

Tristram T. Hyde Mayoral Papers, 1906-1919

Descriptive Summary

Title and Dates:

Tristram T. Hyde Mayoral Papers, 1906-1919 (bulk 1916)

Creator:

Tristram T. Hyde, Mayor of the City of Charleston, SC, 1916-1919

Quantity:

2 cubic feet

Forms of Material:

Correspondence, notes, reports, petitions, resolutions, publications, proclamations, advertisements, resolutions, newspaper clippings, labels, pamphlets, contracts

Processed by:

Rebecca Schultz, 2014

Location:

Row 1, Shelf A

Abstract

The collection consists of the papers of Tristram T. Hyde, mayor of Charleston from 1916-1919. Material in the collection includes correspondence, contracts, reports, municipal documents, plats, and various forms of print media.

Biographical Statement

Tristram T. Hyde was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on July 3, 1862, to Simeon and Anne Eliza Hyde. He attended the High School of Charleston prior to making a name for himself in real estate and insurance. He also took a keen interest in politics, serving as Chairman of the City Democratic Committee.

With the support of several prominent Charlestonians including former Mayor R. Goodwyn Rhett, Hyde challenged John P. Grace in the mayoral race of 1915. Mayor Grace's populist ideals had earned the ire of many in Charleston's elite circles while simultaneously gaining the loyal devotion of working class men and women. Naturally, the election proved highly antagonistic and divisive. On election night Hyde defeated Grace by a margin of just 14 points. At a ballot recount held three days later, a violent confrontation occurred between Hyde and Grace supporters, which resulted in the shooting death of *News and Courier* reporter, Sidney J. Cohen. After this shocking display of violence, Grace conceded the election.

Grace's administration had focused on providing municipal services and skirted enforcement of the unpopular Dispensary law. In direct contrast, Hyde focused on cutting taxes by lowering government expenditure and took a hard line against bootleggers. In 1919, the two politicians

once again faced-off in the race for mayor. The final vote count was again incredibly close, this time with Hyde losing by a small margin. After leaving office, Hyde returned fulltime to his business pursuits, which he continued until his death in 1931.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized alphabetically according to subject, document type, or the originating individual, organization, or city department. The collection consists of correspondence, notes, reports petitions, resolutions, proclamations, pamphlets, contracts, and newspaper clippings. Unfortunately, for unknown reasons, the bulk of the papers relate only to the earliest stage of Hyde's administration, 1915-1916. Nevertheless, a wide range of topics of historical significance are found in the collection. Perhaps most evident are the efforts of progressive circles to effect social change in Charleston. Areas of discussion include public education, healthcare, poverty relief, juvenile rehabilitation, and the eradication of blind tigers and prostitution.

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| | 2 | Byron S. Aldrich, 1916: papers re: motion pictures |
| | 3 | Anti-Saloon League of America, 1916: papers re: Dispensary law, crime, gambling, illegal saloons, prostitution |
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| | 5 | Associated Charities Society, Annie S. Walker, 1916: papers re: disease, poverty |
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- 1 9 Joseph C. Barbot, Clerk of Council, 1915-1916: papers re: education, African Americans, The Citadel, Confederate Home College, city buildings, City Hall, City Court Room and Record Room, Roper Hospital, Medical Society of South Carolina, Murray Boulevard, Charleston Orphan House, motion pictures, Germania Brewing Company, political appointments, transportation, South Carolina Sanitarium, tuberculosis
- 10 Anna W.K. Behlmer, 1916: papers re: J.H. Dingle, ward divisions, sewage system
- 11 D. Lafar Bissell, 1916: papers re: Parks Department, Hampton Park, The Citadel
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