

HONORING

ANNA

Anna Calhoun

A CELEBRATION OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY'S CO-FOUNDER



ANNA'S CHILDHOOD AND MARRIAGE

On February 13, 1817, Anna Maria Calhoun was born to American statesman John C. Calhoun and his wife Floride Bonneau Colhoun Calhoun at the couple's Bath Plantation in Abbeville, S.C. She was the fourth of ten children and would outlive all nine of her siblings.

Anna shared a close relationship with her father and his affection for her is evident in their personal correspondence: "My dear Anna, were it not for your letters, there are a thousand incidents that are daily occurring, where every incident even the smallest, is interesting to me, of which I should remain ignorant. Your mother and brother write me on grave subjects of business, or what relates to the welfare of the family; but you fill up the interval with those little, but to me interesting details, which are so agreeable to an absent father to know. Were it not for you, I would not have heard a word about the humming bird, their familiarity, the vines, their blooms, the freshness of the spring, the green yard, the children's garden, and finally Patrick's mechanical genius and his bateaux, every item of which excited agreeable associations, but accompanied with the painful recollection of my long absence, from those so dear to me."

The intellectually gifted Anna began serving as her father's copyist in 1834. Calhoun encouraged his daughter to study national events and discussed politics with her, although he did not want her to participate in the political process. During a visit with him to Washington, D.C., she met Thomas Green Clemson. They were married at Fort Hill on November 13, 1838. This union would eventually lead to Thomas gifting Anna's land to build a "high seminary of learning" — present day Clemson University.