



The 1897 football team, dubbed “state champions” for that season, posed with Coach Walter Merritt Riggs (at center with the boutonnière on his lapel), a man identified only as Coach Williams to Riggs’s left, and chief referee and Coach Randolph T. V. Bowman on the back row at the extreme left. Observe the nose guard suspended around some players’ necks. Also note the “tiger” striped hose on at least six players and the heavier skin-protecting leggings on one and one-half players. A keen eye will observe the melon-shaped football being cradled. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

CHAPTER VI

First Walkout

1897–1902

The 1897 school year opened in the autumn with a new September-to-June school calendar in effect, which the trustees had adopted in the early winter of 1897. A total of 449 students—some fitting school students, a few special students, twelve in the two-year agriculture program, and twenty-one postgraduates—made up the student body. Most were from South Carolina, but six came from North Carolina, five from Georgia, and one each from Tennessee, Florida, and the District of Columbia. Clemson's first foreign student, E. Ferreta, had arrived from Rome, Italy, a year earlier, so almost from its opening, Clemson had students from other cultures. This was the second largest class in the school's five years, surpassed only by the 635 who entered the second year.¹

The Faculty

The trustees had not yet selected Clemson's third president, so Mark Hardin, the head of chemistry and the acting president for five weeks, greeted the students. The trustees returned on September 15, 1897, and the next day elected Henry Simms Hartzog as Clemson's new president, freeing Hardin to return to his chemistry laboratory.² Born in 1866, Hartzog was only thirty-one years of age. The son of a prosperous farmer in Bamberg, he studied in local schools before he won the county scholarship to the South Carolina Military Academy (the Citadel), where he studied mathematics and civil engineering. No doubt the trustees were delighted to have selected a South Carolinian with an agricultural background and solid technological training. After his graduation, Hartzog taught in public schools, served as principal of Allendale High School, and then on the urging of the young lady he was court-



Henry Simms Hartzog, the third president of Clemson College from 1897 to 1902. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

ing, he enrolled in Southern Baptist Seminary (Louisville, Kentucky). He received the bachelor of divinity degree in 1889, and in 1891, he married Cornelia Harley with whom he had six sons. For the Clemson trustees, Hartzog's connections with the state's public schools, particularly the secondary schools, was a bonus.³ Both B. R. Tillman and M. L. Donaldson, who approved of his agricultural, engineering, and military background, backed Hartzog's selection for the presidency.

Other new faculty joining the Clemson contingent in 1897 included J. S. Newman, who had been Clemson's first agriculture professor in 1891. While his return emphasized the break in agricultural programming during the Craighead administration, it actually resulted from the death of William L. McGee. McGee had been elevated to the rank of professor of agriculture in February 1896 at age thirty-six. Eight months later, while demonstrating a new corn husking and shucking machine to the agriculture seniors, he was caught in the machinery and so badly injured that he died four hours later.⁴ The next year at Hartzog's request, Bowman carved a memorial tablet in McGee's memory and a second tablet remembering Strode. These marble pieces were placed in the Memorial Chapel. Perhaps this placement is the answer to the earlier question asking for whom or to what this memorial is dedicated.⁵

With the forced resignation of the physics instructor and the movement of its teaching into the engineering program, Capt. Ezra B. Fuller (USMA), professor of military science, began teaching physics. The trustees were ecstatic. Because the Department of War paid much of his salary and covered his housing, Fuller's pay from the college amounted to much less than a full stipend. By surviving accounts, Fuller was an excellent physics teacher. An assistant professor, P. T. Brodie, a mathematician who had earlier served as principal of Lexington's high school, joined Fuller in the strengthened engineering program. Brodie's undergraduate education had been at Furman University, and he had done advanced work at the University of Virginia.

J. G. Clinkscales taught mathematics. Like W. S. Morrison, he was an alumnus of Wofford College. Four young men served as tutors or assistant instructors: Gus Shanklin, a graduate of the South Carolina Military Academy, in mathematics; Rudolph Lee, the assistant instructor in drawing; and Williston Klugh and LeRoy Werts, both general tutors. Lee, Klugh, and Werts all had graduated from Clemson in December 1896. Werts stayed a very short period, but Klugh and Lee both spent the greater part of their professional careers at Clemson.

During Hartzog's administration, the number of faculty with advanced degrees increased. By Hartzog's last year, the college's thirty-six faculty (including the president) held the following degrees: Twenty had finished their schooling with a single baccalaureate, five held two or more baccalaureates, six held master's degrees, and four had doctorates (one medic who taught hygiene, one veterinarian teaching veterinary medicine, and two doctorates of philosophy). Richard

Brackett's PhD was in chemistry, and A. P. Anderson held his in entomology from the University of Munich. In this regard, Clemson's faculty began moving away from intellectual insularity.

Another view of the changing faculty is to look at the locale of the final institution from which a faculty member graduated before coming to Clemson to teach. One studied in Europe and thirty-two in the United States, of which nine were not from the South. Seventeen were from South Carolina, including seven who were Clemson alumni. The faculty, therefore, remained heavily provincial. The roster of the South Carolina-educated men formed the teaching backbone of the school for decades.⁶

The Trustees

The trustees remained too close to the college and too quick to involve themselves personally and individually in the workings of the school. Occasionally, a trustee's position bordered on the presumptuous. For example, Senator Tillman, when prevented from attending a trustees' meeting by governmental obligation, telegraphed Board President Simpson that because he was unable to be present, he would send the governor in his place. The other trustees, prior to the arrival of the proxy, drafted a reply informing Tillman that he did not hold his position *ex officio*, but rather in his person, for which absence no proxy privilege existed. When the governor arrived at the meeting, he was welcomed as a guest and cordially asked to address the others. After his impromptu speech, which the board applauded and Simpson commented on, the governor was thanked and excused.⁷

The brief slump in school popularity turned around when the school year opened. In part, however, that resulted from the planned calendar transition. Nonetheless, the trustees worried about overcrowding in the barracks, as the college had to resort to three-man rooms again. The trustees had received a report from the State Board of Health calling attention to a statement from "eminent physicians in neighboring counties," which claimed that the college dairy was the locus of a fever the Board of Health had pronounced as malarial. Part of the problem, the health board members suggested, was that the dairy barn sat on a filled-in pond into which fouled water from the toilets was leaching.

The trustees had been worried about student health, particularly during the summer, and had rearranged the calendar to avoid those pestilential months, partially on the advice of Dr. Redfern, the campus physician. Further, the board had asked Dr. Redfern to give the buildings and grounds a thorough inspection. His full report contained several recommendations. The first urged a major enlargement and retiling of the drain fields below the campus. The second suggested making improvements to the drainage, heating, and ventilation of the barracks. Part of the problem was the dumping of the slop bowls out of the barracks windows;

the implication was that these contained more than washing and shaving water. Upon hearing the report, the trustees directed Redfern, P. H. E. Sloan, himself an MD, and Hartzog, the new president of the college and a civil engineer, to carry out the reforms. Even while the trustees made the decision, they knew the cost would come from the fertilizer money, setting the date for construction of a second barracks further in the future.⁸

Although he had begun his trustee service in 1895 when he served as comptroller general of South Carolina, William Haselden Ellerbe of Marion County had been elected governor in 1896. A farmer and a merchant, he had been a member of the Farmers' Alliance, but his membership was suspended because of his mercantile interests. Although part of the Tillman political cadre, Ellerbe did not receive Tillman's endorsement for governor in 1894. His second term as governor ended prematurely with his death on June 2, 1899. Although more moderate and open than Tillman toward townsfolk, he was a rigid racial segregationist.⁹ His concern for cadet health led him to insist that the surgeon general of the U.S. Marine Hospital Service send an experienced sanitation engineer to inspect Clemson's water and sewage system. That was done, and the recommendations carefully followed.¹⁰

Textiles Added

In 1900, the general assembly elected Augustine T. Smythe of Charleston to serve as a Clemson trustee. Although Smythe was the first truly urban figure on the board, the latter could hardly have had a more acceptable person. His role in defending the will against the challenge of Gideon Lee, Mr. Clemson's son-in-law, had persuaded the Tillmanites to consider him an ally. Further, his involvement in the growing cotton mill industry won much favor in the Sandhills and the Upstate.

No industry was more acceptable to the white people of the Upstate than textiles. Prof. Stonewall Tompkins (mechanics and engineering), on the request of Trustee D. K. Norris, attended the board meeting on July 7, 1897, to make an "exhaustive argument on textile education."¹¹ At the September 15 meeting, a committee was charged to report on the advisability of the college entering into textile education and to report on the cost of constructing and equipping a textile building. Norris served as chair, and the three-man team received \$300 for its expenses.¹² The committee reported on March 2, 1898, that it favored establishing a textile program. On the same day, the board approved moving forward with construction of a building for it, although to get the ninth vote, a full poultry program also received support because it was the dream of Trustee Donaldson.¹³ At about the same time, Georgia Institute of Technology's (Georgia Tech) president, Lyman Hall, planned to create a similar program. The first to open would be the



Textiles Building as it appeared shortly after its construction. Notice that the right half of the building appears to be “missing,” due to the fact that it was originally a one-wing building. *Note:* the upper left-hand corner of this picture was torn off, so it has been digitally repaired, accounting for the cloudiness there. The glare from the building’s windows could not be removed to enhance the quality of the photo, however. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.



Textiles Building after the completion of its second wing in 1901, the look it retains to this day as Godfrey Hall. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

first in the South.¹⁴ Clemson had the advantage of the fertilizer tag sales revenue for building, equipping, and staffing. Further, the trustees did not have to seek outside approval. Therefore, when the trustees made the decision to establish the program, a contract could be signed with J. D. Elliott, an Upstate builder experienced in the construction of textile mills. Norris, who had built two successful textile mills, agreed to supervise the construction. Modeled after a typical textile mill, the two-story structure with walk-in ground floor was planned and built in two sections, the south wing and water tower first, and then, after the program began, the north wing.¹⁵

The first textile students began their textile studies as juniors in the summer of 1898, having moved from the engineering program. The curriculum, designed by Norris and William H. Boehm, the professor of mechanical and electrical engineering, enabled students to spend the first two years in engineering (later termed "mechanical engineering") before moving into textiles with its heavier chemical emphasis. Boehm had received his bachelor's degree from Rose Polytechnic Institute and his master's in mechanical engineering from Cornell University. The first textile faculty member, J. H. M. Beatty, had an undergraduate degree from South Carolina College and experience in the textile industry. He was joined by F. D. Frissell, a specialist in dyeing and weaving who had studied at the Philadelphia Textile Institute.¹⁶ Hartzog announced with no little pride in September 1898, "Today the doors of the first textile school in the South are thrown open to students."¹⁷

Needless to say, the Clemson announcement surprised Lyman Hall, the Georgia Tech president. He wrote Hartzog asking how the program opened so quickly. Hartzog's reply of October 8, 1898, was a model of barely concealed pride.¹⁸ During the spring, Georgia Tech announced its program; it opened with fifty-eight students and four faculty.¹⁹ The next year, the president of the Mississippi Agricultural College opened its textile building, which still remains on the campus.²⁰ However, by 1911, the Mississippi program had closed.²¹

On December 26, 1900, William Harrison Mauldin, a legislative trustee since January 10, 1894, died. When the general assembly convened in 1901, it selected Lawrence Andrew Sease as the replacement. Born in Lexington County in 1868 to J. R. N. and Frances Hook Sease, he received a strong education beginning in the Sease community rural school. Afterward, Sease studied engineering at Clemson and was a member of the first graduating class. From Clemson, he attended UVA for graduate work in English literature, after which he studied at Cornell. A devout Lutheran, he married Frances Leonora Hunter of Prosperity, where he taught until 1908. Sease was the first Clemson graduate to serve as a trustee upon his election on March 1, 1901.²²

Also Sease had become a close friend of Clemson English professor David Wistar Daniel, born in Mount Gallagher in 1867. Daniel did his undergraduate work at Wofford College, where he belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

After Wofford, he attended Vanderbilt and received an MA in English. He spent time as a public schoolteacher, and he also studied at the University of Chicago. At the time he joined the Clemson faculty in 1898, he was serving as the principal of the Central (South Carolina) High School. His first Clemson duties involved teaching in the preparatory school. In his many years at Clemson, Daniel had a marked influence on the cadets.²³

The third trustee chosen during the Hartzog administration was John Sam Garriss. He, like Sease, graduated from Clemson, but in agriculture in 1898. While at Clemson, Garriss wrote for the *Chronicle*, the college's first student publication. The magazine began as a record of the graduating class and a conveyor of Clemson news. The yearbook, *Taps*, grew out of it as did *The Tiger*, the weekly newspaper, eventually leaving the *Chronicle* as a literary and humor magazine. Garriss went from Clemson to Georgetown University, where he received a bachelor of laws degree in 1900. He moved from his home in Smoaks, Colleton County, to Spartanburg to practice law. At the time of his election as a trustee, he married Leila Small, also from Smoaks. Garriss died on March 28, 1903, and his body was returned to Smoaks for burial.²⁴

The Spanish-American War

The first American war after the founding of Clemson College was the conflict with Spain (April–August 12, 1898). A brewing issue for some time, the conflict erupted over the sinking of the *USS Maine* (February 15, 1898), which U.S. President William McKinley had sent to Havana, the capital city and major harbor of Spanish Cuba, during an independence uprising of the Cubans against Spain. McKinley said he sought to protect U.S. interests and U.S. citizens there. Young Clemson alumni, graduates, and cadets quickly offered to join the conflict. The War Department advised the young men to wait at home until called. Eventually, three 1896 graduates—Thomas S. Moorman (a lieutenant), I. M. Maulding, and George P. Boulware—along with other Clemson men—Newberry Comb, Marion B. Leech, Frank Parrott, Junious Parrott, J. Leland Kennedy, and J. W. Gray—saw service in the war. Others may have served, but none were reported as killed. After the war ended in December 1898, a number of young graduates worked in the former Spanish territories of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines as agricultural and engineering agents for the federal government. Others served in the armed forces in those islands.²⁵

Buildings

Demand for enrollment at Clemson continued to build²⁶ and was felt the most in the need for classroom buildings; enough money had accumulated from



Barracks Two, built in 1904 and torn down in 1954. The trees in front of the building are of note as well. They are magnolias planted by the Norris family in the late 1890s to commemorate the founding of the Textiles Department and the construction of the Textiles Building. They remain standing on Clemson's campus, in front of the Edgar A. Brown Student Union and Johnstone Hall, to this day. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

the fertilizer tag sales to begin construction of new buildings. Because of the ability to use federal Hatch funds for some agricultural buildings, the college added a small extension to the one-story wooden experiment station located where the Pendleton road divided (the location of Sikes Hall at present). The addition provided storage for back issues of extension bulletins. By April 1899, the college had also completed the veterinary hospital and teaching facility.²⁷

Early in 1900, the trustees designated \$3,000 to build a much-needed addition to the Chemistry Building. Willis F. Denny, an Atlanta architect, designed the wing. Denny broke with the Romanesque style of the older building and moved to the then-more-fashionable *beaux-arts* style. He retained the dusky red brick, however. The new space added five laboratory rooms for upper division classes and a lecture/demonstration laboratory hall that sat 200 cadets. It would open in 1901.²⁸ In addition, the demand for textiles was strong enough for the planned north wing of that building to be built within two years of the program's opening.²⁹

By then, too, the trustees felt financially secure enough to begin the much-needed new barracks. Senator Tillman proposed to start construction on April 2, 1901. For the board's decision, Secretary-Treasurer Sloan wrote for and received back written votes. That took forty-eight hours. (The college had one telephone line, which ran from Sloan's desk in the president's office to the Southern rail-

road depot in Calhoun.) As soon as Sloan had the votes in hand, the work began. Housing eighty-six rooms and more than 200 beds, the barracks was built by skilled craftsmen and laborers using convict-made brick. It opened fourteen months after the trustees had decided to build it.³⁰ Although that happened after Hartzog had left Clemson, the achievement of first getting the teaching space together before moving toward the obvious bed space was the work of a mind that kept priorities well in order.

At the same time, the trustees, anxious to preserve their record, “suggested” that the college have portraits of the original thirteen trustees painted and displayed. Their first choice for display was the chapel and second was the library, then located in the Main Building. The library already displayed Mr. Clemson’s thirty-four European oil paintings.³¹ There is no record of those portraits being executed, although a number of trustees or their families have presented portraits as gifts to the institution. During the 1930s, an artist subsidized by the federal government created a representation of the May 2, 1888, first meeting of the life trustees.³² Also the college received a portrait of Justin Morrill, once a representative and then U.S. senator from Vermont and author of the Land Grant Acts of 1862 and 1890.³³

In addition to the two new buildings and additions to other buildings, the empty clock eyes and silent belfry on the Main Building reminded all of the unfinished features of the young campus. The trustees asked Hartzog to investigate the cost. To fit the clock’s eyes, the faces had to be eight feet in diameter, and for



Cadets on parade in front of Main Building in 1899. Notice the eye of the clock tower covered by boards due to the inability of the Clemson College Board of Trustees to purchase a clock! Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

major use, a striking mechanism had to connect to a bell with sufficient audio power to be heard for a one-mile radius. Two firms bid. Seth Thomas Company bid \$635 and the Meneely Bell Company, \$500. For some reason, probably financial, the trustees did not order the clock, mechanism, and bell.³⁴ The wooden boards painted to resemble clock faces continued to fool visitors and serve as a running jest among the folks in the little hamlet forming to the north.

Community

While the campus provided space for housing most faculty, all students, and a few staff, the Calhoun Land Company owned most of the land directly north of the school. One of the hopes of the trustees in the first decade was to build a spur train line from the Southern line depot into the campus. It would pass between D. B. Sloan's store and the dentist's office, coming onto the campus and running alongside the Trustee House. By the time the fertilizer revenue had reached a level to support the venture, however, the price of land had escalated, and the trustees abandoned the notion.³⁵

Nonetheless, the trail that Riggs had followed to campus in 1896 began to attract businesses, homes, and other establishments. Mr. Clinkscales had built a livery stable slightly north of Sloan's general store, while a few steps farther, Leonard Keller had opened a men's store. Each played a significant role in the development of the community, but none became more of an institution than Keller's. Keller came to Clemson as a student in 1893. He brought with him a home-acquired talent as a tailor and quickly established a small barracks-housed business in alterations of cadet uniforms. Given the ages of the cadets (fifteen years and older) and remembering the rapid growth spurts of those years, one can only conclude that Cadet Keller was a busy young man. After he left the college, Keller opened the town shop. The commandant had called in a new student for not wearing his uniform, and the cadet responded that the uniform did not fit properly. The commandant ordered the young man to go to Keller's to be fitted and added that Keller would be the judge as to whether or not the uniform fit. The "Judge" title stuck, and over a hundred years later, students, faculty, staff, and townsfolk still refer to "Judge Keller's."³⁶

After the Presbyterians had settled in their church, the Episcopalians were next to build close to the college. While the college chapel, the place of daily services and Sunday morning worship, required attendance of all cadets (Sunday service was not required of Roman Catholic or Jewish students), and while most faculty and their families attended that service, both denominations were active close to the campus. The Presbyterian church had operated since 1895. For Episcopalians, the closest church was St. Paul's in Pendleton. Established in 1820, St. Paul's is said to be "the first entrance of the Episcopal Church into the

distinctly up-country of South Carolina.”³⁷ By 1893, the Rev. Mr. Octavius T. Porcher, rector of St. Paul’s, had begun holding services twice each month on Sunday afternoons in Fort Hill (then the mailing address of the college). On the first Sunday afternoon, service was in the convict stockade; Porcher held the third Sunday afternoon service in one of the finished parts of the Mechanical Hall. Two years later, Porcher also held services at Old Stone Church; the Presbyterians “kindly allowed its use for mission services,” the Episcopal bishop of South Carolina noted. By April 1899, the diocesan officers gave permission for property sale and purchase of a lot close to the campus. The building began, and on December 3, 1899, Bishop Ellison Capers of the Diocese of South Carolina consecrated the new chapel, called Holy Trinity. He wrote, “The Lord’s Table, made by Dr. McCollough and one of his grandsons, out of native woods, is one of the handsomest in the Diocese....” The chapel drew its permanent membership heavily from the faculty families who had attended St. Paul’s.³⁸ Certainly the unity of the primary mission to the students by the young congregations in the community gave rise to the comity of the religious meetinghouses of the town. And when the testimony the former Pendleton pastors and their wives gave in the *Lee v. Simpson* case is remembered, the ties to the college are certainly strong.

Students

During the years 1897–1902, student enrollment rose slowly from 449 to 500 (11 percent). With the new barracks nearly finished, Clemson’s future looked very bright. By this point, it was the largest state college in South Carolina, a position it held until World War II.

Hartzog continued the practice begun by Strode of handling the admissions correspondence personally. Students were admitted at any point before or during the first half of the academic term.³⁹ The student’s minimum age for admission also generated much correspondence, as Hartzog stayed firmly with the board’s minimum of fifteen years of age.⁴⁰

Eventually for the 1898–1899 school year, all places, some would say “beds,” at Clemson were filled, and no one else could be admitted.⁴¹ Of course, not all new enrollees had success at school. For example on September 15, 1898, a student was sent home as too “puny” to withstand the rigors of military life. But the military was not required of everyone. Exceptions could be made, but such students had to obtain housing separate from the barracks.⁴² And parents were quick to write the president. One wrote asking for directions from Crockerville (near Augusta, Georgia) to Fort Hill.⁴³ Another parent complained about hazing. Hartzog responded on September 22 that hazing was illegal and noted the student had not complained.⁴⁴ Hazing was practiced even if allegedly not known by the president.

Tuition and scholarships also occupied the president's time. Rather than attempt to determine at Clemson whether or not a student qualified for tuition remission by reason of parents' lack of means and resources, the determination was made locally by the county auditor.⁴⁵ Also, questions arose of course placement for students. Usually the entrance examinations determined this. But during the first week or two of the term, as achievement levels became clearer, students were moved in their classes, causing consternation for the parents.⁴⁶

The *Chronicle*, Clemson's first student publication, emerged as a monthly journal in October 1897 with Arthur Buist Bryan of Barnwell as the editor-in-chief. Its sponsors were the Calhoun, Columbian, and Palmetto literary societies, and the staff was drawn from the three. An effort to establish a student publication two years earlier had failed for lack of sufficient financial backing. However, the *Chronicle* was successful and would, for many years, appear irregularly. Funding came from a combination of advertising from merchants in the region and a few national firms and from student, faculty, and friends' subscriptions. Bryan, after his 1898 graduation in agriculture, went away to Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, for a bachelor of letters degree and then returned to teach initially in Clemson's Preparatory Department. He would teach English in Clemson's Academic Department from 1904 to 1918. Because of his excellent writing skills and his agricultural knowledge, he served as editor (and principal writer) of the Clemson Extension Service and the S.C. Agricultural Experiment Station. He retired in 1947.⁴⁷

Intercollegiate Sports

With no spring baseball season in 1897, the students had to wait until the autumn to renew rivalries on the football gridiron. Again, all games were played away from Clemson, and all but South Carolina were played out of state. Clemson lost two, the opener to Georgia and the contest with North Carolina, and won two, a game with the Charlotte (North Carolina) YMCA and the return clash with South Carolina. Clemson's team continued to call itself the Tigers but no longer had the colors red and blue. Perhaps these were too close to South Carolina's garnet and black. Whatever the reasons, the new colors chosen fluctuated among orange and gold for one color and purple and blue for the other. Accounts of the games for over a half century routinely referred to orange and purple or purple and gold. Orange and purple emerged as the more frequent combination.⁴⁸ The use of blue seemed a temporary solution to a problem with the hue instability of the available purple dye. Clemson won the four games with South Carolina between 1897 and 1900. No game was played in 1901; officials at both schools could not agree on the terms.⁴⁹

In 1899, the second year Walter Riggs coached the football team, the Clemson team won four matches, beating Davidson (the game was played in Rock Hill)

34–0, North Carolina State 24–0, and Georgia Tech 41–5 (the game was played in Greenville); the Tigers lost to Georgia and Auburn. The latter, a 34–0 drubbing, goaded Riggs to action. He talked with Hartzog about hiring a “professional” coach, a direction not always considered “gentlemanly.” He assured the president that the effort would cost nothing. After thought, Hartzog agreed, and Riggs proposed to the students, faculty, and community the formation of the Foot Ball Aid Association. After formation, the group named Riggs the hiring agent. Riggs tracked down John Heisman, whom Riggs had met in 1895, and convinced him to move to Clemson.⁵⁰

Born on October 23, 1869, in Cleveland, Ohio, Heisman grew up and learned football in Titusville, Pennsylvania. He studied law, receiving a two-year certificate from Brown University (1887–1889), then moved to the University of Pennsylvania, where he played football and graduated with a law degree in 1891. He coached football at Oberlin (1892, 1894) and Buchtel (1893, now the University of Akron). From Oberlin he went to Auburn, where he stayed five years, earning a 12–4–2 record. He accepted Riggs’s offer and arrived at Clemson in late spring 1900.



John W. Heisman (1869–1936), the legendary football coach, guided Clemson College’s football teams from 1900 to 1903. Photo taken from the 1903 edition of the *Clemson College Chronicle*.

His four-year record at Clemson was nothing short of spectacular. Clemson had an undefeated season in 1900, winning the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship. Led by captain J. Norman Walker of Appleton (Barnwell County), the Tigers played their second-ever home game, this against the Davidson Wildcats. They went on to defeat Wofford (21–0), South Carolina (51–0), Georgia (39–5), Virginia Tech (12–5), and Alabama (35–0).⁵¹ The Davidson game

was played on Bowman Field, the large parade ground so-named shortly after R. T. V. Bowman’s death.⁵² National rankings did not exist then, although Clemson was one of seven undefeated, untied college teams.⁵³ The 1901 season opened October 5 with a 122–0 rout of Guilford on Bowman Field. The one loss, to Virginia Tech, was in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In baseball, after Bowman’s final season in 1898, the next two years (1899: 4–3; 1900: 8–2) the Clemson team had no coach. So Heisman coached baseball the next three years, amassing a 28–6–1 (.814) record, the best multiyear coach’s record in Clemson history. Although most opposing teams were local, Cornell and Hobart both appeared on Clemson’s schedule.⁵⁴

Outreach

Clemson held its second graduation on February 9, 1898. Twenty-five men graduated. Several joined the faculty either immediately or after some additional study. J. H. Hook, who had majored in engineering, was asked to stay as the secretary and librarian of the agriculture experiment station. Much of his correspondence dealt with the bulletins sent “franked” (postage-free) to the newspapers of record and to farmers who had requested them. In 1897, the station issued eight bulletins, two by the veterinarian related to illnesses in horses, mules, and swine and a third on treatment of animal wounds. Hardin issued two bulletins on commercial fertilizers, while the chemist, F. S. Shiver, worked exclusively on sweet potatoes. Newman, who joined the staff during the year, provided instruction on improving worn soils. The fertilizer board examined an increase of 14 percent in fertilizer samples, indicating the economic depression of 1893 had retreated. That trend continued through the 1901–1902 school year. The growth also could be seen in the frequency of issuing bulletins. The titles rose from five to eight or nine each year. By 1901, the bulletins included information on experimentation and tests of rice, still a desired crop in the state’s low coastal region.

A second mode of outreach was through the experimental farm. Clemson had come under increasing pressure to open branch farms, usually referred to as “stations.” The most persistent requests came from the Charleston area, and particularly from the Agricultural Society of South Carolina (founded in Charleston in 1795), which wrote the U.S. commissioner of agriculture requesting the creation of an experiment station in Charleston County, specifically to study rice. The commissioner directed them to ask Clemson for help. Although the rice industry had partly revived after the Civil War, the cultivation of rice and the inefficient methods of harvesting it along with the labor costs rendered Carolina rice non-competitive with the Louisiana and Texas fields. Clemson agreed to help. Initially, the station was located on the outskirts of Charleston on the site of the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition (December 1, 1901, to June 20, 1902). Clemson Agricultural College had an exhibit on the exposition grounds (now Hampton Park and the Citadel campus), so that site became the South Carolina Experiment Station branch, the Coast Land Experiment Station. With W. G. Garrison as the new branch’s coordinator, tests began on producing crimson clover, field peas, millet, and Texas bluegrass. However, the site was smaller than needed, and the Agricultural Society and Garrison searched for a larger tract.⁵⁵

During the period 1896–1902, Clemson’s agricultural visits to many rural communities were very important. Clemson’s agents generally traveled by railway. The two major rail systems, the Southern and the Coastal, had links to miles of lines of local rail companies. For example, in 1899, 7,080 farmers with their spouses and their offspring attended Clemson-organized local institutes.⁵⁶ One

year later, the legislature passed and the governor signed the act giving the Clemson Board of Trustees the authority of a state entomology board. The trustees now found themselves in the vector biology business.⁵⁷

Cadets in Trouble

In spite of all intentions, the cadets, whose average age in 1900 was eighteen, could cause problems. Early conduct rules prohibited roughhousing, fighting, possessing alcohol, playing cards, gambling, or using any tobacco in the barracks. While almost all the rules reflected the moral (and in some cases, legal) tone of the white population of the Piedmont, tobacco use in barracks was a fire hazard. Outside the barracks, cadets could smoke pipes and cigars during their recreational time. Cigarettes were considered inappropriate for men (this is not to suggest that they *were* appropriate for women).⁵⁸

But adolescent and young adult male fighting happened everywhere in the country.⁵⁹ Clemson cadets were little different. Students disrespectful to the faculty were dismissed. In a literary society meeting, for example, one cadet “re-buked” another. A fight ensued, and the shamed student drew and opened his knife, threatening his verbal harasser. Other society members subdued them. The faculty suspended the knife-wielder for the remainder of the term. Still another student found drunk on campus was dismissed. All student discipline charges were brought to the faculty, who heard both sides (each with counsel if so chosen, selected by the students from the faculty, the military, or the cadets), asked questions, and then rendered an “opinion.” The “opinion” was sent to the president for final judgment and execution.⁶⁰ The president, in cases of suspension or dismissal, wrote the cadet’s parents an explanatory letter.

Some few cases of alleged academic dishonesty were handled the same way and were almost always initiated by a faculty member. That type of issue brought the 1901–1902 academic year to a confusing end. The winter session began with the theft of a turkey from Prof. W. S. Morrison’s poultry pen. The college charged a senior with the theft and tried him before the faculty, who found him guilty. Because the young man was scheduled to graduate, many of the seniors and some others petitioned the faculty, requesting leniency for him. Perhaps swayed by the pleas, the faculty vote, while confirming the guilt, did not have the necessary three-fourths vote to recommend dismissal, which was permanent dishonorable separation. The senior was thus suspended by the president and missed being eligible for June graduation.⁶¹ Other thefts occurred, and Hartzog and the trustees hired a private detective to ferret out the culprits. He had little success.

In this atmosphere, R. N. Brackett charged E. A. Thornwell with taking a test tube from the chemistry laboratory cabinet to his laboratory bench without permission, an issue of academic dishonesty. Hartzog saw the case as theft



Edward Allison Thornwell, the person whose disciplining resulted in the 1902 student walkout, as he appeared as a senior in the 1904 Clemson College annual, *The Oconeean*.

because Thornwell had not asked Brackett's permission to take the test tube anywhere. The faculty voted to suspend Thornwell for the remainder of the term. Both Brackett and Hardin, however, voted against the suspension.

Reaction was immediate. Student petitions noted that the practice engaged in by Thornwell had gone unpunished in the past, and that, wrong though Thornwell's action was, the punishment far exceeded the alleged offense. The faculty met on April 28, 1902, to consider a petition from the sophomore class to reinstate Thornwell. The faculty refused, and the next day sixty-nine of the seventy-four sophomores packed their bags and left Clemson by train. The seniors first and then the juniors and freshmen supported the sophomore action and prepared to depart.

Trustee President Simpson had two strong memories that seemed to inform him. The first was the negative correspondence that filled news-

papers (see Chapter V). But even more compelling was the uproar around the "Cantey affair" at the Citadel. Samuel O. Cantey, a Citadel cadet in 1898, had reported that five other cadets had broken garrison, which led to their suspension. Seventy other cadets attempted to force the student informant out of school.⁶² A near tragedy was averted when one faculty member, Col. Coward, barred the angry seventy from entering Cantey's room. Under advice from Coward, Cantey left the Citadel, staying first in a hotel in Charleston before going home to Summerton. But it took a squad of thirty Charleston policemen to restore order. The Citadel Board of Visitors was immediately summoned; Governor Ellerbe and Adjutant General Watts attended the meeting. The board decided to expel seventy-four of the cadets (eventually, the number dropped to sixty-four). Twenty additional cadets "announced their intention of withdrawing," which would have left about fifteen cadets in the Citadel.⁶³ The names and hometowns of the expelled students were published in a local newspaper.⁶⁴ The upperclassmen were given leave to reapply, but the first-year and second-year men were given no hope. Some of these applied to Clemson; Hartzog would not budge. Without an honorable discharge from the Citadel (or any other school), the applicants would not be accepted at Clemson.⁶⁵

Hartzog's role in Thornwell's suspension and the resulting walkout was less clear. On April 28, a sophomore delegation had visited Hartzog and asked to appeal the faculty decision. Hartzog replied that he would present the students'

petition to the board. Apparently, the students did not trust him, and the sophomores left campus. The trustees then met and heard the case, deciding to forgive Thornwell and reinstate the students who had left campus on the condition that they make up missed academic work.⁶⁶ Hartzog resigned, but the trustees refused to accept the resignation. Hartzog resigned again in June 1902 to accept the presidency of what is today the University of Arkansas, and Hardin again acted for a time as chief executive.⁶⁷

Mark Hardin had voted against the harsh penalty against Thornwell, so perhaps one reason for his selection as temporary president was his sense of mercy and fair dealing. As had happened earlier when Hardin had served as acting president between Craighead and Hartzog, little occurred during his 1902 tenure. He had a record of meticulous attention to the affairs of the college, and his membership in the American Chemical Society in 1876 and in the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, now the New York Academy of Sciences, added to his credibility. All these reasons may have motivated the trustees' confidence in him. In addition, from time to time during Hartzog's absence, he chaired the faculty meetings, which governed faculty support for the choice.⁶⁸

Hartzog's youth and inexperience, and certainly the close involvement of the trustees in the day-to-day operation of the college, produced some truly rough moments for Clemson College. However, the foundation of the textile program, which was Hartzog's great achievement, would become a driving force in the boom of the textile industry in the Midlands and Upstate.

Notes

1. Student statistics have been garnered from the annual Clemson *Record* and from the annual *Report of Board to the General Assembly*, 1897, 16, 17. Undergraduates who helped with the initial efforts were James Tyrell, Lindsay Tapp, Greg Miller, and Brian Parsons. History graduate student Paul Alexander Crunkleton carried out the final gathering, refinement, categorization, and graphing.
2. CUL.SC.CUA. S30 v 1, 166; and Pickens *People's Journal*, September 23, 1897.
3. Kohl, "A Youthful Administrator: Henry Simms Hartzog, 1897–1902," in *Tradition*, 52–67. Hartzog's family home is still standing just north of the Bamberg County seat and outside of Barnwell.
4. *Record*, 1895–1896.
5. *Report of Board to General Assembly*, 1897, 15. On the marble plaques, see *Chronicle*, vol. 2, no. 8, 346.
6. *Record*, 1897–1898; 1899–1900; and 1901–1902.
7. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 1, 102.
8. *Ibid.*, 175–180.
9. Andrew, "William Haselden Ellerbe," in *South Carolina Encyclopedia*, 295–296.
10. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 1, 181–182.
11. *Ibid.*, 175.
12. *Ibid.*, 188.
13. Doggett, "History of the Textiles Department at Clemson," an unpublished paper in CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f "Textile Education, 1890s–1920s."
14. Georgia Institute of Technology archives: Lyman Hall Papers, vol. 1, January 7, 1898.
15. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f "Godfrey Hall."

16. *Record*, 1899–1900, 7–8.
17. Gage, “A History of the Textile School of Clemson College,” *Textile History Review*, vol. 4, January 1963, no. 1.
18. CUL.SC.CUA. S 25 f 4.
19. Georgia Tech, *Announcements*, 1898–1899, 14.
20. Mississippi State University Archives: President John Hardy Correspondence, January 4, 1901.
21. Betterworth, *People’s University: The Centennial History of Mississippi State*, 88–89, 118–121.
22. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 ss I b 2 f 43; and S 30 ss I b 2 f 6.
23. *Ibid.*, S 6 f 6.
24. CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 140.
25. *The Tiger*, April 21, 1939; and CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 “Alumni, 1896–1909.” For an alumnus’ memory of the Philippines, see *Chronicle*, vol. 3, no. 1, 22–26. For a student’s pro-annexation of the Philippines, see same issue, 27–33.
26. *Report of the Board to the General Assembly*, 1901, 11; for example, see *Record* 1896 through 1900.
27. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 1, 205.
28. *Ibid.*, 214; and CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 272.
29. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 1, 214.
30. CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 244.
31. Hiott, “Thomas Green Clemson: Art Collector and Artist,” in *Thomas Green Clemson*, 187–222. Hiott has presented a study of the paintings and their travels from Europe to the United States and their movement from Maryland to Pennsylvania and then to South Carolina. He has reproduced Anna Calhoun Clemson’s catalog, indicating those that are missing. It is an excellent study of the taste of a nineteenth century European-educated gentleman.
32. Commissioned for the first purpose-built federal post office in 1940, it was removed when the federal post office moved to a second building in the town. Then it was moved to the main administrative building (Sikes Hall), where the Board of Trustees had its meeting room. However, the number of non-board members attending increased, causing the board to move its meetings, and the will-named life trustees Depression-art painting was moved again in 2002 to the newly renovated Hardin Hall.
33. Morrill’s portrait was moved from the Memorial Chapel when that facility was renovated in 1979–1980 and hung in Sikes Hall. At the moment, it is displayed in the entrance of Sikes Hall.
34. CUL.SC.CUA. S 25 f 1.
35. *Ibid.*, S 30 v 1, 219 and 230.
36. Leonard Keller Jr. to Farrell Brown.
37. Skardon, *A Brief Informal History of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Clemson, South Carolina, 1899–1999*, 1–10.
38. *Ibid.*
39. CUL.SC.CUA. S 25 b 2 ff 13, 27 and 37.
40. *Ibid.*, f 2, ff 2, 22, 23, 47, and S 3 f 28.
41. *Ibid.*, ff 41, 71, and 75.
42. *Ibid.*, f 4.
43. *Ibid.*, b 3 f 89.
44. *Ibid.*, b 2 f 100.
45. *Ibid.*, b 3 ff 93 and 98.
46. *Ibid.*, ff 218, 287, and 292.
47. *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, May 18, 1959.
48. Matthews, ed., *Clemson Foot Ball: An Historical Sketch of Football at Clemson College*, 31; and *Chronicle*, vol. 1, no. 2, 35 (orange and blue), vol. 2, no. 3, 166 (orange and purple).
49. Griffin, *Carolina vs Clemson: Clemson vs Carolina*, 23.
50. Matthews, *Clemson Foot Ball*, 55.
51. Bourret, *Clemson Football 2009*, 202.
52. *Record* 1898–1899, 14.
53. MacCambridge, *College Football Encyclopedia*, 1144.
54. Bourret, *Clemson Baseball 2010*, 176.

55. Murray, *This Our Land: The Story of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina*, 170–176.
56. *Record* 1900, 14.
57. *Ibid.*, 1901, 16.
58. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37.
59. Ballard, *Maroon and White: Mississippi State University*, 60; and Horowitz, *Campus Life: Undergraduate Cultures from the End of the Eighteenth Century to the Present*, 5 ff.
60. CUL.SC.CUA. S 36 b 25 f 10.
61. *Ibid.*, Bound Faculty Minutes, January 22–23, 1901.
62. *Charleston Evening Post*, April 5, 1898.
63. *Ibid.*, April 8, 1898. In his work, *Long Gray Lines*, Rod Andrew addresses the Cantey episode in detail on pages 68–69. I am indebted to him for his help with this entire project.
64. *Ibid.*, April 9, 1898.
65. CUL.SC.CUA. S 25 b 2 ff 2, 51, 83, 84, 149, 150, and 202.
66. Kohl, “A Youthful Administrator: Henry Simms Hartzog, 1897–1902,” in *Tradition*, 52–67. Kohl has done thorough research on the Hartzog administration, and his analysis is excellent.
67. CUL.SC.MSS 68 b 1 f 79.
68. Also see Bryan, *Clemson*, 64–67.