

From: Emerson, W. Eric <EEmerson@scdah.sc.gov>
To: Danny VaratDannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov
CC: Dorsey, WadeWDorsey@scdah.sc.gov
Date: 8/7/2018 4:08:01 PM
Subject: RE: Statehouse picture

Hi Danny,

Thanks for your message. A number of staff members looked into this a few years ago, and you are more than welcome to look at the research file that they compiled. From the records, we believe that A.S. Salley repaired the statue in FY 1908-09. If we go with the assumption that Gov. Blease damaged it again, then it probably would have happened when he was Governor from 1911 to 1915, since he was out of the General Assembly by the time that it was repaired. It may not have been Blease, but that is the most widely accepted theory. The piece of the cane that supposedly was shot away is at the Confederate Relic Room, but SCDAH staff took it to the statue years ago to see if it fit, and it was not an exact match. This adds another layer to the mystery.

Regarding images of the statue from between 1908 and 1915, we have not been able to locate any. I would try the South Caroliniana Library at USC. We have images from 1895 showing the statue without the lower part of the cane, and we have images of the statue post 1915. Let me know if we can be of assistance or if you would like to see the file.

Best,
Eric

W. Eric Emerson, Ph.D.
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223
803-896-6185
803-896-6186 fax
Scdah.sc.gov



From: Danny Varat [mailto:DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:27 PM
To: Emerson, W. Eric
Subject: Statehouse picture

Eric, I hope that all is well and you're having a great summer. I'd like to find a photo of the north side of Statehouse and dated sometime from 1880-1912 that shows the Washington statue with the cane fully intact. I'm doing a little research into the story that A. S. Salley replaced it in the 80s or 90s and that Cole Blease shot it off while he was governor. Do you think that's something y'all have and could find without too much trouble?
Thanks

Danny Varat