Spring 2002

Caroliniana Columns - Spring 2002

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D.W. GRIFFITH'S "HISTORICAL FACSIMILE": How the South Carolina State House Became a Movie Set

In recent years, restored prints of D.W. Griffith's 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation* have become widely available on videocassette and DVD, and viewers may have noticed a scene set in the South Carolina State House that is preceded by the following notice: "AN HISTORICAL FACSIMILE of the State House of Representatives of South Carolina as it was in 1870. After photograph by *The Columbia State*.

The scene depicts the House in session in 1871 - the year of the Ku Klux Klan insurrection - and it has been widely criticized for the racial stereotypes it contains. But despite Griffith's questionable content, his set design was carefully researched.

*The Birth of a Nation* was an adaptation of Thomas Dixon's novel and play *The Clansman*. Dixon had accepted a 25 percent financial interest in exchange for the film rights and he was helping Griffith research and promote the film. According to an account by S.L. Latimer, Jr., found in Latimer's papers at the South Caroliniana Library, Dixon wrote Ambrose Gonzales, publisher of *The State* newspaper in Columbia, S.C., and told him about the project. He said that the production needed a Columbia contact to check material for accuracy and to supply the photographs that would be used in building the sets.

Dixon's choice of *The State* for research support was interesting to say the least. When the stage play *The Clansman* had toured Columbia in 1905, the author and the newspaper had gotten into a controversy over historical

*From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 1876: "The Deadlock in the House of Representatives - The Dual Legislature - Two Speakers Presiding," showing the speaker's rostrum*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Each spring I look forward to the annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society for a number of reasons: the reception presents a wonderful time for socializing; the speaker at the luncheon entertains and informs; and the exhibits of collections added during the year illustrate the vitality and success of the Library's acquisition efforts. Most of all, however, I anticipate reading the "Report of Gifts to the Library by Members of the Society During the Past Year" printed in the annual program. Not only does the report demonstrate the generosity of the membership, but it also shows the variety and quality of primary source material for the study and writing of South Carolina history that still remains in private hands.

Year after year, I am amazed and surprised by the valuable items that come to the Library where the collections will be preserved and, most importantly, made available to students and scholars for their research and writing. All members of the society can take great pride in the role the South Caroliniana Library plays in collecting and preserving the manuscripts, documents, photographs, books, and pamphlets that chronicle the state's history.

We can also recognize and applaud the production of the books, articles, Continues on page 2
thraes, and dissertations that are based, often in large part, on the materials housed in the South Caroliniana Library. Just in the past few years, scores of important books that have relied heavily on the resources of the Library have been published. A sampling of these titles reveals the extensive utilization of the Library’s collections and the authors’ gratitude for the assistance they received from the Library’s director and staff.

Former society president Harvey S. Teal, for example, spent ten years combing through the Library’s collections in preparation for the publication of *Partners with the Sun: South Carolina Photographers, 1840-1940* (Columbia: USC Press, 2001). “Without the existence of the South Caroliniana Library and its photographic collection, and the assistance of its dedicated staff, this work would not have been possible,” Harvey wrote in his “Acknowledgments.”

Jack Irby Hayes, Jr., cited 29 manuscript collections from the Library in his *South Carolina and the New Deal* (Columbia: USC Press, 2001), an expanded and revised version of his dissertation written while a history student at the University of South Carolina. He also credited the Library’s resources in his acknowledgments: “My greatest debt is to the South Caroliniana Library. Director Allen Stokes and his staff provided invaluable suggestions and guidance.”

Another former USC history student, Rebecca Starr, currently Senior Lecturer at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education in the United Kingdom, had her University of Oxford D. Phil. thesis published as *A School for Politics: Commercial Lobbying and Political Culture in Early South Carolina* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.)

“The staff and especially the director...at the South Caroliniana Library let me sift through innumerable manuscript collections in search of relevant nuggets, often suggesting sources that saved me valuable research time,” she wrote.

Forthcoming from the University Press of Virginia is *Two Novels by Mary Chesnut*, edited by Elisabeth Muhlenfeld, a scholar who has previously used the Williams-Chesnut-Manning Papers in her *Mary Boykin Chesnut: A Biography* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1981) and, with C. Vann Woodward, edited *The Private Mary Chesnut: The Unpublished Civil War Diaries* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984). Sprinkled liberally through the most recent volumes of both *The Papers of Henry Laurens* and *The Papers of John C. Calhoun* are citations to original documents located in the South Caroliniana Library. As both series reach their completion, the significance of the Society’s commitment and of the Library’s contributions becomes more and more apparent.

It is safe to say that every book published in South Carolina history during the last half-century has benefited from the treasures in the South Caroliniana Library. Also, it is clear that in the future, every scholar who works in Southern or South Carolina history will draw upon the rich resources now in the Library and from those collections that will be added by succeeding generations of South Carolinians.

by Ronald Bridwell, President

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**NEW FLOYD D. SPENCE ONLINE EXHIBIT**

Modern Political Collections announces the addition of a new electronic exhibit featuring the late Congressman Floyd D. Spence.

This exhibit is intended to highlight aspects of Floyd Spence’s life and career as a student at USC, where he distinguished himself and became the quintessential “big man on campus;” as one of the early pioneers of the South Carolina Republican Party, dramatically switching from the Democratic Party in 1962; and as a member of Congress, where he worked tirelessly on behalf of servicemen and national defense.

To view the exhibit, go to the Modern Political Collections webpage at: http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/mpc/index.html
to Latimer, the photographer was offered a "share alike" agreement, but he turned it down and instead demanded a fixed fee. Griffith, who was running over budget, offered many of his suppliers and contractors shares in the production and a percentage of future box office receipts. If that was the deal Hennies turned down, he lived to regret his decision.

The speaker's stand — together with much of the House chamber — was rebuilt on Griffith's studio lot at 4500 Sunset Boulevard. Griffith's talented stage carpenter Frank "Huck" Wortman supervised the construction work. Then Griffith and his crew photographed the reconstruction and sent the pictures to Columbia so Latimer could double-check them. Like the film's "facsimile" of the Lincoln assassination, the State House scene used an outdoor set lit by sunlight. In the finished film, the camera lingered on the empty chamber for a few moments before the legislators faded into view.

Afterwards, Latimer received payment, and he was pleasantly surprised at the size of the check. "Years later I had occasion to write to D.W. Griffith, famous then also for other great pictures," he added, "and was delighted that in a personal note he recalled my little part in the making of The Birth of a Nation."

When The Birth of a Nation opened in Columbia on November 22, 1915, The State made no attempt to resume its historical controversy with Dixon. "Griffith borrowed largely from Thomas Dixon's books...in making his production," the paper noted, "but he dwarfed the Dixon novels and plays so thoroughly that there can be no comparison. It has also been stated by some reviewers that he tempered them considerably." Moreover, The State repeatedly called attention to the State House scene recreated from photographs as an example of the film's authenticity.

But in fact how "historical" was Griffith's historical facsimile? There can be little doubt that the motion picture depicts the House chamber interior as it appeared in 1914 and is as faithfully as Hollywood set designers of the period could achieve the feat. Even today the scene remains convincing.

On the other hand, there are nagging questions about the set's credibility from the perspective of 1871. The collapse of the Confederacy had halted construction of the State House; and when the House chamber was first used in 1870, the building remained unfinished. But for a cheap tin roof temporarily installed above the ceiling, the real legislators of 1871 would have been
D. W. Griffith, cont’d

nearly as exposed to the elements as were the Hollywood extras on the 1914 set.

The burning of the old State House during Sherman’s occupation had destroyed the ante-bellum furnishings. Revolutionary War battle scenes and other art works that hung in the legislative chambers had gone up in flames. In December 1876, Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper published eyewitness sketches of the new House chamber by Harry Ogden, an artist who covered the assembly for the paper. No gallery of pictures lining the walls in the movie is visible in these scenes; instead the artist drew bare granite walls decorated only by curtains and gaslight fixtures. Even portions of the upstairs visitor’s gallery seem to be absent.

However, in the case of the speaker’s rostrum that was recreated in such loving detail, there is real continuity with the past. The film shows a stand that existed both in 1871 and in 1914, but that is no longer there today. The original stand of native cherry was replaced in 1937 by the present one made of Honduras mahogany. Comparison of the movie set with the Ogden sketches taken prior to 1937 seems to show the same piece of furniture in each picture.

While use of the 1914 chamber as a model for the interior design led to mixed results, use of Dixon’s fiction as factual authority for the scene compromised its historical content. The film’s racial caricatures have been too well publicized for them to be dealt with here. But Dixon also transposed historical events as part of his mythology of Reconstruction. One such anachronism that found its way into the film was the presence of a black speaker during the session of 1871. Samuel J. Lee, the first African-American speaker in the state’s history, was not sworn in until November 1872.

The State House in The Birth of a Nation is a fine example of the qualities that have enthralled and infuriated critics of this landmark film for much of the past century. But moviegoers of 1915 who took the scene as literal recreation of history were misled by the publicity campaign.

By Terry Lipscomb, Manuscripts Division

The South Caroliniana Library has acquired a Columbia City Directory for 1868. Compiled by local “Book & Job Printer” W.W. Deane, the Directory is significant for several reasons, not the least of which is that this appears to be the only extant Columbia Directory between 1860 and 1875. In the Preface, Deane notes that he published a Directory in 1867, “in large card size, of the leading business houses of the city, which did not, to as full an extent as desired, meet the wants of the advertising community, on account of size...”

In addition to a listing of residents and business advertisements, the 1868 Directory has a section devoted to listing faculty of the South Carolina University and Theological Seminary, railroad schedules, and officers and officials of societies and other public entities.

Just as the 1868 Columbia Directory turned up unexpectedly in a collection, surely there must be others for the years between 1860 and 1875. The 1868 Directory presents some intriguing research opportunities for students.
A state-of-the-art remote storage facility was constructed by the University of South Carolina in 1999 to house infrequently used materials and items requiring special care from the University Libraries. It is serving well to alleviate overcrowding of South Caroliniana Library stacks which have long been cramped with the accumulation of nearly a century of continuous collecting.

As of February 2002 the Library had relocated over 500 boxes of books and pamphlets to the annex. Many of these are duplicate copies of published materials held in the Books Division. Among the first holdings moved was the massive collection of the original file copies of more than 16,000 USC master’s theses and doctoral dissertations, which are archived by mandate as part of the permanent collection of the South Caroliniana Library.

Infrequently requested collections of original documents are finding a home at the annex too. The Manuscripts Division has transferred in excess of 1300 linear feet - that is, over 1000 records storage cartons - of manuscript materials plus nearly 2000 additional manuscript volumes.

The 19,000 square foot Library Annex, which is located off Farrow Road in northeast Columbia near the South Carolina Department of Archives and History Center, was completed at a cost of nearly $3.5 million. The storage area is essentially a large rectangular box, 50 feet wide by 200 feet long by 38 feet high. It is designed to accommodate over one million volumes using a high density storage system with shelving 30 feet high. To provide an environment suitable for paper-based materials, temperature and humidity are maintained at optimum levels and low-level lighting is used only when staff members are working in the storage area.

Several steps have to be taken before Library materials can be sent to remote storage. An external barcode is assigned to every individual volume and box of manuscripts prior to transfer. This identifier establishes a unique location for each item housed at the Annex. Since much of the South Caroliniana collection is special format, pressure sensitive barcode labels cannot be affixed directly to these rare items. Instead, embrittled books, pamphlets, and manuscript volumes must be housed in individual boxes, pamphlet folders, or polyethylene sleeves that meet preservation standards and provide adequate protection for handling and transporting.

Once barcoded and transported to the annex, books are sized by height and placed in acid-free cardboard trays which also are assigned a unique barcode. The final step to storage is complete when the tray of books or box of papers is given an “address” on one of the 9,800 shelves of the storage area. Trays of books are shelved two deep on shelving adjusted to the exact height of the books. This allows for maximum use of the 380,000 cubic feet of storage space.

In addition, when items are moved to the annex, Library staff must alter USCAN records to show which items are located at the annex. For those materials being transferred which are not yet described in the online catalog, electronic records must be created. Finding aids for manuscript collections, many of which are available through the South Caroliniana Library’s website, are updated to indicate that materials are housed offsite and to alert users that advance notification is required in order to retrieve them. With the exception of weekends, materials typically can be returned from the annex for researchers’ use with 24 hours notice.

The Library Annex also contains a Conservation Facility where trained conservators use state-of-the-art equipment to conserve, repair, and restore valuable library materials.

By Henry Fulmer, Manuscripts Librarian
The William Davis Melton Graduate Assistantship in the University Archives has been established by Caroline Bristow Marchant, Walter James Bristow, Jr., and William Melton Bristow in memory of their grandfather. When fully endowed, it will provide a graduate student with invaluable experience while promoting the care, use, and development of the University’s historical collections. Particular focus will be paid to the expansion of the Remembering the Days Oral History Project, which adds a personal dimension to the University’s historical record by documenting the memories of its alumni, faculty, and staff.

After earning his law degree from then South Carolina College in 1892, Melton became a highly successful and respected businessman and community leader, as well as a strong supporter of education. In 1922, he was tapped to serve as president of the now-renamed University of South Carolina. Although the University faculty was at first wary of Melton because of his nonacademic background, his vigorous personality and executive ability greatly benefited his alma mater. Among his accomplishments were increased enrollment, the establishment of the registrar’s office, the reorganization of the graduate school, establishment of the schools of pharmacy and journalism, the renovation of campus buildings, and new construction projects, including the first women’s dormitory. Melton was also more aggressive in pursuing appropriations from the Legislature, resulting in a dramatic increase in funding from around $200,000 in 1922 to over $500,000 in 1926. In four short years he had ushered the University into the twentieth century.

Melton died in 1926 at age 58 from pneumonia following a heart attack. He was held in such esteem that on the day of his funeral, state offices and Columbia businesses were closed, flags on public buildings flew at half staff, and city and state church bells tolled. The depth of his commitment to higher education was not fully realized until after his death, when numerous students revealed that Melton had enabled them to stay in college by quietly granting them personal loans or by providing educational loans through extending his personal lines of credit at Columbia banks—all with the request that the loans never be discussed publicly.

By Elizabeth West, University Archivist

LIBRARY WISH LIST

Help the Library and be eligible for a tax break! We would welcome monetary contributions toward new equipment or donations of used items. The Library is in need of:

- Professional recorder for taping oral histories: $1000
- Tape deck with headphones for use in Manuscripts reading room: $50
- Laptop computer, Windows95 or higher
- Reel-to-reel audio tape player

If you are able to help, please contact Ann Troyer at 777-3131.

UPCOMING EXHIBIT

As part of the University of South Carolina’s Showcase 2002 festivities, the USC Archives will present “From Beaver Hats to Bellbottoms: Student Fashion at the University of South Carolina.” This photo exhibition illustrates how Carolina student fashion has changed over time, reflecting cultural trends from the late 19th century to the 1970s.

The exhibit will be on display in the lobby of the South Caroliniana Library for the month of April.

1940s dress code for intramurals
The staff of the South Caroliniana Library shared the shock and sadness of many others in the University community upon receiving news of the death of Dr. George D. Terry on October 20, 2001, at the age of fifty-one. The University Libraries had been under the administrative leadership of Dr. Terry from May 1991 until June 2001.

As a graduate student in history at the University of South Carolina in the 1970s, Dr. Terry spent many hours in the South Caroliniana Library conducting research for seminar papers, a master's thesis, and a doctoral dissertation. His appreciation for this Library continued throughout his career at the University, and we looked forward to his coming to the Library to work with manuscript collections when he completed a sabbatical in December 2001. His first project would have been to edit and prepare for publication the letterbook of Pierce Butler.

Dr. Terry was a visionary, but he recognized that resources are necessary to accomplish visions. Under his leadership, the South Caroliniana Library established a Division of Modern Political Collections, which today has achieved a national reputation for its programs. During his administration, the University Archives returned to the South Caroliniana Library. In addition, the South Caroliniana Library coordinated the South Carolina Newspaper Project and received grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to process, re-house, and catalog manuscript and photographic collections. But perhaps most importantly, Dr. Terry aggressively pursued private monies that have benefited the Libraries through endowments to fund acquisitions, conservation, and graduate assistantships.

The Library intends to carry out Dr. Terry's plan for publishing the Pierce Butler letterbook as a tribute to his appreciation for and devotion to the South Caroliniana Library.

By Dr. Allen Stokes, Secretary-Treasurer

SOMETHING NEW

What is three inches thick, thirteen inches long, ten inches deep and weighs eleven pounds?

It is the new treasure acquired for the Books Division - an extraordinary reference book - *The Historical Atlas of the Rice Plantations of Georgetown County and the Santee River* by Suzanne Cameron Linder and Marta Leslie Thacker. The project was initiated by the Historic Ricefields Association. Three years of intensive efforts and dedication have produced a valuable source of information that is aesthetically pleasing as well.

Opening the book is the beginning of a trip through time on South Carolina's placid rivers. The well-defined maps guide the user on trips up each river with a stop at each plantation.

Delving into the clearly written and detailed histories of each site leads one to imagine the hustle and bustle of these plantations during the peak years of rice production. Looking at the plats of the fields, one realizes the extent of hard labor required in cultivation. The color plates throughout the volume enhance the user's experience. As a research tool, this volume has a variety of useful qualities.

By Robin Copp, Head, Books Division
THE MARY BOYKIN CHESNUT PAPERS

This is the 1st of 3 installments

Although Mary Boykin Chesnut (1823-1886) is best known through the posthumous publication of her Civil War journal, she created many other literary materials that heretofore have gone largely unrecognized. Her extensive journal revisions in the 1870s and '80s, correspondence with family and Confederate elite, and unpublished novels are included in the Williams-Chesnut-Manning Papers at the South Caroliniana Library.

This manuscript material gives insight into the life and times of a bright and broad-minded daughter of privilege who wrote with the eye of a keen observer and the passionate heart of an energetic woman. She had a way with words that provides piercing cameos glimpses of the society in which she moved.

Mary Boykin, nee Miller, was a regular letter writer by the age of nine when she began writing a weekly message to her beloved but often-absent father, Stephen D. Miller, of Camden, who served in the United States House of Representatives and Senate and as Governor of South Carolina during her childhood years. One of these early missives is held in the library's collection, along with two dozen of her other letters. In one 1862 letter to her husband, Mrs. Chesnut admonished him to "tear up my letters as soon as you read them." Fortunately, he did not comply with her wishes, but, nevertheless, the majority of her correspondence has been lost or misplaced through the years. She took her letter writing seriously, as both a literary endeavor and a form of communication.

Schooling at Madame Talvande's French School for Young Ladies in Charleston immersed the willing Mary Boykin Miller in the study of languages, literature, natural science, music, and dance. She soon mastered French and was able to read German. She absorbed a love for Gallic culture which lasted a lifetime. She also developed a wide-ranging

ODYSSEY OF THE WILLIAMS-CHESNUT-MANNING FAMILY PAPERS ENDS AT THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

The family, business, political, and military papers of three prominent South Carolina families have come to rest in the Manuscripts Division of the South Caroliniana Library. The collection of more than 3,500 documents from 1754 to 1929 has been at the library since 1961 when approximately half of the collection was donated by Mrs. Cato D. Glover and the other half, including the diary of Mary Boykin Chesnut, was placed on deposit by Mrs. Glover's sister, Mrs. Walter A. Metts. With funds supplied by the library's patron organization, the University South Caroliniana Society, the library acquired Mary Chesnut's diary in the 1980s and the remainder of the collection, including Mary Chestnut's unpublished writings and family correspondence, in 1998 and 1999. Scholars have had access to the Williams-Chesnut-Manning Collection since 1961, but the separate collections can now be arranged and merged into a single unit and a finding aid can be prepared.

Included in the extensive collection, in addition to Mary Boykin Chesnut's writings and correspondence, are: correspondence and business papers of South Carolina governors David Rogerson Williams, Stephen D. Miller, Richard I. Manning, and John L. Manning; personal, political, and business correspondence of John Chesnut (1743-1813), James Chesnut Sr. (1773-1866), John Chesnut II (1799-1837), and James Chesnut Jr. (1815-1885.) The family's fortunes and misfortunes during the Civil War and Reconstruction are reflected in the correspondence of John L. Manning, James Chesnut Jr., and other family members.
hunger for books of all types: ancient and modern history, poetry, English classics, French drama, and theology. But, novels were her greatest love and, in her view, the most interesting form of literature.

The most significant contact Mary Boykin made during these years was her future husband, James Chesnut Jr., a recent honor graduate of Princeton, who was reading law with James L. Petigru in Charleston. Their courtship was a long one, interrupted by family emergencies and responsibilities. Letters sustained their blossoming friendship while the couple were separated, unable to walk on the Battery or attend concerts and picnics. In September 1838, Mary Boykin began a daybook and on its flyleaf she doodled—as any daydreaming schoolgirl might—her possible new initials: “MC,” “MMC,” etc.

On April 23, 1840, the couple were married at “Mount Pleasant,” the Boykin homeplace where Mary had been born. She had just turned 17; he was 25. Chesnut brought his bride to his family home, “Mulberry,” three miles south of Camden, to live with his aging parents and two unmarried older sisters. Living for five years on that beautiful but isolated plantation, dealing with difficult in-laws, and discovering her own incapacity to have children, the young bride lost herself in her books, journal writing, and in teaching the plantation slaves to read. The tenuous love-hate relationship with “Mulberry” and with the Chesnut family, which persisted for the remainder of her life, often surfaces in her writings.

While James Chesnut had a cool, reserved personality and Mary Boykin a more outgoing and volatile one, their marriage was basically steady. Though childless, they often “borrowed” children as house guests. His nephew, Johnny Chesnut, was a special favorite. Her sister, Kate (Kitty) Williams had five little ones who visited and sometimes lived with the Chesnuts. All of these personalities percolate through her writings.

Another consuming interest was her husband’s political and military career. She often nudged him forward much as a “stage mother” would. In 1852 he was elected to the South Carolina Senate and in 1858 to the United States Senate. The move to Washington proved an exciting experience that Mrs. Chesnut enjoyed far more than her retiring husband. Politics was second nature to her and her literary knowledge and translation skills were quickly recognized in the nation’s capital. She kept a record of these Washington experiences in her daybook.

by Nancy Ashmore Cooper, Freelance Writer and former Coordinator of Special Projects for the University Libraries

Part 2 will appear in the next issue

1868 Advertisements
from the
Columbia City Directory

Congaree
Iron Works

Aetna Life
Insurance

(See article on page 4)
In recent months, the South Caroliniana Library received an impressive addition to its visual images collections. Captain Fitzhugh McMaster, U.S. Navy, bequeathed to the Library his collection of over 140 prints depicting military uniforms. Born in 1911 while his father was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Fitzhugh McMaster was the son of a Fairfield County, South Carolina, family. He won an appointment to the Naval Academy, where he studied engineering. Upon graduation, he was given a commission and subsequently served with distinction commanding a submarine, the U.S.S. Hardhead, in the pacific theater during World War II.

McMaster became a fellow of the Company of Military Historians, an organization founded in 1949 and devoted to the study and dissemination of "information on the material culture, history, and traditions of members of the Armed Forces of the United States worldwide and other nations serving in the Western Hemisphere." The Company publishes a quarterly journal, Military Collector & Historian, in which the annotated text and prints of sundry military uniforms are presented. The prints in McMaster's collection are from the Company's "Military Uniforms in America" series.

McMaster was diligent in documenting the uniforms of soldiers and sailors of the Palmetto State, which are well represented in this collection. By the late 1960s, his research on the colonial origins of military organization in South Carolina culminated in Soldiers and Uniforms: South Carolina Military Affairs, 1670-1775, published in 1971 as part of South Carolina's Tricentennial Commemoration.

Over the next three decades McMaster researched and authored the text for 29 plates. He was particularly interested in detailing the attire of South Carolina soldiers during the Colonial era and the War for Independence. In a couple of instances, he detailed uniforms worn in various field artillery units his father, Richard Hugh McMaster, served in at the turn of the 20th century and during World War I.

By Sam Fore, Manuscripts Division

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Gage, of Charlotte, N.C., have donated to the South Caroliniana Library a collection of books and pamphlets from the library of Robert J. Gage (1810-1882) and his son, George Williams Gage (1856-1921). Although Gaston Gage is a lifelong resident of North Carolina, he is descended from the Gage families of Union and Chester counties in South Carolina. The family collection was passed down through the generations and ultimately to Mr. and Mrs. Gage.

Robert Gage entered South Carolina College from Mt. Zion Institute in Winnsboro and graduated in 1831. A planter in Union District, he was a devoted patron of the Unionville Library Society and an advocate of education in Union District. He was elected to the legislature in 1835 and, in 1863, served on the Board of Visitors of the South Carolina Military Academy.

George Williams Gage was born in Union District in 1856. He entered Wofford College in 1871 and graduated in 1875. He worked at a bank in Charleston for several years before entering law school at Vanderbilt University. During a distinguished legal career that spanned four decades, George Williams Gage practiced law, served in the legislature and the constitutional convention of 1895, was elected circuit judge, and in 1914, was elected to the state Supreme Court.

The reading interests of Robert and George Gage ranged widely and included literature, travel, religion, politics, history, and agriculture.
After inheriting his father's library, Judge Gaston Gage expanded the collection to include Civil War regimental histories and biographies, and books and pamphlets on law, banking, and natural history. Among the titles in the collection are Carey’s General Atlas, Improved and Enlarged... (Philadelphia, 1818); William Darby, A Geographical Description of the State of Louisiana... (New York, 1817, 2d edition); bound volumes of The Farmer and Planter and Niles' Weekly Register; Francis Porcher, Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests... (Charleston, 1869); and Howard Malcolm, Travels in South-Eastern Asia, Embracing Hindustan, Malaya, Siam, and China... (Boston, 1839).

The Gage library is a fine addition to the holdings of the South Caroliniana Library which now includes, among others, the libraries of August Kohn and Helen Kohn Hennig, William Gilmore Simms, Henry P. Kendall, Yates Snowden, and J. Rion McKissick.

By Dr. Allen Stokes, Secretary Treasurer

University South Caroliniana Society

66th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2002

Reception and Exhibit: 11:00 - 12:30
Business Meeting and Luncheon at 1:00 at Capstone on the USC Campus

Speaker: Dr. Dan T. Carter
Educational Foundation University Professor,
Department of History,
University of South Carolina

MEMORIALS

In Honor of

Louise Pettus

From

Miss Nancy Crockett

In Memory of

Victoria Lander Beckham
Mary Poulton Dawkins
Prof. Samuel M. Derrick
Dr. Francis H. Gay
Catherine Taylor McConnell
Jane Poulton McLure
Dr. Henry W. Moore

From

The Hon. & Mrs. James A. Lander
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. C. Nevin Betts
Mrs. Mary W. Gay
Mrs. Elkie T. Goins
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Carroll
Mr. Paul Goldsmith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Link
Dr. Allen Stokes
Dr. & Mrs. Marcus A. Fields
Dr. & Mrs. Selden Smith
Mr. & Mrs. L.V. Bruno
Dr. Peter A. Coclanis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Cook
Mrs. Jane C. Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Walter B. Edgar
Mr. Henry G. Fulmer
Mr. E.L. Inabinett
Dr. & Mrs. John I. Winberry
Dr. Stephen R. Wise
Mrs. George S. King, Sr.

Prof. Claude Neuffer
Margarette Richards
Mrs. Hamilton Warren Roberts
Dr. George D. Terry

Shields King Warren
AN ANONYMOUS BEQUEST

The University South Caroliniana Society has received an anonymous bequest of approximately $650,000. According to SCL Director and Society Secretary-Treasurer, Allen Stokes, this extraordinary gift will be deposited with the Society’s other funds that are managed by the Ellison Kibler Group at Merrill Lynch. The contribution will increase the earnings that are applied towards purchases of Caroliniana and over time will enhance the value of the Society’s assets.

We are indeed grateful for this bequest from someone who enjoyed doing research at the South Caroliniana Library and who appreciated the staff who provided assistance.