

Genealogy of the Grimes family
Beginning 1750 during the French & Indian war
Before the revolutionary war 1775-1783

The following is the genealogy of W. R. Grimes. (The name is William Riley Grimes) who was the son of Stephen Rodon Grimes by Sarah Elisabeth Grimes nee Reedy, this genealogy being obtained by the said William Riley Grimes from his father a short time before the death of the latter, and which occurred on December 25th, 1907, and which genealogy is written by me William Riley Grimes, in my own hand.

My great grandfather Grimes (don't know his given name), who was a native of Scotland, with his wife, who was of Irish descent and her maiden name being Caldwell-- together with his brother, whose given name I don't know, immigrated from Scotland to the United States at some time before what is familiarly known as the war of the revolutions. They settled in the state Conn. near the present city of Hartford, where my grandfather, Charles Grimes, was born during the year 1775. (Don't know the month) Grandfather had two brothers, Joe and Oliver, neither of which brothers ever had any family but were both killed in the war between the United States and England, known as the War of 1812. Grandfather had only one sister, of whom I know nothing. Grandfather served his country, as a soldier with the land forces throughout the War of 1812, and then served in the U. S. Navy under Commodore Peary, to the putting down of piracy on the high seas. He was 2nd mate of his vessel, was wounded in his foot, or ankle during an engagement with a Spanish vessel, from which he was a cripple, on crutches for a long while. He served the timers trade and became a tinkerer.

Of his first wife I know nothing, nor do I know where he married her. Of this marriage there were no children.

After receiving his discharge from the U. S. Navy, he came South and married my Grandmother in South Carolina, within six miles of Winstourrough. Later they moved to Butts County, Georgia, where my father was born, October 3rd, 1827, and still later on moved to Talbot County, Georgia. Of this union of grandfather and grandmother there were five children, in point of birth as follows: Mary, Stephen Rodon, William Riley (for whom I was named), Marian Harry and Missouri. (Of the date of birth of nearly all these children I can only approximate, and any one of the families of these children, into whose hands this may fall may correct as far as they may be able.) Mary was born about the year 1830. Marian Harry about the year 1832 and Missouri about the year 1834. (If either of these girls had a double name I failed to get them.) Grandfather's home in Talbot County, Georgia was about eight miles northwest of the town of Talbotton, where he died in November, 1843. (Don't know the day or month). His is one solitary grave near the place that had been his last home.

After grandfather's death, grandmother with all her children, except Stephen Rodon, moved to the State of Texas, where she died, having retained her widowhood until death. Mary's husband was Joe Land. She had a large family and died in the State of Texas.

Stephen Redon (my father) had ten children, eight of which lived to be grown. He had only two sons, one of which died in infancy, and I being the other. William Riley had two sons and no daughters. One of his sons died very young, the other lived to be grown and had several sons. Marion Sumner Harry had four sons and four daughters. He died in the State of Texas. Missouri had no son and one daughter. She died in the State of Texas, at Buoy. I forget to say in the proper order that Stephen Redon (my father) died in the State of Georgia, at Oak Mountain, near Olevia, December 25th, 1907, and was buried at Shiloh, near where he died.

William Riley died while a soldier of the Southern Confederacy in a Hospital in Armdolphia, Ark., his home still being in the State of Texas.

My great-grandfather Grimes served with the Colonial Forces in the Wars of the Revolution. He died with consumption near Hartford, Conn. about the year 1796. (Within six miles of Hartford).

My father's maternal great-grandfather, whose name was William Johnston, with his wife, came to the United States from England and settled in Fairfield Dist., S. C., where his son William was born. (For convenience I shall call him this son William Johnston, Jr. and his father William Johnston, Sr.) Wm. Johnston, Jr. was my father's maternal grandfather. He was born about the year 1750. On a time, when he was an infant, lying in the cradle, two Indians came to the yard, as his mother was just coming from a nearby spring of water, and killed her. His little brother had gone to the fence to meet his mother. Just at this moment a gun was fired by some friend near by (don't know who) and one of these Indians fell dead from the bullet, the other Indian waited to scalp the little boy, and in his hurry jerked the scalp and skin off down from the back of the child's neck, but did not wait to kill him, nor did he die from being scalped. This was during what is known as the French and Indian War, and before the War of the Revolution. William Johnston, Sr., the father of the scalped child, and also of the child who was in the cradle at that time, was killed in this same war. The brother of Wm. Johnston, Sr. raised these two boys, one of whom was scalped by the Indians, the other, William Johnston, Jr., was father's maternal grandfather. Wm. Johnston, Jr. married Mary Redon, who was of English descent. This name Redon was added to father's name in memory of his grandmother.

Of this union of Wm. Johnston, Jr. and his wife, Mary Redon, there were three sons and eleven daughters, one son and one daughter being born before the War of the Revolution. My grandmother whose name was Lucretia, was the eleventh of these children. She was born about the year 1796 and died in the State of Texas in the year 1871.

The above and foregoing is about all I know of my ancestors.

William Riley Grimes