SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, SC

172. College of Charleston

Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424

Location:
125 Bull Street
(near Ashley Avenue)
Charleston, SC 29401

Phone: (843) 953-7608
Fax: (843) 953-7607
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Hours: M-F 10 am–5 pm; Sat. 12–5 pm

Overview:

The mission of the Avery Research Center is to evaluate, acquire, organize, preserve, and make available materials that document the African-American experience in Charleston, the low country, South Carolina, and beyond. Avery is home to approximately two hundred manuscript collections, varying in size from a few items to over 50 lin. ft.; over 5,000 printed items, ranging from standard texts, rare books, and pamphlets to dissertations and journals; over 4,000 photographs; hundreds of reels of microfilm, VHS tapes, clipping files, and digital formats. There are also dozens of collections of artifacts from West Africa and a sweet grass basket collection.

Noteworthy collections:

  Avery holds the records of the Harleston and Harleston/Boags Funeral Homes, the Mickey Funeral Home, the Gadsden Funeral Home, and the records of various private benevolent and burial societies.
173. South Carolina Historical Society

The Fireproof Building
100 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Phone: (843) 723-3225
Fax: (843) 723-8584
Hours: Tu–F 9 am–4 pm; Sat 9 am–2 pm

Contact person:
Mary Jo Fairchild, Reference Archivist: (843) 723-3225 ext. 14; maryjo.fairchild@schosonline.org

Overview:
Manuscript materials form the bulk of our holdings. This collection includes the papers of thousands of individuals and families, as well as the records of numerous organizations, businesses, and churches.

Noteworthy collections:

  Consists of correspondence (1834–1980; n.d.), estate and financial records, property records, slave records, and miscellaneous items. Included are papers of Charles P. Aimar, Sr., C. P. Aimar, Jr., Agatha Aimar Simmons, T. Ritchie Simmons, and Mary Ritchie Simmons.

  Collection contains correspondence, financial records, legal documents, business and estate records, and other items. Included are the papers of John Kennerty, William M. Menlove, William H. Brawley, and Ripton S. H. Hanahan; estate records of Randall D. George; records of the Atlantic Wharves, Barnwell Railroad Co., Farmers & Exchange Bank of Charleston, First National Bank (Charleston), Exchange Banking and Trust Co. (Charleston), Wardlaw & Carew (Charleston), Southern Investment Co., and the Southwestern Railroad Bank; and accounts of K. Boyce & Co. (Charleston), and Louis D. DeSaussure. Also includes bills of exchange, receipts, protests of non-payment, promissory notes, mortgages, accounts for bonds and mortgages, bonds, stock certificates, minutes of board meetings, stockholders’ proxies,
income tax forms, a subscription list (ca. 1865) regarding funds raised for the family of Jefferson Davis, lists (1865–1871) of assets and liabilities, profit and loss statements (late 1860s) regarding Confederate currency, powers of attorney and other legal documents, business correspondence of bank officers and customers, estate records, dividend accounts, dividend checks, records of Charleston phosphate mining companies and other businesses, a bound volume (1835–1855) concerning protested domestic exchange discounted notes, and other items.

  Political, legal, and personal letters (1884–1890) of William Brawley include requests for political patronage and favors and concern business and legal affairs of the South Carolina Railway and other railroad companies, legislative affairs (state and federal), state political issues including Benjamin R. Tillman’s gubernatorial campaign and “Tillmanism” (a letter, Nov. 1886, from Johnson Hagood mentions opposition to the Citadel by the “farmers”), the Free Silver movement, Brawley’s appointment to the federal judiciary (1894), family matters, and other topics.

  Daily business registers (1873–1942, 67 bound vols.) contain printed forms in which cotton prices and market conditions at Charleston, Liverpool (England), New York (NY), Manchester (England), and elsewhere are recorded. These volumes also record monthly net receipts of cotton at Charleston and include loose items such as printed reports on cotton stock prices.

  Business and business case records include records of Charleston companies including Butt’s Electrical Supply Co. (1947–1957), Charleston Pools, Inc. (1959), The Sportsman’s Shop (1946), Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. (1939–1950), Frederick Boyd & Co. (1917–1918), Wulbern Fertilizer Co. (1910–1925), and the South Carolina Loan and Trust Co. (1924–1930). Records of I. M. Pearlstine & Sons (1904–1917) of Charleston pertain to a lawsuit brought against W. T. Varnedoe (or Varnadoe) of Ridgeville (Dorchester County, SC), and include sketches (plans) of Varnedoe’s plantation or farm and descriptions of the property. There are also records of Long Island Improvement and Construction Co. (1925) dealing with property on the Isle of Palms (SC), and records (1912–1917) of a lawsuit involving the Pine Lumber Co. (Dorchester County, SC).

Correspondence and misc. accounts (1951–1952) relate to the settlement of the business affairs of the store’s proprietor, Henry Buist Kirk, by his niece, Anne Kirk Izard.

- McDonald, Wilkins & Company Records (1884–1912). 22 vols. Financial records include seven account books (1884–1912), a volume (1897–1911) containing records of daily receipts and payments for sundry items, daybooks (1906–1912), a “Home Store Blotter”, and a record book (1911–1912) for oil and gas drums sent out and returned. Accounts include entries for expenses, checks, merchandise, cash, bills payable, payments to manufacturers, wholesalers, and bankers, and customer receipts. Accounts for individuals and businesses include the Ladies Island Store, a mill, a stable, Eustis store, Pocotaligo store, Keans Neck store, Yemassee store, John J. Dale, J. R. McDonald, George W. Wilkins, and many others.