

LUCY PICKENS:
FIRST LADY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFEDERACY

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In Willowbrook Cemetery in Edgefield, South Carolina, amid tumbled-over crosses and rusted iron fences, is a neatly kept square containing the remains of Governor Francis W. Pickens and his family. In the corner, two rows from Pickens, lies his third wife, Lucy Holcombe Pickens, the same inscription on her concrete slab betraying the legends that live after her:

THIS STONE IS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF A BEATIFUL AND GRACIOUS LADY OF THE OLD SOUTH. SHE WAS THE WIFE OF FRANCIS WILKINSON PICKENS, THE WAR GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR 1860-1863. Beautiful in person, cultured in mind, patriotic in spirit, she was loved by all who knew her.

The legends say that Lucy, the beautiful daughter of a Texas family, was taken to White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, the elite resort, by her ambitious mother in pursuit of a husband. A widower, Colonel Pickens, had brought his two daughters there for a vacation and was enchanted by Lucy. She agreed to marry him if he would get himself appointed ambassador to Russia, and, as a friend of President Buchanan, he did so. They were married in Texas and traveled to Russia, where the young Mrs. Pickens so charmed the czar that she was moved into the Winter Palace at the Romanoff Court. Whispers even hint that her daughter born there was the czar's child.

When the South Carolina secession fever ran high, Pickens brought his wife and child home and was promptly elected governor. As popular in South Carolina as she had been in Russia, Mrs. Pickens had a regiment named in her honor, and her picture chosen for the Confederate hundred-dollar bill. After her husband's death in 1869 she lived another 30 years at their home, Edgewood, just north of Edgefield, where she entertained beautifully, despite the financial devastation of the South.

"The gossip will confirm the stories about her," said South Carolina author Elizabeth Boatwright Coker, who heard many of these tales in Edgefield years ago.¹ But most of the legends are false, and, with the gossip dispelled, Lucy Pickens emerges all the more fascinating. She was all the things her tombstone attributes to her and more. She was a talented writer and an energetic citizen of the South and the nation.

Lucy Petway Hunt Halcombe was born June 11, 1832, in LaGrange, Tennessee, an aristocratic but very small town in Fayette County, situated about six miles north of the Mississippi line and about fifty miles from Memphis and the Mississippi River.

After lunch President John B. Edmunds, USC-Spartanburg, convened the business meeting. He announced that the 1983 meetings would be held at Newberry College. Secretary-Treasurer A.V. Huff, Jr., Furman, presented the financial report and submitted the following slate of officers:

- President: Walter B. Edgar (University of South Carolina)
- Vice President: M. Foster Farley (Newberry)
- Secretary-Treasurer: A.V. Huff, Jr., (Furman)
- Editors of the **Proceedings**: Calvin Smith and Valdis O. Lumans (USC-Aiken)
- Executive Committee: Joseph T. Stukes (Francis Marion)

They were elected unanimously. Incoming President Edgar adjourned the session.

At a South Carolina session at 2:30 P.M. in the Jackson Library Ken Donovan, staff historian at Fortress Louisbourg in Nova Scotia, presented a paper on "John Saunders: A Loyalist Captain in South Carolina, 1780-1782." Robert S. Lambert, Clemson, presided and commented.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session the Association adjourned to Barret House, the home of former Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn. Mr. Dorn hosted a reception for the two associations to the delight of all.

A.V. Huff, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

She was the second of five children of Beverly LaFayette and Eugenia Dorthea Vaughn Hunt Halcombe.

Her Halcombe grandparents had been large landowners, owned fine race horses and had been known for their hospitality in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. But as farming declined there, they had to move with their son and two daughters and husbands to Fayette County. Grandmother Halcombe, a beautiful woman who was descended from Austrian royalty, adored Lucy. "There was never a sweeter child," she would say as she petted her.³

Lucy's mother wanted her two daughters to have an education so that they could be independent--forward thinking for the period. They attended LaGrange Female Academy and in the late 1840s went to the Moravian school in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Numerous letters of this period attest to Lucy's growing popularity.⁴

Beverly Holcombe, Lucy's six-foot-tall father,⁵ had prospered in Tennessee until he signed a bad loan for a friend and was forced in the late 1840's to move to Marshall, Texas, for a fresh start. The friend later recovered his finances and repaid Holcombe, who consequently in 1848 began construction of a large brick home surrounded with Greek Revival columns.⁶

The elegance of the Holcombe girls' early lives, despite the family's financial setbacks in Virginia and Tennessee, is evident by the jewelry seen in pictures of Lucy and her older sister, Anna Eliza; by silver in Lucy's possession bearing her mother's initials;⁷ and by the education the girls received. The family traveled up and down the Mississippi, frequently going to New Orleans, the nearest center of culture. From there they would send a bit of elegance, such as a rosewood piano, home to Texas.⁸

Lucy's mother kept a diary in which, when Lucy was 17, she wrote of being at the legislature meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, with her daughters "where all join me in thinking and expressing their admiration for two of the loveliest of their sex."⁹

That entry adds credence to what has been considered a romanticized version of Lucy's and her daughter's lives by General George F. Alford in a Chicago newspaper.¹⁰ Alford said when Lucy was visiting the family of Governor John A. Quitman¹¹ in Mississippi, "she captivated the entire state legislature and when she departed for New Orleans, the General Assembly adjourned and went with her. What he meant, a family history explains,¹² was that so many young Mississippi legislators escorted her to the dock when she departed for New Orleans that a quorum could not be found.

A love letter to her confirms she did visit with kinsmen in "Jackson or Vicksburg" and she did go from there to New Orleans,¹³ accompanied by her mother and probably her sister.¹⁴ The letter attests to her captivating charms in her

seventeenth year, but does not indicate that she returned affection for the mysterious source of the letter, a friend of her father's and, thus, perhaps older than she.

There are numerous references to Lucy being, "The rose of Texas,"¹⁵ the "reining belle of the South, known in New York and all the way from Washington to New Orleans."¹⁶ Occasionally she has been said to be the subject of the song "The Yellow Rose of Texas." It was written for minstrels prior to the Civil War and was very popular with the North and the South during the conflict. It is apt to have been played in honor to Lucy, but only the initials of the writer, "J.K.," remain, and its inspiration is unknown.¹⁷

Lucy had numerous admirers and suitors, including General Alford, who admitted he left Texas for California with the hope of striking gold and returning to marry Lucy. But apparently her heart was reserved for a "Lt. Crittenden," who was killed in an effort to free Cuba from Spain. While Lucy was in Jackson her family friends, Governor Quitman, entertained Narcisco Lopez and Jose Ambrosio Gonzales at the Governor's Mansion.¹⁸ It is probable that Lucy met Lopez, who wanted Quitman's help in freeing Cuba from Spanish rule. Mississippians wanted Cuba freed with the hope that it would be another pro-slavery vote in Congress.

An effort to free Cuba by Lopez in the spring of 1850 was aborted; but on August 3, 1851, Lopez sailed from New Orleans again, convinced the time was right to lead a revolt. The Cuban uprising failed to materialize, however. A Col. William L. Crittenden of Kentucky and fifty other southern volunteers were captured August 13, tried and executed in Havana September 1. Nearly half of Lopez's 162 supporters sent to Spain as prisoners were Americans. The effort in Cuba set off anti-Spanish riots in New Orleans, and the Spanish consulate was wrecked. The American prisoners were not released until the United States provided Spain with \$25,000 for restoring the consulate.¹⁹

Family tradition says that "Lt. Crittenden" was killed in this aborted Lopez effort. Nothing more than this is known about him. In her grief Lucy wrote a romance, *The Free Flag of Cuba: or The Martyrdom of Lopez. A Tale of the Liberating Expedition of 1851*, under the pen name of H.M. Hardiman, which was published at family expense.²⁰ Her phrases are beautifully descriptive and confirm her education in the classics and talent. As an example, in reference to Lopez's corpse, she wrote:

Like the marble triumph of some sculptor's skill, he lay in the silent majesty of death. Hard, indeed, must have been the heart that could have looked unmoved on the still death-beauty of the form. The gory stains had been removed, he lay calm and serene as though life had sighed itself away at his mother's breast . . .

Perhaps in a call to arms to avenge her lost love, she asked, "Shall it (American blood on Cuban soil) call in vain for vengeance?"

A fading critique is penciled in the margin of the copy of her work at South Caroliniana Library, written by someone who seemed to know her personally:

The plot is beautifully simple and worked out with great power. There is brilliant purpose in the writer of this romance.

And on another page, referring to a line, "The Creoles have never deserted me," the critic wrote: "Great, but merited compliment de la N. Orleans worthy of Lopez--and of you."

Her descendants have believed this to be her only literary effort except for letters from Russia published in the *Memphis Eagle and Enquirer*, but a note found in Edgefield to "Miss Pickens" refers to her gloomy tragedy of Gonzalvo, suggesting that she never forgot this sadness and wrote more about it. (Gonzales, Lopez's partner, came to South Carolina and indeed had a gloomy life. His son was founder of *The State* newspaper.) Perhaps because the critique was unfavorable, she destroyed the manuscript.

Regardless of the male attention--perhaps because her grief for Crittenden--it was not until the age of twenty-six, in 1858, that Lucy married the twice-widowed, 53-year-old Francis W. Pickens, a planter and congressman of South Carolina. Pickens first felt the enchantment of Lucy when he took his daughters to vacation at the fashionable White Sulphur Springs resort in Virginia. Legend says Lucy's mother was ambitious for her and "felt that Pickens, though much older, would be a suitable match. Lucy, ambitious herself, and wishing to make a good, socially correct marriage, was impressed yet hesitant about tying herself down at an early age to such an 'old man'."²¹ Eugenia Holcombe's ambitious attitude came across in several articles, even though family correspondence indicates that Lucy's parents did not favor the marriage at first.²² Pickens did not waste any time, once struck by Lucy's charm; he wrote her father for permission to marry while at the resort.

"Tall, willowy, with titian hair said to resemble a woof of sunbeans spinning out like a flower at the ends, with eyes to shade that two men could never agree upon,"²³ is the penned portrait of Lucy in this period. She was "master of every situation she met," creating a sensation when she entered the room. No wonder, that in addition to writing her politics and national issues, Pickens wrote her, "Forgive me, forgive me it. I tremble for I love you madly, wildly, blindly . . ."²³ There is no conclusive proof of Lucy's feelings for Pickens at that point in her life, although she must have considered him dearly later in their marriage. She had lost Crittenden and perhaps considered him a stepping stone to a different sort of life.

She demanded, according to Edgefield stories, that Pickens get himself appointed ambassador to Russia, if she was to become his bride. He went immediately to his friend, President Buchanan, and did so. Family sources believe, however, only that she expressed an interest in travel, and he willingly obliged. Her uncommon love for her mother and home would seem to contradict such a suggestion on her part, but this conflict of desires might be attributed to impetuous youth. There is good reason to believe that Pickens wanted to do everything he could to please her, even though he had refused earlier offers of ambassadorships to France and England.

They were married April 25, 1858, at the Holcombe family home in Marshall, "Wyalucing". The town's leading citizens entertained the couple the following evening with a reception at the Adkins House, the largest place in Marshall. The new Mrs. Pickens did not, as legend says, come to Pickens' plantation in Edgefield to train their servants before going to Russia. Instead, the newlyweds sailed out of New York on the steamer "Persia" and were only one day from Liverpool by May 28.

From London Lucy reported to the Memphis newspaper that the English royalty did not go out in finer style than she and her husband did, only "with greater display" of servants.²⁵ In that same city on her first birthday away from her family her writing gives a clue about Pickens's adoration of her:

The first thing (I saw) when I opened my eyes this morning was a beautiful basket of hot-house flowers, half hid in them a box containing earrings, breast-pin and a bracelet of wrought gold, with bunches of violets enamled on them, with a diamond in each violet.²⁶

Still in London in June, they went to an exhibition of paintings, saw Kean in *Macbeth*; heard Dickens read, which inspired a knowledgeable critique from her; and attended a service at Westminster Abbey.²⁷

From London the Pickenses went to France. Lucy was far more enchanted by Paris than she had been by London. She visited the Louvre and other places of interest, continuing to take advantage of the culture wherever she was. Although she was bothered by shopping and bills, she relished the gowns of Paris. At great length she described the dress she would wear to be received by Napoleon: "a blue silk lace with three-point lace flounces over which a long train of lace is worn, looped with diamond sprigs, jewels of the same--breastpin, earrings and bracelet."²⁸

After a stop in Prussia they arrived in St. Petersburg on July 6. Their first introduction to the czar was to have been on a Sunday at Peterhof, Nicholas' favorite summer palace thirty miles away. But because it was Sunday, a day for worship, so

Lucy felt, Ambassador Pickens attended alone. Several weeks had passed before Lucy met the czar at Peterhof. According to her correspondence, the food was beyond imagination, and the music was by the son of the great Strauss. For dinner she chose a gown with two skirts of white tulle, puffs of whitetulle and lemon silk and stripes of black velvet. She wore satin slippers embroidered with gold, which showed when she sat in the drawing room with her feet resting on a silk pillow. After a merry gathering there she went to her room to rest and re-dress for the ball in white moire satin and lillies of the valley.

Under the watchful eye of her husband she attracted much attention from Czar Alexander II, thirty-eight and restless, and whose passion for his wife was fading. He was good-natured, charming, and attractive, but also a bit timid and sensitive.³⁰ His interest in Lucy assured her the entire court's attention. He singled her out for dances, called her to stand above the ballroom on the platform reserved for the royal family and insisted they converse in French. Attesting his good nature, when Lucy apologetically said her French was not of the quality required for royalty, Alexander said he had no doubt that her republican tongue could not speak the language required by royalty. The half-hour conversation with a foreigner was heretofore an unheard-of event.³¹ In a letter to her sister Lucy acknowledged that she passed for a "great beauty at Court" and that the emperor and grand dukes danced with her but not other ministers' wives. Their virtue, however, did not please her. She wrote:

In a society like this, where the existence of virtue is not believed in by men, mine has not been a position free from incidents but I have conducted myself with such prudence that my husband tells me he loves me more for my dignity and goodness, than for my beauty and intellect. I mention it only to you (her sister) (in that) I have endeavored to fulfill the duties which I owed to my position to society, but I would shrink from giving my mind, soul and body to worldly pleasures and gratifications as the people around me do.³²

Learning of her pregnancy, the czar moved her into an apartment in the Winter Palace which provided a view of the frozen Neva River's ice skaters to amuse her.³³ His attentions have been misconstrued by some to imply that the czar might have fathered the child. The timing of the Pickenses' arrival in Russia, however, makes that impossible. There is nothing in her correspondence to indicate that the Pickenses' daughter was not a full-term baby, and she was born on March 14, 1859, which puts the conception in London or Paris. On July 2 from Prussia, Lucy wrote her mother that she was "sick this morning and in much pain."³⁴ They did not arrive in Russia until July 6, eight months before their daughter's arrival, and it was several weeks before she even met the czar.³⁵ The czar is said to have had her features carved in marble, but it was Pickens who suggested she have this done. Pickens had a similar bust of himself carved.³⁶

When Lucy had been as young as seven her mother had noted that Lucy seemed strangely devoted to her.³⁷ Letters from Russia express Lucy's profound grief at not being able to see her mother, distress at not hearing from her mother or sister, and her recall of memories of home. She obtained a promise from Pickens to live in Texas at one point, but she wrote a bitter letter after he did not allow her to go to her mother, whom she believed to be ill. She was ready to leave him and her child and sail the dangerous Baltic Sea to see about her mother when Pickens became ill; hence she stayed in Russia.³⁸

In the same letter she exposes her dislike for the idea of living at Edgewood "in the midst of all the children, grandchildren and relations of No. 1 and No. 2 (his first and second wives)". Although she later apologized for the letter, Lucy had revealed some of the difficulties of step-mothering. His daughters by his second marriage, Rebecca and Jennie, had accompanied them to Russia. The latter had been only twelve when Francis and Lucy married, and there was a mutual bond of love between them. Jennie even called Lucy "Mama". But Lucy was not fond of Rebecca, who married Pickens' secretary, James C. Bacon, while in Russia.

Pickens apparently had a good rapport with Lucy's family, however. Using affectionate terms, he wrote to them asking for preserves and bought gifts for them. He was generous to them as well as to Lucy. When he spent forty dollars for a lace handkerchief for Lucy, she thought it was foolish, but was gracious enough not to tell him so.³⁹

Lucy faced her motherhood more with the attitude of a modern mother than that of a Victorian shrinking violet, not fearing the pain and wanting to nurse her child. Her doctor said she was so popular and would want to go out that nursing her child, therefore, would not do. He said she was "nature's model" and predicted things would go well.⁴⁰ Sometime after her seventh month, when she was still going out a great deal, Pickens did write her family that she had been ill, but evidently the birth was not remarkably difficult.⁴¹ The child was nursed by a Russian wet-nurse, Mumka, who, contrary to legend, remained in Russia when the Pickenses returned home. Although Lucy had written she would be greatly disappointed if she did not have a son, she seemed to take great pride in her daughter.

The baptism of their child has been greatly romanticized. Lucy preferred to wait until their return and let the Presbyterian minister adored by her family do the honors, but she was concerned about traveling the treacherous seas without the infant having been received into the Kingdom of God. In mid-August, 1860, she was considering having her christened when they reached England.⁴² Nevertheless, the child was baptized before they left Russia. Legends say it occurred in the company of diplomats from all foreign nations in the Russian capital, and that the czarina named her "Douschka", meaning "Little Darling" during the ceremony, the name which stuck with her.⁴³ She had been "Eugenia Dorothea Holcombe Pickens", at

her birth,⁴⁴ but her tombstone bears the name, "Frances Eugenia Olga Neva. . .", the latter two names apparently belonging to Russian Godmothers.

Besides mothering her child in Russia, Lucy continued to study French and took voice lessons from Mon. Rubini, studying Italian music.⁴⁵ Although she seemed to enjoy staying abroad, she disliked the Europeans' complete disregard for anything but rank and fortune. Both her republicanism and liberated view of womanhood caused her disdain for the nobility's disregard for women of lesser social status, regardless of their wit or charms.⁴⁶

The Russian sojourn ended as the North-South conflict loomed in America. Pickens had stayed in contact with friends in South Carolina and, knowing of growing sentiment against the government, he resigned his post in Russia and traveled home in the fall of 1860. He wanted to cool the "hot-heads" and prevent war. Both he and President Buchanan were willing to maintain the status quo, although South Carolina, under the newly elected Governor Pickens' leadership, seceded from the Union in December, 1860.

Evidently, when Pickens felt the call to return to South Carolina and lead his state, his promise to Lucy to live in Texas was erased. Lucy's mother came to Edgewood to visit when they were settled, and later Lucy visited her in Texas.⁴⁷ But primarily Lucy was by her husband's side. "Francis and Lucy were so much a part of a team that it is difficult to think of one without the other . . . Lucy Pickens was of great comfort to her husband through these trials. In all the councils of state held at Edgewood, she was an active participant, recognized by the men as a woman of unusual intelligence. She was an inspiration to her husband, the South Carolina people and the soldiers in battle."⁴⁸ Pickens believed in confiding in his wife and not sheltering her from the truth. While Lucy may have played a role in the war, there is nothing to substantiate a printed legend that says the match that lighted the first cannon fired in the war was held by Douschka.

Public service was distasteful to Pickens, and he had a reputation for being a "wind bag" who enjoyed speaking and writing, for being bombastic, verbose and loud with a cold personality,⁴⁹ although an Edgefield friend's biography disagrees.⁵⁰ But if any of his charms were lacking, Lucy made up for them. The chattering Mary Boykin Chesnut, at her first meeting with Lucy, observed:

Met the lovely Lucy Holcombe, now Mrs. Governor Pickens, last night at the Issac Haynes's. Old Pick had a better wig. I saw Miles begging in dumb show for three violets she had in her breastpin. She is silly and affected, looking for love into the eyes of the men at every glance.⁵¹

Mrs. Chestnut's writing suggests that Lucy was not intimate, but rather someone

on a pedestal to be sought after and observed. The feeling is apparent even in Edgefield stories in this era. Mrs. Chestnut confirms that Lucy was a "lovely and charming hostess" and some of their entertainments were embellished with Russian culture. After an 1862 party for wounded Wade Hamton, Mrs. Chestnut wrote:

For us, they have never put the servants in Russian livery . . . but I must confess, the Russian tea and champagne always set before us left nothing to be desired.⁵²

Both Mrs. Chestnut and the men of thier day recognized Lucy as clever. She drew on her study of history to defend an attack on herself and other ladies "lolling in their landaus": "Why not? General Washington attended the Assembly Balls and wanted everything done that could be done to amuse his soldiers and comfort and refresh them, and give them new strength for the fray."⁵³

As the governor's wife, Mrs. Pickens was protected from hardships other southern women endured, enjoying bacon and hominy for breakfast, cornbread and milk and sassafras tea for supper.⁵⁴ In the records of the United Daughters of The Confederacy there are no references to her sewing cartridge bags or rolling bandages as others did. Enduring only the hardships of having no escort, she and other leaders' wives were attending concerts in Columbia.⁵⁵

A woodcut in the February, 1861, *Harper's Weekly* depicts her reviewing the Holcombe Legion named in her honor. The soldiers loved her. Hers was the only woman's portrait selected to adorn the Confederacy currency, and when the hundred-dollar bills bearing her profile were no longer legal tender, they were put in gift decorations and distributed as souvenirs at a convention of veterans.⁵⁶

The Pickenses retired to their 2,250-acre plantation,⁵⁷ "Edgewood," just north of Edgefield village in 1863 when Francis, fading in popularity, had decided not to seek another term. The plantation house had been built in 1832 as the home of Pickens' first youthful bride, a place "where ladies spoke French and danced candlelight polkas." There were great pantries, mahogany furniture and an English garden with mazes and statuary tucked away among its camellias and boxwoods. A wide vista through the avenue of cedars provided "a clear glimpse of horsemen or carriages as they turned away from the public road more than half-a-mile away (Center Springs Road). On festive occasions, red bonfires of fat pine guided the welcome guests through its dark length."⁵⁸

The original house was moved to Aiken in the 1920s and enhanced with handsome woodwork and other changes, but the front porch, with its arched entablature over Roman columns, appears to be identical to the home as it stood in Edgefield. From the memory of the one who lived there, the description was of "far-flung proportions" and a front porch high above the ground, extending in full length of the house:

The dining room and perhaps the other of the reception rooms were papered in rich, red paper, having in the dining room a wide plate rail where art objects and china were displayed . . . The library was separated from the large parlor by a carved archway, and French doors also led into a small, but very beautiful study panelled with blond and red mahogany. Opening from this study was the bedroom in which Gov. Pickens died.⁵⁹

The library contained about a thousand volumes of books, from *Locke's Essays to Life of Jefferson*, from *Shakespeare's Works* to *Mrs. Browning's Poems*. The parlor-furnishings included a piano, marble-topped tables, mirrors, two sofas, six chairs, the marble busts, chandeliers, a brass fender, portraits of the czar and a variety of porcelains, paintings, and candelabrum. Her jewelry was itemized in an impressive 55-item list.⁶⁰

The Pickenses attended the Episcopal Church in the village where Lucy was confirmed on March 29, 1868. In Russia she had taken a great interest in the religious ceremonies; and her letters attest to her belief in God. Francis was a pillar of the church, serving as vestry chairman and paying the rector's salary during the impoverished years of the war and afterward. His death on January 25, 1869, was almost the death of the church.⁶¹

After Pickens' death Lucy converted Edgewood into the "most attractive home of Upper South Carolina. Her hospitality was widely known; visitors from far and wide sought the honor of her acquaintance."⁶² At thirty-six her compelling eyes and attractive features were not dimmed by the black of her widow's attire. Her pictures illustrate her love of jewelry; her writing, and her pleasure at fine gowns from Paris, but she never appeared ostentatious.

Lucy was sad to know her widowed mother had to take in boarders in post-war years as she, herself, struggled to overcome the deprivation. Having lost all Pickens' property but Edgewood, in 1871 she made a trip with her step-son-in-law, Judge Bacon, to sell some jewelry in an effort to secure Edgewood and help her family.⁶³ In 1866 she had advanced her husband \$13,900 from properties, presumably jewelry, sold in New York.⁶⁴ Legend says the czar sent a jewel each year, and these were sold to sustain the family; but this is likely, since by 1865 the czar was separated from his wife and in love with Catherine.

Douschka, calling her mother "Mamaska" in Russian tradition, was an independent spirit, by her own admission a natural flirt like her mother and very responsive to her mother's wishes. She is heralded as the "Joan of Arc" of local history, having led a band of Red Shirts to frighten blacks away from the polls, which assured the election of Wade Hampton and closed the chapter on South Carolina

Reconstruction. Lucy, while not active politically, surely applauded this election of a military hero she had entertained in her finest days.

Evidently the sale of jewels in England was successful because Edgewood remained in Lucy's possession until her death, and in the fall of 1881 she gave a wedding for Douschka, who married Dr. George Dugas of Augusta, Georgia. Douschka later moved from Augusta back to Edgewood with their children and ran the farm. Her husband came on weekends.

Despite an earlier dread of having to contend with Pickens' kin and those of wives Number One and Number Two, Lucy felt enough compassion for his second wife, buried at the childhood home of his first wife, that she had servants move her to Pickens' side at Willowbrook.⁶⁵ Her cousin, Confederate Brigadier General Beverly Holcombe Robertson, lived with her for some time after the war, as did her brother, John T. H. Holcombe, and a Major Kirkland "who came for tea and stayed thirty years."

She continued to be active in causes she considered important. In 1866 she was appointed second Vice Regent of Mount Vernon's Ladies' Association for the state of South Carolina, although she did not become active until 1876. She served for many years as Chairman of the Garden and Greenhouse Committee.⁶⁶ She founded the Maxie Gregg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and in her last years organized a fund drive to place a monument to the Confederate dead in Edgfield's town square.

Lucy was sixty-one when she buried her daughter and found herself with two grand-daughters to raise. She was grief-stricken by her loss. A biography of Pickens, published during Lucy's lifetime, describes her:

The graceful and accomplished mistress who presided over all this lovely scene and whose smile was wont in happier days to light up as with magic the long galleries . . . still remains--chastened, and in her widow's weeds.⁶⁷

On August 8, 1899, after being ill for several weeks, the "uncrowned queen of the Southern Confederate States" died at Edgewood of a blood clot. Lucy Pickens' obituary calls her "one of the most famous women of the South, and one whose name will live in history."⁶⁸ Yet, like a good romance, read and laid aside, she has been nearly forgotten, her life cut into the yellowed clippings scattered here and there in attics and library stacks. These remnants of her life are like a challenging jigsaw puzzle. When put together, they yield the true picture of Lucy Pickens. It is a picture of utter enchantment, embodying all the elements of the romantic myths of the Old South.

¹ Personal interview with Elizabeth Boatwright Coker, Ridge Spring, S.C., May 1981. Mrs. Coker spent a great deal of time in Edgefield listening to stories told by Mamie Tillman and others which included tales of Lucy Pickens. She borrowed from these for her book, *India Allen*.

² Jack Thorndike Greer, *Leaves From a Family Album (Holcombe and Greer)* (Tyler, Texas: n.p., 1975), p. 51. Her year of birth on this page is in error. See page xi.

³ *Ibid.*, p. xt, p. 12, p. 1, p. 3.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. i8, p. 51, p. 24, p. 51.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp.9-10.

⁷ Edgefield County, S.C., Probate Judge's Office, Estate of Lucy H. Pickens, Box 127, Packet 5429. This includes a complete inventory of her estate at her death in 1899, including a list of silver items with a total value (silver was approximately \$.45 per ounce then) of \$2,360.50. In addition, at his death in 1869, Pickens had requested that \$500 worth of flat silver be given to each of two daughters and a granddaughter. (His will is filed in Edgefield County, Box 97, Packet 3921.) Although slavery had been abolished, he left 132 slaves to his daughters and granddaughter. At her death Lucy also left fifty-five items or sets of jewelry valued at \$2,360.50, the greatest of which were a pear-shaped diamond valued at \$800 and diamond earrings valued at \$750.

⁸ Telephone interview with Jane Judge Greer, Tyler, Texas, July 12, 1981. She edited her late husband's book, *Leaves From a Family Album*.

⁹ Greer, p. 25.

¹⁰ Monroe Pickens, *Cousin Monroe's History of the Pickens Family*. (Easley, S.C.: Rev. ed. Kate Archer Day, 1951), pp. 62-67. A reference to the article by H.D. Allen, *The Nuzmismatist*, No. 7 (July, 1918), says it was published in the *New York Herald*, Feb. 22, 1903.

¹¹ Telephone interview with Jane Judge Greer, Tyler, Texas, August 11, 1981, acknowledged that Quitman was a family friend.

¹² Anna Holcombe Smith, "Highlights On The Life Of Lucy P. Halcombe," unpublished manuscript in the possession of Jane Judge Greer, Tyler, Texas.

¹³ John K. Aull, *Augusta Herald*, second article.

¹⁴ Greer, p. 25.

¹⁵ David James Harkness, "Heroines of The Blue And Gray, A Civil War Centennial Program Manual", *The University of Tennessee Newsletter*, No. 4, (August, 1960), 7.

¹⁶ John K. Aull, *Augusta Herald*, (no date) 1930, second of four articles in Sunday editions.

¹⁷ Davis Ewen, *American Popular Songs From Revolutionary War To The Present* (New York: Random House, 1966), p 452.

¹⁸ John Edmond Gonzales, "Flush Times, Depression, War and Comprromise," in *A History of Mississippi* (Hattiesburg, Miss.: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973), p. 304.

¹⁹ Richard B. Morris, ed., *Encyclopedia Of American History* (New York: Harper & Row, 1976), p. 256.

²⁰ Lucy Pickens, *The Free Flag of Cuba: Or, The Martyrdom of Lopez. A Tale Of The Liberating Expedition Of 1851* (New York: Dewitt and Davenport, 1855). A portion of the book is at South Caroliniana Library, Columbia. It was given by her family which means it had been Lucy's copy.

²¹ Kathleen Lewis Sloan, "South Carolina's Patriot Lady," *The State and The Columbia Record Magazine*, March 5, 1961.

²² Greer Interview. July 12, 1981.

²³ Kathleen Lewis, "A Woman Called Lucy," *The State Magazine*, November 2, 1952.

²⁴ Greer, p. 52.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 63.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 64.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 64.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 66-67.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 67-71.

³⁰ Edward Crankshaw, *The Shadow Of The Winter Palace* (New York: The Viking Press, 1976). p. 201.

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 77.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 89.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 78.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 73.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p 68.

³⁶ Greer, p. 79. The busts are on display at the South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, S.C., and are listed as part of the living room accessories at the time of Lucy's death, Edgefield County Probate Judge's Records.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 81-83.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 75.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 87.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 77.

⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 98.

⁴³ Pickens, *Cousin Monroe's History Of The Pickens*

⁴⁴ Greer, p. 81.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 94.

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 85.

⁴² Lucy Frances Dugas to Emily L. Bull, July 23, 1981. Lucy's visit to Marshall is also recorded in the *Southwestern Journal* (n.d.), noting that Mrs. Pickens was unchanged after her stay in Russia and citing her loveliness, "fascinating manner" and "individuality of character".

⁴³ Sloan, "South Carolina's Patriot Lady."

⁴⁴ Edward J. Keel, "Francis Wilkenson Pickens, Governor Of South Carolina, 1860-1862," unpublished manuscript, South Caroliniana Library.

⁴⁵ General LeRoy F. Youmans, *Francis W. Pickens Of South Carolina* (Charleston, S.C.: The News Job Press, n.d.), p. 19.

⁴⁶ Ben Ames Williams, ed., *Mary Boykin Chestnut, A Diary From Dixie* (Cambridge, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1949), p. 32.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 257.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 211.

⁴⁹ "In The Back Country Of South Carolina, 1862-64," *Carolina South*, a diary in South Caroliniana Library, Columbia.

⁵⁰ Williams, ed., *Mary Boykin Chestnut*, p. 233.

⁵¹ H.D. Allen, "The Paper Money Of The Confederate States," *The Numismatist*, No. 7, (July 1918), 288-289.

⁵² Map in possession of Tom Greneker, Edgewood, Edgefield, S.C.

⁵³ Francis Butler Simkins, (Charleston) *News And Courier*, 1923.

⁵⁴ Sallie Simkins, description on file in Edgefield County Library. Mrs. Simkins was the housekeeper at Edgewood and mother of Francis Butler Simkins.

⁵⁵ Edgefield County, S.C., Probate Judge's Office, Estate of Lucy H. Pickens, Box 127, Packet 5429.

⁵⁶ Untitled journal of Trinity Episcopal Church, entries 1865-1869, Edgefield County Library, Edgefield, S.C.

⁵⁷ Simkins, (Charleston) *News And Courier*, 1923.

⁵⁸ Lucy Pickens to her sister, Anna Greer, August 8, 1881, in possession of Jane Judge Greer, Tyler, Texas.

⁵⁹ Edgefield County Probate Box 97, Packet 3921, F. W. Pickens Will.

⁶⁰ Aull, *Augusta Herald*, first article.

⁶¹ John H. Rodehamel, archivist, Mount Vernon, to Emily L. Bull, August 10, 1981.

⁶² Youmans, p. 19.

⁶³ Belle Walsh, "Mrs. F. W. Pickens Dead," (Charleston) *News And Courier*, August 9, 1899.

DID THE LADY OF COFITACHEQUI LIVE IN CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA?

Charles W. Bright

Only God and the Indians know how to pronounce correctly an Indian name recorded and pronounced in several different ways by the Spanish in 1540 and later translated into English. Inquiries made concerning correct pronunciation included a University of Georgia Anthropologist, a University of South Carolina Archeologist and a University of South Carolina Spanish Professor--none of whom agreed. The word was not included in any available dictionary.

Previous interest in this topic was renewed in the summer of 1980, when the magazine, *Early Man*, reported the discovery of a Spanish document from the 1560s never before translated. It contains clues about the location of the home town of The Lady of Cofitachequi.

There seems to be little doubt that De Soto met her in South Carolina--but where in South Carolina? Was it near Columbia, Camden, Aiken, historic Manchester in Sumter County, or just on a river? De Soto, a Spanish explorer, is famous because in 1541 he became the first white man to cross the Mississippi River. Born in Barcarota, Spain, he came to the New World when he was about nineteen. He accompanied Pizzaro in his conquest of Peru and acquired his share of plundered gold. While Governor of Cuba in 1538, he decided to explore Florida, which had been reported to be a land of gold and perhaps silver. Little did he know that the gold would turn out to be copper and the silver to be mica.

De Soto landed at Tampa Bay with about 600 men in May, 1539, and moved toward an Indian town called Appalache. It is worthwhile mentioning that, by error, this Appalache is the source of the name of the Appalachian Mountains. Thereafter, De Soto crossed Georgia to the Savannah River and entered South Carolina, where he met an Indian ruler whom he called "The Lady of Cofitachequi". As De Soto looked across the river, he saw four canoes approaching, one of which contained an Indian woman who gave him an appropriate greeting. This was a relative of the ruler of Cofitachequi who was prudent enough to remain on her side of the river while she made an estimate of the situation. Later, she crossed over to meet De Soto. She traveled in a large canoe which had an awning over the stern, a mat on the bottom and two large cushions. She was an attractive woman about thirty-five, brown of skin, well formed and appropriately clothed. Her house in Talimeco, the principal town, was large, high, broad and decorated with handsome mats. This was reported by Ranjel, De Soto's secretary, who spelled the word Cofitachequi.¹ It is similarly spelled in the majority of other sources.

The title of a female ruler of a number of Indian towns or villages or areas was