

Potential Internship Projects at the Special Collections Department of the Charleston County Public Library

- Walled City of Charleston: From the 1680s to the 1780s, the urban landscape of Charleston was covered with defensive fortifications--walls, bastions, cannon, moats, and drawbridges. Although a great deal of documentary evidence of these features has survived, the systematic effort to collect and analyze this data has only recently commenced under the guidance of the Mayor's Walled City Task Force. Assistance is needed to collect and transcribe the documentary evidence from printed and manuscript sources of the eighteenth century. This work will form an invaluable part of the larger project to identify, explore, preserve, and interpret the successive phases of the "walled city" of colonial Charleston.
- Capitation Tax Records: Between ca. 1800 and 1865, free persons of color in the city of Charleston were required to pay a special "capitation tax." Six volumes of these valuable capitation tax records survive, covering the era ca. 1811 through 1864 (with gaps). Each volume includes an alphabetical list of names, addresses, ages, and occupations, which we need to transcribe into a searchable database. These records represent a significant primary source of antebellum African-American history, and the database will facilitate unprecedented access to the information they contain.
- Records of Mayor Thomas P. Stoney, 1923–1931: Mayor Stoney's tenure in office spanned a period of dramatic social and economic change in Charleston. This collection of roughly nine linear feet of his official papers includes correspondence, reports, speeches, and ephemera, and has never been accessible to the public. We will arrange, describe, and re-house these records in order to facilitate access and use of this interesting collection.
- Orphan House Staff Records: Within the extensive records of the Charleston Orphan House is a collection of about 500 alphabetical files containing information on the staff of

the Orphan House. These files, which range from the late 1790s into the early twentieth century, include letters of application and resignation, reports of disciplinary actions, and complaints. We would like to compile transcribe the names, dates, and position titles into database that would form a very useful tool for historians and genealogists.

- Hinson Cotton Ledger, 1860s: In 1890 William G. Hinson used a large, leather-bound ledger book as a scrapbook for newspaper clippings about the contentious South Carolina gubernatorial campaign of that year. Beneath the clippings pasted into this book, however, are handwritten accounts relating to his business as a cotton factor in the 1860s, including some that appear to have been made during the Civil War. We will first photocopy the pages of newspaper clippings, and then remove the clippings to reveal the original financial records. This volume may prove to be a significant resource for information about the Charleston economy during and immediately after the Civil War.

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