



Thos. G. Clemson

THE EDUCATION OF THOMAS CLEMSON

Thomas Green Clemson was born into a wealthy Philadelphia family on July 1, 1807, the third of six children of Thomas Clemson III, a prosperous merchant, and Elizabeth Baker Clemson, the daughter of a prominent Episcopal family.

Thomas' father died when he was seven, but his guardian ensured that he received a superior education. From age 16 to 18, he attended the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy in Norwich, Vt. (now Norwich University).

Fluent in French and interested in science, particularly chemistry, Clemson traveled to Paris in 1826 to study at the Sorbonne College of the University of Paris and at the Royal School of Mines. He received a diploma as an assayer from the Royal Mint in Paris in 1831.

In Paris, Clemson also developed a lasting interest in the arts and intellectual life. He began to paint and played the piano and violin.





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A MOMENTOUS MARRIAGE

Clemson returned to the United States in September 1831 and became a successful mining engineer throughout the country, as well as in Europe and Cuba.

During a business trip to Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1838, Thomas Clemson met Anna Maria Calhoun, the daughter of S.C. Senator John C. Calhoun. The young lady of 21 and the scientist who was 10 years older were married in the parlor at Fort Hill, her father's home near Pendleton, S.C., on Nov. 13, 1838.

The Clemsons began their 36-year marriage living in Philadelphia and at Fort Hill, where three of their four children were born. Their first daughter died at age three weeks. The next two children, John Calhoun and Floride Elizabeth, lived to adulthood. Their third daughter, Cornelia, died of scarlet fever at age three while the family lived in Maryland.





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THE BELGIAN DIPLOMAT

In 1844, U.S. Secretary of State John C. Calhoun arranged for his son-in-law to be appointed chargé d'affaires to King Leopold's Court in Belgium. His most important diplomatic task was negotiating a treaty of commerce, which was ratified in July 1846. The Clemsons lived in Belgium until the spring of 1851, a year after Calhoun's death.

Clemson continued to pursue his interest in art while in Belgium. He copied in oil works in King Leopold's collection of paintings in the Royal Art Galleries and collected a number of paintings, now part of the Fort Hill art collection.

The king awarded Clemson the Order of Leopold medal in 1860 when Clemson returned to Europe for an agricultural conference.



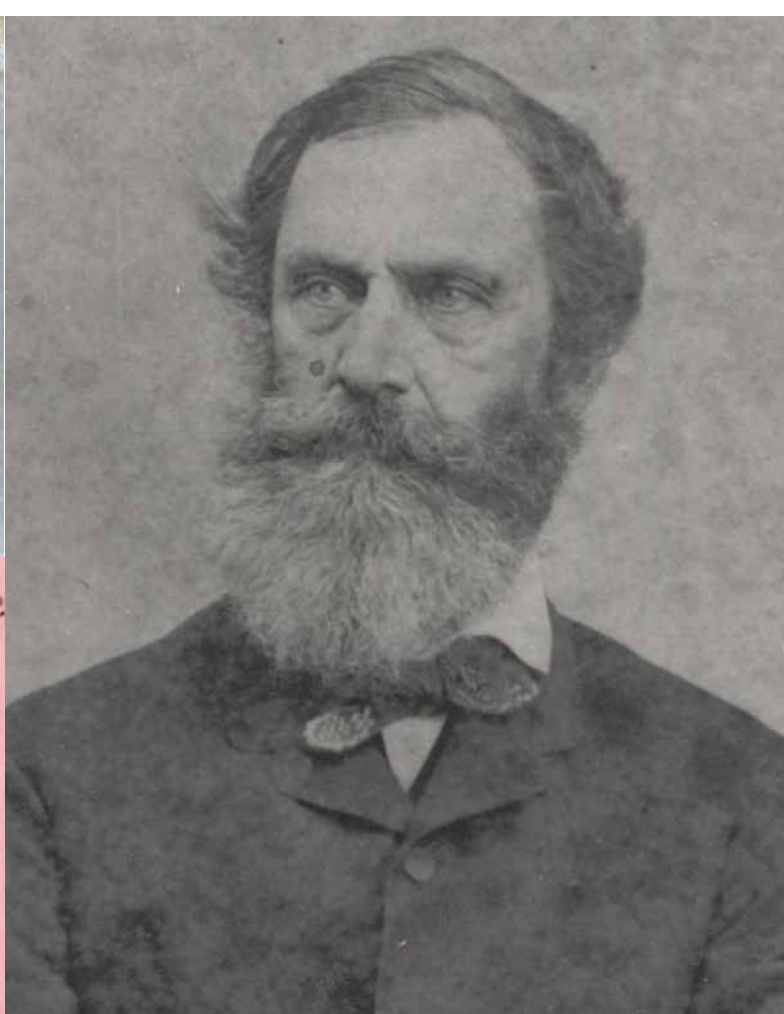
Thomas G. Clemson

THE AGRICULTURALIST

During his diplomatic career, Clemson remained interested in science and agriculture, studying farming methods and conditions in Europe. After returning to the United States in 1851, he purchased a 100-acre farm called "The Home" in Maryland, where he conducted agricultural experiments and published in agricultural journals and magazines.

Clemson also attended meetings of the Maryland Agricultural Society and the U.S. Agricultural Society and supported efforts to establish the Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland). He also influenced the first college land-grant bill introduced by Representative Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont in December 1857. In 1859, Clemson was invited to deliver scientific lectures at the Smithsonian Institution.

Clemson was appointed superintendent of agricultural affairs under the Patent Office on Feb. 3, 1860. He submitted a plan to create a separate national agricultural bureau and traveled to Europe for several months to collect seeds and cuttings. When he returned, conflict was increasing between Northern and Southern states. On March 9, 1861, Clemson resigned his post.



MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES,
JULY 11, 1862.

10 o'clock A.M.

Music. PRAYER.

MUSIC. Wirt. EUGENE CALVERT.

Oration. MUSIC. Croly. JNO. S. GITTINGER.

Oration,--German. MUSIC. RUDOLPH HITZ.

Oration,--Miford. MUSIC. ADDISON RANDAL.

Ode,--French. MUSIC. CHAS. B. CALVERT, JR.

Oration,--Greek. MUSIC. HOMER. W. H. WALLIS.

Oration. MUSIC. Sargeant. C. NEWMAN.

Latin Ode. MUSIC. Horace. S. D. HALL.

ORIGINAL THESES.

Educated Labor. MUSIC. W. B. SANDS.

Education,--Valedictory. MUSIC. THOMAS FRANKLIN.

Conferring Degrees.

MUSIC.

ADDRESSES.

MUSIC.

BENEDICTION.

THE AGRICULTURALIST

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AGRICULTURAL REPORT OF UNITED STATES FOR 1860.

BY THOMAS G. CLEMSON, LL.D., LATE REPRESENTATIVE TO AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES, SENATE COMMISSIONER OF THE ORDER OF AGRICULTURE.

[We are under obligations to Hon. T. G. Clemson, for his kindness in providing us with the following interesting article, in advance of its publication in the Agricultural Reports, by the Northern Congress. Mr. Clemson being a Southern man in his attachments, politically and socially resigned his office as the United States Agricultural Bureau, as soon as his year's labors were completed, and knowing our "supplies" from that quarter would be cut off, has furnished them, by giving us the privilege of publishing it in advance.--PUBLISHERS.]

The agriculturists of the United States, to whom intelligent judgment these remarks are addressed, will doubtless appreciate the spirit in which they are offered.

The requirements of the present age, and the prominent importance of the subjects embraced in its operations, demand that the powers of the agency of the Government should be enlarged. The opinion was expressed in the views I had the honor to submit to the Secretary of the Interior at the period of my being called by that functionary to the position of Superintendent of Agricultural Affairs.

A vast majority of the intelligent agriculturists of the country, dissatisfied with the limited functions now exercised by the Government, not only confidently anticipate, but demand an organization at least equal in importance to that of any other department.

No object is more worthy of governmental care than in these days of action, in which the satisfactory realization of progress in population, wealth and civilization can be so certainly attained. All civilized nations have in all times favored agriculture as a primary and indispensable employment of man. This fostering has been effected in the bestowment of bounty, indirect bounties, restrictions imposed upon foreign competition, and educational and providential to the encouragement of industry and industry through the information and facilities which governments alone are capable of providing with efficiency and to a satisfactory extent. The Agricultural Division of the United States Patent Office has been created as the agent of the government to give effect to its purpose in the bestowment and most beneficent manner and in, to the common mind, the only viable or appreciable agency for the promotion of this great and essential interest.

The degree of encouragement imparted by our government by means of import duties, the bestowment of public lands upon actual settlers, and the distribution of the reports of this office--to any looking of the influence and aid of local and general agricultural societies--cannot be estimated. It is, therefore, impracticable to institute a comparison between the benefits conferred by a land those conferred by the governments of other nations upon this branch of industry; yet it may be profitable in this connection to briefly review the provisions made by several countries of Europe for the promotion of agriculturists.

France.--There is an equal Bureau of Agriculture connected with the British Government, but the statute books are replete with enactments





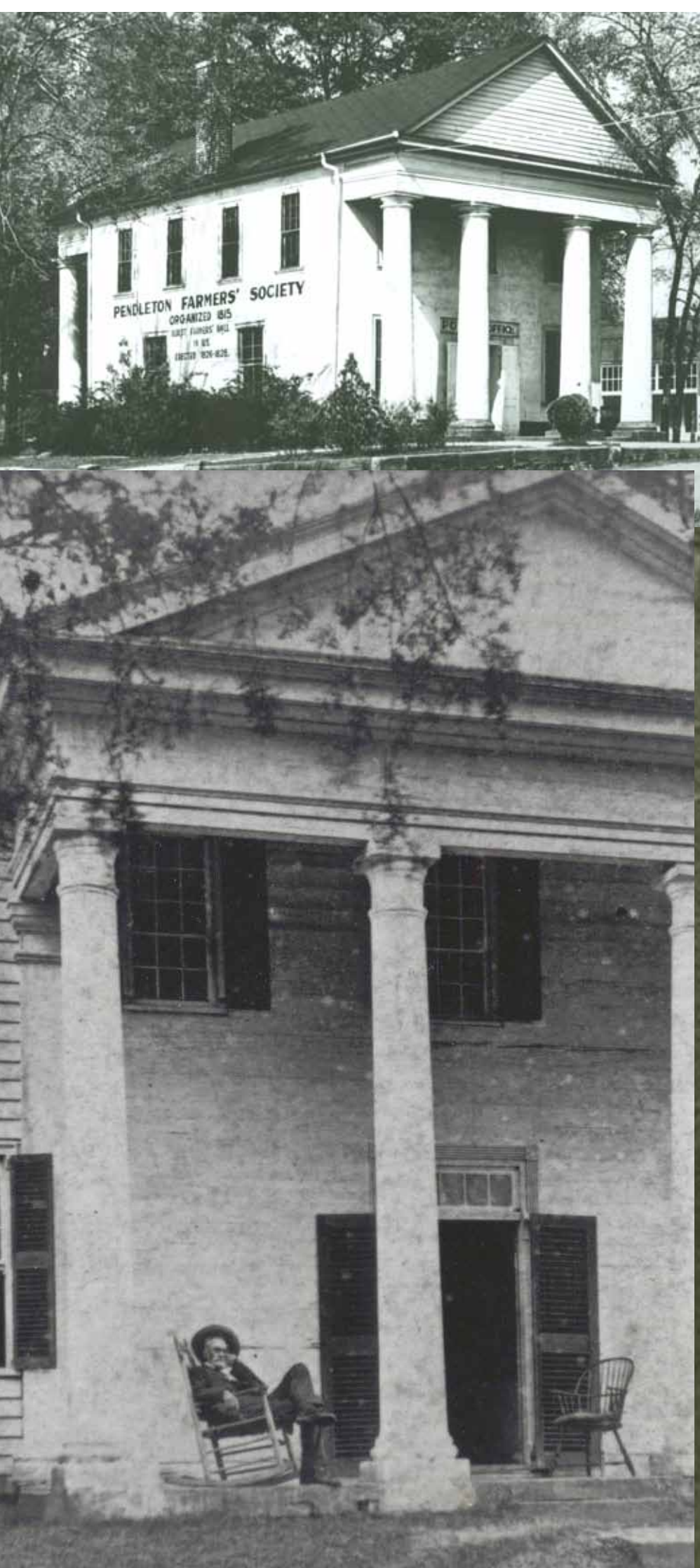
Thos. G. Clemson

FROM
THE ASHES

Thomas Clemson left for the South in June 1861 with his son Calhoun, who enlisted in the Confederate army. Clemson lived with his mother-in-law in Pendleton until he offered his services to the Confederate government in Richmond, Va., in May 1863 at age 55. Assigned to the Nitre and Mining Bureau, Trans-Mississippi Department, he worked in Louisiana and Texas. After the war, Thomas and Calhoun rejoined the family in Pendleton.

The Clemsons tried to help their neighbors, who faced poverty and fears about the future. Thomas joined the Pendleton Farmers' Society and served as vice president from 1867 to 1868 and president from 1868 to 1869. He encouraged the society to support an agricultural and mechanical college for South Carolina.

Thomas and Anna moved back to Fort Hill in 1872, despondent over the deaths of their two children, Floride and John Calhoun, who died the year before, only 17 days apart. Anna encouraged her husband to continue his dream of founding a college, and they decided to use the Fort Hill estate to establish the campus.





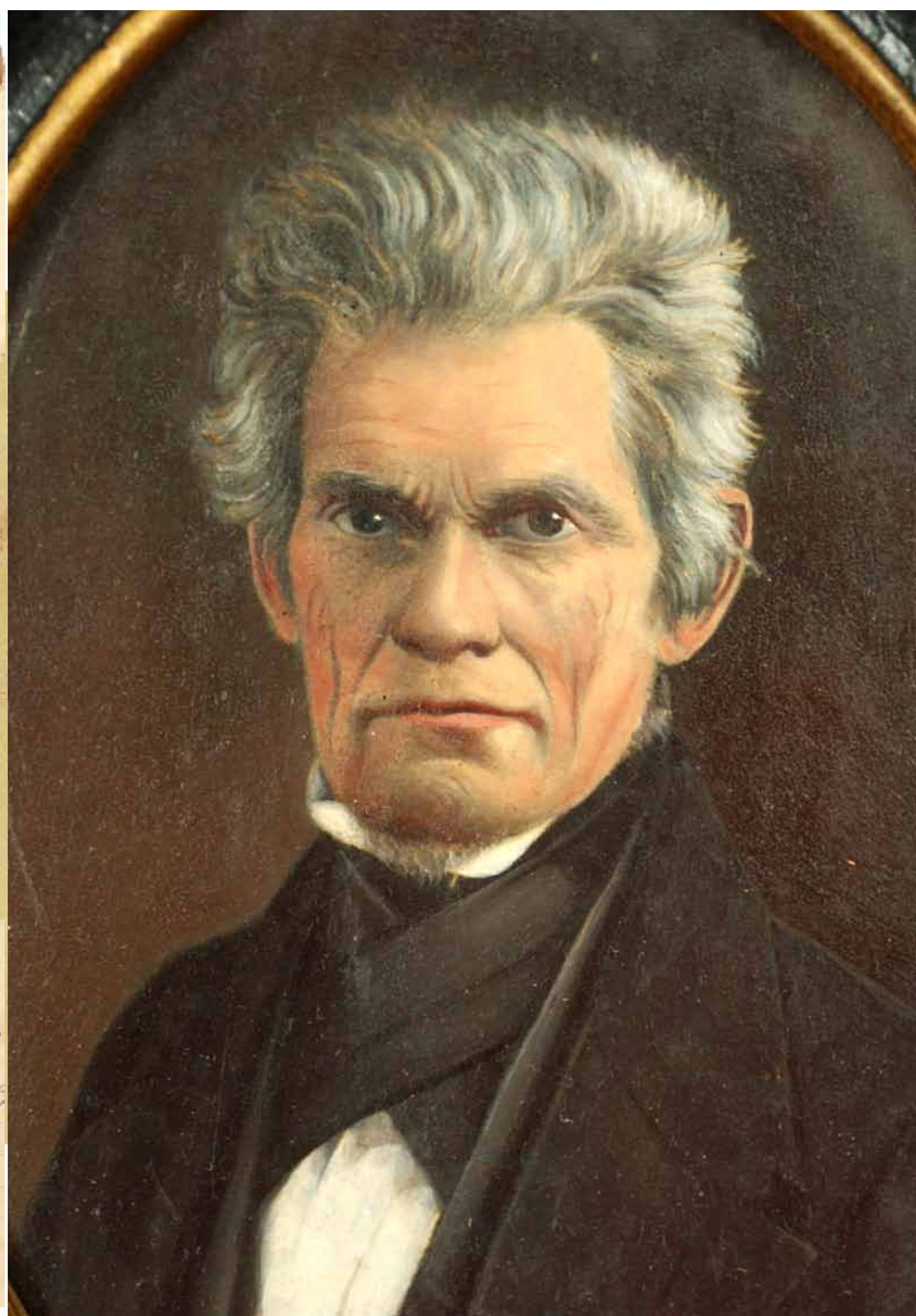
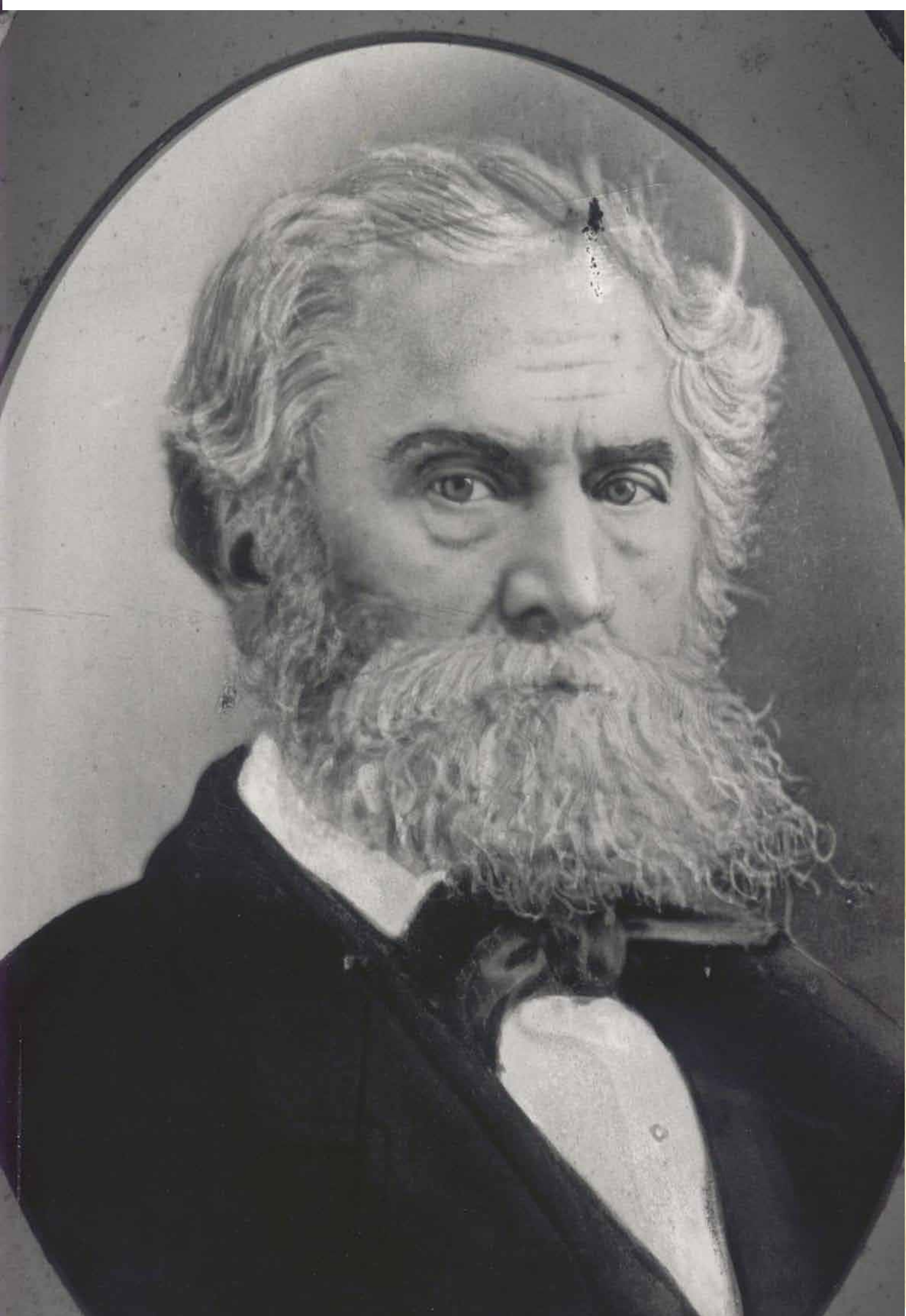
Thos. G. Clemson

THE VISIONARY

When Anna died of a heart attack at age 58 in 1875, she left the Fort Hill estate to her husband with the understanding that it would be used for the college they envisioned. Thomas Clemson continued to solicit support for a college and began formalizing his plans to leave Fort Hill to the state for the establishment of an agricultural institution.

In his later years, Clemson also worked to preserve the legacy of his father-in-law, John C. Calhoun. He commissioned a biography of Calhoun and opened the Fort Hill home to tourists interested in the S.C. statesman.

In addition, he managed the Fort Hill farm and his financial affairs, corresponding with several advisers. He also kept a regular correspondence with his granddaughter, Floride Elizabeth Lee, who lived in New York.





Thos. G. Clemson

FROM DREAM TO REALITY

Thomas Clemson died on April 6, 1888. His will gave to the state of South Carolina most of his estate, 814 acres of land and a considerable sum of personal assets, today valued at more than \$1,600,000, for the establishment of a “high seminary of learning.” The governor of South Carolina signed a bill in 1889 accepting these gifts according to Clemson’s will, and Clemson Agricultural College officially opened its doors to students in 1893.

