



Collection Name: Letter from William Read to Senator Jacob Read
Collection #: MSS 1033
Size: 1 letter
Dates: 16 September 1796
Processed: February 2018, Andrew Koutroulakis, SDH
Restrictions: None

Historical Note:

William Read (1754-1845) was a prominent physician in Charleston, S.C. during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He married Sarah Harleston and had a son John Harleston Read in 1788. William's brother Jacob Read (1752-1816) was a South Carolina lawyer and politician. He was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1789 and served until 1794. He was then elected to the United States Senate where he served as a Federalist from 1795 until 1801.

Scope and Content Note:

The Letter from William Read to his brother Senator Jacob Read, 16 September 1796, consists of one letter on two sheets of paper plus a typed transcription. In the letter Dr. Read discussed his affairs in the West Indies where he worried about the revolution on the French island of Saint Domingue, now Haiti, and how it would affect the control of their slaves. He went on to praise Charles Cotesworth Pinckney's selection as Minister to France while castigating his predecessor James Monroe. He finished the letter by describing how he set the broken leg of one of Jacob's slaves named Hercules and gave his professional opinion that Hercules should not be transferred to Georgia until he recovered.

Citation: Letter from William Read to his brother Senator Jacob Read, MSS 1033, Waring Historical Library, MUSC.

Subject Headings:

Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, 1746-1825
Monroe, James, 1758-1831
Read, Jacob, 1752-1816
Read, William, 1754-1845
Hercules (slave)
Physicians--South Carolina—History--18th Century
Haiti—History—Revolution, 1791-1804
Slavery--Caribbean
Slaves--Health and Hygiene
Slaves Medical Care--Southern States--History