



Harleston family papers, 1779-1865
SCHS 1044.00
Container 11/226

Creator: Harleston family.

Description: 0.25 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: Isaac Child Harleston, a South Carolina plantation owner and state legislator, served as an officer in the 2nd S.C. Regiment in the early years of the Revolutionary War. In 1778 he became a major in the 6th Regiment, and after a consolidation of regiments he again served with the 2nd Regiment. John Harleston, his great-nephew, was serving on the Confederate privateering schooner "Savannah" in June of 1861 when he was captured and taken to New York, where he was tried for piracy and imprisoned for many months. After his release (exchange) he returned to Confederate service and was captured again near Bentonville, N.C.

Scope and content: Papers of Isaac Harleston chiefly consist of his official correspondence and mainly concern the administration and supply of the 2nd and 6th regiments of the South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment, in which he was first a captain and later a major. Among the letters are requests for passes; daily reports; receipts for beef, oxen, and steers; receipts for artillery stores, spades, and planks; regimental orders; reports of courts martial and courts of inquiry; and regimental returns. Included are letters from Charles C. Pinckney containing news of mutual friends and discussions of regimental matters; a letter from William DeBrahm which includes a drawing of a platform; a letter from Rev. Robert Smith written on behalf of a black servant, Ballifo, who had been impressed into service with the Army; and two letters from Wade Hampton concerning horses. Other correspondents include Francis Marion (his letters are copies), Richard Mason, John Vanderhorst, George Abbott Hall, William Massey, Josiah DuPont, Francis Cobia, Alexander McQueen, William Henderson, Benjamin Lincoln, George Turner, and James Thompson.

Papers (1861-1865) of John Harleston, a Confederate prisoner of war in New York (N.Y.) and at Fort Delaware, chiefly consist of correspondence, mainly letters to him from persons offering to be of service to him in his imprisonment and from relatives relating news of family, friends, and the war. Included are many letters to him from his cousin Sabina E. Wells, who often furnished necessities to him and other prisoners; a list (1865 April 21) of clothing and other items requested by John Harleston and 23 other prisoners (named in document); and a letter (n.d.) to B.J. Howland from Virginia Caldwell, who saw the names of "Howard" and "Harleston" among the names on a "list of the captive privateers" and asked Howland to visit them.

Preferred citation: Harleston family. Harleston family papers, 1779-1865. (1044.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Selected letters of Isaac Harleston published in the South Carolina Historical Magazine (v. 5-7).

Search terms:

Harleston, Isaac Child, 1745-1798.
Harleston, John, 1831-1919.
Marion, Francis, 1732-1795.
Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, 1746-1825.
Wells, Sabina E., 1816-1891.
United States. Continental Army. South Carolina Regiment, 2nd.
United States. Continental Army. South Carolina Regiment, 6th.
Prisoners of war -- New York (State)
Privateering -- Confederate States of America.
Fort Delaware (Del.)
South Carolina -- History.
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Participation, Afro-American.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Letters (correspondence)
Military records.
Plans (drawings)
Officers (military officers)

Container/Series overview:

1044.01 Papers of Individual Harleston family members

- 1044.01.01 Harleston, Isaac, 1745-1798. Papers, 1779-1784 (48 items)
11/226/01-16 Revolutionary War papers, 1779-1784 (48 items)
- 1044.01.02 Harleston, John, 1831-1919. Letters, 1861-1865 (75 items)
11/226/17-21 Letters, 1861-1865 (75 items)