

CAROLINA MUDSILL:
THE PASSAGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S 1710 EDUCATION LAW

by

KATHRYN LOUISE GRAY-WHITE

(Under the Direction of Ronald E. Butchart)

ABSTRACT

Carolina Mudsill: The Passage of South Carolina's 1710 Education Law reviews the events leading up to the passage of South Carolina's 1710 Education Law. This study fills the gaps in the prior historical record of schooling in South Carolina. It addresses the topic of colonial schooling in the early eighteenth-century South, seeking the origins of its distinctiveness in relationship to educational development elsewhere in the American colonies. Regarding the development of parish schooling in the early colonial South, the question addressed was at what point did southerners depart from the parish school tradition? Interrelated, what was the relationship between the colony's early education traditions and the colonial and early national discourse that linked schooling with republicanism?

Carolina Mudsill argues that it is the untold story or the story of a failed education bill that supplies the needed information for comprehending the American endeavor to provide schooling for the community. In the particular case of *Carolina Mudsill*, a better understanding of the prickly opinions surrounding the establishment of community schooling during a specific era emerges. In this vein, the mindset of those who developed a school within a burgeoning southern British colony is revealed. In summary, this study does something that has never been

done before: It recognizes the primary support upon which the larger framework of southern schooling was established.

INDEX WORDS: Revolutionary schools; Colonial education; South Carolina; Anglican church; Society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts (SPG); Charleston, SC; Church of England

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, James William Gray and Nellie Virginia McGaha Gray. Thank you for your guidance, support, and the model you set for me.

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