



**John Grimball family papers, 1804-1893 (bulk 1858-1885)
SCHS 426.00**

Creator: Grimball, John, 1840-1922.

Description: 1.25 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: John Grimball was a Confederate naval officer and attorney. He was the son of John Berkley Grimball (1800-1892) and Margaret ("Meta") Ann Morris Grimball. He accepted his commission in the U.S. Navy in 1854 and joined the Confederate Navy in 1861. In 1864 he served as an officer on the Confederate commerce raider CSS Shenandoah. After the war he lived in Mexico for a time and then moved to New York to practice law. In 1884 Grimball moved back to Charleston and for a few years engaged in rice planting on the Edisto River.

Scope and content: This collection chiefly consists of correspondence, mostly letters to John Grimball from his mother and other family members. Letters of the 1850s, to John Grimball while he was serving in the U.S. Navy, concern family matters, life at the Grove Plantation, social life, and political events at home. Several letters of 1858 mention the capture of the slave ship Echo and the disposition of the Africans brought into Charleston. Two 1859 letters from John B. Grimball to his son John concern his views on the reopening of the slave trade, and other family letters from that year discuss John Brown's raid on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, South Carolinians being on the alert for slave uprisings, and the possibility of secession and war ("there would undoubtedly be a most bloody war, for the north would not like the most valuable section to go.").

Wartime correspondence includes letters to John Grimball in France from his family in Spartanburg (S.C.) and elsewhere, and from fellow Confederate naval officers, including W. C. Whittle, E.G. Read, Dabney Minor Scales, Charles E. Lining, and John T. Mason. There is also a note to Grimball from Matthew Fontaine Maury (13 July 1863). There are a few letters from John Grimball to his family, including one (22 Jan. 1861) describing social life in Mobile (Ala.) and a clergyman's condemnation of parties and dancing in a sermon. Just after the war, the letters often concern the fate of the officers of the CSS Shenandoah. John T. Mason's letter of 17 Dec. 1865 reports he has been told that "none of the officers of the 'Shenandoah' could go back to the U.S. without standing trial for piracy."

Postwar correspondence traces the economic and personal struggles of various members of the Grimball family. Letters of this period from John Grimball's mother, brothers, and sisters, including Gabriella Grimball, Charlotte ("Lottie") Grimball, Berkley Grimball, Arthur Grimball, Lewis Grimball, and Elizabeth Grimball Munro, often concern friends and social life in Charleston. Letters of 1881 include notes of condolence to John Grimball on the death of his mother, mostly from members of the Morris family.

Miscellaneous items include some correspondence and property records (1857-1893) pertaining to Mount Hope Plantation on the Edisto River, including an abstract of title (1857); estate records (1804-1821) of John Grimball (died 1804); and a deed of trust and marriage settlement (1819) between Mrs. Eliza B. Flinn, Rev. Andrew Flinn, and Morton Waring, pertaining to Dawho Plantation. Marriage settlement names a number of slaves belonging to plantations in St. Paul's Parish (S.C.).

Preferred citation: Grimball, John, 1840-1922. John Grimball family papers, 1804-1893 (bulk 1858-1885). (0426) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Flinn, Andrew, 1773-1820.
Flinn, Eliza B., d. 1844.
Grimball, Arthur, 1842-1894.
Grimball, Berkley, 1833-1899.
Grimball, Charlotte M. (Charlotte Manigault), 1846-1934.
Grimball, Gabriella M. (Gabriella Manigault), 1844-1924.
Grimball, Harry M. (Harry Morris), 1849-1917.
Grimball, John, d. 1804 -- Estate.
Grimball, John, 1840-1922.
Grimball, John Berkley, 1800-1892.
Grimball, Lewis M. (Lewis Morris), 1835-1901.
Grimball, Margaret Ann Meta Morris, 1810-1881.
Munro, Elizabeth Grimball, 1831-1914.
Whittle, William C. (William Conway), 1840-1920.
Grimball family.
Confederate States of America. Navy -- Officers -- Correspondence.
Echo (Ship)
Shenandoah (Cruiser)
Plantations -- South Carolina -- Colleton District.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- South Carolina.
Secession.
Slave records -- South Carolina -- Colleton District.
Slave trade.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century.
Grove Plantation (Charleston County, S.C.)
Mobile (Ala.)
Mount Hope Plantation (S.C.)
South Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Spartanburg (S.C.)
Estate records.
Letters (correspondence)

Series overview:

0426.01 (C) 01-02	Correspondence
0426.01 (E) 01	Estate Records
0426.01 (M) 01	Miscellaneous Items

0426.01 (P) 01-02 Property Records

Container list:

Box 1

0426.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1855-1869

Box 2

0426.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, undated, probably 1850s and 1860s

0426.01 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1870-1881

Box 3

0426.01 (C) 02 Correspondence, mostly business and professional, 1882-1885

0426. 01 (E) 01 John Grimball (died 1804) estate records

0426.01 (M) 01 Miscellaneous items

0426.01 (P) 01 Property records, including correspondence about Mount Hope,
and agreements about the rental and cultivation of the land

0426.01 (P) 02 Flinn marriage settlement, 1819