

HONORING

ANNA

A CELEBRATION OF
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY'S CO-FOUNDER

ANNA AND HER DAUGHTER FLORIDE ELIZABETH CLEMSON

On December 29, 1842, Anna gave birth to her third child and second daughter named Floride Elizabeth after both grandmothers. Thomas and Anna's first child was a girl who died at three weeks of age in 1839; her name and grave are unknown. Floride would grow up to be her mother's confidant as Anna battled loneliness, financial woes and depression. Anna sent Floride to Philadelphia to study at the Barton's finishing school operated by her Aunt Elizabeth Clemson Barton and Uncle George Washington Barton. During Floride's two years at school, she studied a variety of subjects, taking great interest in art and even borrowing her father's brushes during her education.

Throughout Floride's time in Philadelphia, she and her mother exchanged frequent correspondence. These letters reveal the closeness of their bond as mother and daughter, including while coping with the loss of family members. On August 1, 1869, Anna was separated from Floride as Floride married Gideon Lee at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton and moved to Carmel, New York. In a letter to her brother James Edward Calhoun on June 8, 1869, Anna expressed anxiety about her daughter's approaching marriage, writing, "I feel very sad at parting ... for I shall have very little inclination to go north to visit her, and shall have to depend on her coming here. We live together like sisters, and companions, and I shall miss her greatly."

Floride Clemson Lee gave birth to Floride Isabella on May 15, 1870. Marie Calhoun, a former slave and childhood companion of Floride Clemson, accompanied her to Carmel, employed as a maid and seamstress. After Isabella's birth, Marie assisted in caring for Isabella through her early childhood. Tragedy struck on July 23, 1871, when Floride Clemson Lee died from a lingering illness at the family's home in Carmel.



*The winter was
mild but the
snow so much
in the day. I was
in the afternoon
the day the of
the day much
"For" in the
must get to
13 (and many)
I would not
"been" of that
"want" not."
Now this was
the evening
Marie is both
"see" her too
"a" infusing
The ice
with ice, six inches thick.
Pleasant commencement
weather has been intensely
covered with snow, for a fortnight
as it rained
day, I hope
my ice,
it please
level as
the day
I have great
prevent to
you for
all night
for him in the morning.
intensely cold, & I really thought the
hours would be frozen. However, I had a hot*