

U. S. — Roosevelt, Martha (Bullock)

State, Oct. 28, 1938.

Mrs. Roosevelt's Grandmother Attended School in Columbia

When Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt arrives in Columbia today, she will be at the scene of many of her grandmother's happiest days.

For the First Lady's grandmother, Martha Bulloch of Georgia, attended the famous Barhamville school near Columbia. She also visited frequently in the city and joined the First Presbyterian church here.

Miss Agnes McMaster, prominent Columbia woman, is the daughter of Mary Jane MacFie, who roomed with Miss Bulloch at Barhamville. Miss Bulloch often visited Miss MacFie at her home, 1502 Richland street.

Later, in the '70s, Miss Bulloch, then Mrs. Roosevelt, paid a brief visit to Columbia and dined with her old school chum, Miss MacFie, who had married Col. F. W. McMaster, at the McMaster home, 1429 Laurel street. She was accompanied by her son, Elliott Roosevelt, the father of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt will be invited to visit the McMaster home while in Columbia. The furniture which was in Miss MacFie's home when Miss Bulloch visited there is now in Miss McMaster's home, including a chair that is known as "Mittie's chair" because Miss Bulloch liked it so much.

Martha Bulloch was the mother of Theodore Roosevelt. When he came through Columbia in 1902 on his way to the Charleston exposition, his train stopped a few minutes. The student body of the university was on hand to greet him along with many others. Someone presented him with a large bouquet of spring flowers from Barhamville, which he seemed to appreciate greatly.

According to Professor H. C. Davis of the University of South Carolina faculty, Barhamville school, otherwise known as the South Carolina Collegiate Female institute, the 1849-50 catalog of the school lists both Martha Bulloch and her sister, Anna, as students.

In his autobiography, Theodore Roosevelt describes his mother as a "sweet, gracious, beautiful Southern woman, a delightful companion and beloved by everybody," and he attributes his ability to get along with people to the influence of her Southern training.

Theodore Roosevelt also mentions that the Bullocks went to Georgia from South Carolina before the Revolution.

The Barhamville school was founded in 1828 by Dr. Elias Marks, who actively directed the affairs until 1861. Marion Sims, writing in 1831, said: "Young ladies were sent there from all parts of the state to school, as it was the first and only school of its character in the South."

Under the leadership of Doctor Marks, the Barhamville school pioneered in the education of women. Such sound instruction was given and so well were the affairs of the institution conducted that it enjoyed a wide reputation as an exceptionally good school.

Professor Davis has conducted extensive research in the history of Barhamville, and is the author of the sketch of Doctor Marks appearing in the Dictionary of American Biography.