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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**CONFEDERATE  
RELIC ROOM**

**1982-1983**



Accredited by the  
American Association  
of Museums

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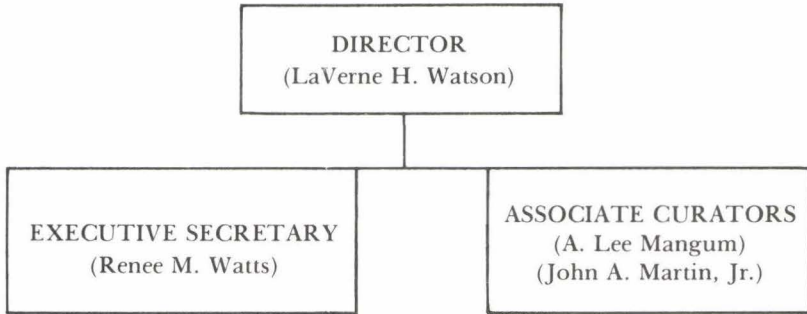
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# CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM AND MUSEUM

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 operations, she is responsible for locating and acquiring gifts; keeping abreast of the latest methods of conservation and display; and identifying objects for the public; preparation of the budget request, detail budget and annual report.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The executive secretary is responsible for office management including secretarial work; personnel records; proper accounting and expenditures of all monies; payroll; assisting in the preparation of the budget request, detail budget and annual report; answering the telephone and screening calls; ordering supplies and authorizing re-

quisitions and vouchers; opening and distributing mail; reports to other agencies (Retirement, Labor, Personnel, etc.); attends workshops and meetings pertaining to fiscal and personnel subjects.

## ASSOCIATE CURATORS

The curators are responsible for scheduling and conducting tours and meetings; giving information to visitors; inventory of artifacts; performing research; acquiring and accessioning gifts; conservation, which includes periodically cleaning firearms and swords and conditioning leathers; the restoration of fabrics; exhibits, which includes making costumes, fabricating, designing and changing displays, composing narrative, labelling and sign making; keeping the museum areas clean and attractive; carpentry.

## HISTORY OF THE AGENCY

The collection was started in 1895 by the Wade Hampton Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. A room was provided in the Library of the South Carolina College to house the artifacts. Before long the collection had outgrown the facility. In 1901 the Legislature assigned a room on the Senate side of the balcony in the State House. Keeping the collection available to visitors five days per week, in addition to seeking additional gifts, and cataloging, had become burdensome for the volunteers, so in 1902 the Legislature appropriated funds for the maintenance and has continued to do so.

Although the ladies primarily were interested in collecting and preserving artifacts from the Confederate period, they soon realized that they should collect from all periods of South Carolina history, lest the items be lost. So by the turn of the century they had expanded their horizons. Being the only historical repository in this area, Constitutional Officers and Legislators placed artifacts in the collection as early as 1901. Some of the earliest accessions were: a picture of Daniel Morgan, who died in the Mexican War, 1847; a shuttle made in 1832; the vest of John Huger, first Secretary of State of South Carolina.

Letters, seeking return of South Carolina historical items, were sent and continue to be sent to members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy throughout the country. As a result many gifts were received. To mention a few, from San Diego, California came the Catawba Rifles Flag; from Alabama the Colors of the Claremont Rifles; from Arizona a sailor's blouse and two sailor hats from the USS South Carolina. Through this association, we continue to receive valuable artifacts.

To date, only \$8,350 of state funds have been spent for acquiring historical artifacts. The collection is insured for \$1,000,000. The current market value steadily increases.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUSEUM

We have received accreditation from the American Association of Museums. Less than 10% of the museums in this country have received this distinction. This demonstrates that we operate on a professional level in accordance with standards of excellence prescribed by the American Association of Museums.

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.

To adequately serve a museum, the Director must become involved with other museum professionals and organizations. The Director serves on the following: a Research Fellow in the Institute of Southern Studies, at the University of South Carolina; on Central Midlands Regional Planning Council for Historic Preservation; a Reader for the Institute of Museum Services, US Department of Education, in the Grants Program; a member of the Columbia Museums Directors Association; Secretary of the Save the Flags Committee, a group affiliate of National Parks Service, working to raise funds for the restoration and display of two US Flags and a Palmetto Flag which flew over Fort Sumter in 1861.

We hold memberships in and/or attend meetings of the American Association of Museums, Southeastern Federation of Museums, South Carolina Federation of Museums, Columbia Museums Directors Association, American Association for State and Local History and Smithsonian Institution, in order to keep abreast of the status quo in the museum profession.

## COLLECTIONS

### Artifacts:

These are a primary concern. We attempt to acquire as many South Carolina items of historical value as possible. 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. Each acquisition must be accessioned, cataloged, inventoried in a cross reference file, then placed in storage. A photographic inventory serves as the only true identification of artifacts. We were prepared to start our inventory when state funds were cut. Hence this has been delayed.

Among the more interesting gifts was a complete set of dental instruments in a mahogany chest inlaid with brass, and used by Dr. James Bruce Moseley, Co I, 14th Regiment, SCV; the commission of George

P. Bamberg, signed by Wade Hampton; a wedding dress and an afternoon dress made of pineapple cloth, circa 1898; 37 hand painted banners used by the United Confederate Veterans at their reunions; a captured Viet Cong flag; a pair of shoes made by a South Carolinian while a prisoner of war in Germany, soles of wood and sides and tops made from parts of his uniform; 4 complete Marine Corps uniforms including sword and scabbard; a child's dress, bonnet and corset cover; currency; stamps.

### **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 flags, clothing, 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.

The restoration of fabrics is a slow, tedious work. One curator restored the flags of the 16th Regiment and the 27th Regiment in addition to one small flag. Several dresses were repaired. Firearms and edged weapons were cleaned and oiled. We will continue work on the restoration of our clothing and flags when time permits.

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

The Lower Gallery exhibits reflect various periods of South Carolina history: clothing, dolls, quilts, sweetgrass baskets, Catawba pottery, currency, stamps, medals, firearms, edged weapons, remnant of the flag of the South Carolina 2nd Regiment of Black Troops, raised on Hilton Head Island, and various types of memorabilia.

In the Upper Gallery we pay tribute to South Carolinians in the military, both past and present. One can see firearms, uniforms, flags, accouterments from the Colonial era up to and including Vietnam. Visitors have shown particular interest in the Space exhibit, in which three South Carolinians are represented. We have the inflight jacket

of Astronaut Charles Duke and photos of Astronauts Charles Bolden and Ron McNair. According to recent Associated Press release, there are 4 Blacks in the Astronauts Corps. We are proud that two of these are South Carolinians — Major Bolden and Dr. McNair.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Primarily we are an educational institution. Two hundred and 50 letters were sent to schools, urging teachers to bring classes to Columbia. The response has been good. Annually we have groups from Clearwater, Florida and Stony Point, North Carolina. We conducted tours for Senior Citizens, school groups, kindergartens, Columbia Urban League, Scouts, Department of Youth Services, Foreign Students USC, Mental Health groups, USC classes, historical and civic groups, S.C. Farm Bureau Auxiliary, World War II Veterans during office hours. Pinning on Ceremonies were held in the Upper Gallery by the NROTC (USC) in December and the AROTC (USC) in May. We entertained 709 delegates attending the annual meeting of the S.C. Extension Homemakers Council.

All day tours, including appointments at the State House, Governor's Mansion and Columbia area museums were scheduled for school teachers and legislators. The museum was kept open on seven of the state's holidays to accommodate visitors.

We assisted legislators, authors, graduate students, the public and the press in their research. Research requests have proved time consuming. We supplied research information to the film makers in Chester; to a representative of S.C. National Bank, which will celebrate the 150th anniversary next year; to officials at Fort Moultrie on the Palmetto Flag which flew over Fort Sumter and is to be restored; we assisted an Exhibit Designer firm in New York City who has the contract for a museum at the Cyclorama, in Atlanta; we continue to work with a staff-assistant from Time-Life Books on their forthcoming volumes on The War 1861-65; researched information on the Confederate monument in Kingstree for the Carolina Traveller at WIS TV.

We should take pride in the fact that men and women in other states are representing South Carolina units in reenactments throughout the country. We know of no family ties in South Carolina, so it is a tribute to our state, that they have chosen to represent us. We have researched uniforms, flags, firearms and battle participation for the following: Palmetto Battalion, LeMoille, Illinois; 12th SC Infantry



Volunteers, Elgin, Illinois; 1st Regiment SC Volunteers, Co C, Richland Volunteer Rifle Co., South Bend, Indiana; Edgefield Hussars, Co A, Hampton Legion, Bothell, Washington; Claremont Rifles, Co G, Hampton Legion, Fort Irwin, California. During the year we assisted in the formation of the Pee Dee Light Artillery reenactment group located in Warren, Michigan.

We assist other museums upon request. We meet regularly with the Columbia Museums Directors Association and participated with them in setting up exhibits for one week in the lower lobby of the State House, in recognition of National Museums Day. We loaned artifacts to Cook, Ruef Associates for photographing a commercial; the Bicentennial Commission for an exhibit in Columbia; McKissick Museums for a special show.

We assisted photographers in taking pictures of various exhibits. Southern Partisan Magazine used one of our flags on the cover of their Spring 1983 issue. A professor in Southern Studies, at USC, had a number of ladies' fashions photographed for a slide presentation on women. Journalism students, enrolled in a photo lab course at USC, photographed many of our exhibits.

Upon request we furnished brochures and maps to the Columbia Convention and Business Bureau, Nurses Association and the Jr. League for regional meetings; to PRT for their Welcome Centers; to the Association of School Libraries; the USC National Society of Pan Hellenic.

## FINANCES

During the past year, 65% of our budget was expended for personal service and 35% for operating expenses. According to a survey, published by the American Association of Museums, a healthier situation would be a ratio of 75% for personnel and 25% for operating expenses. We had five employees and a total expenditure of \$119,359. Because the responsibilities of the Executive Secretary are more than one person can handle, we had started training one Associate Curator to assist her, only to lose this position due to cuts in state funding.

Our curators should be permitted to attend museum affiliated workshops, but lack of funds prevent this.

A financial inventory, of the more valuable artifacts, is on file at General Services for insurance purposes. The collection, obtained through gifts, continues to make money for the state, since the artifacts steadily increase in value.

Because of the economy, many children, particularly those on school tours, cannot afford admission fees. We are an educational institution, so our facility should be available to all and particularly to students. Therefore, we have attempted to operate on a minimal budget, asking only for funding which is absolutely necessary in the operation of the museum.

The mid-year cuts have had a drastic effect upon the operation. We lost one position, reducing our staff from five to four employees. As a result, we were forced to close our upper gallery, thereby eliminating almost 50% of our exhibit area. We have had to forego necessary conservation, have not had ample time to seek gifts, nor attend workshops, nor purchase supplies that are needed. We must maintain our professional standards or we stand a chance of losing our Accreditation.

## **VISITORS**

Our visitors have come from 48 states and from 36 foreign countries representing every continent. Many museums throughout the country have reported as high as a 25% decrease in visitors. This has been attributed to the economy. We are fortunate in that we have had only a small decrease in our numbers.

**1982-83 STATISTICAL DATA**

	81-82	82-83
Visitors .....	65,000	62,000
States & D.C. represented by visitors .....	50	48
Foreign visitors .....	250	141
Foreign countries represented by visitors .....	41	36
Lectures to groups on tour .....	400	376
People present at lectures .....	31,273	24,000
Telephone inquiries .....	4,465	4,621
Inquiries by correspondence & visitors .....	4,500	4,592
Hours of research .....	795	697
Books acquired .....	17	23
Museum affiliated meetings attended .....	10	19
State Government meetings attended .....	7	6
Meetings at the museum .....	17	7
Hours identifying objects for the public .....	31	26
Inventory — Hours .....	591	487
Hours spent on exhibit preparation .....	365	281
Objects identified .....	26	21
Conservation — Hours .....	452	338
Senior Citizens (9 tours) .....	189	
Senior Citizens (16 tours) .....		193

Decrease in statistical data is due to the reduction of the staff from five employees to four.

LaVerne H. Watson  
Director

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