



**Charleston Chamber of Commerce records, ca. 1773-1968**  
**SCHS 1158.00**  
**Containers 11/590-602F**

**Creator:** Charleston Chamber of Commerce (Charleston, S.C.)

**Description:** 4.5 linear ft.

**Scope and content:** Early records (ca. 1773-1794) consist of a cash book (ca.1773?); journal; rules; list of members; and minutes of meetings. Additional records include an award book (1823-1839) containing records of cases awarded, arbitrated, and determined in the Court of the Chamber of Commerce; membership list, arrears list, and treasurer's statements (1838-1850); membership lists and annual statements (1851-1863); a constitution (1858); a ledger listing dues and members (1866-1887); minutes of meetings including committee meetings (1866-1879, 1908-1910, 1916-1918); a record of visitors (1870-1905); an award book (1876-1882); and a journal (1917-1922). Later records (1911-1952) include membership lists; constitutions; annual reports; records of committee work, including material pertaining to lobbying efforts regarding railway and steamship shipping (1916); reports (1917) on tourism and Charleston (S.C.) warehouse and docking facilities; issues (1916-1917) of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce Journal; and excerpts of (1952) an address by Dr. John F. Sly entitled "The Equalization of Property Taxes in South Carolina." An accrual to the collection consists of minutes of the Board of Directors from 1900-1910, 1917-1927, and 1947-1968 (10 bound volumes). Chronologically arranged.

**Preferred citation:** Charleston Chamber of Commerce (Charleston, S.C.). Charleston Chamber of Commerce records, ca. 1770-1968. (1158.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Sly, John F. (John Fairfield), 1893-1965.  
Charleston Chamber of Commerce (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.  
Arbitration and award -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Docks -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Property tax -- South Carolina.  
Shipping -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Tourism -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Warehouses -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce.  
Charleston (S.C.) -- History.  
South Carolina -- History.  
Constitutions.

Financial records.  
Journals (accounts)  
Membership lists.  
Minutes.  
Reports.

**Container listing:**

11/590

Journal, rules, members, minutes, 1784-1794 (bound volume)

11/591

Awards book, 1823-1839 (bound vol.)

11/592

List of members, treasurers list, 1838-1850 (bound vol.)

11/593

Members and annual statements, 1851-1863 (bound vol.)

11/594

Constitution, 1858 (in the same box as 11/599)

11/595

Ledger (bound vol.)

11/596

Minutes, 1866-1878 (bound vol.)

11/597

Cash book, 1866-1905 (bound vol.)

11/598

Record of visitors (bound vol.)

**11/599**

11/599/01 Awards, 1876-1882

11/599/02 Minutes, 1908-1910

11/599/03 Ledger, 1909-1911

11/599/04 Records, 1911

11/599/05a The Charlestonian, 1912-1917

11/599/05b Report on lobbying, 1916

11/599/06 Records, 1916

**11/600**

Meeting minutes, 1916-1918

**11/601**

Journal, 1917-1922

**11/602**

11/602/01 Docking and warehouse facilities, ca. 1917

11/602/02 Miscellaneous records, 1917

11/602/03 Misc. records, 1918

11/602/04 Misc. records, 1924-1926

11/602/05 Misc. records, 1952

11/602/06 "The Charlestonian" newsletter published by the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, 1912-1954 (bulk 1916)

11/602/07 Cash book, 1773\*

***Accrual to collection 2014.034***

*Minutes, Board of Directors, 1900-1910, 1917-1927, 1947-1968 (10 bound volumes)*

**11/602A**

Minutes, 1900-1910

**11/602B**

Minutes, 1917-1927

**11/602C**

Minutes, 1947-1958

**11/602D**

Minutes, 1959-1961

**11/602E**

Minutes, 1962 -1964

**11/602F**

Minutes, 1965-1968

**\*Description of ca. 1773 "cash book":**

The spine of this slender leather bound ledger reads "CASH BOOK". The cover is stamped "CHARLESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE." There is a small sheet pasted on the inside of the cover that indicates the object was created by Robert Wells. It reads:

BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS FOR MERCHANTS AND ALL OTHER BLANK BOOKS MADE AND SOLD BY ROBERT WELLS, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER, AND STATIONER, IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH-CAROLINA".

Wells came to SC from Scotland in 1753 and soon after established himself as a bookseller and printer. After several decades of unprecedented success as a printer, Wells departed Charleston

in 1775 because he was a loyalist sympathizer. Therefore, the date of this object, although not written anywhere on the pages or cover, can be deduced from what we know of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce's founding and Wells' tenure in Charleston. However, the paper itself appears to be of a nineteenth century vintage.

All but three of the pages with writing have been cut out. At a quick glance, the book chiefly consists of 30 or 40 blank pages. Writing is on two of the end papers and one loose page. The first two pages contain what appear to be quickly scrawled notes but the last (an end paper) has lists of names of enslaved people.