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Spring 1991

## **John Grimes: Physician of Savannah**

Liscinda Lyons-Sedgwick

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ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

JOHN GRIMES  
MUSICIAN OF SAVANNAH

BY

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
DR. WERLICK  
HISTORY 300

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA  
MAY 1991

*This paper included appendix material  
(such as photocopies of letters, diary entries, photos, or legal documents)  
that were not digitized. Researchers are welcome to visit the Lane Library  
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#### ABSTRACT

John Grimes (1781-1816) studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He had a successful medical practice in Savannah from 1804 to 1816. John Grimes married Catherine Jones Glen in 1816 and they had one daughter, Sarah Jones Grimes. Dr. Grimes was involved in state and local government as well as in other civic organizations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
Chapter	
1.    BEGINNINGS.....	1
2.    SAVANNAH MEDICAL PRACTICE.....	4
3.    SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.....	7
4.    FAMILY LIFE.....	11
5.    JOHN GRIMES: THE PHYSICIAN AND THE MAN.....	13
ENDNOTES.....	15
APPENDICES	
1.    Savannah Revisited, A Pictorial History.....	20
2.    Plantation Development in Chatham County.....	23
3.    Savannah River Project.....	25
4.    Historical Record of Savannah.....	27
5.    Grymes Genealogy.....	29
6.    Letter From John Grimes.....	32
7.    Letter From University of Pennsylvania.....	37
8.    Letter From University of Georgia.....	40
9.    Letter From John Grimes.....	42
10.   Letter From John Grimes.....	45
11.   Marriage Settlement.....	47
12.   Poem To Miss Grimes.....	51
13.   Title Deed.....	53
14.   Index to Register of Deaths.....	57

15.	Medical Glossary.....	61
16.	Colonial Park Cemetery.....	64
17.	Genealogical Reference Sheets.....	66
	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	71
	EPILOGUE.....	76

## CHAPTER I

### BEGINNINGS

Dr. Grimes' family came from Hanover county, Virginia.<sup>1</sup> He had three brothers and a sister. Thomas Wingfield Grimes, Sterling Grimes, William Garland Grimes and Lucy Grimes.<sup>2</sup> His father, John Grimes Sr. purchased "1150 acres known as the Ridge" in Wilkes County, Georgia in 1783 with Thomas Wingfield Sr. his father-in-law and with John Wingfield Jr., his brother-in-law.<sup>3</sup> In 1784, the Wingfield family, and apparently the Grimes family too, moved to their property in Georgia.<sup>4</sup> In 1799, young John Grimes went north to study medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.<sup>5</sup> The University had a very good reputation and was popular with southerners who wished to pursue careers in medicine.<sup>6</sup> John Grimes was a student at the university in 1799, 1801 and in 1802, but never applied for a degree. He studied under Dr. Rush, a prominent physician.<sup>7</sup> Records indicate that fees of twenty-four dollars per student, for two courses, were paid directly to Dr. Rush. One hundred and five students are recorded for the class of 1799-1800.<sup>8</sup> Around the time John Grimes attended the university, "the medical course...occupied two years, the terms being short, barely three or four months. Candidates were required to have studied medicine for two or three years with physicians as preceptors, to have some knowledge of Latin and some interest in natural science, and to be at least nineteen years of age (so that the required age of twenty-one

could be attained by the time of graduation). The courses were ungraded, a yearly course of lectures being delivered in medicine, surgery (including midwifery), anatomy, materia medica and chemistry. In addition, courses in botany and practical anatomy were available; the latter in the dissecting room. Some hospital instruction was given in clinics at the Pennsylvania Hospital, and at the Alms House.<sup>9</sup>

The reason Dr. Grimes did not apply for his degree is explained in a letter he wrote on July 18, 1804, to Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton. He wrote that "a person without money cannot at all times, do as he wishes,"<sup>11</sup> and that "a want of it prevented [his] taking a degree before [he] left the university."<sup>11</sup> Dr. Barton as "Dean of the faculty"<sup>12</sup> had given Dr. Grimes a certificate that privileged Grimes to present his dissertation "at any time."<sup>13</sup> Worried that the "protraction of time [would] hazard the virtue of that certificate,"<sup>14</sup> Dr. Grimes wrote, "I might be stimulated to forward one next spring; but I had much rather put it off two years longer, when I shall certainly revisit the university and spend another course with you."<sup>15</sup>

After his studies Dr. Grimes returned to Georgia, and in June of 1803, he participated in a land lottery where he was entitled to one draw.<sup>16</sup> The lottery "land was divided into three counties, Wayne, Wilkinson and Baldwin. The lots in Wayne consisted of 490 acres each, those in Baldwin and

Wilkinson 202½ acres each...<sup>ml?</sup> No record was found to indicate the result of Dr. Grimes' draw.



## CHAPTER 2

### SAVANNAH MEDICAL PRACTICE

In 1804, Dr. Grimes moved to Savannah and set up a medical practice with James Glen, another young doctor.<sup>18</sup> That first year, from May 18th to November 1, Dr. Grimes' account ledger lists only eighteen appointments with fees amounting to only \$47.75.<sup>19</sup> By 1807 however, when Dr. Grimes and Dr. Glen ended the shared practice, each doctor's income totaled over four thousand dollars over the three year period.<sup>20</sup> After the breakup of the practice with Dr. Glen, who had moved on to Philadelphia<sup>21</sup> the following advertisement appeared in the newspaper.

Doctor Grimes  
Has removed his medicines and official preparations  
to his dwelling in Broughton Street where he is at  
all times ready to serve those who may choose to  
apply to him, for medical assistance.

July 14, 1807.<sup>22</sup>

Notations made in Dr. Grimes ledger list a variety of supplies needed for the practice: linen for blisters, sweet oil at one dollar a bottle, olive oil, and spermaceti which was used in ointments, along with lamp oil, candles, coal in winter, and paper at twenty-five cents a "quire."<sup>23</sup> The doctors routinely made house calls in Savannah, to plantations and ships docked at the wharf. Calls for extracting teeth and

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<sup>1</sup>SPERMACETI - a yellowish or white waxy solid which separates from oil obtained from the spermwhale.

<sup>2</sup>QUIRE - a collection of 24 or 25 sheets of paper of the same size and quality either not folded or having a single fold.

changing dressings were common, but some patients required far more attention. Thomas Norton was one of those patients. He was first seen on December 31, 1804, and during his illness he required a total of twenty visits, as was bled three times. Unfortunately, Mr. Norton did not survive and the doctors did not receive payment for their services until August of 1807, when they collected twenty dollars toward the \$36.50 bill from Mr. Norton's estate.<sup>24</sup> Most patients paid their bills promptly, but Judge William Smith was not one of them; in fifteen months he required eighty-eight visits and when he finally paid, his bill totaled five hundred dollars.<sup>25</sup> Other doctors in Savannah called on Dr. Glen and Dr. Grimes for consultations about different patients. Dr. Grimes was called in consultation by Dr. Parker about a patient he had that suffered from severe bleeding from both his esophagus and his anus. Dr. Grimes recommended acetate of lead to quell the hemorrhaging. In a letter to Dr. Barton, Dr. Grimes wrote that he "had many other cases of hemorrhagy [sic] from different points, restrained by smaller doses,"<sup>26</sup> but that "this is the greatest extend, ... [he had] known this remedy pushed."<sup>27</sup>

As a young physician, Dr. Grimes appears to have been eager to seek out new remedies and innovations in medicine. Smallpox was a feared and deadly disease, but in 1796, the "first vaccination of a human subject"<sup>28</sup> was made in England. On February 25, 1805, Dr. Grimes' ledger shows an entry about

his brother, Sterling Grimes, receiving a (smallpox) vaccination.<sup>29</sup> Coincidentally perhaps, that same day the first official mention of smallpox inoculation in the city of Savannah was made by the Mayor who "had the pleasure to inform Council that by means of a small quantity of matter lately received the vaccine inoculation has taken place and is now prevailing within the city."<sup>30</sup>

## CHAPTER 3

### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Dr. James Glen was a fortunate choice for a partner in the practice for Dr. Grimes. The Glens were a prominent Savannah family and Catherine Jones Glen, James' sister, would in time become John Grimes' wife.<sup>31</sup> Dr. Glen's grandfather was Dr. Noble Wimberly Jones<sup>32</sup> who was an outstanding civic leader as well as a respected physician.

On June 28, 1804, Noble Wimberly Jones, John Grimes, James Glen and fifteen others founded the Georgia Medical Society.<sup>33</sup> On December 12, 1804, the Society was incorporated by an act of the Legislature. Dr. Noble Wimberly Jones was elected as its first president and Dr. Grimes was elected secretary.<sup>34</sup> The members of the Georgia Medical Society must have thought very highly of Dr. Grimes because when Dr. N. W. Jones died, it was Dr. Grimes who composed his eulogy and delivered it before a meeting of the Society. Eloquenty, he praised Dr. Jones and said, "Never, I venture to say it, never will Savannah again witness a physician possessed of as many amiable qualities as those which have endeared the memory of Doctor Jones."<sup>35</sup> Although he had only known Dr. Jones a short while, Dr. Grimes said his death "affected and depressed [his] mind in a peculiar manner."<sup>36</sup> That it was "an emotion of soul..."<sup>37</sup> that he felt deeply. Perhaps it was his admiration of Dr. Jones that influenced his involvement in civic affairs because he became involved in

both local and state government. Dr. Grimes stated that "it belongs to monarchies to limit the business of government to a privileged order of men; and it is from the remains of a monarchical spirit in this country that we complain when clergymen, physicians, and mechanics take an active part in the management of civil affairs. The obligations of patriotism are a universal and binding as those of justice and benevolence..."<sup>38</sup>

On the state level Dr. Grimes served as a Representative of Chatham County to the State Legislature<sup>39</sup> where he tried to "advance the health interests of Georgia."<sup>40</sup> It was in local affairs however, that Dr. Grimes seemed most active. In August of 1804, soon after his arrival in Savannah, an ordinance was passed creating a Board of Health.<sup>41</sup> Each member was required to serve one year at a time but could be re-elected after being out of service for two years. Dr. Grimes was elected in 1805<sup>42</sup> and again in 1807,<sup>43</sup> barely a year after he'd finished his first term. Perhaps he consented to serve again so quickly because, as a doctor, he felt an obligation to safeguard the health of the community. On May 18, 1807, the same day of his re-election to the Board of Health, "a special committee on health reported that burial places near a city have an unhealthy tendency and they accordingly suggested to Council that a square of trees placed around the wall of the city cemetery would have a very salutary influence by imbibing the impurities of the

surrounding atmosphere."<sup>44</sup> It was a commonly held idea that disease was caused by an unhealthy atmosphere and Dr. Grimes described it as "that gas of Pandora which, in epidemic form, pervades the world."<sup>45</sup> Besides his membership in the Georgia Medical Society, Dr. Grimes was also a corresponding member of the Medical Society of South Carolina.<sup>46</sup> He also served as a Savannah City Alderman from 1808 to 1811<sup>47</sup> and as a Justice of the Interior Court in 1810.<sup>48</sup> He served as an attendant physician to the Savannah Poor House and Hospital and in 1810 he was reelected as one of its managers.<sup>49</sup> Because of his involvement in this organization he addressed publicly, in the newspaper, Dr. Moses Sheftall's denial that he was against the hospital plan proposed by the Medical Society. This plan would allow the sick and the poor to "enjoy the benefits of one enlarged and regular system of charity."<sup>50</sup> This new system, Dr. Grimes pointed out, would destroy Dr. Sheftall's "private monopoly"<sup>51</sup> of income he derived from the poor. Dr. Grimes said of Dr. Sheftall's denial that "if he had acted the independent and manly part, he would have said, 'I will oppose your hospital plan...because its success will take from me a handsome annuity.'<sup>52</sup> Dr. Grimes continued, "But nature having denied him this common light and discretion of morality, and losing all respect for himself, publicly calls himself - what? A man of [unimpeachable] veracity!!"<sup>53</sup> Dr. Grimes listed the amounts of money Moses Sheftall made annually just from his position as "sole physician"<sup>54</sup> and

"sole purveyor to the poorhouse"<sup>55</sup> as \$2,915.70. This was \$915.70 above the income of the governor of Georgia! With a final flourish of his literary sword Dr. Grimes charged Dr. Sheftall with exhibiting "a brutal insensitivity"<sup>56</sup> to the community. Ever the dutiful doctor, Dr. Grimes continued on after this symbolic dispatching of Dr. Sheftall. He declared that "Like other malefactors, the law entitle[d] [him] to the right of [Sheftall's] anatomy...."<sup>57</sup> Dr. Grimes discovered something "unheard of"<sup>58</sup> and "monstrous."<sup>59</sup> Sheftall had "a heart with but one side!"<sup>60</sup> "Hence the reason of his black appearance, and the flippant oddity of his conduct during life,"<sup>61</sup> wrote Dr. Grimes.

Some of Dr. Grimes less adversarial community activities included membership in the Savannah Library Society<sup>62</sup> and active participation in Christ Church.<sup>63</sup>

CHAPTER 4  
FAMILY LIFE

On February 12, 1806, in a ceremony officiated by Rev. Joseph Clay, John Grimes married Catherine Jones Glen.<sup>64</sup> A marriage settlement was filed soon after the wedding.<sup>65</sup> It was intended to protect the property that Catherine had inherited from any debts incurred by her new husband. It also stipulated that should Catherine die before Dr. Grimes, all her assets would go to her children. Catherine and John had only one child who survived, Sarah Jones Grimes.<sup>66</sup> A son, only one day old, died on October 15, 1806.<sup>67</sup> He was never christened and was buried at the home of Catherine's grandmother, Sarah Jones.<sup>68</sup>

Catherine's grandmother was very good to her. In 1810 in order "to set [her] granddaughter off in the world"<sup>69</sup> she gave Catherine a serving set which included: a silver coffee pot, a silver water [pot], 6 large silver spoons, 12 dessert spoons, 18 silver tea spoons, a silver ladle and a silver mug. Sarah Jones also gave Catherine a slave named Harry.<sup>70</sup> Once, "out of natural love and affection to [her] great granddaughter Sarah Jones Grimes,"<sup>71</sup> she gave Sarah Jones a slave called Minda, on the very same day she had purchased Minda from Catherine for \$520.80.<sup>72</sup> Which in effect made the money a gift to Catherine since she did not lose the services of Minda. Sarah Jones Grimes being an only child was probably doted upon and a poem, titled "To Miss Grimes, late Queen of



May,<sup>73</sup> may have been written to honor her. Dr. Grimes never saw his little Queen of May grow up. Eleven years after his death, on January 4, 1827, Sarah Jones Grimes married James Potter.<sup>74</sup> They had eight children, seven of which survived.<sup>75</sup> James Potter owned Colerain Plantation.<sup>76</sup> At the time of his death in 1862, his estate in Chatham County was worth over \$500,000.<sup>77</sup> After her daughter's wedding, no records were found to indicate Catherine Jones Grimes activities or the date of her death. Dr. John Grimes died June 24, 1816 at the age of 35.<sup>78</sup> Records say he died of fits, most likely due to yellow fever.<sup>79</sup> He is buried in Colonial Park Cemetery.<sup>80</sup>

## CHAPTER 5

### JOHN GRIMES: THE PHYSICIAN AND THE MAN

From the information discovered in this search, John Grimes apparently did not become wealthy from his work as a physician. The opportunity for wealth was there and evidence can be made of Dr. Sheftall's income<sup>81</sup> and from an article that described Georgia's lack of qualified physicians as a great opportunity to "accumulate a large fortune in a short space of time."<sup>82</sup> Dr. Grimes, however seemed to be more concerned for people than wealth. Fifteen year old Susannah Williamson, the daughter of a blind woman, died of dropsy after two months of illness.<sup>83</sup> Dr. Grimes was listed as her doctor and yet his account ledger shows no billing. Dr. Grimes even picked people who needed medical attention up off the street. Richard Lee was found "laying out of doors in the dews."<sup>84</sup> Dr. Grimes "had him picked up, speechless [unconscious] from South Common and conveyed to Chatham Poorhouse."<sup>85</sup>

Dr. Grimes was very respected as a physician. In an address before the Georgia Medical Society, Dr. Richard Arnold said "When I come to the name of John Grimes, I must pause awhile. Seldom have I been more interested in the history of any man... than I have been in his."<sup>86</sup> In that same address Dr. Arnold recounted what Dr. Physick had written about John Grimes. "Never did a man acquire [a] more brilliant

reputation...I have always classed him as a man of genius, not merely a man of talent."<sup>87</sup>

In considering John Grimes, the worth of the man cannot be separated from his work as a physician. His own words eloquently express that idea:

When mankind in another far distant age shall have arrived at a more accurate and determinate knowledge of the, at present, secret and inexplicable motives to action in the human breast; when they shall have learned to reject from instances of human greatness the productions of base appetites and passions - the idolatry of the present day - and shall regard the quantity of volition expended and the sum of good attained by the exertions of man, as the only square and rule by which to adjudicate portions of reputations and fame; then shall beneficence, goodness and philanthropy exult in the reward of their services. Then shall the labors of the physician, exposing him to whatever is disgusting and offensive to the senses, stemming the torrent of disease, misery and distress; and moving in the silent and unambitious walks of his profession; excite the admiration, and insure the gratitude of the human race.<sup>88</sup>

Dr. Grimes has certainly gained my admiration.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Heads of the Families of the 1st Census of the U.S. in the Year 1790 Virginia, Vol. 1. Bureau of the Census, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1908. 28.

<sup>2</sup>Early Records of Georgia Wilkes County, Vol I & II. Reprint of 1933 edition. Abstracted and compiled by Grace Gillam Davidson, The Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., Publisher. Vidalia, Georgia. Vol I, 254.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 240.

<sup>4</sup>Bowen, Eliza A. The Story of Wilkes County Georgia. Marietta, GA: Continental Book Company, 1956. 91.

<sup>5</sup>Letter dated 1 May 1991 from Gail M. Pietrysk, Public Services Archivist to Liscinda Lyons-Sedgwick. Information from John Grimes file, University of Pennsylvania, The University Archives and Records Center.

<sup>6</sup>Bassett, MD, V. H. "A Georgia Medical Student in the Year 1801," The Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 22, December 1938, 331-368.

<sup>7</sup>Letter from Gail M. Pietrysk.

<sup>8</sup>Victor Hugo Bassett Papers, Collection 55, Box 3, Folder 42, Item 788 found at Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

<sup>9</sup>The Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 22.

<sup>10</sup>Letter dated July 18, 1804 from John Grimes to Benjamin Smith Barton, copy from The American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia. Item No. B/B 284 I.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Early Records of Georgia, Wilkes County, Vol. I & II.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>John Grimes Papers, Collection 332, Item I - Account Ledger, p. 371. Found at Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., 1

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., 371.

<sup>21</sup>Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 22.

<sup>22</sup>Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, July 5, 1807, p. 3, column 4.

<sup>23</sup>John Grimes Papers, Collection 332.

<sup>24</sup>John Grimes Papers, Account Ledger.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid.

<sup>26</sup>Letter dated March 18, 1814. Copy from The American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia. Item No. R/B 284 I.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid.

<sup>28</sup>A History of the City Government of Savannah, Georgia From 1790-1901, compiled by Thomas Gamble Jr., 1900. 79-80.

<sup>29</sup>John Grimes Papers, Collection 332. Account Ledger.

<sup>30</sup>A History of the City Government.

<sup>31</sup>Index to Marriage 1806-1851. Chatham County, Court of the Ordinary, Certificate #8.

<sup>32</sup>The Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 4. March 1920, 17-32. December 1920, 141-158.

<sup>33</sup>"An Address before the Georgia Medical Society," by R. D. Arnold, M.D.. January 8, 1868. Savannah, Georgia. Purse-Printer.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid.

<sup>35</sup>John Grimes Papers, Collection 332. Item 4, 25. Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol 4, March 1920.

<sup>36</sup>John Grimes Papers.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., 16.

<sup>39</sup>Augusta Chronicle & Gazette of the State, October 3, 1809.

<sup>40</sup>Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia, December 1983, vol. 72. "Medicine in Early Georgia (Savannah)," Julian K. Quattlebaum Sr., M.D., 820-832.

<sup>41</sup>A History of the City Government.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

<sup>43</sup>Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser. May 22, 1807, p. 3, column 2.

<sup>44</sup>A History of the City Government. 80.

<sup>45</sup>John Grimes Papers.

<sup>46</sup>A History of Medicine in South Carolina 1670-1825. by Joseph Waring, M.D. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Medical Association, 1964. 349.

<sup>47</sup>A History of the City Government.

<sup>48</sup>Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser. February 8, 1810, p. 2, column 1.

<sup>49</sup>Republican & Savannah Evening Ledger. February 11, 1809, p. 3, column 3.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid., October 24, 1809.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid.

<sup>54</sup>Ibid.

<sup>55</sup>Ibid.

<sup>56</sup>Ibid.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid.

<sup>58</sup>Ibid.

<sup>59</sup>Ibid.

<sup>60</sup>Ibid.

<sup>61</sup>Ibid.

<sup>62</sup>Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, February 8, 1810, p. 3, column 3. "John Grimes elected to the book committee in the Savannah Library Society).

<sup>63</sup>Warlick, Roger K. The History of Christ Church, Savannah, Georgia 1733-1983. "As Grain Once Scattered." (John Grimes was on the building committee). Columbia: The State Printing Company, 1987. 193, Note 360.

<sup>64</sup>Index to Marriage 1806-1851. Chatham County, Court of Ordinary, Certificate #8.

<sup>65</sup>Book Z (one), page 357 recorded 29 Apr 1806. Superior Court of Chatham County, Savannah, Georgia.

<sup>66</sup>Book 2I, page 535, recorded May 3, 1820. Superior Court of Chatham County, Savannah, Georgia.

<sup>67</sup>Heads of Families, Register of Death (only), 54.

<sup>68</sup>Ibid.

<sup>69</sup>Book 2C, recorded Sept. 27, 1810. Superior Court, Chatham County, Savannah, Georgia, 691.

<sup>70</sup>Ibid., 537.

<sup>71</sup>Book 2D, recorded 21 March 1811, Superior Court of Chatham County, Savannah, Georgia. 88.

<sup>72</sup>Ibid.

<sup>73</sup>Telfair Family Papers, Collection 793, Box 5, Folder 55, Item 247.

<sup>74</sup>Indexes to Marriages. 1806-1851. Chatham County Court of the Ordinary, 177.

<sup>75</sup>Bulloch, M.D., J. G. B. A History of the Glen Family of South Carolina and Georgia. 1923.

<sup>76</sup>Granger, Mary (ed.). Savannah River Plantations. Savannah Writer's Project. Savannah: The Georgia Historical Society, 1947. 224-244.

<sup>77</sup>Ibid.

<sup>78</sup>Register of Deaths in Savannah, Georgia, Vol. III, August 1811-August 1818. Savannah: Compiled by the Georgia Historical Society, 1983.

<sup>79</sup>Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia.

<sup>30</sup>Colonial Park Cemetery. WPA Official Project No. 165-34-6999. Georgia Historical Society, 1937, 25.

<sup>31</sup>Republican & Savannah Evening Ledger.

<sup>32</sup>Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 22. "Medicine in Virginia in the 19th Century, W. B. Stanton, 209.

<sup>33</sup>Register of Deaths in Savannah, Georgia, Vol. 2, 1807-1811. Compiled by the Georgia Historical Society, 1983, 10.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., 49.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>"An Address before the Georgia Medical Society," by R. D. Arnold, M.D. January 8, 1868, Savannah, Georgia. Purse-Printer.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid.

<sup>38</sup>John Grimes Papers.



Family of Grymes, (as to Falligant, Benedict's.)

Coat of Arms.



Arms of Grymes, as follows:

Arms gr. on 3 bars gu. as many Marbleds gu first, on a  
 Chief of the 2nd two bars Hebole' arg. Crest a Marbled Vert.  
 Grants to Thomas Grymes of London by Cooke Glanencieux & of  
 June 1575.

of Richard Grymes and Thomas Grymes of London:

mar. Jane dau. of Sir Thomas Han  
 Richard Misschamp of Peckham.

1 Sir Thomas Grymes : 2-June, 1603 of Peckham	Mary Moore : May. 15, 1605	John, Susan, Elizabeth - Stoke Jeremy Jane - Chew Mary - Glascock
---	-------------------------------	---

of Geo. Grymes : Feb. 10, 1604 : Oct. 15, 1607.	Alice Lovel. Francis, Lisab., Arthur, Thos. Maryanna, Eliz, Susan, Wai	Arthur Thos. Maryanna, Eliz, Susan, Wai	Con. Wai
---	---	--	-------------

of Thos Grymes : May 10, 1638.	Mary dau. of Thos. Bond M.D.	Chas. Burg, Mary, Rich, Eliz. Geo. Henry, Ben, Sa
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	---

Edward Grymes : Sept. 3 Sept. 1660 : Mar. 1664	11, 2 Sir Thos. Grymes, 1664 S.P.	3 William Grymes Living Virginia	4 Edward Grymes Living London.
--	---	--	--------------------------------------

Daughter

For a more definite line of this family see Nicholas Collection of Topograp  
 the Vol. III, Pg. 156-7, and pg. 166. See also Sketches and Lines collected a  
 Topographers Vol III. 1867.

My youngest dau. of Charles Grymes Gentleman, of Virginia, known as a great  
 beauty married Coln. N.Y. Lee of Stafford - O. 1780,

Philip Grymes of Middlesex 1740 bore a bechone on a Chief- 3 Escallops  
 Crest 2 Wings- alhooset:

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Coll. name: John Bartherson

Bettie Paget

Coll. # 67 Box # 3

Folder # 4 Vol. # Item 690

G R Y M E S  
G E N E A L O G Y

FAMILY OF GRYMES ARMS:

ARMS: OR. OR THREE BARS GU. AS MANY MARBLETS OF  
THE FIRST ON A CHIEF OF THE SECOND TWO BARS  
NEEDLE' ARG.

ARG. CHEST A MARBLET VERT.

GRANTS TO THOMAS GRYMES OF LONDON? ENG. BY COOK  
CLEMENCEAUX JUNE 9TH. 1575.

RICHARD GRYMES OF LONDON, ENG. HABERDASHER MAR.

From New England Historical & Gen. Register.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRYMES WAS AN ENGLISHMAN, AND OWN-  
ER OF SEVERAL MERCHANT VESSELS WHICH CARRIED ON TRADE  
BETWEEN ENGLAND AND VIRGINIA.

HE MARRIED IN 1755 OR 1756 TO MARGARET GOODRICH, THEY  
MADE THEIR HOME IN NORFOLK VIRGINIA.

He first settled in Connecticut, but later moved to  
Virginia.

His daughter Margaret Grymes married Lieut. Eli. Ben-  
edict and had the following children.

Sarah Benedict, who married Louis Falligant of France,

Anne Benedict, and

Eli Benedict

An Aunt of the above children and sister of Lieut.

Benedict Sr. was Rachel Gregory of Berkshire, Progs,

County, New York. Her children were:

Eli Benedict Gregory,

Eliza Anne Gregory,

Henry Gregory,

Sarah Gregory;

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Coll. name: John MacPherson

Bacon Papers

Coll. # 67 Box # 3

Folder # 4 Vol. # 12m 679

APPENDIX 6  
LETTER FROM JOHN GRIMES  
JULY 18, 1804  
(A Translation of Copyrighted Document)

Savannah

July 18th, 1891.

Much respected Sir,

No apology, I am fully sensible, will be sufficient to justify my conduct to you, in delaying so long to communicate with you upon the subjects you committed to my care. Nearly a twelve month has elapsed since I left Philadelphia -- I have not yet written you. This circumstance, added to some unexplained and misrepresented occurrences that happened in the university the session before the last, must have impressed you unfavorably towards me. The occurrences to which I allude are painful, and I hope by this time unnecessary to relate; but reasons, which oblige me to put off to this late period all information respecting the books and subscription you placed in my hand, should be given. In the first place, I thought it unnecessary to write till I was able to [enclose?] you, after having collected, the subscription. My passage home was extremely long and tedious. In september I passed through this place, and [deposited] four volumes of the "Elements" with Dr. Habersham with instructions to deliver them as soon as possible to Burke, Jenkins and Jackson, who were then absent from town and forward the subscription money to me at Washington. The other three copies I took with me to Washington, nearly two hundred miles west of Savannah. There I delivered to Bibb, Abbott and Casey. From Abbot and Casey you have received the subscription. Bibb paid me his. One week after my arrival among my friends (at Washington), I was attacked by a Remittent [a malarial fever], which confined and disabled me from business for any sort the better part of two months. All this time I could hear nothing from Habersham. Immediately on my recovery I was [forced?] from [ ? ] necessity to begin [practicing in] that little village. This absorbed the [majority? of] my time. Therefore, [I] was unable to visit Savannah for the purpose of collecting the subscription, of procuring the animals you wished me to send you, which inhabit only the low country between Augusta &

---

Savannah. Letters has no effect. In February I [paid?] it a second visit and saw Dr. Jackson, who gave me his subscription. Burke and Jenkins had called on Habersham and obtained their numbers, but did not leave the money. They were both again absent to the southward, so that I was obliged to return home without being able to forward you, as I had hoped the amount of your Georgia subscription. (A gentleman on the road, agreeable to a contract I made with him as I [hoped?] [ ? ] first, had caught a Salamander and gopher, but got tired of keeping them for me, and let them go). Reflecting that you look'd to me for the remittance of that sum, I would then gladly have sent it to you from my own [pocket], but my funds would not allow it. I continued in Washington, March, April and May. During this time I heard nothing from Jenkins and Burke. In May, I left Washington with a design of settling myself in this place. Soon after my arrival, saw Dr. Jenkins, who paid me for two numbers. I now wanted only for Burke, after a while saw him and told him you had authorized me to receive and transmit the subscription money. He answered that he would let me have it the next time he saw me. I have seen him frequently since, but he says nothing on the subject. Finding by Mr. [Knox?] who hands you this, a convenient opportunity, I have concluded to send you, without further delay the whole amount, presuming that Dr. Burke will refund me in time. You placed in my possession seven copies, for Abbott & Casey, who have paid you, one each for Bibb, Jackson and/Jenkins, from who I have received payment, four copies, for Burke, who has not paid, one copy. The price of the seven would have been \$35. Deducting ten dollars paid by Casey and Abbot leaves balance of twenty five, which I enclose you. -- I am extremely sorry it has [been utterly?] out of my power to sent it to you sooner. The same or part of the reasons, which have been given in justification of my delay in sending the money, may be offered for my not having attended sooner to the other matters you confided to my

care. I assure you, it has been out of my power. A person without money cannot, at all times, do as he wishes. This is my case. A want of it prevented my taking a degree before I left the university, put it out of my power to draw from my [own?] pocket and sending you much sooner the full amount of your Georgia subscription (which I would most cheerfully have done) and [forced?] me to an attention to practice [ ? ] unremitted and to a residence in a place so remote that, to have attended to the queries and subscription paper you placed in my hands before this was impracticable. I have procured as many subscribers as I could in Charleston, Savannah and the [ ? ] country. I have as yet, from my remote residence here [-to-fore?] and the nature of my engagements, been unable to collect facts of sufficient for answering the queries so favored me with. Having settled myself in Savannah (or rather expecting to settle), it will be my favor to convince you how much I wish to cultivate your good opinion and friendship, by answering your queries, by making your every communication that may deserve your notice that shall arise from [facts?] within the sphere of my observation, and by certainly in a short time now sending you the animals you have so frequently attempted to get. They are from all that I can learn, to be found only in a certain district of country in this state, seventy miles from this place, on the road leading to Augusta. With a gentleman living on this road at whose home the stage stops, I [ ? ] for a specimen of each, and have agreed with the driver to bring them to me here from whence they shall be shipped to you. I think this plan will succeed -- I can't when it will be possible for me to send an [ ? ] my time is so much [taken up?] in profession I think it probable it will not be convenient for me to present one under two or three years, when I shall revisit the university. I hope such procrastination will not destroy the efficiency of the certificate you gave me as Dean of Faculty, privileging me to present a dissertation "at any time." The want of time and

money were my only barriers at first. They exist in full force now. I should be glad to hear from you on this subject. If protraction of time should hazard the virtue of that certificate, I might be stimulated to forward one next spring; but I had much rather put it off two years longer, when I shall certainly revisit the university, and spend another course with you. -- [Should?] be eminently gratified would you honor me occasionally with a letter. Whenever I have any thing worthy your eye, you shall have it. May you enjoy health! May fame [ ? ] reward your genius and labours. Jno. Grimes

Received August 2nd 1804

This letter enclosed 25 dollars

Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton

In the absence )	Professor of Materia
of the Dr. to be)	Medica: Botany
opened by )	in the University of
Mrs. Barton )	Pennsylvania

APPENDIX 7

LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES  
AND RECORD CENTER



# UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

The University Archives  
and Records Center

North Arcade, Franklin Field  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6320  
(215) 895-7024

Mark Frazier Lloyd  
Director

1 May 1991

Mrs. Liscinda Sedgwick  
1077 Live Oak Drive  
Hinesville, GA 31313

Dear Mrs. Sedgwick:

I have spoken to your sister, Mrs. Barbara Porter, about your research on the family of Dr. John Grimes. A review of the University Archives collections indicates that we do have some information on Dr. Grimes.

The amount of documentation we have for the early nineteenth century is small. We are able to confirm that John Grimes attended the University of Pennsylvania Medical Department in 1799, 1801 and 1802. He was one of Dr. Benjamin Rush's students but is not shown as receiving his degree from Penn.

We have, in his file, a portion of an article which appeared in the *Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia* in December 1983, "Medicine in Early Georgia (Savannah)" by Julian K. Quattlebaum, Sr., M.D. The reference to Dr. Grimes reads:

Dr. John Grimes, the secretary of the Georgia Medical Society, was a descendant of a Virginia family and a resident of Wilkes County, Georgia, before coming to Savannah in 1804, after a period of study at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Dr. Grimes died of yellow fever in 1816 at the age of 35, but he lived a life of great service to the Georgia Medical Society and to the community, being for a number of years a member of the State Legislature where he endeavored against much ignorant opposition to advance the health interests of Georgia.

One of the first objectives of the new medical society was to secure a medical license law. The first effort made in 1805 did not succeed. In fact, a medical law was not secured until 1821, after the death of Dr. Grimes.

Check with a library in your area. I am sure you will be able to get a full copy of this article with their assistance.

We also have a letter from the University of Georgia Library in response to a query from our office about John Grimes. I am enclosing a photocopy of the response for your information, as it does contain some biographical information. I assume that the *Columbia Museum* was a newspaper in Savannah in the early nineteenth century.

Personal Med. Center  
Health Services Library

Mrs. Liscinda Sedgwick

2

1 May 1991

There are some other repositories you should also consult, particularly in Georgia. The addresses are:

Georgia Historical Society  
501 Whitaker Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
(912) 944-2128  
open M-F 10-6, Sat. 9:30-1

Georgia Department of Archives and  
History  
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
(404) 656-2350

I could not find out where records of the Georgia Medical Society are, and recommend that you ask the staff at the Georgia Historical Society about these materials. I'm sure they will be able to help you.

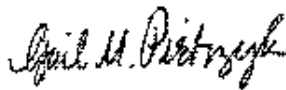
I also believe that two letters from Dr. Grimes may be found in the Benjamin Smith Barton Papers at the American Philosophical Library. This correspondence has to do with his proposed Medical Thesis, which would have been a prerequisite for his degree. You should contact:

215 440 3489

American Philosophical Society Library  
105 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 627-0706

With your permission, the University Archives will keep your inquiry on file and provide your name and address to other researchers who inquire about Dr. John Grimes. This may allow you to locate other family members. If you do not specifically indicate your approval, however, we will not divulge such information. I hope this information (and my best wishes for your success) will help you in your research.

Cordially yours,



Gail M. Pietrzyk  
Public Services Archivist

Enclosure  
cc: Barbara Porter

APPENDIX B  
LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



University of Georgia Libraries  
Athens, Georgia 30602

30 November 1981

Mr. Francis James Dallett  
The University Archives  
North Arcade, Franklin Field B6  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Dear Mr. Dallett:

Dr. John Edwards has forwarded your letter to me for reply. Here at Georgia as in many institutions, sadly, the list of students who matriculated but did not graduate prior to 1814 was probably never retained. A number on your list -- Bourquin (Bourquin), Gardine (not Jardine), Grimes, and Habersham -- were Savannahians and the likelihood that they attended Georgia is remote. Few, if any, coastal Georgians attended the upcountry State University during its formative years. The Mendenhall family was prominent in the Quaker colony just northwest of Augusta in the late eighteenth century so it is possible that your John W. Mendenhall was a member of that group. Of the other names, all but Sandwick are "good old Georgia family names."

The Augusta Chronicle of 23 April 1808 notes the death of the Dr. John Beddingfield's infant son. He is listed as a resident of Augusta and the name is spelled with only one "d." The Savannah Republican of 18 May 1815 contains the obituary of Dr. Henry Bourquin, 36 years, died 13 May 1815 who lived in Savannah and left a parent (his mother) "moaning loes of an only child." Dr. John Cooke, son of Col. Nathaniel Cooke, died in Liberty Co., Ga. 23 July 1816 (from Columbian Museum). Dr. John Grimes and Miss Catherine Jones Glas, both of Savannah were married 12 February 1806 according to the Columbian Museum. The Georgia Gazette notes the marriage 15 September 1801 of Dr. John Jenkins and Miss Maria Netherclift at Pembroke, Ga. The death of a Dr. James W. Mendenhall is listed in the Savannah Republican for 19 October 1809 which paper also noted earlier the death of Thomas Mendenhall, Sr., cashier of the U. S. Branch Bank at Savannah and a native of Philadelphia. The Georgia Gazette fully reports on 30 June 1796 the death of Dr. James Weems Moore, 23 years, d. 21 June 1796, native of Savannah, just returned from Philadelphia after two years of studying medicine. Dr. Griffin V. Tankersley is noted by the Augusta Chronicle as having died during August 1807 at Edgfield Court House, S.C.

I hope this hodgepodge of information will prove of assistance to you. Please contact John or me if we may be of further help.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Willingham, Jr.  
Acting Assistant Director  
for Special Collections

RW/tea

APPENDIX 9

LETTER FROM JOHN GRIMES

SEPTEMBER 23RD 1811

(A Translation of Copyrighted Document)

Savannah March 18th 1814

My dear Sir,

A former pupil of mine, Mr. Creager, from whom I received a note recently, states that he wished information from me upon the use of the acetate of lead in homorrhagy, that some of the class had informed you, subsequently to your lecture upon that article of the Materia Medica, I had administered grs. xx at a dose. This misrepresentation must have arisen, I don't say from design, but from ignorance of some or other of my former students, then at the University. The enclosed account of the case, from which the above misstatement no doubt, has been produced will present you, my beloved and highly respected Preceptor! with an important history of the effects of the acetate of lead, in quelling homorrhagy one too of the most alarming nature. I take more satisfaction in communicating this case to you, because as far as I know, you were the suggester of its use at least in this country, in such diseases. He, the subject, was the patient of Doctor Parker, a respectable physician of this place. I was called in consultation. He administered the medicine. The statement enclosed is from his pen. The case, as you find, was a very copious discharge of blood, both from the esophagus and anus. The acetate of lead, in the measure of time stated in the enclosed account conquered the [effusion?]. This is the greatest extent, as which I have known this remedy pushed. I have had many other cases of homorrhagy from different points

restrained by smaller doses. I have many more instances of different complaints, which shall form the subject of future communications.

The Bearer of this note, is Mr. Jabey Jackson, the nephew of Doctor Henry Jackson, the present secretary of Legation to Paris, if whose talents, science and merits, you are amply informed. He will not, the Bearer, appear to you in an inscientific view. The amiableness of his manners; the quantity of information which he possesses for so young a man, the liberal and keen penetration of his judgement and understanding, will constantly attract the attention of a man, like you, who views in genius its excellence, in [probity?] of conduct its virtue and purity.

Mrs. Grimtes unites with me in our respects to Mrs. Barton and yourself.

I am, Sir, doubly  
your aff<sup>d</sup> Pupil  
John Grimes

Benjamin Smith Barton, M.D.

Mr. Jackson      )Professor of Institutes  
                  )in the University of Pennsylvania  
                                  Philadelphia

APPENDIX 10  
LETTER FROM JOHN GRIMES  
SEPTEMBER 23RD 1811  
(A Translation of Copyrighted Document)



Washington, Sept. 23rd 1811

Dear Sir,

Permit me to recommend to your attention and civilities during the ensuing course of your lectures a young relation of mine, W. John Wingfield. He had been some years a student of Doctor Abbot of this place who reports very favorably of his [assiduity?] and talents, and from the little conversation I have had with him, this opinion seems to be well founded. You will find W. Wingfield modest and amiable, in his manners, and prompt and ready to follow your advice as to the plan he should pursue in his studies during the season. It is common with you, I know, you will extend to him your council accompanied with that persuasive manner so [captivating?] to your numerous [classes?].

Respectfully,

John Grimes

Benjamin Smith Barton, M.D.

W. John        ) Professor of Mort. Med.  
Wingfield     ) Botany in the  
                  ) University of Pennsylvania

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## EPILOGUE

To whom it may concern:

I hope, as the writer of the preceding paper, that you have gained some information that will aid you in your own research. I have made notations in the bibliography about good sources of information that are worth pursuing.

If your research is part of the requirement for History 300, you will need time, tenacity and luck. Luck is a gift of vital information seemingly found out of the blue - be grateful. Tenacity is a strength you must find within yourself - dig deep for it. Time is a precious commodity that you have very little of - use it wisely.

Good Luck,

Lisinda Lyons-Sedgwick