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STATE DOCUMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT

**CONFEDERATE  
RELIC ROOM**

1978-79



Printed Under the Direction of the  
State Budget and Control Board

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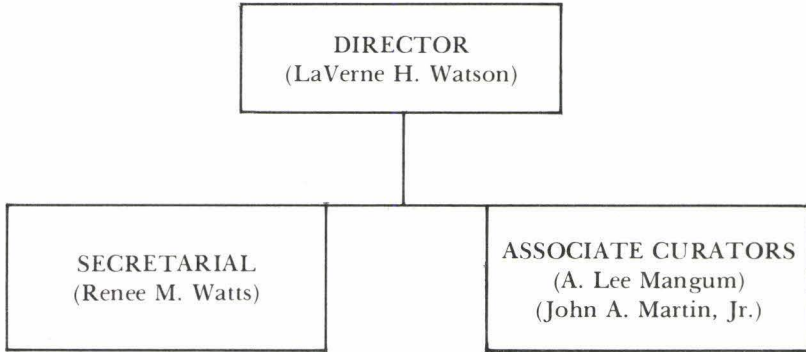


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State Budget and Control Board**

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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 operations, 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 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; preservation, 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 area clean and attractive; carpentry.

## **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 on the Council of Southeastern Museums Conference, and will organize and conduct a panel at the annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi in October. She 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 and the South Carolina Federation of Museums.

We hold memberships in and attend meetings of the American Association of Museums, Southeastern Federation of Museums, South Carolina Federation of Museums and American Association for State and Local History 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 continue to work 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.

### **Collections:**

Our more interesting gifts include a uniform of Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, USN, a former POW in Vietnam; Sgt. Louis B. Fowler, USAF, World War II, former POW in Germany; formal dress uniform of General William Oscar Brice, USMC, World War II; a Red Cross nurse's uniform World War I; two WAVE uniforms, World War II; one USAF and two Coast Guard uniforms; a framed \$1,000 Confederate note with coupons; a necklace made from chinaberry seeds, circa 1860; 1905 Corona typewriter, one of the first portables made; land grant maps with index, relating to Union and Spartanburg counties; muster roll of Co. C, 7th Regiment, SCV; robe of a former Clerk of the Senate; a framed lithograph from the Mayrant Plantation; the site where Sherman's troops bivouaced before entering Columbia.

### **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.

Soon the renovation of the upper floor of the War Memorial Building will be completed. We then will start setting up exhibits. This additional gallery will be devoted to honoring South Carolinians in the military, both past and present. Thus our emphasis during the year was geared to acquiring the necessary uniforms. We have been fortunate in obtaining mens' uniforms. We continue to seek uniforms of South Carolina women in service.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

We assisted legislators, authors, graduate assistants, the press and the public in their research. In **CONFEDERATE LONGARMS & PISTOLS**, by Richard T. Hill and W. Ed Anthony, four artifacts in this collection are pictured.

We worked with museums in this area and an official from the Columbia Chamber of Commerce on the publication **COLUMBIA, THE CITY FOR ALL SEASONS**.

Currently we are working with an editor of **ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST** in hopes of getting a South Carolina story published in that magazine.

We researched three Columbia buildings for Central Midlands Regional Planning Council for Historical Preservation.

Identifying objects for the public is time consuming and the number of requests increase each year. If we are unable to identify an artifact, we refer the visitor to the proper authority.

We assist other museums upon request.

### **FINANCES**

During the year approximately 53% of our budget was earmarked for personal service, with approximately 47% 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." So according to

American Association for State and Local History standards, our salary ratio is below par.

We have four employees. Personal Service funds, allocated amounted to \$45,111 and Operating Expenses \$39,217, thus making the total budgeted \$84,328.

A financial inventory, of the more valuable artifacts, is on file at 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.

Because the renovation of the new gallery was not completed, by the end of the fiscal year, we were unable to purchase all of the necessary exhibit cases. Therefore these funds will be returned to the General Fund.

### **VISITORS**

Our 80,000 visitors have come from 49 states and the District of Columbia and 31 foreign countries, representing every continent.

### 1978-79 STATISTICAL DATA

Visitors .....	80,000
States & D. C. represented by visitors .....	.50
Foreign countries represented by visitors .....	.31
Lectures to groups .....	513
People present at lectures .....	23,200
Telephone inquiries .....	5,122
Inquiries by correspondence & visitors .....	4,300
Hours of research .....	1,703
Books acquired .....	14
Historical pictures acquired .....	4
Meetings & Tours after regular hours .....	9
Meetings during regular hours .....	9
Hours identifying objects for the public .....	125
Inventory—hours spent .....	323
Exhibits changed .....	7
Firearms & swords cleaned .....	55
Television tapings .....	1
Hours spent on exhibit preparations .....	197
Assistance to other museums .....	2
Museum affiliated meetings attended .....	26
Objects brought in for identification .....	46

LaVerne H. Watson  
Director

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