

Archives and The Citadel

By THOMAS A. GROGG

The Citadel

THE CITADEL, the Military College of South Carolina, will commemorate its 125th anniversary in 1968. Rich in history and tradition, The Citadel holds an honored place in the esteem not only of the South but of the whole country. Its graduates have served and died in the country's armed forces in every war since the founding of the academy. The Citadel has survived pestilence, malaria, yellow fever, pirates, uprisings, earthquakes, hurricanes, and wars. The Civil War Centennial Commission in 1960 and Bruce Catton in 1961 confirmed that Citadel cadets began the hostilities in the Civil War when they fired on the *Star of the West*, the Federal ship attempting to supply Major Anderson's forces at Fort Sumter. South Carolinians have long accepted this incident as the opening of the war.

An outgrowth of an arsenal guard organized for the purpose of internal protection, The Citadel today is recognized throughout the Nation as an academic and military institution of high standing. The present academy furnishes "a complete and generous education: that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously all the offices of a citizen, both private and public, of peace and war"—this quotation from Milton appropriately describes today's institution. Citadel graduates have made outstanding contributions in both public and private fields, military and civilian. Although the vast majority of Citadel graduates are commissioned in the regular or reserve forces at the time when they receive their diplomas, an average of 25 percent of them are accepted in graduate or professional schools and over 10 percent receive fellowships, scholarships, or assistantships. Although for 2 consecutive years The Citadel has produced more Air Force officers than any other college in the United States except the Air Force Academy, it has contributed an even larger number of officers to the Army.

The Citadel Archives is a fund of information about the history of the institution. The need for establishing the Archives was seen when it was realized that valuable records were kept in boxes and old filing cases, in scattered locations, and that many files had been destroyed through negligence and ignorance of their value. Founded in 1965 when Gen. Mark W. Clark donated his papers to The Citadel, the Archives was formally opened on November 12, 1966. Some 60,000 manuscripts, 40,000 photographs, many movie films, tape recordings, newspapers and newspaper clippings, and artifacts are now included

In this case study Captain Grogg, Director of the Archives-Museum at The Citadel, explains the uses of archival and museum materials in planning an academic celebration.

in the collection. Records of past superintendents and presidents of The Citadel since 1890 have found a permanent home on its shelves. In the records of Superintendent Coward, 1890-1908, are many reminiscences of cadets who had been actively engaged in the Confederate forces and lists of Citadel graduates who served in all ranks, from private on up. Colonel Bond, in writing *The Story of The Citadel*, drew upon many of the records, now in the Archives, for his information. His papers, in turn, provide the distinguished histories of those who served in World War I.

When the Archives began in 1965, it was felt necessary to have a qualified archivist to work with the various collections. Under its current director the work has been completed on the General Clark papers, and progress is being made on cataloging the records and files of the past presidents' material—letters, photographs, and other papers belonging to Col. O. J. Bond, Col. Asbury Coward, Gen. Charles Sumnerall, and General Clark—and the papers of Citadel alumni. The Citadel Archives through the generosity of Bruce Catton has the original manuscripts of his works on the Civil War. Papers have been found and donated by alumni that shed light on many aspects of Citadel history and its graduates and on their roles in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II.

The Citadel Museum, when founded, was put under the direction of a qualified museum director. Under him and his successors, who also direct the Archives, it has developed its current high quality, made possible, of course, by the cooperation of the administration. The Cadet Museum Committee, composed of volunteers, contributes hundreds of hours each year to the care and advancement of the museum and is largely responsible for the museum's operation. Under the supervision of the director, committee members assist in such important operations as cataloging the collection, pursuing historical research, constructing exhibits, and cleaning and preserving articles in the collection. Included in the museum program are plans for a well-rounded collection, which features a complete series of Citadel uniforms from the time of the school's founding to the present, a representative collection of American military uniforms, including those of the Confederacy, a representative collection of American military weapons, and a collection of pictures and documents recording every aspect of Citadel history. Success of the museum program depends to a great extent upon the support of alumni and friends of The Citadel.

An attempt is being made to build a military archives and research center, mainly concerned with the European and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations in World War II and with the Korean Campaign. The Archives-Museum occupies the third floor of The Citadel Memorial Library Building, where the latest in techniques and equipment are being used for the preservation of documents, photographs, and the like. It

is more than adequately secured so that any restrictions placed on papers by the donors will be adhered to strictly.

A display room in the Archives, used to show items of interest to the Corps of Cadets and to the public, will be a truly valuable asset to the public and for American history. In the room is a large map, a photomural of a 1939 *National Geographic* map, depicting the movements of American forces in the European and Mediterranean Theaters. Here one hears General Clark's own narration, played by a tape recorder relay control system that activates the lights on the map in their proper sequence. This room, with its enclosed cases, also has valuable storage space for such acquisitions as have already been donated by General D'Orsa, Bishop Gribbin, and others.

The Archives will acquire the wartime papers of Gen. Hugh P. Harris, president of The Citadel, who served in Europe during World War II and later in Korea. There is an active, comprehensive campaign underway for acquiring papers of Citadel alumni, both military and civilian, and for the preservation of important Citadel records. The papers received thus far are preserved in archives boxes on steel shelving in an air-conditioned, dehumidified room. A research room, convenient to the records, is fully equipped to assist interested researchers.

Col. Wallace E. Anderson, academic dean of The Citadel and chairman of the college's Quasiquicentennial Committee, has said: "When we began planning our 125th anniversary commemoration, our thoughts immediately turned to our archives. We knew that The Citadel Archives would be an invaluable source of manuscripts, photographs, and facts that would influence every facet of the commemoration."

Early in the planning of the event Colonel Anderson and members of his committee consulted the writer, Director of the Archives-Museum, to arrange for the research necessary to support the commemoration. A prominent activity before the celebration will be the authenticating of materials to be used in the performance of a professionally produced historical pageant involving more than a thousand people. The Archives-Museum will also supply materials for the anniversary edition of *The Sphinx*, The Citadel yearbook, which dates back to 1900.

For the 125th anniversary of The Citadel the museum will have an exhibit, "The American Flag," on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, in which many items will illustrate the ardor engendered by the Civil War and the active role The Citadel played at that time. Cases for exhibiting documents are also being prepared by the Archives to signal the anniversary and to supplement permanent displays.

A college archives competes for available educational dollars. It must demonstrate a necessary function in the educational role of the college or perish. An anniversary celebration provides a rare opportunity to inform the public that an archives is not a frill but a vital part of the educational mission of the college.