

## Tiger, Gamecock, American Hero

**Ancrum attended both schools--served our country with distinction.**

Calhoun Ancrum was the son of Captain William and Anna Calhoun Ancrum. Born in Abbeville in August 1884, he was a great-nephew of South Carolina statesman John C. Calhoun. Ancrum grew up in Camden and was an honor graduate of the local high school. In 1900, he enrolled at Clemson as a mechanical engineering student. He attended Clemson for two academic years, but did not return for the fall session in 1902. Instead, Ancrum turned up in Columbia!

It is believed that he played football for both schools: at Clemson under the legendary John Heisman; at Carolina on the famous 1902 team which defeated Clemson on Big Thursday and finished the season with a 6-1 record. He later played on a Charleston team composed of former college all-stars. Calhoun Ancrum holds the distinction of having attended both Clemson and the University of South Carolina—within the same calendar year!

Ancrum also attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and eventually embarked on a career as a United States Marine. He was deployed to Haiti when President Woodrow Wilson sent US troops to secure American property during a period of civil unrest during the summer of 1915. While in Haiti, Ancrum escorted the assistant secretary of the Navy, Franklin Roosevelt, who was conducting an inspection of Marine facilities.

During a distinguished career, Ancrum served in the Philippines, China, Hawaii and the Dominican Republic. He attended the Naval War College at Newport, RI, and retired after 30 years of service with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Perhaps Ancrum hoped to enjoy two favorite past-times in retirement, hunting and golf, but as the world slipped into global war and the United States' grasp on neutrality became ever more tenuous, Ancrum was recalled to active service in 1940.

In late 1941, Ancrum fell ill. He was admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he passed away on December 30, 1941. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Calhoun Ancrum is a reminder that we are bound together by something stronger than school colors and football rivalries. The rights and privileges we enjoy, from casting a free ballot to speaking our minds or just enjoying a college football game on an autumn Saturday, were won and are maintained by selfless service. Indeed, we are bound together by love of freedom and by our willingness to defend it.

