



Thomas G. and Anna C. Clemson probate records MSS-0415

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Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives

230 Kappa St.

Clemson, SC 29634

archives@clemson.edu

URL: <http://library.clemson.edu/depts/specialcollections/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Collection Inventory	5
Preface Documents	5
Estate Papers	5
Estate Documents - Originals	6
Property Appraisal	7
Clemson Wills	8
Lee V. Simpson	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives
Title:	Thomas G. and Anna C. Clemson probate records
ID:	MSS-0415
Date [inclusive]:	1871-1958
Physical Description:	2 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

MSS 0415 Thomas G. and Anna C. Clemson probate records, Special Collections and Archives, Clemson University, Clemson SC 29634-3001.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Thomas Green Clemson (1807-1888) was a mining engineer, government official, plantation owner, scientist, proponent of higher education, artist and art collector, and supporter of scientific farming. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Clemson adopted South Carolina as his home after marrying Anna Maria Calhoun, the oldest daughter of the South Carolina statesman John C. Calhoun. Little is known of Clemson's early life other than that his father was a well-to-do merchant in Philadelphia. Clemson attended public schools in Philadelphia and the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy in Norwich, Vermont.

Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson (1817-1875) was the fourth child and third daughter born to John C. Calhoun and Floride Bonneau Colhoun Calhoun. Born in the Abbeville District at the Calhoun's Bath Plantation, and her early schooling was in Pendleton and later at a female academy in Edgefield.

Thomas and Anna were married on November 13, 1838 and they had four children who were outlived by their parents.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

Thomas G. and Anna C. Clemson probate records include the original last will and testament of Thomas G. Clemson.

In his will, Clemson planned "to devote the bulk of my property to the establishment of an agricultural college upon the Fort Hill place." Of particular importance in Clemson's will was his desire that the trustees would "have full authority and power to regulate all matters pertaining to said institution" and that the seven trustees he appointed would "always have the right, and the power is hereby given them and their successors, which right the legislature shall never take away or abridge, to fill all vacancies which may occur in their number by death, resignation, refusal to act, or otherwise." Furthermore, he stipulated that "the legislature may provide, as it sees proper, for the appointment or election of the other six trustees."

The collection also includes the original last will and testament of Anna C. Clemson. Anna Clemson bequeathed her entire estate to her "beloved husband Thomas G. Clemson." She noted that should her husband die before her, or, should he die intestate, she would leave her entire estate to her granddaughter, Isabella Lee.

Also included are estate papers documenting the possessions left in Fort Hill following Clemson's death, records detailing the transcription of the will by Clemson University in the 1950s, as well as court documents of the court case brought against R.W. Simpson by Isabella Lee. Lee contested her grandfather's last will and testament.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open to the public without restriction.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

On long-term loan from the Oconee County Probate Court, South Carolina

Existence and Location of Copies

Collection digitized in 2025.

Select materials are available online: <https://digitalcollections.clemson.edu/explore/collections/clemson-will/>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Preface Documents, 1958

Title/Description	Instances
Letter from W. Harper Welborn to Hon R.C. Carter, 1958-10-24	
Letter from J.C. Littlejohn to Judge R.C. Carter., 1958-09-08	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Estate Papers, 1888-1889

Title/Description	Instances
Petition to sell personal property of Thomas G. Clemson, 1888-04-17	
Witnesses to codicil of will of Thomas G. Clemson, 1888-04-20	
Letter of Administration, 1888-04-20	
Warrant of appraisal of Estate, 1888-04-28	
List of sales, 1888-05-10	
Petition as to debts due estate, 1889-02-04	

Order to accept under assignments of J.D. Smith,
1889-02-04

Petition to change investment, 1889-03-02

Order for sale of bank stock, 1889-03-02

Petition to change type of investment, 1889-04-26

Petition to sell 87 shares of stock, 1889-05-22

Certificate of W.D. Simpson, Chief Justice of South Carolina,
1889-12-06

Order for sale of goods and chattels, 1890-04-22

List of Fort Hill property sold, 1890-05-15

Petition for final settlement, 1891-06-11

Notice of final settlement, 1891-06-11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Estate Documents - Originals, 1871-1958

Title/Description	Instances
Estate of Anna C. Clemson decd [deceased]- Will, 1875-10-11	
R.W. Simpson Executor in Account with Estate of Thos. [Thomas] G. Clemson - Statement for a first return, 1889-02-04	
Ex Parte in Re Estate of Thos.[Thomas] G. Clemson, decd [deceased] - Order for sale of goods and chattels, 1890-04-22	
Ex Parte in Re Estate of Thomas G. Clemson, decd. Letters testamentary, 1888-04-20	
Letter from J.C. Littlejohn to Judge R.C. Carter, 1958-09-08	
Petition to order to sell stock of Charleston City - R.W. and reinvest, 1889-05-22	
Statement for a third annual return, 1890-02-13	
Warrant of appraisal, 1888-04-24	
Petition for sale of personalty, 1888-04-17	
True copy of an abstract of the last will and testament of Thomas G. Clemson, 1889-12-06	
Statement for a fourth and final account, 1891-07-14	
Notices of final settlement of the estate of Thos. [Thomas] G. Clemson, 1891-07-22	

Petition as to debts due by J.D. Smith, 1889-02-04
Petition to change investments, 1889-03-02
Sale bill no. 1 of the personal property of Thos. [Thomas] G. Clemson, deceased. Sold at Fort Hill, S.C., 1889-05-10
Order directing sale of stocks and bonds and reinvestment in stock or bonds of the state of So. Ca. [South Carolina], 1889-04-29
Petition as to investments - original, 1889-04-26
Witnesses to codicil of will of Thomas G. Clemson, 1888-04-20
Appraised bill of the property of the estate of Thomas G. Clemson, deceased, 1888-04-26
Petition for final settlement and discharge, 1891-06-11
Order of court – for sale of stock and investment, 1889-03-02
True copy of the sale bill of the balance of the personal property of the late Thomas G. Clemson sold at Fort Hill So.Ca. [South Carolina], 1890-05-15
Testimony, 1889-04-29
Order to accept under assignments of J.D. Smith, 1889-02-04
Statement for a first return amounts paid out, 1888-1889
Second annual return, 1890
Documents left in the custody of Mr. J.C. Littlejohn by Judge R.C. Carter, II, 1956-05-25
Documents left in the custody of Mr. J.C. Littlejohn by Judge R.C. Carter, II, 1956-05-25

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Property Appraisal, 1889-1891

Title/Description	Instances
Appraisal of property of Thos. G. Clemson. Statements of R.W. Simpson, executor - Estate of Thos. G. Clemson - First return, February 4, 1889 - Second Return, February 13, 1890 - Third return, February 25, 1891 - Fourth & final return, July 14, 1891, 1889-02-04, 1890-02-13, 1891-02-25, 1891-06-14	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Clemson Wills, 1871, 1887

Title/Description	Instances
Last Will and Testament of Thomas G. Clemson, 1887-03-26	
Last Will and Testament of Anna C. Clemson , 1871-09-29	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Lee V. Simpson, 1889

Title/Description	Instances
United States of America, District of South Carolina, Fourth Circuit - Isabella Lee Complainant, against Richard W. Simpson, Defendant. Report – Testimony - Exhibits and Statement of Facts. J.E. Hagood, Special Master, 1889-04-22	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)