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STATE DOCUMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT

**CONFEDERATE
RELIC ROOM**

1977-78



Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board

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RELIC ROOM**

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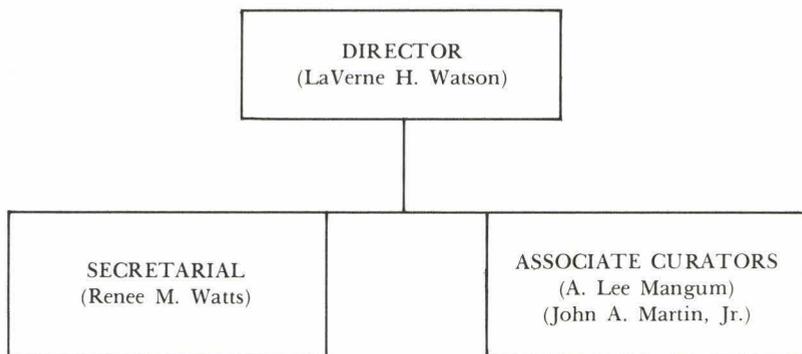


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**CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM
ACCREDITED BY
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS**



Director

The director is responsible for the entire operation of the museum. In addition to supervising the every day operation, she is responsible for locating and acquiring gifts, keeping abreast of the latest methods of preservation and display, and identifying objects for the public, preparation of the budget request.

Secretarial

The secretary is responsible for office management including secretarial work, personnel records, answering the telephone and screening calls, proper accounting and expenditures of all monies, assisting in the preparation of the budget.

Associate Curator

One curator is responsible for scheduling and conducting tours and meetings, giving information to visitors, making costumes, performing research, acquisitions, restoration of fabrics, keeping the museum area clean and attractive, and exhibits which includes designing and changing displays.

Associate Curator

The other curator is responsible for the inventory, accessioning of gifts, cleaning guns, swords, etc. periodically, preservation, labelling and sign making, assisting with tours, research, carpentry, fabricating display cases and changing exhibits.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUSEUM

Our function is to provide museum services. We collect, preserve and display items of historical value from all periods of South Carolina history. Additional functions include research; aiding other museums upon request; organizing and conducting tours; supplying information to visitors and the public; identifying objects; supplying speakers for schools, civic groups and homes for the elderly; making the museum available for meetings of historical and civic groups.

Primarily we are an educational institution and education is the justification for what we do. Our services are for the benefit of our people.

We have received Accreditation from the American Association of Museums. This demonstrates we operate on a professional level in accordance with standards of excellence prescribed by the American Association of Museums.

The director serves as secretary of the South Carolina Federation of Museums, and holds one of two state chairmanships assigned to South Carolina by the American Association for State and Local History. She is a member of Central Midlands Regional Planning Council for Historic Preservation.

We hold memberships in and attend meetings of the American Association of Museums, Smithsonian Institution, National Historical Society, Southeastern Federation of Museums and South Carolina Federation of Museums in order to keep abreast of the status quo in the museum profession.

HISTORY OF THE AGENCY

This collection was started in 1895. In 1901 the Legislature provided a room in the State House to house the artifacts and in 1902 appropriated monies for its maintenance.

Throughout the years, items of historical value have been collected and preserved from all periods of South Carolina history. Previously no funds had been provided for purchases. For the first time since this collection was started, funds were provided in the 1977-78 budget for purchase of artifacts, which were limited to Black and Indian articles. The values of gifts received by the State far exceed the expenditures appropriated throughout the years. And as time marches on, the current market values steadily increase. We are working on a financial inventory of the collection.

COLLECTIONS

These are a primary concern. We attempt to acquire as many South Carolina items of historical value as possible, lest they be lost to us. Too frequently our relics appear in antique shops, many drift out of State. By attending museum and historical meetings, we have cultivated and maintained good contacts and are able to form new ones. Many of our gifts come from out of state, although the roots were in South Carolina. Each acquisition must be accessioned, cataloged, inventoried in a cross reference file, then placed in storage.

Acquisitions:

Through a friend, we have obtained a diorama of the Battle of the Cowpens on indefinite loan. This revolving diorama, depicting the four areas of battle with troop movements, is an outstanding addition to our exhibits.

Other acquisitions include a batik by Dr. Leo Twiggs; an original water color of the First Baptist Church, Columbia; pastel prints by Elizabeth O'Neil Verner; a shrimp net, hand made by Scrape Nelson, Edisto Island; a Sea Island quilt with African symbols; sweetgrass and white oak baskets; a black silk umbrella, circa 1890; a black bonnet, circa 1860; 213 mounted glossy prints, depicting South Carolina history; Catawba pottery; a 9'x10' Confederate Battle Flag on permanent loan; 20 prints of the National Guard Heritage series; 22 Marine Corps prints depicting the history of the uniforms of the United States Marine Corps; a daguerreotype of James William LaMotte, circa 1855; a Lexington County Commemorative Medal; Fort Sumter Centennial Medallion.

Preservation:

It is necessary to keep abreast of the latest techniques in preservation. Often extensive sewing is necessary in affording proper care to fabrics, including clothing, flags, etc. Swords and firearms must be cleaned and oiled semi-annually. Woods and leathers must be treated periodically. If we know not how to preserve our heirlooms, then we would be wasting our time in collecting them.

Display:

We have the responsibility of telling the South Carolina story through a museum which is attractive, informative and appealing. Our visitors must be impressed by what they see and learn. Display cases must be kept clean and refabricated (covered in cloth) periodically. Touch-up painting is necessary. Props for display must

be constructed. The narrative must be composed for each case, then signs made. All of the above work is performed by the staff.

Only a fraction of the collection is on display. Upon obtaining the upper floor of the War Memorial Building, we will double our exhibit area. In this additional space we will pay tribute to our Veterans. We are seeking women's uniforms of the various branches of service.

PROGRAMS

We organize all day tours for schools and civic clubs. We provide speakers for schools, historical, civic and senior groups. These are in addition to tours conducted at the museum. The museum was open on State holidays, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and the Fourth of July. Ten meetings were held at the museum by historical and civic organizations. A loan, comprising a complete exhibit, was placed in one museum. Two sought our aid in exhibit techniques.

FINANCES

During the year approximately 66% of our budget was earmarked for personal service, with approximately 34% for operating expenses. As pointed out in G. Ellis Burcaw's *Introduction to Museum Work*, published by the American Association for State and Local History, "a healthy situation is that two thirds of the annual operating budget should be devoted to salaries. Even 75% may not be excessive under some circumstances."

We have four employees. Personal Service funds, allocated amounted to \$41,048 and Operating Expenses \$21,012, thus making the total budgeted \$62,060.

A partial financial inventory was completed during the year and submitted to General Services for insurance purposes. The value of the collection far exceeded monies appropriated by the State during the life of the museum. Therefore the collection of gifts has made money for the State rather than having cost the State.

VISITORS

Our 79,000 visitors have come from 47 states and the District of Columbia and 21 foreign countries, representing every continent.

Many objects are brought to us for identification. If we are unable to identify an item, we refer the visitor to the proper authority.

We work with graduate students, authors and the public in furnishing research materials.

We had two TV tapings, one on WIS and one on Cable TV.

Tours were conducted for 524 groups during the year.

1977-78 STATISTICAL DATA

Visitors	79,000
States & D. C. represented by visitors	47
Foreign countries represented by visitors	21
Lectures to groups	524
People present at lectures	24,500
Telephone inquiries	2,250
Inquiries by correspondence & visitors	4,150
Hours of research	2,503
Books acquired	20
Historical pictures acquired	275
Paintings acquired	2
Miscellaneous items acquired	29
Tours & Meetings after regular hours	10
Hours identifying objects for the public	207
Inventory—hours spent	50
Display cases refabricated	5
Exhibits changed	10
Firearms & swords cleaned	19
Television tapings	2
Hours spent on exhibit preparations	258
Assistance to other museums	2

LaVerne H. Watson
Director

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