

Wilfrid Hardy Callcott Papers, 1878-1970

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DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/mnscripts/callwh.html>

I. Correspondence, 1878-1974, ND

Boxes 1 to 4

Arranged chronologically.

Undated letters located at end of series. Outgoing and correspondence with attachments and enclosures.

II. Family Papers, 1886-1995, ND

Boxes 4 to 8. Oversized flat files

Includes deeds, newspaper clippings, legal documents, genealogical information, wedding invitation, diaries, ledgers, receipts, speeches, diplomas, lectures, and essays

III. Topical, 1923-1995, ND

Box 8 and 9

Arranged alphabetically

Articles, map, newspaper clippings, reviews of books,

IV. Photographs, 1904-1990

Box 8

Arranged chronologically

V. Legal size, 1906-1937 and 1950s

Box 9

Arranged alphabetically

Real estate papers, deeds, wills, certificates, a photograph, etc.

VI. Oversized flat files (on site)

OS 1-2

Arranged alphabetically

Diplomas, certificates, etc.

CHRONOLOGY

Of the Life of Wilfrid Hardy Callcott (1895-1969)

- 1895 November 12th, Wilfrid Hardy Callcott was born near San Marcos (Guadalupe County, Texas), the fourth child of George Hardy (1857-1931) and Mary Ireland Callcott (1860-1934)
- 1908 Family moved to Sabinal, Texas
- 1913 Graduated from Sabinal High School (Sabinal, Texas)
- 1914 Entered Southwestern University (Georgetown, Texas)
- 1917 Left school and joined the United States Army, 11 December 1917
- 1918 Served in the American Expeditionary Forces from 28 October 1918 until 2 March 1919 as a private and later corporal in the 500th Aero Squadron
- 1919 Awarded A. B. cum laude by Southwestern University
- 1919 Entered Columbia University (New York City), to begin graduate work in history and international law. Took a job at Hoboken Academy (Hoboken, New Jersey), teaching Spanish and history
- 1920 Awarded M.A. degree by Columbia University
- 1921 Began teaching history courses in the Columbia University Extension Division
- 1923 Accepted associate professor of history position at the University of South Carolina
- 1925 August 5th, married Grace Otter (1893-1929), the daughter of James Hartwell and Alice Wernie Otter of Danville, Kentucky
- 1926 Awarded Ph.D. upon the publication of his dissertation *Church and State in Mexico, 1822-1857*
- 1929 June 9th, death of Grace Otter Callcott.
- 1931 Publication of *Liberalism in Mexico, 1857-1929*
- 1932 July 29th, married Rebecca Marshall Anderson (b. 1908), daughter of Thomas Carson and Nanie Thomason Anderson of Ninety-Six, S.C.

- 1936 Publication of *Santa Anna: The Story of an Enigma Who Once Was Mexico*
- 1942 Publication of *Caribbean Policy of the United States, 1890-1920*
- 1944 Appointed dean of graduate school and placed in charge of the new USC Press
- 1948 Completed manuscript for "History of the Foreign Policies of the United States"
- 1955 Appointed Dean of Faculty at USC
- 1958 Awarded Litt. D. by Southwestern University
- 1960 Appointed Dean of the University of South Carolina
- 1961 Retired as Dean of the University of South Carolina
- 1963-1964
Senior Fulbright Lecturer, Oxford University
- 1968 Publication of *The Western Hemisphere: Its Influence on United States Policies to the End of World War II*
- 1968-1969
Interim President of Coker College (Hartsville, S.C.)
- 1969 Awarded Litt. D. by Coker College
- 1969 20 September 1969. Died in Houston, Texas, while serving as visiting professor of history at the University of Houston

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers in this collection, approximately twelve linear feet, represent all phases of Wilfrid Hardy Callcott's life and academic career. He carefully preserved his papers and letters from the time he was in grammar school and, after his death, his son George Hardy Callcott (b.1929), Professor of History at the University of Maryland, collected, organized, and annotated the family archive. As a result of that effort, the voluminous records of Callcott's academic life have been preserved. In addition, ancillary letters, diaries, and documents from his parents and siblings, especially his older brother Frank (1891-1979), long-time professor of Spanish at Columbia University, are included in the papers.

Series I, Correspondence

In the 1960s, Wilfrid Hardy Callcott gathered material for a biography of his father, George Hardy Callcott (1857-1931), completed a manuscript, but died before he could have it published. The letters written by his father, 1878-1884, before he immigrated to the United States and settled in Texas, provided much of the information incorporated in *Mr. George: An English Immigrant to Texas* (privately printed, 1969), and are included in the collection. The strength of the collection, however, is the continuity of correspondence that documents Wilfred Hardy Callcott's entire life. During his college and army years 1914-1923,

Callcott and his mother, Mary Ireland Callcott (1860-1934) exchanged letters every week; less frequent letters are found from his brother Frank, other relatives, and friends. After 1923, when Callcott moved to Columbia to take a job at the University of South Carolina, letters from his parents, and letters to them from Wilfrid, continued until 1929 when his parents moved to Columbia to live. The brothers, Frank and Wilfrid, wrote each other on alternating Sundays for decades, and many of those letters survive, right up until Wilfrid's death in September 1969.

Series II, Family Papers

The letters are supplemented by diaries, ledgers, journals, legal papers, diplomas, transcripts, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Even though this collection focuses primarily on the academic career of Wilfrid Hardy Callcott, there are other significant topics that are illuminated by the material. Life in rural Texas in the years after 1900 is illustrated through the diaries of Frank Callcott, 1902-1908, while the family still lived on the farm. After Wilfred entered college in 1914, his diaries and ledgers provide information about student life and events at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. For the period 1919-1923, there is much information about Columbia University, where Wilfrid studied for his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees, and Hoboken Academy where he taught while a graduate student.

Travel by automobile in the 1920s is documented by the travel logs that George Hardy Callcott (1857-1931) prepared for trips from Texas to South Carolina in 1924 and 1926 and by travel diaries written by Mary Ireland Callcott on the same trips.

Series III, Topical

The topical files contain miscellaneous information about Wilfrid Callcott's tenure as president of Coker College (1968-1969), newspaper clippings that chronicle Dr. Callcott's academic career, and reviews of the books that Dr. Callcott authored.

Series IV, Photographs

The dozen or so photographs in this series include a few photographs from the World War I period as well as images from Dr. Callcott's years as teacher and administrator.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE for the WILFRID HARDY CALLCOTT PAPERS

<http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/mnscripts/callwh.html>

Wilfrid Hardy Callcott (1895-1969) was associated with the University of South Carolina from 1923, when he was appointed associate professor of history, until he taught his last classes in the spring of 1968. During his tenure, he advanced through the academic ranks, reaching the status of professor in 1929; and later, in 1944, he was appointed dean of the graduate school and began a remarkable career as an administrator. He was also dean of the faculty from 1955-1960, and when he stepped down as dean of the graduate school in 1960, he was appointed dean of the university, a position he held until 1961. After he retired from his administrative responsibilities, he continued to teach history courses at USC and was visiting professor at the University of Texas, Wofford College and the University of Houston. He returned to educational administration during the academic year 1968-69 when he served as interim president of Coker College. Not only was he known for his teaching and administrative work, but he was also one of the country's leading scholars of Latin American history. The author of four books on the subject--*Church and State in Mexico, 1822-1857* (Duke University Press, 1926); *Liberalism in Mexico, 1857-1929* (Stanford University Press, 1931); *Santa Anna: The Story of an Enigma Who Once Was Mexico* (Oklahoma University Press, 1936); and *Caribbean Policy of the United States, 1890-1920* (The Johns Hopkins

University Press, 1942)--published during a sixteen year period, he was the most productive scholar at the University of South Carolina in the years between the world wars. Henry H. Lesesne, the author of *A History of the University of South Carolina, 1940-2000*, noted that "as a leader among the faculty in the period between the mid-1930s and 1961, Callcott was instrumental in establishing the foundations of the modern university."

The papers in this collection represent all phases of Dr. Callcott's life and academic career. He carefully preserved his papers and letters from the time he was in grammar school and, after his death, his son George Hardy Callcott (1929-), Professor of History at the University of Maryland, collected, organized, and annotated the family archive. As a result of that effort, the voluminous records of Callcott's academic life have been preserved. In addition, ancillary letters, diaries, and documents from his parents and siblings, especially his older brother Frank (1891-1979), long-time professor of Spanish at Columbia University, are included in the papers. In the 1960s, Wilfrid Hardy Callcott gathered material for a biography of his father, George Hardy Callcott (1857-1931), completed a manuscript, but died before he could have it published. The letters written by his father, 1878-1884, before he immigrated to the United States and settled in Texas, provided much of the information incorporated in *Mr. George: An English Immigrant to Texas* (privately printed, 1969), and are included in the collection. The strength of the collection, however, is the continuity of correspondence that documents Wilfred Hardy Callcott's entire life. During his college and army years 1914-1923, Callcott and his mother, Mary

Ireland Callcott (1860-1934) exchanged letters every week; less frequent letters are found from his brother Frank, other relatives, and friends. After 1923, when Callcott moved to Columbia to take a job at the University of South Carolina, letters from his parents, and letters to them from Wilfrid, continued until 1929 when his parents moved to Columbia to live. The brothers, Frank and Wilfrid, wrote each other on alternating Sundays for decades, and many of those letters survive, right up until Wilfrid's death in September 1969. The letters are supplemented by diaries, ledgers, journals, legal papers, diplomas, transcripts, photographs, and newspaper clippings. The collection consists of approximately fifteen linear feet.

Even though this collection focuses primarily on the academic career of Wilfrid Hardy Callcott, there are other significant topics that are illuminated by the material. Life in rural Texas in the years after 1885 is illustrated through letters and diaries, especially the diaries of Frank Callcott, 1902-1908, while the family still lived on the farm. After Wilfred entered college in 1914, his diary, and letters to and from his parents, provide information about student life and events at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. After Wilfred left college to join the military, he detailed his daily life in training camps in Texas, North Carolina, and New Jersey from 1917-1918 in the letters he wrote home. There are also letters in the collection written while he was aboard ship on his way to France and others written while he was a member of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Those letters, because they had to pass through the hands of the squadron's censor, contain little specific information about places or activities.

For the period 1919-1923, there is much information about Columbia University, where Wilfrid studied for his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees, and Hoboken Academy where he taught while a graduate student. And, after 1923, when he was hired by the University of South Carolina to teach in the History department, the focus of much of his correspondence is his work as a scholar of Latin American history and United States foreign policy. Wilfrid's biweekly letters to his brother Frank make up the bulk of the correspondence and chronicle his family and professional life for more than fifty years.

Wilfrid Hardy Callcott was born, as he recounted in his autobiography written for his eighth grade composition class, "the twelfth of Nov. 1895, about ten miles south of San Marcos in Guadalupe County, [Texas]." His earliest memories were about school experiences and demonstrated his pride in learning. When his parents sent him to school one day with his brother Frank while they went to town, Wilfrid later remembered: "...the first thing the teacher did was to set me to copying figures on a slate. This almost insulted me as at home I was in the second reader and thought that I understood all about addition and subtraction and was learning multiplication and division." When he did start his formal schooling, he was already advanced enough in his studies to begin with second grade work. He completed the sixth grade in the small country school at Long Branch where "most of our studies were scattered out over two and sometimes three grades," as he recalled in his autobiographical essay. In the spring of 1908, his parents sold the farm in Guadalupe County, purchased another, and moved in November of that year to a house in Sabinal, a town

located near the new farm in Uvalde County. Sabinal was in the midst of a cotton boom that saw the cultivated acreage in the vicinity jump from approximately 1,500 in 1906 to about 35,000 in 1911. The estimated population increased, during the same period, from 500 to 2,500. The town also provided good schools for the Callcott sons, Frank and Wilfred. Wilfrid entered the 7th grade in December 1908 and completed the school year with a 92 5/8 average for all subjects in a system where an A equaled 100 and B+ equaled 95. For the first three months, he struggled with grammar, earning his lowest grade, C+ , in that subject. By the end of the year, that grade had improved to B+ and for the remainder of his school career, Wilfrid continued his excellent work. When he graduated in May 1913, he was selected as one of the speakers and addressed the commencement audience on "The Need for a More Thorough Education in the High School." In that oration he argued that "our education [should be] so thorough that those who are forced to quit and become bread winners before they are able to complete their school work may be so thoroughly and practically educated that they will not have to lose any time in learning how to work to their best advantage."

Wilfrid followed his older brother Frank to Southwestern University, a school located in Georgetown, Texas and affiliated with the Methodist Church, when it was time for him to choose a college. The boys' father was a successful cotton farmer and could afford to help his sons with tuition, usually by loaning them money, and both sons worked to earn money to pay their expenses. Wilfrid began a diary the day he and Frank left for Georgetown in September

1914 and therein recorded his impressions of college life and noted his daily routine. From the first week, he looked for ways to make money to help pay the his expenses. He worked digging post holes at twenty cents per hour, waited tables, swept and dusted, chopped wood for a lady who lived across the street, and did "typewriting" for fellow student. He carefully recorded his earnings in a ledger and also entered his expenses. In early January, 1915, he noted :
"Bought a ½ interest in the 'Mood Hall Shining Parlor' today." By the time he sold his interest four months later, he had earned "right close to \$30.00 out of it."
When not studying or working, Wilfrid devoted himself to recreation, usually tennis, but on one occasion when his professor missed an afternoon class, he and his classmates went swimming in the "Blue Hole" which was in the nearby Frio River. The college campus also offered other opportunities that Wilfrid frequently enjoyed. He attended a performance of "Twelfth Night" presented by a traveling company. "This was," he wrote in his diary, "the first Shakespeare play that I have ever seen but I sincerely hope that it will not be my last." Other firsts for Wilfrid occurred on 2 October 1914. "I saw my first foot-ball game this evening between T[exas] C[hristian] U[niversity] and S[southwestern] U[niversity]; S. U. won by a score of 10 to 9. I saw and partook in my first real shirt-tale parade tonight. The boys (including myself) went up to the annex and built a bonfire and then ran around it with the young ladies, all joining hand[s], singing college songs, etc."

On Sundays, Wilfrid followed a routine that seldom varied. "Went to church and Sunday School in morning and to church again at night," he recorded

on 27 September 1914. On another Sunday, after hearing “a splendid sermon on peace by Dr. Bishop, In the evening five of us went to the jail and held a short service....” In a letter written to his parents on 14 February 1915, Wilfrid revealed a serious decision he had just made. “Ever since before I left home I have not been settled in what I wanted to do with myself. No, I do not feel called to the ministry but it does seem to me that it is my duty to teach where I can do the most good,” he continued. He enclosed a blank card titled “Declaration Card: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions” that, he informed his folks, he was going to sign “offering myself as a student volunteer” as soon as he finished the letter. “I would rather go to Mexico or South America or some Latin American country than to Asia or Africa,” he concluded. Wilfrid’s father responded by remarking that “your letter gave us a considerable shock” and pointed out that “we need Christian teachers in America as well as Mexico.” After reminding his son that he had three more years to determine the course of his life, the father stressed the need “to fit yourself for any work you may be called on to do,” and, if that meant going to the mission field, “why then my Boy, you shall go with my Blessing,” he assured his son. A few weeks later, Wilfrid explained his motivation, at least in part, for his decision to become a missionary. He wrote to his parents 5 March 1915 that “I have just got in from what I believe was the greatest thing I ever saw or heard in my life--the lectures by Mrs. Macy and Miss Helen Keller.” He described the evening in great detail and repeated some of the answers Miss Keller had given to questions from some of the 1,500 people there that night. The next day, he commented in his diary: “How much she has

overcome and how thankful we should be for our blessings! Thank God for having allowed me to volunteer for the mission field[;] I may possibly be able to show to a slight extent how much I should be thankful for.”

Callcott continued his involvement in the religious life of campus, but other interests also occupied his time. As a sophomore and junior, he was deeply involved with the Southwestern University debate teams. He was part of The San Jacinto Debate Club and even found time to take charge of a group of local high school students who formed the junior “San Jac’s.” Callcott devoted much of his time during the winter of 1916-1917 preparing for a Triangular Debate with Trinity College in February. Callcott was the second affirmative assistant on the team that supported the position “Resolved, That a defensive alliance should be formed among all the American Republics to take the place of the Monroe Doctrine.” “ I admit that it surely did hurt when the ...verdict came in,” he wrote his father the day after the judges decided that the debaters from Trinity College had carried the argument. He enjoyed more success, however, with his literary efforts while in college. “Some time ago I re-wrote an old story that I first thought of in High School and handed it in to the editor of the [*Southwestern University Magazine*],” he wrote his parents in November 1914. Even though he “disliked it” and hoped it would not be published, “Jacob Smith’s Adventure,” a Halloween tale, appeared in the November 1914 issue. That was followed in January 1915 by “Corduroy Breeches” and in March 1915 by “An Incident from Behind the Counter.” Another story, “Going to School on Old Kate,” dated October 1915, remained unpublished. Callcott drew upon his own experiences and his stories

were simple narrative descriptions of an event he had witnessed or person he had know. His time as a clerk in a dry goods store in Sabinal provided the material for several of his stories, including his most ambitious, "The Last Saturday Before the "Diez y Seis," in which he wrote about the "Mexican trade as they prepared for their great holiday of the year, the Diez y Seis (the sixteenth) of September." He apparently hoped the story would appeal to an audience outside Texas because he submitted the manuscript to *The Youth's Companion*, published in Boston, in October 1915. The story was rejected. Even so, the stories, because of their autobiographical elements, reveal some things about Callcott not easily discernable in his letters or diaries.

In April 1917, the United States entered the great war that had been dominating the world scene since 1914. Callcott had rarely mentioned war news in any of his correspondence until America's entry. On 8 April, two days after the United States Congress had passed its declaration of war against Germany, Callcott wrote his parents that "everything here is topsy turvy about the war. The first excitement is beginning to calm down now though....I cannot see at present that things are serious enough to justify the student body here in enlisting at the first call...." Before the month was over, however, Callcott sent a telegram to his father asking for advice on his course of action: "Conscription has passed and it seems we will be needed [.] What is your advice in regard to officers training camp starting May 8th....Many of our boys going because of advantages offered...." By 13 May, both Wilfrid and Frank were in camp at Leon Springs, Texas, experiencing their first days of military life. Wilfrid was found to be twenty

pounds underweight during his physical examination, and was dismissed from camp. He returned to Southwestern University and informed his parents by letter of his plans: "it seemed to me that the only thing to do was to come back here and finish the year up." His rejection by the military created some unpleasantness when he returned to college. In the fall of 1917, Callcott wrote a story entitled "Not a Slacker, But--." "George Wilson" was the name of the central character, but clearly the story was about Callcott's own brief military experience the previous spring. "Geo. Wilson was a plain Junior in Southwestern University in the school year 1916-17. He had just turned his twenty-first birthday and was of a light, slender build. He was a good student, something of a debater, and although he did some little track work still he was not an athlete." Callcott also described other traits of "George Wilson" and thereby presented a revealing sketch of how he saw himself at the time: "George was not a popular man in school. He was not a 'ladies man' and did not have the money or time to be a 'good fellow.' He was too quiet and reserved to make friends quickly...."

Uncertain about his future because of the possibility of being drafted, Callcott spent most of the summer of 1917 working on maintenance of college buildings at Southwestern University to make money for expenses when classes began again in September. He wrote his parents on 23 September "that I want to get out of school with as little debt as possible. If I should be drafted along towards the end of the year I do not want to have a large debt on my hands when I enter the army. That is not the place for a private to make money." Callcott was not drafted that fall but, after taking his exams at the end of the session, he

telegraphed his father and asked his advice about whether he should enlist immediately or wait to be drafted. "On the whole I think I would volunteer," his father wrote on 7 December, "it will only make a few weeks difference anyway." "I am proud of you," he continued, "I cannot tell you how proud I am of you[.]" Five days later, Wilfrid wrote his parents from Fort Sam Houston while he waited for his uniform. He had joined the aviation branch of the army and was told "all along that the highest class of men, especially the business men and college men were going into the aviation." His decision to volunteer had been made so quickly that he had no time to send his trunk and suitcase home from school, but he was apparently pleased with the decision. "I am more sure all the time that I did the best thing by coming on now. Of course I would have liked to have finished at S. U. [Southwestern University], but the drafted men are not looked up to [,] to say the least of it." Callcott was sent to Kelly Field, located south of San Antonio, amidst "scads" of "aeroplanes." "This last two days from the earliest daylight till dark I do not think there has been any five minutes together when there were less than five up over the camp and most of the time there are about ten circling around. They are quite a pest with their racket," he complained. By the first of the new year, Callcott had been transferred to Camp McArthur, near Waco, Texas. He continued to send his parents long, detailed letters about camp life and the routine that was beginning to take shape. "We enjoy your letters so much..." his father wrote 11 January 1918, "and the life you are now living is so new to us, that your letters are like a continued story in a magazine, [and] we are constantly looking for the next installment."

In response to a question from his father, Wilfrid explained the organizational system of the military squadron to which he was attached. "As near as I can make out a squadron is composed of 154 privates and non-commissioned officers. Then there are the regular lieutenants, captains...and twelve commissioned officers who are flyers," he wrote. "In other words a regular squadron has 12 flyers and looks after the machines and has all types of men from telephone men down to unskilled laborers etc.," he explained. Wilfrid was assigned to work as a clerk, perhaps because of his typing skills and writing ability. Training continued with drilling, marches, and guard duty as part of the regime. One special occasion involved a march to the Cotton Palace, near Waco, a round trip of eight miles. Wilfrid described one memorable moment in that march in a letter to his parents: "One of the prettiest sights of the whole evening was when we passed a house on the way to town where an old Confederate veteran was standing in the gallery saluting the officers as they passed. Though he was bent with age still he had on his old faded gray uniform and was standing at attention."

Callcott also mentioned in a letter that a new captain, a specialist in camouflage, had taken charge of his squadron. "Most of the men in this camouflage squadron are painters so they may kick me out when they organize as I do not know much of that work," he wrote in a letter of 22 February. The squadron, because of the skilled painters in it, was often called on to do work unrelated to camouflage. In mid-April Callcott wrote in a letter home: "This past week...[the squadron] decorated for another officers' dance and did a lot of work

for the Red Cross here in town. They are putting on a big Wild West show today and our boys have been decorating and painting a lot of posters.”

After hearing rumors for weeks about a change of location for the 6th Squadron, the official designation for his unit, Callcott and his fellow soldiers left Waco by train on Tuesday 22 May and arrived at Camp Greene near Charlotte, North Carolina early on the following Saturday morning. During the last leg of the trip, from Atlanta to Charlotte, the troop train crossed through the northwestern corner of “South Carolina [where] they treated us royally. In the small towns the Red Cross gave us peaches, post cards etc.” Callcott remarked on what he saw in the Carolina piedmont in a 15 June letter to his parents: “This is doubtless an older country than Texas....In Charlotte there are some pretty and up to date residences but out in the country...all the houses are old. I can quite believe that some of them saw the Civil War.”

After two months at Camp Greene, “the Camouflage Squadron was organized with the band, baseball team and a bunch of other fellows into the 608th Aero Supply Squadron,” Callcott wrote in early July. “The idea of a camouflage squadron was a new one though and they were not willing to recognize us at the war department,” he continued. For about three months, Callcott had been an acting corporal, but never received an official promotion. When his old unit was disbanded, he lost his rank. “Since I do not intend to stay in the army when the war is over,” he confided to his parents, “I will not take it so hard if they do not make me an N. C. O. The mistake I made was in enlisting in this branch for it is a branch of specialists such as machinists etc....” With the

possibility of eventual deployment overseas, Callcott informed his folks that he was sending home a package in a day or two. "The letters in the package will be a few I do not want to burn," he wrote. He also sent along a "scrap of cloth," an example of the material used to cover airplane wings. "I thought you might not have seen any of it before," he concluded.

At the end of July, Callcott's squadron was sent to Langley Field near Hampton, Virginia. Callcott spent his time while there working in an office, but on one occasion, he had the opportunity to fly with one of the pilots in training. A young officer, an acquaintance from Sabinal, Texas, offered to take Callcott on a short flight. Callcott wrote his parents that "the sight of the sun above...[the clouds]...was one of the most beautiful I have ever seen." Even though it was said that "the first flight frequently makes a man sick..., it did not bother me," he wrote; however, "the sensation on coming down was one I do not think I will ever forget. The old 'ship' points her nose down and drops and you go with her."

Influenza was the cause for a ten-day hospital stay for Wilfrid in early October 1918. He wrote to his parents that "a very large percentage of our men have been or are in [the hospital] but most of the cases are comparatively light and simply keep them in the hospital for about ten days." Of his own situation, he assured his folks that he was "getting the best treatment of any of the Patients."

"There is a great deal of excitement here just at present," Callcott wrote from Langley Field on 11 October. "A move at least seems in hand in a week or so. All the rumors have been for overseas and we seem to be getting that style

of outfit," he continued. He was assigned to a new squadron, the 500th, given an "overseas" physical examination, and issued new equipment, including hobnail field shoes, and then transferred to Camp Hill, near Newport News, Virginia, where the troops waited their turn for an available transport ship. When Callcott's brother Frank, who had recently been promoted to the rank of captain and sent to Camp Wheeler in Georgia, learned of Wilfrid's possible deployment, he was envious. "Gee, I wish I were in your shoes," he wrote. "I don't blame you for turning down the chance at the training camp to get to go across. I would too." On 28 October, the men of the 500th Aero Squadron boarded the U.S.S. *Pastores*, a 12,650-ton vessel and became part of the American Expeditionary Forces. In a post card written just before boarding ship, Callcott informed his parents: "You are not likely to hear from me for a while. Am feeling fine." Callcott described his experiences while at seas in a two-part letter headed "The Ocean" and dated 2 November; and "Near France," 8 November 1918. He had witnessed a storm, a "sight [that] was splendid...[though] it could not be called beautiful, but still it was wonderful." The men of the 500th Aero Squadron landed just before the armistice was declared on 11 November. Callcott wrote his parents in reference to that event and joked "that as soon as we came the Kaiser left." "The French people were almost beside themselves at the news," he continued. "Everywhere we heard the statement 'The war is over, The war is over.'" He also observed that "nearly every town had its celebration, the railroad engines were decorated and flags were everywhere....All along the way we saw the old 'Stars and Stripes.'"

Callcott's squadron was stationed near St. Maixent for the remainder of the year. There they observed Thanksgiving by feasting on "roast goose, dressing, cauliflower, mashed potatoes, bread, coffee and pumpkin pie" and by watching a football game between the men of the 499th and 500th squadrons, a game that ended in a 6-6 tie. Callcott also sketched out a plan for his life after he returned home, which he hoped would happen by February or March 1919. "By entering S[outhwestern] U[niversity] April 1st I could get in the entire spring term and the summer term," he calculated. "That would enable me to finish up the work for my A. B. Then with the coming of September I could either start teaching or, if the funds are available, take a years' work at either Chicago University or Columbia University at New York for my A.M.," he concluded.

With the arrival of the new year, Callcott expected to begin his journey back to the United States momentarily. "We are still waiting here at St. Maixent," he wrote in a letter to his parents on 13 January. "We hope that our next move will be towards the old U. S. but we are not likely to make that move for just a while yet from the present appearances," he continued. He did announce that he had been promoted to the rank of corporal and had "entered the semi-aristocracy of the Non-Commissioned officer" with an increased monthly pay while overseas of \$40.80. By the end of the January, the 500th Aero Squadron was on the move. The troops traveled by train to the embarkation camp at St. Nazaire by way of Niort, La Rochelle, and Nantes, arriving after twenty-four hours in the cars. On 20 February, the U. S. S. *Mexican*, a freighter converted to a troop ship, with just over 2,500 soldiers on board, pulled away from the dock at St. Nazaire, dropped

down the river, and early the next day entered the Bay of Biscay. The voyage across the Atlantic began in rough weather: "We were the sickest bunch I think I have ever seen anywhere," Callcott wrote while still at sea. "Never before had I felt so absolutely miserable, down and out from such an apparently simple cause," he continued. "Most of us almost reached the stage of the old fellow who said that he was afraid he was not going to die." As soon as the vessel docked at Hoboken, New Jersey, on 7 March, Callcott sent a telegram to his parents to let them know of his safe arrival. He followed that with a letter that concluded with: "our hard time is over if we ever had any." Callcott, as part of the office staff, remained hard at work processing the paperwork for discharges for the men in the squadron. Anxious to return to college, Callcott made a special appeal to his colonel for an immediate discharge. He explained his plan to register at Southwestern University in the spring so that he could finish his work on his undergraduate degree in time to enroll at Columbia University in the fall. After more than fifteen months in the military, with four and one-half months' service in France, Callcott was discharged from the army 28 March 1919. He arrived in Corpus Christi on 2 April, visited with his parents for a couple of weeks, and then traveled to Georgetown to take up his college work again. Even though the first five weeks of the spring term at Southwestern had passed, Callcott was able to register for three courses, to catch up with the work he had missed, and to continue on track for summer graduation.

At the same time that he worked to finish his A. B. degree, Callcott looked to the next step in his educational program. In order to continue on to the

graduate level, he had to find ways to pay for the increased expenses of living in New York. "From the Columbia bulletin I do not see how it is possible to go there for a year under \$800.00 when there are two railroad fares to pay," he explained to his parents. His brother Frank, in a similar situation, had found work as a teacher at the Hoboken Academy, located in Hoboken, New Jersey, during his first months at Columbia University. When Frank was offered work in Columbia's Extension Division for the academic year 1919-1920, he resigned from the academy and recommended Wilfrid as his successor. Wilfrid outlined his qualifications to teach Spanish, French and American history in a letter of application dated 23 April 1919. His principal subject in college was history and his "required language work has been in Spanish." "I not only read and write this language but also speak it fluently," he stressed. "Besides this I have been associated with Mexicans all my life, handling them on the farm and in a store," he continued. In addition to the formal French courses he took in college, while in France in the army "I endeavored to improve my French as much as possible and also to learn as much about the language and customs of the people as possible," he stressed. William C. Raymond, Hoboken's principal, offered Wilfrid a position as a teacher with a salary of \$1,000. "I shall want you to take the Spanish classes, History, and probably some mathematics," Raymond wrote on 6 May. When Wilfrid told his parents about the offer, he was obviously delighted with his good fortune. "That is almost too good to be true. Now, I simply have to make good," he promised. Wilfrid finished his required work at Southwestern University by taking correspondence courses, one in Rural Sociology; the other

in Pedagogy. Wilfrid spent much of the summer of 1919 in Corpus Christi with his parents. His college degree was not formally awarded until 25 September 1919, after Wilfrid had left Texas for New York.

On 14 September, only a few days after Wilfrid left Corpus Christi, a hurricane devastated the city. Wilfrid's mother began her usual letter to her son on the 13th, but quickly interrupted the mundane flow of news with "Oh Laddie we have had a dreadful storm....it blew a perfect gale for about 15 hours, lights, gas, water, & phone all out...." The Callcott home was on a high bluff overlooking the bay and thus escaped damage from the tidal surge that devastated the business district. Wilfrid's father continued the catalogue of destruction: "All the streets from the bay up nearly as high as the post office are filled with wreckage washed up by the waves. They are absolutely impassible." Other letters followed with additional information about conditions in the city. "Several companies of soldiers have come and the streets are all guarded by armed men," George wrote to his son Frank five days after the storm. "This is necessary as there was quite a little looting, and not all by the poor people," he continued. The parents' letters for the remainder of the year chronicled the city's struggle to recover.

In the meantime, Wilfrid enjoyed the advantage of having his brother Frank and sister-in-law Mary in New York City to help him with the transition to a new life. Wilfrid found a room only eight blocks from Columbia University that rented for \$3.50 per week. Frank took Wilfrid to campus, introduced him to the librarian, and showed him around. He also went with Wilfrid to Hoboken to meet the principal of the academy where Wilfrid was to start his teaching career.

Wilfrid also signed up for his course work at Columbia University. “Apparently most of my work while here will be under Prof. Shepherd who is a well-known man,” Wilfrid wrote his parents. He was, he continued, “exceptionally fortunate both in the courses and teachers secured.” Early in the term, his academic interest in Latin America was evident. When writing his parents about a trip that two of his fellow students were planning to South America, he noted that “I would like to get the Latin American view of this Latin American and United States question that I am working on.” By the middle of November, he was thinking seriously about the topic for his master’s thesis. He wrote his father that “I have not yet definitely chosen it but it will be something in connection with ‘Latin America,’ my old hobby ever since our debate.” “I am thinking rather seriously of taking up the Central American situation, those little countries between Mexico and Panama, for my thesis,” he continued. “Then I can broaden out to some of the others for that possible Doctor’s Dissertation.” Again, just before Christmas, Wilfrid gave his parents a more definite idea of his academic plans. “If I can stay here another year I hope to get all the required work for my Ph.D. off and then I hope to be ready to look for a job to start in some college...,” he stated. “A man’s doctor’s dissertation may be written while he is away from the University or ‘in absentia.’”

Although Callcott planned to continue his education until he achieved his terminal degree, he also constantly examined his other options so that he would be able to land on his feet in case he could not finish his work. But he needed to continue to teach at the Hoboken Academy to support himself. “I am in hopes

that arrangements can be made there [Hoboken Academy] for I would like to stay two years," he informed his parents. "Not only that but History teachers are fairly plentiful for so many folk think that anyone can read over a history book ahead of the class and then teach it, that there is a temptation to stick anyone in for such a place," he complained.

Callcott finished work on his master's thesis, "Attitude of Central America toward the United States," in June 1920, turned it over to Professor Shepherd, who read it quickly and called Callcott in for a conference. "He treated me exceptionally well," Callcott informed his parents. "Part of his criticism was fairly severe but on the whole I was agreeably surprised. He told me to get it in final shape and bring it in and that it would be all right." Even so, Callcott explained "he put me through an hour and a half of conversation which was a kind of an examination on the whole subject." Callcott also passed another hurdle on the way to his Ph.D. when he took and passed the required language examination before the end of the summer session. Professor Shepherd asked Callcott to read a randomly selected page from a history of Mexico. Callcott declined to use a dictionary and simply read the passage with little trouble. At the end of ten minutes, after Callcott had finished the passage, Shepherd remarked : "well, if you can handle Spanish that well you need not worry." Although still not considered a Ph.D. candidate, Callcott was in a position to take the first of two required oral examinations, but "I do not expect to try it till next spring."

Even though Callcott worked full time at the Hoboken Academy and carried a full course load at Columbia University, he was eager to gain

experience in college teaching. He applied for an instructorship at Columbia College, the undergraduate division of the university, in January 1921. That position was considered a full time appointment and was usually awarded to an applicant with a Ph. D. Although Wilfrid did not get that job, he did get the chance to teach a history course in the Extension Division of the University during the 1921-22 academic year at an annual salary of \$350. When he informed his parents of the appointment, he gave full credit to the influence of Professor Shepherd. "Well, thanks largely to his [Professor Shepherd's] recommendations, I am in the Extension work where his voice is particularly strong," he wrote. "The work is practically what I am teaching now, as it is primarily taken by college students who need some history work to meet the full entrance requirements," Callcott concluded.

By January 1922 Callcott was sufficiently advanced in his course work at Columbia to actively seek a college or university teaching position. He sent letters of inquiry to both Charles W. Ramsdell at the University of Texas and Dr. C. N. Wunder at Southwestern University, but learned that neither school anticipated a vacancy for the upcoming academic year. Professor Ramsdell informed Callcott of a position at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and Callcott promptly applied. Callcott's had completed his Ph. D. course work and "I expect to take the oral examination before leaving here," he wrote to Professor R. A. Hearon of SMU. "The prospective development of Latin American courses is particularly attractive to me for my Master's essay and doctor's dissertation both have Mexican and Central American questions as their subjects," he

continued. By early May, however, Callcott withdrew his application for the position citing the necessity “for me to complete my arrangements for another year.” He then agreed to continue with the Hoboken Academy for 1922-23.

Again in January 1923, Callcott began his search for a college teaching position. “During the past year I have been taking some special courses and rounding out my course in general,” Callcott explained to Professor R. A. Hearon at SMU. Callcott wanted to return to Texas, if possible, he informed Hearon, but that prospect dimmed when the SMU position did not work out. About the same time, Callcott received an offer from the Hoboken Academy to return for the 1923-24 school year and thus had a job, if he wanted it. He then focused his attention on his qualifying examination in history and international law scheduled for two hours the afternoon of 21 May. He passed and was informed on 5 June that he would be “duly recommended to the Dean for admission to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.”

After a trip to Washington, D.C. in June, Callcott was back in New York when he received a note asking him to stop by to see Professors Fox and Muzzey who “would like to talk with you about a position at the Univ. of South Carolina.” The next day, 12 July, he send a telegram to William D. Melton, president of the university, indicating his interest in the job and outlining his credentials. Melton responded with an invitation for an interview on 17 July in Columbia. An offer of employment was made and Callcott accepted by telegram on 21 July. For a salary of \$2,250 per year, Callcott was expected to teach fifteen hours per week in the history department. When Callcott visited the

university, he met his history department colleagues Yates Snowden and Robert L. Meriwether and later wrote Snowden soliciting suggestions to help with his preparation for the approaching fall semester. Snowden replied not with advice, but with a newspaper clipping that announced Callcott's hiring. "As you see, I have been moderate in your praise," Snowden remarked, "but, like Meriwether, I have no doubt you will win 'golden opinions' hereabouts, and we will, all thru, have a fine time in the largely untilled field of S. C. history."

Callcott spent some time in Texas, visiting his parents in Corpus Christi and in Austin researching in the University of Texas library, before arriving in Columbia about the middle of September. He found a room, "a splendid one," for rent in a house owned by Miss Dwight at 1431 Pendleton Street "directly opposite the campus," for \$18.00 per month. Board, at \$25.00 per month, was available next door. "The University here seems to be decidedly on the boom," he wrote in his first letter to his parents from Columbia, "all the dormitories are more than full and they are building three new ones, two for men and one for women." Enrollment, he reported, was expected to "pass the 850 mark" after having reached 746 the previous year. He had only one criticism of the university: "This morning I was in the library for a time looking around. Their equipment is small here and is quite cramped."

Callcott continued to work on his dissertation while settling into his new role in the university's history department. The materials he needed, however, were in Texas, Washington, or New York. Some of his time in the early summer of 1924 was taken up by a visit from his parents who drove in their new

Studebaker automobile from Corpus Christi to Columbia, arriving on 1 June; and then, with Wilfrid, they drove on to New York to visit Frank and Mary Callcott and their baby, Mary Virginia. Wilfrid spent much of his time doing research in the New York Public Library while his parents toured the town. Wilfrid also went to New Haven to work in the Yale library for a few days. The family left New York, drove to Niagara Falls, and then traveled through the Midwest on their way back to Texas. Wilfrid stopped in Austin where, as his mother recorded in her travel diary, he was “to spend 6 or 7 weeks...getting up material for his Ph. D dissertation in History this summer at their [University of Texas] Library....”

In spite of his busy schedule at the university and the work he was doing on his dissertation, Wilfrid also enjoyed the social and intellectual life he found in Columbia. He became interested in the local community theater and purchased, in September 1924, one tenth of a share, valued at \$100, of the Columbia Stage Company. He also met a number of local folks through his church, Washington Street Methodist, which he joined soon after arriving in town. He was a bachelor, in his late twenties, and enjoyed the prestige of his university position. Even though he had dated occasionally while in New York, he was apparently never seriously interested in any particular woman. When he took his room at 1431 Pendleton Street in September 1923, he met another recent arrival, Grace Otter, who had come to town to work as manager of a new cafeteria at Columbia High School, and who also had a room at 1431 Pendleton Street. Miss Otter was from Danville, Kentucky, and moved to Columbia from Somerset, Kentucky where she taught Home Economics at the local high school from 1920 until 1923. She had

graduated from the Kentucky College for Women with a B. S. degree and then finished a course of study in domestic science at the Thomas Normal Training School in Detroit, Michigan in 1919. By Christmas 1924, Grace and Wilfrid were good friends. Grace wrote Wilfrid a gracious note of thanks for a Christmas gift while in Louisville where she was visiting her mother. Early in January 1925, Wilfrid wrote to his brother that he had just purchased a Chevrolet touring car for \$610. He was "about tired of all this running around without some other means of locomotion than that granted to me by nature." When Wilfrid wrote his mother about his new car, she correctly assigned another motive for the purchase: "but you did not give us the name of the assistant chauffeur for it stands to reason a young man would hardly buy a five passenger car to ride around in alone!" In early May, when the couple announced their engagement to their friends and families, Wilfrid's mother was "surprised & still not surprised either, because I knew in reason you never got a car for your own use...." Grace's mother and sister sent a telegram in response to the news: "We have survived the shock and now want to wire our love and congratulations to both of you...."

The wedding was planned for 5 August in Louisville and Grace left Columbia in early June to prepare for the event. Wilfrid spent much of his time finishing work on his dissertation before he drove to Louisville, arriving a week before the wedding. In her diary Grace described the wedding that took place in her family's home at 157 N. Bayly Avenue: "I loved our kind of simple wedding. We didn't send invitations and only invited 35 people, most of whom were relatives." After spending the night in Louisville at the Brown Hotel, the

newlyweds “boarded the Chevrolet at 8 A. M. leaving Louisville via New Albany for our motor trip to Texas and South Carolina,” Grace recorded. The couple visited Wilfrid’s siblings and their families in Texas and then drove to Corpus Christi to spend a few days with Wilfrid’s parents. By the time they arrived back in Columbia on 1 September, Wilfrid had driven a total of 4,342 miles in a month’s time. The Callcotts moved into an apartment at 1331 Pickens Street near the university and spent their time happily fixing up their first home. By mid-October, however, Grace was under a doctor’s care and later in the fall confined to bed for ten days, with an undiagnosed illness. Her health improved and, just before Christmas, Yates Snowden, who had visited the Callcotts, wrote in a letter to Wilfrid: “We were delighted to find Mrs. Callcott so ‘chirpy’ & looking so well....”

Wilfrid continued to teach his courses and to work on the final revisions of his dissertation. Professor William R. Shepherd, his advisor, had read the first two chapters in May 1925 and, after writing a particularly harsh commentary on the work submitted, encouraged Callcott with faint praise. “Do not feel altogether discouraged by the severe slashing administered to the first two chapters! You have worked in commendably industrious fashion, and will produce, I feel confident, a treatise of interest and value,” he concluded. By November, Shepherd had read and criticized the completed thesis and returned it to Callcott who confidently wrote to his mentor that “[I] can see no particular reason why it should not be completed in accordance with your suggestions by the first of January.” Columbia University required that completed dissertations be

published before the Ph.D. would be awarded; however, the dissertation defense, or in Shepherd's words the "final intellectual grill," could take place as soon as the members of the committee had a chance to read the final version in galley proofs. Callcott sent off the manuscript of his work "Democracy in Mexico, 1822-1857" to Duke University Press in January 1926. After anxiously waiting for six weeks, Callcott received a letter from William T. Laprade, Supervising Editor, in early March. "I have pleasure in saying now that we shall be glad to publish your book on our usual terms..." Laprade informed Callcott, and "I am sure we should have no trouble in meeting any reasonable requirements for you to get your degree this June." With the Duke contract signed, Callcott arranged to take his examination which he successfully completed on 6 May. His examining committee recommended a slight change in the title of his work. Rather than "Democracy in Mexico," "Church and State in Mexico" seemed more accurate "in view of the fact that the relations of Church and State provided the real questions at issue," Callcott informed the Duke University Press editor. On 27 October 1926, the Callcotts received " 'the dissertation' completed" and, as Grace recorded in her diary, "we were 'thrilled' [with] the style in which Duke had put it up."

Another milestone for the Callcotts took place on 15 May 1926 when they moved from their rented apartment to a home, 2717 1st Avenue [later renamed Wilmot Street] in Shandon. The house was about a mile and a half from the university. Wilfrid's parents and his nephew George spent the month of June 1926 in Columbia enjoying the new house. Wilfrid put his dad to work helping

index "Church and State in Mexico" while he spent much of his own time finishing the semester's work.

As soon as work on his dissertation was published, Wilfrid started work on a companion volume designed to carry his history of Mexico from 1857 down to the late 1920s. He took a leave of absence from the University of South Carolina from June 1928 until February 1929 in order to continue his research. Wilfrid and Grace left Columbia by train in early June for Austin, Texas where Wilfrid was scheduled to teach Professor Charles W. Hackett's course in South American history during the summer session. The Callcotts rented an apartment near the university and lived there the entire summer so that Wilfrid could continue his work in the library after the six-week summer session ended. At the end of October, Wilfrid traveled to Mexico for more research while Grace remained in Corpus Christi with Wilfrid's parents. After a brief stop in Monterrey, Wilfrid spent the rest of the fall in Mexico City working in the National Library and buying books from local bookstores for the University of South Carolina's Latin-American collection. To Grace, who remained in Texas because of the approaching birth of her first child, Wilfrid wrote frequent, detailed letters about the things he saw, the people he met, and the work he did. He also reported to Dr. D. M. Douglas, president of the University of South Carolina, about his research and contacts with government officials while in Mexico City. "The material at the National Library seems quite good and I am working on it regularly," he wrote Dr. Douglas on 13 November. Callcott was invited to attend the inaugural ceremonies for the newly elected president of Mexico, Portes Gil, on 30 November, and sit on the

platform in the stadium reserved for the “privileged classes.” Callcott described the scene in a letter to Grace: “One section of the stadium of about a thousand or fifteen hundred seats was almost white with the white pajamas of Indians and their big straw hats....[in] the remainder of the audience there was a very distinct tinge of blue--it was the blue of thousands of blue overalls and shirts,” the regular work uniform of the laborers who made up most of the crowd of 30,000 to 40,000. Callcott also noted that “the cheers for Calles [Plutarco Elias Calles, the former president] were much more noticeable than those for the new President.” Callcott left Mexico City on 14 December and was back in Corpus Christi to rejoin his wife and spend Christmas with his parents. Back in Columbia for the beginning of the spring semester in early February, Wilfrid wrote his brother Frank that “Grace is feeling first rate these days and is far better than she has been at any time since July.”

In Columbia, Wilfrid worked on the material he had collected in Mexico and reported in a letter to Dr. William K. Boyd of the Duke University Press written in February 1929 that he had “completed the first rough draft of about one-fourth...[of] the new manuscript...” The complete work, he speculated, “is not likely to be ready for publication till about September.” He also finished preparations for the courses he had agreed to teach during the two sessions of summer school at the University of Texas while he and Grace awaited the birth of their first child. On 6 March, a son was born and named for his grandfather, George Hardy Callcott. Wilfrid wrote his brother Frank later in the month that “George’s arrival has, of course, been the event for us.” He was happy to report

that Grace “has recuperated splendidly” and “the youngster has been doing fine.” The family remained in Columbia until the end of the spring semester and then traveled by train to Texas. Grace had been experiencing severe pain for several weeks but, with her doctor’s concurrence, decided to make the trip to Texas anyway. As soon as the Callcotts arrived in Austin, Grace went into the hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The physician discovered a serious infection, performed an emergency operation, but could not eliminate the problem and Grace died Sunday morning, 9 June. The funeral was held in Corpus Christi and Grace was buried there. Wilfrid’s parents came to Austin for the summer to take care of the house and baby while Wilfrid fulfilled his obligations for the summer sessions. Wilfrid’s parents also decided to close their house in Corpus Christi and move to Columbia so that Mrs. Callcott could take charge of the baby. Ever though moving from Texas would take them to “a different community with different customs to those they have known for the past forty years,” as Wilfrid explained in a letter to Frank, “I think that Columbia will provide fairly congenial surroundings for Dad, and Mother has George on her hands to provide an interest.”

Wilfrid continued to work on his book manuscript during the fall of 1929 and by the middle of November had finished it and sent it to Frank in New York. Wilfrid asked him to read it and “please criticize freely as to style, content, arrangement or anything else.” He also informed Frank that he feared “that there will be some difficulty in getting a publisher for there are so many footnotes that the manuscript is rather heavy.” He offered his manuscript to Duke

University Press, the publisher of *Church and State in Mexico, 1822-1857*, and emphasized that the new work, "Democracy in Mexico, 1857-1929," was "in a sense...a continuation of the [earlier] work...." but on a "broader field than the first piece...." The press agreed to publish the manuscript if Callcott would "pay the cost of printing," estimated to be about \$1,200. In return, the author would receive 60% of the net sales. J. Fred Rippy, the acting editor at Duke University Press, wrote Callcott that "we are of the opinion that ultimately you would recover your subsidy." Wilfrid was reluctant to accept that proposition because, as he wrote Rippy, "after the expenses of a leave of absence plus extraordinary private expenses involving the complete reorganization of my home, I do not want to borrow more money if it can possibly be avoided." Callcott sent the manuscript to other publishers, including Alfred A. Knopf and the MacMillan Company, but without securing an offer. In late March 1930, Callcott wrote the editor of the Stanford University Press that "word has just reached me that ...[you] might be in a position to publish a manuscript on Mexican History at this time." In June, Callcott received word that his manuscript had been accepted. "This press is young and unendowed; hence we proceed with care on the financial side," W. A. Friend, the manager, wrote Callcott. For much of the rest of the summer, Callcott tended to his duties at the University of South Carolina, where he was teaching in the summer school, and also gathered some illustrations for use in his book. He also agreed to change the title of the work, at the suggestion of Professor Charles W. Hackett, to *Liberalism in Mexico*. Hackett considered "'liberalism' the more accurate expression," according to the Stanford University Press editor,

William H. Davis. During the early months of 1931, Callcott was reading and correcting the galleys for the new book and by late June the first copies of *Liberalism in Mexico* were on their way to bookstores. The reviews of the book were generally favorable, and Callcott also received a flattering letter from his teacher and dissertation director at Columbia University, William R. Shepherd. "Your achievement has brought honor to yourself and to the University in which you are teaching; it has given to me, your former instructor and present friend, a reward greater by far than anything measurable by material standards," Shepherd wrote.

Tempering the joy of reading the book reviews that continued to appear during the fall was the serious illness and death of Callcott's father. George Hardy Callcott required hospitalization in September for a persistent condition from which he had been suffering for some time. Even though needed surgery was successful, an infection set in and Callcott died after seven weeks of hospitalization on 31 October 1931. A brief service was held at the Callcott home and Frank and Ethel, who had come to Columbia for the funeral, accompanied their father's body to Corpus Christi where he was buried. Mrs. Callcott remained in Columbia with Wilfrid and young George. The writer of Mr. Callcott's obituary in *The State* noted that "he was not a 'college man,' but his tastes were scholarly, and all his life he was an omnivorous reader, especially in history."

Wilfrid's mother continued to care for her grandson, but Wilfrid knew that his son needed a mother, and he also felt that he needed a wife. In a letter to

Frank written in November 1929, Wilfrid confided that “I do feel that George needs, or soon will need, a mother to do for him what our Mother cannot do, or soon will be unable to do in the natural course of events. Also, I do feel that every man needs a wife.” In the summer of 1930, Wilfrid met, in the history department at the university, the person who would eventually become his wife. A 1929 graduate of Lander College, in Greenwood, South Carolina, Rebecca Marshall Anderson had enrolled in the university’s graduate history program where she worked as a “fellow,” or teaching assistant, for Callcott. Callcott later directed her thesis, “United States Relations With Nicaragua 1913-1917,” and she was awarded her M. A. in July 1931. After the summer session of 1930 ended, Callcott often wrote to his student in Greenwood where she was teaching at the local high school. Even though his letters offered advice about teaching: “When you go to school tomorrow morning ‘treat’em rough’ if they ‘act up’....Frown at’em, smile at’em--that would work with me--bulldoze’em, anything, but be sure to forget the young scalawags when you leave the school house,” it was abundantly clear that Callcott was trying to win Rebecca’s heart. He frequently declared his love for her in his letters; she was not as forthcoming, but early in January 1931, she invited him to her home near Ninety-Six to have supper and meet her family. In his next letter, he speculated about the impression he had made, especially with Rebecca’s mother. “I can imagine that, knowing my age [he was thirteen years older than Rebecca] and thinking of me as a ‘professor’ at the University she would unconsciously expect a more ‘established’ looking person than I appear,” he wrote. For the next year, Wilfrid

pursued his suit with ardor, sending letters, making visits and, from time to time, giving gifts, usually flowers. Wilfrid spent the summer of 1931 teaching at Duke University while Rebecca finished work on her thesis in Columbia. "Of course it is an old saying that the male of the species likes to do the courting," Wilfrid wrote in July. "That may be true but it is confoundedly hard on the chap when he has to do it by correspondence." By January 1932, however, Wilfrid was making plans for a honeymoon trip to Texas after a July wedding, apparently with Rebecca's full approval. Callcott expressed some concerns about finances because of recent cuts that the state legislature had made in appropriations for teachers' salaries that affected both Wilfrid and Rebecca. "The present bill before the house would trim off 30% but there is every reason to believe that it will be modified somewhat," Wilfrid wrote. "Other married men with children have been making it here on less than my salary would be with the maximum cut so I believe that we too can do it..." Wilfrid argued. Convinced by his own logic, before the month ended, Wilfrid made a trip to Sylvan Jewelers when he had "the delightful job of choosing [a ring] and making the arrangements." About the same time, he also sent out letters to friends at both the University of Texas and Duke University which were "indirect application[s] for a position." He explained to William K. Boyd at Duke that the recently passed appropriations bill had cut "\$1250 from my salary." "In spite of having bought my home here, I have about reached the conclusion that the future can hold very little of promise or prospect for the University of South Carolina in the way of advanced work until there is a fundamental change in the whole system," he concluded. The financial crisis

was not simply local, and colleges and universities everywhere were in much the same situation as was the University of South Carolina. When Charles Hackett replied to Wilfrid's letter, he could offer the young professor little encouragement that a position would become available at the University of Texas for the president of that institution had predicted a twenty-five percent cut in the next budget.

The serious economic conditions in the state and at the university did nothing to alter Callcott's plans for marriage. The wedding was celebrated at Mount Lebanon Church, near Ninety Six, on Friday evening 29 July 1932 in the presence of a large group of relatives and friends. The newlyweds left for Texas where the new Mrs. Callcott met Wilfrid's brother Herbert and sister Ethel and their families. Wilfrid's mother and his young son also traveled to Texas by train and visiting with family during the summer. Wilfrid spent time in Austin working in the University of Texas library, acquiring material for his next project, a biography of Santa Anna. The entire family returned to Columbia in early September in time for the beginning of the fall semester. The national financial crisis worsened during the winter of 1932-33 and in the late spring Wilfrid once again sought help from his professor friends in locating a position at another institution. He wrote P. A. Martin at Stanford University in May 1933 that "after haggling for five months our State legislature passed our appropriation bill this past week, making it retroactive to January 1, 1933. Under it my salary was slashed from \$3450 to \$1792.50, and the library funds wiped out except for the income from a few petty fees." "I am willing," he continued, "to sell my home here at a sacrifice in order to

get into some place with some chance of a future and offering reasonable security....” Wilfrid’s need for financial security for his family was made more acute by the birth of a daughter, Nancy Anderson Callcott, on 18 April. The prospects for a job at another institution, however, were not good. William S. Robertson wrote from the University of Illinois in June: “I am indeed sorry to hear of the educational predicament at Columbia, but, alas, at some institutions further north the situation is more or less like your own. Positions as university teachers are very scarce.”

As a result of the dire financial situation at the university, the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, with Callcott as its president, became more active. In May 1934, the group sponsored a visit to the campus by Dr. S. A. Mitchell of the University of Virginia who was to address the state organization. In his invitation, Callcott reminded Mitchell that “the membership in this state is quite small but there seems to be a growing interest and we hope the trip would be worth your while....” Callcott was also responsible for returning a reply form to the national headquarters in December 1933. In the space provided for a description of local economic conditions, Callcott wrote “conditions quite bad; co-operation by and with administration very good.”

With little likelihood of moving to another university to improve his financial situation, Wilfrid had no option except to continue his research, writing, and teaching at the University of South Carolina at his reduced salary. His reputation as an authority on Mexican and Latin American history was already solidly established and he was often called on by the scholarly community to share his

expertise. For example, he was honored by George Washington University with an invitation to deliver a series of five lectures on Modern Mexico in July 1933. These were later published in *The Caribbean Area* (Washington, DC: The George Washington University Press, 1934, pages 302-391.) In December of the same year, he was invited by Herbert E. Bolton to take part in two discussion sessions on Latin American research at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, D.C. He also continued to push forward with his research on Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna which he had begun in 1930. He wrote Santa Anna's grandson, Father Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, and received from him a "kind letter and careful answers to my questions...." He also applied to the Social Science research Council for a grant to support additional research on the proposed biography. With the strong endorsement of his friend Charles W. Hackett of the University of Texas, who wrote in his recommendation to the council that "I know of no one who is better qualified for this work than Professor Callcott," the request was granted and Wilfrid was notified in March 1934 that he would receive a check for \$500 to be used "for the completion of your study...."

Wilfrid's mother, Mary Ireland Callcott, died 15 July 1934, aged 73, after a steady decline in her health over many months. In the obituary that appeared in *The State*, there was a brief character sketch that came from the pen of someone who knew her well. "She exemplified, to a later generation, all the virtues of the pioneer Englishwoman, who, to a large extent, mothered America in its infancy. Courageous, resourceful, unafraid of work, responsibility, or the perils of the

unknown future, she never lost the forward-looking spirit of youth....She was a devoted mother, not only to her own children, but to the little grandson for whose sake she came to South Carolina.”

In August 1934, Wilfrid traveled by train to Mexico City to gather additional material for his Santa Anna biography. He wrote to Rebecca a few days after his arrival and reported on his progress: “The work at the Library is going fairly well. I am getting most of the material I call for. The best stuff is obviously in the newspapers which I have been working on for a day and a half.” After two weeks in Mexico City, Wilfrid traveled to Jalapa to check out the local library and to have a look at “El Encero, the remaining S. [anta] A. [nna] hacienda not in ruins.” In a letter to his brother Frank, Wilfrid related what he had found of value in Jalapa. “I secured a number of valuable S. A. stories, five really valuable letters which I brought to Mexico City to be photostated, and met and talked with people from an old Indian woman to the old aristocracy. The old woman, entirely illiterate, told me the local version of the story (told her by her Grandmother who witnessed it) of the capture of S. A. by the Indians in 1845, when they were actually going to cook him and send him as a giant tamale in banana leaves to Mexico City.” Back in Mexico City by the end of August, Wilfrid decided to leave Mexico sooner than he had planned. He explained to Rebecca in a letter written 5 September: “I could go down to various Government Departments and spend weeks but obviously could get little beyond what I already have unless I were to spend a year or more on the job. On the other hand, I understand that Austin has some material I have not seen and that I ought to have, hence the change in

plans.” After a brief time in Austin, Wilfrid was back in Columbia for the beginning of the fall semester.

The university’s administration had granted Wilfrid a reduced teaching load for the fall semester in 1934 in order to provide additional time for him to complete the Santa Anna manuscript. By late November, he was able to report to one of his correspondents that “I have completed the first draft of approximately the first half of the manuscript.” In April 1935 he inquired of The MacMillan Company: “would [your company] be interested in publishing a Biography of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna?” He estimated that in about two and a half months the manuscript would be finished and available for reading and consideration. He wrote similar letters to four or five other trade publishers during the spring. By the early fall, he sent the completed manuscript, now titled “Santa Anna, A Product of his Times,” to those publishing houses that had indicated a willingness to consider the biography. All of the commercial publishers rejected the manuscript and it was not until the end of November that Wilfrid found a receptive editor. Joseph A. Brandt, director of the University of Oklahoma Press, sent a positive response to Wilfrid’s inquiry. Brandt was “extremely interested” in the biography and wanted to read the manuscript as soon as possible, but as he frankly stated, “the determining element with us this year, due to the fact that our budget has been sharply reduced by the University, would be whether the book would pay for itself.” It was not until late February 1936 that Wilfrid received a report from Brandt and the news was not good. The scholars who read the manuscript did not recommend publication. One reader

wrote: "The fatal weakness...of the manuscript is that Professor Callcott has failed to integrate the life of the man with his times." Another complication, Brandt confided, was that the biography "would have to compete with the newly published work by Frank C. Hanighen, *Santa Anna, The Napoleon of the West...*" Brandt, however, did intimate that a revised version of the biography would be seriously considered. Wilfrid agreed with the critics' suggestions and responded with a promise to Brandt that he would revise the manuscript and resubmit it. The re-writing, he estimated, would take a month. In less time than that, in fact, the revised *Santa Anna* was on its way back to Oklahoma. At the same time, he sent along four possible titles to replace the original one after Brandt had commented that "the title should have more vitality than the one on the manuscript submitted." However, the problem of choosing a title that "is crisp and inviting [and] will aid in capturing the fancy of the general reader," as Brandt had suggested, was never solved. When the book appeared in December 1936, it carried the title *Santa Anna: The Story of an Enigma Who Once Was Mexico*. This book proved to be Callcott's most successful effort, particularly in terms of sales and positive reviews. A headline in the *Columbia, S. C., Record* in February 1937 announced "Callcott's Book Gets Applause From Critics" and noted that "more than sixty favorable reviews have been received" by the University of Oklahoma Press in the two months since publication. The *American Mercury* ran a six and one-half page review by the popular writer Captain John W. Thomason titled "History's Perfect Rascal;" the Book-of-the-Month Club placed the book on its recommended reading list; and Metro-

Goldwyn-Meyer briefly considered the book as the basis for a screenplay before dropping the idea. The size of the original edition, published 25 November 1936, was 1,492 copies. By 1 July 1940, 746 copies had been sold, 31 in the preceding year, and Callcott received \$9.30 as a royalty payment. The final royalty payment, \$1.50, was made 1 July 1948 with the notation that 1214 copies had been sold out of the initial printing and that 250 copies had been remaindered.

The Callcott family's numbers increased rapidly during the 1930s. A son, Frank, was born 21 October 1935, Thomas followed in 1937, and Mary Ireland was born in 1938. The need for a house larger than the one on Wilmot Street was obvious. Wilfrid wrote a friend at Duke University that "our little flock needs more room for its activities, to say nothing of the fact that Rebecca and I think that we need more room for peace and quiet." After his mother died, Wilfrid, along with his brother Frank, acquired their siblings' interest in the family residence and an apartment house in Corpus Christi that had been owned by their parents. Both properties provided some income for the brothers and with the increased financial stability of state funding for university salaries, Wilfrid felt confident enough to purchase a larger house at 1718 College Street. Wilfrid described the house to Frank in a letter of 13 November 1937 as "a block and a half from the University, has four bedrooms and two sleeping porches upstairs, and a study downstairs as well as the regular other rooms." Wilfrid offered \$10,250 for a house that he considered "an outstanding bargain" and the "best that we have seen." The family moved to the new place around Christmas 1937

and Wilfrid reported to Frank in February 1938 that we are liking the new house more and more as the time passes.” “As for the other place we have not been able to sell it yet,” he added, but had decided to rent it until the real estate market picked up. The house and lot at 2717 Wilmot continued as rental property until March 1943 when the Callcotts finally sold it.

Wilfrid used the time after the end of the academic year for travel and research or for summer school teaching. He had taught summer sessions at the University of Texas in 1927 and 1928; at Duke University in 1931, 1935, 1936, and 1937; at the University of North Carolina in 1938; and at the University of South Carolina 1932 and 1933. He also spent the academic year 1935-1936 at Duke University as visiting professor where he rented a house for his family. The opportunity to teach at other institutions allowed him to not only supplement his regular university salary, but it also added to his reputation as a scholar in demand. He accepted every opportunity offered him to lecture to national academic assemblages as well as to local audiences on historical topics. For example, in January 1939 he was invited by The University of Miami to deliver a series of lectures on “Present-day Mexico” at the Winter Institute of Hispanic-American Studies in Coral Gables. The lectures, he wrote his brother Frank, “seemed to go over pretty well.” The directors of the institute were pleased because, as they revealed in a letter to Callcott: “ we sold more tickets for your lectures than for any others put together.” He also continued his practice of speaking to local groups. He wrote Frank on 12 March 1939 that “tomorrow I have to make a talk at the Rotary Club to about 125 men.... The one tomorrow

will be the tenth this year to audiences aggregating 1900 (three at Miami to about 875) but the rest have been in or around Columbia,” he continued. “Those derved things can take time for the total returns of a thank you, usually plus a dinner which can be little enjoyed, and sometimes plus 5c per mile travel expense,” he complained. Even though he had always been one of the most visible faculty members at the University of South Carolina, he had “never yet been asked to make a commencement talk or address. Those call out a quite different set of faculty members,” he concluded.

Even so, the newly selected President of the University, J. Rion McKissick, did recognize Callcott’s talents and his capacity for hard work. McKissick appointed Callcott as chairman to a new advisory committee on salaries and promotions. As he related to his brother Frank in a letter of 13 February 1938, “to my dismay last Wednesday ...[the President] announced the committee with one W. H. Callcott as chairman.” Even though McKissick had “put young men, i.e., under forty-five, in practically every position he has had to fill,” Callcott reported, “I am still dumfounded at what it can mean.” Callcott who was forty-two years old had been at the University for fourteen years and, although not one of the most vocal members of the faculty, he was respected by his colleagues and had obviously gained the trust of President McKissick. He also continued to garner academic recognition as an expert on Latin American history. Callcott, in a report written in March 1938 to L. T. Baker, dean of the USC’s graduate school, outlined his own “research work completed and in progress.” In the fall of 1937, Callcott noted, the head of the history department

at Johns Hopkins University, W. Stull Holt, had inquired about the status of his study of the Caribbean relations of the United States and asked if he “would be interested in delivering the Albert Shaw Lectures in Diplomatic History in the spring of 1939.” Callcott pointed out to Dean Baker that “the Shaw Lectureship is looked upon as something of an honor” and would place his name alongside those of Dexter Perkins, J. W. Pratt, and Charles Seymour, all men who were considered at the top of the field of United States diplomatic history. Even though he had been working on the project since the completion of *Santa Anna* in 1936, he had not had time to read through the papers of secretaries of state Knox, Lansing, and William H. Taft. “Apparently, the Committee in charge is now interested in securing a representative of some Southern Institution to appear in the series,” Callcott opined, “and Professor Holt writes that if I can secure the manuscript material that is so essential there should be a good chance for me to receive serious consideration for the 1940 appointment.”

Callcott had published three books, delivered lectures that were also published, and had penned numerous book reviews. As a mature scholar, he had also become confident enough to offer himself as a candidate for vacant positions at other institutions. He outlined his qualifications in a letter addressed to the dean of the faculty at Tulane University after he learned from his friend Professor Robert H. Williams of Brown University that Tulane was “looking for a man in the Latin American Relations field....” A few weeks later he wrote his brother Frank that he had heard nothing from Tulane, but “I am not going to run after them for it did not sound like much from my end of the game.” He was

gratified, however, in the spring of 1939 when he received word that the Committee on Southern Grants-in-Aid had awarded him \$250 to help support his research for his proposed book on the “Caribbean Policy of the United States, 1890-1920.” He used the money during the latter part of the summer of 1939 to help with his expenses while he worked in the manuscript collections of Yale University and the Library of Congress. It was not, however, until the week of 20 April 1942 that Callcott delivered the Albert Shaw Lectures at Johns Hopkins University; the companion volume, *The Caribbean Policy of the United States, 1890-1920*, was published in the fall of the same year. In a letter thanking Callcott for a copy of the book, J. Rion McKissick, USC’s president, promised to pass the book around among the members of the Board of Trustees at their December meeting. But, he joked, “I will keep my eye on it all the while.” In a more serious vein, McKissick remarked that “the University was highly honored by the invitation to you to deliver the Albert Shaw lectures, but is far more honored by the tangible fruit of your scholarship and research.” Some of the reviews of the book, however, were highly critical and involved Callcott in a brief exchange with Samuel Flagg Bemis, eminent Yale professor of diplomatic history. Bemis wrote a review that appeared in *The Annals* in January 1943. Callcott responded to the review with a letter that was printed in the next issue of the journal, along with Bemis’s rebuttal to Callcott’s defense of his book. Among other criticisms, Bemis charged “that the punctuation is ‘calcified’ and the arrangement of material ‘unskilled.’” Callcott reacted most strongly to Bemis’s claim that other authors had already “covered the ground.” In his long rebuttal to

Callcott's defense, Bemis insisted that "new details supplied by Professor Callcott's book do not change in any essential way the picture that these other writers have enabled us to have in our minds of Caribbean policy." In a personal letter to Callcott, Bemis acknowledged that "on the whole it is not a favorable review, to be sure, but why should you hold that against me?"

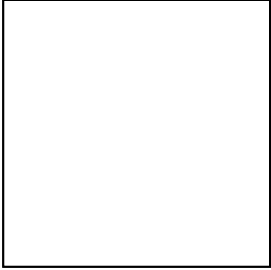
Beginning in 1940, Callcott became more involved with administrative duties at the University of South Carolina and, as a result, had less time to devote to research and writing. Callcott was recruited for duty in the registrar's office at a time when the university was beginning to experience changes in enrollment patterns occasioned by the military buildup going on in the United States. Callcott mentioned in a letter written to his brother Frank in September 1940 that "Camp (now Fort) Jackson is building up rapidly." He also cited the organization of a Naval R.O.T.C. unit on campus and "airplane training for pilots going steadily forward" as manifestations of "the most definite wave of militarism I have ever known anything about..." Callcott offered a course in diplomatic history in the evenings through the university's extension department for the benefit of army officers from Fort Jackson. "A young captain came in to see me and said that his colonel and several others were interested," Callcott explained to his brother. In a February 1941 letter to his brother, Callcott commented that "Columbia is still feeling the pressure and influence of the Fort Jackson conditions." Not all the changes, especially the presence of 45,000 to 50,000 troops in a town of 75,000, were positive ones: "Accidents in the city are about treble what they have been for the past half dozen years and the spirit of

expansion--or plain recklessness seems to have seized a lot of people." The university was directly affected by the federal training programs that were housed on the campus during the war. As registrar, Callcott was responsible for those students as well. He wrote his brother in June 1943 about the "busy time for the Registrar's office: This year with the added job of getting things set up for the 642 V-12 students coming from all over the union the situation has been a bit hectic." After the initial rush of registration ended, Callcott planned to spend 9:00 to 1:00 each day in the Registrar's office but would be free to work in his own office in the afternoons. In an October letter to Frank, Callcott lamented the fact that "my own research is really at a standstill." With his administrative responsibilities and his teaching, he could find time for only "an hour or so every week or two and that is really not enough to keep the subject warm." And the prospect for more time for his own research did not look promising. Callcott observed that "now that this job is about in line they have given me a few more odds and ends to do. I am trying to insist that they are temporary but they do take time."

The "odds and ends" turned out to not be temporary at all, as Callcott had hoped, but marked the beginning of a new career in administration that would continue almost as long as he remained at the University of South Carolina. Callcott explained his new duties in a letter written to Frank in November 1943. "This summer the Dean of our Graduate School died," Callcott wrote. "The President has asked me to take charge as Chairman of the Graduate Committee," effective 1 July. As a result of the new duties, Callcott's teaching load was reduced from fifteen hours to nine. Even though Callcott expected

President McKissick to “bring in some outsider as Dean” next year, McKissick had asked Callcott to request an appropriation for graduate studies from the state legislature. Callcott asked for \$9,000 for seven graduate fellowships and “for the publication of a couple of manuscripts,” he explained to his brother. “With money “fairly ‘easy’ now...it seems a shame not to get a program star[t]ed,” he concluded. Callcott also directed his office assistant to classify the theses “on hand” while he became acquainted with the duties of the office. “It promises to be a bit of fun,” he informed his brother, even though he readily understood that his work as dean would bring him directly into “the awkward question of personalities and ambitions.” A few weeks later, Callcott wrote his brother: “My (!) Graduate School plans are slowly shaping up.” He had had discussions with President McKissick as well as with the president of the Alumni Association and he believed they were prepared to support his request for \$1,250,000 for an endowment. That amount, he believed, was necessary to “guarantee that when we start the work it will not be blocked by legislative action the first time there is an economy cry.” The funds would support “a series of endowed professorships, fellowships and...a very modest publishing program.” Professor Callcott officially became Dean Callcott on 13 December 1944 when the Board of Trustees confirmed his appointment as dean of the graduate school.

Dean Callcott was cognizant of the rapid changes, especially in regard to racial issues, that were taking place in Columbia and throughout the state and region during the war years. After making a brief comment in a letter to his brother about the Harlem riots that occurred in August 1943, Callcott remarked



that Columbia had been relatively free of racial unrest partly because “a splendid group of men who are from the best and oldest families in the section ... are working steadily to see that the Negroes get better treatment and full consideration.” Their work had helped produce “better housing and transportation facilities, as well as schools” for African Americans. “Unfortunately,” Callcott continued, “we have a jackass for a governor who wants to go to the Senate and he is trying to make capital on the Negro issue.” In March of 1944, in a letter to his brother, Callcott mentioned that a recent Federal court case in Charleston had determined that black teachers should receive pay equal to white teachers. The state legislature also passed a new teacher certification program, drafted “by some really good men here at the University.” The new program will test all efficiently and pay them accordingly,” Callcott wrote. “The less efficient will suffer, if White; while the Negro will certainly benefit, and the most efficient Negroes will benefit greatly,” he predicted.

Callcott became directly involved with the issue of race in education in South Carolina in 1945 when, as dean of the graduate school, he was asked by the all-white Board of Trustees of South Carolina State College to “investigate the Orangeburg school and make recommendations as to facilities needed, staff and the like.” Callcott explained to his brother in a letter of 3 June 1945 that “I have asked the President [Norman E. Smith of USC] what he thought of the matter and he says he feels I should certainly go ahead.” Callcott also wrote that “my first trip is to be next Thursday--and I am frankly looking forward to it with a

bit of interest.” Callcott also was aware of the fact that a report on a controversial topic could be a “headache” and that “I know I stand to become exceedingly unpopular with some folks but if a man has to ‘play it safe’ all the time there is very little spice left in life.” When Callcott next wrote his brother, he explained the details of “the program that I am trying to get lined up” at South Carolina State College. Simply stated, Callcott suggested that instructors from the University of South Carolina, or other institutions, be employed to teach specified classes at the Orangeburg college and that additional resources, books in particular, be provided for those classes. “In that way there can be no question of lack of equality of instruction,” Callcott reasoned. “There may be some real headaches in it all, but there is no question that if I am to act as Dean of this Graduate School it is not ...[a duty] that I can, or ought to be willing to, shirk,” he concluded. In his 4 October report to the members of the Board of Trustees of the Orangeburg school, Callcott recommended that the school offer a limited master’s degree program, but he did not support the establishment of law and medical schools there.

Callcott was in a position, as dean of the university’s graduate school, to observe and also to influence the process of desegregation in public education in South Carolina. In August 1946, Callcott wrote Frank that “the Negro question is tightening up all through these parts.” He confided that “we have had applicants for admission to the University, two of them to the Graduate School so I would not be surprised if some test cases are not presented to the courts in the near future. With graduate work established at the Negro college in the State,

however, I do not believe that there will be much to it.” After a law suit was filed in early January 1947, Callcott remarked in a letter to Frank that “as I read the letter of communication [about the suit] in the President’s office it is in pretty broad and general terms, including graduate work, though the actual fight is on the Law School.” He also recognized that “one of the wisest steps we took was the work done about two years ago in cooperation with ...[South Carolina State]...in helping them to get their work started. It established ... cooperation in a fashion that now looks as though it will stand us in good stead....”

During the fall of 1944, Callcott had inaugurated the practice of offering graduate level courses at sites off campus. For years, the University’s Extension Division had sponsored courses in towns around the state, usually taught “by men of other colleges and under very lax supervision, and practically for the fees collected,” Callcott explained to his brother in a letter of 8 October. As a result of the newly enacted teacher certification law “that puts a premium on a master’s degree and on graduate work,” many teachers from around the state were interested in taking graduate level courses. Callcott volunteered to offer a course in another town on an experimental basis if it were made “a regular part of my work...; and if it was done only by the regularly employed members of the University staff.” The University’s administration agreed and Callcott “was personally authorized to start the first course at a town by the name of Florence-- a town of about 15,000 some 82 miles from here,” he explained to Frank. On 7 October, Callcott drove to Florence and found about fifty-five prospective students, a number that dwindled significantly after Callcott announced that a

minimum of 3,000 pages of reading was required for his course. Another instructor from Columbia offered an undergraduate course and rode to Florence with Callcott every Saturday. Because gasoline rationing was still a part of the country's war effort, Callcott had to request permission from the gasoline board to allow him additional fuel stamps. Callcott continued his class for the rest of the semester and thus established the underpinnings for the movement that would later result in the establishment of a system of two-year campuses that would extend the influence of the university throughout the state.

Even though the end of World War II was not yet in sight, Dean Callcott remarked in a letter of 1 February 1944 to Frank that "here there is a feeling that the changes are right around the corner." The military programs were being phased out, or reduced in size, and planning for the post-war period was under way. Callcott was scheduled "to attend a meeting to lay out plans for the post-war courses...." The meeting would focus on a "program sponsored by the Government, apparently in connection with the sending of a large number of college men back to their campuses." The university was also sending out "some 4,000 return post cards to our men in all parts of the world to know what they will want if they return." The heavy demand on faculty continued throughout the year. The university instituted a second eight week summer term that began in September 1944 and ended just before the beginning of the fall term on 1 November in an effort to provide the courses needed by regular and military students. "Every one of our men is working to the limit now....," Callcott related to Frank in July 1944. "History is quite heavily in demand," he continued. In fact,

Rebecca Callcott was employed “to handle a couple of sections,” a practice that continued until 1950. The fall term did show a reduction in student numbers: the Navy program quota was reduced from 750 to 546; the V-5 unit was discontinued. “Our civilian men are quite low in numbers,” Callcott wrote to Frank. “We have a few discharged soldiers, a number of 4-Fs, and a considerable number of lads under eighteen,” he concluded.

Dean Callcott focused much of his energy on the fledgling University of South Carolina Press during his first two years as dean of the graduate school. He reported in November 1944 that he was sending to “the printer the first 45% of the manuscript for the new volume that I am editing as the first venture of the kind for the Graduate Office.” By January 1945, he was able to write that “our first volume should be out in a few weeks; a second is authorized and I think we have two more lined up to follow within the year.” Some complications developed with that volume, as he explained to Frank. “The local bindery has four workmen: last week one had a heart attack, another cut off the end of his right index finger and lost the first two joints...and so it goes.” Finally, in March 1945, Callcott reported to Frank that “the first volume issued by the University Press and which has been occupying a considerable part of my time for the past few months has been out now for a couple of weeks.” The press had already sold over 600 copies of the initial press run of 1,500, “so we are greatly pleased,” Callcott admitted. Two and a half years later, Callcott informed his brother that “the University Press work I have now farmed out entirely and I simply act as chairman of the committee while an editor has taken over the work.” The first

volumes that issued from the press, however, profited from Callcott's experience with preparing his own book manuscripts for publication. In a report on the Graduate School Program presented in November 1946, Callcott detailed the success of the press and noted "that of the first five of the Press publications, four deal specifically with South Carolina problems and literature.... Actually this is the primary purpose, as we see it, of the University Press."

Callcott's duties as dean of the graduate school increasingly involved him with travel to other states for meetings with national educational organizations and associations. In December 1946, Callcott traveled to Memphis for a meeting of the Deans of Southern Graduate Schools. To him it was "the most significant group of its kind that I have known." It comprised all the southern state institutions as well as many of the private schools, including Duke and Tulane. In addition to "approving standards for both masters' and doctors' degrees," the deans also considered the status of historically Black institutions in the region, a task they would continue the following spring. In November 1947, he attended the annual meeting of the same group in New Orleans and, as he wrote Frank, because of the speed of air travel, decided to go "both ways by plane--and I do not like plane travel for comfort. It is just too noisy, and after one trip the spectacular has gone." That trip, however, was cancelled because of heavy rains and wind gusts of forty miles per hour that grounded all air traffic. In December 1948, he traveled to Memphis for the annual meeting of the Conference of Deans of Southern Graduate Schools where he was elected to a five-year term as secretary. The deans had also invited "the deans of the

acceptable Negro Graduate schools to join our group as full members for future meetings....We think it wise if there is to be any pretense that their work is on an 'equal' basis." At an October 1949 meeting of the Regional Commission on Graduate Work held near Savannah, Georgia, "Negroes were present and took an active part in the discussion; in fact one of them made one of the leading reports and summaries of the meeting," Callcott noted in a letter to his brother. And in November in New Orleans the Conference of Deans of Southern Graduate Schools for "the first time...had Negro members present," Callcott reported. But Callcott's significant involvement in the work of the regional associations caused him some grief from time to time. In December 1950, at a meeting of USC's Board of Trustees "something of a cat and dog fight threatened to develop over some phrases of the regional work." Callcott remarked to his brother that "the whole thing has its humorous side for in the regional meetings I have been looked on as something of a damn conservative South Carolinian, and here I am definitely damned as an unspeakable radical. Oh! La! La! Such is life."

Even with the additional duties of Dean of the Graduate School, Callcott still found time for research and writing. Just after *Santa Anna* was published in 1936, Callcott began work on a manuscript on American foreign relations that he developed in conjunction with courses he offered in that field. After eleven years of work and three drafts, he was ready to send the manuscript to publishers for consideration. He explained in a letter of 30 January 1947 to an editor at Prentice-Hall, a firm long interested in the project, that he had 33 chapters in

hand and that all would be soon ready for critical examination after final revisions and retyping. This text, he stated was intended to challenge the two dominant books on the subject; one by Samuel F. Bemis, the other by Thomas A. Bailey. Both were published between 1935-40 and both had been revised by adding chapters to cover recent events, a practice that in Callcott's estimation produced "a 'choppy' finish." Callcott's text would include the important events of World War II and its aftermath in a more polished fashion. He also placed his half-way point, the "division between the semesters of a course," at the end of the nineteenth century rather than at 1865 as the two competing texts did. Understandably, he "also devoted relatively more space to Latin America than the others." On 23 March, Callcott informed his brother that he had sent copies of his manuscript to three publishers, but had received no word from any of them. "If all of them turn thumbs down it is not going to be funny for I have spent no small amount of time in the past eleven years on it. In fact, I have no idea of starting anything else quite as ambitious as that," he confessed. A few days later, Callcott received a rejection letter from Prentice-Hall citing as a reason for declining publication the desire to find a textbook "that would be a more marked departure from the texts already on the market." The reply from Houghton Mifflin was also a disappointment, especially in view of the manuscript reader's comment that "the Latin American emphasis would already appear dated and that the demand would be for a book which represents a better proportion among the various global diplomatic relations of our country with the rest of the world." Callcott had also sent part of the manuscript to Professor Paul H. Clyde at Duke

University for his critical comments. Clyde prefaced his comments with the observation that “I would be lacking in frankness, honesty, and friendship if I did not call these things to your attention.” Clyde cited “considerable factual error,” as well as a “lack of interpretative material” as the chief defects of the manuscript. Rather than abandon the project, Callcott spent the next year reworking the material. In May 1948, he sent the manuscript to the editor at Rinehart and Company “completely rewritten and, I believe, ...in much better shape than when you saw it last spring.” But when the reports came in, they were no more positive than the ones from the previous year. The editor of McGraw-Hill regretted that his company would not publish the manuscript because it “would not gain a large enough share of the market to be a commercial success.” The decision of the staff at Rinehart was the same: “your book will not compete on a favorable basis with the text by Thomas Bailey.” Callcott persevered and continued to offer his manuscript of the *History of the Foreign Policies of the United States* to other publishers. The MacMillan Company declined for the same reason that other publishers had given. “I have not been able to persuade my colleagues that it will be sufficiently successful against this competition to warrant our undertaking it,” editor Charles D. Anderson wrote Callcott in December 1948. Oxford University Press delivered the same news in a letter of March 1949. Callcott then turned to the University of Oklahoma Press, but the response was by now familiar. There was too much competition in the field and Oklahoma did not usually publish textbooks, the press’s editor replied. Ever hopeful, Callcott continued his campaign in 1950 with

a letter to D. C. Heath and Company in which he touted the virtues of his work. “I think I can safely say that my manuscript is somewhat less statistical and ‘heavy’ than Bemis....On the other hand it is less ‘popular’ than Bailey,” Callcott explained. When the head of the college department finally replied on 1 December 1950, he repeated the mantra of other editors: the competing books by Bemis and Bailey were too firmly entrenched. The editor also commented “that the apportioning of attention on topics does not always correspond to the trend of contemporary interest” and then added: “in respect to style...we feel a lack in your manuscript of the general liveliness to which readers have been accustomed.” In April 1952, Callcott once again made his pitch for publication of his manuscript, this time to Henry Holt and Company, a firm that had rejected his manuscript in 1948. Callcott had been contacted by a Holt field representative who “wanted to express an interest in” his manuscript. The manager of the Holt’s college department, however, quickly disavowed any interest in Callcott’s work. “We like to put our full weight and attention behind a single book in an upper class course like this, “ the manager wrote to Callcott, “and Professor Bemis did a job of revision a couple of years ago that has been widely admired.”

Two years later, in January 1954, Callcott made another effort to find a publisher for his textbook. This time the Thomas Y. Crowell Company was the potential publisher. Callcott forwarded the first half of the manuscript to the publisher, apparently after revising the work, and promised that the rest would be ready in two months. On 1 July 1954, Callcott offered to send his manuscript to the J. B. Lippincott Company for examination. The editor of the college

department, after looking at the manuscript, gave Callcott the familiar reply. "It seems to us that your projected text, despite the blessing of brevity, would be at a somewhat competitive disadvantage in that while Bailey and Bemis can serve the dual purpose of both text and reference, yours, although very well written, would serve only as a text," he wrote. Doubleday and Company also considered, and rejected, the manuscript in the fall of 1954. Callcott requested the consulting editor to give him a frank appraisal of the chances that his manuscript would ever merit publication. "I do not want to waste time on polishing a rotten apple, but if the fruit is sound it might bear further effort," Callcott wrote. The manuscript was never published.

As Callcott approached his 65th birthday, the mandatory retirement age for administrators at the University of South Carolina, he planned to once again turn to research, writing and teaching. He informed a friend in July 1960 that "research is somewhat more than half completed on a study of the 'New World Foreign Policy of the United States, 1920-1940,'" which he viewed as a continuation of *Caribbean Policy of the United States, 1890-1920*. He also planned a third volume. "If Mother Nature will vouchsafe me a few more years," he confided to his correspondent, "I hope to continue the trilogy from my original Hopkins lectures to the volume now in hand to a third on 'The United States Foreign Policy: World Responsibilities.'"

During the sixteen years that Callcott served as dean of the graduate school, he focused most of his time and energy on his administrative duties, rather than on teaching and research. He did continue to direct history students

who were writing master's theses or doctoral dissertations in Latin American history or American foreign policy. His other scholarly activities involved an occasional book review for the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of Southern History*, or a similar journal; an evaluation of manuscripts submitted to university presses for possible publication; service on panels at historical association conventions; or the presentation of papers at scholarly conferences. In addition, he was in demand as a speaker and often delivered talks on a variety of subjects, historical or contemporary, to service or church groups, alumni clubs, or teachers associations. In 1947, for example, he delivered twenty addresses in Columbia and in other nearby towns including Rock Hill, Greenwood, Hartsville, Barnwell, Beaufort, and Williston, all in South Carolina, and also traveled to Gastonia, North Carolina, to speak to the Rotary Club. He spoke to groups that ranged from 25 to 450 people and totaled 2,165 by year's end. During the war years, Callcott limited his lectures to Columbia audiences and noted, in 1943, that "out-of-town invitations declined because of transportation difficulties and gasoline shortage." He also gave a talk once every two years to the members of Columbia's Kosmos Club. Composed of attorneys, physicians, and university men, the Kosmos Club met once a month for a meal and a presentation by a member on a subject of his choosing. Callcott usually picked a topic related to Latin America but, on occasion, would find another subject of interest. In 1957, for example, he delivered a paper, "The Grist of the American History Mill in 1956," that surveyed the books submitted for the Bancroft Prizes. Callcott had served on the three-man jury to choose the best two books published in

American history that year. He used that experience to analyze “present day trends in historical research” in his Kosmos Club paper. He briefly surveyed the 85 volumes that the jury had seriously considered and concluded that “current readers have been so fed on short stories, moving pictures, radio and television that they demand efficient presentation in what they read.” “In 1956 a writer needed to ‘get on with his story’ if he expected to find a publisher,” Callcott decided.

Dean Callcott, associated with the university since 1923, knew through experience the inner workings of the institution and therefore could help provide continuity and stability when a change of presidents took place. In November 1951, after the retirement of President Norman E. Smith had been announced, Callcott addressed a letter to Donald Russell, Smith’s successor: “I do not yet feel like an old man but I have already served under five presidents. From this experience I am convinced that we do not need men in the office who are about to retire. We need a younger man, one who is still flexible but tough--not hard and brittle.” When the new president assumed office in June 1952, he appointed Callcott chair of a committee to draft a report on academic reorganization. “He insists that he wants the University to offer less programs but to be able to boast that each of those offered is the full equal of the best to be found,” Callcott wrote his brother. By late July, the committee was ready to make its preliminary report on the reorganization of curriculum and faculty. Callcott was very optimistic about the future. “So far the prospects are good, very good,” he wrote. When the final recommendations went to the president in the fall of 1952, the document

contained recommendations for additional funding for specific projects. The report strongly supported a five-year program that would facilitate “a gradual improvement and expansion in faculty and curriculum and general quickening of the intellectual life of the University.” Specifically included was a visiting professor program that would bring to campus “outstanding scholars and thinkers, drawn from outside, [who will] not only fire the students but, more importantly, will break down generally any insularity or narrowness of outlook on the part of both faculty and students.” Special professorships, actually endowed chairs, were also recommended as well as fellowships for graduate students. Beginning with the observation that “the present library facilities of the University are inadequate,” the report proposed the expenditure of \$310,000 over a five year period for the addition of new material. The committee’s report also surveyed each academic department in the university. History, Callcott’s own bailiwick, was “one of the strong departments at the University;” however, it does need “to stimulate and develop outstanding research and writing in southern history.” After citing the Calhoun publication project which was supported by the history department under the editorship of Robert L. Meriwether, the report argued for the addition of “an outstanding scholar in southern history, equipped both to do scholarly research and to inspire in students the same capacity....” To help convince the state legislature to provide additional funding for the university, President Russell asked Callcott to appear with him before the State Budget and Control Board. “I tried to indicate that Graduate Work is expensive and that they ought to support it handsomely,” Callcott informed his brother.

Donald Russell obviously relied on Callcott's experience as graduate school dean and his knowledge of the University and its faculty and staff as he himself learned his new job of president. Callcott at times wanted to surrender his administration duties, as he informed his brother in a letter of 21 June 1953. "Incidentally I offered our president my resignation a couple of weeks ago with the statement that I would like to get to a simple job of teaching and a research professorship," Callcott confided. "His response with some emphasis was that such a step did not have the chance of the proverbial snowball in the lower regions," Callcott wrote.

The apparent confidence that the president placed in Dean Callcott was matched by Callcott's admiration for Russell. In 1956, Callcott wrote a letter in support of Russell's nomination for an award and summarized the reasons that Russell should be so honored. "When ...[Russell] became President four years ago morale was at a low ebb and the whole organization in sad need of rejuvenation," Callcott explained. Callcott then listed some of the changes that Russell had brought about: new buildings, modern equipment, and the renovation of the historic Rutledge Chapel; administrative reorganization, salary increases for faculty and staff, and increased funds for student scholarships; and "a wide-ranging over-haul of the University curricula..." strengthening the Physics Department and the School of Engineering, and raising entrance requirements. Callcott did not mention, of course, that he had suggested and implemented many of the academic changes that had occurred under Russell's presidency. For example, in 1955 Callcott orchestrated the "formal organization

of ...[the] Graduate School Faculty, as distinct from the general University Faculty....” He had received unanimous approval to make the change from the USC Board of Trustees at their spring meeting and, by the fall of 1955, a Graduate Council had been elected and the new organization was in operation. At the end of his nominating letter, Callcott praised Russell as “a man of highest principle, of dedication to the service of his institution, of initiative, imagination and outstanding ability....”

President Russell also demonstrated confidence in Dean Callcott. On 11 October 1955, Russell circulated a memorandum informing faculty and staff that effective immediately “W. H. Callcott, Dean of the Graduate School, is hereby designated ex officio Dean of Faculty and will exercise the prerogatives of that office.” A short time later, Callcott explained to Frank what the new position entailed. Callcott would move into a “freshly furnished” office with two ante-rooms and would have a full-time secretary and special help as needed. Much of the work would involve organizing faculty records and handling confidential matters. To provide time for the initial work, Callcott asked for a reduction in his teaching load to one class. After a short time in his new position, Callcott informed his brother, with some humor, that “the job is primarily one of listening to complaints of irate departmental heads and other instructors for an hour or so each day. They need to blow off steam to someone and hesitate to approach the throne itself....Since the policies and personalities of which they complain originated before I was in any way responsible I can listen appreciatively, [and then] pat 'em on the back....”

Although most of Dean Callcott's official trips were to cities in the southeast-- Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis-- where meetings of the academic groups to which he belonged were usually held, he did have a rather unusual journey in the summer of 1953. Because the University was the location for a Naval Reserve Officers Training program, the Navy Department invited Dean Callcott to represent USC aboard the USS *Roanoke* for a month's training cruise from Norfolk, Virginia to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with stops at Colon, Panama and Port of Spain, Trinidad. While in both Panama and Trinidad, the civilian guests were treated royally by the US Navy officials, Callcott reported to his brother. Callcott commented on the native people and the local economies in both places; however, after arriving in Cuba, the visitors were discouraged from leaving the base at Guantanamo. "There they had been having a bit of a disturbance so they were not advising foreigners to leave the naval base for Santiago," Callcott informed his brother in a letter written shortly after his return to Columbia.

During the years that he served as dean of the graduate school, Callcott held several offices in organizations that related to his administrative work, such as the Conference of Deans of Southern Graduate Schools. In 1946, after attending the Southern Deans meeting in Memphis, Callcott, in a letter to his brother Frank, noted that he had been elected to the organization's executive committee for the following year. From 1948 until 1953, he served as secretary of that organization. "My job," he explained to Frank, "will provide some interesting contacts for we use quite a few outside funds for special jobs....The main job

now on hand is that of scheduling the next annual meetings.” In the fall of 1953, Callcott wrote Frank that he “was finishing up a five-year term as Secretary-Treasurer and ...was able to unload all kinds of jobs.... For the next year I am to serve as Vice President which means that I do nothing. Probably that will be followed by the Presidency for a year but that should not be too bad for the new Secretary should be in harness and should be running things by then.” At the November 1954 meeting, held in Austin, Texas, Callcott was elevated to the office of president for the following year. “Once that is over,” he jokingly informed his brother, “I can retire to the role of elder statesman.” In November 1955, in New Orleans, he delivered the presidential address which, he wrote Frank, “seemed to go over rather well so that is that.” From 1949-51, Callcott served on the graduate commission of the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education and was, for a time, a member of the executive committee of the Southern Fellowship Fund.

On 17 May 1954, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in the case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* and ruled that segregation of the races in public education was unconstitutional. A South Carolina lawsuit, *Briggs v. Elliott*, was one of several that had been combined to create the case that resulted in the ruling. On that day, Dean Callcott sent a short, hand-written note to his brother relating that he had just heard a radio report of the decision. He added a P.S. “Two hours have passed--and no applications have yet been received by me.” A few days later, in a longer letter, Callcott remarked that “the University has had its plans in progress for some time and they will probably be

announced in the near future without waiting for further court orders or action.” He suggested that the graduate school would be able to accept Negro students as early as the summer session, but expressed the hope that none would apply “because our adjustments of accommodations will be difficult.” Immediately after learning of the Supreme Court ruling, Callcott presented President Russell with a detailed proposal for the formation of a “Race Relations Committee” that would “find facts and provide authoritative information on developments in the State of South Carolina under the Supreme Court ‘Anti-segregation’ decision.” The university, under Callcott’s plan, would seek a grant of \$107,200 from a national foundation to support the work of a “central committee” composed of nine members-- six whites and three Blacks-- that would meet monthly under the chairmanship of a member of the University’s School of Law. The money requested would be used for a part-time director and a full-time secretary and for travel, conferences, printing, and supplies. In addition, several research fellowship would be granted over the five-year period. Callcott noted that the proposal “was not acted upon.”

The University did announce, in early June 1954, a policy change with regard to admissions in response to the Supreme Court decision. Callcott summarized its purpose in a letter to his brother: “We have installed a general examination system for both undergraduates and graduates based on previous academic records and nationally administered tests--such as the College Board, the National Teachers’ Examination and the Graduate Record Examination.” Callcott also confided that he had received no applications from prospective

Black students, but he was scheduled to meet “a Negro attorney...and his client the next week.” Although the University did not integrate its student body immediately after *Brown v. Board of Education*, there were, nonetheless, subtle changes on campus. Callcott presided at a luncheon for the Southern Political Science Association that was held on campus in November 1954. He reported to his brother that “all went well: The food was better, the address was excellent, and one Negro delegate was eating in the dining room at the center table. Yes, we do move--if slowly.”

When the fall semester of 1955 opened, Callcott informed his brother that “the race question still has us surprised....” There had been only one application from an African American and that for admission to the law school. “Graduate work is something else but all I can say is that there have been no applications.” Again, with the beginning of the spring semester in 1956, Callcott reported that “the striking fact remains that so far as I know (and I think I do know what is happening) we have not received any applications from Negroes.” In January 1958, that situation changed dramatically. Callcott reported to his brother that the State Board of Education had recently declared that it intended to refuse to grant teacher’s certificates to graduates of Allen University’s (a historically black institution in Columbia) education program because of “the hiring of two or three teachers accused of Communist leanings.” As a result of that action, Callcott wrote, “ eleven of their students appeared at the University and asked to take the entrance examinations so they could enter a school that was duly recognized.” The state legislature had previously passed laws that meant that “the moment a

Negro student enters the University all state funds are cut off..." As a consequence, the students were not allowed to take the examinations. They then sent in applications by mail. Their applications were summarily rejected and their effort to integrate the university failed.

In the midst of the struggle by the South Carolina legislature to maintain racial segregation in the public school system, the University's popular president, Donald Russell, announced that he would resign ,effective 1 December 1957. The Board of Trustees acted quickly and appointed Robert L. Sumwalt, Dean of the School of Engineering, acting president. Callcott summarized the chain of events in a letter to his brother written 27 October 1957. "Of course I was one of those in line for consideration [for the presidency]," he confided, "but I can say that I am pleased not to have the responsibility--which would have been a mean one indeed. The man selected is quite good on public relations and has been advising the Board regularly on its building program." Callcott planned to "offer my resignation as Dean of the Faculty so that the new President can name his own man if he chooses to make a change." Evidently Sumwalt refused Callcott's offer and the Dean of Faculty continued in office, "truly thankful" that he did not have to face the responsibilities of the presidency. If Callcott's ego was slightly bruised because he was passed over for the job of acting president at USC, the president of his alma mater gave him an unexpected compliment when he notified Callcott in November 1957 that the Southwestern University Board of Trustees had unanimously voted to honor him for his "distinguished career" by conferring on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature. Callcott graciously

accepted the gesture, agreed to be present at the June 1958 commencement, and acknowledged the influence that Southwestern had on his career. "To make the occasion doubly appreciated is the fact that ...[Southwestern] is the old institution that turned a country (and I mean country) boy in the direction of scholarship that is now to confer this much coveted accolade...upon a career it may properly claim to have initiated," Callcott wrote to William C. Finch, Southwestern's president.

Dean Callcott's wife and family, the central focus of his non-academic life, had always been a source of great pride and pleasure. All of the children were successful in grammar and high school and each continued on to college and several received graduate degrees. George, the eldest, completed his undergraduate training at USC, earned an M. A. in history from the University of North Carolina and earned his Ph. D. from Columbia University, also in history, just as his father had done. Nancy chose Randolph-Macon College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she majored in chemistry. Frank attended the University of South Carolina and completed a master's degree at the university after serving in the United States Air Force as a pilot. Thomas attended Duke University and later earned a master's and a Ph. D. in physics from Purdue University. Mary followed her sister to Randolph-Macon where she studied modern dance and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. When Mary graduated in 1960, Callcott informed his brother that "this finishes up twenty-seven years of college education for our youngsters."

As Callcott approached his 65th birthday in 1960, he made plans to retire

from his administrative duties. In May 1960, however, he informed his brother that he would continue on for a while longer in order to direct a year-long self-study that was just beginning. "Some felt that I was in a good position to head it up since I am about to retire and would be able to act without accusation of self-interest," he related. "In doing this I am retiring as Dean of the Graduate School this summer and shall continue with the new title of Dean of the University. It is a kind of a provost's job that will continue the duties of Dean of the Faculty but will add the responsibilities for the libraries, extension work and the field centers," he concluded. Effective 1 July 1960, Callcott relinquished his duties as dean of the Graduate School and assumed the broader responsibilities of Dean of the University which meant that he would "head up all things academic both for this and for the other campuses, as well as the Extension Division...."

Except for the time devoted to trips to represent the university at academic meetings, typically three or four each semester, Callcott spent much of his time from the fall of 1960 until his retirement working on the university self-study. He informed his brother in a letter of 2 October 1960 that "the first of our self-study reports to be taken up is one for the re-organization of the Faculty." As the number of faculty members increased during the post-World War II years, the old system of calling all professors together in monthly meetings became increasingly cumbersome. "Over recent years...most of the business [done in faculty meetings has been] handled by committees," Callcott explained. The proposal from the self-study report recommended a Faculty Senate that would be composed of "about one-seventh of the number..." of faculty that would meet

regularly and conduct business in the name of the entire faculty. A few weeks later, Callcott described the progress of the senate concept: “our faculty reorganization proposal has met with a quite vigorous opposition from the old guard who feel that the full professors are being short changed. Right now we are proposing a compromise procedure...to another committee. [That committee is] almost sure to make a few modifications and then bring the idea back in essentially the same form. Then I hope everyone will have won and be happy.” Callcott’s final comment succinctly summed up his personal philosophy as an administrator. He always seemed to convince members of the faculty, and other administrators too, that in every dispute or disagreement “everyone...won.” As a result, he was genuinely popular among faculty and administrators alike. When historian George Curry learned of Dean Callcott’s impending retirement, he wrote his colleague that the news “has come as a great shock to me, as I so earnestly feel that your qualities of dedication, of academic interest and your standing in our profession are desperately need[ed] by Carolina today.”

Dean Callcott, while working diligently on the self-study during the fall of 1960, was also mapping a plan for his post-retirement years. He applied for a Fulbright lectureship with the hope that he would be able to spend a year at Oxford University where he had several friends including Harry Bell, Michael Brock, and Bruce Wernham. These historians had taught at USC during the late 1950s while participating in the visiting scholar program that Callcott had long advocated. Michael Brock wrote in February 1960 in response to the dean’s request that Brock serve as one of the references for the Fulbright application,

that he was “most happy” to agree. He concluded: “I need not add that Wernham, Bell and I very much want to see you come to Oxford.” Callcott explained his reasons for applying for the Fulbright fellowship in a letter to Archie R. Lewis, another friend whom he had asked to serve as a reference. “Research is somewhat more than half completed on a study of the New World Foreign Policy of the United States, 1920-1940. Since I have never done any research in British archives I would greatly appreciate the chance to look into them to round out the study...,” he wrote in July 1960. By late fall, however, the prospects for a Fulbright in England had dimmed; however, another opportunity had surfaced. Archie Lewis, in addition to being a close friend, was also on the history faculty at the University of Texas and suggested that Callcott would be welcomed as a visiting professor for the year 1961-62, if the Oxford opportunity failed to materialize. Callcott was interested; a formal offer came from Joe B. Frantz, Chairman of the University of Texas History Department on 4 November; and on 11 November, Callcott wrote President Robert L. Sumwalt that he intended to resign as Dean of the University effective at the end of the fiscal year [30 June 1961]. To his brother, Callcott explained his actions in a letter of 13 November. “As soon as I received it [the offer from the University of Texas] I at once handed in my resignation here,” he recounted, even though “... some pressure has developed from the President and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for me to continue.” Callcott, even though not legally bound by the university’s retirement policy since he had joined the faculty before the policy was established, nonetheless thought it “bad policy” to continue in his position after

he reached 65. He believed “that it is best for all concerned for me to break ties with this old position for a year,” even though he intended to return “to teaching duties on a light schedule” after a year’s leave of absence.

Before his retirement became official, however, Callcott still had the job of finishing the self-study report. “My work on the self-study is progressing steadily,” Callcott wrote in January 1961. When finished, the published report, Callcott explained, should “amount to about 600 [pages] in all. That is a condensation from the material sent me that amounted to some 2,000 pages.” After the entire report had been set for publication in March, Callcott regretted that “it is not as smooth as I would have liked but if we are to complete it this year, while I am here, it has to be pushed on through.” The accreditation team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools visited the campus in mid-April. Callcott wrote his brother about his experience with the team. “They were certainly a pleasant group and I believe will give us a good report except for the fact that we are out of line on athletic controls,” he speculated. “Academically speaking our research is weak but that has been improving steadily and certainly the rising standards of the institution are a matter of which we are proud.” He also touted the fact that USC was one of a handful of state universities that required entrance examinations “with a real cutting score.”

The news release that announced Dean Callcott’s retirement was sent out in late May and, in the dean’s words, “brought an interesting set of letters and news notices.” In a letter to Dean Callcott, United States Congressman Robert W. Hemphill reminisced about “the happy days in your classroom” he had

experienced as a history major in the 1930's; Calhoun Thomas, a lawyer in Beaufort, remembered his days as a history fellow in 1924-26 just after Dr. Callcott began teaching at the University; and Bailey Faile, a 1954 graduate, thanked Callcott "for being a kind, fair, understanding, and most helpful person." Newspaper notices were also laudatory. An article published 23 May 1961 in *The State* (Columbia, S. C.) reviewed his 38-year career at the University. President Robert L. Sumwalt praised Dean Callcott for his "splendid service to the university" and cited him as "an outstanding example of academic competency, sustained energetic effort, administrative efficiency, and devotion to Carolina." Sumwalt also pointed out Callcott's contributions to the university's self-study: "During the past year Dr. Callcott accepted responsibility for the executive aspects of the university's recently completed self-study, a demanding task calling for intense application of his outstanding qualifications. His contribution to the self-study is in large measure responsible for the success of the undertaking." *The State* in an editorial recognized Callcott's contributions "to education in this state," especially his role in "building up the University's Graduate School," a task he "performed...so well that the institution's services and prestige were substantially enlarged." The students of the University honored him by dedicating the 1961 yearbook, the *Garnet and Black*, to "Dean W. H. Callcott, A Scholar and a Gentleman."

Callcott spent his final month as dean in "cleaning up the last details and in roughing out a faculty manual that we have been talking about for some time..." In a letter to his Oxford University friend Bruce Wernham, Callcott

reflected on the chapter of his life just closing and his hopes for the future. "I am looking forward to the change [in responsibilities] for my own love has always been for the classroom in preference to the administrator's office.... Somehow I have the feeling...that our young people are the significant parts of our campuses." He also loved research and writing: "I want to get back to a bit of digging and research of my own."

By early September 1961, Dr. and Mrs. Callcott were in Austin, Texas, living in a rented house near the University of Texas where Dr. Callcott spent the academic year as a visiting professor. Dr. Callcott taught two history courses each semester, one a graduate seminar class and the other an advanced undergraduate course. Because so many of his relatives, including his brother Frank and his sister Ethel, lived in Texas, he and Mrs. Callcott spent much of their free time visiting with family. Also, Rebecca Callcott's parents, Tom and Nanie Anderson from Ninety Six, South Carolina, spent five weeks in Austin in the spring of 1962. Both Callcotts enjoyed the "change of pace" that Texas provided. Dr. Callcott, in a letter to his daughter Nancy Meriwether, expressed his own appreciation of his time there: "Texas has certainly done everything possible for us and has so arranged things that I have had far [more] time for my own work than I dared hope for."

Back in Columbia in June 1962, the Callcotts settled into their residence at 1718 College Street "with things rapidly returning to normal." Dr. Callcott was called on to teach two courses in the five-week second summer session that started 21 July. After the session ended, the Callcotts traveled to Washington, D.

C., where Dr. Callcott spent a week doing research at the Library of Congress. By the middle of September, Dr. Callcott was officially a regular member of the history department faculty with a full load of three classes. "All seems to be reasonably quiet on this campus," Callcott wrote his brother in October. "The new president [Thomas F. Jones] bids fair to be a forceful man--and gives promise of having a bit of fun with our 'Young Turks' who are always a bit of a problem," he continued. As the end of his first semester of full-time teaching with no administrative responsibilities approached, Callcott commented to his brother that he was "very pleased to have had some years of administrative work, but I have certainly never regretted for a moment my decision to insist on retiring from it. Certainly the last couple of years have been far more satisfying than the years preceding retirement."

In the spring of 1963, Dr. Callcott received the welcome news that he had been selected to lecture at Oxford University on United States diplomatic history beginning in September as part of the Fulbright program. Ironically, just two weeks before he received the letter of appointment, he had written Frank: "No word from Fulbright. I suppose that I have heard the last of it and now it will just 'fade away.'" His excitement with the prospect of teaching for a year at Oxford was obvious in a letter he wrote to Frank in April. He had discussed with Harry Pitt, the current visiting Oxford professor at USC, the responsibilities of a Fulbright lecturer at Oxford. Professor Pitt "indicates that the duties will be quite light," Callcott wrote to Frank. "There will probably be a couple of lectures a week, attendance on a number of seminars and some discussion groups of

students; as well as the meeting of students as individuals from time to time. It will be something of a novelty to have a group of undergraduate students who are working on nothing but history....," he remarked. He soon learned that he and Mrs. Callcott would sail from New York on the SS *Queen Mary* on 4 September and would spend the week of 11-17 September in London undergoing orientation along with other Fulbright lecturers and students. With the prospect for a chance to visit sites associated with his parents' lives before they emigrated to the United States in 1885, Callcott set about to learn as much as he could about the family's history from his brother Frank who had visited relatives in Yorkshire during a 1927 trip to England. Frank, however, offered little helpful information other than "vague and uncertain memories."

After turning in his grades for the classes he taught during a summer session that had "been a bit of a grind," Callcott left Columbia for ten days' research in the Franklin Roosevelt Papers at Hyde Park, New York. He informed Bruce Wernham that his trip should allow him to "complete a part of the work I have been doing for some time in trying to get a coherent view of hemisphere policy of the United States." Then, while in England, he would look at "materials from British agents and officials in Argentina and Brazil for the period from about 1900 to 1940." At Hyde Park, Callcott worked steadily each day and finished with the materials there. "I took a quantity of notes direct and had about 200 pages of material photocopies," he informed his brother. One other bit of work had to be finished before embarking for England. Callcott had agreed to have two of his books, *Church and State in Mexico* and *Santa Anna*, reprinted since

both had been out-of-print for some years. “That all rushed me a bit,” he informed Frank, “to finish up the errata sheets and get them to the publishers.”

“The voyage was pleasant; sea quiet except for one day and that was not bad,” Callcott wrote to his brother on 14 September, a few days after landing in England. His initial impressions of England were all positive: the temperature had reached 68 degrees, and “the flowers are at their summer peak and are truly beautiful....” Callcott was also taken with the countryside that he saw on the train trip to Oxford. “Roses are everywhere; asters the size of baseballs; dahlias from one-foot high to six feet high are a mass of color,” he wrote to his daughter Mary Bozeman. “Oxford is old. It takes real pride in its Spartan accommodations,” he continued. Callcott also expressed considerable enthusiasm about tracing his family connections in England. To his brother Frank, he related an experience that he and Rebecca had on their first Sunday in London. They decided to walk to a church near their hotel for morning services. Rebecca happened to notice a marble tablet that commemorated John Wall Callcott (1766-1821) and William Hutchins Callcott (1807-1882) who both served as church organists. According to family tradition, John Wall was the father of Wilfrid’s grandfather, Robert Dixon Callcott, who married Louisa Hardy, the daughter of the inn keeper of the Golden Perch Inn in Aylesbury. Wilfrid informed his brother that “before long I also want to go over to Aylesbury and see if I can locate the Golden Perch Inn....” Another trip, however, to Halifax, to see John and Edith Wilson, came first. John Wilson was the son of friends of Wilfrid’s parents, and both Wilfrid and Frank had conducted a regular correspondence with him since the 1930s. Most of Wilfrid’s

time before he began his series of lectures in October was spent in Oxford's libraries with his own research. "Work in the libraries has gone rather well for the past two week," Callcott wrote to his brother. "The Rhodes House is really the center of the huge Rhodes Trust, and has the books of the Bodleian Library that specially apply to the British Empire and the United States," he continued. After he began his regular weekly lectures, he planned to still spend two or three days a week in the library.

The Callcotts were in Oxford when the news came of the assassination of United States President John F. Kennedy. "Here all has been stunned shock in connection with the tragic events in Dallas," Callcott wrote Frank on 24 November. "Flags all over Oxford, and elsewhere I understand, were at half-mast," he continued. On the evening of 23 November, Dr. Callcott, along with Steven Watson from Oxford, and several other historians and commentators, including Professor D. W. Brogan, participated in a BBC television special on President Kennedy's life. "Each of us had about five minutes for a brief interview on some phrase of Kennedy's career and activities," Callcott explained to Frank. Rebecca was present in the building and reported on the experience in a letter to Sara Anderson, her sister-in-law. "Wilfrid was asked a question about attitudes to Kennedy in the South....[and] he replied clearly, and the whole program was surprisingly good, emerging as it did from what seemed to us a scene of confusion." A few days after the unexpected trip to London, the Callcotts were once again off on a previously planned trip to Scotland where Dr. Callcott had agreed to deliver a lecture on Cuba at the University of St. Andrews. In spite of

a cold rain, Dr. Callcott informed his brother, a large crowd filled the lecture hall where Callcott spent an hour reading a prepared paper. Then, for another forty-five minutes, he answered “good questions” from a crowd that was “most appreciative and generous with applause.” On the way back to Oxford, the Callcotts stopped in Edinburgh for two days of sightseeing, including a visit to the “amazing Scottish cathedral that glorifies the military Scot and how he consistently licked the British and finally annexed the empire by placing a Scot on the English throne.”

After returning to Oxford, Callcott traveled to London and worked in the Public Record Office two days. He found the materials available to be “quite good,” even though “they withhold all diplomatic correspondence for the last fifty years....” Nonetheless, “prior to 1913 I am getting fine stuff,” he informed his brother. He continued to make quick trips to London to continue his research as time permitted. He wrote Frank in January 1964 that “I think I shall have the cream skimmed off [the material] before I leave.”

After a trip to Germany and a week in Paris over Christmas, Callcott resumed his active schedule with lectures at Oxford, a trip to Bristol to present a talk to students in the University of Bristol’s Latin American Institute, a lecture in Chelmsford at a “girl’s high school,” and then another lecture at the University of Southampton. Dr. and Mrs. Callcott also flew to Yugoslavia in late March, at the behest of officials at the American Embassy in Belgrade, where Dr. Callcott delivered lectures at the University of Novi Sad and the University of Belgrade on “Relations of the United States and Mexico,” “The Influence of the Trans-

Mississippi West in U. S. History,” and “Latin America and the United States.”

After a hectic five days in Yugoslavia, the Callcotts flew to Italy where Dr. Callcott spoke at The Johns Hopkins University Center at Bologna on “Cuba in Perspective” and at the University of Pavia on “Latin America and the United States.” When he wrote Frank from Oxford in Late April, Callcott remarked: “The trip has been a most unusual experience and I would do almost anything to have one such experience, but I certainly do not intend to court another such. It was a genuine nervous strain.” Lighter duty involved a talk at the University of Birmingham and a trip to Stratford-on-Avon for a performance of “Henry IV” in May. And Callcott continued his sporadic efforts to tie his father’s family to the famous Callcotts, John Wall and Sir Augustus, while he had access to English records and places. He had contacted two Callcotts listed in the London phone directory and one, Howard, proved to be helpful. Wilfrid wrote Frank in early June that Howard “has done quite a lot of work on the family and has provided considerable information,” but still it had not been possible to connect Robert Dixon Callcott, the brothers’ grandfather, to John Wall Callcott. Skeeby, “an exceptionally pretty” small village near Richmond and the home of Wilfrid’s parents before they left England, was the Callcott’s destination on one of their last trips through the countryside. There they found the “old Callcott house” where Wilfrid’s parents had lived and also visited the “old abbey” where they saw “the tombstones of Grandmother, as well as Aunt Carrie and Uncle Frank....”

In June, the Callcotts traveled north to Copenhagen, a city they enjoyed “immensely.” Denmark was “clean and prosperous with the whole place a

garden,” Callcott wrote. Returning south, the Callcotts crossed Germany by train stopping in Cologne before motoring up the Rhine by steamer to Mainz, “a story-book trip...beautiful and intensely interesting.” Amsterdam was the next destination and Callcott found that “these Dutchmen are thrifty and the country shows it.” A respite in Paris before sailing for England convinced Callcott that the French “have a past culture but the present does not appeal to me.” To Frank he wrote: “As a matter of fact, the more I see of Paris the less enthusiastic I am over either French living conditions, sense of courtesy, traffic control, etc.” A round of parties back in Oxford, a final trip to London to make arrangements to ship an automobile he bought while in England, and last-minute packing consumed the week before departure. Wilfrid expressed mixed emotions about the Fulbright year in a letter written to Frank on 27 June. “It has all been amazingly interesting & I still wonder at our good fortune in having this chance. Now I am glad it is about over so that we can settle down once more to being just ourselves where everyone knows us.”

The Callcotts arrived in New York on 7 July 1964 after a five-day crossing, stopped in Washington for a short visit with their son George and family, and then traveled to Columbia. Dr. Callcott taught two classes in the second summer session and found “the steady lecturing--after the Oxford contrast--quite a difference.” Before the summer ended, Dr. Callcott was honored by Erskine College with a Doctor of Literature degree and was also invited to deliver the commencement address. Both Dr. J. Mauldin Lesesne, Erskine’s president and Dr. Lowry Ware, associate professor of history, were graduate students at the

University of South Carolina and studied with Dr. Callcott. Callcott spoke about foreign affairs and suggested that Erskine's newest graduates "reject the seemingly quick and easy solution to international problems and to stand as a force for the level-headed approach." Callcott confided to his brother that he had planned and written his speech while in England and before the "fool convention at San Francisco" had nominated Barry Goldwater for president. He had to revise and rewrite his remarks so that his speech would not appear "to be a direct anti-Goldwater address." "I trust what remained was clear enough without hurting a small college that tries to avoid political complications," he concluded.

Dr. Callcott found significant changes on the USC campus when he returned from his year at Oxford. On 11 September 1963, while Callcott was in London undergoing orientation for his Fulbright lectureship, three African American students enrolled at the University of South Carolina. Callcott noted in a letter of 5 September 1964 to his brother that the university had integrated the previous year and "today I hear that we are to have sixteen [black students] this year." He continued: "The ease with which it has happened has been surprising even to South Carolinians." The total number of students enrolled at the university also impressed Callcott. "The student bulge has struck us with a vengeance," he wrote to his brother. "The total full-time on-campus students is up slightly over 13% while that of the History Department is up a little over 14%," he related. "New building is going on furiously but it is difficult to maintain standards under such conditions," he concluded.

Dr. Callcott returned to his American foreign policy writing project as soon

as he settled into his fall semester's routine in 1964. In a letter to his brother, who had asked about his current work, Callcott replied that he was "fully occupied with trying to find a little spare time to get on with this writing...that I have been wrestling with for some years." Frank had mentioned that he was considering writing "an early Texas novel" and apparently suggested that Wilfrid try his hand at such a project. Wilfrid, however, encouraged Frank to do it because "you have a better knowledge of the old Texas than I." Wilfrid did acknowledge that "one or two of our children have asked me to jot down some recollections and from time to time I have toyed with the idea. The old Long Branch and Sabinal days were rather interesting--if one can only catch the spirit of the time." A few months later, Frank sent Wilfrid a copy of a talk their father had given about his memories of his early life. Wilfrid also had a paper that their father had written after he moved to Columbia about "his first impressions of Texas." Wilfrid had Xerox copies made, distributed them to his children and sent Frank copies with the remark that "they just may have some interest for others" outside the family. "With that in mind I have been playing with the idea of using them [his father's talks] in connection with a somewhat systematic account of the old days that both of us recall," Wilfrid explained.

The genealogical investigations that Dr. Callcott conducted in England sparked an interest in his parents' history and experiences that, when combined with Frank's idea of a Texas novel based on his and Wilfrid's recollections, resulted in a writing project that would occupy much of Wilfrid's spare time over the next four years. Titled "Mr. George: Texas Gets a New Citizen" the manuscript was an

attempt to integrate family history with social and economic history in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Texas. On 17 February 1966, Wilfrid sent Frank a four-page outline of the proposed manuscript. "This is a tentative outline--no more--and is subject to additions, corrections and changes," he informed Frank. "My only conviction at present is that if a good writer had hold of it the result might be interesting to the present generation." A few days later, he informed Frank that he had been "trying to rough out the material on Early Texas." In a matter of three weeks, he completed a draft of about 50,000 words by working "as occasion offered." Wilfrid had made the decision, he informed Frank, to end the narrative at the time the two sons of the family left for college. "I feel that the presentation can be freer and more effective if the account is centered on our parents," he concluded. At the end of March, Wilfrid sent copies of his 150-page manuscript to Frank and Ethel, his surviving brother and sister. He asked for a close reading and for written comments "in the margins" of the pages. "At present I have no definite idea of publication of any kind," he informed his siblings. "What I wanted was a family tribute to Dad and Mother," he wrote. Frank responded by writing Wilfrid that "I think you have done an unusually good job and the reading of it has brought back many, many memories that had slipped away from me." Frank also recalled that he had a cache of letters that "Dad wrote Mother just before they were married." He offered to send them to Wilfrid, an offer that Wilfrid eagerly accepted. Wilfrid was prompted by the discovery of his father's long forgotten letters to search for other relevant material that he might have. He found an old trunk in the cellar filled with papers and

letters, but there was there “absolutely nothing of use in connection with the manuscript.” He did discover that he had kept “a number of Mother’s letters to me while at Southwestern and Overseas, and a lot of my own old records of life at Southwestern.”

Dr. Callcott continued to incorporate bits and pieces of new material, and rework the old, into “Mr. George” as he found spare time to do so. By October 1966, he had expanded the manuscript from 150 pages to 226 pages by incorporating Frank’s comments, “material from Herbert’s diaries and the letters you sent, as well as other items I had collected,” Wilfrid explained to Frank; “you see[,] anything approaching a finished piece of writing is a slow process for me.” Even so, Wilfrid planned to do additional research in local Texas newspapers to fill a few gaps that existed for the period from 1886 to 1900. “After all,” he wrote Frank, “I am supposed to be a historian and as such I do not want to be criticized by my own profession for blundering implications or statements.” He also thanked his brother for his frank criticism and assured him that he did not have to be concerned about “my feelings in connection with the suggestions you made on the manuscript...” “I am quite wedded to certain ideas and principles when I get to writing but I have long since learned that my writing is of a very ‘pedestrian’ type,” Wilfrid confessed. “I can only hope that it may, at times, command respect for sincerity and accuracy. I know full well that it lacks sparkle, or what...is now known as sex appeal.” In March 1967, Wilfrid “warned” Frank that if the manuscript ever reached the stage for publication, he “would very much like you to play with some line drawings that might be used at appropriate places; i. e. as

chapter headings etc.” Wilfrid and Rebecca drove to Texas in July 1967, visited San Marcos where Wilfrid “looked in at the Library for a few minutes,” stopped in Sabinal where they were invited by the owners of the old Callcott house to see the interior, and also spent time with relatives. Wilfrid quickly integrated his notes from the Texas trip into his narrative and thereby increased its length from 75,000 words to about 90,000 words. In September 1967, Callcott wrote Frank Wardlaw, Director of the University of Texas Press, and asked if he would be interesting in considering “Mr. George” for publication. Wardlaw agreed to look at the manuscript but did not offer much hope that the topic would “fit into our program.” Wardlaw’s report, when it arrived in February 1968, was bitingly critical of the manuscript. The people who read the manuscript were of the opinion that Callcott’s “writing style is not suitable for this sort of book.” He relied on “stereotyped expressions”--“hapless victim, in fear and trembling, and unwilling host”-- and showed a “lack of discrimination in the selection of details, the illuminating details frequently being lost in a welter of trivialities and irrelevancies.” Dr. Callcott decided “to let the matter rest for the present...then I plan to re-read the whole...[and] eliminate adjectives, probably a number of details, and tighten up the style.” A few years later, in the summer of 1969, Dr. Callcott turned again to the manuscript of “Mr. George” and asked Robert T. King, the Director of the USC Press for an “advisory reading.” King carefully analyzed the manuscript and concluded that “as social history it is very nearly a very good book,” although not one that the press would be able to publish. Dr. Callcott, in his reply of 6 August to King, indicated that he would “about the first of

September...take a good hard look at the letters I have and then reconsider the whole manuscript.” The manuscript was left unpublished at the time of Dr. Callcott’s death six weeks later, but George Callcott, his son, printed copies for members of the family and distributed them just before Christmas in 1969. Frank Callcott wrote George that even though it was not a finished work, “for us in the family, however, it is of very great importance....”

Callcott had also continued to work on the text of his manuscript on United States foreign policy after his return from England, and planned to finish some essential research for the study during the spring and summer of 1965. In June, he traveled to New Haven to work through material housed in the Yale University library. Upon his return, he wrote Frank that “my trip was definitely worth while. The haystack of the fifty-two volumes of the Stimson Diary, and the twenty volumes of the House Diary were large indeed, but the needles ...[were] bright and sharp.” A few weeks later, Callcott wrote that the first draft of his manuscript, about 140,000 to 150,000 words, had been “corrected and polished once.” “I think it is a sound piece of work that will have a reasonably good reception,” he confided; “the trouble is that this subject is so much larger than anything I have undertaken that I am in danger of being swamped.” As the fall semester progressed, Dr. Callcott, because of a light teaching schedule, two courses rather than three, was able to devote three full days each week to work on his manuscript. Having finished “correcting the English in the second draft,” Callcott informed Frank in early October, “the next job is to start the endless job of checking accuracy of statements and the footnotes.” In January 1966, Callcott

was able to report to his brother that “by the end of the month I hope to have the manuscript in the hands of readers.” Doubtful of its commercial success, Callcott was nonetheless convinced that the manuscript “contains some good material but it will be a work for students and not for the general reader.” A month later, the manuscript had been sent to both Yale University and the library at Hyde Park for checking for accuracy. Wilfrid also sent a copy to his friend Frank Wardlaw, at the University of Texas Press. After the manuscript had been read, Wardlaw sent the report of an outside reader to Callcott in order to allow him to respond to specific criticisms. The critic called the work “uneven” and suggested that “there is almost too much information presented--sometimes at the expense of adequate explanation.” Callcott was appreciative of the criticism and, in a letter to Wardlaw, promised that “other criticisms and suggestions will be noted.” But Callcott’s major goal was “to finish up that manuscript and get it ready for publication...by the end of the summer.” Callcott was able to rewrite the first two chapters and make other minor changes that the critic had suggested, but he had not changed his interpretation. He sent the updated manuscript to Wardlaw in early August 1966 and, on 18 November, Wardlaw informed Wilfrid that “our Board has accepted your book for publication,” and in 1968 the volume titled *The Western Hemisphere: Its Influence on United States Policies to the End of World War II* was published.

Dr. Callcott enjoyed his teaching duties and continued to be an effective instructor, and in much demand, after he reached the customary retirement age of 68. He explained the university’s retirement policy in a September 1966 letter

to his brother. Teaching faculty normally retired at the end of the year in which they reached 68, but they could continue on a year-to-year basis until age 72 “when retirement is compulsory.” “I suspect that this will be my last year,” Callcott reported. He acknowledged that he had been somewhat embarrassed the previous year when he had been asked to continue while all others who had reached 68 years of age had to retire. Even so, he planned to continue teaching somewhere because “each of the last three years I have had unsolicited invitations [to teach] so I rather think that I can get a pleasant position if I want one,” he informed Frank. USC’s administration invited Callcott to return for another year and Callcott informed Frank in late October 1966 that “this morning I received the final approval.” “That means I shall plan to stay here until June 1968,” he wrote. “After that I could only be retained by a special act of the State Legislature....”

The University of South Carolina invited Dr. Callcott to deliver the commencement address at the end of the summer session of 1967. Callcott carefully prepared his remarks in early August and delivered the speech before about 2,000 people in Columbia’s air conditioned Township Auditorium on 26 August. *The State and the Columbia Record* reported that Dr. Callcott focused much of his talk on foreign policy. “If my study has indicated anything it is the value of consistency coupled with patience in pursuing national objectives,” Dr. Callcott remarked. He also commented on the “handling of our last two baffling and tragic wars” in Korea and Vietnam: “In many ways they have become ‘holding operations’ rather than a direct search for victory. Victory over such a

people means little except new responsibilities. The great objective is to give them time to educate themselves to their new opportunities and responsibilities.” Callcott devoted part of his speech to reminiscences about his early years at the University and also briefly noted the progress of integration. He deplored the actions of extremists, black or white, and encouraged the cooperation of both races in developing “the nation of which each is a vital part.” “The address itself seemed to go off fairly well and some [in the audience] were kind enough to be enthusiastic,” Wilfrid informed his brother. He also noted that “strangely the racial remarks passed almost unnoticed. The ‘softness’ on Communism is what quite a number disapprove.”

Dr. Callcott began his last year of teaching at USC in September 1967 with classes that “are wholly graduates...so I have a light student load though I have a couple of doctoral candidates and about five on master’s degree work,” he informed his brother. The same situation existed during the spring semester. “My classes are quite good ones with all graduate students so the work should be very pleasant,” Callcott wrote in February 1968. The spring also brought clarity to the Callcott’s plans for their retirement years. Wilfrid wrote Frank on 23 March that “this will acquaint you with the latest moves in my chess game with the old god, Terminus, with my remaining academic career as stakes.” He had accepted an invitation to offer two courses during the summer session at Emory University in Atlanta, and had also agreed to teach part-time at Wofford College in Spartanburg for the academic year 1968-69. The University of Houston had recently invited him out to “talk about graduate work in general,” and apparently

were “likely to offer me a job for 1969-1970,” he wrote to Frank. Callcott had just received an attractive offer from Tulane University to teach during the academic year 1968-69, but because “I cannot let Wofford down at this late date, I replied...with a courteous declination,” Wilfrid informed his brother. A few weeks later, Dr. Callcott formally accepted the University of Houston position for the academic year 1969-70. In the meantime, Dr. Callcott was finishing up his work at USC while his students and colleagues honored his years of service to the university in various ways. The History Club, after Dr. Callcott addressed the group at their last meeting of the year, presented the speaker with a desk set and also announced that they were “naming the senior award for me,” Wilfrid wrote Frank. “It is the recognition extended to what is considered the best of the senior theses in history presented in any one year,” Callcott explained. “In a week we are to go to a Departmental dinner in our honor,” he concluded. On 2 June, Callcott wrote Frank: “Yes, my work here is officially finished now. Graduation exercises were held yesterday and that about finishes the chapter.”

Even though his forty-five year association with the University of South Carolina was over, Dr. Callcott did not moderate his life-long practice of constant, productive work. Before he and Rebecca left for Atlanta on 14 June for the summer session at Emory, Wilfrid finished reading 480 pages of proof of *The Western Hemisphere* and started the tedious work of indexing the volume. Callcott’s teaching schedule allowed him time to complete the work during the summer. To Frank he wrote at the end of June: “The classes... are small. I have fourteen in one class and only about three in the other. As a result the work is

not heavy, and the pay is good.... All are cordial in the extreme and we are enjoying it." By the middle of August, Dr. Callcott was finished with his summer session at Emory and back in Columbia where he planned to spend about ten days getting ready for the fall semester at Wofford College. Those plans, however, were complicated by a phone call he received the evening he returned to Columbia. James Morris, Dean of USC's College of Business Administration, wanted to talk with Callcott "about the possibility of [him] serving as President of Coker College." Callcott traced the course of the discussions that ensued in a memoranda he wrote on 28 August, after he had agreed to accept the position. When Dean Morris first asked Callcott about his interest in assuming the presidency of Coker College, a women's college with about 350 students located in Hartsville, a small town 60 miles east of Columbia, on a temporary basis, Callcott explained that he was under contract with Wofford College for the upcoming academic year and declined to consider the offer. He did agree, however, to meet with a contingent representing Coker College. Dr. Callcott met with the group which included South Carolina's lieutenant-governor, John C. West, and Richard G. Coker and William M. Timberlake, all members of the Coker College Board of Trustees. Callcott was immediately offered the position of interim president, but declined, again citing his contract with Wofford College. Callcott also refused to ask for a release from his obligation, and would not allow the Coker trustees to approach Wofford's administrators on his behalf. Callcott did state that "I might possibly be able to make arrangements for the spring semester and would act as a consultant at Coker for the fall." John West then

called Dean Covington at Wofford and the two of them worked out a general agreement which was finalized when Dr. and Mrs. Callcott visited Wofford a few days later. Charles W. Coker, president of the Coker Board of Trustees, sent Dr. Callcott a formal offer of employment on 27 August and Dr. Callcott accepted the next day. Under the terms of the contract, Dr. Callcott would fulfill his commitment to Wofford College by teaching there Tuesday through Thursday of each week during the fall semester. Beginning 1 October, Dr. Callcott would also serve as interim president of Coker and would spend Friday through Monday on that campus. From 1 January until 31 August 1969, Dr. Callcott would serve full time as president. Mr. Coker concluded his letter to Dr. Callcott by writing “basically, you and I will work as closely as you wish on any problems that arise....My job, too, will be to locate a strong permanent president, and I would hope that you would help me or the committee of the Board in this.”

“The present President is opening the school year but has asked that I come over to be presented as his successor at the first faculty and staff meeting...,” Dr. Callcott explained in a letter written to his brother in early September. “So far as I can see the college is in excellent financial shape, the student body is apparently larger than at any time before, and the faculty in fair shape...,” he continued. “Reorganization of committees, of curricula and the like seem to be definite needs...however,...I cannot see that the task should be such a strenuous one once I get down there full time,” he speculated. After 1 October, when he officially became the interim president, Callcott worked quickly to clear

the backlog of correspondence and to respond to the surveys and questionnaires that were on his desk. As he gained more information about the Coker situation, he developed priorities that he wanted to address with the members of the Board of Trustees at their November meeting. He recounted the board meeting in a letter to his brother: "I called for doubling the Library expenditure from college funds and [for] an increase of an average of 10% for faculty salaries for next year. I expected some static but decided that I could speak frankly now to much better effect than later." Dr. Callcott was somewhat surprised when the Board members agreed to "the whole package as it stood." In a December letter to his brother, Dr. Callcott explained another initiative he had launched. "Just now I have a committee out to present a careful draft of a student proposal to have representation on our Board of Trustees," he related. "Also, I have had students placed on quite a number of committees where they would never have been considered a few years ago." But the work of administration, enjoyable as it was at times, was not Callcott's first love. He had been asked, he informed his brother, if he would consider continuing in the president's job beyond the end of the summer. His answer was "a positive 'no.'" "In spite of the money [as an administrator], I prefer the teaching game--that is what I was trained for," he confided. He looked forward to returning to teaching at the University of Houston the following year. "This business of being on display, of never being able to relax for fear I shall be asked 'to say a few words,' and of ... constantly being asked to 'say the blessing,' gets on one's nerves," Callcott confessed.

Early in February, Dr. Callcott was hospitalized in Columbia with severe abdominal pain, and ten days later underwent exploratory surgery. His pain had been caused by a large abscess in his abdomen, the surgeon discovered. Ten days after the operation and back home, Wilfrid wrote his brother that he planned to be on the job by the end of the first week in March. He was in Hartsville, on a modified schedule, in time to present the proposed budget and salary lists for the following year to the Executive Committee of the Board. And by the time of the spring meeting of the Board of Trustees in early April, Dr. Callcott was back to full strength. The Board of Trustees accepted Callcott's proposal to seat two students and one member of the faculty on the board. The board also selected a new president, Dr. Gus Turbeville, to take over from Dr. Callcott, effective 1 July. Much of May was taken up with social obligations and, in early June, Dr. Callcott welcomed the new president and his family to Hartsville. Dr. Callcott spent considerable time with Dr. Turbeville in preparation for the transition to the new administration. On 2 June, at the college's commencement exercises, Dr. Callcott was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree, an expression of appreciation that originated, as Dr. Callcott informed his brother, with the faculty who "took a mail ballot and recommended [the award] directly to the Board of Trustees." The citation, read by Charles W. Coker, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, praised Dr. Callcott's leadership during his brief tenure: "Because of your example and your direction of Coker College during a period of transition, you have brought to this institution a unity, a purpose and an optimism which have bound together faculty, student and trustee

in a determination to make this college of far greater service and influence in the future.”

Back in Columbia early in July, the Callcotts spent the remainder of the summer visiting family, catching up with household chores, and selecting the clothes, books, and files that would be needed during their nine months in Houston. Wilfrid also went to his doctor for an examination scheduled for six months after his surgery. “They found nothing wrong...,” Wilfrid reported to his brother. “The doctor simply says: ‘Go ahead and enjoy life.’”

The Callcotts drove to Houston by way of Pensacola, Florida where they spent time with their daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Frank Bozeman, and three young grandsons. Arriving in Houston on 1 September, the Callcotts settled into their house and began preparations for the year. “For the first time in my life I took a [driver’s] license examination--and passed it!,” Wilfrid wrote to one of his children on 5 September.

Shortly after he began his duties at the University, he was taken ill, hospitalized, and died a short time later on Saturday, 20 September 1969. His funeral was conducted from the Washington Street Methodist Church in Columbia the following Monday and he was interred in Elmwood Cemetery. He was survived by his widow Rebecca Anderson Callcott, his five children and fifteen grandchildren and by his brother Frank and sister Ethel.

Of the articles and editorials written about Dr. Callcott after his death,

perhaps the one that most effectively captured his career and spirit was a short tribute that appeared on the final page of the *Coker College Alumnae Magazine*, Winter-Spring 1969 issue. Beneath a photograph of Dr. Callcott were the simple words: "Author, teacher, historian, administrator. His wisdom, inspiration and devotion to duty stand as a beacon of light to all who seek after truth."