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Samuel Lowry Latimer, Jr. Papers - Accession 530

Samuel Lowry Latimer Jr.

The State

McDavid Horton

Ambrose E. Gonzales

Narciso Gener Gonzales

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Samuel Lowry Latimer Jr., The State, McDavid Horton, Ambrose E. Gonzales, Narciso Gener Gonzales, and William Elliott Gonzales



**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
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MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACCESSION 530

SAMUEL LOWRY LATIMER, JR. PAPERS

1928-1975

2 Boxes, 11 Folders

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACC. NO.: 530
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DATE: October 25, 1984
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SAMUEL LOWRY LATIMER, JR. PAPERS

I

The Samuel L. Latimer, Jr. papers were deposited with the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections by Mr. George W. Dunlap on October 3, 1983.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: .50 feet
Approximate number of pieces: 1000

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Scope and Content Note: **The personal papers of Samuel Lowry Latimer, Jr. (1891-1975) who was the Managing Editor of the *State* newspaper (1938-1961) and native of York, South Carolina. The papers include insurance, financial and tax records, various state-related pamphlets, photographs (mainly from *The State* newspaper) and postcards, and galley proofs of *Three Scores and Ten*, a history of *The State* written by Mr. Latimer (published in 1970 under the title *The Story of The State and the Gonzales Brothers*, see appendix #2). Also included are items of personal and business correspondence of Mr. Latimer and Major McDavid Horton (1884-1941) (editor of *The State* from 1938 to 1941), various personal items and memorabilia from Mr. Latimer's two trips abroad, newspaper clippings and articles relating to or published in *The State*, critiques of *The Story of The State and the Gonzales Brothers* done by Mrs. Albert D. (May) Oliphant, and several miscellaneous newspaper articles. One of the major subjects of the collection is founding of *The State* newspapers and the Gonzales Brothers. The Gonzales brothers are Narciso Gener Gonzales (1858-1903), Ambrose Elliott Gonzales (1857-1926), and William Gonzales (1866-1937) and the former two founded *The State* newspaper in Columbia, SC in 1891. Narciso would later be gunned down on January 15, 1903 (he died four days later) by James H. Tillman. James Tillman was Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina (and nephew of SC Senator Benjamin Tillman) and was a frequent target of criticism by the paper. Tillman would be acquitted by a jury despite many witnesses and received no punishment.**

Disposition of Items: "The World" removed on February 6 1985 to Oversize Collection.

II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

McDAVID HORTON (1884-1941)

To many South Carolinians today *The State* newspaper is a legacy. Since the first issue of 1891, it has reflected much of South Carolina's history in its pages and has revealed the opinions of many ages and men. Perhaps two of the greatest men to spend their lives working for *The State* were Major McDavid Horton and Dr. Samuel Lowry Latimer, Jr. These two men served in many capacities on the newspaper's staff, most notably as managing editors and editors. Together, Horton and Latimer provided sixty-nine years of able, capable service to *The State-Record* Company.

McDavid Horton was the fourth son of Eberle Roscoe and Laura McDavid Horton. Born on the 10th of March, 1884 in Liberty, S.C., he spent most of his middle years, but in 1903, at age 19, he entered Furman University. He transferred to Mercer University (Georgia) in 1904, where he completed his college career. Then on the 18th of July, 1904, McDavid Horton married Miss Sarah Flinn of Columbia. They had one daughter, Sallie, and were married for twenty-three years, until Sarah died suddenly in August, 1930.

Horton began his newspaper career as a reporter for the *Greenville News* in 1900. From there, he became editor of *The Columbia Record* and finally came to *The State* as city editor just prior to the outbreak of World War I. When the United States entered World War I, Horton enlisted in the army. He received training at the First Officer's Training camp, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and later at Fort Sill and Columbia's Camp Jackson. Assigned to the 316th Field Artillery of the 81st (Wildcat) Division, he served with the American forces in France until March, 1919 when he returned to the United States to work as chief assistant to Senator Nathaniel Banksdale Dial. After one year, he left Washington and returned to Anderson, S.C. to join his father and brother in business as an executive officer of the Anderson Gas and Utilities Company and the Anderson Real Estate and Investment Company. Even after his return to civilian life, Horton continued taking reserve military training during the summers and rose from the rank of captain to that of major. This was to continue throughout his career.

In 1922 McDavid Horton returned to *The State* as managing editor, succeeding W.W. Ball who went to work for the *Charleston News and Courier*. He served as managing editor until January, 1938 when he became editor upon the death of co-founder and then-editor, president and publisher William Gonzales. On the 18th of October, 1941 McDavid Horton's promising career was cut short when he died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Horton was known as an honest, fair, strong person and a capable and concerned employer. Always a "stickler" for accuracy, he took great care to guide the younger reporters and staff members. His successor, Samuel Latimer, was perhaps a better journalist because of Horton's influence.

Leslie Brown
HIS 316, Intern

II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA (cont.)

SAMUEL LOWRY LATIMER, JR. (1891-1975)

Samuel Lowry Latimer, Jr. was born on the 14th of November, 1891 in the small town of Yorkville (now York) S.C. to Samuel Lowry and Sallie Witherspoon Latimer. He grew up in Yorkville, attending school there until age fifteen, when he moved with his parents to the capitol, Columbia.

In 1907 Latimer discovered that he had enough credits to enter the University of South Carolina as a freshman, which he did, but was not able to advance to the rank of sophomore until the following September. It was then that he took the step that was to guide his life and influence so many other people. Responding to an advertisement in *The State* newspaper, he applied for a job there and was hired by Editor Frank C. Witherspoon as an office-boy for the paper's original office on Main Street. Latimer worked part-time in that job until he graduated from the University in 1915 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. (He later received a Doctorate of Letters from USC in 1948.)

After graduating from the University, Mr. Latimer returned to work for *The State*. His total career with the newspaper spanned fifty-four years. He served as a general reporter, sports writer and legislative reporter successively until the advent of World War I. When the United States entered the war in 1917, Latimer volunteered for service and was trained at the first Officer's Training Camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, from which he graduated in August, 1917. After spending about a year overseas with the 316th Field Artillery of the 81st (Wildcat) Division, Latimer was discharged in July, 1919.

Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Latimer resumed his duties with *The State*. Always a conscientious hard worker, he worked his way up from reporter, to sports editor, to news editor, then to city editor. In January, 1938, William E. Gonzales died and Latimer became the managing editor of *The State* in place of McDavid Horton, who was appointed editor. The two had begun to assume many of the duties of managing editor and editor, respectively, some time before Mr. Gonzales' death so, in actuality, the change was gradual.

Horton's tragic and premature death in 1941 precipitated Samuel Latimer's promotion to the position of editor, with John A. Montgomery succeeding Latimer as *The State's* managing editor. During the height of World War II in 1943, Latimer was made publisher of the newspaper in addition to being editor. He was to serve in this dual capacity until his retirement in 1961.

Under his leadership *The State* set a journalistic record by becoming the first South Carolina newspaper to register over 100,000 subscriptions. He continued to be an active member of the Board of Directors of *The State-Record Company* until 1970.

II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA (cont.)

SAMUEL LOWRY LATIMER, JR.

In his personal life, just as he did in his career, Samuel Lowry Latimer set precedents. Always concerned for people, he demonstrated his caring by serving many public-aide groups such as the National Commission on Chronic Illness, the South Carolina Crippled Children's Society and the Columbia chapter of the Salvation Army, of which he was the Chairman of the Board of Directors. An ardent Presbyterian, he was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia and a member of the Board of the Presbyterian Home of S.C. Latimer became Vice-Chairman of the Columbia Housing Authority in 1957. When he retired from that position in 1970, he was the Senior Public Housing Commissioner in the nation. As Columbia's Public Housing Commissioner, he did a great deal to upgrade the housing of the city's less advantaged citizens, replacing many run-down tenements with efficient low-cost housing.

Just as Latimer helped to upgrade housing in Columbia, he did a lot to better post-secondary education in South Carolina by serving in advisory capacities to several of its colleges and universities. Over the years he served on the Advisory Board of Presbyterian College and the Board of Counselors of Erskine College. The University of South Carolina also claimed Latimer as a trustee of the U.S.C. Educational Foundation and a member of its development board. With his help, the University acquired much of what now constitutes its main campus.

Over the years he won numerous awards and accolades. In 1949 he was appointed to the Pulitzer Prize Jury for journalism. When he left the jury in 1959, he had served longer than any other person in its history. Latimer was also South Carolina's official representative at the 1953 inauguration ceremonies of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, when Governor Tillman was unable to attend personally. In addition to his active duty in World War I, Latimer worked with the military as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the Third Army of the United States and was on the general staff of The Forty and Eight Military Order of the World Wars from 1947-1948. The years 1960 and 1963 saw him honored with the Association of the U.S. Army national certificate and the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal of the U.S. Army. The list of honors continues. The fact remains that, during his lifetime, he became perhaps one of the most significant men in South Carolina's long history.

When Mr. Latimer died on the 29th of September, 1975 in Columbia's Veterans Administration Hospital, some declared it the passing of an age. Latimer was the last of the "old-time" staff members of *The State*.

Leslie Brown
HIS 316, Intern

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
1	1	CORRESPONDENCE-SAMUEL L. LATIMER Includes chapter critiques of <i>Three Brothers: A History of The State</i> by Mrs. Albert Drane (May) Oliphant, business correspondence, and various items of personal correspondence.	1942-1975
1	2	CORRESPONDENCE-McDAVID HORTON Consists of business correspondence from various sources, one being W.W. Ball of the <i>Charleston News and Courier</i> and items of personal correspondence.	1928-1933, nd
1	3-4	<i>THE STATE</i> NEWSPAPER Includes various clippings from <i>The State</i> , articles and poetry sent for publication in <i>The State</i> , maps of the newspaper office (basic), and list of articles and comic strips included in the newspaper and the costs for running them, a copy of the Bulletin of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and a copy of the American Newspaper Guild Manual (1950).	1928-1965, nd
1	5	FINANCIAL PAPERS Includes correspondence from Boyle-Vaughn Agency (insurance company), statements of security account with Merrill Lynch, car repair bills, receipts and cancelled checks relating to a car accident, as well as bank statements for the Housing Authority of Columbia of which Mr. Latimer was acting chairperson, and various other minor financial papers.	1942, 1967-1973
2	6	PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS Includes photographs published in <i>The State</i> newspaper and various postcards and prints. For listing, see appendix #1.	nd
2	7	EUROPEAN TOURS Consists of a passport application, application for accreditation, departure and arrival schedules, itinerary information and general memorabilia from the Publishers and Editors tour of Western Europe in 1947, as well as various items of memorabilia from a tour of Scandinavia in June, 1970.	1947, 1970
2	8-10	<i>THREE BROTHERS: A HISTORY OF THE STATE</i> Consists of galley proofs and typed sheets of the manuscript, as well as a list of illustrations for the book.	1963

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
2	11	MISCELLANEOUS Consists of a memo book from 1968, a Confederate Memorial Literary Society membership card, brochures on Aiken, S.C. and the Lexington Water Company, several articles from the <i>N.Y. Times Magazine</i> and various incomplete typed articles.	1968, nd

APPENDIX #1

**PHOTOGRAPHS & POSTCARDS
(Box 2, Folder 6)**

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Margaret Cornwall – Delegate to the National Zeta Tau Alpha Convention in Pasadena, California-Chester, S.C.
2. Mrs. Julian Dusenbury – Delegate to the Democratic National Convention, June, 1932.
3. Major General Johnson Hagood – Commander, 4th Army, Pacific and Northwest coasts, 1932.
4. Colonel William Curry Harllee, U.S.M.C. – author of *Kinfolks* – Dillon County, S.C. (photograph, print, and print plate)
5. Samuel Lowry Latimer and second image of a balcony and mountain range labeled “Mr. Latimer”
6. Lander Queen (?)
7. H.K. Job – “The Birdman”
8. Grace Limpkin – author of *To Make My Bread*
9. W.M. Manning (pilot?)
10. Clarice McLendon – Timmons ville, S.C.
11. Brigadier General Perry L. Miles, U.S.A. – Commander of the 31st Infantry, WWI 1932.
12. Governor Benjamin Meek Miller – Alabama
13. _____Morgenthau
14. T. Gilbert Pearson, L.L.D. – President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City, 1930.
15. Daniel C. Roper – Secretary of Commerce
16. Miss _____ Redmond
17. Isobel Smith – daughter of Senator Ellison D. Smith, Washington, D.C.
18. Isabel Guy Witherspoon – graduate of Winthrop University, 1930. Clinton, S.C.

APPENDIX #1 (cont.)

**PHOTOGRAPHS & POSTCARDS
(Box2, Folder 6)**

- 19. Oscar H. Wilson – Commissioner of an American Legion Post.
- 20. Ellen Tarrant Woods – Lynchburg, S.C.

WEDDING PICTURES

- 21. Lieutenant & Mrs. John A. Hollowell (Doris Gasque)
- 22. Mrs. S.A. Lee, 17 November, 1929
- 23. Mrs. C.M. Marshall, Jr.
- 24. Mrs. Angus Guy McGinnis (Caroline Douglas) – Crawfordville, GA.
- 25. Miss Millie Zimmerman

LOCATIONS

- 26. Memorial Auditorium (Byrnes) - Winthrop University.
- 27. Entrance to the Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary – Oyster Bay, R.I.
- 28. Methodist Church
- 29. Airfield, Hartsville, S.C.
- 30. Belle Isle Plantation – Georgetown, S.C.
- 31. Marion, S.C. – Rainbow float in Shrine Parade.

GROUP PICTURES

- 32. State House – Gov. and Mrs. James F. Byrnes, Harry Fair, Grace Annette Dupre
- 33. Winners of the first state cotton contest with Extension Service officials and William E. Gonzales (editor and president of *The State*) – B.R. Smith, Edgefield, Dr. W.W. Long, director of the Clemson Extension Service, William E. Gonzales, George T. Swearingen, Trenton, E.M. Arant, Pageland, Jesse Adams, McColl, John L. Everett, Jr., Bennettsville, Jasper Fletcher, McColl, D.W. Watkins, Assistant director of the extension service program, Clemson College.

APPENDIX #1 (cont.)

**PHOTOGRAPHS & POSTCARDS
(Box 2, Folder 6)**

POST CARDS

34. New High School
35. In the Pines – Home of Judge C.A. Woods
36. Marion Public Library
37. Hotel Marion – opened on Tuesday, 12 May, 19__
38. Marion National Bank
39. “Rainbow” Theatre
40. Marion’s Post Office
41. Marion at junction of Main and Godbold streets
42. Aiken, S.C. – postcard packet

MISCELLANEOUS

43. Corporal Donald L. Truesdale – Non – Commissioned Marine Corps officer who served in the Guardia National, decorated for bravery in Nicaragua.
44. Smallest broadcasting generator room in the world.
45. Tee Forest Park – construction of the rearing pools.
46. Antelope herd at a water hole on the Charles Sheldon Wild Life Refuge, N.W. Nevada.
47. Copy of one of the illustrations from “Black Genesis” by Samuel Gaillard Stoney and Gertrude Matthews Shelby.
48. Harry Ogden – copy of sketch entitled “South Carolina – The November Election – The Deadlock in the State Legislature at Columbia.”
49. Prints of the Gonzales brothers – Ambrose Elliott, Narciso Gener, and William Elliott Gonzales.
50. Silhouette by Carew Rice to McDavid Horton (1933).

APPENDIX #1 (cont.)

**PHOTOGRAPHS & POSTCARDS
(Box 1, Folder 6)**

51. Lucy Kirkland (June 19, 1933)
52. Mr. and Mrs. King
53. Salley
54. Miss Grace Summer (sp.?), United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), December 5, 1929.
55. Benet Godfrey, Senior Music Club
56. Riggs Hall, Engineering Building, Clemson College (Printing Block)
57. Grantland Rice (Printing Block)
58. Unknown Bridge with Steamer Ship passing underneath.

APPENDIX #2

MISCELLANEOUS

The following are some of the changes made in *Three Scores and Ten* when it was published as *The Story of The State and the Gonzales Brothers* in 1970:

1. Chapter 7, to be put in the Appendix, was changed to Chapter 53.
2. Part of Chapter 9 was incorporated into Chapter 8.
3. Chapter 10 was made Chapter 9.
4. Chapter 50 – “Sports in Columbia” was left out.
5. Chapter 57 was also left out.
6. Chapter 61 was made Chapter 54.