Biographical Note: Tucker Harris was born in Charleston, S.C. in 1747. He studied under Lionel Chalmers, and in 1768 he traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to study medicine. After returning to Charleston, Dr. Harris practiced medicine under the guidance of Dr. Chalmers, and entered into his own practice after Dr. Chalmers died. During the American Revolution, Dr. Harris served as both field surgeon and surgeon in the Continental Hospital. Dr. Harris and his family were forced by the British to leave Charleston. They returned after the war was over, and Dr. Harris entered into a successful medical practice with Dr. David Oliphant. Dr. Harris was a founder of the Medical Society of South Carolina in 1789. He served as the organization’s first secretary, and was its president for 1796-1797. He wrote papers on such subjects as yellow fever, abscess, and vaccines.

Dr. Harris was married to the daughter of his Scottish landlady, Mrs. Elizabeth Boston, and had eight daughters. He died after a long illness in 1821.
Scope and Content Note: The Tucker Harris Pay Voucher From the Continental Hospital, 1784, 1 item, details Dr. Harris’ pay for his service at the Continental Hospital. The voucher reads “Issued the 15th September 1784 to Doctor Tucker Harris for Six Hundred & twelve Pounds five Shillings & four Pence Sterling being for his Pay & Subsistance (sic) to the fifteenth June 1781 as Surgeon to the Continental Hospital Southern Army as ___ Certificate from the Auditor General”

Related Collections:
MSS 68 David Oliphant Report of Sick and Wounded at Continental Hospital

Subject Headings:
Harris, Tucker (1747-1821)
Continental Hospital- Charleston, S.C.
Charleston (SC)- History- Revolution, 1775-1783
Physicians- Scotland- South Carolina
South Carolina-History –Revolution, 1775-1783
United States -History- Revolution, 1775-1783- Medical and Sanitary Affairs