



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Resources for tracing LGBTQ History at the South Carolina Historical Society

This resource is intended to highlight some of the collections created or compiled by LGBTQ, (Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Queer) individuals as well as items related to LGBTQ organizations and publications in South Carolina. The historical record suggests that LGBTQ people have always been here – among indigenous populations and those who settled here, willingly or not, from 1670 on. But laws criminalizing this group have existed from 1712 onward, encouraging LGBTQ people to hide their own histories, a process that often continued among descendants and family, making research difficult. As a result, documents, letters, and diaries were often coded by individuals to avoid the possibility of being discovered, and much of what has survived often expresses anti LGBTQ bias. Books such as *Gay American History* by Jonathan Ned Katz and *Growing up Gay in the South* by James Sears, name many South Carolinians whose papers are represented in the Society's collections, but those manuscripts and other items may not have LGBTQ content, just as collections of non-LGBTQ people may have content that is relevant. Our reference staff are always ready to help with any research relating to South Carolina and its people.

### Suggested Introductory Sources

- *The Real Rainbow Row: Explorations in Charleston's LGBTQ history* by Harlan Greene. **HQ76.3.U52 G74 2022** (This is a chronological narrative of the LGBTQ experience in Charleston)

### Noteworthy LGBTQ Individuals in the Collection

- Laura Bragg (1881-1978); a prime mover in the cultural development of the city, she had romantic relationships with women.
- Edward I.R. ("Ned") Jennings (1898-1929); a gay male visual artist, who often represented homoerotic themes in his work.
- Prentiss Taylor (1907-1991); a gay male artist from Washington, DC, who often visited Charleston and had many professional and personal relationships with locals.
- Helen G. McCormack (1903-1974); archivist at SCHS and Director of what is now the Gibbes Museum of Art, she was romantically linked with Laura Bragg.
- Anne King Gregorie (1887-1960); South Carolina's pre-eminent female historian of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Gregorie's domestic partner was a woman rights activist Flora Belle Surles (1887-1971).
- Edwin Peacock (1910-1989) and John Zeigler (1912-2015); were domestic and business partners who operated a bookstore (The Book Basement) in Charleston and were connected to many social and cultural movements in the city.

### Published Resources

- *Gay Charleston*. **301.41 Gay**; LGBTQ newspapers 1981-1982.

- *The Charleston Alternative*. **301.41 Charleston**; Charleston LGBTQ newspaper, 1982-1983.
- *White Point Gazette. Newsletter of the Charleston Gay Alliance*. **301.41 White**; Charleston LGBTQ newsletter, 1976.
- *The Force. A publication of the Charleston Gay Task Force*. **301.41 Force**; Charleston LGBTQ newsletter, 1977.
- *In Unison*. **301.41 1994 Unison**; Columbia LGBTQ magazine, 1994.
- *Edwin and John: a personal history of the American South*, by James T. Sears. **306.76. S42 E39 2009**. Edwin Peacock (1910-1989) and John Zeigler were domestic and business partners who operated a bookstore in Charleston and were connected to many social and cultural movements in the city.
- *BJU and Me: Queer Voices from the World's Most Christian University*, **LD457 .W45 B58 2022**. Provides behind-the-scenes explanations from nineteen former Bob Jones University, a Christian, fundamentalist, nondenominational liberal arts school in Greenville, South Carolina, students from the past few decades who now identify as LGBTQ.
- *Growing up gay in the South: race, gender, and journeys of the spirit* by James Sears. **HQ76.3.U5 S43 1991**. Oral histories with many young African American South Carolinians.
- *Why We Never Danced the Charleston* by Harlan Greene. **813.G74 W49 1984**. Novel based on Ned Jennings
- *A Bluestocking in Charleston: The Life and Career of Laura Bragg*, by Louise Anderson Allen. **920.B73 B68 2001**

## Manuscript Collection

- **43/0505**: Letter to John Laurens from Alexander Hamilton, 1781 Feb. 4. Their relationship is mentioned in Jonathan Ned Katz's *Gay American History* and other sources.
- **43/2131**: Correspondence with Prentiss Taylor, 1933-1954. Correspondence between Prentiss Taylor and Josephine Pinckney.
- **43/2020**: Helen G. McCormack correspondence with Prentiss Taylor, 1958-1964.
- **43/2022**: Edwin D. Peacock papers, ca. 1840-1952.
- **43/2021**: Notes to John A. Zeigler, 1939.
- **43/0024**: Law and Order League records, 1913-1914. (An anti-vice group that crusaded mostly against bars and alcohol, but also "perversity.")
- **37/55/1-79**: John Laurens Papers, 1777-1781.
- **1254.00**: Anne King Gregorie papers, 1793-1969.
- **1009.00**: Laura M. Bragg papers, ca. 1890-1977 (also see items relating to Edward I.R. ("Ned") Jennings found in this collection.)
- **0369.00**: Nan S. Ball papers, 1895-1988. (see correspondence with Edward I.R. ("Ned") Jennings.) Also see the fall 2016 issue of *Carologue* for an article on these correspondences.

- **1164.00:** Allston family papers, 1730-190, (see box 17 folder 9 for letter dated March 9, 1861, to “Charly” from Benjamin Alston.) A younger brother is warned against inappropriate behaviors with other males.
- **1176.00:** John Bennett papers, 1875-1967, (see correspondences relating to Edward I.R. (“Ned”) Jennings.) Bennett (1865-1956) mentored the younger artist and referred to him.
- **506.00:** SCHS Ephemera Collection, 1844-2004 (see box 17, St. Joan of Arc Metropolitan Community Church, “Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community. News Free! (December 1984; November 1984; February 1985; March 1985), and Box 19, Palmetto Aids newsletter and GLBTQ – Gay Charleston Weekly Review 1981.)
- **1175.00:** Josephine Pinckney papers, 1846-1957 (see box 21/97 for typewritten manuscript (n.d.) of the novel "Red Ending" by Harry Hervey (1900-1951), Hervey and his companion Carleton Hildreth, who lived in Charleston in the 1920s were known by many to be gay. Red Ending has veiled homoerotic allusions.)
- **1207.00:** Thomas R. Waring, Jr. papers, 1902-1977 (bulk 1940-1977) (see box 23/405-407 for correspondence with Harry Hervey.)
- **1238.00:** Elizabeth O'Neill Verner papers, 1904-1979 (see correspondence with Dawn Langley Simmons, 1922-2000; a white transexual who lived in Charleston and who married an African American man.)
- **1077.00:** Mitchell family papers, 1754-1917 (see correspondence with Jane McElheney ‘Ada Clare.’ This young woman lived a bohemian existence once she left the city, and according to historians, had male and female lovers)
- **0696.00:** Louise Allen papers, 1941-2022 (see research related to Laura Bragg.)

## Vertical Files

- **30-11-13: LGBTQ Rights**
- **30-12-297: HIV/Aids in South Carolina**
- **30-04 Simmons, Dawn Langley:** Biographical and genealogical research on Dawn Langley Simmons.
- **30-04 Greene:** Biographical and genealogical research on Harlan Greene.
- **30-04 Clare:** Biographical and genealogical research on Ada Clare.
- **30-04 Peacock:** Peacock family history and genealogy research files.
- **30-04 Zeigler:** Zeigler family history and genealogy research files.

## Oral Histories

**44-25-01:** Interview with Laura Bragg (interview is transcribed.)

**44-25-02:** Interview with Laura Bragg (interview is transcribed but not edited.)

**44-21:** Conversation with Laura M. Bragg and Robert Marks (interview is transcribed.)

## Other Repositories

- College of Charleston Special Collections, resources accessible in shared SCHS and Special Collections reading room. <https://libguides.charleston.edu/lgbtq>