

**1121-087-GSM-gau (USMARC)****City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSC (OCL/LYRASIS)]**

**Record Series #:** 1121-087  
**Name:** Chatham County Commission scrapbook  
**Dates:** 1859, 1906-1960 (some gaps)  
**Extent/Size:** 1 oversized box, 350 digital files, (1.3 cubic feet; 3.17 GB)  
**Language:** English

**Access Point:**

Chatham County Commission. Chatham County, Georgia.

**Organizational History:**

In the Constitution of Georgia on April 1868, Section 5126 was ratified, sanctioning the establishment of boards of county commissioners. In 1873, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners was formed as a local government body with jurisdiction over County properties such as the courthouse and jail, infrastructure, and funding for low-income citizens. Currently, the Board is comprised of five district commissioners who are elected to serve four-year terms. The Board's jurisdiction has expanded to include policies on funding public education in schools from K-12 to community college, oversight of land use, utilities, building inspections, permits, waste disposal, public libraries, tourism, and parks and recreation.

**Scope and Content:**

The Chatham County Commission scrapbook (1859, 1906-1960, some gaps) documents the activities of the Commission between 1906-1960. The volume consists of 352 pages containing pasted-in newspaper clippings and ephemera, and loose ballots for local elections between 1906 and 1954. Complete newspapers issues from 1859, 1911, 1923, and 1940 are also included. Newspaper clippings were taken predominantly from the *Savannah Evening Press*, the *Savannah Morning News*, the *New York Herald*, and the *Bullock Times*. The subjects of the newspaper clippings include presidential, primary, school, County Commission and bond elections, deaths of County commissioners, civil works projects, the construction of various bridges and roads, and the use of convict labor (or convict leasing). Each page of the scrapbook has been digitized as a two-page spread and digital copies can be accessed via Flickr using the index below. All items have been unfolded and digitized independently. Only the front pages of full newspapers within the scrapbook have been digitized; imaging of the remaining pages not digitized can be completed upon request to the Municipal Archives.

**System of Arrangement and Ordering:**

The scrapbook is arranged chronologically. The [attached index](#) is arranged in alphabetical order by subject. The index is an edited transcription of the internal index found within the scrapbook.

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***Custodial History:***

The scrapbook was donated to the Municipal Archives in February 2023 by Albert Oetgen. While working as a journalist for the Savannah Morning News, Oetgen was gifted the item by Shelby Myrick, Jr., former Judge of the Chatham County Probate Court.

***Conditions Governing Access:***

None.

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***Digital Access:***

A digital reproduction of the full scrapbook can be accessed through [Flickr](#).

[<https://www.flickr.com/photos/198275970@N02/albums/72177720308410935>]

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***Preferred Citation:***

Record Series 1121-087, Chatham County Commission Scrapbook. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

***Processed by:***

Processed and digitized by K. Hess. Finding aid created by K. Hess, May 2023.

[Subject Index](#)