

Poulson's
Jan. 01, 1812

Columbia, South Carolina, December 17

The inhabitants of this town were much alarmed, yesterday morning, by the repeated shocks of earthquakes. The first took place about half after two; which shook the houses as rocked by the waves of the sea; it was followed after the cessation of a minute by three slighter ones; and at 8 o'clock two others took place; and at 10 some slight ones. The S. Carolina college appeared to rock from its foundation, and a part of the lastering fell; which so alarmed the students they left the college without their clothes. It appeared as if all the buldings would be leveled. The dogs barked, fowls made a racket, and a number of inhabitants were running about without lights not knowing were to go, so great was their alarm. During the shock, the air felt as if it was impregnated with steam which lasted for some time after the shock.

The Enquirer
Jan. 04, 1812

Columbia, South Carolina, December

About a quarter past 12 o'clock on Tuesday last, the 17th inst. another smart shock of an Earthquake was experienced by the citizens on Monday morning last, from what we have been able to learn, has been very extensive, and generally severe. In Laurens and Newberry, the only back districts we have yet heard from, it was so severe that it cracked and started some of the chimnies from their houses. By a gentleman from Charleston, we are informed, that the people there were so much alarmed, that many left their houses; that the bells in the churches rang, and that some of the clocks in the houses were stopped by the violence of the shock. From Strasburgh we heard it was equally severe, but fortunately no damage was done. At all of the above places the shock appears to have been felt at about the same time it was here.