly amazing is that some of those very volumes are on campus today on the north side of the Horseshoe in the Caroliniana Library! Also in the Caroliniana Library is a copy of a speech that John F. Kennedy,
President Pastides addresses the audience in Drayton Hall.

Senator from Massachusetts and a future U.S. President, gave as an inspiring commencement address in 1957 when he urged graduates to enter into politics. Its collections have few rivals in the area of Southern history. And I am happy to boldly say that we have the finest Southern history collection in the United States.

The NPR program Michael Feldman’s What Do You Know? came to Columbia several years ago. Our renowned Southern history professor Dr. Mark Smith appeared on the program. Mark is British. Michael Feldman asked Mark why an Englishman who studies Southern history came to the University of South Carolina. Mark never missed a beat. He said, “I came here because of the South Caroliniana Library.”

I was listening to the program as I was driving and nearly wrecked my car. What an endorsement for the decades of work that created this library.

The great Walter Edgar even commented on the Caroliniana in his South Carolina: A History. He stated “The South Caroliniana Library is, without question, the most user-friendly research facility in the United States….”

Even as we celebrate the 175 years of this iconic library, we must accept the challenge of raising it up to modern standards of heating, air conditioning, humidity control, fire detection and fire suppression.

The Caroliniana is a treasure that belongs to our university, our state and our nation. Even as we celebrate this year, we must remember that to be good stewards of our iconic building and our wonderful collections, we must work every day to protect this library for the next 175 years.

I would like to invite to the podium South Carolina’s own public radio star and champion of South Caroliniana Library in her own right, Beryl Dakers, who will introduce our speaker. [Editor’s note: The books from the South Carolina College Library as well as the copy of John Kennedy’s 1957 speech have been removed to the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library for safe-keeping until the South Caroliniana Library’s renovations can be completed.]

BERYL M. DAKERS’ INTRODUCTION OF COKIE ROBERTS

Thank you, President Pastides.

You know her as a best-selling Author, Broadcaster, Journalist, News Analyst and Commentator! I won’t detail her myriad accomplishments here, but refer you to the biographical sketch on your program and the tomes of information about her available on the web and through her works. I will, however, since it is my field of endeavor—take the liberty of bragging on her achievements in broadcasting, in particular. As a broadcast journalist, I can tell you she has captured all the major awards in our industry including three Emmys, the coveted Edward R. Murrow Award, the Weintal Award for Diplomatic Reporting, and the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress. She was among the first women to co-anchor network news (ABC with Sam Donaldson), and American Women in Radio and TV (AWRT) has named her one of the fifty most Influential Women in Broadcasting! She has achieved all of this in a field where it was not easy for women to succeed. Did she do all these things and sit back to enjoy her success? Hardly! You can hear her reports Monday mornings on NPR’s Morning Edition. She is still a regular contributor to ABC News, among other network outlets—and, incredibly, she co-authors a weekly column with her husband, the distinguished journalist Steve Roberts—while still managing to stay married to him! And yes, she does it all at the same time! I think, she’s a Wonder Woman!

As the daughter of not one, but two revered former members of the U.S. Congress representing the proud state of Louisiana—her father was Democratic House Majority Leader, the Honorable T. Hale Boggs, and her mother, former Ambassador and longtime Congresswoman The Honorable Lindy Boggs—Cokie brings to her political reporting and analysis a unique perspective and understanding, shaped by her upbringing and exposure as a Congressional insider, of sorts. She had a bird’s eye view of the workings of Congress at a time when being on different sides was governed by a certain civility and friendships blossomed across the aisles and party lines; when cooperation and working toward the greater good were underlying principles. That experience instilled in the young Cokie a long-abiding respect for the institution of government, one which is never far afield as she shares her particular brand of commentary and reporting. That upbringing also shaped her view of the world as a whole and challenged her to do the best she could to help make the world a better place. She is, after all, Lindy Boggs’s daughter! So, in addition to all the titles mentioned before, let me add a few more credits to her vita: How about…Historian?…Mentor?…Philanthropist?…Breast Cancer Survivor?…Women’s Advocate?…and Civic Servant?…just to name a few.

Her dedication to helping women gain the proper recognition is at once evident in the books she has written: Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation; Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation; Capital Dames: The Civil
While she was sharing this and other tidbits about Cokie, for the restoration! And this is but one example!

News surfaced, Cokie and her husband, Steve, were on the phone called. Three years ago, when Georgetown’s Historic District was ravaged by fire, seven major buildings were lost. As soon as the news surfaced, Cokie and her husband, Steve, were on the phone that day, asking: “What can we do?” They immediately organized a fund-raiser in their home and in one night raised over $10,000 for the restoration! And this is but one example!

While she was sharing this and other tidbits about Cokie, I asked Cokie’s good friend and former NPR colleague Mary Lou Kenny—who is in the audience tonight—what she thinks is Cokie’s greatest trait. Without hesitation, she immediately said: “Her humanity!” “Cokie is a wonderful friend! When something happens, she is the first one to respond…always there…an incredibly wonderful friend!” I also asked Mary Lou what she thought audiences might not know about Cokie or be surprised to learn, and she said: “For all the notoriety and public accomplishments, it is her home life that’s most important to her…She is a Fabulous Cook…a wonderful wife (to Steve), mother (to Lee and Rebecca) and grandmother (of six)—and her greatest joy is derived from her family.”

You may be wondering why Cokie Roberts was chosen as our keynote speaker for this celebration. She is not a South Carolinian by birth—Louisiana will always claim that part of her heart—although as long-time seasonal renters at Pawley’s Island, Cokie and her husband recently purchased a home there. She did not attend U.S.C. So, why Cokie? It’s not just for her celebrity, though that’s certainly a factor; not just for her ability to attract funding, although that too is greatly appreciated. But the real reason is because Cokie gets it! Cokie is a bona fide partner and user of the Caroliniana, having utilized its resources, sifting through countless largely unpublished writings of women like Eliza Lucas Pinckney, as she researched her book Founding Mothers back in 2002… and having returned and continued that relationship as she undertook subsequent publications. She knows and appreciates the value of this treasure. To wit, she wrote:

“It’s so exciting for me to join in in the celebration of the 175th birthday of the South Carolina Library. I had the joy of visiting the beautiful old building on a day when it just so happened someone was bringing in some family letters to add to the collection. It certainly brought home to me what a living place the Library is—even as it preserves and protects the past.”

She gets it! Not a warehouse or dusty repository, but a living, breathing, constantly evolving and growing organism…with its motley assortment of diaries…handwritten letters with crinkled edges…hastily scribbled notes…carefully preserved programs and pamphlets…old pictures…yellowed newspaper clippings…treasured family Bibles…and sometimes tattered memorabilia…She understands that the library functions as a not-so-silent partner, providing history and perspective…helping to fill in the blanks as we continually tell the stories which influence thought and help understand and shape…history and herstory…today and in the future.

Well-respected and oft-quoted, Roberts is credited with many sayings. One of my favorites and one I think is most appropriate for today is—“Times do keep changing—Thank God!” For my money, that’s a true pearl of wisdom.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome…Mary Margaret Corinne Morrison Claiborne Boggs Roberts! Or, to put it another way, “Here’s Cokie!”

Beryl Dakers greets Cokie Roberts at the podium.

COKIE ROBERTS’ ADDRESS

Thank you for that lovely introduction. And thank you Mary Lou [Kenny] for your contribution. Mary Lou is an alumna of the University of South Carolina, and I have known her since she worked for Fritz Hollings back in 1980. It is one of the many reasons that I love coming to South Carolina, and it is great to be here. President Pastides, Henry, it’s just so great that we’re not flooded, and now we just have to get to the point where we don’t catch fire.

I just went through the library now—(It is just quite remarkable that it’s been there for 175 years. You worried about the Yankees burning it? Forget the Yankees!)—I mean, it was bad. So we need to help here, folks.

But it is also just a treat to be here and not in Washington today. You heard I grew up at a time when people talked across the aisle to each other. Now they’re not talking to each other on the same side of the aisle. Donald Trump was there today on Capitol Hill. He says it was okay. He tweeted that it was okay, but Senator Graham chose to stay away, and said that he had a nice phone conversation with him yesterday, which I think is
about as close as he wants to get right now. He (Senator Graham) is also an alum, and a great supporter of this school.

Of course, the senators from South Carolina that I do know best are Fritz Hollings, who I’m happy to say is still with us, and the one I knew best of all through all my life was Strom Thurmond. Yes. And they did represent a different time. Fritz, of course, went to law school here and graduated in record time, and he was such a wonderful presence in the Congress. We really do miss having him there. He’d say things that—you know, one of the reasons that I did well on radio was because I could do simultaneous translations of Fritz Hollings. When he’d say, “The ox is in the ditch,” [spoken in a Hollings-like accent] he’s saying the ox is in the ditch, and what he means by that—because once you said what the English was, people still didn’t know what it was about.*

But my personal favorite was actually one day when he was on the air with us on This Week. It was when David Brinkley still was doing the show, and Sam Donaldson was, and I love Sam, but Sam was in full Sam mode, and he said, “Senator, did you have that suit made in Hong Kong?” and Fritz says, “I’m not sure where this suit was made, Sam. Where’d you have that rug made?” But it wasn’t mean. It was all funny and good-spirited and in the atmosphere it was fun.

I do have to say, though, that my first memory probably of somebody other than my own family and other Louisianans in politics was Strom Thurmond, because, of course, he was there forever. The city has really not gotten over the fact that he’s not there anymore. He was like a marble column. Bob Dole used to say that Strom Thurmond was an intern in the George Washington administration, and it’s possible he was here for the dedication of the Caroliniana Library.

* [Editor’s Note: The quotation is from Luke 14:5. On the website citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com, Hollings wrote on February 11, 2013, “The ox is in the ditch. Unless America has an awakening, the economy will be drained and those ‘rights,’ ‘fairness’ and the economy that the media and pundits wax about will be gone.”]

In fact, when I really got to know him we were on a congressional trip, for which you’d now go to jail, but you were allowed to do it then, and I was like thirteen years old, but a mature thirteen-year-old in one way and not in another, and my mother let me go by myself on a plane ride with Strom Thurmond and Estes Kefauver. We went from London to Dublin, and I said to her years later, “What were you thinking?” And she said, “Well, nothing happened, did it?” And nothing did, so she had a good point but it was just luck, like no fire in the Library.

And I must tell you, though, my favorite Strom story is one that he told all the time, and he loved telling this story. As you remember, he had his children late in life. His children were all younger than mine, and at one point he took them to see a horse farm that was run by the National Park Service. And he got there at about four o’clock in the afternoon, and the arm of the park had just come down. And he says to the ranger, he says, “Well, this is terrible. We’ve come to see the park.” And the ranger says, “We’re closed.” And Strom says, “But that’s just awful. I am the president pro tempore of the United States Senate,” and the ranger said, “Closed.” And he said, “But I am the chairman of the Judiciary Committee,” and the ranger said, “Closed.”

And Strom starts going back over his history, you know, his resume, and it didn’t succeed in opening the park. Finally he says, “Well, this is just terrible. I’ve brought my little children all this way to see these horses, and they’re just going to be so disappointed.” Then the ranger looks in the car and he says, “Senator, those are your children?” And Thurmond says, yes, and the ranger says, “Come right in.”

So in they go, around they go, they look at the horses, they have a lovely time; their visit is over. The senator says to the ranger, “I have to thank you. You have been so gracious and I am quite grateful. But I’m curious,” he said, “I told you all these important things about myself and you wouldn’t let us in. And finally when I told you that my children would be disappointed, you let us into the park. You just didn’t want my children to be disappointed? You wanted to make sure that they saw the horses?” And the ranger said, “No, Senator, I wanted the horses to see you.”

* [Editor’s Note: The quotation is from Luke 14:5. On the website citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com, Hollings wrote on February 11, 2013, “The ox is in the ditch. Unless America has an awakening, the economy will be drained and those ‘rights,’ ‘fairness’ and the economy that the media and pundits wax about will be gone.”]
So, you can see why it was his favorite story. But it is true that he probably wasn’t here when the Library was dedicated, but I’m sure he was here many times, and it is a remarkable celebration that we are having, those 175 years as the nation’s first free-standing academic library. And it has tremendous history just from the beginning, designed by Robert Mills, who was, of course, the architect of so many of the buildings in Washington, built, of course by, slave labor, as most of the major buildings and houses were, and the living history that we’ve talked about that needs to continue and be protected, with your help enhanced, as the library for the State of South Carolina and of the State of South Carolina.

As you heard, when I first visited, there was a couple that just happened to be here the same day. They had found letters from a Rutledge ancestor, and they had decided that this was the place that they should bring them where they’d be preserved, and possibly mined by some scholar, you never know, at some point, or a writer or a politician at some point in the future. It’s never clear what today or of yesterday will be important tomorrow, and to whom. And so it is important to keep it all, and it’s all here.

You heard some of the listings, but there are broadsides from colonial times to the present, and oral histories and photos and maps, and journals, the University under Reconstruction, a wonderful Works Projects Administration set of histories of African-American life in South Carolina, and my personal favorite, student exams from 1854 to 1917, so you can check out some famous person’s or your own ancestors’ grades.

But I think, of course, that the single most important document in the collection is that of Mary Chesnut. Having her diary, the original, and all of the revisions here is just so important and special. And I’ll tell you more about that remarkable document later.

Now, of course, I am particularly interested in it, although many people are, but I’m particularly interested because I do write women’s history. I do have this notion that the other half of the human race should be considered in our history. I know it’s odd, but I’m sticking with it. It’s not just important, of course; it’s a lot of fun. It’s a lot of detective work to get to women’s letters, but when you get to them they are just fabulous. Women’s letters are just so, so, so much better than men’s letters.

The men knew that they were important men and they wrote letters with that in mind, so they wrote with purpose and pomposity, and they would edit, and they would make sure that this was something that they would not mind seeing, and quite the contrary, would love seeing preserved and published and read through the ages. The women just wrote letters, and they didn’t expect me to be reading their mail one hundred fifty years or two hundred years later. They thought it would just go to the recipient and that would be the end of it. So they wrote about everything, and they wrote about politics totally. They were deeply, deeply political. But they also wrote about fashion, and about who was having and all too often losing babies, and what the economic situation was, and they were far franker and funnier about the men.

These men we see as marble and bronze statues, right? Their wives didn’t see them that way. And actually, one of my favorites is a letter about a Rutledge. It was written by Catharine Littlefield Greene, the wife of Nathanael Greene, and after the Americans were able to retake Charleston at the end of 1782, all the American troops were sitting around telling war stories. But she was actually the only person who had the kind of cheekiness to write this one down and send it to a friend, and was a story about after a battle in North Carolina that the Patriots lost.

Nathanael Greene and John Rutledge, who was the governor of South Carolina, were looking for some place to just bunk down for the night and they ended up in some sort of odd shelter. And they started complaining during the night that each one was kicking, because they were in one bed or whatever it was, and first one complained, and then the other one complained, and then each said no, no, no, it’s not me. So, she says, they both denied the charges, which put them upon examining who was at fault, and behold, the general and the governor of the rich State of South Carolina, and how shall I write it—a hog, who thought perhaps he, too, had a right to take a place with a defeated general, had all crept into one bed together.

And they go on like that. They’re all wonderful. And the most recent book that I wrote about the Civil War, Capital Dames, Varina Davis, the wife of Jefferson Davis at one point writes that it’s a good thing that—she’s furious that a friend of hers is marrying Stephen Douglas, the senator who defeated Lincoln in the Lincoln-Douglas debates and was elected to the Senate over him, because her friend’s marrying him, and she doesn’t like Douglas at all, and she says, “It’s a good thing there’s a new water system coming to Washington, so that sparing his wife’s olfactories, Douglas may wash a little oftener. If he don’t, people will build rooms with more perfect ventilation.”

So, you know, you don’t learn from the men’s letters that Stephen Douglas stinks, and the women’s letters really are much more telling and much more revelatory about a whole period of history. And in learning that history, I have been greatly, greatly helped by this institution, by Henry [Fulmer] and his staff, in learning about some of the spectacular women, starting with Eliza Lucas, eventually Eliza Lucas Pinckney. And, of course, you
know, because you’re in South Carolina, the rest of the country didn’t know, but you know that she introduced the planting of indigo into South Carolina. I love the way history books say things like that. Oh really? Was it hard? And then women got the right to vote. Wait. Did something happen before that? But that’s her sentence, and nothing more.

But, of course, it’s an incredible story. In 1739, it’s not exactly a time of modern conveniences, her father left her here at the age of sixteen in charge of three plantations, plus her mother and her toddler sister, and her mother seems to have been infirm. One of the Pinckney descendants told me she thought her mother was a drug addict, to laudanum. It was the drug of the day. And so there she was, sixteen years old, in charge of three plantations. I mean, now they consider children staying on their parents’ health insurance till they’re twenty-six.

And she was incredible in doing this work, and it was an enormous amount of work. And she wrote to a friend, she had been educated in England and she wrote to a friend in England saying, “I have the business of three plantations to transact, which requires much writing and more business and fatigue of other sorts than you can imagine. But lest you should imagine it too burdensome to a girl at my early time of life, give me leave to answer you. I assure you I think myself happy that I can be useful to so good a father, and by rising very early I find I can go through much business.”

Well, the business, she just kept adding on. She started planting trees for lumber, because she had a sense that there would be ship building at some point. She taught the slaves to read and write. She set up little hospitals. She just had one, what she called her little schemes, after another going. At one point she started writing wills for people. She’s still a teenager. And she says, well, when she’s asked to write a will, “What can I do if a poor creature lies dying? I can’t refuse. But when they’re well and able to employ a lawyer, I always shall.” She was just remarkable in every way.

And she finally did, among all the other things she was doing, her father sent her some indigo seeds from Antigua and she tried and failed and tried and failed. She had a perfidious foreman. And you can imagine what the other planters are saying, right? Yeah, right, this girl’s gonna do it, sure. But she finally succeeds in planting and harvesting indigo in South Carolina, and it becomes of course by far the most important cash crop, and by 1754 South Carolina was shipping out more than a million pounds of indigo a year. And a contemporaneous historian says that it was as important to the colonies as all the gold mines of Mexico were to Mexico, all started by this girl.

It became her dowry, because there was nothing else for her dowry, but there was also no husband. And she was a good deal of upset, as you can imagine, among the women in the Low Country saying this girl is going to be trouble. And she went to her friends, an older couple, Charles and Mary Pinckney at Belmont Plantation. They had a wonderful library, they told her she could use it, and she loved reading everything she could get her hands on, and one of the old biddies threatened to take her copy of Plutarch’s Lives and throw it into the fireplace because she would never get a husband like that. See, things don’t change.

But she did get a husband, because Mrs. Pinckney was kind enough to die and so she got her husband. And she was twenty-two, he was forty-four, but it was a happy marriage, but not a long one. They had three children and went to England for a while and then came back, and he died right after they got back, so she was once again in charge of everything. And I’m not going to go through her entire life story, although it’s fascinating. She was incredibly courageous throughout the Revolutionary War. By this time both of her sons are back in this country, too, and, of course, in George Washington’s command, and then she, at the end of her life, well, then she moved in—everything was destroyed. Her city house, her plantation were destroyed by the British, and all of her crops, all of the things that she had worked so hard on.

And then she moves in with her daughter Harriet, and George Washington, as you know, made that southern trip in 1791 and came to visit them there, to pay homage to her. And then in 1793 she went to Philadelphia to be treated for breast cancer. Again, that’s one of these things that should change. And when she was there, her daughter Harriet did keep a journal, again never published, but here it is, and a lot of that journal was about the treatments, which were a little bit gory, but she does also talk about the people in Philadelphia. At this point, of course, George Washington is president, and she says, “General Washington was extremely kind and offered everything to serve us and begged we would use no ceremony.” In other words, he was there for them, and they should call on him for anything they needed.

And then Eliza died and was buried in Philadelphia, and the President insisted on being a pall bearer because of the service she had given the country. Well, don’t you think it’s important that our children know that story? Don’t you think it’s important that children and grown ups know that story? But it wouldn’t be possible to know that story if it weren’t for the documents that are here, because you wouldn’t believe it if it weren’t for the documents that actually catalogue it and are in real time telling you the story as it goes along.

And so it is incredibly important to have those documents, to have those letters and those journals, and in her case account books, to let you know that these stories are true and that they’re important in our history.

And then there was Eliza’s daughter-in-law, Mary Stead Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney’s second wife, and she went with him and his teenage daughter Eliza to Paris in 1796, where they were sent to try to help stop the French seizure of U.S. ships. And Pinckney was sent to replace James Monroe, who was considered by the Washington administration to be too pro-French. And they have a terrifying trip with a drunken captain on the ship Liberty, and they were only saved by a mutinous mate, who finally just took over the wheel, and they landed in Bordeaux and Mary writes these wonderful letters home.

She went to the theater and finds that she’s seated between two “ladies of pleasure” and then discovers the whole theater is filled with ladies of pleasure, uh-oh, and then on they go to Paris
But she’s such a political bean as a city. and lots of happy stories about Paris common sense there.” And, “Elizabeth Monroe does her own hair. Thomas Paine was almost continually in liquor, so not a lot of try to entertain her readers. She does have little tidbits, like “Thomas Paine was almost continually in liquor, so not a lot of common sense there.” And, “Elizabeth Monroe does her own hair because she’s tired of wigs.” I mean, just wonderful little tidbits, and lots of happy stories about Paris as a city.

But she’s such a political bean with such strong views that she really can’t help herself, because she was so extremely vexed with Mr. Talleyrand, the French foreign minister, who had spent some time in America during his exile during the French Revolution, and he told his government that this was basically a two-bit country that the French government didn’t have to pay any attention to. As she said, he said it was just three million people, a long and extensive coast, “there are no men of ability in it,” this is what she says that Talleyrand says about America. “There are no men of ability in it, that the male part of the community do nothing but drink Madeira wine and the women are only employed in suckling their children.” And he says, “The French can treat America as they do Genoa and Geneva.”

So, she is furious, and she says, “I love my country a thousand times more than ever I did since it has been ill treated.” Well, Elbridge Gerry and John Marshall were sent to join Pinckney. They had a brief exile in The Netherlands, they go back to Paris; they’re still not received. Talleyrand tries to extort money from them so that they would pay him a bribe in order to be credentialed, and that becomes the infamous XYZ Affair. And when that is then published back in the United States, others echo Mary’s sentiment that they love their country a thousand times more since it’s been ill treated, and Charles Cotesworth returns as something of a hero, and all of the pro-French sentiment dissipates in this country.

And in fact, he was so well regarded that he ran for vice president with John Adams in 1800. By the way, President Pastides, I think when Jefferson was here talking to Cooper, he was actually campaigning. And the Republican newspapers, the Republican meaning the Jeffersonian newspapers, sought to diffuse the rumors that were already out there about Jefferson and a slave woman by printing that Charles Cotesworth Pinckney had picked up four women in London, two for him and two for John Adams. And Adams writes, “If this is true, General Pinckney has kept all for himself and cheated me of my two.”

By the way, when Charles Cotesworth Pinckney himself ran for president in 1808 and was defeated in a mammoth landslide by James Madison, he said that he was “beaten by Mr. and Mrs. Madison. I might have had a better chance if I had faced Mr. Madison alone.”

Well, it is that kind of political clout of the women, and the political knowledge of the women that you see in Mary Stead Pinckney’s letters that I love learning about and I love writing about, and I love their personalities and their perceptions, their humorous observations. I just find them engaging, interesting people, and I’ve loved writing about them over the years and written several books. But I found, when I wrote *Founding Mothers* and *Ladies of Liberty*, which were the Revolutionary period and the early Republic and was out talking about them, that people would often ask me about these women and slavery and what did the women think about slavery. I don’t know is the bottom line answer, for most of them. I know that Abigail Adams was ardently opposed to slavery, which she referred to as the sin of slavery, and at various times during the Revolution when we’d lose a battle she would say this is our payment for the sin of slavery. And I knew that Martha Washington was just baffled when her enslaved servant Oney ran away. She just didn’t know why she’d do that. And then she was frightened when George Washington wrote into his will that the slaves at Mt. Vernon would be freed upon Martha’s death, because she was afraid that they would then want to kill her. But she would have had a very hard time running Mt. Vernon because it was basically a hotel with a constant stream of uninvited guests. But what I didn’t know was what Southern women slave owners thought about their lives, and the fact that there were human beings in their possession. But I postulated that it was possible that they felt that it was not so horrible because they, too, were property. Married woman were the property of their husbands, and they could not own property. Their clothes, the jewelry on their bodies were property.

Now, I’m not comparing married women, married white elite women, with enslaved African Americans, except that mind set I thought could be there. And Mary Chesnut’s diary is the place that I found that there was truth to that. She was in Montgomery, Ala., right after secession, and the Confederacy briefly set up with the capital in Montgomery, Ala., and for the first time in her life she went to a slave auction and she was horrified. And she said, “South Carolina slave holder as I am, my very soul sickened.
It is too dreadful. I tried to reason, this is not worse than the willing sale most women make of themselves in marriage, nor can the consequences be worse. The Bible authorizes marriage and slavery. Poor women. Poor slaves.”

It’s one of the many, many, many of her reflections that makes you think, and her work continues to be a subject of so much scholarship, as well as popular consumption, and now, thanks to her family, there’s a whole new addition of her photo albums that have been located and purchased and are here. And these are photos that people traded like baseball cards.

They were called cartes de visite, and they were little pictures of people and she collected them from not just people she knew and not just prominent people in her time and history, but it’s also people from around the world, and they are black and white, American and foreign, and it makes us think that she expected to illustrate her diary.

And the photo albums disappeared, were repurchased by the family just a few years ago, and now we have Mary Chesnut’s illustrated diary, one of the many, many helps this library provided to her family. And as Henry says, it is an immediate way of connecting with the past. But Marty Daniels, her great-great niece, who still lives on the grounds of Mulberry Plantation, reminds us, as she put together this book of the illustrated diary, reminds us all to look around and to look ahead so that we can connect to that past.

She says, “Look in the attic, look under the beds, look in the crawl spaces, you might find a ribbon-tied stack of letters, a cigar box crammed with keepsakes, a shoebox stuffed with photographs. There are lots of hidden treasures around.”

And if you do find them, please bring them to this special place where they will be catalogued and cherished, and with your help protected from fire and flood for the next 175 years and beyond.

Thank you very much.

HENRY FULMER’S CONCLUDING REMARKS

Cokie, I want to echo the audience’s appreciation of your thoughtful remarks and also to take a moment of personal privilege to let the audience know that you put the same level of detail into preparing for this speech as you did into your research at the Caroliniana. Your personal interest in and support of our Library is sincere, and I want you to know it is deeply appreciated.

We also are grateful for your willingness to spend some time with all our guests this evening at the reception. I invite everyone to cross the street with us now for food, drink, and the opportunity to learn more about our planned renovations of the South Caroliniana Library.

Thank you for coming, and enjoy the rest of the evening.

REMINDERING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S YEAR 1977: AN ORAL HISTORY PRESERVATION PROJECT

Dr. Marjorie Spruill, U.S.C. Professor of History, who also serves on the University South Caroliniana Society Executive Council, and Andrea L’Hommedieu, Oral Historian with the South Caroliniana Library, have received two internal grants to support a project concerning the International Women’s Year, 1977. The grants include a Provosts’ Grant and an Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence (ASPIRE) grant. With a combined funding of $35,000, the grants will be utilized over the next two years.

The International Women’s Year Oral History Collection was spearheaded by the late Dr. Constance Ashton Myers in 1977. It includes seven hundred two taped interviews of key participants in the 1977 National Women’s Conference (NWC), a milestone in the modern history of women and politics in America. Students, historians, and the public will benefit from access to this collection.

The project will preserve, analyze, and publish as an online interpretive database a unique collection of oral history interviews that will illuminate a vitally important but long-neglected episode in U.S. history.

The two grants will provide funding to digitize and transcribe up to three hundred fifty interviews which currently are preserved on cassette tapes.

Additional funding will be sought to complete the remainder of the interviews.
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ASPIRE GRANT TO SUPPORT “HISTORIC SOUTHERN NATURALISTS” PROJECT

A collaboratory digital project titled “Historic Southern Naturalists” has received an Advanced Support Program for Integration of Research Excellence (ASPIRE II) grant from the University’s Office of Research and Graduate Education. The grant in the amount of $83,500 was awarded to McKissick Museum, in collaboration with the South Caroliniana Library, Thomas Cooper Library, A.C. Moore Herbarium, and the U.S.C Center for Digital Humanities.

By digitizing related collections from each of these repositories, the project will enable researchers to develop a broader sense of the intellectual world inhabited by South Carolina’s natural history scholars of the past.

Several collections form the South Caroliniana Library will be part for the project, but most of the material slated for digitization will come from the papers of Andrew Charles Moore (1866-1923), whose botanical specimens form the nucleus of the herbarium that bears his name. Also included will be mineral samples which belong to Thomas Cooper Library but which are housed in McKissick Museum as well as the published works of the naturalist Lewis Reeves Gibbes (1810-1894).

The project, which will be undertaken between July 2016 and August 2017, will culminate in the production of a website where both professional and amateur naturalists can more easily access the University’s rich natural history collections.