



Collection Name: David Ramsay Letters
Collection #: MSS 43
Size: 0.05 cf (4 items)
Dates: 1777-1813
Processed: November 2007/SDH
Restrictions: None

Biography:

David Ramsay was born April 2, 1749 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania where he was a friend and student of the physician Benjamin Rush. After practicing medicine in Maryland for one year, he moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where he immersed himself in local politics and society. He served as a member of the Charleston Council of Safety, member of the South Carolina legislature and Privy Council, Continental Congress, and United States Congress. Ramsay was an early member of the newly formed Medical Society of South Carolina and was elected president in 1798. He was an early advocate for the creation of a Medical College of South Carolina in Charleston. He authored numerous works on medicine and history, including *A dissertation on the means of preserving health in Charleston and the Lowcountry* (1796) and *The history of the revolution of South-Carolina, from a British province to an independent state* (1785). On May 8, 1815 he was shot dead on Broad Street in Charleston by an unstable patient whose insanity he had certified previously.

Scope and Content Note:

The David Ramsay Letters, 1777-1813, consist of four items: a holograph copy of a letter from Ramsay to Ann S. Horne (April 9, 1777) advising her on how to recover money owed to her from a bond issued by Mr. Gadsden to Mr. Horne; a holograph copy of a letter from Ramsay to Thomas Harwood, commissioner of the Continental Loan Office in Maryland (August 13, 1785), requesting payment for unspecified goods or services; a holograph copy of Ramsay's bond (September 22, 1789) to pay the estate of Mrs. VanHorne from the estate of Mrs. Ellis "to release me from profound embarrassment"; and holograph copy of a letter from Ramsay to an unknown recipient (February 26, 1813) primarily about the sale and exchange of books, but also including a brief report on the College of Charleston, progress on his "universal history," and news of family and friends.

Merged Collections:

The following collection have been merged to created MSS 43:

MSS 43 Financial [document] of David Ramsay, 1789; MSS 44 Letter from David Ramsay to unknown recipient, 1813; MSS 125 Letter, 1785, to Thomas Harwood from David Ramsay; and MSS 126 Letter, to Ann S. Horne from David Ramsay, no date.

Citation form: David Ramsay Letters, MSS 43, Waring Historical Library, MUSC (Charleston).

Subject Headings:

Ramsay, David, 1749-1815

Horne, Ann S.

Ellis, Mrs.

Gadsden, Mr.

Harwood, Thomas, 1743-1804

Receipts (Financial records)

Debtor and creditor

Obligations (Law)

Creditors' bills