

Thos. G. Clemson
Anna C. Clemson

*"To establish an institution for teaching the Sciences and Arts...
I have been solicited again to use my feeble exertions to convert Fort Hill into
such a purpose, and thus save from desecration that beautiful hallowed spot.
The subject was first agitated by Mrs. Clemson and myself."*

Thomas Green Clemson
1807 - 1888

Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson
1817 - 1875



THOMAS GREEN CLEMSON

1807-1888

ANNA MARIA CALHOUN CLEMSON

1817-1875

Founded Clemson University

Thomas Green Clemson came to the foothills of South Carolina when, in 1838, he married Anna Maria Calhoun, daughter of Floride and John C. Calhoun.

In the post-Civil War days of 1865, Thomas Clemson looked upon a South that lay in economic ruin, once remarking, “This country is in wretched condition – no money and nothing to sell. Everyone is ruined, and those that can are leaving.”

Before Anna’s death, the Clemsons decided to leave most of their estate to be used to establish a college that would teach scientific agriculture and the mechanical arts to the young people of South Carolina. In Thomas Clemson’s will, he bequeathed the Fort Hill plantation and a considerable sum from his personal assets for the establishment of Clemson Agricultural College, which later became Clemson University.