

**Visual Materials Collections  
South Caroliniana Library  
University of South Carolina**

**Earthquake of 1886**

**Contact Information:**

South Caroliniana Library  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia SC 29208  
803-777-3132  
Email: [sclref@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sclref@mailbox.sc.edu)

Collection of photographs and photomechanical images documenting the destruction caused by the 1886 earthquake in Charleston, Summerville, Aiken County, Berkeley County, and Charleston County, S.C. W.J. McGee, one of the first employees of the U.S. Geological Survey, compiled the following materials on the earthquake which struck near Charleston, S.C. McGee's observations were rewritten for the 1887-1888 USGS report by Clarence E. Dutton, later published as *The Charleston Earthquake of August 31, 1886*. In 1986, Kenneth E. Peters and Robert B. Hermann compiled and published McGee's material, with that of South Carolinians Earle Sloan, Gabriel E. Manigault, and others who corresponded with and assisted McGee, in *First-Hand Observations of the Charleston Earthquake of August 31, 1886, and other Earthquake Material* (South Carolina Geological Survey, Bulletin 41.) E.P. Howland was McGee's photographer; Sloan and Manigault secured photographs taken by LaGrange Cook, J.A. Palmer, and William E. Wilson. Accession number: 201710013.

W.J McGee images:

1. "H1 / St. Phillip's, after removal of / shattered columns / looking e." Image from cemetery, albumen.
2. "H2 / St. Philip's." Image of initial bracing of portico, albumen.
3. "H3 / Craterlet / Ten Mile Hill" Image of hole in ground near houses, albumen.
4. "H4 / Locality of Sink / Ten Mile Hill" Image of foundation repairs to house, people standing outside, albumen.
5. "H5 / Craterlet / Ten Mile Hill" Image of hole in yard near fence, albumen.
6. "H6 / Craterlet – Chasm / Ten Mile Hill" Image of hole yard, albumen.
7. "H7 / Fissures and mud stains / Ten Mile Hill" Image of garden with crack in it, albumen.
8. "H8 / ... / and sand extravasatin craterlet / Ten Mile Hill" Image of craterlet in swamp, albumen.
9. "H10 / Thrown House / Summerville" Image of clapboard house off foundation, albumen.
10. "H11 / Thrown House / Summerville" Image of two-storey clapboard, albumen
11. "H12 / Thrown house / Summerville" Image of clapboard house and outbuilding off foundations, albumen.
12. "H13 / St. Michael's Church / Charleston / From N.W." Image of bracing portico, albumen.
13. "H14 / Courthouse / N.W. cor. Broad & Meeting / Charleston / Looking NW" Albumen.
14. "H15 / W. And E. Bay St. / Charleston / Looking N.W." Image of two buildings, one labeled 'Commercial Cotton Press', albumen.
15. "H16 / Displaced gables / W side E Bay St. / Charleston / looking N.W." Image of boys beside wall being braced by on wooden beam, albumen.
16. "H17 / E Bay St / Charleston / Looking NW" Image of a building missing façade beside Ship & Family Groceries, albumen.
17. "H 18 / Roper Hospital / Charleston / Looking N." Image boys and policeman on street in front of main building, albumen.
18. "H19 / W Side Meeting St / N.W. Cor. Market / Charleston / Looking N.N.W." Albumen.

19. "H 20 / Unitarian Church / Charleston / Looking N.E." Image of church with damage to steeple, albumen.
20. "H 21 / Park S of S. Battery St / Charleston / Looking N.W." Image of Jasper monument, two people sitting on a bench in White Point Gardens, albumen.
21. "H 22 / displaced gable / N side S Battery St., Charleston / Looking N.W." Albumen.
22. "H24 / Citadel / Charleston / Looking N" Image of college with scaffolding on the sides, albumen.
23. "H 25 / German Lutheran Church / Charleston / Looking N.W." Image of a church and other buildings, view from across square, albumen.
24. "H26 / S.W. Cor. Hudson & King Sts. (?) / Charleston / Looking N.N.E" Image of Marion Square Pharmacy with broken bricks out front, albumen.
25. "H 33 / W Side E. Battery St. / Charleston / Looking N.W." Image of a three storey house with porches on the front of each storey, albumen.

Gabriel E. Manigault images:

26. First Presbyterian Church, no. 16 in Cook's Earthquake Views, boudoir photograph, albumen. Verso of mount states "First Presbyterian or Scotch Church. Masonry of the early period / but much damaged. Cause of Portico not having been destroyed / explained on page 28 of manuscript." Envelope: "Medical College & First-Presbyterian / Church Page 28 manuscript"  
Image: Outside of a church. Bottom of mount states "First-Presbyterian Church".
27. Wrecked at Langley, albumen, No. 634 in Aiken and Vicinity, Earthquake, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1886 series by J.A. Palmer, Aiken, S.C. South Carolina Railroad Company engine and cars derailed.
28. View of St. Michael's Church / Not intended as an illustration to the narrative of the Charleston Earthquake; large format albumen. Plaza and fountain in foreground; scaffolding around church, part of room missing. It is broken off, however on the back in pencil is written, "View of St. Michael's Church / Not intended as an illustration / to the narrative of the Charleston Earthquake."
29. Round Geyser, Ten Mile Hill, No. 54 in Cook's Earthquake Views, boudoir photograph, albumen.
30. Long Geyser, Ten Mile Hill, No. 53 in Cook's Earthquake Views, boudoir photograph, albumen. "Two mud spouts or craterlets at Ten-Mile- / Hill on So Ca Railway near Charleston / The surface around is covered by the overflow to the depth / of a foot to eighteen inches. Depth of water in craterlet a / few inches."
31. \_\_\_\_\_ Sinkler, Tradd Street, No. 69 in Cook's Earthquake Views, boudoir photograph, albumen. "U.S. Government building on Meeting St / Private dwelling on Tradd St. Both masonry / after second period and inferior. / These two to contrast with the two ante-revolutionary / dwellings. Court-House Square and 85x87 Broad St. / Masonry of the best quality."
32. Tents, Rutledge St. Terrace, No. 86 in Cook's Earthquake Views, albumen. "Tent-life after the earthquake / Washington Square after earthquake page 12 in manuscript"  
College as torn down, No. 129 in Cook's Earthquake Views, boudoir photograph,

albumen. "Main building College of Charleston, wings removed / Destruction of coal sheds & Fracture of chimney at Gas / works P 19 Manuscript" Front of the main building of the College of Charleston.

33. Land Slide on the Ashley, No. 148 in Cook's Earthquake Views, boudoir photograph, albumen. "Illustrations of wave movements and / their Consequences. Alluded to on page 31 / of manuscript"
34. "Dwelling 85 & 87 Broad St. Ante revolutionary period / Page 2 of manuscript." Rowhouse with a gable in the centre, large format albumen.

Earle Sloan images:

35. "No. 6 ½ / Side view of no. 6 / facing S. 42 degrees E." Image of wreckage near building, albumen.
36. "No 7 / Azimuth of fissure, N 30 degrees W." Man standing near a huge crack in the earth, albumen.
37. "No. 7 ½ / Longer view of fissure shown in no 7". Image of man standing near sinkhole, albumen.
38. "No. 12 Duplicate Houses." Stamped "Geo. L. G. Cook Photographer King Street Charleston S.C." on reverse. Two houses with broken foundations, albumen.
39. No. 5 Engine House, Charleston, boudoir photograph, albumen. Cook's Earthquake Views 35. Men standing on scaffolding in front.
40. Goose Creek Church, Exterior, boudoir photograph albumen. Cook's Earthquake Views 47. Front of church with gable missing, people standing outside. Bottom of mount has "no 1" a compass rose to orient oneself, and "St. James Church E.W."
41. "Track out of line" in black and "Photo # 4 / point of eight commands view N70.E / from 20 minute post / + 3600 feet / Charleston & Savannah R.R." in green on reverse; albumen boudoir by Wm E. Wilson / Landscape Photographer, / Savannah, Ga. People standing around looking at a railroad track.

Heliotype Printing Company of Boston souvenir booklet:

42. "Medical College of South Carolina / Heliotype Printing Co., Boston, Mass." #1. Image of a building with an arch and columns in the centre with rubble out front.
43. "Broad St., South Side, Looking East / Heliotype Printing Co. Boston, Mass." #2. Image of a street, buildings damaged, with people standing outside.
44. "Main Police Station, Corner Broad and Meeting Sts. / Heliotype Printing Co. Boston, Mass" #3. Image of a building with huge columns, frieze destroyed.
45. "East Bay, Corner of Cumberland St. / Heliotype Printing Co, Boston, Mass." #4. Image of rubble next to some stores.
46. "Calhoun St. Near and East of Meeting St. / Heliotype Printing Co, Boston, Mass." #5. Image of a house that is mostly collapsed, bricks fallen down at the corner.
47. "Water St. Looking East. / Heliotype Printing Co, Boston, Mass." #6. Image of a building with bricks knocked off the front, from an angle.

48. "Warehouse on Kerr's Wharf. / Heliochrome Printing Co., Boston, Mass." #7. Image of the interior of a building, roof collapsed.
49. "Corner of Atlantic Wharf And Exchange St. / Heliochrome Printing Co., Boston, Mass." #8. Image of a corner building, roof collapsed and side buildings very damaged.
50. "Sailors Home, A Charity of the Charleston Port Society. / Heliochrome Printing Co, Boston, Mass." #9. Image of two buildings, highly damaged with rubble out front.
51. "Market St., Looking East from Meeting St. / Heliochrome Printing Co., Boston, Mass." #10. Image of buildings along the same side of the street, looks like the front fell off.
52. "Hayne St., South Side, Looking West / Heliochrome Printing Co., Boston, Mass." #11. A building whose wall and ceiling fell in, sidelong angle.

*Harper's Weekly* woodcut images:

53. The Guard Home.
54. St. Michael's Church.
55. News and Courier Office.
56. St. Phillip's Church.
57. No 27 Broad Street.
58. Hibernian Hall.
59. The Medical College.
60. Bird's Oil and Paint Store. Photographed by W.E. Wilson.
61. Corner of Market and Meeting Streets. Photographed by W.E. Wilson.
62. Earth Fissure on Line of Charleston and Savannah Railroad. Photographed by W.E. Wilson.

Miscellaneous images:

63. A print of a drawing of "St. Michael's" church.
64. Pencil drawing of a church with a broken spire. On bottom of the paper is inked "St. Philip Episcopal Church, after the earthquake / Page 23 Manuscript."