



# Guide to the James Redding Grist Business Records, 1780-1920

---

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

---

## Table of Contents

---

<a href="#">Summary</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Background</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Administrative Information</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Names and Subjects</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Collection Inventory</a> .....	5
<a href="#">John Kennedy Series</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Correspondence Series</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Financial and Legal Papers Series</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Allen Grist Series</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Richard Grist Series</a> .....	7

## Summary

---

**Collection Title:**

James Redding Grist Business records, 1780-1920

**Creator:**

Grist, James Redding, 1818-1876

**Extent:**

5 Linear Feet  
3,269 Items

**Language:**

English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.00484

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m14k8d>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], James Redding Grist Business Records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Background

---

**Scope and Content**

Correspondence, accounts, manifests, and other papers, of James Redding Grist, his father, Allen Grist, and of other members of the family. Materials relate to the operation of a general store, trade with the West Indies, Richard Grist's export business in New Bern, N.C., J. R. Grist's turpentine business near Wilmington, N.C., and his efforts to revive his trade in naval stores after the Civil War. Includes taxation lists, ca. 1815-1816, for Beaufort Co., N.C. Correspondents include Henry Toole Clark. A bound volume, Allen Grist and Thomas Dickinson Ledger, contains entries relating to the operation of a North Carolina general store and an earlier similar operation in the West Indies. The first half of the volume comprises the Thomas Dickinson ledger from St. Eustatius, West Indies, 1780-1781, with entries documenting payments for

rum, madeira, clothing for enslaved people, cheese, flour, twine, nails, brown sugar, needles, and other sundries. His relation, if any, to the Grist is not known. The second half of the volume comprises the ledger of Allen Grist of Washington, Beaufort County, NC, 1813-1816, with entries for food, spirits, building material, and other sundries. A few entries in each section record slave transactions: money lent for the purchase of enslaved people, money paid for their labor, or money received for the actual sale of enslaved people.

## **Biographical/Historical**

James Redding Grist was a white businessman and plantation owner from Washington, North Carolina. He owned plantations in Brunswick County, Columbus County (Grist's Station), and Bladen County (Council's Station), and operated general stores and a turpentine distillery. U.S. Census records record that he personally enslaved eighty-four people in 1860, and that his firm, the A & J.R. Grist Company, had seventy-two enslaved workers.

Information about Grist can be found in NCPedia: <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/grist-allen>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Statement**

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in the James Redding Grist Business Records are not known. For further information, please contact the Rubenstein Library.

## Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Alvin Pollock

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- North Carolina -- Beaufort County -- Washington
- West Indies -- Commerce -- North Carolina
- Turpentine industry and trade -- North Carolina
- Taxation -- North Carolina -- Beaufort County
- Slave trade -- North Carolina
- North Carolina -- Commerce -- West Indies
- North Carolina -- Commerce
- Beaufort (N.C.) -- History
- New Bern (N.C.) -- Commerce
- Naval stores
- Merchants -- North Carolina
- General stores -- North Carolina -- Washington
- Slavery -- North Carolina
- Slaveholders -- North Carolina
- Grist, Richard
- Clark, Henry T. (Henry Toole), 1808-1874
- Grist, Allen

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### John Kennedy Series

Correspondence, 1796-1812  
(Formerly John Kennedy folders)

Box 1

---

Financial and Legal papers, 1789-1826 (5  
folders)  
(Formerly: Kennedy, John: Bills and Accounts  
folders)

Court Documents, 1790 folder

Box 1

Kennedy, John: Bills and Documents folders	Box 1
Bills and Documents of John Kennedy folders	Box 1
Tax Lists, 1784-1789 (Formerly Documents: Tax Lists folders)	Box 2

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Correspondence Series

### Scope and Contents note

Formerly Richard Grist folders. (Includes correspondence of Allen, James R., and Richard Grist.)

Papers, 1814-1852 <b>Physical Description:</b> 4 folders	Box 2
Papers, 1853-1860, June <b>Physical Description:</b> 6 folders	Box 3
Papers, 1860-1920 and undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 4 folders	Box 4

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Financial and Legal Papers Series

### Scope and Contents note

Formerly Grist, James Redding and Richard: Bills and Documents folders)

Papers, 1812-1816	Box 4
List of Taxables, 1815-1816	Box 4
Papers, 1817-1819	Box 5
List of Taxables, 1819	Box 5
Papers, 1827-1849 <b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	Box 5
Papers, 1850-1857 <b>Physical Description:</b> 5 folders	Box 6

Papers, 1858-1860 <b>Physical Description:</b> 5 folders	Box 7
Papers, 1861-1876 and undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	Box 8
James R. Grist: Agricultural Memorandum Book, undated	Box 8
James R. Grist: Volume of Accounts and Memoranda, 1854-1856	Box 8

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Allen Grist Series

Account Book, 1838-1846	Box 8
Allen Grist and Thomas Dickinson Ledger, 1780-1781, 1813-1816 (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Allen Grist and Thomas Dickinson Ledger, 1780-1781, 1813-1816</a>	F: 1714
Ledger, 1814-1825	Box 8

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Richard Grist Series

Daybook, 1821-1824	Box 9
Daybook, 1824-1827	Box 9
Ledger, 1818-1831	Box 10
Ledger, 1820-1826	Box 11

[Return to Table of Contents](#)