



**Records of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of S.C., 1782-1996.  
SCHS Call # 0379.00**

**Description:** 10 linear ft. (22 boxes)

**Biographical/Historical note:** The Society of the Cincinnati is an American military, patriotic, beneficent and social organization formed in May, 1783, in New York by commissioned officers of the Continental Army, with George Washington as its first president. The constituent society in South Carolina was organized that same year and held its first meeting in Charleston in August 1783. General William Moultrie was the first president of the South Carolina Society of the Cincinnati.

**Scope and content:** Records include correspondence, financial records, minutes, miscellaneous items, printed material, reports, and resolutions.

General correspondence (1782-1939; bulk 1866-1898) is arranged chronologically, as is a separate series of correspondence (1858-1904; bulk 1876-1898) pertaining to membership applications, and two volumes of letterpress copybooks (1886-1918) kept by D.E.H. Smith. The remainder of the correspondence is arranged topically and includes letters (1868-1869) concerning requests for financial assistance for a widow, Mrs. Gist; letters (1875-1876) regarding the membership eligibility of E.H. McCullough; and letters (1930s) concerning relics of the CSS Florida. The general correspondence includes letters of James Simons (1813-1879), president of the society, his son James Simons, Jr. (1839-1919), secretary and later president, Robert Quash Pinckney, and later secretaries. Of note is correspondence (1866) between James Simons, Sr. and Tench Tilghman of Maryland, the only representative of a Southern state at the 1866 general society meeting. A draft of a letter from Simons to Tilghman (13 April 1866) speaks of a possible reconciliation between "intelligent and good men of both sections of the country" although such a reconciliation may be retarded by "the bitterness of feeling arising from the late war and the inhuman manner in which it has been conducted." Financial records (1783-1996) include bills, orders to pay, cash accounts, dues accounts, and general ledgers. Access to 20th century financial records is restricted.

There are a few rough minutes of meetings dating 1838-1841; more complete records of meetings are contained in minute books dating from 1862 to 1983. Miscellaneous items include papers (1826) relating to a court of honor; a commonplace book (1828-1834) of Maria W. Grayson (later Maria Ogier) containing two poems written to her by her grandfather Daniel Stevens (1746-1835), a Revolutionary War officer and South Carolina legislator; and papers (1874-1875) relating to Continental Army officers' claims. Printed material includes programs, speeches, memorials, by-laws, and publications of other state societies and the general society.

**Preferred citation:** Society of the Cincinnati in the State of South Carolina. Records of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of South Carolina, 1782-1996. (379.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Note:** Society of the Cincinnati in the State of S.C.; gift; 2004.

**Series Outline:**

379.01 (C)	Correspondence
379.01 (C) 01	General correspondence
379.01 (C) 02	Membership correspondence
379.01 (C) 03	Correspondence by topic
379.01 (C) 04	Bound correspondence
379.01 (F)	Financial records (arranged chronologically)
379.01 (M) 01	Minutes
379.01 (M) 02	Miscellaneous items
379.01 (P) 01	Printed material
379.01 (R) 01	Reports
379.01 (R) 02	Resolutions

**Container list:**

**BOX 1**

379.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1782-1877

**BOX 2**

379.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1878-1887

**BOX 3**

379.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1888-1896

**BOX 4**

379.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1897-1939

379.01 (C) 02 Membership correspondence, 1858-1893

**BOX 5**

379.01 (C) 02 Membership correspondence, 1894-1904

379.01 (C) 03 Topical correspondence

379.01 (C) 03-01 Letters regarding assistance to Mrs. Gist, 1868

379.01 (C) 03-02 Letters re membership of E.H. McCullough, 1875-1876

379.01 (C) 03-03 Letters re relics of the CSS Florida

379.01 (C) 04 Bound correspondence (letterpress copybook kept by D.E.H. Smith, 1886-1895; and a letterpress copybook, 1892-1918)

**BOX 6**

379.01(F) 01 Financial records, 1783-1830

**BOX 7**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1831-1855

**BOX 8**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1855-1927 (1900+ ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 9**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1910-1969 (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records: ledger and cash book, 1929-1955 (NOTE: this is an  
oversize item located in Box 22) (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 10**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records: ledgers, 1954-1971(ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 11**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1972-1979 (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 12**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1980-1993 (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 13**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1993-1995 (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 14**

379.01 (F) 01 Financial records, 1995-1996 (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

**BOX 15**

379.01 (M) 01 Minutes, 1838-1841 (incomplete); minute book, 1862-1895

**BOX 16**

379.01 (M) 01 Minute book, 1895-1925

**BOX 17**

379.01 (M) 01 Minute book, 1925-1969

**BOX 18**

379.01 (M) 01 Minute book, 1970-1983

**BOX 19**

379.01 (M) 02 Miscellaneous items

379.01 (M) 02.01 Military commission of Capt. Carnes, 17--?

379.01 (M) 02.02 Proceedings of the General Society, 1784, by William Moultrie  
(photocopies)

379.01 (M) 02.03 Facsimiles of 1784 proceedings

379.01 (M) 02.04 Judge Joseph Brevard papers (18th century), photocopies

379.01 (M) 02.05 Papers relating to "foreign affairs of the Kingdom of France," 1819

379.01 (M) 02.06 Papers relating to a court of honor, 1826 (includes correspondence)

379.01 (M) 02.07 Charles Carroll medal, 1826 (original in safe)

- 379.01 (M) 02.08 Commonplace book, 1828-1834, of Maria Willard Grayson (later Maria Ogier, 1814-1887), granddaughter of Daniel Stevens.
- 379.01 (M) 02.09 Papers relating to a railing for the William Washington monument, 1858-1860
- 379.01 (M) 02.10 Papers relating to Society rule # 17
- 379.01 (M) 02.11 Memorials, [1859-1886]
- 379.01 (M) 02.12 Papers relating to Revolutionary War officers' claims, 1874-1875
- 379.01 (M) 02.13 Membership lists, 1875-undated
- 379.01 (M) 02.14 Papers relating to a dinner in Charleston, 1881 (includes seating chart)

**BOX 20**

- 379.01 (M) 02.15 Papers relating to Continental officers
- 379.01 (M) 02.16 Papers relating to Major L' Enfant
- 379.01 (M) 02.17 Newspaper clippings
- 379.01 (M) 02.18 Miscellaneous items
- 379.01 (M) 02.19 Membership book
- 379.01 (M) 02.20 Images (photographs, etc.)
- 379.01 (M) 02.21 Notes on the collection by George C. Rogers, Jr., 1991
  
- 379.01 (M) 02 Printed material
- 379.01 (P) 01.01 Printed material relating to the S.C. Society of the Cincinnati
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-01 By-laws, etc.
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-02 Minutes, 1881
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-03 Resolutions of the Calhoun Monument Association
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-04 Membership records
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-05 Reprints of correspondence of Lord Montague and General William Moultrie
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-06 DeGrasse memorial book, 1881
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-07 Lists of officers of the S.C. Society of the Cincinnati

**BOX 21**

- 379.01 (P) 01.01-08 Programs, etc.
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-09 Speeches
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-10 Memorials
- 379.01 (P) 01.01-11 Pamphlet, 1881: The Original Institution of the General Society of the Cincinnati...with the Rules and By-Laws of the State Society of South Carolina...
  
- 379.01 (P) 01.02 Miscellaneous printed material
- 379.01 (P) 01.03 Publications of other state societies
- 379.01 (P) 01.04 Printed material relating to the General Society
- 379.01 (P) 01.04-01 By-laws and rules
- 379.01 (P) 01.04-02 The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati
- 379.01 (P) 01.04-03 Printed material relating to the history of the Society
- 379.01 (P) 01.04-04 Printed material relating to meetings of the General Society
- 379.01 (R) 01 Reports
- 379.01 (R) 01.01 Membership committee reports, 1874-1896 (and undated)

- 379.01 (R) 01.02      Miscellaneous reports
- 379.01 (R) 02         Resolutions
- 379.01 (R) 02.01     Resolution, 1795, regarding “rules relative to contributions, expences and fines”
- 379.01 (R) 02.02     Miscellaneous resolutions

**BOX 22**

Oversize items, including a ledger and cash book, 1929-1955; covers (envelopes) removed from correspondence; a poster about George Washington; and a certificate of membership, 1893, of Robert Benjamin Gilchrist.

NB : Unnumbered boxes contain a collection of books which are to be kept with this collection. These books are mostly publications of other state societies.

**Notes on the correspondence:**

1780s

A letter, 1782, from General Nathaniel Greene to Captain Warren orders the latter to go to Charleston to check on American prisoners held there and provide relief.

A letter (fragment), 1784, from General George Washington to General Moultrie concerns a meeting of the General Society of the Cincinnati.

1860s

A letter, 1866, to James Simons from Tench Tilghman (vice-president of the Maryland Society of the Cincinnati) reports on meeting of the General Society in which Tilghman was the only representative of a Southern state. Tilghman writes that “there were frequent allusions to the recent troubles” and “references to their erring brethren.” Tilghman responds, “I claimed that, in everything, we had been actuated by the loftiest and purest motives; and that an imputation of error, however it might be palliated, was calculated to produce unpleasant sensations in the breasts of a high-spirited and gallant people...”

A draft of a letter, 1866, from James Simons to Tench Tilghman mentions “the bitterness of feeling arising from the late war, and the inhuman manner in which it has been conducted...”

In a letter, 1866, to James Simons from W.H. Peronneau of Walhalla, S.C., Peronneau submits his resignation from the Society. “I cannot without violence to my own feelings join those whom I still consider my enemies and oppressors in celebrating their national day.”

Letters, 1868-1869, concern the requests for financial assistance for Mrs. Gist, and a sum of money donated to this widow by the S.C. Society of the Cincinnati.

1870s

In a letter, Feb. 1877, to James Simons from E.H. McCullough in Philadelphia (Pa.), McCullough remarks, “Doubtless like every other good son of the Palmetto State you are devoting your time and energies to the redemption of you rights and liberties from the hand of usurpers who have misruled the state so long.”

1880s

An enclosure in correspondence from the New York State Society dated July 20, 1886, notes that General William T. Sherman is named as an honorary member.

1890s

A letter, March 18, 1895, to D.E.H. Smith from Asa Bird Gardiner of New York concerns a special meeting. Gardiner writes of his political views, describing himself as “a states’ rights and pro slavery democrat, and, during the war, my nomination for promotion was ‘hung up’ by the U.S. Senate because of my political views.”

In a letter, Sept. 25, 1896, to D.E.H. Smith, John C. Davis of Baltimore (Md.) writes, “I much regret with you the loss of the valuable archives of the South Carolina Society. It always makes me hot to think of the ruthless & needless destruction, which Sherman perpetuated.”

1930s

Letters concern a model of the CSS Florida, a sword, and a silk flag made by the ladies of Charleston for the captain of the ship.