



Joshua B. Whitridge papers, 1806-1864
SCHS 1114.00
Container 11/456

Creator: Whitridge, Joshua B.

Description: 0.25 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Physician and plantation owner. A native of Tiverton, R.I., he was the son of William and Mary Cushing Whitridge. During the War of 1812 he served as a medical officer on the northern frontier. In 1815 he received his medical degree from Harvard and moved to Charleston, S.C. where he practiced medicine and engaged in research and publishing in the medical field. He was a member of the Unitarian Church of Charleston and the Charleston Unitarian Book and Tract Society. In 1846 he retired to his plantation, Rose Bank, on Wadmalaw Island near Charleston. His first wife was Sarah Bailey McLeod; he later married Caroline Hammond (1818-1905). He died in Greenville, S.C.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of correspondence and an essay (1850s?) entitled "Statistics of Rose Bank" which describes Rose Bank Plantation and its environs and the cultivation of cotton on the plantation.

Correspondence of Joshua B. Whitridge includes two letters (1806) to his father Dr. William Whitridge and friends in Rhode Island describing a voyage by water to Albany (N.Y.); a letter (1813) written from Williamsville (N.Y.) to his brother William concerning his service as a military surgeon; letters (1817) written from Charleston (S.C.) which discuss a severe yellow fever epidemic there and Whitridge's own illness; letters (1819-1827) to his parents discussing such matters as family affairs, his personal philosophy, Unitarianism, and "the progress of truth" and "spirit of inquiry." Also included is a letter (1814 April 7) from Th[omas] Sturtevant, Jr., sergeant of the 25th U.S. Infantry, in Charlestown (Mass.), to Dr. Samuel West in Tiverton (R.I.) describing Sturtevant's capture at the Battle of Stoney Creek (Canada), his hardships as a prisoner of war, and his release and return to Massachusetts. Sturtevant also mentions "Dr. Joshua Whitridge," the surgeon of his regiment.

Later correspondence of Whitridge in Charleston and Greenville (S.C.) includes his letter (1861) to physicians in Boston (Mass.) regarding the medical uses of sulphuric ether; and two letters (1864) to his wife Caroline describing the difficulties of sending mail between South and North, his medical work among refugees and slaves, high prices, scarcity of necessities, and the tragedy of the war, which he condemns as "unnatural," "unnecessary," and "wicked."

Also included is biographical information on Joshua B. Whitridge.

Preferred Citation: Whitridge, Joshua Barker, 1789-1865. Joshua B. Whitridge papers, 1806-1864. (1114.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Photocopies of letters available.

Provenance: Whitridge, Roland B. gift.

Search terms:

Sturtevant, Thomas.

West, Samuel, 1731-1807.

Whitridge, Joshua Barker, 1789-1865.

Whitridge, William, 1748-1831.

United States. Army -- Surgeons.

Ethers.

Cotton growing -- South Carolina -- Wadmalaw Island.

Medicine -- South Carolina.

Plantations -- South Carolina -- Wadmalaw Island.

Unitarianism.

Unitarians -- South Carolina.

Yellow fever -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Charleston (S.C.) -- History.

Greenville (S.C.)

Rhode Island.

Rose Bank Plantation (Wadmalaw Island, S.C.)

South Carolina -- History -- 1775-1865.

United States -- History -- War of 1812 -- Prisoners and prisons.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Medical care.

Letters (correspondence)

Physicians.

11/456/1-7 Whitridge, Joshua B., 1789-1865

Papers, 1806-1864. 23 items.

Charleston physician, Wadmalaw Island planter. Letters (1806-1864) of Joshua B. Whitridge to his family in Rhode Island regarding family matters, Union College, Schenectady, NY; War of 1812 service in NY, yellow fever in Charleston (1817), the Unitarian Church, comments of prohibitions against slaves leaving South Carolina (1826), Charleston social life, Rose Bank Plantation, Wadmalaw Island life, travel, the use of ether (1861) and work among black and white Civil War refugees in Greenville (1864). Biographical material regarding Joshua B. Whitridge.