Reparative Description at the College of Charleston

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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
ARCHIVES SPACE
JUNE 28, 2022
Outline

Introduction
Project context
Current efforts
Future work
The College of Charleston’s Center for the Study of Slavery in Charleston fosters a deeper public understanding of slavery and its complex legacies. It supports academic research and teaching that examine the role of slavery in the history of the College and our region. The Center engages its community, area residents and the general public in collaborative programming and dialog to disseminate new knowledge and to promote social justice, racial healing, and reconciliation.

https://academicaffairs.cofc.edu/centers/study-of-slavery-in-charleston/
Center for Study of Slavery in Charleston (CSSC)

- **Academic Research** - archival and library research and bring in scholars for lectures and workshops
- **Public History** - public programming and outreach
- **Social Justice** - identify concrete steps that we can take to redress and make reparations for the legacies of slavery in the Charleston community
- **K-12 Education** - enrich K-12 curriculum with information about the history of enslaved people, Black cultural history, and race related issues partner with educators and students in the tri-county region
Archival Description and Discovery Working Group

- Anne Bennett, Rare Books/Manuscript Catalog Manager
- Mary Jo Fairchild, Research Services Coordinator for Special Collections and Archives
- Heather Gilbert, Associate Dean, Collection & Content Services and Director, Lowcountry Digital Library
- Aaisha Haykal, Manager of Archival Services, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture
- Kelly Hudson, Director of Special Collections and Archives
- Georgette Mayo, Processing Archivist, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture
- Joshua Minor, Technical Services Coordinator for Special Collections and Archives
- Tyler Mobley, Digital Services Coordinator and Director, Lowcountry Digital Library
Project Efforts

Part 1 (2020-2021)
Idea for an anti-oppressive Description Project /Statement of Prejudicial Language/Anti-Oppressive Description Remediation Project
Researching other efforts

Part 2 (2021-2022)
Archival Description and Discovery Working Group
• Project Statement
• Discussion about title and actual mission of the project
• Adding to ArchivesSpace Instance

Part 3 (2021-)
Development of Form LibGuide
CSSC Discovering Our Past
Approval of Statement
Slave Badge to Slave Tag

- Question of agency and representation
- Power of naming
- Cross campus effort
1826: “Paid Peter Galluchah, a Negro man for painting the observatory in the college”
Bishop Robert Smith

Robert Smith was the first president of the College of Charleston (1790 - 1797) and largely supported all operations that were not covered by student tuition and fees with his own money. He collected a salary from the Episcopal church (as Bishop) but the vast majority of his wealth came from rice cultivated on plantations he owned and operated. These included Brabant, located in modern day Berkeley County in Cainhoy along one of the smaller branches of the Cooper River known as French Quarter Creek, and Point Hope, [also located in modern day Berkeley County?]. Therefore, the money he loaned the “Trustees of the Charleston College” from 178x to 18xx, was wealth generated primarily from the labors of people he enslaved.

Smith’s business ledger, held in the College of Charleston’s Special Collections documents these expenditures, income, and loans in great detail.
Digital Public Library of America Black Women’s Suffrage Project

- Sponsored by Pivotal Ventures
- Digitizing of collections
  - Focused on Black women’s activism, with a focus on clubwomen’s activities
- Metadata remediation of previously digitized collections that were described using MPLP in LCDL
  - Added approximately 700 additions/changes to the LCDL records-name authority and subject headings
Future Efforts

- Promotion of efforts to campus and community stakeholders
- Develop a listing terminology and collections to consider review of, and consideration of content warnings for collection content
- Develop guidelines for correcting and denoting changes made to descriptions in ArchivesSpace, potentially using revision statements field
- Larger Library diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts with programming, collection development, and reference interactions
- Seek funding for additional metadata remediation projects
Links

- LibGuide
  https://libguides.library.cofc.edu/reparative_description

- Form
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef5FWrATNYcrYvcp3_g2cZe7rFMeWakvqBhZHwS2amU9CA4A/viewform

- ArchivesSpace Instance
  https://findingaids.library.cofc.edu/
Thank you
Comments??
Questions??

Reach me at
https://avery.cofc.edu/