

James Lynah papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Lynah, James, 1735-1809.
Title:	James Lynah papers
Dates:	1776-1868
Extent:	0.05 cubic feet (1 folder)
Identification:	MS 0509

Biographical/Historical Note

James Lynah (1735-1809) was born in Dublin, Ireland, where he received a degree in medicine. He was commissioned a Surgeon the British naval service. He came to Charleston, SC in 1765 or 1766, but soon moved to St. Stephen's Parish, where he practiced medicine. He served in various regiments in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon. He was with the South Carolina forces at the Siege and attack on Savannah, and it was he who removed the grape shot from Gen. Casimir Pulaski's mortal wound. At the time of his death he was the Surgeon General of the State of South Carolina.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of papers and items belonging to James Lynah. Included are Lynah's commissions as a surgeon to various militias; correspondence between Lynah and Count Pulaski, Alexander Hamilton, William L. Johnson; and a typed copy of Lynah's will. Also included in this collection are some papers from Dr. Lynah's grandson, James Lynah, II. This collection includes the grapeshot extracted from General Casimir Pulaski's wound and a fragment of the vest Gen. Pulaski wore when shot. The fabric was made into a satchel in which the grapeshot was kept. Due to the fragility of the satchel, it is available for viewing by appointment only.

Index Terms

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804.
Letters (correspondence)
Lynah, James, 1735-1809.
Military commissions.
Pułaski, Kazimierz, 1747-1779.
South Carolina. Militia.
Surgeons.
Surgery, Military.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Wills.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Unknown.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], James Lynah papers, MS 509, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Separated Material

Artifacts were separated and cataloged with the Georgia Historical Society Artifacts Collection. View digital images of artifacts at the end of this collection inventory or search the Digital Image Catalog for further information.

Publication Note

Correspondence, Count Pulaski to James Lynah, June 26, 1779, published in Collections of the *Georgia Historical Society: Selection of Eighteenth Century Manuscripts*, v.20 (1980).

Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Item 1: Commission to James Lynah as surgeon in the Berkeley County, S.C. Regiment of Militia, 1776 December 4 (1.0 p.)
Signed by Joseph Maybank.

Item 2: Commission issued by John Rutledge, Governor of South Carolina, to James Lynah in the S.C. Regiment of Light Dragoons, 1779 April 22 (1.0 p.)
Signed by John Rutledge.

Item 3: Count Pulaski to James Lynah, 1779 June 26 (1.0 p.)
Written by an Aide-de-Camp. Thanks for letter and bottle of bitters. Typed copy with it.

Item 4: Alexander Hamilton to unknown recipient. Treasurer Dept., 1792 June 8
Regarding circular with instructions to Collectors of Customs. No enclosure.

Item 5: Promissory note from Robert Marion to James Lynah, 1798 March 22 (2.0 p.)
with receipt for interest on verso, Feb. 28, 1799.

Items 6-7: Two letters of William L. Johnson to James Lynah II. Jamaica, L.I., 1854

Jan 12, Feb. 28, 1854. States that he has read Lynah's account of the death of Gen. Pulaski in the New York Herald, Jan. 11, 1854 and agrees with the account. Gives additional information.

Item 8: J. Meredith to James Lynah II. Baltimore, 1854 February 28 (1.0 p.)

Refers to account of Gen. Pulaski's death; from his acquaintance with Paul Bentalou he is sure he was the officer who accompanied Pulaski.

Item 9: James Lynah II's account of the life of his grandfather, Dr. James Lynah, 1868
October 10 (4.0 p.)

Chestnut Hill near Philadelphia, with typed copy.

Item 10: James Lynah II to William Bacon Stevens, 1868 September 8 (1.0 p.)

Retained copy. Says he would like to talk to him and read his history of Georgia; pleased that Stevens accepted his account of the death of Gen. Pulaski.

Item 11: James Lynah II's statement regarding the grape shot extracted from Gen. Pulaski's wound (1.0 p.)

Item 12: Typed copy of the will of Dr. James Lynah, 1809 September 12

Artifacts

A-0509-001 Fragment of brocaded vest Gen. Pulaski was wearing when mortally wounded **View online.**

A-0509-002 Grape shot extracted from Gen. Pulaski's wound. Mounted on silver candlestick **View online.**