

# Getting to know CLEMSON

Though thousands of people walk across Clemson's campus every day, few are aware of the richly complex story that has transformed the University's humble beginnings into the "high seminary of learning" Thomas Green Clemson once envisioned. Fueled by passionate leaders, this vision has seen tremendous change from its early days as a military college to one of today's top public universities.

From dealing with financial troubles and student unrest to restructuring the various colleges, history has ironically — yet predictably — repeated itself at Clemson. At the same time, each of its 16 presidents and ever-changing energy of its students have influenced the events that make Clemson University the remarkable institution it has become. While many significant happenings are recorded here on this timeline, it is important to realize Clemson's history is still being written.

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**1838**  
On a business trip to Washington, D.C., Clemson meets Anna Maria Calhoun, eldest daughter of South Carolina Sen. John C. Calhoun. Clemson later marries her in the parlor of her father's house, Fort Hill.



*"Where the Blue Ridge  
yawns its greatness.  
Where the Tigers play..."*

Thomas Green Clemson is born in Philadelphia, Penn.

Clemson College opens under the instruction of President Craighead and 15 faculty members.

Clemson cadets organize the first campus walk-out after a student is accused of stealing from a chemistry lab.

Graduate A.C. Corcoran writes the words to Clemson's Alma Mater, which are later put to an original music composition in 1949.

Dr. Rupert Fike (Class of 1908) suggests the founding of a booster club to support the college's football team. Requiring each member to pay 10 dollars a year, the organization becomes known as IPTAY.

Of the more than 6,000 Clemson students and alumni who serve in WWI, 373 are killed.

Clemson College discontinues its military system of discipline and welcomes its first female students to enroll full-time.

Under President Edwards, Clemson College gains university status in recognition of its expanding academics and research efforts.

Clemson's basketball team is put on a three-year probation for recruiting violations.

Ground is broken for the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

Budget cuts force Clemson to remove 450 employment positions, require five-day unpaid building projects and raise student tuition.

1807 1889 1893 1896 1902 1914 1919 1925 1934 1938 1941-45 1954 1955 1963 1964 1968 1975 1988 1991 1995 2008-09 2010

**1893**  
446 enrolled  
One year after Clemson's death, the South Carolina state legislature officially accepts Clemson's will, now housed in the Wallhalla Courthouse. Nov. 27 becomes known as Acceptance Day and is still celebrated each year.

The College competes in its first football game as Coach Walter Merritt Riggs leads the team to a victory over Furman. During this year the tiger is chosen as Clemson's mascot, an inspiration from Princeton — the best football team at the time.

**1902**  
1,007 enrolled  
The Clemson Cooperative Extension Service is established, a state requirement of all land-grant colleges.

Clemson College's Agricultural Building (later renamed Sikes Hall) burns and is rebuilt as a library.

Construction of Sistine Hall is completed, one of many campus buildings designed by Rudolph E. Lee, founder of Clemson's architecture program and member of the University's first graduating class (1896).

**1937**  
3,215 enrolled  
Because of close ties with S.C. Gov. James E. Byrnes, Hartwell, forcing the Army Corps of Engineers to abandon plans to flood parts of campus and instead build dikes regulating water levels.

Harvey B. Gantt enrolls at Clemson, becoming the college's first black student.

**1955**  
5,000 enrolled  
Construction is completed on Littlejohn Coliseum. The home of Tiger basketball is named in honor of James C. Littlejohn, alumnus and legendary business manager of the University.

The University begins its centennial birthday celebration 100 years after the death of founder Thomas Green Clemson.

**1974**  
10,000 enrolled  
After President Prince reduces the number of colleges from nine to four in 1994, President Curris expands it to the current five.

**1886**  
Clemson signs his will, outlining the establishment of Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina on his 814 acres of land surrounding Fort Hill.



"Running Down the Hill" is carried over from when the football team ran down to Riggs Field from its locker room in Godfrey Hall. Originally dressed in red and blue, the team later chose the colors orange and purple to differentiate itself from USC.



The ironwork decorating the stairwells in Sikes Hall still feature the letters C and L, remnants of the building's days as the campus library.

**1954**  
Johnstone Hall is erected, featuring a state-of-the-art construction method in which reinforced concrete slabs are lifted onto columns with hydraulic jacks. The dormitory is built to hold 2,200 men, the largest college residence in the United States at the time.

**1965**  
Gantt graduates in 1965 with honors in architecture and later serves two terms as mayor of Charlotte, N.C.

**1970**  
The Tiger Paw logo is adopted as the official symbol of Clemson athletics. Developed by Henderson Advertising in Greenville, S.C., it is based on the foot mold of a Bengal tiger from the St. Louis Zoo.



















**2005**  
Construction begins on the West Zone project of Clemson's football stadium, adding 2,000 seats, a museum and new football locker and training rooms to Death Valley.



A new flag, with elements representing teaching, research and extension service endeavors, is revealed in commemoration.

## PRESIDENTS of CLEMSON

Oversaw construction on campus with no students attending during his presidency.	Instructed an infirmity, headed by Arthur M. Redfern, to be built to attend to students' "mumps, colds and other slight ailments."	Helped start the textile department in Godfrey Hall, raising support from the State's growing cotton industry.	Expanded Clemson's fertilizer program, a vital revenue source, while serving as chairman of the chemistry department.	Worked to make Clemson one of the South's leading agricultural schools instead of focusing on the college's strict military discipline.	Discovered mess hall steward August "Shorty" Schillester stole tens of thousands of dollars from the College. Riggs dealt with the matter privately to protect the school's image.	Became the first living person to be honored by having a campus building bear his name.	Led Clemson through the Great Depression, expanding academic programs and securing federal funds for building projects.	Served as the University's first alumnus president (Class of 1916).	Oversaw the addition of 58 building projects during his presidency.	Helped officially establish Clemson's Gospel Choir in 1979.	Helped lead the Tiger football team to its first post-season victory, playing offensive guard.	Increased the University's endowment from \$4 million to more than \$100 million.	Donated his salary as president to the Clemson University Foundation.	Decentralized spending in order to give all departments, regardless of perceived importance, access to common University funds.	Once illegally chopped down his Christmas tree from Clemson's Experimental Forest.
															
Henry Aubrey Strode 1890 – 1893	Edwin Boone Craighead 1893 – 1897	Henry Simms Hartzog 1897 – 1902	Mark Bernard Hardin 1897, 1899, 1902	Patrick Hues Mell 1902 – 1910	Walter Merritt Riggs 1910 – 1924	Samuel Broadus Earle 1919 & 1924 – 1925	Enoch Walter Sikes 1925 – 1940	Robert Franklin Poole 1940 – 1958	Robert Cook Edwards 1958 – 1979	Bill Lee Atchley 1979 – 1985	Walter Thompson Cox 1985 – 1986	Archie Max Lennon 1986 – 1994	Philip Hunter Prince 1994 – 1995	Constantine William Curris 1995 – 1999	James Frazier Barker 1999 – Present