Fall 2005

Caroliniana Columns - Fall 2005

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As plans move forward for the construction of wings on the east and west sides of Thomas Cooper Library, changes have taken place in the administration of the South Caroliniana Library. One of the wings will house South Carolina Political Collections and an institute for the study of politics and government. South Carolina Political Collections, formerly Modern Political Collections, has been established as an independent administrative unit, and Herb Hartsook has accepted Dean Paul Willis’ invitation to serve as Director of South Carolina Political Collections. At the same time, Dean Willis invited me to return as Director of the South Caroliniana Library. I agreed to do so, in part to forego the necessity of conducting a search at a time of dynamic expansion of our mission and programming. We have a talented and energetic staff of dedicated professionals in manuscripts, printed materials, visual collections, university archives, and micrographics. We continue to actively collect Caroliniana, and we are now moving into other areas of collecting.

Nicholas Meriwether joined our staff in February 2005. Nick has been involved in planning and implementing an oral history program in compliance with guidelines of the Oral History Association. He also is working with several hundred interviews on cassette and reel-to-reel tapes that had neither been transcribed nor converted to a more permanent medium.

We currently are preparing to advertise for a field archivist who will be primarily responsible for collecting published and unpublished materials relating to African-American and other minority populations. The Office of the Provost has provided funding for this position for three years, after which funding will come from the Library.

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GOING DIGITAL: THE SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Originally conceived in the late 18th century, fire insurance maps provided structural and urban environmental information necessary for insurance underwriters. Founded in 1867 in the United States, the Sanborn National Insurance Diagram Bureau systematically produced aesthetically appealing, but also efficient, maps nationwide. This New York firm expanded and grew immensely, finally emerging as the Sanborn Map Company in 1902. Eighteen years later the company effectively monopolized the insurance map industry. By World War II surveys of 13,000 towns produced over 700,000 sheets now stored in the Library of Congress. Today, these maps are utilized extensively by architectural historians, environmentalists, genealogists, historians, historic preservationists, and urban historical geographers.

Employing surveyors in every state and systematizing the map-making process, the company set standards for accuracy and design in 1905. The accurate surveys thus produced allowed the clients to make judgments on risk factors without personally examining each and every property that was to be insured. The majority of the maps are drawn to a scale of fifty feet per inch on sheets of 21- by 25-inch paper. For each city and town, building location and material composition by color coding is detailed. Many buildings, especially in downtown urban areas, are labeled by name. One can determine

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Another new and challenging area in which the Library is involved is digitization. With support from Thomas Cooper Library, the Caroliniana's collection of Sanborn fire insurance maps has been digitized and is now available on the web, and several manuscript collections will be available online soon.

I look forward to working with University South Carolinian Society President Steve Griffith and the Executive Council as we plan programs and activities for the next year. Your support of the University South Caroliniana Society has always been and remains vital to the work of the South Caroliniana Library. Our holdings are enriched through your gifts of collections and funds to acquire collections. Each of you has the opportunity to serve the Library as a field archivist, and indeed many of you have represented the Library in encouraging others to allow the Library to be the custodian of their collections. And what is the value of the work that we do? At a time when we are involved as observers and/or caregivers to those who have experienced tragedy on the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans, manuscripts, books, newspapers, and images enable researchers to study a similar tragedy that brought death and destruction to the South Carolina coast in 1893.

The staff and I appreciate the support that you have given the South Caroliniana Library. It is largely due to your support that the South Caroliniana Library is regarded as one of the premier institutions for researching the history, literature, and culture of this region.

By Dr. Allen Stokes, Secretary-Treasurer

LIBRARY ACQUIRES LOCAL COLLEGE MATERIALS

The Published Materials Division of the South Caroliniana Library currently is in the process of acquiring from the USC College of Education’s Museum of Education an exciting collection of materials documenting colleges and universities within South Carolina. At the time of this writing, the Library has received approximately 1400 catalogs and 650 yearbooks representing forty-seven higher learning institutions including African-American schools, private and denominational schools, public schools, technical schools, and nearly every USC branch campus. The earliest college catalog acquired thus far is from Winthrop College (now Winthrop University) and is dated 1890; the earliest yearbook is from The Citadel (then the South Carolina Military Academy) and dates from 1900. The most recent catalog and yearbook (both 2005) are from Bob Jones University. The majority of yearbooks date from the 1950s through the present.

The Museum of Education collected these materials starting in the early 1970s under its first curator, Dr. William W. Savage. In recent years, however, the repository has diminished its archival component to concentrate on its role as a museum. Thomas Cooper Library accepted the Museum’s W. W. Savage K-12 Textbook Collection, and the Published Materials Division accepted its catalogs and yearbooks. Many titles are entirely new to the Library. Other materials fill gaps in existing holdings. Library staffers eagerly anticipate that these additions will prove invaluable to researchers interested in the history of education in South Carolina.

As the Library still is receiving materials from the Museum of Education, all items may not be reflected in the University Libraries’ electronic catalog by the time this article is published.
Sanborn Maps, continued

exactly where the post office, city hall, dry goods stores, bakeries, etc., were to be found. Particular attention is paid to fire departments, water and gas mains, and distances from fire hydrants or fountains to edifices. Because the maps were updated over time with new sheets being drawn, change over time is visually documented.

While the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress holds the most complete collection of Sanborn Maps, the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina became the depository of their duplicate maps for the state. This 1963 deposit includes over 4,600 sheets covering 97 South Carolina towns and cities from 1884 to the 1960s. In the mid-1980s, when a local South Carolina insurance firm closed, the South Caroliniana Library was given the firm's collection of manuscript maps documenting 229 small South Carolina towns between the 1920s and the 1940s. Hand-drafted cartographies on graph paper following the published maps format, these drawings document small South Carolina towns and villages, many of which no longer exist except on these sheets and in the pages of history. A valuable source for researchers, these two collections are heavily used for the information and insights they provide about the people and the lives they led in South Carolina's urban-built environment between 1884 and World War II.

The project to digitize the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps is a complex one that has taken two years to complete. It began before the formation of the University Libraries' Digital Activities Center and therefore is considered the first true digital project undertaken by the Library. The Digital Activities Center's mission is to create digital collections and make them available to enhance scholarship and research, to increase access to University Libraries' holdings, to support the teaching and learning activities of the University of South Carolina faculty and students, and to promote lifelong learning by the citizens of South Carolina and the public at large. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps digital collection is available at the following website: http://www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/sanborn.html

SIMMS BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

Plans are underway to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of noted South Carolina author William Gilmore Simms, born on April 17, 1806. A conference, entitled "Communities of Culture: the Geography of Americanism," is being planned with events to be held in Columbia and in Philadelphia, including symposia, presentations, exhibits, and tours of Simms-related sites in both locales.

The South Caroliniana Library is pleased to be working with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the William Gilmore Simms Society to honor South Carolina's most famous man of letters, and appreciates the opportunity to present his work to a broader audience, as befits the protean talents of one of America's most prolific and popular antebellum novelists.
While recently working among the Witherspoon family papers, the staff of the Manuscripts Division made an interesting discovery — a letter detailing the forbidden marriage of Jérôme Bonaparte, the Emperor Napoleon’s youngest brother, and the daughter of a wealthy Baltimore merchant. While the letter does not provide any new information regarding the alliance, it does furnish a unique perspective on the event.

The letter was written from the City of Washington by Robert Witherspoon, a member of the House of Representatives, to his wife, Elizabeth “Betsey” McFaddin Witherspoon, at home in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, on 19 February 1810. Witherspoon begins the narrative by describing a levee he attended at “Mrs. Madison’s,” presumably Dolly Madison, then First Lady, in the company of Paul Hamilton, a fellow South Carolinian and Secretary of the Navy. There he was introduced to Elizabeth Patterson, the daughter of William Patterson, whom Witherspoon described as “a wealthy respectable merchant of Baltimore.” Six years earlier, while only seventeen and on a tour of duty with the French navy, Jérôme Bonaparte had met and married the eighteen-year-old Patterson, against the wishes of her parents. Although she was pregnant when she arrived with Jérôme on European shores in late 1804, Napoleon refused to allow her to disembark. Instead, the Emperor had the marriage annulled on the grounds that Jérôme was still a minor when they married. Jérôme was then wed to a German princess and made King of Westphalia.

A son, Jérôme Napoleon Bonaparte, was born to Elizabeth Patterson on 7 July 1805 in England, and she returned to her parents with, in Witherspoon’s words, “the addition of a little Bona-boy.” Although Napoleon forbade Elizabeth or the child to use the Bonaparte family name, he did provide her an annual pension which, Witherspoon suggested, amounted to $35,000 or $40,000 per annum. The order forbidding the child’s use of the Bonaparte name was rescinded by Napoleon III, and the American children of Jérôme Napoleon Bonaparte went on to prominent positions in the government of the United States and the French army. Elizabeth Patterson became active and recognizable in the social circles of European nobility following the fall of the French Empire and remained so until her death in 1879.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MOVE TO NEW CATALOG

On August 15th, the University of South Carolina libraries went “live” with a new electronic catalog. Like the USC Online Library Catalog (USCAN), the Millennium library system allows researchers to search across all University Libraries or to limit their search to a specific Library’s holdings. Unlike USCAN, Millennium offers researchers the option of conducting keyword searches by language, by material type, or within a range of dates. Catalog users may sort the results of their searches by author, call number, material type, or title, and they may click on call number fields and author and subject headings to view similar materials. Another important difference between Millennium and USCAN is that in Millennium all campus libraries share records. If the South Caroliniana Library and the Medford Library at USC-Lancaster owned copies of the same book, for example, two records appeared in USCAN — one for SCL and another for Lancaster. The new catalog, by contrast, lists both libraries’ call numbers on a single record. Interested persons may access the new catalog at the following web address: http://libcat.csd.sc.edu/.
In keeping with the rapidly changing face of oral history, the Oral History Program at the South Caroliniana Library continues to grow and evolve. In the first six months of work we identified a number of areas that needed to be addressed, from legal status to format migration to transcription guidelines. After a survey of our holdings, conservation and legal issues emerged as top priorities, and work is underway to digitize all of our extant collections and ensure their conversion into valid oral histories. Processing these collections continues, as we develop a state-of-the-art database to handle the myriad issues involved. Eventually this database will act as the back end of our Internet presence, providing patrons with the opportunity to search our oral histories online and even download transcripts directly from our website.

We also continue to develop the infrastructure to move ahead on a number of exciting projects. With generous support from the South Carolina Bankers Association, the collection of interviews recorded by USC History Professor Jack Sproat on South Carolina Banking in the Twentieth Century will be digitized and turned into oral histories. Several of those narrators will sit for follow-up interviews for a new project documenting the dramatic history of one of South Carolina’s recent banks, Carolina First. That project will also contribute to the establishment of several critical components of the Oral History Program, thanks to the vision and generosity of Carolina First founder Mack Whittle.

A second major project is the Amelia Wallace Vernon archive documenting African-American life at Mars Bluff, S.C. With more than 100 hours of oral histories as well as hundreds of photographs, maps, and other ephemera, this collection represents a major repository of African-American history in South Carolina. Plans are underway to create an online exhibit to celebrate the completion of the formal oral histories.

As with all aspects of the Caroliniana, we are committed to outreach and already are acting as a resource for community oral history projects. We have given two presentations on oral history methodology and best practices to interested groups and have more scheduled. Numerous other projects are in the planning stages now and we welcome questions, ideas, and suggestions from the University community and the public.

Facemasks are for Wimps

Check out the early years of college football in South Carolina at:

PALMETTO PIGSKIN

An exhibit at the South Caroliniana Library, on the historic Horseshoe.

On display Sept. 1 through Nov. 23

Contact 777-3131 for more information.

"Palmetto Pigskin: Images from the Early Years of College Football in South Carolina" is on display in the SCL lobby from September 1 to November 23. The majority of the images date before 1940. The featured schools are Carolina, Clemson, Wofford, SC State, Furman, Erskine, Presbyterian, Newberry, and The Citadel.
IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN DORN

The Library lost a grand friend with the passing of William Jennings Bryan Dorn. The Greenwood native was elected to the South Carolina House at age 22 in 1938, to the Senate in 1940, and to Congress in 1946. He represented the Third District from 1947 to 1948 and 1950 to 1974. His vast collection documents Dorn’s life and career in public service. The collection finding aid is available at the South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) website at https://www.sc.edu/library/socar/mpc.html. Memorials may be made to the Dorn Endowment which supports SCPC.

Following is the eulogy delivered by USC President and Dorn kin’s man Steve Griffith at the Greenwood funeral service on August 18, 2005.

We come to this place with heavy hearts. We grieve for a father, a grandfather, a friend, a kinsman and a man who touched lives not only in this area, South Carolina, and our country, but the world. He was a hero of the 20th century. But we come together in this place to give thanks to God for a life well lived and a life that did good and a life that will inspire us and generations unborn to do good.

William Jennings Bryan Dorn was a man of the people, as his autobiography proclaims. He is remembered for many accomplishments — a medical school, highways, railroads, industrial expansion, education and humankind at its best. This afternoon, though, I would like to talk about Bryan Dorn the man, the person, the human being that made all of us love him so. I want to talk about some things he did and some things he said that stand out in my long memory of our association together. I want to mention two of his races and some laughable things said and done. This is not to exclude the other races, the magnificent accomplishments, and the great things he did for other people. All of us know Bryan from the perspective of our relationships, these are mine — many perhaps also known to most of you here today.

I believe that Bryan Dorn is the only person in the history of the United States to defeat two incumbent congressmen in four years who were father and son. In 1946, the young, dashing, handsome war hero, then only thirty years old, ran for Congress in the 3rd District of South Carolina. The incumbent congressman was the Honorable Butler Black Hare of Saluda, who had served in Congress with distinction for sixteen years. There was little to divide the people of the 3rd District on issues because one would expect both Dorn and Hare to vote alike on most issues, but Bryan was thirty and Butler was seventy and therein lay the tale.

Bryan describes it beautifully in his book: “Generally, Congressman Hare and I subscribed to the same political philosophy, so the campaign gradually developed into youth vs. age. I told the people at every meeting that the greatest generals were young men. Napoleon was a Lt. General at age twenty-seven. Alexander the Great conquered the known world before he was thirty-three. Hannibal was commander in chief of the Carthaginian army at twenty-five and Gustavus Adolphus commanded the Swedish army at nineteen.”

He would go further and say, “Alexander Hamilton was George Washington’s chief of staff at twenty-six. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence at thirty-three. Henry Clay was a U.S. Senator at twenty-nine. William Pitt, the greatest Prime Minister of Great Britain was twenty-four. William Cullen Bryant wrote his greatest poem, ‘Thanatopsis,’ at seventeen. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played before the kings and queens of Europe at nine. Joan of
Arc commanded the French army at seventeen and Jesus Christ hung on the cross at thirty-three.” Finally, Congressman Hare got enough and at Anderson, before a large crowd, said he was seventy years old but that’s not too old because, “Moses wrote the Ten Commandments when he was eighty years old.”

At the next meeting of the candidates, Congressman Hare spoke first. When Bryan’s turn came he said, “I never engage in mudslinging, my opponent is a fine gentleman, but I wish our congressman would familiarize himself more with the Holy Bible. Moses didn’t write the Ten Commandments at age eighty or any age. God wrote the Ten Commandments on a tablet of stone and gave that to Moses to take to the children of Israel — just read Genesis.”

The next day, the headline in the Greenville News read, “Both Candidates Wrong about the Bible.” The newspaper reported that the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments was in the book of Exodus, not Genesis. Bryan lamented, “I think some of the Bible Belt voters wished they had a third man to vote for after that.” Bryan Dorn was elected to Congress and began his career on the national stage.

In 1948, after serving only one term in the House, he ran for the U.S. Senate against the incumbent, Senator Burnet R. Maybank. Many things worked against him this time and he lost. In his autobiography, he starts Chapter Five this way, “Broke, I decided to run for Congress again in 1950,” His opponent was Congressman James B. Hare, the son of former Congressman Butler B. Hare, the man Bryan had defeated in 1946. But the issues were different. They were the same age, had both served the country in World War II, and their voting records were almost identical. The issue was, Bryan had given up his seat in the House and ran for the Senate. “Look at that boy,” people were saying. “He didn’t get his seat warm good before he started running for the Senate.” “He threw his seat away.” “He’s too big for his britches!”

He had no money and a ’37 Chevrolet auto that only ran some of the time. He had no staff. Miss Millie was home sick. Most days, Bryan said of the 1950 campaign, “I would share a watermelon with my driver, Steve Griffith, Jr., a first cousin, and that was our big meal of the day.” One hot day the car would not start. I got about ten guys to push and there we went down Main Street with ‘Bryan Dorn for Congress’ signs all over it and the car was putting out smoke and back firing all the way. But the hard work, about twenty hours a day, six days a week, and the story Bryan told — “I made a mistake. I want one more opportunity to serve” — paid off with a victory.

It was December 20, 1970, when Bryan wrote the people of the Third District of South Carolina a Christmas letter from Washington. Congress, he said, was still in session and he wrote of going to church at Calvary Baptist Church and later visiting the National Gallery of Art where he saw the portraits of John C. Calhoun and Joel R. Poinsett, both of whom served as Secretary of War. He recalled the beautiful decorations all over Washington, especially the poinsettias. Poinsett had brought the flower back from Mexico when he was ambassador there and the flower was given his name. Poinsett, Bryan wrote, would forever be associated with the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

“He did it with a flower. Not a sword, a brilliant speech or even the pen, but with a beautiful tropical flower. Throughout the world, the poinsettia is known and admired — virtually every hearthstone will be warmed and blessed by a flower — the poinsettia.”

But look back to Bryan’s marriage to Millie Johnson. He wrote, “In 1948, before I left Washington at the end of my term, I married Millie Johnson of Coats, North Carolina, who was the associate editor of U.S. News and World Report. Through the years, she would become my closest and most trusted advisor.” They had five wonderful children — and, I
believe every one of them would say, a lively, exciting life with many happy times. Marrying Miss Millie, as he liked to say, was perhaps the best thing he ever did. She was beautiful, smart, full of energy, and had lots of ideas. They truly loved each other and each had the greatest respect for the other.

One incident — after Bryan’s near fatal auto accident. In the hospital room were a number of the family and friends. Out of the blue, Bryan said, “Excuse us but I need to have a private talk with Miss Millie.” Everyone left the room.

It’s been about fifteen years since she died and was buried at Bethel Church graveyard. As I thought about this eulogy, I thought of Edgar Allan Poe’s poem, “Annabel Lee.” Poe lost his wife, and it is believed that this poem is about the two of them. The last verse is so poignant to Bryan and Millie, I will take the liberty of substituting Miss Millie for Annabel Lee:

For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams
  Of the beautiful Miss Millie Dorn,
And the stars never rise but I feel the bright eyes
  Of the beautiful Miss Millie Dorn.
And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
  Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride.

So, they are together side by side this very day.

ARCHIVISTS FROM THE BAHAMAS VISIT THE CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

A group of eighteen archivists from the Department of Archives, Nassau, Commonwealth of The Bahamas, visited the South Caroliniana Library on Saturday, July 9, 2005. This was a return trip for several of the Bahamian archivists who had first visited the South Caroliniana Library in 1996. South Carolina and The Bahamas share a common early history since for a brief period of time six of the South Carolina Lords Proprietors were also Proprietors of The Bahamas. Among the visitors were Elaine Toote, Director of Archives, and Dr. Gail Saunders, Director General of Heritage. Henry Fulmer, Curator of Manuscripts, met with the visitors and coordinated the tour.

The Department of Archives has training entrenched in its mandate. To this end members of its staff have completed attachment at the National Archives, Washington; National Archives II, Maryland; the Public Record Office, London; the Jamaica Archives; the Barbados Archives; the Archives of Ontario, Canada; the Cayman Island Archives; and the Public Library, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. A staff training trip occurred in 2002 when a sixteen-member team visited the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution. The 2005 staff training trip included stops at the South Caroliniana Library and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia and at various historic sites, museums, and collections in Charleston.

The Bahamians also have been the recipients of two United States Voluntary Visitors awards. In 1973 Dr. Gail Saunders visited archives in Washington, D.C., Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. In 1996 two Senior Assistant Archivists also received the USIA award and, as a result, visited The National Archives in Washington, the State Archives of Maryland and South Carolina, the South Caroliniana Library, and the South Carolina State Museum.
Among the hidden treasures of the South Caroliniana Library are the architectural records collections. This is the second in a series of articles about these collections.

Kaare S. Espedahl was born in Stavanger, Norway, to Jacob and Martha Heyerdahl Espedahl in 1901 and spent his early years in Stavanger and Daytona Beach, Florida. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in architecture. His first job as an architect was with his father’s Daytona Beach firm where he designed hotels, banks, and residences in South Carolina and Texas. He married Elizabeth Stark, and they had two daughters, Martha E. Espedahl and Karen Espedahl Shepherd.

During the 1920s Espedahl worked primarily in South Carolina as an independent architect. His major works during that decade were public works structures and buildings for the S.C. Bureau of Port Development and several large buildings for textile mills in Georgia and South Carolina. However, the bulk of his work during this period was residential.

In the early 1930s, Espedahl began working for Lockwood Green Engineers. This work was largely residential but included schools, government buildings, and commercial buildings. He also did independent work during this time, primarily designing residences and buildings for small businesses. In 1937 Espedahl moved to Columbia, where he continued independent work and began working for Lafaye and Lafaye.

With the onslaught of World War II, Espedahl worked almost exclusively on projects for the War Department and the Navy Department, independently and with Lafaye and Lafaye. Espedahl opened his own firm in 1945 and turned his attention back towards designing residences and buildings for small businesses. In 1955 he began work on renovation and a three-story addition to the Richland County Courthouse. In 1960 he undertook the design of the Richland Shopping Mall. Espedahl retired after designing a residence for Columbia physical therapist Emily Cate in late 1966.

He briefly left retirement in 1985 to design the studios and facilities for South Carolina Educational Television and retired once more in 1988. Kaare S. Espedahl died at the age of 87 on March 6, 1989. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Columbia Stamp Club, Phi Sigma Kappa, the Columbia Lion's Club, the Quadrille Club, and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

The Kaare S. Espedahl Collection, 1900-1991, consists of approximately 26.5 linear feet of materials plus oversized drawings that document the career of Kaare S. Espedahl. It is comprised of correspondence, pamphlets, organizational membership papers, church records, periodicals, clippings, specifications and records, architectural drawings, photographs, and personal papers. The primary focus of the collection is professional material compiled throughout Espedahl’s career. The collection is divided into four series: personal, professional, records and specifications, and architectural drawings.

By Beth Bilderback, Visual Materials Archivist
On August 27, 1893, the Georgia and South Carolina coasts were ravaged by a storm with winds in excess of 120 miles per hour. As many as 2,000 people were killed by the storm, and hundreds more died later as the result of injuries, illness, and starvation. Four days after the storm, Beaufort businessman Niels Christensen corresponded with his wife Abigail in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Beaufort, S.C.
Aug. 31, 1893

Dear Abbie,

As I wrote you I placed $100.00 in the hands of the Express Co. to send to you last Saturday but the storm came on Sunday and since then there has been no communications with the outside world. Mr. Averill the Rail Road Superintendent went on foot most of the way to Yemassee and carried my dispatch with him which I sent you. As there are [sic] no telling when the Express will go out again I took out the enclosed money order which I wish I had done from the start, but I thought it would be safer to send by Express. To cap the climax of the great calamity here it has set in raining again and since yesterday it has poured rain down in perfect torrents, the water is pouring through the roofs in [a] great many houses and ruining everything. There is not a dry spot in our house. Water is floating about everywhere.

The calamity of this storm is truly appalling, the loss of life is very great and are [sic] counted by the hundreds. On one plantation “Eustace” across the ferry forty eight dead bodies were found in the cotton fields, whole families were swept away with their houses, the waves swept over the greater parts of the Islands and destroyed everything in their tracks. Hundreds of families are without shelter and nothing to eat, starvation and pestilence are the grim monsters that are now staring the community in the face. On Monday morning this town looked like the pictures we used to see of Johnstown. In the present condition of the town everybody is afraid of the yellow fever breaking out. A citizen meeting was had to-day and steps taken to clear up the streets etc. and to seek outside help for the houseless poor. It seems that Beaufort was in the center of the storm where it spent its greatest fury. With my
losses here and the houses I lost all over the Island, I am a loser of about $15000.00 and with the prospect of not being able to collect a thing this Fall to pay my debt with.

The Coosaw and Pacific [phosphate] works are wiped out of existence. There is nothing I am told to indicate the places where they once stood, and all of their Dredges are at the bottom of the river. It is believed that...the works will never be rebuilt again. A number of lives were lost at the sinking of the Dredges. Coosaw loses over $100,000.00. I sent you an Augusta paper which gave an account of the storm, but it doesn't commence giving the losses of lives and property which kept on growing more gruesome as reports came in from the various Islands. I am still at the Hotel. I went up to the house to-day. Austin & Sylvia were wiping up water on the floors which poured through the ceilings everywhere, and the continuous rains have done more damage it seems than the storm. The house is a sight to behold. I am very glad that you and the children are not here. Everybody here seems dismayed and a gloom is over everything. I hope that before long there will be a rent in the dark cloud and show a silver lining.

You know Dr. Hazel, Mrs. Rice's brother. He was a Dr. at the Naval Station. The tides drove him out of his house and [he] sought refuge in a two story house adjoining. When that house commenced rocking and gave indication of collapsing he and eighteen others there went out and all of them got drowned. He was buried here Monday.

With much love to all

Niels

Residents of Sullivan's Island venture outdoors to survey the damage left in the wake of the storm in 1893.
MEMORIALS

In Memory of

Mr. Bill Foran
Mrs. Florence B. Johnson
Julia Rogers Cross & J. Russell Cross
General William C. Westmoreland
Mrs. Betty Edgar
Mr. Lacy Ford, Sr.

From

Dr. & Mrs. Selden K. Smith
Mr. John D. Johnson
Ms. Barbara Brewser
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Sineath
Mr. & Mrs. Ellison Singletary
Mr. & Mrs. A. Mason Gibbes
Mrs. Helen Carson
Ms. Jane C. Davis
Mr. Henry G. Fulmer
Mr. William B. White, Jr.

NEW IN PHOTOGRAPHS

The Courtenay Public School on Upper Meeting Street in Charleston, S.C.
The building was dedicated on February 4, 1889.

UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

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Issue No. 18

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