

## Grist-Bryan Family Papers, 1804 – 1897, 1915

This collection consists of the personal letters of the Grist (Grice) Bryan families. Letters (1804 - 1830) are addressed to Richard Grist in Washington County, Sandersville Post Office, Georgia; Henry County, Alabama “Near Columbia,” and Early County, Georgia. Letters dated 1868, 1895 to 1897 to F.E. Grist are addressed to Fort Gaines, Georgia. The letter to Mary Bryan Grist, 1830 was sent to Early County. The letters to Ann Grimes, 1811 to 1813, were sent to Pitt County, North Carolina. The letter to John Hill Bryan and David Blackshear from Elizabeth Grist was sent to Washington County, Georgia near Sandersville.

According to the genealogical information, Richard Grist I of Beaufort County, North Carolina died in 1752. He married Frances Norvell who died in 1773. Richard Grist II died on December 8, 1789, while attending the Constitutional Convention in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He married Mrs. Ann Hill Slade who died on January 28, 1803 at age 71. One son, Frederick born November 10, 1767 died December 26, 1811 in Raleigh, North Carolina, married September 28, 1789, Elizabeth Bryan, daughter of Colonel Joseph Bryan and Sarah Maule. Elizabeth was born on April 28, 1770. Another son, Richard Grist III, born February 2, 1773 married Ann Zilpha Bryan, born February 24, 1775, daughter of Colonel John Bryan of Craven and Jones Counties, North Carolina.

One family letter states that “Tradition has it that there were three brothers who came to this country from Wales in Colonial times.” Two settled in what was then Pitt County, North Carolina afterwards Beaufort. The third brother went further east in North Carolina. His descendants spell the name Grice. Most of the family have been farmers.

<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
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1	Personal letters to Richard Grist primarily from family members. 1804 - 1830 W.B. Grist, September 8, 1828, “Dear cousin, tells of travelling on the Federal Road from where but few whites live.” Also that a white man had been murdered but the murderer was killed by the Indians. The road was from Macon County to Montgomery, Alabama and “through the Indian nation.” Fred Grist, November 24, 1804 (Dear Brother) writes from Raleigh, North Carolina discussing the poor crops (cotton and corn) due to bad weather. “Before I left home” indicates that he did not live in Raleigh; and sale of land for the “low price of twenty-two pounds ten shillings.” “Your letter arrived two days before I left home.” “...and left my family on the 16th.” Also the sale of Enoch for fifty pounds “which considering his age and - infirmity I think a good price.” The letter from Fred Grist, February 24, 1805, from Beaufort County, North Carolina congratulates the citizens of Georgia in the recent acquisition of land from the Indians. He speaks of his oldest son, Richard whom he has put to the mercantile business with Mr. Harralson in Washington. The letter from Fred Grist, May 14, 1808, laments the death of Richard's wife and speaks of the disease that has raged in Georgia with great mortality. (Call him his only brother.) Contains two separate letters, (one piece of correspondence) one from Ann J. Huggins to Mary B. Grist from J. Huggins discussing personal and business matters. Joseph for P. Bryan to cousin Richard and Mary Grice in Alabama, 1829.
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<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	<p>Incoming Letters to Judge Fred Grist. (F.E.). 1869; 1895 - 1897 The letter from H.S. Williams, January 23, 1869 contains a statement of expenses to Fred Grist, agent on 19 freedmen and women and 6 children en route to Macon from Atlanta, Georgia, which were stopped in Griffin Georgia by U.S. authorities. A letter from Fred Grist to F.E. Grist, Orlando, Florida, August 27, 1895, gives information about the Grist family history. Letters from Alston Grimes, August 20, 1897 and October 3, 1897, gives further history on the Grist and Bryan families.</p>
3	<p>Incoming letter to Mary Bryan Grist, Early and Twiggs County, Georgia date October 11, 1830 from her mother, Susanne Bryan</p>
4	<p>Incoming Letters to Mrs. Ann Grimes, 1811 - 1813 Two are from Sarah Bryan, March 20, 1811, Washington County, Georgia (no date) and one from Edward Bryan (brother) January 23, 1813, Twiggs County, Georgia. They are of a personal nature. He speaks of having moved to the frontier with so “large and helpless a family.” Tells of trouble with the Indians. Says he has 13 children, 6 sons and 7 daughters; the last one born on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February named Joseph.</p>
5	<p>Incoming Letter to Joseph Bryan from James T. Neel Letter to Joseph Bryan from James T. Neel dated September 9, 1826, speaks of a possible indictment of Neel for harboring a Bryan Negro.</p>
6	<p>Incoming Letter to John Hill Bryan and David Blackshear Letter from Washington County, Georgia near Sandersville {no date}. From North Carolina, March 31, 1812? This is only a piece of a letter and appears to be from Elizabeth Grist, as a portion of her signature is evident. It mentions the death of Frederick Grist, as a representative, who died while attending the state legislature in Raleigh North Carolina, December 26, 1811. It speaks of the administration of his estate.</p>
7	<p>Incoming Letter to Mary Grist Bryan Standifer, November 25, 1897, Marianna, Florida. This is a copy of a letter from Cousin Laurie Chapman and contain family information news as to the activities and whereabouts of various family members. It is not clear if the date is the original letter or the date of the copy. It tells of Wills' “Christian hope and submission to the Divine Will.” Laurie Chapman states “If I am poor, I am a Bryan still” which clarifies her relationship.</p>
8	<p>Genealogical Data on the Grist-Bryan Families, 1915 and date unknown. Discusses a cure for quinsy.</p>