

## City of Savannah Archives & History On-Line

The Library & Archives' website, accessible at [www.savannahga.gov/MunicipalArchives](http://www.savannahga.gov/MunicipalArchives), provides valuable information about using the records housed in the City Records Center, as well as access to on-line archival collection finding aids, historical research documents and links to digitized City records available on-line. You may also make on-line reference requests through this website.



### Historical Research Documents, including:

- ◆ "A History of the City Government of Savannah, Ga., 1790-1901"
- ◆ "Index of Mayors & Aldermen, 1790-present"
- ◆ "History & Highlights of the Council-Manager Form of Government, 1954-2004"
- ◆ "A Building for a Century to Come: The Birth of City Hall, 1903-1906 and A Century of History, 1906-2006"

### Digitized Collections

(available through [www.savannahga.gov/DigitalCollections](http://www.savannahga.gov/DigitalCollections))

- ◆ City Digital Image Catalog (over 1,850 images and growing)
- ◆ Digital Library of Georgia (annual reports, oral histories, & more)
- ◆ Ancestry.com (genealogical resources from 1790-1995)
- ◆ Savannah City Codes, 1854, 1858, 1871, 1888, 1907, 1918, 1936, 1945

### Contact Information

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Research Library & Municipal Archives  
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### Staff

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### Research Appointments

Office appointments are recommended for on-site research visits. Please call ahead and make an appointment before visiting, to ensure that staff will be available to assist you with archival resources appropriate to your research.

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*Like the U. S. Bicentennial Time Capsule in City Hall's foyer, holding mementos of Savannah's residents, the City of Savannah Research Library & Municipal Archives is a time capsule of City history dating back to the incorporation of the City of Savannah municipal government in 1789. But you don't have to wait until 2076 for this time capsule to be opened; you can start discovering the City's rich history today!*

The Research Library & Municipal Archives (RLMA) 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; and shares the City's history with City employees, citizens and visitors through outreach activities.

### Major Archival Collections in the City Records Center

The Library & Archives preserves and provides access to several important collections of historical City records, including:

- ◆ City Council Meeting Papers
- ◆ Savannah Area Local Government Documents Collection
- ◆ Engineering Department Maps, Plans and Surveys

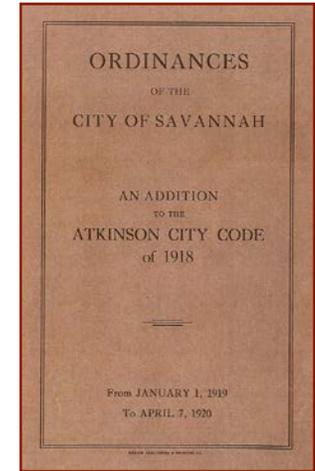


**Right:** Municipal League of Georgia Medallion (City Hall Cornerstone Laying Ceremony, Savannah, 11 August 1904), 1121-028, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Artifact Collection.



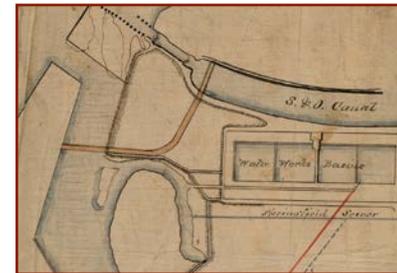
The **City of Savannah, Georgia Records** (RG 5600; 1790-1979) includes over 1,000 cubic feet of the City's oldest extant archival records, most of 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century vintage. This collection includes the records of the Municipal Airport, Bacon Park Commission, City Attorney, City Court, City Marshal, City Treasurer, Clerk of City Council, Committee on River and Harbor Improvements, Drainage Commission, Engineering Department, Fire Department, Board of Health, Health Department, Inspections Department, Mayor's Office, Municipal Auditorium, Park and Tree Commission, Police Department, Recorder's Court and Water Operations Department.

City government and those of other non-City local governmental entities. The collection also includes publications of state and federal governmental agencies, when those documents have content which deals in major part with the Savannah area.



The **Engineering Department Map Collections** (RG 3121; 1752-2012; bulk 1870-1939) include over 4,690 maps and surveys documenting the urban development of Savannah, including land subdivision, street openings, water and sewer lines, and right-of-ways.

No.	Name	Age	Parentage	Nativity	Residence	Occupation	No. of Children
1	John White	45	John & Mary	Virginia	South Street	Merchant	10
2	James Smith	38	James & Sarah	England	North Street	Blacksmith	8
3	Thomas Brown	42	Thomas & Elizabeth	Scotland	West Street	Carriage Maker	12
4	Robert Green	35	Robert & Ann	Ireland	East Street	Shoemaker	6
5	William Jones	40	William & Mary	England	South Street	Merchant	9
6	John Black	30	John & Sarah	Virginia	North Street	Blacksmith	4
7	Thomas White	35	Thomas & Elizabeth	Scotland	West Street	Carriage Maker	7
8	Robert Green	40	Robert & Ann	Ireland	East Street	Shoemaker	10
9	William Jones	35	William & Mary	England	South Street	Merchant	8
10	John Black	45	John & Sarah	Virginia	North Street	Blacksmith	12
11	Thomas White	30	Thomas & Elizabeth	Scotland	West Street	Carriage Maker	5
12	Robert Green	35	Robert & Ann	Ireland	East Street	Shoemaker	7
13	William Jones	40	William & Mary	England	South Street	Merchant	9
14	John Black	30	John & Sarah	Virginia	North Street	Blacksmith	4
15	Thomas White	35	Thomas & Elizabeth	Scotland	West Street	Carriage Maker	7
16	Robert Green	40	Robert & Ann	Ireland	East Street	Shoemaker	10
17	William Jones	35	William & Mary	England	South Street	Merchant	8
18	John Black	45	John & Sarah	Virginia	North Street	Blacksmith	12
19	Thomas White	30	Thomas & Elizabeth	Scotland	West Street	Carriage Maker	5
20	Robert Green	35	Robert & Ann	Ireland	East Street	Shoemaker	7



The **Engineering Department Retrospective Plans & Designs Collection** (RS 3121-010; 1902-2015) includes over 481 plans and designs of City properties and buildings, including City Hall, and the municipal abattoir, airport, auditorium, jail, stadium, and wharf.

The **City Council Meeting Papers** (RG 0115; 1817-1957) include almost 470 cubic feet of records representing the work of City Council prior to the adoption of the council-manager form of government. Included among this major collection are records related to assessments and licenses, building permits, zoning, public health, the City Court, public works, engineering, finance and accounts, fire safety, harbor and wharves, jitney bonds, the City Market, the City Marshal, deeds, contracts, near beer licenses, pensions and charities, the police, the powder magazine, drainage, street railways and water resources.



Learn more about these collections at [www.savannahga.gov/Collections](http://www.savannahga.gov/Collections), where you can find collection finding aids and inventories for all our archival holdings.

**Opposite page, top to bottom:**  
 A. Campbell and unidentified woman (circa 1930s), RS 5600PC-36 City of Savannah, Georgia Records, Park and Tree Commission – Photographs and Prints.  
 RS 5600CL-130 City of Savannah, Georgia Records, Clerk of Council – Registers of Free Persons of Color, Volume 5 (1863), page 8.

"Sarah Cope to The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah...Bill of Sale of Slave Ellick" (12 July 1864), RS 0115-003 City Council Meeting Papers – Deeds, Deed #38.

Great Savannah Exposition (1986), RS 1121-027 Savannah Area Local Government Documents Collection, SAV.PD.1986-005, "Great Savannah Exposition Slide and Tape Presentation," Slide #44.

**This page, top to bottom:**  
 Ordinances of the City of Savannah...From January 1, 1919 to April 7, 1920. Savannah: Review Publishing & Printing Company, 1920.

"Location of Old Water Works Basin on Ogeechee Canal," (no date), RS 3121-008 Engineering Department Retrospective Maps Collection – East/West Maps, Map #EW/W-491.

"THE FOUNTAIN - Forsyth Park - Savannah," circa 1902, RS 1121-041 Research Library & Municipal Archives, Photographic Collections: *Artwork of Savannah...*, Part 1, Plate 6.

RS = Record Series; RG = Record Group



The **Savannah Area Local Government Documents Collection** (RS 1121-027; 1905-present; bulk 1970s-present) includes over 4,640 archival reference (non-circulating) local documents published by and for units of