



The South Caroliniana Library
The University South Caroliniana
Society

State - Jan. 26, 1942.

The South Caroliniana library occupies the old University library on Sumter and College streets. The reading room is open from 8:45 a. m., to 10 p. m., on weekdays, and from 2 to 5 p. m., on Sundays. The manuscripts reading room is open from 9 a. m., to 5 p. m., on weekdays only.

Exhibits now on display: Early South Carolina college items; the library and former librarians; the recently presented Proclamation of Secession by Governor Pickens. State 1-26-42

A SOUTH CAROLINIAN
COMES HOME

Last week a Scarborough portrait of a distinguished servant of the state was welcomed to the South Caroliniana library. John Hugh Means now takes his place with other alumni governors on the walls of the museum room, and the presentation of the picture forges another link in the long chain which connects the Means family with the university.

He was born in 1812, the tenth son and thirteenth of the fourteen children of Thomas and Sarah (Milling) Means of Fairfield district. Five of his brothers had preceded him as students at the South Carolina college. Indeed, there must have been at least one Means on the campus from 1810 until 1832 when John Hugh graduated and his nephews began to arrive soon after. Two of them, Beverly William and Isaac Hugh Means, later returned as librarians of the college, and two of his present-day kinswomen, Miss Elizabeth English and Miss Frances Means are on the staff of the university library. A grandnephew, the late R. Means Davis, and a great grandnephew, Henry C. Davis, have been professors of history and English, respectively, since 1882.

The year after his graduation young John Hugh Means married Miss Susan Rebecca Stark, and became a planter in Fairfield. They had one son and one daughter. Like most of the young South Carolinians who came under the tutelage of President Thomas Cooper, Means was imbued with the doctrine of States Rights. He served in the legislature and was elected governor in 1850. His advocacy of secession led him to encourage the formation of a strong state militia in which he held the rank of brigadier general. At the close of his term as governor, he was elected president of the Secession Convention of 1852. He returned to his plantation and held no public office until the second Secession Convention of 1860, where he was one of the signers of the ordinance.

He enlisted and became colonel of the Seventeenth South Carolina infantry, his son serving in the same regiment as major. Governor Means fought valiantly at Malvern Hill, Rappahannock Sta-

tion, and at the second Battle of Mannassas, where he was wounded, dying two days later on September 1, 1862. His general, N. G. Evans, in his report of the battle referred to Governor Means's gallantry and energy "though much advanced in years," and the photograph of him in Confederate uniform (which accompanies A. S. Sallee's comprehensive Means genealogy in the South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine for October 1906) shows a weary though strong face and figure. But the dates prove

that he had just reached his fiftieth year.

The portrait which has come to the university must have been painted by Scarborough from early photographs, for it was ordered in 1860. It bears out half of Professor Harry Davis's pronouncement that "all the Means ladies were beautiful and all the men fat." The young man is full faced and ruddy in coloring, and wears a semi-circular fringe of chin whiskers which would give him a rather comical look but for the firmness and earnestness of expression in mouth and eyes. The military photograph shows the whiskers developed into the characteristic full beard of the Confederate officer.

The university is obligated to Mrs. D. D. McColl of Bennettsville for suggesting to Governors Means's great granddaughter that his picture would be gratefully received and safely housed in the old library. Mrs. McColl, a member and staunch supporter of the University South Caroliniana society, saw the portrait when visiting last summer in Birmingham, Alabama, and convinced Mrs. Valentine Jordan Nesbit that it should be returned to South Carolina. To Mrs. Nesbit are due double thanks: For the portrait itself, and for her generous co-operation with the university's plan to bring home and keep at home the visible and readable evidences of our state's great past. Associated with her in the gift are her daughter and son, Sarah Nesbit Hendrix and Ralph Nesbitt, Third. M. B. M.