

Johnstone, Alan Papers

Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives

230 Kappa St.

Clemson, SC 29634

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Summary Information

Repository:	Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives
Creator:	Johnstone, Alan, 1849-1929
Title:	Alan Johnstone Papers
ID:	Mss.0266
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:	216
Date [inclusive]:	1891, 1896
Physical Description:	0.05 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Text [SCA00002319] [box]:	1
[folder]:	1
Abstract:	Convict labor was used to construct many of the first buildings on the Clemson College campus. Three pieces of correspondence from the 1890s discusses the labor force utilized for construction efforts.

Preferred Citation

When citing materials from manuscript collections and the University Archives, use the following format: Identification of the item, folder and box number, title of the collection, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, South Carolina.

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Biographical / Historical

Alan Johnstone, farmer, legislator, and leader in public affairs, was born in Newberry, S.C. on August 12, 1849. He was born the son of Job and Amelia De Walt Johnstone. In his youth he

was educated at Newberry Male Academy. Later he attended both Newberry College and the University of Virginia, but never received a degree on account of the chaos that the Civil War caused. Johnstone attempted to join the Confederate Army in 1865, but met returning soldiers in Greenville, S.C., after Lee's surrender.

Alan Johnstone was chosen as an elective member of the Clemson College Board of Trustees by the S.C. Legislature in 1890, and served in that capacity until 1894. In 1895 his peers elected him a life member. During his time as elective and life member, Johnstone was crucial in the establishment of Clemson College by his work on the building committee as well as help in establishing the Clemson College Agricultural Extension Service. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Clemson College on August 21, 1907. Johnstone served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1907-1909, and in the South Carolina State Senate from 1909-1928.

Alan Johnston's work with the building committee at Clemson College highlights some of the difficulties that were posed by financial matters. The final completion of buildings and facilities at Clemson College were hampered by a lack of funds, and this issue threatened to derail the timetable that had been set for classes to convene. The problem was dealt with by providing convict labor to complete the unfinished work.

Alan Johnstone died on January 5, 1929 and is buried in the Johnstone graveyard in Newberry, S.C.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains photocopies of letters to the South Carolina Attorney General concerning the use of convicts to construct Clemson College. A letter dated June 10, 1891 from Johnstone, a member of Clemson College's Board of Trustees, to Y.J. Pope; a letter dated, March 10, 1891 from W.J. Talbert, Superintendent of South Carolina Penitentiary to Pope; and a letter dated, April 14, 1896 from R.W. Simpson, President of Clemson College's Board of Trustees to W.A. Barber.

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Arrangement

Chronological.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC, 1987. Accession 87-127.

Existence and Location of Originals

Original documents, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223, USA

Processing Information

Processed by Carl Redd in 2004.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Convict labor -- South Carolina -- Clemson.

Reproduction Note

Photocopy. Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1987.

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