

1940

## **Caroliniana Society Annual Gifts Report - 1940**

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*Henry C. Davis*

UNIVERSITY  
SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY



REPORT  
OF THE  
SECRETARY AND TREASURER  
FOR  
1940

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

M. L. Bonham . . . . . President  
*Chief Justice of South Carolina, Anderson*

W. S. Hendley . . . . . Vice-President  
*State Manager, The Mutual Life of New York, Columbia*

R. L. Meriwether . . . . . Secretary and Treasurer  
*Professor of History, University of South Carolina*



## REPORT

### *To the Members of the Society:*

I submit herewith my Report as Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1940. This Report and the Minutes of the 1940 meeting were read and approved at the fifth meeting of the Society, February 27, 1941.

### MINUTES OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1940

The fourth annual meeting of the Society, April 17, 1940, was presided over by the President, Chief-Justice M. L. Bonham, and attended by two hundred members and guests. This meeting, coinciding with the hundredth year of service of the South Carolina College Library, was held in the reading room of that building and thus became an appropriate centennial celebration. Dr. Patterson Wardlaw, Dean-Emeritus of the School of Education of the University, spoke briefly of the profound impression that the building and its reading room made on him when he first saw it as a college graduate. In his welcome to the members and guests President J. Rion McKissick read the resolution of the Board of Trustees to the effect that the building would as soon as practicable be devoted to the South Carolina Collection.

The annual address to the Society was made by President Francis Pendleton Gaines of Washington and Lee University; it has been printed in the 1939 *Report* of the Society. The Report of the Society for the year 1939 was then read by the Secretary, and the incumbent officers were re-elected.

Prior to the meeting there was an exhibit of many interesting and representative pieces of Caroliniana from the Collection. This exhibit, spread over the balconies, over the main reading room, in the temporary Manuscripts Room of the stacks and in the present South Carolina Room, demonstrated successfully the value of the service done by the Society, the difficulties attending the administration and preservation of our Caroliniana, and the agility, good humor and eager interest of the members and their guests.

### REPORT FOR 1940

The number of members of the Society is now 240, an increase of 19 over the previous year. Five members have been lost by death during the year: Dr. T. L. W. Bailey, Captain J. M. Bate-man, Professor M. L. Bonham, Jr., Mrs. W. B. Burney, and Mrs. Tucker H. Fisher. Receipts from dues and additional contributions for the year were \$588.00, \$40.50 less than for 1939. With this amount the University has bought 122 South Carolina

items. The outstanding acquisition in this list is the church register of the two Orangeburg ministers, John Ulrick Geissendanner and John Geissendanner, covering the years 1737-1760. This record, beginning with the first days of the settlement of the Orangeburg community and written partly in German, partly in English, is one of the most valuable manuscripts in the state. It has been published but no printed version can serve the purpose of the original nor do justice to it. Another purchase of unusual interest made with dues of members is the set of four plantation books of Dr. Isaac R. Motte showing the daily task of each slave for the years 1850, 1854, 1856. All the items thus purchased with dues of members have been marked with their names.

### CHIEF ITEMS AMONG THE ACQUISITIONS

[The use of some of the manuscripts listed has been restricted by the donors.]

#### MANUSCRIPTS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Brunson, Joel E., 12 letterbooks of, 1882-1911,<br>By Miss Margaret L. Brunson, Sumter.   | 1 |
| DeLeon, T. C. and Camden, 134 letters and papers of,<br>1840-1913,<br>By Mrs. Helen K. Hennig, Columbia. [This gift<br>made in 1932 should have been included in the list<br>of gifts, made prior to the organization of the So-<br>ciety, printed in the 1937 <i>Report</i> .] | 2 |
| Edgefield County, typed copies of inscriptions from ten<br>cemeteries in or near, and 15 miscellaneous items,<br>By Mrs. Mamie Norris Tillman, Edgefield.   | 3 |
| Golding, Carrie M. E., first graduate of the Spartanburg<br>Female College, a notebook of, 1856; Golding-Colton<br>family, 3 letters and 14 other manuscript items, 1861-<br>1865,<br>By Mrs. Charles H. Duke, Columbia.  | 4 |
| Hammond, additions to the Hammond Collection: 147<br>letters, 1788-1913; 11 land papers, 1811-1873; 40 miscel-<br>laneous papers,<br>By James H. Hammond, Columbia. (See also 26, 34).  | 5 |
| Hare family, Delmar, South Carolina, 379 business letters<br>and papers of, 1888-1908,<br>By J. T. Gittman, Columbia.   | 6 |

- Johnson, Reverend W. B., the reminiscences of, covering the years, 1795-1862; 5 sketches of members of the Johnson family and connections, and 6 miscellaneous articles, By Mrs. L. G. Corbett, Tampa, Florida. [The above papers were gathered and preserved by Miss Claudia Townes, sister of Mrs. Corbett, and the sketches written by her.] (See also 27). 7
- Morgan, The William Doyle Morgan Collection, 34 letter-books, 43,980 letters and papers, 1870-1931, By Mrs. Agnes M. Wasdin and Miss Katherine G. Morgan, sisters of the late W. D. Morgan, Georgetown. (See also 28, 35). 8
- Porcher, Dr. O. T., his diary, kept at Pendleton, 1897-1898, By Dr. O. T. Porcher, Bennettsville. 9
- Preston, W. C., photostats of 47 letters of, By Dr. E. L. Green, Columbia. 10
- Sheppard, J. C., and the law firm of Youmans and Butler, 60,000 letters, land, legal and business papers of, 1790-1932, By J. O. Sheppard, Edgefield. 11
- Smythe, Dr. Thomas, and the Flinn family, 310 letters and papers of, 1838-1893, By Mrs. Nell Flinn Gilland and Flinn Gilland, Columbia. 12
- Society for Orphan and Destitute Children, Minutes and Treasurer's records of, 2 volumes, 1839-1939, By the Society for Orphan and Destitute Children, Columbia, through its Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. Davis. 13
- South Carolina, 240 letters and papers on the genealogy of 35 families, By Francis E. Johnstone, Jr., Auburn, Alabama. (See also 29). 14
- South Carolina, 14 land and legal papers, 1828-1853, By M. L. Bonham, Jr., Clinton, New York. 15
- Townes, S. A. and H. H., 437 letters of, 1829-1854, By the late Miss Claudia Townes through H. L. Watson, Greenwood. 16
- Trott, Nicholas, and Johnson, Nathaniel, a land grant signed by, 1703; also 10 miscellaneous manuscript pieces, By Mrs. C. W. Barron, Columbia, from the estate of the late Mrs. N. G. Gonzales. (See also 23, 37). 17
- Verner, S. P., 365 letters to and from, 1900-1908, By Miss Mary Verner, Columbia. (See also 31). 18



Wardlaw, Patterson, 345 letters written to him by his father and mother, 1872-1888, By Dr. Patterson Wardlaw, Columbia.	19
Watts, additions to the Beaufort Watts Collection, 2 letters from later President James Buchanan, 1842; 2 letters, correspondence of B. T. Watts and F. W. Pickens, 1860-1861; 2 other papers, By Mrs. M. L. Copeland, Laurens, and W. W. Ball, Charleston.	20
Woodrow, Dr. James, 57 letters and other papers from the correspondence of, 1874-1892, By Henry C. Davis, Columbia. (See also 25).	21
Yeargin, Mary, 140 letters and papers by and about, 1891-1894, By Mrs. W. W. Yeargin, Laurens.	22
NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:	
<i>Clarendon Banner</i> , 6 issues, 1862-1864, and 9 miscellaneous South Carolina newspapers, 1858-1871, By Mrs. C. W. Barron, Columbia, from the estate of the late Mrs. N. G. Gonzales. (See also 17, 37).	23
Charleston, 17 miscellaneous newspapers, 1860-1898, By Miss Anne K. Gregorie, Columbia.	24
South Carolina, 161 newspapers and periodicals (South Carolina papers or out-of-state papers containing South Carolina articles), 1862-1932, By Henry C. Davis, Columbia. (See also 21).	25
BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS:	
Hammond, additions to the Hammond Collection: 11 South Carolina pamphlets, 1849-1914, By James H. Hammond, Columbia. (See also 5, 34).	26
<i>Johnson Female University, Catalog of</i> , 1855, By Mrs. L. G. Corbett, Tampa, Florida. (See also 7).	27
Morgan, The William Doyle Morgan Collection, 349 South Carolina books, By Mrs. Agnes M. Wasdin and Miss Katherine G. Morgan, sisters of the late W. D. Morgan, Georgetown. [These are the South Carolina books from the library of Mr. Morgan; other volumes from the library were given by Mrs. Wasdin and Miss Morgan to the Main Library of the University.] (See also 8, 35).	28

South Carolina, 9 pamphlets, 1922-1925, By Francis E. Johnstone, Jr., Auburn, Alabama. (See also 14).	29
South Carolina, 10 pamphlets, 1861-1940, By W. B. Lowrance, Pickens.	30
South Carolina, 20 pamphlets, 1888-1923, By Miss Mary Verner, Columbia. (See also 18).	31
University of South Carolina, 24 publications of, 1910-1930; 34 South Carolina books and pamphlets, 1869-1930, including James Woods Davidson's <i>Living Writers of the South</i> , and <i>The Essays of Elia</i> , by Charles Lamb, edited by Dr. Wauchope, 1905; 50 miscellaneous items, By Dr. G. A. Wauchope, Columbia.	32

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Calhoun, John Caldwell, an early engraving of, By Chief-Justice M. L. Bonham, Anderson.	33
Hammond, additions to the Hammond Collection: a pocket-book and a box containing 11 miscellaneous items kept by James H. Hammond, while a student at the South Carolina College, By his grandson, James H. Hammond, Columbia. (See also 5, 26).	34
Morgan, The William Doyle Morgan Collection, approximately 2,000 newspaper clippings, By Mrs. Agnes M. Wasdin and Miss Katherine G. Morgan, sisters of the late W. D. Morgan, Georgetown. (See also 8, 28).	35
South Carolina, about 6,000 negatives of photographs, 1936-1940, By Perrin Kennedy, Columbia.	36
South Carolina Currency, 1 bill, 1777, By Mrs. C. W. Barron, Columbia, from the estate of the late Mrs. N. G. Gonzales. (See also 17, 23).	37

#### SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACQUISITIONS

Books and pamphlets: 1790-1923 .....	463
Newspapers (volumes of): 1918-1938 .....	9
Newspapers (single issues): 1836-1935 .....	189
Manuscripts (volumes of): 1737-1940 .....	185
Manuscripts (single): 1703-1901 .....	106,507
Miscellaneous items: 1779-1940.....	8,138
Total.....	115,491



During the past year a great number of papers were offered to the University for purchase. Many of these because of the limited means of the Society and of the University went to institutions outside the state. The chief purchases made from University funds were: a collection of Moultrie papers, 1700-1816, which included 3 letters and 24 business papers signed by General William Moultrie; 8 letters to and 66 bills against General Moultrie; 46 letters and papers of Moultrie's family and of families related to him; 288 manuscript pieces, the records of a Charleston tavern-keeper and of her husband, an African slavetrader, 1768-1796; printed Minutes of the Charleston Baptist Association for the years 1790, 1791, 1794, 1796, and 12 manuscript dismissals from Baptist Churches of Pendleton District, 1811-1847; the desk used by Senator A. P. Butler in the United States Senate, and 20 land and legal papers of the Butler family, 1782-1857.

The record of the Society for the year 1940 shows an increase in number of members, and in value of direct gifts. This is heartening evidence of the steady growth of interest in the preservation of our historical resources and of the realization that this responsibility cannot be neglected, cannot even be put aside for a season, without irreparable loss. The distracting problems and dangers facing our western civilization are our paramount obligation, but while giving our best to that service we will not ignore the many other tasks which in the long run are likewise vital to the preservation of our heritage. In the books, newspapers and manuscripts placed in this library the past year, the scholar of the near future and of the distant future will find, we may be very sure, light on economic and social problems of his day, while students and general readers will find in these records that special stimulus and inspiration that comes only from the library that is rich in the things of the past.

The thanks of generations of students and readers to come are due to this Society and to its members.

R. L. MERIWETHER,

Secretary and Treasurer,  
University South Caroliniana Society.

## MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Abel, Miss C. Marguerite,<br>Columbia. | Callcott, W. H.,<br>Columbia.                |
| Ames, J. S.,<br>Baltimore, Md.         | Carothers, Mrs. Charles,<br>Citronelle, Ala. |
| Appelt, Mrs. Clara H.,<br>Manning.     | Cauthen, C. E.,<br>College Place.            |
| Arthur, Miss Caroline,<br>Columbia.    | Chase, J. A.,<br>Columbia.                   |
| Babcock, Mrs. J. W.,<br>Columbia.      | Childs, Mrs. Arney R.,<br>Columbia.          |
| *Bailey, T. L. W.,<br>Clinton.         | Clippard, E. B.,<br>Columbia.                |
| Baker, L. T.,<br>Columbia.             | Coker, C. W., Jr.,<br>Hartsville.            |
| Ball, W. W.,<br>Charleston.            | Coker, Mrs. C. W., Sr.,<br>Hartsville.       |
| Barnwell, R. W.,<br>Florence.          | Coker, E. C.,<br>Columbia.                   |
| Barron, Mrs. C. W.,<br>Columbia.       | Coker, J. L.,<br>Hartsville.                 |
| Baruch, B. M.,<br>New York City.       | Collins, Mrs. Effie W.,<br>Columbia.         |
| *Bateman, J. M.,<br>Columbia.          | Conover, Mrs. J. N.,<br>Philadelphia, Pa.    |
| Bateman, Mrs. J. M.,<br>Columbia.      | Cook, W. M.,<br>Brooklyn, N. Y.              |
| Benet, Christie,<br>Columbia.          | Cooper, R. M.,<br>Columbia.                  |
| Black, E. O.,<br>Columbia.             | Copeland, Mrs. M. L.,<br>Laurens.            |
| Blake, E. H.,<br>Greenwood.            | Corbett, Mrs. L. G.,<br>Tampa, Fla.          |
| Blanding, Dr. A. L.,<br>Fountain Inn.  | Covington, F. H.,<br>Bennettsville.          |
| Bonham, M. L.,<br>Anderson.            | Crews, W. T.,<br>Laurens.                    |
| *Bonham, M. L., Jr.,<br>Clinton, N. Y. | Crow, O. F.,<br>Columbia.                    |
| Bostick, Mrs. Hagood,<br>Columbia.     | Culbertson, J. B.,<br>Greenville.            |
| Boyd, J. F.,<br>Fort Mill.             | Dalton, H. L.,<br>Charlotte, N. C.           |
| Boyd, Dr. W. A.,<br>Columbia.          | Daniel, J. McT.,<br>Columbia.                |
| Bradley, F. W.,<br>Columbia.           | Dargan, G. E.,<br>Darlington.                |
| Britton, E. R.,<br>Columbia.           | Davies, Mrs. Margaret D.,<br>Columbia.       |
| Brunson, Miss Margaret,<br>Sumter.     | Davis, Rev. E. W.,<br>Swansea.               |
| *Burney, Mrs. W. B.,<br>Columbia.      | Davis, H. C.,<br>Columbia.                   |
| Burroughs, D. M.,<br>Conway.           | Davis, Miss Nora M.,<br>Columbia.            |
| Burroughs, Mrs. D. M.,<br>Conway.      | Davis, R. B.,<br>Columbia.                   |
|  | DePass, S. C.,<br>Columbia.                  |

\*Deceased.

## MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

Derrick, S. M.,  
     Columbia.  
 Doty, Miss Annie,  
     Columbia.  
 DuBose, Mrs. Louise J.,  
     Columbia.  
 Dudley, J. S.,  
     New York City.  
 Duke, Mrs. C. H.,  
     Columbia.  
 Easterby, J. H.,  
     Charleston.  
 Elliott, William,  
     Columbia.  
 Epting, C. L.,  
     Clemson.  
 Evans, J. G.,  
     Spartanburg.  
 Ferrell, C. M.,  
     Columbia.  
 Finley, D. E.,  
     Washington, D. C.  
 \*Fisher, Mrs. T. H.,  
     Columbia.  
 Fitch, Mrs. F. B.,  
     Columbia.  
 Gambrell, E. S.,  
     Atlanta, Ga.  
 Gambrell, W. H.,  
     New York City.  
 Gary, F. B., Jr.,  
     Columbia.  
 Gibbes, Dr. R. W.,  
     Columbia.  
 Gibbes, Mrs. R. W.,  
     Columbia.  
 Gilland, Flinn,  
     Columbia.  
 Gilland, Mrs. Nell F.,  
     Columbia.  
 Gittman, J. T.,  
     Columbia.  
 Glenn, L. C.,  
     Nashville, Tenn.  
 Goddard, Mrs. Floride P.,  
     Columbia.  
 Goodwin, Mrs. G. M.,  
     New York City.  
 Green, E. L.,  
     Columbia.  
 Gregorie, Miss Anne K.,  
     Columbia.  
 Groves, Mrs. Earl,  
     Gastonia, N. C.  
 Guignard, Miss Caroline,  
     Columbia.  
 Hall, W. E.,  
     Anderson.

\*Deceased.

Hammond, H. C.,  
     Augusta, Ga.  
 Hammond, J. H.,  
     Columbia.  
 Hanahan, J. R.,  
     Charleston.  
 Hare, L. M.,  
     Leesville.  
 Haynsworth, H. C.,  
     Sumter.  
 Hazel, W. G.,  
     Bennettsville.  
 Hendley, W. S.,  
     Columbia.  
 Hendley, Mrs. W. S.,  
     Columbia.  
 Hennig, Mrs. Helen K.,  
     Columbia.  
 Hennig, H. W.,  
     Darlington.  
 Herbert, R. B.,  
     Columbia.  
 Heyward, D. C.,  
     Columbia.  
 Heyward, Miss Katherine B.,  
     Columbia.  
 Holman, Mrs. A. E.,  
     Anderson.  
 Holmes, A. G.,  
     Clemson.  
 Holmes, Calvin,  
     Nashville, Tennessee.  
 Holmes, J. G.,  
     Columbia.  
 Holmes, Mrs. J. G.,  
     Columbia.  
 Holmes, Miss Madeline,  
     Columbia.  
 Hough, Mrs. Ben C.,  
     Lancaster.  
 Hughes, J. G.,  
     Union.  
 Hutson, F. M.,  
     Columbia.  
 Jackson, J. B.,  
     Columbia.  
 Jervey, Dr. J. W.,  
     Greenville.  
 Jeter, E. R.,  
     Rock Hill.  
 Johnson, Miss Leila G.,  
     Columbia.  
 Johnson, Mrs. W. W.,  
     Union.  
 Johnstone, Francis E., Jr.,  
     Auburn, Ala.  
 Jones, F. D.,  
     Clinton.  
 Jordan, A. B.,  
     Dillon.



# MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

- Julien, C. T.,  
Greenwood.
- Kendall, H. P.,  
Camden.
- Kennedy, Perrin,  
Columbia.
- LaGrone, T. E.,  
Columbia.
- Latimer, S. L., Jr.,  
Columbia.
- Lesesne, J. M.,  
Due West.
- Lewis, A. R.,  
Columbia.
- Lewis, Ralph,  
Columbia.
- Lieber, Miss Mary,  
Newport, R. I.
- Lipscomb, G. F.,  
Columbia.
- Long, Miss Alves,  
Columbia.
- Lowrance, Mrs. J. D.,  
Columbia.
- Lowrance, W. B.,  
Pickens.
- Lucas, Dr. S. R.,  
Florence.
- Lumpkin, A. M.,  
Columbia.
- Lumpkin, Bryan,  
Columbia.
- Lyles, Miss Mary E.,  
Columbia.
- Macaulay, A. H.,  
Chester.
- Madden, Rev. R. C.,  
Georgetown.
- Manning, Mrs. R. I.,  
Columbia.
- Manning, W. M.,  
Stateburg.
- Marion, J. H.,  
Charlotte, N. C.
- Marshall, Miss May C.,  
Columbia.
- Marshall, M. C.,  
Montgomery, Ala.
- Mason, G. H.,  
Society Hill.
- Mays, C. A.,  
Greenwood.
- McColl, Mrs. D. D.,  
Bennettsville.
- McGowan, Frank,  
Columbia.
- McKissick, Mrs. A. F.,  
Greenville.
- McKissick, J. R.,  
Columbia.
- McLean, H. B.,  
Blythewood.
- McMaster, F. H.,  
Columbia.
- McMaster, the family of Col.  
Fitz William,  
Columbia.
- Meriwether, R. L.,  
Columbia.
- Meriwether, Mrs. R. L.,  
Columbia.
- Mikell, Miss Janie,  
Sumter.
- Mills, J. E.,  
Hartsville.
- Mims, Mrs. J. L.,  
Edgefield.
- Moise, Harold,  
Sumter.
- Montgomery, Miss Mabel,  
Columbia.
- Moore, W. B., Jr.,  
Columbia.
- Moore, Mrs. W. B., Jr.,  
Columbia.
- Morgan, Miss Katherine G.,  
Georgetown.
- Morris, J. B.,  
St. Matthews.
- Moses, H. A.,  
Sumter.
- Murchison, Rev. H. R.,  
Columbia.
- Murphy, J. B.,  
Columbia.
- Nettles, J. B.,  
Columbia.
- Nicholson, Allan,  
Union.
- Oliphant, Mrs. A. D.,  
Greenville.
- Parker, Frank,  
Washington, D. C.
- Parler, Mrs. M. L.,  
Wedgefield.
- Pegram, W. W.,  
Chester.
- Poplar Springs Baptist  
Church,  
Ware Shoals.
- Porcher, Miss Elizabeth L.,  
Columbia.
- Porcher, O. T.,  
Bennettsville.
- Prince, S. L.,  
Anderson.

## MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

Rast, Rev. J. M., Columbia.	Thomas, J. P., Jr., Columbia.
Ravenel, Miss Mary H., Aiken.	Thomas, Miss Martha E., Columbia.
Rawl, F. B., Columbia.	Thorne, J. C., New York City.
Reed, Mrs. Mary Swaffield, Columbia.	Thornley, Fant, Columbia.
Reid, Miss Thelma M., Columbia.	Tillman, B. R., Washington, D. C.
Reynolds, Mark, Jr., Sumter.	Tillman, Mrs. Mamie N., Edgefield.
Rion, Mrs. W. C., Columbia.	Tobias, A. C., Jr., Columbia.
Robertson, Ben, Jr., Clemson.	Todd, M. A., Charleston.
Robinson, D. W., Columbia.	Townsend, Miss Leah, Florence.
Robinson, F. C., Columbia.	Verner, Miss Mary, Columbia.
Scott, Mrs. Florence J., Rio Grande City, Texas.	Walker, Mrs. J. Frost, Union.
Scott, Mrs. Irene A., Columbia.	Want, Samuel, Darlington.
Seibels, E. G., Columbia.	Ward, W. H., Columbia.
Seibels, Mrs. E. G., Columbia.	Wardlaw, F. H., Columbia.
Shand, William, Columbia.	Wardlaw, Patterson, Columbia.
Sheppard, J. O., Edgefield.	Wasdin, Mrs. Agnes M., Georgetown.
Sherrill, G. R., Columbia.	Watkins, H. H., Anderson.
Shockley, C. G., Columbia.	Watkins, T. F., Anderson.
Simons, A. St. J., Columbia.	Watson, H. L., Greenwood.
Society for Orphan and Destitute Children, Columbia.	Wauchope, G. A., Columbia.
Spivey, D. A., Conway.	Welbourne, F. F., Columbia.
Stackhouse, Mrs. T. B., Columbia.	Weston, Mrs. A. D., Columbia.
Stukes, T. H., Manning.	Wheeler, Miss Mary P., Columbia.
Sumter, J. R., Sumter.	White, Miss Fannie Belle, Columbia.
Sumwalt, R. L., Columbia.	White, Mrs. Walter C., Stateburg.
Surles, Miss Flora B., Columbia.	White, Mrs. W. H., Abbeville.
Taylor, G. L., Georgetown.	Wienefeld, R. H., Columbia.
Taylor, J. P., Columbia.	Wiggins, A. L. M., Hartsville.
Taylor, W. F., Columbia.	Wilds, J. L., Chicago, Ill.

## MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

Williams, G. C.,  
Columbia.

Wilson, J. M.,  
Columbia.

Wingard, Miss Mary C.,  
Lexington.

Woods, W. S.,  
Columbia.

Woodson, Mrs. A. A.,  
Edgefield.

Woodson, Miss Hortense  
Edgefield.

Wright, M. A.,  
Conway.

Wyeth, Dr. M. S.,  
Palm Beach, Fla.

Yeargin, Mrs. W. W.,  
Laurens.



## ANNUAL ADDRESS\*

E. MERTON COULTER

*Professor of History, University of Georgia*  
Athens, Georgia

We are here to pay tribute to the past and to develop further our enthusiasm for collecting and preserving the records out of which we can understand that past. With these documents in hand we can write our history. But first, it might be asked what is history and what is the good of it. Various definitions have been given, based somewhat on the attitude of the person who is doing the defining: says one, history is a story agreed upon; says another, history is a pack of lies we play on the dead; and another is reputed to have said that history is bunk. All these definitions would tend to cast aspersions on history and hold up to ridicule or worse those who write it.

Then, there is another school of definers who have more respect for history but who see it in a more restricted sense than do others. Some of them hold the subject-matter of history to be concerned only with our political development. Illustrating this point of view a famous English historian once said that history was past politics and that politics is present history. Carlyle, taking a different slant, said that history was the lives of great men. The wisest people today reject all these definitions and declare that history is the record of the human past, or as an American historian a few years ago said, history is concerned with all that man has ever thought, felt, hoped for or done. And that must be the final verdict. If man had had anything to do with making the mountains, the valleys, the rivers and the plains, the historian would include in his realm what today has been set aside for the geologist.

But what is the good of history, is another part of the question. Some say it is to discipline the mind, others say it is to teach patriotism, another says it is to serve as a guide for the future. But stern reason would declare that history is merely the record of the human past, and let it, therefore, rest at that. If it disciplines the mind, if it makes us more patriotic, if it serves as a guide to the future, we should be thankful for it. But it should be remembered that history like virtue is its own reward.

There is danger that violence will be done to history if it is made to work too hard at any of these tasks. If it is to be made a servant of mental discipline, it is likely to degenerate into a senseless jumble of facts, dates, names, battles, statistics. If it

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\*On the occasion of the fifth annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society, Hotel Wade Hampton, Columbia, February 27, 1941.

is solely to make us patriotic, we will probably write only one side of our history and we will, perhaps, pervert the truth of that.

Thus, arose the story of Washington and the cherry tree. Good old Parson Weems thought to strike home that simple virtue of always telling the truth when he invented this story; nor would it hurt the cause of American patriotism to have Washington appear in such a resplendent light. Thus, for a century Americans were taught to believe that England exercised a brutal tyranny over her American colonies and that the American cause in the Revolution was wholly good and the English wholly evil. Imagine the cruel tryanny today, destructive of soul and body, imposed on the conquered peoples of Europe, and then contemplate the mild rule under which England held her colonies. Today we see it differently. All honor to our Revolutionary patriots, many of whom have come to be no less respected in England today; but let us not in the name of patriotism pervert the facts of the Revolutary War. Think of the sordid use the German leaders have made of history today. They have burned the books that tell the truths they do not like, and by a selection and distortions of the facts of history, they have erected the German people into a super-race whose rights are commensurate only with their power to crush out their conquered vassals. What crimes have been committed in the name of history!

In this connection there has been a tendency among various racial and patriotic groups to play horse with history. Certain Irish historians have claimed that America was discovered a thousand years before Columbus, by sixty Irish monks. They hold with equal validity that Washington was really an Irishman, for once there lived in Ireland a man named Washington from whom George might have descended. The fame of Columbus has led at least six national groups to claim him as their own. These claimants up to this time are the Italians, French, Jews, Spanish, Portuguese, and Icelanders. Certain Germans calling themselves historians have claimed that their race is responsible for practically all there is that is worth while in American history. Germans were responsible for the writing of the Declaration of Independence, for the formation of the Constitution of the United States, for acquiring the great American West, and for saving the Union in 1861-1865. A German historian felt sure that Abraham Lincoln was of German ancestry, for Lincoln's grandfather once spelled his name Linkhorn.

But the greatest danger that lurks in the use to which history can be put is the dictum that the past is a perfect rule for the future. The feeling that this should be so has unconsciously played a tremendous part in the policies of the United States, and nowhere more than in relation to what our foreign policy should be. With utter disregard for the vast changes that have come to the world within the past hundred years, there are many



Americans today in high places who profess to believe that our ancient policies should remain unchanged. They would still use ox carts in the day of automobiles, airplanes, and radio. And their reasoning is based on history.

Isolation was an American foreign policy established as early as the American republic. It was fostered by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and was popularly stated by James Monroe in the famous doctrine which has ever afterwards borne his name. It was the only sensible policy that the United States could have adopted at that time. It worked perfectly in the kind of world which existed at that time, and which continued to exist for many years thereafter. Isolation was a fact because it took a month to cross the ocean with ships and it took just as long to send messages. Now there is an entirely different world, when ideas can be flashed around the earth within a second and people may span the Atlantic in a day. Yet there are men in the American Congress now who still talk isolation and call upon Washington and history to uphold the correctness of their position. Indeed have they become the slaves of history and of the past. With them the dead are more powerful than the living.

Must it then be inferred that history is bunk or worse? Is it something which we should avoid and eschew as a deadly curse? Of course, not. The proper uses of history are the greatest possession the present has, but only when history is our servant and not our master. Woe to that people which has no past, or having one does not respect it. It should be the balance-wheel in any civilization. Indeed, it is impossible to understand the present or guess much into the future if the past is ignored. But it should always be borne in mind that there should be severe limits set. If we lived in a static world, then history would be a guide to the future, and all our past policies could be continued for all time. Then would isolation as a foreign policy still be safe and possible; but in this modern world we have outgrown the isolation of the Monroe Doctrine. It is an ox cart in a streamlined motor age.

But coming closer home, and regarding our own state or region, what of its history? Here there is a work to be done which can engage the interest and industry of all. Where we live is of the first importance. One of the greatest characteristics which set apart the Anglo-Saxon civilization is the love for locality and for local self-government. With us it is as old as America and we inherited it from our Anglo-Saxon ancestry. The South being the most Anglo-Saxon of all the New World, local pride has here maintained itself most tenaciously. State pride has become proverbial and traditional in the South, and in this regard probably no state exceeds South Carolina.

South Carolinians have made a long and honorable history. Will they bestir themselves to collect and preserve the records



of it—and write it, too? Or while they sleep, will they permit others, who had no part in the making of it but who have a greater appreciation of it, carry away the evidence? It might be argued that there should be one great depository, or at most two or three, for the records of American history, irrespective of what sort they are. There are some good reasons for assuming this position. Many states in the past have been notorious in the neglect and lack of appreciation of their records, while a few great libraries have wisely sought out these neglected records and carried them off to places of safety where they would be used. These great libraries are still interested in increasing their collections, but they have aroused an interest in the locality where the documents originated and to which they relate, and these localities have in recent times set to work to save for themselves the records of their past. South Carolina, whose interest in her historical records has been of long standing, has redoubled her activity in her South Caroliniana Society.

This is a laudable work which might well be more actively imitated by other states. The records of a state belong first to the state that produced them. There they can be best studied and interpreted. How can South Carolinians become much interested in their history if they find that their records have been carried away, or a thousand times worse if they have been lost? There are many records that would seem entirely out of place if they were not preserved by the region that produced them. Out of their habitat they would seem as unnatural as palmettoes in the arctic zone. In this age of easy travel, it is much more logical that the student in the great library centers should go to the specialized documents in their respective localities, than that these documents should be removed from their habitat. Also in this age of easy and cheap reproduction of documents by microfilms, copies of important records can be carried to the ends of the earth without disturbing the location of the original. When the record is printed, enough copies may be found to make possible a wide distribution. Of course, it is to be always understood that no locality has a logical right to its records if it does not preserve them or having preserved them does not make them available to students whoever they may be.

And lastly, what is a historical record? It is just as varied as the human activity to which it relates. It may look formidable, stamped with official seals and bearing the names of famous men, or it may be in the scribbled handwriting of an illiterate. It may record a grand and significant performance or it may relate to the sale of a bushel of potatoes. It may have first appeared in colonial times or it may have originated yesterday. It may be a neatly bound book or pamphlet or a file of newspapers, or it may be an old almanac or handbill. These are all historical documents, and the most insignificant-looking piece of paper may be the most important for some particular investigation. From such do we find the facts that go into history.







