

JOSHUA FULTON ENSOR, M.D.

SUPERINTENDENT, LUNATIC ASYLUM, COLUMBIA, S.C. AUGUST 5, 1870 - DECEMBER 31, 1877

DR. ENSOR, A NATIVE OF BUTLER, MARYLAND, AND THE SON OF A CONFEDERATE FAMILY, FELT THAT HIS ALLEGIANCE WAS TO THE UNITED STATES - AND EARLY IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES HE ENTERED THE U. S. ARMY AS A SURGEON, RETIRING AS A MAJOR IN JUNE 1870.

UPON RETIRING FROM THE FEDERAL ARMY, DR. ENSOR ELECTED TO REMAIN IN COLUMBIA, S.C., WHERE HE PURCHASED A HOME AND ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

DR. ENSOR DECLINED THE OFFER OF GOVERNOR R. K. SCOTT TO ACCEPT THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF THE S. C. LUNATIC ASYLUM.

UPON THE INSISTENCE OF MISS DOROTHEA LYNDE DIX, THE FAMOUS CRUSADER FROM MAINE FOR IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL, DR. ENSOR FINALLY ACCEPTED AND BECAME THE SECOND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM ON AUGUST 5, 1870. HE RESIGNED DECEMBER 31, 1877.

A MAN OF COMPASSION, DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE MENTALLY ILL, HE INSTITUTED MANY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THEIR CARE AND COMFORT. THE S. C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOT PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE, DR. ENSOR USED HIS PERSONAL MONEY FOR THAT PURPOSE AND ALSO BORROWED FROM QUAKERS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND OTHER NORTHERN FRIENDS.

AFTER LEAVING THE LUNATIC ASYLUM, DR. ENSOR WAS CHIEF INSPECTOR OF CUSTOMS, PORT OF CHARLESTON, AND LATER CHIEF DEPUTY COLLECTOR, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE. IN 1894, HE RETIRED FROM THESE AND RETURNED TO HIS HOME IN COLUMBIA TO FARM, PRACTICE HIS MEDICAL PROFESSION AND OPERATE THE ENSOR DRUG COMPANY.

IN 1897, U. S. PRESIDENT WM. McKINLEY APPOINTED HIM U. S. POSTMASTER OF COLUMBIA, WHICH POSITION WAS HELD UNTIL HIS DEATH ON AUGUST 9, 1907.

EFFECTS IN THIS ROOM WERE DR. ENSOR'S PERSONAL PROPERTY. THE PORTRAITS OF DR. AND MRS. ENSOR, THE MAGNIFICENT GRANDFATHER CLOCK WITH WESTMINSTER GONGS, THE DOCTOR'S PERSONAL DESK, THREE ROCKERS AND A TABLE WERE DIRECT GIFTS FROM MRS. WILLIAM S. BROWN, COLUMBIA, S.C. (DAUGHTER) SOME YEARS PRIOR TO HER DEATH ON JULY 20, 1942.

FURNITURE IN THIS ENSOR ROOM (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MARBLE TABLE/AND THE SOFA SECURED BY HIM AND LOCATED IN THE MILLS BUILDING) CAME FROM THE BEAUTIFUL ENSOR MANSION, 801 WILDWOOD AVENUE, COLUMBIA. *the book was from his library with his signature*

THE PORTRAITS OF DR. AND MRS. ENSOR, THE MAGNIFICENT GRANDFATHER CLOCK WITH WESTMINSTER GONGS, DATES TO MORE THAN A 100 YEARS. THE DOCTOR'S PERSONAL DESK, THREE ROCKERS AND A TABLE ~~WERE~~, ALL OF THE 1870s, WERE GIFTS FROM MRS. WILLIAM S. BROWN, ~~XXXXXXXX~~, (DAUGHTER), COLUMBIA, S.C., SEVERAL YEARS PRIOR TO HER DEATH ON JULY 20, 1942.

THE DARK PAINTING OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (1885-1969), NOW THE BABCOCK, WAS FOUND IN THE BASEMENT OF ANOTHER BUILDING. NO IDENTIFYING CLUES. PERHAPS DATE IS ABOUT 1880, JUDGING FROM LACK OF TREES, INADEQUATE DRIVES, NO CENTER AVENUE.

DR. ENSOR'S SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN THE PATIENTS CONTINUES.

MRS. WILLIAM S. BROWN, (DAUGHTER, IN HER WILL BEQUEATH TO THE S. C. STATE HOSPITAL HER CONSIDERABLE FORTUNE OF \$60,000.00 WHICH WAS MATCHED BY THE S. C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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THE BEAUTIFUL ENSOR MANSION, WITH ALL CONTENTS, WAS SOLD TO W. J. KEENAN OF COLUMBIA, WHO NOW RESIDES THERE.

MRS. BROWN'S WILL

THIS FORTUNE INCLUDED THE ENSOR BEAUTIFUL ANTE-BELLUM MANSION FILLED WITH FINE ANTIQUE FURNITURE. THE MANSION, WITH ALL CONTENTS, WAS SOLD TO W. J. KEENAN OF COLUMBIA WHO NOW RESIDES THERE. (1973)

MRS. BROWN'S WILL PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A RESEARCH LABORATORY TO BE DESIGNATED THE ENSOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED BY MRS. WILLIAM S. BROWN AND MISS ANNIE J. L. ENSOR AS A MEMORIAL TO THEIR PARENTS, DR. JOSHUA FULTON ENSOR AND MISS HENRIETTA KEMP ENSOR.

DR. C. FRED WILLIAM, SIXTH SUPERINTENDENT, S. C. STATE HOSPITAL, RESIGNED MAY 1, 1945, AFTER THIRTY YEARS SERVICE, TO BECOME THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WITH HIS OFFICE IN THE ENSOR BUILDING.

RESEARCH - SUPERINTENDENTS