

Archives Alive!

Photographs in the Archives

An Introduction to Archives and Reading Photographs

In today's program we will...

Learn about what Archives are

Use photographs from the Archives
to learn about reading and interpreting them

Handle original archival materials safely



What does the word Archive mean?

Archive ar·chive | \ 'är-,kīv \ *noun*

Definition

- 1:** The records created by people and organizations as they lived and worked. An archival collection is a unique body of information, created at a particular time by a particular organization or individual as the result of a particular activity
- 2:** a place in which public records or historical materials (such as documents) are preserved
- 3:** The organization responsible for preserving or making available archival materials

Types of Archives



Historical Societies



Government Archives



Community Archives



Corporate Archives



Religious Archives

...and so many more!

Digital Collections



COLLECTION
10th-16th Century
Liturgical Chants

The acquisition of medieval liturgical chant manuscripts that trace the history of music notation as it evolved over



COLLECTION
Aaron Copland
Collection

The first release of the online collection contains approximately 1,000 items that yield a total of about 5,000 images

Digital Archives

Introduction to the Archives

The City of Savannah Municipal Archives:

- Collects, manages, preserves, and makes accessible records documenting the City of Savannah's history
- Administers the records management program and the City Records Center to increase the efficiency of City agencies
- Shares the City's history with City employees, citizens and visitors through outreach activities

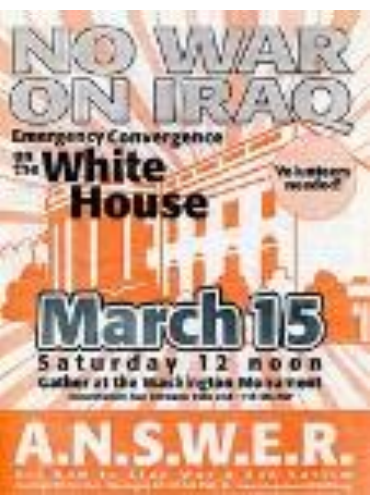
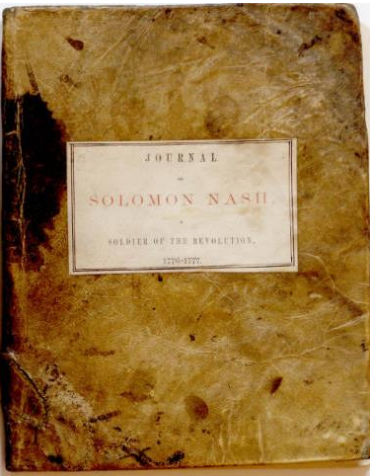


Introduction to the City of Savannah Collections

Overall Collections reflect:

- City of Savannah incorporation date of 1789
 - Colonial-era records are not held here.
- City of Savannah corporate limits
 - Think corporate limits for the time period being researched, not modern limits.
- City of Savannah government functions
 - Very few personal papers are held here, with the largest exception being the W. W. Law Collection.





Archival collections can contain just about anything that was created or saved by a person or organization



WayBack
Machine



May!
Dear Daggett -
I want to go to Wash-
ington but it's a busy
time, business-wise,
for Congress won't
bother with anything
but President-making.
My publisher got me
to send a letter of his to
Blaine a month or two
ago, in which our great
cause was fully set
forth. I didn't believe
Blaine would interest
himself in the matter
& I was right. You





Primary Sources

Materials that provide **direct** evidence, **first-hand** testimony, or an **eyewitness** account of a topic or event.

They can be published or unpublished items in any format, including handwritten letters, images, sound, or objects.

A Picture is worth a thousand words...



- *Photographs give visual information about a time, place, person or event*
- *They help us learn about clothes, hairstyles, and the way buildings looked in the past*
- *They are records of events that you don't have to be able to read to understand*
- *They may appear true, but the photographer can make choices about what to include in the picture that changes how we understand the subject.*

How to Read a Photograph

- ***What is the subject of the picture?***
 - The subject is the person, place, event, or thing that the photograph is showing
- ***Look at how the subject is presented. Is it shown with any special objects or in a special way that tells us something about it?***
 - Portraits are pictures of people. Sometimes people are photographed with things that are special to them to tell us about their life.
- ***Is the picture black and white or in color?***
 - This can tell you how old the picture is, if it is a snapshot or an artistic photo, or something about what the artist is trying to tell us.
- ***Perspective is the angle at which the photograph is taken.***
 - Images can be taken from the front, side, back, aerial (from the air), close up or far away.

Think about WHY the photographer made these choices and what they say about the subject they are presenting

What are some things that you
or your family take pictures of?

Handling Records:

- Pencils only
- Be very careful when turning pages
- Do not pick up original archival materials
- Do not lean or write on archival materials
- Keep papers and pencils far away from original documents

Mistreatment of original documents will result in being removed from the exercise

