



Collection Name:	Francis Peyre Porcher Papers
Collection #:	MSS 299
Size:	2.0 cf (51 folders and 14 books)
Dates:	1844-1925
Processed:	November 2007/SDH
Restrictions:	None
Citation:	Francis Peyre Porcher Papers, MSS 299, Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston

Biography:

Francis Peyre Porcher was born in Charleston, South Carolina on December 14, 1824 to William and Isabella Sarah Peyre Porcher. Through his mother's side, he was a descendant of the botanist, Thomas Walter author of *Flora Caroliniana*. Porcher graduated from the South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) in 1844 and from the Medical College of South Carolina in 1847. After graduation Porcher spent two years traveling in Europe. Upon his return to Charleston, he entered practice and in 1852 with Dr. E. Belin Flagg opened the Charleston Preparatory Medical School of the Medical College and lectured on materia medica and therapeutics. During his long affiliation with the Medical College of the South Carolina, Porcher served as professor of clinical medicine and chair of materia medica, which position he held from 1874 to 1891. He served as editor of the *Charleston Medical Journal and Review* and served as president of the South Carolina Medical Association, Medical Society of South Carolina, and as vice-president of the American Medical Association.

During the Civil War, Porcher served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army in Virginia and was detailed by C.S.A Surgeon General Samuel Preston Moore to write, *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests*, a handbook to southeastern flora and fauna which could be used as substitutes for blockaded pharmaceuticals.

Porcher died on November 19, 1895 in Charleston.

Scope and Content Note:

The Francis Peyre Porcher Papers, 1844-1895, consist of 2.0 cubic feet of materials documenting primarily the professional activities of Francis Peyre Porcher, physician of Charleston, South Carolina. The collection is arranged in three series: professional, personal, and printed material. It includes 51 folders of Porcher's lecture, class, and research notes on materia medica, botany, and pharmacy compiled over his career in support of his medical teaching responsibilities and the publication of his book,

Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests... Also included are personal letters to and from members of the Leigh, Porcher, and Wickham families from 1846 to 1862. Of particular interest are letters from Francis Peyre Porcher to his first wife Virginia “Jennie” Leigh Porcher written from camp in Virginia between 1862 and 1863. In these, Porcher relates news of his advancement through the office of the Surgeon General, of living and working conditions in camp, and of family news and affections. Dr. Porcher’s travel diary from 1852 to 1854 document his travels in Europe. The Professional Series is dominated by Porcher’s notes, arranged alphabetically, which include notes for classroom instruction in the areas of materia medica and therapeutics. Files include handwritten notes, clippings, sketches, prescriptions, sources, and notes for publications. The book printed material series consists of 14 books, including Porcher’s annotated copy of *Prescriber’s Pharmacopoeia*, 1844, Porcher’s lecture notebook, 1852 to 1857, his commonplace book, 1846 to 1875, and the Porcher family Bible.

Citation form Francis Peyre Porcher Papers, MSS 299, Waring Historical Library, MUSC (Charleston).

Merged Collections:

The following collection has been merged with MSS 299:

MSS 80: Three letters to and from FPP, 1878-1886. From S.C. C ____? (1886) about the presentation by FPP of a paper and their attendance at a professional meeting; to Gaillard (1878) on fevers and Mr. Hammond (1882) with instructions on the publication of FPP paper; autograph page, **folder 44**

MSS 133: Postcard P. Gourdin DeSaussure to FPP from Memphis, 1878, **folder 44**

MSS 142: Letter from FPP to MSCS resigning chair of clinical medicine May 24, 1879, **folder: 44**

MSS 261: Pharmacopoeia with additions and notations by FPP (in *Prescriber’s Pharmacopoeia*, 1844) **book folder 1**

MSS 262: Travel journal, Europe 1852-1854 FPP (details on travel in Paris, Rome, and England) transcribed by Mandy Othersen with transcription: **folders 39 and 40**

MSS 297: Therapeutics book with marginalia from FPP, gift of Edward Welsh, **book folder 4 (MSS 297 is not this item; perhaps not cataloged or wrong number)**

MSS 299a: Letter (unreadable) to or from FPP and Mrs. Isabella S. Porcher: **folder 47**

MSS 564: Letter FPP and Francis L. Parker to Dr. N. Patterson of Morgan, NC re: past due notice for subscription to the *Charleston Medical Journal and Review*, April 4, 1878, **folder 44**

MSS 599: Receipt for books bought in Paris, 1853, **folder 39**

MSS 721: Letters to his wife Virginia “Jenny” in 1862 from Civil War camps in Virginia 5 letters, **folder 41 and 42**

MSS 721: Letters to his future wife Virginia “Jenny” Leigh of Virginia, in 1855 2 letters, **folder 41 and 42**

MSS 722: Autobiography of FPP, 1893 **folder 45**

MSS 723: Medical bill FPP services to Mr. Langley, January 1882, **folder 44**

MSS 724: Memorandum/will of FPP 1867, annotated in 1881, **folder 43**

MSS 905: Student's Commonplace book, FPP notations throughout on subjects ranging from politics, medicine, poetry, history and more. Front contains FPP's handwritten index, **book folder 3**

MSS 906: Notebook from trip to Europe (not travel journal) and medical studies. Includes drawings, **book folder 2**

MSS 907: Letter to and from Henry E. Shepperd, 1888 re: poetry and literature, **folder 44**

MSS 908: Recipe for Mint Julep in Latin, **folder 3**

MSS 908: Victrix Aquila "The Grey Eagle's war song quotation, **folder 31**

MSS 908: Anatomical description of scrotum, **folder 31**

MSS 908: Two fragments of poetry, **folder 31**

Related Collections:

MSS 259: Photocopy of letter from FPP to J. Marion Sims, 1883 (SCL)

MSS 260: Isabella S. Peyre Porcher Plantation prescription book, ca. 1834.

MSS 362: Photocopy of letters from FPP to Joseph Jones, 1866-79 (Tulane and SCL)

MSS 492: Photocopy of letters from FPP to Samuel G. Morton, 1850-1851 (Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

MSS 626: Photocopy of letter from FPP to Joseph Jones, 1879 (SCL)

Subject Headings:

United States \$x History \$y Civil War, 1861-1865

Botany, Economic \$z Southern States.

Married people \$z South Carolina \$v Correspondence.

Plants, Medicinal.

Phytotherapy.

Botany.

Pharmacognosy.

Materia Medica [\$z Southern States]

Military Medicine [\$z Southern States]

Plants, Medicinal [\$z Southern States]

Physicians \$z South Carolina \$v Biography.

Clinical Medicine \$x History \$z South Carolina.

Therapeutics \$x History \$z South Carolina.

History, Nineteenth Century \$z South Carolina.

Porcher, Isabella Sarah Peyre \$d1803-1890.

Porcher, Virginia Leigh \$d 1835-1866.

Porcher, Francis Peyre, \$d 1825-1895.

Inventory:

Series I, Professional:

Folder 1: Examinations, 1891 and miscellaneous notes

Folder 2: Reprints

Folder 3: Various prescriptions

Notes:

Folder 4: Acids and Eczema

- Folder 5: Alcoholism
- Folder 6: Anesthetics (chloroform, alcohol)
- Folder 7: Antispasmodics
- Folder 8: Astringents
- Folder 9: Auscultation/diseases of the chest
- Folder 10: Blister
- Folder 11: Bloodletting, cupping, leeches, etc.
- Folder 12: Botany
- Folder 13: Brights disease (illustrations)
- Folder 14: Cathartics (calomel, cod liver oil, Epsom salts)
- Folder 15: Clinical lectures and examinations
- Folder 16: Digestion
- Folder 17: Doses of medicine and modus operandi
- Folder 18: Elephantiasis, typhoid fever, diabetes, and the eyes
- Folder 19: Emetic (tartar)—vomiting/nausea
- Folder 20: Emetics
- Folder 21: Fever
- Folder 22: Heart and lungs, drawings
- Folder 23: Hypodermic injection
- Folder 24: Influence of mind over body
- Folder 25: Inhalation
- Folder 26: Ipecac, aconite, and belladonna
- Folder 27: Liver, Treatise of diseases of
- Folder 28: Materia medica
- Folder 29: Materia medica (Charleston Prep Medical School, 1852; updated and annotated through 1880. Includes notes and drawings)
- Folder 30: Mercurials
- Folder 31: Miscellaneous
- Folder 32: Narcotics (opium)
- Folder 33: Neurotics
- Folder 34: Poultices, hot and cold applications, suppositories (enemata)
- Folder 35: Resources reprint, notes (plants and their uses, corrections)
- Folder 36: Spleen
- Folder 37: Tanning process
- Folder 38: Turpentine, charcoal, and muriate of ammonia

Series II, Personal:

Francis Peyre Porcher:

- Folder 39: Travel diary, 1852-1854
- Folder 40: Travel diary, transcript
- Folder 41: Correspondence, FPP to Virginia Leigh (Porcher), 1855, 1862-63
- Folder 42: Correspondence, FPP to VLP transcripts and copies of above
- Folder 43: Memorandum/will, 1867
- Folder 44: Correspondence, 1878-1888, n.d.
- Folder 45: Autobiography, 1893

Leigh/Porcher Family:

- Folder 46: Leigh family letters, 1846-1866, 1882, 1925, n.d.
 Folder 47: Isabella Sarah Peyre Porcher letter, n.d.
 Folder 48: Correspondence, Lizzie Virginia Leigh Porcher, 1917, 1924
 Folder 49: Family reminiscences, Lizzie Virginia Leigh Porcher, n.d.
 Folder 50: Jennie Porcher nursing notes and exams, 1932
 Folder 51: Family genealogy from Bible (copies)

Box 2:

Series III, Printed Material:

- Book folder 1: *Prescriber's Pharmacoepeia*, 1844, annotated by FPP
 Book folder 2: Lecture notebook, 1852, 1856-57
 Book folder 3: Commonplace notebook, 1846-1875
 Book folder 4: Therapeutics book, with FPP marginalia

Books:

- Odes of Horace* (2 v.)
 Bible, family genealogy inside and copied in folder 51
Italy, past and present, by L. Mariotti, vol 2, London: John Chapman, 1849
Characteristicks of men, manners... Earl of Shaftesbury, 1758 (FPP)
Poems by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1854 (FPP to VLP)
The American Pocket Medical Dictionary, 13th ed., (Jennie P. Porcher)
A little book to obtain means for placing a memorial stone upon the grave of the poet Henry Timrod, Charleston: Walker Evans, & Cogswell, n.d, (FPP)
Maud and other poems by Alfred Tennyson, Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1855 (FPP to VLP)
Sybil, or the two nations, by B. Disraeli, London: David Bryce, 1853 (FPP)

ADDENDUM and NOTES:

Inventory of original arrangement with new folders indicated. All MSS #s changed in catalog to MSS 299 with reference in note field.

- Receipt for books bought in Paris, 1853 (MSS 599) **folder 39**
- Letter to and from Henry E. Shepperd, 1888 re: poetry and literature (MSS 907): **folder 44**
- Recipe for Mint Julep in Latin (MSS 908): **folder 3**
- Victrix Aquila "The Grey Eagle's war song quotation (MSS 908): **folder 31**
- Anatomical description of scrotum (MSS 908): **folder 31**
- Two fragments of poetry (MSS 908) **folder 31**
- Memorandum/will of FPP 1867, annotated in 1881 (MSS 724): **folder 43**
- Medical bill FPP services to Mr. Langley, January 1882 (MSS 723): **folder 44**
- Autobiography of FPP, 1893 (MSS 722): **folder 45**
- Letters to his wife Virginia "Jenny" in 1862 from Civil War camps in Virginia 5 letters (MSS 721): **Folder 41 and 42**
- Letters to his future wife Virginia "Jenny" Leigh of Virginia, in 1855 2 letters (MSS 721): **folder 41 and 42**
- Letter (unreadable) to or from FPP and Mrs. Isabella S. Porcher: **folder 47**

- Letter from FPP to MSCS resigning chair of clinical medicine May 24, 1879 (MSS 142) **folder: 44**
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- Postcard P. Gourdin DeSaussure to FPP from Memphis, 1878 (MSS 133) **folder 44**
- Letter FPP and Francis L. Parker to Dr. N. Patterson of Morgan, NC re: past due notice for subscription to the *Charleston Medical Journal and Review*, April 4, 1878 (MSS 564): **folder 44**
- Travel journal, Europe 1852-1854 FPP (details on travel in Paris, Rome, and England) transcribed by Mandy Othersen with transcription: **folders 39 and 40**
- Pharmacopoeia with additions and notations by FPP (in Prescriber's Pharmacopoeia, 1844) (MSS 261): **book folder 1**
- Student's Commonplace book, FPP notations throughout on subjects ranging from politics, medicine, poetry, history and more. Front contains FPP's handwritten index. (MSS 905): **book folder 3**
- Notebook from trip to Europe and medical studies. Includes drawings. (MSS 906) **book folder 2**
- Therapeutics book with marginalia from FPP, gift of Edward Welsh (MSS 297): **book folder 4**