



SELECT BLACK HISTORY ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS
AT THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please note this is not an exhaustive list of all Georgia Historical Society resources relating to Black history. Search our online catalog for other archival collections, books, pamphlets, and serials (www.georgiahistory.com). See staff for further information about genealogy resources.

- Richard Dennis Arnold Papers, GHS 0027
 - Contains the will of Maria Cohen, a free woman of color (dated 6/21/1855; states that her estate is to go to Dr. Richard D. Arnold in trust for her children.)
- Lowry Axley Photographs, GHS 0035
 - Contains photographs of Black adults and children, religious services, and Bishop "Daddy" Grace (not dated).
- Victor Hugo Bassett Photographs, GHS 0055
 - Contains photographs of Black midwives.
- Charles J. Beatty Papers, GHS 0060
 - Contains circular about impressments of freemen of color and enslaved persons and for work projects of the Confederate Army; authorization of which Beatty is appointed as Special Agent to assist counties in dealing with escaped enslaved persons; a "Roll of Slaves Impressed to Work on the Defenses Around Savannah, Ga", and a list of enslaved persons and their enslavers for SC and GA (dates between 1864-1867).
- Joseph Vallence Beven Papers, GHS 0071
 - Contains correspondence dating from 1787 between George Mathews, Thomas Pinckney, and General James Jackson concerning armed fugitive enslaved persons.
- Robert Bolton Papers, GHS 0073
 - Contains bills of sale for enslaved persons and two letters from Jesse Scrugs to John Bolton dating from 1804 concerning African-Americans and land.
- Lillian Chaplin Bragg Papers, GHS 0083
 - Contains article "A Slave Cup Comes Home" on the history of a cup given by Major Pierce Butler to his enslaved person, Morris (not dated), and the article "Savannah Negroes Owned Slaves" (not dated).
- Archibald Bulloch Papers, GHS 0103
 - Includes a letter discussing the mistreatment of Bulloch's enslaved persons by another plantation owner.

- Ann Butler Letter, GHS 0114
 - Contains a letter written 11/30/1865 by Ann Butler to her husband William Butler who was serving in Company H, Second U.S. Colored Troops.
- Lila Marguerite Cabaniss Papers, GHS 0116
 - Contains a letter dating from 4/8/1853 written by Feriba Burney (an enslaved person) to her husband Emanuel Jenkins in Forsyth, GA.
- Cohen-Phillips Papers, GHS 0162
 - Contains a bill of sale for an enslaved person dating from 1859 in Savannah, GA.
- Bernard Constantine Indenture, GHS 0172
 - This collection consists of a deed of indenture, dated 11/11/1861, from Bernard Constantine to his son, Peter Constantine, for two enslaved persons, Mary and Susan, in trust for Bernard's daughter-in-law, Sarah Constantine, and her children.
- William Harris Crawford Papers, GHS 0186
 - Contains a letter written 10/20/1819 by James Monroe to William Harris Crawford concerning importation of enslaved persons into Charleston, SC.
- Cumming Records, GHS 0189
 - Contains seven bills of sale for enslaved persons (1852-1863) recorded in Chatham County and Bibb County transferring five enslaved persons including March, Sam, Frank, Marian, and an unnamed male.
- Sarah Alexander Cunningham Collection, GHS 0194
 - Contains photographs of Black persons in Forsyth Park during an annual huckster contest (not dated).
- Richard James Darant Collection, GHS 0199
 - Contains bills of sale for enslaved persons to Peter and William H. Wiltberger (1827-1861).
- Stephen Elliott Papers, GHS 0233
 - Contains correspondence on slavery between Stephen Elliott and Amelia Murray of Norfolk, England dating from 1855.
- Jeremiah Evarts Diary, GHS 0240
 - Contains a diary (not the original) written in 1822 which describes appearance, customs, and living conditions of African-Americans in Georgia.

- Couper and Fraser Family Papers, GHS 0265
 - Contains an undated list of 40 enslaved persons received by Peck & Son, and an undated list of enslaved persons belonging to Anne S. Fraser who were sold in Savannah, GA.
- Georgia Volunteer Infantry 49th Infantry Regiment Letter, GHS 0297
 - Contains a letter dating from 3/15/1865 which proposes to General Lee that the Regiment be allowed to fill its ranks with African-Americans conscripted in Georgia.
- Georgia Militia Districts Census Records, GHS 0298
 - Contains a volume listing all African-American males living in the 4th militia district in Chatham County, GA in 1894.
- Georgia Infirmary Records, GHS 0301
 - Contains minutes books, patient registers, birth records, and miscellaneous administrative records from the infirmary, which was chartered in 1832 in Savannah for the care of African-Americans.
- Mary Lois Granger Papers, GHS 0321
 - Contains correspondence, pamphlets, and notes on race relations circa the 1930s.
- Nathanael Greene Letters, GHS 0329
 - Contains a letter written on 12/9/1781 by Nathanael Green to Governor John Rutledge concerning the possibility of using African-American troops to force the British to evacuate Charleston, SC.
- Guerard Family Papers, GHS 0334
 - Contains documents relating to divisions of enslaved persons belonging to the estate of Dr. William Parker in 1845, documents relating to the sale and transfer of enslaved persons from the estate of William Parker to Robert Guerard in 1845, and a document relating to sale of enslaved persons between Augustus Guerard of Pennsylvania to Robert Guerard of Savannah in 1850.
- James Habersham Papers, GHS 0337
 - Contains papers of a prosperous landowner and strong advocate for allowing slavery in Georgia. Habersham established many rice plantations when, in 1749, slavery became legal in the state.
- Robert Habersham Papers, 1806-1864, GHS 0345
 - Contains deeds, estate records, bills, and receipts. One of the deeds is for a mortgage on 40 enslaved persons.
- William Hughes and Horace Bertrand Folsom Family Papers, GHS 0406
 - Contains a list of enslaved persons at Bonaventure dating from 1806-1807, receipts for enslaved persons purchases dating from 1797-1812, and the following historical writings by Horace Bertrand Folsom: “The First Negro Hospital”, “Negro Education in Georgia”, and “Slave Baptism by Proxy”.

- Peter Hynes and James Sullivan Papers, GHS 0412
 - Contains two bills of sale for the enslaved persons of Dorcas and Edward to James Sullivan in 1850.
- Jones Family Papers, GHS 0440
 - Contains bills of sale for enslaved persons, a list of enslaved persons derived from marriage settlements, a list of enslaved persons derived from estate settlements, lists of field hands, lists of enslaved persons sold, and a letter from an enslaved person, William Nuttall, to his owner George Noble Jones I dating from 1854.
- Samuel J. Josephs Receipt, GHS 0451
 - Contains the receipt for the sale of a mixed-race enslaved person Eliza dating from 1863.
- Lachlan McIntosh Papers, GHS 0526
 - Contains a letter from Robert Baillie to Lachlan McIntosh on 7/17/1781 concerning enslaved persons (includes list) taken by a privateer and sold in Beaufort, SC; an agreement between John Fabian and William McIntosh, Jr. on 12/20/1792 with McIntosh lending Fabian 12 enslaved persons in exchange for crops; and a letter from Lachlan McIntosh to John McIntosh, Jr. on 7/11/1788 requesting enslaved persons.
- William Wiseham Paine Papers, GHS 0603
 - Contains records of a lawsuit to recover named enslaved persons in Montgomery County (1845-1848); petition of Rachel Brownfield, an African-American woman, to recover debt (1867); records of W.W. Paine; Claims vs. US which include lists of African-Americans living in Chatham and Liberty counties with their name, residence, and age given (1874-1877); fragment of the will of Peter Groves, a free African-American man (1820); claims for pensions and lots by African-Americans (1880-1881), as well as descriptions of properties owned by enslaved persons.
- Jane E. Pritchard Deeds for Enslaved Persons, GHS 0639
 - Contains two deeds of gift for enslaved persons belonging to Jane E. Pritchard of St. Helena Island, SC in 1855.
- Keith Read Collection, GHS 0648
 - Contains a document relating to the trade of an enslaved person 1879.
- Thomas Porcher Ravenel Papers, GHS 0649
 - Contains bill of sale for an enslaved person from 1859; will of Benjamin A. White which included provisions for funeral expenses of two formerly enslaved women; and the Constitution of the M.W. Union Grande Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Georgia 1892 (African-American Masonic Order).

- Richmond County (Ga.) Judicial Records, GHS 0659
 - Contains a bench warrant for harboring runaway enslaved persons; testimony on worth of a female enslaved person; receipt for enslaved persons; coroner findings on the deaths of five African-Americans; records of lawsuit for the recovery of enslaved persons; records of lawsuit for selling a stolen enslaved person; records of lawsuit concerning mortgage on enslaved persons; and records of lawsuit for shooting an enslaved person.
- Isaac Shelby Paper, GHS 0727
 - Contains a letter dated 4/15/1809 from Isaac Shelby (first governor of Kentucky) to Thomas Hart requesting aid in shipping an enslaved person to New Orleans, LA for sale.
- Port of Savannah Enslaved Persons Manifests, GHS 0733
 - Contains six manifests (which include first name, gender, age, height, owner, and residence) of enslaved persons shipped from Savannah, GA to various ports between 1852-1860.
- Edward Telfair Papers, GHS 0791
 - Contains a letter written by Edward Telfair addressing the purchase of enslaved persons and business matters.
- Telfair Family Papers, GHS 0793
 - Contains letter dated 3/10/1793 from John Hume to Edward Telfair about the “misbehavior of Negroes”; letter dated 4/29/1756 from Ann Gibbons to William Gibbons concerning expenses in caring for enslaved persons; receipt from 1764 for expenses accrued in care of enslaved persons; affidavit from 1765 about the receipt for the expense of an enslaved person; an account from N.W. Jones to Edward Telfair concerning medical services for enslaved persons; three enslaved persons’ passes dating from 1855; list of enslaved persons at the Sharon Plantation (not dated); list of enslaved persons from the Thorn Island Plantation dating from 1837; list of enslaved persons from the estate of John Martin Gibbons (not dated); letter dated 12/28/1789 from Francis Courvoisie to William Gibbons regarding the sale of enslaved persons; list of enslaved persons sold from the estate of John Sommerville in 1775, and a document dated 9/12/1791 regarding sale of enslaved persons and piracy.
- Robert G. Wallace Bill of Sale, GHS 0831
 - Contains a bill of sale for an enslaved person named Billy dating from 1827.
- Charlton H. Way Bills of Sale for Enslaved Persons, GHS 0843
 - Contains two bills of sale for enslaved persons for sales which occurred after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 (one dates from 1864 and the other from 1865).

- Wayne-Stites-Anderson Papers, GHS 0846
 - Contains note regarding an enslaved person named Daniel (1801); bills of sale for enslaved persons dating from 1798-1812 (some show chain of title); legal cases concerning free people of color; list of enslaved persons, and “Negro Records” dating from 1805-1813.
- Naomi Stanton Wylly Collection of Stanton Family Papers, GHS 0887
 - Contains seven bills of sale for enslaved persons by John L. Weitman dating from 1852-1857 and an inventory and appraisal of the enslaved persons belonging to the estate of John L. Weitman from 1860.
- Ogeechee Four Loving Brothers Society Letter and Minutes, GHS 0915
 - Contains a fragment of the Ogeechee Four Brothers Society minutes for 3/18/1935 which includes a motion for disbandment and a letter dating from 1835 from Stephen K. Meyers to Beatrice Hood.
- Cornelius Rea Agnew Papers, GHS 0926
 - Contains receipt for relieving the Colored Presbyterian Church of Augusta from debt.
- Colonial Dames of America, Georgia Society, Historical Collections, GHS 0965
 - Contains plantation journal from 1863-1866 with notes on enslaved persons, essay entitled “Sales of a Family of Negroes on Account of Mr. J.H. Couper...” from 1837, and three bills of sale for enslaved persons from 1812-1843.
- McLaughlin Papers, GHS 0990
 - Contains indentures and enslaved persons manifests (not dated).
- Savannah Historical Research Association Papers, GHS 0994
 - Contains a paper titled “Some Characteristics of the Sea Island Negroes” and a paper titled “Origin, Dialects, Beliefs, and Characteristics of the Negroes of South Carolina and Georgia Coasts”.
- Thomas B. Smith Bill of Sale, GHS 01025
 - Contains one 1850 bill of sale for a mixed-race woman who was sold for \$750.00.
- Francis Stebbins Bartow Papers, GHS 1156
 - Contains handwritten paper on the constitutionality of slavery (not dated).
- Varner Family Papers, GHS 1256
 - Contains letters dating from 1843-1847 concerning a court case involving an African-American man named Georgia, the purchase of an enslaved male named Tally, and an enslaved person named Jim in the Houston County Jail.

- Joseph Frederick Waring II Papers, GHS 1275
 - Contains 35 items on African-American churches (not dated); 18 items on African-American members of the Republican Party of Georgia from 1867-1869; bills of sale for enslaved persons from 1856-1859; a list of enslaved persons from 1859, leases to African-Americans from 1865-1866, and a letter from 1851 which discusses a fugitive enslaved persons riot.
- Saussy Family Papers, GHS 1276
 - Contains legal documents relating to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Savannah, GA from 1880-1889, land deeds and legal documents relating to enslaved persons from 1830-1839.
- Heyward-Howkins Family Papers, GHS 1278
 - Contains three programs from the Georgia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs' annual meetings for 1921, 1928, and 1930.
- Malcolm Bell, Jr., and Muriel Barrow Bell Collection, GHS 1283
 - Contains photographs of Black persons taken for the book *Drums and Shadows*.
- Antonio J. Waring Collection, GHS 1287
 - Contains "The Case of the Africans" which discusses the slave trade from 1817-1820.
- Meldrim Family Papers, GHS 1288
 - Contains a letter appointing Peter Wiltberger Meldrim to the Commission for a Negro College (1887-1901).
- Northen Family Papers, GHS 1298
 - Contains a letter dated 4/11/1908 to William J. Northen from President Theodore Roosevelt regarding the President's stand on equal accommodations for Black people on railways.
- Dancy-Woods Papers, GHS 1305
 - Contains the autobiography of Phyllis Melissa Green, an African-American woman (1939).
- Marmaduke Hamilton and Dolores Boisfeuillet Floyd Papers, GHS 1308
 - Contains undated photographs of Black persons 1929-1942.
- American Legion, Chatham Post #36, 1917-1929, GHS 1321
 - Contains roster of African-Americans from Chatham County who served in World War I.
- Ossabaw Island Papers, GHS 1326
 - Contains a list of the enslaved persons of John Morel and how they were divided after his death (1817), a receipt of enslaved persons from 1826, and a deed entrusting enslaved persons to the care and for the use of Nathaniel G. Rutherford (2/2/1828).

- Frank O'Driscoll Hunter Papers, GHS 1342
 - Contains correspondence, clippings, and pamphlets from 1945 dealing with race relations on military bases and transcripts of phone conversations dealing with race relations on military posts.
- Works Progress Administrations – Georgia Writers' Project, Savannah Unit, GHS 1355
 - Contains typewritten paper concerning African-American burial customs in Laurens County, GA; sketches of African-Americans who took part in the Civil War; sketches of African-American schools in Savannah, GA; information on African-American organizations in Chatham County, GA; sketch of the Tatenville area of Savannah containing interviews with some of the African-American inhabitants; extracts from Savannah newspapers (1767-1858) concerning the slave trade; article on African-American churches in Augusta, GA; bill of sales of enslaved persons from Bethesda dating from 1761-1809, and a list of enslaved persons from Beech Tree Plantation dating from 1853-1901.
- Cordray-Foltz Collection, GHS 1360
 - Contains photographs of both identified and unidentified Black children, unidentified Black men, as well as identified and unidentified Black groups and families.
- John Mallory Slave Bill of Sale, GHS 1368
 - Contains a bill of sale for an enslaved person named Henry sold to Robert Habersham on 12/3/1845 for \$550.00.
- Savannah Health Center Collection, GHS 1478
 - Contains documents and photographs dating from the 1920s-1980 regarding African-American nurses and midwives.
- Wiley M. Pearce Bill of Sale of Enslave PErson, GHS 1562
 - Contains a bill of sale for an enslaved person named Wade sold for \$1020.00 in Macon, GA on 11/19/1859.
- History of Georgia Scrapbook, by Charles Edgeworth Jones, 1899, GHS 1567
 - Contains a series of newspaper columns on the history of Georgia printed in *The Constitution*.
- Race Question Scrapbook, GHS 1568
 - Contains newspaper clippings dating from 1889-1890, taken from both Northern and Southern newspapers, dealing with various race questions created by the abolition of slavery.
- Charles C. Jones, Jr. Consideration, GHS 1578
 - Contains one consideration filed with Chatham County Superior Court in 1860 by Charles C. Jones concerning the sale of three enslaved persons.

- Trial Docket, Inferior Court for People of Color, GHS 1596
 - Contains minutes of the trials of people of color from June, 1813-June, 1827 for the Inferior Court of Savannah.
- Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, GHS 1617
 - Contains files on the Diocese's committee on racism (1982-1983 and 1986-1990), photographs of African-American churches (1907-1990), and papers relating to race relations and civil rights; "A reply to the Political Plea" (1913), and "The American Church Institute for Negroes, 1935-1947".
- Charles Hicks Papers, GHS 1634
 - Contains personal property assessments, pension records, and newspaper clippings related to Charles Hicks who accompanied his enslaver into the Johnson County Grays during the Civil War, and a midwifery certificate for Polly Ann Banks Hicks, Charles's wife.
- Kollock-Thoromon Family Papers, GHS 1648 (microfilm)
 - Contains contracts between George Jones Kollock and his plantation overseers dating from 1849-1859, and letters that he received from them dating from 1830-1859.
- Westley Wallace (W.W.) Law Paper, GHS 1670
 - Contains a transcribed speech given by Law on 10/27/1984 at a retirement banquet for Lt. John A. White, one of the first Black police officers in Savannah.
- Sapelo Island Collection, GHS 1681
 - Contains documents relating to African American Sea Island Communities with specific information on the Hog Hammock community (1986-1997).
- Aldrich Photograph Collection, GHS 1687
 - Contains photographs of a Black family circa 1900.
- Naval Stores Collections, GHS 2022
 - Contains reports dating from 1965 and 1967 on civil rights for the Naval Stores Loan Program.
- Hyer Family collection, GHS 2117
 - Contains papers relating to Ethel Hyer and her work as president of the Rome, GA chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. during the 1960s, a Hyer family bible, one photograph of Ethel Hyer dating from the 1960s, one photograph of a Black man circa 1900, one photograph of an unidentified Black man from the 1930s, and one photograph of an Black woman and three Black men dating from the 1930s.
- James S. Silva Collection, GHS 2126
 - Contains photographs of Black persons in Savannah's City Market and on the docks along the Savannah River (1888-1910s).



GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Savannah

104 WEST GASTON STREET
SAVANNAH, GA 31401
tel: 912.651.2125

Atlanta

1 BALTIMORE PLACE NW, SUITE G300
ATLANTA, GA 30308
tel: 404.382.5410

- Bessie Lewis Collection, GHS 2138
 - Contains research notes, correspondence, photocopies, and newspaper articles relating to Black history dating from 1863-1964.

- A. Pratt Adams, Jr. Collection, GHS 2165
 - Contains correspondence, minutes, by-laws, and other material relating to Savannah-Chatham Civic Progress, Inc. (chartered to unite citizens, 1959) and the Bi-Racial Committee (1959-1971).

- Register of Free Persons of Color, GHS 5600 (microfilm)
 - Contains list of free persons of color living in Savannah during the years 1817-1865.