



**Collection #:** MSS 771  
**Name:** The Thomas A. Pitts, II, M.D. Papers  
**Dates:** 1918-1982  
**Size:** .6 cubic feet  
**Processed:** March 2008 by JMW  
**Restrictions:** None  
**Citation:** The Thomas A. Pitts, II, M.D. Papers, MSS 771, Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston

**Biographical Note:** Thomas Antley Pitts, II was born in Edgefield County, South Carolina on April 15, 1893. He entered the Medical College of South Carolina on a scholarship in 1912. Graduating in 1916, Dr. Pitts became the third generation of his family to practice medicine. He interned at Roper Hospital, and was a professor of pathology at the Medical College of South Carolina. Dr. Pitts served as a medical officer in the Army during World War I. Dr. Pitts undertook private practice in Saluda, South Carolina after the war, but after one year he moved to Shreveport, Louisiana for an apprenticeship at Charity Hospital. Dr. Pitts became the hospital's radiologist, and developed his skills there for two years. He went on to work at the Mayo Clinic, Cook County Hospital in Chicago, and hospitals in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Pitts was hired by the General Electric Company to manage the installation of X-ray equipment at Baptist Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina in 1923. Dr. Pitts also served as the radiologist and pathologist for the State Hospital in Columbia. He established the Pitts Radiological Associates group in the 1950s, and retired in 1982.

Dr. Pitts was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Medical College

of South Carolina in 1930, and was elected to be its chairman in 1941. Dr. Pitts served as chairman for 25 years, and was a board member for a total of 38 years. A portrait of Dr. Pitts hangs in the Medical University Hospital, and he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1982, as well as an honorary doctorate.

Dr. Pitts was active in numerous professional organizations, including the South Carolina X-Ray Society, the Radiological Society of North America, the American Board of Radiology, the American College of Radiology, the American College of Physicians, and the Alpha Omega Honorary Medical Society. Dr. Pitts served as president of the Columbia (S.C.) Medical Society in 1927, and was the founder of its journal, *The Recorder*. Dr. Pitts also served as president of the South Carolina Medical Association in 1943.

Dr. Pitts married Ellen Maries Douglas in 1928, and they were married for over fifty years. Hunting, fishing, and gardening were among his hobbies. Dr. Pitts died in 1991.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Thomas A. Pitts, II, M.D. Papers, 1918-1982, .6 cubic feet, document Dr. Pitts' professional accomplishments and activities, as well as the history of the Pitts family. Much of the collection reflects Dr. Pitts' contribution to the Medical College of South Carolina, including correspondence with the MCSC Board of Trustees, reports and other materials from Board of Trustees meetings, and photographs from MCSC commencement exercises. Other MCSC related materials include correspondence regarding the portrait of Dr. Pitts that hangs in the Medical University Hospital, prints of that portrait, the fountain pen Dr. Pitts used to sign the 1948 MCSC Scholarship Act, and a silver pendant with the MCSC skull and cross bones insignia. Dr. Pitts awards and certificates are included in the collection. Personal records in the collection include correspondence, typescripts of Dr. Pitts' unpublished memoirs, and genealogical information on the Pitts and Coleman families. The collection has been arranged alphabetically.

The following collections have been merged into MSS 771:

MSS 725 Certificate signed by Governor Thurmond

MSS 779 Thomas A. Pitts, II Lecture Notes on Neuroanatomy

**Related Collections:**

MSS 446 Diploma From MCSC (1916)

MSS 514 Certificate of Internship at Roper Hospital (1917)

MSS 515 Certificate from U.S. Army Medical Officers' Reserve Corps  
(1918)

MSS 683 Memoirs of Dr. Pitts, by G. Badger Humphries (1982)

SCPB 16 no. 13 Constitution, By-Laws, and Fee Bill of the Medical Society  
of Columbia, SC (1903)

WZ 23 M4895 1965 Commencement Exercises of MCSC (motion picture)

**Subject Headings:**

Pitts, II, Thomas A. (1893-1991)

Medical College of South Carolina

Radiology

Radiology -- history -- South Carolina

**Inventory:**

Box 1

Folder 1: Certificates of Merit, 1919-1972, 13 items

Folder 2: Correspondence: MUSC Board of Trustees, 1953, 1960-1969, 14  
items

Folder 3: Correspondence: Personal, 1918-1982, 27 items

Folder 4: Correspondence: Dr. Pitts' Practice, 1940, 1961-1963, 1969, 5  
items

Folder 5: Correspondence: Portrait of Dr. Pitts, 1959, 26 items

Folder 6: Diplomas: Pitts Family, 1981, no date, 6 items

Folder 7: Genealogy: Pitts-Coleman Families,

Folder 8: Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees Materials,  
1954, 1956, no date, 4 items

Folder 9: Memoirs (Typescript), 1971, 1978, no date, 11 items

Folder 10: Miscellaneous, 1925-1986, no date, 32 items

Folder 11: Miscellaneous, 1965, no date, 2 items

Folder 12: Order of Settlement, Greenville County Court, 1964, 1 item

Folder 13: Photographs, 1925, 1941, 1965-1966, no date, 27 items

Folder 14: Prints of Dr. Pitts' Portrait, 1960, no date, 5 items

Phase box: Lecture Notes on Neuroanatomy, no date

Oversize Folder: Certificates, 1928, 1947, 1951, no date, 4 items

Artifacts: Sporting Life Cigarettes

Award From American Cancer Society

I.D. Bracelet and MCSC Pendant

Fountain Pen Used to Sign 1948 MCSC Scholarship Act