

RECORDS
in the
BRITISH PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
relating to
SOUTH CAROLINA
1663-1782

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COLUMBIA: SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Pamphlet Accompanying
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Number 1

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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INTRODUCTION

Records in the British Public Record Office relating to South Carolina, 1663–1782, now published as South Carolina Archives Microcopy Number 1, is a result of continuing attempts to acquire and preserve the earliest historical records of South Carolina. Efforts to save the province's records from loss resulted in passage of a number of acts, from the earliest assemblies onwards. But the idea of acquiring a collection of the important colonial records in England did not bring results until the formation of the South Carolina Historical Society in 1855. One of the society's first major projects was the publication of a series of abstracts of records relating to South Carolina in the State Paper Office in London. The society's efforts to make British manuscripts on South Carolina available led to legislation creating a state Public Record Commission in 1891. The commission's duty was to procure full transcripts of documents in England's public archives pertaining to South Carolina and to superintend the copying and arranging of them. They chose W. Noel Sainsbury, a retired officer of the British Public Record Office in London, to undertake the project.

Within five years, Sainsbury sent back, in addition to transcripts of legislative and council journals missing from the state's collection, thirty-six volumes of documents copied from records of the government offices most directly concerned with colonial affairs. At the commission's request, Sainsbury omitted documents relating to Carolina in the Shaftesbury Papers (which he had previously copied for the city of Charleston),¹ the published *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, ed. William L. Saunders, 10 vols. (Raleigh: P. M. Hale and Josephus Daniels, 1886–90), and the appendix to William James Rivers' *Sketch of the History of South Carolina to the Close of the Proprietary Government by the Revolution of 1719* (Charleston: Charles McCarter and Co., 1856).

All the documents transcribed by Sainsbury were found in the three series then known as "Colonial Entry Books" (CEB), "America and West Indies" (AWI), and "Board of Trade Papers" (BT). These series, with a number of documents transferred from other departmental collections (particularly the Home Office and War Office Papers), are now grouped under the general classification of "Colonial

¹ The Shaftesbury Papers were copied for the city of Charleston in 1883 and deposited in the South Carolina Historical Society, which later printed them. Langdon Cheves, ed., "The Shaftesbury Papers and other Records relating to South Carolina and the first settlement on Ashley River prior to the year 1676," *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society* 5 (1897): 1–476.

Office Papers." Although some rearrangement has taken place, each group of documents from which Sainsbury made transcripts can be identified by a current Colonial Office Papers (CO) designation.²

Many other groups of records relating to South Carolina now in the Colonial Office Papers seem not to have been used by Sainsbury at all. First, he purposely omitted much statistical matter; acts and journals of the provincial council and assembly; and duplicates and drafts of British state papers.³ Secondly, Sainsbury had to exclude almost all of the voluminous materials dealing with events in South Carolina during the Revolution.⁴ Thirdly, Sainsbury failed to search and transcribe documents relating to South Carolina in groups where they were scattered, difficult to locate, or likely to duplicate those found elsewhere.⁵

But the most significant omissions in Sainsbury's transcripts came from his failure to search for documents in non-colonial series. There were, for instance, many documents relating to South Carolina in the State Papers Domestic at the time Sainsbury made his transcriptions from the three old colonial series. While a good number of them were later incorporated in the new Colonial Office classification, some were not. Documents relating to South Carolina but not transcribed by Sainsbury can therefore still be found throughout the State Papers Domestic series. In addition, Sainsbury took no notice of papers in the records of the Treasury, Admiralty, War Office, Custom House, and Audit Office. Many of the documents relating to South Carolina and the colonies in these departmental papers may not have been available to him at the time. Others contain the sort of extensive statistical or administrative material that he felt unable to include, or are so scattered among domestic papers that he could not have been expected to search for them. Still more departmental papers were copied for or received from offices with more direct responsibility for colonial affairs and therefore duplicate material in the Colonial Office Papers.⁶

Nevertheless, the series Sainsbury used undoubtedly represent the basic colonial material in London. The transcripts are always easily legible and usually accurate. There are some deliberate omissions. For example, where similar letters were addressed to different officials, often only one has been transcribed. Many enclosures

² See Appendix A. Citations from the Public Record Office are taken from Charles McLean Andrews, *Guide to the Materials for American History, to 1783, in the Public Record Office of Great Britain*, 2 vols. (Washington: Carnegie Institution, 1912, 1914).

³ See Appendix B.

⁴ See Appendix C.

⁵ See Appendix D.

⁶ However, some groups of departmental documents in the Public Record Office likely to contain significant papers relating to South Carolina before the Revolution should be particularly remembered. See Appendix E.

(such as copies of acts, extracts from minutes, or statistical reports) were not included; but the fact that the document has been omitted is almost always noted. The arrangement in the volumes is sometimes hard to follow, as copied enclosures are often not with the original letter. A two-volume index, prepared by J. Henry Rice, Jr. of Ninety-Six, completes the series. It consists of names of persons, names of places, and topics.

APPENDIX A

COLONIAL OFFICE. Record series from which
South Carolina material was transcribed.

CLASS 5: AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

- CO5/13-20. Correspondence with Colonial Governors, chiefly military, 1742-1762. Transcripts taken from CO5/13, 14, 16-20 only.
Old reference: AWI 66-73.
- CO5/21-37. Orders in Council, sent to the Board of Trade, 1728-1822.
Transcripts taken from CO5/21-29 only.
Old reference: AWI 103-120.
- CO5/114-117. Petitions, 1768-1781.
Transcripts taken from CO5/116 and CO5/117 only.
Old reference: AWI 293-296.
- CO5/211-215. Secretary's Despatches, 1753-1763.
Transcripts taken from CO5/211-214 only.
Old reference: AWI 74-78.
- CO5/286-292. Carolina (Propriety). Papers relating to Carolina, Proprietary Period, 1663-1727.
Old references: CEB 20-22 [CO5/286-288] and BT Carolina (Proprieties) 4-7 [CO5/289-292].
- CO5/293-304. Carolina, North. Original Papers, Letters, etc., from the Governors, George Burrington to Josiah Martin, 1730-1775.
Transcripts taken from CO5/297 only.
Old reference: BT Carolina, North 8-19.
- CO5/358-380. Carolina, South. Original Papers, Letters, etc., from the Governors, Nicholson to Bull, 1720-1775.
Old reference: BT Carolina, South 1-23.
- CO5/382-386. Carolina, South. Miscellaneous. 1699-1776 and undated.
Transcripts taken from CO5/383-386 only.
Old reference: AWI 620, 621, 623, 629, 630.

- CO5/387-389. Carolina, South. Original Papers, Letters from the Governors, Nicholson to Glen, with Enclosures.
Old reference: AWI 18, 19, 21.
- CO5/390-397. Carolina, South. Original Papers, Letters from the Governors, Boone to Campbell, 1762-1777, 1780-1784.
Transcripts taken from CO5/390-396 only.
Old reference: AWI 223-229, 631, 682.
- CO5/400-405. Carolina, South. Entry Books, 1720-1775.
Old reference: BT Carolina, South 25-30.
- CO5/407. Carolina, South. Entry Book, 1766-1767.
Old reference: AWI 315.
- CO5/408. Carolina, South. Entry Book. 1768-1782.
Old reference: AWI 435.
- CO5/409-410. Carolina, South. Entry Book.
Transcripts taken from CO5/410 only.
Old reference: AWI 316, 317.
- CO5/1257-1279. Proprieties. Original Papers relating to the Proprietary Governments: Bahamas, Connecticut, Carolina, Maryland, East and West New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island, 1697-1776.
Transcripts taken from CO5/1258, 1260-1265 only.
Old reference: BT Proprieties 2-24.
- CO5/1287-1297. Proprieties. Entry Books, 1696-1776.
Transcripts taken from CO5/1287-1293 only.
Old reference: BT Proprieties 25-35.
- CO5/1308-1334. Virginia. Original Papers, Letters and Enclosures to the Board of Trade from the Governors, Edmund Andros to Lord Dunmore, 1691-1774.
Transcripts taken from CO5/1318 only.
Old references: BT Virginia 5-31 [CO5/1308, 1310-1334] and AWI 638A [CO5/1309].

CLASS 323: PLANTATIONS GENERAL

- CO323/33. Abstracts of Letters, 1758-1759.
Old reference: BT Plantations General 50.

CLASS 324: PLANTATIONS GENERAL

- CO324/4-19. Entry Books, 1675-1782.
Transcripts taken from CO324/4 and 10 only.
Old references: CEB 97, 100 [CO324/4-5] and BT Plantations General 34-47 [CO324/6-19].

CO324/49-53. Entry Books of Letters Patent, Warrants, Affidavits, Grants, Licenses, etc., 1714-1782.
 Transcripts taken from CO324/49 and 50 only.
 Old references: BT Plantations General 55, 56 [CO324/49-50] and BT Plantations General 52-54 [CO324/51-53].

CLASS 391: BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL

CO391/1-89. Journal of the Lords of Trade and of the Board of Trade.
 Transcripts taken from CO391/1-3, 6, 9-15, 17, 18, 22, 25-28, 29-34, 36-82 only.
 Old references: CEB 104-109 [CO391/1-6] and BT Journal 7-28, 30-90 [CO391/7-89].

Current classification of record series from which material was transcribed

AWI 18, 19, 21	CO5/387-389
AWI 66-73	CO5/13-20
AWI 74-78	CO5/211-215
AWI 103-120	CO5/21-37
AWI 223-229	CO5/390-396
AWI 293-296	CO5/114-117
AWI 315	CO5/407
AWI 316, 317	CO5/409-410
AWI 435	CO5/408
AWI 620, 621, 623, 629, 630	CO5/382-386
AWI 631, 682	CO5/397
AWI 638A	CO5/1309
BT Carolina, North 8-19	CO5/293-304
BT Carolina (Proprieties) 4-7	CO5/289-292
BT Carolina, South 1-23	CO5/358-380
BT Carolina, South 25-30	CO5/400-405
BT Journal 7-28, 30-90	CO391/7-89
BT Plantations General 34-47	CO324/6-19
BT Plantations General 50	CO323/33
BT Plantations General 52-54	CO324/51-53
BT Plantations General 55, 56	CO324/49-50
BT Proprieties 2-24	CO5/1257-1279
BT Proprieties 25-35	CO5/1287-1297
BT Virginia 5-31	CO5/1308, 1310-1334
CEB 20-22	CO5/286-288
CEB 97, 100	CO324/4-5
CEB 104-109	CO391/1-6

APPENDIX B

COLONIAL OFFICE. Pre-revolutionary record series from which South Carolina material was not transcribed.

CLASS 5: AMERICA AND WEST INDIES, ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS 1-1450

- CO5/112-113. Estimates of Annual Expenses of Colonial Establishments, 1767-1768.
- CO5/154-158. Promiscuous and Private Letters, 1771-1781.
- CO5/272. Entry Book of Charters: Carolina, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island.
- CO5/276. Miscellaneous. List of Acts. 1722-1758.
- CO5/277. Miscellaneous. "Acts of Assembly passed in the Plantations and transmitted to the Board of Trade." 1736-1745.
- CO5/278-281. Miscellaneous. List of Acts, 1759, 1761-1765, 1766-1770, 1771-1775.
- CO5/398. Carolina, South. "An Abstract of the Records of all Grants of Lands that have been made in this province from the First Establishment of the Colony, specifying the Names of the Grantees, the Time when each Grant was made, the Quantity of Acres, and the Quit-rents, if any, reserved thereon, and expressing the Situation and Location of each Grant, to the 31st Day of October, 1765." 1674-1765.
- CO5/399. Carolina, South. "Abstracts of the Records of all Grants that have been made in this Province from the 7th day of Jany., 1768 to the 13 May, 1768, specifying the Names of the Grantees, the time when granted, where situated, and the quit rents reserved thereon." 1768-1773.
- CO5/411. Carolina, South. Acts, printed. 1663-1734.
- CO5/412-424. Carolina, South. Acts, 1721-1770.
- CO5/425-507. Carolina, South. Minutes of Council, Assembly, and Council in Assembly, 1721-1774.
- CO5/508-511. Carolina, South. Shipping Returns, 1716-1765.

CO5/512. Carolina, South. Treasurers' Reports, 1759-1763.

CLASS 324: PLANTATIONS GENERAL

CO324/54. Plantations General. Grants of Land, 1750-1771.

CLASS 325: PLANTATIONS GENERAL

CO325/5. Miscellaneous. Return of Fees of Offices, 1764.

CLASS 390: BOARD OF TRADE

CO390/4. Board of Trade, Commercial. Tables of Excise Duties, 1662-1799.

CO390/5. Board of Trade, Commercial. Custom House Statistics, 1668-1792.

CO390/8. Board of Trade, Commercial. Custom House Accounts, A-K, 1712-1717.

CO390/9. Board of Trade, Commercial. Custom House Accounts, 1725-1771.

APPENDIX C

COLONIAL OFFICE. Major record series from which material relating to the Revolution was not transcribed.

CLASS 5: AMERICA AND WEST INDIES, ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS 1-1450

- CO5/40. Intercepted Letters, 1774-1775.
- CO5/43. Miscellaneous Papers, 1743-1783.
- CO5/119-132. Entry Books of Letters from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lords of the Admiralty, together with Originals of Letters Received by the Secretary from the Admiralty, 1771-1781.
- CO5/134-137. Correspondence of the Secretaries of State for the Colonies and the Postmasters General, 1771-1780.
- CO5/138-144. Correspondence of Secretary of State for the Colonies with Other Secretaries, 1771-1781.
- CO5/145-153. Correspondence of the Secretaries of State for the Colonies with the Treasury and Custom House, 1771-1781.
- CO5/159-160. Correspondence of the Secretaries of State for the Colonies with the Attorney General and Solicitor General, 1772-1781.
- CO5/175-176. General Correspondence of the Secretary of State with Civil Officers of the Revolting Colonies, 1774-1783.
- CO5/177-178. First Peace Commission, 1776-1778, 1779-1782.
- CO5/180-181. Peace Commission of 1778. Apr.-Dec., 1778.
- CO5/232. Precis, I. 1768-1775.
- CO5/233-240. Military Entry Books, 1768-1782.
- CO5/241-242. Despatches to Governors. A.B., 1768-1774, 1774-1790.
- CO5/243-245. Despatches to Commanding Officers, 1770-1779, 1779-1781, 1781-1783.

- CO5/247-252. In-Letters and Out-Letters of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1771-1782.
- CO5/513-518. Carolina, South. Entry Books of the Board of Police, 1777-1782.
- CO5/519-526. Carolina, South. Entry Books of the Board of Police, 1780-1782.
- CO5/535. Carolina, South. Demands against Sequestered Estates, 1781.

APPENDIX D

COLONIAL OFFICE. Miscellaneous record series from which South Carolina material was not transcribed.

CLASS 5: AMERICA AND WEST INDIES, ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, 1-1450

- CO5/1-8. Plantations General, 1689-1783.
CO5/65-82. Plantations General, 1760-1784.
CO5/188-203. Plantation Entry Books, 1702-1771.
CO5/210. Plantations General: Despatches to Governors, 1706-1710.
CO5/224. Out-Letters to the Treasury, 1766-1768.
CO5/225-231. In-Letters and Out-Letters of Secretary of State (of which CO5/225, 227 relate to Indian Affairs), 1766-1782.
CO5/246. Private Letters, Received and Despatched, 1771-1777.
CO5/1298. Proprieties. Abstracts of Letters, 1706-1753.
CO5/1299-1301. Proprieties. Entry Books, Secretary of State, 1766-1776.

CLASS 324: PLANTATIONS GENERAL

- CO324/21. Plantations General. Miscellaneous, and Letters from the Board of Trade, 1702-1782, 1744-1752.
CO324/22-44. Plantations General. Royal Letters, Grants, and Warrants, 1688-1783.
CO324/48. Plantations General. List of Councillors, 1706-1760.

CLASS 388: BOARD OF TRADE

- CO388/5-74. Board of Trade, Commercial. Original Board of Trade Papers, 1696-1782.

APPENDIX E

Major series of records from other British departments in which pre-revolutionary material relating to South Carolina may be found.

TREASURY

- Treasury 1/319-623. Original Correspondence or Treasury Board Papers, 1746-1785.
- Treasury 4/1-12. Indexes, Reference Books, 1679-1680, 1684-1783, 1758-1788.
- Treasury 11/1-33. Letters relating to Customs, 1667-1784.
- Treasury 27/1-34. General Letters, 1668-1783.
- Treasury 28/1,2,3. Letters relating to America, 1763-1778, 1778-1797, 1797-1823.
- Treasury 29/1-54. Treasury Minute Books, 1667-1783.
- Treasury 42/2,3. Establishment Lists. Customs Establishment, 1717, 1720.
- Treasury 47/12. Emigration Lists, 1773-1776.
- Treasury 64/43. Miscellanea Various, Colonies. Shipping Returns, America, 1731-1735.
- Treasury 64/44. Miscellanea Various, Colonies. Representation of the Board of Trade, 1750.
- Treasury 64/45. Two Returns of Customs Fees, 1751-1771.
- Treasury 64/88-90. Entry Books of William Blathwayt, Auditor General and Surveyor of the King's Revenue in the Plantations, 1680-1718.
- Treasury 64/273-274. Various Accounts of Imports and Exports, 1707-1779.

WAR OFFICE

- W.O. 1/1-13. Letters and Enclosures, from Officers in America to the Secretary at War, 1756-1783.
- W.O. 1/404. Note Book of Intelligence and Business that came before the Committee [Plantations Committee] of the Privy Council, 1763-1767.
- W.O. 1/823-826. Letters from the Treasury, 1763-1784.

W.O. 1/857-877. Letters from Various Departments, I and II, 1757-1783.

HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY PAPERS

Admiralty Court. Proceedings in Vice-Admiralty and Other Courts.

90. Virginia, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and New York, 1723-1739.

Admiralty 2/1045-1061. Secretary's Department. Letters relating to Admiralty and Vice-Admiralty Courts, 1689-1783.

AUDIT OFFICE PAPERS

A.O. 126-128. Accounts, Various. Miscellaneous Accounts of Governors and others in America, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc., with subsidiary documents, 1711-1819.

A.O. 589. Accounts, Various. Customs Receipts at American Plantations, 1677-1678.

A.O. 1398-1399. Accounts, Various. Treasurer Solicitor's Accounts, 1689-1786.

A.O. 1530. Declared Accounts. Indians (North America), 1758.

CUSTOM HOUSE PAPERS

Custom House Accounts. Inspector General's Accounts 1-10. Imports and Exports, 1696-1702.

Custom House Accounts. Ledgers of Imports and Exports, 1. America, 1768-1773.

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Volume 9, 1721-1722
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- Roll 5: Volume 17, 1734-1735
Volume 18, 1736-1737
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- Roll 6: Volume 20, 1739-1742
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Volume 34, 1774
Volume 35, 1775
Volume 36, 1776-1782 (Orders in Council)
- Roll 12: Index of Persons and Places
Index of Topics

SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHIVES MICROCOPIES

- Microcopy Number 1: Records in the British Public Record Office relating to South Carolina, 1663–1782, with general index. 12 rolls.
With a descriptive pamphlet.
- Microcopy Number 2: United States Census. Original Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850–1880. 22 rolls.
With a printed introduction.
- Microcopy Number 3: Records of the Public Treasurers of South Carolina, 1725–1776. 2 rolls.
With a printed introduction and tables.
- Microcopy Number 4: Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775–1780. 6 rolls.
With a printed introduction.
- Microcopy Number 5: South Carolina Treasury Ledgers and Journals, 1783–1791. 4 rolls.
With a printed introduction and index.
- Microcopy Number 6: Duties on Trade at Charleston, 1784–1789. 1 roll.
With a printed introduction and tables.
- Microcopy Number 7: South Carolina Treasury Ledgers and Journals, 1791–1865. 12 rolls.
With a printed introduction.

Prices are available on request. Introductory pamphlets to all microcopies are available at a price of \$1.00 each, plus 15 cents mailing charge. Address inquiries to:

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