

T.G. CLEMSON

Thos. G. Clemson

SLAVERY, THE CONFEDERACY AND THOMAS GREEN CLEMSON

THOMAS CLEMSON: FROM PHILADELPHIA TO SOUTH CAROLINA PLANTATION

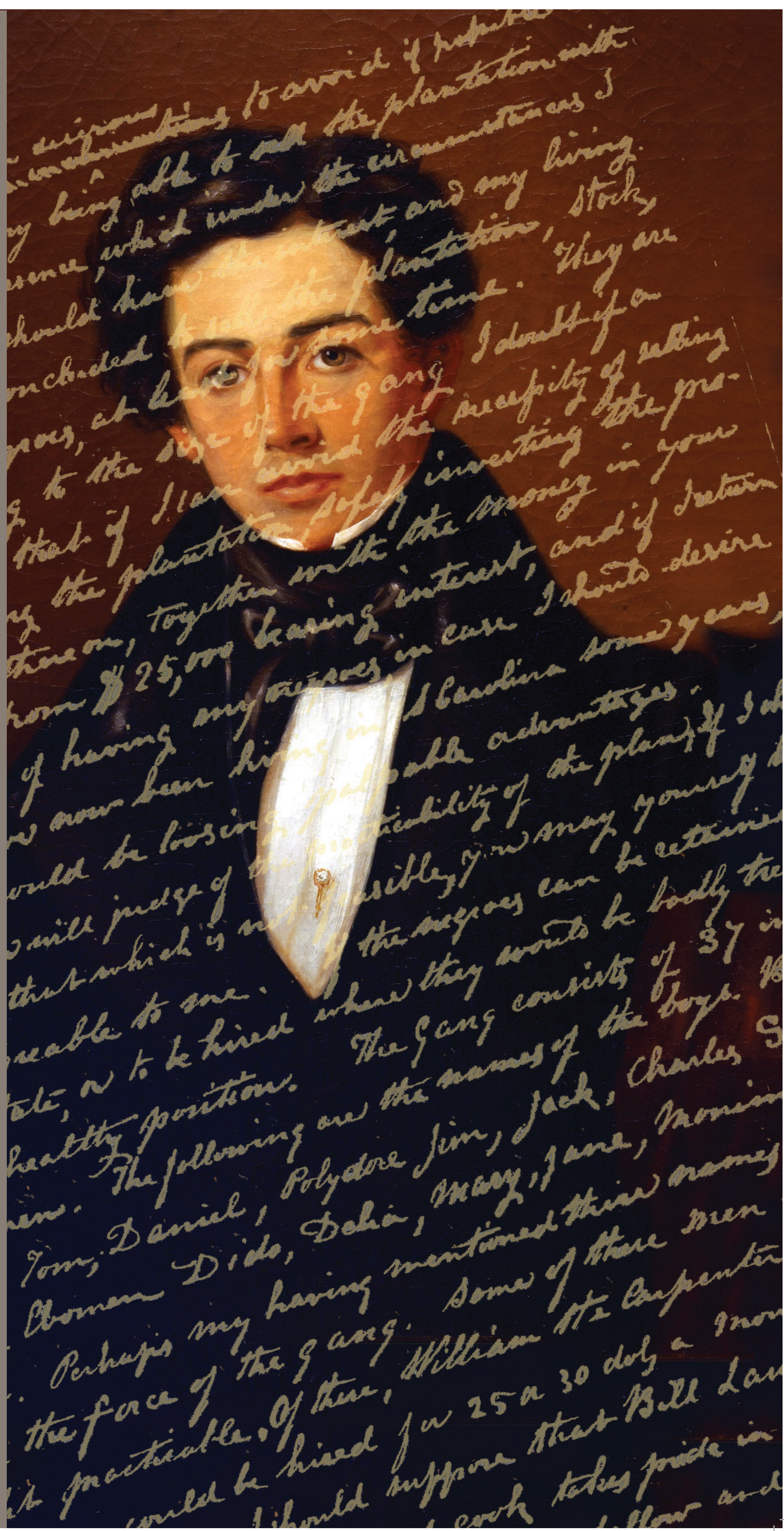
Thomas Green Clemson was a native of Philadelphia, one of the main hubs of the abolitionist movement of the 1800s, who eventually married into the large slaveholding family of John C. Calhoun.

Upon moving to Fort Hill as a newlywed, Clemson kept Calhoun apprised of crops, weather and illnesses of both family members and the enslaved. During his first winter at Fort Hill, Clemson detailed the Christmas celebrations of the enslaved community.

In 1843, Clemson bought the Canebrake property near present-day Saluda, S.C., and, at the encouragement of his father-in-law, purchased enslaved African-Americans from Anna's cousin John Ewing Calhoun, Jr. Later, Clemson purchased Charles, Spencer and Jack in Charleston for around \$1,700. William was the enslaved carpenter in charge of all work on the Clemsons' Canebrake home.

Clemson was an absentee planter at Canebrake due to his diplomatic post in Belgium. In his 1845 personal correspondence with his father-in-law, Clemson explained that 24 of his slaves were able to work and the other 13 were children. He shared the names of the enslaved adults, along with anecdotal information about their skills and other information he found pertinent in relation to their value. In those letters, Clemson would contemplate selling or renting the enslaved at Canebrake.

In 1850, Clemson sold Canebrake Plantation. At the time of the sale, Clemson had accumulated some 50 individuals as slaves.



T.G. CLEMSON

Thos. G. Clemson

SLAVERY, THE CONFEDERACY AND THOMAS GREEN CLEMSON

SCIENTIST SOLDIER LT. THOMAS G. CLEMSON — CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

Thomas Green Clemson enlisted in the Confederate Army on May 7, 1863, at the age of 54. He was assigned to the Army of the Trans-Mississippi Department prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.

His service with the Confederacy was as a scientist-soldier in charge of the nitrate mines in Arkansas and Texas. Those mines were used almost exclusively for the production of explosives in the war effort.

Clemson's son, John Calhoun Clemson, was also in the Trans-Mississippi Department as a captain when he was captured in Bolivar, Mississippi, on September 9, 1863. Calhoun Clemson was held in a prisoner-of-war camp at Johnson's Island on Lake Erie in Ohio.

Following the Civil War, Thomas Clemson was surrendered and paroled on June 9, 1865, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Nearly a year later, on May 18, 1866, Clemson was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.

