

5600HE-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)
City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Record Series #: 5600HE
Name: City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Health Department
Dates: 1803-1948
Extent/Size: 33 volumes (9.39 cubic feet)

Organizational History:

From 1790 until 1823, the Health Officer of Savannah was appointed by the Governor. Afterwards, he was selected by the City Council (Gamble, pp. 47, 146). The Health Officer's duties included visiting vessels arriving in port, imposing quarantine, attending the sick on board, and investigating and preventing the spread of contagious diseases (Code of Savannah 1854, pp. 251-253). In 1877, the Health Officer became head of the newly organized Board of Sanitary Commissioners which was to supervise the administration of City health laws, to investigate and prevent the spread of disease, to examine and eliminate health nuisances, to supervise the sanitary regulations of municipal institutions, and to supervise matters relating to quarantine. The Health Officer, under direction of this board, became the general supervisor of the sanitary interests of the City, making inspections, inquiries, and reports (Code of Savannah 1888, pp. 185-87). By 1923, the Savannah Health Department consisted of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, the Health Officer, the City Laboratory and Bacteriologist, the City Physician, the hospitals, the City Dispensary, the Inspector of Plumbing, and the City Food Inspector (Mayor's Annual Report 1923, pp. 393-459).

The Savannah Health Center was formed in 1920, and by 1925 there was an agreement for the Savannah Health Center, the Health Department, and the County Commission to amalgamate their programs. This amalgamation formed the Chatham-Savannah Health Center in 1944 ("Summary of the Function and the Organization of the Chatham-Savannah Health Council," Georgia Historical Society Vertical File). The Executive Reorganization Act of 1931 created the Georgia Department of Health to oversee the local health departments (Georgia Laws 1931, p. 11), and the Social Security Act of 1935 was responsible for further expansion of the department. By 1939, regional agencies had been established, and, in 1972, the department's functions were transferred to the Georgia Department of Human Resources by an act of the legislature (Jackson and Stakes, Handbook of Georgia State Agencies, p. 47).

Scope and Content:

Record Series 5600HE City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Health Department (1803-1948), is arranged into the following sub-series. See Scope and Content notes for each sub-series for further information about the content and arrangement of the materials.

- 5600HE-010 Annual Reports
- 5600HE-020 Contagious and Infectious Disease Register
- 5600HE-030 Quarantine Station Report Books
- 5600HE-040 Record Book
- 5600HE-050 Registers of Indigent Sick Treated by City Physician
- 5600HE-060.1 Vital Statistics Registers – Death Registers
- 5600HE-060.2 Vital Statistics Registers – Mortuary Statistics
- 5600HE-060.3 Vital Statistics Registers – Birth Registers
- 5600HE-060.4 Vital Statistics Registers – Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers

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5600HE-060.5 Vital Statistics Registers – Birth and Death Registers
5600HE-070 Malarial Control – Invoices

Related Series:

5600HA City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Board of Health.

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-010

Name: Annual Reports

Dates: 1884, 1912, 1914-1915, 1923

Extent/Size: 5 volumes (0.1 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-010 Annual Reports (1884, 1912, 1914-1915, 1923) includes five annual reports of the Department of Public Health and/or the Report of the Health Officer, as well as, reports from the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, the City Bacteriologist, the City Physicians (by district), the local hospitals, the City Dispensary, the Inspector of Plumbing, and the City Food Inspector.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-010 Envelope 1	Annual Report, 1884
5600HE-010 Volume 1	Annual Report, 1912
5600HE-010 Volume 2	Annual Report, 1914
5600HE-010 Volume 3	Annual Report, 1915
5600HE-010 Volume 4	Annual Report, 1923

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-020

Name: Contagious and Infectious Disease Register

Dates: 1904-1913

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.4 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-020 Contagious and Infectious Disease Register (1904-1913) includes one volume, also referred to as the Record of Contagious and Infectious Diseases or the Daily Report of the Sanitary Inspector, documenting the spread of infectious diseases in the community. The register includes: the date a disease is reported; the patient's name, residence and sex; date of fumigation; results of the Bacteriologist's examination; and remarks. The annual smallpox report is also included and contains: the number of cases; race and sex of patients; number of deaths; severity of outbreak; and comparisons to previous years.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-020 Volume 1 Contagious and Infectious Disease Register, 1904-1913

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City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Sub-series #: 5600HE-030
Name: Quarantine Station Report Books
Dates: 1888-1892
Extent/Size: 4 volumes (0.95 cubic feet)

Organizational History:

The quarantine station for the Savannah area was located at Ft. Jackson until around 1870, when it was deemed to be too near the city. A new station was then established opposite the lighthouse on Tybee Island. The Savannah quarantine exercised jurisdiction over vessels entering any port from Ossabaw Island to Tybee Island (Gamble, History of City Government, 1790-1901, p. 351; Code of Savannah 1907, p. 76).

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-030 Quarantine Station Report Books (1888-1892) includes four volumes of records documenting the activity of the Savannah Quarantine Station. Volume 1 is marked "Charges against vessels for boarding, fees and fumigating," and contains: date; date of bill; class or rig; name of vessel; tonnage; boarding fee; fumigating fee; totals; name of consignee; when paid; and remarks. A schedule of charges dated 1884 is in the front of the volume. Three Quarantine Station report books record quarantines, including: name of vessel; date of arrival; ports of last clearance and prior clearance; any illness on board or at previous ports visited; type of cargo; and the number of crew and passengers.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-030A Volume 1	Quarantine Book-Shipping, 1888-1891
5600HE-030A Volume 2	Quarantine Report of Arrival of Vessels, January 24-October 13, 1891
5600HE-030A Volume 3	Quarantine Station Report, October 14, 1891-December 31, 1891
5600HE-030 Volume 1	Quarantine Station Report Book, January-August 1892

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-040
Name: Record Book
Dates: 1893-1898
Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.3 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-040 Record Book (1893-1898) includes one volume documenting the various activities of the Health Department. The records include: a register of infectious and contagious diseases, 1893-1898 (*also see* Sub-series 5600HE-020 Contagious and Infectious Disease Register); administrative financial records, circa 1890s; tallies of births attended by physicians and midwives, 1893-1897; two cow censuses (one for cows that produced milk in the city and one for those outside the city that provided milk for the city), including the name of owner/dairy proprietor, location, milk output, the area of yards/stalls/pastures, feed, disposal of manure, and conditions of cows/lots/stalls/utensils, circa 1890s; monthly statement of costs of drugs and supplies at city drug stores, 1895; weekly report of the City Physicians for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd districts, including the number of office visits, house calls, race of patients, daily average house and office visits, patients sent to the hospital, and hospital in which patient was admitted; and weekly reports of the City Physician for Negroes, circa 1895.

Inventory:

5600HE-040 Volume 1 Record Book, 1893-1898

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-050

Name: Registers of Indigent Sick Treated by City Physician

Dates: 1887-1890, 1895-1896

Extent/Size: 2 volumes (0.5 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-050 Registers of Indigent Sick Treated by City Physician (1887-1890, 1895-1896) includes two volumes documenting the work of the City Physicians. The registers record: the name and race of patient; diagnosis; location where treated; and physician's remarks. Volume 1 only contains a report of the Eastern Division (2nd District) and includes monthly statistics on the number of patients seen, number treated in the city, number treated at the office, average per day, and deaths.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-050 Volume 1	Register of Indigent Sick, 1887-1890
5600HE-050 Volume 2	Register of Indigent Sick, 1895-1896

**5600HE-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)
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Sub-series #: 5600HE-060.1

Name: Death Registers

Dates: 1803-1853

Extent/Size: 6 volumes (2.25 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-060.1 Death Registers (1803-1853) includes six volumes recording deaths in Savannah. The registers include the following information: deceased's name; age; disease or casualty; nativity; date of burial and/or date of death; street and ward of residence (volumes 5 and 6); profession or trade; residency status (volumes 5 and 6); name of physician (volumes 5 and 6); and remarks (volumes 1-4). Volume 4 also notes whether or not the deceased was accustomed to the climate and whether he/she was a stranger who arrived during or after the sickly season. The volumes include some monthly and annual recapitulations for various categories, including: the number of deaths; cause of death; age; sex; residency status; and nativity.

Note:

The information in these volumes was published as the Register of Deaths in Savannah, Georgia, an indexed six-volume set by the Genealogical Committee of the Georgia Historical Society.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-060.1 Volume 1	Death Register, 1803-1806
5600HE-060.1 Volume 2	Death Register, 1807-1811
5600HE-060.1 Volume 3	Death Register, 1811-1818
5600HE-060.1 Volume 4	Death Register, 1818-1832
5600HE-060.1 Volume 5	Death Register, 1833-1847
5600HE-060.1 Volume 6	Death Register, 1848-1853

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-060.2
Name: Mortuary Statistics
Dates: 1883, 1888-1889
Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.4 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-060.2 Mortuary Statistics (1883, 1888-1889) includes one volume of statistics for Savannah. The volume, divided by sections for white interments and black interments in Savannah cemeteries, includes: the name of the deceased; age; sex; date of death; cause of death; residence; nativity; name of physician; and remarks (includes statistics on stillbirths, premature births, and accidents). For each month, a monthly summary table shows the number of deaths for particular age categories. There is also an annual report section which records the number of deaths from specific diseases for each month of each year, divided by race.

Arrangement:
Chronological.

Inventory:
5600HE-060.2 Volume 1 Mortuary Statistics, Volume A, 1883, 1888-1889

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-060.3
Name: Birth Registers
Dates: 1889-1896
Extent/Size: 5 volumes (1.8 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-060.3 Birth Registers (1889-1896) includes five volumes recording births in Savannah. The registers include: date of birth; name of person reporting (physician or midwife); names of parents; nationality or place of birth of parents; residence of parents; and remarks. The names of the child are not provided.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-060.3 Volume 1	Birth Register, 1889 This volume only contains March 1889 White Births
5600HE-060.3 Volume 2	Birth Register, 1890-1896 - White Males (misabeled Births and Deaths)
5600HE-060.3 Volume 3	Birth Register, 1890-1896 - White Females
5600HE-060.3 Volume 4	Birth Register, 1890-1896 - Negro Males
5600HE-060.3 Volume 5	Birth Register, 1890-1896 - Negro Females

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-060.4

Name: Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers

Dates: 1898-1913

Extent/Size: 5 volumes (1.8 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-060.4 Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers (1898-1913) includes five volumes documenting births, marriages, and deaths in Savannah. The registers include: report date; name; race; age; nativity; residence; occupation; date of marriage/birth/death; cause of death; attending physician or midwife; stillborn or premature births; and deaths by violence. They do not provide the name of the child.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-060.4 Volume 1	Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, 1898-1901
5600HE-060.4 Volume 2	Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, 1901-1904
5600HE-060.4 Volume 3	Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, 1904-1907
5600HE-060.4 Volume 4	Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, 1907- July 1910
5600HE-060.4 Volume 5	Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, August 1910-August 1913

Revised register dates:

5600HE-060.4 Volume 1, January 1898-July 1901

5600HE-060.4 Volume 2, August 1901-November 1904

5600HE-060.4 Volume 3, December 1904-October 1907

5600HE-060.4 Volume 4, November 1907-July 1910

5600HE-060.4 Volume 5, August 1910-August 1913

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-060.5
Name: Birth and Death Registers
Dates: 1913-1919
Extent/Size: 2 volumes (.75 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-060.5 Birth and Death Registers (1913-1919) includes two volumes documenting births and deaths in Savannah. The registers include: report date; name; age; place of birth; residence; date of birth/death; cause of death; attending physician or midwife; and remarks. Birth entries provide the names of the parents, but not the name of the child.

Arrangement:
Chronological.

Inventory:
5600HE-060.5 Volume 1 Birth and Death Register, September 1913-1917
5600HE-060.5 Volume 2 Birth and Death Register, 1917-1919

Revised register dates:
5600HE-060.5 Volume 1, September 1913-March 1917
5600HE-060.5 Volume 2, April 1917-March 1919

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Sub-series #: 5600HE-070

Name: Malarial Control – Invoices

Dates: 1948

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.14 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HE-070 Malarial Control – Invoices (1948) includes one volume of invoices showing payment to vendors by the City Treasurer for malarial control in 1948. The entries include: amounts; dates; and services or goods paid for.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600HE-070 Volume 1 Malarial Control, Invoices, 1948