Fall 2021

**Caroliniana Columns - Fall 2021 / Spring 2022**

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Henry G. Fulmer retired from his position as Director of the South Caroliniana Library on December 31, 2021, rounding out a career with the Library that lasted for more than four decades.

Mr. Fulmer was pursuing a graduate degree in English in 1980 when he began work at the Library as a student assistant. A year later, he moved into a full-time staff position, and in 1992 accepted a tenure-track position as Curator of Manuscripts, by which time he had completed two advanced degrees from the University: a Master of Arts in English and Master of Library and Information Science. Following the retirement as Director of the Library of one of his mentors, Dr. Allen Stokes, Mr. Fulmer was named to fill that position in 2013.

Under Mr. Fulmer’s direction, the Library continued to work with donors to acquire new materials for all collecting areas, Published Materials, Manuscripts, Visual Materials, and University Archives, and to process and catalog those items for the use of scholars at the University and, increasingly, worldwide including through online and remote access. Other Library activities continued as well, including mounting of exhibitions, welcoming research and fellowship winners (such as the ones whose reports are included elsewhere in this issue), setting up endowments, pursuing grants, and hosting events.
While Director, Mr. Fulmer served the University South Caroliniana Society as its Secretary-Treasurer and was its principal liaison with the Library. He oversaw the production and editing of the Society’s Annual Report of Gifts that was distributed to Society members in conjunction with the Annual Meeting each spring. Each report gave a synopsis of materials acquired that year (as has been the case since the Society’s beginnings in 1937) as well as the text of the address from the previous Annual Meeting. He was also an active adviser and contributor to the Society’s newsletter, Caroliniana Columns.

While the regular daily business of the Library was continuing, the administrations of the University, the University Libraries, and the South Caroliniana Library were facing a growing awareness of the building’s problems with maintenance and electrical insufficiency, along with lack of appropriate climate control and fire detection and suppression systems. A first step was to remove the Library’s invaluable collections to safer locations, including the former Rare Books and Special Collections stack areas of the Graniteville Room in Thomas Cooper Library, the previous home of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History at 1430 Senate Street, and the University Libraries Annex. This major undertaking was accomplished in February of 2015. Later, the staff offices and user services desk also were relocated to the Thomas Cooper Library.

Funding for the renovation project came from the South Carolina Legislature and from private donors, enabling the selection of Liollio Architecture, led by Jay White, to determine the needs of the building and to plan the renovation. Originally, it was proposed that about eighteen months would be needed for testing and design plus about another eighteen months for construction. These plans proved too optimistic because of the many problems and peculiarities found within the building itself and the onslaught in early 2020 of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Renovation work was hampered by lack of workers and supply chain problems. Happily, the renovation has progressed and is expected to be completed later this year.

The pandemic required Mr. Fulmer and his Library staff to rethink all of their work procedures and policies. Most of the staff worked from home and many assisted users online. In the intervening two years, Mr. Fulmer and the Library staff have gradually increased availability of in-person services, although providing remote access remains a major part of their work.

In order to honor Henry Fulmer’s efforts to preserve South Carolina’s history and culture through his work at the South Caroliniana Library, the Henry G. Fulmer Student Assistant Fund has been established. The fund will help pay for educational employment opportunities at the Library for undergraduate and graduate students and post-graduate individuals who are interested in special collections librarianship. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact Beth Well, Libraries Director of Development at 803-269-9662, or send a check made payable to USC Educational Foundation, 1322 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208. Please indicate Fulmer Fund in the memo line and send to the attention of Beth Well.

Visual Materials Archivist Beth Bilderback was named Interim Director in January 2022.

Accompanying this article are pictorial highlights of Mr. Fulmer’s career at the South Caroliniana Library as well as tributes from colleagues.
Highlights and Tributes

Celebrating the acquisition of a collection of Abbott watercolors at the Society’s Annual Meeting in April 2013 were (left to right) Henry Fulmer, Tom McNally, Lynn Robertson, Allen Stokes and Ken Childs.

Allen Stokes—former Director of the South Caroliniana Library

Working with Henry Fulmer at the Caroliniana Library for forty years has been a pleasure. When hired as a student assistant who was a graduate student working on his master’s degree in the English Department, Henry came to the Caroliniana from a background that inspired his early interest in local and regional history. Over the years that he has worked at the Caroliniana, he has served as a staff assistant in the Caroliniana, as curator of the Manuscripts Division, and lastly as Director, the position from which he is retiring.

Among his many accomplishments, Henry edited the Annual Report of Gifts for the Library’s patron organization, the University South Caroliniana Society, and, as Director, shepherded the patron organization and organized annual meetings that have been addressed by notable scholars who have conducted research in the Caroliniana collections. During his time as Curator of Manuscripts and as Director, the Library has been awarded major grants that have enabled retrospective conversion of manuscript collections and catalog records to an online presence. The number of significant additions of manuscript, printed, and visual materials during his time as Director has enhanced the Library’s offerings for scholarly research, graduate and undergraduate research, and for persons pursuing family histories.

As I look back over my career in the Caroliniana, recognizing the promise of hiring Henry Fulmer as a student assistant was a very good decision.

Wilmot Irvin—former President of the University South Caroliniana Society

It was inevitable that Henry Fulmer would become the chief librarian and Director of the South Caroliniana Library. He is a man of the right words, both written and oral, expressed always at the right time and a man with a nose for books and artifacts and collections of all kinds that bespeak South Carolina and its history in all of its hues and dimensions. His quiet yet firm and effective leadership as Director was a thing of beauty and strength, perfectly suited for the task bequeathed to him.

We are all better persons for knowing Henry Fulmer—and his beloved Caroliniana is a much better place.
Tom Johnson (left) and Henry Fulmer (right) welcomed Carlisle Floyd to the South Caroliniana Library when the University presented Mr. Floyd with an honorary Doctorate of Music in 2013. Thanks in large part to Dr. Johnson’s efforts, Mr. Floyd had recently donated his professional papers including scores of many of his compositions to the Library.

**Tom Johnson—former Assistant Director and Archivist for the South Caroliniana Library**

Henry:

I salute you as you transition from your distinguished career in public service there at the University of South Carolina to a well-deserved retirement status that will now permit you to focus on those private pursuits and continued service that interest you most.

We were on staff together in one capacity or another at the South Caroliniana Library for more than twenty years—during the decades of the 1980s and ’90s—and we have continued to be colleagues and friends for the twenty years since my own retirement in 2002. So, the following observations on your contributions to the Caroliniana and the larger library system at USC are made based on our long association over the past forty years.

First, for as long as I have known you, you have exhibited a reverence for the unique institution that the Caroliniana Library is and have steadily pursued its best interests, goals, and mission. Part of such devoted support of the library was your recognizing, honoring, and furthering the leadership and accomplishments of the two long-term library directors who were your immediate predecessors and mentors at the Caroliniana, Les Inabinett and Allen Stokes. You continued to model their own best policies and achievements, thereby affirming a sense of institutional continuity and strength. Like them, you brought a broad and deep knowledge of South Carolina history and culture to your work that is so essential to the peculiar demands of this particular library, and you gladly continued to learn more and more about it as you engaged in your various routine duties.

You also augmented the Caroliniana’s reputation for excellent constituent service and public relations, both by consistently assisting researchers in a friendly, positive manner and by securing ongoing strong support for the library through the long-term cultivation of its donors, friends, and patrons.

Furthermore, you have been a diligent and astute processor of new collections, and an excellent writer whose style is characterized by clarity, precision, and dignity—whether you were composing those required descriptions for the annual University South Caroliniana Society programs, writing miscellaneous articles and essays for various campus publications, taking administrative committee minutes, or handling office correspondence. The library benefited greatly from your combined talents as a writer, processor, and of course collections development officer.

In addition, you brought extra professional authority to the library through your acquisition of a graduate degree in Library Science. Administratively, I admired your positive attitude in assuming long-term responsibilities on committees beyond the Caroliniana and your diligent attention to this necessary bureaucratic work. You promoted unapologetically the strong organic tie between the Caroliniana Library and the larger system of USC Libraries.

In sum, I admire and honor the particular legacy of professional integrity and demeanor, fine workmanship, and positive humanity you have left to the South Caroliniana Library, the USC Libraries, the University of South Carolina, and the world beyond. And I now wish you very well in the new manifestation of life that awaits you beyond the Caroliniana and the University, and in all of the endeavors you continue with or newly undertake in the months and years ahead.
Although I feel inadequate to the occasion, it is an honor for me to say a few words about my dear and long-time friend Henry Fulmer as he retires from Director of the South Caroliniana Library. With Fulmer at the helm, the Library has continued and expanded its reputation as the crown jewel of the University of South Carolina and of the state.

Whether a young worker in the manuscripts division, an archivist, a curator, or director, Henry Fulmer was hard-working, diplomatic, and optimistic. He knows the collections thoroughly. As Director of the South Caroliniana Library, Fulmer has collected, preserved, and promoted the history of South Carolina, and of the American South. Furthermore, he has supported the inclusion of all history, an astonishing feat in this time of “alternative facts” and book banning.

Archivists do not get the credit they deserve. Scholars and archivists have a symbiotic relationship. Historians need archivists, and Fulmer has proven able to work with a wide variety of researchers. I can say unequivocally that Fulmer helped me with the research needed for my teaching and writing, and he made it better! He has also been a supporter for academic conferences such as “Lincoln’s Unfinished Work” at Clemson University and for others that reach out to the general public—at USC and in places as remote as Edgefield, S.C.

In 2004, Fulmer was awarded the Yates Snowden Award. This was well-deserved. Henry Fulmer has served his state and its history extremely well, and the South Caroliniana Library has been the beneficiary of his knowledge, leadership, dedication and insight.

We will miss his leadership, of course, and we will also miss the friendship of a decent and caring person who is emblematic of the Caroliniana. I thank him for his support and encouragement. Put simply, Henry is a man of faith and character, a truly Christian gentleman. He cares about scholars, his staff, and others. He is truly the best. Our friendship, which is near and dear to my heart, will continue, I know. I hope retirement brings him wonderful things. He will be greatly missed!
In December, we bade farewell to Henry Fulmer who retired after working at the South Caroliniana Library for more than forty years. He recently told me that when he left, I would become the longest serving employee of the library. I am not sure how that makes me feel. I guess it makes me feel sort of old!

Some years ago, when we were searching for a new director of the South Caroliniana Library, we were having a program in the Caroliniana. We had a nice crowd of about one hundred people. I was to open the program and introduce Henry, who would in turn introduce the speaker. I welcomed everyone, and when I introduced Henry, the crowd gave him a standing ovation. I remember thinking to myself that if that was how people felt about Henry, I would make him the next Director of the Library. And I did.

Henry has proven me right every step of the way as he has led the Caroliniana. The path has not been easy from the day Harris Pastides gave me the go-ahead to begin the renovation of SCL. Henry will continue to engage with the Library’s staff as we move to completion of the renovation. Maybe we can even coax him back when we rededicate the Library.

I am sure you all join me in wishing Henry well in his well-deserved retirement.

Henry Fulmer and Cokie Roberts at the reception for the Library’s celebration of its 175th Anniversary

This 175th Anniversary banner hung in front of the Library in 2015-2016.
Beryl Dakers—President of the University South Caroliniana Library

It was with mixed feelings that I learned the news of Henry Fulmer’s resignation as Director of the South Caroliniana Library. While we are excited for Henry as he embarks on this new chapter in his life, we cannot help but note the major loss in our University South Caroliniana Society family.

Henry began his service to the South Caroliniana Library more than forty-one years ago as a graduate student assistant in the Manuscripts Division. He worked for the Caroliniana while achieving a master’s degree in English and a master’s in library and information science. In 1991, while still a non-faculty staff member, he conceptualized the retrospective conversion of records for the Library’s manuscript and unpublished holdings—a process of moving the records kept on paper catalog cards into the University Libraries’ online catalog. He piloted the test project that eventually led to Federal grant funding and laid the foundation for work that continues yet today. In 1992, Henry became the Library’s Curator of Manuscripts. Most notably, in January 2013, he was named the Director of the South Caroliniana Library and simultaneously assumed the role of Secretary-Treasurer of the University South Caroliniana Society.

As Secretary-Treasurer, Henry has been a valued member of our Executive Council, continuing the close working relationships established with past Executive Councils led by presidents Ken Childs and Wilmot Irvin. Under his careful stewardship, the Society has been able to add to the Library’s collection more than $1 million in books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps and visual materials bearing primarily upon the history of the Palmetto State, the American nation and beyond. Many direct gifts in kind have been realized through relationships Henry has forged over his long service with Library users, donors, and Society members. He has also been instrumental in bringing speakers of renown to the Society’s annual meetings and other events. Henry was a chief advocate for the renovation of the South Caroliniana Library building, the nation’s oldest freestanding academic library, urging that this national treasure, which is home to many of the nation’s documentary treasures, be better protected with adequate environmental controls, fire detection and suppression, and security.

I understand that Henry has not fully planned his future activities. He does intend to remain in the Columbia area for the foreseeable future and to continue his role as Director of Music and Organist at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. He hopes to put those research skills to use working on his family archives and papers, as well as capturing the mid-nineteenth century footprint and documenting the history of his beloved hometown, Fountain Inn, S.C. (We have it on good authority that the local Fountain Inn Museum will benefit from his expert assistance and interest in a retro quilt exhibit and another on women’s clothing!) Additionally, he will continue his service on the Boards of Columbia Baroque and the Region 9 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Most importantly, he will get a chance to explore and enjoy the world around him!

While we will miss him dearly, please join me in congratulating our Henry and wishing him well!

—Nancy H. Washington is a University of South Carolina Distinguished Librarian Emerita and Editor of Caroliniana Columns.
John M. Bryan’s Creating the South Caroliniana Library

by
Nancy H. Washington

Society members who would like to learn more about the history of the South Caroliniana Library and its role in the life of the University have an excellent opportunity to do so by reading John M. Bryan’s Creating the South Caroliniana Library. The book, which was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2020, presents a masterful telling of both the planning and construction of the library building, and of the collecting and use of the treasure trove of materials it owns. As the book jacket notes, “the library’s holdings—manuscripts, published materials, university archives, and visual materials—are essential to understanding the Palmetto State and Southern culture as it has evolved over the past 300 years.”

Bryan provides the back story covering the opening of the South Carolina College in January of 1805 with nine students and two faculty members as well as the beginnings of the library when one building, Rutledge College, housed dormitory rooms, classrooms, the chapel and the library. He gives detailed information about the College library holdings including the volume which was designated “South Carolina College Library, No. 1” in the collection—John Adolphus’ History of England published in London in 1802. In addition, he recounts the strict rules which students were obliged to follow in order to use the valuable materials the library held.

“President Barnwell’s Crowning Achievement”

Increased enrollment and a growing library collection prompted the College to open a new Library and Science building in 1817. By 1836, the library’s catalog listed a total of four thousand volumes. However, in December of that year, President Robert W. Barnwell reported to the Trustees that “the present building used as a library is unfit for that purpose” (page 18). He cited the dangers and unpleasant odors library users were subjected to because the library was situated on the floor immediately above the chemistry laboratory, as well as the increasingly decrepit condition of the building for which proper maintenance had been neglected. His recommendation was that the College should erect an entirely separate library building. Two years later, Barnwell pressed the point again to the Trustees, emphasizing the need for South Carolina to offer her sons an exceptional education independently of other states and institutions, and therefore to provide both materials and a building that would support that goal. In Bryan’s words, “the new library building was President Barnwell’s crowning achievement” (page 18).

Construction of the South Carolina College Library was completed by 1840. It was the first free-standing academic library building in the United States and its Reading Room was an architectural replica of the Library of Congress. The 1840s and 1850s saw a growth of the library collections in both number and quality of materials, so that by 1860 the College had “one of the best selected and generously supported libraries in the country and housed 17,000 volumes” (page 49).
Harry Dodge Jenkins, University of South Carolina Library, watercolor, 1927
The South Caroliniana Library, located on the historic Horseshoe of the University of South Carolina campus in Columbia, is one of the premier research archives and special collections repositories in South Carolina and the American Southeast. The library's holdings — manuscripts, published materials, university archives, and visual materials — are essential to understanding the Palmetto State and Southern culture as it has evolved over the past 300 years.

When opened as the South Carolina College library in 1840 it was the first freestanding academic library building in the United States. Designed by Robert Mills, architect of the Washington Monument, it is built in the Greek Revival style and features a replica of the reading room that once housed Thomas Jefferson’s personal library in the second Library of Congress. When the college built a larger main library (now known as the McKissick Museum) in 1940, the Mills building became the home of “Caroliniana”— published and unpublished materials relating to the history, literature, and culture of South Carolina.

Through a dedicated mining of the resources this library has held, art historian John M. Bryan crafted this comprehensive narrative history of the building’s design, construction, and renovations, which he enhanced with personal entries from the diaries and letters of the students, professors, librarians, and politicians who crossed its threshold. A treasure trove of Caroliniana itself, this colorful volume, featuring 95 photographs and illustrations, celebrates a beautiful and historic structure, as well as the rich and vibrant history of the Palmetto State and the dedicated citizenry who have worked so hard to preserve it.

A foreword is provided by W. Eric Emerson, director, South Carolina Department of History and Archives.

“Expertly researched and richly illustrated, John Bryan’s latest contribution to South Carolina’s history provides both a chronicle of past achievements and a prelude to future accomplishments, acquisitions, and discoveries at what is one of the Palmetto State’s most venerable landmarks and institutions.”

John Sherrer, Historic Columbia

“Meticulously researched, this handsome tome explores the complex history of the South Caroliniana Library, weaving together layers of personal stories using collections held by the very institution it seeks to describe. Future scholars will be able to look to this volume for inspiration — and its excellent bibliography!”

Edward Blessing, South Caroliniana Library

John M. Bryan, professor emeritus of art and architectural history at the University of South Carolina, is a recipient of the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor awarded by the governor of South Carolina. Bryan is the author of several books including Architectural History of the South Carolina College, 1801–1855; Robert Mills, America’s First Architect; Creating the South Carolina Statehouse; and Biltmore Estate.
The University South Caroliniana Society

Bryan recounts the establishment of the University South Caroliniana Society in 1937 largely through the efforts of Professor Robert E. Meriwether. Then, as now, the Society actively supported the Library in its quest to acquire all types of materials related to the history and culture of the state. At an initial meeting on February 4, 1937, Meriwether spoke to a group of some fifty invited guests about the need for a society “to collect and preserve Caroliniana, to cooperate with other archives within the state, and to facilitate research” (page 94). Before the end of the year the Society had one hundred thirty-seven members.

By the time of the Society’s fourth Annual Meeting in 1940, the University was well on the way to completing a new library building that would be named for President J. Rion McKissick, and the decision had been made to house Caroliniana in the old library building. Professor Meriwether was named Director of the collection. May 19, 1941, which Bryan says “could be considered the Caroliniana’s official birthday” (page 104), was the day when library holdings pertaining to South Carolina were officially transferred from the University library to the Caroliniana.

The first South Caroliniana Library event for the public was an open house held in October 1941, and, in December, President McKissick told the Trustees that the Caroliniana was “in operation and growing rapidly” (page 104).

In Appendix Four, Bryan records particulars about the Society’s organization as approved by the Trustees in 1940. Included are Purpose, Officers and Organization, Membership, Obligations of Members, and Designation of Funds.

Fortunately, while the grand old building itself is closed for renovations, the Library’s collections are being carefully preserved and expanded, and are available to users as library materials have been on campus since the first student opened Adolphus’ History of England some two hundred seventeen years ago.

Creating the South Caroliniana Library is available from USCpress.com.

—Nancy H. Washington is a University of South Carolina Distinguished Librarian Emerita and Editor of Caroliniana Columns.
The South Caroliniana Library owns a large collection of postcards depicting the state’s towns, cities, public and educational buildings, religious edifices, homes, agricultural and industrial activities, and scenic beauty. While contemporary postcards are available in bookstores, newsstands, and tourist sites today, many of the most interesting ones were printed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when they were a more common way of communication between friends and family members.

The Library’s collection of thousands of South Carolina postcards has been digitized by the University of South Carolina Libraries’ Digital Collections Department and may be accessed at https://digital.library.sc.edu/collections/south-carolina-postcards/.

In addition to the postcards, the Digital Collections Department offers researchers access to hundreds of thousands of rare, fragile, historic and unique books, pamphlets, posters, diaries, manuscripts, maps, music, newspapers, photographs, postcards, films, and oral histories.

BEAUTIFUL BEAUFORT

The South Caroliniana Postcards Collection contains almost two hundred fifty images of scenes and sights from Beaufort County, a few of which accompany this article.

Over the centuries, the natural beauty, the abundant game and seafood, and the almost tropical climate of the Beaufort area have drawn native peoples and European would-be settlers alike. Beginning in the 1500s, heroes and villains from Spain, France, England, Scotland, and Switzerland appeared and displaced the native people, leaving tales of their exploits in local lore as well as new place names for rivers, islands, and settlements on the maps that they drew.

Ultimately, the the descendants of these settlers became colonists and, eventually, citizens of the state of South Carolina and the United States of America. Prominent planter families included the Heywards, the Bulls, the Elliotts, and the Barnwells, one of whom, Robert W. Barnwell, was president of South Carolina College in 1840 when the College Library, which is now the South Caroliniana Library, was built.

Mostly unsung and often unknown except when listed in registers of property, hundreds of thousands of enslaved people (a majority of the population of Beaufort by 1730) toiled to support the vast plantations which so enriched the white planters. Today, the Gullah culture survives to echo and honor these unknown, but not forgotten, forebears through music, story-telling, and artistic endeavors.

Throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the fortunes of the area rose and fell with the vicissitudes of wars, economic variables, and natural disasters.
VIEWS OF BEAUFORT

“Every day is Sunday in the Sea Islands.”
—DuBose Heyward

Writing in 1938, the anonymous author of *Beaufort and the Sea Islands* (one of the Federal Writers’ Project’s *American Guide Series*) observed, “The determining factor in founding the town, as given by the Lords Proprietors, was that ‘a port upon the River called Port Royal’ would be the most proper place in that part of the province for ships of Great Britain to take in masts, pitch, tar, turpentine, and other naval stores” (page 5). “The islands themselves serve as fitting background for the philosophy and beliefs of their inhabitants. Acres of sand threaded by tidal streams that recede and leave black salt mud, tropical palmettos raising bouquets of spears above tangles of jungle-like undergrowth, strips of marsh grass—green in summer, gold in winter—bordering the streams, and mounds of bleached and ancient oyster shells; all this intrigues the visitor and he expects a difference in the ordinary habits of life” (pages 12-13).

“The approach to the town of Beaufort...through an avenue of palmettos gives the initial impression of semi-tropical calm which now pervades this little city with its history of fiery contests, of storms, of wealth followed by disaster.... One of the few county seats in South Carolina without a monument, the entire town, with its tabby ruins and its mellow Colonial homes irregularly strung out along winding streets, is in itself more interesting and attracts the visitor’s attention more effectively than any conventional monument” (page 16).

Nell S. Graydon, in her *Tales of Beaufort* (published in 1964) speaks in even more fanciful tones: “Beaufort town stands proud and serene on a high bluff fronting the Beaufort River. Soft ocean breezes stir the thick foliage and the graceful drapery of gray-green moss on the huge oaks. Palmettos, fragrant shrubs, grass and colorful flowers grow luxuriantly between stately trees. “Days the town is bathed in golden sunshine, nights in silver moonbeams. Once in a great while, when the foghorns sound their eerie warning, the whispering wind is still, the mist creeps in from the sea. It spreads like a bridal veil over the sleeping town, and hovers like a benediction about the ancient spire of St. Helena, then gently touches the graves of her dead. Wisps of the gossamer-like messenger from the sea dip between buildings and lovingly caress the old walls. The mist lingers, white and ghostly on the surface of the river, then recedes before the rising sun” (page 3).

In the first volume of *The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina*, Lawrence S. Rowland, Alexander Moore, and George C. Rogers, Jr. state that “St. Helena Island, Lady’s Island, and Port Royal Island, along with their auxiliary islands, dovetail so completely that they might be pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Together they are the heart of the sea island region” (page 2).

“On June 7, 1712, the parish of St. Helena was laid out.... The limits of the county were on the northeast the Combahee River and St. Helena Sound; on the northwest a line drawn from the head of the Combahee River to the Savannah River; and on the southeast by the ocean. The new town was named Beaufort and its two principal streets were named Craven and Carteret, which they remain to this day” (page 91).

*Washington Post* writer Anna Mazurek offered advice to travelers in her December 8, 2021, article entitled “In South Carolina, Bypass Crowded Charleston for Tranquil Beaufort.” “Although Charleston is definitely worth visiting, there’s a less crowded alternative just about 90 minutes southwest: Beaufort, South Carolina’s second oldest city. Think of it as a mini-Charleston with its own distinctive charm. Located on Port Royal Island, Beaufort has narrow streets lined with giant oak trees draped with moss, and historic homes built in the Federal, Early Classical and Greek Revival styles. The entire downtown has been designated a historic district by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.”

**SOURCES**


“Coastal Scene—Beaufort County, S.C.” (1967)
Beautiful palmetto trees, wide beaches, and the blue Atlantic make the Beaufort coast a recreation paradise in an uncommercialized setting. Warmed by the nearby Gulf Stream, the tropical coast even grows orange trees and an abundance of year around flowers.”

“Bay St. showing new Bank Building, Beaufort, S.C.” (1909)

“St. Helena Episcopal Church, established 1712 Beaufort, S.C.” (1915)

This building was erected in 1724 and later was enlarged. During the Civil War it was used as a hospital, and it is said that tombstones were taken from the churchyard to be used as operating tables.
“Old Beaufort College, Beaufort, S.C.”
(1915)
Beaufort College was chartered in 1795. This building was constructed in 1852. After the Civil War it was used by the Freedmen’s Bureau and later as a grammar school.

“The old Lafayette building, Beaufort, S.C.”
(1930)
In 1825, residents of Beaufort welcomed the Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de Lafayette with a band and a parade. He addressed the crowd from the steps of this house and it has been known as the Lafayette House ever since.

“Baptist Church and Sunday school building, built in 1812, Beaufort, S.C.”
(1920-29)
The church was organized in 1804. In 1857, the Black membership was 3,317 while the white membership was one hundred eighty-two.
“Along the docks. Beaufort, S.C.” (1911)

“C. & W.C. (Charleston and Western Carolina) passenger depot, Beaufort, S.C.” (1925)

“Beaufort County Court House, Beaufort, S.C.” (1908)
“Gold Eagle Tavern Beaufort, S.C.” (1916)

“The property of which the Tavern forms a part was the Beaufort residence of the plantation owner Henry Williams [sic] Desassure [sic], who was appointed by President Washington in 1794, Director of the U.S. Mint. And soon thereafter he called on President Washington with a handful of Half Eagles, the first successfully coined by the United States.”

“Tabby Manse, Beaufort, S.C.” (1965)

“This interesting house, designed along the lines of old English Architecture, was built in approximately 1768 of Tabby—a composition of oyster shell and lime.”
“The Anchorage, Beaufort, S.C.” (1915)
William Elliott built this home before the American Revolution. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Old Benton Plantation near Beaufort, S.C.” (1909)
“Ruins of Sheldon Church Beaufort County, S.C.” (1971)

Members of the Bull family of nearby Sheldon Hall were commissioned to oversee the building of Prince William Parish Church, which was erected in 1745-1755. Both Sheldon Hall and the church were burned by the British during the American Revolution. The building was restored, only to be severely damaged by Sherman’s army in 1865. With its brick columns and moss-bedecked oak trees, the ruined church is a favorite subject for photographers and painters alike. On the Second Sunday of Easter each year, the old church is resurrected as the site of a worship service conducted by the priests, acolytes, and choir from the Parish Church of St. Helena in Beaufort. Following the service, the worshipers enjoy a picnic on the grounds with fine linen tablecloths, silver candelabra and elaborate floral bouquets.
“Hauling Cotton to Ginnery. Beaufort, S.C.” (1922)

“Marshlands” (1970)
—Nancy H. Washington is a University of South Carolina Distinguished Librarian Emerita and editor of *Caroliniana Columns*. 
Tim Galsworthy
Ellison Durant Smith Research Award
During 2021, as the recipient of the Ellison Durant Smith Research Award, I was able to access key archival holdings from the South Caroliniana Library (SCL). My doctoral project, which I am undertaking at the University of Sussex in Great Britain, considers the relationships between Civil War memory and the Republican Party during the Civil Rights Era. From the starting point to the present day, when Republicans are the strongest defenders of Confederate memorialisation, I want to understand how, when, and why the “Party of Lincoln” was transformed. Focusing on the period 1960-1968, I analyse Civil War memory’s role in Republican intra-party battles—especially between conservative Southern Republicans and progressive pro-civil rights Republicans.

I identified a number of SCL collections that would be useful for my research. These included: Cornelia Dabney Tucker’s scrapbooks and papers, the Strom Thurmond Papers, and James Duffy’s unpublished manuscript “In GOP We Trust.” I applied successfully for a fellowship to support a planned trip to Columbia. However, I received this award just as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning. I was initially hopeful that travel might be possible at a later stage. It quickly became clear this was an impossibility.

Working with SCL staff, especially Edward Blessing and Todd Hoppock, I ascertained what my options were for remote research through the award. We split up my list of desired materials between those which library staff could scan and those requiring a research assistant. Edward and Todd then put out an advertisement for a research assistant, to which Alex and I had an effective and friendly working relationship. I gave clear guidance regarding the materials to be reproduced; we used Google Drive to share files and keep each other updated. Alex worked diligently and efficiently. SCL materials have proven invaluable for my examination of Civil War memory and Southern Republicanism, especially in South Carolina.

**Cornelia Dabney Tucker Scrapbooks**

Cornelia Dabney Tucker’s scrapbooks and papers provided me a greater understanding of the interplay between South Carolina Republicanism and Civil War memory during the 1930s–1950s, thus serving as important background for my study of the 1960s GOP and enabling me to discuss continuity and change. Tucker was a wealthy white woman in Charleston who engaged in conservative activism across several decades. She led grassroots efforts to oppose Franklin Roosevelt’s expansion of the Supreme Court. Moreover, in the wake of, and due to her opposition to, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, she campaigned for reforms of the way Supreme Court justices were selected. Tucker’s proposals, usually presented in letters to South Carolina newspapers, crossed the desks of notable politicians including segregationist South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond and Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

In the late 1930s, Tucker left the Democratic Party, the traditional home of white Southerners, and joined the incipient South Carolina Republican faction led by J. Bates Gerald. As well as serving as the state party’s publicity chairman, Tucker laboured tirelessly for the introduction of a secret ballot in South Carolina. She believed this would remove the stigma and difficulties associated with voting Republican in the Solid Democratic South. Tucker was an ardent supporter of conservative Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater from 1959 through to his presidential nomination in 1964.

Tucker was the niece of Stephen Dodson Ramseur, a Confederate general who was mortally wounded at Cedar Creek, Va. Tucker made this heritage central to her Republicanism, as she justified her party realignment and encouraged others to follow suit. “Each day when I wake up I think of my uncle. When I think of what he did for the South I resolve to do something myself every day,” she told an interviewer. Tucker understood, as she expressed in one letter, that the South was loyally Democratic “as a result of the Republican Reconstruction period.” Tucker employed Civil War memories in an effort to combat trans-generational hostility to the Republican standard.

In October 1940, Tucker spoke in support of Republican presidential nominee Wendell Willkie. Her address was carried over South Carolina’s radio waves. Tucker encouraged South Carolinians to go to the polls and reject a third FDR term, declaring, “The spirit of 61 is not dead.” My wider research has found that during the 1960s, Southern Republicans invoked Confederate memory in a similar way. For instance, James Martin, who ran for the U.S. Senate in 1962, suggested Alabama’s voters could perform a contemporary role analogous to Confederate luminaries by rejecting the Democrats and voting Republican. Tucker’s rhetoric demonstrates that pro-Confederate references by Southern Republicans pre-dated the 1960s, the period when the GOP began to take firmer root below the Maxon-Dixon Line.

**Civil War Centennials**

Civil War references from South Carolina and Southern Republicans accelerated during the 1960s. This was due to increased party activism and growing popular support, as well as the interlinking Civil Rights Movement and Civil War centennial. Pro-civil rights
February 21, 1962

Mrs. Robert Pinckney Tucker
21 Lamboll Street
Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Mrs. Tucker:

I appreciate your concern about the books in the Public Library. I am not an authority in the field of Literature or of Library Science and, therefore, do not feel qualified to suggest to the Librarian what books she should keep on her shelves and what books should be removed. Frankly, the matter of censoring public morals is one that frightens me for certainly the history of this type of activity is not a very pleasant page in the history of human development. I regret that I am unable to comply with your request.

Faithfully,

Gray Temple
Bishop

GT:JC
Republicans, such as New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, interacted with the Civil War centennial—especially commemorations of the Emancipation Proclamation—to advocate progress toward greater racial tolerance. Conversely, Southern segregationists used the centenary to oppose civil rights. SCL documents demonstrate how Tucker, who described herself as “South Carolina’s oldest Republican” by this point, criticized the centennial celebrations while also defending states’ rights and upholding Lost Cause narratives.

In May 1960, Tucker condemned the Civil War centennial commemorations due to start the following year. “Why should we celebrate our defeat by overwhelming numbers and superior equipment? Why should we celebrate our lost cause—States’ Rights?” she asked. Warning that a new “Reconstruction” was “descending” from Washington, the 79-year-old suggested “an imposing statue of Robert E. Lee” should be erected in the nation’s capital “alerting representatives in Congress from ALL states to do battle in the cause of States’ Rights TODAY.” While antagonistic to the Civil War centennial, Tucker offered an argument that would be deployed by Southern segregationists throughout the celebrations—Americans must defend states’ rights in the 1960s, just as Confederates had in the 1860s.

The Strom Thurmond Papers available at SCL reveal how the senator used the April 1961 commemoration of the firing on Fort Sumter to defend the racial status quo. Speaking at a dinner at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, Thurmond warned “over-zealous radicals” against interfering in the South, citing “the problems” they would “conjure up in their caldron of integrationist idealism.” The entire Fort Sumter centennial was mired in racial controversy. Madaline Williams, an African American representative from New Jersey, was barred from booking a room at the Francis Marion, where delegates were staying, because of segregationist norms. A number of states threatened a boycott, leading President John F. Kennedy to intervene; and a compromise plan was formed, under which delegates would be housed at Charleston’s desegregated naval base. Reviewing the unfolding brouhaha on her doorstep, Tucker sent Kennedy a telegram imploring him to call off “this war celebration which serves no purpose other than to again divide the nation.”

Tucker resumed her attacks on the Civil War centennial in 1965, criticizing the impending commemoration of Robert E. Lee’s surrender to Ulysses S. Grant. Responding to events in Selma, Ala., Tucker suggested the Appomattox centennial was “scverous political strategy” designed to psychologically humiliate the South and thereby prepare the way for federal voting rights legislation. “Is it now too late to protest a centennial celebration calculated to humble the defeated and exalt the victor?” she wondered. Tucker’s interactions with the Civil War centennial, especially in 1965, will be a valuable part of my thesis. Republicans in Congress, both those supportive of and those opposed to the legislation, relied on Civil War memories to champion or challenge the Voting Rights Act. Tucker’s letters add an important grassroots dynamic to my analysis, illustrating how ordinary Americans also engaged with the Civil War centennial and civil rights debates. These materials further my overarching conclusion that Civil War memories were a central part of Republican politics and divisions during the civil rights era.

Alongside Tucker’s collections, James Duffy’s manuscript “In GOP We Trust” is another invaluable source this award enabled me to access. Duffy, who was active in the South Carolina GOP, offers a blow-by-blow account of Republican fortunes during the 1960s. Noting that the state party had an image (unfair in his mind) as a racist party, he highlights a series of internal debates over racial issues—such as the exposure of South Carolina Republicans as members of the White Citizens’ Council, or even the Ku Klux Klan, and conflicts among Charleston activists over whether Republicans should organize Black precincts. Duffy offers insights into how the national party tried to grow Republicanism both in South Carolina, and in the South more broadly, through training seminars in 1962 and 1967. He also describes a November 1967 visit to Columbia by Black Republican Senator Edward Brooke—an event I plan to investigate more. Duffy’s voluminous manuscript, which includes over fifty pages of appendices, will afford my analysis of Southern Republicanism significant colour and detail.

SCL holdings have significantly deepened my understanding of South Carolina Republicanism. Materials from a range of collections have highlighted the long history of South Carolina Republicans invoking Civil War memories to justify their politics. They also illuminate reactions from the state’s white conservatives to the Civil War centennial. I am extremely grateful to the SCL for supporting my research with this award, particularly in these turbulent times. I would like to thank Henry Fulmer, Edward Blessing, Todd Hoppock, McKenzie Lemhouse, and the entire Library staff. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Alex Manley for exceptional work. Thanks to these amazing people, I was able to access primary materials despite being unable to leave my country—and, for some periods, my flat!
In June 2021, thanks to the support of the Governor Thomas Gordon McLeod and First Lady Elizabeth Alford McLeod Research Fellowship, I conducted research for two weeks at the South Caroliniana Library. My research at Duke University concerns the changes in Black and white social relations and an understanding of politics as a set of patron-client relationships in the period immediately following the Second World War.

Pragmatic Politics in the Postwar South

Immediately preceding the classical phase of the Civil Rights Movement, which culminated with passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, African Americans in South Carolina were already organizing to influence elections within the state’s Democratic Party. Though many Black people throughout the South remained barred from voter rolls via poll taxes, unevenly applied literacy tests, and voter intimidation, the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Elmore v. Rice* (1947), which struck down all-white primaries in the state, provided for the possibility of new political campaigns in the state’s dominant Democratic Party. The papers of African American life insurance executive and civil rights leader Arthur Clement chronicle his watershed 1950 campaign on the Democratic ticket. Although Clement’s run for representative of the First Congressional District was unsuccessful, Black South Carolinians still turned out in large enough numbers that year to punish then-Senate-hopeful Strom Thurmond for his avowedly anti-civil rights platform in his 1948 presidential run. The South Carolina Political Collections file on Olin D. Johnston confirms this effort. As Modjeska Simkins reasoned, “If in this election, where the lines are so tightly drawn, we can denounce and defeat the Dixiecrat forces with our votes, the race issue, as a campaign tirade, will be silenced forever in South Carolina, I do believe.” So as not to let Johnston off the hook, she continued: “...Johnston needs a sound beating, but I also must maintain that he does not deserve it from Thurmond.” While neither Thurmond nor his opponent Olin Johnston gave voice to anything like a modern civil rights program, the Black-led efforts to get Johnston elected demonstrated a strategic way of thinking about how to combat white supremacy at the ballot box.

Organizing and the Red Scare

Meanwhile, concerns about communism, both real in the form of the limited presence of Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA) and imagined in the form of the baseless accusations lobbed about by politicians and concerned citizens, were on the rise and fill the pages of these archives. Indeed, anticommunism divided potential colleagues in the fight for civil rights and united those under the States’ Rights Party with Republicans new to the Palmetto State. In May 1945, a week after the allied victory in Europe, civil rights activist John McCray lamented to Clement the CPUSA efforts to infiltrate his Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) and discredit him as a champion for African Americans in the South. McCray learned from a report that the CPUSA warned other civil rights leaders that “no business could be done with him.” While the CPUSA-published paper was elsewhere celebrated by a Black South Carolina writer as “the only paper that fights for Negro rights in the U.S.A.,” here the party stood to weaken the PDP that was now on the verge of shaping elections. Thus, politics, infiltration, and espionage prevented a broader civil rights coalition from forming.
At the same time, South Carolina residents on the far-right grew increasingly paranoid about the extent of subversive influence in the newly legalized Black politics. Inspired by this fear, they formed new patriotic organizations, surveilled their neighbors, and circulated files that attempted to show a conspiracy taking shape. In this environment, Stanley Morse, a Massachusetts transplant who began cutting his political teeth in South Carolina in opposition to Roosevelt’s New Deal, shared his massive file on Southern civil rights leaders and their possible communist affiliations with the congressmen of Southern states. Via his organization, the Grass Roots League, he hoped to expose the “Red Pro-Negro Plot Against South & U.S.A.” Morse’s rising star put him in contact with Senator Richard Russell of Georgia and Senator James Eastland of Mississippi, who requested a “highly confidential meeting” and all of Morse’s files on the NAACP collected in his effort to denigrate it publicly.

“Patronage, Paranoia, and Ambition”

These influences of increasing Black enfranchisement and grassroots anti-communism reshaped the political world in Jim Crow South Carolina, which at a focused level concerned the exchange of favors between patrons and clients. Beyond the grandstanding and scapegoating for which they are remembered, the South’s senior segregationists were well-versed in this world of political patronage. By dipping into this world, one can better situate the role of ideology versus politics-as-usual in the post-World War II era.

A focus on patronage also helps to explain how these politicians processed their defeats and misfortunes. With World War II came the installation and reactivation of military bases throughout the South—economic prizes in a region hungry for federal dollars. Indeed, the physical presence of the federal government in the form of these bases at Fort Jackson and the Charleston Naval Yard, and its potential retraction in the form of a base closure, held the potential to constrain the defiant tactics of Southern demagogues. With the demobilization effort following World War II, the Department of Defense ordered the closing of frivolous Army bases. In one September 1949 letter, Thurmond wondered to his assistant Robert Figg whether the 1949 military cutbacks were an act of revenge on the part of the Truman administration for Thurmond’s bolting from the Democratic Party in 1948. While such an action seems unlikely, Thurmond’s fear attests to a world in which civil rights, local economies, and the functioning of the military are informed by the delicate relationships among competing elites.

At the South Caroliniana Library, the papers of Arthur Clement, Stanley Morse, and Robert Figg demonstrate a network of political patronage, paranoia, and ambition orbiting around the ascendent political figure of Strom Thurmond. Similarly, the Olin Dewitt Talmadge Johnston Papers among the South Carolina Political Collections confirm the choices made by Black political activists on the campaign trail. These collections have helped me to understand the extent to which ideology and patronage motivated political actors, who are typically thought of as rabid segregationists opposite civil rights leaders. By homing in on the actions of a select few individuals, these documents show the contingent possibilities considered in their decision-making.

As my research is still in its early phases, the time spent at the South Caroliniana Library proved crucial to my finding my way. I am immensely grateful for the help of Edward Blessing, Todd Hoppock, and the student employees. The staff at the South Caroliniana Library was deeply knowledgeable and resourceful, and the collections are vast. I will be eager to return in order to continue my research.
I was fortunate to receive research funding in 2020 through the Lanny and Sidney Palmer Endowment Fund at the South Caroliniana Library. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I hope that my research will be told in book form in the future. Here I will highlight some of the resources I consulted at the South Caroliniana Library. One of the pleasures of this work is reading with trust and respect the handwritten letters of deceased research subjects. The letters are intimate, frustrated, despairing, elated, factual, quotidian—in short, a life lived.

Fred Howard Parker Papers

I am researching the history of music in South Carolina. During my time at the Library, I focused on the pedagogical development of music in South Carolina from teachers to institutions. I discovered a French influence in repertoire and in training. Of particular interest in the Fred Howard Parker Papers is the correspondence relating to Mr. Parker’s time at the Fontainebleau School of Music in France, a self-billed “Summer School for American Artists, Teachers and Advanced Students,” in which Mr. Parker participated in 1925. It cost Mr. Parker a little more than 3,500 francs for lodging, food, and tuition for two months at the school. Mr. Parker was an important musical figure in South Carolina during the early twentieth century because he featured so prominently first as a student and then as a music educator. He was trained by Americans who also studied abroad. Mr. Parker studied with Henry (Heinrich) Bellamann of Chicora College, which was first located in downtown Greenville, S.C., before merging with the College for Women in Columbia, S.C. Bellamann was a huge proponent of the French school of pianism. Under his influence his students took up French repertoire in preference to the romantic salon pieces in vogue at the time. Mr. Parker was one of the biggest advocates for serious classical music training and he began in earnest to improve the culture when it was his turn to begin teaching at Columbia College.

Then, as ever, politics and favors ruled the day in the musical landscape from the interwar period to the end of the Second World War. A letter from an aspiring singer named Arthur Cornwell sent to Mr. Parker asks: “Who is the best teacher at the Peabody Conservatory?” Cornwell explains that he had intended on going to the Atlanta Conservatory as it was a “Southern Institution,” but they had put him off with a “don’t care’ attitude.”
In the insulated music world of that time, a letter of recommendation was important. For example, Miles Malone of Malone’s Music House, 1428 Main Street, Columbia, S.C., wrote to Steinway and Sons in New York to importune them to exchange Mr. Parker’s used L model piano for a parlor grand. Mr. Parker did get a Steinway, though at a cost of profit to the local dealer, Mr. Malone.

Mr. Parker viewed the University of South Carolina as a potential lodestar of classical music. He sent a letter to then-President J. Rion McKissick in 1937 outlining what he would have to do to make a department of music. Mr. Parker saw real potential in the music department, “that [it] might become the best in the State and even the South.” Many of the ideas put forth in this manifesto would later become reality: a B. Mus. degree, standard courses in music theory, piano practice rooms, etc. Mr. Parker’s letters are exacting, critical, thoughtful, and highly idealistic, but they are also full of frustrations at the slow progress. In a letter to the editor of The State newspaper in 1939, he complimented Columbia on being the home of the Southern Symphony Orchestra, but in other places he bemoaned the lack of progress and took note of a general malaise. Mr. Parker campaigned for Hugh Williamson to become the new music director at USC. Williamson proposed a budget of $5,000 to start up a proper music department, a figure that “would include” his salary. At this stage Williamson, having finished his M.A. degree from New York University under the tutelage of Edwin Hughes, was desperate for work. He mentioned to Mr. Parker that if it came down to it, he would accept a “private” teaching job with the University name behind it. Edwin Hughes was quite dismissive about USC at the time and wanted Williamson to take any other job. The reputation and success of arts institutions greatly depended on powerful, connected people to make them successful. In the music field, students gathered around famous teachers. At one time Edwin Hughes was influential, having studied in Europe with Theodor Leschetizky and having held an editorship at Schirmer Music. (Williamson notes that the club where they had a dinner was much too “swanky” for him and his wife Evelyn. He wondered how Hughes could even afford it!) After a slew of letters asking for assistance from Mr. Parker to get the USC job, the offer came in. The French musical connections strengthened with Williamson’s addition to the fledgling musical landscape. In a letter to Mr. Parker in 1939, he mentioned he just turned in a “huge outline of a book and a term paper to Marion Bauer” at New York University. Bauer (of French-Jewish background) studied with the French pianist/violinist Raoul Pugno. She also was the first American to study with Nadia Boulanger in Paris.

Wealth of Cultural Events

Of much interest in the collection are the recital programs. These showcase the wealth of cultural events organized across the state just before and after the war years. One interesting example is the handwritten program proposed by the famous organist Virgil Fox sent to Mr. Parker, who was also the director of music and organist at First Presbyterian Church, raising the question of whether or not Fox could give this kind of recital on the organ at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. Mr. Parker noted that the piece “Dreams” by Hugh McAmis required the chimes, which the Ebenezer organ did not have. Thus the organ at First Presbyterian would be better suited for this recital. Parker noted that it was unlikely there would be a good crowd because it was a Saturday evening on March 30th, between Easter and an upcoming music festival. The recital was doomed from the start. The organ maker, Pilcher, was unable to install the “new Reed Stops” in time for the recital; so, though Fox had his chimes, he did not have the new horns. I’ll note here that Mr. Parker was constantly having the pipe organ (a 1925 Pilcher) at First Presbyterian amended. The programs and the letters I consulted communicated the great difficulties faced by lovers of high-quality music. The chief problem was money, but there were other problems such as shoddy organization, unreliable instruments, and just plain apathetic audiences. The Virgil Fox recital was poorly attended, as Mr. Parker had warned. The advertising bills had not been paid by the organizer, Mr. Olaf Bryngelson. Bryngelson told the Columbia papers that the church would be paying the advertising fees. In fact, Mr. Parker expressly said the church would only be opening their doors and would not pay for any advertising.

Mr. Parker’s alma mater, Chicora College, proved to be an important institution for training new music teachers in South Carolina, and the Library holds many programs and yearbooks from the college in its collection. One of the most important teaching figures of this time was Henry Bellamann, the pianist, writer, and the teacher of Julia Peterkin. He was the Dean of the School of Music at Chicora until 1924-25. The Annual Music Week was a cycle of six musical evenings presented by the senior class. These programs show Bellamann’s musical preferences for French composers such as Claude Debussy and Charles-Valentin Alkan as well as his ambitious and varied repertoire selections. On one recital, a Miss Kennedy performed the first movement from the “Sonata Noble” by the white-supremacist composer John Powell. The very next selection was “Many Thousand Gone” by the English-African composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.
The program selections seem to suggest a high level of virtuosity with pieces like the “Ballade no. 1 in G Minor” by Chopin and Liszt’s “Mephisto Waltz” with Ferrucio Busoni’s editorial additions. On Mr. Parker’s own student recital on May 20, 1922, he played, among other works, Beethoven’s “Sonata Pathétique” and Liszt’s “Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 2.” Two years later, a student recital program lists a piano piece by Anderson native Lily Strickland. Henry Bellamann was one of the first proponents of Charles Ives. He included three songs by the composer on the Chicora programs in 1924: “White Gulls,” “The South Wind,” and “Spring Song.” Bellamann was also partly responsible for making the works of J.S. Bach staples in the students’ piano repertoire, as can be seen in the all-Bach program on May 15, 1924.

The number of sources I consulted for this research trip was massive. I hope I’ve given you a taste of the musical culture of South Carolina in the early twentieth century through the war years via the activities of Fred Parker. He recorded weekly organ recitals for WIS Radio for more than twenty years. I have not heard these recordings and wonder if they still exist. I will certainly need to return to the Library as I continue to discover stories about South Carolina musicians. I am preparing to assemble my findings in book form.

I must make a special note of Carolyn Patterson Parker’s handwritten set of choral responses in the collection. They are beautiful and unique. A reviewer encouraged her to come up with enough to fill a psalm book. But with her busy schedule leading the Ebenezer church choir and assisting her husband, she never got them published.

With any comments on classical music history in South Carolina, please contact me at davidkiser@bellsouth.net
The 1953 Christmas Eve service at Ebeneezer Lutheran Church showing Mrs. Parker’s massed choirs
Letter from the Dean of Libraries

The South Caroliniana Library renovation is entering its final stages. Construction should be concluded by early May. Heating, cooling, and humidification systems will be ramped up to designated levels before the exhibit cases are installed. By mid-May, the exhibit installers will begin work in the Library. They should have their work done by the end of June. Over the summer months, we will be waiting for key parts that will be used in the units that will heat and cool the stacks of the Library. We also will be waiting for a generator that acts as a backup for the fire suppression in the event of a power outage.

At some point near the end of summer, we will move materials into the stacks, furniture into the reading room, and people into their offices. The actual opening of the building will take place soon thereafter and a rededication of the building will probably take place in the fall.

You may have noticed that my dates go from specific to vague. This is because we still face such problems as supply chain issues and workers not meeting deadlines. Since we never intended to rush this renovation, we are generally moving very cautiously. An 1840 building demands caution.

I remain optimistic that we will be open in August, but in the words of the great Yogi Berra, “It’s not over ’till it is over!”

Todd Hoppock supplied these photos of the renovation process.
By the time members and friends of the University South Caroliniana Society read this final message from me as Director of the South Carolina Library, I will have experienced the first weeks, perhaps even months, of retirement. Yes, after more than four decades, my retirement from state service was effective at the close of calendar year 2021.

This decision can only be characterized as bittersweet. It comes at a time in my life when it is the logical next step, yet as is always the case when one wraps up a career, there is much unfinished business. There are collections yet to be donated, though the conversations with donors were begun during my watch. And, looming even larger on the periphery, there is a building renovation to be completed.

When Dean McNally and I, with the full support of President Harris Pastides and other University of South Carolina administrators, launched the campaign to address the critical physical infrastructure needs of the South Caroliniana Library, only shortly after I moved into the Director’s office in 2013, little did I know that we were embarking upon what was to become an almost decade-long crusade that would necessitate my absence from the beloved building that had been my home ever since I first walked through its doors in 1980.

When I arrived, as a student assistant enrolled at the time in the MA program in English, the library was in a chaotic time of change. Electrical wires dangled from the ceiling of the Bulfinch Room on the second floor. Exhibit cases around the perimeter in the Olin D. Johnston Room on the ground floor had been pulled out and left. And in what is now the Lumpkin Foyer, one or more plywood tool cribs sat in the middle of the floor, padlocked, as if building renovations, inactive for years, might resume at any moment. Portraits no longer hung on the walls of the Johnston Room but leaned precariously against the walls.

What had been a formal parterre garden to the rear of the library had been largely destroyed by the vehicular traffic of working crews coming and going as emergency stairwells and central HVAC were added to the nation’s oldest freestanding academic library. Remnants of the once-handsome equestrian statue located in the garden, just outside the rear door adjacent to the 1840 spiral staircase, were so badly damaged by the elements and construction traffic that the sculpture was ultimately removed.

No personal computers were to be found in the building. There were two electric typewriters and an assortment of only partially functioning manual typewriters. Most office furniture, cabinets, and library carts looked to be war surplus items from the 1940s. But there were fascinating things to claim one’s attention, like the Thomas Elfe Royal Governor’s Chair, now part of the collection of the South Carolina State Museum, and the manually operated dumbwaiter in the east wing stacks.

The political papers of former Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn had been received a few years earlier, and with my hire as a full-time staff member in February 1981 came the charge that my first responsibility was to re-box and move the hundreds of cartons of Congressman Dorn’s papers, all of which were teeter-tottering precariously along the north and south balconies. They were hand carried, one by one up the balcony steps, loaded onto the dumbwaiter, and then lowered, three at a time, to the fourth level of the east wing stacks—all accomplished while I was wearing a heavily starched white dress shirt and tie.

Despite the threadbare and dilapidated conditions of the Caroliniana building and its surrounding garden in that long-ago time, it was a place of enchantment and discovery—a place aptly described by a member of the University’s history department faculty as “an old shoebox, full of treasures.”

It was a magical time and place, where on any given day such figures as Caroline McKissick Dial, Elizabeth Boatwright Coker, Mary Simms Furman, Carrie Allen McCray, Wilhelmina Roberts Wynn, and James B. Meriwether engaged with Les Inabinett, Allen Stokes, Tom Johnson, Eleanor Richardson, and Harvey Teal. Former members of the Caroliniana staff, Clara Mae Jacobs, Loulie Lattimer Owens Pettigrew, and Jessie Ham among them, came and went—and formidable scholars and those young scholars who were their students were seldom absent—Carol Bleser, Drew Faust, Lacy Ford, Dan Hollis, Vernon Burton, Christine Heyrman, Stephanie McCurry, Robert Ackerman, George Rogers, Marcia Synnott, Julia Stern, Walter Edgar, Jack Sproat, Barbara Bellows, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Eugene Genovese, James Roark, Michael Johnson, David Carlton, and Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, to name but a few.

Just prior to my arrival on the scene, C. Vann Woodward, Elisabeth Muhlenfeld, and others associated with the ongoing Mary Boykin Chesnut editorial and biographical projects had been in residence. It was a heady time, one which drew you into the mix, and populated by scholars willing to welcome the no-doubt modest contributions of a neophyte such as myself.

And so, I found myself transplanted into this mix of arrogant shabbiness, learning from those who had worked firsthand with the Library’s founding father, Robert L. Meriwether, and his inner circle, one foot firmly entrenched in the past, as I too mastered the artful technique of silking documents, and lived my workaday life surrounded by our state’s handwritten documentary treasures dating to the seventeenth century. But the past in which I was rooted was indeed the very lifeblood of the lively academic community of which I became part and parcel in an unceasing stream of contemporary scholarship.

During a 1985 renovation, largely addressing cosmetic issues, public services for all of South
Caroliniana Library operated out of the ground floor Olin D. Johnston Room and west wing stacks, which also had to house multiple card catalogs, staff, and part of the Library’s monographs and serial publications. Throughout that project, the Library never closed to researchers. Later renovations focused on the reglazing and restoration of windows and upgrading the Library’s HVAC. There were days with no heat for extended periods of time, but again our doors were never closed to the public.

Throughout these challenging times, there were moments of great excitement as new discoveries were made. And there were times of levy. There were those days when an every-afternoon researcher would fall asleep while reading the newspaper, only to have to be awakened by staff as we prepared to close at the end of the workday. And then there was the memorably embarrassing occasion when a young counterpart of mine had to telephone a distinguished patron to tell her that she had left her false teeth atop a research table in the Bulfinch Room.

The intervening years between the 1980s and now have been ones of great fulfillment, thanks in large measure to those amazing individuals I have been privileged to know as coworkers, collection donors, those whose financial gifts continue to make possible the work of the Library, and countless scholars who have allowed me to play some small part in their research journey. Because of funding from private sources, institutional support, and the diligent pursuit by staff members of federal dollars, the collection has seen phenomenal growth and is no longer reliant upon hand-me-down approaches to preservation or the housing of its treasures.

I am humbled to have played a role in pushing forward the retrospective conversion of manuscript and other unpublished resources held by the South Caroliniana Library. Before an internship practicum I undertook during my tenure as a MLIS degree student in 1991, University Libraries had no plan to include such collection materials in its online catalog. But University Libraries Head of Cataloging Bud Walton, together with my academic advisor, was willing to take a chance that the several dozen beta test catalog records for manuscripts I successfully loaded would not bring down Western civilization—and thus began a new chapter in the history of intellectual access to the rich collection holdings of the University of South Carolina. During my tenure as Director, with the support of Dean McNally and generous grants from the Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust, the Library has completed in large measure the tasks of adding to the online catalog those materials that until now were discoverable only via the analog card catalog.

However, with exponential growth of collection holdings, not to mention the continuing presence of those that have been in the Library’s processing backlog for an extended time, other challenges and opportunities emerge. And even as we make progress, progress remains to be made.

For retrospective conversion to be possible, laborious examination and analysis of collection contents is sometimes required before a catalog record, even one discoverable via the web, can adequately serve the research needs of users. Collection storage and housing needs remain, and there is the urgent need for both a processing archivist and a collection-wide preservation assessment survey.

These are but a few of the vital issues an outgoing library administrator would prefer to leave office having put to bed, but they await the attention of my successor and will demand a goodly portion of that person’s energy.

Why do I write of these in my final report? First, so that you may better understand my decision to make way for a younger person with renewed vision to tackle the opportunities that are not all altogether new, and to further explain that I think it best for the transition in the Director’s office to occur during the interim between my retirement and the reopening of the renovated South Caroliniana Library building on the University of South Carolina’s historic Horseshoe.

I urge your support of the Library staff as they work tirelessly over the coming months to put in place and carry out the plan necessary to move portions of the collection and staff back into a renovated space and to establish a new operations schema. These will be challenging times, but they are fully up to the task.

Moreover, as the Library under new leadership takes up once again the work it has carried out tirelessly since 1940, the opportunities are plentiful for you to show your support of dedicated endowments and funds directly benefitting the South Caroliniana Library. I would encourage you to engage with the professional staff of the University Libraries Development Office and seek out information on worthwhile initiatives.

Near and dear to my heart, of course, is a newly established fund bearing my name, the Henry G. Fulmer Library Assistant Fund for the South Caroliniana Library. Elsewhere in this issue of Caroliniana Columns you can read more about it.

Finally, do not overlook the work and the mission of the University South Caroliniana Society in supporting our beloved South Caroliniana Library. Bequests or other charitable gifts made to the Society can be earmarked toward special causes. Without the undergirding of the Society since 1937, the Library would not be what it is today. It, too, is a worthy recipient of your charitable giving, and I hope that each of you will consider including the University South Caroliniana Society in your estate planning, just as I have done.

Spanning more than forty years, during which time I have served with all but the founding Director of the South Caroliniana Library and worked with fifteen of the twenty-five Presidents of the University South Caroliniana Society, my years as a member of the staff of the South Caroliniana Library and my time as a member of the University South Caroliniana Society have proved to be the honor of a lifetime, an odyssey without which my life would have been far less fulfilled. I am thankful for the opportunities and the memories they occasion and invoke the blessing of time upon the ongoing work of both the Library and the Society.
Greetings Society Members!

It is dead of winter—mid-February 2022—and the weather outside is masquerading as a beautiful spring day with a temperature of 72 degrees and climbing! With birds chirping and buds opening prematurely, one can only suppose that they are celebrating our good news: the highly anticipated reopening of the South Caroliniana Library is almost upon us!

This is my first letter to you in Caroliniana Columns since assuming the role of President of the University South Caroliniana Society last May. What an unpredictable, yet exciting, nine months this has been. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my predecessor, Wilmot Irvin, for steering the ship and providing wise counsel and a much appreciated helping hand as I settled into my new duties. It was no small feat for him to assume an additional year as president, while we tried to navigate our way through the COVID-19 crisis.

Just as we thought we had weathered the worst of the pandemic, a new variant appeared: the highly transmissible Delta variant during the summer and fall, followed and soon to be overtaken by the apparently less impactful but even more rapidly transmitted Omicron variant, which made an appearance in early December and hit its highest surge to date in mid-January. As of this writing, the virus in all its manifestations, seems to be lessening. Many more people have been vaccinated, mask restrictions are being lifted, the statewide DHEC testing centers are closing and we, the people, are cautiously breathing an optimistic sigh of relief.

For us at the Society, COVID has caused a shuffling—and re-shuffling—of events and plans. Our fall event, originally slated for September 2021, was moved to November 16 and emerged as a hybrid activity. Partnering with the Center for African American History and Research, the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, South Carolina ETV, and University Libraries, we presented a screening and discussion of South Carolina, South Carolina ETV, and University American History and Research, the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, South Carolina ETV, and University Libraries, we presented a screening and discussion of the documentary, Sisterhood: SC Suffragists—The Rollin Sisters from Reconstruction Thru 1895. This hourlong feature unfolded at USC’s historic Booker T. Washington Auditorium in person, as well as on the virtual screen. If you were not there in person, we hope you were able to join us online. It was a logical follow-up to our 2021 Annual Meeting speaker’s presentation, when Dr. Marjorie Spruill regaled us with an exciting talk entitled, “One Woman, One Vote: The South and the Nineteenth Amendment.” A lively conversation ensued with Dr. Spruill, Dr. Valinda Littlefield and Rollin descendant, Carole IONE [sic] Lewis, the great granddaughter of Frances Rollin Whipper. Additionally, the South Caroliniana Library folks mounted a wonderful exhibition of Reconstruction era documents from the collection.

Our next big “adventure” came in the form of realizing Henry Fulmer’s retirement as Director of the South Caroliniana Library on December 31, 2021. How do you say goodbye to one who has been such a pivotal part of your mission? Although he has served admirably as director for the past nine years, Henry’s service to SCL began over forty years ago as a graduate student assistant. He has progressed through many roles, making incredible contributions to the Library’s operation and its successes. With mixed emotions, we bid Henry a sad farewell along with our best wishes for a most enjoyable and well-earned retirement from the Library. Henry also served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society, but with a little arm-twisting, he has graciously agreed to continue in that post until a new director comes on board. Meanwhile, Beth Bilderback, the very able Visual Materials Archivist, is serving as Interim Director, so SCL is in good hands.

Change seems to be the order of the day. Another major vacancy is looming, as the Dean of Libraries, Thomas F. McNally, has announced his upcoming retirement. A search for his successor is now underway. We are especially grateful for the leadership Dean McNally has shown as he has ushered us through the renovation of the South Caroliniana Library building. We look forward to celebrating with him as the facility re-opens.

This is an especially exciting time for us! We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The iconic South Caroliniana building, the architectural gem of the Horseshoe, is slated to reopen in the fall of 2022. The SCL will now boast more public gallery spaces and exhibits, updated technology throughout the building, proper climate control, a secure treasures vault, fire suppression innovations, new heating and air conditioning systems, and, to the delight of history buffs, a Reading Room closely restored to its original 1840s appearance. We look forward to a stimulating array of programs and festivities to celebrate this grand achievement. Pre-opening festivities will begin with our spring Annual Meeting, which is now being planned. We hope to see you there!

You are an integral part of the University South Caroliniana Society family. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing our next adventure with you!
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The University South Caroliniana Society is the patron organization supporting the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina. The Society works to acquire and preserve materials documenting South Carolina’s history and culture.

Membership dues and income from the Society’s endowment are devoted primarily to the purchase and preservation of South Carolina materials for the South Caroliniana Library’s collection. Scholars from around the globe use the collection to enhance our understanding of South Carolina’s history and how that history has helped shape the South, the United States, and the world.

For video content, search for University South Caroliniana Society at www.youtube.com.

Members of the University South Caroliniana Society receive this newsletter, Caroliniana Columns, twice a year. If you’re not a member, and you’re enjoying this issue of Caroliniana Columns, please consider becoming a member today.

Go to sc.edu/libraries/USCS and follow the links under “Becoming a Member.” Or call 803-777-2740 to request a brochure and membership form.

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Correspondence may be addressed to the editor at Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

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