1944

Caroliniana Society Annual Gifts Report - 1944

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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

J. Hayward Gibbs .................. President
Mrs. A. F. McKissick ................. Vice-President
R. L. Meriwether .................... Secretary-Treasurer
REPORT FOR 1944
REPORT

To the Members of the Society:

I herewith submit my Report as Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1944. This Report and the Minutes of the 1944 meeting were read and approved at the ninth meeting of the Society, May 31, 1945. The explanation of the delay in publication of the 1943 and 1944 Report is to be found in the former.

Included in the present Report are the Minutes of the ninth meeting, so that hereafter the annual publication will contain the report for the year and the minutes of the meeting which follows and, in effect, closes the Society’s year.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1944

The eighth annual meeting of the Society was held in the South Caroliniana Library, March 30, 1944, Vice-President J. Heyward Gibbes presiding. The one hundred and forty-two members and guests were welcomed for the University by President J. Rion McKissick, at which time President McKissick presented to the Library a portrait of the late President of our Society, Chief-Justice M. L. Bonham, the gift of his son, Proctor A. Bonham. Dr. Chapman Milling moved that the Secretary extend to Mr. Bonham the Society’s appreciation of his gift of the portrait; the motion was unanimously approved.

The report of the Secretary and Treasurer was then read and approved. The following members were named by the presiding officer to serve as an Advisory Committee for the next year: Dr. Robert Wilson, Chairman; Dr. Chapman Milling, Mr. C. W. Coker, and Miss Mary G. Sledge. The following officers were elected upon motion of Mr. Fitz Hugh McMaster that the Chairman of the Nominating Committee cast the unanimous vote of the Society for the nominations of the Committee: Dr. J. Heyward Gibbes, President; Mrs. A. F. McKissick, Vice-President; R. L. Meriwether, Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. Robert Wilson, President-Emeritus of the South Carolina Medical College, delivered the annual address, after which the Society was adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1945

The ninth annual meeting of the Society was held in the South Caroliniana Library, May 31, 1945, Dr. J. Heyward Gibbes, President of the Society, presiding. Dr. Gibbes introduced Admiral Norman M. Smith, President of the University, who welcomed the one hundred and fifty members and guests.

The minutes of the eighth annual meeting, March 30, 1944, and the report of the Secretary-Treasurer for 1944 were read and ap-
proved. Dr. D. D. Wallace, Professor of History and Economics, Wofford College, made the annual address to the Society, the subject of his paper being “President J. Rion McKissick’s Donation of his Library to the University of South Carolina.” Many of the books and papers from President McKissick’s library were on exhibition in the reading rooms of the Library for the members of the Society and their guests to see.

The incumbent officers were re-elected for one year. Under miscellaneous business President Smith announced the gift to the University of the bell from the Frigate South Carolina by Lt. W. L. Carbine, Jr. The bell has been placed in the South Caroliniana Library where it was exhibited at the time of the presentation.

REPORT FOR 1944

The close of the year brought the membership of the Society to 278, an increase of sixteen over the previous year. During the year the Society lost by death the following members: Mr. B. F. Arthur, Dr. A. L. Blanding, Mr. H. C. Haynsworth, Mrs. Howard Meriwether Lovett, President J. Rion McKissick, Judge J. Hardin Marion, Colonel D. A. Spivey and Mrs. W. W. Yeargin.

As we regretfully record in our report the passing of these members who somehow found time to do this particular service to their state, we can hardly avoid remarking that we lost in successive years the first President of the Society and the University President in whose administration the Society had its beginning—the two men who made its founding and success possible. To both the program of the Society was more than a duty and a responsibility; it was an unalloyed pleasure and a continuing satisfaction, and as we express our grateful appreciation, it is with a happy recollection of our association with them in this work.

Receipts from dues were $599.00; from contributions $117.00, making a total of $716.00, $72.00 more than was paid in 1943.

This substantial and much needed fund has been expended entirely for purchases of Caroliniana, being added to what could be spared for the purpose from the University’s assignment of funds to the library. The Society’s contribution made possible the purchase of the following:

1. 14 letters of Edward Rutledge, legislator, governor, South Carolina’s leading Signer of the Declaration of Independence; the letters run from 1789 to 1799, and give an excellent picture of the times, as well as an insight into the qualities of the genial gentleman who wrote them.

2. 10 letters of Edward’s son, Henry Middleton Rutledge.

3. 55 letters and other papers, 1788-1796 of the Charleston branch and associates of the Stewart firm of Philadelphia.
4. 4 letters of James Colleton, of the family of the Carolina Proprietor, 1684; these are distinctive additions to our Caroliniana and to knowledge of the period.

5. An apparently unpublished poem of Paul Hamilton Hayne, "To Sleep."

6. The original expense book of Edward Hooker, who taught and traveled in South Carolina in the early 1800's, and a resolution of the South Carolina College faculty, of which Hooker was secretary, 1808, suspending two students for duelling, and recommending to the Trustees their expulsion.

7. Thomas Cooper's *Treatise on Domestic Medicine and Practical System of Domestic Cookery*, 1824, which contains excellent and emphatic advice to the ladies on what to cook and how to cook it.

But, as in other years, the value of the direct gifts of Caroliniana by members of the Society far outruns their money contributions.
CHIEF ITEMS AMONG THE ACQUISITIONS

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

MANUSCRIPTS:

Allston, R. F. W., 3 volumes, 853 pages, transcripts of letters of, 1810-1868,
By J. H. Easterby, Charleston.  1

Bailey, Dr. R. S., 2 certificates of Royal College of Physicians, London, and Theatre London Hospital awarded to, 1816 and a certificate of membership in the Georgetown District Medical Society, 1848,
By Dr. R. S. Bailey, St. George.  2

Byrnes, James F., the manuscript from which he read his radio speech of October 30, 1944,
By James F. Byrnes, Washington, D. C.  3

Clark, Washington A., 41 letters and papers of, including two Confederate army record books,
By his daughter, Mrs. Mary Clark Brockman, Columbia. (See also 28).  4

Confederate War and Reconstruction, 6 letters, including one of James Chesnutt to E. M. Boykin, 1862,
By Mrs. D. S. Pope, Columbia, and Mrs. Walter C. White, Stateburg.  5

Duffie, W. J., 3 account books of the business of, 1870-1900, including the expenses of the building of the store,
By Mrs. Mary Verner Schlaeffter, Columbia.  6

McCants, James B., 118 letters and business papers of, Winnsboro, 1844-1880,
By his son, W. Clarke McCants, Columbia.  7

McIntosh, Dr. James H., about 600 letters and other papers of, on medical business,
By his daughter, Miss Nancy McIntosh, Columbia. (See also 20, 22).  8

McMaster, Additions to the Fitz William McMaster Collection, 11 manuscripts, including 8 school exercise maps drawn about 1848 in a Columbia school,
By the Family of Fitz William and Mary Jane MacFie McMaster.  9
Moses, Chief Justice F. J., 2 letters of, 1874, and 4 other manuscripts, including a circular of a Confederate enrolling officer, 1864,
By Herbert A. Moses, Sumter.  

Nevis and Courier, about 100 manuscripts, chiefly routine business transactions, with a few letters to the editor, 1870-1891,
By W. W. Ball, Charleston.  

Seibels family, 4 bound volumes of correspondence, about 122 letters, with copies, of the Seibels family, 1812-1899,
By E. G. Seibels, Columbia. (See also 19).  

South Carolina College, about 4,000 records of alumni, including dates, family, and business; this immense and valuable record was compiled over a period of many years by the late Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Moore, and is presented as a memorial to their devotion to the University,
By Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Keenan, Jr., Columbia.  

Strickland, Lily, the original manuscript of the song, Charleston Sketches,
By the author, Miss Lily Strickland, Long Island, New York. (See also 31).  

von Humboldt, a letter from the scientist Baron von Humboldt to Francis Lieber, n. d.,
By Mrs. Charles F. Stearns, Providence, Rhode Island.  

War of 1812, 140 pages of typed copies of rolls of South Carolina regiments,
By Mrs. J. H. Sams, Columbia.  

Wingard, S. P., about 60 letters, 1894-1920, added to the S. P. Wingard papers,
By Miss Mary Wingard, Lexington.  

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:  

Associate Reformed Presbyterian, a partial file of the, 1931-1944,
By Miss Nora Davis, Columbia.  

Columbia Phoenix, and other Columbia newspapers, a volume of, including 3 issues of the Phoenix for March, April, and May 1865, and the South Carolinian, October 26, 1847; the Telegraph, April 27, 1848 and February 12, 1850; and the Southern Chronicle, June 28, August 4, 11, 1841 and June 9, 1847,
By E. G. Seibels, Columbia. (See also 12).
Orion, the, for 1842-1844, 4 volumes, a rare magazine published first at Penfield, Georgia, and later at Charleston, and issues of other South Carolina magazines.
By Miss Nancy McIntosh, Columbia. (See also 8, 22).

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS:
Bradley, Doctor R. F., bound volume of theological articles perhaps the only copies surviving,
By his son, F. W. Bradley, Columbia.

Columbia Business Directories, 23 volumes, and 20 other South Carolina pamphlets and reports,
By Miss Nancy McIntosh, Columbia. (See also 8, 20).

McMaster, Louise, History of the McMaster Family, 1944,
2 copies,
By F. H. McMaster, Columbia. (See also 26).

Simms, William Gilmore, History of South Carolina, 1842,
and 4 other volumes of South Caroliniana,
By Mrs. J. N. Conover, New Rochelle, New York.

South Carolina departments and institutions, 54 reports and bulletins, 1914-1933,
By H. C. Davis, Columbia.

South Carolina Insurance Office, 20 reports and other papers of, 1908-1923,
By F. H. McMaster, Columbia. (See also 23).

South Carolina school books, 12 volumes of, 1873-1939, including two published by W. J. Duffie,
By Mrs. James S. Verner through Mrs. Mary Verner Schlaeffer, Columbia.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:
Clark, Washington A., 9 medals and other Confederate pieces, belonging to the late Mr. Clark, including the silver dollar which formed most of his pay at the disbanding of Johnston’s army in 1865,
By Mrs. Mary Clark Brockman, Columbia. (See also 4).

Mills, Robert, 2 engravings by: “The De Kalb Monument in Camden” (apparently one of the two known copies in the United States), and “Death of De Kalb,” 1861,
By Mrs. A. F. McKissick, Greenville. (See also 30)
Staffordshire Scenic china, small platter to accompany Charleston Exchange gravy tureen, made between 1814 and 1830 by J. and W. Ridgeway,
By Mrs. A. F. McKissick, Greenville. (See also 31). 30

Strickland, Lily, 4 water color sketches of India subjects,
By Miss Lily Strickland, Long Island, New York. (See also 14). 31

Wardlaw, Captain W. C., his Confederate Army sword,
By his son, W. C. Wardlaw, Atlanta, Georgia. 32

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR’S ACQUISITIONS

Books and pamphlets: 1816-1944 ......................................... 175
Newspapers (single issues): 1866-1904 .................................. 713
Manuscripts (volumes of): 1806-1945 .................................. 53
Manuscripts (single): 1684-1920 ....................................... 4,729
Miscellaneous items: ....................................................... 62

Total ................................................................. 5,732

Many of these books and manuscripts are in their individual selves unimportant and beyond words dull and unimpressive. But they are essential records of our everyday life, and therefore we— I mean the members of the Society, and the patrons and friends of this library—take pride in possessing them. And this so solid, if uninspiring satisfaction that comes from ownership of these routine records changes to the true delight of the student and of the collector as we look at the many important, rare and beautiful pieces of Caroliniana which the friends of the Society and of the University have given to the Library. We thank you.

R. L. MERIWETHER,
Secretary and Treasurer,
University South Caroliniana Society.
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Abel, Miss C. Marguerite, Columbia
Anderson, Mrs. J. C., Long Island, New York
Andrea, Leonardo, Columbia
Appelt, Mrs. Clara H., Manning
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Bacon, Mrs. F. P., Tryon, North Carolina
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Clariosophic Literary Society, University of South Carolina, Columbia
Clippard, E. B., Columbia
Coker, C. W., Hartsville
Coker, E. C., Columbia

*Deceased.
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Washington, D. C.
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Columbia
Gibbes, R. W.,
Columbia
Gibbes, Mrs. R. W.,
Columbia
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Hartsville
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

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Columbia
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Gaston
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Spartanburg
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Bennettsville
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Aiken
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Hendley, Mrs. W. S., 
Columbia
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Columbia
Hennig, H. W., 
Darlington

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Columbia
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Columbia
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Columbia
Hough, Mrs. Ben C., 
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Hutson, F. M., 
Columbia
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Rock Hill
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Auburn, Alabama
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Clinton
Jordan, A. B., 
Dillon
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Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
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Asheville, North Carolina
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Due West
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Columbia
Lewis, Ralph, 
Columbia
Lieber, Miss Mary, 
Newport, Rhode Island
*Lovett, Mrs. H. M., 
Delhi, New York

*Deceased.
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

Lowrance, W. B.,
Madison, Tennessee
Lucas, S. R.,
Florence
Lumpkin, Bryan,
Columbia
Lyles, Miss Mary E.,
Columbia
Macaulay, A. H.,
Chester
Magoffin, Mrs. Ralph V.,
Columbia
Manning, W. M.,
Columbia
*Marion, J. H.,
Charlotte
Marshall, Miss M. C.,
Columbia
Mauldin, Mrs. T. J.,
Pickens
Mauldin, Mrs. T. F.,
Columbia
May, J. A.,
Columbia
Mays, C. A.,
Greenwood
McCants, C. W.,
Columbia
McCants, E. C.,
Anderson
McColl, Mrs. D. D.,
Bennettsville
McGowan, F. P.,
Columbia
McIntosh, Miss Nancy,
Columbia
McKissick, Mrs. A. F.,
Greenville
McKissick, E. S.,
Greenville
*McKissick, J. R.,
Columbia
McKissick, Mrs. J. R.,
Columbia
McMaster, F. H.,
Columbia
McMaster, The Family of Col. Fitz
William,
Columbia
McMaster, Miss Louise,
Columbia
McMaster, Mrs. S. B.,
Columbia
Meares, Miss Kate deR.,
Columbia
Meares, R. A.,
Columbia
Meriwether, R. L.,
Columbia
Meriwether, Mrs. R. L.,
Columbia
Milling, C. J.,
Columbia
Mills, J. E.,
Hartsville
Mims, Mrs. J. L.,
Edgefield
Moise, Harold,
Sumter
Montgomery, Miss Mabel,
Marion
Moore, W. B., Jr.,
Columbia
Morgan, Miss Katherine G.,
Georgetown
Morris, J. B.,
St. Matthews
Moses, H. A.,
Sumter
Murchison, H. R.,
Columbia
Nettles, J. B.,
Columbia
Nicholson, Allan
Union
Oliphant, Mrs. A. D.,
Greenville
Ott, Miss Ruby,
Columbia
Penney, J. T.,
Columbia
Plowden, Mrs. O. S.,
Sumter

*Deceased.
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

Pope, Mrs. D. S.,
Columbia
Poplar Springs Baptist Church,
Ware Shoals
Pratt, S. B., Jr.,
Columbia
Prince, S. L.,
Anderson
Proctor, Mrs. Louise,
Camden
Quattlebaum, Paul,
Conway
Ravenel, Miss Mary,
Aiken
Reams, Miss Mary Elizabeth,
Greenville, Florida
Reed, Mrs. Mary S.,
Columbia
Reid, Miss Thelma,
Columbia
Reynolds, Mark, Jr.,
Sumter
Richardson, Mrs. H. B.,
Columbia
Rion, Mrs. W. C.,
Columbia
Roberts, Carlisle,
Columbia
Robinson, D. W.,
Columbia
Sams, Mrs. J. H.,
Columbia
Scott, Mrs. Florence J.,
Rio Grande City, Texas
Scott, Mrs. Irene A.,
Columbia
Seibels, Mrs. Alice C.,
Columbia
Seibels, E. G.,
Columbia
Seibels, Mrs. E. G.,
Columbia
Shand, G. E.,
Columbia
Shand, Mrs. G. E.,
Columbia
Shand, Miss Louly,
Columbia
Shand, Mrs. William,
Columbia
Shaw, A. E.,
Columbia
Sheppard, J. O.,
Edgefield
Sherrill, G. R.,
Columbia
Simons, E. H. H.,
New York, New York
Simons, Miss Katherine D. M.,
Charleston
Sledge, Miss Mary G.,
Chester
Smith, N. M.,
Columbia
Society for Orphan and Destitute
Children,
Columbia
*Spivey, D. A.,
Conway
Stackhouse, Mrs. T. B.,
Columbia
Stearns, Mrs. C. F.,
Providence, Rhode Island
Stevenson, Miss Charlotte,
Columbia
Stokes, The Family of Lt. Col. William,
Columbia
Stukes, T. H.,
Manning
Surles, Miss Flora B.,
Mt. Pleasant
Sumwalt, R. L.,
Columbia
Swaffield, Miss Caroline,
Columbia
Taylor, G. L.,
Georgetown
Taylor, J. P.,
Columbia
Taylor, Mrs. Thomas,
Columbia
Thomas, J. P., Jr.,
Columbia

*Deceased.
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thompson, Broadus</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Broadus</td>
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<td>Thornley, Fant</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>Mrs. H. L.</td>
<td>Marion</td>
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<td>Tillman, B. R.</td>
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<td>Mamie N.</td>
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<td>Edgefield</td>
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<td>Timberlake, J. E.</td>
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<td>Mrs. J. E.</td>
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<td>Todd, M. A.</td>
<td>Charleston</td>
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<td>Townsend, Miss Leah</td>
<td>Florence</td>
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<td>Trotter, A. M.</td>
<td>New York, New York</td>
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<td>Trotti, M. W.</td>
<td>West Columbia</td>
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<td>Wallace, D. D.</td>
<td>Spartanburg</td>
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<td>Ward, W. H.</td>
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<td>Wardlaw, F. H.</td>
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<td>Wardlaw, Patterson</td>
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<td>Watson, H. L.</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
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<td>Weston, Mrs. A. D.</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>Wheeler, Miss Mary P.</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>White, Mrs. W. C.</td>
<td>Stateburg</td>
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<td>Mrs. W. H.</td>
<td>Abbeville</td>
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<td>Wienefeld, R. H.</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>Wiggins, A. L. M.</td>
<td>Hartsville</td>
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<td>Wilds, J. L.</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
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<td>Wilkes, M. R.</td>
<td>Washington, D. C.</td>
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<td>Williams, Miss Belle</td>
<td>Monetta</td>
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<td>Williams, G. C.</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>Miss Julia</td>
<td>Chester</td>
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<td>Willson, Mrs. J. O.</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
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<td>Wilson, Mrs. C. C.</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>Wilson, J. M.</td>
<td>New York, New York</td>
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<td>Wilson, Robert</td>
<td>Charleston</td>
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<td>Wingard, Miss Mary G.</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
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<td>Woods, W. S.</td>
<td>Chester</td>
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<td>Woodson, Miss Hortense</td>
<td>Edgewater</td>
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<td>Wright, M. A.</td>
<td>Conway</td>
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<td>Wyeth, M. S.</td>
<td>Palm Beach, Florida</td>
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*Deceased.
ANNUAL ADDRESS*

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PRESIDENT J. RION MCKISSICK'S DONATION OF HIS LIBRARY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The center of our thought tonight is the splendid gift to his alma mater by the late President of the University of South Carolina, Dr. J. Rion McKissick. In giving his library he gave his possession most like himself; for a man's library is a reflection of his own mind and character. We gather around ourselves those things or persons that we love, and may be truly judged by the associates which we have collected. In mere number of volumes Dr. McKissick's library was of liberal extent, and in its large proportion of items on South Carolina it was distinctive. Of its almost five thousand items, approximately three thousand are books or pamphlets on the history of his native State. Every aspect of our history is represented, from fugitive verse to the most weighty historical documents. The two thousand volumes on other subjects are mainly concerned with general American and European history, law and journalism. Its South Caroliniana are a testimony to his love and interest for his State; the general portions represent the natural intellectual environment and working tools of his professional life.

Dr. McKissick's contribution through this gift to the study of the history of our State is notable. The sources from which a knowledge of our history is to be derived consist of a wide variety of materials. Although our State is rich in official original manuscripts of our early history, we have been lamentably stingy of the expense of giving them in printed form to the world, which has accordingly some excuse for its ignorance and frequent misrepresentation of our past. Private collections, such as those of Mr. A. S. Salley, or the late Mr. August Kohn contain numerous invaluable works. But, outside official records, the most valuable collections are found in a few public libraries, such as those of the University of South Carolina, the Charleston Library Society, or the South Carolina Historical Society. These collections have been accumulated largely through such gifts as that which we acknowledge tonight. The properly equipped public library affords a usefulness not possessed by the same collection in private hands. First, the risk of destruction is reduced by the public library to a minimum. We should be spared so far as possible such irreparable losses as that of W. H. Trescot's papers when his residence burned, reducing to smoke and ashes the books and papers of one of our most notable public men. A further ad-

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*On the occasion of the ninth annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society, the South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, May 31, 1945.
vantage of the public library is its easier accessibility to investigators, and the assembling in one place of materials that had before been scattered in many places. Dr. McKissick has done a large service in thus facilitating the study of our history.

But why, it may be asked, is it of any particular importance to study the history of what a sharp-tongued enemy once described as that little triangle of treason and rebellion? A sufficient answer would be in order that we, and he, might realize that this triangle of the earth's surface has been a great deal more than his broad generalization and narrow sneer implied. In a world in which there is so much to learn and with our lives subjected to the call of so many necessities, the student, not to speak of the average citizen, is justified in asking why he should give part of his energy to such a time-consuming pursuit as the study of history. The question applies to all historical studies, and if it cannot be satisfactorily answered from that standpoint, it is useless to insist on it for the study of the history of any State.

To begin with, what is history? Is it an art to be cultivated, like fanciful forms of literature, merely for the enjoyment it gives to certain types of mind, or, as librarians sometimes say in apology for the reading of the flimsiest fiction by many of their patrons, because it saves them from ennui and keeps them out of mischief? That is to say, is history merely to amuse its readers (a perfectly legitimate end if not made the end all and be all), or does it tend to make its readers better men and women, qualifying them more intelligently to adjust themselves to the complexities of life and helping them as private citizens or as leaders in their community life to solve more wisely the problems of their own time?

To say that history is the record of past events leaves us exactly where we were before. To say that it is philosophy teaching by example is some comfort, unless we are overtaken by the pessimism of Hegel, who declared that "What History teaches is that men have never learned anything from History." Men have learned from history, sometimes false lessons and sometimes true; and unhappily it seems to take longer for them to learn the true than the false. A very practical lesson, which the peoples of England and America are now showing evidence of having learned, is that the age of crude exploitation of backward peoples is closing and that the permanent interests of the advanced as well as of the backward peoples is best served by making benefits mutual.

The earliest historians related only what was interesting, but the modern historian demands explanation as well as facts. This enquiry into causes is more than scientific curiosity; the discovery of causes opens the way for effecting changes. Consider, for instance, the problem of the Southern poor whites, who have been so much more freely talked about than investigated. The
brashest statements are made as to their origin, as that they are
the descendants of the criminals whom England shipped off to
the colonies. Another guess is that they are the descendants of
the indentured servants who formed a large part of the popu-
lation of some colonies. Neither statement is supported by facts.
My own study of the poor whites shows that the number of
criminals sent to the province of South Carolina was negligible,
and that some of them were merely those who fought for the
wrong king (such as voting for the wrong man for President
today), or believed in the wrong religion, and were mercifully
banished to America instead of being hanged for their independ-
ence. My researches show also that immigrants of good character
and education when placed on isolated, poverty-stricken soil, de-
generated into a lamentable condition from which the situation
created by the slave plantation system, the absence of public
schools, and the lack of opportunities that an industrialized so-
ciety would have afforded, made it difficult for them to extri-
ccate themselves. The almost complete disappearance of this class
except in regions of particularly depressing character, and the
rise of their descendants into self-respecting, prosperous farmers,
mill workers or in some cases merchants or professional men,
shows what can be done by affording a depressed population
proper environment, as their former degradation shows how
damaging is the persistance of bad economic and social surround-
ings. We produced our poor whites and already have proved
that by proper measures we may transform them into excellent
whites. Only last Sunday I saw in one of the largest cotton mill
villages in our sandhills, now turned to a use for which they are
suited, a long line of handsome automobiles parked before a
magnificent high school building where thirty young men and
women were graduating. These graduates were the descendants
socially, and doubtless in large part biologically, from the very
adults whom the founder of this company a hundred years ago
described as seventy-five per cent illiterate and as having been
living "in extreme poverty and want" in a condition little above
that of the Indians. It is an illustration of what can be done to
shape history by means of the power of human institutions, con-
trolled by human choice and the determination to change things
more into what they should be. That men can influence the course
of history by deliberately determining on a certain object is
strikingly illustrated by the organized missionary movement
covering several centuries which converted Europe from paga-
anism to Christianity, the abolitionist movement in America, or
the ideal of manifest destiny which carried this nation to the
Pacific, and, before our very eyes, by Hitler's Germany.
This suggests also why each generation insists on re-writing
the story of the past. It is not primarily a reflection on the ac-
curacy of older histories, although the discovery of new material
does of course play a part; but independently of that, each gen-
eration is concerned with those events of the past which bear on
its own problems. The doings of kings and politicians are less studied and our attention is more drawn by the fundamental movements and critical events that have contributed to make us what we are, and that help us the better to understand our present situation and tasks. A striking instance is afforded by the treatment of Nullification by college text books fifty years ago and today. The older books went into minute constitutional analysis, supported by historical facts and argument upon them, with each step in the unfolding of the idea of the legal protection of minorities under our constitutional system, to the extent of many pages. In the modern text book the Nullification controversy is treated in only a few lines, with little effort to explain the doctrine, which at least would be excellent training in careful thinking. As well ask the modern theologian to repeat the old mediaeval argument on how many angels can stand on the point of a needle, which also has possibilities of intellectual practice and involves a very real question of the nature of spirit and matter.

History reveals the slow evolution of civilization from primitive barbarism to the highest culture, and, unhappily, discloses the danger of the relapse into barbarism if the elevation and restraining power of religion and morals is lost. We have been unhappily forced to admit from what we have seen in our own generation the truth of the doctrine of an eminent sociologist some seventy years ago that man is capable of any conduct of which man has ever been guilty. The past should be taught so as to show its connection with the living present, and the light of present custom and knowledge should be thrown backward to illumine the methods and motives of the past.

Unless history is studied from the standpoint of responsible moral beings, it had better not be studied at all, for the forces of the past, which in any event will powerfully influence the present and the future, had better be left to work undirected than to be perverted to stimulate still further man’s natural propensities of aggression, greed and conflict. For this reason the most satisfying conception of history that I know of is expressed in the words of Droysen: History is the actualization of moral forces. This does not mean, however, that we are to shut our eyes to the immoral forces or their results. Moral is here used in the sense of those things concerned with man’s mind and character rather than his tools and possessions, that is to say that distinguish him as a thinking, responsible, improvable or degradable moral being. As tested by this conception of history, those events are of importance which contribute to the accomplishment of some institution or situation that has moral significance. Those of us who believe that the progress of mankind to higher and higher levels of moral conduct is supported by a divine influence tending toward “one divine, far off event to which the whole creation moves,” will esteem as most significant those events that make for justice, freedom, and uprightness.
Why is the comparatively short history of classic Greece of so much vaster importance than centuries on centuries of China? Because Greece in those marvelous centuries did more than has any other people except the Jews to actualize in men's lives the noblest qualities of which mind and character are capable. England, of less than twice the area of South Carolina, has more effectively actualized into permanent institutions the moral forces of personal freedom, legal justice, and representative self-government, and extended them over a larger part of the world, than have all other countries combined. The list can be extended, often the little countries proving that it is not the bigness or the noise that makes events historically important, but the moving of man up to higher freedom, intelligence and goodness.

And our own South Carolina is a small State. Is she therefore unimportant? Mr. Joseph W. Barnwell at the 1913 meeting of the American Historical Association said, in his welcome to the historian to Charleston, that it was probably true that the small upper class of that city before 1860 exercised, for good or evil, a more powerful influence on American history than any similar number of persons anywhere; for, he said, that element governed Charleston, and Charleston at that time largely dominated South Carolina, and South Carolina exercised, by reason of its leadership of Southern opinion, a mighty influence on American history. So at least we can feel that we have been important; but let us be on our guard against permitting ourselves to fall into an inferiority complex because we are not now as important relatively as we once were.

Clearly then, if the history of the United States is important, as it surely is for all mankind, the history of a State that has had such an influence on that history is not unimportant. If South Carolina were of no significance whatever in the life of the United States today, still her history would be a fruitful field of study both for her own citizens, for it strikingly illustrates several of the great forces that make human history, which may be the more easily observed on account of the small area involved.

History is the result of a complex of forces. They are always wrong who seek to interpret history as the outcome of one single force, as is Buckle in insisting that physical forces determine history as inevitably as chemical combinations determine the conduct of material substances, or Carlyle, who represents history as hardly more than the biographies of great men, or those who explain it solely on the basis of racial qualities. It happens that South Carolina conspicuously illustrates power of each of these forces, and so exposes the contention that history is the outcome of any one of them. Buckle's theory of natural forces he illustrates by the contrast between India and Greece. In India the manifestations of nature are gigantic and terrifying. Man cowers before the force of the monsoon, looks with awe into the fathomless gorges of unscaled mountains, and meets death in
hideous forms in the jungle. Hence he cringes before nature and almost as naturally before gorgeous potentates. He experiences little to elicit a feeling of personal freedom. In the face of such terrible natural forces he imagines vast and cruel deities. In Greece on the other hand nature wears her most pleasing and kindly aspect. The mountains are grand enough to inspire but not to overawe; nature nurtures without lashing mankind. So kindly and beautiful are her manifestations that man imagines very human gods and goddesses who even take mates from among humans and propagate demigods.

He would be a shallow student of history indeed who overlooked the influence of the English Channel in the development of English free institutions, as men struggled against the despotic power of the king or the selfishness of the nobles, safe behind their narrow wall of water from being subjugated in their divided condition by a foreign conqueror. That is clear; but just how much of the outcome was due to inherent qualities of race is a more difficult question. We are bound to the soil, as is an animal tethered in a pasture; but the tether allows considerable freedom of movement according to our own will and choice.

That natural forces powerfully influence history is true, and this statement passes over into error only when they are represented as wholly accounting for human history. Think how powerful have been natural forces in shaping the history of South Carolina. But for our hot lowlands first settled by the white man would we have had the black man, though humble in place, so powerful in influence as largely to shape the thinking, the character, the prosperity, and the very destiny of the class which though legally master, was itself virtually the slave of its slaves? How powerful has been the influence of climate and topography in producing the differences between the up countryman and the low countryman—The two South Carolinas differing at times from each other more than the upper section differed from the rest of the country. It is useless to ask how different would have been our history had our hills been as full of iron and coal as they are of red clay.

Very strikingly does South Carolina illustrate the influence of great men, so much so that their significance has been overestimated. Our circumstances have always produced striking personalities; but those personalities have rather expressed the conditions out of which they came than determined the course of events. Our greatest public man, Calhoun, strongly illustrates this. A man of powerful intellect and of such nobility and purity of character as to command the highest respect, the policies for which he is most distinctly known were the direct outcome of his circumstances rather than of his own originating. He entered public life as a nationalist and was for some years, as John Quincy Adams called him, the rising hope of that element. The narrow construction of the Constitution that he later adopted
he scoffed at as impeding the growth of the national power which he thought essential for the public welfare. But as the anti-slavery agitation developed and his State adopted the policy of opposition to the enlargement of the powers of the federal government before he did, he faced the necessity of retiring from public life or of revising his nationalistic opinions. The determined South Carolina of that day which perfectly knew her own mind would have discarded him as readily as she did other brilliant leaders when they ceased to speak her mind. I do not subscribe to the theory that Calhoun deliberately changed his views in order to remain in office. He moved to his new position with as complete sincerity as had his fellow Carolinians a few years before him, and under the same influences that had impelled them—the immense pressure of the established institution of slavery, overshadowing every phase of Southern life. Having seen the issue, his superb abilities made him so predominantly the leader that many imagine that he had led the State into it, instead of his having become the leader in what the State had already adopted. As to Calhoun's being responsible for secession, his influence was to delay it, although he ultimately came to consider it inevitable; but without his firm hand and his clearer understanding of the perils of the outcome, rashier men would probably have precipitated secession earlier.

The same considerations largely apply to Tillman, so influential for both good and evil. Unquestionably the democratic revolution which he led, which had been pressing upward for more than a hundred years, would soon have come, as it came in other States; but Tillman's personality caused it to come in a certain way and at a certain time, with some results that would have followed if it had come under different leadership. When conflicting forces are almost in equilibrium, the influence of great personalities may be of decisive importance. As Lecky suggests, had Clive lived to lead the British armies in the American Revolution and had Washington been an Englishman, instead of the United States being a separate empire, we might today be the dominant member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Had the young Napoleon been killed as he charged across the bridge at Lodi the history of Europe might have been materially different.

But in any of these cases the vast weight of social and economic and moral forces long pressing against the dykes and levees of outmoded institutions would have found one way or another for effectuating themselves.

South Carolina, then, serves excellently as an example of the operation of historical forces, which, on account of the sharply accentuated character of our circumstances and leadership, can be studied with advantage.

Ante-bellum South Carolina was the most aristocratic of any American State, and illustrates in high colors the virtues and the faults of such a system. It is a testimony to the peril of class government to see a people led by a governing class of such in-
telligence, wealth, patriotism and sincere convictions along such a suicidal course. With all the faults of our modern democracy, sinking at times to the point of public humiliation, we need not fear its perpetrating such a calamity as that into which our aristocracy led us, unless, in the perverted name of democracy, it itself is perverted into class government. If ever an aristocracy prepared the avalanche of ignorance and passion that finally swept it out of power in 1890, it was our own upper crust governing class in South Carolina with its almost complete neglect of the interests of the masses. The distinctive virtue of democracy is that it forces the recognition of the fact that bettering the welfare and the intelligence of the masses is essential to the welfare of the State. Now, said Lowe, on the wide extension of the suffrage in England by the act of 1867, we must educate our masters.

Such then, being the importance and the character of our history, how should it be studied? I answer with the same standards of accuracy, thoroughness, and fairness that are demanded by the highest standards of historical scholarship. And let us remember that loyalty to our ancestors does not require loyalty to their mistakes. One of the wisest utterances of the period of Southern history ending in 1865 was that of William H. Trescot: “History will justify our motives while she explains our errors.”

The historian of any phase of our State’s history should write with complete freedom of opinion as to issues and merits, and with the fear continually before his eyes of the most merciless criticism of his facts. Mr. A. S. Salley, though not a prolific writer himself, deserves the recognition of every real historian for the uncompromising standards of accuracy to which he has held so many writers on South Carolina history. To all young writers on our past, I would advise, write with the fear of Mr. A. S. Salley before your eyes, and if your work is such as to attract wider attention, add to that the fear of The American Historical Review and The Journal of Southern History.

But let the historian always keep in mind that history is to serve a human need, and not to become a mere accumulation of facts in the spirit of the devotee of the school of art for art’s sake who angrily exclaimed, “Surely you do not think that pictures are painted to be looked at!” Frederick Harrison has a delightful satire on this idolatrous researcher for more mere facts. The old Oxford tutor is scandalized at his student’s love for the interesting historian such as Macaulay and Froude, and explains that almost limitless investigation and cataloguing of facts will be needed before such generalizations as theirs can safely be made.

But how can the human mind comprehend or use such mountains of facts, asked the Freshman.

“You forget,” said the tutor, “that we treat history in ‘Periods’ of short or, at any rate, of manageable length. Nobody has any business out of his own ‘period,’ and if he trespasses on another
man's 'period,' he is pretty certain to be caught. The 'periods' in our schools are far, far too long, and encourage superficial and flashy habits of reading. I remember dear old Bodley, late professor of Palaeography, who was before your time, saying that ten years in the fourteenth century was about as much as any man should try to master. He died, poor old boy, before his great book was ever got into shape at all; and perhaps ten years is rather short for a distinct period. But it takes a good man to know as much as a century, as it ought to be known."

"That would require a thousand volumes," said the Freshman in dismay.

'A hundred thousand," said the tutor crushingly.

But the unconvinced Freshman complained, "All this week I have been entering in my note-book such bits as this: 'Ecgrith marched to a place called the Hoar Apple Tree. It is not known where this is, or why he went there. He left it the next day, and neither he nor it are ever mentioned again in the chronicles.' What is the good to me in knowing that?"

"Bad bad," said the tutor. "You will never be a credit to your college if you can make game of 'truth' like that."

Just then one of the tutor's old pupils who had been out in the world long enough to become a distinguished lawyer and a Member of Parliament greeted his old instructor. The dear old pedant appealed to his old student and was stumped to find how much he had forgotten and how much he had learned.

"Well," replied the lawyer, "What I would advise a young man going into the historical line to bespeak is—first, indefatigable research into all the accessible materials; secondly, a sound philosophy of human evolution; thirdly, a genius for seizing on the typical movements and the great men; and lastly, the power of a true artist in grouping subjects and in describing typical men and events. All four are necessary; and you seem to think at Oxford that the first is enough without rest. But, unless you have a real philosophy of history, you have nothing but your own likings and dislikings to direct your judgment of men and movements. Unless you have the insight to select and classify your facts, you and your readers will be lost in a sea of details."

"And who ever united all these four qualifications?" asked the somewhat abashed Dryasdust.

"Why, Gibbon did, or very nearly," replied the man of the world, "and that is his supreme merit."

Let me emphasize the necessity of broad historical learning for the writer on any but the most purely local phase of history. How distressing are the blunders of writers who have nothing of the background against which their narrative rests. No man is qualified to write the history of any country who does not know something of the history of other countries. There is such a thing as knowing too much history—i. e. too much of a certain kind.
The Balkan patriot who knows no history except that his country once extended across neighboring countries under conditions impossible to reproduce knows both too much and too little history. It is unnecessary to say that not all people of that king live in the Balkan peninsula. So with historic movements which affect other countries as well as our own. As has been said, the tide of the broad Atlantic rises in every creek and inlet along its coast as well as in every great bay and harbor; and so the world-wide rise of democracy will invade every channel along our shores. It may be deflected, slowed, or hastened, but it cannot be prevented.

From history we may learn wisdom, but not rigid rules. It contains the materials for the answers to many of our questions, but generally not the formulated answers. The use of our own contemporary judgment is necessary. “History repeats itself” is a misleading phrase, for rarely does it exactly repeat what has been. There are always certain differences, either of causes or situation. Again, the best exercise of the human mind is necessary to use the material that history supplies. History moves rather in an ascending spiral than in a flat circle. The constant forming of judgments on the events of the past, weighing probabilities and estimating outcomes, which the study of history involves, is a training in meeting the issues of either private or public life; for we live under the constant necessity of making decisions, often of the greatest moment, on partially known facts. In other words human life and human history are virtually the same.

To this beneficent study, to this avenue to wisdom the experience of the past, to this affectionate preservation of the memorials of our own state, Dr. McKissick has made a notable contribution. To him, through his beloved wife, who shared his interests with him, we express our profound appreciation for the splendid gift that so greatly enriches the University’s resources on the history of our State.