

Legacy of a Southern Lady

Anna Calhoun Clemson, 1817-1875



DEDICATION

*In the spirit of Anna Calhoun Clemson,
this book is dedicated to each girl who adores her father and
to every woman whose support of her husband makes a difference.*

Legacy of a Southern Lady

Anna Calhoun Clemson, 1817-1875

by Ann Ratliff Russell



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Table of Contents

FRONTISPIECE.....	i
PREFACE.....	vii
GENEALOGICAL BRANCHES OF THE CLAN COLQUHOUN	xviii
CAST OF CHARACTERS	xiv
CHRONOLOGY	xviii



<i>One</i> ❧ HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER.....	1
<i>Two</i> ❧ A MOTHER'S LOVE	21
<i>Nina, Calhoun, and Floride</i>	
<i>Three</i> ❧ THE GLORY OF THE HOUSE.....	51
<i>Four</i> ❧ HER DEAREST MARIA	71
<i>Five</i> ❧ TRAVELING WOMEN	83
<i>Anna Calhoun Clemson</i>	
<i>Margaret Fuller</i>	
<i>Harriet Lowndes Aiken</i>	
<i>Lucy Holcombe Pickens</i>	

<i>Six</i> ❧ MY VERY MUCH BELOVED DEAR ANNA.....	105
<i>Seven</i> ❧ EPILOGUE.....	121



NOTES	125
BIBLIOGRAPHY	154

List of Major Illustrations

Anna Calhoun Clemson, frontispiece and late in life	vi, 31
Coat of Arms of the Clan Colquhoun	xiii
John C. Calhoun	2, 19, 119
Thomas Green Clemson	8, 106, 120
Floride Bonneau Colhoun Calhoun, with Anna Calhoun Clemson and children Calhoun, Floride, Nina (in collage)	22
Nina Clemson (bust)	25
Calhoun Clemson as a boy	26
Floride Clemson as a girl	27
Floride Elizabeth Clemson, age 15	33
Calhoun Clemson in military attire	36
Elias Baker	40
Gideon Lee	49
Floride Lee, age 2 1/2	50
Fort Hill Mansion	52
Andrew Pickens	55
James Edward Calhoun	60
Floride Isabella Lee	70
Inscription from Calhoun Family Bible	70
Illustration from Maria Edgeworth's novel <i>Helen</i>	72
Law offices of Simkins, Pickens, and associates	73
Cemetery monument for Maria E. Simkins	82
Anna Calhoun Clemson, Margaret Fuller, Harriet Lowndes Aiken, Lucy Holcombe Pickens	84
Portraits, Calhoun Clemson and Floride Clemson as children	89
Portrait, Harriet Aiken	98
Library bookplate from Clemson Agricultural College	122
Clergy Hall (later Fort Hill), 1815	162
First students at Clemson College, 1893	122

Most of the illustrations in this book—including the “minor” ones presented as miniatures in the “Cast of Characters” on pages xiv-xvii—originate from Clemson University collections, especially the Fort Hill Museum (University Historic Properties). Acknowledgment is paid to the following sources for the exceptional images: to Creighton Lee Calhoun, Jr., for Anna Calhoun Clemson, frontispiece; to Lidie Lee Flammia and Lorton Lee Lewis for Gideon Lee, Jr., at c. 50; to Pelham Lyles, Director, Fairfield County Museum, Winnsboro, SC, for James Rion; to the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, for Francis Pickens and Lucy Holcome Pickens (on pages xvi and xvii); to the Historic Charleston Foundation for Harriet Lowndes Aiken; to Meredith Sonderskov for Elizabeth Barton and Louisa Clemson Washington; to the Blair County Historical Society, Baker Mansion, Altoona, PA, for Elias Baker; to Andrew P. Calhoun, Jr. for the Clan Colquhoun Society Crest; and to Adrienne (Plum) Moore for Lucy Holcombe Pickens.

Like Abigail Adams (1744-1826), a popular subject in biography for over 150 years, Anna Calhoun Clemson left in the nineteenth century an abundance of letters for study. This rich legacy reveals much about the most meaningful relationships in her life and in turn portrays for posterity the person she was. Just as Abigail was known by the accomplishments of her husband and son, both of whom became presidents of the United States, Anna, the daughter of statesman John C. Calhoun, and wife of diplomat Thomas Green Clemson was distinctive in her own time due to her association with her father and husband. Because her story is remarkable in its own right and one worthy of being told, I have used her letters as the basis for this biography and have therefore relied primarily on the unpublished, two-volume documentary edition of Julia Wright Sublette. Following the lead of Edith B. Gelles's book, *Portia: The World of Abigail Adams*, I have chosen a topical, or "collage," approach to the reconstruction of Anna's story, which will not be told from birth to death but rather from the multiple perspectives of her roles as daughter, mother, sister, friend, traveler, and wife. The observation of historian Jill Ker Conway that—"a diligent biographer sees a life in the round, from many perspectives"—seems to validate an appreciation of Anna in this manner.¹ I also think that the reader will find Anna to be a woman whose relationships make for an interesting revelation of her life and its significance.

Using the concept of the "southern lady," I have tried to unify the narrative based on Anna's roles with regard to attendant issues of gender, race, class, and regional identity. My only deviation from Anna as the protagonist in this book is in giving a comparative account of the experiences of Margaret Fuller, Harriet Lowndes Aiken, and Lucy Holcombe Pickens, as a select sample of women who traveled to Europe in the 1800s. I grant that Margaret, a northerner, differed from Anna and the other two exemplary representatives of elite, accomplished southern womanhood, but the New England intellectual was herself a woman of privilege and was, perhaps, not as much of an anomaly as one might think, especially with regard to Anna Calhoun Clemson. Both women were astute political observers, thanks to the tutelage of their fathers, and both women attributed the strife in European society to the undemocratic rule of royalty. However, neither woman had confidence in the future of the French Republic that was established in the aftermath of revolution in Paris in 1848.

Although Anna was unique in terms of individual identity, she was similar to other elite southern women of the nineteenth century, and a study of her life can provide a perspective of her peers as well as a focus on her own importance. The intriguing images of beauty, breeding, and charm attributed to the South's mythical lady conjure up a false impression of perfection that belies the reality of existence for these admittedly privileged persons. Anna's story, as told through her relationships, reveals primarily what historian Margaret Ripley Wolfe calls a "distinctive southern woman" whose life, though blessed with benefit, displayed hardship and tragedy that she endured with fortitude, triumphed over, and survived.²

"Life is a journey," Vice-President John C. Calhoun wrote to his fifteen-year-old daughter, Anna Maria, when she was a student at the "Barhamville" school, near Columbia, South Carolina, in 1832. Anna traveled well the journey her father had defined for her from the cherished days of childhood to what she termed the "*happy times*" of youth

and the often somber realities of adult responsibility. In the literal sense of travel, she made trips to the nation's capital with her father and close friend Maria Simkins and ventured on a northern excursion with other companions, at the age of nineteen—to Philadelphia, New York City, West Point, and Niagara Falls. With her husband, she went to Havana, to a "*Miner's Hut*" in Georgia, to a dilapidated domicile on the Canebrake plantation in the Edgefield District of South Carolina, and then abroad to Belgium; and, especially significant, she went on her own behind enemy lines to a Yankee prison on Johnson's Island, Ohio, to see her captured son, Calhoun Clemson. Returning to the South at the end of 1864, with the Confederacy collapsing, Anna and her daughter Floride endured a harrowing journey to a world forever changed by the catastrophe of civil war. Like her beloved, embattled, South, Anna had lost much in the course of life's spiritual "journey." In her personal album, she revealed privately her memories of family and friends:

What should we do without the memory of the loved & lost! When with others life drags on in its dull round but when alone the closed doors of my heart open & the dwellers in those silent chambers come out & surround me once more—Then my Nina plays around me or climbs my knees & puts her arms around me with loving words— Then my father holds out to me his hand with his sweet smile & glorious eyes & say[s] "my daughter" as I often saw him in life—my sister sits & looks at me with loving eyes— poor Pat with his kind manners & noble heart—is once more there & John & Willie live once more in the recollections of childhood—Farther back in the vistas of years I see Maria & enjoy once more her friendship & I am once more young & happy & the many friends "I've seen around me fall leaves in wintry weather" once more make life a long dream of happiness. So live I in the past but a footstep approaches & they all flee before it—the heart closes & life is once more sad & gloomy.³

Written sometime after December 1858 and the death of her youngest child, three-year-old Nina, Anna's poignant expression of a mother's loss also reveals memories she held dear as a daughter, sister, and friend. Images of her father, sister, brothers, and dearest friend, Maria, reflect the happiness shut inside her heart's "silent chambers," closed as "a footstep approaches," perhaps that of her husband. Thomas Clemson's depressive disorder, described by his wife as the "*blues*" when they married, had worsened since the couple's return from his diplomatic post in Brussels in 1851. Deep despondency over the death of his little girl had a great impact on his behavior, making life for Anna "once more sad & gloomy."⁴

So Anna's journey with the man she married was in all respects the most difficult one that she ever made. She gave him her love and loyalty and relinquished "the cherished object" of her life, her father, making a choice she thought to be "*the best*" in marrying Clemson. Initially, he was a man resolved in his actions and loving and supportive of her. But Anna soon realized that he was tormented in both mind and body by a misunderstood mental illness. Unable to fulfill her own individual identity in her relationship with her husband, she ultimately found happiness in being close to her children.⁵

With her son Calhoun at the troublesome age three and her daughter Floride not yet two, her outlook dulled on Clemson's acceptance of a diplomatic post as Chargé d'Affaires in Brussels in 1844. However, because of his interest in living, once again, in Europe,

where he had studied as a young man, she welcomed the appointment for his sake and determined to make the best of it for the sake of her young family. Sailing back and forth across the Atlantic (indeed, an incredible journey in itself) separated her from loved ones in America and from the Calhouns' "dear old Fort Hill" plantation home for a little over six years.⁶

Following her return from abroad and settling with her family on a farm outside of Washington, D.C., Anna witnessed the deterioration of her husband's depression, which caused distress for her and their children. As a person who prized dearly the harmony of family love, the situation was particularly painful but paled by comparison with the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. With Clemson and their son Calhoun joining Confederate forces in the South and with Anna and Floride remaining in Maryland, the Clemsons were not reunited in South Carolina until the summer of 1865, after a four-year separation. Following their journey south at the end of 1864, the Clemson women joined Anna's widowed mother, Floride Calhoun, at her "Mi Casa" home in Pendleton, South Carolina, and anxiously awaited the arrival of their men folk in April 1865, when the war ended.⁷

Finding the region in ruins and her own Pendleton community impoverished, Anna, who had once left her father's political world for what she believed would be the "quiet of domestic life" as Mrs. Thomas Green Clemson, now emerged, with other southern women of her class, as a leader in the South's first generation of female activists. Involved in worthy causes and accepted in the public sphere by virtue of their gentility, these ladies forged a future for themselves and their families in the defeated South. Beside her husband, Anna worked impressively among all those living around them.⁸

The tragic loss of both their daughter, Floride, and son, Calhoun, six years after the war's end, not only devastated the Clemsons but proved to be of profound significance for the future. Thomas Clemson's vision of an agricultural and mechanical college for South Carolina became personally important to Anna, who must have felt, as he did, that this would be a memorial worthy of her father and their son and an honor to each of them. Aware that the land needed for the school would undoubtedly soon be hers when she inherited the family's Fort Hill plantation from the disputed estate of Floride Calhoun, Anna left to her husband, in her last will and testament, all of the extant and future property that she possessed.⁹

Despondent at the death of his last two children, Clemson depended upon Anna to support his dream of a scientific school for the study of agriculture because his very indifferent disposition distracted him from such determination after the death of their children. Although eager to see the school established, Anna was primarily thinking, in 1872, about a planned trip to see her little granddaughter, Floride Isabella, in Carmel, New York. Personally escorted by their son-in-law, Gideon Lee, Jr., she and her husband made a very tiring four-day trip by land in June, and, though his health and spirits seemed somewhat improved at first, his old hopeless state reappeared so that she felt he would never be better. Nevertheless, their stay in New York was one bright spot at a very bleak time in their lives. Their trip back to South Carolina would be Anna's final journey.¹⁰

Returning first to Mi Casa, in Pendleton, and then home to Fort Hill, since her inheritance from her mother's estate had been settled in her favor early in 1872, Anna would spend the last three years of her life there. She participated with her husband in the public promotion of the college that would become a lasting legacy for both the Calhoun and

Clemson names. Thomas Green Clemson's later founding of "The Clemson Agricultural College of S.C." (as a tombstone reads in St. Paul's Churchyard, Pendleton) on grounds of the Fort Hill plantation was made possible because of his wife's bequest to him. So his establishing the school that they both desired enabled her to join the ranks of other strong southern women whose positive influence reached beyond their own lives to make a difference.¹¹

Many years after Anna's death, Richard W. Simpson, Clemson's lawyer and the first chairman of the Board of Trustees of Clemson Agricultural College, commented in a letter to Clemson College President Walter M. Riggs that "there ought to be a monument of some sort erected to her memory." Later with words of sincere sentiment he wrote the following eloquent statement: "Mrs. Clemson was among women what her distinguished father was among men. Her love for her home and country were superb, and to this noble, generous and yet gentle woman, South Carolina is as much indebted for Clemson College as [it is] to the distinguished husband, Thomas G. Clemson." The history of Clemson University today is not complete without recognizing this southern lady, whose family's Fort Hill home is now preserved for generations to come as a "National Historic Landmark" in the heart of the school's campus.¹²



When John L. Allen, former Director of Visitor Programs at Clemson University hired me to work at the historic houses of Clemson University (Fort Hill and Hanover), I did not dream where the job would eventually take me. My introduction to Anna Calhoun Clemson led to an interest that was nurtured by the Clemson University Woman's Club, which allowed me to do an on site presentation about the women of Fort Hill. My friend on the History Department faculty, Alan Grubb, aroused my curiosity by calling my attention to a letter from the papers of former Clemson President W. M. Riggs, praising Mrs. Clemson's role in the founding of the college. At the First Southern Conference on Women's History in 1988, sponsored by the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH), I had the opportunity to present a paper entitled "Anna Calhoun Clemson and the Origins of Clemson University," which was later published by *The United Daughters of the Confederacy Magazine*. (At SAWH's Fifth Southern Conference on Women's History in 2000, I was able to include, in a presentation on women travelers, information about Mrs. Clemson's Belgian years.) For further articles about Mrs. Clemson, my thanks go to Stephen Hoffius, former Director of Publications for the South Carolina Historical Society. He encouraged me to continue writing and enabled my work to appear in the *Carologue* magazine.

My decision to enter graduate school at the University of South Carolina was supported by recommendations from members of the History faculty at Clemson University, including Carol Bleser (now Professor Emeritus), the late Alan Schaffer, and Robert S. Lambert, who was the department head who hired me as an instructor in 1967. The classes that I had in Columbia and the two that I took at Clemson all contributed to my dissertation in pursuit of the doctoral degree. Especially, I wish to extend my appreciation and admiration to the following persons: Carol Bleser, Alan Grubb, Constance Schulz, Michael Smith, Marcia Synnott, Tom Terrill, Clyde Wilson, and the late John

Scott Wilson. Of particular significance to me in this process was the support of my dissertation advisor, Marcia Synnott, without whose help I would neither have continued with the endeavor nor completed its end. Clyde Wilson's enthusiastic encouragement to move "ONWARD" inspired me to do just that, and his astute comments as I did so enlightened my perspective.

The scholarship of Ernest McPherson Lander, Jr., in his works on the Calhouns and the Clemsons; of Julia Wright Sublette, in her documentary dissertation on Anna Calhoun Clemson's letters; and of Clyde Wilson, in his editing of *The Papers of John C. Calhoun*, made possible my own academic effort. Moreover, each of the following individuals contributed to its completion: Andrew P. Calhoun, Jr., genealogist of the Clan Colquhoun Society; Creighton Lee Calhoun, Jr., great-great grandson of Anna and Thomas Clemson; Patti Connor-Greene, Alumni Professor of Psychology, Clemson University; Jim Cross, Susan Hiott, and Dennis Taylor, all in Special Collections, Clemson University; Henry G. Fulmer, Manuscripts Librarian, The South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina; The Reverend Bob Haden, Director of The Haden Institute, Charlotte, North Carolina; Will Hiott, Director of Historic Properties, Clemson University; Mary Alice Spooone King, former Graduate Coordinator, Department of History, University of South Carolina; Polly Owen, a former first grade teacher extraordinaire and Historic Site Guide at Fort Hill and Hanover House for fifteen years; the late William Leon Pippin, Jr., whose library and friendship were invaluable to me; Katherine A. Saunders, Associate Director of Preservation Initiatives for the Historic Charleston Foundation; Ben Skardon, distinguished U.S. Army veteran, Clemson Alumni Master Teacher, and devout Episcopalian.

The critique of an anonymous reader for the University of Missouri Press enabled me to give a more thematic and analytical approach to the subject of my dissertation. Suggestions made by Robert Figueira, Co-Editor of *The Proceedings* of The South Carolina Historical Association, greatly improved sections of the "Traveling Women" chapter that have been included in *The Proceedings* 2007 volume. A somewhat revised version of the sixth chapter, "My very much beloved dear Anna," is to be part of a book on Thomas Green Clemson, commissioned by Clemson University to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of its founder and published by the University of South Carolina Press. I am grateful to Clemson University historian, Jerome V. Reel, Jr., for the concept of the 2007 celebration that provided the perfect opportunity to promote the school's past from the perspective of Anna Calhoun Clemson. However, without the endorsement and expertise of Wayne Chapman, Executive Editor of the Clemson University Digital Press, the publication of my own work on Anna Calhoun Clemson would not have been possible. Funding for this project was aided by a grant from the United Daughters of the Confederacy as a provision of the Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award. My heartfelt thanks go to Peggy Palmer, who made me aware of its existence, and to Pamela Wright, who also encouraged me to enter the competition. I am privileged to be included in the following chronological list of historians who have received this coveted award:

Recipients of the Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award

1927—Jesse Thomas Carpenter. *The South as a Conscious Minority 1789-1861*. New York University 1920. University of South Carolina, 1991 (reprint).

- 1929—Theodore M. Whitfield. *Slavery Agitation in Virginia, 1829-1832*. Out of print.
- 1931—Ralph Betts Flanders. *Plantation Slavery in Georgia*. Out of print.
- 1933—Samuel Thompson. *Confederate Purchasing Agents Abroad*. Out of print.
- 1935—Bell Irvin Wiley. *Southern Negroes 1861-1865*. Yale University Press, 1938.
- 1937—Louise Biles Hill. *Joseph E. Brown and the Confederacy*. Out of print.
- 1940—F. Stansbury Haydon. *Aeronautics of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Out of print.
- 1942—John Stormont. *The Economic Stake of the North in the Preservation of the Union in 1861*. Not published.
- 1945—Harold Sessel Schultz. *Nationalism and Sectionalism in South Carolina 1852-1860*. Duke University Press, 1950.
- 1948—Allen P. Tankersly. *John Brown Gordon: Soldier and Statesman*. Privately printed.
- 1951—Richard C. Todd. *Confederate Finance*. University of Georgia Press, 1953.
- 1954—Ralph E. Morrow. *Northern Methodism and Reconstruction*. Michigan State University Press, 1956.
- 1954—Horace Cunningham. *Doctors in Gray*. Louisiana State University Press, 1958.
- 1957—Martin H. Hall. *The Army of New Mexico – Sibley's Campaign of 1862*. University of Texas Press, 1960.
- 1960—James I. Robertson, Jr. *Jackson's Stonewall: A History of the Stonewall Brigade*. Louisiana State University Press, 1963.
- 1960—Tom Henderson Wells. *The Confederate Navy: A Study in Organization*. University of Alabama Press, 1971.
- 1970—Conrad Delaney. *John McIntosh Kell, "Luff" of the Alabama*. University of Alabama Press, 1973.
- 1972—Michael B. Dougan. *Confederate Arkansas: The People and Politics of a Frontier State*. University of Alabama Press, 1976. Reprinted 1991 in paperback.
- 1974—Sarah W. Wiggins. *The Scalawag in Alabama Politics, 1865-1881*. University of Alabama Press, 1976.
- 1976—Larry Earl Nelson. *Bullets, Ballots and Rhetoric*. University of Alabama Press, 1980.
- 1978—Kenny A. Franks. *Stand Watie and the Agony of the Cherokee Nation*. Memphis State University Press, 1979.
- 1980—Walter L. Buenger. *Stilling the Voice of Reason: The Union and Secession in Texas, 1854-1861*. University of Texas Press, 1984.
- 1982—Richard M. McMurry. *John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence*. University Press of Kentucky, 1982.
- 1984—Rev. Larry J. Daniel. *Cannoneers in Gray: The Field Artillery of the Army of Tennessee, 1861-1865*. University of Alabama Press, 1984.
- 1988—Dr. Mary Ann DeCredico. *Patriotism for Profit: Georgia's Urban Entrepreneurs and the Confederate War Effort*. University of North Carolina Press, 1990.
- 1990—William H. Nulty, Jr. *Confederate Florida: The Road to Olustee*. University of Alabama Press, 1990.
- 1992—Dr. Lynn Willoughby. *Fair to Middlin': The Antebellum Cotton Trade of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee River Valley*. University of Alabama Press, 1993.
- 1994—Dr. J. Tracy Power. *Lee's Miserables: Life in the Army of Northern Virginia From the Wilderness to Appomattox*. University of North Carolina Press, 1997.
- 2002—Dr. John D. Fowler. *Mountaineers in Gray: The Story of the Nineteenth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment, C.S.A.* University of Tennessee Press, 2003.
- 2006—Dr. Ann Ratliff Russell. *Legacy of a Southern Lady, Anna Calboun Clemson, 1817-1875*. Clemson University Digital Press, 2007.

Finally, I am personally grateful for the love and support of family and friends. The keen insight of my sister-in-law, Cheryl Russell, made me see the meaningful significance of mental illness for those intimately associated with the afflicted. The many peppy phone calls from my cousin, Gwen Grote, in Texas, always left me with renewed confidence that I would not only finish what I had started but someday see a dissertation become a book. The memory of my parents, John and Ruby Ratliff, gave me direction throughout the

difficulties of this daunting task, and I think they would be proud of the end result. To my daughters, Angela Bradley Newton and Kathryn Baring Russell—thank you, Angie and Kathy, for being the most important thing that I have ever done. Both of you, along with my son-in-law, Mike Newton, and grandchildren, Russell, Anna, and Alex, have so enriched my life and enabled me to appreciate what matters most. I am glad for this opportunity to tell you how I feel. And to my husband, Brad, at last and in his own words to me: “What can I say?” (See Bradley Russell, “Three Papers On Optimal Strategies In Surveillance Theory” [A Dissertation, Florida State University, 1968] x.)



GENEALOGICAL BRANCHES OF THE CLAN COLQUHOUN

James Patrick Calhoun, grandfather of John Ewing Colhoun, was possibly the first to “Americanize” the family name.†

Ezekiel Calhoun was the father of Rebecca Floride, who married Revolutionary War hero General Andrew Pickens. Ezekiel was the father of John Ewing Colhoun, who changed the spelling of his surname at the time of the American Revolution and then married Floride Bonneau.

John Ewing Colhoun m. Floride Bonneau

John Ewing Colhoun, Jr.

Floride Bonneau Colhoun

James Edward Colhoun (Calhoun)††

John Caldwell Calhoun m. Floride Bonneau Colhoun

Andrew Pickens Calhoun

Anna Maria Calhoun

Patrick Calhoun

John Caldwell Calhoun, Jr.

Martha Cornelia Calhoun

James Edward Calhoun

William Lowndes Calhoun



†Patrick Calhoun was the son of James Patrick and the father of John Caldwell Calhoun. John Caldwell Calhoun married Floride Bonneau Colhoun, who was the daughter of his first cousin John Ewing Colhoun.

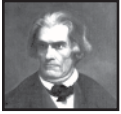
††Apparently James Edward changed the spelling of his surname to agree with his ancestor James Patrick Calhoun.

C A S T O F C H A R A C T E R S

PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS



Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson was the daughter of John C. Calhoun and wife of Thomas Green Clemson and, in her own right, left a legacy of land and love.



John C. Calhoun was an American statesman who served his country in the U.S. House of Representatives, as Secretary of War, Vice-President, Senator, and Secretary of State. He was both the master of Fort Hill plantation in the South Carolina upcountry and a noble and loving father.



Thomas Green Clemson was a mining engineer, planter, diplomat, and founder of The Clemson Agricultural College of S.C. He suffered from chronic depression throughout his married life.



Floride Bonneau Colhoun was Anna's grandmother who inherited land holdings in the South Carolina lowcountry from her father, rice planter Samuel Bonneau, and in the upcountry from her husband, U. S. Senator John Ewing Colhoun.



Floride Bonneau Colhoun Calhoun, Mrs. John C. Calhoun, was Anna's mother, a former Charleston belle who, as the wife of John C. Calhoun, gave birth to ten children and raised seven. She was known as "an elegant lady" in Washington, D.C., when her husband was Vice-President and, later, when she was mistress of Fort Hill. She died at her "Mi Casa" home in Pendleton in 1866, an emaciated figure "eaten away" by cancer at the age of seventy-four.

ANNA'S SIBLINGS



Andrew Calhoun was expelled from Yale and then attended South Carolina College. He first married Eugenia Chappell of Columbia and then Anna's friend, Margaret Green of Washington, D.C. Master of Cane Brake plantation in Alabama, he also acquired Fort Hill from his mother in 1854. The purchase price remained unpaid at the time of his death in 1865. Money matters ruined Andrew's relationship with Anna and Clemson, but the marriage of his grandson to his sister's granddaughter in 1895 would end "the family feud."

Patrick Calhoun, Anna's much beloved, dear Pat and "a favourite" with her husband, was a West Point graduate who attained the rank of army captain. He died, unmarried, of lung disease in 1858 at the age of thirty-seven.

John Calhoun, Jr. attended Hallowell's Academy in Alexandria, Virginia, and later enrolled at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where he was forced to withdraw for health reasons. His tubercular condition seemingly arrested, he studied medicine in Charleston and received a medical diploma in Philadelphia. He first married Anzie Adams of Pendleton and then Kate Putnam of St. Augustine, Florida. He fathered two sons and died of lung disease in 1855 at the age of thirty-two.

Cornelia Calhoun, an invalid who bore her afflictions with a cheerful disposition, was her mother's constant companion until her sudden death in 1857 at the age of thirty-three.

James Calhoun attended Hallowell's Academy with his brother John and also enrolled at the University of Virginia, where he was later expelled. He entered South Carolina College, where he became a serious student and a class leader, and then studied law in Charleston. In the early 1850s, he went to California, where he made investments on behalf of his brother-in-law, Clemson. These investments became the source of friction between the two men. James died, unmarried, of consumption in San Francisco in 1861 at the age of thirty-five.

Willie Calhoun was Anna's youngest brother, who, at age thirteen, she found to be as "full of tricks as a little monkey." A graduate of South Carolina College, he first married Margaret Cloud of Columbia and then his brother John's widow, Kate. He was master of Brier Thicket plantation along the Savannah River, where he died in 1858, a few months after his brother Patrick, of a chest inflammation at the age of twenty-nine, leaving behind his wife and a baby son.

ANNA'S CHILDREN

Calhoun Clemson, named for his grandfather, held as a young boy the promise of manly talent. However, poor health and civil war overshadowed his future, and a tragic accident took his life at the age of thirty.



Floride Clemson, as a little girl, always seemed to be able to take care of herself. A sometimes rebellious and disobedient youth, she developed into an elegant and accomplished young lady. She died from an illness at the age of twenty-eight, leaving behind a husband and baby daughter.



Nina Clemson was a precious, precocious child who brought great joy to her family for the three years of her short life.



ANNA'S OTHER RELATIONS AND FRIENDS



Floride Isabella Lee Calhoun, Anna's granddaughter, married her cousin Andrew Pickens Calhoun II, the grandson of Anna's brother Andrew.



Creighton Lee Calhoun, Jr. is the grandson of Floride Lee Calhoun and Andrew Pickens Calhoun and the great-great grandson of Anna and Thomas Clemson.

Maria Simkins Calhoun was Anna's dearest girlhood friend who married her very own forty-year-old bachelor uncle James within three months of Anna's marriage to Thomas Clemson. She died in childbirth, along with her baby, at the age of twenty-seven.



James Edward Calhoun was the younger brother of Anna's mother, who, after serving in the navy, became a prominent planter and slave-owner along an upper stretch of the Savannah River. He was master of Millwood plantation, where he lived much in seclusion after the death of his wife and child. He also served as benefactor of his sister Floride's family.



Francis Pickens was Anna's favorite cousin. His first wife, Eliza Simkins, was the sister of Anna's best friend, Maria. He was master of Edgewood plantation in Edgefield, South Carolina, served in the U. S. House of Representatives and as U.S. Minister to Russia, and was elected governor of South Carolina in 1860. He ended his term in office in 1862.



Aunt Elizabeth Barton was Anna's sister-in-law (her husband's younger sister), whose finishing school in Philadelphia was attended by her daughter Floride.



Louisa Clemson Washington was Clemson's older sister, who, as the widow of Samuel Washington, a grandnephew of President George Washington, was the mistress of Harewood plantation near Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Anna described her as "the kindest woman I ever knew."



Uncle Elias Baker was Thomas Green Clemson's uncle from Altoona, Pennsylvania, where he owned the Alleghany Furnace iron works. He looked out for Anna and her daughter Floride's welfare in Maryland when Clemson and his son Calhoun went South after the outbreak of civil war in 1861.

D. W. Lee was Clemson's financial advisor and brother-in-law of his late friend, Charles Leupp. He was dubbed the "gallant defender" by Anna and Floride in the absence of the Clemson men during wartime.



Gideon Lee, Jr., brother of the "gallant defender," married Floride Clemson in 1869 with Anna's blessing and resided with his bride in Carmel, New York at his "Leeside" home on 150 acres of farmland.



James Rion, a Calhoun family friend who became Clemson's lawyer, described Anna "as a child who inherited more of her father's great talents than any other of his children" and "a wife worthy of any man that ever lived."



R. W. Simpson was a lawyer who wrote the Clemson will that provided for "the establishment of an agricultural college upon the Fort Hill place." He believed that South Carolina was as much indebted to Anna as to her distinguished husband for Clemson College



WOMEN TRAVELERS

Margaret Fuller was a New England intellectual and writer sent to Europe on her own as a foreign correspondent for the New York Tribune in 1846; like Anna, who lived in Brussels from 1844 to 1851 when her husband was Charge' d'Affaires to the Belgian Court, she found the distress in European society's unequal class structure to be the fault of an undemocratic political system.



Harriet Lowndes Aiken was a Charleston hostess extraordinaire whose trips to Europe with her husband, William Aiken, Jr., were primarily for pleasure—to pursue culture and purchase such items of sophistication expected to belong to the city's aristocracy. She was the niece of Congressman William Lowndes, whose family the Calhouns had lived with for a short while in Washington, D.C., and for whom Anna's father had named his youngest son.



Lucy Holcombe Pickens, the third wife of Anna's cousin Francis, captivated Czar Alexander II and his opulent court when her husband served as U.S. Minister to Russia. Later at home, she reigned as South Carolina's First Lady during her husband's term as governor from 1860 to 1862.



C H R O N O L O G Y

ANNA CALHOUN CLEMSON

- February 13, 1817** Anna Maria is born at Bath plantation, near Willington, South Carolina, along the Savannah River in the Abbeville District
- December 1817-July 1826** resides in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.
- 1826-1829** attends the Edgefield Female Academy following her family's return to South Carolina and the Clergy Hall home of her grandmother, Floride Bonneau Colhoun, in the Pendleton District
- 1829 -1831** enjoys family life at the enlarged Clergy Hall, called Fort Hill after 1830
- 1831-1832** attends the South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute outside of the capital city Columbia
- 1833-1838** resides at home at Fort Hill
- 1834 -1838** winters in Washington
- April 21, 1836** the death of her grandmother, Floride Bonneau Colhoun
- 1836** her father, John C. Calhoun, assumes ownership of the Fort Hill property from the estate of his mother-in-law
- Summer 1836** makes northern trip to Niagara Falls
- November 13, 1838** marries Thomas Clemson at Fort Hill
- 1838 -1839** visits her husband's family in Philadelphia
- February 4, 1839** her "beloved friend," Maria Simkins, marries James Calhoun in Washington
- August 13, 1839** gives birth at Fort Hill to her firstborn, a baby girl who died three weeks later
- 1839 -1840** resides with her husband at the Millwood plantation of her Uncle James and his wife Maria in the Abbeville District
- July 17, 1841** gives birth to John Calhoun Clemson at Fort Hill
- February-May 1842** visits Havana, Cuba
- July-October 1842** lives at "Miner's Hut," the O'Bar gold mine in Dahlonega, GA
- December 29, 1842** gives birth to Elizabeth Floride Clemson at Fort Hill
- January to September 1844** resides at Canebrake plantation in the Edgefield District
- April 17, 1844** Maria Simkins Calhoun dies
- October 1844-October 1848** lives abroad in Brussels, Belgium, while Clemson serves as Chargé d'Affaires to the court of King Léopold I
- November 1848-May 1849** returns to America

1849–1851	again resides in Brussels, Belgium
March 31, 1850	Anna’s father, John C. Calhoun, dies
August 27, 1850	Anna’s mother, Floride Calhoun, receives title to Fort Hill property
1851–1853	travels from the South to the North in America
1853–1864	settles at “The Home,” a farm in Bladensburg, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C.
1854	Anna’s mother sells Fort Hill to her son Andrew
1855	Mrs. Calhoun and her daughter Cornelia move to Pendleton, leaving Anna’s brother Andrew, his wife, Margaret, and their children at Fort Hill
October 3, 1855	the birth of Cornelia (Nina) Clemson
July 31, 1855	the death of her brother John Caldwell Calhoun, Jr.
May 2, 1857	the death of sister Cornelia Calhoun
June 1, 1858	the death of brother, Patrick Calhoun
September 19, 1858	the death of brother William Lowndes Calhoun
December 20, 1858	the death of little daughter Nina
March 1860	she suffers a miscarriage
March 1860	is visited by her father in a vision ten years after his death
April 1861	the outbreak of civil war between the North and South
June 1861	her husband, Thomas Green Clemson, and son, John Calhoun Clemson, go South and ultimately join Confederate forces, leaving Anna and daughter Floride back in Maryland
November 29, 1861	the death of brother James Calhoun
April 1864	visits son John “Calhoun” Clemson at Union prison camp on Johnson’s Island in Lake Erie, near Sandusky, Ohio
1864	stays temporarily at Beltsville, Maryland, near Baltimore
1865–1872	returns with daughter Floride to South Carolina and the “Mi Casa” home of her mother in Pendleton
March 16, 1865	the death of brother Andrew Pickens Calhoun, leaving Anna as the sole survivor of all her siblings
Summer 1865	with Floride, Anna is reunited, in Pendleton, with her husband, Thomas Clemson, and son, Calhoun Clemson, in the aftermath of the Civil War

January 22, 1866	the codicil of the original will of Floride Calhoun makes Anna her mother's principal heir as the recipient of three-fourths of the bond and mortgage title on Fort Hill
March 1866	a lawsuit is initiated by Floride Calhoun, in conjunction with her son-in-law, Thomas Clemson, as administrator for the estate of his late sister-in-law Cornelia (a shareholder with her mother in the ownership of the Fort Hill property), against the family of her son, Andrew Pickens Calhoun, for the debt owed by his estate on Fort Hill
July 1866	a court decision is made to foreclose against Andrew's heirs on the Fort Hill title to which Mrs. Calhoun had named Anna to be the primary beneficiary
July 1866	immediate appeal by the Andrew Pickens Calhoun family for reversal in the case
July 25, 1866	the death of Floride Calhoun, leaving Anna as the last member of the immediate family of John C. Calhoun
August 2, 1869	Floride Clemson marries Gideon Lee, Jr., of New York
May 15, 1870	the birth of Anna's granddaughter Floride Isabella Lee
July 23, 1871	the death of daughter Floride Clemson Lee
August 10, 1871	the death of son Calhoun Clemson
September 29, 1871	Anna Calhoun Clemson's last will and testament is signed and sealed, naming her husband as heir to all then-present and future property in her estate
January 21, 1872	Anna gains her official inheritance of the Fort Hill property from the disputed estate of Floride Calhoun
1872–1875	Anna's last years at Fort Hill
September 22, 1875	Anna dies at Fort Hill
September 24, 1875	her burial at St. Paul's Episcopal Churchyard in Pendleton