

THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

JULY 1968

VOLUME 69

NUMBER 3



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THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

## CONTENTS

Articles:	PAGE
Two Charlestonians in Pursuit of Truth: The Grimké Brothers, by Adrienne Koch . . . . .	159
A Family Crisis: Letters from John Faucheraud Grimké and Thomas Smith Grimké to Henry Grimké, 1818, edited by Adrienne Koch . . . . .	171
A Lucas Memorandum . . . . .	193
Jeffersonian Republicanism in William Ioor's <i>Independence</i> , The First Play of South Carolina, by Charles S. Watson . . . .	194
The Schirmer Diary . . . . .	204
Reviews:	
Moore, <i>Research Material in South Carolina, a Guide compiled and edited for the South Carolina State Library Board</i> , by R. K. Ackerman . . . . .	209
Lefler, <i>A New Voyage to Carolina by John Lawson</i> , by Joseph I. Waring . . . . .	209
Lutnick, <i>The American Revolution and the British Press, 1775- 1783</i> , by Murray S. Downs . . . . .	210
Hemphill, <i>The Papers of John C. Calhoun</i> , Volume III (1818- 1819), by Walter Bellingrath Edgar . . . . .	211
Waring, <i>A History of Medicine in South Carolina, 1825-1900</i> , by J. Hampton Hoch . . . . .	212
Notes . . . . .	214
Archives News . . . . .	219

## A LUCAS MEMORANDUM

Among the Lucas Papers recently presented to the Society is one sheet which contains the following notes. Apparently a descendant, a grandson of Jonathan Lucas, Sr., tried to record what he could remember about the rice mills built by the first and second Jonathan Lucases.

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The first water mill built by Jona. Lucas Sr. was in the year 1787 for Mr. Bowman for Beating rice on a reserve or back water at his Peach Island Plantation on the Santee River.<sup>1</sup>

The next on the same river was on the Reserve at Washo Plantation for Mrs. Middleton afterwards Mrs. Gen. T. Pinckney.

About the same time or soon after a water mill was put up on a Reserve on Winyaw bay for Gen. Peter Horry, also for Col. William Alston on the Reserve of his Fairfield Plantation on the Waccamaw River.

In the year 1791 & 2 he Built on Santee the first Tide Mill for Mr. Andrew Johnston, on his Millbrook Plantation. A year or two after erected on Cooper River an improved tide Mill with Rolling Screens, Elevators, & Puckers for Henry Laurens at Mepkin Plantation.<sup>2</sup> The first Brushing screen was put into the first Toll Mill built by Jona. Lucas Son Jona. at Middleburg on Cooper River 1801 who also built a Tide Mill on Ashley River. After this he went to England 1822 & Built Mills in London & Liverpool & died there. His Son Jona. Shipped rice in the Rough to him—other Mills sprang up in Europe & Egypt. I John grandson of Jona. Lucas Sr. assisted dressing the Mill Stones for Egypt. Most of the work being done in Charleston the Miller Price Bee from Chlstrn went out to run the Mill Remained many years & returned. Jona. & Son J. Built many mills & also his son William Built many mills about the Country. I will Mention a few that Jona. [built]: one on James Island opp city, some on Ashpoo & Combee—

He also Jona. Lucas Sr. built a wind saw mill on Hog Island & after a Rice Tide Mill on Haddrell Point—opp city Charleston. He also Built a wind mill on Cape Romain saw wind mill—Brick.

He also Built of Brick a Wind Saw mill in Charleston west End of Beaufain St. I threw it down for Bricks & situation.

<sup>1</sup> John Bowman, son-in-law of Thomas Lynch (d. 1776), owned 293 slaves and planted on the North Santee. *Heads of Families, 1790*, p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> Henry Laurens, Jr.

JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICANISM IN WILLIAM IOOR'S  
INDEPENDENCE, THE FIRST PLAY OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLES S. WATSON \*

William Ioor was the first native of South Carolina to compose a play and was among the very first dramatists in the South. Robert Munford of Virginia holds the best claim as first dramatist of the South. His two comedies were written before the Revolution and published in 1798, but so far as is known did not reach the stage.<sup>1</sup> Ioor, whose two plays were performed initially in 1805 and 1807, is the next dramatist of any note to appear in the South.

During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, a group of Charleston dramatists, which included Ioor, composed the first substantial body of drama in the South. Their importance has attracted some, but not adequate, scholarly attention. Arthur Hobson Quinn discussed their work in his *History of the American Drama* and wrote that "the work of the Charleston group has a real significance and at times an actual merit."<sup>2</sup> Besides Ioor, the other principal members were John Blake White, author of five plays, three of which were staged, and Isaac Harby, who composed two dramas, both performed. The composition of plays for the local theatre by native South Carolinians now appears the climax to a century of active theatrical life in Charleston.<sup>3</sup> It coincided with the years when this city ranked as one of the four theatrical centers of the United States, from 1800 to 1825.<sup>4</sup> Following this period, writing for the stage declined in Charleston.

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<sup>1</sup> See Jay B. Hubbell's chapter on Munford in *The South in American Literature* (Durham, N. C., 1954), pp. 142-148. Anthony Aston, a visitor, wrote a "play on the subject of the country" in Charleston in 1703. O. G. Sonneck, *Early Opera in America* (New York, 1915), p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> *A History of the American Drama from the Beginning to the Civil War* (New York, 1943), p. 198. For comments on the Charleston group, see Quinn, pp. 155, 187-193; W. Stanley Hoole, *The Ante-bellum Charleston Theatre* (Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1946), pp. xviii, 8; and Edd Winfield Parks, *Segments of Southern Thought* (Athens, Ga., 1933), pp. 140-141.

<sup>3</sup> For a history of the early Charleston theatre, see Eola Willis, *The Charleston Stage in the XVIII Century* (Columbia, 1924).

<sup>4</sup> Glenn Hughes, *A History of the American Theatre, 1700-1950* (New York, 1951), p. 90.