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South Carolina Inventors and Inventions 1790-1873

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The following chart lists United States patents issued to South Carolina residents from 1790 through 1873. The entries were compiled from *A Digest of Patents Issued by the United States, from 1790 to January 1, 1839*, which was published in 1840 under superintendence of Henry Ellsworth who was the Commissioner of Patents. The list was then expanded by incorporating a list compiled from *Subject Matter Index of Patents for Inventions Issued by the United States Patent Office from 1790 to 1873, Inclusive*, published under the direction of M.D. Leggett, the Commissioner of Patents at that time. Any discrepancies between the two lists in the spelling of inventors' names or place names were verified and corrected, and occasional differences in how the inventions were described were edited for consistency. No other changes were made in the way entries were listed.

Because a disastrous fire in the Patent Office in December 1836 completely destroyed the records of every patent application, specification, and model, very limited information exists about the earliest patents. They were not originally numbered, but were generally referred to by date of issue. They are also called "name and date patents," or "X" patents. (A number preceded by an X was assigned to the few patents which were restored after the fire.) Patents began being numbered in July of 1836. Information about patents granted after this time can be found in Patent and Trademark Libraries across the United States.

R.M. Cooper Library at Clemson University is only the Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) in South Carolina. By participating in this program, the Library receives copies of U.S. patents, and a variety of patent and trademark searching tools. The collection also includes some historical information about patents. These materials are available for use to the public free of charge. Library reference staff have been trained to offer assistance, but are not available to perform searches or give legal advice. Since patent research is generally very involved, it is highly recommended that searchers call ahead of time to arrange for an appointment. Call the Reference Desk at (864) 656-5168 for further information.