



**Collection Name:** Matthew Irvine Letters  
**Collection #:** MSS 23  
**Size:** 0.05 cf (2 items)  
**Dates:** 1796, 1811  
**Processed:** October 2007/SDH  
**Restrictions:** None

**Biography:**

Matthew Irvine was born in Ireland in 1755 and came to the United States as a young boy to live with his brother in Philadelphia. He fought against the British during the Revolutionary War, serving as a surgeon in the army. He studied medicine before and after the war, though there is no evidence he received a medical degree from a university. After the war he settled in Georgetown, South Carolina, where he practiced medicine for ten years. Later he moved his practice to Charleston. Illness limited his practice, but he was pressed into service during the 1817 yellow fever epidemic about which he wrote his "Treatise on the Yellow Fever." He was a member and later president of the Medical Society of South Carolina in 1826 and received one of the first honorary degrees from the Medical College of South Carolina. He died in Charleston on August 31, 1827.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Matthew Irvine Letters, 1796 and 1811, concern Irvine's application for membership in the Medical Society of South Carolina in 1796 and his resignation from same in 1811 due to health reasons.

**Citation form:** Matthew Irvine Letters, MSS 23, Waring Historical Library, MUSC (Charleston).

**Subject Headings:**

Irvine, Matthew, ca. 1755-1827.  
Medical Society of South Carolina.  
Societies, Medical—South Carolina.