

All collection finding aids and inventories are available online at <http://www.savannahga.gov/collections>. For more information or to set up a research appointment, contact the Archivist at (912) 651-6412 or Archives@Savannahga.gov.

Records of interest to researchers of African American history are cross-referenced in other subject matter guides, including the [Genealogy](#), [Photographs](#), and [Captive Labor](#) research guides. A complete list of all available Research Guides is available online at www.savannahga.gov/ResearchGuides.

Sample Entry:

- Hyperlink to Collection Finding Aid/Inventory, inclusive dates (Record Series #)
Hyperlink to available digitized content
 - Additional description, as needed

General City History and Research Projects

- [A History of the City Government of Savannah, Ga., from 1790 to 1901](#), compiled from Official Records by Thomas Gamble, Jr., 1900
- [Municipal Slavery Research Project](#)
 - Explores and documents the City of Savannah's use of enslaved labor in municipal work
- [Jim Crow in Savannah's Parks](#), prepared by Jeffrey M. Ofgang, 2022
 - Online exhibit that examines the segregation of Savannah's parks and recreational facilities; corresponding *Virtual Hungry for History* presentation "[Jim Crow in Savannah's Parks](#)".
- ["Benevolent Burials: Charitable Organizations Represented in Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemeteries."](#) Prepared by Mark O'Dell, 2022
 - Self-guided tours of Laurel Grove North and Laurel Grove South cemeteries; corresponding *Virtual Hungry for History* program on creation of the tours "[Benevolent Burials](#)"
- [City Code Books](#), 1854-2003
 - Code books contain slave codes enacted into law by ordinances passed by city council.
- [Mayor's Office Records](#), 1817-1879 (RG 5600MY)

Select Digitized Records: [Mayor's Annual Reports](#), 1855-1923 (RS 5600MY-50);
[Mayor Malcolm Maclean Speech Books](#), 1960-1966 (RS 5600MY-20)
- [City Treasurer Records](#) (RG 5600CT)
 - Cash books, 1806-1913 (RS 5600CT-400, 5600CT-410, 5600CT-540) records financial transactions related to use of enslaved labor for City work (also see Municipal Slavery Research Project)
 - Tax Digests, 1809-1954 (RS 5600CT-070) shows enslaved individuals recorded as property, with their value and enslaver (no enslaved names recorded)
- [Minutes of the Park and Tree Commission](#), 1896-1972 (RS 5600PC-010)

Select Digitized Records: [1896-1929](#), [1916-1972](#)
- [Savannah Pharmacy Records and Fonvielle Family Papers](#), 1874-2008 (RS 3205-015 through 3205-039)
- [Irene Mound Collection](#), 1935-1998 (RS 1121-092)
 - A historical and archaeological landmark site excavated by forty-five African American women as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project.
- [Clemmons Family Collection](#), 1929-2006, no date (RS 1121-091)
 - Contains certificates, plaques, awards, photographs, news clippings, publications, and personal writings from or related to the life and work of John B. Clemmons Sr. and Mozelle Clemmons and their children John B. Clemmons Jr., and Sheila Clemmons. Clemmons Sr. was a professor at Savannah State University and both he and Mozelle were active in Savannah's civil rights movement.

W. W. Law Collection See [W.W. Law Collection page \(www.savannahga.gov/wwlaw\)](http://www.savannahga.gov/wwlaw) for full list of available collections

- [W. W. Law Personal Papers](#), 1902-2005, no date (RS 1121-112)
- [NAACP – Savannah Branch Records](#), 1911-2013, no date (RS 1121-102)
- [W. W. Law Reference Files](#) (RS 1121-106)
- [ASALH and related cultural organizations records](#), 1903-2004, no date, (RS 1121-109)

Genealogy Resources

- [Internment Report Books](#), 1852-1903 (RS 5600CL-90)
 - Prior to 1866, shows burials of enslaved individuals, including name, nativity, residence, and enslaver
- [Board of Health Minute Books](#), 1822-1864 (RS 5600HA-010)
 - Records deaths of enslaved and free persons of color in the year 1828 and from 1835-1864. Entries include name, age, race/description (Black or Mulatto), status (free or enslaved), date and cause of death, owner name, and some indicate residency of owner/decedent.
 - Some of the “Nuisances” recorded in minutes indicate names and location of where enslaved and free persons of color lived.
[Board of Health Minute Books can be browsed on Ancestry.com](#) *Access to Ancestry.com requires a paid subscription.
- [Tax Digests](#), 1809-1903 (RS 5600CT-70)
 - Taxes are recorded for Free Persons of Color beginning in 1809. Entries indicate taxes paid on ownership of lots, buildings, dogs, poll tax for profession, carriages, and taxes for ownership of enslaved individuals.
 - Entries are initially recorded in a separate section, but in subsequent years, Free Persons of Color are included within all other entries and instead distinguished with acronyms “F.P.C.”, “F.W.C”, or “F.M.C.” (Free person, woman, or man of color)
- [Registers of Free Persons of Color](#), 1817-1864 (RS 5600CL-130) [use microfilm at Bull Street Library]
[Select Digitized Records available on Ancestry.com](#) *Access to Ancestry.com requires a paid subscription.
- [Voter Registration Registers](#), 1856-1917 (RS 5600CL-150)
- [Birth, Marriage and Death Registers](#), 1898-1913 (RS 5600HE-60.4)
- [Jail Registers](#), 1808-1815, 1855-1879, 1959-1968 (RS 5600PL-10, 5600PL-40)
 - Pre-1865 volumes include names of enslaved people and their slave owners held at the City jail for safe-keeping or criminal offenses.

Neighborhood Documentation Projects & Oral History Collections

The Savannah Community Memory Project (SCMP) is an ongoing initiative to document Savannah’s diverse communities through Oral History and Community Collecting events. This initiative is ongoing. For a current inventory of the SCMP, visit the [Voices of Savannah](#) page.

- [Savannah Area Local Government Documents Collection](#), bulk 1970s-present (RS 1121-027)
- [Carver Village Community Memory Project](#), circa 1948-2017, no date (RS 1121-064.01)
Select Digitized Records: [Carver Village Community Collection photographs](#); Oral History recordings online through [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [Canal District Community Collection](#), 2019-2022 (RS 1121-064.09)
- [Frogtown, Yamacraw, and West Broad Street Community Collection](#), circa 1912-2019, no date (RS 1121-064.04)
Oral History recordings online through [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [White Bluff Community Collection](#), 1919-2023 (RS 1121-064.05)
Select Digitized Records: [White Bluff Community Collection photographs](#); Oral History recordings online through [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [West Broad Street Appraisals](#), 1958-1968 (RS 3205-040)
Select Digitized Records
- [Benjamin Van Clark Neighborhood Documentation Project](#), 2003-2004 (RS 6112-003)
Select Digitized Records: [Oral History Collection](#); [Uncommon Knowledge: When the Meadows Became Benjamin Van Clark](#); [Historic Benjamin Van Clark Neighborhood: Trolleys to Today](#)

- [Eastside Neighborhood Documentation Project](#), 1885-2011 (RS 6112-003)
Select Digitized Records: [Oral History Collection](#); [Ebb and Flow: Life and Community in Eastern Savannah](#) by Martha L. Keber (City of Savannah Department Cultural Affairs, 2011)
- [Westside Neighborhood Documentation Project](#), 1910s-2008, no date (RS 6112-003)
Select Digitized Records: [Oral History Collection](#); [Low Land and the High Road; Life and Community in Hudson Hill, West Savannah, and Woodville Neighborhoods](#), by Martha L. Keber (City of Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs, 2008)
- [Liberty City Community Collection](#), 1970-2024 (RS 1121-064.12)
Select Digitized Records: [Liberty City Community Collection](#); *Oral History recordings online through* [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [Cann Park Community Collection](#), 1945-2024, no date (RS 1121-063.13)
Select Digitized Records: [Cann Park Community Collection](#); *Oral History recordings online through* [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [Tatemville and Feiler Park Community Collection](#), 1920s-2024, no date (RS 1121-064.14)
Select Digitized Records: [Tatemville Community Collection](#); *Oral History recordings online through* [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Community Collection](#), 2024 (RS 1121-064.16)
Oral History recordings online through [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [Springfield Terrace School \[Pearl Lee Smith School\] Community Collection](#), 1990-2024, no date (RS 1121-064.19)
Select Digitized Records: [Springfield Terrace School Community Collection](#); *Oral History recordings online*

through [Voices of Savannah](#)
- [Unincorporated Chatham County Community Collection](#), circa 1940s-2024, no date (RS 1121-064.15)
Select Digitized Records: [Unincorporated Chatham County Community Collection](#)
Oral History recordings online through [Voices of Savannah](#)

Photographs and Visual Arts Collections

- [Community Planning and Development Department photograph collection](#), circa 1980-2004 (RS 3104-008)
- [W. W. Law Photograph Collection](#), 1868-2002, no date (RS 1121-100)
Select Digitized Records
- [W.W. Law Art Collection](#), 1849-1998, no date (RS 1121-101)
- [Park and Tree Commission Photographs and Prints](#) – Applicants for Cemetery Lot Keepers, circa 1924-1943, no date (RS 5600PC-036)
Select Digitized Records
- [Minis collection of glass plate negatives, Mr. and Mrs. Robert P.](#) no date (Record Series 1121-071)
Select Digitized Records